

# Package ‘cytoviewer’

March 10, 2025

**Version** 1.7.0

**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** 43409c7

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2024-10-29

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.21

**Date/Publication** 2025-03-10

**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](mailto:lasse.meyer@dqbm.uzh.ch)>

## Contents

cytoviewer . . . . .	2
<b>Index</b>	<b>5</b>

---

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

image	(optional) a <code>CytoImageList</code> object containing single or multi-channel <code>Image</code> objects.
mask	(optional) a <code>CytoImageList</code> containing single-channel <code>Image</code> objects.
object	(optional) a <code>SingleCellExperiment</code> or <code>SpatialExperiment</code> object.
cell_id	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> ).
img_id	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](#)