COMPUTER PROGRAM NOTE

PEAS V1.0: a package for elementary analysis of SNP data

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Abstract

We have developed a software package named PEAS to facilitate analyses of large data sets of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) for population genetics and molecular phylogenetics studies. PEAS reads SNP data in various formats as input and is versatile in data formatting; using PEAS, it is easy to create input files for many popular packages, such as STRUCTURE, frappe, Arlequin, Haplovie, LDhat, PLINK, EIGENSOFT, PHASE, fast-PHASE, MEGA and PHYLIP. In addition, PEAS fills up several analysis gaps in currently available computer programs in population genetics and molecular phylogenetics. Notably, (i) It calculates genetic distance matrices with bootstrapping for both individuals and populations from genome-wide high-density SNP data, and the output can be streamlined to MEGA and PHYLIP programs for further processing; (ii) It calculates genetic distances from STRUCTURE output and generates MEGA file to reconstruct component trees; (iii) It provides tools to conduct haplotype sharing analysis for phylogenetic studies based on high-density SNP data. To our knowledge, these analyses are not available in any other computer program. PEAS for Windows is freely available for academic users from http://www.picb.ac.cn/~xushua/index.files/Download_PEAS.htm.

Keywords: computer program, molecular evolution, population genetics, SNP

Received 1 February 2010; revision received 15 March 2010; accepted 2 April 2010

Introduction

Recently available genome-wide data of high-density single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and the advent of next generation whole-genome sequencing data for human populations demarcated a transition from single-locus-based studies to genomics analysis of human population structure and relationship (Rosenberg et al. 2002, 2005; The International HapMap Consortium 2005; Friedlaender et al. 2008; Jakobsson et al. 2008; Kayser et al. 2008; Li et al. 2008). With the release of the Phase III HapMap data (http://hapmap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov), a resource consisting of over 1.5 million SNPs genotyped in more than 1000 individuals from 11 geographically diverse populations is publicly available. The high-density genome-wide SNP data for 53 worldwide populations in Human Genome Diversity Panel (HGDP) (Cann et al. 2002) are also available recently (Li et al. 2008). In addition, a few international projects focusing on regional populations such as PanAsian SNP Project (The HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium 2009) generated additional SNP data resources. The modern human genetic studies have been dramatically influenced by the development and release of these data; as a consequence, our insight and knowledge about human genome has been greatly improved because of the analysis of those SNP data.

Many software tools have been developed to extract abundant information from such large data sets. However, most of the software tools have distinctive format for input files, and it often takes much time to format the input as well as the output for additional analyses. This poses a particular challenge to biologists who are uncomfortable with programming and handling large data sets. Furthermore, some commonly used analyses are not
included in the available software, such as calculating individual allele sharing distance, population genetic distances, haplotype sharing analyses for phylogenetic studies, forward-time simulation studies to test human migration models based on haplotype sharing analyses and so on. In addition, even for some basic data manipulations, the software available could not either handle or work very well with large data sets. We have developed a software package named PEAS to provide the users with many basic data handling and analysis tools for large SNP data set.

Features

Dynamic memory management was adopted, and all the tools in PEAS were developed to handle large SNP data set with high efficiency. All the operations of PEAS programs are file(s) to file(s), although PEAS allows the user to display results in the graphical user interface. Therefore, for the very large data set, which will take huge memory to display on the screen, the user can choose not to display data and let program run as a background process.

PEAS is versatile in manipulating data. First, it provides tools for data formatting, which facilitates the user to manipulate data prior to further analysis. These include: (i) a tool to manipulate HapMap genotype data, which formats HapMap data for various purposes; (ii) a format conversion tool to transpose data between columns and rows, and a coding translation tool to allow PEAS recognize various data formats and unify data obtained from different resources; (iii) a data split tool to allow the user to split data into multiple sets by samples or by chromosomes or by both. For example, the users may like to separate the parents from the kids of trio samples in most of the cases; (iv) a data integration tool to allow the user to integrate multiple data sets by samples or by chromosomes or by both. For example, one can integrate data sets from different population samples while performing downstream analyses; (v) a series of tools to provide the user to prepare input files for many popular softwares including STRUCTURE (Pritchard et al. 2000), frappe (Tang et al. 2005), Arlequin (Schneider et al. 2000), Haplovie (Barrett et al. 2005), LDhat (McVean et al. 2004), PLINK (Purcell et al. 2007), EIGENSOFT (Patterson et al. 2006), MEGA (Kumar et al. 2004), PHYLIP (Felsenstein 1989), PHASE (Stephens et al. 2001) and fastPHASE (Stephens & Donnelly 2003); 6) a tool to allow user to format the output haplotype results of fastPHASE and PHASE as the input file of STRUCTURE, Haplovie, Arlequin etc.

Second, PEAS provides tools for some basic manipulations of SNP data. These include: (i) a tool to allow the user to calculate allele and genotype frequencies and to test for deviation from the HWE (using Chi-square test); (ii) a filter tool to allow the user to filter the data by MAF, missing data proportion and HWE states; (iii) a sampling tool to allow the user to sample the subsets of data by individuals or by markers or by both; (iv) a tool to allow the users to retrieve the consensus data for multiple population samples or different resources. The tool integrates data according to the information of SNP ID, chromosome, physical position and strand (+/−).

Third, to fill up the gaps of currently available software tools, tools have been developed to focus on the population genetic analysis and phylogenetic analysis are developed. These include: (i) a tool to allow the user to calculate the allele sharing distance between each pair of individuals. This tool will generate multiple distance matrices by bootstrapping the loci and provides the output files that can be read by MEGA (Kumar et al. 2004) and PHYLIP (Felsenstein 1989) programs for further processing; (ii) a tool to allow the user to calculate the distances for populations and generates multiple distance matrices by bootstrapping the loci. The population distances supported by PEAS are Wright’s $F_{ST}$ (Weir & Hill 2002), $F_{ST}$ distance (Latter 1972), Nei’s standard distance (Nei 1972), Nei’s $D_A$ distance (Nei et al. 1983) and Cavalli-Sforza’s $D_C$ distance (Cavalli-Sforza & Edwards 1967). The tool also generates the output files which can be used by MEGA and PHYLIP programs for further processing; (iii) a tool to allow the user to calculate the two most commonly used LD statistics ($r^2$ and $|D'|$) (Lewontin 1964; Hill & Weir 1994) and to generate LD distribution report files which can be used to plot using MS Excel. This feature is especially useful for very large data set with huge number of SNP sites (Xu et al. 2007); (iv) a tool to carry out haplotype sharing analysis based on high-density SNP genotyping data (The HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium 2009; Xu et al. 2009a); (v) a tool to carry out the forward-time simulations to test the evolutionary models (The HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium 2009; Xu et al. 2009a). A summary list of the component programs and functions is shown in Table 1.

Applications

PEAS was applied in recent studies to estimate the individual and the population distances (WI et al. 2008; The HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium 2009) for population phylogenetic analyses, calculate the LD (Xu et al. 2007, 2008), integrate HapMap and HGDP data (Xu & Jin 2008, 2009; The HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium 2009; Xu et al. 2009b), conduct haplotype sharing analyses and forward-time simulation (The HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium 2009; Xu et al. 2009a).
The project is intended to remain active, and new features will be added to the software.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by grants from the National Outstanding Youth Science Foundation of China (30625016), the National Science Foundation of China (30890354, 30971577) and the 863 Program (2007AA02Z312). LJ was also supported by the Shanghai Leading Academic Discipline Project (B111) and the Center for Evolutionary Biology. SX was also supported by the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality (09ZR1436400) and the Knowledge Innovation Program of Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences (2008KIP311). SX gratefully acknowledges the support of SA-SIBS Scholarship Program and K.C.Wong Education Foundation, Hong Kong.

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