

# **Defining tissue specific gene sets using consensus clustering**

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## Abstract

*A priori* defined gene sets are key to gene set enrichment analysis [33] a powerful tool in genetic analysis. Gene sets are constructed through linking genes by some common feature. This can be a function, the location of the gene product, the participation of the product in some metabolic or signalling pathway, the protein structure, the presence of transcription-factor-binding sites or other regulatory elements, the participation in multiprotein complexes, or any one of several other definitions [34][33][17][1]. However, all of these criteria are tissue agnostic. We propose to produce tissue specific gene sets by applying Multiple Dataset Integration [18] (a Bayesian clustering method) to the gene expression data from the Correlated Expression and Disease Association Research cohort [35], a dataset of 9 tissue / cell types.

We show that problems with convergence and dependence upon initialisation common in high dimensionality settings can be overcome by means of consensus clustering [25]. We then use consensus clustering of Multiple Dataset Integration models to produce gene sets.

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# 1 Introduction

With the onset of microarrays and RNAseq, producing gene expression data in large quantities for a wide number of genes is increasingly enabled. Unfortunately the large amount of data now available to the genomics community by these methods is difficult to interpret and analyse. Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) attempts to overcome some of these issues by using prior knowledge to define groups of genes linked through their biological function [14]. The set is defined using knowledge external to the current analysis; a common method is using the manually annotated discrete pathways available on the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) database [7].

Analysis of gene sets is advantageous both from the perspective of biological interpretation and statistical power. In terms of the underlying biology, genes do not function in isolation; they participate in pathways, interacting with other genes to carry out specific biological processes. Thus analysis of gene sets is analysis of an object closer to phenotype than the individual gene. In terms of statistical power, in analysing gene sets as a group the degree of perturbation required in the expression of the full gene set due to the disease state / alternative phenotype to be considered significant is much less than that required in analysing each of its constituent members individually [6][39].

The problem of how to define gene sets is non-trivial, with many variations present in the literature. There exist many databases of gene sets [1][17][34]. The Molecular Signature Database [33] (MSigDB) is one of the most popular resources for GSEA and encompasses many different gene sets defined under various criteria or generated from separate resources.

However, none of these definitions of a “set” incorporate tissue specific information. This seems an oversight. Cell-type specific gene pathways are pivotal in differentiating tissue function, implicated in hereditary organ failure, and mediate acquired chronic disease [16]. More and more evidence is being accrued to highlight the cell-type specific level of gene expression [12][28][23]. Thus we propose defining tissue specific gene sets.

To describe gene sets within the data, some clustering method is required. Applied on expression values or some transformed variation thereof, groups of genes are created based on some concept of similarity (or alternatively on some concept of dissimilarity or distance). Depending on the choice of transformation and clustering method further questions might arise such as defining the number of clusters (required for instance with K-means clustering) or the type of distance to use (for instance within hierarchical clustering and the methods that integrate this method such as Weighted Gene Correlation Network Analysis). For clustering within a dataset we choose *mixture models* as the method as the number of clusters is learnt from the data and the concept of distance in

these models is based upon the likelihood of the Gaussian distributions describing the sub-populations, an intuitive model for continuous data. Specifically we use Bayesian mixture models as these capture uncertainty of membership which is appropriate in this application. Genes membership might be poorly defined [30]; thus the model uncertainty represents biological uncertainty.

Within the CEDAR cohort there are multiple datasets containing information about the same genes for different tissues or cell types. Ideally a model could integrate information about common clustering structure across the datasets to reduce uncertainty within making assumptions that could impose false structure upon the data or in some other way reduce the signal unique to each tissue. Such methods are referred to as *integrative clustering methods*. Of this field we choose to use *Multiple Dataset Integration* (MDI) [18] as this method is Bayesian (and thus has principled quantification of uncertainty) and is an extension of mixture models.

As we have a large number of variables ( $p > 250$ ), we implement *consensus clustering* to overcome the problem of describing multiple modes in high dimension space. This is a recurring problem with Bayesian clustering methods as they rely upon *Markov Chain Monte Carlo* (MCMC) methods to sample from the posterior distribution. These methods have the property that they guarantee sampling from the posterior distribution given infinite time. However, if the posterior distribution is multi-modal, it is possible that no finite amount of time is sufficient to explore the entire space [36]. This problem is more prevalent as the number of dimensions scales. In this case the algorithm tends to describe the space within a mode, but the probability of escaping the mode and exploring the full space can be very low.

These problems are highly prevalent in Bayesian clustering methods. The large number of discrete labels encourages a spiky likelihood surface that can trap MCMC chains. Thus convergence can take a space of time beyond realistic constraints. This means that a method capable of overcoming multi-modality and doing so in a useful timeframe (e.g. on the scale of 24 hours) while quantifying uncertainty is highly attractive. We propose using a *consensus clustering* [25] model as an answer to this open question. Consensus clustering traditionally uses multiple version of the same deterministic clustering method in conjunction with resampling techniques to assess the stability of discovered clusters. This combination of models is a natural extension to the concept of ensemble methods (such as Random Forest [2]). The dependence upon the instability of the individual models is conceptually related to that of Bagging [3].

My final model is a composition of many short chains of MDI. This implementation brings novelty to the idea of consensus clustering in using a stochastic method (as MDI depends upon MCMC). An immediate advantage of this

is it enables one to drop the resampling step required in traditional consensus clustering. This is as different random seeds drive different initialisations and sampling results without needing to vary the subset of data used. This means that each sub-model uses more data. Furthermore, this eases implementation in reducing the amount of steps required.

As each of the MDI chains is parallel to all others, the model has an immediate speed advantage on a traditional Bayesian model. With enough chains the model also samples from each mode that is present in the posterior distribution, thus overcoming the "stickiness" problem. Finally, as the model describes a distribution using the samples recorded for each sub-model there is a quantified uncertainty associated with the model; thus my implementation of consensus clustering retains this attractive property of Bayesian methods.

I show by simulation that for the implementation of consensus clustering described above:

1. It is consistent with converged MDI chains;
2. That the space sampled for possible clusterings is sensible when individual chains become trapped; and
3. That the method is robust to different lengths of sub-model chains.

I then apply the method to real biological data with known pathways present and show encouraging results for uncovering this structure. I also show exploratory analysis of this structure being tissue or cell-type dependent.

## 2 Theory

### 2.1 Bayesian inference

Bayesian inference is an alternative paradigm to frequentist methods that has several attractive properties.

1. Principled error qualification; and
2. Integration of prior knowledge and beliefs.

In this project it is point 1 that makes this framework attractive. As stated previously, model uncertainty can represent biological uncertainty.

The keystone of Bayesian inference is Bayes' rule which defines how one can update a hypothesis as more information is made available. For observations  $X$  and a parameter  $\theta$  where  $\Theta$  is the entire sample space for  $\theta$ :

$$p(\theta|X) = \frac{p(X|\theta)p(\theta)}{\int_{\Theta} p(X|\theta')p(\theta')d\theta'} \quad (1)$$

- We refer to  $p(\theta|X)$  as the *posterior* distribution of  $\theta$  as it is the distribution associated with  $\theta$  *after* observing  $X$ .
- $p(\theta)$  is the *prior* distribution of  $\theta$  and captures our beliefs about  $\theta$  before we observe  $X$ .
- $p(X|\theta)$  is the *likelihood* of  $X$  given  $\theta$ , the probability of data  $X$  being generated given our model is true. It is the criterion we focus on in our model if we would use a frequentist approach to the inference (and hence why the frequentist philosophy treats the data as random); maximising this quantity in our model generates the manifold that best describes the observed data.
- $\int_{\Theta} p(X|\theta')p(\theta')d\theta'$  is the *normalising constant*. It is also referred to as the marginal likelihood as we marginalise the parameter  $\theta$  by integrating over its entire sample space.

## 2.2 Clustering

Given data  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , we define a *clustering* or partition of the data by:

$$Y = \{Y_1, \dots, Y_K\} \quad (2)$$

$$Y_k = \{x_{1_k}, \dots, x_{n_k}\} \quad (3)$$

$$Y_i \cap Y_j = \emptyset \quad \forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, K\}, i \neq j \quad (4)$$

$$n_k = |Y_k| \geq 1 \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, K\} \quad (5)$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^K n_k = n \quad (6)$$

In short we have  $K$  nonempty disjoint sets of data, each of which is referred to as a *cluster*, the set of which form a *clustering*. A label  $c_i = k$  states that point  $x_i$  is assigned to cluster  $Y_k$ . We define the collection of labels  $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$  as denoting the membership of each point.

## 2.3 Mixture models

Our clustering model is a mixture model. These models assume that the data may be described in terms of  $K$  clusters defined by some parametric distribution,  $f(\cdot)$ . We believe that each cluster represents a distinct subpopulation of the dataset. The distribution chosen to represent each cluster is the same, but the parameters defining the  $k^{th}$  distribution are learnt from the points assigned to the  $k^{th}$  cluster. More formally, if one is given some data  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , we assume  $K$  unobserved subpopulations generate the data and that insights into

these subpopulations can be revealed by imposing a clustering  $Y = \{Y_1, \dots, Y_K\}$  on the data.

It is assumed that each of the  $K$  clusters can be modelled by a parametric distribution,  $f(\cdot)$  with parameters  $\theta_k$ . We let membership in the  $k^{th}$  cluster for the  $i^{th}$  individual be denoted by  $c_i = k$ . The full model density is then the weighted sum of the probability density functions where the weights,  $\pi_k$ , are the proportion of the total population assigned to the  $k^{th}$  cluster:

$$p(x_i|c_i = k) = \pi_k f(x_i|\theta_k) \quad (7)$$

$$p(x_i) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k f(x_i|\theta_k) \quad (8)$$

For our application, we use a Multivariate Normal (MVN) distribution to describe each subpopulation for the pragmatical reason that the Gaussian distribution is easy to work with.

### 2.3.1 Dirichlet process

The Dirichlet process is an extension of mixture models where  $K = \infty$ . This concept is used in our implementation. It is mimicked by using an arbitrarily large  $K$  value (here,  $K = 50$ ) and allowing the model to learn the number of clusters required. This way the value of  $K$  is unfixed and learnt from the data, growing and shrinking as required.

### 2.3.2 Bayesian mixture models

We use Bayesian mixture models. In this case we have a prior distribution on each of the random variables. This allows us to ensure that there is a non-zero probability of a gene being assigned to an empty cluster (whereas under the frequentist paradigm an empty cluster would have an associated weight of 0, and hence the number of occupied clusters has no probability of growing).

We carry out Bayesian inference of this model using MCMC methods. Specifically, we employ Gibbs sampling which can be summarised as iterating between the following steps (the order of which step comes first is arbitrary):

1. For each of  $K$  clusters sample  $\theta_k$  and  $\pi_k$  from the associated distributions based on current memberships,  $c_i$ ; and
2. For each of  $n$  individuals sample  $c_i$  based on the new  $\theta_k$  and  $\pi_k$ .

The output consists of a matrix  $n_{iter}$  rows and  $p$  columns (for  $p$  genes). The  $i^{th}$  row describes the cluster the genes are assigned to in the  $i^{th}$  iteration of the Gibbs sampler. To summarise this information we use a posterior similarity

matrix (PSM). The  $(i, j)$  cell of the PSM contains there is the fraction of recorded iterations for which the  $i^{th}$  and  $j^{th}$  genes have common labelling. One can see that this implies the PSM is symmetric and has diagonal entries of 1.

From this PSM a single clustering estimate,  $\hat{c}$ , can be described from the PSM by maximising the posterior expected adjusted Rand index [8]. Other methods such as minimisation of Binder's loss function or minimization of Dahl's criterion are based on the original Rand index, and thus are unadjusted for chance. We prefer use of the adjusted Rand index for reasons mentioned in section A.1 and thus choose to use the method described by Fritsch and Ickstadt [8] utilising the posterior expected adjusted Rand index.

## 2.4 Multiple dataset integration

Consider the case when we have observed paired datasets  $X_1 = (x_{1,1}, \dots, x_{n,1})$ ,  $X_2 = (x_{1,2}, \dots, x_{n,2})$ , where observations in the  $i^{th}$  row of each dataset represent information about the same gene. We would like to cluster genes using information common to both datasets. One could concatenate the datasets, adding additional covariates for each gene. However, if the two datasets have different clustering structures this would reduce the signal of both clusterings and probably have one dominate. If the two datasets have the same structure but different signal-to-noise ratios this would reduce the signal in the final clustering. In both these cases independent models on each dataset would be preferable. Kirk et al. [18] suggest a method to carry out clustering on both datasets where common information is used but two individual clusterings are outputted. This method is driven by the allocation prior:

$$p(c_{i1}, c_{i2} | \phi) \propto \pi_{c_{i1}} \pi_{c_{i2}} (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})) \quad (9)$$

Where:

- $c_{ij}$  is the label of the  $i^{th}$  gene in the  $j^{th}$  dataset;
- $\pi_{c_{ij}}$  is the component weight of the cluster associated with label  $c_{ij}$  in dataset  $j$ ;
- $\phi \in \mathbb{R} > 0$  is the correlation between datasets;
- $\mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})$  is the indicator function - it takes a value of one if  $c_{i1}$  and  $c_{i2}$  are equal (i.e. a common allocation across datasets) and 0 otherwise.

Here  $\phi$  controls the strength of association between datasets. Equation (9) states that the probability of allocating individual  $i$  to component  $c_{i,1}$  in dataset 1 and to component  $c_{i,2}$  in dataset 2 is proportional to the proportion of these components within each dataset and up-weighted by  $\phi$  if the gene has the same

labelling in each dataset. Thus as  $\phi$  grows the correlation between the clusterings grow and we are more likely to see the same clustering emerge from each dataset. Conversely if  $\phi = 0$  we have independent mixture models.

The generalised case for  $L$  datasets,  $X_1 = (x_{1,1}, \dots, x_{n,1}), \dots, X_L = (x_{1,L}, \dots, x_{n,L})$  for any  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  is simply a matter of combinatorics. In this case, (9) extends to:

$$p(c_{i1}, \dots, c_{iL} | \boldsymbol{\phi}) \propto \left[ \prod_{l_1=1}^L \pi_{c_{il_1} l_1} \right] \left[ \prod_{l_2=1}^{L-1} \prod_{l_3=l_2+1}^L (1 + \phi_{l_2 l_3} \mathbb{1}(c_{il_2} = c_{il_3})) \right] \quad (10)$$

Here  $\boldsymbol{\phi}$  is the  $\binom{L}{2}$ -vector of all  $\phi_{ij}$  where  $\phi_{12}$  is the variable  $\phi$  in (9).

Thus MDI is an extension of mixture models to multiple datasets where correlated clustering structure is used to “upweigh” similar clusters across datasets. MDI has been applied to precision medicine, specifically identifying function modules of genes and glioblastoma sub-typing [32], in the past showing its potential as a tool.

## 2.5 Consensus clustering

In the scenario that MDI struggles to explore the entire posterior distribution from any given initialisation for any realistic number of iterations of MCMC, we propose use of a “consensus clustering” [25]. In this scenario we draw samples of clusterings from MCMC chains with different initialisations and use these clusterings to describe the posterior distribution. In practice this involves running  $n_{seeds}$  different chains of MDI for a smaller number of iterations,  $n_{iter}$ , and burning out the first  $n_{iter} - 1$  iterations. The clustering from the final iteration is then saved for this model.

We then combine the clusterings from all  $n_{seeds}$  within a posterior similarity matrix (PSM) for the  $n$  genes. This is a  $n \times n$  matrix where the  $(i, j)$  entry is the proportion of times genes  $i$  and  $j$  are in the same cluster. This means that the PSM is not affected by label switching (a problem in Bayesian model-based clustering) and that it is a symmetric matrix with 1’s along the diagonal and all entries in the unit interval. From this PSM a summary clustering may be calculated. The combination of different initialisations enables exploration of multiple maxima in the posterior density and thus provides a more informed clustering than a method liable to become trapped in a single mode.

There have already been numerous applications of consensus clustering [20] [19] [2], but we show the validity of this implementation of consensus clustering by means of simulations. In this case we know the true clustering as we can control which points are drawn from which subpopulations. We can then compare the quality of recorded clusterings generated by a single converged chain

of MDI to different version of consensus clustering (i.e. varying  $n_{iter}$ ). We let the quality of a clustering be defined by its similarity to the ground truth, measured using the *adjusted Rand index* (see section A.1).

## 2.6 Gene sets

We identify gene sets based upon common patterns of expression. Correlated expression (or co-expression) between genes is often an indicator that they are:

- Controlled by the same transcription factor;
- Functionally related; or
- Members of the same pathway [38].

As this correlated expression is represented by a common variation across people (or experimental conditions) rather than in the magnitude of expression, we will standardise the expression data as described in section A.2. We describe a small example to highlight our reasoning in section A.2.1.

Furthermore, we know from Genome Wide Association Studies that many diseases are polygenic in nature [26]. This suggests that it is natural to be considering sets of genes in analysis of many diseases. Subramanian et al. [33] highlight the importance of gene sets, claiming that within a single metabolic pathway an increase of 20% in all the associated gene products may have more impact upon phenotype than a 20-fold increase in a single gene.

Analysing pre-defined gene sets increases the statistical power of an analysis[26]. As we have stated previously, analysis of the set requires less perturbation of expression for significance than analysis of an individual. There is also no obvious detriment in analysing gene sets - no loss of information found. As the gene sets are expected to have correlated expression [38], one expects that if the expression of a gene within the set does change then, if this is not due to noise or stochasticity, the expression of other members of the set should also vary accordingly.

Thus clustering genes into groups known as “gene sets” is natural and useful from both a biological and statistical perspective - it can increase the interpretability and the power of an analysis [27][37].

We have specific interest in defining tissue-specific gene sets. Previous attempts to achieve this have used the Genotype Tissue Expression (GTEx) [13] database [21], but here the profiles are for human donors post-mortem. We suspect that the data derived from these cells may not contain the same information as that collected from living, active cells. Furthermore, the GTEx data is across many different tissues (144 are used in [21]), but we focus on cell types relevant

to autoimmune disease in general (i.e. white blood cells) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease in particular (intestinal samples).

## 3 Case study examples

We first show via simulated data that consensus clustering does produce similar results to a converged single run for MDI.

We then simulate data where individual chains of MDI will struggle to converge and possibly will not converge in finite time. We show that consensus clustering explores a wider space than any individual chain and appears to describe something similar to the space described by the union of the chains.

Finally we apply consensus clustering to 254 probes for 8 datasets from the CEDAR dataset. An initial set of probes are chosen based on the members of 3 KEGG pathways:

### 3.1 Simulations

#### 3.1.1 Simulation: Case 1

The data in the first simulation is designed to allow MDI to converge. In this case we take the data from the original MDI paper [18]. As this data is highly separable we add some noise to ensure that the chain has not converged within a small number of iterations (i.e. to ensure that the consensus clustering is not converged in each chain sampled).

In this case we have 3 datasets (MDItestdata1, MDItestdata2 and MDItestdata3). We use MDItestdata1 as the basis to define new data. We generate two overlapping clusters (cluster A and B) defined by two of the original clusters (cluster 1 and 2). We define cluster A to be generated from a MVN distribution with a mean defined by the weighted means of clusters 1 and 2 and a variance defined by the weighted variance of these same clusters. For cluster A the relative weights are 0.6 and 1 for clusters 1 and 2. Cluster B is defined in the same way, but the weights are reversed such that cluster B is more similar to cluster 1.

#### 3.1.2 Simulation: Case 2

The data in the first simulation is designed to prevent MDI from achieving convergence. This data is based upon 5 clusters of  $n_{clust} = \{25, 50, 75, 100, 150\}$  genes (let  $n_{clust_i}$  be the number of genes in each subcluster) for  $p = 400$  people. Each cluster is defined by a MVN distribution with common variance of 1. We

then perturb the clusters, adding a small amount of noise generate from a normal distribution of mean 0 and standard deviation 0.1. This noise makes the clusters less distinct. We generate 3 datasets this way, varying the means defining the clusters between datasets. Specifically each subpopulation is defined by combining  $p$  samples for  $n_{clust_i}$  genes where each sample is pulled from the  $(i, j)$  entry of table 1 (where  $i$  is the cluster number and  $j$  is the dataset number), and perturbed by a random sample drawn from  $\mathcal{N}(0, 0.1)$ .

Subpopulation	Dataset 1	Dataset 2	Dataset 3
1	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$
2	$\mathcal{N}(4, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$
3	$\mathcal{N}(7, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$
4	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$
5	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$	$\mathcal{N}(2, 1)$

Table 1: Subpopulations defining the simulated data in case 2.

### 3.2 CEDAR dataset

We use the gene expression data from the CEDAR cohort [35]. This data is available in a processed form [online](#). This consists of 9 .csv files, one for each tissue / cell type present of normalised gene expression data for 323 individuals. These are healthy individuals of European descent; the cohort consists of 182 women and 141 men with an average age of 56 years (but ranging from 19 to 86). None of the individuals were suffering from any autoimmune or inflammatory disease and were not taking corticosteroids or non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (with the exception of aspirin).

With regards to tissue types, samples from six circulating immune cells types (followed in brackets by the abbreviation for the associated dataset):

- CD4+ T lymphocytes (CD4);
- CD8+ T lymphocytes (CD8);
- CD14+ monocytes (CD14);
- CD15+ granulocytes (CD15);
- CD19+ B lymphocytes (CD19); and
- platelets (PLA).

Data from intestinal biopsies are also present, with samples taken from three distinct locations:

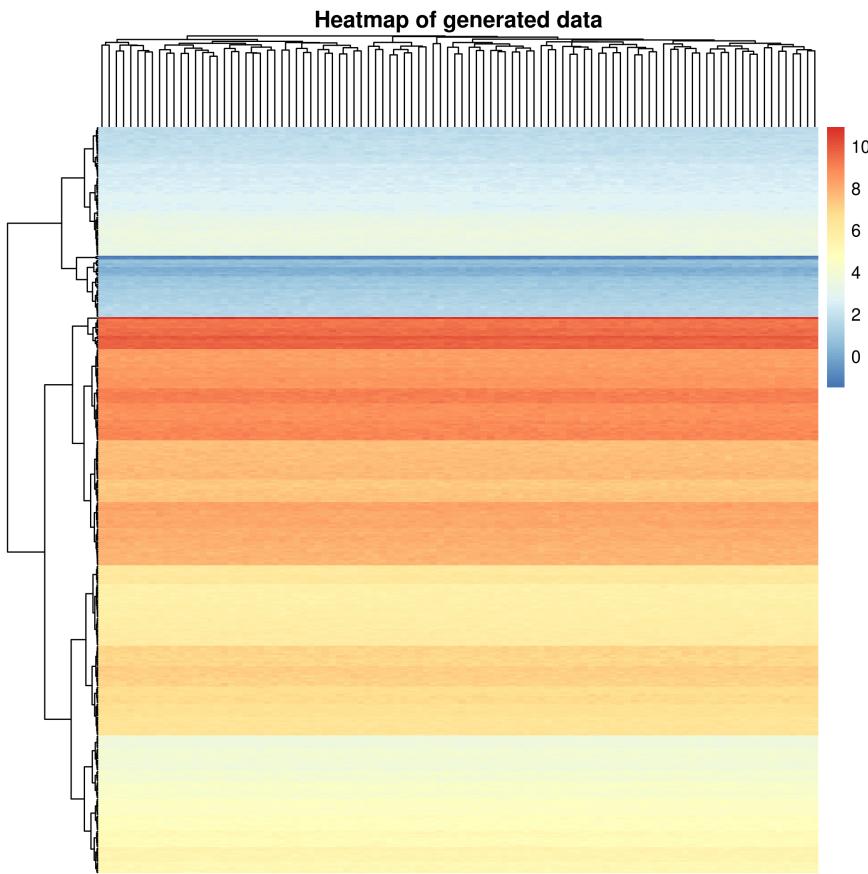


Figure 1: Heatmap of expression data generated for the second simulation as described in section 3.1.2. Note that there are 5 populations present here and that cluster membership and boundaries are not obvious.

- the illeum (IL);
- the rectum (RE); and
- the colon (TR).

Not every individual is present in every dataset. However, as genes are our object of interest this should not present a problem.

Whole genome expression data were generated using HT-12 Expression Bead-chips following the instructions of the manufacturer (Illumina). There are 18,524 probes present between the 9 datasets. It should be noted that there are differing degrees of missingness between the datasets (for instance the platelets dataset has 6,564 probes present in comparison to an average of 12,838 probes present per dataset, see figure 2).

Due to exponential increase in computational cost for each additional dataset,

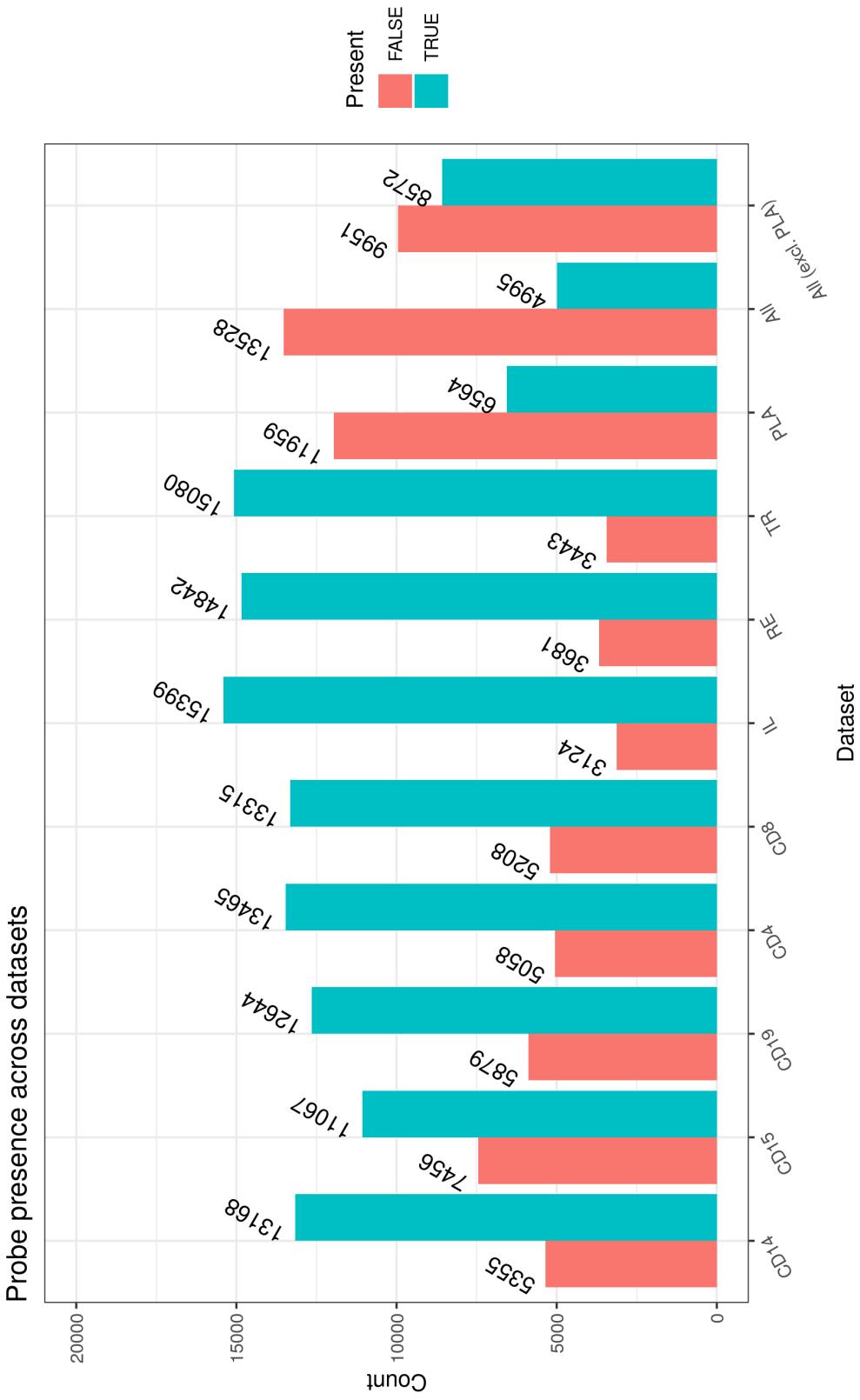


Figure 2: Probe presence across datasets. Under "All" we have the number of probes present in every dataset, under "All (excl. PLA)" we have the number of probes present in every dataset bar PLA. Note how there is greater missingness in the PLA dataset in comparison to the others.

we use only the 7 most informative datasets, dropping PLA and CD15 from our analysis. From a biological perspective we also expect PLA to be the least rich as platelets have no nucleus [40] and therefore any gene expression is an artefact from before they differentiated into platelets.

With regards to CD15 granulocytes, (mast cells, basophils, neutrophils and eosinophils), these are quite distinct from B and T lymphocytes (see figure 3). Based on this we expect there to be less common information pertinent to clustering genes in other datasets. Arguably monocytes are equally distant, but the level of missingness in the CD15 dataset is greater than that in the CD14 dataset; thus CD15 is eliminated from our analysis.

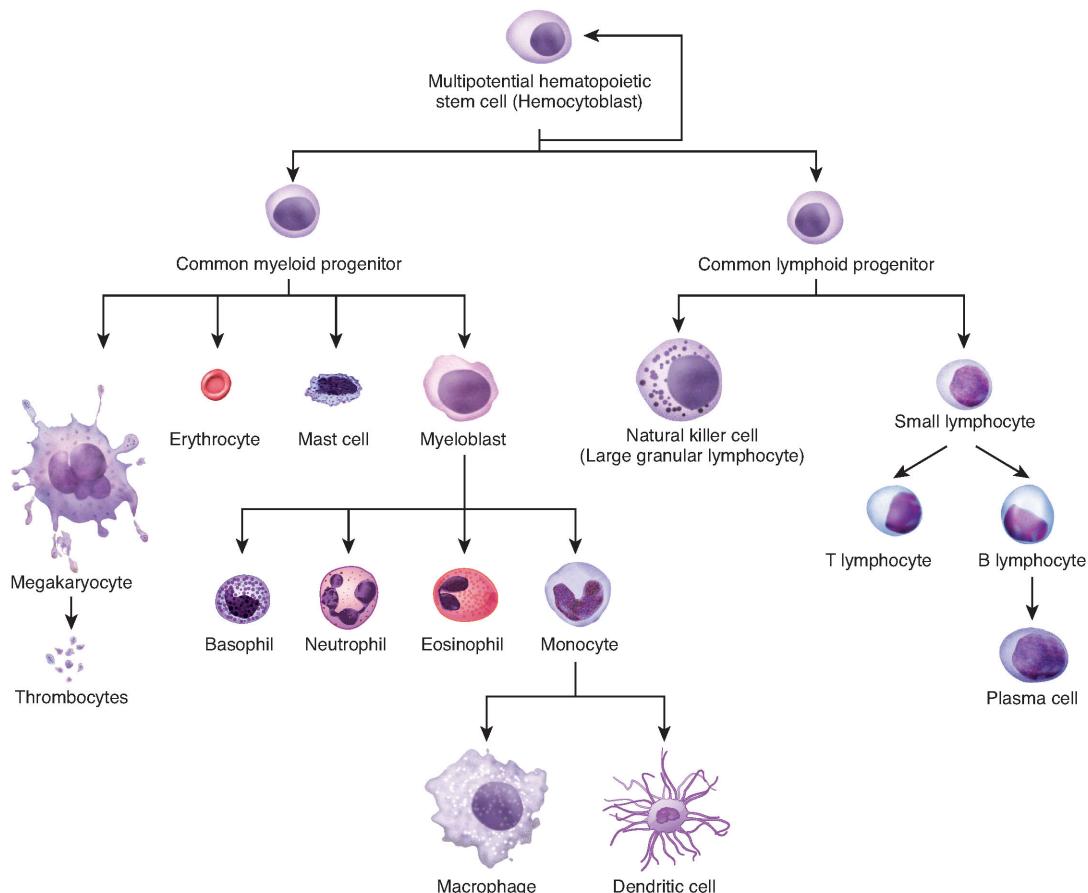


Figure 3: The differentiation of multipotent cells into blood and immune cells. Image courtesy of the OpenStax project [29].

We create two subsets of CEDAR data defined around KEGG pathways and random other probes. This is used to test if the annotated gene sets are identifiable using this method in real data.

### 3.2.1 CEDAR: Case 1 - Inositol gene set

We create an example dataset of 250 probes from the CEDAR dataset. This dataset contained 60 probes from the Inositol phosphate metabolism pathway as defined in the KEGG database. This scale of dataset allows implementation of MDI across 7 datasets simultaneously.

### 3.2.2 CEDAR: Case 2 - 1,000 probes

A second dataset of 1,000 probes defined by three KEGG pathways was used to explore the clustering on a larger, more diverse dataset. Unfortunately, this size limits how many datasets MDI can effectively receive as input. The pathways used are:

1. Inositol phosphate metabolism (a broad biological pathway);
2. NOD-like receptor signaling pathway (a specific biological pathway with known involvement in IBD [5][9]); and
3. Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) (a pathological pathway).

The union of these sets corresponds to 169 unique genes (or 237 probes as the mapping from the space of probes to that of genes is non-injective) that are present in the CEDAR dataset. The remaining probes are randomly selected from the total possible space (18,524 probes) less those corresponding to these genes (leaving 18,287 possible candidate probes).

### 3.2.3 Pipeline

For the CEDAR data, we follow this pipeline to prepare the data for clustering:

1. Transpose the data to have rows associated with gene probes and columns associated with individuals;
2. Remove NAs either imputing values using the minimum expressed value (as missingness is not random) or if above a threshold of missingness removing the column;
3. Standardise the data (see section A.2); and
4. For probes entirely missing from a given dataset we generate expression from a standard normal distribution for each probe. Then these probes are expressed as noise in the dataset and any clustering imposed upon them should be due to information about these probes present in other datasets.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Simulations

#### 4.1.1 Case 1: Proof of consensus

10 separate chains of MDI were run for 2 million iterations with a thinning factor of 50 and consensus clustering of 1,000 different seeds for different 4 lengths of chains were applied to the data generated as described in section 3.1.1. Results are compared by means of a Geweke plot [11], a Gelman plot [10] and the distribution of adjusted Rand index comparing the clustering at each iteration (or each seed in the consensus clustering) with the clustering defined by the subpopulations used to generate the data. These were shown to have converged successfully both within chain, by inspecting a Geweke plot (see figure 4), and across chains, by means of the Gelman-Rubin convergence statistic (see figure 5). The clustering at each iteration was compared to the the clustering defined by the subpopulations that generated the data and the long chains were compared to each other and consensus clustering for various chain lengths (see figure 6). One can see that the consensus clustering perform very similarly to the individual chains. Finally, in figure 7, the full space of clusterings across all chains is compared to the consensus clustering under the adjusted Rand Index.

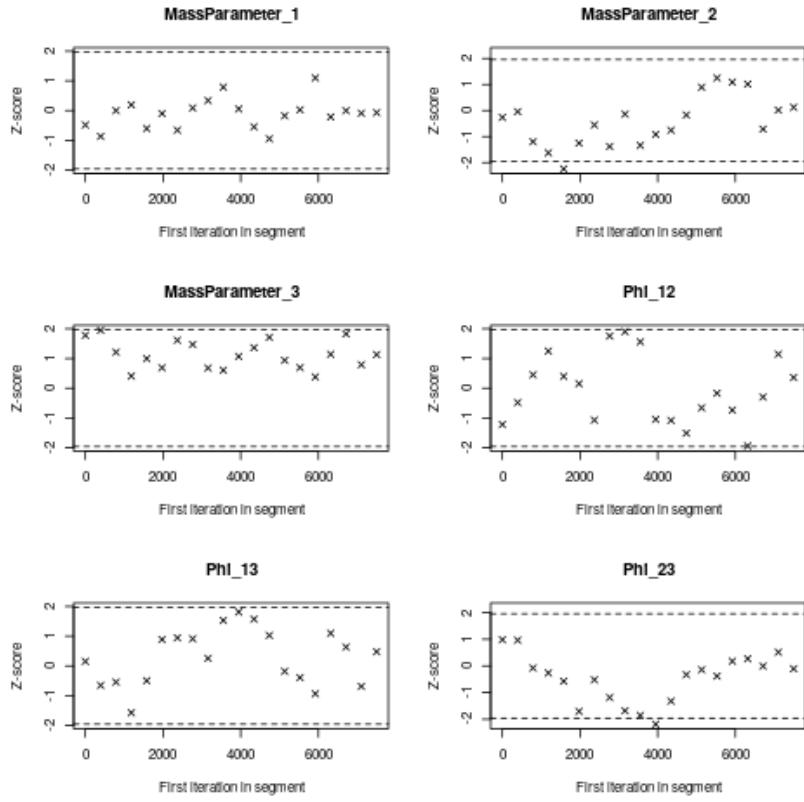


Figure 4: Geweke plot [11] for a long chain with random seed 3 in case 1 of the simulations. If the chain has reached stationarity the Z-scores should be described by a standard normal distribution (in which case 95% of recorded values should be contained within the dashed lines). We show only the continuous random variables.

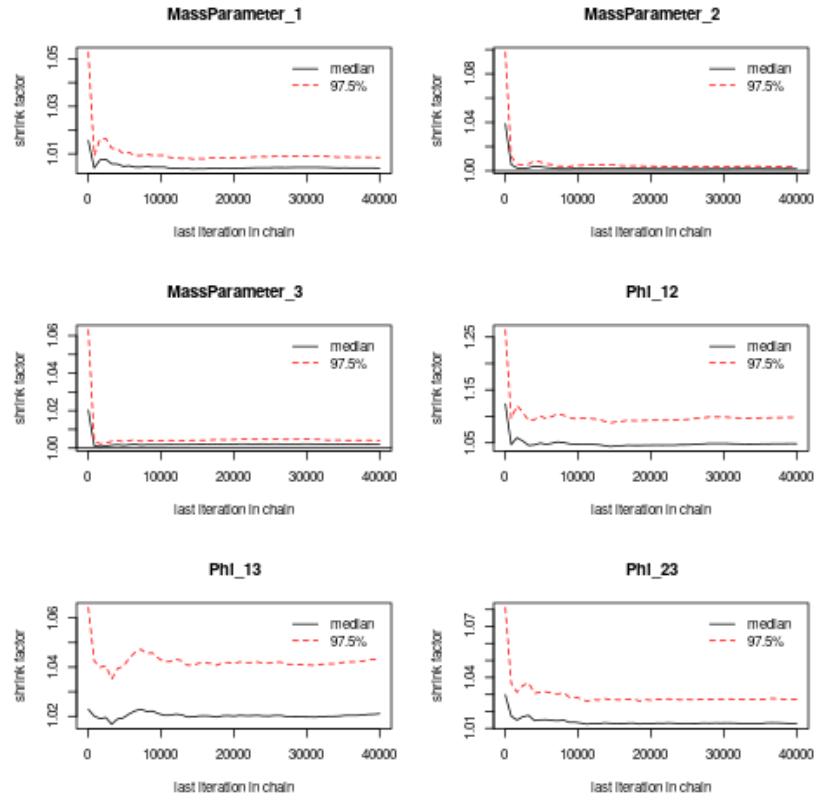


Figure 5: Plot of the shrinkage factor described by Gelman and Rubin [10] for the continuous variables across chains in case 1 of the simulations. If the chains are truly converged (and thus describing similar spaces to one another) the values should tend to 1.

#### 4.1.2 Case 2: Overcoming multiple modes

Similar versions of consensus clustering and individual chains were run for the data generated as described in section 3.1.2. These were then compared using the same methods. We can see in figure 8 an example of how the individual chains have reached stationarity (the individual chain is no longer exploring new space). However, convergence has not been achieved across chains as is shown in figure 9. The space explored across the ten chains is compared to that explored in each of the consensus clusterings (see figures 10, 11 and 12).

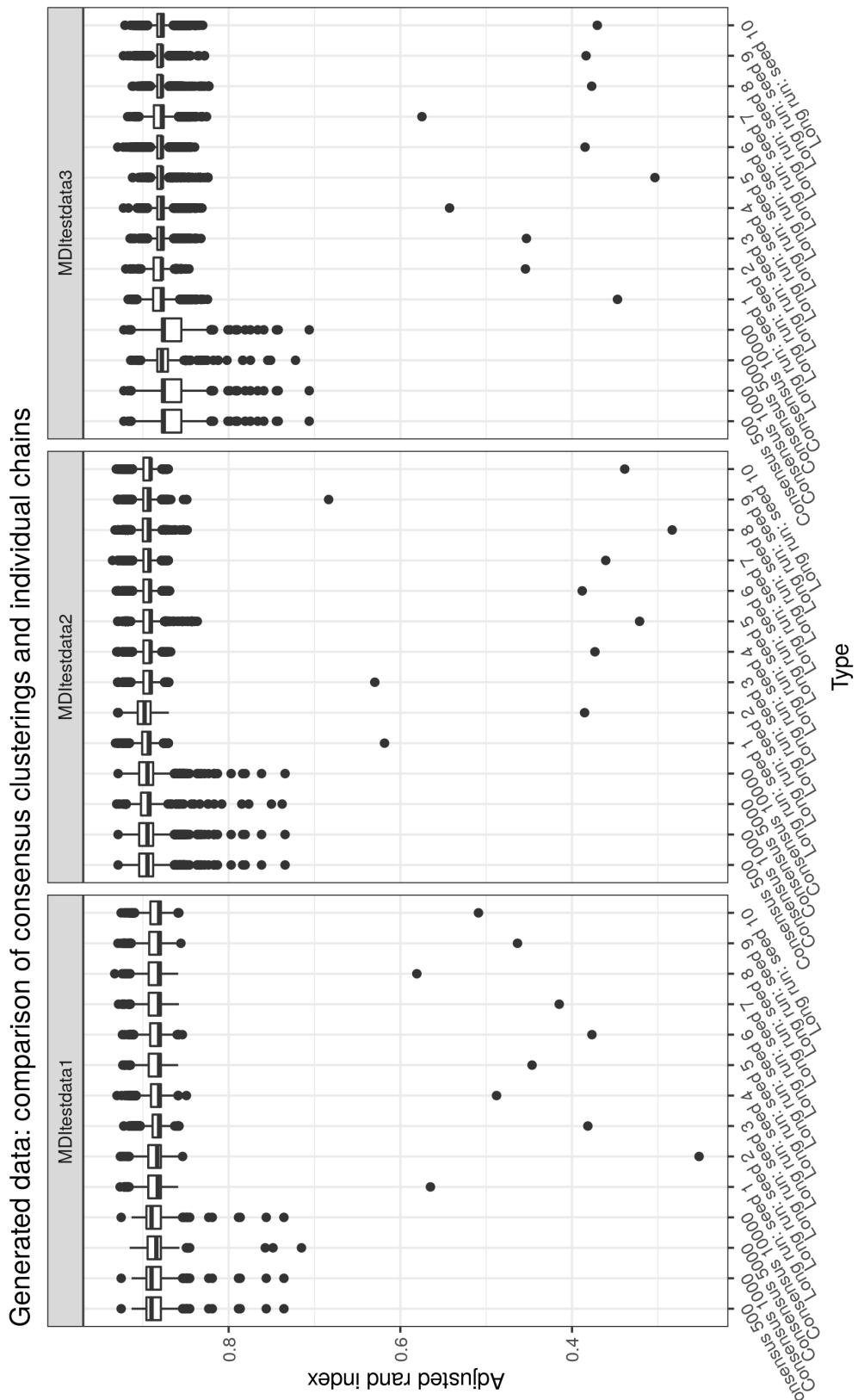


Figure 6: Box plots for distribution of adjusted rand index between the clustering at each iteration to the true clustering for different lengths of consensus clustering and different initialisation of long chains.

Generated data: comparison of consensus clusterings and collapsed chains

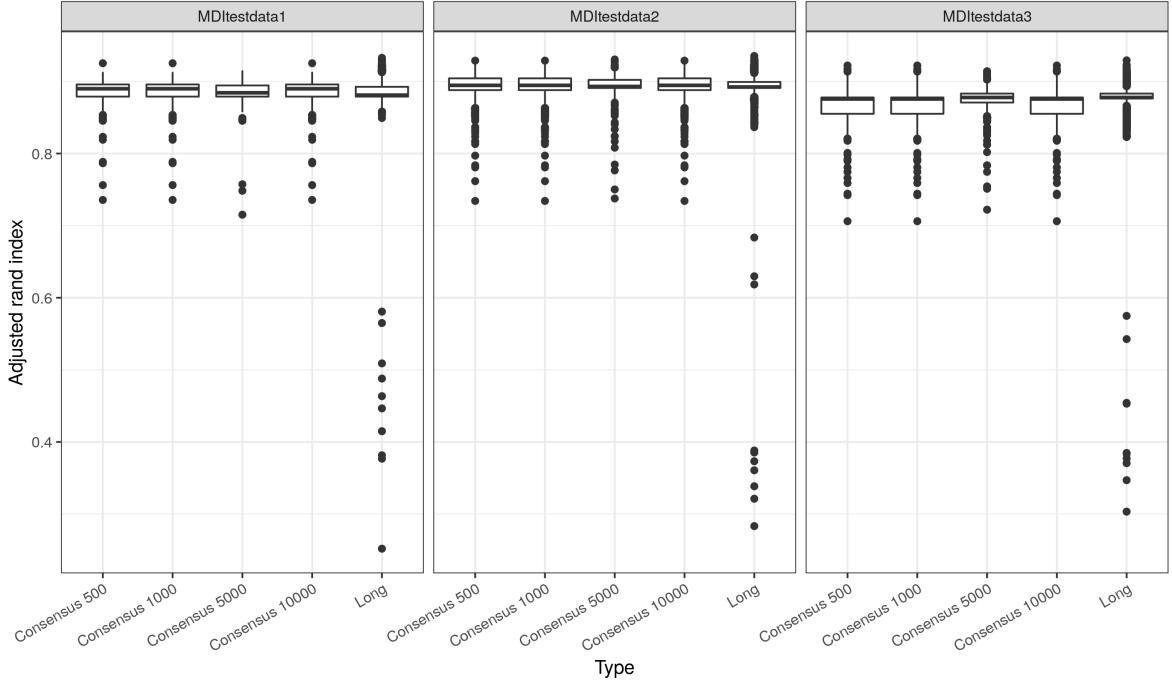


Figure 7: Box plots for distribution of adjusted rand index between the clustering at each iteration to the true clustering for different lengths of consensus clustering and the collapsed long chains.

## 4.2 CEDAR data

### 4.2.1 Case 1: 250 probes

Consensus clustering with MDI  $n_{iter} = 500$  and  $n_{seeds} = 1000$  was implemented on 7 datasets. The datasets were defined as described in section 3.2.1. Individual mixture models were also run on each dataset for the same number of seeds and iterations as a comparison. Each chain of MDI took approximately 7 hours and 20 minutes to run. The output was inspected under multiple lenses:

1. The adjusted Rand index between  $i^{th}$  and  $1,000^{th}$  clusterings were plotted for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, 1000\}$  (see an example in figure ??);
2. The mean adjusted Rand index comparing clusterings across datasets were represented in a heatmap (see figure ??);
3. The  $\phi_{ij}$  values were plotted across seeds for all combinations of datasets (see an example in figure ??);
4. The distribution of  $\phi_{ij}$  values were plotted for all combinations of datasets

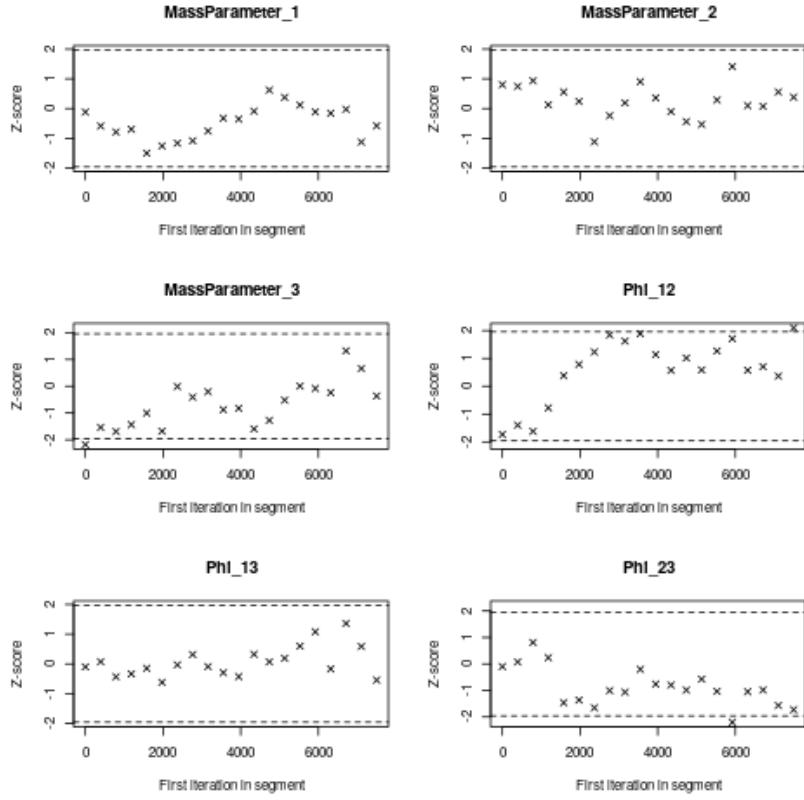


Figure 8: Geweke plot for a long chain with random seed 3 in case 2 of the simulations.

(see an example in figure ??);

5. The mean  $\phi$  value between datasets are represented in a heatmap (see figure ??);
6. The number of clusters present in any given seed were plotted for each dataset (see an example in figure ??);
7. The mass parameter for the underlying mixture models were plotted across seeds for each dataset (see an example in figure ??);
8. The PSM for each dataset was plotted as a heatmap (see an example in figure ??); and
9. The comparison of the PSM, the standardised expression data and the correlation matrix were plotted with a common row ordering for each dataset (see an example in figure ??).

Note that some of these (such as the  $\phi_{ij}$  plots and the fused genes only apply to

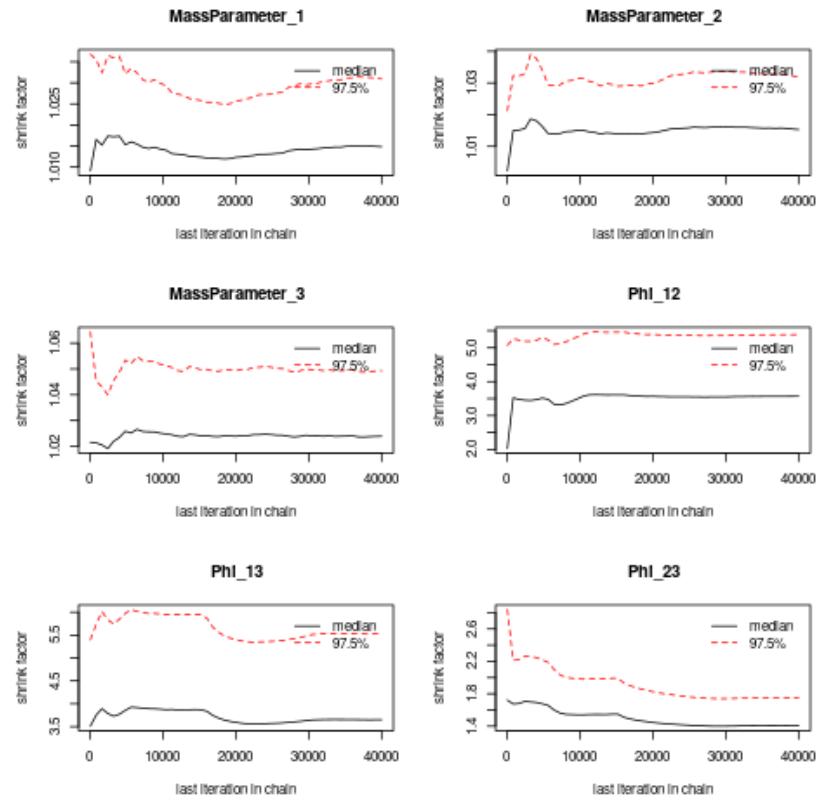


Figure 9: Plot of the Gelman-Rubin shrinkage factor for the continuous variables across chains in case 2 of the simulations.

MDI, not the mixture models as this is the single dataset case and comparisons across datasets are not possible).

The clustering for the KEGG pathway was inspected primarily using three visualisation techniques:

1. The annotated PSMs of the dataset and the subset of data from the pathway was plotted;
2. For a pathway of  $m$  members, we sampled  $m$  random genes not in this pathway and found the mean probability of the pairwise alignment of these genes (i.e. the proportion of seeds for which any two of the  $m$  genes had the same labelling). Taking  $n$  of these samples allowed us to describe the distribution of the mean pairwise alignment probability and compare with the mean pairwise alignment probability of the  $m$  genes from the pathway of interest; and
3. The violin plots of the PSM entries for the pathway were compared to the PSM entries for the remaining genes in the dataset.

I include a direct comparison of the PSM from MDI to the single dataset case in figure 25.

#### 4.2.2 Case 2: 1,000 probes

Consensus clustering with MDI  $n_{iter} = 500$  and  $n_{seeds} = 1000$  was implemented on 7 datasets. The datasets were defined as described in section 3.2.2. The analysis followed the same pipeline as described in section 4.2.1.

## 5 Conclusion

We can see that when MDI does converge and successfully samples from the posterior space (section 4.1.1), consensus clustering samples from the same space and performs very similarly in terms of describing the underlying structure of the data. The results in section 4.1.2 show that even when MCMC methods struggle to converge, consensus clustering offers a description of the space of interest. Consensus clustering captures multiple nodes in a similar distribution to the space described across all chains (see figure 12). The consensus clustering also appears to be robust in terms of the number of iterations used in each individual chain (each consensus clustering length performs identically). As each chain used in Consensus clustering is independent of the others, the problem is embarrassingly parallel; therefore 1,000 chains of 500 iterations is far quicker to run in parallel than a single long chain.

The combination of these results encourages the claim that consensus clustering is a quick, robust solution to the problem of scaling Bayesian clustering methods generally and of multi-modality specifically. Consensus clustering produces a more accurate description of the posterior distribution than any single chain is capable of in a multi-modal high dimensional space; thus this implementation has many of the advantages of Bayesian inference (the use of priors, quantification of error) but overcomes the limitations of convergence and speed.

Applied to the CEDAR case studies, consensus clustering has positive results. The agreement between the PSM and the correlation matrix that can be seen in figure 21 is reassuring - it shows that the clustering imposed is in line with the data. Furthermore, the results displayed in figures 23 and 36 are encouraging. It looks like my model has successfully uncovered some of the structure of a pathway. This is supported by the difference between the PSM entries for the associated probes compared to the non-pathway probes as can be seen in figure 24. The contrast between figures 36 and 37 is also encouraging of the thesis that tissue annotation is important for pathways, as the IBD pathway is uncovered with some success in the IL dataset, but none at all in the CD14 dataset. This is as one might expect - the colonic samples are pieces of tissue, thus there are a range of cells present here, including auto-immune cells. These auto-immune cells, which mediate IBD, are in the environment where IBD manifests, thus I expect to see the IBD pathway here, whereas the auto-immune cell datasets could be from any location, and thus I do not expect to see a tissue specific disease pathway present.

We can see the benefits of using MDI sub-models in figures 25, 14, 16, 27 and 29. The first, figure 25, shows that MDI is more confident in allocating probes together. This is due to the additional information available to the model through the other datasets. The other plots, figures 14, 16, 27 and 29, show

that MDI can be used to quantify the similarity in structure of the datasets, something individual mixture models cannot do. As one would expect, these show that the three colon samples are quite similar and the CD datasets are similar, with little information shared across these sets of datasets. We can also see that the CD4 and CD8 datasets are highly correlated (the high mean  $\phi$  value across seeds), as one would expect from two types of T lymphocyte.

## 6 Future work

With regards to consensus clustering there are several avenues to explore:

1. How many seeds are required?
2. How short can the individual chains be?
3. How does this extend to other clustering methods?

The first two points would be expected to depend on characteristics of the dataset in question, but some suggestions could be drawn from well designed simulations.

For the application of annotating gene sets with tissue and cell-type specific information, the encouraging results from section 4.2 suggest further work to integrate tissue-specific information into definitions of gene sets could be rewarding. Different datasets might also be of use; for instance datasets with repeated measurements or proteomics datasets might offer more information of interest to define gene sets. This is one of the advantages of MDI, the different datasets used do not have to all be the same kind of data as long as the row names are the same. Even different types of data, such as categorical, can be integrated in the clustering. As MDI allows the  $\phi_{ij}$  parameter to go to 0 if there is no correlation, one can use datasets on thinks might be relevant without a fear of disrupting the signal present in the individual datasets.

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## A Additional theory

### A.1 Rand index

A popular metric for comparing the similarity of two clusterings of the data is the *Rand index* [31]. If one assumes that all points are of equal importance in determining clusterings, then in combination with the discrete nature of clusters and the fact that a cluster is defined as much by what it does not contain as that which it does, Rand [31] proposes a metric to measure similarity between clusterings. Between clusterings  $Y$  and  $Y'$  for any two points  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  there can exist one of a number of scenarios regarding their labeling. Let  $\gamma_{ij}$  be a measure between the two points  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ . For the two points, they can have:

1. the same label in both clusterings ( $c_i = c_j \wedge c'_i = c'_j$ ) ( $\gamma_{ij} = 1$ );
2. different labels in both ( $c_i \neq c_j \wedge c'_i \neq c'_j$ ) ( $\gamma_{ij} = 1$ ); or
3. the same label in one but not in the other ( $c_i \neq c_j \wedge c'_i = c'_j \vee c_i = c_j \wedge c'_i \neq c'_j$ ) ( $\gamma_{ij} = 0$ ).

Thus Rand [31] proposed counting the number of times any two points have one of 1 or 2 from list A.1 and finding the proportion of these compared to the number of all possible point combinations. More formally, this is:

$$A \binom{n}{2}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \gamma_{ij} \quad (11)$$

This can be envisioned as a  $K \times K'$  contingency table of the count of overlapping points, as shown in table 2. Table 2 uses the following notation:

- $n_{ij}$  is the number of points that have membership in  $Y_i$  in clustering  $Y$  and  $Y'_j$  in clustering  $Y'$ ;
- $n_{.j}$  is the number of points in cluster  $Y'_j$  in clustering  $Y'$ ;
- $n_{i.}$  is the number of points in cluster  $Y_i$  in clustering  $Y$ ; and
- $n_{..} = n$  is the number of points in clusterings  $Y$  and  $Y'$ .

One can restate equation 11 in terms of the notation from table 2 [4]:

$$A = \binom{n}{2} + \sum_{i=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^{K'} n_{ij}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^K n_{i.}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{K'} n_{.j}^2 \right) \quad (12)$$

$$= \binom{n}{2} + 2 \sum_{i=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{ij}}{2} - \left[ \sum_{i=1}^K \binom{n_{i.}}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{.j}}{2} \right] \quad (13)$$

$Y \setminus Y'$	$Y'_1$	$Y'_2$	$\dots$	$Y'_{K'}$	Sums
$Y_1$	$n_{11}$	$n_{12}$	$\dots$	$n_{1K'}$	$n_{1\cdot}$
$Y_2$	$n_{21}$	$n_{22}$	$\dots$	$n_{2K'}$	$n_{2\cdot}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$Y_K$	$n_{K1}$	$n_{K2}$	$\dots$	$n_{KK'}$	$n_{K\cdot}$
Sums	$n_{\cdot 1}$	$n_{\cdot 2}$	$\dots$	$n_{\cdot K'}$	$n_{\cdot\cdot} = n$

Table 2: Contingency table used by Rand [31] to calculate a measure of similarity between clusterings  $Y$  and  $Y'$ .

Hubert and Arabie [15] extend the Rand index to account for chance. They include a null hypothesis and assume that there is a probability of some points having a  $\gamma$  value of 1 by chance. Consider the scenario where a point  $x_i$  has the same label as another point  $x_j$  under clustering  $Y$ . For another clustering  $Y'$ , there a non-zero is a probability  $c'_i = c'_j$  purely by chance and does not represent a similarity between  $Y$  and  $Y'$ . If one generates two clusterings  $Y$  and  $Y'$  by sampling from the integers in the closed interval  $[1, K]$  (i.e. by sampling from discrete uniform distribution  $\mathcal{U}\{1, K\}$ ), then the contingency table generated is constructed from the generalised hyper-geometric distribution [15]. It can be shown that the expected number of points with common membership in both clusters is non-zero. Specifically:

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \sum_{i=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^K \binom{n_{ij}}{2} \right) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^K \binom{n_{i\cdot}}{2} \sum_{j=1}^K \binom{n_{\cdot j}}{2}}{\binom{n}{2}} \quad (14)$$

This is the product of the number of distinct pairs that can be formed from rows and the number of distinct pairs that can be constructed from columns, divided by the total number of pairs.

For a particular cell of the contingency table, the expected number of entries of the type described in point 1, is the product of number of pairs in its row and in its column divided by the total number of possible pairs:

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \binom{n_{ij}}{2} \right) = \frac{\binom{n_{i\cdot}}{2} \binom{n_{\cdot j}}{2}}{\binom{n}{2}} \quad (15)$$

One can see that as each component of equation 12 is some transformation of  $\sum_{i,j} \binom{n_{ij}}{2}$ , one can directly state the expected value of the Rand index by combining equations 12 and 15:

$$\mathbb{E} \left( A \binom{n}{2}^{-1} \right) = 1 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^K \binom{n_{i\cdot}}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{\cdot j}}{2} \binom{n}{2}^{-2} - \left[ \sum_{i=1}^K \binom{n_{i\cdot}}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{\cdot j}}{2} \right] \binom{n}{2}^{-1} \quad (16)$$

Defining an index corrected for chance as:

$$\text{Corrected index} = \frac{\text{Index} - \text{Expected index}}{\text{Maximum index} - \text{Expected index}} \quad (17)$$

Assuming a maximum value of 1 for the Rand index then gives a corrected Rand index:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{ij}}{2} - \sum_{i=1}^K \binom{n_{i\cdot}}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{\cdot j}}{2} (n)^{-1}}{\frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^K \binom{n_{i\cdot}}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{\cdot j}}{2} \right] - \sum_{i=1}^K \binom{n_{i\cdot}}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{K'} \binom{n_{\cdot j}}{2} (n)^{-1}} \quad (18)$$

We define this quantity described in equation 18 as the *adjusted Rand index* and we use it as our measure of choice for similarity between clusterings.

We describe an explicit example motivating the adjusted Rand index in section A.1.1.

### A.1.1 Motivating example: adjusted Rand index

Consider the case of  $n$  labels  $Y$  and  $Y'$  generated from  $\mathcal{U}\{1, 3\}$  where  $n$  is some arbitrarily large number and  $\mathcal{U}\{x, y\}$  is the uniform distribution over the interval  $[x, y]$ . Then as  $n$  tends to infinity we can expect that our contingency table has entries of  $\frac{n}{9}$  in each cell. If one calculates the Rand index on these random partitions where any similarity is purely by chance one finds, it comes to (approximately) 0.56. This suggests there is some similarity between  $Y$  and  $Y'$ , but this is misleading as we know any similarity is stochastic. In the same scenario the adjusted Rand index between the partitions is 0. This seems preferable. Based on this, one could argue that the Rand index has inflated values. Consider the case that we have  $n$  points in total, but we let the first  $\frac{7n}{16}$  have a common label (say  $(c_1, \dots, c_{n_1}) = 1$  for  $n_1 = \frac{7n}{16}$ ) and then draw the remaining  $\frac{9n}{16}$  points from  $\mathcal{U}\{1, 3\}$ . Then, as  $n$  tends to infinity, our contingency table tends to that described in table 3. One feels that the high Rand index for such a clustering, 0.64, is misleading in its magnitude. In such a scenario we feel one has to consider this 0.64 in the context of the 0.56 for a purely random similarity - this is difficult to do without explicitly checking what the Rand index is for a random partitioning for a given  $K$  and  $K'$ . Thus the use of the full unit interval in comparing similarity by a corrected index such as the adjusted Rand index requires less vigilance on the part of the analyst. In the second scenario, the adjusted Rand index is 0.28.

$Y \setminus Y'$	$Y'_1$	$Y'_2$	$Y'_3$	Sums
$Y_1$	$\frac{n}{2}$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{10n}{16}$
$Y_2$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{3n}{16}$
$Y_3$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{n}{16}$	$\frac{3n}{16}$
Sums	$\frac{10n}{16}$	$\frac{3n}{16}$	$\frac{3n}{16}$	$\frac{16n}{16} = n$

Table 3: Contingency table for the non-random clustering described in section A.1.1.

## A.2 Standardisation

For a  $p$ -vector of observations,  $X_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{ip})$ , we define standardisation of  $X_i$  as the mapping from  $X_i$  to  $X'_i = (x'_{i1}, \dots, x'_{ip})$  defined by the *sample mean*,  $\bar{x}_i$ , and sample standard deviation,  $s_i$ :

$$\bar{x}_i = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{j=1}^p x_{ij} \quad (19)$$

$$s_i^2 = \frac{1}{p-1} \sum_{j=1}^p (x_{ij} - \bar{x}_i)^2 \quad (20)$$

$$x'_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij} - \bar{x}_i}{s_i} \quad \forall j \in (1, \dots, p) \quad (21)$$

We refer to  $X'_i$  as the standardised form of  $X$ . If we are given a dataset  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  where each  $X_i$  is a  $p$ -vector of observations of the form referred to above, then in referring to the standardised form of  $X$ , we mean the dataset  $X' = (X'_1, \dots, X'_n)$  where each  $X'_i$  is the standardised form of  $X_i$ .

Standardisation moves the values observed for each  $X_i$  to a common scale where each vector has an observed mean and standard deviation of 0 and 1 respectively.

### A.2.1 Motivating example: Standardising gene expression data

If one considers table 4 which contains an example of expression data for some genes A, B, C, D and E across people 1 to 4. One can see that genes A and C have similar patterns in variation across the people, as do genes B and D. Gene E is not consistent with any other gene here. However, as this relative variation is of interest rather than the magnitude of expression, one can see that standardising the data is required.

If one were to cluster the data as represented in table 4, one would place genes A and B in one cluster and genes C, D and E in another as their absolute

Genes	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
A	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.0
B	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.4
C	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.3
D	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.7
E	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5

Table 4: Example gene expression data.

Genes	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
A	0.39	1.16	-1.16	-0.39
B	-0.24	-1.20	0.24	1.20
C	0.39	1.16	-1.16	-0.39
D	-0.24	-1.20	0.24	1.20
E	-0.87	0.87	-0.87	0.87

Table 5: Example standardised gene expression data.

expression levels are similar (as can be seen in figure 38). However, if the expression level of each gene is standardised as per section A.2, the data is then as represented in table 5. The data are now on the same scale and thus the characteristic that will determine a clustering is the variation of expression across people. As we want genes with similar patterns of variation (i.e. that are co-expressed) this enables us to cluster under our objective of defining gene sets. In this case genes A and C are one cluster, genes B and D another with gene E in a cluster alone, as can be seen in figure 39. As this is the type of data we wish to cluster across, we therefore most standardise our expression data before clustering can be implemented.

Generated data: comparison of consensus clusterings and individual chains

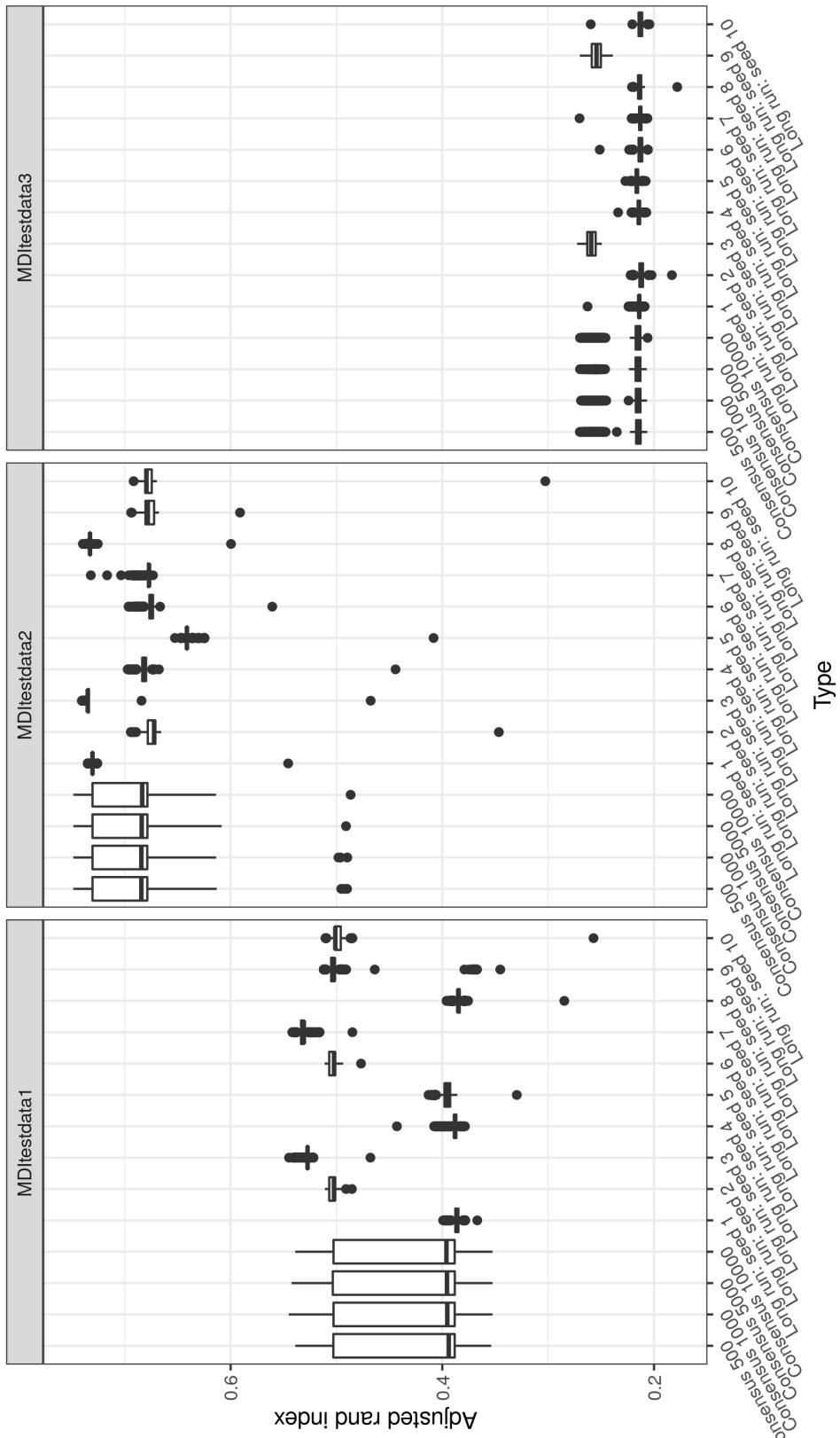


Figure 10: Box plots for distribution of adjusted rand index between the clustering at each iteration to the true clustering for different lengths of consensus clustering and different initialisation of long chains.

Generated data: comparison of consensus clusterings and collapsed chains

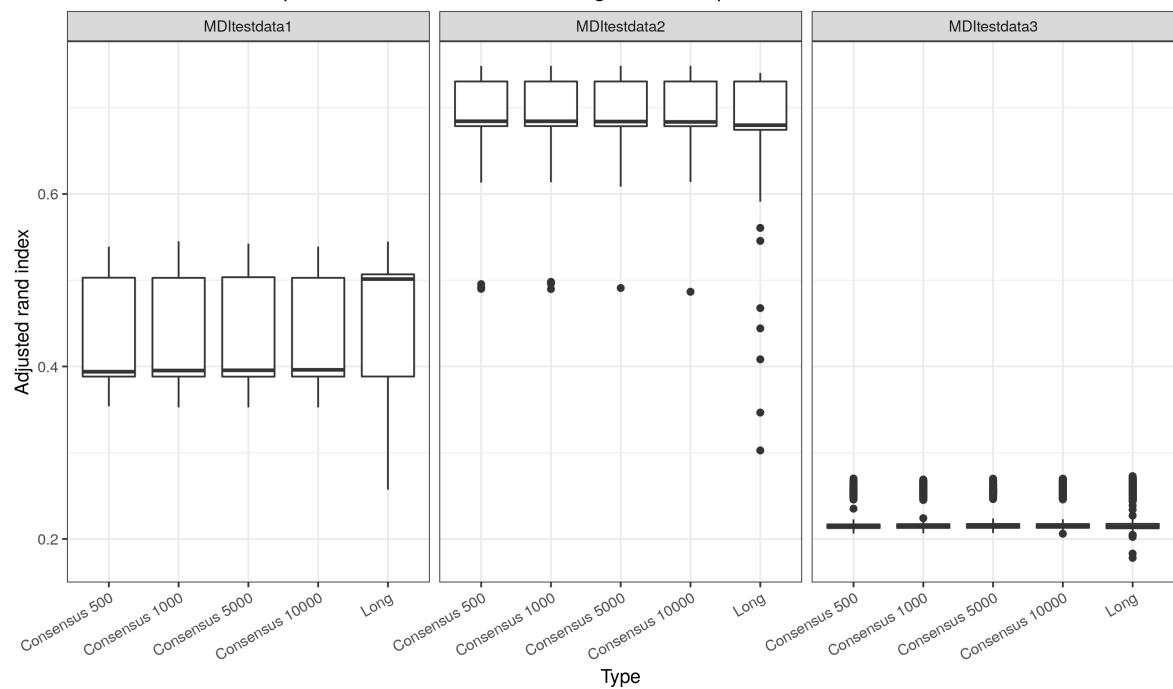


Figure 11: Box plots for distribution of adjusted rand index between the clustering at each iteration to the true clustering for different lengths of consensus clustering and the collapsed long chains.

Generated data: comparison of consensus clusterings and collapsed chains

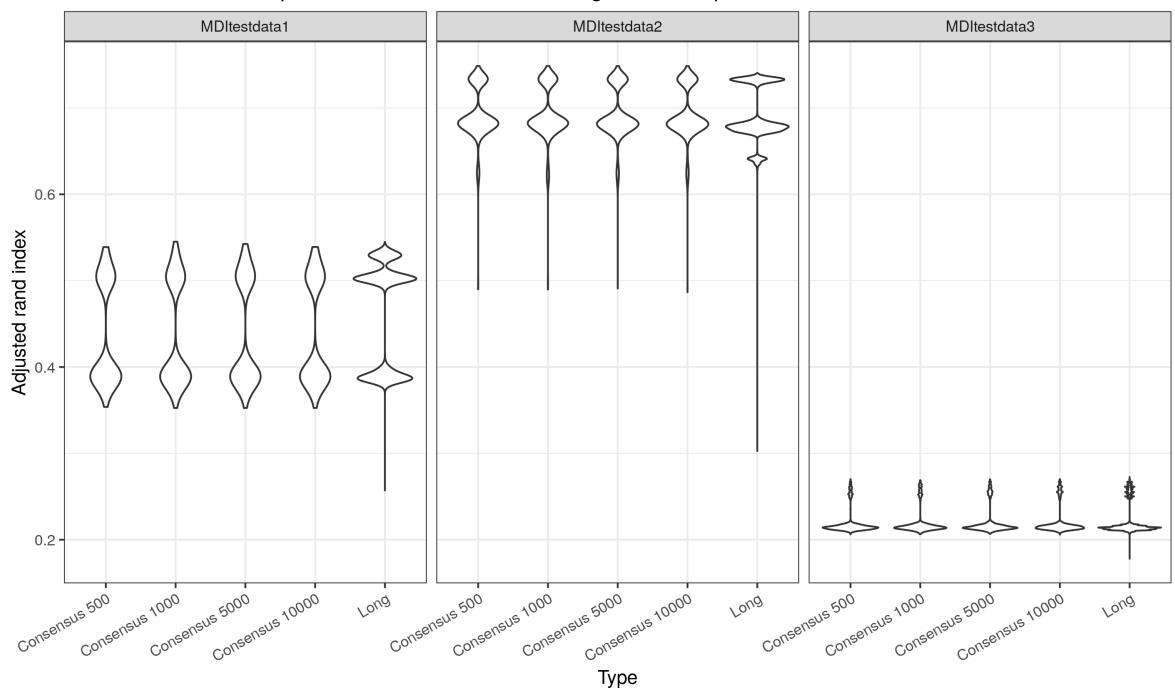


Figure 12: Violin plots for distribution of adjusted rand index between the clustering at each iteration to the true clustering for different lengths of consensus clustering and the collapsed long chains. We can see that the consensus clustering approximates the modes described across chains quite well.

MDI: Adjusted Rand index for CD4  
Comparing clustering in last iteration to clustering at each iteration

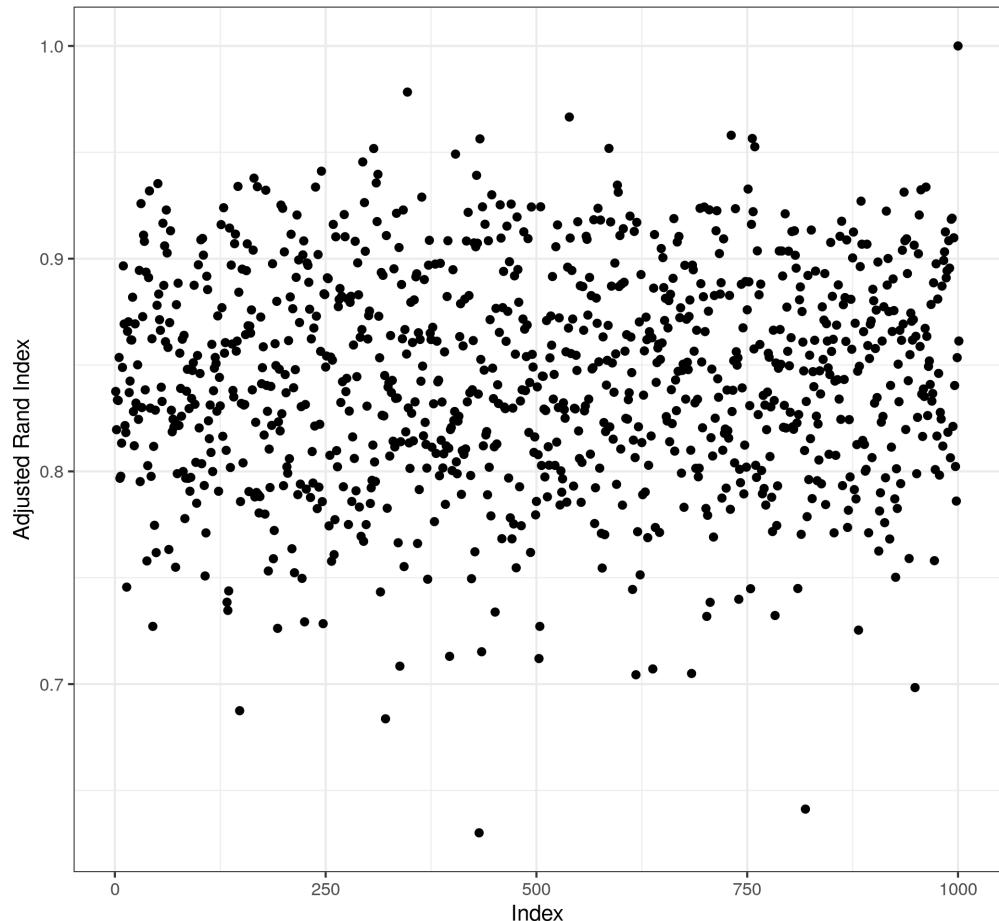


Figure 13: Plot of the adjusted Rand index between the clustering in each seed to that in the 1,000<sup>th</sup> for CD14.

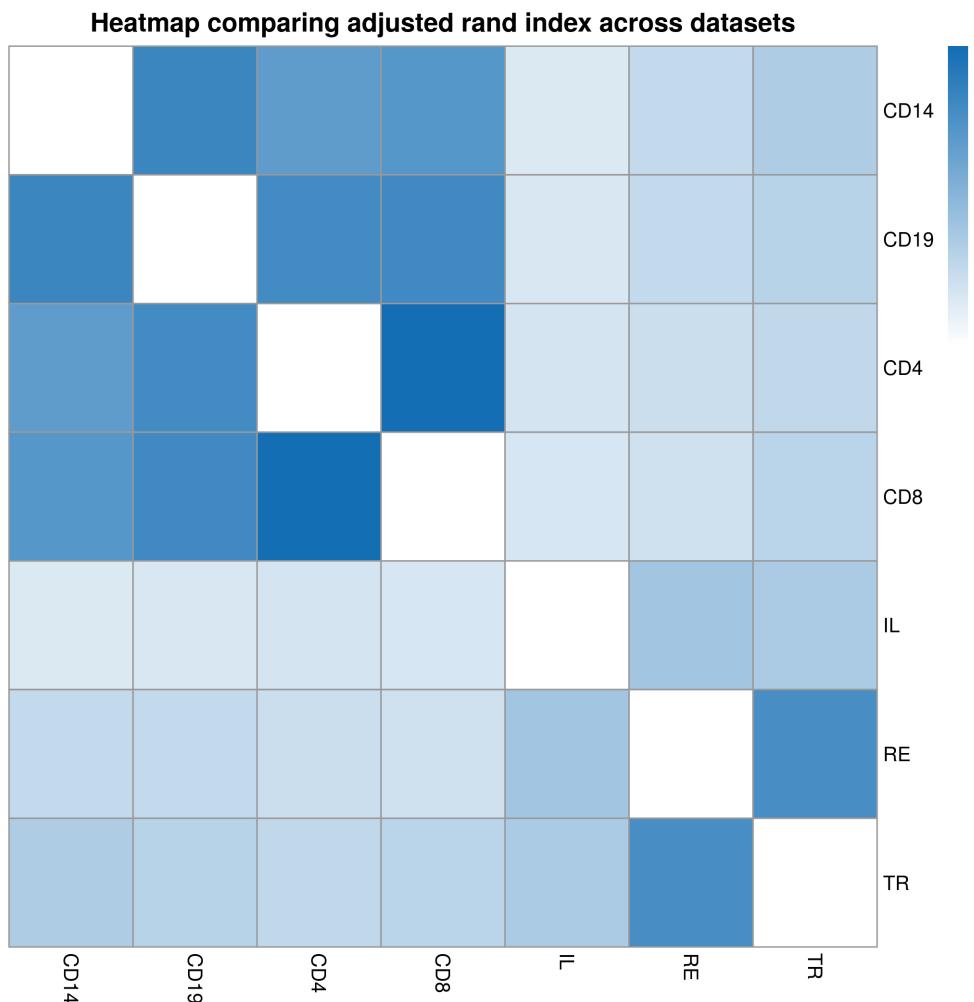


Figure 14: Heatmap of the mean adjusted Rand index comparing the clustering across datasets for each seed.

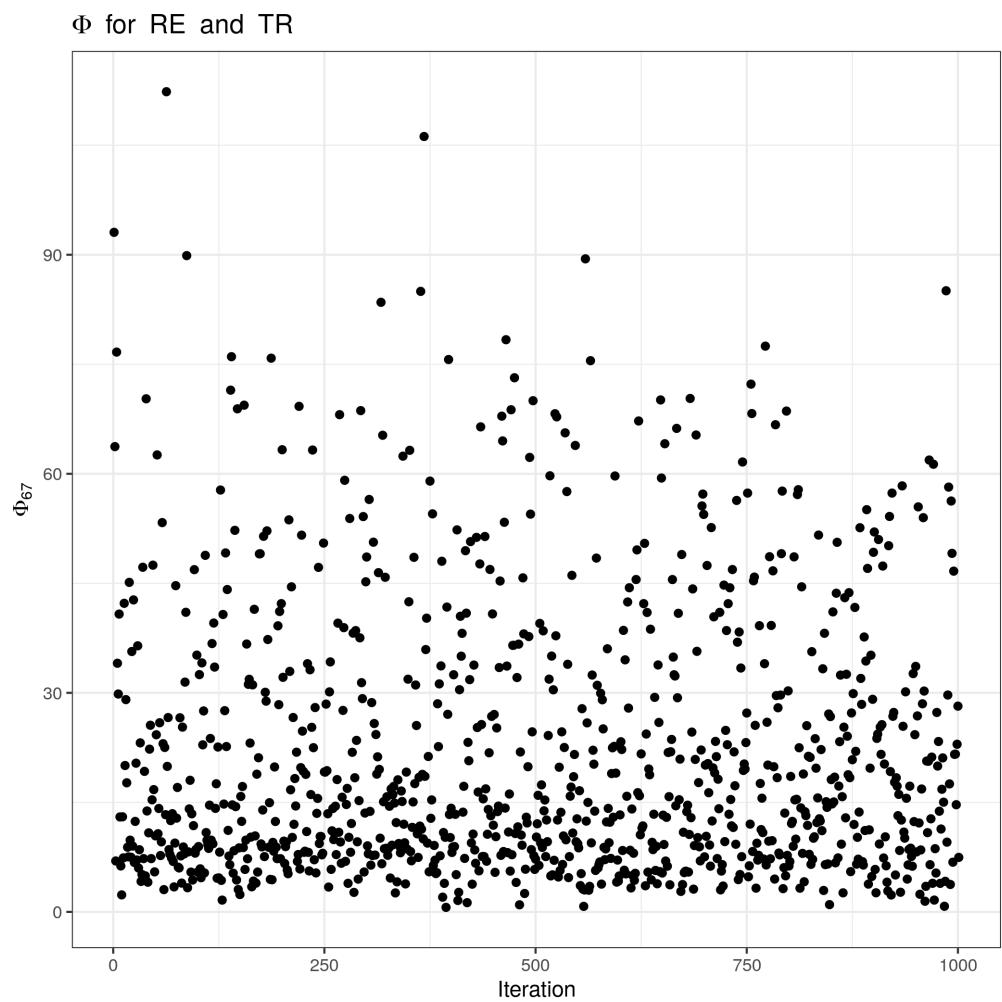


Figure 15: Plot of the  $\phi_{67}$  values across all seeds, between the RE and TR datasets (note that the high values indicate a high clustering correlation).

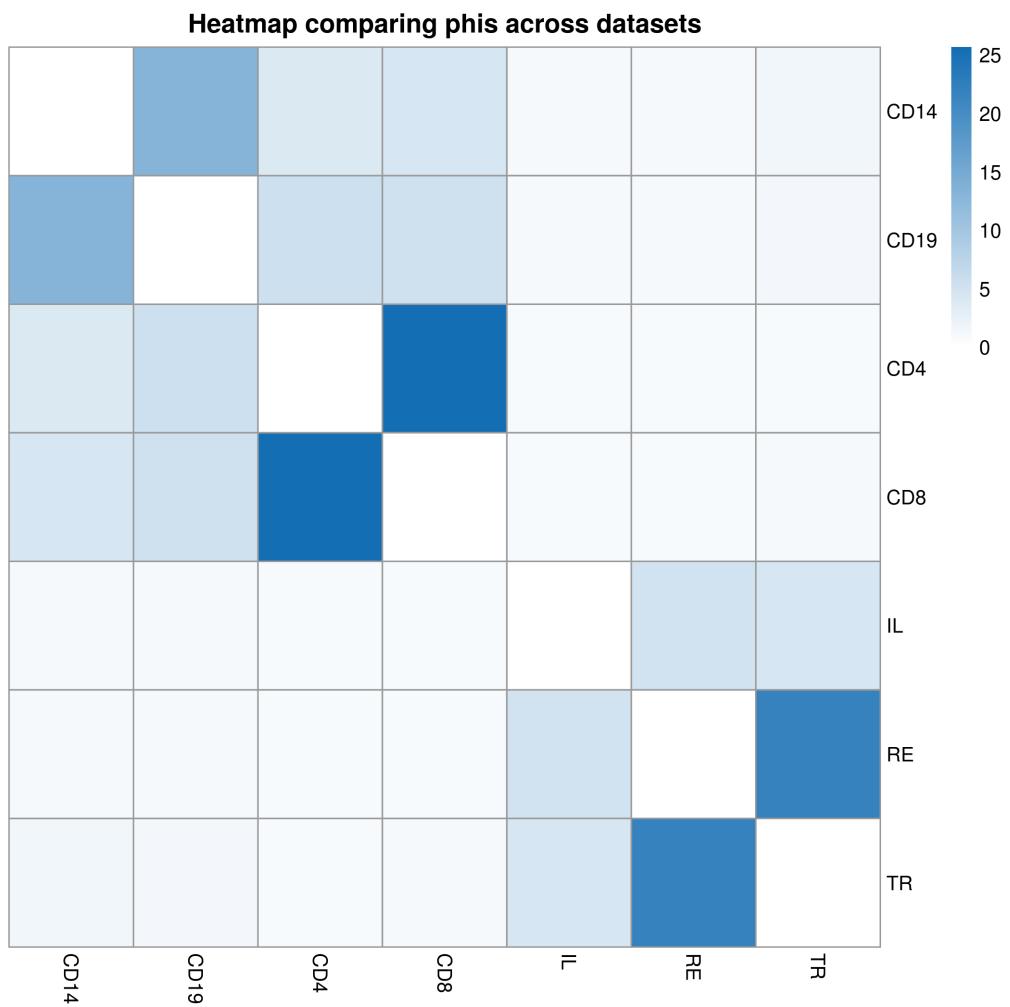


Figure 16: Plot of the mean  $\phi_{ij}$  values across all seeds, between the all datasets.

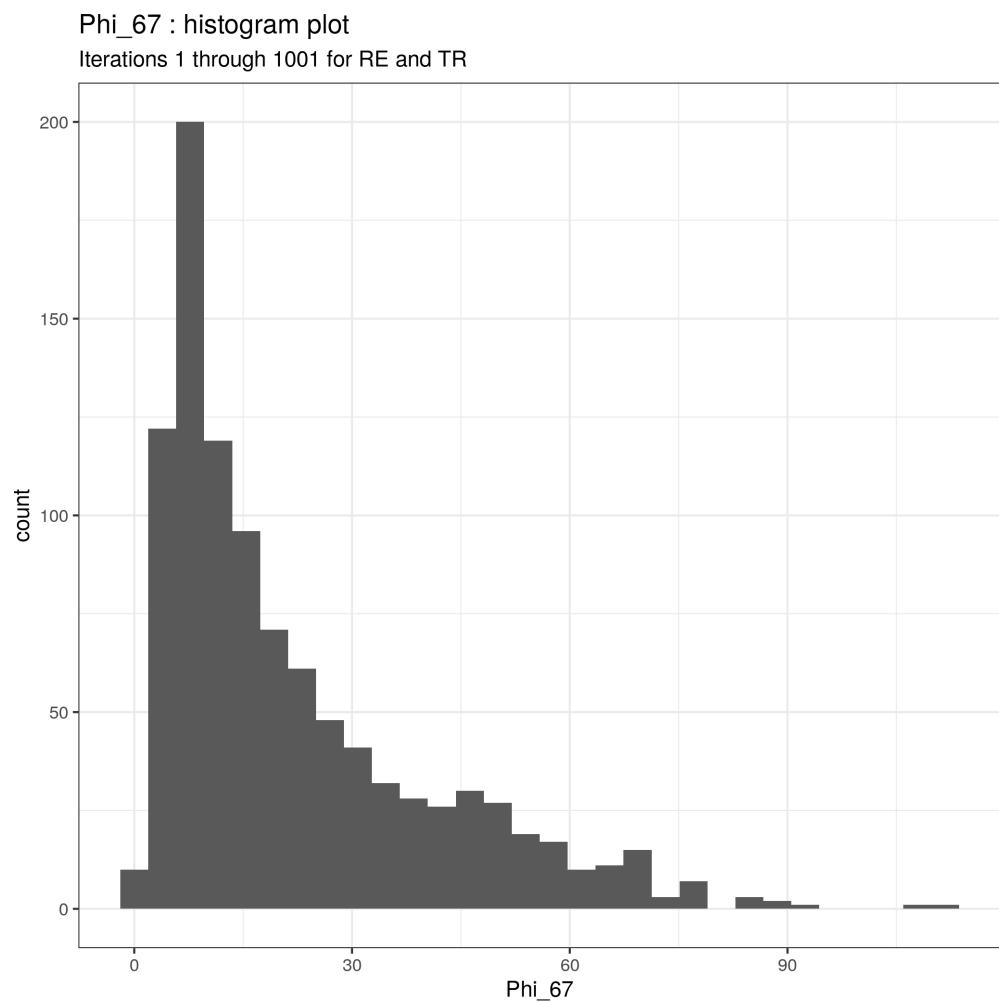


Figure 17: Histogram of the distribution of  $\phi_{67}$  values across seeds(between the RE and TR datasets).

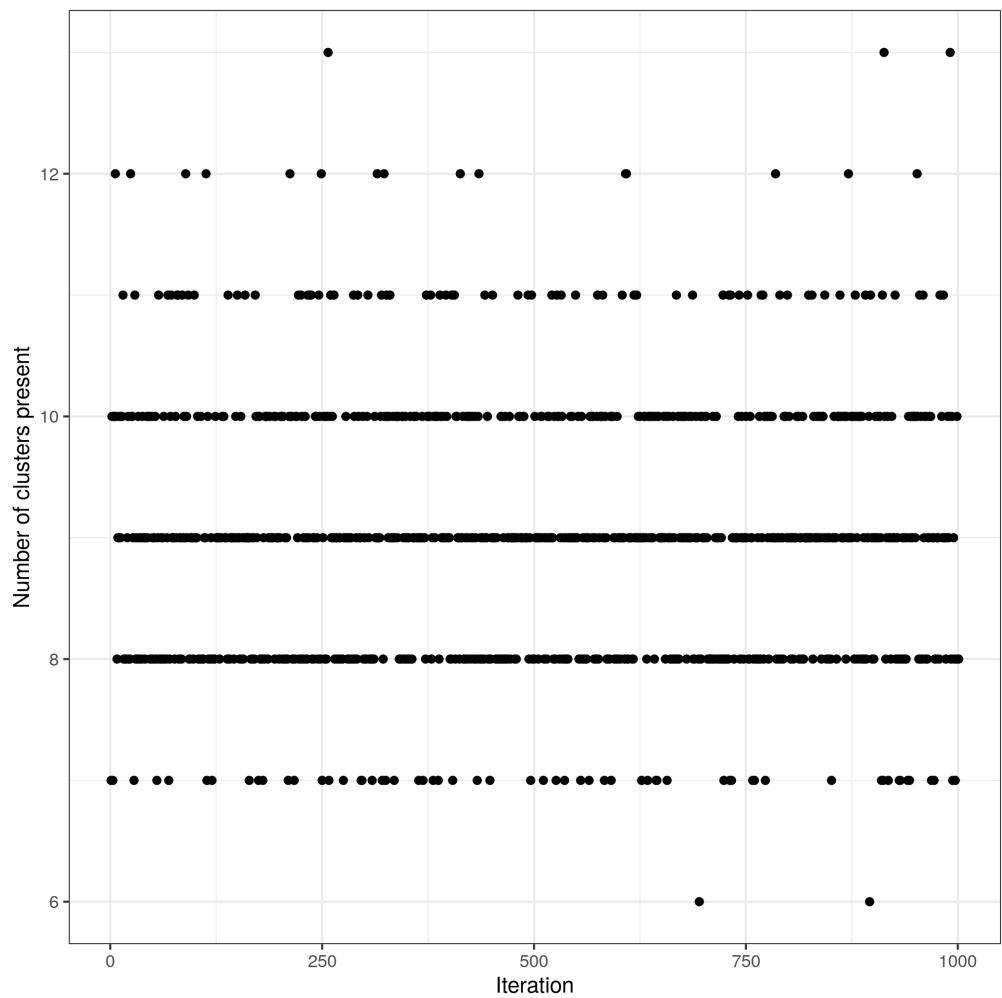


Figure 18: Plot of the number of clusters present in each seed for the CD4 dataset.

CD4: Mass parameter across iterations

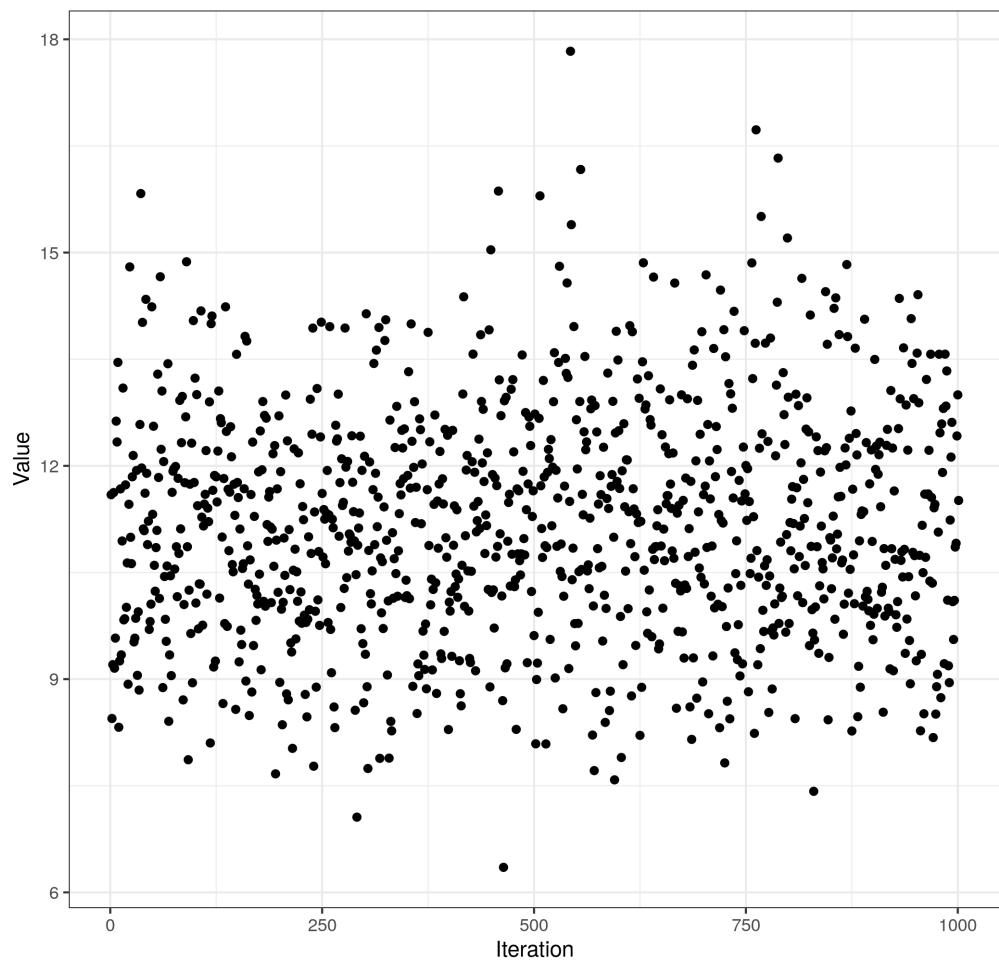


Figure 19: Plot of the mass parameter ( $\alpha$ ) for the Dirichlet process for the CD4 dataset of MDI.

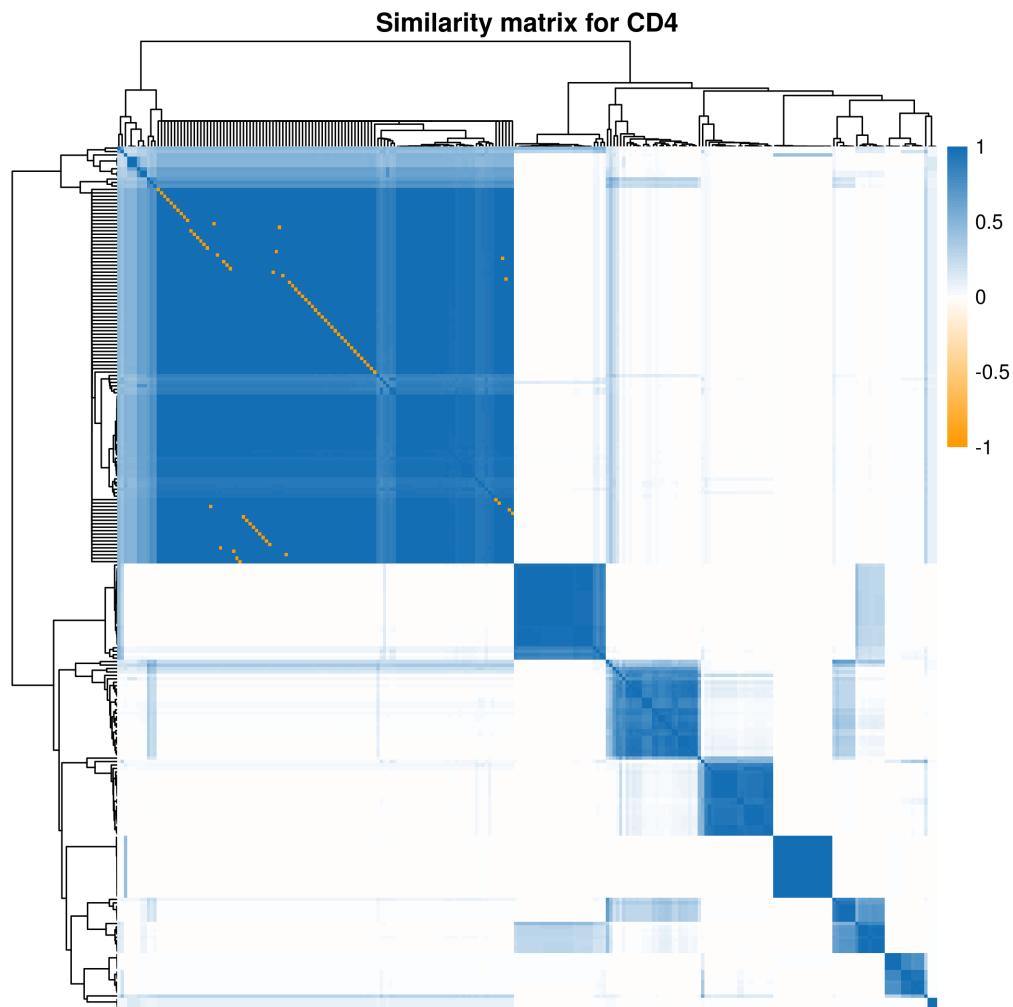


Figure 20: Heatmap of the PSM for the CD4 dataset from the consensus clustering of MDI.

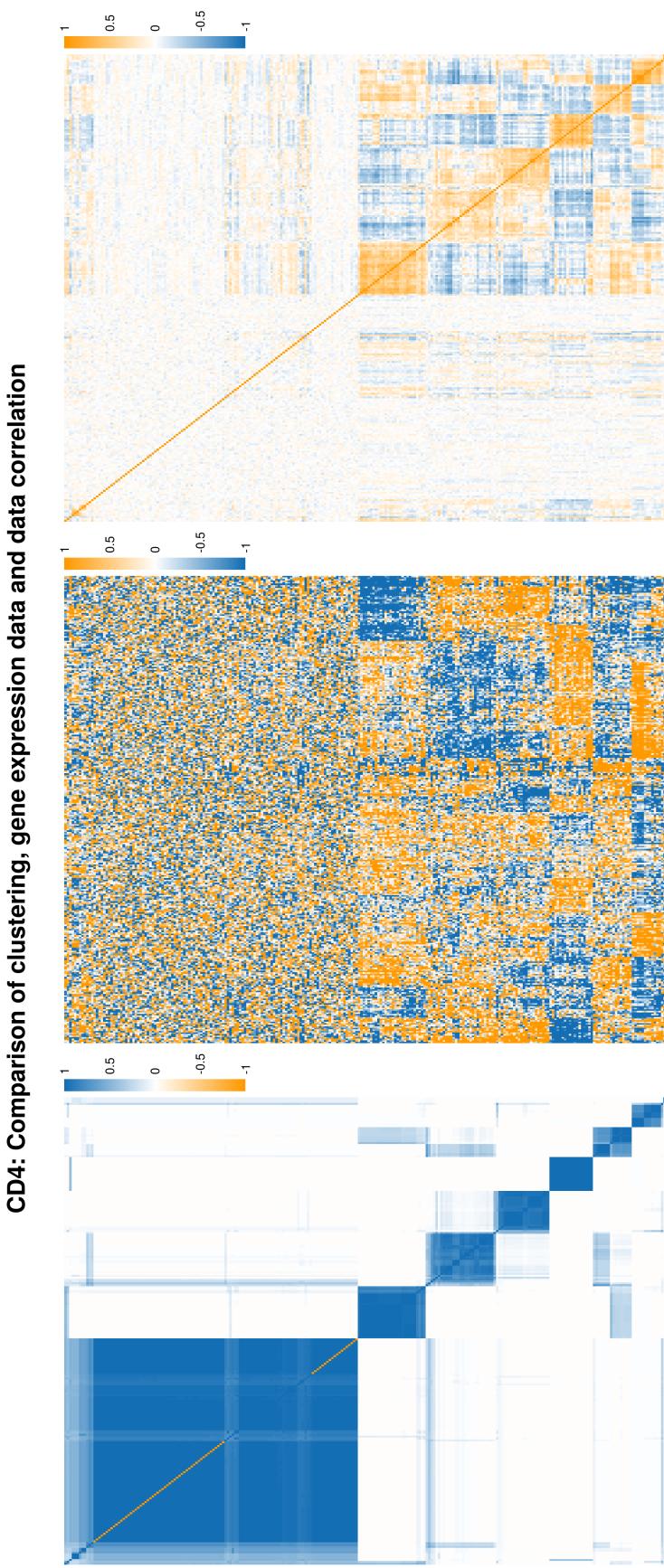


Figure 21: Heatmap of the PSM for the CD4 dataset from the consensus clustering of MDI.

## CD4: Comparison of annotated PSM and Correlation matrix

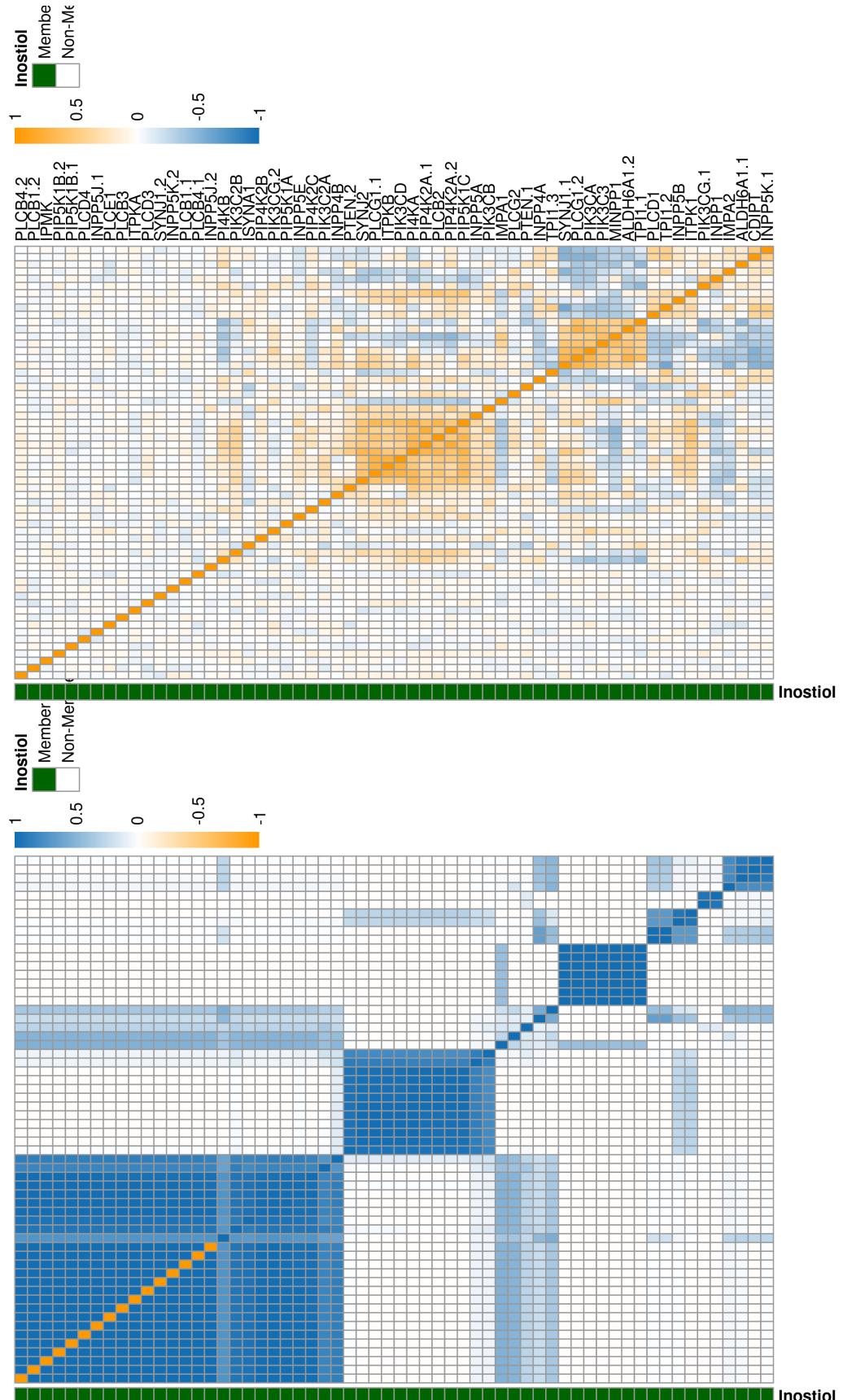


Figure 22: Heatmap of the PSM and expression data for the Inositol genes for the CD4 datasets from the consensus clustering of MDI.

CD4: Distribution of mean probability of pairwise alignment (Inostiol)

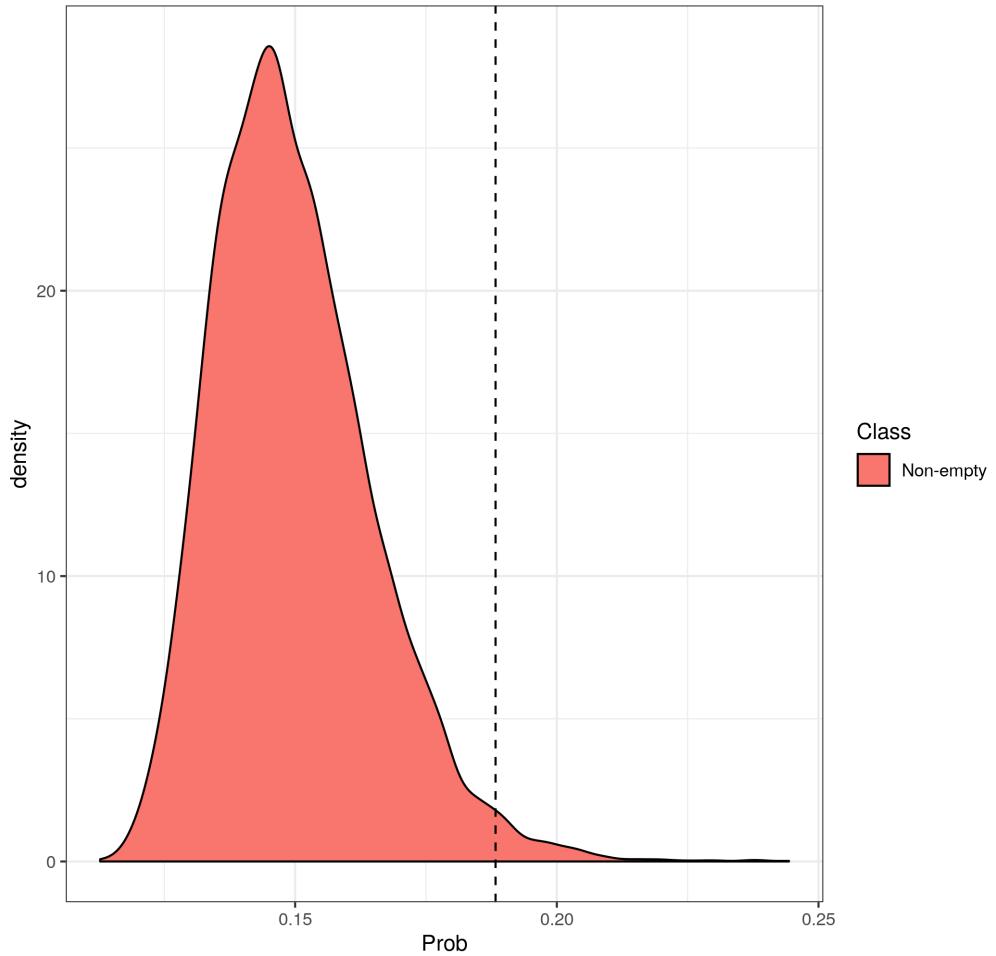


Figure 23: Plot of the distribution of the mean probability of pairwise alignment for a random sample of 60 genes (to coincide with the number of genes associated with the Inostiol pathway present) with a dashed line indicating the mean probability of pairwise alignment for the Inostiol genes.

CD4: Violin plots comparing PSM entries of Inostiol genes and all other genes

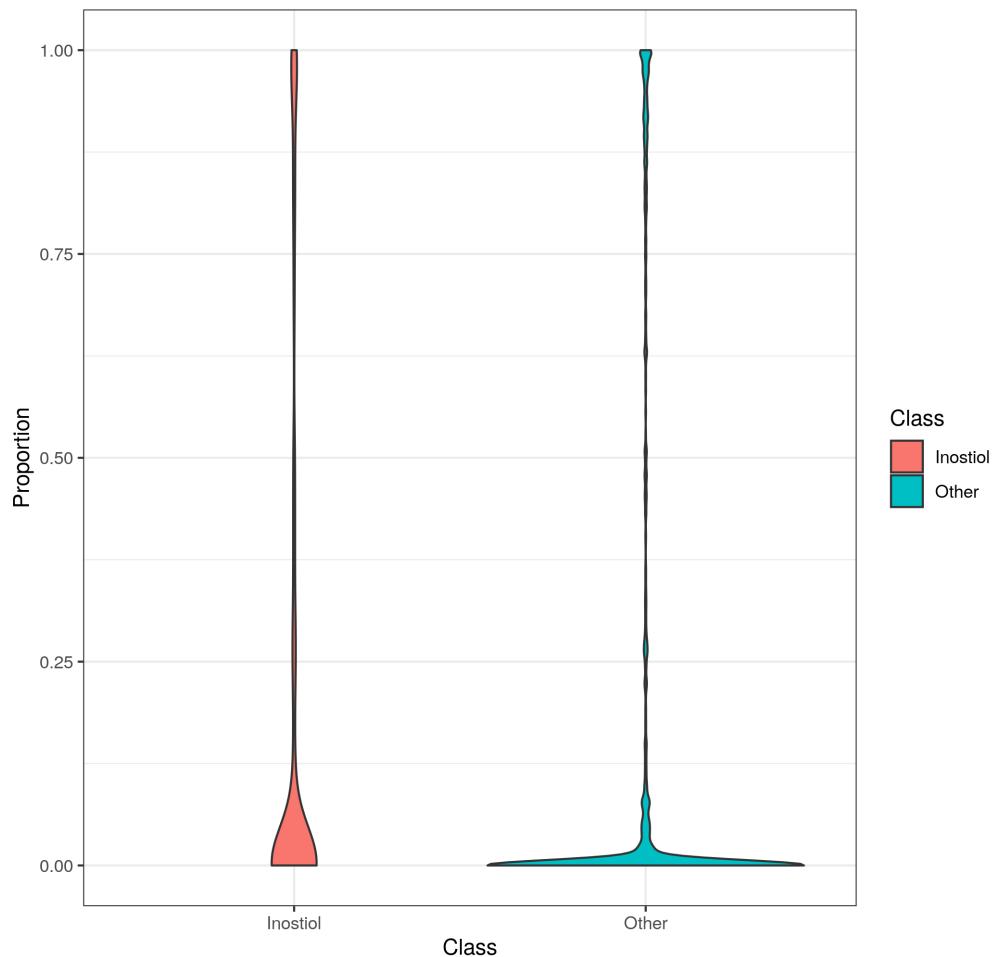


Figure 24: Violin plot of the PSM entries for the Inostiol genes and the genes not belonging to this pathway for the CD4 datasets from the consensus clustering of MDI.

## TR: Comparison MDI to mixture model

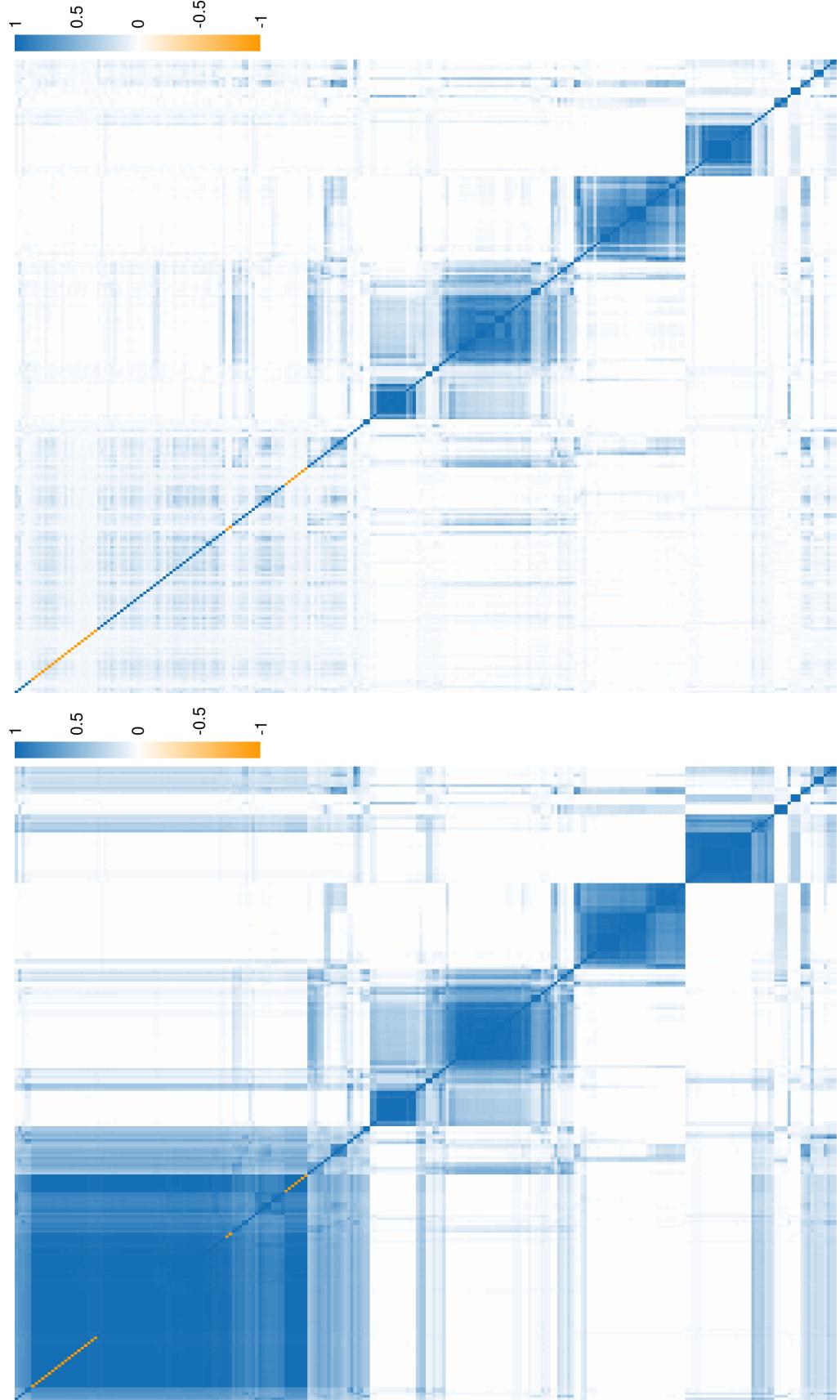


Figure 25: Comparison of the PSMs generated by applying consensus clustering using MDI sub-models and mixture models using only the TR dataset.

MDI: Adjusted Rand index for CD4  
Comparing clustering in last iteration to clustering at each iteration

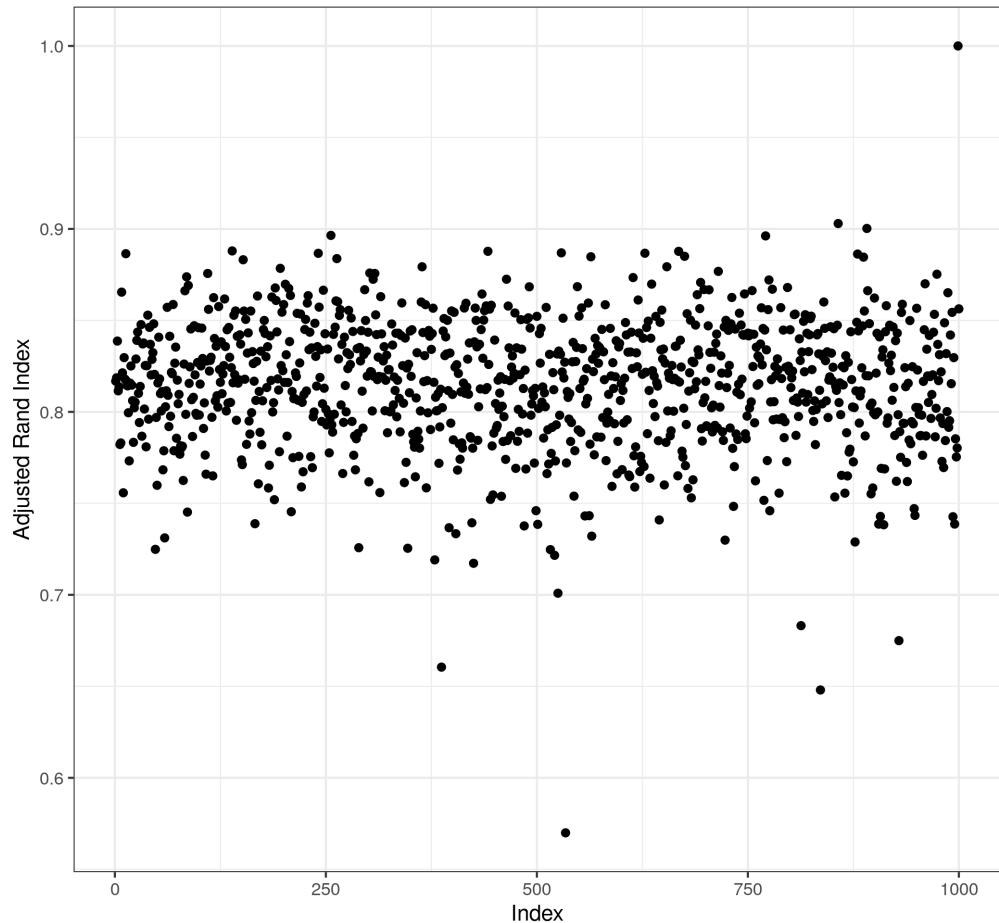


Figure 26: Plot of the adjusted Rand index between the clustering in each seed to that in the 1,000<sup>th</sup> for CD14.

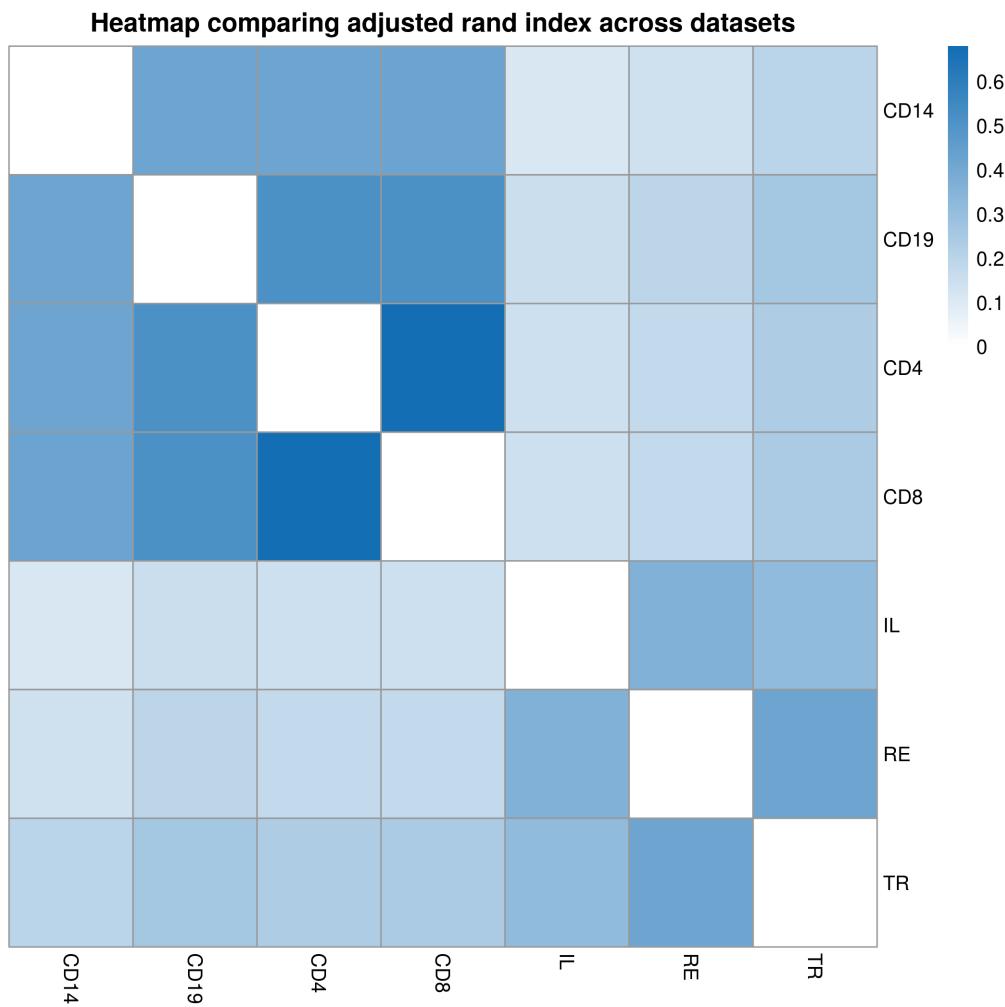


Figure 27: Heatmap of the mean adjusted Rand index comparing the clustering across datasets for each seed.

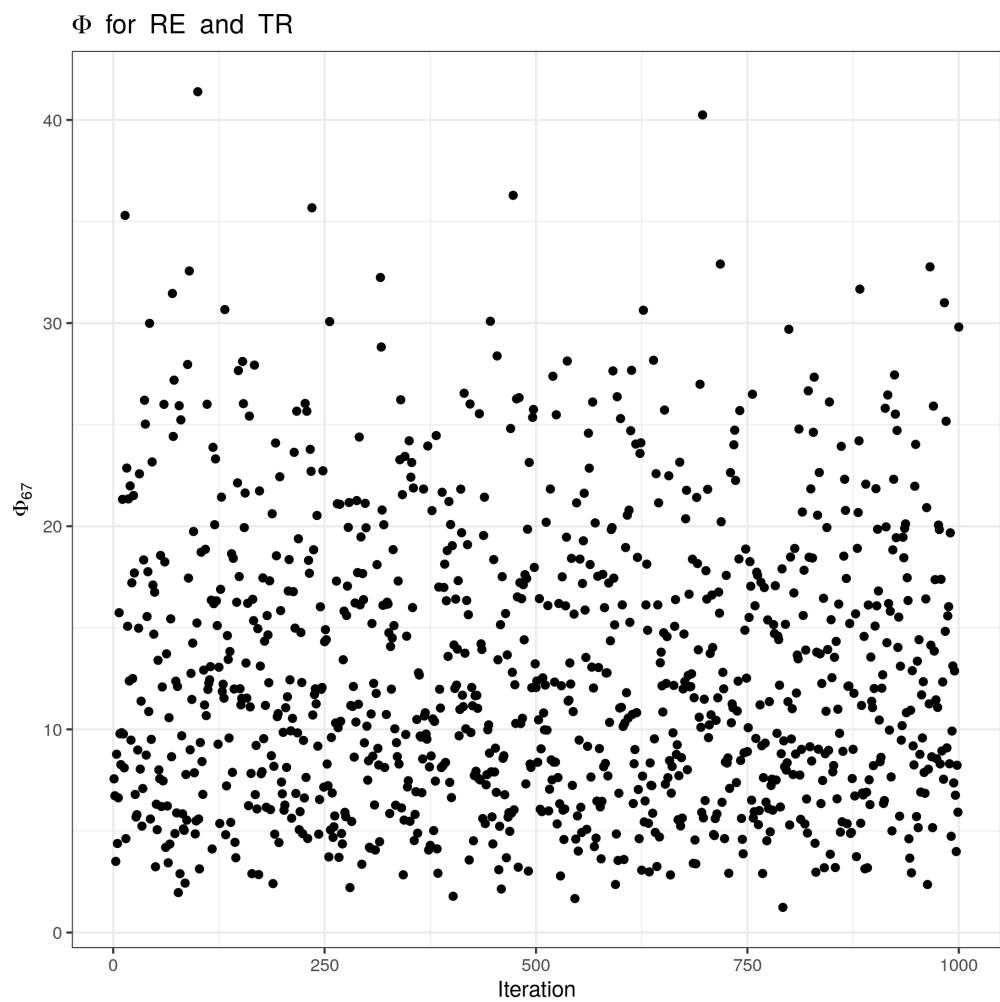


Figure 28: Plot of the  $\phi_{67}$  values across all seeds, between the RE and TR datasets (note that the high values indicate a high clustering correlation).

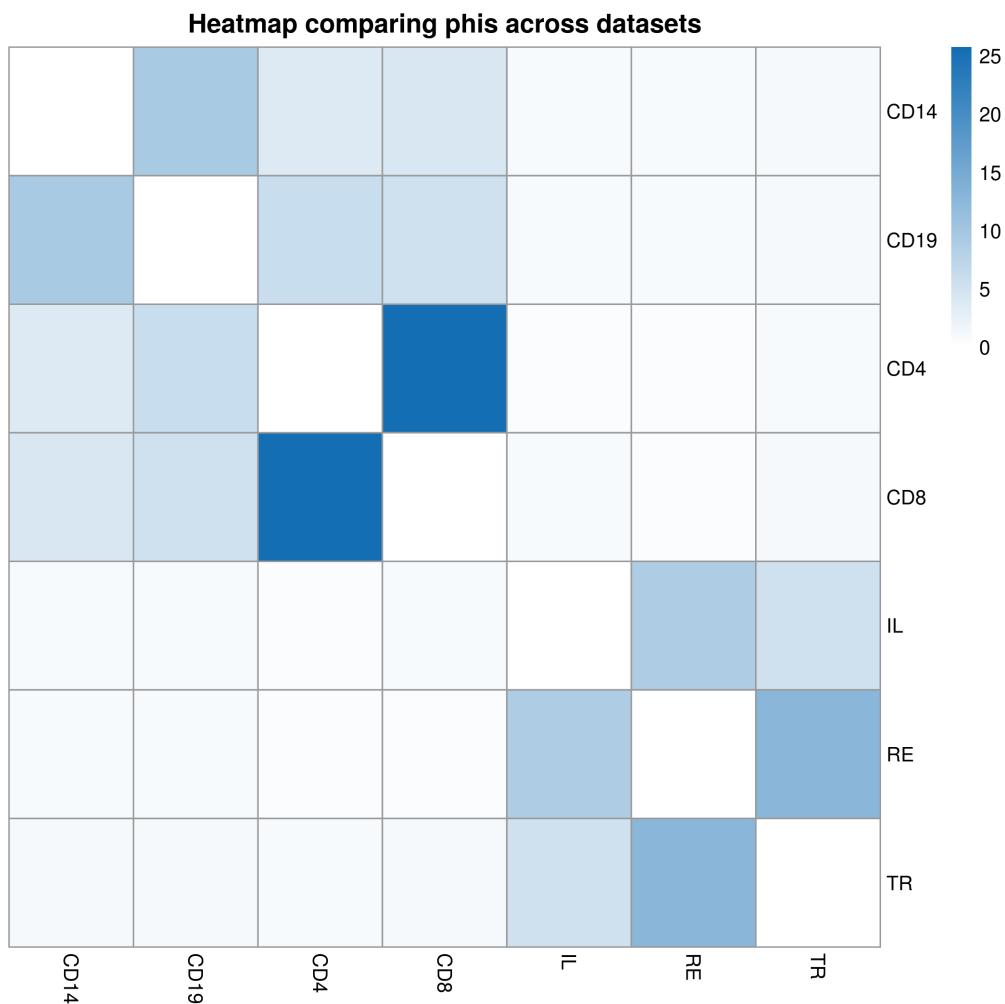


Figure 29: Plot of the mean  $\phi_{ij}$  values across all seeds, between the all datasets.

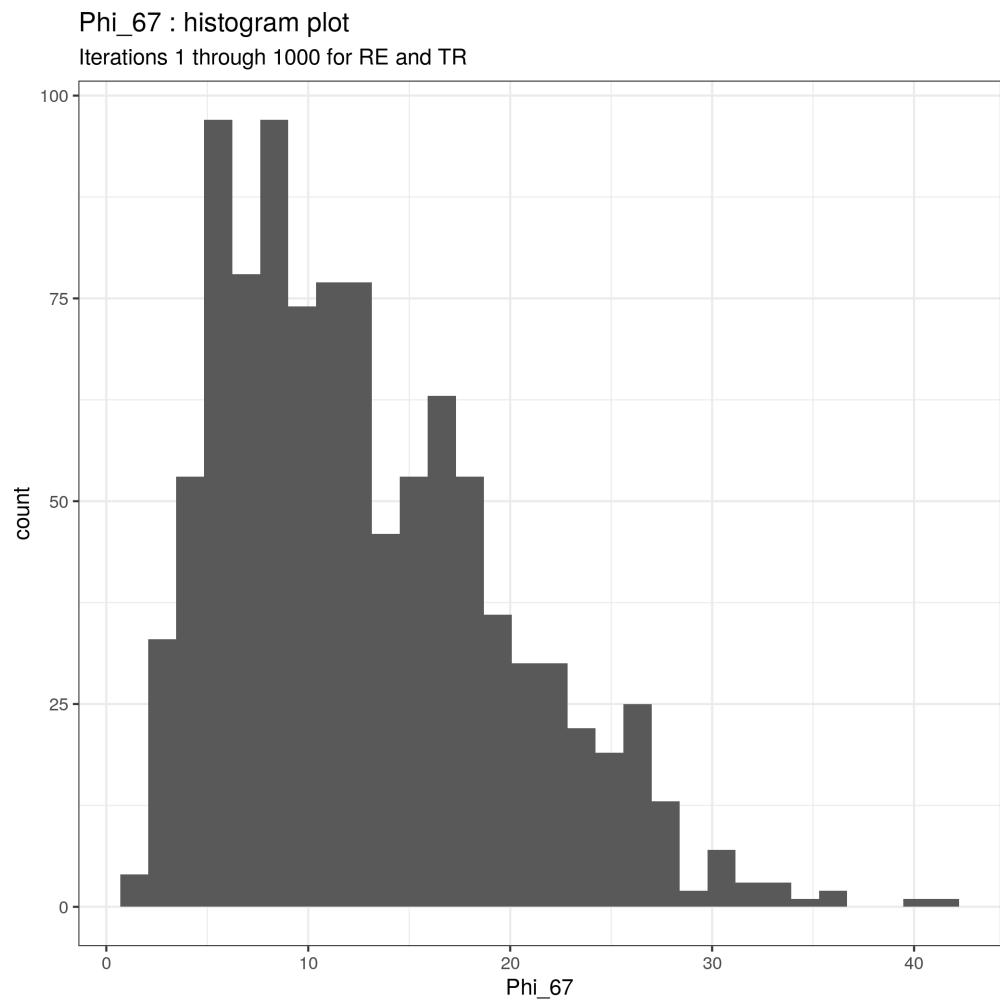


Figure 30: Histogram of the distribution of  $\phi_{67}$  values across seeds(between the RE and TR datasets).

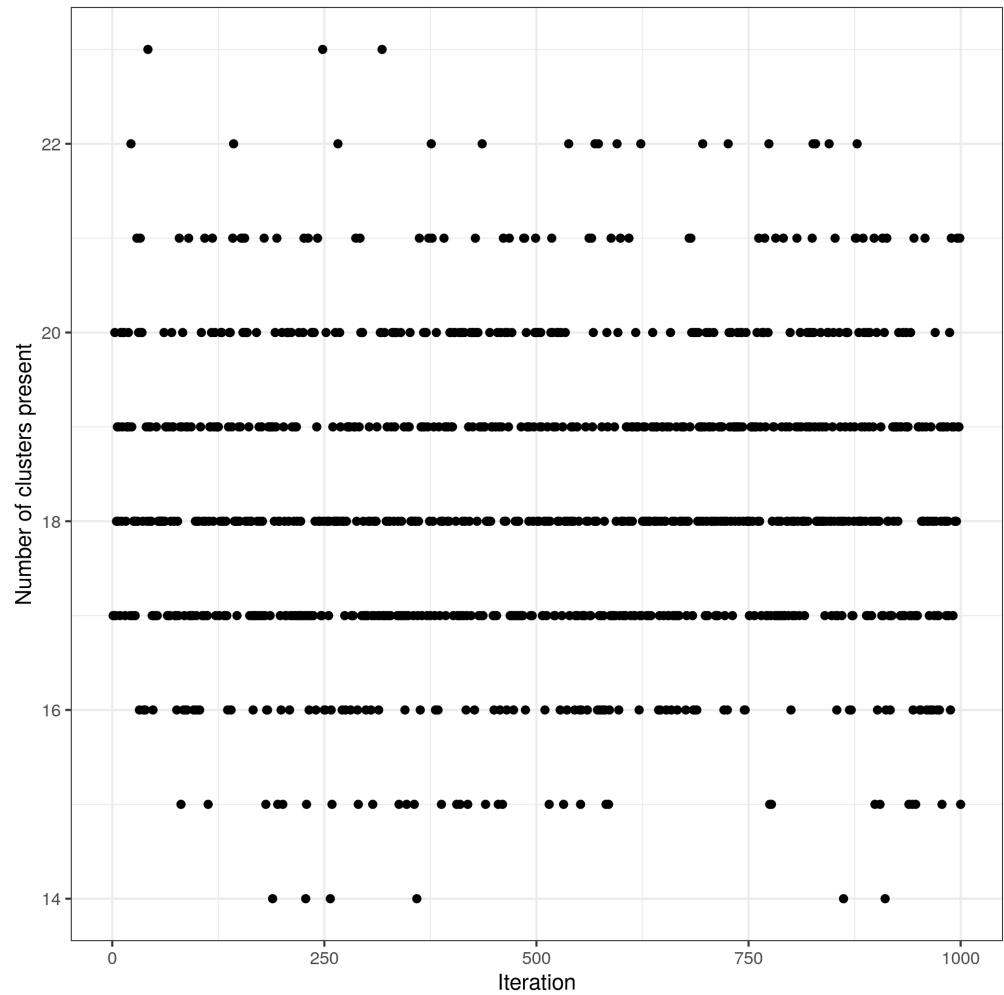


Figure 31: Plot of the number of clusters present in each seed for the CD4 dataset.

CD4: Mass parameter across iterations

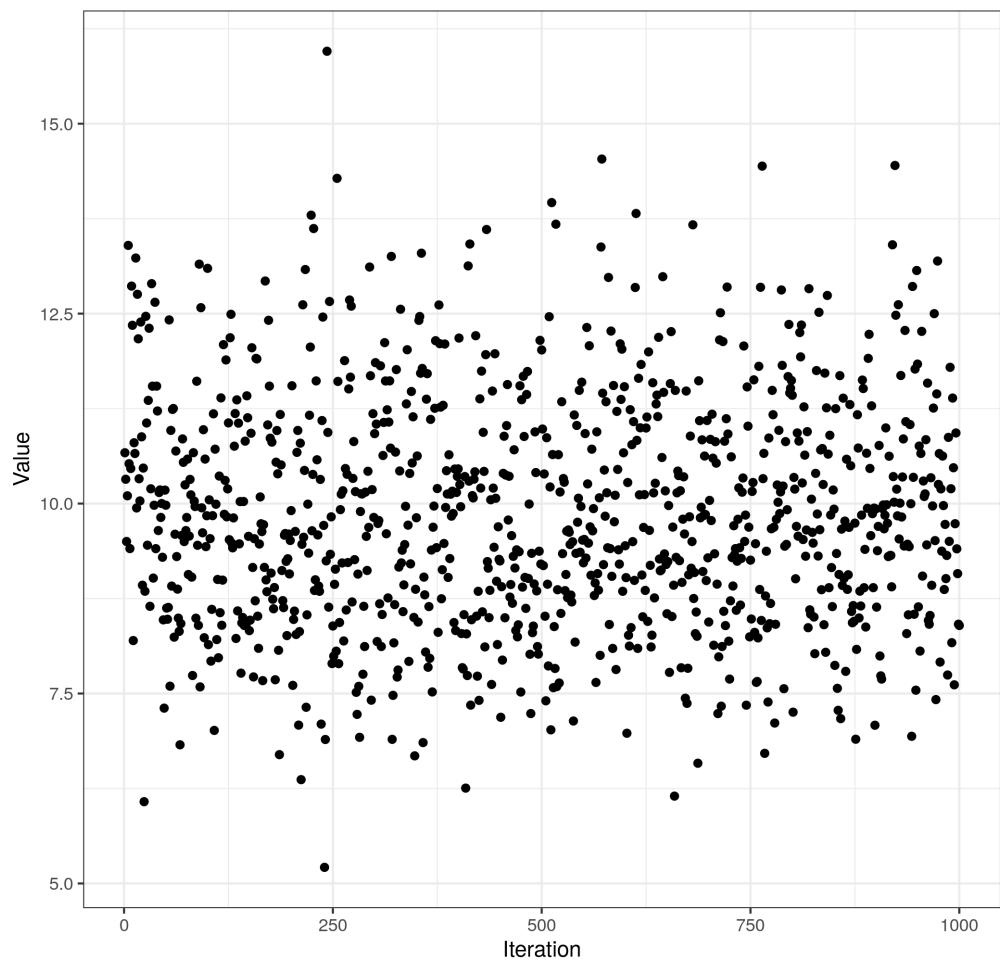


Figure 32: Plot of the mass parameter ( $\alpha$ ) for the Dirichlet process for the CD4 dataset of MDI.

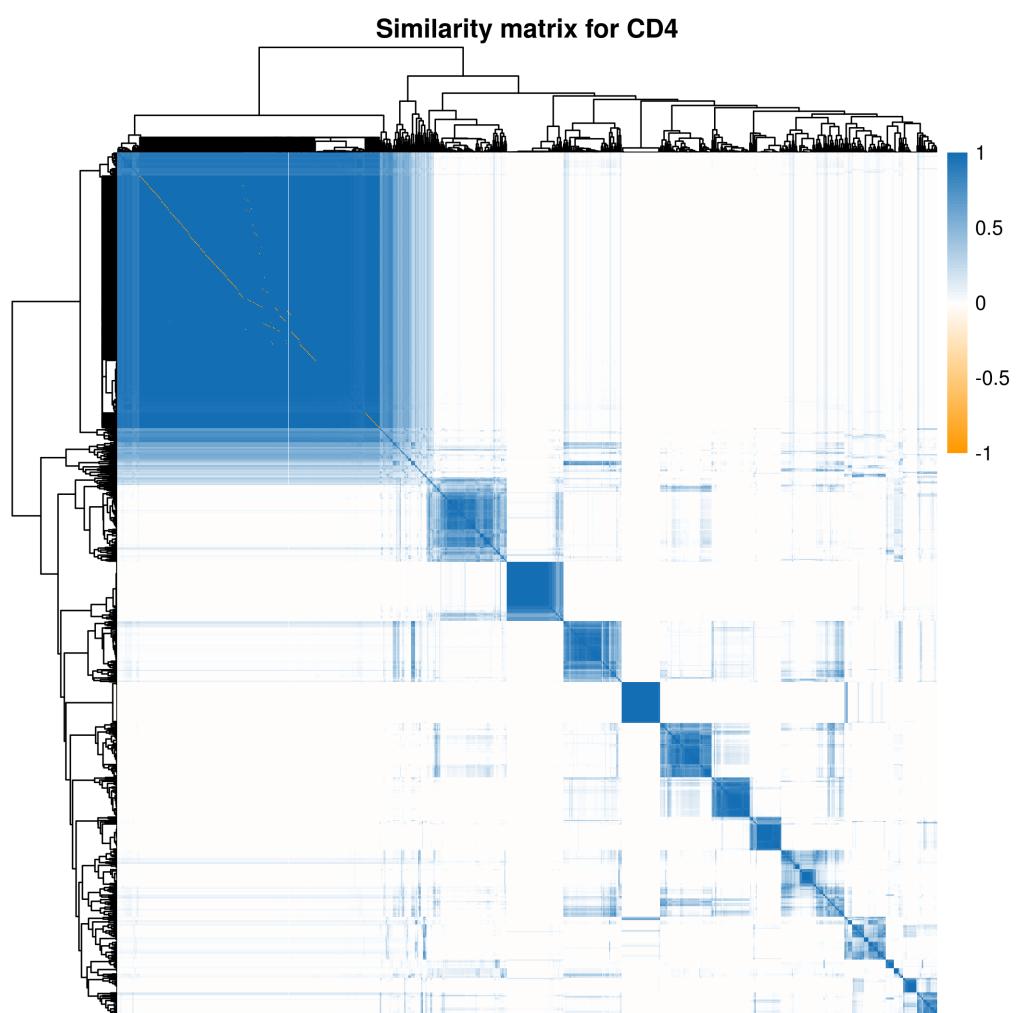
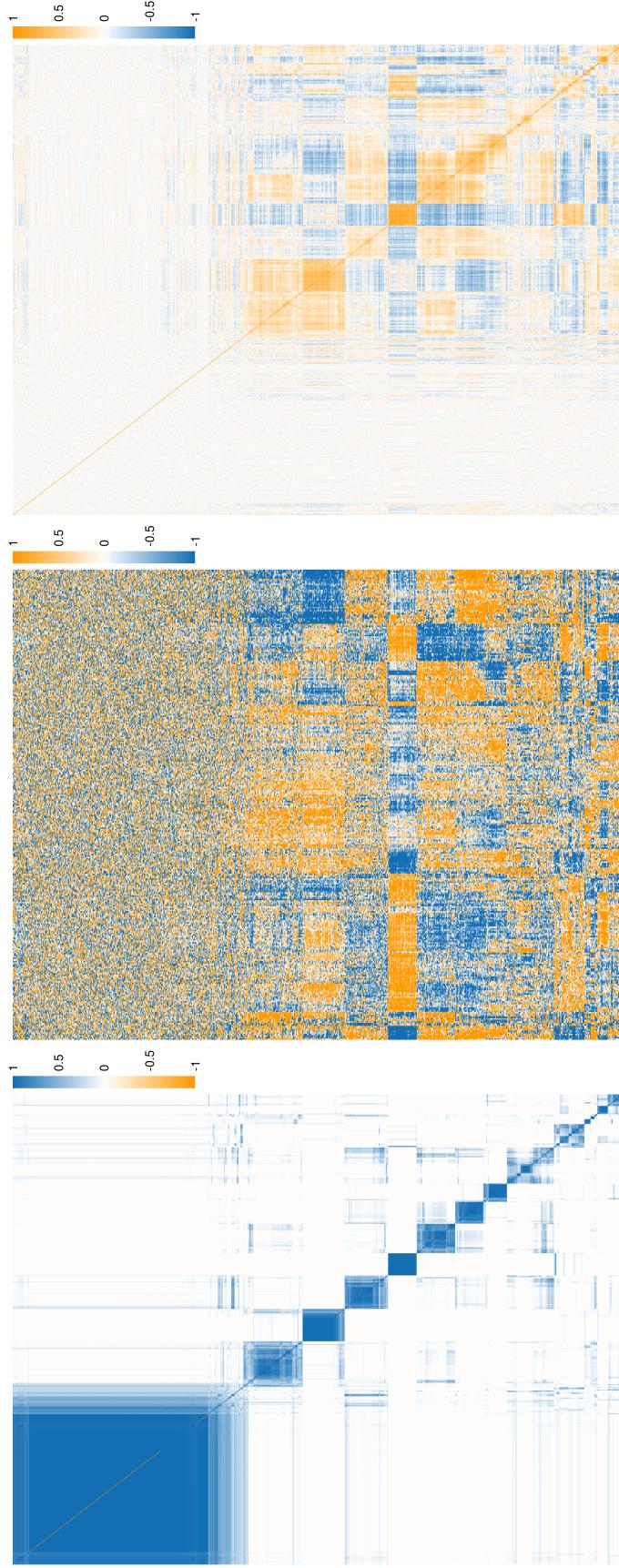


Figure 33: Heatmap of the PSM for the CD4 dataset from the consensus clustering of MDI.

**CD4: Comparison of clustering, gene expression data and data correlation**



**Figure 34:** Heatmap of the PSM for the CD4 dataset from the consensus clustering of MDI.

## IL: Comparison of annotated PSM and Correlation matrix

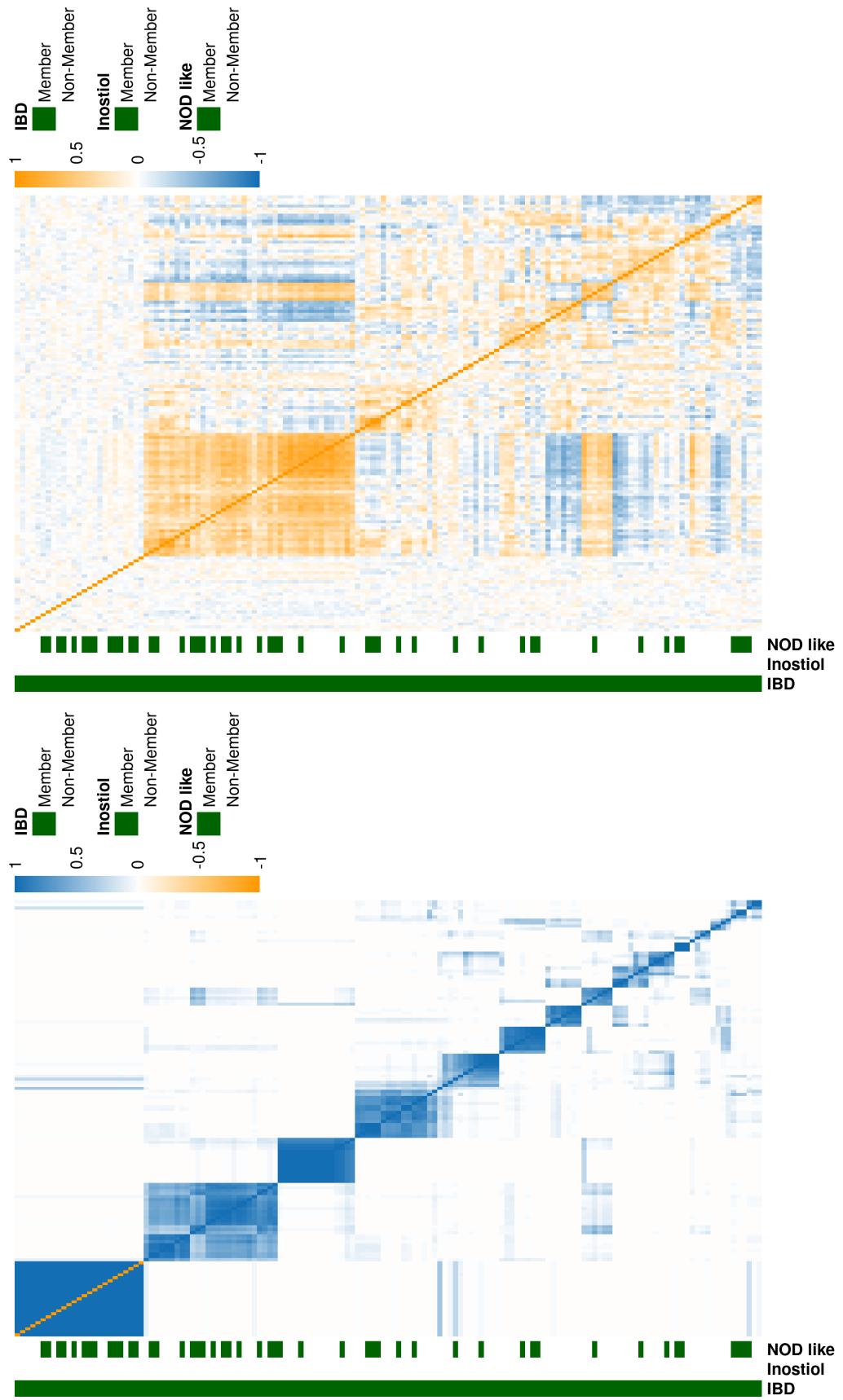


Figure 35: Heatmap of the PSM and expression data for the IBD probes for the IL dataset from the consensus clustering of MDI.

IL: Distribution of mean probability of pairwise alignment (IBD)

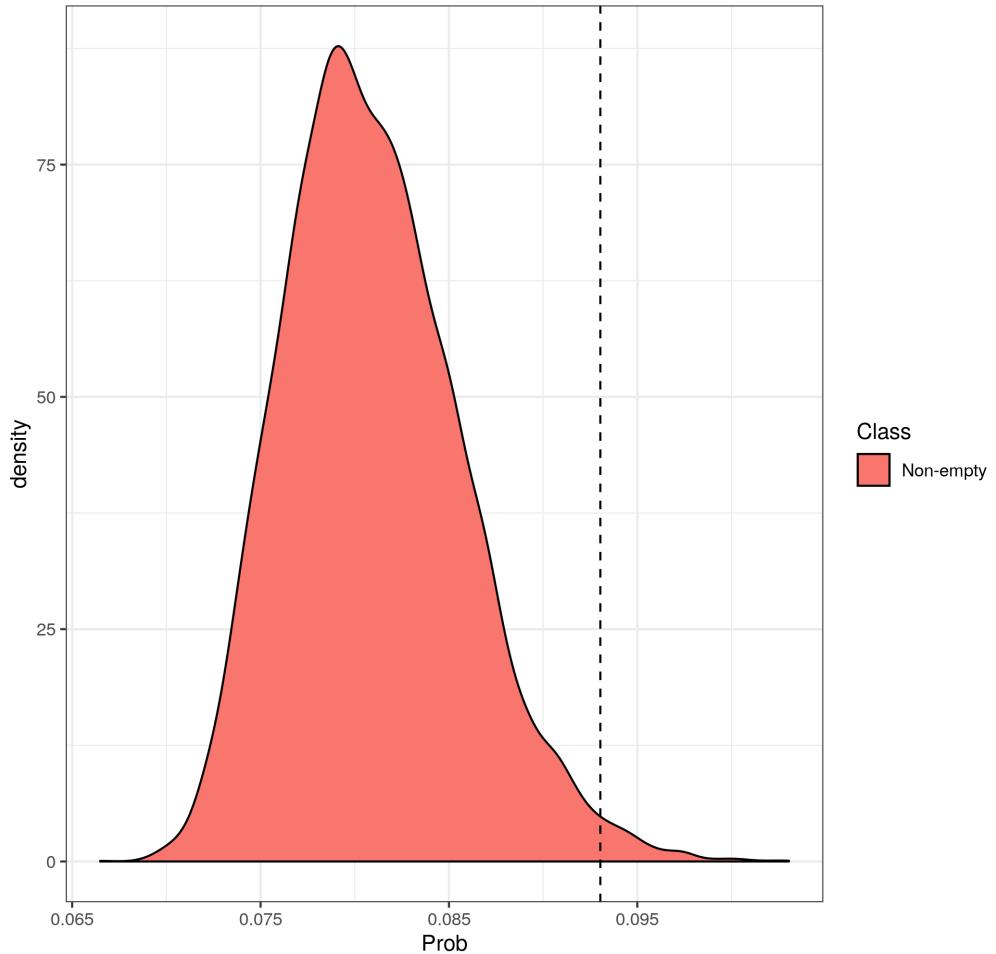


Figure 36: Plot of the distribution of the mean probability of pairwise alignment for a random sample of probes genes with a dashed line indicating the mean probability of pairwise alignment for the IBD associated probes in the IL dataset.

CD14: Distribution of mean probability of pairwise alignment (IBD)

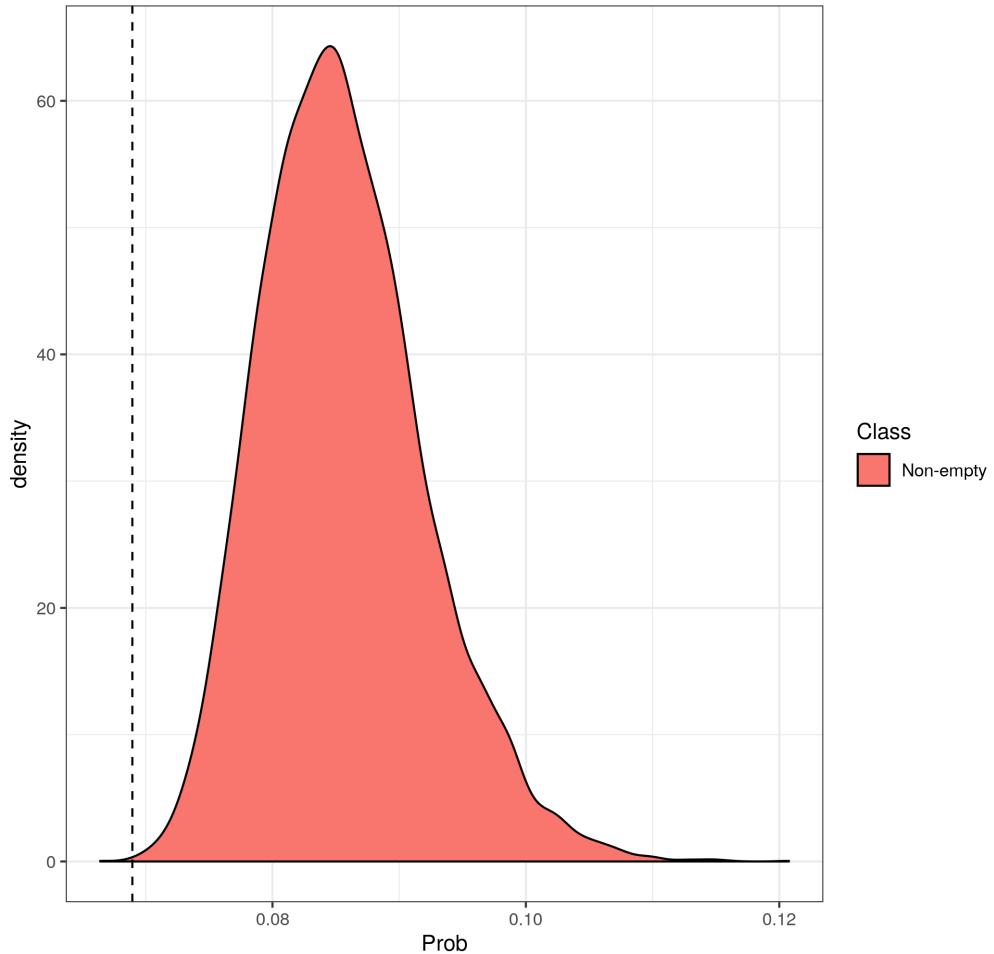


Figure 37: Plot of the distribution of the mean probability of pairwise alignment for a random sample of probes genes with a dashed line indicating the mean probability of pairwise alignment for the IBD associated probes in the CD14 dataset.

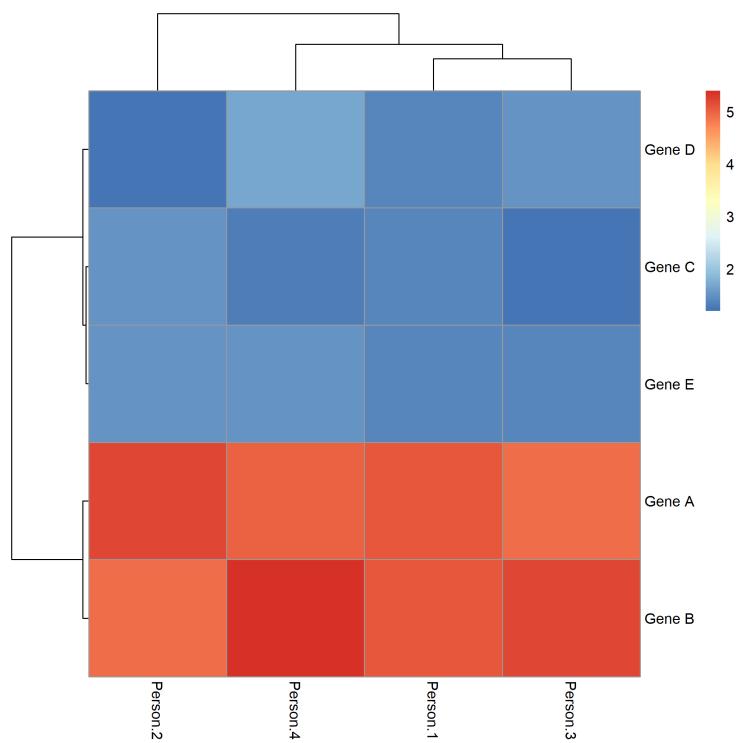


Figure 38: Heatmap of expression data in table 4 showing the clusters based upon magnitude of expression.

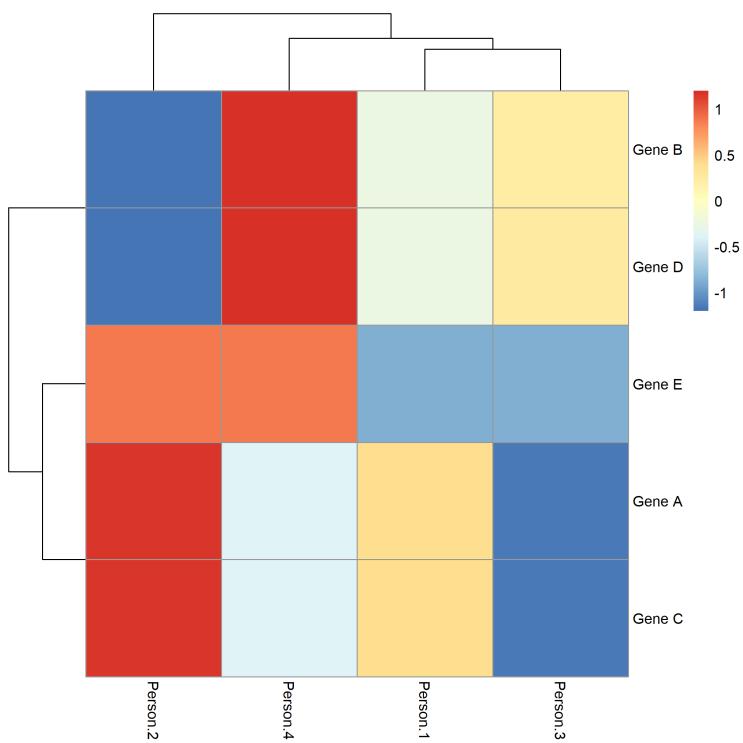


Figure 39: Heatmap of expression data in table 5 showing the clusters based upon variation of expression across people.