Example BP scoring and classification

This Rmarkdown document walks through the relevant R code that does the bulk of the work for calling branchpoints from CoLa-seq data as described in the README for this repository. It is basically a copy/paste of the relevent code in this script which is executed as part of the snakemake. If you want to manually step through the code in this document, you should be able to if you have already ran the snakemake in the repo on the included test data and you start an R session with code as your working directory. The snakemake should do some preprocessing, and in this R, we will mostly just be summing log likelihoods to come up with a composite BP likelihood score. In my code I have been using words like probability and likelihood loosely to name variables. But I hope you get the gist of what I was trying to do. If anyone needs to better understand the BP calling process I used or modify it, I hope being able to see this code could be helpful.

First let's load some libraries necessary for calling BPs on this test data:

```
library(tidyverse)
library(data.table)
library(stringr)
library(knitr)
library(readr)
```

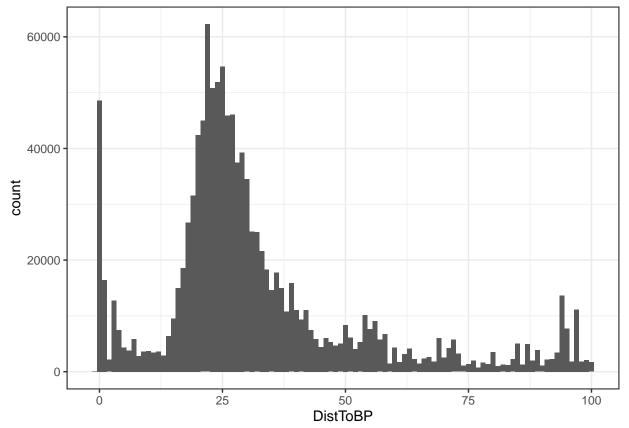
Now let's define some parameters for branchpoint calling.

```
##Params coded as global variables
BpToDistanceTrainingData = "../code/Misc/BradleyDistTo3ss.txt.gz"
MotifProbabilityFunction = "../code/BP_calling/MergedGroup/MotifPerBaseScores.txt.gz"
ColaPutativeBranchStarts = "../code/BP_calling/MergedGroup/ColaPutativeBranchFragmentStarts.tab"
# The pseudocount of 5' ends added to each base in a region considered for BP calling
pseudocount=0.1
\# The bandwidth used in the `density` function to smooth out the cola_seq 5' end
# coverage into a probability density. Bigger bandwidth means more smoothing.
# Too much smoothing obviously biases signal. But I figured a little smoothing
# might be good since we know RT doesn't always stop right at a BP, but
# sometimes is a base off.
cola_data_bandwidth=0.5
#Minimum cola-seq reads per window filter to consider the region for BP calling
MinReadsPerWindow = 10
#Distance from 3'ss to downstream edge of the window
Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss=5
Window_upstream_dist_to_3ss=100
# Composite score theshold. This threshold was used in the manuscript and was
# chosen based on analysis of precision and recall of a high confidence set of
# "gold standard" branchpoints.
Threshold=-8.881075
```

Ok. First let's create a likelhood function based on distance to 3'ss. For this, I am just reading in empirical BP-to-3'ss distances from Pineda et al, and applying what I believe is a reasonable amount of smoothing to

reflect realy biology (the raw data was a bit too peaky/noisy). Note that the BP-to-3'ss distances have been weighted to the number of lariat junction read counts Pineda observed. In other words, BPs with more read counts get a porportionately stronger weight.

First let's plot the actual histogram, before creating a smoothed likelihood function

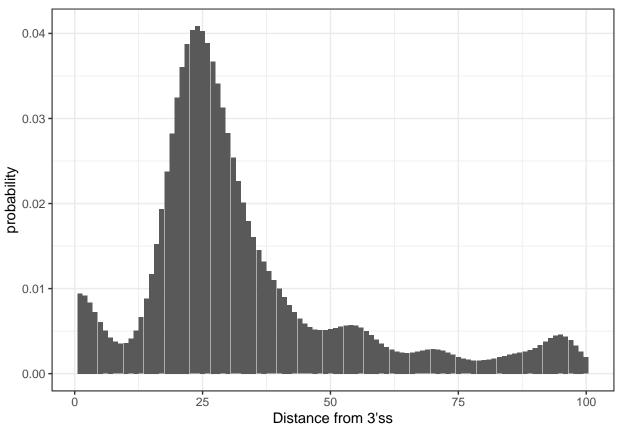


Ok, that is a little bit peaky which probably reflects noise and not real biology. So now let's plot a smoothed likelihood function:

```
dplyr::select(IntronType,RelPos,PositionScore)

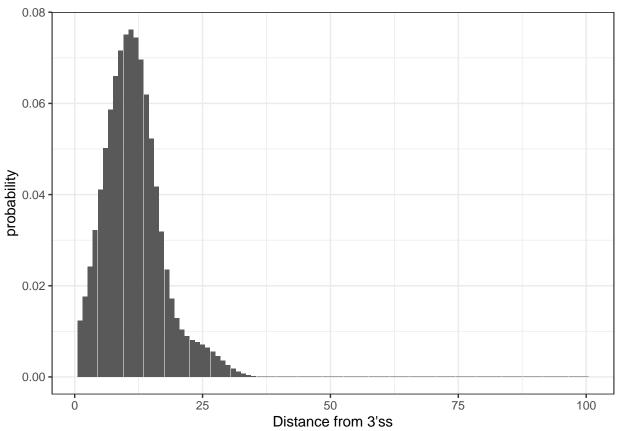
PositionProbabilityFunction <-
    ggplot(pmf.length, aes(x=RelPos, y=2**PositionScore)) +
    geom_col() +
    xlab("Distance from 3'ss") +
    ylab("probability") +
    theme_bw()

PositionProbabilityFunction</pre>
```



Ok let's do the same for u12 introns which Pineda et al showed have a different positional constraint on BPs.

```
geom_col() +
xlab("Distance from 3'ss") +
ylab("probability") +
theme_bw()
PositionProbabilityFunction.u12
```



let's keep that same position-based likelhood information, for both u2 and u12 introns, in a table format, that we will use later... Keep in mind that in this table, I will deal with log (base2) probabilities, since log probabilities are easier to work with and we can just sum it with different log-likelihood scores later...

```
PositionProbabilities <- bind_rows(pmf.length.u12, pmf.length)
head(PositionProbabilities)
```

##		${\tt IntronType}$	${\tt RelPos}$	${\tt PositionScore}$
##	1	u12	1	-6.336468
##	2	u12	2	-5.828930
##	3	u12	3	-5.367032
##	4	u12	4	-4.957043
##	5	u12	5	-4.605851
##	6	u12	6	-4.317635

Ok next, we can integrate motif information for BP-likelihoods. I have used this script which is called in one of the snakemake rules, to read in the sequences under Pineda's BPs, create a position weight matrix, and score each position for it's BP motif match in terms of a log-base2 score and write it to a file. Here I will just read in that file:

```
## get motif pmf
MotifScores <- fread(MotifProbabilityFunction, check.names = F, header = T) %>%
  mutate(Intron=str remove(Pos, "\\([+-]\\)")) %>%
  dplyr::select(-Pos) %>%
  dplyr::select(Intron, everything()) %>%
  gather(-Intron, key="RelPos", value="MotifScore") %>%
  separate(Intron,
           into=c("gene", "chrom", "windowStart", "windowStop", "strand", "IntronType"),
           sep=" ", remove=F, convert=T) %>%
  mutate(RelPos=case_when(
    strand=="+" ~ as.numeric(RelPos),
    strand=="-" ~ as.numeric(RelPos) -1
  )) %>%
  dplyr::select(region=Intron, RelPos, MotifScore)
#Print some random rows so you can see what the table looks like.
sample_n(MotifScores, 20)
```

```
##
                                 region RelPos MotifScore
## 1 URB1 chr21 32354108 32354203 - u2
                                           106
                                                   -0.749
## 2 URB1 chr21 32378546 32378641 - u2
                                            88
                                                   -0.745
## 3 URB1_chr21_32384469_32384564_-_u2
                                           106
                                                   -1.287
## 4 URB1 chr21 32361128 32361223 - u2
                                            15
                                                   -0.788
## 5 URB1_chr21_32325394_32325489_-_u2
                                            34
                                                   -2.183
## 6 URB1_chr21_32359913_32360008_-_u2
                                             8
                                                   -2.130
## 7 URB1_chr21_32337519_32337614_-_u2
                                            47
                                                   -0.878
## 8 URB1 chr21 32384469 32384564 - u2
                                           102
                                                   -1.167
## 9 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                            46
                                                    0.982
## 10 URB1_chr21_32384469_32384564_-_u2
                                             0
                                                       NA
## 11 URB1_chr21_32361128_32361223_-_u2
                                            29
                                                    0.571
## 12 URB1_chr21_32322589_32322684_-_u2
                                            19
                                                   -1.016
## 13 URB1_chr21_32319419_32319514_-_u2
                                            23
                                                   -1.501
## 14 URB1_chr21_32363334_32363429_-_u2
                                            12
                                                    0.571
## 15 URB1_chr21_32354108_32354203_-_u2
                                           105
                                                    0.015
## 16 URB1_chr21_32384469_32384564_-_u2
                                            74
                                                    2.875
## 17 URB1_chr21_32337162_32337257_-_u2
                                            76
                                                   -1.889
## 18 URB1_chr21_32354108_32354203_-_u2
                                            62
                                                   -0.959
## 19 URB1 chr21 32317070 32317165 - u2
                                            38
                                                   -1.683
## 20 URB1_chr21_32368603_32368698_-_u2
                                                   -2.753
                                            56
```

Now, let's make a likelihood fuction based on cola-seq data. In the snakemake, there are rules that have already done some of the preprocessing... In particular, I have identified all the "putative" lariat derived reads that havea 5' end within 100bp upstream of a 3'ss and cross or terminate at a 3'ss. Let's read in that pre-processed data

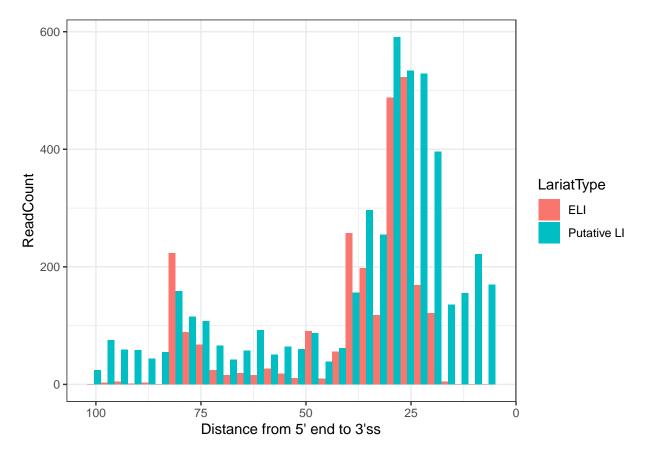
head(FragStarts)

```
feature gene chrom windowStart windowStop strand
## 1: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
## 2: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
## 3: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
## 4: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
## 5: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
## 6: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
      IntronType
                      Pos
## 1:
             u2 32315116
## 2:
             u2 32315123
## 3:
             u2 32315123
## 4:
              u2 32315123
## 5:
              u2 32315123
## 6:
              u2 32315123
##
                                                        ReadName MismatchAtEnd
           K00242:553:H5757BBXY:8:2207:23419:46117:AGTTGC:YZ111
## 1:
## 2:
           K00242:553:H5757BBXY:8:2205:28463:35936:TTCAGC:YZ111
                                                                         FALSE
## 3:
           KOO242:592:H7MHTBBXY:5:1103:30421:30679:TCCATG:YZ111
                                                                          TRUE
## 4:
            K00242:592:H7MHTBBXY:5:2112:9851:44201:AAAAGC:YZ111
                                                                          TRUE
            KOO242:592:H7MHTBBXY:6:1127:6745:37589:CTGGAG:YZ111
                                                                          TRUE
## 6: K00242:594:H7N3HBBXY:8:1206:14123:40913:GGCGGC:DMSO.YZ131
                                                                         FALSE
      ThreePrimeFragPos
               32314716
## 1:
## 2:
               32315002
## 3:
               32315099
## 4:
               32315099
## 5:
               32314869
## 6:
               32244278
```

Now let's Filter for 3'ss regions with at least 10 reads. Also convert chromosomal coordinate to position relative to 3'ss

```
FilteredAndAdjusted <- FragStarts %>%
  add_count(feature) %>%
  filter(n>=MinReadsPerWindow) %>%
  mutate(RelativePos=case_when(
    strand=="-" ~ Pos- windowStart + Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss,
    strand=="+" ~ windowStop - Pos + Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss
  )) %>%
  mutate(ThreeSS_Pos=case_when(
    strand=="-" ~ windowStart - Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss,
    strand=="+" ~ windowStop + Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss
  )) %>%
  mutate(Dist3PrimeEndTo3ss=case_when()
    strand=="-" ~ ThreeSS_Pos - ThreePrimeFragPos,
    strand=="+" ~ ThreePrimeFragPos - ThreeSS Pos +1
  )) %>%
  mutate(
   LariatType=case_when(
     Dist3PrimeEndTo3ss == 0 ~ "ELI",
      TRUE ~ "Putative LI"
   ))
```

```
head(FilteredAndAdjusted)
                                feature gene chrom windowStart windowStop strand
## 1: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                                   32315199
                                                       32315104
## 2: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                   32315199
## 3: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
## 4: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                   32315199
## 5: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                   32315199
## 6: URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2 URB1 chr21
                                                       32315104
                                                                  32315199
##
      IntronType
                      Pos
## 1:
              u2 32315116
## 2:
              u2 32315123
## 3:
              u2 32315123
## 4:
              u2 32315123
## 5:
              u2 32315123
## 6:
              u2 32315123
##
                                                        ReadName MismatchAtEnd
           K00242:553:H5757BBXY:8:2207:23419:46117:AGTTGC:YZ111
## 1:
           K00242:553:H5757BBXY:8:2205:28463:35936:TTCAGC:YZ111
                                                                          FALSE
## 2:
## 3:
           K00242:592:H7MHTBBXY:5:1103:30421:30679:TCCATG:YZ111
                                                                           TRUE
            KOO242:592:H7MHTBBXY:5:2112:9851:44201:AAAAGC:YZ111
## 4:
                                                                           TRUE
            KOO242:592:H7MHTBBXY:6:1127:6745:37589:CTGGAG:YZ111
                                                                           TRUE
## 6: K00242:594:H7N3HBBXY:8:1206:14123:40913:GGCGGC:DMSO.YZ131
                                                                          FALSE
      ThreePrimeFragPos n RelativePos ThreeSS_Pos Dist3PrimeEndTo3ss LariatType
               32314716 25
## 1:
                                    17
                                           32315099
                                                                   383 Putative LI
## 2:
               32315002 25
                                    24
                                           32315099
                                                                    97 Putative LI
## 3:
               32315099 25
                                    24
                                           32315099
                                                                     0
                                                                                ELI
## 4:
                                                                     0
               32315099 25
                                    24
                                           32315099
                                                                                FLT
## 5:
               32314869 25
                                     24
                                           32315099
                                                                   230 Putative LI
## 6:
               32244278 25
                                     24
                                                                 70821 Putative LI
                                           32315099
Let's understand this data a bit more...
#Num fragments pass filters that can be used to call branchpoints
nrow(FilteredAndAdjusted)
## [1] 7316
#Num LI and ELI in wnidows
table(FilteredAndAdjusted$LariatType)
##
##
           ELI Putative LI
          2559
#Histogram of relative 5' positions of putative NLI and ELI reads
LI_ELI.dist.hist <- FilteredAndAdjusted %>%
  ggplot(aes(x=RelativePos, fill=LariatType)) +
  geom_histogram(position="dodge") +
  scale x continuous(limits=c(0,100)) +
  scale x reverse() +
  xlab("Distance from 5' end to 3'ss") +
  ylab("ReadCount") +
  theme_bw()
LI_ELI.dist.hist
```



It looks like both putative ELI and putative LI reads have 5' end peaks around 25-30bp upstream of 3'ss, which is to be expected for lariat derived fragments. The set of putative ELI reads may have less non-lariat derived reads than LI since terminating exactly at a 3'ss (the defining feature of putative ELI reads) probably strongly enriches for lariat derived fragments. Yi's manuscript has some supplemental figures supporting this notion. Because of this, when I was exploring different methods to call bps, I considered considering 5' end coverage from just putative ELI reads, or from just putative NLI reads, or from just reads with 5' end mismatches (which are preferentially incorporated by RT at the BP structure), but all of these methods yielded very similar results, so in the end I stuck to the simplest: combinging all putative NLI and ELI 5' ends.

Now, from all putative NLI and ELI read 5' ends, let's convert that to a smoothed relative coverage function and shift it up one base to get a probability function.

Here I wrote a long function to do that, which takes as input a data frame in the same format as FilteredAndAdjusted and will output a dataframe with log2 probabilities at each base. The function also can take an optional pseudocount parameter (to add a small amount of pseudocoverage uniformly at each base) and optional pseudoprobability parameter (which defines the minimum probability to output). Adding pseudocounts or pseudoprobabilities is common in naive bayes classifiers, since sometimes the training data doesn't have an observation like what the real data has, but that doesn't necessarily mean we want to assign 0 probability to the real data.

```
#pseudocount parameter. pseudocount of 1 is equivalent to a literal
#pseudocount of 1 added at all positions
FilteredAndAdjusted.pseudocount.added <-
bind rows(
  #Uniform distirbution
    (FilteredAndAdjusted.df %>%
    dplyr::select(feature, RelativePos) %>%
    expand(feature, RelativePos) %>%
   mutate(weight=pseudocount)),
  #Actual reads
    (FilteredAndAdjusted.df %>%
    dplyr::select(feature, RelativePos) %>%
   mutate(weight=1))
 ) %>%
#Normalize weight to sum to 1, as required by density function
group by(feature) %>%
mutate(weightSum = sum(weight)) %>%
ungroup() %>%
mutate(RelativeWeights=weight/weightSum) %>%
dplyr::select(feature, RelativePos, RelativeWeights)
#Reformat data to make it easier to iterate through regions and calculate
#smoothed densities
group_names <- FilteredAndAdjusted.pseudocount.added %>%
  group_keys(feature) %>% pull(1)
ListOfDf <- FilteredAndAdjusted.pseudocount.added %>%
 group_split(feature) %>%
 set_names(group_names)
#I want the probability density function to be shifted from the cola-seq read
#ends by 1 to account for that cola-seq reads terminate 1 base downstream of
#branch
#Calculate points along smoothed kernel density for each region.
densities <- lapply(ListOfDf, function(i) {</pre>
 density(i$RelativePos+shift, weights = i$RelativeWeights, bw=bw)
 })
#Interpolate to get kernel density function points at discrete bases.
density.interpolations <- lapply(densities, function(i) {</pre>
 approx(i$x, i$y, xout=from:to)
 })
density.interpolations.df <- bind_rows(density.interpolations, .id = 'region')</pre>
#Add a very small (insignificant) amount of probability mass to all points to
#guarantee there are no NA or O values, even if there are no cola-seq reads
#and the density function sums is rounded to 0.
#Add the small proabability, and pivot the interpolated points to a more
#readable table format
output.df <- density.interpolations.df %>%
 mutate(Probability=case_when(
```

```
is.na(y) ~ pseudoprobability,
   TRUE ~ y + pseudoprobability
)) %>%
   dplyr::select(region, RelPos=x, Probability) %>%
   mutate(ColaSeqScore=log2(Probability)) %>%
   dplyr::select(-Probability)

return(output.df)
}
```

Now let's use that function to get a probability function from the FilteredAndAdjusted data frame.

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 3
##
     region
                                        RelPos ColaSeqScore
##
     <chr>>
                                         <int>
                                                       <dbl>
## 1 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                                       -50
## 2 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                                       -50
                                             1
## 3 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                                       -50
## 4 URB1 chr21 32315104 32315199 - u2
                                             3
                                                       -50
## 5 URB1 chr21 32315104 32315199 - u2
                                                       -50
## 6 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                                       -11.5
```

Ok, so now we have dataframes with likelihood scores for every base in every region based on distance-to-3'ss, motif, and CoLa-seq 5' end read coverage. Now we can just sum the log likelihoods to get a composite score.

But first, let's filter out the regions which may not have a score for each of those three likelihood scores.

[1] 38

I need to do some tidying up of the positional scores dataframes that I created above. Specifically, to make summing scores from the other data frames easier, I want to make a region column that can be easily matched to the other dataframes, and I also want to just consider positions -5 to -100 relative to 3'ss.

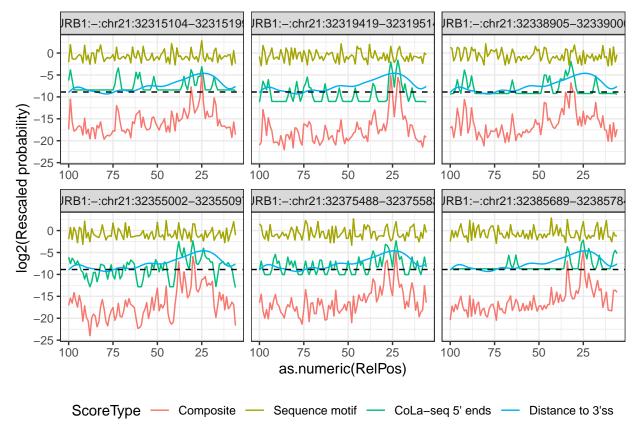
```
dplyr::select(region, RelPos, IntronType) %>%
  left_join(PositionProbabilities, by=c("IntronType", "RelPos")) %>%
  dplyr::select(-IntronType) %>%
  mutate(RelPos=as.numeric(RelPos))
head(PositionalScores)
## # A tibble: 6 x 3
##
    region
                                        RelPos PositionScore
##
     <chr>
                                         <dbl>
                                                       <dbl>
## 1 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                             5
                                                       -7.36
## 2 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                             6
                                                        -7.63
## 3 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                             7
                                                       -7.88
## 4 URB1 chr21 32315104 32315199 - u2
                                             8
                                                       -8.06
## 5 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                             9
                                                        -8.15
## 6 URB1_chr21_32315104_32315199_-_u2
                                            10
                                                       -8.11
RelPosRange <- (Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss+1):Window_upstream_dist_to_3ss
Now I think we are ready to just combine the data frames and sum the log2 probabilties to get a composite
score:
```

```
# Add log2 probabilities
PerPosScores.df <-
  left join(
   PositionalScores, cola.seq.pmf.PerRegion, by=c("region", "RelPos")) %>%
  left_join(
   MotifScores,by=c("region", "RelPos")) %>%
  mutate(CompositeScore=PositionScore+MotifScore+ColaSeqScore,
         NoMotifScore=PositionScore+ColaSeqScore,
         NoPositionScore=MotifScore+ColaSegScore,
         NoColaScore=PositionScore+MotifScore) %>%
  filter(RelPos %in% RelPosRange) %>%
  separate(region,
           into=c("gene", "chrom", "windowStart", "windowStop", "strand"),
           sep = '_', remove=F, convert=T) %>%
  mutate(RelPos = as.numeric(RelPos)) %>%
  mutate(start=case when(
    strand=="+" ~ windowStop + Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss - RelPos,
    strand=="-" ~ windowStart - Window_downstream_dist_to_3ss + RelPos
  )) %>%
  mutate(stop=start+1) %>%
  mutate(start=as.integer(start), stop=as.integer(stop)) %>%
  left_join((
             FilteredAndAdjusted %>%
                 dplyr::select(region=feature, RelPos=RelativePos) %>%
                 count(region, RelPos, name="ColaReadEndCount")
         ), by=c("region", "RelPos")
  )
head(PerPosScores.df)
## # A tibble: 6 x 17
```

```
## 2 URB1_chr21_323~ URB1 chr21
                                   32315104
                                              32315199 -
                                                                  7
                                                                            -7.88
## 3 URB1_chr21_323~ URB1 chr21
                                   32315104 32315199 -
                                                                  8
                                                                            -8.06
                                                                            -8.15
## 4 URB1 chr21 323~ URB1 chr21
                                   32315104 32315199 -
                                                                  9
## 5 URB1_chr21_323~ URB1 chr21
                                                                            -8.11
                                   32315104
                                              32315199 -
                                                                  10
## 6 URB1_chr21_323~ URB1 chr21
                                   32315104
                                              32315199 -
                                                                            -7.93
## # ... with 9 more variables: ColaSeqScore <dbl>, MotifScore <dbl>,
      CompositeScore <dbl>, NoMotifScore <dbl>, NoPositionScore <dbl>,
      NoColaScore <dbl>, start <int>, stop <int>, ColaReadEndCount <int>
```

Ok, now let's plot some examples to gain more intuition on how these log probabilities look.

```
## Make some plots of random example introns with a true branchpoint
set.seed(0)
IntronsToPlot <- PerPosScores.df %>% distinct(region) %>%
  dplyr::select(region) %>%
  sample_n(6) %>% pull(region)
ScoresPlot <- PerPosScores.df %>%
  filter(region %in% IntronsToPlot) %>%
  mutate(
   Label=paste0(gene, ":", strand, ":", chrom, ":", windowStart, "-", windowStop)) %>%
  gather(key="ScoreType",
         value="log2ProbabilityScore",
         MotifScore, PositionScore, ColaSeqScore, CompositeScore) %>%
   ScoreType=recode(ScoreType,
                     MotifScore="Sequence motif",
                     PositionScore="Distance to 3'ss",
                     ColaSeqScore="CoLa-seq 5' ends",
                     CompositeScore="Composite")) %>%
  ggplot(
   aes(x=as.numeric(RelPos), y=as.numeric(log2ProbabilityScore), color=ScoreType)) +
   geom_line() +
   geom_hline(yintercept=Threshold, linetype="dashed") +
   scale_color_manual(
     values = c("Composite" = "#F8766D", "Sequence motif" = "#A3A500", "CoLa-seq 5' ends" = "#00BF7D",
   scale_x_reverse() +
   ylab("log2(Rescaled probability)") +
   facet_wrap(~Label, scales="free_x", ncol=3) +
   theme bw() +
   theme(legend.position="bottom")
ScoresPlot
```



Ok. that looks good. The threshold (dotted-line) I added corresponds to the threshold used in the manuscript for calling BPs. This threshold was chosen based on precision and recall of high confidence branchpoints determined experimentally (see ROC curve in Fig1D in manuscript).

Branchpoints are considered all regions that are above the threshold. Well not quite actually. What I do next (code isn't shown here, it is in the snakemake here) is write out the bases that exceed the threshold as a bedfile (each entry is one base), then I merge bed entries within 2 bp of each other, then consider the max scoring base in each merged region as the final set of BPs.

Conclusion.

This method identified 164,532 BPs amongst 109,256 U2 introns and 750 BPs amongst 583 U12 introns from Yi's CoLa-seq data in K562. The quality of BPs are similar to Pineda et al based on the similar total number BPs discovered as Pineda, and a similar overlap rate with other experimental and computationally predicted BPs as Pineda et al.