Transcriptomics and the analysis of RNA-Seq data

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Import and read countData and colData

```
counts <- read.csv("airway_scaledcounts.csv", stringsAsFactors = FALSE, row.names=1)
metadata <-  read.csv("airway_metadata.csv", stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
```

Let's have a look at these

```
head(counts)
```

```
##                 SRR1039508 SRR1039509 SRR1039512 SRR1039513 SRR1039516
## ENSG00000000003        723        486        904        445       1170
## ENSG00000000005          0          0          0          0          0
## ENSG00000000419        467        523        616        371        582
## ENSG00000000457        347        258        364        237        318
## ENSG00000000460         96         81         73         66        118
## ENSG00000000938          0          0          1          0          2
##                 SRR1039517 SRR1039520 SRR1039521
## ENSG00000000003       1097        806        604
## ENSG00000000005          0          0          0
## ENSG00000000419        781        417        509
## ENSG00000000457        447        330        324
## ENSG00000000460         94        102         74
## ENSG00000000938          0          0          0
```

```
metadata
```

```
##           id     dex celltype     geo_id
## 1 SRR1039508 control   N61311 GSM1275862
## 2 SRR1039509 treated   N61311 GSM1275863
## 3 SRR1039512 control  N052611 GSM1275866
## 4 SRR1039513 treated  N052611 GSM1275867
## 5 SRR1039516 control  N080611 GSM1275870
## 6 SRR1039517 treated  N080611 GSM1275871
## 7 SRR1039520 control  N061011 GSM1275874
## 8 SRR1039521 treated  N061011 GSM1275875
```

Q1. How many genes are in this dataset?

```
nrow(counts)
```

```
## [1] 38694
```

Q2. How many 'control' cell lines do we have?

```
sum(metadata$dex == "control")
```

```
## [1] 4
```

#Toy Differential Gene Expression

First, we need to extract all the "control" columns. Then I will take the rowwise mean to get the average count values for all genes in these four experiments.

```
control.inds <- metadata$dex == "control"
control.counts <- counts[ ,control.inds]
head(control.counts)
```

```
##                 SRR1039508 SRR1039512 SRR1039516 SRR1039520
## ENSG00000000003        723        904       1170        806
## ENSG00000000005          0          0          0          0
## ENSG00000000419        467        616        582        417
## ENSG00000000457        347        364        318        330
## ENSG00000000460         96         73        118        102
## ENSG00000000938          0          1          2          0
```

```
control.mean <- rowMeans(control.counts)
head(control.mean)
```

```
## ENSG00000000003 ENSG00000000005 ENSG00000000419 ENSG00000000457 ENSG00000000460
##          900.75            0.00          520.50          339.75           97.25
## ENSG00000000938
##            0.75
```

Q3. How would you make the above code in either approach more robust?

Rather than using "Rowsums" then diving by 4, use "Rowmeans", that way if we were to add more data (aka more rows), the code would still work for the datasets.

Q4. Follow the same procedure for the treated samples (i.e. calculate the mean per gene across drug treated samples and assign to a labeled vector called treated.mean) Do the same thing for the "treated" columns.

```
treated.inds <- metadata$dex == "treated"
treated.counts <- counts[ ,treated.inds]
head(treated.counts)
```

```
##                 SRR1039509 SRR1039513 SRR1039517 SRR1039521
## ENSG00000000003        486        445       1097        604
## ENSG00000000005          0          0          0          0
## ENSG00000000419        523        371        781        509
## ENSG00000000457        258        237        447        324
## ENSG00000000460         81         66         94         74
## ENSG00000000938          0          0          0          0
```

```
treated.mean <- rowMeans(treated.counts)
head(treated.mean)
```

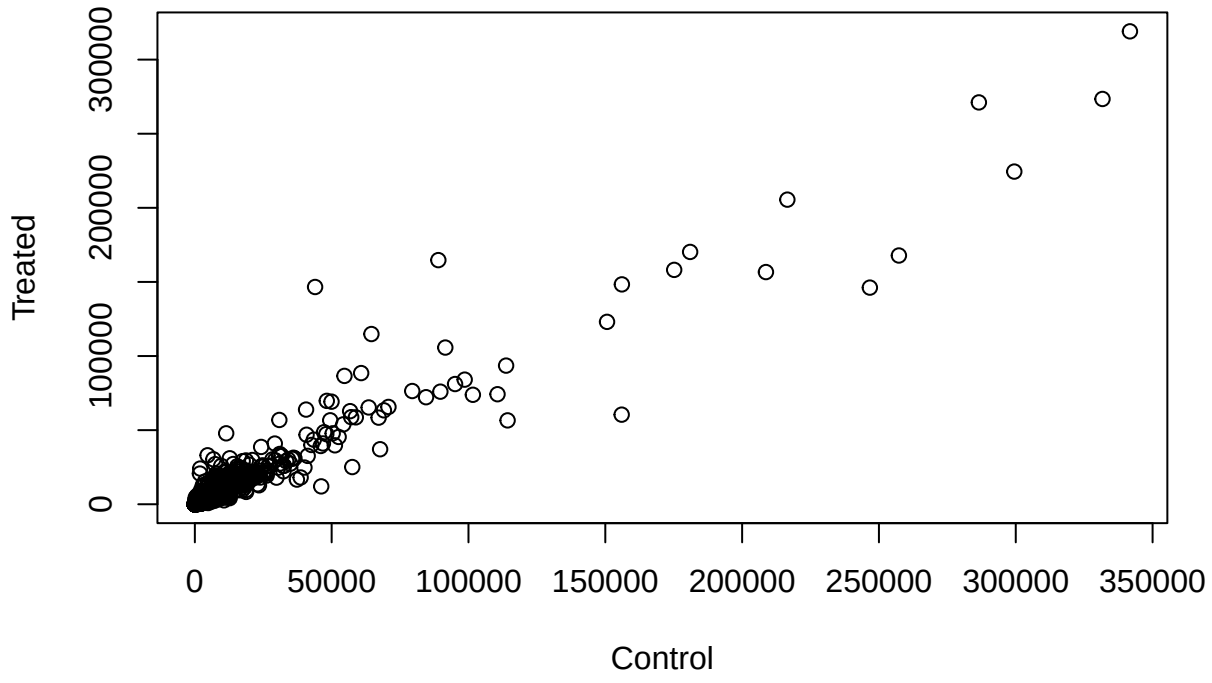
```
## ENSG00000000003 ENSG00000000005 ENSG00000000419 ENSG00000000457 ENSG00000000460
##          658.00            0.00          546.00          316.50           78.75
## ENSG00000000938
##            0.00
```

Combine our meancount data for bookkeeping purposes.

```
meancounts <- data.frame(control.mean, treated.mean)
```

Q5. Create a scatter plot showing the mean of the treated samples against the mean of the control samples. Your plot should look something like the following.

```
plot(meancounts, xlab="Control", ylab="Treated")
```

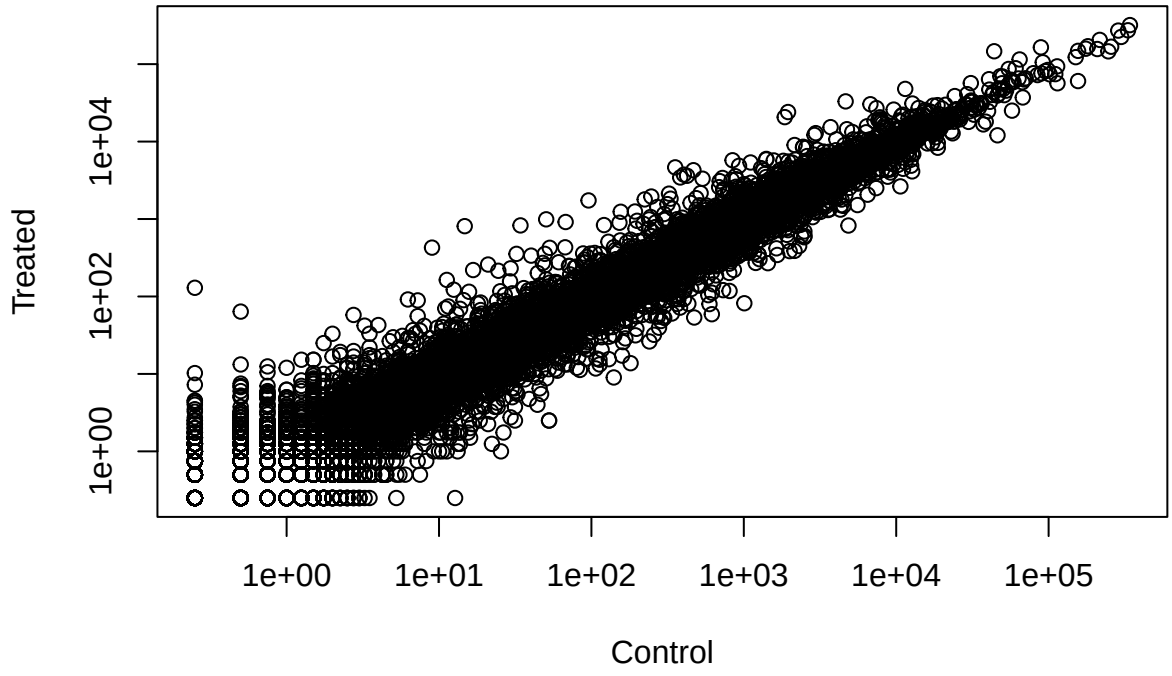


Q6. Try plotting both axes on a log scale. What is the argument to plot() that allows you to do this?

```
plot(meancounts, xlab="Control", ylab="Treated", log="xy")
```

```
## Warning in xy.coords(x, y, xlabel, ylabel, log): 15032 x values <= 0 omitted
## from logarithmic plot
```

```
## Warning in xy.coords(x, y, xlabel, ylabel, log): 15281 y values <= 0 omitted
## from logarithmic plot
```



We see 0 values for no change, + values for increases and - values for decreases. This nice property leads us to work with **log2(fold-change)** all the time in the genomics and proteomics field.

Let's add the **log2(fold-change)** to our `meancounts` dataframe.

```
meancounts$log2fc <- log2(meancounts[,"treated.mean"]/meancounts[,"control.mean"])
head(meancounts)
```

```
##                 control.mean treated.mean      log2fc
## ENSG00000000003       900.75       658.00 -0.45303916
## ENSG00000000005         0.00         0.00         NaN
## ENSG00000000419       520.50       546.00  0.06900279
## ENSG00000000457       339.75       316.50 -0.10226805
## ENSG00000000460        97.25        78.75 -0.30441833
## ENSG00000000938         0.75         0.00        -Inf
```

Filter the data to remove the genes with zero expression.

```
zero.vals <- which(meancounts[,1:2]==0, arr.ind=TRUE)

to.rm <- unique(zero.vals[,1])
mycounts <- meancounts[-to.rm,]
head(mycounts)
```

```
##                 control.mean treated.mean      log2fc
## ENSG00000000003       900.75       658.00 -0.45303916
## ENSG00000000419       520.50       546.00  0.06900279
## ENSG00000000457       339.75       316.50 -0.10226805
## ENSG00000000460        97.25        78.75 -0.30441833
## ENSG00000000971      5219.00      6687.50  0.35769358
## ENSG00000001036      2327.00      1785.75 -0.38194109
```

> Q7. What is the purpose of the arr.ind argument in the which() function call above? Why would we then take the first column of the output and need to call the unique() function?

I can use the **which()** function with the `arr.ind=TRUE` argument to get the columns and rows where the TRUE values are (i.e the zero counts in our case). Using the `unique()` function ensured we do not count any same row twice.

How many genes do we have left after removing those with zero expression?

```
nrow(mycounts)
```

```
## [1] 21817
```

A common threshold used for calling something differentially expressed is a log2(FoldChange) of greater than 2 or less than -2. Let's filter the dataset both ways to see how many genes are up or down-regulated.

```
up.ind <- mycounts$log2fc > 2
down.ind <- mycounts$log2fc < (-2)
```

> Q8. Using the up.ind vector above can you determine how many up regulated genes we have at the greater than 2 fc level?

```
sum(up.ind)
```

```
## [1] 250
```

> Q9. Using the down.ind vector above can you determine how many down regulated genes we have at the greater than 2 fc level?

```
sum(down.ind)
```

```
## [1] 367
```

> Q10. Do you trust these results? Why or why not?

No, because we do not know if the fold-change levels are statistically different.

DESeq2 Analysis

Load DESeq2.

```
library(DESeq2)
```

```
## Loading required package: S4Vectors

## Loading required package: stats4

## Loading required package: BiocGenerics

## Loading required package: parallel

##
## Attaching package: 'BiocGenerics'

## The following objects are masked from 'package:parallel':
##
##     clusterApply, clusterApplyLB, clusterCall, clusterEvalQ,
##     clusterExport, clusterMap, parApply, parCapply, parLapply,
##     parLapplyLB, parRapply, parSapply, parSapplyLB

## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
##     IQR, mad, sd, var, xtabs

## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##     anyDuplicated, append, as.data.frame, basename, cbind, colnames,
##     dirname, do.call, duplicated, eval, evalq, Filter, Find, get, grep,
##     grepl, intersect, is.unsorted, lapply, Map, mapply, match, mget,
##     order, paste, pmax, pmax.int, pmin, pmin.int, Position, rank,
##     rbind, Reduce, rownames, sapply, setdiff, sort, table, tapply,
##     union, unique, unsplit, which.max, which.min

##
## Attaching package: 'S4Vectors'

## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##     expand.grid, I, unname

## Loading required package: IRanges

## Loading required package: GenomicRanges

## Loading required package: GenomeInfoDb

## Loading required package: SummarizedExperiment
```

```
## Loading required package: MatrixGenerics

## Loading required package: matrixStats

##
## Attaching package: 'MatrixGenerics'

## The following objects are masked from 'package:matrixStats':
##
##     colAlls, colAnyNAs, colAnys, colAvgsPerRowSet, colCollapse,
##     colCounts, colCummaxs, colCummins, colCumprods, colCumsums,
##     colDiffs, colIQRDiffs, colIQRs, colLogSumExps, colMadDiffs,
##     colMads, colMaxs, colMeans2, colMedians, colMins, colOrderStats,
##     colProds, colQuantiles, colRanges, colRanks, colSdDiffs, colSds,
##     colSums2, colTabulates, colVarDiffs, colVars, colWeightedMads,
##     colWeightedMeans, colWeightedMedians, colWeightedSds,
##     colWeightedVars, rowAlls, rowAnyNAs, rowAnys, rowAvgsPerColSet,
##     rowCollapse, rowCounts, rowCummaxs, rowCummins, rowCumprods,
##     rowCumsums, rowDiffs, rowIQRDiffs, rowIQRs, rowLogSumExps,
##     rowMadDiffs, rowMads, rowMaxs, rowMeans2, rowMedians, rowMins,
##     rowOrderStats, rowProds, rowQuantiles, rowRanges, rowRanks,
##     rowSdDiffs, rowSds, rowSums2, rowTabulates, rowVarDiffs, rowVars,
##     rowWeightedMads, rowWeightedMeans, rowWeightedMedians,
##     rowWeightedSds, rowWeightedVars

## Loading required package: Biobase

## Welcome to Bioconductor
##
##     Vignettes contain introductory material; view with
##     'browseVignettes()'. To cite Bioconductor, see
##     'citation("Biobase")', and for packages 'citation("pkgname")'.

##
## Attaching package: 'Biobase'

## The following object is masked from 'package:MatrixGenerics':
##
##     rowMedians

## The following objects are masked from 'package:matrixStats':
##
##     anyMissing, rowMedians
```

We need to first setup the input for DESeq2.

```
dds <- DESeqDataSetFromMatrix(countData=counts,
                              colData=metadata,
                              design=~dex)
```

```
## converting counts to integer mode
```

```
## Warning in DESeqDataSet(se, design = design, ignoreRank): some variables in
## design formula are characters, converting to factors
```

```
dds
```

```
## class: DESeqDataSet
## dim: 38694 8
## metadata(1): version
## assays(1): counts
## rownames(38694): ENSG00000000003 ENSG00000000005 ... ENSG00000283120
##   ENSG00000283123
## rowData names(0):
## colnames(8): SRR1039508 SRR1039509 ... SRR1039520 SRR1039521
## colData names(4): id dex celltype geo_id
```

Now we can run DESeq analysis.

```
dds <- DESeq(dds)
```

```
## estimating size factors

## estimating dispersions

## gene-wise dispersion estimates

## mean-dispersion relationship

## final dispersion estimates

## fitting model and testing
```

To get at the results, we use the deseq `results()` function:

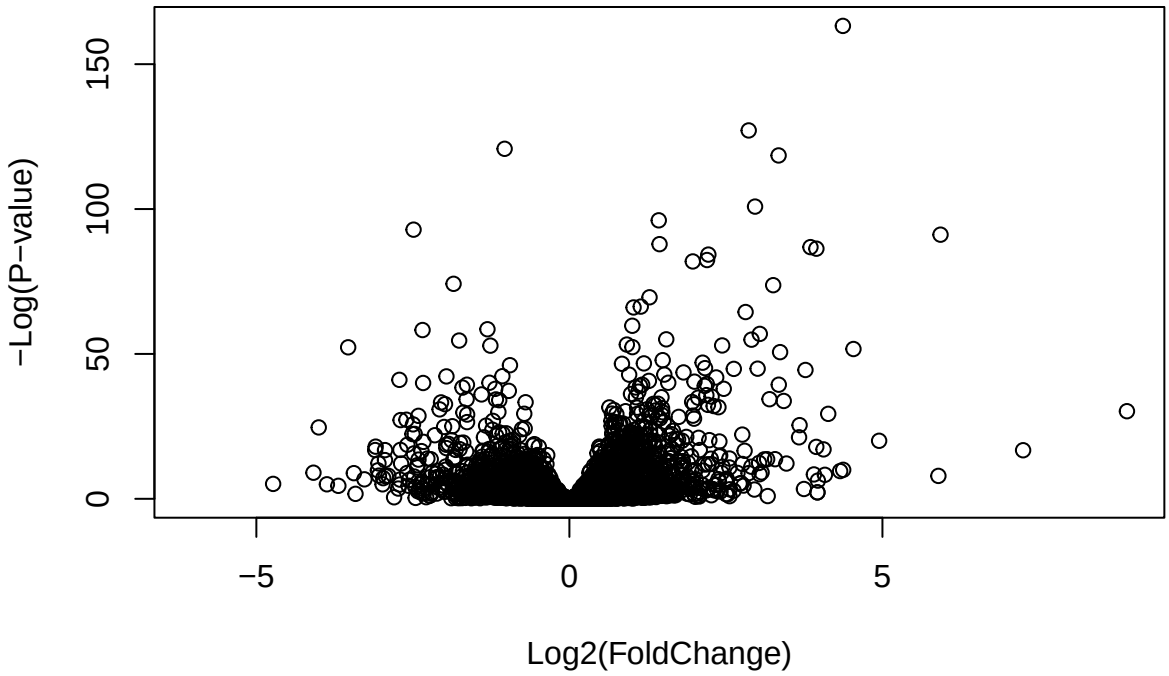
```
res <- results(dds)
head(res)
```

```
## log2 fold change (MLE): dex treated vs control
## Wald test p-value: dex treated vs control
## DataFrame with 6 rows and 6 columns
##                   baseMean log2FoldChange     lfcSE      stat    pvalue
##                  <numeric>      <numeric> <numeric> <numeric> <numeric>
## ENSG00000000003 747.194195     -0.3507030  0.168246 -2.084470 0.0371175
## ENSG00000000005   0.000000             NA        NA        NA        NA
## ENSG00000000419 520.134160      0.2061078  0.101059  2.039475 0.0414026
## ENSG00000000457 322.664844      0.0245269  0.145145  0.168982 0.8658106
## ENSG00000000460  87.682625     -0.1471420  0.257007 -0.572521 0.5669691
## ENSG00000000938   0.319167     -1.7322890  3.493601 -0.495846 0.6200029
##                      padj
##                 <numeric>
## ENSG00000000003  0.163035
## ENSG00000000005        NA
## ENSG00000000419  0.176032
## ENSG00000000457  0.961694
## ENSG00000000460  0.815849
## ENSG00000000938        NA
```

Volcano Plots

Let's make a commonly produced visualization from this data, namely a so-called Volcano plot. These summary figures are frequently used to highlight the proportion of genes that are both significantly regulated and display a high fold change.

```
plot( res$log2FoldChange,  -log(res$padj),
      xlab="Log2(FoldChange)",
      ylab="-Log(P-value)")
```

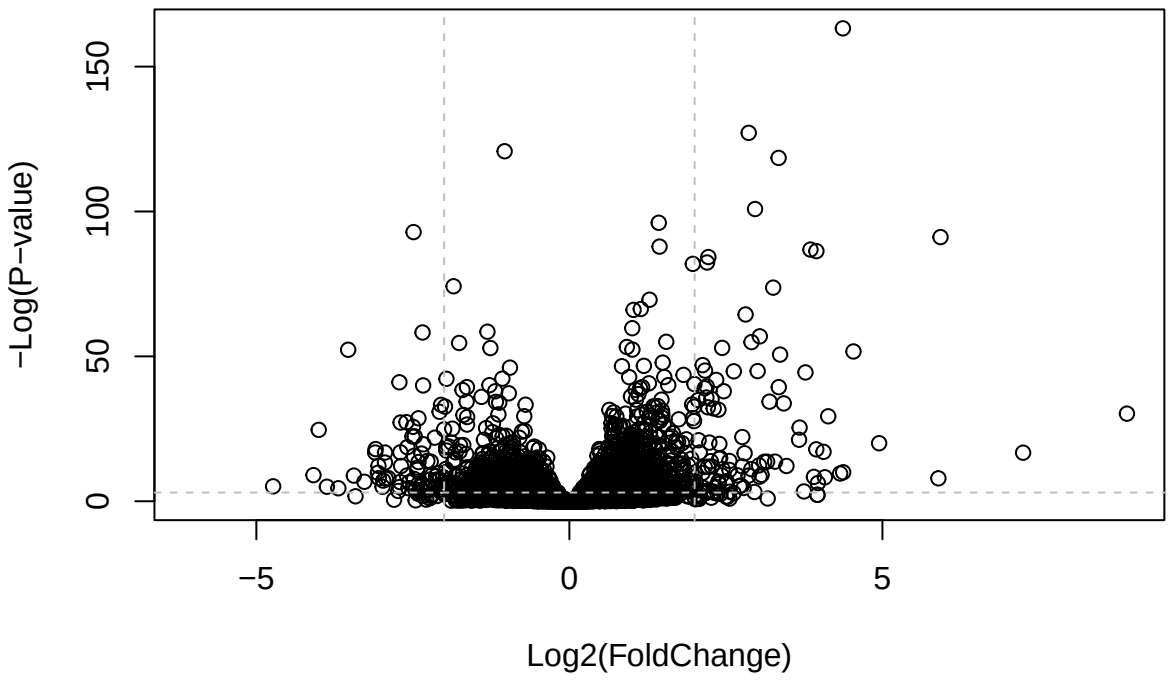


Finally, let's add some color to this plot to draw attention to the genes (i.e. points) we care about - that is those with large fold-change and low pvalues (high -log(pvalues)).

To make this more useful we can add some guidelines (with the abline() function) and color (with a custom color vector) highlighting genes that have padj<0.05 and the absolute log2FoldChange>2.

```
plot( res$log2FoldChange,  -log(res$padj),
      xlab="Log2(FoldChange)",
      ylab="-Log(P-value)")

# Add some cut-off lines
abline(v=c(-2,2), col="gray", lty=2)
abline(h=-log(0.05), col="gray", lty=2)
```



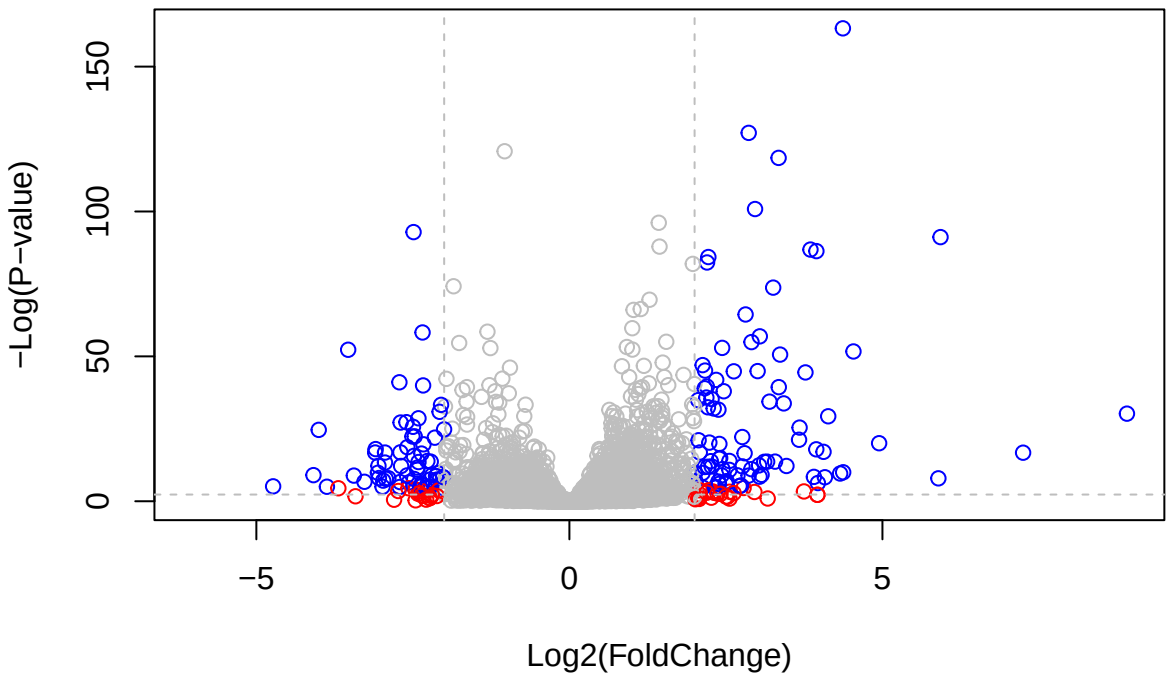
To color the points we will setup a custom color vector indicating transcripts with large fold change and significant differences between conditions:

```
# Setup our custom point color vector
mycols <- rep("gray", nrow(res))
mycols[ abs(res$log2FoldChange) > 2 ]  <- "red"

inds <- (res$padj < 0.01) & (abs(res$log2FoldChange) > 2 )
mycols[ inds ] <- "blue"

# Volcano plot with custom colors
plot( res$log2FoldChange,  -log(res$padj),
 col=mycols, ylab="-Log(P-value)", xlab="Log2(FoldChange)" )

# Cut-off lines
abline(v=c(-2,2), col="gray", lty=2)
abline(h=-log(0.1), col="gray", lty=2)
```


−Log(P−value)
0
50
100
150
−5
0
5
Log2(FoldChange)