

# Nucleotide sequence analysis

Bioinformatics, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

UP FAMNIT

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## Plan for lectures

- RNA-Seq (transcriptome analysis)
- Genome assembly
- SNP calling / variant annotation
- Metabarcoding
- Genome wide association analysis

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## Literature

- Pevsner, J. 2015. Bioinformatics and functional genomics. Wiley Blackwell. (Chapter 8, 9, 10, 11 + Part III Genome Analysis)
- Material for practicals (e-classroom)
- Korpelainen et. al. 2015. RNA-seq Data Analysis: A Practical Approach.
- István Albert. The Biostar Handbooks  
<https://www.biostarhandbook.com/>
- scientific articles
- <https://training.galaxyproject.org/>

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István Albert, Bioinformatics, Penn State

Home Publications Software Consulting

Bioinformatics education is severely lacking across the world. Most course work is inadequate, practitioners insufficiently trained, propagating misconceptions and fallacies.






Substantial resources are spent on ineffectual training, needless travel, expensive week long workshops, "bioinformatics for dummies" type of training, promoting "click-this-button" kind of solutions. Unsurprisingly, with little effect.

After waiting a decade for a solution, I have decided to write the materials that I felt were missing. This is the genesis of the **Biostar Handbooks**. Initially a single book, now a series of volumes focusing solely on the practical aspects of bioinformatics data analysis.

**The Biostar Handbooks**

The **Biostar Handbooks** introduce readers to **bioinformatics**, the scientific discipline at the intersection of biology, computer science, and statistical data analytics dedicated to the digital processing of genomic information.

- The Biostar Handbook - An introduction to Bioinformatics as a scientific field.
- The Art of Bioinformatics Scripting - Learn advanced Unix and Bash scripting skills.
- RNA-Seq by Example - Master RNA-Seq data analysis.
- Corona Virus Genome Analysis - Advanced topics devoted to the study of the Coronavirus.
- Biostar Workflows - Best practices for developing bioinformatics pipelines.

The **Biostar Handbooks** deliver simple, concise, and relevant information for those looking to understand the field of bioinformatics as a data science. It is a comprehensive, practical handbook that covers all major application areas of bioinformatics.

**Teaching**

I teach the **BIOL 852: Applied Bioinformatics** course in resident instruction in the Fall.

<https://www.biostarhandbook.com/>

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## Obligations and Grading system

Please be advised that attendance at practical sessions is mandatory.

**The final grade** will be composed based on the following criteria:

70% Project work

30% Oral exam

### **Student's obligations:**

Each student must analyze their own dataset and prepare a laboratory notebook with a documented workflow.

*Include all commands and explain them, including options (flags) selected with each program. Document your work with screenshots and output files. Interpret the results, including graphs obtained with FastQC. Report the number of reads in your dataset, how many were removed after quality filtering, etc. Answer all questions from the worksheets.*

Laboratory notebooks should be uploaded to the e-classroom.

The report must be submitted at least 1 week before the exam date.

Please note: You cannot attend the oral exam if you haven't submitted the notebook before the deadline!

### **Oral Defense:**

During the oral defense, expect questions related to the project content or general questions about nucleotide sequence analysis, such as "Describe the SAM file! How can it be converted to a BAM file?" and questions related to the lectures.

The oral defense will occur on the date specified in ŠIS.

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## Transcriptome analysis (RNA-Seq)

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## Low- and high-throughput technologies to study mRNAs

Three techniques for the study of mRNA:

- complementary DNA (cDNA) libraries
- microarrays (e.g. using the Affymetrix platform)
- RNA-seq (Chapter 11)

Low throughput techniques (Northern blots, PCR) may seem laborious and able to provide only limited amounts of information.

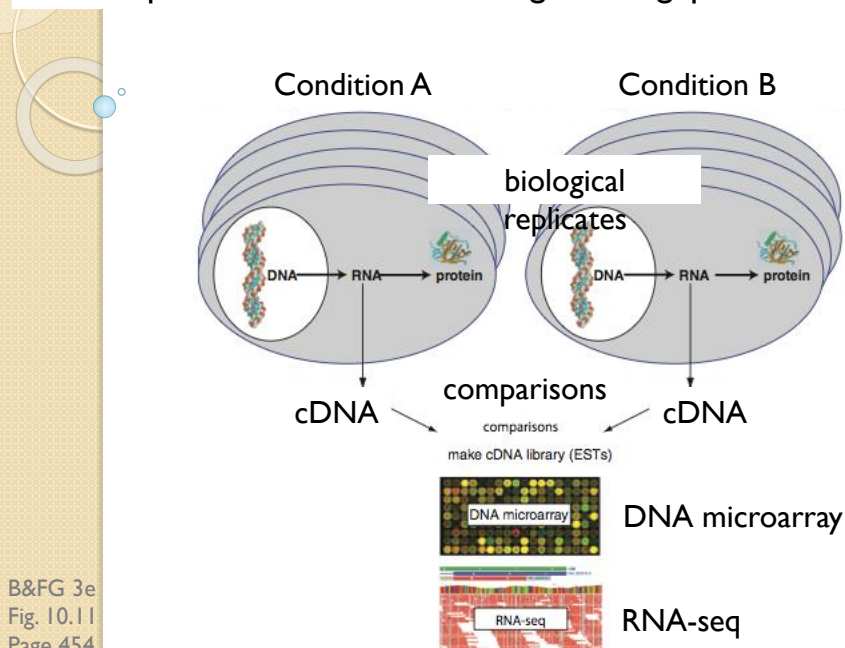
Yet they also serve as trusted “gold standards” and provide crucial validation of high throughput techniques.

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Source: Pevsner. Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics, 3rd Edition

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## Gene expression measured with high-throughput technologies



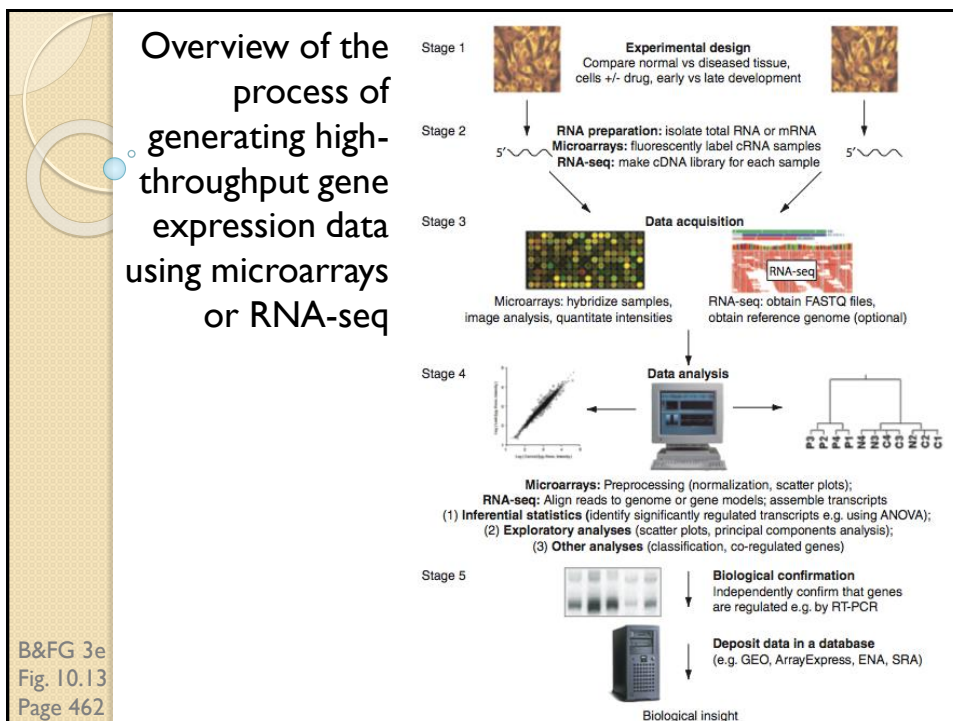
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Fig. 10.11  
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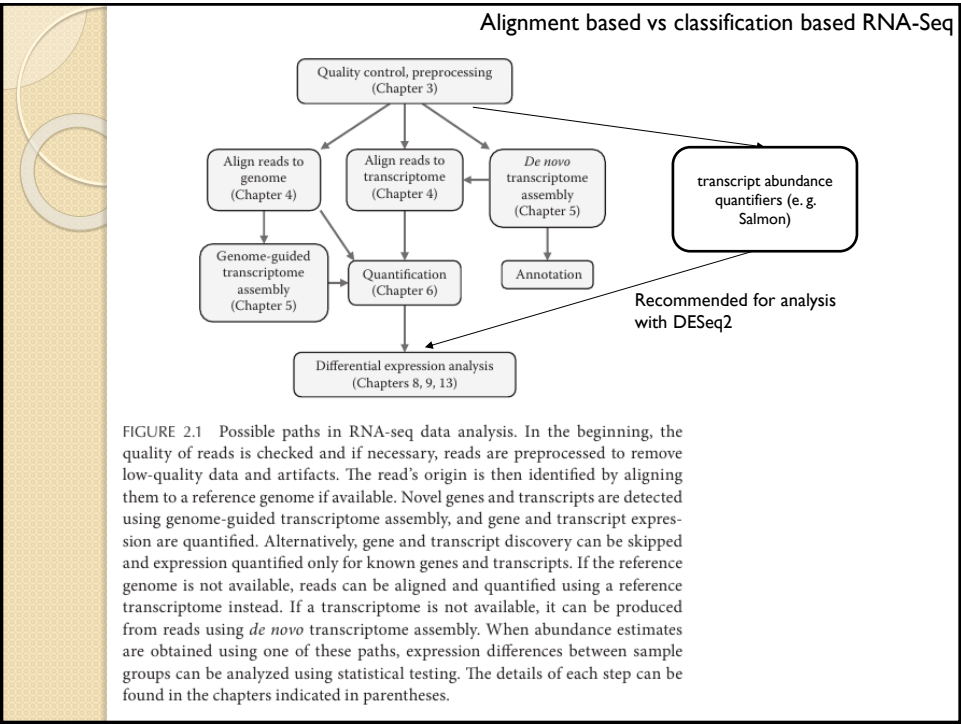
## Transcriptome analysis (RNA-Seq)

- High throughput RNA sequencing (RNA-Seq) offers possibility to investigate the expression profiles at the transcriptional level and also identifying novel and non-coding transcripts
- The **reference-based** transcriptome analysis method is based on aligning the sequenced reads to a pre-existing reference genome, (followed by assembling overlapping alignments into transcripts).
- In contrast, the reference-free **de novo** transcriptome analysis method allows to directly assemble sequenced reads into transcripts by using high levels of redundancy and overlapping of reads, without using a reference genome.

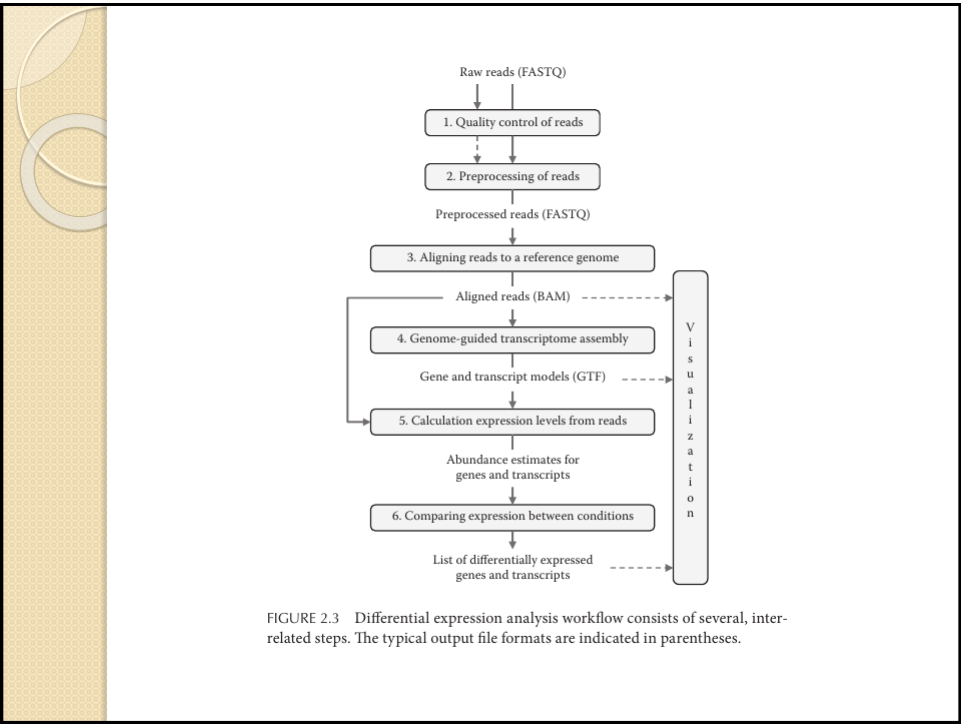
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### Advantages and limitations of each approach

#### Genome-based approaches:

1. Enable comprehensive visualization and interpretation of data within the full genomic landscape.
2. Support the identification and validation of previously unannotated or novel transcripts.

#### Transcriptome- and classification-based approaches:

1. Often yield higher mapping accuracy and expression quantification, particularly in well-annotated organisms.
2. Are computationally more efficient, making them suitable for large-scale or resource-limited analyses.

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## Counting Reads per Genes

### Counting Reads per Genes

- The simplest way of estimating expression is to count reads per genes. Several tools are available: HTSeq, Cufflinks, RSubread (Bioconductor package)

### Counting Reads per Transcripts

### Counting Reads per Exons

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# What is the final result of an RNA-Seq analysis?

The result of an RNA-Seq analysis is a *quantification matrix*. For our toy example, the file might look like this:

name	control	shock
Gene A	100	200
Gene B	80	60
Gene C	120	180
...		



## A simple guide to *de novo* transcriptome assembly and annotation

Venket Raghavan<sup>†</sup>, Louis Kraft<sup>‡</sup>, Fantin Mesny<sup>†</sup> and Linda Rigerte<sup>†</sup>

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<sup>†</sup>These authors are joint first coauthors.

<sup>‡</sup>These authors are joint second coauthors.

### Abstract

A transcriptome constructed from short-read RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) is an easily attainable proxy catalog of protein-coding genes when genome assembly is unnecessary, expensive or difficult. In the absence of a sequenced genome to guide the reconstruction process, the transcriptome must be assembled *de novo* using only the information available in the RNA-seq reads. Subsequently, the sequences must be annotated in order to identify sequence-intrinsic and evolutionary features in them (for example, protein-coding regions). Although straightforward at first glance, *de novo* transcriptome assembly and annotation can quickly prove to be challenging undertakings. In addition to familiarizing themselves with the conceptual and technical intricacies of the tasks at hand and the numerous pre- and post-processing steps involved, those interested must also grapple with an overwhelmingly large choice of tools. The lack of standardized workflows, fast pace of development of new tools and techniques and paucity of authoritative literature have served to exacerbate the difficulty of the task even further. Here, we present a comprehensive overview of *de novo* transcriptome assembly and annotation. We discuss the procedures involved, including pre- and post-processing steps, and present a compendium of corresponding tools.



## SRA toolkit:

`fastq-dump` to obtain FASTQ formatted data

```
$ fastq-dump -X 3 -Z SRR390728
Read 3 spots for SRR390728
Written 3 spots for SRR390728
@SRR390728.1 1 length=72
CATTCTTCACGTAGTTCTCGAGCCTTGGTTTCAGCGATGGAGAATGACTTTGACAAGCTGAGAGAAGNTNC
+SRR390728.1 1 length=72
;;;;;;;;;;;;;9;;665142;;;;;;;;;;;;;96&&&(&
@SRR390728.2 2 length=72
AAGTAGGTCTCGTCTGTGTTTCTACGAGCTTGTGTTCCAGCTGACCCACTCCCTGGTGGGGGACTGGGT
+SRR390728.2 2 length=72
;;;;;;;;;;;;;4;;3;393.1+4&&5&&;;;;;;;;;;;;;<9;<;;;;;;;;464262
@SRR390728.3 3 length=72
CCAGCCTGGCCACAGAGTGTACCCCGTTTACTTATTATTATTATTATTGAGACAGAGCATTGGTC
+SRR390728.3 3 length=72
-;;8;;;;;;;;;*,;|;-4,44;,-&,1,4'./&19;;;;;;;;669;;99;;;;;;;;-3;2;0;+;7442&2/
```

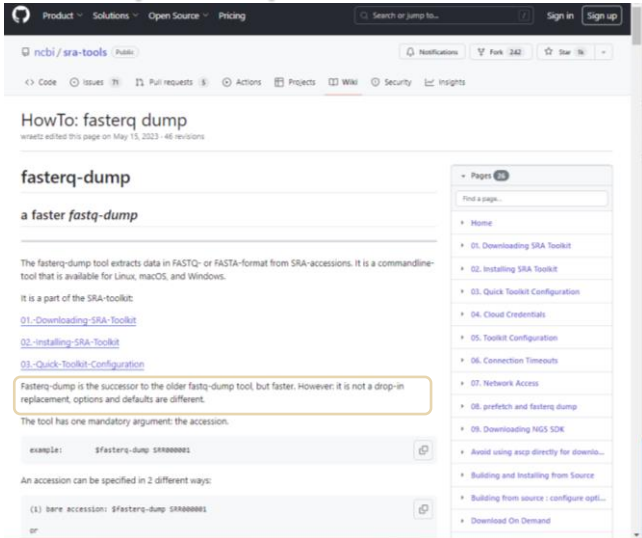
NCBI offers the SRA Toolkit to manipulate sequence data. The `fastq-dump` command can pull FASTQ-formatted data from an accession number (such as SRR390728).

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## fasterq-dump



https://github.com/ncbi/sra-tools/wiki/HowTo:-fasterq-dump

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SRA toolkit:  
fastq-dump to obtain FASTA formatted data

```
$ fastq-dump -X 3 -Z SRR390728 -fasta 36
Read 3 spots for SRR390728
Written 3 spots for SRR390728
>SRR390728.1 1 length=72
CATTCTTCACGTAGTTCTCGAGCCTTGGTTTTCAGC
GATGGAGAATGACTTTGACAAGCTGAGAGAAGNTNC
>SRR390728.2 2 length=72
AAGTAGGTCTCGTCTGTGTTTCTACGAGCTTGTGT
TCCAGCTGACCCACTCCCTGGGTGGGGGGACTGGGT
>SRR390728.3 3 length=72
CCAGCCTGGCCAACAGAGTGTACCCCGTTTTTACT
TATTTATTATTATTATTTGAGACAGAGCATTGGTC
```

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## FASTQ format


The FASTQ format stores DNA sequence data as well as associated Phred quality scores of each base.

```
@EAS54_6_R1_2_1_413_324
CCCTTCTTGTCTTCAGCGTTTCTCC
+
::3::::::::::::7:::::88
@EAS54_6_R1_2_1_540_792
TTGGCAGGCCAAGGCCGATGGATCA
+
::::::::7:::::-::3:83
@EAS54_6_R1_2_1_443_348
GTTGCTTCTGGCGTGGGTGGGGGGG
+EAS54_6_R1_2_1_443_348
::::::::9:7::7:393333
```

← DNA read

← Base quality score

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Fig.9-8  
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Dec	Char	Dec	Char	Q Score	Dec	Char	Q Score	Dec	Char	Q Score	Dec	Char	Q Score
0	Non-printing	32	Space	0	64	@	31	96	.	63			
1	Non-printing	33	!	1	65	A	32	97	a	64			
2	Non-printing	34	"	2	66	B	33	98	b	65			
3	Non-printing	35	#	3	67	C	34	99	c	66			
4	Non-printing	36	\$	4	68	D	35	100	d	67			
5	Non-printing	37	%	5	69	E	36	101	e	68			
6	Non-printing	38	&	6	70	F	37	102	f	69			
7	Non-printing	39	'	7	71	G	38	103	g	70			
8	Non-printing	40	(	8	72	H	39	104	h	71			
9	Non-printing	41	)	9	73	I	40	105	i	72			
10	Non-printing	42	*	10	74	J	41	106	j	73			
11	Non-printing	43	+	11	75	K	42	107	k	74			
12	Non-printing	44	,	12	76	L	43	108	l	75			
13	Non-printing	45	-	13	77	M	44	109	m	76			
14	Non-printing	46	.	14	78	N	45	110	n	77			
15	Non-printing	47	/	15	79	O	46	111	o	78			
16	Non-printing	48	0	16	80	P	47	112	p	79			
17	Non-printing	49	1	17	81	Q	48	113	q	80			
18	Non-printing	50	2	18	82	R	49	114	r	81			
19	Non-printing	51	3	19	83	S	50	115	s	82			
20	Non-printing	52	4	20	84	T	51	116	t	83			
21	Non-printing	53	5	21	85	U	52	117	u	84			
22	Non-printing	54	6	22	86	V	53	118	v	85			
23	Non-printing	55	7	23	87	W	54	119	w	86			
24	Non-printing	56	8	24	88	X	55	120	x	87			
25	Non-printing	57	9	25	89	Y	56	121	y	88			
26	Non-printing	58	:	26	90	Z	57	122	z	89			
27	Non-printing	59	;	27	91	[	58	123	{	90			
28	Non-printing	60	<	28	92	\	59	124		91			
29	Non-printing	61	=	29	93	]	60	125	}	92			
30	Non-printing	62	>	30	94	^	61	126	~	93			
31	Non-printing	63	?	31	95	_	62	127	DEL				

**FASTQ quality scores use ASCII characters**

...relating quality scores (e.g. Q30 for 1 in 10<sup>-3</sup> error rate) to a compact, one character symbol

You do not need to learn the one character symbols, but you should know the importance of base quality scores in sequence analysis.

### FASTQ format: Phred scores define quality

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The FASTQ format stores DNA sequence data as well as associated Phred quality scores of each base.

$$Q_{\text{PHRED}} = -10 \times \log_{10}(P_e)$$

Phred quality score	Probability of incorrect base call	Base call accuracy
10	1 in 10	90%
20	1 in 100	99%
30	1 in 1,000	99.9%
40	1 in 10,000	99.99%
50	1 in 100,000	99.999%

## Visualizing sequencing quality data

- FastQC tool

<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>

## Quality control (QC) – improving data with removing identifiable errors

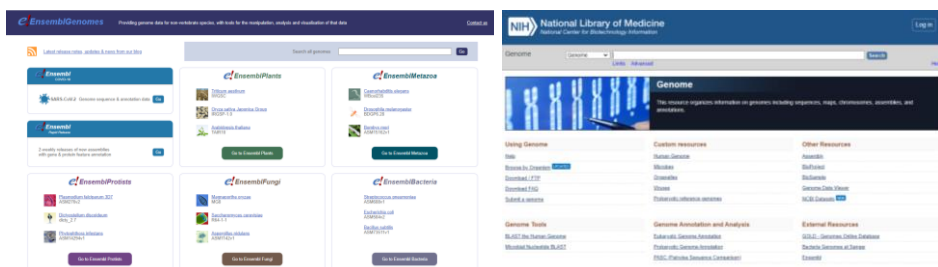
- Fastp
- Trimmomatic
- Cutadapt
- AdapterRemoval
- BBduk
- ...

**Sequencing adapter trimming** (same tools as previously mention)

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## Where genomes are available?

International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC) members [National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), and DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ)]



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## Where genomes are available?



<https://ngdc.cncb.ac.cn/gwh/>

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## Alignment based vs classification based RNA-Seq

### Aligners

- HISAT2
- STAR
- Bowtie (a splice unaware aligner)
- BWA (a splice unaware aligner)
- ...

A classification-based RNA-Seq works via so-called “pseudo-alignments”.

### Pseudo-alignment tools

- Kallisto
- Salmon

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## Stranded vs non-stranded RNA-Seq

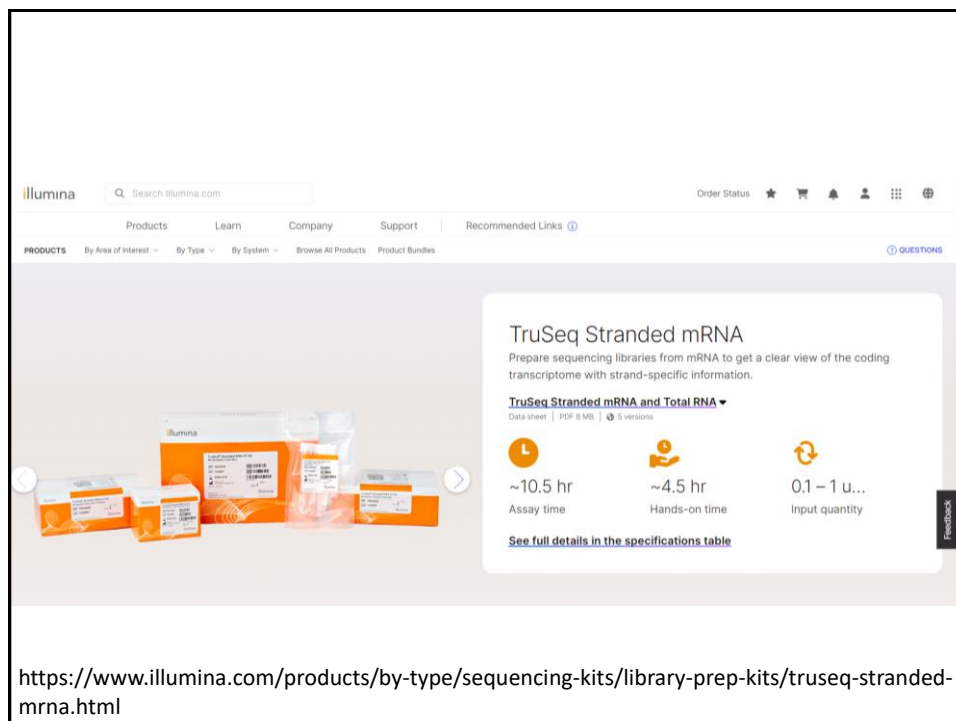
- Stranded (strand-specific) RNA-Seq

Preserves strand information—all mapped reads are aligned in the direction of transcription relative to the chromosomal strand

Ion Total RNA-Seq Kit v2

[https://www.thermofisher.com/document-connect/document-connect.html?url=https://assets.thermofisher.com/TFS-Assets%2FSLSG%2Fmanuals%2FMAN00010654\\_IonTotalRNASeqKit\\_v2\\_UG.pdf](https://www.thermofisher.com/document-connect/document-connect.html?url=https://assets.thermofisher.com/TFS-Assets%2FSLSG%2Fmanuals%2FMAN00010654_IonTotalRNASeqKit_v2_UG.pdf)

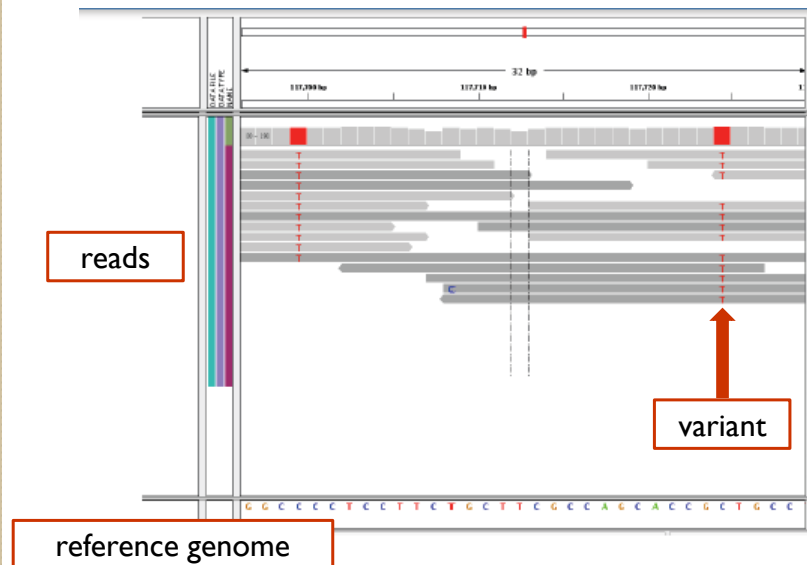
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<https://www.illumina.com/products/by-type/sequencing-kits/library-prep-kits/truseq-stranded-mrna.html>

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## Next-generation sequence data: visualizing of short reads aligned to a reference genome



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## BWA and other aligners produce output in the SAM format

Column	Description
1	QNAME Query (pair) NAME
2	FLAG bitwise FLAG
3	RNAME Reference sequence NAME
4	POS 1-based leftmost POSition/coordinate of clipped sequence
5	MAPQ MAPping Quality (Phred-scaled)
6	CIGAR extended CIGAR string
7	MRNM Mate Reference sequence NaMe ('=' if same as RNAME)
8	MPOS 1-based Mate POSition
9	ISIZE Inferred insert SIZE
10	SEQ query SEquence on the same strand as the reference
11	QUAL query QUALity (ASCII-33 gives the Phred base quality)
12	OPT variable OPTional fields in the format TAG:VTYPE:VALU

<https://www.samformat.info/sam-format-flag>

<https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/explain-flags.html>

<https://samformat.pages.dev/sam-format-flag>

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## Sequence alignment/map format (SAM) and BAM

- SAM is a common format having sequence reads and their alignment to a reference genome.
- BAM is the binary form of a SAM file.
- Aligned BAM files are available at repositories (Sequence Read Archive at NCBI, ENA at Ensembl)
- SAMTools is a software package commonly used to analyze SAM/BAM files.
- Visit <http://samtools.sourceforge.net/>

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### Mate Pair Library v2 Sample Preparation Guide For 2–5 kb Libraries

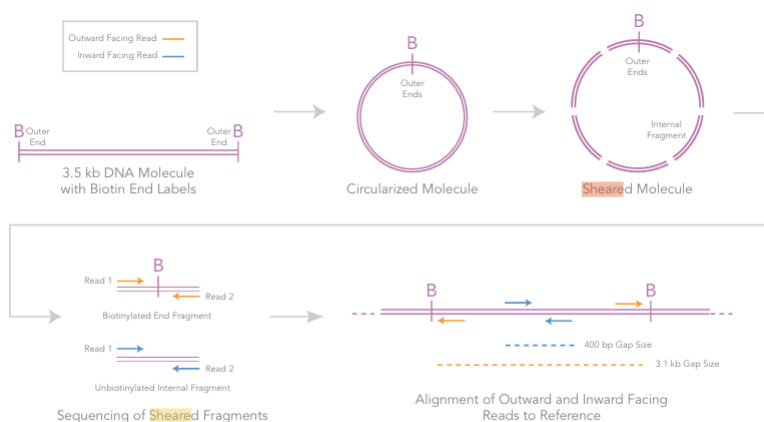


Figure 9 Origin and Alignment of Inward and Outward-Facing Reads

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnpbpcjpcglefindmkaj/https://support.illumina.com.cn/content/dam/illumina-support/documents/documentation/chemistry\_documentation/samplepreps\_legacy/MatePair\_v2\_2-5kb\_SamplePrep\_Guide\_15008135\_A.pdf

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# Anatomy of a Sequence Alignment/Map (SAM) file

(1) The query name of the read is given (M01121...)

(4) Position 480 is the left-most coordinate position of this read

(7) An = sign shows that the mate reference matches the reference name

(10) The sequence begins AATCT and ends ACGGG (its length is 150 bases)

(2) The flag value is 163 (this equals 1+2+32+128)

(5) The Phred-scaled mapping quality is 60 (an error rate of 1 in 10<sup>6</sup>)

(8) The 1-based left position is 524

(11) Each base is assigned a quality score (from BBBB ending FHC.-)

(3) The reference sequence name, chrM, refers to the mitochondrial genome

(6) The CIGAR string (148M2S) shows 148 matches and 2 soft-clipped (unaligned) bases

(9) The insert size is 195 bases

(12) This read has additional, optional fields at accompany the MiSeq analysis

```

home/bioinformatics$ samtools view 030c_s7.bam | less
M01121:5:000000000-A2DTN:1:2111:20172:15571 163 chrM
480 60 148M2S = 524 195 AATCTCATCAAT
ACAACCTCGCCCATCCTACCCAGCACACACACCGCTGCTAACCCCATACCCGAACC
AACCAAACCCCAAGACACCCCCACAGTTTATGTAGCTTACCTCCTCAAAGCAATAACC
TGAAATGTTTAGACGGG BBBBFFB5@FFGGGFGEGGEGAAACGHFFEGGAGFFH
AEFDGG?E?EGGGFGHFGHF?FFCHFH00E@EGFGGEE1FFEEHBEFFFGGGG@</0
1BG212222>F21@F11FGFG1@1?GC<G11?1?FGDGGF=GHFFHC.-
RG:Z:Sample7 XC:i:148 XT:A:U NM:i:3 SM:i:37
AM:i:37 X0:i:1 X1:i:0 XM:i:3 X2:i:0 X3:i:0 MD:Z:19C109C0A17

```

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Fig.9-13  
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# Anatomy of a Sequence Alignment/Map (SAM) file

(1) The query name of the read is given (M01121...)

The \$ symbol indicates a command prompt in Unix

Type samtools to run that program, and it includes a series of tools (such as view) to accomplish particular tasks—here, to view the contents of a file

(10) The sequence begins AATCT and ends ACGGG (its length is 150 bases)

In this example we'll look at a file called 030c\_s7.bam. It is a BAM file (the binary of a SAM). Most software manipulates BAM files rather than SAM.

The | symbol (called “pipe”) indicates to send the results to another program—in this case to the utility called less that displays one page at a time on your terminal.

(11) Each base is assigned a quality score (from BBBB ending FHC.-)

(12) This read has additional, optional fields at accompany the MiSeq analysis

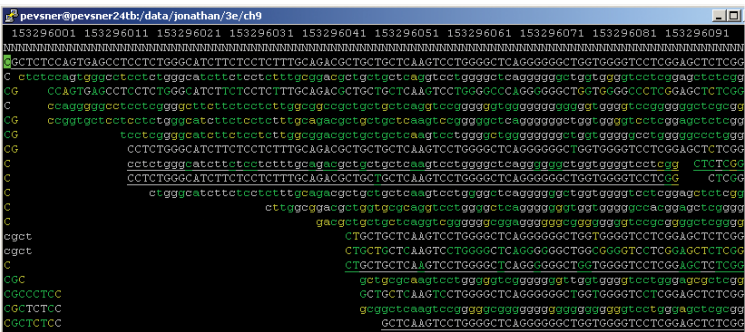
```

home/bioinformatics$ samtools view 030c_s7.bam | less
M01121:5:000000000-A2DTN:1:2111:20172:15571 163 chrM
480 60 148M2S = 524 195 AATCTCATCAAT
ACAACCTCGCCCATCCTACCCAGCACACACACCGCTGCTAACCCCATACCCGAACC
AACCAAACCCCAAGACACCCCCACAGTTTATGTAGCTTACCTCCTCAAAGCAATAACC
TGAAATGTTTAGACGGG BBBBFFB5@FFGGGFGEGGEGAAACGHFFEGGAGFFH
AEFDGG?E?EGGGFGHFGHF?FFCHFH00E@EGFGGEE1FFEEHBEFFFGGGG@</0
1BG212222>F21@F11FGFG1@1?GC<G11?1?FGDGGF=GHFFHC.-
RG:Z:Sample7 XC:i:148 XT:A:U NM:i:3 SM:i:37
AM:i:37 X0:i:1 X1:i:0 XM:i:3 X2:i:0 X3:i:0 MD:Z:19C109C0A17

```

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Fig.9-13  
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# SAMTools tview visualization of reads from a BAM file



There are many tools to view SAM/BAM files. A popular software package (SAMTools, used in Linux) includes `tview` visualization of reads from a BAM file

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Fig.9-14  
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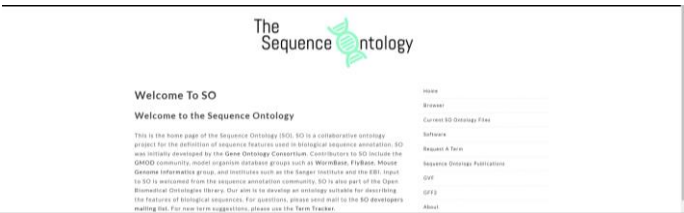
## Indexing reference genome/transcriptome

- Indexing reference genome
  - Incorporating the annotation into the index

### Annotation file



The [formal specification of GFF3](#) is on the [Sequence Ontology](#) web site.



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for visualizing continuous data, e.g. in the UCSC Genome Browser or IGV, bigWig files come in really handy

input  
different ChIP-seq samples

[https://hbctraining.github.io/Intro-to-ChIPseq-flipped/lessons/08\\_creating\\_bigwig\\_files.html](https://hbctraining.github.io/Intro-to-ChIPseq-flipped/lessons/08_creating_bigwig_files.html)

remember that there are 2 deepTools for bam → bigWig conversion:  
 ❖ **bamCoverage**: for individual files (like those shown here)  
 ❖ **bamCompare**: to normalize two files to each other

[https://hbctraining.github.io/Intro-to-ChIPseq-flipped/lessons/08\\_creating\\_bigwig\\_files.html](https://hbctraining.github.io/Intro-to-ChIPseq-flipped/lessons/08_creating_bigwig_files.html)

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# Turn each BAM file into bedGraph coverage. The files will have the .bg extension  
`cat ids.txt | parallel "bedtools genomecov -ibam bam/{}.bam -split -bg > bam/{}.bg"`

# Convert each bedGraph coverage into bigWig coverage. The files will have the .bw extension  
`cat ids.txt | parallel "bedGraphToBigWig bam/{}.bg ${IDX}.fai bam/{}.bw"`

The resulting bedGraph and bigWig files will have \*.bg and \*.bw extensions and are placed in the bam directory.

You can drag your bigWig files in the IGV7 panels, and the coverage information will load up much-much faster. Below I have loaded all samples, re-sized the tracks, and colored them by samples. I have also turned on logarithmic and automatic scaling. The resulting browser track is quite informative:

Biostar handbook

<https://www.encodeproject.org/software/bedgraphtobigwig/>

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