Introduction to RNA-Seq

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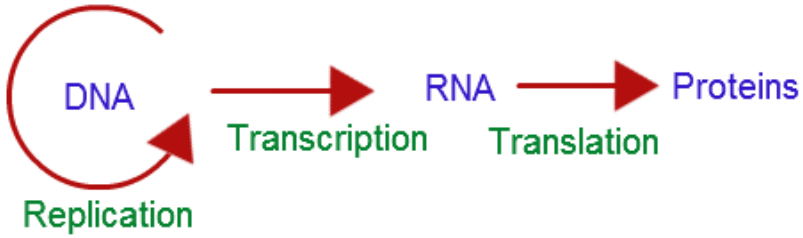
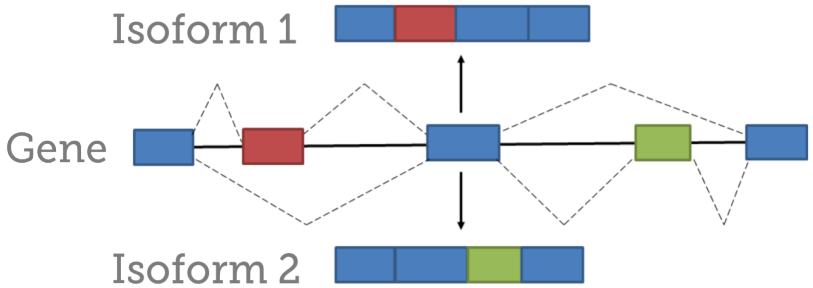
(With some slides borrowed from Scott Hunicke-Smith and Jeff Barrick)

The Purpose of RNA-Seq



- Genes expression patterns vary in:
  - Tissue types
  - Cell types
  - Development stages
  - Disease conditions
  - Time points



- RNA-Seq measures these expression variations using high-throughput sequencing technologies.

- Additionally, RNA-Seq allows detection of novel transcripts.

Advantages of RNA-Seq

Technology	Tiling microarray	RNA-Seq
Technology specifications		
Principle	Hybridization	High-throughput sequencing
Resolution	From several to 100 bp	Single base
Throughput	High	High
Reliance on genomic sequence	Yes	In some cases
Background noise	High	Low
Application		
Simultaneously map transcribed regions and gene expression	Yes	Yes
Dynamic range to quantify gene expression level	Up to a few-hundredfold	>8,000-fold
Ability to distinguish different isoforms	Limited	Yes
Ability to distinguish allelic expression	Limited	Yes
Practical issues		
Required amount of RNA	High	Low
Cost for mapping transcriptomes of large genomes	High	Relatively low

RNA-Seq: a revolutionary tool for transcriptomics

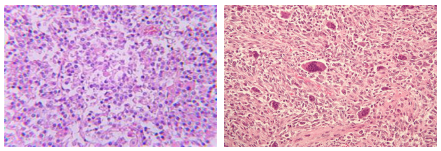
Zhong Wang, **Mark Gerstein**, and **Michael Snyder**

Nat Rev Genet. 2009 January ; 10(1): 57–63. doi:10.1038/nrg2484.

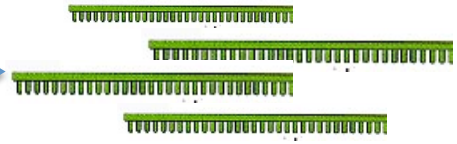
What are your questions ?

- This determines how you analyze the data.
- What are you looking for?
  - Novel transcripts, junctions?
  - Differential Gene expression?
  - Differential exon level counts?
  - Differential regulation?
  - Differential splicing?

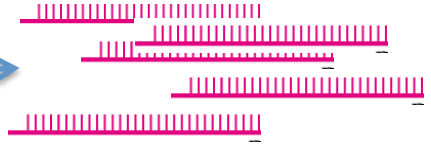
RNA-Seq… at it's Most Basic Form



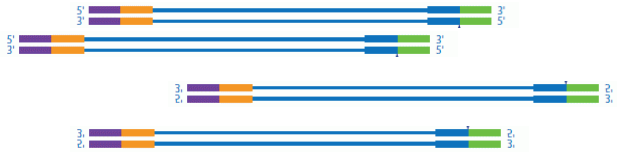
Samples from two conditions



Isolate RNA

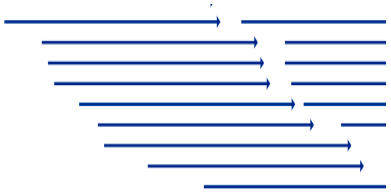


Generate cDNA



Create sequencing library by fragmenting, size selection and adding adaptors

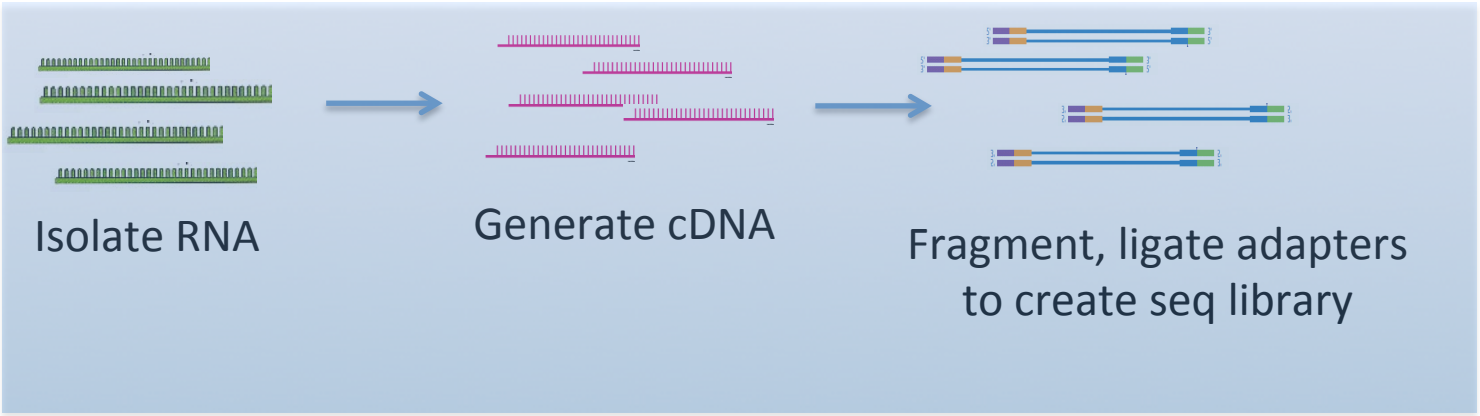
Run sequencer



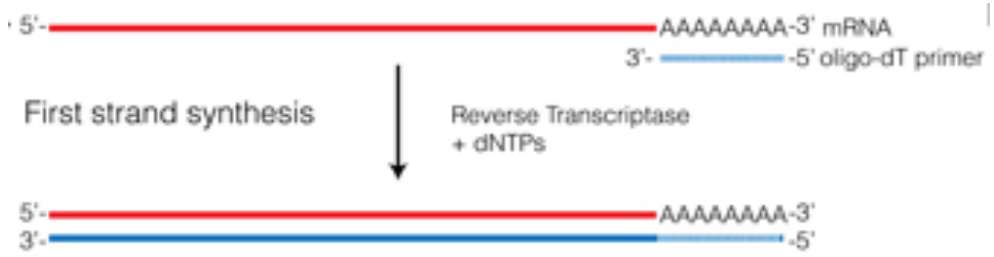
Generate short reads

Identify differentially expressed genes

RNA-Seq Libraries… with More Details



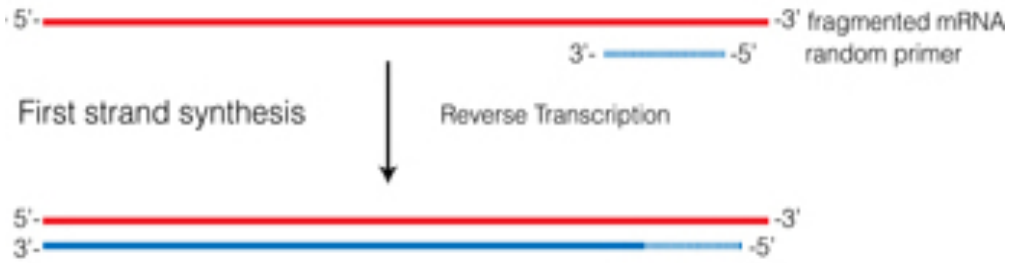
POLYA ENRICHMENT



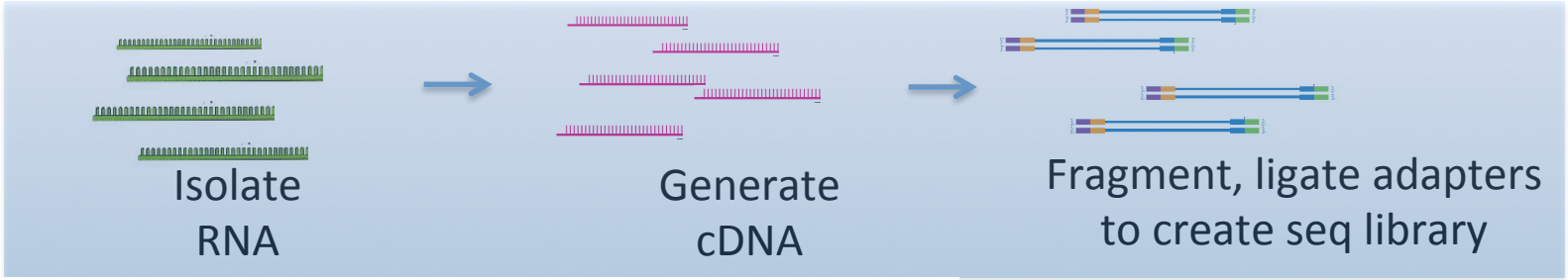
RIBOSOMAL DEPLETION

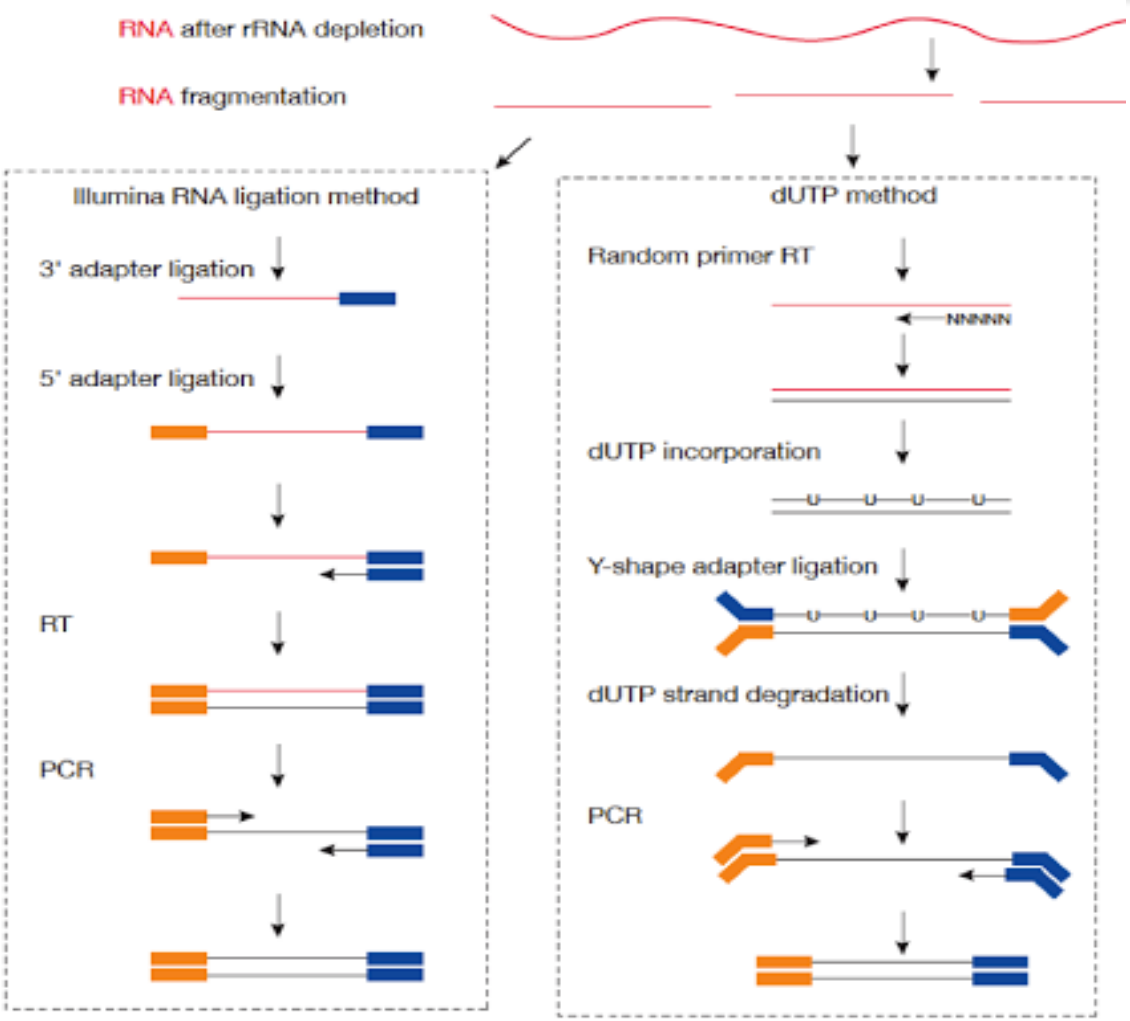
Ribominus kit

RANDOM PRIMING



RNA-Seq Libraries… with More Details





Second Strand Synthesis- Many Strand Specific Methods.

Strand-specific libraries for high throughput RNA sequencing prepared without poly(A) selection, Zhang et al.

Comparing Stranded RNA-Seq Library Protocols

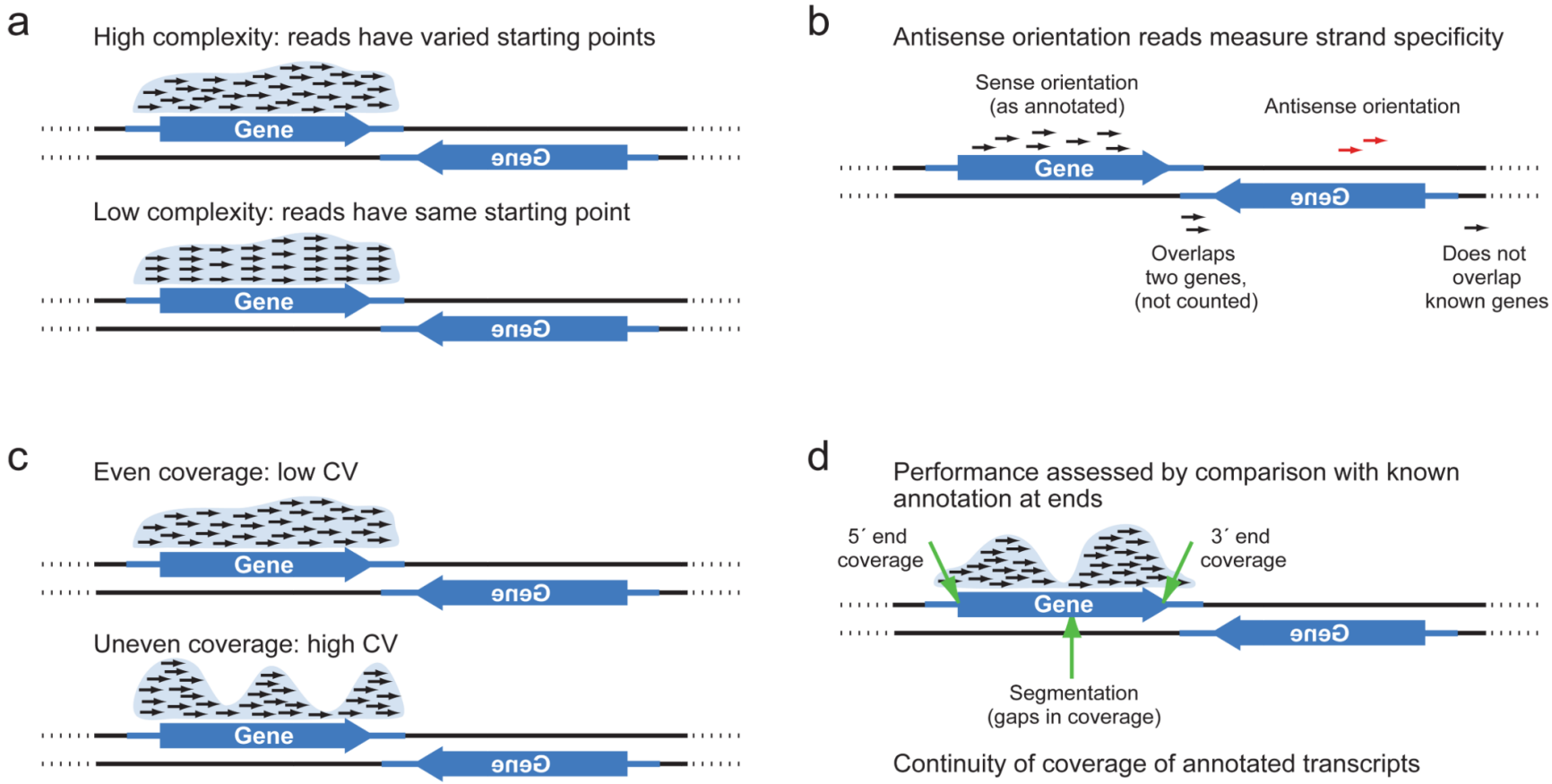


Figure 2. Key criteria for evaluation of strand-specific RNAseq libraries
Four categories of quality assessment. Double stranded genome (black parallel lines), with Gene ORF orientation (thick blue arrow) and UTRs (thin blue line), along with mapped reads (short black arrows – reads mapped to sense strand; red – reads mapped to antisense strand). (**a**) Complexity. (**b**) Strand Specificity. (**c**) Evenness of coverage. (**d**) Comparison to known transcript structure..

Comprehensive comparative analysis of strand-specific RNA sequencing methods, Levin et al, 2010

Types of Illumina Fragment Libraries

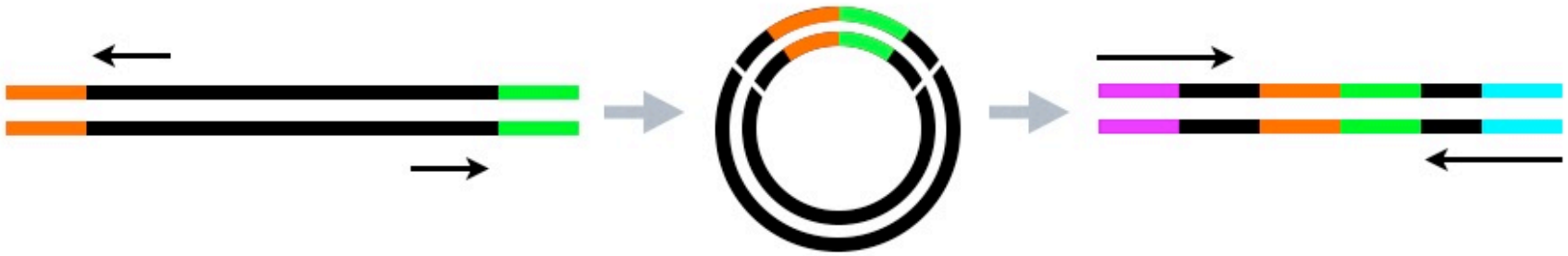
single-end

independent reads

paired-end

two inwardly oriented reads separated by ~200 nt

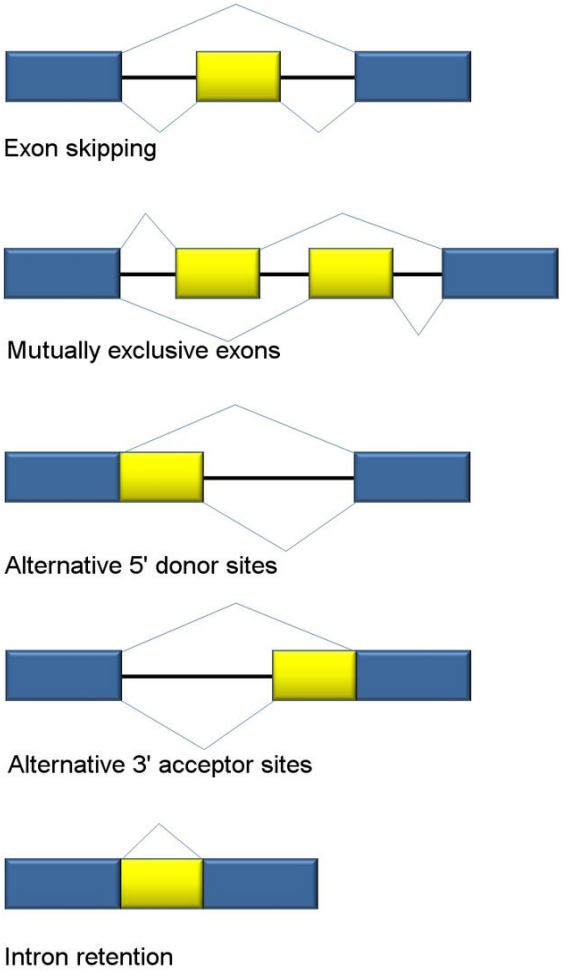
mate-paired



two outwardly oriented reads separated by ~3000 nt

Why is RNA-Seq Difficult?

- Biases may mean what we are seeing is not reflective of true state of the transcriptome.
- Ugh, splicing!
- Gene level, exon level?
- Multimapping, partial mapping,, not mapping.
- Normalization issues
  - some datasets are larger than others, some genes are larger than others



From Wikipedia- alternative splicing

Illumina Fastq file

FASTQ Format

```
@HWI-EAS216_91209:1:2:454:192#0/1
GTTGATGAATTTCTCCAGCGCGAATTTGTGGGCT
+HWI-EAS216_91209:1:2:454:192#0/1
B@BBBBBB@BBBBAAAA>@AABA?BBBAAB??>A?
```

Line 1: @read name

Line 2: called base sequence

Line 3: +read name (optional after +)

Line 4: base quality scores

Illumina Base Quality Scores

http://www.asciitable.com/

```
Quality character   !"#$%&'()*+,-./0123456789:;<=>?@ABCDEFGHI
                    |          |          |          |          |
ASCII Value         33         43         53         63         73
Base Quality (Q)    0          10         20         30         40
```

$$\text{Probability of Error} = 10^{-Q/10}$$

(This is a **Phred** score, also used for other types of qualities.)

Phred Quality Score	Probability of incorrect base call	Base call accuracy
10	1 in 10	90%
20	1 in 100	99%
30	1 in 1000	99.9%

Quality scores are ASCII encoded in fastq files. Different platforms/older sequencing data can have different encoding! Illumina HiSeq 2500 produces Sanger encoded data.

Phred +33 =ASCII

How do we analyze RNA-Seq data?

- ALIGN READS
- ASSEMBLE TRANSCRIPTS
- QUANTIFY TRANSCRIPTS
- TEST FOR DIFFERENTIAL EXPRESSION
- VISUALIZE
- DOWNSTREAM ANALYSIS

RNA-SEQ ANALYSIS PIPELINES

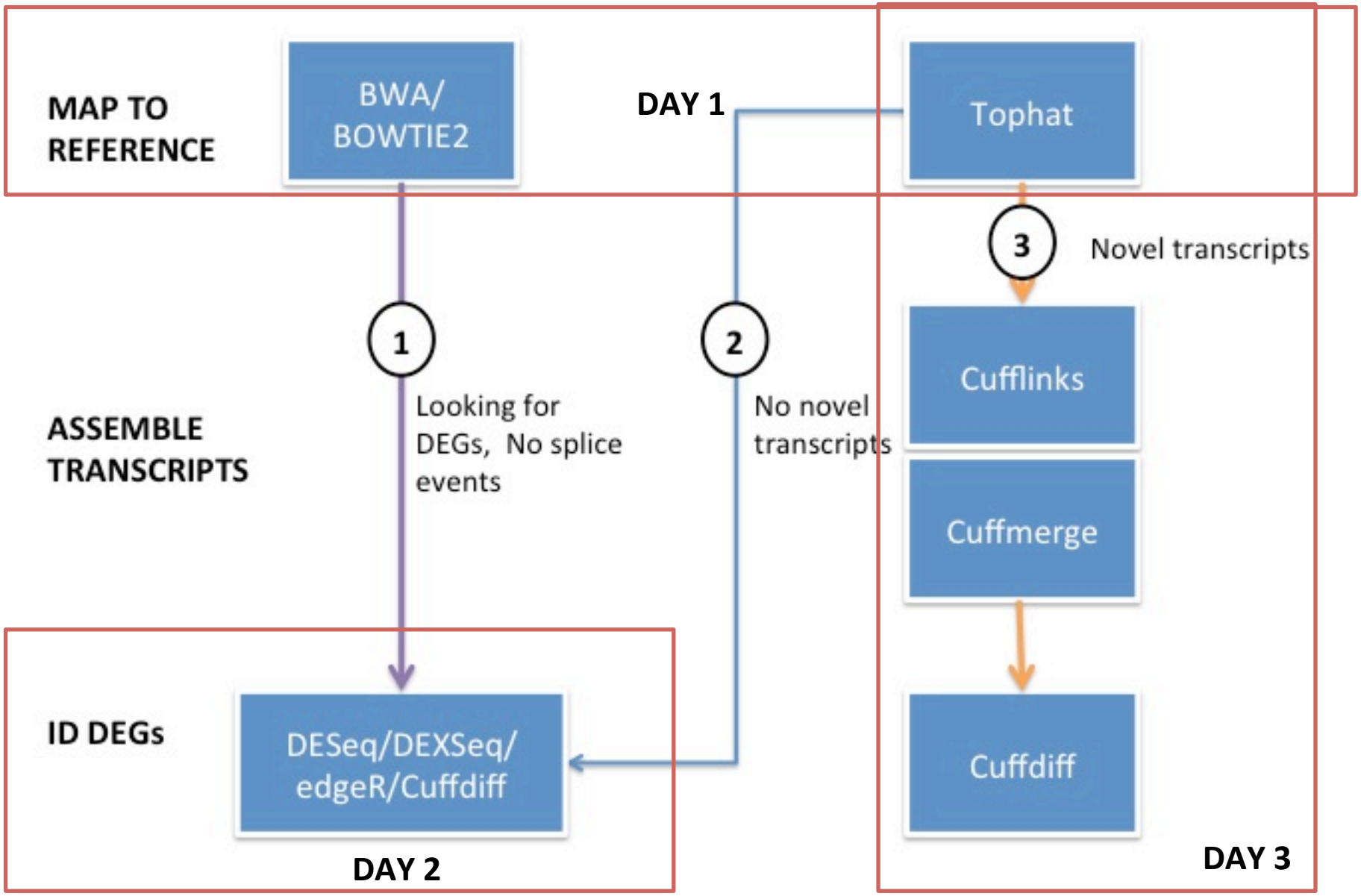
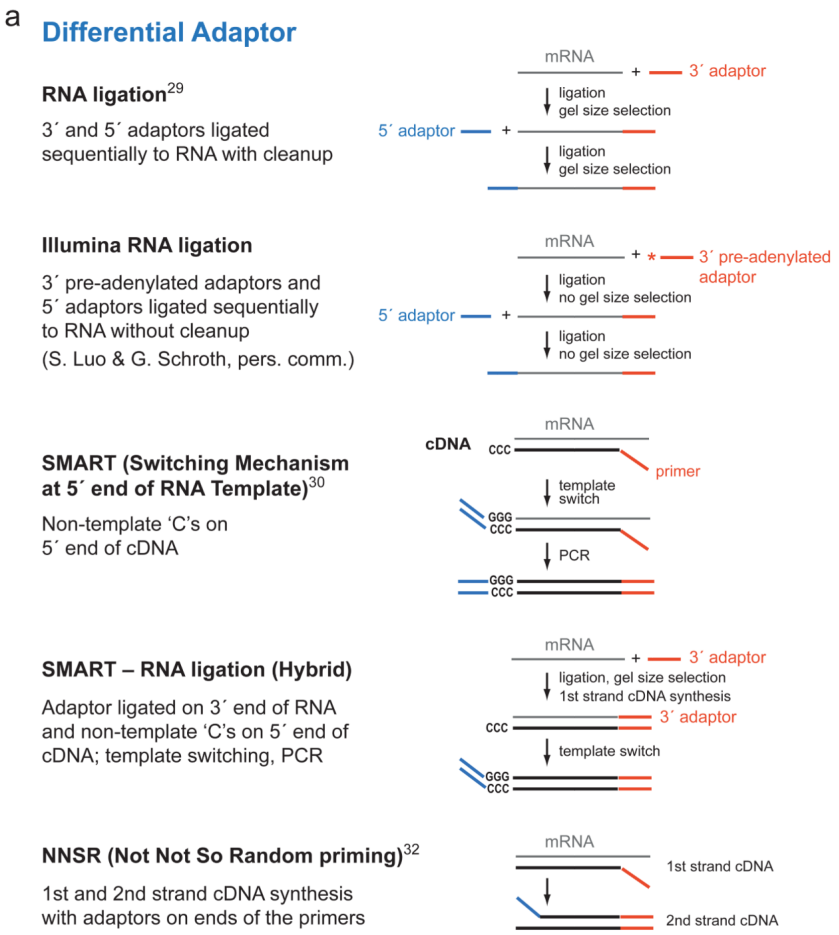


Table 1 | Selected list of RNA-seq analysis programs

Class	Category	Package	Notes	Uses	Input
Read mapping					
Unspliced aligners[a]	Seed methods	Short-read mapping package (SHRiMP)[41]	Smith-Waterman extension	Aligning reads to a reference transcriptome	Reads and reference transcriptome
		Stampy[39]	Probabilistic model		
	Burrows-Wheeler transform methods	Bowtie[43]			
		BWA[44]	Incorporates quality scores		
Spliced aligners	Exon-first methods	MapSplice[52]	Works with multiple unspliced aligners	Aligning reads to a reference genome. Allows for the identification of novel splice junctions	Reads and reference genome
		SpliceMap[50]			
		TopHat[51]	Uses Bowtie alignments		
	Seed-extend methods	GSNAP[53]	Can use SNP databases		
		QPALMA[54]	Smith-Waterman for large gaps		
Transcriptome reconstruction					
Genome-guided reconstruction	Exon identification	G.Mor.Se	Assembles exons	Identifying novel transcripts using a known reference genome	Alignments to reference genome
	Genome-guided assembly	Scripture[28]	Reports all isoforms		
		Cufflinks[29]	Reports a minimal set of isoforms		
Genome-independent reconstruction	Genome-independent assembly	Velvet[61]	Reports all isoforms	Identifying novel genes and transcript isoforms without a known reference genome	Reads
		TransABySS[56]			
Expression quantification					
Expression quantification	Gene quantification	Alexa-seq[47]	Quantifies using differentially included exons	Quantifying gene expression	Reads and transcript models
		Enhanced read analysis of gene expression (ERANGE)[20]	Quantifies using union of exons		
		Normalization by expected uniquely mappable area (NEUMA)[82]	Quantifies using unique reads		
	Isoform quantification	Cufflinks[29]	Maximum likelihood estimation of relative isoform expression	Quantifying transcript isoform expression levels	Read alignments to isoforms
		MISO[33]			
		RNA-seq by expectaion maximization (RSEM)[69]			
Differential expression		Cuffdiff[29]	Uses isoform levels in analysis	Identifying differentially expressed genes or transcript isoforms	Read alignments and transcript models
		DegSeq[79]	Uses a normal distribution		
		EdgeR[77]			
		Differential Expression analysis of count data (DESeq)[78]			
		Myrna[75]	Cloud-based permutation method		

Figure:
Garber et al, Nature Methods, 2011

Appendix



Levin et al.
Page 10

Figure 1. Methods for strand-specific RNA-Seq

Salient details for seven protocols for strand-specific RNA-Seq, differential adaptor methods (a) and differential marking methods (b). mRNA is shown in grey, and cDNA in black. For differential adaptor methods, 5' adaptors are shown in blue, and 3' adaptors in red.