

# Introduction to methylation analysis

## *Data processing, QC and alignment*

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Employment disclosures:



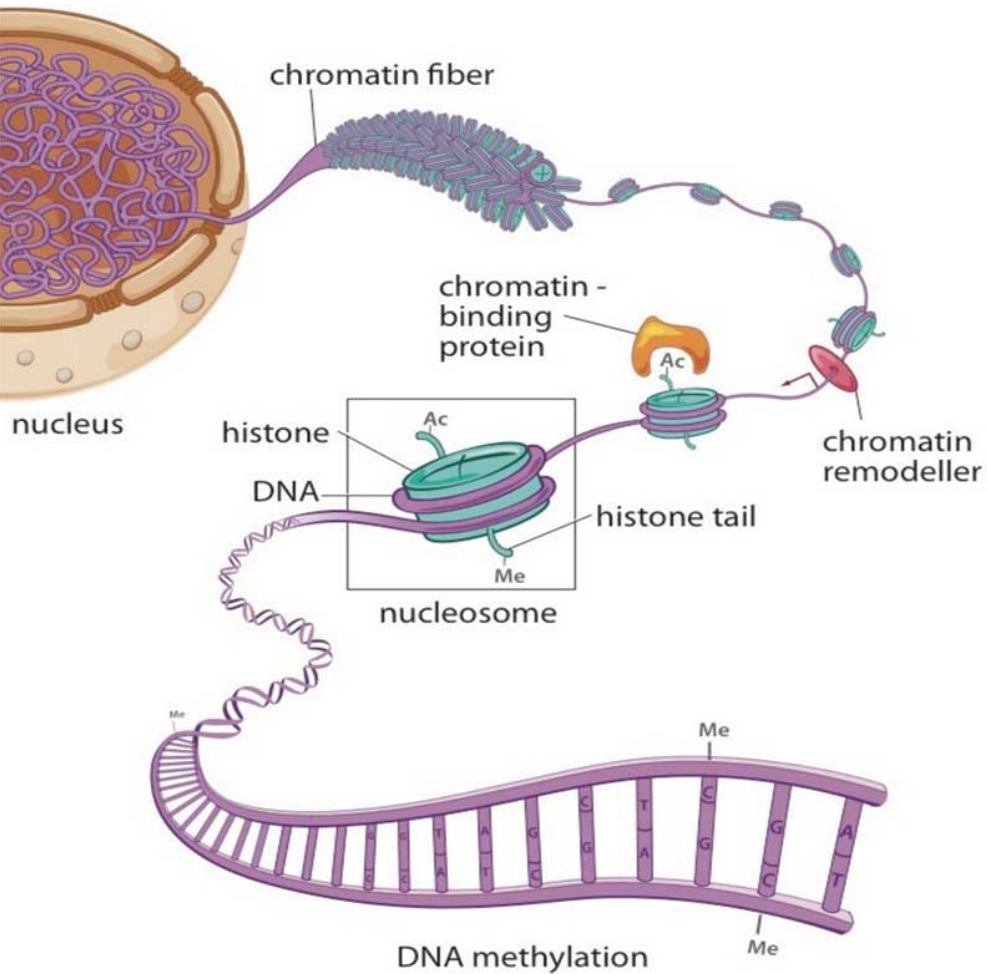
UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



Materials obtained from:



# Epigenetics



Studies changes in gene expression which are not encoded by the underlying DNA sequence

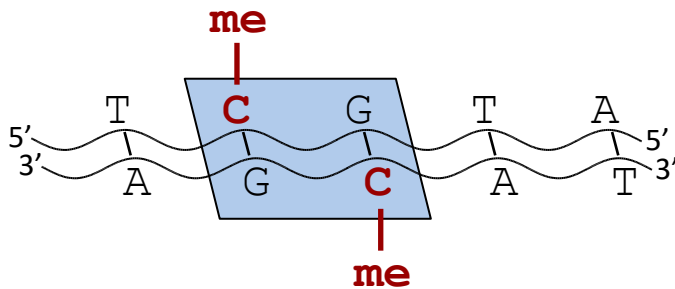
- histone modification
- non-coding RNAs
- higher order structure (accessibility/compaction)
- DNA cytosine methylation

# Types of DNA methylation

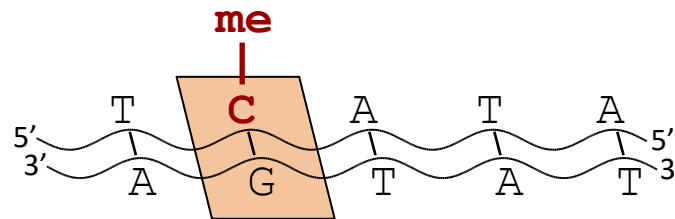
**canonical**

	Plants	Mammals
CG	symmetric	symmetric

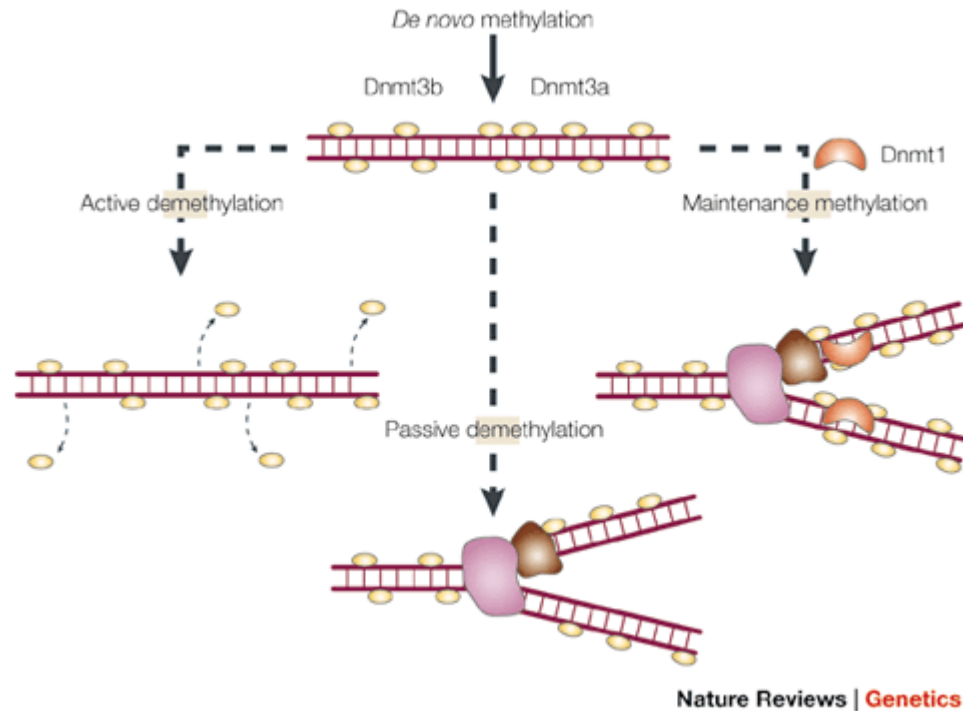
**CG context**



**non-CG context**

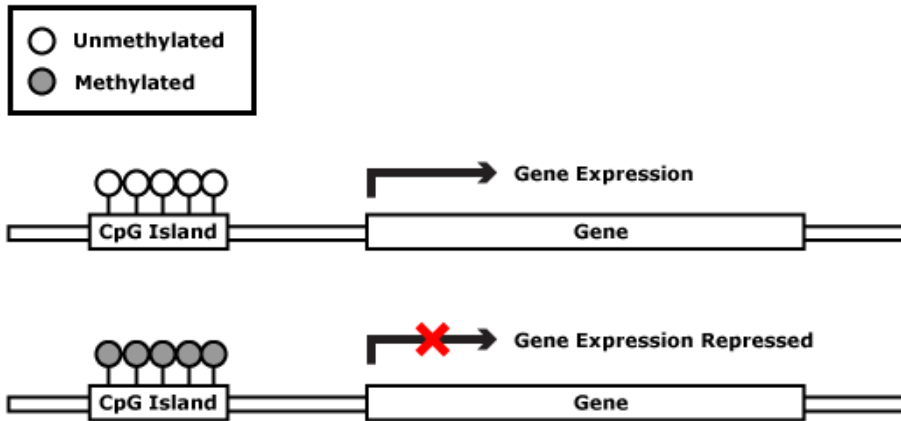


# DNA methylation is maintained



from W. Reik & J. Walter, *Nat. Rev. Genet.* 2001

# Regulation by DNA methylation

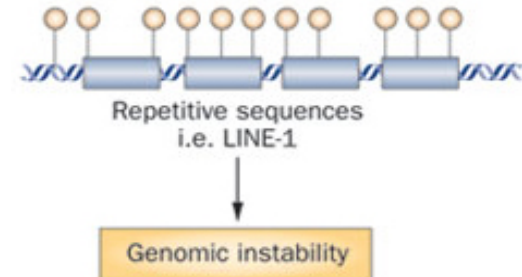
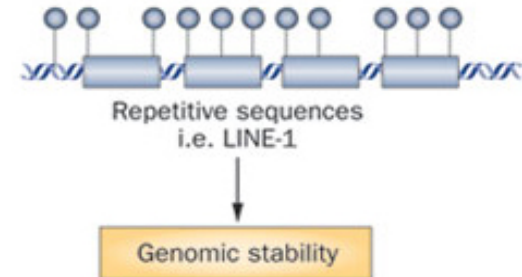


## Silencing of gene expression

Tissue differentiation and embryonic development

Faults in correct DNA methylation may result in

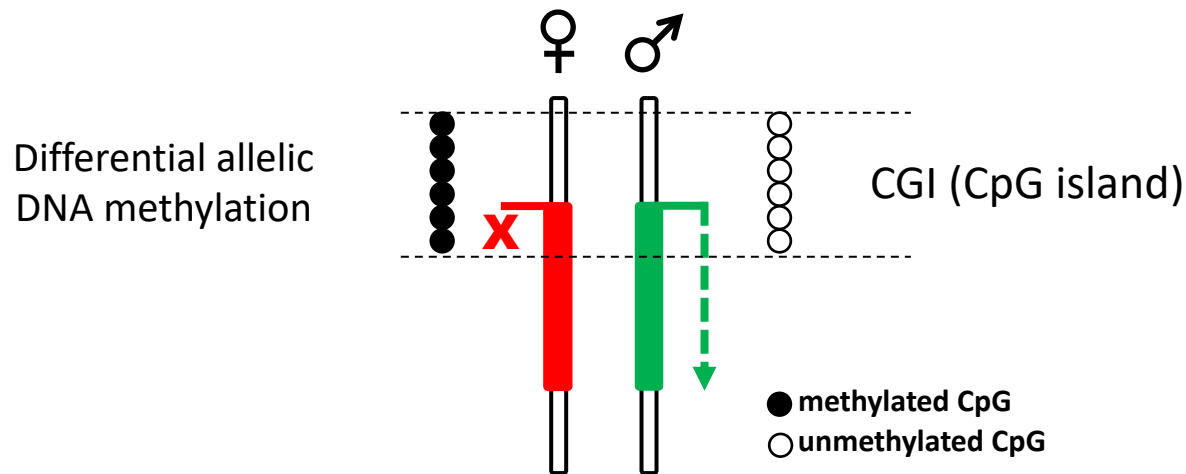
- early development failure
- epigenetic syndromes
- cancer



## Repeat activity

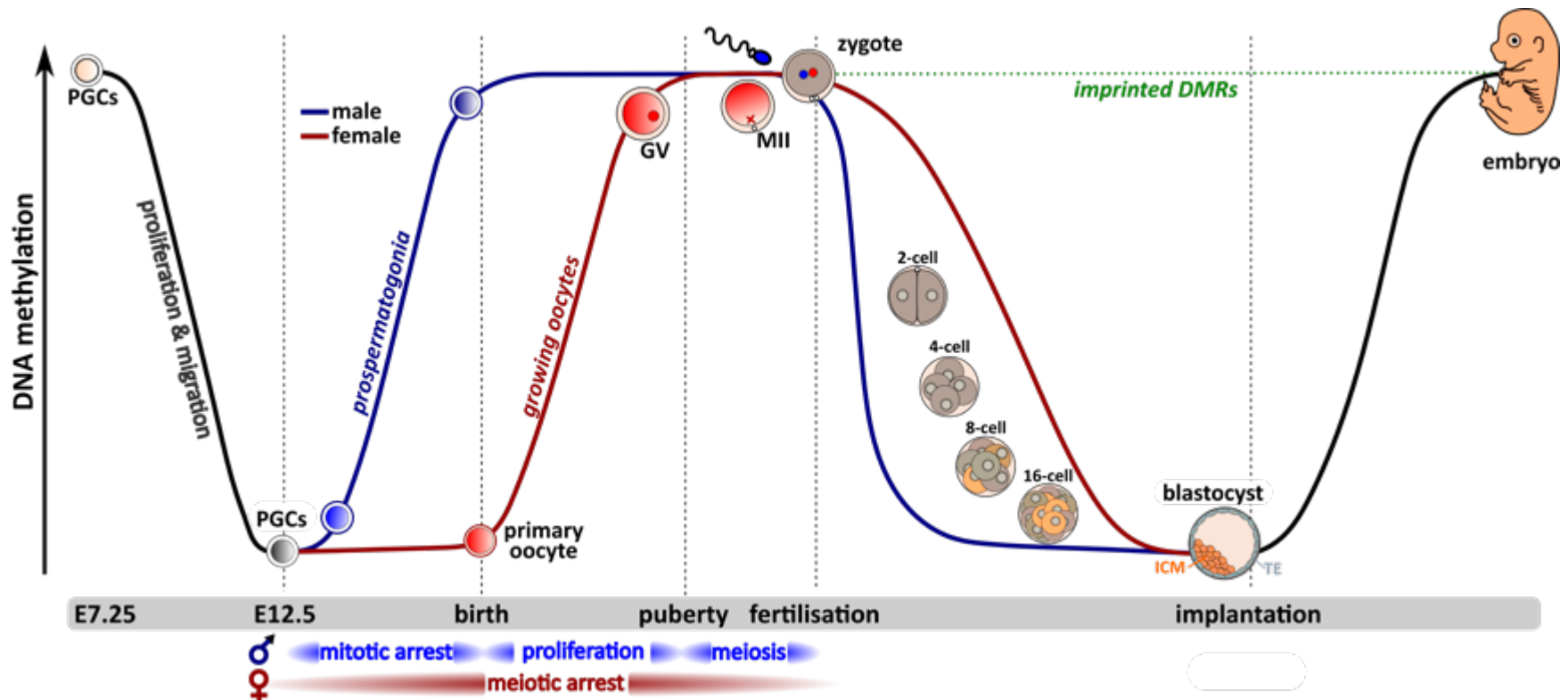
Genomic stability

# Imprinted Genes: mono-allelic expression

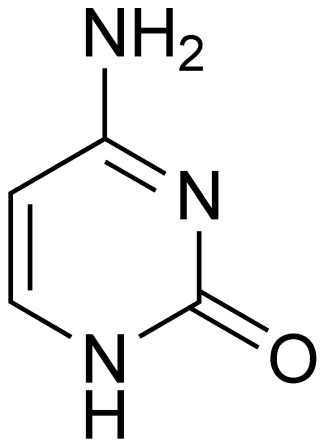


**Imprinted Genes:** Mono-allelic expression with parent-of-origin specificity.  
Have key roles in energy metabolism, placenta functions.

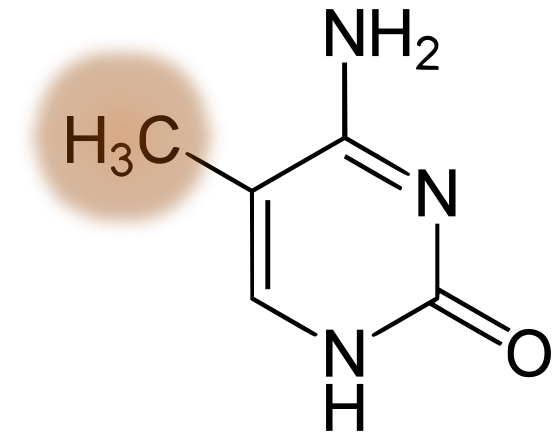
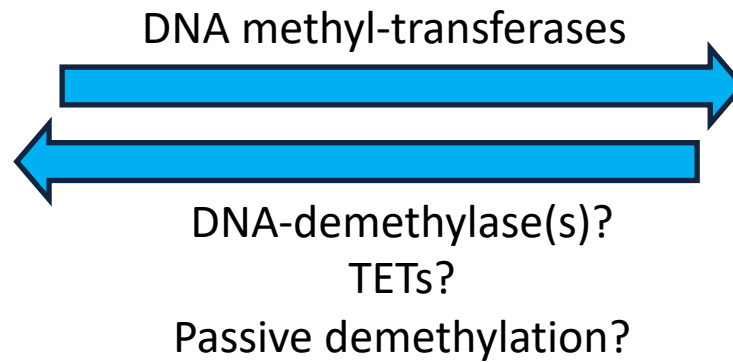
# DNA methylation is reset during reprogramming



# DNA Methylation



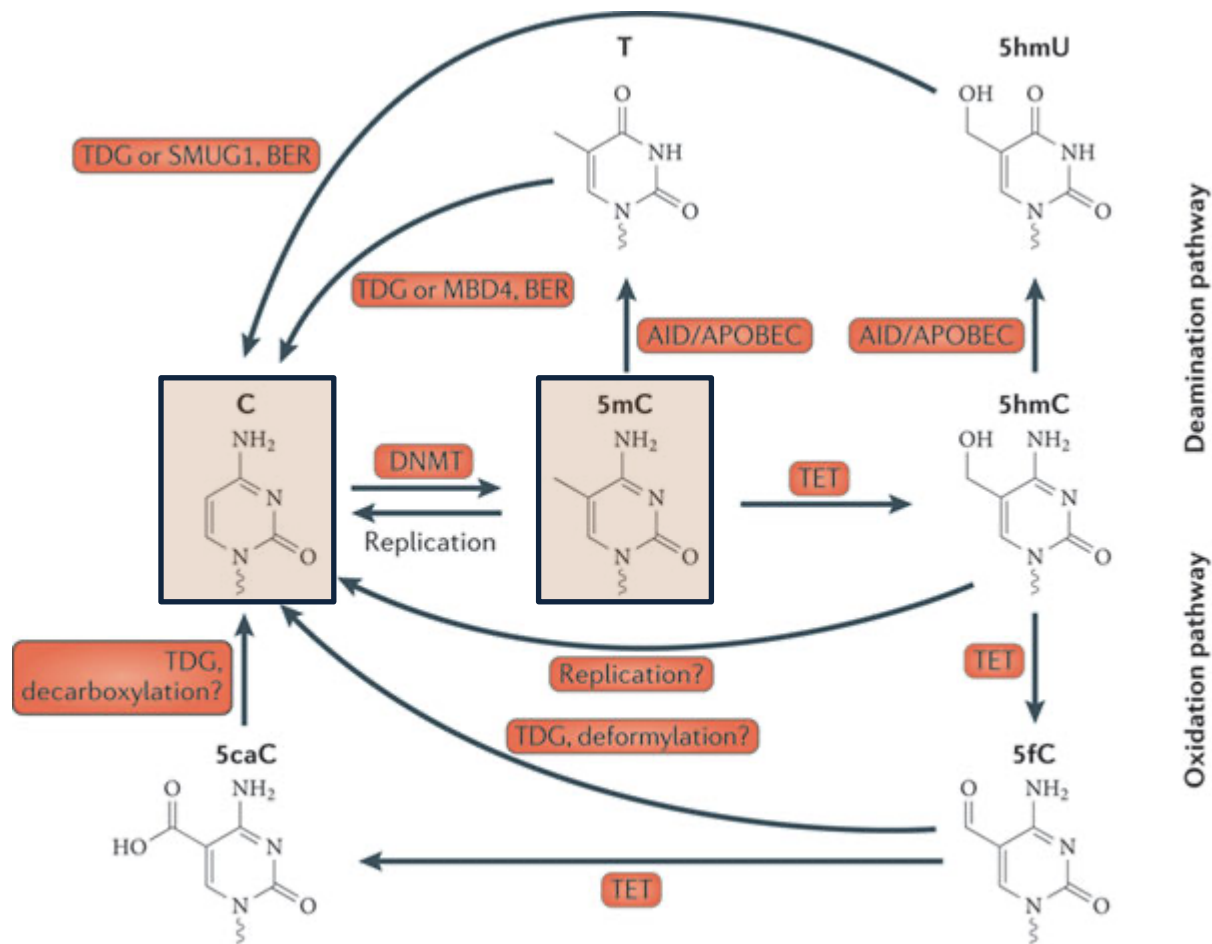
Cytosine



5-methyl Cytosine



# Other cytosine modifications



Miguel R. Branco, Gabriella Ficiz & Wolf Reik  
*Nature Reviews Genetics* **13**, 7-13 (January 2012)

Nature Reviews | **Genetics**

# Measuring DNA methylation by Bisulfite-sequencing

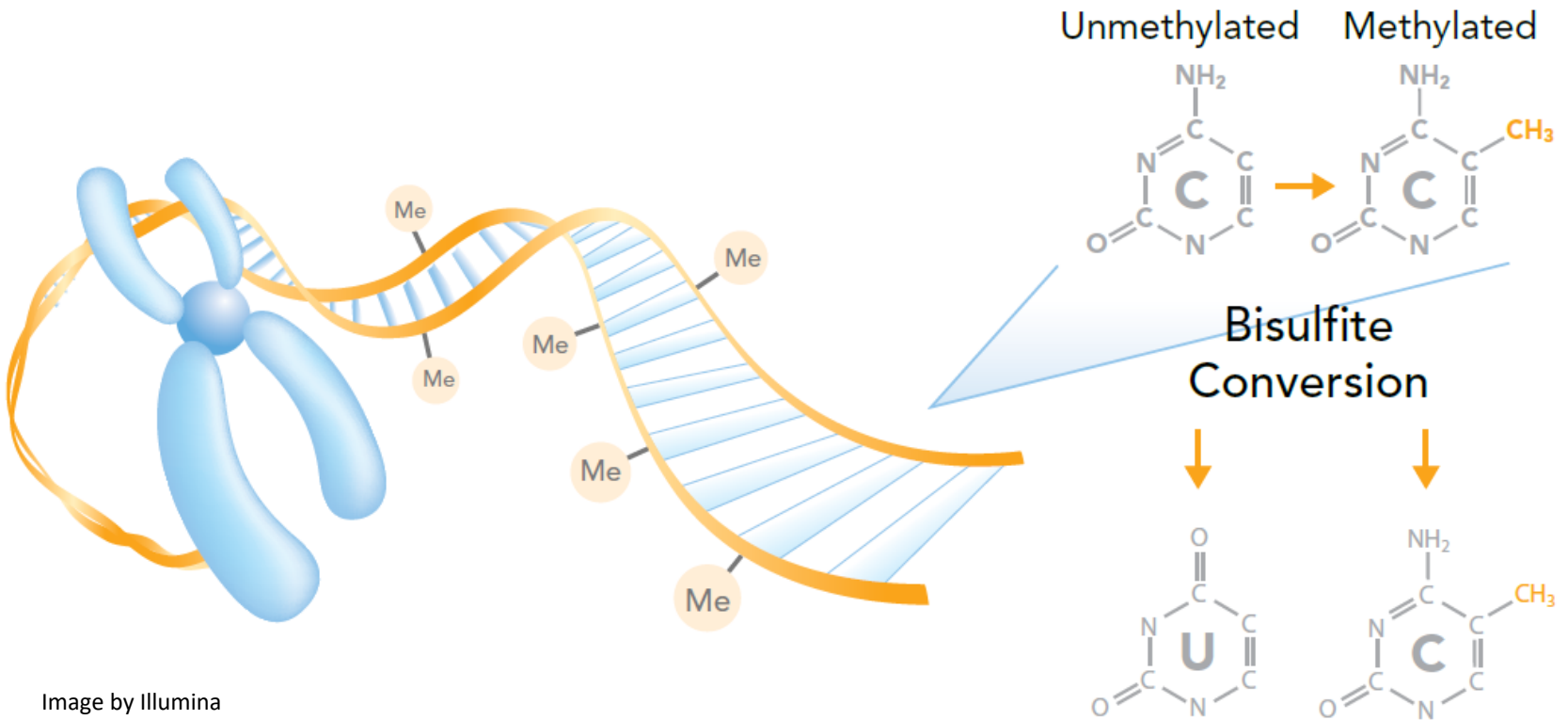
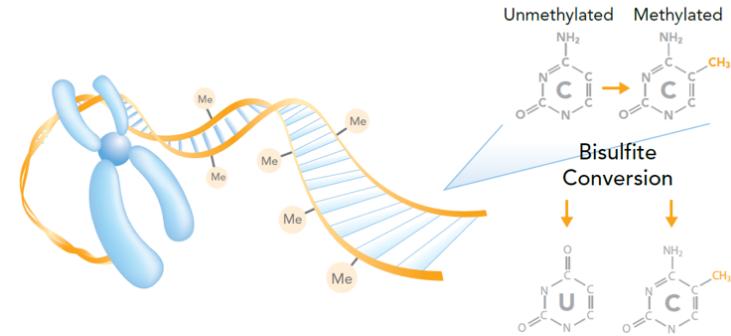


Image by Illumina

# Bisulfite Informatics



me                      me  
CCAGTCGCTATAGCGCGATATCGTA



Convert

TTAGTTGCTATAGTGCGATATTGTA

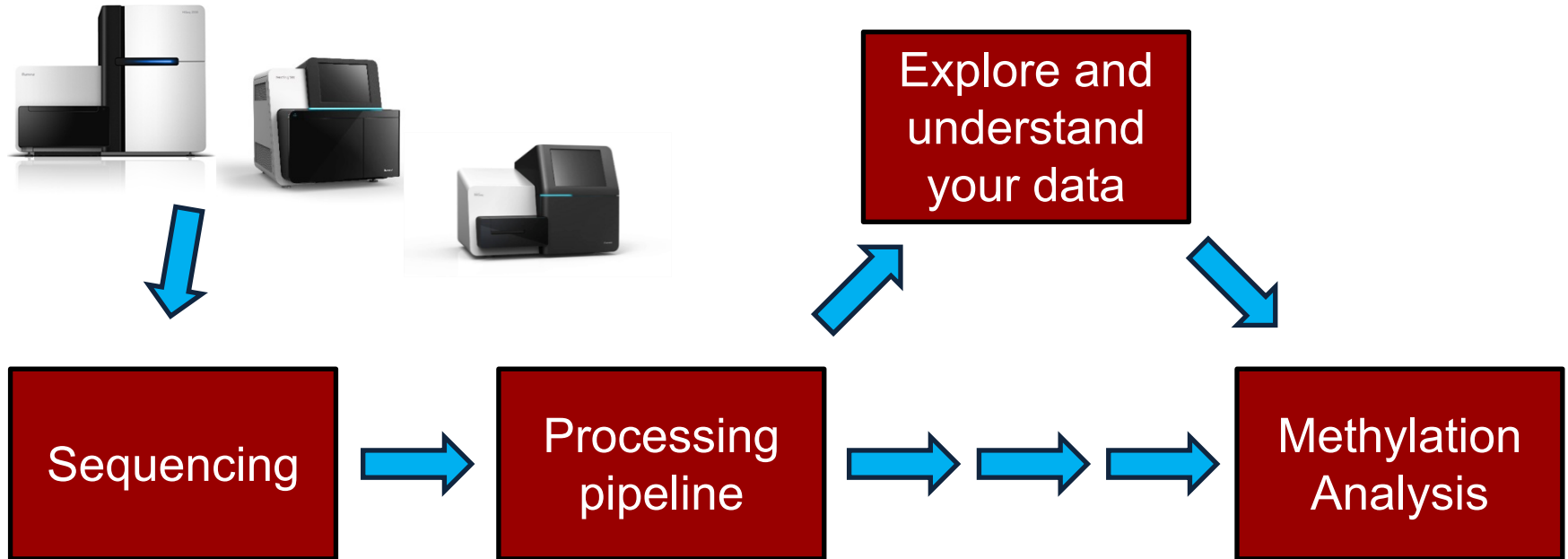


Map

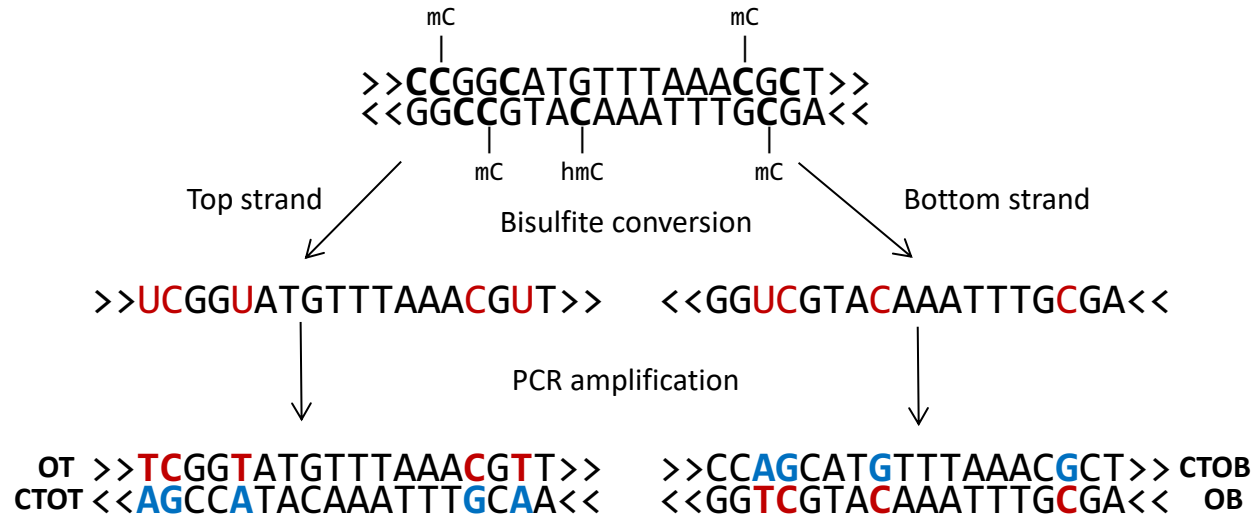
TTAGTTGCTATAGTGCGATATTGTA

||| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
... CCAGTCGCTATAGCGCGATATCGTA ...

# BS-Seq Analysis Workflow



# Bisulfite conversion of a genomic locus



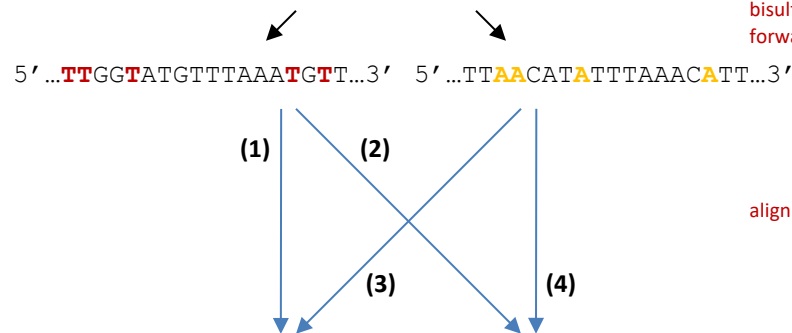
- 2 different PCR products and 4 possible different sequence strands from one genomic locus
- each of these 4 sequence strands can theoretically exist in any possible conversion state

# 3-letter alignment of Bisulfite-Seq reads



Bismark

sequence of interest TTGGCATGTTTAAACGTT

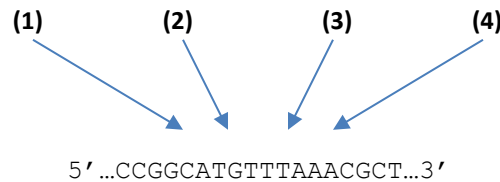


bisulfite convert read (treat sequence as both forward and reverse strand)

align to bisulfite converted genomes

...TTGGTATGTTTAAATGTT...  
...AACCATACAAATTTACAA...  
forward strand C → T converted genome

...CCAAACATATTTAAACACT...  
...GGTGTATATAATTTGTGA...  
forward strand G → A converted genome  
(equals reverse strand C → T conversion)



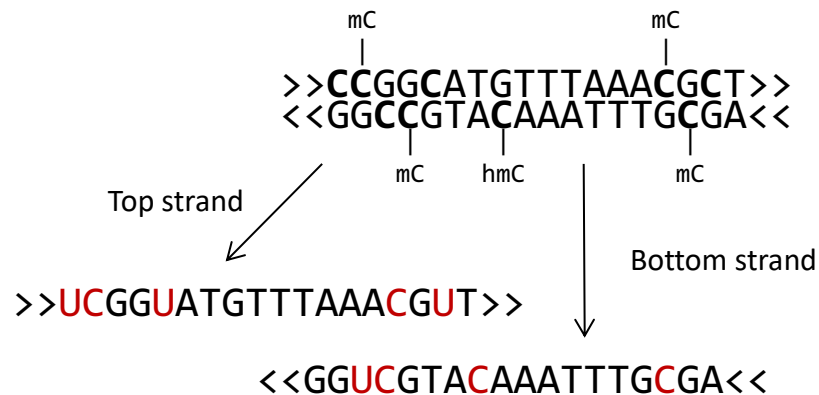
read all 4 alignment outputs and extract the unmodified genomic sequence if the sequence could be mapped uniquely

methylation call

read sequence TTGGCATGTTTAAACGTTA  
genomic sequence CCGGCATGTTTAAACGCTA  
methylation call xz . . **H** . . . . . **Z** . h . .

h unmethylated C in CHH context  
**H** methylated C in CHH context  
x unmethylated C in CHG context  
**X** methylated C in CHG context  
z unmethylated C in CpG context  
**Z** methylated C in CpG context

# Common sequencing protocols



## 1) Directional libraries

(vast majority of kits, also EpiGnome/Truseq)

OT >>TCGGTATGTTTAAACGTT>>  
<<GGTCGTACAAATTTGCGA<< OB

## 2) PBAT libraries

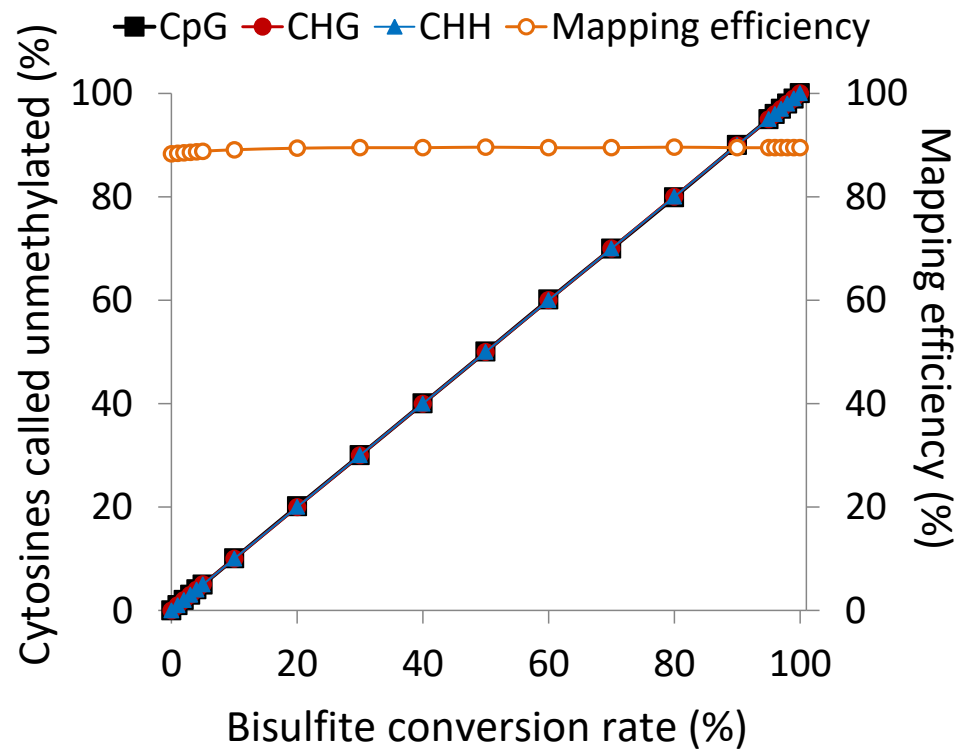
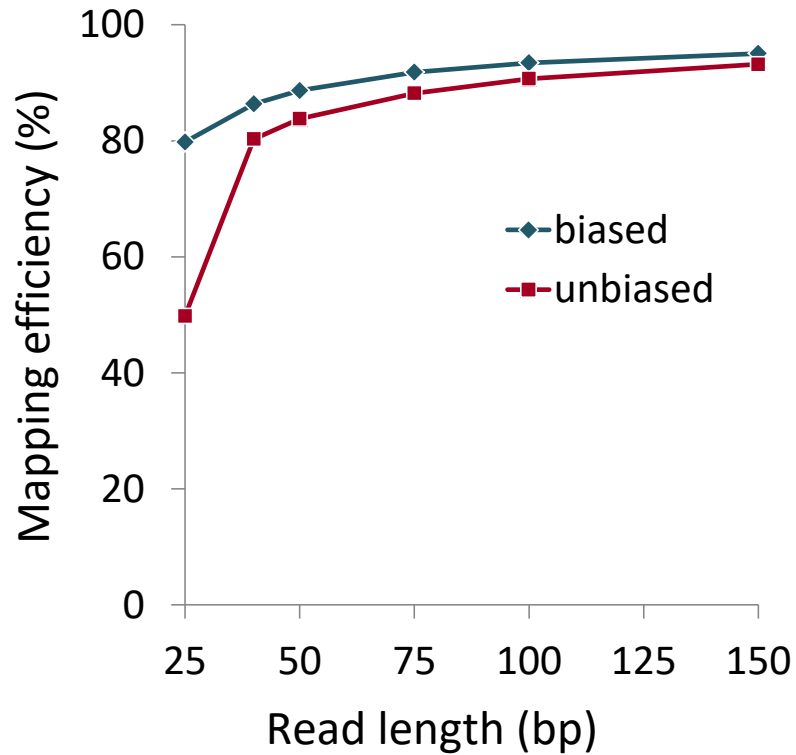
CTOT <<AGCCATACAAATTTGCAA<<  
>>CCAGCATGTTTAAACGCT>> CTOB

## 3) Non-directional libraries

(e.g. single-cell BS-Seq, Zymo Pico Methyl-Seq)

OT >>TCGGTATGTTTAAACGTT>>  
CTOT <<AGCCATACAAATTTGCAA<<  
>>CCAGCATGTTTAAACGCT>> CTOB  
<<GGTCGTACAAATTTGCGA<< OB

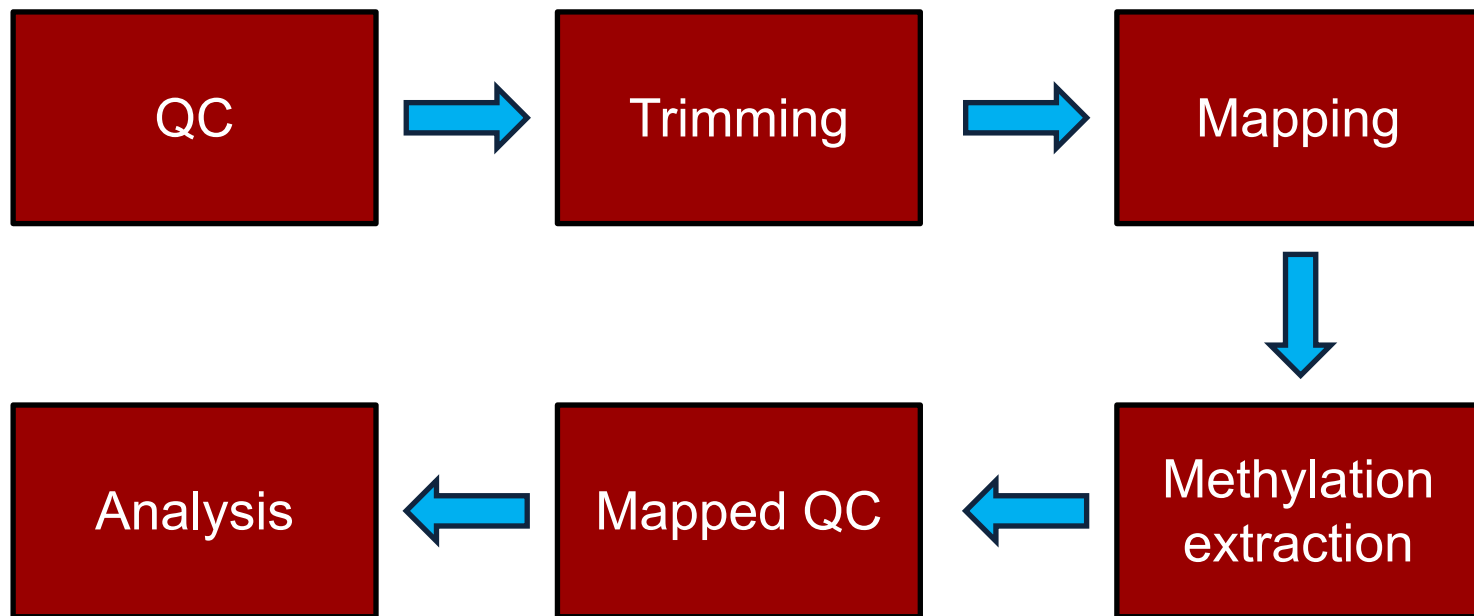
# Validation







# BS-Seq Analysis Workflow



## Raw Sequence Data

[illegible]

...

up to 1,000,000,000 lines per lane

# Part I: Initial QC -

## What does QC tell you about your library?

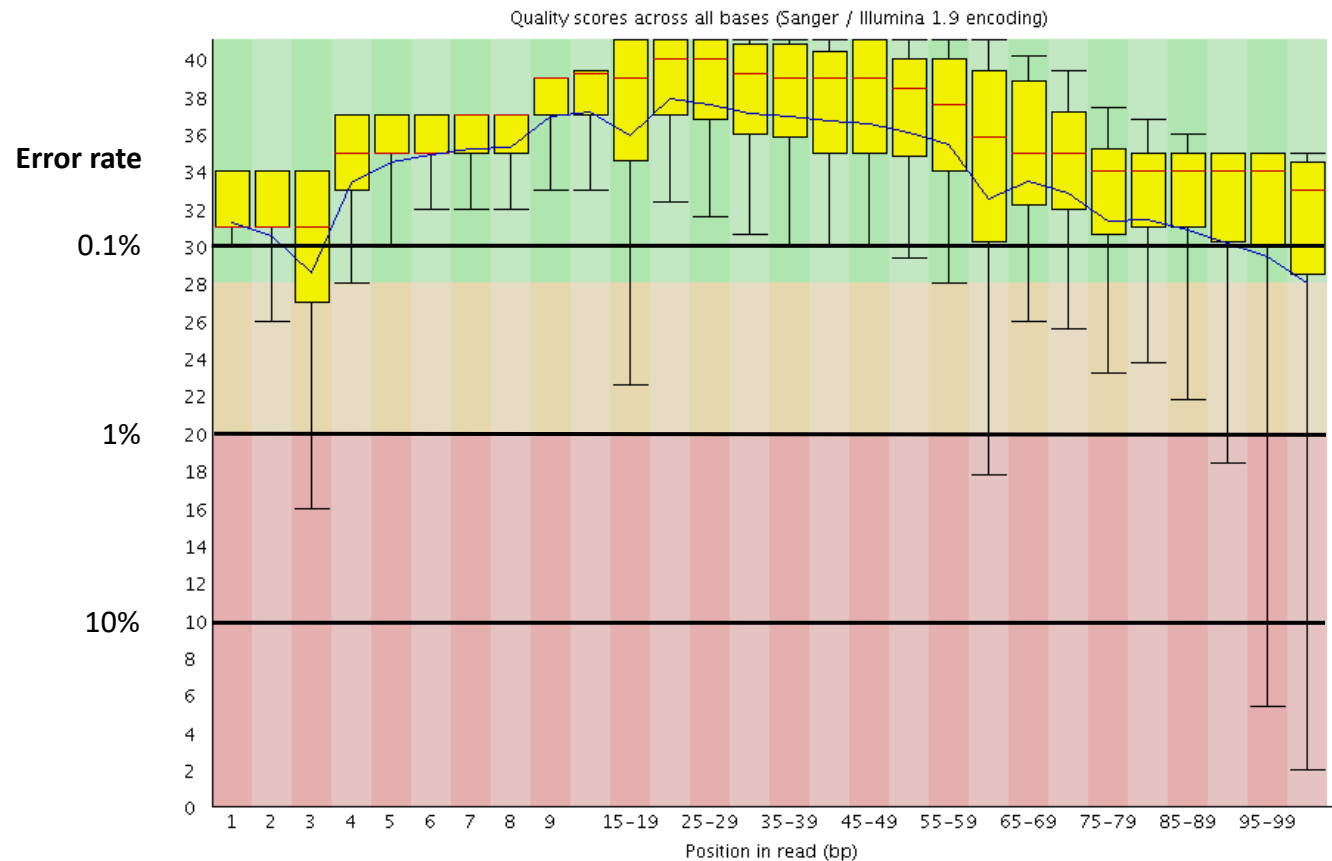
- # of sequences
- Basecall qualities
- Base composition
- Potential contaminants
- Expected duplication rate



### Basic Statistics

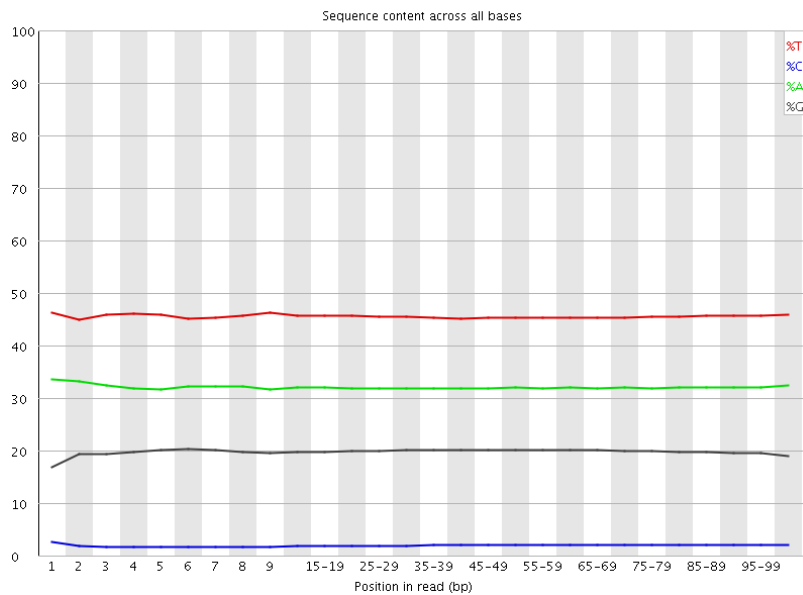
Measure	Value
Filename	s_4_1_sequence.txt
File type	Conventional base calls
Encoding	Illumina 1.5
Total Sequences	35290120
Sequence length	40
%GC	46

# QC Raw data: Sequence Quality

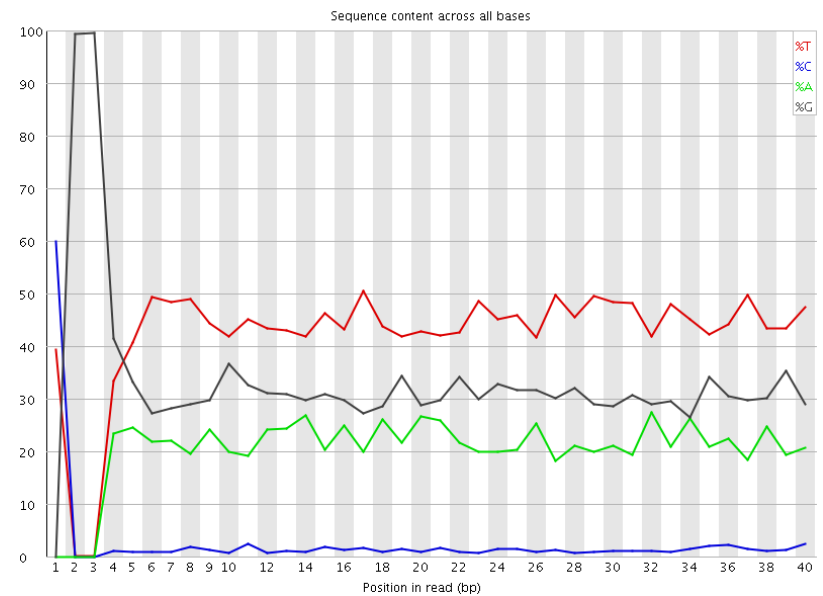


# QC: Base Composition

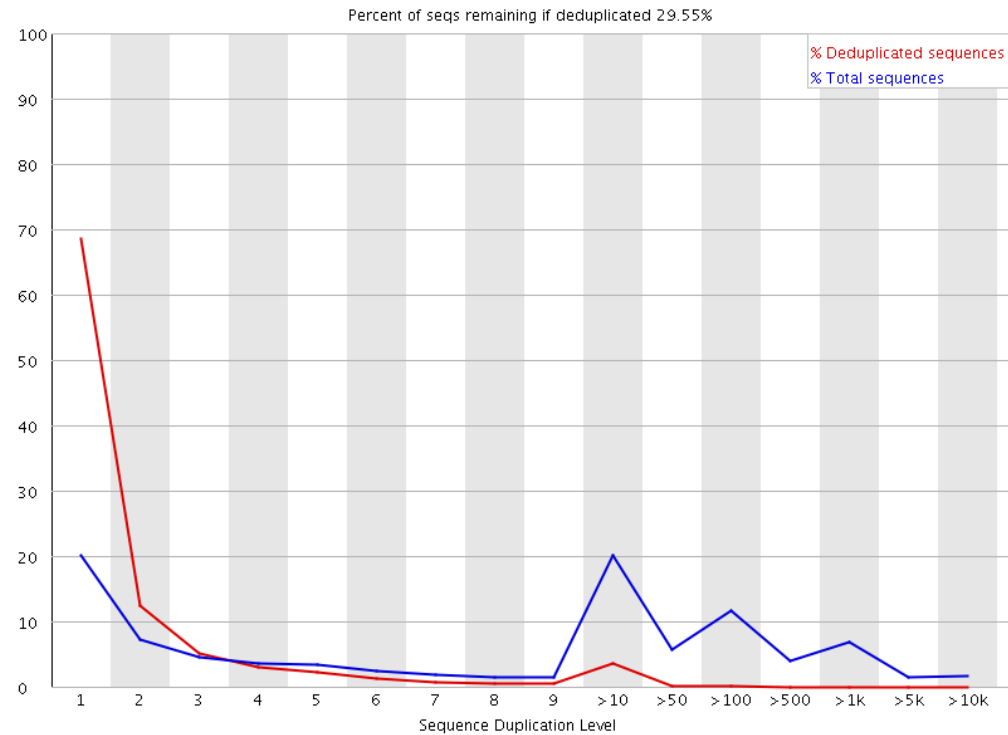
## WGSBS



## RRBS



# QC: Duplication rate

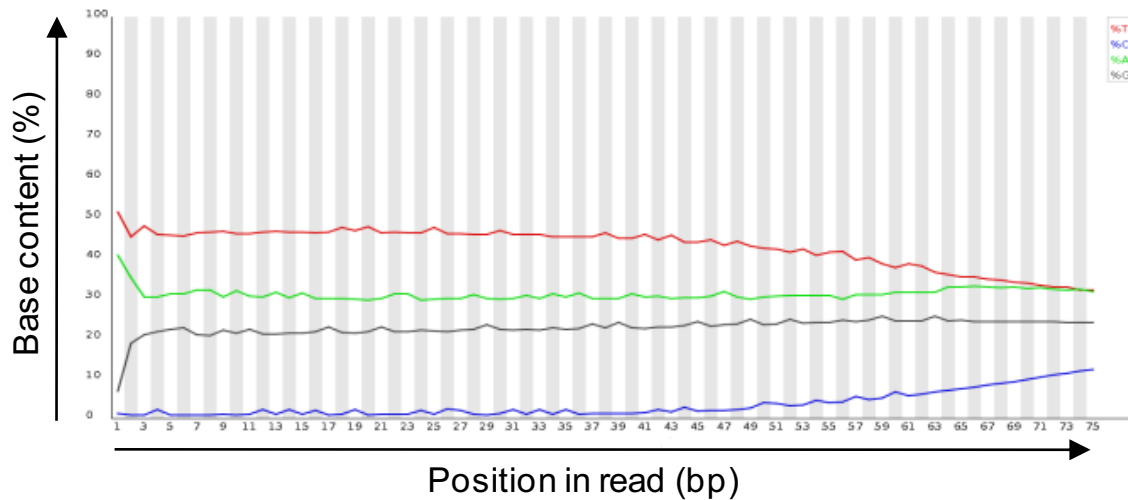
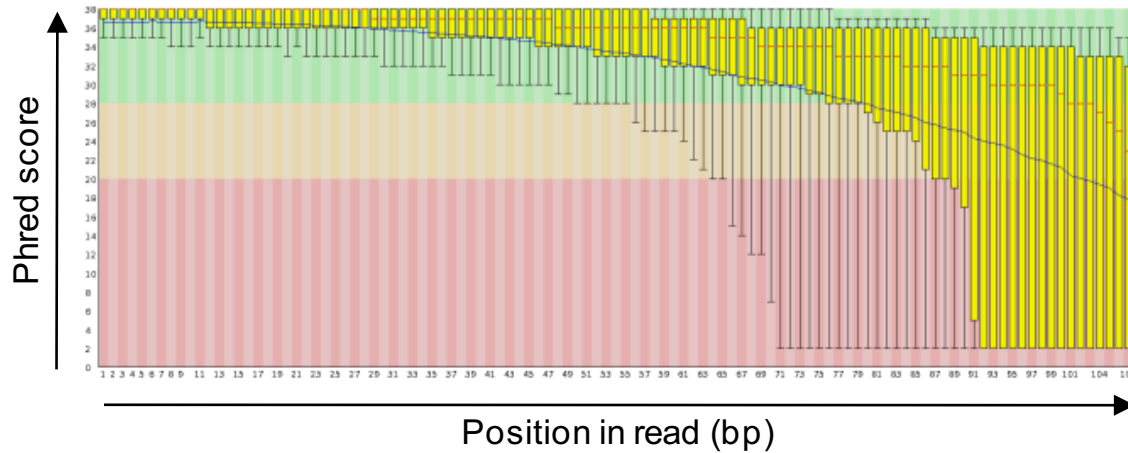


# QC: Overrepresented sequences

## Overrepresented sequences

Sequence	Count	Percentage	Possible Source
GAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCTCGTAT	6254891	23.52739098691508	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (100% over 40bp)
GATCGGAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCT	1956005	7.357393503317777	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (100% over 40bp)
GAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGATCGGAAGAGCGG	774763	2.9142237687587667	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (96% over 31bp)
GAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGGATCGGAAGAGCG	140148	0.5271581538405985	Illumina Paired End Adapter 2 (100% over 27bp)
AAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGATCGGAAGAGCGGT	105720	0.3976593317352233	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (96% over 30bp)
NAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCTCGTAT	98639	0.37102458213233724	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (97% over 40bp)
AAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCTCGTATG	82413	0.30999147281777295	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (100% over 40bp)
GATCGGAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGATCGGAAG	53872	0.20263624214188372	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (97% over 36bp)
NNAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCTCGTAT	36541	0.137446742725471	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (100% over 38bp)
ATCGGAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCTC	35781	0.13458804908076072	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (100% over 40bp)
CGGAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCTCGT	33905	0.1275315895051338	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (100% over 40bp)
NATCGGAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGACCGATCT	30564	0.1149646217854272	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (97% over 40bp)
GAAGAGCGGTTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAGCGGATCTCGTAT	28274	0.10635092646123442	Illumina Paired End PCR Primer 2 (97% over 40bp)
CAAACAACCTTCTAAAACAAACAAAAACAAAAACCACTAA	27952	0.10513974310123876	No Hit

# Common problems in BS-Seq

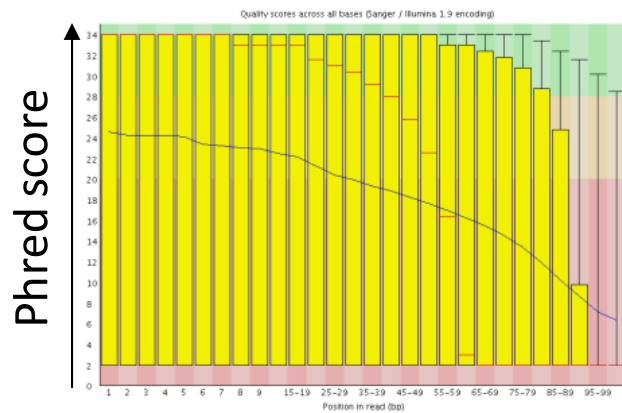


Not observed  
in 'normal' libraries,  
e.g. ChIP or RNA-Seq

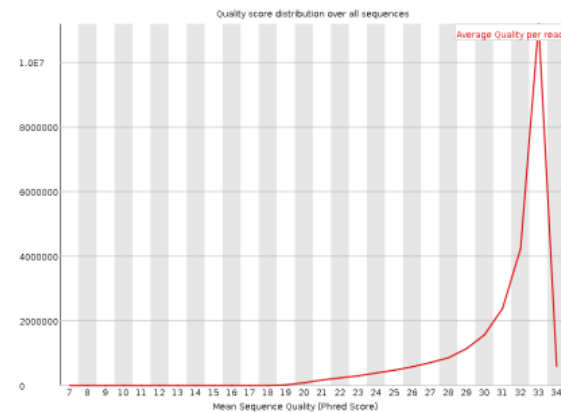
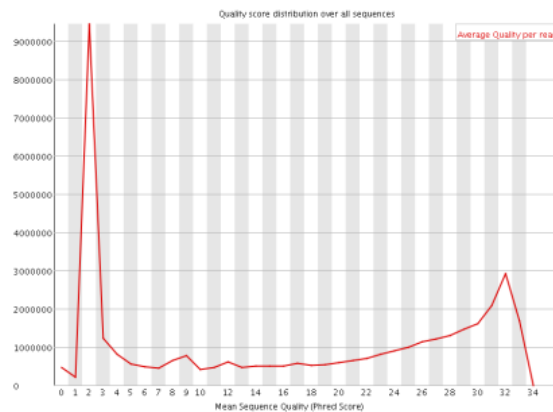
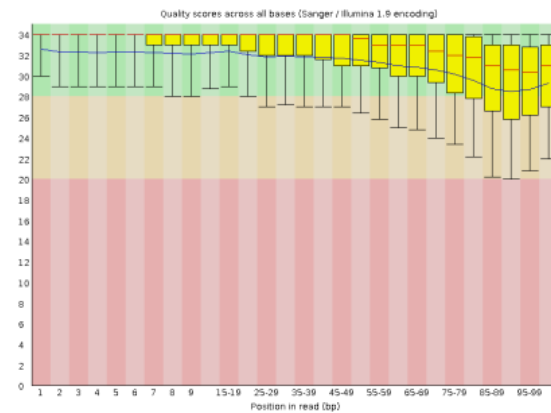


# Removing poor quality basecalls

before trimming

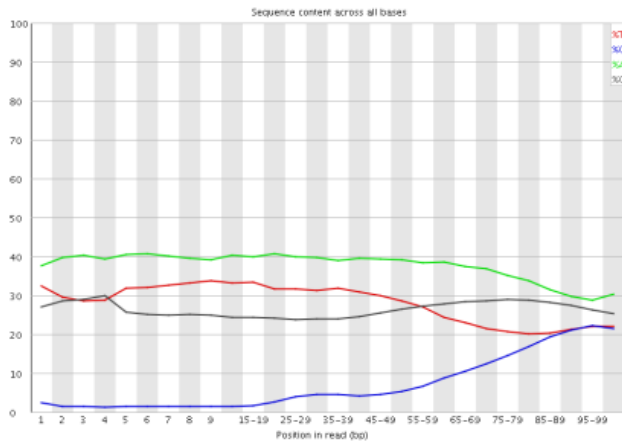


after trimming

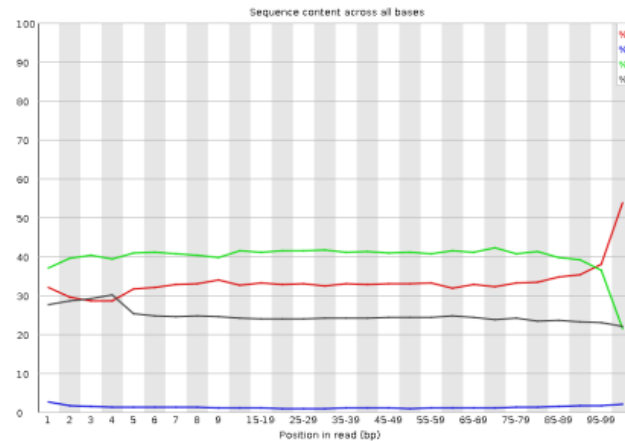


# Removing adapter contamination

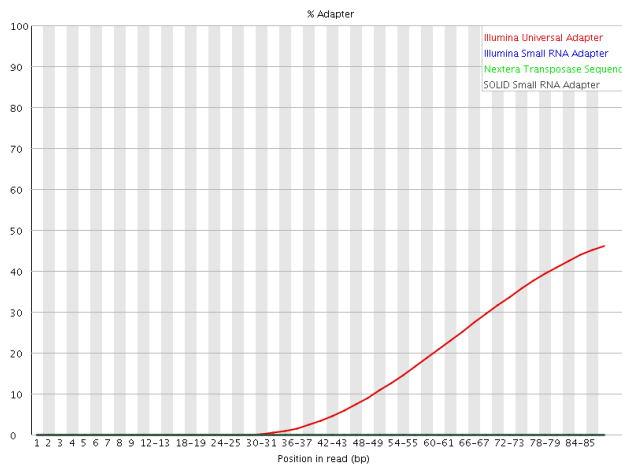
before trimming



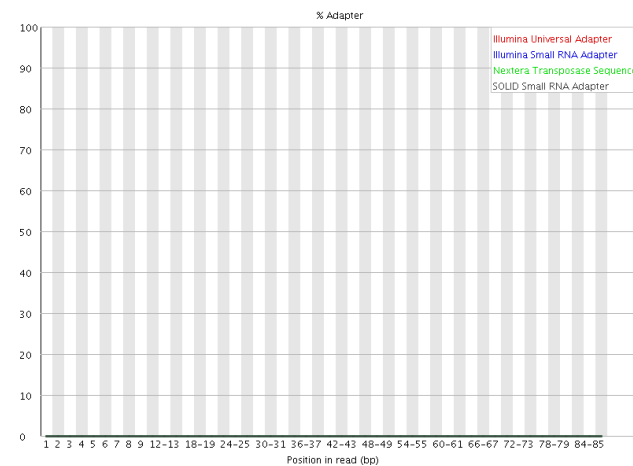
after trimming



✗ Adapter Content



✓ Adapter Content



# Adapter trimming

(Illumina adapter: AGATCGGAAGAGC)

B: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAGGAT  
 A: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAGGAT

partial match

full match

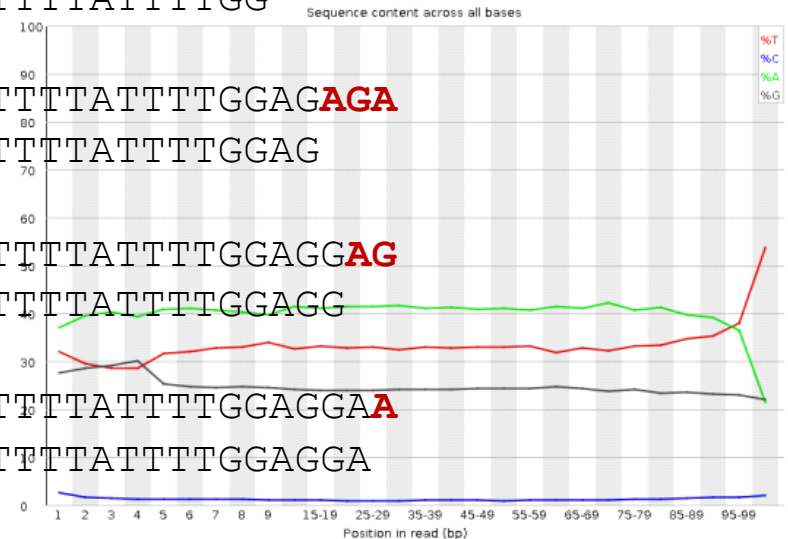
B: **AGATC**TTTTATTCGGTAGGAT**AGATCGGAAGAGC**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
 A: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGAT

B: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGG**AGATC**  
 A: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGG

B: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAG**AGA**  
 A: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAG

B: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAGG**AG**  
 A: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAGG

B: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAGG**A**  
 A: AGATCTTTTATTCGGTAGGATTAGCGGTAGTTATTTTATTTTGGAGGA



# Summary Adapter/Quality Trimming

Important to trim because failure to do so might result in:

- Low mapping efficiency
- Mis-alignments
- Errors in methylation calls since adapters are methylated
- Basecall errors tend toward 50% (C:mC)

# Part II: Sequence alignment – Bismark primary alignment output (BAM file)

Read 1

chromosome

position

```
HISEQ2000-06:366:C3G4NACXX:3:1101:1316:2067_1:N:0: 99 16 71322125 255 100M =
71322232 207
NTTATTTAGTTTTTTAGGGTTTGTGTGTAGGAGTGTGGGAATTATGTTTTTTATGGTTGATATTTATTTAAAAGTGAGTATAAATTATATATATTTTTTTT
#1=DDDDDAAFFHIIIA:<FGHCCEFGHD?CFFBBBGEHHGHIIII<FEHIIIIII==DE??EHHFHEEEEEEEEC>;>66;@CDEEEDCEEEEEEEEDDDCBB
NM:i:14 XX:Z:G8C2C7C21C13C6CC1C17CC3C4CC4
XM:Z:.....h..h.....x.....h.....x.....hh.h.....hh...h...hh....
XR:Z:CT XG:Z:CT XA:Z:1
```

sequence

quality

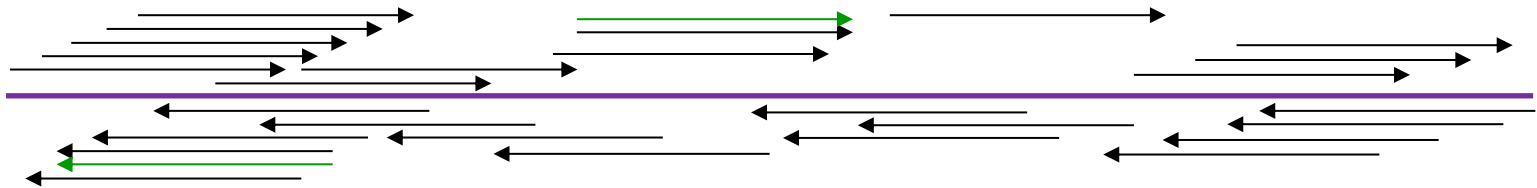
```
HISEQ2000-06:366:C3G4NACXX:3:1101:1316:2067_1:N:0: 147 16 71322232 255 100M =
71322125 -207
GGTTATTTTATTTAGGGTTATTGTTTTAGAGTTTTATTGTTGTGAACAGATATATGATTAAGGTAATTTTTATAAGGATAATATTTAATTGGAGTTGGTT
CCCEEECADCFFFFHHGHGHIIGIHFIIJJIJIHFGHGGGEHIJIIJGIGFJJJJJJJJJJIGJJJJGJJJJIIIIJJIJIIJJJJJJIIHHHHHFFFFFCCC
NM:i:21 XX:Z:2G2CC1C1C1C11C11C2C10C1C4CC4C2C1C3C5C2C12C3C1
XM:Z:.....hh.h.h.x.....h.....x..x.....X...h.h...hh...h..h.h...h...h..h.....x...h.
XR:Z:GA XG:Z:CT XB:Z:1
```

methylation call

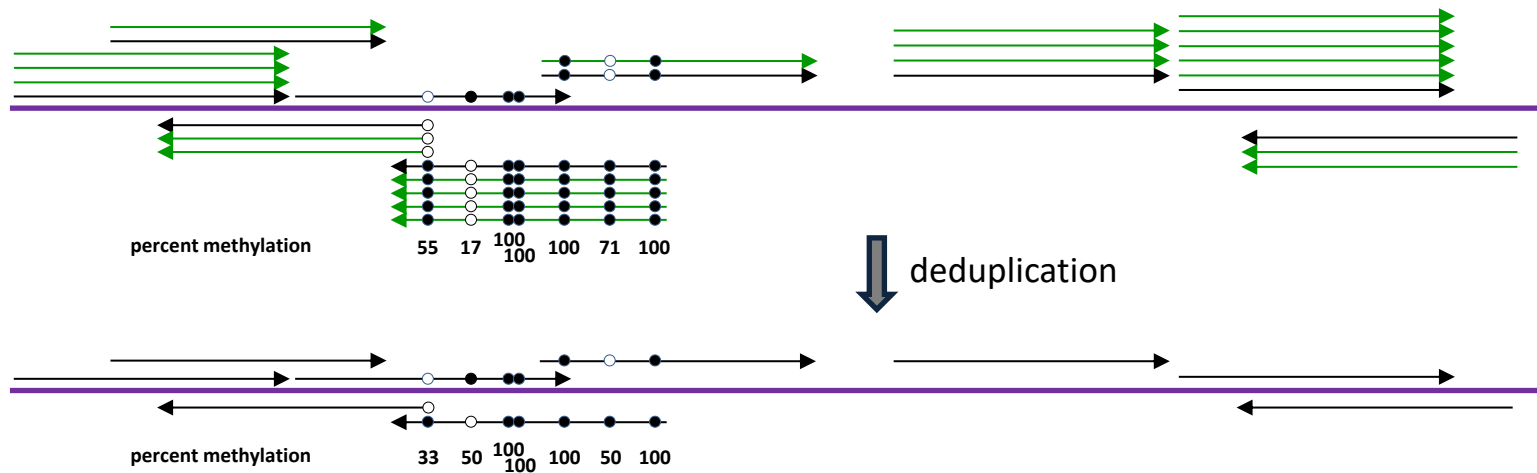
Read 2

# Sequence duplication

Complex/diverse library:



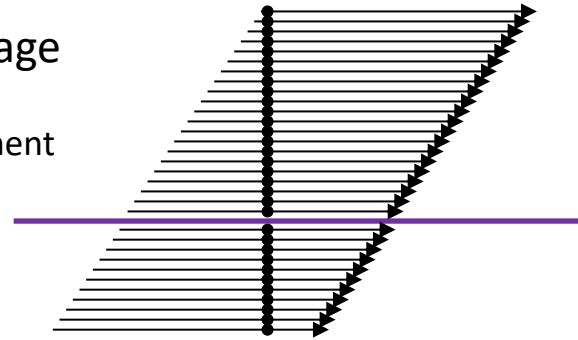
Duplicated library:



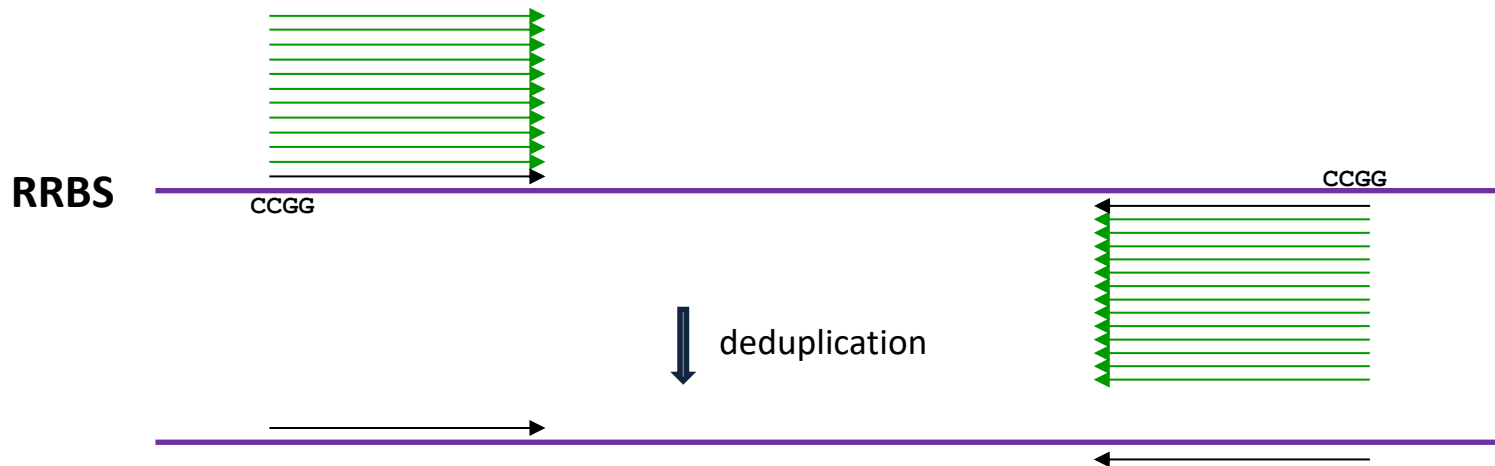
# Deduplication - considerations

Advisable for large genomes and moderate coverage

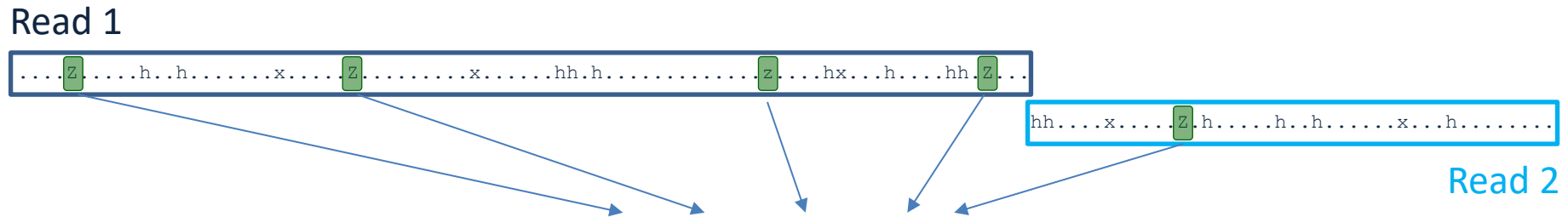
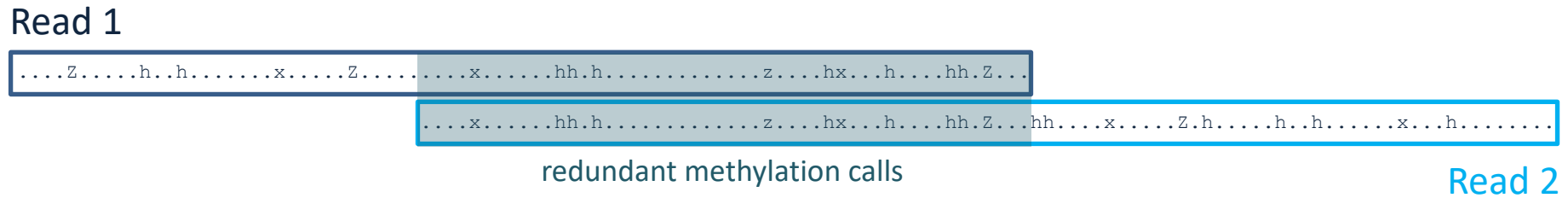
- unlikely to sequence several genuine copies of the same fragment amongst >5bn possible fragments with different start sites
- maximum coverage with duplication may still be (read length)-fold (even more with paired-end reads)



NOT advisable for RRBS or other target enrichment methods  
where higher coverage is either desired or expected



# Methylation extraction



CpG methylation  
output

```
Bismark methylation extractor version v0.10.1
```

HS9_11915:8:2311:4022:38651#13/1	+	1	3029229	Z
HS9_11915:8:1208:13025:95413#13/1	+	1	3079409	Z
HS9_11915:8:1301:11752:81850#13/1	-	1	3104640	z
HS9_11915:8:2112:15483:84166#13/1	+	1	3104862	Z
HS9_11915:8:2110:8777:33683#13/1	-	1	3104862	z
HS9_11915:8:2208:16561:25806#13/1	+	1	3104862	Z
HS9_11915:8:2308:15290:100335#13/1	-	1	3124392	z
HS9_11915:8:2308:15290:100335#13/1	+	1	3124416	Z
HS9_11915:8:2212:13818:79056#13/1	+	1	3124416	Z
HS9_11915:8:2105:9522:91783#13/1	+	1	3124392	Z
HS9_11915:8:2105:9522:91783#13/1	+	1	3124416	Z

read ID                      meth    chr            pos    context  
state



# Methylation extraction I

```
Bismark methylation extractor version v0.10.1
```

```
HS9_11915:8:2311:4022:38651#13/1      +      1      3029229 Z
HS9_11915:8:1208:13025:95413#13/1     +      1      3079409 Z
HS9_11915:8:1301:11752:81850#13/1     -      1      3104640 z
HS9_11915:8:2112:15483:84166#13/1     +      1      3104862 Z
HS9_11915:8:2110:8777:33683#13/1     -      1      3104862 z
HS9_11915:8:2208:16561:25806#13/1     +      1      3104862 Z
```

CpG methylation output



bismark2bedGraph

```
1      5705370 5705370 100      1      0
1      5706335 5706335 60       3      2
1      5706336 5706336 100      3      0
1      5706453 5706453 75       3      1
1      5706454 5706454 0        0      2
1      5706845 5706845 71.4285714285714      5      2
1      5706846 5706846 66.6666666666667     2      1
1      5707925 5707925 0        0      1
1      5707926 5707926 66.6666666666667     2      1
1      5709177 5709177 100      2      0
1      5709178 5709178 0        0      1
1      5710030 5710030 66.6666666666667     4      2
```

bedGraph/coverage output

chr	pos	methylation percentage	meth	unmeth
-----	-----	---------------------------	------	--------

# Methylation extraction II

1	10525	10525	66.6666666666667	2	1
1	10542	10542	100 3 0		
1	10563	10563	66.6666666666667	2	1
1	10571	10571	100 3 0		
1	10577	10577	66.6666666666667	2	1
1	10579	10579	100 3 0		
1	10589	10589	50 2 2		
1	10609	10609	0 0 1		
1	10617	10617	0 0 1		
1	10620	10620	0 0 1		

coverage output



coverage2cytosine

1	10525	+	2	1	CG	CGC
1	10526	-	0	0	CG	CGG
1	10542	+	3	0	CG	CGA
1	10543	-	0	0	CG	CGG
1	10563	+	2	1	CG	CGC
1	10564	-	0	0	CG	CGT
1	10571	+	3	0	CG	CGC
1	10572	-	0	0	CG	CGG
1	10577	+	2	1	CG	CGC
1	10578	-	0	0	CG	CGA
1	10579	+	3	0	CG	CGG
1	10580	-	0	0	CG	CGC
1	10589	+	2	2	CG	CGG

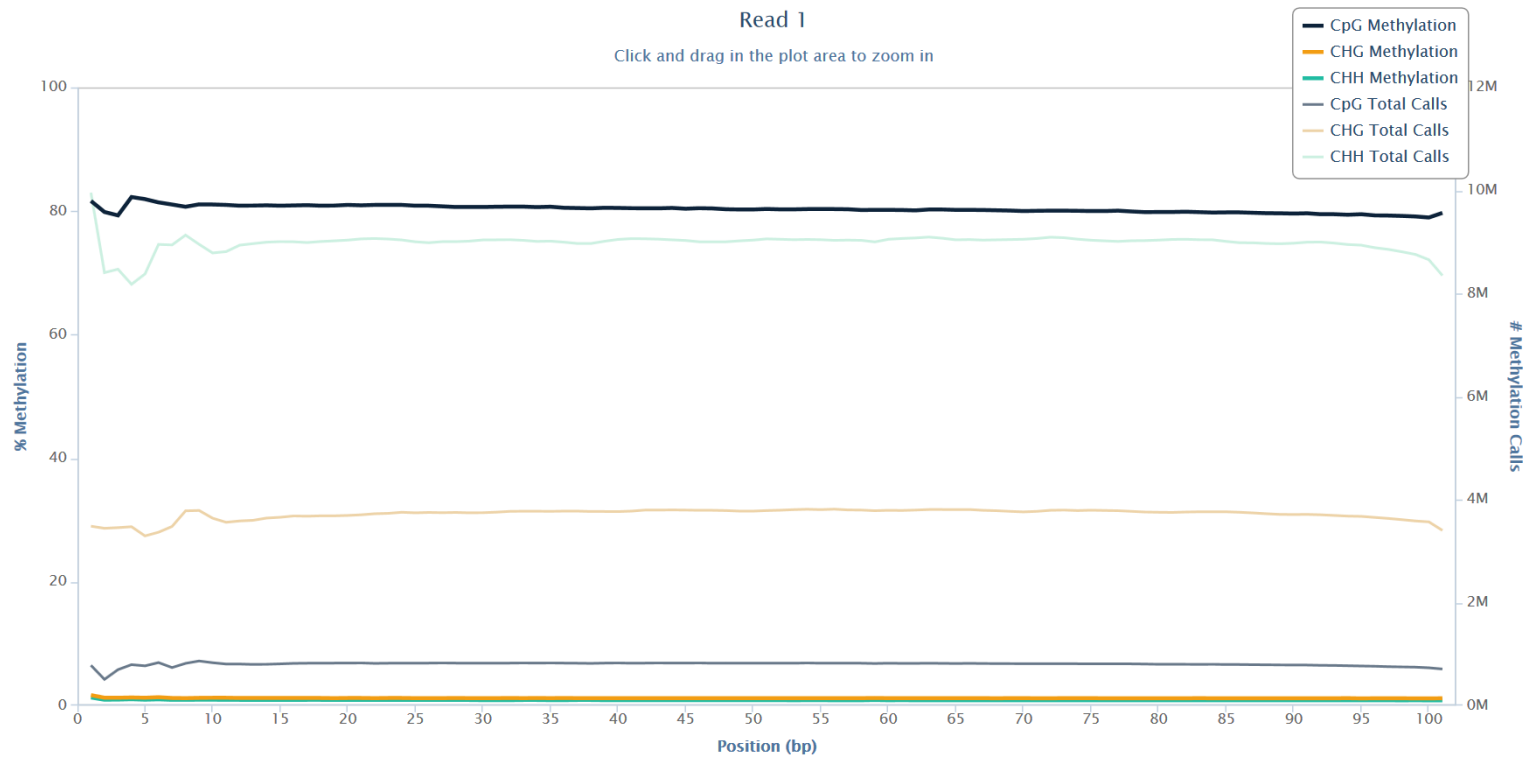
optional: merge into  
CpG dinucleotide entities

**Genome wide CpG report**

chr pos strand meth unmeth di-nuc tri-nuc

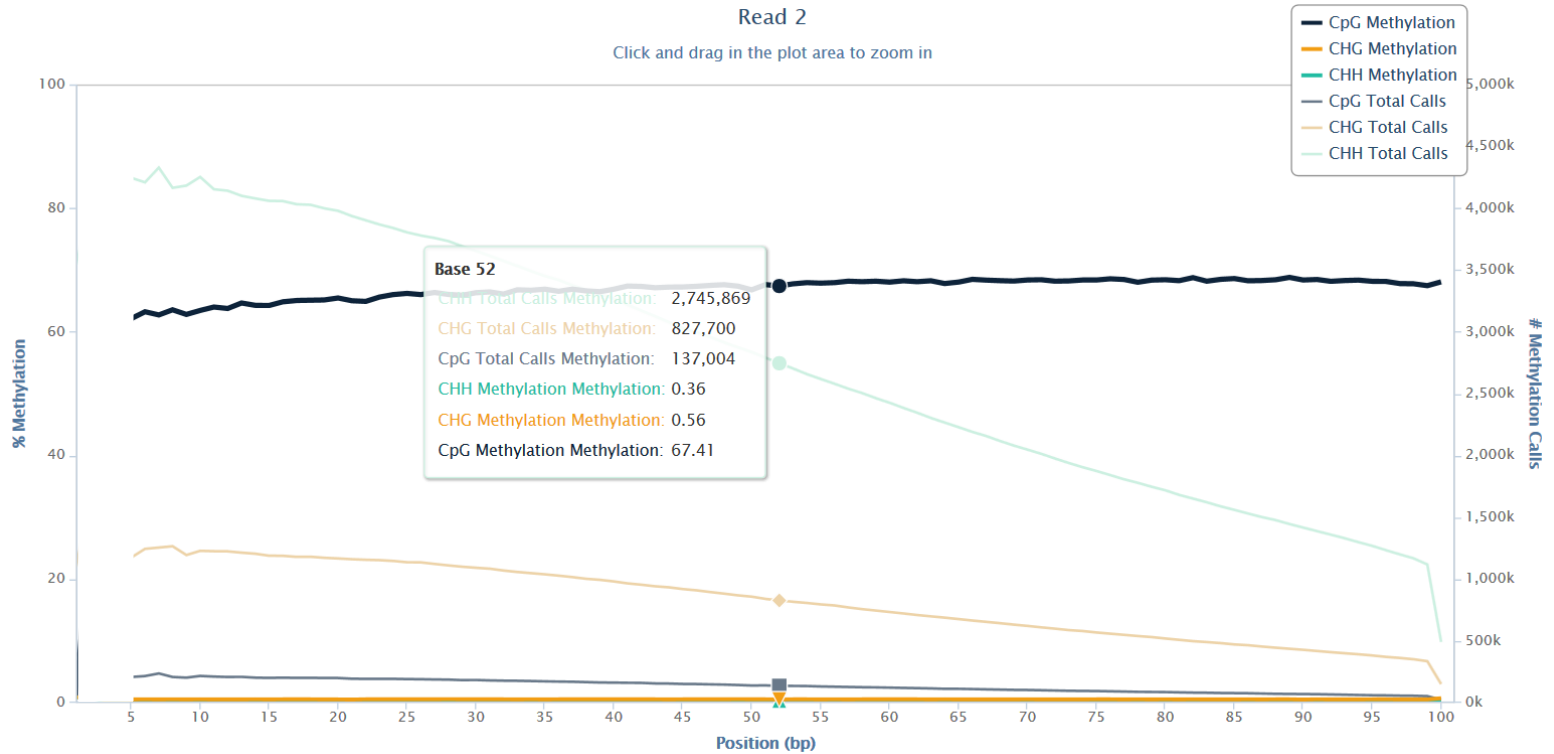
# Part III: Mapped QC - Methylation bias

## M-Bias Plot



good opportunity to look at conversion efficiency

## Artificial methylation calls in paired-end libraries



end repair + A-tailing

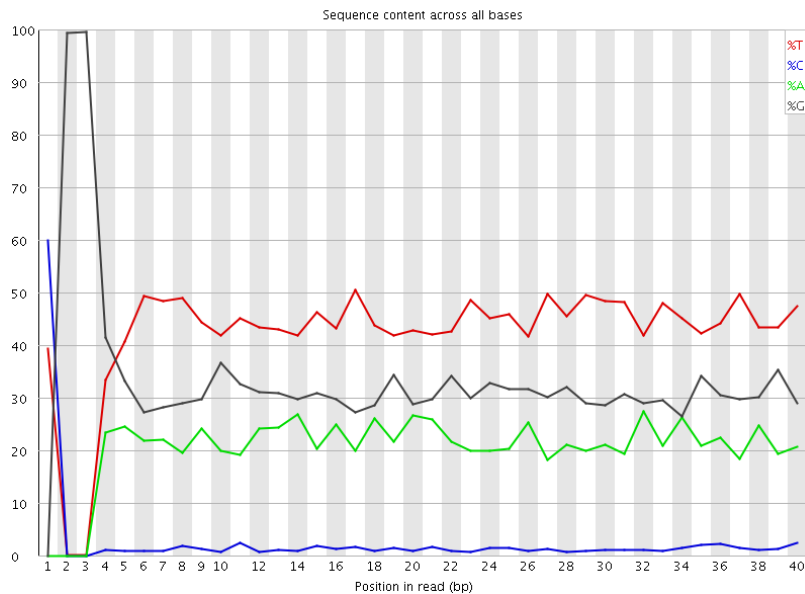
5' – GGGNNCCCA  
3' – ACCCNNNGGG

-3'  
-5'

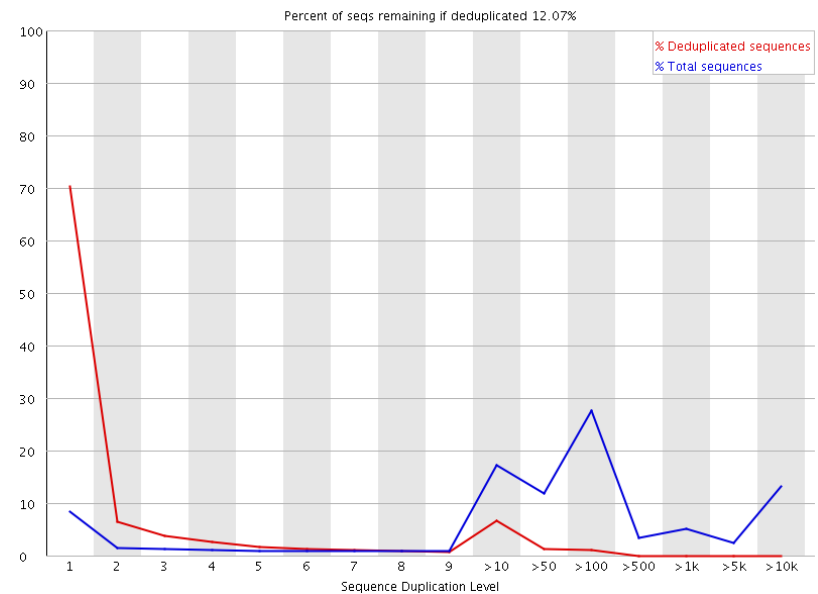
## Specialist applications (I): Reduced representation BS-Seq (RRBS)



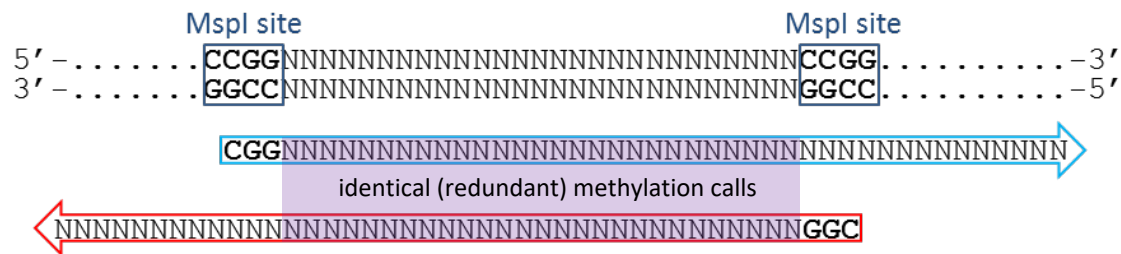
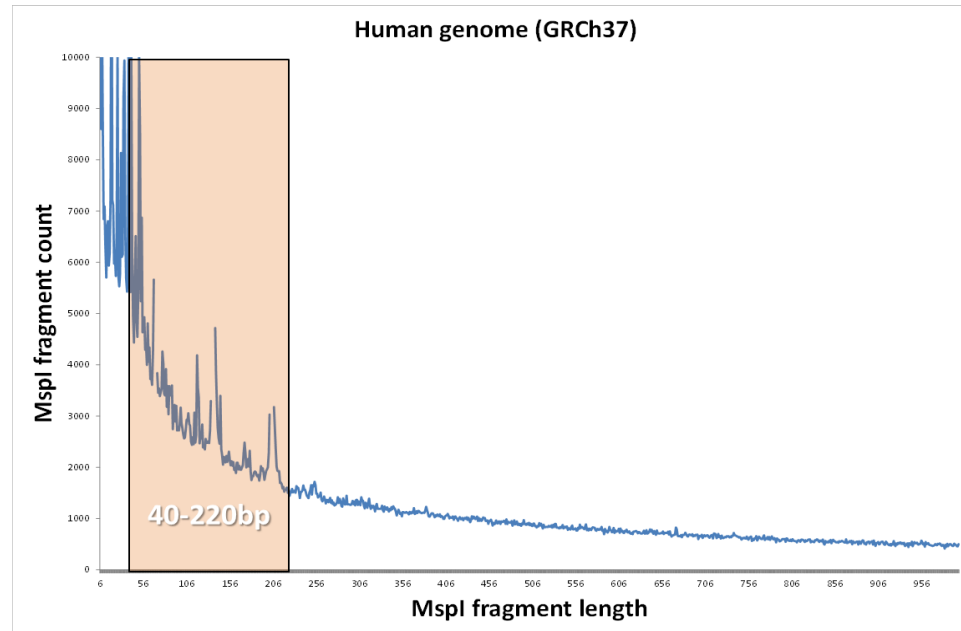
## Sequence composition bias



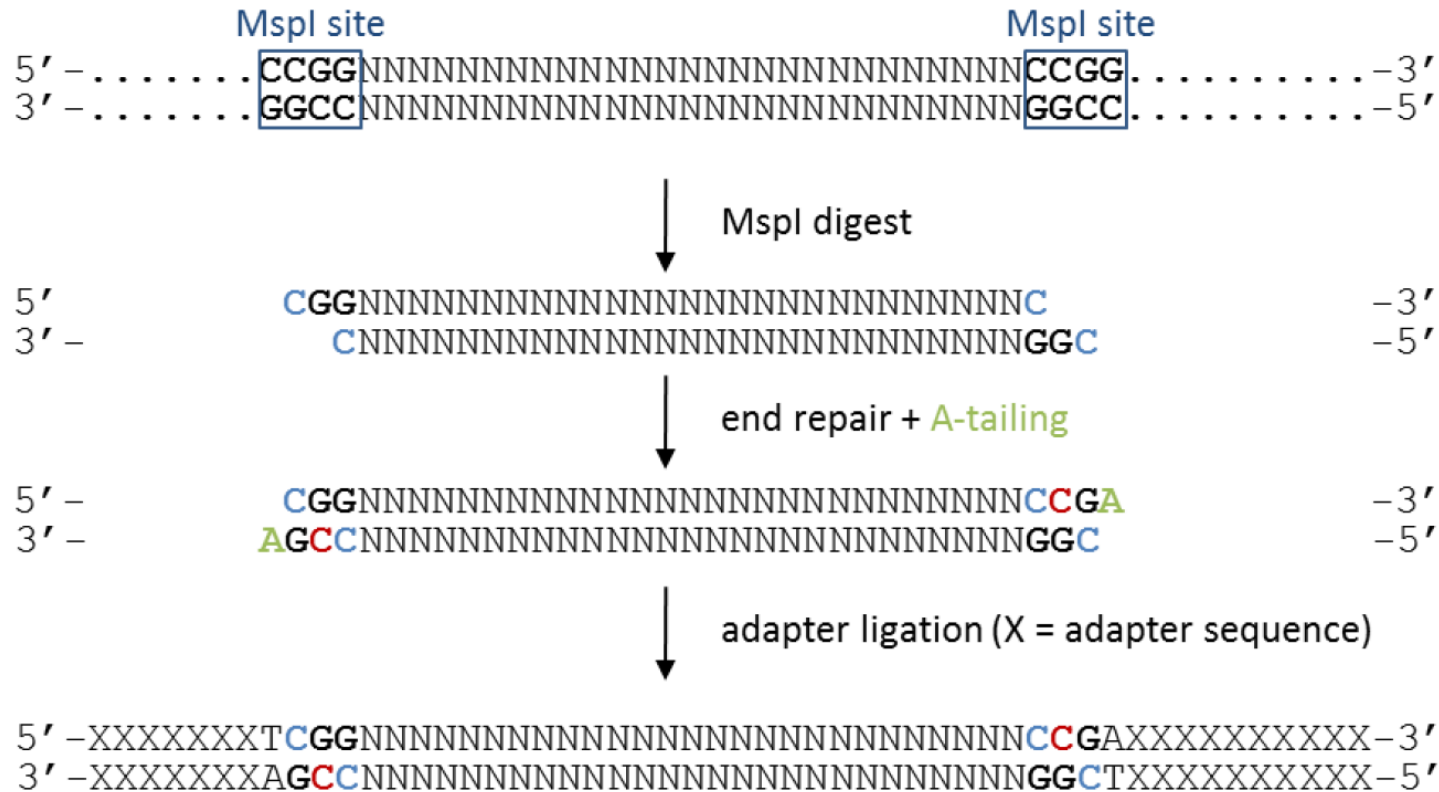
## High duplication rate



## Fragment size distribution in RRBS



## Artificial methylation calls in RRBS libraries



C genomic cytosine  
C unmethylated cytosine

# Bismark User Guide

[https://rawgit.com/FelixKrueger/Bismark/master/Docs/Bismark\\_User\\_Guide.html](https://rawgit.com/FelixKrueger/Bismark/master/Docs/Bismark_User_Guide.html)

## Bismark Bisulfite Mapper

### User Guide - v0.18.0

15 May, 2017

This User Guide outlines the Bismark suite of tools and gives more details for each individual step. For troubleshooting some of the more commonly experienced problems in sequencing in general and bisulfite-sequencing in particular please browse through the sequencing section at [QCFail.com](http://QCFail.com).



## 1) Quick Reference

Bismark needs a working version of Perl and it is run from the command line. Furthermore, [Bowtie](#) or [Bowtie 2](#) needs to be installed on your computer. For more information on how to run Bismark with Bowtie 2 please go to the end of this manual.

As of version 0.14.0 or higher, Bismark may be run using parallelisation for both the alignment and the methylation extraction step. Search for `--multicore` for more details below.

First you need to download a reference genome and place it in a genome folder. Genomes can be obtained e.g. from the [Ensembl](#) or [NCBI](#) websites. For the example below you would need to download the *Homo sapiens* genome. Bismark supports reference genome sequence files in `Fasta` format, allowed file extensions are either `.fa` or `.fasta`. Both single-entry and multiple-entry `Fasta` files are supported.

The following examples will use the file `test_dataset.fastq` which is available for download from the Bismark project or Github pages (it contains 10,000 reads in FastQ format, Phred33 qualities, 50 bp long reads, from a human directional BS-Seq library). An example report for use with Bowtie 1 and Bowtie can be found in Appendix IV.

### (I) Running `bismark_genome_preparation`

#### USAGE:

```
bismark_genome_preparation [options] <path_to_genome_folder>
```

A typical genome indexing could look like this:

```
/bismark/bismark_genome_preparation --path_to_bowtie /usr/bin/bowtie2/ --verbose /data/genomes/homo_sapiens/GRCh37/
```

### (II) Running `bismark`

#### USAGE:

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Bismark Bisulfite Mapper

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(II) Running `bismark`

(III) Running `bismark_methylation_extractor`

(IV) Running `bismark2report`

(V) Running `bismark2summary`

### 2) Bismark - General Information

What is Bismark?

Installation notes

Dependencies

Hardware requirements

BS-Seq test data set

Which kind of BS-Seq files are supported?

How does Bismark work?

Bismark alignment and methylation call report

### 3) Running Bismark

(I) Bismark Genome Preparation

(II) Bismark Alignment Step

(III) Bismark methylation extractor

(IV) The Bismark HTML Processing Report

(V) The Bismark Summary Report

(VI) Bismark Nucleotide Coverage report ( `bam2nuc` )

(VII) Filtering out non-bisulfite converted reads

( `#filter_non_conversion` )

(VIII) Notes about different library types and commercial kits

### 4) APPENDIX - Full list of options

Appendix (I): Bismark Genome Preparation

Appendix (II): Bismark

Appendix (III): Bismark Methylation Extractor

Appendix (IV): Bismark reports for the test data set

Credits



# Bismark workflow

## Pre Alignment

FastQC

Initial quality control

Trim Galore

Adapter/quality trimming using Cutadapt; handles RRBS and paired-end reads; Trim Galore and RRBS User guide

## Alignment

Bismark

Output BAM

## Post Alignment

Deduplication

optional

Methylation extractor


Output individual cytosine methylation calls; optionally bedGraph or genome-wide cytosine report

M-bias analysis

bismark2report

Graphical HTML report generation

Example: [http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/bismark/PE\\_report.html](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/bismark/PE_report.html)

 **Epigenesys** protocol: *Quality Control, trimming and alignment of Bisulfite-Seq data*

# Useful links

- **FastQC** [www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/)
- **Trim Galore** [www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim\\_galore/](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/)
- **Cutadapt** <https://code.google.com/p/cutadapt/>
- **Bismark** [www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/bismark/](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/bismark/)
- **Bowtie** <http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/>
- **Bowtie 2** <http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/>
- **SeqMonk** [www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/seqmonk/](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/seqmonk/)
- **Cluster Flow** [www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/clusterflow/](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/clusterflow/)

 **Epigenesys** protocol: *Quality control, trimming and alignment of Bisulfite-Seq data*  
<http://www.epigenesys.eu/en/protocols/bio-informatics/483-quality-control-trimming-and-alignment-of-bisulfite-seq-data-prot-57>

 **QCFAIL**.com <https://sequencing.qcfail.com/>

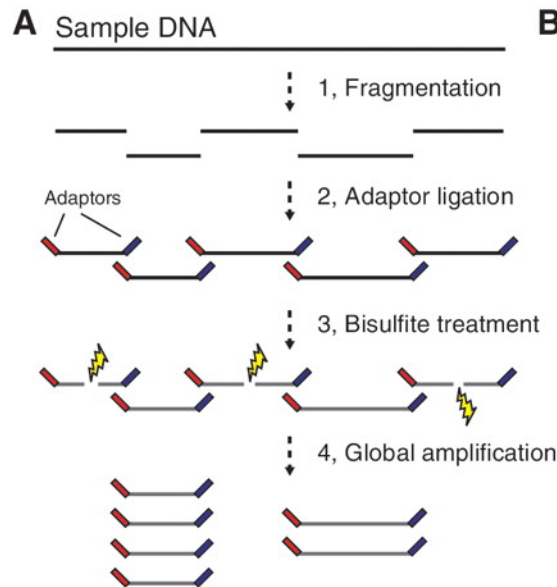
**Thank you for your attention**

**Questions?**

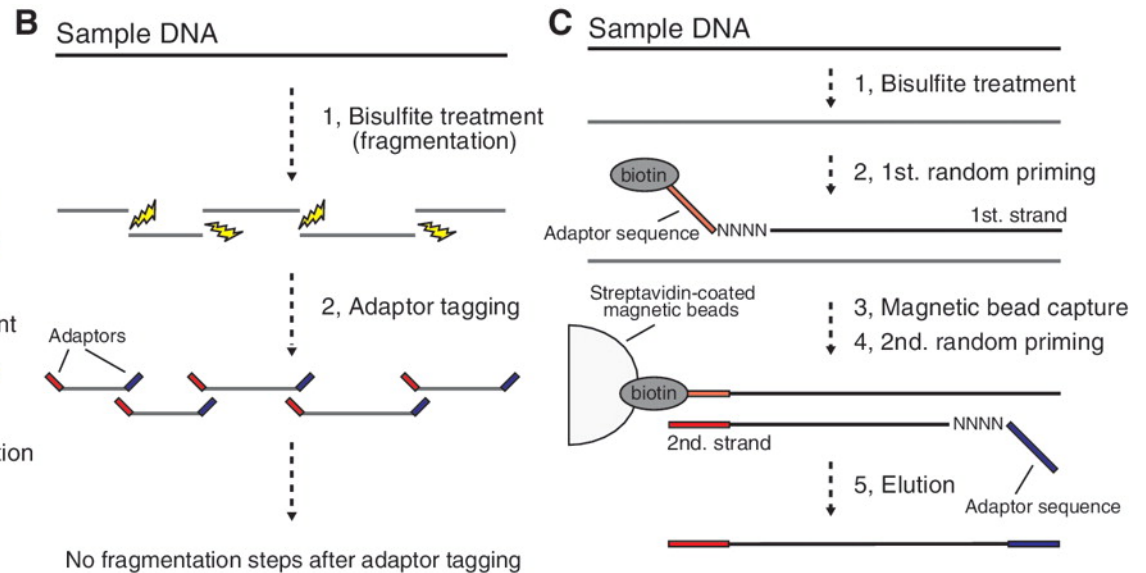


# Specialist application (II): Post-bisulfite adapter tagging (PBAT)

## WGBS



## PBAT



→ suitable for low input material

# PBAT-Seq

## M-Bias Plot

