

Metabarcoding Pipeline Building

An introduction with hands on exercises
CUSO – DPEE Activity

Gerhard Thallinger, PhD, Graz University of Technology

Rachel Korn, PhD, Université de Fribourg

Magdalena Steiner, PhD, Agroscope Wädenswil



Software

- mothur
- QIIME
- DADA2
- Stand-alone tools (e.g., UNOISE, USEARCH...)
- And many more!

mothur

- Command line program
- OTU (& ESV/ASV)
- Tutorials
- Integrates various bioinformatic & analysis tools
- Actively developed



[Schloss et al. 2009](#)

QIIME

- Command line program + GUI
- OTU (& ASV)
- Tutorials
- Integrates various bioinformatic & analysis tools (including mothur & DADA2)
- Actively developed

[Caporaso et al. 2010](#)

DADA2



- “Divisive Amplicon Denoising Algorithm”
- R/Bioconductor based
- ASV
- Tutorials
- Actively developed

[Callahan et al. 2016](#)

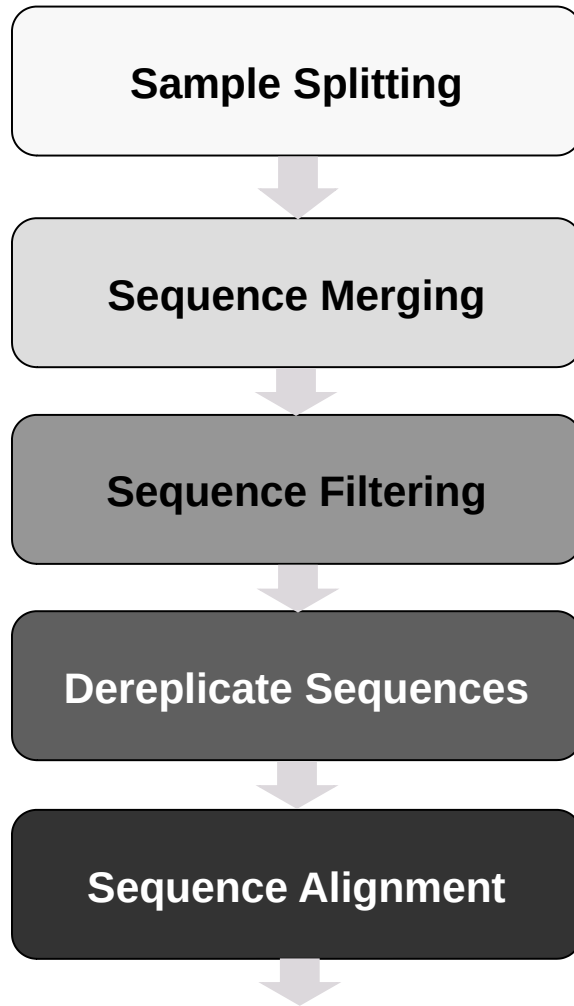


mothur

- Command line program
- OTU (& ASV)
- Tutorials
- Integrates various bioinformatic & analysis tools
- Actively developed

[Schloss et al. 2009](#)

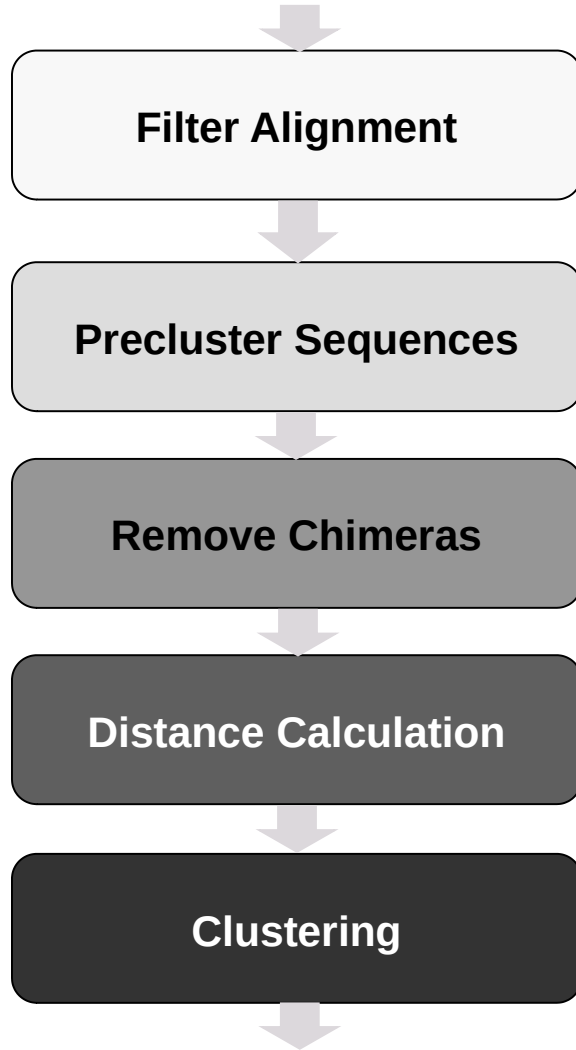
General Workflow I



- Barcode based splitting of sequence file(s) (depends on sequencing provider), remove primers
- Build “contigs” based on overlapping forward and reverse read, trim reads
- Filter sequences based on “Ns”, base quality, overall read quality, read length
- Remove duplicate sequences
- Align contigs to reference

[Kozich et al. 2013](#)

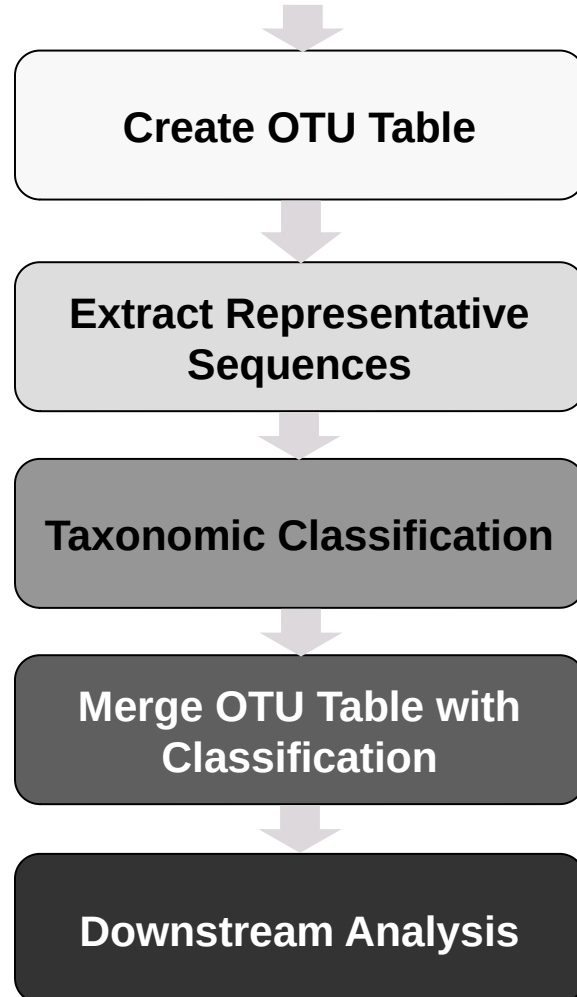
General Workflow II



- Remove columns with gaps in the alignment
- Precluster sequences to reduce noise and create ASVs/ESVs
- Identify and remove chimeras
- Calculate pairwise distances for clustering
- Cluster sequences at a given dissimilarity to build OTUs

[Kozich et al. 2013](#)

General Workflow III



- Create OTU table per sample
- Extract a representative sequence per OUT cluster
- Classify the representative sequence
- Merge OTU table with classification
- Further analysis (alpha, beta, gamma diversity, ...)

[Kozich et al. 2013](#)

mothur Walkthrough

- Use the RStudio instance in your browser
- Switch to the terminal tab
- Open the file with the mothur commands
- Execute command(s) with `<ctrl><alt><enter>`

