bigWig

Luther Vucic¹, André Luis Matins², and Michael J. Guertin³

 1 James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia

26 July 2020

Abstract

Querying of bigWig files in R

Package

bigWig 0.2.9

Contents

1	Prere	equisites	2
2	Introd	duction	2
3	Gettir	ng started	2
	3.1	Installation	2
4	Usage		4
	4.1	bigWig utilities	4
	4.2	query.bigWig	6
	4.3	bpQuery and probeQuery.	9
	4.4	BED utilities	12
	4.5	Step	20
	4.6	Profiles	25
	4.7	Matrix Scaling	27
	4.8	bwMap	29
	4.9	plots.bigWig	29

²Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

³University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

1 Prerequisites

The R bigWig libraries require an R version of >= 2.12.0.

2 Introduction

The bigWig package efficiently queries bigWig files over genomic intervals. The functions provide several counting variations, including over a region or step-wise. The functions can incorporate a mappability file, which determines areas of the genome that are not mappable at a specified K-mer and excludes them from calculations. Graphing functions are used to display data. The following definitions are used throughout the vignette:

- Genomic interval is the basic unit that all of these functions and is a segment of a
 genome file. It is defined by listing the chromosome [chrom=], starting index number
 [start=] and the ending index number [end=].
 - Example: chrom ='chr1', start = 23000, end = 24000
- query refers to the return of count metrics (raw, average, etc.) within genomic intervals.
 The terms probe and bp are used in conjunction with query to specify how bigWig values are treated.
 - probe refers to each bigWig entry that spans an interval.
 - bp or base pair is an individually indexed genomic position. In terms of counting, any bp function treats the value associated with each nucleotide position within a bigWig interval separately.
- region contains one or more genomic intervals, and at minimum include [chrom=], [start=], and [end=] values, with as an [strand=] argument.
- bed and bed6 are R data frames containing multiple genomic intervals. Only columns 1-3 are considered for bed operations, and column 6 is additionally passed for bed6 operations—all other columns are ignored. See UCSC's description of BED file format. UCSC Genome
- **step** refers to dividing the genomic interval into equally sized sub-intervals. Note if the genomic interval is not a multiple of the step, an error will result.

3 Getting started

3.1 Installation

Since bigWig is not yet available on *bioconductor*, we can not use the basic in stall.packages('bigWig'). Below are installation instructions from GitHub and locally stored source files.

3.1.1 From Github

The most up to date version of the bigWig pkg is located at bigWig. Using devtools, you can download and install bigWig from github directly.

bigWig

```
#install devtools if necessary
install.packages("devtools")
library('devtools')
#location of bigWig package and subfolder
pkgLoc='andrelmartins/bigWig'
subFld='bigWig'
devtools::install_github(pkgLoc, subdir=subFld)
```

3.1.2 From local directory

Use the following commands to build from the source files.

```
setwd('bigWig-master')
system('R CMD INSTALL bigWig')
```

4 Usage

After installation load the bigWig package:

```
library(bigWig)
```

4.1 bigWig utilities

These a functions that load, unload, query and print the information that is in each bigWig.

4.1.1 bigWig format

bigWig files are genetic sequence fragments stored as indexed binary format. These files are not readily readable by humans, but the format allows for large continuous data to be stored compactly and accessed quickly.

4.1.2 load.bigWig

```
load.bigWig(filename, udcDir = NULL)
```

- arguments
 - filename [required] is a string, which is either the the local file directory or URL.
 - udcDir is a string which is the location for storing cached copies of remote files locally, while in use. These are destroyed when you unload the bigWig. If left as the default udcDir = NULL, then it uses /tmp/udcCache.

load.bigWig creates a bigWig class object in R. This object contains relevant information about the bigWig file and serves as a pointer to the underlying C object of the entire bigWig file. The only parameter required for this is a string of the location and filename. udcDir is only used if you want to keep the downloaded bigWig file locally if filename is a URL.

```
#load bigWig into variable bw
setwd('./bigWig')
bw=load.bigWig('../inst/extdata/bp.bigWig')
```

The all of the attributes of the object can be accessed using atrributes and each individual can be accessed via \$

```
# list all attributes
attributes(bw)
## $handle_ptr
## <pointer: 0x600001a7f450>
##
## ## $names
## [1] "version" "isCompressed" "isSwapped"
## [4] "primaryDataSize" "primaryIndexSize" "zoomLevels"
```

```
## [7] "chroms" "chromSizes" "basesCovered"
## [10] "mean" "min" "max"
## [13] "std"
##
## $class
## [1] "bigWig"

#access individual attribute
bw$basesCovered
## [1] 15
```

The full set of attributes can be printed out on the console using print.bigWig. [see later in documentation]

4.1.3 unload.bigWig

```
unload.bigWig(bw)
```

- arguments
 - bw is the pointer of the underlying C object created in load.bigWig

4.1.4 print.bigWig

print.bigWig(bw) is used to print all of the attributes contained within the object.

```
print.bigWig(bw)
## bigWig
## version: 4
## isCompressed: yes
## isSwapped: no
## primaryDataSize: 90
## primaryIndexSize: 6,204
## zoomLevels: 2
## chromCount: 1
## chr1 248956422
## basesCovered: 15
## mean: 2.333333
## min: 1
## max: 4
## std: 1.290994
```

- arguments
 - bw is the pointer of the underlying C object created in load.bigWig

Use unload.bigWig(bw) to destroy the C object and remove it from memory. This does not clear the R object. To do that use rm() or remove()

```
#destroy C object
unload.bigWig(bw)
ls()
```

bigWig

```
## [1] "bed"
                             "bed6"
                                                   "bed6loc"
## [4] "bedloc"
                             "bw"
                                                   "bw.bp"
## [7] "bw.probes"
                             "bw.probes_separate" "bw.probes.Q"
                                                   "bw.step"
## [10] "bw.separateprobes"
                             "bw.splitprobes"
## [13] "floc"
                             "inline"
                                                   "macro"
## [16] "mat2"
#remove variable in R
remove(bw)
ls()
## [1] "bed"
                             "bed6"
                                                   "bed6loc"
## [4] "bedloc"
                             "bw.bp"
                                                   "bw.probes"
## [7] "bw.probes_separate" "bw.probes.Q"
                                                   "bw.separateprobes"
## [10] "bw.splitprobes"
                             "bw.step"
                                                   "floc"
## [13] "inline"
                              "macro"
                                                   "mat2"
```

4.2 query.bigWig

To demonstate the calculations performed by the *Query.bigWig functions we generated three bigWig files that have the same information at each position in the genome, but the files are structured differently (Figure 1).

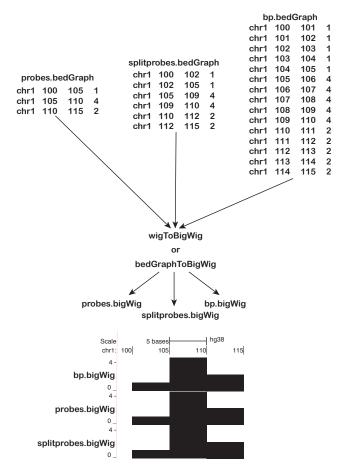


Figure 1: Structured bigWig files

Three bigWig files with identical values at each position are structured differently to later highlight the differences between *Query.bigWig functions.

```
query.bigWig(bw, chrom, start, end, clip = TRUE)
```

- arguments
 - bw is the pointer of the underlying C object created in load.bigWig
 - chrom is a string referring to what chromosome is referenced
 - start is an integer value designation the starting position
 - end is an integer value designation the ending position
 - clip is a logical value; if TRUE bigWig regions are clipped to the query interval.

4.2.1 bigWig file structure

query.bigWig allows you to search the bigWig files using chromosome string (chrom='chr1') and genomic window (start=1, end = 12000), both are integers and end is inclusive meaning it searches up to and including end. The query results are printed to the command line. Note how the output of query reflects the original structure of the bigWig file (Figure 1). Each row that is output from a query.bigWig call is a genomic interval that is referred to as a probe in the relevant functions.

```
# load the three bigWigs
bw.bp = load.bigWig('../inst/extdata/bp.bigWig')
bw.probes = load.bigWig('../inst/extdata/probes.bigWig')
bw.splitprobes = load.bigWig('../inst/extdata/splitprobes.bigWig')
#note differences in the bigWig structures
query.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 100, 115)
##
       start end value
## [1,]
        100 105
                     7
## [2,] 105 110
                     4
## [3,] 110 115
                     2
query.bigWig(bw.splitprobes, 'chr1', 100, 115)
       start end value
## [1,] 100 102
## [2,] 102 105
                     1
## [3,] 105 109
                     4
## [4,] 109 110
                     4
## [5,] 110 112
                     2
                     2
## [6,]
        112 115
query.bigWig(bw.bp, chrom='chr1',start=100, end=115)
        start end value
## [1,] 100 101
                   1
## [2,]
          101 102
                     1
## [3,]
          102 103
                      1
## [4,]
          103 104
                      1
## [5,]
          104 105
                      7
## [6,]
          105 106
                      4
##
   [7,]
          106 107
                      4
## [8,]
          107 108
                      4
## [9,]
          108 109
## [10,]
          109 110
                      4
## [11,]
          110 111
                      2
## [12,]
          111 112
                      2
## [13,]
          112 113
                      2
                      2
## [14,]
          113 114
## [15,]
          114 115
```

The default behavior is to clip the bigWig intervals to the queried regions. The bw.probes variable and underlying bigWig structure can be used to highlight the clip= option.

```
query.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chrl', 104, 111, clip=FALSE)
## start end value
## [1,] 100 105 1
```

```
## [2,] 105 110     4
## [3,] 110 115     2
query.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chrl', 104, 111, clip=TRUE)
## start end value
## [1,] 104 105     1
## [2,] 105 110     4
## [3,] 110 111     2
```

The query can be set as a variable for storage.

```
bw.probes.Q = query.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 100, 115)
```

Access the array as an indexed array; the following returns the first row.

```
bw.probes.Q[1,]
## start end value
## 100 105 1
```

Standard [X,Y] indexing returns the specified row and column.

```
bw.probes.Q[1,2]
## end
## 105
```

The genomic coordinate variable strings are keywords that can be used to access the respective columns.

```
bw.probes.Q[1,'start']
## start
## 100
```

4.3 bpQuery and probeQuery

This section outlines *.bpQuery.bigWig and *.probeQuery.bigWig functions to highlight their diffrences and commonalities. Both functions can incorporate bwMap files to account for the mappability of each position in the genome. bwMap files come from the calc_Mappability functions and will be discussed later on. They map regions of the genomic interval that can't be mapped because the sequence is repeated in the genome.

4.3.1 region query

The *bp* and *probe* query functions takes a region defined by chrom, start and end and returns the result of the operation on the counts.

```
op = "wavg", abs.value = FALSE,
gap.value = NA)
```

arguments

- bw is the pointer of the underlying C object created in load.bigWig
- chrom is a string referring to what chromosome is referenced
- start is an integer value designation the starting position
- end is an integer value designation the ending position
- op is a string representing the operation to perform on the step.
 - sum adds all the counts
 - avg averages the counts
 - min finds the minimum value
 - max finds the maximum value
 - wavg weighted average of the values only pertains to probeQuery
- abs.value is a logical argument which determines if the absolute value of the input is performed before the op.
- gap.value is an integer value that replaces areas that have no overlaps
- bwMap a bigWig file of coordinates that cannot be uniquely mapped. Note that
 the sequence read length of the original FASTQ file should determine the k-mer
 mappability for this file

All bpQuery functions are insensitive to the structure of the original bigWig file, because each base position is evaluated separately. However, probeQuery functions consider each genomic interval as a separate entity, or probe, and evaluates them separately. The following region.probeQuery.bigWig evaluations highlight the different outputs that result from differentially structured bigWig files that have identical values at each genomic position (see Figure 1). Note that the output for each command is the sum of the value column output from the first code chunk in Section 4.2.1.

```
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chrl', 100, 115, op = 'sum')
## [1] 7
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.splitprobes, 'chrl', 100, 115, op = 'sum')
## [1] 14
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.bp, 'chrl', 100, 115, op = 'sum')
## [1] 35
```

In contrast, the region.bpQuery.bigWig function considers each base position within each genomic interval input separately. These *bigWig* files have identical values at each position, so the calculations are identical.

```
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 100, 115, op = 'sum')
## [1] 35
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.splitprobes, 'chr1', 100, 115, op = 'sum')
## [1] 35
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.bp, 'chr1', 100, 115, op = 'sum')
## [1] 35
```

4.3.2 operations (op)

4.3.2.1 sum op='sum' As noted in Section 4.3.1, the op='sum' argument adds all the values of each probe or bp position in the specified genomic interval.

4.3.2.2 maximum op='max' Return the maximum value of the interval:

```
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.probes,'chr1', 100, 115, op='max')
## [1] 4
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes,'chr1', 100, 115, op='max')
## [1] 4
```

4.3.2.3 minimum op='min' Return the minimum value of the interval:

```
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 100, 115, op='min')
## [1] 1
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 100, 115, op='min')
## [1] 1
```

4.3.2.4 average op='avg' Return the average of the values of the interval:

```
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.probes,'chr1', 100, 115, op='avg')
## [1] 2.333333
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes,'chr1', 100, 115, op='avg')
## [1] 2.3333333
```

Notice the difference in the return of the average when there are no values at genomic position. The bpQuery counts the number of base pairs to use as the denominator of the average, but probeQuery uses the number of genomic intervals as the denominator.

```
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.probes,'chr1', 85, 115, op='avg')
## [1] 1.166667
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes,'chr1', 85, 115, op='avg')
## [1] 2.333333
```

4.3.2.5 weighted average op='wavg' For probe functions, the average value can be weighted by the size of the genomic intervals. the wavg operation multiplies the values by the interval size before computing the average, therefore the average of the probes is weighted by their size. The *splitprobe* variable contains two genomic intervals that are distinct sizes and values, recall that chr1:102-105 is a genomic interval with the value 1 and chr1:105-109 has the value 1. The avg operation weights these equally with a result of 10. As determined by: 10. However, the wavg operation applies more weight to the wider genomic interval; each value is multiplied by the interval size and their sum is divided by the sum of the interval sizes, resulting in 10.714286, as determined by: 10.714280, as determined by: 11441) 1154.

```
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.splitprobes,'chr1', 102, 109, op='avg')
## [1] 2.5
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.splitprobes,'chr1', 102, 109, op='wavg')
## [1] 2.714286
```

If a probe extends beyond the query interval, the probe will get truncated and the weight is the truncated size. In the example, the third probe is truncated from 5 to 1, so it is weighted one fifth of the first two probes that also span 5 bases, the value is determined by as determined by: ((1*5) + (4*5) + (2*1))/(5+5+1).

```
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes,'chrl', 100, 111, op='wavg')
## [1] 2.454545
```

4.3.2.6 abs.value = **FALSE** If *bigWig* files contain negative values, the abs.value=TRUE option can be invoked to convert the output to absolute values.

4.3.2.7 gap.value gap.value determines how the function handles instances where there is no data returned.

Notice that if you were to query chr1:80-90, that there would be no return.

```
query.bigWig(bw.probes,'chr1', 80, 90)
## NULL
```

Running region.probeQuery.bigWig on that genomic interval returns an NA (note gap.value=NA is the default for probeQuery functions) for all of the operations. The functionality is identiocal for bpQuery.bigWig operations, but the default is gap.value=0.

```
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 80, 90, op = 'sum')
## [1] NA
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 80, 90, op='sum')
## [1] 0
```

By adding gap.value = 1 or any numeric value, the value is assigned to each query interval that has no intersecting probes. For both probeQuery and bpQuery.bigWig operations, the non-overlapping intervals that are assigned the gap.value are calculated as if the bigWig file had a single probe spanning the query interval coordinates with the associated gap.value.

```
region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 80, 90, op = 'sum', gap.value=1)
## [1] 1
region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw.probes, 'chr1', 80, 90, op = 'avg', gap.value=100)
## [1] 100
```

4.4 BED utilities

These functions are used to load, create and manipulate BED files.

4.4.1 BED format

A standard three column BED file is a tab delimited file that consists of the name of the chromosome, the starting, and ending point on the chromosome. A BED6 file contains all of the BED columns plus 3 more: name, score, and strand. Only the strand column is considered for bed6 functions described here. Strand defines whether the BED track interval refers to the + or - stand of DNA. More information can be found on UCSC website. BED files are saved with a .bed extension. The bigWig package operates on bed-formatted files that are loaded as data.frames into R.

4.4.2 Load BED file

Load a BED file is to use R's read.table function, which converts the tab delimited file into an R data.frame. First set file location to a variable like bedloc and read in the file. The header argument refers whether the columns are named in the first row. BED files don't usually include headers so we can set header=FALSE. If track information or miscellaneous information lines. If there are lines prior of the coordinate information, use the skip= argument to skip the number of lines that precede the genomic intervals.

```
bedloc='../inst/extdata/testBED1.bed'
bed=read.table(bedloc, header=FALSE, sep='\t', stringsAsFactors=FALSE)
bed
## V1 V2 V3
## 1 chr1 101 104
## 2 chr1 105 107
## 3 chr1 107 110
## 4 chr1 112 115
```

To create a BED6 file, you need to define the following columns: chrom, start, end, name, score and strand. bigWig functions don't use name and score. In the following example we used place holders 'na' for name and 1 for score.

```
bed6loc='../inst/extdata/testBED1_strand.bed'
bed6=read.table(bed6loc, header=FALSE, sep='\t', stringsAsFactors=FALSE)
bed6
## V1 V2 V3 V4 V5 V6
## 1 chr1 101 104 na 1 +
## 2 chr1 101 104 na 1 -
## 3 chr1 105 107 na 1 +
## 4 chr1 107 110 na 1 +
## 5 chr1 112 115 na 1 -
```

4.4.3 BED transformations

These 3 functions take an original BED file and transform each rows start and end columns. The functions differ by the anchor point of the window. These functions are strand specific, so if they are passed a BED6 file, threeprime.bed and fiveprime.bed, upstream and downstream are relative to teh strand information.

```
center.bed(bed, upstreamWindow, downstreamWindow)
fiveprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow, downstreamWindow)
threeprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow, downstreamWindow)
```

- Arguments
 - bed is the input BED data.frame.
 - upstreamWindow is an integer number of bases to include upstream of the anchor point.
 - downstreamWindow is an integer number of bases to include downstream of the anchor point.

Anchor Point

The anchor point is different for each function.

center.bed uses the center of the original window. The difference between end and start is taken and divided by 2. If the difference is odd, you are left with a X.5, which is rounded down to X. The anchor point is the start + X.

fiveprime.bed uses the start as the anchor point for BED files and BED6 entires with a + in the sixth strand column. The end is the anchor for BED6 entires with a - in the strand column

threeprime.bed uses the end as the anchor point for BED files and BED6 entires with a + in the sixth strand column. The start is the anchor for BED6 entires with a - in the strand column

New Window

The new window is calculated by using the anchor point, upstreamWindow and downstreamWindow.

The new start is anchor point - upstreamWindow.

The new end is the anchor point +1 + downstreamWindow.

Using the previously loaded bed file, we can test a few different scenarios.

Row 1 is an example of a difference that is even. Row 2 is an example of a difference is odd and less than 1. Row 3 is an example of a difference is odd and greater than 1.

bed

Using the center.bed function and upstreamWindow = 0 and downstreamWindow = 0, you can see the anchor point.

```
center.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = 0, downstreamWindow = 0)
```

From this you can see that Row 1 has an anchor point of 305, because the difference of start and end is 10. Divide by 2 and added to the original start of 300 gives us 305.

Row 2 has a anchor point of 310 because a difference of 1. Divided by 2 results in 0.5. Since it was a odd difference we round down to 0.0 + the original start is the original start.

Row 3 has an anchor point of 411. This is because half of the difference is 1.5, which is rounded down to 1 and added to the original start.

Note that all of the new end values are the anchor point plus 1.

Now take a look at a few situations where the ${\tt upstreamWindow}$ and ${\tt downstreamWindow}$ are not 0.

Windows Equal and Positive

Here is an example when they are equal and positive.

```
center.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = 5, downstreamWindow = 5)
```

The start values are all anchor point - 5 and the end values are all anchor point + 1 + 5.

Windows Unequal and Negative Now let's try a negative value.

```
center.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = -1, downstreamWindow = 4)
```

Notice that the start value is actually the anchor point +1. This is due to the subtracting a negative is the same as adding the positive value. If you due use negative values be aware of the possibility that your start can be larger than your end, which will cause errors with other bigWig functions.

5 Prime and 3 Prime

By setting upstreamWindow = 0 and downstreamWindow = 0, you can see that the difference between start and end have no influence on the anchor point, but rather the function fiveprime.bed and threeprime.bed does.

```
fiveprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = 0, downstreamWindow = 0)
threeprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = 0, downstreamWindow = 0)
```

fiveprime.bed uses the 5' end or start as the anchor point, while threeprime.bed uses 3' or end for the anchor point.

Calculating the new window varies slightly. While fiveprime.bed follows center.bed by

- start = anchor point upstreamWindow
- end = anchor point + 1 + downstreamWindow

threeprime.bed calculates the window by

- start = anchor point 1 upstreamWindow
- end = anchor point + downstreamWindow

Both of these function operate like center.bed other than the initial anchor point.

```
fiveprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = 1, downstreamWindow = 5)
threeprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = 1, downstreamWindow = 5)

# negative value
fiveprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = -1, downstreamWindow = 5)
threeprime.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = -1, downstreamWindow = 5)
```

If using a BED file without a strand column, fiveprime.bed and threeprime.bed assume that the start is the 5' end of the sequence. However, if you pass a BED6 file it will align with the strand.

```
fiveprime.bed(bed6, upstreamWindow=4, downstreamWindow=2)
threeprime.bed(bed6, upstreamWindow=4, downstreamWindow=2)
```

See that when you change the strand, it changes the anchor point from which the window is calculated.

- If strand = '+' while using fiveprime.bed
 - anchor point = original start
 - start = anchor point upstreamWindow
 - end = anchor point + 1 + downstreamWindow
- If strand = '-' while using fiveprime.bed
 - anchor point = original end
 - start = anchor point downstreamWindow
 - end = anchor point + 1 + upstreamWindow

- If strand = '+' while using threeprime.bed
 - anchor point = original end
 - start = anchor point 1 upstreamWindow
 - end = anchor point + downstreamWindow
- If strand = '-' while using threeprime.bed
 - anchor point = original start
 - start = anchor point downstreamWindow
 - end = anchor point + 1 + upstreamWindow

4.4.4 downstream, upstream

These two functions transform the BED file by taking the corresponding anchor point and the window

```
downstream.bed(bed, downstreamWindow)
upstream.bed(bed, upstreamWindow)
```

- Arguments
 - bed the input BED data.frame.
 - upstreamWindow integer number of bases to include upstream of the anchor point.
 - downstreamWindow integer number of bases to include downstream of the anchor point.

downstream.bed uses the original start point [5'] as the anchor point.

- start = anchor point
- end = anchor point + downstreamWindow

upstream.bed uses the original end point [3'] as the anchor point.

- start = anchor point upstreamWindow
- end = anchor point

```
downstream.bed(bed, downstreamWindow = 5)
upstream.bed(bed, upstreamWindow = 5)
```

Note that negative numbers for downstreamWindow and upstreamWindow will return a BED, but it will cause errors when used in other bigWig functions.

If you use a BED6 file, it follows the strand alignment.

```
downstream.bed(bed6,5)
upstream.bed(bed6,5)
```

4.4.5 foreach

foreach.bed is a way to quickly apply a function across all rows of a bed file.

```
foreach.bed(bed, func, envir = parent.frame())
```

Arguments

- bed is a dataframe structured like a bed file with columns for chrom, start and end
- func is the Function to apply to each entry in bed. Function must have four arguments: index, chrom, start, end and strand. Index will be a one-based integer corresponding to the current BED line. Chrom is a character string with the chromosome name. Start and end are the coordinates for the current entry (remember that BED files are zero-based left-open intervals). Strand is a character string with the entry's strand (usually '+' or '-') or NA if the bed has less than 6 columns
- Environment where the function is evaluated. Default value is parent.frame() which corresponds to the environment where the foreach.bed was called, giving access (through «-) to the local variables.

A simple example is to calculate the size of each window.

```
sizes.bed <- function(bed) {
  N = dim(bed)[1]
  sizes = vector(mode="integer", length=N)

foreach.bed(bed, function(i, chrom, start, end, strand) {
    sizes[i] <<- end - start
  })

return(sizes)
}
sizes.bed(bed)</pre>
```

Everything is wrapped into a function sizes.bed. This can be anything you want, just be sure it's descriptive of what it does.

N returns the length of the bed file.

sizes creates a vector of length N of zeros. This will be used in the foreach.bed function as the return.

Then the foreach.bed function is called. The bed file is passed in as well as the function. Note that the function is written within the foreach.bed but could be written outside and called by the variable.

```
func <- function(i, chrom, start, end, strand) {
    sizes[i] <<- end - start
}

sizes.bed <- function(bed) {
    N = dim(bed)[1]
    sizes = vector(mode="integer", length=N)

foreach.bed(bed, func)

return(sizes)
}
sizes.bed(bed)</pre>
```

func iterates through all i's calculating the window size, end - start, and setting the corresponding place in the vector, sizes[i], equal to it.

sizes. bed then returns the vector sizes. The result is a vector of length N of window sizes.

This can be scaled up to being as complex as needed.

4.4.6 Region by Bed

arguments

- bw is the pointer of the underlying C object created in load.bigWig
- bed is a dataframe structured like a bed file with columns for chrom, start and end
- chrom is a string referring to what chromosome is referenced
- start is an integer value designation the starting position
- end is an integer value designation the ending position
- op is a string representing the operation to perform on the step.
 - sum adds all the counts
 - avg averages the counts
 - min finds the smallest count
 - max finds the largest count
 - wavg weighted average of the counts only pertains to probeQuery
- abs.value is a logical argument which determines if the absolute value of the input is performed before the op.

This function is similar to region.bpQuery.bigWig except that when defining the areas we want to examine is defined in a bed file rather than chrom, start, and end.

The source of the bed file can be something created by hand or previous identified regions from other experiments. The basics of the bed is that it's in a R data frame.

```
bed=data.frame('chr1',10496,10497)
#set column headers
colnames(bed)=c('chrom','start', 'end')
```

Now this is for a single factor in R. When creating a dataframe in R, it automatically turns strings into factors. This limits the ability to add different chrom designations. Meaning that when created the original bed file, chr1 was the only level created. It will return an error if you just try to add

```
rbind(bed, c('chr2', 10000, 20000))
```

If you ever want to add different factors, you'll need to use levels()

```
levels(bed$chrom)=c('chr1', 'chr2')
```

Take a look at how the data frame is structured

```
dim(bed)
attributes(bed)
bed
```

dim returns the size of the matrix [1 row, 3 columns]. while attributes returns information on column names, row names and class type.

You can take this bed file and run it through the bigWig file to see what regions overlap

```
# note: If you leave out op='', it will default to op='sum'
bed.region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw, bed)
```

Now adding a few other regions to the data frame

```
bed=rbind(bed, c('chr2', 10500,10501))
```

In the original query, this region is occupied by a chr1 and since the bed file refers to a chr2 the sum should be the same because there is no overlap. Then if you rerun

```
bed.region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw, bed)
```

We see that the then returned values are 1 and 0. This is because the first region of the bed file overlaps regions of the bigWig, but the second bed region does not overlap any regions of the bigWig.

Now adding a third row to the bed file that will overlap a larger range of the bigWig and rerun

```
bed2=rbind(bed, c('chr1', 13000,14001))
bed.region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw, bed2)
```

The returned values are the sums of the counts in those regions.

4.4.7 bed.region with gap.value

As shown in the gap.value section above, we can build queries where there are counts and where there are no counts.

First, the query with a count is

```
query.bigWig(bw, chrom='chr2',start=229990, end=229992)
```

Next, a query without any counts

```
query.bigWig(bw, chrom='chr2',start=229993, end=230001)
```

From these 2 queries, we can build a bed file

```
bedWgap =data.frame('chr2', 229990, 229992)
bedWgap=rbind(bedWgap,c('chr2', 229993, 230001))
colnames(bedWgap)=c('chrom', 'start', 'end')
```

Finally, we can run a bed.region function with a gap.value=270 and see the results.

```
bed.region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw, bedWgap, op='avg', gap.value=270)
```

Be aware that bed.region.bpQuery defaults to gap.value=0, while bed.region.probeQuery defaults to gap.value=NA. Both 0 and NA can be substituted in each version as shown below.

```
bed.region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw, bedWgap, op='avg', gap.value=NA)
bed.region.bpQuery.bigWig(bw, bedWgap, op='avg', gap.value=0)
bed.region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw, bedWgap, op='avg', gap.value=NA)
bed.region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw, bedWgap, op='avg', gap.value=0)
```

The NA and 0 versions accomplish the same thing as denoting that there was no data returned. The distinction comes further down the line of the analysis when you filter out NULL values by searching for 0 or NA. With that being said, when you set gap.value to anything but 0 or NA, there is no way to distinguish if the value is a null.

4.5 Step

The following functions operate over defined steps and is described by step= argument. This means in a given region [start=1 and end=10] and a step=5, the function will create subregions of 5. In this example, it will run on [start=1, end=5] and [start=6, end=10]. Again, probeQuery and bpQuery functions are the same, exce;pt when calculating op=avg.

4.5.1 Step through region

arguments

- bw is the pointer of the underlying C object created in load.bigWig
- chrom is a string referring to what chromosome is referenced
- start is an integer value designation the starting position
- end is an integer value designation the ending position
- op is a string representing the operation to perform on the step.
 - sum adds all the counts
 - avg averages the counts
 - min finds the smallest count
 - max finds the largest count
- abs.value is a logical argument which determines if the absolute value of the input is performed before the op.
- gap.value is an integer value that replaces areas that have no overlaps
- with.attributes is a logical argument that determines if the results are returned annotated with their source components and/or step size.

The Step function will run through the range provide breaking it up into equal size steps as defined by step =. The key here is that the length of the range [end-start] has to be a multiple of the step. For example if end=21 and start=1, The length of the range is 20. This allows for step = [1,2,4,5,10,20]. The return is the value of the operation over that step. So if step =1 and op = 'min', then the return would be 20 minimums.

Now if step = 5 and op = 'max', the return will be a 4 element array of the maximum value in the step.

Let's take a look over a 20000 interval start=1, end=20001 and a step=1000.

```
step.bpQuery.bigWig(bw,chrom='chr1',start=1, end=20001, op='sum', step=1000)
```

The result is a 20 element array of the sum of all the counts in the interval. Notice that the steps that have no counts are zero. If we needed to fill these values in with a specific number like 10, we use gap.value=10

4.5.2 Step through region by Bed

arguments

- bw is the pointer of the underlying C object created in load.bigWig
- bed is a dataframe structured like a bed file with columns for chrom, start and end
- chrom is a string referring to what chromosome is referenced
- start is an integer value designation the starting position
- end is an integer value designation the ending position
- op is a string representing the operation to perform on the step.
 - sum adds all the counts
 - avg averages the counts
 - min finds the smallest count
 - max finds the largest count
- abs.value is a logical argument which determines if the absolute value of the input is performed before the op.
- gap.value is an integer value that replaces areas that have no overlaps
- with.attributes is a logical argument that determines if the results are returned annotated with their source components and/or step size.

This is similar to bed.region.bigWig(), where you can add a bed of regions that you are interested in.

```
#Create bed dataframe
bed3 = data.frame('chr1', 15000, 25000)
colnames(bed3)=c('chrom', 'start', 'end')
bed3=rbind(bed3, c("chr1", 30000, 35000))
bed.step.bpQuery.bigWig(bw, bed3, step=1000, op='avg', with.attributes=FALSE)
```

Notice that the defined regions in the bed file are exact multiples of the step. This is explained in the bed.bpQuery.bigWig example. The other attribute of this bed file is the regions defined do not need to be the same size. row 1 in the bed files contains 10 steps, while Row 2 has 5 steps. the final aspect of this example is that bpQuery version uses the step size as the denominator in the average. While probeQuery will use the number of rows in the query

```
bed.step.probeQuery.bigWig(bw, bed3, step=1000, op='avg', with.attributes=FALSE)
```

In the probe version, we end up with where there are no overlapping regions. This is because dividing by zero is not possible. Instead the function returns a NA.

4.5.3 Bed6 files

bed.region.bpQuery.bigWig() and bed.step.bpQuery.bigWig() have counterparts that can take a bed6 file. The bed6 file is similar to a bed file except it has 3 more columns of data.

Remember the standard bed file has chrom, start and end. The bed6 adds name, score, strand columns to its structure. For these functions, we only need the added strand column. However this column needs to be in the 6th position. Meaning even though name and score columns exist in the dataframe, they can be populated with nulls. You could populate it with identifying information, but the function essentially ignores them. The strand column requires either a + or - to denote the plus or minus strand.

Here is an example

```
bed6=data.frame('chr1',1,100000,'','','+')
colnames(bed6)=c('chrom', 'start', 'end', 'name', 'score', 'strand')
```

This introduces the biological concept of plus and minus strands. Because DNA is double stranded and the strands are antiparallel to one another, a particular read will map to only a single strand. This is useful for stranded xxx-seq protocols, such as PRO-seq.

4.5.3.1 bed6.region

arguments

- bw.plus is the R pointer created in load.bigWig and refers to the plus strand
- bw.minus is the R pointer created in load.bigWig and refers to the minus strand
- chrom is a string referring to what chromosome is referenced
- start is an integer value designation the starting position
- end is an integer value designation the ending position
- op is a string representing the operation to perform on the step.
 - sum adds all the counts
 - avg averages the counts
 - min finds the smallest count
 - max finds the largest count
- abs.value is a logical argument which determines if the absolute value of the input is performed before the op.
- gap.value is an integer value that replaces areas that have no overlaps
- with.attributes is a logical argument that determines if the results are returned annotated with their source components and/or step size.

Let's look at an example. We will use data from the negative values used with abs.value = TRUE In the Region section.

```
dtDir = '/home/directory'
dtFnPlus='GSM3452725_K562_Nuc_NoRNase_plus.bw'
dtFnMinus='GSM3452725_K562_Nuc_NoRNase_minus.bw'
bw.plus=load.bigWig(paste0(dtDirNeg, dtFnPlus))
bw.minus=load.bigWig(paste0(dtDirNeg, dtFnMinus))
```

Using the bw.plus and bw.minus strands, we can evaluate a bed6.region function. First, take a look at the query for each strand.

```
query.bigWig(bw.minus, chrom='chr1', start=25000, end=50000)
query.bigWig(bw.plus, chrom='chr1', start=25000, end=50000)
```

These will be used as reference for when we use the function.

```
bed6=data.frame('chr1',25000,50000,'','','+')
colnames(bed6)=c('chrom', 'start', 'end', 'name', 'score', 'strand')
```

This particular bed file defines a region between start = 25000 and end = 50000 on the + strand.

The query of the plus strand shows only one overlapping region. The average of 1 region with 1 count is 1.

Now add another row to our bed6 file and rerun the previous bed6.region.probeQuery.bigWig function.

```
levels(bed6$strand)=c('+', '-')
bed6=rbind(bed6, c('chr1', 25000, 50000, '', '', '-'))
bed6.region.probeQuery.bigWig(bw.plus, bw.minus, bed6, op='sum', abs.value = FALSE, gap.value=0)
```

Similarly to the bed. region function the return is 2 values one for each overlapping region.

We can invoke ab.value = TRUE argument and our second result change to a positive value.

4.5.3.2 bed6.step

- arguments
 - bw.plus is the R pointer created in load.bigWig and refers to the plus strand
 - bw.minus is the R pointer created in load.bigWig and refers to the minus strand
 - chrom is a string referring to what chromosome is referenced
 - start is an integer value designation the starting position
 - end is an integer value designation the ending position
 - op is a string representing the operation to perform on the step.
 - sum adds all the counts
 - avg averages the counts
 - min finds the smallest count
 - max finds the largest count
 - abs.value is a logical argument which determines if the absolute value of the input is performed before the op.
 - gap.value is an integer value that replaces areas that have no overlaps
 - with.attributes is a logical argument that determines if the results are returned annotated with their source components and/or step size.

This is just like step.bed.xxx functions.

4.5.3.3 as.matrix Here the attribute as.matrix will be introduced. This attribute causes the output to be a matrix.

4.5.3.4 follow.strand follow.strand is an attribute that will switch the direction of how it reads the - strand. This allows you to read both strands + and - from the 3' end. This attribute is commonly set to TRUE when the specific genomic feature in the bed file has inherent strandedness. For example, a sequence motif or transcription start site. It is useful to know how the counts relate to the orientation of the bed file feature. To show this we can see that the results are mirrors of each other.

Mirrors

4.6 Profiles

Profiles are a group of functions that either calculate the quantile cutoff or confidence interval statistic. metaprofile.bigWig function creates a class object that can be passed on to the matrix scaling or plotting functions.

- arguments
 - matthe input data matrix; each row corresponds to a query region, columns to steps. Created from functions that have as.matrix=true
 - quantilesvector of size three with top, middle and bottom quantile breaks to use in creating the summary profile.
 - fractionfraction of the data (query regions) to include in each subsample.
 - n.samplesnumber of data samples to generate.
 - \blacksquare alphaalpha value for confidence intervals (confidence level = 1 alpha).
 - bedthe input BED data.frame defining the set of query regions.

- bw.pluseither an R object of class 'bigWig' or a character vector containing the prefix and suffix to the path of each bigWig fragment (path =).
- bw.minussame as 'bw.plus', but for use with minus strand queries.
- stepstep size in base pairs.
- namecharacter vector describing the data.
- matrix.opmatrix scalling function to apply to the data.
- profile.opsummary profile function.
- ...extra arguments to be passed to matrix.op and/or profile.op.

The main input for all of these functions is mat. This particular matrix of integers is a of y rows and x columns. The integers represent the result of the operation performed on the window provided by a bed file. Each row in the bed file is a row in the matrix [y]. If there is more than 1 column, this means that the bed file was processed with a step attribute.

Functions that can produce a viable mat are: * bed.step.bpQuery.bigWig * bed.step.probeQuery.bigWig * bed6.step.bpQuery.bigWig * bed6.step.probeQuery.bigWig * bed6.step.probeQuery.bigWig

All of these functions require the as.matrix=TRUE attribute.

4.6.1 Quantiles

quantiles.metaprofile invokes R's quantile function on the integer in the matrix for each quantile.

For this example, we'll create a simple bed file and run it through bed6.step.bpQuery.bigWig with as.matrix=TRUE to get a mat.

We can then pass this mat to quantiles.metaprofile

```
quantiles.metaprofile(mat, quantiles = c(0.875, 0.5, 0.125))
```

The result of quantiles.metaprofile is a list of quantile values for the number and step size. The above example returns 2 values per quantile value because there are 2 steps in the given window.

4.6.2 Subsampled

The subsampled quantiles metaprofile function returns values like quantiles except that it takes random subsamples of the original mat and the applies quantiles metaprofile to the new matrix.

```
subsampled.quantiles.metaprofile(mat, quantiles = c(0.875, 0.5, 0.125), fraction = 0.90, n.samples = 5000)
```

4.6.3 Confidence Interval

confinterval.metaprofile is used to calculate a confidence intervals.

```
confinterval.metaprofile(mat, alpha = 0.05)
```

The result is a list of confidence interval values for each step for the given alpha value. There are 3 different levels of confidence intervals: Top, Middle and Bottom. Each of these are based on 2 values. The population mean, which is the mean of each column in mat. Then the delta, which is

$$delta = P(1 - \alpha/2) * SE$$

SE is the Standard Error of the column.

Using this delta and the means

```
Top = mean + delta \ Middle = mean \ Bottom = mean - delta
```

4.6.4 Bootstrap

bootstrapped.confinterval.metaprofile The bootstrap method produces a confidence interval like confinterval.metaprofiles except that it uses multiple samples to form a distribution and from this we can use the Central Limit Theorem to determine the confidence interval.¹

```
bootstrapped.confinterval.metaprofile(mat, alpha = 0.05, n.samples = 300)
```

This tends to be a more robust calculation of the confidence interval. The more n.samples you have gives a better estimation.

1https://cran.r-project. org/web/packages/ dabestr/vignettes/ bootstrap-confidence-intervals. htmllink

4.6.5 metaprofile

metaprofile.bigWig creates a class object of the data. That will be used in plot.profile.bigWig.

So, if we wanted to run quantiles.metaprofile on the bigWig, profile.op = quantiles.metaprofile.matrix.op = NULL will be discussed in another section.

This function automatically creates the mat variable and will use the default values for the rest of the inputs. In the case of bootstrapped.confinterval.metaprofile, to change alpha=0.05 and n.samples=300 you would have to pass new inputs of alpha=0.05, and n.samples=1000.

4.7 Matrix Scaling

These functions will scale a matrix depending on which method is used.

- arguments
 - mat is the input data matrix; each row corresponds to a query region, columns to steps
 - step is step size in base pairs
 - libSize is total library mapped read count
 - na.on.zero is logical indicating if steps with zero counts should be marked as NA

4.7.1 RPKM

RPKM [Reads Per Kilobase of transcript per Million mapped reads]. This function will scale everything by a factor of

```
# Original mat
mat

rpkm.scale(mat, step=50000, libSize=1000000)
```

4.7.2 Density to One

densityToOne is a scaling factor that takes each cell in a row of the matrix and divides it by the sum of each row and.

```
densityToOne.scale(mat, na.on.zero = TRUE)
```

The na.on.zero = TRUE input is used if you want NAs to populate the matrix row when the sum(row)=0. This would happen because dividing by 0 will result in NA. Otherwise if you 0 to replace NA then na.on.zero=FALSE should be used.

```
#0riginal Matrix
mat1

densityToOne.scale(mat1, na.on.zero = TRUE)
densityToOne.scale(mat1, na.on.zero = FALSE)
```

4.7.3 Max to one

maxToOne.scale will take the maximum value for each row and set it equal to 1. Every other cell in the row will be divided by the max.

```
#0riginal Matrix
mat
maxToOne.scale(mat)
mat1
maxToOne.scale(mat1)
```

Note that if the max=0 then the whole row is set to 0. This avoids NAs.

4.7.4 Zero to one

zeroToOne.scale compares the differences between the max and min of each row. It uses the following formula.

```
mat
maxToOne.scale(mat)
```

There are 2 conditions where this does not apply. First is when $\max=0$. In this case to avoid NAs, the row is set to 0.

```
mat1
maxToOne.scale(mat1)
```

The other condition is when the max is equal to the min. When this happens, the row is set to 1

```
mat2
zeroToOne.scale(mat2)
```

4.7.5 metaprofile with a matrix.op

Now we can add a scaling factor into the metaprofile.bigWig

4.8 bwMap

4.9 plots.bigWig

plots.bigWig produces a standardized plot for a metaprofile.bigWig object.

- arguments
 - x is Meta-profile instance for sense strand
 - minus.profile is Optional meta-profile instance for reverse strand
 - X0 is Numeric offset in base pairs (bp) to shift (subtract) "zero" position.
 - draw.error is Logical value indicating if profile error polygon should be drawn.
 - col is Vector of colors to use for, respectively, sense strand profile line, reverse strand profile line, sense strand error polygon, reverse strand error polygon.
 - ylim is The (y1, y2) limits of the plot.
 - xlim is The (x1, x2) limits of the plot.
 - xlab is Label for x-axis.
 - ylab is Label for y-axis.

In order for this plot function to work, you need a metaprofile.bigWig object. You get this by setting it to a variable x=metaprofile.bigWig. Then you can call plot.metaprofile.

4.9.1 Reverse strand

To add the reverse strand, you need a metaprofile.bigWig for it. Here we set xr to the reverse strand.

Note that xr switches the bw.plus and bw.plus inputs. This gives our reverse strand because from the original data they are the reverse of each other.

4.9.2 Offset start

X0 input allows you to change the "zero" point of the data. By default it uses the X0=x\$X0, but it could be changed manually too.

Notice the \times axis distance changes. This is because you are setting the start to be offset by 25000.

4.9.3 Axes limits

ylim and xlim are the lower and upper limits of the axes and are automatically calculated if NULL. However, you can choose your own values by passing a vector [low, high].

Looking at the axes, you can ow see the change in lower and upper limits.

4.9.4 Error regions

draw.error is a logical flag that turns on [draw.error=TRUE] error regions [light grey areas] or off [draw.error=FALSE]

You can see that the light grey error regions have been removed.

4.9.5 Colors

col input is a vector of predefined colors for plot. R has hundreds of predefined colors. To obtain a list, you can call colors(). Here is the 1st 25 colors.

```
colors()[1:25]
```

The order of the col vector is sense strand profile line, reverse strand profile line, sense strand error polygon, reverse strand error polygon. You can change the colors to help clarify each region.