

# SoCal: supervised genotype calling via ellipsoidal separation for Affymetrix SNP microarray

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## 1 Introduction

SNP microarray is a cost-effective approach to genotype samples for specific association studies. In Affymetrix SNP microarrays, oligonucleotide probes are first used to bind DNA fragments containing SNPs. Then, for each SNP, a fluorescence scanner quantifies perfect match (PM) and mismatch (MM) for each of the two alleles, denoted by A and B, on each strand of the DNA fragment. The genotype calling procedure for SNP microarray consists of two steps. In the first step, information from microarray is summarized to obtain the intensities,  $\theta_A$  and  $\theta_B$ , of the two alleles of each SNP. In the second step, SNPs are classified into genotype AA, AB, or BB based on the allele intensities they generate. The focus of this article is on the second step of the genotype calling procedure—genotype classification using summarized allele intensities.

For a specific SNP, if a sample has genotype AA or BB, the intensity,  $\theta_A$  or  $\theta_B$ , will be higher respectively. If a sample has genotype AB, the intensities,  $\theta_A$  and  $\theta_B$ , will be similar. If one plots  $\log(\theta_A)$  versus  $\log(\theta_B)$  of a SNP for a number of samples, normally 3 ellipsoidal clusters are observed, one for each genotype, as shown in Figure 1. Many genotype calling algorithms use model-based unsupervised clustering methods to identify clusters and then assign genotypes to each cluster. To estimate model parameters, these methods use the EM algorithm, which is sensitive to starting parameters and slow to converge. Rabbee et al. proposed the RLMM algorithm, a supervised genotype calling method that uses reference genotype calls to form Gaussian decision boundaries for each genotype. This method involves fitting a linear mixed model, which can be computationally intensive.

As the number of probes on SNP microarrays and the number of individuals involved in association studies continue to increase, both fast and accurate genotype calling algorithms are needed.

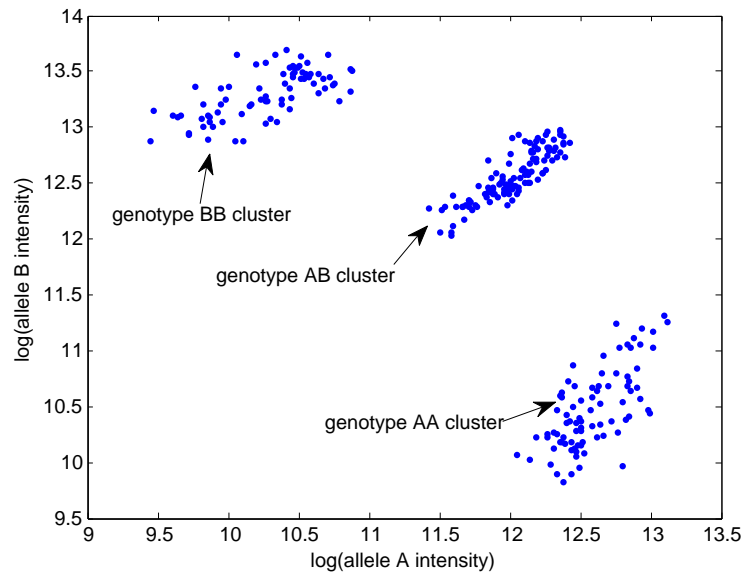


Figure 1: Genotype clusters obtained from Affymetrix SNP array allele intensity values

## 2 Method

SNP allele intensities are first summarized from raw microarray data using SNPRMA. After this step, SoCal calls genotypes in two steps. In the first step, SoCal finds ellipsoidal regions containing each of the genotype of a SNP using reference genotype calls. In the second step, SoCal classifies samples with unknown genotypes using minimum distance classification.

The organization of this section is as follows. First, I introduce the problem of pattern separation by ellipsoids and how SoCal forms ellipsoidal region for each genotype of a SNP. Then, I show how SoCal uses these ellipsoids to call genotypes.

### 2.1 Pattern separation by ellipsoids

Talk about ellipsoidal separation

### 2.2 Missing clusters

Talk about how SoCal handles missing clusters

### 2.3 Genotype calling and outlier detection

Talk about how classification and outlier detection is done