

Bioconductor Workshop Using R for Genome-Wide Analyses

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Introduction



- Assistant Prof, UW Biostat
- Currently veRy busy with Genome-Wide Studies
- Chair, Analyis Committee, for the CHARGE Consortium

My experience with R is as a (frequent) user – much of today's material is from a short course I teach with Thomas Lumley.

http://faculty.washington.edu/kenrice/sisg

Motivation



- Learning about diseases via genomics the 'first pass' is to do millions of e.g. case-control tests
- How to do this quickly? accurately? for free?

BBC NEWS	The News in 2 minutes				
News Front Page	Last Updated: Wednesday, 6 June 2007, 17:00 GMT 18:00 UK				
	🔤 E-mail this to a friend	昌 Printable version			
- \$ 75	Serious diseases genes revealed				
Africa	A major advance in				
Americas	understanding the genetics behind several of the world's				
Asia-Pacific	most common diseases has				
Europe	been reported.				
Middle East					
South Asia	The landmark Wellcome Trust				
UK Business	study analysed DNA from the				
Health	blood of 17,000 people to find genetic differences.				
Medical notes	genetic unterences.	DNA from thousands of people was			
Science/Nature	They found new genetic	analysed			
Technology	variants for depression, Crohn's disease, coronary heart disease, hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis and type 1 and 2 diabetes.				
Entertainment					
Also in the news	ulabeles.				
	The remarkable findings, published in Nature, have been hailed as a new chapter in medical science.				

BBC NEWS	Deen The News in 2 minutes				
News Front Page	Last Updated: Thursday, 12 April 2007, 18:10 GMT 19:10 UK E-mail this to a friend E-mail this to a friend Clear obesity gene link 'found'				
Africa Americas Asia-Pacific	Scientists say they have identified the clearest genetic link to obesity yet.				
Europe Middle East South Asia UK Business	They found people with two copies of a "fat" version of a gene had a 70% higher risk of obesity than those with none, and weighed 3kg (6.5lb) more.				
Health Medical notes Science/Nature Technology	The work in Science by the Peninsula Medical School and Oxford University studied data f	Scientists have found a clear genetic link to obesity rom about 40,000 people.			
Entertainment Also in the news	The findings suggest that although improving lifestyle is key to reducing obesity, some people may find it harder to lose weight because of their genes.				
	Half of white Europeans carry one copy of the variant and one in six has two copies, experts estimate.	66 The typical message has been that if you are overweight it is due to sloth and gluttony and it is your fault			





Still a competitive area...

Also in the news



The genes sit right next to DNA controlling height and weight.

SPL

Still a competitive area...



Zany Science

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Reveal your Stars for 2009 nowIn this Astrologer's Free Horoscope

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London, May 11, 2009

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Scientists from Massachusetts General Hospital claim that they have identified eight genetic variants associated with hypertension.

The research team, as a part of Global Blood Pressure Genetics (Global BPgen) study group, analysed the genome of 130,000 individuals from around the world.

Still a competitive area...

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Gene tests 'create undue stress'

Gene tests to predict a person's future risk of life-threatening disease may be damaging to health by causing unnecessary stress, an expert claims.

Professor Nilesh Samani, British Heart Foundation chair of cardiology, says the tests are too inaccurate to help the individual.



Chromosomes house our DNA

Someone deemed high risk for a disease based on their gene test may never go on to develop the condition.

Before analysis gets started, the gigabytes of data we have must be 'cleaned'

- Mismatches discovered (Sex, Ancestry)
- Family structure discovered (e.g. Sibs, 'Kinship Coefficient')
- Dumping SNPs with 'high' missing rates (e.g. \leq 99% complete)

As we require $p < 10^{\text{exciting}}$ in tests, even minor flaws cause headaches, by the 1000. (But we have e.g. 2.5 million tests to do)

Most of the cleaning is straightforward; compute, say the MLE for kinship. But, done carelessly, it can be **slow**.

Data Cleaning: HWE test

Does your SNP data look like this?

Genotype
$$\begin{vmatrix} AA & Aa & aa \\ Proportion \end{vmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} (1-p)^2 & 2p(1-p) & p^2 \end{vmatrix}$$



- We don't *believe* Hardy-Weinberg holds exactly
- But it's v v unlikely we are *miles* from HWE. The HWE test is good at spotting mis-calls, in ancestry-specific groups
- The approximate test is okay. The exact test is preferred...

Data Cleaning: HWE test

The hwde package has the hwexact() function. This is okay (and we use it, basically) but will be slow with large datasets. It uses (smart) ennumeration of all the possible datasets for n subjects. It can be improved by

- Stopping calculating when you're sure that e.g. p > 0.1. As we're doing something like 10^6 tests, $p \ge 10^{-4}$ (or so) are not worth getting out of bed for although you'll have to truncate plots, etc.
- If you're sure of n, construct a lookup table, and use that.
- Doing the (quick) approximate test, and only looking at $\tilde{p} \leq$ 0.1 for the full works.
- Coding the hard stuff in C, not R

A brief reminder/introduction:



Data from 2 SNPs (box size indicates count)

Genotype 1

A brief reminder/introduction:



A brief reminder/introduction:



Genotype 1

A brief reminder/introduction:



Genotype 2

We see that;

•
$$\hat{\beta} = \frac{\text{Cov}(G_1, G_2)}{\text{Var}(G_1)}$$
 but $\rho = \frac{\text{Cov}(G_1, G_2)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(G_1)\text{Var}(G_2)}}$ ($\hat{\rho}$, formally)

- $r^2 = \rho^2$ doesn't care about a/A or b/B designation but **you** probably do
- ρ (and ρ^2) doesn't care about 0/1/2 vs 1/2/3 but often'0'=missing, so be careful
- ρ^2 doesn't care if you switch the G_1, G_2 labels

We'd like to check our r^2 match the HapMap (roughly)

Given documentation, computing r^2 for 2 SNPs' data should not be hard. Computing it for many SNPs probably doesn't *look* hard, if you have R experience.

For some example data, consider LD of 9000 Chr 1 SNPs in the AMD dataset (see the site). $\binom{9202}{2} = 42.3$ million pairs (eek!). There are numerous **very bad** ways to do this job!

The challenges are;

- 1. To do calculations quickly (hard)
- 2. Not to bother with unnecessary ones (easier) we'll drop all SNPs with minor allele frequency ≤ 0.05

AMD Chr 1, all SNPs



minor allele frequency

This filters out 2048 SNPs, leaving 7154. $\binom{7154}{2}$ =25.6M

We'll go through some 'traditional' improvements to code; here's a first attempt;

```
r2.out <- matrix(NA, 7154, 7154)
for( i in 1:7154 ){
   for( j in 1:7154 ){
      r2.out[i,j] <- cor(amd[i,], amd[j,])^2
}}</pre>
```

... clearly we can be smarter than this.

Recall that r^2 didn't care if we 'switched the axes' \Rightarrow only compute r_{ij}^2 if i>j

```
for( i in 1:7154 ){
    for( j in i:7154 ){
        r2.out[i,j] <- cor(amd[i,], amd[j,])^2
}}</pre>
```

This saves a factor of two

'Note' that every SNP has $r^2 = 1$ with itself

```
\Rightarrow don't compute r_{ij}^2 if i = j
```

```
for( i in 1:(7154-1) ){
    for( j in (i+1):7154 ){
        r2.out[i,j] <- cor(amd[i,], amd[j,])^2
}}</pre>
```

This is a very minor saving

At the moment, our code doesn't do anything special with NAs;

```
> cor( c(1,3,5,NA), c(-2,5,0,6) )
[1] NA
```

'Default' use of cor() would be a bit wasteful. There are only 6432 AMD SNPs with complete data, and the rest typically have only a few NAs

- \Rightarrow we *can* get some useful estimate of r^2 from the subjects with data from SNP i **and** j
- ... afterwards, need to watch out for 'weirdness' due to this decision

cor() can do the complete-cases analysis, if we supply option use="complete.obs". (See the help file for details; if **all** missing this gives an error)

```
for( i in 1:(7154-1) ){
  for( j in (i+1):7154 ){
    r2.out[i,j] <- cor(amd[i,], amd[j,], use="complete.obs")^2
}}</pre>
```

For more general GWAS work, learn how to use tryCatch() - Murphy's Law applies. Also e.g. system.time()

Let's try the code. For an estimate of runtime;

```
system.time({
for( i in 1:(1000-1) ){
    for( j in (i+1):1000 ){
        r2.out[i,j] <- cor(amd[i,], amd[j,], use="complete.obs")
}}
</pre>
```

This does $\binom{1000}{2}$ =0.5M pairs, and takes ~ 3 minutes.

The full works; (took 2.5 hours on my desktop)

```
for( i in 1:(7154-1) ){
   for( j in (i+1):7154 ){
      r2.out[i,j] <- cor(amd[i,], amd[j,], use="complete.obs")
}}
Warning messages:
1: In cor(amd[i, ], amd[j, ], use = "complete.obs") :
   the standard deviation is zero</pre>
```

Ooops. This is worrying; is it fatal?

... is it fatal?

No – it's only a warning. Supplying cor() with data where e.g. $G_1 = aa$ for everyone leads to this warning, and NA as the output (see the documentation)

- NA as output **does** make sense here
- Defaults options are sensible, so don't panic too soon
- Recall we filtered MAF<0.05. The weirdness could happen when the missingness in G_2 leads to effective MAF=0 for G_1 .
- *Perhaps* all genotypes=*Aa* (HWE filters would catch this)
- Catching all potential errors is *really* hard really robust code is required

2.5 hours (optimized!) is pretty rubbish. How to do massively better?

- The cor() function calls C. **If you feed it a matrix**, it calls C to give you the correlations of all pairs of columns
- This gets all the data (and for() 'administration') into C, not R (and is therefore faster)
- Doing this in 10^{-5} seconds not 10^{-3} is beneficial multiply by 10^{6} to see this!

r2.matrix.quick <- cor(t(amd), use="pairwise.complete.obs")^2</pre>

- 2 minutes on my desktop (!)
- The admin/data reading **was** the bottleneck and we optimized it
- This holds much more generally in GWAS (where 'vectorized' C code is not available for every job)
- Caveats about NAs and 'weirdness' still apply
- With more SNPs/people, may need to split Chromosomes into chunks, to get everything in memory

(In a class of genetics-oriented students, none of them spotted this trick. It *is* in the help files, but isn't obvious. In non-GWAS work I'd never mention it to them)

To finish off, it would be nice to have a plot of r^2 versus inter-SNP distance (pos[j]-pos[i] in AMD)

A couple of ideas to help this along;

- Produce the plot in PNG format with the png() command.
 A PDF would be nice, but would have to keep track of 25.6M points, making it a massive file.
- Add points to the plot in groups. Making a new vector of 25.6M inter-SNP distances needlessly uses up a huge amount of memory in your R session

```
png("r2plot.png", w=6*600, h=4*600, pointsize=12*600/72)
#set up the plot, with fancy axis labels;
plot(0, type="n", xlim=c(0,2.5E8), ylim=c(0,1),
    xlab=expression(Delta(plain(position))), ylab=expression(r^2) )
```

```
#add the points, one SNP at a time;
for(i in 1:(7154-1)){
    points( amd$pos[(i+1):7154]-amd$pos[i], r2.out[i,(i+1):7154] )
}
dev.off()
```

The output is clunky-but-okay;

Plotting r^2 against inter-SNP distance;



Plotting r^2 against inter-SNP distance; (zoom)



Large data

"R is well known to be unable to handle large data sets."

Solutions:

- Get a bigger computer: Linux computer with 16Gb memory for <\$2500
- Don't load all the data at once (methods from the mainframe days).

Large data: storage formats

R has two convenient data formats for large data sets

- For ordinary large data sets, the RSQLite package provides storage using the SQLite relational database.
- For very large 'array-structured' data sets such as wholegenome SNP chips, the ncdf package provides storage using the netCDF data format.
Large data: netCDF



netCDF was designed by the NSF-funded UCAR consortium, who also manage the National netCDF Center for Atmospheric Research.

Atmospheric data are often array-oriented: eg temperature, humidity, wind speed on a regular grid of (x, y, z, t).

Need to be able to select 'rectangles' of data - eg range of (x, y, z) on a particular day t.

Because the data are on a regular grid, the software can work out where to look on disk without reading the whole file: efficient data access.

Large data: how big are GWAS?

Array oriented data (position on genome, sample number) for genotypes, probe intensities.

Potentially very large data sets:

```
2,000 people \times 300,000 = tens of Gb
```

16,000 people \times 1,000,000 SNPs = hundreds of Gb.

Even worse after imputation to 2,500,000 SNPs.

R can't handle a matrix with more than $2^{31} - 1 \approx 2$ billion entries even if your computer has memory for it. Even data for one chromosome may be too big.

Large data: using netCDF

With the ncdf package:

open.ncdf() opens a netCDF file and returns a connection to the file (rather than loading the data)

get.var.ncdf() retrieves all or part of a variable.

close.ncdf() closes the connection to the file.

Large data: using netCDF

Variables can use one or more array dimensions of a file



	Chromosome					
--	------------	--	--	--	--	--

Large data: example

Finding long homozygous runs (possible deletions)

```
library("ncdf")
nc <- open.ncdf("hapmap.nc")</pre>
```

```
## read all of chromosome variable
chromosome <- get.var.ncdf(nc, "chr", start=1, count=-1)
## set up list for results
runs<-vector("list", nsamples)</pre>
```

```
for(i in 1:nsamples){
    ## read all genotypes for one person
    genotypes <- get.var.ncdf(nc, "geno", start=c(1,i),count=c(-1,1))
    ## zero for htzygous, chrm number for hmzygous
    hmzygous <- genotypes != 1
    hmzygous <- as.vector(hmzygous*chromosome)</pre>
```

```
## consecutive runs of same value
r <- rle(hmzygous)
begin <- cumsum(r$lengths)
end <- cumsum(c(1, r$lengths))
long <- which ( r$lengths > 250 & r$values !=0)
runs[[i]] <- cbind(begin[long], end[long], r$lengths[long])</pre>
```

```
close.ncdf(nc)
```

Notes

}

- chr uses only the 'SNP' dimension, so start and count are single numbers
- geno uses both SNP and sample dimensions, so start and count have two entries.
- rle compresses runs of the same value to a single entry.

Large data: making netCDF files

Creating files is more complicated

- Define dimensions
- Define variables and specify which dimensions they use
- Create an empty file
- Write data to the file.

Large data: netCDF 'dimensions'

Specify the name of the dimension, the units, and the allowed values in the dim.def.ncdf function.

One dimension can be 'unlimited', allowing expansion of the file in the future. An unlimited dimension is important, otherwise the maximum variable size is 2Gb.

snpdim<-dim.def.ncdf("position","bases", positions)
sampledim<-dim.def.ncdf("seqnum","count",1:10, unlim=TRUE)</pre>

Large data: netCDF 'variables'

Variables are defined by name, units, and dimensions

Large data: creating files

The file is created by specifying the file name ad a list of variables.

The file is empty when it is created. Data can be written using put.var.ncdf(). Because the whole data set is too large to read, we might read raw data and save to netCDF for one person at a time.

```
for(i in 1:4000){
    geno<-readRawData(i) ## somehow
    put.var.ncdf(genofile, "geno", genc,
        start=c(1,i), count=c(-1,1))
}</pre>
```

Read all SNPs, one sample



Read all samples, one SNP



Read some samples, some SNPs.



Random access is not efficient: eg read probe intensities for all missing genotype calls.



- Association testing: read all data for one SNP at a time
- Computing linkage disequilibrium near a SNP: read all data for a contiguous range of SNPs
- QC for an euploidy: read all data for one individual at a time (and parents or offspring if relevant)
- Population structure and relatedness: read all SNPs for two individuals at a time.

Another example; computing IBS for pairs of a hapmap dataset (some setup skipped)

```
p<-proc.time()</pre>
for(i in 2:nsamples){
  genoi<-get.var.ncdf(hapmap,"genotype",</pre>
                         start=c(1,i),count=c(nsnps,1))[autosomes]
  goodi <- genoi >= 0
  xymat[i,i]<-sum(genoi[goodi]^2)</pre>
  counts[i]<-sum(genoi[goodi])</pre>
  ibs[i,i]<-2
  missed[i]<-nauto-sum(goodi)</pre>
  for(j in 1:i){
      genoj <- get.var.ncdf(hapmap, "genotype", start=c(1, j), count=c(nsnps, 1)) [autosom
      goodj<-genoj>=0
      good<-goodi & goodj
      xymat[i,j]<-sum(genoi[good]*genoj[good])</pre>
      ibs[i,j]<-sum( (genoi[good]==genoj[good])*2+(genoi[good]==1))/sum(good)</pre>
      xymat[j,i]<-xymat[i,j]</pre>
      ibs[j,i]<-ibs[i,j]</pre>
  }
 if(!(i%%10)) print(c(i,proc.time()-p))
p<-proc.time()}</pre>
```

Plotting the results; (for HapMap – use C for huge studies)



GWAS (and genetics/genomics in general) tends to produce **massive** datasets. On any (standard) plot of e.g. 10,000 points, **many** will overlap

A simple example is the California Academic Performance Index reported from 6194 schools (in the survey package)

- > install.packages("survey")
- > library(survey)
- > data(api)
- > plot(api00~api99,data=apipop) # plain plot



We don't *really* care about the exact location of every single point.

- How **many** points in one 'vicinity' compared to others?
- Any 'outliers' far from all other data points?

In one dimension, histograms answer these questions by **binning** the data









Now with hexbin; recall we download from Bioconductor, not CRAN

- > biocLite("hexbin")
- > library(hexbin)
- > with(apipop, plot(hexbin(api99,api00), style="centroids"))



snpMatrix is a Bioconductor package for GWAS analysis maintained by David Clayton (analysis lead on Wellcome Trust)

```
biocLite("snpMatrix")
library(snpMatrix)
data(for.exercise)
```

A 'little' case-control dataset (Chr 10) based on HapMap – three objects; snp.support, subject.support and snps.10

> summary(snp	.support)		
chromosome	position	A1	A2
Min. :10	Min. : 101955	A:14019	C: 2349
1st Qu.:10	1st Qu.: 28981867	C:12166	G:12254
Median :10	Median : 67409719	G: 2316	T:13898
Mean :10	Mean : 66874497		
3rd Qu.:10	3rd Qu.:101966491		
Max. :10	Max. :135323432		
> summary(sub	ject.support)		
сс	stratum		
Min. :0.0	CEU :494		
1st Qu.:0.0	JPT+CHB:506		
Median :0.5			
Mean :0.5			
3rd Qu.:1.0			
Max. :1.0			

```
> show(snps.10) # show() is generic
A snp.matrix with 1000 rows and 28501 columns
Row names: jpt.869 ... ceu.464
Col names: rs7909677 ... rs12218790
> summary(snps.10)
$rows
  Call.rate
                Heterozygosity
Min. :0.9879
                       :0.0000
                Min.
Median :0.9900 Median :0.3078
Mean :0.9900 Mean
                       :0.3074
Max. :0.9919 Max. :0.3386
$cols
    Calls
                Call.rate
                                  MAF
                                                 P.AA
Min.
       : 975
              Min.
                     :0.975 Min.
                                    :0.0000 Min.
                                                   :0.00000
Median : 990
              Median :0.990 Median :0.2315 Median :0.26876
Mean
       : 990
              Mean
                     :0.990 Mean
                                    :0.2424 Mean
                                                   :0.34617
Max.
       :1000
              Max.
                     :1.000
                             Max.
                                    :0.5000
                                             Max.
                                                   :1.00000
     P.AB
                     P.BB
                                    z.HWE
Min.
       :0.0000 Min.
                       :0.00000
                                 Min.
                                       :-21.9725
Median :0.3198 Median :0.27492
                                Median : -1.1910
Mean :0.3074 Mean :0.34647
                                Mean : -1.8610
Max. :0.5504 Max. :1.00000
                                 Max.
                                          3.7085
                                       :
                                 NA's :
                                          4.0000
```

- 28501 SNPs, all with Allele 1, Allele 2
- 1000 subjects, 500 controls (cc=0) and 500 cases (cc=1)
- Far too much data for a regular summary() of snps.10 even in this small example

We'll use just the column summaries, and a (mildly) 'clean' subset;

```
> snpsum <- col.summary(snps.10)
> use <- with(snpsum, MAF > 0.01 & z.HWE<sup>2</sup> < 200)
> table(use)
use
FALSE TRUE
317 28184
```

Now do single-SNP tests for each SNP, and extract the p-value for each SNP, along with its location;

```
tests <- single.snp.tests(cc, data = subject.support,
+ snp.data = snps.10)
```

pos.use <- snp.support\$position[use]
p.use <- p.value(tests, df=1)[use]</pre>

We'd usually give a table of 'top hits,' but...

plot(hexbin(pos.use, -log10(p.use), xbin = 50))



qq.chisq(chi.squared(tests, df=1)[use], df=1)



QQ plot

Expected distribution: chi–squared (1 df)

```
tests2 <- single.snp.tests(cc, stratum, data = subject.support,
+ snp.data = snps.10)
qq.chisq(chi.squared(tests2, 1)[use], 1)
```



QQ plot

Expected distribution: chi–squared (1 df)

snpMatrix makes use of clever storage of 0/1/2 data, as well as quick implementation of the limited analysis jobs we often want to do in GWAS

- Recently updated to permit 'imputed dosages', which are $\in [0,2]$
- Doesn't do the full range of regressions we may want lm(), glm(), coxph().
- Even with clever data storage, we'll run out of memory eventually – hence, in the GWAS I work on, we use netCDF and write our own code

Other packages – GenABEL

Yurii Aulchenko (one of my CHARGE co-authors) wrote the GenABEL package, which is on CRAN and here;

http://mga.bionet.nsc.ru/~yurii/ABEL/

It's very similar to snpMatrix – several CHARGE groups like it.

- Greater regression flexibility
- Comes with meta-analysis functions which are part of life, in GWAS
- Also code for IBS, and computing principal components of SNP data (we use C to do this – and grad students)
- Lots of documentation/examples

Some things I am not so keen on;

- Still not as much regression flexibility as I'd like! (Yurii isn't an adopter of 'robust' standard errors...)
- I don't know how it treats e.g. non-convergence of coxph(). In practice, I want to know this
- ... it seems curmudgeonly, but I'm not a huge fan of 'packaging' basic commands stuck inside bigs loops. The learning-curve induced by all the weird things regression *can* do is very valuable – I want *someone* on each GWAS project to know that stuff

Other R-centric software

Expect to run into this;



http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/~purcell/plink/

Other R-centric software

- PLINK (one syllable) handles the methods we've been talking about
- Latest version accepts R code! So you can e.g. persuade it to use coxph()
- gPLINK (two?) is a GUI interface to the command-line version
- Also does other jobs, including imputation (though concensus is that other methods are better, e.g. MACH, BIMBAM, IMPUTE, Beagle)

Dangerously pointy-clicky for my taste! I want people to think about e.g. patterns of missingess. No-one's intuition is great at $p < 10^{-\text{exciting}}$; are you sure of what you're getting?

Also, for some innocuous jobs, it'll do quirky things, e.g. for kinship coefficients there's a hidden (!) Hidden Markov Model

Other R-centric software

This is a 'regional association plot'



http://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/snap/

No GWAS paper is complete without one!

- Original R code is (was?) available on Paul deBakker's website (Harvard)
- You could hack together your own quickly it's p-value versus SNP location, with some funky colors/symbols (Getting the recombination rate data would be a hassle)
- These days, we use the SNAP site for identifying nearby genes, this is fine. (For genome-wide inference you want a QQ plot – Manhattan plots are for 'sales pitches')