VAR-Seq Workflow Template

Author: Daniela Cassol (danielac@ucr.edu) and Thomas Girke (thomas.girke@ucr.edu)

Last update: 16 April, 2019

Package

systemPipeR 1.17.9

Contents

1	Introd	uction	3	
	1.1	Background and objectives	3	
	1.2	Experimental design	3	
2	Workflow environment			
	2.1	Generate workflow environment.	3	
	2.2	Run workflow	3	
3	Read	preprocessing	4	
	3.1	Experiment definition provided by targets file	4	
	3.2	Read quality filtering and trimming	5	
	3.3	FASTQ quality report	5	
4	Alignments			
	4.1	Read mapping with BWA-MEM	6	
	4.2	Read mapping with gsnap	6	
	4.3	Read and alignment stats	7	
	4.4	Create symbolic links for viewing BAM files in IGV	7	
5	Variar	nt calling	7	
	5.1	Variant calling with GATK	8	
	5.2	Variant calling with BCFtools	8	
	5.3	Variant calling with VariantTools	8	
	5.4	Inspect VCF file	9	
6	Filter variants			
	6.1	Filter variants called by GATK	9	

VAR-Seq Workflow Template

	6.2	Filter variants called by BCFtools	10	
	6.3	Filter variants called by VariantTools	10	
7	Annotate filtered variants			
	7.1	Basics of annotating variants	11	
	7.2	Annotate filtered variants called by GATK	11	
	7.3	Annotate filtered variants called by BCFtools	11	
	7.4	Annotate filtered variants called by VariantTools	12	
8	Comb	oine annotation results among samples	12	
	8.1	Combine results from GATK	12	
	8.2	Combine results from BCFtools	12	
	8.3	Combine results from VariantTools	12	
9	Sumn	nary statistics of variants	13	
	9.1	Summary for GATK	13	
	9.2	Summary for BCFtools	13	
	9.3	Summary for VariantTools	13	
10	Venn	diagram of variants	13	
11	Plot v	ariants programmatically	14	
12	Version Information			
13	Fundi	ng	17	
	Refer	ences	18	

1 Introduction

Users want to provide here background information about the design of their VAR-Seq project.

1.1 Background and objectives

This report describes the analysis of a VAR-Seq project studying the genetic differences among several strains . . . from *organism*

1.2 Experimental design

Typically, users want to specify here all information relevant for the analysis of their NGS study. This includes detailed descriptions of FASTQ files, experimental design, reference genome, gene annotations, etc.

2 Workflow environment

2.1 Generate workflow environment

Load workflow environment with sample data into your current working directory. The sample data are described here.

```
library(systemPipeRdata)
genWorkenvir(workflow = "varseq")
setwd("varseq")
```

Alternatively, this can be done from the command-line as follows:

```
Rscript -e "systemPipeRdata::genWorkenvir(workflow='varseq')"
```

In the workflow environments generated by genWorkenvir all data inputs are stored in a data/ directory and all analysis results will be written to a separate results/ directory, while the systemPipeVARseq.Rmd script and the targets file are expected to be located in the parent directory. The R session is expected to run from this parent directory. Additional parameter files are stored under param/.

To work with real data, users want to organize their own data similarly and substitute all test data for their own data. To rerun an established workflow on new data, the initial targets file along with the corresponding FASTQ files are usually the only inputs the user needs to provide.

2.2 Run workflow

Now open the R markdown script systemPipeVARseq.Rmdin your R IDE (e.g. vim-r or RStudio) and run the workflow as outlined below.

2.2.1 Run R session on computer node

After opening the Rmd file of this workflow in Vim and attaching a connected R session via the F2 (or other) key, use the following command sequence to run your R session on a computer node.

```
q("no") # closes R session on head node

srun --x11 --partition=short --mem=2gb --cpus-per-task 4 --ntasks 1 --time 2:00:00 --pty bash -l
module load R/3.4.2
R
```

Now check whether your R session is running on a computer node of the cluster and assess your environment.

```
system("hostname") # should return name of a compute node starting with i or c
getwd() # checks current working directory of R session
dir() # returns content of current working directory
```

The systemPipeR package needs to be loaded to perform the analysis steps shown in this report (H Backman and Girke 2016).

```
library(systemPipeR)
```

If applicable users can load custom functions not provided by systemPipeR. Skip this step if this is not the case.

```
source("systemPipeVARseq_Fct.R")
```

3 Read preprocessing

3.1 Experiment definition provided by targets file

The targets file defines all FASTQ files and sample comparisons of the analysis workflow.

```
targetspath <- system.file("extdata", "targetsPE.txt", package = "systemPipeR")</pre>
targets <- read.delim(targetspath, comment.char = "#")</pre>
targets[1:4, 1:4]
                        FileName1
                                                     FileName2
## 1 ./data/SRR446027_1.fastq.gz ./data/SRR446027_2.fastq.gz
## 2 ./data/SRR446028_1.fastq.gz ./data/SRR446028_2.fastq.gz
## 3 ./data/SRR446029_1.fastq.gz ./data/SRR446029_2.fastq.gz
## 4 ./data/SRR446030_1.fastq.gz ./data/SRR446030_2.fastq.gz
##
     SampleName Factor
## 1
            M1A
                    M1
## 2
            M1B
                    M1
## 3
            A1A
                    A1
## 4
            A1B
                    A1
```

3.2 Read quality filtering and trimming

The following removes reads with low quality base calls (here Phred scores below 20) from all FASTQ files.

```
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/trimPE.param", mytargets = "targetsPE.txt")[1:4]
# Note: subsetting!
filterFct <- function(fq, cutoff = 20, Nexceptions = 0) {
        qcount <- rowSums(as(quality(fq), "matrix") <= cutoff, na.rm = TRUE)
        fq[qcount <= Nexceptions]
        # Retains reads where Phred scores are >= cutoff with N
        # exceptions
}
preprocessReads(args = args, Fct = "filterFct(fq, cutoff=20, Nexceptions=0)",
        batchsize = 1e+05)
writeTargetsout(x = args, file = "targets_PEtrim.txt", overwrite = TRUE)
```

3.3 FASTQ quality report

The following seeFastq and seeFastqPlot functions generate and plot a series of useful quality statistics for a set of FASTQ files including per cycle quality box plots, base proportions, base-level quality trends, relative k-mer diversity, length and occurrence distribution of reads, number of reads above quality cutoffs and mean quality distribution. The results are written to a PDF file named fastqReport.pdf.

Figure 1: FASTQ quality report for 18 samples

4 Alignments

4.1 Read mapping with BWA-MEM

The NGS reads of this project are aligned against the reference genome sequence using the highly variant tolerant short read aligner BWA-MEM (Heng Li 2013; H Li and Durbin 2009). The parameter settings of the aligner are defined in the bwa.param file.

```
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/bwa.param", mytargets = "targets.txt")
sysargs(args)[1] # Command-line parameters for first FASTQ file</pre>
```

Runs the alignments sequentially (e.g. on a single machine)

```
moduleload(modules(args))
system("bwa index -a bwtsw ./data/tair10.fasta")
bampaths <- runCommandline(args = args)
writeTargetsout(x = args, file = "targets_bam.txt", overwrite = TRUE)</pre>
```

Alternatively, the alignment jobs can be submitted to a compute cluster, here using 72 CPU cores (18 qsub processes each with 4 CPU cores).

```
moduleload(modules(args))
system("bwa index -a bwtsw ./data/tair10.fasta")
resources <- list(walltime = 120, ntasks = 1, ncpus = cores(args),
    memory = 1024)
reg <- clusterRun(args, conffile = ".batchtools.conf.R", Njobs = 18,
    template = "batchtools.slurm.tmpl", runid = "01", resourceList = resources)
getStatus(reg = reg)
waitForJobs(reg = reg)
writeTargetsout(x = args, file = "targets_bam.txt", overwrite = TRUE)</pre>
```

Check whether all BAM files have been created

```
file.exists(outpaths(args))
```

4.2 Read mapping with gsnap

An alternative variant tolerant aligner is gsnap from the gmapR package (Wu and Nacu 2010). The following code shows how to run this aligner on multiple nodes of a computer cluster that uses Torque as scheduler.

4.3 Read and alignment stats

The following generates a summary table of the number of reads in each sample and how many of them aligned to the reference.

```
read_statsDF <- alignStats(args = args)
write.table(read_statsDF, "results/alignStats.xls", row.names = FALSE,
    quote = FALSE, sep = "\t")</pre>
```

4.4 Create symbolic links for viewing BAM files in IGV

The symLink2bam function creates symbolic links to view the BAM alignment files in a genome browser such as IGV. The corresponding URLs are written to a file with a path specified under urlfile, here IGVurl.txt.

```
symLink2bam(sysargs = args, htmldir = c("~/.html/", "projects/gen242/"),
    urlbase = "http://biocluster.ucr.edu/~tgirke/", urlfile = "./results/IGVurl.txt")
```

5 Variant calling

The following performs variant calling with GATK, BCFtools and VariantTools in parallel mode on a compute cluster (McKenna et al. 2010; Heng Li 2011). If a cluster is not available, the runCommandline function can be used to run the variant calling with GATK and BCFtools for each sample sequentially on a single machine, or callVariants in case of VariantTools. Typically, the user would choose here only one variant caller rather than running several ones.

5.1 Variant calling with GATK

The following creates in the inital step a new targets file (targets_bam.txt). The first column of this file gives the paths to the BAM files created in the alignment step. The new targets file and the parameter file gatk.param are used to create a new SYSargs instance for running GATK. Since GATK involves many processing steps, it is executed by a bash script gatk_run.sh where the user can specify the detailed run parameters. All three files are expected to be located in the current working directory. Samples files for gatk.param and gatk_run.sh are available in the param subdirectory provided by systemPipeRdata.

5.2 Variant calling with BCFtools

The following runs the variant calling with BCFtools. This step requires in the current working directory the parameter file sambcf.param and the bash script sambcf_run.sh.

5.3 Variant calling with VariantTools

```
library(gmapR)
library(BiocParallel)
library(batchtools)
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/vartools.param", mytargets = "targets_gsnap_bam.txt")
f <- function(x) {
    library(VariantTools)
    library(gmapR)
    library(systemPipeR)
    args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/vartools.param", mytargets = "targets_gsnap_bam.txt")</pre>
```

5.4 Inspect VCF file

VCF files can be imported into R with the readVcf function. Both VCF and VRanges objects provide convenient data structure for working with variant data (e.g. SNP quality filtering).

```
library(VariantAnnotation)
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/filter_gatk.param", mytargets = "targets_gatk.txt")
vcf <- readVcf(infile1(args)[1], "A. thaliana")
vcf
vr <- as(vcf, "VRanges")
vr</pre>
```

6 Filter variants

The function filterVars filters VCF files based on user definable quality parameters. It sequentially imports each VCF file into R, applies the filtering on an internally generated VRanges object and then writes the results to a new subsetted VCF file. The filter parameters are passed on to the corresponding argument as a character string. The function applies this filter to the internally generated VRanges object using the standard subsetting syntax for two dimensional objects such as: vr[filter,]. The parameter files (filter_gatk.param, filter_sambcf.param and filter_vartools.param), used in the filtering steps, define the paths to the input and output VCF files which are stored in new SYSargs instances.

6.1 Filter variants called by GATK

The below example filters for variants that are supported by >=x reads and >=80% of them support the called variants. In addition, all variants need to pass >=x of the soft filters recorded in the VCF files generated by GATK. Since the toy data used for this workflow is very small, the chosen settings are unreasonabley relaxed. A more reasonable filter setting is given in the line below (here commented out).

6.2 Filter variants called by BCFtools

The following shows how to filter the VCF files generated by BCFtools using similar parameter settings as in the previous filtering of the GATK results.

6.3 Filter variants called by VariantTools

The following shows how to filter the VCF files generated by VariantTools using similar parameter settings as in the previous filtering of the GATK results.

Check filtering outcome for one sample

7 Annotate filtered variants

The function variantReport generates a variant report using utilities provided by the VariantAnnotation package. The report for each sample is written to a tabular file containing genomic context annotations (e.g. coding or non-coding SNPs, amino acid changes, IDs of affected genes, etc.) along with confidence statistics for each variant. The parameter file annotate_vars.param defines the paths to the input and output files which are stored in a new SYSargs instance.

7.1 Basics of annotating variants

Variants overlapping with common annotation features can be identified with locateVariants.

```
library("GenomicFeatures")
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_gatk_filtered.txt")
txdb <- loadDb("./data/tair10.sqlite")
vcf <- readVcf(infile1(args)[1], "A. thaliana")
locateVariants(vcf, txdb, CodingVariants())</pre>
```

Synonymous/non-synonymous variants of coding sequences are computed by the predictCoding function for variants overlapping with coding regions.

```
fa <- FaFile(systemPipeR::reference(args))
predictCoding(vcf, txdb, seqSource = fa)</pre>
```

7.2 Annotate filtered variants called by GATK

7.3 Annotate filtered variants called by BCFtools

7.4 Annotate filtered variants called by VariantTools

View annotation result for single sample

```
read.delim(outpaths(args)[1])[38:40, ]
```

8 Combine annotation results among samples

To simplify comparisons among samples, the combineVarReports function combines all variant annotation reports referenced in a SYSargs instance (here args). At the same time the function allows to consider only certain feature types of interest. For instance, the below setting filtercol=c(Consequence="nonsynonymous") will include only nonsysynonymous variances listed in the Consequence column of the annotation reports. To omit filtering, one can use the setting filtercol="All".

8.1 Combine results from GATK

```
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_gatk_filtered.txt")
combineDF <- combineVarReports(args, filtercol = c(Consequence = "nonsynonymous"))
write.table(combineDF, "./results/combineDF_nonsyn_gatk.xls",
    quote = FALSE, row.names = FALSE, sep = "\t")</pre>
```

8.2 Combine results from BCFtools

```
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_sambcf_filtered.txt")
combineDF <- combineVarReports(args, filtercol = c(Consequence = "nonsynonymous"))
write.table(combineDF, "./results/combineDF_nonsyn_sambcf.xls",
    quote = FALSE, row.names = FALSE, sep = "\t")</pre>
```

8.3 Combine results from VariantTools

```
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_vartools_filtered.txt")
combineDF <- combineVarReports(args, filtercol = c(Consequence = "nonsynonymous"))
write.table(combineDF, "./results/combineDF_nonsyn_vartools.xls",
    quote = FALSE, row.names = FALSE, sep = "\t")
combineDF[2:4, ]</pre>
```

9 Summary statistics of variants

The varSummary function counts the number of variants for each feature type included in the anntation reports.

9.1 Summary for GATK

9.2 Summary for BCFtools

9.3 Summary for VariantTools

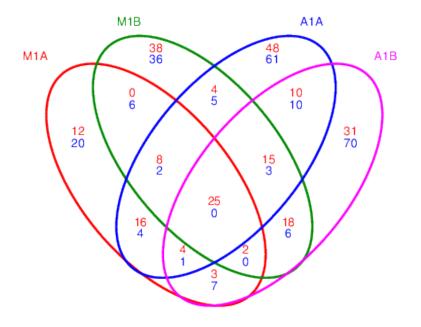
```
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_vartools_filtered.txt")
varSummary(args)
write.table(varSummary(args), "./results/variantStats_vartools.xls",
    quote = FALSE, col.names = NA, sep = "\t")</pre>
```

10 Venn diagram of variants

The venn diagram utilities defined by the systemPipeR package can be used to identify common and unique variants reported for different samples and/or variant callers. The below generates a 4-way venn diagram comparing four sampes for each of the two variant callers.

```
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_gatk_filtered.txt")
varlist <- sapply(names(outpaths(args))[1:4], function(x) as.character(read.delim(outpaths(args)[x])$VARID))
vennset_gatk <- overLapper(varlist, type = "vennsets")
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_sambcf_filtered.txt")
varlist <- sapply(names(outpaths(args))[1:4], function(x) as.character(read.delim(outpaths(args)[x])$VARID))
vennset_bcf <- overLapper(varlist, type = "vennsets")
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/annotate_vars.param", mytargets = "targets_vartools_filtered.txt")
varlist <- sapply(names(outpaths(args))[1:4], function(x) as.character(read.delim(outpaths(args)[x])$VARID))
vennset_vartools <- overLapper(varlist, type = "vennsets")
pdf("./results/vennplot_var.pdf")</pre>
```

```
vennPlot(list(vennset_gatk, vennset_bcf, vennset_vartools), mymain = "",
    mysub = "GATK: red; BCFtools: blue; VariantTools: green",
    colmode = 2, ccol = c("red", "blue", "green"))
dev.off()
```



GATK: red; BCFtools: blue

Figure 2: Venn Diagram for 4 samples from GATK and BCFtools

11 Plot variants programmatically

The following plots a selected variant with ggbio.

```
library(ggbio)
mychr <- "ChrC"
mystart <- 11000
myend <- 13000
args <- systemArgs(sysma = "param/bwa.param", mytargets = "targets.txt")
ga <- readGAlignments(outpaths(args)[1], use.names = TRUE, param = ScanBamParam(which = GRanges(mychr,</pre>
```

```
IRanges(mystart, myend))))
p1 <- autoplot(ga, geom = "rect")</pre>
p2 <- autoplot(ga, geom = "line", stat = "coverage")</pre>
p3 <- autoplot(vcf[seqnames(vcf) == mychr], type = "fixed") +
    xlim(mystart, myend) + theme(legend.position = "none", axis.text.y = element_blank(),
    axis.ticks.y = element_blank())
p4 <- autoplot(txdb, which = GRanges(mychr, IRanges(mystart,
    myend)), names.expr = "gene_id")
png("./results/plot_variant.png")
tracks(Reads = p1, Coverage = p2, Variant = p3, Transcripts = p4,
    heights = c(0.3, 0.2, 0.1, 0.35)) + ylab("")
dev.off()
  Reads
  Coverage
  Variant
                            ATCG00120
                                                    ATCG00130
  Transcripts
              10000
                                    11000
                                                          12000
```

Figure 3: Plot variants with programmatically.

12 Version Information

```
sessionInfo()
## R Under development (unstable) (2019-04-03 r76310)
## Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
## Running under: Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS
## Matrix products: default
## BLAS: /usr/local/lib/R/lib/libRblas.so
## LAPACK: /usr/local/lib/R/lib/libRlapack.so
## locale:
## [1] LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8
                                  LC_NUMERIC=C
## [3] LC_TIME=en_US.UTF-8
                                  LC_COLLATE=en_US.UTF-8
## [5] LC_MONETARY=en_US.UTF-8
                                  LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
## [7] LC_PAPER=en_US.UTF-8
                                  LC_NAME=C
## [9] LC_ADDRESS=C
                                  LC_TELEPHONE=C
## [11] LC_MEASUREMENT=en_US.UTF-8 LC_IDENTIFICATION=C
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats4
              parallel stats
                                    graphics grDevices
                datasets methods
## [6] utils
                                    base
## other attached packages:
## [1] batchtools_0.9.11
                                   data.table_1.12.0
## [3] ape_5.3
                                   ggplot2_3.1.0
## [5] systemPipeR_1.17.9
                                   ShortRead_1.41.0
## [7] GenomicAlignments_1.19.1
                                   SummarizedExperiment_1.13.0
## [9] DelayedArray_0.9.9
                                   matrixStats_0.54.0
## [11] Biobase_2.43.1
                                   BiocParallel_1.17.18
## [13] Rsamtools_1.99.5
                                   Biostrings_2.51.5
## [15] XVector_0.23.2
                                   GenomicRanges_1.35.1
## [17] GenomeInfoDb_1.19.3
                                   IRanges_2.17.4
## [19] S4Vectors_0.21.22
                                   BiocGenerics_0.29.2
## [21] BiocStyle_2.11.0
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] nlme_3.1-137
                                 Category_2.49.1
## [3] bitops_1.0-6
                                 bit64_0.9-7
## [5] RColorBrewer_1.1-2
                                 progress_1.2.0
## [7] httr_1.4.0
                                 Rgraphviz_2.27.0
## [9] tools_3.7.0
                                 backports_1.1.3
## [11] R6_2.4.0
                                 DBI_1.0.0
## [13] lazyeval_0.2.2
                                 colorspace_1.4-1
## [15] withr_2.1.2
                                 prettyunits_1.0.2
## [17] bit_1.1-14
                                 compiler_3.7.0
## [19] graph_1.61.1
                                  formatR_1.6
                                 bookdown_0.9
## [21] rtracklayer_1.43.3
## [23] scales_1.0.0
                                 checkmate_1.9.1
## [25] genefilter_1.65.0
                                 RBGL_1.59.5
```

VAR-Seq Workflow Template

```
## [27] rappdirs_0.3.1
                                  stringr_1.4.0
## [29] digest_0.6.18
                                   rmarkdown_{-}1.12
## [31] AnnotationForge_1.25.0
                                  pkgconfig_2.0.2
## [33] htmltools_0.3.6
                                  BSgenome_1.51.0
## [35] limma_3.39.14
                                  rlang_0.3.3
## [37] RSQLite_2.1.1
                                  GOstats_2.49.0
## [39] hwriter_1.3.2
                                  VariantAnnotation_1.29.25
## [41] RCurl_1.95-4.12
                                  magrittr_1.5
## [43] G0.db_3.7.0
                                  GenomeInfoDbData_1.2.1
## [45] Matrix_1.2-17
                                  Rcpp_1.0.1
## [47] munsell_0.5.0
                                  stringi_1.4.3
## [49] yaml_2.2.0
                                  edgeR_3.25.3
## [51] zlibbioc_1.29.0
                                  plyr_1.8.4
## [53] grid_3.7.0
                                  blob_1.1.1
## [55] crayon_1.3.4
                                  lattice_0.20-38
## [57] splines_3.7.0
                                  GenomicFeatures_1.35.9
## [59] annotate_1.61.1
                                  hms_0.4.2
## [61] locfit_1.5-9.1
                                  knitr_1.22
## [63] pillar_1.3.1
                                  rjson_0.2.20
## [65] base64url_1.4
                                  codetools_0.2-16
## [67] biomaRt_2.39.2
                                  XML_3.98-1.19
## [69] evaluate_0.13
                                  latticeExtra_0.6-28
## [71] BiocManager_1.30.4
                                  gtable_0.3.0
## [73] assertthat_0.2.1
                                  xfun_0.6
## [75] xtable_1.8-3
                                  survival_2.44-1.1
## [77] tibble_2.1.1
                                  pheatmap_1.0.12
## [79] AnnotationDbi_1.45.1
                                  memoise_1.1.0
## [81] brew_1.0-6
                                  GSEABase_1.45.0
```

13 Funding

This project was supported by funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

References

H Backman, Tyler W, and Thomas Girke. 2016. "systemPipeR: NGS workflow and report generation environment." *BMC Bioinformatics* 17 (1): 388. doi:10.1186/s12859-016-1241-0.

Li, H, and R Durbin. 2009. "Fast and Accurate Short Read Alignment with Burrows-Wheeler Transform." *Bioinformatics* 25 (14): 1754–60. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btp324.

Li, Heng. 2011. "A Statistical Framework for SNP Calling, Mutation Discovery, Association Mapping and Population Genetical Parameter Estimation from Sequencing Data." *Bioinformatics* 27 (21): 2987–93. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btr509.

——. 2013. "Aligning Sequence Reads, Clone Sequences and Assembly Contigs with BWA-MEM." arXiv [Q-bio.GN], March. http://arxiv.org/abs/1303.3997.

McKenna, Aaron, Matthew Hanna, Eric Banks, Andrey Sivachenko, Kristian Cibulskis, Andrew Kernytsky, Kiran Garimella, et al. 2010. "The Genome Analysis Toolkit: A MapReduce Framework for Analyzing Next-Generation DNA Sequencing Data." *Genome Res.* 20 (9): 1297–1303. doi:10.1101/gr.107524.110.

Wu, T D, and S Nacu. 2010. "Fast and SNP-tolerant Detection of Complex Variants and Splicing in Short Reads." *Bioinformatics* 26 (7): 873–81. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btq057.