Using RAMPAGE to identify and annotate promoters in insect genomes

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Abstract. Application of Transcription Start Site (TSS) profiling technologies, coupled with large-scale next-generation sequencing (NGS) has yielded valuable insights into the location, structure and activity of promoters across diverse metazoan model systems. In insects, TSS profiling has been used to characterize the promoter architecture of *D. melanogaster*, and, shortly thereafter, to reveal widespread transposondriven alternative promoter usage.

In this chapter we highlight the utility of one TSS profiling method, RAMPAGE (RNA annotation and mapping of promoters for analysis of gene expression), for the precise, quantitative identification of promoters in insect genomes. We demonstrate this using our tools GoRAMPAGE and TSRchitect, providing details instructions with the aim of taking the user from raw reads to processed results.

Keywords: *cis*-regulatory regions, promoter architecture, transcription initiation, transcription start sites (TSSs)

1 1 Introduction

1.1 TSS Profiling Identifies Promoters at Genome-Scale

- 3 The promoter, defined in eukaryotes as the genomic region bound by RNA Poly-
- 4 merase II immediately prior to transcription initiation [1], is the site where reg-
- 5 ulatory signals unite to direct gene expression. The identification of promoter
- 6 regions is a valuable step for understanding the cis-regulatory signals that are
- 7 present in an organism, and is also important for genome annotation. How-
- $_{\boldsymbol{8}}$ $\,$ ever, despite the rapid accumulation of genome sequences across metazoan and
- arthropod diversity, accurate annotation of promoter regions remains sparse.
- This is because—empirical mapping of TSSs—precisely identifying sequence
- motifs that demarcate the promoter is unreliable. In contrast with current in

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silico approaches, direct mapping of TSSs identifies the location of the core pro-12 moter. Cap Analysis of Gene Expression (CAGE) [2], one of the first methods 13 devised to identify 5'-ends of mRNAs at large-scale, involves selective capture of 5'-capped transcripts, first-strand reverse-transcription and ligation of a short 15 oligonucleotide (CAGE tag). 16 CAGE was initially utilized by the FANTOM (Functional Annotation of the Mammalian Genome) consortium to identify promoter architecture in human 18 and mouse [3], providing the first glimpse of the global landscape of transcrip-19 tion initiation. At the onset of the NGS era, CAGE was coupled with massively-20 parallel sequencing to generate 5'-ends of mRNAs at substantially higher scale. 21 22 This advance provided more extensive coverage of the expressed transcriptome, and provided increased sensitivity for quantitative measurements i.e. measure-23 ment of promoter activity. 24

25 1.2 Promoter Architecture of Drosophila melanogaster

Hoskins and colleagues [4] performed CAGE in D. melanogaster as part of the 26 modENCODE consortium, identifying promoters at large-scale and character-27 izing the promoter architecture of an insect genome for the first time. Hoskins [4] indicated that TSS distributions at *Drosophila* promoters exhibit a range 29 of shapes that can be generally grouped into two major classifications: peaked 30 and broad. Peaked promoters have a single, major TSS position occupying a 31 narrow genomic region, whereas broad promoters lack a single, major TSS and 32 contain TSSs across a wider region [5][6]. The authors also showed a strong asso-33 ciation between promoter class and motif composition (consistent with previous 34 findings [5, 7]). Peaked promoters were associated with positionally-enriched cis-35 regulatory motifs including TATA, Initiator (Inr) and DPE, while broad promot-36 ers contained an enrichment of less-well characterized motifs, including Ohler6 37 and Ohler [8]. The existence of two promoter classes appears to be conserved 38 among metazoans, and has been reported (using TSS profiling methodolgies) in insects, cladocerans [9], fish [10] and mammals [11,6]. 40

1.3 Promoter Structure of Insects

Beyond D. melanogaster, few investigations have utilized TSS profiling in insect genomes. As a consequence, what is known about promoter architecture in in-43 sects is largely restricted to the *Drosophila* genus. As part of the modENCODE effort, CAGE was performed in multiple tissues and developmental stages of the Drosophila pseudoobscura. TSSs were found to be highly similar between species: 46 more than 80% of TSSs (81%) of aligned, CAGE-identified TSSs from D. pseu-47 doobscura were positioned within 20nt of their counterparts in D. melanogaster. 48 An enrichment of the CA dinucleotide was detected at the TSS ([-1, +1]), and the motifs corresponding to TATA, In and DPE were positioned at the same 50 locations relative to the TSS in both species. The one other insect species for 51 which TSS profiling has been applied is the Tsetse fly (Glossina morsitans morsi-52 tans) [12]. Using TSS-seq (specifically Oligo-capping; for details on this method

see [13]), the authors identified 3134 mapping to 1424 genes. The authors found a preference for CA and AA dinucleotides at the TSS, and observe the major 55 core promoter elements observed in *Drosophila*: TATA, Inr, DPE, in addition to MTE (Motif Ten Element). As in *D. melanogaster*, peaked promoters were more 57 likely to contain TATA and Inr than broad promoters. While the taxonomic 58 sampling of species for TSS profiling has been limited, the existing studies are sufficient to provide a general picture of insect promoter architecture. A major 60 demarcation between the promoter architecture of insects and mammals appears 61 to be the large fraction of mammalian promoters found in CpG islands [12]. CpG 62 island promoters (CPIs) form the largest class of promoter in mammals [14]; by 63 contrast, CPIs are not known to exist as a class in invertebrates.

65 1.4 Paired-end TSS Profiling with RAMPAGE

The most recent major methodological advance in TSS Profiling is RAMPAGE (RNA Annotation and Mapping of Promoters for the Analysis of Gene Expres-67 sion). RAMPAGE is a protocol for 5'-cDNA sequencing that combines cap trapping and template-switching with paired-end sequence information. A key advantage of generating paired-end sequence is transcript connectivity, which 70 provides a direct link between a given 5'-end and its associated mRNA molecule. 71 Because short or spurious RNAs are found within the transcriptome, transcript 72 connectivity allows the TSSs (and thus promoters) of full-length mRNAs to 73 be unambiguously identified, which benefits genome annotation. Batut and col-74 leagues generated libraries from total RNA isolated from 36 stages across the life 75 cycle of D. melanogaster providing a comprehensive gene expression and pro-76 moter atlas for fruit fly and in the process demonstrating the utility of RAM-PAGE. RAMPAGE is currently being applied as part of the latest iteration of 78 ENCODE to identify promoters in human, but as of this writing it has not 79 been applied to any non-Drosophila insect species. In anticipation of the future 80 application of TSS profiling into other insect model systems here we provide a documented protocol for the computational processing RAMPAGE data, using 82 selected libraries from Batut et al.. This method will consist of two parts: first, 83 we will process, filter and align the sequenced RAMPAGE libraries to the D. melanogaster genome. Second, we will identify TSSs and promoters from the aligned sequences and associate them with coding regions. In closing, we will 86 consider further applications of this data and discuss the utility of reproducible 87 workflows in bioinformatic analysis.

2 Materials

The analyses described herein require a workstation capable for modern bioinformatics. An intermediate understanding of the Linux/Unix command line will be extremely useful, although we make efforts to explain the procedures with clarity. In addition, it will likely be necessary for the participant to have superuser privileges on the machine. If you do not have a machine (or access to one) that meets

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- these requirements, it is recommended that you consider cloud-based cyberin-
- 96 frastructure, including Amazon Web Services (AWS; https://aws.amazon.com/)
- or CyVerse (http://www.cyverse.org/). The former is a well-known pay-per-use
- solution, while the latter is an NSF-funded resource that makes compute alloca-
- tions freely available to the public.

100 2.1 Hardware

- 1. x86-64 compatible processors
- 2. At least 8GB RAM
- 3. 30GB+ hard disk space

104 2.2 Operating System

- 64 bit Linux (preferred) or Mac OS X (with Command Line Tools from
 XCode)

107 2.3 Software

- 108 1. R (v. 3.4 and up) [15] (https://www.r-project.org/)
- 2. Bioconductor (v. 3.5 and up) [16] (http://bioconductor.org/)
- 3. FASTX-Toolkit [17] (http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/index.html)
- 4. Samtools [18] (http://www.htslib.org/doc/samtools.html)
- 5. SRA Toolkit [19] (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/docs/toolkitsoft/)
- 6. STAR [20] (https://github.com/alexdobin/STAR)
- 7. TagDust2 [21] (https://sourceforge.net/projects/tagdust/)

115 2.4 Online Appendix

- We created an online appendix to serve as a companion to this chapter, which
- contains both scripts and select files to assist you in completing this tutorial.
- Please find the repository at https://github.com/rtraborn/MMB_appendix
- 119 (see Note 1).

120 2.5 Installation of R packages

- For installation of the software listed above, please follow the instructions pro-
- $_{122}$ vided by each respective package. Part of our analysis will require the use of R
- packages found in the Bioconductor suite. To install Bioconductor, please type
- the following from an R console:
- source("https://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
- 126 biocLite()
- We will use the R package TSRchitect to identify promoters from aligned
- RAMAPGE libraries. First, we will need to install a series of prerequisite pack-
- ages to TSRchitect from Bioconductor. Please install these packages as follows
- (as before, from an R console):

```
source("https://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
131
    biocLite(c("AnnotationHub", "BiocGenerics", "BiocParallel",
132
     "ENCODExplorer", "GenomicAlignments", "GenomeInfoDb",
     "GenomicRanges", "IRanges", "methods",
134
     "Rsamtools", "rtracklayer", "S4Vectors",
     "SummarizedExperiment"))
       To install TSRchitect, please type the following from an R console:
    source("https://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
    biocLite("TSRchitect")
       Finally, please confirm that TSRchitect has been installed correctly by load-
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   ing it from your R console as follows:
   library(TSRchitect)
```

3 Methods

3.1 Retrieving the RAMPAGE sequence data from NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO)

To begin our analysis, we must download the RAMPAGE data to our workstation. We will utilize tools provided by the SRA Toolkit, which should already be installed on your machine (see Materials). The command fastq-dump allows one to directly retrieve data from the GEO database using the appropriate identifier(s). While there are 36 RAMPAGE libraries in the Batut et al. dataset, we will select a subset of these to analyze here. We will compare samples from selected embryonic (E01h-E03h) and larval (L1-L3) tissues, representing the beginning and end of embryonic development. For more information about the experiment and the available RAMPAGE libraries, please see the following link: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Traces/study/?acc=SRP011193.

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First, let's proceed with the libraries from early embryonic tissues (see **See Note 2**).

```
mkdir fastq_files #creating a new folder to house the downloaded files
cd fastq_files #moving into this directory
fastq-dump --split-files SRR424683
fastq-dump --split-files SRR424684
fastq-dump --split-files SRR424685
```

We continue by downloading the RAMPAGE libraries from late embryonic tissues:

```
fastq-dump --split-files SRR424707
fastq-dump --split-files SRR424708
fastq-dump --split-files SRR424709
```

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Once the download of the aforementioned files are complete, you should see 169 a total of 12 (6x2) separate fastq files in your current working directory: 170

```
ls -l *.fastq | wc -l
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```

Creating symlinks to the files 3.2172

Our workflow expects fastq files that have the format "*.R1/R2.clipped.fq". Rather than rename them, we can simply create brand new symbolic links (sym-174 links) to the files, as follows:

```
mkdir symlinks
176
   #embryonic libraries
   ln -s SRR424683_1.fastq symlinks/E01h.R1.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424683_2.fastq symlinks/E01h.R2.clipped.fq
180
   ln -s SRR424684_1.fastq symlinks/E02h.R1.clipped.fq
181
   ln -s SRR424684_2.fastq symlinks/E02h.R2.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424685_1.fastq symlinks/E03h.R1.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424685_2.fastq symlinks/E03h.R2.clipped.fq
184
   #larval libraries
   ln -s SRR424707_1.fastq symlinks/L1.R1.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424707_2.fastq symlinks/L1.R2.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424708_1.fastq symlinks/L2.R1.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424708_2.fastq symlinks/L2.R2.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424709_1.fastq symlinks/L3.R1.clipped.fq
   ln -s SRR424709_2.fastq symlinks/L3.R2.clipped.fq
```

Downloading genomic data from D. melanogaster 3.3 193

Now that we have the fastq files from the RAMPAGE libraries downloaded and 194 named appropriately, we now must retrieve the genome assembly and rRNA 195 sequences from D. melanogaster. The genome assembly is required for aligning 196 the RAMPAGE reads, and the rRNA sequences are required to filter out matching reads in the sequenced RAMPAGE libraries, since our sample is intended to contain only capped RNA transcripts. Please download the rRNA sequences from the link we provide below. These sequences were retrieved separately from Genbank at the NCBI database.

Please download the assembly from the ENSEMBL database as follows:

```
wget ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-78/fasta/drosophila_melanogaster/dna/Drosophila_m
   #uncompressing the file
   gzip -d Drosophila_melanogaster.BDGP5.dna.toplevel.fa.gz
205
```

Please navigate to the rRNA file "Dmel_rRNA.fasta" found in the Appendix.

of the RAMPAGE libraries. We will use GoRAMPAGE, a tool we developed, to perform these tasks in a concerted workflow. GoRAMPAGE runs TagDust [21] to remove rRNA and low-complexity reads, and uses STAR [20] to align RAMPAGE (or other paired-end) reads to a given genome assembly.

Preparing the output directory It will also be necessary to create an output directory under "outputDir" for the results. GoRAMPAGE expects the results of a given step to be in place prior to initiating a run, so we'll need to create the appropriate folders before proceeding. Please do this as follows:

mkdir output #omit if you already have an output directory selected mkdir output/reads mkdir output/reads/clipped

Setting up the GoRAMPAGE job Now, once this is complete, please copy the contents of the "symlinks" directory that you created earlier (i.e. all of the *.fq files) into the "clipped/" directory. Please refer to the script "Gorampage_script_mmb.sh" and (using a text editor) provide the appropriate paths to the genome assembly, output directory (see above) and rRNA sequences (see Note 3). The script can be executed as follows:

```
./GoRAMPAGE_script_MMB.sh
#alternatively 'sh GoRAMPAGE_script_MMB.sh'
```

If everything is working correctly you should start to see the results of the job being written to the file "errScript". You can inspect the progress during the run using the *less* command.

237 less -S errScript

Should the run fail before completion, any associated error messages will be printed to the errScript file. Once the job is complete, you should see the message "GoRAMPAGE job is complete!" appear on the command-line terminal.

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Inspecting the rRNA filtering results To evaluate the results from Step 241 3 (rRNA filtering), please navigate to the top level of the "output" directory 242 and open the file "LOGFILES". You'll see the recorded progress of the program Tagdust and a record of the results. We notice that (for the L3h library) 1046448 244 of reads (78.1%) were "extracted", meaning that slightly more than 20% of reads were removed because of matches with ribosomal sequences. The removed reads from all libraries are found in the "dusted_discard" directory, and the extracted reads are found in the current directory. Due to their sheer abundance 248 within cells, ribosomal RNA sequences are an inevitable contaminant within TSS 249 profiling libraries. For analysis purposes, it is important that these sequences be removed, which is what has been completed here. 251

²⁵² Since this step was conducted appropriately, we can proceed to the next step.

Evaluating the alignments The folder "alignments/" in your Goramaper output folder will now contain 6 .bam files, each representing the distinct RAMAPGE libraries selected for our analysis. Typing "ls -l" from the command line will show that these files are symlinks to the original alignment files found in the "STARoutput/" directory. "STARoutput/", as its name suggests, contains the output from the STAR alignment, and this includes the alignment files "*.sortedByCoord.out.bam", and four additional log files. The files with the suffix "*.STAR.Log.final.out" each contain a summary of the alignment, such as the number of input reads, the percentage of uniquely-mapped reads and the percentage of unmapped reads. An inspection of these log files indicates that the alignments have similar mapping rates (70-80%), a reasonable outcome for our purposes.

Now that our RAMPAGE libraries are filtered and aligned, we can commence with the second half of our analysis.

3.5 Promoter identification from aligned RAMPAGE libraries

We can now use the prepared alignment files to identify TSSs and promoters from the selected RAMPAGE libraries. There are currently several tools available for this purpose. *CAGEr*, developed by Haberle [22], was utilized to perform TSS identification as part of the FANTOM5 efforts. We will use *TSRchitect* in this demonstration, since it was specifically designed to analyze paired-end TSS profiling datasets, and also because it is more flexible with respect to model system (*i.e.* it does not require a corresponding *BSGenome* package). The latter feature will be helpful when analyzing the non-*D. melanagaster* TSS profiling datasets that we expect to be generated in the near future.

Setting up the Analysis TSRchitect, the package we'll use for this analysis, is an R package available in the Bioconductor suite of genomics tools [16].
It makes use of existing packages and data structures within this environment, where available, to identify promoters from sequence alignments. Since you have

already installed TSRchitect and its dependencies (see section 2.3), we are set to proceed.

There are two general ways one can choose to run *TSRchitect*. The first is interactively *i.e.* typing the instructions directly into an R console. While this is a perfectly acceptable way to run analyses using package, for larger jobs it will likely be more efficient (and likely more reproducible) to run a dedicated R script. We have provided a sample script "MMB_chapter_TSRchitect.R" to make it easier for you to set up an R script. In the section to follow, we will go through the output of the analysis. For further details on how to use *TSRchitect*, please see its documentation at its Bioconductor page found here https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/TSRchitect.html.

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Running the Analysis To run TSRchitect using the batch script provided,

first provide full paths for the variables "BAMDIR" and "DmAnnot" in "MMB_chapter_TSRchitect.R" using a text editor. BAMDIR should be a path to the subdirectory "alignments/" in RAMPAGE output directory you specified earlier, and DmAnnot should be a full path to the D. melanogaster gene annotation listed above. Once this is complete, we can run the batch script from the Linux command-line as follows:

R CMD BATCH MMB_chapter_TSRchitect.R

#assumes variables BAMDIR and DmAnnot have already been set

bg #puts this job in the background

Once the job is underway, you can monitor its progress by looking at the contents of the .Rout file (in this case, "MMB_chapter_TSRchitect.Rout"). The job should complete within an hour on most systems.

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Before we evaluate the results (which will have been written to your working directory after running the batch script), there are some important parameters to review. First, we must initialize the *tssObject* (which stores the information about the experiment) appropriately (*see* **Note** 4).

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The input in this case are BAM files (inputType="bam"); TSRchitect also accepts input in BED format.

```
DmRAMPAGE <- loadTSSobj(experimentTitle = "RAMPAGE Tutorial", \
inputDir=BAMDIR, inputType="bam", isPairedEnd=TRUE, \
sampleNames=c("E1h","E2h", "E3h", "L1", "L2", "L3"), \
replicateIDs=c(1,1,1,2,2,2))</pre>
```

A critical step in our analysis is identifying TSRs from the aligned TSS data; to do this we use the function determineTSR. We have selected the job to run on 4 cores in this example (n.cores=4). Please enter the number of cores appropriate for your system. Because we want to identify TSRs from every one of the selected RAMPAGE libraries, we specify tssSet="all". The parameter tagCountThreshold was set to 25, meaning that only TSSs supported by 25 or

```
more 5' RAMPAGE reads will be included within a TSR. Setting write Table to
    "TRUE" means that the identified TSRs from each set will be written to the
325
    working directory.
    DmRAMPAGE <- determineTSR(experimentName=DmRAMPAGE, n.cores=4, tsrSetType="replicates",
    tssSet="all", tagCountThreshold=25, clustDist=20, writeTable=TRUE)
       TSRchitect can incorporate the tag abundances from each of the samples
    and append them to the list of identified TSRs. This is useful for downstream
330
    analysis of differential expression.
331
    DmRAMPAGE <- addTagCountsToTSR(experimentName=DmRAMPAGE, \</pre>
332
    tsrSetType="replicates", tsrSet=1, tagCountThreshold=10, \
     writeTable=TRUE)
       We can use TSRchitect to import an annotation file (or, alternatively, use an
    existing one from AnnotationHub) and use it to associate our set of identified
336
    TSRs with coding genes. We can specify the maximum distances (both up-
337
    and downstream) between the TSR and the annotation using the arguments
    upstreamDist and downstreamDist.
339
    DmRAMPAGE <- importAnnotationExternal(experimentName=DmRAMPAGE, \</pre>
     fileType="gff3",
                         annotFile=DmAnnot)
342
    DmRAMPAGE <- addAnnotationToTSR(experimentName=DmRAMPAGE, \</pre>
343
     tsrSetType="replicates", tsrSet=1, \
    upstreamDist=1000, downstreamDist=200, feature="gene", \
345
     featureColumnID="ID", writeTable=TRUE)
       Now we have generated a set of identified TSSs, TSRs from all 6 RAMPAGE
347
    libraries, and have associated the identified TSRs with annotated genes. Next, we
    will merge the libraries into two samples according to condition: early embryonic
    (E1h, E2h, E3h) and late larval (L1, L2, L3) using the information we provided
350
    when we initialized the tssObject at the start of this section. After merging, we
351
    identify promoters i) within the merged samples and ii) within the entire dataset
352
    combined, and associate with the D. melanogaster gene annotation as described
    previously (not shown).
354
    #merging the sample data into two groups
    DmRAMPAGE <- mergeSampleData(DmRAMPAGE)</pre>
356
357
    # ... identifying TSRs from the merged samples:
    DmRAMPAGE <- determineTSR(experimentName=DmRAMPAGE, \</pre>
359
    n.cores=4, tsrSetType="merged", \
     tssSet="all", tagCountThreshold=40, \
     clustDist=20, writeTable=TRUE)
```

Evaluating the results Our analysis using TSRchitect is now complete. For 363 comparison, the example batch script we provide took just under 44 minutes to

Your working directory should now contain the following:

```
- TSSs from each sample e.g. TSSset-1.txt: (6)
367
     - TSRs from each sample (in both .txt and .tab formats): (12)
     - TSRs from each merged group (in both .txt and .tab formats): e.g. TSRsetMerged-
        1.txt: (4)
     - TSRs from the combined set of TSSs: TSRsetCombined.tab: (1)
```

Let's briefly review the files. We can quickly obtain the counts on the command line, as follows: 373

```
wc -l *.tab
   8377 TSRset-1.tab
375
   6159 TSRset-2.tab
376
    4814 TSRset-3.tab
    17924 TSRset-4.tab
    11851 TSRset-5.tab
   3242 TSRset-6.tab
380
    13986 TSRsetCombined.tab
381
   7344 TSRsetMerged-1.tab
    12126 TSRsetMerged-2.tab
383
   85823 total
```

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We will see that we have identified between roughly 3,200 and 18,000 TSRs within the individual RAMPAGE samples, which is attributable to the dif-386 ferences in library sizes. We detect 7,344 TSRs within the early embryonic 387 samples ("TSRsetMerged-1.tab") and 12,126 TSRs in the late larval samples 388 ("TSRsetMerged-2.tab"). Within the combined samples ("TSRsetCombined.tab") we find 13,986 TSRs, which is similar to the number reported by Hoskins et. al. [4].391

In addition to identifying the position of a given TSRs, TSRchitect records 393 other useful information about its properties. The width of a TSR refers the span 394 of the genomic region it occupies (in bp), and the Shape Index (SI) is measure of the relative peakedness of the TSR. We can see an example of this in the file 396 "TSRsetMerged-1.txt". 397

398	seq	start	end	strand	nTSSs	tsrWidt	h	shapeIn	dex	feature	ID
399	2L.6704	3.67044.	+	2L	67043	67044	+	270	2	1	NA
400	2L.7408	9.74115.	+	2L	74089	74115	+	341	27	0.13	NA
401	2L.9473	9.94752.	+	2L	94739	94752	+	1650	14	0.55	FBgn0031
402	2L.1023	86.10238	6.+	2L	102386	102386	+	284	1	2	FBgn0031

403 3.6 Summary

The workflow provided here is intended to serve as a useful entry point for the analysis of TSS profiling data in insects. On the computational side, we have provided an open source set of tools so that the uninitiated genome scientist can begin to analyze RAMPAGE (or other forms of TSS profiling data) quickly. While the analysis centered on *D. melanogaster* via the use of public datasets, it is anticipated that this will assist groups who may be interested in performing TSS profiling in their preferred insect model system.

The application of TSS profiling technology across a more representative sample of insect diversity will improve our understanding of the positions and general structure *cis*-regulatory regions in this phylum.

414 4 Notes

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1. You can clone this appendix to your workspace on the command line using git, as follows:

```
git clone https://github.com/rtraborn/MMB_appendix.git
```

The "scripts/" folder in the Appendix contains code for you to run the two
major workflows described in this chapter. The "additional_files/" folder
contains the following files which are necessary for the analysis: i) a fasta file
containing ribosomal RNA sequences for D. melanogaster (Dmel_rRNA.fasta)
and ii) a gene annotation for D. melanogaster (Drosophila_melanogaster.BDGP5.78.gff).

- 2. Since these fastq files are paired-end, we use the argument *-split-files* to generate separate files for each read pair.
- 3. If you are running this on a cluster with a job scheduler you'll need to add the necessary headers to the top of the script and submit the job in the appropriate manner.
- 4. Because the samples provided derive from related developmental stages, we will merge them for annotation purposes using the argument *replicateIDs*, (though it must be emphaized that they are not replicates).

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Disclosure Declaration

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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