

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)



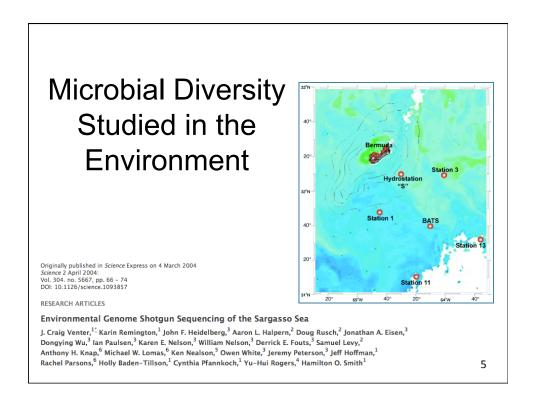


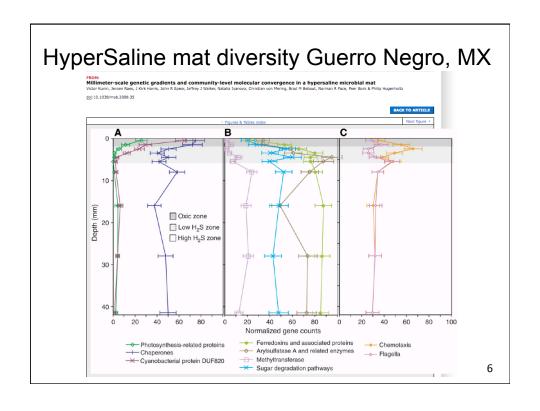


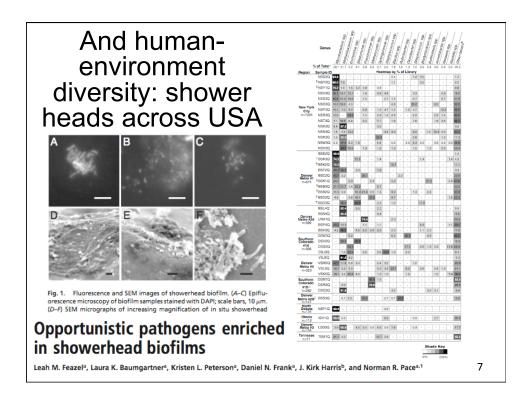
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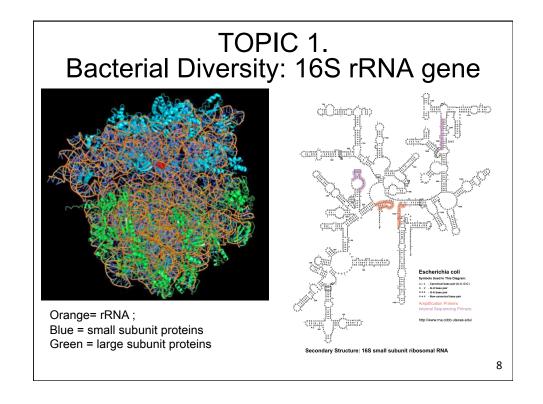
HMP Research Goals

- 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.

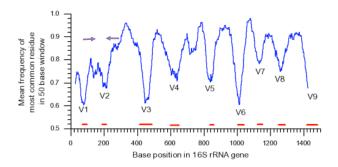








Bacterial Load: qPCR wth primers in conserved regions



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)

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Calculating Bacterial Load

Human			Bacterial DNA			
DNA	300 pg		30 pg		3 pg	
	Ct	copy#	Ct	сору#	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: $C_{\rm t} = -3.42 \, \text{x} + 34.06$; $R^2 = 0.99$; where $C_{\rm t} = 1.09 \, \text{threshold}$ cycle and $C_{\rm t} = 1.09 \, \text{copy}$ number.

- •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

How to study microbial diversity

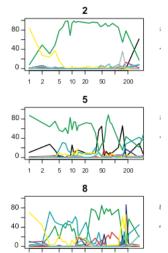
- · Fingerprinting: cheapest, but very limited (Anderson and Cairney, Envir Microbiol 2004)
- PhyloChip orGeoChip: like microarray, will be powerful to assess changes in diversity (when predominate species enumerated) but like all Chips will never find UNIQUE species (Wilson Appl Environ Microbiol 2002 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.

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PhyloChip to examine intestinal microbiota in first year of life

Palmer, Relman, Brown 2007 PLOS Bio

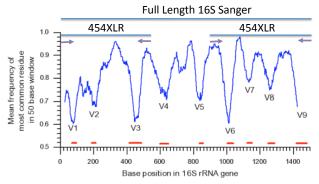


10 20

BACTEROIDES & CYTOPHAGA ALPHA PROTEOBACTERIA GAMMA PROTEOBACTERIA HIGH G+C BACTERIA SPOROMUSA & RELATIVES EUBACTERIA & RELATIVES BACILLI & RELATIVES MYCOPLASMA & RELATIVES CLOSTRIDIA & RELATIVES

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

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



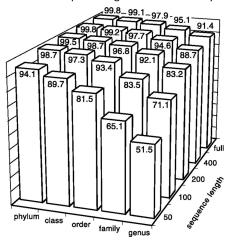
PRIMERS SIGNIFICANTLY DETERMINE MICROBIAL DIVERSITY RECOVERED. CAN NOT A PRIORI COMPARE YOUR DATASET TO SOMEONE ELSES IF DIFFERENT PRIMER OR AMPLIFICATION CONDITIONS WERE USED

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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, 10-50,000 reads/sample
- Solexa/Illumina: 100 bp tags still too small to identify bacterial genera (but great for whole genome bacterial sequencing)

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

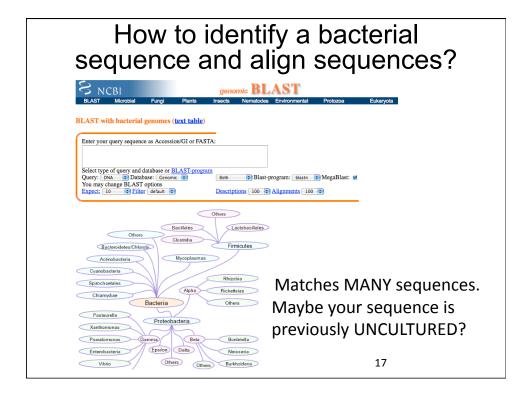


Applied and Environmental Microbiology, August 2007, p. 5261-5267, Vol. 73, No. 16

Naïve Bayesian Classifier for Rapid Assignment of rRNA Sequences into the New Bacterial Taxonomy · Qiong Wang, ¹ George M. Garrity, ¹,² James M. Tiedje, ¹,² and James R. Cole¹

Also see: Liu, DeSantis, Andersen and Knight, NAR 2008

```
DEFINITION Staphylococcus aureus strain 16S ribosomal RNA gene,
       1 ggcgcgcgtt atcgctggcg gcgtgcctaa tacatgcaag tcgagcgaac ggacgagaag
       61 cttctctgat gttagcggcg gacgggtgag taacacgtgg ataacctacc tataagactg
      121 ggataacttc gggaaaccgg agctaatacc ggataatatt ttgaaccgca tggttcaaaa
      181 gtgaaagacg gtcttgctgt cacttataga tggatccgcg ctgcattagc tagttggtaa
      241 ggtaacggct taccaaggca acgatgcata gccgacctga gagggtgatc ggccacactg
      301 qaactqaqac acqqtccaqa ctcctacqqq aqqcaqcaqt aqqqaatctt ccqcaatqqq
      361 cgaaagcctg acggagcaac ccgcgtgagt gatgaaggtc ttcggatcgt aaaactctgt
      421 tattagggaa gaacatatgt gtaagtaact gtgcacatct tgacggtact aatcagaaag
      481 ccacggctaa ctacgtgcca gcagccgcgg taatacgtag gtggcaagcg ttatccggaa
      541 ttattgggcg taaagcgcgc gtaggcggtt ttttaagtct gatgtgaaag cccacggctc
      601 aaccqtqqaq qqtcattqqa aactqqaaaa cttqaqtqca qaaqaqqaaa qtqqaattcc
      661 atqtqtaqcq qtgaaatgcg cagagatatg gaggaacacc agtggcgaag gcgacttctg
      721 gtctgtaact gacgctgatg tgcgaaagcg tggggatcaa acaggattag ataccctggt
      781 agtccacgcc gtaaacgatg agtgctaagt gttagggggt ttccgcccct tagtgctgca
      841 gctaacgcat taagcactcc gcctggggag tacgaccgca aggttgaaac tcaaaggaat
      901 tgacggggac ccgcacaagc ggtggagcat gtggtttaat tcgaagcaac gcgaaacctt
      961 accaaatctt gacatccttt gacaactcta gagatagagc cttccccttc gggggacaaa
     1021 gtgacaggtg gtgcatggtt gtcgtcagct cgtgtcgtga gatgttgggt taagtcccgc
     1081 aacgagegea accettaage ttagttgeea teattaagtt gggeacteta agttgaetge
     1141 cggtgacaaa ccggaggaag gtggggatga cgtcaaatca tcatgcccct tatgatttgg
     1201 gctacacacg tgctacaatg gacaatacaa agggcagcga aaccgcgagg tcaacaaatc
     1261 ccataaagtt gttctcagtt cggattgtag tctgcaactc gactacatga agctggaatc
     1321 gctagtaatc gtagatcagc atgctacggt gaatacgttc ccgggtcttg tacacaccgc
     1381\ {\tt ccgtcacacc}\ {\tt acgagagttt}\ {\tt gtaacacccg}\ {\tt aagccggtgg}\ {\tt agtaaccttt}\ {\tt tagggctagc}
     1441 cggaaggtgg g
```



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).
- Tools: RDP classifier, Seqmatch, Probematch



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

Gordon: lean versus obese mice C Firmicutes Percentage of total sequences Bacteroidetes Obesity (in mice) correlates with an increase in Firmicutes/ **Bacteriodetes** ratio +/+ ob/+ ob/ob Obese Lean Lean Lev, ... Gordon PNAS 2005 20



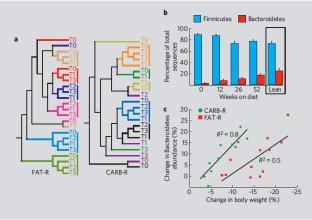


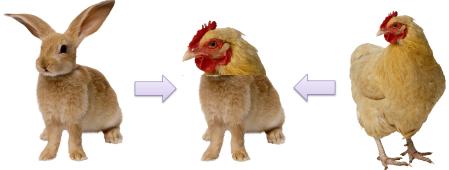
Figure 1 | Correlation between body-weight loss and gut microbial ecology. a, Clustering of 16S ribosomal RNA gene sequence libraries of faecal microbiota for each person (in different colours) and time point in diet therapy (T0, baseline; T1, 12 weeks; T2, 26 weeks; T3, 26 weeks) in the two dietreatment groups (fat restricted, FAT-R; carbohydrate restricted, CARB-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

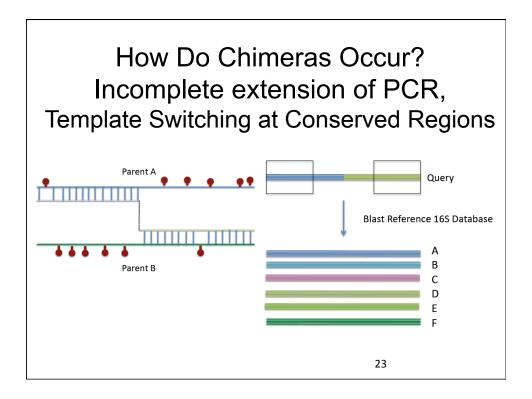
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Chimeras: PCR generated (template switching)



Evaluate Accuracy:

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



Pintail Chimera Detection Program

Given a dubious query sequence and a trusted reference sequence with computed average divergence, there is an expected divergence profile. Pintail identifies sequence anomalies. Requires checking sequences individually. Primarily used at RDP. Reimplemented by Broad Institute as WigeoN.

APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, Dec. 2005, p. 7724–7736 0099-2240/05/\$08.00+0 doi:10.1128/AEM.71.12.7724–7736.2005 Copyright © 2005, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Vol. 71, No. 12

At Least 1 in 20 16S rRNA Sequence Records Currently Held in Public Repositories Is Estimated To Contain Substantial Anomalies

Kevin E. Ashelford, ^{1*} Nadia A. Chuzhanova, ³ John C. Fry, ¹ Antonia J. Jones, ² and Andrew J. Weightman ¹ 24

Bellerophon chimera checker http://greengenes.lbl.gov/

...weighted the likelihood of a sequence being chimeric according to the similarity of the parent sequences. The more distantly related the parent sequences were to each other relative, the greater the likelihood that the inferred chimera was real.

BIOINFORMATICS APPLICATIONS NOTE Vol. 20 no. 14 2004, pages 2317-2319 doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/bth226



Bellerophon: a program to detect chimeric sequences in multiple sequence alignments

Thomas Huber^{1,*}, Geoffrey Faulkner¹ and Philip Hugenholtz²

APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, July 2006, p. 5069–5072 0099-2240/06/\$08.00+0 doi:10.1128/AEM.03006-05 Copyright © 2006, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Vol. 72, No. 7

Greengenes, a Chimera-Checked 16S rRNA Gene Database and Workbench Compatible with ARB

T. Z. DeSantis, P. Hugenholtz, N. Larsen, M. Rojas, E. L. Brodie, K. Keller, T. Huber, D. Dalevi, P. Hu, and G. L. Andersen

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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



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

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How to align sequences?

Query	225	ATTAGCTAGTTGGTAAGGTAACGGCTTACCAAGGC-A-ACG-ATGCATAGCC-GACC	277
Sbjct	212	ATTAGCTAGTAGGTGGGGTAACGGCTCCATCCCTAGGCGAGCCGAATCCTTAGCCTGGTC	271
Query	278	TGAGAGG-GTGATCGGCCACACTGGAACTGAG-ACACGGTCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCA	335
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



W394–W399 Nucleic Acids Research, 2006, Vol. 34, Web Server issue doi:10.1093/nar/gkl244

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

T. Z. DeSantis 1,4,* , P. Hugenholtz², K. Keller 5,4 , E. L. Brodie 1 , N. Larsen 3 , Y. M. Piceno 1 , R. Phan 1,4 and G. L. Andersen 1,4,*

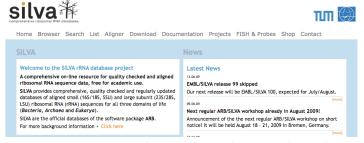
NAST-iEr

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.

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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

Nucleic Acids Research, 2004, Vol. 32, No. 4, 164-1371
DOI: 10.1093/mar/psh293

ARB: a software environment for sequence data

Wolfgang Ludwig*, Oliver Strunk, Ralf Westram, Lothar Richter, Harald Meier*, Yadhukumar, Arno Buchner, Tina Lai, Susanne Steppi, Gangolf Jobb¹, Wolfram Förster¹, Igor Brettske, Stefan Gerber, Anton W. Ginhart¹, Oliver Gross, Silke Grumann¹, Stefan Hermann¹, Ralf Jost¹, Andreas König¹, Thomas Liss¹, Ralph Lüßmann¹, Michael May¹, Björn Nonhoff¹, Boris Reichel¹, Robert Strehlow¹, Alexandros Stamatakis¹, Norbert Stuckmann¹, Alexander Vilbig¹, Michael Lenke¹, Thomas Ludwig², Arndt Bode¹ and Karl-Heinz Schleifer

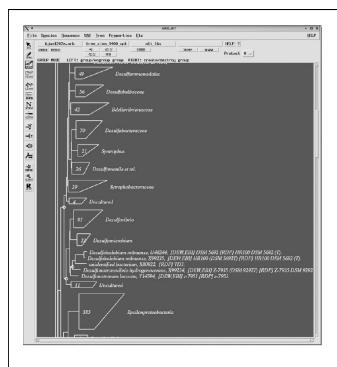
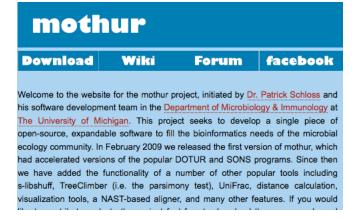


Figure 3. The ARB main window showing part of an ARB parsimony-generated dendrogram. The rectangles represent 'online compressed' monophyletic groups which can be 'unfolded' by mouse click. Database ®eld entries such as taxonomic name, public database accession number and strain designation as reported 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

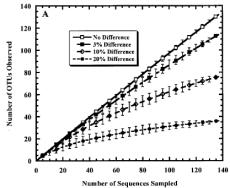


OTU: Operational Taxonomic Unit

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 MICROBIOLOGY, 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*

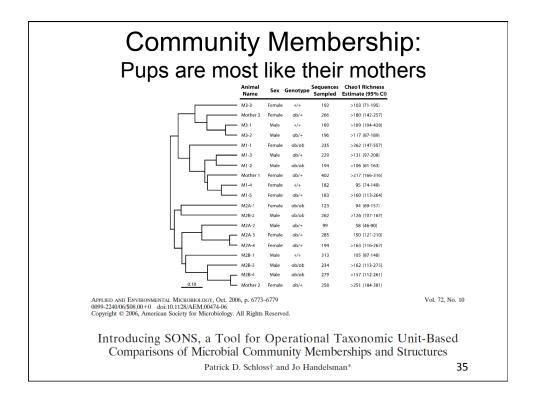
33

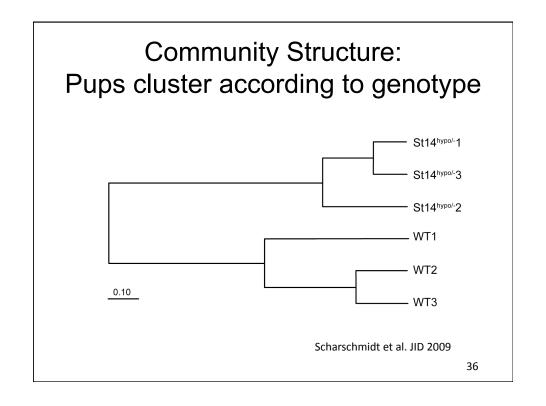
Comparing Bacterial Diversity: Community Membership & Structure

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

Community Membership (Categories of fruit in common) = 2/5 = 0.4**Community Structure**

(Pieces of fruit in common) = ~ 0.9





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.

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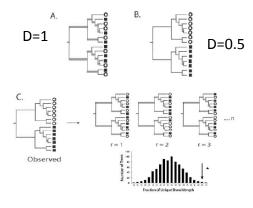
UniFrac: a New Phylogenetic Method for Comparing Microbial Communities

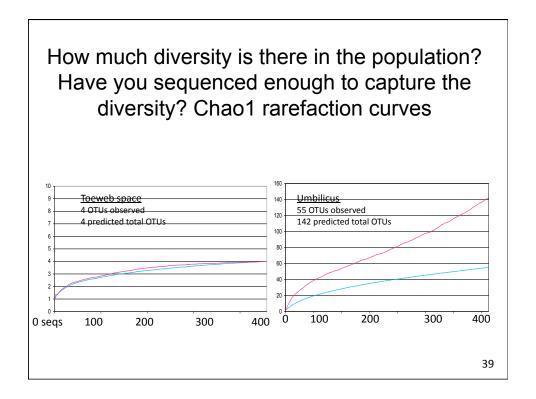
Catherine Lozupone1 and Rob Knight2*

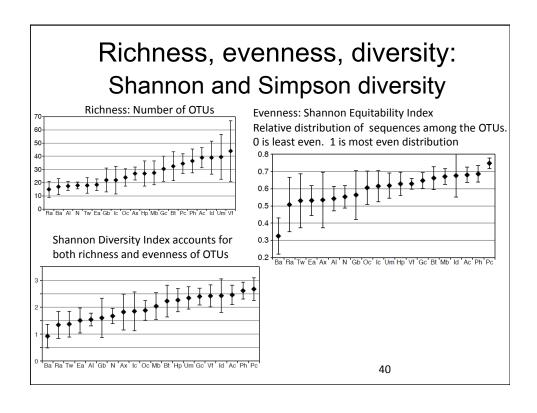
37

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.







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

Revisea: 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.

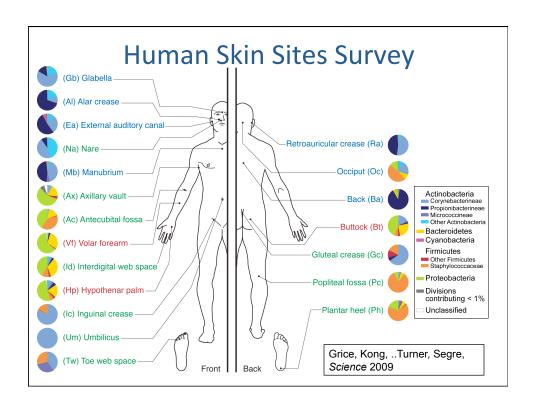
There are two essential elements to VAMPS:

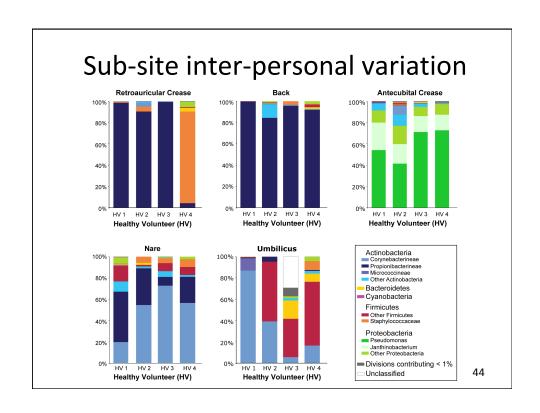
- Visualization and Analysis Community Visualization including heat maps and comparative pie charts, as well as diversity estimates, rarefaction curves and spreadsheet-style output provide researchers with analytical tools for assessing individual microbial populations, based on either taxonomic assignments 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.

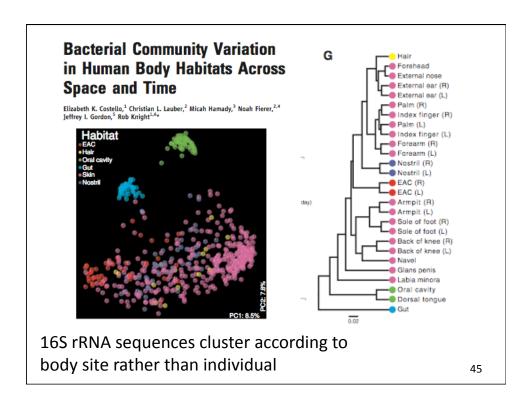
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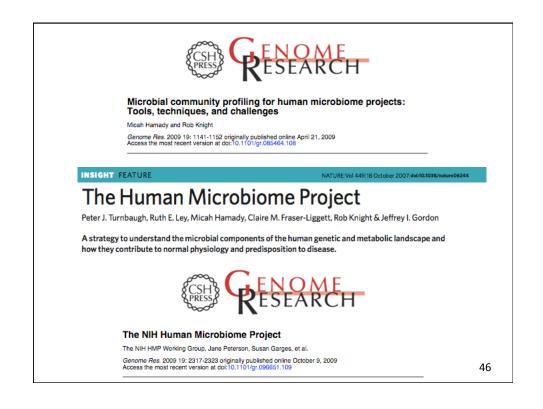
Fungal Diversity

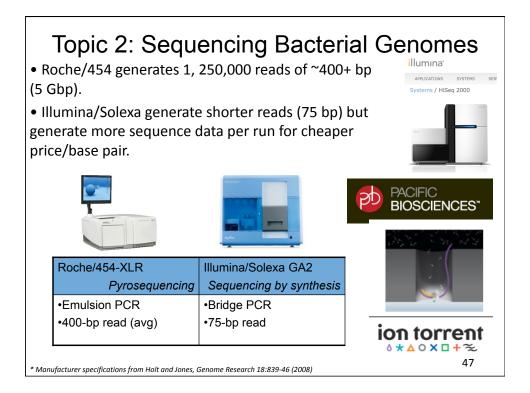
 Similar strategy can be used to classify the 18S rRNA or the intervening sequence (ITS) of fungi

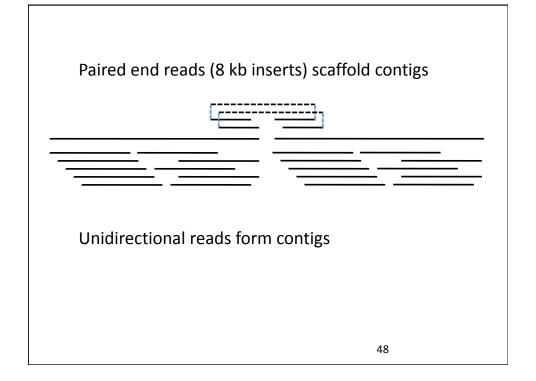






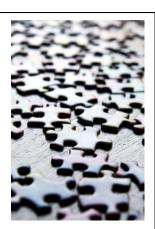






Assemblers (de novo)

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



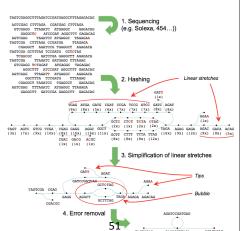
49

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
 - 2. Edges connect nodes with branch points representing repeat boundaries
- 3. Detangle
- 4. Build consensus alignment

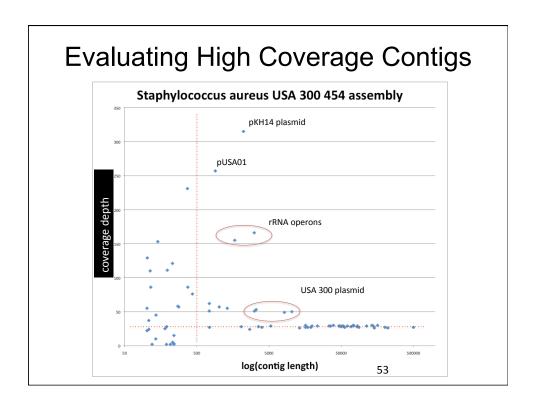
Velvet (Zerbino and Birney, 2008)

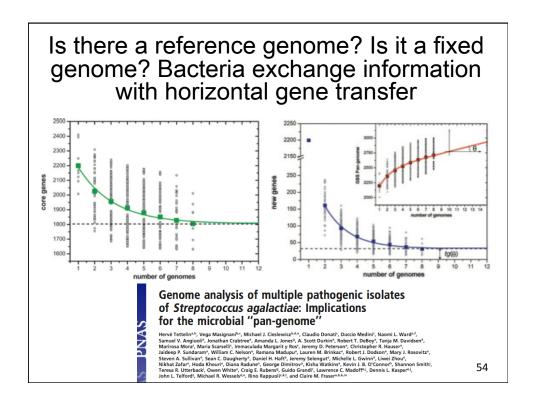
- Works in base-space and color-space
- Good for small genomes
- Agnostic of read length
- 1. Construct k-mer hash
- 2. Build De Bruijn graph
- 3. Simplify graph
- 4. Resolve
 - 1. Tips
 - 2. Bubbles

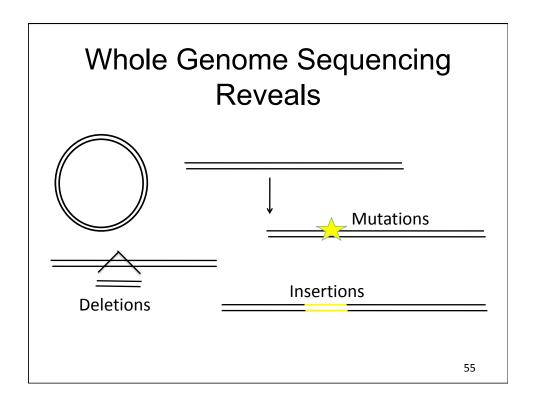


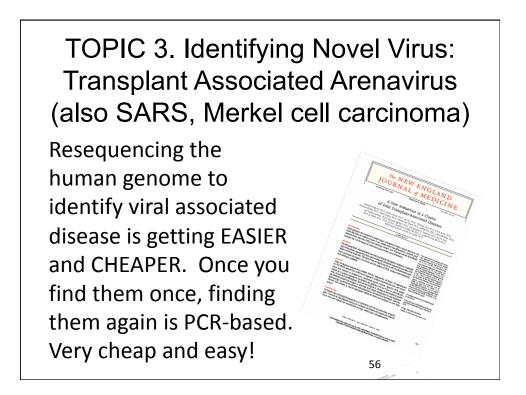
Evaluating Assemblies

- 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









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 infiltrates	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 Strain	Homology		
			Amino Acid	Nucleotide	
			percent		
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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nature

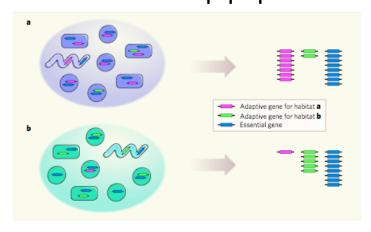
MICROBIOLOGY

Metagenomics

Philip Hugenholtz and Gene W. Tyson

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 Qin¹*, Ruiqiang Li¹*, Jeroen Raes²³, Manimozhiyan Arumugam², Kristoffer Solvsten Burgdorf⁴, Chaysavanh Manichanh², Trine Nielsen⁴, Nicolas Pons⁴, Florence Levenez⁴, Takuji Yamada³, Daniel R. Mende³, Junhua Li³, Junming Xu¹, Shaochuan Li³, Dongfang Li³, Jianjun Cao¹, Bo Wang¹, Huiqing Liang², Huisong Zheng¹, Yinlong Xie¹², Julien Tap⁰, Patricia Lepage⁰, Marcelo Bertalan³, Jean-Michel Batto˚, Torben Hansen⁴, Denis Le Paslier˚, Allan Linneberg³, H. Bjørn Nielsen³, Eric Pelletier⁵, Pierre Renault³, Thomas Sicheritz-Ponten⁴, Keith Turner¹², Hongmei Zhu¹, Chang Yu¹, Shengting Li³, Min Jian¹, Yan Zhou¹, Yingrui Li¹, Xiuqing Zhang², Songgang Li³, Nan Qin³, Huamming Yang², Jian Wang³, Seren Brunak³, Joel Dore⁰, Francisco Guarner², Karsten Kristiansen³, Oluf Pedersen⁵¹⁴, Julian Parkhill¹², Jean Weissenbach¹⁰, MetaHIT Consortium†, Peer Bork², S. Dusko Ehrlich⁰ & Jun Wang¹¹¹³

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 $Nature^{\frac{1}{2}}$, 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

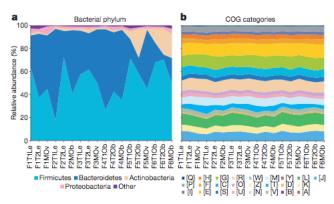


Figure 3 | Comparison of taxonomic and functional variations in the human gut microbiome. a, Relative abundance of major phyla across 18 faecal microbiomes from monozygotic twins and their mothers, based on BLASTX

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Why do we sterilize our exterior (skin) and populate our interior (gut)?





Is this promoting health or disease? Is this neutral to our health? To our environment? $_{_{64}}$