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GPU-Aevol

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Extremely High Mutation Rate of a Hammerhead Viroid

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utation rates vary by orders of magnitude across species (1, 2), with the high-Lest rates measured so far corresponding

to RNA viruses (3), but little is known about other

RNA replicons. Viroids are plant pathogens with minimal nonprotein-coding RNA genomes replicated by host RNA polymerases (4). We estimated the mutation rate of Chrysanthemum chlorotic mottle viroid (CChMVd), a 399-nucleotide chloroplastic viroid with hammerhead ribozymes. Hammerheads are RNA motifs formed by three doublehelix regions flanking a core of 15 highly conserved nucleotides critical for catalytic activity (5), which mediate self-cleavage of

replicative intermediates and,

hence, are essential for viroid

replication. Hammerhead viroids

show elevated genetic variabil-

ity (6), but this variability results

head mutations sampled in vivo, we recreated the mutations by site-directed mutagenesis and assayed for infectivity. Northern-blot hybridizations indicated that plants inoculated with these mutants

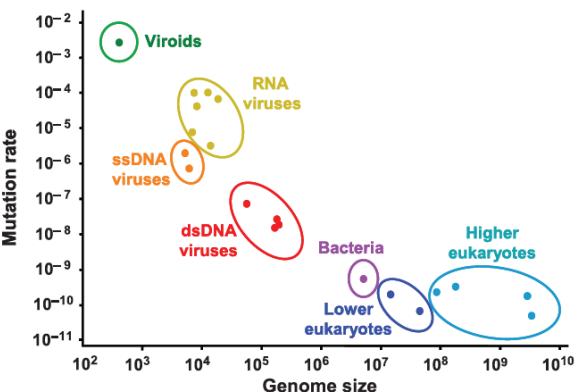


Fig. 1. Per-site mutation rate versus genome size for CChMVd and other biological

deficient chiolopiasuc Div polymerase that is redirected of its native DNA template (4 the presence of mutagenic balanced nucleotide pools, we ly error-prone replication. Viro elevated per-site mutation r minimal genomes, whereas nomes would accumulate an load (8). Given their geno autocatalytic activity, hamn

reminiscent of the postulated 1

emergence of mechanisms evolution o early history Referen

(9). These

would also

head viroid

error-prone

results supp

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(Gago et al., Science, 2009)

Exploring the roots of DNA length and structure by simulation

- Aevol: a simulation software to study the evolution of molecular structure and complexity
 - Individual-Based Model of evolution (~10² to 10⁴ individuals)
 - Realistic sequence model (10² to 10⁹ base-pairs)
 - Realistic genotype-to-phenotype map (many motif search on DNA and RNA sequences)
 - Realistic mutation process (local and structural mutations)
 - Long-term evolution experiments (~109 generations)
 - Many spontaneous events, rare event fixation (most mutations are deleterious)
- → Typical computation time on a single CPU: 6 months...
- → OpenMP version: 1 month on 32 CPUs

Evident parallelism scheme: distributing individuals... BUT:

Technical issues:

- Large variations of organismal complexity → individual-level parallelism is not efficient
- "Small" population size (~1000 individuals) → smaller than the typical number of processors on a GPU
- Motif search on long sequences → frequent and demanding memory access
- Evolution is a historical process → the most efficient parallel scheme may change over time

Usage constraints:

- Perfect replicability (to enable rare events post-analysis)
- Complete history storage (we are interested in the evolutionary process, not in its final result)
- The selection process requires double-precision computation

What has been done so far...

- Preparing the code for GPU:
 - Changing the Random-Number Generator
 - Packaging all sequence-level operators
 - Optimizing memory usage (pros/cons, CPU/GPU)
 - Basic algorithmic optimizations (pros/cons, CPU/GPU)
 - Code refactoring
- Preparing the environment for efficient testing and validation of the GPU version:
 - Developing tests
 - Code profiling
 - Choice of usecases (demanding ones... but not too much!)
- Debugging Deb

Work in progress...

- First GPU version
 - Dealing with Aevol data-structures...
 - Dealing with Aevol optimizations ...
- Finding the best CPU/GPU equilibrium?
 - This may depend on
 - Simulation parameters
 - Macroevolution events (genome growing/streamlining, WGD...)
- Debugging Debugging Debugging Debugging Debugging

Final objective

- An efficient GPU version of mini-Aevol (~2,000 code lines) compatible with the full Aevol environment (~70,000 code lines)
 - Must allow post-analyses
 - Must allow GUI integration (possibly offline)
 - Useable by computational biologists
- Bonus: enable exploration of parameter values impossible with the CPU version
 - Typically very large population sizes (e.g. estimated population size of marine Alphaproteobacteria: 2.4 10²⁸ cells)
- Stop Debugging Debuggin