Gene Ontology Semi-supervised Clustering for Prediction of Genes Functions

By

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Declaration

This is to certify that the thesis work entitled "Gene Ontology Semi-supervised Clustering for Prediction of Genes Functions" has been carried out by Animesh Kumar Paul in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), Khulna, Bangladesh. The above thesis work or any part of this work has not been submitted anywhere for the award of any degree or diploma.

Signature of Supervisor

Signature of Candidate

Approval

This is to certify that the thesis work submitted by Animesh Kumar Paul entitled "Gene Ontology Semi-supervised Clustering for Prediction of Genes Functions" has been approved by the board of examiners for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Computer Science & Engineering in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Khulna, Bangladesh in February, 2018.

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Author

Abstract

Different products of gene expression work together in a cell for each living organism to achieve different biological processes. Many proteins play different roles depending on the environment of the organism for the functioning of a cell. Usually, most conventional methods are not able to analyze the functions of the genes biologically. In this thesis, we propose a gene ontology (GO) annotation based semi-supervised clustering algorithm called GO Fuzzy relational clustering (GO-FRC). In GO-FRC, one gene is allowed to be assigned to multiple clusters, and that is biologically relevant to the behavior of gene. In the clustering process, GO-FRC utilizes the useful biological knowledge, which is available in the form of a Gene Ontology, as a prior knowledge along with the gene expression data. The prior knowledge helps to improve the coherence of the groups concerning the knowledge field. The proposed GO-FRC has been tested on the two yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) expression profiles datasets (Eisen and Dream 5 yeast datasets) and has compared with other state-of-the-art clustering algorithms. Experimental results imply that GO-FRC can produce more biologically relevant clusters with the use of the small amount of GO annotations.

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Background

High-throughput microarray technology [1] generates vast amounts of gene expression data under a variety of conditions [2, 3, 4] for numerous living organisms. This technology provides an effective platform for systematically analyzing the biological systems to obtain the underlying information about the functionality and organization of the cell. In a view to understanding the functions of cells, we need to investigate the behavior of the genes in a holistic manner [5, 6, 7, 8] rather than in an individual manner. Clustering is the most common approach to analyzing the gene expression data by considering a large number of genes and the high complexity of biological networks [9, 10, 11, 12]. In the recent works, the authors have used different clustering methods like k-means, FCM and moreover, some of them incorporated the biological information to these types of clustering methods. The recent works depict that the methods without the previous biological knowledge are unable to give biological relevant clustering process.

1.2 Problem Statement

Conventional clustering methods such as k-means [13, 14] and hierarchical [1, 15, 16, 17] are commonly used for the analysis of microarray data. These types of conventional clustering algorithms assign each gene to one cluster only [18] and these methods not capable of assigning a gene to multiple clusters. Because these conventional methods work based on the Boolean logic. We would like to point out that, in the biological system, gene products are associated with various biological functions, and these genes are coregulated in various forms under various environmental states. So the processes of assigning each gene into one cluster by these conventional methods are not biologically relevant. Therefore, a relational

clustering algorithm is required and time demanding to assign each gene/gene products into different cluster referred to as biological functions.

1.3 Objectives

The key objective of this work is to find the functions of the genes and their involvement into the organism. This general objective can be divided into the following specific ones:

- To enhance the fuzzy relational clustering by introducing the prior knowledge into it and investigate the incorporation of the gene annotation to modified fuzzy relational clustering for finding the roles of the genes which are involved depending on the environment of the organism.
- To predict functions of the genes.
- To compare the performance with other prominent methods on the Saccharomyces cerevisiae dataset to identify the effectiveness of a method for analyzing the gene expression profiles.

1.4 Methodology

Fuzzy relational clustering algorithm (FRC) based on Gene Ontology called GO-FRC is proposed to generate the biological relevant clustering from the different datasets. The GO-FRC method integrates the Gene Ontology information and fuzzy relational clustering to find the number of clusters through Go slim terms and then partitions the whole given dataset to produce the most biologically relevant clusters.

Here, two well-known cluster validity indices, cohesion, and separation are used in the process of the clustering where cohesion is for evaluating the cluster homogeneity and separation means quantifying the separation between different clusters. Finally, the proposed method is compared with other existing method using Z-score value which is calculated through the Clusterjudge.

1.5 Scope of the Thesis

This study focuses on clustering the microarray gene expression data. The proposed method uses the GO annotations as prior knowledge for assigning initial clusters to generate consistent clusters. This clustering can help to disclose the unknown functions of the genes. The researcher limited this research to use only those data for which the Gene annotation and GO slim terms are available. Here, we have used yeast GOSlim terms, but the model can work on any kind of extended version of GOSlim terms as prior knowledge. Along with the budding yeast, the proposed system can be used to organisms. The constraint of this proposed technique is that we need to determine a parameter of the clustering process experimentally.

1.6 Contributions

The major contributions of this research topic are –

- Incorporate the GO annotation information into Fuzzy relational clustering method.
- Decrease the dependency on the prior knowledge of the number of clusters.
- Produce more biological relevant clustering results compare to others who don't use domain knowledge
- Produce the consistent clustering results for the multiple runs.
- Predict the functions of the genes.

1.7 Organization of the thesis

The rest of this thesis is organized as follows:

- **Chapter II** presents some of the existing prominent data clustering schemes while focusing on their limitations. It also includes alluring benefits of data clustering by the proposed method.
- Chapter III presents the proposed system named GO-FRC and describes its working procedure in detail. It then describes the fuzzy relational clustering algorithm in detail. It also describes the objective functions used in our proposed method. This chapter also includes a description of Gene

Ontology. It also describes the evaluation function used for evaluating the clusters.

- **Chapter IV** shows the experimental results of the proposed method on microarray gene expression datasets. Here it demonstrates the improved performance of GO-FRC in comparison with clustering approaches.
- Chapter V lists the concluding remarks gathered from experiments.

The appendices are presented afterward.

CHAPTER II

Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes some related works based on clustering to analysis the microarray data. The limitations of these methods are also mentioned here. Additionally, this chapter also presents how the limitations of the existing methods are overcame by the proposed method.

2.2 Related work

High-throughput microarray technology [1] generates vast amounts of gene expression data under a variety of conditions [2, 3, 4] for numerous living organisms. This technology provides an effective platform for systematically analyzing the biological systems to obtain the underlying information about the functionality and organization of the cell. In a view to understanding the functions of cells, we need to investigate the behavior of the genes in a holistic manner [5, 6, 7, 8] rather than in an individual manner. Clustering is the most common approach to analyzing the gene expression data by considering a large number of genes and the high complexity of biological networks [9, 10, 11, 12].

Conventional clustering methods such as k-means [13, 14] and hierarchical [1, 15, 16, 17] are commonly used for the analysis of microarray data. These types of conventional clustering algorithms assign each gene to one cluster only [18] and these methods not capable of assigning a gene to multiple clusters. Because these conventional methods work by Boolean logic. We would like to point out that, in the biological system, gene products are associated with various biological functions, and these genes are coregulated in various forms under various environmental states. So the processes of assigning each gene into one cluster by

these conventional methods are not biologically relevant. For this reason, a multivalued clustering algorithm is necessary and time demanding that can be capable of assigning the genes into different clusters.

Some noteworthy research works have been conducted for the clustering process. Ayad et al. [19] introduced cluster ensemble approach based on relabeling and voting technique. In their method, general voting-based consensus clustering refers to a distinct class of consensus methods in which the cluster label mismatch problem is explicitly addressed. Their method illustrates that the performance of data clustering is improved by combining the results of several clustering algorithms. Cui et al. [20] then applied the Low-Rank Representation (LRR) model to identify the functional interaction between genes. Besides this methods can generate gene clusters in which one gene can be assigned to multiple clusters, from microarray data. Jamous et al. introduce a clustering method called binarization of consensus partition matrix (Bi-CoPaM) [21] based on the tunable binarization that can identify functionally active sequences from microarray datasets. Bi-CoPaM allows one gene to be assigned to different clusters which help to identify the gene clusters from the microarray gene expression data. But Bi-CoPaM limits the gene to be assigned to any of the clusters, so it is unable to make any prediction of their properties for the further analysis of these unassigned genes. These consensus clustering methods selected the number of clusters randomly initially for generating the different clustering results and do not incorporate any previous biological knowledge like Gene Ontology for the ensemble clustering process.

Fuzzy c-means (FCM) [22, 23, 24, 25, 26] is used to represent the relationships between the genes. FCM allows each gene to be a member of each cluster using a membership value that denotes the degree of strength of membership to clusters by the similarity between the gene expression data and each cluster's properties. In FCM, genes can be assigned to multiple clusters which genes are involved in different type of coregulation process. To add more advantages to FCM, authors incorporated other ideas to FCM and proposed a hybrid system such as FuzzySOM [27] and Fuzzy J-means [28]. Fuzzy J-means considers the local minima problem

for cluster solutions and for solving this problem, it used variable neighborhood searching. FuzzySOM [27] adds the idea of self-organizing maps(SOM) [29, 30] to FCM for arraying the cluster centroids into the low-dimensional grid. Although all of these variations of FCM clustering method help to get a more accurate representation of the clusters, these methods suffer from the same basic limitations, i.e., using random memberships assignment for each gene as an initial stage. In multiple runs of the clustering process for the same dataset, the clustering process generates inconsistent results due to the use of different initial membership values, so finally, we don't get identical clusters set. For extenuating this limitation, Eisen and Gasch [26] incorporating principle component analysis (PCA) to FCM for identifying the seeding prototype centroids.

The generated clusters are needed to be assigned to relevant biological processes based on the biological knowledge. For this purpose, GO annotations [31] are the best choice. These GO annotations are incorporated with different methods for the analysis of gene microarray data. Cheng et al. [32] used a graph based GO structure for calculating the gene similarity to find the gene cluster. GO hierarchical is also merged into the hierarchical subspace clustering process [33]. Fang et al. [34] allow genes to be assigned to already known biological processes by utilizing the knowledge of GO annotations. Huang et al. [35] used GO annotations with the Kmedoids algorithm, and here it allows unknown genes to be assigned to clusters which contain the genes with known functions but it doesn't allow known functional genes to other functional clusters. In the work of Brameier et al. [36], the co-clustering algorithm used to cluster yeast genes based on the microarray expression profiles and GO annotations, and it used random assignment of the membership values for genes, so we don't get the same final clustering result for the multiple runs of the clustering algorithm. The model-based clustering method is proposed by Pan et al. [37] using the GO annotations as prior probabilities. Nepomuceno et al. [38] integrate GO annotation information into biclustering process to evaluate the quality of the clusters. It takes GO annotation, microarray expression matrix, the number of clusters as the input values.

CHAPTER III

Go Annotations Based Fuzzy Relational Clustering

3.1 Introduction

This chapter described the concept, working principle of the proposed gene ontology-based clustering algorithm (GO-FRC) as depicted in Fig. 4.1, which can disclose the functions of the genes. The rest of the chapter gives the details of the GO-FRC method step by step.

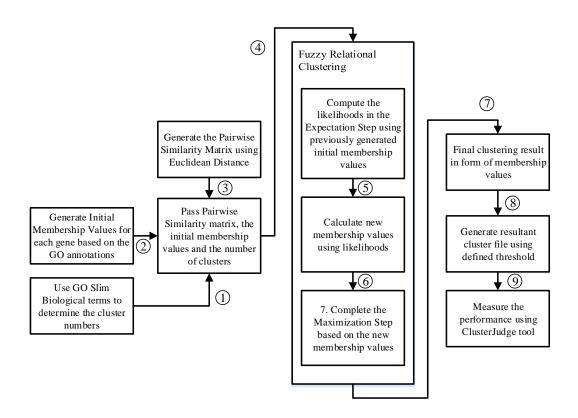


Fig. 3.1 Model of proposed GO-FRC

3.2 Collect GO Slim Biological Process Term

With the advent of the high-throughput technologies [40] such as DNA microarray, a sharp increase in functional data is found as a result of it. Experimental biologists found difficulty in extracting the important biological knowledge amidst the enthusiastic investigations into the tortuous gene expression data. It elicits the need for pertinent tools that help to accumulate reliable biological knowledge about genes and gene products. Gene ontology is such relevant tool which helps to maintain the well-organized biological knowledge and also fosters the advancement of several biomedical and biological applications [41, 42].

The Gene Ontology (GO) [31, 42] provides a set of expert-curated with hierarchically structured [43], precisely defined, controlled, and organism-independent vocabularies of terms of the functional annotation [44] of different model organisms to depict biomolecules or gene products in three aspects (biological process, molecular function, and cellular component). The biological process ontology represents collections of processes such as chemical reactions or other events performed by the different order of molecular functions. The molecular function ontology represents molecular level activities such as catalytic or binding. The cellular component ontology represents the locations in the levels of subcellular structures and macromolecular complexes from large structures such as the nucleus to smaller structures such as a protein complex [45]. Each ontology is engineered as a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) [42] hierarchy of terms. There contains parents-child relationships [46] between the terms and a term can have more than one parent.

The biological roles of gene products are annotated as GO annotation by the expertcurators based on their specialized ideas on the different organism. An evidence code is placed with each annotation for providing the general idea of what the type of confidence/support level [41] is used for each annotation. Each ontology contains an overwhelmingly large amount of controlled vocabularies, but sometimes such amount of details about the gene products can complicate the process of getting concise knowledge of the genes such as discovering the genes' general functions. Recognizing such needs, a set of general GO terms is provided the GO Consortium, which is referred to as GO slims [47] for various organisms. Domain experts are manually picked these terms for mapping all the major relationships of specific domains.

Here, we collected the GO slim biological process terms which are defined by Saccharomyces Genome Database [48]. These terms are used to get the broad overview of the functions of genes. Within an ontology, parent-child relationships exist between the terms where each node can give rise to various numbers of GO terms, and these terms, in turn, give rise to other terms or annotated genes as their leaves, respectively. So, we can say that almost similar genes contain same parents mean if two genes are annotated to two distinct GO terms but if both of them are descendants of a GOSlim term, then two genes are similar to each other. So, a GOSlim term and its descendants can form a cluster. Using this concept, the initial cluster is formed by assigning similar genes annotated to the corresponding GOSlim term.

3.3 GO Annotations based Fuzzy Relational Clustering Algorithm

In our proposed method, we have modified the Fuzzy Relational Clustering (FRC) algorithm [39]. The original FRC calculates the PageRank score for each object in each cluster to measure the centrality of each cluster. This algorithm works in two steps: firstly, Expectation Step and then Maximization step, aiming to optimize the cluster membership values and mixing coefficients. For performing these two steps, it requires a pairwise similarity matrix $SM = \{SM_{ij} | i = 1,..., N, j = 1,..., N\}$ where SM_{ij} is the similarity between data point i and j and N is the number of data points. It takes the similarity matrix(often referred to as affinity matrix) as an input for its clustering process. Here, we calculated the pairwise similarities between genes. Finally, it returns cluster membership values as a result.

In Expectation Step (E-step), the affinity matrix weights w_{ij} are calculated using the cluster membership values and scaling the similarities. i.e.

$$w_{ij}^s = SM_{ij} \times u_{is} \times u_{js} \tag{1}$$

Where w_{ij}^{s} is the weight between objects i and j in cluster s, SM_{ij} is the similarity between objects i and j, and u_{i}^{s} and u_{i}^{s} are the membership values of objects i and j to cluster s.

In the initial stage of the PageRank calculation, PageRank scores are initialized randomly. Then, for each cluster, it calculates the PageRank scores (PR) according to Eqn. 2.

$$PR_i^s = (1-d) + d* \sum_{I=1}^{N} W_{II}^s$$
 (2)

Where PR_i^s denotes the PageRank Score of i^{th} object for cluster s, d is the damping factor (generally, $0.8 \le d \le 0.9$), N is the number of nodes/data points. In this case, the PageRank score of a data point within each cluster is interpreted as the likelihood, and cluster membership values are updated using PageRank score.

In Maximization Step (M-step), updating of mixing coefficients is performed based on the expectation level's assessed membership values of the cluster.

In FRC process, it also used random initialization of membership values of instances, and as a result, we will get inconsistent or undesirable [25] clustering results. For avoiding these problems, we replace the random initialization process with the fixed and desired process. So, we got a repeatable clustering algorithm that is generated same clustering result for the given same parameter. In the traditional Fuzzy Relational Clustering algorithm, it needs prior knowledge about the number of clusters. For avoiding this situation, we utilized the information of GOSlims.

3.3.1 Incorporating gene annotation to fuzzy relational clustering

In the GO annotations, a set of genes is annotated with evidence codes which denote the level of confidence/reliability on those annotations for the biological process ontology. So, we used these evidence codes as the degree of support of the annotation for the membership initialization. The degree of support for each annotation is assigned considering the hierarchy of the level of confidence of the GO evidence. The degree of support values is shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Supporting Degree for each evidence code

Evidence Code	Supporting Degree
IDA,TAS	.90
IPI,IGI,IMP	.80
IEP,RCA,IC,ND,ISS	.70
NAS	.60
IEA	.50

Table 3.2: GOSlim Biological Process Terms prescribed by Saccharomyces

Genome Database

GO ID	Biological Process Term	
GO:0000746	Conjugation	
GO:0000910	Cytokinesis	
GO:0005975	Carbohydrate Metabolism	
GO:0006091	Generation of Precursor Metabolites and Energy	
GO:0006118	Electron Transport	
GO:0006259	DNA Metabolism	
GO:0006350	Transcription	
GO:0006412	Protein Biosynthesis	
GO:0006464	Protein Modification	
GO:0006519	Amino Acid and Derivative Metabolism	
GO:0006629	Lipid Metabolism	
GO:0006766	Vitamin Metabolism	
GO:0006810	Transport	
GO:0006950	Response to Stress	
GO:0006996	Organelle Organization and Biogenesis	
GO:0006997	Nuclear Organization and Biogenesis	
GO:0007010	Cytoskeleton Organization and Biogenesis	
GO:0007047	Cell Wall Organization and Biogenesis	

GO:0007049	Cell Cycle
GO:0007114	Cell Budding
GO:0007124	Pseudohyphal Growth
GO:0007126	Meiosis
GO:0007165	Signal Transduction
GO:0009653	Morphogenesis
GO:0016044	Membrane Organization and Biogenesis
GO:0016070	RNA Metabolism
GO:0016192	Vesicle-mediated Transport
GO:0019725	Cell Homeostasis
GO:0030163	Protein Catabolism
GO:0030435	Sporulation
GO:0042254	Ribosome Biogenesis and Assembly
GO:0045333	Cellular Respiration

We need to assign the genes under the 32 terms of the biological process (refers to Table 3.2), which is defined as GOSlim for yeast by SGD [50], in the process of clustering. We consider that each term of GOSlim biological process (bp) is the different cluster point (C_s) where C_s is the s^{th} bp process term. Assignment of the set of genes under the biological process terms are as follows: Suppose, we have a set of genes G. A gene g_i is assigned to GOSlim biological process C_s if the gene g_i is linked with bp based on the information of the GO annotation and in the GO hierarchy, bp is a offspring of C_s . The gene g_i is assigned to C_s with the degree of support for gene based on the GO annotation. The equations for the initialization of membership for gene g_i are as follow:

$$u_{is}^{(0)} = \alpha.\beta \tag{3}$$

$$u_{is}^{(0)} = db_{is}(1 - \alpha) + \alpha.\beta$$
 (4)

Where $u_{is}^{(0)}$ is the membership of gene g_i in cluster C_s (s^{th} biological process) in the 0^{th} iteration as an initial membership value and db_{is} is the degree of support based on the evidence code for the annotated gene g_i which is linked with biological process C_s , α is used to make the variation in the value of membership $u_{is}^{(0)}$ which depends on the gene expression and annotation where the values of the α are between 0 to 1. The dependency of $u_{is}^{(0)}$ on gene annotation is decreased while increasing the value of α . The computation of the membership values fully depends on the annotation information of the each gene when α is equal to 0. The purpose of β is used as the supporting degree where gene g_i is not associated with cluster C_s . If the value of β is small, it helps to assign the gene g_i to C_s based on its transcriptional pattern when the g_i is not associated with C_s . Here, the values of β are between 0 to 1.

In our proposed algorithm, initialize the membership values using Eqn. 3. If the g_i is associated with the biological process term C_s , then we use Eqn. 4. If there are multiple degree of support values for multiple evidence code for supporting the gene g_i annotation for C_s , the highest degree of supporting value for that gene g_i is used. Membership values of each gene to clusters are updated using the GO annotations and the given data after initializing membership values for each gene.

The idea behind integrating the Gene Ontology information to Fuzzy Relational Clustering is illustrated as follows:

1. **Initialization:** Pairwise similarities between genes are calculated using the Eqn. 5, and then these pairwise similarities named affinity matrix is passed to clustering process as an input. Initial membership values of the cluster are assigned using Eqn. 3 and Eqn. 4 and above procedure. Then, the membership values are normalized, and mixing coefficients are also initialized. Step 1 to 3 of Algorithm 2 shows the initialization process.

Pairwise Similarity,
$$SM = e^{-Euclidean distance}$$
 (5)

- 2. **Expectation step:** The value of PageRank for each object in each cluster is calculated using affinity matrix weights. The membership values are updated using the initial membership values which are generated on the basis of GO annotations. The process of updating the membership values is different from the original FRC algorithm. The steps are shown in Algorithm 2. Steps 10 and 12 of Algorithm 2 utilize the initial membership value of each gene.
- 3. **Maximization step:** Update the mixing coefficient based on membership values generated from the Expectation step.

The standard FRC algorithm can be outlined by Algorithm 1, where $S M_{ij}$, u_{is} , u_{js} , W_{ij}^s , PR_i^s have defined above, lh_i^s is the likelihood of object i in cluster s, MC_s is the mixing coefficient of cluster s. Here, the convergence condition of the algorithm is when the iteration number is equal to the maximum number of iterations. And also we depict our proposed method through the GO-FRC algorithm which is outlined by Algorithm 2.

```
Algorithm 1: Standard Fuzzy Relational Clustering (FRC)
```

```
Input: Number of clusters C, pairwise similarity matrix
            SM = \{SM_{ij} \mid i = 1, ..., N, j = 1, ..., N\} where SM_{ij} is the similarity between
            data point i and j and N is the number of data points
   Output: Cluster membership values u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1, ..., C, and k = 1, ..., N\}
 1 Initialization: Number of clusters C, randomly initialize membership values
    u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1, ..., C, \text{ and } k = 1, ..., N\} of data point k to cluster s, such that
    u_{ks} \in [0, 1], and normalize the membership values such that 0 < \sum_{k=1}^{N} u_{ks} < N and
    \sum_{s=1}^{C} u_{ks} = 1 \text{ for each data point k.};
 2 for s \leftarrow 1 to C do
   MC_s = \frac{1}{C}
 4 end
  while convergence condition is not satisfied do
        //Expectation Step
        for s \leftarrow 1 to C do
            Compute the weighted affinity matrix
             W = \{W_{ij}^s \mid i = 1, ..., N \text{ and } j = 1, ..., N\} using Eqn. 1
            Calculate PageRank scores PR^S = \{PR_i^s | i = 1, ..., N\} using Eqn. 2 for each data
            Compute likelihoods (lh) using PageRank scores. Here, it used the below
10
             equation, lh_i^s = PR_i^s / \sum_{j=1}^C PR_j^s, where i = 1, ..., N.
        end
11
        Calculate new membership values
12
                                  u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1, ..., C, and k = 1, ..., N\}
         for each data point using below equation, u_{is} = (MC_s \times lh_{is}) / \sum_{k=1}^{C} lh_{ik}
        //Maximization Step
13
        Update the mixing coefficients MC = \{MC_s | s = 1, ..., C\} using the below equation
14
         based on the new membership values u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1, ..., C, \text{ and } k = 1, ..., N\} of
         step 12.
                                                MC_s = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{is}
```

15 end

Algorithm 2: GO annotations based Fuzzy Relational Clustering (GO-FRC)

```
Input: Number of clusters C, pairwise similarity matrix
            SM = \{SM_{ij} \mid i = 1,...,N, j = 1,...,N\} where SM_{ij} is the similarity between
            data point i and j and N is the number of data points
   Output: Cluster membership values u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1, ..., C, \text{ and } k = 1, ..., N\}
1 Initialization: Number of clusters C, initialize membership values
     u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1, \dots, C, \text{ and } k = 1, \dots, N\} of data point k to cluster s, using Eqs. 3 and
    4 such that u<sub>ks</sub> ∈ [0, 1], and normalize each membership value using the following
    equation such that 0 < \sum_{k=1}^{N} u_{ks} < n and \sum_{s=1}^{C} u_{ks} = 1 for each data point k.
                                                  u_{ks} = \frac{u_{ks}}{\sum_{k} u_{kx}}
2 for s \leftarrow 1 to C do
3 MC_s = \frac{1}{C}
5 while convergence condition is not satisfied do
        //Expectation Step
        for s \leftarrow 1 to C do
7
            Compute the weighted affinity matrix
            W = \{W_{ij}^s \mid i = 1, ..., N \text{ and } j = 1, ..., N\} using Eqn. 1
Calculate PageRank scores PR^S = \{PR_i^s \mid i = 1, ..., N\} using Eqn. 2 for each data
             Compute likelihoods (lh) using PageRank scores. Here, it used the below
10
              equation, lh_i^s = PR_i^s / \sum_{i=1}^C PR_j^s \times u_{is}^{(0)}, where i = 1, ..., N.
11
        Calculate new membership values
12
                                   u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1, ..., C, and k = 1, ..., N\}
         for each data point using below equation, u_{is} = (MC_s \times lh_{is}) / \sum_{L}^{C} lh_{ik}
13
        //Maximization Step
        Update the mixing coefficients MC = \{MC_s | s = 1, ..., C\} using the below equation
         based on the new membership values u = \{u_{ks} | s = 1,...,C, and k = 1,...,N\} of
                                                  MC_s = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} u_{is}
```

For evaluating the cluster, we consider the ratio of clusters compactness to separation [51] stated in Eqn. 6, where N is the total number of genes, C is the number of clusters, x_i is the expression vector data for gene g_i . The cluster's optimality is increasing while decreasing the ratio. The lowest ratio gives the highest separation between clusters, but with the most compact cluster.

15 end

$$Ratio = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{s=1}^{C} u_{is}^{2} ||C_{s} - x_{i}||}{n \min_{i,s} ||C_{s} - C_{i}||^{2}}$$
(6)

In the clustering results, the biological process C_s contains a gene g_i if $u_{is} > 0.035$ where 0.035 is the membership cutoff value in this experiment.

Conventional clustering algorithms used arbitrary membership cutoff values. In this study, we consider 0.035 as the membership cutoff value because it is always higher than the membership value which is $(\frac{1}{Cluster\ Numbers=32}=0.03125)$ uniformly distributed.

3.5. Conclusions

Clustering process is completed by using Fuzzy Relational Clustering with GO annotations. GO annotations help to generate biological relevant clusters from the microarray gene expression data.

CHAPTER IV

Simulation Results and Discussions

4.1 Introduction

Gene products are habitually associated with various tasks in the cell's functioning. Therefore each gene can be assigned to multiple clusters in the clustering process. But the conventional clustering algorithms such as k-means, hierarchical are not capable of assigning a gene to multiple clusters. Fuzzy relational clustering algorithm supports multifunctional behavior which is more suitable for representing the relationships between the genes of cell in living organisms.

In this experiment, we used two yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae datasets which are collected from Eisen Lab [26] and DREAM5 challenges [49]. The Eisen yeast dataset contains the expression levels of 6153 with 93 samples, and Dream5 yeast dataset contains about 5950 genes with 536 samples. For evaluating the performance on predicting the new functions of genes, we used some older version of other data files: used association file of yeast GO annotation is generated on 9th September 2005(Revision: 1.1190), used Gene Ontology is generated on 1st September, 2005 and the used yeast GOSlim terms are created on 29th September, 2005(CVS version: Revision: 1.48).

From the experimental results of our proposed algorithm, we have found that about 5606 genes of Eisen yeast dataset are assigned more than one cluster for $\beta = 0.5$ and $\alpha = 0.3$, and also 4701 genes of dream5 yeast dataset are assigned more than one cluster for $\beta = 0.1$ and $\alpha = 0.1$ using the GO-FRC algorithm.

As our proposed method used biological process terms, the generated clusters are related to these GOSlim biological processes. These clusters help to find some interesting biological interpretation which is usually so much time-consuming analysis process. Our proposed algorithm initializes the membership values based on the GO annotation. If any gene does not associate with any cluster (biological process term), the gene is assigned based on expression data only.

4.2 Quality Assurance of Clusters

In the experiment, we analyzed the quality of clusters considering the compactness and separation parameter as validity measure. A well-known validity measure, a fuzzy validity criterion [51] is used to calculate the degree of cluster compactness to cluster separation.

The values of parameter β and α (as shown in Tables 4.1 and 4.2) are calculated using two measurements: z-scores (given in parentheses) and cluster compactness to separation ratio (calculated based on the Eqn. 6). From Tables 4.1 and 4.2, we have shown that the clustering results contains higher separation between clusters with more compactness for Eisen yeast dataset with β = 0.5 and α = 0.3 and Dream5 yeast dataset with β = 0.1 and α = 0.1. These results imply that gene annotation and gene expression data help to generate the highest quality of clusters.

Table 4.1: Validity of the clusters for different values of α and β for Eisen yeast dataset

β	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
α					
0.1	38.01	36.97	42.40	63.42	39.19
	(182.40)	(193.20)	(163.40)	(170.40)	(175.20)
0.2	43.98	100.09	69.56	60.93	49.82
	(171.20)	(170.20)	(176.20)	(175.00)	(176.00)
0.3	43.02	116.63	48.67	37.44	20.31
	(202.00)	(177.60)	(185.30)	(168.20)	(221.70)
0.5	60.93	36.65	33.53	41.69	22.50
	(180.00)	(203.60)	(212.44)	(165.90)	(140.40)
0.7	64.39	268.62	567.83	874.94	1127.53
	(216.16)	(134.70)	(218.40)	(237.40)	(227.00)

Table 4.2: Validity of the clusters for different values of α and β for Dream 5 yeast dataset

β	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
α					
0.1	214.02	364.42	436.38	574.02	693.89
	(252.40)	(167.60)	(288.00)	(277.40)	(308.80)
0.2	474.25	636.39	854.99	989.54	1072.94
	(286.20)	(280.80)	(251.60)	(269.00)	(284.60)
0.3	555.80	920.90	1080.62	1156.68	1198.03
	(269.20)	(287.80)	(210.20)	(281.40)	(260.40)
0.5	990.90	1186.98	1239.53	1262.73	1275.37
	(275.60)	(282.40)	(281.60)	(300.80)	(285.60)
0.7	1210.22	1272.14	1289.69	1299.04	1306.00
	(276.00)	(286.60)	(312.80)	(311.20)	(292.80)

Along with the cluster validity measuring criteria, separation and compactness, we need to calculate the biological significance of the cluster using Cluster Judge [15] for the biological microarray data. This biological significance is defined by z-score. The high value of z-score denotes that the clusters have less chance to produce randomly and the clusters contain higher biological significance. From the Tables 4.1 and 4.2, we have shown that the biological significance (z-score) of the clusters is not significantly different for the different α and β values except when $\alpha \geq 0.50$. Regarding z-score values, the quality of the resultant clusters is robust despite the values of α and β . Here, the z-scores are the average of the ten repetitions for each value of α and β .

4.3 Comparative Analysis

To validate our proposed GO-FRC, the experimental results are compared with other existing methods where z-score [15] is used as the measuring criteria. ClusterJudge [15] takes generated clustering results as an input and gives the z-score for the given cluster information. FuzzyK [26] is a heuristically modified version of FCM algorithm implemented in Eisen Lab, and we configure the FuzzyK by setting the number of clusters to 32 to compare it with GO-FRC. The threshold value of membership [26] is equal to 0.08 for generating the clustering result used in ClusterJudge. In Table 4.3, the z-scores are the average of the ten repetition runs for each of the clustering results. From the Table 4.3, we have shown that GO-FRC gives better performance compare to FuzzyK. The implementation of the consensus clustering method, BiCoPaM [21] is collected from the Abu-Jamous, and this method has generated 2 clusters with 5434 unassigned genes for Eisen dataset and 8 clusters with 4971 unassigned genes for the Dream5 dataset. Table 4.3, we have shown that GO-FRC gives better performance while comparing to Bi-CoPaM.

Table 4.3: Comparative Analysis of GO-FRC with other existing methods using Eisen and Dream 5 yeast datasets

Method	z-scores with standard	z-scores with standard
	error for Eisen dataset	error for Dream5 dataset
GO-FRC	221.7 ±3.83	260.40 ±3.35
FuzzyK	133.6 ±4.45	-6.07 ±0.19
Bi-CoPaM	2.36 ±0.11	46.13 ±0.61
Fuzzy c-means	109.3 ±1.48	92.39 ±2.74
FuzzySOM	100.88 ±3.76	88.12 ±2.03
Flame	121.2 ±1.74	104.43 ±2.03
SOM	7.9 ±0.17	0.223 ±0.06
GMM	88.22 ±1.12	0.9714 ±0.09

Other fuzzy clustering methods like FCM (fuzzy c-means), FuzzySOM (fuzzy self-organizing maps) are also used to validate the performance of GO-FRC. We also configure the GEDAS [52] by setting 32 as the number of clusters, maximum iterations equal to 500, fuzziness parameter equal to 1.2, the similarity type as Euclidean distance. GO-FRC gives a significantly better performance than FCM and FuzzySOM regarding z-scores, as shown in Table 4.3. Fuzzy clustering by Local Approximation of Membership (FLAME) [53] helps to identify non-linear relationships and cluster outliers. FLAME captures the number of clusters automatically. Here, for the comparison, we used the default setting like the number of k-nearest neighbors as 10, maximum approximation steps as 500 and Euclidean distance are used as similarity type. From the Table 4.3, we have shown that FLAME gives better performance than FCM, FuzzySOM, but GO-FRC gives significantly better performance over FLAME.

Other clustering algorithms such as Gaussian mixture model (GMM) and self-organizing maps (SOM) [29] are used for performing the comparison with GO-FRC. We conduct the clustering analysis of SOM and GMM on Weka [54] data mining tool while setting the number of iterations of 100000 for SOM and 100 for GMM. From the Table 4.3, we have shown that GO-FRC outperforms SOM and GMM.

4.4 Prediction of Function

Clustering can help to disclose the unknown functions of the genes. The proposed clustering method generates a set of clusters where each group contains more similar genes (genes with known functions, genes with unknown functions) based on their gene expression profiles. Inference of the unknown functions of the genes is done by considering the assignment of the genes with undiscovered functions to genes with known functions which are previously assigned to those genes. Generated clusters by the proposed method are more consistent with the GO annotation. For both datasets, genes with newly assigned functions by the proposed method are shown in Table 4.4 and Table 4.5. The genes with newly proposed functions have been further analyzed. From the analysis, as shown in Table 4.6, we

found that genes YJL122W and YNL132W are clustered in the biological process term cluster GO: 0042254 for Eisen and Dream 5 yeast datasets. Amalgamating these pieces of information, these apprise that genes YJL122W and YNL132W are associated with Ribosome biogenesis and assembly (GO:0042254). Our used yeast annotation was created on 9th September, 2005 by SGD. Genes YJL122W and YNL132W were assigned to biological process unknown (GO:0000004). Genes YJL122W and YNL132W were assigned new standard name ALB1(involved in the biogenesis of ribosomal large subunit) and KRE33(Protein required for biogenesis of the small ribosomal subunit), respectively according to the current SGD. Genes YJL122W was assigned under the biological process term "ribosomal large subunit biogenesis" on May 22, 2006 based on the experimental result [55] and Genes YNL132W was assigned under the biological process term "ribosomal small subunit biogenesis" on May 03, 2010 based on the experimental result [56]. Ribosomal large subunit biogenesis (GO:0042273) and ribosomal small subunit biogenesis (GO:0042274) are the children of ribosome biogenesis (GO:0042254). As ALB1/YJL122W and KRE33/YNL132W are involved in ribosomal large subunit biogenesis and ribosomal small subunit biogenesis, respectively, ALB1/YJL122W and KRE33/YNL132W are also involved in ribosome biogenesis (GO:0042254). Genes ALB1/YJL122W and KRE33/YNL132W are assigned under the correct gene functions based on the similar properties of gene expression profiles with the expression profiles of other genes which are previously assigned to the biological process term "ribosome biogenesis and assembly" (GO:0042254). Genes RSA4/YCR072C, ARB1/YER036C and RPS31/YLR167W are assigned under the Ribosome biogenesis and assembly (GO:0042254) by the proposed GO-FRC clustering method where the genes are assigned under the ribosomal large subunit assembly(GO:0000027), ribosome biogenesis (GO:0042254), ribosome biogenesis (GO:0042254), respectively according to the lasted go annotation by SGD. Using Eisen dataset, the genes ZUO1/YGR285C, ASC1/YMR116C and TMA19/YKL056C are assigned to protein biosynthesis (GO:0006412). Brief information about these genes is given in Table 4.6.

According to the Yeast GRID [63], CNS1/ YBR155W physically interacts with FRK1/YPL141C [64] while HSC82/ YMR186W has genetic and physical interaction with CNS1 [65, 66, 67, 68]. For Eisen yeast dataset, we have analyzed the cluster GO:0006259 and found that these three genes are clustered into the same cluster. So, genes with already identified interactions assign to the same cluster.

4.5 Result Analysis and Discussions

Some of the advantages of the proposed method concerning other methods are described here. In [38], GO annotation based clustering algorithm needs the cluster numbers as prior knowledge and the generated clusters from this method are not biologically annotated which restricts the path of analyzing the interesting biological interpretation from the resultant clusters. In GO-FRC, the number of clusters is selected based on the number of GO slim terms and is equal to the number of GO slim terms. Moreover, as our proposed method used biological process terms, the generated clusters are related to these GOSlim biological processes. These help to find some interesting biological interpretation which is usually so much time-consuming analysis process. In [35], GO annotations based K-medoids algorithm does not allow to capture new function of previously annotated genes with identified functions by restricting genes with identified functions to be doled out to different clusters. But GO-FRC permits genes with known functions to be appointed to other biological processes. GO-FRC helps to predict the functions of the genes as described in section 4.4.

Table 4.4: Number of genes with unknown function for Eisen yeast dataset (β = 0.5, α = 0.3)

Cluster	Biological Process Term	Number of genes	Number of genes with unknown
Name		clustered	functions clustered
GO:0006091	Generation of Precursor Metabolites and energy	82	13(15.85%)
GO:0005975	Carbohydrate Metabolism	112	8(7.14%)
GO:0007126	Meiosis	129	51(39.53%)
GO:0006412	Protein Biosynthesis	198	7(3.53%)
GO:0042254	Ribosome Biogenesis and Assembly	206	57(26.66%)
GO:0006950	Response to Stress	177	32(18.08%)
GO:0006519	Amino Acid and Derivative Metabolism	202	49(24.26%)
GO:0007010	Cytoskeleton Organization and Biogenesis	146	15(10.27%)

Table 4.5: Number of genes with unknown functions for Dream 5 Yeast dataset ($\beta = 0.1$, $\alpha = 0.1$)

Cluster	Biological Process Term	Number of genes	Number of genes with unknown
Name		clustered	functions clustered
GO:0042254	Ribosome Biogenesis and Assembly	159	5(3.14%)
GO:0030435	Sporulation	50	17(34%)
GO:0016044	Membrane Organization and Biogenesis	143	29(20.28%)
GO:0045333	Cellular Respiration	119	63(52.94%)
GO:0007126	Meiosis	40	4(39.53%)

Table 4.6: Correct gene functions prediction using GO-FRC that are validated by the annotation information from latest GO

Standard/	SGD's Assignment of genes			Reference
Systematic Name	Biological Process	Assigned on	GO-FRC's Assignment of genes	
ALB1/YJL122W	GO:0042273 (Ribosomal large subunit biogenesis) [IGI,IPI]	5/22/2006	GO:0042254 (Ribosome biogenesis and assembly)	Lebreton A, et al. (2006) [55]
KRE33/YNL132W	GO: 0042274 (Ribosomal small subunit biogenesis)[IMP]	5/3/2010	GO:0042254(Ribosome biogenesis and assembly)	Li Z, et al. (2009) [56]
RPS31/YLR167W	GO:0042254 (Ribosome biogenesis)	12/5/2008	GO:0042254 (Ribosome biogenesis and assembly)	Ferreira-Cerca S, et al. (2005) [57]
ARB1/YER036C	GO:0042254 (Ribosome biogenesis)	1/5/2006	GO:0042254 (Ribosome biogenesis and assembly)	Dong J, et al. (2005) [58]
RSA4/YCR072C	GO:0000027 (Ribosomal large subunit assembly) [IMP]	11/8/2005	GO:0042254 (Ribosome biogenesis and assembly)	de la Cruz J, et al. (2005) [59]
TMA19/YKL056C	GO:0002181 (Cytoplasmic translation)[IMP]	5/21/2006	GO:0006412 (Protein biosynthesis)	Fleischer TC, et al. (2006) [60]
ASC1/YMR116C	GO:0017148 (Negative regulation of translation)[IMP]	11/8/2005	GO:0006412 (Protein biosynthesis)	Gerbasi VR, et al. (2004) [61]
ZUO1/YGR285C	GO:0006450 (Regulation of translational fidelity) [IMP]	1/24/2006	GO:0006412 (Protein biosynthesis)	Rakwalska M and Rospert S(2004) [62]

GO-FRC uses the GO annotations as prior knowledge for assigning initial clusters to generate consistent clusters. Here, we have used yeast GOSlim terms, but the model can work on any kind of extended version of GOSlim terms as prior knowledge. Along with the budding yeast, the proposed system can be used to organisms. The constraint of this proposed technique is that we need to determine the value of α experimentally. While GO-FRC has a limitation, from the above observations, we can conclude that the proposed semi-supervised clustering algorithm, GO-FRC is the better option to analyze the gene expression data more biologically.

4.6 Conclusions

This chapter focuses on the performance analysis of the proposed method through evaluating the quality of the resultant clusters firstly. The results of this work show that it performs better than other existing methods. Finally, it shows its capability to predict the unknown functions of the genes correctly.

CHAPTER V

Concluding Remarks

5.1 Conclusions

In this thesis, we propose fuzzy relational clustering technique called GO-FRC and this model helps to generate biologically relevant clusters. In GO-FRC, the generated clusters are consistent with multiple runs of the clustering algorithm, and these generated clusters are automatically assigned to yeast biological process, and it alleviates the time-consuming analyzation of clusters of genes. The experimental result implies that GO-FRC performs well with the small amount of GO annotations as in yeast and gives better clustering results compare to FuzzyK [26], Bi-CoPaM [51], FCM [52], FuzzySOM [52], FLAME [53], SOM [54], GMM [54] using a lower percentage of yeast's GO annotations.

As the proposed model helps to generate the biological relevant clusters for yeast datasets, the proposed method may also be adapted to another type of organism's microarray datasets. We will try to determine the value of α more effectively in our future research work.

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Appendix A: Gene Ontology Consortium

The Gene Ontology Consortium (GOC; http://www.geneontology.org) is a bioinformatics asset that fills in as a far-reaching store of functional information about gene products gathered through the use of domain-specific ontologies. The project is a collaborative exertion attempting to depict how and where gene products act by creating evidence-supported gene-product annotations to structured comprehensive controlled vocabularies. The Gene Ontology (GO) is a controlled vocabulary composed of >38 000 precise defined phrases called GO terms that describe the gene products' molecular actions, the biological processes in which those actions occur and the cellular locations where they are present. There are >126 million annotations to >19 million gene products from species throughout the tree of life. Of these, there are 1.1 million manually curated annotations, from published experimental results to 234 000 gene products. As the GOC develops the standard language to describe the function, it also defines standards for using these ontologies in the creation of annotations.

Appendix B: GO Annotations

The GO annotations are the main product of the GOC. There are two parts to a GO annotation: first, the association between a gene product and a descriptive GO definition; and second, the source and evidence used to make the link. The descriptive definitions, which represent an activity or process or location in the cell of a gene product, are given a name called the GO term, and a numerical identifier, the GO ID. Although these associations are viewed as being made to GO terms, they are made to the descriptive definitions because sometimes names of biological concepts or terminology used in the literature can be ambiguous.

The source of the data is a specific reference (e.g., PMID: 20952387) that describes the experiment or analysis upon which the association was based and an evidence code such as Inferred from Mutant Phenotype (IMP), Inferred from Direct Assay (IDA). The evidence code reflects the type of study/analysis that supports the association.

There are two methods for making annotations: manually by curators and computationally by automated methods. Manual annotations are made by trained curators from a range of database groups such as Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD), Mouse Genome Informatics (MGI) and UniProtKB (http://www.geneontology.org/GO.annotation.species_db.shtml).

This method involves reading relevant publications, identifying the gene product(s) of interest and translating the results from the study to a GO definition using an appropriate evidence code or by inferring a gene products role by manual examination of its sequence features. In contrast, automated methods predict functions of genes using a variety of criteria, but mostly by comparing their sequence to genes with similar sequence without any manual review.

As reports of biological data can be subject to interpretation, and the state of biological knowledge is constantly changing, to maintain consistency in curation, the GOC has come up with guidelines to help curators interpret experimental results and map them to the closest GO term definition possible (http://www.geneontology.org/GO.annotation.conventions.shtml). GOC uses evidence codes to further improvement of the understanding of the gene annotation. Moreover, to point users to the original source of the data, during recent years, the GOC has made efforts to update

literature-based annotations to use experimental evidence codes such as IMP or IDA as opposed to non-experimental codes such as Traceable Author Statement (TAS), typically made from Review articles. The GOC is also working closely with the developers of the Evidence Code Ontology (ECO) to formalize the representation of evidence used in making annotations, a result of which is that the evidence codes currently used by the GOC have been mapped to ECO identifiers.

Appendix C: Evidence Codes

A GO annotation consists of a GO term associated with a specific reference that describes the work or analysis upon which the association between a specific GO term and the gene product is based. Each annotation must also include an evidence code to indicate how the annotation to a particular term is supported. Although evidence codes do reflect the type of work or analysis described in the cited reference which supports the GO term to gene product association, they are not necessarily a classification of types of experiments/analyses. Note that these evidence codes are intended for use in conjunction with GO terms, and should not be considered in isolation from the terms. If a reference describes multiple methods that each provide evidence to make a GO annotation to a particular term, then multiple annotations with identical GO identifiers and reference identifiers but different evidence codes may be made.

Out of all the evidence codes available, only Inferred from Electronic Annotation (IEA) is not assigned by a curator. Manually-assigned evidence codes fall into four general categories: experimental, computational analysis, author statements, and curatorial statements.

a) Experimental Evidence codes

Use of an experimental evidence code in a GO annotation indicates that the cited paper displayed results from a physical characterization of a gene or gene product that has supported the association of a GO term. The Experimental Evidence codes are:

- I. Inferred from Experiment (EXP)
- II. Inferred from Direct Assay (IDA)
- III. Inferred from Physical Interaction (IPI)
- IV. Inferred from Mutant Phenotype (IMP)
- V. Inferred from Genetic Interaction (IGI)
- VI. Inferred from Expression Pattern (IEP)

b) Computational Analysis evidence codes

Use of the computational analysis evidence codes indicates that the annotation is based on an in silico analysis of the gene sequence and/or other data as described in the cited reference. The evidence codes in this category also indicate a varying degree of curatorial input. The Computational Analysis evidence codes are:

- I. Inferred from Sequence or Structural Similarity (ISS)
- II. Inferred from Sequence Orthology (ISO)
- III. Inferred from Sequence Alignment (ISA)
- IV. Inferred from Sequence Model (ISM)
- V. Inferred from Genomic Context (IGC)
- VI. Inferred from Biological aspect of Ancestor (IBA)
- VII. Inferred from Biological aspect of Descendant (IBD)
- VIII. Inferred from Key Residues (IKR)
 - IX. Inferred from Rapid Divergence(IRD)
 - X. Inferred from Reviewed Computational Analysis (RCA)
- c) Author statement evidence codes

Author statement codes indicate that the annotation was made on the basis of a statement made by the author(s) in the reference cited. The Author Statement evidence codes are:

- I. Traceable Author Statement (TAS)
- II. Non-traceable Author Statement (NAS)
- d) Curator statement evidence codes

Use of the curatorial statement evidence codes indicates an annotation made on the basis of a curatorial judgement that does not fit into one of the other evidence code classifications. The Curatorial Statement codes:

- I. Inferred by Curator (IC)
- II. No biological Data available (ND) evidence code
- e) Electronic Annotation evidence code

All of the above evidence codes are assigned by curators. However, GO also used one evidence code that is assigned by automated methods, without curatorial judgement. The Automatically-Assigned evidence code is

I. Inferred from Electronic Annotation (IEA)

Appendix D: ClusterJudge

ClusterJudge is not a new clustering algorithm. Rather, it is an approach to judge the quality of data that have been clustered somewhere else. It does this by assessing the mutual information between a gene's membership in a cluster, and the attributes it possesses, as annotated by the Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD).

We can upload several files of clustered data at once and compare them. ClusterJudge expects to get your clustering result in the ".kgg" format produced by Eisen's Cluster program running k-means clustering. Clustering results produced by other programs will have to modify, but this is a simple task since the format is so straightforward. The uploaded files should consist of a single line per gene. Each line should contain three words, separated by tab characters: the ORF name, some kind of identifying name (typically just the ORF name again), and an integer indicating which cluster it belongs to. Clusters should be numbered starting at 0. Since ClusterJudge works by scoring the degree to which genes in the same cluster share annotation, cluster membership is the only information it requires. We do not need to upload the original expression data.

Appendix E: BioGRID

BioGRID is an interaction repository with data compiled through comprehensive curation efforts. Its current index is version 3.4.155 and searches 63,959 publications for 1,507,991 protein and genetic interactions, 27,785 chemical associations and 38,559 post-translational modifications from major model organism species. All data are freely provided via the search index and available for download in standardized formats.