

# Package ‘switchde’

May 9, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Switch-like differential expression across single-cell trajectories

**Version** 1.39.0

**Date** 2017-10-24

**Description** Inference and detection of switch-like differential expression across single-cell RNA-seq trajectories.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**LazyData** TRUE

**biocViews** ImmunoOncology, Software, Transcriptomics, GeneExpression, RNASeq, Regression, DifferentialExpression, SingleCell

**Depends** R (>= 3.4), SingleCellExperiment

**Imports** SummarizedExperiment, dplyr, ggplot2, methods, stats

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, BiocStyle, testthat, numDeriv, tidy

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 6.0.1

**URL** <https://github.com/kieranrcampbell/switchde>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/kieranrcampbell/switchde>

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/switchde>

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** 8527700

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2026-04-28

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.24

**Date/Publication** 2026-05-08

**Author** Kieran Campbell [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** Kieran Campbell <kieranrcampbell@gmail.com>

## Contents

example_sigmoid . . . . .	2
extract_pars . . . . .	2
ex_pseudotime . . . . .	3
fit_nzi_model . . . . .	3
fit_zi_model . . . . .	4
sanitise_inputs . . . . .	5
sigmoid . . . . .	5
switchde . . . . .	6
switchplot . . . . .	7
synth_gex . . . . .	7

<b>Index</b>	<b>8</b>
--------------	----------

---

example_sigmoid	<i>Example sigmoid plot</i>
-----------------	-----------------------------

---

### Description

Plot an example sigmoid function. For demonstration and documentation.

### Usage

```
example_sigmoid()
```

### Value

An object of class `ggplot`

### Examples

```
example_sigmoid()
```

---

extract_pars	<i>Extract parameters from fitted model</i>
--------------	---

---

### Description

Extract maximum likelihood parameter estimates from a call to `switchde`.

### Usage

```
extract_pars(sde, gene)
```

### Arguments

sde	The data.frame returned by <code>switchde</code>
gene	The gene for which to extract parameters

**Value**

A vector of length 3 corresponding to the parameters  $\mu_0$ ,  $k$  and  $t_0$

**Examples**

```
data(synth_gex)
data(ex_pseudotime)
sde <- switchde(synth_gex, ex_pseudotime)
pars <- extract_pars(sde, "Gene1")
```

---

ex_pseudotime	<i>Synthetic gene pseudotimes</i>
---------------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

A vector with example pseudotimes for the synthetic gene expression data in `example_gex`

**Usage**

```
ex_pseudotime
```

**Format**

An object of class `array` of length 100.

**Value**

A vector of length 100

---

fit_nzi_model	<i>Fit a (non-zero-inflated) model for a single gene</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

Fits a sigmoidal expression model for a single gene vector, returning MLE model parameters and p-value.

**Usage**

```
fit_nzi_model(y, pst)
```

**Arguments**

<code>y</code>	Vector of gene expression values
<code>pst</code>	Pseudotime vector, of same length as <code>y</code>

**Value**

A vector with 5 entries: maximum likelihood estimates for  $\mu_0$ ,  $k$ ,  $t_0$ ,  $\sigma^2$  and a p-value

**Examples**

```
data(synth_gex)
data(ex_pseudotime)
y <- synth_gex[1, ]
fit <- fit_nzi_model(y, ex_pseudotime)
```

---

fit_zi_model	<i>Fit a zero-inflated model for a single gene</i>
--------------	--

---

**Description**

Fits a zero-inflated sigmoidal model for a single gene vector, returning MLE model parameters and p-value.

**Usage**

```
fit_zi_model(y, pst, maxiter = 10000, log_lik_tol = 0.001,
  verbose = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

y	Vector of gene expression values
pst	Pseudotime vector, of same length as y
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for EM algorithm if zero inflation enabled. Default 100
log_lik_tol	If the change in the log-likelihood falls below this for zero inflated EM the algorithm is assumed to have converged
verbose	Print convergence update for EM algorithm

**Value**

A vector with 6 entries: maximum likelihood estimates for  $\mu_0$ ,  $k$ ,  $t_0$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\sigma^2$  and a p-value

**Examples**

```
data(synth_gex)
data(ex_pseudotime)
y <- synth_gex[1, ]
fit <- fit_zi_model(y, ex_pseudotime)
```

---

sanitise_inputs	<i>Sanitise inputs</i>
-----------------	------------------------

---

**Description**

Sanitise inputs

**Usage**

```
sanitise_inputs(object, pseudotime, lower_threshold, zero_inflated, sce_assay)
```

**Arguments**

object	The object passed at the entry point (either a SCESet or gene expression matrix)
pseudotime	A pseudotime vector
lower_threshold	The minimum threshold below which to set expression to zero to avoid numerical issues. Default is 0.01
zero_inflated	Logical. Should zero inflation be implemented? Default FALSE
sce_assay	The assay from the SingleCellExperiment to be used as expression, defaulting to "exprs"

**Value**

A list with two entries: a gene expression matrix  $X$  and a pseudotime vector  $pst$ .

---

sigmoid	<i>Calculate the mean vector given parameters and pseudotimes (mu0 formulation)</i>
---------	---

---

**Description**

This function (common to all models) calculates the sigmoidal mean vector given the parameters and factor of pseudotimes

**Usage**

```
sigmoid(pst, params)
```

**Arguments**

pst	Vector of pseudotimes
params	Vector of length 3 with entries $\mu_0$ , $k$ , $t_0$

**Value**

Mean sigmoidal vector

switchde

*Switch-like model fitting and differential expression test***Description**

Fit sigmoidal differential expression models to gene expression across pseudotime. Parameter estimates are returned along with a p-value for switch-like differential expression over a null model (constant expression).

**Usage**

```
switchde(object, pseudotime = NULL, zero_inflated = FALSE,
         lower_threshold = 0.01, maxiter = 1000, log_lik_tol = 0.01,
         verbose = FALSE, sce_assay = "exprs")
```

**Arguments**

object	Gene expression data that is either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A vector of length number of cells for a single gene</li> <li>• A matrix of dimension number of genes x number of cells</li> <li>• An object of class SingleCellExperiment from package SingleCellExperiment</li> </ul>
pseudotime	A pseudotime vector with a pseudotime corresponding to every cell. Can be NULL if object is of class SCESet and colData(sce)\$pseudotime is defined.
zero_inflated	Logical. Should zero inflation be implemented? Default FALSE
lower_threshold	The minimum threshold below which to set expression to zero to avoid numerical issues. Default is 0.01
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for EM algorithm if zero inflation enabled. Default 100
log_lik_tol	If the change in the log-likelihood falls below this for zero inflated EM the algorithm is assumed to have converged
verbose	Print convergence update for EM algorithm
sce_assay	The assay from the SingleCellExperiment to be used as expression, defaulting to "exprs"

**Value**

A matrix where each column corresponds to a gene, the first row is the p-value for that gene and subsequent rows are model parameters.

**Examples**

```
data(synth_gex)
data(ex_pseudotime)
sde <- switchde(synth_gex, ex_pseudotime)
```

---

switchplot	<i>Plot gene behaviour</i>
------------	----------------------------

---

**Description**

Plot gene behaviour and MLE sigmoid as a function of pseudotime.

**Usage**

```
switchplot(x, pseudotime, pars)
```

**Arguments**

x	Gene expression vector
pseudotime	Pseudotime vector (of same length as x)
pars	Fitted model parameters

**Details**

This plots expression of a single gene. Fitted model parameters can either be specified manually or can be extracted from the `data.frame` returned by `switchde` using the function `extract_pars`.

**Value**

A `ggplot2` plot of gene expression and MLE sigmoid

**Examples**

```
data(synth_gex)
data(ex_pseudotime)
sde <- switchde(synth_gex, ex_pseudotime)
switchplot(synth_gex[1, ], ex_pseudotime, extract_pars(sde, "Gene1"))
```

---

synth_gex	<i>Synthetic gene expression matrix</i>
-----------	---

---

**Description**

A matrix containing some synthetic gene expression data for 100 cells and 12 genes

**Usage**

```
synth_gex
```

**Format**

An object of class `matrix` with 12 rows and 100 columns.

**Value**

A 12 by 100 matrix

# Index

## \* datasets

ex\_pseudotime, 3

synth\_gex, 7

## \* internal

sanitise\_inputs, 5

sigmoid, 5

ex\_pseudotime, 3

example\_sigmoid, 2

extract\_pars, 2

fit\_nzi\_model, 3

fit\_zi\_model, 4

sanitise\_inputs, 5

sigmoid, 5

switchde, 6

switchplot, 7

synth\_gex, 7