

# Package ‘derfinderHelper’

May 1, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** derfinder helper package

**Version** 1.47.0

**Date** 2021-08-05

**Depends** R(>= 3.2.2)

**Imports** IRanges (>= 1.99.27), Matrix, methods, S4Vectors (>= 0.2.2)

**Suggests** sessioninfo, knitr (>= 1.6), BiocStyle (>= 2.5.19),  
RefManageR, rmarkdown (>= 0.3.3), testthat, covr

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Description** Helper package for speeding up the derfinder package when using multiple cores. This package is particularly useful when using BiocParallel and it helps reduce the time spent loading the full derfinder package when running the F-statistics calculation in parallel.

**License** Artistic-2.0

**LazyData** false

**URL** <https://github.com/leekgroup/derfinderHelper>

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

**biocViews** DifferentialExpression, Sequencing, RNASeq, Software,  
ImmunoOncology

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

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

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** b9a9c2e

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

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.24

**Date/Publication** 2026-05-01

**Author** Leonardo Collado-Torres [aut, cre] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2140-308X>>),  
Andrew E. Jaffe [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6886-1454>>),  
Jeffrey T. Leek [aut, ths] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2873-2671>>)

**Maintainer** Leonardo Collado-Torres <[lcolladotor@gmail.com](mailto:lcolladotor@gmail.com)>

## Contents

derfinderHelper-package . . . . .	2
fstats.apply . . . . .	2

<b>Index</b>	<b>5</b>
--------------	----------

---

derfinderHelper-package

*derfinderHelper: derfinder helper package*

---

## Description

Helper package for speeding up the derfinder package when using multiple cores. This package is particularly useful when using BiocParallel and it helps reduce the time spent loading the full derfinder package when running the F-statistics calculation in parallel.

## Author(s)

**Maintainer:** Leonardo Collado-Torres <lcolladotor@gmail.com> ([ORCID](#))

Authors:

- Andrew E. Jaffe <andrew.jaffe@libd.org> ([ORCID](#))
- Jeffrey T. Leek <jtleek@gmail.com> ([ORCID](#)) [thesis advisor]

## See Also

Useful links:

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

---

fstats.apply

*Calculate F-statistics per base by extracting chunks from a DataFrame*

---

## Description

Extract chunks from a DataFrame and get the F-statistics on the rows of data, comparing the models mod (alternative) and mod0 (null).

## Usage

```
fstats.apply(
  index = Rle(TRUE, nrow(data)),
  data,
  mod,
  mod0,
  adjustF = 0,
  lowMemDir = NULL,
  method = "Matrix",
  scalefac = 32
)
```

**Arguments**

index	An index (logical Rle is the best for saving memory) indicating which rows of the DataFrame to use.
data	The DataFrame containing the coverage information. Normally stored in coveragePrep\$coveragePr from derfinder::preprocessCoverage. Could also be the full data from derfinder::loadCoverage.
mod	The design matrix for the alternative model. Should be m by p where p is the number of covariates (normally also including the intercept).
mod0	The design matrix for the null model. Should be m by p_0.
adjustF	A single value to adjust that is added in the denominator of the F-stat calculation. Useful when the Residual Sum of Squares of the alternative model is very small.
lowMemDir	The directory where the processed chunks are saved when using derfinder::preprocessCoverage with a specified lowMemDir.
method	Has to be either 'Matrix' (default), 'Rle' or 'regular'. See details.
scalefac	The scaling factor used in derfinder::preprocessCoverage. It is only used when method='Matrix'.

**Details**

If lowMemDir is specified then index is expected to specify the chunk number.

fstats.apply has three different implemenations which are controlled by the method parameter. method='regular' coerces the data to a standard 'matrix' object. method='Matrix' coerces the data to a [sparseMatrix](#) which reduces the required memory. This method is only usable when the projection matrices have row sums equal to 0. Note that these row sums are not exactly 0 due to how the computer works, thus leading to very small numerical differences in the F-statistics calculated versus method='regular'. Finally, method='Rle' calculates the F-statistics using the Rle compressed data without coercing it to other types of objects, thus using less memory than the other methods. However, it's speed is affected by the number of samples (n) as the current implementation requires n(n + 1) operations, so it's only recommended for small data sets. method='Rle' does result in small numerical differences versus method='regular'.

Overall method='Matrix' is faster than the other options and requires less memory than method='regular'. With tiny example data sets, method='Matrix' can be slower than method='regular' because the coercion step is slower.

In derfinder versions <= 0.0.62, method='regular' was the only option available.

**Value**

A numeric Rle with the F-statistics per base for the chunk in question.

**Author(s)**

Leonardo Collado-Torres, Jeff Leek

**Examples**

```
## Create some toy data
library("IRanges")
toyData <- DataFrame(
  "sample1" = Rle(sample(0:10, 1000, TRUE)),
  "sample2" = Rle(sample(0:10, 1000, TRUE)),
```

```

    "sample3" = Rle(sample(0:10, 1000, TRUE)),
    "sample4" = Rle(sample(0:10, 1000, TRUE))
  )

  ## Create the model matrices
  group <- c("A", "A", "B", "B")
  mod.toy <- model.matrix(~group)
  mod0.toy <- model.matrix(~ 0 + rep(1, 4))

  ## Get the F-statistics
  fstats <- fstats.apply(
    data = toyData, mod = mod.toy, mod0 = mod0.toy,
    scalefac = 1
  )

  ## Example with data from derfinder package
  ## Not run:
  ## Load the data
  library("derfinder")

  ## Create the model matrices
  mod <- model.matrix(~ genomeInfo$pop)
  mod0 <- model.matrix(~ 0 + rep(1, nrow(genomeInfo)))

  ## Run the function
  system.time(fstats.Matrix <- fstats.apply(
    data = genomeData$coverage, mod = mod,
    mod0 = mod0, method = "Matrix", scalefac = 1
  ))
  fstats.Matrix

  ## Compare methods
  system.time(fstats.regular <- fstats.apply(
    data = genomeData$coverage,
    mod = mod, mod0 = mod0, method = "regular"
  ))
  system.time(fstats.Rle <- fstats.apply(
    data = genomeData$coverage, mod = mod,
    mod0 = mod0, method = "Rle"
  ))

  ## Small numerical differences can occur
  summary(fstats.regular - fstats.Matrix)
  summary(fstats.regular - fstats.Rle)

  ## You can make the effect negligible by appropriately rounding
  ## findRegions(cutoff) so the DERs will be the same regardless of the method
  ## used.

  ## Extra comparison, although the method to compare against is 'regular'
  summary(fstats.Rle - fstats.Matrix)

  ## End(Not run)

```

# Index

**\* internal**

derfinderHelper-package, [2](#)

derfinderHelper

(derfinderHelper-package), [2](#)

derfinderHelper-package, [2](#)

fstats.apply, [2](#), [3](#)

sparseMatrix, [3](#)