

Developing a Shiny Interface for "Maplet" Analysis Pipelines



Introduction

Maplet is an R toolbox for the statistical analysis of metabolomics and other omics data. The data is stored as a SummarizedExperiment (SE) object, which is a matrix-like container with features as rows and samples as columns. The routine analysis work is generally organized into pipelines including exploratory analysis, statistical analysis, reporting, and visualization. To streamline the routine actions and help the researchers focus on data exploration, this first interface prototype is designed to support interactive exploration and visualization of the results produced by maplet pipelines. The interface is developed with R Shiny, which builds interactive web apps using R.

Workflow and features 1. Upload Data Download the resulting SE to **Parameter setting Perform analysis pipelines** the local file 2. Data Exploration **Interactive plots** (scatter/box/bar plots) & Series of interactive **Feature annotations** multi-choice of hover text Patients' annotations pie charts

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3. Visualization & Comparison











• Extract all the result objects from a given SE and display these in tables or plots choosing from a dropdown menu

- Connect a table with all statistical results to a series of interactive plots that can be triggered in a fixed order when given a SE and a statistic name:
- 1) Table → Volcano plot → Box/Scatter plot
- 2) Table → StatsBar plot → Equalizer/Volcano plot → Box/Scatter plot
- Enable the download option to save the interactive plot in the local directory
- Customizable and interactive hover text allows users to add more information to graphics automatically

Conclusion

After uploading a maplet-generated SE object, this first prototype of the maplet Shiny interface includes various types of data visualization and useful features, among which are the download option for interactive plots and customizable hover text, which facilitates the inspection and understanding of plots. Despite being a prototype, the developed interface gives the user several tools for the exploration of complex data and results in an interactive and user-friendly setting.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the assistance and significant contributions from Dr. Elizabeth Sweeney, Dr. Jan Krumsiek, Dr. Elisa Benedetti, Kelsey Chetnik and Mustafa Büyüközkan during developing the first prototype of the Shiny interface for maplet analysis pipelines.





Fig 1. Sample page display of the Annotations Explorer module, showing sidebar options for users to visualize plots.

[2] Shiny: https://shiny.rstudio.com/articles/upload.htm