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***VEBA*:**

a modular end-to-end suite for *in silico* recovery, clustering, and analysis of prokaryotic, microeukaryotic, and viral genomes from metagenomes

Josh L. Espinoza, Ph.D
Staff Scientist
Dupont Lab

Department of Environment and Sustainability, *J. Craig Venter Institute*
Department of Human Biology and Genomic Medicine, *J. Craig Venter Institute*

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VEBA: a modular end-to-end suite for in silico recovery, clustering, and analysis of prokaryotic, microeukaryotic, and viral genomes from metagenomes

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Microbial ecology in the larger context

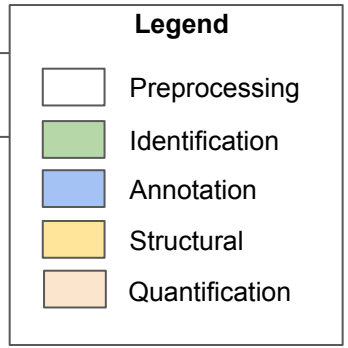
- Microorganisms provide insight into ecosystem resilience, sustainability, and human health
- Cataloguing and preserving biodiversity is paramount for discovering potential solutions to challenges we face as a growing civilization
- Metagenomics pertains to the *in silico* study of microorganisms within an ecosystem *in situ*
    - Most metagenomics suites have conflicting dependencies
    - Most metagenomics suites only support prokaryotes
        - *Candidate phyla radiation* (CPR) support require manual *post hoc* workflows
        - Limited support for viruses (if any)
        - Limited support for eukaryotes (if any)

Why use *VEBA*?

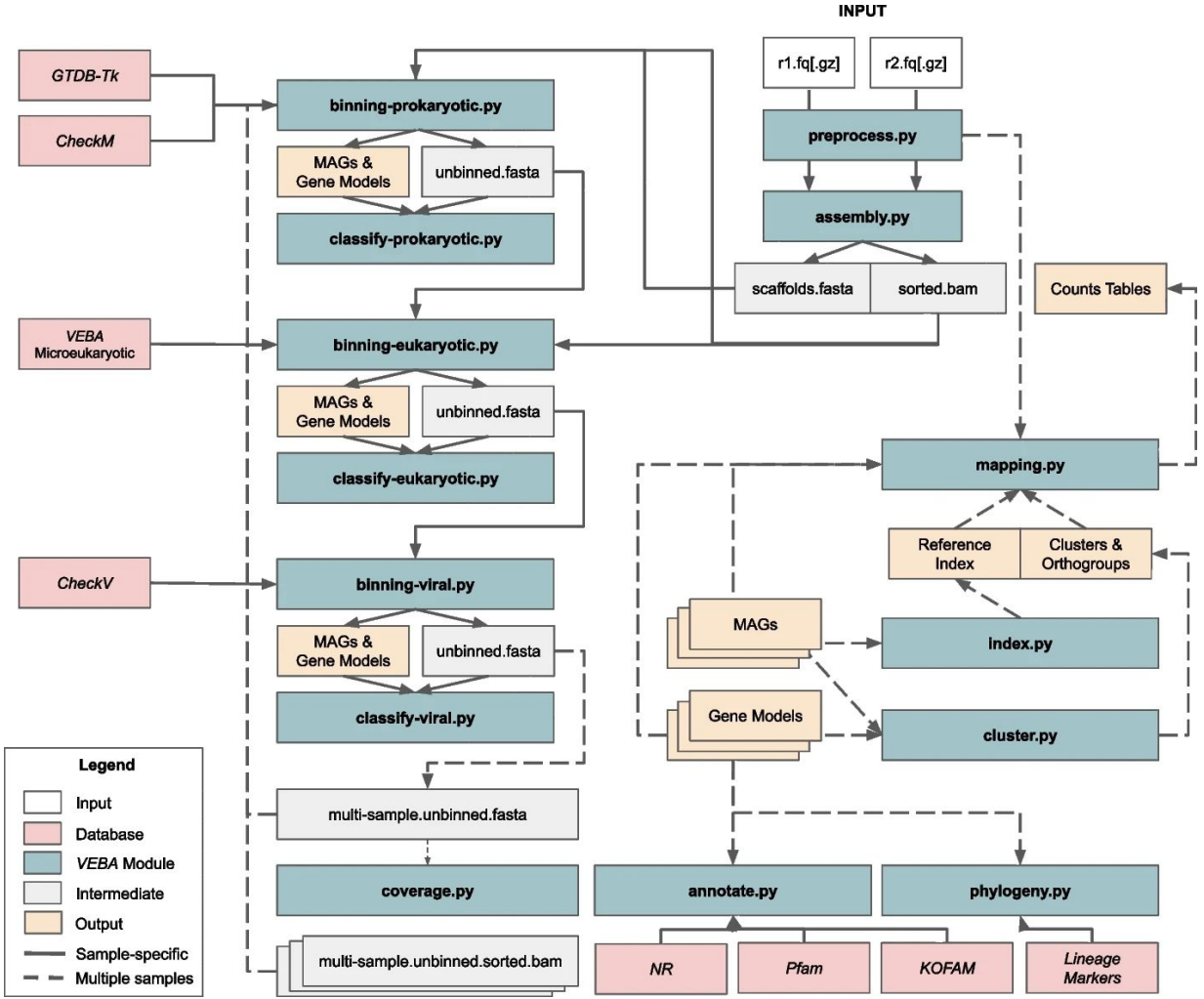
- Directly recovers, quality assess, and classify prokaryotic, eukaryotic, and viral genomes from metagenomes/metatranscriptomes
- Automated handling of CPR
- Modular to accommodate multiple workflows
- Automates complex tasks in a user-friendly way
- Maximizes information gain from available data
- Can be used with co-assemblies or sample-specific assemblies (+ pseudo-coassemblies)
- Implements clustering at the species and protein level to make sample-specific genomes comparable across multiple samples
- All packages and dependencies are open-sourced (no complicated licensing)
- *VEBA* is installed in one command (i.e., `bash install_veba.sh`)
- *VEBA* database is downloaded/configured in one command (i.e., `bash download_databases.sh /path/to/veba_database`)

VEBA Modules

- ***preprocess*** – Fastq quality trimming, adapter removal, decontamination, and read statistics calculations
- ***assembly*** – Assemble reads, align reads to assembly, and count mapped reads
- ***coverage*** – Align reads to (concatenated) reference and counts mapped reads
- ***binning-prokaryotic*** – Iterative consensus binning for recovering prokaryotic genomes with lineage-specific quality assessment
- ***binning-eukaryotic*** – Binning for recovering eukaryotic genomes with exon-aware gene modeling and lineage-specific quality assessment
- ***binning-viral*** – Detection of viral genomes and quality assessment
- ***classify-prokaryotic*** – Taxonomic classification and candidate phyla radiation adjusted quality
- ***classify-eukaryotic*** – Taxonomic classification of eukaryotic genomes
- ***classify-viral*** – Taxonomic classification and isolation source of viral genomes
- ***annotate*** – Annotates translated gene calls against NR, Pfam, and KOFAM
- ***cluster*** – Species-level clustering of genomes and lineage-specific orthogroup detection
- ***phylogeny*** – Constructs phylogenetic trees given a marker set
- ***index*** – Builds local or global index for alignment to genomes
- ***mapping*** – Aligns reads to local or global index of genomes

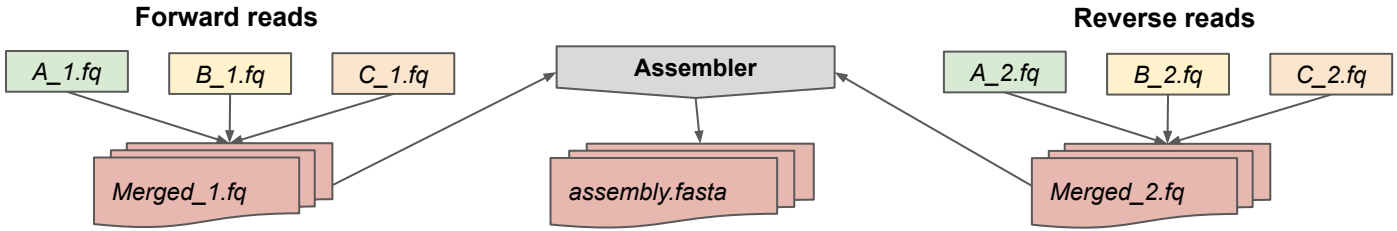


VEBA Modules

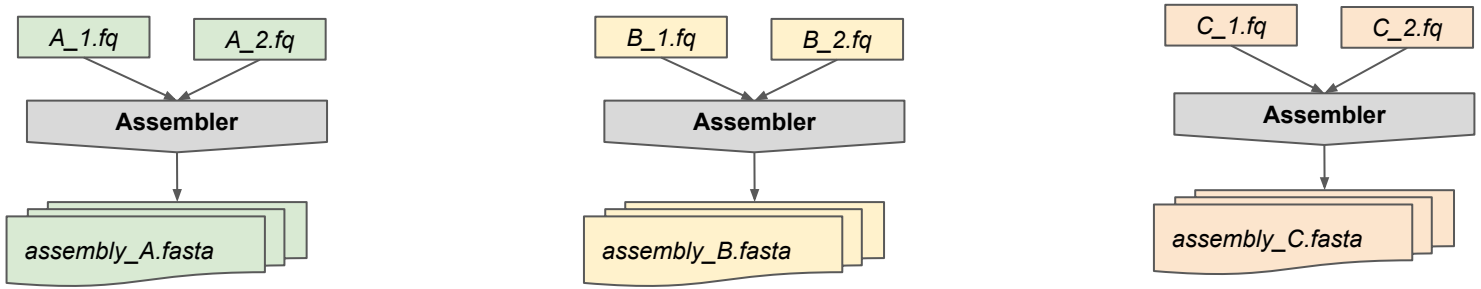


What's the difference between co-assembly and sample-specific metagenomics?

- **Co-assembly**
  - Performing assembly when reads are from multiple samples (i.e., concatenated)



- **Sample-specific**
  - Performing assembly for *N* samples individually resulting in *N* separate assemblies



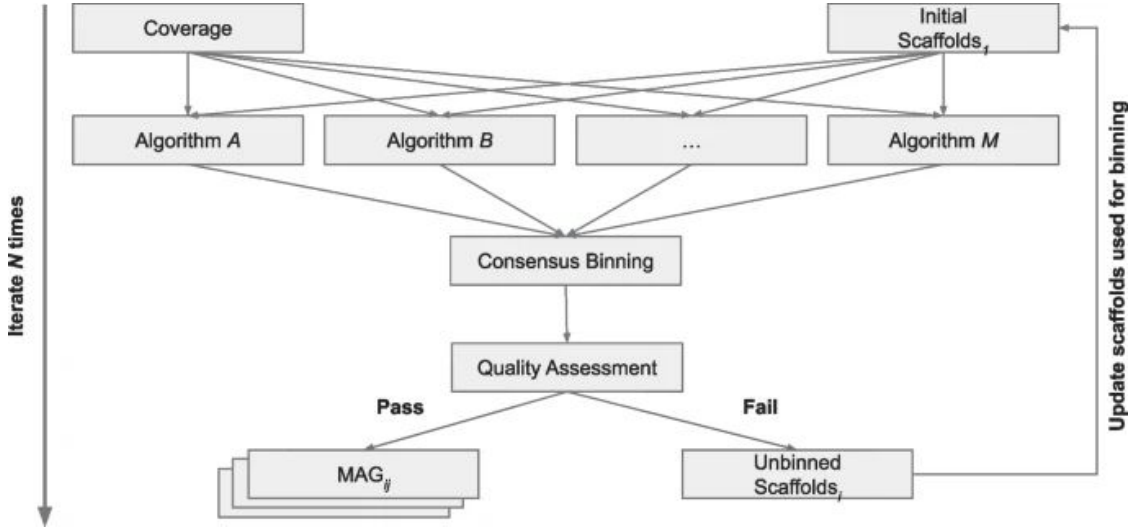
What's the difference between co-assembly and sample-specific metagenomics?

- **Co-assembly**
  - **Pros**:
    - Can increase read depth for low depth samples
    - Allows for direct comparison of features all samples
    - Coverage from multiple samples helps binning
  - **Cons**:
    - Can result in composite genomes that are not biologically accurate
    - Can result in many unbinned contigs
    - Requires much more computational power

- **Sample-specific assemblies**
  - **Pros:**
    - Can recover sample-specific individual strains instead of composites of multiple strains
    - Uses much less compute resources
  - **Cons:**
    - Not as useful in low depth samples
    - Cannot directly compare abundances of biological features

How does *VEBA* maximize available information for genome recovery?

- Uses iterative binning to feed unbinned contigs back into binning (currently, only implemented for prokaryotes)
- [Optional] Uses a “pseudo-coassembly” that makes use of unbinned contigs from multiple samples



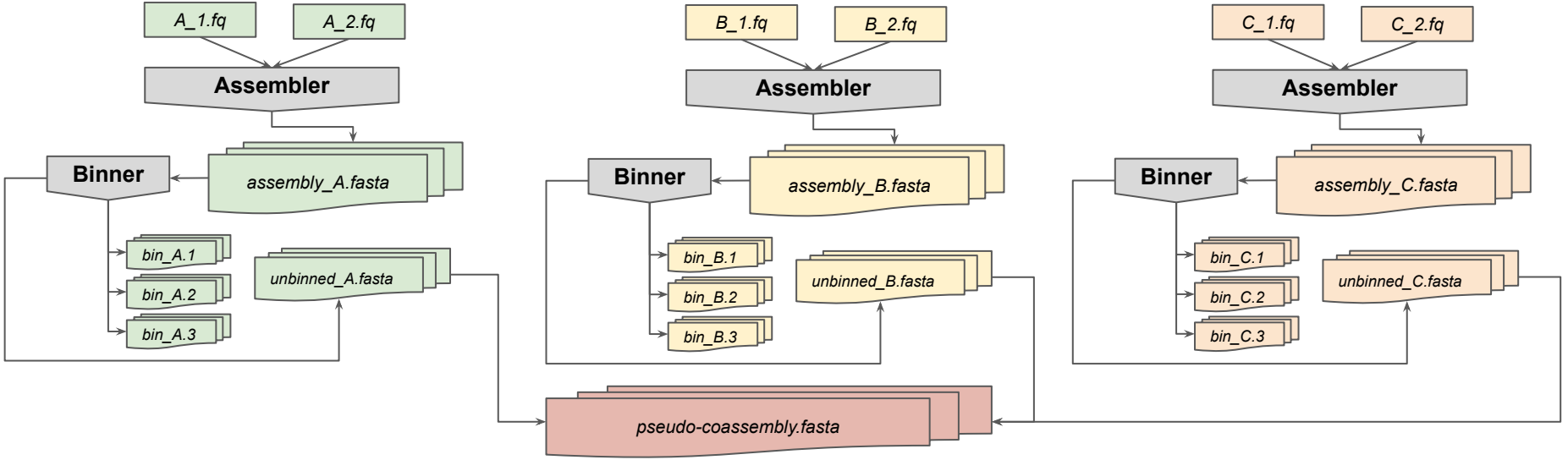
- **Standardized parseable naming scheme**:
  - [SampleID]_[Algorithm]_DomainPrefix.[Iteration]_[Name]
  - SRR17458623_METABAT2_P.1_bin.1

- **P for prokaryotes**
- **E for eukaryotes**

What's the difference between *bona fide* co-assembly and pseudo-coassembly?

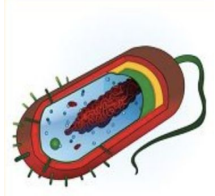
- **Co-assembly**
  - Concatenate all forward reads (i.e., `cat *_1.fastq > concat_1.fastq`)
  - Concatenate all reverse reads (i.e., `cat *_2.fastq > concat_2.fastq`)
  - Assemble concatenated reads (i.e., `coassembly.fasta`)

- **Pseudo-coassembly**
  - No additional assembly involved after sample-specific assembly
  - Concatenate all unbinned contigs from sample-specific binning (i.e., `cat unbinned_*.fasta > pseudo-coassembly.fasta`)



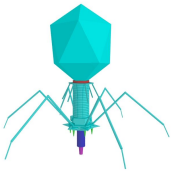
How does *VEBA* recover high-quality genomes from all domains?

- **Prokaryotes**
  - **Recovery** - Iterative consensus binning (*MaxBin2*|*MetaBAT2*|*CONCOCT* → *DAS Tool*)
  - **Gene calls** - *Prodigal* in metagenomics mode
  - **Quality assess** - *CheckM* with automated workflow to handle CPR
  - **Classification** - *GTDBTk*



- **Eukaryotes**
  - **Recovery** - Binning using either *MetaBAT2* or *CONCOCT*
  - **Gene calls** - *MetaEuk* exon-aware gene modeling using custom *VEBA* database
  - **Validation** - *Tiara* to predict if genome is eukaryotic
  - **Quality assess** - *BUSCO*
  - **Classification** - *VEBA* sub-module that uses *MetaEuk* gene targets and bitscores

- **Viruses**
  - **Recovery** - Binning using *VirFinder*
  - **Gene calls** - *Prodigal* in metagenomics mode
  - **Quality assess** - *CheckV*
  - **Classification** - *VEBA* sub-module that uses *CheckV* references



Why does *VEBA* introduce YET ANOTHER eukaryotic database?!?

- **Current eukaryotic databases either do not target microeukaryotes and/or biased towards marine research**
  - ~~Useful for human microbiomes~~
  - ~~Useful for build microbiomes~~

- **Consensus database using microeukaryotic proteins from the following sources:**
  - *MMETSP*
  - *EukZoo*
  - *EukProt*
  - NCBI non-redundant

- **Used for gene modeling and taxonomy classification**

- **Streamlined by removing prokaryotic and higher eukaryotes**

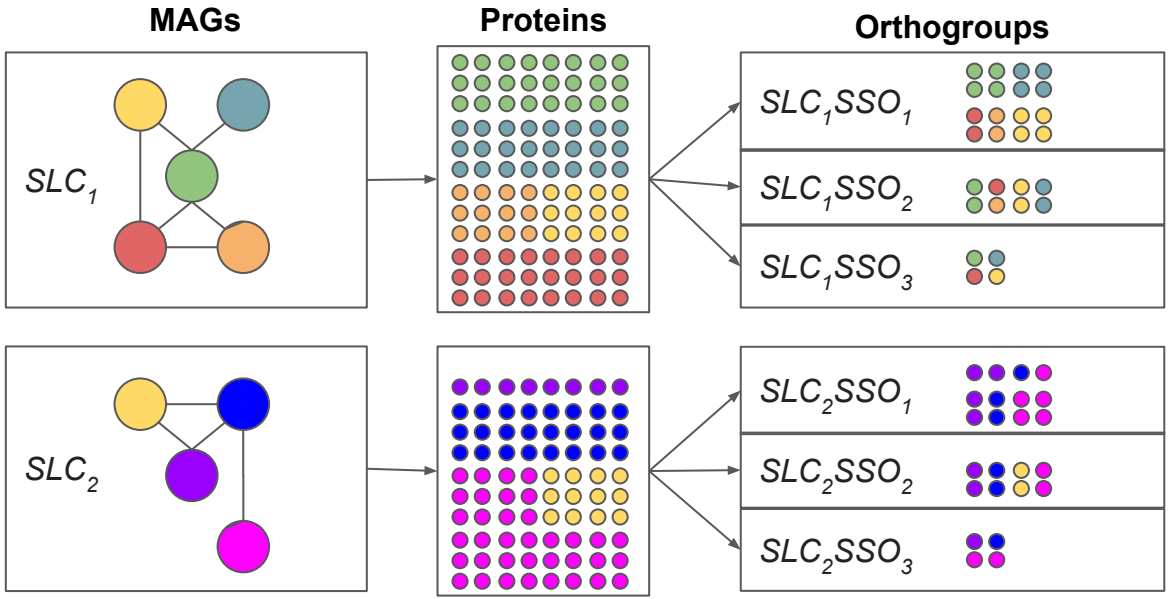
- **Contains 48,006,918 proteins sequences from 42,922 unique species**

- **Available on FigShare (10.21 GB)**
  - https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Microeukaryotic_Protein_Database/19668855/1

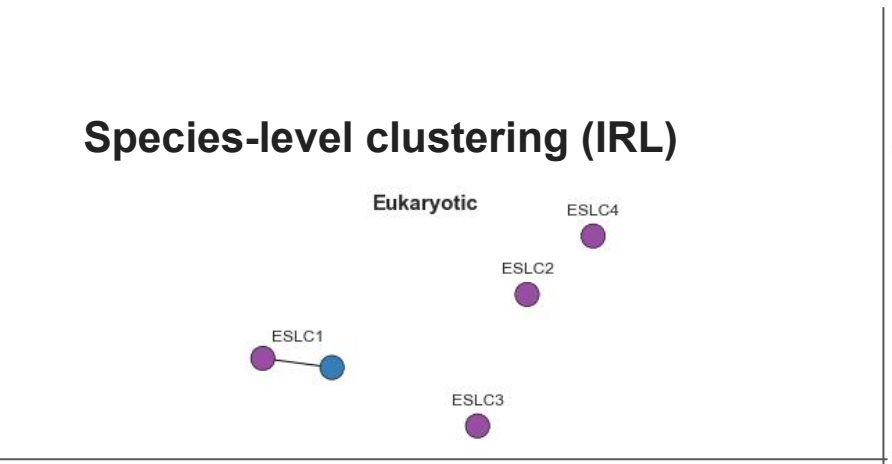
Clustering at the taxonomic and functional level

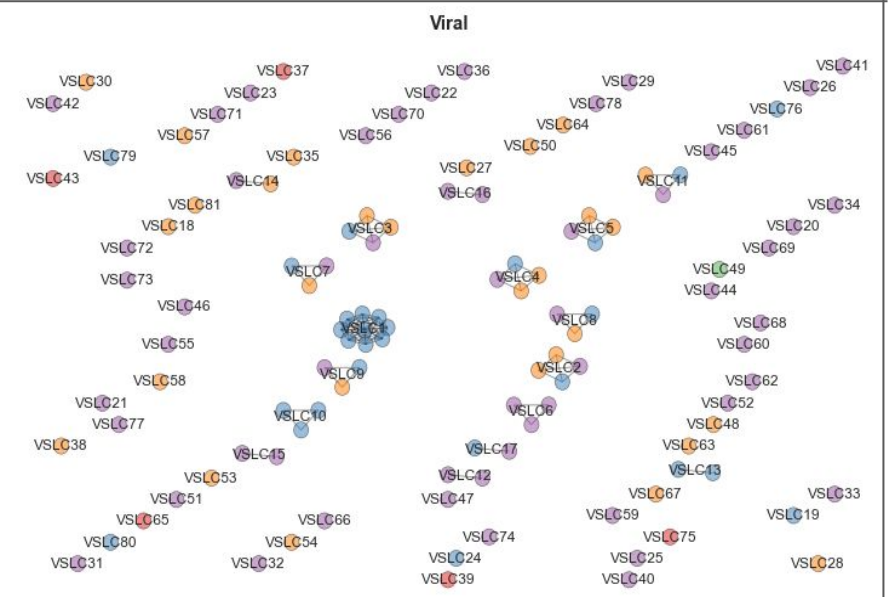
- **Taxonomic**
  - *Metagenome-assemble genomes* (MAG) are clustered by *average nucleotide identity* (ANI)
  - MAGs that cluster at 95% ANI are a *Species-level cluster* (SLC)

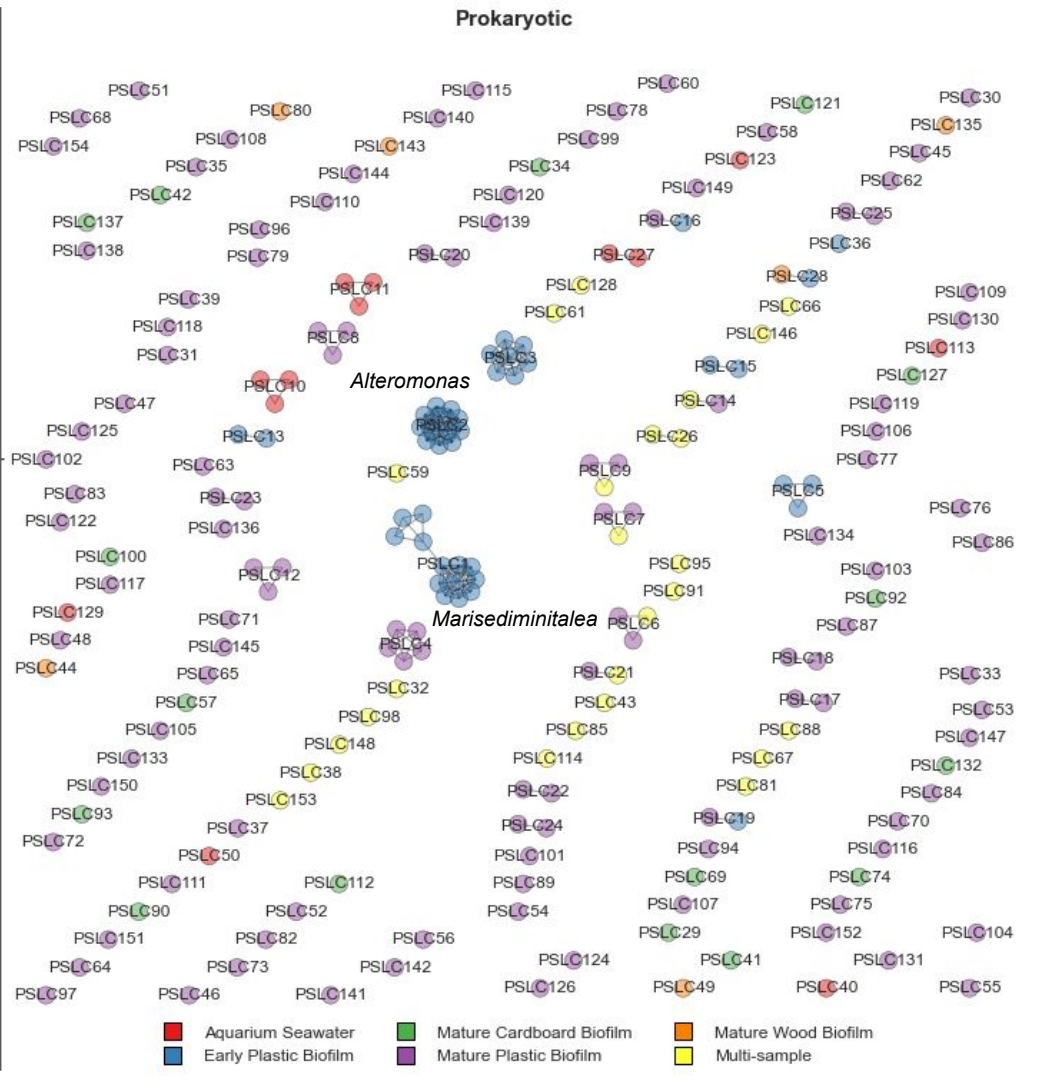
- **Functional**
  - All proteins within a SLC are clustered into *SLC-specific orthogroups* (SSO)



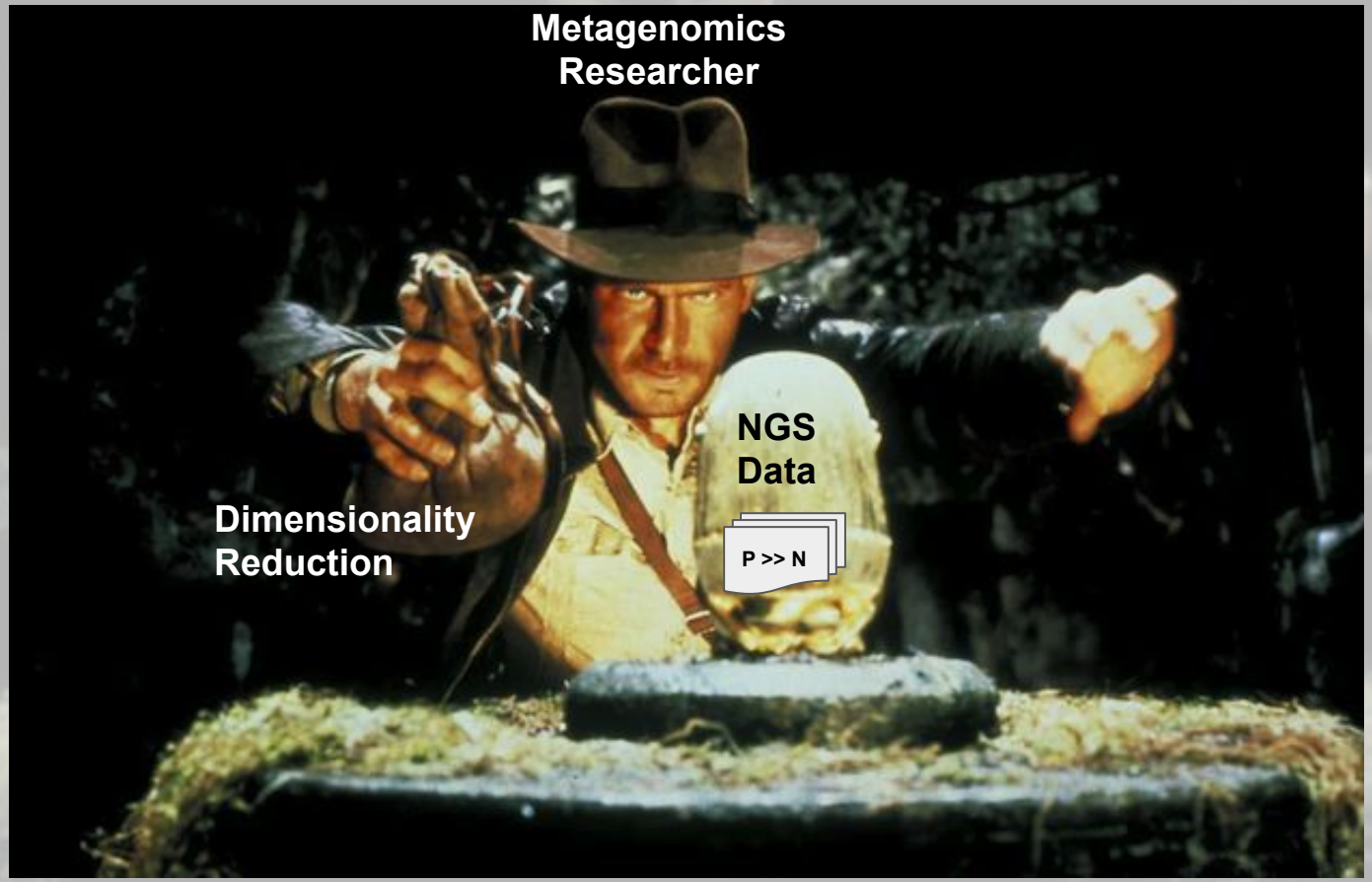
Species-level clustering (IRL)







Curse(s) of dimensionality



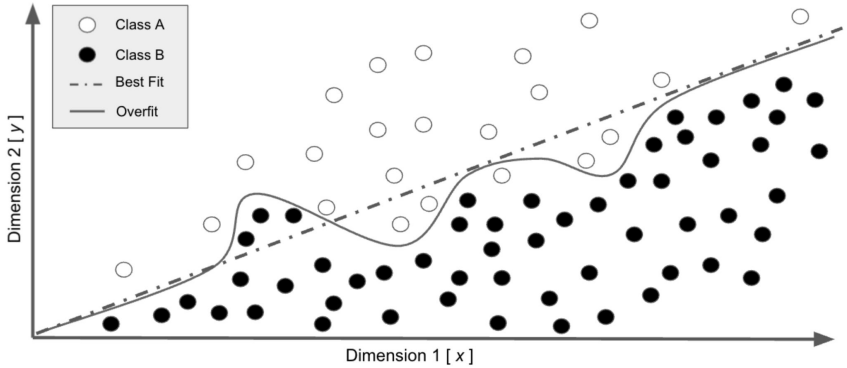
Curse(s) of dimensionality

- The curse of dimensionality refers to various phenomena that arise when analyzing and organizing data in high-dimensional spaces

- "*As the number of features or dimensions grows, the amount of data we need to generalize accurately grows exponentially.*"

  - Charles Isbell, Professor and Senior Associate Dean, School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech

- Most NGS datasets (Number of features >> number of observations)
  - Large P, Small N (P >> N)
  - Machine learning algorithms tend to overfit
  - Relationships between observations can be misleading



Using clustering for dimensionality reduction

- MAGs in the same cluster share highly similar genetic segments
- Mapping reads to MAGs in the same cluster will randomly assign read to one MAG
- Summing MAG counts w.r.t to SLC negates this randomness
- Same for *Genes → SSOs*

Samples

MAGs

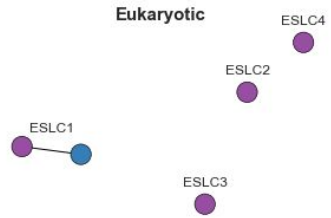
id_sample	SRR17458630	SRR17458614	SRR17458615	SRR17458638
SRR17458614__METABAT2__E.1__bin.2	17	1209979	1168603	9765
SRR17458615__METABAT2__E.1__bin.2	2	1041303	1346154	9613
SRR17458630__METABAT2__E.1__bin.3	1474634	57	77	4
SRR17458638__METABAT2__E.1__bin.2	19	408	450	821748
SRR17458638__METABAT2__E.1__bin.3	33	4304	4556	4527193

Group MAGs by SLCs and sum counts

Samples

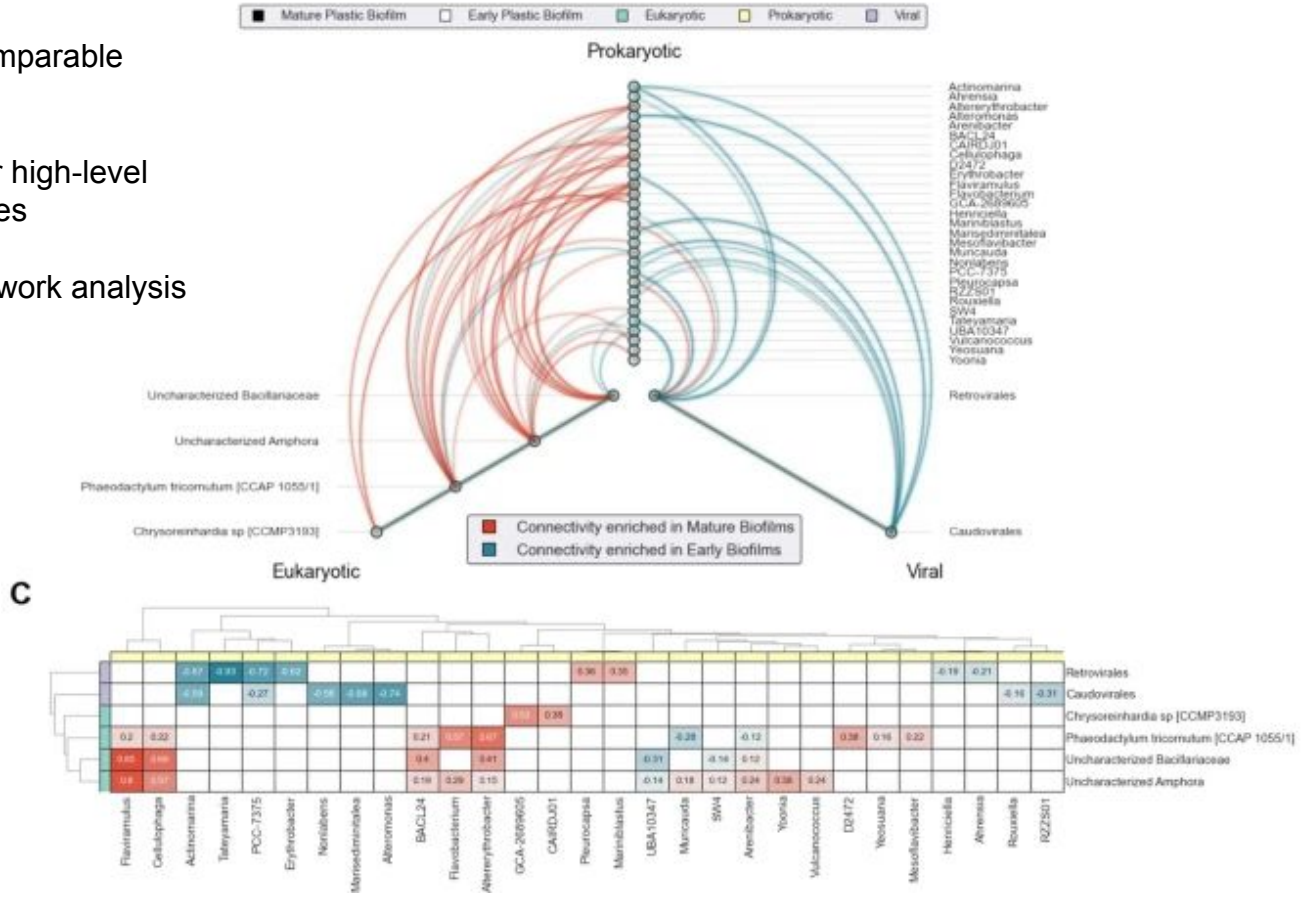
SLCs

id_sample	SRR17458630	SRR17458614	SRR17458615	SRR17458638
ESLC1	19	2251282	2514757	19378
ESLC2	1474634	57	77	4
ESLC3	19	408	450	821748
ESLC4	33	4304	4556	4527193



How can we put this all together?

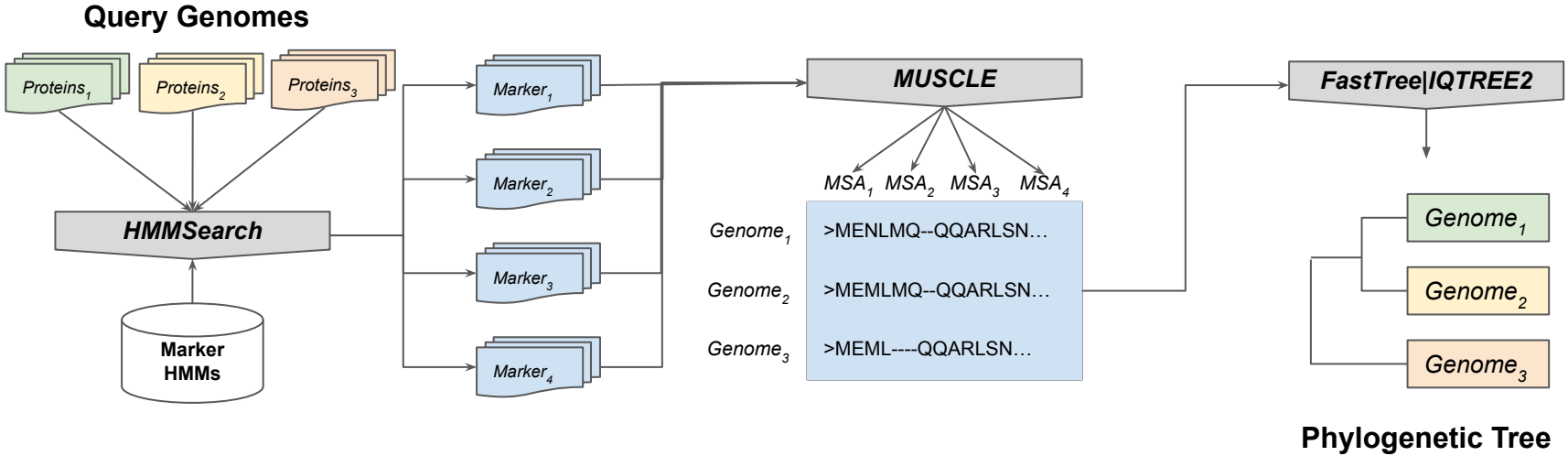
- Abundances/Expression comparable across samples
- Grouping features allows for high-level relationships between classes
- Multi-domain differential network analysis



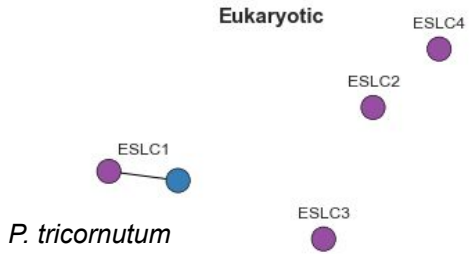
Phylogenetic inference using concatenated alignments

***VEBA* includes the following HMM marker set:**

- Archaea_76.hmm - (*Anvi'o*), Lee
- Bacteria_71.hmm - (*Anvi'o*), Lee
- Protista_83.hmm - (*Anvi'o*), Delmont
- Fungi_593.hmm - (*FGMP*)
- CPR_43.hmm - (*CheckM*)
- eukaryota_odb10 - (*BUSCO*)

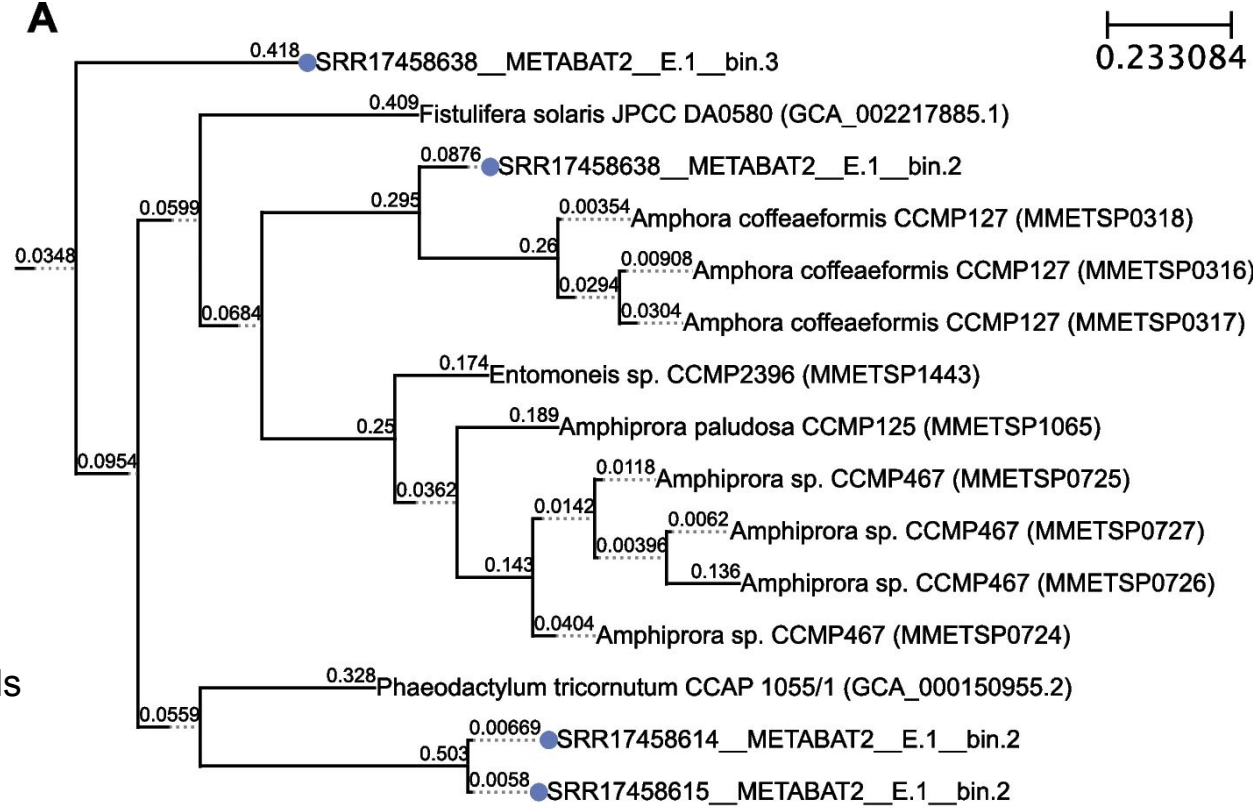


Phylogenetic inference (IRL)



Taxonomic classifications reflect trends seen in phylogenetic inference

A



B

Diatom MAG	VEBA Eukaryotic Classification
SRR17458638__METABAT2__E.1__bin.3	c__Bacillariophyceae;o__Bacillariales;f__Bacillariaceae;g__;s__
SRR17458614__METABAT2__E.1__bin.2	c__Bacillariophyceae;o__Naviculales;f__Phaeodactylaceae;g__Phaeodactylum;s__Phaeodactylum tricornutum [CCAP 1055/1]
SRR17458615__METABAT2__E.1__bin.2	c__Bacillariophyceae;o__Naviculales;f__Phaeodactylaceae;g__Phaeodactylum;s__Phaeodactylum tricornutum [CCAP 1055/1]
SRR17458638__METABAT2__E.1__bin.2	c__Bacillariophyceae;o__Thalassiophysales;f__Catenulaceae;g__Amphora;s__

Tutorial walkthroughs for different meta-omics workflows

- **Downloading and preprocessing fastq files** - Explains how to download reads from NCBI and run *VEBA's* `preprocess.py` module to decontaminate either metagenomic and/or metatranscriptomic reads.
- **Complete end-to-end metagenomics analysis** - Goes through assembling metagenomic reads, binning, clustering, classification, and annotation. We also show how to use the unbinned contigs in a pseudo-coassembly with guidelines on when it's a good idea to go this route.
- **Recovering viruses from metatranscriptomics** - Goes through assembling metatranscriptomic reads, viral binning, clustering, and classification.
- **Read mapping and counts tables** - Read mapping and generating counts tables at the contig, MAG, SLC, ORF, and SSO levels.
- **Phylogenetic inference** - Phylogenetic inference of eukaryotic diatoms.
- **Setting up *bona fide* co-assemblies for metagenomics or metatranscriptomics** - In the case where all samples are of low depth, it may be useful to use coassembly instead of sample-specific approaches. This walkthrough goes through concatenating reads, creating a reads table, coassembly of concatenated reads, aligning sample-specific reads to the coassembly for multiple sorted BAM files, and mapping reads for scaffold/transcript-level counts.

Conclusion

- *VEBA* is a user-friendly metagenomics/metatranscriptomics software suite
- *VEBA* is all open-source so you don't have to deal with restrictive licenses (e.g., *GeneMark-EP+*)
- *VEBA* can handle:
  - Prokaryotes with direct support for CPR
  - Eukaryotes
  - Viruses
  - Sample-specific assemblies
  - Co-assemblies
  - Genomes from other pipelines/references
- *VEBA* is modular and can be used at many different stages of analysis
- *VEBA* has walkthroughs as step-by-step guides for different common workflows
- *VEBA* makes very complicated workflows extremely easy

Questions?

- **E-mail**
  - jespinoz@jcvi.org
- **LinkedIn:**
  - https://www.linkedin.com/in/jolespin/
- **Soothsayer Ecosystem (GitHub)**
  - ***VEBA*** (https://github.com/jolespin/veba)
    - A modular end-to-end suite for in silico recovery, clustering, and analysis of prokaryotic, microeukaryotic, and viral genomes from metagenomes
  - ***Soothsayer*** (https://github.com/jolespin/soothsayer)
    - High-level analysis package for (bio-)informatics
  - ***Ensemble NetworkX*** **(**https://github.com/jolespin/ensemble_networkx**)**
    - Ensemble networks in Python
  - ***Hive NetworkX*** **(**https://github.com/jolespin/hive_networkx**)**
    - Hive plots in Python
  - ***Compositional*** (https://github.com/jolespin/compositional)
    - Compositional data analysis in Python
  - ***GenoPype*** (https://github.com/jolespin/genopype)
    - Architecture for creating bash pipelines, in particular, for bioinformatics

VEBA Module Specifics

preprocess.py — Fastq quality trimming, adapter removal, and decontamination

- **Workflow:**
  - Wrapper around ***fastq_preprocessor*** (A “modernized” reimplementation of ***KneadData***)
  - Automatic quality trimming and adapter removal and with ***FastP***
  - [Optional] Removal/quantification of contamination based if reference provided:
    - ***Bowtie2*** - alignment based (e.g., removing human reads)
    - ***BBDuk*** - *k*-mer based (e.g., removing ribosomal reads)
    - Can quantify but not store read subsets (e.g., count ribosomal hits but don’t save them)
  - Calculate read statistics used ***SeqKit***
- **Input:**
  - Raw paired reads (fastq)
- **Output:**
  - Verified quality trimmed reads (with contamination removed if applicable)
  - Summary statistics for full accounting of reads

assembly.py — Assemble reads, align reads to assembly, and count mapped reads

- **Workflow:**
  - Assembles paired reads using ***SPAdes***-based assemblers (e.g., ***metaSPAdes***, ***rnaSPAdes***)
  - Builds ***Bowtie2*** index and maps reads to assembly to produced sorted BAM file
  - Indexes sorted BAM file
  - Counts reads using ***featureCounts***
  - Calculates summary statistics with ***SeqKit***
- **Input:**
  - Raw paired reads (fastq)
- **Output:**
  - Assembly fasta (and ***Bowtie2*** index)
  - Sorted BAM (and ***Samtools*** index)
  - Summary statistics for assemblies (e.g., total bases, total contigs, N50, etc.)
  - Simplified Annotation Format [SAF] file used for ***featureCounts*** read counting

coverage.py *— Align reads to a reference and count mapped reads*

- **Workflow:**
  - Aligned reads from different samples to a reference using ***Bowtie2***
  - Produces multiple sorted BAM files and indexes
  - Counts reads using ***featureCounts***
  - Calculate read statistics used ***SeqKit***
  - [Optional] Only necessary if doing pseudo-coassembly
- **Input:**
  - Reference fasta
  - A table of read paths `[id_sample]<tab>[path/to/r1.fastq.gz]<tab>[path/to/r2.fastq.gz]`
- **Output:**
  - Multiple sorted BAM (and ***Samtools*** indexes)
  - Summary statistics for full accounting of reads

binning-prokaryotic.py — Iterative consensus binning for prokaryotes

- **Workflow:**
  - Calculated coverage tables needed for binning algorithms using ***CoverM***
  - Models genes using ***Prodigal***
  - **I**terative binning:
    - A,B) ***MaxBin2*** (marker set 40,107); C) ***MetaBAT2***; D) ***CONCOCT***
    - ***DAS Tool*** (A,B,C,D) → Candidate binned genomes
    - Remove eukaryotic genomes classified by ***Tiara*** and genome size filter
    - ***CheckM*** → High quality metagenome assembled genomes [MAG]
  - ***GTDB-Tk*** to classify taxonomy
  - Reevaluated candidate phyla radiation [CPR] using ***CheckM*** CPR marker set
  - Calculate genome statistics using ***SeqKit***
- **Input:**
  - Assembly fasta (i.e., scaffolds.fasta from assembly module)
  - Sorted BAM file
- **Output:**
  - MAG assemblies, cds, protein, gene models
  - Identifier tables (ORF ←→ Contig ←→ MAG)
  - Summary tables (genome statistics, quality metrics, and classifications)
  - ORF-level counts tables
  - Binned/Unbinned lists (useful for grepping) and unbinned fasta file (used for next step)

binning-eukaryotic.py — Binning for recovering eukaryotic genomes

- **Workflow:**
  - Calculated coverage tables needed for binning algorithms using ***CoverM***
  - Bin genomes using either ***MetaBAT2*** or ***CONCOCT*** (can't use both yet)
  - Remove prokaryotic genomes classified by ***Tiara*** and genome size filter
  - Exon-aware gene modeling using ***MetaEuk*** for candidate eukaryotic genomes
  - Lineage-specific quality assessment using ***BUSCO*** (Remove low quality genomes)
  - Calculate genome statistics using ***SeqKit***
- **Input:**
  - Assembly fasta (i.e., unbinned.fasta from prokaryotic binning module)
  - Sorted BAM file
- **Output:**
  - MAG assemblies, cds, protein, gene models
  - Identifier tables (ORF ←→ Contig ←→ MAG)
  - Summary tables (genome statistics, quality metrics, *MetaEuk* targets, and classifications)
  - ORF-level counts tables
  - Binned/Unbinned lists (useful for grepping) and unbinned fasta file (used for next step)

binning-viral.py — Binning for recovering viral genomes

- **Workflow:**
  - Identify candidate viral genomes using ***VirFinder*** (***geNomad*** coming soon…)
  - Models genes using ***Prodigal***
  - Quality assessment using ***CheckV*** (Remove low quality genomes)
  - Calculate genome statistics using ***SeqKit***
- **Input:**
  - Assembly fasta (i.e., unbinned.fasta from prokaryotic binning module)
- **Output:**
  - MAG assemblies, cds, protein, gene models
  - Identifier tables (ORF ←→ Contig ←→ MAG)
  - Summary tables (genome statistics, quality metrics, isolation source, and classifications)
  - ORF-level counts tables
  - Binned/Unbinned lists (useful for grepping) and unbinned fasta file (useful for pseudo-coassembly)

cluster.py — Species-level clustering of genomes and proteins

- **Workflow:**
  - Cluster MAGs by Average Nucleotide Identity [ANI] using ***FastANI***
  - For each species-level cluster [SLC]:
    - Cluster proteins into lineage-specific orthogroups via ***OrthoFinder***
- **Input:**
  - Scaffolds to bins table
  - List of genome paths
  - List of protein paths
- **Output:**
  - MAG assemblies, cds, protein, gene models
  - Identifier tables (Contig ←→ MAG ←→ SLC) & (ORF ←→ Orthogroup)

classify-prokaryotic.py — Taxonomic classification of prokaryotes

- **Workflow:**
  - Compiles ***GTDB-Tk*** classification files
- **Input:**
  - Prokaryotic binning directory
  - [Optional] Prokaryotic SLC clustering
- **Output:**
  - Taxonomy classifications for each MAG
  - [Optional] Prokaryotic cluster classification

classify-eukaryotic.py — Taxonomic classification of eukaryotes

- **Workflow:**
  - Gets eukaryotic markers using ***HMMER***
  - Gets ***MetaEuk*** targets of eukaryotic markers
  - Classifies eukaryotic taxonomy based on bitscores and lineage
- **Input:**
  - Eukaryotic binning directory
  - [Optional] Eukaryotic SLC clustering
- **Output:**
  - Taxonomy classifications for each MAG
  - Gene source lineage with bitscores for each marker gene used in classification
  - [Optional] Eukaryotic cluster classification

classify-viral.py — Taxonomic classification of viruses

- **Workflow:**
  - Use ***CheckV*** output and database to classify viruses and isolation source
- **Input:**
  - Viral binning directory
  - [Optional] Viral SLC clustering
- **Output:**
  - Taxonomy classifications for each MAG
  - [Optional] Viral cluster classification
  - [Optional] Consensus isolation source

annotate.py — Annotates translated gene calls against NR, Pfam, and KOFAM

- **Workflow:**
  - Align proteins to NCBI's non-redundant database via ***Diamond***
  - Search for ***Pfam*** protein domains using ***HMMER***
  - Search fo KEGG orthology using **KOFAMSCAN**
  - [Optional] Identifier mapping [id_orf]<tab>[id_contig]
- **Input:**
  - Protein fasta file
- **Output:**
  - Annotation table
  - [Optional] Contig-level annotations based solely on NR

phylogeny.py — Constructs phylogenetic trees given a marker set

- **Workflow:**
  - Identifies marker proteins using ***HMMER*** based on user-provided database
  - [Optional] Remove hits based on marker-score thresholds
  - Protein alignment for each marker identified via ***MUSCLE***
  - Alignments are trimmed using ***ClipKIT***
  - Concatenate alignments
  - Approximately-maximum likelihood phylogenetic inference via ***FastTree2***
  - [Optional] Maximum likelihood phylogenetic inference via ***IQTREE2*** (Takes a long time)
- **Input:**
  - Table of protein fasta files
  - HMM Database
  - [Optional] Table of marker score cutoffs
- **Output:**
  - Newick formatted phylogenetic tree
  - Concatenated multiple sequence alignment
  - Alignment table (*n* genomes, *m* markers, *ij*=fasta alignment)

index.py — Builds index for alignment to genomes

- **Workflow:**
  - Creates reference index for binned genomes via ***Bowtie2***
  - Merges gene models (GFF3)

- **Input:**
  - Reference fasta file[s]
  - Gene model GFF3 file[s]

- **Output:**
  - Concatenated reference fasta
  - Concatenated reference fasta ***Bowtie2*** index
  - Concatenated gene models

mapping.py — Builds index for alignment to genomes

- **Workflow:**
  - Maps reads to ***Bowtie2*** reference index
  - Counts reads for contigs and ORFs
  - [Optional] Aggregates reads for MAG and SLC level
  - [Optional] Calculates spatial coverage for each MAG (i.e., ratio of bases covered in genome)

- **Input:**
  - Paired reads
  - Reference index directory (contains index, fasta, GFF3, and SAF)
  - [Optional] ORF to orthogroup identifier table
  - [Optional] Contigs to MAG identifier table
  - [Optional] Contigs to SLC identifier table

- **Output:**
  - Sorted BAM file
  - Paired unmapped reads
  - ORF-level counts table, contig-level counts table
  - [Optional] MAG-level counts table, SLC-level counts table, Orthogroup-level counts table