Working with large arrays in R
A look at HDF5Array/RleArray/DelayedArray objects

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DelayedArray/HDF5Array: Future developments
**Motivation and challenges**

R ordinary **matrix** or **array** is not suitable for big datasets:

- 10x Genomics dataset (single cell experiment): 30,000 genes x 1.3 million cells = 36.5 billion values
- in an ordinary integer matrix ==> 136G in memory!

Need for alternative containers:

- but at the same time, the object should be (almost) as easy to manipulate as an ordinary matrix or array
- **standard R matrix/array API**: `dim`, `dimnames`, `t`, `is.na`, `==`, `+`, `log`, `cbind`, `max`, `sum`, `colSums`, etc...
- not limited to 2 dimensions ==> also support arrays of arbitrary number of dimensions

2 approaches: **in-memory data** vs **on-disk data**
Motivation and challenges

In-memory data

- a 30k x 1.3M matrix might still fit in memory if the data can be efficiently compressed
- example: sparse data (small percentage of nonzero values) $\implies$ sparse representation (storage of nonzero values only)
- example: data with long runs of identical values $\implies$ RLE compression (Run Length Encoding)
- choose the smallest type to store the values: raw (1 byte) $<$ integer (4 bytes) $<$ double (8 bytes)
- if using RLE compression:
  - choose the best orientation to store the values: by row or by column (one might give better compression than the other)
  - store the data by chunk $\implies$ opportunity to pick up best type and best orientation on a chunk basis (instead of for the whole data)
- size of 30k x 1.3M matrix in memory can be reduced from 136G to 16G!
Motivation and challenges

Examples of in-memory containers

**dgCMatrix** container from the *Matrix* package:

- sparse matrix representation
- nonzero values stored as `double`

**RleArray** and **RleMatrix** containers from the *DelayedArray* package:

- use RLE compression
- arbitrary number of dimensions
- type of values: any R atomic type (integer, double, logical, complex, character, and raw)

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On-disk data

However...

- if data is too big to fit in memory (even after compression) => must use on-disk representation
- challenge: should still be (almost) as easy to manipulate as an ordinary matrix! (standard R matrix/array API)
Motivation and challenges

Examples of on-disk containers

Direct manipulation of an HDF5 dataset via the `rhdf5` API. Low level API!

HDF5Array and HDF5Matrix containers from the `HDF5Array` package:

Provide access to the HDF5 dataset via an API that mimics the standard R matrix/array API
Motivation and challenges

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RleArray and HDF5Array objects

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DelayedArray/HDF5Array: Future developments
The "airway" dataset

```r
library(airway)
data(airway)
m <- unname(assay(airway))
dim(m)
## [1] 63677 8
typeof(m)
## [1] "integer"
head(m, n=4)
## [1,]  679  448  873  408 1138 1047  770  572
## [2,]    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0
## [3,]  467  515  621  365  587  799  417  508
## [4,]  260  211  263  164  245  331  233  229
tail(m, n=4)
## [63674,]  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0
## [63675,]  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0
## [63676,]  0  0  1  0  0  0  0  0
## [63677,]  0  0  0  1  0  0  0  0
sum(m != 0) / length(m)
## [1] 0.3889591
```
Memory footprint

dgCMatrix vs RleMatrix vs HDF5Matrix

```r
library(lobstr)  # for obj_size()
obj_size(m)
## 2.04 MB

library(Matrix)
obj_size(as(m, "dgCMatrix"))
## 2.38 MB

library(DelayedArray)
obj_size(as(m, "RleMatrix"))
## 2.22 MB

obj_size(as(t(m), "RleMatrix"))
## 1.74 MB

library(HDF5Array)
obj_size(as(m, "HDF5Matrix"))
## 2.40 kB
```
Memory footprint

Some limitations of the sparse matrix implementation in the *Matrix* package:

- nonzero values always stored as `double`, the most memory consuming type
- number of nonzero values must be $< 2^{31}$
- limited to 2 dimensions: no support for arrays of arbitrary number of dimensions
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RleMatrix/RleArray and HDF5Matrix/HDF5Array provide:

- support all R atomic types
- no limits in size (but each dimension must be $< 2^{31}$)
- arbitrary number of dimensions

And also:

- delayed operations
- block processing (behind the scene)
- TODO: multicore block processing (sequential only at the moment)
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

Delayed operations

We start with HDF5Matrix object \( M \):

```r
M <- as(m, "HDF5Matrix")
M
```

## 63677 x 8 HDF5Matrix object of type "integer":
## [1,] 679 448 873 408 1138 1047 770 572
## [2,] 0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0
## [3,] 467 515 621 365 587 799 417 508
## [4,] 260 211 263 164 245 331 233 229
## [5,] 60 55 40 35 78 63 76 60
## ... . . . . . . . .
## [63673,] 0  0  0  1  0  1  0  0
## [63674,] 0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0
## [63675,] 0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0
## [63676,] 0  0  1  0  0  0  0  0
## [63677,] 0  0  0  0  1  0  0  0
```
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

Subsetting is delayed:

```r
M2 <- M[10:12, 1:5]
M2
## <3 x 5> DelayedMatrix object of type "integer":
## [1,]  394  236  464  175  658
## [2,]  172  168  264  118  241
## [3,] 2112 1867  5137 2657 2735
seed(M2)
## An object of class "HDF5ArraySeed"
## Slot "filepath":
## [1] "/tmp/RtmpIuTb9O/HDF5Array_dump/auto2c4b5b19ae12da.h5"
## Slot "name":
## [1] "/HDF5ArrayAUTO00002"
## Slot "as_sparse":
## [1] FALSE
## Slot "type":
## [1] NA
## Slot "dim":
## [1] 63677   8
## Slot "chunkdim":
## [1] 63677   8
## Slot "first_val":
## [1] 679
```
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

Transposition is delayed:

M3 <- t(M2)
M3

seed(M3)

## <5 x 3> DelayedMatrix object of type "integer":
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,]  394  172  2112
## [2,]  236  168  1867
## [3,]  464  264  5137
## [4,]  175  118  2657
## [5,]  658  241  2735

## An object of class "HDF5ArraySeed"
## Slot "filepath":
## [1] "/tmp/RtmpIuTb9O/HDF5Array_dump/auto2c4b5b19ae12da.h5"
## Slot "name":
## [1] "/HDF5ArrayAUTO00002"
## Slot "as_sparse":
## [1] FALSE
## Slot "type":
## [1] NA
## Slot "dim":
## [1] 63677  8
## Slot "chunkdim":
## [1] 63677  8
## Slot "first_val":
## [1] 679
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

cbind() / rbind() are delayed:

```r
M4 <- cbind(M3, M[1:5, 6:8])
M4
## <5 x 6> DelayedMatrix object of type "integer":
## [1,] 394 172 2112 1047 770 572
## [2,] 236 168 1867 0 0 0
## [3,] 464 264 5137 799 417 508
## [4,] 175 118 2657 331 233 229
## [5,] 658 241 2735 63 76 60

seed(M4)  # Error! (more than one seed)
```
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

All the operations in the following groups are delayed:

- Arith (+, -, ...)
- Compare (==, <, ...)
- Logic (&, |)
- Math (log, sqrt)
- and more ...

M5 <- M == 0

M5

```
# <63677 x 8> DelayedMatrix object of type "logical":
#   [,1] [,2] [,3] ... [,7] [,8]
#  [1,] FALSE FALSE FALSE . FALSE FALSE
#  [2,] TRUE TRUE TRUE . TRUE TRUE
#  [3,] FALSE FALSE FALSE . FALSE FALSE
#  [4,] FALSE FALSE FALSE . FALSE FALSE
#  [5,] FALSE FALSE FALSE . FALSE FALSE
#  ... . . . . . .
#  [63673,] TRUE TRUE TRUE . TRUE TRUE
#  [63674,] TRUE TRUE TRUE . TRUE TRUE
#  [63675,] TRUE TRUE TRUE . TRUE TRUE
#  [63676,] TRUE TRUE FALSE . TRUE TRUE
#  [63677,] TRUE TRUE TRUE . TRUE TRUE
```

seed(M5)

```
## An object of class "HDF5ArraySeed"
## Slot "filepath":
## [1] "/tmp/RtmpIuTb9O/HDF5Array_dump/auto2c4b5b19ae12da.h5"
## Slot "name":
## [1] "/HDF5ArrayAUTO00002"
## Slot "as_sparse":
## [1] FALSE
## Slot "type":
## [1] NA
## Slot "dim":
## [1] 63677 8
## Slot "chunkdim":
## [1] 63677 8
## Slot "first_val":
## [1] 679
```
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

```r
M6 <- round(M[11:14, ] / M[1:4, ], digits=3)
M6

## <4 x 8> DelayedMatrix object of type "double":
## [1,] 0.253 0.375 0.302 . 0.201 0.309
## [2,] Inf Inf Inf . Inf Inf
## [3,] 1.122 0.948 1.027 . 1.182 0.935
## [4,] 0.273 0.242 0.802 . 0.575 0.751
```

```r
seed(M6)  # Error! (more than one seed)
```
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

Realization

Delayed operations can be realized by coercing the DelayedMatrix object to HDF5Array:

```r
M6a <- as(M6, "HDF5Array")
M6a
## <4 x 8> HDF5Matrix object of type "double":
## [1,] 0.253 0.375 0.302 . 0.201 0.309
## [2,] Inf Inf Inf . Inf Inf
## [3,] 1.122 0.948 1.027 . 1.182 0.935
## [4,] 0.273 0.242 0.802 . 0.575 0.751
```

```r
seed(M6a)
## An object of class "HDF5ArraySeed"
## Slot "filepath":
## [1] "/tmp/RtmpIuTb9O/HDF5Array_dump/auto2c4b5b29d252ff.h5"
##
## Slot "name":
## [1] "/HDF5ArrayAUTO00003"
##
## Slot "as_sparse":
## [1] FALSE
##
## Slot "type":
## [1] NA
##
## Slot "dim":
## [1] 4 8
##
## Slot "chunkdim":
## [1] 4 8
##
## Slot "first_val":
## [1] 0.253
```
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

... or by coercing it to RleArray:

```r
M6b <- as(M6, "RleArray")
M6b
```

```r
## <4 x 8> RleMatrix object of type "double":
## [1,] 0.253 0.375 0.302 . 0.201 0.309
## [2,] Inf Inf Inf . Inf Inf
## [3,] 1.122 0.948 1.027 . 1.182 0.935
## [4,] 0.273 0.242 0.802 . 0.575 0.751
```

```r
seed(M6b)
```

```r
## An object of class "ChunkedRleArraySeed"
## Slot "breakpoints":
## [1] 32
## Slot "type":
## [1] "double"
## Slot "chunks":
## <environment: 0x56185ed58338>
## Slot "DIM":
## [1] 4 8
## Slot "DIMNAMES":
## [[1]]
## NULL
## [[2]]
## NULL
```
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

Controlling where HDF5 datasets are realized

*HDF5 dump management utilities:* a set of utilities to control where HDF5 datasets are written to disk.

```r
hdf5_dumpfile <- file.path(mydata_dir, "M6c.h5")
setHDF5DumpFile(hdf5_dumpfile)
setHDF5DumpName("M6c")
M6c <- as(M6, "HDF5Array")
seed(M6c)
## An object of class "HDF5ArraySeed"
## Slot "filepath":
## [1] "/tmp/RtmpIuTb9O/mydata/M6c.h5"
## Slot "name":
## [1] "/M6c"
## Slot "as_sparse":
## [1] FALSE
## Slot "type":
## [1] NA
## Slot "dim":
## [1] 4 8
## Slot "chunkdim":
## [1] 4 8
## Slot "first_val":
## [1] 0.253
h5ls(hdf5_dumpfile)
## group name otype dclass dim
## 0 / M6c H5I_DATASET FLOAT 4 x 8
```
showHDF5DumpLog()
Block processing

The following operations are NOT delayed. They are implemented via a *block processing* mechanism that loads and processes one block at a time:

- operations in the Summary group (max, min, sum, any, all)
- mean
- Matrix row/col summarization operations (col/rowSums, col/rowMeans, ...)
- anyNA, which
- apply
- and more ...
RleArray and HDF5Array objects

DelayedArray:::set_verbose_block_processing(TRUE)

```
## [1] FALSE
```

colSums(M)

```
## === START walking on vertical strip 1/1 ===
## | processing <63677 x 8> block from grid position [[1/1, 1/1]] ... ok
## === DONE walking on vertical strip 1/1 ===

## [1] 20637971 18809481 25348649 15163415 24448408 30818215 19126151 21164133
```

Control the block size:

getAutoBlockSize()

```
## [1] 1e+08
```

setAutoBlockSize(1e6)

```
## automatic block size set to 1e+06 bytes (was 1e+08)
```

colSums(M)

```
## === START walking on vertical strip 1/1 ===
## | processing <63677 x 8> block from grid position [[1/1, 1/1]] ... ok
## === DONE walking on vertical strip 1/1 ===

## [1] 20637971 18809481 25348649 15163415 24448408 30818215 19126151 21164133
```
Motivation and challenges

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RleArray and HDF5Array objects

Hands-on

DelayedArray/HDF5Array: Future developments
1. Load the "airway" dataset.

2. It’s wrapped in a SummarizedExperiment object. Get the count data as an ordinary matrix.

3. Wrap it in an HDF5Matrix object: (1) using writeHDF5Array(); then (2) using coercion.

4. When using coercion, where has the data been written on disk?

5. See ?setHDF5DumpFile for how to control the location of "automatic" HDF5 datasets. Try to control the destination of the data when coercing.
6. Use `showHDF5DumpLog()` to see all the HDF5 datasets written to disk during the current session.

7. Try some operations on the HDF5Matrix object: (1) some delayed ones; (2) some non-delayed ones (block processing).

8. Use `DelayedArray:::set_verbose_block_processing(TRUE)` to see block processing in action.

9. Control the block size with `setAutoBlockSize()`.
10. Stick the HDF5Matrix object back in the SummarizedExperiment object. The resulting object is an "HDF5-backed SummarizedExperiment object".

11. The HDF5-backed SummarizedExperiment object can be manipulated (almost) like an in-memory SummarizedExperiment object. Try [, cbind, rbind on it.

12. The SummarizedExperiment package provides saveHDF5SummarizedExperiment to save a SummarizedExperiment object (HDF5-backed or not) as an HDF5-backed SummarizedExperiment object. Try it.
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DelayedArray/HDF5Array: Future developments
Future developments

Block processing improvements

Block genometry: (1) better by default, (2) let the user have more control on it

Support multicore

Expose it: blockApply()
Future developments

HDF5Array improvements

Store the dimnames in the HDF5 file (in *HDF5 Dimension Scale datasets* - https://www.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/Tutor/h5dimscale.html)

Use better automatic chunk geometry when realizing an HDF5Array object

Block processing should take advantage of the chunk geometry (e.g. `realize()` should use blocks that are clusters of chunks)

Unfortunately: not possible to support multicore realization at the moment (HDF5 does not support concurrent writing to a dataset yet)
Future developments

**RleArray improvements**

- Let the user have more control on the chunk geometry when constructing/realizing an RleArray object
- Like for HDF5Array objects, block processing should take advantage of the chunk geometry
- Support multicore realization
- Provide C/C++ low-level API for direct row/column access from C/C++ code (e.g. from the beachmat package)