

Deciphering functional DNA words and their syntax in regulatory DNA





chromatin accessibility (ATAC-seq / DNase-seq)

Protein-DNA binding maps (ChIP-seq, ChIP-exo)

Adapted from Thurman et al 2012

Predictive model of regulatory DNA



Inactive (0) (0.3)

..GACAGATAATGCATTGA.. Active (+1) (20.2)

Predictive model of regulatory DNA



High-resolution 'shapes' and 'spans' of TF and chromatin profiles capture exquisite information about protein-DNA contacts



DNA accessibility experiments

High-resolution 'shapes' and 'spans' of TF and chromatin profiles capture exquisite information about protein-DNA contacts





DNA accessibility experiments

https://doi.org/10.3109/10409238.2015.1051505

BPNet : Sequence to base-res. TF binding profiles

Total reads + base-resolution probability profile (1 kb)





Ziga Avsec

BPNet : Sequence to base-res. TF binding profiles

Total reads + base-resolution probability profile (1 kb)





Ziga Avsec

Sequence windows (2 kb)

BPNet predicts base resolution protein-DNA binding profiles with unprecedented accuracy (on par with replicate concordance)

Oct4, Sox2, Nanog and Klf4 in mESCs







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mESCs





Deciphering syntax dependent TF cooperativity with synthetic designed sequences











Distance dependent motif syntax rules of asymmetric directional cooperativity



Max profile *Δ*/wt

Validated with CRISPR/Cas9 syntax editing experiments























Binding syntax is predictive of differential accessibility after TF depletion & reporter expression

ATAC-seq log fold-change loss after TF depletion



(Independent previously published data from Friman et al. 2019)

Binding syntax is predictive of differential accessibility after TF depletion & reporter expression



(Independent previously published data from Friman et al. 2019)



(Independent published MPRA data from King, Maricque, Cohen 2018)

Modeling ATAC-seq / DNase-seq profiles (enzyme bias affects footprints)



How to estimate Tn5 / DNase bias?





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ChromBPNet: Sequence to base-res chromatin accessibility profiles



2 Kb sequence

Based on Avsec et al. Nature Genetics 2021

ChromBPNet: Sequence to base-res chromatin accessibility profiles



2 Kb sequence

Based on Avsec et al. Nature Genetics 2021

Prediction performance (held-out chromosomes)

Total counts prediction performance



Prediction performance (held-out chromosomes)















ChromBPNet can predict marginal footprints of cell-type specific TFs



200bp surrounding the motif insertion site in 10K random non-peak sequences

Similar sequence syntax derived from DNase-seq and ATAC-seq data













ChromBPNet predicted tracks are substantially similar compared to observed tracks at different read depths



Using 500M as ground truth we compare degradation in signal quality at different read depths

ChromBPNet predicts substantially similar profiles compared to the observed tracks













Model driven prioritization and interpretation of non-coding genetic variation



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Large proportion of disease-associated genetic loci are non-coding





Coding Non-coding

BPNet/ChromBPNet can predict variants influencing regulatory activity



BPNet/ChromBPNet can predict variants influencing regulatory activity



BPNet/ChromBPNet can interpret variants influencing regulatory activity



BPNet/ChromBPNet can interpret variants influencing regulatory activity



Variant Effect Scoring with ChromBPNet

ChromBPNet has two heads counts and profiles

• Variant effect scoring with counts head

log(counts_{alt}) - log(counts_{ref})

• Variant effect scoring with profile head

JensenShanon(Profile_{alt}, Profile_{ref}) * Sign(log(counts_{alt}) - log(counts_{ref}))
Dnase-seq ChromBPNet outperforms deltaSVM for predicting dsQTLs in LCLs



dsQTLs: Degner et al 2012

Single cell chromatin dynamics during human cardiogenesis





Laksshman Sundaram

Sundaram*, Ameen*, et al. In review

Single cell chromatin dynamics during human cardiogenesis





C-20

Sundaram*, Ameen*, et al. In review

UMAP dimension 1



Single cell chromatin dynamics during human cardiogenesis



UMAP Dimension 2

Prioritizing de-novo mutations in congenital heart disease with cell-type resolved regulatory map of fetal heart



Sundaram

Prioritizing de-novo mutations in congenital heart disease with cell-type resolved regulatory map of fetal heart



Prioritizing mutations with cell-type resolved ChromBPNet models



Prioritizing mutations with cell-type resolved ChromBPNet models



Eg: CHD case mutation affecting accessibility of enhancer in Art/Cap endothelial cells



Laksshman Sundaram

Mutation disrupts an ETS/ELK/ETV family motif

Cell states enriched for prioritized *de novo* non-coding mutations in CHD



UMAP Dimension 1

Arterial & Capillary endothelial cells are most significantly enriched for CHD mutations (structural defects)



Laksshman Sundaram

Cell states enriched for prioritized *de novo* non-coding mutations in CHD



UMAP Dimension 1

Arterial & Capillary endothelial cells are most significantly enriched for CHD mutations (structural defects)





CRISPR experiments confirm downstream gene targets of enhancers containing prioritized CHD mutations



Summary

- Base-resolution neural networks can learn very accurate models of regulatory DNA sequence from bulk and single cell regulatory profiling experiments
- Can be queried to decipher novel subtle sequence syntax properties
- Can be used to decipher regulatory genetic variation
- Can be used to prioritize likely causal variants in GWAS loci and denovo non-coding mutations
- Can be used to design precise genome editing experiments
- Foundation of *in-silico* platforms for biological discovery, hypothesis generation & model-driven iterative expt. design



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Collaborator labs













Funding



1R01HG009674 1U01HG009431 1U24HG009446

R01ES02500902

