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CNVmap: a method and software to detect copy number variants from linkage mapping data

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Abstract

Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) are widely used for detecting quantitative trait loci or for

searching for causal variants of diseases. Nevertheless, *structural* variations such as copy-number

variants (CNVs) represent a large part of natural genetic diversity and contribute significantly to trait

variation. Over the past decade, numerous methods and softwares have been developed to detect

CNVs. Since all such approaches are based on exploiting sequencing data, they bypass a wealth of

tools such as SNP arrays. We thus propose here an original method to both detect and genetically *map*

CNVs using mapping panels. Specifically, we exploit the apparent heterozygous state of duplicated

loci: peaks in the associated genome-wide allelic profiles provide highly specific signatures that

identify the nature and position of the CNVs. Our original method and software can detect and map

automatically up to 33 different types of CNVs based on segregation data only. We validate this

approach on simulated and experimental bi-parental mapping panels in two maize and one wheat

populations. Most of the events found correspond to having just one extra copy in one of the parental

lines but the corresponding allelic value can be that of either parent. We also find cases with two or

more additional copies, especially in wheat where these copies locate to homeologues. More generally,

our computational tool can be used by the community to give additional value, at no cost, to many

datasets produced over the past decade from genetic mapping panels.

Keywords: Copy number variation (CNV); SNP arrays; Allele frequency profiles; Non-Mendelian

markers

Introduction

Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) are typically exploited via genotyping technologies, such as arrays or Genotyping by Sequencing, leading to high-density information on such polymorphisms. The wide availability of such tools explains why polymorphisms are principally characterized at this SNP level, even though it is known in many species that there is also a great deal of *structural* polymorphism across genomes. Generally one uses the terminology "structural variation" (SV) when there are inversions, translocations, insertions, deletions, or duplications involving segments of over 1000 base pairs. Identifying such SVs is a current challenge, rendered difficult by the so-called "complexity" of large genomes that involve many repetitive sequences, generally associated with transposable elements. Work on identifying SVs includes in particular searching for Copy Number Variations (CNVs) (Redon *et al.* 2006) and Presence/Absence Variations (PAVs) (Alkan *et al.* 2011). In CNVs, a gene or segment of DNA is present in different numbers of copies in two genomes. CNVs have been discovered in numerous species, and in particular in mammals (Guryev *et al.* 2008; Conrad *et al.* 2010). In PAVs, a gene or DNA segment is present in one genome and missing in the other. It has been claimed that more nucleotide bases are affected by SVs than by SNPs (Zhang *et al.* 2009). Both CNVs and PAVs are associated with phenotypic variations and diseases (Beckmann *et al.* 2007; Zhang *et al.* 2009), making them a focus of much current research. A large number of approaches have been used to detect structural variations. Perhaps the oldest is based on comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) (Beló *et al.* 2009; Springer *et al.* 2009) while later approaches involve exploiting sequencing read depth (Bailey *et al.* 2002; Yoon *et al.* 2009; Alkan *et al.* 2009), unexpected mappings of read pairs (Chen *et al.* 2009; Pang *et al.* 2010), split reads (Mills *et al.* 2006; Ye *et al.* 2009), and sequence-based reassembly (Zerbino and Birney 2008; Chaisson *et al.* 2009; Simpson *et al.* 2009; Li *et al.* 2010). Each

approach has its advantages (Alkan *et al.* 2009; Sudmant *et al.* 2010) and continues to undergo

optimization (Zare *et al.* 2017). Our work takes a novel approach, different from all that we listed

above, and gives "a second life" to SNP genotyping technologies in a particular context. Specifically,

SNP arrays have been available at low cost for several years now and so have been used rather

extensively to genotype segregating populations. Such populations are typically constructed for

mapping quantitative trait loci (QTLs) for fundamental research or for breeding programs.

Interestingly, such technologies provide, in the context of segregating populations, information on

structural variation between the founding parents used to build the population. However, that

information is hidden within the markers showing non-Mendelian segregation patterns, markers that

generally are discarded early-on in the linkage mapping analyses. The present work provides a

methodology for inferring certain types of SVs based on those non-Mendelian markers in biparental

mapping populations, and for pedagogical reasons we will stress the CNV cases. Our approach exploits

the *profiles* of allele frequencies arising along the genome, somewhat analogously to what is done in

genome-wide association studies. However, in our case, instead of working with the genotype at a

single marker at a time, we work with compound genotypes involving multiple markers. The profiles

built in this way exhibit peaks at the loci where the extra copies arise and provide signatures allowing

the identification of the type of SV involved. These additional loci should not be too close in genetic

distance to the reference locus because, as we shall see, it is the recombinations between these loci in

the population that lead to the characteristic signal.

Any marker that deviates strongly from Mendelian behavior in a segregating population points to a

potential SV. The simplest context in which to understand how to exploit a non-Mendelian signal is to

consider the case of doubled-haploid (DH) plant populations in segregation. Indeed, in that type of

population where homozygous individuals are derived from single meiotic products by chromosome

doubling, all of the Mendelian markers should show full homozygosity while SVs and more

specifically CNVs will lead some individuals to appear as being heterozygous at markers involved in

rearrangements. Therefore, we begin our study here using a doubled haploid (DH) population

consisting of 625 maize individuals; we refer to it as the GABI population. We will also show how our

approach can be used in the context of RIL (Recombinant Inbred Line) and IRIL (Intermated

Recombinant Inbred Line; (Lee *et al.* 2002)) populations. The maize IRIL population studied in this

paper is the IBM (Ganal *et al.* 2011) mapping population. We also study a RIL wheat population

(Choulet *et al.* 2014; Rimbert *et al.* 2018), hereafter referred to as WHEAT. The markers in these RIL

and IRIL populations have residual heterozygosity because the number of generations of selfing used is

not so large. Such blocks of markers with residual heterozygosity might be expected to swamp any SV

signal; interestingly this turns out not to be true. We will demonstrate the efficiency of our approach on

our three populations that include two situations with this potential problem and we will show that the

allele frequency profiles are fully compatible with the inferred CNVs by comparing those profiles to

the ones produced from simulated populations. As a first illustration, we apply our method and

software to the GABI maize DH population, revealing striking signals of duplications and triplications,

the corresponding copies arising on a *common* chromosome not more often than by chance. Then we

examine the case of recombinant inbred lines (RILs or IRILs); as expected, having residual

heterozygosity makes the problem more challenging but our method generalizes well. Indeed, in the

IBM and WHEAT experimental populations, we are able to identify unambiguous signatures of copy

number variations. Interestingly, in the wheat data set we find a large number of triplicated loci that

involve the homeologous chromosomes.

Materials and Methods

Aim and design of the study

The locus-specificity of genetic markers used for genotyping, be they PCR-based or array-based, mostly relies on oligonucleotides hybridizing to sequences flanking the SNP of interest. In the case of duplicated regions, such oligonucleotides may find alternative targets, messing up the interpretation of the observed raw data (mostly fluorescence intensities at two wavelengths), which usually assumes a single target locus. This results in apparent non-Mendelian behaviours of some markers, which are usually filtered out from data sets before using them for mapping or QTL analyses. The goal of this work was to exploit these types of data sets to infer markers involved in SVs, providing a software package to do so automatically. This software is provided as a R package named CNVmap, provided in Supplementary File S1 (see Supplementary File S6 for installation). More detailed explanations about the functionalities and procedures of this software are provided in the package *via* the embedded documentation of the associated functions.

In our approach, we focus on non-Mendelian markers to provide and test appropriate hypotheses, interpreting the observed segregations as CNV events polymorphic between the parents used to generate segregating populations. The main signature of such events being apparent heterozygous calls, we therefore worked with segregating populations in which the individuals are almost fully homozygous, like doubled-haploid or recombinant inbred populations. In such populations, high levels of heterozygous calls in some markers strongly point to possible CNVs containing those markers. Because some systematic or random errors in the genotyping process can also lead to unexpected heterozygotes, we extended our approach to a joint analysis of each candidate marker with its local

allelic context, which provides multiple and unambiguous signatures that make up strong evidence for

the reality of the event. Moreover, this approach (implemented in our software) also provides the

genomic localization of the other loci involved in the CNV.

Populations and segregation data used

The population mainly used in this study is a Doubled Haploid (DH) maize population called GABI

(Presterl *et al.* 2007), from which genotyping data were kindly provided by KWS SAAT SE &

Co.KGaA (Einbeck, Germany). The GABI population contains 625 DH lines, which were genotyped

using the Illumina MaizeSNP50 array (Ganal *et al.* 2011). Then, the maize IBM population (Ganal *et*

al. 2011) studied in this work is an Intermated Recombinant Inbred Line (IRIL) population obtained by

intermating F2 individuals for four generations to accumulate recombination, before beginning the

selfing generations used to fix the material (Lee *et al.* 2002). The IBM population contains 239 RILs,

which were genotyped using the same SNP array and cluster file as for GABI. For wheat, 406 F6

individuals derived from a cross between Chinese Spring and Renan were genotyped using the

TaBW280K SNP array (Rimbert *et al.* 2018). Marker segregation data for populations GABI, IBM, and

WHEAT are respectively provided in Supplementary Files S2, S3, S4.

Linkage map construction

Our method and software to detect CNVs requires prior knowledge of the order and genetic position of

the markers. The genetic maps used to analyze the GABI and IBM segregation data were thus first

obtained using a seriation approach implemented in R scripts calling functions from the CartaGene

software (de Givry `et al. 2004`), as described in Ganal et al. (Ganal `et al. 2011`). The genetic map

used to analyze the segregation data of the WHEAT population were produced using the software

MSTmap (Wu *et al.* `2008`) with the following default parameters: population type: RIL6; distance

function: Kosambi; cut-off: 0.00000000001; map dist.: 15; map size: 2; missing threshold: 0.20;

estimation before clustering: yes; detect bad data: yes; objective function: ML (Rimbert *et al.* `2018`).

Linkage map data for populations GABI, IBM, and WHEAT are respectively provided in

Supplementary Files S2, S3, and S4.

Raw data filtering

In DH populations, each normal marker should be homozygous in every offspring. The possible calls

for any marker are then "A" (the allele attributed to parent 1) or "B" (the allele attributed to parent 2). It

is important to keep in mind that a call of a SNP is the result of an elaborate identification process

which is not 100% reliable so that one cannot exclude a low proportion of errors, leading for instance

to some small proportion of "H" calls (heterozygous, which should never happen in a DH population if

there is no genotyping error) or "-" for missing data if the calling is too ambiguous. In practice, we do

see heterozygous markers in spite of each individual being homozygous. Such cases might be

erroneous calls or indicative of regions belonging to SVs. Beyond possible errors in the calls for certain

markers, some individuals of the population may themselves be corrupt (e.g. through pollen

contamination). A strong indication of this is if an offspring has an anomalously large number of

markers that are called "H". We thus apply some quality filtering on the data sets, both at the level of

the individuals (e.g. we cast out individuals having too high heterozygozity rates) and at the level of

markers. In the R code, the user can change the thresholds for such filterings, for instance based on

minor allele frequency or genotype frequencies (see all parameter descriptions in the R package).

Defining the Mendelian and candidate markers

Given the markers passing the previous test, we now divide them into three classes: "Mendelian",

"candidate", and "other". Our procedure for defining the first or second class of markers is based on

forcing them to be respectively "typical" and "atypical" for some statistic while the "other" markers are

all the ones that do not pass these tests. Our first statistic is the fraction of individuals that are

heterozygous. We require that this fraction be in the bottom X_H percentile for "Mendelian" and in the

top Y_H for "candidate" markers. We do the same thing (but with different thresholds) using the fraction

of individuals that are called missing for that marker. Our use of percentiles has the advantage that it

automatically takes into account the properties of the population, such as the low numbers of

heterozygotes in DH populations and the significantly larger numbers arising in RILs that have not

reached fixation. Clearly, as the threshold Y_H is lowered, the number of candidate markers will increase

so if one wants to find as many events as possible pointing to SVs it is good to not take Y_H too large. In

contrast, the potential number of Mendelian markers is quite substantial so it is not a problem to be

rather stringent for the value of X_H.

Automatic detection of peaks in the allele profiles

For each candidate marker M* we identify its flanking Mendelian markers M_L and M_R from which we

identify the individuals in the population belonging to each of the six associated 3-marker genotype

classes. Then for each of these six classes we compute the corresponding genome-wide allele profile

using the *Mendelian* markers only, each marker leading to a frequency defined as the number of

individuals carrying the A allele divided by the number of individuals carrying either the A or B alleles.

These six genome-wide allele profiles along chromosomes are then analyzed for occurrences of peaks.

Roughly a peak can be defined *via* a region on the genome in which the allele frequency curve has a

pointed shape and approaches very close to 0 or 1. In practice, to avoid being sensitive to noisy or

erroneous data, we get rid of outliers by a first filter. That means producing a first smoothed version of

the allele curve using splines (*smooth.spline()* function in R) and throwing out the data points that are

outliers with respect to that curve. Second, a new smoothed curve is generated using the remaining

markers. Then all regions for which this new smoothed curve is close enough to 0 or 1 are identified. A

linear fit of the data (outliers excluded) is performed on each side of the putative peak to determine its

expected position, and also to assess the quality and slope of the linear regression on both sides of the

peak (or on one side only if the peak is at the extremity of a chromosome, or close to another peak).

Then the list of all peaks for all six classes are compared to see whether peaks co-localize. This leads to

a list of peaks (genetic positions on the genome) with each peak being called as "present" or "absent"

for each of the six allele frequency curves. Note that if a class contains no individuals it is just ignored

(see Supplementary File S5). Furthermore, when there are few individuals in a class, the associated

allele frequency curves are noisy and thus will have peaks by chance. We thus only consider classes

having a minimum number of individuals, this minimum being determined so that by the Bonferroni

test one has a false discovery rate for peak detection that is 5% under the hypothesis that there is no

structural variation present.

Automatic assignment to a type of CNV event

Once all peaks have been detected, the presence or absence of peaks or troughs for each of the different

3-marker genotype classes was encoded with a 6-character string for each locus, providing the

observed signature of the event. This signature was then compared by the software with a list of 33

possible expected signatures (details provided as Supplementary File S5), and in case of a match

between the observed signature and an expected one, then the event was assigned to the corresponding

type.

Analyzing candidates based on missing data

Our method is based on the detection of candidate markers for which the number of H calls is

anomalously high, followed by an analysis of each associated genome-wide allelic profile. However,

when for completeness we tried to analyze allelic profiles for *all* markers, we discovered clear CNV-

like signatures for some markers with little or no H calls but with large numbers of missing data. In

such cases, instead of the AHA or BHB 3-marker genotypic class, the peaks were observed on the

allelic profiles associated with A-A or B-B classes (see Results and Fig. 3) suggesting that one had a

CNV but where, for unknown reasons, the H calls for the candidate marker were transformed into

missing data calls. So we specified in the software the signatures that would arise from having H calls

be erroneously modified and denoted them by adding a suffix to their putative CNV type. The suffix

was "|Hm" when (part of) the expected H calls have been turned into missing data calls (with

probability p_{Hm}), and "|HmHa" respectively "|HmHb" when the expected H calls have been turned

partly into missing data calls (with probability p_{Hm}) and partly into A respectively B homozygote calls

(with probabilities p_{Ha} respectively p_{Hb}).

To simulate such events, we first estimated the probabilities p_{Hm}, p_{Ha}, and p_{Hb} from the data for the

marker considered based on the allelic profiles at the inferred peaks. We then simulated the CNV event

as explained above. Finally, we introduced systematic "errors" to the resulting candidate marker

genotype depending on the type of the putative CNV event with its suffix. Specifically, we randomly

transformed the H calls into missing data, A, or B calls according to the probabilities p_{Hm}, p_{Ha} and p_{Hb}.

Producing simulated datasets

We produced simulated data staying as close as possible to the experimental population parameters,

keeping the same marker positions on the genetic maps of each chromosome and the same population

size. We simulated the exact same scheme of crossings as the one used to produce the experimental

populations, implementing *in silico* crossovers that can arise in each marker interval during each

meiosis based on the experimental genetic map. Crossover interference was also implemented using the

Gamma model (McPeek and Speed 1995) whose parameter *nu* can be set as a parameter in our

software (for typical values of *nu* in maize, see (Falque *et al.* 2009)). This implementation of

interference proved to be important for having comparable peak width between experimental and

simulated profiles. To simulate any particular CNV hypothesis, we implemented into the parental

genomes the associated duplications or triplications of the marker M* of interest, using positions of loci

inferred from the analysis of the actual experimental population. The corresponding modified parental

genomes thus had extra fictitious markers each tagged with the parental allelic value (and thus

independent of the CNV hypothesis). For instance in the case of a duplication in Parent A but with

opposite allele (CNV of the type A/B_B/-), the extra marker had nevertheless allele A in parent A and

allele B in parent B. Then the scheme of crossings was simulated based on these modified parental

genomes (note that the genetic map was also modified but just by the inclusion of the extra markers at

their inferred positions). Lastly, the individuals in the resulting population were "genotyped" *in silico*.

For the markers that were not involved in the CNV, this was straightforward. However, to genotype an

individual for the marker M*, it was necessary to take into account allelic values not only at M* but

also at the extra copy or copies of the marker, to mimic the fact that oligonucleotides used for

genotyping M* would hybridize on all copies. This was where the actual CNV hypothesis intervened

because the "raw" genotypes at each extra marker as produced by the simulation had to be reinterpreted

using the CNV allelic content. Specifically, the call of the marker M* had to be changed to H if and

only if the reference locus was not already H and both A and B alleles were present in the reinterpreted

individual when considering M* and all of its copies. As an illustration of this rule, consider again the

CNV of the type A/B_B/-. The only situation requiring that a call of M* be changed to H is when the

raw genotype is A at the first locus and also A at the second. In practice we apply such "transformation"

rules using successively each of the extra copies of the marker, each time testing whether the

genotyping should be changed to H. Once that is done, the extra copies are removed from the data set

and only the original markers and associated modified calls are used as input to the analysis program,

leading to production of corresponding genome-wide allelic profiles based on these simulated data sets.

A good agreement between profiles produced from the experimental and simulated data sets then

provides strong support for the hypothesized CNV.

Availability of data and material:

All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article and its

supplementary information files (software provided as Supplementary File S1 and data sets provided as

archives in Supplementary Files S2, S3, and S4). All Supplementary Figures, Tables, and Files have

been uploaded to FigShare.

Results

Genome-wide allele frequency profiles identify the loci involved in CNVs

Strikingly clean signatures for 1:2 CNVs

What should be expected in a segregating population if only one of the parents has a marker

duplicated? The simplest situation is schematically represented in Fig. 1A where in parent 1 (with

alleles denoted "A") a DNA segment carrying the SNP has been duplicated with insertion in some other

place in the genome. The marker involved in this duplication is labeled M* and can be thought of as

having been identified as a "candidate" marker given its non-Mendelian behavior in terms of

heterozygote calls (see Materials and Methods) while M_L and M_R correspond to its flanking Mendelian

markers that are thus *not* part of the duplication. The region where the M* locus was initially mapped

will hereafter be referred to as the "reference locus". In Fig. 1A we assume that it is only Parent 1 that

carries the duplication and this duplicate copy has the allele of that same parent. For the purposes of the

figure, we only represent M* in this duplication but other markers can very well be implicated too and

if this is so one has even more evidence that there is a CNV. After crossing these two homozygous

parents to produce an F1 individual, meiosis of the F1 leads to gametes that may shuffle the alleles of

the parental chromosomes. In the case of a DH population, these gametes are used to produce diploid

plants whose genomic content is that of a gamete but simply doubled. For the situation depicted in

Fig. 1A where we focus on the reference locus and the duplication, the (gametic or DH) associated

segregation patterns fall into 4 categories. Assuming that these two loci are on different chromosomes

(or far enough away from each other on the same chromosome), the genotyping of these plants will

generate a call for M* that will be "A" 50% of the time, "B" 25% of the time and "H" 25% of the time.

Thus the marker will be detected as anomalous (non-Mendelian) in this mapping population, having

too many "H" calls, and this is the simplest situation for which our method allows one to map the

second locus. As indicated in Fig. 1A, we introduce the associated 3-marker genotype classes based on

the alleles arising for the M_L, M*, and M_R markers. The CNV situation depicted in Fig. 1A will lead to

a characteristic signature when considering the genome-wide allele frequency profiles. To illustrate

this, we simulated a DH population with the same characteristics as GABI, taking a marker M* from

chromosome 4 (specifically marker PZA-000492026) and then we duplicated it onto chromosome 5.

The resulting allele frequency profiles are displayed in Fig. 1B. To construct the profiles, we first

assigned the individuals of the simulated population to one of the 6 classes defined via the 3-marker

genotypes M_L M* M_R. There are 6 classes because M* can be A, B or H while we impose M_L and M_R

to be of the same parental type because in practice these markers are very close on the chromosome

(because of that proximity, almost all individuals in the population will satisfy the imposed property

and so in practice this restriction serves really to filter out cases that have been improperly mapped).

Then for each class of individuals, we determine the allele frequency of all the Mendelian markers

genome-wide (0 means only the B allele arises for the considered marker, 1 means only the A allele

arises, *cf*. Materials and Methods), and plotting these leads to the allele frequency profiles as displayed

in Fig. 1B. The x-axis is the cumulated genetic position for each of these Mendelian markers. Also

displayed are the corresponding smoothed frequency curves as well as the allele frequency obtained

without separating the individuals into the 3-marker genotype classes (dashed black curve). In this

example the BHB curve has a peak (pointing down) on chromosome 4 as expected (the reference locus

for M*) but also a second peak pointing up on chromosome 5. This peak is corroborated with that of

the BBB curve (down) at that same position. We can thus say that the BHB and BBB curves together

provide strong evidence for a 1:2 CNV of the A/B_A/- type (see detailed explanation of the encoding in

the caption of TABLE 2), where the reference locus is normal (A/B; parent 1 having allele A and parent

2 having allele B) while the second locus involves a duplicate copy (A/-; carried by parent 1 only and

where the copy has the allele of Parent 1 for the reference marker M*). In such a notation, four

different possible 1:2 CNV types are enumerated in the form A/B_-/A, A/B_A/-, A/B_-/B, and

A/B_B/-.

Analysis of the GABI data leads to many markers M* compatible with scenarios like that of Fig. 1 or

their analogs under parental or allele exchange. For instance in Fig. 2A we show the profiles for a case

that was detected as a 1:2 CNV with the duplicated locus being carried by parent 2 but carrying the

allele A. For completeness, we show further examples in Supplementary Figure S1 to cover all four

types of 1:2 CNVs. In all these cases, the hashed rectangles at the peaks delimit the regions where the

software localized each of the two loci by using the shapes in the neighborhood of these peaks (see

Materials and Methods). Furthermore, to add credence to the different CNV claims when analyzing the

data, we systematically provide simulations to determine the *expected* profiles under the hypothesis of

the inferred scenario. Specifically, our software produces a simulated segregating population using the

same number of individuals and the same marker positions as in the experimental data set but including

one or more duplicate copies of M* at the position(s) predicted by the scenario (see Materials and

Methods for a detailed explanation). Fig. 2B thus shows the expected profiles in the 1:2 CNV inferred

from Fig. 2A while Supplementary Figure S1 includes the simulation for each of the four types of 1:2

CNV. If the result of a simulation shows patterns of peaks very close to the experimental ones, then one

can have high confidence in the proposed CNV hypothesis.

The computer generation of all the profiles presented in this paper were obtained using the R package

CNVmap available as Supplementary File S1.

The two loci of 1:2 CNVs sometimes arise on the same chromosome

The examples just shown had the duplicated locus on a different chromosome from the reference locus,

but we also found other cases where the two peaks lay on the *same* chromosome. For illustration, we

show such a case in the GABI population in Fig. 2C, the candidate marker being SYN7974. As in the

previous case, our software produces a plot of the allele frequency profiles both for the experimental

data and for a simulated data set given the inferred scenario which for Fig. 2C is A/B_B/-, both loci

lying within chromosome 2. Clearly, the simulated profiles that are shown in Fig. 2D have all the

qualitative properties seen in the experimental data, providing strong evidence that the parent 1 really

does have a duplication of the region containing the SYN7974 marker and that the corresponding allele

is that of parent 2. Compared to the case where the two loci are on different chromosomes, the expected

proportion of individuals carrying the heterozygote signal is reduced: instead of the theoretical 25%, it

is $r/2$ where r is the recombination rate between the two loci. Whenever these two loci are very close,

the number of such recombinant individuals will be low and so it will be much more difficult to argue

that there is a real CNV *vs* simply a few genotyping errors.

Allele frequency profiles reveal different types of 1:3 CNVs

Our software is set up to detect any number of peaks in the allele frequency profiles. Thanks to this

feature, we found multiple cases where there were three separate loci. We illustrate such a situation in

Fig. 2E in the GABI population for marker PZE-105075897, where the reference locus is on

chromosome 5, and two additional copies were detected on chromosomes 3 and 7. The software

automatically identifies this as an A/B_-/B_-/A, which means that the parent 1 has no additional copy

while the parent 2 has two additional copies: one on chromosome 3 with allele "B" and one on

chromosome 7 with allele "A". Note that the peaks localizing these additional copies arise from the 3-

marker genotypic classes AAA and AHA on chromosome 3, and the 3-marker genotypic classes BBB

and BHB on chromosome 7. Again, to have a high level of confidence that the patterns observed have

been properly interpreted, one can compare with the results of a simulation as was done in the previous

figures. The result of simulating the triplication inferred from Fig. 2E is displayed in Fig. 2F, showing

that the 1:3 CNV hypothesis is indeed strongly supported by the experimental data because of the high

similarity between the Figs. 2E and 2F. Note that it is possible to show that the theoretical frequencies

of the AAA, AHA, BBB, and BHB genotypes are 1/4, and of course this result agrees with what we see

at the top of Fig. 2F and is not far from what is observed in the experimental case. In Supplementary

Figure S2 we display similar cases but arising this time in the WHEAT population, corresponding to

three-locus events of the types A/B_-/A_-/A, A/B_A/-_-/A, A/B_A/-_A/-, A/B_B/-_-/B, and A/B_B/-

_B/-. Note that in all these last cases for which one of the alleles arises solely at the reference locus, the

additional loci are identified only through one of the 3-marker genotypic classes, the classes having

heterozygotes giving rise to enhanced frequencies at those two loci but not reaching the 100% value

(see Supplementary Figure S2). The reasons one has enhancement but not a saturated peak or trough is

that the constraint of capturing the multiple-copy allele can be satisfied at *either* of the two additional

loci.

Missing data also can provide convincing signatures for 1:2 CNVs in the presence of systematic

genotyping errors

In Fig. 3A we show a case arising within the GABI population, constructed based on the M* marker

PZE-104096422. The patterns of the profiles resemble those of a 1:2 CNV except that the "BHB"

profile is replaced by a similar one labeled "B-B" where the "-" means the call of the M* marker is

"missing data". We denote this case A/B_A/-|Hm to indicate that "H" calls were erroneously and

systematically turned into missing data. Because this situation happens many times in the GABI

population, we investigated a few cases in detail by examining the fluorescence data and the calling

procedure specified by the cluster file used with the Illumina array data. Given the two clouds of points

produced from the fluorescence data for the cases of A and B calls, we find that the "-" calls typically

correspond to a region that lies between those two clouds. Thus it is plausible that these cases, called as

"-", are in fact H, the discrepancy being due to a miscalibration of the cluster file. Based on this

observation, we implemented in our code a procedure whereby the peaks of missing data detected in

the allele frequency profiles could be interpreted as being due to such a "rule" according to which some

proportion or even all of the H calls of M* become transformed into "-" calls (see details in

Supplementary File S5). If only a fraction becomes transformed, both the BHB and B-B profiles

provide a peak but if all H calls are transformed into "-" calls as seems to be the case in Fig. 3A, then

the BHB curve will be absent. This reconsideration of the data in effect introduces a way to overcome

the technical problem of inadequate cluster files that we observed to arise in the GABI population data.

We also implemented the possibility of applying that transformation rule on *simulated* data, dependent

on the probability of transforming an H call into a "-" call, quantity which we estimate from the data.

The resulting simulated profiles based on the inference of a 1:2 CNV in Fig. 3A are displayed in

Fig. 3B, showing an excellent agreement between theory and experiment. Furthermore, this new class

of events leads us to define a signature to be "strong" if each locus that is inferred to be involved in a

CNV is identified by at least one peak from a 3-marker genotypic class without missing data, i.e.,

AAA, AHA, BBB or BHB. As seen in Figs. 3A and 3B, the locus carrying the putative duplication is

identified by a peak for B-B but also by a peak for BBB and thus this event is associated with a strong

signature. Clearly, all of the events illustrated in the previous sections correspond to strong signatures.

We now move on to a more complex case where the second locus contains peaks but only for missing

data and thus corresponds to a *weak* signature. As motivation for this more complex case, note that a

miscalibration of the cluster file may be sufficiently severe that the H genotypes are called not only as

"-" but also as either A or B. If that is the case, the peak in the previous case arising for the BBB 3-

marker genotypic class no longer reaches the allele frequency zero at the second locus because some of

the individuals contributing to the BBB class correspond in fact to BHBs. The result of these miscalls is

the increase of the BBB frequency up from zero and thus the more or less disappearance of the BBB

peak. Although the second locus of the CNV can be localized by the B-B curve, it is no longer detected

via the BBB curve and this can raise some doubts as to the veracity of a 1:2 CNV interpretation. In

Fig. 3C we show such a case, produced from the GABI data set for the candidate marker PZE-

104127025. Because we have implemented the rule of transforming H calls into both "-" and "B" calls,

the software detects this event and classifies it as a 1:2 CNV, denoted as A/B_A/-|HmHb to reflect the

fact that "H" calls were erroneously systematically turned into either missing data or "B" calls. For

these types of events also, our software provides a simulation of what should be expected under the

corresponding hypothesis, estimating from the data the error rates turning H calls into "-" or into B;

Fig. 3D shows the corresponding result, from which one may conclude that probably the weak signal in

Fig. 3C is indeed indicative of a A/B_A/-|HmHb event.

Analyses of all events across all 3 mapping populations

We now move on and summarize what comes out of the analyses of each population when considering

all of the corresponding candidate markers. Some characteristics of these populations, in particular

their size and number of markers, are given in TABLE 1.

TABLE 1. Results of automatic CNV detection in three different mapping populations

Population name	GABI	IBM	WHEAT
Population type	DH	IRIL	RIL
Individuals	625	239	406
Total markers	13160	20913	83721
Candidate markers	746	938	10754
Single loci	489	515	2807
1:2 CNVs (strong signature)	77	35	47

1:2 CNVs (weak signature)	42	115	278
Estimated true total 1:2 CNVs	102	56	47
3-locus events (strong signature)	5	1	50

DH: doubled haploids, RIL: recombinant inbred lines, IRIL: intermated recombinant inbred lines. Candidate markers are

identified by their higher rate of Heterozygous or Missing Data calls. Signatures involving for each locus at least one peak

from a curve based on non-missing data ("AAA", "AHA", "BBB", or "BHB") are named "strong", otherwise the signatures

are considered "weak". Estimation of the number of "true" events was based on human examination of the candidates for

which the software produced allele frequency profiles, leading to our calling the events either true or false positives. Three-

locus events correspond to situations where three distinct genomic regions show peaks of allele frequency profiles for

classes of individuals, indicating three copies of a region targeted by the candidate marker. Such three-locus events were

analyzed based on strong signatures only. "Single loci" correspond to candidate markers for which only the reference locus

shows allele frequency peaks, with no other peaks elsewhere in the genome.

The GABI DH population

This population is very large (625 individuals, *cf.* TABLE 1) and there is no issue of residual

heterozygosity coming from incomplete fixation because of the genome doubling. Given the thresholds

used to classify the markers into the classes Candidate, Mendelian and "Other" (*cf.* Supplementary

Table S1), we obtain 746 candidate markers (out of the total 13160). The software automatically

analyzes the profiles associated with these markers to identify peaks and corresponding loci. Of these

markers, 489 (a wide majority) lead to profiles involving a single locus (TABLE 1). In effect, these

markers were assigned to the class Candidate because of technical problems with the genotyping,

producing too many H or "-" calls, presumably because of some issues with the cluster file calibration

rather than a presence of many CNVs. One such case arises for marker SYN12874; it is presented in

Supplementary Figure S3A and detected as "single locus" by our software. The other candidate markers

lead to profiles having at least two loci (see TABLE 1).

About half of such multilocus cases are identified by the software as being proper 1:2 CNVs but their

signatures are split between strong and weak. Manual examination of these profiles allowed us to

validate or not these events, leading to an estimate of a total of 102 true 1:2 CNVs in this data set (*cf.*

TABLE 1); 17 events were not validated (putative false positives), corresponding to 16 with weak

signatures and only one with a strong signature (Supplementary Table S2). Furthermore, in TABLE 2

we give the number of 1:2 CNVs found for each of the 4 possible cases, A/B_-/A, A/B_A/-, A/B_-/B

and A/B_B/-. In a duplication-divergence scenario, one might hope for enrichments of A/B_A/- and A/

B_-/B over the other two classes if divergence occurred before duplication (but see the Discussion

section for caveats). However, in view of the numbers in TABLE 2, there is no such enrichment as all

four classes have occurrence numbers of similar magnitude. It is possible to further analyze the 1:2

CNVs by considering the separation into strong and weak signatures. Supplementary Table S1 gives the

numbers for all types of automatically detected events. As indicated in Supplementary Table S2, many

events with weak signatures are *not* validated by our manual inspection, so it is best to concentrate on

the events providing strong signatures.

Of the other multilocus events, only 5 have a strong signature involving three or more loci (*cf.*

TABLE 1). These 5 events belong to just a few of the different types with respect to allelic content as

shown in TABLE 2; although it may be tempting to argue for an enrichment of the A/B_-/B_-/B type,

the numbers are very small so it is not useful to go into such speculations.

Lastly, the software identifies 131 events in which there are multiple loci but with patterns of profiles

that are "unknown" because they differ from those produced by CNVs in the list provided in

Supplementary Table S1. Might some of these cases reveal true CNVs that are novel compared to what

we considered so far? To get some insight into that possibility, we examined the corresponding profiles.

Some cases provide no compelling evidence for a CNV, the profiles are simply very noisy and peaks

may be presumed to be non-significant. For other cases, as in Supplementary Figures S3B and S3C,

there is clearly an additional locus but the profiles are not as expected from our list of standard 1:2

CNVs. We also find cases of more than one additional locus as in Supplementary Figures S3D and

S3E, where again the signature is not compatible with any of our standard 3 locus events or extensions.

The IBM IRIL population

Similar statistics for the IBM RIL population are given in TABLE 1 and TABLE 2, and in

Supplementary Tables S1 and S2 and differ mainly quantitatively when compared to the GABI

population. Nevertheless, from the conceptual point of view, the main new feature when going from

GABI to IBM is the presence of residual heterozygosity in Mendelian markers. Indeed, since IBM is an

intermated RIL population, fixation can be incomplete because either not enough generations of selfing

have been applied or because there is a selective force impeding the homozygous state, situations that

do not occur with doubled haploids. But once appropriate thresholds are set for the minimum number

of heterozygote calls to select a marker as a candidate, our method was also efficient to discover CNVs

in that population. As with the GABI population, the rate of true over false positives was extremely

high (100% here, see Supplementary Table S2) when considering events with strong signatures. On the

other hand, events with weak signatures gave a higher proportion of false positives in IBM as

compared to GABI. Finally, there was only a single event associated with three loci. It should be noted

that both IBM and GABI populations were genotyped with the same Illumina Maize SNP50 array, and

deal with the same species, which is consistent with the qualitatively similar results obtained.

The WHEAT RIL population and importance of homeologues

The case of the WHEAT population is a priori quite different from the two first populations because

bread wheat is hexaploid and also because the population was genotyped with a different SNP array.

Not so surprisingly, we observed quite different results (see TABLE 1 and TABLE 2, and

Supplementary Tables S1 and S2). This population is quite large (406 individuals, *cf*. TABLE 1) and it

has far more markers (83721) than the other populations so it is not so surprising that the number of

candidate markers, 10754, is also much higher (see Supplementary Table S1 for the thresholds used to

define Candidate and Mendelian markers). In contrast to the other populations, the great majority of

these candidates do *not* give rise to any profile, even the single-locus one, which is indicative of

potential mapping problems. Nevertheless, a fair fraction of the candidates does give profiles. A large

number of these, 2807 specifically, are identified as having just the reference locus and thus not of

interest. Such quite frequent cases are expected in WHEAT as in IBM because residual heterozygosity

produces false candidates.

Of the remaining candidates, some are identified by the software as associated with 2 or more loci. For

the events detected as being of the 1:2 CNV type, 47 have a strong signature and 278 have a weak

signature. Validation by inspecting all of these events suggests that only the strong signatures provide

true positives. In TABLE 2 we give the number of 1:2 CNVs found for each of the 4 types, A/B_-/A,

A/B_A/-, A/B_-/B, and A/B_B/-. Though these classes are less balanced than in the GABI population,

the evidence for enrichment of particular classes is not very strong. Supplementary Table S1 gives the

numbers for all types (including thus the rules to take into account genotyping errors) of automatically

detected events. However, as indicated in Supplementary Table S2 and previously mentioned, the

events with weak signatures are not validated by our manual inspection, so it is best to focus on the

events with strong signatures only.

This brings us to the strong signatures for events involving three or more loci (*cf.* TABLE 1). The types

of these events are given in TABLE 2. Clearly the main types seen have one allele in three copies and

the other in a single copy. It is relevant here to recall that wheat is a hexaploid which contains three

genomes (A, B, and D) with seven chromosomes each. We found 20 cases where the three copies are

located on three homeologous chromosomes (e.g. in Supplementary Figures S2C and S2E on

chromosomes 2 and 6), 8 cases with two copies on two homeologous chromosomes and the third one

on a different (non-homeologous) chromosome (e.g., in Supplementary Figures S2A and S2I), and 22

cases where the three loci are on three non-homeologous chromosomes (e.g., in Supplementary

Figure S2G). Although enrichment amongst homeologues is expected, it is appealing to have it come

out from our automatized software.

TABLE 2. Number of each type of event found in three segregating populations.

Population name	GABI	IBM	WHEAT
A/B_-/A	21	0	3
A/B_A/-	17	13	12
A/B_-/B	18	22	15
A/B_B/-	20	0	17
A/B_-/A_-/A	0	0	5
A/B_A/-_A/-	0	0	1
A/B_-/B_-/B	3	1	0
A/B_B/-_B/-	0	0	9
A/B_-/A_A/-	0	0	0
A/B_A/-_-/A	1	0	16
A/B_-/A_-/B	0	0	0
A/B_-/B_-/A	1	0	0
A/B_-/A_B/-	0	0	0
A/B_B/-_-/A	0	0	0
A/B_A/-_-/B	0	0	0
A/B_-/B_A/-	0	0	0
A/B_A/-_B/-	0	0	0

A/B_B/-_A/-	0	0	0
A/B_-/B_B/-	0	0	0
A/B_B/-_-/B	0	0	19

Number of events found for each category of 1:2 CNVs (upper part) or 3-locus events (lower part) in two Maize populations

(GABI and IBM), and one wheat population (WHEAT). Every event was automatically detected by the software, and also

visually validated by looking at the corresponding allele frequency profiles. Each category is encoded as a string of 2 to 3

groups of 3 characters each, separated by an underscore. The first group is always encoded "A/B" and indicates the

reference locus, located at the position where the candidate marker was initially mapped. Further groups indicate other

copies of the region targeted by the candidate marker. For all groups (loci), the letters just before and just after the slash

represent respectively the haplotypes of the first parent (alleles denoted "A"), and of the second parent (alleles denoted "B").

Discussion

An original method based on linkage to detect CNVs

We presented a new method for revealing copy number variations in bi-parental segregating populations made of homozygous individuals. The heart of the method is the fact that a marker participating to a CNV will lead to an excess of heterozygotes in the segregating population with associated signatures in genome-wide allele frequency profiles. We validated this method with maize doubled-haploid lines, maize intermated recombinant inbred lines, and wheat recombinant inbred lines, revealing CNVs even in these last two types of populations in spite of the presence of their residual heterozygosity. The approach does not involve any *a priori* about the type or location of the events, rather it is based on signatures in genome-wide allele frequency profiles, assuming that the individuals therein have been genotyped. Such genotyping might have been done for instance for detecting QTLs or for breeding purposes (as in genomic selection), and thus our approach can "piggy-back" *for free* after the production of such genetic material. In this context, our detection of CNV loci has a spatial resolution that depends on the local recombination rate, so the larger the population and the larger the recombination rate the better. Nevertheless, demonstrating the *existence* of duplicated loci and finding their approximate localization is relatively easy: 239 individuals are sufficient for the RILs (F6) we studied, and lower numbers can also give good results. The major limitation of our approach is that the duplicated loci cannot be too close to the original locus, and thus we cannot easily detect tandem duplications. In usual genotyping arrays, SNPs have been included only if they were found to be exploitable on a reference panel, and thus SNPs with heterozygous signals have little chance of having been kept for inclusion on that array. As a result, we certainly strongly underestimate the real number

of CNVs. Consequently, our approach, when used on data produced with SNP arrays, should not be

considered as a way of surveying the *number* of structural variation events between two parents, but

rather as a cost-free means of getting detailed information for a subset of them.

Applicability to non-fixed populations

Our method is primarily based on the detection of apparent heterozygosity, so the presence of

heterozygous loci due to incomplete fixation, as occurs in RIL populations, is expected to greatly lower

the efficiency of detection. So we adapted the criterion for a marker to be a non-Mendelian candidate

by enforcing its level of heterozygosity to be higher than a given threshold, thereby limiting the number

of candidate markers to analyze. And in fact, the method proved to be sufficiently powerful to detect

CNVs in recombinant inbred line populations corresponding to six generations of selfing.

Detecting CNVs in the presence of systematic genotyping errors

We also found clear signatures of CNVs based on missing data. Typically, such missing data arise from

technical systematic biases in the genotyping (e.g. systematic mis-calling of heterozygotes as missing

data and/or as homozygotes), and thus can be put on a similar footing with the more standard signatures

of CNVs such as A/B_B/-. Thus, in addition to being able to detect non-Mendelian SNPs in a

genotyping array (in linkage analyses like QTL mapping, it is useful to remove them), our method is

also able to reveal some flaws in the cluster files used for analyzing Illumina array data. Such cluster

files, which determine the way fluorescence levels at two different wavelengths are converted into a

genotype call, may be more or less appropriate depending on the genetic origin of the material being

genotyped, or may be sensitive to some variations of the experimental conditions during the

hybridization of the arrays. In our results, we could clearly demonstrate that a large number of markers

suffered from such systematic genotyping errors transforming heterozygote calls into missing data and/

or into homozygotes.

Most detected events are parent-specific duplications

For the two maize datasets studied, the vast majority of the events involve just two loci. Furthermore,

most of these can be identified as parent-specific duplications, corresponding to the four types

A/B_A/-, A/B_-/A, A/B_B/-, or A/B_-/B. Among them, A/B_A/- and A/B_-/B involve haplotypes with

two copies of the same allele in the parent carrying the duplication. On the other hand, A/B_-/A and A/

B_B/- involve two different alleles at the two duplicated loci in the haplotype of the parent carrying the

duplication. From an evolutionary point of view, the latter situations might seem to imply a temporal

order, namely a duplication followed by a divergence at the reference locus. However, because of

recombination, we cannot exclude that the divergence happened first and the duplication later but

followed by recombination, for instance during the creation of the parental line. Note that in these

A/B_-/A and A/B_B/- cases, the parent carrying the duplication -- although it is an inbred line supposed

to be almost fully homozygous -- is expected to be genotyped as heterozygous for marker M*. We thus

analyzed genotyping data obtained from the parents, and indeed, in all such cases, we observed

heterozygous calls in the genotype data associated with the corresponding parent of the GABI

population.

Thus there is no *a priori* expectation that two of the four types of 1:2 CNV should be much rarer than

the other two types. This is in line with what comes out of the summary statistics as can be seen in

TABLE 2 for GABI and WHEAT populations. However, in IBM, all 1:2 CNVs detected had the same

allele on both copies for a given haplotype. This difference might suggest different evolutionary

histories between the parents used to build the two maize populations.

The molecular mechanisms behind duplications are not fully understood. One does know that genomes

have numerous tandem duplications and this can be justified by both the DNA replication machinery

and meiotic recombination that sometimes produces unequal events, especially in the presence of

repeated sequences. As mentioned before, our method for CNV discovery is based on having

crossovers between the reference and a duplicated locus in the population undergoing segregation. If a

duplication is in tandem, it will not be detectable by our approach. Nevertheless, in practice, the

method can detect a duplication arising on the same chromosome as the reference locus if these loci are

separated by say 10 cM or more.

The special case of wheat homeologous chromosomes

In the case of wheat which is a hexaploid species containing three diploid genomes, one has the further

issue of homeologous chromosomes. Because these chromosomes have diverged from a common

ancestor, the gene content is quite well conserved and chromosomes display good collinearity with

limited rearrangements (Consortium (IWGSC) *et al.* 2018). A consequence of this is that SNPs may not

necessarily be genome-specific and may therefore hybridize on two or three homeologous loci

(Rimbert *et al.* 2018). Such similar sequences may generate signals of CNVs in the allelic profiles and

so we asked the question of whether the duplicated loci we found in wheat were more often than

expected on the homeolog. The analysis of the two- and three-locus events in our WHEAT dataset in

fact shows a huge enrichment for favoring the homeologous chromosomes. However, it is worth noting

that 27% of wheat genes are present in tandem duplicates, which is up to 10% higher than that found

for other monocotyledonous species (Consortium (IWGSC) *et al.* 2018). Our method can thus provide

a useful way to assess the level of genome-specificity of the SNPs of a given genotyping array, and

help validating the selection of subsets of purely Mendelian markers.

Only a tiny minority of the allelic profiles involve three or more loci in the maize populations

Because of the hexaploid nature of wheat, this plant was expected to reveal many triplication events if

markers were not perfectly genome-specific, and this is actually what we found. On the other hand, in

maize the ancient allotetraploid origin of the species is old enough for most markers to behave as

single-copy, so one may expect far fewer three-locus events. And indeed, as can be seen from

TABLE 2, there are some candidate markers that generate profiles with three loci but they are quite rare

and arise mostly within the GABI population. This difference may be due to the GABI population

being much larger, and so our method is more powerful on that data.

Possible evolutionary scenarios for triplications

Some entangled events such as A/B_B/-_-/B are unexpected because they involve the allele from the

opposite parent. However, just as we explained for the two-locus case, recombination can scramble the

assignment of alleles. But there is another possibility for justifying such an entangled CNV without

appealing to recombination. Indeed, imagine that an ancestral triplication arose so that the allele B was

present at all three loci. Parent 1 and Parent 2 may be identical by descent for that triplication for all of

their homologues. If so, today's situation can very well be due to subsequent divergence only: the

divergence at the reference locus would arise at the level of the base (and thus would produce a SNP)

while the divergence at the other two loci would be more severe, for instance corresponding to a

deletion or appearance of other SNPs in the flanking sequences of the two other loci, thereby

preventing the hybridization of oligonucleotides and thus the call of either an A or B allele. Clearly

such a scenario can also be responsible for entangled 1:2 CNVs.

Conclusion

We developed an original linkage-based method to detect CNVs from genotype data of mapping

populations. Our software based on this method makes it possible to perform fully automatic mining of

segregation data to extract a list of high confidence CNVs, including the detailed type of event and the

genomic location(s) of the initially unknown locus or loci. It is thus a costless and easy way to generate

additional added value from genotyping efforts initially dedicated to genetic map construction or QTL

analyses. Because of its ease of use, our tool for detecting CNVs could be applied to other kinds of

populations. First, going from bi-parental to multi-parental RILs as used in MAGIC (Dell'Acqua *et al.*

2015) or NAM (McMullen *et al.* 2009) populations should be straightforward, our computer program

can be used as such for all biallelic SNPs. Second, it seems possible that CNVs could be detected by

our approach when using the kinds of panels exploited in GWAS when the individuals in the panel are

homozygous (e.g. inbred lines); the method would then correspond to searching genome-wide for

associations between allele frequency and the particular 3-loci genotype (e.g., AHA) detected at a

reference locus (that is for the non-Mendelian marker of interest and its two flanking markers). Such an

approach, using a diversified panel, might in fact allow one to identify duplicated loci with a high level

of resolution.

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Authors' contributions:

MF and OM conceived the method, developed the first computer programs, analyzed and interpreted

the results, and wrote the final manuscript. MF, KJ and OM worked on the computer program,

performed analyzes on the data sets, and produced the first draft. EP, CK, and SM provided data sets.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. Consequences of parent-specific locus duplication on allele frequency profiles

A: Duplication in one parent leads to apparent heterozygotes in the gametes for the non-Mendelian

marker M*. B: simulated genome-wide allele frequency profiles using subsets of individuals belonging

to the three-markers genotype classes AAA, BBB, or BHB at markers M_L, M*, and M_R (M_L and M_R

being the Mendelian markers flanking M*; see text). Such profiles reveal the loci involved in

duplications. The allele of parent 1 is called "A", the allele of parent 2 is called "B", heterozygotes are

called "H", and missing data are called "-". Each curve shows the frequency of the allele "A" along the

genome (X-axis indicates cumulated genetic positions), when considering different subsets of

individuals of the population as follows: cyan dots and curve for individuals (denoted "BHB")

genotyped "H" at the candidate marker M* and "B" on both non-candidate flanking markers M_L and

M_R indicating the allelic context of the region, and similarly red for "AAA" individuals, dark blue for

"BBB" individuals. Hatched rectangles indicate the estimated confidence intervals on the position of

the detected loci involved in the event. The rectangle is black for the reference locus (see text) and red

for the secondary locus. Dots represent values of individual markers and associated curves show the

result of the smoothing procedure used to detect the peaks. Lastly, the black dashed line indicates the

frequency of "A" allele based on all individuals of the population.

Figure 2. Examples of signatures of events involving two or three loci

Data are from the Maize doubled-haploid population GABI. Dots and curves have the same meaning as

in Figure 1. Panels A, C, and E show experimental profiles for respectively a 1:2 CNV event with both

copies on different chromosomes, a 1:2 CNV event with both copies on the same chromosome, and a 3-

locus event with copies on three different chromosomes. Panels B, D, and F show simulation results

reproducing the CNV situation inferred from panels A, C, and E respectively (see text). The allele of

parent 1 is called "A", the allele of parent 2 is called "B", heterozygotes are called "H", and missing

data are called "-". Each curve shows the frequency of the allele "A" along the genome (X-axis

indicates cumulated genetic positions), when considering different subsets of individuals of the

population as follows: pink dots and curve for individuals (denoted "AHA") genotyped "H" at the

candidate marker and "A" on both non-candidate flanking markers indicating the allelic context of the

region, and similarly cyan for "BHB" individuals, red for "AAA" individuals, dark blue for "BBB"

individuals. Curves generated by the software for classes based on missing data (light grey for "A-A"

individuals, and black for "B-B" individuals) were hidden here for better clarity of the profiles.

Hatched rectangles indicate the estimated confidence intervals on the position of the detected loci

involved in the event. They are black for the reference locus (see text) and red for the secondary locus

(or red or green for the two secondary loci in the case of the 3-locus event in panels E and F). The

name of the candidate (non-Mendelian) marker considered is given in the header of each panel, as well

as numbers of individuals counted for each three-locus genotype class.

Figure 3. Examples of profiles showing characteristic signatures of CNVs in the presence of

systematic genotyping errors

Data are from the GABI population. Dots and curves have the same meaning as in Figure 1. Panel A

shows a typical "strong" signature, with a 1:2 CNV event in the case where "H" calls of the candidate

marker were systematically called missing data ("-"). Panel C shows a typical "weak" signature, where

a 1:2 CNV event in the case where "H" calls of the candidate marker were systematically called either

as missing data ("-") or as "B" in non-zero proportions. The software provides estimated systematic

error rates for each such candidate. Panels B and D show simulation results reproducing the CNV

situation inferred from A and B respectively (see text). The allele of parent 1 is called "A", the allele of

parent 2 is called "B", and missing data are called "-". Each curve shows the frequency of the allele "A"

along the genome (X-axis indicates cumulated genetic positions), when considering different subsets of

individuals of the population as follows: pink dots and curve for individuals (denoted "AHA")

genotyped "H" at the candidate marker and "A" on both non-candidate flanking markers indicating the

allelic context of the region, and similarly cyan for "BHB" individuals, red for "AAA" individuals, dark

blue for "BBB" individuals, grey for "A-A" individuals, and black for "B-B" individuals. Hatched

rectangles indicate the estimated confidence intervals on the position of the detected loci involved in

the event. The rectangle is black for the reference locus (see text) and red for the secondary locus. The

name of the candidate (non-Mendelian) marker considered is given in the header of each panel, as well

as numbers of individuals counted for each three-locus genotype class.

List of Supplementary Material

Supplementary Table S1. Detailed statistics of the three populations GABI, IBM, and WHEAT

Supplementary Table S2. Human assessment of rates of true and false positives

Supplementary Figure S1. Examples of allele frequency profiles showing characteristic signatures of

four different types of 1:2 CNVs.

Supplementary Figure S2. Examples of allele frequency profiles for each type of three-locus events

found in wheat.

Supplementary Figure S3. Examples of allele frequency profiles showing different situations where

no CNV was identified by the software.

Supplementary File S1. CNVmap software as an R package (CNVmap.tar.gz archive to open in R

with the function install.packages()).

Supplementary File S2. Compressed (.zip) archive of GABI data sets to run CNVmap.

Supplementary File S3. Compressed (.zip) archive of IBM data sets to run CNVmap.

Supplementary File S4. Compressed (.zip) archive of WHEAT data sets to run CNVmap.

758 **Supplementary File S5**. Supplementary Methods: specification of all CNV signatures recognized by

759 the software CNVmap.

760 **Supplementary File S6**. Installing with Rstudio. Particular procedure for some versions of R/Rstudio.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.