

BABELOMICS: a systems biology perspective in the functional annotation of transcriptomics experiments

Fátima Al-Shahrour, Pablo Minguez, Joaquín Tárraga, Eva Alloza, Ignacio Medina, José Carbonell, David Montaner, and Joaquín Dopazo

Bioinformatics Department, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF), Autopista del Saler 16, E-46013, Valencia, Spain.

ABSTRACT

We present Babelomics, a complete suite of web tools for functional analysis of groups of genes in high-throughput experiments [1-3]. Babelomics includes conventional functional enrichment analysis, where two sets of genes (typically the genes selected in the experiment and the background of genes) are compared for significant functional enrichment and the most sophisticated Gene Set enrichment Methods, where the collective behavior of sets of functionally-related genes is studied in order to find coordinate, significant differential expression [4, 5].

Babelomics uses functional information on gene ontology terms, interpro motifs, KEGG pathways, Biocarta pathways, Swissprot keywords and bioentities defined using textmining methods [6]; regulatory information such as predicted transcription factor binding sites, CisRed motifs, miRNA targets from miRBase; protein-protein interaction analysis, chromosomal positions and presence in tissues with determined histological characteristics.

The analysis is carried out by means of series of integrated modules, some of which were previously published, such as FatiGO [7, 8] or FatiScan [1, 9]. Different visualization options are available, including the possibility of representing KEEG pathways, or the schematic representation of gene-set enrichment experiments in the FatiScan .

The strong multiple-testing nature of the contrasts made by the tools has carefully been taken into account. All the tools are integrated in the gene expression analysis package GEPAS [10-13]. This allows to quickly producing a functional interpretation of different transcriptomics analyses (e.g. genes differentially expressed, genes co-expressing in a cluster, etc.)

Babelomics can be find at: <http://www.babelomics.org>

Usage ratios can be viewed at: <http://bioinfo.cipf.es/webalizer/babelomics/index.html>.

Currently Babelomics has an average of 250 experiments analysed per day.

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