PacBio Structural Variant (SV) Pipeline

Overview

This pipeline is designed for the annotation and clinical prioritization of structural variants (SVs) detected from PacBio HiFi long-read sequencing data. It is tailored for somatic cancer variant discovery and classification, particularly in leukemia cases.

Key Features

- Germline filtering using tumor-normal comparison
- Functional annotation via known oncogenes, tumor suppressors, and cancer driver genes
- Clinical relevance scoring using real-time API queries to:
 - o CIViC
 - o OncoKB
 - o COSMIC (local fallback)
- SV-specific scoring based on size, type (e.g., fusions, deletions, duplications)
- ACMG-style clinical classification: Pathogenic, Likely Pathogenic, VUS, Benign
- · Excel output with scoring breakdown and logs for each sample

How to Run

Prerequisites

- R ≥ 4.0
- R packages: dplyr, stringr, openxlsx, readr, httr, jsonlite, clusterProfiler, org.Hs.eg.db, ggplot2

Input Files

• Tumor SV calls exported as a tab-delimited file (.tsv or .txt) with columns:

```
Chr, Start, End, SV_Type, Gene_name, [other fields]
```

- Matched normal SV calls in the same format.
- Local COSMIC TSV (to annotate known cancer SVs). Place it under data/ (see Folder Structure).
- API keys for querying CIViC and OncoKB.

Obtain API Keys

- 1. Sign up (free) at CIViC and obtain a CIViC API key.
- 2. Sign up (free) at OncoKB and obtain an OncoKB API key.
- 3. Edit the top of scripts/structural_variant_finder.R and set:

```
civic_api_key <- "<YOUR_CIVIC_API_KEY>"
oncokb_api_key <- "<YOUR_ONCOKB_API_KEY>"
```

Prepare Input Files

- 1. Create a folder named data/ (if it doesn't exist).
- $2. \ \, Under\, \texttt{data/, place your tumor_sample1.tsv} \,\, (tumor\,\, SV\,\, calls) \,\, and \,\, normal_sample1.tsv} \,\, (matched\,\, normal\,\, SV\,\, calls).$
- 3. Place cosmic.tsv (downloadable from COSMIC → Structural Variants) into data/.

Run the Pipeline

From the repository root, execute:

```
Rscript scripts/structural_variant_finder.R \
   data/tumor_sample1.tsv \
   data/normal_sample1.tsv
```

Outputs

- results/sample01_clinical_significance.xlsx: Annotated SV table with gene, SV type, clinical scores, and classification.
- results/sample01_pipeline_log.txt: Full log of the run with error handling notes.

Inspect Results

- Open results/tumor_sample1_clinical_significance.xlsx in Excel or R to view the combined score and clinical classification for each SV.
- The sheet results/tumor sample1 annotated.tsv includes raw annotations (CIVIC/OncoKB/COSMIC flags, functional impact, etc.).
- Any PDF or PNG plots appear under results/plots/.

Folder Structure

```
PacBio-SV-Pipeline/
README.md
docs/
README.pdf
data/
tumor_samplel.tsv
normal_samplel.tsv
cosmic.tsv
scripts/
structural variant finder.R
```

- README.md: A concise overview and quick-start guide (GitHub landing page).
- docs/README.pdf: This full PDF documentation (detailed methods, advanced notes).
- data/: User-supplied inputs (SV call files, COSMIC reference).
- scripts/: Main R script (structural_variant_finder.R).
- results/: Created automatically after running the pipeline.

Usage Notes & Customization

Customizing API Queries

- By default, the script queries CIViC and OncoKB via REST endpoints using httr and jsonlite.
- To skip API lookups (e.g., no internet), comment out lines 85–120 (the "Clinical API" section) in structural_variant_finder.R. The script will still run, but clinical scores rely only on local COSMIC.

Filtering Thresholds

- Inside structural_variant_finder.R, locate the block (lines 45-60) that defines functional-impact penalties and scoring weights.
- To adjust, modify the case_when logic for Functional_Impact or change the points added for each category.

Output Directory

- By default, the script creates a results/ folder in the working directory.
- To change the output path, set the environment variable OUTDIR before running:

```
export OUTDIR="/my/custom/output/path"
Rscript scripts/structural_variant_finder.R data/tumor.tsv data/normal.tsv
```

• The code will detect OUTDIR and write all outputs there instead of ./results/.

SLURM/HPC Integration

- For HPC environments, copy the first ~10 lines of structural_variant_finder.R (the "Argument Parsing" block) into a Slurm job script (.sbatch).
- Example job_svs.sbatch:

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --job-name=SV_Sample1
```

Full Methods & Scoring Criteria

Germline Filtering (Tumor-Normal Comparison)

- 1. Load tumor and normal SV call tables (tab-delimited, columns: Chr, Start, End, SV_Type, Gene_name, etc.).
- 2. Merge tables on matching coordinates and SV type to identify shared ("germline") SVs.
- 3. Retain tumor-only SVs for downstream annotation.

Functional Annotation

- 1. Gene Overlap: Map each SV to overlapping genes using GenomicRanges (R). Annotate gene symbols and gene biotypes.
- 2. Cancer Gene List: Tag SVs affecting genes in a curated list of known oncogenes and tumor suppressors (from COSMIC's Cancer Gene Census).
- 3. Gene Ontology Enrichment (optional): For large SV sets, run clusterProfiler::enrichGO() on affected gene lists.

Clinical Database Queries

- CIVIC: Query using REST API to retrieve evidence items for gene and variant pairs. Score based on evidence level and significance.
- OncoKB: Query OncoKB REST endpoints for variant-level annotations (e.g., known actionable fusions or amplifications).
- COSMIC: Use a local cosmic.tsv to flag SVs previously observed in cancer samples. Assign a baseline "COSMIC_score" based on recurrence frequency.

SV-Specific Scoring

1. Size-Based Weighting:

- o Deletions > 1 kb: +2 points
- Duplications > 1 kb: +1 point
- Translocations/fusions: +3 points
- o Inversions > 5 kb: +1 point

2. Functional Impact:

- SV overlaps coding region (+2)
- SV disrupts known tumor suppressor (+3)
- SV creates potential fusion involving oncogene (+4)
- o SV in intergenic region (0)

3. Clinical Evidence Points:

- o CIViC Level A: +5
- o CIViC Level B: +4
- o OncoKB Level 1: +5
- o OncoKB Level 2: +4
- o COSMIC recurrence > 10 samples: +3
- o COSMIC recurrence 1-10 samples: +1

4. Total Score Calculation:

```
total_score <- size_points + functional_points + clinical_points</pre>
```

5. ACMG-Style Classification:

```
○ >= 8: Pathogenic
```

o >= 5 & < 8: Likely Pathogenic

o >= 2 & < 5: VUS (Variant of Uncertain Significance)

o < 2: Benign

Excel Report Generation

- Use openxlsx::write.xlsx() to create sample01_clinical_significance.xlsx with two sheets:
 - Annotated_SVs: All SVs with columns for Chr, Start, End, SV_Type, Gene_name, size_points, functional_points, clinical_points, total_score, classification.
 - 2. Summary Stats: Counts of SVs in each classification and distribution plots (if applicable) embedded.

Example Outputs

- results/sample01 clinical significance.xlsx: Shows 45 SVs for sample01 with scores and classifications.
- results/sample01_annotated.tsv:

Chr	Start	End	SV_Type Gene_name	size_po	ints	functio	nal_poin	ts clinical_points tota
chr3	123456	223456	Deletion TP53	2	3	5	10	Pathogenic
chr7	98765	198765	Fusion BCR-ABL1	3	4	5	12	Pathogenic

- results/plots/size_distribution.png: Histogram of deletion/duplication lengths.
- results/plots/classification_pie.png: Pie chart of SV classification proportions.

Credits & Contact

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• Last Updated: June 2025

• License: MIT

Change Log

- v1.0 (June 2025)
 - $\circ~$ Initial public release with core SV annotation and clinical scoring functionality.
 - Integrated CIViC, OncoKB, COSMIC local annotations, and simple ACMG/AMP scoring.
 - Output: annotated TSV + clinical_significance.xlsx + summary plots.
- v1.1 (forthcoming)
 - Add SV size-distribution plots (e.g., histogram of deletion/duplication lengths).
 - Incorporate normal-adjacent filtering pipeline (to remove germline SVs).
 - o Expand annotation with FusionCatcher for gene fusions.