

Notes and details for SATAY analysis workflow

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Introduction

About 20% of the genes in wild type *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae* is essential, meaning that they cannot be deleted without crippling the cell to such an extent that it cannot survive (lethality) or multiply (sterility). (Non)-essentiality of genes is not constant over different genetic backgrounds, but genes can gain or lose essentiality when other genes are mutated . Moreover, it is expected that the interactions between genes changes in mutants (changes in the interaction map). *This raises the question if there exists a relation between genes which gain or lose essentiality after mutations and the changes in the interaction map?*

Also, if a gene x gains or loses essentiality after a mutation in gene y, does the essentiality of gene y also changes if a mutation in gene x is provoked?

After a mutation that reduces the fitness of a population of cells, the population is sometimes able to increase its fitness by mutating other genes (e.g. dBem1 eventually result in mutations in Bem3). Can these mutations, that are initiated by cells themselves, be predicted based on the interaction maps (i.e. predict survival of the fittest)?

If a gene x is suppressed, it will possibly change the essentiality of another gene. It is expected that most changes in essentiality will occur in the same subnetwork of the mutated gene. If a gene y is suppressed that is part of the same network as gene x, does this invoke similar changes in this subnetwork? In other words, are there common changes in the subnetwork when a random change is made within this subnetwork?

Are there relations between the changes in the interaction network after a mutation and the Genetic Ontology (GO-)terms of changed genes?

To check the essentiality of genes, SATAY (SATurated Transposon Analysis in Yeast) experiments will be performed on different genetic backgrounds. This uses transposons to inhibit genes and compare the effects of this inhibition on the growth of the cells [<https://galaxyproject.github.io/training-material/topics/genome-annotation/tutorials/tnseq/tutorial.html>]. Transposons are small pieces of DNA that can integrate in the genome. When the insertion happens at the location of a gene, this gene will be inhibited (i.e. it can still be transcribed, but not translated in a protein). When a transposon is randomly inserted in the DNA, the growth of the cells is checked. If the cell cannot produce offspring, the transposon is inserted in an essential gene. By means of sequencing the location of the transposon insertion can be checked and related to a specific gene. The genes of all cells (called the library) is saturated when all possible insertion sites have at least one insertion of a transposon. In this case all genes are checked for their essentiality.

Essentiality

For changes in essentiality there exists four cases:

1. A gene is **essential** in WT and remains **essential** in the mutant.
2. A gene is **non-essential** in WT and remains **non-essential** in the mutant.
3. A gene is **essential** in WT and becomes **non-essential** in the mutant.
4. A gene is **non-essential** in WT and becomes **essential** in the mutant.

An example is given in the figure below, where an interaction map is shown for WT cells and a possible interaction map for a mutant where both the essentiality and the interactions are changed.

Situation 1 and 3 are expected to be the trickiest since that one is difficult to validate.

To check the synthetic lethality in cells, a double mutation needs to be made where one mutation makes the genetic background and the second deletion should confirm whether this gene is actually essential or not. This is typically made by sporulating the two mutants but deleting a gene that is already essential in wild type causing the cell not to grow and can therefore not be sporulated with the mutant to create the double deletion. Therefore, these double mutants cannot be made.

For wild-type (and mutated) yeast, the interaction network is already made based on present knowledge (thecellmap.org) [<thecellmap.org>]. We want to check the essentiality of all genes in different mutants and compare this with both wild type cells and with each other. The goal is to make an overview of the changes in the essentiality of the genes and the interaction network between

the proteins. With this we aim to eventually be able to predict the synthetic lethality of multiple mutations based on the interaction maps of the individual mutations.

Transposon counts

Ideally transposons are only found in the non-essential genes and the essential genes do not have any insertions of transposons (since these cells do not create a colony), creating a clear difference in non-essential and essential genes. However, sometimes non-essential genes have few or no transposon insertion sites. According to Michel et.al. this can have 3 main reasons.

1. During alignment of the reads, the reads that represent repeated sequences are discarded, since there is no unique way of fitting them in the completed sequence. (Although the DNA sequence is repeated, the number of transposon counts can differ between the repeated reads). Transposons within such repeated sequences are therefore discarded as well and are not count. If this happens at a non-essential gene, it appears that it has no transposons. This is thus merely an alignment related error in the analysis process.
2. Long stretches of DNA that are without stop codons, called Open Reading Frames (ORF), typically code for proteins. Some dubious ORF might overlap with essential proteins, so although these ORF themselves are not essential, the overlapping part is and therefore they do not show any transposons.
3. Some genes are essential only in specific conditions. For example, genes that are involved in galactose metabolism are typically not essential, as inhibition of these genes block the cell's ability to digest galactose, but it can still survive on other nutrition's. In lab conditions however, the cells are typically grown in galactose rich media, and inhibiting the genes for galactose metabolism cause starvation of the cells.

It might happen that essential genes are partly tolerant to transposons. This is shown by Michel et.al. to be caused that some regions (that code for specific subdomains of the proteins) of the essential genes are dispensable. The transposons in these essential genes are clearly located at a specific region in the gene, the one that codes for the non-essential subdomain. However, this is not always possible, as in some cases deletion of non-essential subdomains of essential genes create unstable, unexpressed or toxin proteins. The difference in essentiality between subdomains in a single protein only happens in essential genes, not in non-essential genes. Michel et.al. devised an algorithm to estimate the likelihood L of an essential gene having an essential sub domain and a non-essential subdomain:

$$L = \frac{d N_{cds}}{l_{cds}},$$

Where d is the longest interval (in terms of base pairs) between 5 neighboring transposons in a Coding DNA Sequence (cds) (≥ 300 bp), N_{cds} is the total number transposons mapping in the cds (≥ 20 transposons) and l_{cds} is the total length of the CDS. Additionally, it must hold that $0.1l_{cds} \leq d \leq 0.9l_{cds}$

Methods and File types

The essential genes in wild type cells are already known and published. We want to verify the SATAY results on wild type cells from Benoit et. al. (see also <https://sites.google.com/site/satayusers/>).

using the known essential genes. Once this is verified, we want to compare the differences in essentiality of genes in wild type with different mutants (e.g. dBem1, dBem2, dBem3 and dNrp1). For this we need to have a list of essential genes in the different backgrounds. If this is not published already, we can obtain this by performing SATAY experiments in the lab with these backgrounds. For this a tool needs to be developed that automatically converts the raw sequencing and SATAY data and outputs a list of genes, together with some of their properties (e.g. essentiality, GO-terms, interactions etc.) and show this in a convenient overview for further processing and visualization.

Experimental methods

The process of SATAY starts with inserting a plasmid in the cells that contains a transposase (TPase) and the transposon (MiniDs) flanked on both sides by adenine (ADE). The transposon has a specific, known, sequence that codes for the transposase that cuts the transposon from the plasmid (or DNA) to (another part of) the DNA.

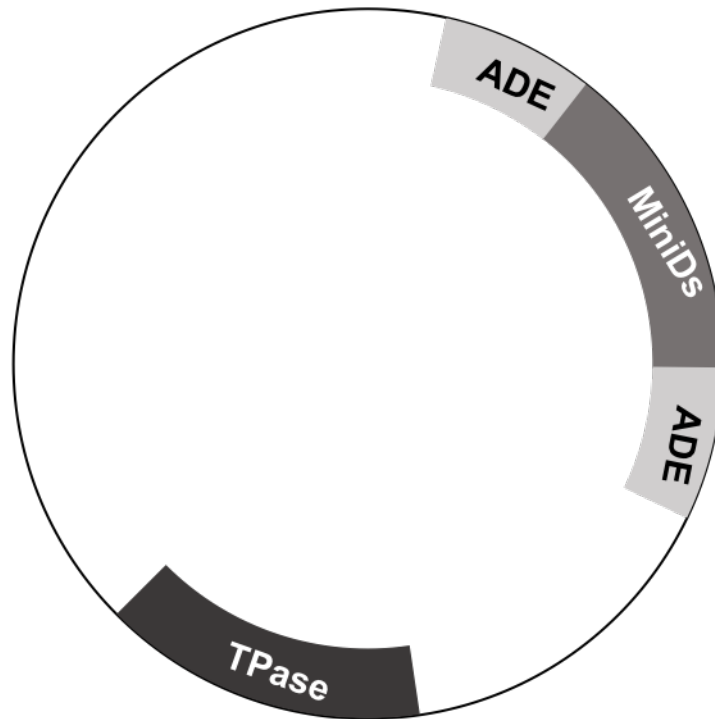


Figure 1: Simplified example for the transposon insertion plasmid.

(See next figure for the following section). The MiniDs transposon is cut loose from the plasmid and randomly inserted in the DNA of the host cell. If the transposon is inserted in a gene, the gene can still be transcribed by the ribosomes, but typically cannot be (properly) translated. The genomic DNA (with the transposon) is cut in pieces for sequencing using enzymes, for example DpnII. This cuts the DNA in many small pieces (e.g. each approximately 200bp long) and it always cuts the transposon in two parts (i.e. digestion of the DNA). Each of the two halves of the cut transposon, together with the part of the gene where the transposon is inserted in is ligated, meaning that it is folded in a circle. A part of the circle is then the half transposon and the rest of the circle is a part of the gene where the transposon is inserted in. Using PCR and primers, this can then be unfolded

by cutting the circle at the halved transposon. The part of the gene is then between the transposon quarters. Since the sequence of the transposon is known, the part of the gene can be extracted. This is repeated for the other half of the transposon that includes the other part of the gene. When both parts of the gene are known, the sequence from the original gene can be determined.

Sequence alignment

To get the order of nucleotides in a genome, shotgun sequencing is used where the genome is cut is small pieces called reads (typically tens to a few hundred basepairs long). The reads have overlapping regions that can be used to identify their location with respect to a reference genome and other reads (i.e. mapping of the reads). Mapping of the reads result in contigs, which are multiple mapped reads that form continuous assembled parts of the genome (contigs can be the entire target genome itself). All contigs should be assembled to form (a large part of) the target genome.

The sequence assembly problem can be described as: *Given a set of sequences, find the minimal length string containing all members of the set as substrings.*

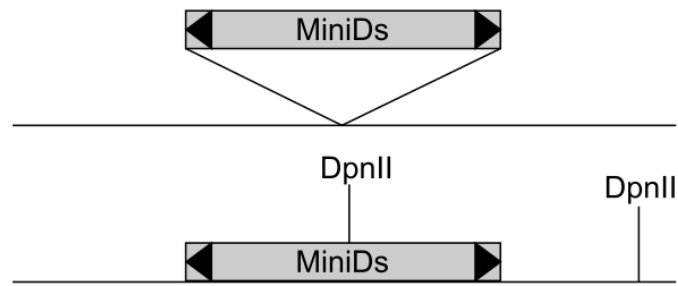
The reads from the sequencing can be single-end or paired-end, which indicates how the sequencing is performed. In paired-end sequencing, the reads are sequenced from both directions, making the assembly easier and more reliable, but results in twice as many reads as single-end reads. The reason of the more reliable results has to do with ambiguous reads that might occur in the single-end sequencing. Here, a read can be assigned to two different locations on the reference genome (and have the same alignment score). In these cases, it cannot be determined where the read should actually be aligned (hence its position is ambiguous). In paired-end sequencing, each DNA fragment has primers on both ends, meaning that the sequencing can start in both the 5'-3' direction and in the 3'-5' direction. Each DNA fragment therefore has two reads both which have a specified length that is shorter than the entire DNA fragment. This results that a DNA fragment is read on both ends, but the central part will still be unknown (as it is not covered by these two particular reads, but it will be covered by other reads). Since you know that the two reads belong close together, the alignment of one read can be checked by the alignment of the second read (or paired mate) somewhere in close vicinity on the reference sequence. This is usually enough for the reads to become unambiguous.

FASTQ files and FASTA files

The output of sequencing is typically a FASTQ file. This file contains the sequences of all reads (typically 75 to 100 bp long). Each read is represented by four lines.

1. Starts with '@' followed by a sequences identifier and can include some descriptions.
2. Raw sequence letters representing the nucleotides.
3. Starts with '+' for separating the second and third line.
4. Quality score of the sequence represented by ASCII symbols running from '!' (lowest score) to '~' (highest score) [<http://www.asciitable.com/>]. This is called ASCII-base 33 since '!' has decimal ASCII number 33 and is defined as Q-score 0. This typically runs towards ASCII symbol 'J' (number 74, Q-score 41). The error probability can be calculated based on the Q-score using $P_{error} = 10^{-\frac{Q}{10}}$. This means that '!' has an error of ($P_{error} = 100\%$) and 'J'

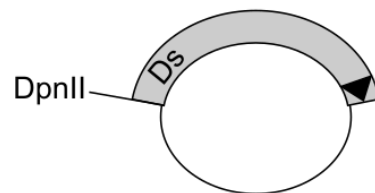
Transposition



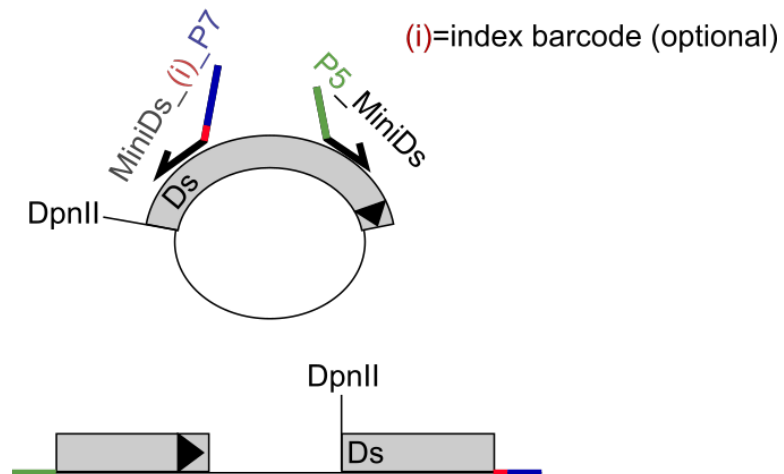
Digestion



Ligation



PCR



Insertion Site Sequencing (75bp)

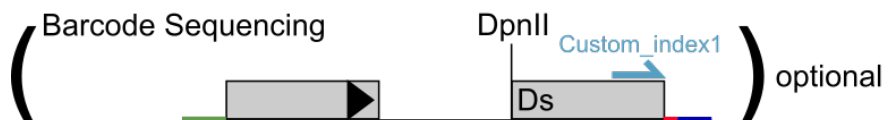
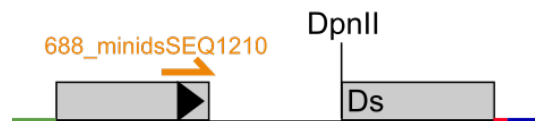


Figure 2: Schematic overview of transposon insertion experiments.

an error of $P_{error} = 0.008\%$). Typically a Q-score higher than $Q=20$ (ASCII symbol '5', ($P_{error} = 1\%$)) is acceptable [https://drive5.com/usearch/manual/quality_score.html]. This line has the same length as the second line.

A FASTQ file can be used as an input for sequence alignment. The result of sequence alignment is a SAM file.

Besides FASTQ files, FASTA files are also used for alignment. These are similar to FASTQ files, but do not include the quality string. There FASTA files can be created from FASTQ files by removing line 3 and 4 from each read. Depending on the sequencing method, FASTA files may be directly given.

SAM and BAM files

The FASTQ (or FASTA) files contain all the reads in a random order. To determine where each belong relative to a reference sequence, the reads need to be aligned. After alignment of the reads, the results are typically represented in a Sequencing Alignment Mapping (SAM) file. For processing purposes this is typically translated to a Binary Alignment Mapping (BAM) file. This is a compressed, binary version of the SAM file.

The SAM files contain all the short reads from the FASTQ file together with information where and how well the read mapped to a reference sequence. The reads are represented by a header and a body. The header consists of four fields (note that the headers can be different depending which program made the alignment) [<http://www.cpwardell.com/2015/02/24/understanding-bam-files-part-1/>]:

1. @HD lines: version number of SAM specification and how the file is sorted (e.g. sorting by genomic coordinates).
2. @SQ: Which reference sequence has been used to align the sequence. There will be one line for every chromosome (contig). It also tells the sequence name (SN) and length (LN).
3. @RG: Read group line with the tags specifying the origins of the input data.
4. @PG: Which programs and commands were used to create the SAM file.

The body of the SAM file contains the aligned data. Every row contains one read. If there is paired data (i.e. a forward reading and a backward reading), then the pair is divided in two rows. Every row consists of at least 11 columns:

1. QNAME: name of the query sequence.
2. FLAG: Bitwise flag. This consists of twelve binary properties. A read typically has multiple flags. These flags are all then translated to a decimal number, given by the third column, and these decimal numbers are added up. Typical values are 99, 147, 83 or 163. To get a proper translation, use [<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/explain-flags.html>]. The following flags can be used:
 1. 000000000001 : 1 : read paired
 2. 000000000010 : 2 : read mapped in proper pair
 3. 000000000100 : 4 : read unmapped
 4. 000000001000 : 8 : mate unmapped

5. 000000010000 : 16 : read reverse strand
 6. 000000100000 : 32 : mate reverse strand
 7. 000001000000 : 64 : first in pair
 8. 000010000000 : 128 : second in pair
 9. 000100000000 : 256 : not primary alignment
 10. 001000000000 : 512 : read fails platform/vendor quality checks
 11. 010000000000 : 1024 : read is PCR or optical duplicate
 12. 100000000000 : 2048 : supplementary alignment
3. RNAME: name of the reference contig (chromosome) where the sequence is aligned to (i.e. which chromosome the read is aligned to).
 4. POS: Position of the reference contig that the alignment starts at (given in base pairs).
 5. MAPQ: Mapping quality. Number indicating the chances that the mapping is wrong, based on phred scaling. This is logarithmic scaled where 60 is typically the maximum score meaning that the chance of a wrong mapping is the smallest (so a high number is better). If a value of 255 is shown, that means that the quality is not determined.
 6. CIGAR: Tells how to match the query sequence to the reference sequence using a ‘Compact Idiosyncratic Gapped Alignment Report’ (CIGAR) string. This contains a sequence of integers and letters. Possible letters are M (Match), N (Alignment gap), D (Deletion) or I (Insertion). Thus 76M means that 76 basepairs match the reference sequence [<https://jef.works/blog/2017/03/28/CIGAR-strings-for-dummies/>].
 7. RNEXT: The name of the reference contig (chromosome) that the other read in the pair (i.e. the next or previous line?) aligns to. If the two reads in the pair aligns to the same contig, an ‘=’ sign is used.
 8. PNEXT: Position on the contig where the other read in the pair aligns to. Depending on the size of the DNA fragments in the sequencing library, this is typically a few hundred base pairs away from the current read (i.e. given by the POS column)
 9. TLEN: Total length of the template fragment. This is the distance from the leftmost base of the first read to the rightmost base pair of the second read in the pair. This value is assigned a ‘+’ or ‘-’ to indicate the reading orientation.
 10. SEQ: The DNA sequence of the query sequence. (Identical to the sequence in the FASTQ file that was aligned to the reference genome).
 11. QUAL: Base quality score of the SEQ. (Identical to the scores in the FASTQ file). There are 42 scores, each of which are related to a specific error. See for example [https://drive5.com/usearch/manual/quality_score.html] for a conversion table.

Determine essentiality based on transposon counts

Using the number of transposons, it can be determined which genes are essential and which are non-essential. To check this method, the transposon count for wild type cells are determined. The

essential genes for this strain are already known and can therefore be used as a check.

Ideally, the number of transposons of all essential genes are small and the number of transposons in nonessential genes are large so that a clear distinction can be made. However, this is not always so clear. For example, the distribution of transposons in WT cells in the data from Michel et. al. looks like this:

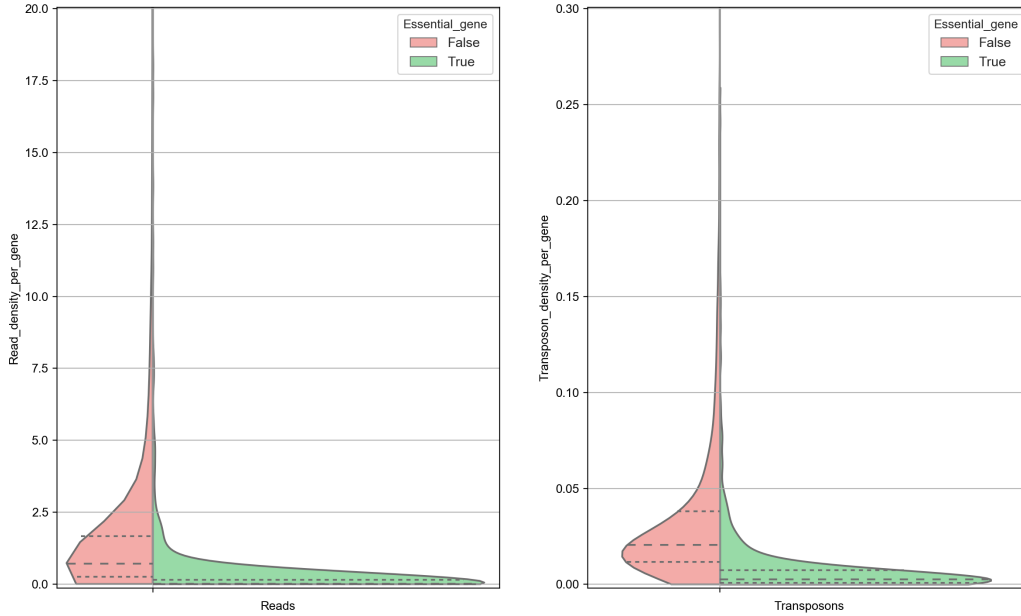


Figure 3: Reads and transposon density after processing performed by Benoit

In this figure, both the reads and the transposon counts are normalized with respect to the length of each gene (hence the graph represents the read density and transposon density). High transposon counts only occur for nonessential genes, and therefore when a high transposon count is seen, it can be assigned nonessential with reasonable certainty. However, when the transposon count is low there is a significant overlap between the two distributions and therefore there is no certainty whether this gene is essential or not.

The data is also sensitive to postprocessing. It is expected that the trimming of the sequences is an important step. The graph below shows the same data as in the previous graph, but with different processing as is done by Michel et. al. This has a significant influence on the results and as a consequence, no distinction can be made between essential and nonessential genes based on the transposon counts. Significant attention needs to be given to the postprocessing of the data.

Data analysis steps

For data analysis, the following steps need to be taken:

1. Process data and represent this in a standardized way that can be easily processed.

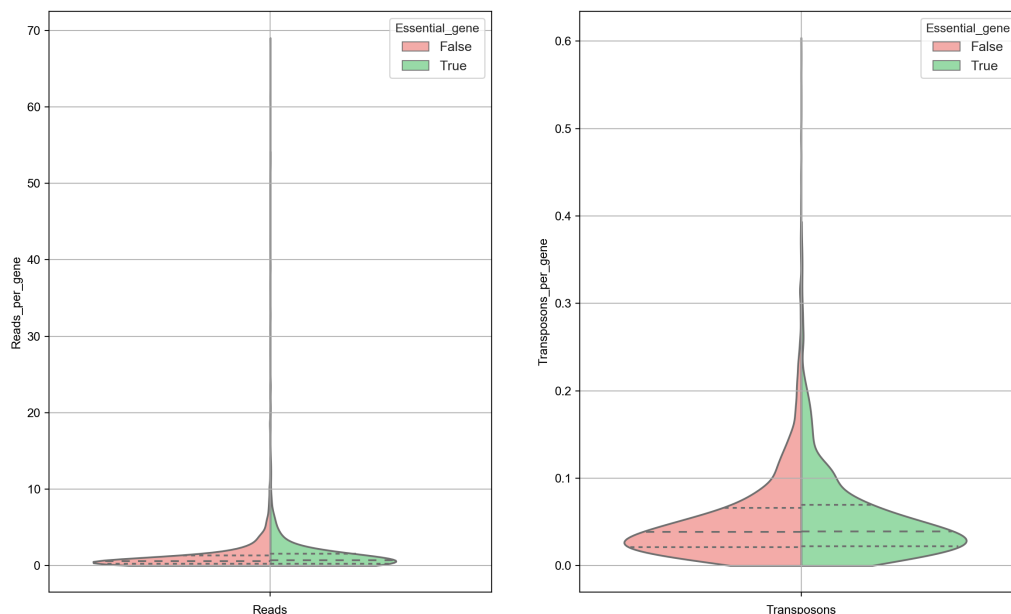


Figure 4: Reads and transposon density after processing

- Translate the data to a list of essential and non-essential proteins and obtain the GO-terms for each gene.
2. Put the genes in an overview for comparison with other backgrounds.
 - Compare the genes of different genetic backgrounds using a Venn-diagram
 3. Obtain the interactions of the different genes to create an interaction map (use thecellmap.org)
 4. Look for possible relations between the genes and their interactions.
 5. Use these relations to obtain training for machine learning.

First, the main focus will be step 1 of the analysis (see next section).

Step 1 data analysis; From raw data to essential protein overview

SATAY experiments need to be sequenced which results in a FASTQ file. The sequence reads from this file needs to be aligned to create a SAM file (and/or the compressed binary equivalent BAM file). Using the BAM file, the number of transposons can be determined for each insertion location.

For guides and manuals of the software discussed below, see the folder

M:\tnw\bn\11\Shared\Gregory\Software\Guides & Manuals.

Raw data (.FASTQ file) discussed in the paper of Michel et.al. 2017 can be found at [<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/experiments/E-MTAB-4885/samples/>].

Workflow

The results from the sequencing is typically represented in FASTA or FASTQ format. This needs to be aligned according to a reference sequence to create a SAM and BAM file. Before alignment, the data needs to be checked for quality and possibly trimmed to remove unwanted and unnecessary sequences. When the location of the reads relative to a reference sequence are known, the insertion sites of the transposons can be determined. With this, a visualization can be made that shows the number of transposon insertions per gene.

1. Checking the raw FASTA or FASTQ data can be done using the ‘**FASTQC**’ [<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>] software (Windows, Linux, Mac. Requires Java). This gives a quality report (see accompanying tutorial) for the sequence reads and can be run non-interactively using the command line.
2. Based on the quality report, the data needs to be trimmed to remove any unwanted sequences. This can be done with for example ‘**FASTX**’ software [http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/index.html] (Linux, Mac) or ‘**Trimmomatic**’ [<http://www.usadellab.org/cms/?page=trimmomatic>] (Windows, requires Java). An easy graphical user interface that combines the FASTQC and Trimmomatic is ‘**123FASTQ**’ [<https://sourceforge.net/projects/project-123ngs/>]. Also **BBDuk** can be used for trimming (which belongs to BBMap).
3. The trimmed sequence reads need to be aligned using a reference sequence, for example the *S. Cerevisiae* S288C Ref64-2-1 reference sequence from SGD [https://downloads.yeastgenome.org/sequence/S288C_reference/]. Aligning can be done, for example, using ‘**SnapGene**’ [<https://www.snapgene.com/>] (Windows, Linux, Mac. This does not import large files and is therefore not suitable for whole genome sequencing), ‘**BBMap**’ [<https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools/bb-tools-user-guide/bbmap-guide/>] (Linux, Mac, Windows (seems to give problems when installing on windows machines), might be possible to integrate it in Python), ‘**BWA**’ [<http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net/>] (Linux, Mac), ‘**Bowtie2**’ [<http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/index.shtml>] (Linux, Mac) or ‘**ClustalOmega**’ [<http://www.clustal.org/omega/>] (Windows, Linux, Mac). This step might require defining scores for matches, mismatches, gaps and insertions of nucleotides.
4. After aligning, the data needs to be converted to SAM and BAM formats for easier processing hereafter. This requires ‘**SAMtools**’ [<http://www.htslib.org/>] (Linux, Mac) or ‘**GATK**’ [<https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us>] (Linux, Mac). Conversion from SAM to BAM can also be done in Matlab if preferred using the ‘BioMap’ function.
5. Using the BAM file with the aligned sequence reads, the transposon insertion sites can be determined using the **Matlab** script given by Benoit Kornmann Lab [<https://sites.google.com/site/satayusers/>] (including the name.mat and yeastGFF.mat files). The results from this step are three files (a .txt file, a .bed file and a .wig file) that can be used for visualization.
6. If more processing is required, ‘**Picard**’ [<https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>] (Linux, Mac) might be useful, as well as ‘**GATK**’ [<https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us>] (Linux, Mac). Visualization of the genomic dataset can be done using ‘**IGV**’ [<https://software.broadinstitute.org/software/igv/home>] (Windows, Linux, Mac) or SAMtools’ tvview function. Also **sambamba** [<https://lomereiter.github.io/sambamba/>] (Linux, Mac) can be used, especially for sorting and indexing the bam files.
7. Creating transposon insertion maps for the genome (see <https://sites.google.com/site/>

[satayusers/](#)) and comparison essential genes between different genetic backgrounds using Venn diagrams, customized software needs to be created.

1. Quality checking of the sequencing reads; FASTQC (0.11.9)

FASTQC creates a report for the quality of sequencing data. The input should be a fastq (both zipped and unzipped), sam or bam file (it can handle multiple files at once). The program does not need to be installed, but after downloading only requires to be unzipped. FASTQC can be ran as an interactive program (i.e. using a GUI) or non-interactively using the command line options.

If using interactively, open the 'run_fastqc.bat' file in the FASTQC folder and load a file to be checked. Alternatively using the 123FASTQ (version 1.1) program, open this and use the 'Quality Check' menu on the right. The advantage of using 123FASTQ is that it can also do trimming (using Trimmomatic).

If using the command line for checking a single file use the command: `/path/to/program/folder/fastqc --outdir /path/to/output/directory/path/to/input/directory/filename.fastq` (Note that the output directory should already exist, as the program does not create paths). In the output directory, a .html file and a folder is created, both with the same name as the input file. The .html file can be used to quickly see the graphs. Also, a zipped folder is created where the raw data of the quality check is stored. For explanation about the different graphs, see the `fastqc_manual` pdf or <https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/Help/3%20Analysis%20Modules/> (or the paper 'Preprocessing and Quality Control for Whole-Genome' from Wright et.al. or the 'Assessing Read Quality' workshop from the Datacarpentry Genomics workshop).

For more commands, type `/path/to/program/folder/fastqc --help` Note and some useful commands might be:

- `-contaminants` Reads a file where sequences are stored of (potential) contaminants. The (.txt) file should be created before running the software. Each contaminant is presented on a different line the text file and should have the form name 'tab' sequence.
- `-adapters` Similar as the contaminants command, but specifically for adapter sequences. Also here a text file should be created before running and this file should have the same layout as the contaminants file.
- `-min_length` where a minimal sequence length can be set, so that the statistics can be better compared between different reads of different length (which for example might occur after trimming).
- `-threads` Preferably leave this unchanged, especially when an error is shown that there 'could not reserve enough space for object heap' after setting this command.
- `-extract` Set this command (without following of parameters) to extract the zipped folder from the results.

The output of the FASTQC program is:

- **Per base sequence quality:** Box and whisker plot for the quality of a basepair position in all reads. The quality should be above approximately 30 for most reads, but the quality typically drops near the end of the sequences. If the ends of the reads are really bad, consider trimming those in the next step.

- **Per tile sequence quality:** (Shows only when Illumina Library which retains there sequence identifier). Shows a heat map of the quality per tile of the sequence machines. Blueish colours indicate that the quality score is about or better than average and reddish colours indicates scores worse than average.
- **Per sequence quality score:** Shows an accumulative distribution to indicate which mean quality score per sequence occurs most often.
- **Per base sequence content:** Shows the percentage of nucleotide appearance in all sequences. Assuming a perfectly random distribution for all four nucleotides, each nucleotide should be present about 25% over the entire sequence. In the beginning this might be a bit off due to for example adapters present in the sequences. If this is present, it might difficult/impossible to cut these during the trimming part, but it should typically not seriously affect further analysis.
- **Per sequence GC content:** Indicates the distribution of the G-C nucleotides appearances in the genome. The ideal distribution that is expected based on the data is shown as a blue curve. The red curve should, ideally follow the blue curve. If the red curve is more or less a normal distribution, but shifted from the blue curve, is might indicate a systematic bias which might be caused by an inaccurate estimation of the GC content in the blue curve. This does not necessarily indicate bad data. When the red curve is not normal or show irregularities (peaks or flat parts), this might indicate contaminants in the sample or overrepresented sequences.
- **Per base N content:** Counts the number of N appearances in the data for each basepair position of all reads. Every time a nucleotide cannot be accurately determine during sequencing, it is flagged with a N (No hit) in the sequence instead of one of the nucleotides. Ideally this should never occur in the data and this graph should be a flat line at zero over the entire length. Although at the end of the sequences it might occur few times, but it should not occur more than a few percent.
- **Sequence length distribution:** Shows the length of all sequences. Ideally all reads should have the same length, but this might change, for example, after trimming.
- **Sequence duplication level:** Indicates how often some sequences appear the data. Ideally, all reads occur only few times and a high peak is expected near 1. If peaks are observed at higher numbers, this might indicate enrichment bias during the sequencing preparation (e.g. over amplification during PCR). Only the first 100 000 sequences are considered and when the length of the reads is over 75bp, the reads are cut down to pieces of 50bp. Some duplication might not be bad and therefore a warning or error here does not need to concern.
- **Overrepresented sequences:** List of sequences that appear in more 0.1% of the total (this is only considered for the first 100 000 sequences and reads over 75bp are truncated to 50bp pieces). The program gives a warning (when sequences are found to be present between 0.1% and 1% of the total amount of sequences) or an error (when there are sequences occurring more 1% of all sequences), but this does not always mean that the data is bad and might be ignored.
- **Adapter (Kmers) content:** Shows an accumulative percentage plot of adapter appearances in the data. Ideally this is a flat line at zero (meaning that there are no adapter sequences present in the data). If this is not a flat line at zero, it might be necessary to cut the adapter during the trimming step.

2. Trimming of the sequencing reads; Trimmomatic (0.39)

Trimmomatic alters the sequencing result by trimming the reads from unwanted sequences, as is specified by the user. The program does not need to be installed, but after downloading only requires to be unzipped. Trimmomatic can be ran as an interactive program (for this 123FASTQ needs to be used) or non-interactively using the command line options.

If using interactively, use 123FASTQ (version 1.1) and run the 'Runner.bat' file in the 123FASTQ folder. Use the 'Trimmer' in the 'Trim Factory' menu on the right.

If using non-interactively in the command line use the command:

```
java -jar /path/to/program/folder/Trimmomatic/trimmomatic-0.39.jar
```

The following can be set to be set by typing the following fields after the above command (the fields must be in the given order, the optional fields can be ignored if not needed, see also <http://www.usadellab.org/cms/?page=trimmomatic>):

- SE (Single End) or PE (Paired End) [required];
- `-phred33` or `-phred64` sets which quality coding is used, if not specified the program tries to determine this itself which might be less accurate [optional];
- **Input filename.** Both forward and reverse for paired end in case of PE [required];
- **Output filename.** Both paired and unpaired forward and paired and unpaired reverse for paired end (thus 4 output in total) in case of PE. In case of SE, a single output file needs to be specified. Needs to have the same extension as the input file (e.g. .fastq) [required];
- `ILLUMINACLIP:TruSeq3-SE.fa:2:15` or `ILLUMINACLIP:TruSeq3-PE.fa:2:30:10` This cuts the adapter and other Illumina specific sequences from the reads. The first parameter after : indicates a FASTA file (this should be located in the same folder as the sequencing data). A number of adapters are stored in the 'adapters' folder at the location where the trimmomatic program is saved. In case of MiSeq sequencing, the TruSeq3 adapter file is advised. The way the adapter sequences are aligned is by cutting the adapters (in the FASTA file) into 16bp pieces (called seeds) and these seeds are aligned to the reads. If there is a match, the entire alignment between the read and the complete adapter sequence is given a score. A perfect match gets a score of 0.6. Each mismatching base reduces the score by $Q/10$. When the score exceeds a threshold, the adapter is clipped from the read. The first number in the parameter gives the maximal number of mismatches allowed in the seeds (typically 2). The second value is the minimal score before the adapter is clipped (typically between 7 (requires $\frac{7}{0.6} = 12$ perfect matches) and 15 (requires $\frac{15}{0.6} = 25$ perfect matches)). High values for short reads (so many perfect matches are needed) allows for clipping adapters, but not for adapter contaminations. Note a bug in the software is that the FASTA file with the adapters need to be located in your current folder. A path to another folder with the adapter files yields an error. [optional] [https://wiki.bits.vib.be/index.php/Parameters_of_Trimmomatic];
- `SLIDINGWINDOW` Sliding window trimming which cuts out sequences within the window if the average quality score within the window is lower than a certain threshold. Parameters should be given as : `L_window:Q_min` where `L_window` is the window size (in terms of basepairs) and `Q_min` the average threshold quality. [optional];
- `LEADING` Cut the bases at the start (5' end) of a read if the quality is below a certain threshold.

Note that when, for example, the parameter is set to 3, the quality score Q=0 to Q=2 will be removed. All basepairs will be removed until the first basepair that has a quality score above the given threshold. [optional];

- **TRAILING** Cut the bases at the end (3' end) of a read if the quality is below a certain threshold. Note that when, for example, the parameter is set to 3, the quality score Q=0 to Q=2 will be removed. All basepairs will be removed until the first basepair that has a quality score above the given threshold. [optional];
- **CROP** Cuts the read to a specific length by removing a specified amount of nucleotides from the tail of the read (this does not discriminate between quality scores). [optional];
- **HEADCROP** Cut a specified number of bases from the start of the reads (this does not discriminate between quality scores). [optional];
- **MINLEN** Drops a read if it has a length smaller than a specified amount [optional];
- **TOPHRED33** Converts the quality score to phred33 encoding [optional];
- **TOPHRED64** Converts the quality score to phred64 encoding [optional].

Note that the input files can be either uncompressed FASTQ files or gzipped FASTQ (with an extension fastq.gz or fq.gz) and the output fields should ideally have the same extension as the input files (i.e. .fastq or .fq). The convention is using field:parameter, where 'parameter' is typically a number. (To make the (relative long commands) more readable in the command line, use \ and press enter to continue the statement on the next line) (See 'Datacarpentry workshop > data Wrangling and Processing for Genomics > Trimming and Filtering' for examples how to run software). Trimmomatic can only run a single file at the time. If more files need to be trimmed using the same parameters, use

```
for infile in *.fastq
do
  base=$(basename $(infile) .fastq)
  trimmomatic xxx
done
```

Where xxx should be replaced with the commands for trimmomatic.

3. Sequence alignment and Reference sequence indexing; BWA (0.7.17) (Linux)

The reads from sequencing are aligned to a reference genome. The alignment can be completed using different algorithms within BWA, but the 'Maximal Exact Matches' (MEM) algorithm is the recommended one (which is claimed to be the most accurate and fastest algorithm and is compatible with many downstream analysis tools). For full documentation see [<http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net/bwa.shtml>]. BWA uses a FM-index, which uses the Burrows Wheeler Transform (BWT), to exactly align all the reads to the reference genome at the same time. Each alignment is given a score, based on the number of matches, mismatches and potential gaps and insertions. The highest possible score is 60, meaning that the read aligns perfectly to the reference sequence (this score is saved in the SAM file as MAPQ). Besides the required 11 fields in the SAM file, BWA gives some optional fields to indicate various aspects of the mapping, for example the alignment score (for a complete overview and explanation, see the documentation). The generated SAM file also include

headers where the names of all chromosomes are shown (lines starting with SQ). These names are used to indicate where each read is mapped to.

Before use, the reference sequence should be indexed so that the program knows where to find potential alignment sites. This only has to be done once for each reference genome. It is recommended to copy the reference genome and remove the 'write' permission using the command line `chmod -w /path/to/backup/reference/sequence`. After this, index the reference genome using the command `BWA index /path/to/reference/sequence/file.fasta`. This creates 5 more files in the same folder as the reference genome that BWA uses to speed up the process of alignment.

The sequencing command should be given as `BWA mem [options] /path/to/reference/sequence/file.fasta /path/to/data/file.fastq > /path/to/output/file.sam`

Where [options] can be different statements as given in the documentation. Most importantly are:

- `-A` Matching scores (default is 1)
- `-B` Mismatch scores (default is 4)
- `-O` Gap open penalty (default is 6)
- `-E` Gap extension penalty (default is 1)
- `-U` Penalty for unpaired reads (default is 9; only of use in case of paired-end sequencing).

4. Converting SAM file to BAM file; SAMtools (1.7) and sambamba (0.7.1) (Linux)

SAMtools allows for different additional processing of the data. For an overview of all functions, simply type `samtools` in the command line. Some useful tools are:

- **view** This converts files from SAM into BAM format. Enter `samtools view` to see the help for all commands. The format of the input file is detected automatically. Most notably are:
 - `-b` which converts a file to BAM format.
 - `-f int` Include only the reads that include all flags given by int.
 - `-F int` Include only the reads that include none of the flags given by int.
 - `-G int` Exclude only the reads that include all flags given by int.
- **sort** This sorts the data in the BAM file. By default the data is sorted by leftmost coordinate. Other ways of sorting are:
 - `-n` sort by read name
 - `-t tag` Sorts by tag value
 - `-o file` Writes the output to file.
- **flagstats** Print simple statistics of the data.
- **stats** Generate statistics.
- **tvview** This function creates a text based Pileup file that is used to assess the data with respect to the reference genome. The output is represented as characters that indicate the relation between the aligned and the reference sequence. The meaning of the characters are:

- . :base match on the forward strand
- , :base match on the reverse strand
- </> :reference skip
- AGTCN :each one of these letters indicates a base that did not match the reference on the forward strand.
- Agtcn : each one of these letters indicates a base that did not match the reference on the reverse strand.
- + [0-9]+[AGTCNagtcn] : Denotes (an) insertion(s) of a number of the indicated bases.
- -[0-9]+[AGTCNagtcn] : Denotes (an) deletion(s) of a number of the indicated bases.
- ^ : Start of a read segment. A following character indicates the mapping quality based on phred33 score.
- \$: End of a read segment.
- * : Placeholder for a deleted base in a multiple basepair deletion.
- quickcheck : Checks if a .bam or .sam file is ok. If there is no output, the file is good. If and only if there are warnings, an output is generated. If an output is wanted anyways, use the command `samtools quickcheck -v [input.bam] &&echo 'All ok' || echo 'File failed check'`

Create a .bam file using the command `samtools view -b <InputFile.sam> <OutputFile.bam>`. Check if everything is ok with the .bam file using `samtools quickcheck <InputFile.bam>`. If no output is generated, the file is good. If desired, more information can be obtained using `samtools flagstat <InputFile.bam>` or `samtools stats <InputFile.bam>`.

For many downstream tools, the .bam file needs to be sorted. This can be done using SAMtools, but this might give problems. A faster and more reliable method is using the software sambamba using the command `sambamba-0.7.1 sort -m 500MB <InputFile.bam>` (where -m allows for specifying the memory usage which is 500MB in this example). This creates a file with the extension .sorted.bam, which is the sorted version of the original bam file. Also an index is created with the extension .bam.bai. If this latter file is not created, it can be made using the command `sambamba-0.7.1 index <InputFile.bam>`.

5. Determining transposon insertions: Matlab (Code from Benoit [Michel et. al. 2017])

This Matlab code is provided by Benoit and is based on the paper by Michel et. al. [<https://sites.google.com/site/satayusers/complete-protocol/bioinformatics-analysis/matlab-script>]. Running the code requires the user to select a .bam file. In the same folder as the bam file the Matlab variables 'yeastGFF.mat' and 'names.mat' should be present (which can be found on the website cited above). Line numbers correspond to the original, unaltered code.

[line1-13] After loading the .BAM file, the 'baminfo' command is used to collect the properties for the sequencing data. These include (among others) [<https://nl.mathworks.com/help/bioinfo/ref/baminfo.html>]:

- **SequenceDictionary**: Includes the number of basepairs per chromosome.

- **ScannedDictionary:** Which chromosomes are read (typically 16 and the mitochondrial chromosome).
- **ScannedDictionaryCount:** Number of reads aligned to each reference sequence.

[line22-79] Then, a for-loop over all the chromosomes starts (17 in total, 16 chromosomes and a mitochondrial chromosome). The for-loop starts with a BioMap command which gets the columns of the SAM-file. The size of the columns corresponds with the number of reads aligned to each reference sequence (see also the ‘baminfo’ field **ScannedDictionaryCount**). The collected information is:

- **SequenceDictionary:** Chromosome number where the reads are collected for (given in roman numerals or ‘Mito’ for mitochondrial). (QNAME)
- **Reference:** Chromosome number that is used as reference sequence. (RNAME)
- **Signature:** CIGAR string. (CIGAR)
- **Start:** Start position of the first matched basepair given in terms of position number of the reference sequence. (POS)?
- **MappingQuality:** Value indicating the quality of the mapping. When 60, the mapping has the smallest chance to be wrong. (MAPQ)
- **Flag:** Flag of the read. (FLAG)
- **MatePosition:** (PNEXT)?
- **Quality:** Quality score given in FASTQ format. Each ASCII symbol represents an error probability for a base pair in a read. See [https://drive5.com/usearch/manual/quality_score.html] for a conversion table. (QUAL)
- **Sequence:** Nucleotide sequence of the read. Length should math the length of the corresponding ‘Quality’ score. (SEQ)
- **Header:** Associated header for each read sequence.
- **Nseqs:** Integer indicating the number of read sequences for the current chromosome.
- **Name:** empty

(Note: Similar information can be obtained using the ‘bamread’ command (although this is slower than ‘BioMap’), which gives a structure element with fields for each piece of information. This can be accessed using: `bb = bamread(file,infobam.SequenceDictionary(kk).SequenceName,\[1 infobam.SequenceDictionary(kk).SequenceLength\]))` `bb(x).‘FIELD’` %where x is a row (i.e. a specific read) and FIELD is the string of the field.)

After extracting the information from the SAM-file (using the ‘BioMap’ command), the starting site is defined for each read. This is depended on the orientation of the read sequence. If this is normal orientation it has flag=0, if it is in reverse orientation it has flag=16. If the read sequence is in reverse orientation, the length of the read sequence (‘readlength’ variable) needs to be added to the starting site (‘start’ variable). The corrected starting sites of all reads are saved in a new variable (‘start2’). Note that this changes the order of which the reads are stored. To correct this, the variables ‘start2’ and ‘flag2’ are sorted in ascending order.

Now, all the reads in the current chromosome are processed. Data is stored in the ‘tncordinates’ variable. This consists of three numbers; the chromosome number (‘kk’), start position on the

chromosome ('start2') and the flag ('flag2'). All reads that have the same starting position and the same flag (i.e. the same reading orientation) are stored as a single row in the 'tncoordinates' variable (for this the average starting position is taken). This results in an array where each row indicates a new starting position and the reading orientation. The number of measurements that were averaged for a read is stored in the variable 'readnumb'. This is important later in the program for determining the transposons.

This is repeated for each chromosome due to the initial for-loop. The 'tnnumber' variable stores the number of unique starting positions and flags for each chromosome (this does not seem to be used anywhere else in the program).

[line94-120] After getting the needed information from the SAM-file, the data needs to be compared with the literature. For this yeastGFF.mat is used (provided by Benoit et. al.) that loads the variable 'gff'. This includes all genes (from SGD) and the essential genes (from YeastMine). (Note that a similar list can be downloaded from the SGD website as a text file). The file is formatted as a matrix with in each row a DNA element (e.g. genes) and each column represent a different piece of information about that element. The used columns are:

1. Chromosome number (represented as roman numerals)
2. Data source (either SGD, YeastMine or landmark. Represented as a string)
3. Type of the DNA element, e.g. gene. The first element of a chromosome is always the 'omosome', which is the entire chromosome (Represented as a string)
4. Start coordinates (in terms of base pairs. Represented as an integer)
5. End coordinates (in terms of base pairs. Represented as an integer)
6. A score value. Always a '.' Represented as a string indicating a dummy value.
7. Reading direction (+ for forward reading (5'-3'), - for reverse reading (3'-5')), '.' If reading direction is undetermined. Represented as a string)
8. Always a '.' Except when the element is a Coding DNA Sequence (CDS), when this column become a '0'. A CDS always follows a gene in the list and the value indicates how many basepairs should be removed from the beginning of this feature in order to reach the first codon in the next base (Represented as a string)
9. Other information and notes (Represented as a string)

From the 'gff' variable, all the genes are searched and stored in the variable 'features.genes' (as a struct element). The same thing is done for the essential genes by searching for genes from the 'YeastMine' library and these are stored in 'features.essential' (as a struct element). This results in three variables:

- **features:** struct element that includes the fields 'genes' and 'essential' that include numbers representing in which rows of the 'gff' variable the (essential) gene can be found (note that the essential genes are indicated by 'ORF' from 'Yeastmine' in the 'gff' variable).
- **genes:** struct element storing the start and end coordinates (in basepairs) and the chromosome number where the gene is found.
- **essential:** struct element. Same as 'genes', but then for essential genes as found by the 'YeastMine' database.

This can be extended with other features (e.g. rRNA, see commented out sections in the code).

[line124-160] Next all the data is stored as if all the chromosomes are put next to each other. In the **tncoordinates** variable, for each chromosome the counting of the basepairs starts at 1. The goal of this section is to continue counting such that the first basepair number of a chromosome continues from the last basepair number of the previous chromosome (i.e. the second chromosome is put after the first, the third chromosome is put after the second etc., to create one very long chromosome spanning the entire DNA). The first chromosome is skipped (i.e. the for-loop starts at 2) because these basepairs does not need to be added to a previous chromosome. This is repeated for the start and end coordinates of the (essential) genes.

[line162-200] Now the number of transposons is determined which is done by looking at the number of reads per gene. First, all the reads are found that have a start position between the start and end position of the known genes. The indices of those reads are stored in the variable 'xx'. In the first for-loop of the program (see lines 22-79) the reads (or measurements) that had the same starting position and flag were averaged and represented as a single read. To get the total number of reads per gene the number of measurements that were used for averaging the reads corresponding to the indices in 'xx' are summed (the value stored in the variable 'readnumb'). This is repeated for all genes and the essential genes using a for-loop. The maximum value is subtracted as a feature to suppress noise or unmeaningful data (see a more detailed explanation the discussion by Galih in the forum of Benoit [<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!category-topic/satayusers/bioinformatics/uaTpKsmgU6Q>]).

[line226-227] Next all variables in the Matlab workspace are saved using the same name as the .bam file, but now with the .mat extension. The program so far does not need to be ran all over again but loading the .mat file loads all the variables.

Next a number of files are generated (.bed, .txt and .wig).

[line238-256] A .bed file is generated that can be used for visualization of the transposon counts per insertion site. This contains the information stored in the 'tncoordinates' variable. This includes the chromosome number and the start position of the reads. The end position of the reads is taken as the start position +1 (The end position is chosen like this just to visualize the transposon insertion site). The third column is just a dummy variable and can be ignored. As the reads were averaged if multiple reads shared the same location on the genome, the total number of reads is taken from the 'readnumb' variable and is stored in the fourth column of the file using the equation $100 + \text{readnumb}(i) * 20$ (e.g. a value of 4 in **readnumb** is stored as 180 in the .bed file).

In general a .bed file can contain 12 columns, but only the first three columns are obligatory. These are the chromosome number, start position and end position (in terms of basepairs), respectively. More information can be added as is described in the links below. If a column is filled, then all the previous columns need to be filled as well. If this information is not present or wanted, the columns can be filled with a dummy character (typically a dot is used) [<https://bedtools.readthedocs.io/en/latest/content/general-usage.html>] [<https://learn.gencore.bio.nyu.edu/ngs-file-formats/bed-format/>].

[line238-256] Next a text file is generated for storing information about the transposon counts per gene. This is therefore a summation of all the transposons that have an insertion site within the gene. (To check a value in this file, look up the location of a gene present in this file. Next look how many transposon are located within the range spanned by the gene using the .bed file). To create this the names.mat file is needed to create a list of gene names present in the first column. The transposon count is taken from the **tnpergene** variable and is stored in the second column of the file. The third is the number of reads per gene which is taken from the **readpergene** variable

(which is calculated by `readnumb-max(readnumb)` where the `readnumb` variable is used for keeping track of the number of reads that were used to average the reads).

[line260-299] Creating a .wig file. This indicates the transposon insertion sites (in terms of basepairs, starting counting from 1 for each new chromosome). The file consists of two columns. The first column represent the insertion site for each transposons and the second column is the number of transposons inserted in total at that location. The information is similar to that found in the .bed file, but here the transposon count is the actual count (and thus not used the equation $100 + \text{transposon_count} * 20$ as is done in the .bed file).

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