# ELMER: An R/Bioconductor Tool Inferring Regulatory Element Landscapes and Transcription Factor Networks Using Cancer Methylomes

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need to be done

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## 1 Introduction

*ELMER* This document provide an introduction of the *ELMER*, which provides functions for identifying differential DNA methylation probes at distal regulatory regions, genes whose expressions associate with differential DNA methylation

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probes and regulatory TF in the regulatory network. It is designed to use a large number of samples' DNA methylation data (HM450K) and gene expression data to inferring regulatory element landscapes and transcription factor network from primary tissues.

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#### 1.1 Benchmark

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## 1.2 Example data

Follow the following step to obtain a example data for ELMER

# 2 Installing and Loading ELMER

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# 3 Input data

For running whole pipeline analysis in *ELMER*, at least 4 input files are required. A matrix of DNA methylation, a matrix of gene expression for the same samples, a GRanges object contains information such as names and coordinates for the probe on the HM450K and gene annotation GRanges object. For TCGA data, samples information will be automatically generated. But samples information should be provided when using custom data.

#### 3.1 DNA methylation data

Raw DNA methylation data can be processed by *Methylumi* or *minfi* (ref) generating DNA methylation level for each CpG. The DNA methylation level at each CpG is referred to as a beta  $(\beta)$  value, calculated as (M/(M+U)), where M represents the methylated allele intensity and U the unmethylated allele intensity. Beta values range from 0 to 1, reflecting the fraction of methylated alleles at each CpG in the each tumor; beta values close to 0 indicating low levels of DNA methylation and beta values close to 1 indicating high levels of DNA methylation. Then generate DNA methylation beta value matrix for all the samples (columns) and probe loci (rows) and save matrix as meth.rda

```
> load("./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/LUSC_meth_refined.rda")
> str(Meth)
num [1:1725, 1:268] 0.819 0.842 0.91 0.875 0.333 ...
- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
    ..$ : chr [1:1725] "cg00045114" "cg00050294" "cg00066722" "cg00093522" ...
    ..$ : chr [1:268] "TCGA-43-3394-11A-01D-1551-05" "TCGA-43-3920-11B-01D-1551-05" "TCGA-56-8305-01A-11D-229
```

#### 3.2 Gene expression data

Gene expression value can be generated from different platform such as array or RNA-seq, gene level or transcripts level gene expression. Generate Gene expression matrix for all the samples (columns) and gene (rows) and save matrix as RNA.rda

```
> load("./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/LUSC_RNA_refined.rda")
> str(GeneExp)

num [1:3898, 1:234] 0 0.43 10.08 6.45 8.59 ...
- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
    ..$ : chr [1:3898] "ID126767" "ID343066" "ID26574" "ID24" ...
    ..$ : chr [1:234] "TCGA-22-5472-01A-01R-1635-07" "TCGA-22-5489-01A-01R-1635-07" "TCGA-22-5491-11A-01R-183
```

## 3.3 Sample information

Sample Information should be stored as data.frame object contains sample ID, groups label (such as tumor, normal) and other description for each samples. For TCGA data, tumor, normal group label will be automatically generated by fetch.mee function by specify option TCGA=TRUE.

```
> mee <- fetch.mee(meth=Meth, exp=GeneExp, TCGA=T)
~~~ MEE.data: initializator ~~~
> head(getSample(mee))
                             ID
                                                     meth.ID
TCGA-43-3394-11 TCGA-43-3394-11 TCGA-43-3394-11A-01D-1551-05 TCGA-43-3394-11A-01R-1758-07
TCGA-56-8305-01 TCGA-56-8305-01 TCGA-56-8305-01A-11D-2294-05 TCGA-56-8305-01A-11R-2296-07
TCGA-56-8307-01 TCGA-56-8307-01 TCGA-56-8307-01A-11D-2294-05 TCGA-56-8307-01A-11R-2296-07
TCGA-56-8308-01 TCGA-56-8308-01 TCGA-56-8308-01A-11D-2294-05 TCGA-56-8308-01A-11R-2296-07
TCGA-56-8309-01 TCGA-56-8309-01 TCGA-56-8309-01A-11D-2294-05 TCGA-56-8309-01A-11R-2296-07
TCGA-58-8386-01 TCGA-58-8386-01 TCGA-58-8386-01A-11D-2294-05 TCGA-58-8386-01A-11R-2296-07
TCGA-43-3394-11 Normal
TCGA-56-8305-01 Tumor
TCGA-56-8307-01 Tumor
TCGA-56-8308-01 Tumor
TCGA-56-8309-01 Tumor
TCGA-58-8386-01
                Tumor
```

#### 3.4 Probe information

Probe information should be stored as GRanges object containing coordinate of each probe on the DNA methylation array and names of each probe. The default probe information is for HM450K.

```
chr1 [172674159, 172674159]
  [1]
                                                  cg00045114
  [2]
         chr1 [ 2886818, 2886818]
                                                  cg00050294
                                               cg00066722
cg00093522
cg00107046
  [3]
         chr1 [ 43634520, 43634520]
                                        *
         chr1 [ 2252019, 2252019]
  [4]
                                        *
  [5]
         chr1 [ 16465562, 16465562]
                                        * |
                                      * |
                                                cg27589988
         chr1 [215147891, 215147891]
[1721]
[1722]
         chr1 [ 46632696, 46632696]
                                        * |
                                                  cg27636310
         chr1 [ 3472204, 3472204]
                                       * |
[1723]
                                                  cg27637706
                                                ch.1.131529R
         chr1 [ 3283394, 3283394]
                                          [1724]
         chr1 [174947362, 174947362]
                                    * | ch.1.173213985R
[1725]
```

seqinfo: 24 sequences from an unspecified genome; no seqlengths

#### 3.5 Gene information

Gene information should be stored as GRanges object containing coordinates of each gene, gene id, gene symbol and gene isoform id. The default gene information is UCSC gene annotation.

- > load(system.file("extdata","UCSC\_gene\_hg19.rda",package = "ELMER"))
- > ## For TCGA data number couldn't be as rownames, so "ID" was added to each gene id.
- > ## If your geneID is consistent with rownames of gene expression matrix, this step
- > ## can be skipped.
- > txs\$GENEID <- pasteO("ID",txs\$GENEID)</pre>
- > geneInfo <- promoters(txs,upstream = 0, downstream = 0)
- > save(geneInfo,file="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/geneAnnot.rda")
- > mee <- fetch.mee(meth=Meth, exp=GeneExp, TCGA=T, geneInfo=txs)
- ~~~ MEE.data: initializator ~~~
- > getGeneInfo(mee)

GRanges object with 13741 ranges and 3 metadata columns:

	seqnames		ranges	strand		tx_name	GENEID	SYMBOL
	<rle></rle>		<iranges></iranges>	<rle></rle>		<character></character>	<character></character>	<character></character>
10000	chr1	[243651535,	244006584]	-		uc001hzz.1	ID10000	AKT3
10000	chr1	[243663021,	244006584]	-		uc001iab.2	ID10000	AKT3
10000	chr1	[243663021,	244006886]	-		uc021plu.1	ID10000	AKT3
10001	chr14	[ 71050957,	71067384]	-		uc001xmf.3	ID10001	MED6
10001	chr14	[ 71050957,	71067384]	-		uc010tth.2	ID10001	MED6
9988	chr7	[86781677,	86825648]	+		uc003uik.3	ID9988	DMTF1
9988	chr7	[86781677,	86825648]	+		uc011khb.2	ID9988	DMTF1
9988	chr7	[86781870,	86825648]	+		uc003uil.3	ID9988	DMTF1
9988	chr7	[86792198,	86809018]	+		uc003uim.1	ID9988	DMTF1
9988	chr7	[86792198,	86825648]	+		uc003uin.3	ID9988	DMTF1

seqinfo: 93 sequences (1 circular) from hg19 genome

#### 3.6 MEE.data

The above 5 components will form MEE.data object as input for mulitple functions.

> mee <- fetch.mee(meth=Meth, exp=GeneExp, TCGA=T, probeInfo=probe, geneInfo=txs)

```
~~~ MEE.data: initializator ~~~
> mee
*** Class MEE.data, method show ***
* meth
 num [1:1725, 1:234] 0.819 0.842 0.91 0.875 0.333 ...
 - attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
  ..$ : chr [1:1725] "cg00045114" "cg00050294" "cg00066722" "cg00093522" ...
  ..$: chr [1:234] "TCGA-43-3394-11A-01D-1551-05" "TCGA-56-8305-01A-11D-2294-05" "TCGA-56-8307-01A-11D-2294-05"
NULL
* exp
 num [1:3894, 1:234] 0 0.214 10.048 5.007 8.63 ...
 - attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
  ...$ : chr [1:3894] "ID126767" "ID343066" "ID26574" "ID24" ...
  ..$: chr [1:234] "TCGA-43-3394-11A-01R-1758-07" "TCGA-56-8305-01A-11R-2296-07" "TCGA-56-8307-01A-11R-2296-07"
NULL
* sample
'data.frame':
                   234 obs. of 4 variables:
 $ ID : chr "TCGA-43-3394-11" "TCGA-56-8305-01" "TCGA-56-8307-01" "TCGA-56-8308-01" ...
 $ meth.ID: chr "TCGA-43-3394-11A-01D-1551-05" "TCGA-56-8305-01A-11D-2294-05" "TCGA-56-8307-01A-11D-2294-05"
 $ exp.ID : chr "TCGA-43-3394-11A-01R-1758-07" "TCGA-56-8305-01A-11R-2296-07" "TCGA-56-8307-01A-11R-2296-07"
 $ TN
         : chr "Normal" "Tumor" "Tumor" "Tumor" ...
NULL
* probeInfo
GRanges object with 1725 ranges and 1 metadata column:
```

	seqnames		ranges	strand	-	name
	<rle></rle>		Ranges	<rle></rle>		<character></character>
[1]	chr1	[172674159,	172674159]	*		cg00045114
[2]	chr1	[ 2886818,	2886818]	*		cg00050294
[3]	chr1	[ 43634520,	43634520]	*		cg00066722
[4]	chr1	[ 2252019,	2252019]	*		cg00093522
[5]	chr1	[ 16465562,	16465562]	*		cg00107046
[1721]	chr1	[215147891,	215147891]	*		cg27589988
[1722]	chr1	[ 46632696,	46632696]	*		cg27636310
[1723]	chr1	[ 3472204,	3472204]	*		cg27637706
[1724]	chr1	[ 3283394,	3283394]	*		ch.1.131529R
[1725]	chr1	[174947362,	174947362]	*		ch.1.173213985R

seqinfo: 24 sequences from an unspecified genome; no seqlengths

\* geneInfo

GRanges object with 13741 ranges and 3 metadata columns:

	5		_					
	seqnames		ranges	$\operatorname{strand}$	- 1	tx_name	GENEID	SYMBOL
	<rle></rle>		<iranges></iranges>	<rle></rle>	- 1	<character></character>	<character></character>	<character></character>
1000	0 chr1	[243651535,	244006584]	_	- 1	uc001hzz.1	ID10000	AKT3
1000	0 chr1	[243663021,	244006584]	_	- 1	uc001iab.2	ID10000	AKT3
1000	0 chr1	[243663021,	244006886]	_	- 1	uc021plu.1	ID10000	AKT3
1000	1 chr14	[ 71050957,	71067384]	_	- 1	uc001xmf.3	ID10001	MED6
1000	1 chr14	[ 71050957,	71067384]	_	- 1	uc010tth.2	ID10001	MED6
998	8 chr7	[86781677,	86825648]	+	- 1	uc003uik.3	ID9988	DMTF1
998	8 chr7	[86781677,	86825648]	+	- 1	uc011khb.2	ID9988	DMTF1
998	8 chr7	[86781870,	86825648]	+	- 1	uc003ui1.3	ID9988	DMTF1
998	8 chr7	[86792198,	86809018]	+	- 1	uc003uim.1	ID9988	DMTF1

```
9988 chr7 [86792198, 86825648] + | uc003uin.3 ID9988 DMTF1
-----
seqinfo: 93 sequences (1 circular) from hg19 genome
******* End Print (MEE.data) *******
```

## 4 Illustration of ELMER analysis

A subset of chromosome 1 data from TCGA LUSC were used as illustruation.

## 4.1 Selection of probes within biofeatures

Function, get.feature.probe, is used to select probes that locates within the biofeatures such as H3K27ac ChIP-seq peaks. As default, get.feature.probe function will automatically select distal enhancer probes on HM450K which are at least 2kb away from TSS annotated by GENCODE V15 and UCSC gene and located within the putative comprehensive enhancer from REMC, ENCODE and FANTOM5.

```
> #get distal enhancer probe that 2kb away from TSS and overlap with REMC and FANTOM5
> #enhancers on chromosome 1
> Probe <- get.feature.probe(probe=probe, rm.chr=paste0("chr",c(2:22,"X","Y")))
> save(Probe,file="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/probeInfo_feature.rda")
```

#### 4.2 Identifying differentially methylated probes

Function,get.diff.meth, will be used to identify differentially methylated probes among the probes within biofeatures which are selected in the above step.

```
> ## fetch.mee can take path.
> mee <- fetch.mee(meth="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/LUSC_meth_refined.rda",
                   exp="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/LUSC_RNA_refined.rda", TCGA=T,
                   probeInfo="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/probeInfo_feature.rda",
                   geneInfo="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/geneAnnot.rda")
~~~ MEE.data: initializator ~~~
> sig.diff <- get.diff.meth(mee, cores=detectCores()/2, dir.out ="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC",
                            diff.dir="hypo", pvalue = 0.01)
> str(sig.diff$hypo)
                       ## significant hypomethylated probes
'data.frame':
                     742 obs. of 4 variables:
$ probe
                       "cg00045114" "cg00050294" "cg00093522" "cg00163018" ...
                 : chr
$ pvalue
                       7.31e-13 4.44e-09 1.14e-23 2.24e-21 2.77e-18 ...
                 : num
                       -0.35 -0.5 -0.36 -0.384 -0.374 ...
$ tumorMinNormal: num
                 : num 2.42e-12 1.06e-08 1.00e-22 1.56e-20 1.46e-17 ...
$ adjust.p
> # get.diff.meth automatic save output file.
> # getMethdiff.hypo.probes.csv contains statistic for all the probes.
> # getMethdiff.hypo.probes.significant.csv contains only the significant probes.
> dir(path = "./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", pattern = "getMethdiff")
[1] "getMethdiff.hypo.probes.csv"
                                              "getMethdiff.hypo.probes.significant.csv"
```

#### 4.3 Identifying putative probe-gene pairs

Function, get.pair function, will be used to identify putative target gene for selected probes. This step is the most time consuming step since it contains a large amount calculations for permutation. The more permutation time is, the longer it will take. It is recommended to use multiple core for this step. Default permutation time is 1000 which may need 12 hrs by 4 cores. However 10,000 permutations is recommended which may cost 2 days if high confident results are desired.

```
> ### identify target gene for significantly hypomethylated probes.
>
> Sig.probes <- read.csv("./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/getMethdiff.hypo.probes.significant.csv",
                        stringsAsFactors=F)[,1]
> head(Sig.probes) # significantly hypomethylated probes
[1] "cg00045114" "cg00050294" "cg00093522" "cg00163018" "cg00173804" "cg00223046"
> ## collect nearby 20 gene for Sig.probes
> nearGenes <-GetNearGenes(TRange=getProbeInfo(mee,probe=Sig.probes),
                          geneAnnot=getGeneInfo(mee), cores=detectCores()/2)
> ## Identify significant probe-gene pairs
> Hypo.pair <-get.pair(mee=mee,probes=Sig.probes,nearGenes=nearGenes,
                      permu.dir="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/permu",permu.size=300,Pe = 0.01,
                       dir.out="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC",cores=detectCores()/2,label= "hypo")
> head(Hypo.pair) ## significant probe-gene pairs
                        Probe
                                GeneID
                                         Symbol Distance Sides
                                                                                     Рe
                                                                      Raw.p
                   cg20701183
cg20701183.ID8543
                                ID8543
                                           LMO4
                                                    2563 L1 7.453984e-14 0.003322259
cg19403323.ID255928 cg19403323 ID255928
                                          SYT14
                                                   87477
                                                            R1 1.671937e-12 0.003322259
                                                  993548 L4 2.527644e-12 0.003322259
cg12213388.ID84451 cg12213388 ID84451 KIAA1804
cg26607897.ID55811 cg26607897 ID55811
                                         ADCY10
                                                  292476
                                                            R3 4.593610e-12 0.003322259
cg10574861.ID8543
                   cg10574861
                                ID8543
                                           LMO4
                                                    4715
                                                            L1 4.770162e-12 0.003322259
                                                            R6 8.048248e-12 0.003322259
cg26607897.ID23432 cg26607897 ID23432
                                         GPR161
                                                  563308
> # get.pair automatically save output files.
> #getPair.hypo.all.pairs.statistic.csv contains statistic for all the probe-gene pairs.
> #getPair.hypo.pairs.significant.csv contains only the significant probes.
> dir(path = "./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", pattern = "getPair")
[1] "getPair.hypo.all.pairs.statistic.csv" "getPair.hypo.pairs.significant.csv"
```

#### 4.4 Motif enrichment analysis on the selected probes

Function, get.enriched.motif, will be used to calculate enrichment for motifs from factorbooks and JASPER among the selected probes. Odds Ratio is used to assess the enrichment level and 95% confidence interval of Odds Ratio is calculated.

```
[1] "AP1" "BARHL2" "IRF" "PRDM1" "TCF7L2" "TP53"

> # get.enriched.motif automatically save output files.
> # getMotif.hypo.enriched.motifs.rda contains enriched motif and the probes with the motif.
> # getMotif.hypo.motif.enrichment.csv contains summary of enriched motif.
> dir(path = "./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", pattern = "getMotif")
[1] "getMotif.hypo.enriched.motifs.rda" "getMotif.hypo.motif.enrichment.csv"
> # motif enrichment figure will be automatically generated.
> dir(path = "./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", pattern = "motif.enrichment.pdf")
[1] "hypo.motif.enrichment.pdf"
```

#### 4.5 Identifying regulatory TF

Function, get.TFs, will use the anti-correlation of a particular TF and the level of demethylation at its binding site to predict the regulatory TF.

```
> ### identify regulatory TF for the enriched motifs
> load("./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/getMotif.hypo.enriched.motifs.rda")
> TF <- get.TFs(mee=mee, enriched.motif=enriched.motif,dir.out="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC",
               cores=detectCores()/2, label= "hypo")
> # get.TFs automatically save output files.
> # getTF.hypo.TFs.with.motif.pvalue.rda contains statistic for all TF with average
> # DNA methylation at sites with enriched motif.
> # getTF.hypo.significant.TFs.with.motif.summary.csv contains only the significant probes.
> dir(path = "./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", pattern = "getTF")
[1] "getTF.hypo.significant.TFs.with.motif.summary.csv"
[2] "getTF.hypo.TFs.with.motif.pvalue.rda"
> # TF ranking based on statistics will be automatically generated.
> dir(path = "./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/TFrankPlot", pattern = "pdf")
[1] "AP1.TFrankPlot.pdf"
                            "BARHL2.TFrankPlot.pdf" "IRF.TFrankPlot.pdf"
[4] "PRDM1.TFrankPlot.pdf" "TCF7L2.TFrankPlot.pdf" "TP53.TFrankPlot.pdf"
```

# 5 TCGA.pipe

Function, TCGA.pipe, is easy usage for downloading TCGA data and perform all the analysis in ELMER. For illustration purpose, we skip downloading step. User could use getTCGA function to download TCGA data or use TCGA.pipe specify analysis include "download" step.

#### ####################

Get differential DNA methylation loci

```
##################
```

# 6 Generating figures

## 6.1 Scatter plots

```
a. Generate scatter plots for one probes' nearby 20 gene expression vs DNA methylation at this probe. Figure11
> scatter.plot(mee,byProbe=list(probe=c("cg19403323"),geneNum=20),
                category="TN", dir.out ="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", save=F)
> scatter.plot(mee,byProbe=list(probe=c("cg19403323"),geneNum=20),
                category="TN", dir.out ="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", save=T) ## save to pdf
b. Generate scatter plot for one probe-gene pair. Figure 22
> scatter.plot(mee,byPair=list(probe=c("cg19403323"),gene=c("ID255928")),
                category="TN", dir.out ="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", save=F,lm_line=T)
+
> scatter.plot(mee,byPair=list(probe=c("cg19403323"),gene=c("ID255928")),
                category="TN", dir.out ="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", save=T,lm_line=T) ## save to pdf
c. Generate scatter plot for TF expression Vs average DNA methylation of the sites with certain motif. Figure 33
> load("ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/getMotif.hypo.enriched.motifs.rda")
> scatter.plot(mee,byTF=list(TF=c("TP53","TP63","TP73"),
                               probe=enriched.motif[["TP53"]]), category="TN",
                dir.out ="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC", save=TRUE,lm_line=T)
```

#### 6.2 Schematic plot

Schematic plot shows a breif view of linkage between genes and probes. To make schematic plot, Pair object should be generated first.

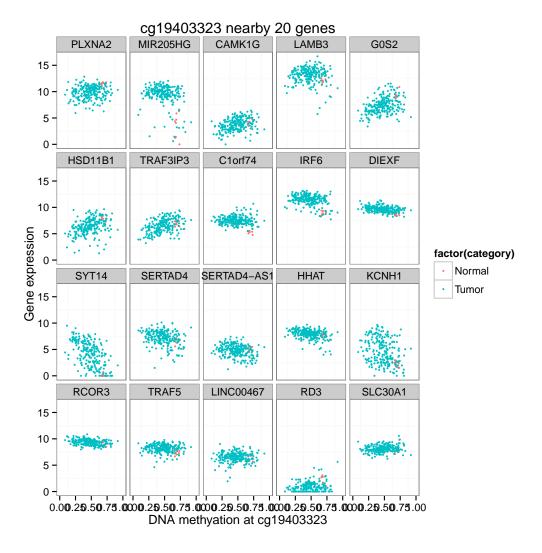


Figure 1: Each scatter plot shows the methylation level of an example probe cg19403323 in all LUSC samples plotted against the expression of one of 20 adjacent genes.

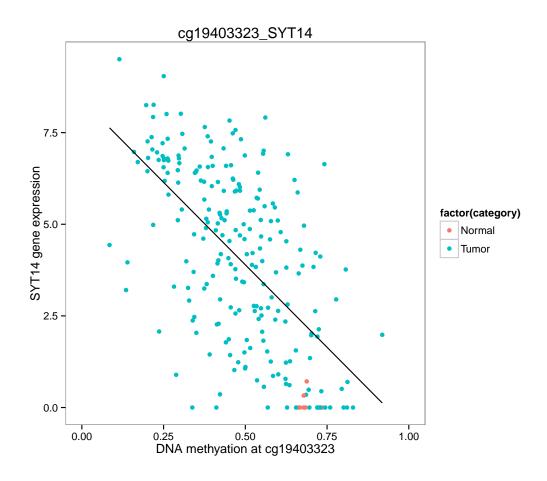


Figure 2: Scatter plot shows the methylation level of an example probe cg19403323 in all LUSC samples plotted against the expression of putative target gene SYT14.

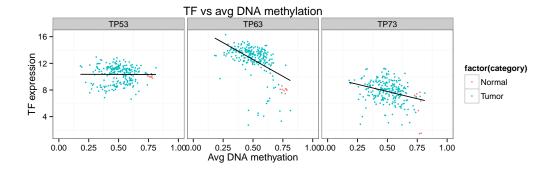


Figure 3: Each scatter plot shows the average methylation level of sites with TP53 motif in all LUSC samples plotted against the expression of transcription factor TP53, TP63, TP73 respectively.

#### 6.3 Motif enrichment plot

Motif enrichment plot shows the enrichment levels for the selected motifs. Figure 6??

> motif.enrichment.plot(motif.enrichment="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/getMotif.hypo.motif.enrichment.csv",
+ significant=list(OR=1.3), dir.out ="ELMER.example/Result/LUSC",

chr1:209605478-211752100

2.15Mb

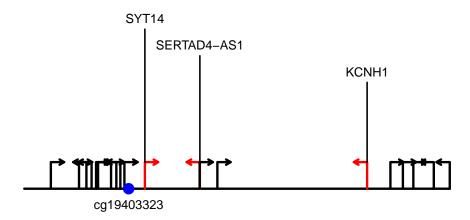


Figure 4: The schematic plot shows probe colored by blue and nearby 20 genes location. The gene significantly linked to the probe were shown in red.

```
+ label="hypo", save=T)
> motif.enrichment.plot(motif.enrichment="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/getMotif.hypo.motif.enrichment.csv",
+ significant=list(OR=1.3,lowerOR=1.3), dir.out ="ELMER.example/Result/LUSC",
+ label="hypo", save=) ## different significant cut off.
```

#### 6.4 TF ranking plot

TF ranking plot shows statistic -log10(P value) assessing the anti-correlation level of TFs expression level with average DNA methylation level at sites with a given motif. Figure 7??

\$TP53







Figure 5: The schematic plot shows the gene coloredin red and all probes in blue which are significantly linked to the expression of this gene.

```
> TF.rank.plot(motif.pvalue=TF.meth.cor, motif="TP53", TF.label=list(TP53=c("TP53", "TP63", "TP73")),
+ dir.out="./ELMER.example/Result/LUSC/TFrankPlot", save=T) # save to pdf
```

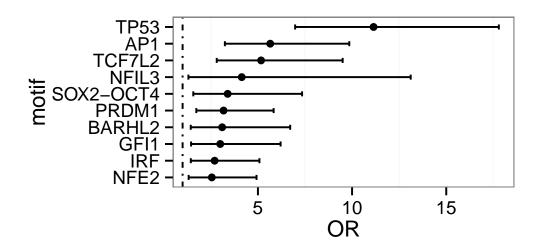


Figure 6: The plot shows the Odds Ratio (x axis) for the selected motifs with OR above 1.3. The range show the 95% confidence interval for each Odds Ratio.

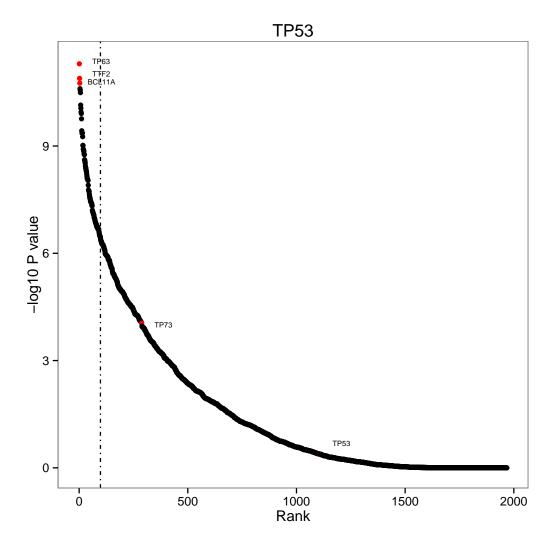


Figure 7: Shown are TF ranking plots based on the score (-log(Pr)) of association between TF expression and DNA methylation of the TP53 motif in the LUSC cancer type . The dashed line indicates the boundary of the top 5% association score. The top 3 associated TFs and the TF family members (dots in red) that are associated with that specific motif are labeled in the plot.