

## Session 2.3 – Assembly

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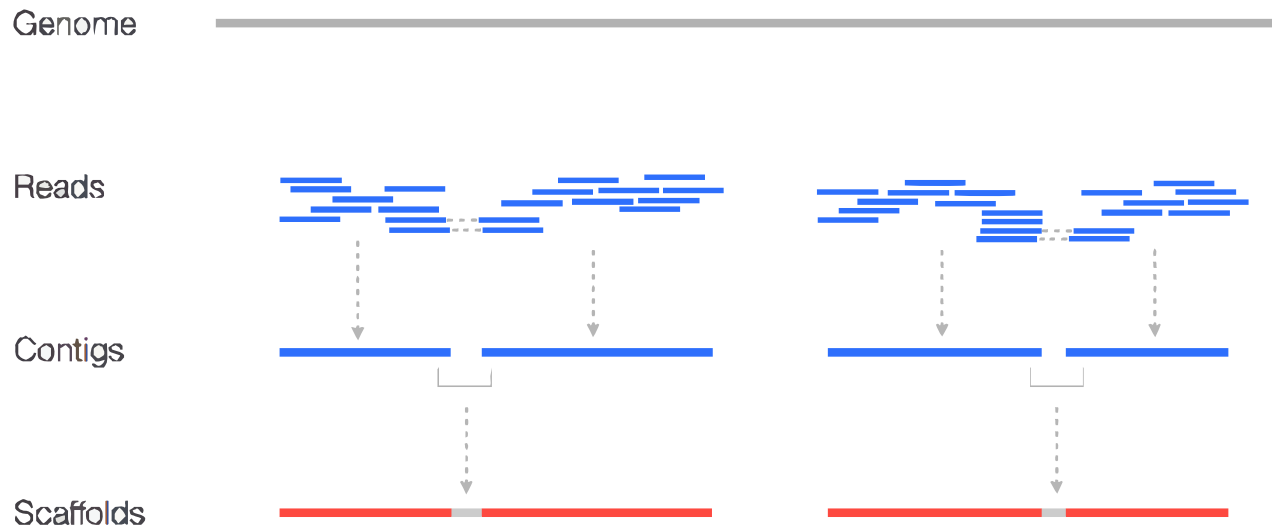
# Assembly

Reconstruct a representation of the original DNA from shorter DNA sequences or small fragments known as reads

- ***De novo***: with no previous knowledge of the genome to be assembled. It overlap the end of the end of each read in order to create a longer sequence.
- ***Assembly with reference***: A similar but not identical genome guides the assembly process. Map reads over supplied genome.

# Assembly: contig y scaffold

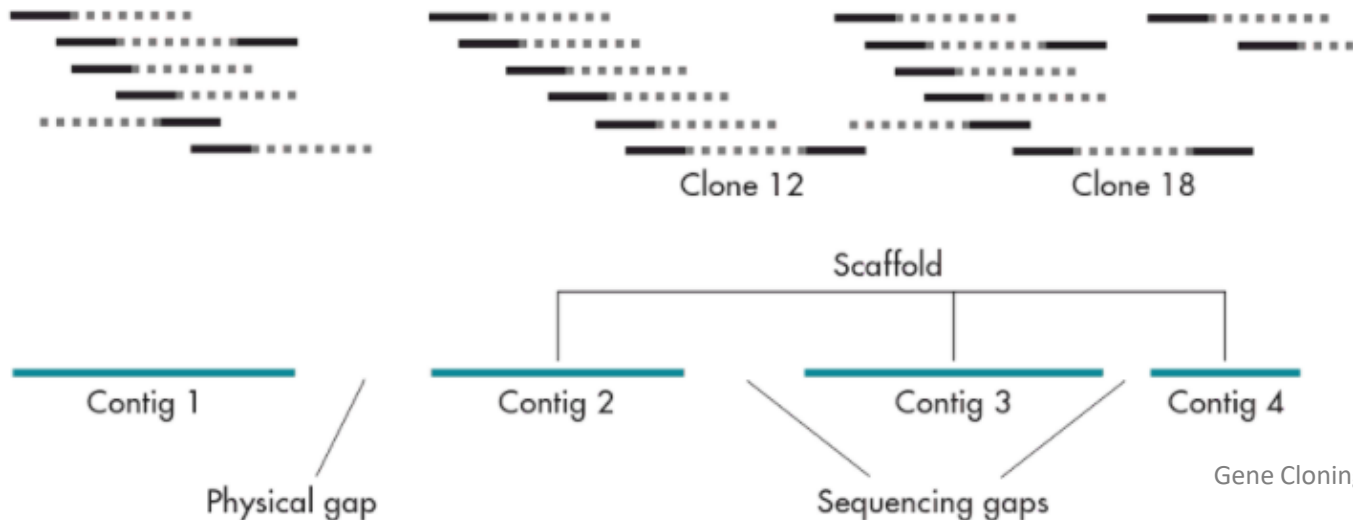
- **Contig:** continuous sequence made up of overlapping shorter sequences
- **Scaffold:** two or more contigs located and rearranged according to spatial information(pair-end, mate pair, reference)



<https://www.biostars.org/p/253222/>

## Assembly: gaps

- **Sequencing gaps:** Position and orientation known by spatial information
- **Physical gaps:** No information about adjacent contigs



Gene Cloning, Lodge *et al.*

# Assembly: Algorithms

- **Overlap, Layout, Consensus (OLC - overlap graph):**
  - O - first overlaps among all the reads are found
  - L - then it carries out a layout of all the reads and overlaps information on a graph
    - Removes redundant and low quality overlaps
  - C - and finally the consensus sequence is inferred

Ex. Newbler, Mira, Celera Assembler, CAP3, PCAP, Phrap, Phusion.

X: CTCGGCCCTAGG  
Y: GGCTCTAGGCC



TAGATTACACAGATTACTGA TTGATGGCGTAA CTA TAGATTACACAGATTACTGACTTGATGGCGTAACTA TAG TTACACAGATTATGTGACTTCATGGCGTAA CTA TAGATTACACAGATTACTGACTTGATGGCGTAA CTA TAGATTACACAGATTACTGACTTGATGGCGTAA CTA	Take reads that make up a contig and line them up
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ TAGATTACACAGATTACTGACTTGATGGCGTAA CTA	Take consensus, i.e. majority vote

[https://pt.slideshare.net/anton\\_alexandrov/combining-de-bruijn-graph-overlap-graph-and-microassembly/12?smtNoRedir=1](https://pt.slideshare.net/anton_alexandrov/combining-de-bruijn-graph-overlap-graph-and-microassembly/12?smtNoRedir=1)

# Assembly: Algorithms

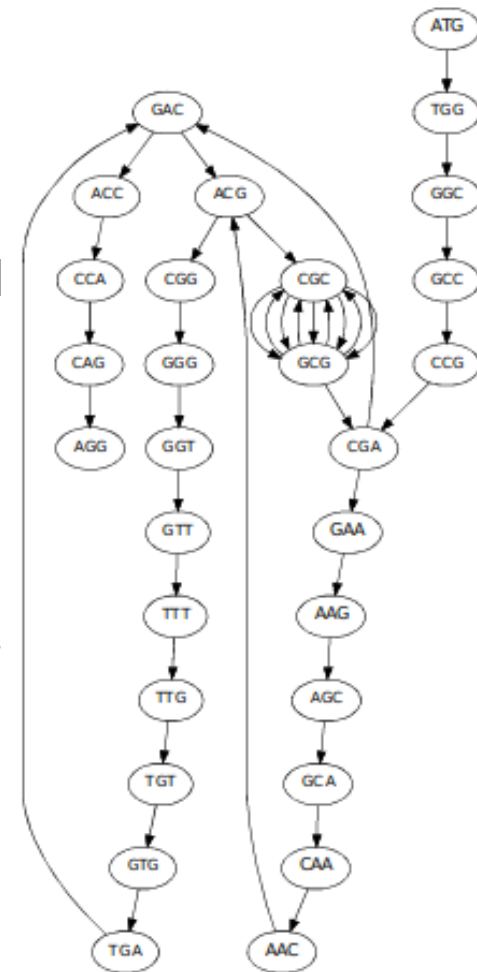
- **De Bruijn Graph (DBG: k-mer graph)**

Chopping reads into much shorter k-mers (fixed length fragments) and then using all the k-mers to form a DBG and infer the contigs.

- Nodes in the graph are k-mers
- Edges represent consecutive k-mers (which overlap by k-n symbols)

Ex. SPAdes, ABySS, Velvet, AllPaths, Soap...

[https://medium.com/@han\\_chen](https://medium.com/@han_chen)

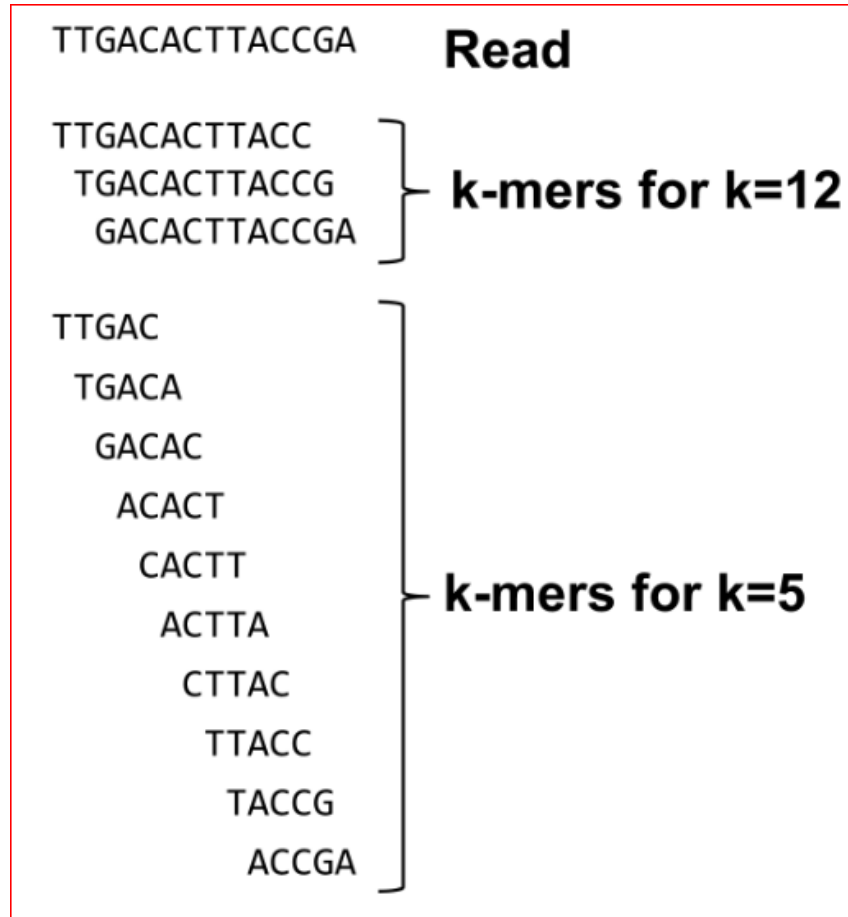


# Algorithms: DBG

- **Why choosing DBG:**
  - Sequencing bias
  - Sequence errors
  - Sequence length
- **DBG Flaws:**
  - Millions of pieces
    - Much, much shorter than the genome
    - Lots of them look similar
  - Missing pieces
    - Some parts can't be sequenced easily
    - Dirty Pieces - Multiplex
    - Lots of errors in reads
  - Repeats
    - If they are longer than the read length
    - Causes nodes to be shared, locality confusion

<https://galaxyproject.github.io/training-material/topics/assembly/tutorials/debruijn-graph-assembly/slides.html#23>

# Algorithms: DBG





# Algorithms: DBG

Example #1:

HAPPI PINE INESS APPIN

All 4-mers:

HAPP PINE INES **APPI**  
**APPI** NESS PPIN

*Unique* 4-mers:

HAPP **APPI** PINE PPIN INES NESS

# Algorithms: DBG

Example #1:

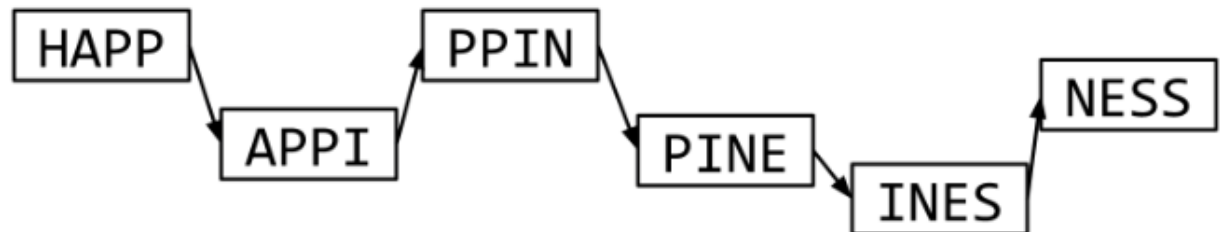
HAPPI PINE INESS APPIN

k = 4 k-mers:

HAPP APPI

PINE PPIN

INES NESS



# Algorithms: DBG

Example #1:

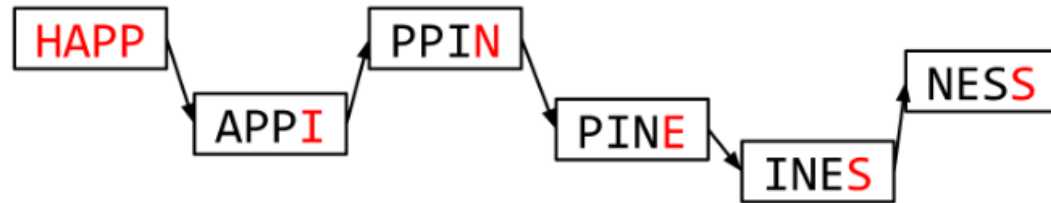
HAPPI PINE INESS APPIN

k = 4 k-mers:

HAPP APPI

PINE PPIN

INES NESS



HAPPINESS

**Easy!**

# Algorithms: DBG

Example #2:

MISSIS SSISSI SSIPPI

All 4-mers (9):

MISS SSIS SSIP

ISSI SISS SIPP

SSIS ISSI IPPI

Unique 4-mers (7):

MISS SSIS SSIP ISSI SISS SIPP IPPI

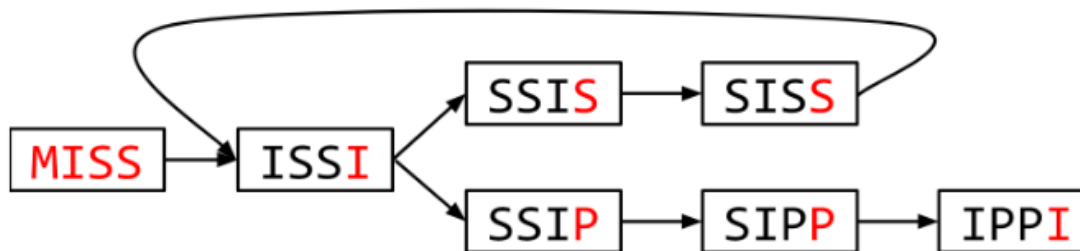
# Algorithms: DBG

Example #2:

MISSIS SSISSI SSIPPI

All 4-mers:

MISS ISSI SSIS SISS SSIP SIPP IPPI



MISSISSIPPI or MISSISSISSISSIPPI or ...

# Algorithms: DBG

Example #2a:

MISSIS SSISSI SSIPPI

All 5-mers (6):

MISSI SSISS SSIPP  
ISSIS SISSI SIPPI

Unique 5-mers (6, no duplicates):

MISSI ISSIS SSISS SISSI SSIPP SIPPI

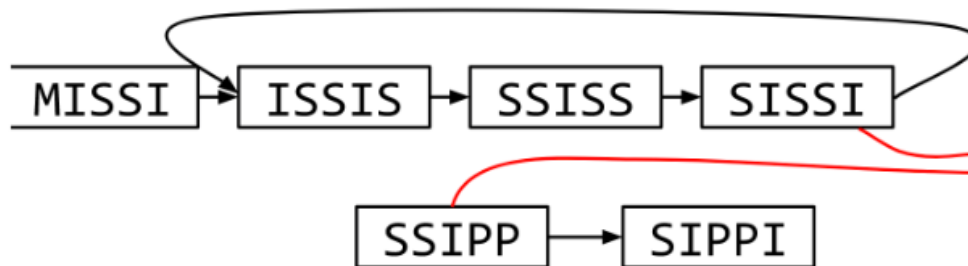
# Algorithms: DBG

Example #2a:

MISSIS SSISSI SSIPPI

This time  $k = 5$  k-mers:

MISSI ISSIS SSISS SISSI SSIPP SIPPI



No connection  
between  
these two  
nodes!

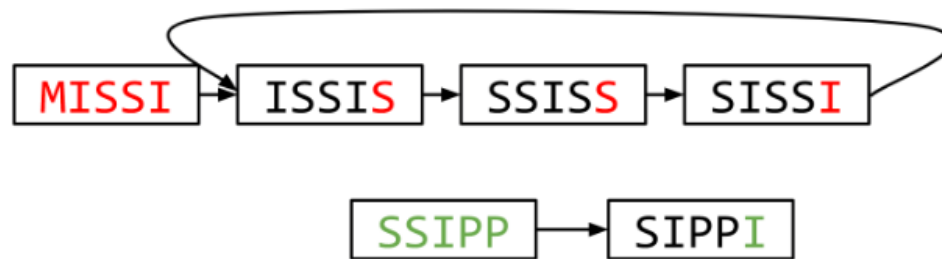
# Algorithms: DBG

Example #2a:

MISSIS SSISSI SSIPPI

This time  $k = 5$  k-mers:

MISSI ISSIS SSISS SISSI SSIPP SIPPI

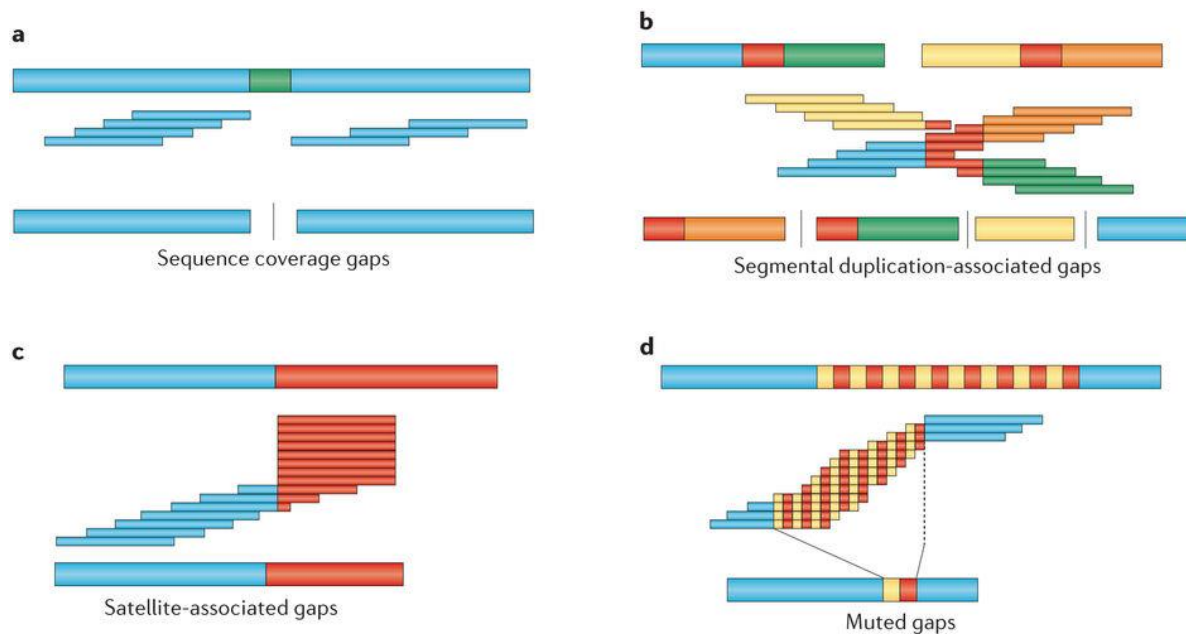


MISSISSIS

SSIPPI



# Assembly: Errors



- **A. Gaps – non sequenced region**
- **B. Long repeats**
  - Cuimera
- **Collapsed repetitive regions**
  - **C. Terminal**
  - **D. Interstitial**

Nature Reviews | **Genetics**

Genetic variation and the de novo assembly of human genomes  
Chaisson *et al.*

# Assembly: Scaffolding

- **From draft:**

**Order contigs** (Nucmer, if there is reference it can be used to align and guide)

**Fill the GAPS** (GapFiller, fill sequencing gap (not physical gap))

**Solve repeated** sequence ambiguities (Expander)

**Resequence** with different library:

- Longer fragments and/or distance

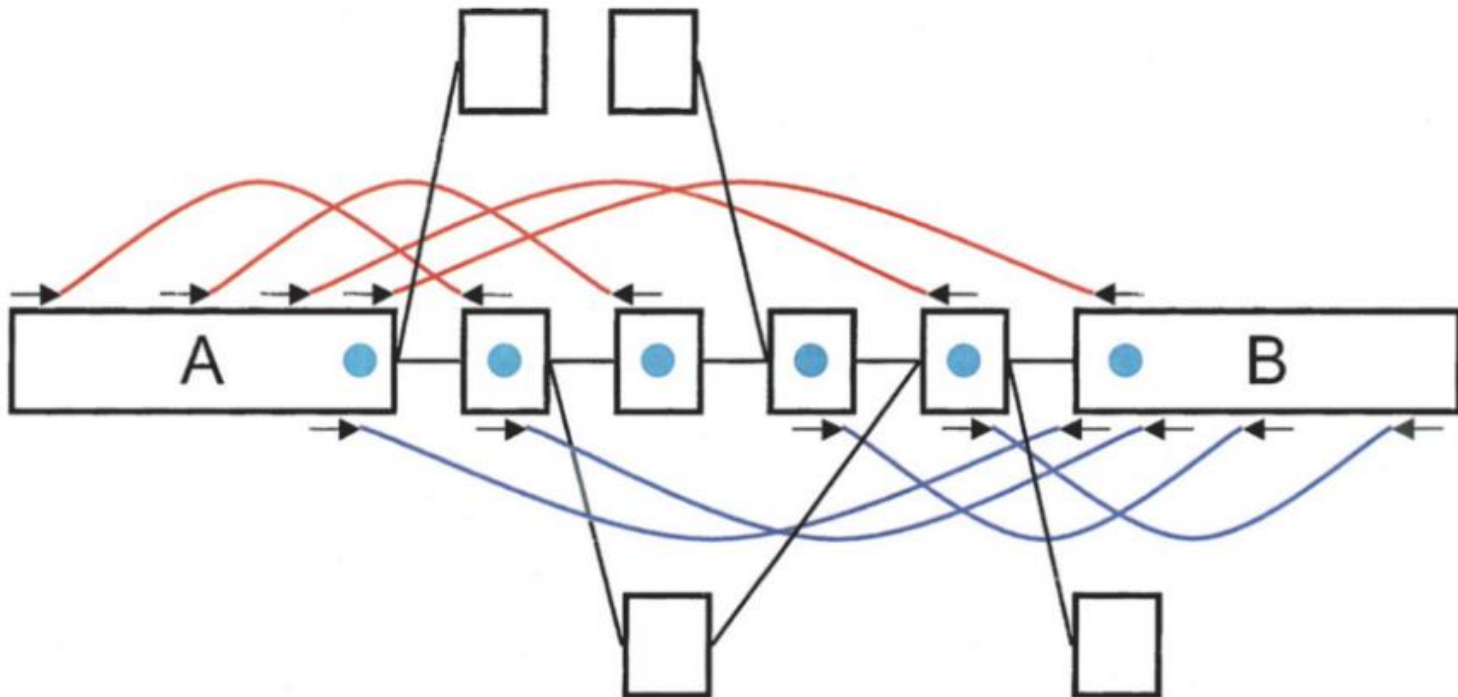
- **Tools for assembly improvement**

SSPACE (Scaffolding) REAPR (evaluate scaffolding, breaking incorrect scaffolds)

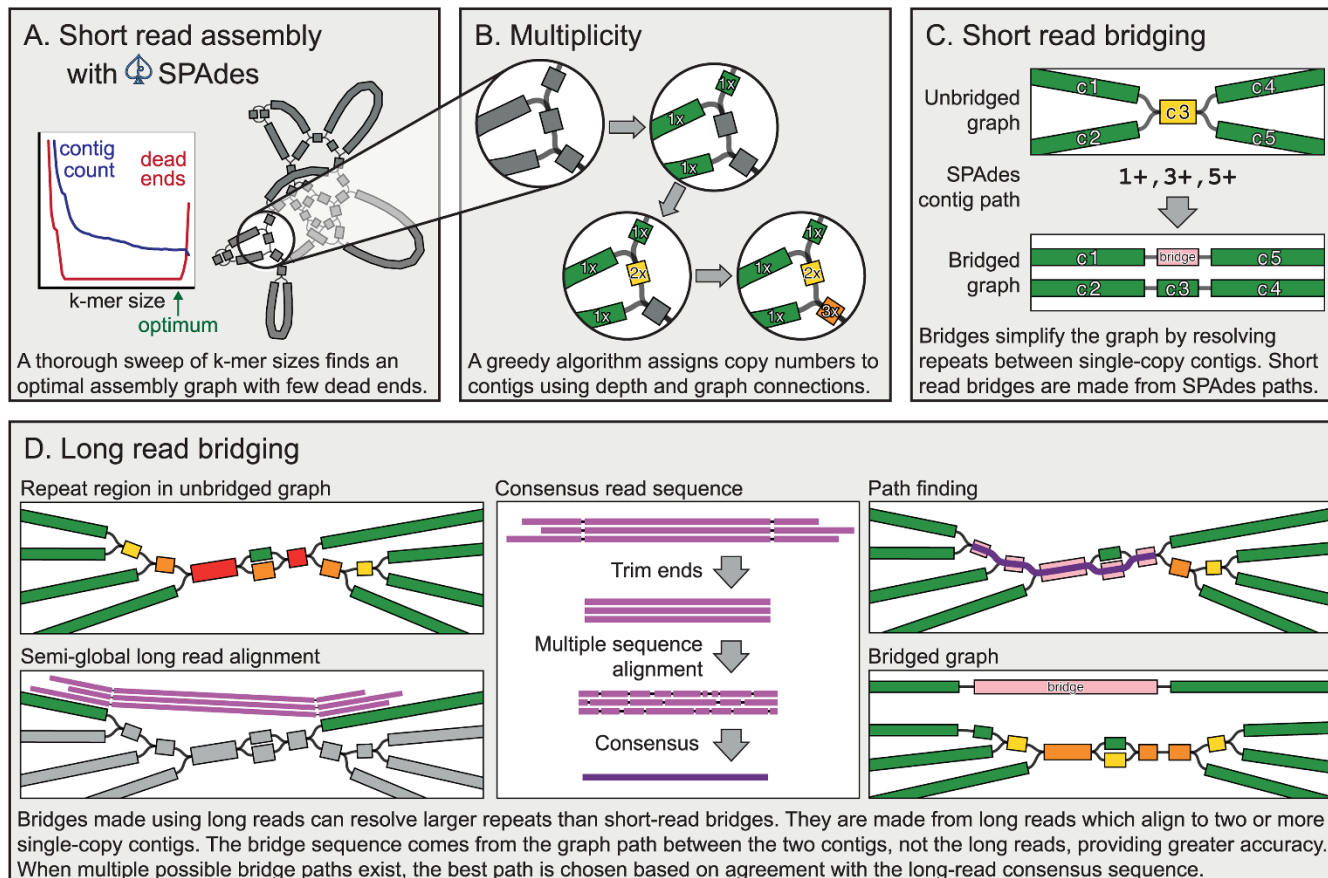
- **Assembly visualizing**

Artemis, ACT (compare two or more sequences), Icarus (Quast)

# Assembly: Scaffolding

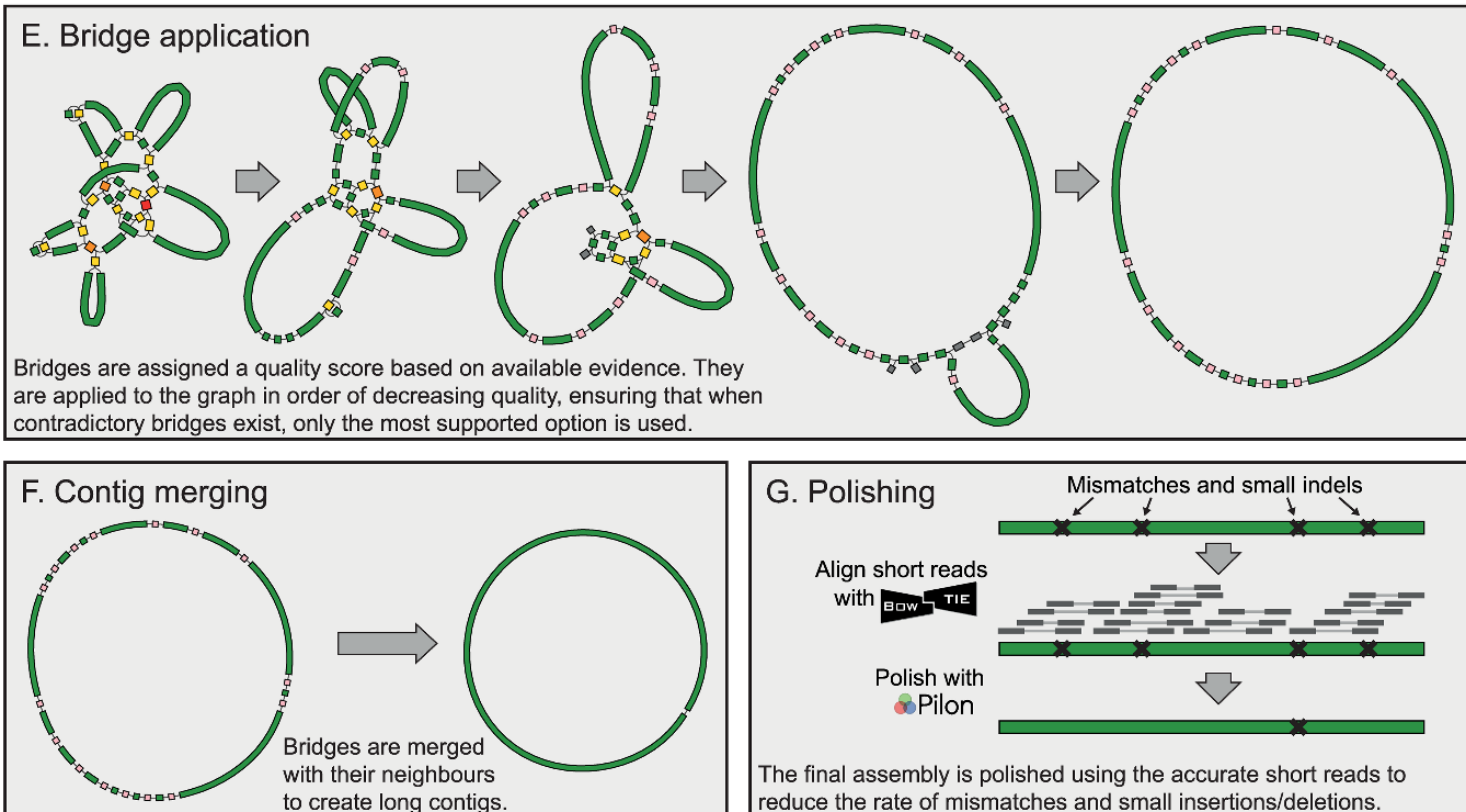


# Unicycler



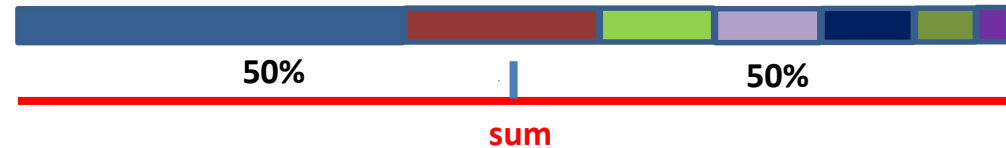
<https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005595>

# Unicycler

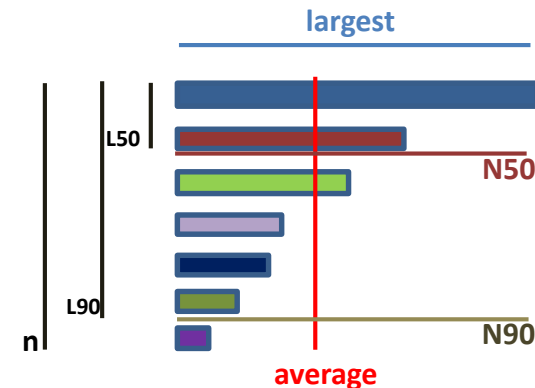


<https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005595>

# Assembly: Metrics



- `sum` = total bases number
- `n` = contigs number
- `average` = average contig length
- `largest` = largest contig
- `N50` = length of the shortest contig where 50% of `sum` is held
- `L50` = number of contigs which have 50% of the genome
- `N90` = length of the shortest contig where 90% of `sum` is held.
- `L90` = number of contigs which have 90% of the genome

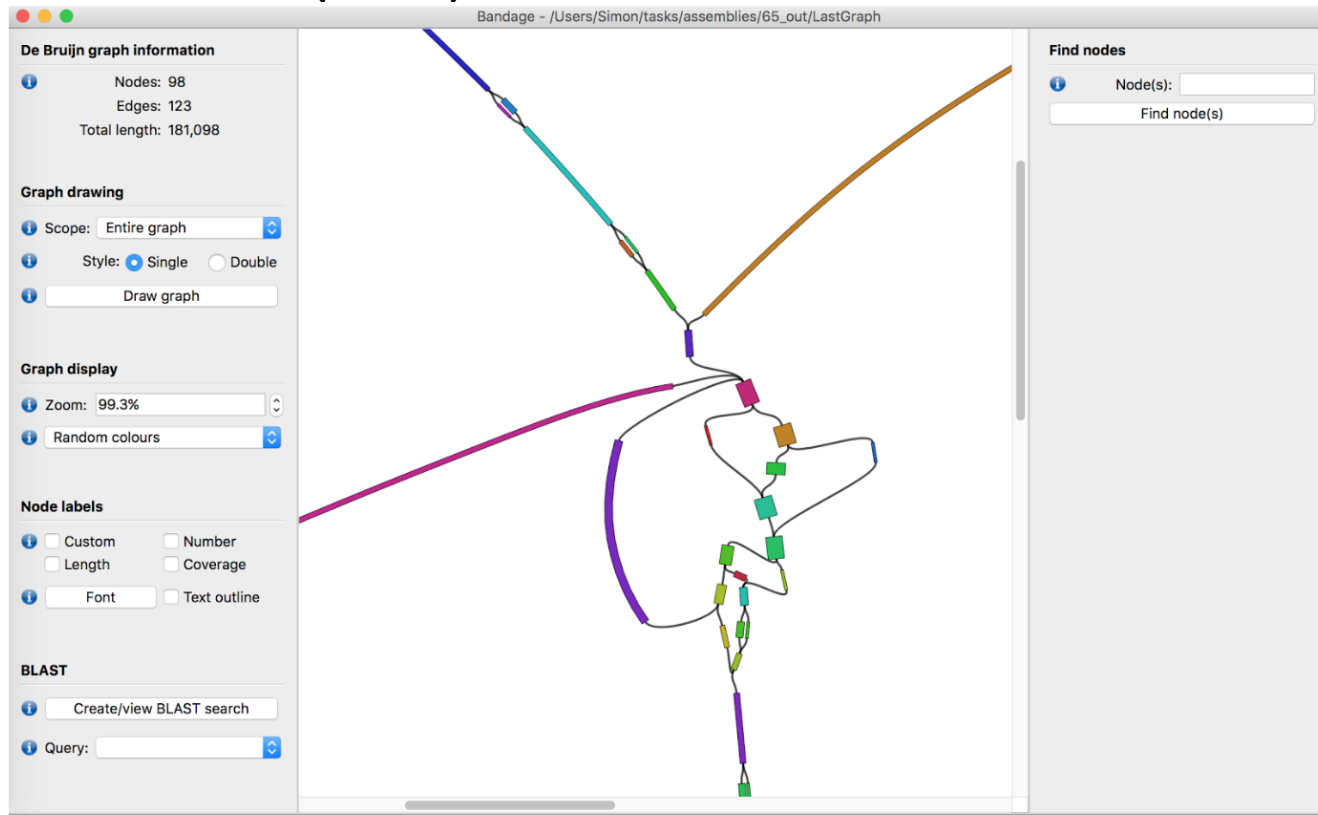


# Assembly: Evaluation

- Software that evaluate differets algorithms & parameters  
iMetAMOS, *Koren et al.*, *BMCBioinformatics* 2014, 15:126  
GAGE-B, *Magoc et al.*, *Bioinformatics* 2013,29(14):1718-25
- **Graph evaluation:** Bandage, Wick R.R., Schultz M.B., Zobel J. & Holt K.E. (2015)
- **Assembly evaluation:** Quast, *Gurevich et al.*, *Bioinformatics* 2013, 29:8
- **Metrics for a good assembly:**  
Large N50  
Sum closest to expected  
Low n  
Low L50

# Assembly: Evaluation - Bandage

- Graph evaluation: Bandage, Wick R.R., Schultz M.B., Zobel J. & Holt K.E. (2015)





# Assembly: Evaluation - Quast

- Assembly evaluation: Quast, *Gurevich et al.*, *Bioinformatics* 2013, 29:8

Worst Median Best ☒ Show heatmap

	RA_L2073_paired_assembly	RA_L2391_paired_assembly	RA_L2677_paired_assembly	RA_L2978_paired_assembly	RA_L2281_paired_assembly	RA_L2450_paired_assembly	RA_L2701_paired_assembly
<b>Genome statistics</b>							
Genome fraction (%)	81.079	88.828	84.92	90.172	85.733	88.172	92.463
Duplication ratio	1	1	1.001	1.001	1.001	1	1
# genomic features	1736 + 824 part	2113 + 600 part	1881 + 768 part	2157 + 611 part	1992 + 637 part	2073 + 643 part	2368 + 412 part
Largest alignment	16612	33033	21336	25068	29638	30305	40471
Total aligned length	2 405 510	2 635 297	2 519 300	2 675 166	2 543 440	2 615 874	2 743 222
NGA50	3176	6162	4234	5948	5104	5358	9519
LGA50	267	151	219	153	166	166	96
<b>Misassemblies</b>							
# misassemblies	23	1	14	2	17	12	4
Misassembled contigs length	84193	9611	45868	6390	111 490	72 879	37 962
<b>Mismatches</b>							
# mismatches per 100 kbp	17	18.78	15	16.71	341.39	15.75	13.49
# indels per 100 kbp	1.21	1.25	1.87	1.94	7.27	1.45	0.87
# N's per 100 kbp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Statistics without reference</b>							
# contigs	748	546	684	569	569	584	392
Largest contig	16612	33033	21336	25068	30915	30305	40471
Total length	2 440 656	2 676 227	2 562 578	2 714 287	2 629 607	2 618 624	2 787 129
Total length (>= 1000 bp)	2 439 127	2 676 227	2 559 569	2 714 287	2 628 029	2 615 105	2 785 415
Total length (>= 10000 bp)	257 236	739 181	320 638	811 392	700 516	658 319	1 419 641
Total length (>= 50000 bp)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[Extended report](#)

# Assembly: Evaluation - Quast

- Assembly evaluation: Quast, *Gurevich et al.*, *Bioinformatics* 2013, 29:8



# Assembly: Assemblers

Name	Type	Technologies	Author	Presented /Last updated	Licence*	Homepage
<a href="#">DNASTAR</a> Lasergene Genomics Suite	(large) genomes, exomes, transcriptomes, metagenomes, ESTs	Illumina, ABI SOLiD, Roche 454, Ion Torrent, Solexa, Sanger	<a href="#">DNASTAR</a>	2007 / 2016	C	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">Newbler</a>	genomes, ESTs	454, Sanger	454/Roche	2004/2012	C	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">Canu</a>	Small and large, haploid/diploid genomes	PacBio/Oxford Nanopore reads	Koren et al. <sup>[8]</sup>	2001 / 2018	OS	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">SPAdes</a>	(small) genomes, single-cell	Illumina, Solexa, Sanger, 454, Ion Torrent, PacBio, Oxford Nanopore	Bankevich, A et al.	2012 / 2017	OS	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">Velvet</a>	(small) genomes	Sanger, 454, Solexa, SOLiD	Zerbino, D. et al.	2007 / 2011	OS	<a href="#">link</a>
*Licences: OS = Open Source; C = Commercial; C / NC-A = Commercial but free for non-commercial and academics						

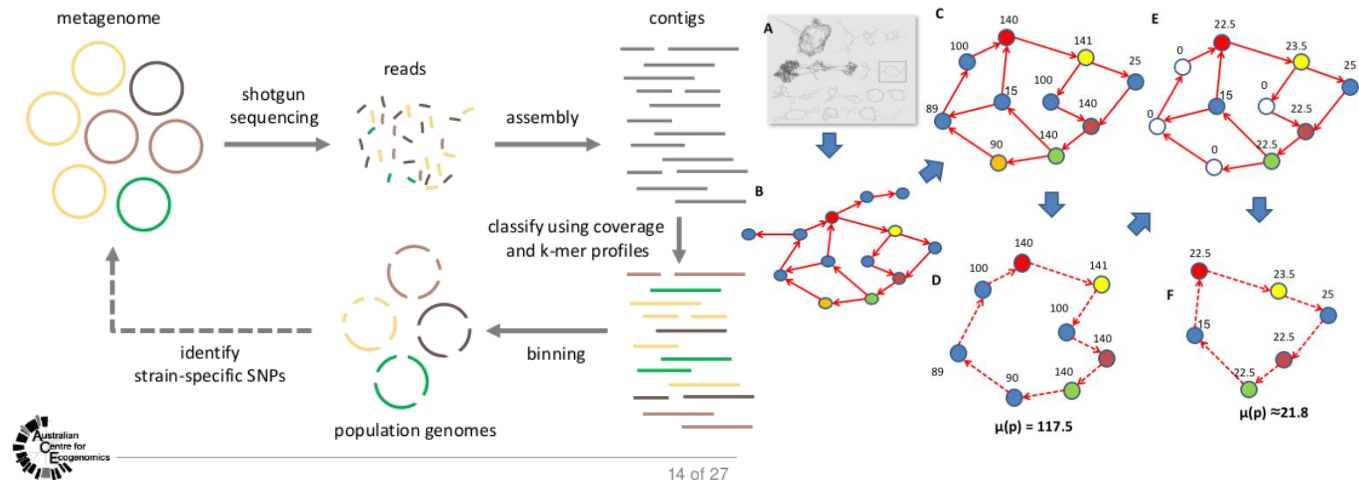
# Assembly: Specials assemblers

- **Diploid genomes** recovering genomes from metagenomic data






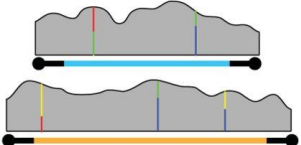
- **Metagenomics**

- **Plasmids**

- **Transcriptome**



# Assembly: Categories

Hypothetical Virus Genome (2 segments)		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Reading Frames</li> <li>Non-coding Regions</li> <li>Segment Ends</li> </ul>
Category		Potential Uses
<b>Standard Draft (SD)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fragmented segments</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taxonomic identification</li> <li>- Design of inclusivity tests</li> </ul>
<b>High Quality (HQ)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Single contig per segment</li> <li>- Incomplete ORFs</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comparative genomics</li> </ul>
<b>Coding Complete (CC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete ORFs</li> <li>- Missing ends</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of immunological assays</li> </ul>
<b>Complete</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full genome</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design of exclusivity tests</li> <li>- Reverse genetics</li> <li>- Microbial forensics</li> </ul>
<b>Finished</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Characterization of population-level variability</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countermeasure development</li> <li>- Animal model development</li> </ul>

Standards for Sequencing Viral Genomes in the Era of HighThroughput Sequencing. Ladner *et al.*