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# Advanced Sequencing Technologies & Applications

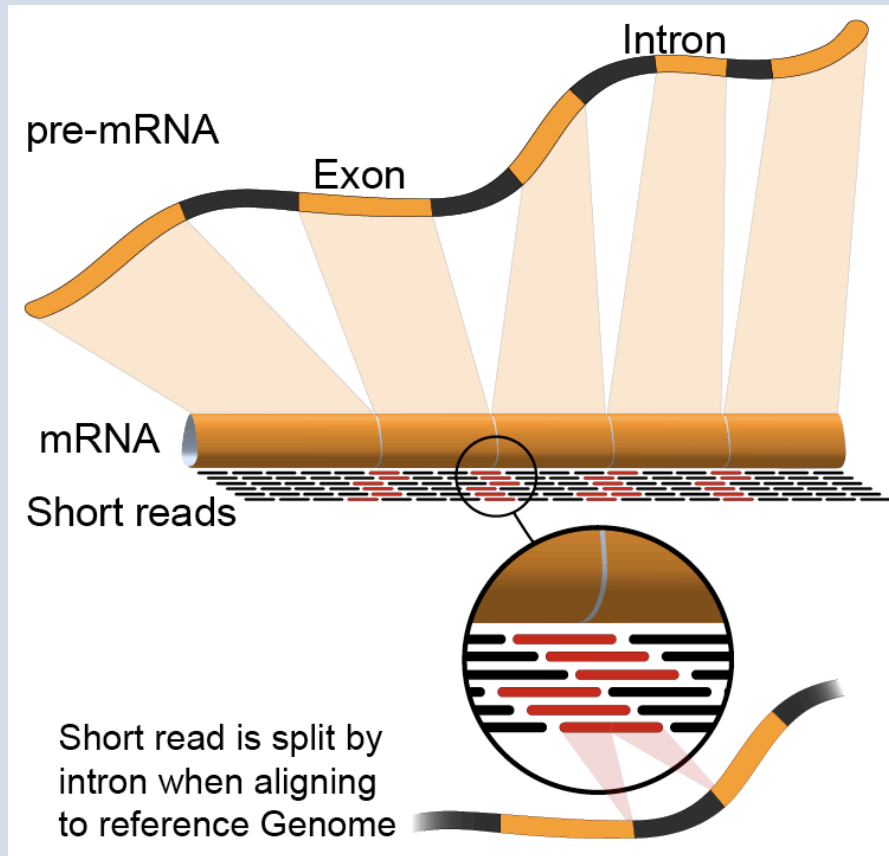
<http://meetings.cshl.edu/courses.html>



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## RNA-Seq Module 2 Alignment and Visualization (lecture)

Malachi Griffith, Obi Griffith, Jason Walker  
Advanced Sequencing Technologies & Applications  
November 10 - 22, 2015



# Learning objectives of the course

- Module 1: Introduction to RNA Sequencing
- **Module 2: Alignment and Visualization**
- Module 3: Expression and Differential Expression
- Module 4: Isoform Discovery and Alternative Expression
  
- Tutorials
  - Provide a working example of an RNA-seq analysis pipeline
  - Run in a ‘reasonable’ amount of time with modest computer resources
  - Self contained, self explanatory, portable

# Learning Objectives of Module

- RNA-seq alignment challenges and common questions
- Alignment strategies
- Bowtie/TopHat
- Introduction to the BAM and BED formats
- Basic manipulation of BAMs
- Visualization of RNA-seq alignments in IGV
- Alignment QC Assessment
- BAM read counting and determination of variant allele expression status

# RNA-seq alignment challenges

- Computational cost
  - 100's of millions of reads
- Introns!
  - Spliced vs. unspliced alignments
- Can I just align my data once using one approach and be done with it?
  - Unfortunately probably not
- Is TopHat the only mapper to consider for RNA-seq data?
  - <http://www.biostars.org/p/60478/>

# Three RNA-seq mapping strategies

## De novo assembly

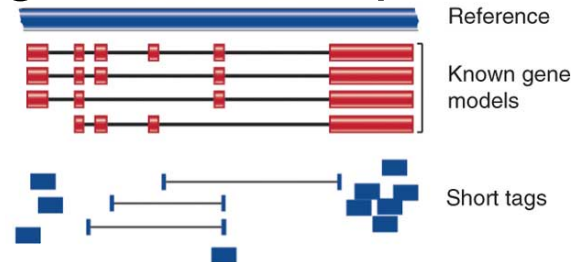


Assemble transcripts from overlapping tags



Optional: align to genome to get exon structure

## Align to transcriptome



Use known and/or predicted gene models to examine individual features

## Align to reference genome



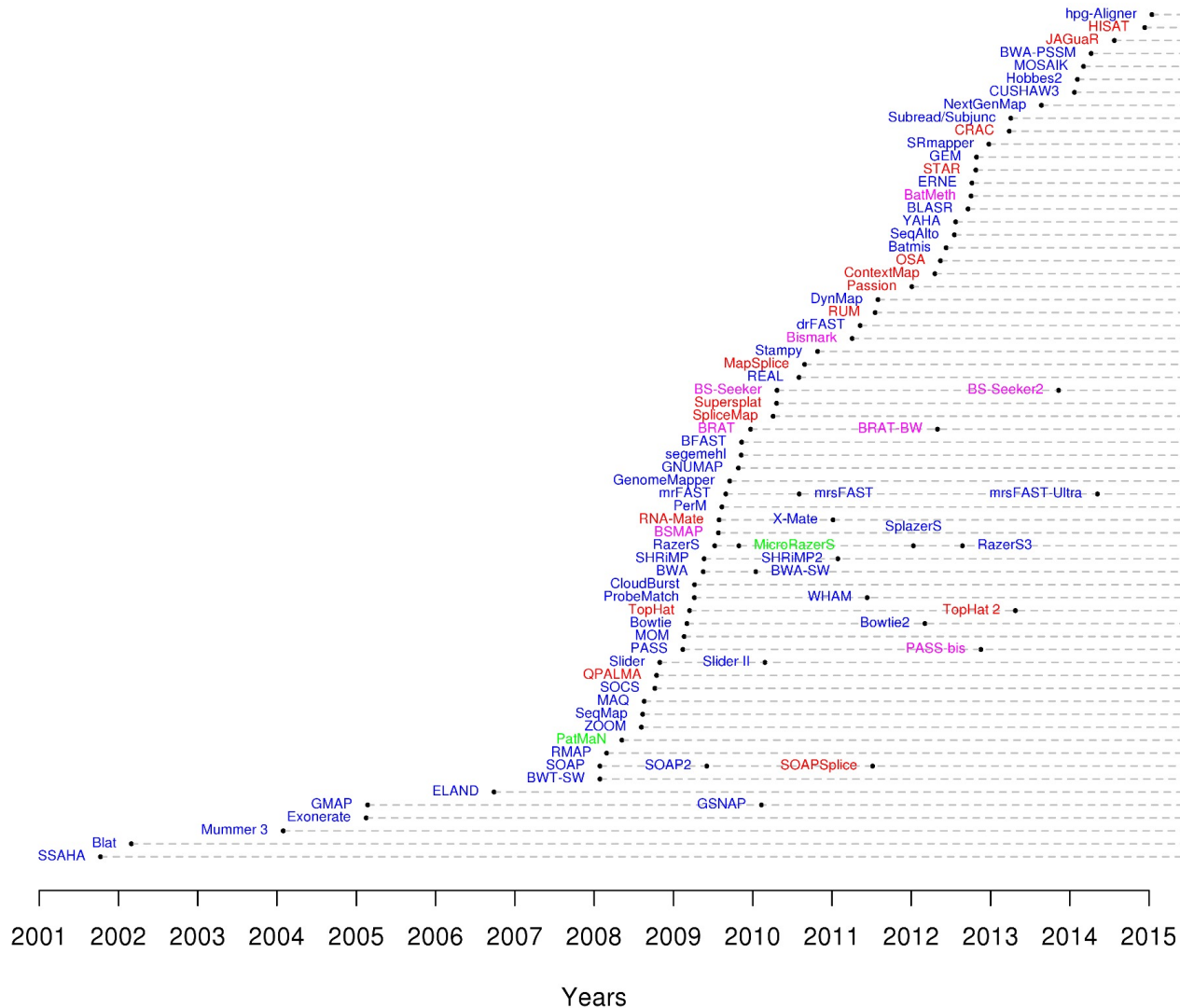
Infer possible transcripts and abundance

Diagrams from Cloonan & Grimmond, Nature Methods 2010

# Which alignment strategy is best?

- De novo assembly
  - If a reference genome does not exist for the species being studied
  - If complex polymorphisms/mutations/haplotypes might be missed by comparing to the reference genome
- Align to transcriptome
  - If you have short reads (< 50bp)
- Align to reference genome
  - All other cases
- Each strategy involves different alignment/assembly tools

# Which read aligner should I use?



RNA  
Bisulfite  
DNA  
microRNA

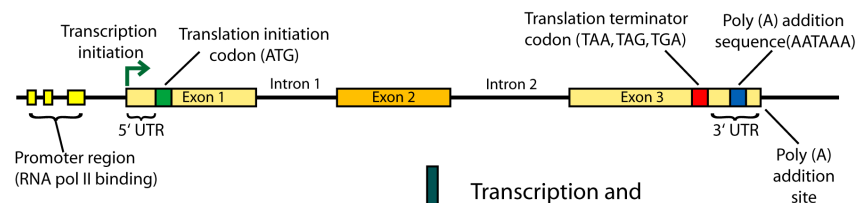
[http://wwwdev.ebi.ac.uk/fg/hts\\_mappers/](http://wwwdev.ebi.ac.uk/fg/hts_mappers/)



# Should I use a splice-aware or unspliced mapper

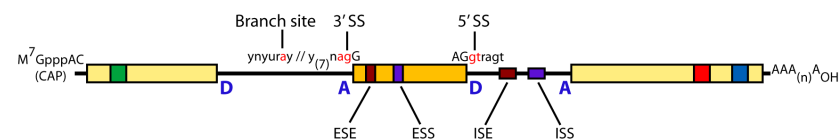
- RNA-seq reads may span large introns
- The fragments being sequenced in RNA-seq represent mRNA and therefore the introns are removed
- But we are usually aligning these reads back to the reference genome
- Unless your reads are short (<50bp) you should use a splice-aware aligner
  - TopHat, STAR, MapSplice, etc.

## Double-stranded genomic DNA template



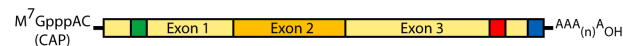
Transcription and polyadenylation

## Single-stranded pre-mRNA (nuclear RNA)



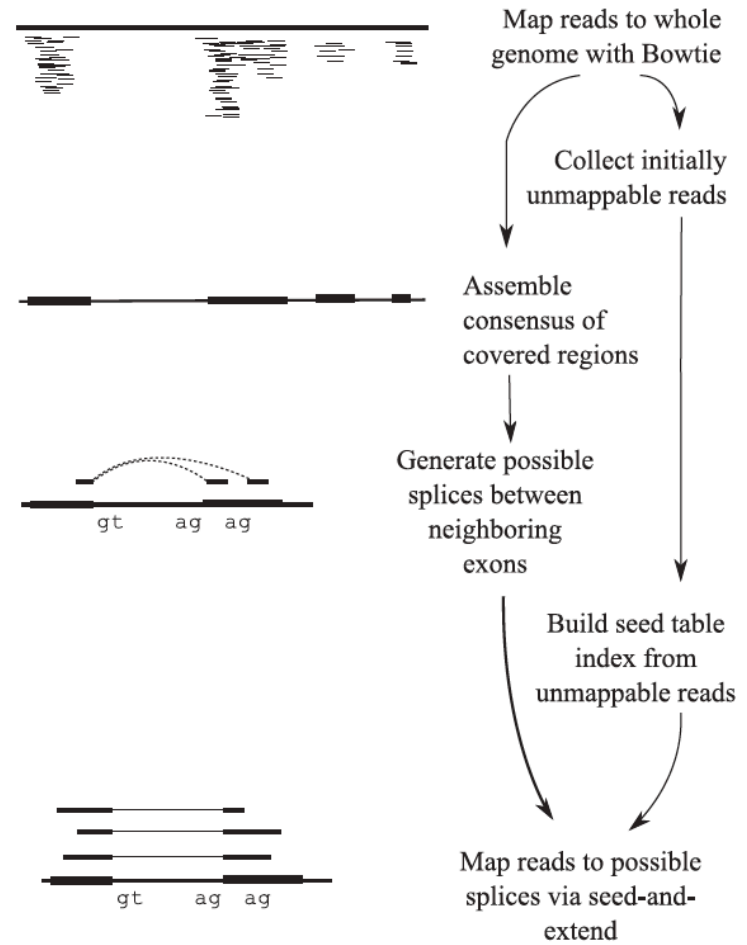
RNA processing

## Mature mRNA



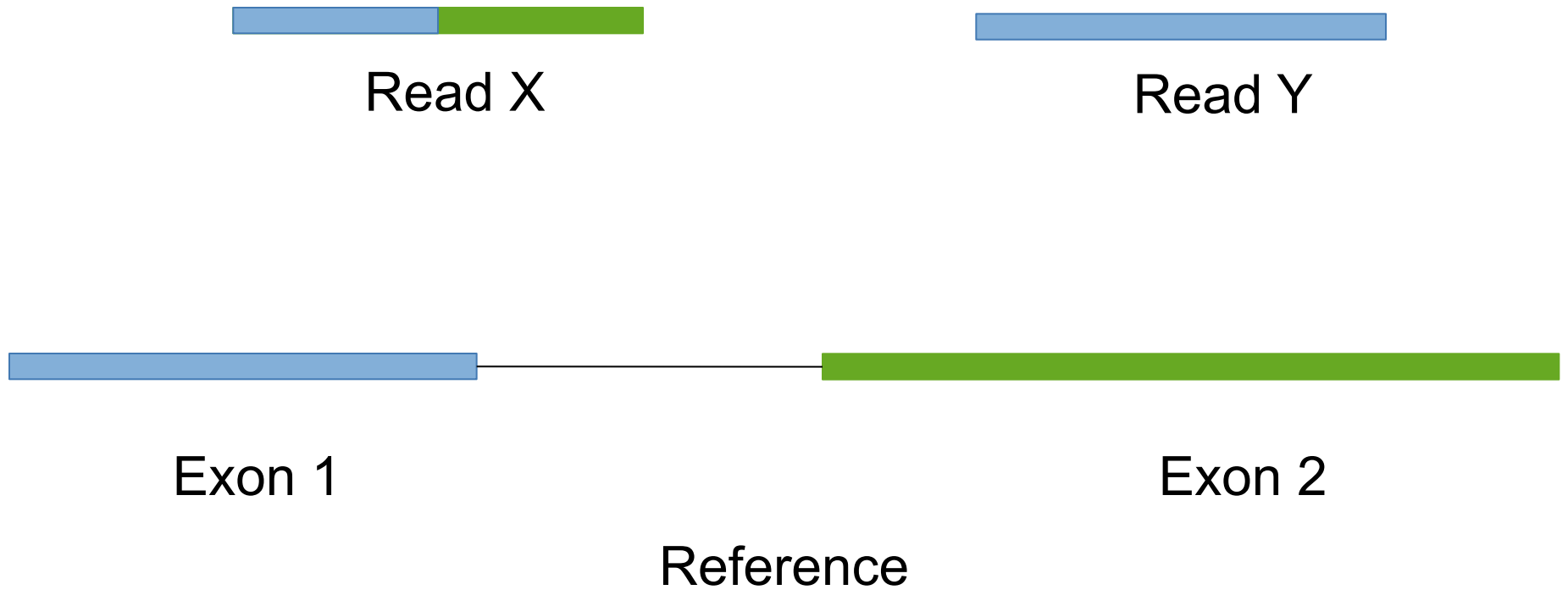
# Bowtie/TopHat

- TopHat is a 'splice-aware' RNA-seq read aligner
- Requires a reference genome
- Breaks reads into pieces, uses 'bowtie' aligner to first align these pieces
- Then extends alignments from these seeds and resolves exon edges (splice junctions)

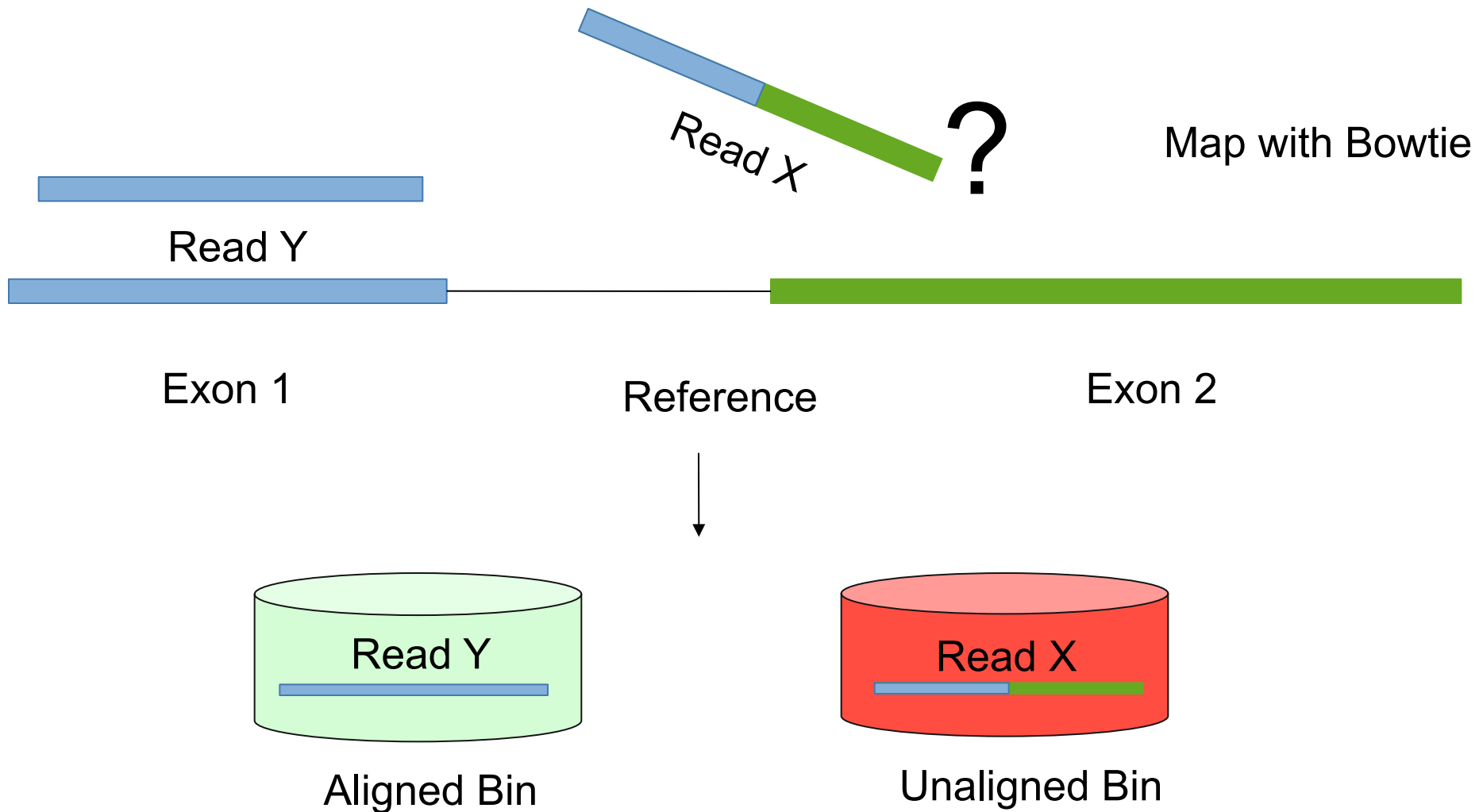


Trapnell et al. 2009

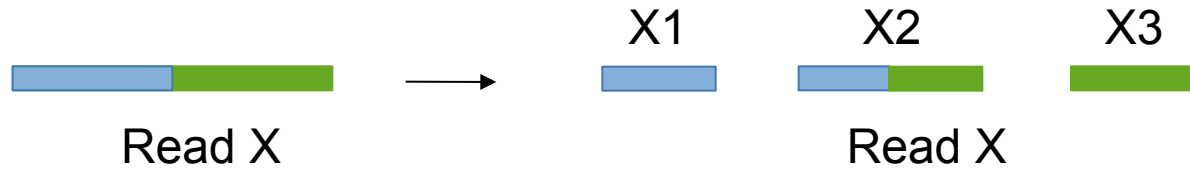
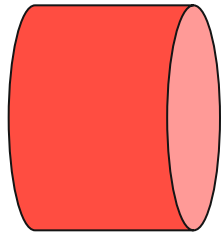
# Bowtie/TopHat



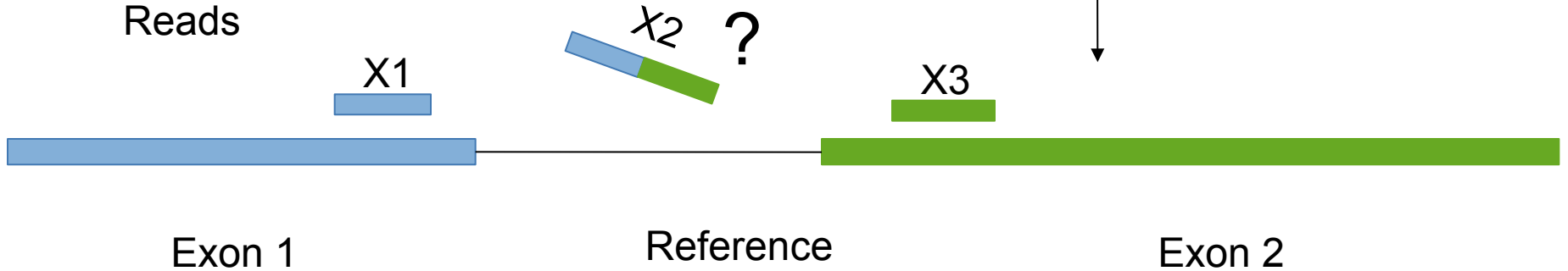
# Bowtie/TopHat



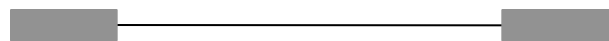
# Bowtie/TopHat



Unaligned Reads



Collect Mapping Information for X1 and X3



Construct a Splice Library

# Should I allow 'multi-mapped' reads?

- Depends on the application
- In \*DNA\* analysis it is common to use a mapper to randomly select alignments from a series of equally good alignments
- In \*RNA\* analysis this is less common
  - Perhaps disallow multi-mapped reads if you are variant calling
  - Definitely should allow multi-mapped reads for expression analysis with TopHat/Cufflinks
  - Definitely should allow multi-mapped reads for gene fusion discovery

# What is the output of bowtie/tophat?

- A SAM/BAM file
  - SAM stands for Sequence Alignment/Map format
  - BAM is the binary version of a SAM file
- Remember, compressed files require special handling compared to plain text files
- How can I convert BAM to SAM?
  - <http://www.biostars.org/p/1701/>





# Introduction to the SAM/BAM format

- The specification
  - <http://samtools.sourceforge.net/SAM1.pdf>
- The SAM format consists of two sections:
  - Header section
    - Used to describe source of data, reference sequence, method of alignment, etc.
  - Alignment section
    - Used to describe the read, quality of the read, and nature alignment of the read to a region of the genome
- BAM is a compressed version of SAM
  - Compressed using lossless BGZF format
  - Other BAM compression strategies are a subject of research. See ‘CRAM’ format for example
- BAM files are usually ‘indexed’
  - A ‘.bai’ file will be found beside the ‘.bam’ file
  - Indexing aims to achieve fast retrieval of alignments overlapping a specified region without going through the whole alignments. BAM must be sorted by the reference ID and then the leftmost coordinate before indexing

# SAM/BAM header section

- Used to describe source of data, reference sequence, method of alignment, etc.
- Each section begins with character '@' followed by a two-letter record type code. These are followed by two-letter tags and values
  - @HD The header line
    - VN: format version
    - SO: Sorting order of alignments
  - @SQ Reference sequence dictionary
    - SN: reference sequence name
    - LN: reference sequence length
    - SP: species
  - @RG Read group
    - ID: read group identifier
    - CN: name of sequencing center
    - SM: sample name
  - @PG Program
    - PN: program name
    - VN: program version



# SAM/BAM flags explained

- <http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/explain-flags.html>
- 12 bitwise flags describing the alignment
- These flags are stored as a binary string of length 11 instead of 11 columns of data
- Value of '1' indicates the flag is set. e.g. 00100000000
- All combinations can be represented as a number from 1 to 2048 (i.e.  $2^{11}-1$ ). This number is used in the BAM/SAM file. You can specify 'required' or 'filter' flags in samtools view using the '-f' and '-F' options respectively

| Bit  | Description   |
|------|---|
| 1    | 0x1 template having multiple segments in sequencing                     |
| 2    | 0x2 each segment properly aligned according to the aligner              |
| 4    | 0x4 segment unmapped  |
| 8    | 0x8 next segment in the template unmapped                               |
| 16   | 0x10 SEQ being reverse complemented                                     |
| 32   | 0x20 SEQ of the next segment in the template being reverse complemented |
| 64   | 0x40 the first segment in the template                                  |
| 128  | 0x80 the last segment in the template                                   |
| 256  | 0x100 secondary alignment   |
| 512  | 0x200 not passing filters, such as platform/vendor quality controls     |
| 1024 | 0x400 PCR or optical duplicate  |
| 2048 | 0x800 supplementary alignment   |

Note that to maximize confusion, each bit is described in the SAM specification using its hexadecimal representation (i.e., '0x10' = 16 and '0x40' = 64).

# CIGAR strings explained

| Op | BAM | Description   |
|----|-----|---|
| M  | 0   | alignment match (can be a sequence match or mismatch) |
| I  | 1   | insertion to the reference                            |
| D  | 2   | deletion from the reference                           |
| N  | 3   | skipped region from the reference                     |
| S  | 4   | soft clipping (clipped sequences present in SEQ)      |
| H  | 5   | hard clipping (clipped sequences NOT present in SEQ)  |
| P  | 6   | padding (silent deletion from padded reference)       |
| =  | 7   | sequence match  |
| X  | 8   | sequence mismatch                                     |

- The CIGAR string is a sequence of base lengths and associated ‘operations’ that are used to indicate which bases align to the reference (either a match or mismatch), are deleted, are inserted, represent introns, etc.
- e.g. 81M859N19M
  - A 100 bp read consists of: 81 bases of alignment to reference, 859 bases skipped (an intron), 19 bases of alignment

# Introduction to the BED format

- When working with BAM files, it is very common to want to examine a focused subset of the reference genome
  - e.g. the exons of a gene
- These subsets are commonly specified in 'BED' files
  - <https://genome.ucsc.edu/FAQ/FAQformat.html#format1>
- Many BAM manipulation tools accept regions of interest in BED format
- Basic BED format (tab separated):
  - Chromosome name, start position, end position
  - Coordinates in BED format are 0 based

# Manipulation of SAM/BAM and BED files

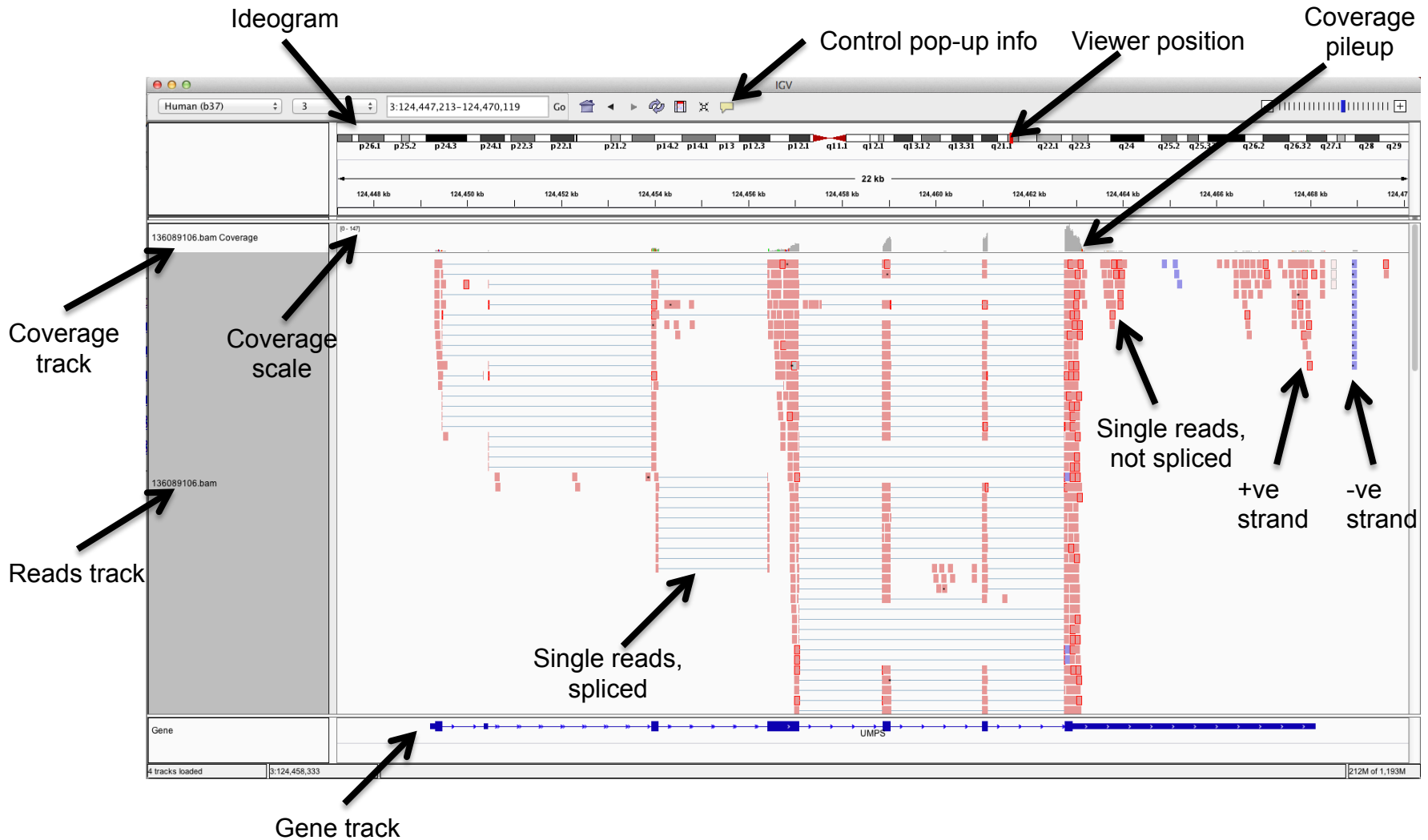
- Several tools are used ubiquitously in sequence analysis to manipulate these files
- SAM/BAM files
  - samtools
  - bamtools
  - picard
- BED files
  - bedtools
  - bedops

# How should I sort my SAM/BAM file?

- Generally BAM files are sorted by position
  - This is for performance reasons
    - When sorted and indexed, arbitrary positions in a massive BAM file can be accessed rapidly
- Certain tools require a BAM sorted by read name
  - Usually this is when we need to easily identify both reads of a pair
    - The insert size between two reads may be large
    - In fusion detection we are interested in read pairs that map to different chromosomes...



# Visualization of RNA-seq alignments in IGV browser



# Alternative viewers to IGV

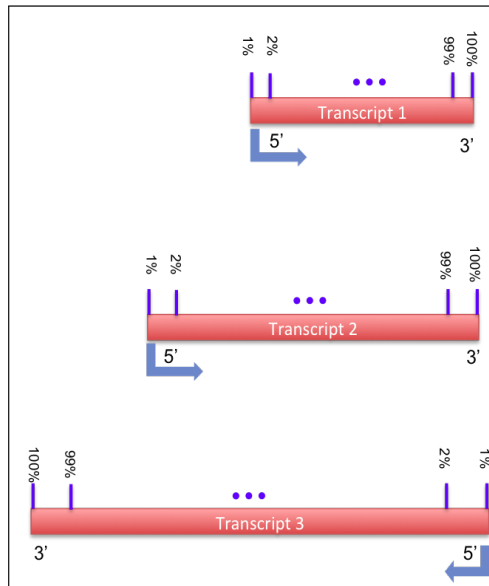
- Alternative viewers to IGV
  - <http://www.biostars.org/p/12752/>
  - <http://www.biostars.org/p/71300/>
- Artemis, BamView, Chipster, gbrowse2, GenoViewer, MagicViewer, **Savant**, Tablet, tview

# Alignment QC Assessment

- 3' and 5' Bias
- Nucleotide Content
- Base/Read Quality
- PCR Artifact
- Sequencing Depth
- Base Distribution
- Insert Size Distribution

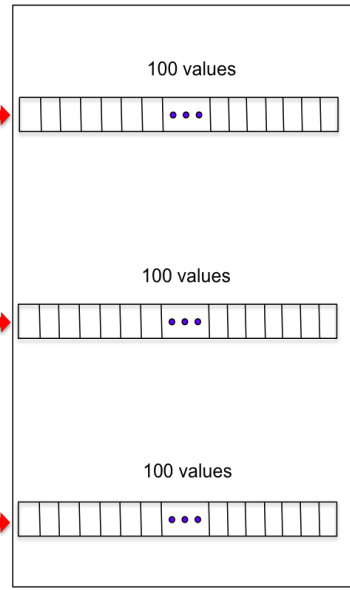
# Alignment QC: 3' & 5' Bias

BED file

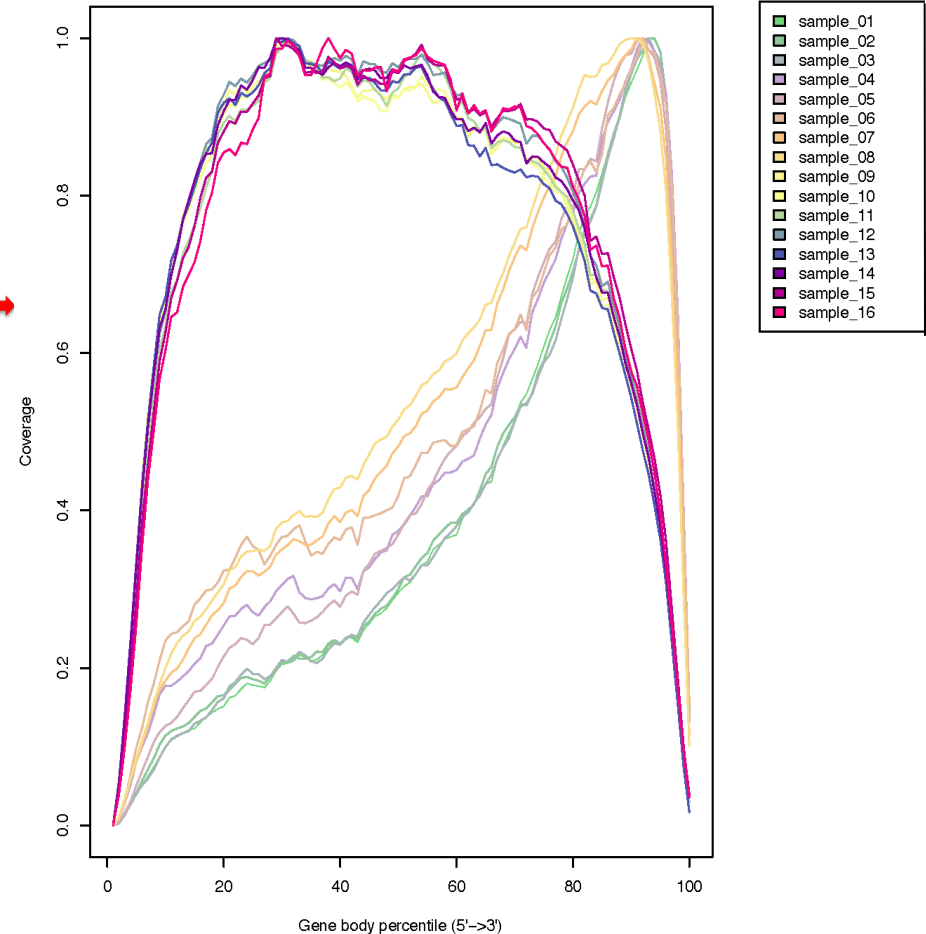


Take 100 quantiles from each transcripts in BED file

BAM file



Extract coverage signals from BAM file



<http://rseqc.sourceforge.net/>

# Alignment QC: Nucleotide Content

- **Random primers** are used to reverse transcribe RNA fragments into double-stranded complementary DNA (dscDNA)
- Causes certain patterns to be over represented at the beginning (5' end) of reads
- Deviation from expected  $A\%=C\%$   
 $\%=G\%=T\%=25\%$

Journal List > Nucleic Acids Res > v.38(12); 2010 Jul > PMC2896536

Nucleic Acids Research

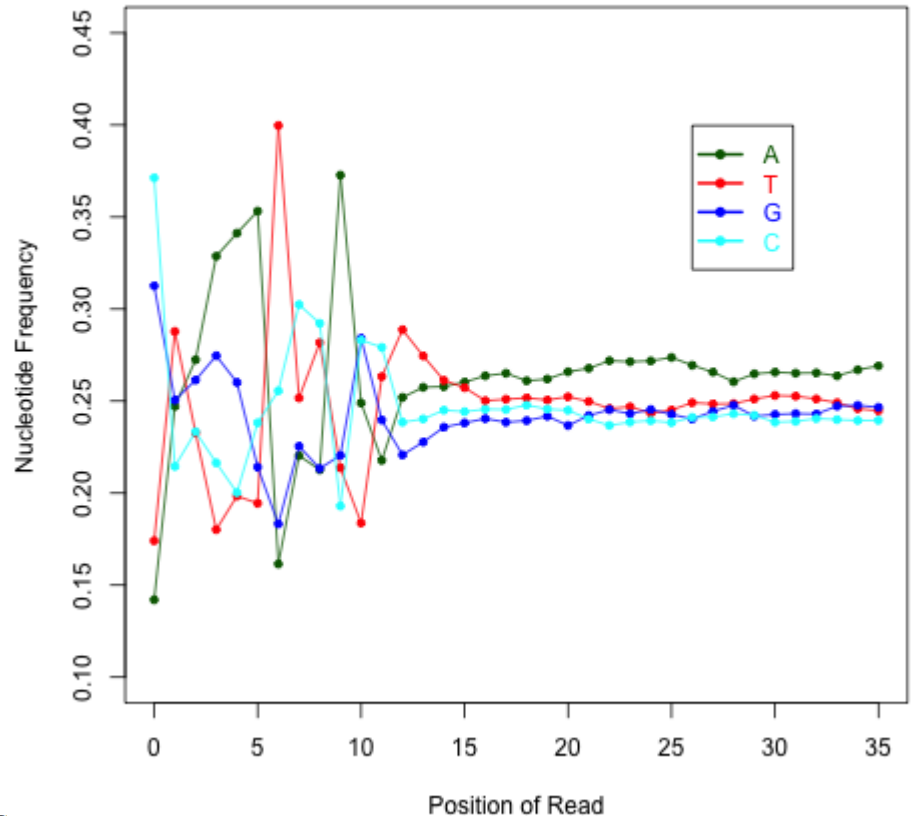
Nucleic Acids Res. 2010 Jul; 38(12): e131.  
Published online 2010 Apr 14. doi: [10.1093/nar/gkq224](https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkq224)

## Biases in Illumina transcriptome sequencing caused by random hexamer priming

Kasper D. Hansen,<sup>1,\*</sup> Steven E. Brenner,<sup>2</sup> and Sandrine Dudoit<sup>1,3</sup>

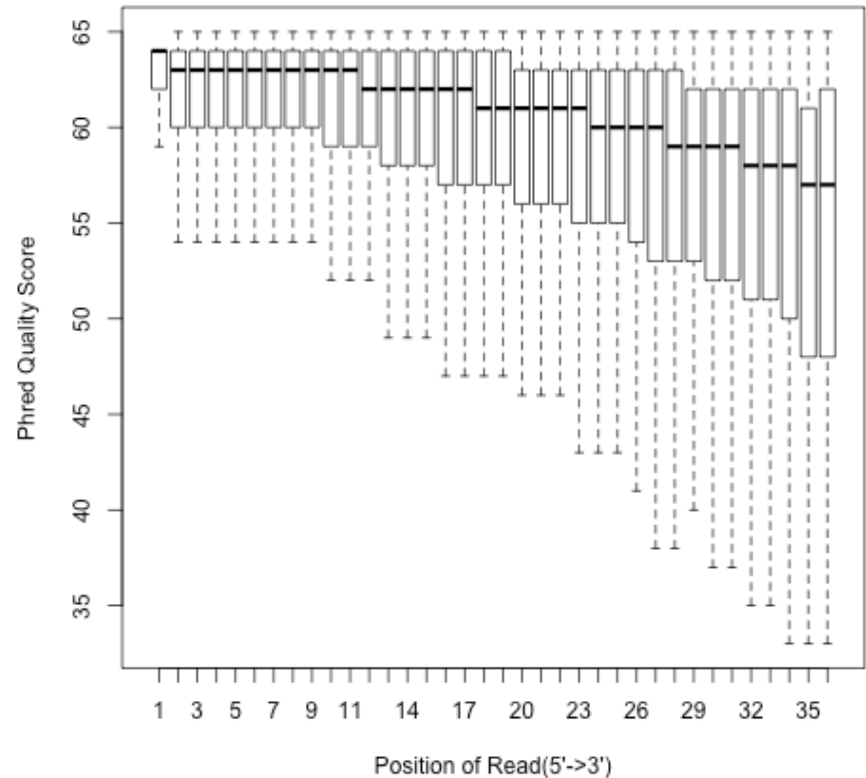
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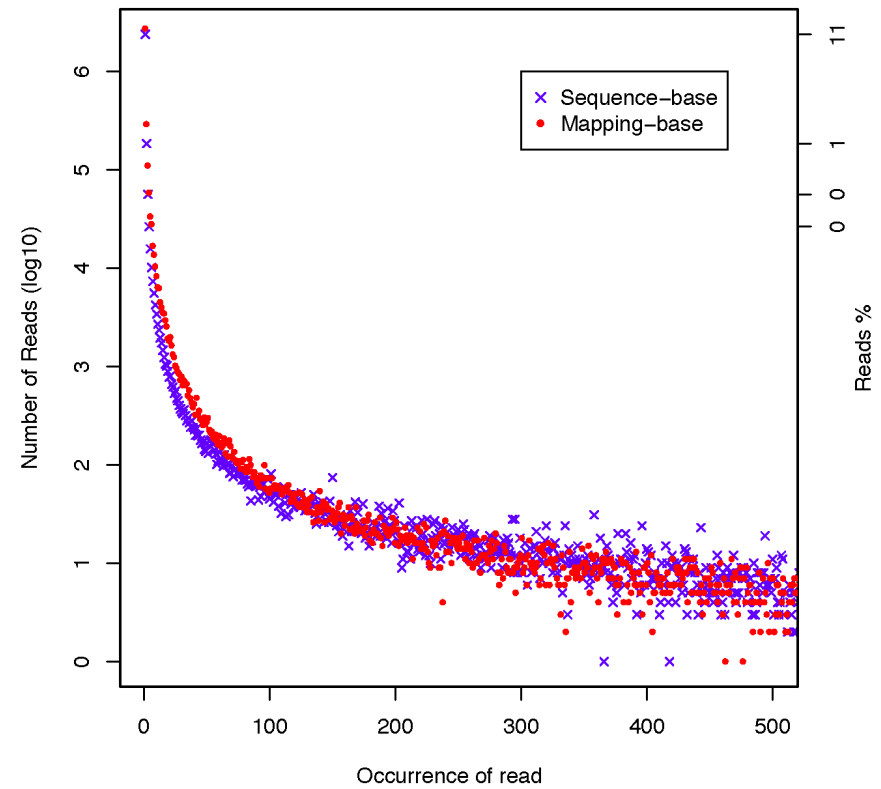
# Alignment QC: Quality Distribution

- Phred quality score is widely used to characterize the quality of base-calling
- Phred quality score =  $-10 \times \log_{10}(P)$ , here P is probability that base-calling is wrong
- Phred score of 30 means there is 1/1000 chance that the base-calling is wrong
- The quality of the bases tend to drop at the end of the read, a pattern observed in sequencing by synthesis techniques



# Alignment QC: PCR Duplication

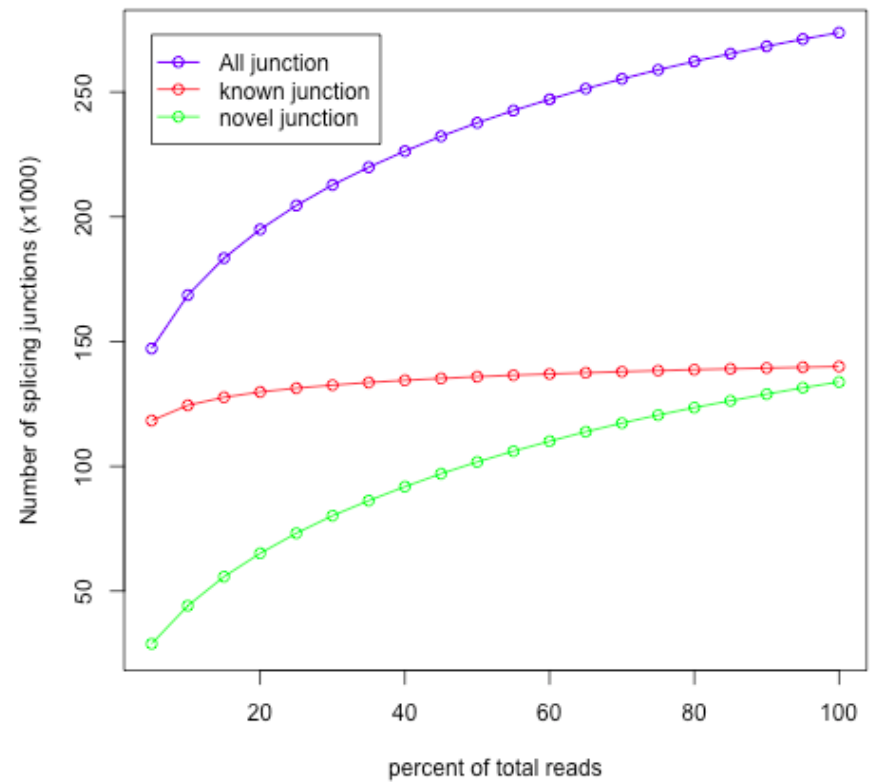
- Duplicate reads are reads that have the same start/end positions and same exact sequence
- In DNA-seq, reads/start point is used as a metric to assess PCR duplication rate
- In DNA-seq, duplicate reads are collapsed using tools such as picard
- How is RNA-seq different from DNA-seq?



<http://rseqc.sourceforge.net/>

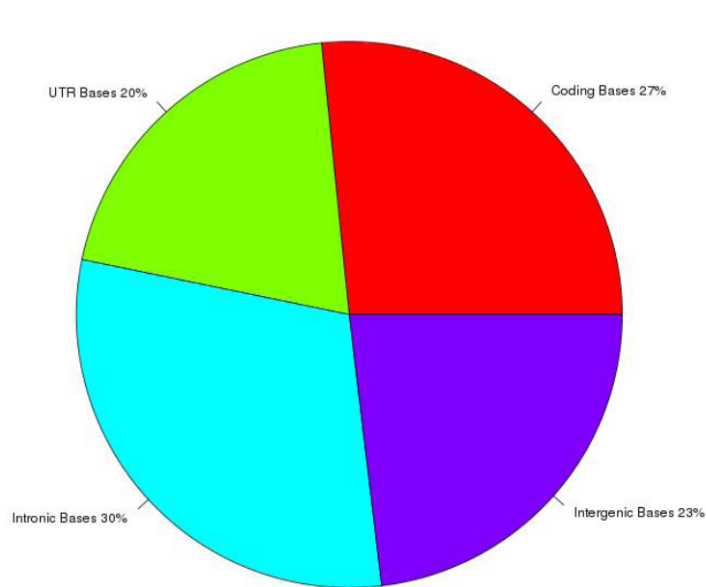
# Alignment QC: Sequencing Depth

- **Have we sequenced deep enough?**
- In DNA-seq, we can determine this by looking at the average coverage over the sequenced region. Is it above a certain threshold?
- In RNA-seq, this is a challenge due to the variability in gene abundance
- Use splice junctions detection rate as a way to identify desired sequencing depth
- Check for saturation by resampling 5%, 10%, 15%, ..., 95% of total alignments from aligned file, and then detect splice junctions from each subset and compare to reference gene model.
- This method ensures that you have sufficient coverage to perform alternative splicing analyses

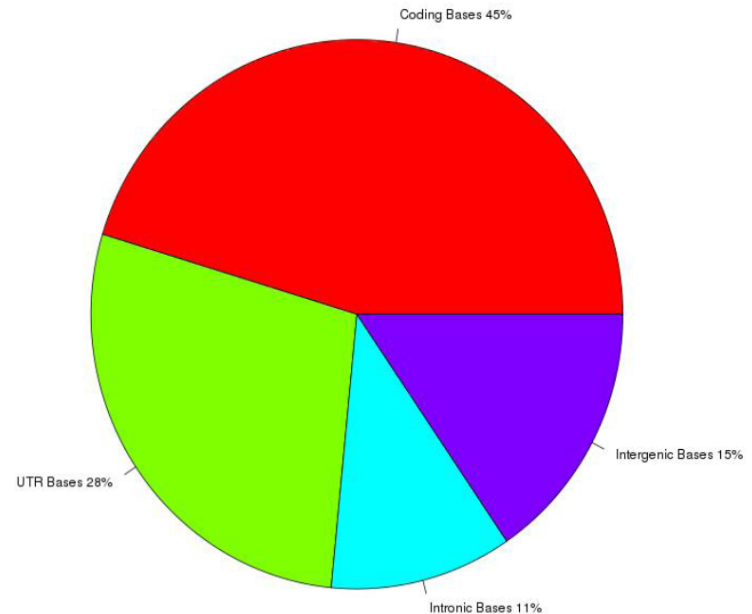




# Alignment QC: Base Distribution



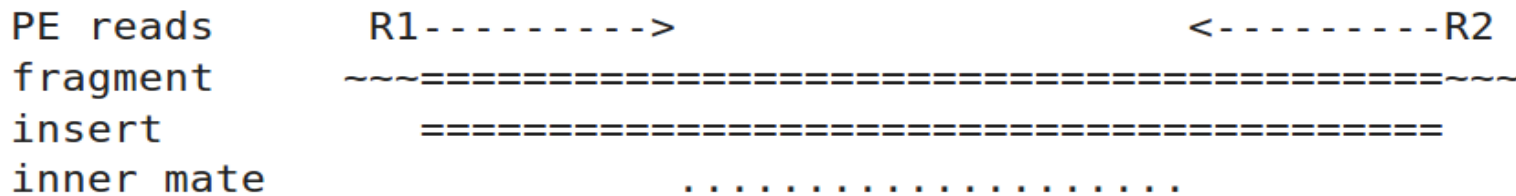
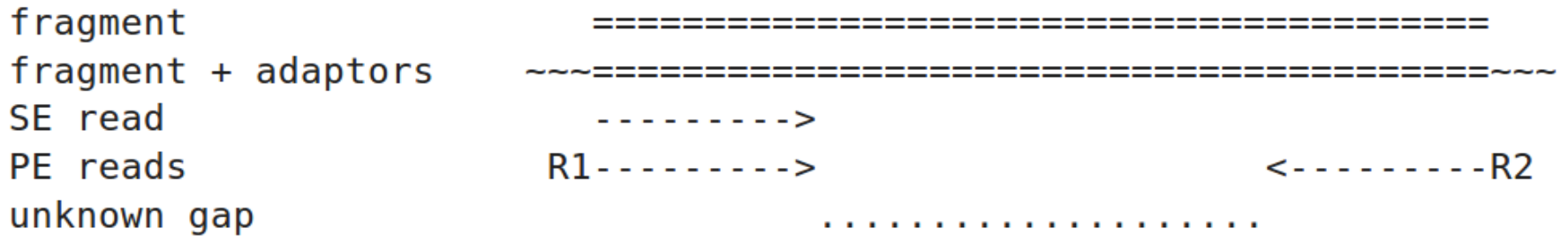
Whole Transcriptome Library



PolyA mRNA library

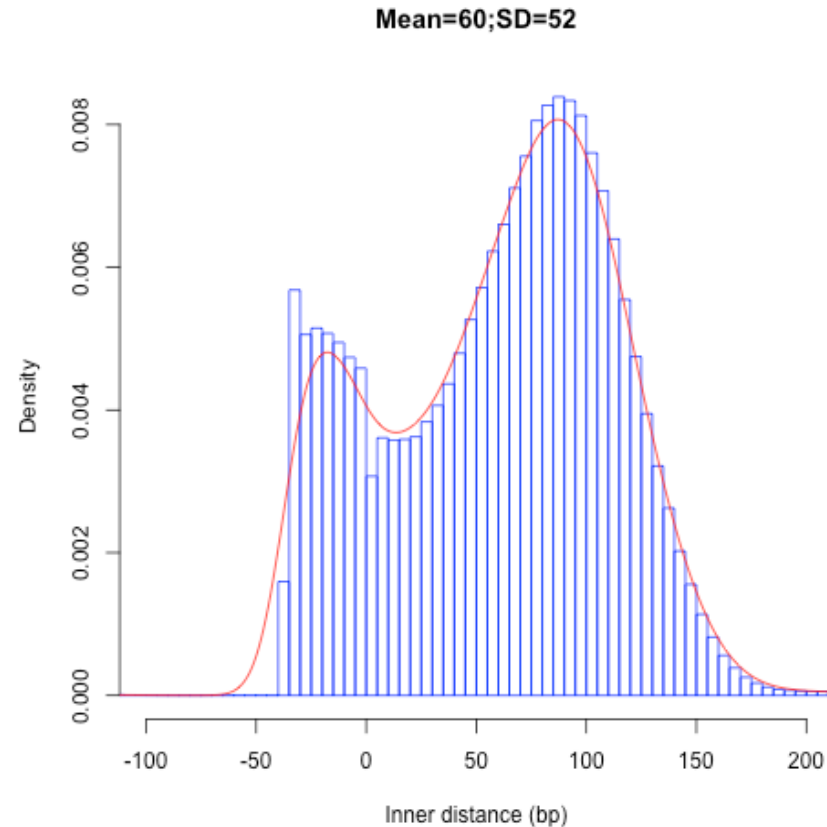
- Your sequenced bases distribution will depend on the library preparation protocol selected

# Alignment QC: Insert Size



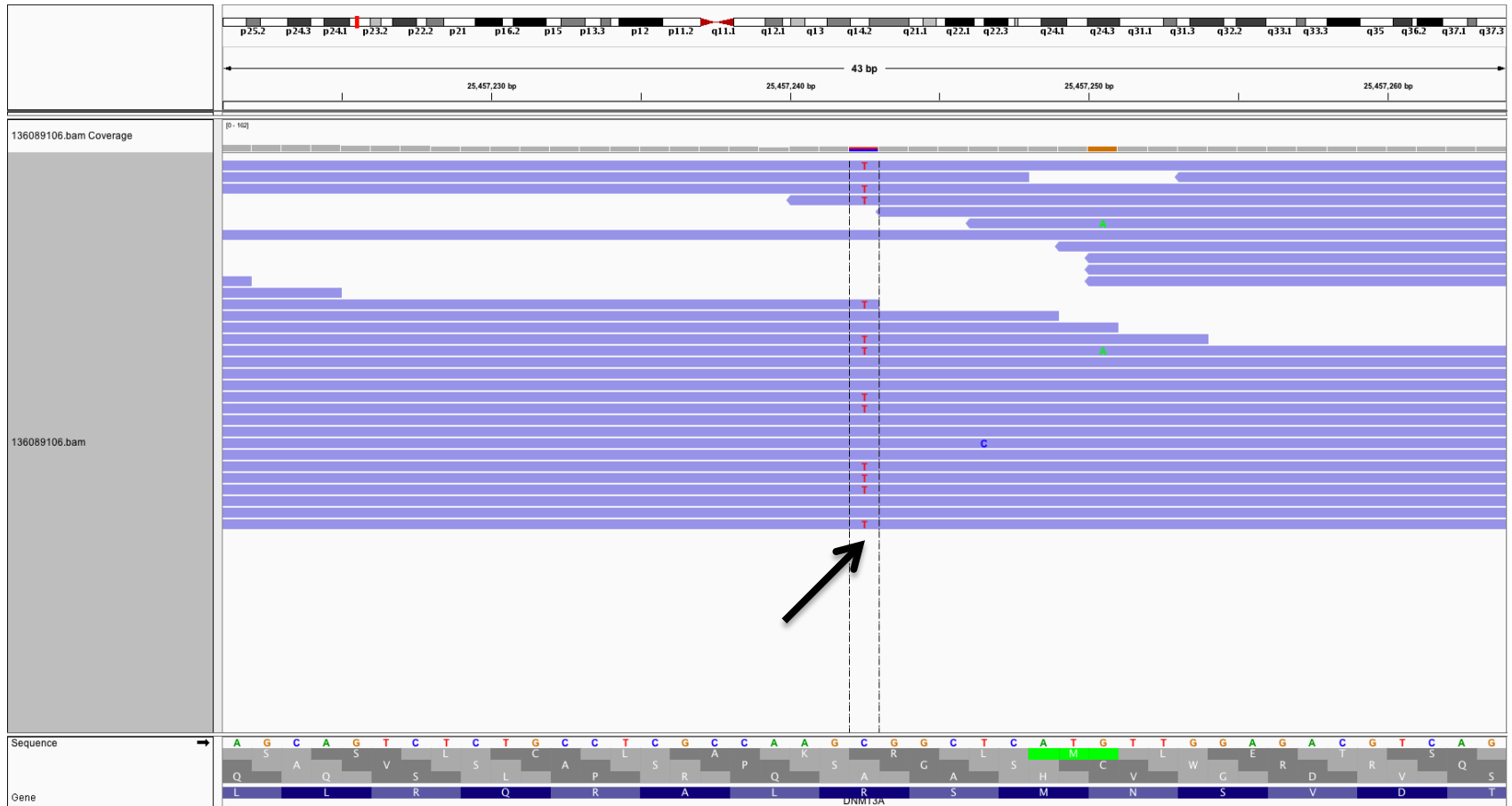
<http://thegenomefactory.blogspot.ca/2013/08/paired-end-read-confusion-library.html>

# Alignment QC: Insert Size



Consistent with library size selection?

# BAM read counting and variant allele expression status

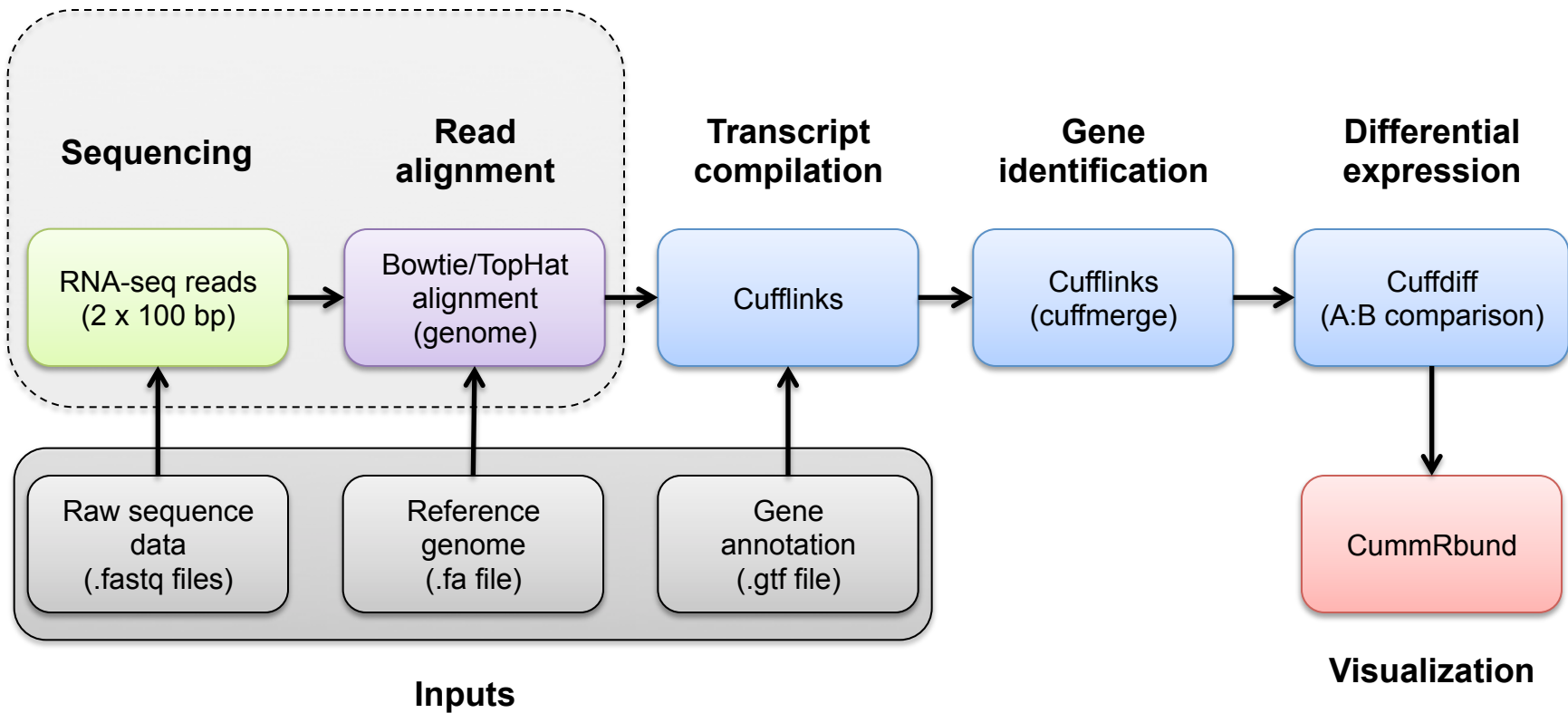


- A variant C->T is observed in 12 of 25 reads covering this position. Variant allele frequency (VAF)  $12/25 = 48\%$ .
- Both alleles appear to be expressed equally (not always the case) -> heterozygous, no allele specific expression
- How can we determine variant read counts, depth of coverage, and VAF without manually viewing in IGV?

# **Introduction to tutorial (Module 2)**

# Bowtie/TopHat/Cufflinks/Cuffdiff RNA-seq Pipeline

## Module 2



Break