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### ABSTRACT

A complete genetic linkage map of the soybean, in which sequence-based (SB) genetic markers are evenly distributed genomewide, was constructed from an  $F_{12}$  population composed of 113 recombinant inbred lines derived from an interspecific cross involving Korean genotypes Hwangkeum and IT182932. Several approaches were employed for the development of 112 novel SB markers targeting both the gaps and the ends of the linkage groups (LGs). The resultant map harbored 20 well-resolved LGs presumed to correspond to the 20 pairs of soybean chromosomes. The map allowed us to identify the important chromosomal structures that were not observed in the integrated genetic maps, to identify the new potentially gene-rich regions, to detect segregation distortion regions within the whole genome, and to extend the ends of the LGs. The results will facilitate the further discovery of agronomically relevant genetic loci in the heretofore neglected chromosomal regions and should also provide some important links between the soybean genetic, physical, and genome sequence maps in the regions.

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Molecular genetic linkage maps provide effective tools for positioning genes and other sequence features on a genome. Such genetic mapping techniques require sizeable sets of genetic markers that are polymorphic between individuals or populations and that, for correct and thorough positionings, those markers also be evenly distributed on a genomewide scale. Recently, many genetic maps in which molecular markers are distributed genomewide without notable gaps have been constructed from an interesting mapping population for the genetic analyses of many major crop species and model plants [1]. However, the construction of such a genetic map remains difficult for the soybean, one of the principal crops cultivated worldwide, owing primarily to the relatively high chromosome number in the soybean genome, as well as its ancient polyploidy nature [2,3]. The soybean has a moderately sized genome of approximately 1100 Mb [4], which is packaged into 20 chromosome pairs [5].

Initial genomewide soybean genetic linkage maps of the molecular markers have been developed primarily on the basis of the analysis of anonymous sequence polymorphisms [e.g., restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), amplified fragment length polymorphism, and

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random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD)] [6–12]. All these genetic maps, which are based on a single mapping population, consisted of more than 20 linkage groups (LGs), together with many unlinked markers. The first genomewide map consisting of 20 homologous LGs corresponding to the 20 observed chromosomal pairs was achieved from the alignment of 20+ LGs derived from each of three mapping populations [13]. The consensus (or integrated) map was based on the presence of common simple sequence repeat (SSR) loci across the maps. Unlike RFLP markers, which usually detect more than 2 loci in the soybean [14], the SSR markers employed therein map to 1 locus and are multiallelic in the majority of cases. An additional 420 SSRs were mapped in the initial three populations, as well as in two additional soybean mapping populations [15]. JoinMap software [16,17] was employed to combine the five maps into an integrated genetic map encompassing 2523.6 cM of Kosambi map distance across 20 LGs. The map harbored 1849 markers but included more than 10 intervals of at least 20 cM. During the course of this study, an additional 1141 singlenucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers were also mapped [18]. The SNP markers were mapped into three populations, including the two employed in the creation of the 2004 integrated linkage map, and then combined into an integrated transcript map. The SNP markers filled many gaps in the 2004 integrated map. However, the map harbored several sequence-based (SB) marker-rare regions over a range in excess of 20 to 30 cM, which harbored clusters of RFLP markers. Taken together, a complete genetic map derived from a single population,



<sup>☆</sup> Sequence data from this article have been deposited with the GenBank Data Library under Accession Nos. EU036295–EU036420, ER935500–ER935540, and ET438050–ET438051.

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