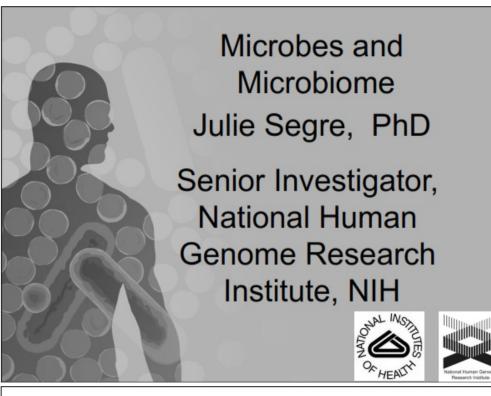
Microbes and Microbiomes

Julie Segre, NHGRI





Current Topics in Genome Analysis 2012

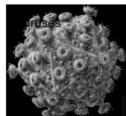
Julia Segre

No Relevant Financial Relationships with Commercial Interests

Why the Human Microbiome?





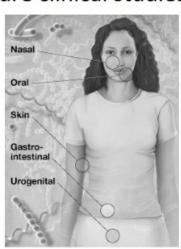




Each human cell has the same proteinencoding potential. Microbes are more diverse and dynamic than human genome.

Human Microbiome Project (HMP) Goals: Baseline to empower future clinical studies

Assess microbial diversity of 250 healthy individuals at 5 sites (gut, nasal, oral, vaginal and skin)





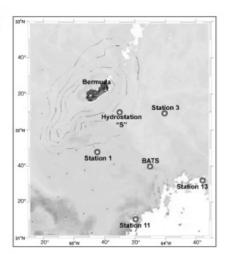
NIH Roadmap for medical research

HMP Research Goals

- Sequence bacterial reference genomes
- Metagenomics, the analysis of the combined coding potential of a mixed population.
- Correlation of changes in microbial communities with disease states.
- Explore ethical, legal and social implications of this new field of research.

5

Microbial Diversity Studied in the Environment



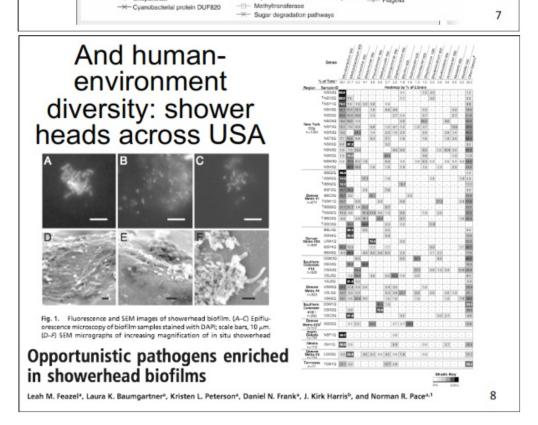
Originally published in Science Express on 4 March 2004 Science 2 April 2004: Vol. 304, no. 5667, pp. 66 – 74 DOI: 10.1126/science.1093857

RESEARCH ARTICLES

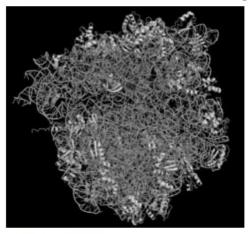
Environmental Genome Shotgun Sequencing of the Sargasso Sea

J. Craig Venter, ¹ Karin Remington, ¹ John F. Heidelberg, ³ Aaron L. Halpern, ² Doug Rusch, ² Jonathan A. Eisen, ³ Dongying Wu, ³ Ian Paulsen, ³ Karen E. Nelson, ³ William Nelson, ³ Derrick E. Fouts, ³ Samuel Levy, ² Anthony H. Knap, ⁶ Michael W. Lomas, ⁶ Ken Nealson, ⁵ Owen White, ³ Jeremy Peterson, ³ Jeff Hoffman, ¹ Rachel Parsons, ⁶ Holly Baden-Tillson, ¹ Cynthia Pfannkoch, ¹ Yu-Hui Rogers, ⁴ Hamilton O. Smith ¹

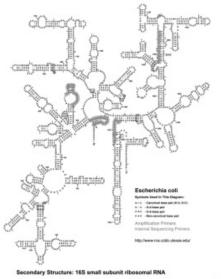
HyperSaline mat diversity Guerro Negro, MX Hillimeter-scale genetic gradients and community-sevel molecular convergence in a hypersaline microbial mat Victor Ruen, Jaron Rues, J 10th Ramin, Julin B Space, Juliny 3 Welker, Munda I Servera, Christian von Merrin, Julin B Rese, Part Bon & Printip Progenitiz (Ser 13.325M-reh, 2008.13 MOSTO ANTICAL | Description | Printip Printip



TOPIC 1. Bacterial Diversity: 16S rRNA gene

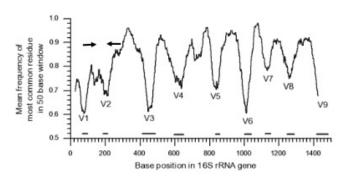


Orange= rRNA; Blue = small subunit proteins Green = large subunit proteins



c

Bacterial Load: qPCR wth primers in conserved regions



16S gene was amplified using forward primer 63F (5-GCAGGCCTAACACATGCAAGTC-3) and reverse primer 355R (5-CTGCTGCCTCCCGTAGGAGT-3) to yield a 292-bp PCR product. (Castillo M...Gasa J...2006)

Calculating Bacterial Load

Human			Bacterial DNA			
DNA	300 pg		30 pg		3 pg	
	Ct	copy#	Ct	copy#	Ct	copy #
0 g	17.85	54924.50	20.92	6951.93	24.24	743.61
0.3 ng	17.78	57575.00	20.93	6905.28	24.42	658.74

 $C_{\rm t}$ of qPCR of bacterial DNA to calculate relative bacterial counts of each sampling method. The function used to calculate copy number is as follows: $C_{\rm t} = -3.42 \, {\rm x} + 34.06$; $R^2 = 0.99$; where $C_{\rm t} = 1.09 \, {\rm threshold}$ cycle and $C_{\rm threshold} = 1.09 \, {\rm threshold}$ cycle and $C_{\rm threshold} = 1.09 \, {\rm threshold}$

- •Swab yields 10,000 bacteria/cm²
- Scrape yields 50,000 bacteria/cm²
- Biopsy yields 1,000,000 bacteria/cm²

Grice et al, Genome Research 2008

11

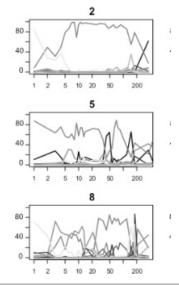
How to study microbial diversity

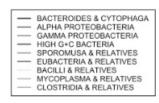
- Fingerprinting: cheapest, but very limited (Anderson and Cairney, Envir Microbiol 2004)
- PhyloChip or GeoChip: like microarray,
 will be powerful to assess changes in diversity (when predominate species enumerated) but like all Chips will never find UNIQUE species (Wilson Appl Environ Microbiol 2002 and He ISME J 2007)
- Sequencing: taxonomic classification and function, dynamic range and compare multiple complex samples.

For a SMALL study, SEQUENCE is limiting; For a LARGE study, BIOINFORMATICS is limiting.

PhyloChip to examine intestinal microbiota in first year of life

Palmer, Relman, Brown 2007 PLOS Bio

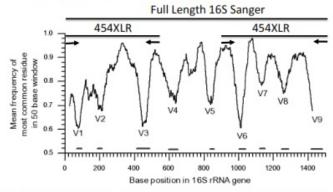




Great diversity between infants and between time points with 'blooms'

13

16S Bacterial rRNA gene conserved, variable and hypervariable regions. Primers put into conserved regions, phylogeny determined by variable regions, 'species' by hypervariable regions.



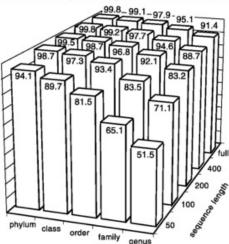
PRIMERS SIGNIFICANTLY DETERMINE MICROBIAL DIVERSITY RECOVERED. CAN NOT A PRIORI COMPARE YOUR DATASET TO SOMEONE ELSES IF DIFFERENT PRIMER OR AMPLIFICATION CONDITIONS WERE USED

How many reads do you need? Depends on site diversity (slide 34,35) and taxonomic aim of study

- Sanger: Full-length 1.6 kb gives you a match to a cultured isolate, 384 sequences/sample
- 454/Roche: 400 bp V1-V3 or V6-V9 region, allows you to assign to genera, 3,000 reads/ sample
- Illumina: 100 bp tags (2x150 bp on MiSeq) identify bacterial genera, not species (and great for whole genome bacterial sequencing)

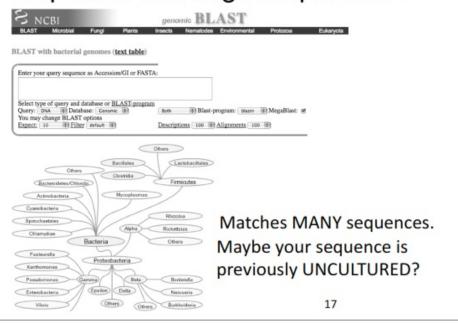
15

FIG. 1. Overall classification accuracy by query size (exhaustive leave-one-out testing using the Bergey corpus). Numbers are percentages of tests correctly classified.



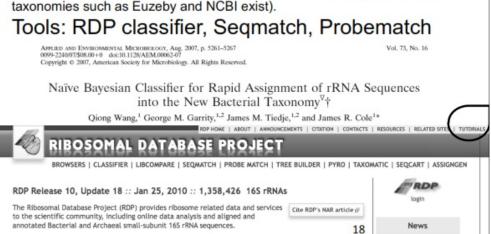
Applied and Environmental Microbiology, August 2007, p. 5261-5267, Vol. 73, No. 16
Naïve Bayesian Classifier for Rapid Assignment of rRNA Sequences into the New Bacterial Taxonomy Qiong Wang, George M. Garrity, James M. Tiedje, and James R. Cole
Also see: Liu, DeSantis, Andersen and Knight, NAR 2008

How to identify a bacterial sequence and align sequences?



RDP Database http://rdp.cme.msu.edu/

- RDP 10.18 consists of 920,643 aligned and annotated 16S rRNA sequences. Naïve Baysian classifier based on Bergey's taxonomy. (Note: other taxonomies such as Euzeby and NCBI exist).



RDP Pyrosequencing Pipeline

About the RDP's Pyrosequencing Pipeline

The Ribosomal Database Project's Pyrosequencing Pipeline aims to simplify the processing of large 16s rRNA sequence libraries obtained through pyrosequencing. This site processes and converts the data to formats suitable for common ecological and statistical packages such as SPADE, EstimateS, and R.

Data Processing Steps:

- Pipeline Initial Process sort and trim the raw reads, filter low quality sequences.
- Aligner align sequences using the fast, secondary-structure aware Infernal aligner.
- Complete Linkage Clustering cluster sequences by the complete-linkage clustering method.

Formats for Common Programs:

- SPADE Formatter make a SPADE compatible input format.
- R Formatter make a R compatible input format.
- EstimateS Formatter make an EstimateS compatible input format. Can also be used with PAST.
- Mothur: Column Distance Matrix create a column distance matrix compatible with Mothur.
- Mothur: Phylip Distance Matrix create a matrix and sample group file compatible with Mothur's LIBSHUFF function.

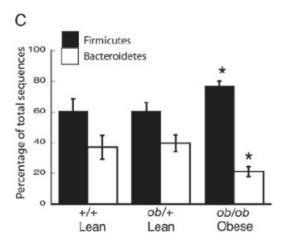
Analysis Tools:

- Shannon & Chao1 Index calculate Shannon Index & Chao1 estimator from a single sample file.
- Rarefaction calculate Rarefaction from a single sample file.
- RDP Classifier assign 16S rRNA sequences to our taxonomical hierarchy.
- RDP LibCompare compare two sequence libraries using the RDP Classifie 19

Host Sequence Contamination

- Important when dealing with humanderived samples
- Ethically, projects should attempt to filter human subject sequences before submission to public databases
- This is actually harder than it sounds

Gordon: lean versus obese mice



Obesity (in mice) correlates with an increase in Firmicutes/ Bacteriodetes ratio

Ley, ... Gordon PNAS 2005

21

Also true in humans

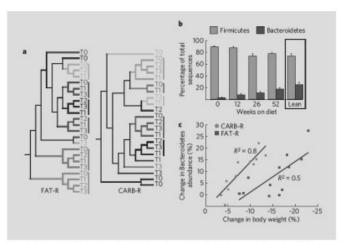


Figure 1| Correlation between body-weight loss and gut microbial ecology. a, Clustering of 16S ribosomal RNA gene sequence libraries of faecal microbiota for each person (in different colours) and time point in diet therapy (T0, baseline; T1, 12 weeks; T2, 26 weeks; T3, 52 weeks) in the two diet-treatment groups (fat restricted, FAT-R; carbohydrate restricted, FAR-R), based on UniFrac analysis of the 18,348-sequence phylogenetic tree. b, Relative abundance of Bacteroidetes and Firmicutes. For each time point, values from all available samples were averaged (n was 11 or 12 per time point). Lean-

NATURE|Vol 444|21/28 December 2006

Ruth E. Ley, Peter J. Turnbaugh, Samuel Klein, Jeffrey I. Gordon

Chimeras: PCR generated (template switching)

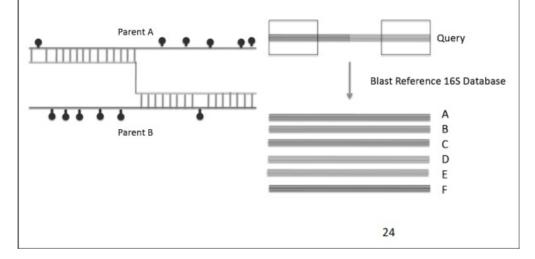


Evaluate Accuracy:

- True Positives (TP): artificial chimeras flagged
- False Positives (FP): reference (non-chimera) flagged

23

How Do Chimeras Occur? Incomplete extension of PCR, Template Switching at Conserved Regions



ChimeraSlayer Detection Program http://microbiomeutil.sourceforge.net

Compatible with near-full length Sanger sequences and shorter 454-FLX sequences (~500 bp).

Given a candidate chimera query sequence, candidate parental sequences of a chimera are identified by a homology search. The ends of the query sequence are searched separately to identify candidate parental sequences. ... Those candidate parents identified by this alignment fitting procedure are tested in all pairwise combinations as potential parents of the putative chimeric query sequence using a modified Bellerophon-like algorithm.

Microbiome Utilities Portal of the Broad Institute



Genome Res. 2011 Mar;21(3):494-504.

25

How to align sequences?

Query	225	ATTAGCTAGTTGGTAAGGTAACGGCTTACCAAGGC-A-ACG-ATGCATAGCC-GACC	
Sbjct	212	ATTAGCTAGTAGGTGGGGTAACGGCTCCATCCCTAGGCGAGCCGAATCCTTAGCCTGGTC	271
Query		TGAGAGG-GTGATCGGCCACACTGGAACTGAG-ACACGGTCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCA	
Sbjct	272	TGAGAGGAATGACCAGCCACACTGGGACTGAGAACACGGTCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCA	331

WANT TO USE A PROGRAM THAT TAKES 16S STRUCTURE INTO CONSIDERATION. GAPS ARE MORE LIKELY IN LOOPS THAN STEMS

NAST and NASTier

fixed-width character alignment format



NAST: a multiple sequence alignment server for comparative analysis of 16S rRNA genes

T. Z. DeSantis^{1,4,a}, P. Hugenholtz², K. Keller^{5,4}, E. L. Brodie¹, N. Larsen³, Y. M. Piceno¹, R. Phan^{1,4} and G. L. Andersen^{1,4,a}

NAST-iEr

The NAST-iEr alignment utility (download) aligns a single raw nucleotide sequence against one or more NAST formatted sequences.

The alignment algorithm involves global dynamic programming alignment to a fixed template sequences without any end-gap penalty similar in principle to Pearson's align0 program with a fixed template sequence containing arbitrary gap positions.

27

Silva Database (ARB): http://www.arb-silva.de/ Build a Phylogenetic Tree and Calculate Branch Length



Pruesse, E., C. Quast, K. Knittel, B. Fuchs, W. Ludwig, J. Peplies, and F. O. Glöckner.

SILVA: a comprehensive online resource for quality checked and aligned ribosomal RNA sequence data compatible with ARB.

Nuc. Acids Res. 2007; Vol. 35, No. 21, p. 7188-7196

Nacleic Acids Research, 2004, Vol. 12, No. 4, 1861-1971
DOI: 10.1009/bear/pla2035

ARB: a software environment for sequence data

Wolfgang Ludwig*, Oliver Strunk, Ralf Westram, Lothar Richter, Harald Meier*, Yadhukumar, Arno Buchner, Tina Lai, Susanne Steppi, Gangotf Jobb¹, Wolfram Förster¹, Igor Brettske, Stefan Gerber, Anton W. Ginhart¹, Oliver Gross, Silke Grumann¹, Stefan Hermann¹, Ralf Jost¹, Andreas König¹, Thomas Lisa¹, Ralph Lüßmann¹, Michael May¹, Björn Nonhoff¹, Boris Reichel¹, Robert Strehlow¹, Alexandros Stamatakis¹, Norbert Stuckmann¹, Alexander Vilbig¹, Michael Lenke¹, Thomas Ludwig², Arndt Bode¹ and Kart-Heinz Schleifler

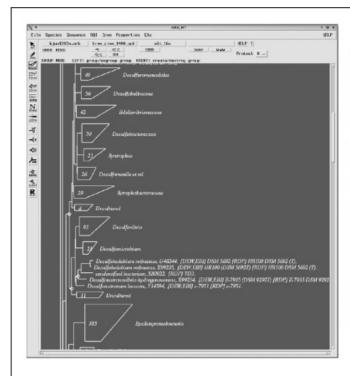
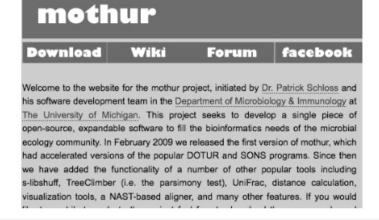


Figure 3. The ARB main window showing part of an ARB parsimony-generated dendrogram. The rectangles represent 'online compressed' monophyletic groups which can be 'unfolded' by mouse click. Database *eld entries such as taxonomic name, public database accession number and strain designation as reported in EMBL (1), RDP (3) and the European rRNA databases (DEW) (4,5) are visualized at the terminal nodes of the 'unfolded' Desulfohalobiaceae.

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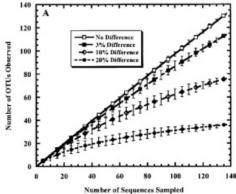
Defining Taxonomic Groups by sequence similarity: DOTUR, SONS and MOTHUR http://www.mothur.org



OTU: Operational Taxonomic Unit

Cluster Sequences Based on Furthest Joining Method; i.e. Every sequence is at most X% different from every other sequence in the group

% identity within group determines the number of OTUs produced. This should be done on the TOTAL dataset. Most experiments classify at the 97% or 99% identity.



APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROHIOLOGY, Mar. 2005, p. 1501–1506 0099-2240/05/\$08.00+0 doi:10.1128/AEM.71.3.1501–1506.2005 Copyright © 2005, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Introducing DOTUR, a Computer Program for Defining Operational Taxonomic Units and Estimating Species Richness

Patrick D. Schloss and Jo Handelsman*

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Comparing Bacterial Diversity: Community Membership & Structure

•	
Grp A	Grp B
60	50
34	50
2	0
2	0
2	0

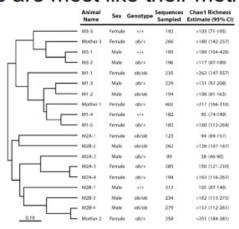
Community Membership

(Categories of fruit in common)

Community Structure

(Pieces of fruit in common)

Community Membership: Pups are most like their mothers



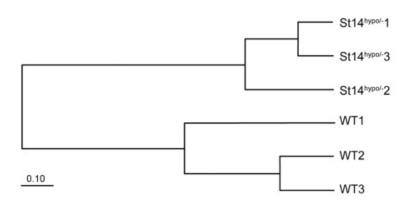
APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, Oct. 2006, p. 6773–6779 0099-2240/06/\$08.00+0 doi:10.1128/AEM.00474-06 Copyright © 2006, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved. Vol. 72, No. 10

Introducing SONS, a Tool for Operational Taxonomic Unit-Based Comparisons of Microbial Community Memberships and Structures

Patrick D. Schloss† and Jo Handelsman*

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Community Structure: Pups cluster according to genotype



Scharschmidt et al. JID 2009

UniFrac: Unique Fraction Metric

- Measures fraction of branch length in a tree that is unique to a community
- · Weighted or unweighted for abundance
- Can be used with multivariate statistical methods (UPGMA and PCA) for visualization
- · Calculate parsimonious changes to obtain p value

APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, Dec. 2005, p. 8228–8235 0099-2240/05/\$08.00+0 doi:10.1128/AEM.71.12.8228–8235.2005 Copyright © 2005, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved. Vol. 71, No. 12

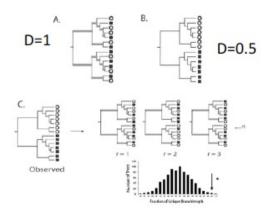
UniFrac: a New Phylogenetic Method for Comparing Microbial Communities

Catherine Lozupone1 and Rob Knight2*

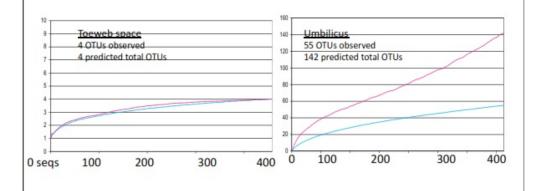
35

UniFrac allows you to:

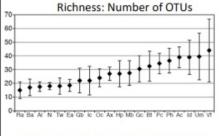
- 1. Determine if the environments in the input phylogenetic tree have significantly different microbial communities.
- 2. Determine if community differences are concentrated within particular lineages of the phylogenetic tree.



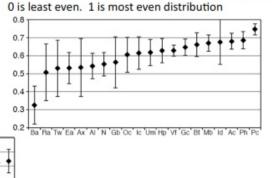
How much diversity is there in the population? Have you sequenced enough to capture the diversity? Chao1 rarefaction curves



Richness, evenness, diversity: Shannon and Simpson diversity



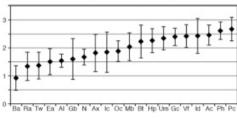
Shannon Diversity Index accounts for both richness and evenness of OTUs



Relative distribution of sequences among the OTUs.

Evenness: Shannon Equitability Index

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If you are using 454 sequences, consider VAMPS to form OTUs http://vamps.mbl.edu/

Revised: October 9th, 2009

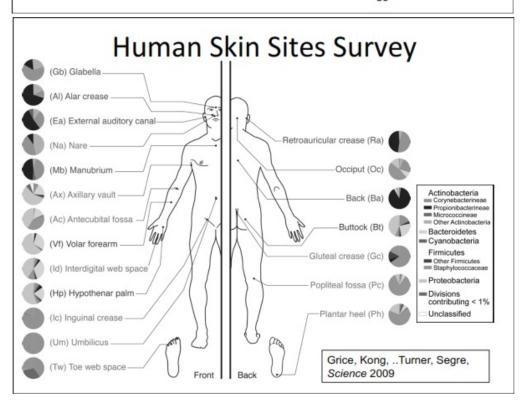
VAMPS

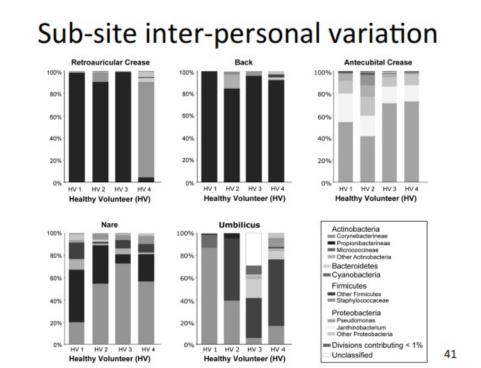
The Visualization and Analysis of Microbial Population Structures

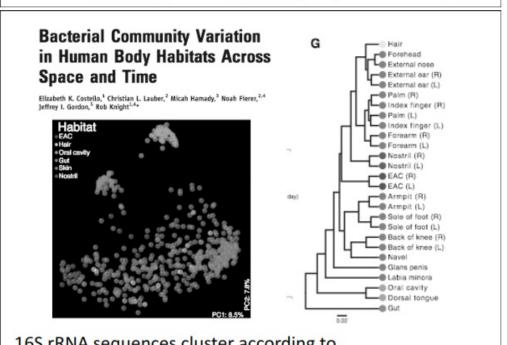
VAMPS is an integrated collection of tools for researchers to visualize and analyze data for microbial population structures and distributions. For more information on the VAMPS project, visit our VAMPS Overview page.

There are two essential elements to VAMPS:

- Visualization and Analysis Community Visualization including heat maps and comparative pie charts, as well as diversity estimates, rarefaction curves and spreadsheet-style output provide researchers with analytical tools for assessing individual microbial populations, based on either taxonomic assignments or independently-derived operational taxonomic units (OTUs).
- Data Ramp Researchers who want to use the VAMPS tools with their own data can enter their sequence or taxonomy data to the VAMPS website and merge it with the existing shared datasets for individual or comparative analyses. Researchers will be given a user name and password, and their data will be visible only to registered users of their choice.







16S rRNA sequences cluster according to body site rather than individual



Microbial community profiling for human microbiome projects: Tools, techniques, and challenges

Micah Hamady and Rob Knight

Genome Res. 2009 19: 1141-1152 originally published online April 21, 2009 Access the most recent version at doi:10.1101/gr.085464.108

INSIGHT FEATURE

NATURE Vol 449/18 October 2007 del:10.1038/eature 06244

The Human Microbiome Project

 $Peter J.\ Turnbaugh, Ruth\ E.\ Ley, Micah\ Hamady, Claire\ M.\ Fraser-Liggett, Rob\ Knight\ \&\ Jeffrey\ I.\ Gordon$

A strategy to understand the microbial components of the human genetic and metabolic landscape and how they contribute to normal physiology and predisposition to disease.



The NIH Human Microbiome Project

The NIH HMP Working Group, Jane Peterson, Susan Garges, et al.

Genome Res. 2009 19: 2317-2323 originally published online October 9, 2009
Access the most recent version at doi:10.1101/gr.098851.109

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Fungal Diversity

 Similar strategy can be used to classify the 18S rRNA or the intervening sequence (ITS) of fungi

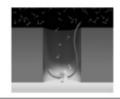
Topic 2: Sequencing Bacterial Genomes

- Roche/454 generates 1, 250,000 reads of ~400+ bp (5 Gbp).
- Illumina generates shorter reads (100+ bp) but generate more sequence data per run for cheaper price/base pair.





Roche/454-XLR Pyrosequencing	Illumina Gaii, HiSeq, MiSeq Sequencing by synthesis
•Emulsion PCR	•Bridge PCR
•400-bp read (avg)	•100+-bp read, paired end



ion torrent

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* Manufacturer specifications from Holt and Jones, Genome Research 18:839-46 (2008)

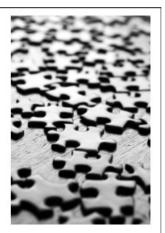
Paired end reads (8 kb inserts) scaffold contigs



Unidirectional reads form contigs

Assemblers (de novo)

- Phrap
- Newbler (454)
- Velvet
- ALL-PATHS, SSAKE, VCAKE, SHARCGS, Edena, AMOS
- CAP3/PCAP



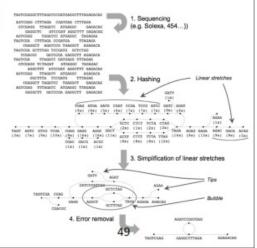
47

Newbler (gsAssembler)

- Works in base-space and flow-space
- Overlap-Layout-Consensus method
- Homopolymer correction
- 1. Identify pairwise read overlaps
- 2. Build graph
 - 1. Nodes are contiguous alignments
 - Edges connect nodes with branch points representing repeat boundaries
- Detangle
- 4. Build consensus alignment

Velvet (Zerbino and Birney, 2008)

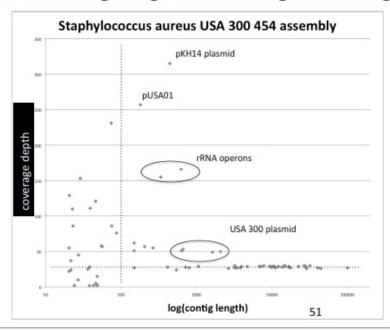
- Works in base-space and color-space
- Good for small genomes
- Agnostic of read length
- 1. Construct k-mer hash
- 2. Build De Bruijn graph
- 3. Simplify graph
- 4. Resolve
 - 1. Tips
 - 2. Bubbles



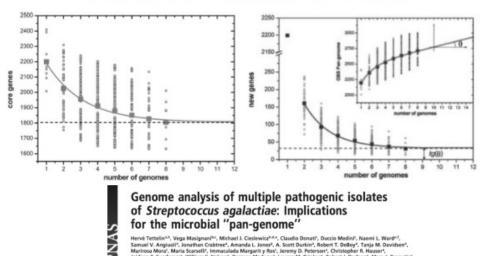
Evaluating Assemblies

- Coverage is a measure of how deeply a region has been sequenced
- The Lander-Waterman model predicts
 8-10 fold coverage is needed to minimze the number of contigs for a 1 Mbp genome
- The N50 size is the point at which 50% of bases are in contigs this size or greater

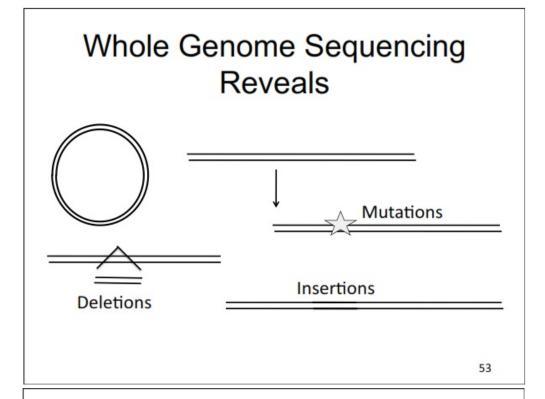
Evaluating High Coverage Contigs



Is there a reference genome? Is it a fixed genome? Bacteria exchange information with horizontal gene transfer



Hervé Tettelin¹⁰, Vega Masignani¹⁰, Michael J. Cieslewich¹⁶, Claudio Donati', Duccio Medini', Naomi L. Ward^{1,2}, Samuel V. Angiucil', Jonathan Crabtree', Amanda L. Jones', A. Scott Durkin', Robert T. Delloy', Tanja M. Davidsen', Marirosa Morra', Minai Scansell', Immanolade Mangarit' y 8ord, Jeremy D. Peterson', Christopher R. Hauper, Jaideep P. Sundaram', William C. Nelson', Kanana Madupu', Lauren M. Brinkar', Robert J. Dodson', Mary J. Rosovite', Steven A. Sullivan', Sean C. Daughery', Daniel H. Haft, Jeremy Selenger', Michael Le Gwinn', Liwel Zhou', Nikhak Zafar', Hoda Khouri', Diana Radune', George Dimitrov', Kaha Watkin's, Kerin J. B. O'Connon', Shannon Smith, Teresa R. Utterback', Ower Wilder', Casig E. Ruberso, Gadd Genarid', Lawrence C. Madfr''s, Dennis I. Kasper-'à,



TOPIC 3. Identifying Novel Virus: Transplant Associated Arenavirus (also SARS, Merkel cell carcinoma)

Resequencing the human genome to identify viral associated disease is getting EASIER and CHEAPER. Once you find them once, finding them again is PCR-based. Very cheap and easy!



Three organ-transplant recipients died with a month of the transplant

Recipient No.	Age	Diagnosis	Organ Transplanted	Clinical Course	Interval between Transplantation and Death
	yr				days
1	63	End-stage renal failure due to polycystic kidney disease	Kidney	Fever, sepsis, encephalopathy, acute tubular necrosis, graft re- jection, radiographic evidence of chest infiltrates	36
2	64	Decompensated cirrhosis and hepatocellular cancer due to hepatitis C infection	Liver	Fever, confusion, encephalopathy with myoclonus, chest infil- trates	30
3	44	End-stage renal failure due to polycystic kidney disease	Kidney	Fever, graft rejection, intraabdom- inal hematomas and effusion, transplant nephrectomy, en- cephalopathic illness	29

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The needle(s) in the haystack...

103,632 reads from 454 FLX lane (length= 45-337 nt, mean=162.) 94,043 reads after filtering



BLASTN largely uninformative



BLASTX analysis identified 14 fragments that were consistent with Old World arenaviruses (12 S-segment and 2 L-segment).



PCR using primers based on the pyrosequeincing reads and consensus information from sequenced Arenaviruses

Gene Accession No. LCMV		LCMV Strain	Homology	
			Amino Acid	Nucleotide
			per	cent
GPC	AB261990	M2	94	86
NP	AB261990	M2	97	87
L	DQ286932	Marseille 12	82	79
Z	DQ286932	Marseille 12	79	72

^{*} LCMV denotes lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus.

Sequencing is just the start... Koch's postulates



- The microorganism must be found in abundance in all organisms suffering from the disease, but should not be found in healthy animals.
- The microorganism must be isolated from a diseased organism and grown in pure culture.
- The cultured microorganism should cause disease when introduced into a healthy organism.
- The microorganism must be reisolated from the inoculated, diseased experimental host and identified as being identical to the original specific causative agent.

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TOPIC 4. METAGENOMICS: DNA sequence from multiple organisms

Fungal, Bacterial, Viral, Archaeal DNA all together (with human DNA).

Very Complex mixture and very complex computationally.

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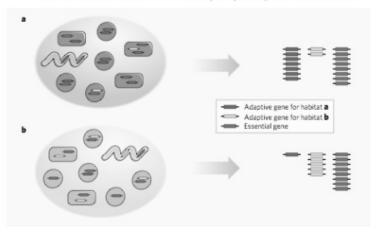
MICROBIOLOGY

Metagenomics

Philip Hugenholtz and Gene W. Tysor

Ten years after the term metagenomics was coined, the approach continues to gather momentum. This culture-independent, molecular way of analysing environmental samples of cohabiting microbial populations has opened up fresh perspectives on microbiology.

Metagenomics: types of bacteria similar between 2 populations, but pink genes enriched in top population



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A core gut microbiome in obese and lean twins

Peter J. Turnbaugh¹, Micah Hamady³, Tanya Yatsunenko¹, Brandi L. Cantarel⁵, Alexis Duncan², Ruth E. Ley¹, Mitchell L. Sogin⁶, William J. Jones⁷, Bruce A. Roe⁸, Jason P. Affourtit⁹, Michael Egholm⁹, Bernard Henrissat⁵, Andrew C. Heath², Rob Knight⁴ & Jeffrey I. Gordon¹

A human gut microbial gene catalogue established by metagenomic sequencing

Junjie Qin^{1a}, Ruiqiang Li^{1a}, Jeroen Raes^{1a}, Manimozhiyan Arumugam^a, Kristoffer Solvsten Burgdorf^a, Chaysavanh Manichanh^a, Trine Nielsen^a, Nicolas Pons^a, Florence Levenez^a, Takuji Yamada^a, Daniel R. Mende^a, Junhun Li^{1a}, Junming Xu¹, Shaochuan Li¹, Donglang Li^{1a}, Jiaijun Cao¹, Bo Wang¹, Huiqing Liang¹, Huisong Zheng¹, Yiniong Xie^{1a}, Julien Tap^a, Patricia Lepage^a, Marcelo Bertalan^a, Jean-Michel Batto^a, Torben Hansen¹, Denis Le Pasilier¹, Allan Linneberg¹, H. Bjørn Nielsen¹, Eric Pelletier¹, Pierre Renault², Thomas Sicheritz-Ponten³, Keith Turner¹³, Hongmei Zhu¹, Chang Yu¹, Shengting Li¹, Min Jian¹, Yan Zhou¹, Yingrui Li¹, Xiuqing Zhang¹, Songgang Li¹, Nan Qin¹, Huanming Yang¹, Jian Wang¹, Jare Brunak¹, Joel Doré^a, Francisco Guarner², Karsten Kristiansen¹³, Oluf Pedersen^{4,44}, Julian Parkhili¹³, Jean Weissenbach¹⁰, MetaHiT Consortium¹, Peer Bork², S. Dusko Ehrlich⁶ & Jun Wang^{1,15}

The human body contains about ten times as many microbes as human cells, and most of them live in the gut. The new study, published today in Nature¹, shows that, between them, those microbes contain 3.3 million genes, dwarfing the human genome's 23,000. The authors also find that the bacterial species in one person's gut are not as different from those of others as had been expected.

Tools do not yet exist to catalogue and comprehend metagenomic complexity

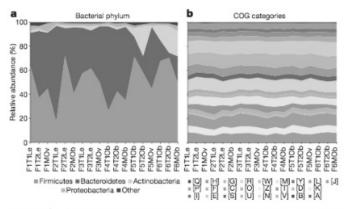


Figure 3 | Comparison of taxonomic and functional variations in the human gut microbiome. a, Relative abundance of major phyla across 18 faecal microbiomes from monozygotic twins and their mothers, based on BLASTX