CARNAC-I R. clustering genes expressed variants from long read RNA sequencing

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RNA-seq and long read sequencing



- Direct access to the different isoform structures and full-length molecules
- Avoid assembly / transcript reconstruction by mapping
- Quantification with ONT long reads [Oikonomopoulos et al. 2016]
- Annotated variants and novel variants discovery with long reads [Hoang et al. 2017, Abdhel-Ghany et al. 2016, Wang et al. 2016,...]

To map or not to map?



- Mapping of reads on reference genome (GMAP [Wu et al. 2005])
- Or transcriptome (recently Graphmap [Sovic et al. 2015])
- What if no reference ?



A need that starts to be expressed in the literature

- ToFu: cluster of reads by gene and isoforms detection[Gordon et al. Plos One 2015]
- Describe alternative variants: [Liu et al. Molecular ecology Resources 2017]
- Both dedicated to PacBio, need sequences of high accuracy

Our goals

- More generic approach
- Make the best of the full data set, no prior filter/treatment

Expected behavior of our clustering



Families of genes expressing transcripts



Detect all variants for each gene de novo

Problem specificity

- Alternative variants in data
- Gene families
- Errors in reads
- Heterogeneous sizes distributions of clusters

A clustering problem: graph we work on





A clustering problem: clusters as genes

community = cluster



A clustering problem: graph in practice



A clustering problem: community detection



Detect all variants for each gene de novo

similarity between reads

read

Community detection

- Deal with the indel specificity: detect overlaps between erroneous reads (Minimap[Li 2016], GraphMap[Sovic et al. 2015], BLASR[Chaisson et al. 2012]...)
- Start for clustering of variants: graph of similarity of reads

Measure of connectivity in the graph

We rely on the clustering coefficient (CICo) [Watts and Strogatz 1998]

C

Number of edges if C were

a clique: 6 ClCo = 6/6 = 1

Actual number of edges in C:6



Number of edges if C' were $a \ clique:6$ ClCo = 2/3

Actual number of edges in C':4

Clustering problem

- Prop.1: A community is a connected component having a clustering coefficient above or equal to a fixed cutoff θ.
- Prop.2: Communities are disjoined sets.



 $\theta = 0.9$

Clustering problem

• Prop.3: An optimal clustering in k communities is a minimal k-cut of the graph





• min k-cut NP hard for $k \ge 3$ [Dahlhaus et al. 1994])

Difficulties arising from this problem

- We don't know the number of community in advance, k-cut NP-hard for k ≥ 3 [?]
- The cutoff θ is not known either
- Potentially many θ values to test

Implementation: choose theta interval

- The cutoff θ is not known: test different values
- Do not compute all possible θ for all connected components



θ ∈**{0.5,0.6, 0.67,1}**

- Adaptive values for each connected component
- Key for scaling

Implementation: find k

 $1.relax\ the\ disjoined\ subgraphs\ condition$



Implementation: find k

2.refine the bouldaries to obtain a partition:



Final communities

different θ values yield different cut values



• Keep the partition associated to the minimal cut

Pipeline



github.com/kamimrcht/CARNAC

How to validate ?



• Data: mouse transcriptome 1D Nanopore reads transcriptome

• NB: mapping has its own limitations

Comparison to other community detection approaches

• Comparison to classic approaches: hierarchical, modularity based, CPM

CARNAC-LR pros

- Best precision
- Best trade-off between precision and recall
- Best similarity to ground truth clusters (Jaccard Index)
- No need of parameters

Well-tailored clustering for transcriptomic long reads

Validation real size data set



 $\bullet \sim 1 {
m M}$ reads

• Recall and precision not much impacted by expression levels

• Minimap + CARNAC-LR: 3 hours using 10 threads / Mapping approach: \sim 15 days

Proxy to genes' expression



A visual example of CARNAC's output



- 112 reads from a cluster output by CARNAC (purple)
- All reads map to the same locus: gene Pip5k1c (chr 10)
- 8 reads present in the data missing in the cluster (black)

Future work

• Correct by clusters and find isoforms within clusters



Conclusion

Take-home messages

- Accurate tool that outputs clusters of transcripts by gene
- Generic, first tool to perform on ONT
- For model and non model species
- Availability: github.com/kamimrcht/CARNAC
- Preprint

Perspectives

Scale to meta-transcriptomics

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