Can "Big Data" cure cancer?

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A complex system



1 body = 10^{14} human cells (and 100x more non-human cells) 1 cell = 6×10^9 ACGT coding for 20,000+ genes

The sequencing revolution



Sequencing is a swiss knife



(Frese et al., 2013)



http://rise.duke.edu/seek/pages/page.html?0205

A cancer cell (1900)



A cancer cell (1960)



A cancer cell (2010)



Big data

in treatment genes base development gene mere o homent studies study polymorphisms study









- What is your risk of developing a cancer? (*prevention*)
- Once detected, what precisely is your cancer? (diagnosis)
- After treatment, are you cured? (prognosis)
- What is the best way to treat your cancer? (precision medicine)

Example: precision medicine



- Good vs Bad responders
- n(= 19) patients >> p(= 2) genes



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*-omics challenge: *n* << *p*



- $n = 10^2 \sim 10^4$ (patients)
- $p = 10^4 \sim 10^7$ (genes, mutations, copy number, ...)
- Data of various nature (continuous, discrete, structured, ...)
- Data of variable quality (technical/batch variations, noise, ...)

Consequences:

- Accuracy drops
- Biomarker selection unstable
- Speed and scalability can become an issue

Learning from gene expression data





Learning from gene expression data







Franck Emmanuel Andrei Anne-Claire Laurent Guillaume Rapaport Barillot Zinovyev Haury Jacob Obozinski

Gene expression



http://mrsbabbkv.weebly.com/rna--protein.html

- About 22,000 genes encoded in DNA (same for all cells)
- Expression of each gene (= RNA synthesis) varies between cells
- Can be measured for all genes simultaneously with sequencing

Feature selection (a.k.a. *molecular signature*)



Example: 70-gene breast cancer prognostic signature



Gene expression profiling predicts clinical outcome of breast cancer

Laura J. van "t Veer"+, Hongyue Daits, Marc J. van de Vilver"+, Yudong D. He!, Augustinus A. M. Hart', Mao Maot, Hans L. Peterse*, Karin van der Kooy', Matthew J. Marton!, Anko T. Witteveen', George J. Schreiber?, Ron M. Kerkhoven', Chris Roberts?, Peter S. Linsley?, René Bernad's & Stephen H. Friend:

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70 genes (Nature, 2002)

Gene-expression profiles to predict distant metastasis of lymph-node-negative primary breast cancer

Yixin Wang, Jan G M Klijn, Yi Zhang, Anieta M Sieuwerts, Maxime P Look, Fei Yang, Dmitri Talantov, Mieke Timmermans, Marion E Meijer-van Gelder, Jack Yu, Tim Jatkoe, Els M J J Berns, David Atkins, John A Foekens

76 genes (Lancet, 2005)

3 genes in common

van 't Veer et al. (2002); Wang et al. (2005)

3 genes is the best you can expect given *n* and *p*

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The Influence of Feature Selection Methods on Accuracy, Stability and Interpretability of Molecular Signatures

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Haury et al. (2011)

Learning with regularization



For a sample $x \in \mathbb{R}^p$, learn a linear decision function:

$$f_{\beta}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \beta^{\top} \boldsymbol{x} \qquad \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^{p}} \boldsymbol{R}(f_{\beta}) + \lambda \Omega(\beta)$$

- $R(f_{\beta})$ empirical risk, e.g., $R(f_{\beta}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (f_{\beta}(x_i) y_i)^2$
- $\Omega(\beta)$ penalty, to control overfitting in high dimension, e.g.:

•
$$\Omega(\beta) = \sum_{i=1}^{p} \beta_i^2$$
 (ridge regression, SVM,...)

•
$$\Omega(\beta) = \overline{\sum}_{i=1}^{p} |\beta_i|$$
 (lasso, boosting,...)

Sparsity with ℓ_1 regularization



Leads to sparse models (feature selection)

Atomic Norm (Chandrasekaran et al., 2012)



Definition

Given a set of atoms \mathcal{A} , the associated atomic norm is

$$\|x\|_{\mathcal{A}} = \inf\{t > 0 \mid x \in t \operatorname{conv}(\mathcal{A})\}.$$

 ${\mathcal A}$ should be centrally symmetric and span ${\mathbb R}^\rho$

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Gene networks as prior knowledge



Let's force the signatures to be "coherent" with a known gene network?

Graph-based structured feature selection



Graph lasso(s)

$$\Omega_1(\beta) = \sum_{i \sim j} \sqrt{\beta_i^2 + \beta_j^2} \qquad \text{(Jenatton et al., 2011)}$$
$$\Omega_2(\beta) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^p: \forall i \sim j, \|\alpha_i^2 + \alpha_i^2\| \le 1} \alpha^\top \beta \qquad \text{(Jacob et al., 2009)}$$

Lasso signature (accuracy 0.61)



Breast cancer prognosis, Jacob et al. (2009)

Graph Lasso signature (accuracy 0.64)



Breast cancer prognosis, Jacob et al. (2009)

Other atomic norms

 Disjoint feature selection for hierarchical classification (Vervier et al., 2014)



 Sparse low-rank matrices for sparse PCA and regression (Richard et al., 2014)



Graph smoothing penalty

$$\Omega_G(\beta) = \sum_{i \sim j} (\beta_i - \beta_j)^2$$



- Let (e_i, λ_i)_{i=1,...,p} the Fourier basis of the graph (eigenvectors of the Laplacian)
- Learning with Ω_G(β) on data x is the same as learning with Ω(β) = ||β||² on the smoothed data Φ(x):

$$\Phi(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i:\lambda_i > 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} (\boldsymbol{x}^\top \boldsymbol{e}_i) \boldsymbol{e}_i$$

See (Rapaport et al., 2007) for other variants

Classifiers



Another representation: ranking

Replace $x \in \mathbb{R}^p$ by $\Phi(x) \in \{0, 1\}^{p(p-1)/2}$:

 $\Phi_{i,j}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{ if } x_i \leq x_j \,, \\ 0 & \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$



Yunlong Jiao



One sample x p features Mapping f(x) p(p-1)/2 bits



 $O(p \log(p))$

Theorem ((Jiao and Vert, 2015))

O(p^2)

The Kendall and Mallows kernels are positive definite and can be evaluated in $O(p \log p)$ time.



- Kondor and Barbarosa (2010) proposed the diffusion kernel on the Cayley graph of the symmetric group generated by adjacent transpositions.
- Computationally intensive (*O*(*p^p*))
- Mallows kernel is written as

$$K_{M}^{\lambda}(\sigma,\sigma') = e^{-\lambda n_{d}(\sigma,\sigma')},$$

where $n_d(\sigma, \sigma')$ is the shortest path distance on the Cayley graph.

• It can be computed in $O(p \log p)$

Application



Dataset	No. of features	No. of samples (training/test)			
Breast Cancer 1	23624	44/7 (Non-relapse)	32/12 (Relapse)		
Breast Cancer 2	22283	142 (Non-relapse)	56 (Relapse)		
Breast Cancer 3	22283	71 (Poor Prognosis)	138 (Good Prognosis)		
Colon Tumor	2000	40 (Tumor)	22 (Normal)		
Lung Cancer 1	7129	24 (Poor Prognosis)	62 (Good Prognosis)		
Lung Cancer 2	12533	16/134 (ADCA)	16/15 (MPM)		
Medulloblastoma	7129	39 (Failure)	21 (Survivor)		
Ovarian Cancer	15154	162 (Cancer)	91 (Normal)		
Prostate Cancer 1	12600	50/9 (Normal)	52/25 (Tumor)		
Prostate Cancer 2	12600	13 (Non-relapse)	8 (Relapse)		

Learning from gene expression data







Marine Le Morvan



Andrei Zinovyev

Somatic mutations in cancer



Large-scale efforts to collect somatic mutations

- 3,378 samples with survival information from 8 cancer types
- downloaded from the TCGA / cBioPortal portals.



Cancer type	Patients	Genes
LUAD (Lung adenocarcinoma)	430	20 596
SKCM (Skin cutaneous melanoma)	307	17 463
GBM (Glioblastoma multiforme)	265	14 750
BRCA (Breast invasive carcinoma)	945	16 806
KIRC (Kidney renal clear cell carcinoma)	411	10 609
HNSC (Head and Neck squamous cell carcinoma)	388	17 022
LUSC (Lung squamous cell carcinoma)	169	13 590
OV (Ovarian serous cystadenocarcinoma)	363	10 195

Survival prediction from raw mutation profiles

- Each patient is a binary vector: each gene is mutated (1) or not (2)
- Silent mutations are removed
- Survival model estimated with sparse survival SVM
- Results on 5-fold cross-validation repeated 4 times

0

0

0

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Can we replace

 $x \in \{0, 1\}^p$ with *p* very large, very sparse

by a representation with more information shared between samples

$$\Phi(x) \in \mathcal{H}$$
 ?

Raw binary mutation matrix

genes



Gene-gene interaction network



Related work (Hofree et al., 2013)

Network-based stratification of tumor mutations

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d Network-based stratification



Performance on survival prediction



Use Pathway Commons as gene network. NSQN = Network Smoothing / Quantile Normalization (Hofree et al., 2013)

NetNorM and NSQN benefit from biological information in the gene network

Comparison with 10 randomly permuted networks:



P-values (Welch t-test):

	NSQN	NetNorM
LUAD	2×10^{-3}	3.5×10^{-2}
SKCM	$1.2 imes 10^{-2}$	1×10^{-4}

Selected genes represent "true" or "proxy" mutations

	freq	coef	mall		$m_{< k_{med}}$		$m_{\geq k_{med}}$		Log-rank test (p-value)		Welsh t-test (p-value)	
			raw	NetNorM	raw	NetNorM	raw	NetNorM	raw	NetNorM	raw	NetNorM
TP53	19	-0.16	238	274	123	159	115	115	7.6×10^{-2}	9.4×10^{-2}	5.2×10^{-22}	1.2×10^{-13}
CRB1	18	-0.4	44	38	22	22	22	16	1.6×10^{-4}	1.4×10^{-6}	9.9×10^{-4}	6.9×10^{-2}
NOTCH4	17	-0.23	42	26	14	14	28	12	9.3×10^{-1}	3.3×10^{-2}	1.9×10^{-6}	2.6×10^{-1}
ANK2	17	0.1	90	90	33	33	57	57	1.2×10^{-2}	1.2×10^{-2}	6.3×10^{-10}	6.3×10^{-10}
RPS9	16	0.38	0	106	0	106	0	0	-	1.8×10^{-1}	-	4.2×10^{-47}
LAMA2	15	0.16	52	38	14	15	38	23	1.5×10^{-2}	2.3×10^{-2}	6.3×10^{-9}	2.6×10^{-3}
RYR2	14	0.07	165	161	70	70	95	91	1.4×10^{-2}	2.1×10^{-2}	6.7×10^{-19}	1×10^{-15}
IGF2BP2	14	-0.15	6	67	2	63	4	4	1.4×10^{-5}	3.6×10^{-3}	1×10^{-1}	6.8×10^{-7}
SMARCA5	14	-0.09	5	137	1	133	4	4	2.1×10^{-1}	5.3×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-1}	1×10^{-27}
KHDRBS1	13	0.11	7	117	2	112	5	5	7.1×10^{-1}	9.7×10^{-1}	6.5×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-18}
YWHAZ	13	-0.18	2	241	0	239	2	2	2.5×10^{-31}	6.1×10^{-4}	4.7×10^{-1}	4.4×10^{-37}
HRNR	13	-0.12	62	64	20	22	42	42	1.1×10^{-1}	1.1×10^{-1}	6×10^{-10}	2.9×10^{-9}
CSNK2A2	11	0.06	2	129	1	128	1	1	9×10^{-1}	8.8×10^{-1}	$5.9 imes 10^{-1}$	4.2×10^{-27}
MED12L	11	0.04	27	27	8	8	19	19	5.5×10^{-2}	5.5×10^{-2}	1.7×10^{-4}	1.7×10^{-4}

- 14 genes are selected at least 50% of the time
- 6/14 are "proxy" genes (in blue)
 - big hubs in the network
 - get mutated by NetNorm in patients with few mutations \implies they encode the mutation rate
- 8/14 are "normal" prognostic genes

Proxy mutations encode local mutational burden



KHDRBS1: a member of the K homology domain-containing, RNA-binding, signal transduction-associated protein family

Learning from gene expression data





Conclusion



- Many new exciting problems and lots of data in computational genomics and precision medicine
- *n* << *p* problem requires dedicated methods
 - new representations $x \to \Phi(x)$
 - new learning techniques (structured sparsity, regularization, ...)
- Some problems seem inherently complicated
- Big data analytics will help, but is certainly not a magic bullet



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