BMEG3105 Fall 2025

Data analytics for personalized genomics and precision medicine

Lecturer: Yu LI(CSE)

Email: liyu@cse.cuhk.edu.hk

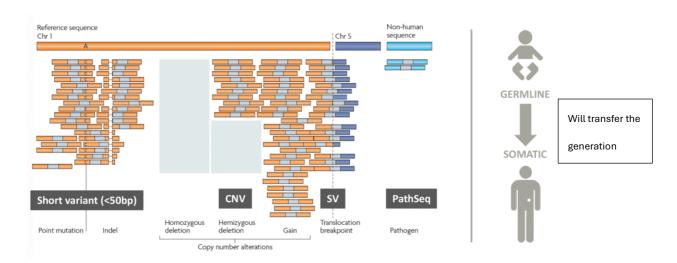
Lecture 15: Genomics analysis

Friday, October 24, 2025

Why do we care about Variants?

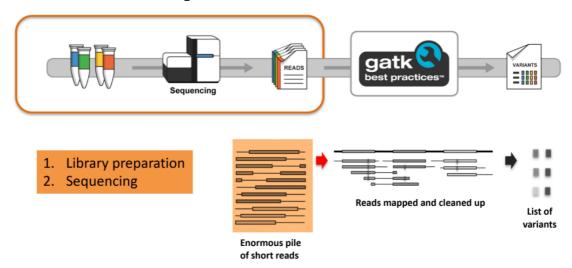
- * Under 3.2 billion sites in the human genome, any 2 humans share 99.5% DNA
- -> are the same, we need to do selection
- * Genetic differences among people lead to differences in disease risk and response to treatment
- * Genetic variation is used to find genes and variants that contribute to disease
- * Cancer is a genetic variant at multiple levels

Different types of genomic variants



- Point mutation: can change the signal
- SV-translocation breakpoint just like structure

Process of discover the genetic variants



For the sequence mapping recap



The no. means the difference

For this example, compare GCCA with CCA, they are the same

 \Rightarrow The no. equal 0

Example 2:



Compare GCGA with CCA, they have one difference

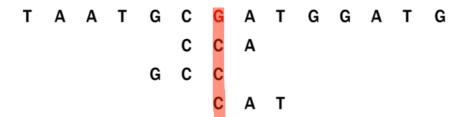
- \Rightarrow The no. equal 1
- ⇒ Its doesn't mean that having the point mutation (Because only one sample)

Variants VS Errors

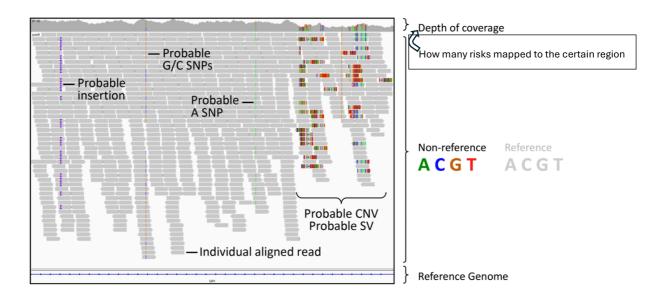
* Distinguish between actual variation (real change) and errors (artifacts)

T A A T G C G A T G G A T G C C A

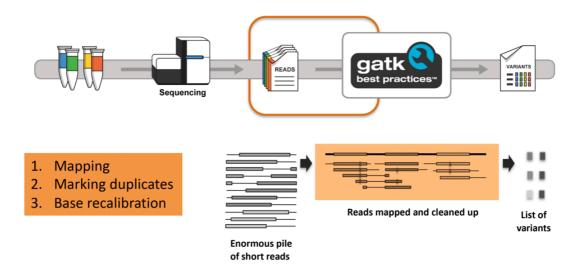
- * Errors can creep in on different levels:
 - **▶** PCR artifacts (amplification of errors)
 - ➤ Sequencing (errors in base calling) 1% error
 - ➤ Alignment (misalignment, mis-gapped alignments)
 - ➤ Variant calling (low depth of coverage, few samples)
 - ➤ Genotyping (poor annotation)
- * This situation is more reliable



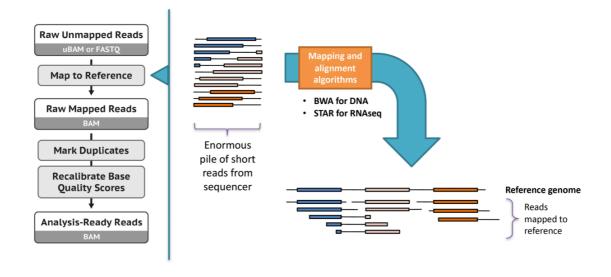
Genome Browser



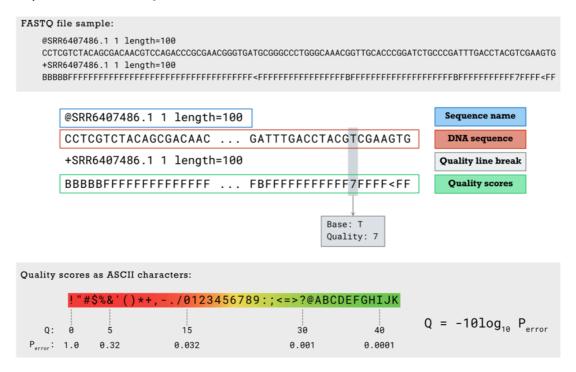
Data pre-processing step



SETP 1: Map the reads produced by the sequence to the reference



* Input format: FASTQ



⇒ Perror value => smaller means lower error

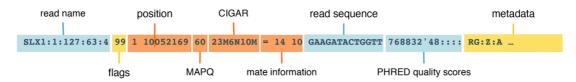
* Output format: Sequence/Binary Alignment Map(SAM/BAM)

```
VN:1.0 SO:coordinate
@HD
                                   coding
                    LN:64444167
@SO
      SN:chr20
                                 CL:/srv/dna_tools/tophat/tophat -N 3 --read-edit-dist 5 --read-rea
      ID:TopHat
                    VN:2.0.14
lign-edit-dist 2 -i 50 -I 5000 --max-coverage-intron 5000 -M -o out /data/user446/mapping_tophat/index/chr
20 /data/user446/mapping_tophat/L6_18_GTGAAA_L007_R1_001.fastq
                                               chr20
                                                      190930 3
HWI-ST1145:74:C101DACXX:7:1102:4284:73714
                                        16
                                                                    100M
      {\tt CCGTGTTTAAAGGTGGATGCGGTCACCTTCCCAGCTAGGCTTAGGGATTCTTAGTTGGCCTAGGAAATCCAGCTAGTCCTGTCTCTCAGTCCCCCCTCT}
    AS: i:-15
                XM:i:3 X0:i:0 XG:i:0 MD:Z:55C20C13A9 NM:i:3 NH:i:2 CC:Z:= CP:i:55352714
                                                                                    HI:i:0
HWI-ST1145:74:C101DACXX:7:1114:2759:41961
                                        16
                                               chr20
                                                      193953 50
                                                                    100M
                                                                                        Θ
      TGCTGGATCATCTGGTTAGTGGCTTCTGACTCAGAGGACCTTCGTCCCCTGGGGCAGTGGACCTTCCAGTGATTCCCCTGACATAAGGGGCATGGACGA
    DCDDDDEDDDDDDDDDDDCCCDDDCDDDDEEC>DFFFEJJJJJIGJJJJIHGBHHGJIJJJJJJGJJJJIHJJJJJJJHHHHHFFFFFCCC
   AS:i:-16
                XM:i:3 X0:i:0 XG:i:0 MD:Z:60G16T18T3 NM:i:3 NH:i:1
HWI-ST1145:74:C101DACXX:7:1204:14760:4030
                                               chr20 270877 50
                                                                    100M
                                        16
     {\tt DDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDEEEEEEFFFFFFFGHHHHFGDJJHJJIJJJJIIIIGGFJJIHIIIJJJJJJIGHHFAHGFHJHFGGHFFFDD@BB}
   AS:i:-11
                XM:i:2 X0:i:0 XG:i:0 MD:Z:0A85G13
                                                  NM:i:2 NH:i:1
HWI-ST1145:74:C101DACXX:7:1210:11167:8699
                                        Θ
                                               chr20 271218 50
                                                                    50M4700N50M
            {\tt GTGGCTCTTCCACAGGAATGTTGAGGATGACATCCATGTCTGGGTTGCACTTTGGGTTCCCGAAGCAGAACATCCTCAAATATGACCTCTCG}
accepted hits.sam
```

- ⇒ Binary format is to reduce file size
- □ Coding applies from 001.fastq

HEADER lines starting with @ symbol describing various metadata for all reads

RECORDS containing structured read information (1 line per read/record)



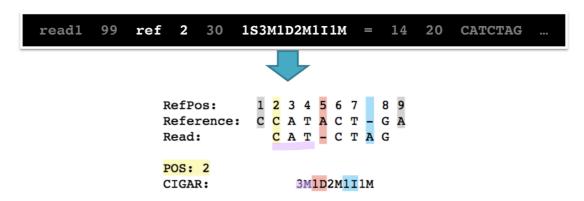
- Added mapping info summarizes position, quality, and structure for each read
- Mate information points to the read from the other end of the molecule (other in a pair)

Read name = ID MAPQ = mapping quality

Position = the coordinate with mapping CIGAR = mapping result

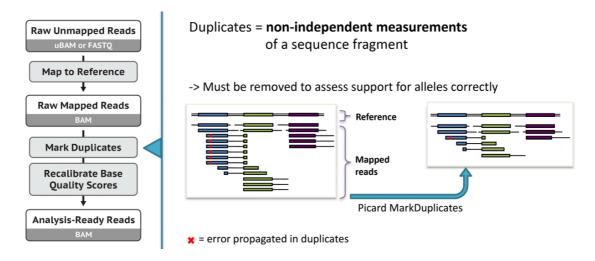
CIGAR summarizes alignment structure

CIGAR = Concise Idiosyncratic Gapped Alignment Report



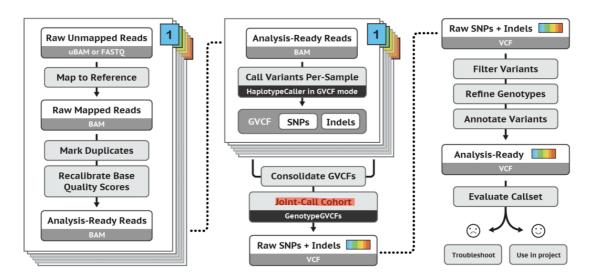
- ⇒ "Pos :2" means the starting point for the mapping
- ⇒ "3M" means 3 matched
- ⇒ "1D" means 1 deletion
- ⇒ "11" means 1 insertion

STEP 2 : Mark duplicates to mitigate duplication artifacts



For having the X, we want to reduce it

STEP 3: Variant calling in more detail



For the Joint-call Cohort, it is supper powerful

*Variant Call Format (VCF)

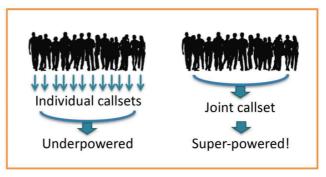
```
##fileformat=VCFv4.1
##reference=1000GenomesPilot-NCBI36
##INFO=<ID=DP, Number=1, Type=Integer, Description="Total Depth">
##INFO=<ID=AF, Number=A, Type=Float, Description="Allele Frequency">
##INFO=<ID=DB, Number=0, Type=Flag, Description="dbSNP membership">
\#\#FILTER=<ID=s50,Description="Less than 50% of samples have data">
##FORMAT=<ID=GT, Number=1, Type=String, Description="Genotype">
##FORMAT=<ID=GQ,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Genotype Quality">
##FORMAT=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Read Depth">
#CHROM POS ID
                   REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO
                                                   FORMAT
                                                                 NA00001 NA00002 NA00003
    14370 rs6054257 G A 29 PASS DP=14;AF=0.5 GT:GQ:DP 0/0:48:1 1/0:48:8 1/1:43:5
    1230237 . т .
                             47 PASS DP=13 GT:GQ:DP 0/0:54:7 0/0:48:4 0/0:61:2
    1234567 .
                     GT G
                            50 PASS
                                                       GT:GQ:DP 0/1:35:4 0/2:17:2 1/1:40:3
```

- ⇒ For the "header", all the record within the file
- ⇒ "Record" refers to each variant
- ⇒ "#CHROM" means chromosome no.
- ⇒ "POS" means position
- ⇒ "REF" means reference

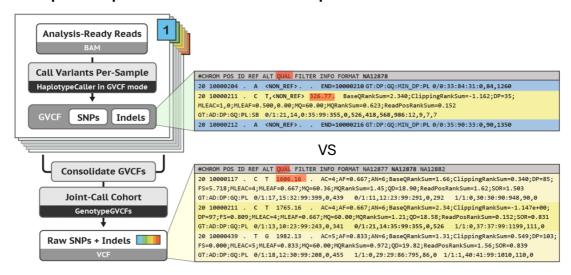
Joint analysis empowers discovery



- Single genome in isolation: almost never useful
- Family or population data add valuable information
 - rarity of variants
 - de novo mutations
 - ethnic background



From pre-sample GVCFs to final multi-sample VCF



- ⇒ They have different quality
- ⇒ Higher quality means more sample which is more credible

Conclusion and significate part

❖The pipeline

- > A concrete tool you can use in the future
- You know what you are expecting from each step. And which file you are looking for

❖The file format

- > We talked about reads a lot of time. What are they in the real analysis?
- ➢ It's for practice. We want to avoid the case that you learn a lot but you still cannot resolve reallife problems
- You know what to input to a specific step. If you get an error, you know what to change

Trouble-shooting

- ➤ For example, in real-life, you have a nice BAM/SAM file, but your VCF file is empty. Is it because of programming bugs, file formats, or no variants?
- > Hopefully, our introduction to the pipeline will be useful
- ➤ Usefulness is more important than exams

The reasons that we need to do the steps

For example, why we would like to remove the duplicates

The ability to read the records in those files

- ➤ Given an alignment, you should be able to convert it into a CIGAR string
- > Given a VCF record, you should know what has been changed

❖ How different factors affect the quality of the mapping and the variant calling

- > Errors VS variants
- **≻** Duplicates
- **➤ Depth/coverage**
- ➤ Sequence quality
- ⇒ Should know the reason why duplicate