# **Gene expression**

Justin Chumbley

Jan 2017

Justin Chumbley

Gene expression

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# **Social genomics**

- Social causation
- Biological causation
- Coupled systems

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# Causation

• Conditional determinism (general SEM)



# **Causal inference**

• Fisher, Pearl



- High-dimensional, dependent data: p > n
- High-dimensional, dependent hypotheses:  $2^{\Omega}$  subsets > p > n.
- Overfitting/overfitting (multiple testing).
- Types of aggregate error (FWER, FDR,  $l^2$ , ...).
- Control concepts/procedures (Bonferonni, BH, Ridge).
- Model dependence structure (induced and native).
- "Effective" dimensionality:  $2^{\Omega}$  subsets > p > ? > n.
- Subset selection/subspace projections.

### High-dimensional causal inference

• Causal identification/causal false positives.



# The 53 gene CTRA

- 50 of the 53 CTRA were on our chip.
- Inflamatory: IL1A, IL1B, IL6, CXCL8, TNF, PTGS1, PTGS2, FOS, FOSB, FOSL1, FOSL2, JUN, JUNB, JUND, NFKB1, NFKB2, REL, RELA, RELB.
- Interferon type-I: IFI16, IFI27, IFI27L1, IFI27L2, IFI30, IFI35, IFI44, IFI44L, IFI6, IFIH1, IFIT1, IFIT2, IFIT3, IFIT5, IFIT1B, IFITM1, IFITM2, IFITM3, IFITM4P, IFITM5, IFNB1, IRF2, IRF7, IRF8, MX1, OAS1, OAS2, OAS3, OASL.
- Antibody: JCHAIN, IGLL1.
- Note that 4 of the original 53 CTRA have been renamed: IL8, IFIT1L, IGJ, IGLL3 are now CXCL8, IFIT1B, JCHAIN, IGLL3P.

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# **Mass-univariate**

Standardized expression on chen



Justin Chumbley

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- False positives: bias from ommitted confounds
- False positives: overfitting
- False negatives: power
- Condition on independent causes
- Pool across a set
- Tailor multiplicity correction to dependence

|        | logFC  | AveExpr | t      | P.Value | adj.P.Val | В      |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|
| IFIH1  | -0.235 | 6.552   | -3.041 | 0.005   | 0.256     | -2.112 |
| MX1    | -0.254 | 6.763   | -2.549 | 0.017   | 0.416     | -3.016 |
| IFIT3  | -0.297 | 5.420   | -2.294 | 0.030   | 0.493     | -3.451 |
| JUN    | 0.213  | 4.115   | 2.006  | 0.055   | 0.496     | -3.907 |
| IFITM2 | -0.191 | 5.241   | -1.859 | 0.074   | 0.496     | -4.123 |
| RELA   | -0.108 | 5.460   | -1.768 | 0.088   | 0.496     | -4.250 |

Table 1: Limma regression on CTRA.

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# Mass-univariate (control for BMI)

|        | logFC  | AveExpr | t      | P.Value | adj.P.Val | В      |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|
| IFIH1  | -0.207 | 6.552   | -2.221 | 0.035   | 0.923     | -3.813 |
| JCHAIN | 0.450  | 8.649   | 1.987  | 0.057   | 0.923     | -4.016 |
| IGLL1  | -0.186 | 4.657   | -1.980 | 0.058   | 0.923     | -4.022 |
| IFITM2 | -0.208 | 5.241   | -1.672 | 0.106   | 0.923     | -4.268 |
| RELA   | -0.120 | 5.460   | -1.615 | 0.118   | 0.923     | -4.310 |
| OASL   | -0.138 | 5.928   | -1.559 | 0.131   | 0.923     | -4.351 |

Table 2: Limma regression on CTRA.

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Justin Chumbley

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### Marginal dependence: "co-expression"



Node positioning based on a weighted version of the Fruchterman and Reingold (1991) algorithm to place strongly correlated nodes together.

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# **Methodological limitations**

- Causality implicit (most applications experimental)
- Validity of p-value: variance inflation from false independence assumption
- Semantics of p-value
- Dependence structure a secondary nuissance

# Competitive null hypothesis: the global test

- A score test for nested parametric models (like the likelihood ratio test, but not parametrization-invariant).
- Optimal in a neighborhood of the null hypothesis.
- Handles p>n alternatives.
- (J. Goeman, Geer, and Kort 2004, Jelle J. Goeman, Geer, and Houwelingen (2006))

# Competitive null hypothesis: the global test

- $H_0$  global test: no gene (covariate) is associated with the response.
- H<sub>1</sub> at least one gene is associated
- Linear regression model: accomodates linear confounds.
- Power: tailored toward alternatives with many small regression coefficients of the same sign.
- (Model assumes random coefficients positively correlated, a priori.)

# Global test decomposition: contributions to the global test

- Global test statistic = weighted average of individual gene statistics.
- The contribution of each such gene is itself a test.
- k genes ordered in a hierarchical clustering graph: 2k 1 sets.
- FWER multiple correction on all 2k 1 sets (inheritance method)
- Technicalities: Correlation distance measure (individual gene test statistics likely similar they are strongly correlated) with average linkage clustering.

#### Global test: without bmi covariate

|              | p-value | Statistic | Expected | Std.dev | #Cov |
|--------------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|------|
| Inflammatory | 0.660   | 1.833     | 4.306    | 3.854   | 19   |
| Interferon   | 0.050   | 14.881    | 3.751    | 4.662   | 29   |
| Antibody     | 0.620   | 2.177     | 4.648    | 5.272   | 2    |
| All          | 0.070   | 13.161    | 3.830    | 4.673   | 50   |

**Table 3:** Global Test for CTRA. The output lists the p-value of the test, the test statistic with its expected value and standard deviation under the null hypothesis. The Cov column give the number of covariates in the alternative model that are not in the null model. In the linear model the test statistic is scaled in such a way that it takes values between 0 and 100. The test statistic can be interpreted as 100 times a weighted average (partial) correlation between the covariates of the alternative and the residuals of the response.

### Global test: with bmi covariate

|              | p-value | Statistic | Expected | Std.dev | #Cov |
|--------------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|------|
| Inflammatory | 0.780   | 1.524     | 3.897    | 3.180   | 19   |
| Interferon   | 0.210   | 5.953     | 3.663    | 4.630   | 29   |
| Antibody     | 0.120   | 9.814     | 4.732    | 5.976   | 2    |
| All          | 0.260   | 4.980     | 3.800    | 4.735   | 50   |

**Table 4:** Global Test for CTRA controlling for bmi. The output lists the p-value of the test, the test statistic with its expected value and standard deviation under the null hypothesis. The Cov column give the number of covariates in the alternative model that are not in the null model. In the linear model the test statistic is scaled in such a way that it takes values between 0 and 100. The test statistic can be interpreted as 100 times a weighted average (partial) correlation between the covariates of the alternative and the residuals of the response.



- For general dependence:
- Holm (1979)
- Benjamini and Yekutieli (2001)
- Special cases:
- Benjamini and Hochberg (1995) (independent/positively correlated).
- Subset structure: DAG (nodes = sets, edges = subset relations) (J. J. Goeman and Mansmann 2008).
- Subset structure: Tree (Meinshausen 2008).

CTRA interferon type-I significance decomposition



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|        | p-value | Statistic | Expected | Std.dev | #Cov  |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|-------|
| IFIH1  | 0.010   | 30.544    | 4.403    | 5.238   | 1.000 |
| IFIT5  | 0.140   | 9.733     | 4.275    | 6.504   | 1.000 |
| IFIT3  | 0.030   | 17.209    | 3.896    | 4.613   | 1.000 |
| IFIT1  | 0.260   | 5.439     | 4.033    | 5.610   | 1.000 |
| IFIT2  | 0.910   | 0.029     | 4.003    | 5.686   | 1.000 |
| IFITM2 | 0.100   | 12.618    | 4.350    | 5.845   | 1.000 |

**Table 5:** Global Test: Singleton subsets of the 2k-1 subsets induced by hierarchical clustering.

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|   | rowname               | p-value | Statistic | Expected | Std.dev | #C   |
|---|-----------------------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|------|
| 1 | IFIH1                 | 0.010   | 30.544    | 4.403    | 5.238   | 1.0  |
| 2 | MX1                   | 0.020   | 21.521    | 4.008    | 4.935   | 1.0  |
| 3 | IFIT3                 | 0.030   | 17.209    | 3.896    | 4.613   | 1.0  |
| 4 | OASL                  | 0.050   | 12.184    | 3.492    | 3.671   | 1.0  |
| 5 | found_interferonTypel | 0.050   | 14.881    | 3.751    | 4.662   | 29.0 |
| 6 | IFI35                 | 0.070   | 14.151    | 3.856    | 5.200   | 1.0  |

**Table 6:** Global Test: Subsets induced by partitioning CTRA into inflammatory, interferon type-I and antibody.

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# Inheritance multiplicity correction, based on tree structured hierarchical clustering.



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# Beyond the global test: a permutation test (without bmi confound)

• Following Ackerman, we seperately regressed each gene in the 50 CTRA on chen. The average of squared partial regression coefficients from this set provides one conventional way to quantify the aggregate, unsigned relation between the whole CTRA gene set and chen. We assessed the significance of this relation with reference to the empirically-derived null distribution arising from 100 permumations of the chen labels. This procedure yielded a p-value of p = 0.13.

# Beyond the global test: Linear mixed effects (without bmi confound)

 We infered the fixed effect of chen on gene expression in a multilevel linear mixed model with independent random intercepts for both participant and CTRA gene (CI = -0.1860669, -0.0026783)

# Kegg Pathways

|       | kegg_cov_alias                       | p-value | Statistic | Expect |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| 03010 | Ribosome                             | 0.010   | 12.705    | 4.1    |
| 04950 | Maturity onset diabetes of the young | 0.010   | 9.446     | 4.3    |
| 00190 | Oxidative phosphorylation            | 0.020   | 8.706     | 4.0    |
| 00730 | Thiamine metabolism                  | 0.020   | 10.970    | 3.5    |
| 05012 | Parkinson's disease                  | 0.030   | 7.658     | 4.1    |
| 05010 | Alzheimer's disease                  | 0.040   | 6.582     | 4.1    |
|       |                                      |         |           |        |

Table 7: Global Test for KEGG pathways.

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# **Competitive null hypothesis**

|          | logFC  | AveExpr | t      | P.Value | adj.P.Val | В      |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|
| 16904365 | -0.235 | 6.552   | -3.150 | 0.004   | 0.614     | -2.368 |
| 16890574 | -0.164 | 8.686   | -2.903 | 0.007   | 0.614     | -2.718 |
| 16752645 | 0.204  | 5.477   | 2.720  | 0.011   | 0.614     | -2.971 |
| 16923031 | -0.254 | 6.763   | -2.620 | 0.014   | 0.614     | -3.107 |
| 16802918 | -0.164 | 5.568   | -2.416 | 0.022   | 0.614     | -3.375 |
| 16922275 | -0.174 | 7.238   | -2.383 | 0.024   | 0.614     | -3.417 |

 Table 8:
 Limma regression for GO interferon.

|   | p-value | Statistic | Expected | Std.dev | #Cov    |
|---|---------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 0.040   | 19.078    | 4.256    | 5.384   | 357.000 |

Table 9: Global Test for GO interferon.

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# **Undirected graphs**



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# **Undirected graphs**



Node positioning based on a weighted version of the Fruchterman and Reingold (1991) algorithm to place strongly correlated nodes together.

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#### Full-conditional independence networks



Node positioning based on a weighted version of the Fruchterman and Reingold (1991) algorithm to place strongly correlated nodes together.

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#### Full-conditional dependence networks



algorithm to place strongly correlated nodes together.

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#### Full-conditional dependence networks



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# Full-conditional independence networks



Justin Chumbley

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### Questions

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#### Justin Chumbley

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#### **#** References

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