PROBE MINING WITH OLIGOARRAY

SEARCHING THE DROSOPHILA HOX CLUSTERS FOR 50MER PROBE SEQUENCES

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Last updated 8/27/12

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INTRODUCTION

This guide gives an overview of how to discover FISH probe sequences using the program OligoArray and assumes the user has already installed python and OligoArray along with its dependency OligoArrayAux. OligoArray and its installation instructions can be found here, and OligoArrayAux and its installation instructions can be found here. Instructions for downloading and installing python can be found in our Oligopaints Scripts Manual. Note that this example is tailored to the LSF system employed by the Harvard RITG Orchestra UNIX cluster; users will need to modify the paths specified in this example (e.g. /files/Genetics/Wu Lab/Oligopaints/hox_example/) to match the desired working directories on their home machines or research clusters.

GETTING STARTED

The Drosophila Hox genes are broken into two ~300 kb clusters on chr3R – the antennapedia cluster which spans from *labial* to *antennapedia* and the bithorax cluster which spans from *ultrabithorax* to *abdominal B*. In dm3 coordinates, the antennapedia cluster spans from 2,487,149 - 2,824,950 and the bithorax cluster spans from 12,482,345 - 12,797,958. We can expand our target region to include flanking regions as well, such that we will mine a 1 Mb region for each target. In order to run OligoArray, we need to prepare two types of files: input files containing the sequence we want to mine for probes and a BLAST database which will be used to asses the specificity of any candidate probe sequences.

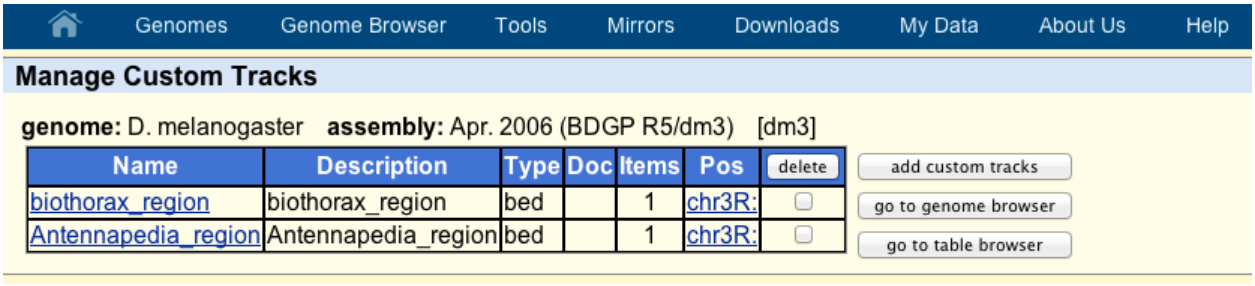
PREPARING INPUT FILES

First, we will download fasta format files for each region we want to mine from the UCSC genome browser. For each cluster, we will prepare a .bed files specifying the sequences we want to download. These files will look like this:

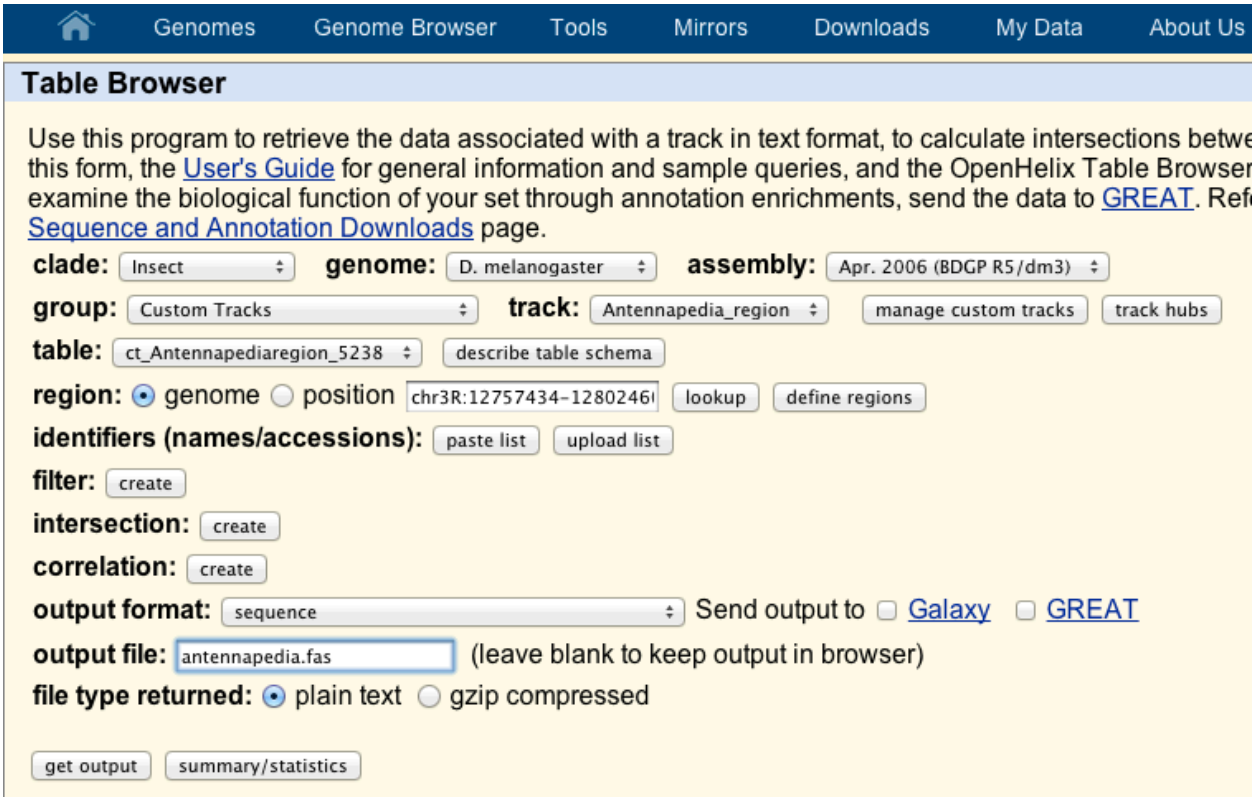
```
track name="Antennapedia_region"
chr3R 2156050	3156050
```

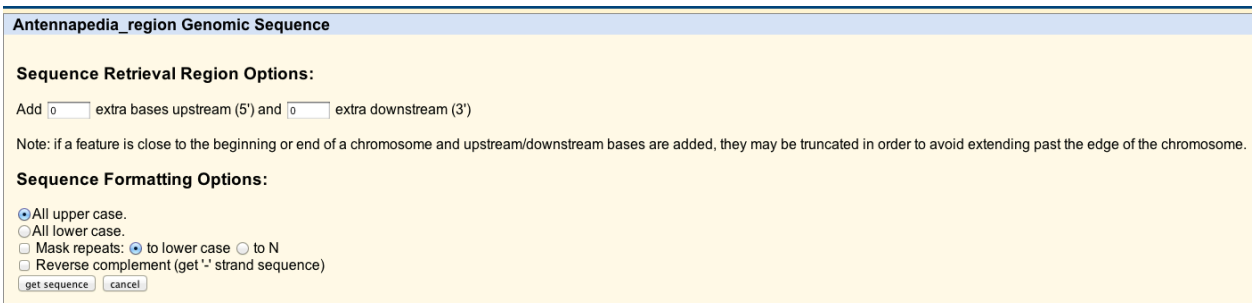
track name="biothorax_region"
chr3R 12140152 13140152

We can upload these files as Custom Tracks to UCSC:

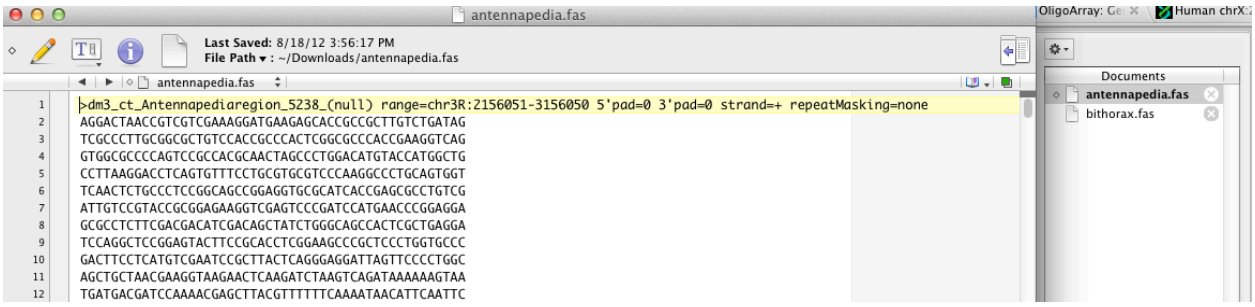


We can then go to the table browser and use these .bed files to download sequence files:





Which yields a .fas file with a fasta header and our sequence of interest:



In our bioinformatics pipeline, we break our input files into 1 kb chunks using the script input_blocks.py:

```
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ python bin/input_blocks.py
Please enter the filename, "chr2R_sorted_oligo.txt" or "chr2R_intersect.bed" etc.: antennapedia.fas
Please enter the chromosome or assembly, "chr1 or ch2R, etc.: chr3R
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ ls
antennapedia.fas  antennapedia.txt  bin  biothorax.txt  bithorax.fas  dm3.fas  in_antennapedia.fas
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ head in_antennapedia.fas
>range=chr3R:0-999
TCGCCCTTGCGGCGCTGTCCACCGCCCACTCGGCGCCCCACCGAAGGTCAGGTGGCGCCCCAGTCCGCCACGCAACTAGCCCTGGACATGTACCATGGCTGCCTTAAGGACCTCAGTGTTTCCTGCGTGCGTCCCAAGGCCCTGCAGTGGTTCAACTCTGCCCTCCGGCAGCCGGAGGTGCGCATCACCGAGCGCCTGTCGATTGTCCGTA
CCGCGGAGAAGGTCGAGTCCCGATCCATGAACCCGGAGGAGCGCCTCTTCGACGACATCGACAGCTATCTGGGCAGCCACTCGCTGAGGATCCAGGCTCCGGAGTACTTCCGCACCTCGGAAGCCCGCTCCCTGGTGCCCGACTTCCTCATGTCGAATCCGCTTACTCAGGGAGGATTAGTTCCCCTGGCAGCTGCTAACGAAGGTAAGA
ACTCAAGATCTAAGTCAGATAAAAAAGTAATGATGACGATCCAAAACGAGCTTACGTTTTTTCAAAATAACATTCAATTCGCAACACAGTGTCAGAAACAAGTGTTGATACTAATTATTGAAATGCCACTCTTGTGTTTAATAGAAATCGTTAAACTAATTTGAATATGACAAATGGCATTATCAAAAATTTCAAAAATGTTTAGGGTTT
ATGCAAATCAGCATACAAATATTTGGATTTTTACCACTTGTGATAAATCTAATCTGTATTTTTCCTACTTTTCCAGGACGTGGCATGATCCGCAAGGCAGTTCTGCCCTTCCTTCTGGGCCTGAAACTGAAGACCACTGTGCTGGTGCCACTGGCCTTGGGACTCATTGCCCTAAAGACCTGGAAGGCCATGACCTTGGGCCTGCTCTCA
TTGGTGCTGTCTGGAGCCTTGGTTATTTTCAAGATTGCCAAGCCCAAGATTGTCAACTACGAGGTGGTGCACTATCCCCATCACGTGGATCATGTGGTGCCCGCATCACATTGAGCACGTGGTGCCCCACCACATCGAGCACGTGGTGCCCCACCACATCG
>range=chr3R:1000-1999
AAGCACATAGTGCCGCATCACATCGATCATCATCTGGAGCACCACATCGATCACCACGTGGATCTGCCCGTGGAGCACATCGAGCACCTGGAGCACCCATCGCCCGCCTGGGATCCTCATGCCTGGGCCCGATCCTCGCAAGAGCCGCAGGATGCCCAGGACTTGGCCTACGCGGGTCAGAAGTGAACATGGGTCTAGAGACCAAAACCC
```

This generates files ready to input into OligoArray.

GENERATING A CUSTOM BLAST DATABASE

Now that our input files are ready, we need to make a custom BLAST database. This step only needs to be done once for each genome to be searched. The starting point for this task is a .fas file containing the entire genome of the organism in question, arranged in the same 1 kb input file format. These can be created by downloading whole-chromosome fasta files either from UCSC using a .bed or directly from a repository such as GenBank. These files can then be concatenated using the ConcatenateFiles.class script available from the OligoArray website. Once a master file for the whole genome is assembled, the input_blocks.py script can then be run. Master files for each genome already run by the Wu lab are available on the Oligopaints website. In this example, a master file for the Drosophila genome, “dm3.fas,” already exists in our working directory. We make a new folder called “BlastDb,” in which we create a symbolic link back to our dm3.fas master file:

```
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ mkdir BlastDb
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ ls
antennapedia.fas  antennapedia.txt  bin  biothorax.txt  bithorax.fas  BlastDb  dm3.fas  in_antennapedia.fas  in_bithorax.fas
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ cd BlastDb/
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example/BlastDb$ ln -s ../dm3.fas
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example/BlastDb$ ls
dm3.fas
```

We can now make our BLAST database using the formatdb command with the following paramters: “-o T –p F.” Note that formatdb is dependent on an appropriate version of BLAST being installed. Also see the OligoArray website.

```
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example/BlastDb$ formatdb -i dm3.fas -o T -p F
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example/BlastDb$ ls
dm3.fas  dm3.fas.nhr  dm3.fas.nin  dm3.fas.nsd  dm3.fas.nsi  dm3.fas.nsq  formatdb.log
```

RUNNING OLIGOARRAY

With our input files and BLAST database in hand, we are ready to run OligoArray. See the OligoArray website for details on all the available options. In this example, OligoArray will be run on Harvard Orchestra UNIX cluster. For each region, we will create a tab-delimited .txt file specifying the parameters to run OligoArray with. The contents of an example file, “batch_antennapedia.txt,” are show below:

java -Xmx8192m -jar /home/bjb11/OligoArray2_1/OligoArray2.jar -i in_atennapedia.fas -d BlastDb/dm3.fas -o antennapedia_oligo.txt -r antennapedia_rejected.fas -R antennapedia.log -n 30 -l 50 -L 50 -D 1000 -t 85 -T 99 -s 70 -x 70 -p 35 -P 80 -m "GGGG;CCCC;TTTTT;AAAAA" -g 52

This text specifies to search each region for 50mer probe sequences with an estimated T_M of between 85 and 99°C and a GC content of 35 - 80% that do not contain the sequences “GGGG,” “CCCC,” “TTTTT,” or “AAAAA.” A minimum spacing of 2 bp between probes is enforced. OligoArray will output three files: antennapedia_oligo.txt, which will detail every probe sequence discovered; antennapedia_rejected.fas, the input sequence blocks in which 0 probes were found in a format that is ready to be re-inputted into OligoArray; antennapedia.log, which details the line-by-line activity of OligoArray.

At this point, the files can be submitted to the cluster or run on the user’s home machine. Note that is important to make sure OligoArray2.jar and our input files have the appropriate permissions. Permissions can be checked by typing “ls -l,” and changed with the chmod command.

To run OligoArray locally, the user can simply type:

$ bash batch_antennapedia.txt

With our LSF system, the command on the cluster would be:

```
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ bsub -q shared_1d bash batch_antennapedia.txt
Job <14740> is submitted to queue <shared_1d>.
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ bsub -q shared_1d bash batch_bithorax.txt
Job <14741> is submitted to queue <shared_1d>.
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ bjobs
JOBID   USER    STAT  QUEUE      FROM_HOST   EXEC_HOST   JOB_NAME   SUBMIT_TIME
14740   bjb11   RUN   shared_1d  balcony.orc clarinet001 *pedia.txt Aug 27 13:48
14741   bjb11   RUN   shared_1d  balcony.orc clarinet001 *horax.txt Aug 27 13:48
```

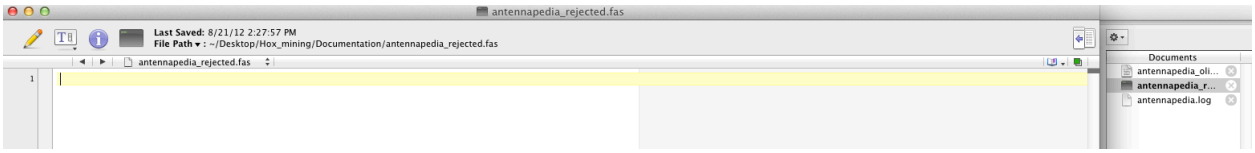
Be advised that OligoArray can be very computationally intensive and can generate large (gigabyte-scale) quantities of data.

PROCESSING THE RESULTS

Once OligoArray has finished running, there were be several additional files in the working directory:

```
bjb11@balcony:/files/Genetics/Wu Lab/OligoPaints/hox_example$ ls -sh
total 286M
1.3M antennapedia.fas        2.0K antennapedia_rejected.fas   26K batch_bithorax.txt  1.4M bithorax.fas        2.0K bithorax_rejected.fas  1.4M in_antennapedia.fas
 54M antennapedia.log         26K antennapedia.txt            34K bin                  56M bithorax.log         34K BlastDb                 1.3M in_bithorax.fas
2.4M antennapedia_oligo.txt   26K batch_antennapedia.txt      26K biothorax.txt       2.1M bithorax_oligo.txt  167M dm3.fas
```

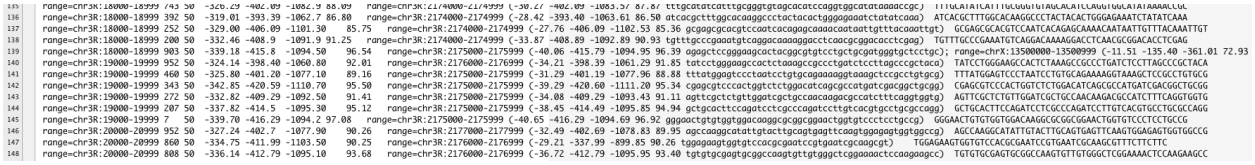
Forunately, the antennepdia_rejected.fas file is empty, indicating that OligoArray was able to find at least 1 probe in every 1 kb chunk inputted:



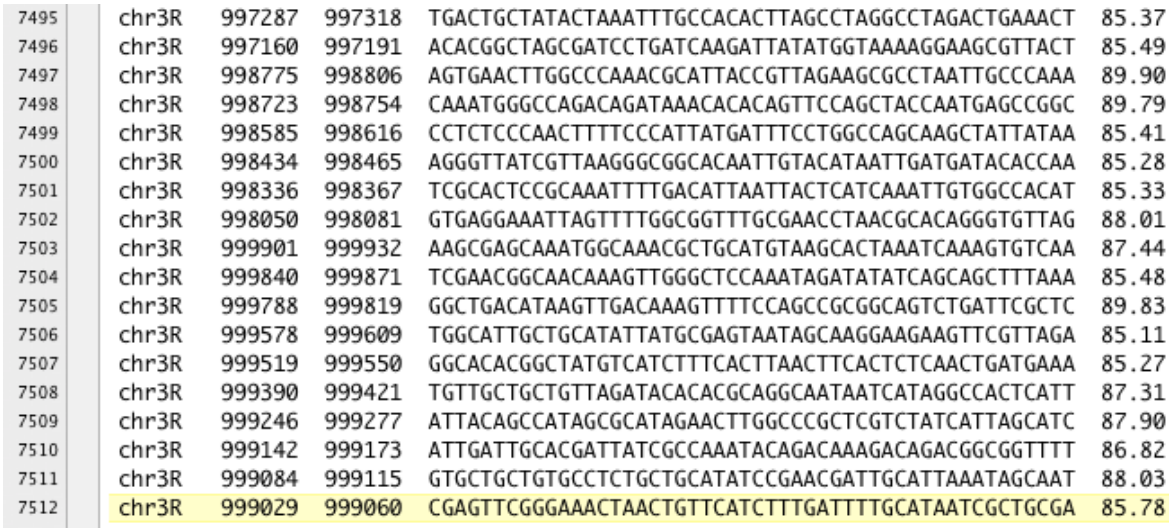
OligoArray also produced a very dense log file, a portion of which is shown below:

```
180  Folding CCTTGGGACTCATTGCCCTAAAGACCTGGAAGGCCATGACCTTGGGCCTG... DONE
181  range=chr3R:0-999   785 rejected due to a secondary structure (deltaG = -1.459 @ 70.0 degrees)
182  Updating thermodata... DONE
183  Folding GCCTTGGGACTCATTGCCCTAAAGACCTGGAAGGCCATGACCTTGGGCCT... DONE
184  range=chr3R:0-999   784 rejected due to a secondary structure (deltaG = -1.076 @ 70.0 degrees)
185  Updating thermodata... DONE
186  Folding GGCCTTGGGACTCATTGCCCTAAAGACCTGGAAGGCCATGACCTTGGGCC... DONE
187  Testing specificity... DONE
188  range=chr3R:0-999   783 Oligo selected
189  Updating thermodata... DONE
190  Folding TTCTGCCCTTCCTTCTGGGCCTGAAACTGAAGACCACTGTGCTGGTGCCA... DONE
191  Testing specificity... DONE
192  range=chr3R:0-999   731 Oligo selected
193  range=chr3R:0-999   679 rejected due to prohibited sequences
```

And finally, OligoArray outputs a file detaling the selected oligos and their properties:



In this oligo.txt file, oligos with multiple putative targets are reported along with all the putative target sites; an example of this can be seen in line 138 above. We have a written a script, clean_file.py, that processes oligo.txt files and removes probes with multiple putative targets. clean_file.py outputs a “cleaned” oligo.txt file, which contains detailed information about each oligo, as well as a .bed file in the same format as the Oligopaints .bed files hosted on the Oligopaints website. A screenshot is shown below:



7495	chr3R	997287	997318	TGACTGCTATACTAAATTTGCCACACTTAGCCTAGGCCTAGACTGAAACT	85.37
7496	chr3R	997160	997191	ACACGGCTAGCGATCCTGATCAAGATTATATGGTAAAAGGAAGCGTTACT	85.49
7497	chr3R	998775	998806	AGTGAACTTGGCCCAAACGCATTACCGTTAGAAGCGCCTAATTGCCCAAA	89.90
7498	chr3R	998723	998754	CAAATGGGCCAGACAGATAAACACACAGTTCCAGCTACCAATGAGCCGGC	89.79
7499	chr3R	998585	998616	CCTCTCCCAACTTTTCCCATTATGATTTCCTGGCCAGCAAGCTATTATAA	85.41
7500	chr3R	998434	998465	AGGGTTATCGTTAAGGGCGGCACAATTGTACATAATTGATGATACACCAA	85.28
7501	chr3R	998336	998367	TCGCACTCCGCAAATTTTGACATTAATTACTCATCAAATTGTGGCCACAT	85.33
7502	chr3R	998050	998081	GTGAGGAAATTAGTTTTGGCGGTTTGCGAACCTAACGCACAGGGTGTTAG	88.01
7503	chr3R	999901	999932	AAGCGAGCAAATGGCAAACGCTGCATGTAAGCACTAAATCAAAGTGTCAA	87.44
7504	chr3R	999840	999871	TCGAACGGCAACAAAGTTGGGCTCCAAATAGATATATCAGCAGCTTTAAA	85.48
7505	chr3R	999788	999819	GGCTGACATAAGTTGACAAAGTTTTCCAGCCGCGGCAGTCTGATTCGCTC	89.83
7506	chr3R	999578	999609	TGGCATTGCTGCATATTATGCGAGTAATAGCAAGGAAGAAGTTCGTTAGA	85.11
7507	chr3R	999519	999550	GGCACACGGCTATGTCATCTTTCACTTAACTTCACTCTCAACTGATGAAA	85.27
7508	chr3R	999390	999421	TGTTGCTGCTGTTAGATACACACGCAGGCAATAATCATAGGCCACTCATT	87.31
7509	chr3R	999246	999277	ATTACAGCCATAGCGCATAGAACTTGGCCCGCTCGTCTATCATTAGCATC	87.90
7510	chr3R	999142	999173	ATTGATTGCACGATTATCGCCAAATACAGACAAAGACAGACGGCGGTTTT	86.82
7511	chr3R	999084	999115	GTGCTGCTGTGCCTCTGCTGCATATCCGAACGATTGCATTAAATAGCAAT	88.03
7512	chr3R	999029	999060	CGAGTTCGGGAAACTAACTGTTCATCTTTGATTTTGCATAATCGCTGCGA	85.78

At this point, this file is now compatible with all of the scripts written for working with Oligopaints .bed files. Our probe mining has discovered 7512 probes over this 1 Mb region, giving a probe density of 7.5 probes/kb. At this point, we could sort these probes by T_M using the sortFile.py script, or use probeNumber.py to find the densest 2500, etc. We will make the /hox_example/ directory and all of its contents available as a .tar.gz on the Oligopaints website so users can try to replicate this example on their home systems/clusters. Good luck and happy FISHing!