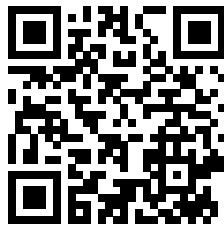




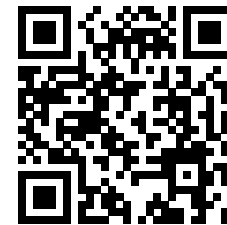
# RawHash

Enabling Fast and Accurate Real-Time Analysis of  
Raw Nanopore Signals for Large Genomes

**Can Firtina**, Nika Mansouri Ghiasi, Joel Lindegger, Gagandeep Singh,  
Meryem Banu Cavlak, Haiyu Mao, Onur Mutlu



[Preprint](#)



[Source Code](#)

# Executive Summary

**Problem** Performing real-time genome analysis is inaccurate and inefficient for large genomes, causing serious barriers in fully exploiting the opportunities in real-time genome analysis

**Goal** Enable efficient and accurate analysis for large genomes while the raw sequencing data is generated in real-time

**RawHash**

- Encodes the raw sequencing data into hash values to accurately and efficiently **identify similarities by matching their hash values**
- Makes **real-time decisions** that can stop sequencing a DNA molecule without fully sequencing it
- Proposes **Sequence Until** that can accurately and dynamically **stop the entire sequencing** of all DNA molecules at once

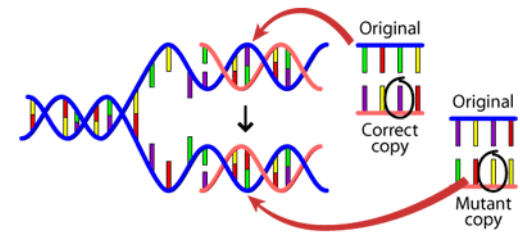
**Key Results**

- Up to **2x more accurate** mapping results compared to the state-of-the-art works
- **25.8x and 3.4x better average throughput** compared to UNCALLED and Sigmap, respectively
- The Sequence Until techniques enables **reducing the sequencing time and cost by 15x**

# Genome Analysis

**Genome Sequencing:** Enables us to determine the order of the DNA sequence in an organism's genome

- Plays a **pivotal role** in:
  - Precision medicine
  - Outbreak tracing
  - Understanding of evolution

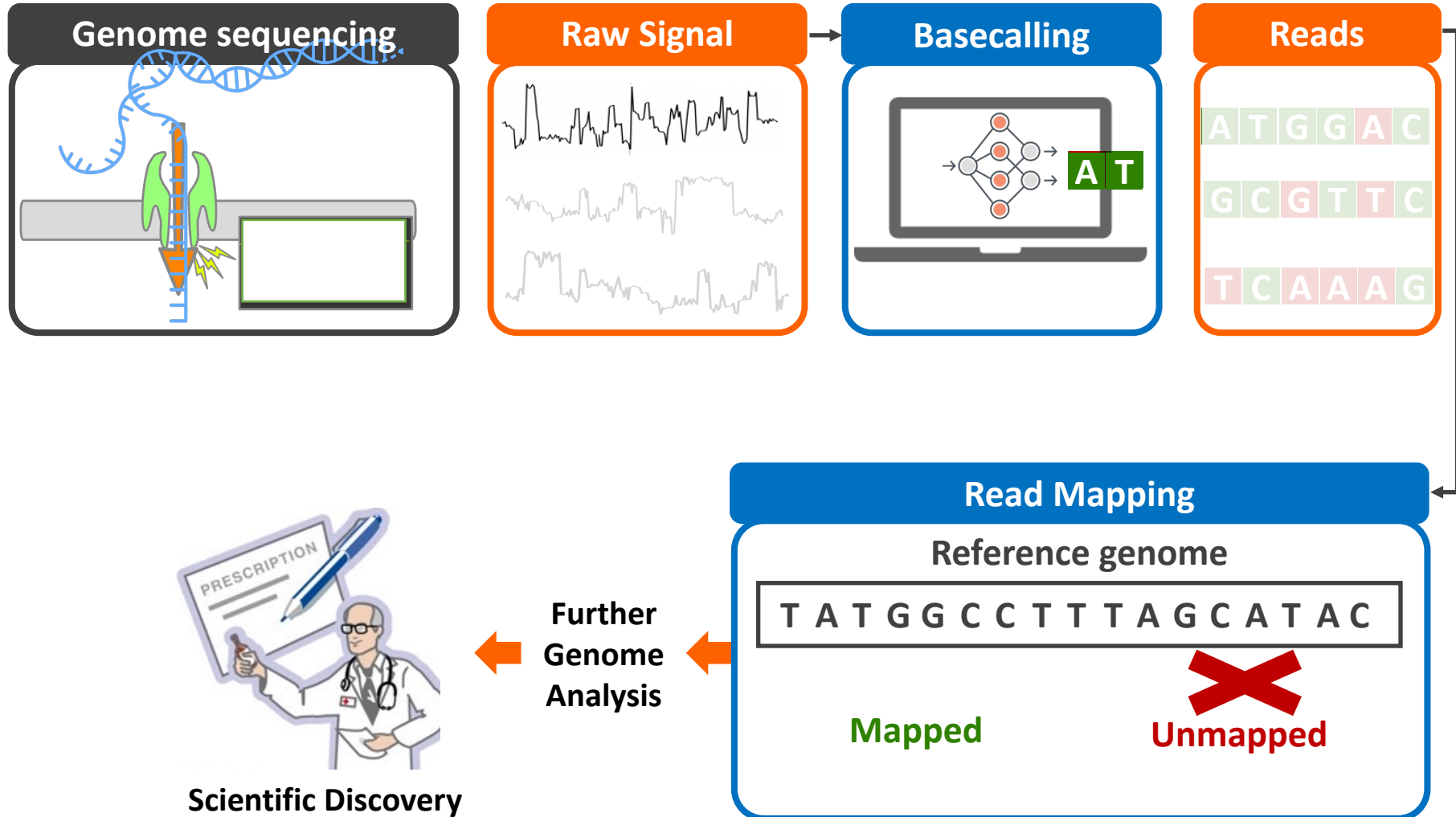


**Nanopore Sequencing:** a **widely used** sequencing technology

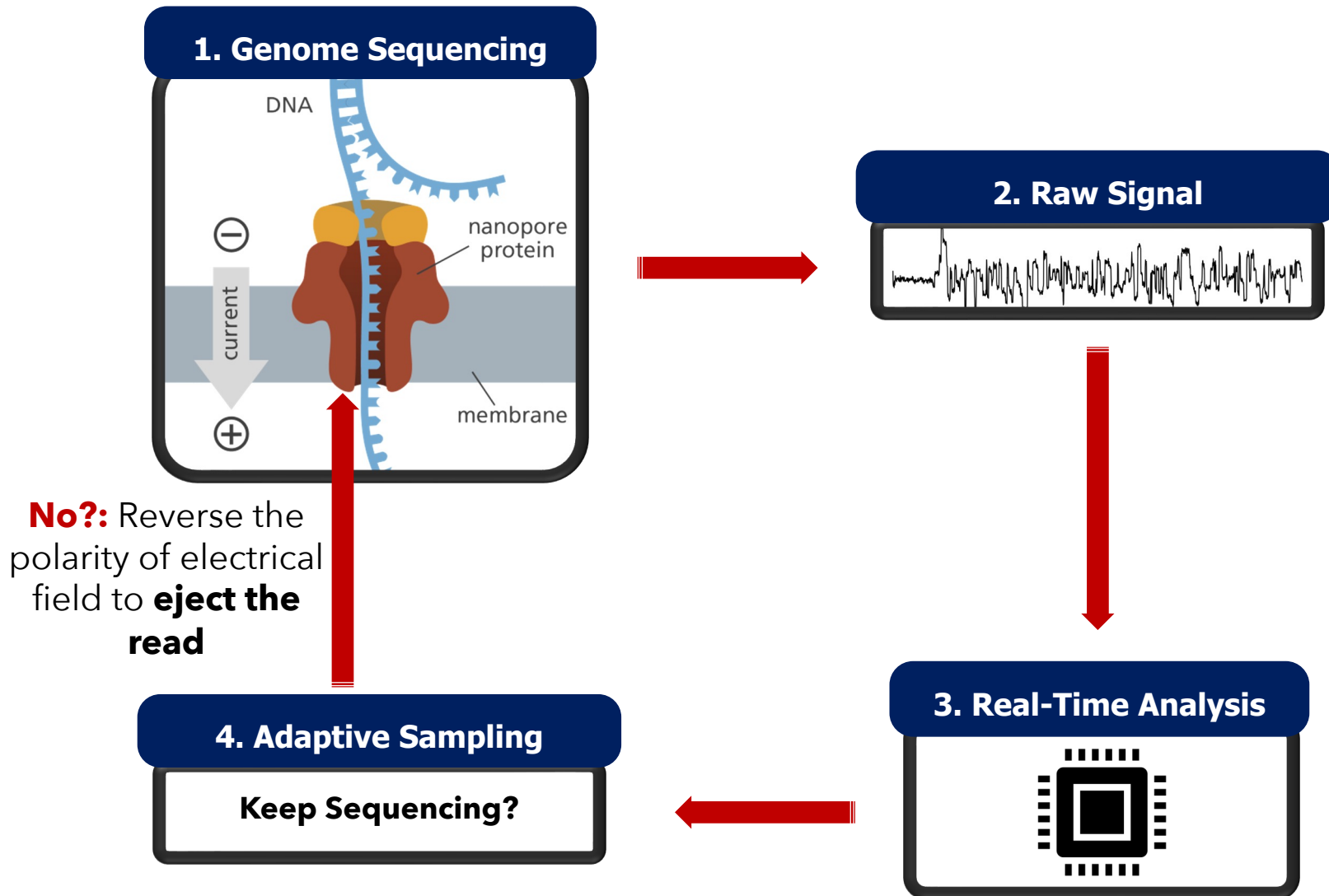
- Can sequence **large fragments of DNA** (i.e., 10Kbp - 2Mbp)
- Has **high throughput**
- **Low cost**
- Provides **unique features**



# Traditional Genome Analysis Pipeline



# Real-Time Genome Analysis



# Objectives in Real-Time Genome Analysis



**Fast analysis** that can match the throughput of sequencer



**Fast decision** to reduce the sequencing time and cost with effective use of adaptive sampling



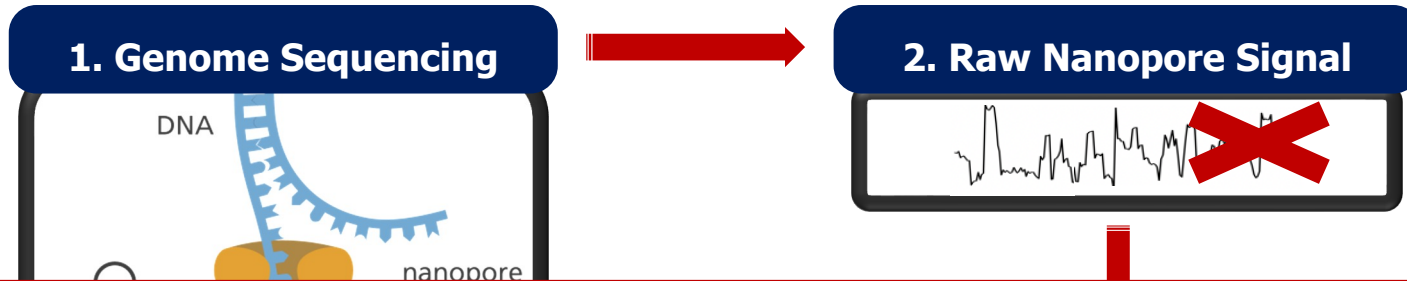
**Accurate analysis** from noisy raw signal data



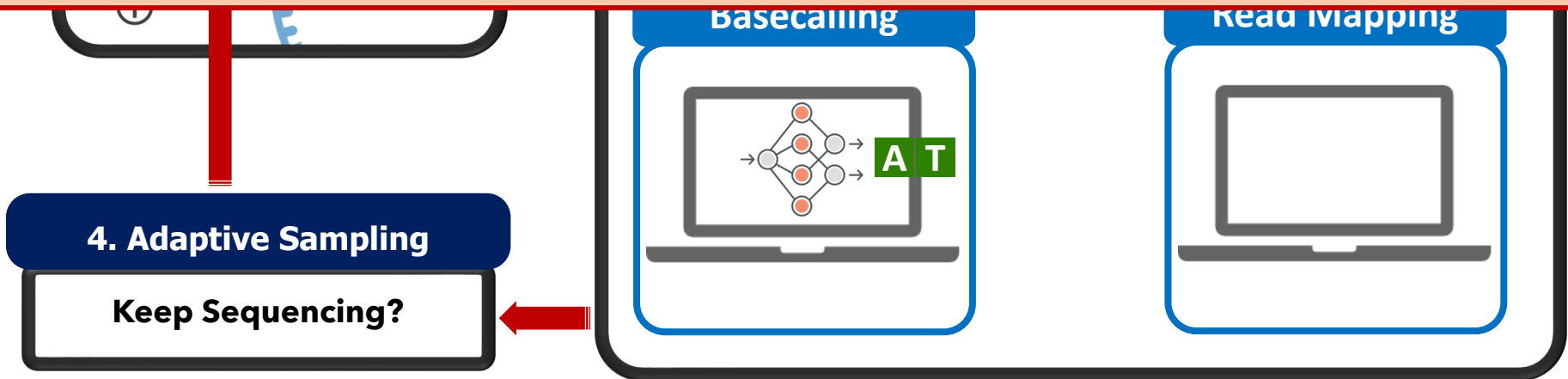
**Low-power** to enable portable sequencing and better scalability

# Solutions for Real-Time Analysis

1. Using deep neural networks (DNNs) to basecall and map reads

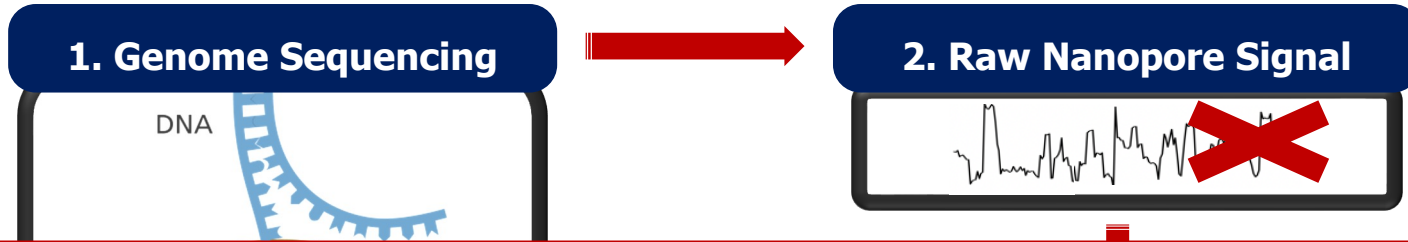


 **Costly and energy-hungry**  
computational resources are required



# Solutions for Real-Time Analysis

## 2. Mapping signals without basecalling



**Low-throughput or**



**Inaccurate analysis for large genomes**





# Outline

Background


Goal and Key Ideas

RawHash


Evaluation

Conclusions

# Goal




**Fast analysis** that can scale to large genomes



**Fast decisions** for adaptive sampling to reduce sequencing time and cost



**Accurate analysis** for large genomes



**Low-power** analysis that can be used with portable devices



# RawHash

The first mechanism that can **efficiently and accurately map** raw signals to **large genomes** using an efficient **hash-based search**

Proposes **Sequence Until**, a novel mechanism that can **decide in runtime** if further sequencing of reads is needed to **stop the entire sequencing process**

# Outline

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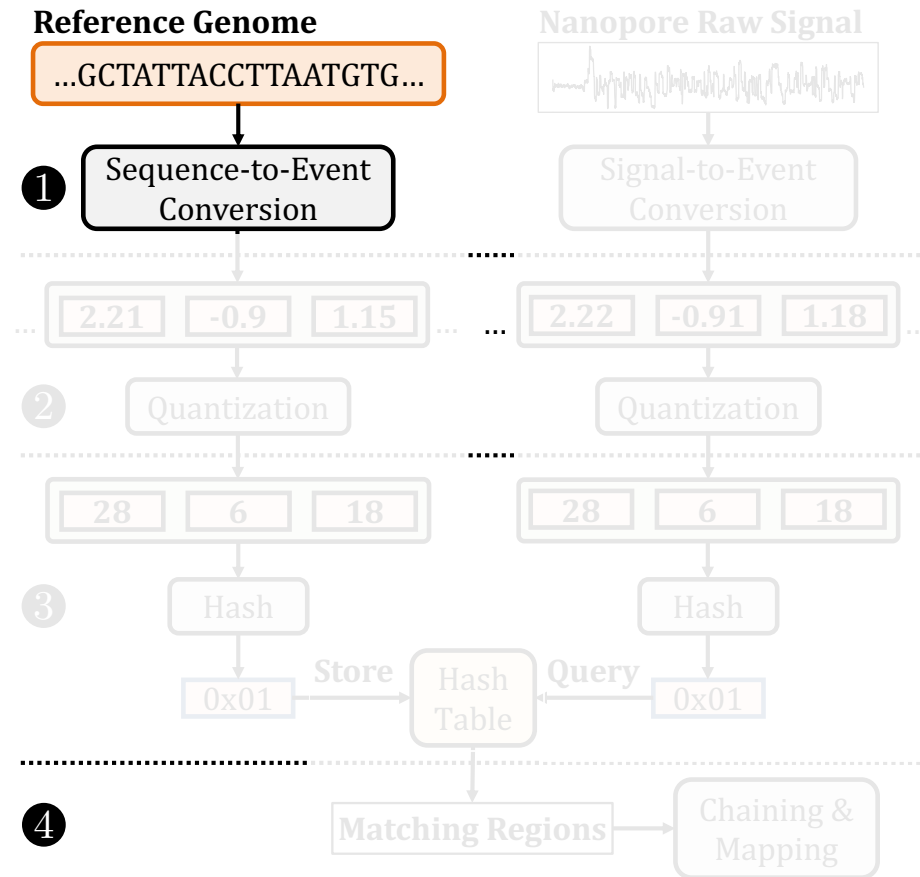
# RawHash Overview

## 1. Indexing (offline):

1. Convert the reference genome to its signal representation
2. Generate hash values from signals
3. Store hash values and their positions in a hash table

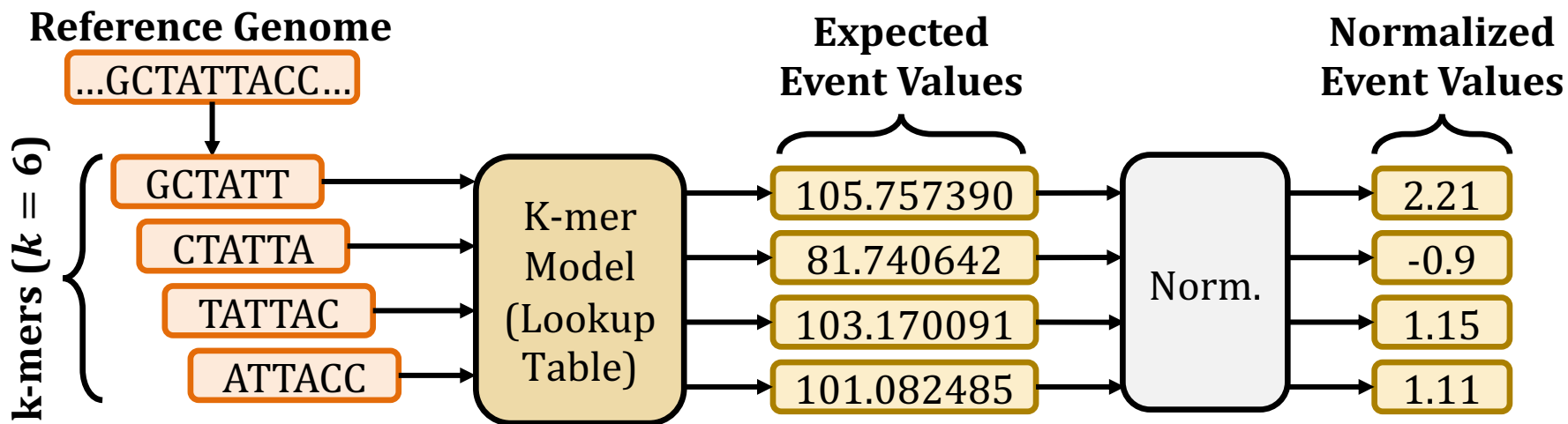
## 2. Mapping (real-time):

1. Generate hash values from raw nanopore signals
2. Use the hash table to find matching hash values between a reference genome and the nanopore raw signal
3. Mapping regions: Regions with a certain number of hash value matches



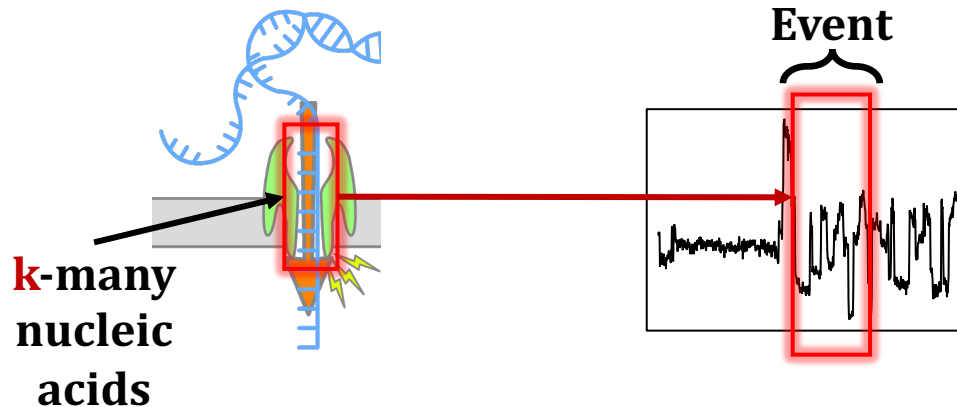
# Converting the Reference Sequences to Signals

- To offload the translation costs to the offline indexing step
- To enable utilizing the rich information in raw nanopore signals
- Key Steps:
  - **K-mer model: Expected** current readings after sequencing a **fixed k** number of nucleic acids (**k**-mers)
  - Utilize the lookup table to convert all **k**-mers of a reference genome to their expected values (**events**)



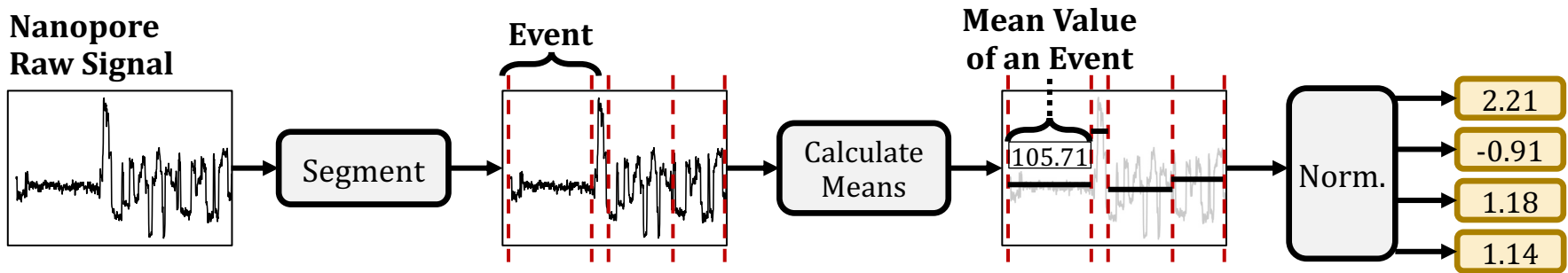
# Events in Raw Nanopore Signals

- **Event:** Series of current readings
  - Generated when sequencing a particular k-mer
  - **Next event:** DNA molecule is shifted by one nucleic acid, creating the next k-mer
- **Event detection** identifies regions of signals corresponding to the sequencing of certain **k**-mers in the DNA molecule
  - **Next event:** Abrupt signal changes between two consecutive k-mers



# Event Detection in Raw Nanopore Signals

- **Event detection** identifies regions of signals corresponding to the sequencing of certain k-mers in the DNA molecule
  - By performing a statistical test (**segmentation**) to identify the **abrupt changes** in the signal generated as molecules move through nanopores



- Observation: Nanopore sequencers **do not** generate **exactly the same signals** when sequencing the **same k-mer**
  - However, the signals are still **slightly similar** to each other
  - How can we leverage this?

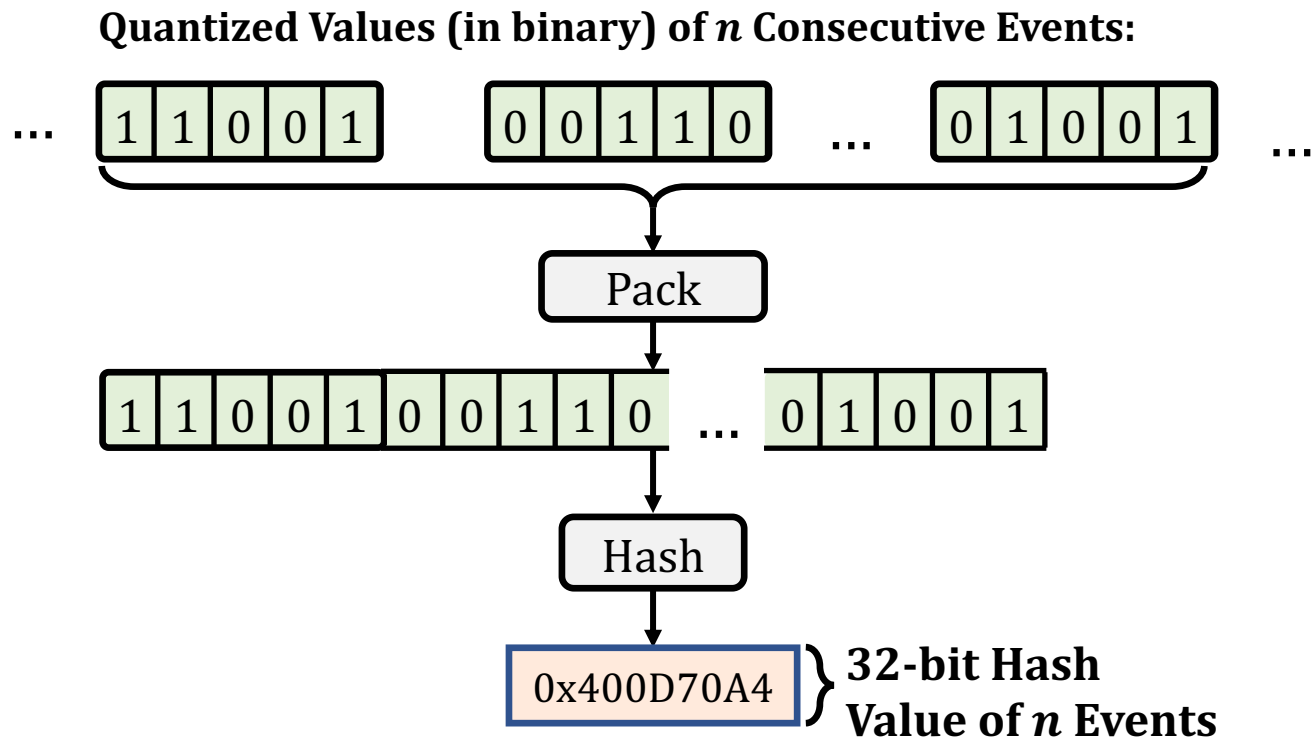


# Quantizing the Event Values

- **Goal:** Assign the same bucket (i.e., quantized values) to the similar event values
- **Key Steps:**
  1. Use the binary representations of event values (floating-point)
  2. Take the most significant Q bits (to quantize)
  3. Ignore the p bits in the middle (does not add much value)

# Hashing for Efficient Search

- **Goal:** Enable finding efficient similarity detection by accurately matching hash values between signals
  1. Pack the quantized values of *some* consecutive k-mers
  2. Hash the packed value to generate a hash value
  3. Use efficient data structures (e.g., hash tables) to identify regions with the similar event values by matching their hash values



# Outline

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Goal and Key Ideas

RawHash

Evaluation

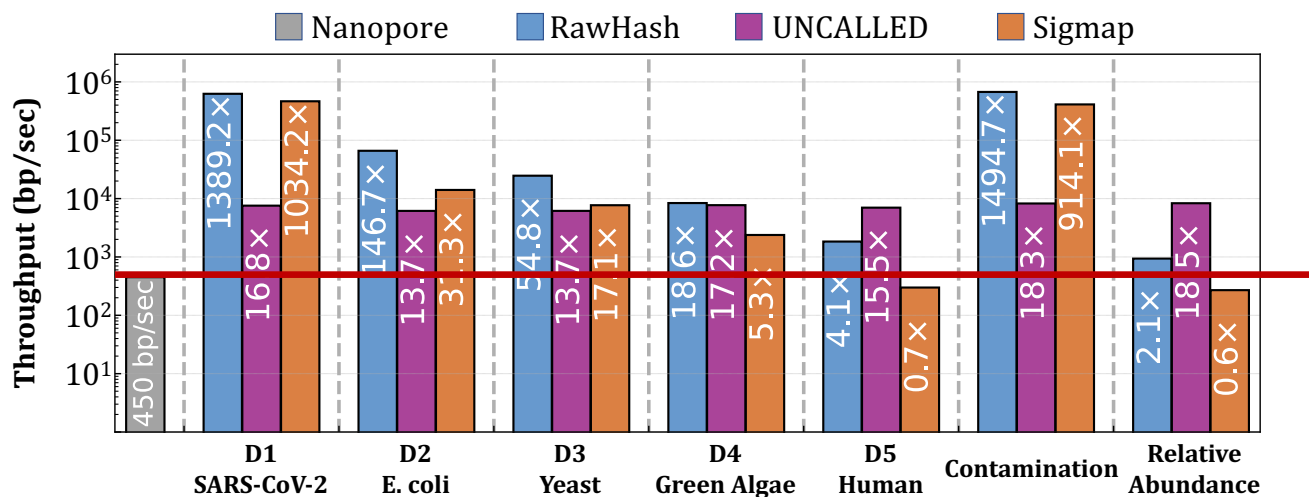
Conclusions

# Evaluation Methodology

- Datasets from very small (viral) to large genomes (human and metagenomics)
- Compared with UNCALLED and Sigmap
  - RawHash, UNCALLED, and Sigmap do not require powerful computational resources (e.g., GPUs) to achieve efficient and portable genome analysis
- Use cases
  1. Read mapping
  2. Relative abundance estimation
  3. Contamination analysis
- Benefits of Sequence Until

# Performance

- Throughput (bases per second)
  - Throughput of a nanopore sequencer: 450 bp/sec

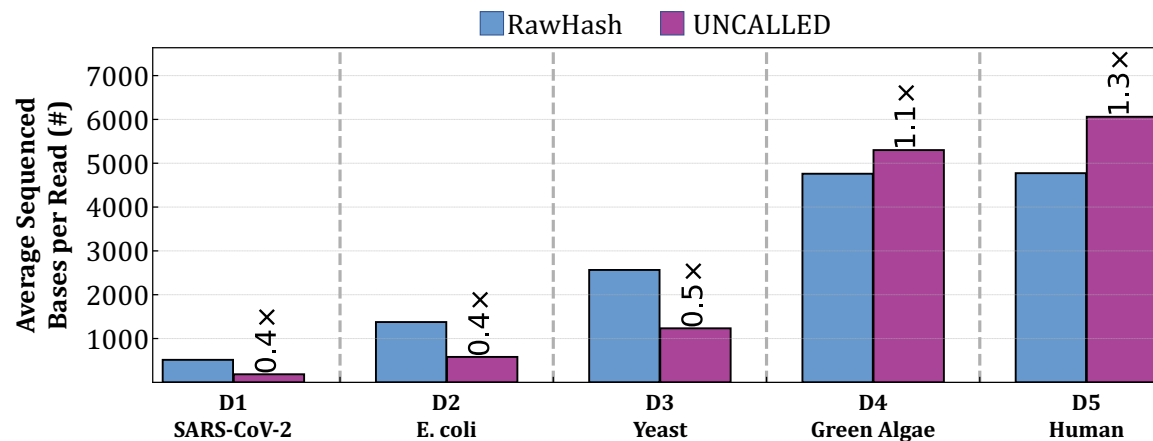


**Fast Analysis:** Both RawHash and UNCALLED can match the throughput of nanopore

**Sigmap falls behind** the throughput of nanopores for larger genomes

# Sequencing Time and Cost

- Number of bases that needs to be sequenced before making a decision to eject the read
  - Lower is better (cheaper and faster sequencing)



**Fast Decision:** RawHash reduces the sequencing time and cost for large genomes than UNCALLED

# Accuracy of Mapping

- Accuracy of genome analysis when mapping reads for three use cases

Dataset		UNCALLED	Sigmap	RawHash
Read Mapping				
D1	Precision	0.9547	<b>0.9929</b>	0.9868
SARS-CoV-2	Recall	<b>0.9910</b>	0.5540	0.8735
	$F_1$	<b>0.9725</b>	0.7112	0.9267
D2 <i>E. coli</i>	Precision	0.9816	<b>0.9842</b>	0.9573
	Recall	<b>0.9647</b>	0.9504	0.9009
	$F_1$	<b>0.9731</b>	0.9670	0.9282
D3 <i>Yeast</i>	Precision	0.9459	0.9856	<b>0.9862</b>
	Recall	<b>0.9366</b>	0.9123	0.8412
	$F_1$	0.9412	<b>0.9475</b>	0.9079
D4 <i>Green Algae</i>	Precision	0.8836	<b>0.9741</b>	0.9691
	Recall	0.7778	<b>0.8987</b>	0.7015
	$F_1$	0.8273	<b>0.9349</b>	0.8139
D5 <i>Human HG001</i>	Precision	0.4867	0.4287	<b>0.8959</b>
	Recall	0.2379	0.2641	<b>0.4054</b>
	$F_1$	0.3196	0.3268	<b>0.5582</b>

Dataset		UNCALLED	Sigmap	RawHash
Relative Abundance Estimation				
D1-D5	Precision	0.7683	0.7928	<b>0.9484</b>
	Recall	0.1273	0.2739	<b>0.3076</b>
	$F_1$	0.2184	0.4072	<b>0.4645</b>
Contamination Analysis				
D1, D5	Precision	<b>0.9378</b>	0.7856	0.8733
	Recall	<b>0.9910</b>	0.5540	0.8735
	$F_1$	<b>0.9637</b>	0.6498	0.8734

**Accurate Analysis:** RawHash provides the best accuracy for large genomes

# Relative Abundance Estimations

- Estimating the relative abundance of each genome compared to the baseline as generated by minimap2
  - Distance: Euclidean distance (L2-norm) compared to the ground truth distance

Tool	Estimated Relative Abundance Ratios					Distance
	<i>SARS-CoV-2</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Yeast</i>	<i>Green Algae</i>	<i>Human</i>	
Ground Truth	0.0929	0.4365	0.0698	0.1179	0.2828	N/A
UNCALLED	0.0026	0.5884	0.0615	0.1313	0.2161	0.1895
Sigmap	0.0419	0.4191	0.1038	0.0962	0.3390	0.0877
RawHash	0.1249	0.4701	0.0957	0.0629	0.2464	<b>0.0847</b>

**Accurate Analysis:** RawHash provides the relative abundance estimations closest to the ground truth



# The Sequence Until Mechanism

- **Key Insight:** Do we need to keep sequencing **the entire sample** for all applications in genome analysis?
- **Use case example:** Can we predict the relative abundance estimation by sequencing only a portion of the sample and still provide accurate results?
- **Potential Benefits:** Reduced sequencing time and costs by avoiding full sequencing

Tool	Estimated Relative Abundance Ratios					
	<i>SARS-CoV-2</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Yeast</i>	<i>Green Algae</i>	<i>Human</i>	Distance
Ground Truth	0.0929	0.4365	0.0698	0.1179	0.2828	N/A
UNCALLED (25%)	0.0026	0.5890	0.0613	0.1332	0.2139	0.1910
RawHash (25%)	0.0271	0.4853	0.0920	0.0786	0.3170	<b>0.0995</b>
UNCALLED (10%)	0.0026	0.5906	0.0611	0.1316	0.2141	0.1920
RawHash (10%)	0.0273	0.4869	0.0963	0.0772	0.3124	<b>0.1004</b>
UNCALLED (1%)	0.0026	0.5750	0.0616	0.1506	0.2103	0.1836
RawHash (1%)	0.0259	0.4783	0.0987	0.0882	0.3088	<b>0.0928</b>
UNCALLED (0.1%)	0.0040	0.4565	0.0380	0.1910	0.3105	0.1242
RawHash (0.1%)	0.0212	0.5045	0.1120	0.0810	0.2814	<b>0.1136</b>
UNCALLED (0.01%)	0.0000	0.5551	0.0000	0.0000	0.4449	0.2602
RawHash (0.01%)	0.0906	0.6122	0.0000	0.0000	0.2972	<b>0.2232</b>

# Benefits of Sequence Until

- Sequence Until mechanism **dynamically** analyzes the results of a genome analysis use case **to find outliers** in the analysis
- **If no outlier** in the previous estimations
  - Further sequencing is unlikely to change the analysis significantly
  - Stop the **entire sequencing**: Significant reduction in sequencing time and cost

Tool	Estimated Relative Abundance Ratios in 50,000 Random Reads					
	<i>SARS-CoV-2</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Yeast</i>	<i>Green Algae</i>	<i>Human</i>	Distance
RawHash (100%)	0.0270	0.3636	0.3062	0.1951	0.1081	N/A
RawHash + Sequence Until (7%)	0.0283	0.3539	0.3100	0.1946	0.1133	0.0118

**Sequence Until dynamically** stops the entire sequencing after sequencing **only 7% of the entire sample while providing high accuracy**

Sequencing only a portion of the sample significantly **reduces sequencing time and cost (~15x reduction)**

# Outline

Background

Goal and Key Ideas

RawHash

Evaluation

Conclusions

# RawHash Summary

**Problem** Performing real-time genome analysis is inaccurate and inefficient for large genomes, causing serious barriers in fully exploiting the opportunities in real-time genome analysis

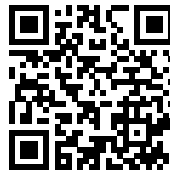
**Goal** Enable efficient and accurate similarity identification between raw signals

**RawHash**

- Encodes the similar signal values into the same quantized value to alleviate the noise issues in raw signals
- Generates hash values from quantized values to efficiently identify similarities between signals based on hash value matches
- Proposes Sequence Until that can accurately and dynamically stop the entire sequencing

**Key Results**

- Up to **2x more accurate** mapping results
- **25.8x and 3.4x better average throughput** compared to UNCALLED and Sigmap, respectively
- The Sequence Until techniques enables **reducing the**



- [Can Firtina](#), [Nika Mansouri Ghiasi](#), [Joel Lindegger](#), [Gagandeep Singh](#), [Meryem Banu Cavlak](#), [Haiyu Mao](#), and [Onur Mutlu](#),

## **"RawHash: Enabling Fast and Accurate Real-Time Analysis of Raw Nanopore Signals for Large Genomes"**

*Proceedings of the [31st Annual Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology \(ISMB\)](#) and the [22nd European Conference on Computational Biology \(ECCB\)](#), Jul 2023*

[\[arXiv preprint\]](#)

[\[Source Code\]](#)

*Bioinformatics*, 2023, 00, 11–i11  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btad272>  
ISMB/ECCB 2023

OXFORD

## **RawHash: enabling fast and accurate real-time analysis of raw nanopore signals for large genomes**

**[Can Firtina](#) <sup>1,\*</sup>, [Nika Mansouri Ghiasi](#) <sup>1</sup>, [Joel Lindegger](#) <sup>1</sup>, [Gagandeep Singh](#) <sup>1</sup>,  
[Meryem Banu Cavlak](#) <sup>1</sup>, [Haiyu Mao](#) <sup>1</sup>, [Onur Mutlu](#) <sup>1,\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, ETH Zurich, 8092 Zurich, Switzerland

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E-mail: [firtinac@ethz.ch](mailto:firtinac@ethz.ch) (C.F.), [omutlu@ethz.ch](mailto:omutlu@ethz.ch) (O.M.)

# RawHash Source Code



CMU-SAFARI / RawHash Public

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canfirtina	Fixing the outdated link for d3_yeast_r94	fab4f59 2 weeks ago	12 commits
extern	ZSTD submodule for POD5		2 months ago
gitfigures	Initial code		4 months ago
src	Linking pthread and std c++		last month
test	Fixing the outdated link for d3_yeast_r94		2 weeks ago
.gitignore	POD5 support		2 months ago
.gitmodules	ZSTD submodule for POD5		2 months ago
LICENSE	Initial code		4 months ago
Makefile	Initial code		4 months ago
README.md	POD5 support		2 months ago
code_of_conduct.md	Moving to multiple headers than a single one to improve adaptability...		3 months ago

README.md

## RawHash

RawHash is a hash-based mechanism to map raw nanopore signals to a reference genome in real-time. To achieve this, it 1) generates an index from the reference genome and 2) efficiently and accurately maps the raw signals to the reference genome such that it can match the throughput of nanopore sequencing even when analyzing large genomes (e.g., human genome).

Below figure shows the overview of the steps that RawHash takes to find matching regions between a reference genome and a raw nanopore signal.

Reference Genome: ...GCTATTAGCTTAATGTG...  
Nanopore Raw Signal: ...GCTATTAGCTTAATGTG...

### About

RawHash is the first mechanism that can accurately and efficiently map raw nanopore signals to large reference genomes (e.g., a human reference genome) in real-time without using powerful computational resources (e.g., GPUs). Described by Firtina et al. (preliminary version at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.01.22.525080v1>)

[www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023...](https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023...)

- bioinformatics
- nanopore
- seeding
- segmentation
- event-detection
- genome-analysis
- hash-tables
- contamination
- read-mapping
- relative-abundances
- nanopore-sequencing
- nanopore-analysis-pipeline
- nanopore-reads
- nanopore-data
- nanopore-minion
- raw-signal
- rawhash
- raw-nanopore-signal-analysis

Readme  
GPL-3.0 license  
Code of conduct  
8 stars  
5 watching  
1 fork  
Report repository

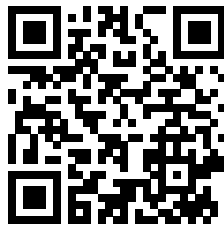
<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/RawHash>



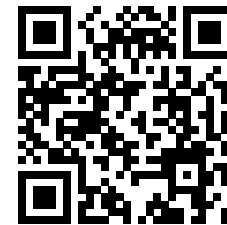
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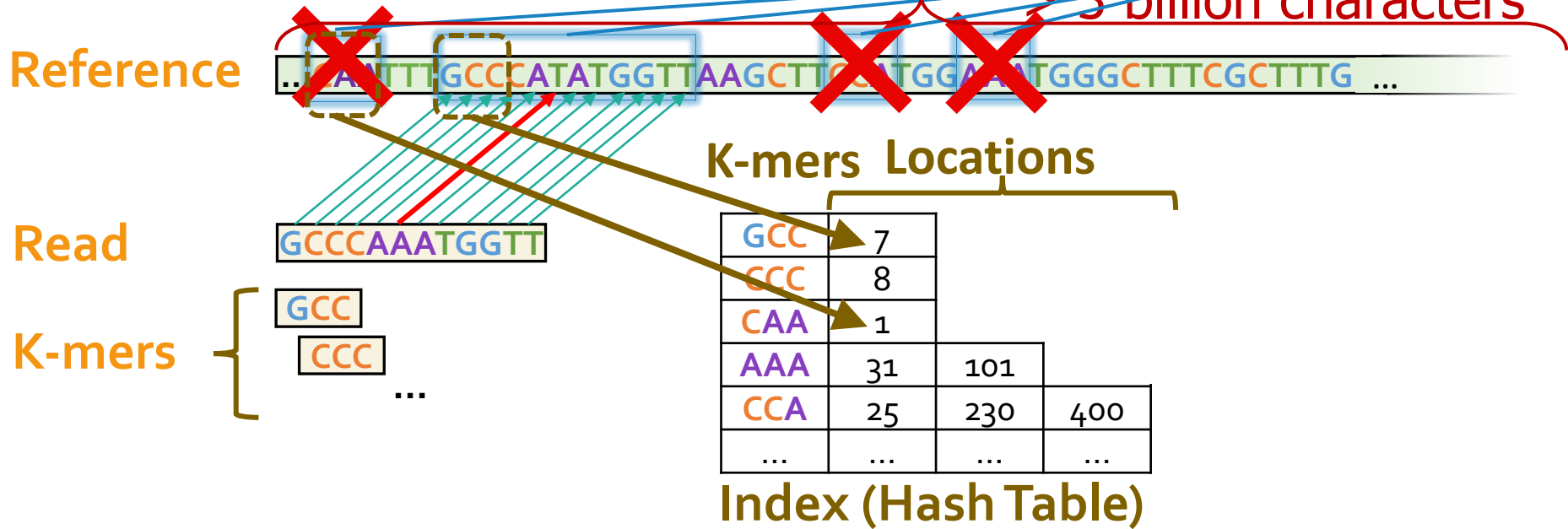


[Source Code](#)

# Backup Slides



# Practical Similarity Identification Seeds



Seeding	Determine potential matching regions (seeds) in the reference genome
Seed Filtering (e.g., Chaining)	Prune some seeds in the reference genome
Alignment	Determine the exact differences between the read and the reference genome

# Sequencing Time and Cost Reductions

<b>Tool</b>	<b><i>SARS-CoV-2</i></b>	<b><i>E. coli</i></b>	<b><i>Yeast</i></b>	<b><i>Green Algae</i></b>	<b><i>Human</i></b>
Average sequenced base length per read					
UNCALLED	<b>184.51</b>	<b>580.52</b>	<b>1,233.20</b>	5,300.15	6,060.23
RawHash	513.95	1,376.14	2,565.09	<b>4,760.59</b>	<b>4,773.58</b>
Average sequenced number of chunks per read					
Sigmap	<b>1.01</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>4.14</b>	<b>5.76</b>	<b>10.40</b>
RawHash	1.24	3.20	5.83	10.72	10.70

# Profiling the RawHash Steps

Tool	Fraction of entire runtime (%)				
	<i>SARS-CoV-2</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Yeast</i>	<i>Green Algae</i>	<i>Human</i>
File I/O	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Signal-to-Event	21.75	1.86	1.01	0.53	0.02
Sketching	0.74	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.00
Seeding	3.86	4.14	3.52	6.70	5.39
Chaining	73.50	93.92	95.42	92.43	94.46
Seeding + Chaining	77.36	98.06	98.94	99.14	99.86

# Required Computation Resources in Indexing

<b>Tool</b>	<b><i>Contamination</i></b>	<b><i>SARS-CoV-2</i></b>	<b><i>E. coli</i></b>	<b><i>Yeast</i></b>	<b><i>Green Algae</i></b>	<b><i>Human</i></b>	<b><i>Relative Abundance</i></b>
CPU Time (sec)							
UNCALLED	8.72	9.00	11.08	18.62	285.88	4,148.10	4,382.38
Sigmap	0.02	0.04	8.66	24.57	449.29	36,765.24	40,926.76
RawHash	0.18	0.13	2.62	4.48	34.18	1,184.42	788.88
Real time (sec)							
UNCALLED	1.01	1.04	2.67	7.79	280.27	4,190.00	4,471.82
Sigmap	0.13	0.25	9.31	25.86	458.46	37,136.61	41,340.16
RawHash	0.14	0.10	1.70	2.06	15.82	278.69	154.68
Peak memory (GB)							
UNCALLED	0.07	0.07	0.13	0.31	11.96	48.44	47.81
Sigmap	0.01	0.01	0.40	1.04	8.63	227.77	238.32
RawHash	0.01	0.01	0.35	0.76	5.33	83.09	152.80

# Required Computation Resources in Mapping

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Contamination</b>	<b>SARS-CoV-2</b>	<b><i>E. coli</i></b>	<b><i>Yeast</i></b>	<b><i>Green Algae</i></b>	<b><i>Human</i></b>	<b>Relative Abundance</b>
CPU Time (sec)							
UNCALLED	265,902.26	36,667.26	35,821.14	8,933.52	16,769.09	262,597.83	586,561.54
Sigmap	4,573.18	1,997.84	23,894.70	11,168.96	31,544.55	4,837,058.90	11,027,652.91
RawHash	3,721.62	1,832.56	8,212.17	4,906.70	25,215.23	2,022,521.48	4,738,961.77
Real time (sec)							
UNCALLED	20,628.57	2,794.76	1,544.68	285.42	2,138.91	8,794.30	19,409.71
Sigmap	6,725.26	3,222.32	2,067.02	1,167.08	2,398.83	158,904.69	361,443.88
RawHash	3,917.49	1,949.53	957.13	215.68	1,804.96	65,411.43	152,280.26
Peak memory (GB)							
UNCALLED	0.65	0.19	0.52	0.37	0.81	9.46	9.10
Sigmap	111.69	28.26	111.11	14.65	29.18	311.89	489.89
RawHash	4.13	4.20	4.16	4.37	11.75	52.21	55.31

# Average Mapping Time per Read

