Bioinformatics for Evolutionary Biology

Alignments: algorithms and tools

Sequence alignment

Sequence alignment is a way of arranging the sequences of DNA, RNA, or protein to identify regions of similarity that may be a consequence of functional, structural, or evolutionary relationships between the sequences.

Note:

- When we align sequences we assume they are similar
- Protein sequence conservation and DNA sequence conservation

Orthologous and paralogous

- Orthologous sequences differ because they are found in different species
- Paralogous sequences differ due to a gene duplication event
- Homoeologous sequences originated by a process of polyploidization
- Sequences may be all three

Types of alignments

 Pair-wise alignments - comparing two sequences at a time.

• Multiple alignments - comparing more than two sequences: dymanic programming, progressive alignment (iterative), HMM, ...

Pairwise alignment

The alignment of two sequences (DNA or protein) is a relatively straightforward computational problem.

Challenge1: there are many possible alignments.

Challenge2: large database/reference.

- Note:
- Two sequences can <u>always</u> be aligned.
- Often there is **more than one** solution with the same score.

Methods of alignment

- By hand slide sequences on two lines of a word processor
- Dot plot
 - with windows
- Mathematical approach
 - Dynamic programming (slow, optimal)
- Heuristic methods (fast, approximate)
 - BLAST
 - Short-reads aligners

Align by hand

GATCGCCTA_TTACGTCCTGGAC <---> AGGCATACGTA_GCCCTTTCGC

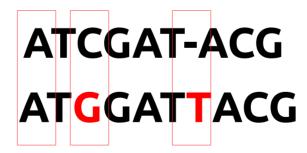
You still need some kind of scoring method to find the best alignment

Alignment cost

Points for a matching letter: 1

Points for a non-matching letter: -1

Points for inserting a gap: -2



Pair-wise alignment

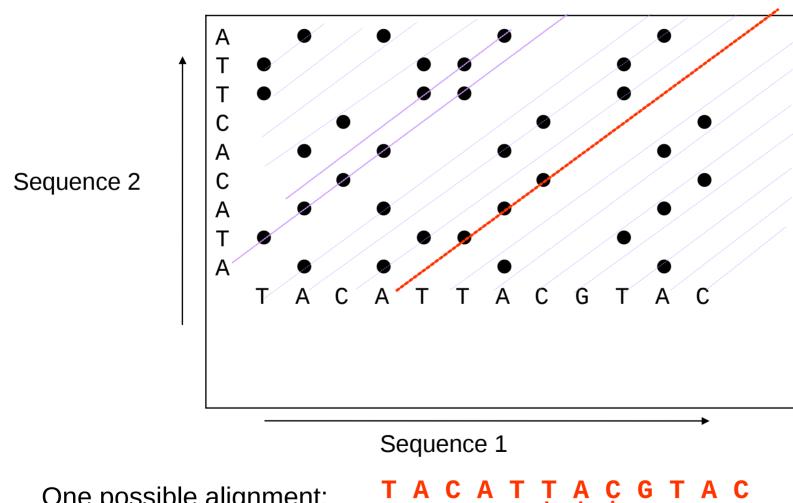
ATCGAT-ACG ATGGATTACG

```
Matches: +1+1 +1 +1+1 +1+1+1 = +8 Mismatches: -1 = -1 Gaps: -2 = -2
```

Total score = +5

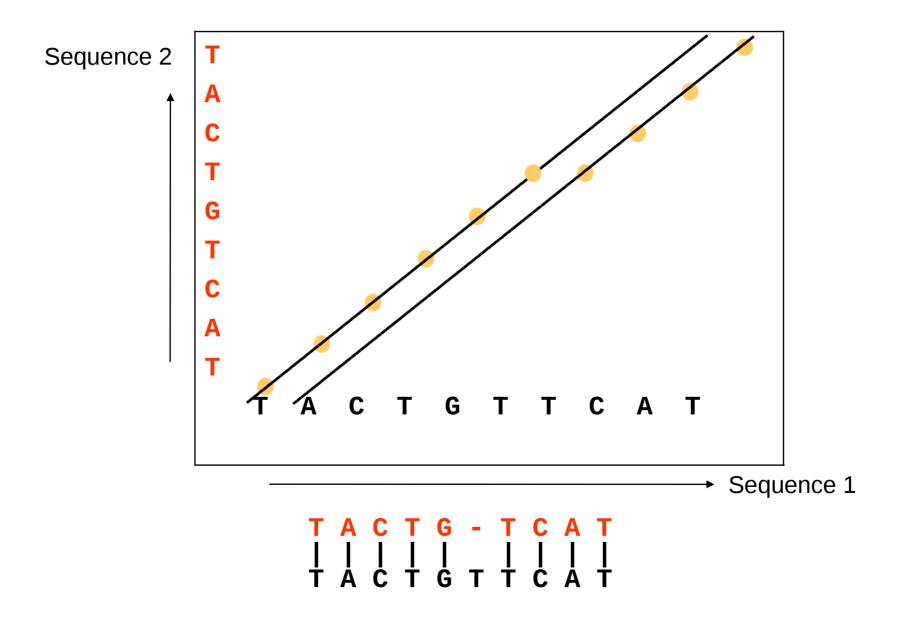
Dotplot

A dotplot gives an overview of all possible alignments In a dotplot each diagonal corresponds to a possible (ungapped) alignment

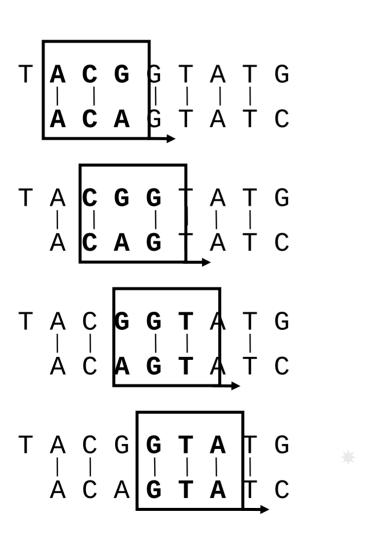


One possible alignment:

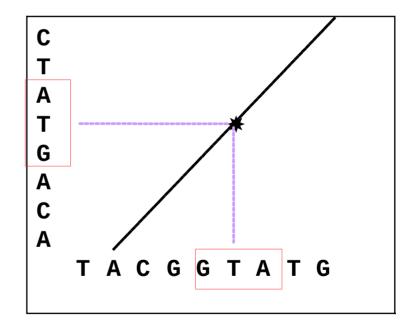
Insertions / Deletions in a Dotplot



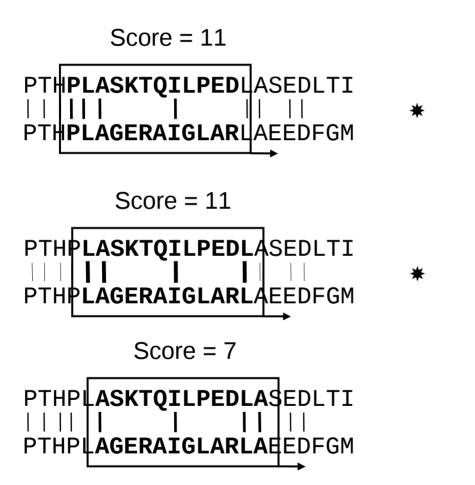
Word size and stringency



Word Size = 3



Window / Stringency



Scoring Matrix Filtering

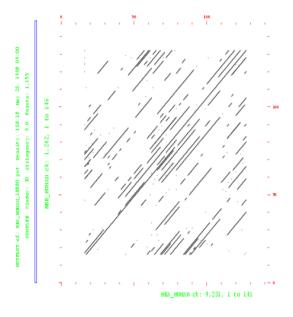
Matrix: PAM250

Window = 12

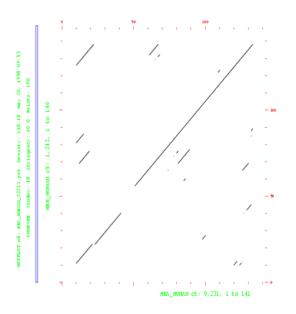
Stringency = 9

Dotplot

Window = 130 Stringency = 9



Window = 18 Stringency = 10



Dotplot Considerations

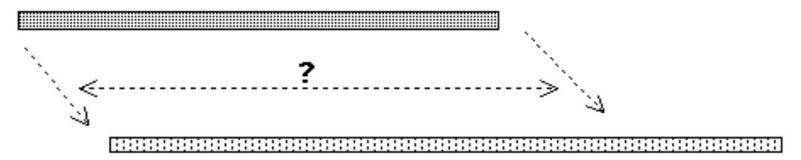
- The smaller the window, the larger the weight of statistical (unspecific) matches.
- With large windows the sensitivity for short sequences is reduced.
- Insertions/deletions are not treated explicitly.

- Dynamic programming is a very general programming technique.
- It is applicable when a large search space can be structured into a succession of stages, such that:
 - The initial stage contains trivial solutions to sub-problems
 - Each partial solution in a later stage can be calculated by recurring a fixed number of partial solutions in an earlier stage
 - The final stage contains the overall solution

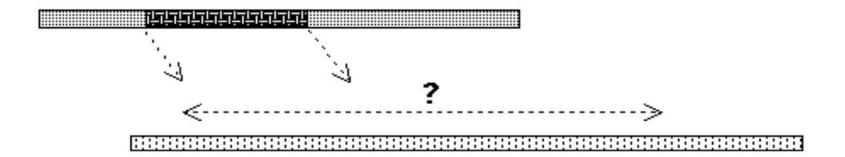
Global vs. Local alignments

- Global alignment algorithms start at the beginning of two sequences and add gaps to each until the end of one is reached (Needleman-Wunsch).
- Local alignment algorithms finds the region (or regions)
 of highest similarity between two sequences and build
 the alignment outward from there (Smith-Waterman).

Global Alignment



Local Alignment



Basic principles of dynamic programming

There are about 2^{2N}/2N comparisons
N=300→10¹⁷⁹ different alignments

- Build alignment path matrix
- Stepwise calculation of score values
- Backtracking (evaluation of the optimal path)

Build an alignment path matrix

- For sequences x(1:i) and y(1:j):
- If F(i-1,j-1), F(i-1,j) and F(i,j-1) are known we can calculate F(i,j)
- Three possibilities:
 - x_i and y_j are aligned, $F(i,j) = F(i-1,j-1) + s(x_i,y_j)$
 - x_i is aligned to a gap, F(i,j) = F(i-1,j) d
 - y_i is aligned to a gap, F(i,j) = F(i,j-1) d

• The best score up to (i,j) will be the **largest** of the three options

Formal description of dynamic programming algorithm

For two sequences $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}_1$, \mathbf{a}_2 ,... \mathbf{a}_i and $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}_1$, \mathbf{b}_2 , ... \mathbf{b}_j , where $S_{ij} = S(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_j)$ then

$$S_{ij} = \max \{ S_{i-1,j-1} + s(a_i b_j),$$
 $\max (S_{i-x,j} - w_x),$
 $x \ge 1$
 $\max (S_{ij-y} - w_x),$
 $y \ge 1$
 $\}$

where S_{ij} is the score at position at i in sequence \mathbf{a} and j in sequence \mathbf{b} , $s(a_ib_j)$ is score for aligning the character at positions i and j, w_x is the penalty for a gap of length x in sequence \mathbf{a} , and w_x is the penalty for a gap of length y in sequence \mathbf{b} .

Note: S_{ij} is a type of running best score as the algorithm moves through every position in the matrix – optimal alignment

Global alignment (Needleman-Wunsch) algorithm

Example – align GATC to GAC

Scoring system:

0	-	G	Α	Т	С
-	0				
G					
Α					
С					

Global alignment (Needleman-Wunsch) algorithm

Scoring system:

0	-	G	Α	Т	С
-	0 —	→ -2 -	→ -4 −	→ -6 −	→ -8
G					
Α					
С					

Global alignment (Needleman-Wunsch) algorithm

Scoring system:

0	-	G	Α	Т	С
-	0 —	→ -2 —	→ -4 −	- 6 −	-8
G	- 2				
Α	-4				
С	-6				

Global alignment (Needleman-Wunsch) algorithm

Scoring system:

0	-	G	Α	Т	С
-	0 +1	-2	-4	-6	-8
G	-2 _	Max= 1			
Α	-4				
С	-6				
	-0				

Global alignment (Needleman-Wunsch) algorithm

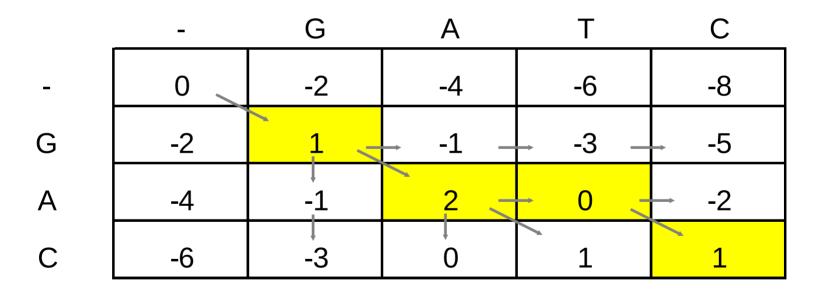
Scoring system:

0	-	G	Α	Т	С
-	0	-2	-4	-6	-8
G	-2	1 /	→ -1 –	→ - 3 –	→ - 5
Α	-4	-1	2 -	→ O <u></u>	→ -2
С	-6	-3	0	1	1

Backtracking and final alignment

Global alignment (Needleman-Wunsch algorithm)

Scoring system:





Smith-Waterman - Local alignment

Variation of the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm and as such it guarantied to find the best local alignment with respect to the scoring system used.

The main difference to the Needleman–Wunsch algorithm is that negative scoring matrix cells are set to zero.

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} - & A & C & A & C & A & C & T & A \\ - & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ A & 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ G & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ C & 0 & 0 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ A & 0 & 2 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 4 \\ C & 0 & 1 & 4 & 4 & 7 & 6 & 7 & 6 & 5 \\ A & 0 & 2 & 3 & 6 & 6 & 9 & 8 & 7 & 8 \\ C & 0 & 1 & 4 & 5 & 8 & 8 & 11 & 10 & 9 \\ A & 0 & 2 & 3 & 6 & 7 & 10 & 10 & 10 & 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

Scoring method

Scoring Systems:

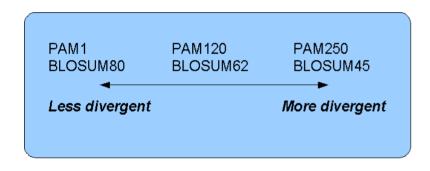
- Each symbol pairing is assigned a numerical value, based on a symbol comparison table.
- nucleoties
- amino acids (PAM, BLOSUM)

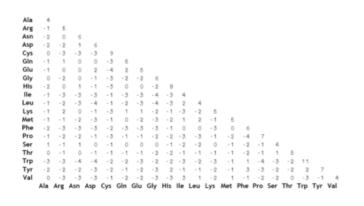
Gap Penalties:

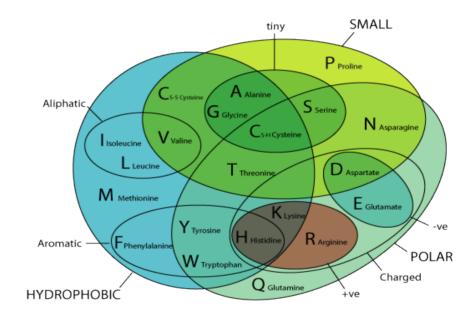
- Opening: The cost to introduce a gap
- Extension: The cost to elongate a gap

Protein scoring systems

Amino acids have different biochemical and physical properties that influence their relative replaceability in evolution.

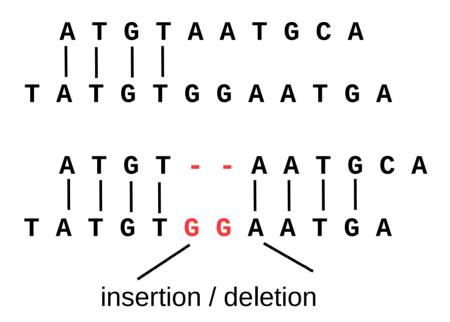






Livingstone & Barton 1993

Scoring gaps Insertions and Deletions



Introduction of a gap is **penalized** with a negative score value.

Why gap penalties?

Score: 0

Score: 88

Gaps not permitted

Match = 5Mismatch = -4

Gaps allowed but not penalized

Why Gap Penalties?

- The optimal alignment of two similar sequences usually maximizes the number of matches and minimizes the number of gaps.
- There is a trade-off between these two adding gaps reduces mismatches.
- Permitting the insertion of arbitrarily many gaps can lead to high scoring alignments of **non-homologous** sequences.
- Penalizing gaps forces alignments to have relatively few gaps.

Gap Penalties

How to balance gaps with mismatches?

- Gaps must get a steep penalty, or else you'll end up with nonsense alignments.
- In real sequences, multi-base (or amino acid) gaps are quit common (genetic insertion/deletion)
- "Affine" gap penalties give a big penalty for each new gap, but a much smaller "gap extension" penalty.

Scoring Insertions and Deletions

$$match = 1$$

 $mismatch = 0$

Total Score: 4



Total Score: 8 - 3.2 = 4.8

Gap parameters:

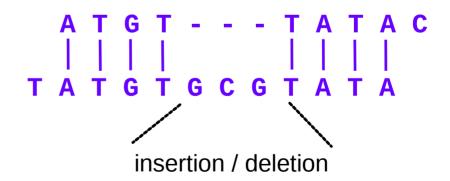
$$d = 3$$
 (gap opening)

$$e = 0.1$$
 (gap extension)

$$g = 3$$
 (gap length)

$$\xi(g) = -d - (g-1) e$$

$$\xi(g) = -3 - (3 - 1) = -3.2$$



BLAST – Best Local Alignment Search Tool

- Primarily designed to identify homologous sequences.
- Blast is a hashed seed-extend algorithm.
- Finding seeds significantly increases the speed of BLAST compared to doing a full local alignment over a whole sequence.
- BLAST first finds highly conserved or identical sequences which are then extended with a local alignment.

BLAST - Original version

Example:

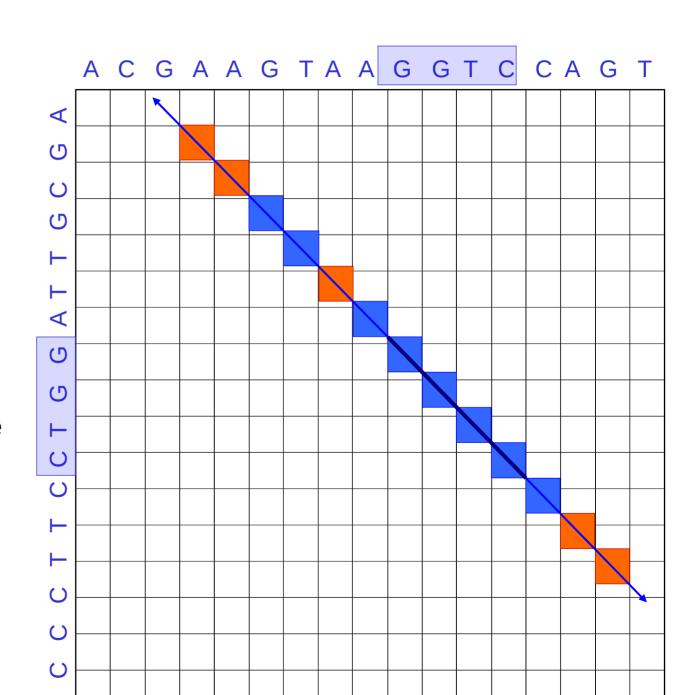
Seed size = 4,

The matching word GGTC initiates an alignment

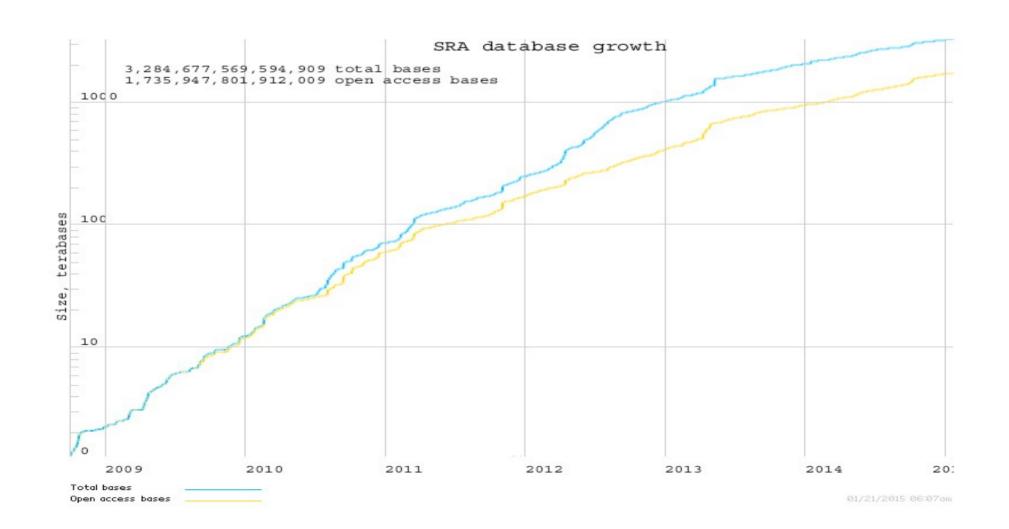
Extension to the left and right until alignment score falls below 50%

Output:

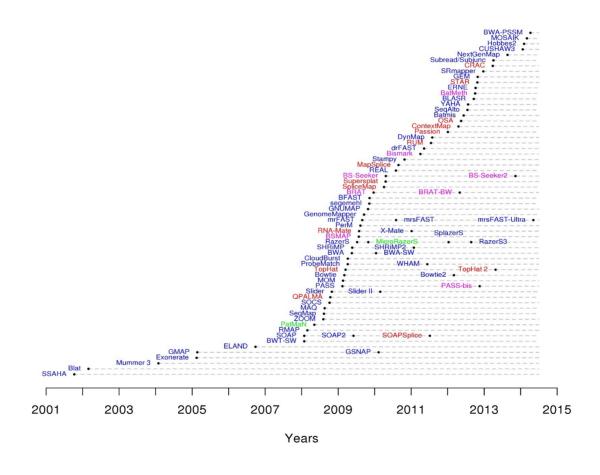
GTAAGGTCC GTTAGGTCC



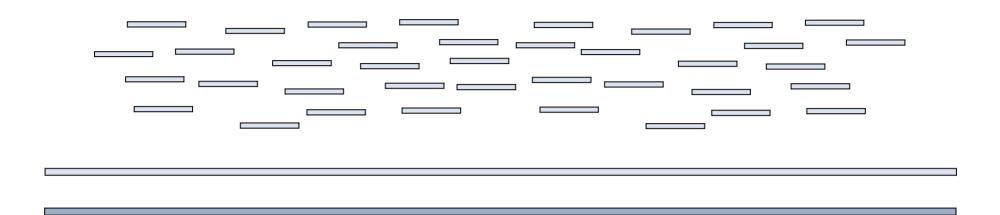
Next Generation Sequencing More sequences

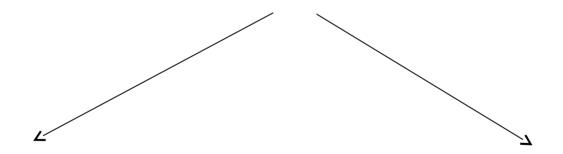


More aligners



Alignment of short reads to a reference





Reference

..ACTGGGTCATCGATCGATCGATCGCTAGCTAG.

Sample

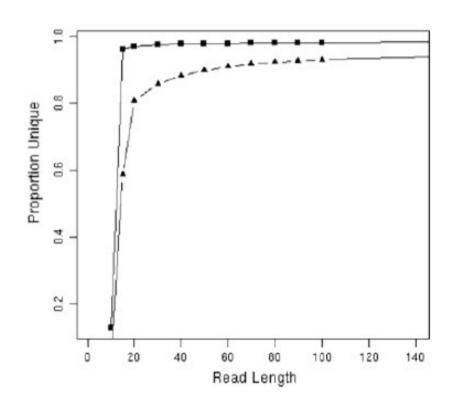
Why not using BLAST – Speed

- Typically BLAST will take approximately 0.1 1 second to search 1 sequence against a database
- Depends on size of database, e-value cutoff and number of hits to report selected
- 60 million reads equates to 70 CPU days!
- Even on multi-core systems this is too long!
- Especially if you have multiple samples!
- This is still true with new implementations of BLAST

Why is short read alignment hard?

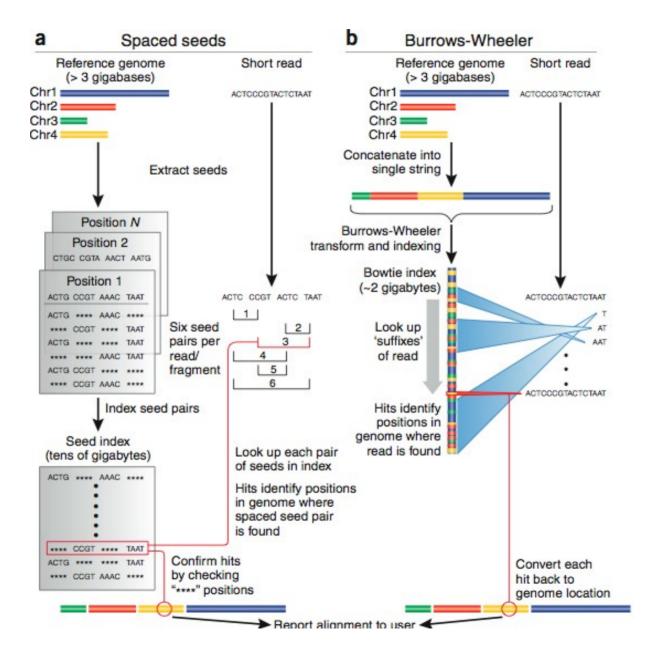
Many sequences should be aligned quickly to a very long reference

Short reads contain inherently limited information and the shorter a read, the less likely it is to have a unique match to a reference sequence



Turner et al. 2009

Approaches to align short reads



Hashed seed-extend algorithms

2 step process

- Identify a match to the seed sequence in the reference
- Extend match using sensitive (but slow) Smith-Waterman algorithm (dynamic programming)

Reference sequence:

Short read:

GTCATCGTACGATCGATCGATCGATCGGCTA

Note that the short read has 1 difference from the reference

Reference sequence:

Short read:

GTCATCGTACG ATCGATAGATCG ATCGATCGGCTA

11bp word

11bp word

11bp word

The algorithm will try to match each word to the reference. If there is a match at with any single word it will perform a local alignment to extend the match

Reference sequence:

Seed Extend with Smith Waterman

...ACTGGGTCATCGATCGATCGATCGATCGGCTAGCTA...
GTCATCGTACG ATCGAACGATCGATCGGTCGCTA

Short read:

GTCATCGTACG ATCGATAGATCG ATCGATCGGCTA

Here the algorithm is able to match the short read with a word length of 11bp

Reference sequence:

Short read:

GTCATCGTACGATCGATCGATCGATCGGCA

Note that the short read has 3 differences possibly sequencing errors, possibly SNPs

Reference sequence:

Short read:

11bp word

GTCATCGTACG ATCGATCGATCG ATCGATCGGCAA

11bp word

11bp word

Note that the short read has 3 differences

Reference sequence:

Short read:

GTCATCGTACG ATCGATCGCAA

No seeds match

Therefore the algorithm would find no hits at all!

Consecutive seed

Consecutive seed 9bp with no mismatches:

ACTCCCATCGTCATCGTACTAGGGATCGTAACA

CCACTGTCCTCCTACATAGGAACGA

Reference sequence

SNP 'heavy' read

TCATCCTAC

TCATCGTAC TCCTCCTAC

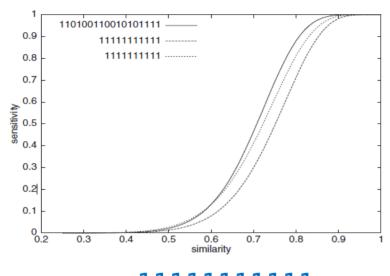
Cannot find seed match

Even allowing for 2 mismatches in the seed - no seeds match.

No hits!

Spaced seeds

To increase sensitivity we can used spaced-seeds:



Up to 55% more sensitive than BLAST's default template for two sequences of 70% similarity

Ma et al. 2002

111111111111

ACTATCATCGTACACAT TCATCGTAC

Consecutive seed template with *length* 9bp

Reference

Query

11001100110011001

ACTATCATCGTACACAT

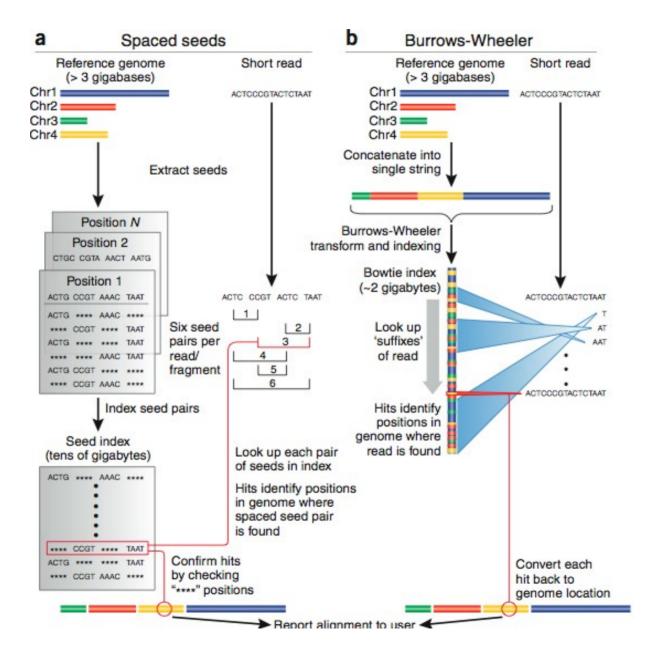
ACTCTCACCGTACACAT

Spaced-seed template with weight 9bp

Reference

Query

Approaches to align short reads

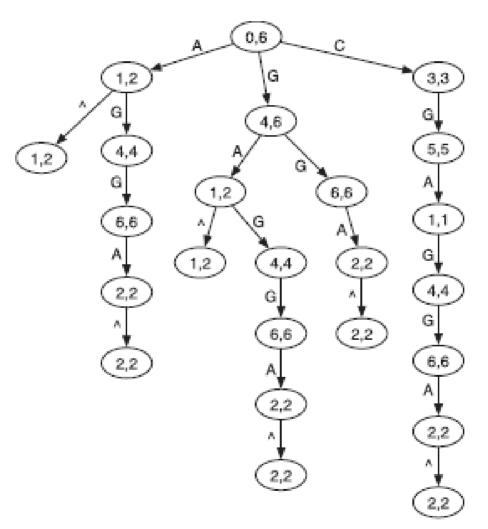


Suffix-Prefix Trie

- A family of methods which uses a Trie structure to search a reference sequence (e.g. Bowtie, BWA, SOAP2)
- Trie data structure which stores the suffixes (i.e. ends of a sequence)
- Key advantage over hashed algorithms:
 - Alignment of multiple copies of an identical sequence in the reference only needs to be done once
 - Use of an FM-Index to store Trie can drastically reduce memory requirements (e.g. Human genome can be stored in 2Gb of RAM)
 - Burrows Wheeler Transform to perform fast lookups

Suffix Trie





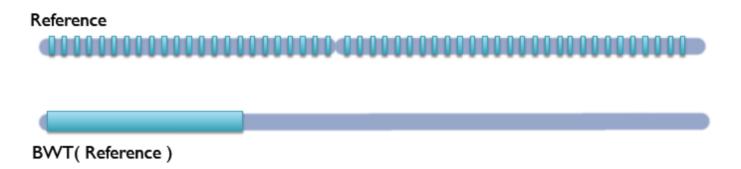
Li &Homer 2010

Burrows-Wheeler Algorithm

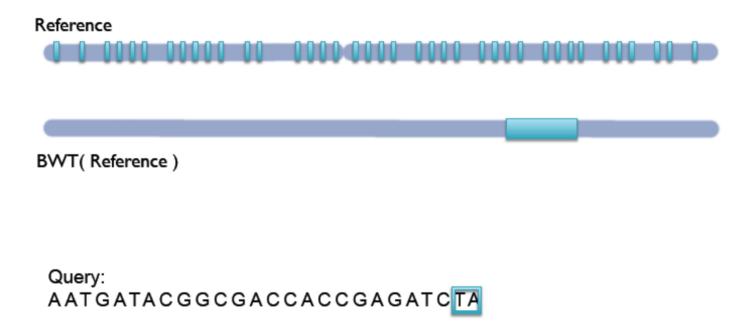
- Encodes data so that it is easier to compress
- Burrows-Wheeler transform of the word BANANA
- Can later be reversed to recover the original word

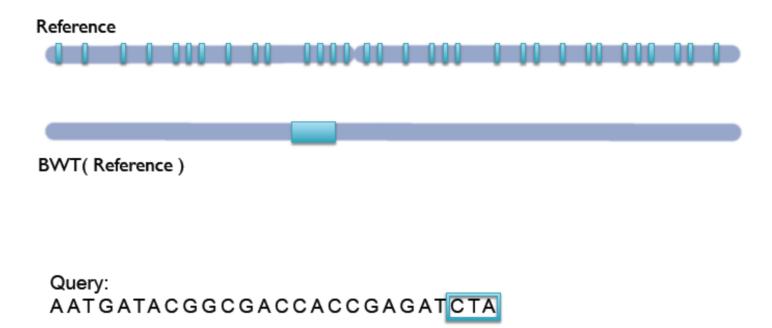
Transformation									
Input	All Rotations	Sorting All Rows in Alphabetical Order by their first letters	Taking Last Column	Output Last Column					
^BANANA	A ^BANAN NA ^BANA ANA ^BAN NANA ^BA ANANA ^B	ANANA ^B ANA ^BAN A ^BANAN BANANA ^ NANA ^BA NA ^BANA ^BANANA ^BANANA	ANANA ^B ANA ^BAN A ^BANAN BANANA ^ NANA ^BA NA ^BANA ^BANANA ^BANANA	BNN^AA A					

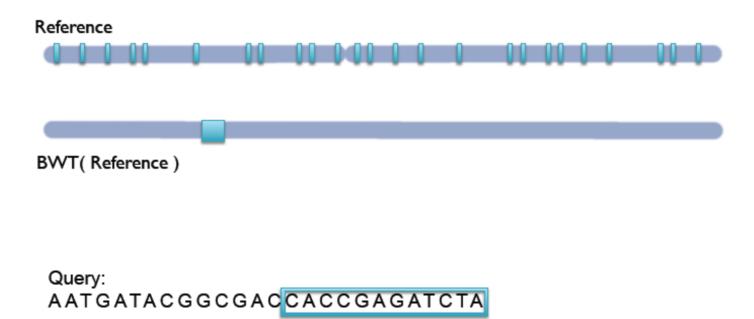
Reference			
BWT(Reference)			
0			
Query: AATGATACGGCG	ACCACCG	AGATCTA	

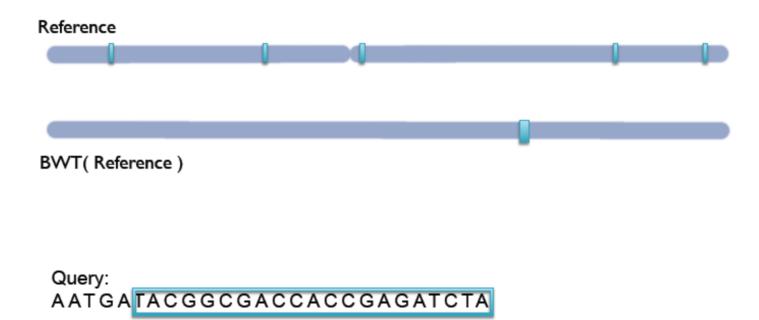


Query:
AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTA





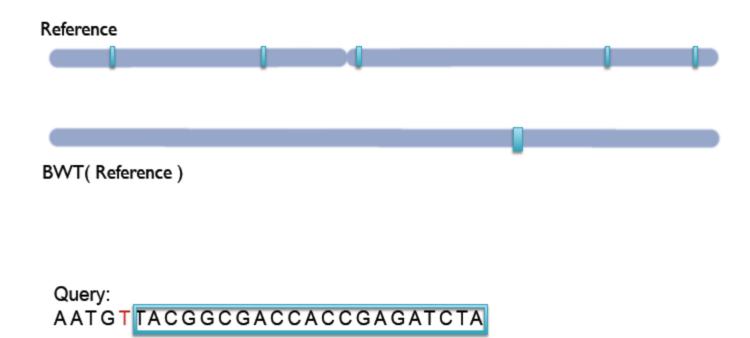


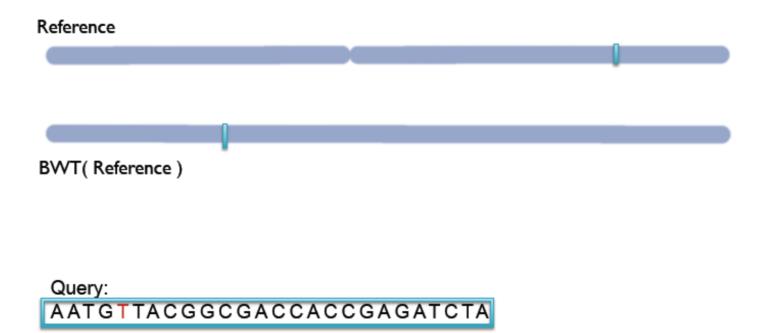


Reference

BWT(Reference)

Query:
AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTA





Bowtie/Soap2 vs. BWA

Bowtie (not Bowtie2) and Soap2 cannot handle gapped alignments - no indel detection => Many false SNP calls

BWA:

ACTCCCATTGTCATCGTACTTGGGATCGTAACA Reference
CCATTGTCATCGTACTTGGGATC-TA
TCATCGTACTTGGGATC-TA
TTGGGATC-TA

Comparison

Hash referenced spaced seeds

- Requires ~50Gb of memory
- Runs 30-fold slower
- Simpler to program
- More sensitive

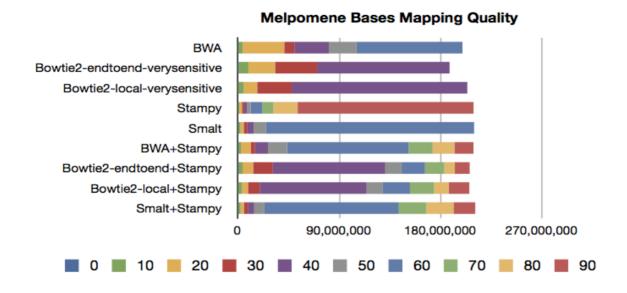
Suffix/Prefix Trie

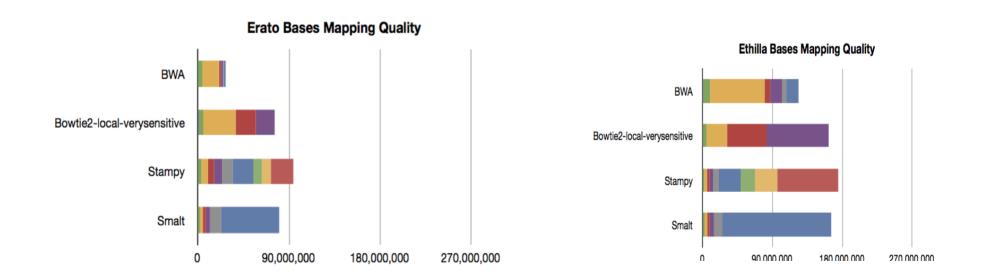
- Requires <2Gb of memory
- Runs 30-fold faster
- Complicated to program
- Less sensitive

Open-source short read alignment programs

Program	Algorithm	SoLID	Long reads	Gapped alignment	Paired-end	Quality scores used?
Bfast	Hashing ref	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Bowtie2	FM-Index	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blat	Hashing ref	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
BWA	FM-Index	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MAQ	Hashing reads	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
STAMPY	Hashing ref	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SMALT	Hashing ref	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shrimp2	Hashing ref	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SOAP2	FM-Index	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
SSAHA2	Hashing ref.	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Comparing aligners





John Davey: http://www.heliconius.org/

Other alignment considerations

- Indel detection
- Effect of paired-end alignments
- Using base quality to inform alignments
- PCR duplicates
- Multi-mapping reads
- Aligning spliced-reads from RNA-seq experiments

Indel detection

Spaced seed with weight 9bp and no mismatches:

ACTCCCATTGTCATCGTACTTGGGATCGTAACA CCATTGTCATGTACTTGGGATCGT



Reference sequence

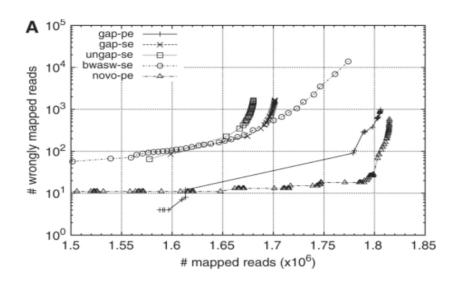
Read containing a deletion

CCXXTGXXATXXACXXG

Seed not matched due to frame shift caused by gap

No seed match. No alignment!

Effect of paired-end alignments

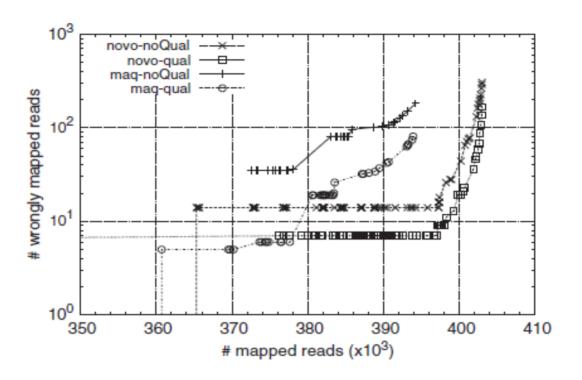


Li & Homer 2010

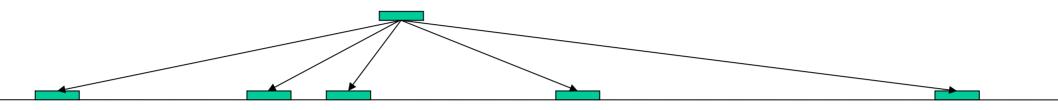
Paired read maps uniquely

Repetitive sequence

Base quality impacts on read mapping

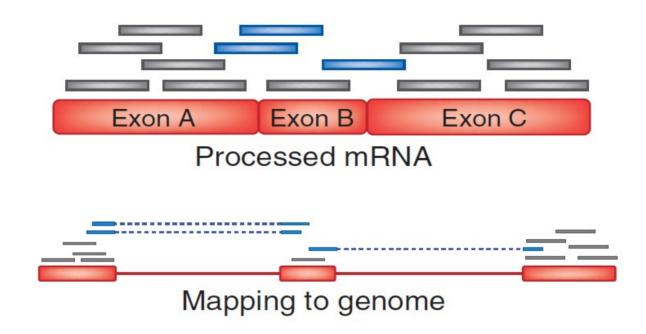


Multiple mapping reads



- A single read may occur more than once in the reference genome.
- This may be due to gene or whole chromosome duplication or repetitive sequences
- Aligners generally allow you to chose how these are dealt with
- Some aligners automatically assign a multi-mapping read to one of the locations at random (e.g. MAQ) how random is random

Spliced-read mapping



- Need packages which can account for splice variants
- Examples: TopHat, SubRead, Star

PCR duplicates

2nd generation sequencers have at least one PCR amplification step

- Can result in duplicate DNA fragments
- This can bias SNP calls or introduce false SNPs
- Good libraries have < 2-3% of duplicates
- SAMtools and Picard can identify and remove these when aligned against a reference genome

SAM (BAM) Format

Sequence Alignment/Map format

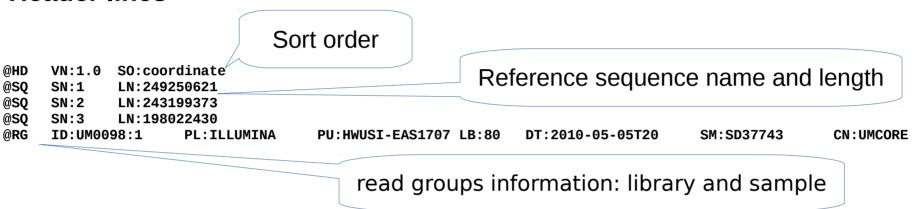
- Universal standard
- Human-readable (SAM) and compact (BAM) forms

Structure

- Header
 version, sort order, reference sequences, read groups, program/processing history
- Alignment records

SAM format

Header lines



Alignment lines

SRR035022 163 chr16 59999 37 22D54M = 60102 179 CCAACCCAAC... >AAA=>?AA... XT:A:M XN:i:2 SM:i:37 <QNAME> <FLAG> <RNAME> <POS> <MAPQ> <CIGAR> <MRNM> <MPOS> <ISIZE> <SEQ> <QUAL> [<TAG>]

sam/bam FLAG

Description 0x1 (1) template having multiple segments in sequencing 0x2 (2) each segment properly aligned according to the aligner 0x4 (4) segment unmapped 0x8 (8) next segment in the template unmapped 0x10 (16) SEQ being reverse complemented 0x20 (32) SEQ of the next segment in the template being reversed 0x40 (64) the rst segment in the template 0x80 (128) the last segment in the template 0x100 (256) secondary alignment 0x200 (512) not passing quality controls 0x400 (1024) PCR or optical duplicate

http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/explain-flags.html

147 = 1+2+16+128

Calculating mapping quality

$$MapQ = Q_S = -10 \log_{10}(P)$$

P = probability that this mapping is NOT the correct one How to calculate p?

bowtie

- · 255 = unique mapping
- Descriptive: 2 locations P = 0.5

3 locations - P = 2/3

4-9 locations - $P = \frac{3}{4}$

 \geq 10 locations – P = 0

MapQ = $-10 \log 10(0.5) = 3$

 $-10 \log 10(2/3) = 1.76$ (rounds to 2)

 $-10 \log 10(3/4) = 1.25$ (rounds to 1)

Bwa (same as in MAQ)

· 255 = MQ is not available

Z = read sequence

X = reference sequence

q = sum of qualities for mismatches

$$p_s(u|x,z) = \frac{p(z|x,u)}{\sum_{v=1}^{L-l+1} p(z|x,v)}$$

$$Q_s = \min\{q_2 - q_1 - 4.343 \log n_2, 4 + (3 - k')(\overline{q} - 14) - 4.343 \log p_1(3 - k', 28)\}.$$

Li et al. 2008

CIGAR string format

Option Description

- M Alignment match (can be a sequence match or mismatch)
- I Insertion to the reference
- D Deletion from the reference
- N Skipped region from the reference
- S Soft clip on the read (clipped sequence present in <seq>)
- H Hard clip on the read (clipped sequence NOT present in <seq>)
- P Padding (silent deletion from the padded reference sequence)

SRR035022 163 chr16 59999 37 22D54M = 60102 179 CCAACCCAAC... >AAA=>?AA... XT:A:M

Exercise

- 1) Generate fastq files with different levels of similarity to the reference:
- cp_350PE_01Err: sunflower chloroplast, 100bp paired-end with 350 (sd=30) insert-size, 1% error, 30x coverage, 0.01% mutations, 10% indels, 3 Ns allowed, min quality = 5
- cp_350PE_05Err: sunflower chloroplast, 100bp paired-end with 350 (sd=30) insert-size, 5% error, 30x coverage, 0.01% mutations, 10% indels, 3 Ns allowed, min quality = 5
- cp_350PE_03INDL: sunflower chloroplast, 100bp paired-end with 350 (sd=30) insert-size, 1% error, 30x coverage, 0.01% mutations, 30% indels, 3 Ns allowed, min quality = 5
- 2) Align to reference (advanced users can change default parameters or use another aligner

- Align with bwa mem/bowtie2
- How much time did it take?
- How many reads were aligned?
- How many correctly paired?
- View
- Calculate depth
- How many mismaches/Indels?