

Week 5 – Building count matrix and metadata files

A count matrix file is a .csv file that talks about how many sequencing reads (or counts) map to each gene (or transcript) across different samples.

To build a counts.csv file, first the GTF file of the human reference transcriptome is downloaded. A GTF (Gene Transfer Format) file is a tab-delimited text file used to store information about gene structure and annotations, primarily focusing on gene-centric features. This will help us extract the number of transcripts of different genes across samples.

This was downloaded and loaded onto the galaxy server. Following this, the 'featureCounts' tool was used to assemble the feature counts matrix. Since it was done individually for each sample, the Column join option was used to join all the columns and the file was converted into a .csv file (GP.csv) for further analysis in R.



The screenshot displays the Galaxy web interface. The main panel shows the 'featureCounts' tool configuration. The 'Alignment file' is set to '269: HISAT2 on unstranded: aligned reads (BAM)'. The 'Specify strand information' is set to 'Unstranded'. The 'Gene annotation file' is set to '304: Homo_sapiens.GRCh38.113.gtf.gz (as gtf)'. The 'GFF feature type filter' is optional. The 'Run Tool' button is visible. The right panel shows the 'History' section with a search bar and a list of datasets. The datasets listed include '335: Column join of featurecounts: csv', '333: Column join of featurecounts', '306: featureCounts on HISAT2: Summary', '305: featureCounts on HISAT2: Counts', '304: Homo_sapiens.GRCh38.1 13.gtf.gz', '276: HISAT2 on unstranded: Mapping summary', and '269: HISAT2 on unstranded: aligned reads (BAM)'.

Creating count matrix

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8
GeneId	ERR3322433_24d	ERR3322431_18d	ERR3322430_12d	ERR3322435_6d	ERR3322434_3d	ERR3322432_1d	ERR3322436_Fibroblast
ENSG000000000003	636	637	457	722	632	316	1264
ENSG000000000005	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENSG0000000000419	677	1161	985	973	695	1729	795
ENSG0000000000457	252	227	246	246	172	294	141
ENSG0000000000460	68	47	62	121	78	87	64
ENSG0000000000938	2	0	0	1	0	2	1
ENSG0000000000971	713	430	342	312	239	166	66
ENSG0000000001036	1300	2315	2049	2911	2731	1342	2194
ENSG0000000001064	526	679	680	471	280	479	264
ENSG0000000001167	1363	1015	1582	1704	1009	1453	266
ENSG0000000001460	26	74	67	78	49	60	104
ENSG0000000001461	1343	1176	730	481	469	1011	681
ENSG0000000001497	1006	540	1037	735	483	486	413
ENSG0000000001561	145	203	162	87	37	611	156
ENSG0000000001617	252	339	646	590	471	254	135
ENSG0000000001626	6	2	0	0	2	8	0
ENSG0000000001629	2770	2019	2626	2494	1767	2611	762
ENSG0000000001630	88	136	95	121	65	102	20
ENSG0000000001631	241	131	261	212	142	213	104
ENSG0000000002016	307	133	369	293	184	237	109
ENSG0000000002079	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENSG0000000002330	246	444	272	300	263	582	384
ENSG0000000002549	1630	1201	1524	1664	1117	1092	1119
ENSG0000000002586	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENSG0000000002587	273	14	1	1	0	36	0

Final feature counts matrix after joining columns

The metadata file was created as follows:

	A	B	C
1	sample_id	day	condition
2	ERR3322433_24d	24	neuron
3	ERR3322431_18d	18	neuron
4	ERR3322430_12d	12	neuron
5	ERR3322435_6d	6	neuron
6	ERR3322434_3d	3	neuron
7	ERR3322432_1d	1	neuron
8	ERR3322436_Fibroblast	0	fibroblast