

# Package ‘scrm’

July 23, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Simulating the Evolution of Biological Sequences

**Version** 1.7.5

**Author** Paul Staab [aut, cph],  
Zhu Sha [aut, cph],  
Dirk Metzler [aut, cre, cph, ths],  
Gerton Lunter [aut, cph, ths]

**Maintainer** Dirk Metzler <metzler@bio.lmu.de>

**Description** A coalescent simulator that allows the rapid simulation of biological sequences under neutral models of evolution, see Staab et al. (2015) <[doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btu861](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btu861)>. Different to other coalescent based simulations, it has an optional approximation parameter that allows for high accuracy while maintaining a linear run time cost for long sequences. It is optimized for simulating massive data sets as produced by Next-Generation Sequencing technologies for up to several thousand sequences.

**URL** <https://github.com/scrm/scrm-r>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/scrm/scrm-r/issues>

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**Depends** R (>= 3.1.0)

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.11.2)

**Suggests** ape, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 0.9.0)

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.0

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2024-01-08 13:30:02 UTC

## Contents

scrm-package . . . . .	2
scrm . . . . .	2

<b>Index</b>	<b>4</b>
--------------	----------

---

scrm-package	<i>Simulating the evolution of biological sequences</i>
--------------	---

---

## Description

The Sequential Coalescent with Recombination Model (SCRM) is an approximation of the Ancestral Recombination Graph. It can be used to simulate the neutral evolution of chromosomes/biological sequences subject to possibly complicated population structure. The program *scrm* is an implementation of this model that is designed to act as a drop-in replacement for the widely adopted coalescent simulator *ms*. This package contains *scrm* along with an R interface.

## Author(s)

Paul Staab, Zhu Sha, Dirk Metzler & Gerton Lunter

Maintainer: Paul Staab <develop@paulstaab.de>

## See Also

- [scrm](#) for details on how to use *scrm*,
- `vignette('scrm-Arguments')` for an overview of command line arguments and
- `vignette('scrm-TreesForApe')` for an example on using genealogies simulated with *scrm* with package 'ape'.

---

scrm	<i>Simulate the evolution of biological sequences</i>
------	---

---

## Description

This function provides an interface for calling *scrm* from R. The command line options are passed via the `args` argument. The vignette 'scrm-Arguments' contains details about the available options. Summary statistics are converted into an R format. Additionally, there is an option to write the original command line output into a file.

## Usage

```
scrm(args, file = "")
```

## Arguments

<code>args</code>	A string containing the command-line arguments for <i>scrm</i> . Look at <i>scrms</i> vignette for a description of available arguments.
<code>file</code>	If provided, <i>scrm</i> will additionally write its output into a file with the given file, using an ms-like text output.

## Value

A named list of summary statistics. Most summary statistics are again a list, where each entry contains the value for one locus. For the site frequency spectrum, the summary statistic is a matrix, where each row contains the spectrum for one locus.

## Seeding

The R version of *scrm* uses random number from R's random generator. Therefore, the '-seed' argument of the command-line version will be ignored, and no seed is given in the output. Use the R function [set.seed](#) prior to calling this function to ensure reproducibility of results.

## See Also

- `vignette('scrm-Arguments')` for an overview of command line arguments and
- `vignette('scrm-TreesForApe')` for an example on using genealogies simulated with *scrm* with package 'ape'.

## Examples

```
set.seed(789)
# 5 Chromosomes with 100 bases each with recombination and mutation
sum_stats <- scrm('5 1 -r 3.1 100 -t 1.5 -T -L')
str(sum_stats)

# Simulate the site frequency spectrum at 3 loci. For each locus
# 10 Chromosomes of 1Mb length are sampled from two populations with
# migration inbetween.
scrm('10 3 -r 400 1000000 -l 100000 -I 2 4 6 0.5 -t 300 -oSFS')$sfs
```

# Index

## \* **datagen**

scrm, [2](#)

scrm, [2](#), [2](#)

scrm-package, [2](#)

set.seed, [3](#)