

III. SAM, BAM AND CRAM FORMAT

SAM Format

- SAM = Sequence Alignment/Map format
- Tab delimited plain text
- Store large nucleotide sequence alignments
 - Alignment of every read
 - Including gaps, SNPs and structural variants
 - Pairing of reads
 - Can record more than one alignment location in the genome
 - Stores quality values
 - Stores information about duplication

SAM Format

Strengths

- Flexible
- Useful for operations on very large sequences
- Extremely detailed documentation
 - <https://github.com/samtools/hts-specs/blob/master/SAMv1.pdf>
 - Manipulations can be done with the software samtools

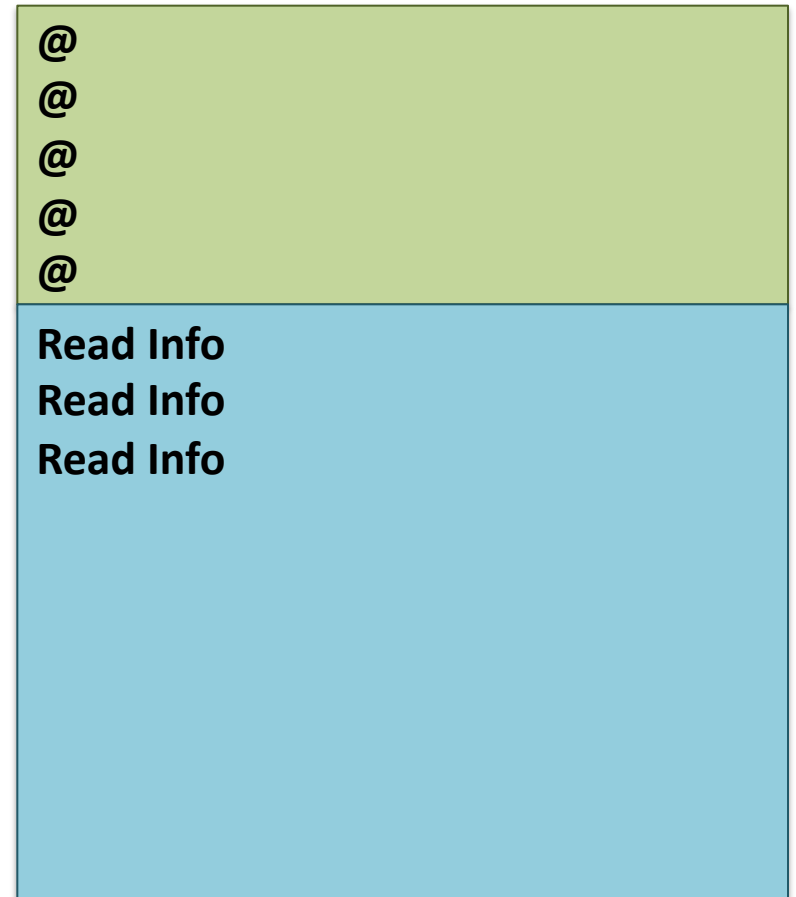
SAM - Header

- Structure

- Optional Header at top of file



- Alignment information



SAM - Header

- Header lines start with @ symbol
- Always at top of file
- Contain lots of information about what was mapped, what it was mapped to, and how (**metadata**)
 - the version information for the SAM/BAM file
 - whether or not and how the file is sorted
 - information about the reference sequences
 - any processing that was used to generate the various reads in the file
 - software version

Simple Header

@HD = first line

VN = version of SAM format

SO = sort order (this is sorted by coordinates)

@HD VN:1.5 SO:coordinate

@SQ SN:ref LN:45

@SQ = reference sequence

SN = Sequence reference Name

LN = sequence reference length

Alignment Line

- Below the headers are the alignment records
 - Tab-delimited fields
-
- 1 QNAME Query template/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 TLEN inferred Template LENgth (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:VALUE

Lets unpack this alignment line, taken from a SAM file:

```
SRR030257.2000020      83
    gi|254160123|ref|NC_012967.1|  329575260
    36M   =   3295706-82
    TGCTGGCGGGCGATATCGTCCGTGGTTCCGATCTGGT
    ?%<91<?>>??AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
A  XT:A:  NM:i:0  SM:i:37  AM:i:37  X0:i:1X1:i:0
    XM:i:0  XO:i:0  XG:i:0MD:Z:36
```


SAM Field 1

Query name

SRR030257.2000020

Field 2: Flag

83

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

64 + 16 + 2 + 1

1 = Read is paired

2 = Read mapped in proper pair

16 = Read mapped to reverse strand

64 = First in pair

Look up aSAM flag: <https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/explain-flags.html>

SAM Field 3

Reference sequence name (useful especially if you have multiple chromosomes)

```
gi | 254160123 | ref | NC_012967.1 |
```

SAM Field 4

Position- 1-based leftmost mapping POSition of the first matching base

3295752

SAM Field 5

Mapping Quality

- equals $-10 \log_{10} \text{Pr}\{\text{mapping position is wrong}\}$, rounded to the nearest integer
- Same as phred!
- Probability of 99.9% correct = map quality of 30
- Probability of 0% correct = map quality of 0
- value 255 indicates that the mapping quality is not available.

60

.000001% probability wrong

SAM Field 6

CIGAR String

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

36M 36 nucleotides match (perfect match)

8S28M 8 nucleotides clipped, 28 match

More CIGAR

Aligning these two:

RefPos:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Reference:	C	C	A	T	A	C	T		G	A	A	C	T	G	A	C	T	A	A	C
Read:					A	C	T	A	G	A	A	C	T	G	G	C	T			

Position:

5

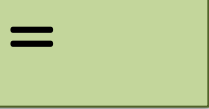
CIGAR:

3M1I3M1D5M

SAM Field 7

Reference sequence for the next read in the template

- For a forward read, this is the reference where the reverse read maps
- For a reverse read, this is the reference where the forward read maps

 = reverse read maps on the same reference

SAM Field 8

Position where the next read maps

3295706

(Forward read mapped at 3295752.
Remember the forward read mapped
to the reverse strand)

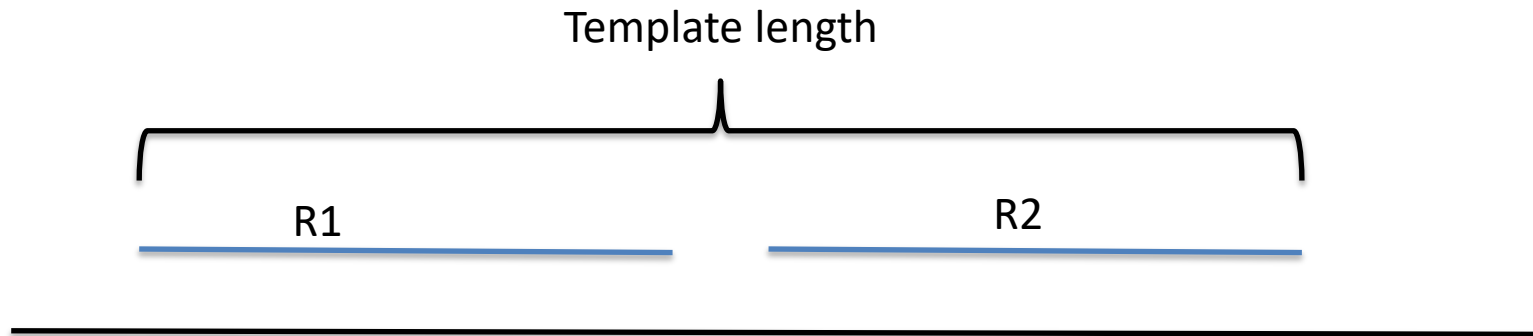
SAM Field 9

Observed template length

From leftmost base to rightmost base

Negative if this read is the rightmost read

-82



SAM Field 10

Sequence of the read

TGCTGGCGGCGATATCGTCCGTGGTTCCGATCTGGT

SAM Field 11

Quality of the read

```
?%<91<?>>??AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
```

SAM Field 12

Optional MORE information

TAG:TYPE:VALUE format

```
XT:A:U   NM:i:0   SM:i:37  AM:i:37  X0:i:1  
X1:i:0   XM:i:0   XO:i:0   XG:i:0   MD:Z:36
```

Anything with an X is specified by the user or by the mapping software, and is not part of the SAM spec.

Decipher the last fields

XT:A:U	One of Unique/Repeat/N/Mate-sw
NM:i:0	Edit distance to the reference
SM:i:37	Template-independent mapping quality
AM:i:37	Smallest template-independent mapping quality of other segments
X0:i:1	Number of best hits
X1:i:0	Number of suboptimal hits found by BWA
XM:i:0	Number of mismatches in the alignment
XO:i:0	Number of gap opens
XG:i:0	Number of gap extensions
MD:Z:36	String for mismatching positions

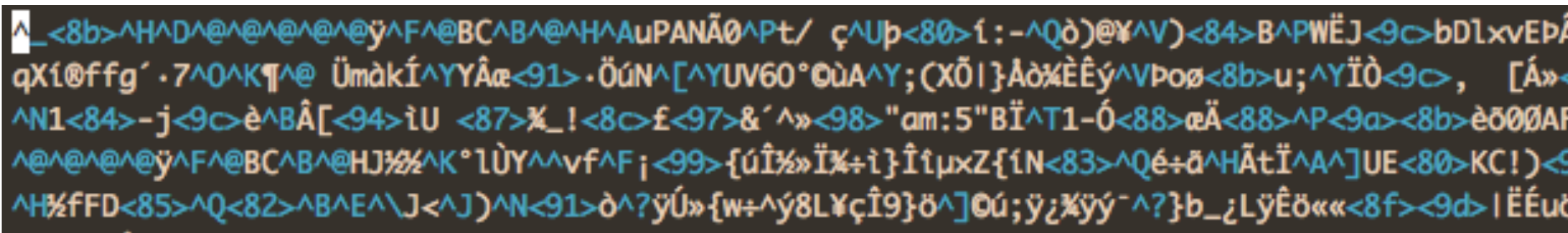
SAM

Example sam with one read:

```
@SQ SN:gi|254160123|ref|NC_012967.1| LN:4629812
@PG ID:bwaPN:bwa VN:0.7.12-r1039
CL:/lustre/projects/rnaseq_ws/apps/bwa-0.7.12/bwa
sampe ../raw_data/NC_012967.1.fasta aln_SRR030257_1.sai
aln_SRR030257_2.sai ../raw_data/SRR030257_1.fastq
../raw_data/SRR030257_2.fastq
SRR030257.1 99 gi|254160123|ref|NC_012967.1| 950180
60 36M = 950295 151
TTCACTCCTGTTAATCCATACAGCAACAGTATTGG
AAA;A;AA?A?AAAAA?;?A?1A;;????566)=*1 XT:A:U
NM:i:1SM:i:37 AM:i:25 X0:i:1 X1:i:0 XM:i:1 XO:i:0
XG:i:0 MD:Z:32C3
```

BAM Format

- Sister format to SAM
- BAM – Binary version of SAM
- compressed **BGZF** (Blocked GNU Zip Format) - a variant of GZIP (GNU ZIP),
- files are bigger than GZIP files, but they are much faster for random access
- Can index and then look up information embedded in the file with decompressing the whole file
- up to 75% smaller in size
- Not readable by people

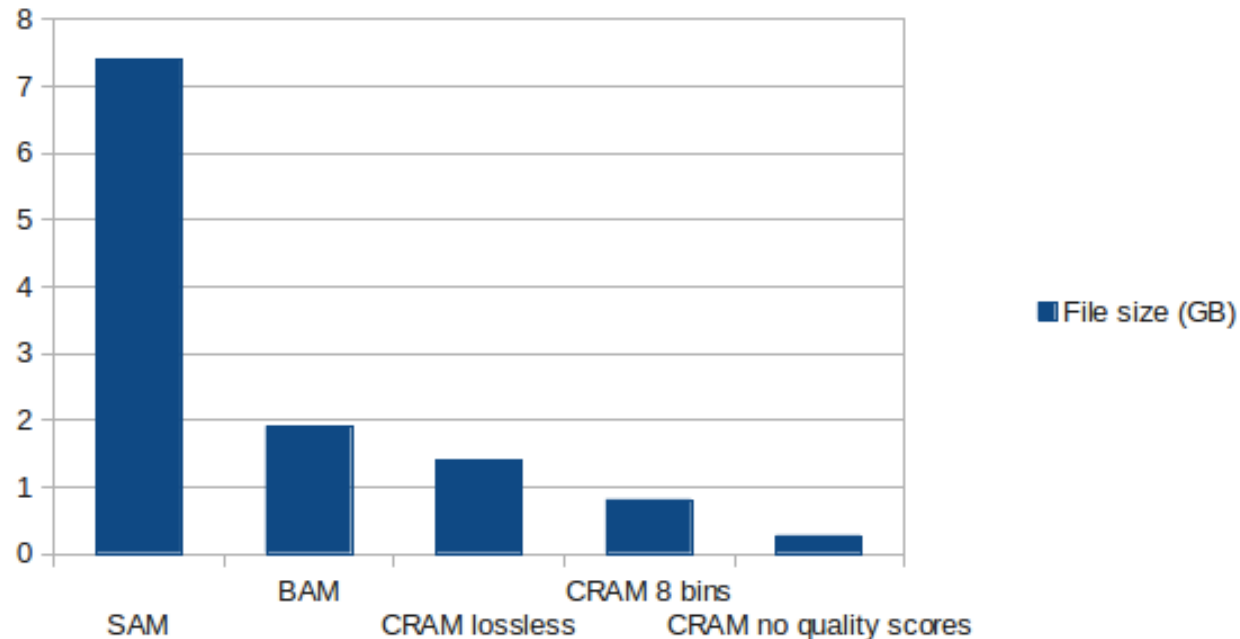


^_<8b>^H^D^@^@^@^@^@y^F^@BC^B^@^H^A^uPAN^0^P^t/ ç^Up<80>í:-^Qð)^@Y^V)^<84>B^PWËJ<9C>bDl^xvE^P^
qXí@ffg'.7^0^K^T^@ ÜmàkÍ^Y^Y^Â^æ<91>·ÖúN^[^YUV60°0ùA^Y;(XÖI}Àð%ÈËý^V^oø<8b>u;^YÏÒ<9C>, [Á»
^N1<84>-j<9C>è^BÂ[<94>iU <87>%_!<8C>f<97>&'^»<98>"am:5"BÏ^T1-Ó<88>æÄ<88>^P<9a><8b>èðððAF
^@^@^@^@y^F^@BC^B^@HJ%K^°lÙY^^vf^F; <99>{úÎ%»Ï%+i}ÎîµxZ{îN<83>^Qé+ð^HÄtÏ^A^]UE<80>KC!)<9
^H%FFD<85>^Q<82>^B^E^^\J<^J)^N<91>ð^?ýÚ»{w+^ý8L^çÎ9}ð^]0ú;ý¿%ýý^-^?}b_¿LÿÊö««<8f><9d>|ËËuð

CRAM

- Introduced in 2011 by EMBL/EBI
- Even smaller and more efficient than BAM files
- Rare

EBI has a cram toolkit
<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/software/cram-toolkit>



Fritz, Markus Hsi-Yang, et al. "Efficient storage of high throughput DNA sequencing data using reference-based compression." *Genome research* 21.5 (2011): 734-740.

<http://www.uppmax.uu.se/using-cram-to-compress-bam-files-on-uppnex>