Aligning reads: tools and theory

Genome

chrX: 52139280   152139290   152139300   152139310   152139320   152139330
--->CGCCGTCCCTCAGAATGGAAACCTCGCTTCTCTGCCCCACAATGCGCAAGTCAG
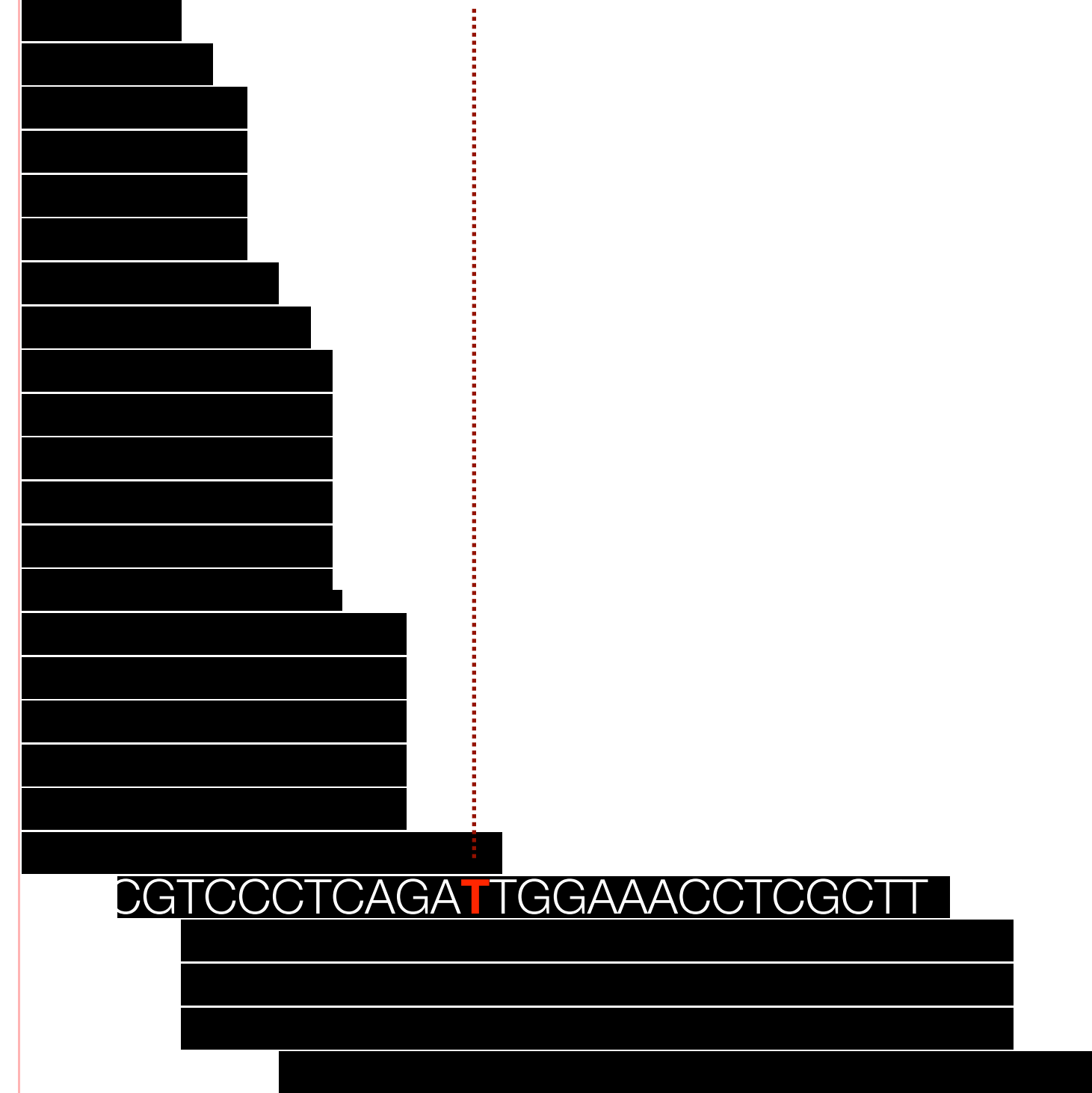
Sequence read   CGTCCCTCAGAATGGAAACCTCGCTTC

A simple case of string matching

- Volume of data: ~3 Gbp

- ~50% of genome is **repeat regions** that cannot be covered by reads

  – Simple repeats, tandem, interspersed

  – Transposons

  – Segmental duplications where mapping is unclear

- **Gaps or unfinished regions**

  – peri-centromere, sub-telomere

  – ~5Mb unique to ethnic groups (e.g., African, Asian)

Challenges:
Human genome is large and complex [4]

- Short reads: 50-150 bp (versus a very long reference)

  – Non-unique alignment

  – Sensitive to sequencing errors

- Massive amount of short reads: one lane produces ≥ 150

  million 100 nucleotide reads

- Small insert size: 200-500 bp libraries

Challenges: short read NGS data

Reference ATCTCCATAGGACTAGAAGTAG

Substitution ATCTCCATAG**C**ACTAGAAGTAG
Deletion ATCTCCATAGGAC**–**AGAAGTAG
Insertion ATCTCCATAGGACTAGAAGT**T**AG
3bp deletion ATCTC**––**AGGACTAGAAGTAG

Challenges: non-exact matching

Local alignment vs Global alignment

▶ **Local alignment** matches the query with a *substring* (k-mer) of the reference

    ▶ Tailored towards finding *regions of highly similar sequence* and aligning around those by working outwards to align the rest

Local Alignment

```
5' ACTACTAGATTACTTACGGATCAGGTACTTTAGAGGCTTGCAACCA 3'
              |||| ||||||| ||||||||||||||||
         5' TACTCACGGATGAGGTACTTTAGAGGC 3'
```

Global Alignment

```
5' ACTACTAGATTACTTACGGATCAGGTACTTTAGAGGCTTGCAACCA 3'
   |||||||||||     |||||||   ||||||||||||||| |||||||
5' ACTACTAGATT----ACGGATC--GTACTTTAGAGGCTAGCAACCA 3'
```

▶ A **global alignment** performs end-to-end alignment between the query and the reference

Reference   ATCTCCATAGGACTAGAAGTAG

Substitution   ATCTCCATAGCACTAGAAGTAG
Deletion   ATCTCCATAGGAC–AGAAGTAG
Insertion   ATCTCCATAGGACTAGAAGTTAG
3bp deletion   ATCTC––AGGACTAGAAGTAG
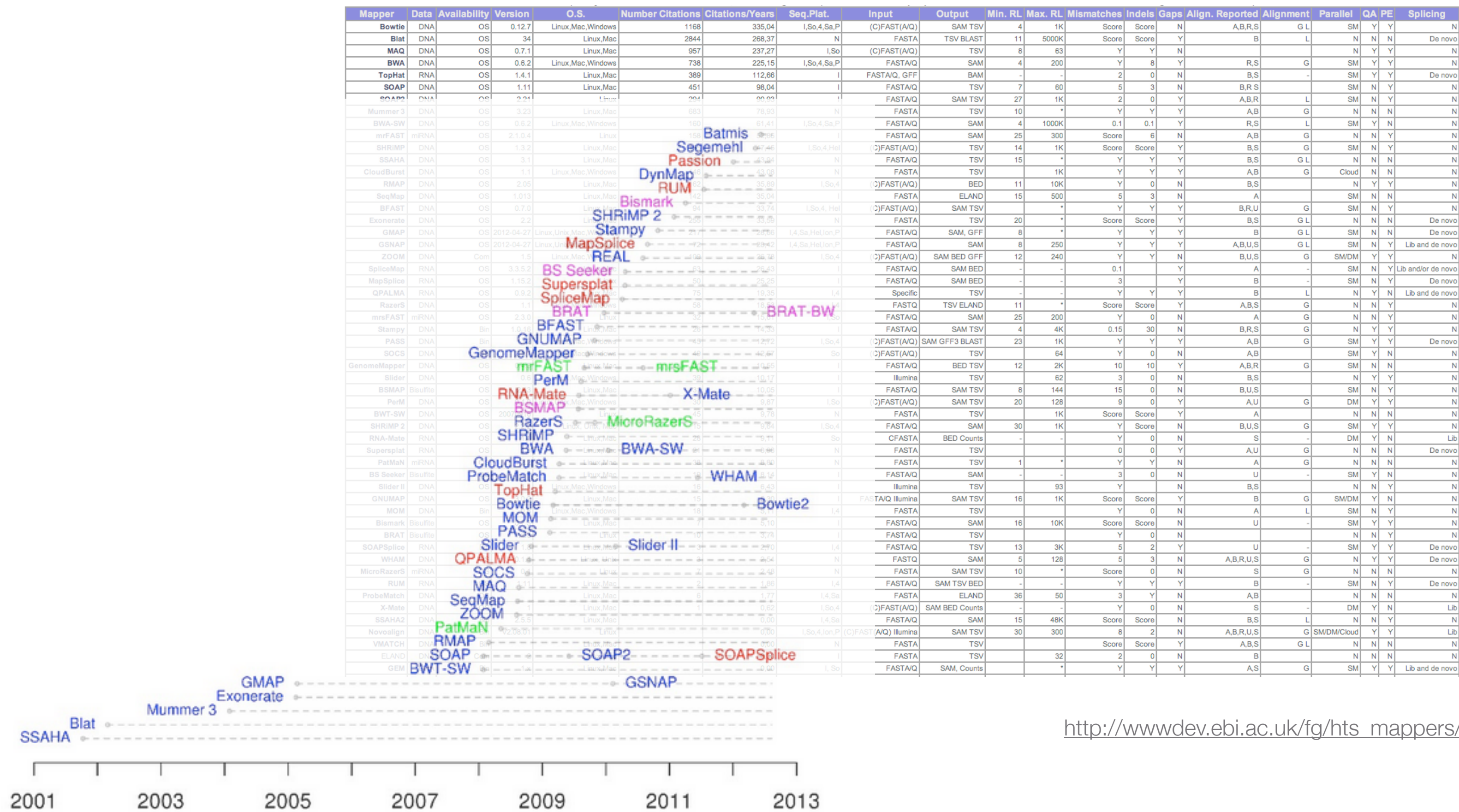
General concepts: edit distance

Reference CGTCCCTCAGATTGGAA—CCTCGCTT

Read   TCCCTCAGAATGGAAACCTCGCT

Edit distance =3

General concepts: edit distance

http://wwwdev.ebi.ac.uk/fg/hts_mappers/

Short-read aligners: choices

Building an index

▶ Having an index of the reference genome provides an efficient way to search

▶ Once index is built, it can be queried any number of times

▶ Indexes are genome and tool-specific

▶ Different types of indices (i.e hash-tables, suffix arrays, Burrows-Wheeler Transform)

- ▶ Bowtie2: indexes with an FM Index to keep low memory footprint. Supports gapped, local and paired-end alignment

- ▶ BWA: indexes with the Burrows-Wheeler Transform (BWT). Has three algorithms for varying read lengths.

- ▶ SOAP2: uses a 2-way BWT for indexing. Fast and accurate alignment of Illumina sequencing reads. Not open source.

- ▶ MAQ: first aligns reads to reference sequences and then calls the consensus. Designed for Illumina reads.

Commonly used aligners for ChIP-seq

Alignment considerations for ChIP-seq

▶ Percentage of uniquely mapped reads

  ▶ 70% or higher is good. 50% or lower is concerning.

  ▶ Percentages vary between organisms

▶ Duplicates

  ▶ Usually due to over-amplification or short read length

▶ Multi-mappers

  ▶ Reduce by setting allowable mismatches according to sequencing platform

  ▶ For situations when protein binds repetitive DNA, use paired-end sequencing

Keep only uniquely mapped reads for peak calling!