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#### Contents

1	Data description	2
2	Exploratory analysis	4
3	Candidate gene prioritization	6
4	Gene scoring	8
	Session info	9
	References	11

### 1 Data description

The example data sets we will use here comprise RNA-seq data on pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) response to Phytophthora root rot (Kim et al. 2018), and GWAS-derived SNPs associated to resistance to Phytophthora root rot (Siddique et al. 2019). All genomic intervals are stored in GRanges objects, and expression data with sample metadata are stored in SummarizedExperiment objects. Genes encoding transcription factors were retrieved from PlantTFDB 4.0 (Jin et al. 2017), and plant defense-related genes (MapMan annotations) were retrieved from PLAZA Dicots 3.0 (Proost et al. 2015). Taking a glimpse at the data:

```
library(cageminer, quietly = TRUE)
## Registered S3 method overwritten by 'GGally':
## method from
## +.gg ggplot2
set.seed(123) # for reproducibility
# SNP positions
data(snp_pos)
snp_pos
## GRanges object with 116 ranges and 0 metadata columns:
     segnames ranges strand
          <Rle> <IRanges> <Rle>
    2 Chr02 149068682 *
##
    3 Chr03 5274098
    4 Chr05 27703815
##
##
    5 Chr05 27761792
    6 Chr05 27807397
##
##
##
    114
          Chr12 230514706
##
    115 Chr12 230579178
##
   116 Chr12 230812962
##
    117 Chr12 230887290
##
    118
          Chr12 231022812
##
   seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome; no seqlengths
# Gene positions
data(gene_ranges)
gene_ranges
## GRanges object with 30242 ranges and 6 metadata columns:
        seqnames ranges strand | source
                                                       type
                                                                score
##
            <Rle>
                          <IRanges> <Rle> | <factor> <factor> <numeric>
                        63209-63880 - | PGA1.55 gene
##
       [1] Chr01
                                                                 NA
                     112298 - 112938
       [2] Chr01
                                        - | PGA1.55
                                                      gene
##
                                                                  NA
                                        + | PGA1.55
##
        [3] Chr01
                        117979 - 118392
                                                      gene
                                                                  NA
##
       [4] Chr01
                       119464-119712
                                        + | PGA1.55
                                                        gene
                                                                  NA
                                       + | PGA1.55
##
       [5] Chr01
                        119892 - 120101
                                                                  NA
                                                        gene
       . . .
                                                                  . . .
##
    [30238] Chr12 235631138-235631467 - | PGA1.55
                                                        gene
                                                                  NA
    [30239] Chr12 235642644-235645110 + | PGA1.55
                                                        gene
                                                                  NA
```

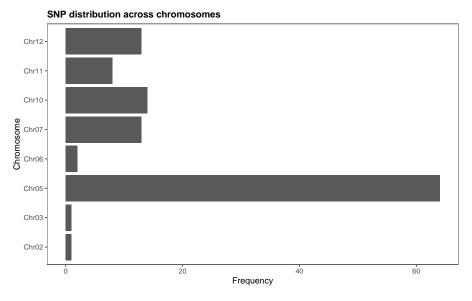
```
[30240] Chr12 235645483-235651927 - | PGA1.55
                                                                   NA
                                                         gene
    [30241] Chr12 235652709-235655955
                                         - | PGA1.55
##
                                                                   NA
                                                         gene
    [30242] Chr12 235663655-235665276 - | PGA1.55
                                                        gene
##
                                                                   NA
    phase ID Parent
<integer> <character> <CharacterList>
##
##
    seginfo: 12 sequences from an unspecified genome; no seglengths
# Expression data in FPKM
data(pepper_se)
pepper_se
## class: SummarizedExperiment
## dim: 3892 45
## metadata(0):
## assays(1): ''
## rownames(3892): CA02g23440 CA02g05510 ... CA03g35110 CA02g12750
## rowData names(0):
## colnames(45): PL1 PL2 ... TMV-P0-3D TMV-P0-Up
## colData names(1): Condition
# Chromosome lengths
data(chr_length)
chr_length
## GRanges object with 12 ranges and 0 metadata columns:
    seqnames ranges strand
##
          <Rle> <IRanges> <Rle>
## [1] Chr01 1-272704604 *
## [2] Chr02 1-171128871
     [3] Chr03 1-257900543
##
##
    [4] Chr04 1-222584275
## [5] Chr05 1-233468049
##
     [8] Chr08 1-145103255
##
##
    [9] Chr09 1-252779264
## [10] Chr10 1-233593809
    [11] Chr11 1-259726002
##
##
    [12]
          Chr12 1-235688241
##
    seginfo: 12 sequences from an unspecified genome; no seglengths
```

```
# Guide genes
data(guides)
head(guides)
           Gene
                                              Description
## 1 CA10g07770
                                     response to stimulus
## 2 CA10g07770
                                       response to stress
## 3 CA10g07770
                            cellular response to stimulus
## 4 CA10g07770
                             cellular response to stress
## 6 CA10g07770 regulation of cellular response to stress
## 8 CA10q07770
                      regulation of response to stimulus
# Genes enconding TFs
data(tfs)
head(tfs)
      Gene_ID Family
## 1 CA12g20650
## 2 CA00g00130
                 WRKY
## 3 CA00g00230
                 WRKY
## 4 CA00g00390
                 LBD
## 5 CA00g03050
                 NAC
## 6 CA00g07140 E2F/DP
```

## 2 Exploratory analysis

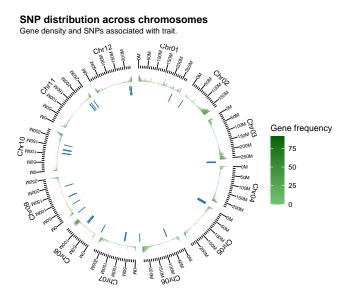
Before proceeding to the prioritization steps, it is important to explore the data to look for biologically relevant patterns. First, we can see if SNPs are evenly distributed across chromosomes or if they tend to co-occur in particular chromosomes.

plot\_snp\_distribution(snp\_pos)



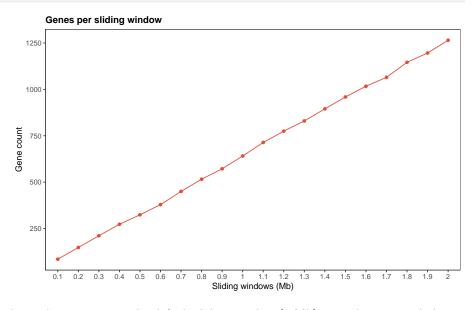
We can see that SNPs cluster in chromosome 05. Now, we can see if these SNPs in chromosome 05 are physically close to each other.

plot\_snp\_circos(chr\_length, gene\_ranges, snp\_pos)



Indeed, they are very close to each other. Finally, we can simulate different sliding windows for the first step of the algorithm (see main text for details) to pick a custom interval.

simulate\_windows(gene\_ranges, snp\_pos)



The plot shows that we can use the default sliding window (2 Mb), as it does not include too many genes. If information on linkage disequilibrium-based genomic intervals is available, we recommend using it.

## 3 Candidate gene prioritization

The three prioritization steps described in the paper can be applied with the functions mine\_step1(), mine\_step2(), and mine\_step3(). Alternatively, the function mine\_candidates() is a wrapper that combines the three mine\_\* functions to perform candidate gene prioritization in a single step. For the step 2, we will need to infer the gene coexpression network beforehand with the function exp2gcn() from the Bioconductor package BioNERO (Almeida-Silva and Venancio 2021).

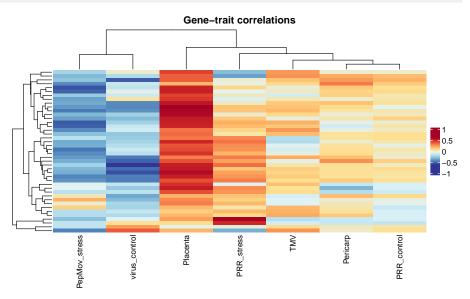
```
# Apply step 1
step1 <- mine_step1(gene_ranges, snp_pos)</pre>
## GRanges object with 1265 ranges and 6 metadata columns:
         seqnames ranges strand | source type score 
<Rle> <IRanges> <Rle> | <factor> <factor> <numeric>
##
       [1] Chr02 147076830-147083477 + | PGA1.55 gene
       [2] Chr02 147084450-147086637
                                          - | PGA1.55
                                                           gene
       [3] Chr02 147099482-147104002
                                          - | PGA1.55
                                                           gene
       [4] Chr02 147126373-147126537 + | PGA1.55
[5] Chr02 147129897-147132335 - | PGA1.55
                                                          gene
##
                                                          gene
                                                                       NA
             Chr12 232989761-232990947 - | PGA1.55
Chr12 232994658-232999784 + | PGA1.55
    [1261]
##
                                                                       NA
                                                           gene
    [1262]
                                                           gene
                                                                       NA
    [1263] Chr12 233001307-233004705
##
                                          + | PGA1.55
                                                            gene
                                                                       NA
    [1264] Chr12 233005539-233011740
                                          - | PGA1.55
                                                            gene
                                                                       NA
    [1265] Chr12 233018159-233022142 - | PGA1.55
##
                                                            gene
                                                                       NA
              phase ID Parent
##
       <integer> <character> <CharacterList>
     [1] <NA> CA02g16550
              <NA> CA02g16560
##
       [2]
      [3] <NA> CA02g16570
[4] <NA> CA02g16580
       [5] <NA> CA02g16590
##
   ... ... ... ... ... [1261] <NA> CA12g21190 [1262] <NA> CA12g21200
                                           . . .
##
##
   [1263] <NA> CA12g21210
    [1264]
             <NA> CA12g21220
    [1265]
##
              <NA> CA12g21230
    seginfo: 12 sequences from an unspecified genome; no seglengths
# Infer the GCN
sft <- BioNERO::SFT_fit(pepper_se, cor_method = "pearson")</pre>
## Warning: executing %dopar% sequentially: no parallel backend registered
## Power SFT.R.sq slope truncated.R.sq mean.k. median.k. max.k.
## 1 3 0.000902 0.0985 0.806 718.0 701.00 1060.0
        4 0.039500 -0.4680
                                  0.833 470.0 451.00 807.0
                                 0.851 322.0 301.00 639.0
        5 0.110000 -0.6540
## 3
## 4 6 0.269000 -0.9120
                                 0.891 229.0 209.00 520.0
## 5 7 0.449000 -1.1200 0.920 168.0 149.00 432.0
```

```
8 0.598000 -1.2900
                                0.945 126.0 109.00 364.0
## 7 9 0.685000 -1.4300
                                0.949 96.8 81.00 311.0
                                0.961 75.7 61.30 268.0
## 8 10 0.744000 -1.5000
## 9 11 0.786000 -1.5800
                                0.964 60.2 47.00 233.0
0.969 48.5 36.50 204.0
## 11 13 0.824000 -1.6600
                                 0.966 39.5 28.80 180.0
                                0.965 32.5 23.00 159.0
0.972 27.1 18.30 142.0
                                0.976 22.7 14.70 127.0
## 14 16 0.859000 -1.7100

    0.981
    19.2
    11.90
    115.0

    0.984
    16.3
    9.76
    103.0

## 15 17 0.869000 -1.7200
## 16 18 0.877000 -1.7200
0.986 14.0
                                                 7.97 93.7
gcn <- BioNERO::exp2gcn(pepper_se, cor_method = "pearson", SFTpower = sft$power)</pre>
## ..connectivity..
## ..matrix multiplication (system BLAS)..
## ..normalization..
## ..done.
# Apply step 2
step2 <- mine_step2(pepper_se, gcn, guides, step1$ID)</pre>
## Enrichment analysis for module brown...
## Enrichment analysis for module cyan...
## Enrichment analysis for module darkgreen...
## Enrichment analysis for module darkmagenta...
## Enrichment analysis for module darkolivegreen...
## Enrichment analysis for module darkorange...
## Enrichment analysis for module darkorange2...
## Enrichment analysis for module darkred...
## Enrichment analysis for module darkturquoise...
## Enrichment analysis for module green...
## Enrichment analysis for module grey60...
## Enrichment analysis for module ivory...
## Enrichment analysis for module lightcyan...
## Enrichment analysis for module midnightblue...
## Enrichment analysis for module orange...
## Enrichment analysis for module orangered4...
## Enrichment analysis for module paleturquoise...
## Enrichment analysis for module pink...
## Enrichment analysis for module red...
## Enrichment analysis for module royalblue...
## Enrichment analysis for module salmon...
## Enrichment analysis for module steelblue...
## Enrichment analysis for module violet...
step2$candidates
## [1] "CA10q08490" "CA03q01790" "CA10q12640" "CA12q21230" "CA10q02810"
## [6] "CA03g01800" "CA02g17460" "CA10g02800" "CA03g03320" "CA05g14230"
## [11] "CA07g04010" "CA05g06480" "CA03g02720" "CA10g02630" "CA12g18010"
## [16] "CA07g04000" "CA02g16570" "CA02g17710" "CA10g02570" "CA05g15120"
## [21] "CA12g20980" "CA02g16830" "CA12g18440" "CA12g18400" "CA11g08940"
## [26] "CA10g02780" "CA12g19670" "CA07g12720" "CA03g01900" "CA12g07460"
```



```
## gene trait cor pvalue
## 264 CA12g18400 PRR_stress 0.5963394 1.540534e-05
## 243 CA11g08940 PRR_stress 0.4909160 6.171861e-04
## 201 CA10g02780 PRR_stress 0.3201048 3.205995e-02
## 19 CA02g16620 PRR_stress 0.3113993 3.732128e-02
## 33 CA02g16900 PRR_stress -0.3204388 3.187100e-02
## 180 CA07g12840 PRR_stress -0.3566806 1.617019e-02
## 110 CA03g03310 PRR_stress -0.3983772 6.720204e-03
```

## 4 Gene scoring

To conclude, we can score the prioritized candidates and rank them from highest to lowest score.

```
# Get hubs
hubs <- BioNERO::get_hubs_gcn(pepper_se, gcn)
scored_candidates <- score_genes(step3, hubs, tfs)
## Number of genes < 'pick_top'. Picking all genes.
scored_candidates
## gene trait cor pvalue score
## 264 CA12g18400 PRR_stress 0.5963394 1.540534e-05 0.5963394
## 243 CA11g08940 PRR_stress 0.4909160 6.171861e-04 0.4909160</pre>
```

```
## 110 CA03g03310 PRR_stress -0.3983772 6.720204e-03 -0.3983772

## 180 CA07g12840 PRR_stress -0.3566806 1.617019e-02 -0.3566806

## 33 CA02g16900 PRR_stress -0.3204388 3.187100e-02 -0.3204388

## 201 CA10g02780 PRR_stress 0.3201048 3.205995e-02 0.3201048

## 19 CA02g16620 PRR_stress 0.3113993 3.732128e-02 0.3113993
```

Here, as none of the genes are hubs or TFs, their scores were represented by the  $r_{pb}$  coefficients themselves.

#### Session info

```
## R version 4.1.0 (2021-05-18)
## Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin17.0 (64-bit)
## Running under: macOS High Sierra 10.13.6
##
## Matrix products: default
## BLAS: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.1/Resources/lib/libRblas.dylib
## LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.1/Resources/lib/libRlapack.dylib
## locale:
## [1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/C/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats graphics grDevices utils datasets methods base
## other attached packages:
## [1] cageminer_0.99.6 BiocStyle_2.21.3
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
AnnotationDbi_1.54.1
## [5] htmlwidgets_1.5.3
                                grid_4.1.0
## [7] BiocParallel_1.26.1
## [9] codetools_0.2-18
                                munsell_0.5.0
                                preprocessCore_1.54.0
## [11] statmod_1.4.36
                                colorspace_2.0-2
                            filelock_1.0.2
## [13] OrganismDbi_1.34.0
## [15] Biobase_2.52.0
                                knitr_1.33
## [17] rstudioapi_0.13
## [19] ggsignif_0.6.2
                                stats4_4.1.0
                                labeling_0.4.2
## [21] MatrixGenerics_1.4.0 GenomeInfoDbData_1.2.6
## [23] farver_2.1.0
                                bit64_4.0.5
## [25] coda_0.19-4
                            xfun_0.24
BiocFileCache_2.0.0
                                vctrs_0.3.8
## [27] generics_0.1.0
## [29] biovizBase_1.40.0
## [31] fastcluster_1.2.3
                                markdown_1.1
## [33] R6_2.5.0
                                doParallel_1.0.16
## [35] No_2.3.0
## [35] GenomeInfoDb_1.28.1
                                clue_0.3-59
                               AnnotationFilter_1.16.0
## [37] locfit_1.5-9.4
## [39] bitops_1.0-7
                                  cachem_1.0.5
```

```
[41] reshape_0.8.8
                                    DelayedArray_0.18.0
   [43] assertthat_0.2.1
                                    BiocIO_1.2.0
## [45] networkD3_0.4
                                    scales_1.1.1
## [47] nnet_7.3-16
                                    gtable_0.3.0
## [49] Cairo_1.5-12.2
                                    sva_3.40.0
## [51] WGCNA_1.70-3
                                    ggbio_1.40.0
## [53] ensembldb_2.16.3
                                    rlang_0.4.11
## [55] BioNERO_1.1.1
                                    genefilter_1.74.0
## [57] GlobalOptions_0.1.2
                                    GENIE3_1.14.0
## [59] splines_4.1.0
                                    rtracklayer_1.52.0
## [61] rstatix_0.7.0
                                    lazyeval_0.2.2
## [63] impute_1.66.0
                                    dichromat_2.0-0
## [65] broom_0.7.9
                                    checkmate_2.0.0
## [67] intergraph_2.0-2
                                    BiocManager_1.30.16
## [69] yaml_2.2.1
                                    reshape2_1.4.4
## [71] abind_1.4-5
                                    {\tt GenomicFeatures\_1.44.0}
## [73] ggnetwork_0.5.10
                                    backports_1.2.1
## [75] Hmisc_4.5-0
                                    gridtext_0.1.4
## [77] RBGL_1.68.0
                                    tools_4.1.0
## [79] bookdown_0.22
                                    statnet.common_4.5.0
## [81] ggplot2_3.3.5
                                    ellipsis_0.3.2
## [83] RColorBrewer_1.1-2
                                    BiocGenerics_0.38.0
## [85] dynamicTreeCut_1.63-1
                                    Rcpp_1.0.7
## [87] plyr_1.8.6
                                    base64enc_0.1-3
## [89] progress_1.2.2
                                    zlibbioc_1.38.0
## [91] purrr_0.3.4
                                    RCurl_1.98-1.3
## [93] prettyunits_1.1.1
                                    ggpubr_0.4.0
## [95] rpart_4.1-15
                                    GetoptLong_1.0.5
## [97] cowplot_1.1.1
                                    S4Vectors_0.30.0
## [99] SummarizedExperiment_1.22.0 haven_2.4.1
## [101] cluster_2.1.2
                                    magrittr_2.0.1
## [103] magick_2.7.2
                                    data.table_1.14.0
## [105] openxlsx_4.2.4
                                    circlize_0.4.13
## [107] ProtGenerics_1.24.0
                                    ggnewscale_0.4.5
## [109] matrixStats_0.60.0
                                    hms_{-}1.1.0
## [111] evaluate_0.14
                                    xtable_1.8-4
## [113] minet_3.50.0
                                    RhpcBLASctl_0.20-137
## [115] XML_3.99-0.6
                                    rio_0.5.27
## [117] jpeg_0.1-9
                                    readxl_1.3.1
## [119] IRanges_2.26.0
                                    gridExtra_2.3
## [121] shape_1.4.6
                                    compiler_4.1.0
## [123] biomaRt_2.48.2
                                    tibble_3.1.3
## [125] crayon_1.4.1
                                    htmltools_0.5.1.1
## [127] mgcv_1.8-36
                                    Formula_1.2-4
## [129] ggtext_0.1.1
                                    tidyr_1.1.3
## [131] geneplotter_1.70.0
                                    DBI_1.1.1
## [133] dbplyr_2.1.1
                                    ComplexHeatmap_2.8.0
## [135] rappdirs_0.3.3
                                    Matrix_1.3-4
## [137] car_3.0-11
                                    parallel_4.1.0
## [139] igraph_1.2.6
                                    GenomicRanges_1.44.0
## [141] forcats_0.5.1
                                    pkgconfig_2.0.3
```

```
## [143] GenomicAlignments_1.28.0
                                     foreign_0.8-81
## [145] xml2_1.3.2
                                     foreach_1.5.1
## [147] annotate_1.70.0
                                     XVector_0.32.0
## [149] VariantAnnotation_1.38.0
                                     stringr_1.4.0
## [151] digest_0.6.27
                                     graph_1.70.0
## [153] NetRep_1.2.4
                                     Biostrings_2.60.1
## [155] rmarkdown_2.9.5
                                     cellranger_1.1.0
## [157] htmlTable_2.2.1
                                     edgeR_3.34.0
## [159] restfulr_0.0.13
                                     curl_4.3.2
## [161] Rsamtools_2.8.0
                                     rjson_0.2.20
## [163] lifecycle_1.0.0
                                     nlme_3.1-152
## [165] carData_3.0-4
                                     network_1.17.1
## [167] BSgenome_1.60.0
                                    limma_3.48.1
## [169] fansi_0.5.0
                                     pillar_1.6.1
## [171] lattice_0.20-44
                                     GGally_2.1.2
## [173] KEGGREST_1.32.0
                                     fastmap_1.1.0
## [175] httr_1.4.2
                                     survival_3.2-11
## [177] GO.db_3.13.0
                                     glue_1.4.2
## [179] zip_2.2.0
                                     png_0.1-7
## [181] iterators_1.0.13
                                     bit_4.0.4
## [183] stringi_1.7.3
                                     blob_1.2.2
## [185] DESeq2_1.32.0
                                     latticeExtra_0.6-29
## [187] memoise_2.0.0
                                     dplyr_1.0.7
```

#### References

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Jin, J, F Tian, D C Yang, Y Q Meng, L Kong, J Luo, and G Gao. 2017. "PlantTFDB 4.0: toward a central hub for transcription factors and regulatory interactions in plants." *Nucleic Acids Res* 45 (D1): D1040–45. https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkw982.

Kim, Myung Shin, Seungill Kim, Jongbum Jeon, Ki Tae Kim, Hyun Ah Lee, Hye Young Lee, Jieun Park, et al. 2018. "Global gene expression profiling for fruit organs and pathogen infections in the pepper, <i>Capsicum annuum</i>L." Scientific Data 5: 1–6. https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2018.103.

Proost, Sebastian, Michiel Van Bel, Dries Vaneechoutte, Yves Van de Peer, Dirk Inzé, Bernd Mueller-Roeber, and Klaas Vandepoele. 2015. "PLAZA 3.0: an access point for plant comparative genomics." *Nucleic Acids Research* 43 (D1): D974–81. https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gku986.

Siddique, Muhammad Irfan, Hea Young Lee, Na Young Ro, Koeun Han, Jelli Venkatesh, Abate Mekonnen Solomon, Abhinandan Surgonda Patil, Amornrat Changkwian, Jin Kyung Kwon, and Byoung Cheorl Kang. 2019. "Identifying candidate genes for Phytophthora capsici resistance in pepper (Capsicum annuum) via genotyping-by-sequencing-based QTL mapping and genome-wide association study." *Scientific Reports* 9 (1): 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-46342-1.