systemPipeR: NGS workflow and report generation environment

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1 Introduction

systemPipeR provides utilities for building end-to-end analysis workflows with automated report generation for next generation sequence (NGS) applications such as RNA-Seq, ChIP-Seq, VAR-Seq and many others (Girke, 2014). An important feature is support for running command-line software, such as NGS aligners, on both single machines or compute clusters. This includes both interactive job submissions or batch submissions to queuing systems of clusters. For instance, systemPipeR can be used with most command-line aligners such as BWA (Li, 2013; Li and Durbin, 2009), TopHat 2 (Kim et al., 2013) and Bowtie 2 (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012), as well as the R-based NGS aligner Rsubread (Liao et al., 2013). Efficient handling of complex sample sets and experimental designs is facilitated by a well-defined sample annotation infrastructure which improves reproducibility and user-friendliness of many typical analysis workflows in the NGS area (Lawrence et al., 2013).

Templates for setting up custom project reports are provided as *.Rnw files in the vignettes subdirectory of this package. The corresponding PDFs of these report templates are linked here: systemPipeRNAseq, systemPipeChIPseq and systemPipeVARseq.

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2 Getting Started

2.1 Installation

The R software for running systemPipeR can be downloaded from CRAN (http://cran.at.r-project.org/). The systemPipeR package can be installed from R using the biocLite install command.

```
> source("http://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R") # Sources the biocLite.R installation script > biocLite("systemPipeR") # Installs the package
```

2.2 Loading the Package and Documentation

```
> library("systemPipeR") # Loads the package
> library(help="systemPipeR") # Lists all functions and classes
> vignette("systemPipeR") # Opens this PDF manual from R
```

2.3 Sample FASTQ Files

The mini sample FASTQ files used by this overview vignette as well as the associated workflow reporting vignettes can be downloaded from here. The chosen data set SRP010938 contains 18 paired-end (PE) read sets from *Arabidposis thaliana* (Howard et al., 2013). To minimize processing time during testing, each FASTQ file has been subsetted to 90,000-100,000 randomly sampled PE reads that map to the first 100,000 nucleotides of each chromosome of the *A. thalina* genome. The corresponding reference genome sequence (FASTA) and its GFF annotion files (provided in the same download) have been truncated accordingly. This way the entire test sample data set is less than 200MB in storage space. A PE read set has been chosen for this test data set for flexibility, because it can be used for testing both types of analysis routines requiring either SE (single end) reads or PE reads.

3 Structure of targets file

The targets file defines all FASTQ files and sample comparisons of an analysis workflow. The following shows the format of a sample targets file provided by this package. Note: the first three columns are mandatory including their column names. All subsequent columns are optional and any number of additional columns can be added as needed.

```
> library(systemPipeR)
> targetspath <- system.file("extdata", "targets.txt", package="systemPipeR")
> read.delim(targetspath, comment.char = "#")
```

```
FileName SampleName Factor SampleLong Experiment
                                                                            Date
  ./data/SRR446027_1.fastq
                                   M1A
                                                Mock.1h.A
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
  ./data/SRR446028_1.fastq
                                   M<sub>1</sub>B
                                            M1
                                               Mock.1h.B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
  ./data/SRR446029_1.fastq
                                   A1A
                                            Α1
                                                 Avr.1h.A
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
  ./data/SRR446030_1.fastq
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
                                   A1B
                                            Α1
                                                 Avr.1h.B
5
  ./data/SRR446031_1.fastq
                                                 Vir.1h.A
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
                                   V1A
                                            ۷1
 ./data/SRR446032_1.fastq
                                   V1B
                                            V1
                                                 Vir.1h.B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
7
  ./data/SRR446033_1.fastq
                                   M6A
                                            M6
                                               Mock.6h.A
  ./data/SRR446034_1.fastq
                                               Mock.6h.B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
                                   M6B
                                            M6
  ./data/SRR446035_1.fastq
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
                                   A6A
                                            A6
                                                 Avr.6h.A
10 ./data/SRR446036_1.fastq
                                   A6B
                                                 Avr.6h.B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
                                            A6
11 ./data/SRR446037_1.fastq
                                   V6A
                                            ۷6
                                                 Vir.6h.A
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
12 ./data/SRR446038_1.fastq
                                   V6B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
                                            ۷6
                                                 Vir.6h.B
13 ./data/SRR446039_1.fastq
                                  M12A
                                          M12 Mock.12h.A
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
14 ./data/SRR446040_1.fastq
                                  M12B
                                          M12 Mock.12h.B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
15 ./data/SRR446041_1.fastq
                                  A12A
                                          A12 Avr.12h.A
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
16 ./data/SRR446042_1.fastq
                                  A12B
                                           A12
                                               Avr.12h.B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
17 ./data/SRR446043_1.fastq
                                  V12A
                                           V12 Vir.12h.A
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
18 ./data/SRR446044_1.fastq
                                  V12B
                                           V12 Vir.12h.B
                                                                   1 23-Mar-2012
```

Structure of targets file for paired end (PE) samples.

- > library(systemPipeR)
- > targetspath <- system.file("extdata", "targets.txt", package="systemPipeR")</pre>
- > read.delim(targetspath, comment.char = "#")[1:2,1:6]

```
FileName SampleName Factor SampleLong Experiment Date 1 ./data/SRR446027_1.fastq M1A M1 Mock.1h.A 1 23-Mar-2012 2 ./data/SRR446028_1.fastq M1B M1 Mock.1h.B 1 23-Mar-2012
```

Sample comparisons are defined in the header lines of the targets file starting with '# <CMP>'. The function readComp imports the comparison and stores them in a list. These lines are also optional. They are mainly useful for controlling comparative analysis according to certain biological expectations, such as simple pairwise comparisons in RNA-Seq experiments.

```
> readComp(file=targetspath, format="vector", delim="-")
```

```
$CMPset1
```

```
[1] "M1-A1"
              "M1-V1"
                         "A1-V1"
                                    "M6-A6"
                                              "M6-V6"
                                                         "A6-V6"
                                                                    "M12-A12" "M12-V12" "A12-V12"
$CMPset2
[1] "M1-A1"
               "M1-V1"
                          "M1-M6"
                                     "M1-A6"
                                                "M1-V6"
                                                          "M1-M12"
                                                                     "M1-A12"
                                                                                "M1-V12"
                                                                                          "A1-V1"
[10] "A1-M6"
               "A1-A6"
                          "A1-V6"
                                     "A1-M12"
                                                "A1-A12"
                                                          "A1-V12"
                                                                     "V1-M6"
                                                                                "V1-A6"
                                                                                           "V1-V6"
                          "V1-V12"
                                                "M6-V6"
                                                                     "M6-A12"
                                                                                "M6-V12"
                                                                                          "A6-V6"
[19] "V1-M12"
               "V1-A12"
                                     "M6-A6"
                                                          "M6-M12"
                                                                     "M12-A12" "M12-V12" "A12-V12"
[28] "A6-M12"
                                                "V6-A12"
                                                          "V6-V12"
               "A6-A12"
                          "A6-V12"
                                     "V6-M12"
```

4 Structure of param file and SYSargs container

The param file defines the parameters of the command-line software. The following shows the format of a sample param file provided by this package.

PairSet Name Value
1 modules <NA> bowtie2/2.1.0

```
2
     modules
                      <NA>
                                                      tophat/2.0.8b
3
    software
                      <NA>
                                                              tophat
4
       cores
5
       other
                      <NA> -g 1 --segment-length 25 -i 30 -I 3000
6
    outfile1
                                                        <FileName1>
7
    outfile1
                      path
                                                          ./results/
8
    outfile1
                                                                <NA>
                    remove
                                                             .tophat
9
    outfile1
                    append
                                          .tophat/accepted_hits.bam
10 outfile1 outextension
11 reference
                      <NA>
                                                ./data/tair10.fasta
                      <NA>
                                                        <FileName1>
12
     infile1
13
     infile1
                      path
                                                                <NA>
14
     infile2
                      <NA>
                                                        <FileName2>
15
     infile2
                                                                <NA>
                      path
```

The systemArgs function imports the definitions of both the param file and the targets file, and stores all relevant information as SYSargs object.

```
> args <- systemArgs(sysma=parampath, mytargets=targetspath)
> args
```

An instance of 'SYSargs' for running 'tophat' on 18 samples

Several accessor functions are available that are named after the slot names of the SYSargs object class.

```
> names(args)
```

```
[1] "modules" "software" "cores" "other" "reference" "results" "infile1"
[8] "infile2" "outfile1" "sysargs" "outpaths"

> modules(args)
[1] "bowtie2/2.1.0" "tophat/2.0.8b"

> cores(args)
```

[1] 4

> outpaths(args)[1]

M1

```
"/rhome/tgirke/Projects/github/systemPipeR/vignettes/results/SRR446027_1.fastq.tophat/accepted_hits.bam"
```

> sysargs(args)[1]

```
"tophat -p 4 -g 1 --segment-length 25 -i 30 -I 3000 -o /rhome/tgirke/Projects/github/systemPipeR/vignettes.
The content of the param file can be returned as JSON object as follows (requires rjson package).
```

> systemArgs(sysma=parampath, mytargets=targetspath, type="json")

5 Workflow

5.1 Define environment settings and samples

Load package:

```
> library(systemPipeR)
```

Construct SYSargs object from param and targets files.

> args <- systemArgs(sysma="tophat.param", mytargets="targetsPE.txt")

5.2 **FASTQ** quality report

The following seeFastq and seeFastqPlot functions generate and plot a series of useful quality statistics for a set of FASTQ files including per cycle quality box plots, base proportions, base-level quality trends, relative k-mer diversity, length and occurrence distribution of reads, number of reads above quality cutoffs and mean quality distribution.

- > fqlist <- seeFastq(fastq=infile1(args), batchsize=10000, klength=8)
- > pdf("./results/fastqReport.pdf", height=18, width=4*length(fqlist))
- > seeFastqPlot(fqlist)
- > dev.off()

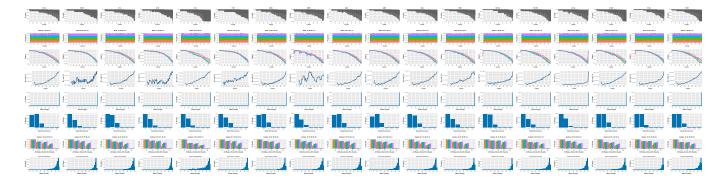


Figure 1: QC report for 18 FASTQ files.

5.3 Alignment with Tophat 2

Build Bowtie 2 index.

- > moduleload(modules(args)) # Skip if module system is not available
- > system("bowtie2-build ./data/tair10.fasta ./data/tair10.fasta")

Execute SYSargs on a single machine without submitting to a queuing system of a compute cluster. This way the input FASTQ files will be processed sequentially. If available, multiple CPU cores can be used for processing each file. The number of CPU cores (here 4) to use for each process is defined in the *.param file. With cores(args) one can return this value from the SYSargs object. Note, if a module system is not installed or used, then the corresponding *.param file needs to be edited accordingly by either providing an empty field in the line(s) starting with module or by deleting these lines.

> bampaths <- runCommandline(args=args)

Alternatively, the computation can be greatly accelerated by processing many files in parallel using several compute nodes of a cluster, where a scheduling/queuing system is used for load balancing. To avoid over-subscription of CPU cores on the compute nodes, the value from cores(args) is passed on to the submission command, here nodes in the resources list object. The number of independent parallel cluster processes is defined under the Njobs argument. The following example will run 18 processes in parallel using for each 4 CPU cores. If the resources available on a cluster allow to run all 18 processes at the same time then the shown sample submission will utilize in total 72 CPU cores. Note, runCluster can be used with most queueing systems as it is based on utilities from the BatchJobs package which supports the use of template files (*.tmpl) for defining the run parameters of different schedulers. To run the following code, one needs to have both a conf file (see .BatchJob samples here) and a template file (see *.tmpl samples here) for the queueing

available on a system. The following example uses the sample conf and template files for the Torque scheduler provided by this package.

Useful commands for monitoring progress of submitted jobs

```
> showStatus(reg)
> file.exists(outpaths(args))
> sapply(1:length(args), function(x) loadResult(reg, x)) # Works after job completion
```

5.4 Read and alignment count stats

Generate table of read and alignment counts for all samples.

```
> read_statsDF <- alignStats(args)
> write.table(read_statsDF, "results/alignStats.xls", row.names=FALSE, quote=FALSE, sep="\t")
```

The following shows the first four lines of the sample alignment stats file provided by the *systemPipeR* package. For simplicity the number of PE reads is multiplied here by 2 to approximate proper alignment frequencies where each read in a pair is counted.

```
> read.table(system.file("extdata", "alignStats.xls", package="systemPipeR"), header=TRUE)[1:4,]
```

```
FileName Nreads2x Nalign Perc_Aligned Nalign_Primary Perc_Aligned_Primary
1
       M1A
             192918 177961
                                92.24697
                                                  177961
2
       M1B
             197484 159378
                                80.70426
                                                                     80.70426
                                                  159378
3
       A1A
             189870 176055
                                92.72397
                                                  176055
                                                                     92.72397
4
       A1B
             188854 147768
                                78.24457
                                                  147768
                                                                     78.24457
```

5.5 Create symbolic links for viewing BAM files in IGV

The genome browser IGV supports reading indexed/sorted BAM via web URLs. This way no unnecessary copies of these large files need to be generated. To enable this approach, an HTML directory with http access needs to be available in the user account (e.g. ~/public_html) of a system. If this is not the case then the BAM files need to be moved or copied to the system where IGV runs. In the following, htmldir defines the path to the HTML directory with http access where the symbolic links to the BAM files will be stored. The corresponding URLs will be written to a text file specified under the urlfile argument.

```
> symLink2bam(sysargs=args, htmldir=c("~/.html/", "somedir/"),
+ urlbase="http://myserver.edu/~username/",
+ urlfile="IGVurl.txt")
```

5.6 Alignment with Bowtie 2 (here for miRNA profiling experiment)

Run as single process without submitting to cluster, e.g. via qsub -l.

```
> args <- systemArgs(sysma="bowtieSE.param", mytargets="targets.txt")
> bampaths <- runCommandline(args=args)</pre>
```

Alternatively, submit the job to compute nodes.

```
> qsubargs <- getQsubargs(queue="batch", cores=cores(args), memory="mem=10gb", time="walltime=20:00:00") > (joblist <- qsubRun(args=args, qsubargs=qsubargs, Nqsubs=18, package="systemPipeR"))
```

5.7 Read counting for mRNA profiling experiments

> library(GenomicFeatures)
> txdb <- makeTranscriptDbFromGFF(file="data/tair10.gff", format="gff", dataSource="TAIR", species="A. tha.

Read counting with summarizeOverlaps in parallel mode with multiple cores

5.8 Read counting for miRNA profiling experiments

Download miRNA genes from miRBase

Create txdb (needs to be done only once)

> saveDb(txdb, file="./data/tair10.sqlite")

```
> system("wget ftp://mirbase.org/pub/mirbase/19/genomes/My_species.gff3 -P ./data/")
> gff <- import.gff("./data/My_species.gff3", asRangedData=FALSE)
> gff <- split(gff, elementMetadata(gff)$ID)
> bams <- names(bampaths); names(bams) <- targets$SampleName
> bf1 <- BamFileList(bams, yieldSize=50000, index=character())
> countDFmiR <- summarizeOverlaps(gff, bfl, mode="Union", ignore.strand=FALSE, inter.feature=FALSE) # Note
> rpkmDFmiR <- apply(countDFmiR, 2, function(x) returnRPKM(counts=x, gffsub=gff))
> write.table(assays(countDFmiR)$counts, "results/countDFmiR.xls", col.names=NA, quote=FALSE, sep="\t")
> write.table(rpkmDFmiR, "results/rpkmDFmiR.xls", col.names=NA, quote=FALSE, sep="\t")
```

5.9 Correlation analysis of samples

The following computes the sample-wise Spearman correlation coefficients from the RPKM normalized expression values. After transformation to a distance matrix, hierarchical clustering is performed with the hclust function and the result is plotted as a dendrogram (sample_tree.pdf).

```
> library(ape)
> rpkmDFeByg <- read.table("./results/rpkmDFeByg.xls", check.names=FALSE)
> rpkmDFeByg <- rpkmDFeByg[rowMeans(rpkmDFeByg) > 50,]
> d <- cor(rpkmDFeByg, method="spearman")
> hc <- hclust(as.dist(1-d))
> plot.phylo(as.phylo(hc), type="p", edge.col="blue", edge.width=2, show.node.label=TRUE, no.margin=TRUE)
```

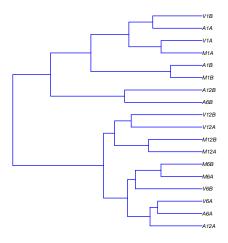


Figure 2: Correlation dendrogram of samples.

5.10 DEG analysis with edgeR

```
> targets <- read.delim(targetspath, comment="#")</pre>
> cmp <- readComp(file=targetspath, format="matrix", delim="-")</pre>
> cmp[[1]]
      [,1]
             [,2]
 [1,] "M1"
             "A1"
 [2,] "M1"
             "V1"
 [3,] "A1"
             "V1"
 [4,] "M6"
             "A6"
 [5,] "M6"
             "V6"
 [6,] "A6"
             "V6"
 [7,] "M12" "A12"
 [8,] "M12" "V12"
 [9,] "A12" "V12"
```

Run edgeR

```
> countDFeByg <- read.delim("./results/countDFeByg.xls", row.names=1)
> edgeDF <- run_edgeR(countDF=countDFeByg, targets=targets, cmp=cmp[[1]], independent=FALSE, mdsplot="")</pre>
```

Filter and plot DEG results for up and down regulated genes. Because of the small size of the toy data set used by this vignette, the FDR value has been set to a relatively high threshold (here 10%). More commonly used FDR cutoffs are 1% or 5%.

> DEG_list <- filterDEGs(degDF=edgeDF, filter=c(Fold=2, FDR=10))

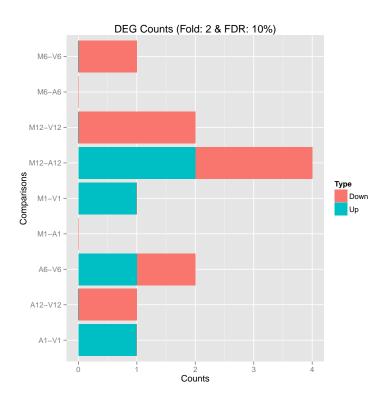


Figure 3: Up and down regulated DEGs.

- > names(DEG_list)
- > DEG_list\$Summary

5.11 GO term enrichment analysis of DEGs

5.11.1 Obtain gene-to-GO mappings

The following shows how to obtain gene-to-GO mappings from biomaRt (here for A. thaliana) and how to organize them for the downstream GO term enrichment analysis. Alternatively, the gene-to-GO mappings can be obtained for many organisms from Bioconductor's *.db genome annotation packages or GO annotation files provided by various genome databases. For each annotation this relatively slow preprocessing step needs to be performed only once. Subsequently, the preprocessed data can be loaded with the load function as shown in the next subsection.

- > library("biomaRt") > listMarts() # To choose BioMart database > m <- useMart("ENSEMBL_MART_PLANT"); listDatasets(m)</pre> > m <- useMart("ENSEMBL_MART_PLANT", dataset="athaliana_eg_gene") > listAttributes(m) # Choose data types you want to download > go <- getBM(attributes=c("go_accession", "tair_locus", "go_namespace_1003"), mart=m) > go <- go[go[,3]!="",]; go[,3] <- as.character(go[,3]) > dir.create("./data/GO") > write.table(go, "data/GO/GOannotationsBiomart_mod.txt", quote=FALSE, row.names=FALSE, col.names=FALSE, so
- > catdb <- makeCATdb(myfile="data/GO/GOannotationsBiomart_mod.txt", lib=NULL, org="", colno=c(1,2,3), idco.
- > save(catdb, file="data/GO/catdb.RData")

5.11.2 Batch GO term enrichment analysis

Apply the enrichment analysis to the DEG sets obtained in the above differential expression analysis. Note, in the following example the FDR filter is set here to an unreasonably high value, simply because of the small size of the toy data set used in this vignette. Batch enrichment analysis of many gene sets is performed with the GOCluster_Report function. When method="all", it returns all GO terms passing the p-value cutoff specified under the cutoff arguments. When method="slim", it returns only the GO terms specified under the myslimv argument. The given example shows how one can obtain such a GO slim vector from BioMart for a specific organism.

```
> DEG_list <- filterDEGs(degDF=edgeDF, filter=c(Fold=2, FDR=50), plot=FALSE)
> up_down <- DEG_list$UporDown; names(up_down) <- paste(names(up_down), "_up_down", sep="")
> up <- DEG_list$Up; names(up) <- paste(names(up), "_up", sep="")
> down <- DEG_list$Down; names(down) <- paste(names(down), "_down", sep="")
> DEGlist <- c(up_down, up, down)
> DEGlist <- DEGlist[sapply(DEGlist, length) > 0]
> BatchResult <- GOCluster_Report(catdb=catdb, setlist=DEGlist, method="all", id_type="gene", CLSZ=2, cuto", library("biomaRt"); m <- useMart("ENSEMBL_MART_PLANT", dataset="athaliana_eg_gene")
> goslimvec <- as.character(getBM(attributes=c("goslim_goa_accession"), mart=m)[,1])
> BatchResultslim <- GOCluster_Report(catdb=catdb, setlist=DEGlist, method="slim", id_type="gene", myslimved")</pre>
```

5.11.3 Plot batch GO term results

> load("data/GO/catdb.RData")

The data.frame generated by GOCluster_Report can be plotted with the goBarplot function. Because of the variable size of the sample sets, it may not always be desirable to show the results from different DEG sets in the same bar plot. Plotting single sample sets is achieved by subsetting the input data frame as shown in the first line of the following example.

```
> gos <- BatchResultslim[grep("M6-V6_up_down", BatchResultslim$CLID), ]
> gos <- BatchResultslim
> pdf("GOslimbarplotMF.pdf", height=8, width=10); goBarplot(gos, gocat="MF"); dev.off()
> goBarplot(gos, gocat="BP")
> goBarplot(gos, gocat="CC")
```



Figure 4: GO Slim Barplot for MF Ontology.

5.12 Clustering and heat maps

The following example performs hierarchical clustering on the RPKM normalized expression matrix subsetted by the DEGs identified in the above differential expression analysis. It uses a Pearson correlation-based distance measure and complete linkage for cluster joining.

```
> library(pheatmap)
> geneids <- unique(as.character(unlist(DEG_list[[1]])))
> y <- rpkmDFeByg[geneids, ]
> pdf("heatmap1.pdf")
> pheatmap(y, scale="row", clustering_distance_rows="correlation", clustering_distance_cols="correlation")
> dev.off()
```

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Figure 5: Heat map with hierarchical clustering dendrograms of DEGs.

6 Version Information

- > toLatex(sessionInfo())
 - R version 3.1.0 (2014-04-10), x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
 - Locale: C
 - Base packages: base, datasets, grDevices, graphics, methods, parallel, stats, utils
 - Other packages: AnnotationDbi 1.26.0, BSgenome 1.32.0, Biobase 2.24.0, BiocGenerics 0.10.0, BiocParallel 0.6.1, Biostrings 2.32.0, DBI 0.2-7, GenomeInfoDb 1.0.2, GenomicAlignments 1.0.1, GenomicRanges 1.16.3, IRanges 1.22.9, RSQLite 0.11.4, Rsamtools 1.16.1, ShortRead 1.22.0, XVector 0.4.0, systemPipeR 0.99.4
 - Loaded via a namespace (and not attached): AnnotationForge 1.6.1, BBmisc 1.7, BatchJobs 1.4, BiocStyle 1.2.0, Category 2.30.0, GO.db 2.14.0, GOstats 2.30.0, GSEABase 1.26.0, MASS 7.3-33, Matrix 1.1-4, RBGL 1.40.0, RColorBrewer 1.0-5, Rcpp 0.11.2, XML 3.98-1.1, annotate 1.42.0, bitops 1.0-6, brew 1.0-6, checkmate 1.4, codetools 0.2-8, colorspace 1.2-4, digest 0.6.4, edgeR 3.6.2, fail 1.2, foreach 1.4.2, genefilter 1.46.1, ggplot2 1.0.0, graph 1.42.0, grid 3.1.0, gtable 0.1.2, hwriter 1.3, iterators 1.0.7, lattice 0.20-29, latticeExtra 0.6-26, limma 3.20.6, munsell 0.4.2, pheatmap 0.7.7, plyr 1.8.1, proto 0.3-10, reshape2 1.4, rjson 0.2.14, scales 0.2.4, sendmailR 1.1-2, splines 3.1.0, stats4 3.1.0, stringr 0.6.2, survival 2.37-7, tools 3.1.0, xtable 1.7-3, zlibbioc 1.10.0

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