

TSEA: Tissue-Specific Enrichment Analysis to decode tissue heterogeneity

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August 20, 2018

1. Introduction

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) and next-generation sequencing technologies have identified hundreds of thousands of disease-associated variants and genes. Interpretation of these variants could be greatly enhanced in tissue-specific systems. However, there are many diseases or traits where the causal tissues or cell types remain unknown. In many studies, tissue transcriptome data are generated for research, which include both genes that are ubiquitously expressed (e.g., housekeeping genes) and genes that are specifically expressed in a range of tissues. This documentation introduces Tissue-Specific Enrichment Analysis (TSEA), an R package to identify the most relevant tissues for candidate genes or for gene expression profiles. TSEA builds on two pre-processed reference panels. We implemented different statistic tests for different forms of query data. We demonstrate TSEA using multi-trait GWAS data and cancer RNA-sequencing data.

2. Usage

2.1 Installation

TSEA is available at: <https://github.com/Peigsh/TSEA>. TSEA requires the package *pheatmap*. Before installing TSEA, please install *pheatmap*.

```
> install.packages("pheatmap")
> install.packages("TSEA")
> library(TSEA)
> library(pheatmap)
```

2.2 Built-in data

TSEA requires two reference panels to conduct the enrichment test: one from GTEx and the other from ENCODE. For GTEx, a matrix including the summary statistics for each tissue is also needed. All datasets have been included in the package. After installation of the package, one can load the data using the following commands:

```
### the t-statistic matrix for the GTEx panel
> data(GTEx_t_score)

### the z-score matrix for the ENCODE panel
> data(ENCODE_z_score)

### The summary statistics for GTEx tissues
> data(correction_factor)
```

2.3 Input data

TSEA deals with two types of enrichment analysis for different forms of query data.

2.3.1 TSEA for candidate genes

When the query data are lists of genes, the Fisher's Exact Test is implemented. The function is `tsea.analysis()`. The input is a vector of gene symbols. Here we used disease-associated genes identified from GWAS summary statistics as an example. The gene symbols can be found here:

```
# Load gene symbol from TSEA package.
> data(GWAS_gene)
> query.genes = GWAS_gene

# Or you can read gene symbol from a text file.
> dat = read.table("Gene_list.txt", head = F)
> query.genes = as.character(dat[,1])

# Tissue-specific analysis for query gene list.
> tsea_t = tsea.analysis(query.genes, GTEx_t_score, ratio = 0.05,
p.adjust.method = "bonferroni")
```

Here, the parameter *ratio* is to define tissue-specific genes and provides the first way of

categorizing genes. The second way of categorizing genes is based on the query genes. The two ways of category form a two by two table, which is used in the Fisher's Exact Test (FET). *P*-values from FET will be stored in *tsea_t*. To explore the results, we provide a plot function and a summary function.

```
# Check tissue-specific enrichment analysis result.
> head(tsea_t)
```

	query
Adipose - Subcutaneous	1.00000000
Adipose - Visceral (Omentum)	0.01095850
Adrenal Gland	1.00000000
Artery - Aorta	0.21208614
Artery - Coronary	0.01095850
Artery - Tibial	0.00257813

```
# TSEA result plot and summary
> tsea.plot(tsea_t, 0.05)
> tsea.summary(tsea_t)
```

Top1	tissue1_p-value	Top2	tissue2_p-value	Top3	tissue3_p-value
query	"Muscle - Skeletal"	"0.000213565633284591"	"Artery - Tibial"		
	"0.00257812976565265"	"Adipose - Visceral (Omentum)"			
	"0.0109584998307628"				

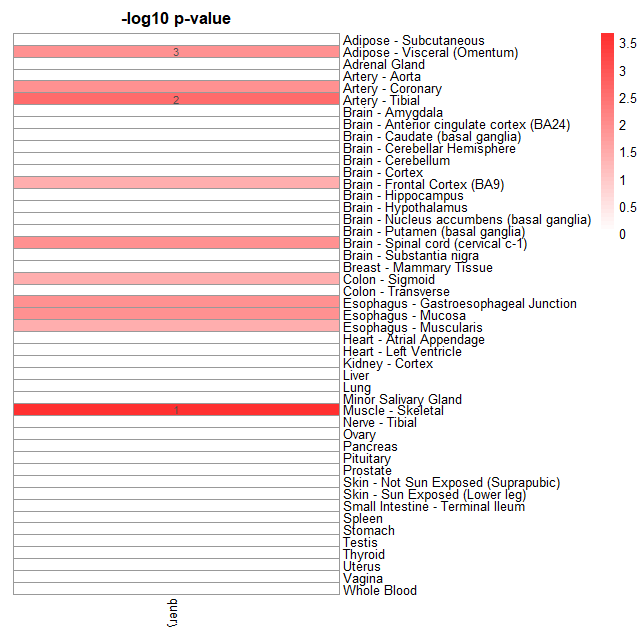


Fig. 1 Tissue-specific enrichment result for query gene list. Adjusted p-values from Fisher's Exact Test in the \log_{10} form for each tissue are used for the heatmap plot. The 3 most significantly associated tissues were labeled with "1", "2" and "3" in their corresponding cells.

2.3.2 TSEA for multiple gene lists

In most condition, you might want to analysis multiple samples together, then you can upload a 0~1 table. In the table, gene labeled with 1 indicated significant associate within a sample, while 0 indicated not in a given sample. You can check the format of example data.

```
# Load multiple gene symbol from TSEA package.
> data(GWAS_gene_multiple)
> query.gene.list = GWAS_gene_multiple
# Or you can read multiple gene symbol from a text file.
> dat = read.table("Gene_list_multiple.txt", head = T, row.names = 1)
> query.gene.list = dat
> query.gene.list[1:5,1:5]
```

	ALZ	ADHD	ASD	BD	MDD
A1BG	0	0	0	0	0
A1BG-AS1	0	0	0	0	0
A1CF	0	0	0	0	0
A2M	0	0	0	0	0
A2M-AS1	0	0	0	0	0

```
> colSums(query.gene.list)
```

	ALZ	ADHD	ASD	BD	MDD	SCZ	BMI	FN-BMD	LS-BMD
121	20	20	25	20	88	233	109	107	
EDU	HEIGHT	WHR	CD	IBD	RA	UC	AAM	CAD	
487	3311	98	336	480	213	275	270	71	
FG	FI	HDL	LDL	TC	TG	T1D	T2D		
69	26	368	305	329	223	329	43		

Then, we can make tissue specific enrichment analysis for multiple samples by `tsea.analysis.multiple()` and plot the result by `tsea.plot()` as showed in Fig. 2. You can summary the top 3 most associated tissues by `tsea.summary()` function and save your result in to a text-format spreadsheet, simply type:

```
# Tissue-specific enrichment analysis in GTEx panel
> tsea_t_multi = tsea.analysis.multiple(query.gene.list,
                                         GTEx_t_score, 0.05, p.adjust.method = "BH")
> #write.csv(tsea_t_multi,"GWAS_multi_TSEA_in_GTEx_panel.csv")
```

```
# Heatmap Plot for TSEA result
> #pdf ("GWAS_multi_TSEA_in_GTEEx_panel.pdf",6,6,onefile = FALSE)
> tsea.plot(tsea_t_multi, 0.05)
> #dev.off()
# Save your result in to a spreadsheet
> tsea_t_multi_summary = tsea.summary(tsea_t_multi)
> write.csv(tsea_t_multi_summary,"GWAS_multi_summary_GTEEx_panel.csv")
```

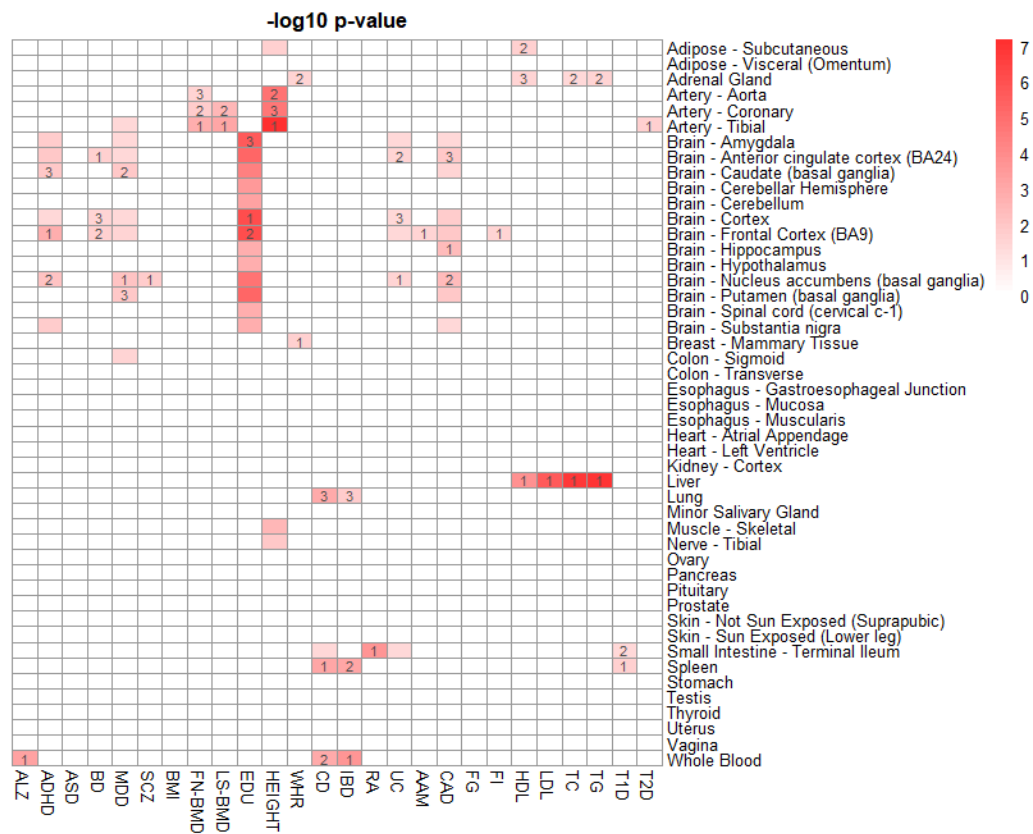


Fig. 2. Tissue-specific enrichment analysis for multiple samples.

2.3.3 TSEA for RNA-seq profiles

For query data as RNA-sequencing profiles, RPKM values are required in the format of matrix, with genes on rows and samples on columns. As an example, we use the ENCODE panel data as query and GTEx panel data as reference to demonstrate:

```
# Load ENCODE query data
```

```
> data(query_ENCODE)
> query.matrix = query_ENCODE
> query.matrix[1:5,1:4]
```

	Adrenal	Gland	Body of Pancreas	Breast Epithelium	Camera-type Eye
TSPAN6	11.639167		5.3900	11.038333	24.6475
TNMD	0.010000		0.1475	2.243333	12.4325
DPM1	18.819167		9.8125	14.215000	24.0250
SCYL3	3.812500		2.5925	5.626667	10.4975
C1orf112	1.643333		2.3075	2.858333	14.6125

As RNA-Seq samples are often heterogeneous, before in-depth analysis, it is necessary to decode tissue heterogeneity to avoid samples with confounding effects. However, the raw discrete RPKM value should be normalized to continuous variable meet the normal distribution before t-test. We provided two normalization approaches: "z-score" and "abundance" in function `tsea.expression.normalization()`:

1. z-score normalization will calculate a z-score for the query sample for each tissue in the reference panel as below: $e_i = (e_0 - \mu_t) / sd_t$, where μ_t and sd_t were the mean and SD of tissue t.
2. abundance normalization will provide an abundance correction approach for the query sample for each tissue in the reference panel as below: $e_i = \log_2(e_0 + 1) / (\log_2(u_t + 1) + 1)$.

We have the preloaded the test RPKM variable in `query.matrix` and correction variable in `correction_factor`, we take "abundance" normalization approach as an example:

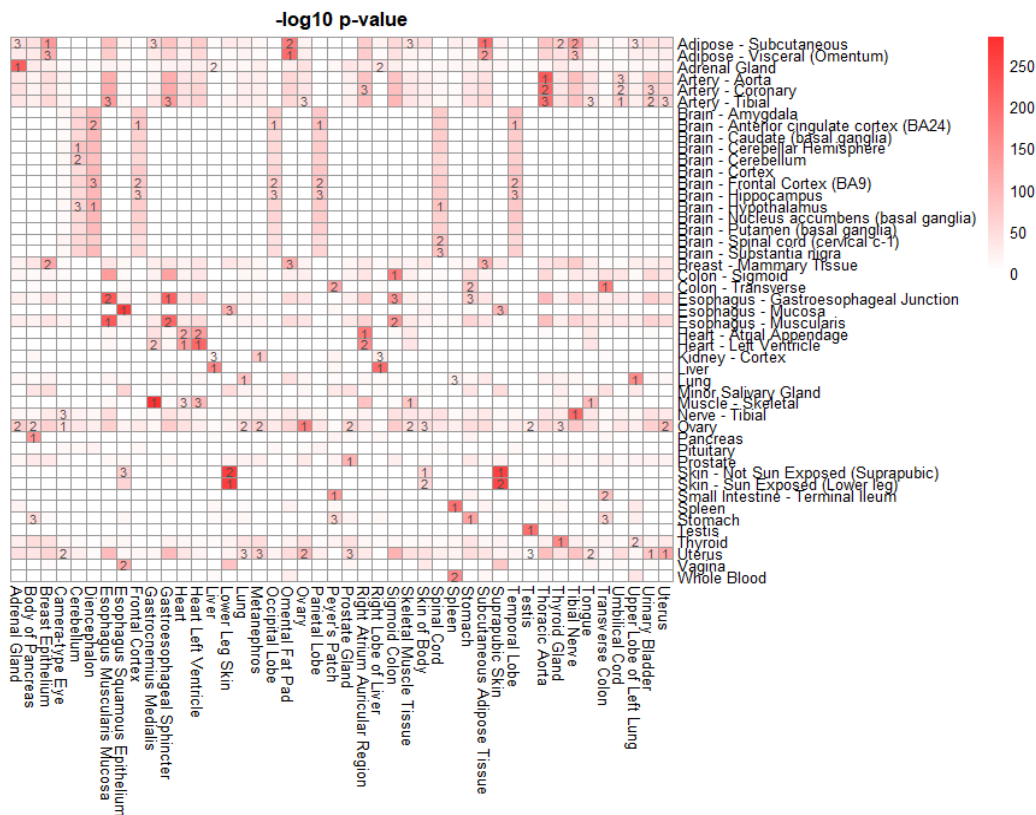
```
# RNA-Seq profiles scale by abundance normalization
> query_mat_abundance_nor =
tsea.expression.normalization(query.matrix, correction_factor,
normalization = "abundance")
> query_mat_abundance_nor[1:5,1:5]
```

	Adrenal	Gland	Body of Pancreas	Breast Epithelium	Camera-type Eye	Cerebellum
C1orf112	0.7427561		0.9140352	1.0317423	2.0998577	1.6212056
FGR	0.4884476		0.2615171	0.5977016	0.2500974	0.1617040
CFH	0.8805367		0.5989594	0.8540355	0.8547878	0.8363093
FUCA2	1.0366443		0.9182102	0.7530246	0.7801565	0.6394422
NFYA	0.6386405		0.5508964	0.8167324	1.1198416	0.9170538

After normalization, we submit it for `tsea.expression.decode()`.

	Adrenal Gland	Body of Pancreas	Breast Epithelium
Adipose - Subcutaneous	7.093272e-49	4.636686e-44	5.779239e-142
Adipose - Visceral (Omentum)	2.199051e-33	9.641733e-32	1.313532e-112
Adrenal Gland	9.925492e-220	3.404965e-33	1.476023e-25
Artery - Aorta	2.749910e-39	1.075081e-21	5.919623e-47
Artery - Coronary	6.702724e-42	4.048237e-22	6.188863e-44

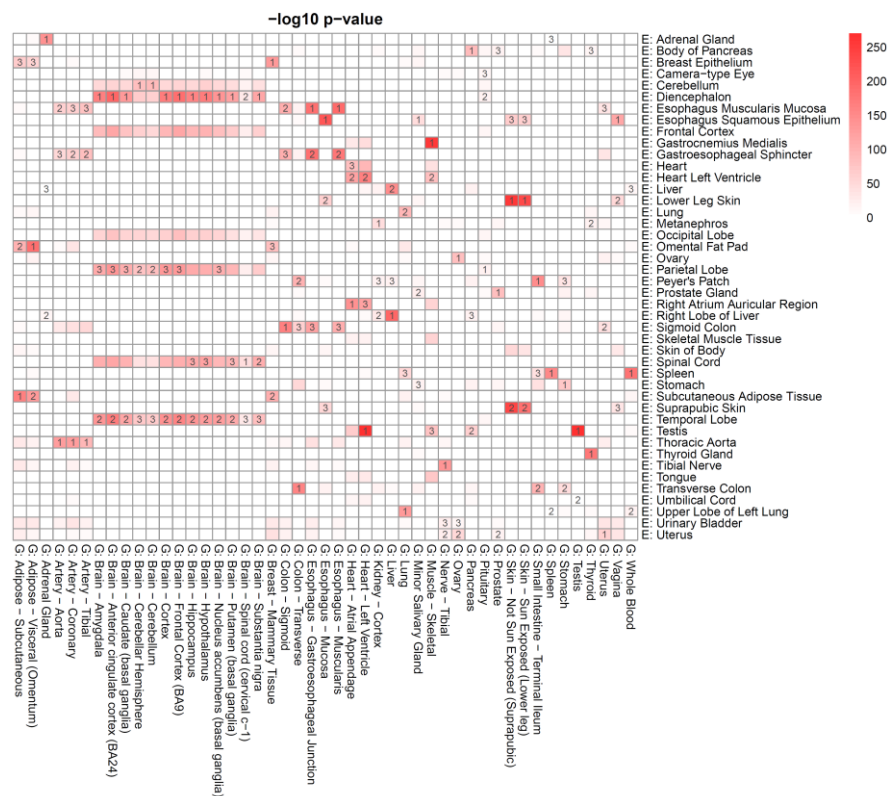
```
> tsea.plot(tseaed_in_GTEEx, 0.05)
> tseaed_in_GTEEx_summary = tsea.summary(tseaed_in_GTEEx)
> write.csv(tseaed_in_GTEEx_summary, "RNAseq summary in GTEEx panel.csv")
```



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To prove the robustness of our proposed pipeline, user can validate the two reference panels through self-validation. Simply, load GTEx example RNA-seq profiles and perform tissue-specific enrichment analysis in ENCODE panel.

Usually, in GTEx panel, we suggest take abundance normalization approach; while in ENCODE panel, we suggest take z-score normalization approach.



Further analysis for top 3 most associated tissues is similar to previous analysis, and results were plotted in Fig. 4. The reader is encouraged to open and view the file in a spreadsheet software, or inspect it directly within R using the command `fix(tseaed_in_ENCODE)`. In addition, sometime, you might want to edit some parameters for your own data, e.g., you can change the `GTEX_t_score` to `ENCODE_z_score` for ENCODE tissue specific enrichment analysis, you can also change the tissue specific genes threshold from 0.05 to 0.2, or change the `p.adjust.method` to "bonferroni".

In addition, we provide `tsea.plot()` to facilitate interpretation and visualization of the results, as showed in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4.

```
> tsea.plot(tseaed_in_ENCODE, 0.05)
> tseaed_in_ENCODE_summary = tsea.summary(tseaed_in_ENCODE)
> write.csv(tseaed_in_ENCODE_summary, "output.csv")
```

Citation

Pei G., Dai Y., Zhao Z., Jia P. (2018) Tissue-Specific Enrichment Analysis (TSEA) to decode tissue heterogeneity. *Bioinformatics*, in submission.

References

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