

# Gene expression. RNA-seq.

- 1. Why measure gene expression
- 2. History of gene expression analysis
- 3. Microarrays for gene expression
- 4. Microarray data analysis
- 5. RNA sequencing (RNA-seq)
- 6. RNA-seq data analysis
- 7. Summary

#### Reading instructions lecture 14 (today)

Z.B.:

C15: 599-604 (not SAGE)

 $\textbf{C16:}\ \underline{625\text{-}630}\ (\text{end after section `Expression levels are often}...')$ 

651-657 (end after 'Nonparametric tests...'; not Box16.2)

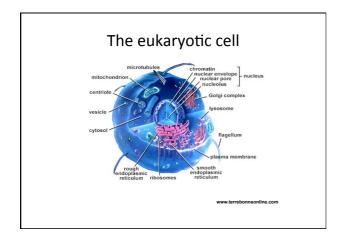
#### Wang, Gerstein, and Snyder:

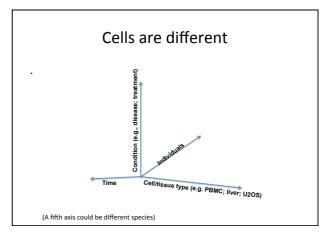
"RNA-seq: a revolutionary tool for transcriptomics". Nature Rev Genet vol. 10, p. 57-63 (2009):

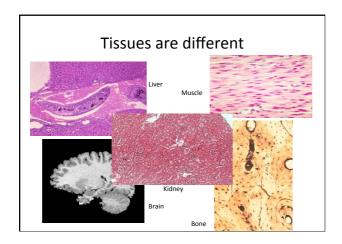
57-61, 63 (i.e., not 'New transcriptomic insights')

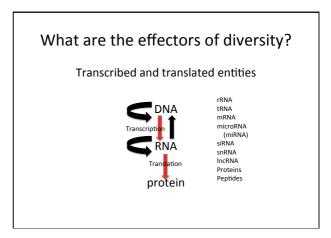
('Glossary' on page 62 is useful)

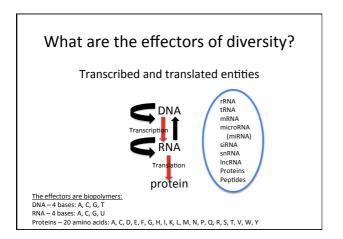
# [1] Why measure gene expression



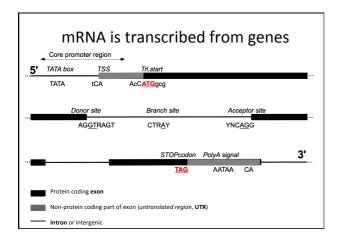


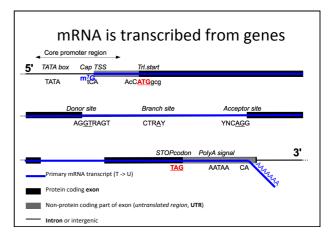






# What are the effectors of diversity? mRNA is the template for proteins microRNA (miRNA) targets and regulates mRNA tRNA are needed in protein synthesis rRNA are part of the ribosome lncRNA epigenetic activity Proteins are enzymes, signaling molecules, building blocks, ...



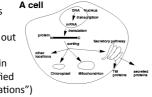


# Gene expression in the cell

The primary mRNA transcript is processed:

Exons are kept, introns spliced out

- $\Rightarrow$  mature mRNA
- ⇒ which is translated to protein
- ⇒ which may be further modified ("post-translational modifications")



Measure the mRNA levels in a sample =>
Information about what proteins are active =>
Information about the biological processes in the sample

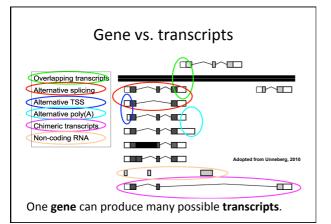
# Gene expression differs between tissues

In a human cell: ca. 20,000 protein coding genes.

40-60% of these are expressed in a particular tissue type at a particular time point.

Different genes expressed in different human

Also differences between healthy and disease tissues, different developmental stages, different cell cycle stages, etc..



**Gene** – a genomic sequence encoding a functional product (or several functional products)

**Transcript** – an mRNA species transcribed from a *gene*. One gene may produce many different transcripts. Each transcript is typically represented by many identical mRNA molecules (dynamic range of transcription).

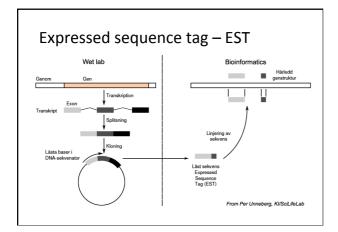
**Transcriptome** – the set of *transcripts* present in a cell/ tissue/organism (at a particular time point or integrated over many or all time points)

**Transcriptomics** – finding out everything about the *transcriptome* 

# Goals of gene expression studies

- 1. Detect what genes are expressed within a sample
- 2. Quantify expression of the genes within a sample
- 3. Differential expression of genes between samples
- $\Rightarrow$  Define a set of genes that play a role in the sample
- ⇒ Understand what's going on in the sample through further investigation of the interesting genes:
- A. Further bioinformatics investigation
- B. Wet lab experiments targeted towards the interesting genes

# [2] History of gene expression analysis



# The history of gene expression analysis

EST - expressed sequence tag

Other tag-based – e.g.

CAGE (Cap analysis of gene expression; 5', 20 nt)

MPSS – massively parallel signature sequencing (~20 nt)

Microarray – cDNA or oligo arrays; up to 20 million features ("gene expression microarrays").

Tiling microarray – covering the entire non-repetitive part of a genome (not only genes)

RNA-seq – current state of the art

# [3] Microarrays for gene expression

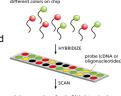
#### Gene expression microarray

A microarray contains a large number of *probes* (*spots* or *array features*). Each feature contains part of the DNA sequence of a gene (or other genome feature).

The mRNA, turned into cDNA, hybridizes to its complementary sequence (if it is present).

<u>Two-colour arrays</u>: label 2 different samples with 2 different colours that compete for hybridization. (Also called two-channel arrays).

One-colour arrays: label one sample; one colour, no competition.



#### The workflow when using DNA microarrays

- 1. Collect the RNA from the samples
- 2. Convert the RNA to cDNA (by reverse transcription) and label it with a fluorescing compound (e.g. Cy5, Cy3).
- 3. Pour the labelled cDNA onto the microarray, where it <a href="https://nybridizes">hybridizes</a> to complementary DNA strings attached to the surface of the microarray (these are called *probes*, and the labelled cDNA is called *target*).
- 4. Wash away unbound sample.
- 5. Scan the array with a laser to generate a picture of what has hybridized => you obtain for each probe an <u>intensity</u> (one intensity recording per fluorescent)
- 6. Analyze the intensities.

#### Two-colour microarray

Label cDNA from [a] normal (with Cy3) and [b] disease (with Cy5) tissue.

Let them hybridize competitively to complementary DNA strands attached to a glass slide (microarray).



Each circle ("array feature") contains attached DNA (probes) representing a gene. The probes are PCR products of genes, or oligonucleotides (designed from the genomic sequence).

#### Two-colour microarray

Label cDNA from [a] normal (with Cy3) and [b] disease (with Cy5) tissue.

Let them hybridize competitively to complementary DNA strands attached to a glass slide (microarray).

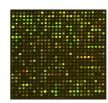
Use a laser to scan the microarray, and record the fluorescence

Some genes upregulated in disease tissue (here: red). Some downregulated in disease tissue (here: green). Some are unchanged (here: yellow).

#### Two-colour microarray

A real two-colour microarray picture (only small part of it):

(C. elegans)



The colours are not visible to the eye, they are representations of the intensities that were obtained when scanning the microarray with the laser. The spots are very small, typically on the order of  $\mu m$ .

#### One-colour microarray

Label cDNA from [a] normal or [b] disease tissue.

Let them hybridize to complementary DNA strands attached to a glass slide (microarray) or magnetic beads (bead array).

Use a laser to scan the microarray, and record the fluorescence intensities

Each circle ("array feature") contains attached DNA (probes) representing a gene. The probes on one-colour microarrays are typically oligonucleotides of length 25-80 nt, designed from the genomic sequence. Affymetrix GeneChip, Illumina BeadChip

#### Output data from microarrays: light intensities

For each array feature on the array (gene ≈ array feature), a set of raw intensities are recorded: (2-colour array example)

gene ID gene\_001 165 106 gene\_002 1329 224 51 gene\_003 184

# [4] Microarray data analysis

#### Data normalization and transformation

The intensities are supposed to reflect the expression level of the genes. However, there is a lot of artefacts and noise in microarray data:

- 1. uneven distribution of the sample on the microarray
- 2. uneven number of DNA molecules attached at each array
- 3. all probes have different sequences, hence they have different  $T_m$ , resulting in different ability to hybridize at the single fixed temperature at which the experiment is performed
- 4. if more than one array is involved (which should be the case since you want to assess the technical reproducibility), you need to adjust for different sample amounts on the microarrays. and much more => the data has to be normalized

#### Data normalization and transformation

Get the data in a form where it is comparable with the data from other arrays. To achieve this you have to:

- 1.adjust for all the factors described on the previous slide
- 2. get the data (if possible) into a form where standard parametric statistical methods can be used. To do this one usually performs the following operations:
  - take the ratio of the two intensities  $I_R$  and  $I_G$
  - take the logarithm (use base 2) of the ratio
  - =>You end up with the signal  $S_i = \log_2 \left( \frac{I_R}{I_G} \right)$ for each feature i.
  - adjust all  $S_i$  values with a constant so that the median S will be 0.  $(S_i = 0 \text{ means no difference between the samples})$

#### Why log-transforming the data?

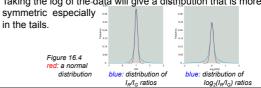
If  $I_R$ = 5 and  $I_G$ = 1, then  $I_R / I_G$ = 5 but...

If  $I_R$ =1 and  $I_G$ =5, then  $I_R / I_G$ = 0.2

---> limes 0 when I<sub>G</sub> ---> infinity

All ratios where the  $I_{\rm G}$  sample has the higher intensity will be squished between 0 and 1.

Taking the log of the data will give a distribution that is more



#### The intensities

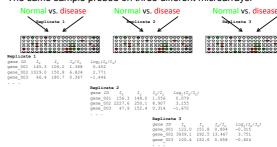
For each gene on the array (gene ≈ array feature), a set of normalized intensities and their log ratios:

#### Replicates

Replicates needed: (1) assess technical variation

(2) enable the use of statistical methods

The same sample probed on three different microarrays:



#### The intensities - replicates

For each gene, normalized log ratios for each technical replicate (normal vs. disease) hybridization will be obtained:

```
gene ID
                     \log_2\left(\mathrm{I_R/I_G}\right)_{\mathrm{Rep1}}\ \log_2\left(\mathrm{I_R/I_G}\right)_{\mathrm{Rep2}}\ \log_2\left(\mathrm{I_R/I_G}\right)_{\mathrm{Rep3}}
gene 001
                     0.452
                                      0.079
                                                               -0.315
gene_002
                     2.771
                                          3.155
                                                               3.751
gene_003
                    -1.446
                                          -1.670
                                                                -0.604
```

#### Assessing differential expression

What genes are differentially expressed between 2 samples? How much must the expression levels differ between samples? Very often a 2-fold change is required (ad hoc threshold...). Corresponding to a log<sub>2</sub> change >= 1.

The log<sub>2</sub> value is called the effect size

[Note that "effect size" is a generic name for something that shows how much a measurement of something differs from another measurement of the same thing; it is not always defined as a fold change or log(fold change)].

#### Assessing differential expression with replicates

Use replicates to calculate averages and use these to determine differential expression.

#### Averages and variances:

	Mean log_(I_g/I_g	) var log <sub>2</sub> (I <sub>p</sub> /I <sub>q</sub>
gene 001	0.072	0.147
gene 002	3.226	0.244
002	1 240	0.216

#### Assessing statistical significance of differential expression with replicates

Need to assess the statistical significance of the observed differences in expression.

Replicates needed to enable the use of statistical methods.

Microarray	intensities		
gene ID	log, (I,/I,) Repl	$log, (I_o/I_o)_{Rep2}$	$log_{\circ}(I_{\circ}/I_{\circ})_{kepl}$
gene 001	0.452	0.079	-0.315
gene 002	2.771	3.155	3.751
gene 003	-1.446	-1.670	-0.604

Given our great normalization efforts mentioned earlier, we can (almost) assume that the  $\log_2$  ratios are normally distributed and with mean=0 for the unchanged genes.

We can then use the *t-test* to test whether our measurements (i.e. the three log<sub>2</sub> ratios for each gene) indicate that the log<sub>2</sub> ratios truly are

H0: true mean is 0 (i.e., null hypothesis is that the two measurements are the same)

H1: true mean is not 0

#### Assessing statistical significance of differential expression with replicates

Microarray gene\_ID gene\_001 gene\_002 gene\_003

H0: true mean is 0 H1: true mean is not 0

Significance level typically set to  $0.05 = \alpha = \text{ false positive rate (fp/(fp+tn))}$ 

#### Use R:

> gene\_001 <-c(0.452,0.079,-0.315)
> t.test(gene\_001,mu=0)
t = 0.3251, df = 2, p-value = 0.776 --> gene\_002 <-c(2.771,3.155,3.751) > t.test(gene\_002,mu=0) t = 11.3142, df = 2, p-value = 0.007721 gene\_003 <-c(-1.446,-1.670,-0.604)
t.test(gene\_003,mu=0)

Thus only <code>gene\_002</code> is significantly differentially expressed at  $\alpha$  =

#### Assessing statistical significance of differential expression with more replicates

What if having more replicates? Increased statistical power?

H0: true mean is 0

H1: true mean is not 0

Significance level typically set to  $0.05 = \alpha = \text{ false positive rate (fp/(fp+tn))}$ 

(-1.446,-1.670,-0.604,-0.976,-1.592,-1.152)

Thus now also gene\_003 is significantly differentially expressed at  $\alpha$  = 0.05. Despite the fact that the mean value of the  $\log_2(I_R/I_G)$  for gene\_003 is the same as in the previous example (= -1.24)

# [5] RNA sequencing (RNA-seq)

# RNA-sequencing: RNA-seq

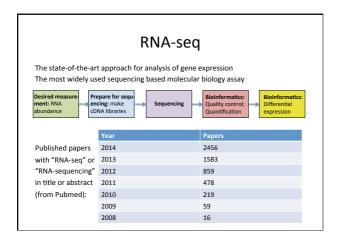
Microarrays have several problems:

- Limited dynamic range
- Built-in uncertainty: probes have different  $\mathcal{T}_m$  impossible to optimize experimental conditions
- Must define beforehand what you are looking for (probe design)

The recent advances within the sequencing technology has enabled fast and cheap sequencing of DNA. This can also be used to sequence RNA.

RNA-seq has the advantages:

- No need to pre-define what you are looking for
- Better detection of lowly expressed genes
- Possible to detect alternative splicing
- Possible to detect variation (i.e., mutations in an individual)



#### RNA-seq

What application(s) are you interested in:

mRNA abundance differential expression novel transcription antisense transcription transcriptome reconstruction allele-specific expression non-coding RNAs

# RNA-seq

What application(s) are you interested in:

mRNA abundance – what genes are expressed
differential expression – difference in expression
between two samples

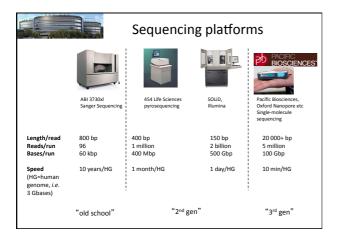
novel transcription antisense transcription transcriptome reconstruction allele-specific expression non-coding RNAs

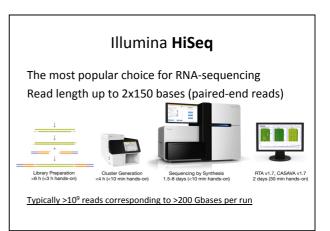
# RNA-seq

Several different technologies available for sequencing.

They differ in: sequencing chemistry, amplification strategy, read length, number of reads, base calling accuracy, sequencing errors – rates and types, ...

The output is called "a **read**" – a stretch of DNA sequence.

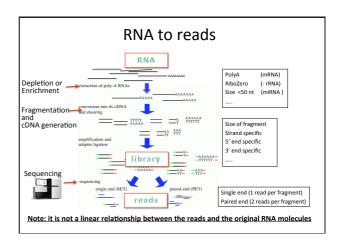




# RNA-seq: Library preparation

From RNA to sequencing-ready DNA molecules

- 1. Sample extraction and quality checks on samples
- 2. rRNA depletion or mRNA enrichment [rRNA=ribosomal RNA, ca. **90%** of total RNA content]
- 3. Fragmentation
- 4. Random priming
- 5. cDNA generation (reverse transcription)
- 6. Adapter ligation, cluster generation
- => RNAs converted to DNA and ready for sequencing



### RNA-seq: output data

Fastq: de facto standard for output files

- (1) DNA sequence for each read
- (2) Quality for each base in each read

SEQ ID 1

 ${\tt GATTTGGGGTTCAAAGCAGTATCGATCAAATAGTAAATCCATTTGTTCAACTCACAGTTT}$ 

- !''\*((((\*\*\*+))%%%++)(%%%%).1\*\*\*-+\*''))\*\*55CCF>>>>>CCCCCCC65 @SEQ\_ID\_2 mecma\_
- ~25,000,000 reads per RNA-seq sample (typically)
- >1,000,000,000 reads per machine run

# RNA-seq: base quality

Base quality:  $Q = -10 \log_{10} P$ 

Probability of wrong base:  $P = 10^{\frac{-Q}{10}}$ 

Quality scores:

Quality score	Probability of incorrect base call	Base call accuracy
10	1 in 10	90%
20	1 in 100	99%
30	1 in 1000	99.9%
40	1 in 10000	99.99%
50	1 in 100000	99.999%

Base quality encoded using ASCII characters in fastq file.

# [6] RNA-seq data analysis

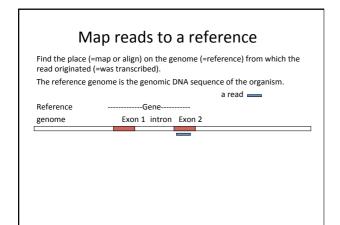
# RNA-seq bioinformatics

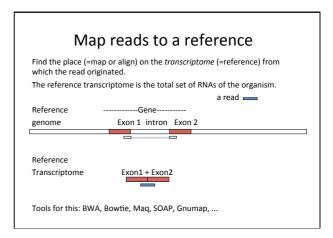
Reads have been generated. Then, typically:

1. Map (align) reads to reference genome or transcriptome, <u>or</u>

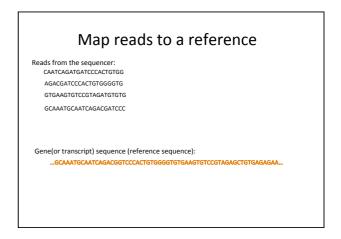
Reconstruct the transcriptome from the reads without a reference

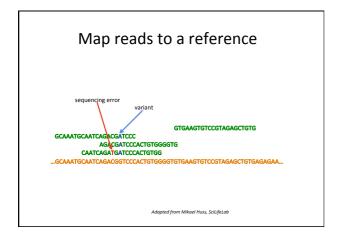
- 2. Count the reads in an entity of interest (gene, transcript, exon, ...)
- 3. Quantify the abundance for the entity of interest
- 4. Differential expression between samples

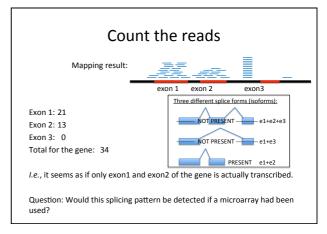




# Map reads to a reference Find the place (=map or align) on the genome (=reference) from which the read originated (=was transcribed). Allow spliced reads. The reference genome is the genomic DNA sequence of the organism. a read Reference genome Exon 1 intron Exon 2 Tools for this: TopHat, GSNAP, STAR, ...







# Count the reads Microarrays give a continuous (floating-point) expression value for each gene RNA-seq gives an integer value for each gene ("digital expression"): read counts Ref. genome. Ref. gene Read density Read mapping. Adopted from Mikoel Huss, ScilifeLob

#### Estimate abundance

Read counts can be misleading:

Transcript #3: 12 reads Transcript #4: 31 reads

But... are #3 and #4 unequally expressed?

#### Estimate abundance

Read counts can be misleading:

Transcript #3: 12 reads
Transcript #4: 31 reads

But... are #3 and #4 unequally expressed?

# Estimate abundance

=> Longer genes/transcripts are expected to generate more reads => The more you sequence, the more reads you get from each gene

RPKM – reads per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads

$$R = \frac{10^9 C}{LN}$$

- R=RPKM value (or FPKM for paired end reads)
- C= number of reads mapped to the transcript
- L= gene length
- N= number of million mappable reads

RPKM normalizes for: (i) transcript length and (ii) number of reads. (FPKM: *fragments* per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads)

#### Estimate abundance

Use RPKM instead of read counts:

Transcript #3: 12 reads
Transcript #4: 31 reads
But their RPKM is the same.

Tools for this: ERANGE, Myrna, eXpress

# Differential expression (DE)

When is a difference in read count also statistically significant?
=> Model the variability in read count for each gene across replicates.

The read count variability has been modelled using Poisson distribution (e.g., DEGseq, Myrna)

models the variance between technical replicates

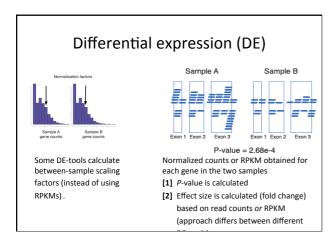
Negative binomial (e.g. edgeR, DEseq, CuffDiff)

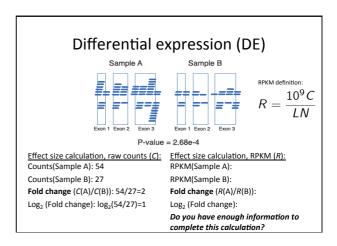
also models the overdispersion of read counts between biological replicates (biological replicates are less similar than technical replicates)

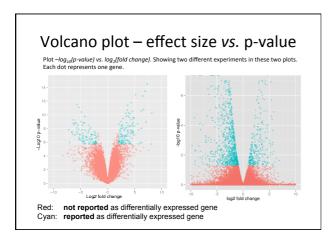
#### Output is, for each gene

⇒ a P-value describing the probability that the difference in counts is due to chance. (Should be corrected for multiple hypothesis testing).

⇒ Effect size (fold change)







# Multiple testing correction

20000 genes in human genome and using an  $\alpha$  = 0.05

- ⇒ We would expect 0.05 \* 20000 = 1000 genes to be considered differentially expressed by random chance
- ⇒ Need to correct the p-values for the fact that we perform many independent tests on the same data set.

Simplest: Bonferroni correction: multiply each p-value with the number of tests performed. Then compare with  $\alpha\!.$ 

p-value =  $2*10^{-4}$  => corrected p-value is 4 which is >  $\alpha$  p-value =  $3*10^{-7}$  => corrected p-value is 0.006 which is <  $\alpha$  Better: Benjamini-Hochberg correction.

Multiple testing correction is included in (most) RNA-seq differential expression analysis tools.

# [7] Summary

- Measure mRNA level to find out the biological processes in a sample
- Gene expression differs between tissues, between individuals, between different treatments, etc.
- One gene may produce many different transcripts
- Microarrays use hybridization and the output data are intensities
- RNA-seq uses cDNA sequencing and the output data are sequence reads
- Library preparation, e.g., depletion vs. enrichment, fragmentation
- The raw output data needs to be normalized ("pre-processed")
- Map RNA-seq reads to reference genome (or transcriptome)
- RPKM (or FPKM for paired-end reads) for quantification of reads in RNAseq experiment
- Differential expression and statistical testing (microarrays and RNA-seq)
- The use of replicates to measure differential expression
- P-value and effect size
- RNA-seq advantages: dynamic range; no need to predefine what to look for; higher sensitivity; variant (mutation) detection; fairly cheap

# Lab 6

#### RNA sequencing, differential gene expression

Thursday 2015-10-15 08:00-12:00 in "4V2Röd"

Galaxy (galaxy.org): NOTE: need to register (see lab instructions)

- FastQC
- Cuffdiff
- SAMtools
- Picardtools

R (Volcano plot)

GTF files

SAM/BAM files

FPKM

### Reading instructions lecture 15 (2015-01-02)

Z.B.:

C15: 606-611 (start at section "The simplest method...")

 $\textbf{C16:}\ \underline{631\text{-}646}\ (\text{end after section about SOMs}).\ \text{But } \textit{not}:$ 

'The Mahalanobis distance...'