

# Package ‘looking4clusters’

December 13, 2025

**Type** Package

**Version** 1.1.0

**Date** 2025-10-01

**Title** Interactive Visualization of scRNA-Seq

**Description** Enables the interactive visualization of dimensional reduction, clustering, and cell properties for scRNA-Seq results. It generates an interactive HTML page using either a numeric matrix, SummarizedExperiment, SingleCellExperiment or Seurat objects as input. The input data can be projected into two-dimensional representations by applying dimensionality reduction methods such as PCA, MDS, t-SNE, UMAP, and NMF. Displaying multiple dimensionality reduction results within the same interface, with interconnected graphs, provides different perspectives that facilitate accurate cell classification. The package also integrates unsupervised clustering techniques, whose results that can be viewed interactively in the graphical interface. In addition to visualization, this interface allows manual selection of groups, labeling of cell entities based on processed meta-information, generation of new graphs displaying gene expression values for each cell, sample identification, and visual comparison of samples and clusters.

**License** GPL-2 | GPL-3

**Depends** R (>= 4.5.0)

**Imports** stats, utils, SummarizedExperiment, SingleCellExperiment, BiocBaseUtils, jsonlite

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, Seurat, parallelDist, uwot, NMF, fpc, dendextend, cluster, Rtsne, scRNAseq, Matrix

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

**biocViews** Software, Visualization, DataRepresentation, GeneExpression, MultipleComparison, Classification, Clustering

**BugReports** <https://github.com/BioinfoUSAL/looking4clusters/issues/>

**URL** <https://github.com/BioinfoUSAL/looking4clusters/>

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|            |                                                   |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| addcluster | <i>Clustering determination and visualization</i> |
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Description

addcluster adds a dimensional reduction to a looking4cluster object.

Usage

```
addcluster(object, data, name=NULL, groupStatsBy=FALSE,  
          myGroups=FALSE, optim_cluster=FALSE)
```

Arguments

- |               |                                                                                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object        | A looking4cluster object.                                                                 |
| data          | a vector with a cluster especified per sample.                                            |
| name          | a name for the dimensional reduction.                                                     |
| groupStatsBy  | If TRUE, this cluster will allow to group statistics.                                     |
| myGroups      | If TRUE, this cluster will be initially loaded in user's custom groups                    |
| optim_cluster | If TRUE and there are multiple clusterizations for this method, this will be the default. |

**Value**

Object of class looking4clusters.

**Author(s)**

David Barrios, Angela Villaverde and Carlos Prieto. Bioinformatics Service of Nucleus, University of Salamanca. See <https://bioinfo.usal.es/>

**Examples**

```
object <- looking4clusters(iris[,1:4], running_all=FALSE)
object <- addcluster(object,iris[,5],"species",myGroups=TRUE)
```

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addreduction

*Clustering determination and visualization*

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**Description**

addreduction adds a dimensional reduction to a looking4cluster object.

**Usage**

```
addreduction(object,data,name=NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| object | A looking4cluster object.             |
| data   | a matrix with a row per sample.       |
| name   | a name for the dimensional reduction. |

**Value**

Object of class looking4clusters.

**Author(s)**

David Barrios, Angela Villaverde and Carlos Prieto. Bioinformatics Service of Nucleus, University of Salamanca. See <https://bioinfo.usal.es/>

**Examples**

```
object <- looking4clusters(iris[,1:4], running_all=FALSE)
PCAccomponents <- prcomp(data.matrix(iris[,1:4]), scale=FALSE)
pca<-PCAccomponents$x[,1:2]
object <- addreduction(object,pca,"pca")
```

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|        |                                                   |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------|
| l4html | <i>Clustering determination and visualization</i> |
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## Description

l4html creates an html web from a 'looking4cluster' object.

## Usage

```
l4html(x, includeData = FALSE, directory = NULL)
```

## Arguments

|             |                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x           | A looking4cluster object or a json generated by a looking4cluster html web.    |
| includeData | If FALSE, size will be reduced but some functionalities will be lost.          |
| directory   | A "character" string representing the directory where the graph will be saved. |

## Value

The function creates a folder in your computer with an HTML document named index.html which contains the interactive web page. This file can be directly opened with your browser.

## Author(s)

David Barrios, Angela Villaverde and Carlos Prieto. Bioinformatics Service of Nucleus, University of Salamanca. See <https://bioinfo.usal.es/>

## Examples

```
obj <- looking4clusters(iris[,1:4], running_all=FALSE)
obj <- addcluster(obj,iris[,5],"species",myGroups=TRUE)
PCComponents <- prcomp(data.matrix(iris[,1:4]), scale=FALSE)
pca<-PCComponents$x[,1:2]
obj <- addreduction(obj,pca,"pca")
l4html(obj)
```

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|                  |                                                   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| looking4clusters | <i>Clustering determination and visualization</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|

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## Description

looking4clusters Creates interactive clustering visualization plots from a SingleCellExperiment object, Seurat object or a matrix. It can also apply dimension reduction and clustering techniques.

## Usage

```
looking4clusters(data, groups = NULL, assay = NULL,
  components = FALSE, running_all = TRUE, distance = "euclidean",
  agglomeration = "complete", selectedk = NULL, perplex = 30,
  maxIter = 1000, threads = NULL, force_execution = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| data          | A Seurat or SingleCellExperiment object. Alternatively, a numeric data.frame or matrix where variables are in columns and samples are in rows.                                                                                                                                                    |
| groups        | Factor/Vector which defines an input category for each sample which will be visualized in the output plot.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| assay         | Specific assay to get data from or set data for; defaults to the default assay.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| components    | If TRUE, clustering algorithms are applied to main components obtained with PCA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| running_all   | If TRUE, applies dimension reduction and clustering techniques if the input is a matrix like object.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| distance      | the distance measure to be used with hierarchical clustering algorithm. This must be one of "euclidean", "maximum", "manhattan", "canberra", "binary" or "minkowski". Any unambiguous substring can be given.                                                                                     |
| agglomeration | the agglomeration method to be used with hierarchical clustering algorithm. This should be (an unambiguous abbreviation of) one of "ward.D", "ward.D2", "single", "complete", "average" (= UPGMA), "mcquitty" (= WPGMA), "median" (= WPGMC) or "centroid" (= UPGMC).                              |
| selectedk     | Number of expected clusters given by the user. By default, the algorithm will run clustering algorithms with a number of clusters between 2 and 10. If selectedk is specified, a range of 5 units around the 'selectedk' will be used as number of clusters.                                      |
| perplex       | The perplexity parameter used for t-SNE algorithm execution (should not be bigger than $3 * \text{perplexity} < \text{nrow}(X)-1$ ). This value effectively controls how many nearest neighbors are taken into account when constructing the embedding in the low-dimensional space (default: 30) |
| maxIter       | The number of iterations used for t-SNE algorithm execution (default: 1000)                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| threads       | The number of CPU threads for calculating a distance matrix. Default value is the amount of CPU cores available on the system.                                                                                                                                                                    |

`force_execution`

force the execution of some methods that could cause performance problems with large matrices.

**Value**

Object of class `looking4clusters`.

**Author(s)**

David Barrios, Angela Villaverde and Carlos Prieto. Bioinformatics Service of Nucleus, University of Salamanca. See <https://bioinfo.usal.es/>

**Examples**

```
obj <- looking4clusters(iris[,1:4], groups=iris[,5], threads = 2)
```

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