Explorations in Summer Camp in CT: Prioritizing non-coding mutations as potential cancer drivers



Personal Genomics as a Gateway into Biology

Personal genomes soon will become a commonplace part of medical research & eventually treatment (esp. for cancer). They will provide a primary connection for biological science to the general public.



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Where is Waldo?

(Finding the key mutations in ~3M Germline variants & ~5K Somatic Variants in a Tumor Sample)



Non-coding Annotations: Overview

Most of cancer genomics has focused on mutations in non-coding regions – ie the exome There are several collections of information "tracks" related to non-coding features, perhaps of use

Sequence features, incl. Conservation

Functional Genomics

Chip-seq (Epigenome & seq. specific TF) and ncRNA & un-annotated transcription



Summer Camp Explorations:

Prioritizing non-coding mutations as potential cancer drivers

Finding Non-coding Regions Sensitive to Mutations

- 1st Level Linear Annotation: Regulatory Sites

- Multi-scale "site" calling (with Music)
- Finding small number of sites particularly sensitive to mutations

- 2nd Level Network Annotation

- Building a network from the linear annotation
- More connectivity = more constraint => highlights hubs

Using this to Interpret Alterations in Cancer

- LARVA: to find recurrently mutated annotations

- Need to correct for overdispersion in bionomial
- Use beta-bin parameterized according to replication timing

- FunSeq software tool for mutation prioritization

• Systematically weighting all the features, for non-coding prioritization

Summarizing the Signal: "Traditional" ChipSeq Peak Calling



Now an update: "PeakSeq 2" => MUSIC

[Rozowsky et al. ('09) Nat Biotech]

Multiscale Analysis, Minima/Maxima based Coarse Segmentation



Multiscale Decomposition



Multiscale Decomposition



Finding "Conserved" Sites in the Human Population:

Negative selection in non-coding elements based on Production ENCODE & 1000G Phase 1





Differential selective constraints among specific sub-categories

Sub-categorization possible because of better statistics from 1000G phase 1 v pilot

[Khurana et al., Science ('13)]



Defining Sensitive non-coding Regions

Start **677** highresolution non-coding

categories; Rank & find those under strongest selection

Sub-categorization possible because of better statistics from 1000G phase 1 v pilot

[Khurana et al., Science ('13)]

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Power-law distribution



Hubs Under Constraint: A Finding from the Network Biology Community

- High likelihood of positive selection
- Lower likelihood of positive selection
- Not under positive selection
- No data about positive selection

[Nielsen et al. *PLoS Biol.* (2005), HPRD, Kim et al. PNAS (2007)]

- <u>More Connectivity, More Constraint:</u> Genes & proteins that have a more central position in the network tend to evolve more slowly and are more likely to be essential.
- This phenomenon is observed in many organisms & different kinds of networks
 - yeast PPI Fraser et al ('02) Science,
 ('03) BMC Evo. Bio.
 - Ecoli PPI Butland et al ('04) Nature
 - Worm/fly PPI Hahn et al ('05) MBE
 - miRNA net Cheng et al ('09) BMC Genomics



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LARVA

- Somatic single nucleotide variant (SNV) data
 - Which functional noncoding genome elements are hotspots for SNVs across multiple samples?
 - Are they mutated more than expected from neutral mutation processes?





Cancer Somatic Mutational Heterogeneity

- The distribution of variants throughout the genome indicates high mutation rate heterogeneity between samples of the same cancer type, and on many other levels
- Goal: Develop a model for the whole genome background somatic mutation distribution in cancer to identify potential noncoding cancer driving elements
- LARVA: <u>Large-scale Analysis</u> of <u>Recurrent Variants in</u> noncoding <u>Annotations</u>

Cancer Somatic Mutation Modeling

- We tested 3 models evaluating the significance of a mutation burden of a genome element
- Suppose there are k genome elements. For element *i*, define:
 - *n_i*: total number of nucleotides in *i*
 - *x_i*: the number of mutation within element *i*
 - *p*: the probability of observing a mutation in each position
 - R: The replication timing tenth percentile of *i*

Model 1: Constant Background Mutation Rate (Model from Previous Work¹)

 x_i : Binomial (n_i, p)

Model 2: Varying Mutation Rate

$$x_i | p : Binomial(n_i, p)$$

 $p:Beta(\mu,\sigma)$

Model 3: Varying Mutation Rate with Replication Timing Correction

$$x_i | p : Binomial(n_i, p)$$

 $p:Beta(\mu|R,\sigma|R)$

 $\mu | R, \sigma | R$: constant within the same R bin

[Lochovsky et al. NAR ('15, in press)]

 Weinhold, N., Jacobsen, A., Schultz, N., Sander, C. & Lee, W. Genome-wide analysis of noncoding regulatory mutations in cancer. *Nature Genetics* 46, 1160–1165 (2014).

LARVA Model Comparison

- Comparison of mutation count frequency implied by the binomial model (model 1) and the beta-binomial model (model 2) relative to the empirical distribution
- The beta-binomial distribution is significantly better, especially for accurately modeling the over-dispersion of the empirical distribution



LARVA Model Comparison

- Demonstrate that adding the DNA replication timing correction (model 3) further improves the beta-binomial model (model 2)
- Top 10% of replication timing bins requires little correction
- Bottom 10% of replication timing bins requires massive correction

- Demonstrate that the number of significant p-values is inflated under the binomial model
- Neither the empirical or betabinomial models exhibit this inflation

[Lochovsky et al. NAR ('15, in press)]

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Identification of non-coding candidate drivers amongst somatic variants: Scheme

User Cancer Variants Site integrates user variants with large-scale context

FunSeq.gersteinlab.org

Feature weight

- Weighted with mutation patterns in natural polymorphisms

(features frequently observed weight less)

- entropy based method

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Genome $p = \frac{3}{20}$

Feature weight: $w_d = 1 + p_d \log_2 p_d + (1 - p_d) \log_2 (1 - p_d)$

 $p \uparrow W_d$ \downarrow p = probability of the feature overlapping natural polymorphismsFor a variant: Score $= \sum w_d$ of observed features

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Cancer Prioritzation ~50 people ~1000 "authors" Acknowledgements Functional

Yale <u>Ekta Khurana, Yao Fu, Jieming</u> <u>Chen,</u> <u>Xinmeng Mu</u>, Lucas Lochovsky, Arif Harmanci, Alexej Abyzov, Suganthi Balasubramanian, Cristina

> Sisu, Declan Clarke, Mike Wilson

Sanger Vincenza Colonna, Yali Xue, Chris Tyler-Smith

Cornell Steven Lipkin, Jishnu Das, Robert Fragoza, Xiaomu Wei, <u>Haiyuan Yu</u>

Andrea Sboner, Dimple Chakravarty, Naoki Kitabayashi, Vaja Liluashvili, Zeynep H. Gümüş, <u>Mark A. Rubin</u>

US, UK, Switzerland....

Hyun Min Kang, Tuuli Lappalainen, Kathryn Beal, Daniel Challis, Yuan Chen, Laura Clarke, Fiona Cunningham, Emmanouil T. Dermitzakis, Uday Evani, Paul Flicek, Erik Garrison, Javier Herrero, Yong Kong, Kasper Lage, Daniel G. MacArthur, Gabor Marth, Donna Muzny, Tune H. Pers, Graham R. S. Ritchie, Jeffrey A. Rosenfeld, Fuli Yu, Richard Gibbs

Acknowledgements

- MUSIC.gersteinlab.org
 - A Harmanci, J Rozowsky
- FunSeq2.gersteinlab.org

– Y **FU**, Z Liu, S Lou, J Bedford, X Mu, K Yip, E Khurana

• LARVA.gersteinlab.org

- L Lochovsky*, J Zhang*, Y Fu, E Khurana

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