An Update on
The Seal Hadoop-based Sequence Processing Toolbox

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1. Motivation

2. Introducing Seal

3. New additions

4. Conclusion
Regular advances to sequencing technologies are
- lowering sequencing costs
- increasing acquisition speed

Data production rate is growing exponentially
- E.g., 1 Illumina HT machine can now produce about 9 TB of raw data per month

Processing capacity is not growing this fast!
In recent years there has been a steady increase in the amount of digitized data available

Rise of data-driven businesses

Google apparently processed 24 PB/day in 2009
- That’s about 20000 Illumina run directories... per day!
- Relative to theirs, our problem doesn’t seem so big
How can do they do that?
Scaling

Change!

Adopt new a computational paradigm

- Scale horizontally, using lots of machines
- Write software that accepts and handles hardware failure
- Spread the data
  - split it into parts
  - distribute them on the processing nodes
- Move the computation to the data
- Those ideas are already implemented in an open source solution

- Refactors distribution and robustness into a reusable framework
- Not a second-class citizen: this is the system used by Twitter, Facebook, Yahoo, LinkedIn, and others
- Maybe those processing a lot of sequencing data should try it...
CRS4 Sequencing and Genotyping Platform

- Currently the largest sequencing center in Italy

**Sequencing Equipment:** 3 Illumina HiSeq2000, plus older sequencers

**Sequencing Capacity:** about 5 Tbases/month

Since Sept. 2010 we’ve sequenced about...

- over 2000 whole-genome samples (mostly low-pass, some high-coverage)
- 800 RNA samples
- 100 exomes
- a handful (≈ 30) of ChIP-Seq samples
We needed to scale

Decided to trying doing so with Hadoop

But...

...software has to be written specifically for Hadoop
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Seal is:
- a suite of distributed tools for processing HT sequencing data
- runs on the Hadoop MapReduce framework

Goals

**Scalable**
- In cluster size
- In data size

**Robust**
- Resilient to node failure and transient cluster problems

**Sufficient**
- Implement all data-intensive steps of our sequencing pipeline
At the time of the last Seal publication we only had two tools:

**Seqal**
- Hadoop-based read aligner
- Incorporates BWA’s alignment code
- Simultaneously identifies PCR duplicates

**Prq**
- Required for Seqal
- Reformat read and mate into the same record

CRE_242:1:2204:1453;1918#0 READ1 QUAL1 READ2 QUAL2
Bcl to Qseq

Description

Extract reads in qseq format from Illumina bcl files, using Hadoop

- Wraps Illumina’s own bclToQseq utility
- Automatically runs many instances in parallel on Hadoop cluster
  - Based on Pydoop
- Supports all the original utility’s features; adds Hadoop benefits
Demux

Description

Separate (demultiplex) samples in multiplexed runs.

- Analogous to functionality provided by Illumina’s tools, but scalable
- Separates samples into their own directory
- Can, optionally, also separate reads by number (i.e. 1, 2)
- Can allow for substitution errors in barcodes
Collect base quality statistics for recalibration using Hadoop

- Equivalent to GATK CountCovariatesWalker
- Supported factors (hard-coded):
  - Read group
  - Base quality score
  - Sequencing cycle
  - Dinucleotide
- Generates a table that can be fed to the GATK base quality recalibrator
Description

Distributed sorting of read alignments

- Sorting required to create files usable by downstream software
- ReadSort uses an algorithm based on TeraSort
  - Divides work among all nodes

Getting data out of the Seal environment:
- ReadSort leaves data in n sorted files
- `merge_alignments` program provided to concatenate them all
File format support

- Seal now uses HadoopBAM (I/O library for sequencing file formats on Hadoop)
- Introduced support for data in multiple file formats
  - Qseq
  - Fastq
  - SAM
- Both input and output
- Also supports transparent distributed compression and decompression
  - Codecs: snappy, bzip2, gzip (gzip input files not splittable)
Galaxy integration

- We have implemented a Galaxy wrappers for the Seal tools
  - A bit tricky since Hadoop doesn’t follow Galaxy’s model
- Not directly in the Seal project
- Plan to release them later this year
Outline

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Production use

Seal-based pipeline has been in use for over a year

- Our experience has been positive
- Scales well
- Significantly improved processing throughput
- Significantly lowered operational effort
  - Jobs fail much less frequently, and they are relatively easy to monitor
  - Robustness is important for automation
Future development

- Complete Hadoop 2 compatibility
- Base quality recalibration (complete the workflow)
- Optimization
- Support RNA expression analysis
- Support for efficient columnar file formats
- Support for sequencing platforms other than Illumina

Too bad we won’t have the time to do all this. Pull requests welcome!
Try it and contribute!

Repository

https://github.com/crs4/seal

- Might see more frequent activity at
  https://github.com/ilveroluca/seal
- Next release should arrive soon
  - Currently updating documentation

Web site: http://biodoop-seal.sf.net
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Thank you!