

# Aligning Short Reads with BWA-SW

When you select the *Tools > Align to reference > Align short reads* item in the main menu, the *Align Sequencing Reads* dialog appears. Set value of the *Align short reads method* parameter to *BWA-SW*. The dialog looks as follows:

There are the following parameters:

*Reference sequence* — DNA sequence to align short reads to. This parameter is required.

*Result file name* — file in SAM format to write the result of the alignment into. This parameter is required.

*Prebuilt index* — check this box to use an index file instead of a source reference sequence. Also you can [build it manually](#).

*SAM output* — always save the output file in the SAM format (the option is disabled for *BWA*).

*Short reads* — each added short read is a small DNA sequence file. At least one read should be added.

You can also configure other parameters.

*Score for a match (-a)* — score of a match.

*Mismatch penalty (-b)* — mismatch penalty.

*Gap open penalty (-q)* — gap open penalty.

*Gap extension penalty (-r)* — Gap extension penalty. The penalty for a contiguous gap of size  $k$  is  $q+k*r$ .

*Band width (-w)* - Band width in the banded alignment.

*Mask level (-c)* - Coefficient for threshold adjustment according to query length. Given an  $l$ -long query, the threshold for a hit to be retained is  $a*\max\{T, c*\log(l)\}$ .

*Number of threads (-t)* - Number of threads in the multi-threading mode.

*Size of chunk of reads (-s)* - Maximum SA interval size for initiating a seed. Higher  $-s$  increases accuracy at the cost of speed.

*Score threshold (divided by much score) (-T)* - minimum score threshold.

*Z-best (-z)* - Z-best heuristics. Higher  $-z$  increases accuracy at the cost of speed.

*Number of seeds to start rev alignment (-N)* - Minimum number of seeds supporting the resultant alignment to skip reverse alignment.

*Prefer hard clipping in SAM output (-H)* - use hard clipping in the SAM output. This option may dramatically reduce the redundancy of output when mapping long contig or BAC sequences.

Select the required parameters and press the *Start* button.