LRcell: detecting the source of differential expression at the sub-cell type level from

bulk RNA-seq data.

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Abstract

The rapid proliferation of single-cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq) datasets have revealed

cell heterogeneity at unprecedented scales. Several deconvolution methods have been

developed to decompose bulk experiments to reveal cell type contributions. However, these

methods lack power in identifying the accurate cell type composition when having a

considerable amount of sub-cell types in the reference dataset. Here, we present *LRcell*, a R

Bioconductor package (DOI: https://doi.org/doi:10.18129/B9.bioc.LRcell) aiming to identify

specific sub-cell type(s) that drives the changes observed in a bulk RNA-seq differential gene

expression experiment. In addition, *LRcell* provides pre-embedded marker genes computed

from putative single-cell RNA-seq experiments as options to execute the analyses.

Keywords: Cell-type enrichment, Cell marker genes, Differential gene expression

Background

Finding genes that are differentially expressed (DE) between experimental conditions is a powerful approach to understand the molecular basis of phenotypic variation. However, most tissues are consisted of tens or even hundreds of diverse sub-cell types and DE may only occur in a small subset of these sub-cell types, which are relevant to the experimental condition. Bulk RNA-seq data alone is unable to reveal the sub-cell types that drives the DE.

The rapid development and proliferation of single cell technologies resulted in massive accumulation of single cell transcriptomics data (scRNA-seq) from diverse tissue types. These data reveal substantial variations in transcriptional regulation among different cell types and offer an unprecedented close-up view of the modifications underlying important biological processes including which cell types drive DE [1]. However, steep cost and complicated protocols prevent the wide-spread adoption of scRNA-seq.

In this study, we propose a novel computational tool named *LRcell*. Given the result from a bulk RNA-seq DE study, the goal of *LRcell* is to delineate which sub-cell type(s) of the tissue underwent substantial changes between the two experimental conditions. Exploiting cell type-specific marker genes identified from generic scRNA-seq available from publicly-available data repositories, *LRcell* achieves the goal by surveying the enrichment of marker genes across all sub-cell types in the tissue (Figure 1). Thus, no scRNA-seq experiment matching the bulk RNA-seq experimental condition is needed. When applying *LRcell* to a diverse panel of bulk RNA-seq DE experiments, we successfully identify known cell types involved in the pathogenesis of psychiatric disorders as well as produce testable new hypotheses that have the potential to produce fresh new biological insights.

Results and Discussion

In this work, we collect and curate a compendium of marker genes from multiple published

scRNA-seq datasets. We then conduct *LRcell* analysis on multiple bulk RNA-seq DE

experiments to demonstrate its utility.

3.1 Marker gene collection and sources

Similar to a collection of gene set for Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) [2], *LRcell*

requires a compendium of high-quality cell type marker genes. Currently, *LRcell* package

provides users with multiple pre-loaded marker gene sets from human blood, human brain

and mouse brain (Figure 2.A), computed from scRNA-seq datasets. Additionally, *LRcell*

package offers external cell markers collected by Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB)

[3]. The external makers all originate from human species including midbrain, cord blood,

ovary and skeletal muscle. We store all cell-type specific marker gene sets into another R

Bioconductor ExperimentHub package named *LRcellTypeMarkers*. Additional marker gene

sets are being tested and will be added to the collection.

3.2 Microglia highly enriched in Neurodegenerative Dementia

In a recent neurodegenerative dementia study, Swarup and colleagues contrasted TPR50 mice

expressing tau mutant with wild type mice using bulk RNA-seq in order to identify gene

networks mediating dementia [4]. To identify the cell type(s) most involved in the condition,

we apply *LRcell* to the DE gene list using pre-embedded marker genes from adult mouse

Frontal Cortex (FC) region [5]. From *LRcell* result, we observed that Microglia show up as

highly significant (Figure 2.B) which is concordant with previous studies [6]. Additionally,

the FC_11-3.unknown and FC_11-4.unknown sub cell types also show high level of

significance. No annotation is available for these two cell clusters in the original publication.

However, pair-wise comparison of marker genes among all cell clusters reveal that these two

unknown cell clusters have considerable overlaps with the FC_11-1. Microglia cell type

(Figure S1. A), which explains the pattern we observe.

3.3 CD16+ Monocytes highly enriched in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

In a recent study, Breen and colleagues conducted a bulk whole-transcriptome study using

peripheral blood leukocytes collected from U.S. Marines, among which some developed

PTSD post-deployment [7]. Using this dataset, we generate a list of DE genes that show

significant difference between the PTSD group and the control group at the pre-deployment

timepoint.

Using human marker genes derived from a single cell transcriptomic study on PBMC [8],

LRcell analysis finds that cells annotated as CD16+ non-classical Monocytes shows up as the

most significant among all cell types in PBMC (Figure 2. C). Our finding makes biological

sense because as stated in previous studies [9], heterogeneity exists in monocytes

distinguished by CD16 surface proteins and non-classical monocytes have been validated to

regulate immune responses in trauma [10,11].

3.4 Marker genes from different region or timepoints

To apply *LRcell*, an important question is that which marker gene sets to use, i.e., how to

select single cell RNA-seq data where the source of the tissue match the tissue type profiled

in the bulk transcriptomic study. This is particularly important for complex tissues such as

brain. To address this issue, we use the neurodegenerative dementia study [4] as an example,

which contains information from four brain regions: cortex, hippocampus (HC), cerebellum

(CB) and brain stem. Brain stem is excluded from our analysis due to the lack of marker gene

information from that region of the brain.

To understand how marker genes vary across brain regions, we first define marker genes in

all regions of the brain to explore their spatial pattern (Figure S1. B; Figure S1. C). We

observe that glia cells, such as Astrocytes, from different regions have higher number of

overlapping marker genes which indicates the homogeneity of glia cells across the brain . In

contrast, neurons and interneurons share very few marker genes across different brain

regions. We then apply pre-embedded adult mouse brain marker genes from FC, HC and CB

to bulk DE genes obtained from cortex, HC and CB respectively (Figure S2. A-H). We

observe that Microglia cells are highly enriched in all three brain regions whereas Astrocytes

are particularly highly enriched in CB (Figure S2. B, D, H). Especially when applying CB

marker genes to CB bulk DE experiment, we notice that one sub-cell type of Astrocytes is

highly enriched compared to others. Our observations demonstrate that selected cell types are

heterogeneous spatially, meaning marker genes are highly specific not only for the cell type,

but also which region the cell belongs to. Because of this finding, it is highly desirable to run

LRcell using marker genes of cell types located in closely matched brain regions.

We are also curious whether marker genes curated from scRNA-seq experiments

conducted on non-normal samples is acceptable as the reference. To address this question, we

use data from the HIV vaccine study [8], we observe that the expression of cell-type specific

marker genes is mostly consistent across different timepoints within the same cell type (such

as CD8 cells), and distinct across different cell types (Figure 2.D; Figure 2.E). For example,

B sub-cell types share a considerable number of marker genes across timepoints, while

sharing fewer with other cell types. Thus, although default marker genes used in *LRcell* are

collected from control samples, we believe that marker genes identified from non-normal

samples are acceptable when scRNA-seq data from normal samples are not available.

3.5 Comparison to GSEA

GSEA is a powerful tool to determine whether a pre-defined gene set show concordant shift

in expression when comparing two biological conditions. One could potentially replace

LRcell with GSEA to identify DE-driving cell types, by treating cell-type specific marker

genes as pre-defined gene sets. To compare performance of the two methods, we repeat the

analyses done in section 3.1 and 3.2 using GSEA. The GSEA result from the

neurodegenerative dementia mouse model (Figure S3A) yields several equally significant cell

types including: Astrocyte, Endothelial, Microglia, Mural, Oligodendrocyte and

Polydendrocyte. The tied significances lead to difficulties in determining which cell type(s)

plays a key role in the dementia. Similar pattern is observed in the GSEA result on PTSD

study (Figure S4. A) which shows that Monocytes, Dendritic cells and some T sub-cell types

are equally enriched. Based on the above observations, we conclude that *LRcell* is more

effective than GSEA to identify sub cell types that are most impacted by the condition change

in bulk DE studies.

3.5 Comparison to MuSiC

A plethora of deconvolution methods has been developed to infer the proportions of different

sub cell types from bulk transcriptomic data [1][12][13][14][15]. By deconvoluting

individual bulk samples and comparing their proportions, one can identify both cell-type

proportion and gene expression changes. Hence it is of interest to compare *LRcell* with such a

bulk deconvolution strategy. For comparison, we apply MuSiC [13], a deconvolution method,

to the mouse neurodegenerative dementia study [4] on both conditions. Because some layers

of neurons are predicted to have almost zero proportion (Figure S3. B) when using all 81 sub-

cell types, we curate the original sub-clusters into 15 major cell types in order to achieve a

better representation. Despite this, MuSiC does not detect significant difference in Microglia

or Astrocyte in terms of their proportions between the two conditions. When applied to the

PTSD study, using the original cell cluster annotations, MuSiC shows that most of the T sub-

cell types have zero proportion and the proportion of CD14+ Monocytes is up to 60% (Figure

S4. B). In contrast, *LRcell* produces more sensible results because it is not limited by the

number of cell types as it can detect the subtle differences among sub-cell types.

3.5 Discussions

Detecting transcriptional activity changes at the individual cell type level, especially their

modifications in disease samples, is crucial for understanding the mechanisms of diseases

development. Deconvolution-based computational tools have been developed to dissect cell

type proportions from bulk gene expression profiles. The computationally-inferred

proportions can then be used for comparison. However, such a strategy is numerically

unstable and unable to handle large number of sub-cell types. In this study, we propose a

novel alternative strategy named *LRcell*, *LRcell* conducts enrichment analysis of cell-type

specific marker genes among the top (or bottom) DE genes identified by bulk transcriptome

studies. Cell types show the most enrichment are likely to play an important role in the

condition alteration. When applying to real datasets, we found *LRcell* can successfully

identify the involvement of the Microglia and Astrocytes in neurodegenerative dementia and

rare Monocytes in PTSD.

In spirit, *LRcell* operates similarly as GSEA. But *LRcell* is much more sensitive to minor

differences in marker genes of sub-cell types, which indicates its potential to detect changes

in sub-cell types caused by disease conditions. Additionally, when compared to existing bulk

deconvolution methods, *LRcell* is more stable in its ability to handle the similarities among

sub-cell types. Thus, *LRcell* enables researchers to glean new biological insights from the

bulk transcriptomics experiments with no need of matching single cell experiment.

To enable easy comparison, currently, we select a fix number of 100 marker genes from each

sub-cell type. Understandably, the number of marker genes for different cell types varies, it is

desirable to allow flexibility in choosing the number of marker genes based on the

transcriptomic patterns across cell types. However, different numbers of marker genes post

challenge for conducting enrichment analyses fairly across all cell types. This will be

investigated in our future studies.

LRcell currently provides embedded marker genes from human blood, human brain and

mouse brain calculated from scRNA-seq experiments along with markers from 66 cell types

in four tissues adopted from MSigDB. We are working to include more tissue types in the

future releases of *LRcell* which will make it more widely applicable.

Conclusions

In summary, we develop *LRcell*, an R Bioconductor package for identifying sub-cell type(s)

that drive the changes observed in bulk comparative transcriptomic studies, taking

advantages of newly emerged scRNA-seq data. The rationale of *LRcell* is that we believe

marker genes of the modifying cell types tend to be enriched toward the top (or bottom) of

the DE gene lists. We conduct comprehensive surveys applying *LRcell* across various

experimental conditions, and successfully identify cell types that play important roles in

neurodegenerative dementia and PTSD. Hence, we believe *LRcell* can provide researchers

important and new biological insights in terms of the source of the biological changes at the

sub-cell type level, without the need of conducting costly and laborious scRNA-seq

experiments.

Methods

Basic Assumptions

The goal of *LRcell* is to identify the most affected sub-cell type(s) during the transition of

experimental conditions using only bulk transcriptomic data. Based on the assumptions that

cell-type specific marker genes of key cell types tend to be over-represented among the

significant DE genes in bulk transcriptomic studies, *LRcell* is able to discover which cell

type(s) is involved in certain disease or condition change. In recent years, computational

methods have been developed to deconvolve bulk RNA-seq data to delineate cell-type

proportion changes, which could be borrowed to answer the same question. However,

whenever there are ten or more sub-cell types, the results from deconvolution methods

become unreliable. In contrast, *LRcell* enables comparison across many more cell types

which is important for complex tissues such as brain.

The development of *LRcell* is inspired by LRpath [16], which is designed for linking

experimental changes to biological pathways or a pre-defined gene set. In *LRcell*, we utilize

cell-type specific marker genes as gene sets and calculate the enrichment of each cell type

when comparing two biological conditions. We believe that the most enriched cell type(s) is

highly likely to play an important role in the experimental condition change.

scRNA-seq Data Preprocessing

In this study, we include marker genes from mouse whole brain, human prefrontal cortex and

human PBMC, along with 66 cell types' markers from four tissues adopted from MSigDB.

For each scRNA-seq dataset, we first retrieved raw read count matrix. Next, we filtered out

low-quality cells and genes and apply column-wise normalization and log transformation on

the data.

The mouse whole brain scRNA-seq dataset [5] produced using the Drop-seq technology

[17], contains nine brain regions from adult mice. The data provided has already been pre-

filtered by the authors. For cell types other than neurons, we directly utilized the information

provided on the study website. For neurons and interneurons, we curated the sub-cell types

following the original study.

The human prefrontal cortex scRNA-seq dataset [18], produced by 10X Genomics

Chromium, is derived from the prefrontal cortex (pFC) region (specifically BA9). The

dataset contains two conditions: healthy controls and major depressive disorder (MDD). We

split the data matrix into two parts and filtered out cells expressing less than 10 genes and

genes expressed in less than 10 cells respectively. We also filtered out mitochondrial,

ribosomal genes, and genes from annotation clusters (Astros_1, Mix_1, Mix_2, Mix_3,

Mix_4, Mix_5, Inhib_4_SST).

The PBMC dataset [8], generated by CITE-seq technology [19], is derived from an HIV

vaccine trial study which involves eight volunteers at three timepoints: immediately before,

three days and seven days after the vaccine. The study contains 161,764 cells in total. To

accelerate the marker gene selection, we separated the count matrix according to the time

label and filtered out low-quality cells and genes (mitochondrial, ribosomal genes and those

expressed in less than 1,000 cells). The cluster annotated as "Doublet" was filtered out.

Marker Gene Selection

After obtaining the log-normalized gene expression matrix along with high-quality sub-cell

type clusters, we calculated the enrichment scores for each cluster (sub-cell type) using the

marker gene selection method described in Marques et al[20]. The cluster-specific gene

enrichment is defined as the average gene expression levels of cells in that cluster divided by

the average gene expression levels in all cells. The enrichment score is adjusted by

introducing a penalty representing the fraction of cells in that cluster expressing the marker

gene. Combined together, this score allows the identification of genes with high, cluster-

specific expression to be selected as marker genes. The description below is adapted from the

original publication.

Suppose there are a total of M genes, L different clusters each with N_j cells, and the

total number of cells is N. Let $E = \{E_{ijk}\}$ represent the gene by cell read count matrix. Here

$i = 1, \dots, M, j = 1, \dots, L, k = 1, \dots, N_j$ and $N = \sum_{j=1}^{L} N_j$. The overall average expression of

the ith gene across all cells is defined as:

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$$\bar{E}_{i..} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{L} \sum_{k=1}^{N_j} E_{ijk}$$

287   The average expression of gene i in the jth cluster is defined as:

288
$$\bar{E}_{ij.} = \frac{1}{N_j} \sum_{k=1}^{N_j} E_{ijk}$$

289   The enrichment for gene i in the jth cluster as:

290
$$Enrichment_{i,j} = \frac{\bar{E}_{ij.}}{\bar{E}_{i.}}$$

291   Next, we consider the proportion expressing the gene i in the jth cluster as:

292
$$Prop_{i,j} = \frac{1}{N_j} \sum_{k=1}^{N_j} I(E_{ijk} > 0)$$

293   The $I(\cdot)$ is an indicator function.

294   The enrichment score for gene i in the jth cluster is computed as:

295
$$Score_{i,j} = Enrichment_{i,j} \times (Prop_{i,j})^{power}$$

296 where "power" is a hyperparameter to be tuned manually to control the penalization for the

297 cell cluster proportion term. The power parameter is set to 1 throughout this study. After

298 calculating the weighed gene enrichment scores in each cluster, we ranked genes based on the

299 scores and selected the top 100 genes as the marker genes for each cluster.

MSigDB Marker Genes

302 We downloaded cell marker gene sets from MSigDB category C8 – cell type signature gene

303 sets. Since not all tissue types are suitable for *LRcell*, we applied the following criteria to

304 select tissues: 1), non-fetal tissues; , 2), have more than 8 (sub-) cell types; 3), minimum

305 number of marker gene greater than 50; 4), median number of marker genes greater than 80.

306 In the end, four tissue types, the midbrain, cord blood, ovary and skeletal muscle remain.

Bulk RNA-seq Data Preprocessing

The raw count of mouse bulk RNA-seq study on AD was downloaded from GEO (Accession

number: GSE90693). DE analysis is performed using DESeq2 [21] to obtain DEGs in each

brain region.

The raw count of bulk RNA-seq study on PTSD was downloaded from Recount2

[22]. We extracted out the experiment contrasting PTSD cases and healthy controls with

timepoint of pre-employment and performed DESeq2 to obtain DEGs.

LRcell Analysis

LRcell is inspired by LRpath, which was designed for identifying sets of predefined gene sets

that show enrichment with differentially expressed transcripts in microarray experiments.

LRcell uses logistic regression or linear regression to assess whether marker genes (as defined

in the **Marker Gene Selection** sub-section above) of a specific cell type are more likely to be

DE genes in a particular comparison study. The linear regression option is added in order to

handle the continuous enrichment scores of marker genes. Users can choose accordingly. To

facilitate our analysis, we assume that the major sub cell types of the tissue their marker

genes are known *a priori*.

We apply LRcell to each cell type independently. The required input includes a list of

DE genes ranked by the level of significance, and a set of marker genes for each cell type.

Then *LRcell* runs a logistic regression as

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$$log \frac{\theta}{1 - \theta} = \alpha + \beta x$$

329 and

330
$$\theta = P(Y = 1)$$

In which $Y = 1$ denotes that gene is a marker gene and $Y = 0$ otherwise. Hence θ

represents the chance that the gene is a marker gene. We use $-\log(p - value)$ as the

explanatory variable x. Whether a specific cell type is involved in the experimental condition

change is evaluated by testing the null hypothesis that $\beta = 0$ against the alternative that $\beta \neq$

0 using the Wald test. Typically, we run *LRcell* on all sub cell types found in the tissue to see

which sub cell type(s) drives the changes.

Similar to logistic regression, linear regression directly performs

338
$$Y = \alpha + \beta x$$

where Y indicates the enrichment scores of genes. Same as logistic regression, the p-value

can be obtained from testing the null hypothesis that $\beta = 0$ against the alternative that $\beta \neq 0$

using the t-test.

Once the p-values are obtained, we calculate False Discover Rate (FDR) using

p.adjust() function in R to adjust p-values with Benhamini-Hochberg method.

Input and Output

LRcell requires two inputs: (1) a ranked list of genes with differential expression (DE) p-values in

a bulk RNA-seq experiment; (2) sets of marker genes from all sub-cell types of the bulk tissue

acquired from scRNA-seq datasets *a priori* or from MSigDB C8—cell type signature gene sets.

For those cell markers derived from scRNA-seq datasets, we offer choices for users to choose

between species as human or mouse and the region indicates the specific brain region or PBMC.

For MSigDB cell markers, we store the marker genes into the *LRcellTypeMarkers* packages

which can be easily downloaded. When running LRcell() function, the Logistic Regression (LR)

option is set as the default, while users can also set the method option as LiR if Linear Regression

is desired. For linear regression, an enrichment score is needed as input for each gene whereas

gene sets are sufficient for logistic regression. For MSigDB cell type signature gene set, LR

option is recommended as there is no enrichment score information available. For customized

input, i.e., a scRNA-seq data, we offer a LRcell_gene_enriched_scores function which takes the

read counts matrix and cell annotation as input to generate enrichment scores for genes in each

cell type. For further subsetting, get_markergenes can be used for generating marker genes for

more specific sub cell types.

The output is a list of significance p-value (or FDR), one for each sub cell type. For

visualization, *LRcell* produces Manhattan plot, which can be drawn through

plot_manhattan_enrich function. We also provided a plot (plot_marker_dist function) indicating

where certain cell-type specific marker genes locate on the bulk DE genes. The bulk DE genes

are better sorted using -log10(p-value) $\times$ sign(log2FoldChange) which could potentially give

information on both up-/down-regulated directions. More detailed information about *LRcell* is

available at http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/LRcell.html.

LRcell requires an R version beyond 4.1 and a prerequisite installation of BiocManager.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets analyzed during the current study are available in the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) with following accession numbers: mouse whole brain [5] (GSE116470), human prefrontal cortex [18] (GSE144136), human PBMC [8] (GSE164378), neurodegenerative dementia study [4] (GSE90696) and PTSD study [7] (GSE64814). The R package is freely available on Bioconductor (https://doi.org/doi:10.18129/B9.bioc.LRcell) and the external marker genes are stored in another R package named *LRcellTypeMarkers* on Bioconductor (https://doi.org/doi:10.18129/B9.bioc.LRcellTypeMarkers).

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author's contributions

ZQ and WM conceived the idea and supervised the study. WM realized the method and developed the R package. WM analyzed the real data and conducted the computational experiments. SS provided guidance on validating biological experiments and tested the package. WM and ZQ summarized the results and wrote the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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Figures

Figure 1 Overview of *LRcell* workflow. (A) describes a bulk RNA-seq experiment design
with control and disease conditions. (B) describes a marker gene list derived from scRNA-
seq experiment through LRcell or prior knowledge. (C) (upper panel) illustrates how the
distribution of marker genes on bulk DE genes may affect the regression; (lower panel)
visualizes the FDR rate for each cell type in which the grey cells and dark blue cells are most
likely involved in the condition change.
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Figure 2 *LRcell* datasets and *applying LRcell* to real cases. (A) demonstrates the marker
genes included in *LRcell*. (B) visualzes the *LRcell* result of applying mouse brain FC marker
genes to FC region from bulk neurodegenerative dementia study. Microglia is shown as the
most significant cell type. (C) visualizes the *LRcell* result of applying human PBMC marker
genes to bulk PTSD study. CD16+ Monocytes is shown as the most significant cell type. (D)
(E) show the cell-type-specific marker genes overlap between different time points derived
from human PBMC. Top 100 marker genes for each cell type are selected.
483
Figure S1: Marker genes overlap between different brain regions. Top 100 marker genes
are selected for each cell type, thus, the maximum overlap in figures is 100. (A) describes the
marker genes overlap within Frontal Cortex (FC) region derived from mouse whole brain
scRNA-seq dataset. The highlighted area describes the overlap between FC_11-3.unknown,
FC_11-4.unknwon and FC_11-1.Microglia as an illustration for the similarity between these
three sub-cell types. (B) describes the marker genes overlap between FC and Cerebellum
(CB). (C) describes the marker genes overlap between FC and Hippocampus (HC). As shown
in (B)(C), the overlaps are lower than in (A).
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Figure S2. *LRcell* analysis on different combinations of marker genes and bulk DE
genes. (A) applies FC marker genes on HC; (B) applies FC markers on CB; (C) applies HC
markers on HC; (D) applies HC markers on CB; (E) applies HC markers on FC; (F) applies
CB markers on FC; (G) applies CB markers on HC; (H) applies CB markers on CB.
Compared to (B) and (D), which analyze CB bulk DE genes, (H) has a higher resolution as
the FDR ranges from 0 to 12.
499
Figure S3: GSEA and MuSiC comparison on neurodegenerative dementia study. (A)
shows the GSEA enrichment when using the same marker genes for LRcell (mouse brain FC)
as input. Several dots are sharing the same significances which is difficult to interpret. (B)
shows the proportions calculated from MuSiC between control and disease. Each box
contains 17 individuals. The x-axis is ordered by the t-test significance between two
conditions.
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Figure S4: GSEA and MuSiC comparison on PTSD study. (A) shows the GSEA
enrichment when using the same marker genes for LRcell (human PBMC) as input.
Similarly, several dots are sharing the same significances. (B) shows the proportions
calculated from MuSiC between control and disease. The x-axis is ordered by the t-test
significance between two conditions. As shown in the figures, MuSiC failed to identify all
cell type proportions as there are plenty of 0s starting from ASCD_pDC cell type and the
CD14+ Monocytes are wrongly inferred.
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