INDELible

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Rationale and Project Summary

Indels, short for insertions or deletions, are polymorphisms in DNA in which nucleotides are added or removed compared to a reference sequence. The functional consequences of indels depend on the genomic context in which they occur. Indels that occur within non-functional sequences, e.g. in introns, are inconsequential while indels that occur in coding regions often result in frameshift mutations that affect protein function.

Due to the probable consequences of indels and their role in genome evolution, it is of interest to study the distributions of indels in a genome in population-level resequencing data. For our project, we posit the following questions: 1. Where do indels occur across a plant genome? 2. Is indel length related to genomic position? To address these questions, we identified indels in a collection of *Arabidopsis thaliana* individuals that were assembled for the first phase of the 1001 Genomes Project. We present the results of our analysis in an interactive web Shiny app.

Data

For this project we used Illumina whole genome sequencing reads from Cao, J. *et al.* Whole-genome sequencing of multiple Arabidopsis thaliana populations. Nat. Genet. 43, 956-963 (2011) representing 80 samples of *A. thaliana* sequenced across 175 sequencing runs. We downloaded this dataset from the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) using NCBI Short Read Archive accession SRA029270. We used the ENA website interface to create a file consisting of the sample accession, secondary sample accession, run accession, and FTP addresses for each sequencing run. This file is included in the repository under data/file_list.txt.

Pipeline

Core Scripts

0_setup_ref.sh
Slurm script that downloads the *Arabidopsis thaliana* reference genome sequence from EnsemblGenomes and indexes it with the *index* command from bwa v. 0.7.12.

1_dl_align.sh
Slurm script that downloads the sequencing reads from each sequencing run listed in the file list, quality trims using sickle v. 1.33, aligns to the reference genome using *bwa mem*, then uses samtools v. 1.4.1 to convert the resulting sequence alignment map (SAM) file into a sorted binary alignment map (BAM) file with duplicates removed. For computational efficiency, this script runs as an array job, launching an instance for each sequencing run listed in the file list, allowing each run to be processed simultaneously. The default parameters were used when running *sickle* and *bwa mem*. The read groups were set by *bwa mem* upon aligning the reads to the reference genome. The value

of the SLURM_ARRAY_TASK_ID variable was used as the read group ID while the secondary sample accession was used as the read group sample (SM).

2_call_snps.sh
Slurm script that uses freebayes v. 1.1.0 to identify variants in the population of 80 *A. thaliana* individuals. Prior to running this script, a list of BAM files to process was generated by running the following command:

```
ls results/*.bam > ./data/bam_list.txt
```

For computational efficiency, only 4 alleles at each site were considered when running *freebayes*, which was set using the *–use-best-n-alleles 4* argument.

3_filter_vcf.sh
Slurm script that uses the *vcffilter* command from vcflib to filter the vcf file produced by *freebayes*. We used a hard filter, keeping only indels that had at least 10 reads and a quality score of 20.

4_parse_vcf.py
Python3 script that takes an an input a VCF4.1 file, extracts indel position, reference sequence, alternate sequence, and chromosome number. It return a tab delimited .txt file. Command line arguments number 1 and 2 are used to specify names of input and output files, respectively.

5_parse_genes.py
This script annotates the indels parsed by script 4 with a boolean value corresponding to whether the indel is located within a coding region. This script takes as input a list of genes and positions derived from the *A. thaliana* genome annotation (gff3), which was downloaded from EnsemblGenomes.

Shiny Application

shiny_app_1 plots the counts of indels across each chromosome and the mitochondrion and plastid. There are interacive controls for the width of the windows in which counts are taken, a chomosome/organelle selecter drop-down, an indel type selector and a switch for a vertical line at the approximte posistion of each centromere. Additionally, there is a drop-down to switch between a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test against a uniforma and Possion probability distribution on windows counts (p-values plotted under chromosome number label.

shiny_app_2 plots histograms of indel length for all, or each, chromosome/organellar genome. Positive values are insertions and negative values are deletions. There are interactive controls for narrowing the range of values visualized.

shiny_app_3 plots a scatter plot of indel length by indel position, color coded by whether the indel is in a coding or non-coding region. It has controls and layout familiar from previous apps.

shiny_app_4 plots the ratio of insertions to deletions within variable window widths across each chromosome/organellar genome. This has the same structure as shiny_app_1.

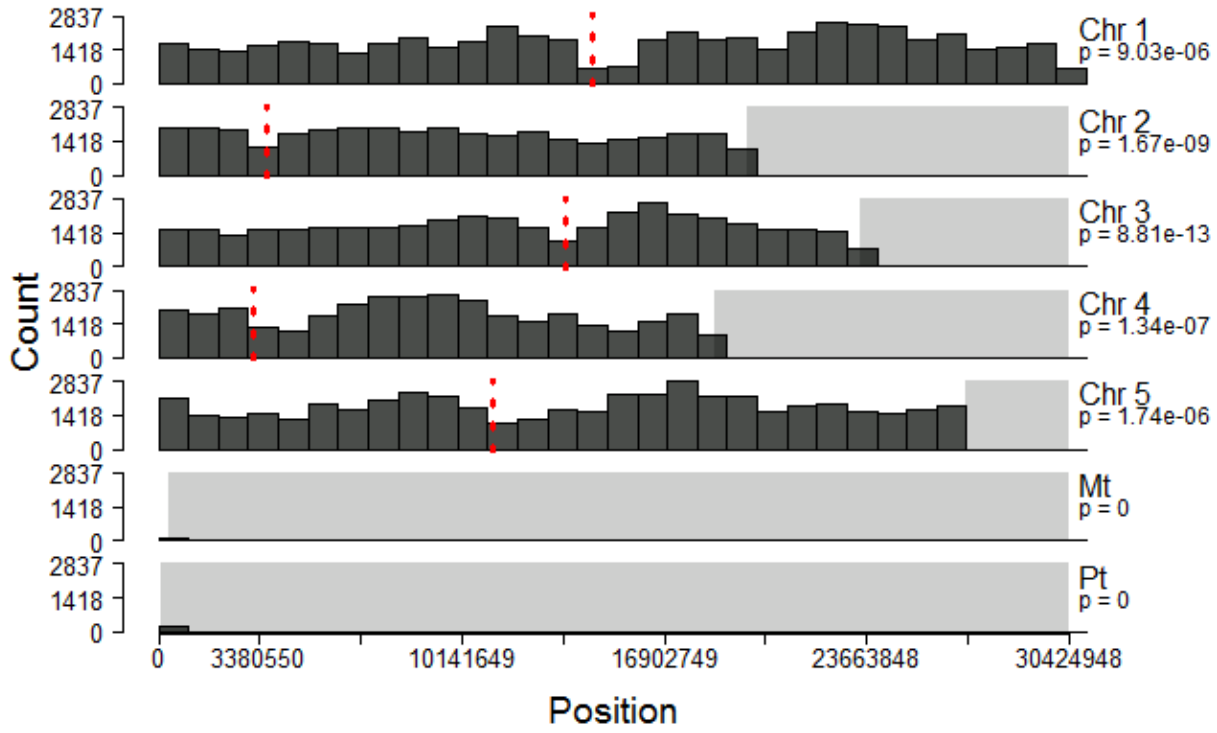
shiny_app_5 plots discrete values histograms of the modulo of indel length by three for coding and non-coding regions. It has interactive controls familiar from previous apps.

Additional Scripts

dl_results.sh
To facilitate sharing the filtered vcf file produced by script 3 above and to make this project reproducible and independent of the high performance computing center (i.e. biocluster) at UC Riverside, the data was uploaded to figshare. This script creates a results folder and downloads the filtered vcf file to this directory.

dl_annot.sh
This script downloads the annotation of the *A. thaliana* genome from EnsemblGenomes and creates a list of gene positions that are then utilized by script 5.

Results



(describe results and include screenshots from shiny application)

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Professor Jason Stajich for guidance and suggestions throughout the course of this project. All code is hosted on github at this link. The Shiny application was deployed to the cloud with Shinyapps.io and can be accessed here. CF wrote scripts 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, and both "additional scripts". GM wrote script 4 and the shiny app. CF and GM both contributed equally to this manuscript.