From genes to pathways: pathway quantification with ROMA

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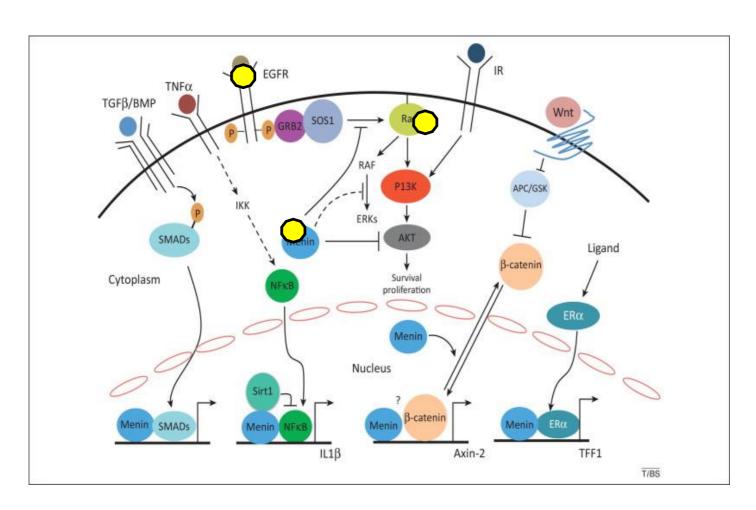








In cancer the same biological process can be affected by damages in different individual genes





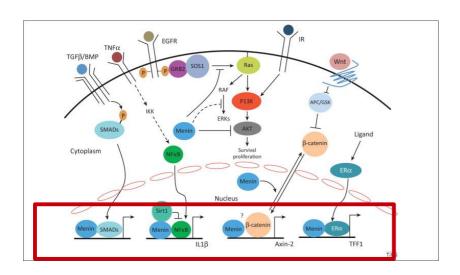




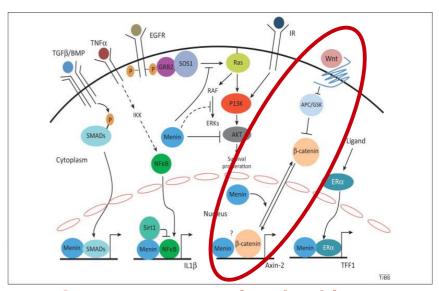




Reasoning in terms of active/inactive gene-sets rather than single differentially expressed genes



Gene set = target genes co-regulated by the same TFs



Gene set = genes involved in a common signalling pathway

Pathway-level analysis:

- make use of existing knowledge (e.g. public database, literature, etc.)
- try to "separate scales", identify and retain coarse-grained variables that are essential for the problem









Quantification of gene-set activity

- → Single biomarker gene expression as a proxy of the whole gene-set
- → Mean/Median expression of the genes in the set

Some drawbacks:

- Different genes do not contribute in the same way/strength to the activity of the gene-set
- Some genes can correlate negatively with the activity of the gene-set

Alternative:

Gene set activity as a linear combination of individual gene expression

$$A_j = \sum \alpha_i \, x_{ij}$$

Fan J et al, Nature Methods 2016 Tomfohr et al, BMC Bioinformatics 2005





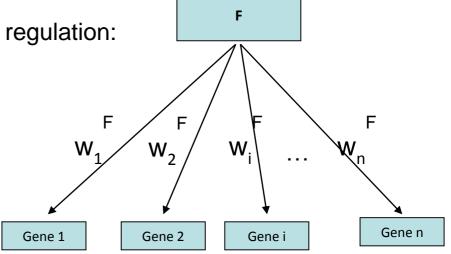




Quantification of gene-set activity by PCA

The uni-factor linear model of gene expression regulation:

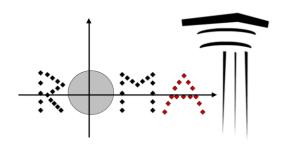
$$x(gene_i, S_j) \sim w_i^{(F)} A_j^{(F)}$$





published: 19 February 2016

doi: 10.3389/fgene.2016.00018



ROMA: Representation and Quantification of Module Activity from Target Expression Data

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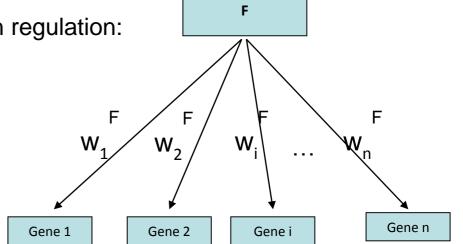


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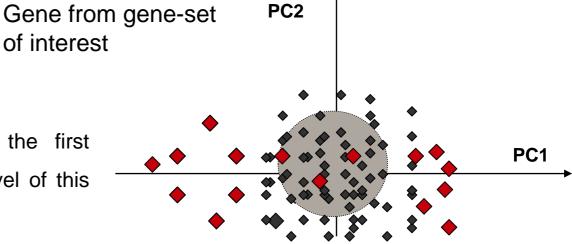
$$X = W D A$$



PC2

$$A_j^{(F)} \sim \lambda^{-1} \sum\nolimits_i w_i^{(F)} x_{ij}$$

The values $w_i^{(F)}$ and $A_i^{(F)}$ are obtained by the first metagene PC1 of the gene set and by the level of this metagene in each sample

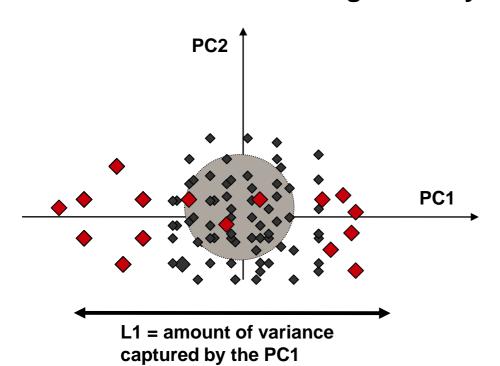








Identification of significantly active/inactive gene-sets by PC1



Testing if the PC1 variance L1 of a geneset significantly exceeds the genome-wide background expectation = overdispersion

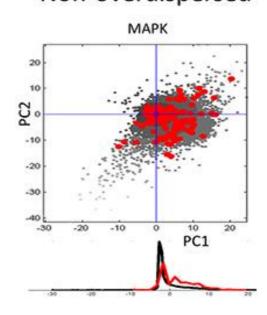
Overdispersed gene sets, p-value<0.01

E2F3 targets

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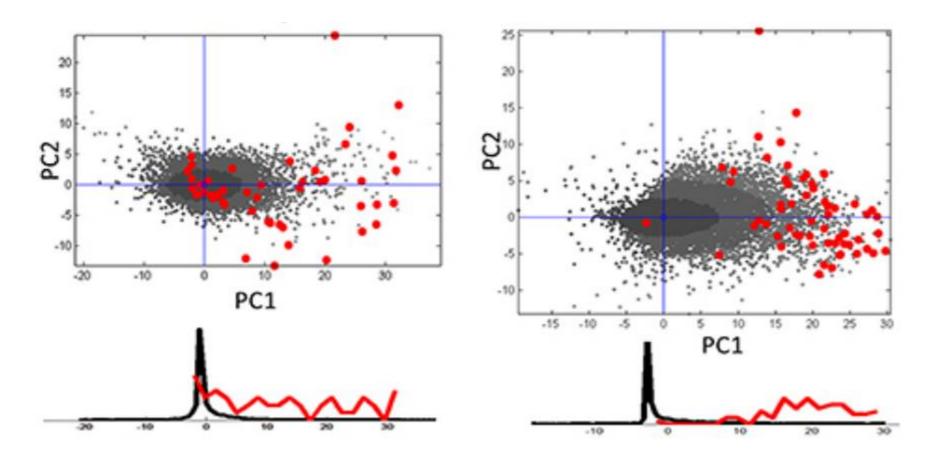
Non-overdispersed



ROMA features: computing PCA wih fixed center

Two possible configurations of the target genes:

- 1. Only some genes of the modules show overdispersion compared to the background
- 2. All genes of the modules are shifted compared to the background genes



The two configurations can be detected in ROMA using PCA with fixed center



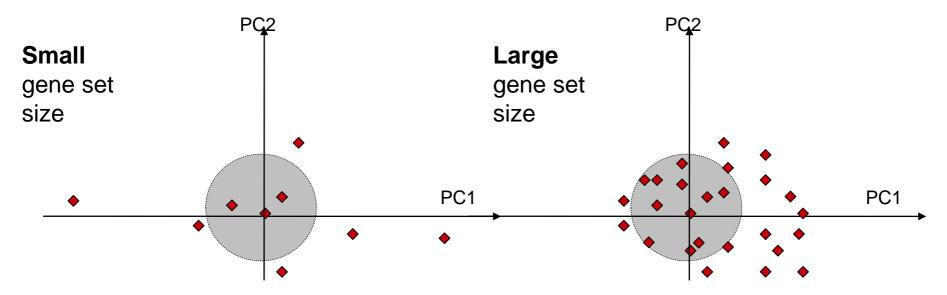






ROMA features: assessing the statistical significance of gene-set overdispersion

L1 and L1/L2 strongly depend on the size of the gene set



Statistically significance of L1 and L1/L2 is assessed by estimating the null distribution of L1 and L1/L2 from random set of genes having representative sizes



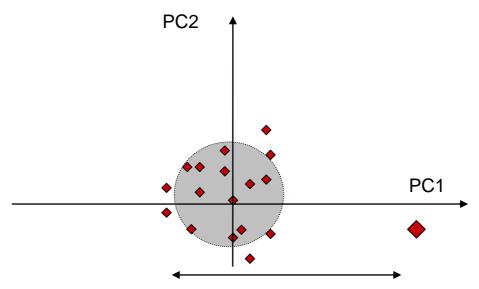






ROMA features: computing robust PCA

Outlier genes abnormally affecting PC1 are identified by "leave one out" procedure and removed from the gene-set



L1 estimate is affected by one single gene

In ROMA outlier genes are identified by leave-one-out procedure:

- \rightarrow computing L1 *n* times (*n* = gene set size) removing at each time one gene in the gene set
- → outliers are identified as those genes that dramatically increase L1

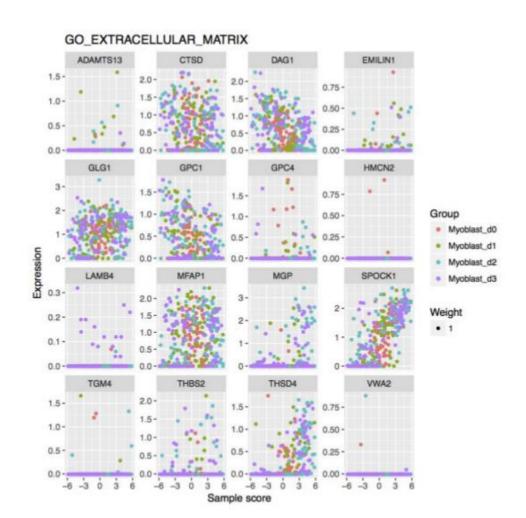


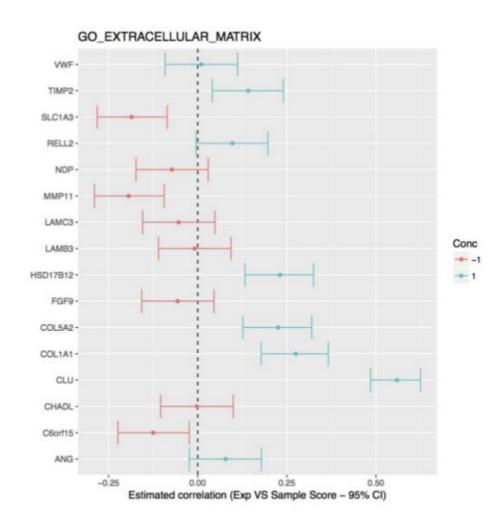






ROMA features: orienting PCA





In ROMA PCA is oriented in such a way that gene projections are positively correlated with gene expression levels for most genes









ROMA features:

using weighted gene-sets to include a priori biological knowledge

In ROMA, some weights w_g can be assigned by the user (weighted gmt file)

Example:

positive weights for "positively regulated genes" and negative for "inhibited genes"

Bigger weights for user-defined « most contributing » genes of the gene-set

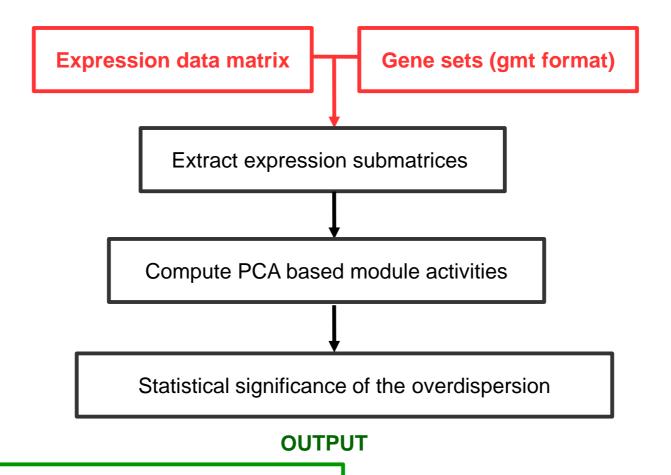






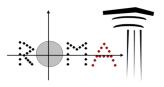


The ROMA algorithm



Overdispersion estimation L1+ pv Coordinated expr. estimation L1/L2 + pv Module activity score in each condition

Gene projections on PC1



https://github.com/sysbio-curie

LM et al, Front Genet. 2016

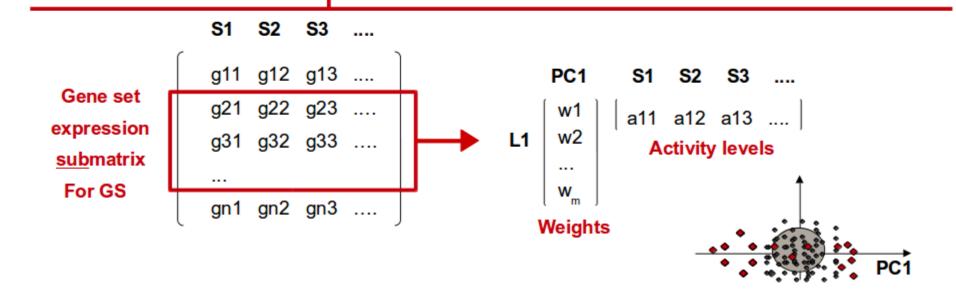
Global gene expression matrix + M pre-defined gene sets

For each gene set GS



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Global gene expression matrix + M pre-defined gene sets

For each gene set GS

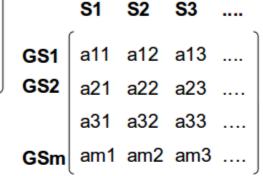
S1

S₂

Activity scores

Gene contributions to each gene set

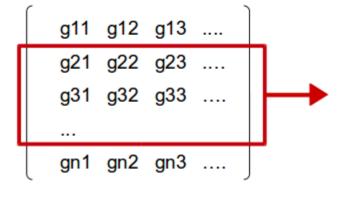
Activity matrix



Global Results

Gene set expression submatrix

For GS



S3

PC1 S1 S2 S3

w1 a11 a12 a13 Activity levels ... w_m

Weights

How to use ROMA in practice



Java version @ https://github.com/sysbio-curie/Roma

Command line usage:

java -jar roma_v1.0.jar [required options] [other options]



R version @ https://github.com/sysbio-curie/rRoma

R version using shiny dashboard @ https://github.com/sysbio-curie/rRomaDash









Execute rRoma with command line

Load data

Expression matrix file

Sample annotation file

Testing different signatures for a given pathway (ex: wnt)

wntGMT <- ReadGMTFile("Unsigned_wnt_path.gmt")</pre>

Data.wnt <- rRoma.R(ExpressionMatrix = expr,

ModuleList = wntGMT,

FixedCenter = TRUE,

MaxGenes = 1000,

PCSignMode="CorrelateAllWeightsByGene",

PCAType = "DimensionsAreSamples")









Results of different signatures of WNT pathway

	L1	ppv L1	L1/L2	ppv L1/L2
WNT_CANONICAL	0.2160966	0.45	1.571934	0.61
Wnt CELL MAP	0.3168016	0.18	2.465684	0.10
WNT NON CANONICAL	0.2237947	0.34	1.684310	0.48
WNT pthw Metastasis	0.3099135	0.04	2.173662	0.14
wnt_IPA	0.3020718	0.00	2.734551	0.01

Two WNT signatures (WNT_pthw_Metastasis,wnt_IPA) perform better than the others

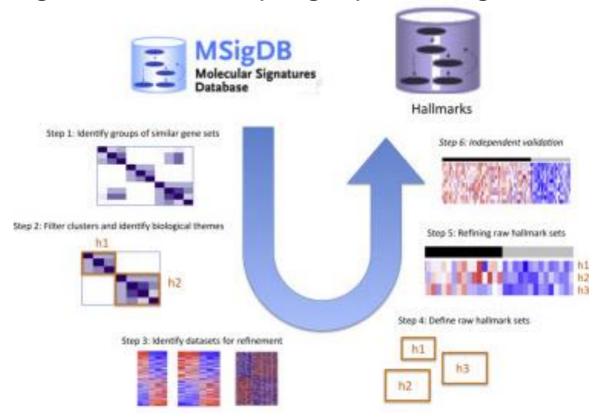








The Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB) hallmark gene set collection



Hallmark gene sets represent specific well-defined biological states or processes that display coherent expression

https://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/msigdb/

Liberzon A, Birger C, Thorvaldsdóttir H, Ghandi M, Mesirov JP, Tamayo P. **The Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB)**hallmark gene set collection. Cell Syst. 2015 Dec 23;1(6):417-425.









Testing a database of signatures (ex: MsigDB Hallmarks)

AllHall <- SelectFromMSIGdb("HALLMARK")

Data.hall <- rRoma.R(ExpressionMatrix = expr,

ModuleList = AllHall,

FixedCenter = TRUE,

MaxGenes = 1000,

PCSignMode="CorrelateAllWeightsByGene",

PCAType = "DimensionsAreSamples")









Selecting significantly active/inactive modules

- -> over- or under-underdispersed genesets selected according to VarThr p-value threshold and VarMode = "Wil" or "PPV" for Wilcoxon or permutation test
- -> Aggregating data by Group

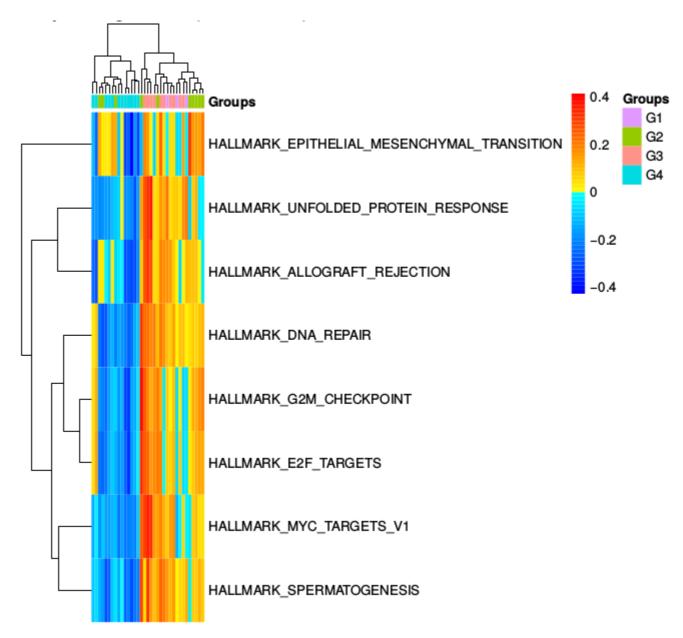








Heatmap of module activity per sample

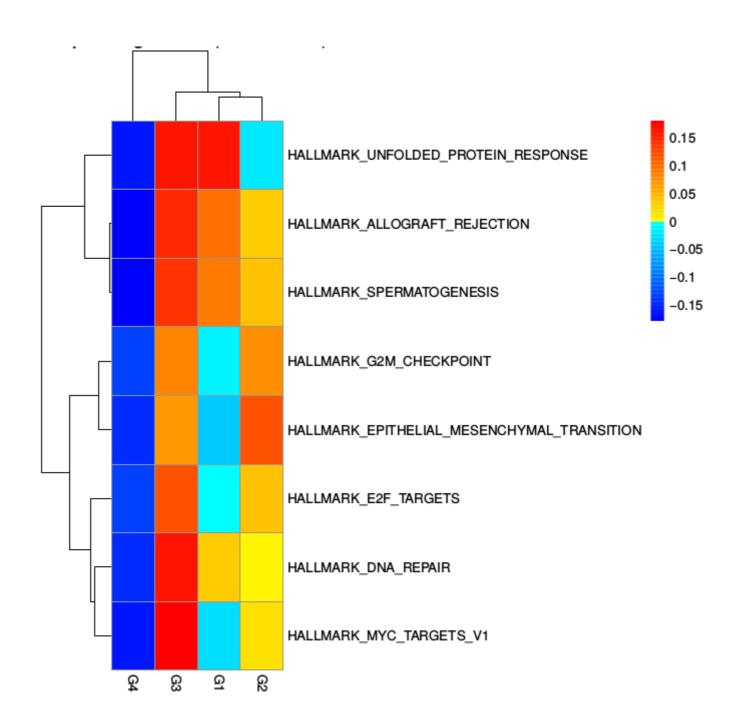


- -> EMT active in G2 samples
- -> MYC targets activated in G3 samples





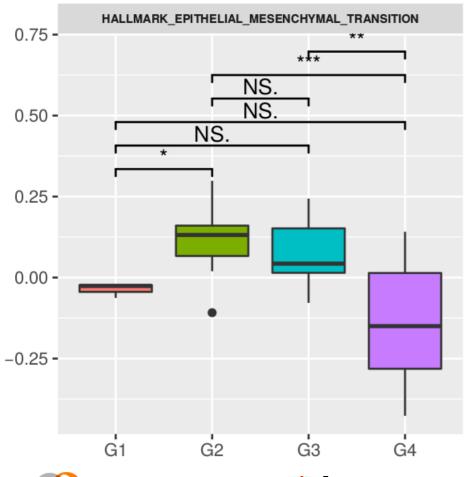
Heatmap of module activity per group

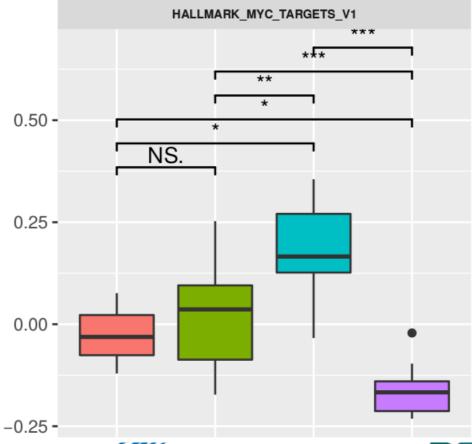






Differential analysis between groups based on module activity



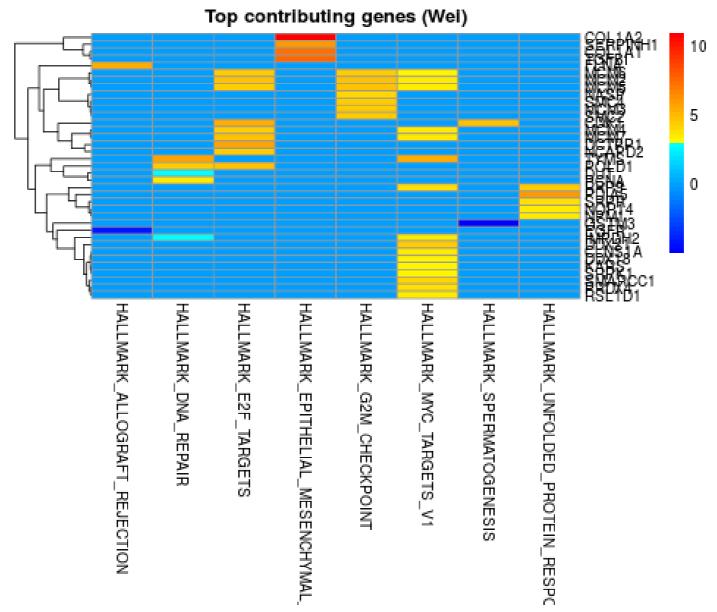








Heatmap of the most contributing genes for significant modules



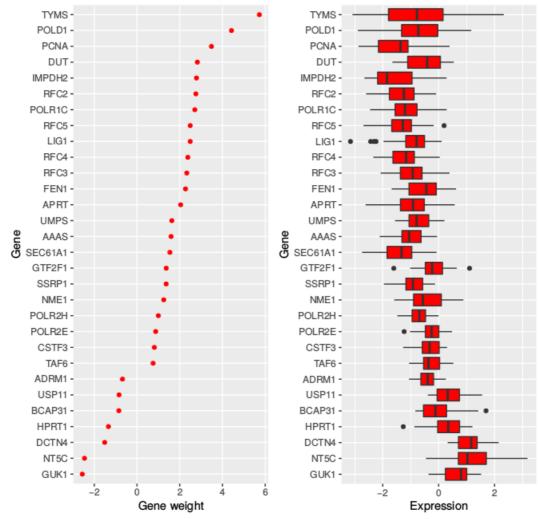
GeneMat <- GetTopContrib(Data.hall,

Selected = SelectGeneSets(RomaData = Data.hall, VarThr = 1e-5, VarMode = "Wil", VarType = "Over"), nGenes = .1, OrderType = "Abs", Mode = "Wei", Plot = TRUE)

Visualize the most contributing genes for a given module

PlotGeneWeight(RomaData = Data.hall, PlotGenes = 30, ExpressionMatrix = expr, LogExpression = FALSE, Selected = SelectGeneSets(RomaData = Data.hall, VarThr = 1e-5, VarMode = "Wil", VarType = "Over"), PlotWeigthSign = TRUE)



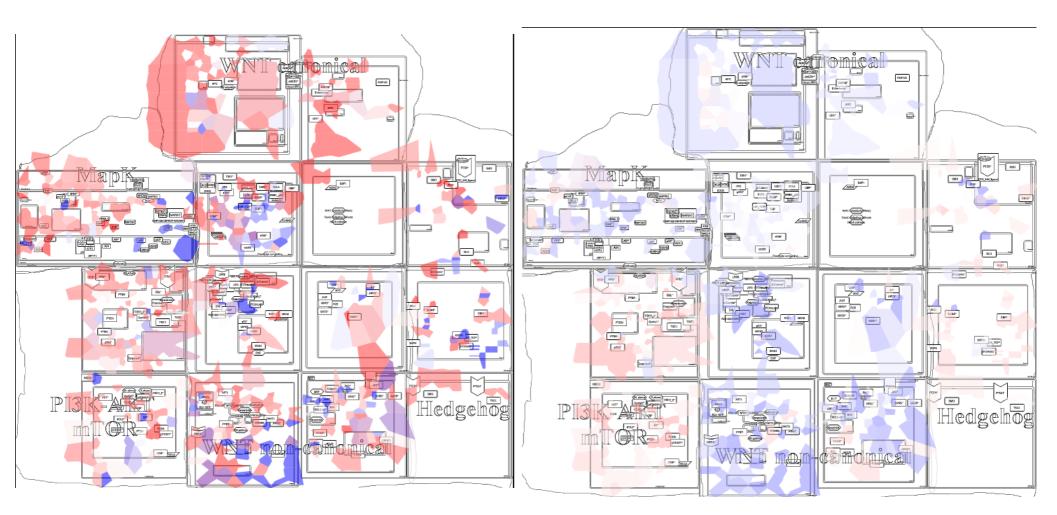






Visualization of ROMA scores on ACSN maps

- -> Testing gene sets from ACSN maps
- -> Visualizing ROMA scores by Group (creating group-specific maps)



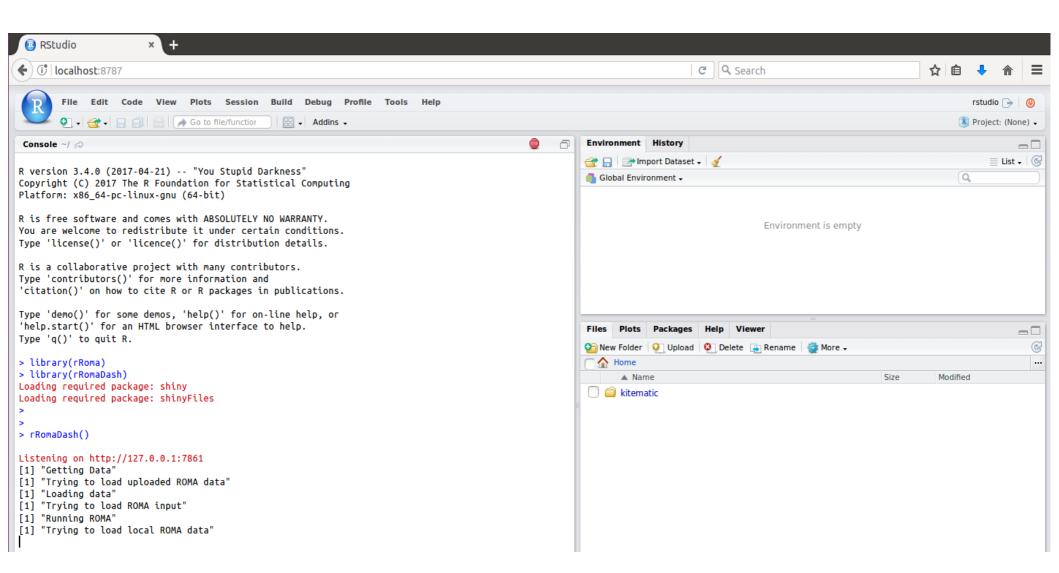








Launch rROMA interface : rROMADash()



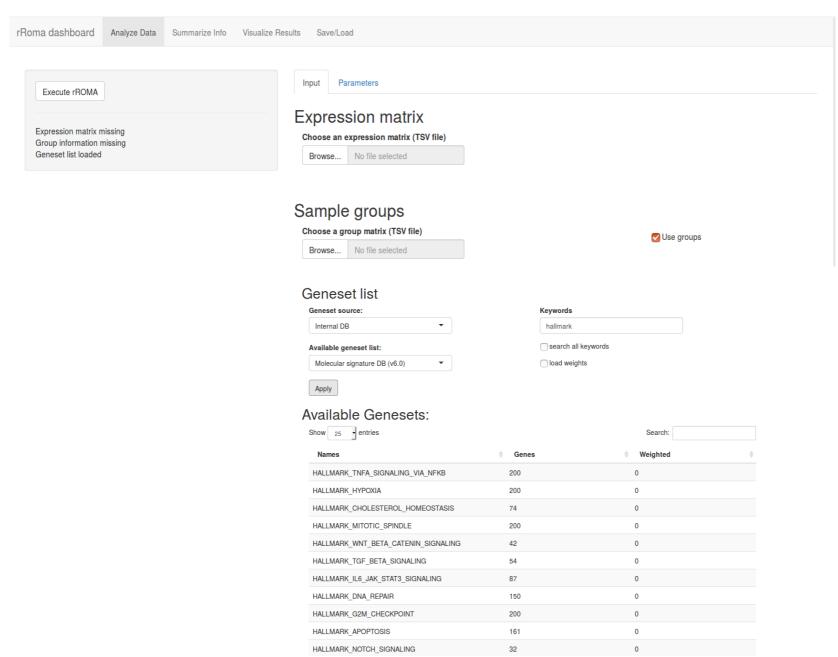








Execute rRoma: load data





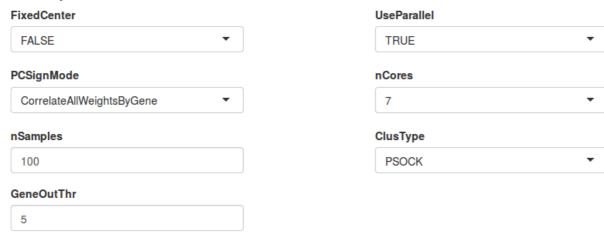




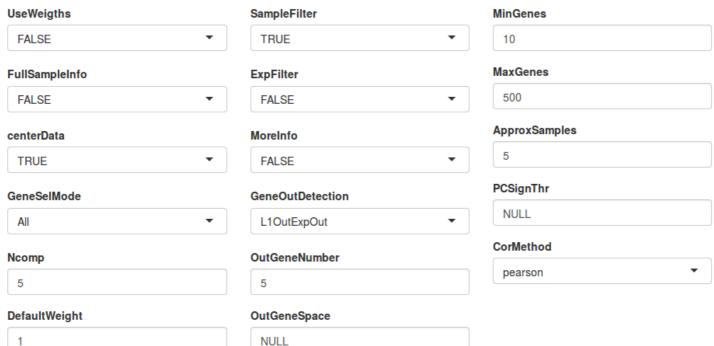


Execute rRoma: set parameters

Base parameters



Advanced parameters









Acknowledgments

Computational Systems Biology of Cancer group

Emmanuel Barillot

Resources

Luca Albergante Loredana Martignetti

Urszula Czerwinska Andrei Zinovyev https://github.com/sysbio-curie/rRoma

Jonas Béal Inna Kuperstein

Laurence Calzone Gaelle Letort https://github.com/sysbio-curie/rRomaDash

Laura Cantini Christine Lonjou https://github.com/sysbio-curie/Roma

Mihaly Koltai Cristóbal Monraz

https://github.com/sysbio-curie/Roma_tutorial









