

# Univariate and Multivariate Outlier Analysis for Genomic Data: The **roa** package

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## 1 Introduction

The cancer genome is exceedingly complex due to the high amount of genetic instability. Differential gene expression methodologies have long been employed to identify the unstable genes that lead to tumor initiation and progression. In some cancers, such as multiple myeloma (MM), genetic instability is seen mainly as translocations that result in abnormal gene expression. However, many of these instability events occur in only a subset of patients, making detection via traditional differential gene expression methods difficult. A classic example of such a disruption is the FGFR3-IGH translocation in MM, which occurs in only 15-20% of patients [1, 7]. Patients with the FGFR3-IGH, t(4;14) translocation have abnormally high expression of FGFR3 [1, 2], and have been associated with poorer prognosis [7]. Thus, instability events in a fraction of patients are of interest, but are difficult to detect.

Several outlier detection methods have been developed to detect gene expression outliers, such as FGFR3. These outlier methods have succeeded in identifying unstable genes. Tomlins et al. identified the TMPRSS2-ETS fusion in prostate cancer using the Cancer Profile Outlier Analysis (COPA) [9]. Other previously developed outlier methods include the Outlier Sum Statistic (OSS) [8] and Gene Tissue Index (GTI) [4]. While these three statistics perform similarly, they differ drastically in the genes they rank the highest [4]. This package provides two integrated outlier analysis approaches. The first, a univariate approach, calculates each outlier statistic separately in addition to the variance and then applies a change point model [6] to identify outlier genes based on each statistic. The separate gene lists can

then be further filtered by intersection. The second approach, a multivariate approach, combines the three outlier statistics into a score statistic and then identifies outlier genes using a change point model [6].

The purpose of this paper is to describe the **roa** package which provides both univariate and multivariate approaches to outlier identification. Many previously developed outlier methods and packages are designed for gene expression microarray data [3–5, 8, 9]. Unlike existing R packages, the **roa** package can be used with numerous types of biological data in addition to gene expression microarray data, such as RNA-Seq, methylation, and copy number data. The **roa** package also allows the use of a multivariate approach to identify outliers.

Section 2 of this paper provides some background into the methods used within this package. Section 2.1 describes the previously developed outlier methods used in this package. Section 3 provides an overview of the univariate approach along with examples of usage. Section 4 provides an overview of the multivariate approach and examples of usage. In Section 5, additional capabilities of **roa** are discussed.

## 2 Background

The previously developed outlier statistics (COPA, OSS, and GTI) were designed to find outliers in a two group context (disease samples relative to normal samples) [4, 8, 9]. In practice it is not always possible to have both disease and normal samples. This package features these three statistics in both their two group context (uv.outlier2 and mv.outlier2) and in their single group (disease only samples) context (uv.outlier and mv.outlier).

### 2.1 Existing Methods

The COPA statistic and OSS were developed based on the t-statistic replacing the mean and standard deviation with the median and median absolute deviation, respectively [4, 8, 9]. Borrowing notation from Mpindi et al. 2011, the COPA statistic is defined as

$$COPA_j = q_r(\tilde{x}_{ij}) = \frac{q_r(x_{ij} : i \in C_2) - med_j}{mad_j}, \quad (1)$$

where  $q_r(x_{ij} : i \in C_2)$  is the  $r$ th percentile (in this paper we use  $r=85$ ) of disease samples' standardized gene expression,  $x_{ij}$  is the gene expression of sample  $i$  for gene  $j$ ,  $med_j$  is the median expression value among all samples for gene  $j$ , and  $mad_j$  is the median absolute deviation of all samples for gene  $j$  (6). The OS statistic is defined as

$$OSS_j = \frac{\sum_{i \in O_j} (x_{ij} - med_j)}{mad_j}, \quad (2)$$

, where  $O_j$  is the set of outlier samples  
 $(O_j = i : x_{ij} > q_{75}(x_{mj} : m = 1, \dots, n) + IQR(x_{mj} : m = 1, \dots, n))$ ,  $x_{ij}$  is the gene expression of sample  $i$  for gene  $j$ ,  $med_j$  is the median expression value among all samples for gene  $j$ , and  $mad_j$  is the median absolute deviation of all samples for gene  $j$  [4, 8]. The GTI was adapted from economics to weight an outlier's outlying-ness. The GTI statistic is defined as

$$GTI_j = \frac{T_j}{n_j} \times \frac{(A_j - B_j)}{A_j}, \quad (3)$$

where  $T_j$  is the number of samples with expression values about the cut-off for gene  $j$ ,  $n_j$  is the total number of samples for gene  $j$ ,  $A_j$  is the average expression of samples above the cut-off for gene  $j$ , and  $B_j$  is the cut-off value for gene  $j$  [4]. We used the standard cut-off  $q_{75} + IQR$ .

### 3 Univariate Outlier Analysis

#### 3.1 Data

For the purposes of this vignette, the following code will be used to simulate microarray gene expression data. For use with **roa** data should be formatted with samples down the rows and genomic IDs across the columns. Row names should be the sample IDs and column names should be the genomic IDs. Some genomic IDs, such as microarray gene expression probes, begin with numbers. R does not allow column names to start with a number, so an "X" is added to the ID. To make sure IDs can be appropriately matched back to any annotation files, all functions in **roa** have an logical option, `num.id`, to indicate whether the IDs begin with a number.

```
> #generate non-outlier data
> set.seed(0)
> sim.data<-matrix(c(rnorm(1000*200,0,1)),nrow=200)
> #generate outlier gene expression
> y<-matrix(rnorm(200*10,0,1),nrow=200)
> m<-max(sim.data,y)
> c<-c(rep(m,20),rep(0,180))
> test.genes<-y+c
> data<-cbind(test.genes,sim.data)
> #add column names
> pre<-"test"
> suf<-seq(1:10)
> prefix<-"gene"
> suffix<-seq(1:1000)
> colnames(data)<-c(paste(pre,suf,sep=""),paste(prefix,suffix,sep=""))
> rownames(data)<-c(paste("sample",seq(1:200),sep=""))
```

```

> #create annotation file
> p<-"gene.symbol"
> s<-seq(1:1010)
> annot<-data.frame(ID=colnames(data),Gene=paste(p,s,sep=""))

```

### 3.2 Univariate Approach

The univariate approach incorporates all three previously mentioned outlier methods in addition to a simple variance estimate to identify a robust list of outliers. Each outlier statistic is calculated for each gene then, using either a change point model (using the **cpm** R package [6]) or a user-defined cut-off, outliers are determined for each statistic. To apply the univariate approach to a dataset use the `uv.outlier` (for data containing only disease samples) or `uv.outlier2` function (for data containing both disease and normal samples). Detailed usage of the single group functionality of **roa** follows. For detailed examples of how to use the two group functions available in **roa** see Section 6.

```

> library(roa)
> uv.outlier(data,num.id=F)

```

If an annotation file is not specified four method-specific lists of outliers are outputted. If an annotation file is specified, a single list of outliers is outputted with a column that indicates the method that selected each outlier. The lists of outlier genes from each of the statistics can be further filtered by intersection to identify genes in common among all four or three of the four method-specific lists.

```

> uv.outlier(data,annotation=annot,annID=1,annName=2,common.genes=T,
+           num.id=F)

```

```

$Outliers
      ID      Gene      Value Stat
1  test1 gene.symbol1 0.1783530 GTI
2  test2 gene.symbol2 0.1547711 GTI
3  test3 gene.symbol3 0.1541250 GTI
4  test4 gene.symbol4 0.1585624 GTI
5  test5 gene.symbol5 0.1512725 GTI
6  test6 gene.symbol6 0.1353544 GTI
7  test7 gene.symbol7 0.1611340 GTI
8  test8 gene.symbol8 0.1705163 GTI
9  test9 gene.symbol9 0.1562230 GTI
10 test10 gene.symbol10 0.1631958 GTI
11 gene88 gene.symbol98 0.1050203 GTI
12 gene321 gene.symbol331 0.1192038 GTI

```

13	gene326	gene.symbol336	0.1193138	GTI
14	gene423	gene.symbol433	0.1087650	GTI
15	gene576	gene.symbol586	0.1111786	GTI
16	gene713	gene.symbol723	0.1498315	GTI
17	gene776	gene.symbol786	0.1291890	GTI
18	gene939	gene.symbol949	0.1091213	GTI
19	gene945	gene.symbol955	0.1158901	GTI
20	test3	gene.symbol3	1.3392260	COPA
21	test5	gene.symbol5	1.5537824	COPA
22	test9	gene.symbol9	1.3891657	COPA
23	gene423	gene.symbol433	1.3188595	COPA
24	gene467	gene.symbol477	1.3049081	COPA
25	gene513	gene.symbol523	1.3829467	COPA
26	gene568	gene.symbol578	1.3678889	COPA
27	gene606	gene.symbol616	1.3592691	COPA
28	gene614	gene.symbol624	1.3222921	COPA
29	gene711	gene.symbol721	1.3229690	COPA
30	gene713	gene.symbol723	1.3286257	COPA
31	gene842	gene.symbol852	1.3278992	COPA
32	gene982	gene.symbol992	1.3560150	COPA
33	test1	gene.symbol1	87.7868650	OSS
34	test2	gene.symbol2	74.4776175	OSS
35	test3	gene.symbol3	64.2546999	OSS
36	test4	gene.symbol4	80.4086621	OSS
37	test5	gene.symbol5	80.5912136	OSS
38	test6	gene.symbol6	55.6073216	OSS
39	test7	gene.symbol7	64.9406565	OSS
40	test8	gene.symbol8	69.5377068	OSS
41	test9	gene.symbol9	83.5613825	OSS
42	test10	gene.symbol10	64.9254744	OSS
43	gene88	gene.symbol98	30.1306480	OSS
44	gene321	gene.symbol331	33.0971273	OSS
45	gene326	gene.symbol336	30.8513613	OSS
46	gene423	gene.symbol433	32.2585381	OSS
47	gene713	gene.symbol723	39.8336533	OSS
48	gene776	gene.symbol786	31.2638678	OSS
49	gene945	gene.symbol955	32.7184197	OSS
50	test1	gene.symbol1	2.8101980	Var
51	test2	gene.symbol2	2.8216016	Var
52	test3	gene.symbol3	2.7904783	Var
53	test4	gene.symbol4	2.7417140	Var
54	test5	gene.symbol5	2.9983425	Var
55	test6	gene.symbol6	2.8762020	Var
56	test7	gene.symbol7	2.5463137	Var

```

57 test8 gene.symbol8 2.9604481 Var
58 test9 gene.symbol9 2.7600413 Var
59 test10 gene.symbol10 2.6867408 Var
60 gene599 gene.symbol609 1.3145743 Var

```

\$Common\_Genes

	ID	Gene	Methods
3	test3	gene.symbol3	4
5	test5	gene.symbol5	4
9	test9	gene.symbol9	4
1	test1	gene.symbol1	3
2	test2	gene.symbol2	3
31	test3	gene.symbol3	3
4	test4	gene.symbol4	3
51	test5	gene.symbol5	3
6	test6	gene.symbol6	3
7	test7	gene.symbol7	3
8	test8	gene.symbol8	3
91	test9	gene.symbol9	3
10	test10	gene.symbol10	3
433	gene423	gene.symbol433	3
723	gene713	gene.symbol723	3

The default method of identifying a threshold by which outliers are identified is using the Mann-Whitney statistic in a nonparametric change point model framework. The **cpm** package is used to identify the change point and can be implemented using the Student-t, Bartlett, and GLR statistics for sequences known to be Gaussian; Fisher's Exact Test statistic for Bernoulli sequences; Exponential statistic for Exponential sequences, and Mann-Whitney, Mood, Lepage, Kolmogorov-Smirnov, and Cramer-von-Mises statistics for sequences in which the distribution is not known [6]. For more information on **cpm**, see the **cpm** manual available at <http://www.gordonjross.co.uk/cpm.pdf>.

```
> uv.outlier(data,cpmtype="Mann-Whitney",num.id=F)
```

In addition to the identification of an outlier threshold using a change point model framework, a user-defined cut-off can be specified.

```
> uv.outlier(data,p=0.95,num.id=F)
```

COPA, OSS, and GTI were developed to identify over expressed gene expression outliers. However, all of these statistics have been adapted to identify low-valued outliers, such as under expressed or hypo methylated genes. Specifying under=T in any of the functions will results in the identification of low-valued outliers.

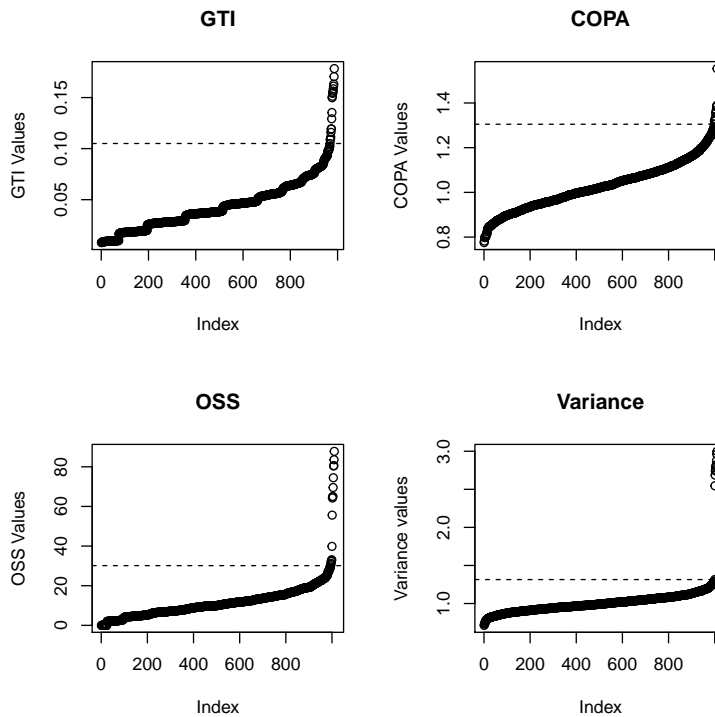
```
> uv.outlier(data, cut=0.15, under=T, num.id=F)
```

A results file and threshold figure generated from each list of outliers can be outputted if a path is specified.

### 3.2.1 Figures

In addition to the lists of outliers selected by each outlier statistic, `uv.outlier` produces a threshold plot for each statistic. If no path indicating where output should be saved is identified, threshold plots are outputted directly into R as one figure.

```
> uv.outlier(data, num.id=F)
```



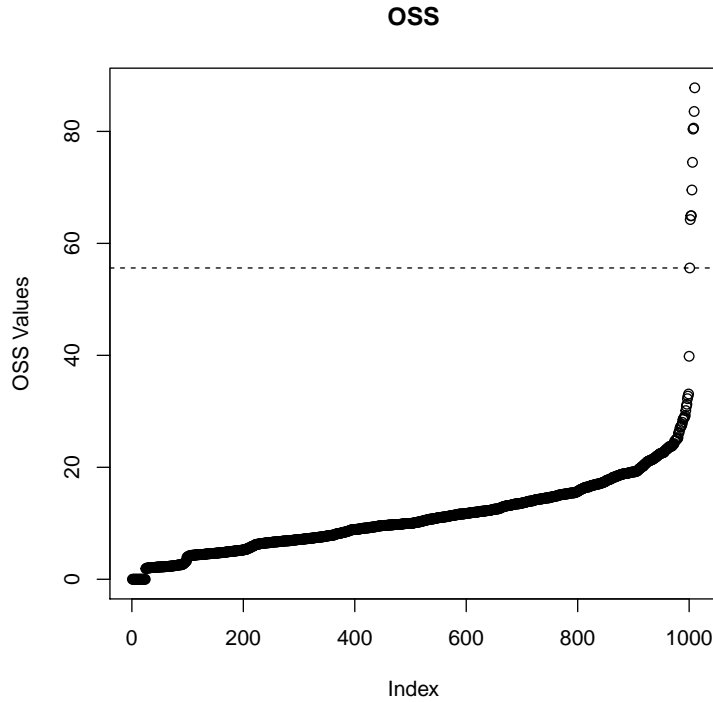
If a path is identified, a jpeg file of the threshold plot and a plot of the D statistics from the change point model [6] is output for each outlier statistic.

### 3.3 Individual Outlier Statistics

In addition, if the user would rather identify outliers using only one method instead of all four, each outlier detection method has both a single group and two group function. For example, if an investigator's favorite outlier detection method was the OSS, outliers could be identified using just the OSS. Each individual outlier statistic function can produce a threshold plot showing the threshold by which outlier were identified.

```
> oss(data,num.id=F)
```

	gso	Value	Stat
1	test1	87.78687	OSS
2	test2	74.47762	OSS
3	test3	64.25470	OSS
4	test4	80.40866	OSS
5	test5	80.59121	OSS
6	test6	55.60732	OSS
7	test7	64.94066	OSS
8	test8	69.53771	OSS
9	test9	83.56138	OSS
10	test10	64.92547	OSS



## 4 Multivariate Outlier Analysis

The multivariate approach integrates the COPA, OSS, and GTI statistics into a score statistic to identify outliers. First, each outlier statistic is calculated for each gene. Second, a score statistic is calculated from the three statistics using an identity matrix as the variance-covariance matrix. Let  $\theta_j = (c_j, o_j, g_j)^T$  be the vector of outlier statistics calculated for gene  $j$ ,



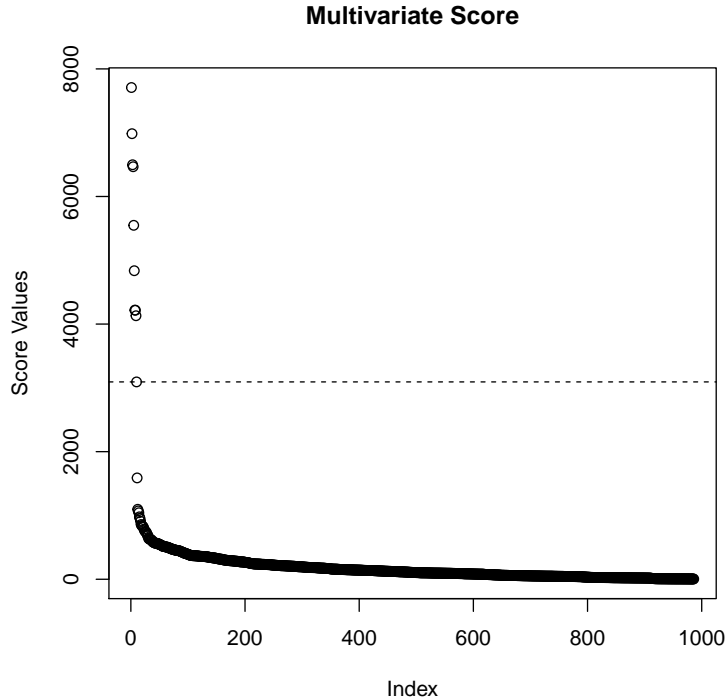
$j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Let  $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}_3$  be the variance-covariance matrix. The score statistic for gene  $j$  is thus,

$$S_j = \theta_j^T \mathbf{V} \theta_j. \quad (4)$$

Finally, outliers are determined by applying either a change point model [6] or a user-defined cut-off to the vector of score statistics,  $\mathbf{S} = (S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n)^T$ . The threshold by which outliers are identified can be visualized by the outputted threshold plot. Similarly to the univariate approach, the multivariate approach can be used with single group data (`mv.outlier`) or two group data (`mv.outlier2`).

```
> mv.outlier(data, num.id=F)
```

	ID	Gene	Score
1	test1	test1	7707.889
2	test2	test2	5548.106
3	test3	test3	4130.484
4	test4	test4	6466.375
5	test5	test5	6497.381
6	test6	test6	3093.425
7	test7	test7	4218.694
8	test8	test8	4836.479
9	test9	test9	6984.459
10	test10	test10	4216.749



As with the univariate approach, the default method of identifying an outlier threshold is using a change point model framework with the Mann-Whitney statistic. As mentioned in Section 3.1, other parametric and nonparametric statistics can be implemented with the change point model framework [6]. A user-defined cut-off can also be specified for outlier identification.

```
> mv.outlier(data,p=0.95,num.id=F)
```

## 5 Additional Capabilities

### 5.1 Outlying Samples

Often when an outlier is identified it is of interest to determine which samples had outlying values, i.e., which samples caused that outlier to be an outlier. If those samples have a common trait, it may be indicative of a subgroup within the samples. The function `outlying.samples` provides the ability to determine which samples have outlying values. When using `outlying.samples`, a list with two components is returned. The first component is a matrix with each row representing a sample and each column representing an outlier. A 1 in element  $[i,j]$  indicates that sample  $i$  has an outlying value for outlier  $j$ . The second component is a two column matrix with the sample IDs in column one and an indicator of whether each sample has an outlying value in at least one outlier.

```

> out<-mv.outlier(data,num.id=F)
> os<-outlying.samples(data,outliers=out[,1])
> os$by.outlier[1:25,1:8]

```

	ID	test1	test2	test3	test4	test5	test6	test7
1	sample1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	sample2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	sample3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	sample4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	sample5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	sample6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	sample7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	sample8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	sample9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	sample10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11	sample11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12	sample12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13	sample13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14	sample14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15	sample15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16	sample16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
17	sample17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18	sample18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19	sample19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20	sample20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21	sample21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	sample22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	sample23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	sample24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	sample25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

```

> os$sample.ind[1:25,]

```

	ID	Outlying
1	sample1	1
2	sample2	1
3	sample3	1
4	sample4	1
5	sample5	1
6	sample6	1
7	sample7	1
8	sample8	1
9	sample9	1
10	sample10	1

11	sample11	1
12	sample12	1
13	sample13	1
14	sample14	1
15	sample15	1
16	sample16	1
17	sample17	1
18	sample18	1
19	sample19	1
20	sample20	1
21	sample21	0
22	sample22	0
23	sample23	0
24	sample24	0
25	sample25	0

Note: the full output is not shown above.

## 6 Appendix

### 6.1 Examples using two group functions

#### 6.1.1 Data

The two group functions which allow for the analysis of data that contains normal and disease samples result in the same output as their single group counterparts. The main difference when using the two group functions is the need to specify three different datasets instead of one. The subset of disease samples, the subset of normal samples, and the entire dataset should be specified as `data_d`, `data_n`, and `data_all`, respectively.

```
> #generate normal data
> norm.data<-matrix(c(rnorm(1010*100,0,1)),nrow=100)
> #generate disease data with 10 outlier genes
> mydata<-matrix(rnorm(1000*100,0,1),nrow=100)
> y<-matrix(rnorm(100*10,0,1),nrow=100)
> m<-max(mydata,y)
> c<-c(rep(m,20),rep(0,80))
> test.genes<-y+c
> dis.data<-cbind(test.genes,mydata)
> #add column names
> pre<-"test"
> suf<-seq(1:10)
> prefix<-"gene"
> suffix<-seq(1:1000)
```

```

> colnames(dis.data)<-c(paste(pre,suf,sep=""),
+                       paste(prefix,suffix,sep=""))
> rownames(dis.data)<-c(paste("dis.sample",seq(1:100),sep=""))
> colnames(norm.data)<-c(paste(pre,suf,sep=""),
+                       paste(prefix,suffix,sep=""))
> rownames(norm.data)<-c(paste("norm.sample",seq(1:100),sep=""))
> #complete data
> all.data<-rbind(dis.data,norm.data)
> #create annotation file
> p<-"gene.symbol"
> s<-seq(1:1010)
> annot<-data.frame(ID=colnames(dis.data),Gene=paste(p,s,sep=""))

```

### 6.1.2 Examples

Below is an example of using the two group multivariate function.

```

> example<-mv.outlier2(dis.data,norm.data,all.data,annotation=annot,
+                      annID=1,annName=2,num.id=FALSE)

```

Suppose we want to identify the outlying samples. The two-group outlier statistics are calculated to identify outliers in the disease group relative to the normal group, so we only need to specify the disease dataset to find outlying samples. Note, the output shown below has been shortened and only shows the first 25 samples.

```

> os2<-outlying.samples(dis.data,outliers=example[,1])
> os2$by.outlier[1:25,1:8]

```

	ID	test2	test3	test4	test5	test6	test7	test8
1	dis.sample1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	dis.sample2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	dis.sample3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
4	dis.sample4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
5	dis.sample5	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
6	dis.sample6	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
7	dis.sample7	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
8	dis.sample8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	dis.sample9	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
10	dis.sample10	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
11	dis.sample11	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
12	dis.sample12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13	dis.sample13	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
14	dis.sample14	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
15	dis.sample15	1	1	0	0	1	1	1

16	dis.sample16	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
17	dis.sample17	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
18	dis.sample18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19	dis.sample19	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
20	dis.sample20	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
21	dis.sample21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	dis.sample22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	dis.sample23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	dis.sample24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	dis.sample25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

```
> os2$sample.ind[1:25,]
```

	ID	Outlying
1	dis.sample1	1
2	dis.sample2	1
3	dis.sample3	1
4	dis.sample4	1
5	dis.sample5	1
6	dis.sample6	1
7	dis.sample7	1
8	dis.sample8	1
9	dis.sample9	1
10	dis.sample10	1
11	dis.sample11	1
12	dis.sample12	1
13	dis.sample13	1
14	dis.sample14	1
15	dis.sample15	1
16	dis.sample16	1
17	dis.sample17	1
18	dis.sample18	1
19	dis.sample19	1
20	dis.sample20	1
21	dis.sample21	1
22	dis.sample22	0
23	dis.sample23	0
24	dis.sample24	0
25	dis.sample25	0

The two group versions of the univariate outlier analysis and the individual outlier statistic functions have the same arguments as the two group multivariate function.

```
> uv.outlier2(dis.data,norm.data,all.data,num.id=FALSE)
```

For any function, single group or two group, a user-defined threshold can be identified.

```
> copa2(dis.data,norm.data,all.data,num.id=FALSE,p=0.85)
```

## References

- [1] P.F. Bergsagel and W.M. Kuehl. Chromosome translocations in multiple myeloma. *Oncogene*, 8:5611–5622.
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