

# Novel components at the periphery of long read genome assembly tools

A bioinformatics thesis

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Pierre Marijon

Directeurs: Jean-Stéphane Varré, Rayan Chikhi

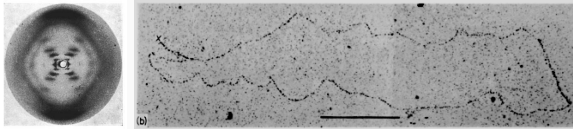
2 december 2019

Équipe BONSAI, Inria, University of Lille

# Introduction

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# Go back to bases



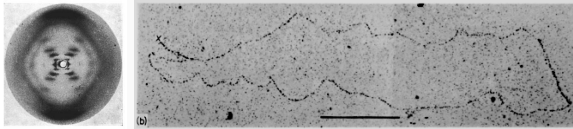
X-ray diffraction of DNA<sup>1</sup> & Autoradiography of *E. coli* chromosome<sup>2</sup>

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# Go back to bases



X-ray diffraction of DNA<sup>1</sup> & Autoradiography of *E. coli* chromosome<sup>2</sup>

DNA is the carrier of genetic information, having access to this information allows us to:

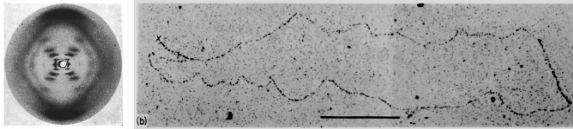
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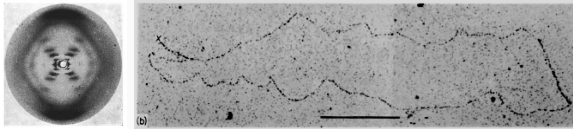
- understand the origin of genetic diseases

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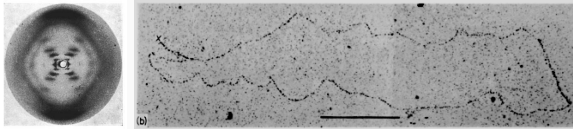
- understand the origin of genetic diseases
- reconstruct steps of the evolution

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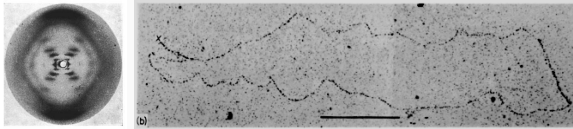
- understand the origin of genetic diseases
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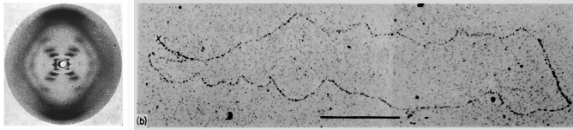
- understand the origin of genetic diseases
- reconstruct steps of the evolution
- identify species
- observe the structure of the population

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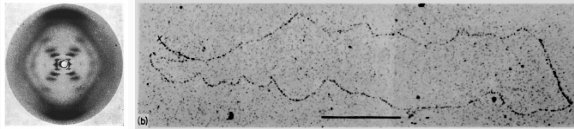
Many biological phenomena can be seen from a genomic perspective

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DNA is the carrier of genetic information, having access to this information allows us to:

- understand the origin of genetic diseases
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Many biological phenomena can be seen from a genomic perspective

How we can read this information ?

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# Reading and assembling DNA: a crazy monk analogy



# Reading and assembling DNA: a crazy monk analogy





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# Reading and assembling DNA: a crazy monk analogy



nostra, pAr inceptos himenaeos  
nostra, per inceptos  
conubia nostra, per inceptos  
diam pharetra vitae. Class  
placemat leo leo, in feugiat diam  
vitae. Clas aptent taciti sociosqu ad  
per inceptos per inceptos leo leEEEo  
per inos Suspendisse placemat leo leo  
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sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia

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# Reading and assembling DNA: a crazy monk analogy



**Biologist**



**Genome**



**Sequencer**

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**Assembly tools**

PhD main concern : improving result of assembly tools without modifying existing assembly tools

We focus on:

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<sup>3</sup>[Marijon et al., 2019b]

<sup>4</sup>[Marijon et al., 2019a]



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We focus on:

- improving input of assembly <sup>3</sup>

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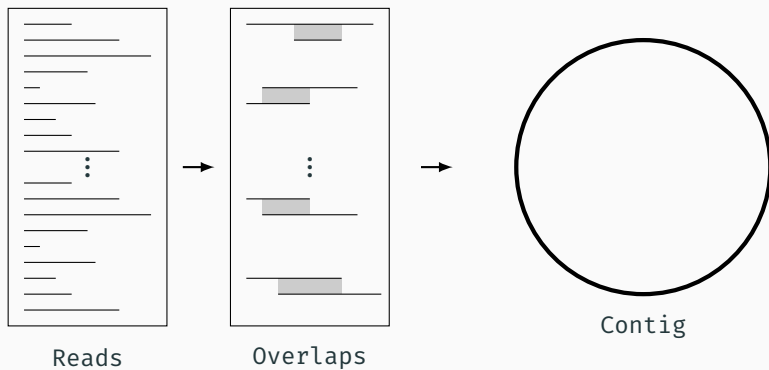
- improving input of assembly <sup>3</sup>
- trying to understand why assembly is fragemented and if we can solve this fragmentation <sup>4</sup>

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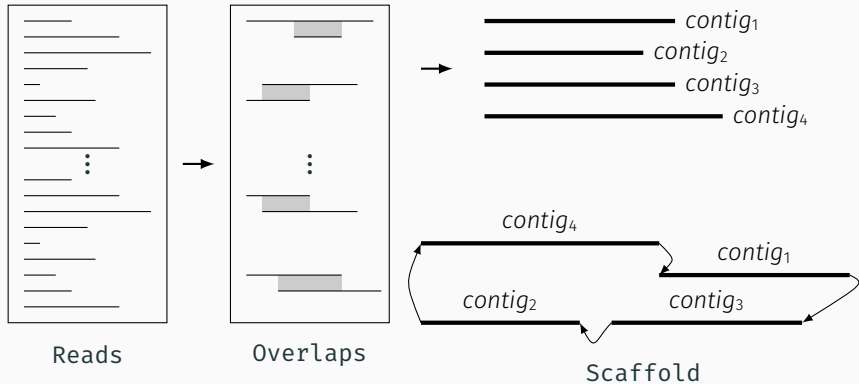
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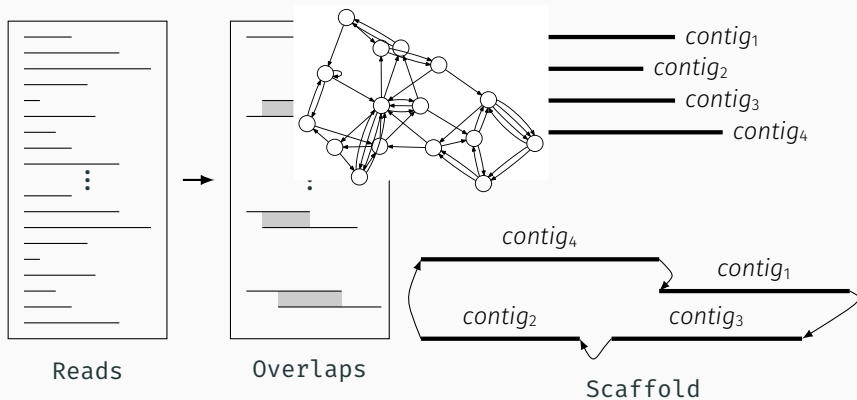
# Glossary



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# Glossary



# Assembly problem isn't solved

Number of contigs	2nd Gen.	3rd Gen.	# chromosome
<i>Gorilla gorilla gorilla</i>			24 x 2
<i>Schistosoma japonicum</i>			8 x 2
<i>Escherichia coli</i>			1
<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>			14 x 2

---

<sup>5</sup>[Scally et al., 2012]

<sup>6</sup>[Gordon et al., 2016]

<sup>7</sup>[Schistosoma japonicum Genome Sequencing and Functional Analysis Consortium, 2009]

<sup>8</sup>[Luo et al., 2019]

<sup>9</sup>GenBank Id 6313798

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# Assembly problem isn't solved

Number of contigs	2nd Gen.	3rd Gen.	# chromosome
<i>Gorilla gorilla gorilla</i>	461,501 <sup>5</sup>		24 x 2
<i>Schistosoma japonicum</i>	95,269 <sup>7</sup>		8 x 2
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1 <sup>9</sup>		1
<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>	1,479,440 <sup>11</sup>		14 x 2

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<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1 <sup>9</sup>	1 <sup>10</sup>	1
<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>	1,479,440 <sup>11</sup>	891,205 <sup>12</sup>	14 x 2

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# Assembly outline

Sequencing

Assembly

Scaffolding  
& Evaluation

# Assembly outline

Sequencing

Pre-assembly

- Overlapping
- Scrubbing

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## Pre-Assembly: fpa and yacrd

---

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Scaffolding

# Overlap definition

$(R_1)$  ACTGAGATGGACTTAGA

|||||

$(R_2)$  ACTTAGAGAGGATAGGATA



# Overlap definition

$(R_1)$  ACTGAGATGGACTTAGA

|||||

$(R_2)$  ACTTAGAGAGGATAGGATA

$(R_1)$  ACTGAGATGGACTTAGA

||| |

$(R_3)$  ACT-ACACATGGTAGTAGAA

# Overlap definition

( $R_1$ ) ACTGAGATGGACTTAGA  
                  | | | | |  
                  ( $R_2$ ) ACTTAGAGAGGATAGGATA

( $R_1$ ) ACTGAGATGGACTTAGA  
                  | | | | |  
                  ( $R_3$ ) ACT-ACACATGGTAGTAGAA

Some third generation overlapping tools: **daligner** [Myers, 2014],  
**MHAP** [Koren et al., 2017], **Minimap2** [Li, 2016a, Li, 2018].

## Some overlaps are too short to be useful



**Shaun Jackman**

@sjackman

October 4, 2018

I have a 1.2 TB PAF.gz file of minimap2 all-vs-all alignments of 18 flowcells of Oxford Nanopore reads.

## Some overlaps are too short to be useful

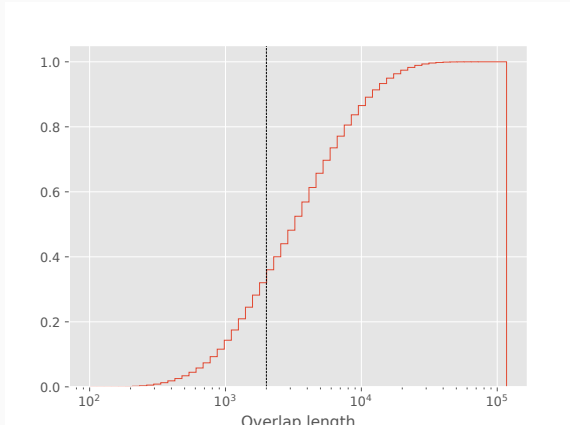
In a typical assembly pipeline (Minimap2/Miniasm<sup>13</sup>), overlap lengths look like this:

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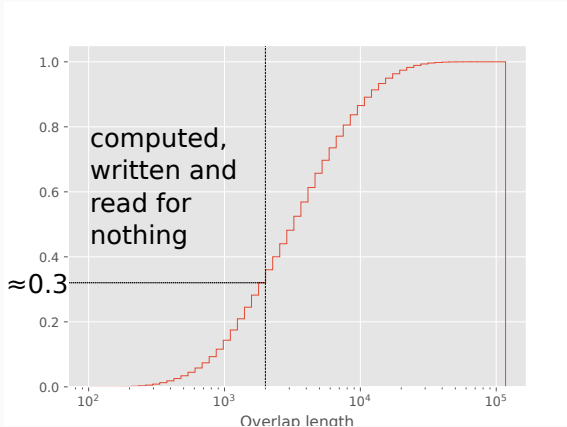


Overlap found by **Minimap2** on dataset SRR8494940 *E. coli* Nanopore 340x

<sup>13</sup>[Li, 2016b]

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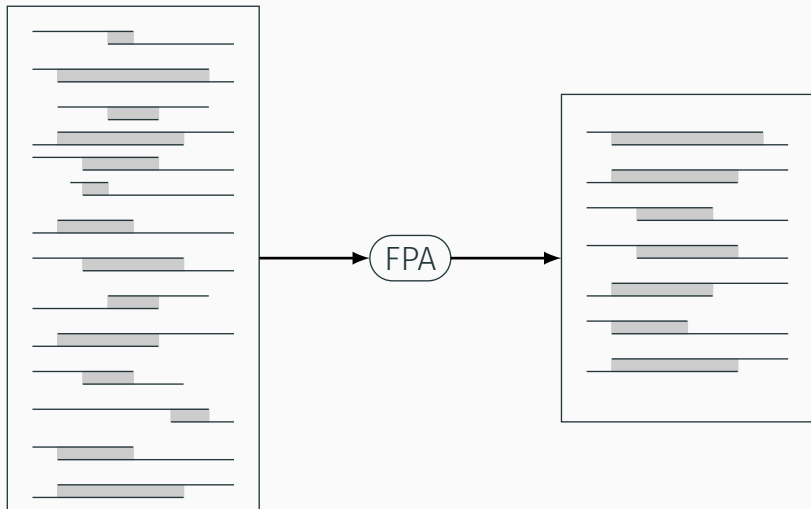
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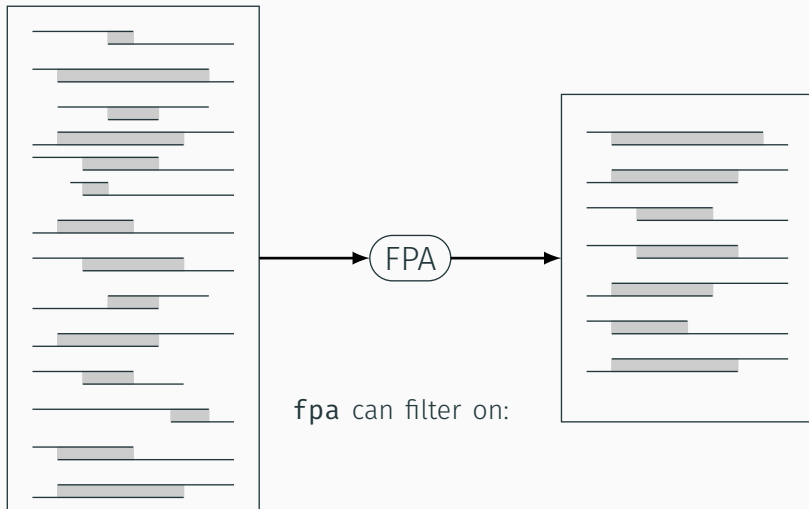
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# fpa: Filter Pairwise Alignment

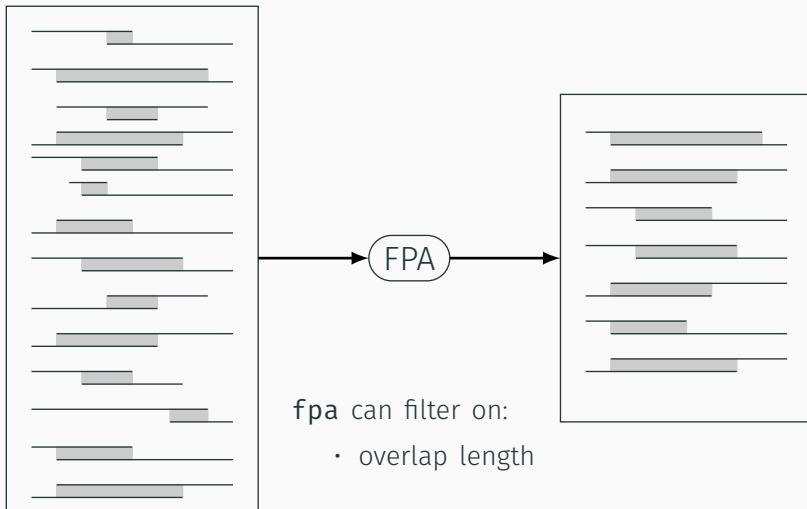


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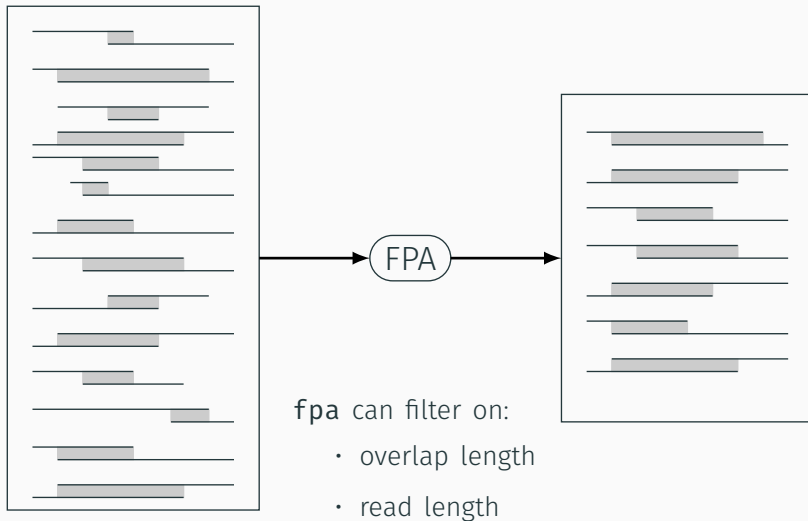




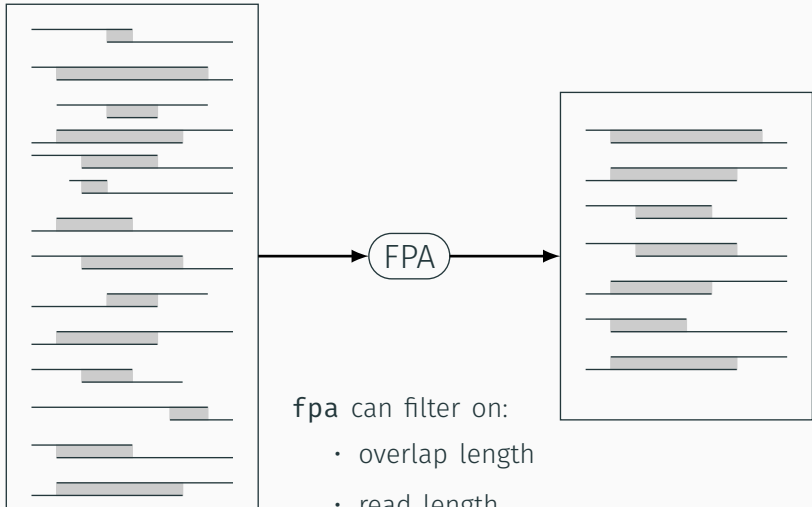
# fpa: Filter Pairwise Alignment



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# fpa: Filter Pairwise Alignment



To study **fpa** effect on downstream analysis we compare two assembly pipelines:

- **Minimap2** → **Miniasm**
- **Minimap2** → **fpa** → **Miniasm**

On two dataset:

- *H. sapiens* chr 1, Nanopore, 30x <sup>14</sup>
- *E. coli*, Nanopore, 50x <sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup>[Jain et al., 2018]

<sup>15</sup>[Maio et al., 2019]

# fpa effect on assembly

Dataset Pipeline	<i>H. sapiens</i> chr 1		<i>E. coli</i>	
	w/o fpa	fpa	w/o fpa	fpa
Time (s)	3593	3386	30	31
PAF size	32G	9.5G	141M	82M
# contigs	168	150	5	5
contiguity <sup>16</sup>	407821	438055	1450762	1246808

---

<sup>16</sup>for experts it's NGA50

# fpa effect on assembly

Dataset Pipeline	<i>H. sapiens</i> chr 1		<i>E. coli</i>	
	w/o fpa	fpa	w/o fpa	fpa
Time (s)	3593	$\approx 0.9x$	30	$\approx 1x$
PAF size	32G	$\approx 0.3x$	141M	$\approx 0.6x$
# contigs	168	$\approx 0.9x$	5	$= 1$
contiguity <sup>16</sup>	407821	$\approx 1.1x$	1450762	$\approx 0.9x$

---

<sup>16</sup>for experts it's NGA50

Sequencing

Pre-assembly

- Overlapping
- Scrubbing

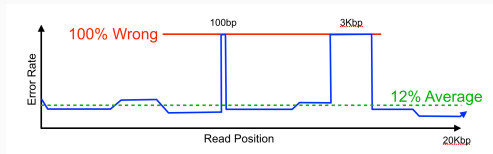
Assembly

Post-assembly

Evaluation &  
Scaffolding

# Error type in third generation reads

Errors are not homogeneously distributed along the read <sup>17</sup>



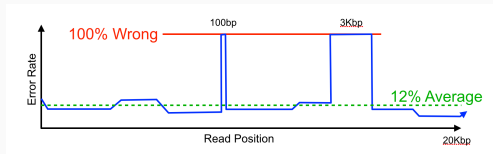
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Glitches read <sup>18</sup>

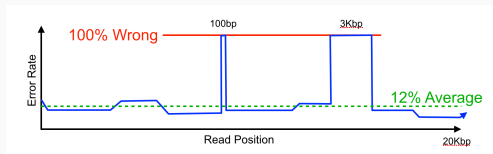


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# Error type in third generation reads

Errors are not homogeneously distributed along the read <sup>17</sup>



Glitches read <sup>18</sup>



Chimeric read <sup>18</sup>



<sup>17</sup>[Myers, 2015]

<sup>18</sup>[Wick and Holt, 2019]

# yacrd: Yet Another Chimeric Read Detector

Raw PacBio/Nanopore reads



Minimap (.paf output)

MHAP, graphmap, ... (.mhap output)



YACRD computes  
a coverage curve  
to identify  
chimeric reads

0 3 4 4 3 2 0 2 4 4 4 4 3 2



# yacrd effect on assembly

To study the effect of **yacrd** we run it on two datasets:

- *H. sapiens* chr 1, Nanopore, 30x <sup>19</sup>
- *E. coli*, Nanopore, 50x <sup>20</sup>

And we run **Minimap2** → **Miniasm** assembly

We compare **yacrd** against two other scrubbing tools:

- **DASCRUBBER** <sup>21</sup>
- **MiniScrub** <sup>22</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup>[Jain et al., 2018]

<sup>20</sup>[Maio et al., 2019]

<sup>21</sup>[Myers, 2017]

<sup>22</sup>[LaPierre et al., 2018]

## yacrd: Result on reads

Dataset	Scrubber	Error rate	# chimeric reads
<i>H. sapiens</i> chr1	raw	21.05	25888
	<b>yacrd</b>	19.01	5216
	<b>DASCRUBBER</b>	16.86	1640
<i>E. coli</i>	raw	15.63	351
	<b>yacrd</b>	14.34	64
	<b>DASCRUBBER</b>	13.07	50
	<b>MiniScrub</b>	11.51	58

## yacrd: Result on assembly

We present the ratio against the assembly with raw reads

Dataset	Scrubber	contig	contiguity <sup>23</sup>	misassemblies
<i>H. sapiens</i> chr1	yacrd	2x	4x	0.25x
	DASCRUBBER	2x	4x	0.1x
<i>E. coli</i>	yacrd	1x	2x	0.6x
	DASCRUBBER	1x	2x	0.6x
	MiniScrub	9x	0.4x	0.8x

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<sup>23</sup>still NGA50

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	DASCRUBBER	1x	2x	0.6x
	MiniScrub	9x	0.4x	0.8x
Dataset	yacrd	DASCRUBBER	Raw read assembly	
<i>H. sapiens</i> chr1	27 mins	3 days 2 hours	≈ 1 hours	
<i>E. coli</i>	33 mins	1 days 20 hours	≈ 30 mins	

---

<sup>23</sup>still NGA50

Sequencing

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Assembly

Post-assembly

Evaluation &  
Scaffolding



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## Post-Assembly: KNOT Knowledge Network Overlap exTraction

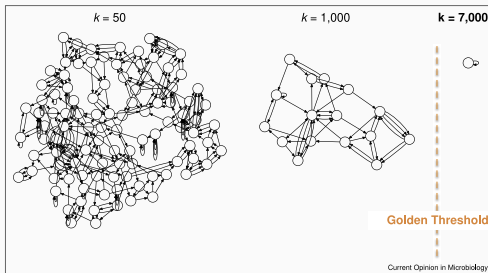
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# Bacterial *de novo* assembly problem, solved ?

Assembly of 3rd generation sequencing data

- high error rate in reads
- but solves almost all genomic repetitions

Assembly of the *E. coli* genome<sup>24</sup>:



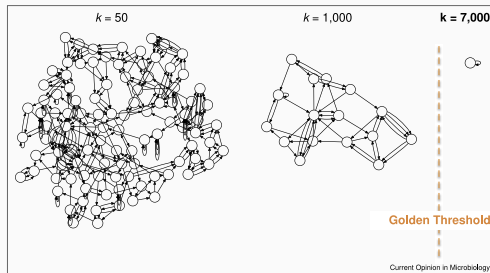
<sup>24</sup>One chromosome, one contig [Koren and Phillippy, 2015]

# Bacterial *de novo* assembly problem, solved ?

Assembly of 3rd generation sequencing data

- high error rate in reads
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Assembly of the *E. coli* genome<sup>24</sup>:



But in reality ...

<sup>24</sup>One chromosome, one contig [Koren and Phillippy, 2015]

# Assembly is solved for many bacteria but not for all

NCTC: 3000 bacteria cultures sequenced with PacBio  
(read length  $\approx$  10-20kb), and assembled with HGAP<sup>25</sup>

599 / 1735 (34 %) assemblies are not single-contig (as of Feb 2019)

Species	Strain	Sample	Runs	Automated Assembly	Manual Assembly	Manual Assembly Chromosome Contig Number	Manual Assembly Plasmid Contig Number	Manual Assembly Unidentified Contig Number
<i>Achromobacter xylosoxidans</i>	<a href="#">NCTC10807</a>	<a href="#">ERS451415</a>	<a href="#">ERR550491</a> <a href="#">ERR550506</a> <a href="#">ERR550507</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	1	0	0
<i>Budvicia aquatica</i>	<a href="#">NCTC12282</a>	<a href="#">ERS462988</a>	<a href="#">ERR581162</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	2	0	0
<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	<a href="#">NCTC11351</a>	<a href="#">ERS445056</a>	<a href="#">ERR550473</a> <a href="#">ERR550476</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	1	0	0
<i>Cedecea neteri</i>	<a href="#">NCTC12120</a>	<a href="#">ERS462978</a>	<a href="#">ERR581152</a> <a href="#">ERR581168</a> <a href="#">ERR597265</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	7	1	0
<i>Citrobacter amalonaticus</i>	<a href="#">NCTC10805</a>	<a href="#">ERS485850</a>	<a href="#">ERR601566</a> <a href="#">ERR601575</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	1	2	0
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	<a href="#">NCTC9750</a>	<a href="#">ERS485849</a>	<a href="#">ERR601559</a> <a href="#">ERR601565</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	1	0	0
<i>Citrobacter koseri</i>	<a href="#">NCTC10849</a>	<a href="#">ERS473430</a>	<a href="#">ERR581173</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	1	1	0
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i>	<a href="#">NCTC11397</a>	<a href="#">ERS451417</a>	<a href="#">ERR550510</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	1	0	0
<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	<a href="#">NCTC11467</a>	<a href="#">ERS462977</a>	<a href="#">ERR581151</a> <a href="#">ERR581167</a>	Pending	<a href="#">EMBL</a>	4	3	0

<sup>25</sup>[Chin et al., 2013]

# A synthetic example

- **Dataset:** *Terriglobus roseus* synthetic pacbio, 20x coverage (LongISLND<sup>26</sup>)
- **Assembly tools:** Canu <sup>27</sup>



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<sup>26</sup>[Lau et al., 2016]

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# A synthetic example

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Can we recover missing edges between contigs?

---

<sup>26</sup>[Lau et al., 2016]

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# A synthetic example

An assembly graph can be defined as :

- nodes  $\rightarrow$  reads
- edges  $\rightarrow$  overlaps

---

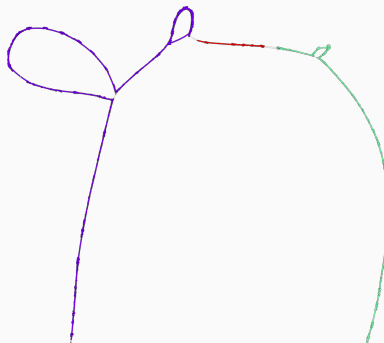
<sup>28</sup>[Li, 2018]



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Overlap graph (constructed by **Minimap2** <sup>28</sup>), reads are colored by **Canu** contig.

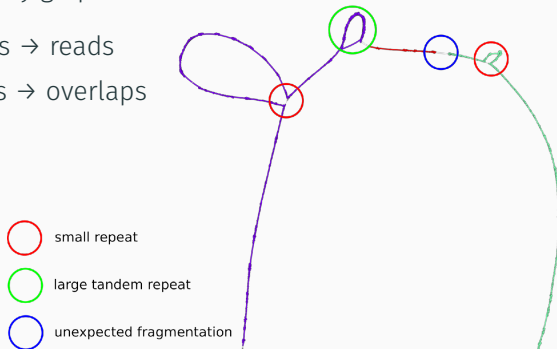
---

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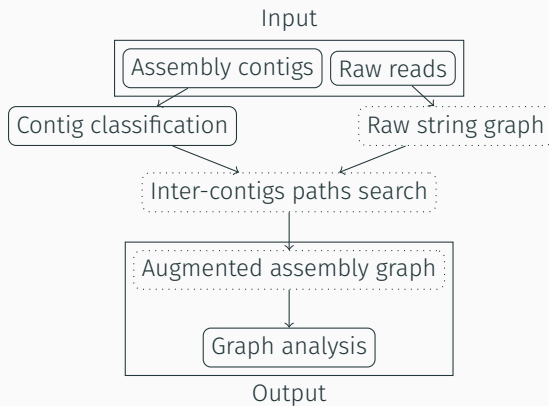
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# Definition of an Augmented Assembly Graph

The AAG is an undirected, weighted graph:

- nodes: contigs extremities
- edges:
  - between extremities of a contig (weight = 0),
  - paths found between contigs (weight = path length in bases)

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Plain links are paths compatible with true order of contigs, dotted links are other paths.

# Graph analysis

We classify paths based on their length (in base pairs):

Distant:

> 10 kbp



Adjacency:

< 10 kbp



Multiple adjacency:

< 10 kbp



In prokaryotes, most repetitions are < 10 kbp <sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup>[Treangen et al., 2009]

## Test on 38 datasets from NCTC3000

We selected 38 datasets from NCTC3000, where **Canu**, **Miniasm** and **Hinge** didn't produce the expected number of chromosomes (*i.e. unsolved assemblies*).

- 19 datasets were *manually solved* by NCTC
- 17 remained fragmented
- 2 with no assembly attempt by NCTC

Across 38 datasets:

Mean number of	
<b>Canu</b> contigs	4.32
Edges in AAG	32.67
Theoretical max. edges in AAG	41.83
Distant edges	28.64
Adjacency edges	4.02
Missing adjacency in:	
<b>Canu</b> contigs graph	4.94
AAG, adjacency edges	2.70



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Almost half of the missing paths in contigs graph are recovered.

# Hamilton walk

AAG's are generally complete graphs. We can enumerate all their Hamilton walks.

The weight of a walk is the sum of all edge weights.

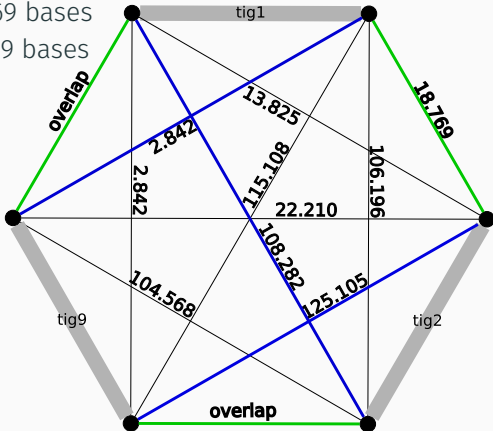
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AAG's are generally complete graphs. We can enumerate all their Hamilton walks.

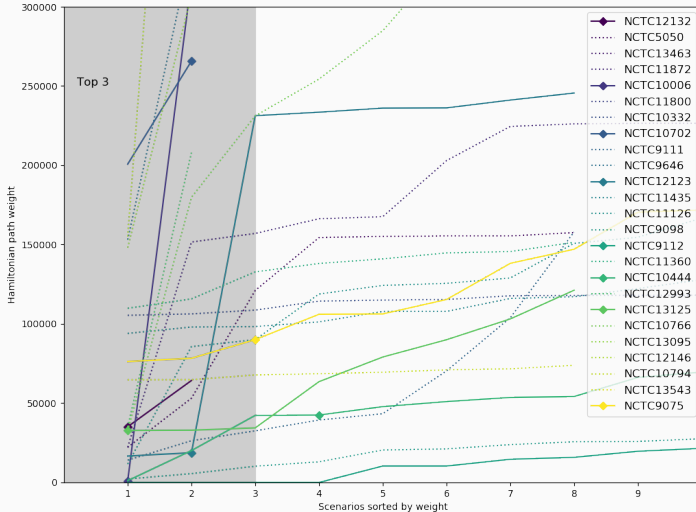
The weight of a walk is the sum of all edge weights.

Supposedly: We assume that **lowest-weight walk** is the true genome.

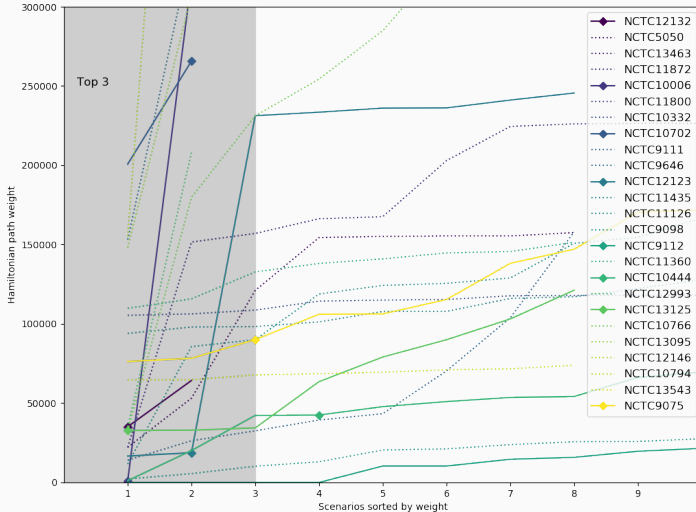
- Green walk weight: 18,769 bases
- Blue walk weight: 136,229 bases



# Hamilton walk



# Hamilton walk



Generally, the true contig ordering is a low-weight Hamiltonian walk

## Conclusion

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## Summary: yacrd and fpa

**fpa** allows users to reduce the memory impact of overlap files without impact on assembly and was used:

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<sup>30</sup><https://github.com/ekg/yeast-pangenome>

<sup>31</sup><https://github.com/natir/yacrd/issues/30>

## Summary: yacrd and fpa

**fpa** allows users to reduce the memory impact of overlap files without impact on assembly and was used:

- in a genome graph pipeline generation <sup>30</sup> to keep only very long overlap
- **KNOT** pipeline to convert overlap into overlap graph

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- to improve some **flye** assembly<sup>31</sup>

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I'm still not satisfied

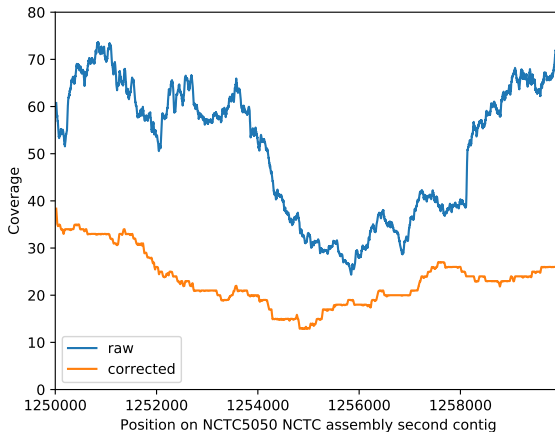
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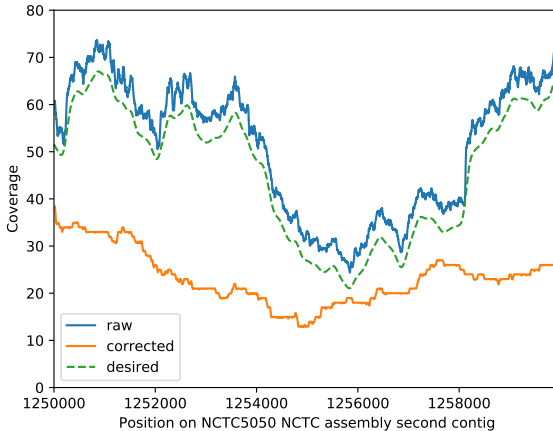
Scrubbing or correcting reads can create a coverage gap



Correction performed by the **Canu** correction module

## Summary: yacrd and fpa

Scrubbing or correcting reads can create a coverage gap



Correction performed by the **Canu** correction module

# Summary: KNOT

The **KNOT** AAG help to understand and improve assembly without any new information.

- Bacterial assembly is not solved for all datasets
- Build and analyse **Augmented Assembly Graph** can help

Future:

- Reduce the computation time
- Get more users

Open questions:

- Behavior of the AAG on heterozygote dataset
- How to adapt to multichromosomal species

## Publications:

- Graph analysis of fragmented long-read bacterial genome assemblies doi: [10.1093/bioinformatics/btz219](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btz219)
- yacrd and fpa: upstream tools for long-read genome assembly doi: [10.1101/674036](https://doi.org/10.1101/674036)

## Blog posts:

- State-of-the-art long reads overlapper-compare
- How to reduce the impact of your PAF file on your disk by 95%
- Misassemblies in noisy assemblies

## Software:

- KNOT <https://github.com/natir/knot/>
- yacrd <https://github.com/natir/yacrd/>
- fpa <https://github.com/natir/fpa/>

“With modern fast sequencing techniques and suitable computer programs it is now possible to sequence whole genomes without the need of restriction maps.”\*

\* Adapted from R. Chikhi talk, CGSI 2019\*\*

\*\* Adapted from A. Phillippy’s talk, RECOMB-Seq’19 <sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>[Staden, 1979]

<sup>33</sup>data extract from ebi database and [Chapman, 2009]

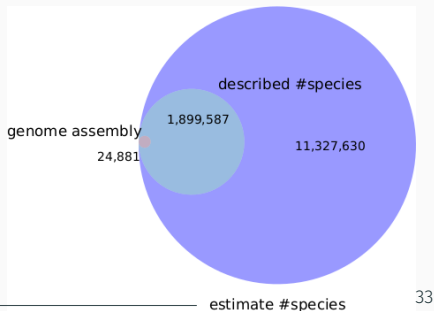


# Perspectives

“With modern fast sequencing techniques and suitable computer programs it is now possible to sequence whole genomes with-out the need of restriction maps.”\*

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  - CRISTAL laboratory
  - Inria Lille Nord Europe center
  - University of Lille

Finally, my friends and family.



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