Machine-learning predicts genomic determinants of meiosis-driven structural variation in a eukaryotic pathogen

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Species harbour extensive structural variation underpinning recent adaptive evolution and
major disease phenotypes. Most sequence rearrangements are generated non-randomly along
the genome through non-allelic recombination and transposable element activity. However, the
causality between genomic features and the induction of new rearrangements is poorly
established. Here, we analyse a global set of telomere-to-telomere genome assemblies of a
major fungal pathogen of wheat to establish a nucleotide-level map of structural variation. We
show that the recent emergence of pesticide resistance has been disproportionally driven by
rearrangements. We used machine-learning to train a model of indel and translocation events
based on 30 chromosomal sequence features. We show that base composition and gene density
are the major determinants of structural variation. Low-copy LINE retrotransposons and specific
DNA transposons explain most indel and translocation dynamics, respectively. We retrain our
model on *Arabidopsis thaliana* and show that our modelling approach can be extended to more
complex genomes. Finally, we analysed complete genomes of haploid offspring in a four-
generation pedigree. Meiotic crossover locations were enriched for newly generated structural
variation consistent with crossovers being mutational hotspots. The model trained on species-
wide structural variation predicted 79% and 99% of the translocations and indels in the pedigree,
respectively. The predictive power highlights causality between specific sequence features and
the induction of chromosomal rearrangements. Our work demonstrates that training sequence-
derived models can accurately identify regions of intrinsic DNA instability in eukaryotic
genomes.

Main text

Structural variation including duplications, inversions, insertions and deletions is often the most common form of genetic variation within species [1–3]. A wide range of phenotypes including human diseases, traits for crop improvements and pathogen virulence are associated with chromosomal rearrangements [4–7]. Breaks in genome collinearity can have important consequences for the faithful exchange of alleles during meiosis [8–10]. Hence, chromosomal rearrangements can also underpin adaptation stemming from co-adapted alleles including sex determination loci [11,12]. Structural variation arises either from non-allelic recombination between repetitive regions in the genome or the activity of transposable elements [13,14]. However, predicting the likelihood of sequence rearrangement events remains challenging. In most species, the repetitive sequence content is poorly resolved at the nucleotide-level leading to fuzzy predictions about fragile sites that are prone to rearrangements [15]. Furthermore, analysing segregating structural variants at the population level only partially reflects sequence rearrangement events because selection tends to remove deleterious variants over generations.

Most sequence rearrangements are generated through double-strand break repair [16]. Germline double-strand breaks are typically induced during meiotic recombination [1]. Microhomology, tandem repeats and large-scale duplicated sequences can be at the origin of fragile sites and cause chromosomal instability [17,18]. However, whether and how individual genetic and epigenetic sequence features attract higher rates of sequence rearrangements is poorly understood [16,19]. Pangenome studies across eukaryotes showed that structural variation segregating within species can exceed single nucleotide variation [3]. Species-wide structural variation is often heterogeneously distributed along chromosomes and shows strong associations with epigenetic marks and the activity of transposable elements [9,20–22]. Purifying selection in populations removes deleterious chromosomal rearrangements over generations, hence skewing the spectrum towards neutral or nearly neutral structural variation [8].

Here, we establish a nucleotide-level map of structural variation based on 19 chromosome-level assemblies of the fungal pathogen *Zymoseptoria tritici*, which is one of the most devastating pathogens of wheat causing over a billion euros in losses in Europe alone [23,24]. Based on genome-wide association mapping of 24 phenotypes characterizing the life cycle of the pathogen, we show that top SNPs tend to map near sequence rearrangement loci and that the recent emergence of pesticide resistance was disproportionally driven by structural variation. We applied machine-learning integrating 30 sequence metrics to train a species-wide model to predict causal factors underlying structural variation. We show that the model has high precision and accuracy to predict insertion/deletion (indel) events and we successfully apply the same approach to predict structural variation in the pangenome of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. To disentangle the effect of purifying selection from the mechanisms promoting structural variation, we generated chromosome-level assemblies of nine haploid progeny over four generations. We assess the power of the pangenome-derived model and quantify the impact of parental background on the generation of sequence rearrangements.

Pangenome-wide collinearity analyses reveal hotspots of structural variation

To build a model of how structural variation arises within a species, we analysed the high-quality pangenome of the fungal wheat pathogen *Z. tritici* (Figure 1A). The gapless chromosome-level assemblies are among the most complete pangenome of a eukaryotic species. Homologous chromosomes show substantial breaks in collinearity across the global species range driven both by indels and inversions (Figure 1B). Eight of the 21 chromosomes are accessory in the species with presence/absence polymorphism and can undergo drastic rearrangements such as the fusion of two chromosomes (Figure 1B-C).

Figure 1: Species-wide genome structure of a highly polymorphic microbial eukaryote. A. Worldwide map showing the country of origin of the 19 *Zymoseptoria tritici* isolates and phylogenetic relationships based on 50 random orthologous genes. Colors indicate the continent of origin. **B.** Synteny plot of core chromosome 12 and accessory chromosome 16. The red and blue gradients represent the percentage of identity given BLAST alignments for syntenic and inverted segments, respectively. Darker colours show higher identity values. **C.** Presence/absence variation of accessory chromosomes. The isolate from Yemen carries a hybrid chromosome following a fusion between chromosomes 15 and 16. **D.** Genome-wide synteny ratios and GC content along chromosomes. **E.** Variation in the total transposable element content per chromosome. Length variation is expressed as the coefficient of variation. Curves show the best logarithmic fit.

We performed pairwise complete genome alignments against the reference genome to analyse whether the extent of structural variation within the species varied among chromosomal regions. Collinearity (or synteny) can be expressed as a ratio of syntenic segments over the total number of syntenic and non-syntenic segments across windows (Figure 1D). We averaged synteny scores across the pangenome and found distinct profiles for each chromosome. Telomeric regions were universally of low synteny consistent with higher densities of repetitive sequences and more opportunity for non-allelic recombination. Core chromosomes showed marked drops in synteny in regions of major sequence rearrangements including large inversions on chromosomes 3 and 12. The inversion on chromosome 12 present in the 3 isolates 1E4, CRI10 and KE94 encompasses near 3% of the total chromosome length and affects between 11 and 17 genes (Figure 1B). Accessory chromosomes showed greatly reduced synteny scores compared to core chromosomes with pronounced signatures of sequence degeneration. Overall, 40% of the species gene content is not fixed (*i.e* accessory genes). Chromosomal length variation was positively correlated with transposable element content (Figure 1E). Essential (core) chromosomes showed a cap at ~6% size variation despite significant variability in transposable elements. Accessory chromosomes showed significantly relaxed constraints on chromosome length and transposable element content.

Long-read based structural variant analyses

Local synteny scores do not resolve precise sequence rearrangement events. Hence, we analysed PacBio long reads mapping for 18 individuals against the reference genome (IPO323). Evaluating evidence from split read, mismatch and coverage data, we identified a total of 21'717 structural variants localized at base-pair resolution. Detected variants included duplications (0.85%), indels (56.6%), inversions (0.95%) and translocations (41.6%) (Table S1). Core chromosomes bear on average less structural variants compared to accessory chromosomes but showed a higher proportion of translocation events relative to all structural variant types, suggesting increased transposon activity (Figure 2A). Most indel variants (~70%) are short (<100 bp) and only 3% are larger than 10 kb (612 indels; Figure 2B). Similarly, most duplications (84%) are shorter than 100 bp. In contrast, 56% of inversions are longer than 10 kb. We found that translocations, duplications and inversions show a pronounced shift towards low allele frequencies compared to genome-wide SNPs consistent with purifying selection (Figure 2C). However, we also show that indels on accessory chromosomes are likely under relaxed selection.

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Figure 2: Structural variant heterogeneity across chromosomes and associations with genes.
A. High-confidence structural variants among isolates. Translocations (TRA), indels (INDEL), inversion
(INV) and duplications (DUP). **B.** Size distribution of the four structural variant types. Translocations
were excluded as they have no size assigned. **C.** Minor allele frequency distribution. Curves show
estimates of the exponential decay calculated for each variant type. **D.** Proportion of each type of variant
overlapping with different gene category playing a role in fungal pathogenesis including secondary
metabolite clusters, genes encoding for predicted secreted proteins, effectors and carbohydrate-active
enzymes (CAZymes).

Structural variation underpinning fitness-related trait expression

Major phenotypic innovations originate from chromosomal rearrangements [10,25,26]. Duplications and
deletions affecting coding sequences can promote phenotypic change. We show that more than 5% of
the genome is affected by structural variation and that ~20% of the rearrangements overlap coding
sequences (Figure S1). Inversions are balanced rearrangements that preserve sequence and thus
gene content. We find that inversions are more likely to affect coding sequences (~79%; Figure S1).
Genes encoding effector proteins with likely functions in host manipulation and genes encoding
carbohydrate-degrading enzymes are overall less affected by structural variation (Figure 2D).
Nevertheless, the telomeric effector gene *AvrStb6* known as the major genetic factor controlling disease
development on a broad range of wheat cultivars is affected by a local inversion polymorphism (Figure

S2). The subtelomeric region harbouring *AvrStb6* shows length variation of 30-250 kb and is one of the

top 5% most rearranged chromosomal niches (Figure S2).

To quantify the contribution of structural variation to phenotypic trait variation, we performed genome-

wide association analyses on 24 traits representative of the life cycle of the pathogen. The phenotypes

included virulence on different wheat cultivars, temperature resilience and fungicide resistance. The

mapping population consisted of 106 isolates from all major wheat producing areas [27] (Figure 3A). We

identified 18 traits with significant SNPs located in regions affected by structural variation. For melanin

production, ~9% of the associated SNPs overlap regions with indel variation (Figure 3B-C). Additionally,

we identified 1'822 SNPs associated with tolerance to propiconazole, a widely used fungicide of the

demethylation inhibiting (DMI) family. A total of 7% of fungicide tolerance SNPs overlap regions with

indel variation. Significantly associated SNPs were over-represented near translocations, indels and

duplications for propiconazole tolerance related traits (odds ratio > 2; Figure 3D). Two fungicide

tolerance SNPs were near major facilitator superfamily (MFS) genes. One of the MFS genes was also

affected by a TE insertion and a loss of expression (Figure 3F). Multiple additional insertions near the

two MFS genes are associated with transcriptional variation (Figure 3F-G). Taken together, regions

underlying major phenotypic trait variation undergo high rates of structural variation.

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Figure 3: Structural variation drives phenotypic trait evolution. A. Unrooted phylogeny of 106
isolates used for genome-wide association mapping of 24 traits. **B.** Number of significantly associated
SNPs across phenotypic traits (5% false discovery rate; FDR). **C.** Percentage of significantly associated
SNPs overlapping with either indels, inversions or duplications across different phenotypes.

Translocations are not shown as they have no length assigned. **D.** Odds ratio of associated SNPs
overlapping structural variants. Ratios are shown for six phenotypic traits associated with fungicide
resistance including colony melanisation. **F.** Synteny plot of a locus associated with fungicide resistance
on chromosome 13. Two genes encoding major facilitator superfamily (MFS genes) are coloured in
brown and green. Nearby transposable elements are annotated according to their superfamily (shown
in white). **G.** Relative expression of the two MFS genes, coloured as in (**F**).

Chromosomal niches of structural variation hotspots

Structural variation shows a highly heterogeneous distribution along chromosomes. Hence, specific
sequence features may contribute disproportionally to the likelihood of rearrangements. In order to
systematically identify associations across the genome, we analysed variation in gene and transposable
element densities, locations of core and accessory genes, isochores (*i.e.* AT-rich regions),
recombination rates and histone methylation marks for a total of 35 different sequence metrics. Gene
and transposon coverage are strongly negatively correlated and underlie strong genome
compartmentalization (Figure 4A, Table S2). The highly abundant transposable element superfamily
Gypsy shows the strongest correlation with TE regions. Transposable elements co-localize both with
repressive and facultative heterochromatin marks (H3K9$_{met3}$ and H3K27$_{met3}$, respectively). We find that
all four types of structural variations are over-represented near TEs with the strongest
overrepresentation for translocations (Figure S3). This shows that transposable elements are drivers of
structural variation in specific compartments of the genome. Indels showed no preferential associations
across the genome but tended to be more abundant near accessory and depleted near core genes.
Repressive heterochromatin marks and transposable element density (*Gypsy* elements in particular)
were strongly predictive of indel length. Overall, chromosomal rearrangements hotspots are associated
with histone methylation marks, specific transposable elements and accessory gene content.

A pangenome-informed model accurately predicts structural variation

The species-wide structural variation is the joint product of intrinsic instability of specific sequence
features and selection acting on structural variants. To build a predictive model accounting for these
different forces, we integrated 30 sequence features including the density and identity of transposable
elements, the presence of virulence factors, local recombination rates, GC content as well as
information on gene dispensability (see Table S3 for metric details). We evaluated four different
machine-learning algorithms with three times 10-fold cross-validations. We selected the best models
based on accuracy and maximized for the percentage of correctly classified instances overall. For both
indels and translocations, we obtained the best results with the random forests method, yielding 0.95
and 0.72 accuracy, respectively (Figure 4B-C). The best predictors included GC content, recombination
rate, the presence of core genes and transposable elements for both indels and translocations. Weaker
predictors included the presence of retrotransposons for indels and DNA transposons for translocations
(Figure 4D). The model based on random forests performed better for indels with a 0.99 recall and 0.96
area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve compared to translocations (Figure 4B-
C). The model also yielded the lowest number of false negatives for indels (Figure 4E). The final models

for indels and translocations tended to call false positives variants rather than false negatives (122/11

and 509/380 for indels and translocations, respectively).

Figure 4: A pangenome-informed model predicts the occurrence of structural variation. A.
Correlation analyses of 35 genome-wide metrics in windows with the two most abundant structural
rearrangements (indels and translocations). **B.** Receiving operating characteristics and precision recall
curves of the final models trained using translocations (upper part) and indels (lower part). Four
algorithms were analysed including random forests, logistic regression (GLM), stochastic gradient
boosting (ADA) and generalised boosted regression (GBM). Numbers in parentheses indicate the area
under the curve for each of the four models. **C.** Summary statistics of the final models for translocations
and indels using the four algorithms. Accuracy describes the model capacity at only detecting true
variants. Precision measures the ability to predict true variants. Recall measures the ability to detect all
true variants and the F1 score considers the harmonic mean of both precision and recall. **D.** Relative

importance of each of the 30 sequence features used in the training of the random forests model. The
importance of individual sequence features is shown as the unscaled averages of the class-specific
scores. **E.** Confusion matrix resulting from indel and translocation predictions using the two respective
models trained with the random forests algorithm. **F.** Confusion matrix of the indel predictions performed
for the *Arabidopsis thaliana* pangenome.

We replicated our approach to predict structural variation in the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana.* The
pangenome shows hotspots of rearrangements associated with transposable elements and depleted
for recombination [28]. We parametrized the random forests model based on Col-0 reference sequence
metrics including transposable elements, core and accessory gene coverage, recombination rate and
nucleotide-binding and leucine-rich repeats (NLRs) gene coverage [28,29]. Over the total of 3'993
sequence windows, we correctly predicted 99.8% of the indel polymorphism (*n* = 2'817) with an
accuracy of 0.78 and a recall of 0.99 (Figure 4F). The successful application of machine-learning to
predict structural variation suggests that eukaryotic genomes rearrange based on clearly identifiable
mechanisms.

The predictive power of the species-wide model in an experimental pedigree
Structural variation within species are likely produced *de novo* during meiosis or accumulate in somatic
tissue. Nearly all observed variants are expected to be neutral or nearly neutral because of purifying
selection. To experimentally investigate mechanisms underlying the formation of new rearrangements,
we produced a haploid pedigree of four generations of experimentally crossed isolates (Figure 5A). The
parental isolates were collected from Swiss wheat fields and are included in the species pangenome
analyses. We crossed the isolates using an established protocol to produce sexual progeny on
inoculated wheat leaves. Sexual progenies were harvested and sub-cultured as single genotypes for
further experiments. The haploid stage is dominant in *Z. tritici* meaning that any progeny has already
undergone meiotic recombination of the two haploid parental genomes. Hence, chromosomal
rearrangements triggered by sexual reproduction can be scored directly in an F1. We used progeny
and parental strains to generate a total of five crosses with the first one being between the two parents
and four subsequent backcrosses with one of the two parents (Figure 5A). The total of 9 progeny were
separated each by one to four rounds of meiosis from the parents (see Methods). We produced gapless,
chromosome-scale assemblies using PacBio sequencing. The genome assemblies revealed that the
accessory chromosome 17 displayed significant instability undergoing large segmental duplications
(Figure S4). Four accessory chromosomes were lost after the third and fourth round of meiosis likely
due to non-disjunction events (Figure 5C). Progeny genomes showed large drops in synteny compared
to parental isolate 1A5 consistent with the large inversions segregating among the parental genomes
(Figure S5-S6). Regions of low synteny among progeny genomes were largely congruent with low
synteny regions in the species pangenome, suggesting that same sequences promote recurring
structural rearrangements. Following the procedures for structural variant calling to train the species-
wide model, we identified rearrangements in progeny genomes by aligning PacBio long reads against
one parental genome (*i.e.* 1A5). We filtered out any structural variant segregating between the two
parental genomes. This ensured that we focused on structural variants that have originated within the
pedigree. We identified a total 2'533 *de novo* rearrangements including 1'841 indels, 630 translocations,

30 inversions and 32 duplications matching the distribution and size observed in the species-wide
genome collection (Figure 5B; Figure S7A; Figure S7B; Table S4). We found no significant difference
in the rate or type of new rearrangements between the four meiotic rounds in the pedigree (two-way
analysis of variance *p*-value = 0.899; interaction test for meiotic round and variant type). These
observations are consistent with the patterns in the species-wide structural variant set, where genomes
showed similar degrees of differentiation. Therefore, the few rounds of meiosis in the pedigree were
sufficient to reproduce major aspects of the species-wide set of chromosomal rearrangements.
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Figure 5: Predictions of structural variation generated by meiosis throughout a pedigree. A.
Pedigree chart showing the relationship between the 9 progeny isolates retrieved across four rounds of
meiosis. Coloured rounds and squares indicate the parental isolate used for backcrosses. **B.** Number
of newly emerged high-confidence variants detected in each of the progeny isolates. Isolates are

ordered as in the pedigree chart and coloured rounds and squares indicate the parental isolate used
for backcrosses. Translocations (TRA), indels (INDEL), inversions (INV) and duplications (DUP). **C.**
Presence/absence of accessory chromosomes across the progeny set and the parental isolates.
Chromosome 17 is absent in the 1E4 parent and shows complex segregation in the pedigree including
truncations and duplications. **D.** Classification of variants according to their origin and persistence in
the pedigree. Variants present in a focal progeny and the direct parents were defined as "retained"
variants. Variants present in a focal progeny but in none of its ancestors in the pedigree were called
"new" variants. Variants present in a progeny, absent in its direct parents but present already in an
ancestor were defined as "recurrent" variants. Finally, variants absent from a progeny but present in
both parents were called "lost" variants. **E.** Chromosome 1 synteny plot of the progeny Ztprog01 and
its two parental isolates (lower panel). Regions of high identity are coloured in blue and highlight the
three recombination events. Chromosome density of new and recurrent as opposed to lost structural
variants (second panel from bottom). Number of new indels and translocations (second panel). Density
of the two transposable elements contributing most to structural variation based on machine learning.
RIX: unknown LINE retrotransposons, DTX: TIR DNA transposons. **F.** Density plot of new structural
variants related to the closest crossover breakpoints on chromosome 1. **G.** Confusion matrix resulting
from indel and translocation model predictions using the two respective models trained with the random
forests algorithm.
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Our design of crosses and backcrosses enables to retrace the emergence of structural variants through
individual rounds of meiosis (Figure 5D). To dissect the history of new rearrangements along the
crosses, we assigned each variant to one of the four categories. (1) New variants generated in the most
recent round of meiosis. Overall, isolates resulting from a backcross with the 1E4 parent tend to show
higher numbers of new variants (Figure 5B-D). The progeny isolate from the fourth meiosis backcrossed
with the 1E4 parent shows the highest number of new structural variants (Ztprog64). (2) Lost variants
compared to the parental genomes were most frequent as expected in the first two backcrosses. (3)
Retained variants shared by all progeny of a cross are rare and constant in the pedigree. (4) We
detected recurring mutations in nearly all progeny beyond the second round of meiosis (*i.e.* identical
variants generated multiple times independently). New and lost variants tend to occur in distinct regions
of the chromosome as expected from crossovers re-introducing parental sequences (Figure S8). We
dissected the mechanism by which new and recurrent rearrangements are generated. For this, we
identified crossovers from whole-genome alignments between each progeny and the two respective
parental genomes (Figure 5E). As expected, segments inherited from the backcrossed parental isolate
were depleted of structural variants (Figure 5E). The two transposable element superfamilies (DTX and
RIX elements) driving structural variation in the across the species showed no clear association with
crossover events and new rearrangements. Interestingly, we accurately predicted an indel and a
translocation event that occurred in the progeny near the two MFS genes associated with fungicide
resistance in our GWA study. New structural variants overall tend to be generated near crossover
breakpoints (Figure 5E). To retrace how crossover generate new rearrangements, we used synteny to
localize crossover breakpoints on chromosome 1 through the 4 meiotic cycles (*n* = 18 breakpoints). We
show that indels and translocations are enriched in proximity to crossover breakpoints consistent with
recombination-mediated double-strand breaks causing sequence rearrangements (Figure 5F).
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Sequence rearrangements generated through meiosis can impact fitness and therefore challenge the
analyses of structural variation in natural populations. Progeny from our pedigree were minimally
cultured on nutrient-rich medium likely reducing the strength of selection on slightly deleterious

rearrangements. To test the predictive power of the species-wide model of structural variation, we re-
parametrized the input metrics for the one parental genome (*i.e.* 1A5) in the pedigree. Using the same
set of sequence features across windows, we analysed the occurrence of a total of 382 and 1'276
translocations and indels, respectively. In contrast to the *Z. tritici* species-wide model and the *A. thaliana*
model, the logistic regression method yielded the highest accuracy and the boosting implementation
yielded the best recall for translocations (0.52 and 0.81, respectively) (Figure S9). For indels, the
random forests achieved the highest accuracy and precision (0.35 and 0.33, respectively). Using the
random forests model, we were able to accurately predict 79% of the translocations and 99% of the
indels generated by meiosis in the pedigree (Figure 5F). The lower accuracy of the model applied to
the pedigree compared to the species-wide model stems from an over-prediction of structural
rearrangements (Figure 5G). We investigated the genomic context of the over-predictions using synteny
ratios between the parental genomes. For indels, we find that true negatives tend to be in regions of
low synteny (Figure S10). Furthermore, true positive translocations tend also to be in regions of low
synteny compared to false positives (Wilcoxon rank sum test *p*-value = 6.335e-8, average synteny of
0.89 and 0.94 respectively). We find no significant difference in synteny for false and true positives indel
calls. This suggests that model over-predictions are not caused by variation in synteny alone (Figure
S10). Indeed, false positive indels but not translocations are found in region of lower recombination rate
compared to true positives (Wilcoxon rank sum test, *p*-value < 0.0001). In agreement, we find that the
model predicts less false positive indels within 5 kb of crossover events. In addition, the ratio of false
and true discovery rates among progeny is independent of the round of meiosis in the pedigree (Figure
S11). In general, the performance of the models increases towards the last round of meiosis (*i.e.* with
an increase in detected indels and translocations in; see *e.g.* Ztprog64). Altogether, we show that
meiosis contributes significantly to the formation of structural variation in the species, and that machine
learning enables the precise prediction of indel events across rounds of meiosis.

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We show that integrating sequence data into an optimized model enables to make powerful predictions
where structural variation is generated along chromosomes. Similar sequence features underpin the
likelihood of rearrangements both in the sets of species-wide genomes of *Z. tritici* and *A. thaliana*. The
major factors leading to higher rates of sequence rearrangements are low GC and gene content. Low
GC-content is associated with a variety of sequence features including short repeats and inactivated
transposable elements. The higher rate of sequence rearrangements triggered by these regions is likely
a combined effect of relaxed selection and higher degrees of homology along the genome. Indeed, AT-
rich regions are more likely to form secondary structures that disturb DNA replication [30]. Structural
variation occurring in gene dense regions is more likely to be deleterious. Here, we show that recent
adaptation to resist pesticide applications has been primarily driven by structural variation. We identified
rearrangements near two major facilitator superfamily (MFS) encoding transporters of xenobiotics. This
shows that strong positive selection on individual rearrangements can exceed purifying selection acting
on gene-rich, conserved regions.

Germline sequence rearrangements are mainly generated during meiosis. However, selection on
deleterious rearrangements can potentially skew how population-level structural variation relates to
underlying sequence features. The haploid fungus *Z. tritici* enables observing rearrangements
generated by meiosis already at the F1 stage and growth on rich medium minimizes the breadth of
selection compared to natural environments. Meiotically-induced structural variants are often the result
of non-allelic homologous recombination [16]. Genome-wide structural variation breakpoints in the human
genome revealed that such NAHR events are associated with higher recombination rates, but also
higher GC content and open chromatin, suggesting conserved mechanisms across eukaryotes [18]. In *A.*
thaliana, structural variation is negatively correlated with recombination rates likely due to structural
variation being able to suppress crossover formation [9]. Here, we show that new variants are
preferentially generated near crossovers showing that breakpoints can act as hotspots for creating
structural variation including recurring variants.
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Conclusions
Our species-wide model of structural variation enables powerful predictions about the occurrence of
sequence rearrangements during meiosis. Our pedigree analyses additionally revealed a significant
number of recurrent rearrangements at relatively short distances, which were generated independently
multiple times. This shows that chromosomal instability can be mapped precisely in regard to
chromosomal sequence features. Recurrent and nonrecurrent structural rearrangements in humans are
thought to be generated by different mechanisms. NAHR between low-copy repeats is a major factor
for the recurrent mutations underlying genetic disorders in humans [31]. Similarly, recurrent deletions and
insertions influences developmental processes in sticklebacks [32] and cell aggregation in yeasts [33],
respectively. The ability to predict the likelihood and nature of structural variants from sequence features
alone provides a conceptual ground for the growing evidence of parallel evolution at the molecular level
[34,35]. Here, we show that indels are most likely generated near low-copy retrotransposons. In contrast,
translocations are generated primarily by high-copy DNA transposons. In both cases, the transposable
elements showed no close homology to major repeat families indicating recent, lineage-specific repeat
expansions driving sequence rearrangements. Genomic models trained on species-wide structural
variation will have powerful applications in research on genetic disorders, assessing the persistence of
genetic engineering in crop breeding and the development of evolutionarily stable antimicrobials.
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Methods

Experimental crossings

We generated a four-generation pedigree started from a cross of the isolates 1A5 with 1E4 (PRJEB15648 and PRJEB20900 respectively) initially described in [36]. One haploid progeny was selected for further sexual crosses. The isolate A66.2 was subjected to further crosses and backcrosses with the parental isolates following the protocol described by [37]. The full pedigree is described in Figure 5A. Crosses were made by co-inoculating spores of the parental pairs on wheat plants and incubated until the development of pseudothecia (sexual structures of the fungus). Ascospores ejected from pseudothecia were isolated on water agar plates. Germinating ascospores were transferred for clonal propagation and further DNA extraction.

Species pangenome and pedigree analyses based on complete genomes

The 19 isolate pangenome was first reported by Badet et al. [24]. Briefly, isolates were collected from six different continents on multiple wheat cultivars and span the climatic gradient of the species. High-molecular weight DNA was extracted from cultured spores using a phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol solution [38]. Libraries were prepared from at least 15 µg of DNA and the sequencing was performed using P6/C4 chemistry on a PacBio RSII or Sequel instrument at the Functional Genomics Center, Zurich, Switzerland. PacBio reads were assembled to chromosome-level using Canu v1.7.1 and Ragout v2.1.1 and polished twice using Arrow v2.2.2 [39,40]. Genes were predicted using BRAKER v2.1 pipeline with RNA-seq and protein data for intron calling [41–48]. Orthogroups were defined based on protein homology using Orthofinder v2.1.2 [49,50]. Transposable elements consensus sequences were identified *de novo* using RepeatModeler open-1.0.11 and annotated using RepeatMasker after manual curation [51]. We used the consensus sequences from Badet et al, 2020 for repeat annotation. Briefly, repeats were identified *de novo* with RepeatModeler software using the 19 pangenome isolates together with the genome from the closest sister species *Zymoseptoria pseudotritici*. Consensus sequences were manually curated and classified according to the GIRI Repbase [52]. Transposon superfamilies were named based on the three-letter classification system [53]. The genome assemblies from the 19 pangenome isolates and the 9 progeny isolates were annotated using the curated consensus sequences with RepeatMasker software. The cut-off value was set to 250 and simple repeats as well as low complexity regions were ignored. We filtered out all the elements that were shorter than 100 bp. Adjacent identical elements that were overlapping by more than 100 bp were merged. Elements that were different and overlapping by more than 100 bp were considered as nested insertions and renamed accordingly. Interrupted elements were grouped into a single element using minimal start and maximal stop positions if separated by less than 200 bp.

The 9 progeny from the pedigree selected for genome sequencing were subjected to the same procedure as describe above for DNA extraction and sequencing. Libraries were prepared from 15-31 µg of DNA after size selection with an 8 kb cutoff on a BluePippin system (Sage Science). The average fragment length was ~15 kb and further sequencing was performed using either P4/C2 or P6/C4

chemistry on a PacBio RSII or Sequel instrument at the Functional Genomics Center, Zurich,
Switzerland. PacBio read assembly was performed using HGAP version 4 of the SMRTanalysis suite
(version 6, release 6.0.0.47841) [54]. HGAP was run with the default parameters, except for the minimum
seed read length, to initiate the self-correction. First, we produced assemblies for all chromosomes
except chromosome 17 using the cutoffs automatically chosen by HGAP. In order to improve the
contiguity of the assembly, we tested minimum seed read lengths of 8000, 10000, 12000, 15000, 20000.
Chromosomes which could not be assembled into a single contig were scaffolded into chromosomes
using Ragout (Reference-Assisted Genome Ordering UTility) version 2.2 with default parameters and
Sibelia for synteny block decomposition [40,55]. Unusual assemblies were analysed using Quiver
6.0.0.47835 with default settings as implemented in the SMRTanalysis suite and mapped reads were
inspected visually in IGV (2.4.10). The synteny of assembled progenies was compared to the parent
isolate 1A5 using Nucmer (mummer 3.23) with the parameter's delta-filter -i 80 -l 1000 -1 -q. A
mummerplot was generated with the parameters --filter --large --fat --layout-t postscript to visually
inspect assembly contiguity.
463
Chromosome-wide synteny ratios
To estimate the sequence collinearity between multiple chromosome-level assemblies, we adapted the
method by Jiao et al, 2020. Briefly, we performed whole-genome alignments of 18 pangenome isolates
against the IPO323 reference using nucmer v3.1 allowing for multiple matches (--maxmatch option).
We filtered the alignments for a minimal identity of 90% and a minimal single match length 100 bp using
the delta-filter in MUMmer v3.1. We then extracted the alignment coordinates using show-coords with
the -THrd options and mapped the position of syntenic and rearranged regions using the syri v1.0
software [56]. Regions absent from the reference genome where removed. We calculated the intersect
between the syntenic and rearranged regions given by syri and 10 kb windows along the reference
genome using bedtools intersect (v2.29.2). The synteny ratio was then calculated as the number of
syntenic blocks (named "SYN" and "SYNAL" in the syri output) over the number of total syntenic and
non-syntenic blocks in each 10 kb window. For accessory chromosomes not shared by all isolates, the
total number of chromosomes included in the synteny ratio was lower than for core chromosomes. For
the pedigree analyses, we applied the same method to calculate the synteny ratio of the 9 progeny
genomes against the 1A5 parental genome.
479
Long-read structural variant analysis
Structural variants were identified following the pipeline described in [57]. Briefly, PacBio reads from 18
isolates were aligned to the IPO323 reference genome using the NGMLR software v0.2.7 with default
parameters. Variants longer than 10 bp (-l 10 option) were called using Sniffles v1.0.10 allowing for a
maximum distance of 5 kb for grouping variants (-d 5000), a minimum mapping quality of 30 (-q 30) and
a minimum read support of 80% (-f 0.8). Sniffles adds a tag to each variant reporting the confidence of
the breakpoints mapping. We only retained precisely mapped variants that are smaller than 100 kb
(translocation events have unresolved length with the variant calling method). All 18 individual variant

files were merged using the SURVIVOR v1.0.7 tool allowing a distance of 1kb to bin variants [58]. Variants

larger than 100'000 bp were filtered out for all further analyses.

Genome-wide association mapping

The genome-wide association study (GWAS) was performed on 106 *Z. tritici* isolates collected from

single wheat fields in Australia, Israel, Switzerland and USA (Oregon) as described in [27] The total SNP

dataset included 779'178 SNPs. We analysed phylogenetic relationships using the vk suite (https://vcf-

kit.readthedocs.io/en/latest/phylo/). We generated a phylogenetic tree using the vk phylo tree function

using the unweighted pair grouping method based on the arithmetic mean. The phylogenetic tree was

visualized using the iTOL web interface (https://itol.embl.de). We performed GWAS for a set of 24 traits

related to fungicide resistance, growth and host adaptation (for values see Table S5). Virulence on two

wheat cultivars was measured as the percentage of leaf area covered by pycnidia (PLACP) and

described in [27]. The other 22 traits were measured in vitro following methods from earlier studies [59–62].

Briefly, isolates were regenerated from -80°C culture stocks on yeast malt sucrose agar petri-dishes for

4-5 days at 18°C (4 gl^{-1} yeast extract, 4 gl^{-1} malt extract, 4 gl^{-1} sucrose, 50 mgl^{-1} kanamycin). For

plate inoculations, blastospores were diluted in sterile water to 200 spores/mL final concentration using

KOVA counting slides and 500 µl spore suspensions were then spread on potato dextrose agar petri

dishes (PDA, 4 g l^{-1} potato starch, 20 g l^{-1} dextrose, 15 g l^{-1} agar). Control treatments were performed

at 22°C and cold treatment at 15°C, both at 70 relative humidity. Plate pictures were taken at 8, 11and

14 days post inoculation using a digital camera for five technical replicates. Images were analysed using

ImageJ macros from [59] to measure colony area. For each isolate, estimates of colony area are based

on nine single spore colonies. Growth rates (mm/day) were estimated from average colony radius by

fitting a generalized linear model over the three time points. Melanisation was estimated from the same

images by calculating the average values of grey (colours ranging from 0/black to 255/white). For

fungicide treatments, 0.05 ppm of propiconazole was added to the PDA plates to address its impact on

growth at 15°C and 22°C. Further formal testing of propiconazole resistance was carried on microtiter

plates. For that spores were grown on 100 µl Sabouraud-dextrose liquid media (inoculated with 100 µl

of spore suspension at 2.5e^4 spores/mL) with varying concentrations of propiconazole (0.00006,

0.00017, 0.0051, 0.0086, 0.015, 0.025, 0.042, 0.072, 0.20, 0.55, 1.5 mg/L including a control without

propiconazole). Microtiter plates were sealed and incubated at 22°C for four days at dark with 80%

relative humidity. Growth was estimated given the optical density at the 605 nm using an Elisa plate

reader (MR5000, Dynatech). Five technical replicates were performed, and dose-response curves were

used to estimate the concentration at which the growth is reduced by half (EC$_{50}$) using the drc v.3.0-1

R package [63]. Prior the association study we computed the genetic relatedness matrix (GRM) and

conduced a principal component analysis (PCA) to investigate the genetic structure in the dataset using

TASSEL v.20200220 [64]. The genome wide association studies (GWAS) were then performed by

applying a mixed linear model which included the GRM as random factors using the GAPIT v3.0 R

package [65]. We retrieved false discovery rate (FDR) thresholds for each trait using the p.adjust function

implemented in R. The overlap between 5% FDR SNPs and structural variants was assessed with

bedtools intersect [66]. We built a contingency table summarising for each trait the number of 5% FDR

SNPs overlapping with indels, translocations, inversions and duplications. Odd ratios were calculated

using two-sided Fisher tests in R.

Genome-wide sequence feature correlations

The IPO323 genome was divided into 10 kb bins for which we retrieved sequence based statistics using

the EMBOSS v6.6.0.0 suite and bedtools [66,67]. The dataset included a total of 35 sequence metrics and

5 additional including the presence, average length and total number of indels and translocations

identified across the 18 worldwide isolates (summarized in Table S3). Data on histone methylation

marks (H3K9, H3K4 and H3K27) was previously generated by [68] and included the average read count

for enriched domains as identified by RSEG [69]. Recombination rates were calculated using 214

progenies from the cross between isolates 1A5 and 1E4 [36] (both included in the pangenome analyses).

Pairwise Spearman's correlation values were computed in R using complete observations (*use* =

pairwise.complete.obs) and visualized using the *ggcorr* function from the GGally package.

Species-wide model of structural variant occurrence

We applied a supervised machine learning approach using 30 sequence features with the aim of

predicting the occurrence of translocations and indels. Full details on the analysed sequence features

are shown in Table S3. The training dataset was made of a random 80% subset of the 3'980 10 kb

windows. We trained the models for translocations and indels separately. To identify the best-

performing machine learning method, we explored four different algorithms based on regression and

classification [70–72] (Logistic regression, Stochastic Gradient Boosting, Random Forests and Boosted

Classification Tree methods). Regression and classification methods mostly differ by their procedure to

identify decision boundaries. Regression methods implement binary decisions while classification

methods (*e.g.* decision trees) allow for more complex non-linear boundaries [73]. Decision trees can

improve the assignment if the two classes follow a non-linear separation, but these methods tend to

overfit the training dataset when the two classes are not well separated. Here all models were trained

using the *caret* package in R (https://www.rdocumentation.org/packages/caret) with 10-fold cross-

validation repeated three times. For the logistic regression models, we used the *glm* method

implemented by the caret package using the binomial family definition. For the random forest models,

we implemented a random selection of 1 to 10 predictors with the *rf* method (including the mtry option).

For the boosted classification tree models, we applied the *ada* method using 100, 1'000 or 3'000

boosting iterations with a maximum tree depth of 1, 5 or 20 and a fixed learning rate of 0.01. For the

stochastic gradient boosting models, we used the *gbm* method with 50, 500 or 1'000 boosting iterations

with a maximum tree depth of 1, 5 or 10. The stochastic gradient boosting models were trained with

two values of shrinkage (0.001 or 0.01) and a terminal node minimal size (1 or 5). For all the models,

the accuracy measure was used for the selection of the best model during training (metric = "accuracy").

For the final random forest model, we estimated the relative importance of predictors using the *varImp*

function from the *caret* package with the scale option set to false.

The eight final models (the 4 different methods using indels and translocations as classifiers,
respectively) were tested on a 20% validation subset of the pangenome dataset using the *predict*
function. To address the final model performance, we investigated how the true and false positive rate
were related using the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve implemented in the ROCR R
package [74]. The area under the ROC curve (AUC) was calculated with the performance function from
ROCR package. In addition, we quantified the relationship between the model precision and recall using
the precision recall curves calculated with the *pr.curve* function from the PRROC package [75]. Confusion
matrices and the evluation metrics of each model were recovered using the *confusionMatrix* function in
the *caret* package.
576
***Arabidopsis thaliana* pangenome sequence metrics and indel model**
For the *Arabidopsis thaliana* dataset, we used indels identified across 8 chromosome-level assemblies
[28]. Orthogroups identified by Jiao et al. (2020) were defined as core (orthogroup present in all 8
genomes), accessory (orthogroup present in 1 to 7 genomes) and singletons (orthogroup present in
one genome only). Transposable elements and gene annotations were retrieved from the TAIR10
database (https://www.arabidopsis.org/). The list of reference NLRs (Col-0) was retrieved from Weyer
et al. [29]. Transposons annotation form TAIR10 database were renamed according to the three-letters
nomenclature [53] (Table S6). Recombination rate in 30 kb windows was estimated from the position of
crossover events established by Rowan et al, 2019. We counted the number of crossovers overlapping
the sequence windows (Table S7). The recombination rate was then calculated as the number of
crossovers per 30 kb. GC coverage along the 30 kb windows was calculated using bedtools nuc
(v2.29.0). We trained the same four models as for the *Z. tritici* pangenome but focused only on indels
(3'993 30 kb windows) using the *predict* function in R. Receiver operating characteristic and precision
recall curves were also calculated identically as for the *Z. tritici* pangenome dataset using the ROCR
and PRROC R packages [74,75]. The confusion matrices and model evaluation metrics were recovered
from the *confusionMatrix* function implemented in the *caret* package.
593
Identifying sequence rearrangements across the pedigree
We applied a similar method to call variants in the progenies resulting from the cross between the
parental isolates 1A5x1E4 [60]. PacBio reads from the 9 progenies and the two parents (1A5 and 1E4)
were aligned to the 1A5 parental genome using NGMLR and variants were called using Sniffles as
described for the pangenome. We removed all variants, which were present in either one of the two
parents (1A5 or 1E4), thus retaining only the variants generated during the different rounds of meiosis.
To dissect the emergence and reshuffling of individual rearrangements at each meiotic cycle, we
defined four categories based on the variant history in the pedigree (Figure 5D). Variants present in a
focal progeny and the direct parents were defined as retained variants. Variants present in a focal
progeny but in none of its ancestors in the pedigree were called new variants. Variants present in a
progeny, absent in its direct parents but present already in an ancestor were defined as recurrent
variants. Finally, variants absent from a progeny but present in both parents were called lost variants.
606

Identification of crossover breakpoints on chromosome 1

To identify the crossover events on chromosome 1 over the 4 rounds of meiosis, we performed whole-genome alignments of each progeny against its two immediate parents using blastn [41,44] (v2.8.1+). To visualise crossovers, we plotted chromosome-wide synteny using the genoplotR package in R [76]. To recover the crossover breakpoints, we manually inspected the blastn results (-outputfmt 6) and recovered the approximate positions of shifts in sequence alignment identity between the two parental genomes. We identified a total of 18 crossover breakpoints summarised in Table S8. To investigate the relative distance of structural variants to crossover breakpoints and given the overall high synteny in the progeny, we assigned the same breakpoint position to the 1A5 reference genome. We calculated the distance between sequence rearrangements on chromosome 1 and crossovers using the *bedtools closest* command [66,67].

Evaluation of pangenome sequence rearrangement models for the pedigree

We applied the four pangenome-trained models to predict indels and translocations to the nine progeny dataset using the *predict* function in the R package *caret* (https://github.com/topepo/caret/). Receiver operating characteristic and precision recall curves were calculated as for the pangenome dataset using the ROCR and PRROC packages [74,75]. Similarly, the confusion matrices and model evaluation metrics were recovered from the *confusionMatrix* function implemented in *caret* package.

Data access

Genome assemblies for the species-wide pangenome are available under the project PRJEB33986. The progeny genomes are available under the project PRJNA645795. Variant calls for GWAS were retrieved from the variant call format (VCF) file deposited in the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) under the accession numbers PRJEB15502/ERP017268 and the analysis number ERZ330467. Analyses scripts are available on Github (https://github.com/crolllab/datasets).

Author contributions

TB and DC designed the study; TB performed analyses; SF and FH contributed datasets; TB and DC wrote the manuscript with input from all co-authors.

Competing interests

We declare that we have no competing interests.

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