

# Supplementary Material for “JUMPER Enables Discontinuous Transcript Assembly in Coronaviruses”

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## A Likelihood Model for DISCONTINUOUS TRANSCRIPT ASSEMBLY

We use the segment graph  $G$  to compute the probability  $\Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  of observing the alignment  $\mathcal{R}$  given transcripts  $\mathcal{T}$  and abundances  $\mathbf{c}$ . We follow the generative model described in [1], which has been extensively used for transcription quantification [2–4]. Let the set  $\mathcal{R}$  of reads be  $\{1, \dots, r_n\}$  and the set  $\mathcal{T}$  of transcripts be  $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, \dots, T_k\}$  with lengths  $L_1, \dots, L_k$  and abundances  $\mathbf{c} = [c_1, \dots, c_k]$ . In line with current literature, reads  $\mathcal{R}$  are generated independently from transcripts  $\mathcal{T}$  with abundances  $\mathbf{c}$ . Further, we must marginalize over the set of transcripts  $\mathcal{T}$  as the transcript of origin of any given read is typically unknown, due to  $\ell \ll L$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) &= \prod_{j=1}^n \Pr(r_j \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^k \Pr(r_j, Z_{i,j} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^k \Pr(r_j \mid Z_{i,j}) \Pr(Z_{i,j} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}),\end{aligned}$$

where  $Z_{i,j}$  is the indicator random variable for the event that  $T_i$  is the transcript of origin for read  $r_j$ . We denote by  $\Pr(r_j \mid Z_{i,j})$  the probability of observing read  $r_j$  given that it is generated from transcript  $T_i$  and  $\Pr(Z_{i,j} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  denotes the probability of generating a read from transcript  $T_i$  given transcripts  $\mathcal{T}$  and abundances  $\mathbf{c}$ .

Assuming no amplification and sequencing bias, the probability  $\Pr(Z_{i,j} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  of generating a read from a transcript  $T_i$  of length  $L_i$  is given by

$$\Pr(Z_{i,j} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) = \frac{c_i L_i}{\sum_{j=1}^k c_j L_j}.$$

We now derive the probability  $\Pr(r_j \mid Z_{i,j})$  of transcript  $T_i$  generating read  $r_j$  of fixed length  $\ell$ . We do so using the segment graph  $G = (V, E)$ . Recall that a transcript  $T$  must correspond to an  $\mathbf{s}$  to  $\mathbf{t}$  path in  $G$ . Let  $\pi(T) \subseteq E$  denote the path corresponding to transcript  $T$ . Similarly, each read  $r$  induces a path  $\pi(r) \subseteq E$  in  $G$ . Read  $r$  can only be generated by transcript  $T$  if  $\pi(r) \subseteq \pi(T)$ . Hence, the probability of transcript  $T_i$  generating a given read  $r_j$  is given by

$$\Pr(r_j \mid Z_{i,j}) = \begin{cases} 1/L'_i, & \text{if } \pi(r_j) \subseteq \pi(T_i), \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $L'_i = L_i - \ell$  is the *effective length* of the transcript. We assume that the transcripts are much longer

than the reads and as such  $L'_i/L_i \approx 1$ . Putting it all together we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, c) &= \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^k \Pr(r_j \mid Z_{i,j}) \Pr(Z_{i,j} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\mathbf{1}\{\pi(r_j) \subseteq \pi(T_i)\}}{L'_i} \cdot \frac{c_i L_i}{\sum_{b=0}^k c_b L_b} \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{i: \pi(T_i) \supseteq \pi(r_j)} \frac{1}{L'_i} \cdot \frac{c_i L_i}{\sum_{b=0}^k c_b L_b} \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{\sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b} \sum_{i: \pi(T_i) \supseteq \pi(r_j)} c_i \frac{L_i}{L'_i} \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{\sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b} \sum_{i: \pi(T_i) \supseteq \pi(r_j)} c_i.
\end{aligned}$$

## B Supplementary Methods

### B.1 Recharacterization of solutions using discontinuous edges

We prove the following two main text propositions.

**(Main Text) Proposition 1.** There is a bijection between subsets of discontinuous edges that are pairwise non-overlapping and  $s - t$  paths in  $G$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\Pi$  be the set of  $s - t$  paths in  $G$ . We indicate with  $\Sigma$  the family of subsets of discontinuous edges that are pairwise non-overlapping. Note that  $\Sigma \subseteq 2^{E^\curvearrowright}$ .

For an  $s - t$  path  $\pi \in \Pi$ , let  $f(\pi)$  be the set of discontinuous edges in  $\pi$ , *i.e.*  $f(\pi) = \pi \cap E^\curvearrowright$ . Since  $\pi$  is an  $s - t$  path of  $G$ , we have that for each edge  $(\mathbf{v} = [v^-, v^+], \mathbf{w} = [w^-, w^+]) \in \pi$  it holds that  $v^+ \leq w^-$ . Therefore,  $f(\pi)$  is composed of pairwise non-overlapping disconnected edges.

Now, consider a subset  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  of discontinuous edges that are pairwise non-overlapping. We obtain the corresponding  $s - t$  path  $f^{-1}(\sigma)$  by first ordering the edges of  $\sigma$  in ascending order. That is, let  $\sigma = \{(\mathbf{v}_1 = [v_1^-, v_1^+], \mathbf{w}_1 = [w_1^-, w_1^+]), \dots, (\mathbf{v}_{|\sigma|} = [v_{|\sigma|}^-, v_{|\sigma|}^+], \mathbf{w}_{|\sigma|} = [w_{|\sigma|}^-, w_{|\sigma|}^+])\}$  such that  $w_i^+ \leq v_{i+1}^-$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, |\sigma| - 1\}$ . For every two consecutive discontinuous edges  $(\mathbf{v}_i = [v_i^-, v_i^+], \mathbf{w}_i = [w_i^-, w_i^+])$  and  $(\mathbf{v}_{i+1} = [v_{i+1}^-, v_{i+1}^+], \mathbf{w}_{i+1} = [w_{i+1}^-, w_{i+1}^+])$ , we include the corresponding subpath of continuous edges from  $\mathbf{w}_i$  to  $\mathbf{v}_{i+1}$  into  $f^{-1}(\sigma)$ . In addition, we include the subpath of continuous edges from node  $s$  to node  $\mathbf{v}_1$  as well as the subpath from node  $\mathbf{w}_{|\sigma|}$  to  $t$  into  $f^{-1}(\sigma)$ . By construction,  $f^{-1}(\sigma)$  is an  $s - t$  path.  $\square$

**(Main Text) Proposition 2.** Let  $G$  be a segment graph,  $T$  be a transcript and  $r$  be a read. Then,  $\pi(T) \supseteq \pi(r)$  if and only if  $\sigma(T) \supseteq \sigma^\oplus(r)$  and  $\sigma(T) \cap \sigma^\ominus(r) = \emptyset$ .

*Proof. (⇒)* By the premise,  $\pi(T) \supseteq \pi(r)$ . By definition,  $\sigma(T) = \pi(T) \cap E^\curvearrowright$ . By Definition 4 from the main text,  $\sigma^\oplus(r) = \pi(r) \cap E^\curvearrowright$ . As  $\pi(T) \supseteq \pi(r)$ , we have that  $\sigma(T) = \pi(T) \cap E^\curvearrowright \supseteq \pi(r) \cap E^\curvearrowright = \sigma^\oplus(r)$ . By definition,  $\sigma^\ominus(r)$  is the subset of discontinuous edges in  $E^\curvearrowright \setminus \sigma^\oplus(r)$  that overlaps with an edge in  $\pi(r)$ . Since  $\pi(T) \supseteq \pi(r)$ , every edge included in  $\sigma^\ominus(r)$  because of an overlap with an edge in  $\pi(r)$  must also overlap with the same edge in  $\pi(T)$ . Since  $\pi(T)$  is an  $s - t$  path, and thus does not contain pairwise overlapping edges, we infer that  $\sigma^\ominus(r) \cap \sigma(T) = \emptyset$ .

*(⇐)* By the premise,  $\sigma(T) \supseteq \sigma^\oplus(r)$  and  $\sigma(T) \cap \sigma^\ominus(r) = \emptyset$ . As  $\sigma(T) \supseteq \sigma^\oplus(r)$ , we have that  $\pi(T) \cap E^\curvearrowright = \sigma(T) \supseteq \sigma^\oplus(r) = \pi(r) \cap E^\curvearrowright$ . Since  $\sigma(T) \cap \sigma^\ominus(r) = \emptyset$ , we have by Definition 4 from the main text, that no discontinuous edge in  $\sigma(T)$  overlaps with any edge in  $\pi(r)$ . Since  $\pi(T)$  is an  $s - t$  path containing the subset  $\sigma^\oplus(r)$  of discontinuous edges in  $\pi(r)$ , it holds that  $\pi(T) \cap E^\rightarrow \supseteq \pi(r) \cap E^\rightarrow$ . Finally, as  $E^\curvearrowright \cup E^\rightarrow = E$ ,  $\pi(r) \subseteq E$  and  $\pi(T) \subseteq E$ , we get  $\pi(T) \supseteq \pi(r)$ .  $\square$

Using this proposition, we derive a simpler form of the likelihood given in Equation 2 in the main text. Let  $\mathcal{S} = \{(\sigma_1^\oplus, \sigma_1^\ominus), \dots, (\sigma_m^\oplus, \sigma_m^\ominus)\}$  be the set of characteristic discontinuous edges generated by the reads in alignment  $\mathcal{R}$ . Let  $\mathbf{d} = \{d_1, \dots, d_m\}$  be the number of reads that map to each pair in  $\mathcal{S}$ . Using that distinct reads  $r_j$  and  $r_{j'}$  with the same characteristic discontinuous edges  $(\sigma^\oplus(r_j), \sigma^\ominus(r_j)) = (\sigma^\oplus(r_{j'}), \sigma^\ominus(r_{j'}))$  have the same likelihood in terms of Equation 2 in the main text, we have

$$\Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) = \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{\sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b} \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i = \prod_{j=1}^m \left( \frac{1}{\sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b} \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right)^{d_j}. \quad (12)$$

Now, taking the logarithm yields

$$\begin{aligned} \log \Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) &= \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \left( \log \left( \frac{1}{\sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b} \right) + \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right) \\ &= - \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \left( \log \sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b \right) + \sum_{j=1}^m \left( d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^m \left( d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right) - n \log \sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The goal is the remove the second sum in the above equation, as it is convex and we are maximizing. In order to do so, we first prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.** For any given scaling factor  $\alpha > 0$ , we have that  $\log \Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) = \log \Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \alpha \mathbf{c})$ .

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}
\log \Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \alpha \mathbf{c}) &= \sum_{j=1}^m \left( d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} \alpha c_i \right) - n \log \sum_{b=1}^k \alpha c_b L_b \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^m \left( d_j \log \left( \alpha \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right) \right) - n \log \alpha \sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \log \alpha + \sum_{j=1}^m \left( d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right) - n \log \alpha - n \log \sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b \\
&= n \log \alpha + \sum_{j=1}^m \left( d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right) - n \log \alpha - n \log \sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^m \left( d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i \right) - n \log \sum_{b=1}^k c_b L_b \\
&= \log \Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}).
\end{aligned}$$

□

This enables us to prove the following lemma.

**(Main Text) Lemma 1.** Let  $D > 0$  be a constant,  $\bar{c}_i(\mathbf{c}) = c_i D / \sum_{j=1}^k c_j L_j$  and  $c_i(\bar{\mathbf{c}}) = \bar{c}_i / \sum_{j=1}^k \bar{c}_j$  for all  $i \in [k]$ . Then,  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c} = [c_1(\bar{\mathbf{c}}), \dots, c_k(\bar{\mathbf{c}})])$  is an optimal solution for Eq. (3)-(6) from the main text if and only if  $(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}} = [\bar{c}_1(\mathbf{c}), \dots, \bar{c}_k(\mathbf{c})])$  is an optimal solution for

$$\max_{\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}} \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} \bar{c}_i \tag{14}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \pi(T_i) \text{ is an } \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{t} \text{ path in the segment graph } G \quad \forall i \in [k], \tag{15}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^k \bar{c}_i L_i = D, \tag{16}$$

$$\bar{c}_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in [k]. \tag{17}$$

*Proof.* We will refer to the optimization problem in Eq. (3)-(6) from the main text as  $P$  and the optimization problem in Eq. (14)-(17) as  $Q$ . Further, we will refer to the objective function in Eq. (3) from the main text

as  $J(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  and the objective function in (14) as  $K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$ . Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) &= \log \Pr(\mathcal{R} \mid \mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) + n \log \sum_{b=1}^k \bar{c}_b L_b \\ &= J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) + n \log \sum_{b=1}^k \bar{c}_b L_b, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where the last equality uses (13).

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  be an optimal solution to problem  $P$ . We begin by showing that  $(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$  is a feasible solution to  $Q$  where  $\bar{\mathbf{c}} = [\bar{c}_1(\mathbf{c}), \dots, \bar{c}_k(\mathbf{c})]$ . By definition of  $\bar{c}_i(\mathbf{c})$ , constraints Eq. (16) are satisfied. Hence,  $(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$  is a feasible solution to problem  $Q$ .

We now show that if  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  is an optimal solution to problem  $P$ , then  $(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$  is an optimal solution to problem  $Q$ . Let  $(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}')$  be an optimal solution to problem  $Q$ . Then, by optimality of  $(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}')$ , we have

$$K(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}') \geq K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}). \quad (19)$$

Let  $\mathbf{c}' = [c_1(\bar{\mathbf{c}}'), \dots, c_k(\bar{\mathbf{c}}')]$ . Note that  $\mathbf{c}'$  satisfies constraints in Eq. (5). Thus  $(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}')$  is a feasible solution to problem  $P$ . Since  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  is an optimal solution of  $P$ , we have

$$J(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) \geq J(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}'). \quad (20)$$

Since  $\mathbf{c}'$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}'$  only differ by a positive scaling factor  $\alpha = 1 / \sum_{i=1}^k \bar{c}'_i$ , we use Lemma 1 to get  $J(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}') = J(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}')$ . Similar result holds for  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}$ , *i.e.*  $J(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) = J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$ . Applying this to (20), we get

$$J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) \geq J(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}').$$

Using (16) and (18), we get

$$\begin{aligned} J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) &\geq J(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}') \\ \implies K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) - n \log \sum_{b=1}^k \bar{c}_b L_b &\geq K(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}') - n \log \sum_{b=1}^k \bar{c}'_b L_b \\ \implies K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) - n \log D &\geq K(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}') - n \log D \\ \implies K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) &\geq K(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}'). \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Finally, using (19) and (21), we get  $K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) = K(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}')$ . Hence,  $(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$  is an optimal solution of  $Q$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let  $(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$  be an optimal solution to problem  $Q$ . We begin by showing that  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  is a feasible solution to  $P$  where  $\mathbf{c} = [c_1(\bar{\mathbf{c}}), \dots, c_k(\bar{\mathbf{c}})]$ . By definition of  $c_i(\bar{\mathbf{c}})$ , constraints in Eq. (5) of the main text are satisfied. Hence,  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  is a feasible solution to problem  $P$ .

Next, we need to show that  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  is an optimal solution to problem  $P$ . Let  $(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}')$  be an optimal solution to problem  $P$ .

Then, from the optimality condition, we get

$$J(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}') \geq J(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}). \quad (22)$$

Let  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}' = [\bar{c}_1(\mathbf{c}'), \dots, \bar{c}_k(\mathbf{c}')]$ . Note that  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}'$  satisfies constraint (16) and thus  $(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}')$  is a feasible solution to problem  $Q$ . Using (18) and the fact that  $(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$  is an optimal solution of problem  $\bar{P}$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} K(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) &\geq K(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}') \\ \implies J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) + n \log \sum_{b=1}^k \bar{c}_b L_b &\geq J(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}') + n \log \sum_{b=1}^k \bar{c}'_b L_b \\ \implies J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) + n \log D &\geq J(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}') + n \log D \\ \implies J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}) &\geq J(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}'). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Observe that  $\mathbf{c}'$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}'$  only differ by a positive scaling factor  $\alpha = D / \sum_{j=1}^k c'_j L_j$ . Therefore, using Lemma 1, we have  $J(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}') = J(\mathcal{T}', \bar{\mathbf{c}}')$ . Similarly, for  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}$ , we have  $J(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) = J(\mathcal{T}, \bar{\mathbf{c}})$ . Using this together with (23), we obtain

$$J(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) \geq J(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}'). \quad (24)$$

Moreover, (22) and (24) simultaneously imply  $J(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}) = J(\mathcal{T}', \mathbf{c}')$ . Hence,  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  is an optimal solution to problem  $P$ .

□

## B.2 Mixed integer linear program

In the following, we introduce variables and constraints to encode the following.

- (i) The composition of each transcript  $T_i$  as a set  $\sigma(T_i)$  of non-overlapping discontinuous edges.
- (ii) The abundance  $c_i$  and length  $L_i$  of each transcript  $T_i$ .
- (iii) The total abundance  $\sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i$  of transcripts supported by characteristic discontinuous edges  $(\sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)$ .
- (iv) A piecewise linear approximation of the log function.

We describe (iii) and (iv) in the following and refer to the Materials and methods section in the main text for (i) and (ii).

**Contribution of transcripts to each pair of characteristic discontinuous edges.** The objective function has  $m$  terms, one corresponding to each pair  $(\sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus) \in \mathcal{S}$  of characteristic discontinuous edges (see Eq. (7) in the main text). Specifically, each term  $j$  equals  $d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i$  where  $d_j$  is a constant, for all  $j \in [m]$ . We introduce non-negative continuous variables  $\mathbf{q} = \{q_1, \dots, q_m\}$  such that

$$q_j = \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i = \sum_{i=1}^k \left( c_i \prod_{e \in \sigma_j^\oplus} x_{e,i} \prod_{e' \in \sigma_j^\ominus} x_{e',i} \right), \quad (25)$$

where the last equality uses the characterization of candidate transcripts of origin for a given read described in Proposition 2 of the main text. We introduce continuous variables  $\mathbf{y}_j \in [0, 1]^k$  that encode the product  $y_{j,i} = c_i \prod_{e \in \sigma_j^\oplus} x_{e,i} \prod_{e' \in \sigma_j^\ominus} x_{e',i}$ . Intuitively, each variable  $y_{j,i}$  encodes the contribution of a transcript  $T_i$  for the given characteristic discontinuous edge sets  $(\sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)$ . We linearize the product  $c_i \prod_{e \in \sigma_j^\oplus} x_{e,i} \prod_{e' \in \sigma_j^\ominus} x_{e',i}$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} y_{j,i} &\leq c_i, \quad \forall i \in [k], j \in [m], \\ y_{j,i} &\leq x_{e,i}, \quad \forall e \in \sigma_i^\oplus, i \in [k], j \in [m], \\ y_{j,i} &\leq 1 - x_{e,i}, \quad \forall e \in \sigma_i^\ominus, i \in [k], j \in [m], \\ y_{j,i} &\geq c_i + \sum_{e \in \sigma_j^\oplus} x_{e,i} + \sum_{e \in \sigma_j^\ominus} (1 - x_{e,i}) - |\sigma_j^\oplus| - |\sigma_j^\ominus|, \quad \forall i \in [k], j \in [m]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have

$$q_j = \sum_{i=1}^k y_{j,i}. \quad (26)$$

**Objective function.** The objective function (Eq. (7) in the main text) can be written in terms of continuous variables  $\mathbf{q}$  as

$$J(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \log q_j,$$

where  $d_j$  is a constant and  $\mathbf{q}$  is as in (26). We use the lambda method to approximate our objective function using a piecewise linear function [5]. Following the method described in [5], we partition the domain  $(0, 1]$  with  $h$  breakpoints  $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq \dots \leq b_h$ . We introduce continuous variables  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_j \in [0, 1]^h$  with the constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{o=1}^h \lambda_{j,o} &= 1, \quad \forall j \in [m], \\ \sum_{o=1}^h b_o \lambda_{j,o} &= q_j, \quad \forall j \in [m]. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $b_o$  for  $o \in [h]$  are constants. Since each of the  $m$  terms in the objective function are individually concave and we are maximizing, the adjacency condition of breakpoints does not need to be enforced. For each  $j \in [m]$ , the log function is then approximated as

$$\log(q_j) \approx \sum_{o=1}^h \lambda_{j,o} \log(b_o),$$

where  $\log(b_o)$  is a constant for each  $o \in [h]$ . Therefore the objective function we wish to maximize is

$$\sum_{j=1}^m d_j \sum_{o=1}^h \lambda_{j,o} \log(b_o).$$

Note that since we have a log-likelihood objective function, feasibility of the solution requires that  $q_j > 0$  for  $j \in [m]$ . This means that for each characteristic discontinuous edge sets  $(\sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)$ , there must be at least one candidate transcript of origin  $T_i$  with non-zero abundance  $c_i > 0$ . This leads to the solution containing a large number of transcripts and making the problem intractable while also preventing us from finding parsimonious sets of transcripts that support most but not all of the observed reads in the sample. Finding such parsimonious solutions is often desirable since they provide a reasonable explanation of the observed reads while keeping the problem computationally tractable. In order to allow us to generate solutions that can partially explain the observed reads, we slightly modify our objective function. We introduce a new breakpoint  $b_0 = 0$  and associated continuous variables  $\lambda_{j,0} \in [0, 1]$  for  $j \in [m]$  so that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{o=0}^h \lambda_{j,o} &= 1, \quad \forall j \in [m], \\ \sum_{o=0}^h b_o \lambda_{j,o} &= q_j, \quad \forall j \in [m]. \end{aligned}$$

The objective function we maximize is

$$\sum_{j=1}^m d_j \left( \lambda_{j,0} \log(\delta) + \sum_{o=1}^h \lambda_{j,o} \log(b_o) \right),$$

where  $\delta > 0$  is a small constant. Note that instead of evaluating the log function at  $b_0$ , we include  $\log(\delta)$  which is well defined since  $\delta > 0$ . In this study, we choose  $\delta = b_1/100 = 1/(2^{h-1} \times 100)$  while  $h$  is left as the user's choice with default value of 16.

Moreover, the choice of breakpoints to approximate the objective function (Eq. (7) in the main text) can have a significant impact on the accuracy of the MILP solver. As a result, there has been research in efficient methods for choosing optimal breakpoint locations for convex functions, such as recursive descent algorithms [6]. In this work we take a simpler approach, by choosing breakpoints such that their spacing around a given breakpoint is proportional to the local gradient of the objective function. For the log function, this is equivalent to choosing breakpoints such that  $b_i = 2^{i-1}/2^{h-1}$ . Note that  $b_0 = 1/2^{h-1}$  while  $b_h = 1$ .

**Number of variables and constraints.** The total number of binary variables  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $|E^\curvearrowright|k$ . Note that  $\mathbf{q}$  are auxiliary (intermediate) variables that are uniquely determined by  $\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ . Therefore, the total number of required continuous variables (*i.e.*  $\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ ) is  $k + mk + |E^\curvearrowright|k + mh$ . The number of constraints is  $O(k|E|^2 + |E|km)$ . We provide the full MILP for reference.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \max \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \sum_{o=1}^h \lambda_{j,o} \log(b_o) \\
\text{s.t. } & x_{e,i} + x_{e',i} \leq 1, & \forall i \in [k] \text{ and } e, e' \in E^\curvearrowright, \\
& y_{j,i} \leq c_i, & \forall i \in [k], j \in [m], \\
& y_{j,i} \leq x_{e,i}, & \forall e \in \sigma_j^\oplus, i \in [k], j \in [m], \\
& y_{j,i} \leq 1 - x_{e,i}, & \forall e \in \sigma_j^\ominus, i \in [k], j \in [m], \\
& y_{j,i} \geq c_i + \sum_{e \in \sigma_j^\oplus} x_{e,i} + \sum_{e \in \sigma_j^\ominus} (1 - x_{e,i}) - |\sigma_j^\oplus| - |\sigma_j^\ominus|, & \forall i \in [k], j \in [m], \\
& z_{e,i} \leq c_i, & \forall i \in [k], \\
& z_{e,i} \leq x_{e,i}, & \forall e \in E^\curvearrowright, i \in [k], \\
& z_{e,i} \geq c_i + x_{e,i} - 1, & \forall e \in E^\curvearrowright, i \in [k], \\
& \sum_{i=1}^k c_i L - \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{e \in E^\curvearrowright} z_{e,i} L(e) = \ell^*, & \\
& \sum_{o=1}^h \lambda_{j,o} = 1, & \forall j \in [m], \\
& \sum_{o=1}^h b_o \lambda_{j,o} = \sum_{i=1}^k y_{j,i}, & \forall j \in [m], \\
& x_{e,i} \in \{0, 1\}, & \forall i \in [k], e \in E^\curvearrowright, \\
& c_i \geq 0, & \forall i \in [k], \\
& y_{j,i} \geq 0, & \forall j \in [m], i \in [k], \\
& z_{e,i} \geq 0 & \forall e \in E^\curvearrowright, i \in [k], \\
& \lambda_{j,o} \geq 0, & \forall j \in [m], o \in [h].
\end{aligned}$$

### B.3 JUMPER: progressive heuristic for the DTA problem

Here we describe the subproblems that are solved at each iteration of the greedy heuristic. For a given set of transcripts  $\mathcal{T}$  and characteristic discontinuous edge sets  $\mathcal{S}$ , consider the optimization problem which we denote by  $P_1$ ,

$$\max_{T', \mathbf{c}, c'} \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \log \left( \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} c_i + \mathbf{1}(X(\{T'\}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus) \neq \emptyset) c' \right) \quad (27)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \pi(T') \text{ is an } \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{t} \text{ path in the segment graph } G \quad (28)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{T}|} \bar{c}_i L_i + c' L' = D, \quad (29)$$

$$c_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in [|\mathcal{T}|] \quad (30)$$

$$c' \geq 0 \quad . \quad (31)$$

and the following optimization problem denoted by  $P_2$ ,

$$\max_{\mathbf{c}} \sum_{j=1}^m d_j \log \sum_{i \in X(\mathcal{T}, \sigma_j^\oplus, \sigma_j^\ominus)} \bar{c}_i \quad (32)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{T}|} c_i L_i = D, \quad (33)$$

$$c_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in [|\mathcal{T}|]. \quad (34)$$

**Solution to  $P_1$**  We obtain the solution of  $P_1$  by solving the optimization problem given in Eq. (7)-(10) in the main text with additional constraints to fix the values of the variables that encode the presence/absence of discontinuous edges for the transcripts in  $\mathcal{T}$ . More specifically, for each transcript  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}$ , we enforce  $x_{e,i} = 1$  for each edge  $e \in \sigma(T_i)$  and  $x_{e,i} = 0$  otherwise. Note that  $c_i$  for  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}$  are still variables and are solved for in the optimization problem. By doing so, we only solve for the structure of the transcript  $T'$  while solving for the abundance of all transcripts.

**Solution to  $P_2$**  Similar to the approach taken to solve  $P_1$ , we fix the values of the variables that encode the presence/absence of discontinuous edges in the transcripts. This results in all the binary variables in the MILP with fixed values rendering the resulting optimization problem a simpler linear program.

**Heuristic Algorithm** The Algorithm 1 from the main text is re-written here in form of an itemized list.

1. Initialize  $\mathcal{T} = \{\}$ ,  $i = 1$
2. Solve  $P_1$  with  $\mathcal{T}$  to get a new transcript  $T'$  with abundance  $c'$
3. Generate a new set of transcripts  $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow \mathcal{T} \cup \text{EXPAND}(T')$  where  $\text{EXPAND}(T') = \{T : \sigma(T) \in 2^{\sigma(T')}\}$ .
4. Solve  $P_2$  with  $\mathcal{T}$  as input
5. Select  $i$  transcripts from  $\mathcal{T}$ . If  $i < k$  go to step (2) else return  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$

#### B.4 Filtering false positive discontinuous edges

In practice, we see spurious discontinuous edges in the resulting segment graph due to sequencing and alignment errors. We filter these edges by requiring a minimum number  $\Lambda$  of spliced reads to support each discontinuous edge in the segment graph. The higher the value of  $\Lambda$ , fewer will be the number of edges and nodes in the resulting segment graph.

It is not trivial to infer the optimal value of  $\Lambda$  to remove all false positive discontinuous edges. Several heuristics are used in existing methods to remove spurious splicing events. SCALLOP removes an edge  $e$  from its splice graph if the coverage of the exons of either end of the edge is more than  $2w(e)^2 + 18$ , where  $w(e)$  is the number of spliced reads that support the edge  $e$ . STRINGTIE on the other hand, terminates its algorithm of assembling transcripts when the coverage of all the paths in the splice graph build from the un-assigned reads drops below a threshold, set by default to 2.5 reads per base-pair. By default, JUMPER requires a support of 100 reads for a discontinuous edge to be included in the segment graph.

Another parameter that can be used to filter false-positive splicing events is the number of discontinuous edges allowed in the segment graph. From tests on simulated instances emulating SARS-CoV-2 samples, we found that focusing on the 35 most abundant discontinuous edges is sufficient to get a summary of the transcriptome and highly expressed canonical and non-canonical transcripts in the sample. A higher value can be used to capture more complexity of the transcriptome. By default, we set this parameter to 35.

## C Supplementary Results

### C.1 Simulation pipeline

Our simulations are based on a widely believed model of discontinuous transcription. Briefly, there are two competing models of discontinuous transcription for coronaviruses [7]. Both models agree that the RdRp jump is mediated by matching core-sequences (motifs) present in the TRSs in the viral genome. The only

point of difference between the two models is whether discontinuous transcription occurs during the plus-strand synthesis or the minus-strand synthesis. The *negative-sense discontinuous transcription model* [8] proposes that it is during the minus-strand synthesis that the RdRp performs discontinuous transcription. Transcription is initiated at the 3' end of the plus-strand RNA and the RdRp jumps to the TRS-L region when it reaches a TRS-B region adjacent to a gene, thereby generating a minus-strand subgenomic RNA. The minus-strand subgenomic RNA is then replicated by the RdRp to produce a plus-strand RNA which can be translated to a viral protein. Currently, this model is largely believed to be true due to the considerable experimental support from genetic studies detecting minus-strand subgenomic RNAs [9–13].

We now describe the procedure to simulate transcripts and their abundances following the negative-sense model of discontinuous transcription for a given segment graph. The model is parameterized by the function  $p : E \rightarrow [0, 1]$ . According to the *negative-sense discontinuous transcription* model, the transcription process is modeled as an  $t - s$  walk in the reverse graph  $\bar{G}$  where the direction of each original edge is reversed. At each node the RdRp randomly chooses an outgoing edge to traverse in the reverse graph  $\bar{G}$  (which would be an incoming edge to the node in the original graph  $G$ ) where the probabilities are given by the function  $p$ . Hence, the corresponding constraint on  $p$  under the negative-sense discontinuous transcription model is  $\sum_{e \in \delta^-(v)} p(e) = 1$ . The probabilities are drawn from a Dirichlet distribution with concentration parameter  $\alpha$  set to 10 for edges that are present in the path corresponding to any of the canonical transcripts and 1 otherwise. This is done to ensure that canonical transcripts are generated with high enough abundance, making the simulations similar to real data.

The next step of our simulation pipeline is to generate transcripts  $\mathcal{T}$  and their abundances  $\mathbf{c}$  for the given segment graph. We simulate the transcription process by generating 100,000  $s - t$  paths on the segment graph and report the number of unique paths/transcripts  $\mathcal{T}$  and their abundances  $\mathbf{c}$ . We repeat this process to generate 5 independent sets of transcripts and abundances for the positive and the negative model each. Figure 3b in the main text shows the number of transcripts generated from each simulation using the negative-sense discontinuous transcription model. To contrast, the total number of  $s - t$  paths in the underlying segment graph is 3440.

Once the transcripts are generated, the next step in our pipeline is to simulate the generation and sequencing of RNA-seq data. We use `Polyester` [14] for this step as it allows the user to provide the number of reads generated from each transcript. For a given total number  $n$  of reads, the number of reads generated from transcript  $T_i$  is given by  $nc_iL_i / \sum_{j=1}^k c_jL_j$  where  $L_i$  is the length of the transcript  $T_i$ . We use the default parameters for read length ( $\ell = 100$ ) and fragment length distribution (Gaussian with mean  $\mu_r = 250$  and standard deviation  $\sigma_r = 25$ ) to generate 3,000,000 reads. For each set of transcript and abundances

generated in the previous step of the pipeline, we simulate 5 replicates of the sequencing experiment.

The final step of the simulation pipeline is to align the generated reads to the reference genome NC\_045512.2 using STAR [15]. The resulting BAM file serves as the input for the transcription assembly methods. To summarize, we generated 5 independent pairs  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  of transcripts and abundances under the negative-sense discontinuous transcription model. For each pair  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  we run 5 simulated sequencing experiments using polyester [14]. Therefore, we generated a total of  $5 \times 5 = 25$  simulated instances.

## C.2 SCALLOP arguments

We use the following arguments.

```
scallop -i ${input_bam} -o ${output_assembled}
```

## C.3 STRINGTIE arguments

We run STRINGTIE in de novo transcript assembly mode. That is, we do not provide a GFF file to guide assembly. We use the following arguments.

```
stringtie -o ${output_assembled} -A ${output_abundance} ${input_bam}
```

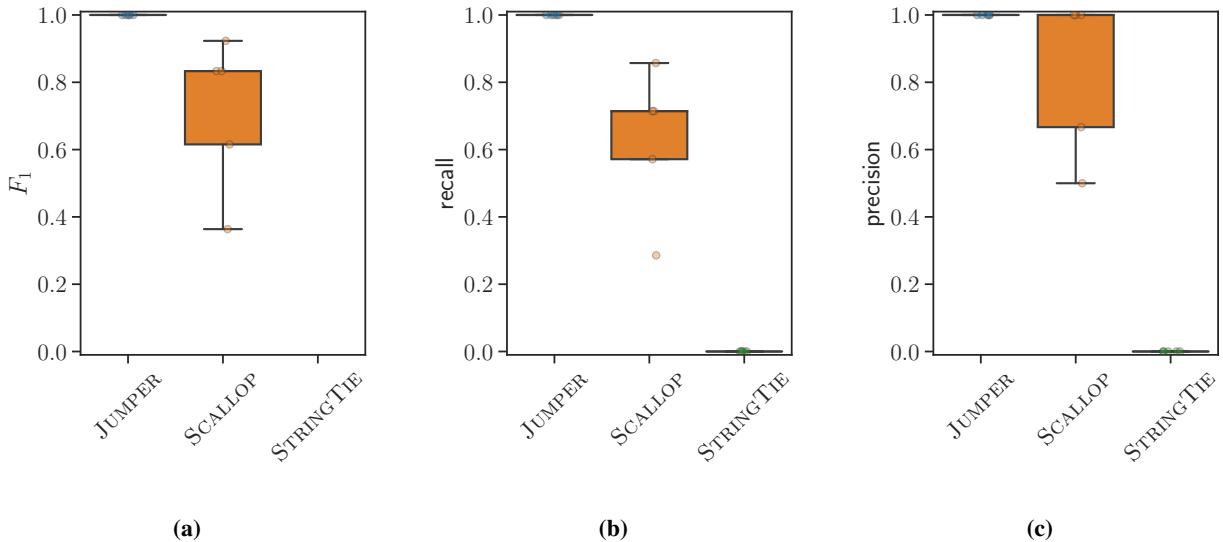
We noted that STRINGTIE produces incomplete transcripts, *i.e.* all the assembled transcripts did not map to the 5' and 3' end of the reference genome. In our simulations, STRINGTIE was not penalized for this as our evaluation metrics considered only discontinuous edges.

## C.4 Human gene simulations

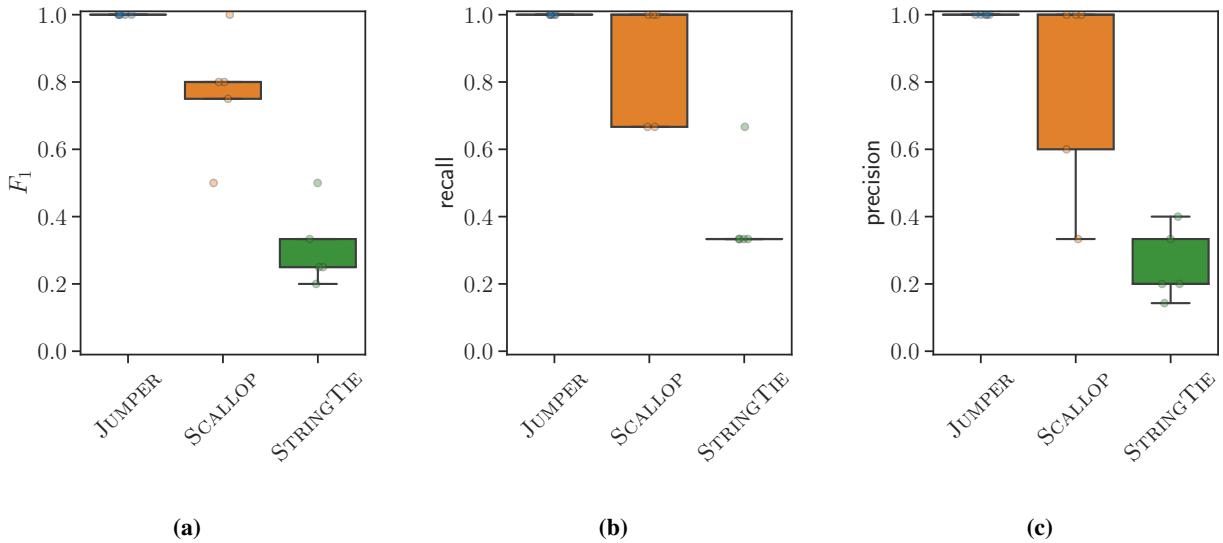
We evaluate the performance of JUMPER, SCALLOP and STRINGTIE on simulated samples of the human gene FAS as well. This gene is located on the long arm of chromosome 10 in humans and encodes the Fas cell surface receptor which leads to programmed cell death if it binds its ligand (Fas ligand). The FAS gene has 15 exons, yielding the following seven isoforms via alternative splicing (<https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/P25445>).

1. P25445-1 with length of 335aa

```
https://useast.ensembl.org/Homo\_sapiens/Transcript/Summary?db=core;g=ENSG00000026103;r=10:88990731-89014619;t=ENST00000652046
```



**Figure C1: JUMPER outperforms SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for all simulation instances of the FAS gene (on human chromosome 10) with all 7 isoforms of the gene in terms of  $F_1$  score, recall and precision while maintaining a modest running time.** (a)  $F_1$  score (b) recall and (c) precision of the three methods for the simulated instances. The ground truth contained seven isoforms of the FAS gene with uniform relative abundances.



**Figure C2: JUMPER outperforms SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for all simulation instances of the FAS gene (on human chromosome 10) with only 3 isoforms (P25445-1, P25445-6 and P25445-7) in terms of  $F_1$  score, recall and precision while maintaining a modest running time.** (a)  $F_1$  score (b) recall and (c) precision of the three methods for the simulated instances. The ground truth contained three isoforms of the FAS gene with uniform relative abundances.

2. P25445-2 with length of 103aa

```
https://uswest.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Transcript/Summary?db=core;  
g=ENSG00000026103;r=10:88990731-89014619;t=ENST00000484444
```

3. P25445-3 with length of 86aa

```
https://uswest.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Transcript/Summary?db=core;  
g=ENSG00000026103;r=10:88990731-89014619;t=ENST00000479522
```

4. P25445-4 with length of 149aa

```
https://uswest.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Transcript/Summary?db=core;  
g=ENSG00000026103;r=10:88990731-89014619;t=ENST00000494410
```

5. P25445-5 with length of 132aa

```
https://uswest.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Transcript/Summary?db=core;  
g=ENSG00000026103;r=10:88990731-89014619;t=ENST00000492756
```

6. P25445-6 with length of 314aa

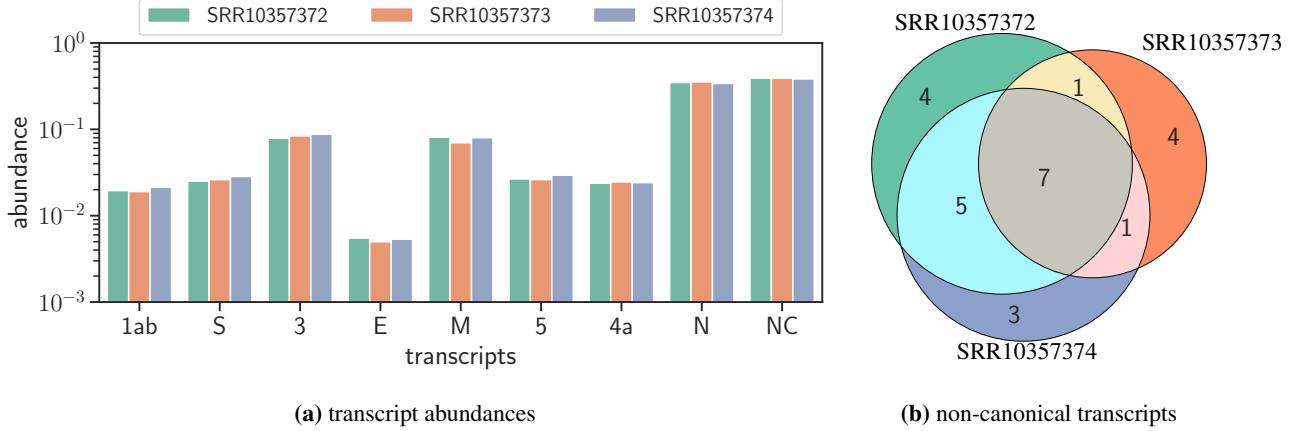
```
https://uswest.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Transcript/Summary?db=core;  
g=ENSG00000026103;r=10:88990731-89014619;t=ENST00000357339
```

7. P25445-7 with length of 220aa

```
https://uswest.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Transcript/Summary?db=core;  
g=ENSG00000026103;r=10:88990731-89014619;t=ENST00000355279
```

The region between the first and the last exon span position 5001 to 30255 of the FAS gene. We used this region as the reference genome in our simulations<sup>1</sup>. We include the seven isoforms with equal proportion of 1/7 in the ground truth. We add a poly-A tail of length 85 at the end of the reference genome as well as each of the isoforms to emulate the transcription process. We use polyester [14] to simulate the sequencing of 35,000,000 paired-end reads of the sample with a Gaussian fragment length distribution with mean 250 and standard deviation of 25. We simulate 5 replicates of the sequencing experiment. The simulated reads are aligned to the selected region of the FAS gene using STAR [15]. The resulting BAM file serves as the input for the transcription assembly methods. We evaluate the recall and precision of the three methods focusing on transcripts with abundance of more than 0.01. Figure C1 shows that JUMPER (median F1 score of 1) outperforms SCALLOP (median F1 score of 0.83) in terms of both recall and precision, while STRINGTIE

<sup>1</sup>NCBI reference sequence NG\_009089.2: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/NG\\_009089.2?from=5001&to=30255&report=fasta](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/NG_009089.2?from=5001&to=30255&report=fasta)



**Figure C3: JUMPER finds all canonical transcripts and some non-canonical transcripts from three MERS-CoV samples.** (a) Abundance of the detected transcripts in the three samples, SRR10357372, SRR10357374 and SRR10357375. (b) A Venn diagram of the non-canonical transcripts reconstructed for each sample showing that there are 7 non-canonical transcripts that are present in all the three samples. Table C1 shows the abundance of the 8 canonical transcripts that are present in all the samples and 14 non-canonical transcripts that are present in more than 1 sample.

is not able to recall any of the 7 transcripts in the ground truth. We run the simulations again with only 3 of the isoforms, P25445-1, P25445-6 and P25445-7. Figure C2 shows that STRINGTIE is able to perform better with a median recall of 0.33, but still not as well as either SCALLOP (median recall of 1) or JUMPER (median recall of 1).

## C.5 Transcript Assembly of MERS-CoV samples

MERS-CoV has a genome of length 30119 bp, and consists of 10 ORFs (1ab, S, 3, E, M, 4a, 4b, 5, 8b, N). We ran JUMPER on three published MERS-CoV samples [16], SRR10357372, SRR10357373 and SRR10357374, with a median coverage of 41,999, 36,663 and 45,235 respectively. These samples correspond to MERS-CoV infected Calu-3 cell lines [16]. Similar to previous analyses in this paper, we used `fastp` to trim the short reads (trimming parameter set to 10 nucleotides) and we aligned the resulting reads using `STAR` in two-pass mode. SCALLOP identified at most two canonical transcripts in each of the three samples (transcripts corresponding to ORF3 and ORF M in SRR10357372, ORF5 and ORF3 in SRR10357373, and ORF N in SRR10357374). We ran JUMPER with the 35 most abundant discontinuous edges in the segment graph and restrict our attention to transcripts identified by JUMPER that have more than 0.001 abundance as estimated by `SALMON` [3].

JUMPER reconstructs transcripts corresponding to all canonical ORFs of MERS-CoV in all the samples, except for ORF4b and ORF8b which are the only canonical ORFs that are not preceded by well supported

TRS-B regions [17]. The most abundant transcript corresponds to ORF N (median abundance of 0.348), in line with the observations for SARS-CoV-2, while the least abundant canonical transcript encodes for protein E (median abundance of 0.0053). Figure C3a shows, for each sample, the relative abundances of each canonical transcript as well as the total abundances of all non-canonical transcripts. Firstly, we observe that the abundance of each canonical transcript is consistent across the three samples. Secondly, we see that all the three samples have high total abundance of non-canonical transcripts (median total abundance of 0.3908). Figure C3b shows a Venn diagram for the non-canonical transcripts present in the three samples. We see out of the 25 distinct non-canonical transcripts, 7 are present in all the three samples and 14 are present in at least two of the samples. Table C1 shows the abundance of the 8 canonical transcripts present in all the samples and the 14 non-canonical transcripts present in at least two samples. We will now describe the most abundant non-canonical transcripts in each sample.

The most abundant non-canonical transcript in samples SRR10357372 and SRR10357373 is ‘NC8’, which has a single discontinuous edge from position 1317 (5’ end) to 29600 (3’ end). The abundance of this transcript is 0.1019 in sample SRR10357372 and 0.1639 in sample SRR10357372, which is higher than all the canonical transcripts in both the samples except the transcript corresponding to ORF N. The 5’ end of the discontinuous edge is in ORF1ab (nsp2 region) and the 3’ end is in ORF N. Interestingly the most abundant non-canonical transcript in the third sample SRR10357374 is ‘NC12’, which has a single discontinuous edge with the same 3’ end of 29600 while the 5’ end is at position 1297 (also in the nsp2 region of ORF1ab). This transcript has abundance of 0.1486 in sample SRR10357374, higher than all the canonical transcripts in SRR10357374 except the transcript corresponding to ORF N, and 0.0483 in sample SRR10357372. We were not able to attribute the occurrence of transcripts NC8 and NC12 to matching motifs at the 5’ and 3’ ends of the discontinuous edges. Given the high abundance of these non-canonical transcripts in the sample, further investigation is required to ascertain their function, or whether

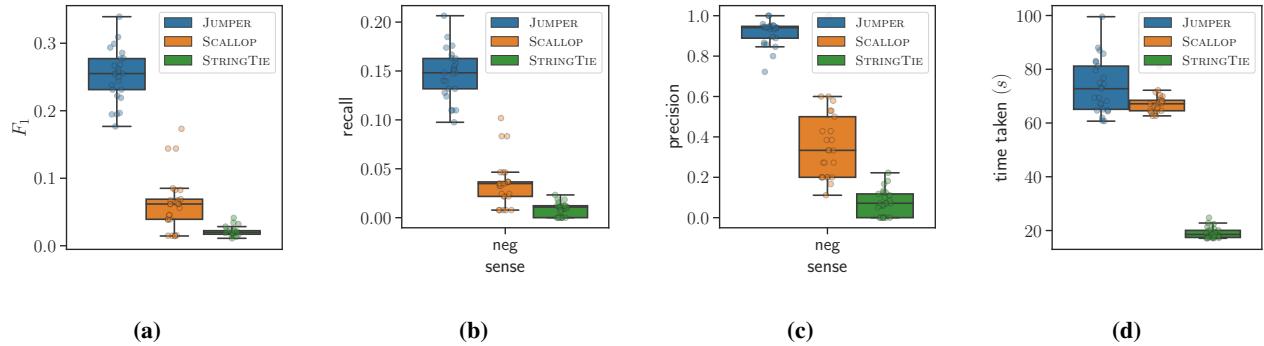
## C.6 Supplementary results figures

We have the following supplementary figures.

- Figure C4 shows that JUMPER outperforms SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for all simulation instances in terms of  $F_1$  score, recall and precision while maintaining a modest running time.
- Figure C5 shows that JUMPER outperforms SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for varying values of thresholding parameter  $\Lambda$ .

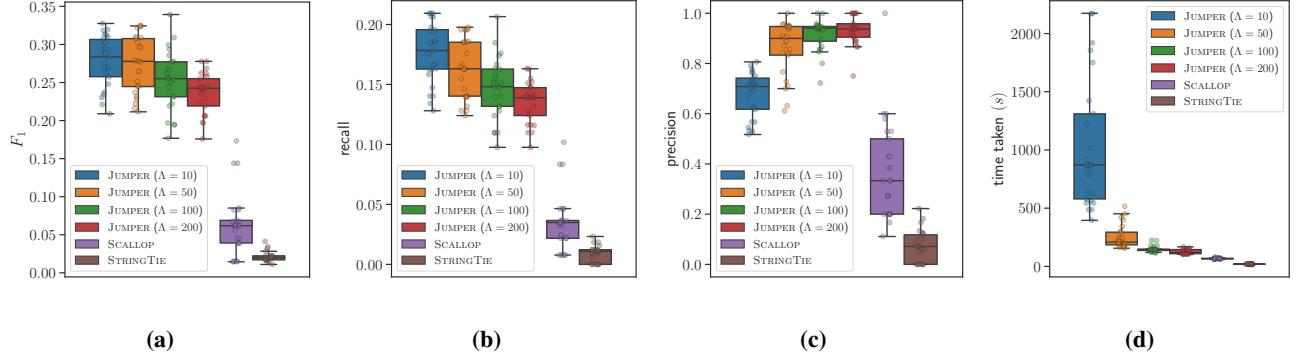
Transcript	Discontinuous Edges	SRR10357372	SRR10357373	SRR10357374	
1ab	-	0.0195	0.0190	0.0213	canonical
S	(59, 21402)	0.0251	0.0261	0.0284	
3	(59, 25518)	0.0789	0.0840	0.0876	
E	(61, 27582)	0.0055	0.0049	0.0053	
M	(58, 27834)	0.0812	0.0699	0.08	
5	(55, 26826)	0.0266	0.0261	0.0294	
4a	(59, 25840)	0.0237	0.0246	0.0241	
N	(53, 28536)	<b>0.3483</b>	<b>0.3542</b>	<b>0.34</b>	
NC1	(62, 28626)	0.0017	0.0016	0.0015	non-canonical
NC2	(65, 29106)	0.0043	0.0029	0.0026	
NC3	(61, 29503)	0.0016	0.0014	0.0015	
NC4	(61, 29582)	0.003	0.0027	0.0029	
NC5	(1727, 28983)	0.016	0.0169	0.0198	
NC6	(2343, 29204)	0.0736	0.1047	0.0575	
NC7	(7120, 24104)	0.0086	0.0088	0.0087	
NC8	(1317, 29600)	<b>0.1019</b>	<b>0.1639</b>	-	
NC9	(2333, 29203)	0.055	-	0.049	
NC10	(63, 680) (1727, 28983)	0.0019	-	0.0017	
NC11	(59, 21402) (24103, 27938)	0.0011	-	0.0011	
NC12	(1297, 29600)	0.0483	-	<b>0.1486</b>	
NC13	(64, 29105)	0.0011	-	0.001	
NC14	(2333, 29150)	-	0.0613	0.0363	

**Table C1:** Abundance of 8 canonical transcript present in all three MERS-CoV samples and 14 non-canonical transcript present in more than 1 sample. The canonical and non-canonical transcripts with the highest abundance in each sample are highlighted. Figure C3b shows the Venn diagram of all the transcripts in the solution.

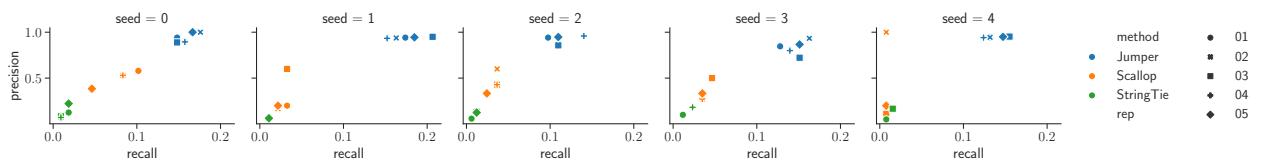


**Figure C4: JUMPER outperforms SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for all simulation instances in terms of  $F_1$  score, recall and precision while maintaining a modest running time.** (a)  $F_1$  score (b) recall, (c) precision and (d) time taken by the three methods for the simulated instances.

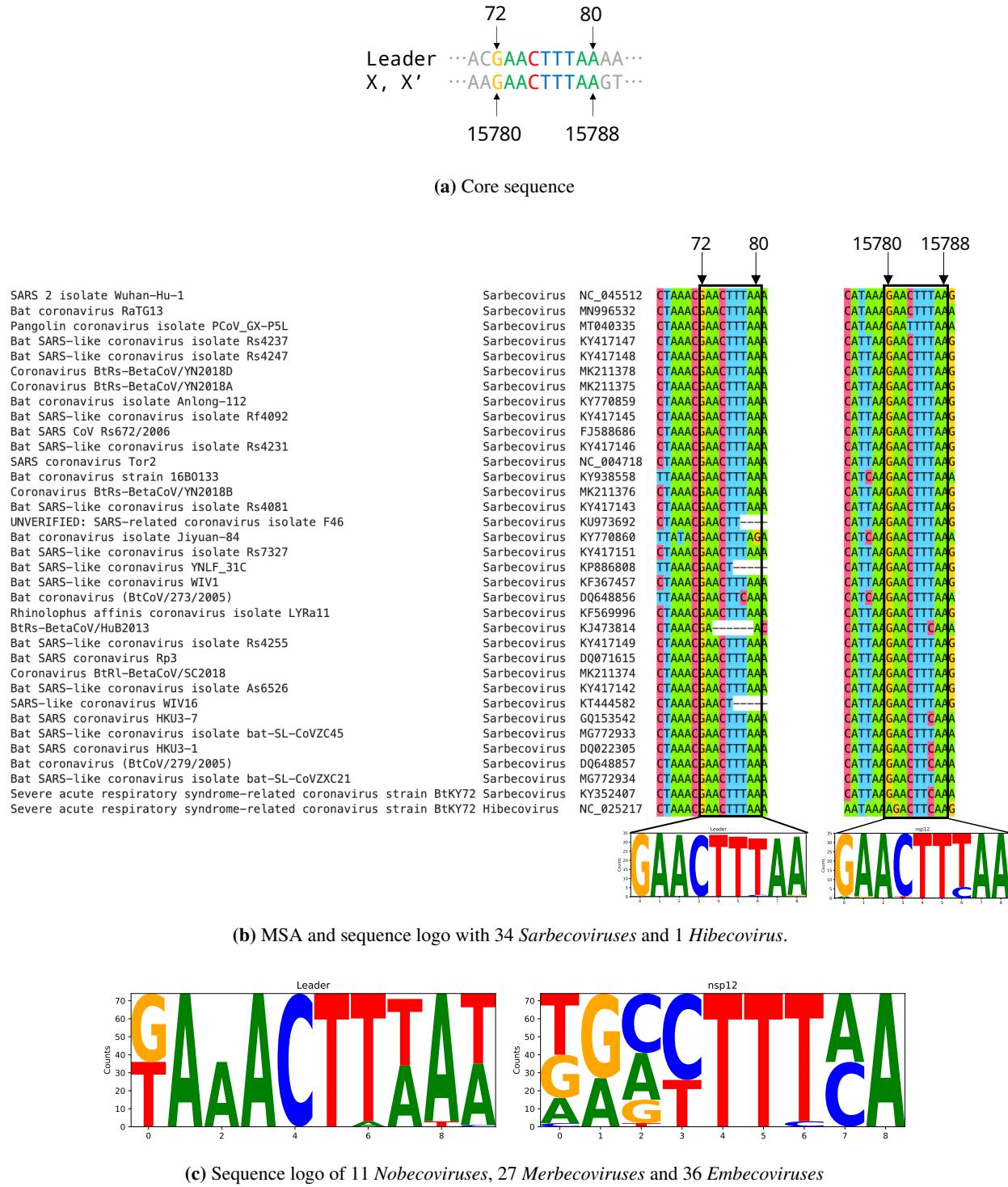
- Figure C6 shows that JUMPER produces better recall and precision when compared to SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for every simulation instance ( $\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}$ ).
- Figure C7 shows that the core sequence observed in the reference genome potentially explaining a non-canonical discontinuous transcription event, and the core sequence corresponding to transcript X is conserved across *Sarbecovirus* species.
- Figure C8 shows an example of a supporting read for a transcript with two discontinuous edges.
- Figure C9 shows that transcript X is supported in both long-read and short-read samples deposited in SRA.
- Figure C10 shows the number of *supporting reads* with the 5' end mapping to the leader sequence in the short and long read sequencing data.
- Figure C12 shows the abundances of the predicted transcripts by JUMPER in two SARS-CoV-1 infected samples.
- Table C2 shows summary of the results from the simulations.
- Table C3 describes 18 transcripts (including 9 canonical transcripts) detected from SARS-CoV-2 infected samples with and without pre-treatment of ruxolitinib.



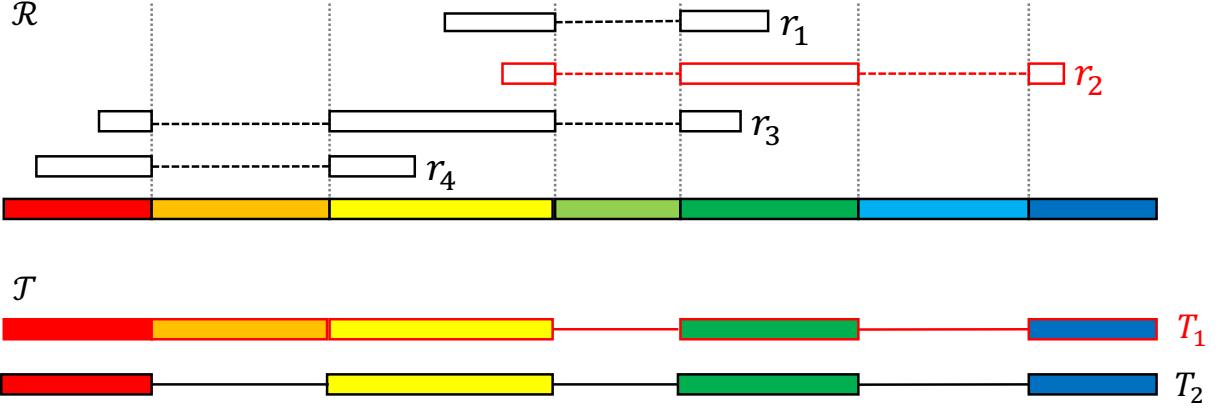
**Figure C5: JUMPER outperforms SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for varying values of thresholding parameter  $\Lambda$ .**  
 (a)  $F_1$  score (b) recall, (c) precision and (d) time taken by the JUMPER for different values of  $\Lambda$  compared to SCALLOP and STRINGTIE on the simulated instances. As expected, the recall value drops for increasing  $\Lambda$  while the precision increases. We set the default value of  $\Lambda$  to 100 which incurs runtime comparable to SCALLOP while producing higher recall and precision solutions.



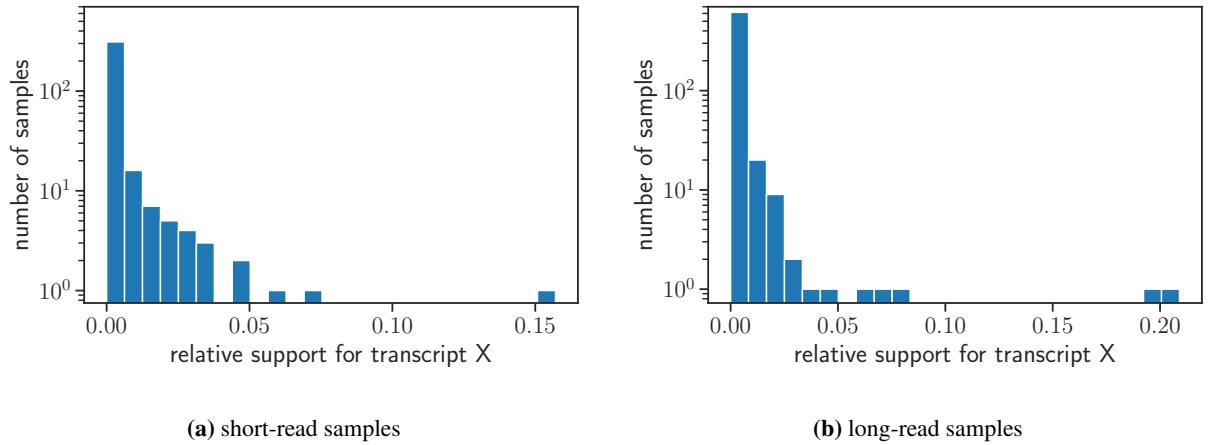
**Figure C6: While all three methods return consistent results when generating technical sequencing replicates, JUMPER produces better recall and precision when compared to SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for every simulation instance ( $\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}$ ).**  
 JUMPER produces better recall and precision when compared to SCALLOP and STRINGTIE for every simulation instance ( $\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}$ ). Varying simulation instances ( $\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}$ ) correspond to distinct panels. Each panel shows the recall and precision of the three methods for 5 sequencing experiments of the same simulated instance ( $\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c}$ ).



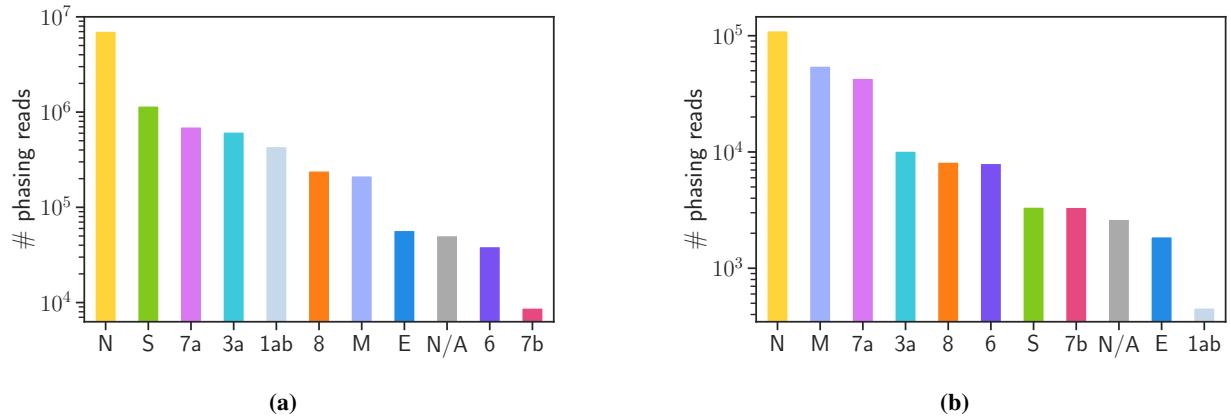
**Figure C7: The core sequence of transcript X is conserved within the *Sarbecovirus* subgenus but not in other subgenera of the *Betacoronavirus* genus.** (a) Core sequence for the transcript X and X'. (b) Sequence logo for the positions 15780 to 15788 in SARS-CoV-2 genome built from the multiple sequence alignment of the leader sequence and ORF1ab of 34 *Sarbecovirus* and a *Hibecovirus*. (c) Sequence logo for positions 15780 to 15788 in SARS-CoV-2 genome built from multiple sequence alignment with the remaining subgenera of *Betacoronaviruses*.



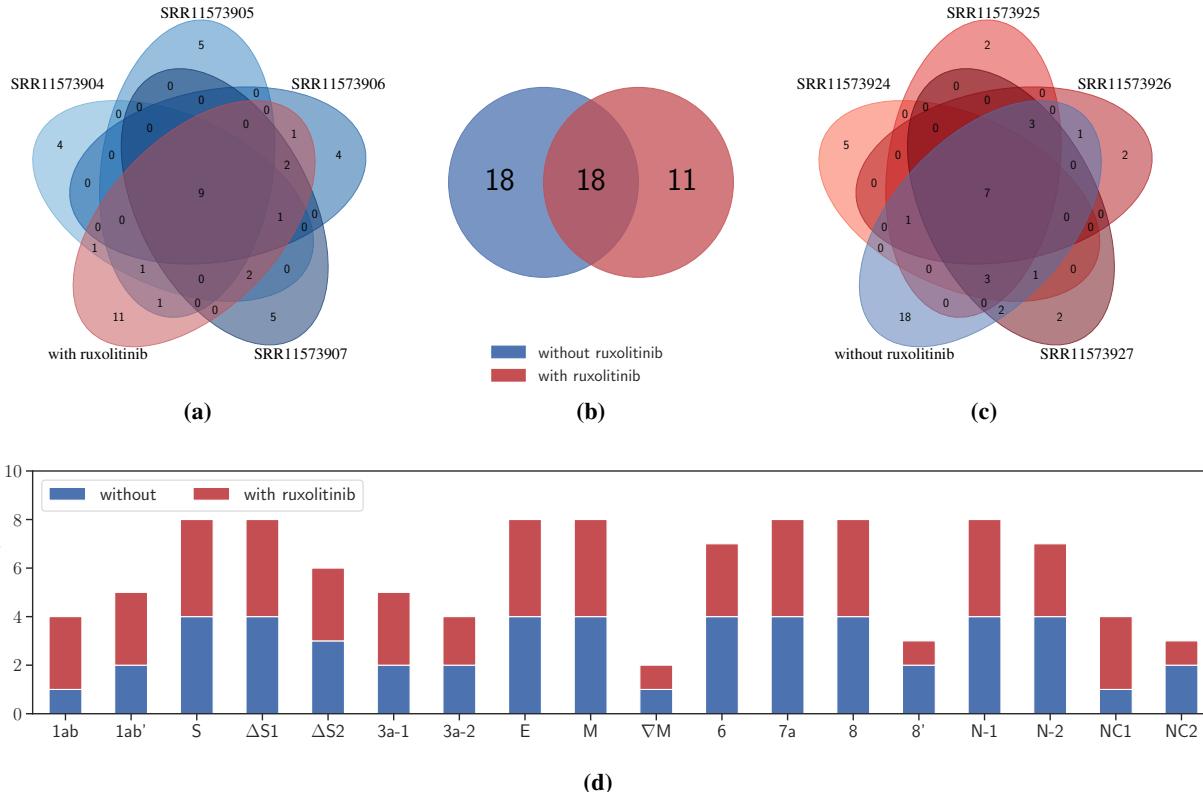
**Figure C8: A schematic showing an example of a supporting read for a transcript  $T_1$  with  $\sigma^\oplus(T_1) = 2$ .** Transcript  $T_1$  is supported by  $r_2$  because  $\pi(r_2) = \pi(T_1)$  and  $|\sigma^\oplus(r_1)| = |\sigma^\oplus(T_1)| = 2$ . Reads  $r_1, r_3$  and  $r_4$  do not support  $T_1$  since  $|\sigma^\oplus(r_1)| < |\sigma^\oplus(T_1)|$  and  $\pi(r_3), \pi(r_4) \not\subseteq \pi(T_1)$ . No reads support  $T_2$  since  $|\sigma^\oplus(r_j)| < |\sigma^\oplus(T_2)|$  for all reads  $r_j$ .



**Figure C9: Transcript X has supporting reads in multiple independent publicly available samples of SARS-CoV-2 infected cells on SRA.** Distribution of number of (a) short-read and (b) long-read SRA samples with varying proportion of leader-sequence spanning reads that support transcript X. All the short-read samples were aligned using STAR [15] while the long-read samples were aligned using minimap2 [18]. In this plot we only consider samples with more than 100 reads that map to the leader-sequence (position 55 to 85 in the SARS-CoV-2 reference genome).

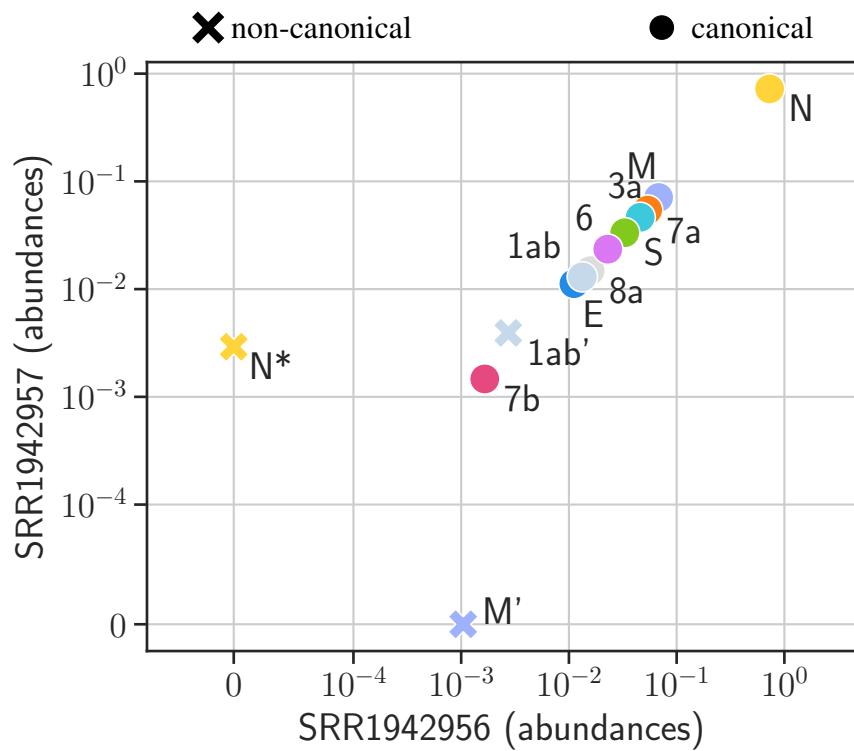


**Figure C10: Supporting phasing reads with 5' end mapping to the leader sequence in short and long-read sequencing samples of SARS-CoV-2 infected Vero cells [19].** Supporting phasing reads have at most one discontinuous edge with the 5' end occurring in the leader sequence (*i.e.* between positions 55 and 85) and the first occurrence of 'AUG' downstream of the 3' end position coinciding with the start codon of a known ORF. Supporting phasing reads corresponding to '1ab' start in the leader sequence but do not contain a discontinuous edge. Supporting phasing reads corresponding to 'N/A' start in the leader sequence but have a 3' end such that the first occurrence of 'AUG' downstream of the 3' end position does *not* coincide with the start codon of any known ORFs. (a) Supporting phasing reads in the short-read sequencing sample. (b) Supporting phasing reads in the long-read sequencing sample.



**Figure C11: JUMPER enables analysis of drug response of the virus in infected cells at the transcript level.**

(a) A Venn diagram of recalled transcripts from sample with and without treatment of ruxolitinib and a bar plots showing the number of samples containing each of the 18 common transcripts. Table C3 described each of the 18 common transcripts. The transcripts are named based on the protein they yield, with  $\nabla$  indicating presence of out of frame deletions and  $\Delta$  indicating in-frame deletions.



**Figure C12: Abundances of the canonical and non-canonical transcripts predicted by JUMPER are consistent in the two SARS-CoV-1 infected samples (SRR194256 and SRR194257).** JUMPER predicts 10 canonical and 3 non-canonical transcripts across the two samples.

Simulation				JUMPER			SCALLOP			STRINGTIE		
seed	rep	can	non-can	TP		FP	TP		FP	TP		FP
				can	non-can		can	non-can		can	non-can	
0	1	14	94	7	9	1	7	4	8	2	0	14
0	2	14	94	8	11	0	7	2	8	1	0	13
0	3	14	94	7	11	2	4	1	8	1	0	11
0	4	14	94	6	9	2	7	2	8	1	0	13
0	5	14	94	7	11	0	4	1	8	1	0	7
1	1	14	78	3	13	1	3	0	12	2	0	13
1	2	14	78	4	11	1	2	0	10	1	0	13
1	3	14	78	3	16	1	3	0	2	1	0	12
1	4	14	78	3	11	1	2	0	8	0	0	16
1	5	14	78	4	13	1	2	0	8	1	0	15
2	1	14	150	5	11	1	3	1	8	1	0	16
2	2	14	150	4	14	3	5	1	4	2	0	15
2	3	14	150	5	13	3	5	1	8	2	0	13
2	4	14	150	7	16	1	5	1	8	2	0	16
2	5	14	150	4	14	1	3	1	8	2	0	14
3	1	14	72	4	7	2	3	0	8	1	0	9
3	2	14	72	6	8	2	3	0	4	0	0	8
3	3	14	72	7	6	4	4	0	8	0	0	20
3	4	14	72	4	8	3	3	0	8	2	0	9
3	5	14	72	4	9	2	3	0	6	0	0	4
4	1	14	115	4	13	1	1	0	4	1	0	19
4	2	14	115	5	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	12
4	3	14	115	6	14	1	1	0	8	2	0	10
4	4	14	115	6	10	1	1	0	4	0	0	16
4	5	14	115	6	13	1	1	0	4	0	0	12

**Table C2:** Simulation results for the three methods JUMPER, SCALLOP and STRINGTIE. Each distinct value in the column ‘seed’ is a unique instance of  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$  and each distinct value in the column ‘rep’ is a unique sequencing experiment for the given  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{c})$ . (rep: replicate, can: canonical, non-can: non-canonical, TP: true positives, FP: false positives)

Transcript	Discontinuous Edges	Description
1ab	-	canonical transcript with no discontinuous edges
1ab'	(23593, 23630)	single discontinuous edge downstream of ORF1ab
S	(65, 21552)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF S
$\Delta S1$	(65, 21552)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF S
	(23593, 23630)	and an in-frame 12 amino-acid deletion overlapping the furin cleavage site
$\Delta S1$	(65, 21552)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF S
	(23593, 23615)	and an in-frame 7 amino-acid deletion overlapping the furin cleavage site
3a-1	(65, 25381)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF3a
3a-2	(66, 27385)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF3a
E	(69, 26237)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF E
M	(64, 26468)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF M
$\nabla M$	(64, 26468)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF M
	(26779, 26817)	with an out of frame deletion with motifs 'CAATGGCTT' to 'CATTGCTT'
	(28525, 28577)	and another downstream deletion within ORF N
6	(69, 27041)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF6
7a	(66, 27385)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF7a
8	(65, 27884)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF8
8'	(65, 27884)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF8
	(28270, 28970)	with a single deletion downstream of ORF8
N-1	(64, 28255)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF N
N-2	(68, 28263)	single discontinuous edge from TRS-L to TRS-B of ORF N
NC1	(6001, 27376)	matching motif 'AGAGCAACCAAT' on the 5' and 3' ends of the jump
NC2	(731, 29307)	matching motif 'ATTTTCAA' to 'AATTCAA'

**Table C3:** 18 transcripts (including 9 canonical transcripts) detected from SARS-CoV-2 infected A549 cell line samples with and without pre-treatment of ruxolitinib. Figure 5 in the main text shows the abundances of these transcripts in the samples.

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