



# A Physicist's Approach to Breast Cancer Gyan Bhanot

Rutgers/CINJ

# The three laws

- Work with Clinicians they know more than you
- Cancer = Death. Focus on improving outcome
- Be humble. Your ego has no place in this

### KNOW THE ENEMY

#### 2009 Estimated US Cancer Cases\*



\*Excludes basal and squamous cell skin cancers and in situ carcinomas except urinary bladder. Source American Cancer Society, 2009.

### Cancer Incidence Rates\* Among Men, US, 1975-2005



\*Age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population and adjusted for delays in reporting. Source Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program, Delay-adjusted Incidence database SEER Incidence Delay-adjusted Rates, 9 Registries, 1975-2005, National Cancer Institute, 2008.

#### Cancer Death Rates\* Among Men, US,1930-2005 Rate Per 100,000 Lung & bronchus Stomach Prostate **Colon & rectum Pancreas** Leukemia Liver

\*Age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Source: US Mortality Data 1960-2005, US Mortality Volumes 1930-1959, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008.

#### Cancer Incidence Rates\* Among Women, US, 1975-2005



\*Age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population and adjusted for delays in reporting. Source Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program, Delay-adjusted Incidence database SEER Incidence Delay-adjusted Rates, 9 Registries, 1975-2005, National Cancer Institute, 2008.



\*Age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Source: US Mortality Data 1960-2005, US Mortality Volumes 1930-1959, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008.



### **Risk Factors**

- 1. Age
- 2. Family History
- 3. Susceptibility genes (BRCA1 and BRCA2)
- 4. Endocrinological Factors
- 5. Dietary factors (?)
- 6. Benign Breast Disease

### **Endocrinologic Factors**

Increased Risk:

Early menarche

Nulliparity

Late first pregnancy

Hormone Replacement Therapy Decreased Risk:

late menarche

Early and repeated pregnancy

Early menopause

**Prolonged lactation** 

# Heterogeneous disease

Estrogen Receptor:

- 1. 60-70% expresses ER
- 2. ER+ BrCa often responds to anti-estrogen therapy
- 3. ER- BrCa more aggressive, no hormonal Rx, more common in younger women
- 4. Tamoxifen treatment decreases risk of new ER+ BrCa but does not affect incidence of ER- BrCa.

HER2/neu:

- 1. 20-30% have amplification of HER2
- 2. More aggressive, higher grade
- 3. Some respond to Rx with trastuzumab/Herceptin

Gene Expression Array Analysis: Can it be used to impact clincal care? Define biologically relevant subtypes? Predict natural history? Predict response to Rx ?

Pros: generates much data on many genes
Cons: generates much data on many genes.
number of variables >> number of samples
→ OVERFITTING

### BrCa subtypes have distinct molecular signatures



### Currently Available Predictive Panels

- Paik et al : NEJM 351 (27), 2817 (2004)
   21 genes predicting outcome in node negative, ER+ patients
   Oncotype DX<sup>TM</sup> (In clinical use in US)
- van't Veer et al: *Nature medicine* 9 (8), 999 (2003) 70 genes correlated with clinical outcome in large mixed cohort
   Mammaprint® (USFDA Approved, Clinical use in Europe but on decline)
- Wang et al : *Lancet* 365 (9460), 671 (2005) 76 genes correlated with recurrence **Rotterdam signature**

### Oncotype Dx<sup>®</sup> (Genomic Health)

RT-PCR based assay, measures mRNA levels of 21 genes: HER2, GRB7, GSTM1, CD68, BAG1, invasion markers (MMP11,CTSL2), proliferation markers (Ki67,STK15,Survivin,CCNB1,MYBL2), ER and reference markers.

**ODX** score is a linear combination of normalized gene expression levels.



Some Simple Bioinformatics Tools to identify patterns in high throughput data:

Clustering Principal Component Analysis (PCA) Logical Analysis of Data (LAD) Network Analysis

# What is Cluster Analysis?

 Finding groups of objects such that the objects in a group will be similar (or related) to one another and different from (or unrelated to) the objects in other groups



### Unsupervised Consensus Ensemble Clustering

- Unsupervised Clustering
  - Group expression data into clusters
  - Maximize intra-cluster similarity
  - Minimize inter-cluster similarity
- Ensemble:
  - Apply many Clustering Techniques
  - Apply many Data Perturbations (bootstrap)
  - Combine Results into Agreement Matrix

# Clustering Methods Used

- Partition Relocation Methods
   PAM, CLARA, k-Means, Graph-Partitioning
- Agglomerative Methods
  - Average Linkage, Complete Linkage, Mcquitty, Ward, Centroid metrics, bagglo
- Probabilistic Methods
  - Expectation Maximization (EM), Entropy Based Clustering (ENCLUST), SOM,

# Agreement Matrix

- Combine bootstrap results per method into N<sub>sample</sub> x N<sub>sample</sub> matrix M(i,j).
- M(i,j) = probability that i, j are in same cluster.
- Sort rows to get block diagonal form
- Combine matrices across clustering methods
- Re-sort to get final Agreement Matrix

# ConsensusCluster: A tool for unsupervised cluster discovery in numerical data

| Seperal  | PCA  |
|--|--|
| K-Value Range 2 to 3                           | Normalisation<br>□Log2 □Sub Medians ☑Center □Scale |
| Subsamples Fraction to Sample                  |  |
| 300 0.80                                       |  |
|  | PCA Fraction Eigenvalue Weight                     |
| lgorithm                                       | 0.85 0.25  |
| Cluster Using<br>♥K-Means SOM PAM Hierarchical |  |
|  | Misc   |
| Linkages                                       |  |
| Single Average Complete                        | □Set Variance to 1                                 |
| Cluster Consensus Using Distance Metric        |  |
|  |  |

20 -20 -40EAsia and CSAsia Oceania -60 Africa CSAsia -80 America Europe and MidEast -100 -40-20 20 40 0 60

Seiler M, Huang CC, Szalma S, Bhanot G. ConsensusCluster: a software tool for unsupervised cluster discovery in numerical data. OMICS 2010, 14(1):109.

### Study 1: Immune Infiltrate and HER2+ disease: Data from Wang et al, Lancet, 2005

#### Tumor Bank at the Erasmus Medical Center (Rotterdam, Netherlands)

#### **286 patients** (1980-1995)

no systemic therapy 219 patients: conservative surgery 67 patients: mastectomy 248 patients: radiotherapy

#### Affymetrix U133a mRNA microarrays

#### **Clinical information**

- ER status: 209 ER+, 77 ER-
- time to follow up: median 101 months
- relapse status within 5 years: 93 yes, 183 no
- median age 52 (range 26-83)

#### Alexe et al Cancer Research, 67, 10669-10676, 2007.

### **Clusters in dataset from Wang et al, 2005, Lancet**

### Luminal,



### Non – Luminal



*G. Alexe, G.S. Dalgin, D. Scanfeld, P. Tamayo, J. Mesirov, C. DeLisi, L. Harris, N. Barnard, M. Martel, A.J. Levine, S. Ganesan, G. Bhanot,* 'High Expression of Lymphocyte Associated Genes in Node Negative HER2+ Breast Cancer correlates with lower Recurrence rates.' Cancer Research, 67, 10669-10676, 2007.

## Breast cancer subtypes



Alexe et al, (2007) Cancer Research, 67, 10669 Dalgin et al, (2007) BMC Bioinformatics 8:291

### Recurrence free survival in the Luminals

44 core Luminal A, 88 core Luminal B

44 LA, 22 LB1, 38 LB2, 28 LB3



### Recurrence free survival in HER2+ $_{\rm I}$ and HER2+ $_{\rm NI}$



| Tumor   | Path CR | Subtype             | Lymphocyti    | c infiltration |  |
|---------|---------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| - unior |         | by gene expression  | Pathologist 1 | Pathologist 2  | 680  |
| 680     | No      | HER2+I              | 2             | 2              |  |
| 568     | No      | HER2+1              | 2             | 3              | T  |
| 334     | Yes     | HER2+1              | 3             | 3              | The state of the s |
| 438     | No      | HER2+1              | NE            | NE             |  |
| 422     | Yes     | HER2+1              | 3             | 3              |  |
| 611     | No      | HER2+1              | NE            | NE             | the the state of the   |
| 514     | No      | HER2+ <sub>NI</sub> | 1             | 1              | 652  |
| 652     | No      | HER2+ <sub>NI</sub> | 1             | 1              | A CARLEND BERT   |
| 405     | No      | HER2+ <sub>NI</sub> | 1             | 2              | A Contraction with   |
| 512     | No      | HER2+ <sub>NI</sub> | NE            | NE             |  |
| 278253  | No      | HER2+ <sub>NI</sub> | 1             | 1              |  |
| 641     | No      | HER2+ <sub>NI</sub> | 1             | 1              | and the state of the   |
| 637     | No      | HER2+ <sub>NI</sub> | 1             | 1              |  |

Lymphocytic Infiltration in HER2+<sub>1</sub> subtype from a neoadjuvant phase II trial of trastuzumab and vinorelbine.. H&E sections were independently scored for lymphocytes by two pathologists. NE specimen quality was insufficient for proper evaluation. The score difference had p<0.0001 by the Fisher exact test.

# Therapeutic Targets in Triple Negative Breast Cancer



Erhan Bilal (Rutgers/IBM)

Bilal E, et al, Genes and Cancer (2010), 1(10): 1063-73.

# Artificial gene networks



$$S(t+1) = f(W^*S(t)), f(x) = 1/(1+e^{-ax})$$
$$F(\hat{S}) = e^{-D/\sigma}$$
$$D = \frac{1}{N} \sum (\hat{s}_k - s_k^{OPT})^2$$

### Simulation:

- Evolve 100 networks of 25 genes for 1000 generations under strong selection  $\sigma = 0.1$
- Evolution occurs by mutation and recombination of W matrices
- Relevance of a gene is change in fitness on knocking it down.

#### Bergman et al., Genetica (2007) 129:83–103

## Node degree and essentiality



**Discovered Hypothesis:** 

Knocking out genes that are <u>over-expressed and</u> <u>correlated with a large</u> <u>number of other genes</u> should have a big impact on the fitness of the cell

Data are divided into three classes based on the equilibrium expression level of the knocked out gene: s >0.75 (circles), 0.75 <s < 0.25 (diamonds), and s <0.25 (squares).

Bergman et al., Genetica (2007) 129:83–103

# Google PageRank Algorithm



### Eigenvector centrality



 $s_i = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_j a_{ij} s_j$ , *s* centrality score  $As = \lambda s$ , eigenvector equation



# Gene centrality measure

| Node | Centrality |  |  |  |
|------|------------|--|--|--|
| 1    | 0.065      |  |  |  |
| 2    | 0.175      |  |  |  |
| 3    | 0.175      |  |  |  |
| 4    | 0.196      |  |  |  |
| 5    | 0.537      |  |  |  |
| 6    | 0.332      |  |  |  |
| 7    | 0.285      |  |  |  |
| 8    | 0.481      |  |  |  |
| 9    | 0.267      |  |  |  |
| 10   | 0.337      |  |  |  |



### **Centrality and Outlier scores for top oncogenes in Breast Cancer subtypes:**

| W+I    | BA1        |         | BA2        |         | HER2I      |         | HER2NI     |         | LA         |         | LB         |         |
|--------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
|        |            | Outlier |
| Gene   | Centrality | score θ |
| LYN    | 4.35       | 80%     | 1.9        | 39%     | 3.32       | 29%     | 0.21       | 5%      | 0          | 0%      | 0          | 0%      |
| YES1   | 3.67       | 70%     | 1.82       | 52%     | 0          | 0%      | 1.24       | 25%     | 0          | 0%      | 0.24       | 6%      |
| НСК    | 3.82       | 63%     | 0.38       | 10%     | 4.36       | 47%     | 0.21       | 6%      | 0.59       | 6%      | 0.31       | 8%      |
| FYN    | 2.43       | 41%     | 0.92       | 31%     | 7.59       | 55%     | 0.38       | 7%      | 1.65       | 13%     | 0.43       | 8%      |
| LCK    | 3.1        | 52%     | 0.5        | 15%     | 11.9       | 87%     | 0          | 0%      | 0.91       | 10%     | 0.39       | 7%      |
| PIM2   | 4.11       | 65%     | 0.29       | 10%     | 5.87       | 79%     | 0          | 0%      | 0.6        | 9%      | 0.43       | 13%     |
| HER2   | 0          | 0%      | 0          | 0%      | 6.5        | 100%    | 4.52       | 100%    | 0.01       | 0%      | 0.05       | 2%      |
| TGFBR2 | 0.04       | 1%      | 0.72       | 9%      | 3.39       | 42%     | 0.83       | 13%     | 13.51      | 66%     | 0.45       | 9%      |
| ERG    | 0          | 0%      | 0.73       | 12%     | 1.67       | 21%     | 2.09       | 32%     | 10.5       | 64%     | 1.19       | 26%     |
| FOS    | 0          | 0%      | 0.11       | 2%      | 1.5        | 28%     | 0.96       | 21%     | 5.74       | 77%     | 0.76       | 34%     |
| ETS2   | 0.46       | 11%     | 1.6        | 32%     | 2.36       | 27%     | 0.71       | 19%     | 5.83       | 34%     | 0.49       | 11%     |
| ESR1   | 0          | 0%      | 0          | 0%      | 0.82       | 14%     | 1.56       | 26%     | 7.12       | 71%     | 3.48       | 83%     |
| EGFR   | 0.75       | 11%     | 2.34       | 38%     | 1.25       | 18%     | 1.32       | 24%     | 1.56       | 19%     | 5.07       | 41%     |

 $g'_{ij} = \frac{g_{ij} - median(g_i)}{MAD(g_i)} \qquad \theta = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \Delta_j \text{, where } N = 10, \ \Delta_j = 1 \text{ if } g'_j > 1, \text{ and } \Delta_j = 0$ 

# SRC kinase family and its inhibitors





SRC pathway involvement

- Development
- Cell growth
- Immune response
- DNA damage

• . . .

The Engen Laboratory http://www.hxms.neu.edu/srcfam.htm

#### Validation: YES1 levels in public BC datasets GSE2034 and GSE4922 (upper)

IF Staining on 13 FFPE samples (lower) shows high (left), medium (middle) and low(right) levels of YES1



Figure 1. YES1 is overexpressed in a subset of basal-like breast tumors. Bar plots showing relative overexpression of YES1 in a subset of basal-like breast tumors in the GSE2034 (**A**) and GSE4922 (**B**) gene expression datasets. To confirm this, 13 ER-/PR-/HER2- paraffin-embedded breast cancer tissue slides were probed for expression of YES1 by immunohistochemistry with an appropriate YES1-specific antibody. Of the 13 samples, 2 had high expression levels of YES1, 6 had medium expression, and 5 had low or no expression. Shown are examples of the staining protocol on slides showing high (**C**), medium (**D**), and low/zero (**E**) expression of YES1 in cancer cells on the slides.



### YES1 expression

#### MDAMB231



#### MDAMB468



IF staining with anti-Yes1 antibody of two ER-/PR-/HER2- breast cancer cell lines.

ER-/HER2-/YES1+



ER-/HER2-/YES1-



13 ER-/PR-/HER2- breast cancer tissue samples:

- 6 samples with LOW/NO Yes1 expression

- 5 samples with MEDIUM Yes1 expression
- 2 samples with HIGH Yes1 expression



# Amplicons and Recurrence in ER+ Breast Cancer

Erhan Bilal





Hege Russnes (OUH)



Vanessa Almendro (Dana Farber)

Bilal E, et al, PLoS One 2012, in press

### Tamoxifen resistance in ER+ breast cancers

- Pathways associated with Tamoxifen resistance in vitro:
  - Estrogen associated transcription factors and activators (Erα/β, NF-kB, NCOA1, NCOA3, PELP1, CBP and p300)
  - Growth factor receptors (ERBB2, EGFR, EGF1R, FGFR)
  - MAPK signaling (MEK, ERK, CDK10)
  - PI3K signaling (AKT, PTEN)
  - SRC interacting proteins (BCAR1, BCAR3)
  - Cyclins, MYC, CDK inhibitors
  - BCL-2 family members (BCL-2, BIK, BAD)
  - Survival signaling (XBP1)
- Signatures predicting response to endocrine therapies:
  - Breast cancer subtypes (LB)
  - Oncotype Dx (21 genes)
  - Genomic grade signature
  - HOXB13/IL17RB expression ratio
  - TuM1 (33 genes), etc.



~ 30% of ER+ patients on Tamoxifen suffer early relapse.

Musgrove et al, Nature reviews (2009)

**Outlier** analysis

$$g'_{ij} = \frac{g_{ij} - median(g_i)}{MAD(g_i)}$$

High/low outlier =>90% or <10% quantile

for each sample.



Only genes associated with differential expression were kept (logrank test, p<0.05) Three gene expression datasets from Desmedt et al (*Lancet* 2005) GSE 6532

81, 109 and 87 ER+ Affymetrix samples treated with Tamoxifen

Long term follow-up (9 years median)

Let  $C_{1,2}$  be covariance matrices between rows of  $B_{1,2}$ 

 $\mathbf{R}_{1,2}(i,j) = \mathbf{C}_{1,2}(i,j) / \sqrt{\mathbf{C}_{1,2}(i,i)\mathbf{C}_{1,2}(j,j)}$ 

Clusters of tightly correlated genes identified by iteratively removing row/column *i* if

 $\sum_{j} \Delta_{ij} \leq 1$ , where  $\Delta_{ij} = 1$  if  $\mathbf{R}_{1,2}(i, j) > 0.5$  and  $\Delta_{ij} = 0$  otherwise

### Gene patterns associated with Tamoxifen resistance in dataset GSE6532 Over- p-values Under-

p-values



### **Overexpressed genes associated with poor prognosis**





### Survival for intermediate grade tumors in GSE6532 (gene expression) and GSE22133 (CGH array) datasets





### Multiplex FISH Assay to detect Amplicons





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Vanessa Almendro DFCI



Arnie Levine IAS/CINJ



Shridar Ganesan CINJ





Vessela Kristensen OUH

# The Ganesan Lab (Where The Real Biology Happens)



Ming Yao



Vasudeva Ginjala



Shridar Ganesan



Atul Kulkarni



Sunniva Bjorklund



Jay Oza