

# Overlap encodings

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## 1 Introduction

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In the context of an RNA-seq experiment, encoding the overlaps between the aligned reads and the transcripts can be used for detecting those overlaps that are “compatible” with the splicing of the transcript.

Various tools are provided in the *GenomicAlignments* package for working with *overlap encodings*. In this vignette, we illustrate the use of these tools on the single-end and paired-end reads of an RNA-seq experiment.

## 2 Load reads from a BAM file

---

### 2.1 Load single-end reads from a BAM file

BAM file `untreated1_chr4.bam` (located in the *pasillaBamSubset* data package) contains single-end reads from the “Pasilla” experiment and aligned against the dm3 genome (see `?untreated1_chr4` in the *pasillaBamSubset* package for more information about those reads):

```
> library(pasillaBamSubset)
> untreated1_chr4()
```

```
[1] "/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.2/Resources/library/pasillaBamSubset/extdata/untreated1_chr4.bam"
```

We use the `readGAlignments` function defined in the *GenomicAlignments* package to load the reads into a *GAlignments* object. It's probably a good idea to get rid of the PCR or optical duplicates (flag bit 0x400 in the SAM format, see the SAM Spec <sup>1</sup> for the details), as well as reads not passing quality controls (flag bit 0x200 in the SAM format). We do this by creating a *ScanBamParam* object that we pass to `readGAlignments` (see `?ScanBamParam` in the *Rsamtools* package for the details). Note that we also use `use.names=TRUE` in order to load the *query names* (aka *query template names*, see QNAME field in the SAM Spec) from the BAM file (`readGAlignments` will use them to set the names of the returned object):

```
> library(GenomicAlignments)
> flag0 <- scanBamFlag(isDuplicate=FALSE, isNotPassingQualityControls=FALSE)
> param0 <- ScanBamParam(flag=flag0)
> U1.GAL <- readGAlignments(untreated1_chr4(), use.names=TRUE, param=param0)
> head(U1.GAL)
```

*GAlignments* object with 6 alignments and 0 metadata columns:

	seqnames	strand	cigar	qwidth	start	end	width	njunc
	<Rle>	<Rle>	<character>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>
SRR031729.3941844	chr4	-	75M	75	892	966	75	0
SRR031728.3674563	chr4	-	75M	75	919	993	75	0

<sup>1</sup><http://samtools.sourceforge.net/>

```

SRR031729.8532600    chr4      +      75M      75      924      998      75      0
SRR031729.2779333    chr4      +      75M      75      936      1010     75      0
SRR031728.2826481    chr4      +      75M      75      949      1023     75      0
SRR031728.2919098    chr4      -      75M      75      967      1041     75      0
-----

```

```
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome
```

Because the aligner used to align those reads can report more than 1 alignment per *original query* (i.e. per read stored in the input file, typically a FASTQ file), we shouldn't expect the names of `U1.GAL` to be unique:

```

> U1.GAL_names_is_dup <- duplicated(names(U1.GAL))
> table(U1.GAL_names_is_dup)

```

```

U1.GAL_names_is_dup
FALSE    TRUE
190770   13585

```

Storing the *query names* in a factor will be useful as we will see later in this document:

```

> U1.uqnames <- unique(names(U1.GAL))
> U1.GAL_qnames <- factor(names(U1.GAL), levels=U1.uqnames)

```

Note that we explicitly provide the levels of the factor to enforce their order. Otherwise `factor()` would put them in lexicographic order which is not advisable because it depends on the locale in use.

Another object that will be useful to keep near at hand is the mapping between each *query name* and its first occurrence in `U1.GAL_qnames`:

```
> U1.GAL_dup2unq <- match(U1.GAL_qnames, U1.GAL_qnames)
```

Our reads can have up to 2 gaps (a gap corresponds to an N operation in the CIGAR):

```

> head(unique(cigar(U1.GAL)))
[1] "75M"          "35M6727N40M"  "22M6727N53M"  "13M6727N62M"  "26M292N49M"   "62M21227N13M"
> table(njunc(U1.GAL))
      0      1      2
184039 20169   147

```

Also, the following table indicates that indels were not allowed/supported during the alignment process (no I or D CIGAR operations):

```

> colSums(cigarOpTable(cigar(U1.GAL)))
      M      I      D      N      S      H      P      =      X
15326625      0      0 21682582      0      0      0      0      0

```

## 2.2 Load paired-end reads from a BAM file

BAM file `untreated3_chr4.bam` (located in the *pasillaBamSubset* data package) contains paired-end reads from the “Pasilla” experiment and aligned against the dm3 genome (see `?untreated3_chr4` in the *pasillaBamSubset* package for more information about those reads). We use the `readGAlignmentPairs` function to load them into a *GAlignmentPairs* object:

```

> U3.galp <- readGAlignmentPairs(untreated3_chr4(), use.names=TRUE, param=param0)
> head(U3.galp)

```

*GAlignmentPairs* object with 6 alignment pairs and 0 metadata columns:

```

      seqnames strand :      ranges --      ranges
      <Rle>  <Rle> :   <IRanges> --   <IRanges>

```

```

SRR031715.1138209    chr4      + : [169, 205] -- [ 326, 362]
SRR031714.756385     chr4      + : [943, 979] -- [1086, 1122]
SRR031714.2355189    chr4      + : [944, 980] -- [1119, 1155]
SRR031714.5054563     chr4      + : [946, 982] -- [ 986, 1022]
SRR031715.1722593     chr4      + : [966, 1002] -- [1108, 1144]
SRR031715.2202469     chr4      + : [966, 1002] -- [1114, 1150]

```

```
-----
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome
```

The `show` method for *GAlignmentPairs* objects displays two ranges columns, one for the *first* alignment in the pair (the left column), and one for the *last* alignment in the pair (the right column). The `strand` column corresponds to the strand of the *first* alignment.

```
> head(first(U3.galp))
```

GAlignments object with 6 alignments and 0 metadata columns:

	seqnames	strand	cigar	qwidth	start	end	width	njunc
	<Rle>	<Rle>	<character>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>
SRR031715.1138209	chr4	+	37M	37	169	205	37	0
SRR031714.756385	chr4	+	37M	37	943	979	37	0
SRR031714.2355189	chr4	+	37M	37	944	980	37	0
SRR031714.5054563	chr4	+	37M	37	946	982	37	0
SRR031715.1722593	chr4	+	37M	37	966	1002	37	0
SRR031715.2202469	chr4	+	37M	37	966	1002	37	0

```
-----
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome
```

```
> head(last(U3.galp))
```

GAlignments object with 6 alignments and 0 metadata columns:

	seqnames	strand	cigar	qwidth	start	end	width	njunc
	<Rle>	<Rle>	<character>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>
SRR031715.1138209	chr4	-	37M	37	326	362	37	0
SRR031714.756385	chr4	-	37M	37	1086	1122	37	0
SRR031714.2355189	chr4	-	37M	37	1119	1155	37	0
SRR031714.5054563	chr4	-	37M	37	986	1022	37	0
SRR031715.1722593	chr4	-	37M	37	1108	1144	37	0
SRR031715.2202469	chr4	-	37M	37	1114	1150	37	0

```
-----
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome
```

According to the SAM format specifications, the aligner is expected to mark each alignment pair as *proper* or not (flag bit 0x2 in the SAM format). The SAM Spec only says that a pair is *proper* if the *first* and *last* alignments in the pair are “properly aligned according to the aligner”. So the exact criteria used for setting this flag is left to the aligner.

We use `isProperPair` to extract this flag from the *GAlignmentPairs* object:

```
> table(isProperPair(U3.galp))
```

```
FALSE TRUE
29518 45828
```

Even though we could do *overlap encodings* with the full object, we keep only the *proper* pairs for our downstream analysis:

```
> U3.GALP <- U3.galp[isProperPair(U3.galp)]
```

Because the aligner used to align those reads can report more than 1 alignment per *original query template* (i.e. per pair of sequences stored in the input files, typically 1 FASTQ file for the *first* ends and 1 FASTQ file for the *last* ends), we shouldn't expect the names of `U3.GALP` to be unique:

```
> U3.GALP_names_is_dup <- duplicated(names(U3.GALP))
> table(U3.GALP_names_is_dup)
```

```
U3.GALP_names_is_dup
FALSE  TRUE
43659  2169
```

Storing the *query template names* in a factor will be useful:

```
> U3.uqnames <- unique(names(U3.GALP))
> U3.GALP_qnames <- factor(names(U3.GALP), levels=U3.uqnames)
```

as well as having the mapping between each *query template name* and its first occurrence in `U3.GALP_qnames`:

```
> U3.GALP_dup2unq <- match(U3.GALP_qnames, U3.GALP_qnames)
```

Our reads can have up to 1 gap per end:

```
> head(unique(cigar(first(U3.GALP))))
[1] "37M"          "6M58N31M"    "25M56N12M"   "19M62N18M"   "29M222N8M"   "9M222N28M"

> head(unique(cigar(last(U3.GALP))))
[1] "37M"          "19M58N18M"    "12M58N25M"   "27M2339N10M" "29M2339N8M"   "9M222N28M"

> table(njunc(first(U3.GALP)), njunc(last(U3.GALP)))

      0      1
0 44510   596
1   637    85
```

Like for our single-end reads, the following tables indicate that indels were not allowed/supported during the alignment process:

```
> colSums(cigarOpTable(cigar(first(U3.GALP))))

      M      I      D      N      S      H      P      =      X
1695636    0      0 673919      0      0      0      0      0

> colSums(cigarOpTable(cigar(last(U3.GALP))))

      M      I      D      N      S      H      P      =      X
1695636    0      0 630395      0      0      0      0      0
```

## 3 Find all the overlaps between the reads and transcripts

### 3.1 Load the transcripts from a TxDb object

In order to compute overlaps between reads and transcripts, we need access to the genomic positions of a set of known transcripts and their exons. It is essential that the reference genome of this set of transcripts and exons be **exactly** the same as the reference genome used to align the reads.

We could use the `makeTxDbFromUCSC` function defined in the *GenomicFeatures* package to make a *TxDb* object containing the dm3 transcripts and their exons retrieved from the UCSC Genome Browser<sup>2</sup>. The Bioconductor project however provides a few annotation packages containing *TxDb* objects for the most commonly studied organisms (those data packages are sometimes called the *TxDb* packages). One of them is the *TxDb.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3.ensGene* package. It contains a *TxDb* object that was made by pointing the `makeTxDbFromUCSC` function to the dm3 genome and *Ensembl Genes* track<sup>3</sup>. We can use it here:

<sup>2</sup><http://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgGateway>

<sup>3</sup>See <http://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgTrackUi?hgsid=276880911&g=ensGene> for a description of this track.

```
> library(TxDb.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3.ensGene)
> TxDb.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3.ensGene

TxDb object:
# Db type: TxDb
# Supporting package: GenomicFeatures
# Data source: UCSC
# Genome: dm3
# Organism: Drosophila melanogaster
# UCSC Table: ensGene
# Resource URL: http://genome.ucsc.edu/
# Type of Gene ID: Ensembl gene ID
# Full dataset: yes
# miRBase build ID: NA
# transcript_nrow: 29173
# exon_nrow: 76920
# cds_nrow: 62135
# Db created by: GenomicFeatures package from Bioconductor
# Creation time: 2015-03-19 14:00:50 -0700 (Thu, 19 Mar 2015)
# GenomicFeatures version at creation time: 1.19.32
# RSQLite version at creation time: 1.0.0
# DBSCHEMAVERSION: 1.1

> txdb <- TxDb.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3.ensGene
```

We extract the exons grouped by transcript in a *GRangesList* object:

```
> exbytx <- exonsBy(txdb, by="tx", use.names=TRUE)
> length(exbytx) # nb of transcripts

[1] 29173
```

We check that all the exons in any given transcript belong to the same chromosome and strand. Knowing that our set of transcripts is free of this sort of trans-splicing events typically allows some significant simplifications during the downstream analysis<sup>4</sup>. A quick and easy way to check this is to take advantage of the fact that *seqnames* and *strand* return *RleList* objects. So we can extract the number of *Rle* runs for each transcript and make sure it's always 1:

```
> table(elementLengths(runLength(seqnames(exbytx))))

1
29173

> table(elementLengths(runLength(strand(exbytx))))

1
29173
```

Therefore the strand of any given transcript is unambiguously defined and can be extracted with:

```
> exbytx_strand <- unlist(runValue(strand(exbytx)), use.names=FALSE)
```

We will also need the mapping between the transcripts and their gene. We start by using transcripts to extract this information from our *TxDb* object *txdb*, and then we construct a named factor that represents the mapping:

```
> tx <- transcripts(txdb, columns=c("tx_name", "gene_id"))
> head(tx)
```

*GRanges* object with 6 ranges and 2 metadata columns:

seqnames	ranges	strand	tx_name	gene_id
<Rle>	<IRanges>	<Rle>	<character>	<CharacterList>

---

<sup>4</sup>Dealing with trans-splicing events is not covered in this document.

```

[1] chr2L [ 7529, 9484] + | FBtr0300689 FBgn0031208
[2] chr2L [ 7529, 9484] + | FBtr0300690 FBgn0031208
[3] chr2L [ 7529, 9484] + | FBtr0330654 FBgn0031208
[4] chr2L [21952, 24237] + | FBtr0309810 FBgn0263584
[5] chr2L [66584, 71390] + | FBtr0306539 FBgn0067779
[6] chr2L [67043, 71081] + | FBtr0306536 FBgn0067779
-----
seqinfo: 15 sequences (1 circular) from dm3 genome
> df <- mcols(tx)
> exbytx2gene <- as.character(df$gene_id)
> exbytx2gene <- factor(exbytx2gene, levels=unique(exbytx2gene))
> names(exbytx2gene) <- df$tx_name
> exbytx2gene <- exbytx2gene[names(exbytx)]
> head(exbytx2gene)

FBtr0300689 FBtr0300690 FBtr0330654 FBtr0309810 FBtr0306539 FBtr0306536
FBgn0031208 FBgn0031208 FBgn0031208 FBgn0263584 FBgn0067779 FBgn0067779
15682 Levels: FBgn0031208 FBgn0263584 FBgn0067779 FBgn0031213 FBgn0031214 FBgn0031216 ... FBgn0085792
> nlevels(exbytx2gene) # nb of genes
[1] 15682

```

## 3.2 Single-end overlaps

### 3.2.1 Find the single-end overlaps

We are ready to compute the overlaps with the `findOverlaps` function. Note that the strand of the queries produced by the RNA-seq experiment is typically unknown so we use `ignore.strand=TRUE`:

```

> U1.OV00 <- findOverlaps(U1.GAL, exbytx, ignore.strand=TRUE)

```

`U1.OV00` is a *Hits* object that contains 1 element per overlap. Its length gives the number of overlaps:

```

> length(U1.OV00)
[1] 563552

```

### 3.2.2 Tabulate the single-end overlaps

We will repeatedly use the 2 following little helper functions to “tabulate” the overlaps in a given *Hits* object (e.g. `U1.OV00`), i.e. to count the number of overlaps for each element in the query or for each element in the subject:

```

> nhitPerQuery <- function(x) tabulate(queryHits(x), nbins=queryLength(x))
> nhitPerSubject <- function(x) tabulate(subjectHits(x), nbins=subjectLength(x))

```

Number of transcripts for each alignment in `U1.GAL`:

```

> U1.GAL_ntx <- nhitPerQuery(U1.OV00)
> mcols(U1.GAL)$ntx <- U1.GAL_ntx
> head(U1.GAL)

```

`GAlignments` object with 6 alignments and 1 metadata column:

	seqnames	strand	cigar	qwidth	start	end	width	njunc
	<Rle>	<Rle>	<character>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>
SRR031729.3941844	chr4	-	75M	75	892	966	75	0
SRR031728.3674563	chr4	-	75M	75	919	993	75	0

SRR031729.8532600	chr4	+	75M	75	924	998	75	0
SRR031729.2779333	chr4	+	75M	75	936	1010	75	0
SRR031728.2826481	chr4	+	75M	75	949	1023	75	0
SRR031728.2919098	chr4	-	75M	75	967	1041	75	0

ntx

&lt;integer&gt;

SRR031729.3941844	0
SRR031728.3674563	0
SRR031729.8532600	0
SRR031729.2779333	0
SRR031728.2826481	0
SRR031728.2919098	0

-----

seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome

&gt; table(U1.GAL\_ntx)

U1.GAL\_ntx

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
47076	9493	26146	82427	5291	14530	8158	610	1952	2099	492	4945	1136

&gt; mean(U1.GAL\_ntx &gt;= 1)

[1] 0.7696362

76% of the alignments in U1.GAL have an overlap with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Note that countOverlaps can be used directly on U1.GAL and exbytx for computing U1.GAL\_ntx:

&gt; U1.GAL\_ntx\_again &lt;- countOverlaps(U1.GAL, exbytx, ignore.strand=TRUE)

&gt; stopifnot(identical(unname(U1.GAL\_ntx\_again), U1.GAL\_ntx))

Because U1.GAL can (and actually does) contain more than 1 alignment per *original query* (aka read), we also count the number of transcripts for each read:

&gt; U1.OV10 &lt;- remapHits(U1.OV00, query.map=U1.GAL\_qnames)

&gt; U1.uqnames\_ntx &lt;- nhitPerQuery(U1.OV10)

&gt; names(U1.uqnames\_ntx) &lt;- U1.uqnames

&gt; table(U1.uqnames\_ntx)

U1.uqnames\_ntx

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
39503	9298	18394	82346	5278	14536	9208	610	2930	2099	488	4944	1136

&gt; mean(U1.uqnames\_ntx &gt;= 1)

[1] 0.7929287

78.4% of the reads have an overlap with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Number of reads for each transcript:

&gt; U1.exbytx\_nOV10 &lt;- nhitPerSubject(U1.OV10)

&gt; names(U1.exbytx\_nOV10) &lt;- names(exbytx)

&gt; mean(U1.exbytx\_nOV10 &gt;= 50)

[1] 0.009015185

Only 0.869% of the transcripts in exbytx have an overlap with at least 50 reads.

Top 10 transcripts:

&gt; head(sort(U1.exbytx\_nOV10, decreasing=TRUE), n=10)



```

FBtr0308296 FBtr0089175 FBtr0089176 FBtr0112904 FBtr0289951 FBtr0089243 FBtr0333672 FBtr0089186
      40654      40529      40529      11735      11661      11656      10087      10084
FBtr0089187 FBtr0089172
      10084      6749

```

### 3.3 Paired-end overlaps

#### 3.3.1 Find the paired-end overlaps

Like with our single-end overlaps, we call `findOverlaps` with `ignore.strand=TRUE`:

```
> U3.OV00 <- findOverlaps(U3.GALP, exbytx, ignore.strand=TRUE)
```

Like `U1.OV00`, `U3.OV00` is a *Hits* object. Its length gives the number of paired-end overlaps:

```
> length(U3.OV00)
```

```
[1] 113827
```

#### 3.3.2 Tabulate the paired-end overlaps

Number of transcripts for each alignment pair in `U3.GALP`:

```

> U3.GALP_ntx <- nhitPerQuery(U3.OV00)
> mcols(U3.GALP)$ntx <- U3.GALP_ntx
> head(U3.GALP)

```

`GAlignmentPairs` object with 6 alignment pairs and 1 metadata column:

	seqnames	strand	:	ranges	--	ranges		ntx
	<Rle>	<Rle>	:	<IRanges>	--	<IRanges>		<integer>
SRR031715.1138209	chr4	+	:	[ 169, 205]	--	[ 326, 362]		0
SRR031714.756385	chr4	+	:	[ 943, 979]	--	[1086, 1122]		0
SRR031714.5054563	chr4	+	:	[ 946, 982]	--	[ 986, 1022]		0
SRR031715.1722593	chr4	+	:	[ 966, 1002]	--	[1108, 1144]		0
SRR031715.2202469	chr4	+	:	[ 966, 1002]	--	[1114, 1150]		0
SRR031714.3544437	chr4	-	:	[1087, 1123]	--	[ 963, 999]		0

-----  
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome

```
> table(U3.GALP_ntx)
```

```

U3.GALP_ntx
  0    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9   10   11   12
12950 2080 5854 17025 1078 3083 2021  70 338  370  59  803  97

```

```
> mean(U3.GALP_ntx >= 1)
```

```
[1] 0.7174217
```

71% of the alignment pairs in `U3.GALP` have an overlap with at least 1 transcript in `exbytx`.

Note that `countOverlaps` can be used directly on `U3.GALP` and `exbytx` for computing `U3.GALP_ntx`:

```

> U3.GALP_ntx_again <- countOverlaps(U3.GALP, exbytx, ignore.strand=TRUE)
> stopifnot(identical(unname(U3.GALP_ntx_again), U3.GALP_ntx))

```

Because `U3.GALP` can (and actually does) contain more than 1 alignment pair per *original query template*, we also count the number of transcripts for each template:



```
+
> U1.ovenc                               hits=U1.OV00)
```

OverlapEncodings object of length 563552

	Loffset	Roffset	encoding	flippedQuery
[1]	0	3	1:i:	TRUE
[2]	4	0	1:k:	FALSE
[3]	4	0	1:k:	TRUE
[4]	4	0	1:k:	TRUE
[5]	4	0	1:k:	TRUE
[6]	4	0	1:k:	TRUE
[7]	4	0	1:k:	TRUE
[8]	4	0	1:i:	TRUE
[9]	4	0	1:i:	TRUE
...	...	...	...	...
[563544]	23	0	1:i:	FALSE
[563545]	24	0	1:i:	FALSE
[563546]	24	0	1:i:	FALSE
[563547]	23	0	1:i:	FALSE
[563548]	22	0	1:i:	TRUE
[563549]	23	0	1:i:	TRUE
[563550]	24	0	1:i:	TRUE
[563551]	24	0	1:i:	TRUE
[563552]	23	0	1:i:	TRUE

As a convenience, the 2 above calls to `encodeOverlaps` + merging step can be replaced by a single call to `encodeOverlaps` on `U1.grl` (or `U1.grlf`) with `flip.query.if.wrong.strand=TRUE`:

```
> U1.ovenc_again <- encodeOverlaps(U1.grl, exbytx, hits=U1.OV00, flip.query.if.wrong.strand=TRUE)
> stopifnot(identical(U1.ovenc_again, U1.ovenc))
```

Unique encodings in `U1.ovenc`:

```
> U1.unique_encodings <- levels(U1.ovenc)
> length(U1.unique_encodings)

[1] 120

> head(U1.unique_encodings)

[1] "1:c:" "1:e:" "1:f:" "1:h:" "1:i:" "1:j:"

> U1.ovenc_table <- table(encoding(U1.ovenc))
> tail(sort(U1.ovenc_table))

      1:f:      1:k:c:      1:k:      1:c: 2:jm:af:      1:i:
1555      1889      8800      9523      72929      455176
```

Encodings are sort of cryptic but utilities are provided to extract specific meaning from them. Use of these utilities is covered later in this document.

## 4.2 Paired-end encodings

Let's encode the overlaps in `U3.OV00`:

```
> U3.grl <- grglist(U3.GALP, order.as.in.query=TRUE)
> U3.ovenc <- encodeOverlaps(U3.grl, exbytx, hits=U3.OV00, flip.query.if.wrong.strand=TRUE)
> U3.ovenc
```

```
OverlapEncodings object of length 113827
  Loffset Roffset encoding flippedQuery
[1]      4      0 1--1:i--k:      TRUE
[2]      4      0 1--1:i--i:      TRUE
[3]      4      0 1--1:i--k:     FALSE
[4]      4      0 1--1:i--k:     FALSE
[5]      4      0 1--1:a--c:      TRUE
[6]      4      0 1--1:i--m:     FALSE
[7]      3      1 1--1:i--i:     FALSE
[8]      3      1 1--1:i--i:     FALSE
[9]      2      2 1--1:i--i:      TRUE
...      ...      ...      ...
[113819]    23      0 1--1:i--i:     FALSE
[113820]    24      0 1--1:i--i:     FALSE
[113821]    24      0 1--1:i--i:     FALSE
[113822]    23      0 1--1:i--i:     FALSE
[113823]    22      0 1--1:i--i:      TRUE
[113824]    23      0 1--1:i--i:      TRUE
[113825]    24      0 1--1:i--i:      TRUE
[113826]    24      0 1--1:i--i:      TRUE
[113827]    23      0 1--1:i--i:      TRUE
```

Unique encodings in U3.ovenc:

```
> U3.unique_encodings <- levels(U3.ovenc)
> length(U3.unique_encodings)

[1] 123

> head(U3.unique_encodings)

[1] "1--1:a--c:" "1--1:a--i:" "1--1:a--j:" "1--1:a--k:" "1--1:b--i:" "1--1:b--k:"

> U3.ovenc_table <- table(encoding(U3.ovenc))
> tail(sort(U3.ovenc_table))

      1--1:i--m:      1--1:i--k:      1--1:c--i: 1--2:i--jm:a--af: 2--1:jm--m:af--i:
              852              1485              1714              2480              2700
      1--1:i--i:
      100084
```

## 5 “Compatible” overlaps

We are interested in a particular type of overlap where the read overlaps the transcript in a “compatible” way, that is, in a way compatible with the splicing of the transcript. The `isCompatibleWithSplicing` function can be used on an *OverlapEncodings* object to detect this type of overlap. Note that `isCompatibleWithSplicing` can also be used on a character vector or factor.

### 5.1 “Compatible” single-end overlaps

#### 5.1.1 “Compatible” single-end encodings

U1.ovenc contains 7 unique encodings “compatible” with the splicing of the transcript:

```
> sort(U1.ovenc_table[isCompatibleWithSplicing(U1.unique_encodings)])
```

2:jm:ag:	2:gm:af:	3:jmm:agm:aaf:	1:j:	1:f:	2:jm:af:
32	79	488	1538	1555	72929
1:i:					
455176					

Encodings "1:i:" (455176 occurrences in U1.ovenc), "2:jm:af:" (72929 occurrences in U1.ovenc), and "3:jmm:agm:aaf:" (488 occurrences in U1.ovenc), correspond to the following overlaps:

- "1:i:"
  - read (no gap):                    ooooooooo
  - transcript:            ...   >>>>>>>>>>>>    ...
- "2:jm:af:"
  - read (1 gap):                    ooooo---ooo
  - transcript:            ...   >>>>>>>>   >>>>>>>>    ...
- "3:jmm:agm:aaf:"
  - read (2 gaps):                    oo---ooooo---o
  - transcript:            ...   >>>>>>>>   >>>>>   >>>>>>>>    ...

For clarity, only the exons involved in the overlap are represented. The transcript can of course have more upstream and downstream exons, which is denoted by the ... on the left side (5' end) and right side (3' end) of each drawing. Note that the exons represented in the 2nd and 3rd drawings are consecutive and adjacent in the processed transcript.

Encodings "1:f:" and "1:j:" are variations of the situation described by encoding "1:i:". For "1:f:", the first aligned base of the read (or "flipped" read) is aligned with the first base of the exon. For "1:j:", the last aligned base of the read (or "flipped" read) is aligned with the last base of the exon:

- "1:f:"
  - read (no gap):                    ooooooooo
  - transcript:            ...   >>>>>>>>>>>>    ...
- "1:j:"
  - read (no gap):                    ooooooooo
  - transcript:            ...   >>>>>>>>>>>>    ...

```
> U1.OV00_is_comp <- isCompatibleWithSplicing(U1.ovenc)
> table(U1.OV00_is_comp) # 531797 "compatible" overlaps
```

```
U1.OV00_is_comp
FALSE TRUE
31755 531797
```

Finally, let's extract the "compatible" overlaps from U1.OV00:

```
> U1.compOV00 <- U1.OV00[U1.OV00_is_comp]
```

Note that high-level convenience wrapper `findCompatibleOverlaps` can be used for computing the "compatible" overlaps directly between a *GAlignments* object (containing reads) and a *GRangesList* object (containing transcripts):

```
> U1.compOV00_again <- findCompatibleOverlaps(U1.GAL, exbytx)
> stopifnot(identical(U1.compOV00_again, U1.compOV00))
```

### 5.1.2 Tabulate the "compatible" single-end overlaps

Number of "compatible" transcripts for each alignment in U1.GAL:

```
> U1.GAL_ncomptx <- nhitPerQuery(U1.compOV00)
> mcols(U1.GAL)$ncomptx <- U1.GAL_ncomptx
> head(U1.GAL)
```

*GAlignments* object with 6 alignments and 2 metadata columns:

seqnames	strand	cigar	qwidth	start	end	width	njunc
----------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-----	-------	-------

	<Rle>	<Rle>	<character>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	
SRR031729.3941844	chr4	-	75M	75	892	966	75	0	
SRR031728.3674563	chr4	-	75M	75	919	993	75	0	
SRR031729.8532600	chr4	+	75M	75	924	998	75	0	
SRR031729.2779333	chr4	+	75M	75	936	1010	75	0	
SRR031728.2826481	chr4	+	75M	75	949	1023	75	0	
SRR031728.2919098	chr4	-	75M	75	967	1041	75	0	

	ntx	ncomptx
	<integer>	<integer>
SRR031729.3941844	0	0
SRR031728.3674563	0	0
SRR031729.8532600	0	0
SRR031729.2779333	0	0
SRR031728.2826481	0	0
SRR031728.2919098	0	0

-----  
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome

```
> table(U1.GAL_ncomptx)
```

```
U1.GAL_ncomptx
 0     1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9    10    11    12
51101 9848 33697 72987 5034 14021 7516  581 1789 2015  530 4389  847
```

```
> mean(U1.GAL_ncomptx >= 1)
```

```
[1] 0.7499401
```

75% of the alignments in U1.GAL are "compatible" with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Note that high-level convenience wrapper `countCompatibleOverlaps` can be used directly on U1.GAL and exbytx for computing U1.GAL\_ncomptx:

```
> U1.GAL_ncomptx_again <- countCompatibleOverlaps(U1.GAL, exbytx)
> stopifnot(identical(U1.GAL_ncomptx_again, U1.GAL_ncomptx))
```

Number of "compatible" transcripts for each read:

```
> U1.compOV10 <- remapHits(U1.compOV00, query.map=U1.GAL_qnames)
> U1.uqnames_ncomptx <- nhitPerQuery(U1.compOV10)
> names(U1.uqnames_ncomptx) <- U1.uqnames
> table(U1.uqnames_ncomptx)
```

```
U1.uqnames_ncomptx
 0     1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9    10    11    12
42886 9711 26075 72989 5413 14044 8584  581 2706 2015  530 4389  847
```

```
> mean(U1.uqnames_ncomptx >= 1)
```

```
[1] 0.7751953
```

77.5% of the reads are "compatible" with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Number of "compatible" reads for each transcript:

```
> U1.exbytx_ncompOV10 <- nhitPerSubject(U1.compOV10)
> names(U1.exbytx_ncompOV10) <- names(exbytx)
> mean(U1.exbytx_ncompOV10 >= 50)
```

```
[1] 0.008706681
```

Only 0.87% of the transcripts in exbytx are "compatible" with at least 50 reads.

Top 10 transcripts:

```
> head(sort(U1.exbytx_ncompOV10, decreasing=TRUE), n=10)
```

```
FBtr0308296 FBtr0089175 FBtr0089176 FBtr0089243 FBtr0289951 FBtr0112904 FBtr0089186 FBtr0089187
    40309      40158      33490      11365      11332      11284      10018      9627
FBtr0333672 FBtr0089172
    9568      6599
```

Note that this “top 10” is slightly different from the “top 10” we obtained earlier when we counted **all** the overlaps.

## 5.2 “Compatible” paired-end overlaps

### 5.2.1 “Compatible” paired-end encodings

U3.ovenc contains 13 unique paired-end encodings “compatible” with the splicing of the transcript:

```
> sort(U3.ovenc_table[isCompatibleWithSplicing(U3.unique_encodings)])
```

1--2:f--jm:a--af:	1--1:f--j:	2--1:jm--m:af--j:
3	12	21
2--1:jm--m:af--f:	1--1:j--m:a--i:	2--2:jm--mm:af--jm:aa--af:
24	51	153
1--1:i--m:a--i:	1--1:i--j:	1--1:f--i:
287	403	617
1--2:i--jm:a--af:	2--1:jm--m:af--i:	1--1:i--i:
2480	2700	100084

Paired-end encodings "1--1:i--i:" (100084 occurrences in U3.ovenc), "2--1:jm--m:af--i:" (2700 occurrences in U3.ovenc), "1--2:i--jm:a--af:" (2480 occurrences in U3.ovenc), "1--1:i--m:a--i:" (287 occurrences in U3.ovenc), and "2--2:jm--mm:af--jm:aa--af:" (153 occurrences in U3.ovenc), correspond to the following paired-end overlaps:

- "1--1:i--i:"
  - paired-end read (no gap on the first end, no gap on the last end):
 

```
oooo oooo
```
  - transcript:
 

```
... >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> ...
```
- "2--1:jm--m:af--i:"
  - paired-end read (1 gap on the first end, no gap on the last end):
 

```
ooo---o oooo
```
  - transcript:
 

```
... >>>>>>> >>>>>>>>>>>> ...
```
- "1--2:i--jm:a--af:"
  - paired-end read (no gap on the first end, 1 gap on the last end):
 

```
oooo oo---oo
```
  - transcript:
 

```
... >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> >>>>>>>> ...
```
- "1--1:i--m:a--i:"
  - paired-end read (no gap on the first end, no gap on the last end):
 

```
oooo oooo
```
  - transcript:
 

```
... >>>>>>>> >>>>>>> ...
```
- "2--2:jm--mm:af--jm:aa--af:"
  - paired-end read (1 gap on the first end, 1 gap on the last end):
 

```
ooo---o oo---oo
```
  - transcript:
 

```
... >>>>>> >>>>>>>> >>>>> ...
```

Note: switch use of “first” and “last” above if the read was “flipped”.

```
> U3.OV00_is_comp <- isCompatibleWithSplicing(U3.ovenc)
```

```
> table(U3.OV00_is_comp) # 106835 "compatible" paired-end overlaps
```

```
U3.OV00_is_comp
FALSE TRUE
6992 106835
```

Finally, let's extract the "compatible" paired-end overlaps from U3.OV00:

```
> U3.compOV00 <- U3.OV00[U3.OV00_is_comp]
```

Note that, like with our single-end reads, high-level convenience wrapper `findCompatibleOverlaps` can be used for computing the "compatible" paired-end overlaps directly between a *GAlignmentPairs* object (containing paired-end reads) and a *GRangesList* object (containing transcripts):

```
> U3.compOV00_again <- findCompatibleOverlaps(U3.GALP, exbytx)
> stopifnot(identical(U3.compOV00_again, U3.compOV00))
```

### 5.2.2 Tabulate the "compatible" paired-end overlaps

Number of "compatible" transcripts for each alignment pair in U3.GALP:

```
> U3.GALP_ncomptx <- nhitPerQuery(U3.compOV00)
> mcols(U3.GALP)$ncomptx <- U3.GALP_ncomptx
> head(U3.GALP)
```

*GAlignmentPairs* object with 6 alignment pairs and 2 metadata columns:

	seqnames	strand	:	ranges	--	ranges		ntx	ncomptx
	<Rle>	<Rle>	:	<IRanges>	--	<IRanges>		<integer>	<integer>
SRR031715.1138209	chr4	+	:	[ 169, 205]	--	[ 326, 362]		0	0
SRR031714.756385	chr4	+	:	[ 943, 979]	--	[1086, 1122]		0	0
SRR031714.5054563	chr4	+	:	[ 946, 982]	--	[ 986, 1022]		0	0
SRR031715.1722593	chr4	+	:	[ 966, 1002]	--	[1108, 1144]		0	0
SRR031715.2202469	chr4	+	:	[ 966, 1002]	--	[1114, 1150]		0	0
SRR031714.3544437	chr4	-	:	[1087, 1123]	--	[ 963, 999]		0	0

-----

seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome

```
> table(U3.GALP_ncomptx)
```

```
U3.GALP_ncomptx
 0    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9   10   11   12
13898 2028 8091 14334 1099 2950 1865  84 296 330  88 699  66
```

```
> mean(U3.GALP_ncomptx >= 1)
```

```
[1] 0.6967356
```

69.7% of the alignment pairs in U3.GALP are "compatible" with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Note that high-level convenience wrapper `countCompatibleOverlaps` can be used directly on U3.GALP and exbytx for computing U3.GALP\_ncomptx:

```
> U3.GALP_ncomptx_again <- countCompatibleOverlaps(U3.GALP, exbytx)
> stopifnot(identical(U3.GALP_ncomptx_again, U3.GALP_ncomptx))
```

Number of "compatible" transcripts for each template:

```
> U3.compOV10 <- remapHits(U3.compOV00, query.map=U3.GALP_qnames)
> U3.uqnames_ncomptx <- nhitPerQuery(U3.compOV10)
> names(U3.uqnames_ncomptx) <- U3.uqnames
> table(U3.uqnames_ncomptx)
```



```
U3.uqnames_ncomptx
  0    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9   10   11   12
12783 2026 6531 14334 1210 2950 2114   84  444  330   88  699   66
```

```
> mean(U3.uqnames_ncomptx >= 1)
```

```
[1] 0.7072081
```

70.7% of the templates are “compatible” with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Number of “compatible” templates for each transcript:

```
> U3.exbytx_ncompOV10 <- nhitPerSubject(U3.compOV10)
```

```
> names(U3.exbytx_ncompOV10) <- names(exbytx)
```

```
> mean(U3.exbytx_ncompOV10 >= 50)
```

```
[1] 0.007061324
```

Only 0.7% of the transcripts in exbytx are “compatible” with at least 50 templates.

Top 10 transcripts:

```
> head(sort(U3.exbytx_ncompOV10, decreasing=TRUE), n=10)
```

```
FBtr0308296 FBtr0089175 FBtr0089176 FBtr0289951 FBtr0089243 FBtr0112904 FBtr0089187 FBtr0089186
      7425      7419      5227      2686      2684      2640      2257      2250
FBtr0333672 FBtr0310542
      2206      1649
```

Note that this “top 10” is slightly different from the “top 10” we obtained earlier when we counted **all** the paired-end overlaps.

## 6 Compute the *reference query sequences* and project them on the transcriptome

### 6.1 Compute the *reference query sequences*

The *reference query sequences* are the query sequences **after** alignment, by opposition to the *original query sequences* (aka “true” or “real” query sequences) which are the query sequences **before** alignment.

The *reference query sequences* can easily be computed by extracting the nucleotides mapped to each read from the reference genome. This of course requires that we have access to the reference genome used by the aligner. In Bioconductor, the full genome sequence for the dm3 assembly is stored in the *BSgenome.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3* data package<sup>5</sup>:

```
> library(BSgenome.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3)
```

```
> Dmelanogaster
```

Fly genome:

```
# organism: Drosophila melanogaster (Fly)
```

```
# provider: UCSC
```

```
# provider version: dm3
```

```
# release date: Apr. 2006
```

```
# release name: BDGP Release 5
```

```
# 15 sequences:
```

```
# chr2L chr2R chr3L chr3R chr4 chrX chrU chrM chr2LHet
# chr2RHet chr3LHet chr3RHet chrXHet chrYHet chrUextra
```

<sup>5</sup>See <http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/data/annotation/> for the full list of annotation packages available in the current release of Bioconductor.

# (use 'seqnames()' to see all the sequence names, use the '\$' or '[' operator to access a given # sequence)

To extract the portions of the reference genome corresponding to the ranges in `U1.grl`, we can use the `extractTranscriptSeqs` function defined in the *GenomicFeatures* package:

```
> library(GenomicFeatures)
> U1.GAL_rqseq <- extractTranscriptSeqs(Dmelanogaster, U1.grl)
> head(U1.GAL_rqseq)
```

A DNASTringSet instance of length 6

	width	seq	names
[1]	75	GGACAACCTAGCCAGGAAAGGGGCAGAGAACCC...GCCCGAACCATTCGTGGTGTGGTGCACCACAG	SRR031729.3941844
[2]	75	CAACAACATCCCGGAAATGAGCTAGCGGACAA...GAAAGGGGCAGAGAACCCTCTAATTGGGCCCCGA	SRR031728.3674563
[3]	75	CCCAATTAGAGGGTTCTCTGCCCTTTCTCTGGC...CGCTAGCTCATTTCCCGGGATGTTGTTGTGTCC	SRR031729.8532600
[4]	75	GTTCTCTGCCCTTTCTCTGGCTAGGTTGTCCGC...TCCCGGGATGTTGTTGTGTCCCGGGACCCACCT	SRR031729.2779333
[5]	75	TTCTCTGGCTAGGTTGTCCGCTAGCTCATTTCCT...TTGTGTCCCGGGACCCACCTTATTGTGAGTTTG	SRR031728.2826481
[6]	75	CAACTTGGAGCTGTCAACAACTCACATAAG...GGGACACAACAACATCCCGGAAATGAGCTAGC	SRR031728.2919098

When reads are paired-end, we need to extract separately the ranges corresponding to their *first* ends (aka *first* segments in BAM jargon) and those corresponding to their *last* ends (aka *last* segments in BAM jargon):

```
> U3.grl_first <- grglist(first(U3.GALP), order.as.in.query=TRUE)
> U3.grl_last <- grglist(last(U3.GALP, invert.strand=TRUE), order.as.in.query=TRUE)
```

Then we extract the portions of the reference genome corresponding to the ranges in *GRangesList* objects `U3.grl_first` and `U3.grl_last`:

```
> U3.GALP_rqseq1 <- extractTranscriptSeqs(Dmelanogaster, U3.grl_first)
> U3.GALP_rqseq2 <- extractTranscriptSeqs(Dmelanogaster, U3.grl_last)
```

## 6.2 Project the single-end alignments on the transcriptome

The `extractQueryStartInTranscript` function computes for each overlap the position of the *query start* in the transcript:

```
> U1.OV00_qstart <- extractQueryStartInTranscript(U1.grl, exbytx,
+                                                  hits=U1.OV00, ovenc=U1.ovenc)
> head(subset(U1.OV00_qstart, U1.OV00_is_comp))
```

	startInTranscript	firstSpannedExonRank	startInFirstSpannedExon
1	100	1	100
8	4229	5	137
9	4229	5	137
10	4207	5	115
11	4207	5	115
12	4187	5	95

`U1.OV00_qstart` is a data frame with 1 row per overlap and 3 columns:

1. `startInTranscript`: the 1-based start position of the read with respect to the transcript. Position 1 always corresponds to the first base on the 5' end of the transcript sequence.
2. `firstSpannedExonRank`: the rank of the first exon spanned by the read, that is, the rank of the exon found at position `startInTranscript` in the transcript.
3. `startInFirstSpannedExon`: the 1-based start position of the read with respect to the first exon spanned by the read.

Having this information allows us for example to compare the read and transcript nucleotide sequences for each “compatible” overlap. If we use the *reference query sequence* instead of the *original query sequence* for this comparison, then it should match **exactly** the sequence found at the *query start* in the transcript.

Let’s start by using `extractTranscriptSeqs` again to extract the transcript sequences (aka transcriptome) from the dm3 reference genome:

```
> txseq <- extractTranscriptSeqs(Dmelanogaster, exbytx)
```

For each “compatible” overlap, the read sequence in `U1.GAL_rqseq` must be an *exact* substring of the transcript sequence in `exbytx_seq`:

```
> U1.OV00_rqseq <- U1.GAL_rqseq[queryHits(U1.OV00)]
> U1.OV00_rqseq[flippedQuery(U1.ovenc)] <- reverseComplement(U1.OV00_rqseq[flippedQuery(U1.ovenc)])
> U1.OV00_txseq <- txseq[subjectHits(U1.OV00)]
> stopifnot(all(
+   U1.OV00_rqseq[U1.OV00_is_comp] ==
+   narrow(U1.OV00_txseq[U1.OV00_is_comp],
+         start=U1.OV00_qstart$startInTranscript[U1.OV00_is_comp],
+         width=width(U1.OV00_rqseq)[U1.OV00_is_comp])
+ ))
```

Because of this relationship between the *reference query sequence* and the transcript sequence of a “compatible” overlap, and because of the relationship between the *original query sequences* and the *reference query sequences*, then the edit distance reported in the NM tag is actually the edit distance between the *original query* and the transcript of a “compatible” overlap.

### 6.3 Project the paired-end alignments on the transcriptome

For a paired-end read, the *query start* is the start of its “left end”.

```
> U3.OV00_Lqstart <- extractQueryStartInTranscript(U3.grl, exbytx,
+                                                  hits=U3.OV00, ovenc=U3.ovenc)
> head(subset(U3.OV00_Lqstart, U3.OV00_is_comp))
```

	startInTranscript	firstSpannedExonRank	startInFirstSpannedExon
2	4118	5	26
7	3940	4	31
8	3940	4	31
9	3692	3	320
10	3692	3	320
11	3690	3	318

Note that `extractQueryStartInTranscript` can be called with `for.query.right.end=TRUE` if we want this information for the “right ends” of the reads:

```
> U3.OV00_Rqstart <- extractQueryStartInTranscript(U3.grl, exbytx,
+                                                  hits=U3.OV00, ovenc=U3.ovenc,
+                                                  for.query.right.end=TRUE)
> head(subset(U3.OV00_Rqstart, U3.OV00_is_comp))
```

	startInTranscript	firstSpannedExonRank	startInFirstSpannedExon
2	4267	5	175
7	3948	4	39
8	3948	4	39
9	3849	3	477
10	3849	3	477
11	3831	3	459

Like with single-end reads, having this information allows us for example to compare the read and transcript nucleotide sequences for each “compatible” overlap. If we use the *reference query sequence* instead of the *original query sequence* for this comparison, then it should match **exactly** the sequences of the “left” and “right” ends of the read in the transcript.

Let’s assign the “left and right reference query sequences” to each overlap:

```
> U3.OV00_Lrqseq <- U3.GALP_rqseq1[queryHits(U3.OV00)]
> U3.OV00_Rrqseq <- U3.GALP_rqseq2[queryHits(U3.OV00)]
```

For the single-end reads, the sequence associated with a “flipped query” just needed to be “reverse complemented”. For paired-end reads, we also need to swap the 2 sequences in the pair:

```
> flip_idx <- which(flippedQuery(U3.ovenc))
> tmp <- U3.OV00_Lrqseq[flip_idx]
> U3.OV00_Lrqseq[flip_idx] <- reverseComplement(U3.OV00_Rrqseq[flip_idx])
> U3.OV00_Rrqseq[flip_idx] <- reverseComplement(tmp)
```

Let’s assign the transcript sequence to each overlap:

```
> U3.OV00_txseq <- txseq[subjectHits(U3.OV00)]
```

For each “compatible” overlap, we expect the “left and right reference query sequences” of the read to be *exact* substrings of the transcript sequence. Let’s check the “left reference query sequences”:

```
> stopifnot(all(
+   U3.OV00_Lrqseq[U3.OV00_is_comp] ==
+   narrow(U3.OV00_txseq[U3.OV00_is_comp],
+         start=U3.OV00_Lqstart$startInTranscript[U3.OV00_is_comp],
+         width=width(U3.OV00_Lrqseq)[U3.OV00_is_comp])
+ ))
```

and the “right reference query sequences”:

```
> stopifnot(all(
+   U3.OV00_Rrqseq[U3.OV00_is_comp] ==
+   narrow(U3.OV00_txseq[U3.OV00_is_comp],
+         start=U3.OV00_Rqstart$startInTranscript[U3.OV00_is_comp],
+         width=width(U3.OV00_Rrqseq)[U3.OV00_is_comp])
+ ))
```

## 7 Align the reads to the transcriptome

---

Aligning the reads to the reference genome is not the most efficient nor accurate way to count the number of “compatible” overlaps per *original query*. Supporting junction reads (i.e. reads that align with at least 1 gap) introduces a significant computational cost during the alignment process. Then, as we’ve seen in the previous sections, each alignment produced by the aligner needs to be broken into a set of ranges (based on its CIGAR) and those ranges compared to the ranges of the exons grouped by transcript.

A more straightforward and accurate approach is to align the reads directly to the transcriptome, and without allowing the typical gap that the aligner needs to introduce when aligning a junction read to the reference genome. With this approach, a “hit” between a read and a transcript is necessarily compatible with the splicing of the transcript. In case of a “hit”, we’ll say that the read and the transcript are “string-based compatible” (to differentiate from our previous notion of “compatible” overlaps that we will call “encoding-based compatible” from now on, unless the context is clear).

### 7.1 Align the single-end reads to the transcriptome

### 7.1.1 Find the “hits”

The single-end reads are in `U1.oqseq`, the transcriptome is in `exbytx_seq`.

Since indels were not allowed/supported during the alignment of the reads to the reference genome, we don't need to allow/support them either for aligning the reads to the transcriptome. Also since our goal is to find (and count) “compatible” overlaps between reads and transcripts, we don't need to keep track of the details of the alignments between the reads and the transcripts. Finally, since BAM file `untreated1_chr4.bam` is not the full output of the aligner but the subset obtained by keeping only the alignments located on `chr4`, we don't need to align `U1.oqseq` to the full transcriptome, but only to the subset of `exbytx_seq` made of the transcripts located on `chr4`.

With those simplifications in mind, we write the following function that we will use to find the “hits” between the reads and the transcriptome:

```
> ### A wrapper to vwhichPDict() that supports IUPAC ambiguity codes in 'qseq'
> ### and 'txseq', and treats them as such.
> findSequenceHits <- function(qseq, txseq, which.txseq=NULL, max.mismatch=0)
+ {
+   .asHits <- function(x, pattern_length)
+   {
+     query_hits <- unlist(x)
+     if (is.null(query_hits))
+       query_hits <- integer(0)
+     subject_hits <- rep.int(seq_len(length(x)), elementLengths(x))
+     Hits(query_hits, subject_hits, pattern_length, length(x))
+   }
+
+   .isHitInTranscriptBounds <- function(hits, qseq, txseq)
+   {
+     sapply(seq_len(length(hits)),
+       function(i) {
+         pattern <- qseq[[queryHits(hits)[i]]]
+         subject <- txseq[[subjectHits(hits)[i]]]
+         v <- matchPattern(pattern, subject,
+           max.mismatch=max.mismatch, fixed=FALSE)
+         any(1L <= start(v) & end(v) <= length(subject))
+       })
+   }
+
+   if (!is.null(which.txseq)) {
+     txseq0 <- txseq
+     txseq <- txseq[which.txseq]
+   }
+
+   names(qseq) <- NULL
+   other <- alphabetFrequency(qseq, baseOnly=TRUE)[ , "other"]
+   is_clean <- other == 0L # "clean" means "no IUPAC ambiguity code"
+
+   ## Find hits for "clean" original queries.
+   qseq0 <- qseq[is_clean]
+   pdict0 <- PDict(qseq0, max.mismatch=max.mismatch)
+   m0 <- vwhichPDict(pdict0, txseq,
+     max.mismatch=max.mismatch, fixed="pattern")
+   hits0 <- .asHits(m0, length(qseq0))
+   hits0@queryLength <- length(qseq)
+   hits0@queryHits <- which(is_clean)[hits0@queryHits]
```

```

+
+   ## Find hits for non "clean" original queries.
+   qseq1 <- qseq[!is_clean]
+   m1 <- vwhichPDict(qseq1, txseq,
+                     max.mismatch=max.mismatch, fixed=FALSE)
+   hits1 <- .asHits(m1, length(qseq1))
+   hits1@queryLength <- length(qseq)
+   hits1@queryHits <- which(!is_clean)[hits1@queryHits]
+
+   ## Combine the hits.
+   query_hits <- c(queryHits(hits0), queryHits(hits1))
+   subject_hits <- c(subjectHits(hits0), subjectHits(hits1))
+
+   if (!is.null(which.txseq)) {
+     ## Remap the hits.
+     txseq <- txseq0
+     subject_hits <- which.txseq[subject_hits]
+     hits0@subjectLength <- length(txseq)
+   }
+
+   ## Order the hits.
+   oo <- S4Vectors:::orderIntegerPairs(query_hits, subject_hits)
+   hits0@queryHits <- query_hits[oo]
+   hits0@subjectHits <- subject_hits[oo]
+
+   if (max.mismatch != 0L) {
+     ## Keep only "in bounds" hits.
+     is_in_bounds <- .isHitInTranscriptBounds(hits0, qseq, txseq)
+     hits0 <- hits0[is_in_bounds]
+   }
+   hits0
+ }

```

Let's compute the index of the transcripts in `exbytx_seq` located on `chr4` (`findSequenceHits` will restrict the search to those transcripts):

```

> chr4tx <- transcripts(txdb, vals=list(tx_chrom="chr4"))
> chr4txnames <- mcols(chr4tx)$tx_name
> which.txseq <- match(chr4txnames, names(txseq))

```

We know that the aligner tolerated up to 6 mismatches per read. The 3 following commands find the "hits" for each *original query*, then find the "hits" for each "flipped *original query*", and finally merge all the "hits" (note that the 3 commands take about 1 hour to complete on a modern laptop):

```

> U1.sbcompHITSa <- findSequenceHits(U1.oqseq, txseq,
+                                   which.txseq=which.txseq, max.mismatch=6)
> U1.sbcompHITSb <- findSequenceHits(reverseComplement(U1.oqseq), txseq,
+                                   which.txseq=which.txseq, max.mismatch=6)
> U1.sbcompHITS <- union(U1.sbcompHITSa, U1.sbcompHITSb)

```

### 7.1.2 Tabulate the "hits"

Number of "string-based compatible" transcripts for each read:

```

> U1.uqnames_nsbcomptx <- nhitPerQuery(U1.sbcompHITS)
> names(U1.uqnames_nsbcomptx) <- U1.uqnames

```

```
> table(U1.uqnames_nsbcomptx)
U1.uqnames_nsbcomptx
 0     1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9    10    11    12
40555 10080 25299 74609 5207 14265 8643  610 3410 2056  534 4588  914

> mean(U1.uqnames_nsbcomptx >= 1)
[1] 0.7874142
```

77.7% of the reads are “string-based compatible” with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Number of “string-based compatible” reads for each transcript:

```
> U1.exbytx_nsbcompHITS <- nhitPerSubject(U1.sbcompHITS)
> names(U1.exbytx_nsbcompHITS) <- names(exbytx)
> mean(U1.exbytx_nsbcompHITS >= 50)
[1] 0.008809516
```

Only 0.865% of the transcripts in exbytx are “string-based compatible” with at least 50 reads.

Top 10 transcripts:

```
> head(sort(U1.exbytx_nsbcompHITS, decreasing=TRUE), n=10)
FBtr0308296 FBtr0089175 FBtr0089176 FBtr0089243 FBtr0289951 FBtr0112904 FBtr0089186 FBtr0333672
      40548      40389      34275      11605      11579      11548      10059      9742
FBtr0089187 FBtr0089172
      9666      6704
```

### 7.1.3 A closer look at the “hits”

[WORK IN PROGRESS, might be removed or replaced soon...]

Any “encoding-based compatible” overlap is of course “string-based compatible”:

```
> stopifnot(length(setdiff(U1.compOV10, U1.sbcompHITS)) == 0)
```

but the reverse is not true:

```
> length(setdiff(U1.sbcompHITS, U1.compOV10))
[1] 13549
```

## 7.2 Align the paired-end reads to the transcriptome

[COMING SOON...]

## 8 “Almost compatible” overlaps

In many aspects, “compatible” overlaps can be seen as perfect. We are now interested in a less perfect type of overlap where the read overlaps the transcript in a way that *would* be “compatible” if 1 or more exons were removed from the transcript. In that case we say that the overlap is “almost compatible” with the transcript. The `isCompatibleWithSkippedExons` function can be used on an *OverlapEncodings* object to detect this type of overlap. Note that `isCompatibleWithSkippedExons` can also be used on a character vector or factor.

## 8.1 “Almost compatible” single-end overlaps

### 8.1.1 “Almost compatible” single-end encodings

U1.ovenc contains 7 unique encodings “almost compatible” with the splicing of the transcript:

```
> sort(U1.ovenc_table[isCompatibleWithSkippedExons(U1.unique_encodings)])
```

2:jm:am:am:am:am:af:	2:jm:am:am:am:am:am:af:	2:gm:am:af:	2:jm:am:am:am:am:af:
1	1	4	7
3:jmm:agm:aam:aam:aaf:	3:jmm:agm:aam:aaf:	2:jm:am:am:af:	2:jm:am:af:
9	21	144	1015

Encodings "2:jm:am:af:" (1015 occurrences in U1.ovenc), "2:jm:am:am:af:" (144 occurrences in U1.ovenc), and "3:jmm:agm:aam:aaf:" (21 occurrences in U1.ovenc), correspond to the following overlaps:

- "2:jm:am:af:"
  - read (1 gap):            ooooo-----ooo
  - transcript:        ... >>>>>> >>> >>>>>>> ...
- "2:jm:am:am:af:"
  - read (1 gap):            ooooo-----ooo
  - transcript:        ... >>>>>> >>> >>>> >>>>>>> ...
- "3:jmm:agm:aam:aaf:"
  - read (2 gaps):            oo---oooo-----oo
  - transcript:        ... >>>>>> >>> >>>> >>>>>>> ...

```
> U1.OV00_is_acomp <- isCompatibleWithSkippedExons(U1.ovenc)
> table(U1.OV00_is_acomp) # 1202 "almost compatible" overlaps
```

```
U1.OV00_is_acomp
FALSE  TRUE
562350 1202
```

Finally, let's extract the “almost compatible” overlaps from U1.OV00:

```
> U1.acompOV00 <- U1.OV00[U1.OV00_is_acomp]
```

### 8.1.2 Tabulate the “almost compatible” single-end overlaps

Number of “almost compatible” transcripts for each alignment in U1.GAL:

```
> U1.GAL_nacomptx <- nhitPerQuery(U1.acompOV00)
> mcols(U1.GAL)$nacomptx <- U1.GAL_nacomptx
> head(U1.GAL)
```

GAlignments object with 6 alignments and 3 metadata columns:

	seqnames	strand	cigar	qwidth	start	end	width	njunc	
	<Rle>	<Rle>	<character>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>	
SRR031729.3941844	chr4	-	75M	75	892	966	75	0	
SRR031728.3674563	chr4	-	75M	75	919	993	75	0	
SRR031729.8532600	chr4	+	75M	75	924	998	75	0	
SRR031729.2779333	chr4	+	75M	75	936	1010	75	0	
SRR031728.2826481	chr4	+	75M	75	949	1023	75	0	
SRR031728.2919098	chr4	-	75M	75	967	1041	75	0	
	ntx	ncomptx	nacomptx						
	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>						
SRR031729.3941844	0	0	0						
SRR031728.3674563	0	0	0						



```

SRR031729.8532600      0      0      0
SRR031729.2779333      0      0      0
SRR031728.2826481      0      0      0
SRR031728.2919098      0      0      0
-----

```

```
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome
```

```
> table(U1.GAL_nacomptx)
```

```

U1.GAL_nacomptx
  0     1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9    10    11    12
203800 283  101  107   19   24    2    3    1    3    4    4    4

```

```
> mean(U1.GAL_nacomptx >= 1)
```

```
[1] 0.002715862
```

Only 0.27% of the alignments in U1.GAL are “almost compatible” with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Number of “almost compatible” alignments for each transcript:

```
> U1.exbytx_nacompOV00 <- nhitPerSubject(U1.acompOV00)
```

```
> names(U1.exbytx_nacompOV00) <- names(exbytx)
```

```
> table(U1.exbytx_nacompOV00)
```

```

U1.exbytx_nacompOV00
  0     1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9    10    12    13    14    17    18
29039  50    8   15   12    2    3    7    5    7    3    2    1    1    1    2
  20   21   32   34   44   55   59   77  170
   1    3    2    1    3    2    1    1    1

```

```
> mean(U1.exbytx_nacompOV00 >= 50)
```

```
[1] 0.0001713914
```

Only 0.017% of the transcripts in exbytx are “almost compatible” with at least 50 alignments in U1.GAL.

Finally note that the “query start in transcript” values returned by `extractQueryStartInTranscript` are also defined for “almost compatible” overlaps:

```
> head(subset(U1.OV00_qstart, U1.OV00_is_acomp))
```

```

      startInTranscript firstSpannedExonRank startInFirstSpannedExon
144226              133                1              133
144227              133                1              133
144240              151                1              151
144241              151                1              151
146615              757                7               39
146616              689                8               39

```

## 8.2 “Almost compatible” paired-end overlaps

### 8.2.1 “Almost compatible” paired-end encodings

U3.ovenc contains 5 unique paired-end encodings “almost compatible” with the splicing of the transcript:

```
> sort(U3.ovenc_table[isCompatibleWithSkippedExons(U3.unique_encodings)])
```

```

  2--1:jm--m:am--m:am--m:af--i:      1--2:i--jm:a--am:a--am:a--af:
                                   1                                   5
  2--2:jm--mm:am--mm:af--jm:aa--af:      1--2:i--jm:a--am:a--af:

```

```

                9
2--1:jm--m:am--m:af--i:
                73

```

Paired-end encodings "2--1:jm--m:am--m:af--i:" (73 occurrences in U3.ovenc), "1--2:i--jm:a--am:a--af:" (53 occurrences in U3.ovenc), and "2--2:jm--mm:am--mm:af--jm:aa--af:" (9 occurrences in U3.ovenc), correspond to the following paired-end overlaps:

- "2--1:jm--m:am--m:af--i:"
  - paired-end read (1 gap on the first end, no gap on the last end):  
ooo-----o oooo
  - transcript: ... >>>> >>> >>>>>>> ...
- "1--2:i--jm:a--am:a--af:"
  - paired-end read (no gap on the first end, 1 gap on the last end):  
oooo oo-----oo
  - transcript: ... >>>>>>>>> >> >>>>> ...
- "2--2:jm--mm:am--mm:af--jm:aa--af:"
  - paired-end read (1 gap on the first end, 1 gap on the last end):  
o-----ooo oo---oo
  - transcript: ... >>>> >>> >>>>>>> >>>>> ...

Note: switch use of "first" and "last" above if the read was "flipped".

```

> U3.OV00_is_acomp <- isCompatibleWithSkippedExons(U3.ovenc)
> table(U3.OV00_is_acomp) # 141 "almost compatible" paired-end overlaps

```

```

U3.OV00_is_acomp
FALSE TRUE
113686 141

```

Finally, let's extract the "almost compatible" paired-end overlaps from U3.OV00:

```

> U3.acompOV00 <- U3.OV00[U3.OV00_is_acomp]

```

### 8.2.2 Tabulate the "almost compatible" paired-end overlaps

Number of "almost compatible" transcripts for each alignment pair in U3.GALP:

```

> U3.GALP_nacomptx <- nhitPerQuery(U3.acompOV00)
> mcols(U3.GALP)$nacomptx <- U3.GALP_nacomptx
> head(U3.GALP)

```

GAlignmentPairs object with 6 alignment pairs and 3 metadata columns:

	seqnames	strand	ranges	--	ranges	ntx	ncomptx	nacomptx
	<Rle>	<Rle>	<IRanges>	--	<IRanges>	<integer>	<integer>	<integer>
SRR031715.1138209	chr4	+	[ 169, 205]	--	[ 326, 362]	0	0	0
SRR031714.756385	chr4	+	[ 943, 979]	--	[1086, 1122]	0	0	0
SRR031714.5054563	chr4	+	[ 946, 982]	--	[ 986, 1022]	0	0	0
SRR031715.1722593	chr4	+	[ 966, 1002]	--	[1108, 1144]	0	0	0
SRR031715.2202469	chr4	+	[ 966, 1002]	--	[1114, 1150]	0	0	0
SRR031714.3544437	chr4	-	[1087, 1123]	--	[ 963, 999]	0	0	0

-----  
seqinfo: 8 sequences from an unspecified genome

```

> table(U3.GALP_nacomptx)

```

```

U3.GALP_nacomptx
 0    1    2    3    4    5    11
45734 74    4   13    1    1    1

```

```
> mean(U3.GALP_nacomptx >= 1)
```

```
[1] 0.002051148
```

Only 0.2% of the alignment pairs in U3.GALP are “almost compatible” with at least 1 transcript in exbytx.

Number of “almost compatible” alignment pairs for each transcript:

```
> U3.exbytx_nacompOV00 <- nhitPerSubject(U3.acompOV00)
> names(U3.exbytx_nacompOV00) <- names(exbytx)
> table(U3.exbytx_nacompOV00)
```

```
U3.exbytx_nacompOV00
```

```
      0      1      5      8     12     13     66
29143  22     4     1     1     1     1     1
```

```
> mean(U3.exbytx_nacompOV00 >= 50)
```

```
[1] 3.427827e-05
```

Only 0.0034% of the transcripts in exbytx are “almost compatible” with at least 50 alignment pairs in U3.GALP.

Finally note that the “query start in transcript” values returned by `extractQueryStartInTranscript` are also defined for “almost compatible” paired-end overlaps:

```
> head(subset(U3.OV00_Lqstart, U3.OV00_is_acomp))
```

	startInTranscript	firstSpannedExonRank	startInFirstSpannedExon
27617	1549	12	45
27629	1562	12	58
27641	1562	12	58
27692	1567	12	63
27814	1549	12	45
42870	659	4	101

```
> head(subset(U3.OV00_Rqstart, U3.OV00_is_acomp))
```

	startInTranscript	firstSpannedExonRank	startInFirstSpannedExon
27617	2135	14	115
27629	2135	14	115
27641	2141	14	121
27692	2048	14	28
27814	2136	14	116
42870	866	6	19

## 9 Detect novel splice junctions

---

### 9.1 By looking at single-end overlaps

An alignment in U1.GAL with “almost compatible” overlaps but no “compatible” overlaps suggests the presence of one or more transcripts that are not in our annotations.

First we extract the index of those alignments (*nsj* here stands for “**n**ovel **s**plice **j**unction”):

```
> U1.GAL_is_nsj <- U1.GAL_nacomptx != 0L & U1.GAL_ncomptx == 0L
> head(which(U1.GAL_is_nsj))
```

```
[1] 57972 57974 58321 67251 67266 67267
```

We make this an index into U1.OV00:

```
> U1.OV00_is_nsj <- queryHits(U1.OV00) %in% which(U1.GAL_is_nsj)
```

We intersect with U1.OV00\_is\_acomp and then subset U1.OV00 to keep only the overlaps that suggest novel splicing:

```
> U1.OV00_is_nsj <- U1.OV00_is_nsj & U1.OV00_is_acomp
> U1.nsjOV00 <- U1.OV00[U1.OV00_is_nsj]
```

For each overlap in U1.nsjOV00, we extract the ranks of the skipped exons (we use a list for this as there might be more than 1 skipped exon per overlap):

```
> U1.nsjOV00_skippedex <- extractSkippedExonRanks(U1.ovenc)[U1.OV00_is_nsj]
> names(U1.nsjOV00_skippedex) <- queryHits(U1.nsjOV00)
> table(elementLengths(U1.nsjOV00_skippedex))
```

```
  1  2  3  4  5
234 116  7  1  1
```

Finally, we split U1.nsjOV00\_skippedex by transcript names:

```
> f <- factor(names(exbytx)[subjectHits(U1.nsjOV00)], levels=names(exbytx))
> U1.exbytx_skippedex <- split(U1.nsjOV00_skippedex, f)
```

U1.exbytx\_skippedex is a named list of named lists of integer vectors. The first level of names (outer names) are transcript names and the second level of names (inner names) are alignment indices into U1.GAL:

```
> head(names(U1.exbytx_skippedex)) # transcript names
[1] "FBtr0300689" "FBtr0300690" "FBtr0330654" "FBtr0309810" "FBtr0306539" "FBtr0306536"
```

Transcript FBtr0089124 receives 7 hits. All of them skip exons 9 and 10:

```
> U1.exbytx_skippedex$FBtr0089124
```

```
$`104549`
[1]  9 10
```

```
$`104550`
[1]  9 10
```

```
$`104553`
[1]  9 10
```

```
$`104557`
[1]  9 10
```

```
$`104560`
[1]  9 10
```

```
$`104572`
[1]  9 10
```

```
$`104577`
[1]  9 10
```

Transcript FBtr0089147 receives 4 hits. Two of them skip exon 2, one of them skips exons 2 to 6, and one of them skips exon 10:

```
> U1.exbytx_skippedex$FBtr0089147
```

```
$`72828`
[1] 10
```

```
$`74018`
[1] 2 3 4 5 6
```

```
$`74664`
[1] 2
```

```
$`74670`
[1] 2
```

A few words about the interpretation of `U1.exbytx_skippedex`: Because of how we've conducted this analysis, the alignments reported in `U1.exbytx_skippedex` are guaranteed to not have any "compatible" overlaps with other known transcripts. All we can say, for example in the case of transcript `FBtr0089124`, is that the 7 reported hits that skip exons 9 and 10 show evidence of one or more unknown transcripts with a splice junction that corresponds to the gap between exons 8 and 11. But without further analysis, we can't make any assumption about the exons structure of those unknown transcripts. In particular, we cannot assume the existence of an unknown transcript made of the same exons as transcript `FBtr0089124` minus exons 9 and 10!

## 9.2 By looking at paired-end overlaps

[COMING SOON...]

## 10 sessionInfo()

---

```
> sessionInfo()
```

```
R version 3.2.2 Patched (2015-08-14 r69078)
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin10.8.0 (64-bit)
Running under: OS X 10.6.8 (Snow Leopard)
```

```
locale:
```

```
[1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/C/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8
```

```
attached base packages:
```

```
[1] stats4      parallel    stats       graphics   grDevices  utils       datasets    methods     base
```

```
other attached packages:
```

```
[1] BSgenome.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3_1.4.0      BSgenome_1.36.3
[3] rtracklayer_1.28.10                        TxDb.Dmelanogaster.UCSC.dm3.ensGene_3.1.2
[5] GenomicFeatures_1.20.6                     AnnotationDbi_1.30.1
[7] Biobase_2.28.0                             GenomicAlignments_1.4.2
[9] Rsamtools_1.20.5                           Biostrings_2.36.4
[11] XVector_0.8.0                              GenomicRanges_1.20.8
[13] GenomeInfoDb_1.4.3                         IRanges_2.2.9
[15] S4Vectors_0.6.6                            BiocGenerics_0.14.0
[17] pasillaBamSubset_0.6.0
```

```
loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
```

```
[1] zlibbioc_1.14.0      BiocParallel_1.2.22  tools_3.2.2         DBI_0.3.1
[5] lambda.r_1.1.7       futile.logger_1.4.1  futile.options_1.0.0 bitops_1.0-6
[9] RCurl_1.95-4.7       biomaRt_2.24.1      RSQLite_1.0.0       XML_3.98-1.3
[13] BiocStyle_1.6.0
```