

Raw data



Raw count table

Metadata

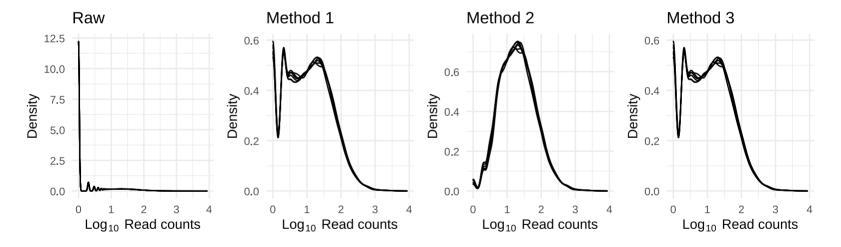
Preprocessing



Remove genes and samples with low counts

```
cf1 <- cr[rowSums(cr>0) >= 2, ]
cf2 <- cr[rowSums(cr>3) >= 2, ]
cf3 <- cr[rowSums(edgeR::cpm(cr)>1) >= 2, ]
```

Inspect distribution

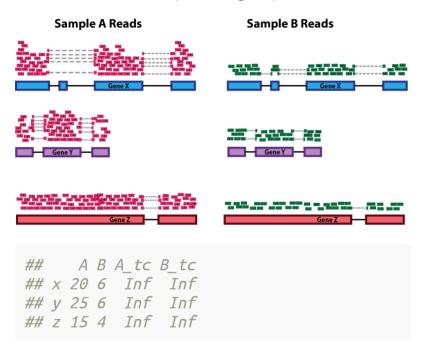


• Inspect the number of rows (genes)

Raw: 55367, Method 1: 17515, Method 2: 12473, Method 3: 17515



- Make counts comparable across samples
- Control for sequencing depth



 Control for compositional bias Sample A Reads Sample B Reads

```
## A B A_tc B_tc

## x 0 20 NaN Inf

## y 25 25 Inf Inf

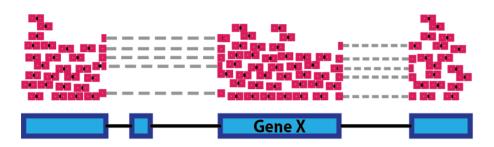
## z 15 4 Inf Inf

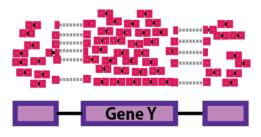
## de 100 2 Inf Inf
```



• Make counts comparable across features (genes)

Sample A Reads





```
## counts gene_length norm_counts
## x 50 10 5
## y 25 5
```

• Bring counts to a human-friendly scale



Normalisation by library size

- Assumes total expression is the same under different experimental conditions
- Methods include TC, RPKM, FPKM, TPM
- RPKM, FPKM and TPM control for sequencing depth and gene length
- TPM enables better comparison between samples and between experiments

Normalisation by distribution

- Assumes technical effects are same for DE and non-DE genes
- Assumes number of over and under-expressed genes are roughly same across conditions
- Corrects for compositional bias
- Methods include Q, UQ, M, RLE, TMM, MRN
- edgeR::calcNormFactors() implements TMM, TMMwzp, RLE & UQ
- DESeq2::estimateSizeFactors() implements median ratio method (RLE)
- Does not correct for gene length
- geTMM is gene length corrected TMM



Normalisation by testing

- A more robust version of normalisation by distribution.
- A set of non-DE genes are detected through hypothesis testing
- Tolerates a larger difference in number of over and under expressed genes between conditions
- Methods include PoissonSeq, DEGES

Normalisation using Controls

- Assumes controls are not affected by experimental condition and technical effects are similar to all other genes
- Useful in conditions with global shift in expression
- Controls could be house-keeping genes or spike-ins
- Methods include RUV, CLS

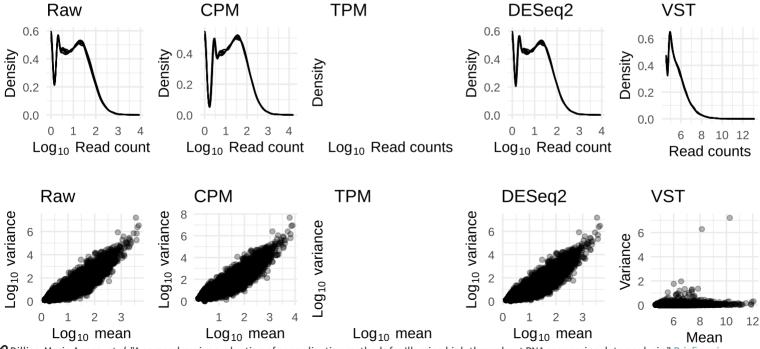
Stabilizing variance

- Variance is stabilised across the range of mean values
- Mwthods include VST, RLOG, VOOM
- For use in exploratory analyses. Not for DE.
- vst() and rlog() functions from DESeq2
- voom() function from *Limma* converts data to normal distribution



Recommendations

- Most tools use a mix of many different normalisations
- For DGE using DGE R packages (DESeq2, edgeR, Limma etc), use raw counts
- For visualisation (PCA, clustering, heatmaps etc), use VST or RLOG
- For own analysis with gene length correction, use TPM (maybe geTMM?)
- Custom solutions: spike-ins/house-keeping genes

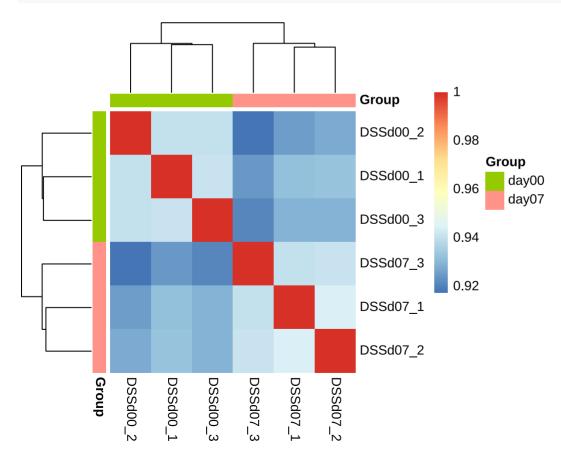


• Dillies, Marie-Agnes, et al. "A comprehensive evaluation of normalization methods for Illumina high-throughput RNA sequencing data analysis." Briefings in bioinformatics 14.6 (2013): 671-683





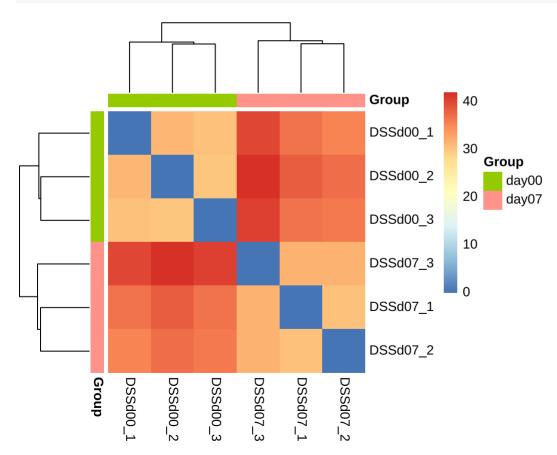
• Correlation between samples





Exploratory | Distance

• Similarity between samples



Exploratory | PCA



• Relationship between samples

