The Composition and Origins of Genomic Variation among Individuals of the Soybean Reference Cultivar Williams 82\textsuperscript{1}[W]\textsuperscript{2}[OA]


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Soybean (\textit{Glycine max}) is a self-pollinating species that has relatively low nucleotide polymorphism rates compared with other crop species. Despite the low rate of nucleotide polymorphisms, a wide range of heritable phenotypic variation exists. There is even evidence for heritable phenotypic variation among individuals within some cultivars. Williams 82, the soybean cultivar used to produce the reference genome sequence, was derived from backcrossing a \textit{Phytophthora} root rot resistance locus from the donor parent Kingwa into the recurrent parent Williams. To explore the genetic basis of intracultivar variation, we investigated the nucleotide, structural, and gene content variation of different Williams 82 individuals. Williams 82 individuals exhibited variation in the number and size of introgressed Kingwa loci. In these regions of genomic heterogeneity, the reference Williams 82 genome sequence consists of a mosaic of Williams and Kingwa haplotypes. Genomic structural variation between Williams and Kingwa was maintained between the Williams 82 individuals within the regions of heterogeneity. Additionally, the regions of heterogeneity exhibited gene content differences between Williams 82 individuals. These findings show that genetic heterogeneity in Williams 82 primarily originated from the differential segregation of polymorphic chromosomal regions following the backcross and single-seed descent generations of the breeding process. We conclude that soybean haplotypes can possess a high rate of structural and gene content variation, and the impact of intracultivar genetic heterogeneity may be significant. This detailed characterization will be useful for interpreting soybean genomic data sets and highlights important considerations for research communities that are developing or utilizing a reference genome sequence.

Intracultivar genetic heterogeneity refers to the genetic variation present from plant to plant within a named cultivar or variety. Although the phenomenon of intracultivar heterogeneity has long been recognized in crop species (Byth and Weber, 1968), it is oftentimes ignored, as most researchers assume that elite cultivars are composed of relatively homogenous genetic pools (Fasoula and Boerma, 2007). However, a small number of studies have documented the phenotypic consequences of intracultivar genetic heterogeneity in inbred crop accessions, including studies in tobacco (\textit{Nicotiana tabacum}; Gordon and Byth, 1972), maize (\textit{Zea mays}; Higgs and Russell, 1968; Tokatlidis, 2000), wheat (\textit{Triticum aestivum}; Tokatlidis et al., 2004), and cotton (\textit{Gossypium hirsutum}; Tokatlidis et al., 2008).

The segregation of parental loci during the breeding process is one source of intracultivar heterogeneity. For self-pollinating species, new cultivars are typically derived from either intermating elite lines or backcrossing traits into elite lines, followed by several rounds of single-seed descent via self-mating and subsequent seed increase generations. At the termination of the single-seed descent generations, any remaining heterozygous loci will segregate in subsequent generations. Assuming that the population remains intact, each plant lineage will eventually fix almost all of the segregating loci in the homozygous state of either parent. Therefore, the population will maintain some degree of plant-to-plant variation due to the heterogeneity at these loci.

Genetic heterogeneity may also be generated de novo by spontaneous mutation (Shaw et al., 2000; Ossowski et al., 2010), novel recombination events,
DNA transposition, or epigenetic processes (Rasmusson and Phillips, 1997). Recent studies in yeast and fungi have reported striking genomic structural variation, such as large-scale duplications, deletions, and rearrangements, induced de novo in response to drug treatments or nutrient-stressed conditions (Gresham et al., 2008; Selmeci et al., 2009). Furthermore, a recent study has reported striking genomic structural variation derived de novo in Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis thaliana) lineages within five or fewer generations when individuals are grown in stressful conditions (DeBolt, 2010).

Studies that have investigated the genetic basis of intracultivar heterogeneity have primarily reported on the rates of molecular marker polymorphisms within cultivars and inbred lines of crops such as barley (Hordeum vulgare), maize (Zea mays), cucumber (Cucumis sativus), sunflower (Helianthus annuus), and wheat (Triticum aestivum). Olufowote et al., 1997; Gethi et al., 2002; Ro¨ der et al., 2002; Sjakste et al., 2003; Soleimani et al., 2005; Giarrocco et al., 2007). However, the number and types of markers applied in these studies limited their throughput and ability to resolve major features of structural variation, including large-scale deletions, duplications, and more complicated genomic rearrangements. Consequently, little is known about the origins and mechanisms of intracultivar heterogeneity.

In soybean (Glycine max), Fasoula and Boerma (2005, 2007) have reported on the impact of intracultivar variation on several traits, including seed composition, seed weight, maturity, plant height, and lodging. They noted that this remnant variation could be used to select elite individuals from within existing cultivars, and they recently registered a total of 18 lines directly selected from within the cvs Benning, Cook, and Haskell (Fasoula et al., 2007a, 2007b, 2007c).

The recent sequencing of the soybean genome (Schmutz et al., 2010) has enabled the development of genomic tools and methodologies that can address the question of soybean intracultivar heterogeneity in great detail. Williams 82, the sequenced accession, was derived from a composite of four individual plants selected from a Williams × Kingwa BC1F3 generation (Bennard and Cremeens, 1988). This implies that Williams 82 experienced one generation of single-seed descent following the six back-cross generations. Residual heterozygous loci in the BC1F2 generation may have differentially segregated among the four BC1F3 individuals and in subsequent generations. In theory, this process would fix genetic heterogeneity into the Williams 82 population after several rounds of self-pollination. Furthermore, as seed is propagated and distributed throughout the scientific community, founder effects from genetic bottleneck events may give rise to distinct Williams 82 subpopulations at different locations, resulting in disparate Williams 82 lines among researchers.

Detailed genomic comparisons of different Williams 82 individuals should resolve the regions of intracultivar genomic heterogeneity. Further comparisons of each Williams 82 individual with the Williams and Kingwa parents would then trace the ancestry of the heterogeneous regions to either parent; different Williams 82 individuals would match different parents within these regions. Additionally, genomic variation derived de novo after the split of the Williams 82 lineages may also contribute novel heterogeneous loci. In this case, the genomic comparisons of different Williams 82 individuals would still resolve the regions of intracultivar genomic heterogeneity. However, the ancestry of these loci would not specifically trace back to either parent. We would expect to observe novel genomic compositions at such loci.

In this study, we have utilized high-density single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping, comparative genomic hybridization (CGH), and exome resequencing data to obtain an unprecedented resolution of the genetic heterogeneity that is extant in Williams 82. The SNP genotyping resolved the parental origins of Williams 82 genetic heterogeneity. Furthermore, the CGH and exome resequencing analyses from more than 203,000 loci revealed the consequences of this heterogeneity in terms of structural and gene content variants between the Williams 82 individuals. Collectively, these findings demonstrate that intracultivar genetic heterogeneity can be pervasive in soybean. Implications on the interpretation of the Williams 82 reference genome and the potential of applying soybean genome and the potential of applying similar approaches to interspecific comparative genomics are discussed.

RESULTS
Origins of Williams 82 Genomic Heterogeneity

In the course of performing preliminary CGH experiments, we noted several soybean cultivars, including Minsoy, Archer, and Williams 82, that showed evidence of structural genomic variation among different individual plants within each cultivar (data not shown). We postulated that the regions of structural variation may have arisen by one of two mechanisms: (1) differential segregation of the parental genetic material among individuals during the breeding process, or (2) variation generated de novo by mutation and genome rearrangements, such as large deletions and DNA transposition. Importantly, these events are molecularly distinguishable. Variation based on differential segregation should be identifiable in the parental lines, while variation generated de novo would be expected to be unique to the cultivar and not preferentially shared with either parent.

To test these hypotheses and dissect the origin of the Williams 82 genomic heterogeneity, Williams 82 individuals and parental lines were genotyped using the Illumina Infinium iSelect SoySNP50 chip consisting of 44,299 informative SNPs specifically designed for soybean (Fig. 1). We isolated DNA from a single Williams 82 plant from two different seed sources and a single plant each of Williams and Kingwa, the parental lines...
for Williams 82 (Bernard and Cremeens, 1988). The two Williams 82 individuals were respectively derived from seed stocks held at Iowa State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soybean Germplasm Collection in Urbana, Illinois. These individuals were named Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01, respectively, for this analysis.

As expected, most of the Williams 82 SNPs match the Williams genotype, with several introgressions derived from Kingwa (Fig. 1). Interestingly, the regions of introgressed Kingwa haplotypes are different for the two Williams 82 individuals. Approximately 52.8 and 24.9 Mb of Kingwa appear to have been introgressed into Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01, respectively (Fig. 1; Table I).

Small, conserved Kingwa introgressions are evident in both Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 at position approximately 35 Mb on chromosome 1 and the top approximately 300 kb on chromosome 9 (Fig. 1; Table I). The remaining Kingwa introgressions, however, are polymorphic between these individuals. For example, three relatively small introgressions are present in one individual and absent in the other. Wm82-ISU-01 appears to carry an approximately 300-kb introgression at position approximately 47 Mb on chromosome 14; Wm82-SGC-01 does not (Fig. 1; Table I). Conversely, Wm82-SGC-01 appears to carry introgressions on the top approximately 1.0 Mb and approximately 1.7 Mb of chromosomes 15 and 20, respectively; Wm82-ISU-01 does not (Fig. 1; Table I).

Table I. Approximate positions of the Kingwa DNA introgression into Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chromosome</th>
<th>Start Position</th>
<th>End Position</th>
<th>Approximate Size</th>
<th>Genotype Wm82-SGC-01</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gm01</td>
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<td>35,080,457</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gm14</td>
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<td>47,475,993</td>
<td>343</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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Large, polymorphic Kingwa introgressions are evident on chromosomes 3 and 7 (for details, see Supplemental Fig. S1). These introgressions span approximately 28 and 22 Mb, respectively, on chromosomes 3 and 7. However, Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 exhibit different borders for these introgressions. The more striking example is on chromosome 3 (Fig. 1; Supplemental Fig. S1). Wm82-SGC-01 chromosome 3 carries an introgression of the Kingwa haplotype from positions approximately 2.0 to 29.6 Mb. Wm82-ISU-01 chromosome 3 carries the Kingwa haplotype from positions approximately 2.0 to 5.4 Mb; the rest of the chromosome matches the Williams parent. This indicates that Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 carry different haplotypes for approximately 24 Mb of chromosome 3, which is nearly half of the chromosome.

The large Kingwa introgression on chromosome 7 appears to have slightly different recombination points in Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 (Supplemental Fig. S1). The Wm82-SGC-01 introgression spans from approximately 16.2 to 38.0 Mb. The Wm82-ISU-01 introgression spans from approximately 16.6 to 37.1 Mb. Consequently, the Wm82-SGC-01 introgression is approximately 1.5 Mb larger than the Wm82-ISU-01 introgression.

The genomic heterogeneity observed between Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 presented an interesting new question: within the regions of heterogeneity, which haplotypes are represented by the published genome sequence (Schmutz et al., 2010)? To address this question, we compared the Williams and Kingwa SNP profiles with the published Williams 82 genome sequence (Fig. 2). The distribution of Williams and Kingwa SNPs appeared to be interspersed with one another throughout the regions of heterogeneity, indicating that these sequences are presumably assembled from a pool of heterogeneous Williams 82 individuals. Figure 2 shows the mixed parentage of SNPs along regions of chromosomes 3, 7, 14, 15, and 20. The large (approximately 4.8 Mb) Williams-Kingwa mosaic at the top of chromosome 14 (Fig. 2) was not identified as an introgressed region in either Wm82-SGC-01 or Wm82-ISU-01. All other noticeable mosaics were identified as Kingwa introgressions in either Wm82-SGC-01 and/or Wm82-ISU-01.

**Structure of Intercultivar Variation and Intracultivar Genomic Heterogeneity in Soybean**

The Williams 82 reference sequence was used to develop a NimbleGen CGH custom microarray. CGH platforms are useful for comparative studies of soybean genomes, particularly the detection of structural variation between different genotypes. Structural variants that are detected between two genomes are commonly referred to as copy number variants (CNV) and are thought to arise from differential duplication, deletion, or insertion of DNA sequences at a given locus. A subclass of CNV, termed presence/absence variants (PAV), describe sequences that are present in one genome but absent in the other (Springer et al., 2009).

Direct CGH comparisons between Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 were conducted to reveal significant CNV within regions of known genetic heterogeneity and to look for possible structural variants generated de novo within or outside of heterogeneous regions. Figure 3 shows the CNV profile of the four chromosomes with greater than 1 Mb of heterogeneous loci. Nearly all of the structural variants observed between these two genotypes occur within known regions of SNP heterogeneity; Supplemental Figure S2 shows the alignment between the region of heterogeneity and the structural variation. Only one significant CNV, on chromosome 7, was located outside of the known regions of heterogeneity (Fig. 3). It is unclear if this small CNV is associated with a small pocket of heterogeneity or was derived de novo since the split of Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01.
We proceeded to compare the genome structures of Williams and Kingwa to gauge the level of structural variation between the two parent lines. CGH comparisons of the Williams and Kingwa individuals revealed a surprisingly high amount of structural variation throughout the genomes, including instances of significant CNV on all 20 chromosomes and several conspicuous CNV hotspots (Supplemental Fig. 3). A series of hybridizations were then conducted to determine the origins of the differential CNV profiles of the Wm82 individuals. The Williams genotype was used as the common reference for hybridizations with four different Wm82 individuals: Wm82-SGC-01, Wm82-ISU-01, Wm82-MN-01, and Wm82-PU-01 (for the last two samples, DNA was isolated from a single Williams 82 plant obtained from seed lots at the University of Minnesota and Purdue University, respectively). The results of the chromosome 3 comparisons are shown in Figure 4. The Wm82-SGC-01, Wm82-ISU-01, and Wm82-MN-01 individuals all exhibited differential CNV patterning relative to one another (the Wm82-PU-01 pattern essentially matched the Wm82-SGC-01 pattern). Therefore, these three individuals each exhibit distinct chromosome 3 haplotypes. Importantly, the vast majority of significant CNV observed between Williams and the Wm82 individuals were also observed in the Williams-Kingwa comparison (Fig. 4), indicating that these CNV were directly inherited from the Kingwa introgressions and are structurally unchanged since the original introgression. There were a few regions in which the significant peaks of the Wm82 individuals were not called significant in the Williams-Kingwa comparison; however, these regions (e.g. the DownCNV at position approximately 12.5 Mb in the Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-MN-01 comparison with Williams) typically appeared to have similar structural variation patterns in the Williams-Kingwa comparison. For chromosome 3, there is little evidence for significant CNV outside of the introgressed regions or novel structural variation within the introgressed regions that are not observed in the comparison between Kingwa and Williams. Thus, the differential CNV patterning of Wm82-SGC-01, Wm82-ISU-01, and Wm82-MN-01 chromosome 3 appears to be caused by different Kingwa introgressions within these three individuals. The largest of these introgressions appears to be in the Wm82-MN-01 individual (30 Mb or more).

The Wm82-Williams CGH data for all 20 chromosomes are shown in Supplemental Figure S4. CNV within the known regions of introgression match the Kingwa-Williams patterns, as was observed on chromosome 3 (see chromosome 7 in Supplemental Fig. S4). Additionally, there are numerous significant small CNV throughout the genome that are located outside of regions of known introgressions. Several of these small CNV resemble the Kingwa-Williams CNV patterns, indicating that these may be structural variant introgressions that were not represented on the Infinium platform or were too small to be resolved by the SNP introgression analyses. However, a small number of these CNV do not match the Kingwa-Williams CNV patterns (e.g. the UpCNV peak on the end of chromosome 12 in Supplemental Fig. S4). This suggests that these features may be pockets of de novo structural variation. Alternatively, these loci may be heterogeneous within the Williams and/or Kingwa lines, such that the loci inherited by the Wm82 individuals are structurally different from the Williams and Kingwa individuals used in the CGH analyses.

Evidence for Pervasive Presence/Absence Gene Content Variation within Soybean Haplotypes

The SNP genotyping analysis resolved the parental origins of Williams 82 intracultivar heterogeneity. Furthermore, the CGH analysis revealed extensive structural variation associated with this heterogeneity. Therefore, the extensive structural variation between
Williams 82 individuals primarily represents the structural variation between the Williams and Kingwa haplotypes, which have been differentially maintained in the respective Williams 82 individuals. Next, we utilized a NimbleGen custom soybean exon-capture microarray to perform exome resequencing of the Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 individuals to molecularly validate the fine structure of this variation and investigate any impacts on gene content variation.

We aligned the exome resequencing reads with the soybean genome sequence version 4.1. The data revealed an abundance of SNPs between Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01. A total of 52,837,460 reads from Wm82-ISU-01 and 38,192,508 reads from Wm82-SGC-01 were uniquely aligned to the reference genome sequence. A total of 1,838 SNPs were found between Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 (SNPs that were heterozygous in either genotype are not included in this list). The newly discovered intracultivar SNPs were overwhelmingly located in the genomic regions defined as heterogeneous based on both the CGH and Infinium SNP analyses (Supplemental Table S1). The vast majority (approximately 94%) of the SNPs map to chromosomes 3, 7, 15, and 20. The regional distributions of these data are in agreement with the genomic heterogeneity observed between these individuals based on the Infinium SNP genotyping and CGH analyses.

We also defined the gene content variation based on the exome resequencing read counts. Specifically, we aligned the reads with the Glyma version 5.0 annotation file, which defines the exon space of the predicted soybean gene models. The vast majority of genes exhibited similar read counts between Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 (Supplemental Table S2). We classified a gene as a putative PAV if we observed a minimum of 30 counts among exons in one individual and zero counts in the other individual. We identified 25 genes that satisfied these stringent criteria (Supplemental Tables S1 and S3); only one of these genes does not reside within a known region of Williams 82 heterogeneity (Table I; Supplemental Table S3). The PAV genes were primarily located within an approximately 10-Mb region of chromosome 3 (22 of 25 genes; Supplemental Table S3). The PAV genes were discontinuously located throughout the region, alternating between present Wm82-ISU-01 and present Wm82-SGC-01 genes or gene clusters (Fig. 5). This region is noteworthy for hosting a relative abundance of Leu-rich repeat genes; approximately 23% (five of 22) of the present-absent gene models within this region were defined as Leu-rich repeat genes (Supplemental Table S3). The exome resequencing data indicate that Williams and Kingwa likely possess extensive PAV gene content variation within their chromosome 3 haplotypes, which is thereby reflected in the gene content variation of heterogeneous Williams 82 individuals.

**DISCUSSION**

**Origin of Intracultivar Genomic Heterogeneity in Williams 82**

Soybean is thought to possess relatively limited genetic diversity due to self-fertilization and successive genetic bottleneck events during the course of domestication (Hyten et al., 2006). However, soybean exhibits a wide range of phenotypic variation, including variation observed within established cultivars (Fasoula and Boerma, 2005, 2007). In this study, we used comparative genomics analyses within soybean cv Williams 82 to show substantial genetic heterogeneity between individuals that could be traced to variable Kingwa introgressions. Comparisons of individuals
from different Williams 82 seed stocks revealed genomic identity among most chromosomes, with small pockets of variation interspersed. However, certain regions, most notably chromosome 3, displayed extensive SNP and structural heterogeneity between individuals.

Williams 82 was originally released as a composite of four resistant lines selected from a Williams × Kingwa BC₆F₃ generation (Bernard and Cremeens, 1988). Kingwa was used as the donor parent to introgress *Phytophthora* root rot resistance into the recurrent parent Williams (Bernard and Cremeens, 1988). Collectively, the SNP and CGH analyses show that Williams 82 intracultivar variation is primarily derived from the segregation and fixation of residual heterozygosity in the BC₆F₂ generation of Williams × Kingwa. Therefore, the polymorphic regions observed between Williams 82 individuals may be a consequence of heterogeneity between and/or within the four lines originally selected at the BC₆F₃ stage.

A genetic model of how this may have occurred is shown in Figure 6. One can presume that several small and perhaps large Kingwa introgressions were maintained in the heterozygous state into the BC₀ generation. Thereafter, one generation of single-seed descent should have fixed approximately one-half of these loci into the homozygous stage of either Williams or Kingwa origin. However, any heterozygous loci remaining in the BC₆F₂ generation would be subject to segregation and differential fixation among the four selected BC₆F₃ lineages.

Most of the heterogeneous loci appear to be small genomic regions, with the exception of the large blocks of heterogeneity along chromosomes 3 and the conspicuous approximately 1-Mb regions on chromosomes 7 (differential introgression points; Supplemental Fig. S1), 15, and 20. Interestingly, the *Rps₁₅* locus, which confers the *Phytophthora* root rot resistance, is located approximately at position 4 Mb on chromosome 3 (Gao and Bhattacharyya, 2008). This position is conserved among the Wm82 individuals, as they carry the Kingwa version of this locus. However, this region is adjacent to the strongest region of structural variation (including profound CNV clusters and gene content variation) in the Wm82/Wm82 comparisons. During the series of six back-crosses, the *Rps₁₅* locus was necessarily recovered in the heterozygous condition in every generation. Our data indicate that the *Rps₁₅* locus remained linked to a large (greater than 30 Mb) genomic region derived from Kingwa, possibly into the BC₆F₂ generation. Our data suggest that this large Kingwa-derived region recombined and segregated either among the four BC₆F₃ individuals or in subsequent generations prior to homozygous fixation within each line. This region appears to have recombined into at least three different forms among Williams 82 samples, as Wm82-SGC-01, Wm82-ISU-01, and Wm82-MN-01 all maintain different forms of this chromosome (Fig. 4). It is unknown how many different forms of chromosome 3 (and 7) might be extant in the various stocks of Williams 82 and its derived cultivars, as this has been a popular line utilized in breeding programs (Mikel et al., 2010).

**Selection and Intracultivar Heterogeneity**

Soybean breeding does not currently utilize a reliable haploid induction system (Ravi and Chan, 2010); therefore, breeding is primarily accomplished by single-seed descent or back-cross strategies. These breeding methods impose selection on plants that maintain variable levels of heterozygosity during the early
generations of the breeding cycle. Following the single-seed descent generations, heterozygous loci may segregate, resulting in genetic heterogeneity within a released accession (Fig. 6). Heterozygous loci may be preferentially maintained during the early rounds of breeder selection, as individuals with higher rates of heterozygosity may exhibit greater yields or other advantageous traits due to heterosis (Birchler et al., 2010). Genetic theory predicts, on average, a halving of heterozygosity during the backcross or single-seed descent generations. However, it remains an intriguing question whether introgressed loci are typically retained at higher than expected rates during traditional soybean back-cross breeding.

Implications for Soybean Comparative Genomics

The high rates of intracultivar structural variation observed within the Williams 82 regions of heterogeneity are primarily a consequence of structural variation between the Williams and Kingwa parental lines (Fig. 4; Supplemental Fig. S4). Presumably, the gene content variation within these regions is also directly inherited from these parental lines.

The relatively high levels of structural variation within regions of Williams 82 heterogeneity appear to be somewhat representative of the genome-wide structural variation observed between the Williams and Kingwa parents (Supplemental Fig. S3). The Williams-Kingwa CGH comparison indicates that there may be a great deal of genomic variation between soybean lines, more so than is generally assumed. Moreover, this variation may include substantial differences in gene structure and gene content, as was observed in the gene presence/absence variation analysis of the exome re-sequencing data in this study.

In addition to the 25 genes we defined as PAV in this analysis, there were also several genes that were nearly called PAV. In these cases, one Williams 82 individual exhibited an abundance of read counts while the other individual exhibited trace levels of read counts. Seven such genes, each exhibiting greater than 95% of their reads from either Wm82-SGC-01 or Wm82-ISU-01, are observed in Figure 5. The trace read counts could be explained by technical or biological causes, including
Implications for the Williams 82 Genome Sequence

The vast majority of the Williams 82 genome appears to be homogeneous among different Williams 82 individuals and subpopulations. However, a comparison of the Williams and Kingwa SNP genotypes with the reference soybean genome sequence (Schmutz et al., 2010) revealed a surprising result: within regions of genetic heterogeneity, the reference sequences consist of a mosaic of the Williams and Kingwa haplotypes. We assume that no Williams 82 individual plant will match the soybean reference genome sequence throughout these regions of heterogeneity. Therefore, researchers investigating comparative studies of soybean that include Williams 82 as a reference genotype must factor in the inherent differences between each Wm82 individual and the reference genome sequence.

For example, the CGH tiling microarray used in this study was designed based on the reference genome sequence. Ideally, one would hope to identify a Wm82 individual that is a perfect match to the soybean genome sequence; such an individual would be useful as a common reference in CGH experiments. If this were the case, the interpretation of UpCNV and DownCNV would be relatively straightforward: UpCNV peaks would indicate increased copy number relative to Williams 82, and DownCNV peaks would indicate an absent or polymorphic sequence relative to Williams 82. Applying a reference Wm82 individual that is polymorphic to the CGH microarray is a slightly different matter: the interpretation of UpCNV and DownCNV will be the same as described above for chromosomal regions that are not heterogeneous between the genome sequence and the Wm82 individual (this, fortunately, is the case for the majority of the genome sequence). However, within the regions of known heterogeneity, UpCNV would now have to be interpreted as either an increased copy number relative to Williams 82 or sequences that are absent in the particular Wm82 individual that was used as a reference for the given experiment. We imagine that similar considerations will need to be made for a variety of comparative methodologies and platforms (e.g. interpretations of RNA-Seq data, analysis of the Affymetrix soybean GeneChip, etc.), including phenotypic characters in which Williams 82 serves as the experimental control.

Similar circumstances may apply to the utility of other plant genome sequences. Several presumably homogenous accessions were used as the DNA source for the genome sequences of Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis Genome Initiative, 2000), rice (International Rice Genome Sequencing Project, 2005), maize (Schnable et al., 2009), and other species. To our knowledge, it is not known if there is persistent genetic heterogeneity within the respective sequenced accessions, nor is it known whether a single individual or a pool of heterogeneous individuals was used to construct the sequence assemblies for each species. Nevertheless, for future genome sequencing projects, it would be advisable to sequence the genome of a single individual (perhaps a double haploid individual when possible). It would also be preferable that seeds or clones from the reference individual be stored in a repository, so that they could be used in future experiments and analyses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Material and Nucleic Acid Extraction

Seed for soybean (Glycine max ‘Williams 82’) was obtained from the laboratories of Dr. James Orf at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Randy Shoemaker at Iowa State University, Dr. Scott Jackson at Purdue University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soybean Germplasm Collection in Urbana, Illinois. Seed for cv Williams and Kingwa was obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soybean Germplasm Collection.

Seeds were planted in individual four-inch pots containing a 50:50 mix of sterilized soil and Metro Mix. Growth chambers contained a mixture of fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs set to 16 h of light per day. Young trifoliate leaves from 3-week-old plants were harvested and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen. Frozen leaf tissue was ground with a mortar and pestle with liquid nitrogen. DNA was extracted from approximately 100 mg of powdered tissue using the Qiagen Plant DNaseasy Mini Kit according to the manufacturer’s protocol (including an RNase degradation step). DNA was quantified on a NanoDrop spectrophotometer.

Illumina Infinium Genotyping

The Illumina Infinium iSelect SoySNP50 chip (Q. Song, C.V. Quigley, G. Jia, P.B. Cregan, and D.L. Hyten, unpublished data) was used to obtain genotyp-
DNA was labeled with either Cy3- or Cy5-labeled random nonamers via expression Omnibus (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo) under accession submitted to the National Center for Biotechnology Information Gene Expression Omnibus. Unique probes of varying lengths (maximum 75 bp, minimum 50 bp, median 55 bp) were designed based on the soybean genome version 4.0 assembly (Schmutz et al., 2010). Probes were spaced at a median interval length of 1,120 bp across the entire anchored genome. This array may be ordered from Roche NimbleGen by requesting the design 091113_Gmax_RS_CGH_HX3.

Total genomic DNA (isolated as described above) was labeled according to the Roche NimbleGen CGH User’s Guide (version 5.1). Briefly, 1 μg of genomic DNA was labeled with either Cy3- or Cy5-labeled random nonamers via incubation with exo-Klenow enzyme and 10 μM deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs; 0.4 mM each total volume) at 37°C for 2 h. Labeling reactions were stopped with the addition of 10 μL of 0.5× EDTA and 11.5 μL of 5× NaCl. DNA was precipitated with 0.9 volumes of isopropanol, washed with 500 μL of ice-cold 80% ethanol, and dried in an Eppendorf Vacufuge on low heat for 5 to 10 min. The labeled resamples were resuspended in 25 μL of nuclease-free water and quantified on a NanoDrop spectrophotometer. Thirty-one micrograms of the labeled DNA were combined in a 1.5-mL tube and dried in a Centri-Vac. Samples were resuspended in 5.6 μL of sample tracking control and 14.4 μL of hybridization solution supplied by Roche NimbleGen. Samples were heat denatured at 95°C for 5 min, followed by incubation at 42°C for at least 5 min prior to loading. Samples were hybridized to the arrays for 60 to 72h at 42°C with mixing. Microarrays were washed with Roche NimbleGen wash buffers and dried by centrifugation. Arrays were scanned with a GenePix4000B scanner (Axon Instruments) at 5-μm resolution. Automated image gridding, alignment, and data extraction were performed using NimbleScan software version 2.5.

For each CGH comparison, the segMNT algorithm in the NimbleScan software (version 2.5) was used to extract the raw data and make segmentations. The parameters of the algorithm were as follows: minimum segment difference = 0.1, minimum segment length (number of probes) = 2, acceptance percentile = 0.09, number of permutations = 10, nonunique probes were included, and spatial correction and optical normalization were applied. The list of resulting segments was then processed to identify significant segments. A segment was called significant if the log ratio mean of the probes within the segment was above the upper threshold or below the lower threshold for that given array comparison. The upper threshold for each comparison was determined to be the log ratio value of the 95th percentile of all data points and the lower threshold for each comparison was determined to be the log ratio value of the 5th percentile of all data points. Visual displays of the CGH data were generated using Spotfire DecisionSite software.

The comparative genomic hybridization data from this study have been submitted to the National Center for Biotechnology Information Gene Expression Omnibus (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo) under accession number GSE25294.

Exome Resequencing and Analyses

Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 genomic DNA samples were isolated using the Qiagen Plant DNeasy system. Illumina Paired End libraries (Illumina) were constructed for Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 using Illumina’s PE Kit (part no. PE-102-1001). The mean library fragment size was found to be 328 bp. The details of library preparation and prehybridization amplification are provided in Supplemental Materials and Methods S1.

A custom microarray was built for soybean exome sequence capture based on the soybean gene annotation (ftp://ftp.igp-psf.org/pub/JGI_data/phytome/v4.0/Gmax/annotation/initialRelease/Glyma1.gtf.gz). This array may be ordered from Roche NimbleGen by requesting design 100310_Gmax_public_exon_cap_HX3. The details of the microarray design are included in Supplemental Materials and Methods S1. The library exon sequences were captured by hybridizing to the microarray for 72 h at 42°C in the presence of 20 μL of plant capture enhancer per subarray. Slide washing and sample library elution were performed as published previously (Fu et al., 2010). Posthybridization amplification consisted of 16 cycles of PCR. Following the completion of the amplification reaction, the samples were purified using a Qiagen Qiaquick column using the manufacturer’s recommended protocol, and the DNA was quantified spectrophotometrically using the NanoDrop-1000 and electrophoretically evaluated with an Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100 using a DNA1000 chip. The resulting postcapture enriched sequencing libraries were diluted to 10 nM and used in cluster formation on an Illumina cBot, and paired-end sequencing was done using Illumina’s Genome Analyzer IIx. Both cluster formation and 76-bp paired-end sequencing were performed using the Illumina protocols. The full methodology of library capture, capture array processing, posthybridization amplification, and sequencing are described in Supplemental Materials and Methods S1.

Software SOAP2 (Li et al., 2009b) and SOAPsnp (Li et al., 2009a) were used for SNP discovery between the Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 exom reads. A customized pipeline was developed for this analysis (Severin et al., 2010). Briefly, a total of 56,010,828 76-base read sequences of Wm82-ISU-01 and 40,599,044 reads of Wm82-SGC-01 from Illumina Solexa sequencing were aligned to the soybean genome sequence version 4.1 (Gmax.main_genome.scaffolds assembly; http://ftp.igp-psf.org/pub/JGI_data/phytome/v4.1/Gmax/assembly/sequences/) using SOAP2. The paired alignment was set to a maximum mismatch of two, and only the unique alignment hits were selected. After importing these filters, 52,837,460 reads from Wm82-ISU-01 and 38,192,508 reads from Wm82-SGC-01 were uniquely aligned to the reference genome sequence. The alignments were screened for SNPs by SOAPsnp analyses; we only screened for SNPs that were homozygous in both genotypes. Potential SNPs were selected using a minimum base-call quality of 10, average quality of 20, and minimum best hits of four. The SNP was not allowed to be an ambiguous base (e.g. SNP ≠ “N”). We used the exome resequencing data to identify gene content variation between Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 based on read counts. The Glyma version 5.0 annotation file, Glyma1.highConfidence.gff3 (February 8, 2010), was used for exon annotations. A perl script was designed to count the number of paired-end reads that mapped to each exon. To identify genes that are present in one Williams 82 line and absent in the other (present-absent genes), we first summed the number of reads among exons for each Glyma gene. Genes were categorized as “present-absent” if they had a minimum of 30 reads in one genotype and zero in the other.

Supplemental Data

The following materials are available in the online version of this article.

Supplemental Figure S1. SNP genotyping reveals the fine structure of differential Kingwa introgression in Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 on chromosomes 3 (A) and 7 (B).

Supplemental Figure S2. Structural variation between Wm82-SGC-01 and Wm82-ISU-01 corresponds to regions of heterogeneity.

Supplemental Figure S3. Genome-wide CGH analysis reveals extensive copy number variations between the Kingwa and Williams genotypes.

Supplemental Figure S4. Structural variation between different Wm82 individuals and Williams.

Supplemental Table S1. Chromosomal abundance of nucleotide and gene content variants between Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 based on exome resequencing.

Supplemental Table S2. Resequecing read counts following exome capture for 43,442 Glyma gene models.

Supplemental Table S3. Presence-absence genes between Wm82-ISU-01 and Wm82-SGC-01 based on exon resequencing counts.

Supplemental Materials and Methods S1. A detailed description of the exome resequencing methods.

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