

# Package ‘csdR’

November 20, 2025

**Title** Differential gene co-expression

**Version** 1.17.0

**Date** 07-11-2024

**Description** This package contains functionality to run differential gene co-expression across two different conditions.

The algorithm is inspired by Voigt et al. 2017 and finds Conserved, Specific and Differentiated genes (hence the name CSD).

This package include efficient and variance calculation by bootstrapping and Welford's algorithm.

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**Imports** WGCNA, glue, RhpcBLASctl, matrixStats, Rcpp

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**BugReports** <https://github.com/AlmaasLab/csdR/issues>

**URL** <https://almaaslab.github.io/csdR>,  
<https://github.com/AlmaasLab/csdR>

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**biocViews** DifferentialExpression, GraphAndNetwork, GeneExpression,  
Network

**Suggests** rmarkdown, knitr, testthat (>= 3.0.0), BiocStyle, magrittr,  
igraph, dplyr

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|      |                                                    |
|------|----------------------------------------------------|
| csdR | <i>Perform differential co-expression analysis</i> |
|------|----------------------------------------------------|

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Description

This package provides functionality to perform differential co-expression analysis by the CSD algorithm presented by Voigt et al. 2017. The main function of the package is [run\\_csd](#) which compares gene expression for two conditions and returns values for C, S and D for each gene pair. Also, the underlying function [run\\_cor\\_bootstrap](#) is provided for doing correlation analysis *within* a condition, but is mostly for experimental and expect use only.

The function [partial\\_argsort](#) is aimed specifically at the task of selecting the highest values of C, S and D of the results with minimal computational overhead, but is written also to be useable for other problems of the same type.

For more details on how to approach, please read the vignette for the package or the individual manpages for the functions.

Author(s)

**Maintainer:** Jakob Peder Pettersen <jakobpeder.pettersen@gmail.com> ([ORCID](#))

References

Voigt A, Nowick K and Almaas E 'A composite network of conserved and tissue specific gene interactions reveals possible genetic interactions in glioma' In: *PLOS Computational Biology* 13(9): e1005739. (doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005739>)

**See Also**

Useful links:

- <https://almaaslab.github.io/csdR>
- <https://github.com/AlmaasLab/csdR>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/AlmaasLab/csdR/issues>

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data-expression

*Sample expression matrices for CSD*

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**Description**

Sample expression matrices of thyroid gland tissue for thyroid cancer patients and healthy individuals. These datasets were pre-processed by Gulla et al. (2019). Due to size requirements, only 1000 randomly selected genes are provided in the dataset. Number of samples are 399 and 504 in the healthy controls and the sick samples, respectively.

**Usage**

```
data(normal_expression)
data(sick_expression)
```

**Format**

Numeric matrices of normalized gene expression. Genes are in columns, whereas samples are in rows.

**Source**

For the expression matrix for healthy individuals, GenotypeTissue Expression (GTEx) V7. For the thyroid cancer patients, the data are obtained for the Thyroid Cancer project (THCA) from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA).

**References**

Gulla, Almaas, Eivind, & Voigt, André (2019). An integrated systems biology approach to investigate transcriptomic data of thyroid carcinoma. NTNU. <http://hdl.handle.net/11250/2621725>

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|                 |                                                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| partial_argsort | <i>Extract indecies corresponding to the largest elements</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

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### Description

Extracts the indecies of the  $n$  largest elements of the input. This procedure is equivalent to `order(x, decreasing = TRUE)[1:n_elements]`, but is much faster and avoids the overhead of sorting discarded elements. This function is useful for extracting the rows in a data frame having the largest values in one of the columns.

### Usage

```
partial_argsort(x, n_elements)
```

### Arguments

|                         |                                                            |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>x</code>          | Numeric vector, the vector containing the numbers to sort. |
| <code>n_elements</code> | Integer scalar, the number of indecies to return.          |

### Value

Numeric vector, the indecies of the largest elements (in sorted order) in `x`.

### Examples

```
x <- c(10L, 5L, -2L, 12L, 15L)
max_indecies <- partial_argsort(x, 3L)
max_indecies
x[max_indecies]
order(x)[1:3]
mtcars[partial_argsort(mtcars$hp, 5L), ]
```

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|                   |                                                                    |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| run_cor_bootstrap | <i>Run bootstrapping of Spearman correlations within a dataset</i> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|

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### Description

This function provides the more low-level functionality of bootstrapping the Spearman correlations of the columns within a dataset. Only use this function if you want a low-level interface, else [run\\_csd](#) provides a more streamlined approach if you want to do a CSD analysis.

**Usage**

```
run_cor_bootstrap(
  x,
  n_it = 20L,
  nThreads = 1L,
  verbose = TRUE,
  iterations_gap = 1L
)
```

**Arguments**

|                       |                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>x</b>              | Numeric matrix, the gene expression matrix to analyse. Genes are in columns, samples are in rows.                    |
| <b>n_it</b>           | Integer, number of bootstrap iterations                                                                              |
| <b>nThreads</b>       | Integer, number of threads to use for computations                                                                   |
| <b>verbose</b>        | Logical, should progress be printed?                                                                                 |
| <b>iterations_gap</b> | If output is verbose - Number of iterations between each status message (Default=1 - Displayed only if verbose=TRUE) |

**Value**

A list with two fields

**rho** Numeric matrix constaining the bootstrapped mean of the Spearman correlation between each column

**var** Numeric matrix constaining the bootstrapped variance of the Spearman correlation between each column

**Examples**

```
data("normal_expression")
cor_res <- run_cor_bootstrap(
  x = normal_expression,
  n_it = 100, nThreads = 2L
)
```

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run\_csd

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*Run CSD analysis*


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**Description**

This function implements the CSD algorithm based on the one presented by Voigt et al. 2017. All pairs of genes are first compared within each condition by the Spearman correlation and the correlation and its variance are estimated by bootstrapping. Finally, the results for the two conditions are compared and C-, S- and D-values are computed and returned.

**Usage**

```
run_csd(
  x_1,
  x_2,
  n_it = 20L,
  nThreads = 1L,
  verbose = TRUE,
  iterations_gap = 1L
)
```

**Arguments**

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>x_1</code>            | Numeric matrix, the gene expression matrix for the first condition. Genes are in columns, samples are in rows. The columns must be named with the name of the genes. Missing values are not allowed. |
| <code>x_2</code>            | Numeric matrix, the gene expression matrix for the second condition.                                                                                                                                 |
| <code>n_it</code>           | Integer, number of bootstrap iterations                                                                                                                                                              |
| <code>nThreads</code>       | Integer, number of threads to use for computations                                                                                                                                                   |
| <code>verbose</code>        | Logical, should progress be printed?                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <code>iterations_gap</code> | If output is verbose - Number of iterations between each status message (Default=1 - Displayed only if verbose=TRUE)                                                                                 |

**Details**

The gene names in `x_1` and `x_2` do not need to be in the same order, but must be in the same namespace. Only genes present in both datasets will be considered for the analysis. The parallelism gained by `nThreads` applies to the computations within a single iteration. The iterations are run in serial in order to reduce the memory footprint.

**Value**

A `data.frame` with the additional class attribute `csd_res` with the results of the CSD analysis. This frame has a row for each pair of genes and has the following columns:

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>Gene1</code> | Character, the name of the first gene                                                                                                                                                                |
| <code>Gene2</code> | Character, the name of the second gene                                                                                                                                                               |
| <code>rho1</code>  | Mean correlation of the two genes in the first condition                                                                                                                                             |
| <code>rho2</code>  | Mean correlation of the two genes in the second condition                                                                                                                                            |
| <code>var1</code>  | The estimated variance of <code>rho1</code> determined by bootstrapping                                                                                                                              |
| <code>var2</code>  | The estimated variance of <code>rho2</code> determined by bootstrapping                                                                                                                              |
| <code>cVal</code>  | Numeric, the conserved score. A high value indicates that the co-expression of the two genes have the same sign in both conditions                                                                   |
| <code>sVal</code>  | Numeric, the specific score. A high value indicates that the co-expression of the two genes have a high degree of co-expression in one condition, but not the other.                                 |
| <code>dVal</code>  | Numeric, the differentiated score. A high value indicates that the co-expression of the two genes have a high degree of co-expression in both condition, but the sign of co-expression is different. |

## References

Voigt A, Nowick K and Almaas E 'A composite network of conserved and tissue specific gene interactions reveals possible genetic interactions in glioma' In: *PLOS Computational Biology* 13(9): e1005739. (doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005739>)

## Examples

```
data("sick_expression")
data("normal_expression")
cor_res <- run_csd(
  x_1 = sick_expression, x_2 = normal_expression,
  n_it = 100, nThreads = 2L
)
c_max <- max(cor_res$cVal)
```

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