Using RAMPAGE to identify and annotate regulatory elements in insect genomes

R. Taylor Raborn^{*1,2} and Volker P. Brendel^{1,2}

¹Department of Biology, Indiana University ²School of Informatics and Computing, Indiana University

Department of Biology and School of Informatics and Computing, Indiana University
212 S. Hawthorne Drive 205 Simon Hall, Bloomington, IN 47401, USA http://www.brendelgroup.org

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 bioinformatics pipeline GoRAMPAGE, 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 Introduction

2 1.1 TSS Profiling

- 3 The promoter, defined in eukaryotes as the genomic region bound by RNA Poly-
- 4 merase II immediately prior to transcription initiation, is the site where regu-
- 5 latory 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 important for genome annotation. However, de-
- $_{8}\,$ spite the rapid accumulation of genome sequences, including those of insects,
- $_{\rm 9}$ $\,$ annotation of promoter regions remains sparse. This is because–absent empiri-
- cal mapping of TSSs-precisely identifying sequence motifs that demarcate the
- promoter is unreliable. In contrast with in silico approaches, direct mapping of

^{*} Correspondence: rtraborn@indiana.edu

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TSSs identifies the location of the core promoter. Cap Analysis of Gene Expression (CAGE) [?], the first method to identify 5'-ends of mRNAs at large-13 scale, involves selective capture of 5'-capped transcripts, first-strand reversetranscription and ligation of a short oligonucleotide (CAGE tag). CAGE was 15 initially utilized by the FANTOM (Functional Annotation of the Mammalian 16 Genome) consortium to identify promoter architecture in human and mouse [?], 17 providing the first glimpse of the global landscape of transcription initiation. At 18 the onset of the NGS era, CAGE was coupled with massively-parallel sequenc-19 ing to generate 5'-ends of mRNAs at substantially higher scale. This advance 20 provided more extensive coverage of the expressed transcriptome, and provided 21 22 increased sensitivity for quantitative measurements i.e. measurement of promoter activity. Hoskins and colleagues [?] performed CAGE in D. melanogaster, 23 revealing the promoter architecture in any insect.

- 25 2 Materials
- 26 3 Methods
- 27 4 Notes
- 28 Acknowledgments
- 29 Disclosure Declaration
- The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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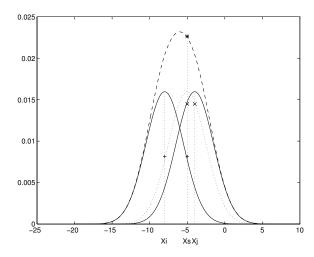


Fig. 1. One kernel at x_s (dotted kernel) or two kernels at x_i and x_j (left and right) lead to the same summed estimate at x_s . This shows a figure consisting of different types of lines. Elements of the figure described in the caption should be set in italics, in parentheses, as shown in this sample caption.

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$$\psi(u) = \int_{o}^{T} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(\Lambda_{o}^{-1} u, u \right) + N^{*}(-u) \right] dt . \tag{1}$$

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5.3 Program Code

Program listings or program commands in the text are normally set in typewriter font, e.g., CMTT10 or Courier.

Example of a Computer Program

```
program Inflation (Output)
  {Assuming annual inflation rates of 7%, 8%, and 10%,...
  years);
   const
     MaxYears = 10;
   var
     Year: 0..MaxYears;
    Factor1, Factor2, Factor3: Real;
   begin
     Year := 0;
     Factor1 := 1.0; Factor2 := 1.0; Factor3 := 1.0;
     WriteLn('Year 7% 8% 10%'); WriteLn;
     repeat
       Year := Year + 1;
       Factor1 := Factor1 * 1.07;
       Factor2 := Factor2 * 1.08;
       Factor3 := Factor3 * 1.10;
       WriteLn(Year:5,Factor1:7:3,Factor2:7:3,Factor3:7:3)
     until Year = MaxYears
end.
```

(Example from Jensen K., Wirth N. (1991) Pascal user manual and report. Springer, New York)

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