

File Types in Bioinformatics

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Enabler for Life Science











HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE: (SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)

SITUATION: THERE ARE 14 COMPETING STANDARDS.

14?! RIDICULOUS! WE NEED TO DEVELOP ONE UNIVERSAL STANDARD THAT COVERS EVERYONE'S USE CASES. YEAH!

SOON: SITUATION: THERE ARE 15 COMPETING STANDARDS.

http://xkcd.com



- Overwhelming at first
- Overview
 - FASTA reference sequences
 - FASTQ reads in raw form
 - SAM aligned reads
 - BAM compressed SAM file
 - CRAM even more compressed SAM file
 - GTF/GFF/BED annotations



FASTA

- Used for: nucleotide or peptide sequences
- Simple structure

- > header
- sequence



FASTA

- Used for: nucleotide or peptide sequences
- Simple structure

> H.Sapiens chr17:135135135-1313566 ACTCAGATCGGAATAGCATACGCATACTCAGATCGGAATAGCATACGCAT GGATAGCTCACGACACATGACACTACAGCCAGACTACACGACTACACGAT AAGGATATAGGACTACGACTAGCATCGACTAACTAGCTACATACG

>that random protein sequence i saw yesterday
ARGAEBAEUIRGHAERGIAEUAEILHGAEIGAHEGLAEJKRGNAERBIAE
AEGHAELGIHAEGOUIAENGAEBAERIOTYUGAEGHILAEHRGAEIRGYU
AEHAEHAEIOGAEGAERTBETHUETHIRTHJNRFS



- Just like FASTA, but with quality values
- Used for: raw data from sequencing (unaligned reads)

@ header

sequence

+

quality





- Just like FASTA, but with quality values
- Used for: raw data from sequencing (unaligned reads)

```
@SEQ_001
GATTTGGGGTTCAAAGCAGTATCGATCAAATAGTAAATCCATTTGTTCAACTCACAGTTT
+
!''*((((***+))%%++)(%%!''*((((***).1***-+*''))**55CC!''*(D
@SEQ_002
GATTTGGGGTTCAAAGCAGTATTTGGGGTTCATTGGGGTTCATTGTTCAACTCACAGTTT
+
!''*((((***+))%>>CCCCC%++((((**).1***-+*''))**55CCF>>>>>C5
@SEQ_003
AAGCAGTATCGAGATTTGGGGTTCAAAGCAGTATAAGCAGTATCGATAAATCCATTTGTT
+
!''*((((*!''*(((**)(%%%).1***-+*''))**55CCF>>>>>%%%).1B5
```



- Quality 0-40
 - 40 = best

(Illumina 1.8 + = 41)



- Quality 0-40
 - 40 = best
- ASCII encoded

Dec	Hex	Char	Dec	Hex	Char	Dec	Hex	Char	Dec	Нех	Char
0	00	Null	32	20	Space	64	40	0	96	60	`
1	01	Start of heading	33	21	!	65	41	A	97	61	a
2	02	Start of text	34	22	"	66	42	В	98	62	b
3	03	End of text	35	23	#	67	43	С	99	63	c
4	04	End of transmit	36	24	Ş	68	44	D	100	64	d
5	05	Enquiry	37	25	*	69	45	E	101	65	e
6	06	Acknowledge	38	26	٤	70	46	F	102	66	f
7	07	Audible bell	39	27	1	71	47	G	103	67	g
8	08	Backspace	40	28	(72	48	H	104	68	h
9	09	Horizontal tab	41	29)	73	49	I	105	69	i
10	OA	Line feed	42	2A	*	74	4A	J	106	6A	j
11	OB	Vertical tab	43	2B	+	75	4B	K	107	6B	k
12	OC.	Form feed	44	2C	,	76	4C	L	108	6C	1
13	OD	Carriage return	45	2 D	-	77	4D	M	109	6D	m
14	OE	Shift out	46	2 E		78	4E	N	110	6E	n
15	OF	Shift in	47	2 F	/	79	4F	0	111	6F	o
16	10	Data link escape	48	30	0	80	50	P	112	70	р
17	11	Device control 1	49	31	1	81	51	Q	113	71	đ
18	12	Device control 2	50	32	2	82	52	R	114	72	r
19	13	Device control 3	51	33	3	83	53	ន	115	73	s
20	14	Device control 4	52	34	4	84	54	Т	116	74	t
21	15	Neg. acknowledge	53	35	5	85	55	U	117	75	u
22	16	Synchronous idle	54	36	6	86	56	V	118	76	v
23	17	End trans, block	55	37	7	87	57	V	119	77	w
24	18	Cancel	56	38	8	88	58	X	120	78	х
25	19	End of medium	57	39	9	89	59	Y	121	79	У
26	1A	Substitution	58	3A	:	90	5A	Z	122	7A	z
27	1B	Escape	59	3 B	;	91	5B	[123	7B	{
28	1C	File separator	60	3 C	<	92	5C	١	124	7C	I
29	1D	Group separator	61	ЗD	=	93	5D]	125	7D	}
30	1E	Record separator	62	3 E	>	94	5E	٨	126	7E	~
31	1F	Unit separator	63	3 F	2	95	5F		127	7F	





Quality 0-40

(Illumina 1.8 + = 41)

- 40 = best
- ASCII encoded

```
.....
  !"#$%&'()*+,-./0123456789:;<=>?@ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ[\]^ `abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz{|}~
33
                              104
                                        126
S - Sanger
       Phred+33, raw reads typically (0, 40)
X - Solexa
       Solexa+64, raw reads typically (-5, 40)
I - Illumina 1.3+ Phred+64, raw reads typically (0, 40)
J - Illumina 1.5+ Phred+64, raw reads typically (3, 40)
 with 0=unused, 1=unused, 2=Read Segment Quality Control Indicator (bold)
 (Note: See discussion above).
L - Illumina 1.8+ Phred+33, raw reads typically (0, 41)
```



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@SEQ_001
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@SEQ_003
AAGCAGTATCGAGATTTGGGGTTCAAAGCAGTATAAGCAGTATCGATAAATCCATTTGTT
+
!''*((((*!''*(((**)(%%%).1***-+*''))**55CCF>>>>>%%%).1B5
```



SAM

- Used for: aligned reads
- Lots of columns...



SAM

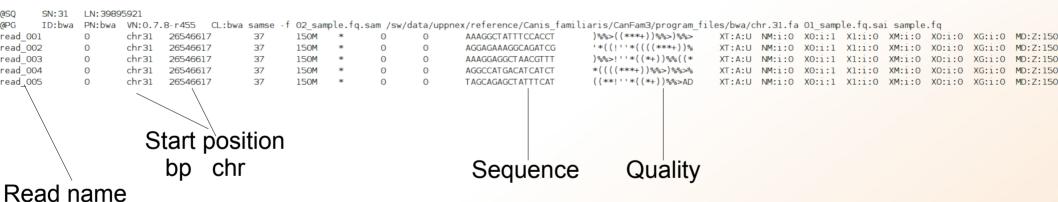
<QNAME> <FLAG> <RNAME> <POS> <MAPQ> <CIGAR> <MRNM> <MPOS> <ISIZE> <SEQ> <QUAL> [<TAG>:<VTYPE>:<VALUE> [...]]

Field	Regular expression	Range	Description
QNAME	[^ \t\n\r]+		Query pair NAME if paired; or Query NAME if unpaired ²
FLAG	[0-9]+	[0,216-1]	bitwise FLAG (Section 2.2.2)
RNAME	[^ \t\n\r@=]+		Reference sequence NAME ³
POS	[0-9]+	[0,2 ²⁹ -1]	1-based leftmost POSition/coordinate of the clipped sequence
MAPQ	[0-9]+	[0,28-1]	MAPping Quality (phred-scaled posterior probability that the mapping position of this read is incorrect) ⁴
CIGAR	([0-9]+[MIDNSHP])+ *		extended CIGAR string
MRNM	[^ \t\n\r@]+		Mate Reference sequence NaMe; "=" if the same as <rname> 3</rname>
MPOS	[0-9]+	[0,2 ²⁹ -1]	1-based leftmost Mate POSition of the clipped sequence
ISIZE	-?[0-9]+	[-2 ²⁹ ,2 ²⁹]	inferred Insert SIZE 5
SEQ	[acgtnACGTN.=]+ *		query SEQuence; "=" for a match to the reference; n/N/. for ambiguity; cases are not maintained 6,7
QUAL	[!-~]+ *	[0,93]	query QUALity; ASCII-33 gives the Phred base quality 6,7
TAG	[A-Z][A-Z0-9]		TAG
VTYPE	[AifZH]		Value TYPE
VALUE	[^\t\n\r]+		match <vtype> (space allowed)</vtype>



SAM

- Used for: aligned reads
- Lots of columns..







- Binary SAM (compressed)
- 25% of the size
- SAMtools to convert
- .bai = BAM index

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- Random order
- Have to sort before indexing





- Random order
- Have to sort before indexing





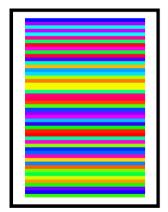
- Random order
- Have to sort before indexing





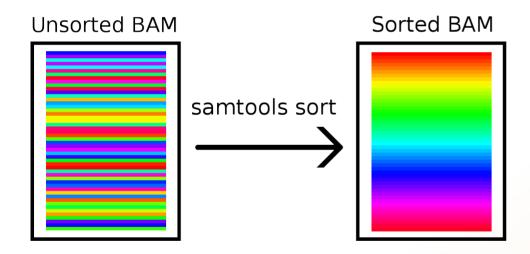
BAM

Unsorted BAM



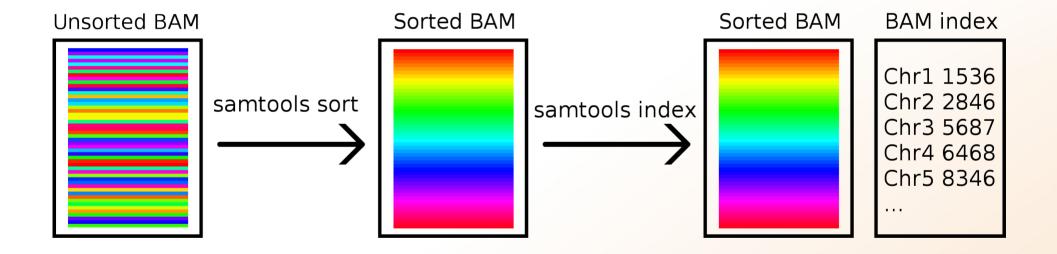


BAM











CRAM

- Very complex format
- Used together with a reference genome

AGGCTGAGTCACGACGTGTTGAGA

Reads TAGATCGAGGCTGAGTCACGACG

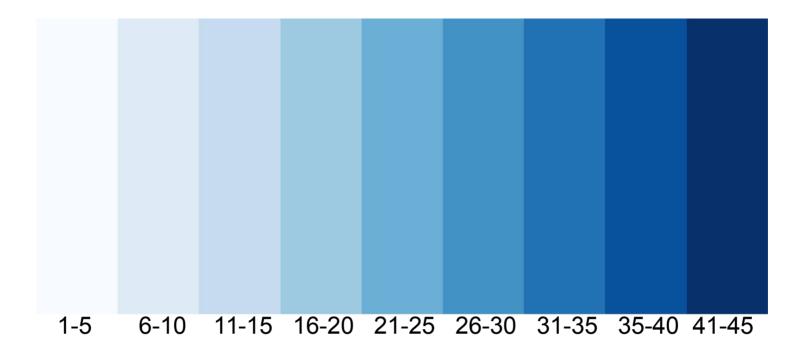
ATTCGGACGTAGATCGAGGCTGAG ACGTGTTGAGAGAGCCGTA

Ref: ATTCGGACGTAGATCGACGCTGAGTCACGACGTGTTGTGAGAGCCGTAGAC



CRAM

- Quality scores?
- 3 modes:
 - Lossless
 - Binned
 - No quality

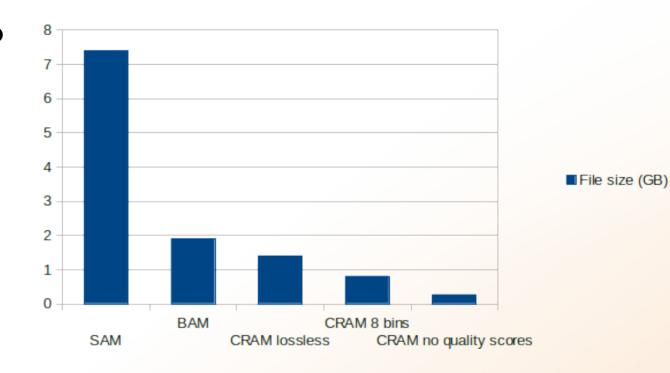


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 ... 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41



CRAM

- Quality scores?
- 3 modes:
 - Lossless
 - Binned
 - No quality



Not widespread, yet



GTF/GFF/BED

- Used for: annotations
- Simple structure

- Usually:
 - chr start stop extra info



GTF/GFF/BED

- Used for: annotations
- Simple structure

Usually:chr start stop extra info

BED

```
chr22 1000 5000 cloneA 960 + 1000 5000 0 2 567,488, 0,3512 chr22 2000 6000 cloneB 900 - 2000 6000 0 2 433,399, 0,3601
```



GTF/GFF/BED

- Used for: annotations
- Simple structure

Usually:

chr start stop extra info

GFF

```
chr22 TeleGene enhancer 10000000 10001000 500 + . touch1 chr22 TeleGene promoter 10010000 10010100 900 + . touch1 chr22 TeleGene promoter 10020000 10025000 800 - . touch2
```



Thank you Questions?