

Cluster-based Imputation of Missing Values in Microarray Data

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## Outline

#### 1. Motivation

#### 2. Algorithm

- key idea
- a bit more detail
- 3. Other approaches
- 4. Results
- 5. Discussion
- 6. Conclusion



## Motivation

- Missing values cause a lot of trouble.
  - similarity/dissimilary measures
  - principal component analysis (PCA)
  - SVMs
  - clustering
- Missing values are inconvenient.
- There is an expensive solution.
  - repeat experiments  $\rightarrow$  more complexity and not perfect
- There are cheap (destructive) solutions.
  - casewise deletion  $\rightarrow$  possibly no valid cases
  - pairwise deletion  $\rightarrow$  genes become more similar

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# **Reasons for missing values**

- Arbitrarily missing values.
  - no spot intensity measured
  - negative background corrected spot intensity
  - array handling
  - "low quality spot" (cDNA arrays image analysis)

- ...

- Systematically missing values.
  - array production

CLIMP

### Example



(edited from Stanford Microarray Database)



# Starting points

- Image(s) of scanned microarray.
  - find reasons for missing values
  - identification of systematic errors
  - extremely complex to analyze
- Annotated image analysis output.
  - identification of systematic errors
  - different for different types of microarrays
- Expression matrix.
  - least information, but most general
  - probably most wide-spread format



### Problem



• Given an expression matrix with missing values, how do we estimate (impute) the missing values?



- Estimate missing values from similar genes, taking into account the correlation structure.
- How do we find similar genes?

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## Clustering



- How many clusters are there?
- Define an upper bound for cluster size!





• Use genes in cluster for estimation.

### Details



- Clustering for each *pattern of missingness* (POM).
  - POM = pattern of missing values in a row = a set of columns
  - length of a POM = cardinality of set of columns

### Details

- *Base matrix* = all rows with POM of length 0 (here: POM 1).
- Cluster base matrix with all rows have the same POM.
  - leave out missing conditions
  - use hierarchical clustering with complete-linkage for dense clusters



- Compute missing value as rank-weighted average from base matrix genes in corresponding cluster.
- Cluster size below threshold?
  - use k nearest neighbors

## **Other (constructive) methods**

#### • Simple methods

- fill in zeros
- fill in column- or row-averages
- Troyanskaya *et al.* 2001
  - *k* nearest neighbors (KNN)
  - singular value decompositon (SVD)
- Oba *et al*. 2003
  - Bayesian Principal Component Analysis (BPCA)
- Zhou *et al.* 2003
  - (non)-linear regression with Bayesian gene selection

## Evaluation

- Comparison of CLIMP, KNN and BPCA.
- Data sets:
  - Spellman *et al.* 1998, yeast cell cycle α-factor- and *cdc15*-based synchronization (18 and 15 conditions)
- Parameters to be chosen:
  - upper and lower bound (here: 35 and 20)
  - *k* (here: 17)
  - clustering algorithm (here: complete-linkage)
  - distance measure (here: Euclidean)
- Amount of missing data:
  - 1%, 2%, 5%, 10%

## Evaluation

- Different number of genes from each test set: 100, 500, 1000 and 2000 out of ~ 6100.
- Performance evaluated by the normalized root mean squared error (NRMSE) of the estimated matrix (*E*) vs. the original matrix (*O*).

- NRMSE = 
$$\sqrt{\frac{mean(O-E)^2}{variance(O)}}$$

- if *NRMSE* close to 0, then *E* more accurate (*NRMSE* =  $0 \rightarrow E = O$ )
- if NRMSE close to 1, then E less accurate



#### NRMSE on test data

0.35

0.30

0.25

0.20

0.15

0.10

0.00 0.05

NRMSE

NRMSE



0.10

 $\alpha$ -factor





KNN





1 1 1 0.04 0.06 0.08 0.10 proportion missing

## Discussion

- CLIMP has some weak spots.
  - base matrix
  - how to find good values for parameters ( $\rightarrow$  usage of KNN)
  - runtime
- Performance might be increased in several ways.
  - genes with estimated missing values might be added to base matrix
  - analysis of values used for estimation



- base weighted average on distance not on ranked distance
- selection of parameters appropriate for given expression matrix

## Conclusion

- The bigger the base matrix, the more information, the better the results.
- CLIMP is slower than KNN and BPCA, but time is not an important criterion in missing value estimation.
- Performance of CLIMP is at least equal to that of KNN and might be improved.
- Bayesian methods are likely to remain significantly better.

Handle estimated values with care, they still might be completely wrong!

