Genotyping structural variation in variation graphs with the vg toolkit

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Authors

Glenn Hickey[1,☯], David Heller[1,☯], Jean Monlong[1,☯], Benedict Paten[1,†]

☯ — These authors contributed equally to this work

† — To whom correspondence should be addressed: bpaten@ucsc.edu

1. UC Santa Cruz Genomics Institute, University of California, Santa Cruz, California, USA

Abstract

Introduction

Structural variation (SV) represents genomic mutation involving 50 bp or more and can take several forms, such as for example deletions, insertions, inversions, or translocations. Although whole-genome sequencing (WGS) made it possible to assess virtually any type of structural variation, many challenges remain. In particular, SV-supporting reads are difficult to map to reference genomes. Multi-mapping, caused by widespread repeated sequences in the genome, is another issue because it often resembles SV-supporting signal. As a result, many SV detection algorithms have been developed and multiple methods must usually be combined to minimize false positives. Several large-scale projects used this ensemble approach, cataloging tens of thousands of SV in humans[1,2]. SV detection from short-read sequencing remains laborious and of lower accuracy, explaining why these variants and their impact have been under-studied as compared to single-nucleotide variants (SNVs) and small insertions/deletions (indels).

Over the last few years, exciting developments in sequencing technologies and library preparation made it possible to produce long reads or retrieve long-range information over kilobases of sequence. These approaches are maturing to the point were it is feasible to analyze the human genome. This multi-kbp information is particularly useful for SV detection and de novo assembly. In the last few years, several studies using long-read or linked-read sequencing have produced large catalogs of structural variation, the majority of which were novel and sequence-resolved[3,4,5,6,7]. These technologies are also enabling high-quality de novo genome assemblies to be produced[3, 8], as well as large blocks of haplotype-resolved sequences[9]. These technological advances promise to expand the amount of known genomic variation in humans in the near future.

In parallel, the reference genome is evolving from a linear reference to a graph-based reference that contains known genomic variation[10,11,12]. By having variants in the graph, mapping rates are increased and variants are more uniformly covered, including indels and variants in complex regions[11]. Both the mapping and variant calling become variant-aware and benefit in term of accuracy and sensitivity. In addition, different variant types are called simultaneously by a unified framework. Graphs have also been used locally, i.e. to call variants at the region level. GraphTyper[13] and BayesTyper[14] both construct variation graphs of small regions and use them for variant genotyping. Here again, the graph-approach showed clear advantages over standard approaches that use the linear reference. Other SV genotyping approaches compare read mapping in the reference genome and a sequence modified with the SV. For example SMRT-SV was designed to genotype SVs identified on PacBio reads[4], SVTyper uses paired-end mapping and split-read mapping information[15], and Delly provides a genotyping feature in addition to its discovery mode[16].

Results

Structural variation in vg

In addition to SNV and short indels, vg can handle large deletions and insertions (and inversion?) (Figure 1a). As a proof-of-concept we simulated genomes and SVs of varying sizes. Some errors were added at the breakpoints to investigate their effect on genotyping. In all simulations, vg performed better than SVtyper[15] and Delly[16] (Figure 1b). The recall was particularly higher than other methods at low sequencing depth. vg was also more robust to errors around the breakpoints, performing almost as well as in the absence of errors.

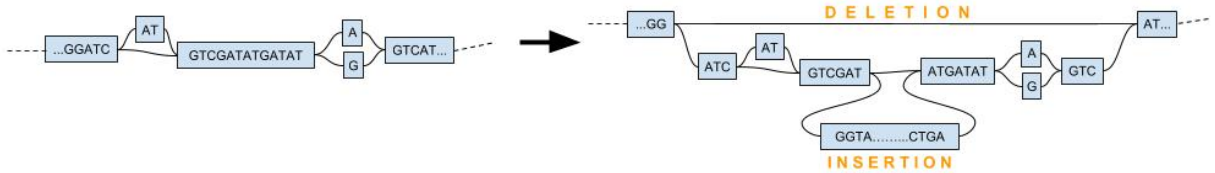

Figure 1a: **Large deletions and insertions in variation graphs**

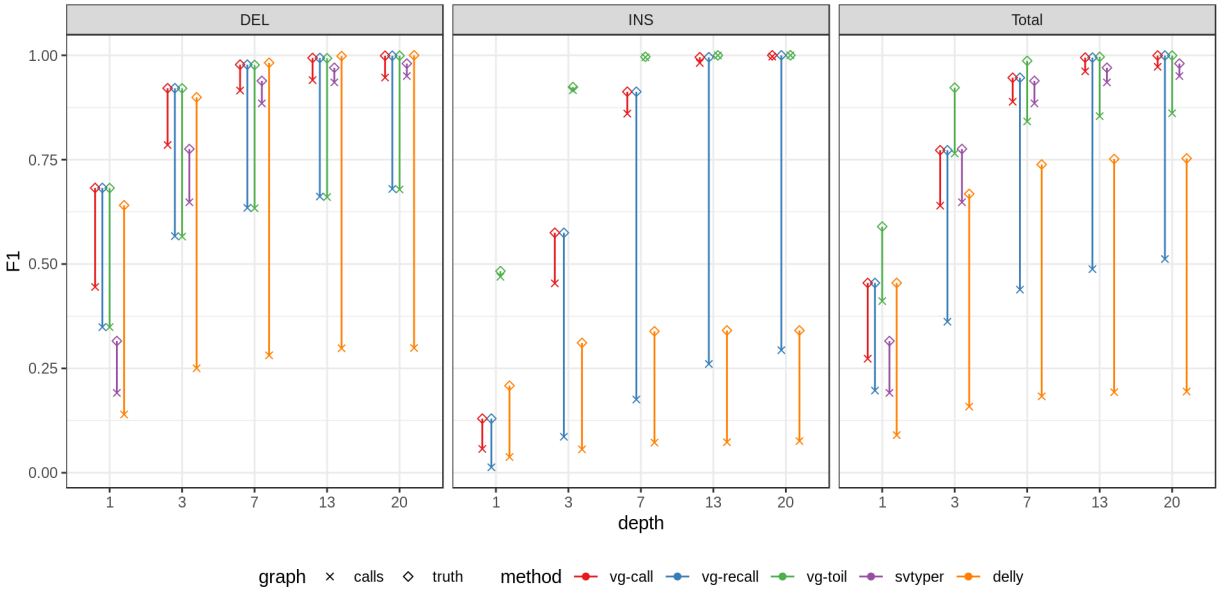

Figure 1b: **Simulation experiment**.

HGSVC

Chaisson et al.[17] provide a high-quality SV catalog of three samples, obtained using a consensus from different sequencing, phasing and variant caling technologies.

(Whole-genome) Simulation

The phasing information in the HGSVC VCF was used to extract two haplotypes for sample HG00514, and 30X pairend-end reads were simulated using vg sim. The reads were used to call VCFs then compared back to the original HGSVC calls.

Graph	type	TP	TP.baseline	FP	FN	precision	recall	F1
HGSVC-Construct	Total	24451	24089	3119	2617	0.8854	0.902	0.8936
	INS	14596	14264	775	1421	0.9485	0.9094	0.9285
	DEL	9855	9825	2344	1196	0.8074	0.8915	0.8474
HGSVC-1KG-Construct	Total	24172	23815	3236	2891	0.8804	0.8917	0.886
	INS	14540	14111	836	1574	0.9441	0.8996	0.9213
	DEL	9632	9704	2400	1317	0.8017	0.8805	0.8393
HGSVC-Bayestyper	Total	13895	14362	123	12344	0.9915	0.5378	0.6974
	INS	8473	8757	102	6928	0.9885	0.5583	0.7136
	DEL	5422	5605	21	5416	0.9963	0.5086	0.6734
SVPOP-Construct	Total	10548	11559	5990	15147	0.6587	0.4328	0.5224
	INS	7733	8223	2266	7462	0.784	0.5243	0.6284
	DEL	2815	3336	3724	7685	0.4725	0.3027	0.369
SVPOP-1KG-Construct	Total	10403	11369	6750	15337	0.6275	0.4257	0.5073
	INS	7497	7934	2198	7751	0.7831	0.5058	0.6146
	DEL	2906	3435	4552	7586	0.4301	0.3117	0.3615

When restricting the comparisons to regions not identified as tandem repeats or segmental duplications in the Genome Browser:

Graph	type	TP	TP.baseline	FP	FN	precision	recall	F1
HGSVC-Construct	Total	5901	5822	452	253	0.928	0.9584	0.943
	INS	4026	3952	98	172	0.9758	0.9583	0.967
	DEL	1875	1870	354	81	0.8408	0.9585	0.8958
HGSVC-1KG-Construct	Total	5880	5785	486	290	0.9225	0.9523	0.9372
	INS	4024	3922	123	202	0.9696	0.951	0.9602
	DEL	1856	1863	363	88	0.8369	0.9549	0.892
HGSVC-Bayestyper	Total	3805	3863	8	2212	0.9979	0.6359	0.7768
	INS	2401	2430	6	1694	0.9975	0.5892	0.7408
	DEL	1404	1433	2	518	0.9986	0.7345	0.846
SVPOP-Construct	Total	3565	3856	390	2219	0.9081	0.6347	0.7472
	INS	3091	3246	239	878	0.9314	0.7871	0.8532
	DEL	474	610	151	1341	0.8016	0.3127	0.4499
SVPOP-1KG-Construct	Total	3574	3817	562	2258	0.8717	0.6283	0.7303
	INS	3066	3180	253	944	0.9263	0.7711	0.8416
	DEL	508	637	309	1314	0.6734	0.3265	0.4398

(Whole-genome) Real reads

Graph	type	TP	TP.baseline	FP	FN	precision	recall	F1
HGSVC-Construct	Total	18436	18500	6575	8206	0.7378	0.6927	0.7145
	INS	10984	10600	3542	5085	0.7495	0.6758	0.7107
	DEL	7452	7900	3033	3121	0.7226	0.7168	0.7197
HGSVC-1KG-Construct	Total	17802	17946	6221	8760	0.7426	0.672	0.7055
	INS	10647	10262	3304	5423	0.7564	0.6543	0.7017
	DEL	7155	7684	2917	3337	0.7248	0.6972	0.7107
HGSVC-Bayestyper	Total	4342	4840	1048	21866	0.822	0.1812	0.2969
	INS	1786	1883	309	13802	0.859	0.1201	0.2107
	DEL	2556	2957	739	8064	0.8001	0.2683	0.4018
SVPOP-Construct	Total	9091	9931	10235	16775	0.4925	0.3719	0.4238
	INS	6972	7420	6706	8265	0.5253	0.4731	0.4978
	DEL	2119	2511	3529	8510	0.4157	0.2278	0.2943

When restricting the comparisons to regions not identified as tandem repeats or segmental duplications in the Genome Browser:

Graph	type	TP	TP.baseline	FP	FN	precision	recall	F1
HGSVC-Construct	Total	5197	5244	854	831	0.86	0.8632	0.8616
	INS	3708	3626	459	498	0.8876	0.8792	0.8834
	DEL	1489	1618	395	333	0.8038	0.8293	0.8164
HGSVC-1KG-Construct	Total	5103	5155	865	920	0.8563	0.8486	0.8524
	INS	3642	3555	464	569	0.8845	0.862	0.8731
	DEL	1461	1600	401	351	0.7996	0.8201	0.8097
HGSVC-Bayestyper	Total	1560	1731	274	4344	0.8633	0.2849	0.4284
	INS	883	901	69	3223	0.9289	0.2185	0.3538
	DEL	677	830	205	1121	0.8019	0.4254	0.5559
SVPOP-Construct	Total	3251	3480	941	2595	0.7872	0.5728	0.6631
	INS	2859	3009	780	1115	0.7941	0.7296	0.7605
	DEL	392	471	161	1480	0.7453	0.2414	0.3647

Yeast assemblies

The recall was higher for the graph constructed from assembly alignment (Figure 1).

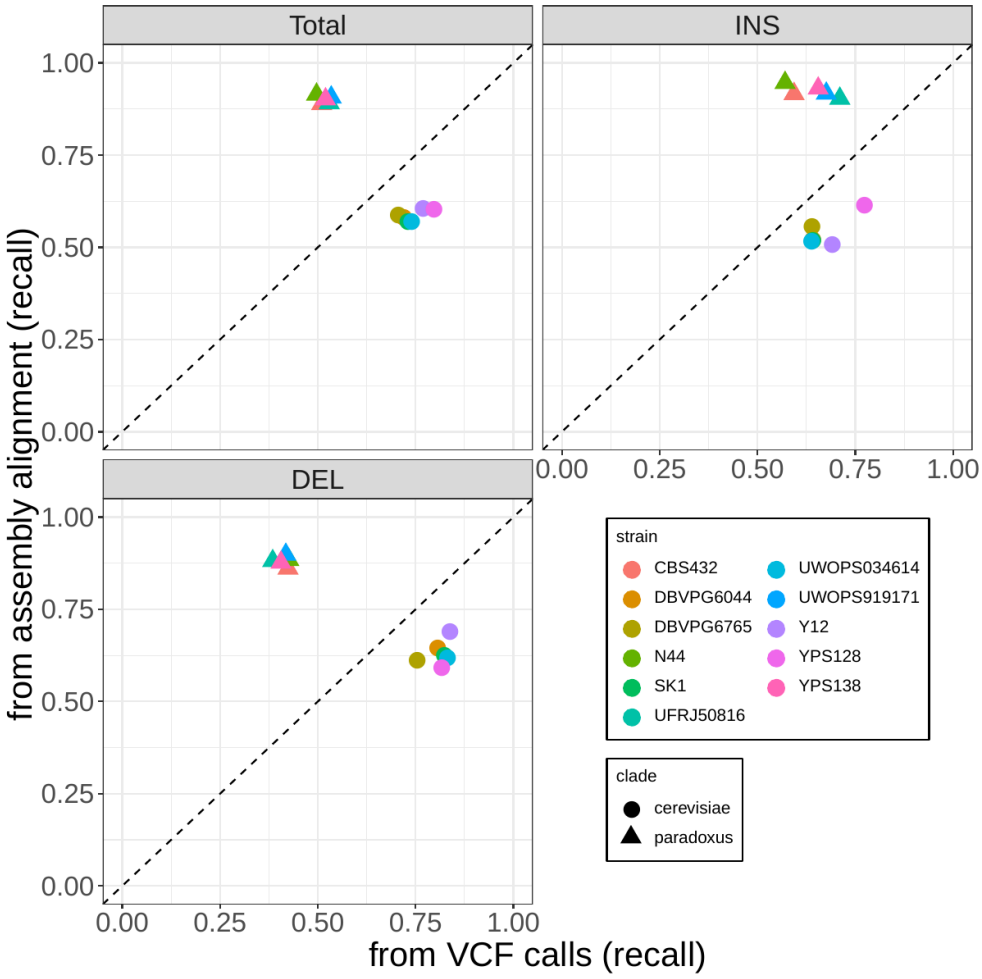

Figure 1: **Recall in yeast experiment**.

Methods

Discussion

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