

Minreg: Inferring and Active Regulator Set for Molecular Pathways

Pe'er, D.¹, Tanay, A.² and Regev, A.^{3,4}

¹ School of Computer Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; ² School of Computer Science, Tel Aviv University; ³ Department of Cell Research and Immunology, Tel Aviv University

⁴ Department of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, Weizmann Institute of Science

Regulatory relations between genes are an important component of molecular pathways. Here, we devise a novel global method that uses a set of gene expression profiles to find a small set of relevant active regulators and identifies the genes that they regulate. Our algorithm is capable of handling a large number of genes in a short time and is robust to a wide range of parameters.

We use our model to automatically provide functional annotation of regulators and identify the logic of regulation. Our global approach characterizes each regulator according to on significant properties of its set of regulatees. This global interpretation provides both statistical robustness and biological generalization.

We apply our method to a combined dataset of Saccharomyces cerevisiae expression profiles, and validate the resulting model of regulation by cross-validation and extensive biological analysis of the selected regulators and their derived annotations.