[CL6-1]

Two-Tier Mapper: a user-friendly clustering method for global gene expression based on topology

Rachel Jeitziner¹, Mathieu Carrière⁴, Jacques Rougemont², Steve Oudot⁴, Kathryn Hess³, and Cathrin Brisken¹

¹Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, ²Bioinformatics and Biostatistics Core facility, ³Brain and Mind Institute, School of Life Sciences, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland, ⁴INRIA Saclay, France.

I will present a new method to analyze biological data, based on topological data analysis. I will introduce the mathematics underlying this new tool, illustrate its utility through examples, and describe theoretical aspects of its stability.

This method provides a first approximation to the variability in a dataset, describing divergences from sample to sample. It comprises a visualization tool that distinguishes the various clusters, giving an easy-to-grasp presentation of the variation between samples in the dataset as a colored graph.

The method, which is based on the well-known Mapper algorithm, can be applied reliably to both small and large datasets, which is a clear advantage in comparison with standard statistical tools, which perform reliably only on datasets of at least a certain minimal size. All parameters are determined either in a data-driven manner or by choosing reliable, user-independent default parameters.