

Application of VAM to 10x PBMC 3k scRNA-seq data using Seurat log normalization for the MSigDB Hallmark collection.

H. Robert Frost

1 Load the VAM package

Loading VAM will also load the required packages MASS and Matrix. Seurat is referenced via suggests so must be directly loaded to enable access to Seurat functions.

```
> library(VAM)
> library(Seurat)
```

2 Load and process the 10x PBMC scRNA-seq data

This example uses the same 10x PBMC scRNA-seq data set that is used in the Seurat Guided Clustering vignette

(https://satijalab.org/seurat/v3.1/pbmc3k_tutorial.html). The Cell Ranger files for this data set can be downloaded from

https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/10x.files/samples/cell/pbmc3k/pbmc3k_filtered_gene_bc_matrices.tar.gz.

This data is loaded and processed using the same Seurat logic found in the Guided Clustering vignette. In particular, the Seurat log normalization method implemented by `NormalizeData()` is used with variable genes determined by `FindVariableFeatures()`. This method for variable feature determination decomposes the measured variance for each gene into biological and technical components and provides the values of technical variance input to the VAM algorithm.

```
> # update the data.dir argument to reflect the local location of the PBMC data
> pbmc.data = Read10X(data.dir = "./filtered_gene_bc_matrices/hg19/")
> pbmc = CreateSeuratObject(counts = pbmc.data, project = "pbmc3k", min.cells = 3,
+   min.features = 200)
> pbmc[["percent.mt"]] = PercentageFeatureSet(pbmc, pattern = "^MT-")
> pbmc = subset(pbmc, subset = nFeature_RNA > 200 & nFeature_RNA < 2500 & percent.mt < 5)
> pbmc = NormalizeData(pbmc)
> pbmc = FindVariableFeatures(pbmc, selection.method = "vst", nfeatures = 2000)
> pbmc = ScaleData(pbmc, features = rownames(pbmc))
> pbmc = RunPCA(pbmc, features = VariableFeatures(object = pbmc))
> pbmc = RunUMAP(pbmc, dims = 1:10)
> pbmc = FindNeighbors(pbmc, dims = 1:10)
> pbmc = FindClusters(pbmc, resolution = 0.5)
```

Modularity Optimizer version 1.3.0 by Ludo Waltman and Nees Jan van Eck

Number of nodes: 2638

Number of edges: 96033

Running Louvain algorithm...

```
Maximum modularity in 10 random starts: 0.8720
Number of communities: 9
Elapsed time: 0 seconds
```

```
> # Assign the known cell type labels to the clusters (this follows the Seurat vignette)
> cell.types = c("Memory CD4 T", "CD14+ Mono", "Naive CD4 T", "B", "CD8 T", "FCGR3A+ Mono",
+               "NK", "DC", "Platelet")
> names(cell.types) = levels(pbmc)
> pbmc = RenameIdents(pbmc, cell.types)
> pbmc
```

```
An object of class Seurat
13714 features across 2638 samples within 1 assay
Active assay: RNA (13714 features, 2000 variable features)
 2 dimensional reductions calculated: pca, umap
```

3 Load Ensembl IDs

The Ensembl IDs and gene names must be read in from the genes.tsv file and filtered to match genes left after the quality control steps performed in the prior section.

```
> feature.data = read.delim("./filtered_gene_bc_matrices/hg19/genes.tsv",
+                            header = FALSE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
> ensembl.ids = feature.data[,1]
> gene.names = feature.data[,2]
> genes.after.QC = rownames(pbmc@assays$RNA@counts)
> indices.to.keep = unlist(sapply(genes.after.QC, function(x) {which(gene.names == x)[1]}))
> ensembl.ids = ensembl.ids[indices.to.keep]
> gene.names = gene.names[indices.to.keep]
```

4 Load the MSigDB Hallmark collection

The following logic loads the MSigDB Hallmark collection using the msigdb R package. Because the MSigDB gene sets are defined in terms of Entrez gene IDs, these must be mapped to Ensembl IDs using the org.Hs.eg.db R package (from Bioconductor). The data frame returned by msigdb is then converted into a list of gene ID vectors (each list element corresponds to a gene set and is a vector of Ensembl IDs). This list is transformed into the structure required by vamForSeurat() using the createGeneSetCollection() helper function. This helper function filters out genes not also contained in the PBMC scRNA-seq data and generates a list whose elements are vectors of gene indices in the scRNA-seq data.

```
> library(msigdb)
> library(org.Hs.eg.db)
> # Load the MSigDB Hallmark collection using the msigdb package
> H.collection = msigdb(category="H")
> # Get the entrez gene IDs that are mapped to an Ensembl ID
> entrez2ensembl = mappedkeys(org.Hs.egENSEMBL)
> # Convert to a list
> entrez2ensembl = as.list(org.Hs.egENSEMBL[entrez2ensembl])
> # Convert Entrez IDs to Ensembl IDs using the org.Hs.eg.db package
> # Doing this a rather simplistic (and inefficient) way for clarity
```

```

> msigdb.entrez.ids = H.collection$entrez_gene
> num.ids = length(msigdb.entrez.ids)
> msigdb.ensembl.ids = rep(NA, num.ids)
> for (i in 1:num.ids) {
+   entrez.id = msigdb.entrez.ids[i]
+   id.index = which(names(entrez2ensembl) == entrez.id)
+   if (length(id.index > 0)) {
+     # only use the first mapped ensembl id
+     msigdb.ensembl.ids[i] = entrez2ensembl[[id.index]][1]
+   }
+ }
> # Save the ensembl IDs in the data frame
> H.collection$ensembl_gene = msigdb.ensembl.ids
> # Create a gene.set.collection list of Ensembl IDs
> gene.set.names = unique(H.collection$gs_name)
> num.sets = length(gene.set.names)
> gene.set.collection = list()
> for (i in 1:num.sets) {
+   gene.set.name = gene.set.names[i]
+   gene.set.rows = which(H.collection$gs_name == gene.set.name)
+   gene.set.ensembl.ids = H.collection$ensembl_gene[gene.set.rows]
+   gene.set.collection[[i]] = gene.set.ensembl.ids
+ }
> names(gene.set.collection) = gene.set.names
> # Create the collection list required by vamForSeurat()
> gene.set.collection = createGeneSetCollection(gene.ids=ensembl.ids,
+   gene.set.collection=gene.set.collection)
> length(gene.set.collection)

```

```
[1] 50
```

5 Execute VAM method

Since the scRNA-seq data has been processed using Seurat, we execute VAM using the `vamForSeurat()` function. We have set `return.dist=T` so that the squared adjusted Mahalanobis distances will be returned in a "VAMdist" Assay.

```

> pbmc = vamForSeurat(seurat.data=pbmc,
+   gene.set.collection=gene.set.collection,
+   center=F, gamma=T, sample.cov=F, return.dist=T)

```

Look at the first few entries in the "VAMdist" and "VAMcdf" Assays.

```
> pbmc@assays$VAMdist[1:5,1:5]
```

```

5 x 5 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
                AAACATACAACCAC-1 AAACATTGAGCTAC-1 AAACATTGATCAGC-1
HALLMARK-ADIPOGENESIS           98.166655         440.153976         449.653452
HALLMARK-ALLOGRAFT-REJECTION    461.961078         573.666648         479.882138
HALLMARK-ANDROGEN-RESPONSE     270.083708         181.536163         237.574914
HALLMARK-ANGIOGENESIS          5.985118           8.191464           7.099042

```

```

HALLMARK-APICAL-JUNCTION          187.012689      201.455359      256.959324
AAACCGTGCTTCCG-1 AAACCGTGTATGCG-1
HALLMARK-ADIPOGENESIS             254.45880       85.93626
HALLMARK-ALLOGRAFT-REJECTION      525.37851      852.28732
HALLMARK-ANDROGEN-RESPONSE        173.69509      368.83380
HALLMARK-ANGIOGENESIS             28.40593       52.57082
HALLMARK-APICAL-JUNCTION          191.29709      212.65132

```

```
> pbmc@assays$VAMcdf[1:5,1:5]
```

```
5 x 5 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
```

```

AAACATACAACCAC-1 AAACATTGAGCTAC-1 AAACATTGATCAGC-1
HALLMARK-ADIPOGENESIS             0.1046634      0.8487740      0.8582855
HALLMARK-ALLOGRAFT-REJECTION      0.3677062      0.5720654      0.4015772
HALLMARK-ANDROGEN-RESPONSE        0.5721414      0.2977352      0.4767420
HALLMARK-ANGIOGENESIS             0.2478960      0.2979079      0.2740947
HALLMARK-APICAL-JUNCTION          0.4496806      0.4984440      0.6622745
AAACCGTGCTTCCG-1 AAACCGTGTATGCG-1
HALLMARK-ADIPOGENESIS             0.5264715      0.0788544
HALLMARK-ALLOGRAFT-REJECTION      0.4865253      0.8916543
HALLMARK-ANDROGEN-RESPONSE        0.2726758      0.7911543
HALLMARK-ANGIOGENESIS             0.5784735      0.7485725
HALLMARK-APICAL-JUNCTION          0.4643582      0.5347018

```

6 Compute DE pathways

Use the Seurat FindAllMarkers() function to identify Hallmark pathways whose VAM scores are enriched within each cell type cluster according to a Wilcoxon test.

```

> library(dplyr)
> pbmc.markers = FindAllMarkers(pbmc, assay="VAMcdf", only.pos = TRUE, logfc.threshold = 0.01)
> pbmc.markers %>% group_by(cluster) %>% top_n(n = 3, wt = avg_logFC)

```

```
# A tibble: 26 x 7
```

```
# Groups:   cluster [9]
```

	p_val	avg_logFC	pct.1	pct.2	p_val_adj	cluster	gene
	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<fct>	<chr>
1	1.46e-14	0.0778	1	1	7.29e-13	Memory CD~	HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V1
2	2.41e-3	0.0318	0.989	0.968	1.21e-1	Memory CD~	HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V2
3	1.65e-31	0.140	1	1	8.23e-30	CD14+ Mono	HALLMARK-MYC-TARGETS-V1
4	4.23e-7	0.0660	1	1	2.11e-5	CD14+ Mono	HALLMARK-UNFOLDED-PROTE~
5	2.15e-5	0.0491	1	0.998	1.07e-3	CD14+ Mono	HALLMARK-E2F-TARGETS
6	1.49e-184	0.452	1	1	7.44e-183	Naive CD4~	HALLMARK-REACTIVE-OXYGE~
7	4.95e-127	0.363	1	1	2.48e-125	Naive CD4~	HALLMARK-COMPLEMENT
8	1.75e-116	0.353	1	1	8.75e-115	Naive CD4~	HALLMARK-INFLAMMATORY-R~
9	7.15e-45	0.159	1	1	3.58e-43	B	HALLMARK-ALLOGRAFT-REJE~
10	1.45e-18	0.151	0.948	0.878	7.25e-17	B	HALLMARK-KRAS-SIGNALING~

```
# ... with 16 more rows
```

7 Visualize VAM scores

Visualize VAM scores using Seurat `DoHeatmap()`. The default Assay must first be changed to "VAMcdf" and the slot parameter must be set to "data" in the call to `DoHeatmap()`.

```
> library(ggplot2)
> DefaultAssay(object = pbmc) = "VAMcdf"
> top.pathways <- pbmc.markers %>% group_by(cluster) %>% top_n(n = 3, wt = avg_logFC)
> DoHeatmap(pbmc, slot="data", features = top.pathways$gene, size=3, label=T) + NoLegend()
```

