Introduction to Microarray Technology

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Nomenclature 101

- Microarray: An array of DNA molecules, be it cDNA or oligonucleotides that can be used to study gene-expression and DNA composition.
- GeneChip[™]: Affymetrix trademarked name for their proprietary type of microarray.
- Target: Used either to describe the material on the array, or the material being hybridized to the array. Leads to much confusion.
- Probe: Same problem as Target.



The Importance of Standards

- MGED <u>Microarray Gene Expression Data</u> Working Group
 - An international group focusing on developing standards for sharing microarray data
- MIAME <u>Minimal Information About a</u> <u>Microarray Experiment</u>
 - A Standard put forth by MGED to allow for researchers in one group to duplicate work done by another group
 - Standard set of ontologies or terms to describe a microarray experiment



Conventions used in this presentation:

- Target will refer to the material which is hybridized to the array (e.g. the labelled cDNA).
 - Also referred to as sample.
- Probe will refer to the material which comprises the array (the arrayed cDNA or oligonucleotides).
 - Also referred to as features.



What is a microarray?

- A microarray is an ordered collection of biological material (typically DNA) printed onto a solid or semi solid substrate.
- Microarrays allow for highly parallel processing of biological analyses.
- Microarrays can allow for parallel analysis of RNA, DNA, proteins, cells, tissues and small molecules.



DNA Arrays

- DNA Arrays are far and away the most common type of array.
- DNA Arrays can be used to analyse either DNA (mutation analysis) or RNA (gene expression).
- DNA arrays may be made from cDNA/ESTs or oligonucleotides.



Protein Arrays

- There are two primary types of protein arrays: antibody arrays or functional protein arrays.
 - Antibody arrays are the protein analogue of DNA arrays. They are used to determine relative abundances of expressed protein in a sample.
 - Functional protein arrays are used to test proteins for a variety of activities. Examples are kinase assays, ligand binding assays etc...
- There are two main challenges:
 - Getting enough material to spot down.
 - Keeping the proteins in a functional state.

Cell Arrays

- Cell arrays do not actually involve printing of cells onto the substrate.
 - Rather some material such as DNA is printed onto the slide.
 - Cells are then grown onto the slide, and at each of the discrete locations that the material was spotted, the cells take up that material.
 - The effect on the cells can then be monitored.
 - In the case of DNA, a reporter gene can be added to monitor transfection efficiency.



Tissue Arrays

- Tissue Arrays allow for high-throughput pathology
- Dozens to hundreds of tissue samples are arrayed onto slides to allow for high throughput staining
- A pathologist is still required to analyse each sample



Small Molecule Arrays

- Small molecules can also be arrayed
- These small molecules can then be probed with a protein of interest to look for potential drug candidates
- This is generally most useful when a particular drug target has already been identified



The Many Faces of DNA Microarrays

- Several different types of DNA Microarrays exist
 - Affymetrix Arrays (GeneChips™)
 - Spotted Oligonucleotide Arrays
 - Synthesised in situ
 - Synthesised ex situ
 - Spotted cDNA Arrays
- Spotted arrays may be printed using either contact or non-contact methodologies

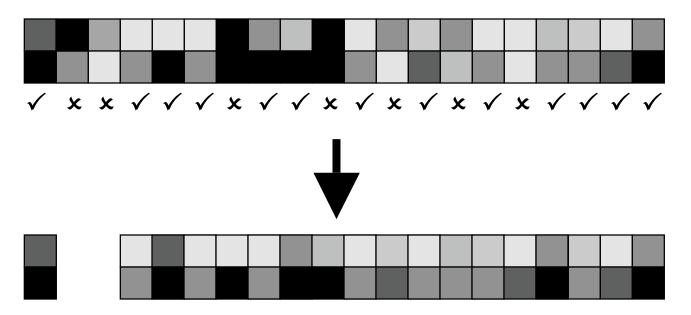


Affymetrix GeneChips™

- Each gene is represented by a set of 20 oligonucleotide pairs (25-mers)
 - The first 20 of these oligos are perfect matches for the gene being interrogated
 - The other 20 oligos have the 13th (middle) base mismatched from the gene being interrogated
- For each pair of oligos, the signal from the perfect match must be higher than the signal from the mismatch to be included



Affymetrix GeneChips™

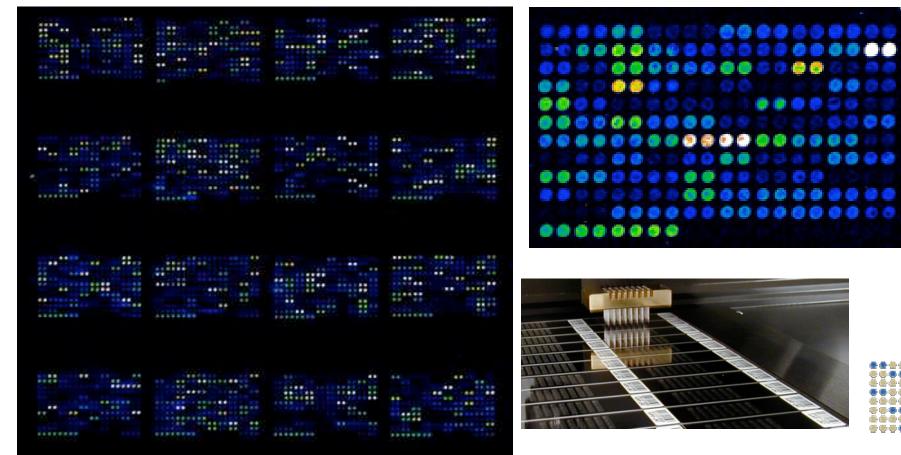




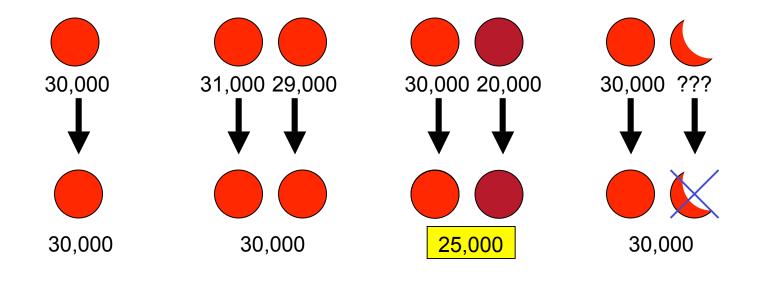
Spotted Arrays



Arraylt Chipmaker™



Spotted DNA Arrays





How do DNA microarrays work?

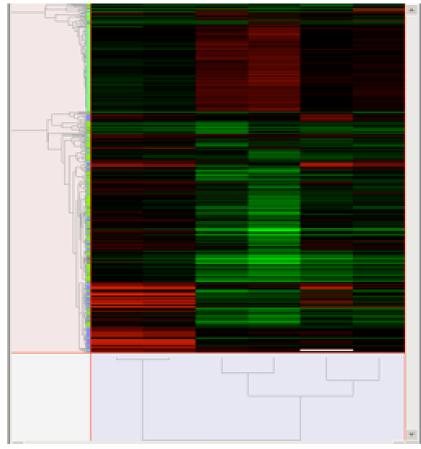
See www.microarrays.ca/support/tut.html

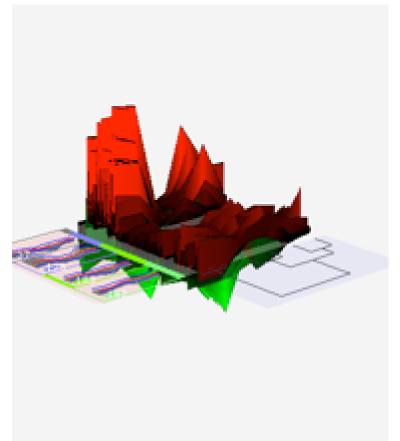


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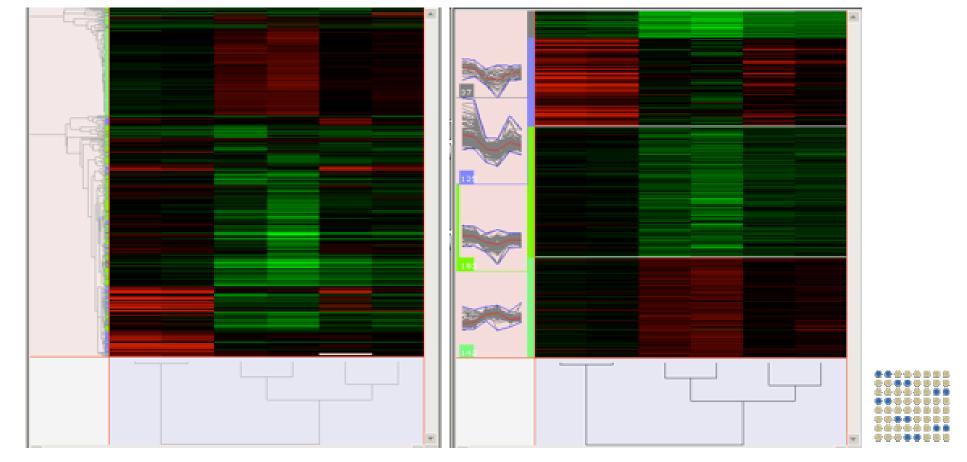
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Data Mining and Visualization: Clustering





The Importance of Multiple Methods



DNA Arrays to Study DNA

- DNA Microarrays can be used to study the DNA of an organism
 - Point mutations (SNPs) can be studied using oligonucleotide probes
 - Gross mutations such as deletions, additions, and multiplications can be studied using comparative genomic hybridization (CGH)



Arrays for CGH

• CGH – Compartive Genomic Hybridization

- The *sample* is derived from DNA
- The *features* on the array may be oligos, cDNAs or larger pieces of DNA from BACs (Bacterial Artificial Chromosomes) YACs (Yeast Artifical Chromosomes) etc...
- The technology does not even require that the genome of the organism is fully described
- **Genomotyping**, an extension of CGH has been demonstrated using bacteria for which the entire genome can be spotted (*C. jejuni* for example).



Potential Applications of Arrays to the Study of Food Protection

- Comparison of virulent to non-virulent strains
 - Identifying key regions of the genome (GGH)
 - Identifying key genes or proteins (gene expression, antibody arrays)
- Diagnostics
 - Testing samples for presence of virulent organisms (CGH, SNPs, Gene Expression, Protein Arrays)
- Drug treatments
 - Identification of potential drugs for the treatment of food borne illness (Small Molecule arrays, Cell Arrays)
 UHN Microarray Centre

Summary

- Microarrays allow for high-throughput analysis of DNA, RNA, Protein etc...
- There are two main types of DNA arrays
 - Affymetrix GeneChips[™] a patented technology, turn-key solution
 - Spotted Arrays somewhat more flexible, but less turn-key methodology
- DNA arrays can be used to analyse gene expression with an oligo/cDNA array, or DNA mutations using genomic DNA



Thank you for your attention

Visit our website at: www.microarrays.ca

