

# Package ‘zellkonverter’

May 9, 2025

**Title** Conversion Between scRNA-seq Objects

**Version** 1.19.0

**Date** 2025-04-16

**Description** Provides methods to convert between Python AnnData objects and SingleCellExperiment objects. These are primarily intended for use by downstream Bioconductor packages that wrap Python methods for single-cell data analysis. It also includes functions to read and write H5AD files used for saving AnnData objects to disk.

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**URL** <https://github.com/theislab/zellkonverter>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/theislab/zellkonverter/issues>

**Imports** basilisk, cli, DelayedArray, Matrix, methods, reticulate, S4Vectors, SingleCellExperiment (>= 1.11.6), SummarizedExperiment, utils

**Suggests** anndata, BiocFileCache, BiocStyle, covr, HDF5Array, knitr, pkgload, rhdf5 (>= 2.45.1), rmarkdown, scRNAseq, SpatialExperiment, spelling, testthat, withr

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**biocViews** SingleCell, DataImport, DataRepresentation

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Language** en-GB

**LazyData** true

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**StagedInstall** no

**Collate** 'AnnData2SCE.R' 'SCE2AnnData.R' 'ui.R' 'basilisk.R' 'read.R' 'reticulate.R' 'utils.R' 'validation.R' 'write.R' 'zellkonverter-package.R'

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

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** c17a172

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2025-04-19

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.22

**Date/Publication** 2025-05-08

**Author** Luke Zappia [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7744-8565>>),  
 Aaron Lun [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3564-4813>>),  
 Jack Kamm [ctb] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2412-756X>>),  
 Robrecht Cannoodt [ctb] (ORCID:  
 <<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3641-729X>>, github: rcannoodt),  
 Gabriel Hoffman [ctb] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0957-0224>>,  
 github: GabrielHoffman),  
 Marek Cmero [ctb] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7783-5530>>,  
 github: mcmero)

**Maintainer** Luke Zappia <luke@lazappi.id.au>

## Contents

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| zellkonverter-package . . . . .   | 2         |
| AnnData-Conversion . . . . .      | 3         |
| AnnData-Environment . . . . .     | 6         |
| expectSCE . . . . .               | 7         |
| r-py-conversion . . . . .         | 8         |
| readH5AD . . . . .                | 9         |
| setZellkonverterVerbose . . . . . | 10        |
| validateH5ADSCE . . . . .         | 11        |
| writeH5AD . . . . .               | 12        |
| <b>Index</b>                      | <b>14</b> |

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zellkonverter-package *zellkonverter: Conversion Between scRNA-seq Objects*

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## Description

Provides methods to convert between Python AnnData objects and SingleCellExperiment objects. These are primarily intended for use by downstream Bioconductor packages that wrap Python methods for single-cell data analysis. It also includes functions to read and write H5AD files used for saving AnnData objects to disk.

## Author(s)

**Maintainer:** Luke Zappia <luke@lazappi.id.au> (ORCID)

Authors:

- Aaron Lun <infinite.monkeys.with.keyboards@gmail.com> (ORCID)

Other contributors:

- Jack Kamm <jackkamm@gmail.com> (ORCID) [contributor]
- Robrecht Cannoodt <rcannood@gmail.com> (ORCID) (rcannood) [contributor]
- Gabriel Hoffman <gabriel.hoffman@mssm.edu> (ORCID) (GabrielHoffman) [contributor]
- Marek Cmero <cmero.ma@wehi.edu.au> (ORCID) (mcmero) [contributor]

## See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/theislab/zellkonverter>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/theislab/zellkonverter/issues>

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AnnData-Conversion      *Convert between AnnData and SingleCellExperiment*

---

## Description

Conversion between Python AnnData objects and [SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment](#) objects.

## Usage

```
AnnData2SCE(  
  adata,  
  X_name = NULL,  
  layers = TRUE,  
  uns = TRUE,  
  var = TRUE,  
  obs = TRUE,  
  varm = TRUE,  
  obsm = TRUE,  
  varp = TRUE,  
  obsp = TRUE,  
  raw = FALSE,  
  skip_assays = FALSE,  
  hdf5_backed = TRUE,  
  verbose = NULL  
)
```

```
SCE2AnnData(  
  sce,  
  X_name = NULL,  
  assays = TRUE,  
  colData = TRUE,  
  rowData = TRUE,  
  varm = TRUE,  
  reducedDims = TRUE,  
  metadata = TRUE,  
  colPairs = TRUE,  
  rowPairs = TRUE,  
  skip_assays = FALSE,  
  verbose = NULL  
)
```

## Arguments

|   |   |
|---|---|
| adata   | A <b>reticulate</b> reference to a Python AnnData object.   |
| X_name  | For SCE2AnnData() name of the assay to use as the primary matrix (X) of the AnnData object. If NULL, the first assay of sce will be used by default. For AnnData2SCE() name used when saving X as an assay. If NULL looks for an X_name value in uns, otherwise uses "X". |
| layers, uns, var, obs, varm, obsm, varp, obsp, raw                  | Arguments specifying how these slots are converted. If TRUE everything in that slot is converted, if FALSE nothing is converted and if a character vector only those items or columns are converted.  |
| skip_assays   | Logical scalar indicating whether to skip conversion of any assays in sce or adata, replacing them with empty sparse matrices instead.  |
| hdf5_backed   | Logical scalar indicating whether HDF5-backed matrices in adata should be represented as HDF5Array objects. This assumes that adata is created with backed="r".   |
| verbose   | Logical scalar indicating whether to print progress messages. If NULL uses getOption("zellkonverter.verbose").  |
| sce   | A <code>SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment</code> object.   |
| assays, colData, rowData, reducedDims, metadata, colPairs, rowPairs | Arguments specifying how these slots are converted. If TRUE everything in that slot is converted, if FALSE nothing is converted and if a character vector only those items or columns are converted.  |

## Details

### Python environment:

These functions assume that an appropriate Python environment has already been loaded. As such, they are largely intended for developer use, most typically inside a **basilisk** context.

### Conversion mapping:

The conversion is not entirely lossless. The current mapping is shown below (also at <https://tinyurl.com/AnnData2SCE>):

| SingleCellExperiment  |  |                               |              | AnnData  |                      |   |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|---|
| R object used by Bioconductor packages  |  |                               |              | Python object used by Scanpy and related packages                          |                      |   |
| Rows contain features and columns contain cells                                   |  |                               |              | Rows contain observations (cells) and columns contain variables (features) |                      |   |
| IMPLEMENTED   | Each element is a matrix of expression values with the same dimensions   | SimpleList of matrices        | assays       | X  | Numpy array          | Primary matrix of expression data   |
|   | Any unstructured data  | list                          | metadata     | layers   | Dictionary of arrays | Dictionary-like object where each element is an array of expression values with the same dimensions as X                      |
|   | Names of rows (cells)  | vector                        | colNames     | uns  | OrderedDict          | Unstructured annotation   |
|   | Columns describe annotations of the columns (cells)  | DataFrame                     | colData      | obs_names  | Pandas index         | Names of observations (cells)   |
|   | Each element is a matrix where the number of rows is equal to the number of cells and each column is a dimension | List of matrices              | reducedDims  | obs  | Pandas DataFrame     | One-dimensional annotations of the observations (cells)   |
|   | Relationships between columns (cells)  | List of SelfHits              | colPairs     | obsm   | Dictionary of arrays | Dictionary-like object where each element is an array where the number of rows is equal to the number of observations (cells) |
|   | Names of rows (features)   | vector                        | rownames     | obsp   | Dictionary of arrays | Dictionary-like object where each element is a square array containing annotations between observations (cells)               |
|   | Columns describe annotations of the rows (features)  | DataFrame                     | rowData      | var_names  | Pandas index         | Names of variables (features)   |
|   | Relationships between rows (features)  | List of SelfHits              | rowPairs     | vars   | Pandas DataFrame     | One-dimensional annotations of the variables (features)   |
|   | Nested SingleCellExperiments with information about alternative feature sets                                     | List of SingleCellExperiments | altExp       | varm   | Dictionary of arrays | Dictionary-like object where each element is an array where the number of rows is equal to the number of variables (features) |
|   | Internal unstructured data that is not meant to be modified by users   | list                          | int_metadata | varp   | Dictionary of arrays | Dictionary-like object where each element is a square array containing annotations between variables (features)               |
|   | Internal annotation for columns (cells) that is not meant to be modified by users                                | DataFrame                     | int_colData  | raw  | AnnData              | Raw version of X and var prior to any filtering. Is not indexed as part of the object.  |
| Internal annotation for rows (features) that is not meant to be modified by users | DataFrame  | int_elementMetadata           |              |  |                      |   |

**Matrix conversion:**

In `SCE2AnnData()`, matrices are converted to a **numpy**-friendly format. Sparse matrices are converted to `Matrix::dgCMatrix` objects while all other matrices are converted into ordinary matrices. If `skip_assays = TRUE`, empty sparse matrices are created instead and the user is expected to fill in the assays on the Python side.

For `AnnData2SCE()`, a warning is raised if there is no corresponding R format for a matrix in the AnnData object, and an empty sparse matrix is created instead as a placeholder. If `skip_assays = NA`, no warning is emitted but variables are created in the `int_metadata()` of the output to specify which assays were skipped.

If `skip_assays = TRUE`, empty sparse matrices are created for all assays, regardless of whether they might be convertible to an R format or not. In both cases, the user is expected to fill in the assays on the R side.

**metadata/uns conversion:**

We attempt to convert between items in the `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment metadata()` slot and the AnnData uns slot. If an item cannot be converted a warning will be raised.

**uns conversion:**

Values stored in the varm slot of an AnnData object are stored in a column of `rowData()` in a `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment` as a `S4Vectors::DataFrame-class` of matrices. If this column is present an attempt is made to transfer this information when converting from `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment` to AnnData.

**SpatialExperiment conversion:**

In `SCE2AnnData()`, if `sce` is a `SpatialExperiment::SpatialExperiment` object, the spatial coordinates are added to the `reducedDims` slot before conversion to an AnnData object.

**Value**

`AnnData2SCE()` will return a `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment` containing the equivalent data from `adata`.

`SCE2AnnData()` will return a **reticulate** reference to an AnnData object containing the content of `sce`.

**Author(s)**

Luke Zappia

Aaron Lun

**See Also**

`writeH5AD()` and `readH5AD()` for dealing directly with H5AD files.

**Examples**

```
if (requireNamespace("scRNAseq", quietly = TRUE)) {
  library(basilisk)
  library(scRNAseq)
  seger <- SegerstolpePancreasData()

  # These functions are designed to be run inside
  # a specified Python environment
  roundtrip <- basiliskRun(fun = function(sce) {
```

```

# Convert SCE to AnnData:
adata <- zellkonverter::SCE2AnnData(sce)

# Maybe do some work in Python on 'adata':
# BLAH BLAH BLAH

# Convert back to an SCE:
zellkonverter::AnnData2SCE(adata)
}, env = zellkonverterAnnDataEnv(), sce = seger)
}

```

---

AnnData-Environment     *AnnData environment*

---

## Description

The Python environment used by **zellkonverter** for interfacing with the **anndata** Python library (and H5AD files) is described by the dependencies in returned by `AnnDataDependencies()`. The `zellkonverterAnnDataEnv()` functions returns the `basilisk::BasiliskEnvironment()` containing these dependencies used by **zellkonverter**. Allowed versions of **anndata** are available in `.AnnDataVersions`.

## Usage

```

. AnnDataVersions

AnnDataDependencies(version = .AnnDataVersions)

zellkonverterAnnDataEnv(version = .AnnDataVersions)

```

## Arguments

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| version | A string giving the version of the <b>anndata</b> Python library to use. Allowed values are available in <code>.AnnDataVersions</code> . By default the latest version is used. |
|---------|---|

## Format

For `.AnnDataVersions` a character vector containing allowed **anndata** version strings.

## Details

### Using Python environments:

When a **zellkonverter** is first run a conda environment containing all of the necessary dependencies for that version will be instantiated. This will not be performed on any subsequent run or if any other **zellkonverter** function has been run prior with the same environment version.

By default the **zellkonverter** conda environment will become the shared R Python environment if one does not already exist. When one does exist (for example when a **zellkonverter** function has already been run using a different environment version) then a separate environment will be used. See `basilisk::setBasiliskShared()` for more information on this behaviour. Note that when the environment is not shared progress messages are lost.

**Development:**

The `AnnDataDependencies()` function is exposed for use by other package developers who want an easy way to define the dependencies required for creating a Python environment to work with `AnnData` objects, most typically within a **basilisk** context. For example, we can simply combine this vector with additional dependencies to create a **basilisk** environment with Python package versions that are consistent with those in **zellkonverter**.

If you want to run code in the exact environment used by **zellkonverter** this can be done using `zellkonverterAnnDataEnv()` in combination with `basilisk::basiliskStart()` and/or `basilisk::basiliskRun()`. Please refer to the **basilisk** documentation for more information on using these environments.

**Value**

For `AnnDataDependencies` a character vector containing the pinned versions of all Python packages to be used by `zellkonverterAnnDataEnv()`.

For `zellkonverterAnnDataEnv` a `basilisk::BasiliskEnvironment()` containing **zellkonverter**'s `AnnData` Python environment.

**Author(s)**

Luke Zappia  
Aaron Lun

**Examples**

```
.AnnDataVersions

AnnDataDependencies()
AnnDataDependencies(version = "0.7.6")

cl <- basilisk::basiliskStart(zellkonverterAnnDataEnv())
anndata <- reticulate::import("anndata")
basilisk::basiliskStop(cl)
```

---

expectSCE

*Expect SCE*

---

**Description**

Test that a `SingleCellExperiment` matches an expected object. Designed to be used inside `testthat::test_that()` during package testing.

**Usage**

```
expectSCE(sce, expected)
```

**Arguments**

`sce` A `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment` object.  
`expected` A template `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment` object to compare to.

**Value**

TRUE invisibly if checks pass

**Author(s)**

Luke Zappia

---

r-py-conversion

*Convert between Python and R objects*

---

**Description**

Convert between Python and R objects

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'numpy.ndarray'  
py_to_r(x)
```

**Arguments**

x                    A Python object.

**Details**

These functions are extensions of the default conversion functions in the reticulate package for the following reasons:

- `numpy.ndarray` - Handle conversion of **numpy** recarrays
- `pandas.core.arrays.masked.BaseMaskedArray` - Handle conversion of **pandas** arrays (used when by `AnnData` objects when there are missing values)
- `pandas.core.arrays.categorical.Categorical` - Handle conversion of **pandas** categorical arrays

**Value**

An R object, as converted from the Python object.

**Author(s)**

Luke Zappia

**See Also**

[reticulate::py\\_to\\_r\(\)](#) for the base reticulate functions



readH5AD

*Read H5AD***Description**

Reads a H5AD file and returns a [SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment](#) object.

**Usage**

```
readH5AD(
  file,
  X_name = NULL,
  use_hdf5 = FALSE,
  reader = c("python", "R"),
  version = NULL,
  verbose = NULL,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| file   | String containing a path to a .h5ad file.  |
| X_name   | Name used when saving X as an assay. If NULL looks for an X_name value in uns, otherwise uses "X".   |
| use_hdf5   | Logical scalar indicating whether assays should be loaded as HDF5-based matrices from the <b>HDF5Array</b> package.  |
| reader   | Which HDF5 reader to use. Either "python" for reading with the <b>anndata</b> Python package via <b>reticulate</b> or "R" for <b>zellkonverter</b> 's native R reader.                               |
| version  | A string giving the version of the <b>anndata</b> Python library to use. Allowed values are available in <code>.AnnDataVersions</code> . By default the latest version is used.                      |
| verbose  | Logical scalar indicating whether to print progress messages. If NULL uses <code>getOption("zellkonverter.verbose")</code> .   |
| ...  | Arguments passed on to <a href="#">AnnData2SCE</a>   |
| layers, uns, var, obs, varm, obsm, varp, obsp, raw | Arguments specifying how these slots are converted. If TRUE everything in that slot is converted, if FALSE nothing is converted and if a character vector only those items or columns are converted. |
| skip_assays  | Logical scalar indicating whether to skip conversion of any assays in sce or adata, replacing them with empty sparse matrices instead.   |

**Details**

Setting `use_hdf5 = TRUE` allows for very large datasets to be efficiently represented on machines with little memory. However, this comes at the cost of access speed as data needs to be fetched from the HDF5 file upon request.

Setting `reader = "R"` will use an experimental native R reader instead of reading the file into Python and converting the result. This avoids the need for a Python environment and some of the issues with conversion but is still under development and is likely to return slightly different output.

See [AnnData-Environment](#) for more details on **zellkonverter** Python environments.

**Value**

A [SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment](#) object is returned.

**Author(s)**

Luke Zappia

Aaron Lun

**See Also**

[writeH5AD\(\)](#), to write a [SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment](#) object to a H5AD file.

[AnnData2SCE\(\)](#), for developers to convert existing AnnData instances to a [SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment](#)

**Examples**

```
library(SummarizedExperiment)

file <- system.file("extdata", "krumsiek11.h5ad", package = "zellkonverter")
sce <- readH5AD(file)
class(assay(sce))

sce2 <- readH5AD(file, use_hdf5 = TRUE)
class(assay(sce2))

sce3 <- readH5AD(file, reader = "R")
```

---

setZellkonverterVerbose

*Set zellkonverter verbose*

---

**Description**

Set the zellkonverter verbosity option

**Usage**

```
setZellkonverterVerbose(verbose = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

verbose            Logical value for the verbosity option.

**Details**

Running `setZellkonverterVerbose(TRUE)` will turn on **zellkonverter** progress messages by default without having to set `verbose = TRUE` in each function call. This is done by setting the `"zellkonverter.verbose"` option. Running `setZellkonverterVerbose(FALSE)` will turn default verbosity off.

**Value**

The value of `getOption("zellkonverter.verbose")` invisibly

**Examples**

```

current <- getOption("zellkonverter.verbose")
setZellkonverterVerbose(TRUE)
getOption("zellkonverter.verbose")
setZellkonverterVerbose(FALSE)
getOption("zellkonverter.verbose")
setZellkonverterVerbose(current)
getOption("zellkonverter.verbose")

```

---

validateH5ADSCE

*Validate H5AD SCE*


---

**Description**

Validate a `SingleCellExperiment` created by `readH5AD()`. Designed to be used inside `testthat::test_that()` during package testing.

**Usage**

```
validateH5ADSCE(sce, names, missing)
```

**Arguments**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <code>sce</code>     | A <code>SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment</code> object.   |
| <code>names</code>   | Named list of expected names. Names are slots and values are vectors of names that are expected to exist in that slot.          |
| <code>missing</code> | Named list of known missing names. Names are slots and values are vectors of names that are expected to not exist in that slot. |

**Details**

This function checks that a `SingleCellExperiment` contains the expected items in each slot. The main reason for this function is avoid repeating code when testing multiple `.h5ad` files. The following items in `names` and `missing` are recognised:

- `assays` - Assay names
- `colData` - `colData` column names
- `rowData` - `rowData` column names
- `metadata` - metadata names
- `redDim` - Reduced dimension names
- `varm` - Column names of the `varm` `rowData` column (from the `AnnData` `varm` slot)
- `colPairs` - Column pair names
- `rowPairs` - `rowData` pair names
- `raw_rowData` - `rowData` columns names in the `raw altExp`
- `raw_varm` - Column names of the `raw varm` `rowData` column (from the `AnnData` `varm` slot)

If an item in `names` or `missing` is `NULL` then it won't be checked. The items in `missing` are checked that they explicitly do not exist. This is mostly for record keeping when something is known to not be converted but can also be useful when the corresponding names item is `NULL`.

**Value**

If checks are successful TRUE invisibly, if not other output depending on the context

**Author(s)**

Luke Zappia

---

writeH5AD

*Write H5AD*

---

**Description**

Write a H5AD file from a [SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment](#) object.

**Usage**

```
writeH5AD(
  sce,
  file,
  X_name = NULL,
  skip_assays = FALSE,
  compression = c("none", "gzip", "lzf"),
  version = NULL,
  verbose = NULL,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| sce         | A <a href="#">SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment</a> object.   |
| file        | String containing a path to write the new .h5ad file.  |
| X_name      | Name of the assay to use as the primary matrix (X) of the AnnData object. If NULL, the first assay of sce will be used by default.   |
| skip_assays | Logical scalar indicating whether assay matrices should be ignored when writing to file.   |
| compression | Type of compression when writing the new .h5ad file.   |
| version     | A string giving the version of the <b>anndata</b> Python library to use. Allowed values are available in <code>.AnnDataVersions</code> . By default the latest version is used.  |
| verbose     | Logical scalar indicating whether to print progress messages. If NULL uses <code>getOption("zellkonverter.verbose")</code> .   |
| ...         | Arguments passed on to <a href="#">SCE2AnnData</a><br>assays, colData, rowData, reducedDims, metadata, colPairs, rowPairs Arguments specifying how these slots are converted. If TRUE everything in that slot is converted, if FALSE nothing is converted and if a character vector only those items or columns are converted. |

## Details

### Skipping assays:

Setting `skip_assays = TRUE` can occasionally be useful if the matrices in `sce` are stored in a format that is not amenable for efficient conversion to a **numpy**-compatible format. In such cases, it can be better to create an empty placeholder dataset in file and fill it in R afterwards.

### DelayedArray assays:

If `sce` contains any **DelayedArray** matrices as assays `writeH5AD()` will write them to disk using the **rhd5** package directly rather than via Python to avoid instantiating them in memory. However there is currently an issue which prevents this being done for sparse **DelayedArray** matrices.

### Known conversion issues:

#### *Coercion to factors:*

The **anndata** package automatically converts some character vectors to factors when saving `.h5ad` files. This can effect columns of `rowData(sce)` and `colData(sce)` which may change type when the `.h5ad` file is read back into R.

### Environment:

See [AnnData-Environment](#) for more details on **zellkonverter** Python environments.

## Value

A NULL is invisibly returned.

## Author(s)

Luke Zappia

Aaron Lun

## See Also

[readH5AD\(\)](#), to read a `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment` object from a H5AD file.

[SCE2AnnData\(\)](#), for developers to create an `AnnData` object from a `SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment`.

## Examples

```
# Using the Zeisel brain dataset
if (requireNamespace("scRNAseq", quietly = TRUE)) {
  library(scRNAseq)
  sce <- ZeiselBrainData()

  # Writing to a H5AD file
  temp <- tempfile(fileext = ".h5ad")
  writeH5AD(sce, temp)
}
```

# Index

## \* datasets

- AnnData-Environment, 6
- .AnnDataVersions (AnnData-Environment), 6
- AnnData-Conversion, 3
- AnnData-Environment, 6, 9, 13
- AnnData2SCE, 9
- AnnData2SCE (AnnData-Conversion), 3
- AnnData2SCE(), 10
- AnnDataDependencies (AnnData-Environment), 6
  
- basilisk::BasiliskEnvironment(), 6, 7
- basilisk::basiliskRun(), 7
- basilisk::basiliskStart(), 7
- basilisk::setBasiliskShared(), 6
  
- expectSCE, 7
  
- int\_metadata(), 5
  
- Matrix::dgCMatrix, 5
- metadata(), 5
  
- py\_to\_r.numpy.ndarray (r-py-conversion), 8
  
- r-py-conversion, 8
- readH5AD, 9
- readH5AD(), 5, 13
- reticulate::py\_to\_r(), 8
- rowData(), 5
  
- S4Vectors::DataFrame-class, 5
- SCE2AnnData, 12
- SCE2AnnData (AnnData-Conversion), 3
- SCE2AnnData(), 13
- setZellkonverterVerbose, 10
- SingleCellExperiment::SingleCellExperiment, 3–5, 7, 9–13
- SpatialExperiment::SpatialExperiment, 5
  
- validateH5ADSCE, 11
  
- writeH5AD, 12
- writeH5AD(), 5, 10
  
- zellkonverter (zellkonverter-package), 2
- zellkonverter-package, 2
- zellkonverterAnnDataEnv (AnnData-Environment), 6