

# Introduction to Next Generation Sequencing and Analysis for Microbes

Egon A. Ozer, MD PhD

Director, Center for Pathogen Genomics and Microbial Evolution

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases

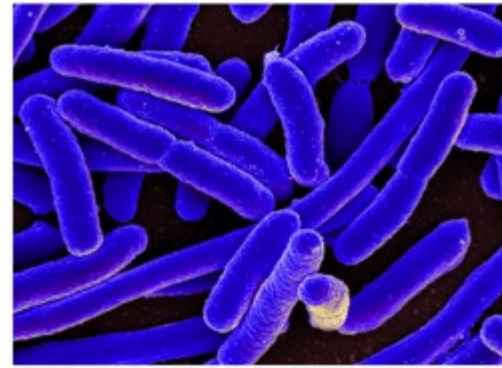
[e-ozier@northwestern.edu](mailto:e-ozier@northwestern.edu)

# Outline

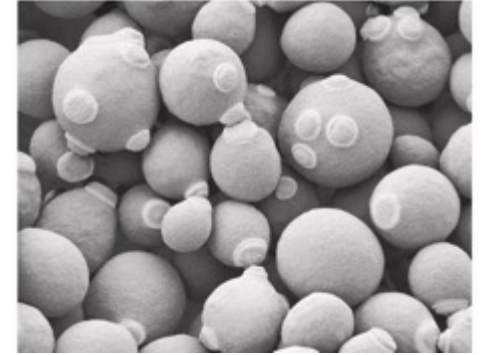
- Microbial genome sequencing
- Whole-genome assembly and alignment
- Genome annotation
- Reference-based read alignment
- Phylogenetic analysis

# Microbes

- Single-celled microscopic organisms
  - Prokaryotes:
    - Bacteria
    - Archaea
  - Eukaryotes:
    - Fungi (e.g. *Candida*, *Cryptococcus*, etc.)
    - Parasites (e.g. *Plasmodium falciparum*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, etc.)
    - Plants (e.g. Algae)
- Viruses



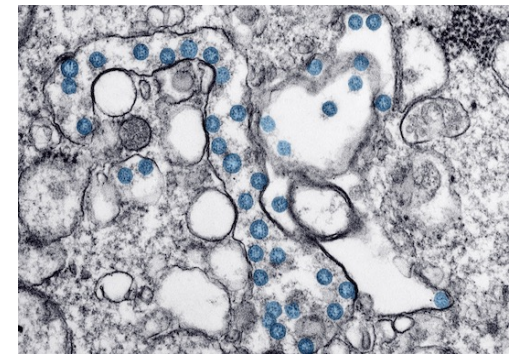
*E. coli*



*Candida albicans*



*Plasmodium falciparum*



SARS-CoV-2

# Microbial Genomics vs Non-microbial

	Species and Common Name	Estimated Total Size of Genome (bp)	Estimated Number of Protein-Encoding Genes
Microbial	Staphylococcus aureus	2.8 million	2,700
	Escherichia coli	5.1 million	4,800
	Saccharomyces cerevisiae (baker's yeast)	12 million	6,000
	Plasmodium falciparum (malaria)	23 million	5,000
	Trichomonas vaginalis	160 million	60,000
Non-Microbial	Caenorhabditis elegans (nematode)	95.5 million	18,000
	Drosophila melanogaster (fruit fly)	170 million	14,000
	Oryza sativa (rice)	470 million	51,000
	Canis familiaris (domestic dog)	2.4 billion	19,000
	Mus musculus (laboratory mouse)	2.5 billion	30,000
	Homo sapiens (human)	2.9 billion	20,000-25,000

# Microbial Genomics vs Non-microbial

	Non-microbial	Microbial
<b>Sequence Size</b>	Large (100's or 1000's of Mb)	Small (< 20 - 25 Mb)
<b>Ploidy</b>	Polyploid (mostly)	Haploid (mostly)
<b>Chromosomes</b>	Multiple	One (most bacteria) or more

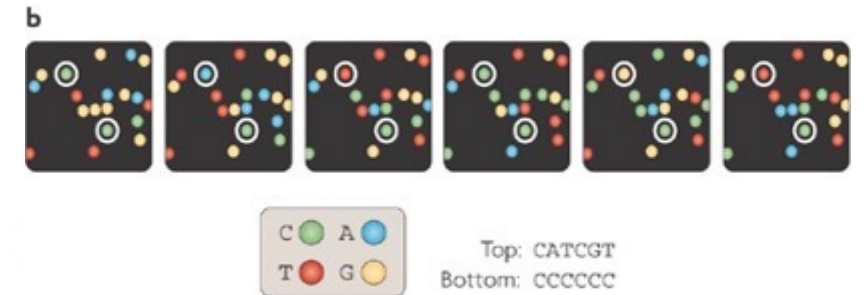
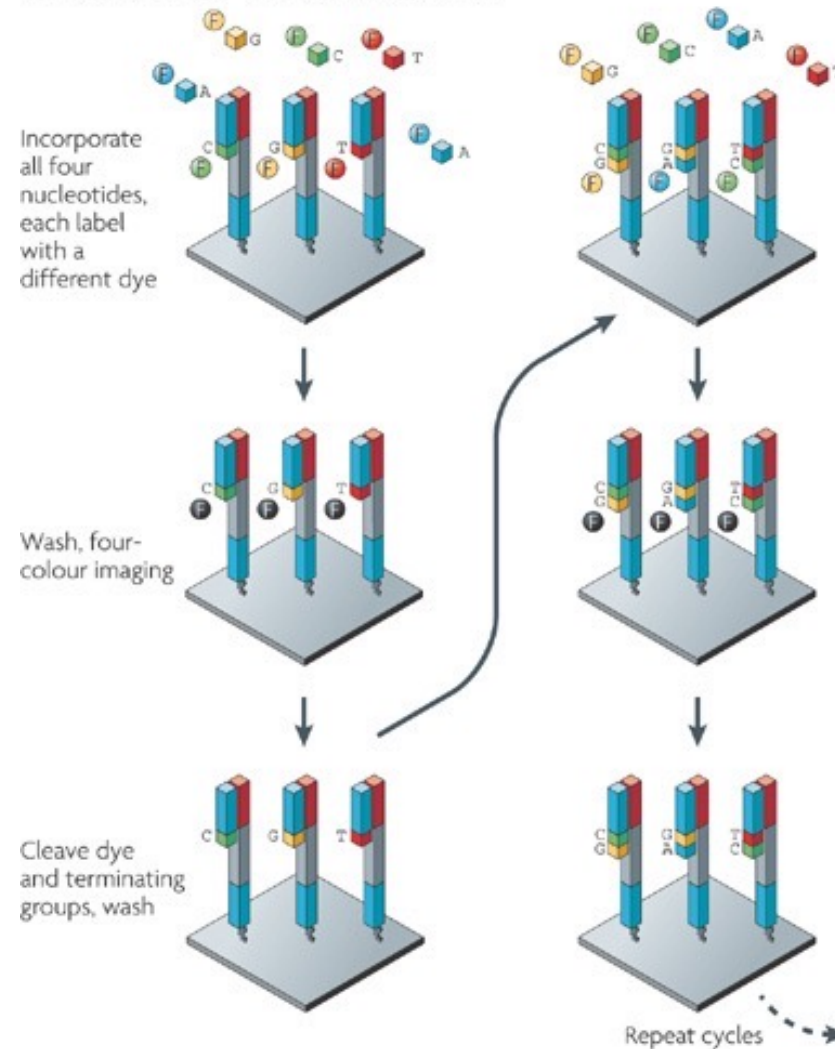
Smaller doesn't mean easier!

# Whole-genome sequencing platforms

- Illumina

- HiSeq
- MiSeq
- NextSeq
- NovaSeq
- MiniSeq

a Illumina/Solexa — Reversible terminators



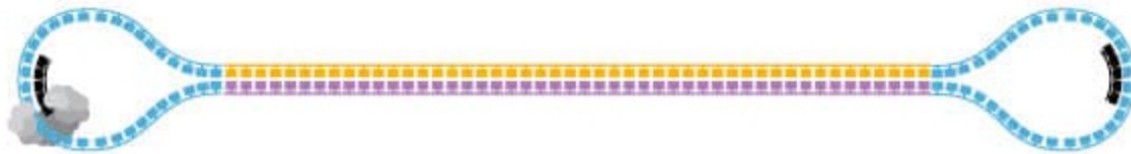
# Whole-genome sequencing platforms

- Illumina (HiSeq, MiSeq, NextSeq, NovaSeq)
  - Benefits:
    - High-throughput
      - MiSeq: max 15 Gb per run
      - NextSeq: max 120 Gb per run
      - HiSeq: max 1,500 Gb per run
      - NovaSeq: max 6,000 Gb per run
    - Low error rate (~ 0.1%) – substitution errors more common than indel
    - Relatively low cost-per-base
  - Drawbacks:
    - PCR amplification required for sequencing
    - Short reads (max 150 - 300 bp)
    - Relatively slow (1 – 3 days)

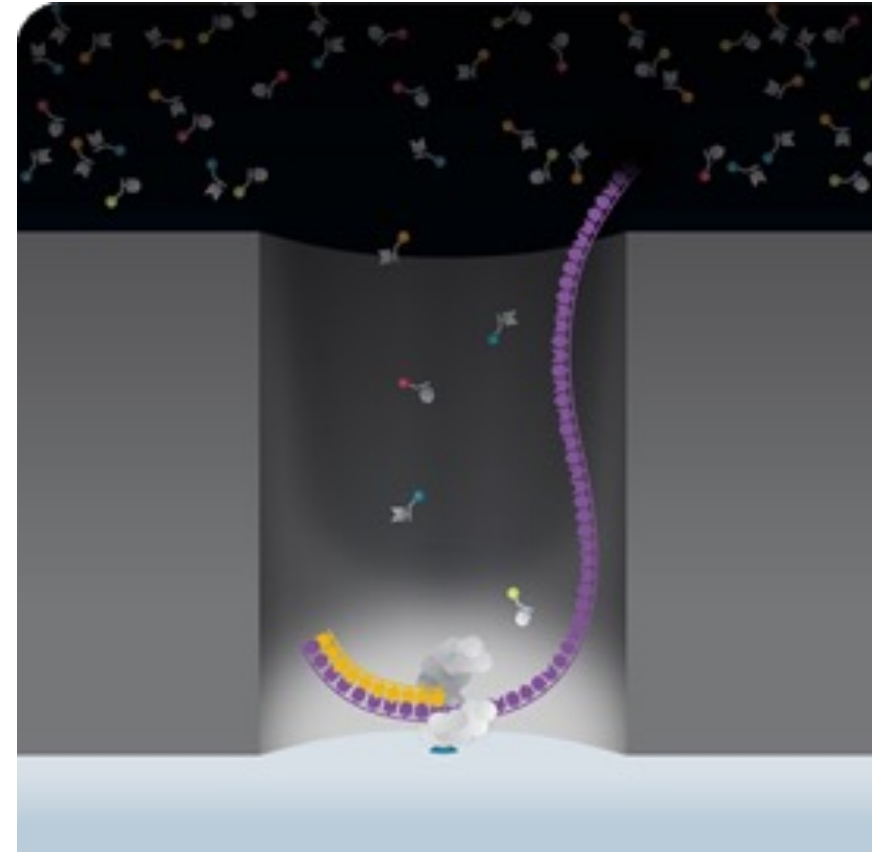


# Whole-genome sequencing platforms

- PacBio (Sequel, Sequel II)
  - SMRT = “Single Molecule, Real-Time”
  - Flow-cells contain millions of zero-mode waveguides (ZMWs)
  - Anchored polymerases at bases incorporate labeled bases → light emitted
  - Nucleotide incorporates read in real-time to generate sequence



SMRTbell library → “HiFi” reads





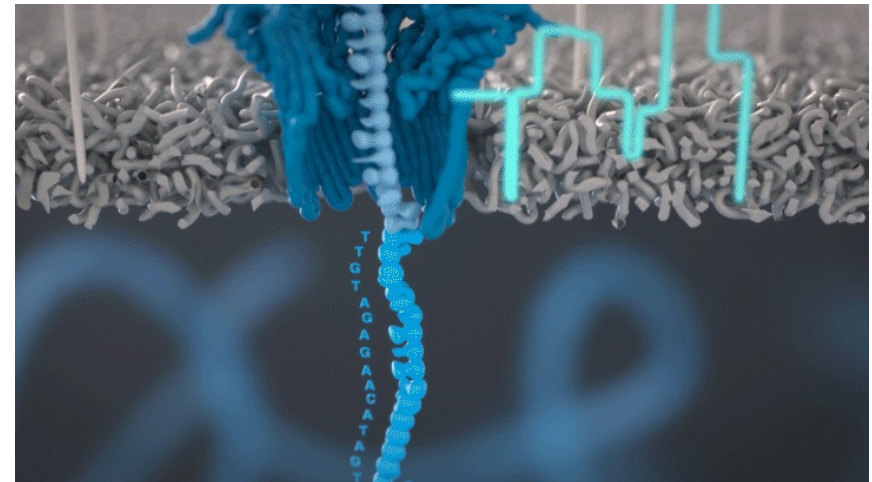
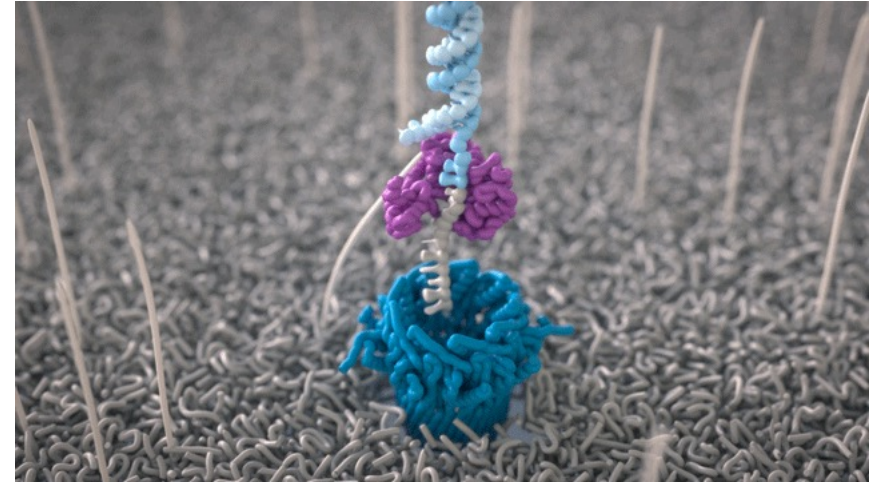
# Whole-genome sequencing platforms

- PacBio (Sequel, Sequel II)
  - Benefits:
    - Long reads (max read length ~175 kb)
    - Intermediate - high throughput (20 Gb - 160 Gb)
    - Fast: run time 4 - 30 hours
    - No PCR amplification necessary
  - Drawbacks:
    - Higher error rates than Illumina - substitution and indel
      - Error rates can be much lower with circular consensus libraries (CCL), but homopolymers can still be a problem
    - Higher cost-per-base than Illumina platforms



# Whole-genome sequencing platforms

- Oxford Nanopore (MinION, GridION)
  - Engineered protein pore  $\alpha$ -hemolysin transports DNA molecules through a polymer membrane
  - Ionic current is passed through the nanopore
  - As nucleotides pass through pore, current is disrupted
  - Degree of current disruption is specific to individual nucleotides (A, C, T, or G)



# Whole-genome sequencing platforms

- Oxford Nanopore (MinION, GridION)
  - Benefits:
    - Long reads (up to 900 kb)
    - Intermediate throughput (15 - 30 Gb per flow cell)
    - Fast: real-time results, run length depends on desired read depth
    - Affordable equipment costs (~ \$1000 for instrument, \$900 per flow cell)
    - No PCR amplification necessary
  - Drawbacks:
    - High error rates (5 – 15%) - substitution and indel
      - Newer generation flow cells → 1% error
    - Higher cost-per-base than (most) Illumina platforms



# Genome multiplexing

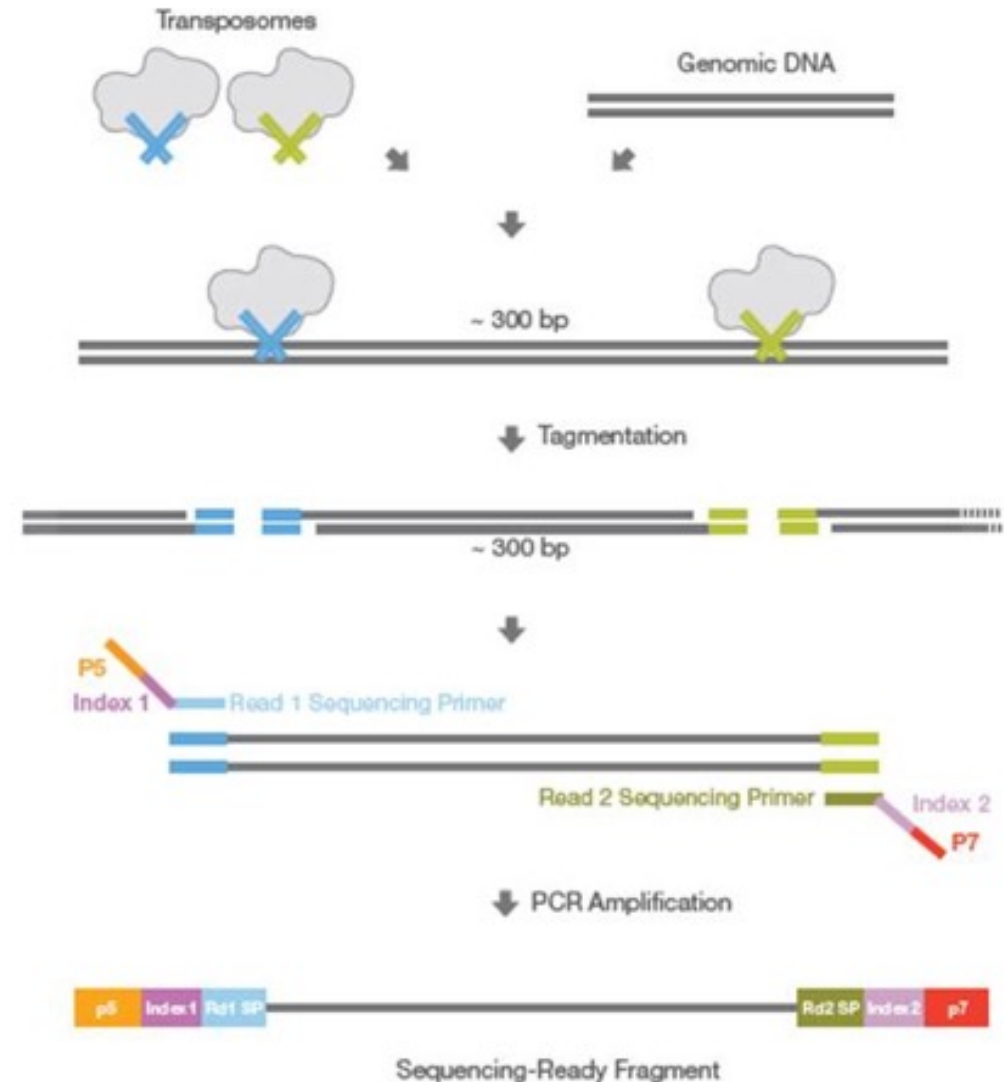
Platform:	<i>S. aureus</i> (2.8 Mb)	<i>E. coli</i> (4.6 Mb)	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> (6.6 Mb)
MiSeq (300 bp)	80 genomes	50 genomes	30 genomes
NextSeq Mid	230 genomes	140 genomes	90 genomes
NextSeq High	710 genomes	430 genomes	300 genomes
HiSeq (one lane)	1,070 genomes	650 genomes	450 genomes
PacBio Sequel	110 genomes	70 genomes	50 genomes
ONT MinION	110 genomes	70 genomes	50 genomes

Goal of 60x coverage, i.e. each base in the genome sequenced ~ 60 times

Caveats: Ideal throughput, ideal library pooling, equal genome sizes, available indexes...

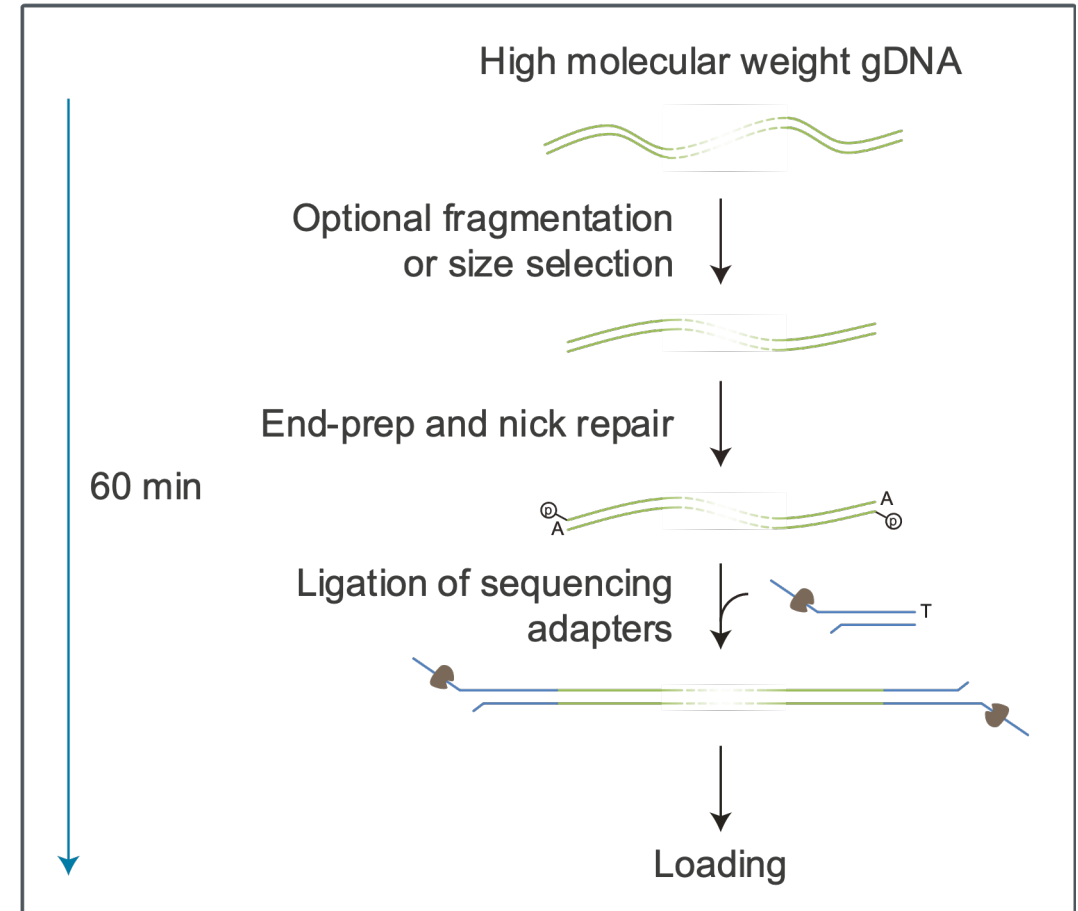
# Library Preparation

- Genomic sequence (chromosome + plasmids) fragmented into smaller pieces
  - 500 bp up to 50 kb, depending on application
- Adapter sequences added
  - Adhere sequence to flowcell (Illumina)
  - Generate circularized single-stranded sequence (PacBio)
  - Ligation of sequencing adapters (Nanopore)

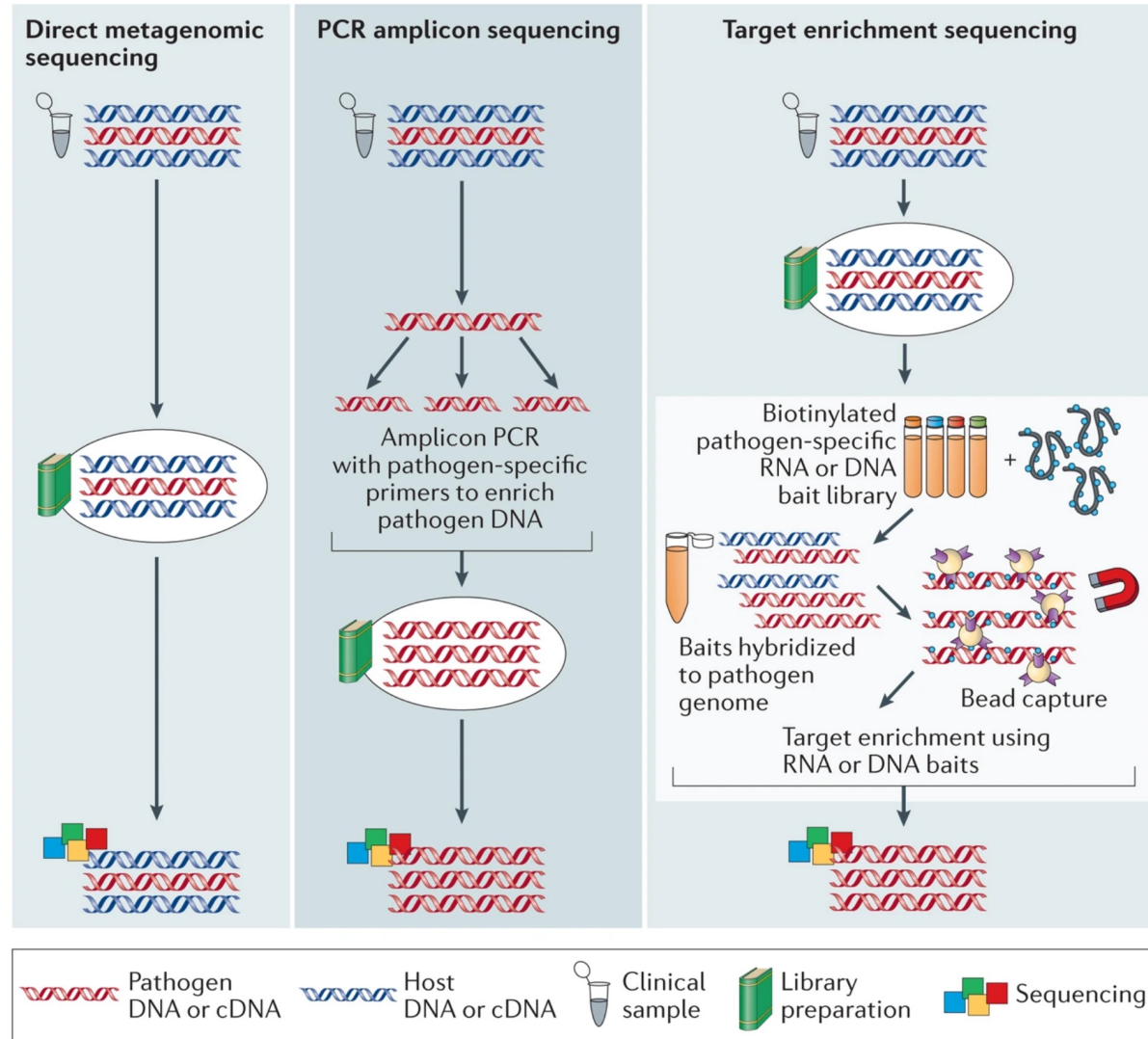


# Library Preparation

- Genomic sequence (chromosome + plasmids) fragmented into smaller pieces
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# Sequencing from Non-Cultured Specimens





# Assembly vs. Alignment

- Sequencer produces reads. What's next?
- Assembly
  - Recreate genome sequence by joining sequence reads with each other
  - “Putting together a puzzle”
- Alignment
  - Compare reads to a reference genome sequence
  - Identify single nucleotide variants, small indels

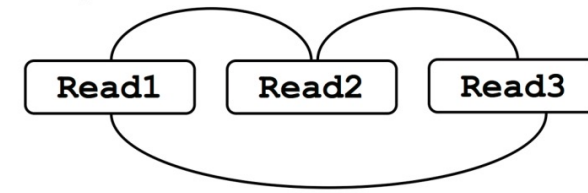


# Assembly

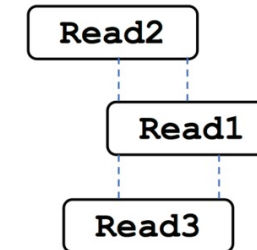
- Overlap layout consensus (OLC)
  - 1) Find overlaps among the reads, 2) create layout of all reads, 3) infer consensus sequence
  - Can be memory & computationally intensive
  - Best for lower numbers of long reads (PacBio or Nanopore)
  - Example software: Celera, miniasm

(a) Overlap, Layout, Consensus assembly

(i) Find overlaps



(ii) Layout reads



(iii) Build consensus

```
CGATTCTA
   TTCTAAGT
   GATTGTA
   -----
CGATTCTAAGT
```

# Assembly

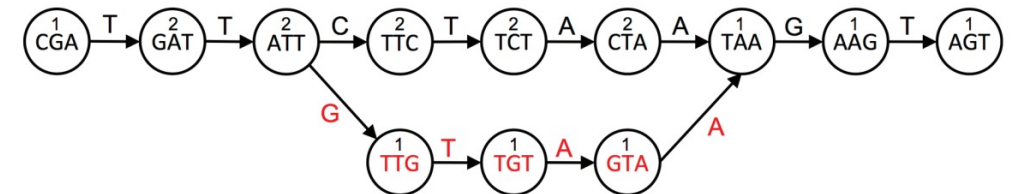
- De Bruijn graph (DBG)
  - Chop reads into shorter k-mers, create graph of consecutive k-mers overlapping by k-1 bases. Recreate sequence by moving through the graph
  - More memory-efficient
  - Short reads or long reads
  - K-mer choice:
    - Short: more connections, less repeat resolution
    - Long: less connections, more repeat resolution
  - Example software: SPAdes, Velvet

## (b) De Bruijn graph assembly

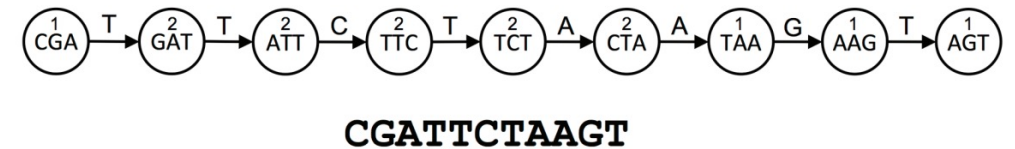
### (i) Make kmers

Read1: TTCTAAGT	Read2: CGATTCTA	Read3: GATTGTAA
Kmers: TTC	Kmers: CGA	Kmers: GAT
TCT	GAT	ATT
CTA	ATT	TTG
TAA	TTC	TGT
AAG	TCT	GTA
AGT	CTA	TAA

### (ii) Build graph



### (iii) Walk graph and output contigs



# Assembly



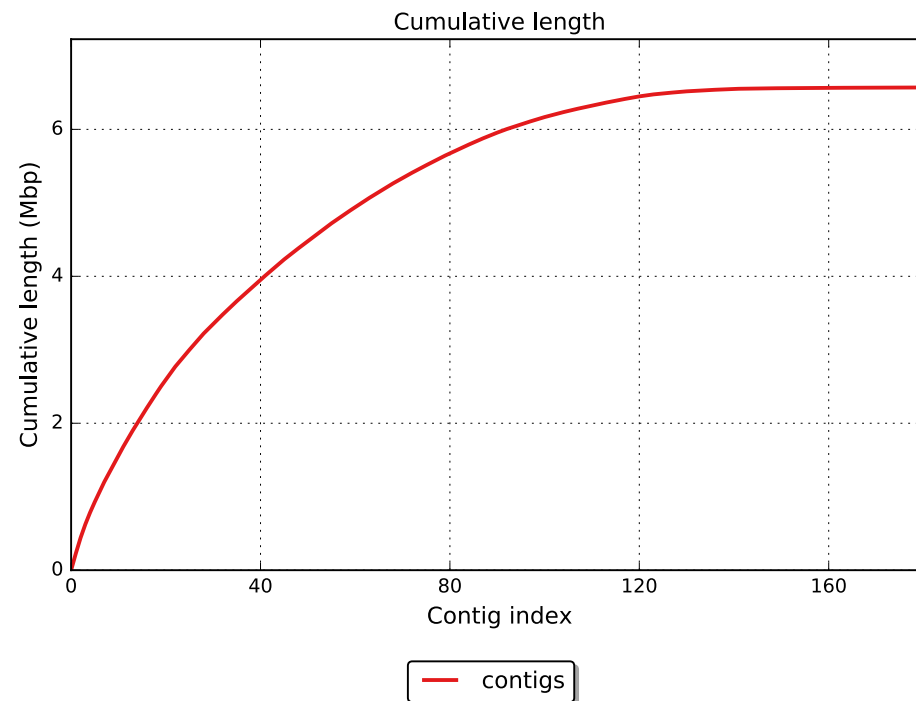
- SPAdes Assembler
- De bruijn graph assembler
- Optimized for Illumina reads or hybrid short/long read assemblies
- Algorithm
  1. Read error correction
  2. Iterative repeats with multiple k-mer sizes to optimize assembly
  3. Aligns reads to assembly to correct mismatches & indels
- Output
  - Contigs: Contiguous assembled sequences
  - Scaffolds: Contigs linked and oriented using paired-end Illumina reads

# Assembly

- Assessing results

- Quast

- Web: <http://quast.bioinf.spbau.ru/>



	contigs
# contigs ( $\geq 0$ bp)	852
# contigs ( $\geq 1000$ bp)	144
# contigs ( $\geq 5000$ bp)	130
# contigs ( $\geq 10000$ bp)	120
# contigs ( $\geq 25000$ bp)	89
# contigs ( $\geq 50000$ bp)	47
Total length ( $\geq 0$ bp)	6649227
Total length ( $\geq 1000$ bp)	6556011
Total length ( $\geq 5000$ bp)	6517558
Total length ( $\geq 10000$ bp)	6448838
Total length ( $\geq 25000$ bp)	5930882
Total length ( $\geq 50000$ bp)	4331665
# contigs	181
Largest contig	229411
Total length	6570217
GC (%)	66.25
N50	65104
N75	43085
L50	29
L75	60
# N's per 100 kbp	0.00

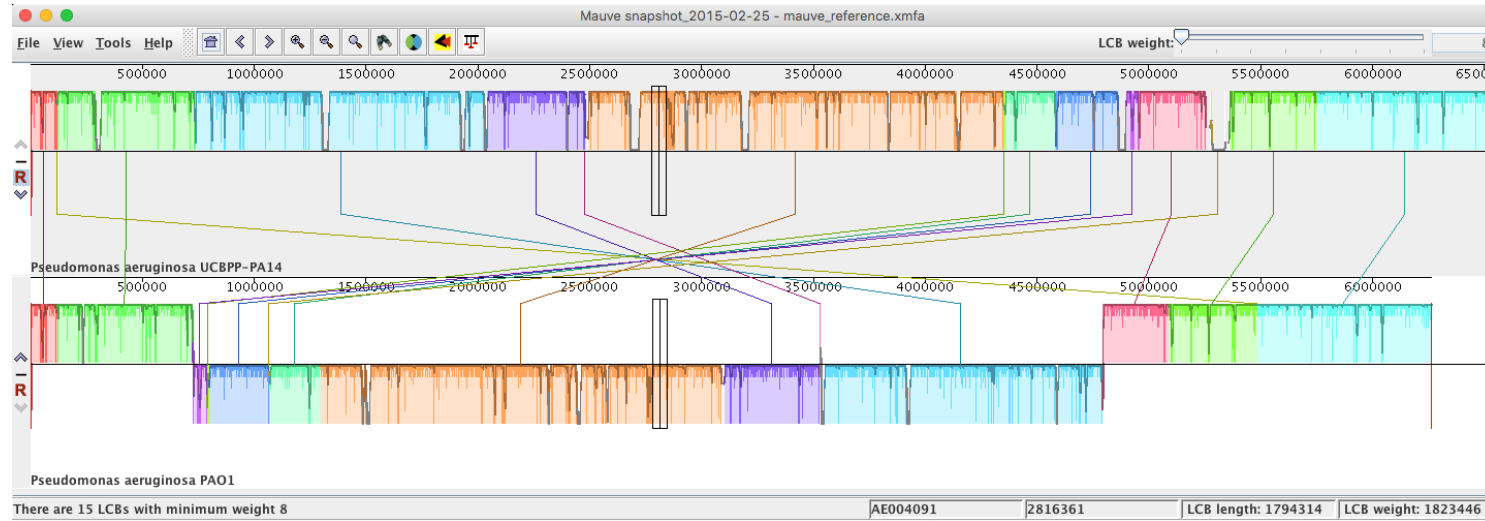
# Aligning and Ordering Assemblies

- Mauve (<http://darlinglab.org/mauve/mauve.html>)
- Multiple genome aligner (up to about 10, max)
  - Newer program SibeliaZ (<https://github.com/medvedevgroup/SibeliaZ>) has higher capacity
- Contig reorder relative to reference
  - Alternative program: Nucmer (<http://mummer.sourceforge.net/>)
- Visualizer
- All functions available in GUI as well as command line



# Mauve alignment

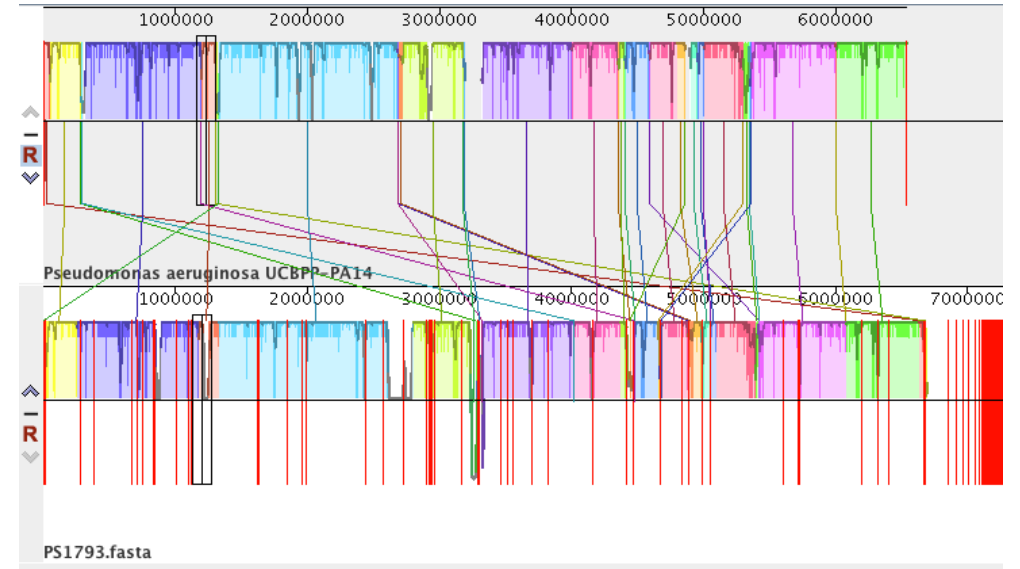
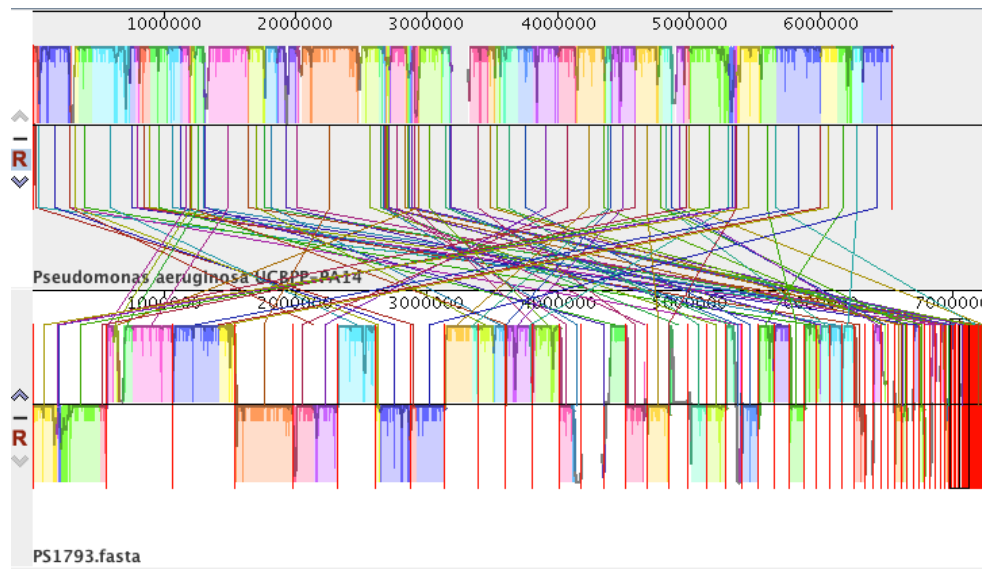
Complete genomes



Contig reorderer

Ref

Draft



# Hybrid Assembly



- Short read assemblies:
  - High accuracy, low error rate
  - Short reads can't resolve long repeats → fragmentary assemblies, multiple contigs
  - Plasmid resolution difficult
- Long read assemblies:
  - Span long repeats → long assemblies, few contigs / complete chromosomes or plasmids
  - Higher error rates and homopolymer errors → lower accuracy
- Hybrid assembly methods combine strengths of both approaches

# Hybrid Assembly Approaches

- Hybrid assembly
  - De-bruijn graph assembly with long and short reads or use long reads to order contigs generated with short reads and fill gaps
  - Example: SPAdes
- Sequential assembly
  - 1) Assemble using long reads alone
    - Example Software: Canu (<https://github.com/marbl/canu/releases>), SMRT-Analysis (<https://www.pacb.com/support/software-downloads/>), SMARTdenovo (<https://github.com/ruanjue/smartdenovo>), minimap/miniasm/racon (<https://yiweiniu.github.io/blog/2018/03/Genome-assembly-pipeline-miniasm-Racon/>)
  - 2) Correct assembly errors using short reads
    - Software: Pilon (<https://github.com/broadinstitute/pilon/wiki>)
  - 3) Join and circularize chromosomes and plasmids
    - Software: Circlator (<https://sanger-pathogens.github.io/circlator/>)

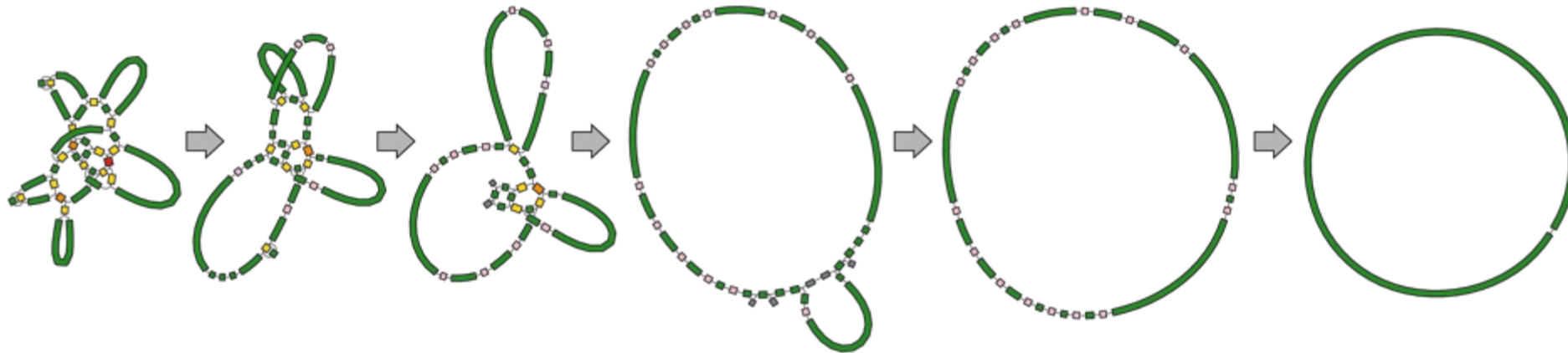


# Hybrid Assembly Approaches

- All-In-One package
  - Unicycler (<https://github.com/rrwick/Unicycler>)
  - Uses SPAdes, miniasm, and Racon
  - First, generates assembly from short reads (SPAdes)
  - Second, assembly with long reads and contigs from first step (miniasm/Racon)
  - Third, tries to bridge ambiguous connections using long reads
  - Last, attempts to circularize contigs

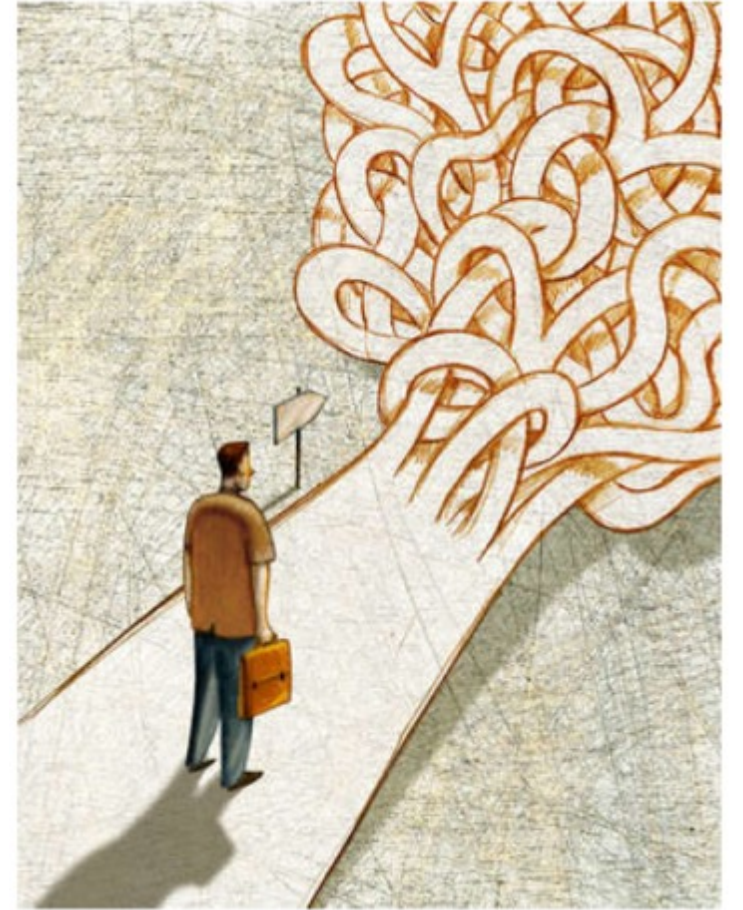


Unicycler



# Whole-Genome Assembly

- Multiple approaches available
- No one-size-fits-all
- May need to try several techniques / software packages



# Annotation

- Identification of genomic features (protein-coding sequences, RNA-encoding sequencings, others [CRISPRs, signal peptides, etc.] )
- Online option: RAST
  - <http://rast.nmpdr.org/> (includes written and video tutorials)
  - Requires registration (free)
  - Depending on server load, can take hours or days for results
  - Input: Fasta contig file
  - Output: Annotated genbank file

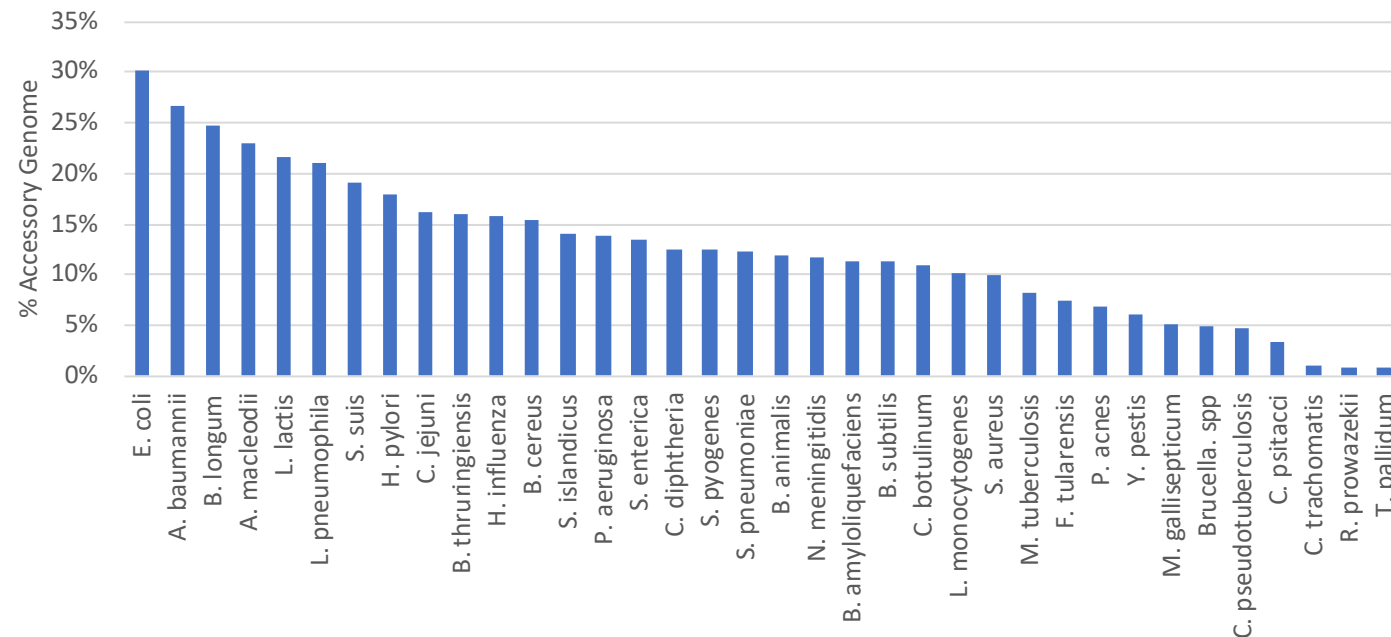


# Annotation

- Command line option: Prokka  
<http://www.vicbioinformatics.com/software.prokka.shtml>
- Advantages:
  - Local; no waiting on server load
  - Fast; less than 30 minutes per genome, usually
  - Output formatted for direct deposit to NCBI database
- Disadvantages:
  - Requires installation of several support programs
  - Limited database, but customizable to your organism of interest

# Core and Accessory Genome Analysis

- Core genome: Sequence shared by all or most representatives of a species
- Accessory genome: genetic elements present in some strains, absent in others
  - Plasmids, integrative and conjugative elements (ICEs), replacement islands, prophages and phage-like elements, transposons, insertion sequences (ISs), integrons

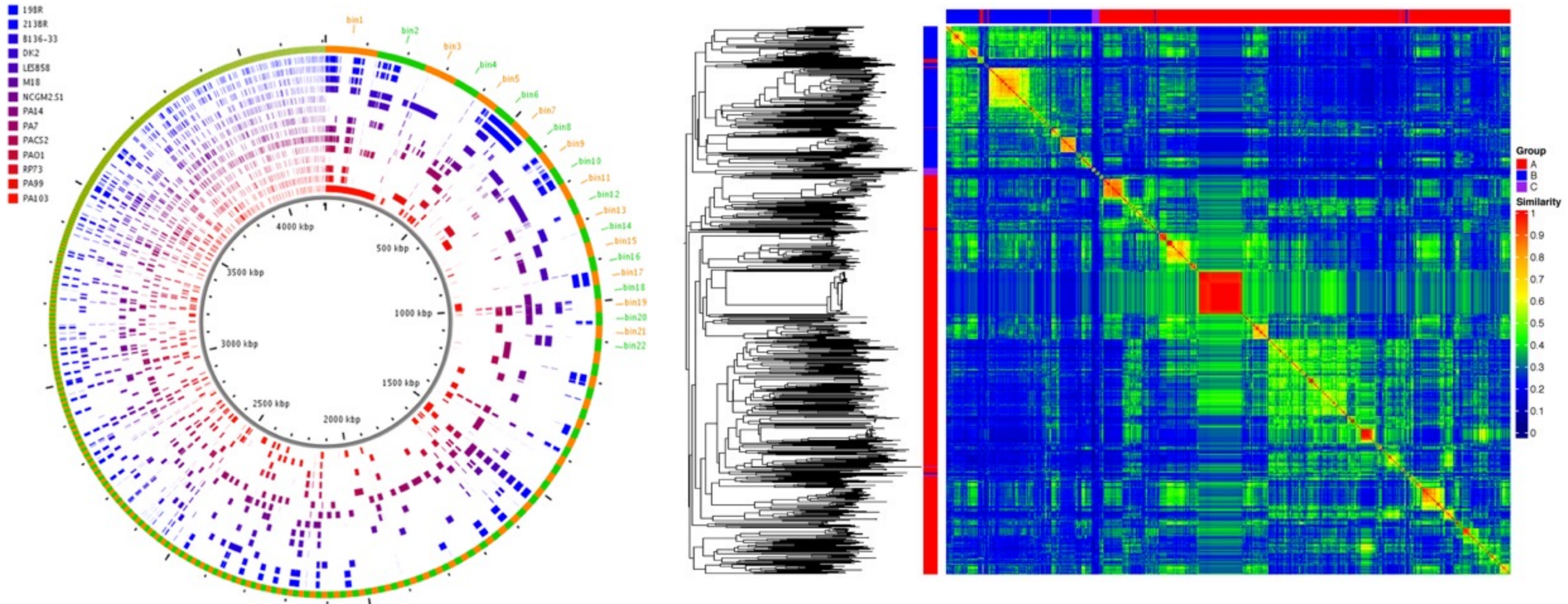


# Core and Accessory Genome Analysis

- Spine, AGEnt, ClustAGE  
[http://vfsm spine agent.fsm.northwestern.edu/index\\_age.html](http://vfsm spine agent.fsm.northwestern.edu/index_age.html)
- Spine: Identifies conserved core genome sequence using complete and/or draft sequences as input. Outputs representative core genome sequence
- AGEnt: Performs *in silico* subtractive hybridization to identify accessory genome
- ClustAGE: Determine the set of unique accessory sequences in a group of genomes and distribution of accessory elements among the isolates

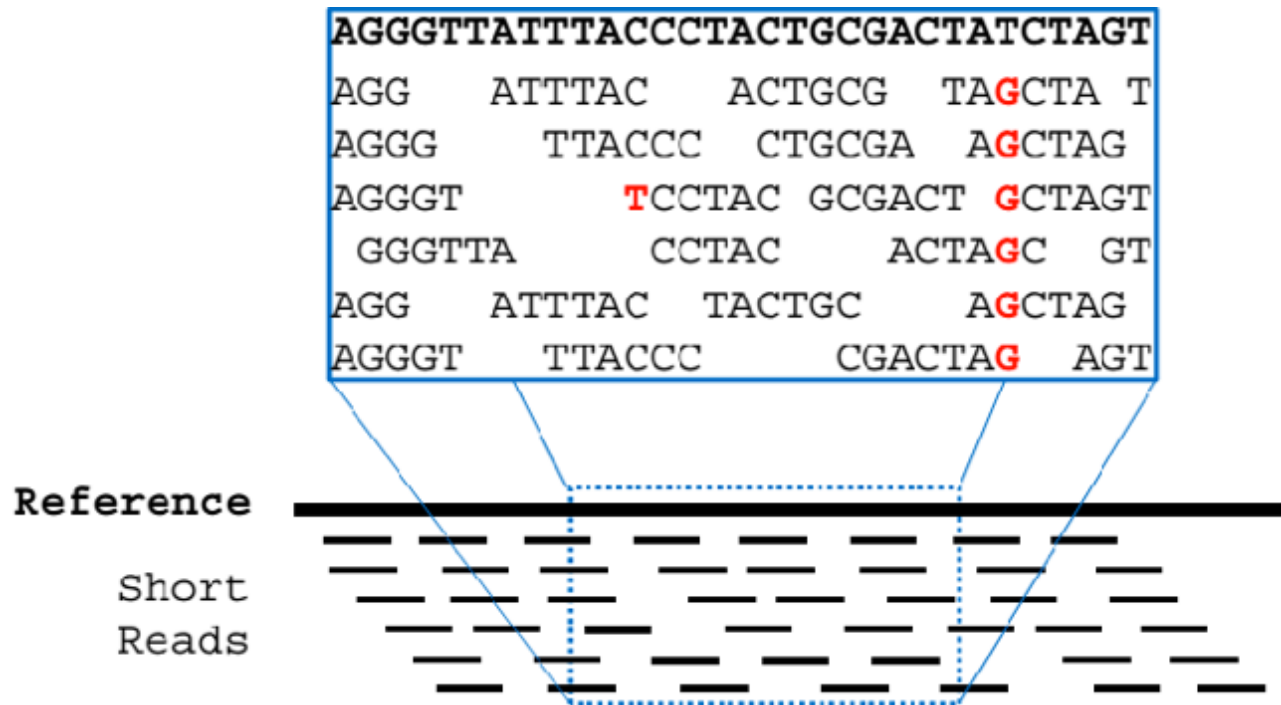


# Core and Accessory Genome Analysis



# Alignment

- Align reads directly to a reference genome sequence (no assembly)
- Identify variants relative to reference





# Alignment

- Alignment programs:
  - bwa (Burrows-Wheeler aligner) <http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net/>
  - Others: Stampy, Bowtie2, NovoAlign, Smalt

**Table 3**

Table depicts the overall scoring of the aligners based on various evaluation criteria considered in this study; + + + denotes high score, + + denotes intermediate score, + denotes low score.

	Sensitivity		Properly paired		Computational time		Tandem repeats	
	(36, 50, 72 bp)	(100, 125, 150,200, 250, 300 bp)	(36,50, 72 bp)	(100, 125, 150,200, 250, 300 bp)	(36,50, 72 bp)	(100, 125, 150,200, 250, 300 bp)	Low	High
BWA	+	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	+
Bowtie2	+	+++	+	+	++	++	++	+
NovoAlign	+++	+++	++	+++	+	+	++	+
Smalt	+	+++	+	+	++	++	++	+
Stampy	++	+++	++	+++	+	+	++	+

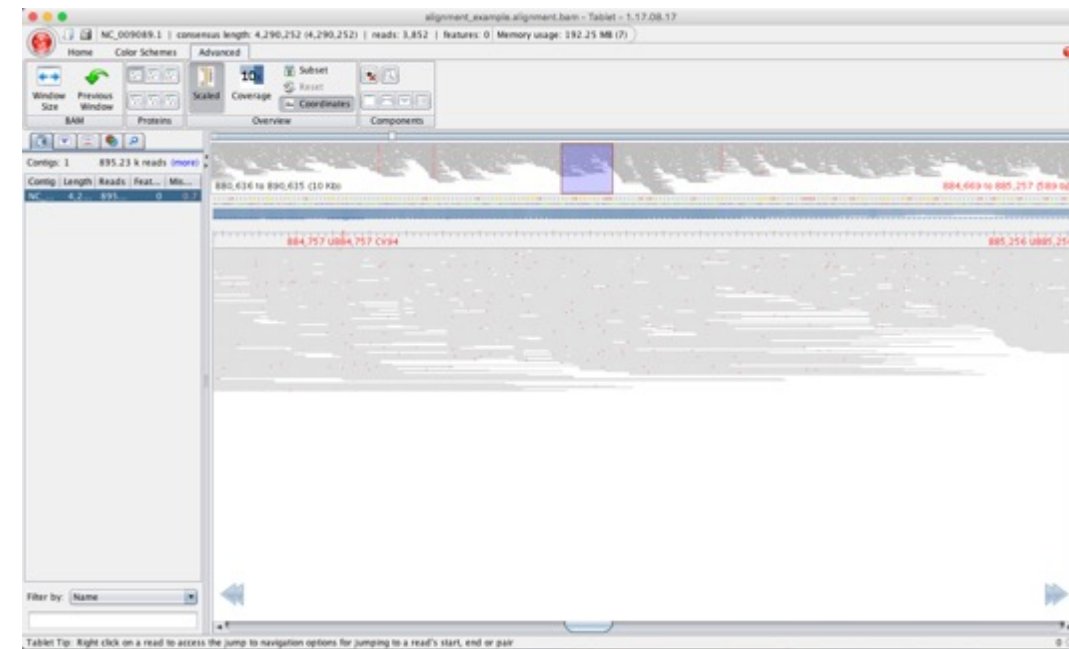
S. Thankaswamy-Kosalai et al. Genomics 109 (2017) 186–191

# Alignment

- Inputs:
  - Reference genome sequence
  - Sequencing read files
- Output:
  - Alignment file, usually in SAM format
    - BAM is a binary-encoded SAM file
  - SAM file often post-processed using samtools program  
<http://samtools.sourceforge.net/>
  - Typical steps: filtering of non-aligned reads, sorting, indexing

# Visualizing read alignments

- Tablet <https://ics.hutton.ac.uk/tablet/>
- Requires reference sequence file and sorted alignment file
  - Sam file = “flat” text file
  - Bam file = binary version of sam file.  
Tablet requires index file (.bai) produced by samtools to be in the same directory
- EXAMPLE:
  - Alignment:  
alignment\_example.alignment.bam
  - Reference:  
alignment\_example.reference.fasta



# Variant identification from alignments

- Use alignment to identify variants (SNPs, indels) relative to the reference
- Programs:
  - Samtools / bcftools
    - <http://www.htslib.org/>
    - 'bcftools mpileup' to generate list of per-position alignments → 'bcftools call' to calculate SNP/indel calls in VCF format

Pileup:

NC_009089.1	2210	A	32	.....C,..	A>GDFGGGDGDFD,GGGGEFGGGEF,F,GCF
NC_009089.1	2211	A	32	.....	ECGDFGGGCGFDDEGGGGFFEGGE=F=FCGFG
NC_009089.1	2212	T	32	CCcCCcccCcCccccCCCcccCcccCcC.ccC	E7GFCGGG,GG>66EGGGGECGDCGE+E,GEG
NC_009089.1	2213	G	32	.....	E:GADGGGCG:GFGEGGGGFFGGFFG<F,GFG
NC_009089.1	2214	A	32	.....	F5GFGGGFEGFGDE8GGGGG@GGGEG:E;G=C

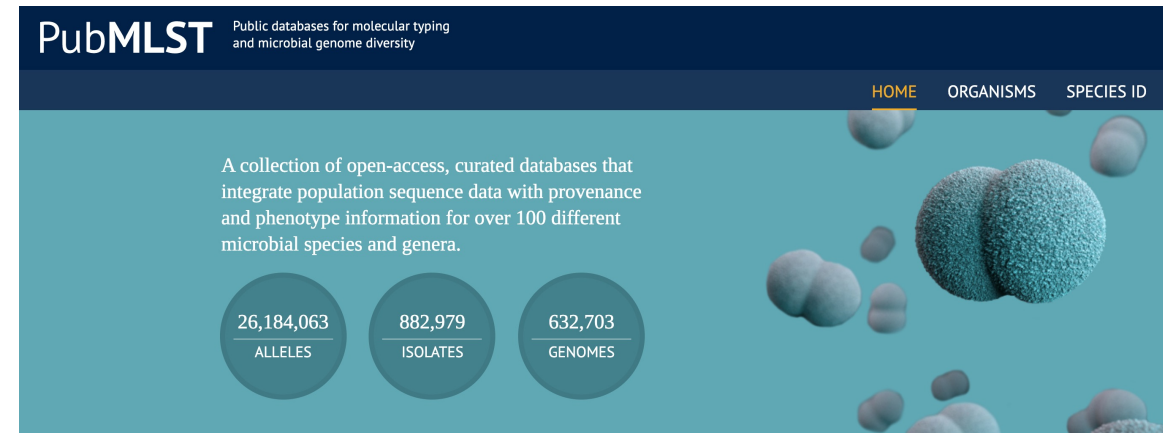
VCF:

NC_009089.1	2210	.	A	.	117	.	DP=32;AF1=0;AC1=0;DP4=13,16,0,0;MQ=60;FQ=-114	PL:DP:SP	0:29:0
NC_009089.1	2211	.	A	.	126	.	DP=32;AF1=0;AC1=0;DP4=14,18,0,0;MQ=60;FQ=-123	PL:DP:SP	0:32:0
NC_009089.1	2212	.	T	C	222	.	DP=32;VDB=9.429760e-02;AF1=1;AC1=2;DP4=0,0,11,15;MQ=60;FQ=-105	GT:PL:DP:SP:GQ	1/1:255,78,0:26:0:99
NC_009089.1	2213	.	G	.	123	.	DP=32;AF1=0;AC1=0;DP4=13,18,0,0;MQ=60;FQ=-120	PL:DP:SP	0:31:0
NC_009089.1	2214	.	A	.	120	.	DP=32;AF1=0;AC1=0;DP4=13,17,0,0;MQ=60;FQ=-117	PL:DP:SP	0:30:0

# Variant identification from alignments

- Other software:
  - FreeBayes <https://github.com/ekg/freebayes>
  - Also outputs in VCF format
  - Nice tutorial: <http://clavius.bc.edu/~erik/CSHL-advanced-sequencing/freebayes-tutorial.html>
- All-in-one solution
  - Snippy: <https://github.com/tseemann/snippy>
  - Pipeline for performing alignment (using bwa), variant calling (using FreeBayes), and multi-genome alignment for phylogenetics in microbial genomes

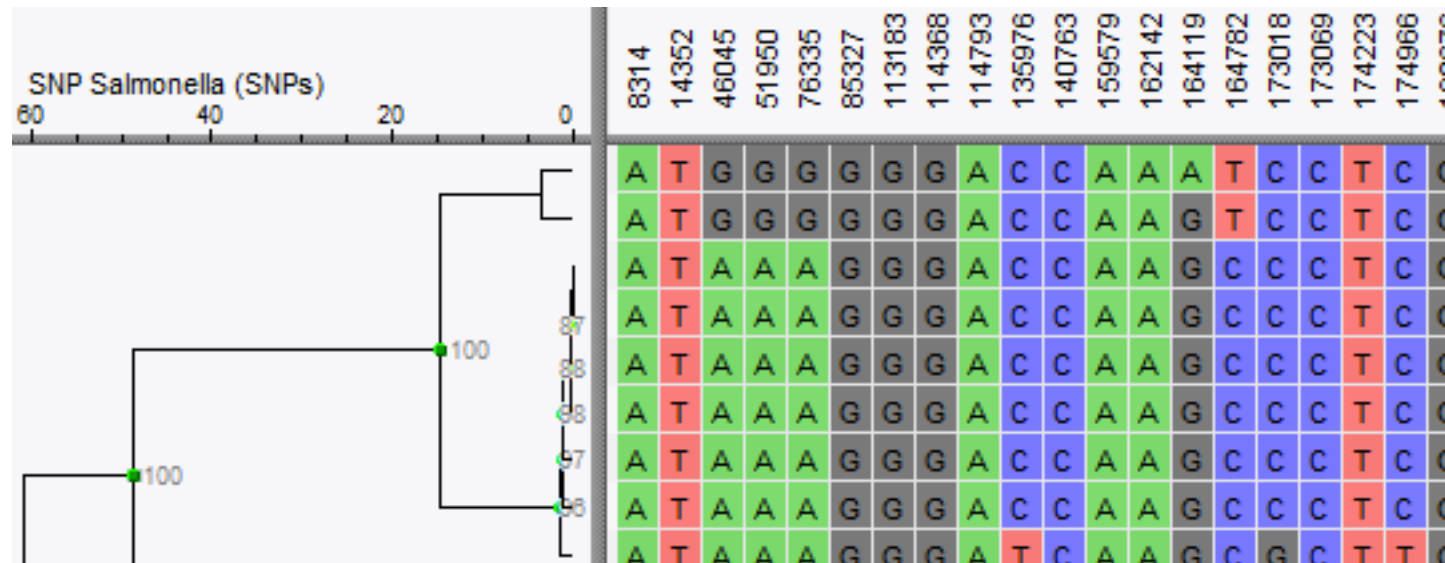
# Phylogenetic Analysis



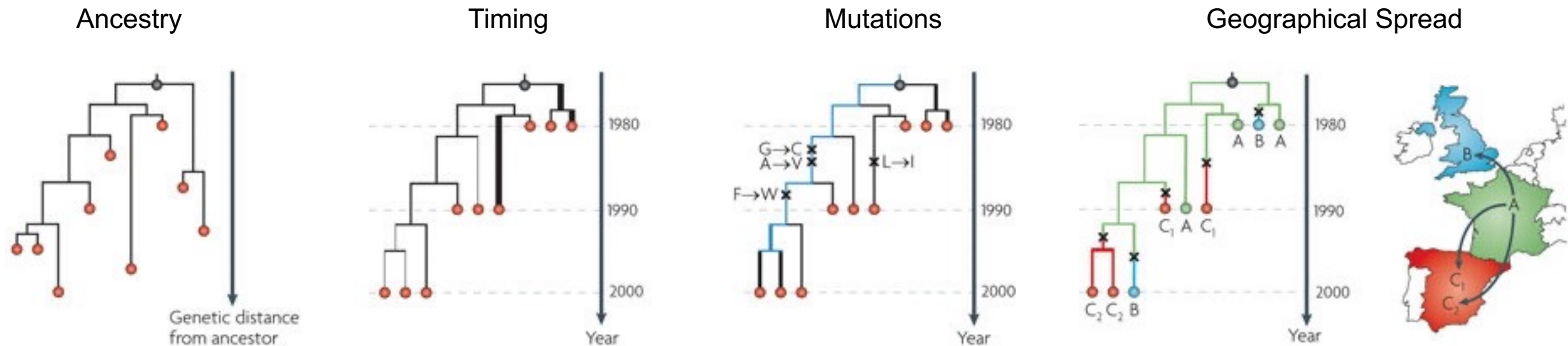
- Isolate relatedness → epidemiologic or evolutionary inferences
- Multi-locus sequencing typing (**MLST**) or similar typing scheme
  - Usually 7 housekeeping genes
  - PCR amplification → Sanger sequencing
  - Gene sequences compared to database to assign allele numbers
  - Allele pattern associated with sequence type (ST) designation
- PubMLST <https://pubmlst.org/>
- Allele sequences from multiple strains could be concatenated and aligned to generate phylogenetic tree
- MLST trees are low resolution, can overestimate strain relatedness

# Phylogenetics

- From alignments, can use phylogenetic analysis to determine degrees of similarity and differences between genomes
  - Make inferences about transmission, evolution etc.
  - Can add also time of isolation or location to analysis



# Whole Genome Sequencing can provide insights into the molecular epidemiology of pathogens





# Whole-genome phylogenetics

- Reference-based alignment: Sequences aligned to a reference genome, variant positions identified relative to the reference
  - Can be slow, possible misalignments, can't evaluate sequence not present in reference
  - CSI Phylogeny <https://cge.cbs.dtu.dk/services/CSIPhylogeny/>
  - REALPHY <https://realphy.unibas.ch/fcgi/realphy>

# Whole-genome phylogenetics

- CSI Phylogeny

### Input data

**Upload reference genome (fasta format)**  
Note: Reference genome must not be compressed.

No file chosen

☐ Include reference in final phylogeny.

**Select min. depth at SNP positions**  
10x

**Select min. relative depth at SNP positions**  
10 %

**Select minimum distance between SNPs (prune)**  
10 bp

**Select min. SNP quality**  
30

**Select min. read mapping quality**  
25

**Select min. Z-score**  
1.96

☐ Ignore heterozygous SNPs

**Comment (to yourself)**  
This comment will appear unaltered on your output page. It has no effect on the analysis.

☒ **Use altered FastTree (more accurate)**  
Note: Read more [here](#)

**Upload read files and/or assembled genomes (fasta or fastq format)**  
Note: Read files must be compressed with gzip (compressed files often ends with .gz).  
If you get an "Access forbidden. Error 403": Make sure the start of the web adress is https and not just http. Fix it by clicking [here](#).

Name	Size	Progress	Status

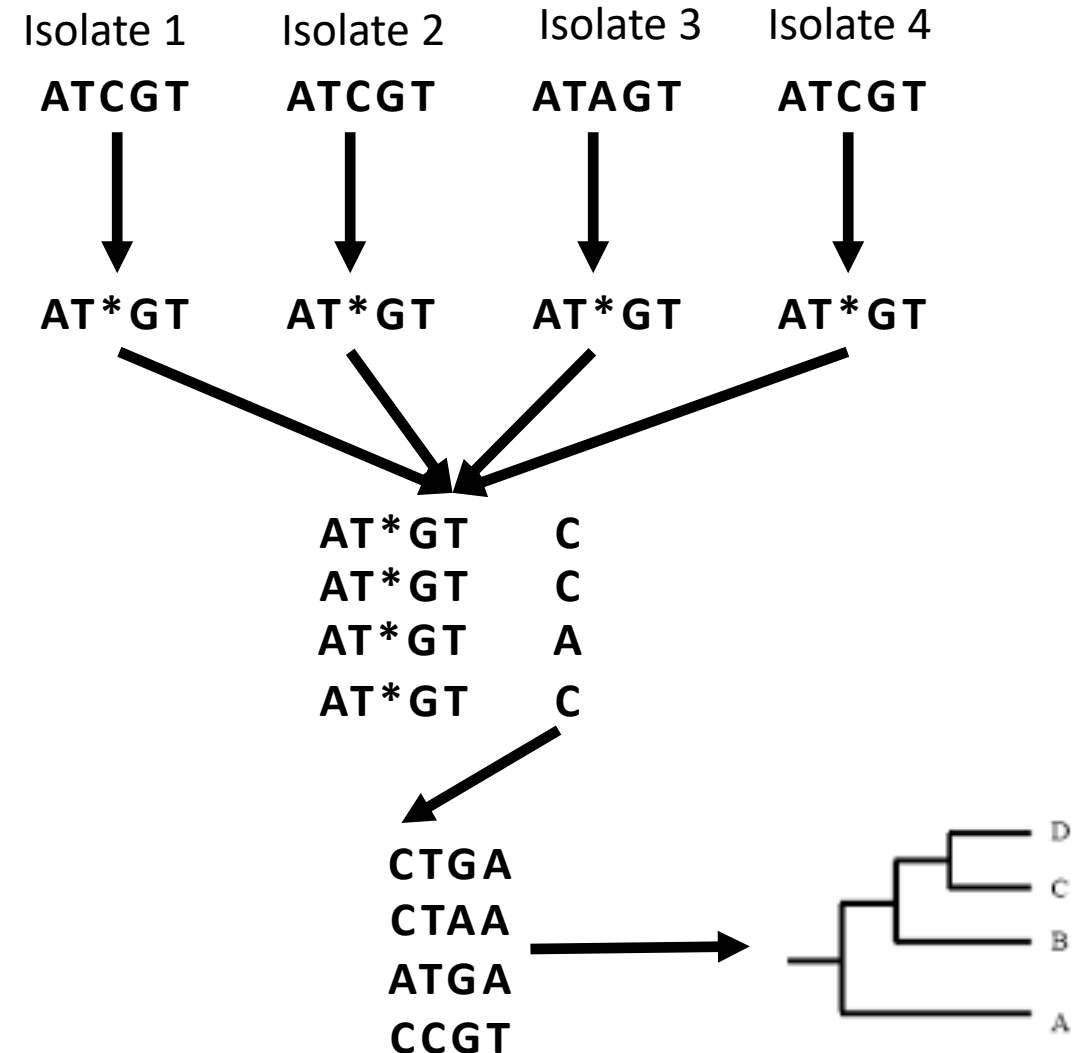
# Whole-genome phylogenetics

- Reference-free alignment: Sequences compared directly to each other to identify differences
  - Feature reduction improves computational performance, but may lose some resolution
  - kSNP <https://sourceforge.net/projects/ksnp/>
  - Mashtree: <https://github.com/lskatz/mashtree>

# Whole-genome phylogenetics

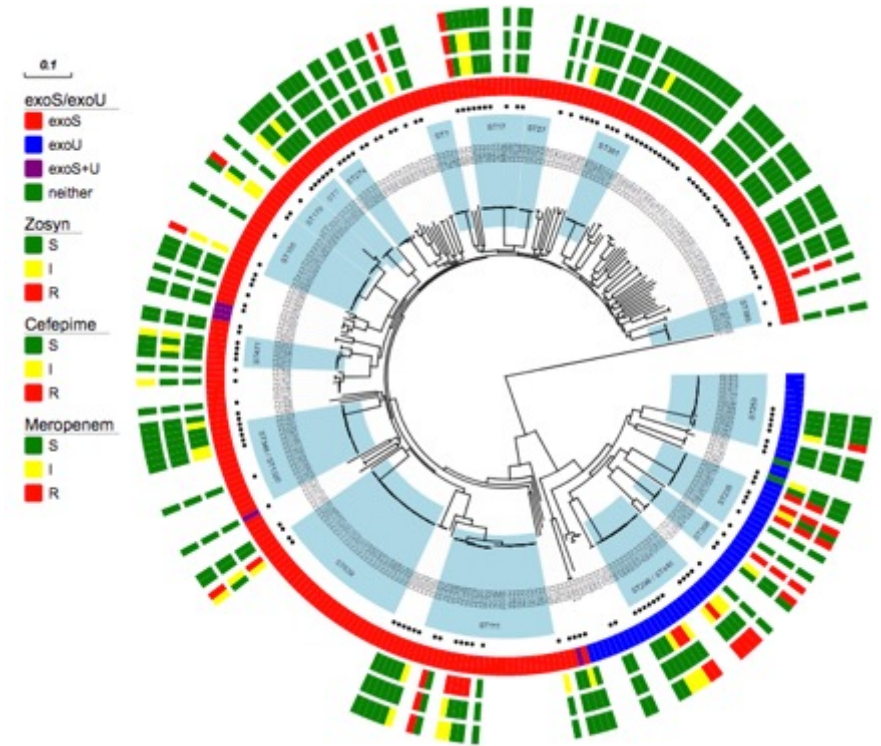
- kSNP

- Command line
- Fragment each genome sequence into k-mers
- Group all k-mers with wildcard as middle base
- If middle base differs in any included isolate, count as SNP locus
- Create matrix of all k-mers with variant middle bases
- Generate phylogenetic tree



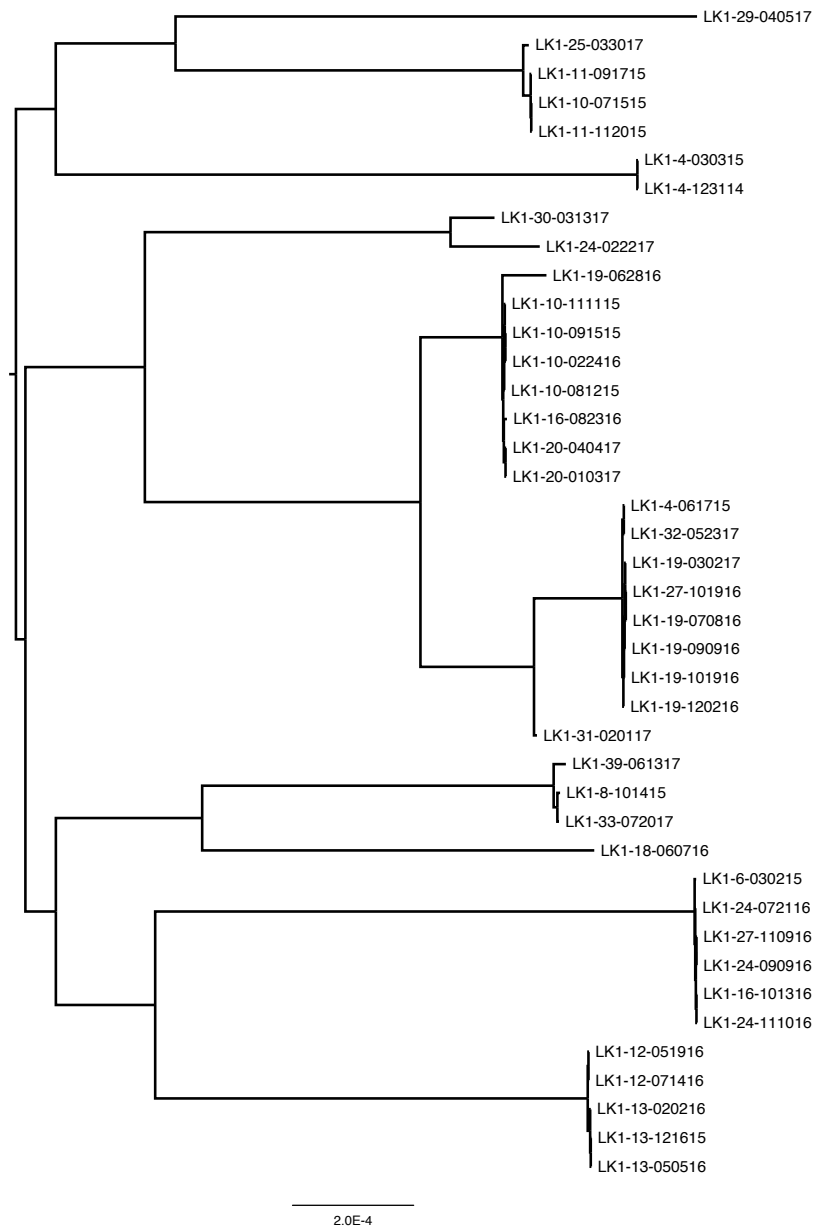
# Whole-genome phylogenetics

- Visualizing and annotating trees
- Common tree file format is Newick (.tre, .nwk)
- FigTree <https://github.com/rambaut/figtree/releases>
  - Local, nice for rapid visualization
  - EXAMPLE: tree\_example.tre
- EvolView <http://www.evolgenius.info/evolview/>
  - Web-based, powerful annotation tools. Account required
- IToL <https://itol.embl.de/>
  - Web-based, account required. Heatmaps
- ggtree <https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/ggtree.html>
  - R-based package for tree annotation

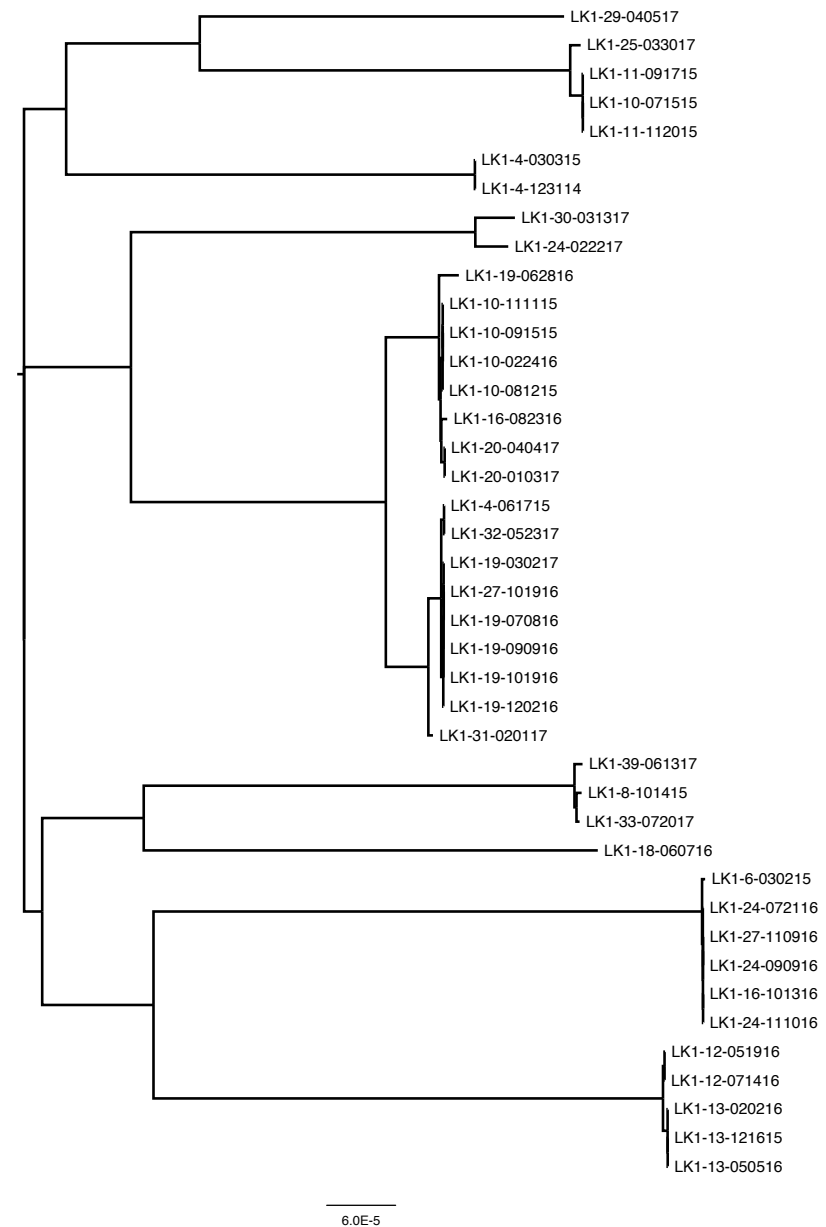


# Recombination

- Most phylogenies assume a single evolutionary history
  - Acquisition of variants over time and propagation to descendants
- Recombination of microbial genomes can result in acquisition of multiple variants simultaneously independent of ancestral sequence
  - Can lead to false inferences about relative strain relatedness → increased branch lengths
  - Topology of trees not affected by presence of recombination
- Software for detecting and filtering regions subject to recombination in genome alignments:
  - ClonalFrameML <https://github.com/xavierdidelot/ClonalFrameML>
  - Gubbins <https://sanger-pathogens.github.io/gubbins/>



Core genome maximum likelihood tree

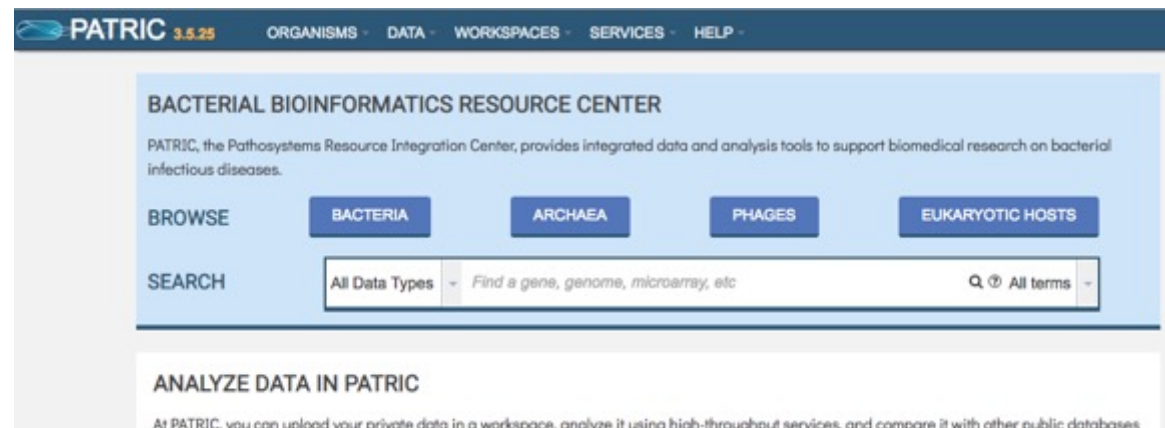


Following removal of recombination effects by ClonalFrameML



# PATRIC (Pathosystems Resource Integration Center)

- <https://www.patricbrc.org/>
- Web-based service
- Services offered:
  - Assembly, alignment, annotation, phylogenetics, metagenomics, and much more
- Integration with NCBI



# Other resources

- Phylogenetic Trees Made Easy by Barry G. Hall
- Comparative Genomics Tutorial:  
<https://holtlab.net/2017/07/01/update-to-comparative-bacterial-genomics-tutorial/>

