

# Package ‘survClust’

November 4, 2025

**Title** Identification Of Clinically Relevant Genomic Subtypes Using Outcome Weighted Learning

**Version** 1.5.0

**Date** 2024-04-16

**Description** survClust is an outcome weighted integrative clustering algorithm used to classify multi-omic samples on their available time to event information. The resulting clusters are cross-validated to avoid over overfitting and output classification of samples that are molecularly distinct and clinically meaningful. It takes in binary (mutation) as well as continuous data (other omic types).

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Imports** Rcpp, MultiAssayExperiment, pdist, survival

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**URL** <https://github.com/arorarshi/survClust>

**BugReports** <https://support.bioconductor.org/t/survClust>

**biocViews** Software, Clustering, Survival, Classification

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**Contents**

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| combineDist . . . . .          | 2         |
| cv_survclust . . . . .         | 3         |
| cv_voting . . . . .            | 4         |
| getDist . . . . .              | 5         |
| getStats . . . . .             | 6         |
| plotStats . . . . .            | 7         |
| simdat . . . . .               | 8         |
| simsurvdat . . . . .           | 8         |
| survClust . . . . .            | 9         |
| uvm_dat . . . . .              | 10        |
| uvm_survClust_cv.fit . . . . . | 10        |
| uvm_survdat . . . . .          | 11        |
| <b>Index</b>                   | <b>12</b> |

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|             |                                              |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| combineDist | <i>Integrates weighted distance matrices</i> |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|

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**Description**

combineDist integrates weighted distances matrices from getDist. All data types are now collapsed into one NxN matrix.

**Usage**

```
combineDist(dist.dat)
```

**Arguments**

dist.dat            list of weighted data matrices from getDist

**Details**

combineDist integrates and does cleaning of missing pair of samples. if datasets list had non-overlapping samples, then combineDist retains only those samples that have full information after accounting for all data types.

**Value**

- combMatFullA matrix. Combine normalized information across m genomic data types into NxN matrix, where N is the union of all samples across m data types/ or samples with complete pairwise information. Final matrix should not have any NAs

**Author(s)**

Arshi Arora

**Examples**

```
library(survClust)
dd <- getDist(simdat, simsurvdat)
cc <- combineDist(dd)
```

---

|              |                                                                                                            |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| cv_survclust | <i>performs cross validation on supervised clustering, survClust for a particular k. cv_survclust runs</i> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

cv\_survclust performs k fold cross-validation, runs survClust on each training and hold out test fold and return cross-validated supervised cluster labels.

**Usage**

```
cv_survclust(datasets, survdat = NULL, k, fold, cmd.k = NULL, type = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| datasets | A list object containing m data matrices representing m different genomic data types measured in a set of N~m samples. OR <a href="#">MultiAssayExperiment</a> object of desired types of data. For list of matrices, each matrix, the rows represent samples, and the columns represent genomic features. Each data matrix is allowed to have different samples |
| survdat  | A matrix, containing two columns - 1st column time and 2nd column containing events information. OR this information can be provided as a part of <code>colData</code> <a href="#">MultiAssayExperiment</a>                                                                                                                                                      |
| k        | integer, choice of k to perform clustering on samples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| fold     | integer, number of folds to run cross validation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| cmd.k    | integer, number of dimensions used by <code>cmdscale</code> to perform clustering on samples. Defaults is n-1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| type     | Specify type="mut", if datasets is of length 1 and contains binary data only.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Value**

- cv.labels returns cross validated class labels for k cluster
- cv.logranklogrank test statistic of cross validated label
- cv.spwss standardized pooled within-cluster sum of squares calculated from cross-validation class labels

**Author(s)**

Arshi Arora

**Examples**

```
library(survClust)
cv.fit <- cv_survclust(datasets = simdat, survdat = simsurvdat, k = 3, fold=3 )
```

---

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| cv_voting | <i>For a survClust fit, return consolidated labels across rounds of cross validation for a specific k. Note that cv.fit already has consolidated class labels across folds</i> |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

For a survClust fit, return consolidated labels across rounds of cross validation for a specific k. Note that cv.fit already has consolidated class labels across folds

**Usage**

```
cv_voting(
  cv.fit,
  dat.dist,
  pick_k,
  cmd.k = NULL,
  pick_k.test = TRUE,
  minlabel.test = TRUE
)
```

**Arguments**

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| cv.fit        | fit objects as returned from cv_survclust                                                                                                                                                    |
| dat.dist      | weighted distance matrices from getDist                                                                                                                                                      |
| pick_k        | choice of k cluster to summarize over rounds of cross validation                                                                                                                             |
| cmd.k         | number of dimensions used by cmdscale to perform clustering on. Defaults is n-1                                                                                                              |
| pick_k.test   | logical, only selects cv.fit solutions where the resulting solution after consolidation contains pick_k classes. Default TRUE. Avoids edge cases, but in some cases FALSE might be desirable |
| minlabel.test | logical, only selects cv.fit solutions where classes have a minimum of 5 samples. Default TRUE. Avoids edge cases, but in some cases FALSE might be desirable                                |

**Value**

final.labels consolidated class labels over rounds of cross-validation

**Author(s)**

Arshi Arora

**Examples**

```
library(survClust)
k4 <- cv_voting(uvm_survClust_cv.fit, getDist(uvm_dat, uvm_survdat), pick_k = 4)
table(k4)
```

getDist

*Calculates weighted distance matrix of multiple genomic data types***Description**

Given multiple genomic data types (e.g., gene expression, copy number, DNA methylation, miRNA expression (continuous) and mutation (binary)) measured across samples, allowing for missing values (NA) and missing samples, getDist calculates the survival weighted distance metric among samples. Used as an input to, combineDist().

**Usage**

```
getDist(datasets, survdat = NULL, cv = FALSE, train.snames = NULL, type = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| datasets     | A list object containing m data matrices representing m different genomic data types measured in a set of N~m samples. OR <a href="#">MultiAssayExperiment</a> object of desired types of data. For list of matrices, each matrix, the rows represent samples, and the columns represent genomic features. Each data matrix is allowed to have different samples |
| survdat      | A matrix, containing two columns - 1st column time and 2nd column containing events information. OR this information can be provided as a part of colData <a href="#">MultiAssayExperiment</a>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| cv           | logical. If TRUE, train.names cannot be NULL. Cross-validation will be performed on train.names samples, and the dataset will be split into training and test, and each respective matrices will be returned.                                                                                                                                                    |
| train.snames | required if cv=TRUE. A vector of sample names treated as training samples.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| type         | NULL. Specify type="mut", if datasets is of length 1 and contains binary data only. See details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Details**

getDist allows for continuous and binary data type(s) in a matrix passed as a list. If the list only has a binary matrix data type. Set type="mut". All data types are standardized internally. All data types are not expected to have common samples. Non-overlapping samples within data types are replaced with NA, and returned weighted matrix consists of union of all the samples.

**Value**

- `cv=FALSE,dist.dat` returns a list of weighted data matrix/matrices, `dist.dat`
- `cv=TRUE,dist.dat=list(train, all)` returns a list of training train weighted data matrix. And the whole matrix weighed according to the weights computed on the training dataset `all`.

**Author(s)**

Arshi Arora

**Examples**

```
library(survClust)
dd <- getDist(simdat, simsurvdat)
```

---

getStats

*Compute fit statistics after cross validation via cv\_survclust*

---

**Description**

Compute fit statistics after cross validation via `cv_survclust`

**Usage**

```
getStats(cv.fit, kk = 8, cvr = 50)
```

**Arguments**

|                     |                                                                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>cv.fit</code> | output from <code>cv_survclust</code> object                                        |
| <code>kk</code>     | number of k clusters on which <code>cv_survclust</code> was run, default is 8       |
| <code>cvr</code>    | round of cross-validation on which <code>cv_survclust</code> was run, default is 50 |

**Details**

`getStats` calculates Logrank statistic and standardized pooled within sum of squares (SPWSS) across cross-validated labels. Visualize it via `plotStats`

**Value**

A list of the following

- `lr` log rank statistic
- `spwss` standardized pooled within sum of squares
- `bad.sol` number of solutions for each `kk` that have cluster class <5 samples

**Author(s)**

Arshi Arora

**Examples**

```
library(survClust)
ss_stats <- getStats(uvm_survClust_cv.fit, kk=7, cvr=10)
```

---

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| plotStats | <i>Plot the output from getStats</i> |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Plot the output from getStats

**Usage**

```
plotStats(out.getStats, labels = NULL, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                    |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| out.getStats | list output from getStats                          |
| labels       | labels to print on the boxplot. Default is 2:8     |
| ...          | additional arguments as passed to boxplot function |

**Details**

plots boxplots summarizing output of cv.survclust calculated via getStats. Use this to pick optimal k. Optimal k maximized logrank and minimizes SPWSS similar to the elbow method. Use consensus\_summary to pick the best k and arrive at unique consolidated class labels

**Value**

a plot with three boxplots summarizing logrank, standardized pooled within sum of squares (SPWSS) and if any class label has less than 5 samples

**Author(s)**

Arshi Arora

**Examples**

```
library(survClust)
ss_stats <- getStats(uvm_survClust_cv.fit, kk=7, cvr=10)
plotStats(ss_stats, 2:7)
```

---

`simdat`*Simulated dataset with 3-class solution*

---

**Description**

A list of length 1 with a matrix simulated with 150 samples x 150 features with a 3-class structure such that 15 features are distinct and associated with survival, other 15 features are just distinct and not associated with survival and remaining 120 are noise. See how this dataset was generated in the vignette

**Usage**

```
data(simdat)
```

**Format**

An object of class "list"

**Examples**

```
data(simdat)
class(simdat)
dim(simdat[[1]])
simdat[[1]][1:5,1:5]
```

---

`simsurvdat`*Simulated survival dataset with accompanying simdat*

---

**Description**

A matrix with simulate time-event data with 150 samples x 2 columns with a 3-class structure with median survival of 4.5, 3.25 and 2 yrs respectively. such that 15 features are distinct and associated with survival, other 15 features are just distinct and not associated with survival and remaining 120 are noise. See how this dataset was generated in the vignette

**Usage**

```
data(simsurvdat)
```

**Format**

An object of class "matrix"

**Examples**

```
data(simsurvdat)
dim(simsurvdat)
head(simsurvdat)
```

---

|           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| survClust | <i>perform supervised clustering for a particular k</i> |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

survClust function performs supervised clustering on a combinedist output for a particular k. It uses all n-1 dimensions for clustering.

survClust is an outcome weighted integrative clustering algorithm used to classify multi-omic samples on their available time to event information.

## Usage

```
survClust(combine.dist, survdat, k, cmd.k = NULL)
```

## Arguments

|              |                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| combine.dist | integrated weighted distance matrix from combinedist                                                                                   |
| survdat      | A nx2 matrix consisting of survival data with n samples and first column as time and second column as events, with samples as rownames |
| k            | choice of k to perform clustering on samples                                                                                           |
| cmd.k        | number of dimensions used by cmdscale to perform clustering on samples. Defaults is n-1                                                |

## Value

- fit returns a list, fit consisting of all clustering samples as in kmeans fit.lr, computed logrank statistic between k clusters

## Author(s)

Arshi Arora

**Maintainer:** Arshi Arora <arshiaurora@gmail.com> ([ORCID](#))

## See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/arorarshi/survClust>
- Report bugs at <https://support.bioconductor.org/t/survClust>

## Examples

```
library(survClust)
dd <- getDist(datasets = simdat, survdat = simsurvdat)
cc <- combineDist(dd)
survclust_fit <- survClust(combine.dist = cc, survdat = simsurvdat, k = 3)
```

---

uvm\_dat

*TCGA UVM Mutation and Copy Number datasets*


---

### Description

A list of length 2 with TCGA UVM Mutation data with 80 samples and 87 genes TCGA UVM Copy Number data with 80 samples and 749 segments. See Appendix in vignette for more details. The data is downloaded from here <https://gdc.cancer.gov/about-data/publications/pancanatlas>

### Usage

```
data(uvm_dat)
```

### Format

An object of class "list"

### Examples

```
data(uvm_dat)
uvm_dat[[1]][1:5,1:5]
uvm_dat[[2]][1:5,1:5]
```

---

uvm\_survClust\_cv.fit

*survClust cv.survclust output of integrated TCGA UVM Mutation and Copy Number datasets.*


---

### Description

The output is a list object consisting of 6 sub-lists for  $k = 2:7$ , with 10 cv.survclust outputs (for each round of cross-validation), each consisting of cv.labels, cv.logrank, cv.spwss for 3 folds.

### Usage

```
data(uvm_survClust_cv.fit)
```

### Format

An object of class "list"

### Examples

```
data(uvm_survClust_cv.fit)
names(uvm_survClust_cv.fit[[1]][[1]])
```

---

|             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| uvm_survdat | <i>TCGA UVM Clinical file</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|

---

**Description**

A matrix with 2 columns, with first column as OS.time and second column as OS events. The data is downloaded from - <https://gdc.cancer.gov/about-data/publications/pancanatlas>

**Usage**

```
data(uvm_survdat)
```

**Format**

An object of class "matrix"

**Examples**

```
data(uvm_survdat)  
head(uvm_survdat)
```

# Index

## \* datasets

- simdat, [8](#)
- simsurvdat, [8](#)
- uvm\_dat, [10](#)
- uvm\_survClust\_cv.fit, [10](#)
- uvm\_survdat, [11](#)

- combineDist, [2](#)
- cv\_survclust, [3](#)
- cv\_voting, [4](#)

- getDist, [5](#)
- getStats, [6](#)

- MultiAssayExperiment, [3](#), [5](#)

- plotStats, [7](#)

- simdat, [8](#)
- simsurvdat, [8](#)
- survClust, [9](#)
- survClust-package (survClust), [9](#)

- uvm\_dat, [10](#)
- uvm\_survClust\_cv.fit, [10](#)
- uvm\_survdat, [11](#)