

Package ‘cytoviewer’

February 1, 2026

Version 1.11.0

Title An interactive multi-channel image viewer for R

Description This R package supports interactive visualization of multi-channel images and segmentation masks generated by imaging mass cytometry and other highly multiplexed imaging techniques using shiny. The cytoviewer interface is divided into image-level (Composite and Channels) and cell-level visualization (Masks). It allows users to overlay individual images with segmentation masks, integrates well with SingleCellExperiment and SpatialExperiment objects for metadata visualization and supports image downloads.

License GPL-3

Imports shiny, shinydashboard, utils, colourpicker, shinycssloaders, svgPanZoom, viridis, archive, grDevices, RColorBrewer, svglite, EBImage, methods, cytomapper, SingleCellExperiment, S4Vectors, SummarizedExperiment

Suggests BiocStyle, knitr, rmarkdown, markdown, testthat

biocViews ImmunoOncology, Software, SingleCell, OneChannel, TwoChannel, MultiChannel, Spatial, DataImport

VignetteBuilder knitr

URL <https://github.com/BodenmillerGroup/cytoviewer>

BugReports <https://github.com/BodenmillerGroup/cytoviewer/issues>

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Encoding UTF-8

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/cytoviewer>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit a269d53

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2026-02-01

Author Lasse Meyer [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1660-1199>>),
Nils Eling [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4711-1176>>)

Maintainer Lasse Meyer <lasse.meyer@dqbm.uzh.ch>

Contents

cytoviewer	2
Index	5

cytoviewer	<i>cytoviewer - Shiny application to interactively browse multi-channel images</i>
------------	--

Description

This shiny R application allows users to interactively visualize multi-channel images and segmentation masks generated by imaging mass cytometry and other highly multiplexed imaging techniques. The cytoviewer interface is divided into image-level (Composite and Channels) and cell-level visualization (Masks). It allows users to overlay individual images with segmentation masks, integrates well with `SingleCellExperiment` and `SpatialExperiment` objects for metadata visualization and supports image downloads.

Usage

```
cytoviewer(
  image = NULL,
  mask = NULL,
  object = NULL,
  cell_id = NULL,
  img_id = NULL
)
```

Arguments

<code>image</code>	(optional) a <code>CytoImageList</code> object containing single or multi-channel <code>Image</code> objects.
<code>mask</code>	(optional) a <code>CytoImageList</code> containing single-channel <code>Image</code> objects.
<code>object</code>	(optional) a <code>SingleCellExperiment</code> or <code>SpatialExperiment</code> object.
<code>cell_id</code>	character specifying the <code>colData(object)</code> entry, in which the integer cell IDs are stored. These IDs should match the integer pixel values in the segmentation mask object (<code>mask</code>).
<code>img_id</code>	character specifying the <code>colData(object)</code> and <code>mcols(mask)</code> and/or <code>mcols(image)</code> entry, in which the image IDs are stored.

Value

A Shiny app object for interactive multi-channel image visualization and exploration

The input objects

The functionality of `cytoviewer` depends on which input objects are user-provided. Below we describe the four use cases in respect to input objects and functionality.

1. Usage of `cytoviewer` with `images`, `masks` and `object`

The full functionality of `cytoviewer` can be leveraged when `image`, `mask` and `object` are provided. This allows image-level visualization (Composite and Channels), cell-level visualization, overlaying images with segmentation masks as well as metadata visualization.

2. Usage of `cytoviewer` with `images` only

If only `image` is specified, image-level visualization (Composite and Channels) is possible.

3. Usage of `cytoviewer` with `images` and `masks`

Image-level visualization (Composite and Channels), overlaying of images with masks and cell-level visualization is feasible when `image` and `mask` are provided.

4. Usage of `cytoviewer` with `masks` and `object`

If `mask` and `object` are specified, cell-level visualization as well as metadata visualization is possible.

Author(s)

Lasse Meyer (<lasse.meyer@dqbm.uzh.ch>)

See Also

[plotPixels](#) for the function underlying image-level visualization

[plotCells](#) for the function underlying cell-level visualization

[cytomapperShiny](#) for a shiny application that visualizes gated cells on images

Examples

```
# Load example datasets from cytomapper
library(cytomapper, quietly = TRUE)
data("pancreasImages")
data("pancreasMasks")
data("pancreasSCE")

# 1. Use cytoviewer with images, masks and object
app <- cytoviewer(image = pancreasImages,
                  mask = pancreasMasks,
                  object = pancreasSCE,
                  img_id = "ImageNb",
                  cell_id = "CellNb")
if (interactive()) {
  shiny::runApp(app, launch.browser = TRUE)
}
```

```
## Other input variations (see "The input objects" section):  
  
# 2. Use cytoviewer with images  
app_1 <- cytoviewer(image = pancreasImages)  
if (interactive()) {  
  shiny::runApp(app_1, launch.browser = TRUE)  
}  
  
# 3. Use cytoviewer with images and masks  
app_2 <- cytoviewer(image = pancreasImages,  
                      mask = pancreasMasks,  
                      img_id = "ImageNb")  
if (interactive()) {  
  shiny::runApp(app_2, launch.browser = TRUE)  
}  
  
# 4. Use cytoviewer with masks and object  
app_3 <- cytoviewer(mask = pancreasMasks,  
                      object = pancreasSCE,  
                      img_id = "ImageNb",  
                      cell_id = "CellNb")  
if (interactive()) {  
  shiny::runApp(app_3, launch.browser = TRUE)  
}
```

Index

`cytomapperShiny`, [3](#)

`cytoviewer`, [2](#)

`plotCells`, [3](#)

`plotPixels`, [3](#)