

# Package ‘veloviz’

July 10, 2025

**Title** VeloViz: RNA-velocity informed 2D embeddings for visualizing cell state trajectories

**Version** 1.14.0

**Description** VeloViz uses each cell’s current observed and predicted future transcriptional states inferred from RNA velocity analysis to build a nearest neighbor graph between cells in the population. Edges are then pruned based on a cosine correlation threshold and/or a distance threshold and the resulting graph is visualized using a force-directed graph layout algorithm. VeloViz can help ensure that relationships between cell states are reflected in the 2D embedding, allowing for more reliable representation of underlying cellular trajectories.

**biocViews** Transcriptomics, Visualization, GeneExpression, Sequencing, RNASeq, DimensionReduction

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** false

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.1

**Imports** Rcpp, Matrix, igraph, mgcv, RSpectra, grDevices, graphics, stats

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**Depends** R (>= 4.1)

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

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asNNGraph	<i>Function to produce idx and dist representation of a VeloViz graph</i>
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**Description**

Function to produce idx and dist representation of a VeloViz graph

**Usage**

asNNGraph(vig)

**Arguments**

vig                      output of buildVeloviz

**Value**

idx numVertices x numNeighbors matrix, where each row i contains indices of vertex i’s neighbors  
dist numVertices x numNeighbors matrix, where each row i contains distances from vertex i to its neighbors

## Examples

```
data(vel)
curr <- vel$current
proj <- vel$projected

vv <- buildVeloviz(curr = curr, proj = proj, normalize.depth = TRUE,
  use.ods.genes = FALSE, alpha = 0.05, pca = TRUE, nPCs = 3, center = TRUE,
  scale = TRUE, k = 10, similarity.threshold = -1, distance.weight = 1,
  distance.threshold = 1, weighted = TRUE, verbose = FALSE)

asNNGraph(vv)
```

---

buildVeloviz	<i>Creates VeloViz graph and FDG layout from PC scores of current and projected transcriptional states.</i>
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---

## Description

Creates VeloViz graph and FDG layout from PC scores of current and projected transcriptional states.

## Usage

```
buildVeloviz(
  curr,
  proj,
  normalize.depth = TRUE,
  depth = 1e+06,
  use.ods.genes = TRUE,
  max.ods.genes = 2000,
  alpha = 0.05,
  pca = TRUE,
  center = TRUE,
  scale = TRUE,
  nPCs = 10,
  k = 10,
  similarity.threshold = 0,
  distance.weight = 1,
  distance.threshold = 1,
  weighted = TRUE,
  remove.unconnected = TRUE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  details = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>curr</code>	Genes (rows) x cells (columns) matrix of observed current transcriptional state
<code>proj</code>	Genes (rows) x cells (columns) matrix of predicted future transcriptional state
<code>normalize.depth</code>	logical to normalize raw counts to counts per million, default = TRUE
<code>depth</code>	Depth scaling, default = 1e6 for counts per million (CPM)
<code>use.ods.genes</code>	Use only overdispersed genes to create VeloViz graph, default = TRUE
<code>max.ods.genes</code>	number of most highly expressed overdispersed genes to use to create VeloViz graph, default = 2000
<code>alpha</code>	Significance threshold for overdispersed genes, default = 0.05
<code>pca</code>	logical to use PC scores to create VeloViz graph, default = TRUE. FALSE = use gene expression to create VeloViz graph
<code>center</code>	logical to mean center gene expression before PCA, default = TRUE
<code>scale</code>	logical to scale gene expression variance before PCA, default = TRUE
<code>nPCs</code>	number of principal components to use to create VeloViz graph, default = 10
<code>k</code>	Number of nearest neighbors to assign each cell
<code>similarity.threshold</code>	similarity threshold below which to remove edges, default = -1 i.e. no edges removed
<code>distance.weight</code>	Weight of distance component of composite distance, default = 1
<code>distance.threshold</code>	quantile threshold for distance component above which to remove edges, default = 1 i.e. no edges removed
<code>weighted</code>	logical indicating whether to compute VeloViz edges based on composite distance, default = TRUE. FALSE = all edges are of equal weight
<code>remove.unconnected</code>	logical indicating whether to remove cells with no edges in the VeloViz graph from the output embedding, default = TRUE (removed)
<code>verbose</code>	logical for verbosity setting, default = FALSE
<code>details</code>	logical to return detailed data frame or names of genes, default = FALSE

**Value**

`graph` igraph object of VeloViz graph  
`fdg_coords` cells (rows) x 2 coordinates of force-directed layout of VeloViz graph  
`projectedNeighbors` output of `projectedNeighbors`

**See Also**

[projectedNeighbors](#)

**Examples**

```
data(vel)
curr <- vel$current
proj <- vel$projected

buildVeloviz(curr = curr, proj = proj, normalize.depth = TRUE,
use.ods.genes = TRUE, alpha = 0.05, pca = TRUE, nPCs = 20, center = TRUE,
scale = TRUE, k = 5, similarity.threshold = 0.25, distance.weight = 1,
distance.threshold = 0.5, weighted = TRUE, verbose = FALSE)
```

graphViz

*Visualize as velocity informed force directed graph***Description**

Visualize as velocity informed force directed graph

**Usage**

```
graphViz(
  observed,
  projected,
  k,
  distance_metric = "L2",
  similarity_metric = "cosine",
  distance_weight = 1,
  distance_threshold = 1,
  similarity_threshold = -1,
  weighted = TRUE,
  remove_unconnected = TRUE,
  return_graph = FALSE,
  plot = TRUE,
  cell.colors = NA,
  title = NA
)
```

**Arguments**

observed	PCs (rows) x cells (columns) matrix of observed transcriptional state projected into PC space
projected	PCs (rows) x cells (columns) matrix of projected transcriptional states. Cell should be in same order as in observed
k	Number of nearest neighbors to assign each cell
distance_metric	Method to compute distance component of composite distance. "L1" or "L2", default = "L2"

similarity_metric	Method to compute similarity between velocity and cell transition matrices. "cosine" or "pearson", default = "cosine"
distance_weight	Weight of distance component of composite distance, default = 1
distance_threshold	quantile threshold for distance component above which to remove edges, default = 1 i.e. no edges removed
similarity_threshold	similarity threshold below which to remove edges, default = -1 i.e. no edges removed
weighted	if TRUE, assigns edge weights based on composite distance, if FALSE assigns equal weights to all edges, default = TRUE
remove_unconnected	if TRUE, does not plot cells with no edges, default = TRUE
return_graph	if TRUE, returns igraph object graph, force-directed layout coordinates fdg_coords, and projected_neighbors object detailing composite distance values and components, default = FALSE
plot	if TRUE, plots graph and force-directed layout
cell.colors	cell.colors to use for plotting
title	title to use for plot

### Value

graph igraph object of VeloViz graph  
 fdg\_coords cells (rows) x 2 coordinates of force-directed layout of VeloViz graph  
 projectedNeighbors output of projectedNeighbors

### See Also

[projectedNeighbors](#)

### Examples

```
data(vel)
curr = vel$current
proj = vel$projected

m <- log10(curr+1)
pca <- RSpectra::svds(A = Matrix::t(m), k=3,
  opts = list(center = FALSE, scale = FALSE, maxitr = 2000, tol = 1e-10))
pca.curr <- Matrix::t(m) %*% pca$v[,1:3]

m <- log10(proj+1)
pca.proj <- Matrix::t(m) %*% pca$v[,1:3]

graphViz(t(pca.curr), t(pca.proj), k=10,
```

```
cell.colors=NA, similarity_threshold=-1, distance_weight = 1,
distance_threshold = 1, weighted = TRUE, remove_unconnected = TRUE,
plot = FALSE, return_graph = TRUE)
```

---

normalizeDepth	<i>Normalizes counts to CPM</i>
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### Description

Normalizes raw counts to counts per million

### Usage

```
normalizeDepth(counts, depthScale = 1e+06, verbose = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

counts	Read count matrix. The rows correspond to genes, columns correspond to individual cells
depthScale	Depth scaling. Using a million for CPM (default: 1e6)
verbose	Boolean for verbosity setting (default: TRUE)

### Value

a normalized matrix

### Examples

```
data(vel)
curr <- vel$current

normalizeDepth(curr)
```

---

normalizeVariance	<i>Identify overdispersed genes by normalizing counts per million (CPM) gene expression variance relative to transcriptome-wide expectations (Modified from SCDE/PAGODA2 code)</i>
-------------------	--

---

### Description

Normalizes gene expression magnitudes to with respect to its ratio to the transcriptome-wide expectation as determined by local regression on expression magnitude

**Usage**

```
normalizeVariance(  
  cpm,  
  gam.k = 5,  
  alpha = 0.05,  
  max.adjusted.variance = 1000,  
  min.adjusted.variance = 0.001,  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  plot = FALSE,  
  details = FALSE  
)
```

**Arguments**

cpm	Counts per million (CPM) matrix. Rows are genes, columns are cells.
gam.k	Generalized additive model parameter; the dimension of the basis used to represent the smooth term (default: 5)
alpha	Significance threshold for overdispersed genes (default: 0.05)
max.adjusted.variance	Ceiling on maximum variance after normalization to prevent infinities (default: 1e3)
min.adjusted.variance	Floor on minimum variance after normalization (default: 1e-3)
verbose	Boolean for verbosity setting (default: TRUE)
plot	Boolean to plot mean variance plots before and after correction
details	Boolean to return detailed data frame or names of genes (default: FALSE)

**Value**

A list with two items: (1) an adjusted CPM matrix with the same dimensions as the input and (2) a dataframe with the summary statistics for each gene.

**Examples**

```
data(vel)  
curr <- vel$current  
  
normalizeDepth(curr)
```



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pancreas	<i>Pancreas scRNA-seq data</i>
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---

### Description

Pancreatic endocrinogenesis scRNA-seq from Bastidas-Ponce et. al., Development 2019 accessed via scVelo package and subsampled to 739 cells.

### Usage

```
pancreas
```

### Format

list of 4 objects:

**spliced** matrix, 7192 genes x 739 cells of spliced counts

**unspliced** matrix, 7192 genes x 739 cells of unspliced counts

**pcs** matrix, 739 x 50 cell scores in 50 PCs

**clusters** factor of cell type annotations from scVelo

### Source

<https://dev.biologists.org/content/146/12/dev173849.long>

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plotEmbedding	<i>Plot 2D embedding From scde/pagoda2/MUDAN</i>
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---

### Description

Plot 2D embedding From scde/pagoda2/MUDAN

### Usage

```
plotEmbedding(
  emb,
  groups = NULL,
  colors = NULL,
  cex = 0.6,
  alpha = 0.4,
  gradientPalette = NULL,
  zlim = NULL,
  s = 1,
  v = 0.8,
  min.group.size = 1,
```

```

    show.legend = FALSE,
    mark.clusters = FALSE,
    mark.cluster.cex = 2,
    shuffle.colors = FALSE,
    legend.x = "topright",
    gradient.range.quantile = 0.95,
    verbose = TRUE,
    unclassified.cell.color = "gray70",
    group.level.colors = NULL,
    ...
)

```

### Arguments

<code>emb</code>	dataframe with x and y coordinates
<code>groups</code>	factor annotations for rows on <code>emb</code> for visualizing cluster annotations
<code>colors</code>	color or numeric values for rows on <code>emb</code> for visualizing gene expression
<code>cex</code>	point size
<code>alpha</code>	point opacity
<code>gradientPalette</code>	palette for colors if numeric values provided
<code>zlim</code>	range for colors
<code>s</code>	saturation of rainbow for group colors
<code>v</code>	value of rainbow for group colors
<code>min.group.size</code>	minimum size of group in order for group to be colored
<code>show.legend</code>	whether to show legend
<code>mark.clusters</code>	whether to mark clusters with name of cluster
<code>mark.cluster.cex</code>	cluster marker point size
<code>shuffle.colors</code>	whether to shuffle group colors
<code>legend.x</code>	legend position ie. 'topright', 'topleft', 'bottomleft', 'bottomright'
<code>gradient.range.quantile</code>	quantile for mapping colors to gradient palette
<code>verbose</code>	verbosity
<code>unclassified.cell.color</code>	cells not included in groups will be labeled in this color
<code>group.level.colors</code>	set group level colors. Default uses rainbow.
<code>...</code>	Additional parameters to pass to <code>BASE::plot</code>

### Value

embedding plot

**Examples**

```

data(vel)
curr <- vel$current
proj <- vel$projected

vv <- buildVeloviz(curr = curr, proj = proj, normalize.depth = TRUE,
  use.ods.genes = TRUE, alpha = 0.05, pca = TRUE, nPCs = 20, center = TRUE,
  scale = TRUE, k = 5, similarity.threshold = 0.25, distance.weight = 1,
  distance.threshold = 0.5, weighted = TRUE, verbose = FALSE)

plotEmbedding(vv$fdg_coords)

```

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plotVeloviz	<i>Plot function</i>
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---

**Description**

Plot function

**Usage**

```

plotVeloviz(
  vig,
  layout.method = igraph::layout_with_fr,
  clusters = NA,
  cluster.method = igraph::cluster_louvain,
  col = NA,
  alpha = 0.05,
  verbose = TRUE
)

```

**Arguments**

vig	output of buildVeloviz
layout.method	igraph method to use for generating 2D graph representation, default = igraph::layout_with_fr
clusters	cluster annotations for cells in data
cluster.method	igraph method to use for clustering if clusters are not provided, default = igraph::cluster_louvain
col	colors to use for plotting
alpha	transparency for plotting graph nodes
verbose	logical for verbosity setting, default = FALSE

**Value**

cells (rows) x 2 coordinates of force-directed layout of VeloViz graph

**Examples**

```

data(vel)
curr <- vel$current
proj <- vel$projected

vv <- buildVeloviz(curr = curr, proj = proj, normalize.depth = TRUE,
  use.ods.genes = TRUE, alpha = 0.05, pca = TRUE, nPCs = 20, center = TRUE,
  scale = TRUE, k = 5, similarity.threshold = 0.25, distance.weight = 1,
  distance.threshold = 0.5, weighted = TRUE, verbose = FALSE)

plotVeloviz(vv)

```

---

projectedNeighbors	<i>Computes composite distances between all cell pairs and returns k-nearest neighbors and edge weights needed to build VeloViz graph.</i>
--------------------	--

---

**Description**

Computes composite distances between all cell pairs and returns k-nearest neighbors and edge weights needed to build VeloViz graph.

**Usage**

```

projectedNeighbors(
  observed,
  projected,
  k,
  distance_metric = "L2",
  similarity_metric = "cosine",
  distance_weight = 1,
  distance_threshold = 1,
  similarity_threshold = -1
)

```

**Arguments**

observed	PCs (rows) x cells (columns) matrix of observed transcriptional state projected into PC space
projected	PCs (rows) x cells (columns) matrix of projected transcriptional states. Cells should be in same order as in observed
k	Number of nearest neighbors to assign each cell
distance_metric	Method to compute distance component of composite distance. "L1" or "L2", default = "L2"

`similarity_metric`  
Method to compute similarity between velocity and cell transition matrices. "cosine" or "pearson", default = "cosine"

`distance_weight`  
Weight of distance component of composite distance, default = 1

`distance_threshold`  
quantile threshold for distance component above which to remove edges, default = 1 i.e. no edges removed

`similarity_threshold`  
similarity threshold below which to remove edges, default = -1 i.e. no edges removed

**Value**

`kNNs` cells (rows) x `k` (columns) matrix of indices of each cell's nearest neighbors computed based on composite distance. Edges removed based on distance or similarity threshold will be NA.

`edge_weights` cells (rows) x `k` (columns) matrix of edge weights computed based on composite distance. Edges removed based on distance or similarity threshold will be NA.

`all_dists` cells x cells matrix of all pairwise composite distances

`dist_comp` components of composite distance: `invDist` distance component, `negSim` similarity component

**See Also**

[graphViz](#)

**Examples**

```
data(vel)
curr <- vel$current
proj <- vel$projected

projectedNeighbors(curr, proj, 10)
```

---

<code>reduceDimensions</code>	<i>Reduce dimension using Principal Components Analysis via svds from RSpectra</i>
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---

**Description**

Reduce dimension using Principal Components Analysis via svds from RSpectra

**Usage**

```
reduceDimensions(
  matnorm,
  center = TRUE,
  scale = TRUE,
  max.ods.genes = 2000,
  nPCs = 50,
  verbose = TRUE,
  plot = FALSE,
  details = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

matnorm	matrix on which to perform PCA
center	logical to mean center gene expression before PCA, default = TRUE
scale	logical to scale gene expression variance before PCA, default = TRUE
max.ods.genes	number of most highly expressed overdispersed genes to include, default = 2000
nPCs	number of principal components to reduce to return, default = 50
verbose	logical for verbosity setting, default = TRUE
plot	plot singular values vs number of components
details	logical to return pca object, default = FALSE

**Value**

matrix of cell scores in nPCs components

**Examples**

```
data(vel)
curr <- vel$current

curr.norm <- normalizeDepth(curr)
curr.norm <- log10(curr.norm+1)
reduceDimensions(curr.norm, nPCs=3)
```

---

vel

---

*MERFISH velocity subset*

---

**Description**

output of `velocyto.R::gene.relative.velocity.estimates` for 40 cell subset of MERFISH data. Used to run examples

**Usage**

vel

**Format**

list of 1:

**vel** velocity output containing current observed ("current") and predicted future ("projected") estimates

**Source**

<https://www.pnas.org/content/116/39/19490>

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veloviz	<i>veloviz</i>
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**Description**

Package for creating RNA velocity informed embeddings for single cell transcriptomics

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