## Molecular Classification of Biological Phenotypes

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## Outline

- Introduction
- Class Comparison
- Class Discovery
- Class Prediction
- Example
- Biological states and state modulation
- Chemical Genomics
- Toxicogenomics
- Software Tools
- Ideas

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- Complex mathematical methods do not necessarily perform better than simpler ones.
- Prepackaged analysis tools are not a good substitute for collaboration with computational/statistical scientists on complex problems.

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- We can use gene expression signatures as surrogates for biological states.

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## **Class Comparison**

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  - Calculate a test statistic (*t*-test, ANOVA F statistic, non-parametric rank-based,...)
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  - Determine the significance of the observed value for test statistic.
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- Issues:
  - Two or more experimental conditions
  - Conditions may be independent or related (time series)
  - Many different combinations of experimental variables
  - Replication, to estimate variability, to identify biologically reproducible changes
  - How to incorporate estimates of variation (model-based methods)

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*Opportunities:* Time-series analysis:

- Regulatory pathway inference
- Yeast cell cycle (Fourier transform, ...)
- Model organism (e.g., Drosophila, Daphnia) development
- Analysis of samples (cells) exposed to different doses of the same drug
- Analysis of expression patterns from related bacterial strains

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  - Clustering: Data can be grouped into groups of similar points based on some similarity measure.
    - Aggregation methods (e.g., HC)
    - Partitioning or centroid methods (for example, k-means, SOM or Kohonen maps)
    - Model-based methods (e.g., fitting into some mixture model)
    - Optimization techniques (within class, between class)

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- How to choose the number of clusters (Gordon, repeated sampling, gap statistic, ...)

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- Information theoretic methods
- Statistical theory of clustering (Cf. comparing clustering methods)

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# Class Discovery Methodology



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 Goal: Design an accurate classifier (predictor) under the guidance of a supervisor, (aka. Supervised learning problem.)
 E.g., predicting cancer (sub)types, clinical outcomes, etc.

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   E.g., predicting cancer (sub)types, clinical outcomes, etc.
- Methods:
  - Linear and quadratic discriminant analysis
  - Weighted voting
  - Shrunken centroids
  - ► *k*-NN
  - Neural nets
  - SVM
  - Decision tree classifiers
  - Naive Bayes
  - Bagging and boosting (combining classifiers)

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- features >> samples
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- Which method to choose?
  - Careful with comparisons
  - Some trends emerge (e.g, Diagonal LD does better than Fisher's LD, k-NN performs better after gene filtering, combined methods do better, simpler methods do better, ...)

Theory for method and classifier comparison

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- Combining knowledge from different methods

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- Subpattern discovery, Califano et al. 99

## Marker Selection Methodology



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## Class Prediction Methodology



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# Example (Golub et al. 1999)



Figure 2-8a The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007



Figure 2-8b The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

#### ALL vs AML (The Biology of Cancer, R. Weinberg)





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Normal kidney vs Renal cell carcinoma.

Sample: 38 bone marrow samples (27 ALL, 11 AML).
 6817 genes

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- Validity of the predictor: Cross-validation and trying on test data.

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  - Robustness to noise
  - Ease of applicability.

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# In symbols cont'd

Predictor Design:

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$$v_g = a_g(x_g - b_g)$$
 where  $a_g = P(g, c)$ ,  
 $b_g = [\mu_1(g) + \mu_2(g)]/2$ ,

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 $b_g = [\mu_1(g) + \mu_2(g)]/2$ ,

- $x_g$  normalized log expression level of gene g in sample x
- ▶  $v_g \ge 0$  means g votes for class 1 (AML) and  $v_g < 0$  means g votes for class 2 (ALL).

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$$v_g = a_g(x_g - b_g)$$
 where  $a_g = P(g, c)$ ,  
 $b_g = [\mu_1(g) + \mu_2(g)]/2$ ,

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V<sub>1</sub> > V<sub>2</sub> with PS > 0.3 means x ∈ AML, if PS ≤ 0.3 then uncertain.

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 Cross-validation: 36 were assigned classes (with 100%) accuracy and 2 were uncertain. Median PS = 0.77

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- Cross-validation: 36 were assigned classes (with 100%) accuracy and 2 were uncertain. Median PS = 0.77
- Test data (34 samples): 24 bone marrow and 10 peripheral blood samples, 20 ALL, 14 AML.
  Result: 29 predicted with 100% accuracy and 5 uncertain.
  Median PS = 0.73.

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## Example cont'd, clustering

 View each sample as a 6817-dimensional vector and cluster samples.

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## Example cont'd, clustering

- View each sample as a 6817-dimensional vector and cluster samples.
- ► 2-SOM on 38 samples:

A<sub>1</sub>: 24 ALL, 1 AML and A<sub>2</sub>: 10 AML, 3 ALL.



## 4-SOM

4-SOM on the same samples:
 B<sub>1</sub>: 10 AML, B<sub>2</sub>: 8 T-ALL, 1 B-ALL
 B<sub>3</sub>: 5 B-ALL, B<sub>4</sub>: 13 B-ALL, 1 AML.



How to evaluate clusters to see if they represent true biological structure?

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- Idea: true structure implies more accurate predictor.

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- Idea: true structure implies more accurate predictor.
- So design predictors based on clustering classes: leads to merging B<sub>3</sub> and B<sub>4</sub>.

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 Goal: Look at (Gene Set)-Class correlation instead of Gene-Class correlation.

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- Motivation:
  - Mootha 03: No single gene is significantly differentially expressed, yet sets of genes might express differentially.
  - Subramanian 05: 1. Robustness to different sites, and 2. Integrating biological knowledge.

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  - ▶ GSEA (A. Subramanian, PNAS 2005). Lung adenocarcinoma with good/poor outcome.  $|S_B \cap S_M| = 12$  and  $|S_B \cap S_M \cap S_S| = 1$  whereas  $S_B$  in M was NES = 1.9, p < 0.001 and  $S_M$  in B was NES=2.13, p < 0.001.

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  - Tibshirani and Efron
  - R. Gentleman (Bioconductor)
  - Module maps, a refinement of GSEA, gene set minimization (Segal et al. Nature Genetics, 04,05)

Opportunities:

▶ Using BLAST theory to enhance the predictive power.

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**Opportunities**:

- ▶ Using BLAST theory to enhance the predictive power.
- Random walks on networks.

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 Generating large collections of small molecules and using them to modulate cellular states.

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- Connectivity Map (J. Lamb et al., Science 06):

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disease - gene - drug.
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 Necessary modifications when dealing with more heterogeneous situations, e.g., BC vs Leukemia.

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- Choice of cell type
- Measurement time
- Concentration and treatment duration
- Analytical methods for detecting relevant signals

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 Identification of potential human and environmental toxicants, and their putative mechanisms of action, through the use of genomics resources.

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- Connectivity Map: gene toxicant

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Proper definition of signature similarity

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- Model system selection

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- Other factors: age, diet, etc



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# BRB ArrayTools (NCI, Richard Simon)

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- Benchmark data sets

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- BRB ArrayTools (NCI, Richard Simon)
- GenePattern, includes GeneCluster (Broad Institute)
- Connectivity Map (Broad Institute)
- Benchmark data sets
- Local implementations with interface to the tools above

## Technical improvements at different levels

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- Technology transfer from: Time-series analysis of financial data, VLDB, Theoretical Neuroscience

## ▶ New biologically relevant and important questions:

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- Daphnia based toxicogenomics

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- Signatures in developmental stages of model organisms
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- Other genomic signatures: DNA methylation patterns, microRNA profiles, metabolite profiles, ...