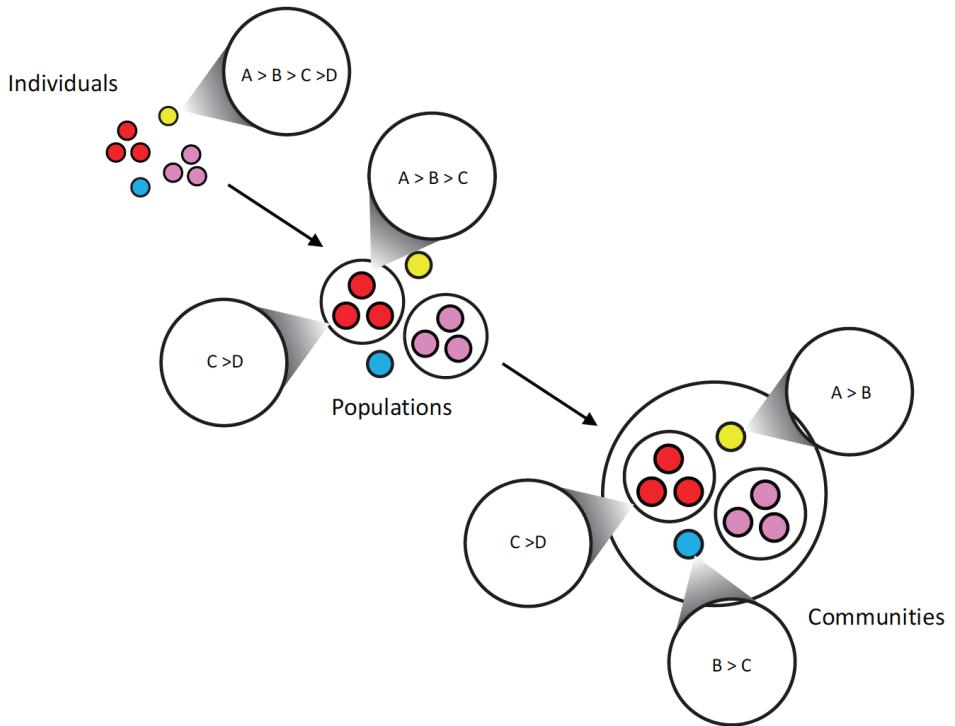
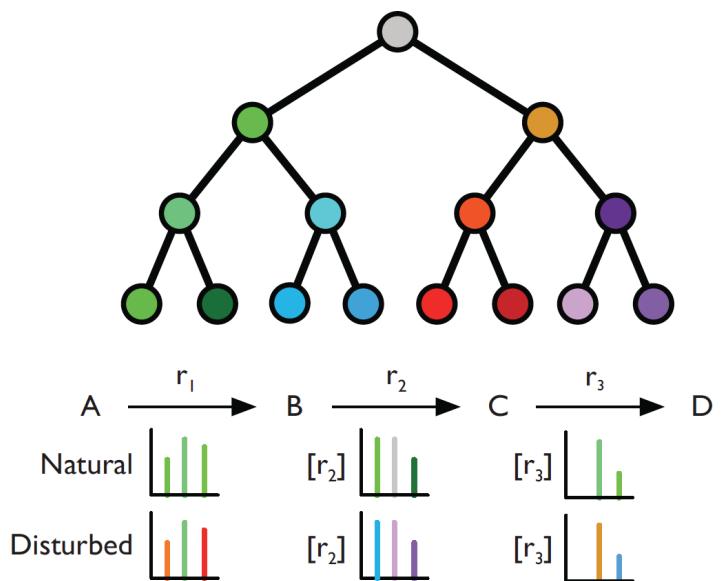
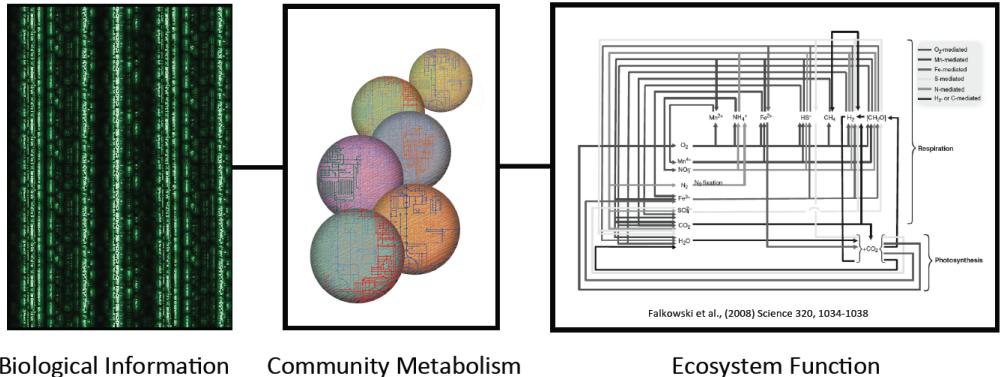


"The extension of ethics, so far studied only by philosophers, is actually a process in ecological evolution. Its sequences may be described in ecological as well as in philosophical terms. An ethic, ecologically, is a limitation on freedom of action in the struggle for existence. An ethic philosophically is a differentiation of social from anti-social conduct. These are two definitions of one thing. The thing has its origin in the tendency of interdependent individuals or groups to evolve modes of co-operation" Leopold, 1949



Distributed Pathways





Biological Information

Community Metabolism

Ecosystem Function

• "The regulation of the pools and fluxes in biogeochemical cycles have their origins in the genetic inventory of individual microbes, and the regulation of these genes within the organism is determined by the environment. As such, one can look at the microbial food web as a collection of genomes whose expression and replication is coordinated through complex feedback loops at the organismal, population, and ecosystem level." *Chisholm*

$$G_m = \sum_{i=1}^l n_i G_i$$

G_m = metagenome size in bases

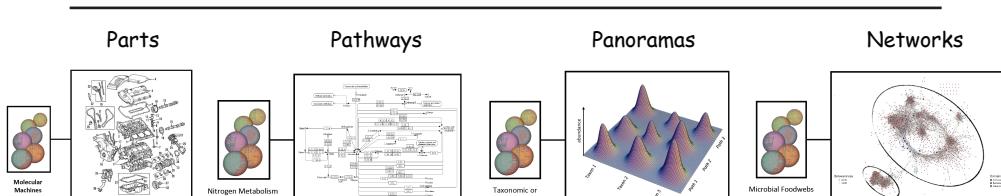
l = number of genomes in sample

n_i = number of copies of genome G_i

G_i = size of any given genome in sample of l genomes

- In any given metagenome sample genotypes appear at different frequencies (evenness). Therefore a metagenome of size G_m composed of genomes of sizes G_1 through G_k can be viewed as a sum of fractions where each component genome of size G_i constitutes a fraction of G_m :

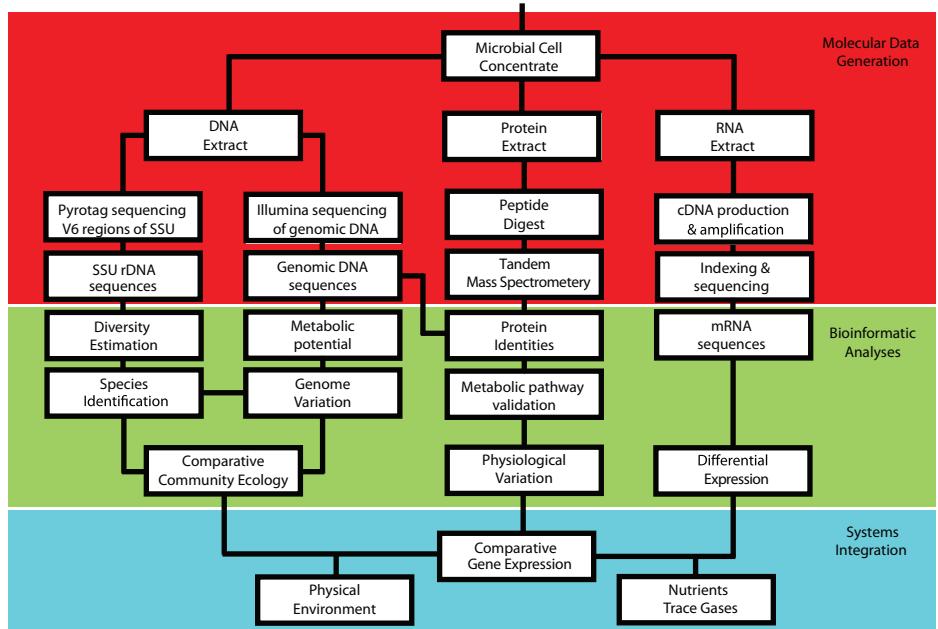
$$\hat{G}_m = p_1 G_m + p_2 G_m + \dots + p_l G_m$$



What does a metagenome look like?

Foundational Questions

- What is the taxonomic and functional structure of the ecosystem?
- How does this structure change in response to environmental perturbation?
- What are the ecological consequences of this change?
- What are relevant units of selection, conservation or utilization for ecological genomic resources?



"If your only tool is a hammer than everything looks like a nail"

Maslow's Hammer (1966)

