

A fast variational algorithm to detect the clonal copy number substructure of tumors from single-cell data

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Understanding intratumor heterogeneity and the interactions between tumor cells and the immune system is the critical step in the study of tumor growth and evolution. Typically in these studies a large number of unsorted cells from tumor biopsies are subject to Single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) and then classified as malignant cells, stromal cells, and immune cells.

The distinction of malignant from non-malignant cells is a key step in the follow-up analysis of scRNA-seq tumors.

The main drawback is that the clusters of reference non-malignant cells require manual identification, and reconstruction of the tumor clonal structure is often difficult.

We have developed Single Cell Variational ANeuploidy analysis (SCEVAN). It uses a multichannel segmentation algorithm to identify malignant cells from a large number of single-cell RNA-seq data.

We apply SCEVAN to several datasets encompassing 106 samples and 93,322 cells from different tumors types and tissues.

SCEVAN is available in open source as an R package at the following address [\textbackslash{}href\{}{https://github.com/antonio-de-falco/scevan}](https://github.com/antonio-de-falco/scevan)

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