Counterfactual Confounder Adjustment for Single-cell Differential Expression Analysis

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Results

Cell type annotation



2,648 marker genes

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PsychENCODE's marker gene selection might be imperfect since some "marker" genes are shared by different cell types. However, it has enough discriminatory power. Using this initial dictionary of marker genes, we can start analyzing 10x data, which consist of these three files:

• Sparse count matrix:

AACCATGTCTGTACGA.1
AACCGCGTCCGCATAA.1
AACGTTGGTTCAGGCC.1
AACTGGTGTACCGGCT.1
AAGACCTAGTTAACGA.1
AAGGAGCAGCAATCTC.1
AAGGAGCTCTGCTGCT.1

```
## %%MatrixMarket matrix coordinate integer general
## 17926 70634 119696200
## 56 1 1
## 139 1 1
## 270 1 1
## 324 1 1
## 375 1 1
## 389 1 1
## 420 1 1
## 557 1 1

• Cell barcode list:
## AAACGGGAGATCCCGC.1
## AAATGCCTCCAATGGT.1
## AACCATGTCAGTGCAT.1
```

• Gene/feature list (these names should exist in the marker file):

F0538757.2

SAMD11

NOC2L

KLHL17

PLEKHN1

PERM1

HES4

ISG15

AGRN

RNF223



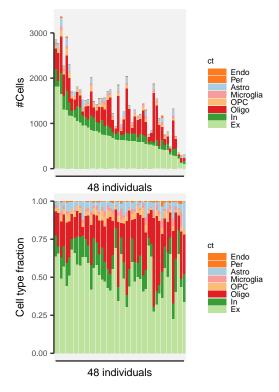
1726 genes present in snRNA-seq

0.4

0.6

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Basic statistics for cell type annotation



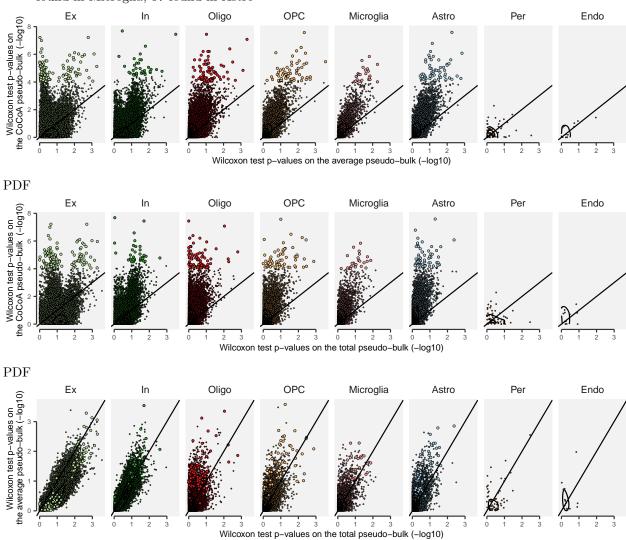
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• 1,472 cells per individual, including 50.9% (N=745 \pm 388) cells for Ex, 12.23% (N=179 \pm 103) cells for In, 3.54% (N= 54 \pm 35) cells for OPC, 0.33% (N= 4 \pm 5) cells for Endo, 25.22% (N=380 \pm 252) cells for Oligo, 2.61% (N= 36 \pm 25) cells for Microglia, 4.95% (N= 71 \pm 47) cells for Astro, 0.34% (N= 4 \pm 4) cells for Per on average.

Differential expression analysis

CoCoA identified 377 genes are differentially-regulated between different AD conditions

• 377 genes (2.72%) consist of 123 found in Ex, 36 found in In, 86 found in Oligo, 58 found in OPC, 24 found in Microglia, 57 found in Astro



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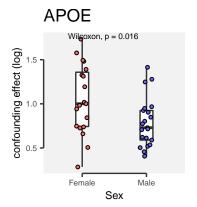
pdf ## 2

p-value distribution

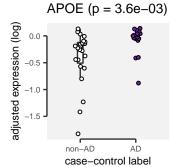
Why do we find more genes with CoCoA?

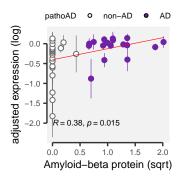
Take the examples of Microglia genes

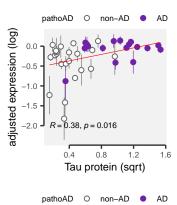
```
## Loading required package: cba
## Loading required package: proxy
##
## Attaching package: 'proxy'
    The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
##
##
           as.dist, dist
##
    The following object is masked from 'package:base':
##
##
           as.matrix
                  msex
               pathoAD
                np_sqrt
covariates
                nft_sqrt
               apoe.e4
   cogn_ep_random_slope
             age_death
                                                                          SUSD6
                                 RPL13A
                                     RPLP1
                                                           MAN2A1
                                                                      SRGN
                             FAU
                                                    EPB41L3
                                                        IGSF21
                                                                   SIPA1L1
                                                                              ARHGEF2
                                        TPT1
                                                               RAPGEF1
                                                genes
                                      p-value
                                                 1e-01 1e-02 1e-03
adjusted expression (log-scal
                                                                                   average expression log(1+x
                                                                                                Wilcoxon, p = 0.13
                                           total expression log(1+x)
     0.0
    -0.5
    -1.0
                                                                                       0.5
                                              0
                                                                                      0.0
              non-AD
                              AD.
                                                      non-AD
                                                                      AD
                                                                                                non-AD
              case-control label
                                                      case-control label
                                                                                                case-control label
          pathoAD o non-AD o
                                                  pathoAD o non-AD o AD
                                                                                            pathoAD o non-AD o AD
```



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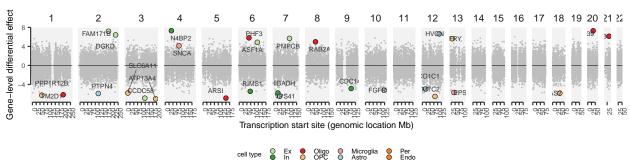






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A genomic view combining all the cell types

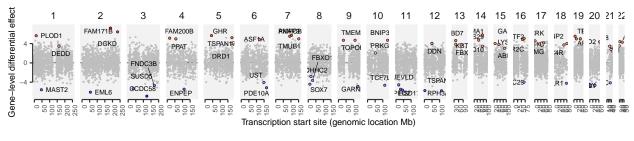


Combined genomic view

• PMPCB @ Ex

- ASF1A @ Ex
- CCDC58 @ Ex
- FAM171B @ Ex
- DGKD @ Ex
- CDC14B @ In
- N4BP2 @ In
- HIBADH @ In
- RIMS1 @ In
- TTC3 @ Oligo
- RBM39 @ Oligo
- RAB2A @ Oligo
- PHF3 @ Oligo
- ARSI @ Oligo
- PPP1R12B @ Oligo
- FRY @ OPC
- PIAS2 @ OPC
- SLC6A11 @ OPC
- TMTC2 @ OPC
- TM2D1 @ OPC
- ATP13A4 @ OPC
- EPSTI1 @ Microglia
- SNCA @ Microglia
- VPS41 @ Astro
- SLCO1C1 @ Astro
- FGFR2 @ Astro
- HVCN1 @ Astro
- PTPN4 @ Astro

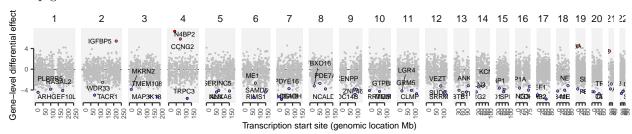
Genomic views for each cell type



t-statistic _4 0 4

 $\mathbf{E}\mathbf{x}$

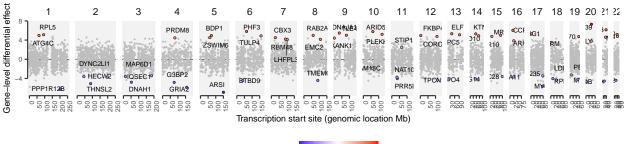
Ex top genes



t-statistic _5.0 -2.5 0.0 2.5 5.0

In

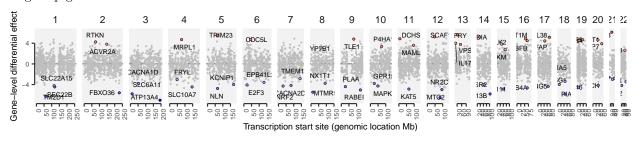
In top genes



t-statistic _4 0 4

Oligo

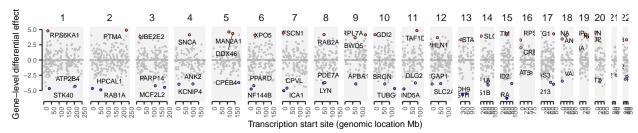
Oligo top genes



t-statistic _6 _3 0 3 6

OPC

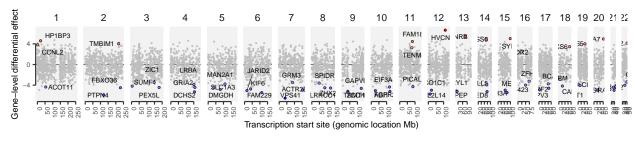
OPC top genes



t-statistic _5.0 -2.5 0.0 2.5

Microglia

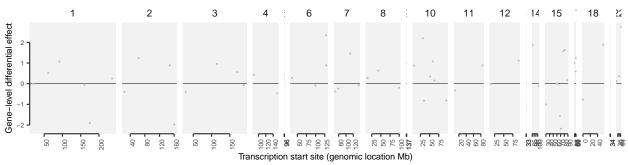
Microglia top genes



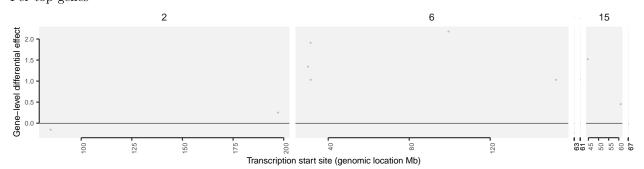
t-statistic ₋₆ ₋₃ ₀ ₃ ₆

Astro

Astro top genes

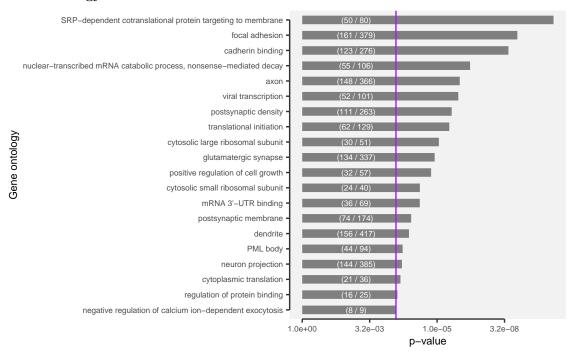


Per Per top genes



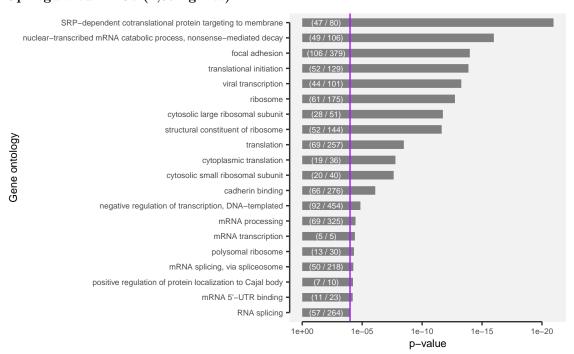
Endo top genes

Gene ontology enrichment

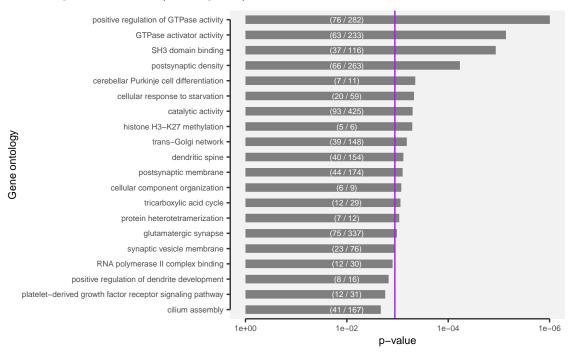


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Up-regulated DEGs (2,092 genes)

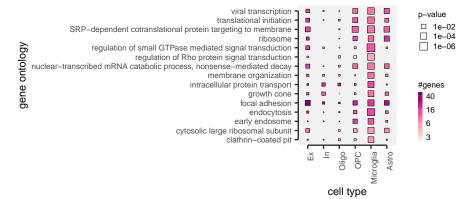


Down-regulated DEGs (2,317 genes)

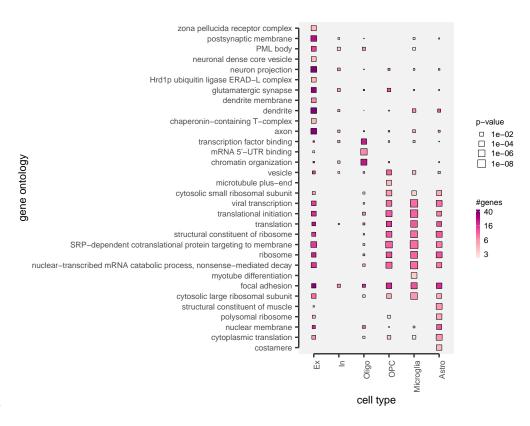


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GO enrichment for each cell type

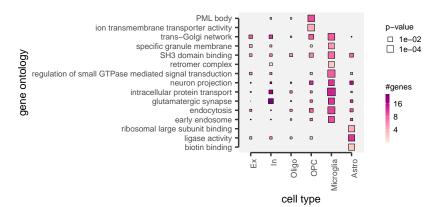


DEGs combined



DEGs up-regulated

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DEGs down-regulated