

# Canadian Bioinformatics Workshops

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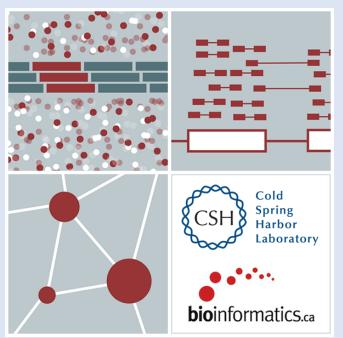
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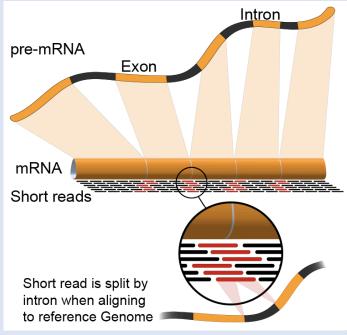
### Alignment Free Expression Estimation (Kallisto)

Kelsy Cotto, Obi Griffith, Malachi Griffith, Saad Khan, Allegra Petti, Huiming Xia

Informatics for RNA-seq Analysis
June 17-19, 2020









### What is a k-mer?

• A fixed sized (K) sequence

A string of length N contains
 N-K+1 k-mers

### 1-mer

# A C G

### 2-mer

| AA | AC | AG | АТ |  |  |
|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| CA | СС | CG | СТ |  |  |
| GA | GC | GG | GT |  |  |
| ТА | тс | TG | TT |  |  |

### ATTCGACAGTAGCCATGACTGG

 One can build K-mer index to represent a string

| 7-mer   | iD | N |
|---------|----|---|
| ATTCGAC | 1  | 1 |
| TTCGACA | 2  | 1 |
| TCGACAG | 3  | 1 |
|         |    |   |

Sailfish: Alignment-free Isoform Quantification from RNA-seq Reads using Lightweight Algorithms Rob Patro, Stephen M. Mount, and Carl Kingsford. *Manuscript Submitted* (2013) http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ckingsf/class/02714-f13/Lec05-sailfish.pdf

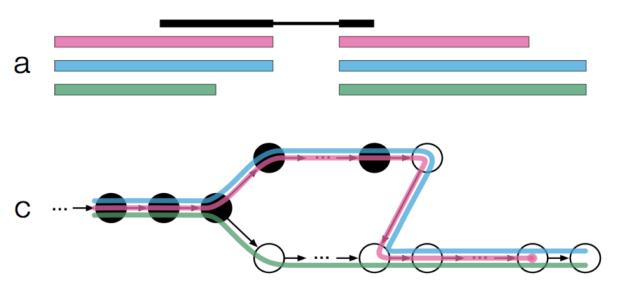
https://www.slideshare.net/duruofei/cmsc702-project-final-presentation

## Alignment free approaches for transcript abundance

- 1. Obtain reference transcript sequences
  - e.g. Ensembl, Refseq, or GENCODE
- 2. Build a k-mer index of all of the k-mers in each transcript sequence
  - Store each k-mer and its position within the transcript. "hashing"

## Alignment free approaches for transcript abundance

- 3. Count number of times each k-mer occurs within each RNAseq read
  - Model relationship between RNA-seq read k-mers and the transcript k-mer index.
  - What transcript is the most likely source for each read?
  - Called "pseudoalignment", "quasi-mapping", etc.



Bray, 2016 doi:10.1038/nbt.3519

https://tinyheero.github.io/2015/09/02/pseud oalignments-kallisto.html

- 4. Handle sequencing errors, isoforms, ambiguity, and determine abundance estimates
  - Transcriptome de Bruijn graphs, likelihood function, expectation maximization, etc.

# Advantages/disadvantages of alignment free approaches

- Advantages
  - Very fast and efficient
    - Similar accuracy to alignment based approach but with much, much shorter run time.
  - Do not need a reference genome, only a reference transcriptome
- Disadvantages
  - You don't get a proper BAM file (though a pseudo-bam can be created)
  - Information in reads with sequence errors may be ignored
  - Limited potential for transcript discovery, variant calling, fusion detection, etc.

# Common alignment free tools

#### Sailfish

- "Sailfish enables alignment-free isoform quantification from RNA-seq reads using lightweight algorithms." 2014
- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24752080

#### RNA-Skim

- "RNA-Skim: a rapid method for RNA-Seq quantification at transcript level." 2014
- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24931995

### Kallisto

- "Near-optimal probabilistic RNA-seq quantification." 2016
- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27043002

### Salmon

- "Salmon provides fast and bias-aware quantification of transcript expression." 2017
- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28263959

### Which is best?

- Somewhat controversial ...
- <a href="https://liorpachter.wordpress.com/2017/08/02/how-not-to-perform-a-differential-expression-analysis-or-science/">https://liorpachter.wordpress.com/2017/08/02/how-not-to-perform-a-differential-expression-analysis-or-science/</a>

- Various sources suggest that Salmon, Kallisto, and Sailfish results are quite comparable
- Usability, documentation, and supporting downstream tools could be used to decide

# We are on a Coffee Break & Networking Session

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