

# Steps in an RNA-seq analysis

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# Background on RNA-seq

**DNA**

ACTGACCTAGATCAGTGTAGCGATCGTATACGAGACCGATTTCATCGGCAT



**transcription**

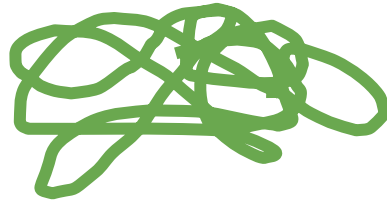
**RNA**

AUCAGUCGAUCACCGAU



**translation**

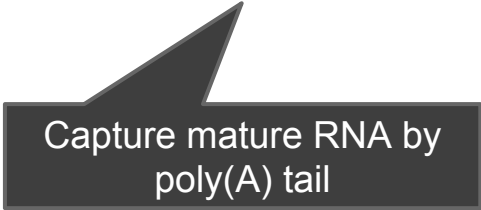
**protein**



Fragmented RNA  
molecule

AUGGGAAUUCACGAAUUCUAGAAAAAAA

AUGGGAUUCACGAAUCCUAGAAAAAAAAA



Capture mature RNA by  
poly(A) tail

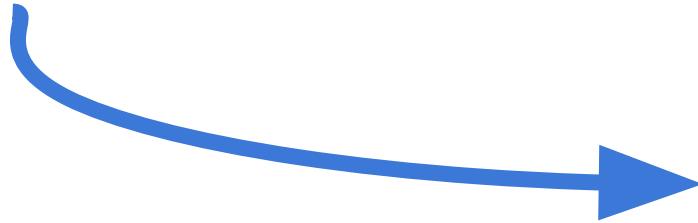
AUGGGAAUUCACGAAUUCUAGAAAAAAA

Reverse transcribe into  
complementary DNA  
(cDNA)

ATGGGAATTCACGAATTCCTAG

AUGGGAUUCACGAAUUCUAGAAAAAAAAA

ATGGGAATTCACGAATTCCTAG



# Steps

1. Align
2. Count or quantify
3. Normalize
4. Statistical test
5. Gene set enrichment



Genome  
(DNA)



RNA transcripts  
(many possible  
variants)



RNA-seq  
reads



# Step 1: Align

Software:

- [HiSat](#)
- [Rail](#)
- [Star](#)
- [Tophat2](#)

Genome

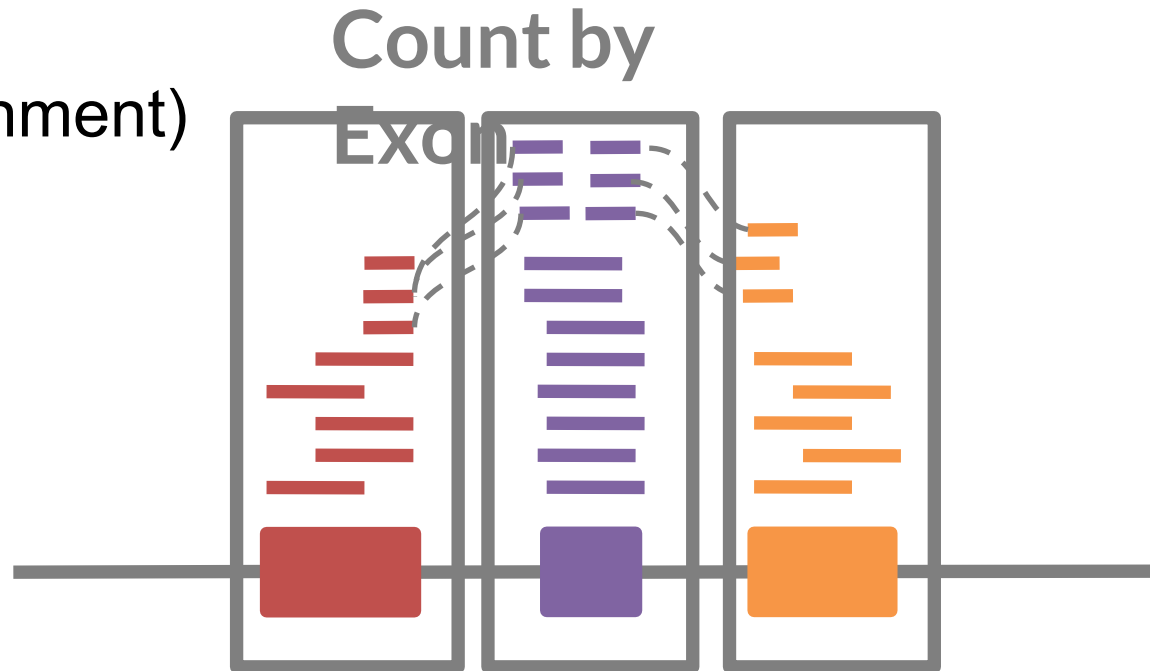


# Step 2: Count

Software:

- [HTSeq](#)
- [featureCounts](#)
- [kallisto](#) (no alignment)
- [derfinder](#)

Genome

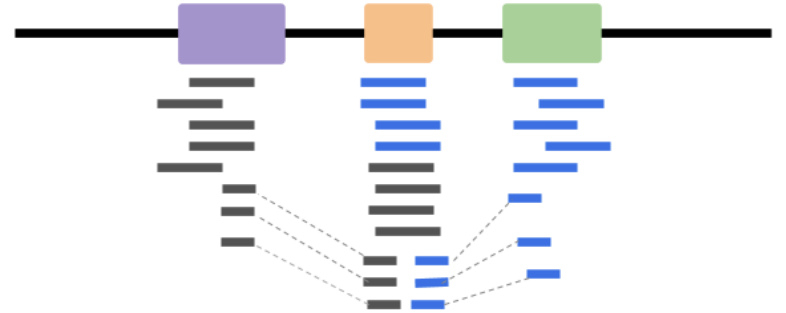


# Step 2: Assemble and quantify

Software:

- [StringTie](#)
- [Cufflinks](#)
- [Trinity](#)
- [RSEM](#)

Genome



**expression  $\approx 12$  for both  
assembled transcripts**

Estimated  
Transcripts



# Step 3: Normalize

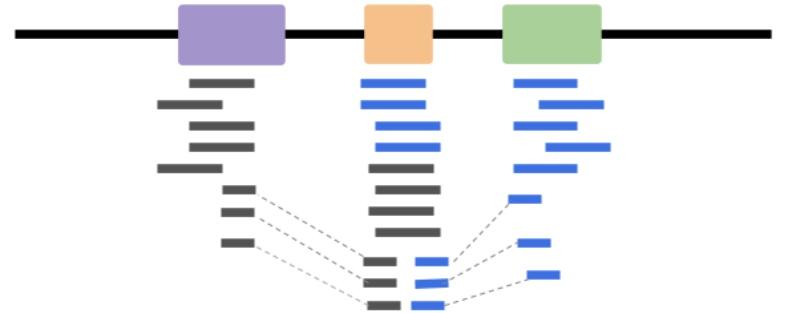
Software Normalize:

- [EDAseq](#)
- [cqn](#)
- [DESeq2/edgeR](#)
- [Ballgown](#)
- [derfinder](#)

Software Batch Effects:

- [sva](#)
- [RUVseq](#)

Genome



expression  $\approx 12$  for both  
assembled transcripts

Estimated  
Transcripts

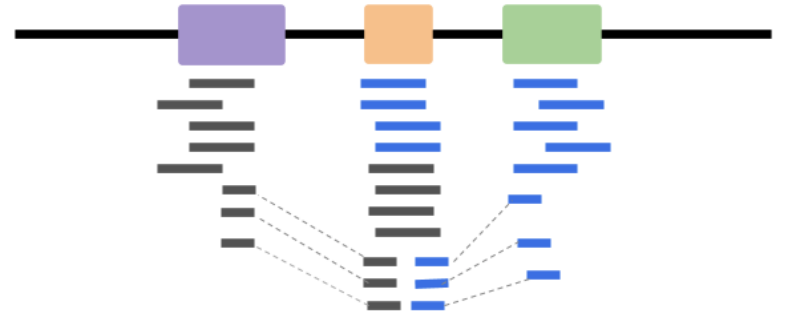


# Step 4: Statistical tests

Software:

- [DESeq2/edgeR](#)
- [Ballgown](#)
- [derfinder](#)

Genome



**expression  $\approx 12$  for both  
assembled transcripts**

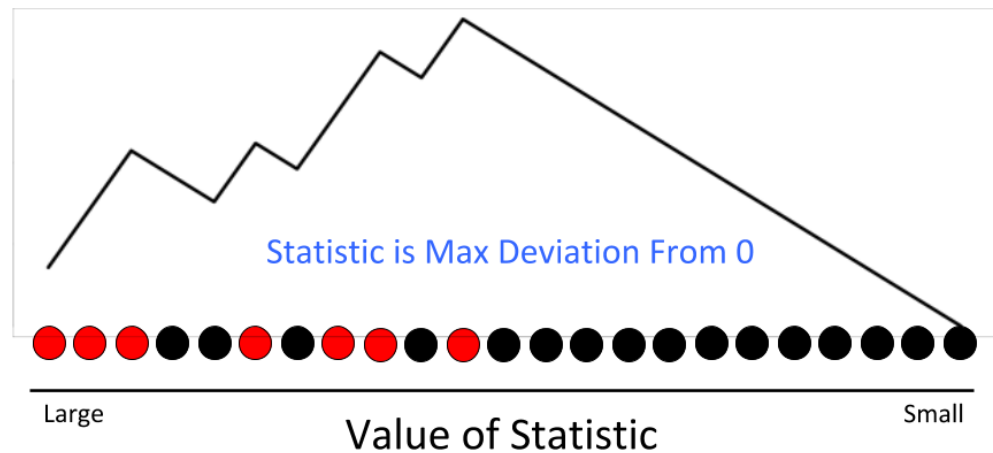
Estimated  
Transcripts



# Step 5: Gene set enrichment

Software:

- [goseq](#)
- [SeqGSEA](#)



- Gene In A Relevant Set
- Gene Not In The Set