Scikit-ribo - Accurate A-site prediction and robust modeling of translational control

Han Fang

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Central dogma of biology – Classic view



What is ribosome profiling (Riboseq)?



Ingolia. Science. (2009) Ingolia. Nat Rev Genet. (2014) Normal translation efficieny (TE)



Less efficient translation

More efficient translation





Calculate translational efficiency (TE)



 $TE = \frac{Riboseq \ rpkm}{RNAseq \ rpkm}$

Hypothesis: TE distribution could be skewed by ribosome pausing events.

Simulated S. cerevisiae data - TE distribution are negatively-skewed by ribosome pausing events



Analytical Challenges







What and where is the ribosome A-site?

Figure adapted from Ingolia et al. Science (2009)



How to predict A-site?

Training data and features:

Classifier and model tuning:

- SVM with RBF kernel (scikit-learn)
- 10 fold cross-validation for grid search
- Make predictions on all reads genome-wide

Prediction performance by cross validation



Scikit-ribo has much higher accuracy of identifying A-site than the previous method (0.86 vs. 0.64, 10-fold CV).

Scikit-ribo accurately predicted codon usage fraction and codon normalized TE



Evolutionary conservation of codon optimality reveals hidden signatures of cotranslational folding, Pechmann, Frydman (2013).

Finding ribosome pausing sites (peaks) is hard. But it is easier after knowing the A-site location.



Q: how to robustly identify ribosome pausing sites while accounting for over-dispersion?

Ribosome pausing site identification by negative binomial mixture model

$$P(\mathbf{X}_i|\pi_i,\mu_i,k_i,r_i) = \prod_j \pi_i \mathcal{NB}(X_{ij}|\mu_i,r_i) + (1-\pi_i)\mathcal{NB}(X_{ij}|k_i\mu_i,r_i),$$

for gene i at position j, where $k \ge 5$







mRNA with stronger secondary structure tend to have ribosome pausing events



Kertesz et al. Nature (2010)

TE distributions are negatively-skewed in many studies. Over-structured mRNA show inflated TE.



Improved ribosome-footprint and mRNA measurements provide insights into dynamics and regulation of yeast translation. Weinberg, Shah et al. (2015)

Summary

Discussed:

- 1) Introduce scikit-ribo for joint analysis of Riboseq & RNAseq data.
- 2) Learn from data itself to determine ribosome A-site location.
- 3) Reveal biases in Riboseq data due to ribosome pausing.
- 4) How Riboseq biases lead to issues with estimating TE.

Ongoing work:

- 1) Adjust for those biases and provide an unbiased estimate of TE.
- 2) Extend the ribosome pausing calling to a HMM based method.
- 3) Joint inference of translation initiation and elongation rates.



https://github.com/hanfang/