



#### Inter EURL workshop - 2023

# Assembly and assembly statistics



## Recap













De novo assembly

Genome is unknown and will be constructed from scratch



Genome is expected to be highly similar to previous assembly (the reference genome), we are looking at differences between the two





#### De novo assembly using de Bruijn graphs

<ul> <li>De Bruijn graph is</li> </ul>	<u>Reads</u>	<b>Resulting 3mers</b>
constructed using kmers	ATGCG —	ATG TGC
<ul> <li>Kmers are obtained by splitting the sequence into overlapping "sub"sequences of length k</li> </ul>		GCG
<ul> <li>Repeated for more reads</li> </ul>		
• The most likely genome is		

 The most likely genome is constructed by joining all nodes, traveling each edge only ones

#### De novo assembly using de Bruijn graphs



#### De novo assembly using de Bruijn graphs

**Reads Resulting 3mers** • Example: ATGCG - Reads of 5 bp is split AGG AGGCG into kmers of length 3 GGC (3mers) GCG – De Brujn graph GCG TGC constructed with 3mers ATG as edges - Process repeated for GGC AGG new read

#### De novo assembly using de Bruijn graphs



#### From fastq to fasta

 Read length simplifies graph as longer kmers can be used ©SRR1928200.1 HWI-ST1106:418:D1H56ACXX:2:1207:10978:124033/1 GCCGAGTGATATCGCTGACGTCATCCTTGAGGGTGAAGTTCAGGTCGTCGAGCAACTCGGCAACGAAACTCAAATCCATATCCAGATCCCTTCCATTCG -

@CFFDFBFFHHHJJJIJIJIGGIIJJJGIIHIFBGHIHHHJJIIFGHIGJJJHHHHFFFCCDDDDDDDDCCCC;:@CDDDDDDDDDCDDDCDDDC>CDD>

- Different assemblers
   exist
  - SPAdes
  - MEGAHIT
  - Soapdenovo2
  - "skesa"
- Good for different kinds of data, running time, memory, etc

- N50 is found by:
  - Sorting all contigs in assembly from longest to shortest, starting with the longest
  - Adding together the length of the longest contigs until half the assembly is included
  - The length of the last added contig to reach 50% of the assembly is the N50
- N50 gives a measure for how much of the assembly is captured in as few contigs as possible
- The higher the N50, the better the assembly and sequencing

Total base pairs in assembly: 5.250.012bp

N50 threshold is 5.250.012/2 = 2.625.006bp

	Contig bp	Summed bp
Contig 1	850.000	850.000
Contig 2	700.000	
Contig 3	600.000	
Contig 4	500.000	
Contig 5	400.000	
6	100.000	
7	50.000	

DTU

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Date

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Contig 4	500.000	
Contig 5	400.000	
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Date

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Contig 1	850.000	850.000
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Contig 3	600.000	2.250.000
Contig 4	500.000	2.750.000
Contig 5	400.000	
6	100.000	
7	50.000	

DTU

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Total base pairs in assembly: 5.250.012bp

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		Contig bp	Summed bp
	Contig 1	850.000	850.000
у	Contig 2	700.000	1.650.000
N50 is 500.000	Contig 3	600.000	2.250.000
	Contig 4	500.000	2.750.000
	Contig 5	400.000	
	6	100.000	
	7	50.000	

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## **Assembly statistics – Depth (Sequence coverage)**

- The number of reads that cover a specific part of the assembled genome is called sequencing depth
- Often also called coverage
- The deeper we sequence a part of the genome, the more sure we are about the called bases



• Average coverage would be:

 $sequence \ coverage = \frac{number \ of \ reads \ * \ average \ read \ length}{Total \ genome \ size}$ 

 If a closed reference genome is available the physical coverage can likewise be calculated

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#### Assembly statistics – number of contigs

- When we assembly we never expect to be able to produce a closed genome (at least not using short read sequencing)
- This is due to several factors including repeated sequences,
- We want the lowest number of contigs possible, as this makes e.g. gene identification and annotation more feasible
- Often, contigs below 200/500bp are not counted



#### **Assembly statistics – total base pairs**

- Total base pairs are the total length of all contigs in your assembly
- For whole genome sequencing we expect it to be close to the actual size of the genome
- Comparing the total base pairs of an assembly with a reference of the same expected sp. can reveal contamination or misidentification
- Rule of thumb: within range of sp. or less than 5-10% deviation.

#### Assembly statistics – (genomic) coverage

- Percentage of the genome covered by reads
- Mainly when reference is available, but can be applied to de novo assemblies
- Setting minimal depth makes metric more reliable as low coverage regions will be sensitive to sequencing error
- Consider using minimal depth e.g. 10x

#### Thank you

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