

# The **DMRcate** package user's guide

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## Summary

**DMRcate** extracts the most differentially methylated regions (DMRs) and variably methylated regions (VMRs) from Illumina® Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (hereinafter referred to as the 450k array) samples via kernel smoothing. We provide clean, transparent code and highly interpretable and exportable results.

```
source("http://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
biocLite("DMRcate")
```

Load **DMRcate** into the workspace:

```
library(DMRcate)
```

We now can load in the test data set of beta values. We assume at this point that normalisation and filtering out bad-quality probes via their detection *p*-values have already been done. Many packages are available for these purposes, including **minfi**, **watermelon** and **methylyumi**. M-values (logit-transform of beta) are preferable to beta values for significance testing via **limma** because of increased sensitivity, but we will retain the beta matrix for visualisation purposes later on.

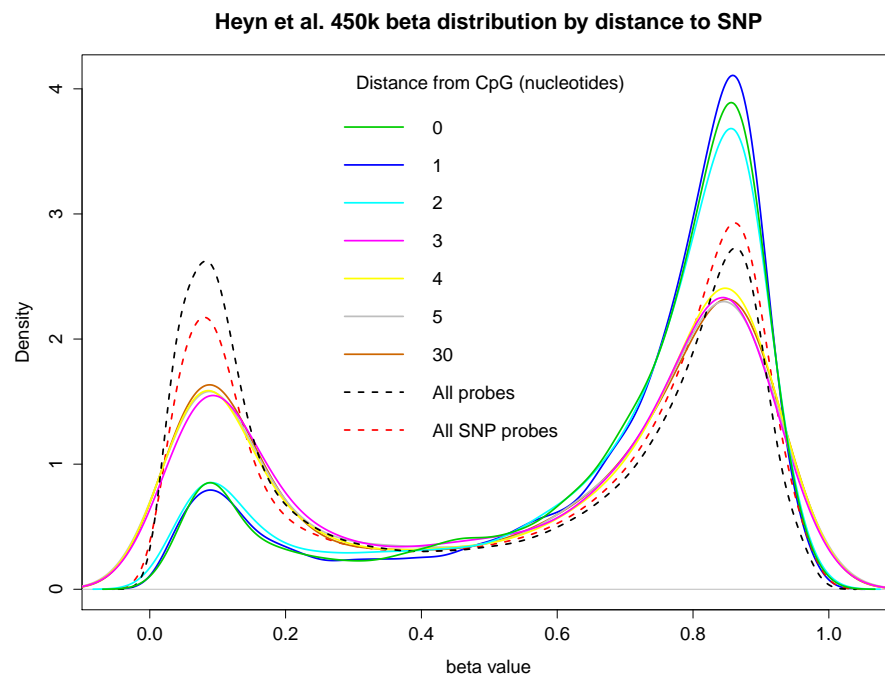
The TCGA (Cancer Genome Atlas - colorectal cancer) data in **myBetas** only comes from chromosome 20, but **DMRcate** will have no problem taking in the approximately half million probes as input for this pipeline either.

```
data(dmrcatedata)
myMs <- logit2(myBetas)
```

Some of the methylation measurements on the array may be confounded by proximity to SNPs, and cross-hybridisation to other areas of the genome[1]. In particular, probes that are 0, 1, or 2 nucleotides from the methylcytosine of interest show a markedly different distribution to those farther away, in healthy tissue (Figure 1).

It is with this in mind that we filter out probes 2 nucleotides or closer to a SNP that have a minor allele frequency greater than 0.05, and the approximately 30,000 [1] cross-reactive probes, so as to reduce confounding. Here we use

Figure 1: Beta distribution of 450K probes from publically available data from blood samples of healthy individuals [2] by their proximity to a SNP. “All SNP probes” refers to the 153 113 probes listed by Illumina® whose values may potentially be confounded by a SNP.



Illumina®’s database of approximately 150,000 potentially SNP-confounded probes, and an internally-loaded dataset of the probes from [1], to filter these probes out. About 600 are removed from our M-matrix of approximately 10,000:

```
nrow(illuminaSNPs)

## [1] 153113

nrow(myMs)

## [1] 10042

myMs.noSNPs <- rmSNPandCH(myMs, dist=2, mafcut=0.05)
nrow(myMs.noSNPs)

## [1] 9403
```

Next we want to annotate our matrix of M-values with relevant information. The default is the `ilmn12.hg19` annotation, but this can be substituted for any argument compatible with the interface provided by the `minfi` package. We also use the backbone of the `limma` pipeline for differential array analysis to get *t*-statistics changes and, optionally, filter probes by their *fdr*-corrected *p*-value. Here we have 38 patients with 2 tissue samples each taken from them. We want to compare within patients across tissue samples, so we set up our variables for a standard `limma` pipeline, and set `coef=39` in `cpg.annotate` since this corresponds to the phenotype comparison in `design`.

```
patient <- factor(sub("-", "*", "", colnames(myMs)))
type <- factor(sub(".*-", "", colnames(myMs)))
design <- model.matrix(~patient + type)
myannotation <- cpg.annotate(myMs.noSNPs, analysis.type="differential",
                             design=design, coef=39)

## Loading required package: IlluminaHumanMethylation450kanno.ilmn12.hg19
```

Now we can find our most differentially methylated regions with `dmrcate`.

For each chromosome, two smoothed estimates are computed: one weighted with `myannotation$weights` and one not, for a null comparison. The two estimates are compared via a Satterthwaite approximation[3], and a significance test is calculated at all hg19 coordinates that an input probe maps to. After *fdr*-correction, regions are then agglomerated from groups of significant probes where the distance to the next consecutive probe is less than `lambda` nucleotides.

```
dmrcoutput <- dmrcate(myannotation, lambda=1000, C=2)

## Fitting chr20...
## Demarcating regions...
## Done!
```

Now we can plot a significant DMR. We'll choose one associated with the GATA5 locus.

```
head(dmroutput$results)
```

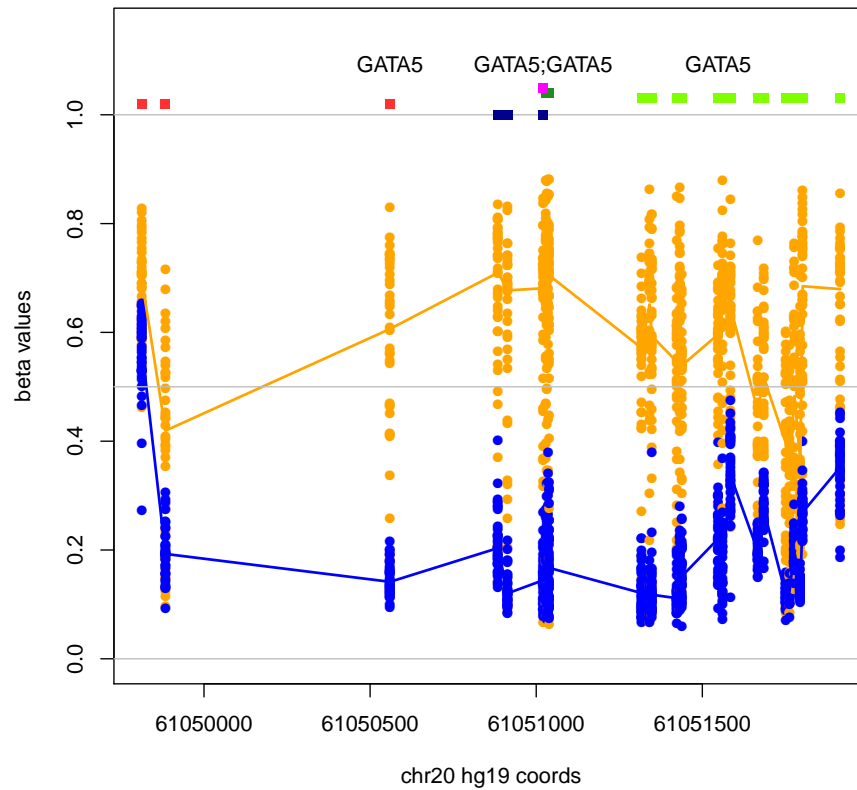
##	gene_assoc	group
## 1568	GNASAS,GNAS	Body,3'UTR,TSS200,TSS1500,5'UTR,1stExon
## 1756	GATA5	Body,5'UTR,1stExon,TSS200,TSS1500
## 1869	MIR124-3	TSS1500,TSS200,Body
## 1050	TOX2	TSS1500,TSS200,Body,5'UTR,1stExon
## 538	TMEM90B	TSS1500,TSS200,5'UTR,1stExon
## 555	VSX1	Body,1stExon,5'UTR,TSS200,TSS1500

##	hg19coord	no.probes	minpval	meanpval	maxbetafc
## 1568	chr20:57424521-57431303	77	0	3.003e-29	-0.2084
## 1756	chr20:61049813-61051915	27	0	2.924e-74	0.4771
## 1869	chr20:61806628-61810795	23	0	5.818e-24	0.4182
## 1050	chr20:42543034-42545099	22	0	1.177e-33	0.3685
## 538	chr20:24448859-24452131	21	0	3.741e-113	0.4264
## 555	chr20:25061762-25065553	20	0	1.071e-45	0.4679

```
DMR.plot(dmroutput=dmrcoutput, dmr=2, betas=myBetas,
          phen.col=c(rep("orange", 38), rep("blue", 38)),
          pch=16, toscale=TRUE, plotmedians=TRUE)
```



```
sessionInfo()

## R version 3.1.1 (2014-07-10)
## Platform: i386-w64-mingw32/i386 (32-bit)
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=C
## [2] LC_CTYPE=English_United States.1252
## [3] LC_MONETARY=English_United States.1252
## [4] LC_NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=English_United States.1252
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] parallel stats graphics grDevices utils datasets methods
## [8] base
##
```

```
## other attached packages:
## [1] IlluminaHumanMethylation450kanno.ilmn12.hg19_0.2.1
## [2] DMRcate_1.0.2
## [3] DMRcatedata_1.0.0
## [4] minfi_1.10.2
## [5] bumphunter_1.4.2
## [6] locfit_1.5-9.1
## [7] iterators_1.0.7
## [8] foreach_1.4.2
## [9] Biostrings_2.32.1
## [10] XVector_0.4.0
## [11] GenomicRanges_1.16.4
## [12] GenomeInfoDb_1.0.2
## [13] IRanges_1.22.10
## [14] lattice_0.20-29
## [15] Biobase_2.24.0
## [16] BiocGenerics_0.10.0
## [17] limma_3.20.9
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] AnnotationDbi_1.26.0 DBI_0.2-7 MASS_7.3-34
## [4] R.methodsS3_1.6.1 RColorBrewer_1.0-5 RSQlite_0.11.4
## [7] Rcpp_0.11.2 XML_3.98-1.1 annotate_1.42.1
## [10] base64_1.1 beanplot_1.1 codetools_0.2-9
## [13] digest_0.6.4 doRNG_1.6 evaluate_0.5.5
## [16] formatR_1.0 genefilter_1.46.1 grid_3.1.1
## [19] highr_0.3 illuminaio_0.6.0 knitr_1.6
## [22] matrixStats_0.10.0 mclust_4.3 multtest_2.20.0
## [25] nlme_3.1-117 nor1mix_1.1-4 pkgmaker_0.22
## [28] plyr_1.8.1 preprocessCore_1.26.1 registry_0.2
## [31] reshape_0.8.5 rngtools_1.2.4 siggenes_1.38.0
## [34] splines_3.1.1 stats4_3.1.1 stringr_0.6.2
## [37] survival_2.37-7 tools_3.1.1 xtable_1.7-3
## [40] zlibbioc_1.10.0
```

## References

- [1] Chen YA, Lemire M, Choufani S, Butcher DT, Grafodatskaya D, Zanke BW, Gallinger S, Hudson TJ, Weksberg R. Discovery of cross-reactive probes and polymorphic CpGs in the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 microarray. *Epigenetics*. 2013 Jan 11;8(2).
- [2] Heyn H, Li N, Ferreira HJ, Moran S, Pisano DG, Gomez A, Esteller M. Distinct DNA methylomes of newborns and centenarians. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 2012 **109**(26), 10522-7.

- [3] Satterthwaite, F. E. (1946), An Approximate Distribution of Estimates of Variance Components., *Biometrics Bulletin*. 1946 **2**: 110-114