## High-Throughput Sequencing Course Introduction

Biostatistics and Bioinformatics



Summer 2019





### FROM RAW UNALIGNED READS

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#### TO ALIGNED READS

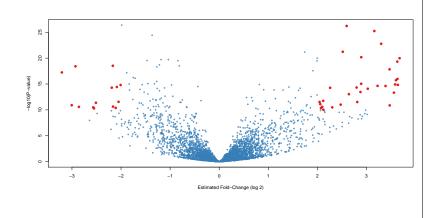
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| ONZAIO | COLOR | COL
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## To Counts

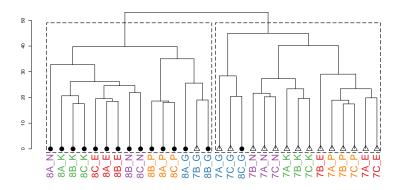
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### DIFFERENTIAL EXPRESSION

#### DIFFERENTIAL EXPRESSION



### CLASS DISCOVERY



# RECIPE FOR DISASTER: THE FORMULA THAT KILLED WALL STREET

- ▶ This article appeared in Wired Magazine 17.03
- ▶ Written by Felix Salmon
- ► Claims that the naive use of the "normal copula" led to financial disaster

#### Copula

- ▶ Consider two outcomes say X (e.g., price of a bond 1) and Y (e.g., price of bond 2)
- ▶ Marginal effect of X: Statistical properties of X (e.g., what is the mean value of X)
- ▶ Marginal effect of Y: Statistical properties of Y (e.g., what is the median value of Y)
- ightharpoonup Joint effect: How X and Y are related
- ► Copulas are functions that can be used to model the joint effect (dependency) between two outcomes
- ightharpoonup Example: Is a change in X dependent on a change in Y
- ► The normal copula referenced in the article is a specific type of copula

# Beautiful, simple, and, most commonly, tractable

"When you talk to market participants, they use words like beautiful, simple, and, most commonly, tractable. It could be applied anywhere, for anything, and was quickly adopted not only by banks packaging new bonds but also by traders and hedge funds dreaming up complex trades between those bonds."

#### Warnings ignored

"His method was adopted by everybody from bond investors and Wall Street banks to ratings agencies and regulators. And it became so deeply entrenched—and was making people so much money—that warnings about its limitations were largely ignored."

## DEVASTATING PUNCH

"How could one formula pack such a devastating punch? The answer lies in the bond market, the multitrillion-dollar system that allows pension funds, insurance companies, and hedge funds to lend trillions of dollars to companies, countries, and home buyers."

#### THE "INVENTOR" CAN'T BE BLAMED

Gilkes of CreditSights: "After all, he just invented the model. Instead, we should blame the bankers who misinterpreted it. And even then, the real danger was created not because any given trader adopted it but because every trader did. In financial markets, everybody doing the same thing is the classic recipe for a bubble and inevitable bust."

#### NOTES ON ARTICLE

- ► The "inventor" mentioned in the article did *not* invent the normal copula
- ► He may have introduced the concept to the finance/insurance industry
- ► If the premise of the article is true, then we will continue to pay for this naive use of a statistical approach
- ► What copulas have in common with many statistical approaches in genomics is that once somebody provides a software, anyone can conduct the analysis
- ► A basic understanding of the normal copula (e.g., lack of tail-depency) would have immediately disqualifed its use in finance

# EMPHASIS, FOCUS, APPROACH AND TOPICS

- ► Concepts rather than on mechanics (e.g., which software or method to use to fit a regression model)
- ► How statistical concepts are misunderstood or misinterpreted
- ► How and why things could go wrong
- ▶ Use simulation as a tool to illustrate these issues
- ► Topics:
  - ► Statistical Inference (testing and estimation)
  - ► Unsupervised learning (class discovery)
  - ► Multiple testing
  - ► Pathway/Gene-Set Analysis
  - ► Gene Networks
  - Distributions and regression models for counts

#### I hope that we can convince you that

▶ Bad: P < 0.05</li>▶ Worse: P > 0.05

- ► Statistical significance does imply biological significance
- ▶ Understand the concept of a confidence interval
- ► There is price to be paid every time you conduct a test
- ▶ You must distinguish between a decision and the truth
- ► There is a trade-off between false-positivity and false-negativity
- ► There is a trade-off between precision and accuracy
- ► You must identify the sources of variability
- ➤ You must be aware of algorithms that are self-fulfilling prophecies (most are)
- ► Think of sequencing data as count data

#### LIMITATIONS AND CAVEATS

- ▶ This is not a complete course in Statistics
- ▶ While the presentation is *not* mathematically rigorous, some notation is used
- ► Exclusively focused on "frequentist" inference
- ► The "Bayesian" approach (plays a key role in genomics) is not covered due to time limitations

# PCR/MICROARRAY VERSUS RNA-SEQ: COMMON OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

- ► Hypothesis testing: Is the mRNA abundance related to a phenotype, or changed in response to treatment or over time
- ► Effect size estimation: How to quantify the effect size and then how to estimate it from data
- ► Classification: Predict an outcome on the basis of baseline RNA levels from multiple genes
- ► Class Discovery: Discover subsets on the basis of baseline levels or changes in the levels of multiple genes
- ▶ Multiplicity: how to deal with testing not a single marker but thousands if not millions of markers (P < 0.05 makes no sense here or anywhere)

# RNA-SEQ: A TOOL FOR MEASURING ABUNDANCE OF RNA FROM CELLS

- ► The data observed are not gene expressions (quantified on a continuum)
- ▶ We observe the number of reads mapped to each gene
- ► These are counts
- ► Microarrays: consider distributions and regression models for quantitative traits (often assume that these are normally distributed)
- RNA-Seq: consider distributions and regression models for counts

# MRNA ABUNDANCE, GENE EXPRESSIONS AND READ COUNTS

- ightharpoonup Suppose that Y is the true abundance for a gene of interest
- $ightharpoonup \hat{Y}$ : the "expression" measured by microarray transcript (e.g., oligo nucleotide)
- $\blacktriangleright$  K: The number of RNA-Seq reads mapped to the gene
- ► Questions:
  - ▶ Is  $\hat{Y}$  close to Y (the truth)?
  - ▶ Is K close to Y (the truth)?
  - ightharpoonup Should K even be compared with Y?

## RNA-SEQ: TWO APPROACHES

- $\blacktriangleright$  Two-stage method:
  - ► Convert counts to "Expression" (e.g., RPKM, FPKM, TPM)
  - $\blacktriangleright\,$  plug these into a standard tests or regressions models
  - ► In essence: Force things into a microarray problem
- ► One-stage method:
  - ► Relate the counts directly to the phenotype
  - ▶ Use distributions and regression models for counts

### DECISION VERSUS TRUTH

- ► Any statistical method will yield a decision
- ► Whether that conclusion of the decision is close to the truth or even reasonable will remain unknown
- ▶ We have to accept that the decision may be wrong
- ► Goal: Bound the probability of a wrong decision through the use of proper statistical design and methods
- ▶ and *proper* and *measured* interpretation of the results

#### THE SIMULATION METHOD

- ► Simulate data from the "truth" in silico using computers
- ► Apply your proposed statistical method to the simulated (synthetic) data
- ► Repeatedly compare the decision at which you arrive (by virtue of the chosen statistical method) to the truth (under your control)

#### THE SIMULATION METHOD: NOISE DISCOVERY

- ► Simulate data from noise
- ► Example: simulate treated and untreated samples from the same distribution
- ► Assess the proportion of times you arrive at the wrong conclusion
- $\blacktriangleright$  Wrong conclusion: Conclude that there a treatment effect
- ► Important tool for identifying self-fulfilling prophecies.

# ON STATISTICS, CONCLUSIONS AND SOLUTIONS

"No isolated experiment, however significant in itself, can suffice for the experimental demonstration of any natural phenomenon; for the 'one chance in a million' will undoubtedly occur, with no less and no more than its appropriate frequency, however surprised we may be that it should occur to us."

Ronald Aylmer Fisher (The Design of Experiments (1935), 16)

"Doing statistics is like doing crosswords except that one cannot know for sure whether one has found the solution."

John Wilder Tukey (Annals of Statistics, 2002:30(6))