Volcano plots & ggplot2



Erika Duan R-Ladies Canberra

https://github.com/erikaduan/R-tips



- Something I wrote up for R-Ladies Melbourne in 2018.
- All credit goes to soon-to-be Dr Chuanxin Liu.



• Fun fact: R-Ladies and Responsible AI meetups → I became a data scientist!



It's a volcano plot if...



- You are comparing between 2 different groups of samples.
- You are interested in visualising how much group B differs with respect to group A.



Group A: healthy cells

Group B: 'diseased' cells

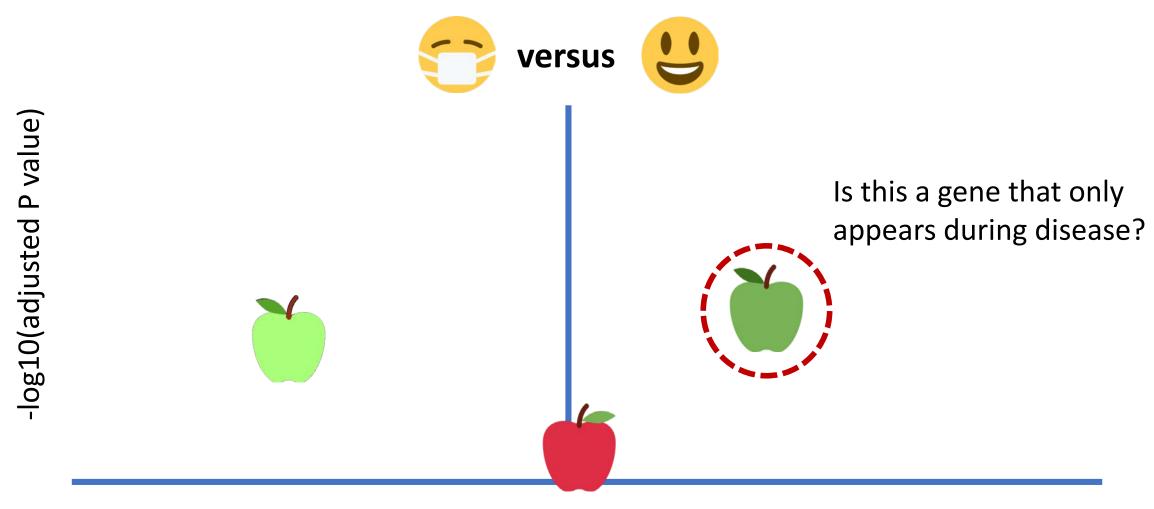
It's a volcano plot if...



- You also have lots of data points collected for both samples.
- Equivalence (in unit) between these data points.

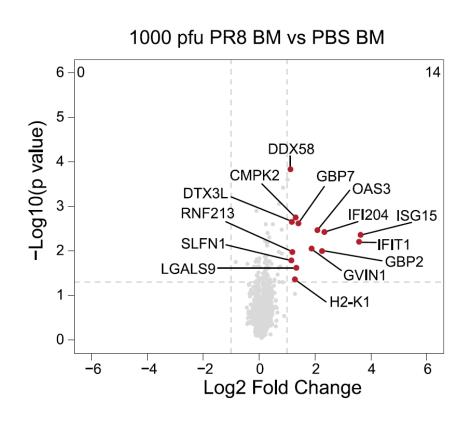
	Group A: healthy cells					Group B: 'diseased' cells				
	5	5	U	U	U					
Gene A	4	3	9	7	2	3	3	5	6	2
Gene B	3	6	7	3	4	25	34	21	40	38
Gene C	11	13	7	8	17	0	2	5	1	0

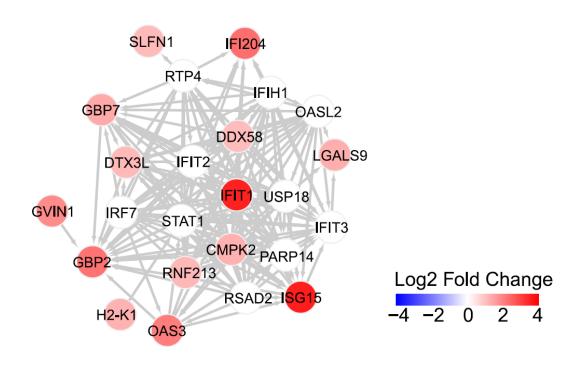
It's a volcano plot if...



log2(Fold change)

Volcano plot: just another way to communicate complex information





Liu et al, 2019, Journal of Immunology 203 (4)

Let's use this as an excuse to play around with ggplot2 !