

Microarray Informatics

Donald Dunbar
MSc Seminar
3rd February 2010

Aims

- To give a biologist's view of microarray experiments
- To explain some technologies involved
- To describe typical microarray experiments
- To show how to get the most from an experiment
- To show where the field is going

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Introduction

- Part 1
 - Microarrays in biological research
 - A typical microarray experiment
 - Experiment design, data pre-processing
- Part 2
 - Data analysis and mining
 - Microarray standards and resources
 - Recent advances

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Microarray Informatics

Part 1

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Biological research

- Using a wide range of experimental and computational methods to answer biological questions
- Genetics, physiology, molecular biology...
- Biology and informatics → bioinformatics
- Genomic revolution
- What can we measure?

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The central dogma

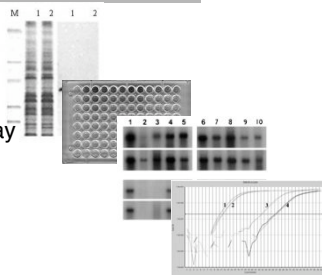
30k Gene: DNA
90k Transcript: mRNA
100+k Protein

kinase, protease, structural receptor, ion channel...

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Measuring RNA and proteins

- Proteins
 - Western blot
 - ELISA
 - Enzyme assay
- mRNA
 - Northern blot
 - RT-PCR



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Measuring RNA and proteins

- Protein levels/activities would be best
 - no real high throughput method
- mRNA levels will have to do
 - genome-wide physical microarrays
 - other 'array-like' technologies
 - sequencing (see later)

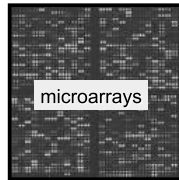
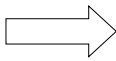


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Measuring transcripts

- Genome level sequencing
- New miniaturisation technologies
- Better bioinformatics

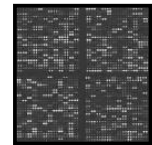


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Microarrays: wish list

- Include all genes in the genome
- Include all splice variants
- Give reliable estimates of expression
- Easy to analyse
 - bioinformatics tools available
- Cost effective



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Microarray technologies - 1



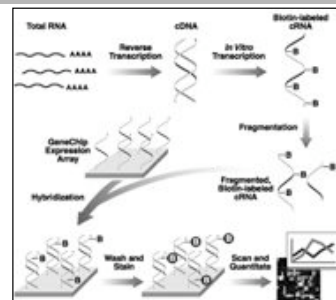
- Oligonucleotides - Affymetrix
- One chip all genes
- Chips for many species
- Several oligos per transcript
- Use of control, mismatch sequences
- One sample per chip
 - 'absolute quantification'
- Well established in research
- Expensive



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Microarray technologies - 1



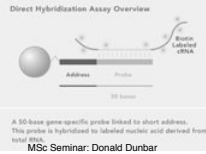
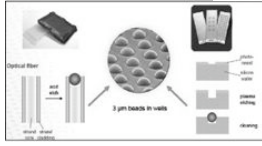
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Microarray technologies - 2

illumina

- Illumina BeadChip
- Oligos on beads
- Hybridise in wells
- Compared to Affy
 - Higher throughput
 - Less RNA needed
 - Cheaper



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Problems with microarrays

- The gene might not be on the chip
- Can't differentiate splice variants
- The gene might be below detection limit
- Can't differentiate RNA synthesis and degradation
- Can't tell us about post translational events
- Bioinformatics can be difficult
- Relatively expensive

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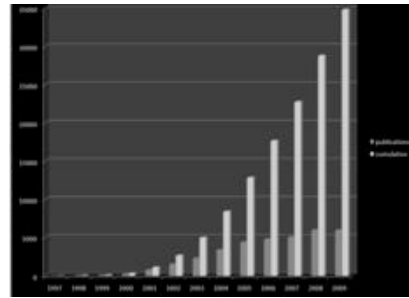
History of Microarrays

- Developed in early 1990s after larger macro-arrays (100-1000 genes)
- Microarrays were spotted on glass slides
- Labs spotted their own (Southern, Brown)
- Then companies started (Affymetrix, Agilent)
- Some early papers:
 - *Nature* 1993 364(6437): 555-6 Multiplexed biochemical assays with biological chips. Fodor SP, et al
 - *Science* 1995 Oct 20;270(5235):467-70 Quantitative monitoring of gene expression patterns with a complementary DNA microarray. Schena M, et al

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Microarray publications



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Types of experiment

- Usually **control** v **test(s)**

Placebo

Wild-type

Healthy

Normal tissue

Time = 0

Drug treatment Drug 2...

Knockout

Patient

Cancerous tissue

Time = 1 Time = 2...

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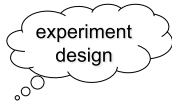
Types of experiment

- Usually **control** v **test(s)**
- But also **test** v **test(s)**
- Comparison:
 - placebo v drug treatment
 - drug 1 v drug 2
 - tissue 1 v tissue 2 v tissue 3 (pairwise)
 - time 0 v time 1, time 0 v time 2, time 0 v time 3
 - time 0 v time 1, time 1 v time 2, time 2 v time 3

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A typical experiment



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Experiment design: system

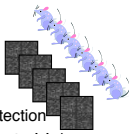
- What is your model?
 - animal, cell, tissue, drug, time...
- What comparison? 
- What platform?
 - microarray? oligo, cDNA? 
- Record all information: see "standards"

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Experiment design: replicates

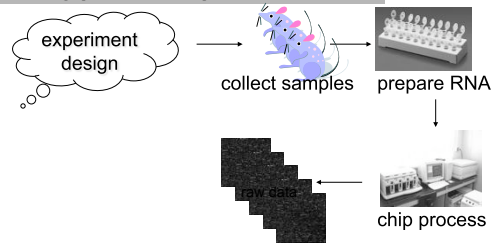
- Microarrays are noisy: need extra confidence in the measurements
- We usually don't want to know about a specific individual
 - eg not an individual mouse, but the strain
 - although sometimes we do (eg people)
- Biological replicates needed
 - independent biological samples
 - number depends on variability and required detection
- Technical replicates (same sample, different chip) usually not needed



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A typical experiment



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Raw data

- Affymetrix GeneChip process generates:
 - DAT image file
 - CEL raw data file 
 - CDF chip definition file
- Processing then involves CEL and CDF
- Will use Bioconductor

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Bioconductor (BioC)



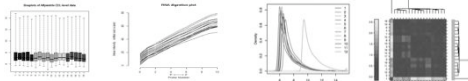
- <http://www.bioconductor.org/>
- "Bioconductor is an open source software project for the analysis and comprehension of genomic data"
- Started 2001, developed by expert volunteers
- Built on statistical programming environment "R"
- Provides a wide range of powerful statistical and graphical tools
- Use BioC for most microarray processing and analysis
- Most platforms now have BioC packages
- Tutorial: manuals.bioinformatics.ucr.edu/home/R_BioCondManual

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Quality control (QC)

- Affymetrix gives data on QC
 - the microarray team will record these for you
 - scaling factor, % present, spiked probes, internal controls
- Bioconductor offers:
 - boxplots and histograms of raw and normalised data
 - RNA degradation plots
 - specialised quality control routines (eg arrayQualityMetrics)



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Pre-processing: background

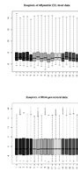
- Signal corresponds to expression...
 - plus a non-specific component (noise)
- Non specific binding of labelled target
- Need to exclude this background
- Several methods exist
 - eg Affy: PM-MM but many complications
 - eg RMA $PM=B+S$ (don't use MM)

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Pre-processing: normalisation

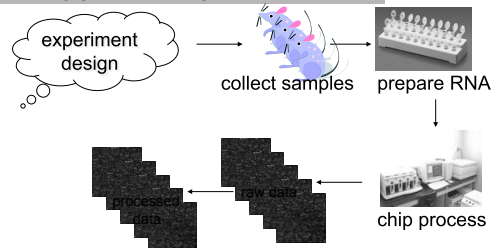
- In addition to background corrections
 - chip, probe, spatial, intra and inter array variation
 - need to remove to get at real expression differences
- Make use of statistics
 - combined with probe set summary: get an expression value for the gene
- But seems to be no dependency on intensity
 - additive and multiplicative errors
- Quantile normalisation often used
- Normalisation is complicated for 2-colour arrays
- Try to reduce most noise at lab stage (ie control things well statistically)



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A typical experiment



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Part 1 Summary

- Microarrays in biological research
- Two types of microarray
- A typical microarray experiment
- Experiment design
- Data pre-processing

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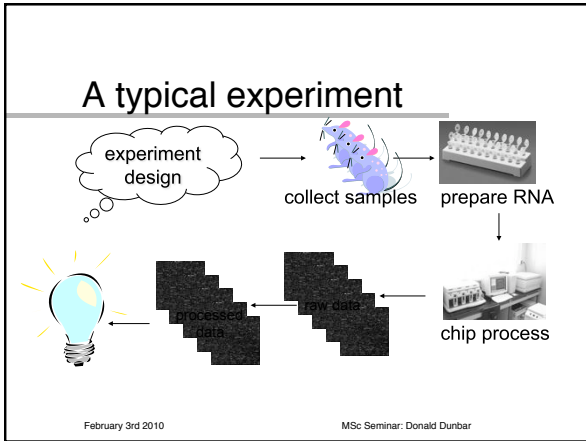
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Part 2

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Data analysis

- Identifying differential expression
- Compare control and test(s)
 - t-test
 - ANOVA
 - SAM (FDR)
 - Limma
 - Rank Products
- Time series

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Multiple testing

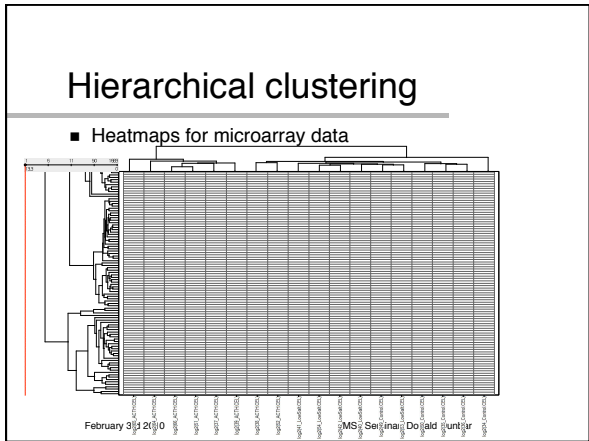
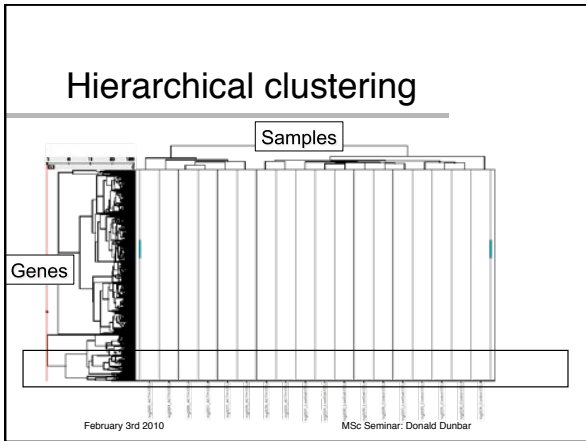
- Problem:
 - statistical testing of 30,000 genes
 - at $\alpha = 0.05 \rightarrow 1500$ genes
- Need to correct this
 - Multiply p-value by number of observations
 - Bonferroni, too conservative
 - False discovery
 - defines a q value: expected false positive rate
 - Less conservative, but higher chance of type I error
 - Benjamini and Hochberg
- Then regard genes as differentially expressed
- Depends on follow-up procedure!

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Hierarchical clustering

- Look for structure within dataset
 - similarities between genes
- Compare gene expression profiles
 - Euclidian distance
 - Correlation
 - Cosine correlation
- Calculate with distance matrix
 - Combine closest, recalculate, combine closest... (or split!)
- Draw dendrogram and heatmap

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Hierarchical clustering

- Predicting association of known and novel genes
- Class discovery in samples: new subtypes
- Visualising structure in data (sample outliers)
- Classifying groups of genes
- Identifying trends and rhythms in gene expression
- Caveat: you will always see clusters, even when they are not particularly meaningful (nb Ian Simpson)

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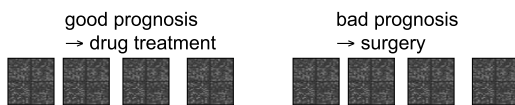
Sample classification

- Supervised or non-supervised
- Non-supervised
 - like hierarchical clustering of samples
- Supervised
 - have training (known) and test (unknown) datasets
 - use training sets to define robust classifier
 - apply to test set to classify new samples

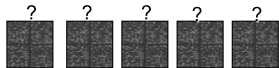
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Sample classification



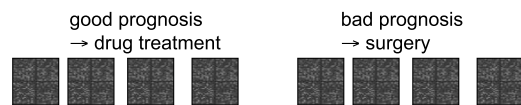
Gene selection, training, cross validation →
classifier: gene x * 0.5 gene y * 0.25 gene z ...



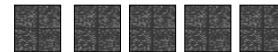
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Sample classification



Apply classifier



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Sample classification

- Class prediction for new samples
 - cancer prognosis
 - pharmacogenomics (predict drug efficacy)
- Need to watch for overfitting
 - using too much of the data to classify
 - classifier loses specificity

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Annotation

- Big problem for microarrays
- Genome-wide chips need genome-wide annotation
- Good bioinformatics essential
 - use several resources (Affymetrix, Ensembl)
 - keep up to date (as annotation changes)
 - genes have many attributes
 - name, symbol, gene ontology, pathway...

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Data-mining

Microarrays are a waste of time
...unless you do something with the data

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Data-mining

- Once data are statistically analysed:
 - pull out genes of interest
 - pull out pathways of interest
 - mine data based on annotation
 - what are the expression patterns of these genes
 - what are the expression patterns in this pathway
 - mine genes based on expression pattern
 - what types of genes are up-regulated ...
 - fold change, p-value, expression level, correlation
- Should be driven by the biological question

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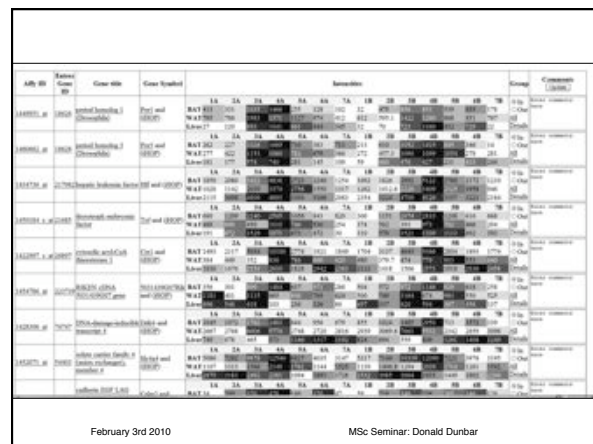
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A screenshot of a web application interface for analyzing gene expression data. It features several sections: 'Annotation Queries' with fields for Affixion ID, Gene ID, Gene Title, Gene Symbol, Gene Ontology Term, Pathway, and Classification; 'Expression matrices and statistics' with a table for BAT matrix (BAT max + min, WAT max + min, Liver max + min); 'Correlation with elevation gene profiles' with a 'Which gene?' field and a 'Rank list' field; and 'Order' and 'Submit Query' buttons. A table at the bottom shows gene expression data for BAT, WAT, and Liver across seven samples.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BAT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
WAT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Liver	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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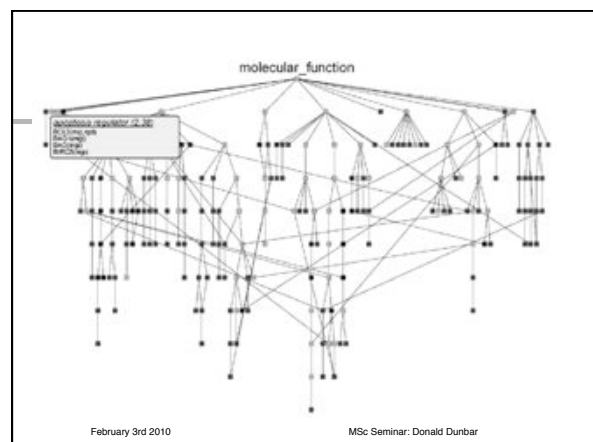
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A screenshot of a detailed information page for gene 1449851_at. It includes 'Statistical Data for Post' with fields for Affixion ID, Gene ID, Gene Title, Gene Symbol, Gene Ontology Term, Pathway, and Classification. It also shows 'Expression Data for Post' with a table of expression values for WAT and Liver across seven samples. The table shows that WAT expression is significantly higher than Liver expression in most samples.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WAT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Liver	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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Microarray Resources

- Microarray data repositories
 - Array express (EBI, UK) 
 - Gene Expression Omnibus (NCBI, USA)  Gene Expression Omnibus
 - CIBEX (Japan) 
- Annotation
 - NetAffx, Ensembl, TIGR, Stanford...

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Microarray Standards

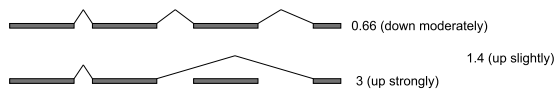
- MIAME
 - Minimum annotation about a microarray experiment
 - Comprehensive description of experiment
 - Models experiments well, and allows replication
 - chips, samples, treatments, settings, comparisons
 - Required for most publications now
- MAGE-ML
 - Microarray gene expression markup language
 - Describes experiment (MIAME) and data
 - Tools available for processing

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Recent advances: Exon chips

- Affymetrix now have chips that allow us to measure expression of splice variants



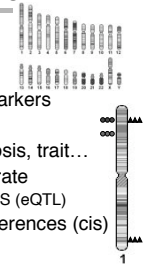
New chips will give us much more information

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Recent advances: Genotyping chips

- All discussion on EXPRESSION chips
- Also can get chips looking at genotype
- Tell us the sequence for genome-wide markers
- Test 300,000 markers with one chip
- Look for association with disease, prognosis, trait...
- Combined with expression chips to generate
 - EXPRESSION QUANTITATIVE TRAIT LOCUS (eQTL)
 - Overlap of expression and genetic differences (cis)
 - Correlation at different locus (trans)



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Next Generation Sequencing

- Sequence rather than hybridisation
- Gene expression, genotyping, epigenetics
- New technologies: much cheaper than before
- Gene expression, genotyping, epigenetics
- Open ended (no previous knowledge required)
- Will take over in 2 years: the end of microarrays?

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Part 2 Summary

- Data analysis
- Data Mining
- Microarray Resources
- Microarray Standards
- Recent & future advances

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Seminar Summary

- Part 1
 - Microarrays in biological research
 - A typical microarray experiment
- Part 2
 - Data analysis and mining
 - Recent & future advances

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