# Package 'airpart'

January 20, 2025

Title Differential cell-type-specific allelic imbalance

**Version** 1.14.0

Description Airpart identifies sets of genes displaying differential cell-type-specific allelic imbalance across cell types or states, utilizing single-cell allelic counts. It makes use of a generalized fused lasso with binomial observations of allelic counts to partition cell types by their allelic imbalance. Alternatively, a nonparametric method for partitioning cell types is offered. The package includes a number of visualizations and quality control functions for examining single cell allelic imbalance datasets.

**License** GPL-2 **Depends** R (>= 4.1)

Imports SingleCellExperiment, SummarizedExperiment, S4Vectors, scater, stats, smurf, apeglm (>= 1.13.3), emdbook, mclust, clue, dynamicTreeCut, matrixStats, dplyr, plyr, ggplot2, ComplexHeatmap, forestplot, RColorBrewer, rlang, lpSolve, grid, grDevices, graphics, utils, pbapply

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, roxygen2 (>= 6.0.0), testthat (>= 3.0.0), gplots, tidyr

VignetteBuilder knitr

biocViews SingleCell, RNASeq, ATACSeq, ChIPSeq, Sequencing, GeneRegulation, GeneExpression, Transcription, TranscriptomeVariant, CellBiology, FunctionalGenomics, DifferentialExpression, GraphAndNetwork, Regression, Clustering, QualityControl

**Encoding** UTF-8

BugReports https://github.com/Wancen/airpart/issues

URL https://github.com/Wancen/airpart

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Config/testthat/edition 3

git\_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/airpart

git\_branch RELEASE\_3\_20

git\_last\_commit d015767

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allelicRatio

Fit beta-binomial across cell types

# **Description**

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This function performs additional inference on the allelic ratio across cell types, giving posterior mean and credible intervals per cell type. A Cauchy prior is centered for each cell type on the allelic ratio from the fused lasso across all genes in the gene cluster (or using a weighted means if the fused lasso is not provided).

# Usage

```
allelicRatio(sce, formula, nogroup = FALSE, level = 0.95, DAItest = FALSE, ...)
```

sce	A SingleCellExperiment containing assays ("ratio", "counts") and colData ("x", "part")
formula	The same formula object used in fusedLasso or used in ns when want to detect smooth continuous-axis estimates. eg. formula $<$ - ratio $\sim$ ns(x, df = 5)

cellQC 3

nogroup Indicate whether there is previous group step. Default is FALSE represents ei-

ther Generalized fused lasso or nonparametric method is used to derive partition. nogroup == TRUE means the hypothesis that groups of cell types sharing a com-

mon regulatory context is not valid

level the level of credible interval (default is 0.95)

DAItest Indicate whether to do Likelihood Ratio test on differential allelic imbalance(DAI)

or equivalent to heterogeneity.

arguments to pass to apeglm functions

#### Value

posterior mean ("ar") for allelic ratio estimate is returned in the rowData for each cell type, as well as the "s" value, "fsr" false sign rate and credible interval ("lower" and "upper"). One can use "fsr" < 0.005 or credible intervals contain 0.5 or not for AI test significance. "p.value" shows DAI test result and "adj.p.value" is false discovery rate corrected p values.

### **Examples**

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = seq_len(4))
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce, genecluster = 1)
sce_sub <- allelicRatio(sce_sub, DAItest = TRUE)</pre>
```

cellQC

Quality control on cells

# **Description**

Quality control on cells

# Usage

```
cellQC(
   sce,
   spike,
   threshold = 0,
   mad_sum = 5,
   mad_detected = 3,
   mad_spikegenes = 5
)
```

# **Arguments**

sce SingleCellExperiment with counts and ratio

spike the character name of spike genes. If missing, spikePercent will all be zero

and filter\_spike will be false.

threshold A numeric scalar specifying the threshold above which a gene is considered to

be detected.

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mad_sum	A numeric scalar specifying exceed how many median absolute deviations from the median log10-counts a cell is considered to be filtered out. Default is 5.
mad_detected	A numeric scalar specifying exceed how many median absolute deviations from the median detected features a cell is considered to be filtered out. Default is 5.
mad_spikegenes	A numeric scalar specifying exceed how many median absolute deviations from the median spike genes expression percentage a cell is considered to be filtered out. Default is 5.

### Value

A DataFrame of QC statistics includes

- sum the sum of counts of each cell
- · detected the number of features above threshold
- spikePercent the percentage of counts assignes to spike genes
- filter\_sum indicate whether log10-counts within mad\_sum median absolute deviations from the median log10-counts for the dataset
- filter\_detected indicate whether features detected by this cell within mad\_detected median absolute deviations from the median detected features for the dataset
- filter\_spike indicate whether percentage expressed by spike genes within mad\_spikegenes median absolute deviations from the median spike genes expression percentage for the dataset

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()</pre>
sce <- preprocess(sce)</pre>
cellQCmetrics <- cellQC(sce)</pre>
keep_cell <- (
  cellQCmetrics$filter_sum | # sufficient features (genes)
    # sufficient molecules counted
    cellQCmetrics$filter_detected |
    # sufficient features expressed compared to spike genes
    cellQCmetrics$filter_spike
sce <- sce[, keep_cell]</pre>
# or manually setting threshold
cellQCmetrics <- cellQC(sce,</pre>
  spike = "Ercc",
  mad_detected = 4, mad_spikegenes = 4
keep_cell <- (
  cellQCmetrics$sum > 2.4 |
    cellQCmetrics$detected > 110
```

consensusPart 5

consensusPart Consensus Partitions

### **Description**

Derive consensus partitions of an ensemble fused lasso partitions.

# Usage

```
consensusPart(sce)
```

# **Arguments**

sce

SingleCellExperiment

### Value

A matrix grouping factor partition is replaced in metadata. Consensus Partation also stored in colData"part".

# **Examples**

```
library(smurf)
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = 1:4)
f <- ratio ~ p(x, pen = "gflasso") # formula for the GFL
sce_sub <- fusedLasso(sce,
  formula = f, model = "binomial", genecluster = 1,
  niter = 2, ncores = 2, se.rule.nct = 3
)
sce_sub <- consensusPart(sce_sub)</pre>
```

estDisp

Estimate overdispersion parameter of a beta-binomial

# **Description**

Estimate overdispersion parameter of a beta-binomial

# Usage

```
estDisp(sce, genecluster, type = c("plot", "values"))
```

# Arguments

sce SingleCellExperiment with a1 matrix and counts

genecluster the gene cluster for which to estimate the over-dispersion parameter. Default is

the cluster with the most cells

type whether to output the over-dispersion estimates as a plot or a value

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### Value

A ggplot object of the dispersion estimates over the mean, or a data.frame of the mean and dispersion estimates (theta)

# **Examples**

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = seq_len(4))
estDisp(sce, genecluster = 1)</pre>
```

extractResult

Extract results from an airpart analysis

# **Description**

results extracts a result table from an airpart analysis giving posterior allelic ratio estimates, s values, false sign rate(fsr), upper confidence interval and lower confidence interval.

# Usage

```
extractResult(sce, estimates = c("ar", "svalue", "fsr", "lower", "upper"))
```

# **Arguments**

```
sce SingleCellExperiment

estimates the estimates want to be extracted. Default is allelic ratio estimates, can be "svalue", "fsr", "lower"(credible interval) and "upper"(credible interval)
```

#### Value

a DataFrame of estimates

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = 1:4)
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce, genecluster = 1)
sce_sub <- allelicRatio(sce_sub)
ar <- extractResult(sce_sub)
ar</pre>
```

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featureQC	Quality control on features	

# **Description**

Quality control on features

# Usage

```
featureQC(sce, spike, detection_limit = 1, threshold = 0.25, sd = 0.03, pc = 2)
```

### **Arguments**

sce SingleCellExperiment with counts and ratio spike the character name of spike genes. The default is Ercc detection\_limit Numeric scalar providing the value above which observations are deemed to be expressed. threshold A numeric scalar specifying the threshold above which percentage of cells expressed within each cell type. Default is 0.25 sd A numeric scalar specifying the cell type weighted allelic ratio mean standard deviation threshold above which are interested features with highly variation. Default is 0.03 pseudocount in the preprocess step рс

# Value

A DataFrame of QC statistics includes

- · filter\_celltype indicate whether genes expressed in more than threshold cells for all cell types
- sd read counts standard deviation for each feature
- filter\_sd indicate whether gene standard deviation exceed sd
- filter\_spike indicate no spike genes

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
featureQCmetric <- featureQC(sce)
keep_feature <- (featureQCmetric$filter_celltype &
    featureQCmetric$filter_sd &
    featureQCmetric$filter_spike)
sce <- sce[keep_feature, ]

# or manually setting threshold
featureQCmetric <- featureQC(sce,
    spike = "Ercc",
    threshold = 0.25, sd = 0.03, pc = 2
)
keep_feature <- (featureQCmetric$filter_celltype &
    featureQCmetric$sd > 0.02)
```

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 ${\sf fusedLasso}$ 

Generalized fused lasso to partition cell types by allelic imbalance

# Description

Fits generalized fused lasso with either binomial(link="logit") or Gaussian likelihood, leveraging functions from the smurf package.

# Usage

```
fusedLasso(
    sce,
    formula,
    model = c("binomial", "gaussian"),
    genecluster,
    niter = 1,
    pen.weights,
    lambda = "cv1se.dev",
    k = 5,
    adj.matrix,
    lambda.length = 25L,
    se.rule.nct = 8,
    se.rule.mult = 0.5,
    ...
)
```

sce	A SingleCellExperiment containing assays ("ratio", "counts") and colData "x"
formula	A formula object which will typically involve a fused lasso penalty: default is just using cell-type 'x': ratio ~ p(x, pen="gflasso"). Other possibilities would be to use the Graph-Guided Fused Lasso penalty, or add covariates want to be adjusted for, which can include a gene-level baseline 'gene' ratio ~ p(x, pen = "ggflasso") + gene + batch See glmsmurf for more details
model	Either "binomial" or "gaussian" used to fit the generalized fused lasso
genecluster	which gene cluster to run the fused lasso on. Usually one first identifies an interesting gene cluster pattern by summaryAllelicRatio
niter	number of iterations to run; recommended to run 5 times if allelic ratio differences across cell types are within [0.05, 0.1]
pen.weights	argument as described in glmsmurf
lambda	argument as described in glmsmurf. Default lambda is determined by "cv1se.dev" (cross-validation within 1 standard error rule(SE); deviance)
k	number of cross-validation folds
adj.matrix	argument as described in glmsmurf
lambda.length	argument as described in glmsmurf

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se.rule.nct	the number of cell types to trigger a different SE-based rule than 1 SE (to prioritize larger models, less fusing, good for detecting smaller, e.g. 0.05, allelic ratio differences). When the number of cell types is less than or equal to this value, se.rule.mult SE rule is used. When the number of cell types is larger than this value, the standard 1 SE rule is used.
se.rule.mult	the multiplier of the SE in determining the lambda: the chosen lambda is within $se.rule.mult \ x \ SE$ of the minimum deviance. Small values will prioritize larger models, less fusing. Only used when number of cell types is equal to or less than $se.rule.nct$
	additional arguments passed to glmsmurf

#### **Details**

Usually, we used a Generalized Fused Lasso penalty for the cell states in order to regularize all possible coefficient differences. Another possibility would be to use the Graph-Guided Fused Lasso penalty to only regularize the differences of coefficients of neighboring cell states.

When using a Graph-Guided Fused Lasso penalty, the adjacency matrix corresponding to the graph needs to be provided. The elements of this matrix are zero when two levels are not connected, and one when they are adjacent.

See the package vignette for more details and a complete description of a use case.

### Value

A SummarizedExperiment with attached metadata and colData: a matrix grouping factor partition and the penalized parameter lambda are returned in metadata "partition" and "lambda". Partition and logistic group allelic estimates are stored in colData: "part" and "coef".

#### References

This function leverages the glmsmurf function from the smurf package. For more details see the following manuscript:

Devriendt S, Antonio K, Reynkens T, et al. Sparse regression with multi-type regularized feature modeling[J]. Insurance: Mathematics and Economics, 2021, 96: 248-261.

### See Also

```
glmsmurf, glmsmurf.control, p, glm
```

```
library(S4Vectors)
library(smurf)
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = seq_len(4))
f <- ratio ~ p(x, pen = "gflasso") # formula for the GFL
sce_sub <- fusedLasso(sce,
   formula = f, model = "binomial", genecluster = 1, ncores = 1)
metadata(sce_sub)$partition
metadata(sce_sub)$lambda

# can add covariates or `gene` to the formula
f2 <- ratio ~ p(x, pen = "gflasso") + gene</pre>
```

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```
sce_sub <- fusedLasso(sce[1:5,],
  formula = f2, model = "binomial",
  genecluster = 1, ncores = 1)

# Suppose we have 4 cell states, if we only want neibouring cell states
# to be grouped together with other cell states. Note here the names of
# the cell states should be given as row and column names.
nct <- nlevels(sce$x)
adjmatrix <- makeOffByOneAdjMat(nct)
colnames(adjmatrix) <- rownames(adjmatrix) <- levels(sce$x)
f <- ratio ~ p(x, pen = "ggflasso") # use graph-guided fused lasso
sce_sub <- fusedLasso(sce,
  formula = f, model = "binomial", genecluster = 1,
  lambda = 0.5, ncores = 1,
  adj.matrix = list(x = adjmatrix)
)
metadata(sce_sub)$partition</pre>
```

geneCluster

Gene clustering based on allelic ratio matrix with pseudo-count

### **Description**

Gene clustering based on allelic ratio matrix with pseudo-count

# Usage

```
geneCluster(
    sce,
    G,
    method = c("GMM", "hierarchical"),
    minClusterSize = 3,
    plot = TRUE,
    ...
)
```

5	sce	SingleCellExperiment containing assays "ratio_pseudo" and colData factor "x"
(	Ĵ	An integer vector specifying the numbers of clusters for which the BIC is to be calculated. The default is $G=c(8,12,16,20,24)$ .
r	method	the method to do gene clustering. The default is the Gaussian Mixture Modeling which is likely to be more accurate. "hierarchical" represents automatic hierarchical clustering which is faster to compute.
r	minClusterSize	Minimum cluster size of "hierarchical" method.
ŗ	olot	logical, whether to make a PCA plot
	• • •	Catches unused arguments in indirect or list calls via do.call as described in ${\tt Mclust}$

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#### Value

gene cluster IDs are stored in the rowData column cluster and a table of gene cluster is returned in metadata geneCluster

#### References

This function leverages Mclust from the mclust package, or hclust.

For mclust see: Luca Scrucca and Michael Fop and T. Brendan Murphy, Adrian E. Raftery "mclust 5: clustering, classification and density estimation using Gaussian finite mixture models" 2016. The R Journal. doi: 10.32614/RJ-2016-021

#### See Also

Mclust

### **Examples**

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = seq_len(4))</pre>
```

makeForest

Plot allelic ratio result as forest

# **Description**

Draw a forest plot to visualized cell type specific allelic ratio estimator and confidence interval. It is based on the **forestplot**-package's forestplot function.

# Usage

```
makeForest(
    sce,
    genepoi,
    ctpoi = seq_len(nlevels(sce$x)),
    showtext = FALSE,
    xticks,
    boxsize = 0.25,
    xlab = "Allelic Ratio",
    col,
    grid = structure(seq(0.1, 0.9, 0.1), gp = gpar(lty = 2, col = "#CCCCFF")),
    ...
)
```

### **Arguments**

sce

A SingleCellExperiment containing colData allelic ratio estimator in the third column and last two column is the confidence interval.

genepoi

the gene position index or gene name vector that want to be plotted. Ordered by increased cell type svalue. Default is the top 40 genes that has minimum svalue in any cell type or all genes if number of genes smaller than 40.

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ctpoi the cell type position index that want to be plotted. showtext indicate whether show the svalue information along the forestplot. xticks argument as described in forestplot boxsize Override the default box size based on precision x-axis label. Default is "Allelic Ratio" xlab col Set the colors for all the elements. See fpColors for details If you want a discrete gray dashed grid at the level of the ticks you can set grid this parameter to TRUE. If you set the parameter to a vector of values lines will be drawn at the corresponding positions. If you want to specify the gpar of the lines then either directly pass a gpar object or set the gp attribute e.g. attr(line\_vector, "gp") <- gpar(lty=2, col = "red")</pre>

... Passsed on the other argument in forestplot.

### Value

generates a forest plot

#### See Also

forestplot, fpColors, fpShapesGp, fpLegend

### **Examples**

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()</pre>
sce <- preprocess(sce)</pre>
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = 1:4)</pre>
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce, genecluster = 1)</pre>
sce_sub <- allelicRatio(sce_sub)</pre>
makeForest(sce_sub, showtext = TRUE)
# if want to change some properties, like ticks position
library(forestplot)
xticks <- seq(from = 0, to = 1, by = 0.25)
xtlab <- rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), length.out = length(xticks))</pre>
attr(xticks, "labels") <- xtlab</pre>
genepoi <- paste0("gene", seq_len(5))</pre>
ctpoi <- c(1, 3)
makeForest(sce_sub, genepoi, ctpoi,
  xticks = xticks,
  col = fpColors(box = c("blue", "red", "black", "darkgreen"))
```

makeHeatmap

Plot allelic ratio as heatmap

# **Description**

Plot allelic ratio as heatmap

#### Usage

```
makeHeatmap(
    sce,
    assay = c("ratio_pseudo", "ratio", "counts"),
    genecluster = NULL,
    show_row_names = FALSE,
    order_by_group = TRUE,
    ...
)
```

### **Arguments**

#### Value

generates a heatmap

# **Examples**

```
set.seed(2021)
sce <- makeSimulatedData(p.vec = c(0.3, 0.5, 0.5, 0.3), ncl = 1)
sce <- preprocess(sce)
# display allelic ratio pattern in whole dataset
makeHeatmap(sce)

sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = seq_len(4), plot = FALSE)
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce, genecluster = 1)
# display specific gene cluster partition result
makeHeatmap(sce_sub)
# display by cell type orders
makeHeatmap(sce_sub, order_by_group = FALSE)</pre>
```

makeOffByOneAdjMat

Generating adjancy matrix for neighboring cell states.

### **Description**

To use the Graph-Guided Fused Lasso penalty to only regularize the differences of coefficients of neighboring areas, suitable for time/spatial analysis. The adjacency matrix corresponding to the graph needs to be provided. The elements of this matrix are zero when two levels are not connected, and one when they are adjacent.

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### Usage

```
makeOffByOneAdjMat(nct)
```

# **Arguments**

nct

the number of cell types/states

### **Details**

If manually input the adjacency matrix, this matrix has to be symmetric and the names of the cell states should be given as row and column names.

# **Examples**

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
nct <- nlevels(sce$x)
adjmatrix <- makeOffByOneAdjMat(nct)
colnames(adjmatrix) <- rownames(adjmatrix) <- levels(sce$x)</pre>
```

makeSimulatedData

Make simulated data for airpart

# Description

Make simulated data for airpart

# Usage

```
makeSimulatedData(
    mu1 = 2,
    mu2 = 10,
    nct = 4,
    n = 30,
    ngenecl = 50,
    theta = 20,
    ncl = 3,
    p.vec = rep(c(0.2, 0.8, 0.5, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9), each = 2),
    totalClusters = FALSE
)
```

mu1	low count (typical of "noisy" ratio estimates)
mu2	high count
nct	number of cell types
n	number of cells per cell type
ngenecl	number of genes per cluster
theta	overdispersion parameter (higher is closer to binomial)
ncl	number of gene cluster
p.vec	the allelic ratio vector which follows gene cluster order. (length is nct * ncl)
totalClusters	logical, whether cell types should cluster by total count

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### Value

SingleCellExperiment with the following elements as assays

- a1 allelic count matrix for the numerator/effect allele
- a2 allelic count matrix for the denominator/non-effect allele
- true.ratio a matrix of the true probabilities (allelic ratios) for the cell types

Also x in the colData is a vector of annotated cell types in the same order as cells in count matrix

# **Examples**

```
library(SummarizedExperiment)
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
assayNames(sce)</pre>
```

makeStep

Plot group partition and posterior allelic ratio estimates by step

# **Description**

Plot group partition and posterior allelic ratio estimates by step

### Usage

```
makeStep(sce, xlab = "cell type")
```

# **Arguments**

```
sce SingleCellExperiment xlab the x axis name.
```

# Value

```
a ggplot2 object.
```

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = 1:4)
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce, genecluster = 1)
sce_sub <- allelicRatio(sce_sub)
makeStep(sce_sub)</pre>
```

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Posterior mean allelic ratio estimates in violin plots

# Description

Posterior mean allelic ratio estimates in violin plots

# Usage

```
makeViolin(sce, xlab = "cell type", ylim = c(0, 1))
```

# **Arguments**

sce SingleCellExperiment xlab the x axis name. ylim the y axis range

### Value

a ggplot2 object, n represents number of cells in that cell type.

# **Examples**

```
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = 1:4)
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce, genecluster = 1)
sce_sub <- allelicRatio(sce_sub)
makeViolin(sce_sub)</pre>
```

preprocess

Preprocess the SingleCellExperiment

### **Description**

Preprocess the SingleCellExperiment

# Usage

```
preprocess(sce, pc = 2)
```

# **Arguments**

sce SingleCellExperiment with a1 (effect allele) and a2 (non-effect allele). The

allelic ratio will be calculated as a1/(a1 + a2).

pc pseudocount for calculating the smoothed ratio

# Value

SingleCellExperiment with total count, allelic ratio = a1/(a1 + a2), and pseud-ocount-smoothed ratio

summary Allelic Ratio 17

# **Examples**

```
library(SummarizedExperiment)
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
assayNames(sce)</pre>
```

summaryAllelicRatio

Allelic ratio summary

# Description

Oroduce allelic ratio summaries for each gene cluster

# Usage

```
summaryAllelicRatio(sce, genecluster)
```

# **Arguments**

sce SingleCellExperiment

genecluster an optional vector of gene cluster IDs. if nothing is given, all cluster's sum-

maries will be calculated

### Value

a list of gene cluster summary tables containing:

- weighted.mean weighted mean of allelic ratio for the cell types
- mean mean allelic ratio for the cell types
- var variance of allelic ratio for the cell types

```
library(S4Vectors)
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = 1:4)
summary <- summaryAllelicRatio(sce, genecluster = c(1, 3))
summary</pre>
```

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wilcoxExt

Extension on Pairwise Mann Whitney Wilcoxon Test for partitioning

# **Description**

Extends the Pairwise Mann Whitney Wilcoxon Test by combining hierarchical clustering for partition.

# Usage

```
wilcoxExt(
    sce,
    genecluster,
    threshold,
    adj.matrix,
    p.adjust.method = "none",
    ncores = NULL,
    ...
)
```

### **Arguments**

sce	A SingleCellExperiment containing assays ("ratio", "counts") and colData "x" $$
genecluster	which gene cluster result want to be returned. Usually identified interesting gene cluster pattern by summaryAllelicRatio
threshold	a vector with candidate thresholds for raw p-value cut-off. Default is 10^seq(from=2,to=-0.4,by=0.2). For details please see vignette
adj.matrix	an adjacency matrix with 1 indicates cell states allowed to be grouped together, 0 otherwise.
p.adjust.method	i
	method for adjusting p-values (see p. adjust). Can be abbreviated
ncores	A cluster object created by makeCluster. Or an integer to indicate number of child-processes (integer values are ignored on Windows) for parallel evaluations
	additional arguments to pass to wilcox.test.

### Value

A matrix grouping factor partition and the significant cut-off threshold are returned in metadata "partition" and "threshold". Partation also stored in colData"part". Note we recommend the returned "threshold" is not at the ends of input "threshold".

```
library(S4Vectors)
sce <- makeSimulatedData()
sce <- preprocess(sce)
sce <- geneCluster(sce, G = seq_len(4))
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce, genecluster = 1)
metadata(sce_sub)$partition</pre>
```

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```
metadata(sce_sub)$threshold

# Suppose we have 4 cell states, if we don't want cell state 1
# to be grouped together with other cell states
adj.matrix <- 1 - diag(4)
colnames(adj.matrix) <- rownames(adj.matrix) <- levels(sce$x)
adj.matrix[1, c(2, 3, 4)] <- 0
adj.matrix[c(2, 3, 4), 1] <- 0
thrs <- 10^seq(from = -2, to = -0.4, by = 0.1)
sce_sub <- wilcoxExt(sce,
   genecluster = 1, threshold = thrs,
   adj.matrix = adj.matrix
)
metadata(sce_sub)$partition</pre>
```

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