

# A little tour of assembly methods

Antoine Limasset & Camille Marchet  
CRIStAL, Université de Lille, CNRS, France  
Evomics '22 – Český Krumlov



@Camillemrcht camille.marchet@univ-lille.fr  
@BQPMalfoy antoine.limasset@univ-lille.fr



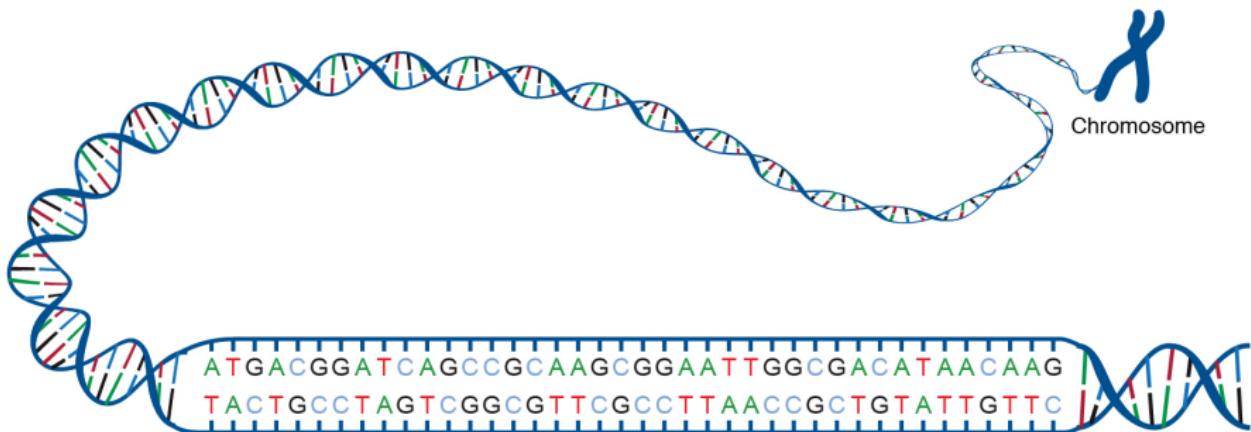
- Content of this course

- How to reconstruct a genome with sequencing data?
  - What are the main challenges?
  - Which solutions have been proposed?
- 
- Easter egg Warning: 2 assembler names hidden in the slides



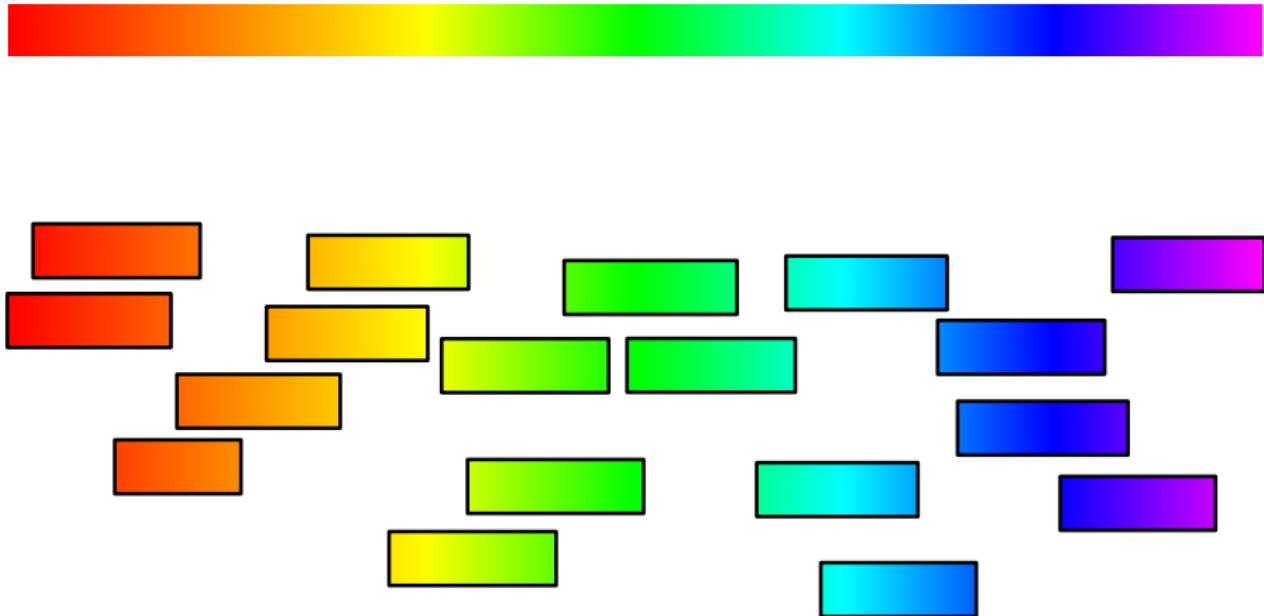
genome size:  $\sim 32$  gigabases

- Accessing a genome

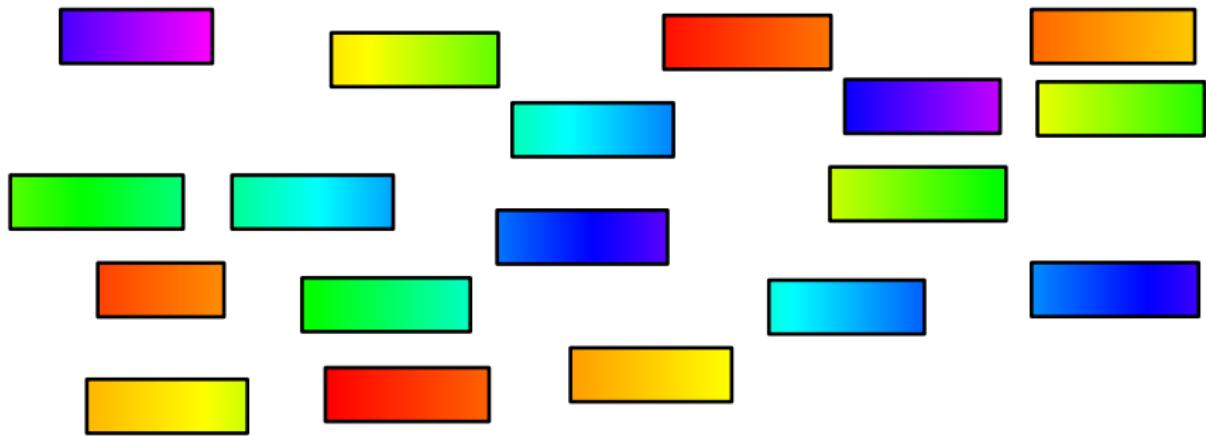


From [www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary/acgt](http://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary/acgt)

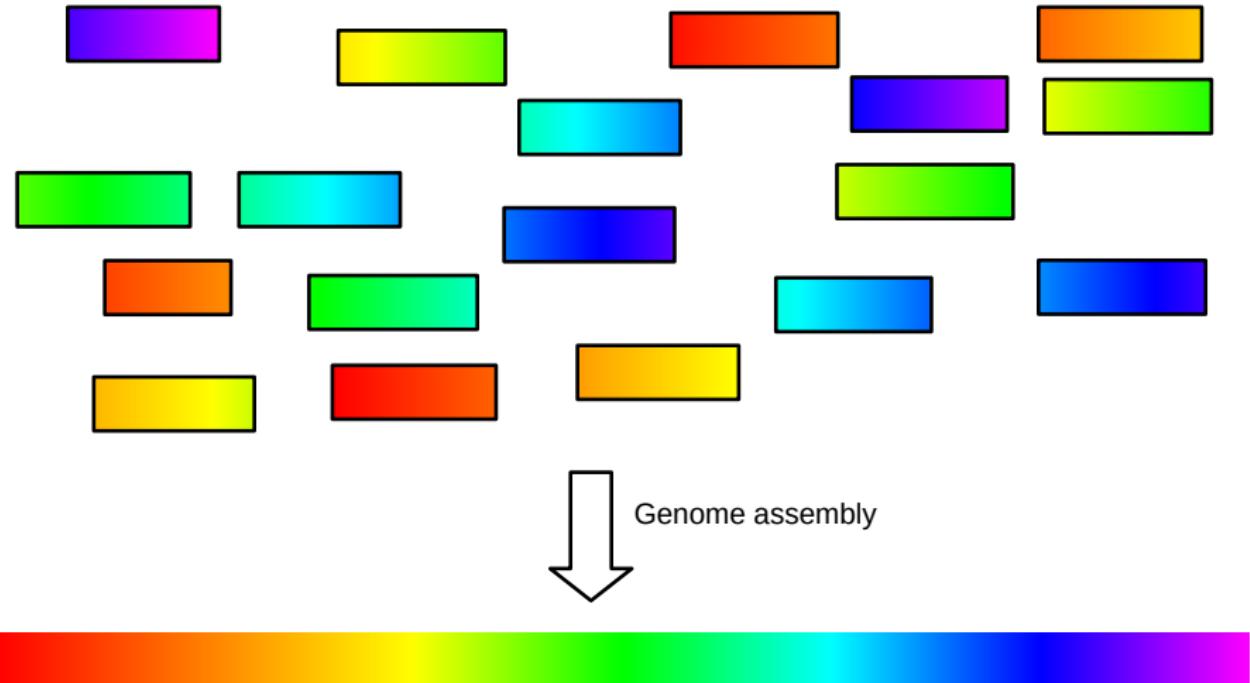
- Reads are words from the genome



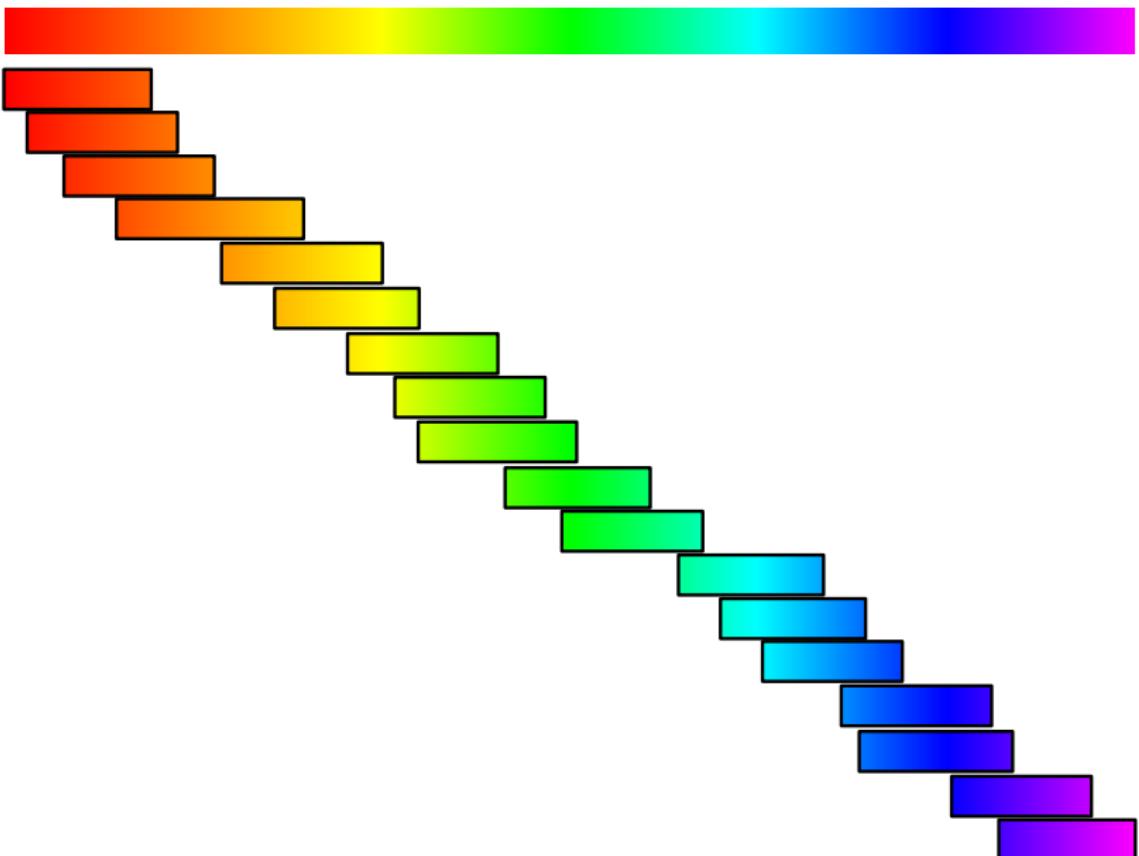
- Reads are **shuffled** words from the genome



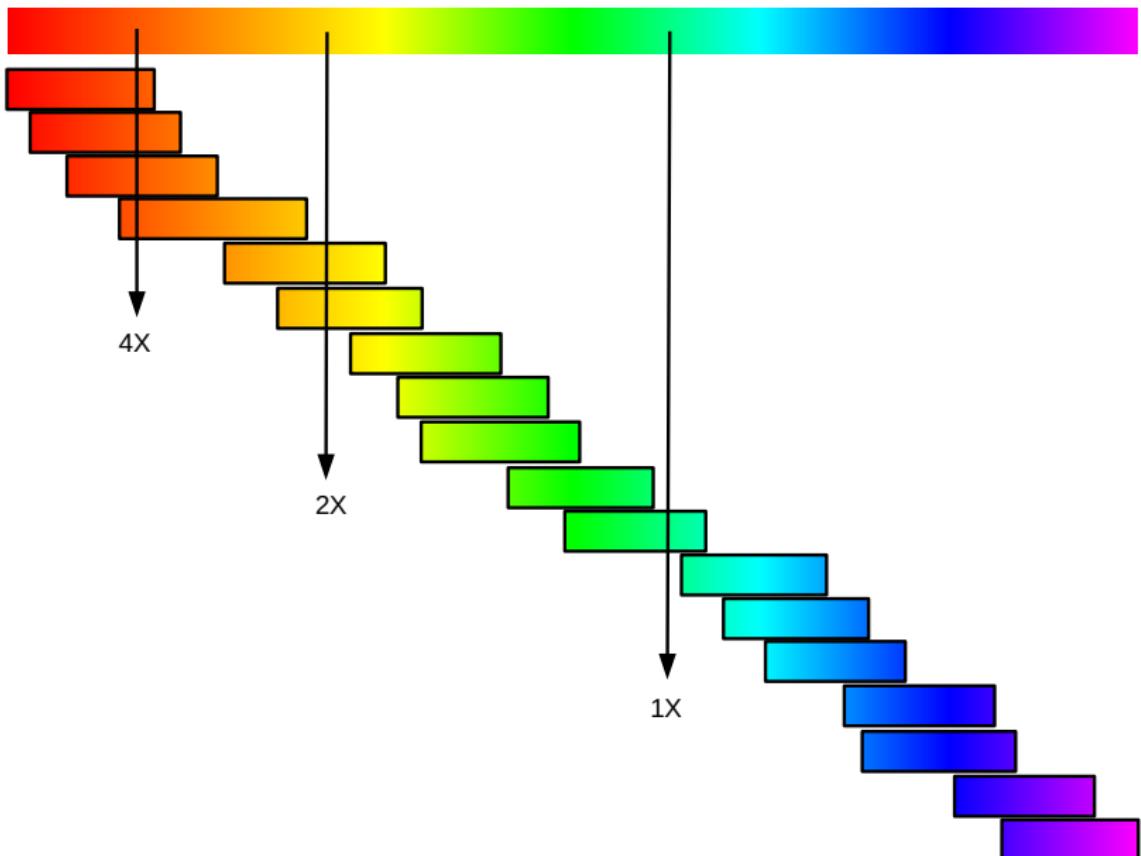
- Genome assembly task



- Using read overlaps



- Genome sequencing: coverage



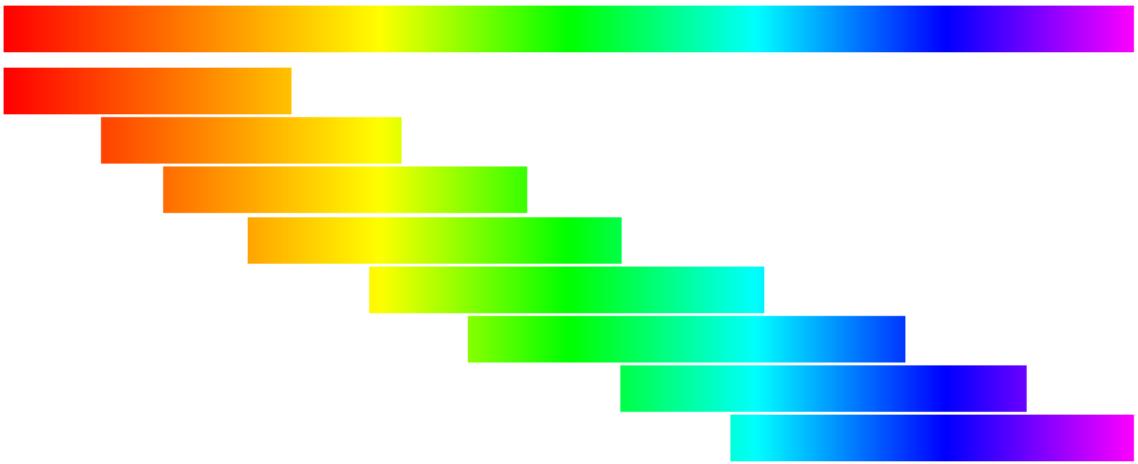
- Genome sequencing: coverage



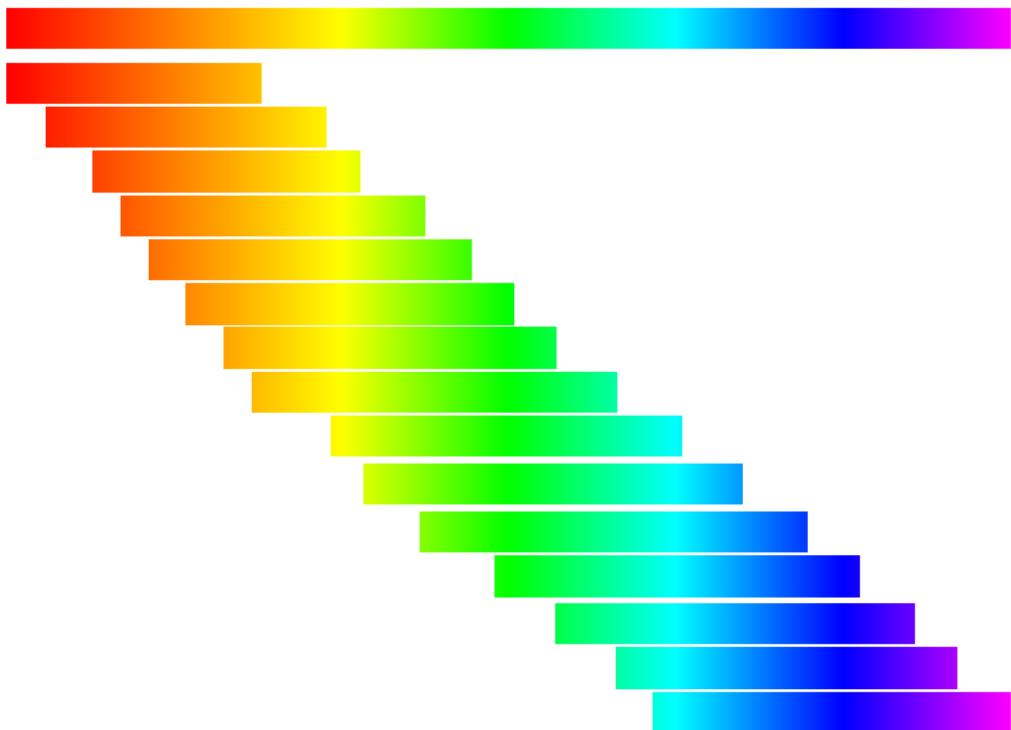
- Genome sequencing: coverage



- Genome sequencing: coverage



- Genome sequencing: coverage



NB: 30-100X are often required for assembly projects

- How to assemble

Reads:

1: ATCGGTATCG  
2: GGTATCGTTA  
3: ATCGTTACGG  
4: GTTACGGTAT  
5: ACGGTATAcc

1: ATCGGTATCG  
2: GGTATCGTTA

Overlap length: 7

1: ATCGGTATCG  
3: ATCGTTACGG

Overlap length: 4

1: ATCGGTATCG  
4: GTTACGGTAT

Overlap length: 1

1: ATCGGTATCG  
5: ACGGTATAcc

No Overlap

- Assembly idea number 1: assemble the longest overlaps

Reads:

1: ATCGGTATCG

2: GGTATCGTTA

3: ATCGTTACGG

4: GTTACGGTAT

5: ACGGTATACC

supplementary  
information

Best overlaps:

brought by  
each read

1: ATCGGTATCG

2: GGTATCGTTA

3: ATCGTTACGG

4: GTTACGGTAT

5: ACGGTATACC



Output "genome":

ATCGGTATCG + TTA + ATCGTTACGG + TAT + ACC

- Your time to shine!

Let assemble this genome!

Your read set:

1: A**T**TTA**C**G**GG**T  
2: T**T**A**C**GG**GG**T**GG**  
3: **A**CG**GG**T**C**CTT  
4: G**T**C**C**TTT**C**TT  
5: TTT**C**TT**A**CG**G**

For each read:

Find the best overlap (length>5)  
Merge the two reads

- The Greedy solution

The best overlaps:

ATTTACGGGT  
TTACGGGTGG

ACGGGTCCTT  
GTCCTTTCTT  
TTTCTTACGG

Output “genome”

ATTTACGGGTGG  
ACGGGTCCTTTCTTACGG

- The actual solution

The actual genome:

**ATTTACGGGTCCCTTCTTACGGGTGG**

How the reads should be ordered:

**ATTTACGGGT**  
**ACGGGTCCCTT**  
6      **GTCCTTTCTT**  
      **TTTCTTACGG**  
      **TTACGGGTGG**

longest overlap we found

~~ATTTACGGGT~~  
~~TTACGGGTGG~~

8

- What happened?

The actual genome:

ATTTACGGGT CCTTTCTTACGGGTGG

How the reads should be ordered:

ATTTACGGGT  
ACGGGT CCTT  
6 GTCCTTCTT  
TTTCTTACGG  
TTACGGGTGG

longest overlap we found

ATTTACGGGT  
TTACGGGTGG

8

ATTTACGGGTGG

not in the genome

ACGGGT CCTTTCTTACGG

not in the genome

- Do we expect many repeats?

Probability to have NO repeated word of size 31 in a 5 megabases genome

Input interpretation:

$$\left( \frac{4^{31} - 1}{4^{31}} \right)^{1/2} (5 \times 10^6 (5 \times 10^6 - 1))$$

Decimal approximation:

0.999997289498784302383172055421363836712023171938932024106...

From [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthday\\_problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthday_problem)

- The burden of assembly: genomic repeats

Amount of repeats larger than a given size in *E. coli* genome

- 15: 44,994
- 21: 1,169
- 31: 559
- 41: 323
- 51: 225
- 61: 192

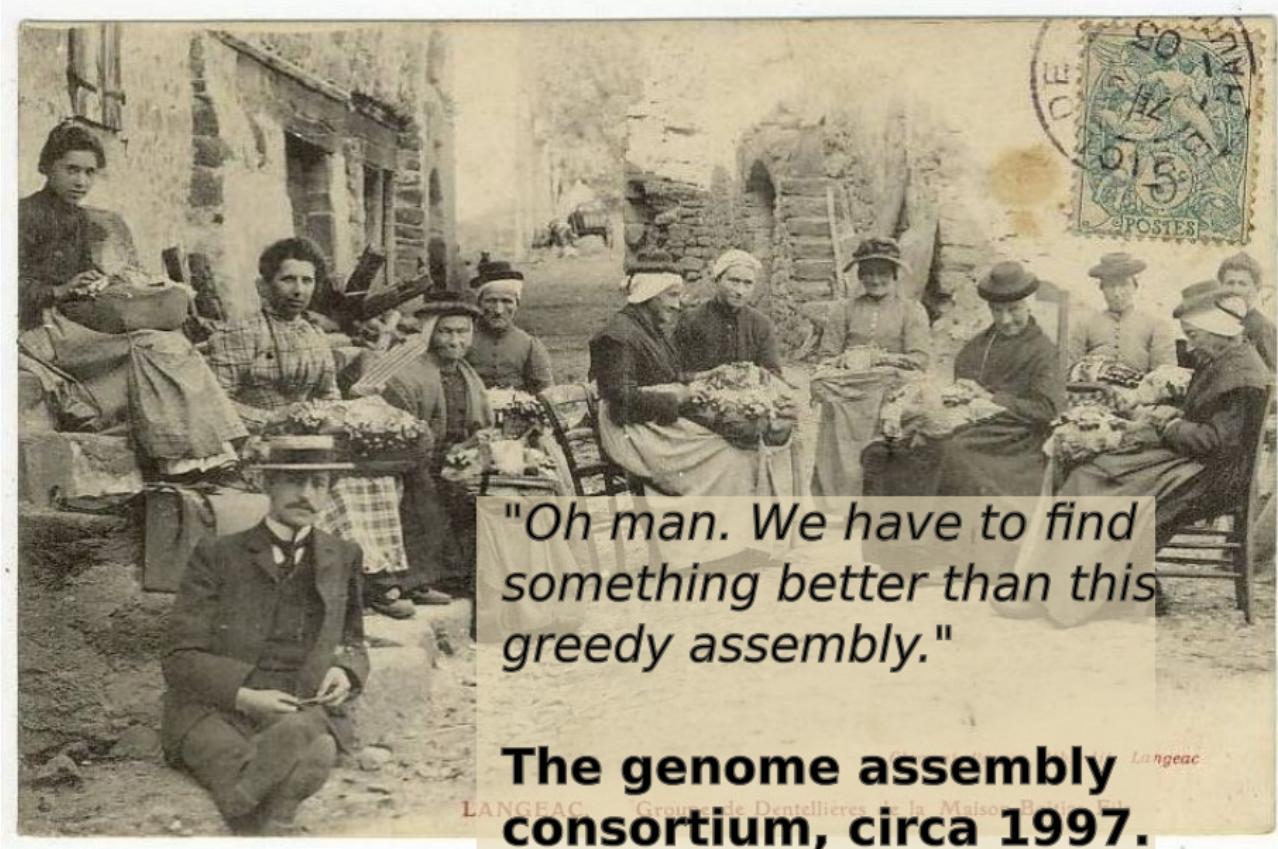
**Genomic repeats are NOT random events**

- Greedy assemblers

- Simple and efficient scheme
- Rely on **local** best choice (greedy)
- May create errors because of local choices when there are repeats



- History from the last century



- Graph representation

**ACGGGTCC**TT a **node** is a sequence

GTCCTTCTT

an **arc** oriented between

TTTCTTACGG

a source node and  
a sink node

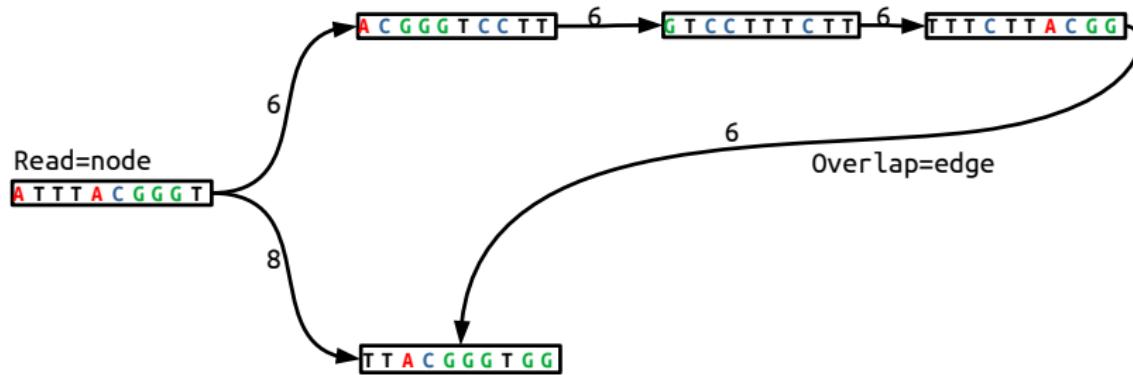
an **arc** means there is an overlap between  
the end of the source node and the beginning  
of the sink node

- Assembly **idea number 2: consider all overlaps**

Genome:

ATTTACGGGT CCTTTCTTACGGGT GG

Overlap graph:



## ● Greedy solution

Genome:

ATTTACGGGTCCCTTCTTACGGGTGG

Overlap graph:



Read=node

ATTTACGGGT

Overlap=edge

8

TTACGGGTGG

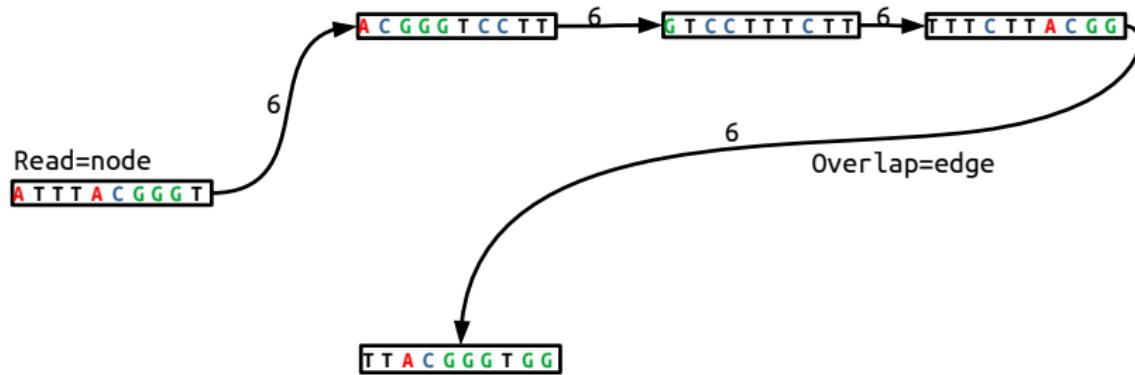
Greedy assembly output:  
ATTTACGGGTGG  
ACGGGTCCCTTCTTACGG

- One piece solution

Genome:

ATTTACGGGT|CCTTTCTTACGGGTGG

Overlap graph:



Overlap graph output:

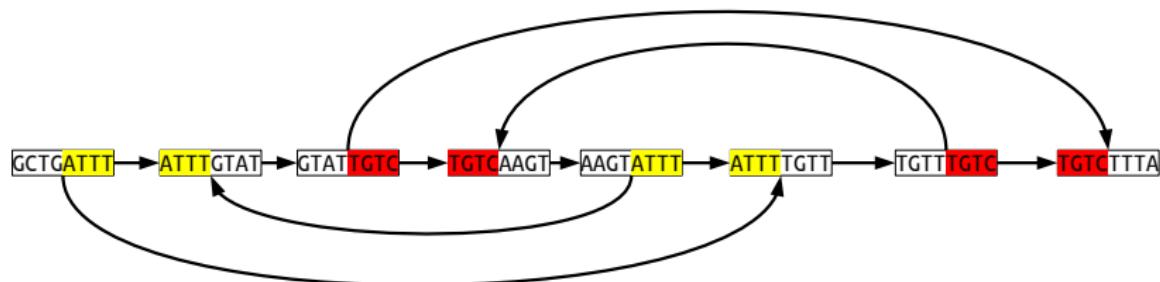
ATTTACGGGT|CCTTTCTTACGGGTGG

- Multiple repeats

Reads:

GCTGATT  
ATTTGTAT  
GTATTGTC  
TGTCAAGT  
AAGTATT  
ATTTTGT  
TGTTTGTC  
TGTCTTTA

Overlap graph:



## • First solution

Reads:

GCTGATT  
ATTTGTAT  
GTATTGTC  
TGTCAAGT  
AAGTATT  
ATTTTGTT  
TGTTTGTC  
TGTCTTTA

Overlap graph:



Possible assemblies:

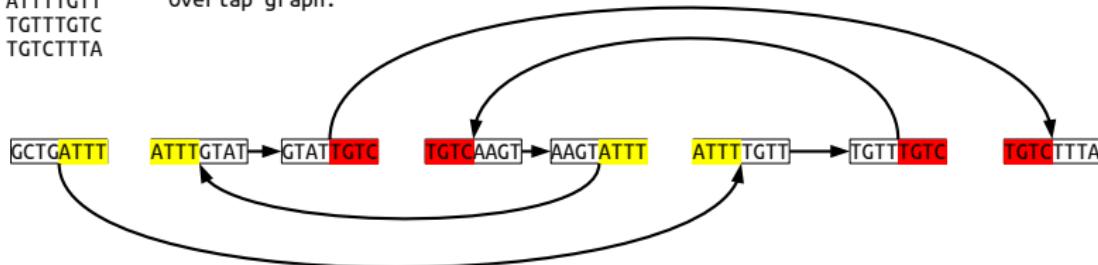
GCTGATT GTAT TGTCAAGT ATTTTGTT TGTCTTTA

## • Second solution

Reads:

GCTGATT  
ATTTGTAT  
GTATTGTC  
TGTCAAGT  
AAGTATT  
ATTTTGTT  
TGTTTGTC  
TGTCTTTA

Overlap graph:



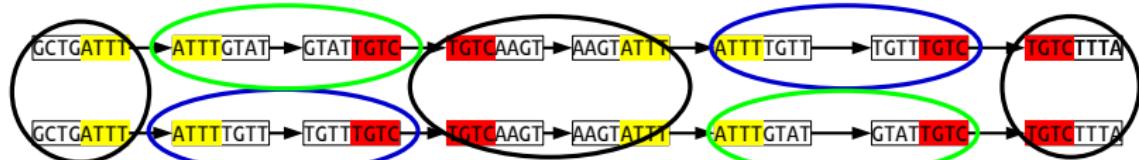
Possible assemblies:

GCTGATTGTATTGTCAAGTATTTTGTTTGTCCTTA  
GCTGATTGTGTGTCAAGTATTTGTATTGTCTTTA

**Those two solutions are indistinguishable**

- Parsimonious solution: do not assemble

Possible assemblies:

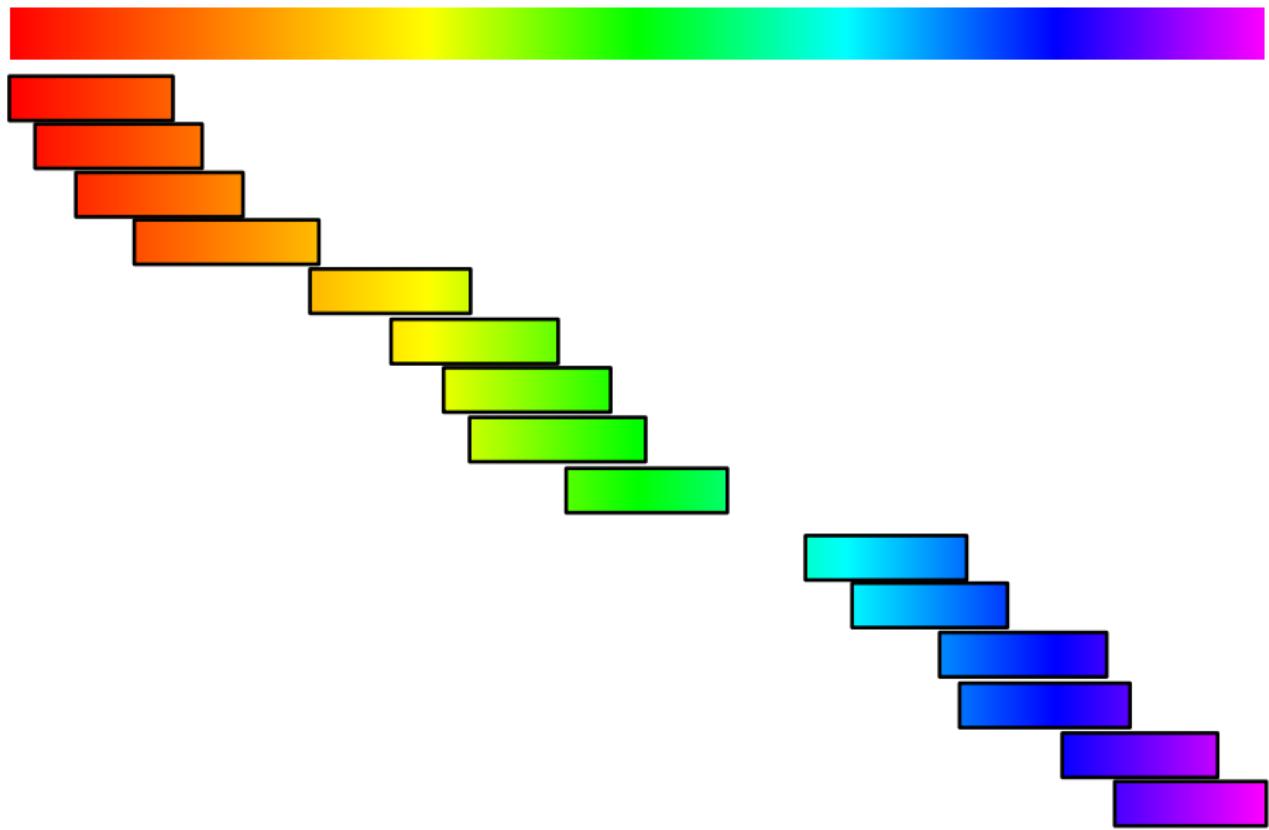


Genome pieces:

GCTGATTI      ATTTGTAT|TGTC      TGTC|AACTATTT      ATTTTGTT|TGTC

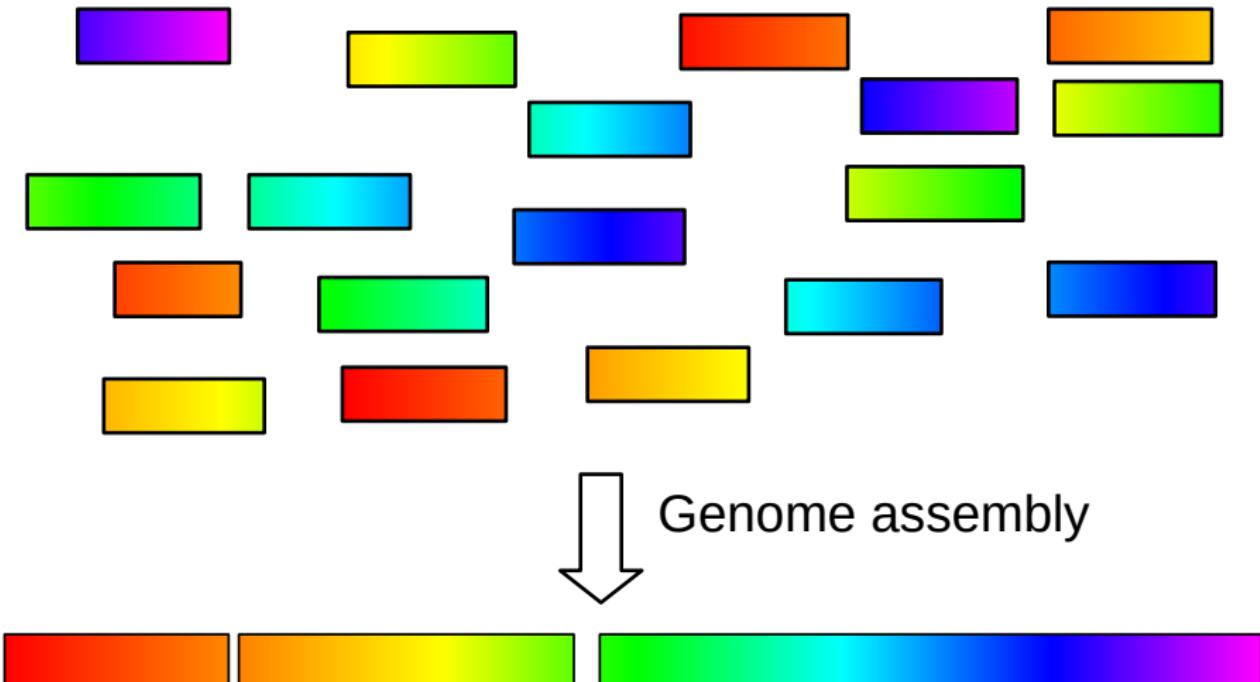
**Repeats lead to the fragmentation of the assembly**

- Missing information also fragments the assembly

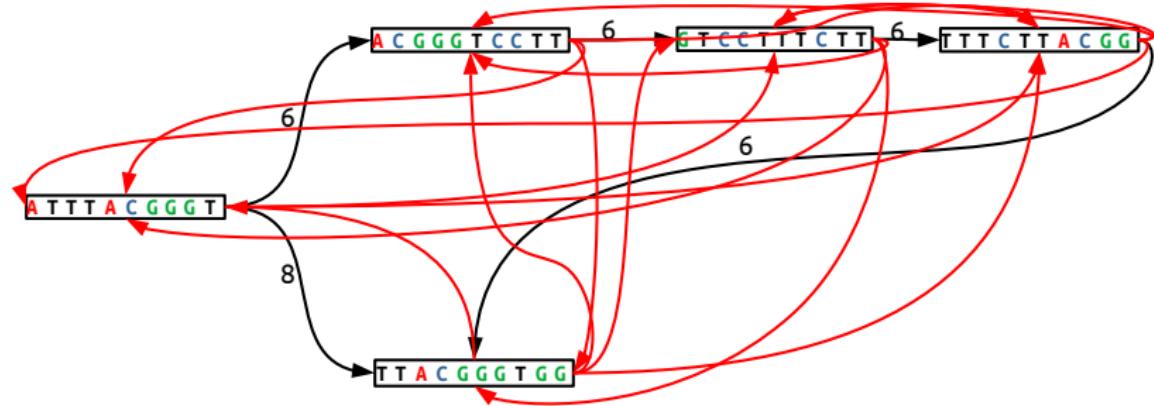


- Assembly **concession number 1: output fragments**

In the real world, assemblers often provide pieces of genomes rather than complete ones

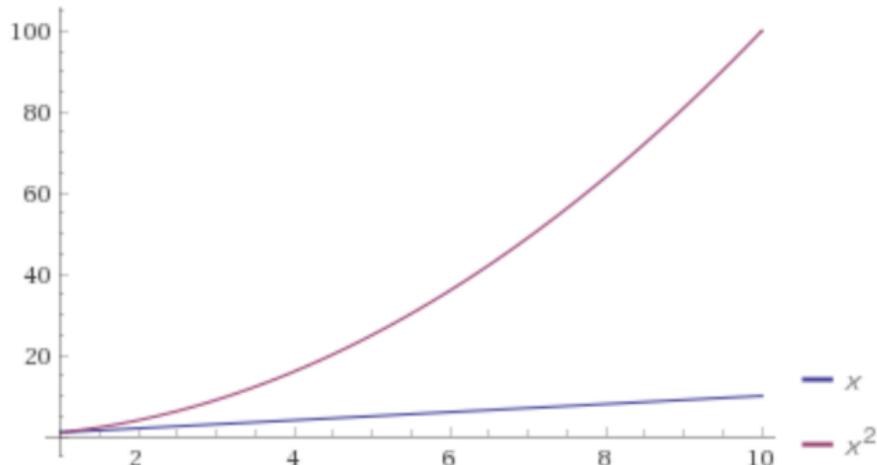


- Overlap graph prerequisite : all overlaps



- Overlap graph burden: number of reads

$$n(n - 1)/2 = \mathcal{O}(n^2) \text{ possible overlaps for } n \text{ reads}$$



Linear: 2X data 2X time

Quadratic: 2X data 4X time

- Overlap graph burden: number of reads

$$n(n - 1)/2 = \mathcal{O}(n^2) \text{ possible overlaps for } n \text{ reads}$$

# Reads	# Overlaps
1000	499,500
10,000	50 million
100,000	5 billion
1 million	500 billion
10 million	50 trillion...

Most overlaps are too small to be considered...

**The overlap computation is not linear**

Talking about CPU years on large genomes...

- Overlap graphs in a nutshell

- Graphs of overlaps between the reads
- Can provide a global solution for assembly
- Can be difficult in real cases because it requires a lot of computation (overlaps)



*S. cerevisiae*, *D. melanogaster*, human could be assembled using overlap graphs approaches (Celera (Myers et al. 2000), SGA (Simpson & Durbin 2011), ...)

- Fast forward



- Assembly **idea number 3: Focus on genome words**

Let's select a word from the genome:

AGATAACAGCCATGACCGTAGCATGCTAACTGTGACGGCATTAC

in the genome, after TAGCAT

only AGCATG appears

- Genome words / read words

In real cases we don't have the genome

AGATAACAGCCATGACCGTAGCATGCTAACTGTGACGGCATTAC

in the genome, after TAGCAT

only AGCATG appears

but we have the reads

ATGACCGTAGCATGCT  
ATGACCGTAGCATGCT  
GACCGTAGCATGCTAA

in the reads, after TAGCAT

only AGCATG appears

- Reconstitute larger genomic words

extract all  $k$ -mers ( $k = 7$ ):

AGATAACAGCCATGACCGTAGCATGCTAACTGTGACGGCATTAC

AGATACA

GATACAG

ATACAGC

TACAGCC

ACAGCCA

CAGCCAT

AGCCATG

AGATACA + G + C + C + A + T + G

AGATAACAGCCATG a sequence from the genome

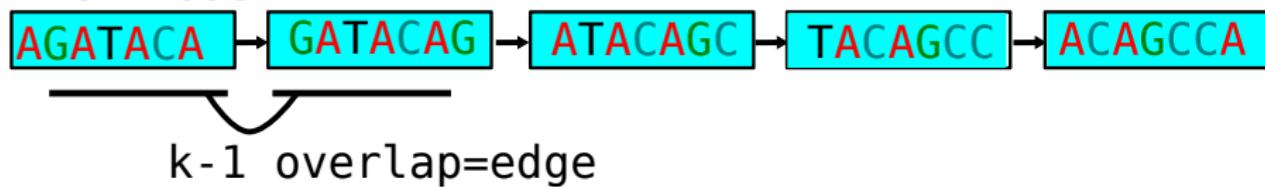
- The de Bruijn graph

Read

AGATACAGCCA

De Bruijn graph

Kmer=node



AGATA + G + C + C + A  
=AGATACAGCCA

- de Bruijn graph assembly

Overlapping reads

AGATACAGCCA  
TACAGCCATGG

De Bruijn graph



Resulting sequence

AGATACAGCCAATGG

- de Bruijn graph time!

Reads

GCCATGGGTT  
TACAGCCATGG  
AGCCATGGGTT  
GCCATGGGTT  
AGATACAGCCA  
ACAGCCATGGG  
GATACAGCCAATG  
CATGGGTTTAA  
ACAGCCATGGG  
GATACAGCCAATG  
CATGGGTTTAA  
CAGCCAATGGGT

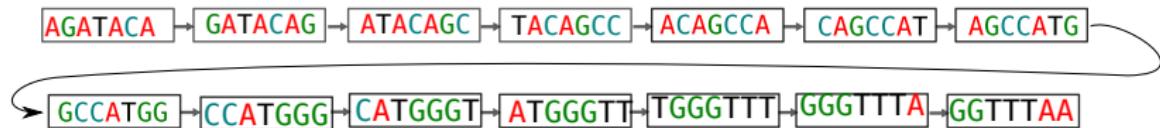
Hint: Use 7-mers

## • Solution

Overlapping reads

AGATA**ACAGCCA**  
GATAC**AGCCATG**  
GATAC**AGCCATG**  
TACAG**GCCATGG**  
ACAG**GCCATGGG**  
ACAG**GCCATGGG**  
**CAGCCATGGGT**  
**AGCCATGGGTT**  
**GCCATGGGTTT**  
**GCCATGGGTTT**  
**CATGGGTTTAA**  
**CATGGGTTTAA**

De Bruijn graph



Resulting sequence

**AGATAACAGCCATGGGTTTAA**

- de Bruijn graph versus overlap graph

reads



words from the reads

AGATACA  
GATACAG TACAGCC AGCCATG  
ATACAGC ACAGCCA CAGCCAT

...

word graph (de Bruijn graph)



Overlap graph from the reads



- de Bruijn graphs abstract redundancy

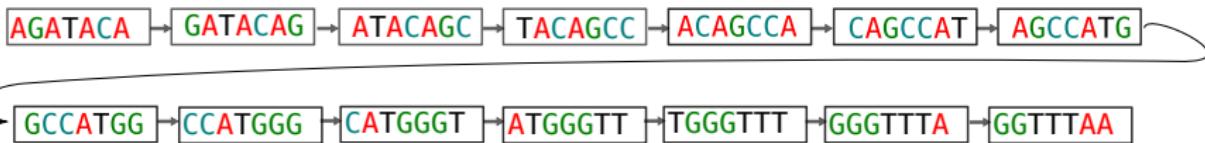
Overlapping reads

AGATACAGCCA  
GATACAGCCATG  
GATACAGCCATG  
TACAGCCATGG  
ACAGCCATGGG  
ACAGCCATGGG  
CAGCCATGGGT  
AGCCATGGGTT  
GCCATGGGTTT  
GCCATGGGTTT  
CATGGGTTTAA  
CATGGGTTTAA

62 (**non distinct**) 7-mers in the reads

De Bruijn graph

14 **distinct** 7-mers in the De Bruijn graph



- de Bruijn graphs only rely on  $k - 1$  overlaps

Overlapping reads

AGATACAGCCA  
 GATAACAGCCATG  
 GATAACAGCCATG  
 TACAGCCATGG  
 ACAGCCAATGGG  
 CAGCCATGGGT  
 GCCATGGGTT  
 CATGGGTTT  
 TGGGTTTA  
 GGTTTAA

Overlap length: 9

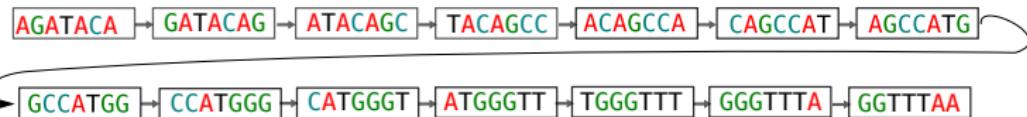
Overlap length: 10

Overlap length: 7

Overlap length: 8

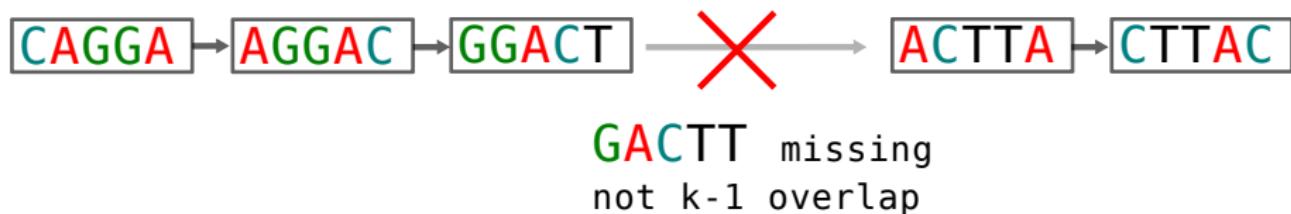
Overlap length: 6

De Bruijn graph overlap length: 6



- de Bruijn graphs limitation

Fixed overlaps



- de Bruijn graphs limitation

Repeats...

...TACAGGACTTA... ...TATAGGACTGA...



each  $k$ -mer appears only once in a de Bruijn graph

- de Bruijn graph limitation

...TACAGGACTTA... ...TATAGGACTGA...



genome pieces

...TATAGGA

GACTGA...

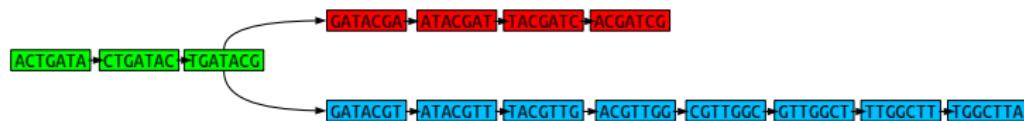
AGGACT

...TACAGGA

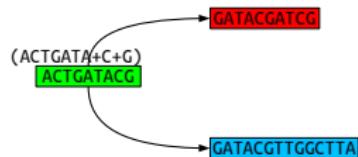
GACTTA...

- On the representation of de Bruijn graphs

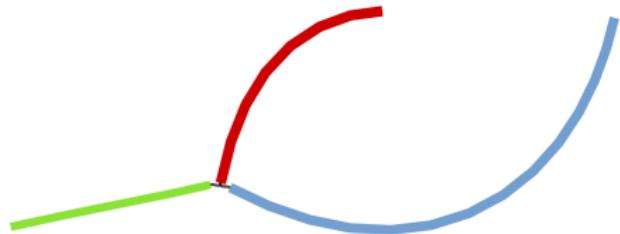
De Bruijn graph:



Compacted De Bruijn graph:



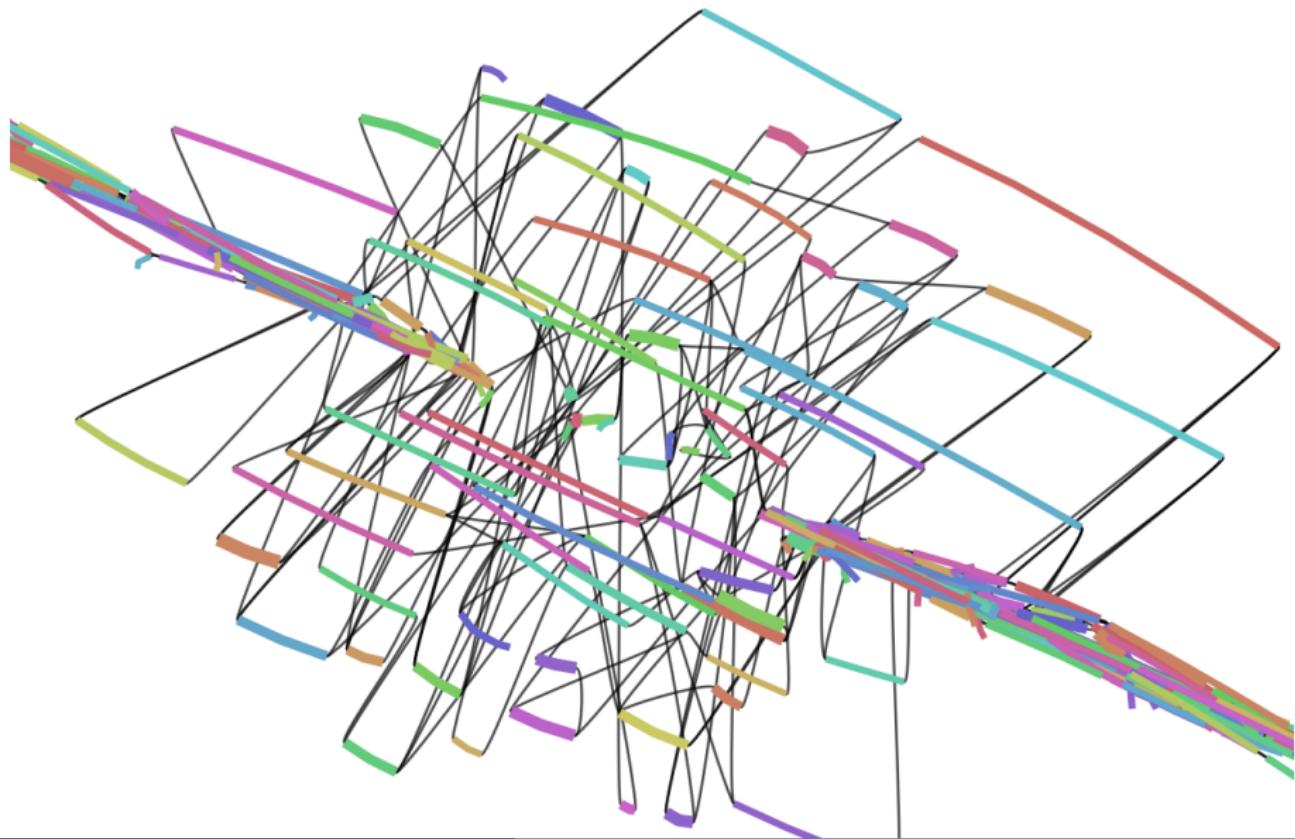
Graphical representation (.gfa plot using Bandage):



- de Bruijn graph on a real dataset



- de Bruijn graph on a real dataset ZOOMED IN



- Sequencing errors

Genome:

AT**C**GGT**A**T**C**G**T**T**A**CG**G**T**A**T**A**CC

Reads:

AT**C**G**C**T**A**TCG  
GGTT**T**CG**T**TA  
AT**C**GA**T**ACGG

TCG**C**TA  
GGTT**T**C  
AT**C**GA**T**

...

Are not genomic kmers...

## • Erroneous $k$ -mers vs genomic $k$ -mers

Genome:

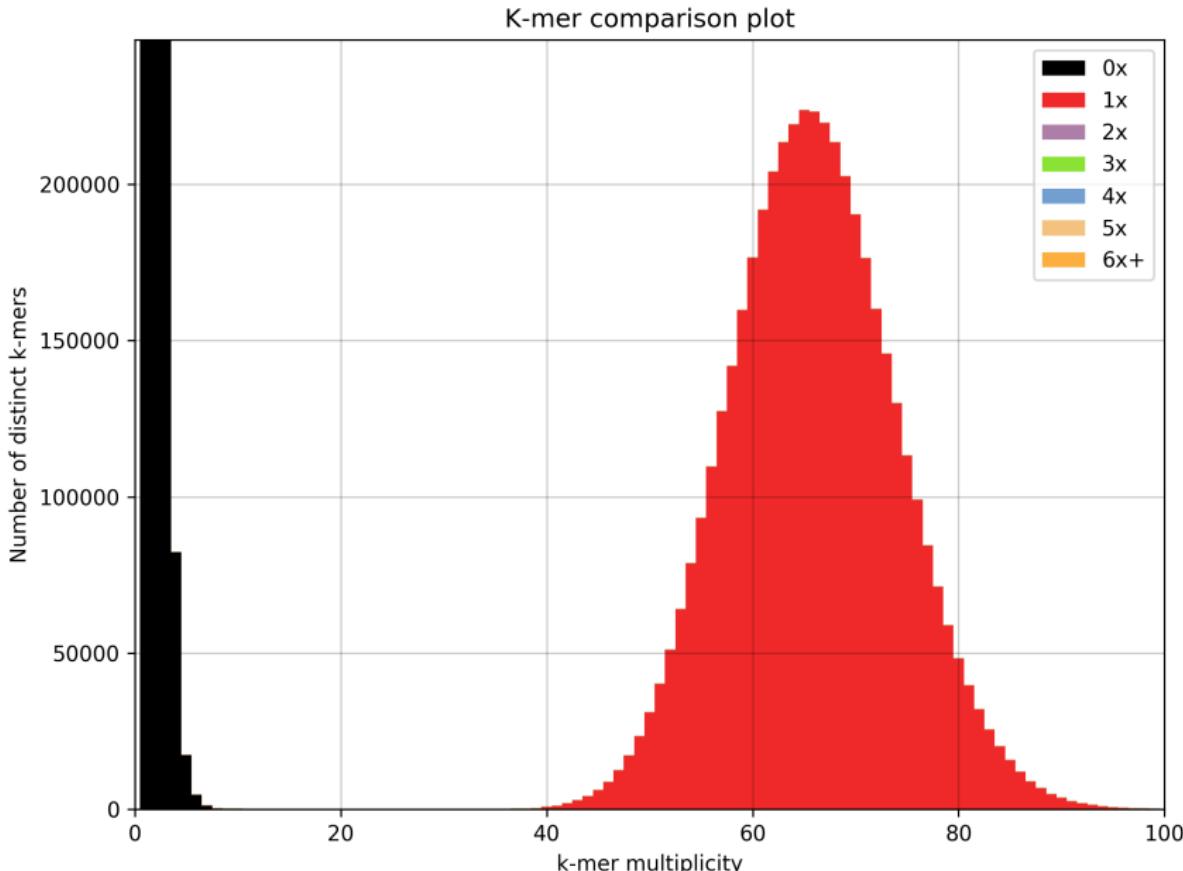
**TAAGAAAGCTCTGAATCAACGGACTGCGACA**

Reads:

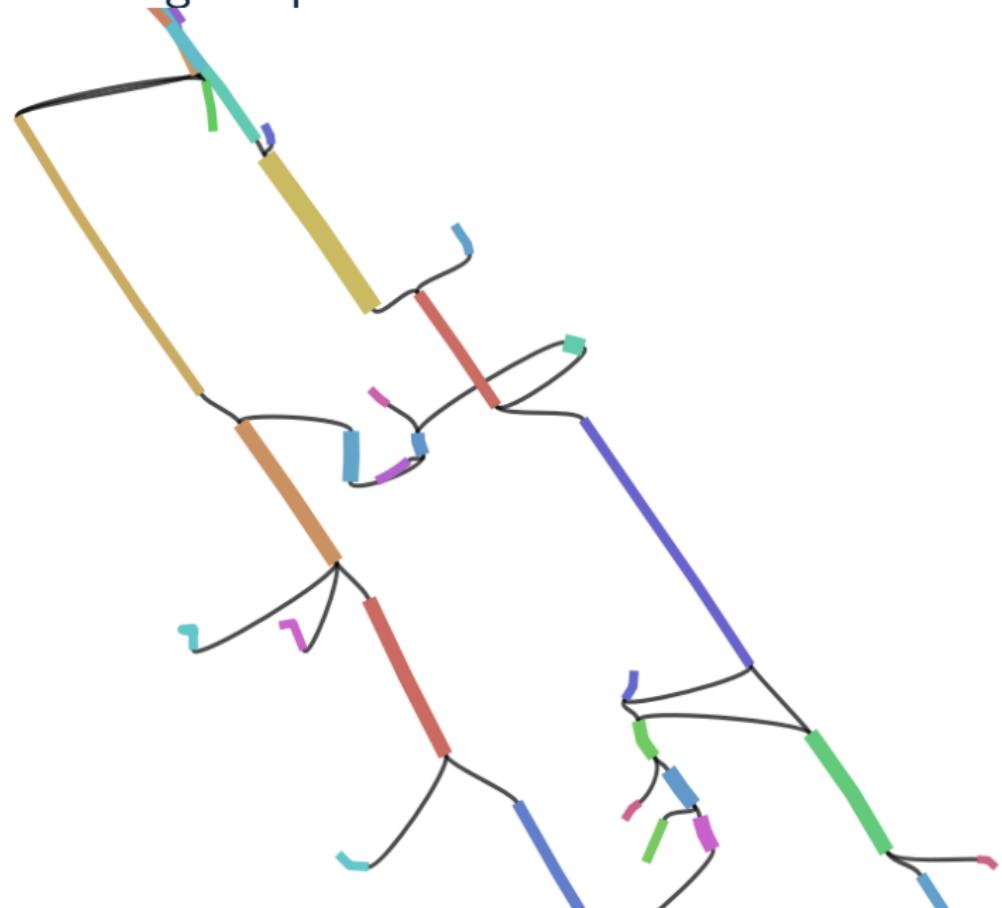
TAAGAAAGCTCTGAATCA		
AAGAAAGCTCTAAATCAAC		
AGAAAGCTCTGAATCAACG	9 times	TCTGAAT
GAAAGCTCTGAATCAACGGA	1 time	TCTAAAT
AAAGCTCTGAATCAACGGAC		
AAGCTCTGAATCAACGGACT	6 times	CAACGGA
AGCTCTGAATCAACGGACTG	1 time	CAACGGT
GCTCTGAATCAACGGTCTGC		
CTCTGAATCAACGGACTGCG		
TCTGAATCAACGGACTGCGA		

Erroneous  $k$ -mers are seen less than genomic ones

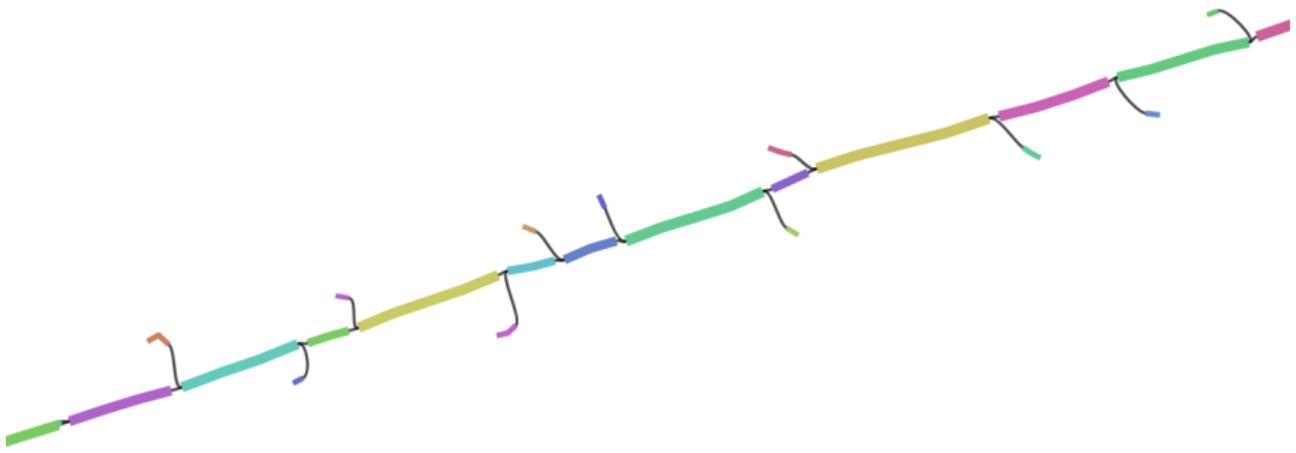
## • K-mer histogram



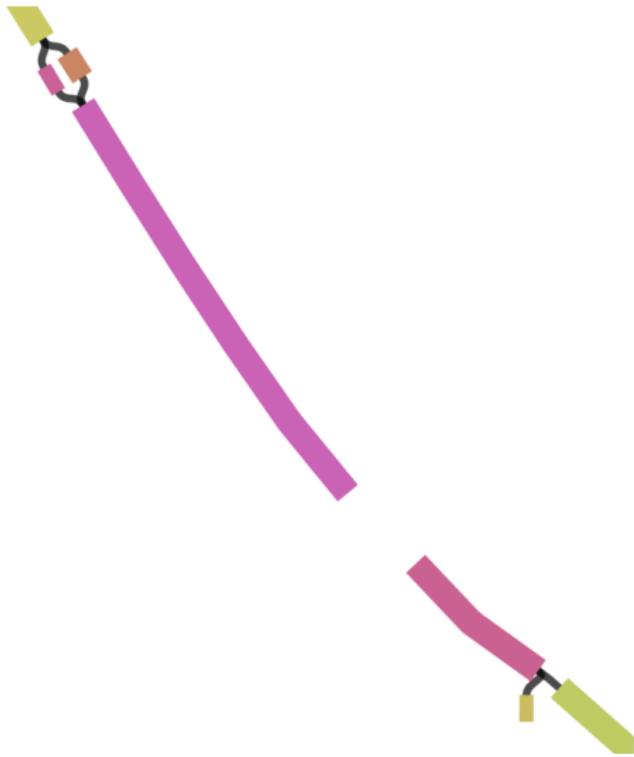
- Removing unique  $k$ -mers



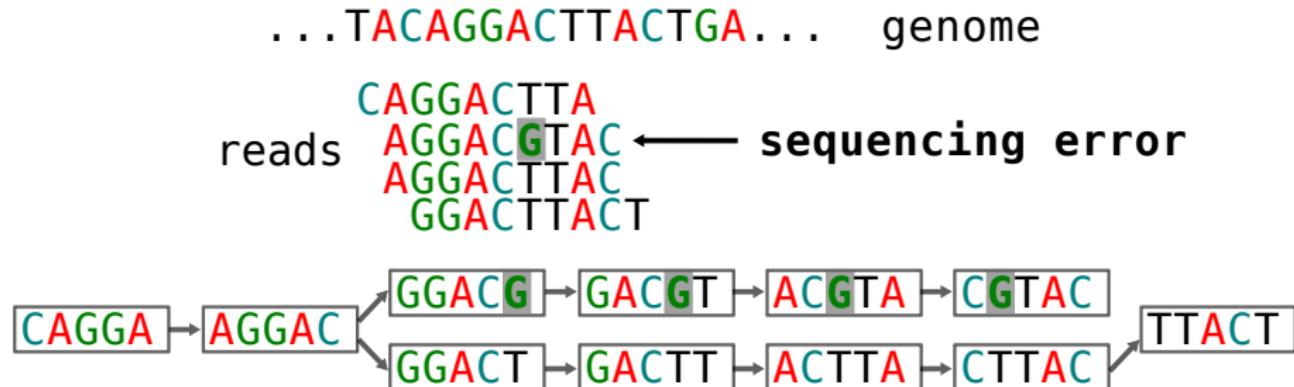
- Removing  $k$ -mers seen less than 3 times



- Removing  $k$ -mers seen less than 4 times



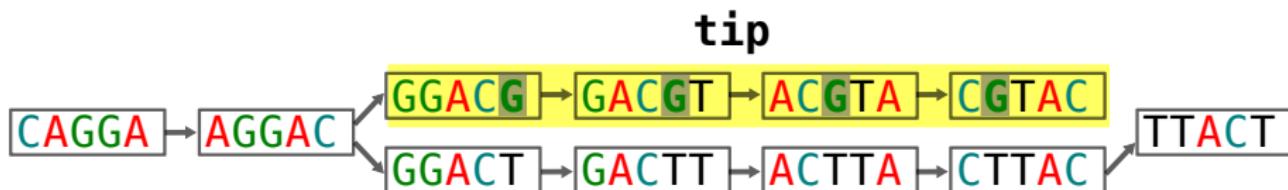
- Errors in de Bruijn graphs



- Errors in de Bruijn graphs

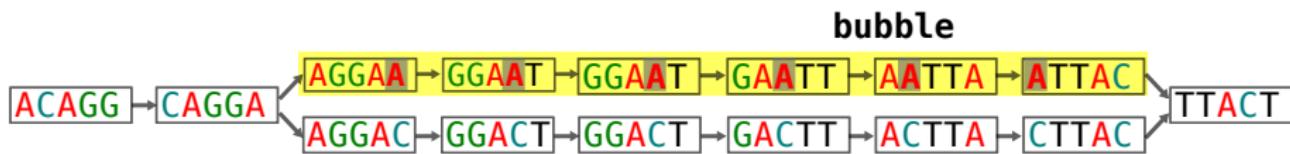
...TACAGGACTTACTGA... genome

reads CAGGACTTA  
AGGACGTAC ← **sequencing error**  
AGGACTTAC  
GGACTTACT

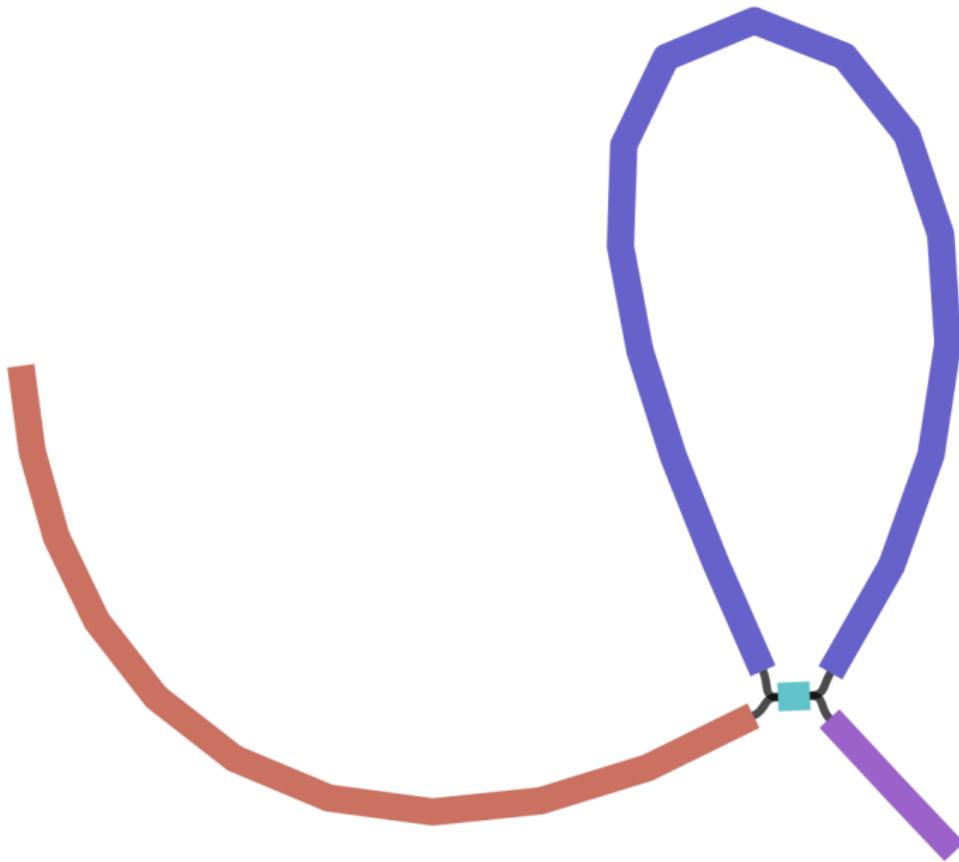


## • Errors in de Bruijn graphs

... TACAGGACTTACTGA... genome  
reads    ACAGGACTTA  
          CAGGAATTAC ← **sequencing error**  
          CAGGACTTAC  
          AGGACTTACT



- (Almost assembled phage !)



- de Bruijn graphs in a nutshell

- Graph of words of size  $k$ ,  $k-1$  overlaps
- Collapses identical  $k$ -mers
- Very successful, have replaced the overlap graphs with high throughput sequencing data
- Still outputs fragments of the genome



White spruce, 20 gigabases

- Multiple  $k$  assembly

Most de Bruijn graph assemblers can now perform several assemblies with different  $k$ -mer sizes to produce an improved "super" assembly

### Exercice

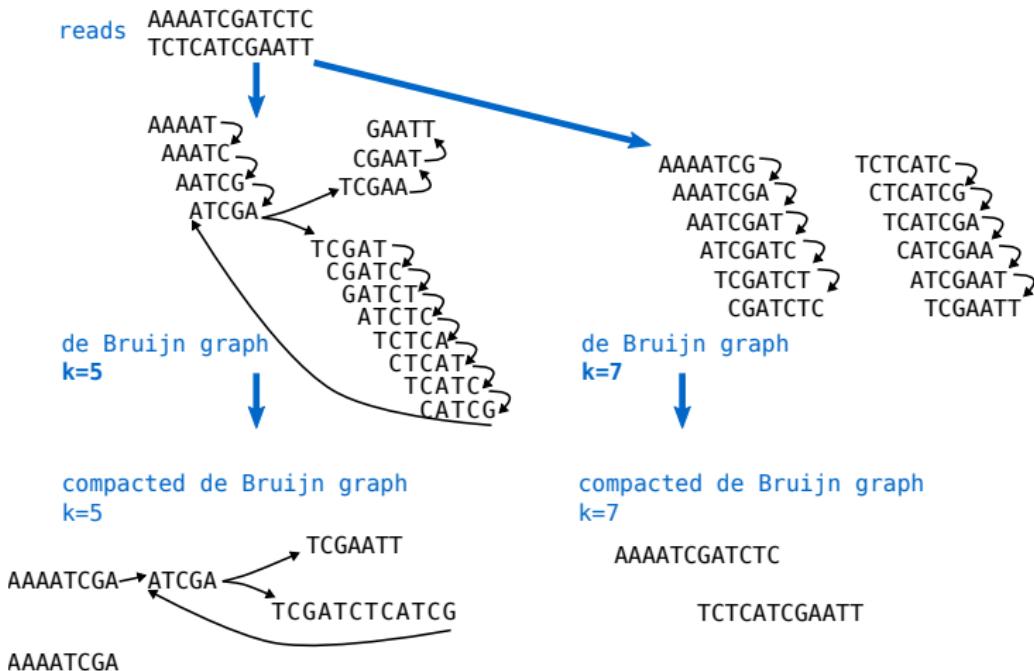
Build DBG with  $k=5$  and  $k=7$  from those reads

AAAATCGATCTC

TCTCATCGAATT

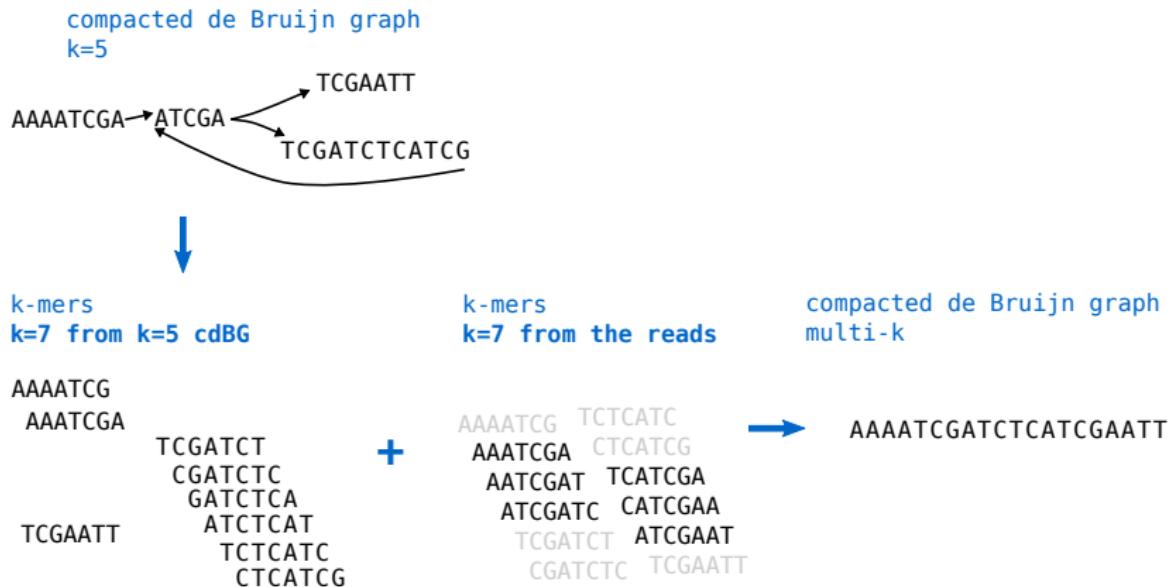
## • Multiple $k$ assembly

Most de Bruijn graph assemblers can now perform several assemblies with different  $k$ -mer sizes to produce an improved "super" assembly

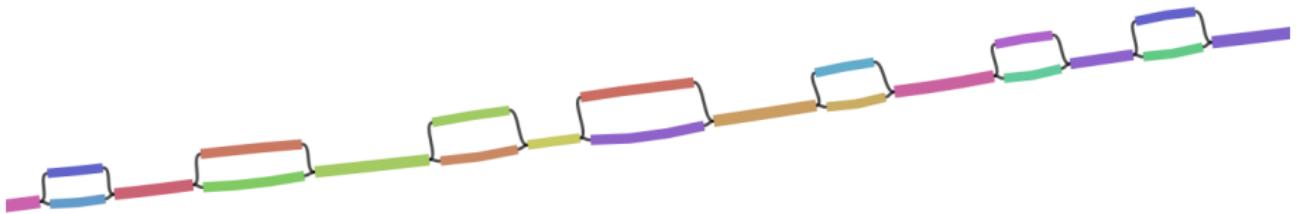


## ● Multiple $k$ assembly

Most de Bruijn graph assemblers can now perform several assemblies with different  $k$ -mer sizes to produce an improved "super" assembly



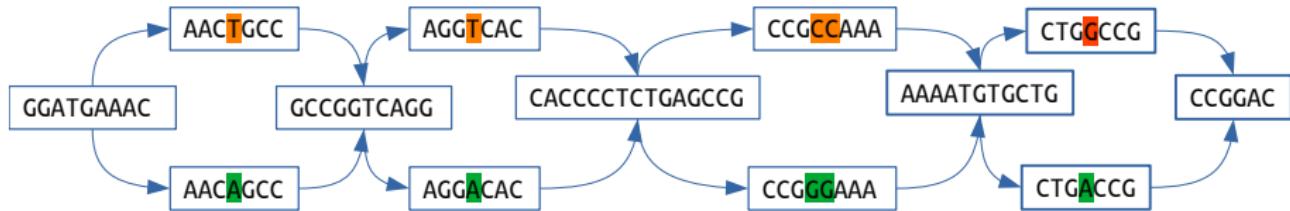
- de Bruijn graph on an eukaryota



- Two or more genomes per individual

♀ GGATGAAAC **T**GCCGGTCAGG **T**CACCCCTCTGAGCCG **CC**AAAATGTGCTG **GG**CCGGAC

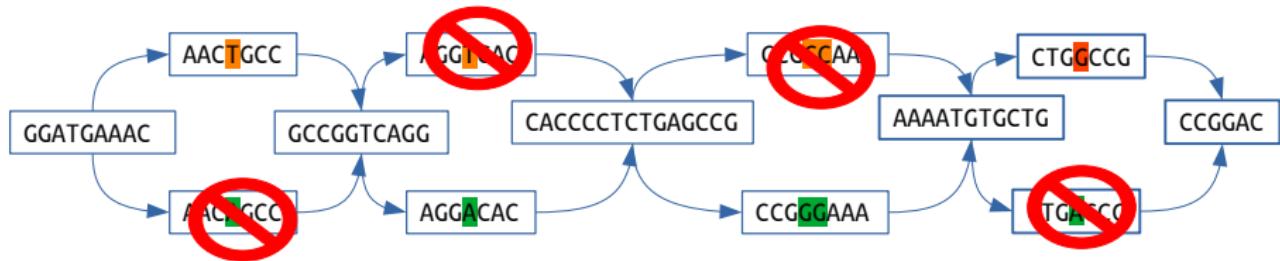
♂ GGATGAAAC **A**GCCGGTCAGG **A**CACCCCTCTGAGCCG **GG**AAAATGTGCTG **A**CCGGAC



- Two or more genomes per individual

♀ GGATGAAACTGCCGGTCAGGTACCCCTTGAGCCGCCAAATGTGCTGGCCGGAC

♂ GGATGAAACAGCCGGTCAGGACACCCCTCTGAGCCGGAAAATGTGCTGACCGGAC



### Assembly:

GGATGAAACTGCCGGTCAGGAACCCCCCTCTGAGCCGGAAAATGTGCTGGCCGGAC

- Assembly **concession number 2**: collapse variability

♀ GGATGAAACTGCCGGTCAGGTACCCCTCTGAGCCGCCAAAATGTGCTGCCGGAC

♂ GGATGAAACAGCCGGTCAGGAACCCCTCTGAGCCGCCAAAATGTGCTGACCGGAC

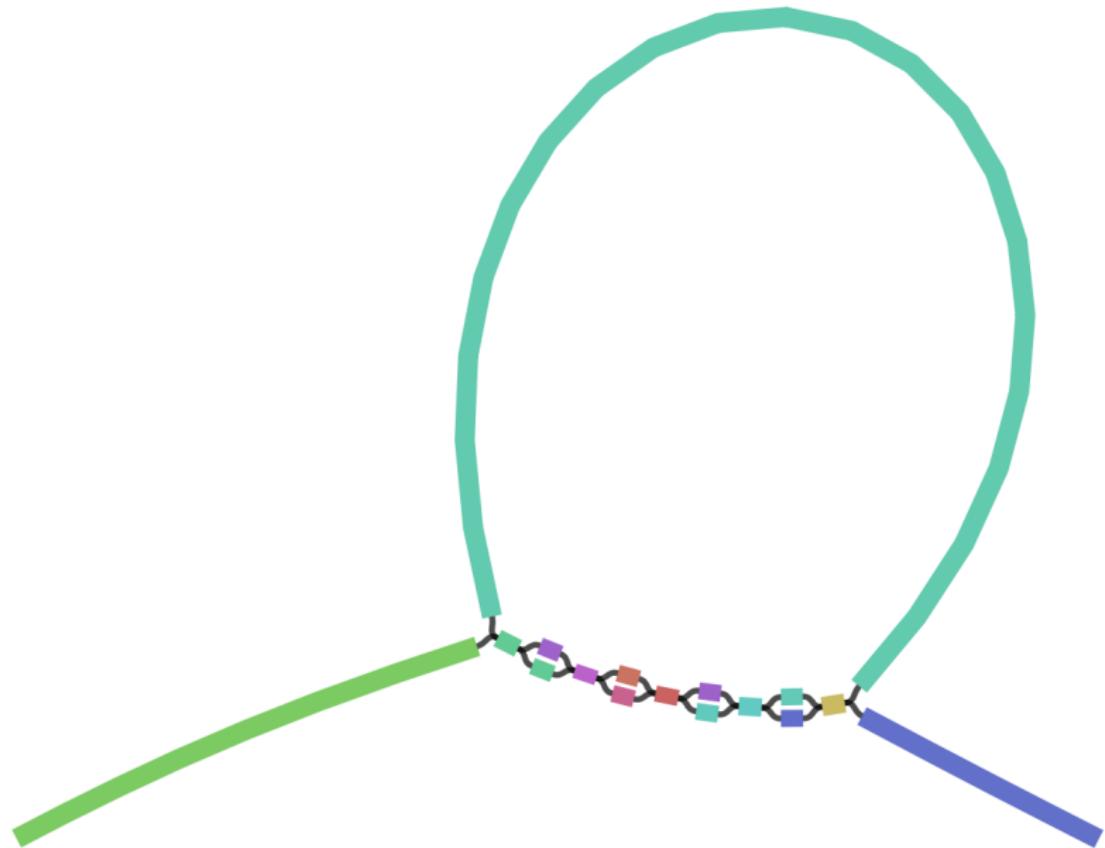
Assembly:

GGATGAAACTGCCGGTCAGGAACCCCTCTGAGCCGCCAAAATGTGCTGCCGGAC

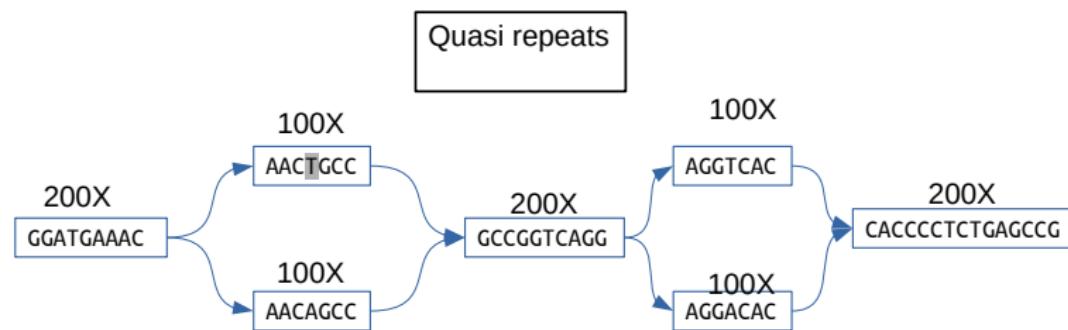
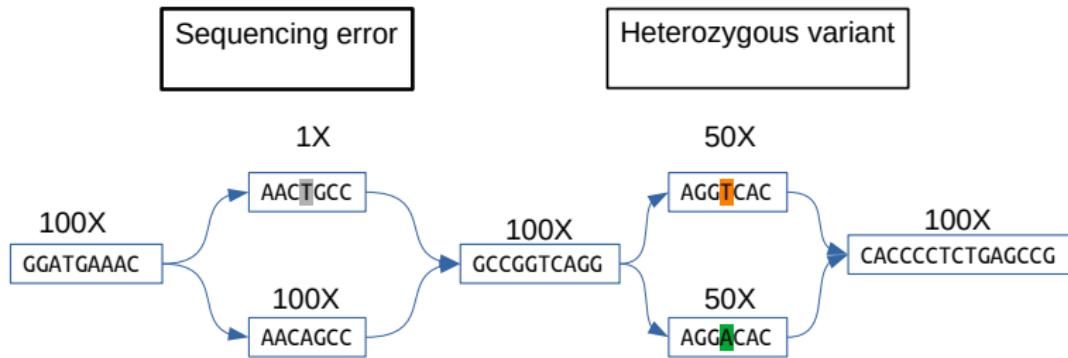
Reads:

GATGAAACTG  
ATGAAACAGC  
TGAAACAGCCG  
GAAACTGCCGG  
AAACTGCCGGT  
AACAGCCGGTC  
ACAGCCGGTCA  
CTGCCGGTCAG

- Paralog genes/repeats



## ● Paralog genes/repeats in graph



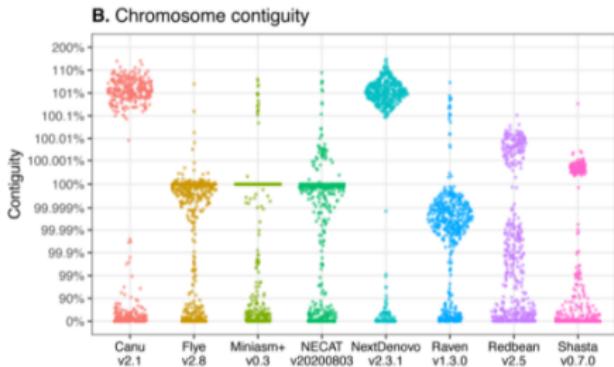
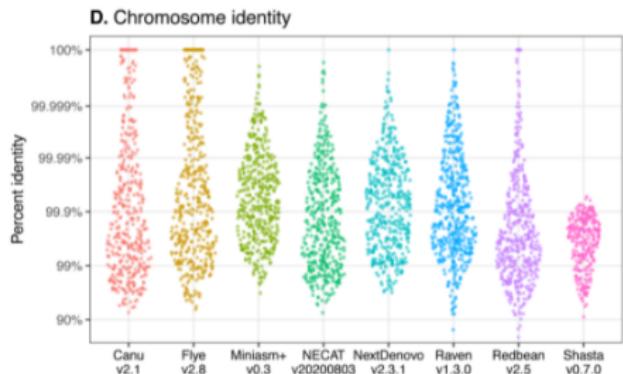
- An assembler is a set of heuristics

### Graph cleaning heuristics

- Nodes coverage
- Graph local/global topology
- Reads that can be mapped on nodes
- Estimated coverage/genome size
- ...

- An assembly is a model

- ① Assemblies contain errors
- ② Different tools can produce very similar assemblies
- ③ A single tool can produce very different assemblies with small changes of parameters(!)



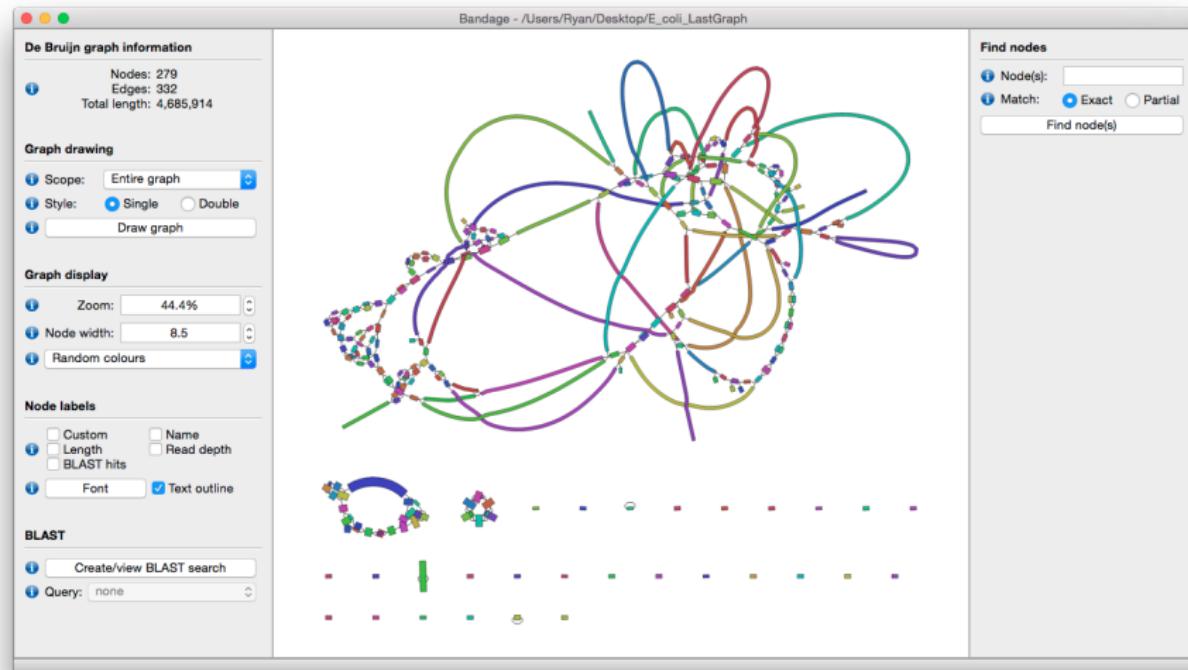
From [github.com/rrwick/Long-read-assembler-comparison](https://github.com/rrwick/Long-read-assembler-comparison)

- What do we do post-assembly?

- ① Assess its quality
- ② Improve it
- ③ Use it!

## ● Visualize assembly

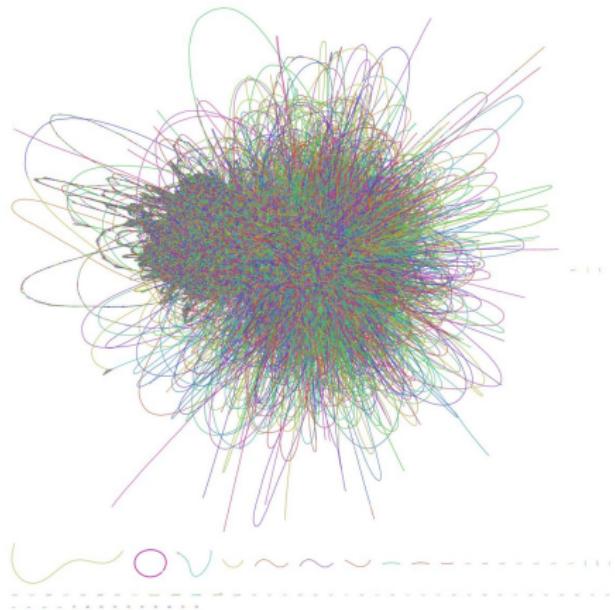
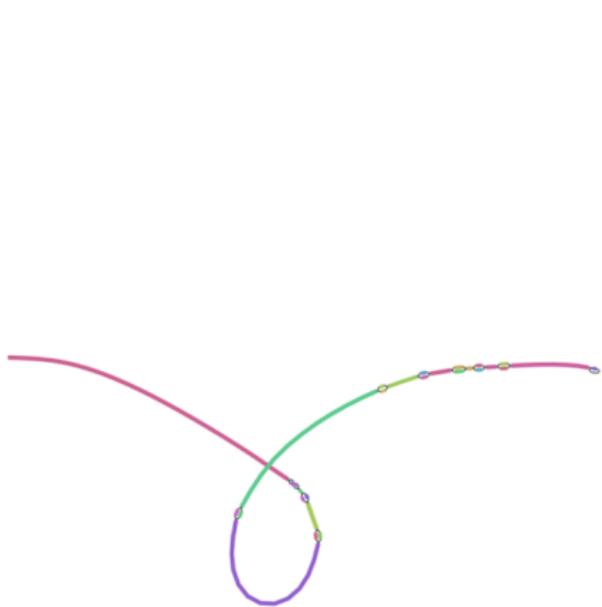
Bandage tool can visualize assembly graphs (GFA)



From [rwick.github.io/Bandage](https://rwick.github.io/Bandage)

- Visualize assembly

Bandage tool can visualize assembly graphs (GFA)



- Assembly continuity

## N50

N50 can be described as a weighted median statistic such that 50% of the entire assembly is contained in contigs or scaffolds equal to or larger than this value.

Example: 1 Mbp genome

50%



- Assembly continuity

### N50

N50 can be described as a weighted median statistic such that 50% of the entire assembly is contained in contigs or scaffolds equal to or larger than this value.

### N75

N75 is the same statistic for 75% of the assembly

### NGA50

Similar to the N50 but only takes into account contigs/scaffolds that can be **aligned** on the reference genome and consider 50% of the **genome size** instead of the assembly size

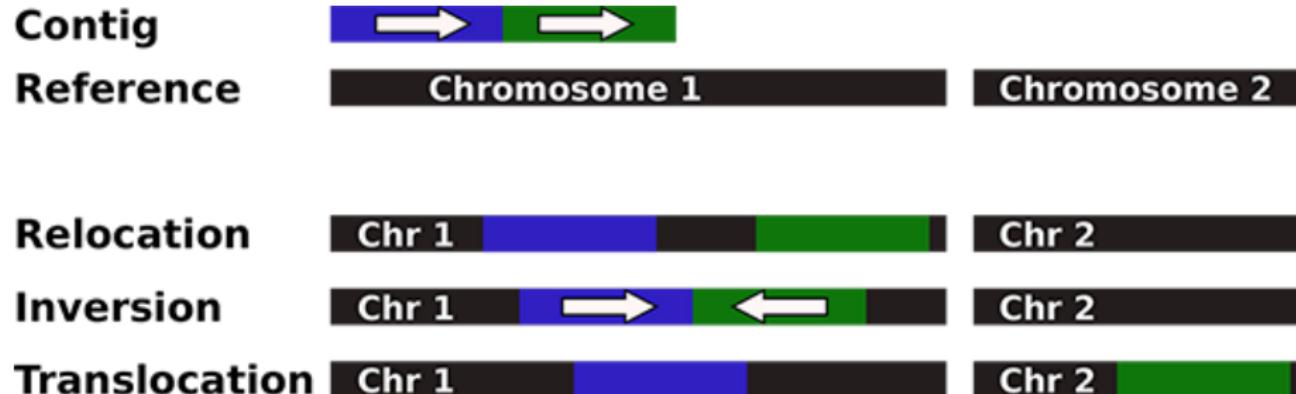
- Evaluate assembly

Contigs can be mapped and compared to a reference/closely related genome



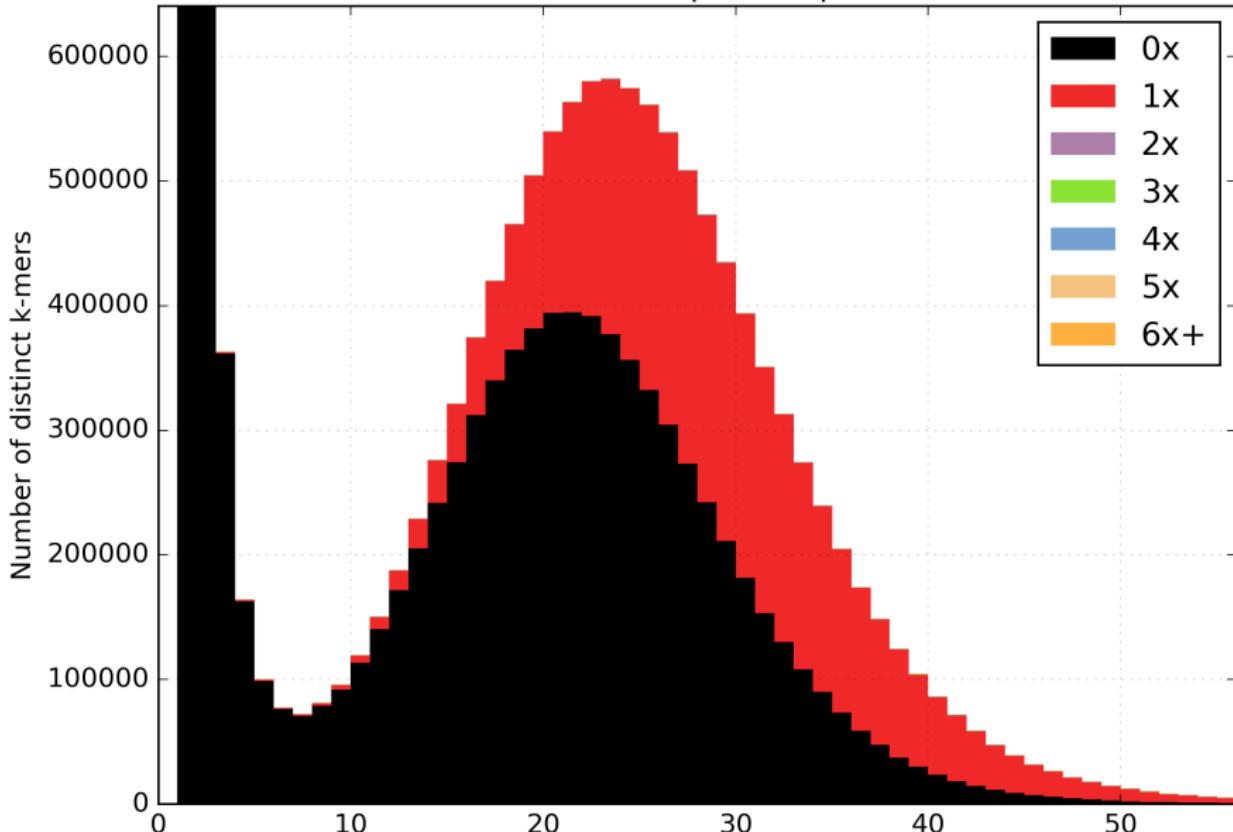
From quast.bioinf.spbau.ru/manual.html

- Misassemblies

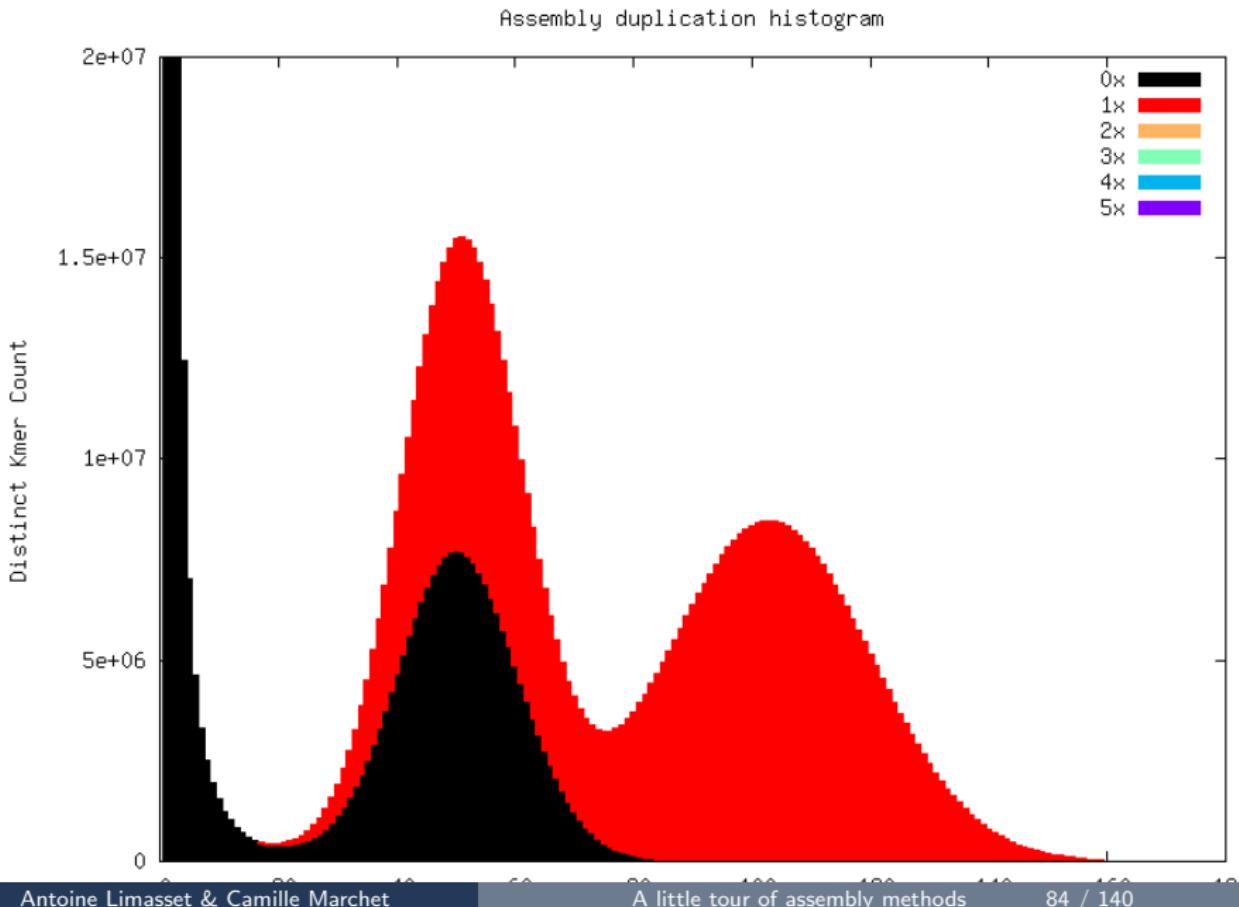


- K-mer spectrum visualization with KAT

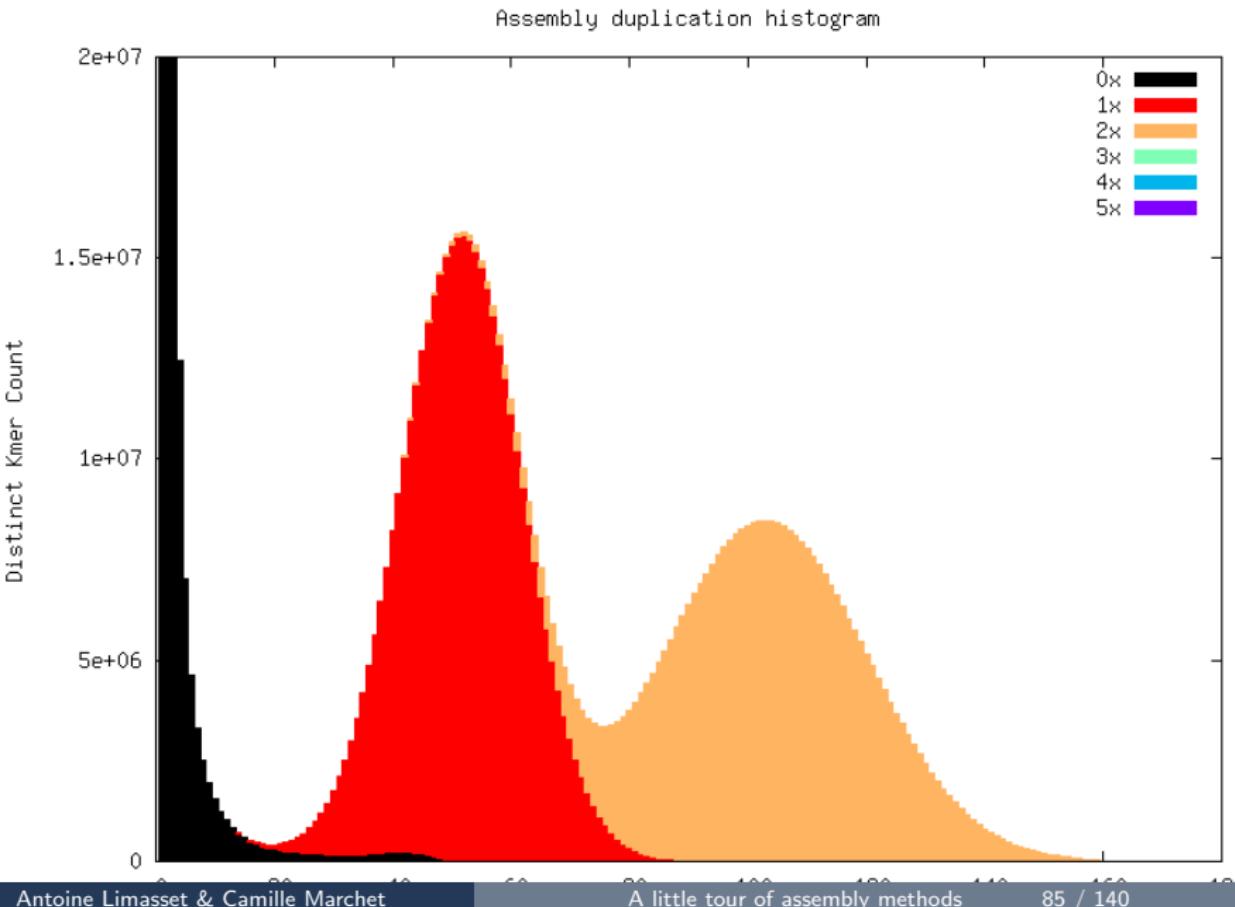
K-mer comparison plot



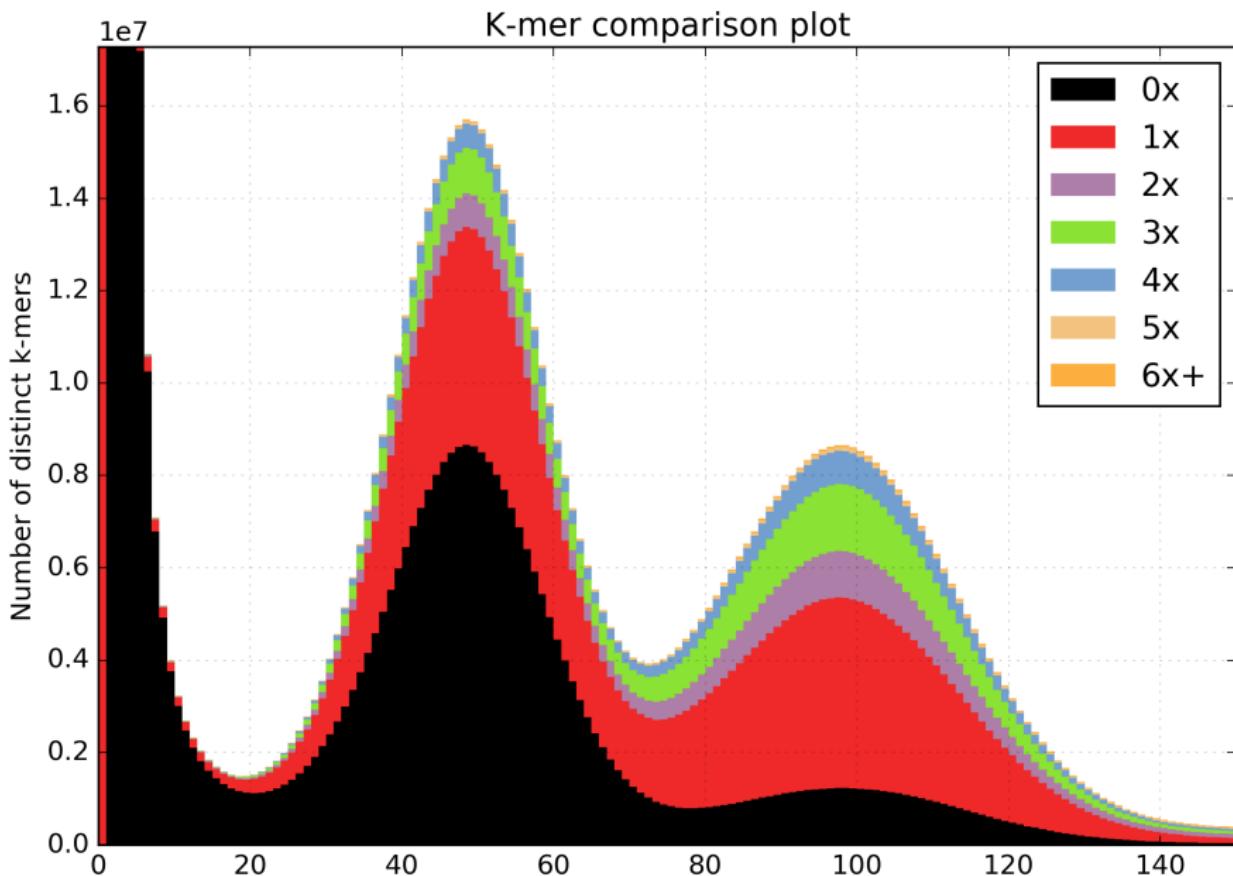
- K-mer spectrum visualization with KAT



## • K-mer spectrum visualization with KAT

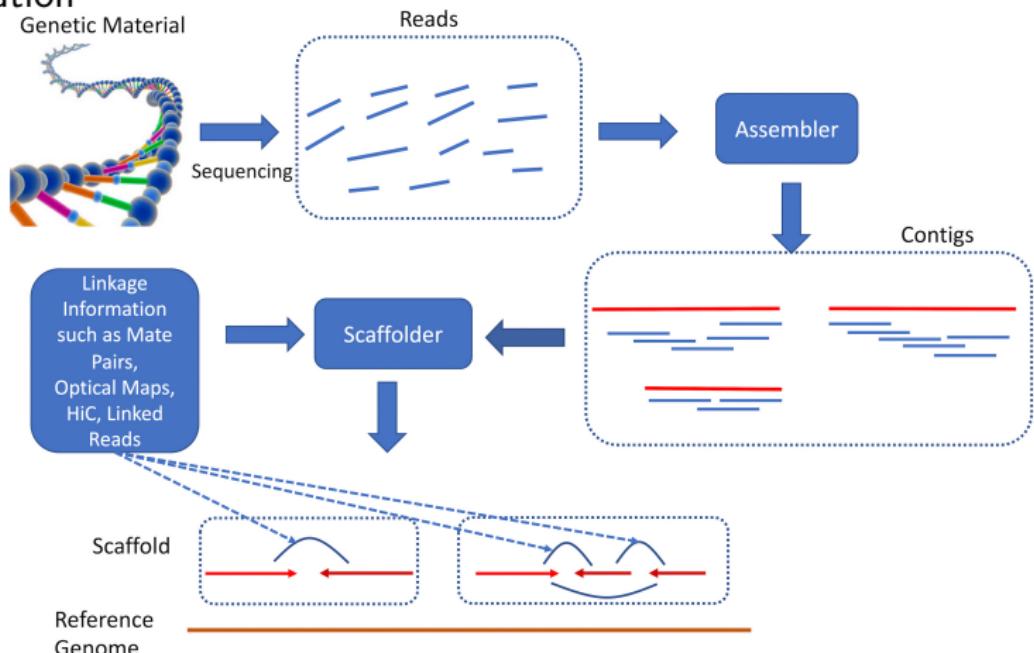


- K-mer spectrum visualization with KAT



## • Scaffolding

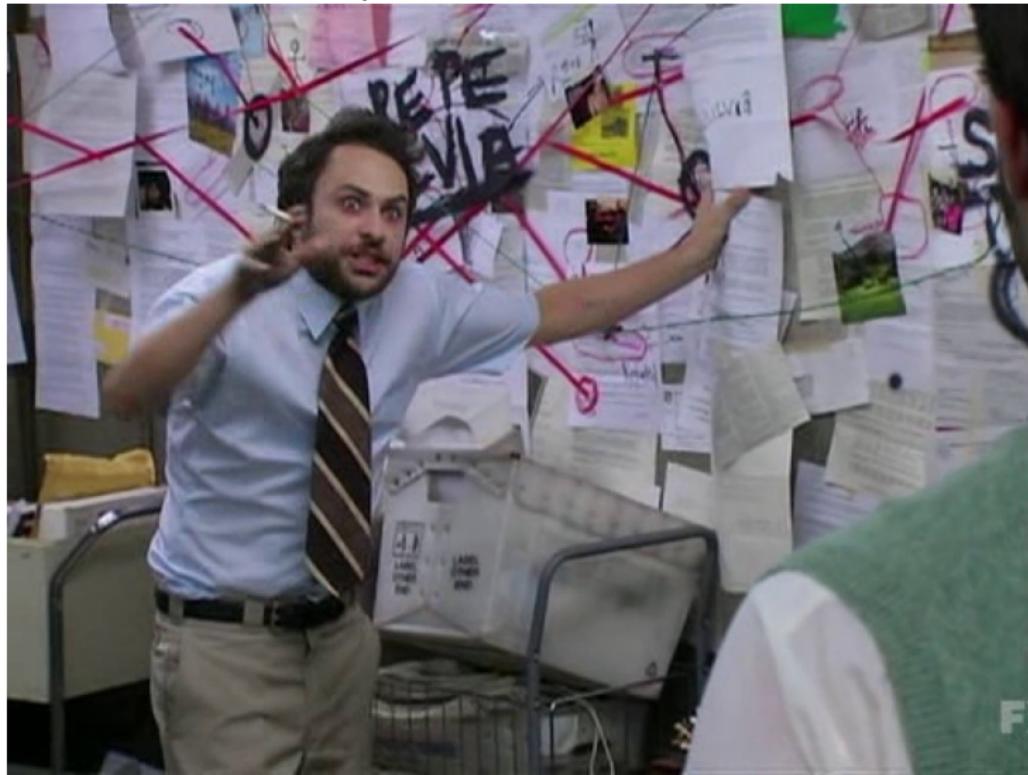
Softwares can improve the assembly continuity by using other kinds of information



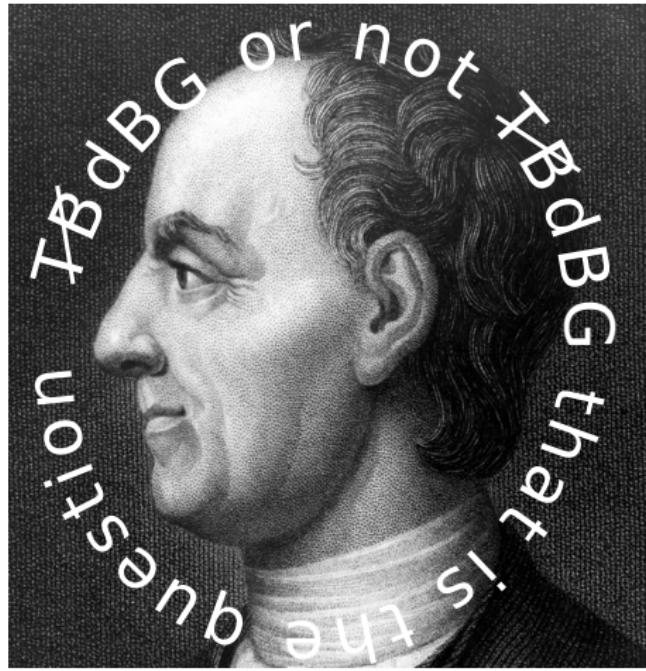
From "Modern technologies and algorithms for scaffolding assembled genomes" Plos Computational Biology

- The end

... of the theoretical part



- Intermission



## • Sanger



- Medium reads  $\approx 1000\text{bp}$
- Very low error rate  $\approx 0.01\%$
- low throughput (up to billion of reads per run)
- Costly (\$500/Mb)

No longer used for assembly

- Second generation sequencing



NextSeq Series



HiSeq 4000 System



HiSeq X Series<sup>‡</sup>



NovaSeq 6000  
System

- Short reads  $\approx 150bp$
- Low error rate  $< 1\%$
- High throughput (up to billion of reads per run)
- Cheap (\$0.50/Mb)
- GC bias

Mainly assembled using de Bruijn graphs

- State-of-the-art

### Well performing assemblers

- SPAdes [Bankevich 2012]
- Megahit [Li 2015]
- IDBA [Peng 2012]



### Other notable assemblers

- SGA [Simpson 2012]
- Discovar denovo [Weisenfeld 2014]
- Abyss [Simpson 2009]

- Third generation sequencing



- Long reads  $\approx 10 - 100\text{ kbp}$
- High error rate  $\approx 10\%$
- High throughput (up to millions of reads per run)

- Nanopore VS Pacbio

### Nanopore

- Portable
- Ultra long reads (100kbases, some reads reach the megabase level)
- Mostly deletions

### Pacbio

- More mature
- HiFi reads (99.9% identity)
- Mostly insertions

- Repeats spanning

Genome:

GGTAATGGTTTTTGGTGCTAATGCGTTTTTTCATGGATGTCGTAATTTTTATCTG

Reads:

GGTAATG TTTTTT GTGCTAAT GTTTTTT ATGGATG TTTTTTA  
ATGGGTTT AATGCGTT ATGTCGT CGTAATT TTTATCTG  
TTTGGTG TTTCATG

Contexts of the repeat:

...ATGG

ATCT...

???TTTTT???

GGTG...

...TGC

CATG...

...GTAA

## • Repeats spanning

Genome:

GGTAATGGTTTTTGGTGCTAAATGCCTTTTTTCATGGATGTCTGAATTTTTATCTG

Reads:

GGTAATGTTTTTGTGCTAAATGCCTTTTTATGGATGATGTCTGTTTTTTA  
ATGGCTTAAATGCCCTTTTATCTGCTGAATTTTATCTG  
TTTGGTGTTCATGCTGAATT

Long reads:

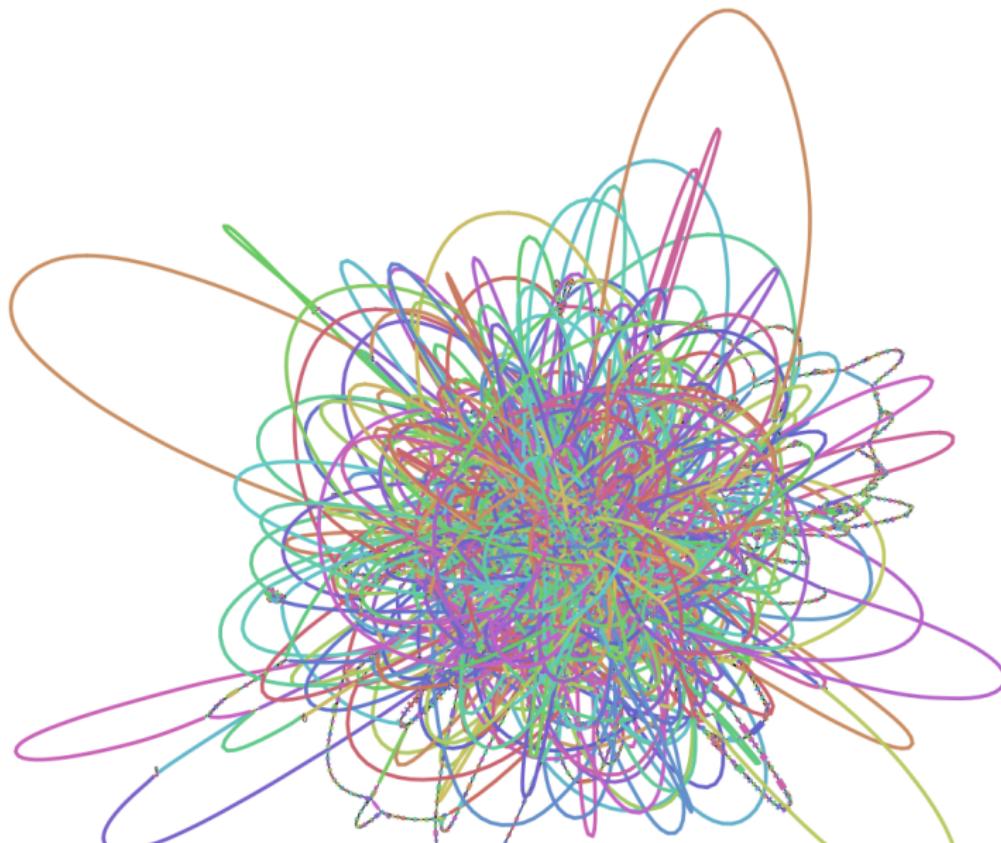
TGGTTTTTGGT      TGCCTTTTTTCAT      TGAATTTTTATCT

Contexts of the repeats:

...ATGG → GGTG...      ...TGCG → CATG...      ...GTAA → ATCT...

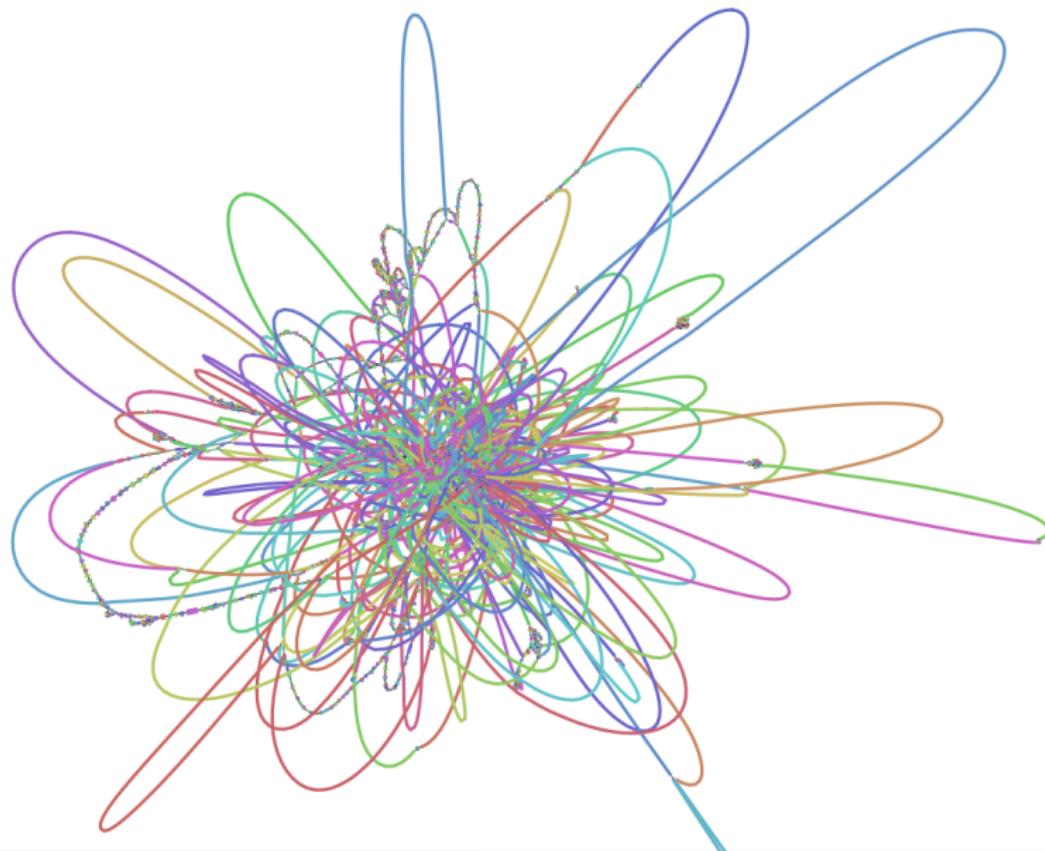
- Read length matters

Read size=21



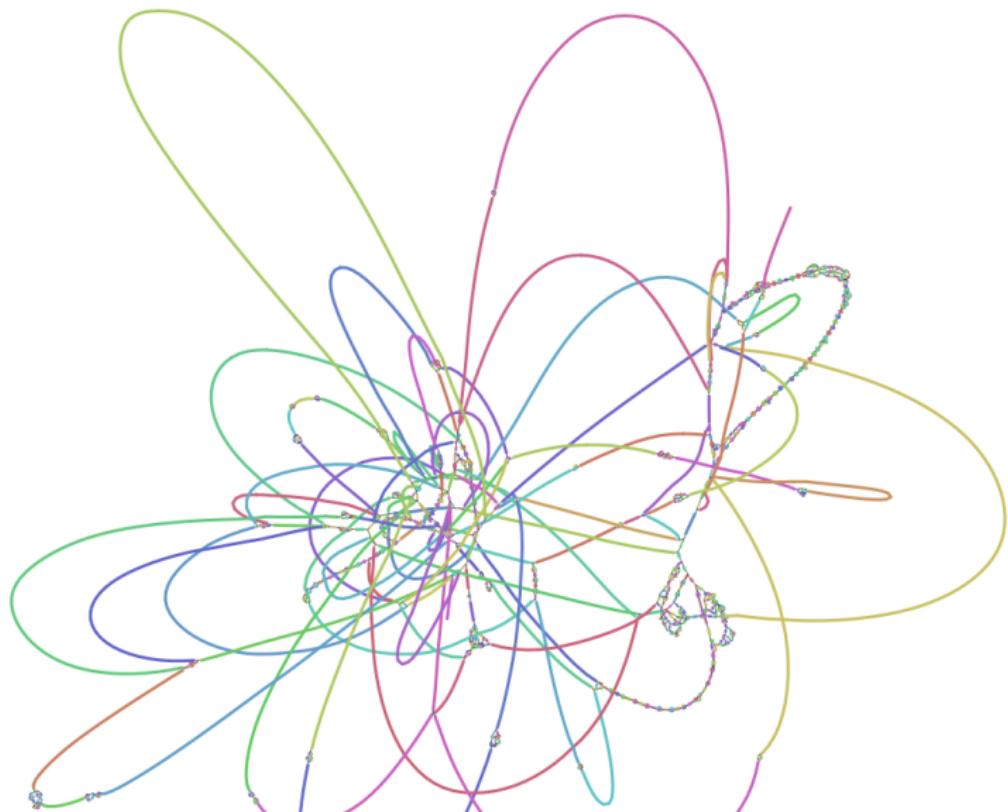
- Read length matters

Read size=31



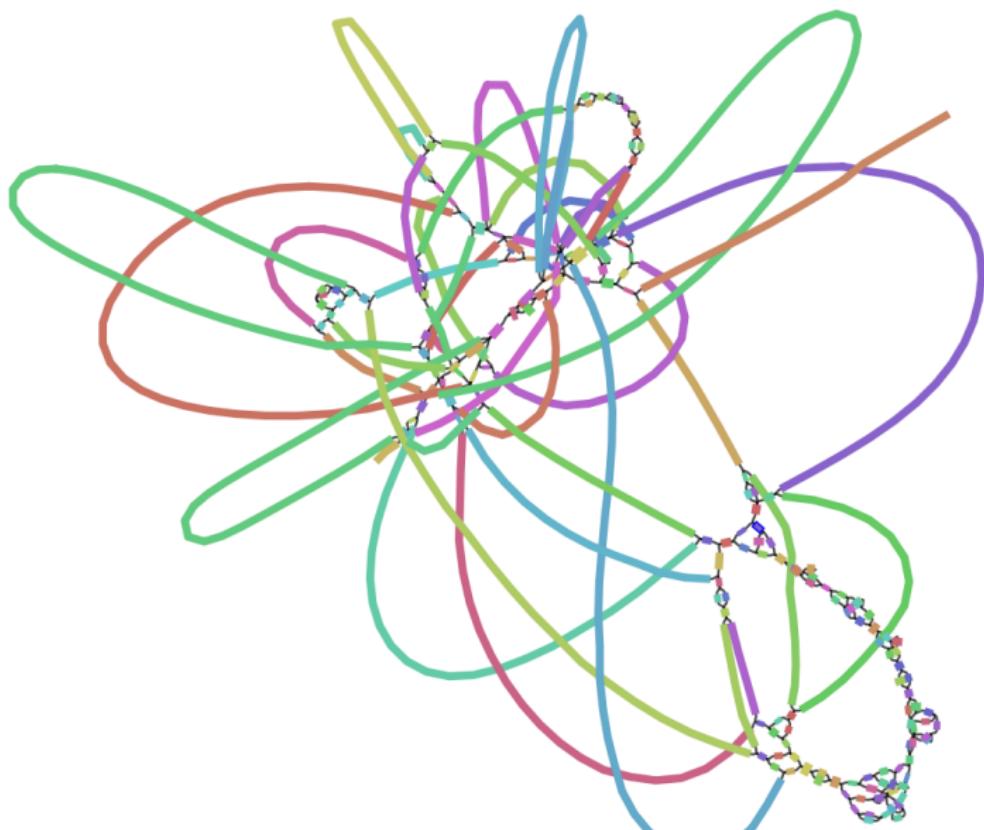
- Read length matters

Read size=63



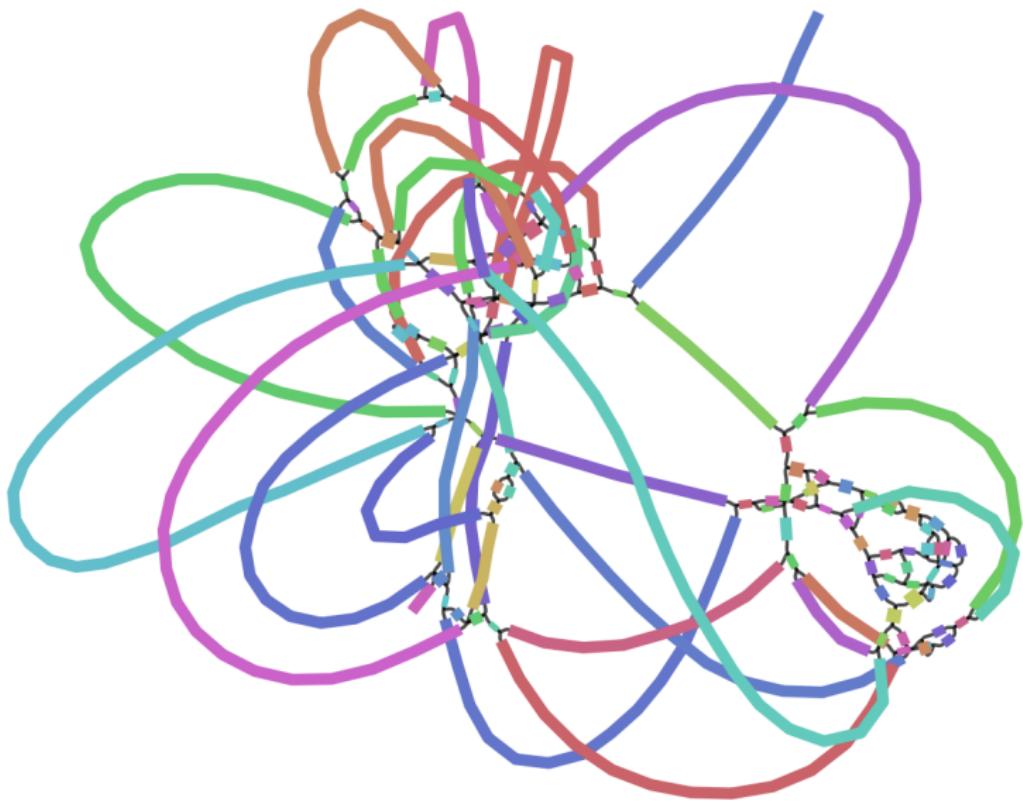
- Read length matters

Read size=255



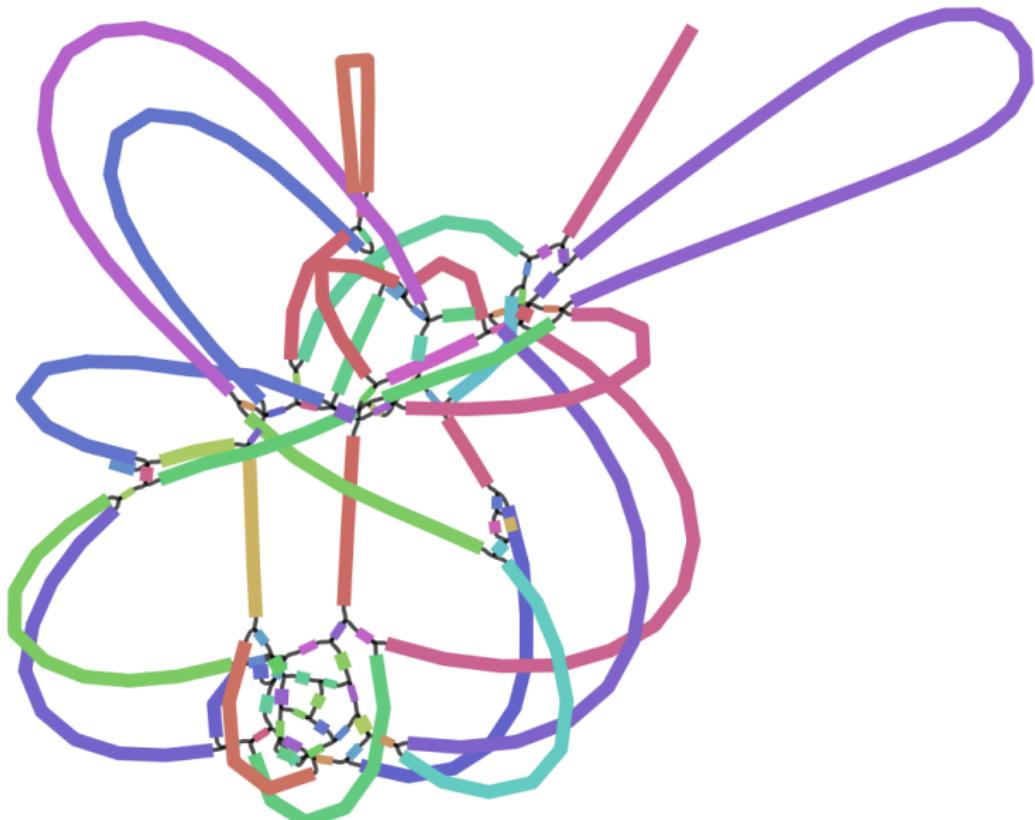
- Read length matters

Read size=500



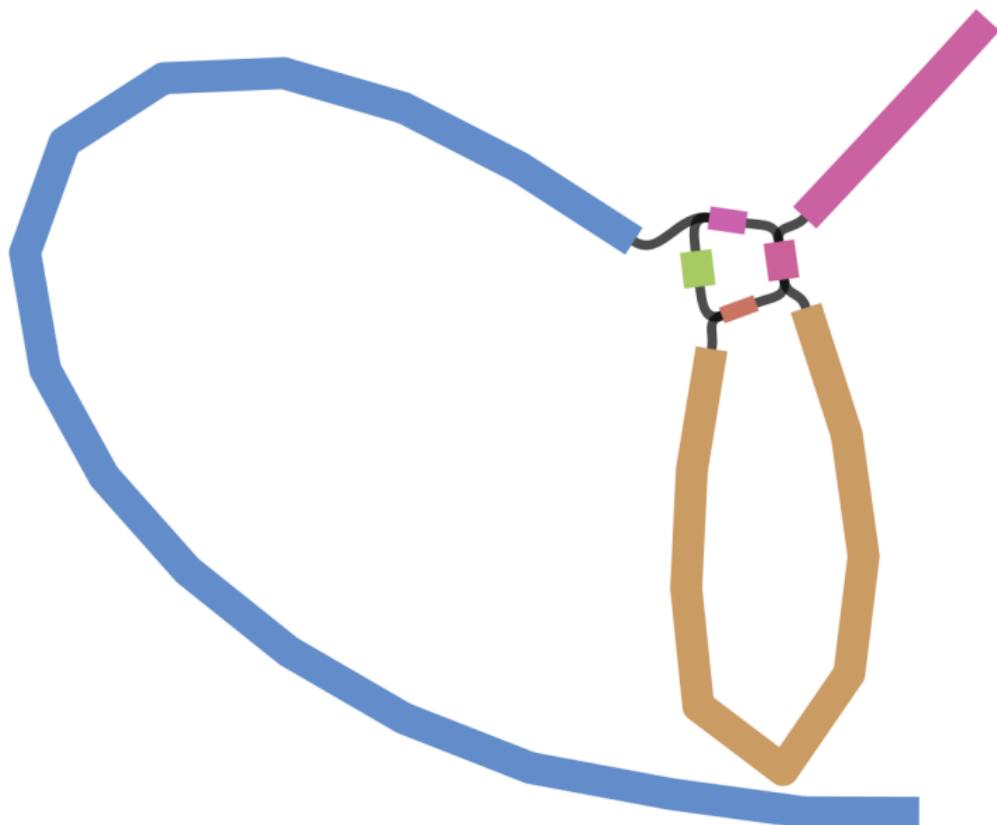
- Read length matters

Read size=1000

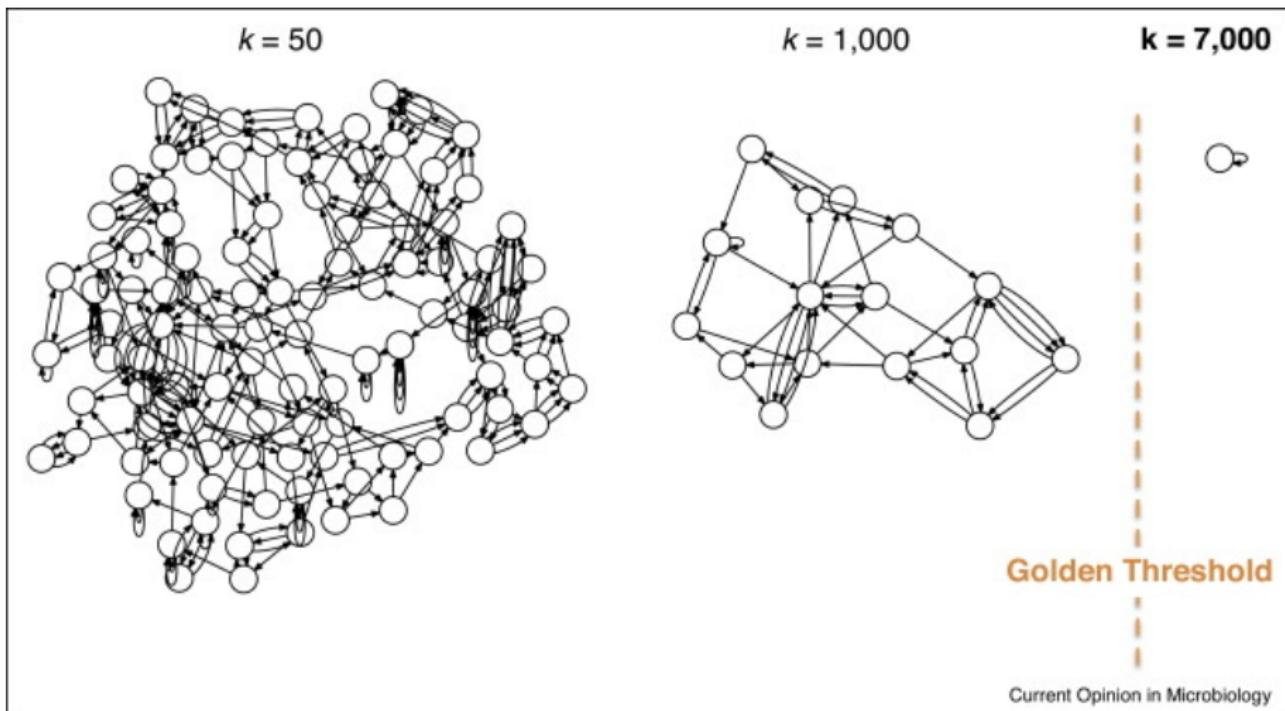


- Read length matters

Read size=2000



- Great hope for assembly



From "One chromosome, one contig: complete microbial genomes from long-read sequencing and assembly" Current Opinion in Microbiology 2015

- Long reads killed the assembly star

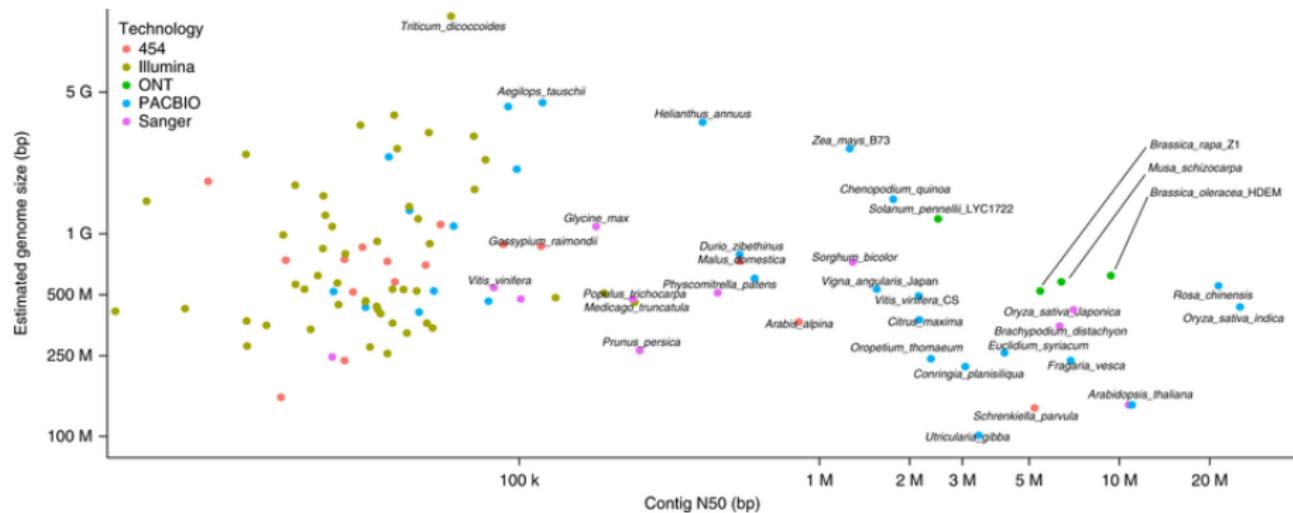


**Laura Landweber** @LandweberLab · Jan 2

▼

Our newest version of *Oxytricha*'s somatic genome is out ([rdcu.be/bZNfC](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.2000001)) and has 18,617 distinct chromosomes. That's 2000 more than we previously published in [doi.org/10.1371/journal....](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0040001) PacBio captured most chromosomes in single reads: Genome sequence, No assembly required

## • Great hope for assembly



From "Chromosome-scale assemblies of plant genomes using nanopore long reads and optical maps" Nature Plants 2018

- Which assembly strategy is best suited?

- Long reads  $\approx 10\text{ kbp}$
- High error rate  $\approx 10\%$
- High throughput (up to millions of reads per run)

Based on long reads properties, which assembly solution would you choose and why?

Vote!

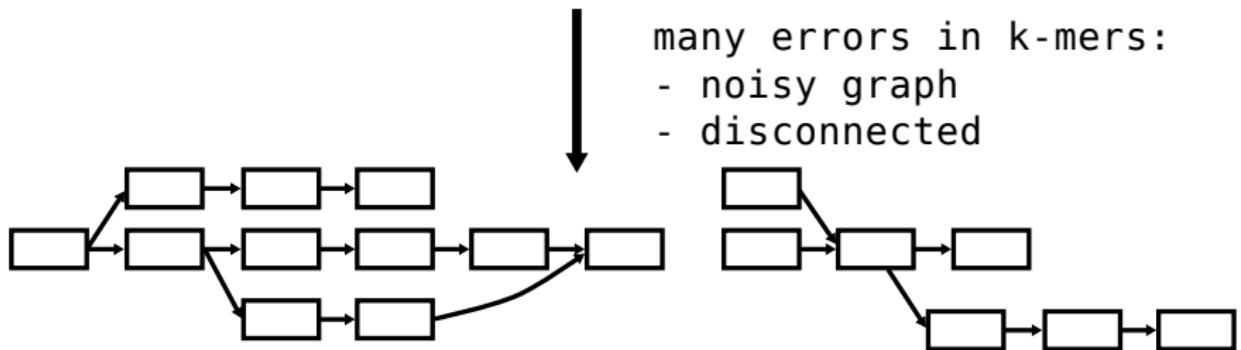
- Greedy
- Overlap graph
- de Bruijn graph

- Long reads for assembly: de Bruijn graph?

genome



reads



## • Long reads for assembly: overlap graph?

Supposed to be super expensive!

TAAGAAAGCTCTGAATCACGGACTCGCACAATAAGTGGTGTATCCAGAATTTCACTTCAAGTAAAAACACCTCACGAGTTAACACCTAAGTTC

TAAGAAAGCT

AAGAAAGCTC

AGAAAGCTCT

GAAAGCTCTG

AAAGCTCTGA

AAGCTCTGAA

AGCTCTGAAT

GCTCTGAATC

CTCTGAATCA

TCTGAATCAA

CTGAATCAAC

TGAATCAACG

GAATCAACGG

AATCAACGGA

ATCAACGGAC

TCAACGGACT

CAACGGACTG

AACGGACTGC

ACGGACTGG

CGGACTCGGA

GGACTCGGAC

GACTCGGACA

ACTCGGACAA

CTCGGACAAAT

TCCGACAAATA

...

Average coverage: 10

Read length: 10

Average overlap: 9

Read number: 100

TAAGAAAGCTCTGAATCACGGACTCGCACAATAAGTGGTGTATCCAGAATTTCACTTCAAGTAAAAACACCTCACGAGTTAACACCTAAGTTC

TAAGAAAGCTCTGAATCACGGACTCGCACA

GAAGAGCTCTGAATCACGGACTCGCACAAT

AGCTCTGAATCACGGACTCGCACAATAAG

TCTGAATCACGGACTCGCACAATAAGTGG

GAATCAACGGACTCGCACAATAAGTGGTGG

TCAACGGACTCGCACAATAAGTGGTGTAT

ACGGACTCGCACAATAAGTGGTGTATCCA

GAATCGCACAATAAGTGGTGTATCCAG

TCCGACAAATAAGTGGTGTATCCAGAAT

GACAATAAGTGGTGTATCCAGAATTTG

ATAAAGTGGTGTATCCAGAATTGTC

Average coverage: 10

Read length: 30

Average overlap: 27

Read number: 33

- Longer reads, better overlaps

- Less reads for the same coverage
- Larger overlaps

5Mb bacteria example with 100X coverage

#### Short reads

- 5 million 100bp reads
- 99 bp average overlap

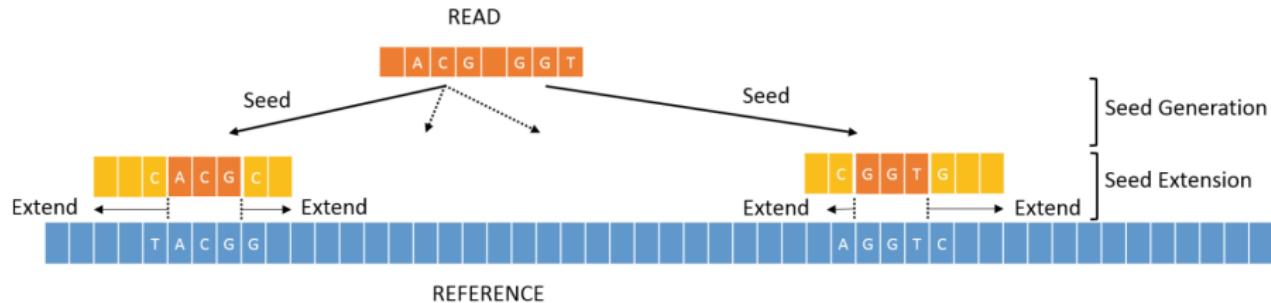
#### Long reads

- 50,000 10kbp reads
- 9,900 bp average overlap

#### Very long reads

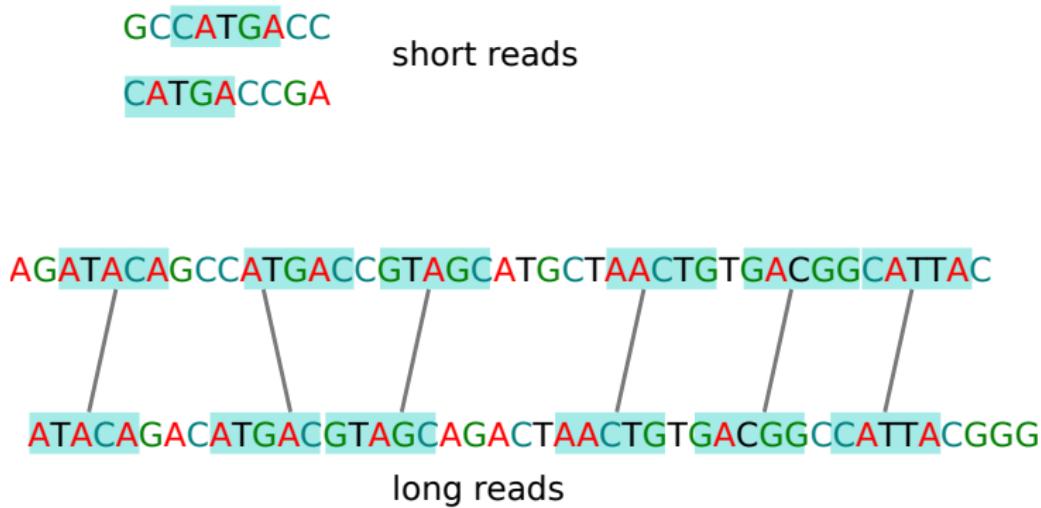
- 5,000 100kbp reads
- 99,000 bp average overlap

- Are large overlaps hard to compute?



Aligning very long and highly erroneous regions is expected to be expensive, as alignment is quadratic  $\approx \mathcal{O}(n^2)$  !

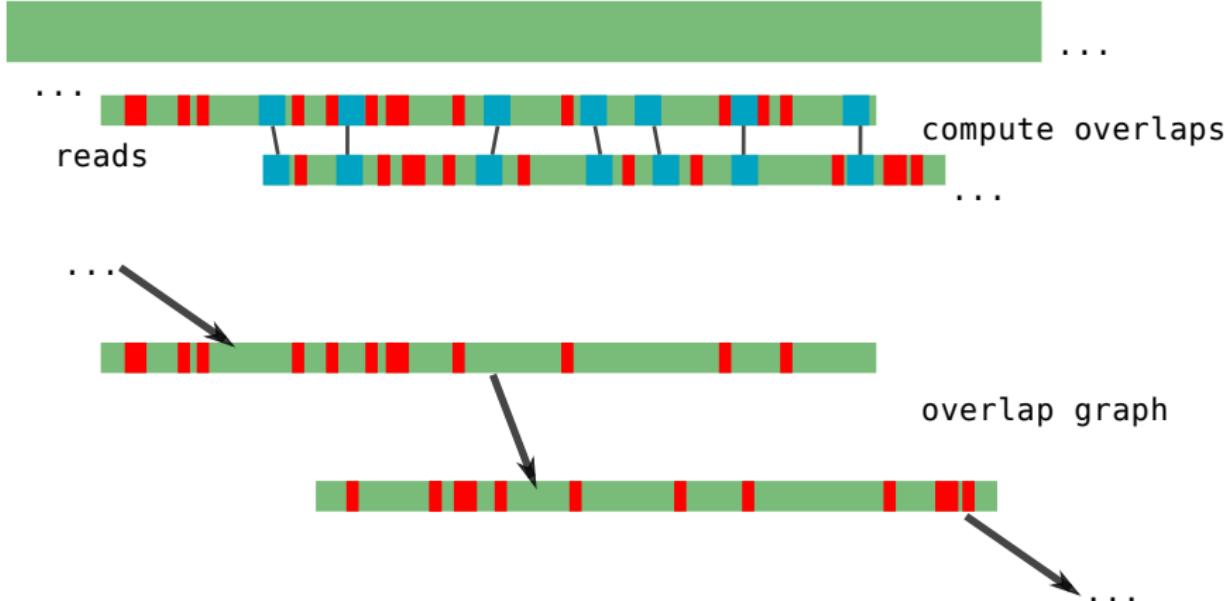
- "Anchor chaining" in overlap graph



- For long reads: typically Minimap's [Li 2016] job
- "Anchor chaining": find common chains of anchors ( $k$ -mers) in the same order in 2 sequences (can be **linear** in practice in most cases)

- Long reads for assembly: overlap graphs

genome



- Sequencing errors

Genome:

ATCGGTATCGTTACGGTATAACC

Reads:

ATCG**G**TATCG  
GGTAT**CGT**CTA  
AT**T**GTTACGG

(Substitution)  
(Insertion)  
(Deletion)

Insertion and deletion made calling almost impossible

- Using coverage to remove noise: Consensus

Genome:

TAAGAAAAGCTCTGAATCAACGGACTGCGACAATAAGTGGTGGTATCCAGAATTTCACCTT

Reads:

AAAGAAAAGCACTGAATCATGGGACTTCGAG  
GAAAGCTCTCAACCAACGGACTGCGACTTT  
ACCTCTCAAGCAACGGACTGCGACAAAAAAG  
TCTGAATCACCGGACTGCGTCAAAAAGTGC  
GAATCACCGGACTGCGACAGTTGTGGTGG  
TCAACCGCACTGCGACAATAAGTCCTGGTAT  
ACGGACTGCGACAAAAAGTGTGGTATCCA  
GAECTGCCACAAAAAGTGGTGGTATCCAG  
TCCGACAAAAAGTGGGGTATCCAGAAT  
GACAATAAGGGGGTGGTATCCAATTTG  
AAAAAGGGGTGGTATCCAGAATTTC  
TAAGTGGGGTATCCAATTTTCAGTT

Consensus:

AAAGATAGCTCTGAATCAACGGACTGCGACAAAAAGTGGTGGTATCCAGAATTTCAGTT  
1/1            4/7            9/10            6/11            3/4

- Exercise: Perform a consensus

Erroneous reads:

TAAGAAAGCTCTGAATCAAACGGTACTGCGA  
GAAAGCTTGAATCAAACGGACTGCGACAA  
AGCTCTGAATCAACGGACTGCGACAATAA

Contig to polish:

TAAGAAAGCTTGAATCAACGGAATGGCGACAATAA

- Exercise: Perform a consensus - solution

Correct contig:

**TAAGAAAGCTCTAATCAA-CGGACTG-CGACAATAA**

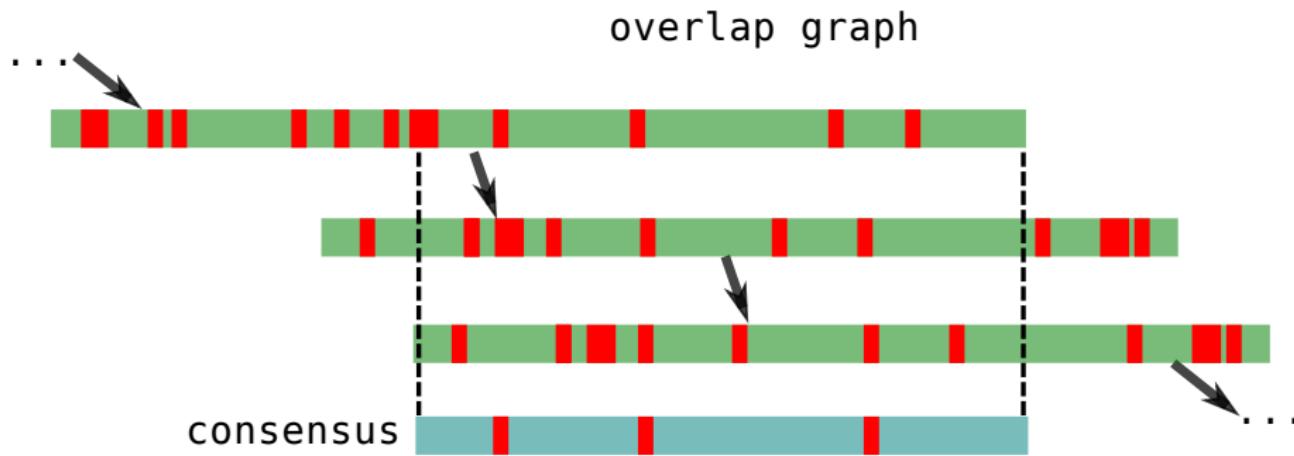
Aligned reads:

TAAGAAAGCTCTAATCAA**A**CGGACTG**T**CGA

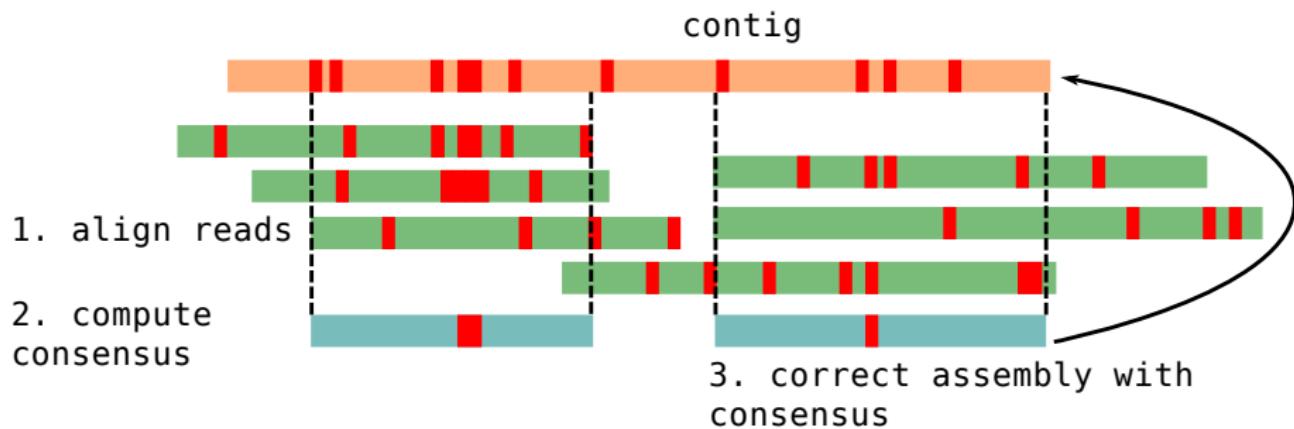
AAAGCT**-**TAATCAA-CGGACTG-CGACAAT

GCTCTAATCAA-CGG**-**CTG-CGACAATAA

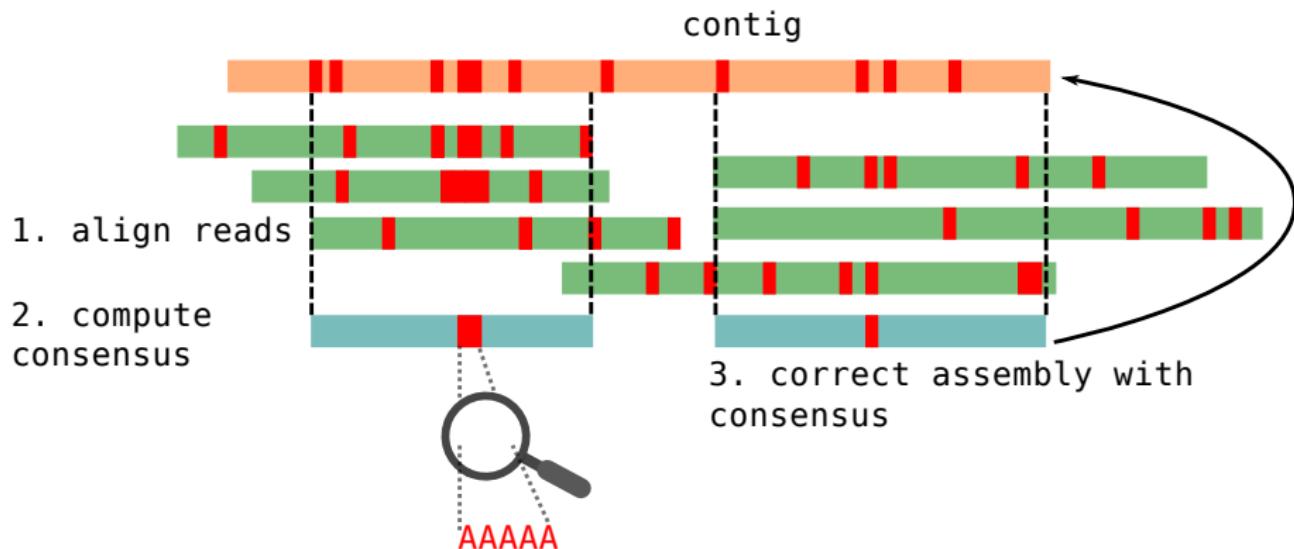
- Consensus during assembly



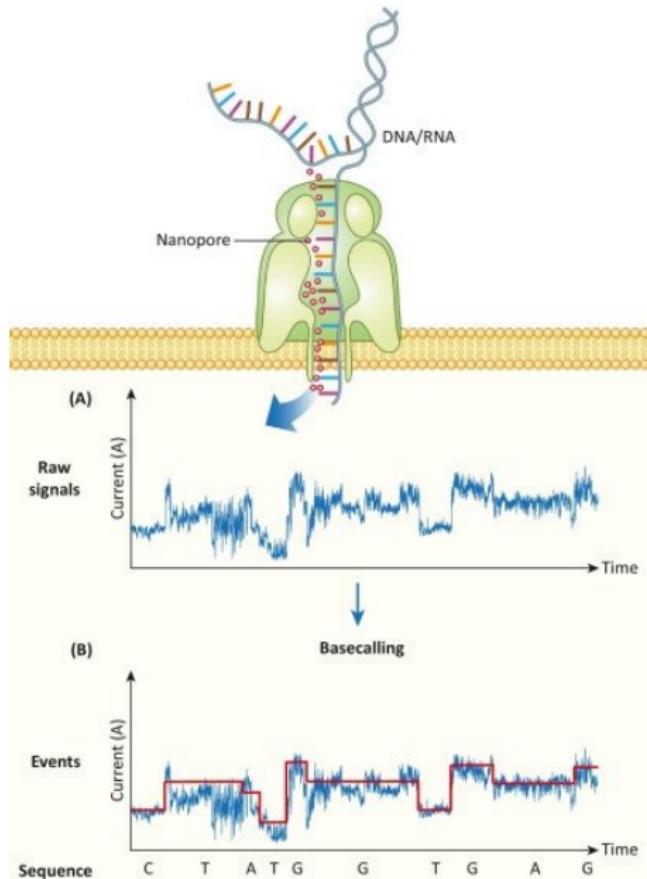
- Consensus after assembly: polishing



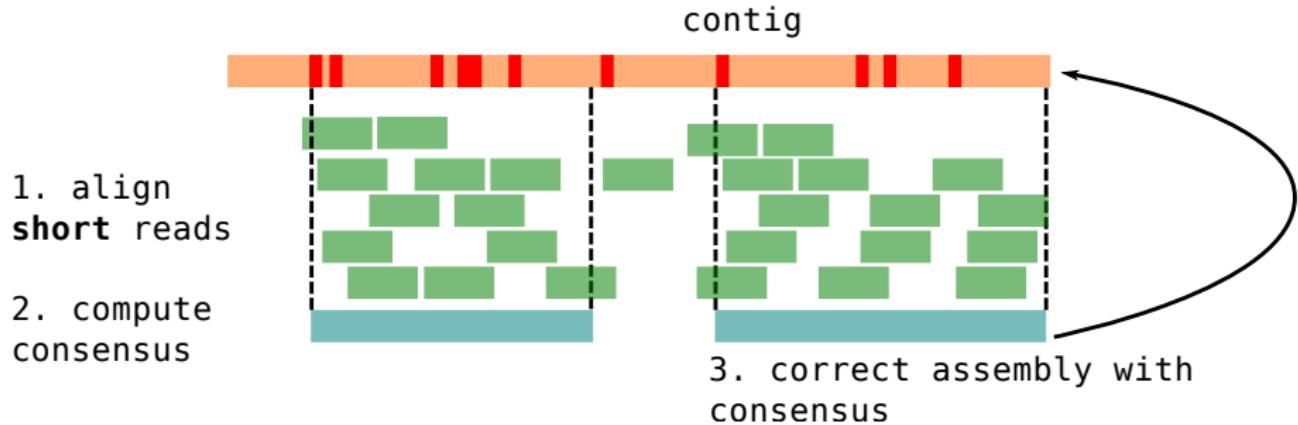
- Consensus after assembly: polishing



- Homopolymers are hard to read



- Polishing using accurate reads

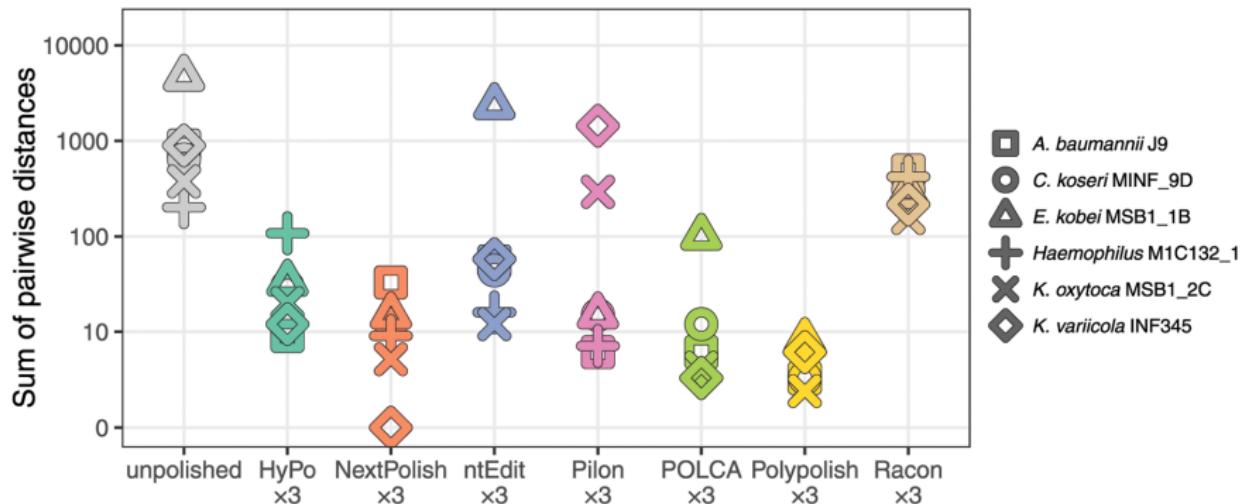


## • Systematics errors

Polishing with Illumina data can improve the final error rate

### A. Single-tool short-read polishing

ALE change: 0 110696 113366 87707 113056 113061 115623 82446  
total distance: 7635 212 74 2519 1775 128 28 1867

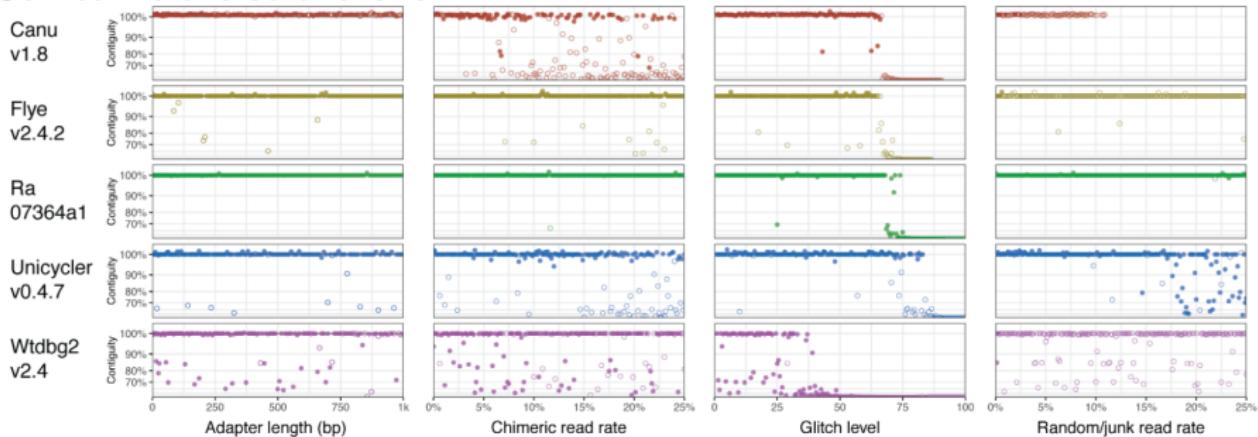


From Polypolish: Short-read polishing of long-read bacterial genome assemblies

- Long reads for assembly: assembly solved?

**Assembly is not solved yet**

Sometime the software fail



From [github.com/rrwick/Long-read-assembler-comparison](https://github.com/rrwick/Long-read-assembler-comparison)

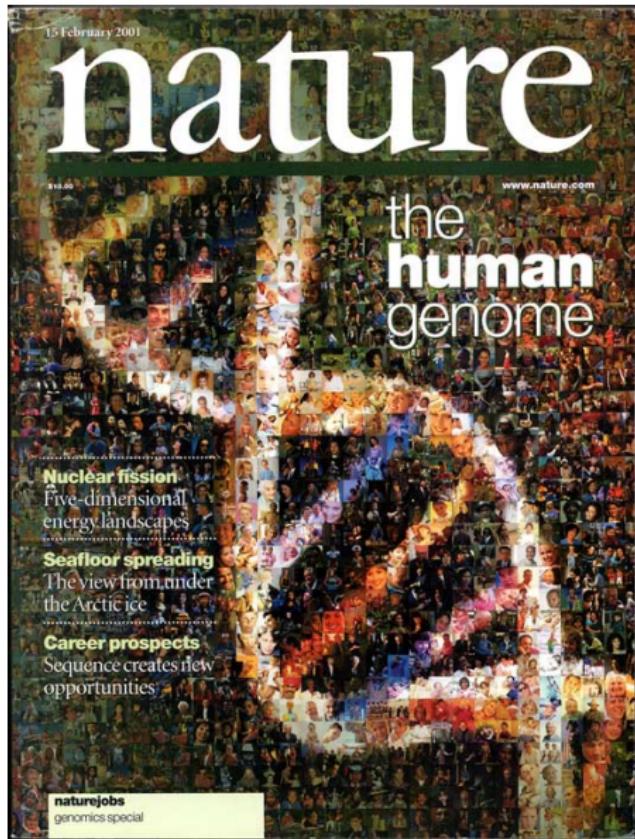
- Long reads for assembly: assembly solved?

## **Assembly is not solved yet**

Sometimes the data cannot solve the problem

- Very large repeated region
- Low local coverage
- Chimeric/noisy reads

- 20 years later



- Telomere-to-Telomere consortium

**Has produced in 2021 a complete human genome with one contig per chromosomes !**

- 30x PacBio HiFi
- 120x coverage of Oxford Nanopore (ultra long reads)
- 70x PacBio CLR
- 10X Genomics, BioNano DLS and Arima Genomics HiC
- 100 authors from 50 labs

- Long reads assemblers

### Best performing assemblers

- Flye (Repeat graph) [Kolmogorov et al 2019]
- Raven (OLC) [Vaser et al 2021]
- NECAT/MECAT(OLC) [Xiao et al 2017]

### Other notable assemblers

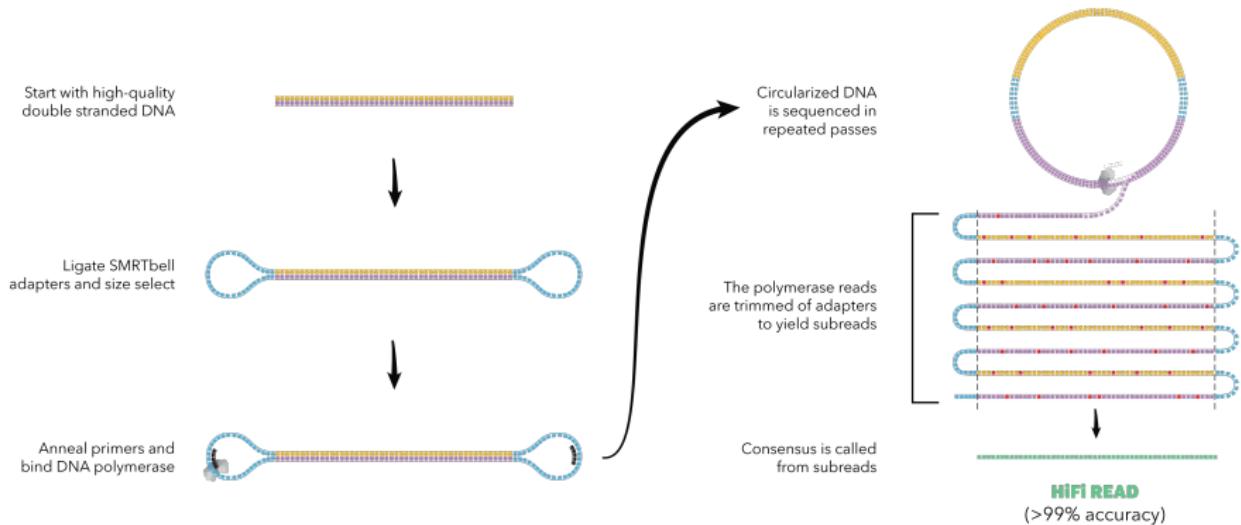
- Canu (Greedy) [Koren et al 2017]
- Shasta (OLC) [Saffin et al 2020]
- Redbean (fuzzy de Bruijn graph) [Ruan 2019]
- ...

## • Long read assembly summary

- Overlap graphs with quick overlap computation
- Long reads can span repeats and improve assemblies
- Methods to polish contigs



## • Consensus during sequencing



### HiFi data

Stands for "High Fidelity"

Very low error rates  $\approx 0.1\% \text{ } 0.01\%$

Almost only homopolymer errors remain

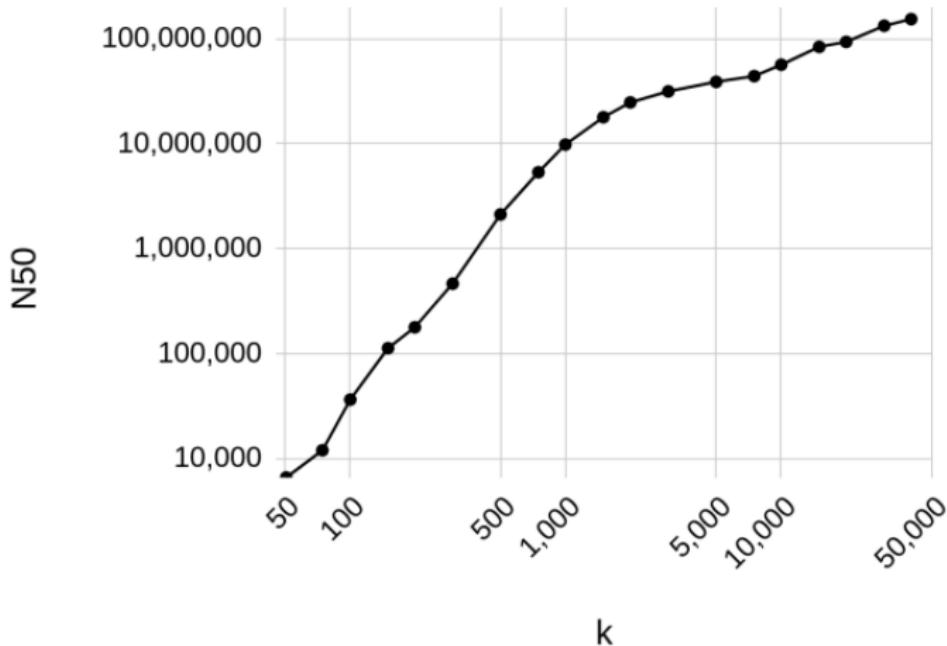
## • HiFi Assembly

With almost error-less long reads we have several promising improvements ahead:

- Use de Bruijn graph (more efficient data structures)
- Assemble large genomes very fast
- Perform diploid assembly

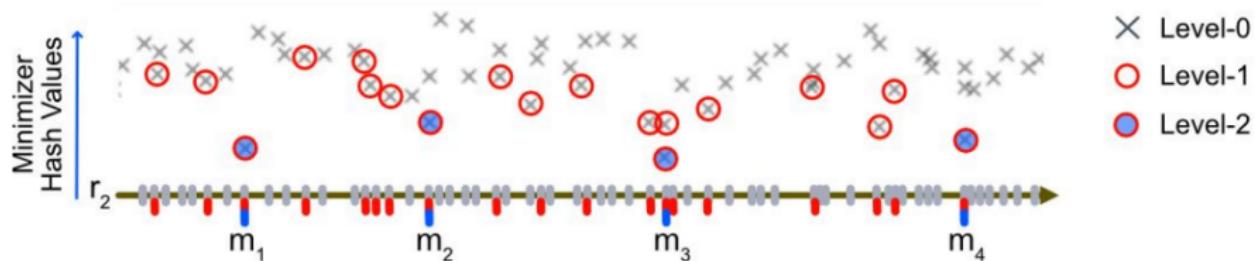
## • de Bruijn graph Assembly

Using K=500 and K=5000 de Bruijn graphs to assemble

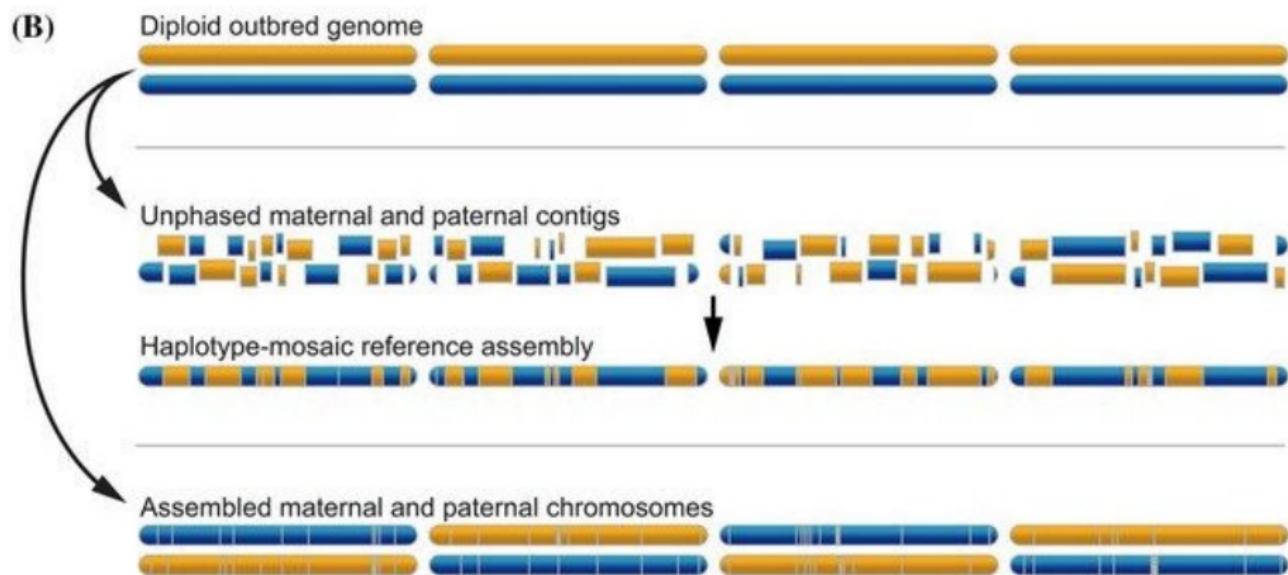


- Very fast genome assembly

Human genome assembled within 2 hours (Peregrine assembler) and 10 minutes (RMBG assembler)

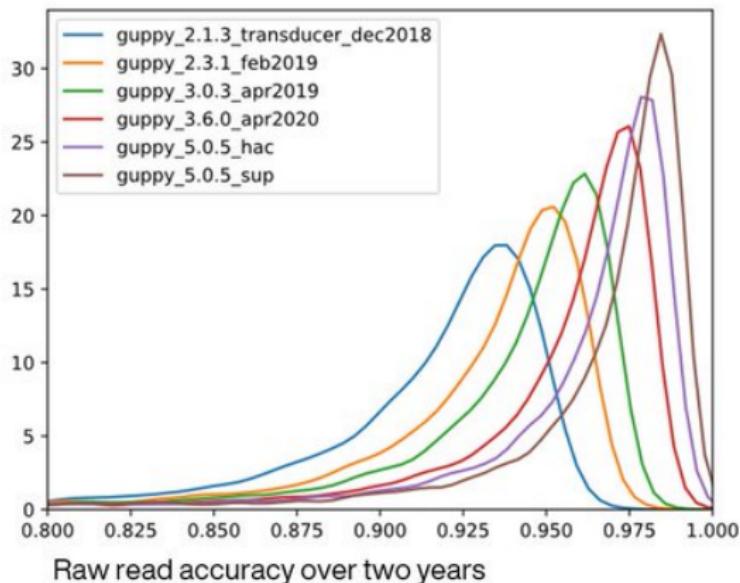


- Diploid assembly



## ● Ongoing progress

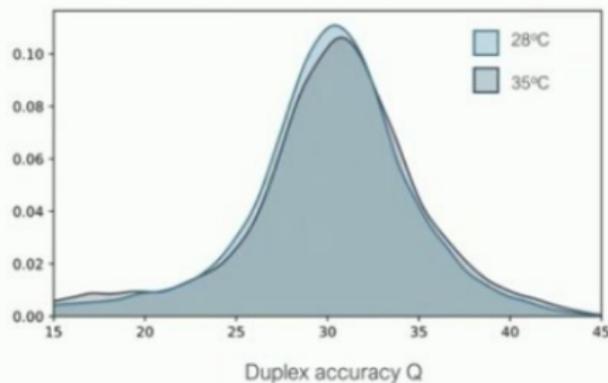
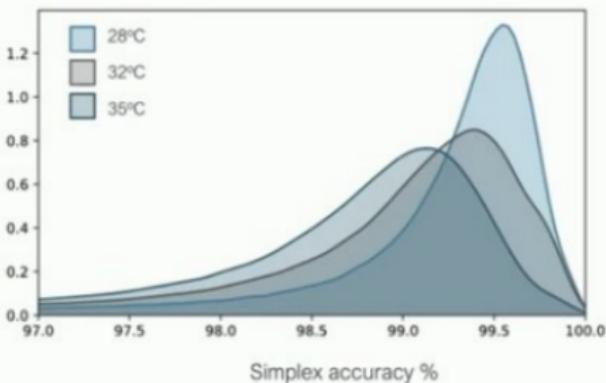
Errors in Nanopore sequencing data are rapidly diminishing



Q20 chemistry achieved modal accuracy > 99%

- High fidelity nanopore incoming?

Nanopore duplex reads could deliver long and precise reads in the future



- The end



- Take home messages

### Ultra fast summary

- Short reads: de Bruijn graphs / Long reads: Overlap graph
- Repeats are the core issue
- Output fragments of genomes (**contigs**)
- Several parameters and heuristics used in practice

- On going work

### Assembly Challenges

- Reconstruct haplotypes
- Scaling on large genomes
- Robustness to noisy data
- Repetitive regions

- The end



**PopGenGoogling**  
@popgengoogling

i trust you to figure out your own genome

[Traduire le Tweet](#)

3:01 AM · 14 déc. 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

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**37** Retweets    **267** J'aime

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