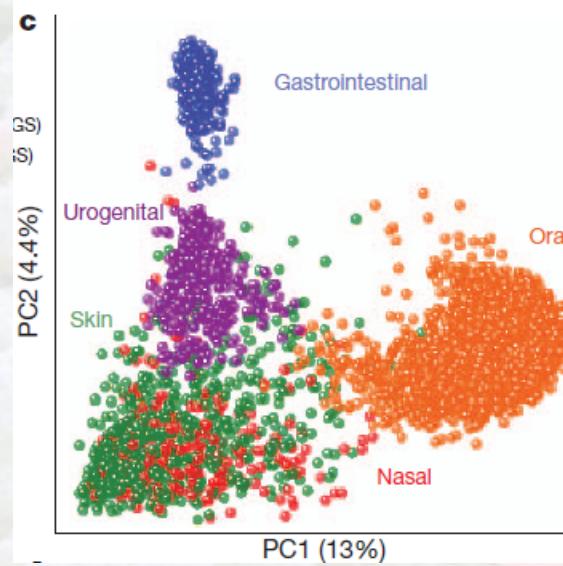
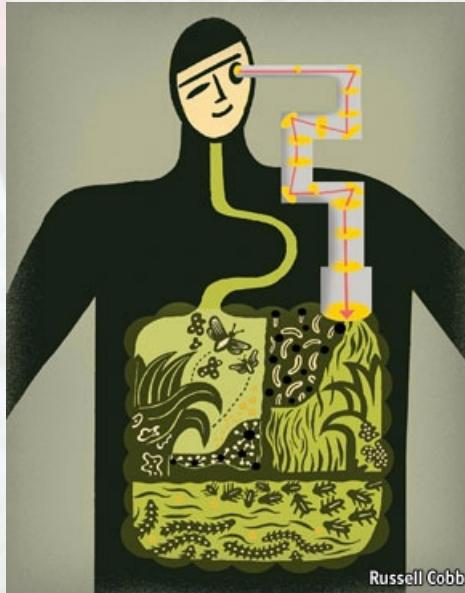


# Lecture 01: Overview of Metagenomics



1

## Culture Independent Techniques:

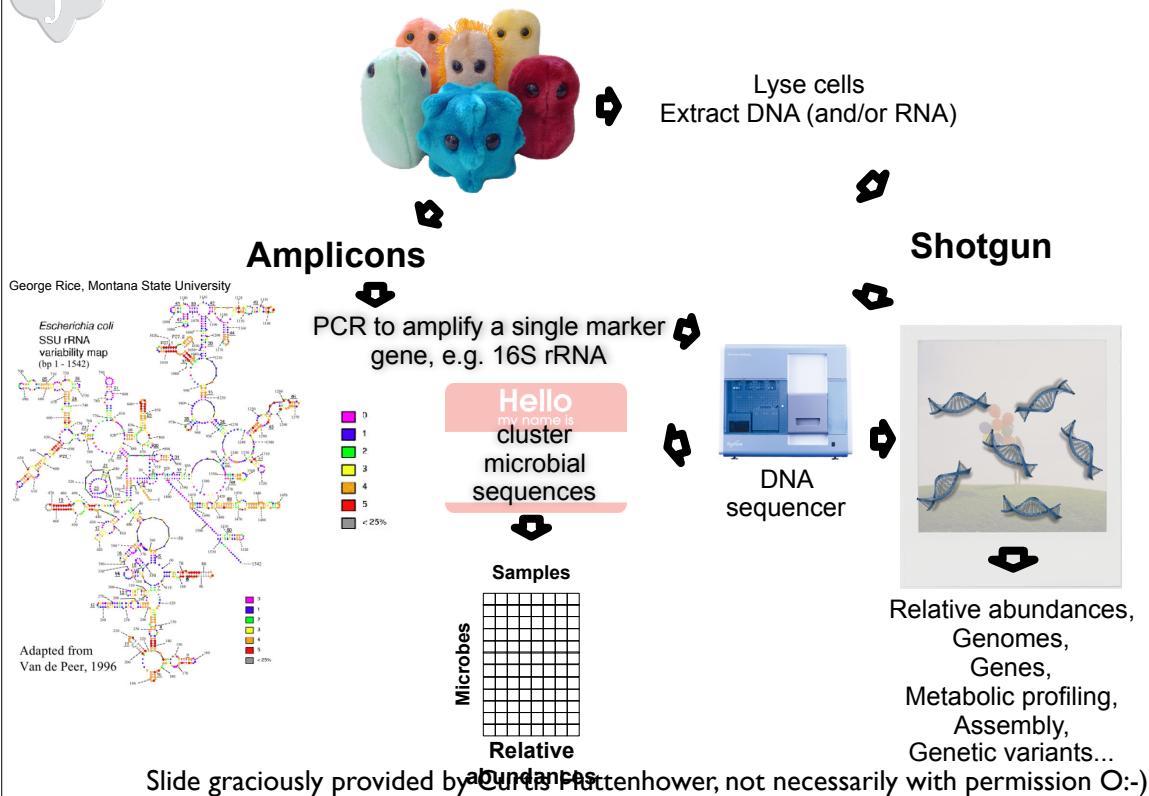
- | Metagenomics                        | Number of Species Counted |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Universal Gene census             | ←                         |
| • Shotgun Metagenome Sequencing     | ←                         |
| • Transcriptomics (shotgun mRNA)    | ←                         |
| • Proteomics (protein fragments)    |                           |
| • Metabolomics (excreted chemicals) |                           |

\$

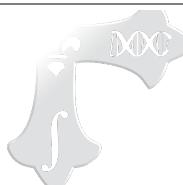
2



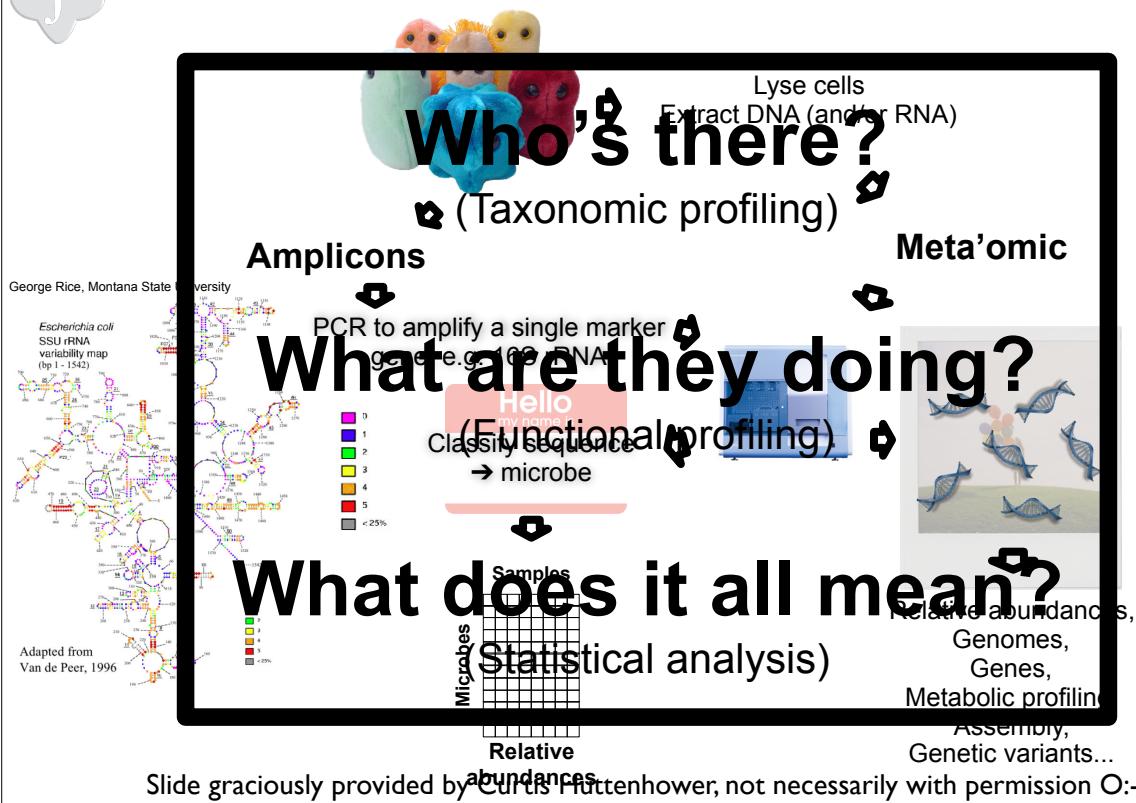
# Nucleic acid sequencing as a tool for microbial community analysis



3



## Sequencing as a tool for microbial community analysis



4

4



# A Summary of Meta'omics

Piles of short DNA/RNA reads from >1 organism

You can...

- Ecologically profile them
- Taxonomically or phylogenetically profile them
- Functionally profile them – gene/pathway catalogs
- Assemble them

Prior knowledge is helpful

Caution: Correlation ≠ Causation

Most 'omics results require lab confirmation

Slide graciously provided by Curtis Huttenhower, not necessarily with permission O:-)

5



## Working toward high-impact outcomes from meta'omic microbial community profiling

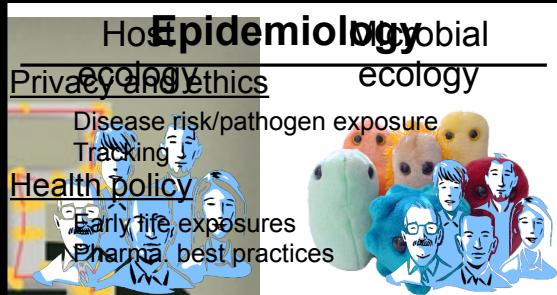
### Translation

#### Phenotype association for diagnostics

- Human disease risk: lifetime, activity, outcome
- Longitudinal analysis and study design
- Dense longitudinal measures, multiple nested outcomes

#### Systems analysis for intervention

- More and simpler model systems
- Systematic understanding of current models
- Ecological models for ecosystem restoration



Slide graciously provided by Curtis Huttenhower, not necessarily with permission O:-)

6

## •Sequence Processing (OTUs)

- Denoising
- Chimera detection
- Construction of sequence clusters (OTUs)

## •Comparing microbiomes

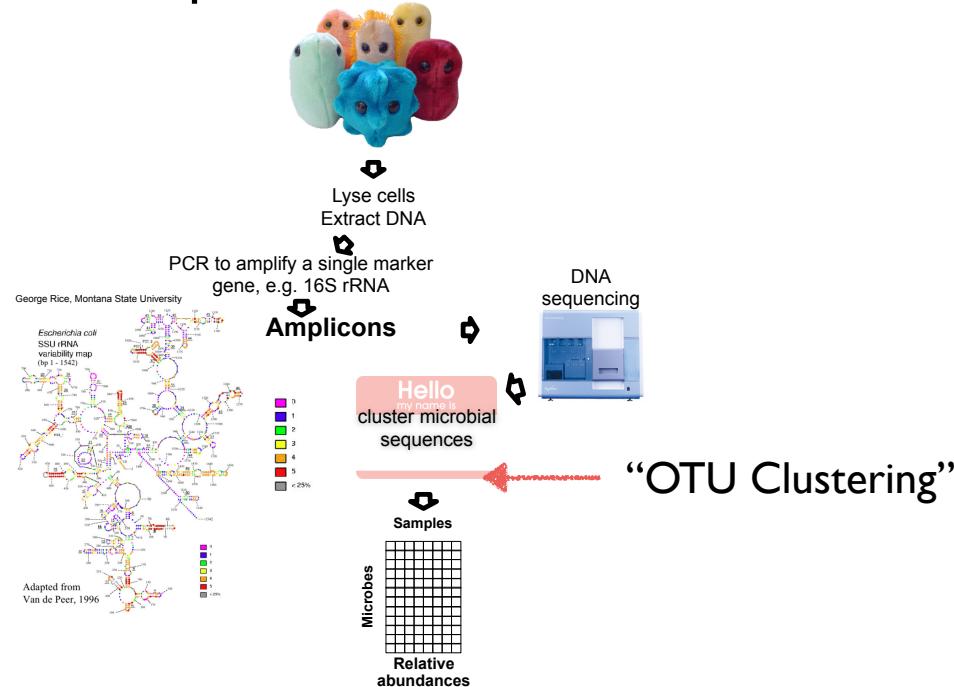
- Distances, Diversity
- Exploratory Data Analysis
  - Ordination Methods
  - hierarchical dendrogram
- extract patterns from a plot
  - clusters - gap statistic
  - gradient - regression, modeling, etc.

## • Identifying important microbes/taxa

- projected points, coinertia (plots)
- inferential testing
- modeling

7

## OTUs - Operational Taxonomic Unit



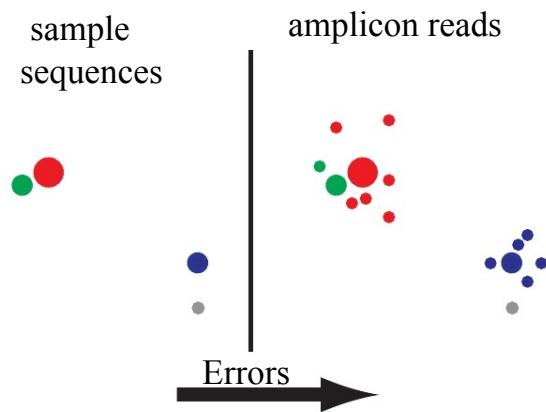
Slide adapted from slide by Curtis Huttenhower, not necessarily with permission O:-)

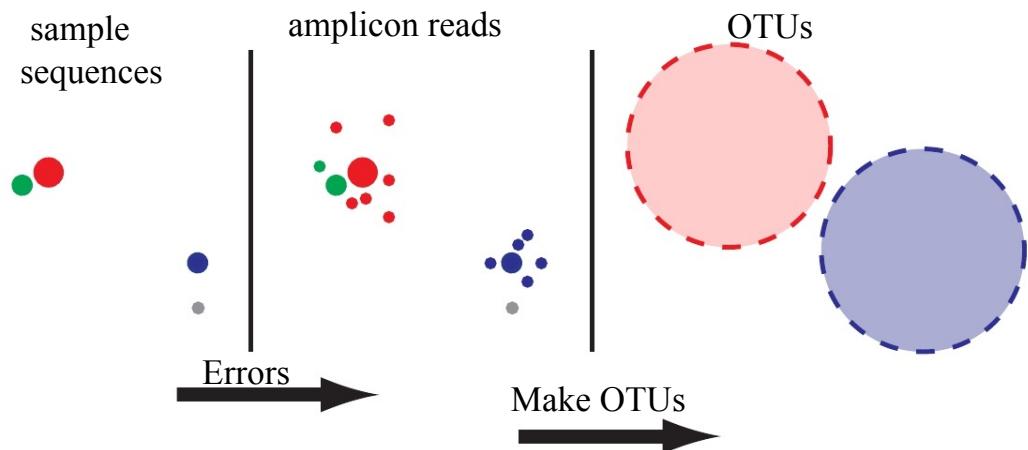
# Motivation: Lingering problem with “OTUs”

Some lingering major problems with OTU approaches:

- False Positives - e.g. 1000s of OTUs when only 10s of strains present
- Low Resolution - defined by arbitrary similarity radius
- Scaling to large datasets, comparisons
  - scales  $\sim N^2$  unique sequences in dataset (all libraries)
- Unstable - OTU seq and count depends on input
  - must re-run clustering if any data added/removed, or
  - if you want to compare against an external dataset

9

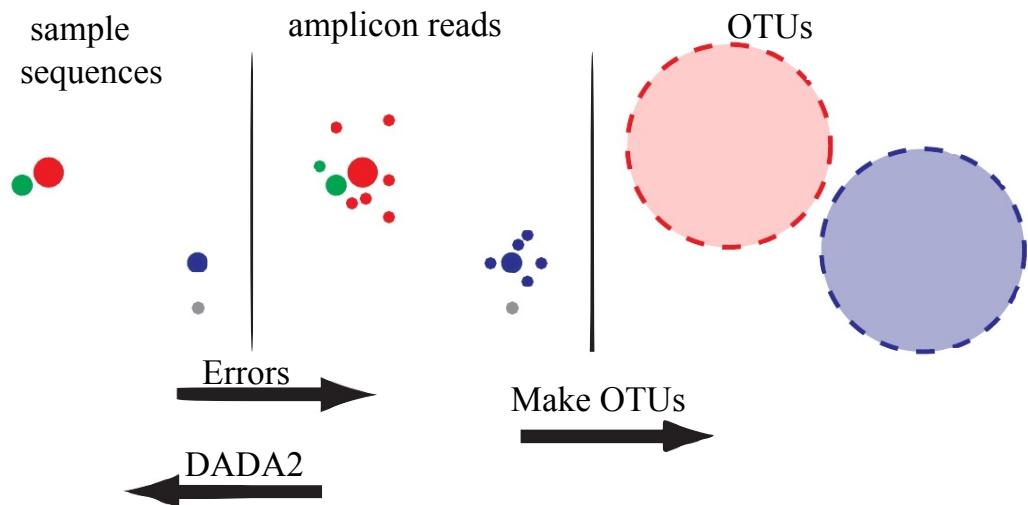




Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

11

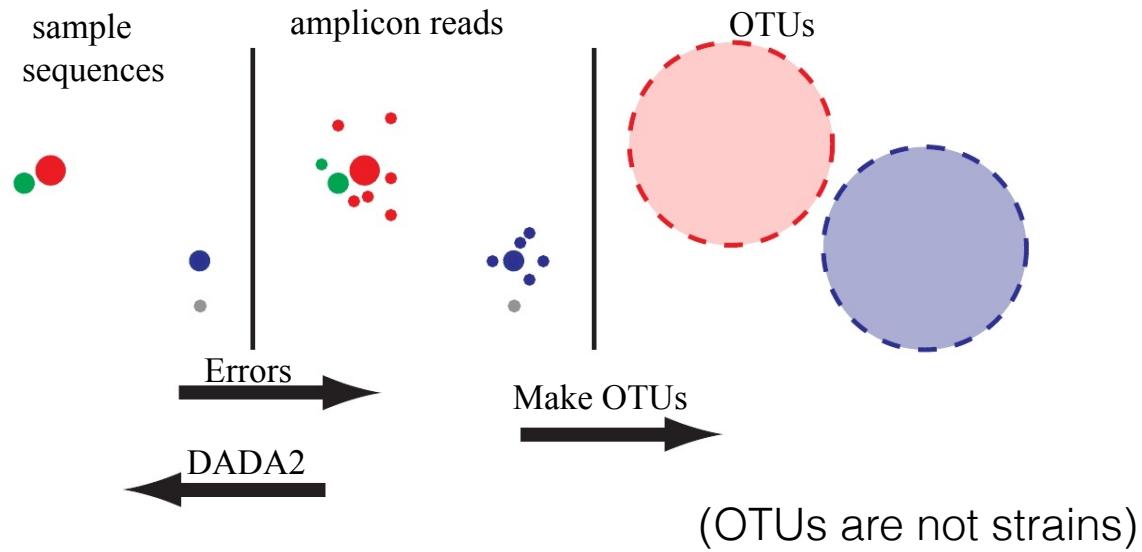
## Sample Inference from Noisy Reads



Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

12

# Sample Inference from Noisy Reads



OTUs: Lump similar sequences together

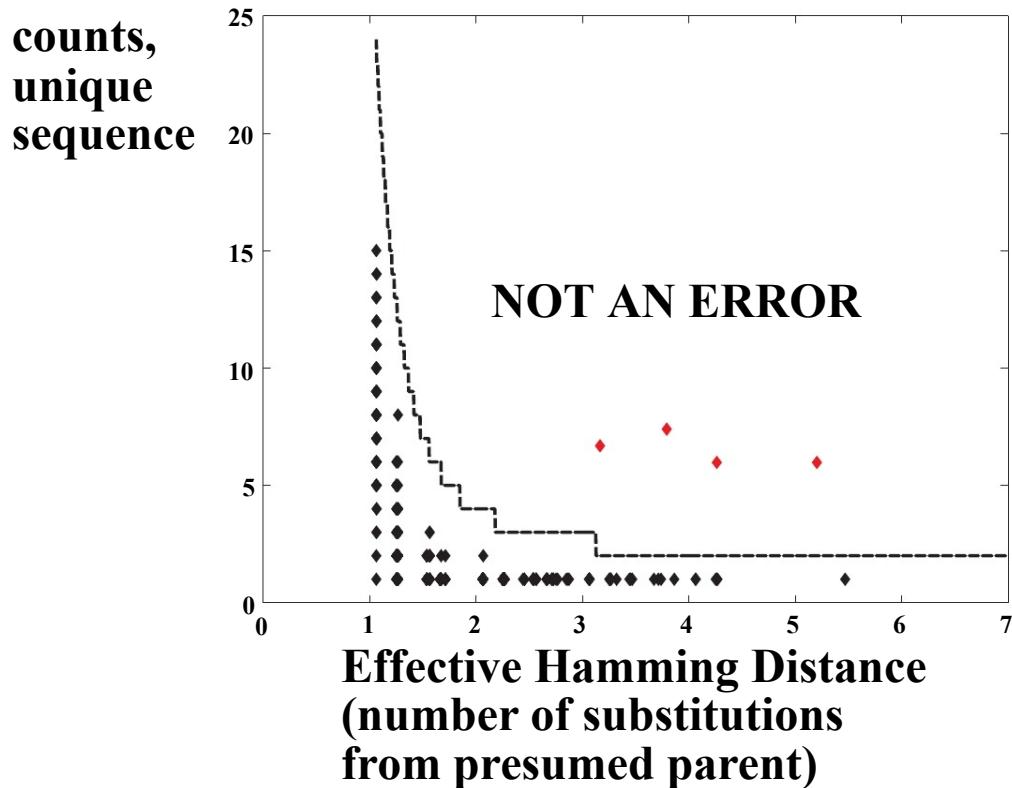
DADA2: Statistically infer the sample sequences (strains)

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

13

## The true shape of an error cloud

### DADA2: Error Model



Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

14

## DADA2 algorithm assumptions

### DADA2 Error Model

15

## DADA2 algorithm assumptions

### DADA2 Error Model

- Errors independent b/w different sequences
- Errors independent b/w sites within a sequence
- Errant sequence  $i$  is produced from  $j$  with probability equal to the product of site-wise transition probabilities:

$$\lambda_{j \rightarrow i} = \prod_{l=0}^L p(j(l) \rightarrow i(l), q(l))$$

- Each transition probability depends on original nt, substituting nt, and quality score

16

## DADA2 algorithm assumptions

### DADA2 Abundance Model

17

## DADA2 algorithm assumptions

### DADA2 Abundance Model

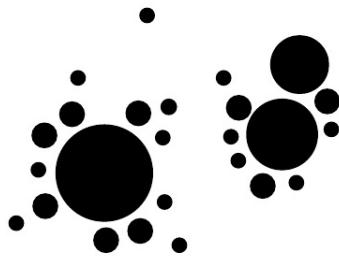
- Errors are independent across reads
- Abundance of reads w/ sequence i produced from more-abundant sequence j is poisson distributed
- Expectation of abundance equals error rate,  $\lambda_{j \rightarrow i}$ , multiplied by the expected reads of sample sequence j
- i has count greater than or equal to one
- “Abundance p-value” for sequence i is thus:

$$p_A(j \rightarrow i) = \sum_{a=a_i}^{\infty} \rho_{pois}(n_j \lambda_{j \rightarrow i}, a) / (1 - \rho_{pois}(n_j \lambda_{j \rightarrow i}, 0))$$

- “Probability of seeing an abundance of sequence i that is equal to or greater than observed value, by chance, given sequence j.”
- A low  $p_A$  indicates that there are more reads of sequence i than can be explained by errors introduced during the amplification and sequencing of  $n_j$  copies

18

## DADA2 algorithm cartoon

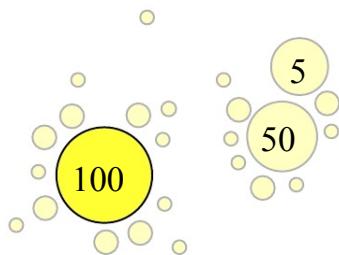


Initial guess: one real sequence + errors

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

19

## DADA2 algorithm cartoon



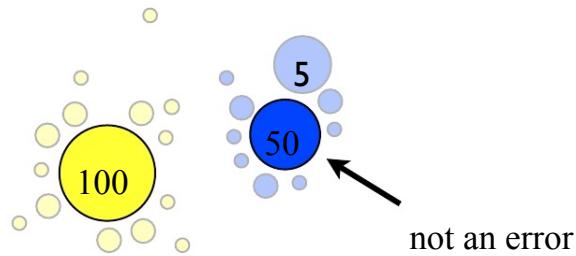
**Infer** initial *error model* under this assumption.

	A	C	G	T
A	0.97	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>
C	10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.97	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>
G	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.97	10 <sup>-2</sup>
T	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.97

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

20

## DADA2 algorithm cartoon



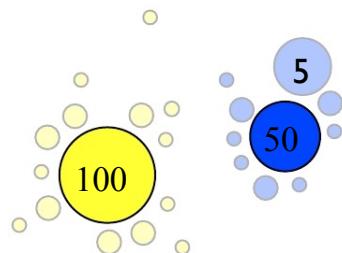
Reject unlikely error under model. Recruit errors.

	A	C	G	T
A	0.97	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>
C	10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.97	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>
G	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.97	10 <sup>-2</sup>
T	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.97

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

21

## DADA2 algorithm cartoon



Update the model.

	A	C	G	T
A	0.997	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>
C	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.997	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>
G	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.997	10 <sup>-3</sup>
T	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.997

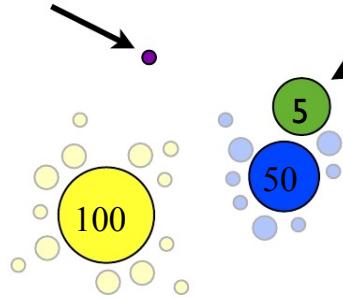
Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

22

not an error

## DADA2 algorithm cartoon

not an error



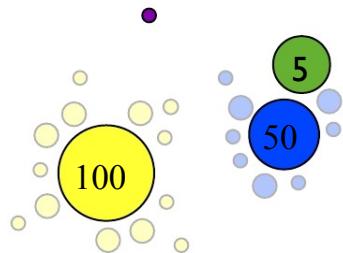
Reject more sequences under *new* model

	A	C	G	T
A	0.997	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>
C	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.997	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>
G	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.997	10 <sup>-3</sup>
T	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.997

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

23

## DADA2 algorithm cartoon



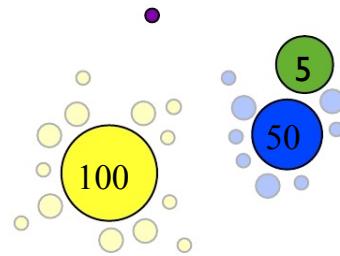
Update model again

	A	C	G	T
A	0.998	1x10 <sup>-4</sup>	2x10 <sup>-3</sup>	2x10 <sup>-4</sup>
C	6x10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.999	3x10 <sup>-6</sup>	1x10 <sup>-3</sup>
G	1x10 <sup>-3</sup>	3x10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.999	6x10 <sup>-5</sup>
T	2x10 <sup>-4</sup>	2x10 <sup>-3</sup>	1x10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.998

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

24

# DADA2 algorithm cartoon

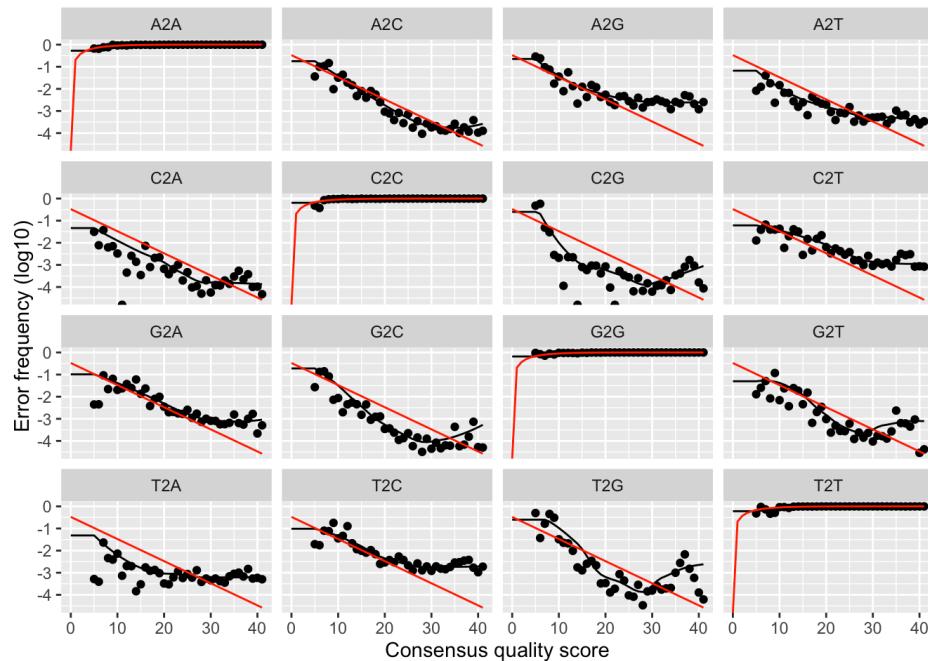


**Convergence:** all errors are plausible

	A	C	G	T
A	0.998	1x10 <sup>-4</sup>	2x10 <sup>-3</sup>	2x10 <sup>-4</sup>
C	6x10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.999	3x10 <sup>-6</sup>	1x10 <sup>-3</sup>
G	1x10 <sup>-3</sup>	3x10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.999	6x10 <sup>-5</sup>
T	2x10 <sup>-4</sup>	2x10 <sup>-3</sup>	1x10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.998

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

25



- *selfConsist* mode for DADA2 includes joint inference of error rates as function of quality score.
- red line is expected error rate if Q-scores were exactly correct
- black line is DADA2's empirical model (smooth)
- Notice especially overestimate of errors at high values,  $Q > 30$
- For illumina these differences are specific to sequencing run and read direction
  - for small lib sizes, can aggregate estimate across libraries from the same run/direction

26

# DADA2: Why is this possible?

Uses more of the information than traditional OTU clustering

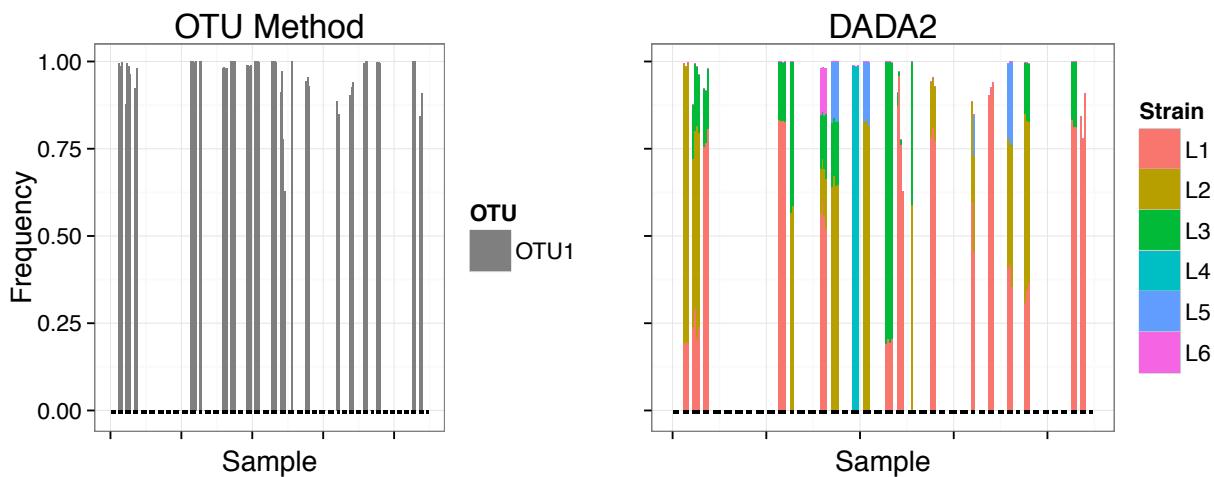
	DADA2	OTUs
Abundance	✓	Ranks only
Sequence Differences	✓	Count only
Quality	✓	No
Error Model	✓	No

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

27

## DADA2 Advantages: Resolution

*Lactobacillus crispatus* sampled from vaginal microbiome 42 pregnant women

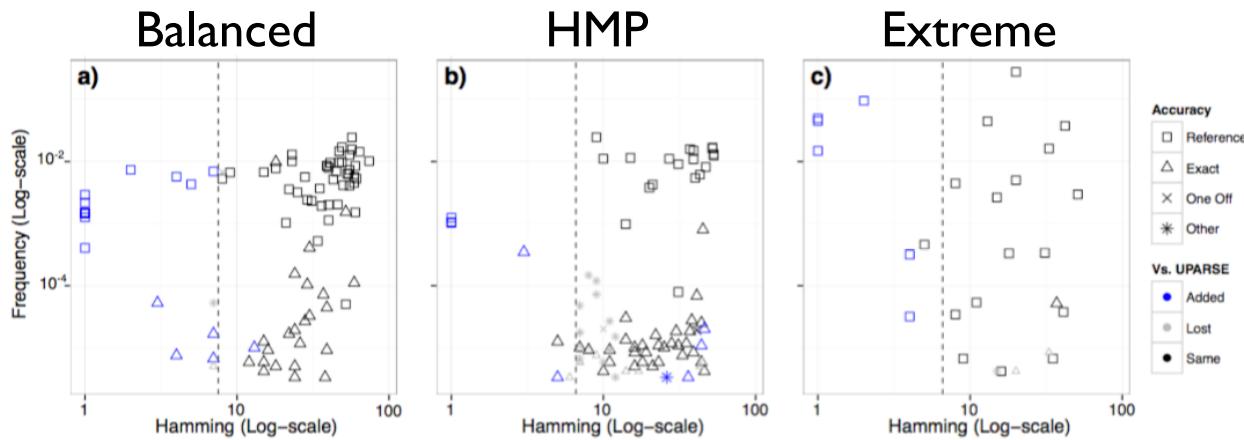


Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

28

# DADA2 Advantages: Accuracy benchmarks

Mock community data for accuracy benchmarking



DADA2 performance relative to UPARSE  
(best available alternative)

31

## DADA2 Advantages

Analytical

### Single nucleotide resolution

- genotypes/strains instead of 97% OTUs

### Lower false positive rate

- Better error model, easier to ID chimeras

Computational

### Linear scaling of computational costs

- Exact sequences are inherently comparable, so samples can be processed independently.

# Open-Source Sequence Clustering Methods Improve the State Of the Art

Evguenia Kopylova,<sup>a</sup> Jose A. Navas-Molina,<sup>a,b</sup> Céline Mercier,<sup>c</sup> Zhenjiang Zech Xu,<sup>a</sup> Frédéric Mahé,<sup>d</sup> Yan He,<sup>e</sup> Hong-Wei Zhou,<sup>e</sup> Torbjørn Rognes,<sup>f,g</sup> J. Gregory Caporaso,<sup>h</sup> Rob Knight<sup>a,b</sup>

February 2016

33

Four new open-source amplicon-clustering methods in last two years (since UPARSE):

- Swarm - very fast single-linkage clustering unsupervised
- SUMACLUST - abundance-rank greedy clustering unsupervised
- OTUCLUST - abundance-rank greedy clustering unsupervised
- SortMeRNA - clustering after reference alignment supervised

compared mainly against UPARSE (not open-source)

Kopylova, et al (2016).

Open-source sequence clustering methods improve the state of the art.

*mSystems*

<http://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-014-0069-1>

Software	Data set																											
	Simulated								Mock								Genuine											
	sim.even (V4)			sim.staggered (V4)			Bokulich_2 (V4)			Bokulich_3 (V4)			Bokulich_6 (V4)			body.sites (V2)			canadian.soil (V4)			global.soil (V9, 18S)						
	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	$M^2$	$\rho$	OTUs	$M^2$	$\rho$	OTUs	$M^2$	$\rho$				
<i>de.novo</i>	swarm	1,042	101.50	0.84	1,035	104.00	0.83	7,084	[4-50]	0.48	6,349	[4-35]	0.50	1,223	39.41	0.54	14,184	0.19	0.96	59,688	0.16	0.94	80,321	0.87	0.98			
	sumaclust	1,031	104.06	0.83	1,022	109.92	0.83	9,575	[4-157]	0.38	13,982	[4-190]	0.41	3,317	90.80	0.52	7,103	0.18	0.99	74,284	0.14	0.87	60,781	0.50	0.96			
	uparse.q3	1,013	104.02	0.84	997	110.57	0.84										199	9.22	0.59	156	0.38	0.29	11,259	0.03	0.85			
	uparse.q16	972	100.74	0.84	807	93.28	0.78										57	[2-3]	0.79	31	3.53	0.45	108	0.36	0.26	6,275	0.06	0.75
	uclust	1,045	105.37	0.83	1,035	110.42	0.83	20,084	[5-234]	0.40	21,929	[5-236]	0.40	4,397	105.37	0.52	11,204	0.00	1.00	91,143	0.00	1.00	82,642	0.00	1.00			
	usearch52	1,035	106.09	0.83	1,015	110.76	0.81	1,522	[3-22]	0.50	2,602	[4-28]	0.55	798	22.86	0.55	3,903	0.17	0.94	47,679	0.05	0.94	41,668	0.93	0.98			
	usearch61	1,049	104.85	0.84	1,034	110.68	0.83	22,987	[7-313]	0.39	24,704	[7-292]	0.41	4,635	123.04	0.51	14,483	0.18	0.99	102,435	0.06	0.99	102,211	0.48	0.98			
	otuclust.q3	996	111.03	0.84	953	106.88	0.81										438	[2-8]	0.61	226	10.36	0.61	2,753	0.18	0.85	18,373	0.08	0.82
	otuclust.q20	996	111.03	0.84	953	106.88	0.81										314	[2-6]	0.65	113	7.20	0.58	2,654	0.16	0.85	18,373	0.07	0.81
	mothur_near	957	110.09	0.82	949	110.45	0.81										1,600	[2-51]	0.44	447	23.63	0.54	806	0.45	0.12	31,546	0.06	0.76
	mothur_fur	978	109.22	0.82	970	109.86	0.81										28,808	[5-263]	0.40	5,159	75.05	0.51	3,358	0.22	0.23	92,887	0.03	0.86
	mothur_avg	963	109.99	0.82	959	110.98	0.82										13,255	[4-176]	0.41	2,314	55.90	0.51	2,491	0.26	0.11	83,664	0.05	0.86
<i>closed.ref</i>	usearch61	1,275	129.19	0.83	1,267	127.50	0.82	1,027	[5-26]	0.53	614	[4-18]	0.59	631	26.02	0.61	5,982	0.06	0.96	13,808	0.06	0.96	3,784	0.50	0.55			
	$F_1$	tax															0.68											
	$F_1$	OTUs															0.69											
	$F_1$	tax															0.70											
	uclust	1,238	127.59	0.83	1,225	126.02	0.84	1,053	[5-27]	0.53	557	[5-18]	0.57	547	25.03	0.60	5,446	0.00	1.00	13,659	0.00	1.00	305	0.00	1.00			
<i>open.ref</i>	sortmerna	1,072	122.75	0.82	1,067	121.89	0.81	396	[4-15]	0.53	290	[4-13]	0.61	382	19.47	0.57	6,174	0.06	0.99	13,281	0.06	0.98	255	0.34	0.75			
	sortmerna..																0.80											
	sumaclust																0.80											
	usearch61	1,001	115.38	0.80	980	113.39	0.78	571	[5-30]	0.54	331	[5-22]	0.64	315	18.24	0.59	3,355	0.08	0.97	4,121	0.04	0.79	5,763	0.48	0.19			
<i>Kopylova, et al (2016).</i> Open-source sequence clustering methods improve the state of the art. <i>mSystems</i> <a href="http://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-014-0069-1">http://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-014-0069-1</a>	(OTU counts do not include singletons)																											

Software	Data set																											
	Simulated								Mock								Genuine											
	sim.even (V4)			sim.staggered (V4)			Bokulich_2 (V4)			Bokulich_3 (V4)			Bokulich_6 (V4)			body.sites (V2)			canadian.soil (V4)			global.soil (V9, 18S)						
	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	PD	$F_1$	OTUs	$M^2$	$\rho$	OTUs	$M^2$	$\rho$	OTUs	$M^2$	$\rho$				
<i>de.novo</i>	swarm	1,042	101.50	0.84	1,035	104.00	0.83	7,084	[4-50]	0.48	6,349	[4-35]	0.50	1,223	39.41	0.54	14,184	0.19	0.96	59,688	0.16	0.94	80,321	0.87	0.98			
	sumaclust	1,031	104.06	0.83	1,022	109.92	0.83	9,575	[4-157]	0.38	13,982	[4-190]	0.41	3,317	90.80	0.52	7,103	0.18	0.99	74,284	0.14	0.87	60,781	0.50	0.96			
	uparse.q3	1,013	104.02	0.84	997	110.57	0.84										199	9.22	0.59	156	0.38	0.29	11,259	0.03	0.85			
	uparse.q16	972	100.74	0.84	807	93.28	0.78										57	[2-3]	0.79	31	3.53	0.45	108	0.36	0.26	6,275	0.06	0.75
	uclust	1,045	105.37	0.83	1,035	110.42	0.83	20,084	[5-234]	0.40	21,929	[5-236]	0.40	4,397	105.37	0.52	11,204	0.00	1.00	91,143	0.00	1.00	82,642	0.00	1.00			
	usearch52	1,035	106.09	0.83	1,015	110.76	0.81	1,522	[3-22]	0.50	2,602	[4-28]	0.55	798	22.86	0.55	3,903	0.17	0.94	47,679	0.05	0.94	41,668	0.93	0.98			
	usearch61	1,049	104.85	0.84	1,034	110.68	0.83	22,987	[7-313]	0.39	24,704	[7-292]	0.41	4,635	123.04	0.51	14,483	0.18	0.99	102,435	0.06	0.99	102,211	0.48	0.98			
	otuclust.q3	996	111.03	0.84	953	106.88	0.81										438	[2-8]	0.61	226	10.36	0.61	2,753	0.18	0.85	18,373	0.08	0.82
	otuclust.q20	996	111.03	0.84	953	106.88	0.81										314	[2-6]	0.65	113	7.20	0.58	2,654	0.16	0.85	18,373	0.07	0.81
	mothur_near	957	110.09	0.82	949	110.45	0.81										1,600	[2-51]	0.44	447	23.63	0.54	806	0.45	0.12	31,546	0.06	0.76
	mothur_fur	978	109.22	0.82	970	109.86	0.81										28,808	[5-263]	0.40	5,159	75.05	0.51	3,358	0.22	0.23	92,887	0.03	0.86
	mothur_avg	963	109.99	0.82	959	110.98	0.82										13,255	[4-176]	0.41	2,314	55.90	0.51	2,491	0.26	0.11	83,664	0.05	0.86
<i>closed.ref</i>	usearch61	1,275	129.19	0.83	1,267	127.50	0.82	1,027	[5-26]	0.53	614	[4-18]	0.59	631	26.02	0.61	5,982	0.06	0.96	13,808	0.06	0.96	3,784	0.50	0.55			
	$F_1$	tax															0.68											
	$F_1$	OTUs															0.69											
	$F_1$	tax															0.70											
	uclust	1,238	127.59	0.83	1,225	126.02	0.84	1,053	[5-27]	0.53	557	[5-18]	0.57	547	25.03	0.60	5,446	0.00	1.00	13,659	0.00	1.00	305	0.00	1.00			

# DADA2

## Divisive Amplicon Denoising Algorithm - ver.2

DADA2: High resolution sample inference from amplicon data

Benjamin J Callahan<sup>1,\*</sup>, Paul J McMurdie<sup>2</sup>, Michael J Rosen<sup>3</sup>, Andrew W Han<sup>2</sup>,  
Amy Jo Johnson<sup>2</sup> and Susan P Holmes<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Statistics, Stanford University

<sup>2</sup>Second Genome, South San Francisco, CA

<sup>3</sup>Department of Applied Physics, Stanford University

\*Corresponding Author: benjamin.j.callahan@gmail.com

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/024034>

Manuscript draft on bioRxiv  
(*Nature Methods*, in press)

<http://benjneb.github.io/dada2/>

R package available on BioConductor

DADA1: Rosen MJ, Callahan BJ, Fisher DS, Holmes SP  
(2012) Denoising PCR-amplified metagenome data. BMC bioinformatics, 13(1), 283.

37

# Diversity

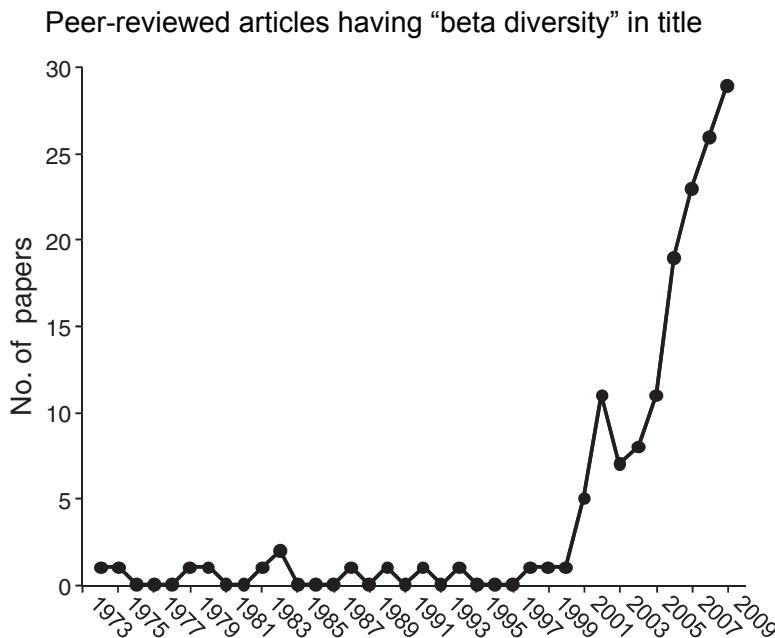
# Diversity of diversity

## (diversity of greek letters used in ecology)

- $\alpha$  – diversity within a community, # of species
- $\beta$  – diversity between communities (differentiation), species identity is taken into account
- $\gamma$  – (global) diversity of the site,  $\gamma = \alpha \times \beta$ , but only this simple if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are independent
- Probably others, but  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are most common

39

## Beta-Diversity



Anderson, M. J., et al. (2011). Navigating the multiple meanings of  $\beta$  diversity: a roadmap for the practicing ecologist. *Ecology Letters*, 14(1), 19–28.

# Beta-Diversity

- Microbial ecologists typically use beta diversity as a broad umbrella term that can refer to any of several indices related to compositional differences  
(Differences in species content between samples)
- For some reason this is contentious, and there appears to be ongoing (and pointless?) argument over the possible definitions
- For our purposes, and microbiome research, when you hear “beta-diversity”, you can probably think:  
“Diversity of species composition”

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beta\\_diversity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beta_diversity)

41

# Distances between microbiomes

42

# Community Distance

Communities are a vector of abundances:

$$\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$$

*E. coli*: ● ● ●

*P. fluorescens*: ●

*B. subtilis*: ●

*P. acnes*:

*D. radiodurans*:

*H. pylori*: ● ● ● ● ● ●

*L. crispatus*:

$$\mathbf{x} = \{3, 1, 1, 0, 0, 7, 0\}$$

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

43

## Community Distance Properties

- Range from 0 to 1
- Distance to self is 0
- If no shared taxa, distance is 1
- Triangle inequality (metric)
- Joint absences do not affect distance (biology)
- Independent of absolute counts (metagenomics)

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

44

# The Distance Spectrum

	Categorical	Phylogenetic
Presence/Absence	Jaccard	Unifrac
Quantitative Abundance	Bray-Curtis	Weighted Unifrac

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

45

# The Distance Spectrum

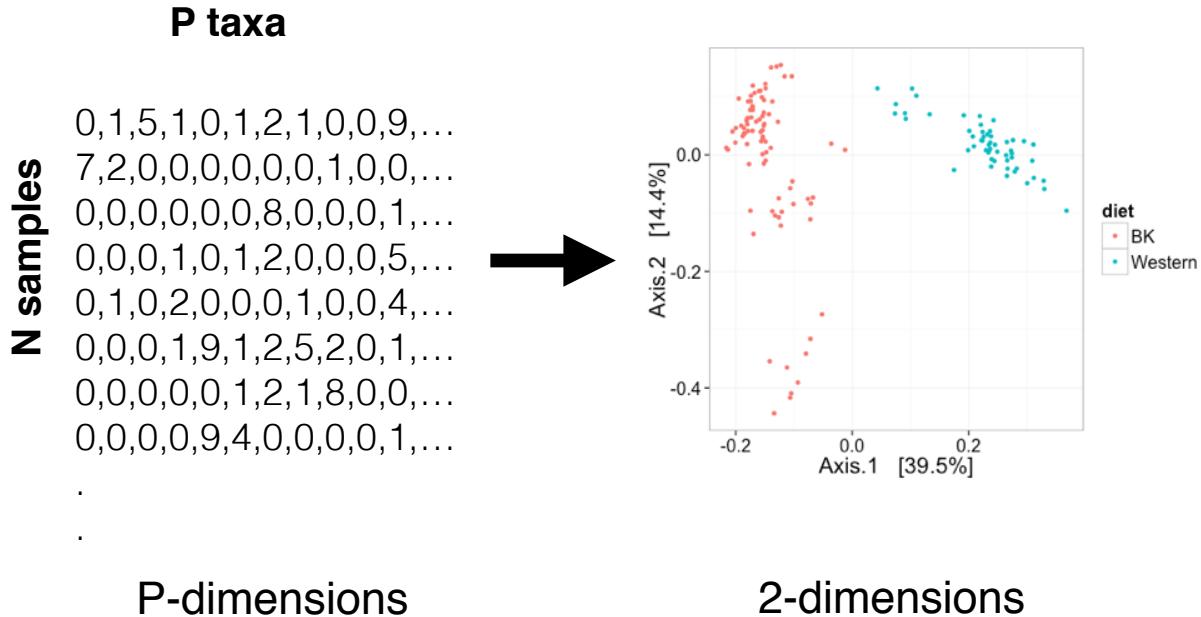
	Categorical	Phylogenetic	<u>phyloseq distances</u>
Presence/Absence	Jaccard	Unifrac	manhattan euclidean canberra bray kulczynski jaccard gower altGower morisita-horn mountford raup binomial chao cao jensen-shannon unifrac weighted-unifrac
Quantitative Abundance	Bray-Curtis	Weighted Unifrac	

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

46

# Ordination Methods

Project high-dimensional data onto lower dimensions

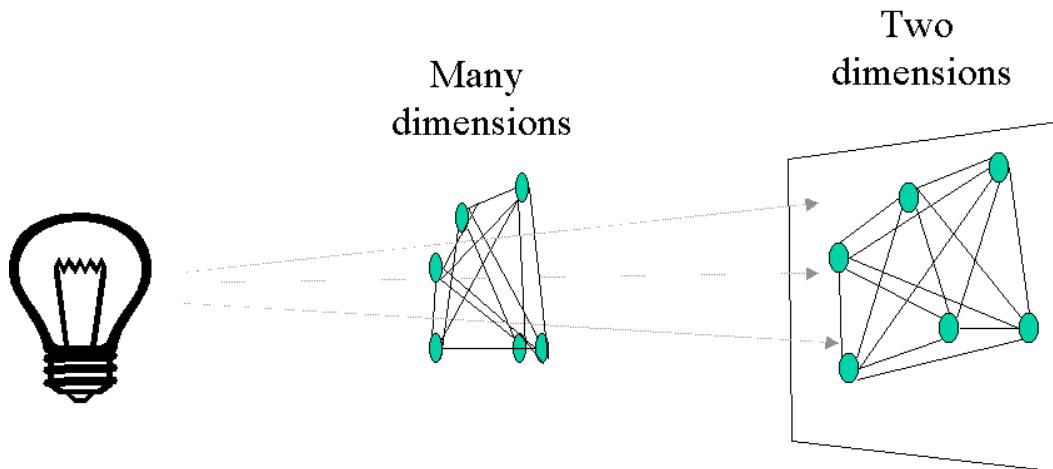


Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

47

## Multi-dimensional Scaling

Why MDS? It works with any distance!



Input distance matrix can be Bray-Curtis, Unifrac, ...

Slide graciously provided by Benjamin Callahan, not necessarily with permission O:-)

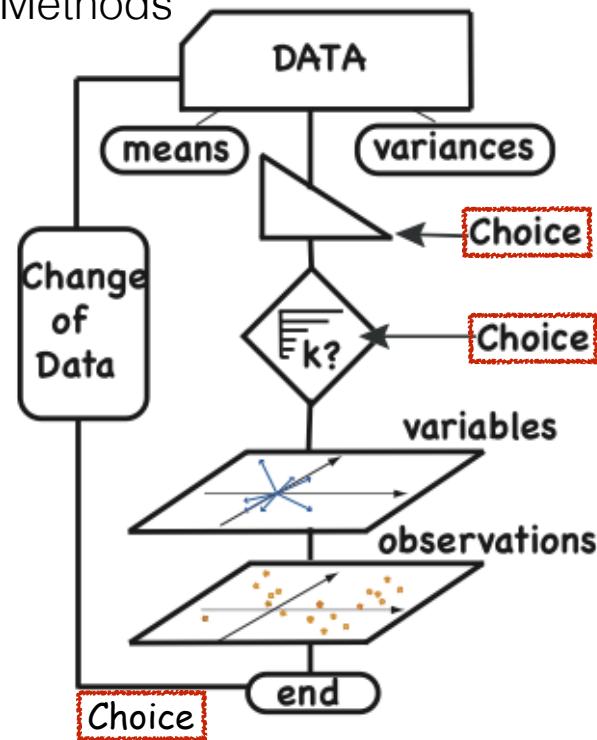
48

# Exploratory Data Analysis

“Unsupervised Learning”  
“Ordination Methods”

## Best Practices

- Looking for patterns (the “I-test”)
- Always look at scree plot
- Biplot (if legible)
- Use multiple distances
  - For which D is pattern strongest?
- phyloseq (and R/Rmd) make this easy!



Slide graciously provided by Susan Holmes, not necessarily with permission O:-)

49

# Exploratory Data Analysis

“Unsupervised Learning”  
“Ordination Methods”

What we “learn” depends on the data.

- How many axes are probably useful?
- Are there clusters? How many?
- Are there gradients?
- Are the patterns consistent with covariates
  - (e.g. sample observations)
- How might we test this?

50