



Project

From Lecture 1:

Expectations: **project**

- ~10-15 page report, with R code in line (e.g. **knitr** / **Rmarkdown**)
- Describe the biological setting, statistical analysis, exploratory analysis with publication-quality graphics embedded
- Three possibilities:
 - Comparison of statistical methods (simulation / independent reference data + metrics)
 - Reproduce an analysis from a paper from the raw data
 - Real collaborative project with FGCZ or a local laboratory
- Be strategic: work on something related to your interests!
- Typically due at end of first working week of January

Notes:

- can work in groups of 2-3 or individually
- I would like to have a *plan* from you by **02.12.2019**
- Best if you separate JC and project, but possible if good case is made
- Plan: topic and 3-4 bullet points of what you will do; list the GitHub names of the group members



Statistical models for count data analysis (part 2)

- lowess/loess
- Reminder of tricks used / material already presented:
 - conditional likelihood (what about normal distribution?)
 - (local) weighted likelihood
 - linear models
- Bringing them together: a more general framework – GLMs
- Beyond differential expression: “differential splicing”, DTE, DTU, DGE, DTE -> G

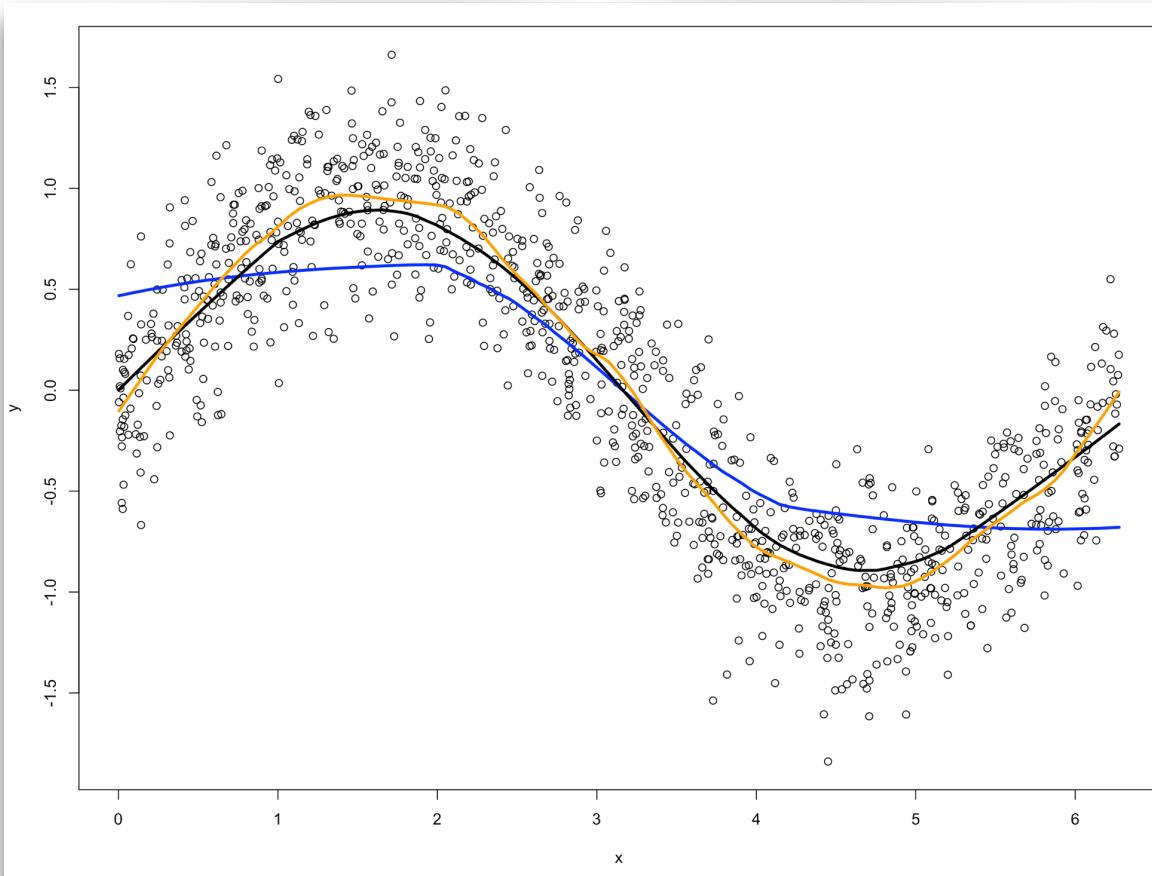


lowess/loess

⇒ Method to fit smooth curves to data
⇒ Non-parametric, thus able to apply to very different types of data

- several variations
- typically used to fit smooth curves to data
- non-parametric
- long history in bioinformatics e.g., microarray normalization, limma trend, etc.

lowess/loess



Fit successive local (linear/polynomial) regressions on subsets of the data

Key parameters:

- percentage of data to use (f)
- order of the polynomial fit (usually 2)

```
x <- runif(1000, 0, 2*pi)
y <- sin(x) + rnorm(1000, sd = .3)

plot(x,y)
lines(lowess(y~x, f=2/3), col="blue", lwd=3)
lines(lowess(y~x, f=1/3), col="black", lwd=3)
lines(lowess(y~x, f=1/10), col="orange", lwd=3)
```

local points were important to find estimate than for noisy ones

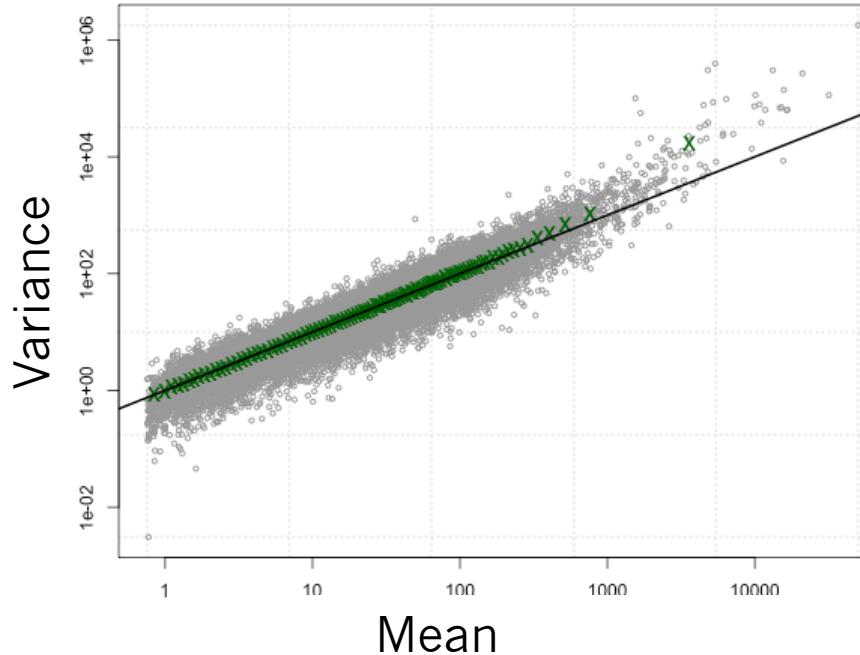
↳ how much of the data should be used for the fit at a given location

$$Y_i \sim NB(\mu_i = N_i * \lambda_i, \phi_i)$$

$$\text{variance}(Y_i) = \mu_i (1 + \mu_i \phi_i)$$

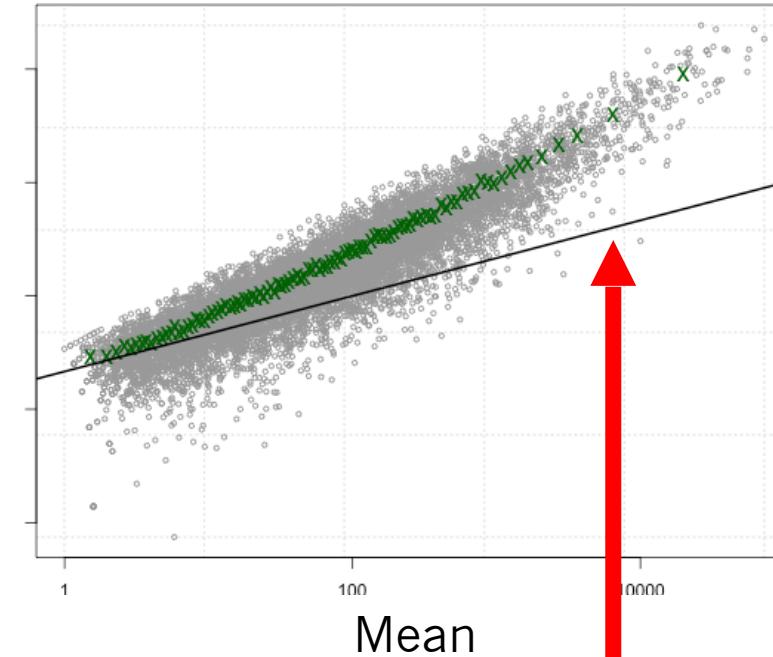
Mean-Variance plots: What we see in real data

Technical replicates



Data from Marioni et al. *Genome Research* 2008

Biological replicates



Data from Parikh et al.
Genome Biology 2010

mean=variance
(Poisson assumption)



Conditional likelihood

Likelihood for single **negative binomial** observation:

$$f(y; \mu, \phi) = P(Y = y) = \frac{\Gamma(y + \phi^{-1})}{\Gamma(\phi^{-1})\Gamma(y + 1)} \left(\frac{1}{1 + \mu\phi}\right)^{\phi^{-1}} \left(\frac{\mu}{\phi^{-1} + \mu}\right)^y$$

If all libraries are the same size (i.e. $m_i \equiv m$), the sum $Z = Y_1 + \dots + Y_n \sim NB(nm\lambda, \phi n^{-1})$

Thus, can form conditional likelihood:

$$l_{Y|Z=z}(\phi) = \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \log \Gamma(y_i + \phi^{-1}) \right] + \log \Gamma(n\phi^{-1}) - \log \Gamma(z + n\phi^{-1}) - n \log \Gamma(\phi^{-1})$$

writing in the conditioned form

Maximum likelihood for normal distribution

likelihood:

$$L(\mu, \sigma^2; x_1, \dots, x_n) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j - \mu)^2\right)$$

log-likelihood:

$$l(\mu, \sigma^2; x_1, \dots, x_n) = -\frac{n}{2} \ln(2\pi) - \frac{n}{2} \ln(\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j - \mu)^2$$

maximize likelihood
w.r.t. parameters
mu, sigma

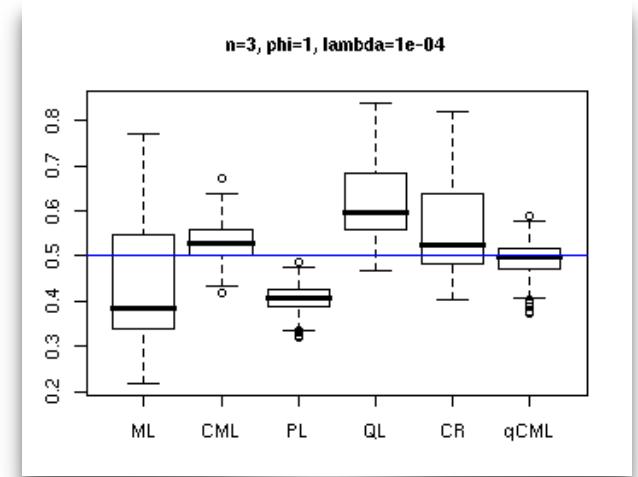


$$\hat{\mu}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_n^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j - \hat{\mu})^2 \rightarrow \text{biased estimator}$$

$(n-1)$ would be
unbiased

From Lecture 7 (estimation of NB dispersion):



Main point: MLE is good for many models and generally works in larger samples (asymptotically unbiased), but often **biased** in small samples — > other approximations

Maximum conditional likelihood for normal distribution: look at $Y_1, \dots, Y_n | \bar{Y}$

instead of $y_i - \mu$ we split it.

From Lecture 7 (estimation of NB dispersion):

For y_1, \dots, y_n :

$$\log\text{Likelihood} = -\frac{n}{2}\ln(2\pi) - \frac{n}{2}\ln(\sigma^2) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(y_i - \bar{y})^2}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

sample mean

\bar{Y} :

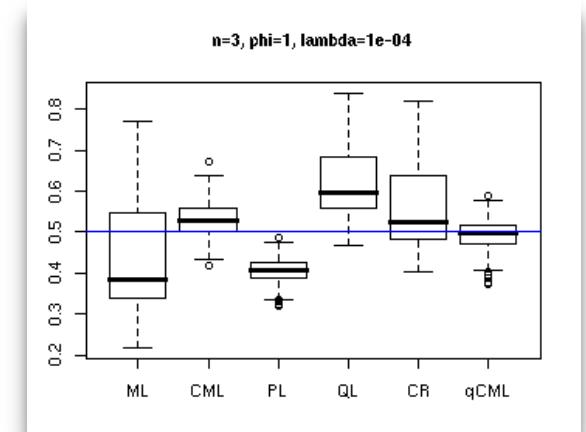
$$\log\text{Likelihood for } \bar{Y} = \frac{1}{2}\ln(n) - \frac{1}{2}\ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2}\ln(\sigma^2) - \frac{n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

maximize likelihood
w.r.t. parameters
sigma



$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$

=> conditioning leads to the unbiased estimator



Moderated dispersion estimate

Weighted likelihood -- individual log-likelihood plus a weighted version of the common log-likelihood:

$$WL(\phi_g) = \underbrace{l_g(\phi_g)}_{\text{individual likelihood}} + \alpha \underbrace{l_C(\phi_g)}_{\text{common likelihood (weighted)}}$$

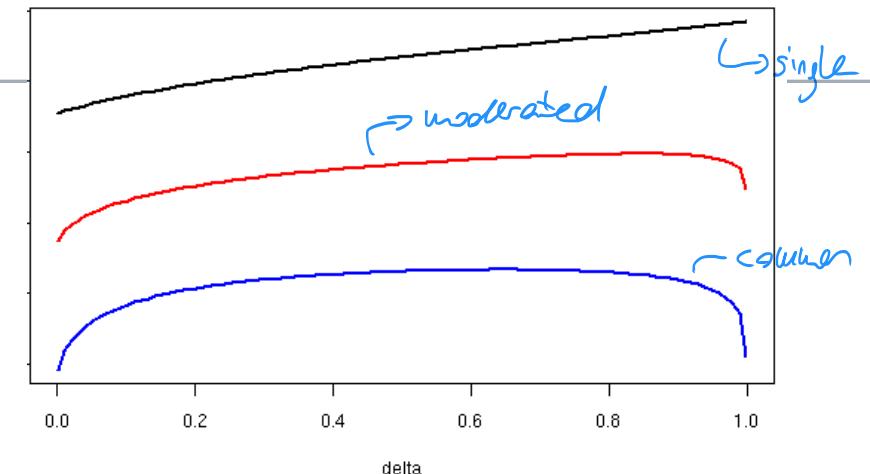
l_g - quantile-adjusted conditional likelihood

Black: single tag

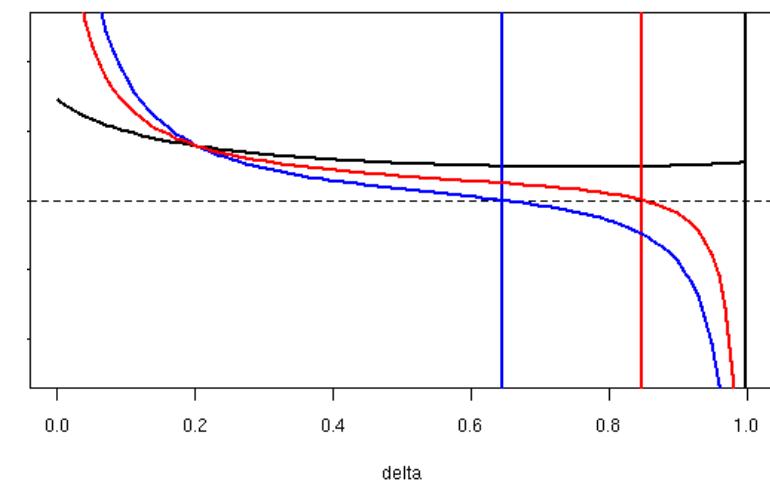
Blue: common dispersion

Red: Linear combination of the two

Log-Likelihood



Score (1st derivative of LL)



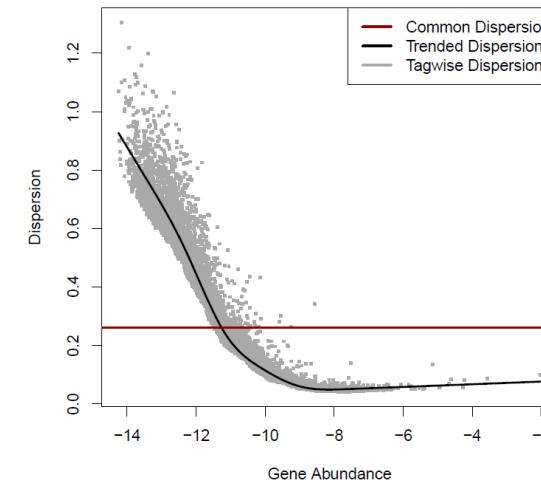
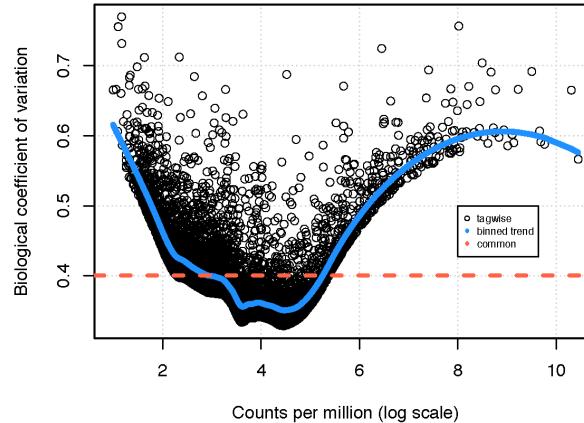
$$\delta = \frac{\phi}{\phi+1}$$



$$WL(\phi_g) = l_g(\phi_g) + \alpha l_C(\phi_g)$$

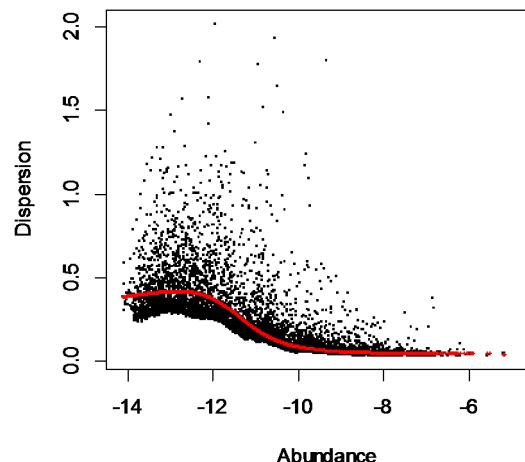
$(1-\alpha)$

Data:
Tuch et al.,
2008



Mouse hemopoietic
stem cells

Advantage: genes are allowed to have their own variance.



Mouse
lymphomas



Linear Models (microarray setting)

In general, need to specify:

- Dependent variable
- Explanatory variables (experimental design, covariates, etc.)

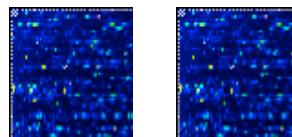
More generally:

$$y = X\beta + \epsilon$$

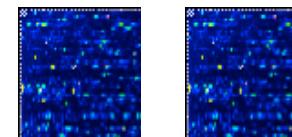
vector of observed data design matrix Vector of parameters to estimate

Analysis of Variance → Linear model

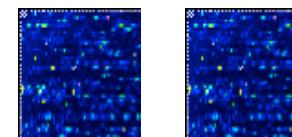
WT x 2



Cond A x 2



Cond B x 2



$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ y_4 \\ y_5 \\ y_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \epsilon_3 \\ \epsilon_4 \\ \epsilon_5 \\ \epsilon_6 \end{bmatrix}$$

α_1 = wt log-expression

α_2 = Cond A - wt

α_3 = Cond B - wt

$$E[y_1] = E[y_2] = \alpha_1$$

$$E[y_3] = E[y_4] = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$$

$$E[y_5] = E[y_6] = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3$$

Applications: paired designs, multi-factor designs, interactions

→ This particular model only valid for continuous response



Generalized linear models: a more general framework

Gaussian (normal) distributed response —> various other (common) types.

Three components:

1. Probability distribution of response (in exponential family)
2. Linear predictor (covariates; design matrix)
3. Link function (link mean to linear predictor)



Link function and linear predictor

$$E(Y_i) = \mu_i$$

$$g(\mu_i) = \eta_i$$

Link function

$$\eta_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \dots + \beta_p x_{pi}$$

Linear predictor (covariates)

$$\text{var}(Y_i) = \phi V(\mu)$$

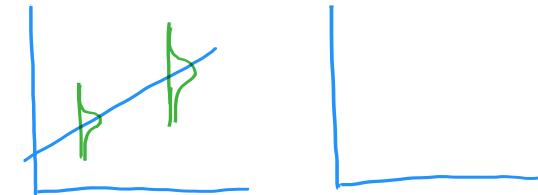
Provides a way to link the mean of response to a linear predictor.

Data is not transformed.

Variance is a function of mean.

$$T \sim \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!} \text{ (Poisson)}$$

Statistical Bioinformatics // Institute of Molecular Life Sciences



Common distributions, "Canonical" link functions

$$\gamma \sim \text{exp} \left(\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\gamma - \mu) \right)$$

\Rightarrow In theory you can use other link functions but the so called "canonical" ones are the natural choices

Common distributions with typical uses and canonical link functions

Distribution	Support of distribution	Typical uses	Link name	Link function	Mean function
Normal	real: $(-\infty, +\infty)$	Linear-response data	Identity	$\mathbf{X}\beta = \mu$	$\mu = \mathbf{X}\beta$
Exponential	real: $(0, +\infty)$	Exponential-response data, scale parameters	Inverse	$\mathbf{X}\beta = \mu^{-1}$	$\mu = (\mathbf{X}\beta)^{-1}$
Gamma	real: $(0, +\infty)$				
Inverse Gaussian	real: $(0, +\infty)$		Inverse squared	$\mathbf{X}\beta = \mu^{-2}$	$\mu = (\mathbf{X}\beta)^{-1/2}$
Poisson	integer: $[0, +\infty)$	count of occurrences in fixed amount of time/space	Log	$\mathbf{X}\beta = \ln(\mu)$	$\mu = \exp(\mathbf{X}\beta)$ \rightarrow Poisson μ needs to be positive
Bernoulli	integer: $[0, 1]$	outcome of single yes/no occurrence	Logit	$\mathbf{X}\beta = \ln\left(\frac{\mu}{1-\mu}\right)$	
Binomial	integer: $[0, N]$	count of # of "yes" occurrences out of N yes/no occurrences			
Categorical	integer: $[0, K]$ K-vector of integer: $[0, 1]^K$, where exactly one element in the vector has the value 1	outcome of single K-way occurrence			
Multinomial	K-vector of integer: $[0, N]^K$	count of occurrences of different types (1 .. K) out of N total K-way occurrences			

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generalized_linear_model



RNA-seq setting – Negative binomial regression

Response is negative binomial (dispersion “fixed” to make it in the exponential family).

Link function (relate mean of response to linear combination of parameters)

For example:

$$Y_i \sim \text{NB}(\mu_i, \phi)$$

$$\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} = \ln(\mu)$$

\mathbf{X} – design matrix

$g()$ – link function (here: log)

$\boldsymbol{\beta}$ – parameters

edgeR::glmFit()



Same challenge as last time: getting a good estimate of dispersion

Several choices here:

- Maximum Likelihood (MLE)
- Pseudo-Likelihood (PL)
- Quasi-Likelihood (QL)
- Conditional Maximum Likelihood (CML)
- Approximate Conditional Inference (Cox-Reid)
- *quantile-adjusted Maximum Likelihood (qCML)*

With the estimates of
or we estimate β

$$\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} = \ln(\mu) \quad \text{"nuisance parameter"}$$

$$Y_i \sim \text{NB}(\mu_i, \phi) \quad \text{we aim at estimating this parameter}$$

$$(\hat{\lambda}_{MLE}, \hat{\phi}_{MLE}) = \arg \max_{\lambda, \phi} l(\lambda, \phi)$$

$$X^2 = \sum_{gij} \frac{(y_{gij} - \hat{\mu}_{gi})^2}{\hat{\mu}_{gi}(1 + \hat{\phi}_{PL}\hat{\mu}_{gi})} = G(n_1 + n_2 - 2)$$

$$D = 2 \sum_{gij} \left\{ y_{gij} \log \left[\frac{y_{gij}}{\mu_{gi}} \right] - (y_{gij} + \phi_{QL}^{-1}) \log \left[\frac{y_{gij} + \phi_{QL}^{-1}}{\mu_{gi} + \phi_{QL}^{-1}} \right] \right\}$$



“Cox Reid adjusted profile likelihood” → Estimation of dispersion parameter

J. R. Statist. Soc. B (1987)
49, No. 1, pp. 1–39

Parameter Orthogonality and Approximate Conditional Inference

D. R. COX†

and

N. REID

Imperial College, London

University of British Columbia, Vancouver

[Read before the Royal Statistical Society at a meeting organized by the Research Section on
Wednesday, 8th October, 1986, Professor A. F. M. Smith in the Chair]

SUMMARY

We consider inference for a scalar parameter ψ in the presence of one or more nuisance parameters. The nuisance parameters are required to be orthogonal to the parameter of interest, and the construction and interpretation of orthogonalized parameters is discussed in some detail. For purposes of inference we propose a likelihood ratio statistic constructed from the conditional distribution of the observations, given maximum likelihood estimates for the nuisance parameters. We consider to what extent this is preferable to the profile likelihood ratio statistic in which the likelihood function is maximized over the nuisance parameters. There are close connections to the modified profile likelihood of Barndorff-Nielsen (1983). The normal transformation model of Box and Cox (1964) is discussed as an illustration.

Keywords: ASYMPTOTIC THEORY; CONDITIONAL INFERENCE; LIKELIHOOD RATIO TEST;
NORMAL TRANSFORMATION MODEL; NUISANCE PARAMETERS; ORTHOGONAL
PARAMETERS

$$Y_i \sim \text{NB}(\mu_i, \phi)$$

$$\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} = \ln(\mu)$$

In this setting, we are trying to get an estimate of dispersion, so the beta (regression) parameters are the “nuisance” parameters.

We turn the problem around later to make inferences about the regression parameters.



$$Y_i \sim \text{NB}(\mu_i, \phi)$$
$$\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} = \ln(\mu)$$

Cox-Reid adjusted profile likelihood

→ take likelihood but substitute in $\hat{\beta}$ estimator \Rightarrow in MLE you would maximize both or f β

The adjusted profile likelihood (APL) for ϕ_g is the penalized log-likelihood

$$\text{APL}_g(\phi_g) = \ell(\phi_g; \mathbf{y}_g, \hat{\beta}_g) - \frac{1}{2} \log \det \mathcal{I}_g.$$

⇒ we consider this approach that in the framework of GLM we can't use the conditioning trick as before

where \mathbf{y}_g is the vector of counts for gene g , $\hat{\beta}_g$ is the estimated coefficient vector, $\ell()$ is the log-likelihood function and \mathcal{I}_g is the Fisher information matrix.

In this approach, ϕ_g is estimated by maximizing

$$\text{APL}_g(\phi_g) + G_0 \text{APL}_{Sg}(\phi_g),$$

where G_0 is the weight given to the shared likelihood and $\text{APL}_{Sg}(\phi_g)$ is the local shared log-likelihood.

APL is simply another likelihood, so weighted likelihood still works

WL is the individual log-likelihood plus a weighted version of the **common log-likelihood**:

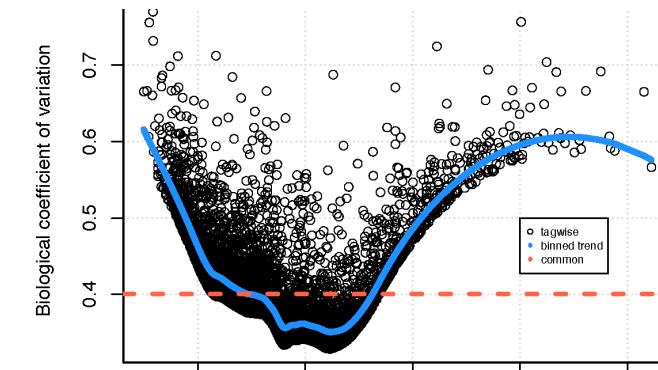
$$WL(\phi_g) = l_g(\phi_g) + \alpha l_C(\phi_g)$$

L_g - adjusted profile likelihood (or trended version)

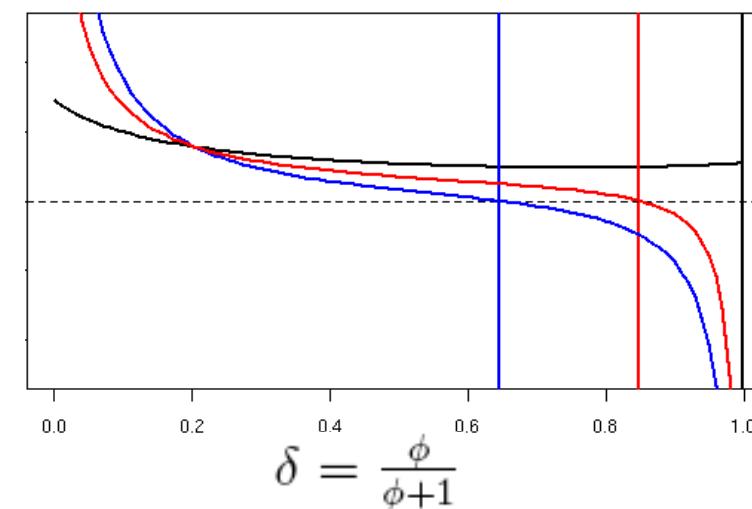
Black: single tag

Blue: common dispersion

Red: Linear combination of the two



Score (1st derivative of LL)





Exponential family

$$f(y; \theta) = \exp[a(y)b(\theta) + c(\theta) + d(y)]$$

↳ $b(\cdot)$ would lead to the canonical link function

“natural parameter”

Distribution	Natural parameter	c	d
Poisson	$\log \theta$	$-\theta$	$-\log y!$
Normal	$\frac{\mu}{\sigma^2}$	$-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma^2)$	$-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2}$
Binomial	$\log\left(\frac{\pi}{1-\pi}\right)$	$n \log(1-\pi)$	$\log\binom{n}{y}$

Optional exercise: what are $a()$, $b()$ and $c()$ for negative binomial?

Note: negative binomial is NOT in exponential family unless dispersion parameter is treated as fixed.

— from Introduction to Generalized Linear Models,
Annette Dobson, 2nd edition.



Given dispersion estimates (Cox-Reid APL): estimation, statistical testing of regression parameters

Generalized linear model comes with many advantages:

1. Estimation is the same for all response types (so-called Fisher scoring, which effectively turns likelihood maximization into an iteratively re-weighted estimation problem)
2. Asymptotic theory that lead to i) Wald; ii) Score; or, iii) likelihood ratio tests for parameters of interest (more details). All of these are based on asymptotics (“large” sample approximations) – how to choose one that works well in practice?



Large sample theory – Result 1 (Regression parameter estimates are asymptotically normal)

The Wald test follows immediately from the fact that the information matrix for generalized linear models is given by

$$\mathbf{I}(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \mathbf{X}'\mathbf{W}\mathbf{X}/\phi, \quad (\text{B.9})$$

so the large sample distribution of the maximum likelihood estimator $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is multivariate normal

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \sim N_p(\boldsymbol{\beta}, (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{W}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\phi). \quad (\text{B.10})$$

with mean $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ and variance-covariance matrix $(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{W}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\phi$.

Tests for subsets of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ are based on the corresponding marginal normal distributions.
(Wald test used in DESeq2 package)



$$\mathcal{I}(\theta) = \mathbb{E} \left\{ \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log L(\theta; X) \right]^2 \middle| \theta \right\}.$$

Large sample theory – Result 2 (score is asymptotically normal)

score fct is simply first derivative of likelihood

$$\dot{\ell}_1 = \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial \theta_1}$$

The “score” function is the first derivative (gradient) of the log-likelihood function, is (asymptotically) normally distributed with mean 0 and variance(-covariance) Fisher information.

$$\dot{\ell}_2 = \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial \theta_2}$$

Say, we to test $H_0: \theta_2=0$, θ_1 is/are “nuisance” parameter(s)

$$\mathcal{I}_{2.1} = \mathcal{I}_{22} - \mathcal{I}_{21}\mathcal{I}_{11}^{-1}\mathcal{I}_{12}.$$

$$\mathcal{I} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{I}_{11} & \mathcal{I}_{12} \\ \mathcal{I}_{21} & \mathcal{I}_{22} \end{pmatrix} \quad S = \dot{\ell}_2^T \mathcal{I}_{2.1}^{-1} \dot{\ell}_2$$



Large sample theory – Result 3 (likelihood ratio test)

$$\begin{aligned} D &= -2 \ln \left(\frac{\text{likelihood for null model}}{\text{likelihood for alternative model}} \right) \\ &= -2 \ln(\text{likelihood for null model}) + 2 \ln(\text{likelihood for alternative model}) \end{aligned}$$

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Likelihood-ratio_test

General form (exponential family)

$$-2 \log \lambda = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i(\tilde{\theta}_i - \hat{\theta}_i) - b(\tilde{\theta}_i) + b(\hat{\theta}_i)}{a_i(\phi)}$$

edgeR::glmLRT()

Again, large sample theory says this is approx. χ^2 with degrees of freedom according to the difference in the number of parameters between null and alternative (assuming they are nested).



Some interesting generalizations of NB modeling for RNA-seq (1)

If Y_{ijk} has a Poisson distribution, then $\text{Var}(Y_{ijk}) = \mu_{ik}$.

If Y_{ijk} has an NB2 distribution, then $\text{Var}(Y_{ijk}) = \mu_{ik}(1 + \phi\mu_{ik})$.

if Y_{ijk} has an NBP distribution, then $\text{Var}(Y_{ijk}) = \mu_{ik}(1 + \phi\mu_{ik}^{\alpha-1})$.

3 parameter model instead of 2 " , for $\alpha=2$ it reduces to

(generalization of the model:
mean-variance relationship)

Di et al., SAGMB 2011 10(1): 24



Some interesting generalizations of NB modeling for RNA-seq (2)

$$\lambda = 2(l(\hat{\beta}) - l(\tilde{\beta})),$$

$$r = \text{sign}(\hat{\psi} - \psi_0) \sqrt{\lambda}$$

Higher order asymptotics

↳ Taylor expansion and related terms of higher order, some improvements include using more terms

For testing a one-dimensional parameter of interest ($q = 1$), [Barndorff-Nielsen \(1986, 1991\)](#) showed that a *modified directed deviance*

$$r^* = r - \frac{1}{r} \log(z) \tag{5}$$

is, in wide generality, asymptotically standard normally distributed to a higher order of accuracy than the directed deviance r itself, where z is an adjustment term to be discussed below. Tests based on high-order asymptotic adjustment to the likelihood ratio statistic, such as r^* or its approximation (explained below), are referred to as higher-order asymptotic (HOA) tests. They generally have better accuracy than corresponding unadjusted likelihood ratio tests, especially in situations where the sample size is small and/or when the number of nuisance parameters ($p-q$) is large.

Di et al., SAGMB 2013; 12(1): 49–70



Some interesting generalizations of NB modeling for RNA-seq (3)

$$LRT_k = 2(\ell_k(\hat{\mu}_k|\mathbf{y}_k) - \ell_k(\tilde{\mu}_k|\mathbf{y}_k)) \longrightarrow LRT_k \sim \Phi_k \chi_q^2 + O_p(n^{-1/2})$$

$$\hat{\Phi}_k = \frac{2(\ell_k(\mathbf{y}_k|\mathbf{y}_k) - \ell_k(\hat{\mu}_k|\mathbf{y}_k))}{n - p}$$

$$F_{QL} = \frac{LRT_k/q}{\hat{\Phi}_k} \quad \text{↳ ratio of } \chi^2 \text{ dist resulting in t-test}$$

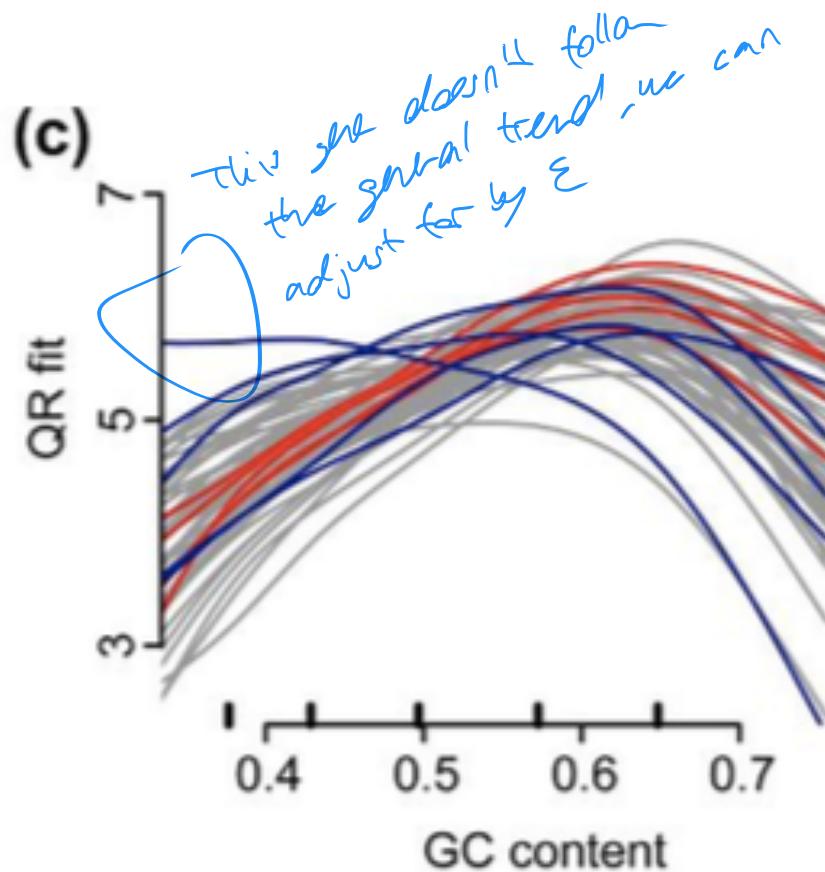
Accounting for the uncertainty in estimating dispersion

edgeR::glmQLF

Lund et al., SAGMB 2012; 11(5):8

$$E[Y] = \mu = g^{-1}(\eta) = g^{-1}(X\beta + \xi)$$

Some interesting generalizations of NB modeling for RNA-seq (4)



Integrate sample-specific normalization via offset

Profiles vary from sample to sample:
GC content
Gene length

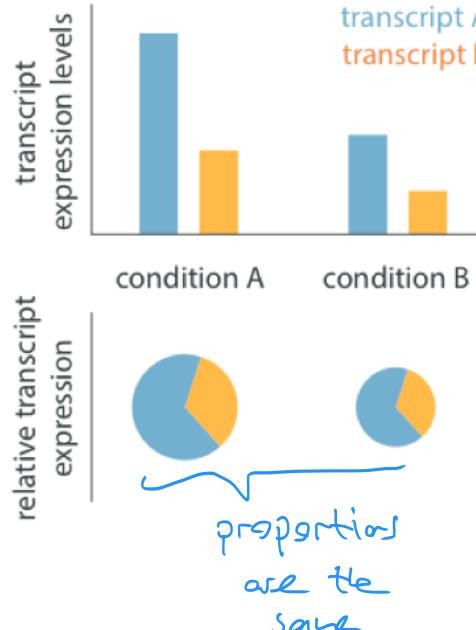
DOES NOT change data, use offsets to modify expected mean

Give a sample (or gene)-specific offset to edgeR/DESeq2

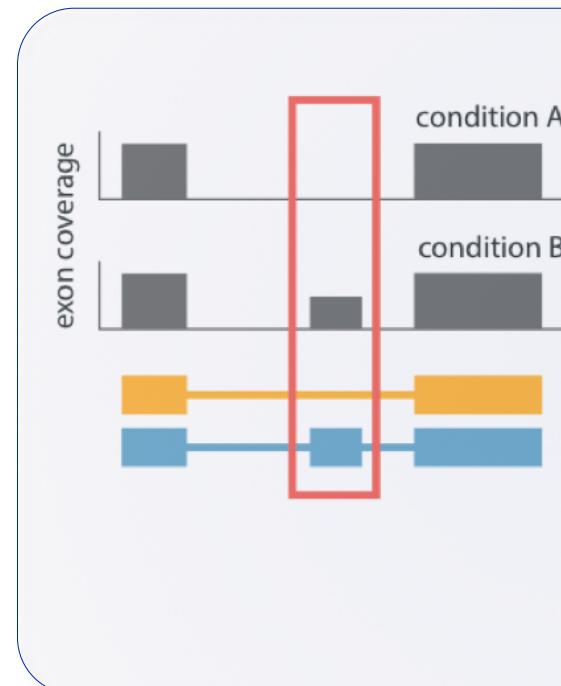
↑
sample-specific offset

Some terms: DTE, DEU, DTU

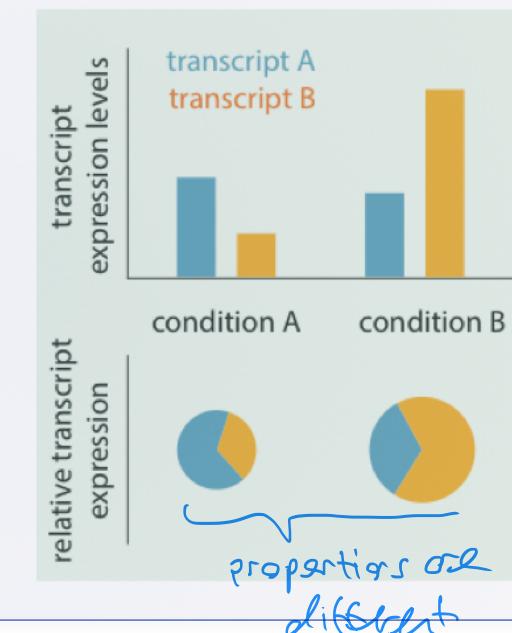
Differential transcript expression (DTE)



Differential exon usage (DEU)



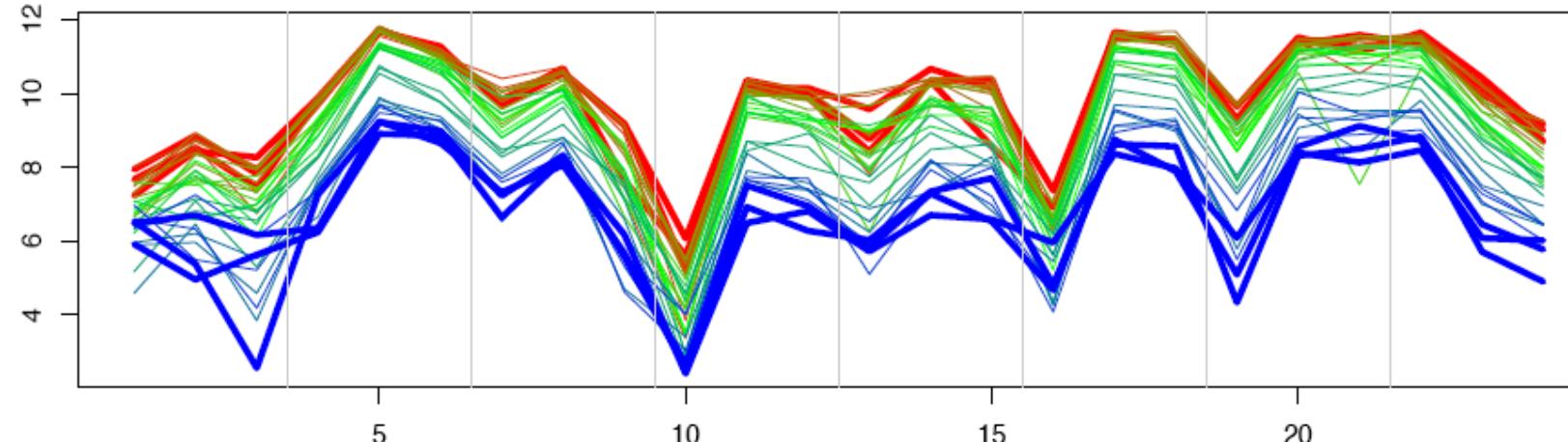
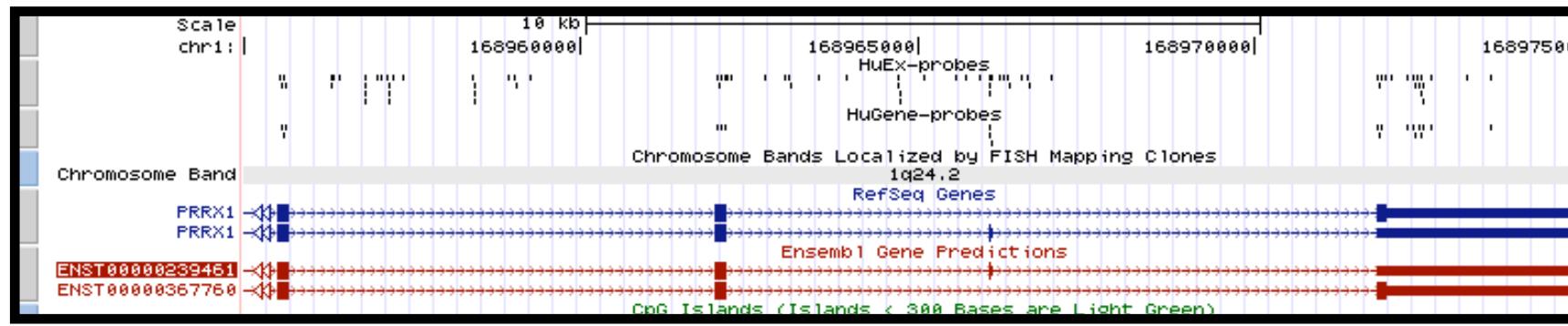
Differential transcript usage (DTU)



differential splicing

Digression 1/3: The nature of Affymetrix Probe Level Data

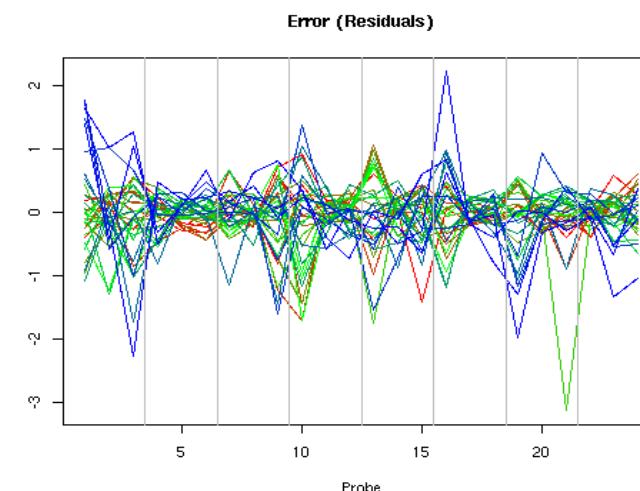
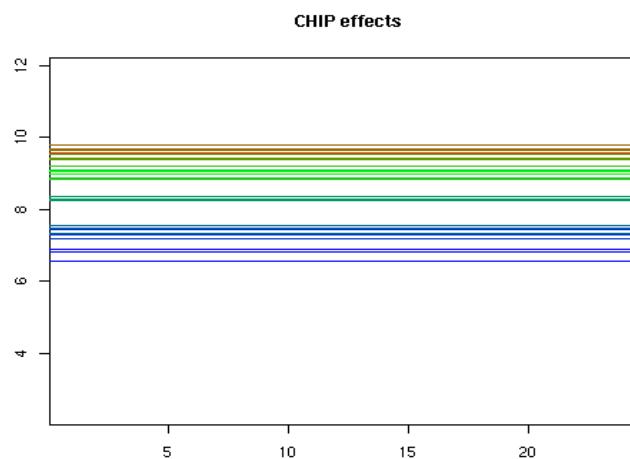
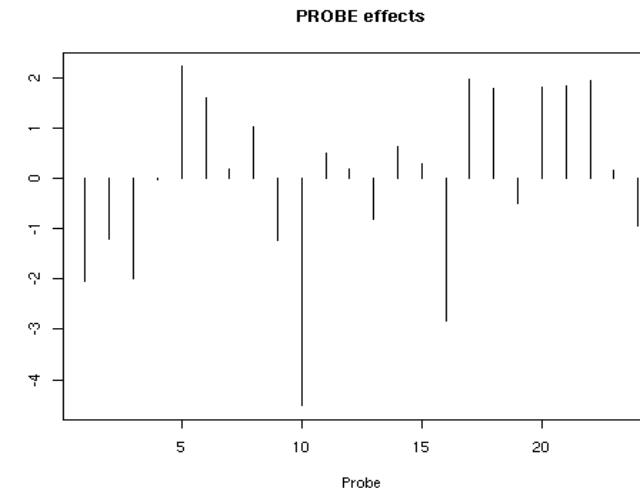
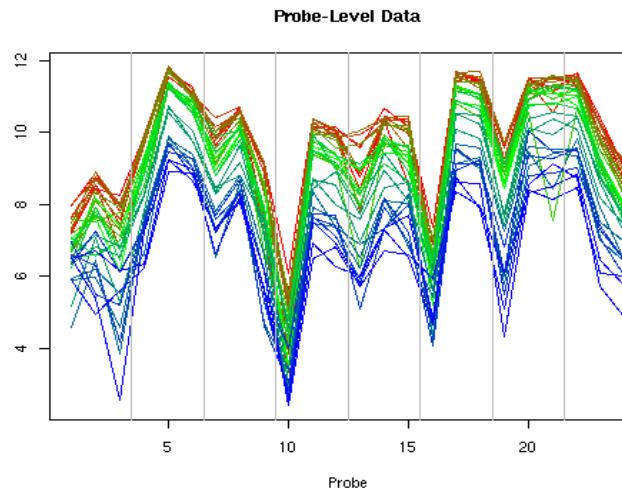
Statistical Bioinformatics // Institute of Molecular Life Sciences



- Data for gene that is DE between heart (red=100% heart) and brain (blue=100% brain).
- 11 mixtures x 3 replicates = 33 samples (33 lines)
- Note the parallelism: probes have different affinities



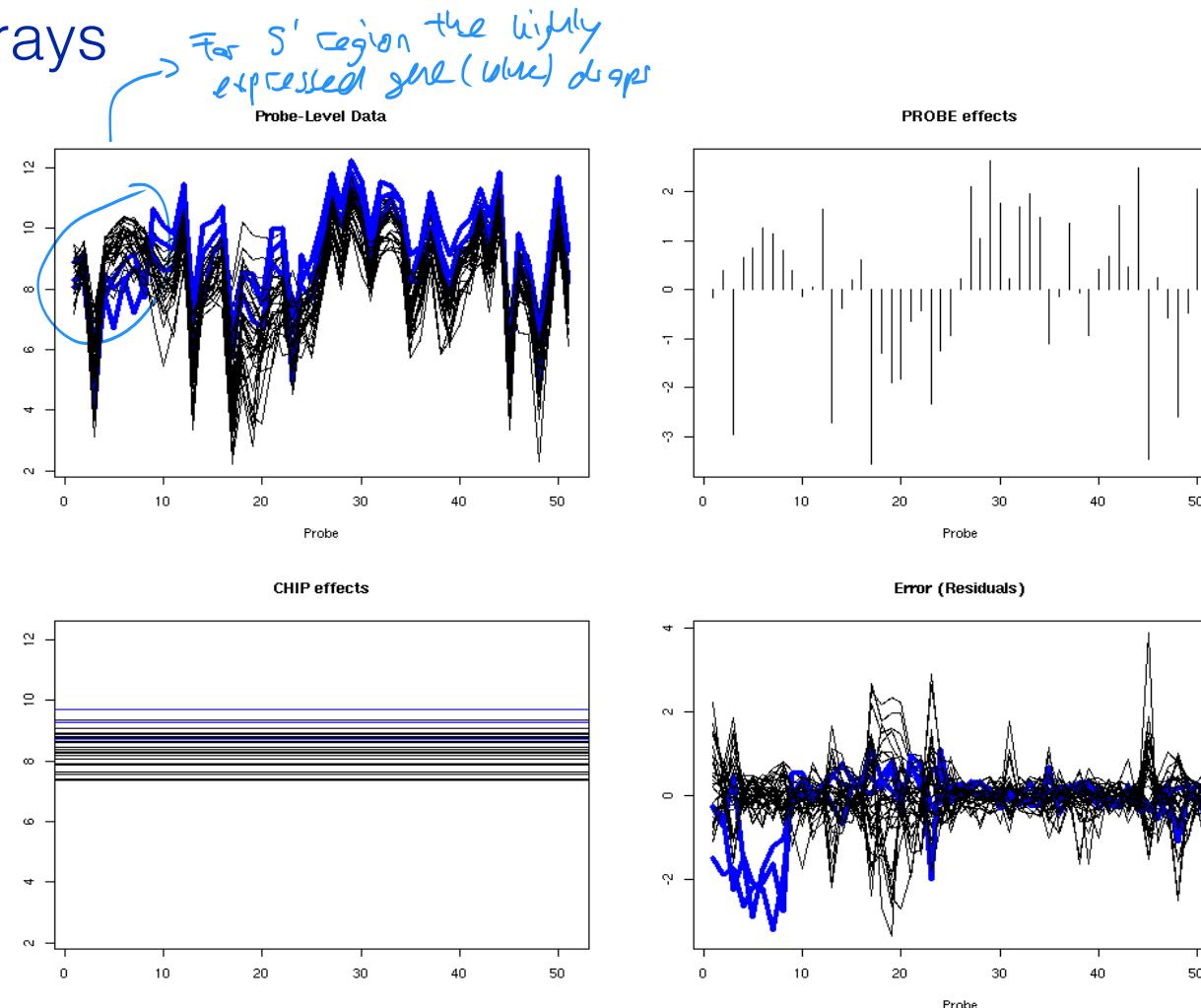
(Digression 2/3) Differential expression: Affy microarrays



$$y_{ik} = g_i + p_k + e_{ik}$$

Digression 3/3: “Differential splicing” or “Differential isoform usage”: Affy microarrays

⇒ There is a variant with this 5' end and a variant without.



$$y_{ik} = g_i + p_k + e_{ik}$$



(back to RNA-seq) Beyond differential expression: differential splicing

Prediction of alternative isoforms from exon expression levels in RNA-Seq experiments

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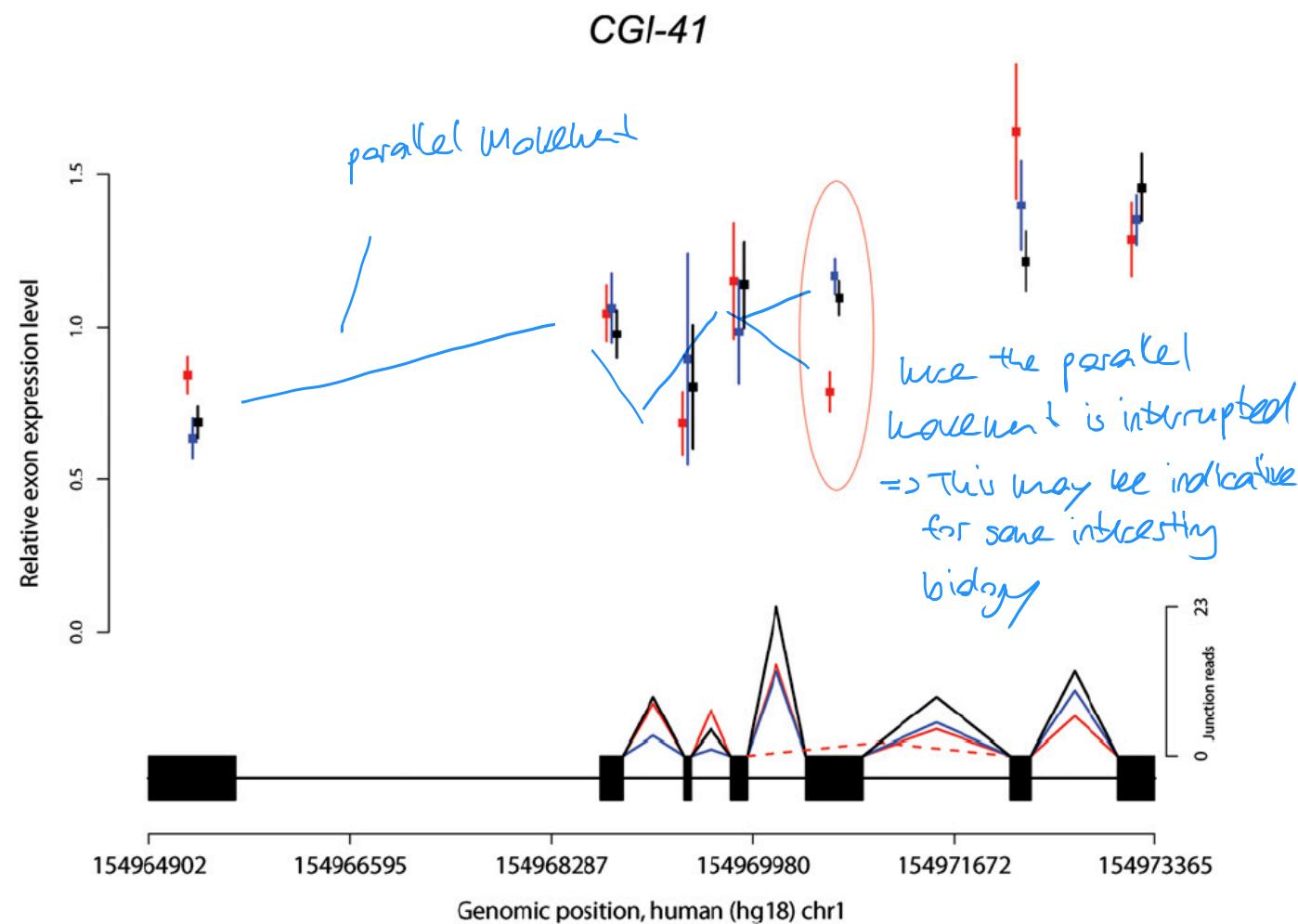
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Sex-specific and lineage-specific alternative splicing in primates

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Counting: a few considerations (exon-level)

⇒ We can easily define those bins for known genes

All the downstream statistical methods start with a count table.

How to get one?

- annotation-based? What about novel genes?
- gene-level versus transcript-level? versus exon-level?
- ambiguities
- junctions?

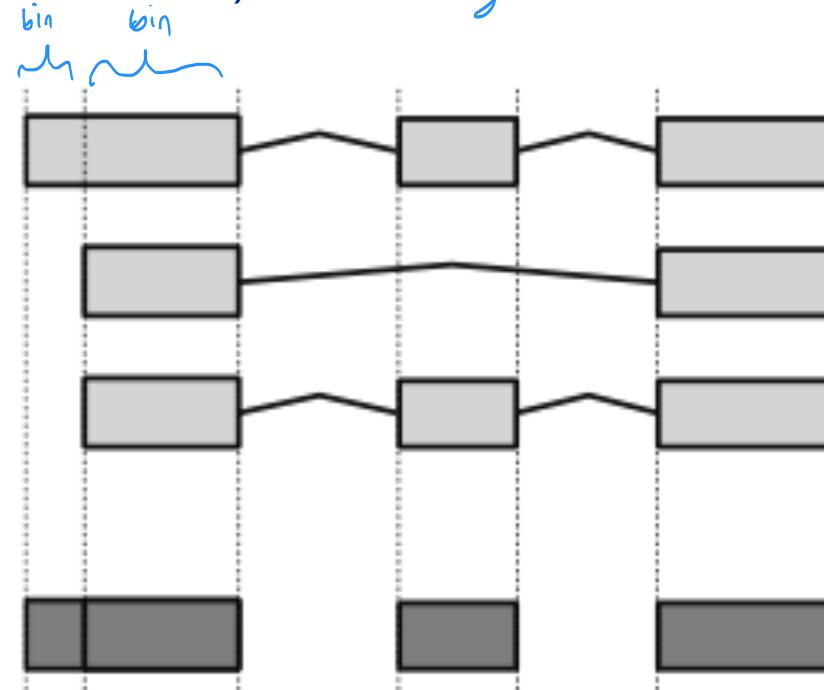


Figure 1. Flattening of gene models: This (fictional) gene has three annotated transcripts involving three exons (light shading), one of which has alternative boundaries. We form counting bins (dark shaded boxes) from the exons as depicted; the exon of variable length gets split into two bins.



Detecting differential usage of exons from RNA-seq data

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Transcript inventory versus differential expression

Shotgun RNA-seq data can be used both for identification of transcripts and for differential expression analysis. In the former, one annotates the regions of the genome that can be expressed, i.e., the exons, and how the pre-mRNAs are spliced into transcripts. In differential expression analysis, one aims to study the regulation of these processes across different conditions. For the method described here, we assume that a transcript inventory has already been defined, and focus on differential expression.



DEXSeq – general structure: exon-level models

We use generalized linear models (GLMs) (McCullagh and Nelder 1989) to model read counts. Specifically, we assume K_{ijl} to follow a negative binomial (NB) distribution:

$$K_{ijl} \sim NB\left(\text{mean} = s_j \mu_{ijl}, \text{dispersion} = \alpha_{il}\right), \quad (1)$$

i: gene j: sample l: bin
where α_{il} is the dispersion parameter (a measure of the distribution's spread; see below) for counting bin (i, l) , and the mean is predicted via a log-linear model as

$$\log \mu_{ijl} = \beta_i^G + \beta_{il}^E + \beta_{ip_j}^C + \beta_{ip_j l}^{EC}. \quad (2)$$

i – gene
j – sample ... p_j is condition (categorical)
l – bin

β^G – baseline “expression strength”

β^E – “exon” (bin) effect

β^C – condition effect

β^{EC} – condition x “exon” interaction

Exon weight := attracts more reads

↓ condition does exon weight change across condition

DEXSeq: sig. interaction terms = differential exon usage

(DEXSeq
vignette)

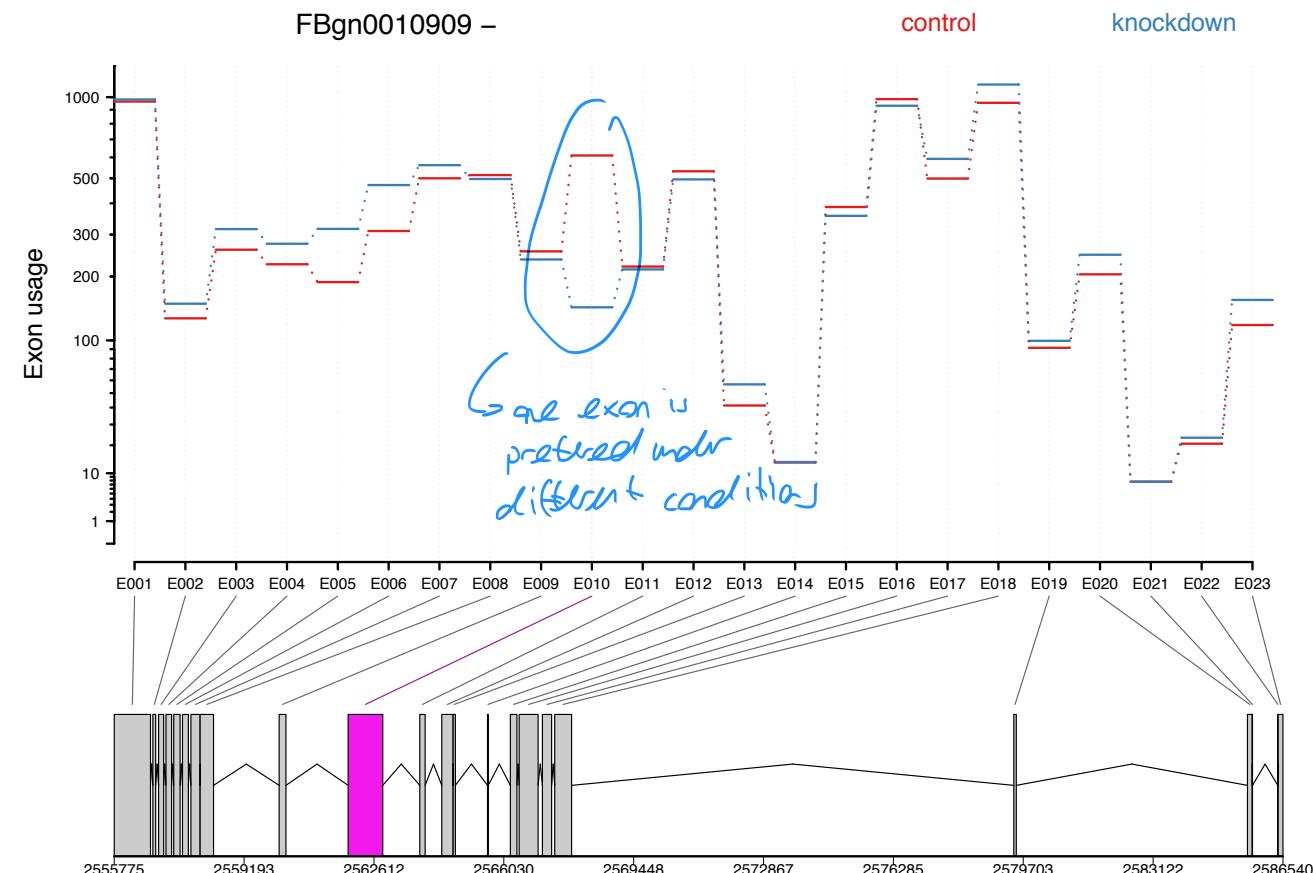
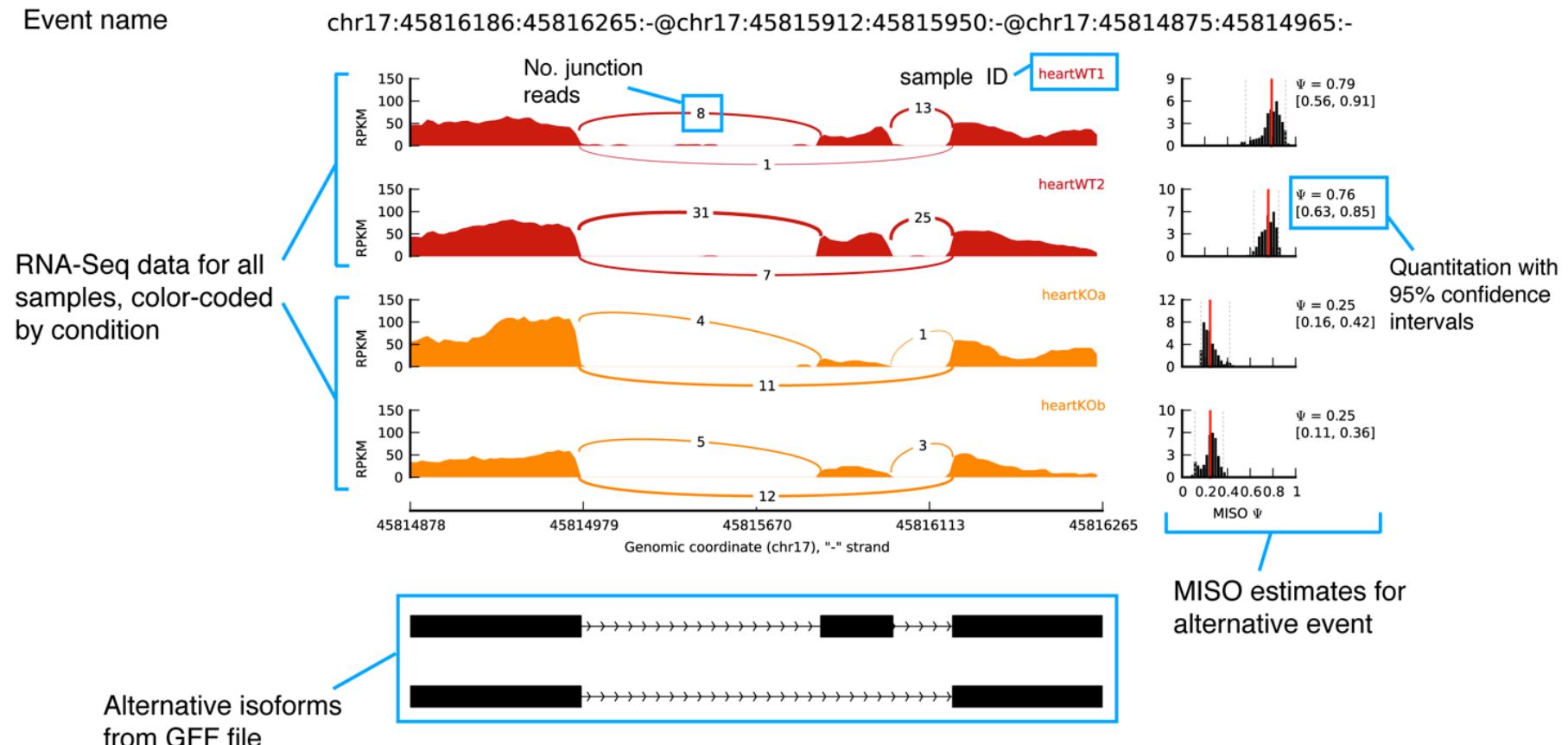


Figure 6: Fitted splicing

The plot represents the estimated effects, as in Figure 3, but after subtraction of overall changes in gene expression.

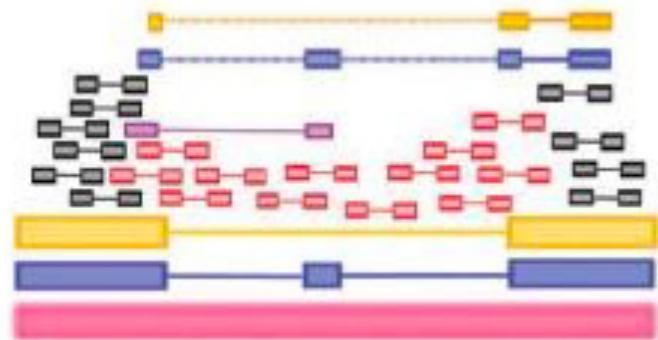
Percent spliced in (psi) -- MISO



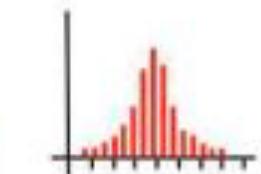
<http://genes.mit.edu/burgelab/miso/docs/>: "currently, MISO does not handle replicates / groups of samples in any special way" —> rMATs (Shen et al., PNAS, 2014)

Isoform-level estimation: cufflinks (kallisto, salmon, RSEM), cuffdiff2; many others

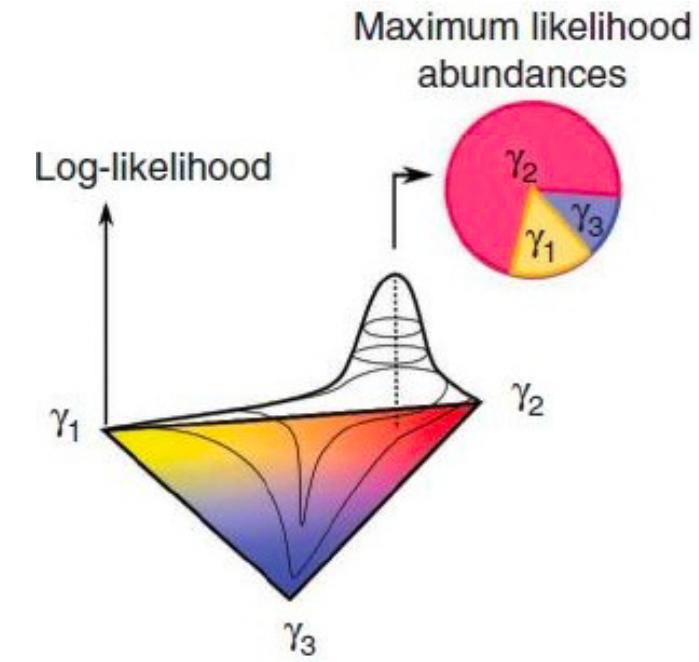
Abundance estimation



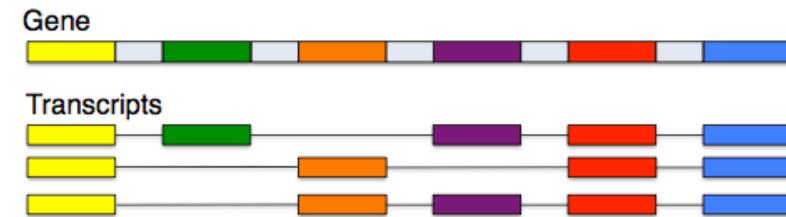
Transcript coverage
and compatibility



Fragment
length
distribution



From estimated isoform abundance from set of (assembled) transcripts, use Jenson-Shannon (JS) divergence to determine change in the mix of transcripts between conditions.



DTU → dirichlet-multinomial distribution

↳ multiple transcript for a gene

Estimated:

- transcript ratios

$$\Pi = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3)$$

Observed:

- transcript counts
- gene expression

$$Y = (y_1, y_2, y_3)$$

$$n = \sum_{j=1}^k y_j$$

Multinomial: $P(\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{y} | \Pi = \pi) = \binom{n}{\mathbf{y}} \prod_{j=1}^k \pi_j^{y_j}$

Dirichlet: $P(\Pi = \pi) = \frac{\Gamma(\gamma_+)}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(\gamma_j)} \prod_{j=1}^k \pi_j^{\gamma_j - 1}, \gamma_+ = \sum_{j=1}^k \gamma_j$

Dirichlet-multinomial: $P(\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{y}) = \binom{n}{\mathbf{y}} \frac{\Gamma(\gamma_+)}{\Gamma(n + \gamma_+)} \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{\Gamma(y_j + \gamma_j)}{\Gamma(\gamma_j)}, \gamma_j = \pi_j \gamma_+$





Many more details here (and in the 200 papers)

RNA Sequencing Data: Hitchhiker's Guide to Expression Analysis

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