ENGINE: an enhancer gene interaction detection algorithm using robust feature extraction

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Biological of enhancer gene linkage



TRENDS in Cell Biology

Classic problem: enhancer-promoter interaction. Biological compatibility(sequence feature and motif); spatial compatibility (3d interaction); local environment (epigenomic marks)

3D genome techniques



State of the art



IM-PET: Consider information from 3D gnome interactions, DIST(distance) constrain is a triky feature, boosting AUC from 0.7+ to 0.9+.

State of the art



LDA:a mixed membership method, didn't use information from 3d genome interaction, and reply on predifined enhancer region, sometimes it has worse aggreements.

Model



scripts target

ChIA-PET dataset: K562, Mcf7, Gm12878 and Hela Gene expression data: Encode TSS based Open chromatin data: K562, Mcf7, Gm12878 and Hela Histone modification and TF data: Ep300, CpG, H3K27ac, K3k4me1, H3k4me3



ChIA-PET interaction pairs 1) Shuffled one side of overlap with mix-membership interactor regions; defined enhancer-gene linkage(from MIT); 2.1) random shift interaction region

2.2) cell-specific interaction region

DHS and structural information



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DHS: Open chromatin signal



DHS shows high correlation with combined ChIP-Seq signal(0.7+);

DHS include distal regulatory regions.

(Robert ET, et al. Nature 2012)

Contact frequency of positive dataset



Positive set are more enriched in PollI-based interaction, and tend to have higher contact frequency.

DHS pattern around interaction regions



Histone marks and PolII shows similar pattern as the DHS signal

(Tang, et. al. Cell 2015)



Detailed DHS signal distribution



K562 positive interaction



Shuffled K562 interaction

Detailed DHS signal distribution



Loop extrusion





Sampled 4000 Gm12878 interactions

ENGINE interactions

Not all the interaction has transcriptional activity. The loop region should affect the form of 3d interaction.

peak: the continous region with signal greater than local mean, loop: the region between two peaks.

Deactivated CTCF binding in the loop region



The shuffled negative set is significant larger than positive dataset

Loop region CTCF are deactivated

CTCF motif in positive loop region has relative lower DHS signal than anchor but higher than negative loop region

Chromatin Stiffness and DHS signal



Chromatin too flexible or stiff are both not good for the 3d interaction

Chromatin Stiffness and DHS signal



Relative more stiffness for negative dataset for it covers some high dense chrom regions: Over 30kp with very low/zero DHS signal that might form 30nm fiber. Can 3d interaction region span so long distance?

Chromatin Stiffness and DHS signal



Most of long distant interaction has very low contact frequency. If there are physical interaction, it should have the same chance to get same level frequency. The contact frequency reflect higher level structure by loop extrusion and spacial proximity of the distal interaction, or experimental bias by false joining the blunt end. **Suitable stiffness chromatin structure:** 10nm fiber(1kb) vs 30nm fiber(30kb), there are no 30nm fiber found in positive set, but 40/909 in negative dataset. **Suitable distance:** $D \sim L \times w_c$, L is the real length of loop region(bp), w_c is compact factor, determine compression ratio and chromatin state(10nm or 30nm fiber)

Deactived CTCF motif: most CTCF motif in positive loop region are deactivated.

Very long distance interactions are fake physical interactions?

A: 1) Very low contact frequency, 2) CTCF binding last long time, the loop extrusion is balance of chromatin stiffness and distance, also the energy used for walking along the genome.

Definition of negative dataset are also important.

Dynamic local features



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Dynamic feature selection

- The tissue-specific enhancer region is hard to predict, chromHMM and CAGE data. The identification and mechanism of enhancer are still not well studied
- The interaction region is not precisely defined, covering a vast non-regulation associated region. However, the average signal over the whole region may bias the results
- The interation involve two different chromatin region, and the close region need some consistent regulatory patterns to exhibit transcriptional activity.

SURF (Speeded Up Robust Feature) is a robust image blob detector and descriptor, first presented by Herbert Bay et al. in 2006.









408 positive set:K562 ChIA-PET intersect with MIT mix-membership prediction 408 negative set:MCF7 specific ChIA-PET interactions

Data transformation













Feature selection



$$\label{eq:pvalue} \begin{split} \mathsf{pvalue}(=\sum(dhyper(\mathsf{pos_hit}:\mathit{total_hit},\#\mathsf{pos_sample},\#\mathit{neg_sample},\mathit{total_hit}))) < 0.05 \text{ and }\mathsf{FC} > 2,\\ \#\mathsf{pos_features} \text{ in each marker}: \end{split}$$

H3k27acH3k4me1H3k4me2H3k4me3H3k9acH3k9me1H3k9me3P300nCpG395835742462400142721106721228More #sig_features \neq high importance;



Example for top H3K27ac features





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We hypothesis, the interaction between paired peaks from interactor A and B, kmers from these peaks might have high chance to present in a distal region(30bp-50bp). proximal:[-18,18]bp; distal:[-50, -32] bp and [32,50]bp;

Kmer co-occurrence

Use All encode enhancer peaks (from FunSeq2) and whole genome sequence(as background), we calculated proximal(-18bp,+18bp] and distal [-50, -32] bp and [32,50]bp co-occurrence frequence $p(k_{j,distal|proximal_{encode}}|k_i)$ vs $p(k_{j,distal|proximal_{background}}|k_i)$.



Proximal region share the co-occurrence pattern but the distal engion quite different between encode peak region and whole genome background.(red dot is y=x).

Kmer co-occurence with epigenome signatures

 $\mathsf{EP300}$ and <code>H3k27ac</code> significant feature overlap with kmer co-occurrence features



Expression level as the additional information





Expression changes for activated gene

Model

Model learning

Importance of features

relationship between structural and local features

relationship between stable and dynamic features

relationship of dynamic features

How variants affect gene linkage

genome wide prediction of gene linkage

Genome wide effect prediction for variants that affect enh-gene linkage

Acknowledgement