

# Sequence assembly from corrupted shotgun reads

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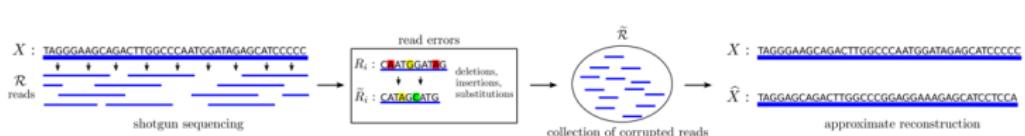


Elchanan Mossel  
UC Berkeley & U. Penn



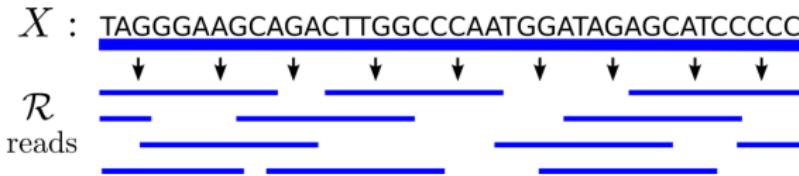
Miklós Z. Rácz  
Microsoft Research

ISIT  
2016



# DNA sequencing:

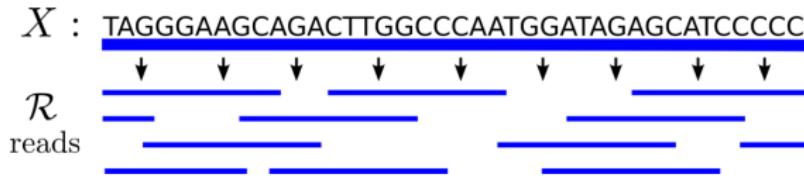
- Prevalent technique: **shotgun sequencing**



- Goal of **de novo assembly** :  
reconstruct  $X$  from reads  $\mathcal{R}$

# DNA sequencing: robust algorithms?

- Prevalent technique: shotgun sequencing



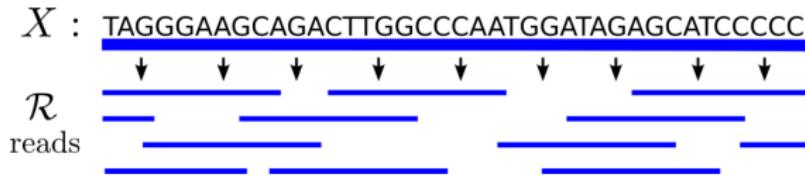
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- 
- Many sequencing technologies  
w/ different error profiles

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# DNA sequencing: robust algorithms

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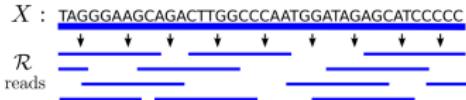
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- Many sequencing technologies  
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Q: Are there robust assembly algorithms?

A: Yes, and a simple sequential algorithm works well.

# Sequencing technologies



- Sanger sequencing
  - 300-1000 bp reads, <1% error
  - very expensive
- Next gen ( $2^{\text{nd}}$  gen) sequencing
  - high throughput, cheap
  - short reads (100-200 bp)
  - low error rate (1-3%)
- Emerging ( $3^{\text{rd}}$  gen) technologies
  - long reads ( $>10\,000$  bp)
  - high error rate (10-22%)

Example :  
Illumina

Examples :  
• PacBio's SMRT  
• Oxford Nanopore

# Sequencing technologies

$X$  : TAGGGAAGCAGACTTGGCCCAATGGATAGAGCATCCCC  
 $\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow$   
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Q: how robust are reconstruction algorithms  
w.r.t. different sequencing technologies?

## Adversarial corruption/error model

- Instead of getting true reads  $R$ ,  
get corrupted reads  $\tilde{R}$

$R_i$ :	<u>CAATGGATAG</u>	deletions, insertions, substitutions
	↓      ↓	
$\tilde{R}_i$ :	<u>CATAGCAGT</u>	

- Assume only that

$$\text{ed}(R_i, \tilde{R}_i) \leq \epsilon L$$

where  $\text{ed}$  = edit distance,  
and  $L$  = length of  $R_i$ .

# Approximate reconstruction problem

1. Choose  $X \in \Sigma^n$  uniformly at random,  $\Sigma = \{A, C, G, T\}$

2. Draw reads

$\mathcal{R} = \{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_N\}$  of length  $L$

from uniformly random positions

3. Get corrupted reads

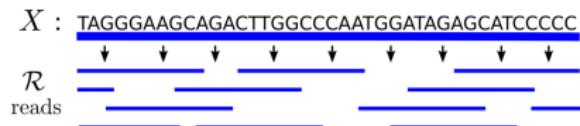
$\tilde{\mathcal{R}} = \{\tilde{R}_1, \tilde{R}_2, \dots, \tilde{R}_N\}$

satisfying

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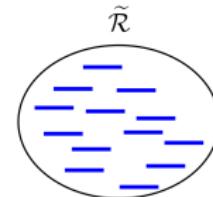
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**Goal: approximate reconstruction**

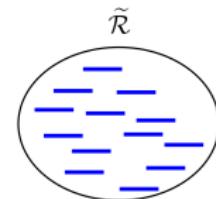
Output:  $\hat{X} = \hat{X}(\tilde{\mathcal{R}}) \in \Sigma^*$  s.t.

$$\text{ed}(\hat{X}, X) \leq C\varepsilon n$$

w/prob.  $\geq 1 - \delta$ .

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 $\mathcal{R}$  reads  
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collection of corrupted reads

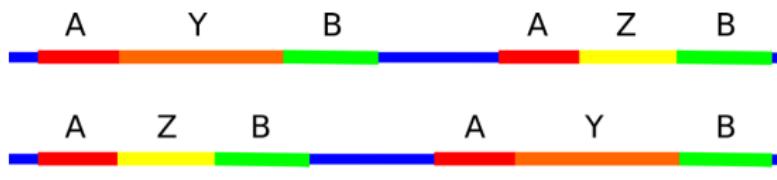
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approximate reconstruction

## Main obstructions to reconstruction

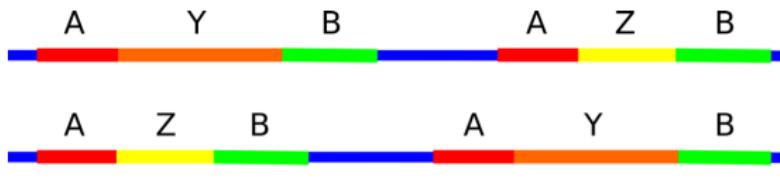
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repeat -  
limited  
regime

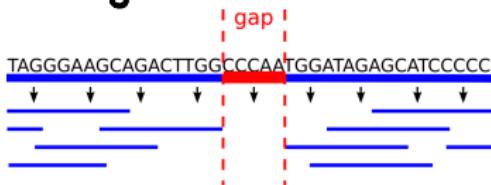
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### 1. Short reads lead to repeats (Ukkonen '92)



repeat -  
limited  
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### 2. Need enough reads to cover X



Coverage -  
limited  
regime

Lander, Waterman (1988):

$$N_{cov} = N_{cov}(n, L, \delta) \approx \frac{n}{L} \ln \left( \frac{n}{L\delta} \right)$$

## Exact reconstruction ( $\varepsilon=0$ )

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Then:

- if  $L < \frac{2}{\ln|\Sigma|}$  then exact reconstruction is impossible;
- if  $L > \frac{2}{\ln|\Sigma|}$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_{\min}}{N_{\text{cov}}} = 1$ .

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---

For arbitrary sequences:

G. Bresler, M. Bresler, D. Tse (2013)

thresholds based on repeat statistics of genome

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s.t. for every  $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$  if  $L \geq \bar{C}/\varepsilon$ ,  $N \geq C' N_{\text{cov}}/\varepsilon$   
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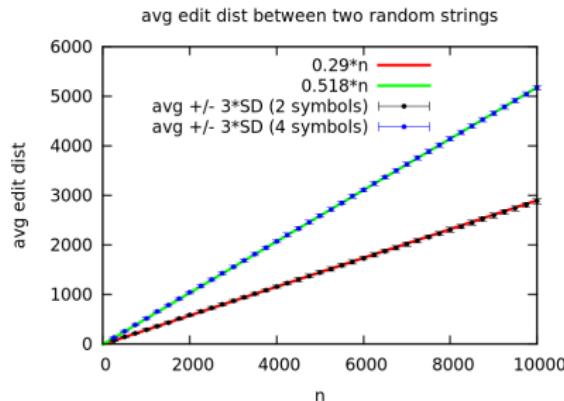
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### Comments

- Simple sequential algorithm works
- dependence of  $L$  and  $N$  on  $\varepsilon$  not necessary  
(but get worse  $C$ )
- best achievable  $C$  might depend on  $L$  and  $N$
- related work:  
Motahari, Ramchandran, Tse, Ma (2013); Shomorony, Courtade, Tse (2015)

# Edit distance between random strings



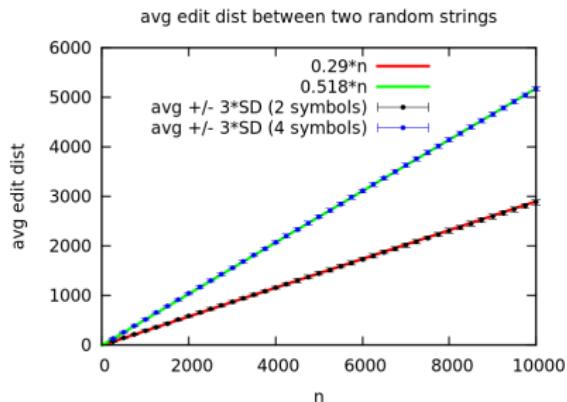
Lemma  $X_m, Y_m \in \Sigma^m$  independent,  
Uniformly random. Then

$$\lim \frac{1}{m} \text{ed}(X_m, Y_m) = c_{\text{ind}} > 0.$$

For  $|\Sigma|=4$  :

- empirically  $c_{\text{ind}} \approx 0.51$ .
- volume argument:  $c_{\text{ind}} > 0.33$ .

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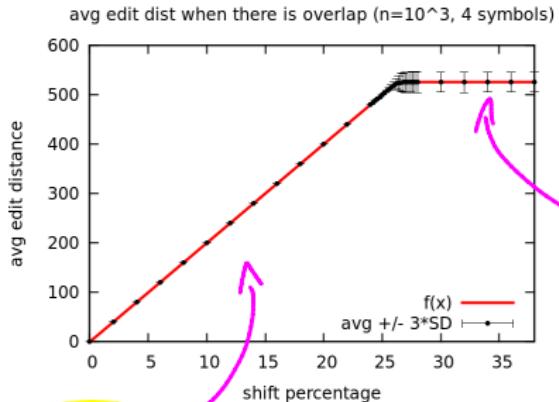


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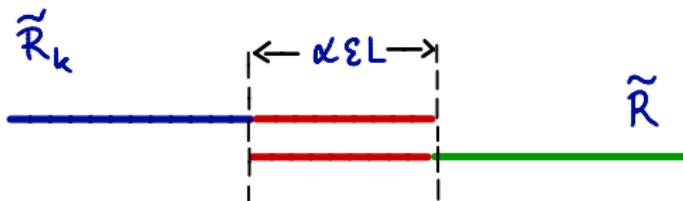


Lemma  $X \in \Sigma^{2m}$  uniformly random. Then:

$$\text{ed}(X[1, m], X[1+k, m+k]) = 2k$$

for all  $k \leq cm$  with prob.  $\geq 1 - e^{-c'm}$ .

## Sequential reconstruction algorithm



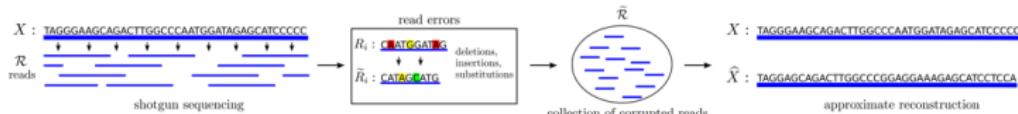
- Fix  $\alpha$  appropriately.
- Given  $\tilde{R}_k$ , find  $\tilde{R}$  s.t.

$$\text{ed}(\tilde{R}_k^{\text{suffix}}, \tilde{R}^{\text{prefix}}) \leq (2 + 2/c) \epsilon L$$

- concatenate  $\tilde{R}_k$  and  $\tilde{R}^{\text{suffix}}$ .
- at each step, gain  $\approx (1 - \alpha \epsilon) L$ , make error  $\lesssim 3 \epsilon L$

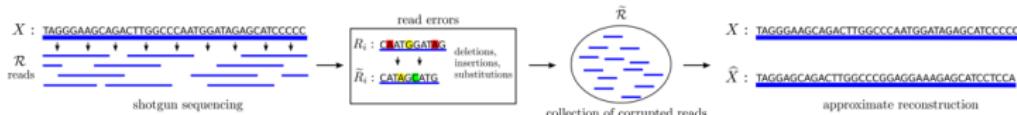
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Thank you!