



## Shannon pipeline plug-in: For human mRNA splicing mutations

CLC bio Genomics Workbench plug-in

CLC bio Genomics Server plug-in

### Features and Benefits

Cytognomix introduces a line of Shannon pipeline plug-ins for prediction of functionally-significant, non-coding variants in genome or exome sequences. Comprehensive genome-scale analysis is now possible for mutations which completely or partially inactivate mRNA splice sites or activate cryptic splicing. The Shannon pipeline plug-in uses our patented and proven information theory-based binding site analysis. Its algorithm has been validated in hundreds of [peer-reviewed research studies of splicing mutations](#), and has been recognized by the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics in their published guidelines and standards ([Genet. Med. 7, 571–583](#)).

The CLC Bio Genomics Workbench is used to visualize, export, and further analyze the results of the Shannon pipeline suite.

### Cytognomix Tools

The CLC-Genomics Workbench retrieves lists of variants, and either processes the data itself or funnels it to the Shannon pipeline on the Genomics Server. Genome-wide information analysis is performed, then annotated against standard databases, and resulting mutations are filtered. Results are displayed as exportable Manhattan-style plots, sortable tables, or browser tracks.

### User Benefits

- The Shannon Human Splicing Pipeline starts with hundreds of thousands of variants, then hones in on the very limited number that potentially alter mRNA splicing.
- Variants are categorized by whether they fully or partially inactivate natural sites or activate cryptic sites proximate to exons or within them.
- Predicts variants missed by many other techniques
- Splicing-related changes are displayed graphically either as “Manhattan-like” plots or as BED tracks.
- Mutations can be sorted according to:
  - the change in information content,
  - the proximity to a natural splice site,
  - the relative strength of cryptic vs adjacent natural site,
  - gene and chromosome coordinate.
- Variants that affect known single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) are identified and can be filtered according to allele frequency.
- Results for genome-wide high throughput sequence data obtained in ≤2 hours.

- Fully integrated with CLC-Bio Genomics Workbench and Genomics Server

## Features

- Identifies likely mutations with industry-leading sensitivity and specificity. Trusted legacy of experimentally validated mutation predictions.
- Input accepts variants in VCF, in *Cytognomix*'s simple indexed format, or as CLC Bio variant objects.
- Can accept variants and output results with either hg18 (NCBI36) or hg19 (GRCh37) coordinates.
- Intuitive exportable results based on sensible defaults.
- Run as a standalone application on the Genomics Workbench or configured as a client-server with both the Workbench and Server.
- Fully compatible output for other CLC Bio Workbench Tools.

## Innovative platform for rapid, non-coding mutation analysis

*Cytognomix* uses information theory-based models of mRNA splicing to analyze mutations that alter transcript structure and abundance<sup>1-3</sup>. Information models rank sequences according to their individual information content ( $R_i$  in bits). Functional binding sites have  $R_i > 0$ , corresponding to  $\Delta G < 0$  kcal/mol. Strong binding sites have  $R_i > R_{\text{sequence}}$  while weak sites have  $R_i < R_{\text{sequence}}$ . Variations which alter the affinity of a protein to bind there modify the  $R_i$  of the site. A 1 bit change in information content ( $\Delta R_i$ ) corresponds to a  $\geq 2$  fold change in binding affinity. This approach is applicable to any type of nucleic acid binding site, including transcription factors and other conserved non-coding sequences.

Predictions from these models are accurate<sup>2-4</sup>, as differences in individual information contents ( $\Delta R_i$  in bits) are related to the splicesomal affinities of natural and variant sequences<sup>1,5</sup>. Pathogenicity is related to  $\Delta R_i$ , which is decreased at natural splice sites and/or increased at cryptic sites<sup>6-7</sup>. Sites with negative  $R_i$  values are not recognized. Leaky mutations have modestly reduced  $R_i$  values. Cryptic splice sites with  $R_i$  values exceeding adjacent natural splice sites are activated<sup>2</sup>. The plug-in reports minimally detectable expression changes of  $>2$  fold<sup>8</sup>, or  $\Delta R_i > 1$  bit, as significant.

The Shannon pipeline was initially created to address the vexing problem of assessing the many variants of unknown significance that are detected in cancer genetic testing. The pipeline has been used to reanalyze the Breast Cancer Information Core identifying many splicing mutations, most of which were previously unrecognized<sup>9</sup>.

The Shannon software pipeline was developed and implemented in C and Perl to perform information analysis fast on a genome-wide scale. Determining  $R_i$  values of donor and acceptor sites along a nucleotide sequence is carried out using a convolution-style, sliding-window computation on chromosomes or subsets of chromosomes.  $R_i$  values are computed with  $R_i(b,l)$  information weight matrix (based on a genome-wide set of verified donor and acceptor splice sites). Variants with significant  $\Delta R_i$  values are then filtered, and annotated based on the gene they reside within. For

cryptic splice sites, the distance and relative location of the adjacent natural splice site of the same polarity is reported. Inactivating and leaky natural splice sites and cryptic splicing variants are categorized. Variants with known SNP designations and respective allele frequencies are also reported.

The CLC Bio implementation allows for additional filtering of input, and produces a graphical display of both  $\Delta R_i$  and final  $R_i$  values for each variant on each chromosome, a table output which can be dynamically sorted that is categorized as separate tab for each type of mutation consequence, and BEDGRAPH output suitable for genome browsing. Results may be exported to a spreadsheet format for further data exploration.

#### References:

1. Schneider TD. J. Theor. Biol. 189: 427-41, 1997; 2. Rogan PK et al. Hum Mutat 12:153-171, 1998; 3. Rogan PK et al. Pharmacogenetics. 13:207-18, 2003; 4. Rogan PK, Schneider TD.. Hum Mutat 6:74-76, 1995; 5. Gadiraju S, et al. BMC Bioinformatics 4:38, 2003; 6. von Kodolitsch et al Circulation 100:693-9, 1999; 7. von Kodolitsch et al. 12: 258-262, 2006; 8. Nalla VK, Rogan PK. Hum Mut. 25(4):334-42, 2012.; 9. Mucaki et al. Hum. Mut. 32:735-742, 2012.

## Benchmarks

The *Shannon Human Splicing Pipeline* analyzes an average of 3198 variants/min on an I7-based server:

### Performance of Shannon pipeline plug-in on complete genome sequence data\*

Number of variants	Complete analysis time
100,000	37 m
211,049	1h 12 m
290,589	1h 22 m
314,637	1h 27 m

\*hg18/NCBI36

## Requirements and validation

The Cytognomix Shannon human mRNA splicing plug-in runs in standalone mode on the CLC Genomics Workbench V5.5 or with both the Workbench and CLC Genomics Server V.4.5 (as a standalone server or running Gridworks). Released for **Linux** and **MacOSX** Operating systems supporting Perl and gcc. Installation has been verified with Perl v.5.8.8 and 5.10.1 and gcc v.4.1.2 and v.4.4.3 with the Ubuntu 2.6.32-27 (32 and 64 bit), CentOS 2.6.18-238 (64 bit), and Fedora 16 (32 bit) kernels, and MacOSX (Lion release version 10.7.4; gcc v.4.2.1 and Perl 5.12.3) on hardware equipped with an Intel I7 processor and at least 4Gb RAM.

## Support

CLC Bio customer support (primary)

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Tabular results from genome-wide mutation analysis produced by *CytognomiX*'s Shannon mutation pipeline:

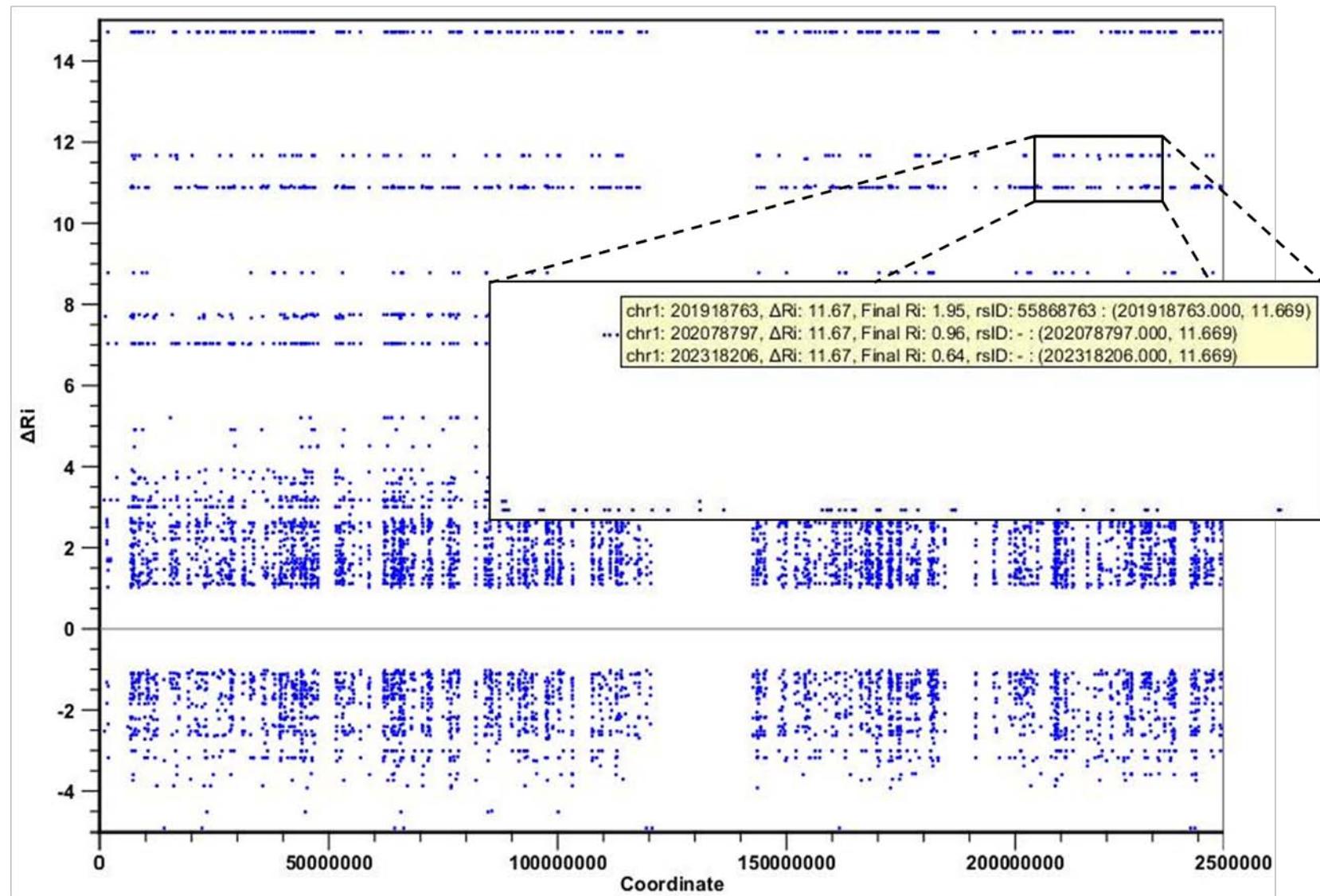
The screenshot shows the CLC Genomics Workbench 5.5 interface. The main window displays a table titled "Effect of variants on Ri and other relevant information" with 7,073 rows. The columns include: C..., Coordinate, Ri-initial, Ri-final, ΔRi, Type, Gene Name, Location, Location..., Loc. Rel. ..., Dis..., Loc. of ne..., Ri of ..., Cryptic Ri re. The table lists various genomic variants with their coordinates, initial and final resistance index values, change in resistance index (ΔRi), type (DONOR or ACCEPTOR), gene names, and locations. A "Table Settings" panel on the right allows filtering and column selection.

C...	Coordinate	Ri-initial	Ri-final	ΔRi	Type	Gene Name	Location	Location...	Loc. Rel. ...	Dis...	Loc. of ne...	Ri of ...	Cryptic Ri re.
5	24171373	+	0.16	-18.46	-18.62	DONOR	C5orf17	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	17	-	-
7	27135485	+	-9.08	9.56	18.63	DONOR	HOTAIRM1	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	193	27135292	6.95 GREATER
9	1409541...	+	-1.19	0.31	1.50	DONOR	CACNA1B	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	4	140954190	8.19 LESS
10	1170597...	+	-1.14	0.36	1.50	DONOR	ATRN1L	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	4	117059758	7.96 LESS
10	98807726	-	-0.91	1.91	2.82	ACCEPTOR	ARHGAP19	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	134	98807592	3.86 LESS
11	17548541	-	2.05	3.31	1.26	ACCEPTOR	USH1C	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	183	17548356	9.62 LESS
11	5345008	+	1.58	-1.05	-2.63	DONOR	OR51B6	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	17	5344991	0.06 GREATER
12	1033225...	-	1.84	-9.04	-10.88	ACCEPTOR	RP11-65...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	75	10332150	5.2 LESS
14	21464681	-	8.69	9.78	1.09	ACCEPTOR	RP11-84...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	191	21464490	15.25 LESS
15	91474977	+	-3.51	0.22	3.73	DONOR	UNC45A	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	167	91474283	7.41 LESS
16	3598755	-	-7.40	3.48	10.88	ACCEPTOR	NLRC3	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	1	3598754	8.17 LESS
17	10351692	-	2.93	1.91	-1.03	ACCEPTOR	MYH4	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	248	10351444	2.67 GREATER
17	73816184	-	4.80	2.80	-2.01	ACCEPTOR	AC08728...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	49	73816135	3.15 GREATER
17	73816190	-	-10.29	1.38	11.67	ACCEPTOR	AC08728...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	55	73816135	3.15 LESS
20	3674074	-	-0.67	0.78	1.44	ACCEPTOR	SIGLEC1	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	295	3673779	3.32 LESS
22	30857538	-	0.86	-0.51	-1.37	ACCEPTOR	SEC14L3	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	71	30857467	8.37 LESS
X	13337617	+	1.70	5.30	3.59	DONOR	GS1-600...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	4	13337613	2.03 GREATER
X	1541330...	-	0.69	2.89	2.20	ACCEPTOR	F8	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	3'-FLANKING	278	154132800	7.0 LESS
1	2127985	-	-1.48	0.02	1.50	DONOR	RP11-33...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-42	21279857	6.6 LESS
1	1522857	+	-6.62	1.13	7.75	ACCEPTOR	RP11-14N...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-138	-	-
1	1551678	+	0.24	-1.22	-1.45	ACCEPTOR	RP11-26...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-71	15516193	2.15 LESS
1	1551726	+	2.52	1.43	-1.09	ACCEPTOR	RP11-26...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-272	155172913	-0.1 GREATER
1	2409661	-	1.83	-16.80	-18.63	DONOR	RGS7	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-83	240966203	3.72 LESS
2	1794046	+	4.01	1.32	-2.69	ACCEPTOR	AC00994...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-166	179404833	3.29 GREATER
2	1523142	+	-2.38	8.50	10.88	ACCEPTOR	RIF1	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-1	152314274	12.34 LESS
3	38139137	+	1.81	-0.36	-2.18	ACCEPTOR	DLE1	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-97	38139234	0.11 GREATER
3	9807660	-	-1.24	2.49	3.73	DONOR	CAMK1	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-148	9807808	4.37 LESS
3	58368239	+	4.75	2.58	-2.16	ACCEPTOR	PXK	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-129	58368240	15.23 LESS
4	1562814...	+	0.80	-0.75	-1.55	ACCEPTOR	AC09746...	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-27	156281436	11.93 LESS
7	43590042	+	0.45	3.58	3.13	ACCEPTOR	HECW1	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-1	43590043	7.59 LESS
7	1072043	+	1.84	4.07	2.23	ACCEPTOR	DUS4L	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-126	-	-
7	6449756	-	-1.32	0.28	1.60	DONOR	DAGLB	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-4	6449760	7.41 LESS
8	15588173	+	-8.37	2.51	10.88	ACCEPTOR	TUSC3	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-1	15588174	12.55 LESS
10	44140111	+	9.16	11.56	2.40	ACCEPTOR	ZNF32-AS3	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-186	44140297	-15.0 GREATER
10	75672761	-	0.21	-11.38	-11.59	DONOR	C10orf55	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-39	75672800	5.75 LESS
11	74556113	-	4.49	6.09	1.60	DONOR	YBRA1	CRYPTIC SITE	INTRONIC	5'-FLANKING	-4	74556117	6.54 LESS

Table Settings (Selected Columns): Chromosome, Coordinate, Strand, Ri-initial, Ri-final, ΔRi, Type, Gene Name, Location, Location Type, Loc. Rel. to exon, Dist. from nearest nat. site, Loc. of nearest nat. site, Ri of nearest nat. site, Cryptic Ri relative to nat., rsID if available, Average heterozygosity, Input coordinate, Input variant, Input ID.

0 rows selected

``Manhattan``-like plot output of potential splicing mutations (unfiltered) on chromosome 1 generated by *CytognomiX*'s Shannon mutation pipeline. Inset shows context-dependent mutation detail generated by mouse-over:



Graphical custom genome browser track output produced by Cytognomix's Shannon mutation pipeline indicating information changes of a series of mutations occurring in the *BRCA1* gene (Mucaki et al. Hum. Mut. 32:735-742, 2012):

