# Integrative Analysis of Epigenomic sequencing (and microarray) data with Repitools

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## 1 Introduction

Repitools is a package that allows exploratory as well as targeted statistical analysis of absolute and differential binding for ChIP-seq and MeDIP-seq data types, and gives visual summaries in a variety of formats. Some basic quality checking utilities are available for sequencing data. Much of the functionality available is implemented for both tiling microarrays and sequencing data, with very similar function calls for both types of data.

In this vignette, we highlight various features within the package. Further description of the package can be found in the associated Bioinformatics Applications Note<sup>1</sup> as well as in the help documents.

To start with, load the Repitools package:

library(Repitools)

# 2 Example Datasets

A small GRangesList of mapped short reads (four samples run on an Illumina Genome Analyser) is included with the package (for example, see ?binPlots). This data has been published and is available here. LNCaP is a prostate cancer cell line, and PrEC is a (normal) prostate epithelial cell line. Here, the "IP" represents an MBD capture experiment, whereby a population of DNA fragments containing methylated DNA (generally in the CpG context) and "input" represents fragmented genomic DNA from the same cell lines.

Note that GRanges objects of mapped reads from many popular aligners can be created in R using the readAligned function in the ShortRead package, then coerced with as(alnRdObj, "GRanges"). Alternatively, two convenience methods BAM2GRanges and BAM2GRangesList in Repitools could also be used, if the reads were stored on disk in BAM format (this uses the scanBam function from the Rsamtools package). By default, these two methods read in only the uniquely-mapping reads. See the ShortRead package documentation for ideas about how to read other sequencing data into GRanges or GRangesList objects.

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$ Repitools: an R package for the analysis of enrichment-based epigenomic data

```
library(GenomicRanges)
 load("samplesList.RData")
 class(samples.list)
[1] "GRangesList"
attr(,"package")
[1] "GenomicRanges"
 names(samples.list)
[1] "PrEC input" "PrEC IP"
                                "LNCaP input" "LNCaP IP"
 elementLengths(samples.list)
                                       LNCaP IP
                PrEC IP LNCaP input
PrEC input
   11061279
               10008129
                           19119904
                                       10139044
 samples.list[[1]]
GRanges with 11061279 ranges and 1 elementMetadata value
                            ranges strand
                                             | pData.alignData.from...notNA...
           seqnames
              <Rle>
                         <IRanges>
                                    <Rle>
                                                                     <integer>
       [1]
                      [ 248, 283]
               chr1
                                             0
       [2]
               chr1
                      [ 447, 482]
                                             16
       [3]
                      [ 602, 637]
                                                                            16
               chr1
                      [3182, 3217]
       [4]
               chr1
                                                                             0
                      [4783, 4818]
       [5]
               chr1
                                                                            16
                      [6287, 6322]
       [6]
               chr1
                                                                            16
       [7]
               chr1
                      [6310, 6345]
                                                                             0
       [8]
               chr1
                      [7340, 7375]
                                                                            16
       [9]
               chr1
                      [9103, 9138]
                                                                            16
                                             1
[11061271]
               chrM [16531, 16566]
                                                                             0
[11061272]
               chrM [16532, 16567]
                                                                             0
[11061273]
               chrM [16532, 16567]
                                                                            16
[11061274]
               chrM [16533, 16568]
                                                                            16
[11061275]
               chrM [16533, 16568]
                                                                             0
               chrM [16534, 16569]
                                                                            16
[11061276]
               chrM [16535, 16570]
[11061277]
                                                                            16
               chrM [16536, 16571]
[11061278]
                                                                             0
                                             1
               chrM [16536, 16571]
[11061279]
                                                                            16
seqlengths
```

Also, an annotation of genes will be used. The annotation used here is based on one provided from Affymetrix for their Gene 1.0 ST expression arrays<sup>2</sup>. We will relate the epigenomic sequencing data to the Affymetrix gene expression measurements. Of course, users may wish to make use of the rich functionality available within the GenomicFeatures package.

chrX

chrY

chrM

16571

chr4 ...

chr3

247249719 242951149 199501827 191273063 ... 154913754 57772954

chr2

chr1

 $<sup>^2</sup> http://www.affymetrix.com/Auth/analysis/downloads/na27/wtgene/HuGene-1_0-st-v1.na27.hg18.transcript.csv.zip$ 

```
gene.anno <- read.csv("geneAnno.csv", stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
head(gene.anno)</pre>
```

```
chr strand start
                                 end
                                        symbol
     name
                    + 781253 783614 L0C643837
1 7896759 chr1
2 7896761 chr1
                    + 850983 869824
                                        SAMD11
3 7896779 chr1
                    + 885829 890958
                                        KLHL17
4 7896798 chr1
                    + 891739 900345
                                       PLEKHN1
5 7896817 chr1
                    + 938709 939782
                                         ISG15
6 7896822 chr1
                    + 945365 981355
                                          AGRN
 dim(gene.anno)
[1] 24966
              6
```

Lastly, there is matrix of gene expression changes, with each element related to the corresponding row in the gene annotation table. These values are moderated t-statistics (see the limma package) of background corrected and RMA normalised Affymetrix expression array experiments. The unprocessed array data is available here.

```
load("expr.RData")
 head(expr)
           t-stat
7896759
        4.1130688
7896761
        3.0691214
7896779
        0.9724271
7896798 -0.5090460
7896817
        2.1949896
7896822 -6.4049774
 dim(expr)
[1] 24966
              1
```

# 3 Quality Checking

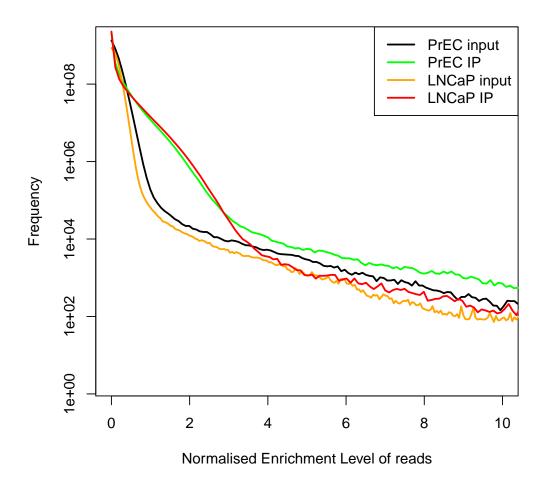
As mentioned, two of the samples are MBD2 IPs, and two are inputs. Therefore, the IP samples should differ to the inputs in at least two ways. Firstly, they should be more CpG-rich, since we are enriching for methylated DNA, which rarely occurs outside of this sequence context. Secondly, DNA methylation tends to occur in peaks since CpG sites are often present in CpG-rich islands. Conversely, the input samples should be distributed somewhat uniform genome-wide, aside from the usual mappability and GC content biases.

We can visualize the (log) frequencies of normalized coverage to get an idea of whether the reads occur in clusters or more dispersed, at least in a relative sense. For this, we can use enrichmentPlot. Similarly, we can calculate the CpG density of reads (or reads extended to a certain fragment size) and plot distributions across multiple samples using cpgDensityPlot, as below.

## seqinfo(samples.list)

Seqinfo of length 25 seqnames seqlengths isCircular chr1 247249719 <NA> chr2 242951149 <NA> chr3 199501827 191273063 <NA> chr4 chr5 180857866 <NA> 170899992 <NA> chr6 <NA> chr7 158821424 chr8 146274826 <NA> chr9 140273252 <NA> . . . . . . . . . 78774742 chr17 <NA> chr18 76117153 <NA> chr19 63811651 <NA> chr20 62435964 <NA> 46944323 <NA> chr21 chr22 49691432 <NA> 154913754 <NA> chrX <NA> chrY57772954 <NA>  ${\tt chrM}$ 16571

#### **Enrichment Plot**

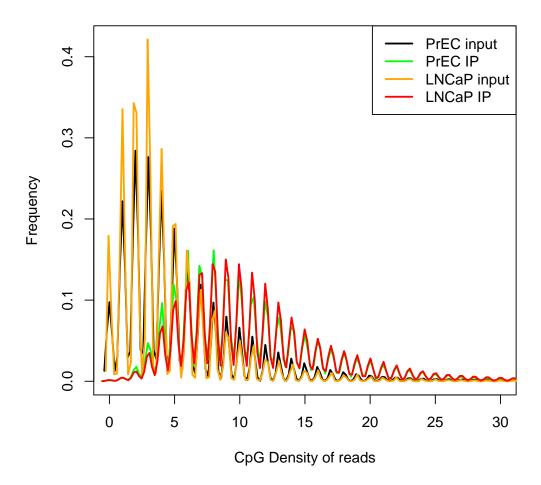


The code makes use of the SeqInfo annotation of samples.list to retrieve the maximum base of chromosomes. Normalization scales coverage value to "reads per 10 million". The argument seq.len=300 is passed in as the length to extend reads to, since that is approximately the real length of the fragments sequenced in this experiment. As expected, many more bases in the IP samples have high read coverages.

An alternative comparative visualization, which is somewhat specific to methylated DNA enrichment experiments, is a summary of the distribution of CpG density among reads/fragments:

```
library(BSgenome.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg18)
cpgDensityPlot(samples.list, organism = Hsapiens, w.function = "none",
    seq.len = 300, cols = c("black", "green", "orange", "red"),
    xlim = c(0, 30), lwd = 2)
```

## **CpG Density Plot**



The full genome sequence of the organism is required so that the (here, 300 base) DNA sequence can be fetched. In this example, the BSgenome package of the hg18 assembly for human is used (many other BSgenome objects for other organisms are available from Bioconductor). The w.function parameter allows the count of CpGs to be weighted. In this example, raw counts are used.

Notice that at lower CpG densities, the two input samples have a higher frequency of reads than the two IP samples. At higher CpG densities, this trend is reversed. This suggests that the enrichment of methylated CpGs has worked.

# 4 Analyses

#### 4.1 Statistics of Differential Enrichment

The blocksStats function is a convenient way to do statistical tests of differential enrichment between two experimental conditions, using counts in regions of interest. The windows can be relative to some genomic landmarks, like transcription start sites (TSSs), and their size can be specified with the up and down parameters. If up and down are not provided, then windows are defined by start and end coordinates. The function leverages edgeR's count modelling and its

adaptation of Fisher's exact test for assessing differential enrichment. The procedure also uses Bioconductor's facilities (i.e. countOverlaps) for counting mapped read in regions of the genome.

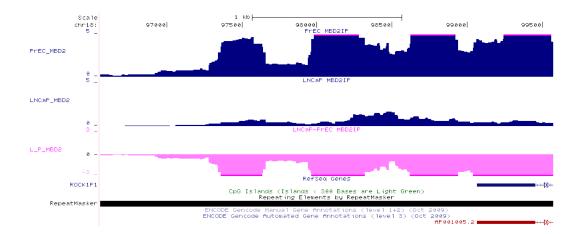
```
design.matrix \leftarrow matrix(c(0, -1, 0, 1), dimnames = list(names(samples.list),
 design.matrix
           C-N
PrEC input
PrEC IP
            -1
LNCaP input
             0
LNCaP IP
 stats <- blocksStats(samples.list, gene.anno, up = 2000, down = 0,
      seq.len = 300, design = design.matrix)
Comparison of groups: 1 - -1
 stats <- stats[order(stats$`adj.p.vals_C-N`), ]</pre>
 head(stats)
                             end width strand
                                                name symbol PrEC input
         chr
                 start
                 99064
                          112217 13154 + 8019804 ROCK1
8019804 chr18
8015798 chr17 38802738 38821439 18702
                                           - 8015798
                                                                    87
        chr1 145017918 145018085
                                           + 7904879
                                                        ---
7904879
                                                                    21
7908529
        chr1 196148257 196165896 17640
                                            + 7908529
                                                       LHX9
                                                                    16
8115391 chr5 153834725 153838017 3293
                                           - 8115391
                                                                     8
                                                      HAND1
7976073 chr14 85066240 85164023 97784
                                            + 7976073 FLRT2
                                                                    17
       PrEC IP LNCaP input LNCaP IP PrEC IP_pseudo LNCaP IP_pseudo logConc_C-N
8019804
           397
                       686
                                 58
                                      3.995887e+02
                                                         57.62379
                                                                    -16.01856
            56
                        64
8015798
                                314
                                      5.636562e+01
                                                        311.96569
                                                                    -16.21306
7904879
            13
                        28
                                153
                                      1.308530e+01
                                                        152.00848
                                                                    -17.78513
             3
                        13
                                112
7908529
                                      3.020114e+00
                                                        111.27404
                                                                    -19.06788
             4
                        28
8115391
                                 95
                                      4.026631e+00
                                                         94.38415
                                                                    -18.97912
                        20
                                 69
                                                         68.55255
                                                                    -33.59047
7976073
             0
                                      1.435022e-11
       logFC_C-N p.value_C-N adj.p.vals_C-N
8019804 -2.793764 9.642793e-36 2.407420e-31
8015798 2.468516 3.662695e-24
                               4.572142e-20
7904879 3.538199 3.672510e-18
                                3.056262e-14
7908529 5.203643 7.401219e-18
                                4.619471e-14
8115391 4.551106 2.875722e-14
                                1.435905e-10
```

Note that this is not a real design matrix (in a statistical sense), it is simply a way of specifying the two experiment conditions to compare (they must be 1 and -1).

7.954003e-10

7976073 32.851160 1.911561e-13

The example above calculates statistics on regions that start 2000 bases upstream of the TSS and finish at the TSS, after the reads have been extended to being 300 bases. A coverage plot from UCSC browser illustrates the best found region. For the output table, the read counts are scaled as if there were 10 million reads covering the regions of interest.



Note that this procedure only works for simple 2-group comparisons. Using this strategy for more complicated designs requires manually creating the count tables (see annotationCounts below) and calling the GLM-based procedures (e.g. using real design matrices) within edgeR.

This differential enrichment strategy can be used on bins covering the entire genome. The genomeBlocks function can be used to generate windows along the genome.

## 4.2 Domains of Concordant Change

Another analysis of interest is the detection of regions where changes in expression (or an epigenetic mark, etc.) occur on a particular chromosome. The function findClusters addresses this need. The method of determining clusters requires a search through the column of scores (e.g. t-statistics) for a persistent change. Significance of clusters is determined by randomization. The order of the statistics is permuted a large number of times and the number of clusters found in the true statistics column and the permuted statistics columns is counted, ranging from a loose cutoff to a tight cutoff. A cutoff is chosen to control the user-specified FDR. Importantly, the table must be pre-sorted in positional order. This allows the user to use whatever definition of position they want. Note that the distance between features is not taken into account in this implementation.

```
stats.table <- cbind(gene.anno, expr)</pre>
 stats.table$pos <- ifelse(stats.table$strand == "+", stats.table$start,</pre>
     stats.table$end)
 pos.order <- order(stats.table$chr, stats.table$pos)</pre>
 stats.table <- stats.table[pos.order, ]
 stats.clustered <- findClusters(stats.table, score.col = 7, w.size = 5,</pre>
     n.med = 2, n.consec = 3, cut.samps = seq(-2, -10, -2), maxFDR = 0.05,
     trend = "down", n.perm = 10)
 cluster.1 <- which(stats.clustered$cluster == 1)</pre>
 stats.clustered[cluster.1, ]
                                            symbol
          name
                chr strand
                             start
                                        end
                                                        t-stat
7914667 7914667 chr1
                        - 33829993 33947691
                                             CSMD2
                                                    -0.8496609 33947691
7899898 7899898 chr1
                        + 34102217 34102979
                                                    -0.2014024 34102217
                                             HMGB4
7899905 7899905 chr1
                        + 34102217 34102979
                                             HMGB4
                                                    -0.1829972 34102217
7914748 7914748 chr1
                        - 34251727 34252405
                                                    -0.3865665 34252405
```

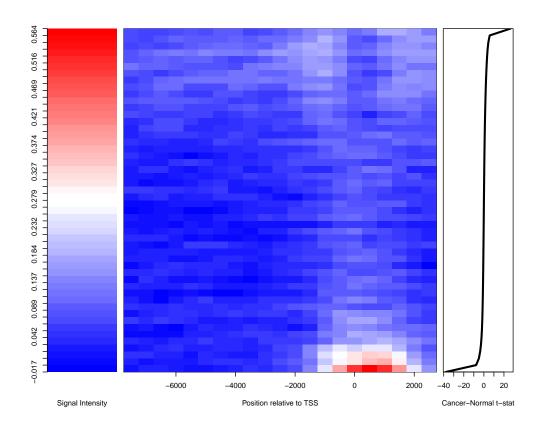
```
7899911 7899911 chr1
                         + 34405070 34457319 Clorf94 -0.9322332 34405070
7899921 7899921 chr1
                         + 34993307 34996699 GJB5 -16.4867896 34993307
                         + 34999364 35000515
                                                GJB4 -8.2965082 34999364
7899927 7899927 chr1
7899932 7899932 chr1
                         + 35019376 35024552
                                                GJB3 -11.7589771 35019376
7899939 7899939 chr1
                         + 35031185 35033935
                                                GJA4 -0.2142715 35031185
        cluster
7914667
              1
7899898
              1
7899905
              1
7914748
              1
7899911
              1
7899921
7899927
              1
7899932
              1
7899939
              1
```

In this example, a running window of 5 consecutive genes is calculated along each chromosome; the median value of those 5 genes is assigned to the middle gene. If, in the 5-gene window, there are at least 2 genes that have an assigned median above the cutoff being used (cutoffs of -2, -4, -6, -8, and -10 are tried), then those genes are candidate cluster-generating genes. Starting from a candidate gene, and working outwards until encountering a positive t-statistic, if a consecutive run of at least 3 genes with t-statistic being negative could be made, then this forms a cluster. The default estimated FDR of 0.05 is used.

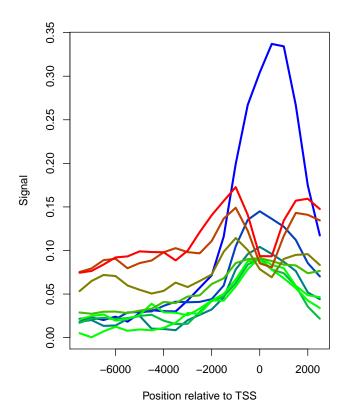
## 5 Visualisations

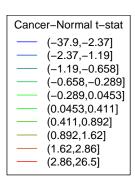
## 5.1 Integrative analysis of epigenetics and gene expression

Epigenomic data is often gathered with other data, such as gene expression. It may be of interest to see the profile of epigenetic enrichment at a variety of distances from TSSs, stratified by gene expression level. The binPlots function is a convenient way to look at these interactions.



This example summarizes differential enrichment (between LNCaP and PrEC MBD IPs) in non-overlapping 500 base windows between 7500 bases upstream and 2500 bases downstream (the default range) for each gene (assuming gene.anno contains TSS locations). Enrichment levels (here, differential enrichment) are then split into bins based on the moderated t-statistics for change in expression. Signal for (differential) enrichment is averaged over genes in the bin and plotted as a heatmap. As expected, the genes that are silenced in cancer exhibit higher levels of DNA methylation around their TSS, compared to normal cells. This visualization can be represented as a lineplot, by setting plot.type="line" (see below).

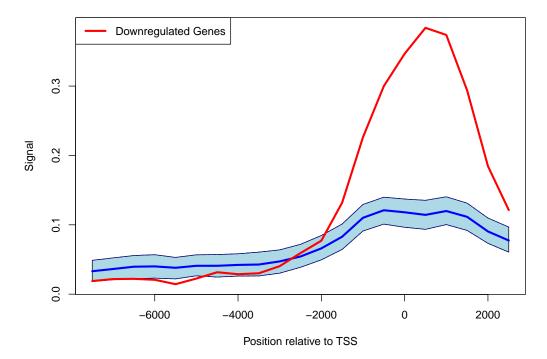




This strategy is useful for determining the location (e.g. relative to TSS) signal most often occurs relative to expression and can be coupled to ranked gene expression levels, instead of differential expression. These determined regions of interest relative to TSS can then be used in targeted analyses (e.g. blocksStats, see above).

### 5.2 Gene Set Enrichment

Sets of genes (e.g. genes disrupted in a certain type of cancer, or differentially expressed between experimental conditions) are ever-present in genomics research. For such genes of interest, the profile of intensities or counts can be plotted versus the profile of randomly selected gene lists using the profilePlots function. In the following example, the DNA methylation profile of genes silenced in cancer (as highlight above) is significantly different to random sets of genes.



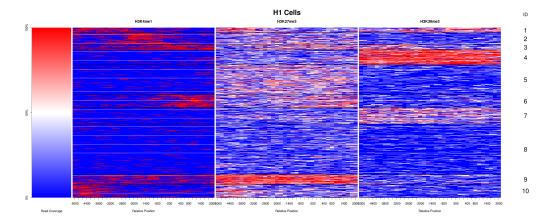
The blue region forms the "null" distribution that was created by sampling random gene lists of the same size as the user-specified gene list a number of times, as set by the nSamples parameter. By default, the null region is a between the 0.025 and 0.975 quantiles of the null distribution. In this example, it appears that the genes silenced in cancer have a significant gain of methylation 2000 bases either side of the TSSs, in comparison to random sets of other genes.

## 5.3 Clustering epigenomic signals

clusterPlots is another way to look at read depth at regular positions around a feature (e.g. TSS). The first step is to use featureScores to get the coverage tables, which essentially gives a list of coverage tables for the samples used. clusterPlots is then called, which does k-means clustering, or if the user wants to use their own clustering algorithm, the cluster ID of each feature can be passed in. In any case, the features are grouped by their cluster memberships and plotted as either a heatmap with one row for every feature, or a set of lineplots showing the average coverage of all features belonging to each cluster. If gene expression data is also available, it can be plotted alongside the heatmaps.

Data from the Human Reference Epigenome Mapping Project is used to demonstrate this visualisation. The data was downloaded from here. Samples GSM466734, GSM466737, and GSM466739 are used.

```
load("H1samples.RData")
class(H1samples)
```



```
[1] "GRangesList"
attr(,"package")
[1] "GenomicRanges"

names(H1samples)

[1] "H3K4me1" "H3K27me3" "H3K36me3"

elementLengths(H1samples)

H3K4me1 H3K27me3 H3K36me3
1201402 8673675 4151895

cvgs <- featureScores(H1samples, gene.anno, up = 5000, down = 2000, dist = "base", freq = 200, s.width = 500)

cp <- clusterPlots(cvgs, scale = function(x) sqrt(x), plot.type = "heatmap", t.name = "H1 Cells", n.clusters = 10)</pre>
```

Here, we have scaled the signal using the square root transformation. If you don't specify this, no scaling is done.

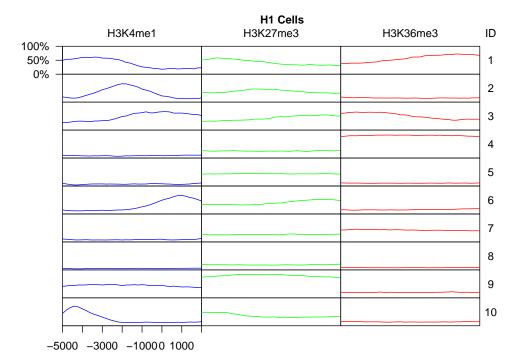
X11cairo

Note that we have saved the output of clusterPlots (a ClusteredCoverageList object), which can be plotted in alternative ways, such as line plots:

```
table(clusters(cp))
```

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
742 1754 773 2176 4400 1883 2419 7442 1414 1963

clusterPlots(cp, plot.type = "line", t.name = "H1 Cells")
```



Also, this allows users to do there own clustering and use clusterPlots for the plotting, or to extract the cluster identifiers for downstream analyses (e.g. functional category analysis). Furthermore, in addition to specifying a vector of expression values and plotting it alongside the clustered epigenetic signal, users can give an additional vector in the sort.data argument to sort on within a cluster (e.g. gene length, CpG density, etc.).

## 6 Utility Functions

The function described in this section perform useful tasks that are commonly made with epigenetic data.

#### 6.1 Windows and Counts

Often, it is required to create a set of windows covering the entire genome, for some analysis. The function genomeBlocks does this.

```
library(BSgenome.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg18)
genomeBlocks(Hsapiens, chrs = 1:25, width = 5000)
```

GRanges with 616087 ranges and 0 elementMetadata values

	strand	ranges		seqnames		
- 1	<rle></rle>	Ranges>	<ii< td=""><td><rle></rle></td><td></td></ii<>	<rle></rle>		
	*	5000]	[ 1,	chr1	[1]	
- 1	*	10000]	[ 5001,	chr1	[2]	
- 1	*	15000]	[10001,	chr1	[3]	
- 1	*	20000]	[15001,	chr1	[4]	
- 1	*	25000]	[20001,	chr1	[5]	
- 1	*	300001	Γ25001	chr1	[6]	

```
[7]
                         [30001, 35000]
             chr1
     [8]
                         [35001, 40000]
             chr1
                         [40001, 45000]
     [9]
             chr1
             chrY [57745001, 57750000]
[616079]
[616080]
             chrY [57750001, 57755000]
             chrY [57755001, 57760000]
[616081]
             chrY [57760001, 57765000]
[616082]
             chrY [57765001, 57770000]
[616083]
             chrY [57770001, 57775000]
[616084]
             chrM [
                           1,
[616085]
                                   5000]
[616086]
             chrM [
                        5001,
                                  10000]
[616087]
             chrM [
                       10001,
                                  15000]
seqlengths
  chr1 chr2
              chr3
                     chr4
                           chr5
                                  chr6 ... chr20 chr21 chr22
                                                                chrX
                                                                      chrY
                                                                             chrM
    NA
          NA
                 NA
                       NA
                             NA
                                    NA ...
                                               NA
                                                     NA
                                                            NA
                                                                  NA
                                                                        NA
                                                                               NA
```

This example makes a GRanges object of 5 kb windows along all human chromosomes.

annotationCounts is useful to tally the counts of reads surrounding some set of genomic land-marks. annotationBlocksCounts is the analogous function for counting in user-specified regions of the genome.

```
annotationCounts(samples.list, head(gene.anno, n = 10), up = 2000, down = 500, seq.len = 300)
```

	PrEC	input	PrEC	ΙP	LNCaP	input	LNCaP	ΙP
7896759		25		35		29		69
7896761		10		2		8		36
7896779		11		15		10		14
7896798		19		61		15		83
7896817		20		41		22		46
7896822		11		17		8		28
7896859		24		35		8		70
7896861		21		57		6		78
7896863		18		85		8		85
7896865		22		92		18		90

This example counts reads that fall within 2000 bases upstream and 500 bases downstream of (the first ten) TSSs in the gene annotation table. Reads are extended to 300 bases.

## 6.2 Characteristics of the DNA sequence

It would be useful to know when seeing a lack of reads in some windows, if the mappability of the window is the cause. Some regions of the genome have low complexity sequence, where reads are unlikely to map uniquely to. The function mappabilityCalc calculates the percentage of each region that can be mapped to by reads generated from the experiment. It operates on a user-created BSgenome object of a masked genome sequence. The definition of which bases are mappable and which are not depends on the read length of the sequencing technology used. Therefore, there is no one masked BSgenome object that can be used by all users. Note that by masking, we mean replacing the unmappable reference sequence bases by 'N', not creating a built-in mask.

[1] 0.000 0.998

The region on chromosome 4 is completely unmappable, whereas the region on chromosome 9 is almost completely mappable.

Next, we may be interested in determining CpG density of a region.

```
cpgDensityCalc(head(gene.anno, n = 10), window = 100, organism = Hsapiens) [1] 0 10 16 7 10 20 6 4 6 4
```

This example calculates the CpG density of a window 100 bases either side of the TSS for the first ten genes in the gene annotation table. By default, the CpG density is just the raw number of counts in the windows. There are also linearly, exponentially and logarithmically decaying weight schemes available.

# 7 Summary

Repitools has a number of useful functions for quality checking, analysis, and comparison of trends. Many of the functions work seamlessly on array data, as well as sequencing data. Also, there are numerous utility functions, that perform some common task in the investigation of epigenomic data. Consult the package documentation for instructions on how to use functions that were not demonstrated by this vignette.

#### 8 Environment

This vignette was created in:

```
sessionInfo()
```

[5] LC\_MONETARY=C LC\_MESSAGES=en\_AU.UTF-8
[7] LC\_PAPER=en\_AU.UTF-8 LC\_NAME=C
[9] LC\_ADDRESS=C LC\_TELEPHONE=C
[11] LC\_MEASUREMENT=en\_AU.UTF-8 LC\_IDENTIFICATION=C

```
attached base packages:
[1] grid stats graphics grDevices utils datasets methods
[8] base

other attached packages:
[1] BSgenome.Hsapiens36bp.UCSC.hg18mappability_1.0
[2] gridBase_0.4-3
[3] gplots_2.8.0
[4] caTools_1.11
[5] bitops_1.0-4.1
[6] gdata_2.8.1
[7] gtools_2.6.2
[8] zoo_1.6-5
[9] edgeR_2.1.15
[10] BSgenome.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg18_1.3.17
```

- [11] BSgenome\_1.19.6
- [12] Biostrings\_2.19.18
- [13] GenomicRanges\_1.3.37
- [14] IRanges\_1.9.29
- [15] Repitools\_1.97

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

[1] lattice\_0.19-23 limma\_3.7.27