

MEETING ABSTRACT

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Oqtans: a multifunctional workbench for RNA-seq data analysis

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From Ninth International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) Student Council Symposium 2013 Berlin, Germany. 19 July 2013

Background

The current revolution in sequencing technologies allows us to obtain a much more detailed picture of transcriptomes via deep RNA Sequencing (RNA-Seq). In considering the full complement of RNA transcripts that comprise the transcriptome, two important analytical questions emerge: what is the abundance of RNA transcripts and which genes or transcripts are differentially expressed. In parallel with developing sequencing technologies, data analysis software is also constantly updated to improve accuracy and sensitivity while minimizing run times. The abundance of software programs, however, can be prohibitive and confusing for researchers evaluating RNA-Seq analysis pipelines.

Results

We present an open-source workbench, *Oqtans*, that can be integrated into the Galaxy framework that enables researchers to set up a computational pipeline for quantitative transcriptome analysis. Its distinguishing features include a modular pipeline architecture, which facilitates comparative assessment of tool and data quality. Within *Oqtans*, the *Galaxy's* workflow architecture enables direct comparison of several tools. Furthermore, it is straightforward to compare the performance of different programs and parameter settings on the same data and choose the best suited for the task. *Oqtans* analysis pipelines are easy to set up, modify, and (re-)use without significant computational skill.

Oqtans integrates more than twenty sophisticated tools that perform very well compared to the state-of-the-art for transcript identification, quantification and

differential expression analysis. The toolsuite contains several tools developed in the Rättsch Laboratory, but the majority of the tools were developed by other groups. In particular, we provide tools for read alignment (bwa, STAR, TopHat, PALMapper, ...), transcript prediction (cufflinks, Trinity, Scripture, ...) and quantitative analyses (DESeq2, edgeR, rDiff, rQuant, ...). In addition, we provide tools for alignment filtering (RNA-geeq toolbox), GFF file processing (GFF toolbox) and tools for predictive sequence analysis (EasySVM, ASP, ARTS, ...). See <http://oqtans.org/tools> for more details on included tools.

Conclusions

Oqtans is integrated into the publicly available *Galaxy* server <http://galaxy.cbio.mskcc.org> which is maintained by the Rättsch Laboratory. It is also available as source code in a public GitHub repository <http://bioweb.me/oqtans/git> and as a machine image (managed by Galaxy CloudMan) for the Amazon Web Service cloud environment (instructions available at <http://oqtans.org>). *Oqtans* sets a new standard in terms of reproducibility and builds upon *Galaxy's* features to facilitate persistent storage, exchange and documentation of intermediate results and analysis workflows.

Support: support@oqtans.org

Contact: vipin@cbio.mskcc.org

Details: <http://oqtans.org>

Public Computing Server: <http://galaxy.cbio.mskcc.org>

Oqtans Demo Server: <http://cloud.oqtans.org>

Oqtans Amazon Machine Image: ami-65376a0c

License: GPL <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>

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Published: 11 February 2014

doi:10.1186/1471-2105-15-S3-A7

Cite this article as: Sreedharan *et al.*: *Oqtans: a multifunctional workbench for RNA-seq data analysis.* *BMC Bioinformatics* 2014 15(Suppl 3):A7.

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