

# *Cis-* and *Trans*-regulatory Effects on Gene Expression in a Natural Population of *Drosophila melanogaster*

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**ABSTRACT** *Cis-* and *trans*-regulatory mutations are important contributors to transcriptome evolution. Quantifying their relative contributions to intraspecific variation in gene expression is essential for understanding the population genetic processes that underlie evolutionary changes in gene expression. Here, we have examined this issue by quantifying genome-wide, allele-specific expression (ASE) variation using a crossing scheme that produces F<sub>1</sub> hybrids between 18 different *Drosophila melanogaster* strains sampled from the *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel and a reference strain from another population. Head and body samples from F<sub>1</sub> adult females were subjected to RNA sequencing and the subsequent ASE quantification. *Cis-* and *trans*-regulatory effects on expression variation were estimated from these data. A higher proportion of genes showed significant *cis*-regulatory variation (~28%) than those that showed significant *trans*-regulatory variation (~9%). The sizes of *cis*-regulatory effects on expression variation were 1.98 and 1.88 times larger than *trans*-regulatory effects in heads and bodies, respectively. A generalized linear model analysis revealed that both *cis*- and *trans*-regulated expression variation was strongly associated with nonsynonymous nucleotide diversity and tissue specificity. Interestingly, *trans*-regulated variation showed a negative correlation with local recombination rate. Also, our analysis on proximal transposable element (TE) insertions suggested that they affect transcription levels of ovary-expressed genes more pronouncedly than genes not expressed in the ovary, possibly due to defense mechanisms against TE mobility in the germline. Collectively, our detailed quantification of ASE variations from a natural population has revealed a number of new relationships between genomic factors and the effects of *cis-* and *trans*-regulatory factors on expression variation.

**KEYWORDS** allele-specific expression; *cis*-regulatory variation; nucleotide diversity; *trans*-regulatory variation; transposable element

**E**VOLUTIONARY changes in the patterns of gene expression have been suggested to have a substantial impact on organismal phenotypic evolution (Zuckerlandl and Pauling 1965). Therefore, mutations that change gene expression at either the *cis*- or *trans*-regulatory level are essential sources of species diversification. *Cis*-regulatory mutations in diploid organisms can be defined as those that change gene expression in an allele-specific manner; while *trans*-regulatory mutations influence gene expression in a diffusible manner, such as mutations in transcription factors (Emerson and Li 2010).

Recent advances in large-scale quantification methods for examining gene expression have enabled us to quantify the relative contributions of *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory mutations to the evolution of gene expression. In *Drosophila*, comparisons of expression levels using chromosomal substitution lines (Hughes *et al.* 2006; Osada *et al.* 2006; Genissel *et al.* 2008; Lemos *et al.* 2008; Wang *et al.* 2008) have revealed a high estimated proportion (~30–70%) of genes with significant intraspecific *cis*-regulatory variation. Conversely, parent-hybrid methods, which compare the allele-specific expression (ASE) level of the hybrid to the expression levels in its parental strains (Wittkopp *et al.* 2008; Suvorov *et al.* 2013; Coolon *et al.* 2014; Graze *et al.* 2014), have suggested smaller estimated proportions (~5–50%).

One of the disadvantages of the previous experimental designs is that comparisons were made using a limited number of genotypes or strains. In addition, these studies typically

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relied on inbred strains or homozygous genotypes. As the effect size of *trans*-regulatory mutations is shown to be sensitive to masking in heterozygous genotypes (Lemos *et al.* 2008), some transcripts from highly inbred strains might be spuriously affected by rare recessive alleles. The *Drosophila* Genetics Reference Panel (DGRP) provides inbred *Drosophila melanogaster* strains derived from a natural population, with all genotypes publicly accessible (Ayroles *et al.* 2009; Mackay *et al.* 2012). Using these resources, we designed a crossing scheme to quantify the abundance of *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory expression variation within the population. This crossing scheme generates F<sub>1</sub> hybrids from crosses between 18 different strains sampled from the DGRP and a reference strain from another population. Our method has advantages in that it does not rely on any particular pair of strains or require information on homozygous parental gene expression patterns (Gruber and Long 2009; Bickel *et al.* 2011; Miyagi *et al.* 2015). It also allowed us to compare different genomic parameters to *cis*- as well as *trans*-regulatory variation, which was difficult to unravel using prior experimental designs.

The genetic variation that underlies *cis*- and *trans*-regulated expression variation comprises SNPs and indels, which include transposable element (TE) insertions. Indeed, the presence or absence of TE insertions constitutes a considerable portion of the genetic variation observed between *Drosophila* genomes (Fontanillas *et al.* 2007; Kofler *et al.* 2012, 2015; Linheiro and Bergman 2012; Cridland *et al.* 2013). More than 10<sup>4</sup> TE insertions have been identified in the DGRP (Linheiro and Bergman 2012; Mackay *et al.* 2012; Cridland *et al.* 2013, 2015), with the majority being unique (Cridland *et al.* 2013). TEs could potentially disrupt regulatory structures (Dunn and Laurie 1995; Lerman *et al.* 2003) or, in rare occasions, serve as novel enhancers (Chung *et al.* 2007). Most insertion events are likely to be deleterious for the host genome and therefore defense mechanisms against TE mobility have evolved (reviewed in Kavi *et al.* 2005 and Slotkin and Martienssen 2007). These include transcriptional and post-transcriptional silencing by the well-characterized Piwi-interacting RNA (piRNA) system present in germline cells (reviewed in Senti and Brennecke 2010 and Iwasaki *et al.* 2015). However, there are conflicting opinions as to whether transcriptional silencing through the modification of local chromatin states can spread to neighboring genes (Sienski *et al.* 2012; Le Thomas *et al.* 2013; Lee 2015). One prediction that has not yet been tested is that transcriptional perturbation by proximal TE insertion is limited to ovarian tissues, as TE silencing by the Piwi system is limited to germline cells and some somatic cells of the ovary. A detailed comparison of transcript-level changes due to proximal TE insertions in ovarian and nonovarian tissues may clarify this issue.

In this study, we have employed an outcrossing experimental design using a reference strain to extract within-population *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory variation and analyze genomic factors that associate with their effect sizes. We have also examined the effects of proximal TE insertions on transcriptional

perturbation by comparing published TE-insertion panels to our precise ASE data.

## Materials and Methods

### Fly strains

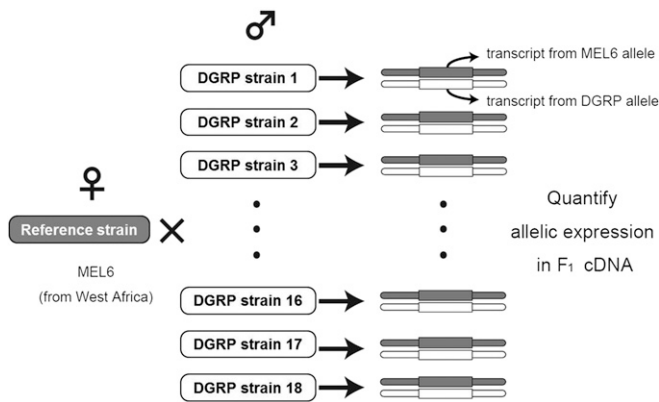
The following inbred strains of *D. melanogaster* from the DGRP (Ayroles *et al.* 2009; Mackay *et al.* 2012; Massouras *et al.* 2012) were used in this study: RAL-208, RAL-324, RAL-335, RAL-358, RAL-360, RAL-365, RAL-375, RAL-379, RAL-380, RAL-486, RAL-517, RAL-555, RAL-707, RAL-774, RAL-786, RAL-799, RAL-820, and RAL-852. These strains were chosen arbitrarily from the 40 strains with initial microarray expression data (Ayroles *et al.* 2009), which were not used in this study. In addition, we used an inbred strain of *D. melanogaster*, Mel6 (G59), which originated from Benin, West Africa (Takahashi and Takano-Shimizu 2005), as a reference strain. Flies were kept at 25° and on a 12-hr light–dark cycle with standard cornmeal fly medium.

### Genome sequences and single nucleotide variant calling

Genomic DNA was extracted from 100 female Mel6 flies using QIAGEN (Valencia, CA) Genomic-tip 100/G. Paired-end sequencing with a 100-bp read length was performed using an Illumina HiSeq2000. The genotype of Mel6 was determined with ~160-fold coverage of resequencing data. Initial mapping was performed using Bowtie2 software (Langmead and Salzberg 2012) with the default parameter settings. In total, 99.999% of euchromatic regions had at least onefold coverage with high quality bases [Phred quality value (QV) ≥ 30], and 99.570% had 10-fold coverage with the same quality. Single nucleotide variant (SNV) calling was performed using the SAMtools mpileup command (version 0.1.17) with a genotype quality cut-off score of 40 (Li *et al.* 2009). Only homozygous SNVs (794,305) in protein-coding genes were considered in subsequent analysis. We also used the GATK SNV caller (UnifiedGenotyper) (McKenna *et al.* 2010) for SNV calling, applying the Best Practices workflow (DePristo *et al.* 2011; Van der Auwera *et al.* 2013). GATK is less stringent than SAMtools and reported more potential SNVs. However, almost all homozygous SNVs called by SAMtools also overlapped with SNVs called by GATK. As it was critical to avoid sequencing errors that could introduce strong bias for ASE, we chose to use only SAMtools-identified SNVs for analysis. The genome sequences of DGRP strains were downloaded from the project database (<http://dgrp.gnets.ncsu.edu/>). When constructed genome sequences were not available, paired-end short sequences were downloaded and SNVs were called using the same pipeline as described above.

### RNA sequencing

In total, males of 18 DGRP strains were crossed to females of the reference strain (Mel6). F<sub>1</sub> hybrids were then subjected to RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) analyses (Figure 1). F<sub>1</sub> virgin females and males from crosses were collected within 8 hr of eclosion and kept separately on regular food media. After



**Figure 1** Schematic figure describing the crossing design used in this study. Males ( $\sigma$ ) from 18 DGRP strains were crossed with Mel6 females ( $\varphi$ ). Transcripts from DGRP and Mel6 alleles in  $F_1$  females were quantified using RNA-seq. Since both alleles share the same *trans*-regulatory environment in the  $F_1$  nucleus, the differences in allele-specific transcript quantities can be attributed to *cis*-regulatory differences. Also, because the reference allele is present in all  $F_1$  samples, its allele-specific transcript quantities can be used to estimate *trans*-regulatory variation.

4–7 days, 100 flies per sample were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen within 1–2 hr after the lights were turned on, and kept in  $-80^\circ$ . Heads were separated from bodies on dry ice by forcing frozen samples through a stainless mesh (opening:  $710\ \mu\text{m}$ ) using a paintbrush. Appendages from both head and body that came off during this process fell through the second mesh (opening:  $425\ \mu\text{m}$ ) and were discarded. The total RNA from head and headless body samples were extracted using a TRIzol Plus RNA Purification Kit (Life Technologies). The extracted total RNA was quantified using a Nanodrop 2000c (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and quality was assessed using a Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent Technologies). For RNA-seq, 250 ng of total RNA was used for library construction. Libraries were constructed using an Illumina TruSeq RNA-seq Sample Prep Kit. For sequencing, six samples were bar-code indexed and pooled on each lane. Single-end reads of 100 bp were obtained using an Illumina HiSeq2000 and two biological replicates with randomized bar-code indices were obtained for the female samples.

#### Estimation of ASE level

To accurately quantify allele-specific transcript abundance, the following procedures were employed. Initially, to reduce the mapping bias of reads to genomes with allelic differences (Degner *et al.* 2009; Satya *et al.* 2012), RNA-seq reads from each sample were mapped simultaneously onto the Mel6 and the corresponding DGRP genomes, using the TopHat2 program (Kim *et al.* 2013). Because these reconstructed genomes contained N's in ambiguously defined regions, the reads were also mapped to the reference *D. melanogaster* genome (version dmel5.2) to minimize mapping error and to use the read-count information from those regions. Mapping information was subsequently merged into a single alignment file (details in Supplemental Material, Figure S1). The reference genome sequence was used to cover regions with ambiguously defined

sequences, potentially causing mapping errors, in the Mel6 and DGRP genomes. The normalized expression level, measured in fragments per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads (FPKM), for each gene was then estimated using Cufflinks and the upper-quartile normalization method (Trapnell *et al.* 2012).

Tag SNVs, which are the SNVs detected in both the genome sequence and the RNA-seq reads, were identified using RNA-seq reads and the genome sequences of the reference (Mel6) and DGRP strains. Several filtering criteria were applied to reduce mapping biases and errors. First, low quality bases ( $QV < 15$ ) were filtered out. In addition, because we focused on relatively minor gene expression changes due to *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory mutations, genes that showed strong allelic expression bias [represented by low minor frequency SNVs ( $< 0.05$ ) due to sequencing errors] were also filtered. Tag SNVs within the 100-bp regions on either side of indels were also filtered out. After these filtering processes to reduce mapping biases (see Figure S2), genes that had a coverage  $> 50$  after summing up all tag SNVs within a gene were selected for further analysis. The level of ASE was estimated by dividing the FPKM values according to the ratio of tag SNVs. FPKM was  $\log_2$  transformed ( $\text{FPKM}_{\log}$ ) before being used in ANOVA.

#### Estimation of *cis*- and *trans*-regulated gene expression variances

A type-II ANOVA was conducted to estimate the variances due to *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory effects for each gene using female ASE data with a biological replicate. *Cis*- and *trans*-regulatory effects were estimated separately using the following generalized linear model (GLM):  $\text{ASE} = \mu + \text{cis} + \text{trans} + \epsilon$ . Category assignments for *cis* and *trans* effects are shown in Figure S3. Because the experimental design was not orthogonal, *cis*-by-*trans* interaction could not be estimated, *i.e.*, the *cis* effect was estimated with the given *trans* effect, and the *trans* effect was estimated with the given *cis* effect. The type-II ANOVA was performed using the CAR package in R (R Core Team 2016).

#### GLM approach using genomic factors

A GLM was formulated to analyze genomic factors that associated with the *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory effects on expression variation,  $V_{\text{cis}}$  and  $V_{\text{trans}}$ , respectively. The FPKM values used for the analysis were calculated using  $\text{FPKM}_{\log}$  means across  $F_1$  females from the 18 parental strain combinations (Figure 1). Tissue specificity index  $\tau$  (Yanai *et al.* 2005) was calculated for each gene using tissue-specific expression level data from the FlyAtlas database (Chintapalli *et al.* 2007). For the calculation, 22 nonoverlapping tissues were chosen for the analyses (Table S1). Presence/absence calls and expression levels were estimated using the MAS5 and RMA algorithms implemented in the Affymetrix Expression Console, respectively. Genes were called as present when more than two out of four biological replicates showed statistically significant expression. The expression status of each gene in the ovary was also determined using this data set. Female bias in

expression was calculated as the logit of female FPKM/(female FPKM + male FPKM) after male and female FPKMs were normalized by adjusting the median. Nucleotide diversities at synonymous sites ( $\pi_S$ ) and nonsynonymous sites ( $\pi_N$ ) were calculated using sequence data from the 18 DGRP genomes. Gene density was calculated as a proportion of the exonic regions per 100 kb. Recombination rates were obtained from Comeron *et al.* (2012). Enrichment of origin recognition complex (ORC) binding sites within 10 kb of the annotated gene region was calculated from the MA2C score obtained by chromatin immunoprecipitation with dORC2 antibody in asynchronous Kc167 cells (Gene Expression Omnibus accession: GSE17282; MacAlpine *et al.* 2010). A generalized linear regression analysis with a gamma distribution and a log link was performed using the `glm` function implemented in R (R Core Team 2016).

### **Analysis of the effect of TE insertions**

TE insertion calls were obtained from Cridland *et al.* (2015). TE insertion was counted when the upstream or downstream breakpoint was within various distances from the annotated gene region. A simulation to generate Spearman's correlation coefficients ( $\rho$ 's) between log-transformed ASEs of the removed and the remaining samples after random removal of strain(s) was performed using a custom script in R (R Core Team 2016).

### **Data availability**

All raw sequence data were deposited in the DNA Data Bank of Japan Sequence Read Archive database (<http://trace.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/dra/>) with accession number DRA002265. The R code and raw data for conducting type-II ANOVA are in File S1 and those for generating Spearman's correlation coefficients between ASEs of the removed and the remaining samples after random removal of strain(s) are in File S2.

## **Results**

### **Quantification of cis- and trans-regulated gene expression variation**

We designed a unique crossing experiment to estimate *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory variation within a population at the genome-wide level. Males from 18 inbred DGRP strains were crossed to females from the reference Mel6 strain. F<sub>1</sub> females from these crosses were subjected to RNA-seq analyses (Figure 1). We limited our analysis to 3213 genes in the head and 3919 genes in the body that had a reliable number of read counts and SNV information to discriminate alleles (see *Materials and Methods*). To quantitatively evaluate the influence of *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory effects, we estimated the ASE levels in units of FPKM, rather than using the ratios of specifically mapped RNA-seq reads to one of the parental chromosomes. Because FPKM values are known to have a log-normal distribution (Bengtsson *et al.* 2005), an allele-specific FPKM was treated as a normal variate after log transformation. Log-transformed ASE levels for each gene were

then subjected to a type-II ANOVA to estimate the variances due to *cis*-regulatory ( $V_{cis}$ ) and *trans*-regulatory effects ( $V_{trans}$ ) (Figure S3). Calculated  $V_{cis}$ , and  $V_{trans}$  values are listed in Table S2 and Table S3. These estimates showed that a large fraction of the variance in differentially expressed genes between genotypes is explained by *cis*-regulatory changes. The  $V_{cis}/V_{trans}$  ratios averaged across genes were  $\sim 1.98$  and  $\sim 1.88$  for heads and bodies, respectively.

### **GLM approach on cis- and trans-regulated gene expression variation**

To investigate potential factors that associate with the sizes of *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory effects on gene expression, multivariate analyses using a GLM were conducted.  $V_{cis}$  or  $V_{trans}$  (dependent variables) and eight independent variables were considered. These include expression properties (FPKM,  $\tau$ , female bias), nucleotide diversities ( $\pi_S$ ,  $\pi_N$ ), and regional properties (gene density, recombination rate, and ORC enrichment) (Table S2 and Table S3). The summaries of the head and body analyses are shown in Table 1. The variables with the most significant effects on *cis*-regulatory contribution ( $V_{cis}$ ) were tissue specificity index ( $\tau$ ) and local nucleotide diversity of nonsynonymous sites ( $\pi_N$ ) in both head and body tissues. A negative correlation between  $V_{cis}$  and gene density was observed in both head and body tissues.  $V_{trans}$  strongly correlated with  $\tau$  and also moderately with  $\pi_N$ . Interestingly,  $V_{trans}$  associated with the local recombination rate in both head and body tissues, which indicated that genes in regions with high recombination had slightly smaller *trans*-regulatory contributions.

### **TE insertion and cis-regulatory variation**

TE-insertion sites have been mapped in the genomes of DGRP flies (Linhaire and Bergman 2012; Mackay *et al.* 2012; Cridland *et al.* 2013, 2015), and detailed investigations by Cridland *et al.* (2015) has shown that TE insertions profoundly affect the expression of closely located genes. Their analysis was conducted using microarray data and inbred strains. To further investigate the effects of TE insertions on *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory variations, the proportions of genes with significant *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory variations were compared between genes with TEs inserted within various distances and those with no TE insertion (Figure 2). Genes expressed in the ovary were analyzed separately from genes not expressed in this tissue to investigate the effect of TE silencing mechanisms present in germline cells. Ovary-expressed genes were defined as those that showed statistically significant expression in the ovary in two out of four biological replicates in Chintapalli *et al.* (2007) (see *Materials and Methods*). A higher proportion of genes with a significant *cis*-regulatory contribution to expression variation was found in ovary-expressed genes that had a TE insertion within 1 kb (in  $\geq 1$  strain), compared to genes with no TE insertion (absent in all strains) within 1 kb (Figure 2A). There was no difference in the proportion of genes with significant *cis*-regulatory variation between TE-inserted and TE-absent genes within any distance for



**Table 1 Effects of expression properties, genetic diversities, and regional properties on  $V_{cis}$  and  $V_{trans}$  by GLM analysis**

| Variables                       | Head (N = 3044)     |                       | Body (N = 3681)     |                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|                                 | Sign of coefficient | P-value               | Sign of coefficient | P-value               |
| $V_{cis}$                       |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Expression properties           |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| FPKM                            | +                   | 0.533                 | –                   | 0.498                 |
| $\tau^a$                        | +                   | <10 <sup>-7***</sup>  | +                   | <10 <sup>-6***</sup>  |
| Female bias                     | +                   | 0.210                 | –                   | <10 <sup>-3***</sup>  |
| Nucleotide diversity            |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| $\pi_S$                         | +                   | 0.486                 | +                   | 0.046*                |
| $\pi_N$                         | +                   | <10 <sup>-5***</sup>  | +                   | <10 <sup>-4***</sup>  |
| Regional properties             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Gene density <sup>b</sup>       | –                   | 0.045*                | –                   | 0.002**               |
| Recombination rate <sup>c</sup> | –                   | 0.026*                | –                   | 0.180                 |
| ORC enrichment <sup>d</sup>     | –                   | 0.859                 | +                   | 0.625                 |
| $V_{trans}$                     |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Expression properties           |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| FPKM                            | –                   | 0.222                 | –                   | <10 <sup>-3***</sup>  |
| $\tau^a$                        | +                   | <10 <sup>-13***</sup> | +                   | <10 <sup>-15***</sup> |
| Female bias                     | +                   | 0.159                 | +                   | 0.428                 |
| Nucleotide diversity            |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| $\pi_S$                         | –                   | 0.944                 | +                   | 0.084                 |
| $\pi_N$                         | +                   | 0.001**               | +                   | 0.011*                |
| Regional properties             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Gene density <sup>b</sup>       | –                   | 0.393                 | –                   | 0.076                 |
| Recombination rate <sup>c</sup> | –                   | 0.028*                | –                   | <10 <sup>-3***</sup>  |
| ORC enrichment <sup>d</sup>     | +                   | 0.936                 | –                   | 0.026*                |

\*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$ .

<sup>a</sup> Tissue-specific index (Yanai *et al.* 2005).

<sup>b</sup> Gene density (proportion of exonic regions) per 100 kb.

<sup>c</sup> Local recombination rate estimate from Comeron *et al.* (2012).

<sup>d</sup> Enrichment of ORC binding site within 10 kb (MacAlpine *et al.* 2010).

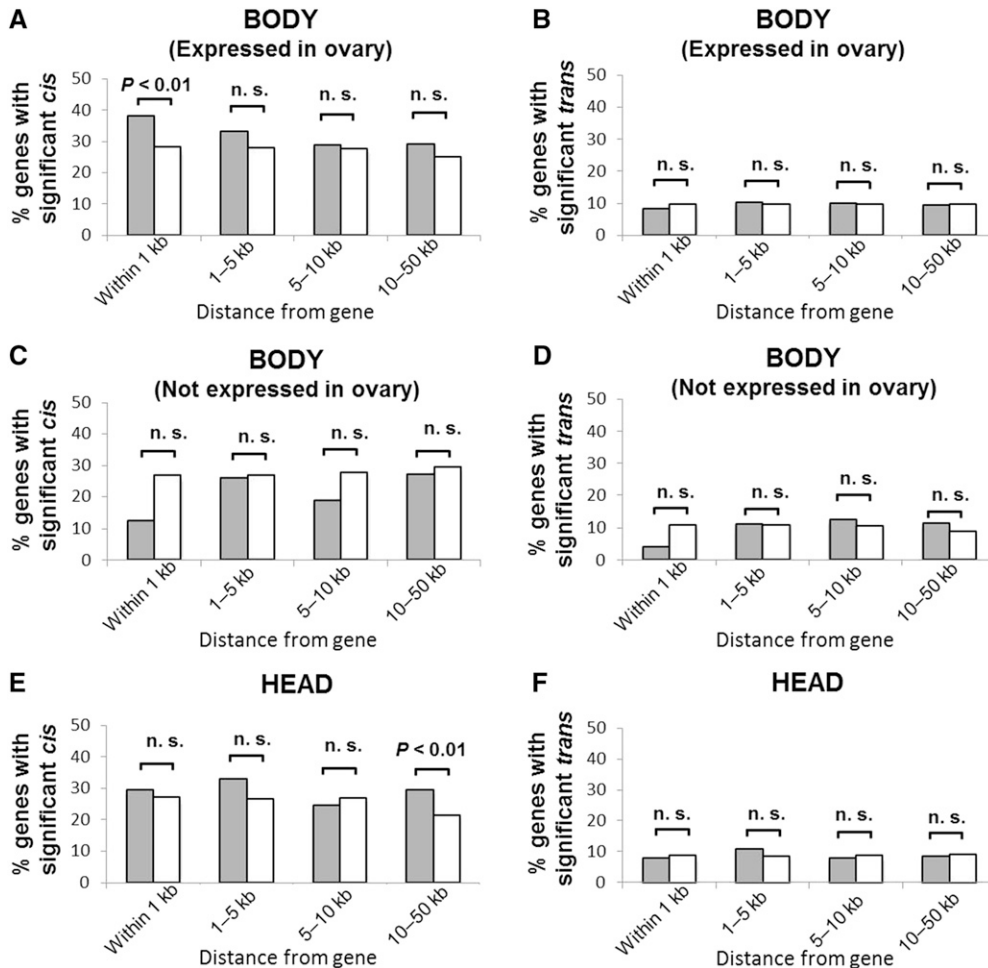
genes not expressed in ovary (Figure 2C). This was also demonstrated in head genes, except for genes with a TE insertion within 10–50 kb (Figure 2E). This distant effect may not be a direct influence of the inserted TE, but is likely linked to genomic properties associated with regional TE abundances. No difference in the proportion of genes with significant *trans*-regulatory variation was detected between TE-inserted and TE-absent genes within any distance (Figure 2, B, D, and F). These results suggested that TE insertion within 1 kb of the gene is associated with a larger *cis*-regulatory contribution to expression variation, but only in ovary-expressed genes.

We next investigated the direct effects of TE insertions on  $ASE_{DGRP}$  (DGRP allele-specific  $FPKM_{log}$ ). Our data did not indicate any significant directional changes in  $ASE_{DGRP}$  that associated with TE insertions within 1 kb (body genes expressed in ovary: paired *t*-test,  $t = -1.01$ , d.f. = 251,  $P = 0.31$ ; body genes not expressed in ovary: paired *t*-test,  $t = 0.14$ , d.f. = 48,  $P = 0.89$ ; head genes: paired *t*-test,  $t = -0.95$ , d.f. = 344,  $P = 0.34$ ). On average, the  $ASE_{DGRP}$  of the samples with TE insertions was reduced by 9.0% SD in ovary-expressed body genes and by 0.4% SD in body genes not expressed in the ovary. In head genes, this was reduced by 4.8% SD. The slight reduction in  $ASE_{DGRP}$  for samples with TE insertions supports the finding reported by Cridland *et al.* (2015) that the general effect of TE insertion on nearby genes is to reduce their expression levels.

The comparison of  $ASE_{DGRP}$  among ovary-expressed genes commonly expressed and analyzed in both heads and bodies ( $n = 174$ ) showed that Spearman's correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) between ASEs of the strain(s) with and without TE insertions were slightly lower in bodies ( $\rho = 0.9724$ , Figure 3B) relative to heads ( $\rho = 0.9814$ , Figure 3A). To investigate if this was due to differential effects caused by TE insertions on  $ASE_{DGRP}$  between heads and bodies, we conducted a simulation by randomly removing the same number of sample(s) as those of TE-inserted strain(s) (within 1 kb) for each gene. Spearman's  $\rho$ -values calculated between  $ASE_{DGRP}$  of the removed and the remaining samples after the random removals were obtained from 10,000 iterations and compared to the observed values. In heads, the probability for observing  $\rho < 0.9814$  was 0.0819; whereas in bodies, the probability for observing  $\rho < 0.9724$  was 0.0056. This indicated that the effects of TE insertions within 1 kb on the  $ASE_{DGRP}$  of ovary-expressed genes were significant in the body but not in the head. Therefore, TE-associated elevation of *cis*-regulatory expression variation is likely linked to changes in transcription level in the ovary.

## Discussion

Our study has quantified the segregating *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory effects on expression variation in a natural population of

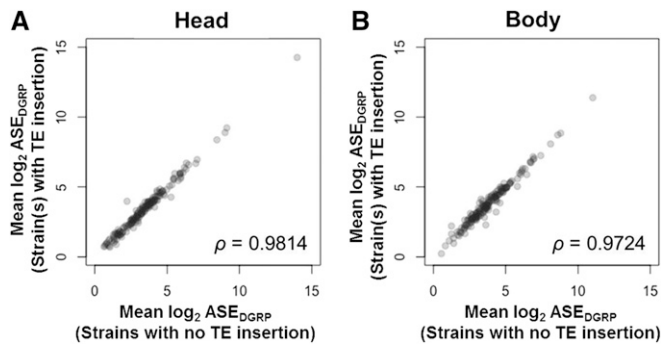


**Figure 2** Proportion of genes that showed significant *cis*- or *trans*-regulatory contribution to expression variation. The proportion of genes with (shaded bar) or without (open bar) TE insertions within various distances that showed significant *cis*-regulatory variation in (A) body genes expressed in the ovary ( $N = 3312$ ), (C) body genes not expressed in the ovary ( $N = 412$ ), and (E) head genes ( $N = 3213$ ). Additionally, genes that showed significant *trans*-regulatory variation in (B) body genes expressed in the ovary, (D) body genes not expressed in the ovary, and (F) head genes.  $P$ -values after Bonferroni correction for multiple (four) tests using  $\chi^2$ -tests are shown. n.s., nonsignificant pairs.

*Drosophila* using a unique strategy. Our method has several advantages over other approaches. First, while many studies have used a small number of strains or genotypes, our design quantified variation among 18 strains originally sampled from a natural population. Therefore, our experimental design is suitable for capturing and characterizing naturally segregating regulatory variation. Second, it employs an outbred crossing scheme and expression levels are compared in a heterozygous state, more closely resembling individual conditions in a natural population. Many studies using *Drosophila* rely on measurements of expression differences between inbred strains or homozygous genotypes that could be biased by the effects of rare recessive alleles that are normally masked. Indeed in *Drosophila*, a large proportion of gene expression differences between homozygous inbred strains can be concealed by heterozygous individuals (Lemos *et al.* 2008). We should note, however, that the effect of recessive alleles is a less compelling issue in yeast studies, because outcrossing frequency is generally low in *Saccharomyces* (Johnson *et al.* 2004; Aa *et al.* 2006; Ruderfer *et al.* 2006).

There are also some caveats when interpreting outcomes from our study. First, *cis*-regulatory effects on expression variance analyzed by a type-II ANOVA were calculated from the differences among 18 DGRP genomes plus the reference

genome from an African population (Figure S3). If interpopulation expression differences are considerably large, our estimates may inflate the variances to some extent. Second, our model does not take into account the effect of epistatic *cis*-by-*trans* interactions. Particularly, compensatory interactions (*cis*- and *trans*-regulatory changes with opposite effect on gene expression) are often detected in the analyses using closely related species and their hybrids in yeast (Tirosh *et al.* 2009; Metzger *et al.* 2017) as well as in *Drosophila* (Landry *et al.* 2005; McManus *et al.* 2010). Information on the prevalence of such regulatory interactions within species is still limited, but their effect on expression variation may not be negligible in some genes (Genissel *et al.* 2008; Suvorov *et al.* 2013; Miyagi *et al.* 2015). Finally, a shortcoming of using the outbred crossing design is that this method is likely to miss recessive regulatory mutations, which also have influences on the dynamics of transcriptome evolution (Lemos *et al.* 2008; Gruber *et al.* 2012; Metzger *et al.* 2017). Expression quantity data from all the parental inbred strains used in this study would allow us to directly compare and accurately determine the differences between our method and the more commonly used methods based on parent-hybrid comparisons. Conducting such comparisons in the future would help elucidate precise genetic architectures underlying regulatory variations.



**Figure 3** Effect of removing strains with TE insertions on ASE. Comparisons of mean log-transformed ASE of DGRP alleles ( $ASE_{DGRP}$ ) between strains with no TE insertion within 1 kb (x-axis) and strain(s) with a TE insertion within 1 kb (y-axis), using 174 genes commonly found in heads and bodies. (A) ASE in heads. Spearman's  $\rho = 0.9814$ ,  $P < 10^{-15}$ . (B) ASE in bodies. Spearman's  $\rho = 0.9724$ ,  $P < 10^{-15}$ .

Using our method, we have shown that expression variation due to *cis*-regulatory effects ( $V_{cis}$ ) was about twice as large as variation due to *trans*-regulatory effects ( $V_{trans}$ ). In addition, a higher proportion of genes showed significant *cis*-regulatory variation ( $\sim 28\%$ ) than *trans*-regulatory variation ( $\sim 9\%$ ), although these results are sensitive to the gene set we have analyzed and ASE variances between replicates, which were relatively large in our samples. Enrichment of the *cis*-regulatory effects on expression variation was consistent with previous studies that employed different experimental designs using *Drosophila* (Osada *et al.* 2006; Genissel *et al.* 2008; Lemos *et al.* 2008; Wittkopp *et al.* 2008; Graze *et al.* 2014), but see Wayne *et al.* (2004), Wang *et al.* (2008), and Suvorov *et al.* (2013). Our estimate was also similar to the proportion of *cis*-expression QTL (eQTL)-associated transcripts detected in the DGRP, which was 26% of the 7889 genes tested at a false discovery rate of  $< 10\%$  (Massouras *et al.* 2012).

Regarding *trans*-regulatory contribution, our analysis using the outbred crossing design may have provided smaller estimates compared to studies using pure inbred strains. This may be because the effect size of *trans*-regulatory mutations is particularly sensitive to masking in heterozygous genotypes (Lemos *et al.* 2008). In yeast, possibly due to low outcrossing rate (thus a small masking effect), contribution of *trans*-regulatory effect on intraspecific expression variation is estimated to be more extensive compared to *cis*-regulatory effect in studies using eQTL (Brem *et al.* 2002; Yvert *et al.* 2003) and ASE (Wang *et al.* 2007; Sung *et al.* 2009; Emerson *et al.* 2010). Interestingly, when a different timescale is considered, *cis*-regulatory changes play a larger role in shaping expression divergence between species than expression variation within species in yeast (Emerson *et al.* 2010; Metzger *et al.* 2017) as well as in *Drosophila* (Wittkopp *et al.* 2008; Coolon *et al.* 2014).

A positive correlation between local nucleotide diversity and expression variation has been shown repeatedly in various organisms, including *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Ronald *et al.* 2005), *D. simulans* (Lawniczak *et al.* 2008), and *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Kliebenstein *et al.* 2006). By separately analyzing

the *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory contributions, our GLM analysis (Table 1) has depicted a strong association between the level of nonsynonymous site nucleotide diversity ( $\pi_N$ ) and both *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory variation ( $V_{cis}$  and  $V_{trans}$ , respectively). However, there was no significant association detected between  $V_{cis}$  and  $\pi_S$  nor between  $V_{trans}$  and  $\pi_S$ . Because  $\pi_N$  and  $\pi_S$  strongly correlate with each other (heads: Spearman's  $\rho = 0.36$ ,  $P < 10^{-15}$ ; bodies: Spearman's  $\rho = 0.37$ ,  $P < 10^{-15}$ ), both do correlate with  $V_{cis}$  and  $V_{trans}$  using univariate regression, but in our GLM model,  $\pi_N$  is more strongly associated with  $V_{cis}$  and  $V_{trans}$  than  $\pi_S$ . This relationship parallels reports indicating a positive correlation between rates of protein divergence ( $d_N/d_S$ ) and expression divergence in *Drosophila* (Nuzhdin *et al.* 2004; Lemos *et al.* 2005; Good *et al.* 2006; but see Larracunte *et al.* 2008). Our data have also shown strong positive correlations between the tissue specificity index ( $\tau$ ) and both  $V_{cis}$  and  $V_{trans}$  (Table 1). This is consistent with the picture obtained from protein divergence analysis that demonstrated that broadly expressed genes (with small  $\tau$ ) tend to be under stronger purifying selection (Larracunte *et al.* 2008). It is noteworthy that not only the expression variation due to *cis*-regulatory effects but that due to *trans*-regulatory effects is also coupled to the overall constraint on amino acid sequences.

The negative correlation observed between recombination rate and  $V_{trans}$  (Table 1) is contradictory to the well-described positive correlation that exists between recombination rate and nucleotide polymorphism in *Drosophila* (Begun and Aquadro 1992; Andolfatto and Przeworski 2001; Presgraves 2005; Shapiro *et al.* 2007; Comeron *et al.* 2012; Campos *et al.* 2014). There was also no clear relationship between recombination rate and  $V_{cis}$ . These results suggest that the degree of expression variation is largely uncoupled to linked targets of natural selection shaping nucleotide polymorphism patterns along recombining chromosomes. Factors that determine recombination rates are not fully understood in *Drosophila*, but an association between recombination rate and active transcription during early meiosis has been reported (Adrian and Comeron 2013). Although the exact causal relationship underlying the negative correlation observed between recombination rate and  $V_{trans}$  is not clear at this point, recombination rate may be associated with an unknown property (e.g., chromatin accessibility) that affects transcriptional activity controlled by *trans*-acting factors.

Our results also suggest that TE insertions within 1 kb of a gene associate with a greater contribution of *cis*-regulation to expression variation in ovary-expressed genes (Figure 2). A comparison of the direct effects of TE insertions on expression levels between heads and bodies using the same set of ovary-expressed genes clearly showed that proximal TE insertion within 1 kb perturbs transcription in bodies but not detectably in heads (Figure 3). Transcripts from the body are from a heterogeneous set of tissues, but should sufficiently reflect transcripts from ovarian tissues. Therefore, these results indicate that proximal TE insertions are likely to affect transcription in the ovary but not as strongly in other tissues at a detectable level. TE insertions can potentially affect transcription by physically disrupting the regulatory sequences of

nearby genes, but in this case, insertions should affect all tissues equally and there is no reason to expect that this effect should be stronger in ovary-expressed genes.

The ovary-specific effect of TE insertions on transcription may arise from their mobility in germline cells. Due to the deleterious effects of TE mobility, ovarian tissues of flies have acquired defense mechanisms against it (reviewed in Kavi *et al.* 2005 and Slotkin and Martienssen 2007). A well-described mechanism in *Drosophila* germline cells is the piRNA system, which enforces transposition repression by affecting local chromatin states (Klenov *et al.* 2007; Malone and Hannon 2009; Siomi *et al.* 2011; Wang and Elgin 2011; Sienski *et al.* 2012; Le Thomas *et al.* 2013). Therefore, there is a possibility that epigenetic modifications in the regions surrounding TE insertion sites may perturb the transcription levels of proximal genes in the ovary.

Despite evidence for TE silencing through modifications of local chromatin states, whether repressive states at TE insertion sites can spread to the surrounding DNA has remained unknown. It has been shown using ovarian cell culture that the repressive chromatin structure induced by piRNA-mediated TE silencing can potentially spread from silenced TE sequences to adjacent genes (Sienski *et al.* 2012), but this effect was not detected in the ovaries of adult flies (Le Thomas *et al.* 2013). Nevertheless, Lee (2015) has used TE panels of DGRP flies and compared them to the modENCODE H3K9me (Nègre *et al.* 2011) and published piRNA data (Shpiz *et al.* 2014). This has revealed that the repressive chromatin mark is elevated in sequences adjacent to TE insertions and also that the heterochromatic state of the gene depends on whether the nearest TE is targeted by piRNA. Therefore, at least from these genome-wide comparative analyses (Lee 2015), it can be concluded that repressive chromatin-marked regions are capable of spreading and affecting the transcription of adjacent genes. However, the relative effect sizes of transcription perturbation in adjacent genes, due to chromatin modification and physical disruption of the regulatory sequences, are yet to be fully investigated. Our data indicated a stronger association between TE insertions and the degree of transcription perturbation in ovary tissue, supporting the view that adjacent gene transcription is affected by defense-associated chromatin modification.

In summary, dichotomizing expression variation into *cis*- and *trans*-regulatory effects using our outcrossing design has revealed that (1) *cis*-regulatory variation is more prominent than *trans*-regulatory variation; (2) the degree of purifying selection on coding sequences is reflected in the size of *cis*-regulatory variation and also, to a smaller but considerable extent, in the size of *trans*-regulatory variation; and (3) unlike nucleotide diversity, expression variation is largely uncoupled to the polymorphism landscape positively correlated with local recombination rate. Furthermore, our precise quantification of transcript levels suggested that TE insertions, even those that are present in a natural population, may affect the expression levels of proximal genes through TE silencing mechanisms in the ovary.

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