

# ChromHeatMap

Tim F. Rayner

April 4, 2013

Cambridge Institute of Medical Research

## 1 Introduction

The **ChromHeatMap** package provides functions for visualising expression data in a genomic context, by generating heat map images in which data is plotted along a given chromosome for all the samples in a data matrix.

These functions rely on the existence of a suitable **AnnotationDbi** package which provides chromosome location information for the probe- or gene-level identifiers used in your data set. The data themselves must be in either an **ExpressionSet**, or a data matrix with row names corresponding to probe or gene identifiers and columns corresponding to samples. While the **ChromHeatMap** package was originally designed for use with microarray data, given an appropriate **AnnotationDbi** package it can also be used to visualise data from next-generation sequencing experiments.

The output heatmap can include sample clustering, and data can either be plotted for each strand separately, or both strands combined onto a single heat map. An idiogram showing the cytogenetic banding pattern of the chromosome will be plotted for supported organisms (at the time of writing: *Homo sapiens*, *Mus musculus* and *Rattus norvegicus*; please contact the maintainer to request additions).

Once a heat map has been plotted, probes or genes of interest can be identified interactively. These identifiers may then be mapped back to gene symbols and other annotation via the **AnnotationDbi** package.

## 2 Data preparation

Expression data in the form of a data matrix must initially be mapped onto its corresponding chromosome coordinates. This is done using the `makeChrStrandData`:

```
> library('ALL')
> data('ALL')
> selSamples <- ALL$mol.biol %in% c('ALL1/AF4', 'E2A/PBX1')
> ALLs <- ALL[, selSamples]
> library('ChromHeatMap')
> chrdata<-makeChrStrandData(exprs(ALLs), lib='hgu95av2')
```

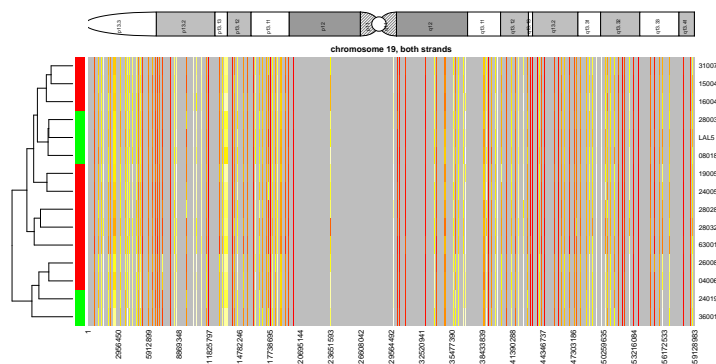
The output *chrdata* object here contains the expression data indexed by coordinate. Note that the `makeChrStrandData` function is based on the `Makesense` function in the `geneplotter` package, removing the internal call to `lowess` to avoid smoothing the data (which is undesirable in this case). The `makeChrStrandData` function is used specifically because it incorporates information on both the start and end chromosome coordinates for each locus. This allows the `plotChrMap` function to accurately represent target widths on the chromosome plot.

### 3 Plotting the heat map

Once the data has been prepared, a single call to `plotChrMap` will generate the chromosome heat map. There are many options available for this plot, and only a couple of them are illustrated here. Here we generate a whole-chromosome plot (chromosome 19), with both strands combined into a single heat map:

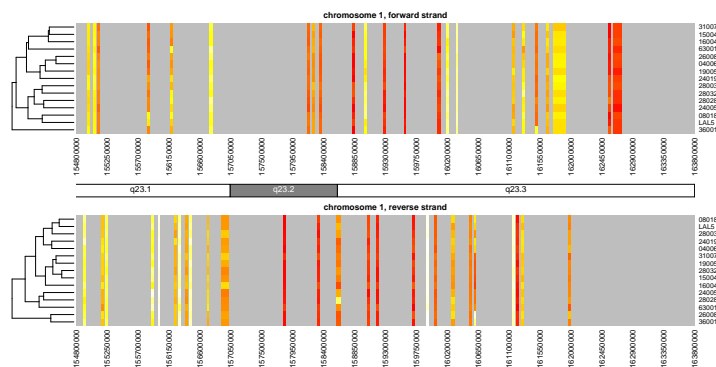
```
> groupcol <- ifelse( ALLs$mol.biol == 'ALL1/AF4', 'red', 'green' )
> plotChrMap(chrdata, 19, strands='both', RowSideColors=groupcol)
```

ChrMapPlot  
Number of features plotted: 196



Chromosomes can be subsetted by cytoband or start/end coordinates along the chromosome. The following illustrates how one might plot the strands separately (this is the default behavior):

```
> plotmap<-plotChrMap(chrdata, 1, cytoband='q23', interval=50000, srtCyto=0, cexCyto=1.2)
```



Other options include subsetting of samples, adding a color key to indicate sample subsets, deactivating the sample-based clustering and so on. See the help pages for `plotChrMap` and `drawMapDendro` for details.

Note that the default colors provided by the `heat.colors` function are not especially attractive or informative; consider using custom-defined colors, for example by using the **RColorBrewer** package.

The output of the `plotChrMap` function can be subsequently used with the `grabChrMapProbes` function which enables the user to identify the probes or genes responsible for heatmap bands of interest.

Note that the `layout` and `par` options for the current graphics device are *not* reset following generation of the image. This is so that the `grabChrMapProbes` function can accurately identify the region of interest when the user interactively clicks on the diagram.

## 4 Interactive probe/gene identification

Often it will be of interest to determine exactly which probes or genes are shown to be up- or down-regulated by the `plotChrMap` heat map. This can be done using the `grabChrMapProbes` function. This takes the output of the `plotChrMap` function, asks the user to mouse-click the heatmap on either side of the bands of interest and returns a character vector of the locus identifiers in that region. These can then be passed to the **AnnotationDbi** function `mget` to identify which genes are being differentially expressed.

```
> probes <- grabChrMapProbes( plotmap )
> genes <- unlist(mget(probes, envir=hgu95av2SYMBOL, ifnotfound=NA))
```

Note that due to the way the expression values are plotted, genes which lie very close to each other on the chromosome may have been averaged to give a signal that could be usefully plotted at screen resolution. In such cases the locus identifiers will be returned concatenated, separated by semicolons (e.g. “37687\_i\_at;37688\_f\_at;37689\_s\_at”). Typically this is easily solved by zooming in on a region of interest, using either the “cytoband” or “start” and “end” options to `plotChrMap`. See also the “interval” option for another approach to this problem.

## 5 Session information

The version number of R and packages loaded for generating the vignette were:

```
R version 3.0.0 (2013-04-03)
Platform: x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu (64-bit)

locale:
 [1] LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8      LC_NUMERIC=C
 [3] LC_TIME=en_US.UTF-8      LC_COLLATE=C
 [5] LC_MONETARY=en_US.UTF-8  LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
 [7] LC_PAPER=C                LC_NAME=C
 [9] LC_ADDRESS=C              LC_TELEPHONE=C
```

[11] LC\_MEASUREMENT=en\_US.UTF-8 LC\_IDENTIFICATION=C

attached base packages:

[1] parallel stats graphics grDevices utils datasets methods  
[8] base

other attached packages:

[1] ChromHeatMap\_1.14.0 hgu95av2.db\_2.9.0 org.Hs.eg.db\_2.9.0  
[4] RSQLite\_0.11.2 DBI\_0.2-5 annotate\_1.38.0  
[7] AnnotationDbi\_1.22.0 ALL\_1.4.13 Biobase\_2.20.0  
[10] BiocGenerics\_0.6.0

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

[1] BSgenome\_1.28.0 Biostrings\_2.28.0 GenomicRanges\_1.12.0  
[4] IRanges\_1.18.0 RCurl\_1.95-4.1 Rsamtools\_1.12.0  
[7] XML\_3.96-1.1 bitops\_1.0-5 rtracklayer\_1.20.0  
[10] stats4\_3.0.0 tools\_3.0.0 xtable\_1.7-1  
[13] zlibbioc\_1.6.0