

R and Stats - PDCB topic GenomicRanges

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IRanges

GenomicRanges

Overview

IRanges is an infrastructure package that

- ▶ will help us save memory
- ▶ allows us to manipulate data in ranges
- ▶ is the backbone for manipulating our HTS data

Rle

► Set up:

```
> library(ShortRead)
> exptPath <- system.file("extdata",
+   package = "ShortRead")
> sp <- SolexaPath(exptPath)
> aln <- readAligned(sp, "s_2_export.txt")
```

Rle

- ▶ **Rle** or Run length encoded objects are the main source of memory usage reduction in IRanges
- ▶ The idea: if neighbor values are frequently repeated in a vector, we can now construct a kind of matrix where we have each value in one row and the number of times it appears on the second row.
- ▶ For example, we have the vector `x` which is made up of 0s and 1s:

```
> x <- round(runif(10000))  
> table(x)
```

```
x  
  0    1  
4952 5048
```

Rle

```
> head(x)
```

```
[1] 1 0 0 0 1 0
```

```
> tail(x)
```

```
[1] 0 1 0 0 0 1
```

- ▶ We can observe that 0s are 1s are adjacent to each other quite frequently. This kind of vector is a good candidate to transform into an Rle:

```
> library(IRanges)
```

```
> y <- Rle(x)
```

```
> y
```

Rle

```
'numeric' Rle of length 10000 with 4991 runs
```

```
Lengths: 1 3 1 1 2 1 ... 1 5 1 1 3 1
```

```
Values : 1 0 1 0 1 0 ... 0 1 0 1 0 1
```

- ▶ This allows us to save some memory:

```
> print(object.size(x) - object.size(y),
+       units = "Kb")
```

```
19 Kb
```

- ▶ With larger vectors, we save more memory :)

```
> x2 <- round(runif(4e+06))
```

```
> y2 <- Rle(x2)
```

```
> print(object.size(x2) - object.size(y2),
+       units = "Kb")
```

```
7802.8 Kb
```

More on Rle

- ▶ Just like with vectors, several basic accessors have been implemented:

```
> x[2:3]
```

```
[1] 0 0
```

```
> y[2:3]
```

```
'numeric' Rle of length 2 with 1 run
```

```
Lengths: 2
```

```
Values : 0
```

```
> c(x[2:3], x[10])
```

```
[1] 0 0 1
```

```
> c(y[2:3], y[10])
```


More on Rle

```
'numeric' Rle of length 3 with 2 runs
```

```
Lengths: 2 1
```

```
Values : 0 1
```

```
> identical(c(y[2:3], y[10]), append(y[2:3],  
+   y[10]))
```

```
[1] TRUE
```

- ▶ And if needed, you can always return to a vector:

```
> as.vector(y[1:10])
```

```
[1] 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1
```

```
> identical(x, as.vector(y))
```

```
[1] TRUE
```

More on Rle

- ▶ Our object `y` is a numeric Rle. We can also create other type of Rles:

```
> z <- y > 0
> m <- Rle(sample(c("A", "C", "T",
+   "G"), 10000, replace = TRUE))
> n <- Rle(as.factor(sample(1:10,
+   10000, replace = TRUE)))
> o <- Rle(as.integer(x))
> identical(y, o)
```

```
[1] FALSE
```

- ▶ Using the function `strand` we can create a special kind of factor:

More on Rle

```
> str <- strand(sample(c("+", "-"),  
+ 1000, replace = TRUE))
```

```
> class(str)
```

```
[1] "factor"
```

```
> levels(str)
```

```
[1] "+" "-" "*"
```

```
> head(str)
```

```
[1] - - + + + +
```

```
Levels: + - *
```

- ▶ Without any problems, we can convert this strand factor into an Rle:

```
> Rle(str)
```

More on Rle

```
'factor' Rle of length 1000 with 484 runs
  Lengths: 2 5 5 3 1 2 ... 2 5 1 1 1 1
  Values  : - + - + - + ... - + - + - +
Levels(3): + - *
```

Lets practice a bit

- ▶ Using the following vectors a and b, what are the mean and median a values for each level of the b factor. Transform them into Rle objects.

```
> a <- round(runif(1e+05, min = 0,  
+             max = 10000))  
> b <- sample(c("+", "-"), 1e+05,  
+             replace = TRUE)
```

Solutions

- ▶ First, a long solution where we transform our objects back to vectors in order to use the functions mean and median:

```
> e <- Rle(a)
> f <- Rle(b)
> sapply(unique(f), function(x) {
+   set <- as.vector(e[f == x])
+   res <- c(mean(set), median(set))
+ })
```

```
          +          -
[1,] 4993.111 5000.546
[2,] 5009.000 4997.000
```

Solutions

- ▶ However, the above is not necessary since both mean and median have methods for Rle objects. Hence, we can solve it like this:

```
> sapply(unique(f), function(x) {
+   set <- e[f == x]
+   res <- c(mean(set), median(set))
+ })
```

```
      +      -
[1,] 4993.111 5000.546
[2,] 5009.000 4997.000
```

- ▶ Yet, the ideal scenario is to use the `tapply` function :) Either one by one or all together.

```
> tapply(e, f, mean)
```

Solutions

```

      -      +
5000.546 4993.111

```

```
> tapply(e, f, median)
```

```

      -      +
4997 5009

```

```

> tapply(e, f, function(x) {
+   c(mean(x), median(x))
+ })

```

```

$`-`
[1] 5000.546 4997.000

```

```

$`+`
[1] 4993.111 5009.000

```


Solutions

- ▶ In this case we could have used `tapply` from the start with the vectors `a` and `b`:

```
> tapply(a, b, function(x) {  
+   c(mean(x), median(x))  
+ })
```

```
$`-`
```

```
[1] 5000.546 4997.000
```

```
$`+`
```

```
[1] 4993.111 5009.000
```

- ▶ Basically, we can use `Rle`'s just as we would use vectors yet we get the memory advantage :)¹
- ▶ Btw, this was another solution:

Solutions

```
> tapply(e, f, function(x) {  
+   summary(x)[3:4]  
+ })
```

```
$`-`
```

Median	Mean
4997	5001

```
$`+`
```

Median	Mean
5009	4993

¹To make full use of the advantage we shouldn't create the vectors, just create the Rles directly.

More on Rles

- ▶ Just like with vectors, we can reverse or access a subsection of an Rle

```
> y
```

```
'numeric' Rle of length 10000 with 4991 runs  
  Lengths: 1 3 1 1 2 1 ... 1 5 1 1 3 1  
  Values  : 1 0 1 0 1 0 ... 0 1 0 1 0 1
```

```
> rev(y)
```

```
'numeric' Rle of length 10000 with 4991 runs  
  Lengths: 1 3 1 1 5 1 ... 1 2 1 1 3 1  
  Values  : 1 0 1 0 1 0 ... 0 1 0 1 0 1
```

```
> window(y, 2, 4)
```

More on Rles

```
'numeric' Rle of length 3 with 1 run  
  Lengths: 3  
  Values : 0
```

- ▶ We can also get into the parts of an Rle object using:

```
> head(runLength(y))
```

```
[1] 1 3 1 1 2 1
```

```
> head(runValue(y))
```

```
[1] 1 0 1 0 1 0
```

- ▶ Remember the matrix idea that lead to Rles? Well, we can build that said matrix:

More on Rles

```
> mat <- matrix(0, nrow = nrun(y),  
+             ncol = 2)  
> mat[, 1] <- runLength(y)  
> mat[, 2] <- runValue(y)  
> head(mat)
```

```
      [,1] [,2]  
[1,]    1    1  
[2,]    3    0  
[3,]    1    1  
[4,]    1    0  
[5,]    2    1  
[6,]    1    0
```

```
> y
```

More on Rles

```
'numeric' Rle of length 10000 with 4991 runs
  Lengths: 1 3 1 1 2 1 ... 1 5 1 1 3 1
  Values  : 1 0 1 0 1 0 ... 0 1 0 1 0 1
```

- ▶ We can also get the start and end positions for each run:

```
> head(start(y))
```

```
[1] 1 2 5 6 7 9
```

```
> head(end(y))
```

```
[1] 1 4 5 6 8 9
```

- ▶ There are plenty of other numerical and character methods for Rles which you find on the help page for Rle. For example:

```
> cor(y, e[1:10000])
```

```
[1] 0.02177081
```

More on Rles

```
> range(e)
```

```
[1] 0 10000
```

- ▶ We can also create list of Rle objects:

```
> rlelist <- RleList(y, e[1:10000])
```

```
> rlelist
```

```
SimpleRleList of length 2
```

```
[[1]]
```

```
'numeric' Rle of length 10000 with 4991 runs
```

```
Lengths: 1 3 1 1 2 1 ... 1 5 1 1 3 1
```

```
Values : 1 0 1 0 1 0 ... 0 1 0 1 0 1
```

```
[[2]]
```

```
'numeric' Rle of length 10000 with 9999 runs
```

More on Rles

```
Lengths:    1    1    1 ...    1    1
Values : 2361 4207 1934 ... 3484 4747
```


IRanges

- ▶ Another fundamental piece of IRanges is the ability to construct matrixes of ranges using **IRanges**. For example:

```
> IR <- IRanges(start = 1:5, end = 6:10)
```

- ▶ Data from an IRanges object can be easily accessed:

```
> length(IR)
```

```
[1] 5
```

```
> IR[2]
```

```
IRanges of length 1
```

```
  start end width
```

```
[1]    2   7     6
```

```
> start(IR[5])
```

IRanges

```
[1] 5
```

```
> end(IR[3])
```

```
[1] 8
```

```
> width(IR)
```

```
[1] 6 6 6 6 6
```

- ▶ Once we have ranges, we can manipulate them:

```
> reduce(IR)
```

```
IRanges of length 1
```

```
  start end width
```

```
[1]     1  10    10
```

```
> disjoint(IR)
```

IRanges

IRanges of length 9

	start	end	width
[1]	1	1	1
[2]	2	2	1
[3]	3	3	1
[4]	4	4	1
[5]	5	6	2
[6]	7	7	1
[7]	8	8	1
[8]	9	9	1
[9]	10	10	1

- And find overlaps between ranges:

IRanges

```
> ov <- findOverlaps(IR, reduce(IR))  
> as.matrix(ov)
```

	query	subject
[1,]	1	1
[2,]	2	1
[3,]	3	1
[4,]	4	1
[5,]	5	1

Exercise

- ▶ Construct an IRanges object where we'll have 1 range per every read.
- ▶ Use the position and width of the read from the aln object
> *aln*

```
class: AlignedRead
length: 1000 reads; width: 35 cycles
chromosome: NM NM ... chr5.fa 29:255:255
position: NA NA ... 71805980 NA
strand: NA NA ... + NA
alignQuality: NumericQuality
alignData varLabels: run lane ... filtering contig
```

Solution

- ▶ We just need to be careful with the reads from the minus strand and those that did not map

```
> idx <- which(!is.na(position(aln)))
> start <- position(aln[idx])
> str <- strand(aln[idx]) == "-"
> start[str] <- start[str] - width(aln[idx])[str] +
+   1
> reads <- IRanges(start = start,
+   width = width(aln[idx]))
```

- ▶ Once we have our reads in an IRanges object, we can get information such as the coverage:

```
> cov <- coverage(reads)
> cov
```

Solution

```
'integer' Rle of length 195524766 with 810 runs
  Lengths:  11907      35 ...      35
  Values  :      0      1 ...      1
```

- Or manipulate further the ranges:

```
> shift(IR, 10)
```

```
IRanges of length 5
```

```
  start end width
[1]   11  16     6
[2]   12  17     6
[3]   13  18     6
[4]   14  19     6
[5]   15  20     6
```

```
> narrow(IR, start = 1, width = 2)
```

Solution

```
IRanges of length 5
```

```
  start end width
```

```
[1]     1  2     2
```

```
[2]     2  3     2
```

```
[3]     3  4     2
```

```
[4]     4  5     2
```

```
[5]     5  6     2
```

```
> flank(IR, 1)
```


Solution

IRanges of length 5

	start	end	width
[1]	0	0	1
[2]	1	1	1
[3]	2	2	1
[4]	3	3	1
[5]	4	4	1

Exercise

- ▶ Use the function `findOverlaps` to find the overlaps between our reads.
- ▶ Avoid obvious and repetitive overlaps (like range 1 vs range 1).

Solution

- ▶ We need to change the default values for two arguments :)
> *ovReads* <- *matchMatrix*(*findOverlaps*(*reads*,
+ *ignoreSelf* = *TRUE*, *ignoreRedundant* = *TRUE*))
> *ovReads*

```
      query subject
[1,]      8    156
[2,]     54    104
[3,]     54    374
[4,]    104    374
[5,]    361    371
```

- ▶ Which reads overlap with the 100 upstream to other reads?
Are the results the same?

Solution part B

- ▶ We'll use flank to get the upstream regions :)
> `ovReadsUp <- matchMatrix(findOverlaps(reads,
+ flank(reads, 100)))`
> `ovReadsUp`

	query	subject
[1,]	54	104
[2,]	54	374
[3,]	104	374
[4,]	156	8

RangedData

- ▶ The third main object from the IRanges package is the **RangedData** object.
- ▶ It is basically a table with an IRanges object inside of it:

```
> rd <- RangedData(ranges = IR, space = rep("chr",  
+      5), name = letters[1:5])
```
- ▶ Once we have a RangedData object, we can get the names, coverage per space, access the different extra columns (name in this case), or get the IRanges object inside of the RangedData:

```
> names(rd)  
[1] "chr"  
  
> coverage(rd)
```

RangedData

```
SimpleRleList of length 1
$chr
'integer' Rle of length 10 with 9 runs
  Lengths: 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1
  Values  : 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1

> rd$name

[1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e"

> rd$space

[1] chr chr chr chr chr
Levels: chr

> ranges(rd)
```

RangedData

```
CompressedIRangesList of length 1
```

```
$chr
```

```
IRanges of length 5
```

```
start end width
```

```
[1]      1      6      6
```

```
[2]      2      7      6
```

```
[3]      3      8      6
```

```
[4]      4      9      6
```

```
[5]      5     10      6
```

- ▶ Using our object reads, build a RangedData where the space is the chromosome where the read aligned. You might need to use our object idx.

RangedData

- ▶ Get the summary statistics for the coverage of chr5 (exclude bases with coverage equal to 0).

Solution

- ▶ First we build the RangedData object:

```
> readsRD <- RangedData(ranges = reads,  
+   space = chromosome(aln[idx]))  
> names(readsRD)
```

```
[1] "chr1.fa"      "chr10.fa"  
[3] "chr11.fa"     "chr12.fa"  
[5] "chr13.fa"     "chr14.fa"  
[7] "chr15.fa"     "chr16.fa"  
[9] "chr17.fa"     "chr18.fa"  
[11] "chr19.fa"     "chr2.fa"  
[13] "chr3.fa"      "chr4.fa"  
[15] "chr5.fa"      "chr6.fa"  
[17] "chr7.fa"      "chr8.fa"
```

Solution

```
[19] "chr9.fa"          "chrM.fa"
[21] "chrUn_random.fa" "chrX.fa"
[23] "chrY_random.fa"
```

- ▶ Next we get the coverage for each space (chromosome), and finally we get the summary statistics we wanted:

```
> covRD <- lapply(readsRD, coverage)
> covRD[["chr5.fa"]]
```

```
SimpleRleList of length 1
```

```
$chr5.fa
```

```
'integer' Rle of length 140154350 with 58 runs
```

```
Lengths: 3936448 ... 35
```

```
Values : 0 ... 1
```

Solution

```
> summary(covRD[["chr5.fa"]][[1]][covRD[["chr5.fa"]][[1]  
+ 0])
```

Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3rd Qu.
1	1	1	1	1
Max.				
1				

Overview

- ▶ While built on top of IRanges, GenomicRanges provides a biological-aware framework to work with :)
- ▶ The GRanges class outperforms the RangedData class
- ▶ Caution: some methods have yet to be implemented for GRanges objects

GRanges

- ▶ It's very similar to RangedData as the minimum information includes an IRanges object.
- ▶ Yet, now it requires strand information as well as the names.
- ▶ Lets build a GRanges object using our previous IR object:

```
> GR <- GRanges(seqnames = rep("chr",  
+ 5), ranges = IR, strand = rep("*",  
+ 5), someVar = letters[1:5])  
> GR
```

GRanges

GRanges with 5 ranges and 1 elementMetadata value

```
      seqnames      ranges strand |  
      <Rle> <IRanges> <Rle> |  
[1]      chr      [1, 6]      * |  
[2]      chr      [2, 7]      * |  
[3]      chr      [3, 8]      * |  
[4]      chr      [4, 9]      * |  
[5]      chr      [5, 10]     * |
```

```
      someVar  
      <character>  
[1]          a  
[2]          b  
[3]          c  
[4]          d
```

GRanges

```
[5]          e
```

```
seqlengths
```

```
chr
```

```
NA
```

- ▶ Note the seqlengths section. We can specify the length of each unique seqname. This information affects the result from the coverage function:

```
> coverage(GR)
```

GRanges

```
SimpleRleList of length 1
$chr
'integer' Rle of length 10 with 9 runs
  Lengths: 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1
  Values  : 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1

> seqlengths(GR) <- 20
> coverage(GR)

SimpleRleList of length 1
$chr
'integer' Rle of length 20 with 10 runs
  Lengths: 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 10
  Values  : 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 0
```


GRanges

- ▶ Similar to RangedData objects, we can access parts of our GRanges object with:

```
> strand(GR)
```

```
'factor' Rle of length 5 with 1 run
```

```
  Lengths: 5
```

```
  Values  : *
```

```
Levels(3): + - *
```

```
> start(GR)
```

```
[1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

```
> end(GR)
```

```
[1] 6 7 8 9 10
```

```
> width(GR)
```

GRanges

```
[1] 6 6 6 6 6
```

```
> ranges(GR)
```

```
IRanges of length 5
```

```
  start end width
```

```
[1]     1   6     6
```

```
[2]     2   7     6
```

```
[3]     3   8     6
```

```
[4]     4   9     6
```

```
[5]     5  10     6
```

```
> GR[2:3]
```

GRanges

GRanges with 2 ranges and 1 elementMetadata value

```

seqnames      ranges strand |
      <Rle> <IRanges> <Rle> |
[1]      chr      [2, 7]      * |
[2]      chr      [3, 8]      * |

      someVar
      <character>
[1]          b
[2]          c

```

seqlengths

```

chr
  20

```

GRanges

- ▶ Do you remember the class `DataFrame`. Well, that's the class of the part of a `GRanges` object that contains information for the extra variables. Basically, it's a `data.frame` where each column can be a vector, an `Rle`, etc.

DataFrame with 5 rows and 1 column

```
      someVar  
 <character>  
1           a  
2           b  
3           c  
4           d  
5           e
```

GRanges

```
DataFrame with 5 rows and 1 column
```

```
  someVar
```

```
<character>
```

```
1      a
```

```
2      b
```

```
3      c
```

```
4      d
```

```
5      e
```

```
[1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e"
```

- ▶ Plus, just like IRanges, we can manipulate the ranges:

```
> flank(GR[5], 1)
```

GRanges

GRanges with 1 range and 1 elementMetadata value

```

seqnames      ranges strand |
  <Rle> <IRanges> <Rle> |
[1]      chr      [4, 4]      * |
      someVar
  <character>
[1]          e

```

```
seqlengths
```

```
chr
```

```
20
```

```
> disjoint(GR[4:5])
```

GRanges

GRanges with 3 ranges and 0 elementMetadata values

```

seqnames      ranges strand |
      <Rle> <IRanges>  <Rle> |
[1]      chr [ 4,  4]      * |
[2]      chr [ 5,  9]      * |
[3]      chr [10, 10]      * |

```

```
seqlengths
```

```
chr
  20
```

```
> shift(GR[3], 2)
```

GRanges

GRanges with 1 range and 1 elementMetadata value

```

seqnames      ranges strand |
      <Rle> <IRanges>  <Rle> |
[1]      chr      [5, 10]      * |
      someVar
      <character>
[1]          c

```

seqlengths

```

chr
  20

```


Exercise

- ▶ Lets repeat the previous exercise where we looked for overlaps between
 1. reads
 2. reads and the 100bp upstream of reads
- ▶ First, we'll need to construct a GRanges object using the reads from the aln object.

Solution

- ▶ Lets construct the GRanges object:

```
> readsGR <- GRanges(seqnames = chromosome(aln[idx]),  
+   ranges = reads, strand = Rle(strand(aln[idx])))
```
- ▶ Next, lets find the overlaps between reads:

```
> findOverlaps(readsGR, ignoreSelf = TRUE,  
+   ignoreRedundant = FALSE)
```
- ▶ Sadly, that doesn't work yet. So lets do it the hard way:

Solution

```
> ov <- matchMatrix(findOverlaps(readsGR,  
+   readsGR))  
> removeSelf <- function(ov) {  
+   ov2 <- NULL  
+   for (i in 1:nrow(ov)) if (ov[i,  
+     1] != ov[i, 2])  
+     ov2 <- rbind(ov2, ov[i,  
+       ]) )  
+   return(ov2)  
+ }  
> removeRedundant <- function(ov) {  
+   index <- apply(ov, 1, function(x) {  
+     res <- TRUE  
+     x <- as.vector(x)
```

Solution

```
+           for (j in 1:nrow(ov)) {
+             y <- as.vector(ov[j,
+                           ])
+             if (identical(y, x))
+               break
+             if (identical(y, rev(x)))
+               res <- FALSE
+           }
+           return(res)
+         })
+       return(ov[index, ])
+     }
> ov <- removeRedundant(removeSelf(ov))
> ov
```

Solution

```
      query subject
[1,]      8    156
[2,]     54    104
[3,]    361    371
```

- ▶ Our new result is slight different that our original result:

```
> ovReads
```

```
      query subject
[1,]      8    156
[2,]     54    104
[3,]     54    374
[4,]    104    374
[5,]    361    371
```

Solution

- ▶ Next, let's find the overlaps between reads and upstream regions of reads.

```
> matchMatrix(findOverlaps(readsGR,  
+   flank(readsGR, 100)))
```

```
      query subject  
[1,]      8    156  
[2,]     54    104
```

```
> ovReadsUp
```

```
      query subject  
[1,]     54    104  
[2,]     54    374  
[3,]    104    374  
[4,]    156      8
```

Solution

- ▶ Just as above, the result is different. The reason: overlaps in GRanges objects takes into account the strand!

GRangesList

- ▶ A follow up class to GRanges is GRangesList. That's the default output of the `split` function:

```
> grList <- split(GR)
```

```
> class(grList)
```

```
[1] "GRangesList"
```

```
attr(,"package")
```

```
[1] "GenomicRanges"
```

- ▶ You don't need double brackets to access the elements of a GRangesList:

```
> grList[1:2]
```


GRangesList

GRangesList of length 2

\$1

GRanges with 1 range and 1 elementMetadata value

```

  seqnames      ranges strand |
    <Rle> <IRanges> <Rle> |
[1]      chr      [1, 6]     * |
      someVar
  <character>
[1]          a

```

\$2

GRanges with 1 range and 1 elementMetadata value

```

  seqnames      ranges strand |
    <Rle> <IRanges> <Rle> |

```

GRangesList

```
[1]      chr [2, 7]      * |
      someVar
      <character>
[1]          b
```

```
seqlengths
chr
20
```

- ▶ Functions like `coverage` work with all the elements of a `GRangesList`. Accessors like `strand` work with each element individually:

```
> coverage(grList)
```

GRangesList

```
SimpleRleList of length 1
$chr
'integer' Rle of length 10 with 9 runs
  Lengths: 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1
  Values  : 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1

> strand(grList)

CompressedRleList of length 5
$`1`
'factor' Rle of length 1 with 1 run
  Lengths: 1
  Values  : *
Levels(3): + - *
```

GRangesList

```
$`2`
```

```
'factor' Rle of length 1 with 1 run
```

```
Lengths: 1
```

```
Values : *
```

```
Levels(3): + - *
```

```
$`3`
```

```
'factor' Rle of length 1 with 1 run
```

```
Lengths: 1
```

```
Values : *
```

```
Levels(3): + - *
```

```
$`4`
```

```
'factor' Rle of length 1 with 1 run
```

GRangesList

```
Lengths: 1
Values : *
Levels(3): + - *
```

```
$`5`
```

```
'factor' Rle of length 1 with 1 run
```

```
Lengths: 1
Values : *
Levels(3): + - *
```

- ▶ The idea behind GRangesList is that you can have all the exons of a given gene in a GRanges, and have one element in your GRangesList per every gene.

Session Information

```
> sessionInfo()

R version 2.12.0 (2010-10-15)
Platform: i386-pc-mingw32/i386 (32-bit)

locale:
 [1] LC_COLLATE=English_United States.1252
 [2] LC_CTYPE=English_United States.1252
 [3] LC_MONETARY=English_United States.1252
 [4] LC_NUMERIC=C
 [5] LC_TIME=English_United States.1252

attached base packages:
 [1] stats      graphics  grDevices
 [4] utils      datasets  methods
 [7] base

other attached packages:
 [1] ShortRead_1.8.2
 [2] Rsamtools_1.2.1
```

Session Information

```
[3] lattice_0.19-13  
[4] Biostrings_2.18.0  
[5] GenomicRanges_1.2.0  
[6] IRanges_1.8.0
```

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

```
[1] Biobase_2.10.0 grid_2.12.0  
[3] hwriter_1.2
```