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## Identification of low-confidence regions in the pig reference genome (Sscrofa10.2)

Amanda Warr<sup>1</sup>, Christelle Robert<sup>1</sup>, David Hume<sup>1</sup>, Alan L. Archibald<sup>1</sup>, Nader Deeb<sup>2</sup>, Mick Watson<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Edinburgh Genomics, The Roslin Institute, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup>Genus plc, USA

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## 1 Identification of low-confidence regions in the pig reference 2 genome (Sscrofa10.2) 3

4 Amanda Warr<sup>1</sup>, Christelle Robert<sup>1</sup>, David Hume<sup>1</sup>, Alan Archibald<sup>1</sup>, Nader Deeb<sup>2</sup> and Mick  
5 Watson<sup>1\*</sup>

6 <sup>1.</sup> The Roslin Institute and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of  
7 Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

8 <sup>2.</sup> Genus plc., Hendersonville, TN, USA  
9

### 10 Correspondence:

11 Dr. Mick Watson

12 The Roslin Institute and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

13 University of Edinburgh

14 Easter Bush

15 Edinburgh, EH25 9RG, UK

16 mick.watson@roslin.ed.ac.uk  
17

### 18 Abstract

19  
20 Many applications of high throughput sequencing rely on the availability of an accurate  
21 reference genome. Variant calling often produces large data sets that cannot be realistically  
22 validated and which may contain large numbers of false-positives. Errors in the reference  
23 assembly increase the number of false-positives. While resources are available to aid in the  
24 filtering of variants from human data, for other species these do not yet exist and strict  
25 filtering techniques must be employed which are more likely to exclude true-positives. This  
26 work assesses the accuracy of the pig reference genome (Sscrofa10.2) using whole genome  
27 sequencing reads from the Duroc sow whose genome the assembly was based on. Indicators  
28 of structural variation including high regional coverage, unexpected insert sizes, improper  
29 pairing and homozygous variants were used to identify low quality (LQ) regions of the  
30 assembly. Low coverage (LC) regions were also identified and analyzed separately. The LQ  
31 regions covered 13.85% of the genome, the LC regions covered 26.6% of the genome and  
32 combined (LQLC) they covered 33.07% of the genome. Over half of dbSNP variants were  
33 located in the LQLC regions. Of copy number variable regions (CNVRs) identified in a  
34 previous study, 86.3% were located in the LQLC regions. The regions were also enriched for  
35 gene predictions from RNA-seq data with 42.98% falling in the LQLC regions. Excluding  
36 variants in the LQ, LC or LQLC from future analyses will help reduce the number of false-  
37 positive variant calls. Researchers using WGS data should be aware that the current pig  
38 reference genome does not give an accurate representation of the copy number of alleles in  
39 the original Duroc sow's genome.  
40

41 Keywords: Missassembly, Copy Number Variable Regions, Structural Variation, Draft  
42 Assemblies, False Positives  
43

### 44 Introduction

45  
46 Contemporary genetics research benefits from genomics tools and resources, including DNA  
47 sequencing and SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) chips, which facilitate detailed  
48 quantitative molecular characterization of genetic variation at the population and individual  
49 level. A high quality reference genome sequence for the species of interest is an invaluable

1 asset for the discovery of molecular genetic variants. Most reference genome sequences for  
2 species with large, complex genomes are incomplete representations of the genome sequence  
3 of a single individual or a small number of individuals. Given the extent of insertion/deletion  
4 (indel) polymorphisms and copy number variation (CNV) within species such individual  
5 reference genomes do not contain all the sequences present in the species of interest. Thus,  
6 there are two major flaws in the current single linear model for reference genomes as a  
7 framework for discovery and analysis of genetic variation: 1) errors and gaps in the reference  
8 genome assemblies most of which are incomplete drafts; and 2) using a haploid genome of  
9 one individual to represent the genome(s) of a species. In this paper we focus solely on the  
10 former.

11  
12 Studies that employ variant calling from sequencing data to find variation in the genome  
13 produce large variant call sets (Belkadi et al., 2015;Robert et al., 2014;Bianco et al.,  
14 2015;Gudbjartsson et al., 2015). Most of these calls will be either false-positive, not relevant  
15 to the phenotype under investigation or benign (MacArthur et al., 2012). Failure to detect true  
16 variants (i.e. false-negatives) will also occur either as a result of insufficient sequence depth  
17 or gaps in the reference genome (real or technical).Filtering these datasets reduces the  
18 number of variants to a level which can be validated, however in the process researchers risk  
19 discarding the variants they are looking for.

20  
21 Many applications of high throughput sequencing rely heavily on the accuracy of the  
22 available reference genome for the species. Errors in the reference genome increase the  
23 number of false-positive variant calls in data, resulting in a need for more stringent filters  
24 which may increase the risk of removing true-positives. Shortcomings in the reference  
25 genome will also increase the risk of missing true variants (i.e. false negatives). The human  
26 genome is more accurate than that of many other species and more resources are available to  
27 aid in the filtering of false-positive variants. Many reference genomes have a draft status and  
28 gaps and misassemblies are not uncommon (Kelley and Salzberg, 2010). Identifying  
29 misassembled regions in the reference genomes of non-human species and excluding them  
30 from analysis will help to reduce false-positives in variant calling data.

31  
32 Whole genome sequencing (WGS) produces fairly consistent coverage across the genome  
33 (Belkadi et al., 2015), however, the PCR step in the Illumina library preparation pipeline is  
34 known to introduce bias, particularly in regions of high or low GC content (Kozarewa et al.,  
35 2009). Modifications have been introduced to protocols to reduce this bias (Aird et al., 2011),  
36 however, sequencing depth and quality in GC-rich and -poor regions remain unreliable when  
37 using protocols involving a PCR step. Previous work has shown that copy number variation  
38 can be accurately detected in WGS data by looking for areas of excessively high or low read  
39 counts following adjustment for GC content (Yoon et al., 2009;Zhang and Backstrom, 2014).  
40 To identify misassemblies in the chicken genome, a previous study used a pool of multiple  
41 birds to account for true variation between individuals, treating regions where all individuals  
42 show low read counts as false tandem duplications (Zhang and Backstrom, 2014).

43  
44 In this paper, we look to identify low-confidence regions in the reference genome assembly  
45 Sscrofa10.2 using whole genome sequencing reads from T. J. Tabasco (Duroc 2-14), the  
46 Duroc sow whose DNA was used in the assembly (Groenen et al., 2012). The assembly was  
47 constructed using a BAC-by-BAC method, covers 18 autosomes and 2 allosomes (with the Y  
48 chromosome constructed separately from the DNA of male pigs), and contains many gaps  
49 and sequences on unplaced scaffolds. Ideally, an individual's sequencing reads mapped to  
50 that individual's own assembled genome would show no true structural variation and any

1 areas of structural variation could be considered a misassembly. But the reference genome is  
2 a haploid representation and cannot reflect areas of true heterozygous structural variation  
3 accurately. However, a conservative approach would treat variant calls in these areas as low-  
4 confidence until further verified. Regions with no structural variation between the sequencing  
5 reads and the reference genome can be considered high-confidence.

6  
7 In addition to using read count to detect potential duplications or collapses, we use other  
8 indicators to identify different kinds of structural variation such as inversions, deletions and  
9 insertions as has been done previously to identify potentially disease causing structural  
10 variation in human genomes (Tuzun et al., 2005). Illumina paired-end sequencing generates  
11 read-pairs from the same DNA fragment that are a known distance apart (usually following a  
12 normal distribution), and in a known orientation with respect to the reference genome.  
13 Therefore, when read pairs are mapped to a reference, if they are not in the expected  
14 orientation, or are an abnormal distance apart, this may also be an indication of errors in the  
15 assembly.

16  
17 Finally, when mapping reads from the same animal to the reference genome created from that  
18 animal, there should be no homozygous variant calls.

19  
20 In this work, regions with abnormally high or low coverage, with high proportions of reads  
21 with unexpected insert sizes or a high proportion of reads which were improperly paired were  
22 identified. In addition, SNP and indel calling was carried out. Regions were considered low  
23 quality (LQ) if they had high coverage, a high proportion of unexpected insert sizes or  
24 improperly paired reads or if they were in proximity to a homozygous variant. LQ regions are  
25 the most likely to represent misassemblies in the genome. Regions which had low coverage  
26 (LC) were analyzed separately; these regions may not be misassembled but have poor  
27 coverage and may therefore be unreliable for accurate variant calling. Both regions were also  
28 analyzed together in a combined dataset (LQLC).

29  
30 Following identification of regions of the reference which may be unreliable, publicly  
31 available data sets were downloaded and overlap with the regions calculated. The data sets  
32 downloaded were the coding region, dbSNP variants, copy number variable regions (CNVRs)  
33 identified by Paudel et al. (2013) using a method that assesses read depth, and gene  
34 predictions based on data obtained using RNA-seq methods. These data sets allowed for  
35 identification of the proportion of the coding region overlapping the unreliable regions, and to  
36 assess how commonly used methods of SNP and indel calling, CNVR calling and RNA-seq  
37 may have been affected by unreliable regions of the genome assembly. We would expect the  
38 coding region to be under represented in the unreliable regions because these regions are  
39 generally more complex, which should make assembly more accurate. If the unreliable  
40 regions are enriched for calls in these datasets, it may suggest that analysis of these regions  
41 produces a higher level of false-positives than the rest of the genome.

## 42 43 **Methods**

### 44 45 **Sample, sequencing and alignment**

46  
47 Eight sets of paired-end, whole-genome, Illumina sequencing reads from a single sample  
48 from T.J. Tobasco, the sow whose genome was used to construct Sscrofa10.2, were used in  
49 this study (These can be accessed from <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/data/view/ERP010190>).  
50 BWA (v0.6.2: Li and Durbin, 2009) was used to align the reads to the Sscrofa10.2 reference

1 assembly using default parameters. The reads were mapped to both the chromosomes and the  
2 unplaced scaffolds from the assembly. Any reads which mapped to chromosome Y were  
3 excluded as the sequences were from a female pig; consequently, we are unable to comment  
4 on the quality of the assembly of chromosome Y.

### 6 **Identifying regions with abnormal coverage**

8 SAMtools was used to filter the data to remove reads with a mapping quality less than 2 or  
9 which were improperly paired. BEDtools (v2.16.2: Quinlan and Hall, 2010) bamtobed was  
10 used to extract the chromosome, start positions and the end positions of whole sequencing  
11 fragments. BEDtools GenomeCov was then used to find per-base fragment coverage across  
12 the genome. BEDtools MakeWindows was used to make windows of 1000bp across the  
13 whole genome. Gap data was downloaded from the UCSC table browser (Karolchik et al.,  
14 2004) and BEDtools intersect was used to remove windows intersecting gap data. The  
15 median coverage for each 1000 base window across the genome was calculated. GC content  
16 is known to have a significant effect on coverage in sequencing methods that involve a PCR  
17 stage (Kozarewa et al., 2009). Coverage was normalized by GC content as described by  
18 Yoon et al. (2009). Briefly, the read coverage in each 1 Kb window ( $w$ ) was adjusted by a  
19 multiplying factor  $f$ , with  $f$  equal to the ratio of the overall median across all windows divided  
20 by the median of all windows with the same GC percentage as that of the window  $w$ . Using  
21 the median instead of the mean prevented these values from being inflated by extreme  
22 outliers, as described by Zhang and Backstrom (2014). Any window with a normalized  
23 coverage over 55 or under 27 (2 std. from the mean; 41) was defined as having an abnormal  
24 coverage.

26 The removal of multimappers prior to coverage analysis may cause the detection of low  
27 coverage regions in certain sequence contexts in the genome that are more likely to contain  
28 multimappers (e.g. repetitive regions). Multimapped reads were extracted from the original  
29 bam file and read counts for these were calculated using Bedtools Coverage and the same  
30 1000bp windows used in the above coverage analysis; additionally raw read counts for each  
31 window were calculated in the same way from the original bam file. The percentage of reads  
32 in each window which were multimapped was calculated. Windows with >50% multimapped  
33 reads are likely to have been identified as low coverage due to the removal of these reads  
34 before coverage analysis. The regions with >50% multimappers were merged and intersect  
35 with the LC regions was calculated using Bedtools.

### 37 **Identifying regions with abnormal insert sizes**

39 The mean and standard deviation of the insert sizes was calculated using Picard  
40 InsertSizeMetrics (v1.113: [http://sourceforge.net/p/picard/wiki/Main\\_Page/](http://sourceforge.net/p/picard/wiki/Main_Page/)). Insert sizes  
41 were considered abnormal if they were more than 2 standard deviations from the mean (427  
42 bp). The merged BAM file was filtered for abnormally large (above 588 bp) and small (below  
43 266 bp) insert sizes. BEDtools coverage was used to find the read count of the abnormal  
44 reads and the original BAM file using 1000 base windows with 200 overlap created with  
45 BEDtools MakeWindows. These data were used to calculate the percentage of abnormal  
46 reads in each window. A high proportion of small insert sizes was defined as a window with  
47 over 9.47% small insert sizes (2 std. deviations above the mean of 4.22%) and a high  
48 proportion of large insert sizes was defined as a window with over 1.86% large insert sizes (2  
49 std. above the mean of 0.12%).

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## **Identifying regions with a low proportion of properly paired reads**

The mapped reads were filtered using SAMtools for the SAM flag 0x2, removing reads which were flagged as improperly paired. The percentage of properly paired reads was calculated as described for insert sizes. Any window with fewer than 70.59% (2std. below the mean of 92.5%) properly paired reads was considered abnormal.

## **Variant calling**

SNPs and indels were called using SAMtools mpileup, BCFtools and vcfutils varFilter. The resultant vcf file was filtered for homozygous variants, indicative of errors in the reference genome or sequencing errors. In order to include the entire regions covered by reads overlapping each variant, the regions spanning from 100 bases before to 100 bases after each variant were considered low quality.

## **Merging**

BEDtools was used to merge the regions identified by the above parameters into LQ, LC and LQLC regions. BEDtools intersect was used to find regions of each group which overlapped with the coding region (regions downloaded from UCSC table browser (Karolchik et al., 2004)). Sanger's gEVAL website (<http://geval.sanger.ac.uk/index.html>) was used to inspect BAC and fosmid end alignments in the identified regions.

## **Assessing effect of identified regions on public data**

Known variant data were downloaded from dbSNP (Sherry et al., 2001) and the number of variants overlapping the abnormal regions were calculated. To assess the potential effect of these regions on WGS resequencing studies in pigs, the regions identified as CNVRs in Paudel et al. (2013) were downloaded and the number of regions overlapping the abnormal regions from the current study were calculated. Gene predictions based on RNA-seq data were downloaded from Ensembl (Cunningham et al., 2015) and the number of bases overlapping the identified regions calculated.

## **Results**

### **Alignment**

582,271,856 reads mapped to the reference and 94.66% of these were properly paired (551,173,366 reads).

### **Abnormal regions**

The effect of GC content on median coverage was as expected, with both high and low GC content regions having poor median coverage (Figure 1).

While the coverage following GC normalization did follow a normal distribution, several extreme outliers inflated the mean and standard deviation. R (R Development Core Team, 2009) was used to find the mean and standard deviation of the majority of the data by

1 overlaying a normal distribution on the data (Figure 1). Using this method, we determined the  
2 mean coverage to be 41X and the standard deviation to be 7.

3  
4 Regions identified by the parameters measured are summarized in table 1. In total, 2.6% of  
5 the genome had abnormally high coverage, and 26.6% of the genome abnormally low  
6 coverage. Regions with a high percentage of fragment pairs with abnormally low and high  
7 insert sizes cover 3.99% and 1.52% of the genome respectively. Regions with a low  
8 percentage of properly paired reads cover 4.95% of the genome. One of the largest regions  
9 identified (77.8Kb) has abnormal coverage, insert sizes and read orientation (Figure 2A), and  
10 this is not uncommon, further examples are shown in figures 2B and 2C.

11  
12 There were a total of 62,463 regions with >50% multimappers and of these 99.3% overlapped  
13 with the LC regions. 66% of the regions identified as LC overlapped with the multimapped  
14 regions. The remaining LC regions had an unremarkable distribution of GC contents (data not  
15 shown) and the majority (81%) had 0 multimappers. The median read count per window for  
16 the whole genome was 264 and the median read count per window for the LC regions  
17 excluding those with >50% multimappers was 161.

18 We identified a total of 583,093 homozygous variants. Following merging, there were  
19 245,972 regions identified as abnormal due to proximity to these variants covering  
20 63,085,828 bases (2.25% of the genome).

## 21 22 **Merged regions**

23  
24 After merging the regions with abnormal insert sizes, abnormal read orientation and  
25 homozygous variant calls, we were left with 409,905 regions identified as being LQ, covering  
26 13.85% of the genome.

27  
28 In total, 337,276 regions were identified as being LQLC and the regions covered a total of  
29 928,664,896 bases (33.07% of the genome). If the multimapped regions are excluded from  
30 the LC regions and the remaining LC regions are merged with the LQ regions these cover  
31 17.3% of the genome.

32 The coding region data downloaded from UCSC table browser covered 587,219,382 bases  
33 (excluding chromosome Y) and of these 81,566,904 (13.89%) intersected with the LQ  
34 regions.

35  
36 Of the coding region, 154,875,678 bases (26.37%) intersected with the LQLC regions.

## 37 38 **Impact on public data**

39  
40 The proportion of variants from real data sets from Paudel et al. (2013) and dbSNP (Sherry et  
41 al., 2001) that fall in the abnormal regions are summarized in table 2.

42  
43 Paudel et al. (2013) identified 61,761 multi-copy regions (MCR), and from these identified  
44 3,118 CNVRs. Of the CNVRs 1,081 (34.66%) lie in the LQ regions and 2,692 (86.3%) lie in  
45 the LQLC regions identified here.

46  
47 The data downloaded from dbSNP (Release 104. Accessed: 05/05/2015) contain 52,634,111  
48 known variants. In total, 19,121,760 (36.33%) dbSNP variants were located in the LQ  
49 regions, 15,483,445 (29.42%) dbSNP variants were located in the LC regions and 27,009,232  
50 (51.3%) dbSNP variants were located in the LQLC regions.



1  
2 The gene predictions based on RNA-sequencing data covered 41,788,900 bases, 26.69% of  
3 these bases were in the LQ region (11,155,280), 27.19% were in the LC region (11,360,980)  
4 and 42.98% were in the LQLC regions (17,959,798).

## 5 6 **Discussion**

7  
8 This work emphasizes the importance of accuracy in reference genomes in variant discovery  
9 research. Previous work by Zhang and Backstrom (2014) used sequencing reads from  
10 multiple chickens to detect misassemblies in the chicken genome. Here we used data from the  
11 same individual used to construct the pig reference assembly. We are therefore able to assess  
12 the assembly without introducing potential true variation that may be present by chance in  
13 multiple individuals; however, regions of the genome may have been incorrectly identified as  
14 low-quality due to true structural variation at heterozygous sites.

15  
16 Regions of Sscrofa10.2 identified in this study were enriched for variants from dbSNP. The  
17 fact that the regions identified were enriched for variants in dbSNP, with the LQLC regions  
18 containing over half of the dbSNP variants, supports the assertion that these regions are  
19 enriched for false-positives; dbSNP contains large numbers of SNPs that are not validated  
20 and are potentially false-positives (Mitchell et al., 2004; Musumeci et al., 2010).

21  
22 In the CNVR study by Paudel et al. (2013), 61,761 MCRs were identified and the authors  
23 state that the majority of these were common in all individuals sequenced; in this study  
24 60,281 regions were identified as having high coverage and it is likely that there is overlap  
25 between these results. Studies looking for copy number gains may benefit from excluding the  
26 LQ regions from analysis. From the MCRs, 3,118 CNVRs were identified. The authors  
27 estimated that of these 2,664 (85.43%) were likely to be neutral or nearly neutral as they were  
28 common between different groups or were in non-genic regions, which is very similar to the  
29 number of CNVRs in the data that overlap the LQLC regions in the current study (2,692;  
30 86.3%). CNVRs are called from sequencing data by comparison of read counts for a region  
31 with the average across the genome; it is likely that there are many false tandem repeats or  
32 collapsed repetitive regions in the assembly that would cause false copy number loss or gain  
33 calls. While regions identified as CNVRs are potentially variable regions between  
34 populations, breeds and individuals, calls based solely on comparison with the reference will  
35 give false-positives and false estimates of the copy numbers in true variable regions. Paudel  
36 et al. (2013) used copy number comparisons between individuals from different populations  
37 to identify MCRs that were variable between groups, which likely removed the majority of  
38 the false-positives. Other studies have used array-based methods to detect CNVRs in the pig  
39 genome (Chen et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2012) and of the regions identified in these studies,  
40 almost all of them fall in the LQLC regions (data not shown). This suggests these regions  
41 truly are enriched for CNVRs; however, enrichment of the unreliable regions for CNVRs  
42 may also suggest unreliable assembly around large duplications. In studies using whole  
43 genome resequencing, often small sample sizes are used and too much confidence may be  
44 given to the reference. It would be advisable in studies using Sscrofa10.2, and references of  
45 other species that may contain similar inaccuracies, not to call CNVRs based solely on  
46 comparison with the reference, but from regional variation in read count between individuals  
47 as has been done previously for genomes which lack a reference following co-assembly  
48 (Nijkamp et al., 2012) and when comparing sequences from cancer cells to healthy cells  
49 (Chiang et al., 2009; Koboldt et al., 2012). Similarly, researchers using other techniques that  
50 rely on counting reads mapped to the reference genome such as ChiP-seq and RNA-seq

1 should be aware that these errors may cause inaccurate calling or expression estimates. In  
2 RNA-seq, read counts are used to estimate expression levels; unexpected CNV between the  
3 reference and the sample sequence could cause over- or under-exaggerated read counts,  
4 potentially resulting in false-positives or false-negatives. RNA-seq is prone to off-target  
5 mapping (Mortazavi et al., 2008), particularly at higher depth (Tarazona et al., 2011); true  
6 peaks can often be distinguished from off-target mapping using an expression threshold.  
7 However, misrepresentation of the copy number of a region in the reference assembly may  
8 exaggerate off-target peaks above the threshold and cause false-positives, exaggerate true  
9 peaks causing inaccurate expression estimates, or reduce true peaks causing false-negatives  
10 or underestimation of expression. The regions identified here were enriched for RNA-seq  
11 gene predictions, more so than the annotated coding region, which may suggest an increased  
12 false-positive rate in these regions from this method.

13

14 A large amount of the genome showed low coverage. While these regions may suggest errors  
15 in the reference genome, such as false tandem duplications (Zhang and Backstrom, 2014),  
16 they do so with less confidence than the other parameters measured. The study by Paudel et  
17 al. (2013) reported a considerable number of copy number losses and subsequently excluded  
18 these from further analysis as they were likely enriched for false-positives; the fact that this  
19 excess of low coverage regions has been encountered by other researchers may suggest that  
20 the problem is with the quality of the genome assembly or region mappability rather than the  
21 quality of the data used in the current study. Regions with low coverage were analyzed  
22 separately as low coverage may be an indicator of the quality of the sequencing data, PCR  
23 bias or poor mappability and not necessarily inaccuracy in the reference. The majority of the  
24 LC regions were explained by their large proportion of multimappers; the regions were  
25 identified as low coverage because multimappers were excluded from the coverage analysis.  
26 These regions may not be misassembled, but rather of poor mappability due to, for example,  
27 low complexity or repetitive sequences. Of the LC regions which were not explained by  
28 multimappers there was no evidence of extreme GC content causing the reduced coverage  
29 and the majority contained no multimappers; the low coverage in these regions likely relates  
30 to misassembled areas in the reference genome, or potentially heterozygous structural  
31 variants in the individual. Where the low coverage is explained by poor mappability, it may  
32 still be advisable to exclude these regions from SNP and indel analyses as this is likely to  
33 yield low quality variants with a high rate of false-positives. Studies requiring identification  
34 of only the highest quality variants would reduce computational burden and false-positive  
35 rate by excluding the LC regions. In studies more concerned with finding variants relating to  
36 a specific phenotype, if LC regions are included, variants identified in them may be treated as  
37 low-confidence, but not necessarily excluded entirely. The percentage of dbSNP variants in  
38 the LC region is not as high as in the LQ region, however fewer variants may be called in  
39 poor mappability regions due to the common practice of filtering out low mapping quality  
40 reads before proceeding to variant calling, reducing depth and subsequently the chances of  
41 calling a variant in these regions. The proportion of the genome identified here as LQ is  
42 likely to be an over-estimation of the proportion that is misassembled. The individual may  
43 have true, heterozygous structural variation that cause some of these regions to appear  
44 misassembled and this analysis has been intentionally strict to allow downstream  
45 bioinformatic analysis to focus on only the highest confidence regions of the genome by  
46 excluding LQLC regions. The number of variants identified in studies employing variant  
47 calling is often extreme and strict filtering techniques are employed to reduce the number to a  
48 more tractable level for validation (MacArthur et al., 2012; Ai et al., 2015). Excluding  
49 regions which are likely to be enriched for false-positives may significantly reduce  
50 computational burden and increase accuracy. Strict filtering after variant calling may cause

1 the loss of variants of interest and it is desirable to reduce the initial number of variant calls  
2 as much as possible to reduce the need for excessive filtering. While variants of interest may  
3 lie in the low-confidence regions identified here, the excess of false-positives in the region  
4 make it unlikely that they will be easily identified. However, discovery of variants outside of  
5 these regions will benefit from the reduced number of false-positives in the dataset. Many  
6 variant callers and filtration methods will consider depth and mapping quality and are likely  
7 to exclude a number of false-positive variants from these regions by default; however,  
8 computational burden would be decreased by excluding unreliable regions, which will be  
9 particularly relevant with large datasets. . Other methods that use regional read count data  
10 need to be aware that Sscrofa10.2 does not accurately represent the copy number of alleles in  
11 the original Duroc sow's genome. Clearly in studies searching for CNVRs, excluding the  
12 LQLC regions, which are potentially enriched for true CNVRs, is not an option. In such  
13 studies it would be beneficial to compare individuals in a study with one another rather than  
14 with the reference, as is done in somatic variant calling comparisons between healthy cells  
15 and cancer cells (Roberts et al., 2013), to filter out variation that is common in all individuals,  
16 or to exclude the LQ regions only. The degree to which misassemblies will affect research  
17 results depends on a number of factors including the tools used, the type of misassembly and  
18 the type of analysis; for example, the incorrect order of contigs will negatively affect read-  
19 pair mapping and collapsed duplications may cause incorrect calling of SNPs - though SNP  
20 callers may accurately filter many of these. Similar inaccuracies to those found here are likely  
21 to be present in the reference genomes of other non-human species. With the price of  
22 sequencing continuing to fall, the number of large-scale sequencing studies on species with  
23 draft genomes will undoubtedly increase; awareness of inaccuracies in these references will  
24 decrease computational burden and increase accuracy. Identifying regions that are inaccurate  
25 and producing new, more accurate assemblies will greatly increase the power of whole-  
26 genome resequencing studies in non-human species.

### 27 28 **Availability of Data**

29  
30 The regions identified in this study have been made available as three bed files: LQ regions,  
31 LC regions and LQLC regions. BED files are available to download from [http://www.ark-  
32 genomics.org/outputs/identification-low-confidence-regions-pig-reference-genome-  
33 sscrofa102](http://www.ark-genomics.org/outputs/identification-low-confidence-regions-pig-reference-genome-sscrofa102)

### 34 35 **Conflicts of Interest**

36  
37 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or  
38 financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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35  
 36 Table 1: Table summarizing the regions identified by different parameters measured

	No. of features	Mean feature size	Percentage of genome
<b>High coverage</b>	60,281	1,202	2.6%
<b>Small insert</b>	82,097	1,363	3.99%
<b>Large insert</b>	31,833	1,343	1.52%
<b>Improperly paired</b>	77,785	1,786	4.95%
<b>Homozygous variants</b>	245,972	256	2.25%
<b>Low Quality (LQ)</b>	409,905	949	13.85%
<b>Low coverage (LC)</b>	119,251	6,275	26.6%

<b>Total (LQLC)</b>	337,276	2,753	33.07%
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1

2 Table 2: Table summarizing the proportion of called variants in real data that fall in the  
3 abnormal regions identified in the current study

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Low Quality (LQ)</b>	<b>Low Coverage (LC)</b>	<b>Combined (LQLC)</b>
<b>% of genome</b>	-	13.85%	26.6%	33.07%
<b>% of coding region</b>	-	13.89%	17.72%	26.37%
<b>dbSNP variants<sup>a</sup></b>	52,634,111	19,121,760 (36.33%)	15,483,445 (29.42%)	27,009,232 (51.3%)
<b>CNVRs<sup>b</sup></b>	3,118	1,081 (34.66%)	1,706 (54.71%)	2,692 (86.3%)
<b>RNA-seq genes<sup>c</sup> (intersecting bases)</b>	41,788,900	11,155,280 (26.69%)	11,360,980 (27.19%)	17,959,798 (42.98%)

4 <sup>a</sup> Data from dbSNP database (Sherry, et al., 2001)

5 <sup>b</sup> Data from Paudel, et al. (2013)

6 <sup>c</sup> Data from Ensembl (Cunningham, et al., 2015)

7

8

9 Figure 1: Plot showing median coverage of windows against percentage of GC content (left).  
10 Histogram showing the distribution of window coverage, red line represents a normal  
11 distribution (right).

12

13

14 Figure 2: Plots showing examples of abnormal regions for multiple parameters on  
15 Chromosomes 6 (A), 12 (B) and X (C) (top). GC normalized coverage (red) uses the left Y  
16 axis. Percentage of properly paired reads (blue) and percentage of high insert sizes (green)  
17 use the right Y axis. Means are represented by solid lines and 2 std from the mean are  
18 represented by dashed lines. Bottom shows same regions viewed on the gEVAL browser with  
19 poorly mapped fosmids (top) and bac ends (bottom) shown in red.

Figure 1.JPEG

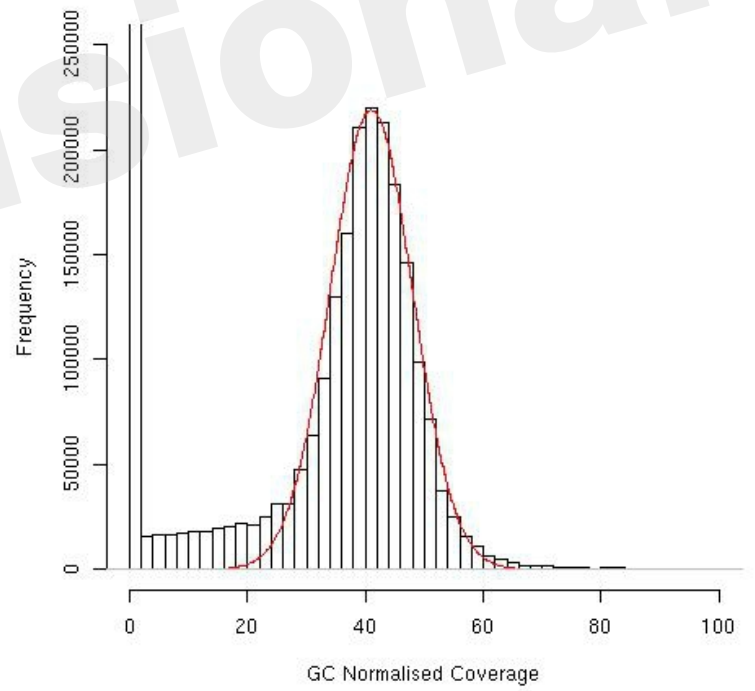
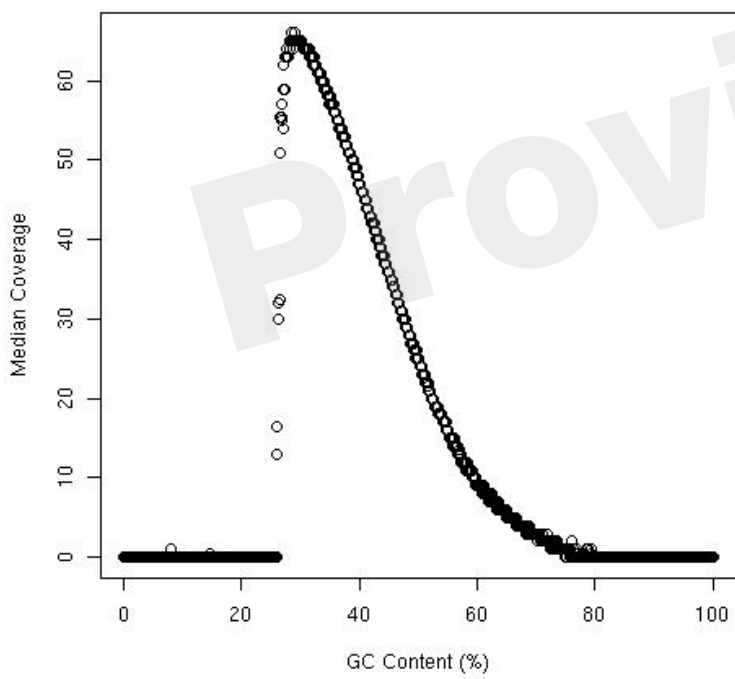
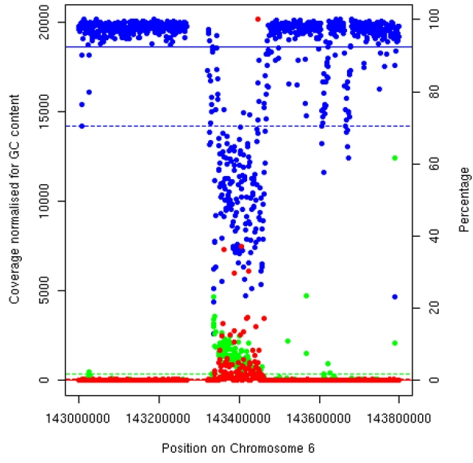
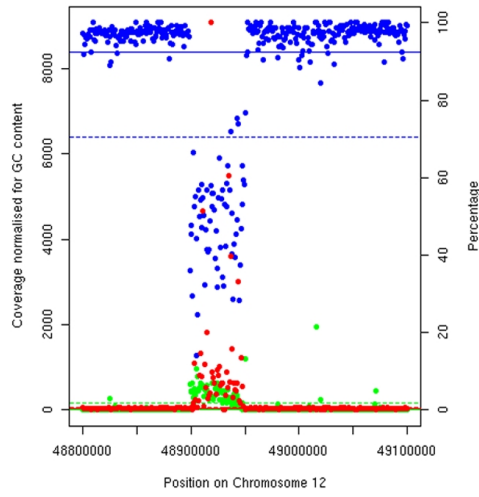


Figure 2.JPEG

A



B



C

