Next-generation sequencing bulk segregant analysis with QTLseqr

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Standard workflow

If you use QTLseqr in published research, please cite:

Mansfeld B.N. and Grumet R, QTLseqr: An R package for bulk segregant analysis with next-generation sequencing bioRxiv 208140; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/208140

Quick Start

Here are the basic steps required to run and plot QTLseq and G' analysis

```
#load the package
library("QTLseqr")
#Set sample and file names
HighBulk <- "SRR834931"
LowBulk <- "SRR834927"
file <- "SNPs_from_GATK.table"</pre>
#Choose which chromosomes will be included in the analysis (i.e. exclude smaller contigs)
Chroms <- paste0(rep("Chr", 12), 1:12)
#Import SNP data from file
df <-
    importFromGATK(
        file = file,
        highBulk = HighBulk,
        lowBulk = LowBulk,
        chromList = Chroms
     )
```

```
#Filter SNPs based on some criteria
df_filt <-
    filterSNPs(
        SNPset = df,
        refAlleleFreq = 0.20,
        minTotalDepth = 100,
        maxTotalDepth = 400,
        minSampleDepth = 40,
        minGQ = 99
    )
#Run G' analysis
df_filt <- runGprimeAnalysis(</pre>
    SNPset = df_filt,
    windowSize = 1e6.
    outlierFilter = "deltaSNP")
#Plot
plotQTLStats(SNPset = df_filt, var = "deltaSNP", plotThreshold = TRUE, q = 0.01)
plotQTLStats(SNPset = df filt, var = "Gprime", plotThreshold = TRUE, q = 0.01)
#export summary CSV
getQTLTable(SNPset = df_filt, alpha = 0.01, export = TRUE, fileName = "my_BSA_QTL.csv")
```

Input data

QTLseqr currently only supports table format SNP data exported from the VariantsToTable function built in to GATK. We hope to support import from any VCF file soon.

Importing SNPs from GATK

Working directly with the GATK best practices guide for whole genome sequence should result in a VCF that is compatible with QTLseqr. In general the workflow suggested by GATK is per-sample variant calling followed by joint genotyping across samples. This will produce a VCF file that includes **BOTH** bulks, each with a different sample name (here SRR834927 and SRR834931), one SNP for example:

CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT	SRR834927	SRR834931
Chr1	31071		A	G	1390.44	PASS	*	GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL	0/1:34,36:70:99:897,0,855	0/1:26,22:48:99:522,0,698

^{*}info column removed for brevity

GATK have provided a fast VCF parser, the VariantsToTable tool, that extracts the necessary fields for easy use in downstream analysis.

We highly recommend reading What is a VCF and how should I interpret it? for more information on GATK VCF Fields and Genotype Fields

Though the use of GATK's VariantsToTable function is out of the scope of this vignette, the syntax for use with QTLseqr should look something like this:

```
java -jar GenomeAnalysisTK.jar \
-T VariantsToTable \
```

```
-R ${REF} \
-V ${NAME} \
-F CHROM -F POS -F REF -F ALT \
-GF AD -GF DP -GF GQ -GF PL \
-o ${NAME}.table
```

Where \${REF} is the reference genome file and \${NAME} is VCF file you wish to parse.

To run QTLseqr successfully, the required VCF fields (-F) are CHROM (Chromosome) and POS (Position). the required Genotype fields (-GF) are AD (Allele Depth), DP (Depth). Recommended fields are REF (Reference allele) and ALT (Alternative allele) Recommended Genotype fields are PL (Phred-scaled likelihoods) and GQ (Genotype Quality).

Import function

Let's install and load the QTLseqr package:

```
#Install step if you have not done so yet:
#devtools::install_github("bmansfeld/QTLseqr")
library("QTLseqr")
```

The importFromGATK function imports SNP data from the output of the VariantsToTable function in GATK. After importing the data, the function then calculates total reference allele frequency for both bulks together, the SNP index for each bulk, and the delta SNP index.

To demonstrate the use of this function we will load the Yang et al. (2013) data file. We first need to download the package that contains the data from github.

```
#download and load data package (~50Mb)
devtools::install_github("bmansfeld/Yang2013data")
library("Yang2013data")

#Import the data
rawData <- system.file(
    "extdata",
    "Yang_et_al_2013.table",
    package = "Yang2013data",
    mustWork = TRUE)</pre>
```

If you have your own data you can simply refer to it directly:

```
rawData <- "C:/PATH/TO/MY/DIR/My_BSA_data.table"
```

We define the sample name for each of the bulks. This should correspond to the sample names in the VCF returned by GATK. We also define a vector of the chromosomes to be included in the analysis (i.e. exclude smaller contigs), In this case, Chr1, Chr2... Chr12.

```
HighBulk <- "SRR834931"
LowBulk <- "SRR834927"
Chroms <- paste0(rep("Chr", 12), 1:12)</pre>
```

We then use the importFromGATK function to import the raw data. After importing the data, the function then calculates total reference allele frequency for both bulks together, the SNP-index for each SNP in each bulk and the ΔSNP -index and returns a data frame.

```
Reference \ allele \ frequency = \frac{Ref \ allele \ depth_{HighBulk} + Ref \ allele \ depth_{LowBulk}}{Total \ read \ depth \ for \ both \ bulks}
```

```
SNP\text{-}index_{per\ bulk} = \frac{Alternate\ allele\ depth}{Total\ read\ depth} \Delta SNP\text{-}index = SNP\text{-}index_{HighBulk} - SNP\text{-}index_{LowBulk}
```

Let's import

```
#import data
df <-
    importFromGATK(
        file = rawData,
        highBulk = HighBulk,
        lowBulk = LowBulk,
        chromList = Chroms
)</pre>
```

Loaded data frame

The loaded data frame should look like this:

head(df)

```
POS REF ALT AD_REF.LOW AD_ALT.LOW DP.LOW GQ.LOW
##
     CHROM
                                                                       PL.LOW
## 1
      Chr1 31071
                         G
                                    34
                                                36
                                                       70
                                                                   897,0,855
                                                               99
      Chr1 31478
                         Т
## 2
                    С
                                    34
                                                52
                                                       86
                                                               99 1363,0,844
##
  3
      Chr1 33667
                         G
                                    20
                                                48
                                                       68
                                                               99 1331,0,438
                    C
                         Т
                                    38
                                                40
                                                       78
## 4
      Chr1 34057
                                                               99 1059,0,996
## 5
      Chr1 35239
                         С
                                    25
                                                36
                                                       61
                                                               99
                                                                   987,0,630
                         С
##
  6
      Chr1 38389
                    Τ
                                    36
                                                42
                                                       78
                                                               99 1066,0,906
     SNPindex.LOW AD_REF.HIGH AD_ALT.HIGH DP.HIGH GQ.HIGH
##
                                                                   PL.HIGH
## 1
        0.5142857
                             26
                                          22
                                                   48
                                                            99
                                                                 522,0,698
## 2
        0.6046512
                             40
                                          34
                                                   74
                                                            99
                                                                848,0,1099
## 3
        0.7058824
                             24
                                          29
                                                   53
                                                            99
                                                                 765,0,599
                                                                 673,0,772
## 4
        0.5128205
                             29
                                          26
                                                   55
                                                            99
## 5
        0.5901639
                             40
                                          60
                                                  100
                                                            99 1632,0,1015
## 6
        0.5384615
                             42
                                                   82
                                                                984,0,1105
                                          40
##
     SNPindex.HIGH
                      REF FRQ
                                    deltaSNP
## 1
         0.4583333 0.5084746 -0.055952381
## 2
         0.4594595 0.4625000 -0.145191703
         0.5471698 0.3636364 -0.158712542
## 3
## 4
         0.4727273 0.5037594 -0.040093240
## 5
         0.6000000 0.4037267 0.009836066
## 6
         0.4878049 0.4875000 -0.050656660
```

Let's review the column headers:

- CHROM The chromosome this SNP is in
- POS The position on the chromosome in nt
- REF The reference allele at that position
- ALT The alternate allele
- DP.HIGH The read depth at that position in the high bulk
- AD_REF.HIGH The allele depth of the reference allele in the high bulk
- AD_ALT.HIGH The alternate allele depth in the the high bulk
- GQ.HIGH The genotype quality score, (how confident we are in the genotyping)
- SNPindex.HIGH The calculated SNP-index for the high bulk
- Same as above for the low bulk

- REF FRQ The reference allele frequency as defined above
- deltaSNP The ΔSNP -index as defined above

Filtering SNPs

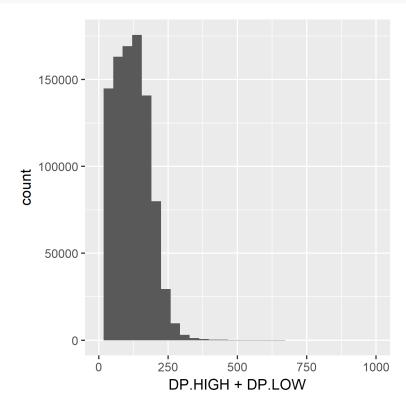
Now that we have loaded the data into R we can start cleaning it up by filtering some of the low confidence SNPs. While GATK has its own filtering tools, QTLseqr offers some options for filtering that may help reduce noise and improve results. Filtering is mainly based on read depth for each SNP, such that we can try to eliminate SNPs with low confidence, due to low coverage, and SNPs that may be in repetitive regions and thus have inflated read depth.

Read depth histograms

One way to assess filtering thresholds is by plotting histograms of the read depths. We can get an idea of where to draw our thresholds. We'll use the ggplot2 package for this purpose, but you could use base R to plot as well.

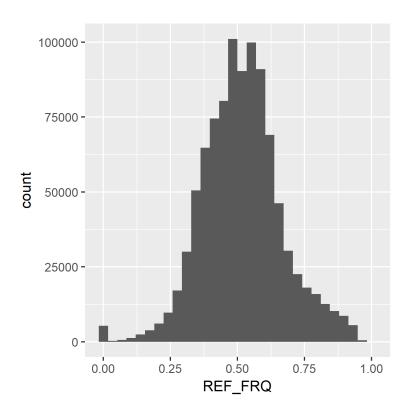
Lets look at total read depth for example:

```
library("ggplot2")
ggplot(data = df) +
    geom_histogram(aes(x = DP.HIGH + DP.LOW)) +
    xlim(0,1000)
```



...or look at total reference allele frequency:

```
ggplot(data = df) +
  geom_histogram(aes(x = REF_FRQ))
```



Using the filterSNPs function

...Filtered 744 SNPs

...Filtered 4729 SNPs

Filtering by per sample read depth: DP >= 40

Now that we have an idea about our read depth distribution we can filter out low confidence SNPS. In general we recommend filtering extremely low and high coverage SNPs, either in both bulks (minTotalDepth/maxTotalDepth) and/or in each bulk separately (minSampleDepth). We have the option to filter based on reference allele frequency (refAlleleFreq), this removes SNPs that for some reason are overor under-represented in BOTH bulks. We can also use the GATK GQ score (Genotype Quality) to filter out low confidence SNPs. If the verbose parameter is set to TRUE (default) the function will report the numbers of SNPs filtered in each step.

```
df_filt <-
    filterSNPs(
        SNPset = df,
        refAlleleFreq = 0.20,
        minTotalDepth = 100,
        maxTotalDepth = 400,
        minSampleDepth = 40,
        minGQ = 99,
        verbose = TRUE
    )

## Filtering by reference allele frequency: 0.2 <= REF_FRQ <= 0.8
## ...Filtered 59754 SNPs
## Filtering by total sample read depth: Total DP >= 100
## ...Filtered 378814 SNPs
## Filtering by total sample read depth: Total DP <= 400</pre>
```

```
## Filtering by Genotype Quality: GQ >= 99
## ...Filtered 6677 SNPs
## Original SNP number: 969487, Filtered: 450718, Remaining: 518769
```

This step is quick and we can go back and plot some histograms to see if we are happy with the results, and we can quickly re-run the filtering step if not.

Running the analysis

The analysis in QTLseqr is an implementation of both pipelines for bulk segregant analysis, G' and $\Delta SNP\text{-}index$, described by Magwene et al. (2011) and Takagi et al. (2013), respectively. We recommend reading both papers to fully understand the considerations and math behind the analysis. Here, we will briefly summarize the steps performed by the main analysis function, runGprimeAnalysis.

The following steps are performed:

- 1. First the number of SNPs within the sliding window are counted.
- 2. A tricube-smoothed ΔSNP -index is calculated within the set window size.
- 3. Genome-wide G statistics are calculated by get G. G is defined by the equation:

$$G = 2 * \sum n_i * ln(\frac{obs(n_i)}{exp(n_i)})$$

Where for each SNP, n_i from i = 1 to 4 corresponds to the reference and alternate allele depths for each bulk, as described in the following table:

Allele	High Bulk	Low Bulk
Reference	n_1	$\overline{n_2}$
Alternate	n_3	n_4

... and $obs(n_i)$ are the observed allele depths as described in the data frame. getG calculates the G statistic using expected values assuming read depth is equal for all alleles in both bulks:

$$exp(n_1) = \frac{(n_1 + n_2) * (n_1 + n_3)}{(n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4)}$$

$$exp(n_2) = \frac{(n_2 + n_1) * (n_2 + n_4)}{(n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4)}$$

$$exp(n_3) = \frac{(n_3 + n_1) * (n_3 + n_4)}{(n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4)}$$

$$exp(n_4) = \frac{(n_4 + n_2) * (n_4 + n_3)}{(n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4)}$$

- 4. G'- A tricube-smoothed G statistic is predicted by constant local regression within each chromosome using the tricubeStat function. This works as a weighted average across neighboring SNPs that accounts for Linkage disequilibrium (LD) while minimizing noise attributed to SNP calling errors. G values for neighboring SNPs within the window are weighted by physical distance from the focal SNP.
- 5. P-values are estimated based using the non-parametric method described by Magwene et al. 2011 with the function getPvals. Briefly, using the natural log of G' a median absolute deviation (MAD) is calculated. The G' set is trimmed to exclude outlier regions (i.e. QTL) based on Hampel's rule. An alternate method for filtering out QTL that we propose is using absolute ΔSNP -index values greater

than a set threshold (default = 0.1) to filter out potential QTL. An estimation of the mode of the trimmed set is calculated using the mlv function from the package modeest. Finally, the mean and variance of the set are estimated using the median and mode and p-values are estimated from a log normal distribution.

6. Negative Log10- and Benjamini-Hochberg adjusted p-values are calculated using p.adjust.

Let's run the function:

```
df_filt <- runGprimeAnalysis(df_filt,
    windowSize = 1e6,
    outlierFilter = "deltaSNP",
    filterThreshold = 0.1)

## Counting SNPs in each window...
## Calculating tricube smoothed delta SNP index...</pre>
```

Calculating p-values...

As this is window is using a tricube-smoothing kernel the window size can be much larger than you might expect. We however choose a window size of 1Mb for the sliding window analysis, for a discussion about window size we recommend reading Magwene et al. (2011). In general larger windows will produced smoother

data. The functions making these calculations are rather fast, so we recommend testing several window sizes

Using deltaSNP-index to filter outlier regions with a threshold of 0.1
Estimating the mode of a trimmed G prime set using the 'modeest' package...

Some additional columns are added to the filtered data frame:

Calculating G and G' statistics...

for your data, and deciding on the optimal size.

head(df_filt)

```
##
             POS REF ALT AD_REF.LOW AD_ALT.LOW DP.LOW GQ.LOW
                                                                     PL.LOW
## 1
                        G
                                   34
                                               36
                                                                 897,0,855
      Chr1 31071
                                                      70
                                                              99
                        Т
## 2
      Chr1 31478
                    C
                                   34
                                               52
                                                      86
                                                              99 1363,0,844
## 3
      Chr1 33667
                        G
                                   20
                                               48
                                                      68
                                                              99 1331,0,438
                    Α
      Chr1 34057
                        Т
                                   38
                                               40
                                                      78
                                                              99
                                                                 1059,0,996
##
                    C
                        C
                                   25
                                               36
## 5
      Chr1 35239
                    Α
                                                      61
                                                              99
                                                                  987,0,630
## 6
      Chr1 38389
                    Т
                        С
                                   36
                                               42
                                                      78
                                                              99 1066,0,906
                                                                  PL.HIGH
     SNPindex.LOW AD_REF.HIGH AD_ALT.HIGH DP.HIGH GQ.HIGH
##
## 1
        0.5142857
                            26
                                         22
                                                  48
                                                           99
                                                                522,0,698
                                                  74
## 2
        0.6046512
                            40
                                         34
                                                           99
                                                               848,0,1099
                                                  53
## 3
        0.7058824
                            24
                                         29
                                                           99
                                                                765,0,599
                            29
                                         26
                                                  55
## 4
        0.5128205
                                                           99
                                                                673,0,772
## 5
        0.5901639
                            40
                                         60
                                                 100
                                                           99 1632,0,1015
##
  6
        0.5384615
                            42
                                         40
                                                  82
                                                           99
                                                               984,0,1105
##
     SNPindex.HIGH
                      REF_FRQ
                                   deltaSNP nSNPs tricubeDeltaSNP
## 1
         0.4583333 0.5084746 -0.055952381
                                               881
                                                       -0.07365553 0.35697092
## 2
         0.4594595 0.4625000 -0.145191703
                                               881
                                                       -0.07365807 3.38161778
## 3
         0.5471698 0.3636364 -0.158712542
                                               883
                                                       -0.07367173 3.23692853
         0.4727273 0.5037594 -0.040093240
## 4
                                               883
                                                       -0.07367416 0.20748641
## 5
         0.6000000 0.4037267
                               0.009836066
                                               883
                                                       -0.07368154 0.01521766
## 6
         0.4878049 0.4875000 -0.050656660
                                               883
                                                       -0.07370120 0.41076961
##
                  pvalue negLog10Pval
       Gprime
                                           qvalue
                            0.3306657 0.6683592
## 1 1.919586 0.4670188
## 2 1.919650 0.4669994
                            0.3306837 0.6683425
## 3 1.919994 0.4668952
                            0.3307806 0.6682994
## 4 1.920056 0.4668766
                            0.3307979 0.6682904
## 5 1.920242 0.4668204
                            0.3308502 0.6682467
```

6 1.920737 0.4666705 0.3309896 0.6681446

- nSNPs the number of SNPs bracketing the focal SNP within the set sliding window
- tricube DeltaSNP - the tricube-smoothed ΔSNP -index
- G the G value for the SNP
- Gprime the tricube-smoothed G value
- pvalue the p-value calculated by non-parametric estimation
- negLog10Pval the $-log_{10}(p\text{-}value)$
- qvalue Benjamini-Hochberg adjusted p-values

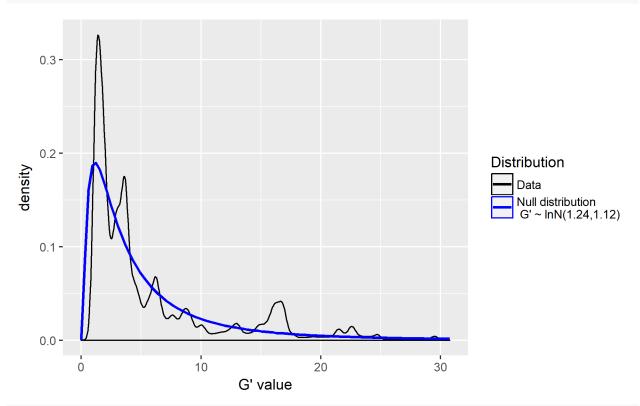
Plotting the data

QTLseqr offers two main plotting functions to check the validity of the G' analysis and to plot genome-wide or chromosome specific QTL analysis plots.

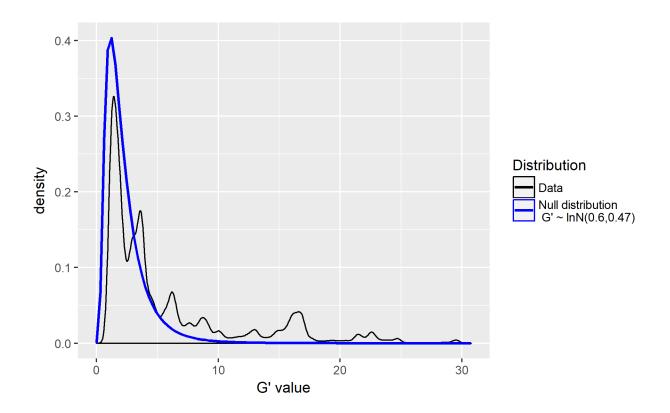
G' distribution plots

Due to the fact that p-values are estimated from the null distribution of G', an important check is to see if G' values are close to log normally distributed. For this purpose we use the $\operatorname{plotGprimeDist}$ function, which plots the G' density estimates alongside the log-normal null distribution (which is reported in the legend). We can also use this to test which filtering method (Hampel or DeltaSNP) estimates a more accurate null distribution. If you use the "deltaSNP" method plotting G' distributions with different filter thresholds might also help reveal a better G' null distribution.





plotGprimeDist(SNPset =df_filt, outlierFilter = "deltaSNP", filterThreshold = 0.1)

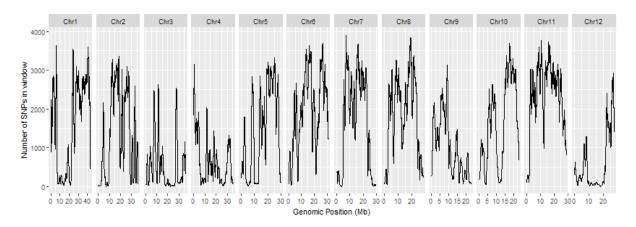


QTL analysis plots

Now that we are happy with our filtered data and it seems that the G' distribution is close to log-normal, we can finally plot some genome-wide figures and try to identify QTL.

Let's start by plotting the SNP/window distribution:

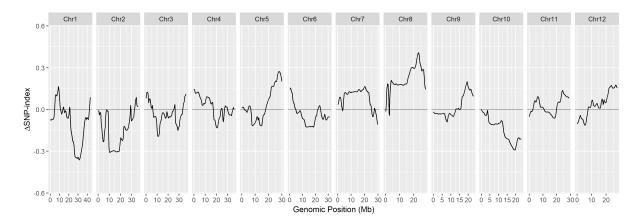
```
p1 <- plotQTLStats(SNPset = df_filt, var = "nSNPs")
p1</pre>
```



This is informative as we can assess if there are regions with extremely low SNP density.

More importantly lets identify some QTL by plotting the smoothed ΔSNP -index and G' values.

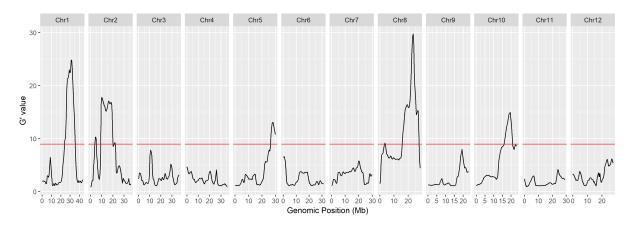
```
p2 <- plotQTLStats(SNPset = df_filt, var = "deltaSNP")
p2</pre>
```



We can see that there are some regions that have $|\Delta SNP\text{-}index| > 0.3$ these may be QTL. The directionality of the $\Delta SNP\text{-}index$ is also important. If the allele contributing to the trait is from the reference parent the $\Delta SNP\text{-}index$ should be less than 0. However, if the $\Delta SNP\text{-}index > 0$ then the contributing parent is the one with the alternate alleles.

Let's look at the G' values to see if these regions are significant and pass the FDR (q) of 0.01.

```
p3 <- plotQTLStats(SNPset = df_filt, var = "Gprime", plotThreshold = TRUE, q = 0.01)
p3</pre>
```

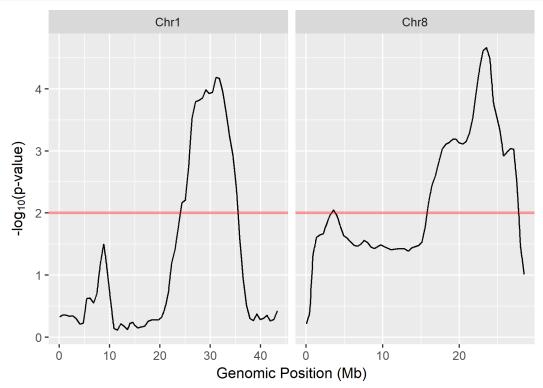


Great! It looks like there are QTL identified on Chromosomes 1, 2, 5, 8 and 10. Based on the ΔSNP -index and G' plots the QTL from Chr1 originates from the reference parent (Nipponbare rice, in this case) and the QTL on Chr8 was contributed by the other parent, for example.

We can also use the plotQTLStats function to the $-log_{10}(p\text{-}value)$. While this number is a direct derivative of G' it can be more self explanatory for some. We can use the subset parameter to plot one or a few of the chromosomes, say for a close up figure of a QTL of interest. Here we look at the $-log_{10}(p\text{-}value)$ plots of Chromosomes 1 and 8:

```
QTLplots <- plotQTLStats(
    SNPset = df_filt,
    var = "negLog10Pval",
    plotThreshold = TRUE,</pre>
```

```
q = 0.01,
subset = c("Chr1", "Chr8")
)
QTLplots
```



Extracting QTL data

Now that we've plotted and identified some putative QTL we can extract the data using two functions getSigRegions and getQTLTable.

Extracting significant regions

The getSigRegions function will produce a list in which each element represents a QTL region. The elements are subseted from the original data frame you supplied. Any contiguous region above with an adjusted p-value above the set alpha will be returned. If there is a dip below the alpha this region will be split to two elements.

Let's examine the head of the first QTL:

```
QTL <- getSigRegions(SNPset = df_filt, alpha = 0.01)
head(QTL[[1]])</pre>
```

```
##
          CHROM
                      POS REF ALT AD_REF.LOW AD_ALT.LOW DP.LOW GQ.LOW
## 24895
           Chr1 25842439
                            Т
                                 С
                                            21
                                                        59
                                                                80
                                                                        99
                                 G
                                                        59
                                                                79
                                                                        99
  24896
           Chr1 25844940
                                            20
           Chr1 25846683
                                 G
                                            16
                                                        47
  24897
                             Α
                                                                63
                                                                        99
                                            26
   24898
           Chr1 25847043
                             G
                                 Α
                                                        61
                                                                87
                                                                        99
           Chr1 25849237
## 24899
                                 Α
                                            12
                                                        46
                                                                58
                                                                        99
```

```
## 24900 Chr1 25851646
                                          12
                                                             53
                                                                    99
                           Α
                               Τ
##
             PL.LOW SNPindex.LOW AD_REF.HIGH AD_ALT.HIGH DP.HIGH GQ.HIGH
## 24895 1651,0,439
                        0.7375000
                                            58
                                                                105
                                                                         99
## 24896 1675,0,399
                        0.7468354
                                            74
                                                        52
                                                                126
                                                                         99
## 24897 1342,0,326
                        0.7460317
                                            48
                                                        30
                                                                 78
                                                                         99
## 24898 1679,0,563
                        0.7011494
                                            90
                                                        90
                                                                180
                                                                         99
## 24899 1311,0,222
                        0.7931034
                                            30
                                                        20
                                                                 50
                                                                         99
## 24900 1150,0,227
                        0.7735849
                                            35
                                                        26
                                                                 61
                                                                         99
##
             PL.HIGH SNPindex.HIGH
                                      REF_FRQ
                                                 deltaSNP nSNPs tricubeDeltaSNP
## 24895 1189,0,1546
                          0.4476190 0.4270270 -0.2898810
                                                            1068
                                                                      -0.2762683
## 24896 1270,0,1984
                          0.4126984 0.4585366 -0.3341370
                                                            1065
                                                                      -0.2764951
## 24897
          768,0,1329
                          0.3846154 0.4539007 -0.3614164
                                                            1055
                                                                      -0.2766532
## 24898 2369,0,2351
                          0.5000000 0.4344569 -0.2011494
                                                            1055
                                                                      -0.2766858
                                                                      -0.2768848
## 24899
           499,0,826
                          0.4000000 0.3888889 -0.3931034
                                                            1054
## 24900
                          0.4262295 0.4122807 -0.3473554
                                                                      -0.2771032
           650,0,915
                                                            1052
##
                 G
                      Gprime
                                  pvalue negLog10Pval
                                                             qvalue
## 24895 15.998496 14.52061 0.001185737
                                              2.926012 0.009145189
## 24896 22.572856 14.54205 0.001177278
                                              2.929121 0.009096584
## 24897 18.929521 14.55700 0.001171423
                                              2.931286 0.009060519
## 24898 9.885982 14.56008 0.001170218
                                              2.931733 0.009052934
## 24899 17.901883 14.57889 0.001162903
                                              2.934457 0.009008602
## 24900 14.579060 14.59955 0.001154930
                                              2.937444 0.008962478
```

Output QTL summary

While getSigRegions is useful for examining every SNP within each QTL and perhaps for some downstream analysis, the getQTLTable will summarize those results and can output a CSV by setting export = TRUE and fileName = "MyQTLsummary.csv".

Here is the summary for significant regions with a FDR of 0.01:

```
results <- getQTLTable(SNPset = df_filt, alpha = 0.01, export = FALSE)
results
##
     id chromosome
                                       length nSNPs avgSNPs_Mb peakDeltaSNP
                       start
## 1
              Chr1 25842439 34556923 8714484 20263
                                                           2325
                                                                  -0.3631140
## 2
      2
                                                           2467
                    9575918 19411590 9835672 24267
                                                                  -0.3081058
## 3
      3
              Chr8 17427057 27196250 9769193 20529
                                                           2101
                                                                   0.4082090
## 4
             Chr10 18619373 19792840 1173467
                                                3590
                                                           3059
                                                                  -0.2922478
##
     maxGprime meanGprime
                                                    meanPval
                           sdGprime
                                         AUCaT
                                                                meanQval
## 1
      24.83453
                 21.29574 2.6768852 106719959 0.0002362947 0.005050808
##
  2
      17.82461
                 16.44684 0.6348595
                                      74192899 0.0006525797 0.007346565
      29.75614
                 18.89438 4.6368929
                                      98118865 0.0005309317 0.006606070
## 4
     14.95028
                 14.68470 0.2098474
                                       6774143 0.0011258224 0.008877309
```

The columns are:

- id the QTL identification number
- $\bullet\,$ chromosome The chromosome on which the region was identified
- start the start position on that chromosome, i.e. the position of the first SNP that passes the FDR threshold
- end the end position
- length the length in base pairs from start to end of the region
- nSNPs the number of SNPs in the region
- $avgSNPs_Mb$ the average number of SNPs/Mb within that region
- peakDeltaSNP the ΔSNP -index value at the peak summit

- maxGprime the max G' score in the region
- mean Gprime - the average G^\prime score of that region
- sdGprime the standard deviation of G' within the region
- AUCaT the Area Under the Curve but above the Threshold line, an indicator of how significant or wide the peak is
- meanPval the average p-value in the region
- meanQval the average adjusted p-value in the region

Summary

We've reviewed how to load SNP data from GATK and filter the data to contain high confidence SNPs. We then performed ΔSNP -index and G' analysis and calculate p-values and q-values based on the tricube-smoothed G' values. The QTL regions that pass our defined threshold can be stored as a list for further analysis or summarized as a table for publication.