



De Bruijn Graph Construction in Genome Assembly

Project Summary

- Objectives: To construct De Bruijn Graph in Genome assembly
- Scope: In bioinformatics De Bruijn graphs are used for de novo assembly of sequencing reads into a genome.



Background Study

- Genome assembly can be described as a computational process of drawing together numerous short sequences called reads derived from different portions of the target DNA within the cell of an organism.
- These reads are generated by sequencing machines through randomly sampling the original sequence.
- The De Bruijn graph based genome assembly algorithms have been shown effective for assembling a large number of short reads and have been adopted in state-of-the-art assemblers.
- This is an algorithm driven automated process. DNA-sequence-assembly programs have utilized sequence overlaps for sequence assembly in the correct order.



De Bruijn

- They are directed graphs representing overlaps between sequences of symbols.
- Vertices/nodes in the graph are k-mers.
- Edges represent consecutive k-mers (which overlap by $k-1$ symbols).
- If one of the vertices can be expressed as another vertex by shifting all its symbols by one place to the left and adding a new symbol at the end of this vertex, then the latter has a directed edge to the former vertex

Eulerian Path

- An Euler path, in a graph or multigraph, is a walk through the graph which uses every edge exactly once.
- A graph is called Eulerian if it has an Eulerian Cycle and called SemiEulerian if it has an Eulerian Path.
- The Eulerian Path problem is Polynomial time. String can be reconstructed by finding an Eulerian path in the de Bruijn graph



Research Design

- The answer to the stated problem now was to find a path through the graph that traverses each edge exactly once, or in other words **Eulerian trail**.
- Reads are broken into smaller fragments of a specified size k .
- k -mers are identified and a de Bruijn graph with $(k-1)$ -mers as nodes and k -mers as edges .
- A Eulerian path is traced through this network resulting in the reconstruction of the original genome sequence.



Methods

Take all $(k-1)$ -mers from the set of k -mers

Construct a multi-graph with nodes being $k-1$ -mers; draw an edge between two $k-1$ mers only if the two $k-1$ mers are taken from the same read.

Graph constructed this way is guaranteed to have a Eulerian trail, follow the trail and connect the nodes to form our original sequence.

This algorithm can be used to assemble k -mer reads

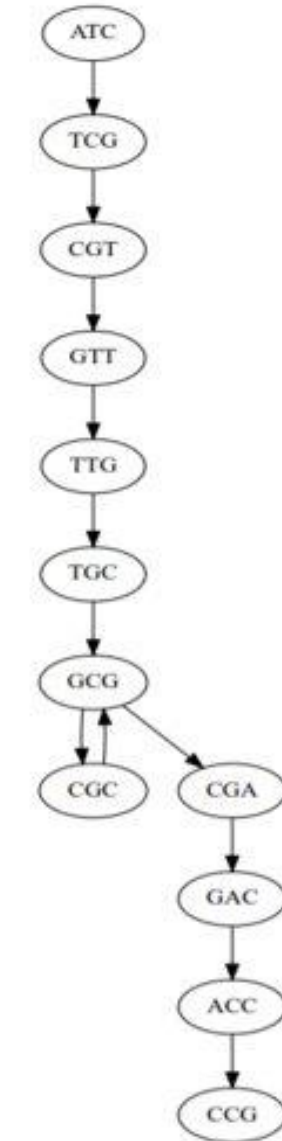


Algorithm

- `build_k_mer` function is used to generate k-mers from the given input sequence.
- `debruijnize` function helps to create nodes from the kmers .
- `make_node_edge_map` function maps the connection between each nodes
- `eulerian_trail` helps in the tracing of eulerian path through the $(k-1)$ mers
- `visualize_debruijn` is used for visual representation of de-bruijn graph
- `assemble_trail` is used to reconstruct the original string from the eulerian path through the de-bruijn graph

Results and Discussion

- Here we have taken a string "ATCGTTGCGCGACCG" and the kmer value as 4 and have obtained the results.
- The reads are generated using this read, and from those reads, we have reconstructed the original string using de bruijn graph
- The original and the reconstructed strings can then be compared. The de bruijn graph was constructed from the reads





Conclusion

- In this project we were able to understand and implement the concepts of de-Bruijn graphs in genome assembly.
- We were able to reconstruct the genome from the given input string and k-mer composition which when compared to the initial input string is found to be the same, hence concluding with successful implementation.
- But the De Bruijn graphs do not preserve positional information.
- Valuable context information stored within the reads is lost for assembly, because the k-Mers have to be shorter than the actual read length.



Reference

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