Wheat CAP: Genomic resources / Development of Practical Haplotype Graph

Eduard Akhunov

Wheat Genetic Resources Center Department of Plant Pathology Kansas State University



United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture



WheatCAP 22-26, Zoom meeting, Dec. 15 2021



Understanding the genetic control of gene expression variation (eQTL) can improve our ability to detect causal genes and pathways

RNA-seq data for 198 diverse wheat accessions

Sequence- and array-based genotyping at 2.4 million SNP sites using Nimblegen wheat regulatory capture

(Gardiner et al., 2019)

15K cis/trans-eQTL in spikes and seedlings (T3 database)



He et al., Nat. Communications 2021

Interpretation of GWAS: *cis*-eQTL are significantly enriched around (+/- 1 kb) marker-trait associations identified in the WheatCAP and IWYP



cis-eQTL enrichment

Most wheat accessions carry balanced homoeologs with only small fraction of showing biased (unbalanced) expression



Normalized TPM



Presence of *cis*-regulatory mutations lead to imbalanced expression of homoeologous genes across wheat accessions



cis-regulatory mutations in both homoeologs lead to biased expression



Trait prediction using ridge regression modeling based on the expression values of biased homoeologs suggest a significant association between the number of dysregulated homoeologs and variation in productivity traits.



Development of genomic resources for WheatCAP 2022-2026

- 1. Panel; 200 wheat lines representative of the US wheat breeding germplasm, parents of mapping populations, and wild relatives
- 2. Characterization of genomic and regulatory diversity by low-pass sequencing
- 3. Characterization of transcriptomic diversity (Quant-Seq) across 10 tissues at different developmental stages:
 - Seedling root + vegetative at 1 week; 2) Crown with axillary tillers and roots at 4 weeks; 3) Flag leaf sheath + lamina at complete emergence; 4) Root apices at 15 d; 5) Vegetative apex at 3 weeks; 6) Double ridge stage; 7) Terminal spikelet stage; 8) Spikelet at complete gynoecium development; 9) Grain from plants at Zadoks 71 stage (milk development stage); 10) Grain from plants at Zadoks 83 stage (dough development stage).
- 4. eQTL mapping and identification of variants affecting both gene expression and phenotype

Targeted re-sequencing of wheat germplasm generated a diversity map of the wheat genome



Exome capture (T3 database)

Natural variation: 1,000 genetically and geographically diverse wheat accessions were re-sequenced using Nimblegen exome capture resulting in discovery > **7 M SNPs**, which are deposited into the T3 database.

337 wheat cultivars representing the genetic diversity of modern US wheat breeding programs were re-sequenced by exome capture (~ **7 M SNPs**).

Induced variation: also used to sequence 1536 4x and 1200 6x EMS mutants and to identify 10,000,000 induced mutations in coding regions. Re-mapped RefSeq v1.0

He at al., 2019, *Nat. Genetics* Kuzay et al., 2019, *TAG*

Promoter capture (Gardiner et al, GigaScience, 2019)

Natural variation: Targeted capture of regulatory regions in 250 wheat lines including the Wheat CAP ~3.2 M SNPs.

Induced variation: mutations in all promoters of 1,536 tetraploid EMS mutants. Sequenced so far 26% lines: >4 M mutations.

Regulatory sequence capture



Practical Haplotype Graph (Buckler Lab): a tool for genotyping data storage and genotype imputation



Practical Haplotype Graph

Practical Haplotype Graph



Wheat Practical Haplotype Graph tool: ~400 wheat cultivars representing the genetic diversity of modern US wheat breeding programs were resequenced by exome capture. This dataset is used to develop the 1st version of Wheat Practical Haplotype Graph (Jordan et al., 2021, G3). Collaboration between USDA ARS (K. Jordan), USDA ARS Genotyping Labs, T3 database team, and Buckler Lab)

The Practical Haplotype Graph (PHG) Tool

- Computational Framework (efficient storage and reproducible)
 - Set of source code configured in Singularity container with all needed bioinformatics software packages
- Customizable Relational Database
 - Build customized database with your germplasm
 - Make new database on experiment basis, or add to existing
- Pan-genome
 - Reference Genome
 - WGS representative diversity of input germplasm
 - Capable of storing genome assemblies (SV)
 - More powerful than single reference platform
- Imputation tool
 - Generate meaningful data with low sequencing coverage
 - Cost effective with GBS, skim-sequencing, etc...
 - Agnostic platform: Capable of combining different technologies
- Continuing to improve the capabilities



PHG: Reference based system (CS RefSeq v1.1)



65 wheat accessions sequenced using exome capture (Jordan et al., 2021, G3)

Create Pan-genome from Diversity Data



- Collapse diversity data into consensus haplotypes
- Stores consensus haplotypes sequence by haplotype ID
 - Accession information is represented as haplotype IDs in database
 - Pan-genome represents all diversity in the founding accessions



- Input GBS, skim seq (fastq)
- Aligns to pangenome haplotypes (minimap2)
- Finds path through the graph (HMM set probability threshold)
- Imputes across missing reference ranges
 - Output: Best path through graph by hap ID



Wheat PHGv1: 65 Wheat Exomes

- T. aestivum (58), A. tauschii (3), T. turgidum (4)
- Winter and spring composition





>1.5 million variants

PHG DB footprint = 27GB

Imputation Accuracy (Wheat PHGv1)



WheatPHGv1 imputed 92% with 0.01x

Imputation Accuracy with GBS > 87%

- Used GBS data to test imputation concordance
 - ~5% overlap with exome capture regions
- Concordance improves with representative haplotypes in database
- Concordance improves with more frequent haplotypes in database



Jordan et al, G3, 2021

Future directions (Wheat PHG v.2)

- 1. Expand PHG database representation using NGS from 600 wheat accession including lines from all breeding programs
- 2. Incorporate wheat pan-genome into PHG
- 3. Incorporate GBS ranges into PHG
- 4. Incorporate medium density genotyping markers into PHG
- 5. Integration of PHG into BreedBase (J. Jannink)