

Sequencing and applications

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Genome Sequencing Technologies, Assembly, Variant Calling and Statistical Genomics
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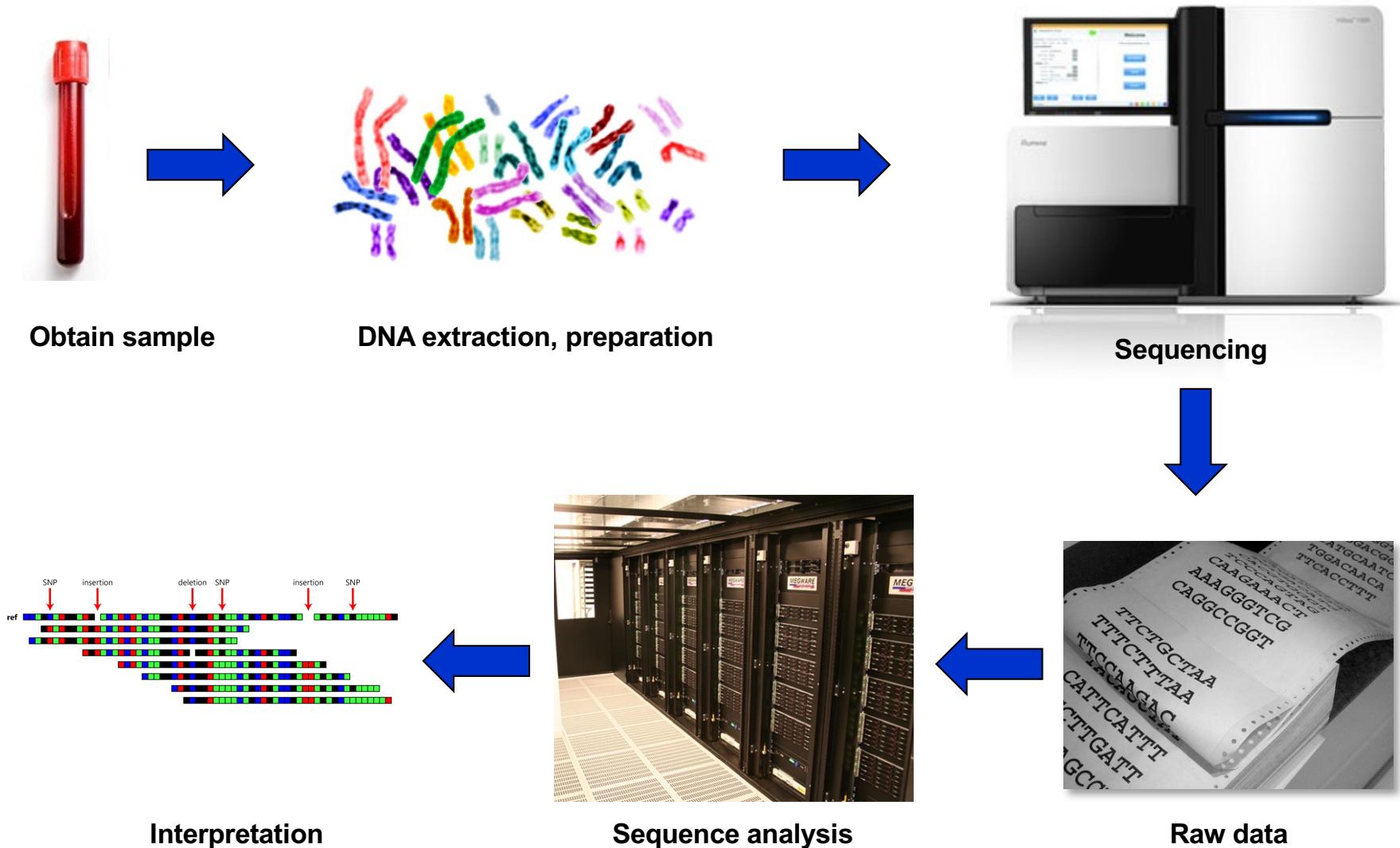
Oslo
University Hospital

Overview

- Sequencing technologies
- Important sequencing properties
- Developments in sequencing
- Paired-end reads & mate pair sequencing
- Overview of main applications
- Whole genome *de novo* sequencing and assembly
- Resequencing & variant calling
- Other applications: Metagenomics & RNA-Seq
- Challenges

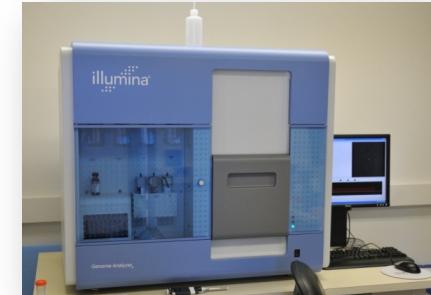
DNA sequencing

High-Throughput Sequencing (HTS), Deep sequencing, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)



Illumina

- Sequencing by synthesis using fluorescence
- One fragment = one cluster = one read
- Read lengths up to 300bp, paired-end reads
- Dominant technology today
- Formerly known as Solexa
- NovaSeq 6000 specifications:
 - 6000 billion bases per run (2 days)
 - Up to 20 billion single reads or 40 billion paired-end reads per run
 - Up to 2x250 bp
 - ~48 human genomes (40X) in 2 days



GA IIx



Sanger sequencing centre



PacBio

- Pacific Biosciences RS II and Sequel systems
- Long reads
- Single molecule (no PCR)
- Uses a "zero-mode waveguide (ZMW)"
- High error rate if not corrected
- Sequel II HiFi performance:
 - Average read length 30 000 – 100 000 bases
 - Throughput up to 500 GB per SMRT cell, raw reads
 - Up to 50 GB corrected reads (>Q20)



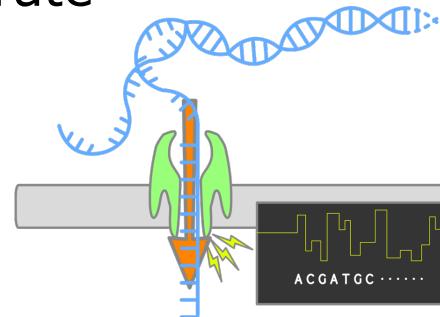
PacBio Sequel



PacBio RSII

Oxford Nanopore

- Oxford Nanopore systems
 - MinION
 - PremethION
 - and others
- Various equipment from small portable to large high-capacity
- DNA is passing through a nanopore and voltage potential is measured
- Single molecule, no PCR
- Long reads
- High uncorrected error rate
- Varying capacity



Oxford Nanopore



Older sequencing technologies



Roche (454)



ABI (SOLiD)

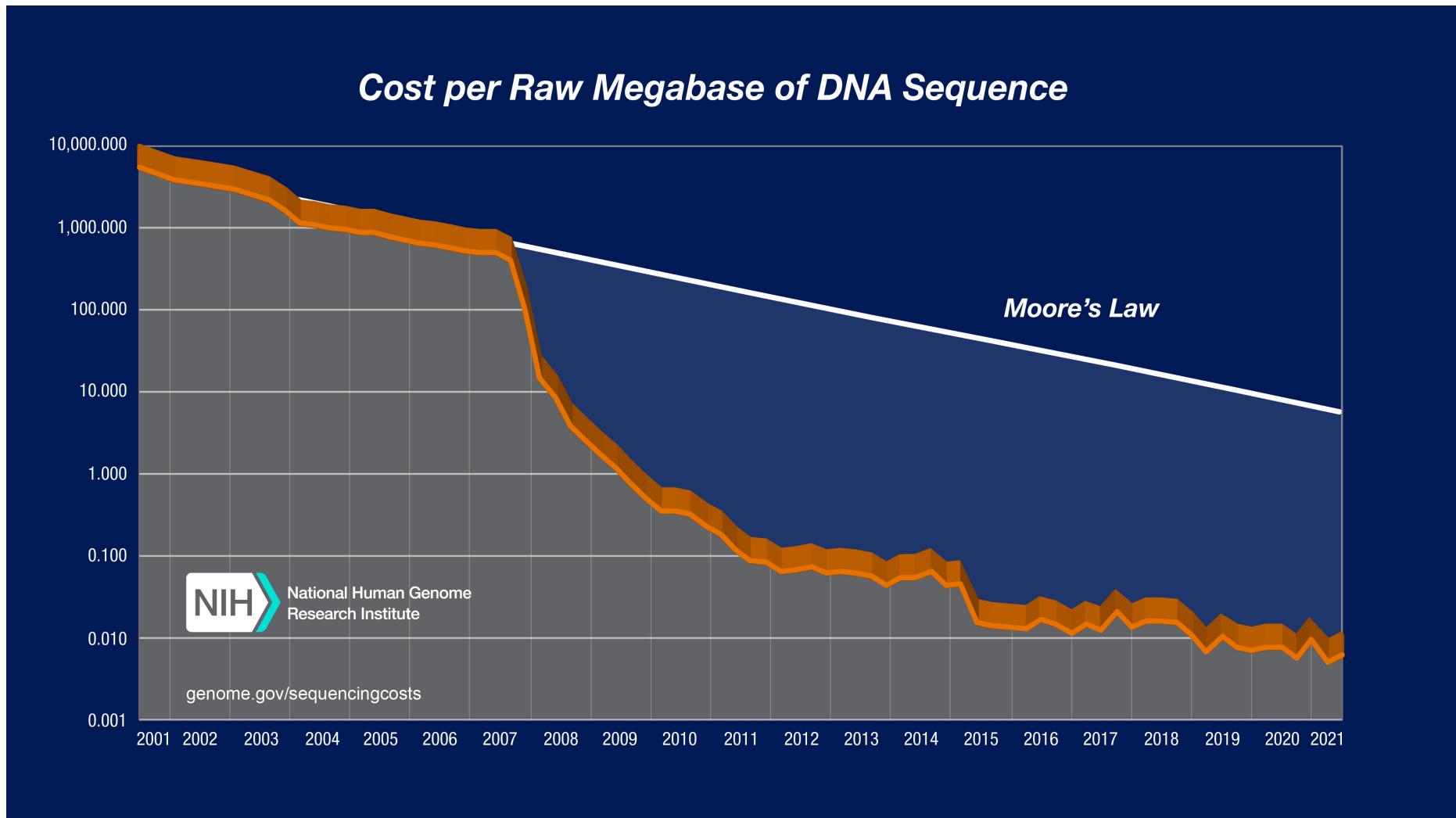


Ion Torrent

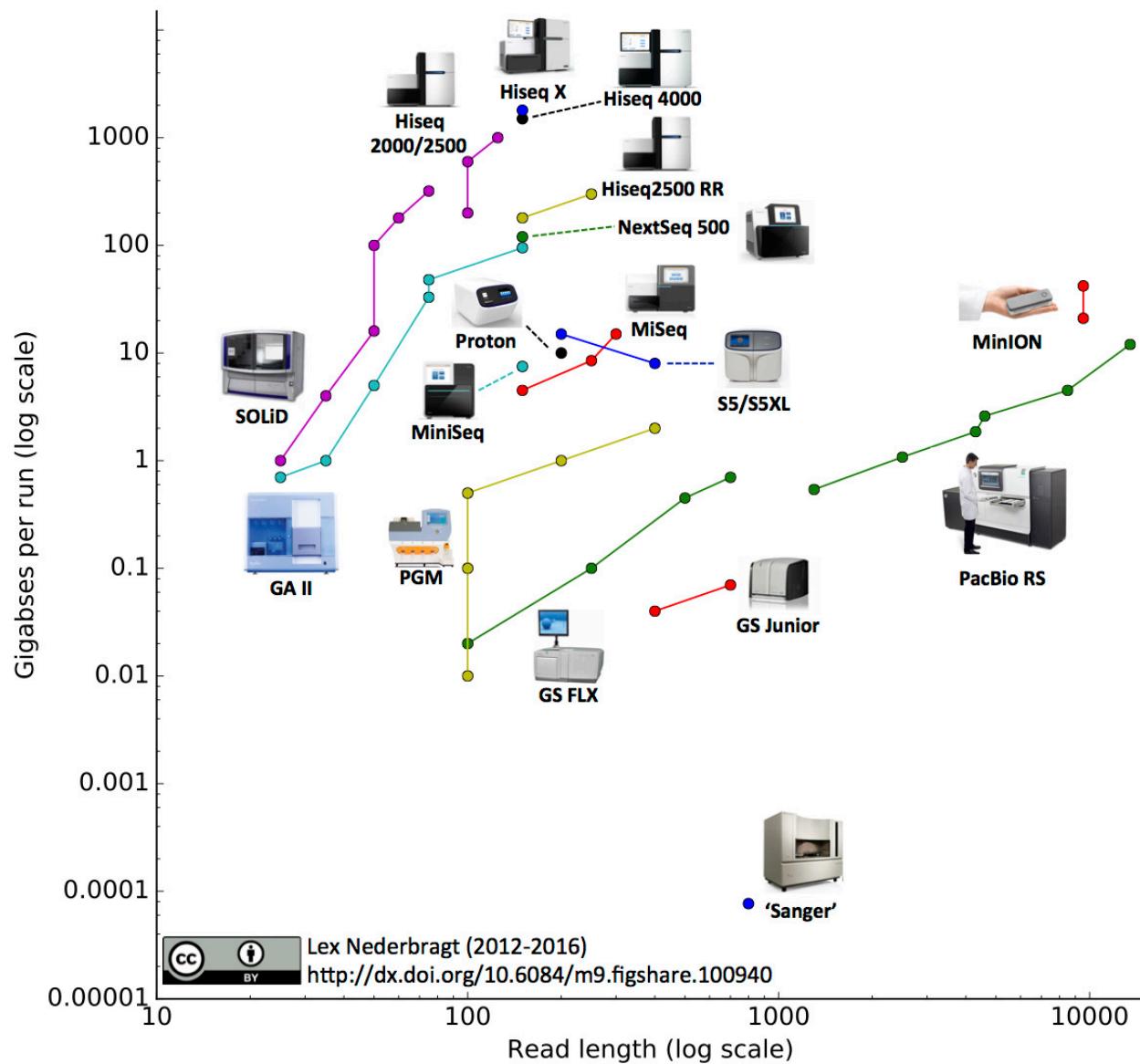
Important technology properties

- Cost
 - Per base
 - Investment
- Read length
- Speed / capacity (bases per day)
- Sequencing errors
 - Frequency
 - Profile (indels, substitutions)
 - Random or systematic?
- Paired-end support
- Single molecule or PCR-based
- Amount of lab work necessary
- Portability of equipment

The cost of sequencing

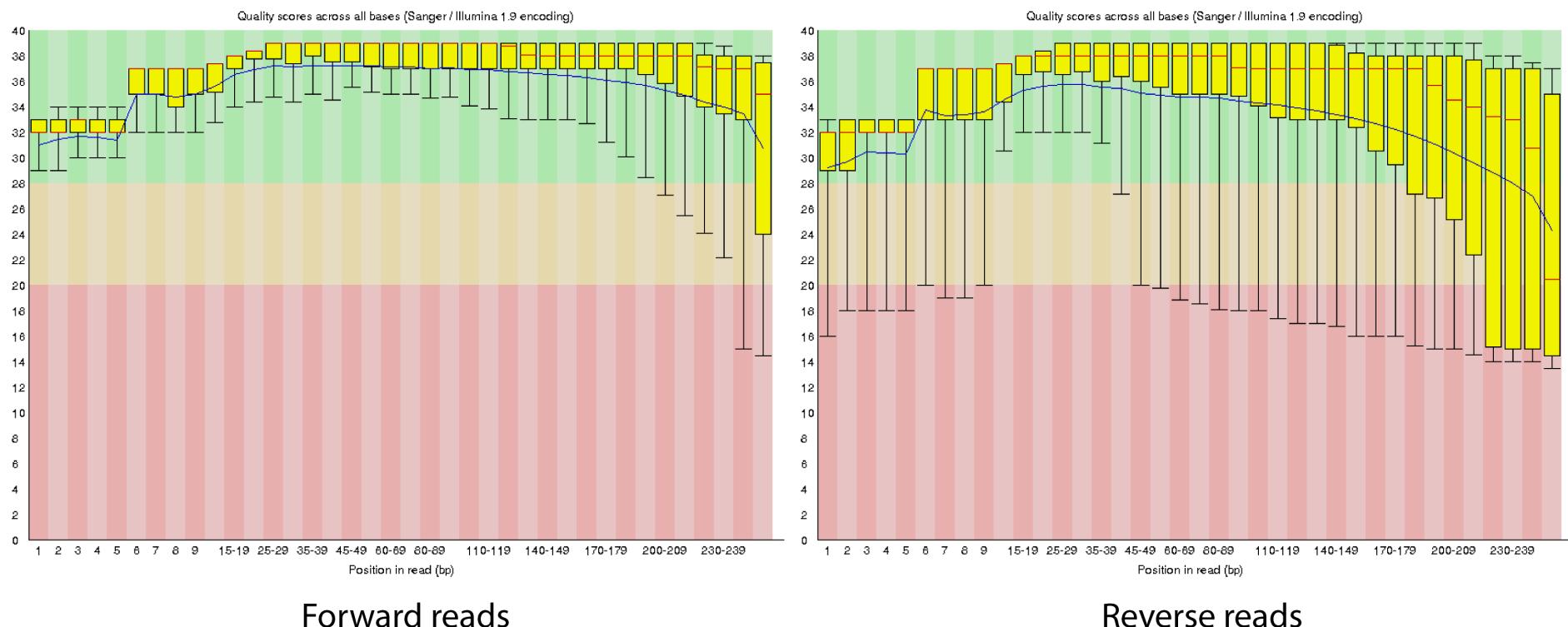


Sequencing technology development



Source: Lex Nederbragt (2012-2016) <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.100940>

Quality plots of Illumina MiSeq reads



Paired-end / mate pair sequencing

- Paired-end reads or mate pair reads are pairs of reads known to come from the same regions in the genome within a certain fixed distance
- Typically paired ends are a ~100-500bp apart, while mate pairs are ~2-10kb apart
- Performed by sequencing fragments from both ends
- Alleviates problems of short reads in repetitive genomic regions

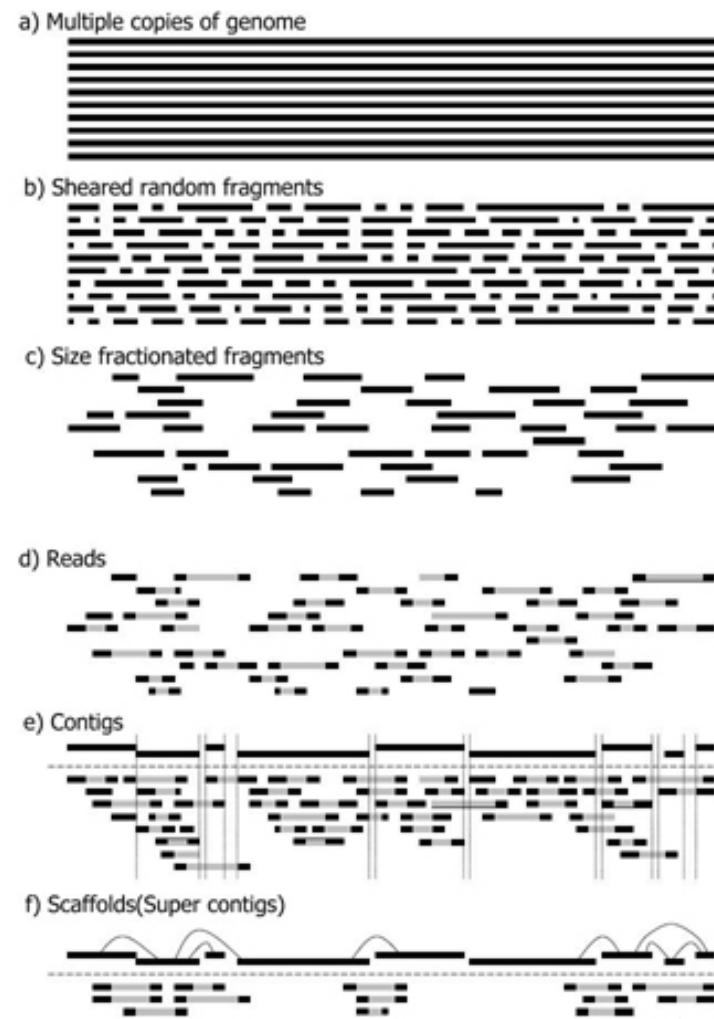


Common HTS applications

De novo genome sequencing	Determining the complete genome sequence of an organism for the first time
Whole genome re-sequencing and variant calling	Finding polymorphisms (SNPs) and discover mutations in an individual
Exome sequencing and variant calling	Sequencing only protein-coding regions of a genome from an individual to identify mutations or polymorphisms (SNPs)
Transcriptomics (RNA-seq)	Sequencing of expressed RNA (after reverse transcription to cDNA), (small RNA, mRNA or total RNA) to determine level
Chromatin immunoprecipitation-sequencing (ChIP-Seq) (ChIP-exo)	Mapping of genome-wide protein-DNA interactions
Methylation sequencing (Methyl-Seq)	Determining methylation patterns in the genome (epigenomics) (often on bisulfite-treated DNA)
Metagenomics	Sequencing the whole genomic DNA of multiple species (microorganisms) simultaneously from a certain environment
Metatranscriptomics	Sequencing RNA from multiple species (microorganisms) simultaneously
Amplicon sequencing	Sequencing of genomic regions selected and amplified by PCR, from multiple species simultaneously

Whole genome *de novo* sequencing

- Whole genome sequencing results in millions of small pieces of the full genome
- The challenge is to puzzle these together in the right order
- From reads to contigs, to scaffolds
- Genome sizes ranging from 2Mbp (bacteria) to 3Gbp (human) to 150Gbp (plant)
- Read size from 100 bp to 100 000 bp



Problematic issues

- Sequencing errors
 - Introduces false sequences into the assembly
 - May be alleviated by higher coverage / larger sequencing depth, or by error detection and correction
- Repeats
 - Genomes often contain many almost identical repeated sequences
 - Repeats longer than the read length makes it impossible to determine the exact location of the read
 - May cause compression or misassemblies
 - May be alleviated by longer reads or paired-end/mate pair reads
- Heterozygosity
 - Diploid organisms (e.g Humans) actually have two “genomes”, not one. Chromosome pairs 1-22 for all, plus XX or XY. One set of chromosomes from our mother and one from our father.
 - The two are mostly identical, but there are some differences
 - Causes “bubbles” in the assembly

Genome browsers



Source: genome.ucsc.edu

Mapping reads to a reference genome

Goal: Identify positions in the genome that are most similar to the sequence reads

Input data:

- 10-1000 million reads, each 30-300bp
- Sequencing errors (typ. ~1% error rate)

Reference genome:

- E.g. human genome, 3 Gbp
- Some genome variation, heterozygosity

Output:

- 0, 1, or more potential genomic locations for each read
- Mapping quality assignment

Requirements:

- Sensitivity, specificity, speed, compactness



Variation discovery by resequencing

- Variants may be called after mapping reads to a reference genome
- High coverage required, that is, the average number of times each base is sequenced (typically 40-100X)
- Natural variation discovery
- Mutation detection
- Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) and variants (SNVs)
- Small insertions & deletions (indels)
- Copy Number Variation (CNV)
- Large inversions, translocations etc

The diagram shows a sequence of DNA bases: GTTA^cTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCACGATGTC. A red box highlights the last base, G, which is different from the reference sequence (A). Below the sequence, four red arrows point to the first four bases (G, T, C, T), labeled "sequencing errors". A fifth red arrow points to the last base (G), labeled "SNP".

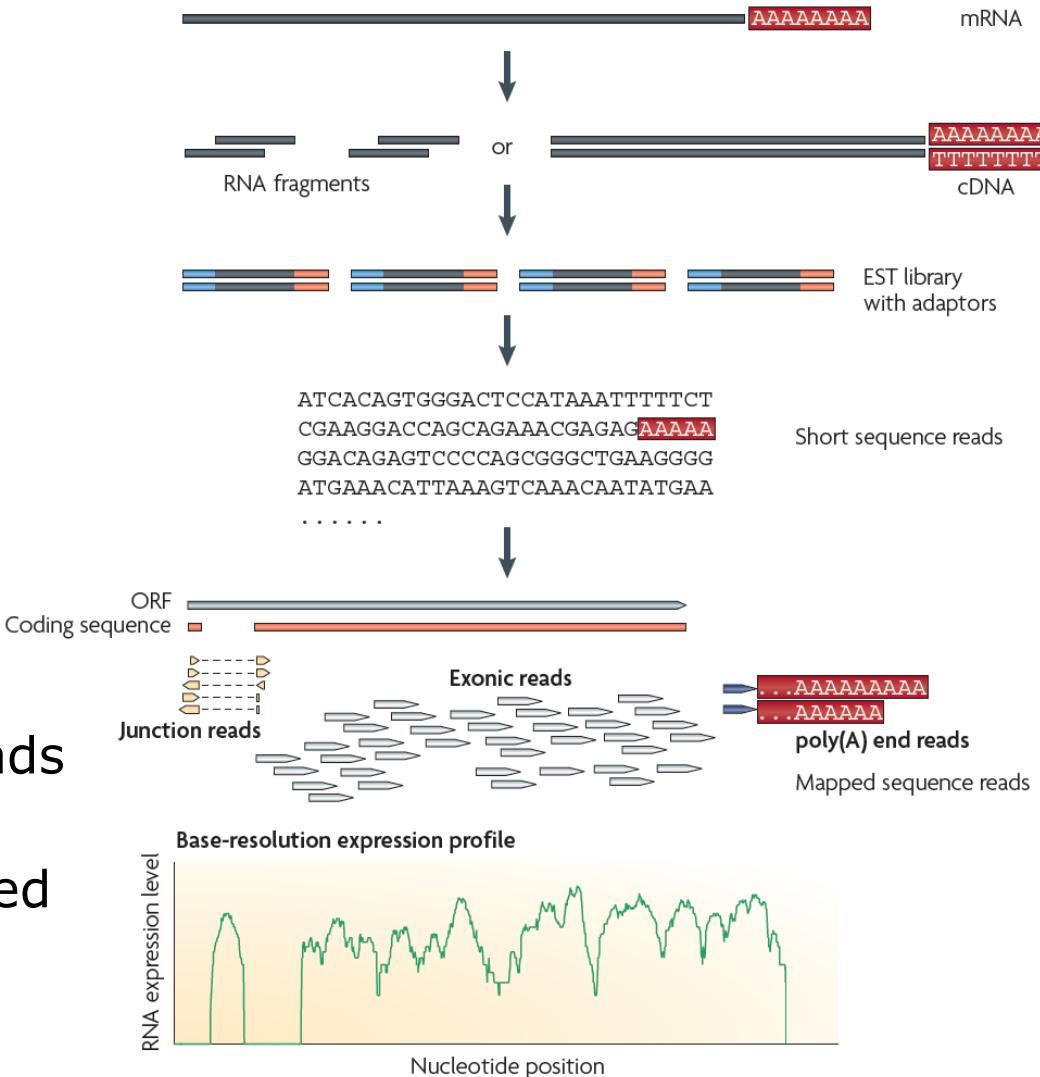
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCACGATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCACGATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCAC^AATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAAT^gCTCCACGATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCAC^AATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCACGATGTC
GTTACTGTCGT^GTAATACTCCAC^aATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCAC^aATGTC
GTTA^aTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCACGATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTA^cTACTCCACGATGTC
GTTACTGTCGTTGTAATACTCCAC^aATGTC

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

sequencing errors SNP

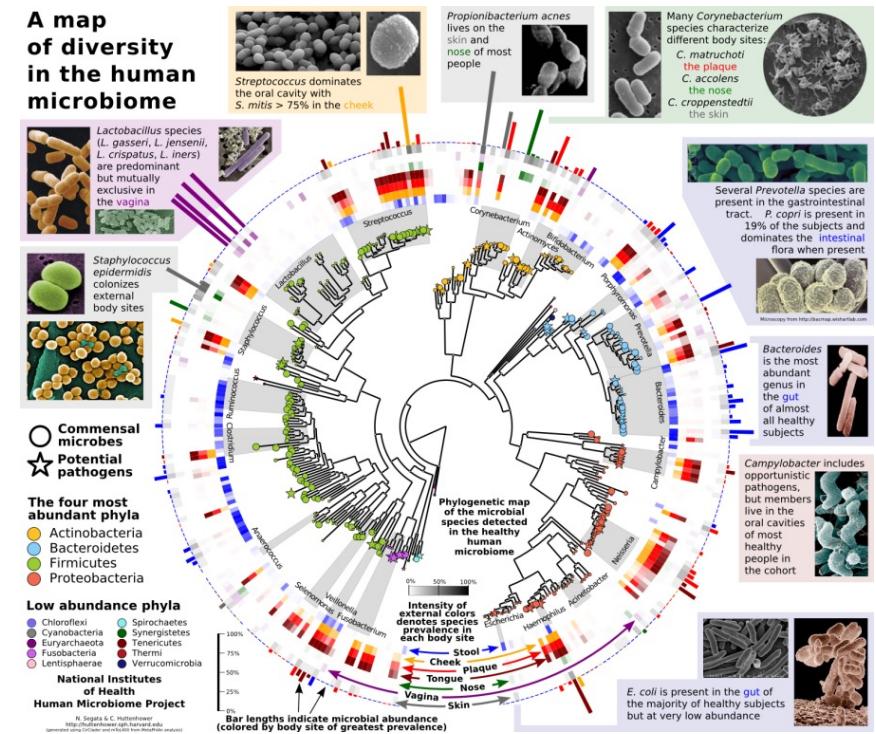
Gene expression (RNA-Seq)

- Gene expression analysis
- Transcriptomics
- Replaces microarrays
- mRNAs
- Small RNAs (miRNA, piRNA...)
- Splice variants
- Counts the number of reads for each RNA
- Statistical analysis required for interpretation



Metagenomics/metatranscriptomics

- Samples contains collection of DNA/RNA from many microorganisms present in some niche - a microbial community
- Sequences all the DNA at once
- Sources: Soil, ocean, mine, human body, the built environment, ...
- Ecological diversity studies
- Clinical studies (e.g. human gut)
- Big data: Many hundred million sequences



Human Microbiome Project

TARA OCEANS

earth
microbiome project

Challenges

- Cost of actual sequencing is decreasing, but what about the cost of analysis?
- Lack of competent people for bioinformatics analysis
- Large storage needs due to the amounts of data generated. Terabytes of data.
- Compute intensive analysis (read mapping, assembly, etc)
- Security and privacy issues related to sensitive human data