# A tutorial for metaOmic

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# 1 Introduction

MetaOmics is an interactive software with graphical user interface (GUI) for genomic meta-analysis implemented using R shiny. Many state of art meta-analysis tools are available in this software, including MetaQC for quality control, MetaDE for differential expression analysis, MetaPath for pathway enrichment analysis, MetaClust for sparse clustering analysis, MetaPCA for principal component analysis, MetaKTSP for classification analysis, MetaDCN for differential co-expression network analysis,

In this tutorial, we will go through installation and usage step by step using real data examples. The metaOmics suit software is publicly available at https://github.com/metaOmic/metaOmics. The tutorial itself can be found at https://github.com/metaOmic/tutorial/blob/master/metaOmics\_turtorial.pdf. Individual R packages are also available on GitHub and the url will be introduced in each individual package section.

# 2 Preliminaries

# 2.1 Citing MetaOmics

MetaOmics implements many meta-analytic methodologies by their authors. Please cite appropriate papers when you use result from MeteOmics suit, by which the authors will receive professional credits for their work.

- MetaOmics suit itself can be cited as:
- MetaQC: Kang, D. D., Sibille, E., Kaminski, N., and Tseng, G. C. (2012). Metaqc: objective quality control and inclusion/exclusion criteria for genomic meta-analysis. *Nucleic acids research*, 40(2):e15–e15.
- MetaDE:
  - Fisher, R. A. (1925). Statistical methods for research workers. Genesis Publishing Pvt Ltd.
  - Li, J., Tseng, G. C., et al. (2011). An adaptively weighted statistic
    for detecting differential gene expression when combining multiple
    transcriptomic studies. The Annals of Applied Statistics, 5(2A):994

    1019.

- Choi, J. K., Yu, U., Kim, S., and Yoo, O. J. (2003). Combining multiple microarray studies and modeling interstudy variation. *Bioinformatics*, 19(suppl 1):i84–i90.
- and many more

### • MetaPath:

- Shen, K. and Tseng, G. C. (2010). Meta-analysis for pathway enrichment analysis when combining multiple genomic studies. *Bioinformatics*, 26(10):1316–1323.
- Fang, Z., Zeng, X., Lin, C.-W., Ma, T., and Tseng, G. C. (2016). Comparative Pathway Integrator: a framework of meta-analytic integration of multiple transcriptomic studies for consensual and differential pathway analysis. PhD thesis, University of Pittsburgh.
- MetaClust: Huo, Z., Ding, Y., Liu, S., Oesterreich, S., and Tseng, G. (2016). Meta-analytic framework for sparse k-means to identify disease subtypes in multiple transcriptomic studies. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 111(513):27–42.
- MetaPCA: Kim, S., Kang, D., Huo, Z., Park, Y., and Tseng, G. C. (submitted). Meta-analytic principal component analysis in integrative omics application.
- MetaKTSP: Kim, S., Lin, C.-W., and Tseng, G. C. (2016). MetaKTSP: A Meta-Analytic Top Scoring Pair Method for Robust Cross-Study Validation of Omics Prediction Analysis. *Bioinformatics*, 32(March):btw115.
- MetaDCN: Zhu, L., Ding, Y., Chen, C.-Y., Wang, L., Huo, Z., Kim, S., Sotiriou, C., Oesterreich, S., and Tseng, G. C. (2016). Metadcn: metaanalysis framework for differential co-expression network detection with an application in breast cancer. *Bioinformatics*, page btw788.

### 2.2 Installation

The full instruction of how to install, start are available at https://github.com/metaOmic/metaOmics.

### 2.2.1 Requirement

- R >= 3.3.1
- Shiny >= 0.13.2

### 2.2.2 How to start the metaOmics software

- First, clone the project
- git clone https://github.com/metaOmic/metaOmics
- in R (suppose the application directory is metaOmics),
  - > install.packages('shiny')
  - > shiny::runApp('metaOmics', port=9987, launch.browser=T)

# 2.3 Question and bug report

Who should be responsible for maintaining the software?

# 3 Prepare data

### 3.1 Raw data

Data should be prepared as the example in Figure 1. First column should be feature ID (e.g. gene symbol) and the rest of the columns are samples. Note that the first column can also be other feature type (i.e. probe id, entrez ID). The first row is sample ID. Valid data type includes continuous data and count data.

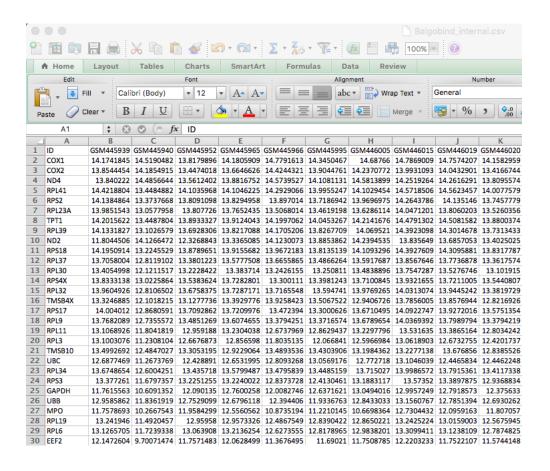


Figure 1: A example input data format

### 3.2 Clinical data

Clinical data should be prepared as the example in Figure 2. First column should be sample ID and each row represents a sample. The rest of the columns are clinical information.

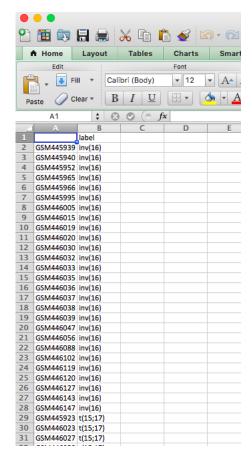


Figure 2: A example clinical data format

# 3.3 Example data with the MetaOmics software

### 3.3.1 Leukemia datasets

We collected three studies from NCBI GEO website. The original datasets are due by Verhaak et al. (2009), Balgobind et al. (2010) and Kohlmann et al. (2008). This this example we considered samples from acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with subtype inv(16)(inversions in chromosome 16), t(15;17)(translocations between chromosome 15 and 17), t(8;21)(translocations between chromosome 8 and 21). These AML subtypes have been well-studied with different survival, treatment response and prognosis outcomes.

Table 1: Leukemia dataset information									
Study Name	Study 1	Study 2	Study 3						
Source	Verhaak at el.	Balgobind at el.	Kohlmann at el.						
Number of genes	5,135	$5,\!135$	$5,\!135$						
Number of patients	89	74	105						
Platform	Affymetrix h	uman genome u13	3 plus 2.0 array						

#### 3.3.2 Prostate cancer datasets

# 4 Toolsets

After starting metaOmics, the first page is the metaOmics setting page as shown in Figure 3. There are 4 tabs on top of the page (at position (1)): Setting, Preprocessing, Saved Data and Toolsets. Below the 4 tabs, the first header is the session information. Why do we need session information? The second header is Directory for Saving Output Files (at position (2)). By clicking "...", user can set default working directory, in which all the meta-analysis results will be saved. Users can view their current working directory on the top right corner (at position (3)). The third header is Toolsets (at position (4)), here users can view if individual packages are installed. If the packages are installed, there is a checked installed status. Otherwise, users can install individual package by clicking install blue button. Position (5) shows the current active dataset, which will be introduced in Section 4.1.1 Step 4.

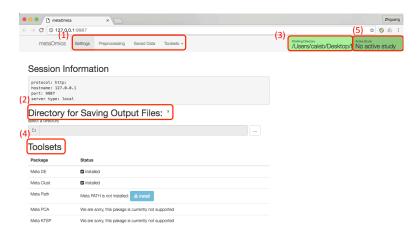


Figure 3: GUI setting page

# 4.1 Preprocessing

In this subsection, we will introduce how to upload your dataset into the MetaOmics suit such that the functional modules can be utilized. The R package for preprocessing module can be found https://github.com/metaOmic/preproc.

#### 4.1.1 Procedure

### Step 1 Uploading data:

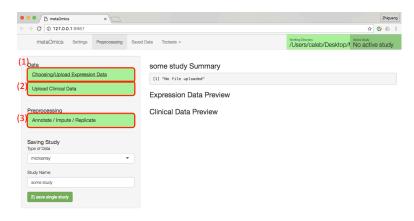


Figure 4: GUI Preprocessing page

After clicking the Preprocessing tab as in Figure 4, users are able to upload their datasets via the tab "Choosing/Upload Expression Data" as in Figure 5 (at position (1)). The data should be prepared according to Section 3. Users may optionally upload Clinical Data (at position (2)), depending on biological purpose. All MetaOmics modules except for Meta-Clust require external clinical labels. An example data can be found within MetaOmics folder "metaOmcis/data/example/leukedia". The MetaOmics suit also provides handlers (at position (3)) for feature annotation, missing value imputation and multiple probe same genes. After uploading is complete, users can preview their data on the right hand side of the page as Figure 5.

# Step 2 Preprocessing:

There are several expression data parsing options available on the left panel of Figure 5. A complete introduction of these options is available at the end of this subsection. The right hand side of Figure 5 shows the summary statistics of uploaded data and preview of the data matrix. There is a search box such that the user can search their favorite genes.

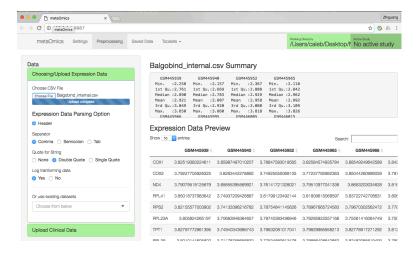


Figure 5: Uploading individual studies

After users upload clinical data (e.g. case control labels) and specify type of data and study name. They can click "save single study" button, single study will be saved.

### Step 3 Saved Data:

After uploading multiple studies w/o clinical data, users can turn to the Saved Data tab. Users should select multiple datasets as Figure 6 (at position (2)). After specifying filtering criteria, enter merged study name and click on the "Merge from Selected Datasets" (at position (1)). A merged dataset will appear on the "List of saved data" panel (at position (2)).

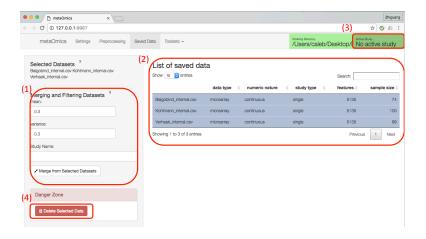


Figure 6: Merge from selected datasets

### Step 4 Make merged Dataset Active:

The last thing to do before using meta-analytic toolsets is to select merged data and click on "Make your dataset Active Dataset" - A big green button in Figure 7. Then the merged data becomes active study and shows up on the top right corner. The active dataset serves as the input for all other MetaOmics modules. If users want to delete a dataset, just click "Delete Selected Data" button after selecting the dataset.



Figure 7: Make merged Dataset Active

# Complete List of Options:

- 1. Upload expression data:
  - Header: should be checked if the input file includes a header.

- Separator: indicates what type of separator is used for the data matrix.
- Quote for String: how is the data matrix quoted.
- Log transforming data: if you want to perform log transformation of your data, check yes.
- Use existing datasets: if you want to load a dataset previously uploaded, you can choose from the checklist.

### 2. Annotation/impute/Replicate:

- Annotation: possible ID type can be Gene Symbol (default), Probe ID, reference sequence ID, entrez ID.
- Impute: if selected, missing value imputation will be performed by k-nearest neighbor algorithm.
- Replicate Handling: if selected, if the same gene symbol maps to multiple probes, the probe with the largest inner quantile range (IQR) will be selected as a representative for this gene.

### 3. Saved Data, Merging and Filtering Datasets:

- Mean: the criteria such that how many percent of genes will be filtered out based on sum of mean ranks (e.g. 0.3 represent 30%).
- Variance: after the Mean filtering, the criteria such that how many percent of genes will be filtered out based on sum of variance ranks (e.g. 0.3 represent 30%).
- Study Name: dataset name after merging. This name will appear in the list of saved data table.
- Merge from Selected Datasets: perform filtering and merging.

#### 4. Danger zone:

• Delete Selected Data: the selected data will be delete permanently if clicked, so please be cautious.

### 4.2 MetaQC

MetaQC package provides an objective and quantitative tool to help determine the inclusion/exclusion of studies for meta-analysis. More specifically, MetaQC provides users with six quantitative quality control (QC) measures: including IQC, EQC, AQCg, CQCg, AQCp and CQCp. Details of how each measure is defined and computed can be found in the Manuscript. In addition, visualization plots and summarization tables are generated using principal component analysis (PCA) biplots and standardized mean ranks (SMR) to assist in visualization and decision. Detailed information can be found in the "MetaQC" package in the metaOmics software suite (https://github.com/metaOmic/MetaQC). The test data used to demo the "MetaQC" package here is merged from 8 prostate cancer studies, the details of these studies can be found in (cite MetaQC paper).

### 4.2.1 Procedure



Figure 8: "MetaQC" options

There are four main options available for the "MetaQC" package as shown in Figure 8. Users need to specify whether to (1) perform gene filtering. Gene filtering is suggested to reduce computational cost. Once "Yes" is chosen for gene filtering, users are further asked to specify the filtering cutoffs by mean or by variance like in merging step. In the demo example, the merged data have already had gene filtering, no further filtering is performed. Next, users need to specify (2) the approach (either by raw p-value or FDR) and cutoff to select potentially DE genes and enriched pathways needed in the computation of EQC, AQCg, CQCg, AQCp and CQCp. (3) "Advanced options" is optional and users are suggested not to modify the option setting in this section. In particular, it includes the selection of pathways by pathway size and the number of permutations to run to obtain the six measures. A detailed list of all options available for the package can be found at the end of the section. Once all the above options are specified, users can click on (4) "Run MetaQC Analysis" to implement the tool.

# Complete List of Options:

### 1. Options

- Perform gene filtering: If yes: cut lowest percentile by mean, cut lowest percentile by variance.
- Use adjusted p-value for selecting DE genes
- p-value cutoff for selecting DE genes
- Use adjusted p-value for selecting pathways
- p-value cutoff for selecting pathways

# 2. Advanced Option (\*\*Optional):

- Pathway min gene size
- Pathway max gene size
- Number of permutations
- 3. Run MetaQC Analysis

### 4.2.2 Results

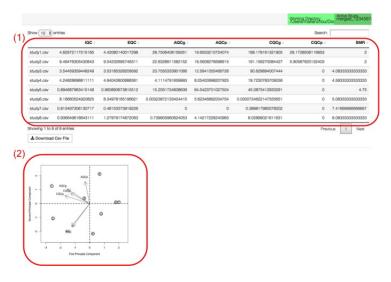


Figure 9: "MetaQC" Results

As shown in Figure 9, there are (1) a summary table of MetaQC results as well as (2) a PCA biplot generated. The table includes seven columns, with the first six columns corresponding to the six quantitative quality control measures of all studies (a larger value indicates a better quality) and the seventh column is the rank summary statistics of all the six quality measures (a lower rank indicates a better quality). Users can download the full table as a csv file by clicking on "Download Csv File". In addition to the tabular results, "MetaQC" also generated a PCA biplot based on the six quality control measures, where the circled number is the study index and arrows indicate different measures. Generally, studies with larger SMR values, and studies more off from the other studies and a majority of the measures are considered lower quality. In this case, the 7th and the 8th studies have relatively poorer quality. Both tabular summary and biplot are automatically saved to the working directory.

### 4.3 MetaDE

MetaDE package implements 12 major meta-analysis methods for differential expression analysis falling into 3 main categories: combining p-values, combin-

ing effect sizes and others (e.g. combining ranks, etc.). Depending on the types of outcome, the package can perform two class comparison, multi-class comparison, association with continuous or survival outcome. The package allows the input of either microarray (continuous intensity) or RNA-seq data (count) for individual study analysis. The R package for MetaDE module can be found https://github.com/metaOmic/MetaDE.

#### 4.3.1 Procedure

There are two major steps to implement the package: meta differential analysis and pathway analysis. As shown in Figure 10, there are 9 major options that need to be specified to implement the package: (1) - (6) are for the first step and (7) - (9) are for the second step. A detailed list of all options available for the package can be found at the end of this subsection.



Figure 10: "MetaDE" options

Step 1. Meta differential analysis: This step includes the core strategies of the "MetaDE" package. Users first need to specify (1) "Meta Method Type" and (2) "Meta Method" correspondingly. There are three types to select from: combining p-value, combining effect size and others. "Fisher" and "AW-Fisher" meta methods are available for p-value combination, "Fixed Effect Model (FEM)" and "Random Effect Model (REM)" for effect size combination, and the other methods in the "Others" type. More meta-analysis methods are available if "complete option" is chosen from (5) "Advanced Options" section. Next, we need to specify the outcome of interest in (3) "Response Type". For example, for differential expression analysis, two-class comparison is usually chosen. For two-class comparison, users need to specify the class label, and the level corresponding to the experimental and the control groups. Other outcome types such as continuous or survival data can also be chosen. In (4) "Individual study

option", users can specify whether each of the study is a paired design, and for p-value combination method, one can select the differential analysis method to obtain p-values in each individual study (e.g. generally suggest LIMMA for microarray and edgeR for RNA-seq). "Advanced Options" is optional and users are suggested not to modify the option setting in this section. Once all the above options are specified, users can click on (6) "Run" to implement the first step.

Step 2. Pathway analysis: This step consists of a downstream pathway analysis for the meta differential analysis results from the first step. Users can select from 25 available pathway databases (7) to perform the pathway enrichment analysis. There are three main options for pathway analysis under (8) "Pathway Analysis Option": the enrichment method including the Fisher's exact test and KS test, the minimum as well as the maximum pathway size. If "Fisher's exact test" is chosen for the enrichment method, users need to further specify the criteria for selection of DE genes: either by p-value cutoff or by number of top ranked genes. Once these options are set, users can click on (9) "Run Pathway Analysis" to implement the first step.

### Complete List of Options:

- 1. Meta Method Type: Combining p-value, Combining effect size, Others.
- 2. Meta Method: Fisher, AW-Fisher, FEM, REM, Sum of Rank, Produce of Rank, multi-class correlation, Rank product.
- 3. Response Type:
  - Two class comparison, Multi-class comparison, Continuous outcome, Survival outcome.
  - Label Attribute: select the label name of the outcome.
  - Control Label & Experimental Label: specify the case/control label for two-class comparison.
- 4. Individual Study Option:
  - Setting individual study method
  - Setting individual study paired option
- 5. Advanced Option (\*\*Optional):
  - Use complete options
  - Parametric
  - Covariate
  - Alternative hypothesis

- 6. Run
- 7. Pathway Databases
- 8. Pathway Analysis Option:
  - Pathway enrichment method
  - Pathway min gene size
  - Pathway max gene size
- 9. Run Pathway Analysis

### 4.3.2 Results

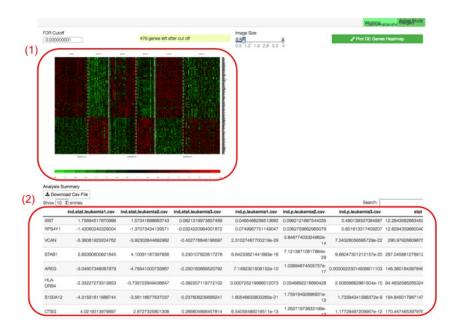


Figure 11: "MetaDE" Results (1)

Two main outputs from the first "meta differential analysis" step in the procedure are shown in Figure 11. The first is (2) a summary of meta analysis results, including information of individual test statistics, individual study pvalue, meta-analysis p-value, FDR, etc. The second output is (1) a heatmap of DE genes drawn after specifying the FDR cutoff for selection of DE genes and clicking on "Plot DE Genes Heatmap". The "image size" can be adjusted by dragging the scroll bar. In the heatmap, rows refer to DE genes selected, columns refer to samples, solid white lines are used to sepate different studies

and the dashed white lines are used to separate groups. Colors of the cells correspond to scaled expression level as indicated in the color key below. For the results generated by "AW-Fisher", there is one additional column of cross-study weight distribution on the left end of the heatmap and the genes in the heatmap are sorted by their weight distribution.

The (2) summary table might differ slightly for different meta-analysis methods, for example, AW-Fisher method will include additional columns of study-specific weights.

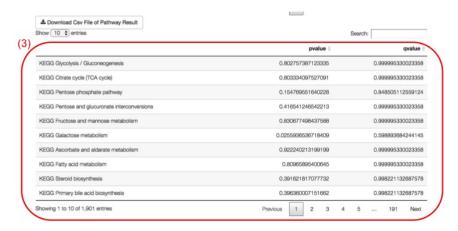


Figure 12: "MetaDE" Results (2)

For the second step "pathway analysis", there is (3) a tabular summary outputted, as shown in Figure 12. The summary includes the pathway names, the corresponding enrichment p-value and FDR. In addition to the results shown in the Browser, users can download the two tabular results to the working directory by clicking on "Download Csv File" on the top left of the summary table.

### 4.4 MetaPath

Following the detection of biomarkers, pathway analysis (a.k.a. gene set enrichment analysis) is usually performed for functional annotation and biological interpretation. When there are multiple studies available on a related hypothesis, meta-analysis methods are necessary for joint pathway analysis. Two major approaches have been included in the MetaPath package to serve for this purpose: Comparative Pathway Integrator (CPI) and Meta-Analysis for Pathway Enrichment (MAPE) (Shen et al., 2010; Fang et al., 2017). Pathway clustering with statistically valid text mining is included in the package to reduce pathway redundancy to condense knowledge and increase interpretability of clustering results. The R package for MetaPath module can be found https://github.com/metaOmic/MetaPath.

#### 4.4.1 Procedure

The MetaPath package requires the input of raw expression data as in MetaDE. There are three major steps to implement the package: pathway analysis, pathway clustering diagnostics and pathway clustering with text mining. As shown in Figure 13, there are 8 major options that need to be specified to implement the package: (1) - (6) are for the first step, (7) for the second step and (8) for the third step. A detailed list of all options available for the package can be found at the end of this subsection.



Figure 13: "MetaPath" options

Step 1. Pathway analysis: This step consists of a meta pathway analysis. Users need to specify (1) "Response type", (2) "Individual study option" and (3) "Advanced" as in MetaDE to perform the pathway enrichment analysis in the presence of multiple studies. Users can select from 25 available pathway databases (4) for the enrichment analysis. (5) "Advanced Options" is optional and users are suggested not to modify the option setting in this section. By default, the "CPI" approach is used, otherwise "MAPE" approach can also be used. Other options include pathway enrichment method (the Fisher's exact test or KS test), the minimum as well as the maximum pathway size. If "Fisher's exact test" is chosen for the enrichment method, users need to further specify the criteria for selection of DE genes, e.g. the number of top ranked genes. On the other hand, if "KS test" is chosen, one needs to further specify whether to use permutation to obtain enrichment p-value. Once these options are set, users can click on (6) "Run Pathway Analysis" to implement the first step.

Step 2. Pathway clustering diagnostics: From the first step, users can choose the top enriched pathways for further clustering. One can expand the drop-down menu and use FDR cutoff to choose top pathways and click on (7)

"Pathway clustering diagnostics" to implement the second step.

Step 3. Pathway clustering with text mining: From the second step, users can determine the optimal number of clusters in the pool of pathways selected. Now, one can specify the number of clusters and click on (8) "Get clustering result" to implement the third step. Note that you may not want to select too large a K since you wish to have a certain amount of pathways in each cluster for the validity of text mining algorithm. We generally suggest users to specify K no larger than 7 for fewer than 100 pathways.

### Complete List of Options:

- 1. Response Type:
  - Two class comparison, Multi-class comparison, Continuous outcome, Survival outcome.
  - Label Attribute: select the label name of the outcome.
  - Control Label & Experimental Label: specify the case/control label for two-class comparison.
- 2. Individual Study Option:
  - Setting individual study method
  - Setting individual study paired option
- 3. Advanced Option (\*\*Optional):
  - Covariate
  - Alternative hypothesis
- 4. Pathway Databases
- 5. Pathway Analysis Option:
  - Software
  - Pathway enrichment method
  - Pathway min gene size
  - Pathway max gene size
- 6. Step1: Run Pathway Analysis
- 7. Step2: Pathway Clustering Diagnostics
- 8. Step3: Get Clustering Result

### 4.4.2 Results

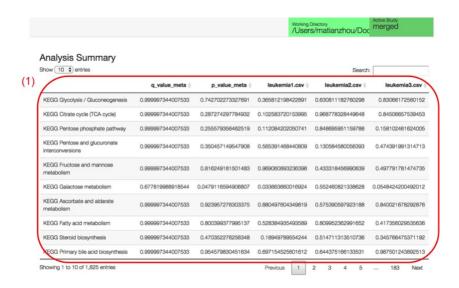


Figure 14: "MetaPath" Results (1)

After the first step is finished, (1) a summary table was generated as shown in Figure 14 (based on the default CPI method). The "Analysis Summary" includes the analysis results of all pathways, including individual study association analysis p-value, meta pathway analysis p-value/FDR, etc. Users can search the gene name in the "Search" bar, and the full table is automatically saved in the working directory specified before.

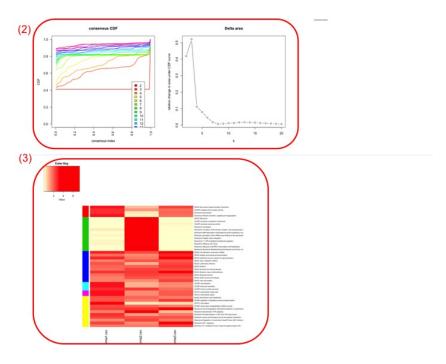


Figure 15: "MetaPath" Results (2)

After the "Pathway Cluster Diagnostics" step is finished, we will see (2) two plots generated on the right panel (Figure 15): consensus CDF and Delta area plots, both from the "ConsensusClusterPlus" package. The CDF of the consensus matrix for each K (indicated by colors) is estimated by a histogram of 100 bins. The CDF reaches an approximate maximum, thus consensus and cluster confidence is at a maximum at this K. The delta area shows the relative change in area under the CDF curve comparing K and K? 1, thus allows users to determine the determine K at which there is no appreciable increase in CDF. Both plots assist users in finding the optimal number of clusters "K" and you may refer to (Monti et al., 2003) for more detailed interpretation of the two plots. In the demo example, K=5 have large enough CDF, is thus chosen (though K=7 captures more, we only have 43 pathways here).

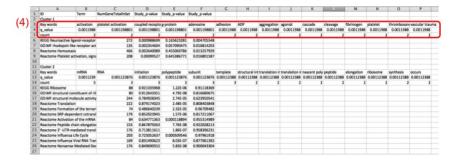


Figure 16: "MetaPath" Results (3)

The heatmap in (3) shows the -log10 transformed p-value of enrichment analysis in each study from step 1. Studies are on columns and the selected pathways are on rows, red means more enriched. The pathways are sorted by the pathway cluster as indicated by the colors on the left side of the heatmap. In addition, one file named "Clustering\_Summary.csv" is saved to the working directory and shows (4) a summary of the text mining algorithm. The most frequently appearing and enriched keywords of each cluster is highlighted in (4). All the results shown in the Browser is also automatically saved to the working directory.

### 4.5 MetaClust

By clicking toolsets and then metaClust, users are directed to metaClust home page as Figure 17. MetaClust (Huo et al., 2016) aims to perform sample clustering analysis combining multiple transcriptomic studies. By integrate information from multiple studies of similar biological purposes, MetaClust can identify an unified intrinsic gene sets among all studies, perform weighted clustering analysis using these common intrinsic gene sets, match the clustering pattern across studies to define disease subtype/cluster type. The resulting clustering from meta-analysis is more robust and accurate than single study analysis. The R package for MetaClust module can be found https://github.com/metaOmic/MetaSparseKmeans.

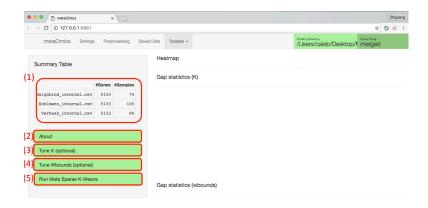


Figure 17: MetaClust home page

### 4.5.1 Procedure

Figure 17 shows the home page of MetaClust. On the top left panel users can see data summary Table (at position (1)). Below there are 4 tabs. About tab (at position (2)) includes basic introduction of metaClust. Starting with multiple studies, we could run MetaSparseKmeans (at position (5)) with pre-specified number of clusters (K) and gene selection tuning parameter (Wbounds). If you are not sure about what are good K and Wbounds, please try Tune K (at position (3)) and Tune Wbounds (at position (4)) panel.

# Step 1 Tune K:

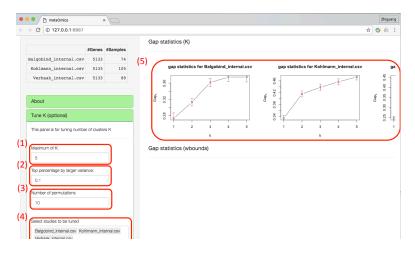


Figure 18: Tuning parameter selection for number of clusters

If the users are not sure what is number of clusters, they can start to use the Tune K panel as in Figure 18. Gap statistics will be used to get optimal K for each individual study. Users need to specify maximum number of K (at position (1)), which the algorithm will search number of studies from 1 to K. Top percentage p% by larger variance means that we will use top p% larger variance genes to perform gap statistics (at position (2)). Number of permutation is number of bootstrap samples for gap statistics (at position (3)). At least 50 bootstrap samples are suggested for a stable result of number of clusters. Studies to be tuned can be selected (at position (4)). By clicking button "Tune K", we will obtain gap statistics as in Figure 18. A good K is selected such that the  $Gap_k$  is maximized or stabilized across all studies. From the figure, K=3 is preferred.

### Step 2 Tune Wbounds:

Whounds directly control number of features selected by metaClust. If the users are not sure what is a good Whound, they can start to use the Tune Whounds panel as in Figure 19.

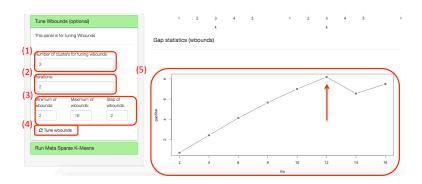


Figure 19: Wound selection

Again, gap statistics will be used for tuning Wbounds. Users will specify number of clusters for tuning Wbounds (at position (1)), which could be obtained from the previous step. Iterations (at position (2)) is the same thing as number of bootstrap samples for gap statistics. Users also need to specify the searching space of Wbounds by minimum of Wbounds, maximum of Wbounds and Step of Wbounds (at position (3)). After all these steps are set, user can click on "Tune Wbounds" button (at position (4)). The results will be shown in Figure 19 position (5). Wbound=12 is preferred since the corresponding gap statistics is maximized (where the red arrow indicates).

# Step 3 Run Meta Sparse K-Means:

Under Run Meta Sparse K-Means panel, user can specify number of clusters (at position (1)), Wbounds (at position (2)) and run meta sparse K means (at position (5)), as in Figure 20.

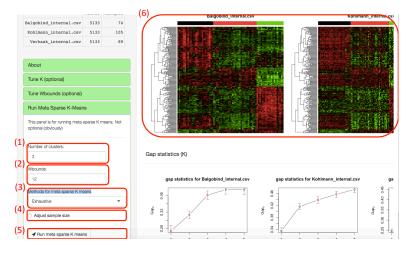


Figure 20: Result for MetaClust

There are three clustering matching methods (at position (3)): Exhaustive, linear, MCMC. Exhaustive is suggested if the data is not large. Linear will perform smart search and get solution much faster than Exhaustive, but it may yield less accuracy with very low probability. MCMC is suitable if many studies and clusters are provided. Adjust sample size checkbox (at position (5)) allows users to adjust sample size effect. After number of clusters and Wbounds are specified, users can click on Run meta sparse K means and obtain results as Figure 20.

# Complete List of Options:

- 1. Tune K (\*\* optional)
  - Maximum of K: the maximum number of K that gap statistics will step through.
  - Top percentage by larger variance: Top percentage p% by larger variance means that we will use top p% larger variance genes to perform gap statistics.
  - Number of permutations: Number of permutation is number of bootstrap samples for gap statistics.
  - Select studies to be tuned: Studies to be tuned.
  - Tune K: start tuning K.
- 2. Tune Wbounds (\*\* optional)
  - Number of clusters for tuning wbounds: number of clusters for tuning Wbounds.

- Iterations: Iterations are number of bootstrap samples for gap statistics
- Minimum of wbounds: lower bound of the searching space of Wbounds.
- Maximum of wbounds: upper bound of the searching space of Wbounds.
- Step of of wbounds: stepsize of the searching space of Wbounds.
- Tune wbounds: start tuning wbounds.

### 3. Run Meta Sparse K-means:

- Number of clusters: number of clusters. Can be tuned from Tune K option.
- Wbounds: control numbers of selected features. Can be tuned from Tune Wbounds option.
- Methods for meta sparse Kmeans: Exhaustive is suggested if the data is not large. Linear will perform smart search and get solution much faster than Exhaustive, but it may yield less accuracy. MCMC might by very time consuming.
- Adjust sample size: adjust sample size effect.
- Run meta sparse Kmeans: start tuning wbounds.

#### 4.5.2 Results

The result is shown in Figure 20 at position (5). We obtained unified feature selection across all studies. The clusters are well separated in each study and the cluster patterns are consistent across all studies. The clustering heatmaps and labels are saved in the metaOmics folder.

#### 4.6 MetaPCA

Dimension reduction is a popular data mining approach for transcriptomic analysis. MetaPCA aims to combine multiple omics datasets of identical or similar biological hypothesis and perform simultaneous dimensional reduction in all studies. The results show improved accuracy, robustness and better interpretation among all studies. By clicking toolsets and then metaPCA, users are directed to metaPCA home page as Figure 21. The R package for MetaPCA module can be found https://github.com/metaOmic/metaPCA.

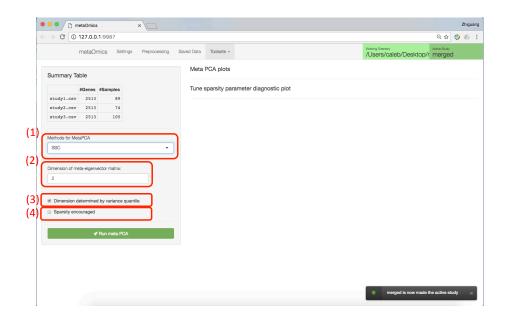


Figure 21: MetaPCA settings

### 4.6.1 Procedure

# Step 1 Specify parameters

There are very few parameter to be specify in metaPCA, as in Figure 21. There are two methods for MetaPCA (at position (1)). SSC represent MetaPCA via sum of squared cosine (SSC) maximization. SV represent MetaPCA via sum of variance decomposition (SV). Details of SSC and SV can be found in metaPCA manuscript. SSC has better performance and is suggested. Dimension of meta-eigenvector matrix option (at position (2)) allows user to specify dimension of the output meta-eigenvector matrix. The checkbox of "dimension determined by variance quantile" is suggested to be selected (at position (3)), If it is selected, the dimension size of each study's eigenvector matrix (SSC) is determined by the pre-defined level of variance quantile 80%. If the checkbox of "sparsity encouraged" is selected (at position (4)), users can perform metaPCA. After clicking on search for optimal tuning parameter button, the optimum tuning parameter will be returned to the box "tuning parameter for sparsity", which may be time consuming.

### Step 2 Perform metaPCA

By clicking the "Run meta PCA" button, MetaPCA will be performed.

### Complete List of Options:

- 1. Common metaPCA parameters:
  - Methods for metaPCA: SSC represent MetaPCA via sum of squared cosine (SSC) maximization. SV represent MetaPCA via sum of variance decomposition (SV).
  - Dimension of meta-eigenvector matrix: dimension of the output meta-eigenvector matrix.
  - Dimension determined by variance quantile: the dimension size of each study's eigenvector matrix (SSC) is determined by the predefined level of variance quantile 80%.
- 2. If sparsity encouraged is selected, there are extra tuning parameter  $(\lambda)$  that may need to be tuned.
  - Min  $\lambda$ : lower bound of the searching space of  $\lambda$ .
  - Max  $\lambda$ : upper bound of the searching space of  $\lambda$ .
  - Step of of  $\lambda$ : stepsize of the searching space of  $\lambda$ .
  - Tuning parameter for sparsity: Tuning parameter for sparsity that will be used for sparse metaPCA.

#### 4.6.2 Results

The result of metaPCA is shown in Figure 22. For each study, only first two studies are visualized. The results show nice separations between three groups. These figures and eigenvectors from metaPCA are saved.

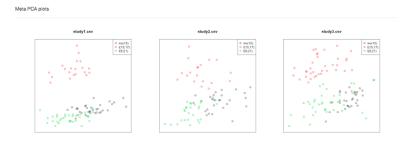


Figure 22: MetaPCA result

### 4.7 MetaKTSP

Top scoring pairs is a robust algorithm for predicting gene expression profiles, which adopts nonparametric rank-based prediction rule. The MetaKTSP is a

meta-analysis version of the TSP algorithm that combines multiple transcriptomic studies to build a prediction model and shows improved prediction accuracy as compared to single study analysis. The R package for MetaKTSP module can be found https://github.com/metaOmic/MetaKTSP.

After opening the MetaKTSP page, as shown in Figure 23, there are 1 drop-down menu ("Methods for Meta KTSP") (1), three number entries ("Max number of top scoring pairs (K)" (2), "Number of cores for parallel computing" (3) and "Number of top scoring pairs (K)" (7)), three character entries ("Please select TWO labels to cluster" (4), "Please select studies for training" (5), and "Please select studies for testing") (6), and two excuting tabs ("Train model" and "Predict").

#### 4.7.1 Procedure

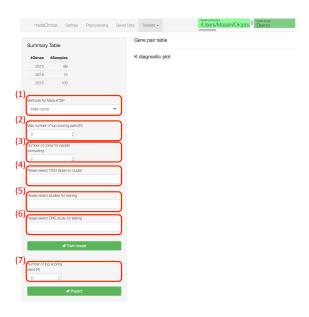


Figure 23: Homepage of MetaKTSP

#### Step 1 Building prediction model based on meta-analysis

First, we need to decide a method to select K top scoring gene pairs from multiple studies (Figure 23). Second, we need to provide the maximum number of top scoring pairs K (algorithm will search from 1 up to K) and the number of cores for parallel computing. Next, we need to select only TWO labels to build the classification model. In other words, if there exists more than two kinds of labels, we need to choose two from them. Our interface will pop up all labels that are available. Then, select the dataset as training data and testing respectively, and click the "Train

model" tab to run the MetaKTSP program. It may take a while to run the model.

### Step 2 MetaKTSP prediction

After the model training is finished, on the top right it will show up a "Gene pair table" ((1) in Figure 24) which present the top K gene pairs statistics. A diagnostic plot ((2) in Figure 24) is output to assist users decide which K to use in the final prediction model. The suggested value is shown in the plot as green line, which is decided by VO method we introduced in the original paper. Users may also decide K on their own to predict the class label of testing data. After deciding K, then hit the tab "Predict" (Figure 24). Finally, a confusion matrix is output to show the prediction results ((1) in Figure 24).

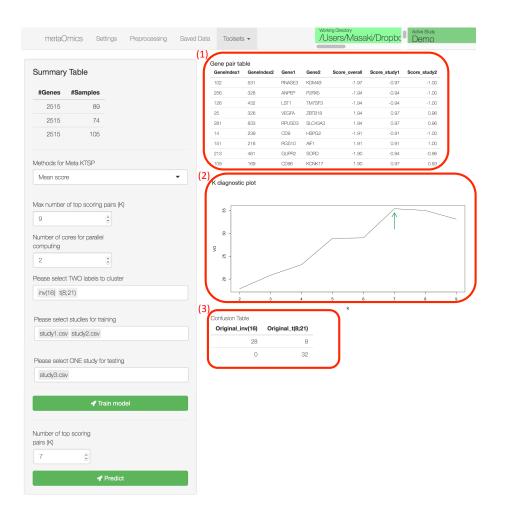


Figure 24: Results for metaKTSP.

# Complete List of Options:

- 1. Model trainings:
  - Methods for Meta KTSP: include Mean score, Fisher, Stouffer.
  - Max number of top scoring pairs (K)
  - Number of cores for parallel computing
  - TWO labels to cluster: labels for metaKTSP
  - Please select studies for training
  - Please select studies for testing

• Number of top scoring pairs (K): Number of top scoring pairs (K) for prediction.

#### 4.7.2 Results

A confusion matrix is output to show the prediction results ((1) in Figure 24). The prediction results are also saved in the folder.

### 4.8 MetaDCN

By clicking toolsets and then metaDCN, users are directed to metaDCN home page as Figure 25. The R package for MetaDCN module can be found https://github.com/metaOmic/MetaDCN.

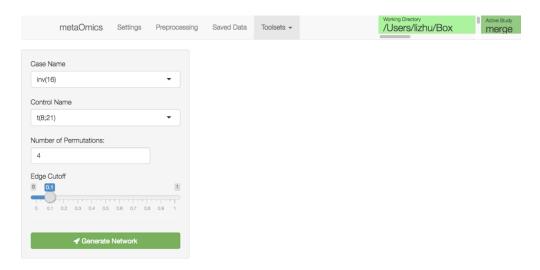


Figure 25: MetaDCN homepage

MetaDCN includes three steps to get differentially co-expressed networks: generate network, search for basic modules, and assemble supermodules. The left screen is the control panel of step 1. The control panel for next step will show up after the previous step is done.

### 4.8.1 Procedure

Step 1 Generate Network The first step of MetaDCN is to generate network. In this step, the network for permuted data will also be generated. Users need to select case and control names, the number of permutations, and edge cut-off which determines the proportion of edges to be kept in the

network. After clicking **Generate Network** button, screen will show message indicating the algorithm is running to generate network.

### Step 2 Search for basic modules

After the generate network step is done, the control panel will be as Figure 26. The next step is to search for basic modules. Users need to specify the number of repeats used for each initial seed modules (Number to repeat), the maximum Monte Carlo steps for simulated annealing algorithm (MC Steps), and the maximum pairwise Jaccard index allowed for basic modules (Jaccard Cutoff). After clicking **Search for basic modules** button, screen will show message indicating the algorithm is running to search for basic modules.



Figure 26: MetaDCN control panel for search for basic modules

Search for basic modules will take minutes, especially if a large number of genes are used. After this step is done, the screen will show a table of basic modules higher correlated in case and a table of basic modules higher correlated in control as Figure 27.

# Basic modules higher correlated in case: Show 10 \$ entries SERPINA1/AP1S2/CECR1/SMIM24/PSAP/TRBV27/RGS10/CPXM1/TLR2/CAPN2/OGFRL1/MS4A6A CTSB/TLR2/RGS10/HEXB/SERPINA1/CECR1/LGALS3/AP1S2/SMIM24/S100A9/CPXM1/MAP2K1/CAPN2 NFIL3/IER3/CD83/CPXM1/EZR/RIPK2/SLC2A3 NFIL3/IER3/LCP1/CDKN1A/TCEAL4/TGFB1 NFIL3/LYN/IER3/LCP1/UCP2/MARCKSL1/RAB11FIP1 Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries Basic modules higher correlated in control: Show 10 ¢ entries GCA/FABP5/PRR11/PCNA/C1QBP/MAFF/FAM107B/PRDX3/TNFSF13B/PRTN3/PRKACB/CBFB/CAT/RAB10/AN PCNA/FAM107B/GCA/PRTN3/C1QBP/KIAA0101/EZR/RAB10/CAT/PRDX3/TNFSF13B/ANP32E/DYNLL1 SLC2A3/JUP/LYN/PPP1R15A/EZR/PCNA/RAB10/FLNA/PIM3/KLF6 5 L5 STAM/JUP/LYN/PIM3/PDLIM1/HLA-DPA1/ITM2A/TPSAB1/CSTA SLC2A3/STAM/JUP/LYN/PPP1R15A/PCNA/FLNA/PLP2/HLA-DPA1 L6 Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries Previous 1 Next

Figure 27: MetaDCN output from search for basic modules step

# Step 3 Assemble supermodules

After search for basic modules step is done, the control panel will be Figure 28. The last step is to assemble supermodules. Users can decide the FDR cut-off to select basic modules for supermodule assembly. After clicking **Assemble supermodules** button, screen will show message indicating the algorithm is running to assemble supermodules.

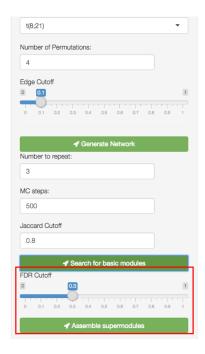


Figure 28: MetaDCN control panel for assemble supermodules step

### Complete List of Options:

- 1. Generate Network:
  - Case Name: specify case group label.
  - Control Name: specify control group label.
  - Number of Permutations: the number of permutations used for generating network.
  - Edge Cutoff: edge cut-off determines the proportion of edges to be kept in the network.
- 2. Search for basic modules:
  - Number to repeat: the number of repeats used for each initial seed modules.
  - MC steps: the maximum Monte Carlo steps for simulated annealing algorithm.
  - Jaccard cutoff: maximum pairwise Jaccard index allowed for basic modules.
- 3. Assemble supermodules:

• FDR cutoff: FDR cut-off to select basic modules for supermodule assembly.

#### 4.8.2 Results

#### Generate Network

After the generate network step is done, no output will show up in the screen. Instead, a message box indicating several Rdata files are saved in the Meta DCN folder, including:

- AdjacencyMatrices.Rdata is a list of adjacency matrices for case and control subjects in each study. The order is study1 case, study2 case, ..., studyS case, study1 control, study2 control, ..., studyS control.
- CorrelationMatrices.Rdata is a list of correlation matrices for case and control subjects in each study.
- AdjacencyMatricesPermutationP.Rdata is a list of adjacency matrices for permuted datasets in permutation P.

#### Search for basic modules

After this step is done, the screen will show a table of basic modules higher correlated in case and a table of basic modules higher correlated in control as Figure 27. Meanwhile, several files will be saved in the Meta DCN folder:

- basic\_modules\_summary\_forward\_weight\_w1.csv is a summary table of basic modules that are higher correlated in case, detected using w1.
- basic\_modules\_summary\_backward\_weight\_w1.csv is a summary table of basic modules that are higher correlated in control, detected using w1.
- threshold\_forward.csv is a table of number of basic modules higher correlated in case, detected under different w1 values and FDR cut-offs.
- threshold\_backward.csv is a table of number of basic modules higher correlated in control, detected under different w1 values and FDR cut-offs.
- permutation\_energy\_forward\_P.Rdata is a list of energies for basic modules that higher correlated in case, detected from permutation P.
- permutation\_energy\_backward\_P.Rdata is a list of energies for basic modules that higher correlated in control, detected from permutation P.

### Assemble supermodules

After supermodule assembly is done, screen will show a table of supermodules (Figure 29). Users can also select basic modules to plot (Figure 30). Meanwhile several files will be saved in the folder MetaDCN:

• module\_assembly\_summary\_weight\_w1.csv is summary table of supermodules using w1 weight.

• CytoscapeFiles folder contains the input files for Cytoscape to visualize supermodules.

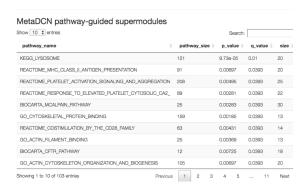


Figure 29: MetaDCN supermodules table

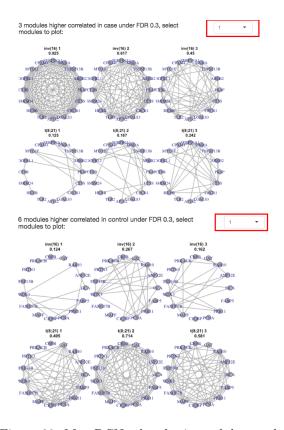


Figure 30: MetaDCN select basic modules to plot

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