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# Associating gene expression to neural network derived image features

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## Abstract

1 I will be updating this document with the progress of my NIPS 2017 submission.

## 2 Plan

### 3 Q1: How much variability is shared between image features and expression?

- 4 1. Calculate PCA of image features and expression
- 5 2. Calculate cross correlations between the PCs until 99.9% variance is explained.
- 6 3. Use the cross correlation measurements to derive total fraction of variance explained of  
7 images by expression: calculate  $\sum_i \lambda_i \sum_j r_{ij}^2$  where  $\lambda_i$  is the  $i$ th eigenvalue of the image  
8 feature PCA,  $r_{ij}^2$  is the correlation of image feature PC  $i$  with expression feature PC  $j$ .
- 9 4. Make all of the above one-line-to-run for any combination of patch size, feature layer, tissue
- 10 5. Report the value for each patch size, feature layer, tissue; interpret findings

### 11 Q2: How much variability is shared between image features and expression?

- 12 1. Regress out known confounders  $C$  from the image feature  $F$  and expression data  $E$ . I.e., fit  
13 models  $F \sim C + \epsilon$  and  $E \sim C + \epsilon$ . Use log scale for Ischemic time, monitor all scatter  
14 plots for confounders that are included in the model that the linear model assumptions hold.  
15 Decide whether to retain full model of all confounders x all genes/features, retain only  
16 significant associations, or do forward feature selection.
- 17 2. Repeat steps Q1:1-5 above using the residuals of this model.
- 18 3. Create a scatter plot of total shared variance vs. technical shared variance [again, all tissues  
19 etc.]
- 20 4. Interpret findings in context of many tissues, scales, feature layers

### 21 Q3: What genes share expression variability to visual features, and at which scales?

- 22 1. Using residuals of technical confounders, fit linear model of expression vs. image feature -  
23 calculate effect sizes and p-values
- 24 2. Apply multiple testing correction to derive a list of image feature associated genes.
- 25 3. Sort genes based on variance explained by each image feature, perform GSEA or gProfiler  
26 ranked gene list analysis to test whether particular aspects of biology are enriched. Interpret
- 27 4. Assess number of associations [total and per-feature] for different tissues, feature scales.  
28 Assess overlap of findings from gene list analyses. Interpret.

29 **Q3A: What genes are influenced by technical confounders?**

- 30 1. For each confounder, calculate the fraction of variance it explains for each gene expression  
31 level.
- 32 2. Sort genes based on variance explained by confounder, perform GSEA or gProfiler ranked  
33 gene list analysis to test whether particular aspects of biology are enriched.]

34 **Once these done**

- 35 • Q4: What do the image features represent?
- 36 • Q5: Is there a genetic basis to the image features?
- 37 • Q6: Are there gene expression levels that cause image feature changes, or vice versa?
- 38 • Q7: Are there image features that are associated with clinical annotations? Are any causal?