# recount brain example with data from SRP027383

true

#### Abstract

This is an example on how to use recount\_brain applied to the SRP027383 study. We show how to download data from recount2, add the sample metadata from recount\_brain, explore the sample metadata and the gene expression data, and perform a gene expression analysis.

# Introduction

This document is an example of how you can use recount\_brain. We will use the data from the SRA study SRP027383 which is described in "RNA-seq of 272 gliomas revealed a novel, recurrent PTPRZ1-MET fusion transcript in secondary glioblastomas" (Bao, Chen, Yang, Zhang, et al., 2014). As you can see in Figure @ref(fig:runselector) a lot of the metadata for these samples is missing from the SRA Run Selector which makes it a great case for using recount\_brain. We will show how to add the recount\_brain metadata and perform a gene differential expression analysis using this information.

# Sample metadata

Just like any study in recount2 (Collado-Torres, Nellore, Kammers, Ellis, et al., 2017), we first need to download the gene count data using recount::download\_study(). Since we will be using many functions from the recount package, lets load it first<sup>1</sup>.

```
## Load the package
library('recount')
```

### Download gene data

Having loaded the package, we next download the gene-level data.

```
if(!file.exists(file.path('SRP027383', 'rse_gene.Rdata'))) {
    download_study('SRP027383')
}
load(file.path('SRP027383', 'rse_gene.Rdata'), verbose = TRUE)
```

```
## Loading objects:
## rse_gene
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>If you are a first time recount user, we recommend first reading the package vignette at bioconductor.org/packages/recount.

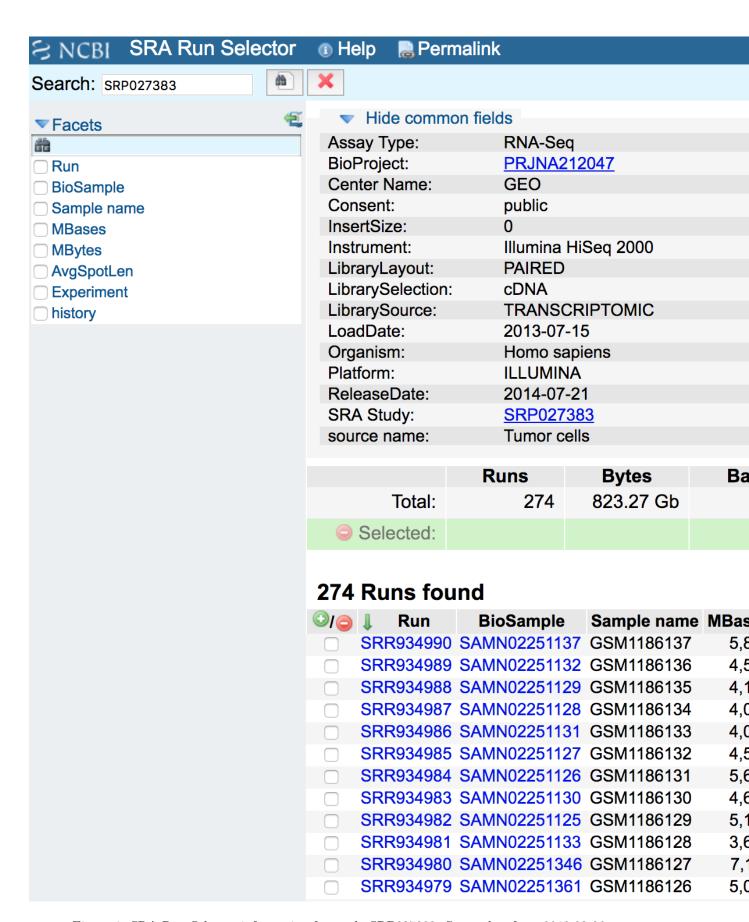


Figure 1: SRA Run Selector information for study SRP027383. Screenshot from 2018-02-26.

### Sample metadata included in recount

We can next explore the sample metadata that is included by default using SummarizedExperiment::colData(). These variables are explained in more detail in the supplementary material of the recount2 paper (Collado-Torres, Nellore, Kammers, Ellis, et al., 2017) and in the recount workflow paper (Collado-Torres, Nellore, and Jaffe, 2017).

#### colData(rse\_gene)

```
## DataFrame with 270 rows and 21 columns
##
                               sample
                                        experiment
                                                            run read_count_as_reported_by_sra reads_downlo
                  project
##
                                                                                     <integer>
              <character> <character> <character> <character>
                                                                                                        <inte
## SRR934717
               SRP027383
                            SRS457680
                                         SRX322602
                                                      SRR934717
                                                                                       56887576
                                                                                                        5688
## SRR934718
               SRP027383
                            SRS457681
                                         SRX322603
                                                      SRR934718
                                                                                      39683692
                                                                                                        3968
## SRR934719
                            SRS457682
                                         SRX322604
                                                                                                        3939
               SRP027383
                                                      SRR934719
                                                                                      39392540
## SRR934720
               SRP027383
                            SRS457683
                                         SRX322605
                                                                                                        6028
                                                      SRR934720
                                                                                      60287388
## SRR934721
                            SRS457684
                                         SRX322606
                                                                                      31089346
                                                                                                        3108
               SRP027383
                                                      SRR934721
##
## SRR934986
               SRP027383
                            SRS457949
                                         SRX322871
                                                      SRR934986
                                                                                      42563170
                                                                                                        4256
## SRR934987
                                                                                                        4248
               SRP027383
                            SRS457950
                                         SRX322872
                                                      SRR934987
                                                                                      42481802
## SRR934988
               SRP027383
                            SRS457951
                                         SRX322873
                                                      SRR934988
                                                                                      43121132
                                                                                                        4312
                                                                                                        4738
## SRR934989
               SRP027383
                            SRS457952
                                         SRX322874
                                                      SRR934989
                                                                                      47384314
##
  SRR934990
               SRP027383
                            SRS457953
                                         SRX322875
                                                      SRR934990
                                                                                      61093682
                                                                                                        6109
##
             proportion_of_reads_reported_by_sra_downloaded paired_end sra_misreported_paired_end mappe
##
                                                     <numeric>
                                                                <logical>
                                                                                             <logical>
## SRR934717
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
## SRR934718
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
## SRR934719
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
## SRR934720
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
## SRR934721
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
##
                                                                       . . .
                                                                                                   . . .
## SRR934986
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
## SRR934987
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
## SRR934988
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
                                                             1
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
## SRR934989
## SRR934990
                                                                     TRUE
                                                                                                 FALSE
##
                     auc sharq_beta_tissue sharq_beta_cell_type biosample_submission_date biosample_publ
               <numeric>
                               <character>
                                                      <character>
                                                                                 <character>
## SRR934717 5628071616
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:26:36.860
                                                              esc
## SRR934718 3950872208
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:28:33.710
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                                                              esc
## SRR934719 3958083805
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:26:47.540
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                                                              esc
## SRR934720 6047049537
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:26:44.253
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                                                              esc
## SRR934721 3072882301
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:28:18.330
                                                              esc
##
                                                              . . .
## SRR934986 4259218453
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:22:27.600
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                                                              esc
## SRR934987 4245759225
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:22:07.083
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                                                              esc
  SRR934988 4309934199
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:22:10.270
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                                                              esc
  SRR934989 4739386115
                            umbilical cord
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:22:37.680
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                                                              esc
   SRR934990 6110940825
                                                                    2013-07-15T11:23:19.253
                                                                                                 2014-07-20T
                            umbilical cord
                                                              esc
##
               biosample_update_date avg_read_length geo_accession
                                                                       bigwig_file
                                                                                           title
##
                          <character>
                                             <integer>
                                                          <character>
                                                                        <character> <character>
## SRR934717 2014-07-20T01:22:14.790
                                                   202
                                                           GSM1185864 SRR934717.bw
                                                                                       CGGA_171
## SRR934718 2014-07-20T01:22:14.977
                                                   200
                                                           GSM1185865 SRR934718.bw
                                                                                       CGGA 235
                                                   202
## SRR934719 2014-07-20T01:22:15.377
                                                           GSM1185866 SRR934719.bw
                                                                                       CGGA 236
```

```
## SRR934720 2014-07-20T01:22:15.650
                                                  202
                                                         GSM1185867 SRR934720.bw
                                                                                    CGGA 241
## SRR934721 2014-07-20T01:22:16.003
                                                  200
                                                         GSM1185868 SRR934721.bw
                                                                                    CGGA 243
                                                  . . .
## SRR934986 2014-07-20T01:15:29.503
                                                  202
                                                         GSM1186133 SRR934986.bw
                                                                                   CGGA_J030
## SRR934987 2014-07-20T01:18:22.877
                                                  202
                                                         GSM1186134 SRR934987.bw
                                                                                   CGGA J042
## SRR934988 2014-07-20T01:18:23.733
                                                  202
                                                                                   CGGA J100
                                                         GSM1186135 SRR934988.bw
                                                                                   CGGA_J130
## SRR934989 2014-07-20T01:18:24.270
                                                  202
                                                         GSM1186136 SRR934989.bw
                                                                                   CGGA J023
## SRR934990 2014-07-20T01:18:25.100
                                                  202
                                                         GSM1186137 SRR934990.bw
##
                                         characteristics
##
                                        <CharacterList>
## SRR934717
                       history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## SRR934718
                       history: oligodendroastrocytomas
                            history: oligodendrogliomas
## SRR934719
## SRR934720
                       history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## SRR934721
                       history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## ...
## SRR934986
                       history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## SRR934987 history: recurrent oligodendroastrocytomas
                       history: recurrent Glioblastomas
## SRR934988
## SRR934989
                        history: recurrent astrocytomas
## SRR934990
                 history: anaplastic oligodendrogliomas
```

Note how the characteristics column matches the information from the SRA Run Selector in Figure @ref(fig:runselector). Still not very useful.

```
colData(rse_gene)$characteristics
```

```
## CharacterList of length 270
## [[1]] history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## [[2]] history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## [[3]] history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## [[4]] history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## [[5]] history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## [[6]] history: recurrent astrocytomas
## [[7]] history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## [[8]] history: astrocytomas
## [[9]] history: oligodendroastrocytomas
## [[10]] history: astrocytomas
## ...
## <260 more elements>
```

#### Add recount\_brain sample metadata

So lets add the available sample metadata from recount\_brain using the recount::add\_metadata() function.

```
rse_gene <- add_metadata(rse = rse_gene, source = 'recount_brain_v1')
## 2020-11-13 16:27:22 downloading the recount_brain metadata to /tmp/RtmpK9pZcs/recount_brain_v1.Rdata
## Loading objects:
## recount_brain
## 2020-11-13 16:27:23 found 270 out of 270 samples in the recount_brain metadata</pre>
```

### Explore recount\_brain metadata

We can now explore the available metadata from recount\_brain for the SRP027383 study.

```
## Find which new columns have observations
new_non_NA <- sapply(22:ncol(colData(rse_gene)),
    function(i) any(!is.na(colData(rse_gene)[, i])) )
## Display the observations
colData(rse_gene)[, (22:ncol(colData(rse_gene)))[new_non_NA]]</pre>
```

```
## DataFrame with 270 rows and 33 columns
##
             assay_type_s avgspotlen_l bioproject_s biosample_s center_name_s
                                                                                    consent_s disease_stat
##
              <character>
                              <integer>
                                         <character>
                                                       <character>
                                                                      <character> <character>
                                                                                                  <characte
## SRR934717
                  RNA-Seq
                                    202 PRJNA212047 SAMN02251223
                                                                              GEO
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
## SRR934718
                  RNA-Seq
                                    200
                                         PRJNA212047 SAMN02251267
                                                                              GEO
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
                                    202 PRJNA212047 SAMN02251226
                                                                              GEO
## SRR934719
                  RNA-Seq
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
## SRR934720
                  RNA-Seq
                                    202
                                         PRJNA212047 SAMN02251225
                                                                              GEO
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
## SRR934721
                  RNA-Seq
                                    200
                                                                              GEO
                                         PRJNA212047 SAMN02251260
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
## ...
                       . . .
                                    . . .
                                                                              . . .
                                                                                          . . .
                                                  . . .
## SRR934986
                  RNA-Seq
                                    202
                                         PRJNA212047 SAMN02251131
                                                                              GEO
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
## SRR934987
                  RNA-Seq
                                    202
                                         PRJNA212047 SAMN02251128
                                                                              GEO
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
                                                                              GEO
## SRR934988
                  RNA-Seq
                                    202 PRJNA212047 SAMN02251129
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
## SRR934989
                  RNA-Seq
                                    202 PRJNA212047 SAMN02251132
                                                                              GEO
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
                                                                              GEO
## SRR934990
                  RNA-Seq
                                    202 PRJNA212047 SAMN02251137
                                                                                       public
                                                                                                      Disea
##
             insertsize_1
                                  instrument_s librarylayout_s libraryselection_s librarysource_s
                                                                                                     loadd
                                                    <character>
##
                <integer>
                                   <character>
                                                                       <character>
                                                                                        <character> <chara
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
## SRR934717
                                                         PAIRED
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
## SRR934718
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                         PAIRED
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
## SRR934719
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
                                                         PAIRED
## SRR934720
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                         PAIRED
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
## SRR934721
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
                                                         PAIRED
                                                            . . .
                                                                                . . .
## SRR934986
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
                                                         PAIRED
## SRR934987
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                         PAIRED
                                                                                                      2013-
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
## SRR934988
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                         PAIRED
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
## SRR934989
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                         PAIRED
                                                                               cDNA
                                                                                     TRANSCRIPTOMIC
                                                                                                      2013-
## SRR934990
                         0 Illumina HiSeq 2000
                                                         PAIRED
                                                                               cDNA TRANSCRIPTOMIC 2013-
##
              mbytes_1
                          organism_s platform_s releasedate_s sample_name_s sra_sample_s sra_study_s sa
                         <character> <character>
##
             <integer>
                                                    <character>
                                                                  <character>
                                                                                <character> <character>
## SRR934717
                  3584 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1185864
                                                                                  SRS457680
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934718
                  2853 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1185865
                                                                                  SRS457681
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934719
                  2650 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1185866
                                                                                  SRS457682
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934720
                  3829 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1185867
                                                                                  SRS457683
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934721
                  2267 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1185868
                                                                                  SRS457684
                                                                                              SRP027383
## ...
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934986
                  2832 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1186133
                                                                                  SRS457949
## SRR934987
                  2792 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1186134
                                                                                  SRS457950
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934988
                  2822 Homo sapiens
                                                     2014-07-21
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                                   GSM1186135
                                                                                  SRS457951
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934989
                  3220 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1186136
                                                                                  SRS457952
                                                                                              SRP027383
## SRR934990
                  3727 Homo sapiens
                                        ILLUMINA
                                                     2014-07-21
                                                                   GSM1186137
                                                                                  SRS457953
                                                                                              SRP027383
##
             development
                                                                 disease clinical_stage_1
                                  sex
                                        age_units
                                                         age
##
             <character> <character> <numeric> <character>
                                                                               <character>
                                                                                                   Oligoden
## SRR934717
                   Adult
                               female
                                            Years
                                                          37
                                                                   Tumor
                                                                                  Grade II
## SRR934718
                   Adult
                                            Years
                                                          25
                                                                                                   Oligoden
                                 male
                                                                   Tumor
                                                                                  Grade II
```

```
## SRR934719
                    Adult
                                  male
                                              Years
                                                            47
                                                                      Tumor
## SRR934720
                                                            34
                    Adult
                                  male
                                              Years
                                                                      Tumor
## SRR934721
                    Adult
                                female
                                              Years
                                                            31
                                                                      Tumor
##
                                    . . .
                                                                         . . .
## SRR934986
                    Adult
                                  male
                                              Years
                                                            38
                                                                      Tumor
## SRR934987
                    Adult
                                              Years
                                                            38
                                  male
                                                                      Tumor
## SRR934988
                    Adult
                                  male
                                              Years
                                                            55
                                                                      Tumor
## SRR934989
                    Adult
                                  male
                                              Years
                                                            40
                                                                      Tumor
##
  SRR934990
                    Adult
                                  male
                                              Years
                                                            36
                                                                      Tumor
##
                    pathology clinical_stage_2 present_in_recount
##
                  <character>
                                     <character>
                                                           <logical>
## SRR934717 + IDH1 Mutation
                                              NA
                                                                 TRUE
## SRR934718 - IDH1 Mutation
                                              NΑ
                                                                 TRUE
## SRR934719 + IDH1 Mutation
                                              NA
                                                                 TRUE
## SRR934720 + IDH1 Mutation
                                                                 TRUE
                                              NA
## SRR934721
                                                                 TRUE
                                              NA
##
                                                                  . . .
## SRR934986 - IDH1 Mutation
                                              NA
                                                                 TRUE
## SRR934987 + IDH1 Mutation
                                                                 TRUE
                                      Recurrent
## SRR934988 + IDH1 Mutation
                                      Recurrent
                                                                 TRUE
## SRR934989 - IDH1 Mutation
                                      Recurrent
                                                                 TRUE
## SRR934990 + IDH1 Mutation
                                                                 TRUE
```

Several of these variables are technical and may be duplicated with data already present, such as the SRA Experiment ids. We can still use them to verify that entries are correctly matched. Other variables might not be of huge relevance for this study such as disease\_status since all samples in this study are from diseased tissue. However, they might be useful when working with other studies or doing meta-analyses.

Grade II

Grade II

Grade II

Grade II

Grade II

Grade IV

Grade II

Grade III Anaplastic Olig

01i

Oligoden

Oligoden

Oligoden

Oligoden

```
## Check experiment ids
identical(rse_gene$experiment, rse_gene$experiment_s)

## [1] TRUE

## No healthy controls in this study
table(rse_gene$disease_status)

##
## Disease
## 270

## All ages reported in the same unit
table(rse_gene$age_units)

##
## Years
## 270
```

In this study there are several variables of biological interest that we can use for different analyses. We have information about sex, age, tumor\_type, pathology, clinical\_stage\_1 and clinical\_stage\_2. These variables are described in more detail in the original study (Bao, Chen, Yang, Zhang, et al., 2014). Below we explore each variable at a time, to get an idea on how diverse the data is.

```
## Univariate exploration of the biological variables for SRP027383
table(rse_gene$sex)
##
## female
            male
##
      102
             166
summary(rse_gene$age)
##
                                                        NA's
      Min. 1st Qu.
                    Median
                              Mean 3rd Qu.
                                               Max.
##
     18.00
             36.00
                     42.00
                              43.12
                                      51.00
                                              81.00
                                                           2
table(rse_gene$clinical_stage_1)
##
##
    Grade II Grade IV
##
          98
                    72
                               98
table(rse_gene$tumor_type)
##
##
              Anaplastic Astrocytomas Anaplastic Oligodendroastrocytomas
                                                                                 Anaplastic Oligodendrogli
##
                                    24
##
                           Astrocytoma
                                                              Glioblastoma
                                                                                        Oligodendroastrocy
##
                                                                         99
##
                    Oligodendroglioma
##
table(rse_gene$pathology, useNA = 'ifany')
##
## - IDH1 Mutation + IDH1 Mutation
                                               <NA>
##
               121
                                137
                                                  12
table(rse_gene$clinical_stage_2, useNA = 'ifany')
##
##
                                       <NA>
     Primary Recurrent Secondary
          59
                                        132
##
                    59
```

We can ask some questions such as is there a difference in the mean age by sex or if the tumor grade (clinical\_stage\_1), the tumor type or the pathology is associated with sex. The answer is no for these questions so we can infer that the study design is well balanced so far.

```
## Age mean difference by sex? No
with(colData(rse_gene), t.test(age ~ sex))
```

```
##
## Welch Two Sample t-test
##
## data: age by sex
## t = 0.52713, df = 201.03, p-value = 0.5987
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -2.101339 3.634767
## sample estimates:
## mean in group female
                          mean in group male
               43.59804
                                    42.83133
## Tumor grade and sex association? No
with(colData(rse_gene), addmargins(table(sex, clinical_stage_1)))
           clinical_stage_1
##
## sex
            Grade II Grade III Grade IV Sum
##
     female
                  41
                            27
                                     34 102
                  57
                            45
                                     64 166
##
     male
##
     Sum
                  98
                            72
                                     98 268
with(colData(rse_gene), chisq.test(table(sex, clinical_stage_1)))
##
##
   Pearson's Chi-squared test
## data: table(sex, clinical_stage_1)
## X-squared = 1.0736, df = 2, p-value = 0.5846
## Tumor type and sex association? No
with(colData(rse_gene), addmargins(table(sex, tumor_type)))
##
           tumor_type
## sex
            Anaplastic Astrocytomas Anaplastic Oligodendroastrocytomas Anaplastic Oligodendrogliomas As
##
     female
                                  7
                                                                     18
##
     male
                                 17
                                                                     17
##
    Sum
                                 24
                                                                     35
           tumor_type
##
            Glioblastoma Oligodendroastrocytoma Oligodendroglioma Sum
## sex
##
    female
                      34
                                              16
                                                                 7 102
##
                      64
                                              20
                                                                14 166
    male
##
     Sum
                      98
                                              36
                                                                21 268
with(colData(rse_gene), chisq.test(table(sex, tumor_type)))
## Warning in chisq.test(table(sex, tumor_type)): Chi-squared approximation may be incorrect
##
## Pearson's Chi-squared test
##
## data: table(sex, tumor type)
## X-squared = 8.1801, df = 6, p-value = 0.2252
```

2

11

13

```
## Sex and pathology association? No
with(colData(rse_gene), addmargins(table(sex, pathology)))
##
           pathology
            - IDH1 Mutation + IDH1 Mutation Sum
##
  sex
##
                         39
                                          59 98
     female
##
     male
                         82
                                          78 160
                         121
                                         137 258
##
     Sum
with(colData(rse_gene), chisq.test(table(sex, pathology)))
##
   Pearson's Chi-squared test with Yates' continuity correction
##
##
## data: table(sex, pathology)
## X-squared = 2.7583, df = 1, p-value = 0.09675
```

# Gene differential expression analysis

#### Gene DE setup

Now that we have sample metadata to work with we can proceed to perform a differential expression analysis at the gene level. To get started we need to load some packages.

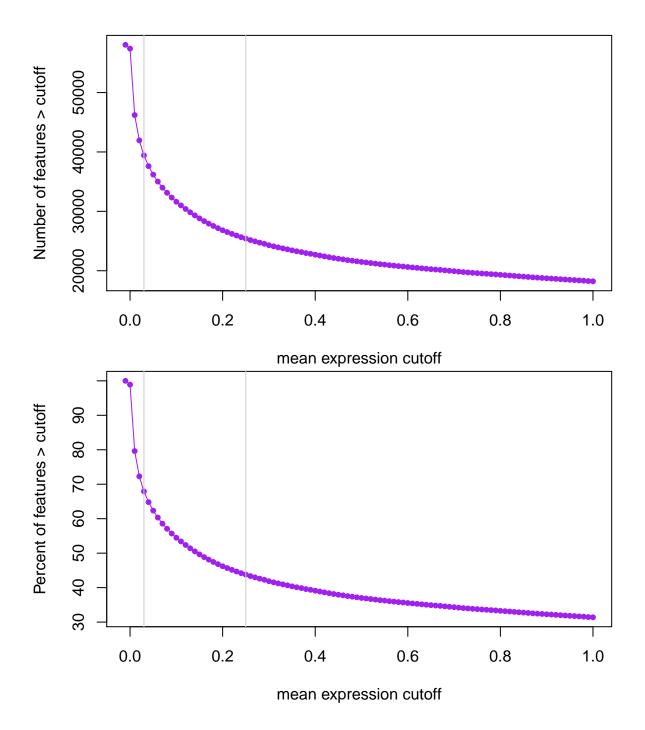
```
## Load required packages for DE analysis
library('limma')
library('edgeR')
library('jaffelab')
## You can install it with
# devtools::install_github('LieberInstitute/jaffelab')
```

From our earlier exploration, we noticed that not all samples have pathology information, so we will drop those that are missing this information.

```
## Keep only the samples that have pathology reported
has_patho <- rse_gene[, !is.na(rse_gene$pathology)]</pre>
```

Next we will compute RPKM values and use expression\_cutoff() from jaffelab to get a suggested RPKM cutoff for dropping genes with low expression levels. Note that you can also use genefilter or other packages for computing a low expression cutoff. Figure @ref(fig:exprcut)A shows the relationship between the mean RPKM cutoff and the number of features above the given cutoff. Figure @ref(fig:exprcut)B is the same information but in percent. Figure @ref(fig:exprcut)C is a tad more complicated as it explore the relationship between the cutoff and the distribution of the number of non-zero samples. All three figures show estimated points where the curves bend and simply provide a guide for choosing a cutoff.

```
## Compute RPKM and mean RPKM
rpkm <- getRPKM(scale_counts(has_patho))
rpkm_mean <- rowMeans(rpkm)
## Esmate a mean RPKM cutoff
expr_cuts <- expression_cutoff(rpkm)</pre>
```



## 2020-11-13 16:27:56 the suggested expression cutoff is 0.23

```
round(mean(expr_cuts), 2)

## [1] 0.23

## Filter genes with low levels of expression
has_patho <- has_patho[rpkm_mean > round(mean(expr_cuts), 2), ]
```

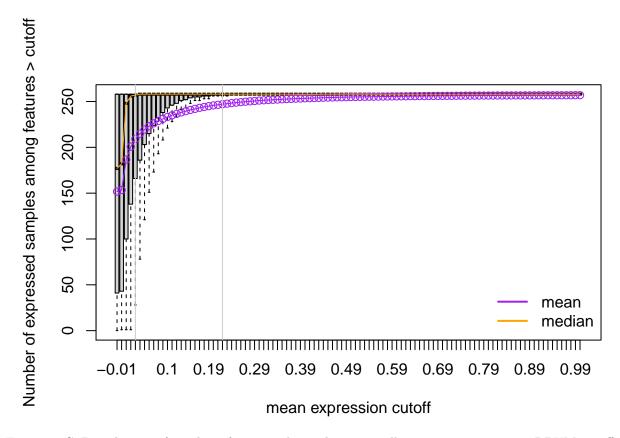


Figure 2: C. Distribution of number of expressed samples across all genes at a given mean RPKM cutoff

Having filtered the genes with low levels of expression, we can now normalize the read counts and identify genes that either have a linear trend or quadratic trend in expression levels between tumor grades II, III and IV while adjusting for age, sex and pathology. Note that this is just an example and you are welcome to try other models. We will use functions from edgeR and limma.

```
## Get read counts and normalize
dge <- DGEList(counts = assays(scale_counts(has_patho))$counts,</pre>
    genes = rowRanges(has patho))
dge <- calcNormFactors(dge)</pre>
## Build the DE model
## See https://support.bioconductor.org/p/54707/ for details
mod <- with(colData(has_patho),</pre>
    model.matrix(~ ordered(clinical_stage_1) + sex + age + pathology))
## Terms of the DE model
colnames(mod)
## [1] "(Intercept)"
                                       "ordered(clinical_stage_1).L" "ordered(clinical_stage_1).Q"
## [4] "sexmale"
                                       "age"
                                                                      "pathology+ IDH1 Mutation"
## Check that the dimensions match
stopifnot(ncol(dge) == nrow(mod))
## Run voom then run limma model
```

```
gene_voom <- voom(dge, mod)
gene_fit <- eBayes(lmFit(gene_voom, mod))</pre>
```

Now that we have fitted our differential expression model we can find which genes have a linear or a quadratic change in expression along tumor grade progression. At a false discovery rate (FDR) of 1% none of the genes have a quadratic effect.

```
## Extract the stats for both coefficients
stats_linear <- topTable(gene_fit, coef = 2, p.value = 1,
    number = nrow(has_patho), sort.by = 'none')
stats_quad <- topTable(gene_fit, coef = 3, p.value = 1,
    number = nrow(has_patho), sort.by = 'none')

## How many genes are DE for the linear and the quadratic terms at FDR 1%?
addmargins(table('FDR 1% DE linear' = stats_linear$adj.P.Val < 0.01,
    'FDR 1% DE quadractic' = stats_quad$adj.P.Val < 0.01))</pre>
```

```
## FDR 1% DE linear FALSE Sum

## FDR 1% DE linear FALSE Sum

## FALSE 13343 13343

## TRUE 12585 12585

## Sum 25928 25928
```

##

## ##

The fold changes are not necessarily going in the same directions for the differentially expressed genes in the linear term. From the Chi-squared test we can see that the signs are not independent. We could use this information to further explore the gene subsets.

```
## Are the fold changes on the same direction?
addmargins(table(
    'logFC sign linear' = sign(stats_linear$logFC[
        stats_linear$adj.P.Val < 0.01]),
    'logFC sign quadratic' = sign(stats_quad$logFC[
        stats_linear$adj.P.Val < 0.01]))</pre>
##
                    logFC sign quadratic
## logFC sign linear
                        -1
                                1
                 -1
                      2766 3816 6582
##
##
                      3766 2237 6003
##
                 Sum 6532 6053 12585
chisq.test(table(
    'logFC sign linear' = sign(stats_linear$logFC[
        stats_linear$adj.P.Val < 0.01]),
    'logFC sign quadratic' = sign(stats_quad$logFC[
        stats_linear$adj.P.Val < 0.01]))</pre>
)
```

## data: table('logFC sign linear' = sign(stats\_linear\$logFC[stats\_linear\$adj.P.Val <</pre>

0.01]), 'log

Pearson's Chi-squared test with Yates' continuity correction

## X-squared = 538.67, df = 1, p-value < 2.2e-16

## Visualize DE genes

There are thousands of genes that have are differentially expressed in a linear progression of tumor grades. As always, it's always good to visually check some of these genes. For example, we could plot the top 100 DE genes, the 1000 to 1100 top DE genes, etc. The expression can be visualized at different points. We could visualize the raw expression counts (Figure @ref(fig:topgene1)), the voom-normalized expression (Figure @ref(fig:topgene2)) (Law, Chen, Shi, and Smyth, 2014), or the *cleaned* voom-normalized expression (Figure @ref(fig:topgene3)). The last one is the normalized expression where we regress out the effects of the adjustment covariates. This can be done using the cleaning () function from *jaffelab*.

In the following code, we first computed the *cleaned* normalized expression protecting the intercept term as well as the linear and quadratic trend terms. We also write a function that we can use to select which genes to plot as well as actually make the visualization with some nice features (colors, jitter points, linear trend line).

```
## Regress out sex, age and pathology from the gene expression
cleaned_expr <- cleaningY(gene_voom$E, mod, P = 3)</pre>
## gene plotting function
plot_gene <- function(ii, type = 'cleaned', sign = 'any') {</pre>
    ## Keep the jitter reproducible
    set.seed(20180203)
    ## Order by FDR and subset by logFC sign if necessary
    if(sign == 'any') {
        fdr_sorted <- with(stats_linear, gene_id[order(adj.P.Val)])</pre>
    } else {
        fdr_sorted <- with(stats_linear[sign(stats_linear$logFC) == sign, ],</pre>
            gene_id[order(adj.P.Val)])
    }
    ## Get the actual gene it matches originally
    i <- match(fdr_sorted[ii], names(rowRanges(has_patho)))</pre>
    ## Define what type of expression we are looking at
    if(type == 'cleaned') {
        y <- cleaned_expr[i, ]
        ylab <- 'Normalized Expr: age, sex, pathology removed'
    } else if (type == 'norm') {
        y <- gene_voom$E[i, ]
        ylab <- 'Normalized Expr'</pre>
    } else if (type == 'raw') {
        y <- dge$counts[i, ]
        ylab <- 'Raw Expr'
    ylim \leftarrow abs(range(y)) * c(0.95, 1.05) * sign(range(y))
    ## Plot components
    x <- ordered(has_patho$clinical_stage_1)</pre>
    title <- with(stats_linear, paste(gene_id[i], symbol[i], 'FDR',</pre>
        signif(adj.P.Val[i], 3)))
    ## Make the plot ^^
    plot(y ~ x, xlab = 'Tumor grade', ylab = ylab, outline = FALSE,
        ylim = ylim, main = title)
```

```
points(y ~ jitter(as.integer(x), 0.6),
        bg = c("#E69F00", "#009E73", "#D55E00")[as.integer(x)], pch = 21)
abline(lm(y ~ as.integer(x)), lwd = 3, col = "#CC79A7")
}
```

Having built our plotting function, we can now visualize the top gene as shown in Figures @ref(fig:topgene1), @ref(fig:topgene2) and @ref(fig:topgene3). In this case, there's not a large difference between the cleaned expression in Figure @ref(fig:topgene3) and the normalized expression in Figure @ref(fig:topgene2). From GeneCards we can see that the SMC4 gene plays a role in the structural maintenance of chromosomes, which make sense in our context. Figure @ref(fig:topgene4) shows the top DE gene with a decreasing expression trend across tumor grade progression. CCNI2 is a paralog of CCNI which has been implicated in mitosis.

```
## Visualize the top gene
plot_gene(1, 'raw')
```

## ENSG00000113810.15 SMC4 FDR 1.37e-29

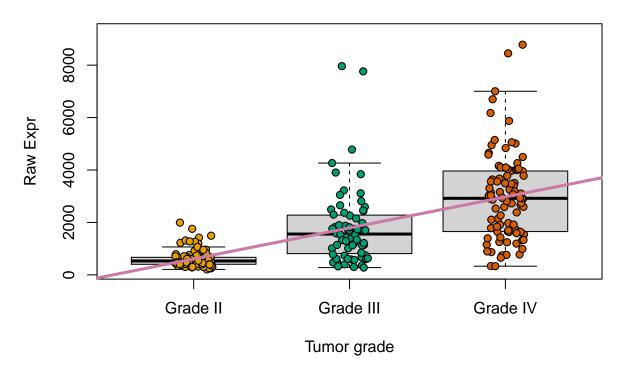


Figure 3: Raw expression for the top DE gene.

```
plot_gene(1, 'norm')

plot_gene(1)

## Visualize top gene with a downward trend
plot_gene(1, sign = '-1')
```

We are not experts in gliomas, but maybe your colleagues are and might recognize important genes. You can use the following code to make plots of some of the top DE genes in both directions and share the images with them to get feedback. Check the top50\_increasing and top50\_decreasing genes in the linked PDF files.

# ENSG00000113810.15 SMC4 FDR 1.37e-29

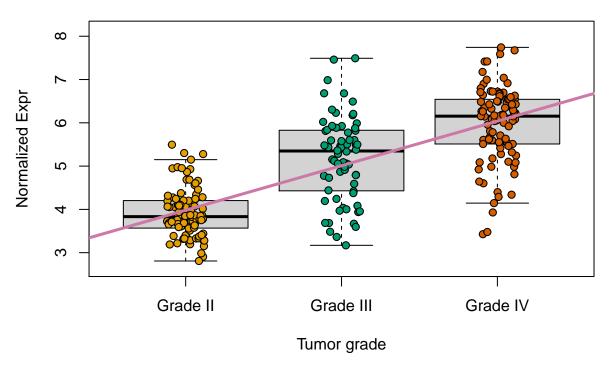


Figure 4: Voom-normalized expression for the top DE gene.

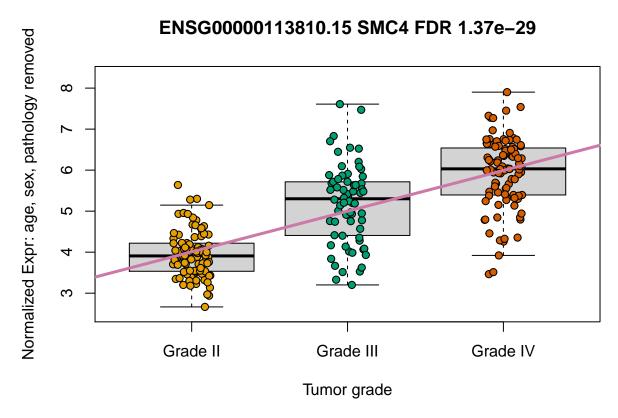


Figure 5: Cleaned voom-normalized expression for the top DE gene.

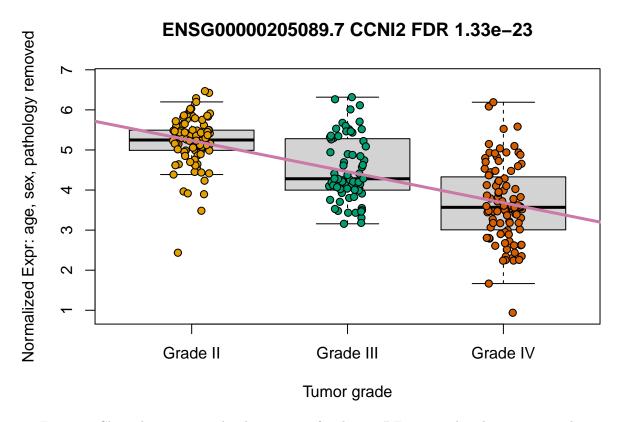


Figure 6: Cleaned voom-normalized expression for the top DE gene with a decreasing trend.

```
## Plot the top 50 increasing and decreasing genes
pdf('top50_increasing.pdf')
for(i in seq_len(50)) plot_gene(i, sign = '1')
dev.off()

## pdf
## 2

pdf('top50_decreasing.pdf')
for(i in seq_len(50)) plot_gene(i, sign = '-1')
dev.off()

## pdf
## pdf
## pdf
## pdf
```

## Gene ontology

Rather than look at the GeneCards for each gene, we can explore which gene ontologies are enriched in the DE genes that have a decreasing and an increasing trend with tumor grade progression. We can use clusterProfiler for this exploratory task<sup>2</sup>.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$ If you haven't done gene ontology enrichment analyses before check the vignette at bioconductor.org/packages/clusterProfiler.

```
library('clusterProfiler')
```

## ENSG0000000460.16

## ENSG00000000938.12 2.899481

We need to extract the gene ids for our sets of genes of interest. Lets explore again the contents of the stats\_linear object we created earlier. In the gene\_id column we have the Gencode ids, which can be converted to ENSEMBL gene ids that clusterProfiler can then use.

```
head(stats_linear)
```

```
##
                                                   width strand
                                                                            gene_id bp_length
                                                                                                symbol
                      seqnames
                                   start
                                               end
## ENSG0000000003.14
                                                               - ENSG0000000003.14
                                                                                                TSPAN6
                          chrX 100627109 100639991
                                                    12883
                                                                                         4535
## ENSG0000000005.5
                          chrX 100584802 100599885
                                                   15084
                                                               + ENSG0000000005.5
                                                                                                  TNMD
                                                                                         1610
## ENSG0000000419.12
                         chr20 50934867 50958555
                                                    23689
                                                               - ENSG00000000419.12
                                                                                         1207
                                                                                                  DPM1
## ENSG0000000457.13
                          chr1 169849631 169894267
                                                   44637
                                                               - ENSG0000000457.13
                                                                                         6883
                                                                                                 SCYL3
## ENSG0000000460.16
                          chr1 169662007 169854080 192074
                                                               + ENSG0000000460.16
                                                                                         5967 Clorf112
## ENSG0000000938.12
                               27612064
                                         27635277 23214
                                                               - ENSG00000000938.12
                                                                                         3474
                                                                                                   FGR
##
                                                P.Value
                        AveExpr
                                                           adj.P.Val
## ENSG0000000003.14 5.402743 2.7864882 5.727935e-03 1.160718e-02 -3.425260
## ENSG0000000005.5 -2.971194 -0.2400606 8.104758e-01 8.521844e-01 -6.221646
## ENSG00000000419.12 4.238778
                                7.5639336 7.057517e-13 1.211836e-11 18.600807
## ENSG00000000457.13 4.018564
                                2.7256833 6.860606e-03 1.364229e-02 -3.455390
```

3.428518 7.1034714 1.206828e-11 1.542170e-10 15.899023

2.4728140 1.405680e-02 2.601646e-02 -3.925556

With the following code we extract all the DE genes at a FDR of 1% that have an increasing or a decreasing trend. The code comments include a way you could further subset these genes to look at say the top 200 DE genes in each direction. We will use as our *universe* of genes all the genes that passed our low expression filter.

```
## Get ENSEMBL gene ids for all the DE genes with a decreasing and an
## increasing trend with tumor grade progression
de_genes <- lapply(c('-1', '1'), function(s) {
    ens <- with(stats_linear, gene_id[sign(logFC) == s & adj.P.Val < 0.01])
    ## Code if you wanted the top 200 instead
    #ens <- with(stats_linear[sign(stats_linear$logFC) == s, ],
    # head(gene_id[order(adj.P.Val)], 200))
    ens <- gsub('\\..*', '', ens)
    return(ens)
})
names(de_genes) <- c('decreasing', 'increasing')
uni <- with(stats_linear, gsub('\\..*', '', gene_id))</pre>
```

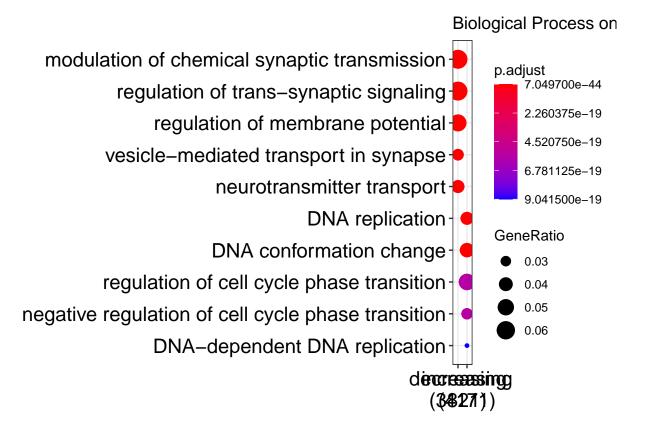
Now that we have our list object with the set of genes with a decreasing or an increasing trend as well as our set of universe genes, we can compare the sets using compareCluster(). We will check the biological process, molecular function and cellular component ontologies.

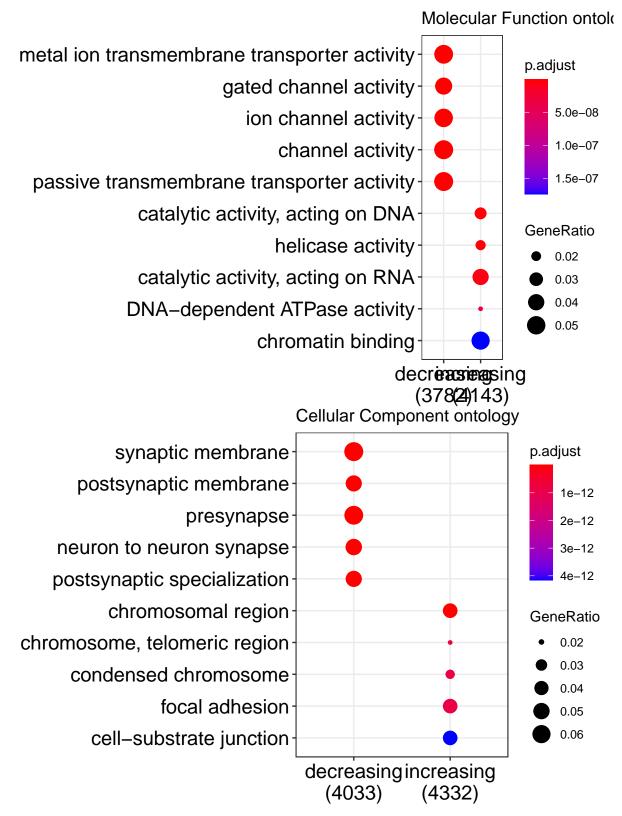
```
## Which GO terms are enriched?
go_comp <- lapply(c('BP', 'MF', 'CC'), function(bp) {
    message(paste(Sys.time(), 'processing', bp))
    compareCluster(de_genes, fun = "enrichGO",
        universe = uni, OrgDb = 'org.Hs.eg.db',
        ont = bp, pAdjustMethod = "BH",
        pvalueCutoff = 0.05, qvalueCutoff = 0.05,</pre>
```

Now that we have the data for each of the ontologies we can visualize the results using clusterProfiler::dotplot(). Figure @ref(fig:goplot)A shows the enriched biological process terms where we see terms enriched for DNA replication and chromosome segregation in the genes with an increasing expression relationship with grade tumor progression. Intuitively this makes sense since gliomas are a type of cancer. The enriched molecular function ontology terms show in Figure @ref(fig:goplot)B reflect the same picture with transmembrane transporters enriched in the genes with a decreasing expression association with grade tumor progression. Figure @ref(fig:goplot)C shows the enriched cellular components with chromosome-releated terms related with the genes that have a higher expression as tumor progression advances. This is related to the findings in the original study where they focused in gene fusions (Bao, Chen, Yang, Zhang, et al., 2014).

```
## Visualize enriched GO terms

xx <- lapply(names(go_comp), function(bp) {
    print(dotplot(go_comp[[bp]], title = paste(bp, 'ontology'), font.size = 15))
    return(NULL)
})</pre>
```





We can finally save our exploratory results in case we want to carry out more analyses with them later on.

```
## Save results
save(stats_linear, stats_quad, go_comp, file = 'example_results.Rdata')
```

## Conclusions

In this document we showed how you can download expression data from recount2 using the recount package and add the sample metadata from recount\_brain. We then illustrated how both the sample metadata and expression data can be used to explore a biological question of interest. We identified 6582 and 6003 differentially expressed genes at a FDR of 1% with decreasing and increasing linear trends in expression as tumor grade progresses while adjusting for age (in years), sex, and pathology (IDH1 mutation presence/absence).

# Reproducibility

##

bibtex

```
## Reproducibility information
Sys.time()
## [1] "2020-11-13 16:28:32 EST"
proc.time()
##
            system elapsed
      user
## 211.309
            20.479 295.832
options(width = 120)
devtools::session_info()
  - Session info
##
    setting value
##
   version R version 4.0.2 Patched (2020-06-24 r78746)
             CentOS Linux 7 (Core)
   os
##
             x86_64, linux-gnu
   system
##
             X11
   language (EN)
##
   collate en_US.UTF-8
             en US.UTF-8
##
   ctype
             US/Eastern
##
   tz
##
             2020-11-13
   date
##
## - Packages
##
   package
                         * version
                                    date
                                                lib source
## AnnotationDbi
                           1.50.3
                                     2020-07-25 [2] Bioconductor
## askpass
                                     2019-01-13 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
                           1.1
                           0.2.1
##
   assertthat
                                     2019-03-21 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
                           1.2.0
                                     2020-11-02 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
   backports
  base64enc
                           0.1 - 3
                                     2015-07-28 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
```

2020-09-19 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)

0.4.2.3

```
##
    Biobase
                          * 2.48.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
    BiocFileCache
                            1.12.1
                                      2020-08-04 [2] Bioconductor
##
    BiocGenerics
                          * 0.34.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
                                     2019-11-16 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    BiocManager
                            1.30.10
##
    BiocParallel
                            1.22.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
##
    BiocStyle
                          * 2.16.1
                                      2020-09-25 [1] Bioconductor
##
    biomaRt
                            2.44.4
                                      2020-10-13 [2] Bioconductor
                            2.56.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
##
    Biostrings
##
    bit
                            4.0.4
                                      2020-08-04 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    bit64
                            4.0.5
                                      2020-08-30 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
    bitops
                            1.0-6
                                      2013-08-17 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
                            1.2.1
                                      2020-01-20 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    blob
                                      2020-10-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    bookdown
                            0.21
##
                                      2020-10-20 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
    broom
                            0.7.2
##
    BSgenome
                            1.56.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
##
    bumphunter
                            1.30.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
##
    callr
                            3.5.1
                                      2020-10-13 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    cellranger
                            1.1.0
                                      2016-07-27 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    checkmate
                            2.0.0
                                      2020-02-06 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
                                      2020-10-12 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    cli
                            2.1.0
                                      2019-06-19 [3] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    cluster
                            2.1.0
##
    clusterProfiler
                          * 3.16.1
                                      2020-08-18 [1] Bioconductor
                                     2018-12-24 [3] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    codetools
                            0.2-16
##
                            1.4 - 1
                                      2019-03-18 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
    colorspace
##
                            1.1.0
                                      2020-09-08 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
    cowplot
    crayon
                            1.3.4
                                      2017-09-16 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
                                      2019-12-02 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    curl
                            4.3
                            1.13.2
                                      2020-10-19 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    data.table
##
                            1.1.0
                                      2019-12-15 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
    DBI
                                      2020-11-03 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    dbplyr
                            2.0.0
##
    DelayedArray
                          * 0.14.1
                                      2020-07-14 [2] Bioconductor
##
    derfinder
                            1.22.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
##
    derfinderHelper
                            1.22.0
                                      2020-04-27 [2] Bioconductor
##
                            1.2.0
                                      2018-05-01 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
    desc
                                      2020-09-18 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    devtools
                          * 2.3.2
##
    digest
                            0.6.27
                                      2020-10-24 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    DO.db
                            2.9
                                      2020-08-06 [1] Bioconductor
##
    doRNG
                            1.8.2
                                      2020-01-27 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    DOSE
                            3.14.0
                                      2020-04-27 [1] Bioconductor
                            0.4
                                      2015-07-09 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    downloader
                          * 1.0.2
                                      2020-08-18 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
    dplyr
##
    edgeR
                          * 3.30.3
                                      2020-06-02 [2] Bioconductor
                            0.3.1
                                      2020-05-15 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    ellipsis
##
    enrichplot
                            1.8.1
                                      2020-04-29 [1] Bioconductor
                            0.4
                                      2020-05-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
    europepmc
##
                            0.14
                                      2019-05-28 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
    evaluate
                                      2020-01-08 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    fansi
                            0.4.1
##
                            2.0.3
                                      2020-01-16 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
    farver
##
    fastmatch
                            1.1-0
                                      2017-01-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
                                      2020-04-27 [1] Bioconductor
##
    fgsea
                            1.14.0
##
    forcats
                          * 0.5.0
                                      2020-03-01 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.0)
##
    foreach
                                     2020-10-15 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
                            1.5.1
##
    foreign
                            0.8-80
                                     2020-05-24 [3] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
## Formula
                            1.2 - 4
                                      2020-10-16 [2] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
```

```
2020-07-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
##
    fs
                            1.5.0
##
                            0.1.0
                                      2020-10-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
    generics
##
    GenomeInfoDb
                          * 1.24.2
                                      2020-06-15 [2] Bioconductor
                                      2020-05-18 [2] Bioconductor
##
    {\tt GenomeInfoDbData}
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## [3] /jhpce/shared/jhpce/core/conda/miniconda3-4.6.14/envs/svnR-4.0/R/4.0/lib64/R/library
```

## References

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- R (R Core Team, 2020)
- BiocStyle (Oleś, Morgan, and Huber, 2020)
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- devtools (Wickham, Hester, and Chang, 2020)
- edgeR (Robinson, McCarthy, and Smyth, 2010; McCarthy, Chen, and Smyth, 2012)
- jaffelab (Collado-Torres, Jaffe, and Burke, 2019)
- knitcitations (Boettiger, 2019)
- knitr (Xie, 2014)
- limma (Ritchie, Phipson, Wu, Hu, et al., 2015; Law, Chen, Shi, and Smyth, 2014)
- recount (Collado-Torres, Nellore, Kammers, Ellis, et al., 2017; Collado-Torres, Nellore, and Jaffe, 2017)
- rmarkdown (Allaire, Xie, McPherson, Luraschi, et al., 2020)

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