

**Best practices in the analysis of RNA-seq and ChIP-seq data**

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University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

# Quality assessment of NGS data

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UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



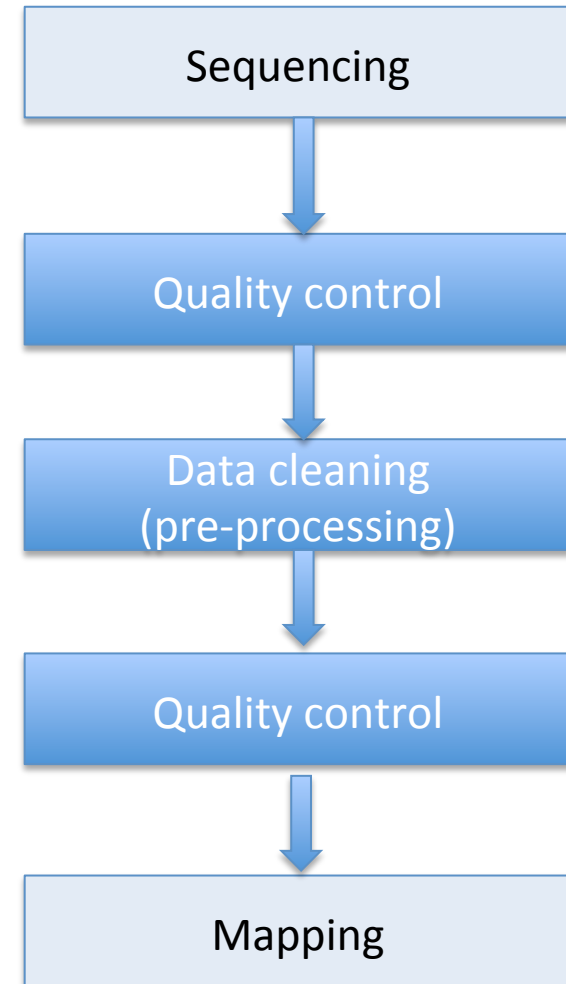
# Quality control analysis

**All sequencing platform have errors**



# Quality control

- It is important to check the quality of your sequenced reads!
- FASTQC: free program that reports quality profile of reads
- Pre-processing
  - Trim reads
  - exclude low quality reads
  - contaminations



# Checking read quality with FASTQC

<http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>













## Summary

### 1. Run FASTQC

fastqc sample.fastq

### 2. Open output file

sample\_fastq.html

-  [Basic Statistics](#)
-  [Per base sequence quality](#)
-  [Per tile sequence quality](#)
-  [Per sequence quality scores](#)
-  [Per base sequence content](#)
-  [Per sequence GC content](#)
-  [Per base N content](#)
-  [Sequence Length Distribution](#)
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-  [Adapter Content](#)
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# FASTQC: Report

- 1) Basic statistics
- 2) Per base sequence quality
- 3) Per tile sequence quality
- 4) Per sequence quality scores
- 5) Per base sequence content
- 6) Per sequence GC content
- 7) Per base N content
- 8) Sequence Length Distribution
- 9) Sequence duplication levels
- 10) Over-represented sequences
- 11) Adapter/Kmer content



## Basic Statistics

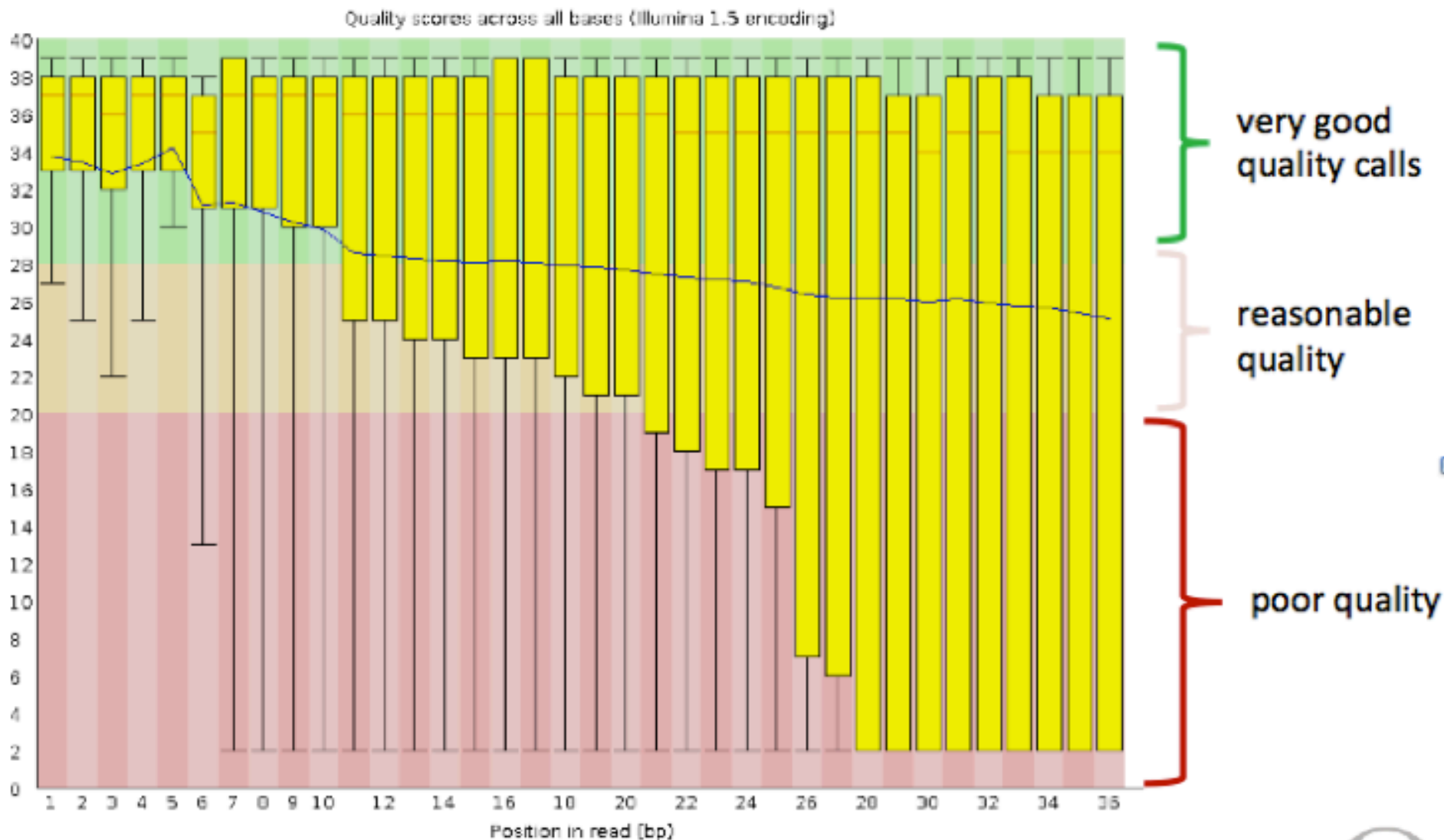
Measure	Value
Filename	sample.fastq
File type	Conventional base calls
Encoding	Illumina 1.5
Total Sequences	9053
Sequences flagged as poor quality	0
Sequence length	36
%GC	50

## (2) FASTQC: Per base sequence quality

- Poor quality at the end of reads



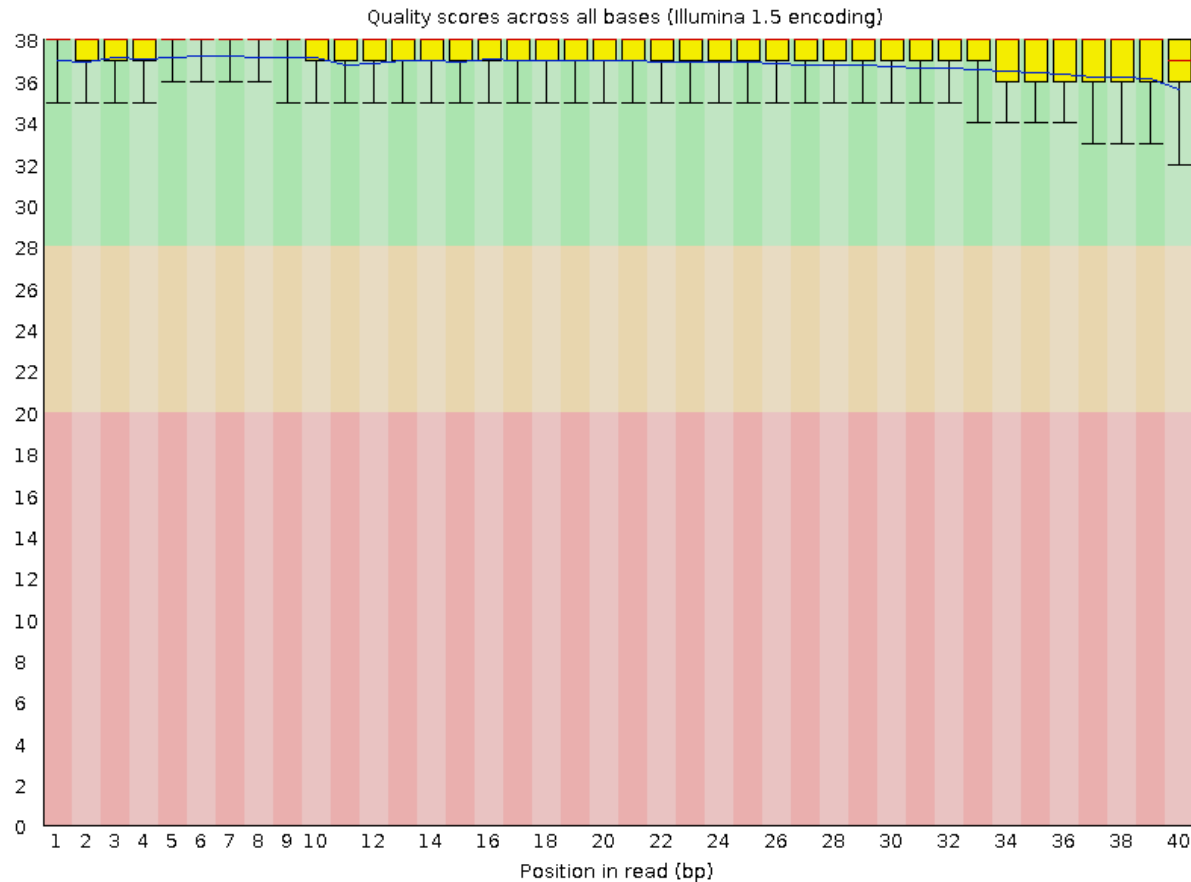
## (2) FASTQC: Per base sequence quality



## (2) FASTQC: Per base sequence quality

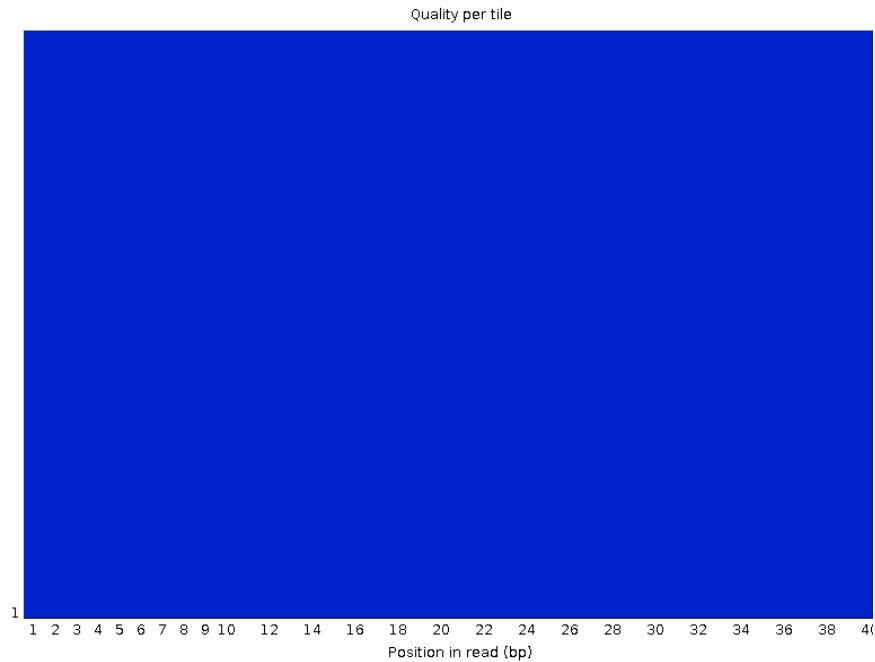
Good Illumina data:

✅ **Per base sequence quality**

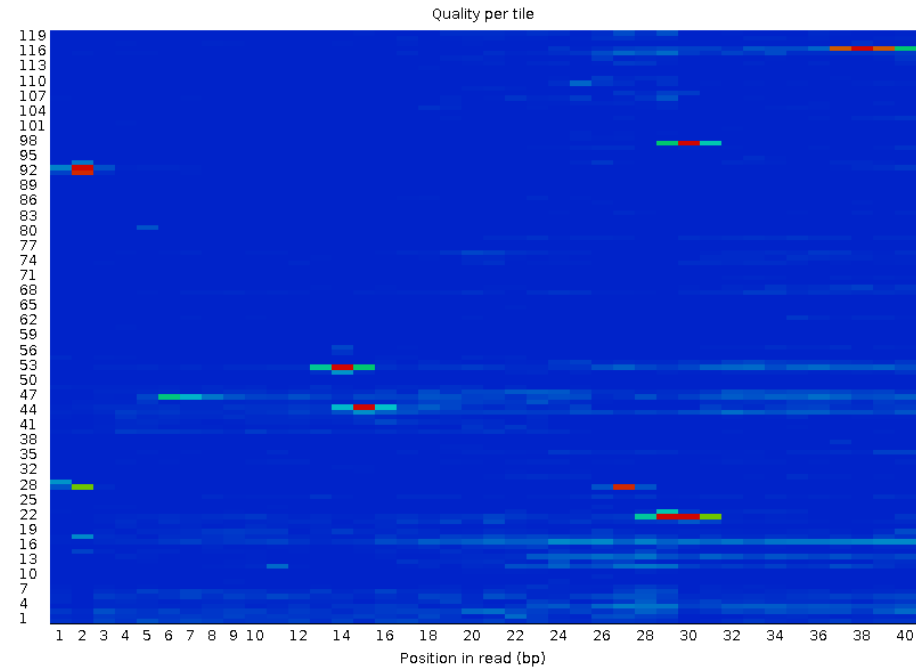


# (3) FASTQC: Per tile sequence quality

✓ Per tile sequence quality

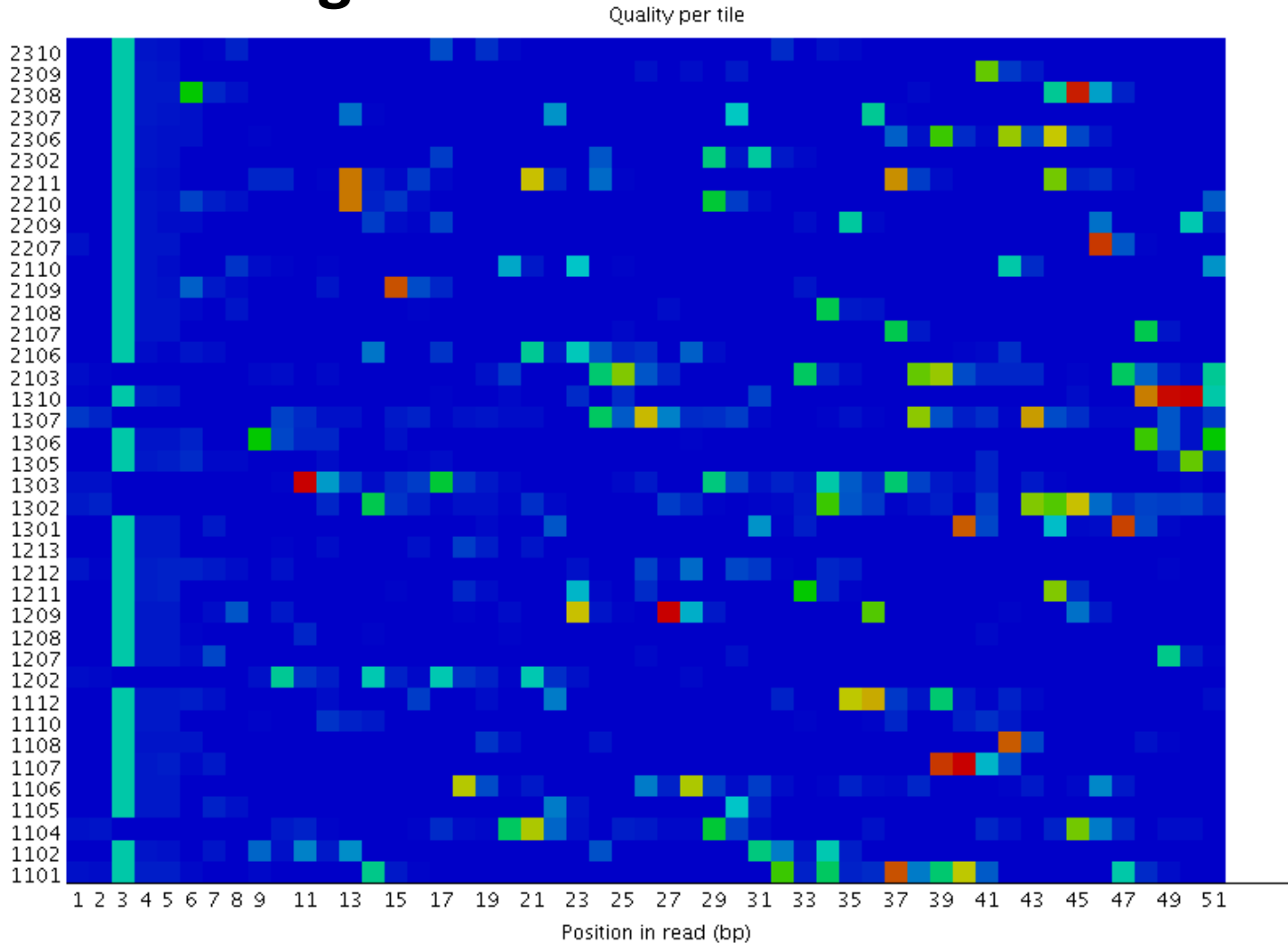


✗ Per tile sequence quality



# (3) FASTQC: Per tile sequence quality

## Overclustering:

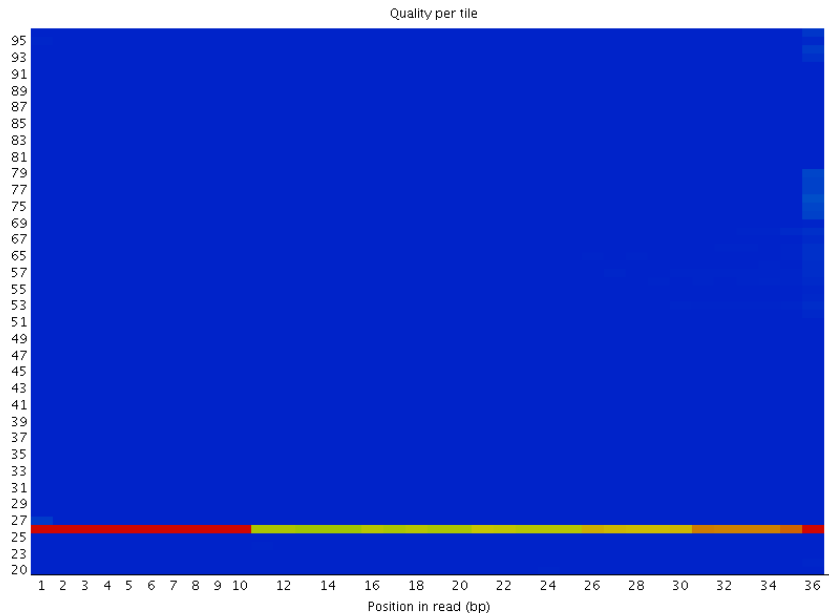


# (3) FASTQC: Per tile sequence quality

## Tile fail:

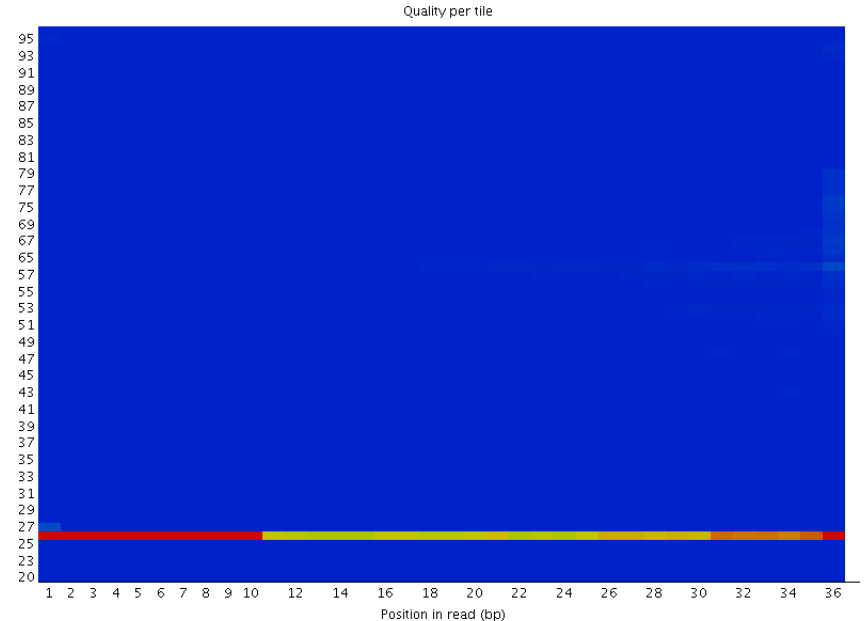
SRR576938  
anaerobic INPUT DNA

✖ Per tile sequence quality



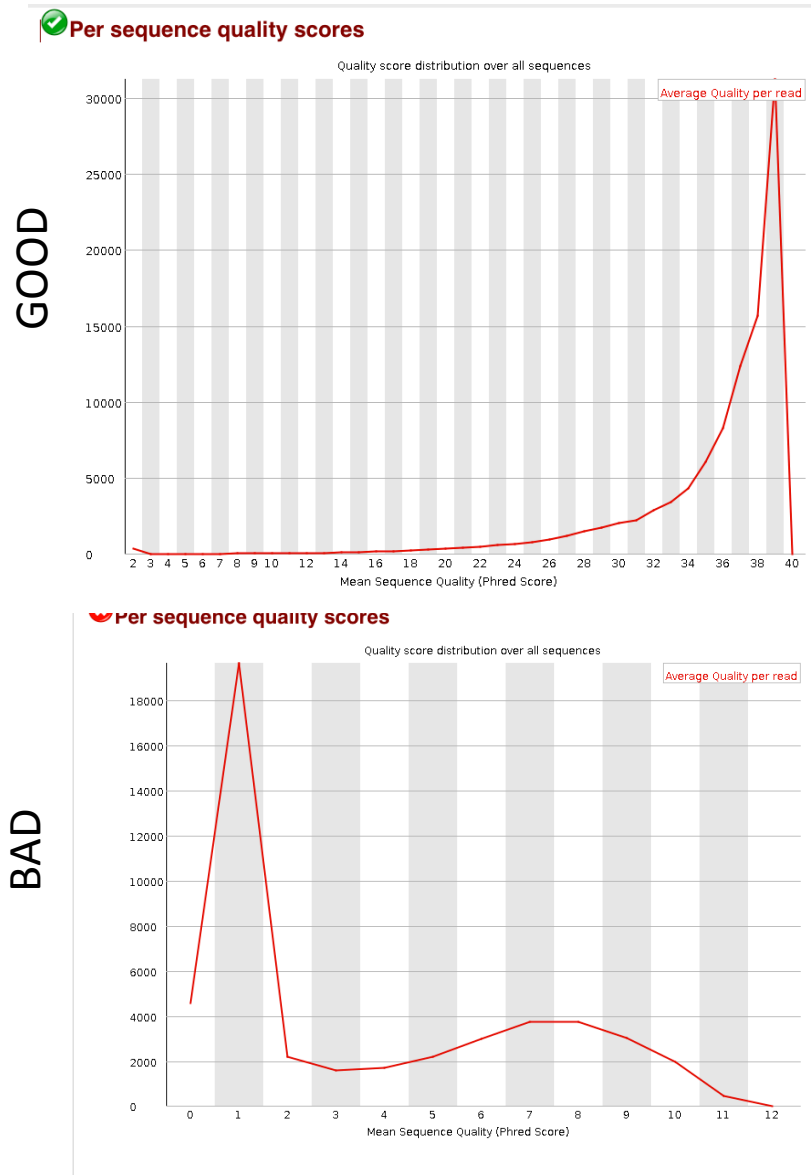
SRR576933  
FNR IP ChIP-seq Anaerobic A

✖ Per tile sequence quality



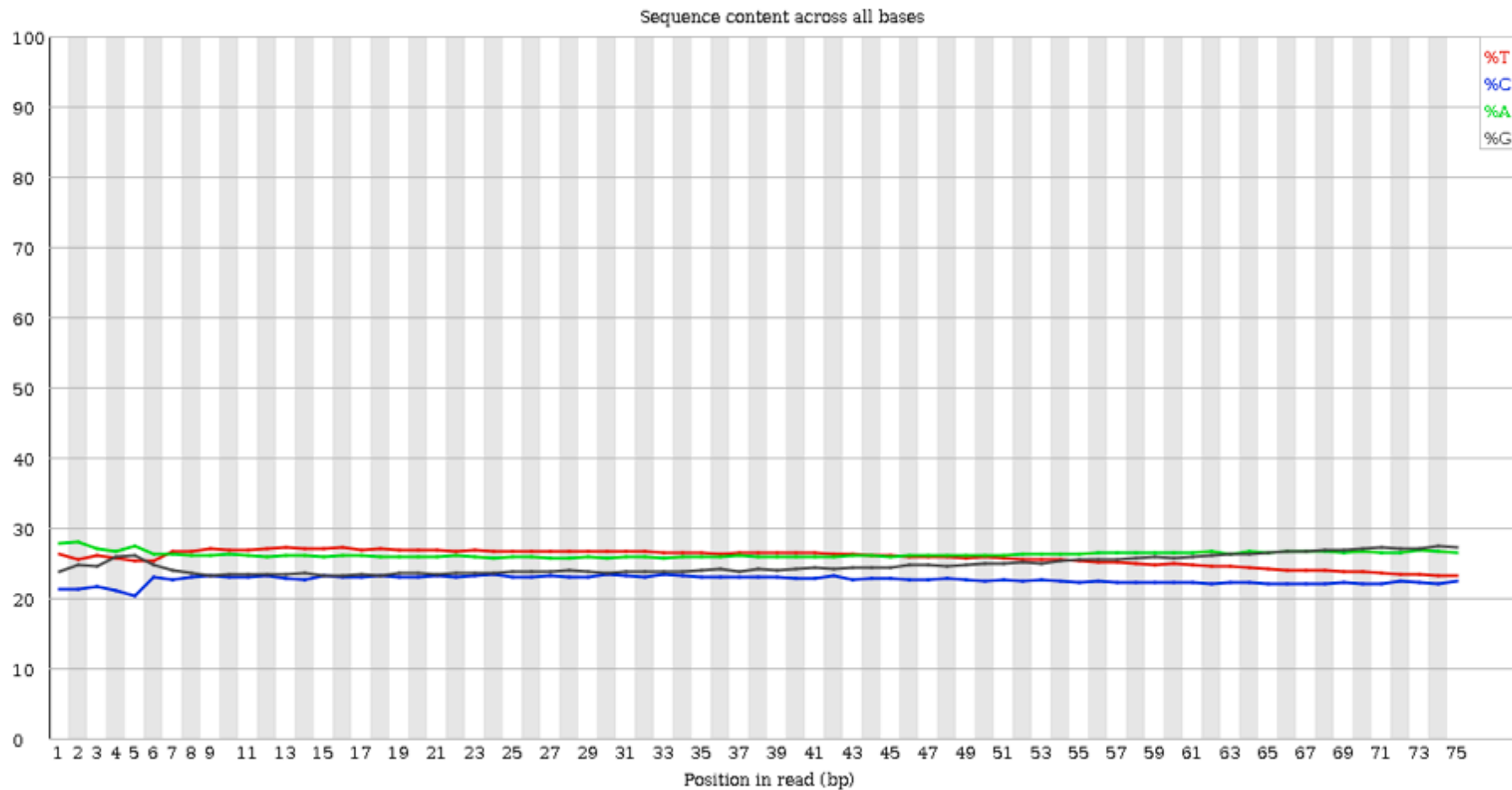
GSE41187: Genome-wide analysis of FNR and s70 in E. coli under aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE41187>

# (4) FASTQC: Per sequence quality scores



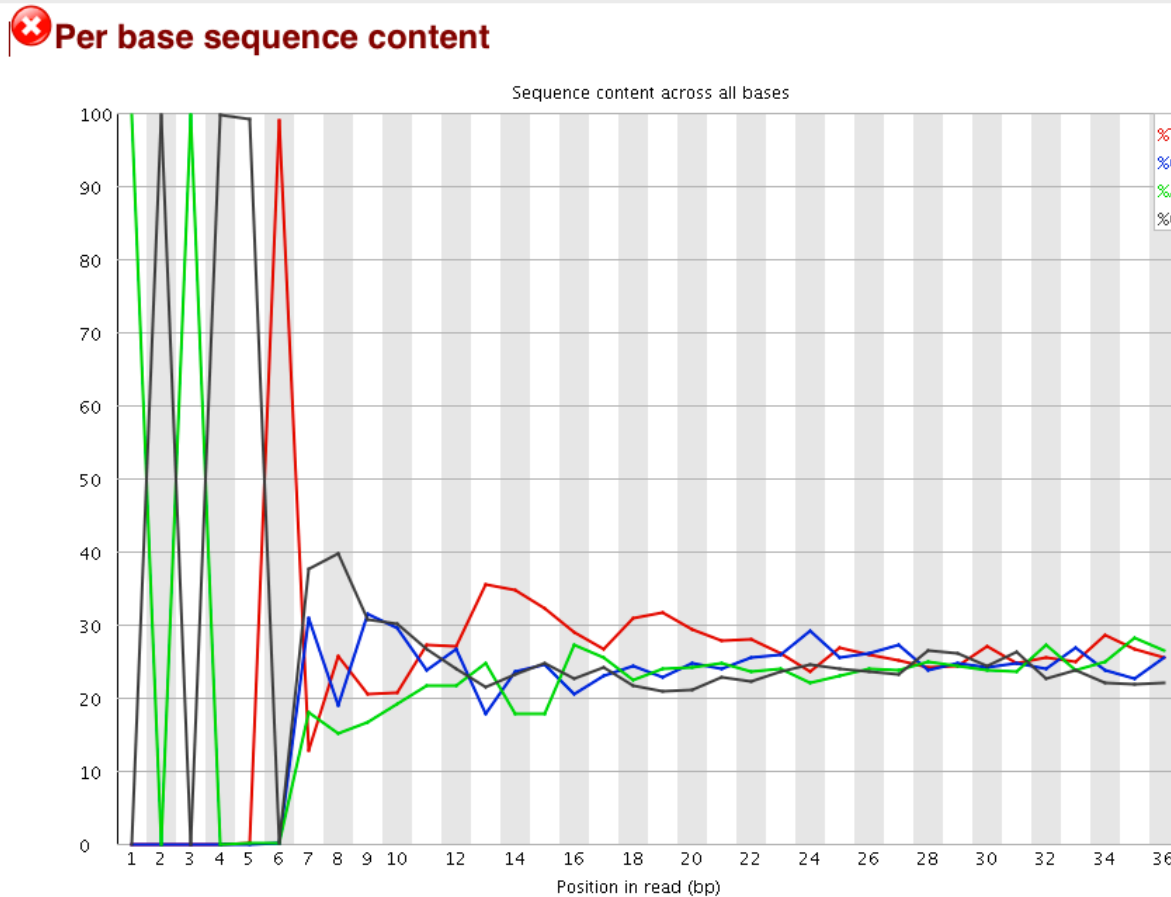
# (5) FASTQC: Per base sequence content

## ✓ Per base sequence content



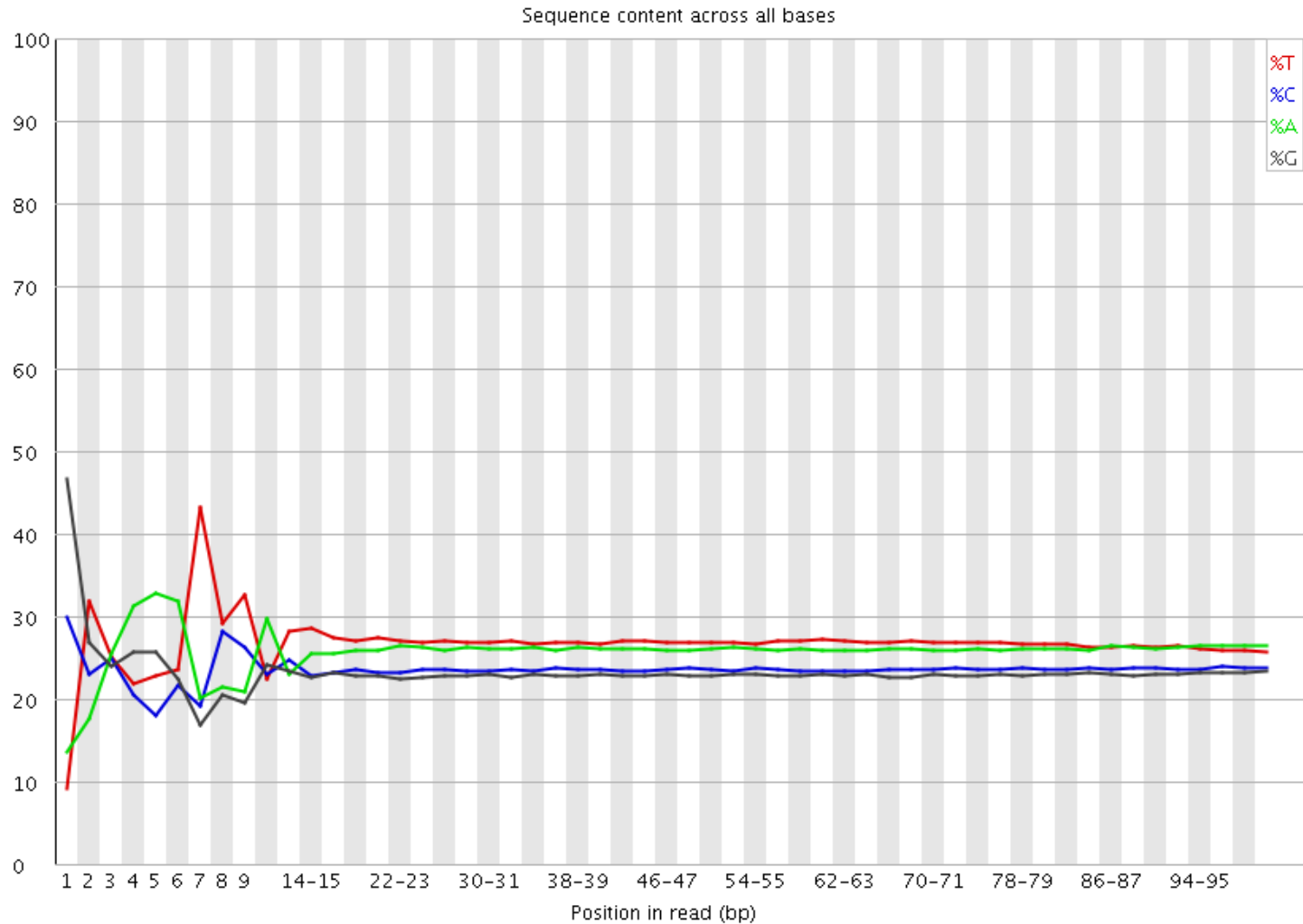
# (5) FASTQC: Per base sequence content

Biased sequence composition (adapters?)



# (5) FASTQC: Per base sequence content

Unavoidable – RNA-Seq

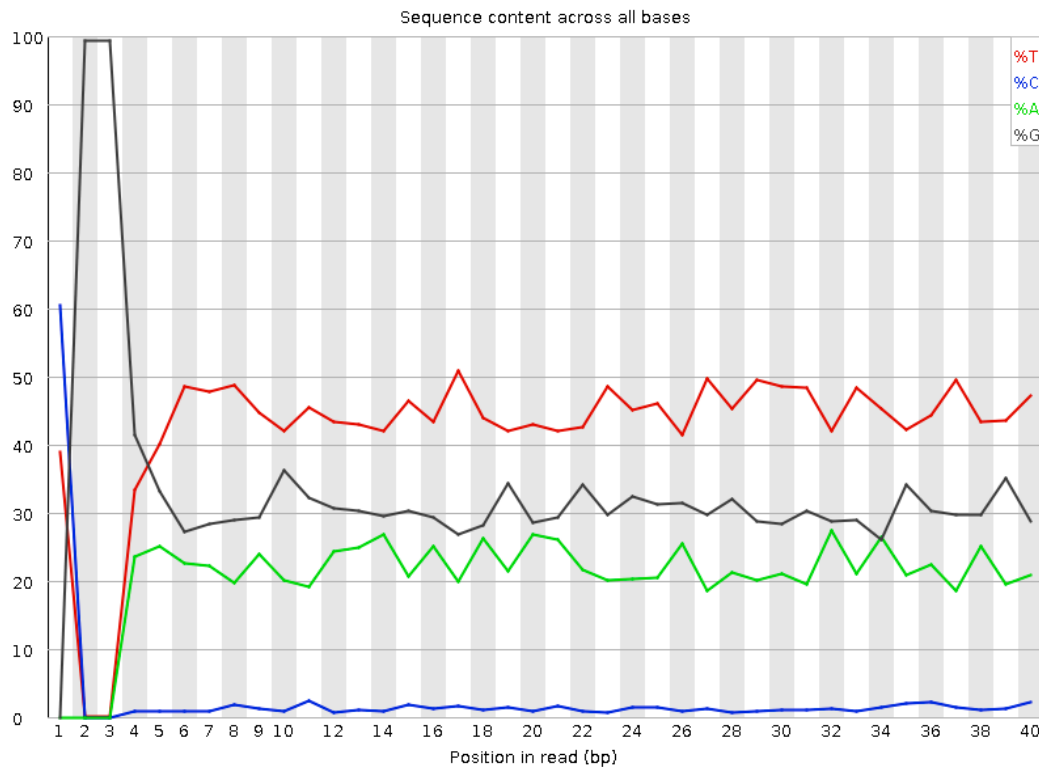


# (5) FASTQC: Per base sequence content

## Unavoidable – RRBS

Devoided of cytosines because the library was treated with sodium bisulphite (which will have converted most of the C to T)

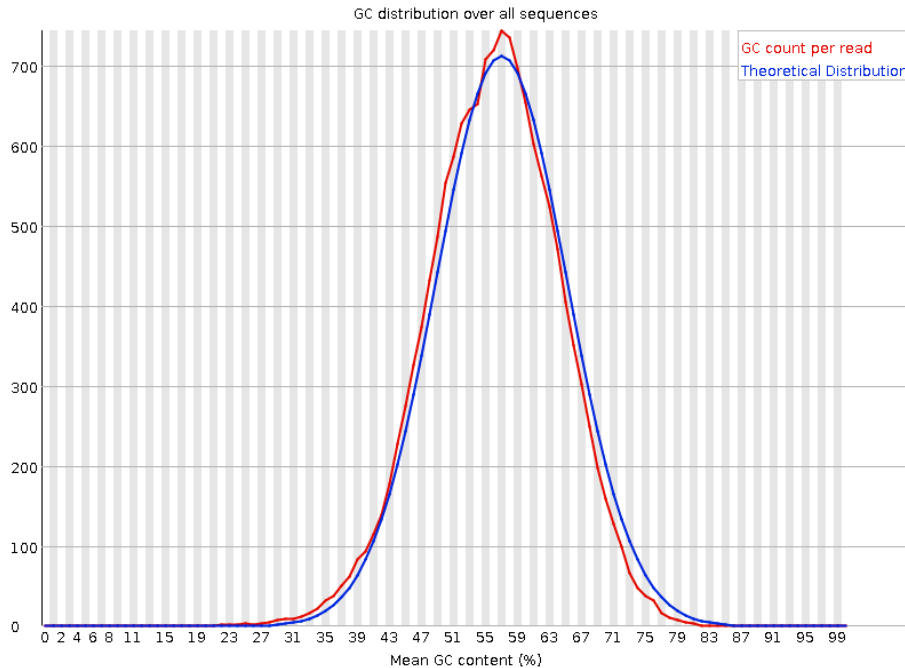
### ✖ Per base sequence content



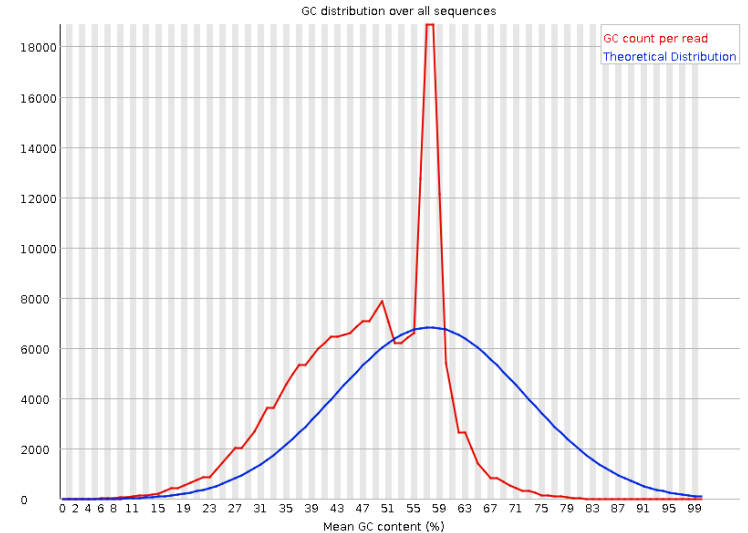
# (6) FASTQC: Per sequence GC content



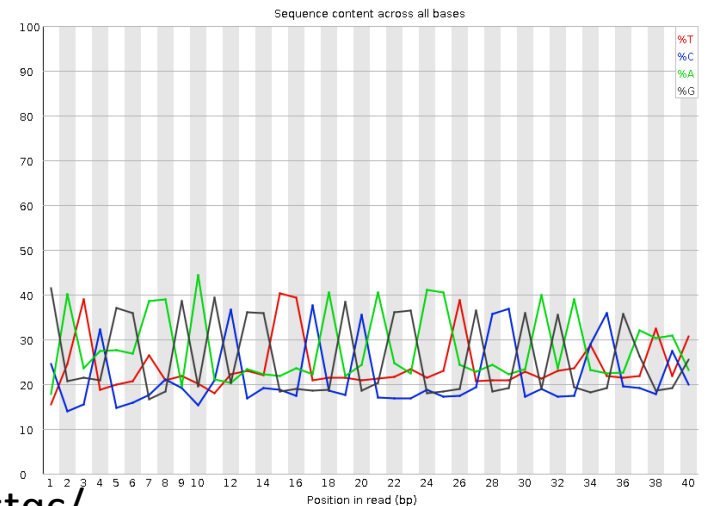
## Per sequence GC content



## Per sequence GC content

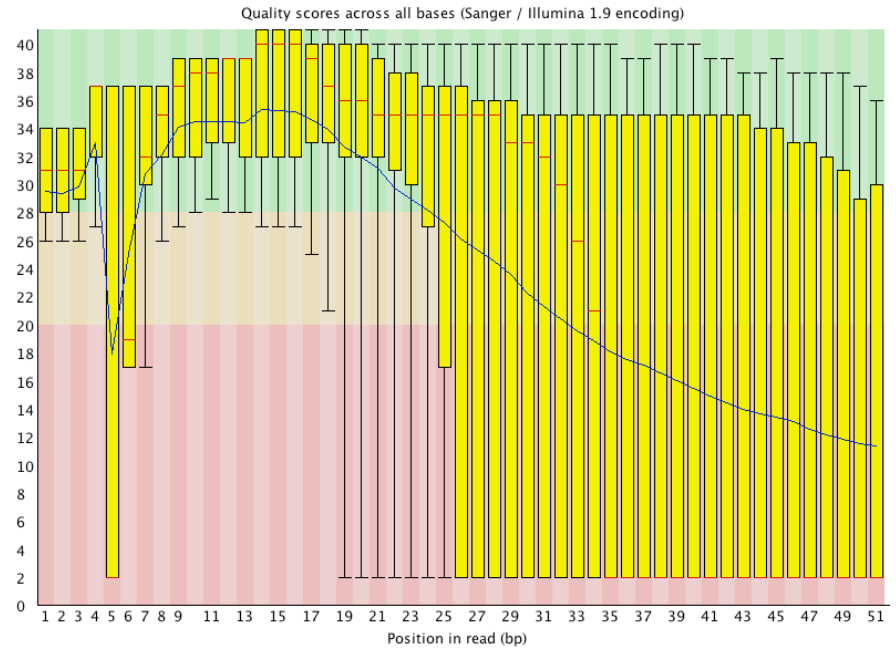
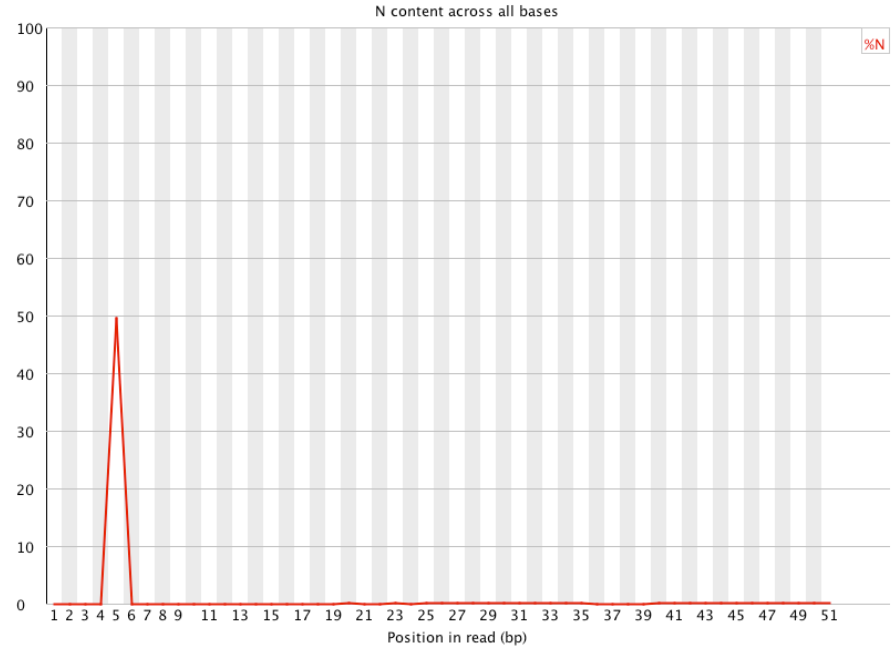
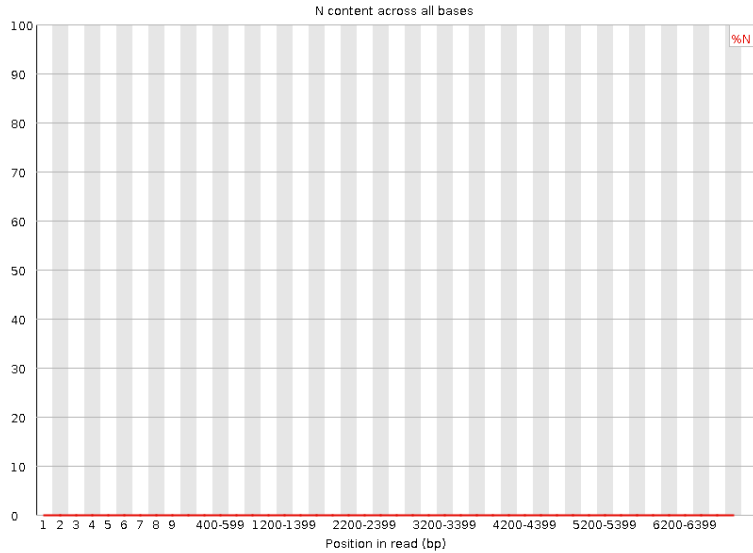


## Per base sequence content



# (7) FASTQC: Per base N content

## Per base N content



<http://cbio.mskcc.org/~lianos/files/scott/2011-11-21/qc/>

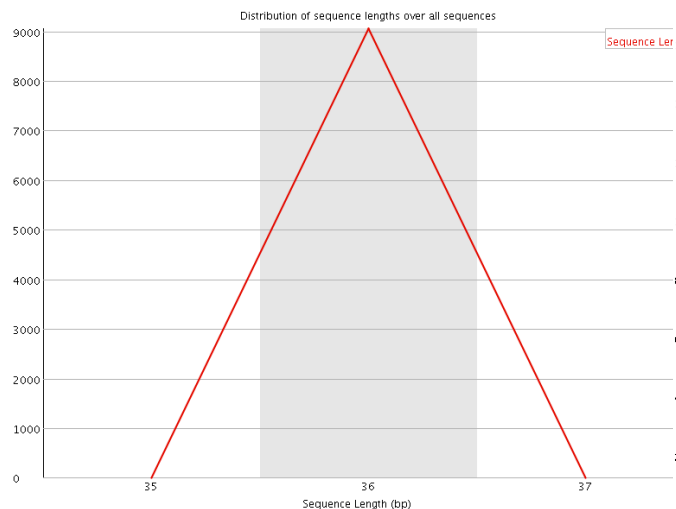
# (8) FASTQC: Sequence Length Distribution

## Summary

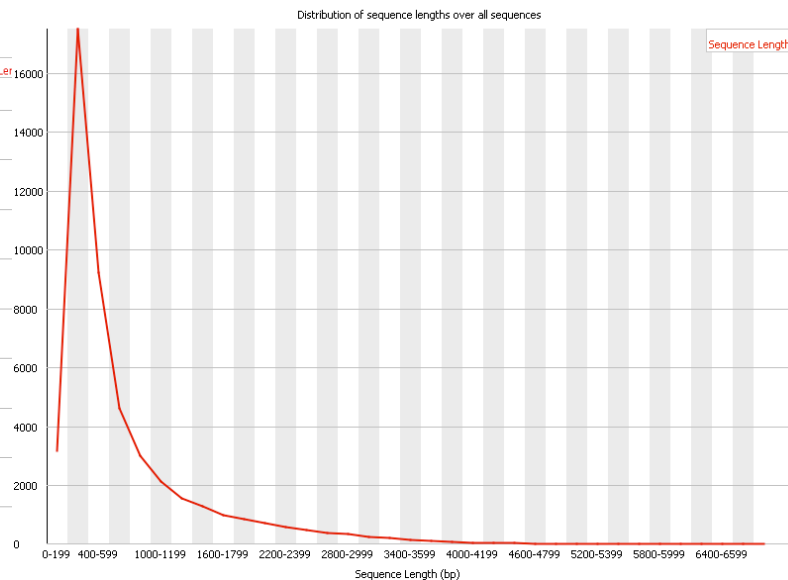
- ✓ Basic Statistics
- ✗ Per base sequence quality
- ✗ Per sequence quality scores
- ✗ Per base sequence content
- ✗ Per base GC content
- ✗ Per sequence GC content
- ✗ Per base N content
- ✓ Sequence Length Distribution
- ✗ Sequence Duplication Levels
- ✗ Overrepresented sequences
- ✗ Kmer Content

Sequence fragments of uniform length (36bp)

### Sequence Length Distribution



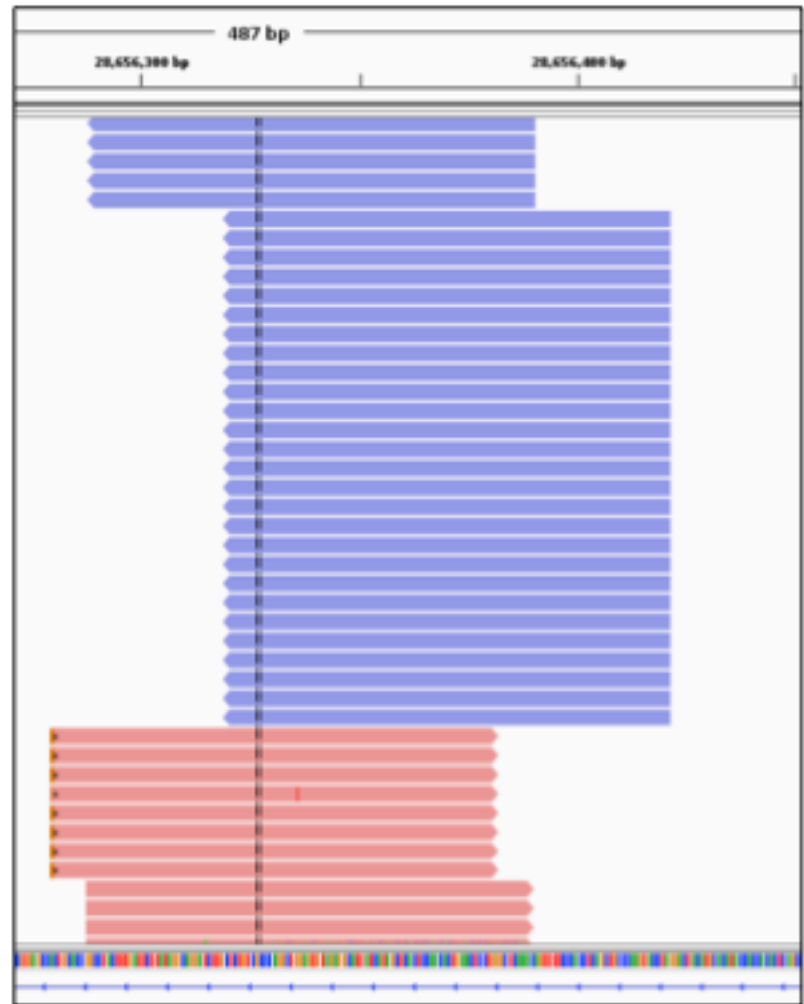
Reads of variable length:



[http://cbio.mskcc.org/~lianos/files/scott/2011-11-21/qc/Bcnc2\\_ATCACG\\_L001\\_R1\\_001\\_fastqc/fastqc\\_report.html#M2](http://cbio.mskcc.org/~lianos/files/scott/2011-11-21/qc/Bcnc2_ATCACG_L001_R1_001_fastqc/fastqc_report.html#M2)

## (9) FASTQC: Sequence duplication levels

- PCR duplicates during sample preparation
- Optical duplicates: read the same cluster twice in the sequencer
- High duplication can lead to problems in downstream analysis (e.g. skew allele frequencies)

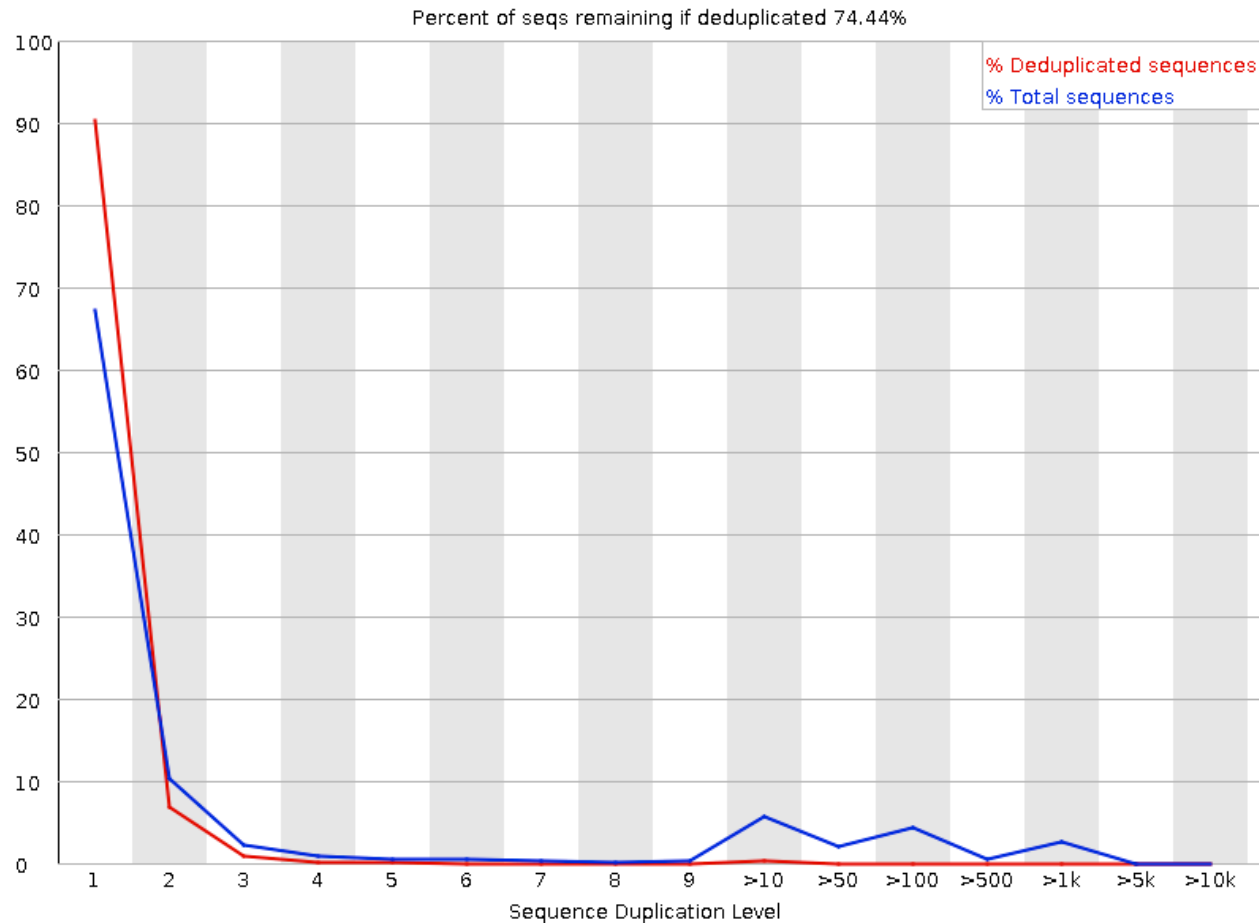


# (9) FASTQC: Sequence duplication levels

Very diverse library

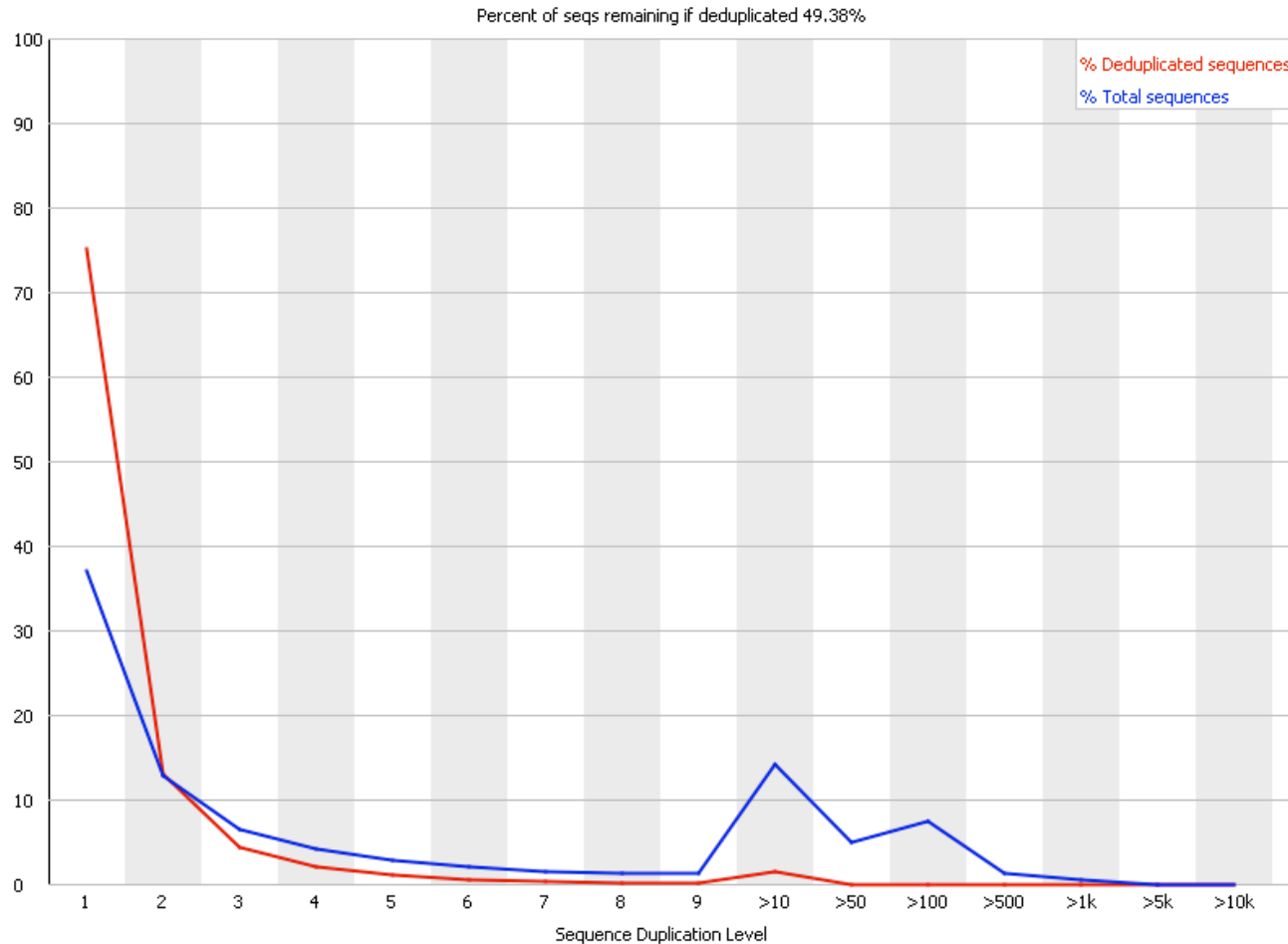


## Sequence Duplication Levels



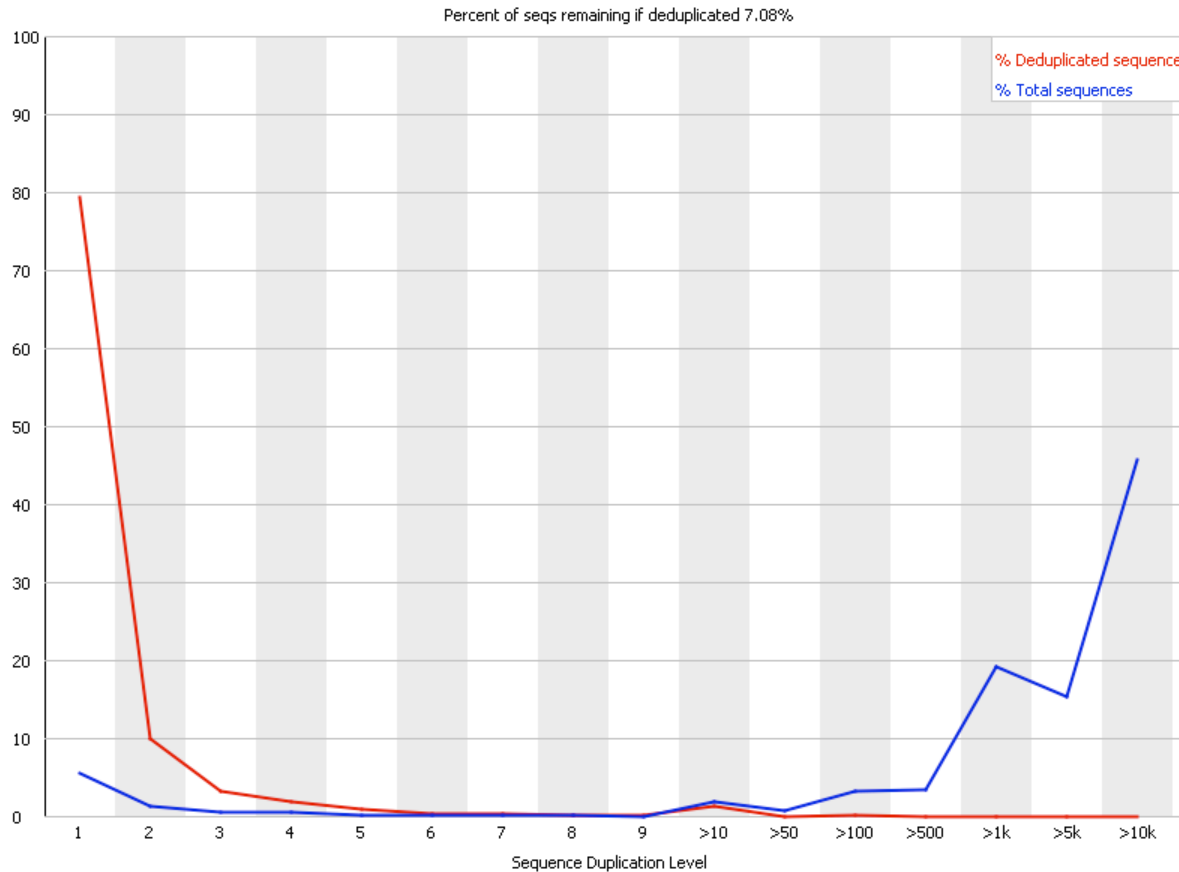
# (9) FASTQC: Sequence duplication levels

A good RNA-Seq library (although dup levels > 50%)



# (9) FASTQC: Sequence duplication levels

## PCR duplication



## (10) FASTQC: Over-represented sequences

## Good dataset



## Overrepresented sequences

No overrepresented sequences

## Bad datasets:



## Overrepresented sequences

[illegible]

[Back to summary](#)

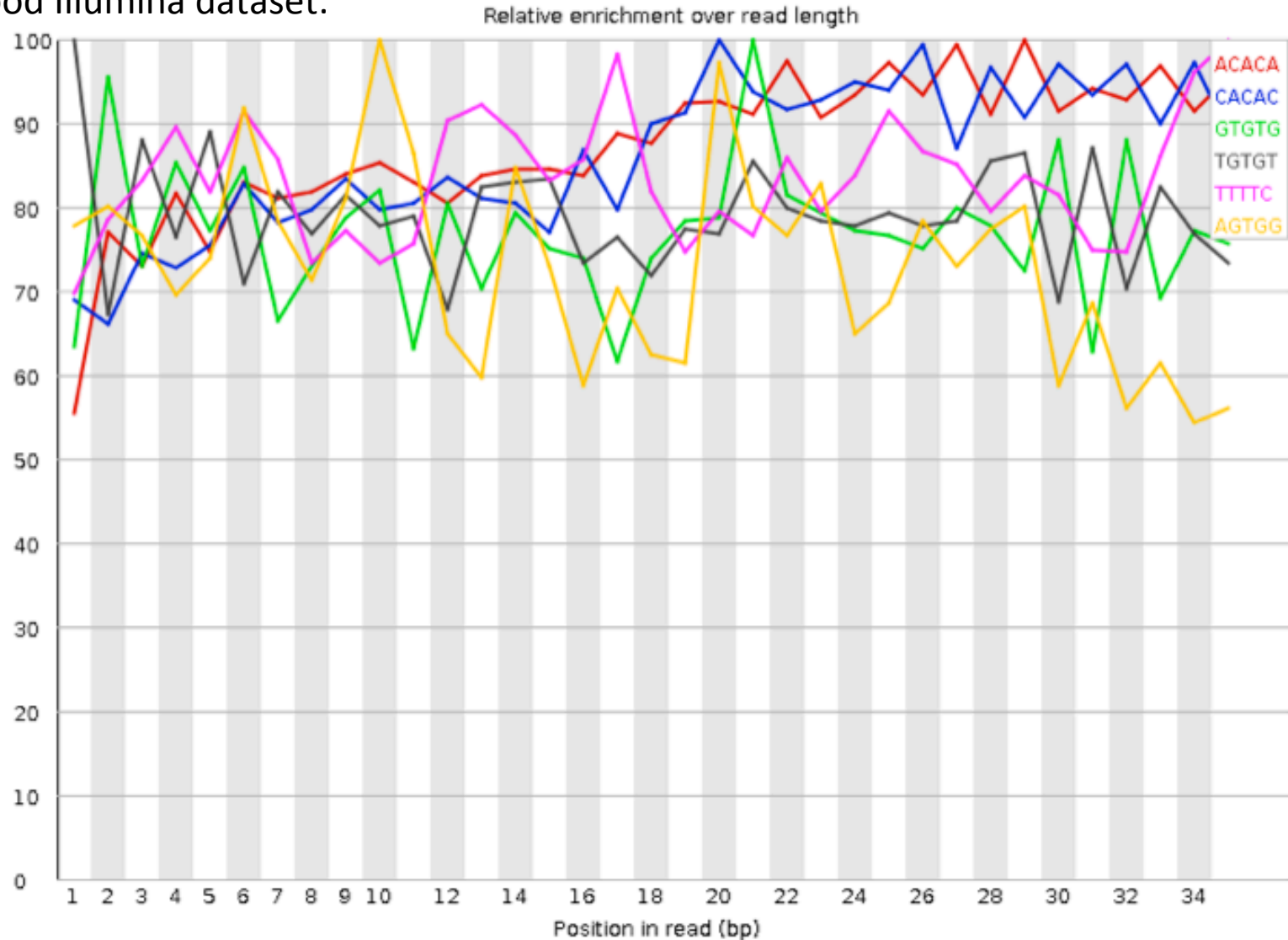


## Overrepresented sequences

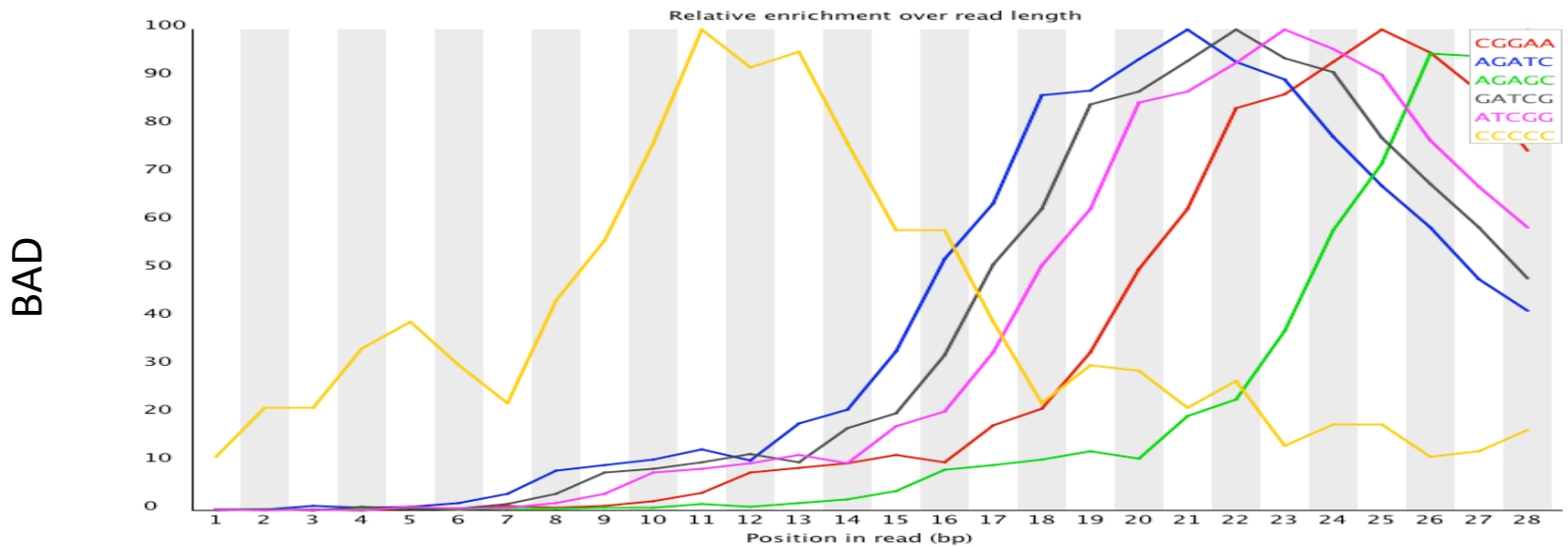
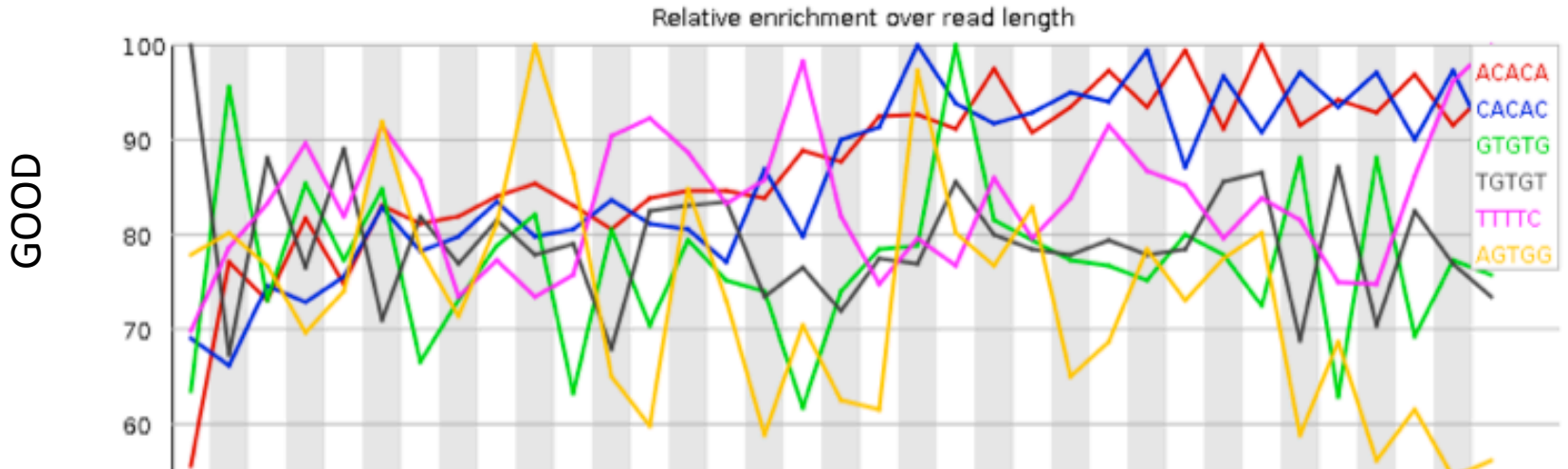
Sequence	Count	Percentage	Possible Source
GATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCACACA	28971	28.971000000000004	TruSeq Adapter, Index 5 (100% over 36bp)
GCTAACAAATACCCGACTAAATCAGTCAAGTAAATA	392	0.392	No Hit
GTTAGCTATTTACTTGACTGATTTAGTCGGGTATTT	356	0.356	No Hit
GATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCACACC	108	0.108	TruSeq Adapter, Index 1 (97% over 36bp)
GATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCACACG	107	0.107	TruSeq Adapter, Index 15 (97% over 36bp)

# (11) FASTQC: Kmer content

Good Illumina dataset:

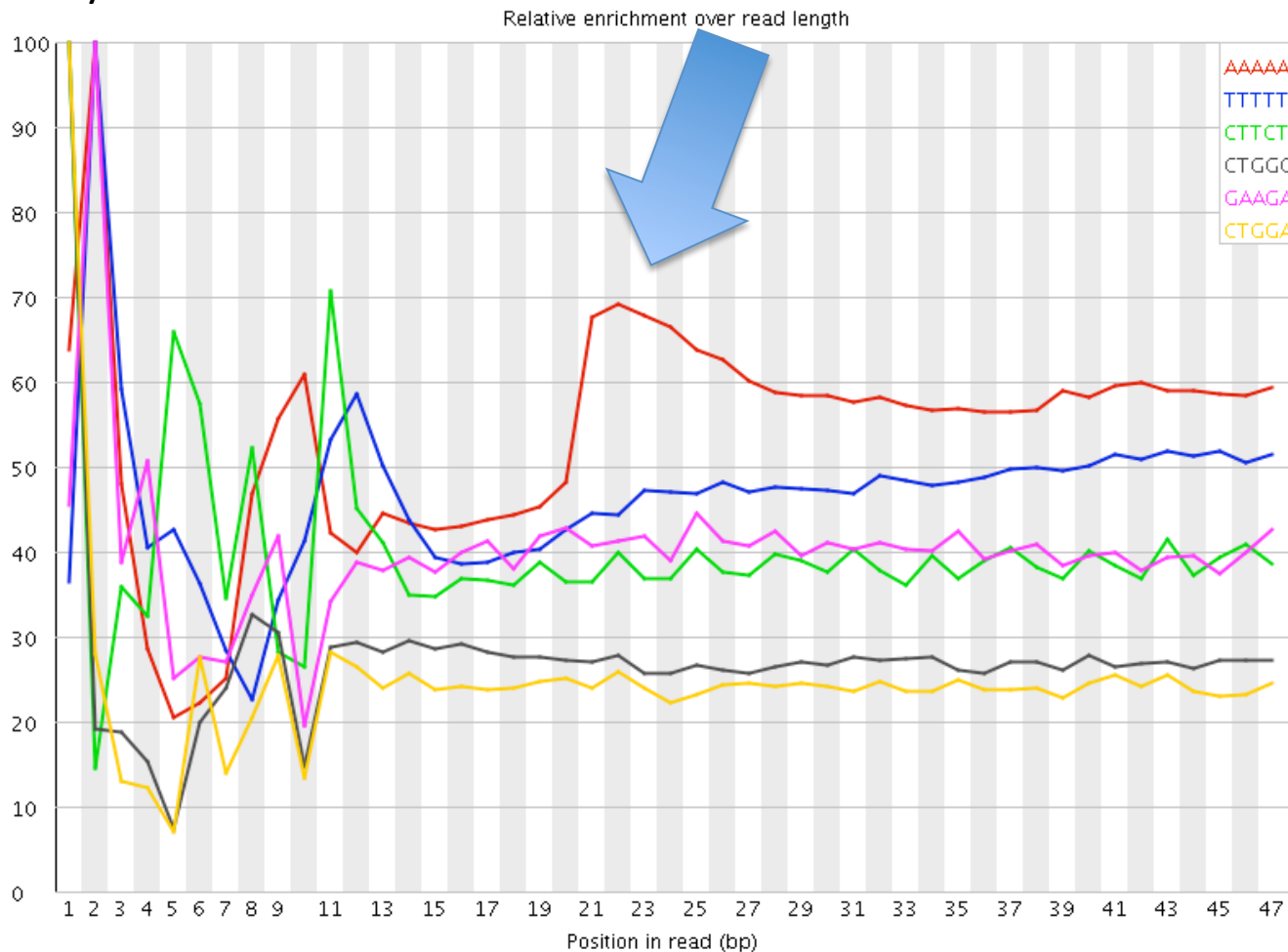


# (11) FASTQC: Kmer content



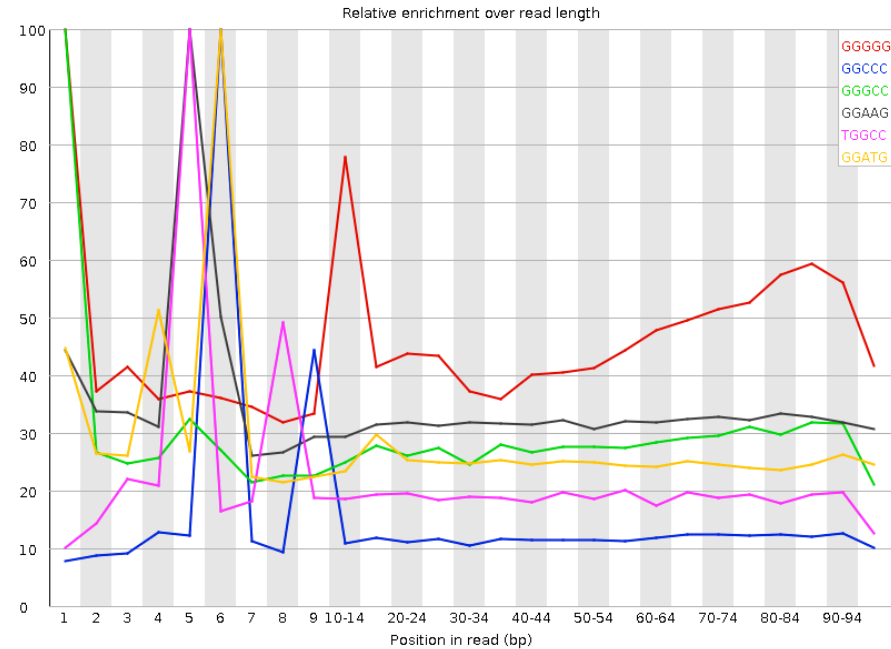
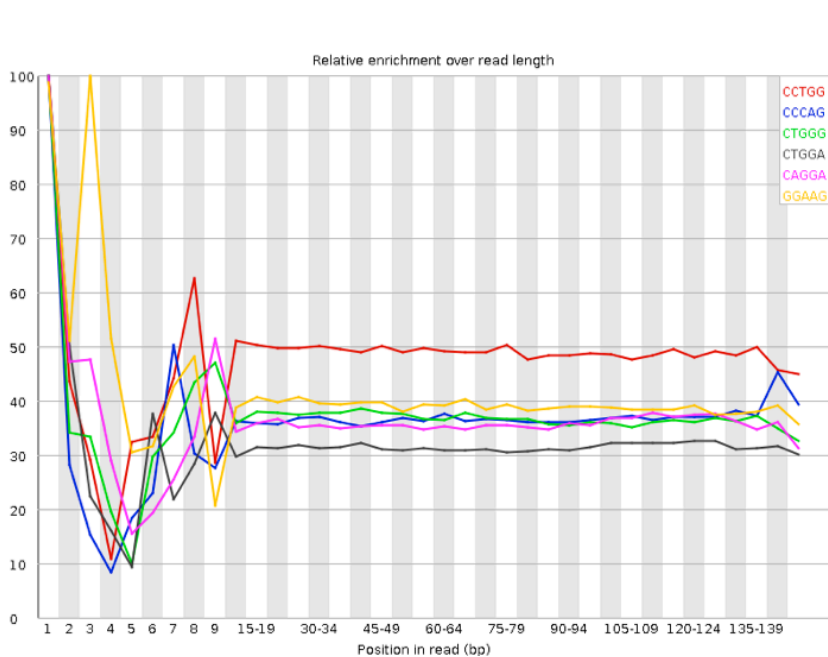
# (11) FASTQC: Kmer content

AAAA k-mer that you're seeing at around 21 base pairs are arrested transcripts caused by cyclohexamide treatment.



# (11) FASTQC: Kmer content

“Random” hexamer primer in RNA-seq libraries  
(not that random after all)



<http://seqanswers.com/forums/showthread.php?t=44770&highlight=kmer+fastq>

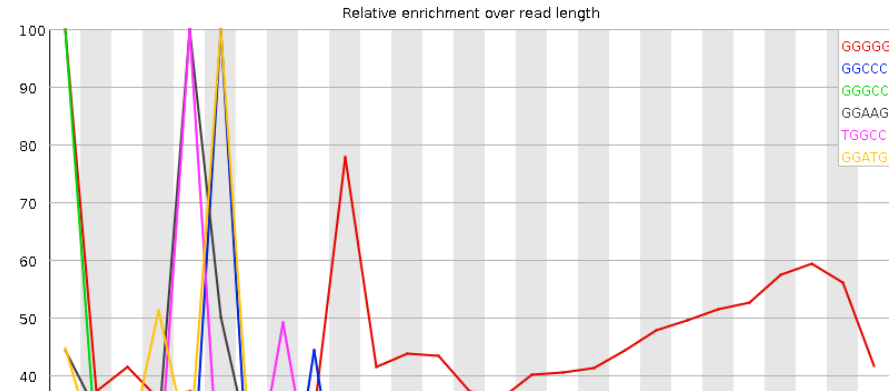
<http://seqanswers.com/forums/showthread.php?t=16669>

# (11) FASTQC: Kmer content

“Random” hexamer primer in RNA-seq libraries  
(not that random afterall)



*Published online 14 April 2010*



*Nucleic Acids Research, 2010, Vol. 38, No. 12 e131  
doi:10.1093/nar/gkq224*

## Biases in Illumina transcriptome sequencing caused by random hexamer priming

Kasper D. Hansen<sup>1,\*</sup>, Steven E. Brenner<sup>2</sup> and Sandrine Dudoit<sup>1,3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, UC Berkeley, 461 Koshland Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3102 and

<sup>3</sup>Department of Statistics, UC Berkeley, 367 Evans Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3860, USA

Received December 1, 2009; Revised March 16, 2010; Accepted March 17, 2010

# Useful resources

<https://seqqc.wordpress.com/>

<https://sequencing.qcfail.com/>

**Hands on exercise:**

**Fastqc\_sweave.pdf**

**Examples of FASTQC runs and preprocessing**