

Raw data



Raw count table

Metadata

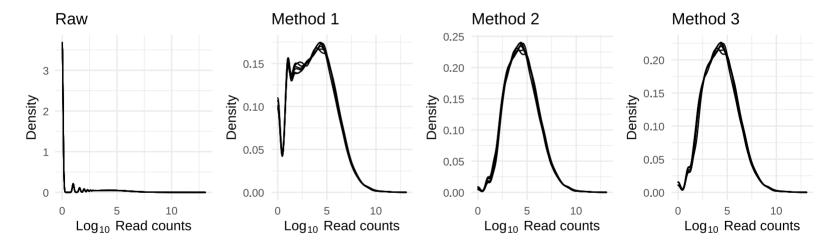
Filtering



Remove genes and samples with low counts

```
cf1 <- cr[rowSums(cr>0) >= 3, ] # Keep rows/genes that have at least one read
cf2 <- cr[rowSums(cr>3) >= 3, ] # Keep rows/genes that have at least three reads
cf3 <- cr[rowSums(edgeR::cpm(cr)>5) >= 3, ] # need at least three samples to have cpm >
```

Inspect distribution

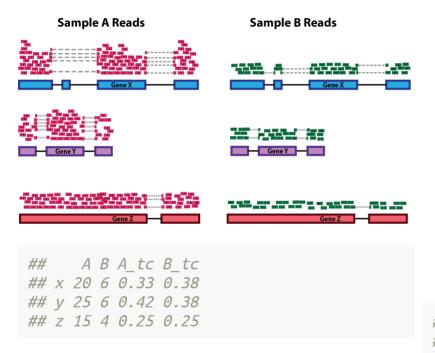


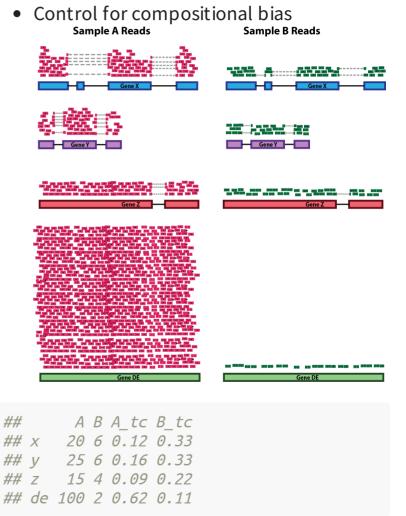
Inspect the number of rows (genes) available after filtering

Raw: 55487, Method 1: 16099, Method 2: 11783, Method 3: 12496



- Removing technical biases in sequencing data (e.g. sequencing depth and gene length)
- Make counts comparable across samples

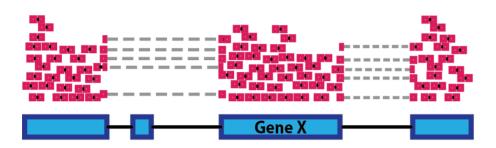






• Make counts comparable across features (genes)

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
- Total number of RPKM/FPKM normalized counts for each sample will be different, therefore, you cannot compare the normalized counts for each gene equally between samples.
- TPM is proportional to RPKM and enables better comparison between samples because total per sample sums to equal value

```
Arpm Brpm Arpkm Brpkm Arpk Brpk Atpm
            len
                                                                    B tpm
      20 6 2000
                 408163 222222 204.08 111.11 0.01000 0.0030
                                                          493827
                                                                  153846
                 510204 222222 127.55 55.56 0.00625 0.0015
          6 4000
                                                           308642
                                                                    76923
       4 15 1000
                  81633
                         555556 81.63 555.56 0.00400 0.0150
                                                           197531
                                                                   769231
## sum 49 27 7000 1000000 1000000 413.26 722.23 0.02025 0.0195 1000000 1000000
```

rpm = cpm.



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, TMMwsp, RLE & UQ
- DESeq2::estimateSizeFactors() implements relative log expression (RLE)
- Does not correct for gene length
- geTMM is gene length corrected TMM

```
## A B len ref A_ratio B_ratio A_mrn B_mrn

## x 20 6 2000 10.95 1.83 0.55 10.928962 10.90909

## y 25 6 4000 12.25 2.04 0.49 13.661202 10.90909

## z 4 15 1000 7.75 0.52 1.94 2.185792 27.27273
```



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
- Methods 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

