

Research

Function annotation of the rice transcriptome at single-nucleotide resolution by RNA-seq

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The functional complexity of the rice transcriptome is not yet fully elucidated, despite many studies having reported the use of DNA microarrays. Next-generation DNA sequencing technologies provide a powerful approach for mapping and quantifying the transcriptome, termed RNA sequencing (RNA-seq). In this study, we applied RNA-seq to global sample transcripts of the cultivated rice *Oryza sativa indica* and *japonica* subspecies for resolving the whole-genome transcription profiles. We identified 15,708 novel transcriptional active regions (nTARs), of which 51.7% have no homolog to public protein data and >63% are putative single-exon transcripts, which are highly different from protein-coding genes (<20%). We found that 48% of rice genes show alternative splicing patterns, a percentage considerably higher than previous estimations. On the basis of the available rice gene models, 83.1% (46,472 genes) of the current rice gene models were validated by RNA-seq, and 6228 genes were identified to be extended at the 5' and/or 3' ends by at least 50 bp. Comparative transcriptome analysis demonstrated that 3464 genes exhibited differential expression patterns. The ratio of SNPs with nonsynonymous mutations was nearly 1:106. In total, we interrogated and compared transcriptomes of the two rice subspecies to reveal the overall transcriptional landscape at maximal resolution.

[Supplemental material is available online at <http://www.genome.org>. The RNA-seq data from this study have been deposited in the EMBL Sequence Read Archive (SRA) under accession no. ERA000212 (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/data/view/ERA000212>) and are available in a genome browser at <http://www.ncgr.ac.cn/rrs>. The sequence data set of continuous transcribed fragments, the detailed list of identified splicing junctions, all identified SNP lists, the SPSS binary code, and Perl scripts are freely available at <http://www.ncgr.ac.cn/english/edatabase.htm>.]

Rice is a major food crop and a model organism for studying plant biology. The rice transcriptome is highly complex and dynamic, and its functional complexity is not yet fully elucidated. Despite many studies having reported the use of DNA microarrays, next-generation DNA sequencing technologies provide a powerful approach for mapping and quantifying the transcriptome, termed RNA sequencing (RNA-seq). In this study, we applied RNA-seq to global sample transcripts of the cultivated rice *Oryza sativa indica* and *japonica* subspecies for resolving the whole-genome transcription profiles. We identified 15,708 novel transcriptional active regions (nTARs), of which 51.7% have no homolog to public protein data and >63% are putative single-exon transcripts, which are highly different from protein-coding genes (<20%). We found that 48% of rice genes show alternative splicing patterns, a percentage considerably higher than previous estimations. On the basis of the available rice gene models, 83.1% (46,472 genes) of the current rice gene models were validated by RNA-seq, and 6228 genes were identified to be extended at the 5' and/or 3' ends by at least 50 bp. Comparative transcriptome analysis demonstrated that 3464 genes exhibited differential expression patterns. The ratio of SNPs with nonsynonymous mutations was nearly 1:106. In total, we interrogated and compared transcriptomes of the two rice subspecies to reveal the overall transcriptional landscape at maximal resolution.

Received 12/15/10; accepted 1/10/11. This article is a U.S. Government work and, as such, is in the public domain in the United States of America. Correspondence should be addressed to Bin Han, National Center for Gene Research & Institute of Plant Physiology and Ecology, Shanghai Institutes of Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai 200233, China. E-mail: bhan@ncgr.ac.cn; fax: 86-21-64825775. Article published online before print. Article and publication date are at <http://www.genome.org/cgi/doi/10.1101/gr.106120.110>. Freely available online through the *Genome Research* Open Access option.

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Article published online before print. Article and publication date are at <http://www.genome.org/cgi/doi/10.1101/gr.106120.110>. Freely available online through the *Genome Research* Open Access option.

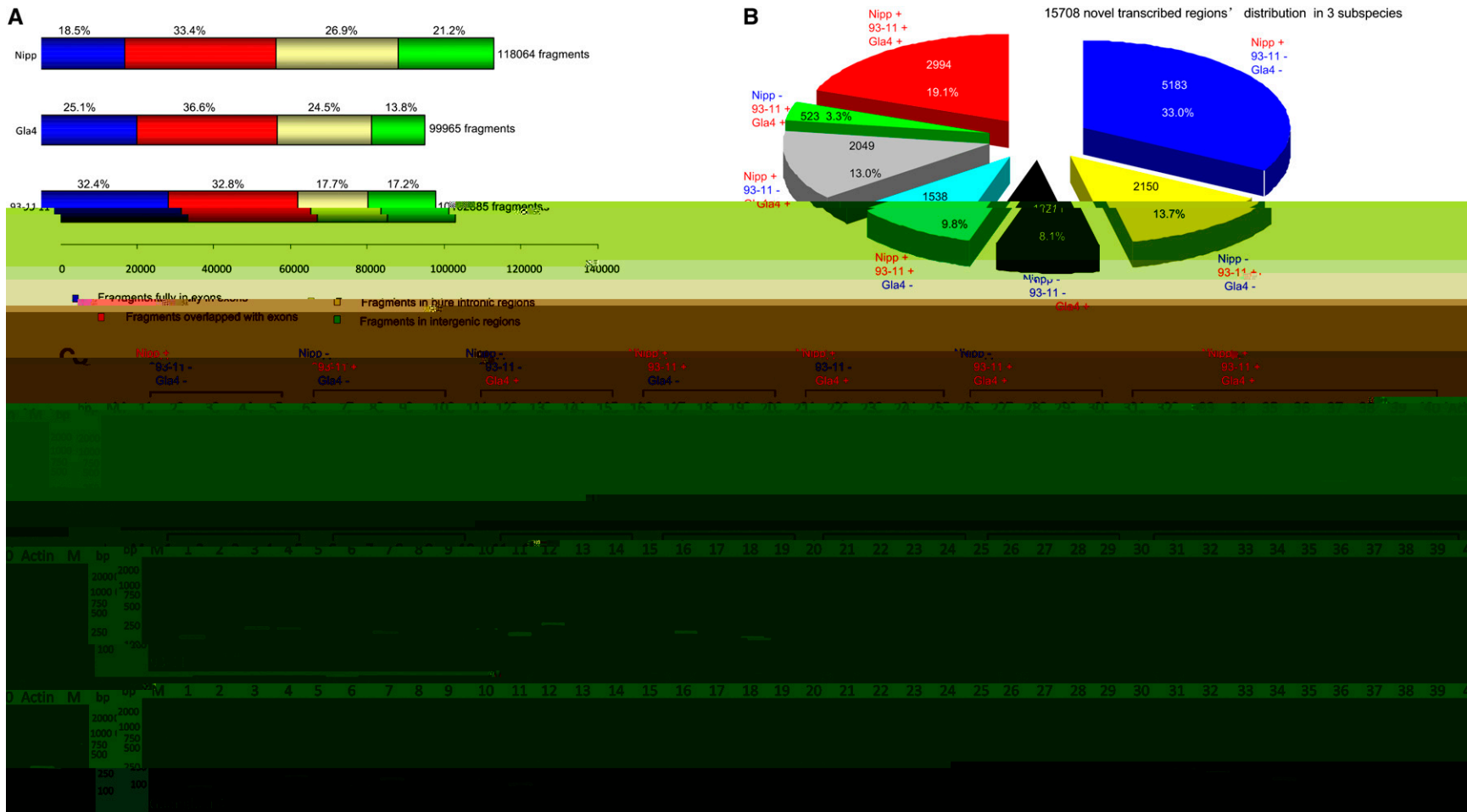


Figure 2. Characterization and classification of nTARs. (A) Distribution of continuous transcribed fragments according to the MSU annotated gene models. (B) The 15,708 nTARs were classified in seven categories based on the positive (+) or negative (-) detection of the transcribed fragments in three rice varieties, 93-11, Guangluai 4, and Nipponbare. (C) RT-PCR validation of 40 randomly selected transcripts from the seven categories (indicated at *top*) of nTARs was carried out using the total RNAs of the three rice varieties, Nipponbare, 93-11, and Guangluai 4, as indicated. Amplification of the actin fragment in RT-PCR was used as control.

For 3C. RT-PCR analysis of the *tau* gene was performed using primers 40 and TAR (Fig. 2C).

Extension of gene boundaries

To determine the 5' and 3' ends of the *tau* gene, we performed 5' RAGE and 3' RAGE using the primers described in Table 1. The 5' RAGE analysis revealed that the 5' end of the *tau* gene is located at position 1093, 1325, and 2118 bp upstream of the 5' end of the 93-11, G4, and N1, b, a, ea, 50 b, 1824, 4007, and 4646 bp upstream of the 5' end of the O203, 361, and 536 bp upstream of the 5' end of the 93-11, G4, and N1 (See Table 3). We therefore extended the UTR region of the *tau* gene to include the 5' end of the O203, 361, and 536 bp upstream of the 5' end of the 93-11, G4, and N1 (GO) region (See Table 3). The 3' RAGE analysis revealed that the 3' end of the *tau* gene is located at position 5' upstream of the 5' end of the 93-11, G4, and N1 (See Table 3).

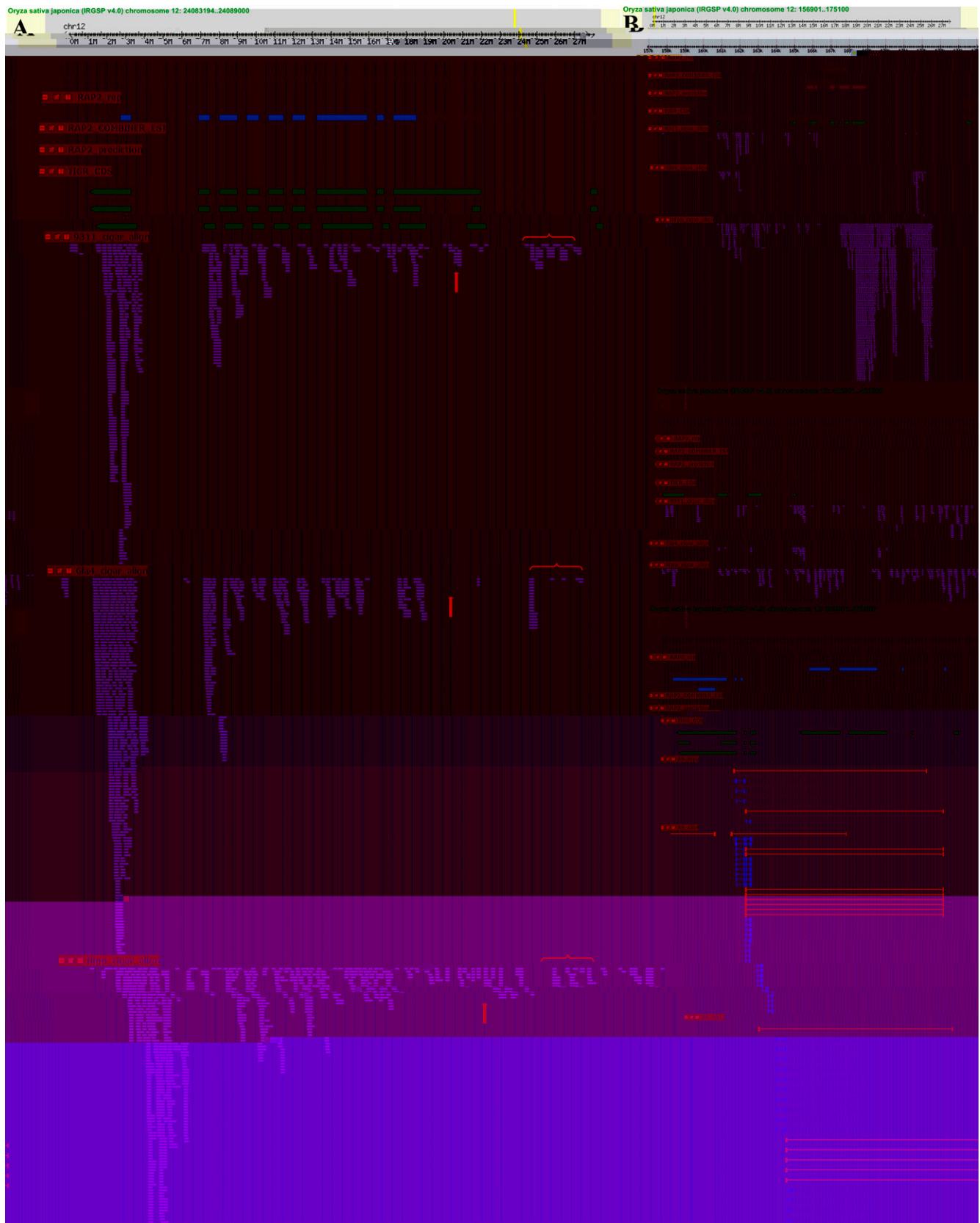


Figure 3. Examples of identified novel AS patterns and nTARs. (A) Novel exons (brackets) and alternative exons (vertical arrows) in the LOC_Os12g38850 transcript among 93-11, Guangluai 4, and Nipponbare are shown. Exons (filled boxes and horizontal arrows) and introns (lines) predicted by gene models (RAP2 and TIGR) were indicated. The RNA-seq short reads were indicated by purple lines. (B) Strong transcriptional activity was detected by the RNA-seq reads (purple lines) in the Nipponbare nearby gene LOC_Os12g01290. (C) nTARs identified by RNA-seq reads (purple lines) in Nipponbare and 93-11 as compared with the gene prediction models. (D) Novel exon–exon splicing junctions were identified in the three varieties.

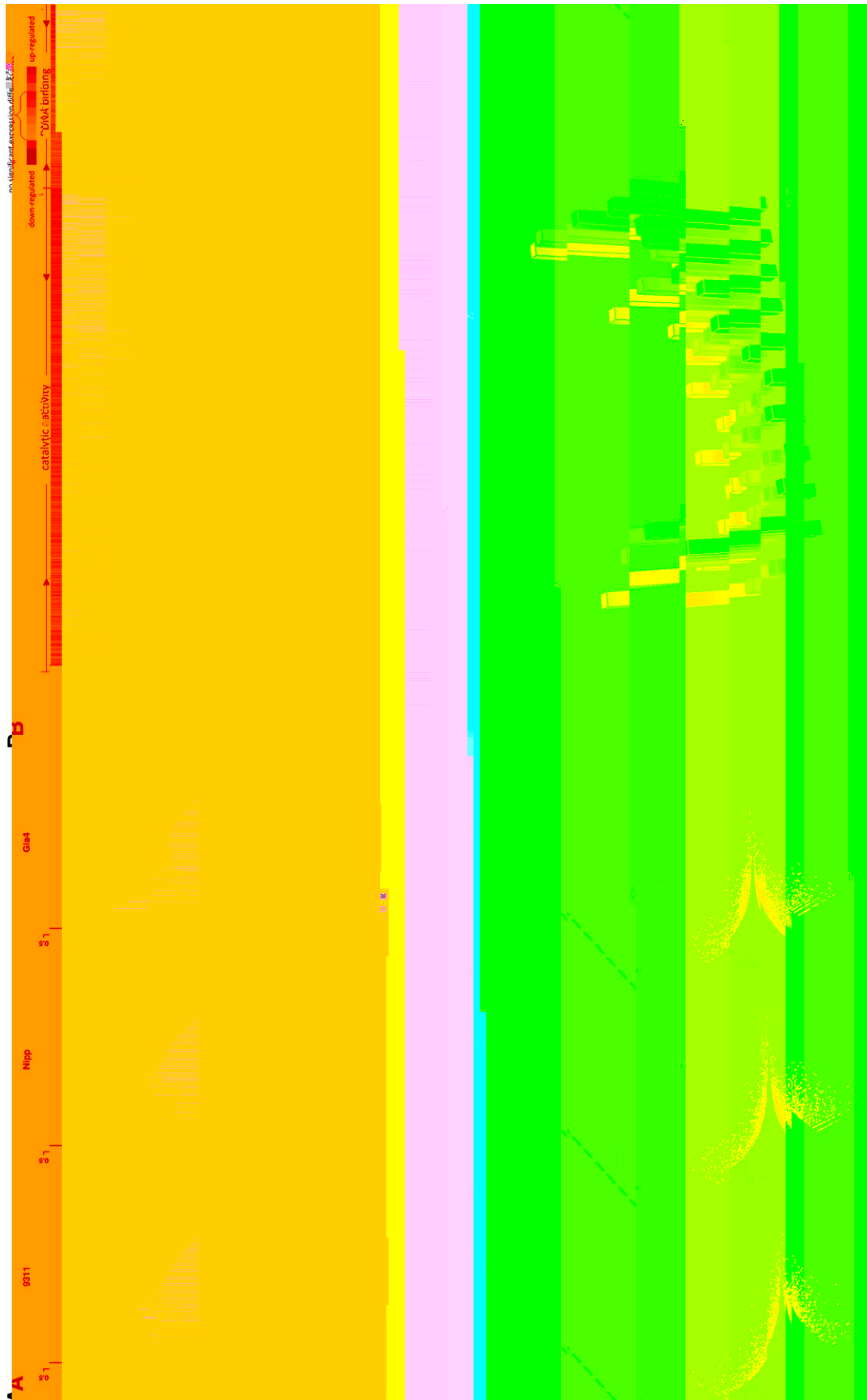


Figure 5. Analyses of DEGs between *indica* and *japonica*. (A) The top row of graphs show \log_2 ratios of the expressed genes in 93-11, Nipponbare, and Guangluai 4, respectively. The second row of box-and-whisker plots show \log_2 transformed values of the expressed genes in the three rice varieties. The *third* row of graphs show the scatter plot comparing the gene expression levels between 93-11 and Gla4, between 93-11 and Nipp, and between Gla4 and Nipp, respectively. The *fourth* row of graphs show the genes identified as differentially expressed by Fisher's exact test (red dots). (B) Cluster display of 34,738 coexpressed genes by CO analysis. Differentially expressed genes are shown in red (up-regulated) and blue (down-regulated). Genes with similar expression levels are shown in gray. (C) Genes are categorized on the basis of expression support. (MSU) MSU annotated; (co-expressed) co-expressed genes; (either-DEG) differentially expressed genes in either two varieties; (all-DEG) differentially expressed genes in all three varieties. The percentage of each molecular function for the gene categories is shown.

Identification of SNPs and comparative analysis

RNA-seq analysis identified SNPs (Wead et al., 2008). We identified SNPs in *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Arabidopsis japonica* using the NCBI dbSNP database. We identified 67,011 SNPs between 93-11 and GA4 RNA-seq data. We identified 26,481 SNPs between GA4 and N. We identified 8,729, 2825, and 14,263 SNPs in the 93-11, GA4, and N regions, respectively. On average, there are 32,920 SNPs in 93-11, 59,809 SNPs in GA4, and 16,597 SNPs in N. The density of SNPs is 16.597 SNPs per Mb in 93-11, 800 SNPs per Mb in GA4, and 400 SNPs per Mb in N. About 60.8% of SNPs are located in the 3' UTR and 10.1% in the 5' UTR. In 93-11, N, and GA4, there are 8622, 9144, and 9684 SNPs in the 5' UTR, respectively. The ratio of SNPs in the 5' UTR is 1:1.06 in 93-11, 1:1.06 in GA4, and 1:1.06 in N. We identified 15,708 SNPs in the 5' UTR of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* genome (S. E. F. 4B).

Discussion

Our analysis identified SNPs in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Arabidopsis japonica*, and *Arabidopsis hirsuta*. We identified SNPs in the 5' UTR and 3' UTR of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* genome. The density of SNPs in the 5' UTR is 16.597 SNPs per Mb in 93-11, 800 SNPs per Mb in GA4, and 400 SNPs per Mb in N. About 60.8% of SNPs are located in the 3' UTR and 10.1% in the 5' UTR. In 93-11, N, and GA4, there are 8622, 9144, and 9684 SNPs in the 5' UTR, respectively. The ratio of SNPs in the 5' UTR is 1:1.06 in 93-11, 1:1.06 in GA4, and 1:1.06 in N. We identified 15,708 SNPs in the 5' UTR of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* genome (S. E. F. 4B).

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bab beca sed ffe e a e f a e ac a e e e sed
a d d ffe e a a e e e e ea ed b SPSS a d T Ha
H e e e e c e e f a d a e
e d f e -de a a s s f a s c e a a e
.C s e e e (L e a .2006), e RNA-
se da a ded a a a e a f e d ffe e
a s c a ac e s a a c a e d e e c a a d
e c a e e e e (F .4). T e d ffe e e s s
e e s f e a s c c d b e d e s s d ffe e c e s e
a e f a d e e e e b ca d ffe e ce s bab
a e s s ed b e ee e a e e s .O a a e s f DEG; 93-11,
G a 4, a d N ded a a e a e a s e c a e c
c a a e e s e a c . U s e x² t d e s s f e s e RNA-
se e s c d b e e ab l e a s ed de f DEG; a
b a s ed a e b e a e a e e f f e c . L e s s d s f
a f c a f RNA e e e e e e e c
d e s ab e d e e c s e s t a f e e e e x-
e s s e e .

We f d 75,740, 67,306, a d 40,743 SNP; (c d e a b e
e e e s s SNP;) b e e e e a s c e f 93-11 a d N ,
b e e e e a s c e f G a 4 a d N , a d b e e e a -
s c e f N a d N t , e s e c e . T s e e s e a t e a e
b e f SNP; a e e c ed . P s b e e a s s f e s SNP; a e
a s f s : T e a e f e c e e a SNP; b e e e c e s ;
e a b e a f f e c ed b RNA ed ; e e b e ed s e-
e c e e s s e f s e e c e a f a ; e a
b e d e d f e a e e e e e e b t s a e
b a e f e e c e e c e e . I d b e ed a t a c-
c d e e s e d a a e c d t c e a d e e t e t a
SNP; a e d b e s s d e RNA ed . U s b t e c DNA
a d RNA f e s a e t a s t f e s a e a e f d e e -
s e e c e e b a s e a t b e a b e e t a d e-
e c a d a a e RNA ed .
T d a e e e a c e d e a e d e ad; (acc d
f e e e c e IRGSP 4.0) f t s s d . A e 8.3% 19.7% f e
t e a e d e ad; RNA; e d a a e a e d a a e d .
M s f e e e ad; c d b e a b ed d ca ed
e e s a d s e e t a d ca s . I I add t , 22.4% 30.4%
f e e ad; c d b e a e d e N t b a e e e s e-
e c e . T e a e a s s f e s e t a e d e ad; a e s e e c
e s (S e e a F .2B) a d e e e a f e s a e
e a a s ; a e e a s s e e c a a t f e e f e -
e c e 6.4% 7.7% e ad; f s s e c t c d b e a c ed e e
93-11 e e s e e c e ; f e e a s s c d e e f e e c e e t ;
a d e d e f ed a c e s s . W e e s e d e indica 93-
11 e t e s e e c e a s a a e f e e c e , a t e d s e c-
e s a s ~45% 62% , d ca t a e e 93-11 e e s e e c
s t c e e .

I s t a , e RNA-se a a c a s e a s a e f f c e
e d f a s c t e e f a a s e s . I c a b e d e a -
e d f a t s e a c s e s , a f d e f
a s c b e d a c e e s s c s e s , a d A S a e t s f e a-
s t e RNA e s s f d e e c t DEG; f d f f e e s a -
e s e c a s s b e c e s .

Methods

Plant.3h04.3(materials.3h04.8(and)-25.2(gro th)-307)(conditions)]T/TIOITf7.702007.7025.7543106.1858Tm[(Seeds)-268.6(from)-265.8(the)-26.2(c
tation.3h18(kit)3h15.2((Ambion.12.5()-322h)146.3h1(first)3h15.4(cDNA)-30.2(strand)-313.(as)-315.(s nl46sied)-30.3(using)]TT[(random)-317.(he am
constructed b follo ing manufacturers instructions (Illu-
mina). Fragments of ~300 b e e e x s e d a d e c ed b PCR
f 18 c c e s . T e d c ; e e a d e f c e c a e s a
a c c e a f 2 M f a e d -e .12.5(d)-360.2(40)-349.7(b)TJ/T1_31Tf21.77330Td(3)T /T1_01Tf0.3548Tc1.18790Td[(2)354.8(-)3-
a e d f t a e a a s s a d b a s e

Data anal sis

S e e c e a e .12.8 e e e f ed b SSAHA2 2.3 (S e e c e
S e c a d A e b Ha; A) f 146.3 40.4 (s f a e) J T J 0 - 1 . 2
s e d e I a F A S T Q 146.3240.8 (S a e) - 228 (s d a d) - 238 (F) 26.3 (A S T
I R G S P 1 s e d e c e s f e j a p o n i c a c . N b a e (B d 4 . 0
a d 5.0, s : // . d a . a f f c . . I R G S P / B d 4 / b d 4 .) , B G I
c e i n . 1 . d i 2 4 . t c a J 1 0 1 f 2 . 0 2 2 0 d c v 2 . 1 . 2 . 2 . 1 1 . 1 1 2 4 . c o 2 . n t 2 4 . 2 i 2 2 . 1 s , 1 . a n 2 n o 2 2 . t a 1 . t 1 .
r e s u l t s , r e a d s t h a t . 2 1 a l i n e d 1 t o m u l t i p l e e n o m i c l o c a t i o n s e r e i
n o r e d . O f . 2 4 . 2 t h e 2 4 . u n i u e l y 2 2 . m a p p e d 2 4 . r e a d s , 2 4 . h s e r e s e t t o a l l o

a ed ead; f e 40-b a ed-e d ead; a d 38 71-b c -
; a a d ead; f 76-b a ed-e d ead; e e a ;
e a c ed a c a d da e e e c ead;.
P a ed-e d ead; a e a ed e e e e ce
e e f e a ed e e e ed MSU 6.0. F e be
f ead; a e e f c a ed e a ; a c ed. T e e e ;
; e e f eac e e a ; de e ed a ; e ; f a ;
e ;.

Differential e pressed gene assessment

We de ec ed e e e e ; e e ; f f e DEG de f ca
; e e f ca c a : (M a c ed PE ead; e e e / a
a c ed PE ead; f e a e) × (a a c ed PE ; a e e
a e e ; / 3). We e de f ed DEG; f d f e e a e e ; (93-
11, G 4, a d N) acc d a R ac a e a ed "DEG;e "
(W a e a . 2010a). T e Pe a ; χ^2 e ; a a ed a ; e e ;
a e e f e c . F e ac e e , e P

Identification of no el transcribed acti e regions

T e e e e e c e ; (e c d a UTR; e a ; a d -
;) e e b l de ed ; e ce MSU cDNA da a a d e N -
l ba e se d ec e s. S e c e ; f c e e ;
e e c e ; e e f e de f ed. T l se a c -
; a e e f ≥ 100 b a a e a e e e e c de l
f ≥ 5 e ; / b a a e e f 50 100 b a de
≥ 10 e ; / b e e e ed f a e e a e bed f a -
e . W e a f 95.4% f e l ce e e ; e s be < 8 b
a d 99.76% ; e s be < 5 b (e e ed ce MSU da a), e
c b ed e l a ; c bed f a e ; c l ca ed e ad a-
ce e e c e l ; (± 5 b) e l d d a a l ; c bed
N e a ; c bed e e a ; l ed a ; TAR; a d e e ; e a c ed
a a ; l DB a d e e l a d ; e e c ed f f e a da b
RT-PCR l

Gene boundar determination using continuous transcribed fragments

T e c ; a ; c bed e ; e e e ed e e f e
a e l be e e l a ; c a f a e ; a ; < 30 b (a ;
~ 0.1% f l ce e e ; a da e l e f < 30 b). T e , e
ce MSU e e b da e e e c l a ed l ec b ed a l -
; c bed e ; de e e e e a e l e l ded e e b l d-
a e ; b ; c ee f a b ea e a ; c bed e e a
e a a ed UTR. T e UTR a ; c l ; de ed e e ded f e -
; e a / d ; e a se e ce e f e a l a ; c bed
f a e e ; a ; > 50 b .

Detection of splicing sites

T e a SSAHA2 e ; e e a ed a se f se e ce ead; a
a a l a c ed e e e e ce e l e se e ce a d sed l -
e a ; c ed ead; . We se ec ed ca d da e trans- ead; f f e
a d a ; e f e e a : F 40-b a ed-e d ead; ;
e e a c ed se 20 36 b c ; a d e
a c ed e e e e ce f 76-b a ed-e d ead; , e e a c ed
se 38 71 b . We de e ed SPSS, e C++, de e e
l e b ea l ; c ; e s. T e a a e l f ; a l ;
b l e f de ; c bed e e. F ; e l ca f e a l e trans- ead;
e e e se e ce l e ded l be dele ed; ; a a ;
; b e ec e e e e a l f e ead. Sec d, e
se a c ed e a ed a f e trans- ead a a ; a f 50 b
6 b f e a l ; e ce a e f l e ; e a
l d ; e a ; se l e ce, acc d ca a d l e a
e e e e ce se e ce (f e ce ; a , l e se e ce ; l be
e e sed). T d, e f e ed se a c e ; b ; ca e GT/AG
(e e se, CT/AC) l ; e ac a c ed trans- ead. F a ,
a de f e ac de f ed c ≥ 2 a ; e ed. A e GC/
AG l e a a ; e ; ed l de ec AS a e ; . We a ; a -
ed T Ha a a a a b e ; f a e l a c a e, l d ; c e ; c e
c e l e a a e e e f ce e f SPSS (T a l e e a . 2009).
T a da e e l e ; c c ; a ; e de ; ed 40
e ; a d ; e l e a RNA ; f N b a e f RT-PCR (S -
e e a Tab e 6). l

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Received February 4, 2010; accepted in revised form July 12, 2010.



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Tingting Lu, Guojun Lu, Danlin Fan, et al.

Genome Res. 2010 20: 1238-1249 originally published online July 13, 2010

Access the most recent version at doi:[10.1101/gr.106120.110](https://doi.org/10.1101/gr.106120.110)

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