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GateKeeper-GPU Fast and Accurate Pre-Alignment Filtering in Short Read Mapping

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At the last step of short read mapping, the candidate locations of the reads on the reference genome are verified to compute their differences from the corresponding reference segments using sequence alignment algorithms. Calculating the similarities and differences between two sequences is still computationally expensive since approximate string matching techniques traditionally inherit dynamic programming algorithms with quadratic time and space complexity. We introduce GateKeeper-GPU, a fast and accurate pre-alignment filter that efficiently reduces the need for expensive sequence alignment. GateKeeper-GPU provides two main contributions: first, improving the filtering accuracy of GateKeeper(state-of-the-art lightweight pre-alignment filter), second, exploiting the massive parallelism provided by the large number of GPU threads of modern GPUs to examine numerous sequence pairs rapidly and concurrently. GateKeeper-GPU accelerates the sequence alignment by up to 2.9x and provides up to 1.4x speedup to the end-to-end execution time of a comprehensive read mapper (mrFAST). GateKeeper-GPU is available at this https URL

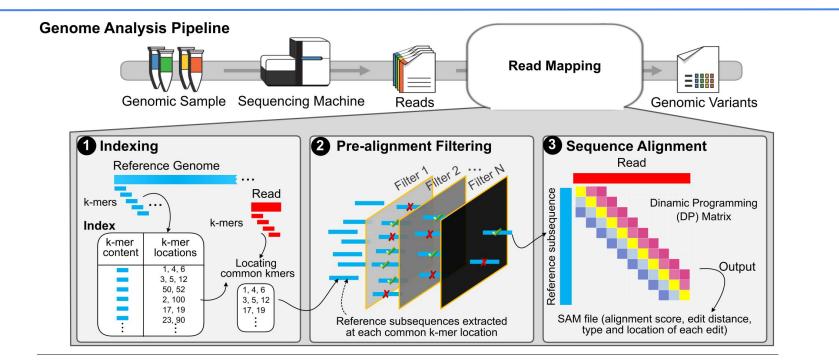




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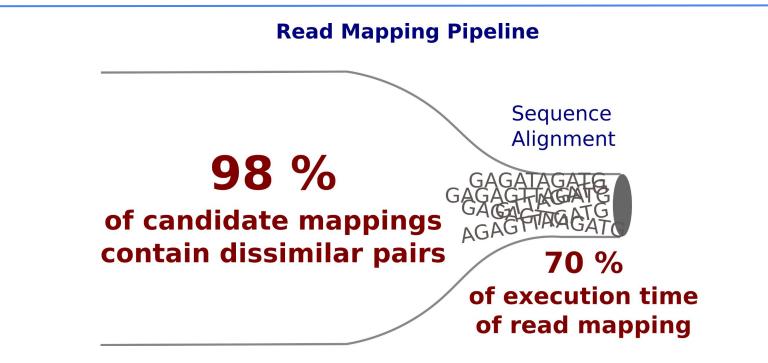
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Problem Statement



(Alser et al., 2020)

Sequence alignment is a bottleneck



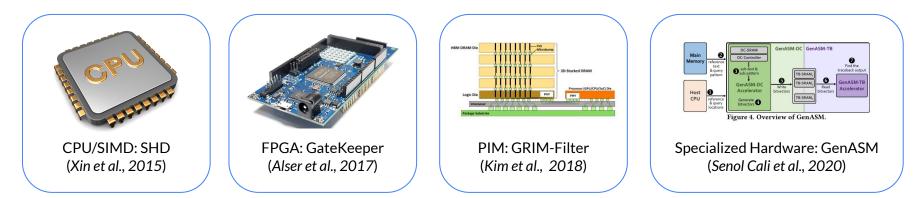
Time- and space- efficient sequence alignment is crucial

Reducing the need for sequence alignment

Our Aim:

Eliminate the candidate sequence pairs that contain more edits than a predefined error threshold with a fast and accurate filter

Hardware Accelerated Filter Design



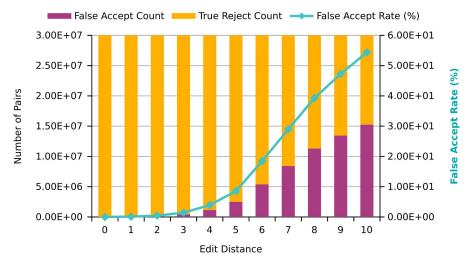
- Filtering algorithm: GateKeeper
 - Accurate
 - Lightweight bitwise operations: Suitable for hardware acceleration
- Target Platform: Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)
 - Ideal for throughput-critical work
 - Economically more viable
 - GPU codebase is more **flexible**

GateKeeper-GPU

- Improved GateKeeper algorithm with **better accuracy**
- Adapted it to GPU with CUDA framework: High level of data parallelism
 - Intra-sequence processing
 - Each CUDA thread retrieves one candidate reference segment and read pair
 - Single GPU thread \rightarrow One GateKeeper Operation
 - Inter-sequence parallelism
 - Many CUDA blocks are executed at once
 - Multi-GPU support
- Integrated with full short read mapper mrFAST (Alkan et al., 2009)
- Provided comprehensive analyses using two different GPU architectures

Key Results: Filtering Accuracy

mrFAST Candidate Mappings

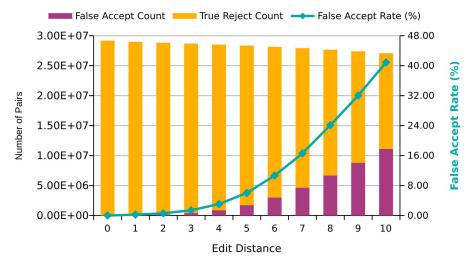


Sequence pairs with read length 100bp.

GateKeeper-GPU can reject more than 90% of false candidate mappings with less than 10% false accept ratio

Key Results: Filtering Accuracy (Cont'd.)

minimap2 Candidate Mappings

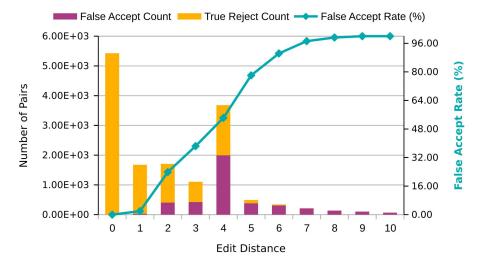


Sequence pairs with read length 100bp.

GateKeeper-GPU can eliminate all dissimilar candidate mappings in exact matching

Key Results: Filtering Accuracy (Cont'd.)

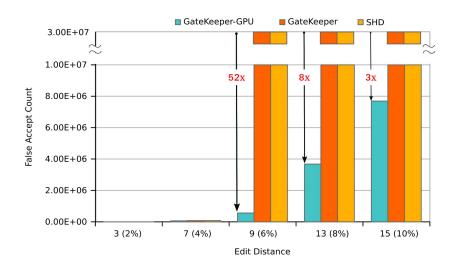
BWA-MEM Candidate Mappings



Sequence pairs with read length 100bp.

GateKeeper-GPU can eliminate up to 98% of false candidate mappings

Key Results: Filtering Accuracy (Cont'd.)

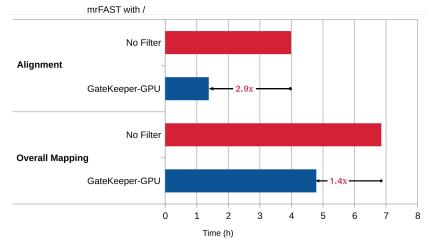


Sequence pairs with read length 150bp.

GateKeeper-GPU produces up to **52x less** false accepted pairs compared to GateKeeper

Key Results: Performance

Integrated into mrFAST (Alkan et al., 2009) with single GPU



Time taken for mrFAST procedures for read length 100bp.

GateKeeper-GPU can accelerate alignment step up to 2.9x

overall mapping procedure up to 1.4x

Executive Summary

- **Problem**: Comparing sequence pairs in read mapping is a computationally-costly procedure.
- **Observation**: Applying dynamic programming algorithms for the alignment step creates a bottleneck for read mapping pipeline.
- **Goal**: Reducing the workload on sequence alignment with a fast and accurate pre-alignment filter
- Key Results:
 - Significantly reducing the number of sequence pairs to be compared with dynamic programming algorithms
 - Correctly eliminating more sequence pairs than GateKeeper.
 - Providing 2.9x speedup to alignment stage, and 1.4x speedup to overall mapping procedure.

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