

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO  
DOTTORATO IN MANAGEMENT & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



CURRICULUM: INFORMATION SECURITY & INNOVATION SYSTEMS

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Ciclo XVII N.S.

Novel tools for reproducible  
Next Generation Sequencing data analysis and integration

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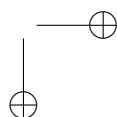
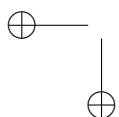
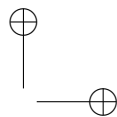
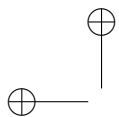
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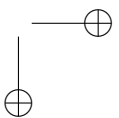
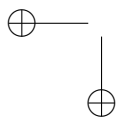
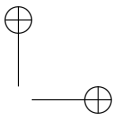
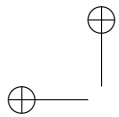
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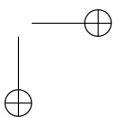
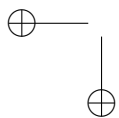
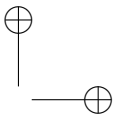
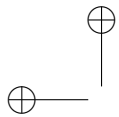
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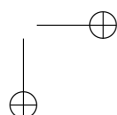
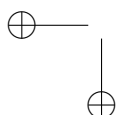
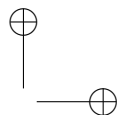
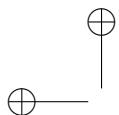
*How to reach a goal?*  
*Without haste but without rest*  
*Goethe*



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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Biological Background

### 1.2 Sequencing Techniques

#### 1.2.1 RNA-Seq

#### 1.2.2 Atac-Seq

### 1.3 Computational Aspects



# Chapter 2

## TiCoRSe - Time Course RNA-Seq data analysis

### 2.1 Introduction

#### 2.1.1 Time Course RNA-Seq

### 2.2 Methods

#### 2.2.1 General Approach

#### 2.2.2 Time Course Methods

#### 2.2.3 Other Methods

#### 2.2.4 Additional Features

### 2.3 Results



# Chapter 3

## DEScan2 - Differential Enriched Scan 2

### ***few words on integration of epigenomic with transcriptomic***

To investigate and to answer a epigenetic biological questions we decided to create an instrument useful for analysing the epigenomic data. Very often the biological questions, as for the RNA-Seq, to be answered, need the comparison of two or more different biological conditions. On the basis of a set of already published [1] scripts, we designed *Differential Enriched Scan 2 (DEScan2)*, a software for helping the analysis of epigenomic data.

### **3.1 Introduction**

The *Differential Enriched Scan 2* is an R [2] tool developed for detecting epigenomic signal in order to facilitate the Differential Enrichment of the signal between two or more biological conditions.

The package uses Bioconductor [3] data structures and methods every time it was possible, and it is available on Bioconductor since the version 3.7.

It's organized in three main steps. A peak caller, which is a standard moving window scan that compares the counts within a sliding window to the counts in a larger region outside the window, using a simple Poisson likelihood (no overdispersion estimation) and providing a final score for each detected peak.

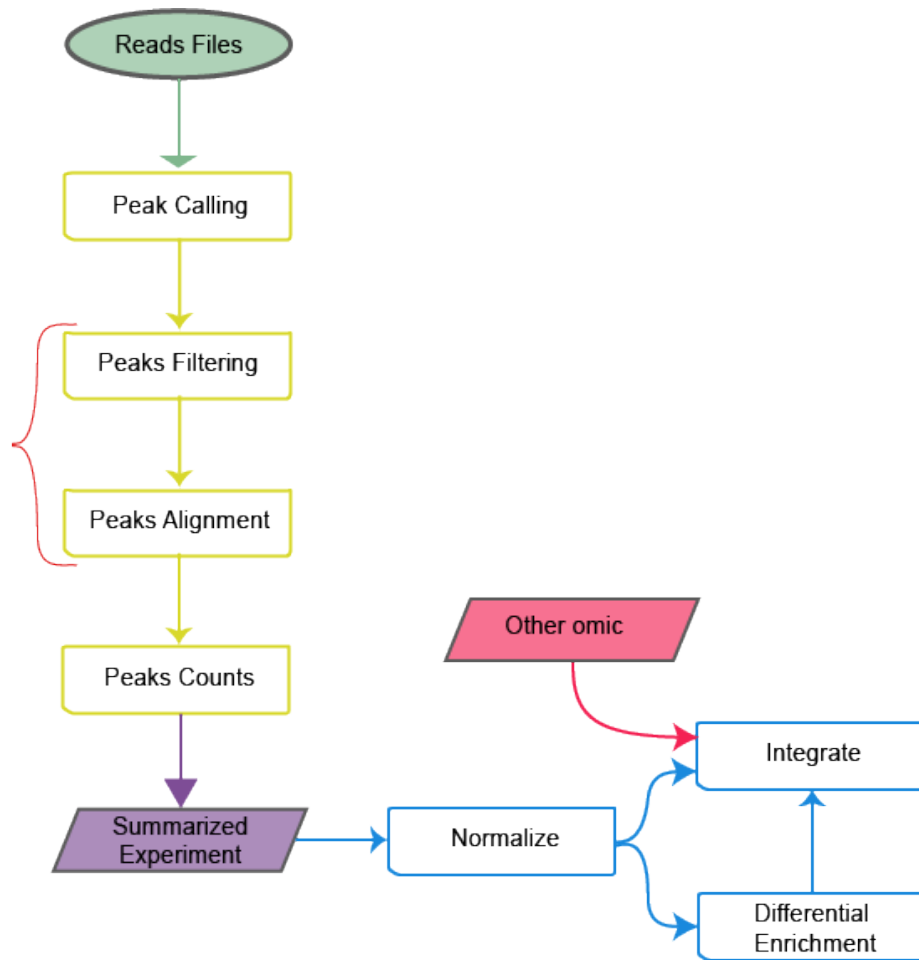
The filtering step is aimed to determine if a peak is a "true peak" on the basis of its replicability in other samples. To do so, this step is based on a double user-defined threshold, one on the peak score and one on the number of samples.

Finally, the third step produces a counts matrix where each column is a sample and each row a filtered peak computed in the filtering step. The value of the matrix cell is the number of reads for the peak in the sample.



### 3.1. INTRODUCTION

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**Figure 3.1.1:** A differential enrichment flow representation. DEScan2 steps are highlighted in yellow.

The so produced counts matrix, as illustrated in the figure 3.1.1, is useful both for doing differential enrichment between the conditions and for integrating the epigenomic data with other -omic data types.

## 3.2 Methods

### 3.2.1 Peak Caller

The Peak Caller takes as input a set of alignment files in BAM [4] or BED format together with several additional parameters, useful for the peak detection setup.

The alignment data are stored as `GenomicRangesList` [5], where each element represents a file. In order to facilitate the parallelization of the computations over the chromosomes, the list is re-arranged as a list of `GenomicRangesList`, with a chromosome for each element. Moreover, each element of the `GenomicRangesList` represents a file containing just the `GenomicRanges` of the specific chromosome.

On this data structure the algorithm firstly divides each chromosome as bins of user-defined length and then computes the coverage of the reads on the bins with a moving scan window.

In order to be able to catch also spread peaks we compute the coverage also using windows of two different lengths.

Once the coverages are ready the method computes a score for each detected region, applying a poisson likelihood estimation.

[PUT THE POISSON DISTRIBUTION AND THE LIKELIHOOD EXPLAINING THE METHOD]

### 3.2.2 Peak Filtering and Alignment

In order to detect the most possible "true peaks", we deisgned a filtering step based on two different threshold. A first threshold on the peaks score and a second threshold on the number of samples.

The filtering step is designed to take as input a list of peaks as `GenomicRangesList`, where each element represents a chromosome. This is the data structure produced by the peak caller, but, we developed a method to load peaks produced also by other software like MACS [6], as described in section 3.2.4.

The filtering step on the peaks score just filters out the peaks with a score

## 3.2. METHODS

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lower than the user-defined threshold value.

While the filtering step on the samples, firstly extends a window in both directions of the detected region, then computes the overlaps between the samples using the *findOverlapsOfPeaks* method (with *connectedPeaks* parameter as *merge*), defined in the ChIPpeakAnno [7] R package.

Basing on this idea, the filtering step is developed to filter out those peaks not present in at least a user-defined number of samples. In the light of this, the user can decide the minimum number of samples where each peak has to be detected. A further threshold can be used over the peak score.

### 3.2.3 Peak Counts

The counting step is designed to take a *GenomicRanges* data structure as input, where additional informations for the score and the number of samples for each peak are stored. Moreover, it requires also the path of the BAM/BED files within the reads to count for each peak in the *GenomicRanges*.

This step counts the number of reads present for each region in each sample. Indeed, it produces as result a matrix of counts where on the reads there are the regions and on the columns the samples.

In order to keep trace of all the information associated to the regions, it produces a *SummarizedExperiment* [8] data structure, which gives the possibility to access the *GenomicRanges* data structure associated to the peaks with the *rowRanges* method and to access to the count matrix with the *assays* method.

The choice to produce a count matrix is dictated by the versatility of this data structure, useful not only for the differential enrichment of the regions between multiple conditions, but also for integration of this -omic type with other -omics.

### 3.2.4 Additional Features

However, the package can work with any external peak caller returning results in terms of bed files, indeed the package provides additional functionalities to load BED files of peaks and handle them as *GenomicRanges* [5] structures.

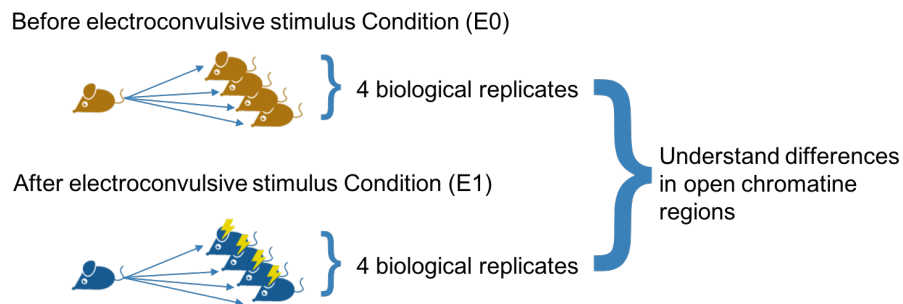
Furthermore, our package provides several functionalities for `GenomicRanges` data structure handling. One over the others gives the possibility to split a `GenomicRanges` over the chromosomes to speed-up the computations parallelizing them over the chromosomes.

### 3.3 Case Study

#### A few words on epigenomic data

We illustrate the performances of `DESCAN2` using a dataset [9] describing adult mouse dentate granule neurons in vivo before and after synchronous neuronal activation using Atac-Seq and RNA-Seq technologies (see sections 1.2.2 and 1.2.1).

This dataset is organized in 62 samples of Atac-Seq and RNA-Seq, sampling them at different time points, with four replicates for time point. Of this samples we chose to compare the differences at the first two stages, time 0 (E0) and After 1 hour of neuronal induction (E1), in order to show a possible Atac-Seq workflow for Differential Enrichment, and how to integrate this type of data with RNA-Seq data.



**Figure 3.3.1:** An illustration of our extraction of the [9] dataset.

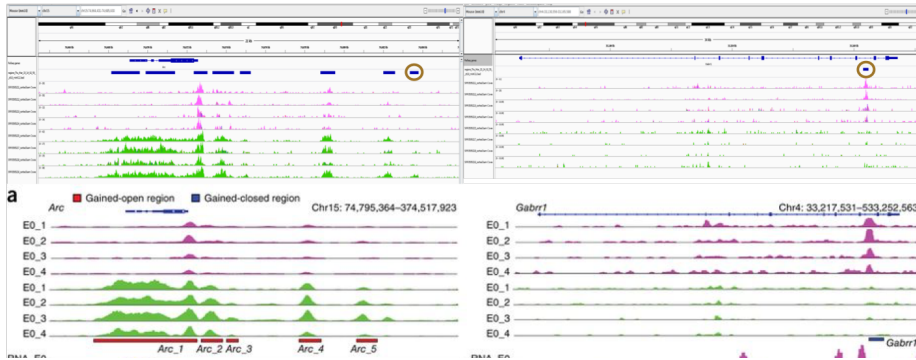
### 3.3. CASE STUDY

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We downloaded the data from the *GEO* database [10, 11] with accession number GSE82015<sup>1</sup> and mapped raw data using *STAR* [12] with default parameter on Mus Musculus Genome ver.10 (mm10).

In order to detect the open chromatin regions we run our peak caller, cutting the genome in bins of 50bp and using running windows of minimum 50bp and maximum 1000bp. In such a way we are able to detect not just broad peak, but also smaller peaks.

To be confident with our results we compared the DEScan2 detected peaks on two genes (*Arc* and *Gabrr1*) with the same genes validated in [9]. Lower part of figure 3.3.2 shows the detected and validated regions (in blue and red) resulting differentially enriched between the E0 (in pink) and E1 (in green) samples, while the upper part shows DEScan2 peaks (in blue), which is able to catch the same regions of the published ones, but also (gold circles) to be more careful in the detection of smaller peaks.

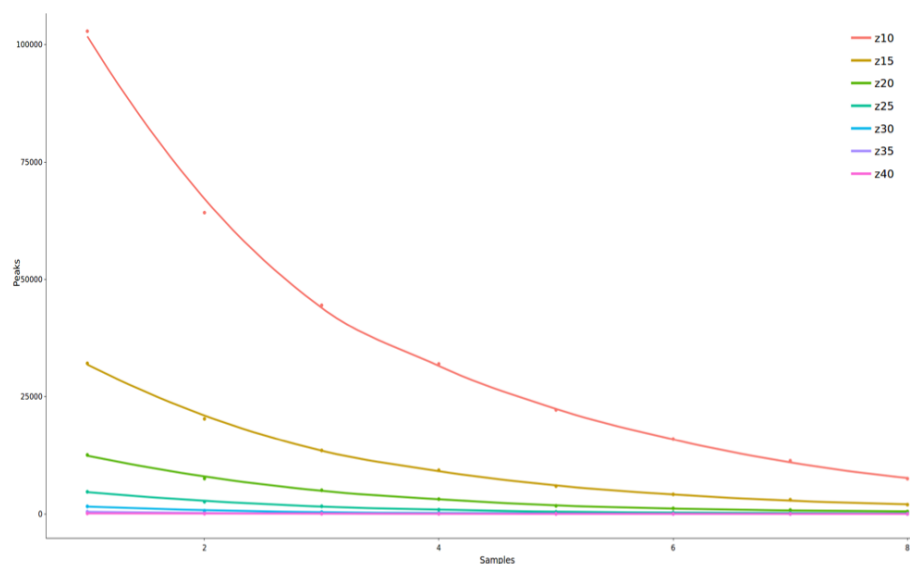


**Figure 3.3.2:** A comparison of DEScan2 detected peaks with validated peaks in article [9].

While it is very important to detect good peaks with a peak caller, it seems to be more relevant to detect reliable regions. Indeed, during the filtering step, the number of peaks depends not only by the peak score, but also by the number of replicates designed in the experiment. The figure 3.3.3 puts in relation these

<sup>1</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE82015>

two relevant information. On the x-axis is represented the number of replicates, while on the y-axis the number of peaks is traced, and each line represents a different threshold for the score of the peaks, showing that higher is the threshold on the scores and the number of the replicates, lower is the number of the detected peaks. Highlighting a proportional inversion between the number of the peaks and the number of the samples combined with the score of the detected regions.



**Figure 3.3.3:** Filtering the detected regions with different thresholds on peak scores.

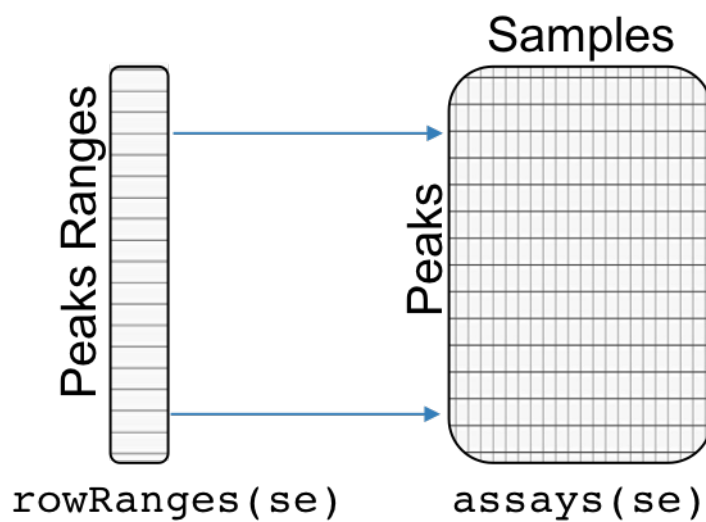
The filtered-in regions can be processed by DESeq2 in order to obtain a count matrix with samples on the columns and peaks on the rows. This type of data structure is very versatile, because it enables to perform several operations, like the differential enrichment of the regions (DER) and, when possible, the integration with other kind of omics, as RNA-Seq.

In order to preserve the information associated to the peaks, DESeq2 produces as output a *SummarizedExperiment* 3.3.4 data structure, which enables to retrieve the count matrix with *assays* method, and to access the peaks in-

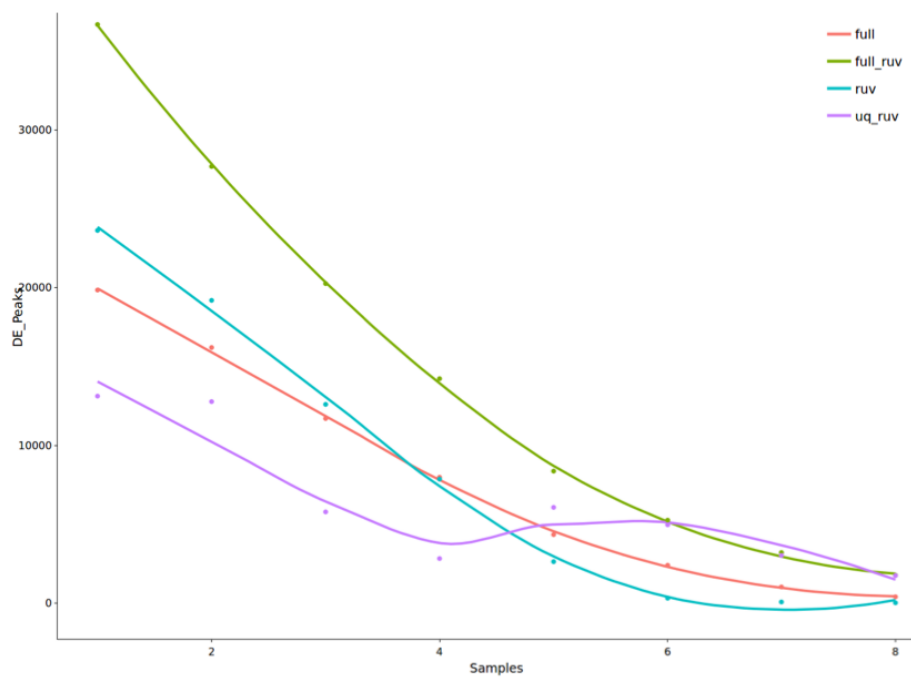
### 3.3. CASE STUDY

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formation in *GenomicRanges* format with the *rowRanges* method.



**Figure 3.3.4:** An illustration of the *SummarizedExperiment* data structure produced by *DEScan2*.



**Figure 3.3.5:** The figure shows the effects of different normalizations on the epigenomic detected regions.



Chapter

4

# IntegrHO - Integration of High-Throughput Omics data

## 4.1 Introduction

## 4.2 Methods

### 4.2.1 Single Omic Approach

### 4.2.2 Multi Omic Approach

Low Level Itegration

High Level Itegration

## 4.3 Implementation Aspects

## 4.4 Reproducible Computational Research

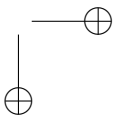
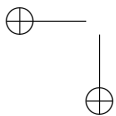
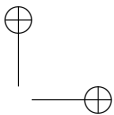
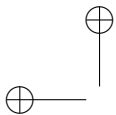
## 4.5 Results

# Chapter 5

## Conclusions & Future Works



# Appendices



## **.1. R LANGUAGE**

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**.1 R Language**

**.2 R Markdown Language**





# Chapter 6

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