Exploratory Meta-Analysis of Hypoxic Transcriptomes Using Precise Transcript Reference

Sequence Set

Yoko Ono[1] and Hidemasa Bono[1,2*]

[1] Laboratory of Genome Informatics, Graduate School of Integrated Sciences for Life, Hiroshima

University, Japan

[2] Laboratory of Bio-DX, Genome Editing Innovation Center, Hiroshima University, Japan

[*] Correspondence: bonohu@hiroshima-u.ac.jp; Tel.: +81-82-424-4013.

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Summary blurb

Exploratory meta-analysis of hypoxic RNA-seq data using FANTOM-CAT as a reference

transcriptome facilitates the evaluation of relationship between sense-antisense transcripts from the

same locus.

Abstract

Gene expression studies are intrinsically biased, with many studies influenced by concomitant

information such as gene-disease associations. This limitation can be overcome using a data-driven

analysis approach without relying on ancillary information. The FANTOM CAGE Associated

Transcriptome (FANTOM-CAT) project provides a comprehensive meta-assembly of the human

transcriptome using coding and non-coding genes. Hypoxia strongly influences gene expression;

additionally, non-coding RNA (ncRNA) metabolism is downregulated in response to hypoxic stimuli.

We evaluated the differential response of various transcripts to hypoxia by determining their hypoxia

responsiveness scores. Enrichment analysis revealed that several genes associated with ncRNA

metabolism, particularly those involved in ribosomal RNA processing, were downregulated in

response to hypoxia. Previously published information from the FANTOM-CAT project was suitable

for meta-analysis of the transcriptome sequencing data from both coding and ncRNAs, and evaluate

the hypoxia responsiveness of target transcripts and relationship between sense-antisense transcripts

from the same locus. Our results may facilitate functional annotation of various transcripts including

ncRNAs, allowing for both sense and antisense and coding and non-coding evaluations.

Introduction

Genomic research is inherently biased as it is heavily influenced by the known associations

between specific genes and their families and the disease of interest (Mihai et al, 2021). Meanwhile,

growing evidence from global molecular biology labs has facilitated the comprehensive functional

annotation of much of the genome. Therefore, further development requires to move away from those

familiar genes into the unknown using a data-driven approach. Our previous study revealed a clear

publication bias regarding gene expression variation in response to hypoxia and we identified a

specific group of genes that had not been investigated in previous reports (Ono and Bono 2021).

Oxygen is essential for the maintenance of vital functions, and cells have strict molecular

mechanisms designed to help them cope with hypoxia. The study of these responses was dramatically

advanced by the discovery of hypoxia-inducible factor-1 (HIF-1) in the 1990s (Semenza and Wang

1992; Wang and Semenza 1995; Wang et al, 1995). Under normoxic conditions, HIF is hydroxylated

by prolyl hydroxylase (PHD) and factor inhibiting HIF-1 (FIH-1) and then degraded by the ubiquitin-

proteasome system to inhibit transcriptional activation (Jaakkola et al, 2001; Mahon et al, 2001).

However, hypoxia reduces PHD and FIH-1 activity, allowing HIF to escape its hydroxylation and

promoting its interactions with the aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator (ARNT) and

transcriptional co-factor, CREB, which in turn induces downstream gene expression (Ebert and Bunn

1998).

Our previous study revealed that genes related to the non-coding RNA (ncRNA) metabolic process

were responsive to hypoxia (Ono and Bono 2021).

Here, we evaluated the expression of genes related to ncRNA metabolism in response to hypoxia

despite a lack of functional data describing their specific effects. In addition, while there is a balance

in the data available for non-coding and coding RNAs we believe that some changes in the expression

of ncRNAs can only be revealed via data-driven analysis.

One tool facilitating these evaluations in the FANTOM5 project was designed to provide a reliable

5' human lncRNA data set for transcriptomic evaluations. This data was then combined with the data

from the FANTOM5 Cap Analysis of Gene Expression (CAGE) project to produce the FANTOM

CAGE-associated transcriptome (FANTOM-CAT) database. This dataset can be used to evaluate

patterns in ncRNA expression using data from these and various coding genes. FANTOM CAGE data

was used to identify approximately 28,000 lncRNA genes from the human genome with

approximately 20,000 of these transcripts likely to have some specific function (Hon et al, 2017).

Here we used FANTOM-CAT as a reference and comprehensively scored the hypoxic response of

various transcripts for both coding and non-coding genes. The data obtained in this study will help in

the functional annotation of various transcripts, including ncRNAs, especially where there are fewer

clues to their function.

RESULTS

Overview

The analyses were designed to evaluate hypoxia-responsive genes and transcripts based on two

reference transcript sets (Fig. 1).

In the analyses using two reference transcripts, one describes the quantitative gene expression data

annotated using GENCODE release 30 and focuses only on protein-coding genes, and the other

describes the expression data for both protein-coding and non-coding transcripts using FANTOM-

CAT.

Initial evaluations of the coding-only dataset revealed that hypoxic stimulation suppressed the

ncRNA metabolic process, especially genes involved in rRNA processing. Given this, we went on to

expand the scope of our evaluations to include both protein-coding and non-coding transcripts, and

comprehensively evaluated the effects of hypoxia on both types of transcripts using a FANTOM-CAT

dataset as a reference.

This dataset and its construction were described in detail in our previous study (Ono and Bono

2021). The hypoxic conditions of the analyzed data were summarized for 495 samples (Fig. 2A, B).

Normoxic conditions were considered as a 20% oxygen concentration, although some samples were

not mentioned, whereas hypoxic conditions ranged from 0.1 to 5% oxygen concentrations and some

cases of hypoxia induced by chemicals such as $CoCl_2$. The treatment time ranged from 1 h to 3

months. The most common condition of hypoxia in the dataset was a 1% oxygen concentration for 24

h of treatment. Sixty-five percent of all samples were of cancer origin, with breast cancer as the most

common tissue of origin. Gene expression in each tissue under representative conditions (cancer,

oxygen concentration 1%, 24 h treatment) is shown as the log2-transformed fold-change compared to

under normoxic condition (Fig. 2C).

Down-regulation of ncRNA metabolism-related genes by the hypoxic response

From a sample of hypoxia-related datasets obtained from public databases, we selected sample

pairs of hypoxia and normoxia pairs (HN-pairs). Based on these HN-pairs, plus 1 was calculated for

each HN-pair if the expression variation was greater than 1.5-fold compared to normoxic sample and

minus 1 if the variation was less than the reciprocal of 1.5-fold. These values were summed for each

gene and designated as the hypoxia-normoxia score (HN-score). The HN-score qualitatively reflects

hypoxia-responsiveness, unlike the method used in general gene expression analysis. This HN-score

was named as the HNg-score when the reference sequence was GENCODE and HNf-score when the

sequence was based on FANTOM-CAT. We subjected 200 genes with high HNg-scores and 200

genes with low HNg-scores to enrichment analysis and evaluated whether the genes selected based on

the HNg-score could be used to examine hypoxia responsiveness.

Enrichment analysis focusing only on protein-coding genes revealed that the top 200 genes

identified by HNg-score, a measure of susceptibility to hypoxia, were enriched for hypoxia response-

related gene sets (Fig. 3A). However, enrichment analysis of the bottom 200 genes identified based on

their HNg-score revealed suppression of expression of ncRNA metabolism- related genes (Fig. 3B).

Detailed investigation showed that most of these genes were associated with rRNA processing.

In enrichment analysis, the ncRNA metabolic process was further subdivided into the following

Gene Ontology (GO) terms: ncRNA processing, ribosome biogenesis, ribonucleoprotein complex

biogenesis, rRNA processing, and rRNA metabolic process (Fig. 3C). The results of rRNA GO

network analysis were visualized in Upset plots, which showed that the ncRNA metabolic process is

heavily reliant on most of these rRNA metabolic genes (Fig. 3D).

Survey of the number of papers referring FANTOM

FANTOM-CAT is a comprehensive catalog of human lncRNAs that improves upon existing lncRNA

transcript models. The results obtained using this dataset have greatly contributed to life science

research (Imada et al, 2020; Ramilowski et al, 2020; Imada et al, 2021). Despite the usefulness of this

dataset, we predicted that it is used less frequently for RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq) quantification

compared to GENCODE; we quantitatively examined this hypothesis. If FANTOM-CAT is used less

frequently, results obtained using this database may show a lower influence of publication bias (Ono

and Bono 2021), as demonstrated in our previous report. The number of articles in PubMed Central

(PMC) that contained references to GENCODE, FANTOM, and RNA-seq was calculated for each

year, with the number of RNA-seq articles exceeding 30,000 in 2021, while the number of articles

referencing both FANTOM and RNA-seq was 0.5%, about one-tenth of the number referencing RNA-

seq and GENCODE (Table 1).

HNf-score evaluations of transcripts using FANTOM-CAT

The HNf-scores of all transcripts, including ncRNA, were quantified using FANTOM-CAT as a

reference. We then went on to evaluate both the most increased and decreased transcripts using these

values as a guide (Fig. 4 A). A total of 25 transcripts for both the UP and DOWN data sets, as

delimited by HNf-score, are listed in Table 2 and a complete list of genes can be found within our

archived figshare file (https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.19679493.v1).

This investigation revealed the fact that there were several cases where hypoxia-responsive

transcripts with high HNf-scores were located within the antisense regions of genes with high HNg-

scores (*BHLHE40-AS1*, *SLC2A1-AS1*). In addition, these evaluations uncovered that the majority of

low HNf-score transcripts were associated with mitochondrial genes (*MT-ND2*, *MT-ATP8*). Hypoxic

stimuli were shown to affect mitochondria. Visualization of the HNf-score for each chromosome

showed that the median HNf-score was negative for mitochondria-derived transcripts (Fig. 4B).

Investigating the HNf-score of antisense transcripts

We investigated each antisense transcript individually, as we could not perform enrichment analysis

which requires information comprehensively evaluated the effects of sense and antisense transcripts.

The antisense transcripts for each of the UP200 and DOWN 200 hypoxia-responsive coding genes

were classified into one of four categories based on their gene expression behavior (Fig. 5A, Table 3).

These evaluations revealed that approximately 75% of the antisense transcripts mirrored the

behavior of their sense counterparts. However, there was still a small number of sense-antisense pairs

presenting with opposite expression behaviors. This indicated that they were under different

transcriptional control.

We also investigated transcripts with high or low HNf-scores to qualitatively evaluate hypoxia

responsiveness. This evaluation also revealed that the Top 10 antisense transcripts in the UP200 gene

list were dominated by both short and long ncRNAs (lncRNAs), while the bottom 10 transcripts from

this group were shown to be predominantly mRNA transcripts.

Interestingly, among the antisense transcripts from the DOWN200 gene set, phosphoglycerate

kinase 1 (*PGK1*), which was also included in the UP200 gene set, had the highest HNf-score.

Given this, we homed in on *PGK1* and its antisense TATA-box binding protein associated factor 9b

(*TAF9B*), evaluating their chromosomal localization using UCSC Genome Browser and HN-score at

the gene level (Fig. 5B, C). This analysis revealed that while these two genes are not described as

having a sense-antisense relationship when evaluated using the UCSC or GENCODE datasets,

FANTOM-CAT-based analysis suggests that these two transcripts are actually in a sense-antisense

relationship. By using FANTOM-CAT as a reference, we were able to present for the first time the

possibility that these two genes affect the regulation of expression.

Discussion

Human gene research is commonly biased towards known pathogenic genes and pathways that are

fairly well established (Stoeger and Amaral 2022). However, given the development of novel data-

driven tools, it is now possible to move beyond the targets identified in previous papers and into the

realm of big data. Our previous studies focusing on coding genes have revealed a clear publication

bias when evaluating gene expression changes in response to hypoxia and identified a novel set of

largely uncharacterized hypoxia-responsive elements (Ono and Bono 2021). Despite this, the details

of the "ncRNA metabolic process" related genes whose gene expression was suppressed in response

to hypoxic conditions remain unclear.

Thus, we designed this study to further clarify the hypoxic response using a two-pronged approach.

First, we completed a detailed investigation of the "ncRNA metabolic process" genes focused on only

the coding genes in the dataset, and then we expanded this evaluation to any of the hypoxia-

responsive genes annotated in the FANTOM-CAT database, which includes both coding and non-

coding elements (Fig. 1). All these data are available to everyone on figshare

(https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.5971218.v2). We believe that these data sets and this analysis

approach will help to further elucidate the mechanisms regulating the hypoxic response.

We previously reported that the expression of several genes associated with the "ncRNA metabolic

process" were downregulated by hypoxic stimuli. However, the specific metabolic processes remain

unknown. Given this, we started our evaluations by completing a gene ontology evaluation in an

effort to identify the likely functions of these target transcripts. Subsequent enrichment analysis of the

top and bottom 200 genes, identified using their HNg-score which was calculated using GENCODE,

revealed that the top 200 genes were commonly associated with hypoxia response-related transcripts,

while the bottom 200 genes were enriched for ncRNA metabolic processes (Fig. 3 A,B). Then GO

network analysis revealed a strong relationship between the ncRNA metabolic process and rRNA

processing genes (Fig. 3 C,D) (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO/GTerm?id=GO: 0034660). This

suggests that amongst the most common downregulated transcripts most targeted or formed part of

the rRNA processing pathway.

rRNA is a critical part of the ribosome known to facilitate protein synthesis. rRNA has also been

linked to the degradation of cytoplasmic lncRNAs following their interaction with the ribosomes

(Carlevaro-Fita et al, 2016), and several other reports describe ncRNA mediated silencing of the

rRNA (Schmitz et al, 2010). All of which suggests an intimate relationship between these two sets of

RNA mediators. However, given our previous focus on only the coding genes, the effects of hypoxia

on the total transcript population, including the ncRNAs, remains unclear. Given this, we went on to

calculate the more comprehensive HNf-score, which evaluates all RNA transcripts including ncRNAs

via the application of a FANTOM-CAT reference.

FANTOM-CAT is expected to provide additional insights through integration with other studies,

such as its use in a comprehensive expression atlas across the broad human transcriptome called FC-

R2 (Imada et al, 2020). The application of this dataset allows for a more comprehensive evaluation of

changes in the gene expression data from human experiments, expanding the evaluations to the

ncRNA transcripts. However, to the best of our knowledge, FANTOM-CAT is only published as a

General Transfer Format (GTF) file and is not available in FASTA format, thus the underlying data is

not publicly available. As this dataset may not be commonly applied as a reference point for RNA-

seq, we investigated the number of articles referencing both "RNA-seq" and "FANTOM" in PMC.

To investigate how often RNA-seq quantification is performed using FANTOM-CAT, the number of

RNA-seq publications using FANTOM-CAT and GENCODE was searched and quantified in PMC.

The number of papers with both "RNA-seq" and "FANTOM" accounted for less than 1% of the total

that describes "RNA-seq" data even after 2017 when the FANTOM-CAT paper was first published

(Table 1). This data also indicated that there were only a few reports describing gene expression

quantification using FANTOM-CAT as a reference and that most studies continue to focus on more

well-established gene sets, potentially overlooking critical actors in the under-evaluated data (Ono and

Bono 2021). When we combined these observations, we decided that a comprehensive analysis,

including the ncRNAs, was likely worth the effort when discussing hypoxia. Given this, we went on

to complete a FANTOM-CAT-based evaluation of the hypoxia data described above.

To this end, we created a new FASTA file using the FANTOM-CAT genome annotation GTF file

and then added the HNf-score to each of the FANTOM-CAT lv4 transcripts (Fig. 4A). Subsequent

analysis of this file then revealed that the bottom 25 genes in the HNf-score dataset were

predominantly mitochondrial DNA-derived transcripts. Visualization of this patterning then revealed

likely regulation of gene expression by chromosome (Fig. 4B, Table 2), and confirmed that these

effects were most pronounced for mitochondrial transcripts. The downregulation of mitochondrial

genes such as *MT-ND2*, *MT-ATP8*, and *MT-ND* by hypoxic stimulation is already well known (Arnaiz

et al, 2021) validating our data. It has also been reported (Zhang et al, 2008) that mitochondrial

autophagy is commonly induced in response to hypoxia and that this process requires hypoxia-

dependent factor-1-dependent BNIP3 expression, which also supports our results. On the contrary, the

top 25 transcripts from the HNf-score dataset were dominated by antisense reads, such as *BHLHE40-*

AS1 and *SLC2A1-AS1* (Table 2). This was an interesting observation, and its implications were

supported by the fact that the sense transcripts for both *BHLHE40* and *SLC2A1* are well-established

hypoxia response genes. In addition, RP1-261G23.7, which had the highest HNf-score, is a short

ncRNA localized to the antisense of vascular endothelial growth factor A (*VEGFA*), a well-known

hypoxia response gene. This short ncRNA has been reported to be functionally involved in the

transcriptional regulation of *VEGFA* during hypoxia (Nieminen et al, 2018). Based on these findings,

we thought that the transcripts from the antisense strands of known hypoxia-responsive genes were

likely worth further investigation.

Antisense transcripts are transcribed from the complementary strand of the DNA molecule and

usually overlap with other sense transcripts encoding both proteins and noncoding regulators. It is also

worth noting that approximately 30% of human (Ozsolak et al, 2010) and mouse (Katayama et al,

2005) transcripts originate from the antisense strand. Given this, we went on to select 200 hypoxia-

responsive genes from both the UP and DOWN regulated gene sets using their HNg-score. We then

evaluated the HNf-score of all antisense transcripts of these genes.

This revealed that 75% of the UP and DOWN regulated antisense transcripts presented with a similar

pattern of expression to their sense partner, while the other 25% of antisense transcripts were shown

to be regulated in opposition to their sense partner (Fig. 5A). Several functions are regulated in the

same direction. Some antisense transcripts enhance the translational function of sense transcripts or

repress degradation and translational repression (Carrieri et al, 2012; Faghihi et al, 2010).

Further evaluation then revealed that the bottom 10 antisense transcripts in the DOWN200 gene set

were dominated by mitochondrial genes (Table 2, Fig. 4B). Interestingly, the Top 10 transcripts from

the DOWN200 gene set included *PGK1* and antisense *TAF9B* whose expression was suppressed in

response to hypoxia (Fig. 5C). This is of specific interest as *PGK1* catalyzes the reversible conversion

of 1,3 -diphosphoglycerate to 3-phosphoglycerate in the glycolytic system to generate ATP (Valentin

et al, 1998) and this gene is well known for its increased expression in response to HIF1A signaling

following hypoxic induction (Li et al, 1996). Meanwhile, TAF9B is one of the proteins associated

with the TFIID and plays an important role in transcriptional initiation (Tora 2002; Frontini et al,

2005). TAF9B is also known to be upregulated in response to HIF1A knockdown and downregulated

under hypoxic conditions (Mathieu et al, 2011). Using FANTOM-CAT, the relationship between

PGK1 and *TAF9B* was shown to be that of a sense-antisense pair. This relationship is not present in

either the UCSC gene or GENCODE annotations (Fig. 5B).

In addition, the regulation of genes by their antisense transcripts has been extensively studied

(Pelechano and Steinmetz 2013; Okada et al, 2008; Katayama et al, 2005), with many studies

focusing on antisense transcript-mediated epigenetic regulation and the possibility that when

transcription is initiated simultaneously from both sense and antisense start sites, the factors involved

in their transcription may interact to repress gene expression. These results suggest that the 3′ end of

PGK1 affects the expression of *TAF9B*.

This data sets used in these evaluations were not derived from strand-specific RNA sequencing.

However, these findings suggest that strand-specific RNA-seq or knockdown experiments may

facilitate a better understanding of the hypoxic response and should be considered in the future.

Thus, this paper describes the use of FANTOM-CAT and other open data sources to facilitate the

exploratory analysis of existing data. We first evaluated the ncRNA metabolic process and provided a

dataset that will help generate hypotheses for clarifying specific ncRNA intracellular responses. We

used this approach to further characterize hypoxia-responsive transcripts and overcome the native bias

in genome research towards known genes. Our study used the increased processing power of

computers to enable the application of big data analysis to drive discovery. We believe that this data-

driven approach is increasingly necessary to help advance genomic research. Our data suggest that

FANTOM-CAT has not been widely utilized in research despite its obvious value. Thus, we designed

this study to showcase the value of FANTOM-CAT derived transcript annotation as a means to

uncover new targets for investigation and validation. Our evaluation of the hypoxia data uncovered a

novel connection between *PGK1* and *TAF9B* which was not reported in any other evaluations despite

their critical value in hypoxia.

Thus, we suggest that this approach can be applied to other questions to facilitate more nuanced, and

less biased evaluations of large RNA-seq data sets and propose that FANTOM-CAT should be

commonly evaluated as an indispensable tool in transcriptome evaluations.

Materials and Methods

Evaluating the number of papers with descriptions of FANTOM

We used the following queries across our PMC web search (conducted on April 9, 2022)

RNA-Seq **:** "rna-seq"[MeSH Terms] OR "rna-seq"[All Fields] OR ("rna"[All Fields] AND "seq"[All

Fields]) OR "rna seq"[All Fields].

RNA-Seq AND GENCODE : ("rna-seq"[MeSH Terms] OR "rna-seq"[All Fields] OR ("rna"[All

Fields] AND "seq"[All Fields]) OR "rna seq"[All Fields]) AND "gencode"[All Fields]

RNA-Seq AND FANTOM : ("rna-seq"[MeSH Terms] OR "rna-seq"[All Fields] OR ("rna"[All

Fields] AND "seq"[All Fields]) OR "rna seq"[All Fields]) AND "fantom"[All Fields] to identify any

relevant publications. Once identified we downloaded the relevant article information in MEDLINE

format and calculated the number of publications per year based on the Date of Publication.

Public gene expression data

We then collected the RNA-seq data (https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.14141219.v1) from 495

pairs of human hypoxia-Normoxia samples evaluated in our previous study (Ono and Bono 2021).

Gene expression quantification

The expression of coding genes was quantified using ikra 1.2.3 (https://github.com/yyoshiaki/ikra)

as previously reported. The following procedure was used to quantify gene expression when

FANTOM-CAT was used as the reference sequence. As there were no FASTA-formatted files for

these data recorded in the FANTOM-CAT repository, we created a FASTA file based on the General

Transfer Format file data using gffread v0.12.1 and the following command:

> gffread FANTOM_CAT.lv4_stringent.only_lncRNA.gtf -g hg19.fa -w lv4.fa

We used salmon 0.14.0 for index creation and quantification

(https://github.com/no85j/hypoxia_code/tree/master/salmon/salmon_v0.14.0), with some

modifications to Pitagora-cwl (https://github.com/pitagora-network/pitagora-

cwl/tree/master/tools/salmon), and tximport 1.18.0

(https://github.com/no85j/hypoxia_code/tree/master/tximport) to match as closely as possible with the

quantification method used in our previous studies (Ono and Bono 2021; Bono and Hirota 2020). We

then calculated scaledTPM for use this as a representative value for gene expression (Soneson et al,

2016). Our quantitative RNA-seq data are accessible at figshare

(https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.19679520.v1)

HN-score

The fold change of the [scaledTPM]+1 values for each of the 495 sample pairs was calculated and

differential expression was determined at a 1.5-fold cut-off. We then produced the Hypoxia-Normoxia

(HN)-score for this data by taking the number of samples demonstrating significant upregulation and

subtracting the number of samples with significant downregulation of their overall expression profile.

Here we added a second HN-score calculation method using different reference transcripts to allow

for a more nuanced evaluation. These scores were then referred to as HNg (coding genes) and HNf

(coding and non-coding gene), respectively. This first score was designed to evaluate the coding gene

and was calculated from the previously published data set

(https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.14141135.v1) and the previously described HN1.5 cut-off value.

This means that the HNf-score is effectively a descriptor of the HN-score for any FANTOM-CAT

transcripts. This HNf-score was calculated as described above except that FANTOM-CAT was used

as a reference. Transcript annotation was obtained from the FANTOM-CAT website

(https://fantom.gsc.riken.jp/cat/v1/#/genes) and the HNf-score data are accessible at figshare

(https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.19679508.v2)

Enrichment analysis

We created UP200 and Down200 gene sets for the top and bottom 200 gene lists of the HNg-score

respectively and performed enrichment analysis in Metascape (https://metascape.org/)(Zhou et al,

2019). We used the default parameters for Metascape settings.

Antisense transcript

We used the bedtools (v2.30.0) program to complete the following evaluations (Quinlan and Hall

2010), including the creation of a bed file in which all the regions of each gene were merged based on

the transcript id of the UP200 and DOWN200 genes identified in the coding gene dataset. We then

used this bed file to identify the transcripts in the reverse strand using the intersect command.

Visualization

We used TIBCO Spotfire Desktop version 11.5.0 (TIBCO Spotfire, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA) to

produce all of our bar and scatter plots and we used the UpSetR (1.4.0) package from R (4.0.3) to

create our upset plots. We then used the pandas (1.2.5), matplotlib (3.2.2), and seaborn (0.11.0)

packages in Python (3.8.10) to complete our violin plotting and visualized the genome coordinates by

adding "FANTOM5 summary Tracks" to the UCSC genome browser.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Identifiers of the RNA-seq data used in this study are listed in the link to the left

[https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.14141219.v1].

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Author contributions

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analysis, Y.O., H.B.; investigation, Y.O.; resources, Y.O., H.B.; data curation, Y.O.; writing—original

draft preparation, Y.O.; writing—review and editing, H.B.; visualization, Y.O.; supervision, H.B.;

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Conflict of interest

The authors report that there are no conflicts of interest.

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Figure legends

Figure 1 - Schematic overview describing our exploratory study of hypoxia-responsive

transcripts.

Data source: human hypoxia RNA-seq data from the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus database.

Protein coding genes only: evaluated using GENCODE as the reference. Evaluation of the genes

downregulated by hypoxia revealed that they were enriched for transcripts involved in rRNA

processing. Protein coding and non-coding transcripts: Evaluated using FANTOM-CAT as reference.

Number of transcripts derived from mitochondrial DNA and antisense analysis was reduced,

suggesting a transcriptional regulation relationship in both sense and antisense genes (*PGK1* and

TAF9B).

Figure 2 - Contents of hypoxia-related data set.

The dataset is **(A)** summarized for oxygen concentration and **(B)** treatment time. **(C)** Gene expression

information for *PGK1* derived from cancer cells treated for 24 h with a 1% oxygen concentration, the

most representative condition, is displayed in a boxplot.

Figure 3 - Hypoxic stimulation suppresses the expression of non-coding RNA (ncRNA)

metabolic process-related genes involved in rRNA processing.

Enrichment analysis for (A) the 200 UP regulated gene list and (B) the 200 DOWN regulated gene

list. (C) Gene Ontology (GO) network and (D) Upset plot showing the number of genes included in

GO in this analysis describing the relative changes in ncRNA metabolism associated genes in the

downregulated gene list. In the GO Network, the ncRNA metabolic process and rRNA processing

focused on in this study are shown in yellow.

Figure 4 - Hypoxia-normoxia (HN)-score of coding and non-coding genes (HNf-score)

evaluation of transcript using FANTOM-CAT.

(A) HNf-score distribution of FANTOM-CAT transcripts. **(B)** Violin plot of the HNf-score of each

chromosome.

Figure 5. Hypoxia-normoxia (HN)-score of coding and non-coding genes (HNf-score) antisense

transcripts in connection to their sense counterparts.

(A) Distribution of HNf-scores for each antisense transcript from each gene in the UP200 and

DOWN200 gene lists. **(B)** Visualization of *PGK1* and *TAF9B* loci in the UCSC

genome browser. In FANTOM-CAT, *PGK1* transcripts are a sense-antisense pair for *TAF9B*, but

GENCODE does not show this relationship. **(C)** HN-score for coding genes (HNg-score) for *PGK1*

and *TAF9B*.

Tables

Table 1. Numbers of reports describing GENCODE, FANTOM, and RNA-seq data

Year	"RNA-seq"	"RNA-seq" &"GENCODE" (%)	"RNA-seq" &"FANTOM" (%)
2017	17,373	769 (4.4%)	123 (0.7%)
2018	20,400	996 (4.9%)	127 (0.6%)
2019	25,668	1,254 (4.9%)	130 (0.5%)
2020	33,607	1,593 (4.7%)	176 (0.5%)
2021	40,757	1,976 (4.8%)	210 (0.5%)
2022	9,420	406 (4.3%)	39 (0.4%)

Table 2. Top 25 UP and DOWN regulated transcripts identified using their HNf-scores

		Transcript ID	HNf-score	Chr	Gene Name	Gene Class	Antisense
Top 25 upregulated transcripts	1	ENST00000607600.1	321	chr6	RP1-261G23.7	Short ncRNAs	AS_VEGFA
	2	ENST00000481651.1	309	chr7	RP11-61L23.2	Pseudogenes	
	3	ENST00000307365.3	301	chr10	DDIT4	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	4	FTMT21000000269.1	300	chr3	BHLHE40-AS1	lncRNA, intergenic	AS_BHLHE40
	5	ENST00000368636.4	289	chr10	BNIP3	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	6	ENST00000335174.4	275	chr4	ANKRD37	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	7	ENST00000290573.2	272	chr2	HK2	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	8	FTMT24300004891.1	267	chr11	LDHA	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	9	HBMT00000242044.1	265	chr11	SBF2	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_ADM
	10	FTMT24200000803.1	265	chr11	CATG00000004979.1	lncRNA, antisense	AS_LDHA
	11	ENST00000380629.2	265	chr8	BNIP3L	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	12	ENCT00000004975.1	263	chr1	SLC2A1-AS1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_SLC2A1
	13	ENST00000543445.1	257	chr11	LDHA	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	14	ENST00000378357.4	257	chr9	CA9	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	15	ENST00000453116.1	254	chr10	MXI1	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	16	ENST00000471240.1	253	chr10	DDIT4	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	17	ENST00000460806.1	251	chr3	BHLHE40	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	18	FTMT20200001505.1	250	chr1	SLC2A1	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	19	HBMT00000734702.1	250	chr19	CATG00000040757.1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_GPI
	20	FTMT21100041760.1	249	chr3	BHLHE40	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	21	ENST00000250457.3	246	chr14	EGLN3	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	22	HBMT00000734730.1	245	chr19	CATG00000040757.1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_GPI
	23	ENST00000426263.3	243	chr1	SLC2A1	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	24	HBMT00000727478.1	242	chr19	RAB11B-AS1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_ANGPTL4
	25	ENST00000534464.1	241	chr11	ADM	Protein-coding mRNAs	
Top 25 Downregulated transcripts	1	ENST00000320270.2	-248	chr8	RRS1	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	2	ENST00000368232.4	-246	chr1	GPATCH4	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	3	ENST00000361453.3	-245	chrM	MT-ND2	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	4	ENST00000361851.1	-230	chrM	MT-ATP8	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	5	ENST00000361227.2	-221	chrM	MT-ND3	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	6	ENST00000361390.2	-215	chrM	MT-ND1	Protein-coding mRNAs	
	7	ENCT00000264196.1	-200	chr20	IDH3B	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_NOP56
	8	ENST00000362079.2	-194	chrM	MT-CO3	Protein-coding mRNAs	

9	FTMT30000000001.1	-193	chrM	MT-ND5	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_MT-ND6
10	ENCT00000020267.1	-188	chr1	CATG00000042732.1	lncRNA, divergent	
11	FTMT20300078215.1	-188	chr1	APOA1BP	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_GPATCH4
12	FTMT26100009680.1	-188	chr16	POLR3K	Protein-coding mRNAs	
13	FTMT24100001922.1	-187	chr11	H2AFX	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_HMBS
14	MICT00000370386.1	-185	chrM	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-ATP6 etc.
15	ENST00000416718.2	-177	chr1	RP5-857K21.11	Pseudogenes	
16	HBMT00000533809.1	-176	chr16	ALG1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_EEF2KMT
17	FTMT22300045607.1	-176	chr6	SRSF3	Protein-coding mRNAs	
18	ENST00000585075.1	-175	chr17	RP11-649A18.12	lncRNA, divergent	AS_SLC25A19
19	ENST00000295304.4	-175	chr2	CHAC2	Protein-coding mRNAs	
20	MICT00000370388.1	-175	chrM	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-ATP6 etc.
21	ENST00000361899.2	-175	chrM	MT-ATP6	Protein-coding mRNAs	
22	ENST00000458605.1	-174	chr22	RRP7B	Pseudogenes	
23	HBMT00000611042.1	-172	chr17	METTL23	Protein-coding mRNAs	
24	ENST00000371538.3	-170	chr1	SELRC1	Protein-coding mRNAs	
25	ENST00000293860.5	-169	chr16	POLR3K	Protein-coding mRNAs	

506   **Table 3. Top and bottom 10 antisense transcripts for UP200 and DOWN200 HNg-score gene**

507   **sets, as identified based on their HNf-scores**

			Transcript ID	HNf-score	Gene Name	Gene Class	Antisense
Antisense transcripts from the UP200 gene set	Top10	1	ENST00000607600.1	321	RP1-261G23.7	Short ncRNAs	AS_VEGFA
		2	FTMT21000000269.1	300	BHLHE40-AS1	lncRNA, intergenic	AS_BHLHE40
		3	HBMT00000242044.1	265	SBF2	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_ADM
		4	FTMT24200000803.1	265	CATG00000004979.1	lncRNA, antisense	AS_LDHA
		5	ENCT00000004975.1	263	SLC2A1-AS1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_SLC2A1
		6	HBMT00000734702.1	250	CATG00000040757.1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_GPI
		7	HBMT00000734730.1	245	CATG00000040757.1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_GPI
		8	HBMT00000727478.1	242	RAB11B-AS1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_ANGPTL4
		9	ENCT00000211059.1	241	RAB11B-AS1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_ANGPTL4
		10	HBMT00000734676.1	234	CATG00000040757.1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_GPI
	Bottom10	1	ENCT00000244163.1	-152	RP11-259N19.1	lncRNA, divergent	AS_HK2
		2	HBMT00000507967.1	-124	CATG00000025826.1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_ISG20
		3	ENST00000309424.3	-115	CD3EAP	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_PPP1R13L
		4	FTMT21900007493.1	-111	SRFBP1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_LOX
		5	ENST00000524270.1	-94	SPSB2	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_TPI1
		6	ENST00000357429.6	-87	C7orf50	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_GPR146
		7	ENST00000462901.1	-81	CGGBP1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_ZNF654
		8	ENST00000439489.1	-81	DIABLO	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_B3GNT4
		9	MICT00000230070.1	-80	PPIL2	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_YPEL1
		10	ENST00000422285.2	-79	PDHA1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_MAP3K15
Antisense transcripts from the DOWN200 gene set	Top10	1	MICT00000376640.1	175	PGK1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_TAF9B
		2	ENCT00000468735.1	145	PGK1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_TAF9B
		3	ENST00000229270.4	128	TPI1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_SPSB2
		4	FTMT29100015042.1	120	PGK1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_TAF9B
		5	ENST00000566326.1	114	MAP2K1	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_SNAPC5
		6	ENST00000329078.3	99	SPNS2	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_MYBBP1A
		7	ENST00000222256.4	87	RAB3A	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_MPV17L2
		8	ENCT00000059259.1	76	PDZD7	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_TWNK
		9	MICT00000139943.1	71	SPNS2	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_MYBBP1A
		10	FTMT25300024476.1	70	ZBTB25	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_MTHFD1
	Bottom10	1	ENCT00000264196.1	-200	IDH3B	protein-coding mRNAs	AS_NOP56

	2	FTMT30000000001.1	-193	MT-ND5	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_MT-ND6
	3	FTMT20300078215.1	-188	APOA1BP	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_GPATCH4
	4	FTMT24100001922.1	-187	H2AFX	Protein-coding mRNAs	AS_HMBS
	5	MICT00000370386.1	-185	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-ATP6
	6	MICT00000370386.1	-185	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-ATP8
	7	MICT00000370386.1	-185	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-CO3
	8	MICT00000370386.1	-185	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-ND1
	9	MICT00000370386.1	-185	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-ND2
	10	MICT00000370386.1	-185	MT-TA	Structural RNAs	AS_MT-ND3

Human RNA-seq

Hypoxia-related datasets

Protein coding genes only

Reference transcript : GENCODE release 30

Enrichment Analysis

DOWN 200 genes

GO:0034660: ncRNA metabolic process
GO:0006399: tRNA metabolic process
GO:0018130: heterocycle biosynthetic process
GO:0009451: RNA modification
GO:0042273: ribosomal large subunit biogenesis
GO:0090501: RNA phosphodiester bond hydrolysis
GO:0006260: DNA replication
GO:0006259: DNA metabolic process
GO:1900262: regulation of DNA-directed DNA polymerase activity
GO:0140053: mitochondrial gene expression
WP4022: Pyrimidine metabolism
R-HSA-163200: Respiratory electron transport, ATP synthesis by chemi
GO:0016556: mRNA modification
GO:0031123: RNA 3'-end processing
GO:1990542: mitochondrial transmembrane transport
R-HSA-196854: Metabolism of vitamins and cofactors
GO:1901796: regulation of signal transduction by p53 class mediator
GO:0006520: cellular amino acid metabolic process
hsa00330: Arginine and proline metabolism
GO:0007005: mitochondrion organization

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40
-log10(P)

ncRNA metabolic process

Down200 GO Network

ncRNA metabolic process

ncRNA processing
ncRNA metabolic process
RNA metabolic process
rRNA processing in the nucleus and cytosol
RNA processing
rRNA processing
rRNA modification in the nucleus and cytosol
ribosomal subunit biogenesis
ribosome biogenesis
Metabolism of RNA

rRNA processing

Protein coding and non-coding transcripts

Reference transcript : FANTOM-CAT

Hypoxia-Normoxia (HNf)-score of all transcripts

FANTOM-CAT transcripts

119,962 transcripts (44%)

Gene name	HNf-score
BHLHE40-**AS1**	300
SLC2A1-**AS1**	263
RAB11B-**AS1**	242

Antisense

152,891 Transcripts (56%)

Gene name	HNf-score
MT-ND2	-245
MT-ATP8	-230
MT-ND3	-221

Mitochondria

-250 0 250
HNf-score

Visualization of HN-score per chromosome

HNf-score

-200

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 X Y M
chromosome

Survey of HNf-scores for sense and antisense pairs

sense — DOWN 200 coding gene — UP 200 coding gene

antisense
AS_transcript1
AS_transcript2
AS_transcript3

Antisense transcripts

160 transcripts (25%)

366 transcripts (72%)

483 Transcripts (75%)

144 Transcripts (28%)

-200 -100 0 100
HNf-score

-100 0 100 200 300
HNf-score

Genome Browser

PGK1 and TAF9B

MICT00000376640.1
ENCT00000468735.1

A

B

PGK1 MICT00000376640.1
PGK1 ENCT00000468735.1

C

down_200
up_200

PGK1
HNg-score 322

TAF9B
HNg-score -230