A suite of R packages for the analysis of DNA copy number microarray experiments Application in cancerology

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The R User Conference 2009
Rennes









Outline

Biological / clinical context

R packages description

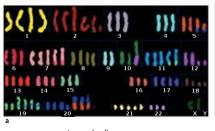
End-user interfaces / automatic workflow

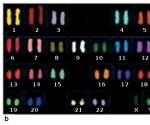
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DNA copy number alteration in tumour





tumoral cell

normal cell

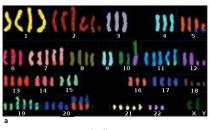
Chaos in cancer cells

gain, loss or amplification of chromosomes or pieces of chromosomes.

Molecular profiling of tumours

- Identification of DNA copy number alterations in each patient
- Is the pattern of alterations is related to patient outcome (e.g. relapse, metastasis)?

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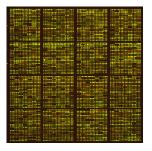
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High-throughput quantification of DNA copy number

Microarray technology

- DNA copy number for 5×10^3 up to 2×10^6 genomic loci
- Probes spotted on a glass array (i.e. the microarray)



microarray



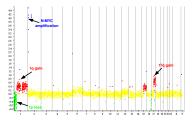
Colour study: squares with concentric circles

Wassily Kandinsky, 1913

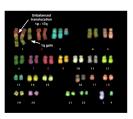
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DNA copy number profile of the tumour

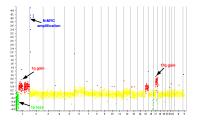


Karyotype of the tumour

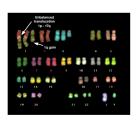
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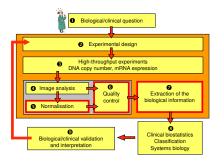


Karyotype of the tumour

Huge amount of data ($\sim 2 \times 10^6$ variables for each patient)

Need for biostatistical algorithms and automatic bioinformatic pipelines

Biostatistical workflow



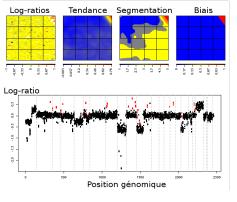
R packages available from www.bioconductor.org

- MANOR: spatial normalisation
- GLAD: extraction of the biological information
- ITALICS: normalisation + extraction of the biological information

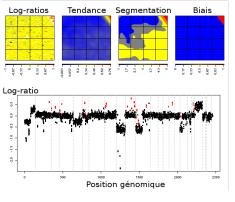
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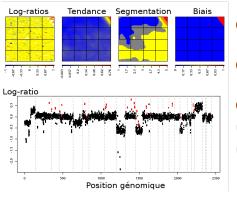
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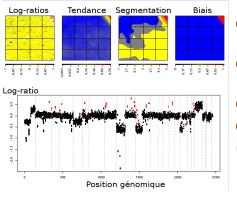
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- Spatial trend estimation by 2D-LOESS
- Spatial segmentation
- Bias area are removed
 - Spots are outliers in the genomic profile



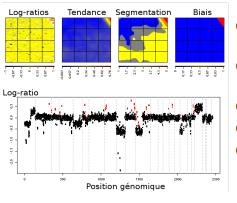
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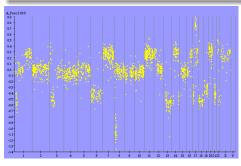


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Hupé et al., Bioinformatics, 2004

Profile segmentation

 The GLAD algorithm aims at identifying chromosomal regions with identical DNA copy number.



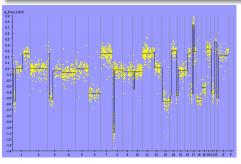
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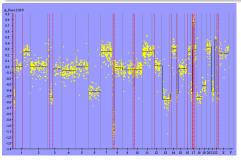
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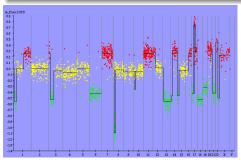
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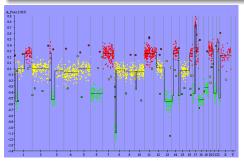
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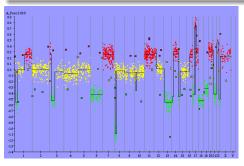
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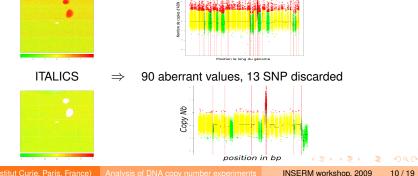
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ITALICS: ITerative and Alternative normaLization of Copy number Snp array Rigaill et al., Bioinformatics, 2008

Devoted to the analysis of Affymetrix Genome-Wide SNP chip

- the specificities of the affymetrix technology are taken into account in the algorithm
- the signal to noise ratio is better
- the breakpoint location is more accurate

Spatial artifact



1600 aberrant values

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Biologist / Clinician end-users

- need to visualise their data
- biological interpretation of their data
- not necessarly familiar with R programing language
- no biostatistician/bioinformatician in their lab
- need easy-to-use interfaces

Diffusion of statistical methods within the scientific community If we want our statistical methods to be used, we need to package them properly.

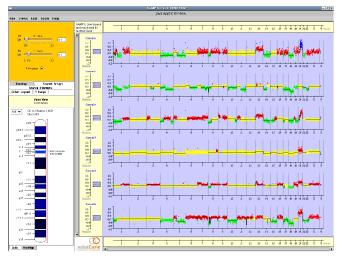
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VAMP: a software to visualise and analyse data

La Rosa et al., Bioinformatics, 2006



http://bioinfo.curie.fr/vamp

Our tools fo DNA copy number experiments

- R packages (MANOR, GLAD, ITALICS) for biostatistical analysis
- VAMP java software for visualisation (and analysis)

Need for an integrated environment

CAPweb is a web interface which allows the use of all the previous tools.

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- project management
- Feature Extraction, CEL
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- summary report
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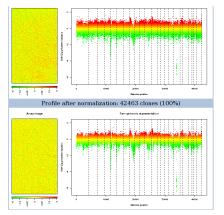
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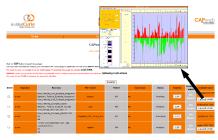
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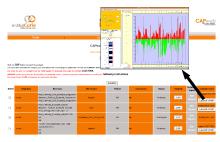
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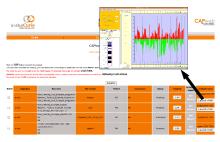
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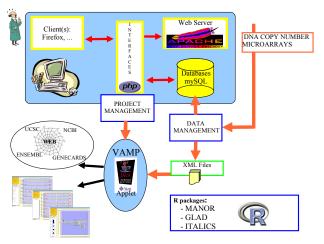
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Client / Server Architecture



Our R packages are used calling CGI from any web browser

Recent evolutions and perspectives

Recent changes

- Possibility to use HaarSeg algorithm (Ben-Yaacov and Eldar, Bioinformatics, 2008) in GLAD → 2 millions genomic profiles can be analysed within 1 minute
- Use C/C++ in order to reduce computing time

On-going work

- Improvement of ITALICS in order to analyse Affymetrix Genome Wide SNP 6.0
- Extension to Next-Generation Sequencing technologies (Terabytes of data!!)

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THANKS

