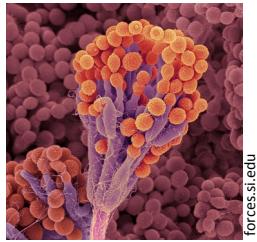


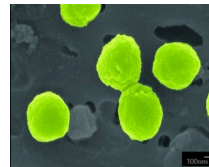
# Microbes: drivers of global biogeochemistry

1/24/2014  
 GEOS 410/510  
 Virginia Rich



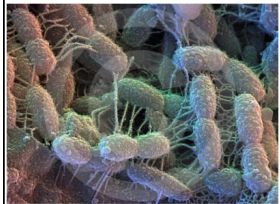
Soil fungus

forces.si.edu

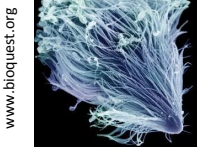


*Prochlorococcus marinus*

proportal.mit.edu



Soil bacteria

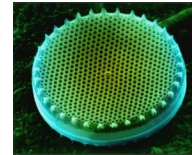


Termite protist

forces.si.edu

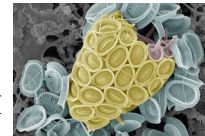


Rumen protist *Ophryoscolex*



Diatom

Dennis Kunkel



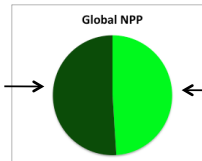
Coccolithophore

www.nhm.ac.uk

## I. Big picture: microbes drive biogeochemical cycles

- ~ Half planetary primary production (C fixation):

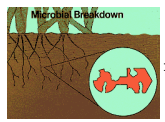
forests & other big green stuff



marine microorganisms (cyanobacteria & phytoplankton)

- Organic matter degradation:

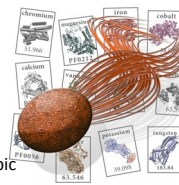
Without microbial recycling, nutrients would be locked up & become unavailable.



courses.worldcampus.psu.edu

- Metabolic diversity:

Microbes perform all major metabolic pathways, and periodically reveal entirely new ones (e.g. proteorhodopsin, anaerobic methane oxidation).



http://newscenter.ilib.gov/

- Biomass: ~ $10^9$  microbial cells/gram surface soil and ~ $10^6$  cells/ml seawater. (You have more microbial cells in your body than human cells). 50-90% of marine biomass is microbial (*Census of Marine Life*).

**If all multi-cellular life disappeared tomorrow the major biogeochemical cycles would likely proceed with very little change...**

## And are critical players in GHG cycling...

Right: IPCC table of gases relevant to radiative forcing (Chapter 2, pg 141, Table 2.1. of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, 2007)

Of GHGs with both natural AND anthropogenic sources (~CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O), microbes are dominant mediators of their natural cycling:

- CH<sub>4</sub> is ~ONLY microbially mediated (then atmospheric half-life of ~10yrs)
- N<sub>2</sub>O is mainly microbially mediated (some production in atmo. too)
- CO<sub>2</sub> is heavily microbially mediated. (~half consumption, >>half of production)

Species	Mole fractions and their changes		Radiative Forcing	
	2005	Change since 1998	2005 (W m <sup>-2</sup> )	1998 (%)
CO <sub>2</sub>	379 ± 0.65 μmol/mol	+13 μmol/mol	1.66	+13
CH <sub>4</sub>	1,774 ± 1.8 nmol/mol	+11 nmol/mol	0.48	-
N <sub>2</sub> O	319 ± 0.12 nmol/mol	+5 nmol/mol	0.16	+11
CFC-11	251 ± 0.36 pmol/mol	-13	0.063	-5
CFC-12	538 ± 0.18 pmol/mol	+4	0.17	+1
CFC-113	79 ± 0.064 pmol/mol	-4	0.024	-5
HCFC-22	169 ± 1.0 pmol/mol	+38	0.033	+29
HCFC-141b	18 ± 0.068 pmol/mol	+9	0.0025	+93
HCFC-142b	15 ± 0.13 pmol/mol	+6	0.0031	+57
CH <sub>3</sub> CCl <sub>3</sub>	19 ± 0.47 pmol/mol	-47	0.0011	-72
CCl <sub>4</sub>	93 ± 0.17 pmol/mol	-7	0.012	-7
HFC-125	3.7 ± 0.10 pmol/mol	+2.6	0.0009	+234
HFC-134a	35 ± 0.73 pmol/mol	+27	0.0055	+349
HFC-152a	3.9 ± 0.11 pmol/mol	+2.4	0.0004	+151
HFC-23	18 ± 0.12 pmol/mol	+4	0.0033	+29
SF <sub>6</sub>	5.6 ± 0.038 pmol/mol	+1.5	0.0029	+36
CF <sub>4</sub> (PFC-14)	74 ± 1.6 pmol/mol	-	0.0034	-
C <sub>2</sub> F <sub>6</sub> (PFC-116)	2.9 ± 0.025 pmol/mol	+0.5	0.0008	+22

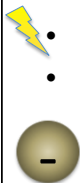
## II. How do microbes make a living?

- “Microbes” can mean several things!!! HERE defined as **single-celled organisms**: bacteria and archaea (together often called the “prokaryotes”, also “microbes”) plus single-celled eukaryotes

How are microbes involved in all these biogeochemical cycles?

What do microbes – indeed all cells – need to make a living?

- CARBON for bulk of biomass
- NUTRIENTS (N,P, S) and micronutrients for proteins, nucleic acids, etc.
- WATER as a solvent (and a reactant in biomass production)
- ENERGY to allow them to work against entropy
- ELECTRONS to transfer energy via redox reactions, and perform chemical transformations – so a *source* and a *sink* for electrons



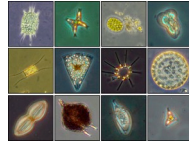
## Words we use to describe where organisms get their carbon, energy, and electrons

### 1. Carbon

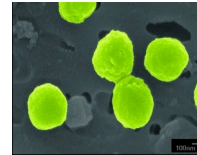
- Autotroph **Greek autos = self, trophe = nutrition**. So what is their C source? How do they get it? What are some examples?



wikipedia



earthobservatory.nasa.gov

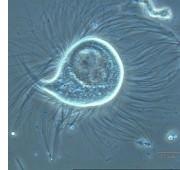


portal.mit.edu

- Heterotroph **heteros = other, trophe = nutrition**. So what is their C source? How do they get it? Examples?



Associated Press



protistuser.uni-frankfurt.de/~schauder.termites,proto7\_bg



www.morning-earth.org/Graphic-E7/biosphere/Bios-Microbe-Image/M-PCophyoscoleX.jpg

### 2. Energy

- Phototroph **photo = light** Energy comes from photons
- Chemotroph **chemo = chemical** Energy comes from converting energy stored in chemical bonds (via their electrons)

In both cases, captured energy is stored as ATP, carbs, lipids or proteins.

### 3. Electron Source

- Organotroph **organic = C-containing**. Use carbon compounds as electron donors. This includes us!
- Lithotroph **lithos = rock** Use inorganic compounds as electron donors

### 4. Electron Sink

- Aerobic respiration **uses O<sub>2</sub> as terminal electron acceptor**. When it's available, it gets used because of highly favorable energetics.
- Anaerobic respiration **occurs in absence of O<sub>2</sub>, using alternate terminal electron acceptor**. E.g. *denitrification* uses nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), *sulfate reduction* uses sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>).

## Examples

- How would we be classified under this trophic nomenclature?
  - Get C from others
  - Get electrons from C compounds
  - Get energy from bond energy



Therefore we are **Chemo organo heterotrophs**, as are all multicellular carnivores, herbivores, and many many microbes.

- How would land plants be classified?
  - Fix CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Use sun for energy
  - What is their electron source? Is it organic or inorganic?



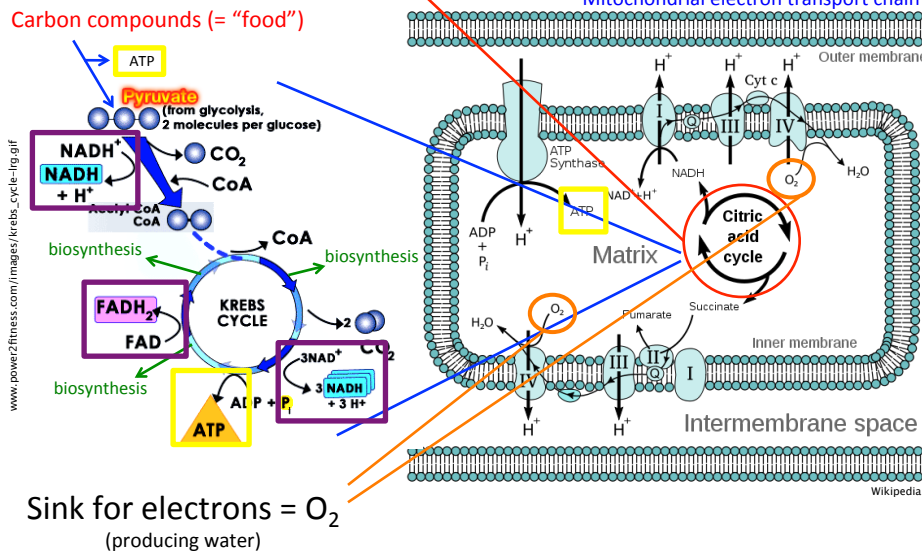
## Photo litho autotrophs

*not so important to memorize terms as to understand that a diversity of lifestyles exist, & thus a diversity of interactions with biogeochem. cycles*

<http://www.paparuk.com/g/fgab0015+da-vinci-vitruvian-man-homer-simpson-the-simpsons-art-print.jpg>

[http://www.microworldplants.com/Ferns/Equisetum\\_hymenale\\_stems](http://www.microworldplants.com/Ferns/Equisetum_hymenale_stems)

Source for **C, energy + electrons**  
= carbon compounds



Many biogeochemical transformations are unique to Bacteria and Archaea, and not found in Eukaryotes, e.g.

Nitrogen fixation  $N_2 \Rightarrow NH_3$

Nitrification  $NH_3 \Rightarrow NO_2^- \Rightarrow NO_3^-$

Anaerobic respiration, the use of electron acceptors other than  $O_2$

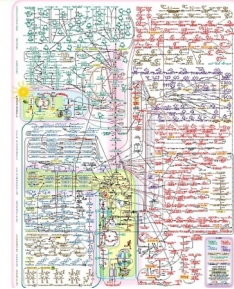
Examples

Methanogenesis  $CO_2$  (or  $CH_3COOH$ )  $\Rightarrow CH_4$

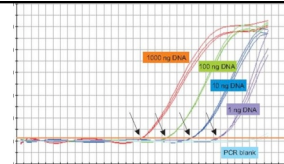
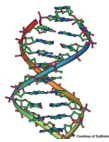
Denitrification  $NO_3^- \Rightarrow N_2$

Sulfate reduction  $SO_4^{2-} \Rightarrow H_2S$

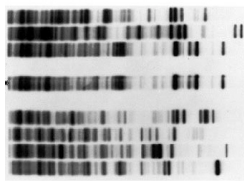
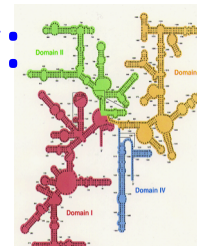
Metabolic Pathways



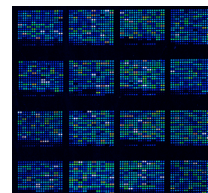
What jumps out just of this brief sampling? The N cycle is dominated by microbial transformations.



# Molecular Microbial Ecology: Primer on Key Concepts & Methods

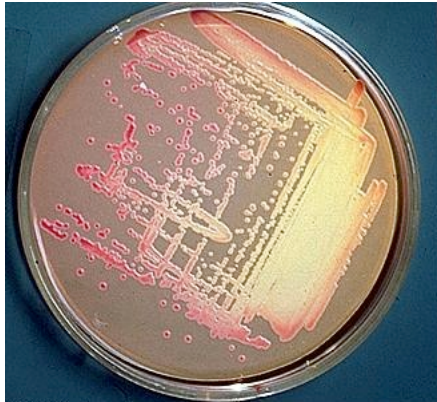


With some material from R. Maier & M. Sullivan

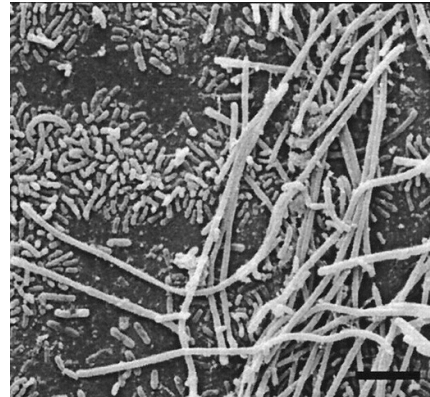


## The great plate count anomaly

**tame**



**wild**

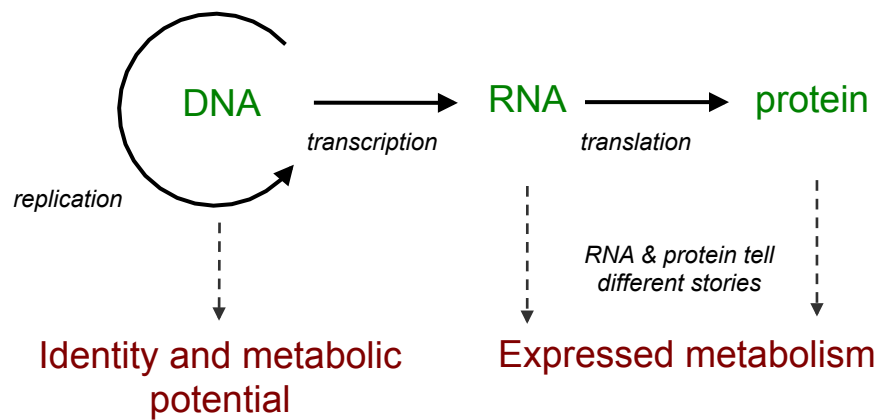


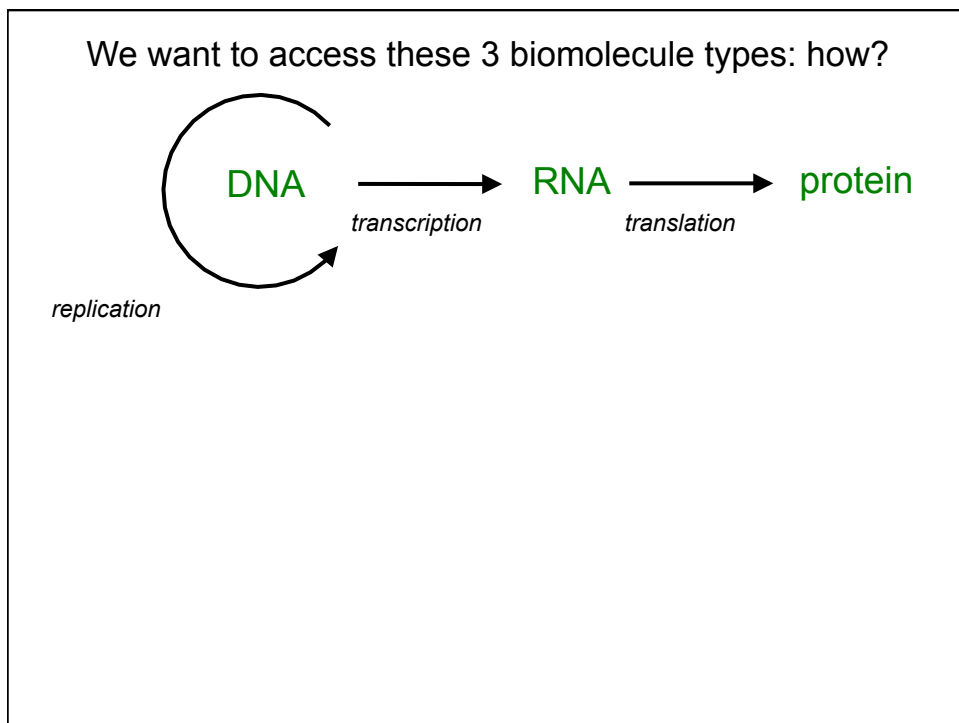
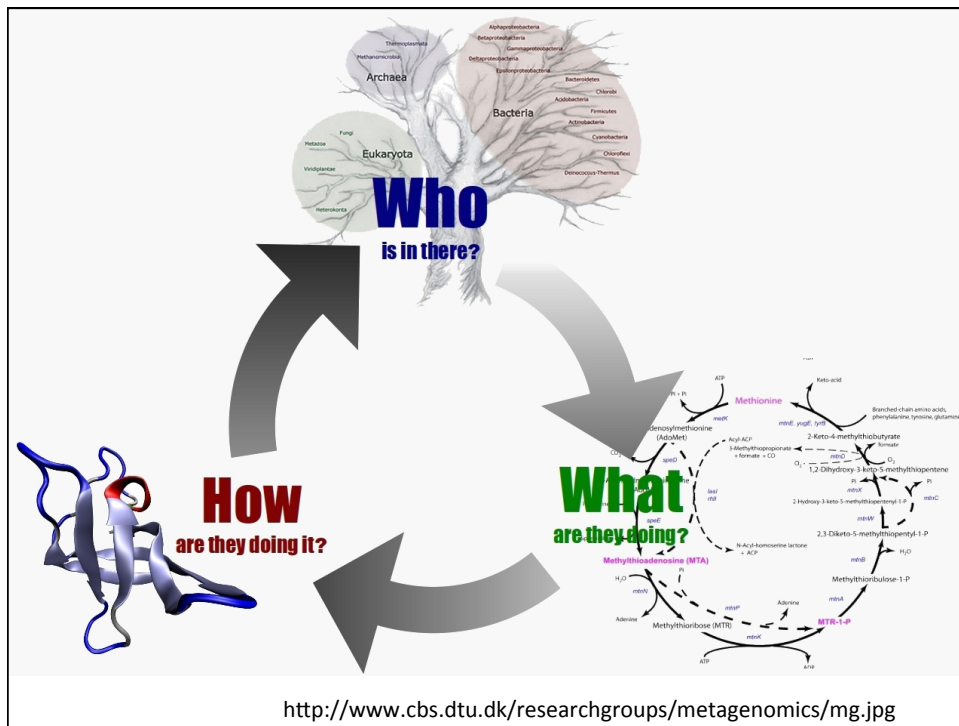
≠

**most (>99%) microbes don't grow on plates**

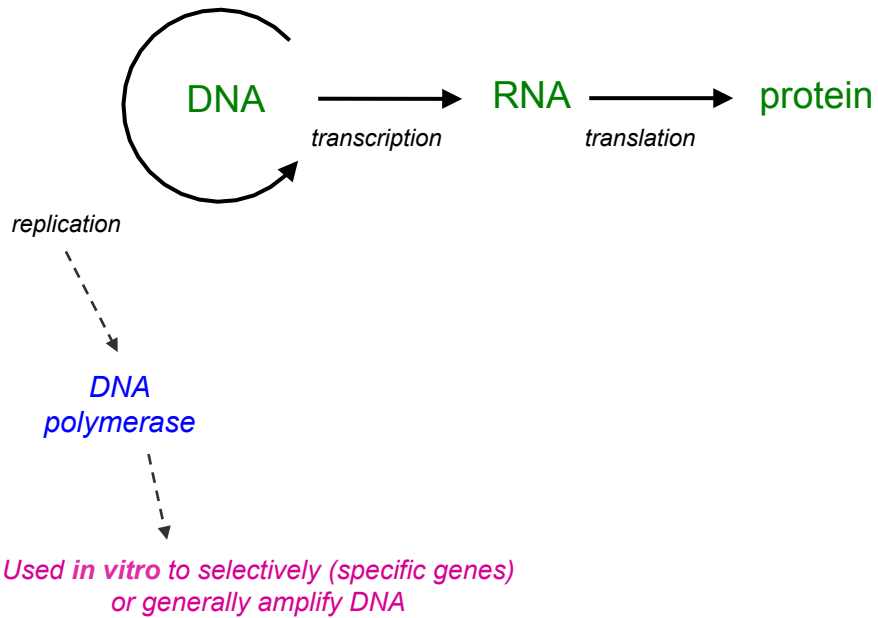
**Nucleic acids & proteins** are a lens into microbial identity, metabolic potential, and expressed activity

The "Central Dogma" of Molecular Biology:

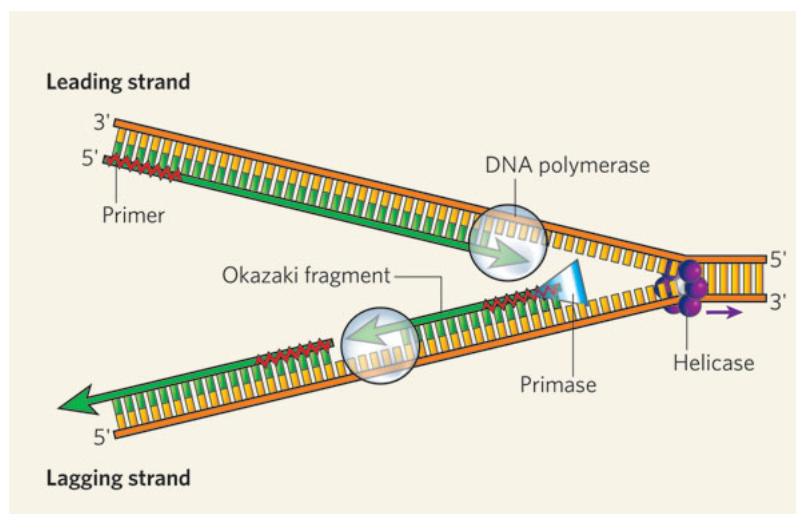




How do you access the information in these molecules?

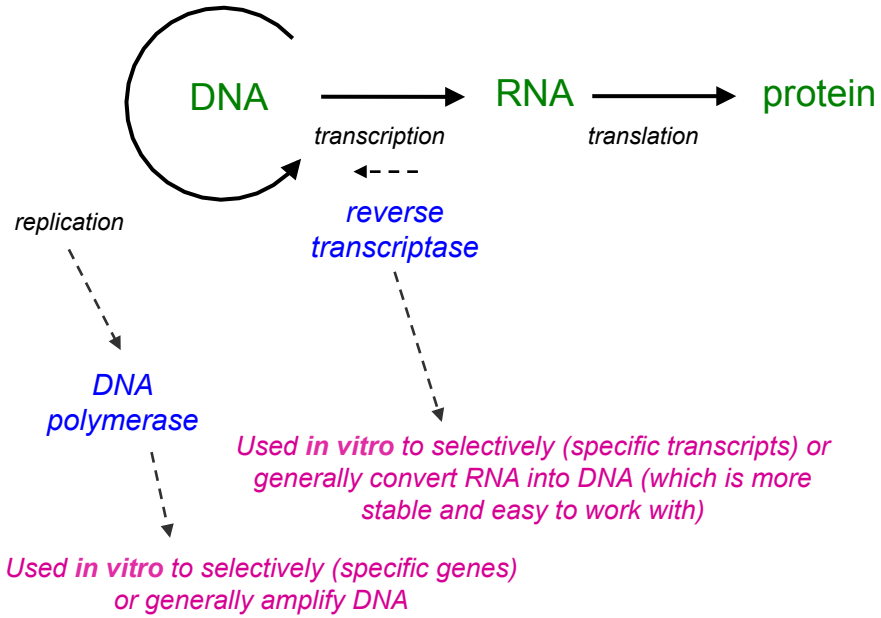


DNA Polymerase copies DNA  
but needs a primer to start from, and  
needs the double helix to be opened

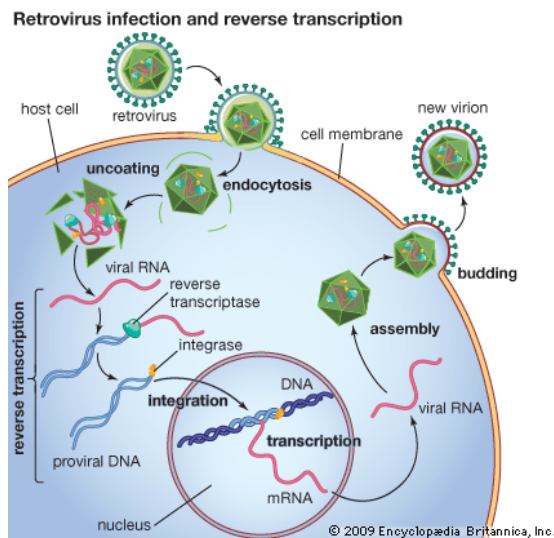


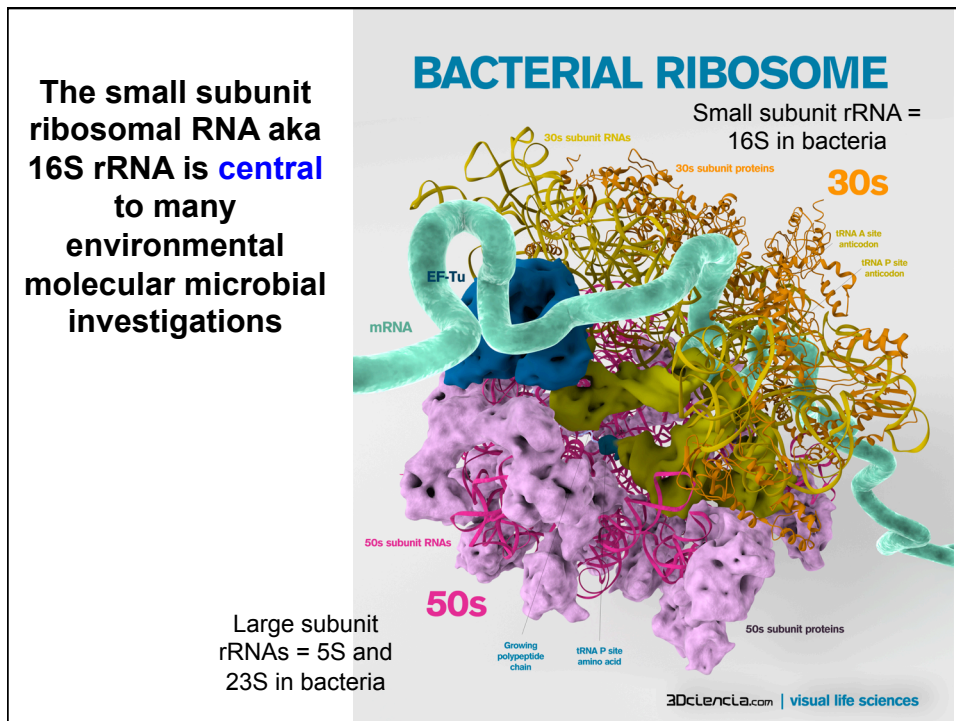
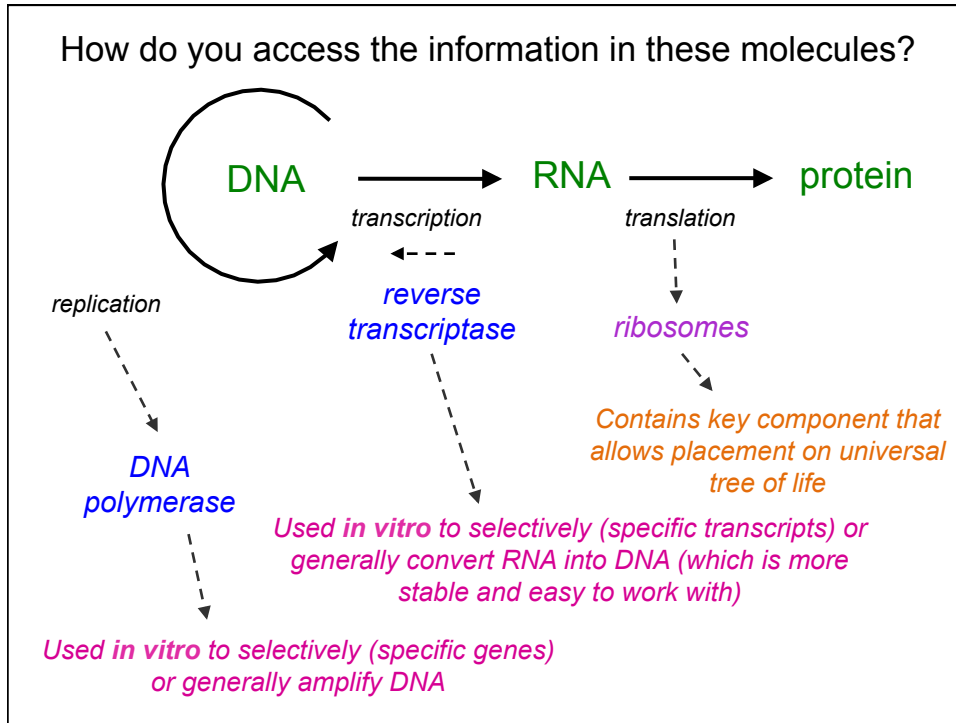


How do you access the information in these molecules?



Reverse transcriptase copies RNA into DNA, as an essential step of retrovirus life cycle, telomere maintenance, etc.





Zooming in just on the 16S rRNA molecule, here is its secondary structure

Which bases would you hypothesize are more conserved vs. variable? Why?

Overhead transparencies to accompany Garrett/Grisham: *Biochemistry* page 242  
 Transparency 33 Figure 7.38 ©1995 Saunders College Publishing

And the primary structure (sequence) of the 16S rRNA gene

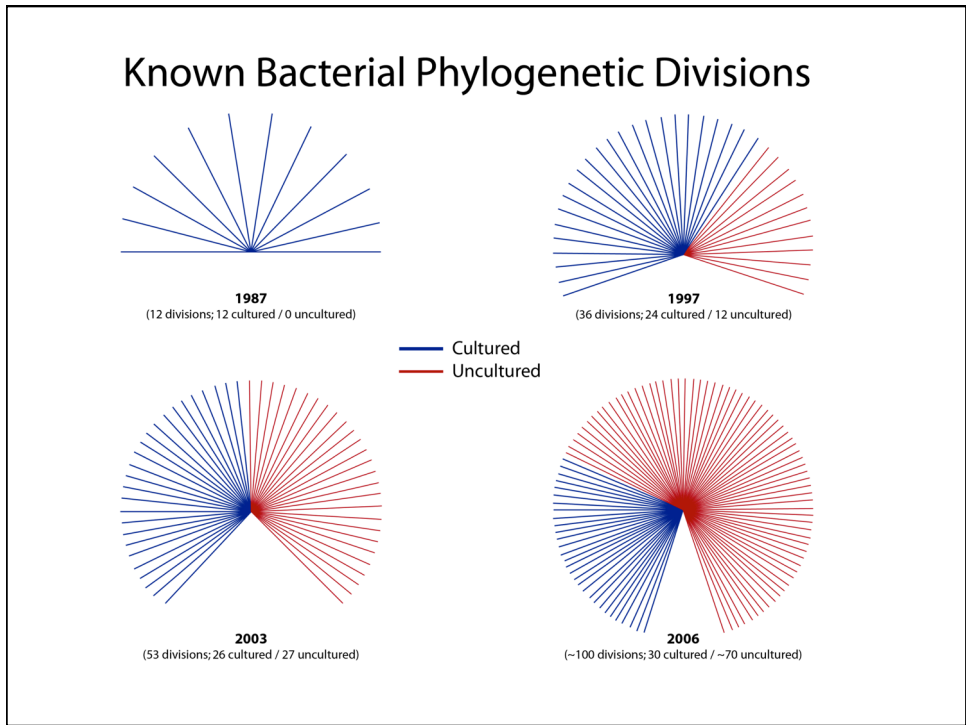
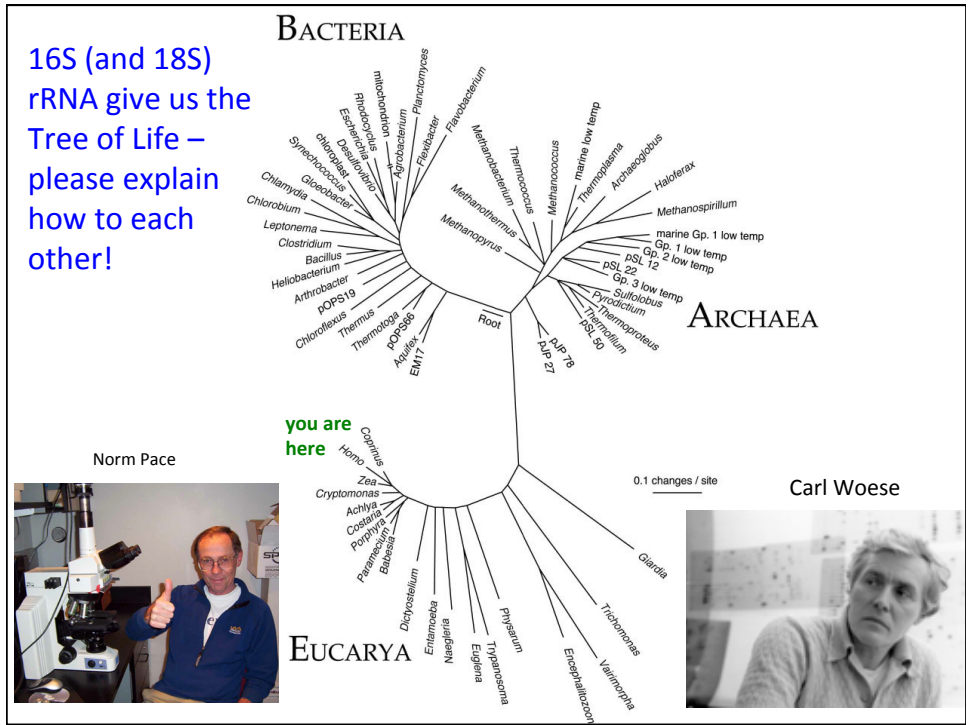
G.C. Baker et al. / *Journal of Microbiological Methods* 55 (2003) 541-555

KEY: **totally conserved** **conserved** variable highly variable > 75% variable  
 variable regions priming sites

approximately 1500 base pairs  
 highly conserved regions (red)  
 hypervariable regions (green underlined)

Fig. 1. Bacterial variability map. *E. coli* 16S rRNA gene sequence annotated with bacteria and "universal" priming sites and variable regions V1-V9 (41). The sequence is colour coded to indicate bacterial sequence variability. It is based on the variability map for the 16S rRNA gene produced by Van de Peer et al. (1996), translated into text format (<http://www.lk.ua.ac.be/vsmvmap>).

- Conserved regions allow for divergent sequences to be **aligned** for tracking evolutionary relationships
- Hypervariable regions can provide \*short\* **species-specific** signature sequences useful for identification.



How do you access the information in these molecules?



Study single or few genes  
(or transcripts)

1. **Selective amplification via PCR or RT-PCR**

- Differentiate type(s) by “Fingerprinting” approaches
- Quantify by qPCR / realtime PCR
- Separate types by Cloning (e.g. functional expression, some seq’ing)
- Characterize definitively by Sequencing

2. **Hunt for target(s) via “Gene probes”**

- used to hybridize to “blots”
- used in microscopy to ID particular cells (“FISH”)
- Can be used in flow sorting to ID particular cells
- Used in microarrays (probes stuck to surface)

Study entire genome  
(or transcriptome), or

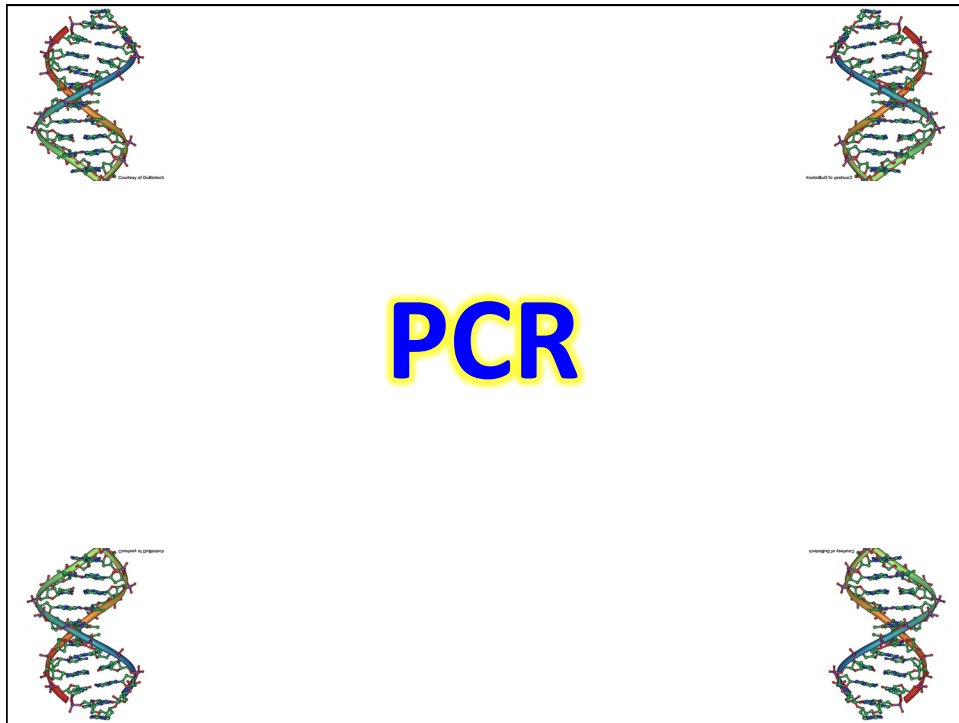
**meta**genome  
(aka community genome)

1. Assay genome size(s)
2. Differentiate type(s) by “Fingerprinting” approaches
3. Characterize more fully by Sequencing

3/4. **Study or hunt for target function(s) via “heterologous expression”**

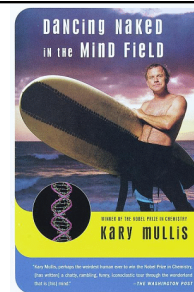
- Put genes (in targeted or blind way) into a “model organism” to search or study

**METHODS WITH SLIDE TITLES  
THIS FONT ARE ONES THAT  
ARE I.M.O. MOST IMPORTANT  
IN THE FIELD AND THE MOST  
LIKELY TO COME UP IN OUR  
READINGS THIS SEMESTER**



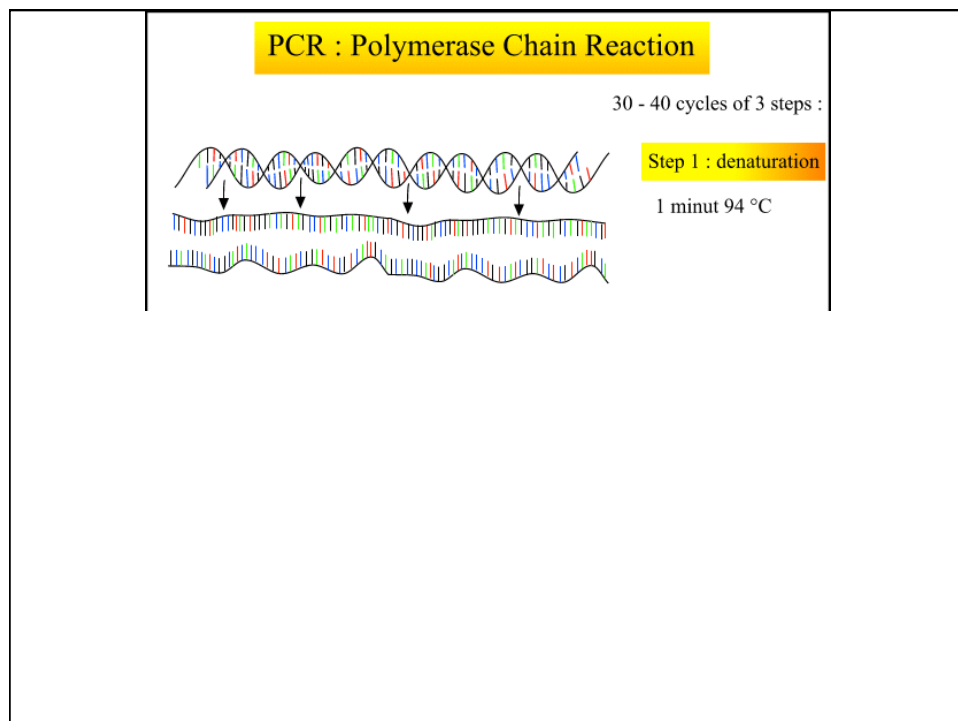
## Kary Mullis, the inventor of PCR

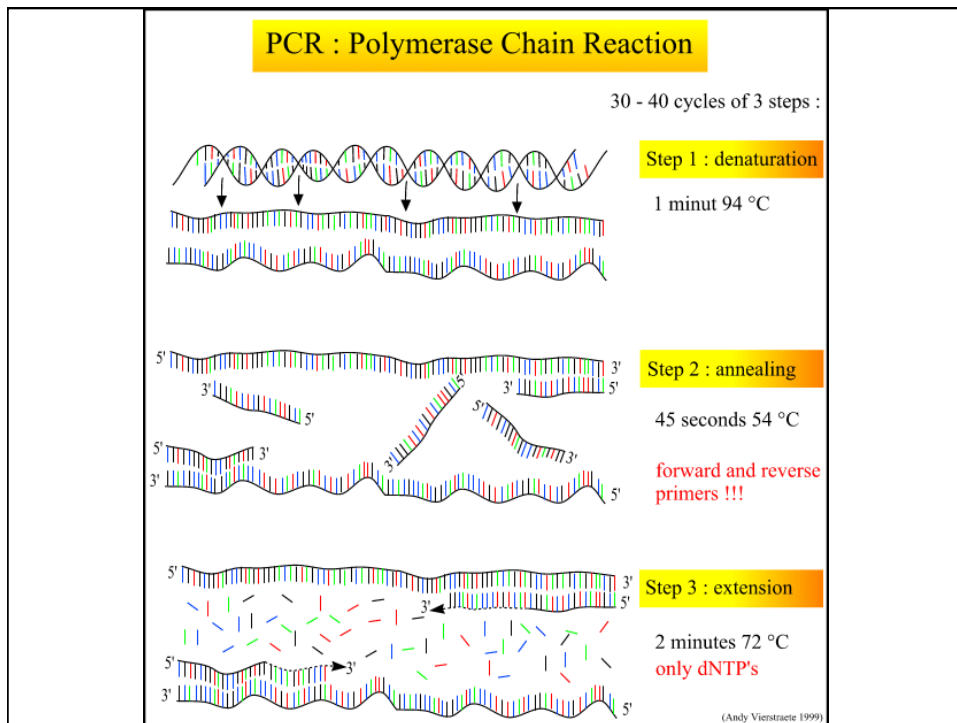
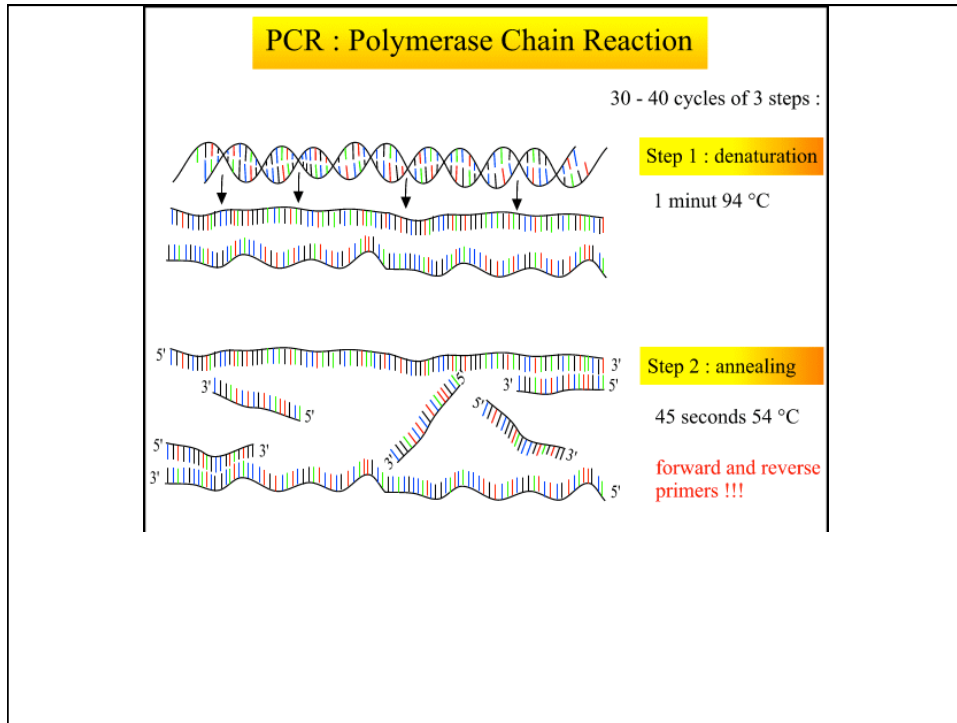
Later became a denier of climate change and of the HIV/AIDS link



## You need 4 ingredients for PCR:

1. **Template DNA** (that you are copying from)
2. **Primers** – either specific or random (how do these change what gets amplified?)
3. **dNTPs**, the building blocks of DNA
4. **DNA Polymerase** (original was “Taq” polymerase from *Thermus aquaticus*, a hot spring microbe; now there are many other DNA polymerases available)







## Setting up and Running your PCR

### 4 Key Ingredients of PCR:

1. Template DNA
2. Primers
3. dNTPs
4. DNA polymerase

*1. Which of these determines which gene gets amplified?*



PCR hood

*2. Why prepare the reaction in a PCR hood?*

### 3 Basic Stages of PCR:

1. Denaturation
2. Annealing
3. Elongation



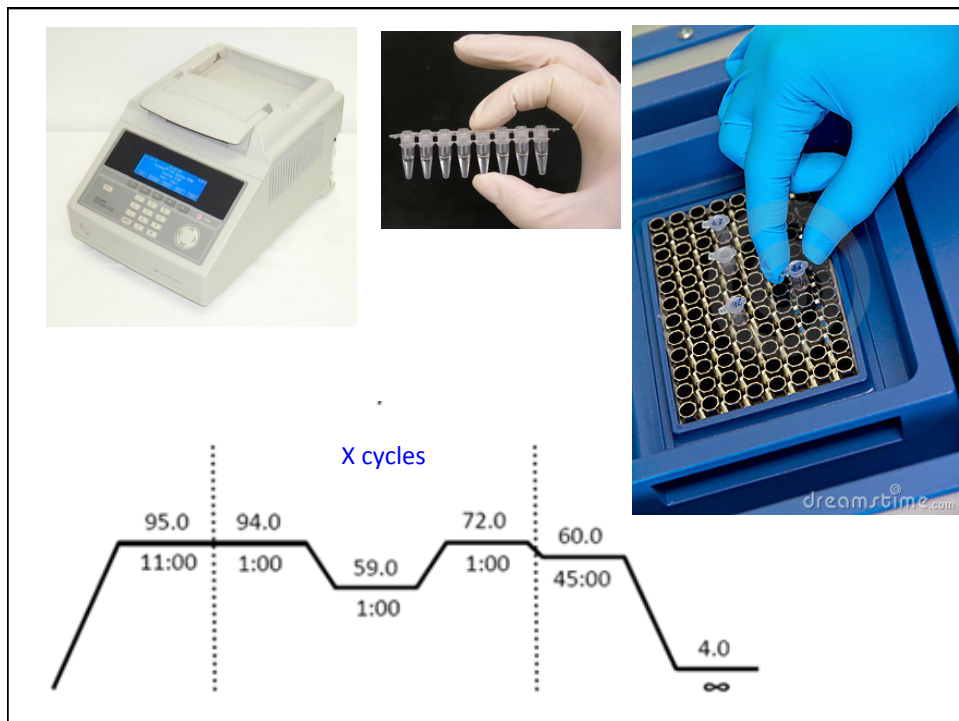
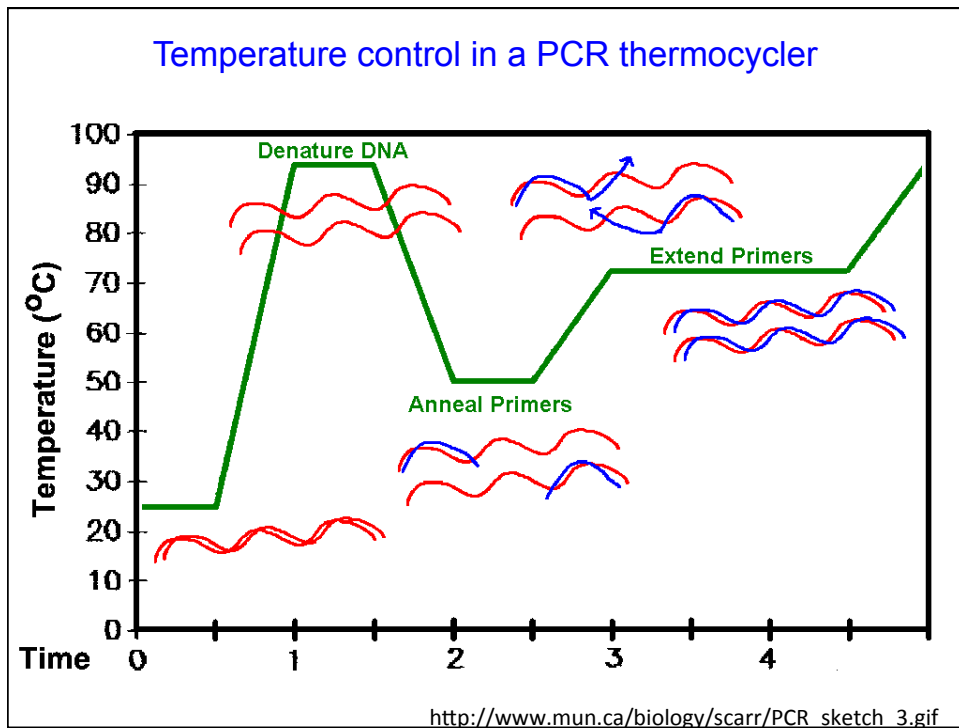
Thermal cycler

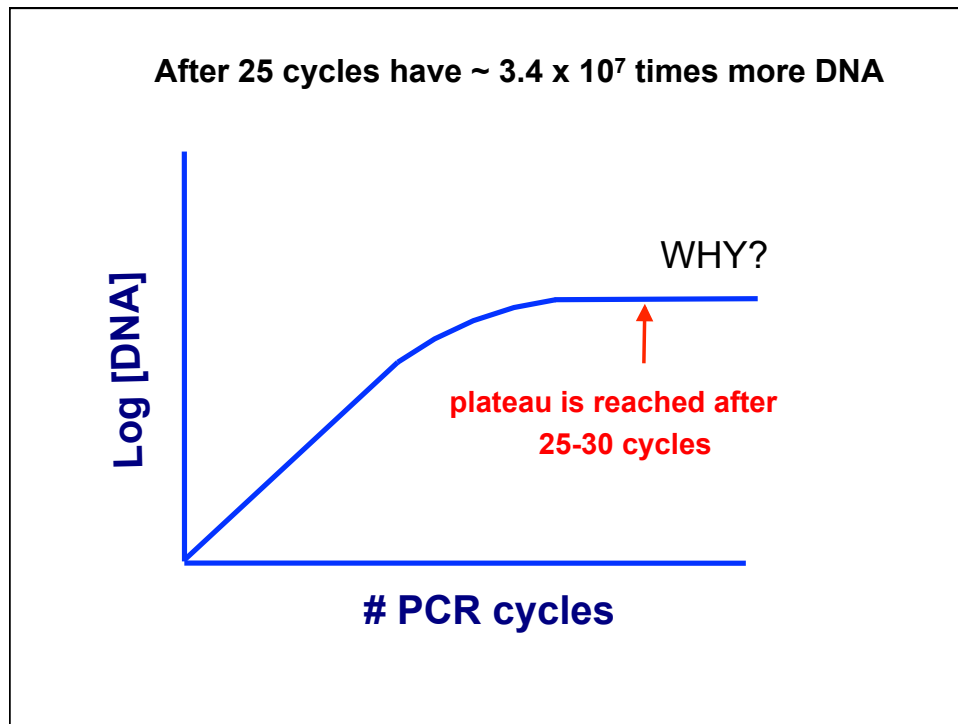
*3. Can you draw a typical PCR temperature cycle?*

*4. Having the temperature too low in which of these stages could lead to non-target amplification?*

*5. Having the temperature too low in which stage might cause poor amplification overall?*

Rest of PCR slides  
are to review at  
home if you don't  
recall details...



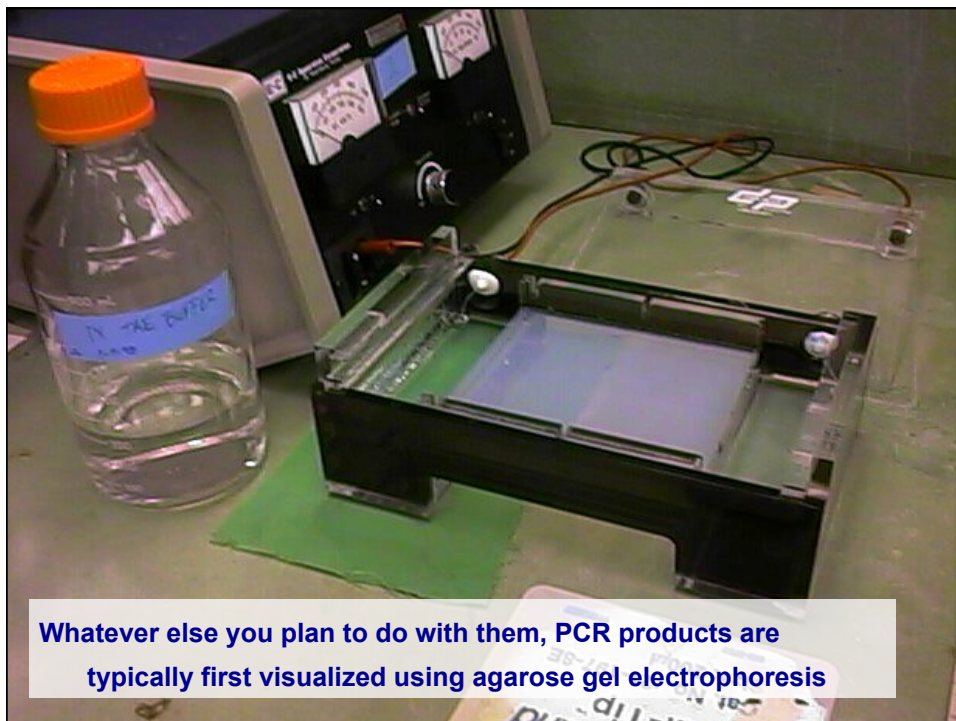


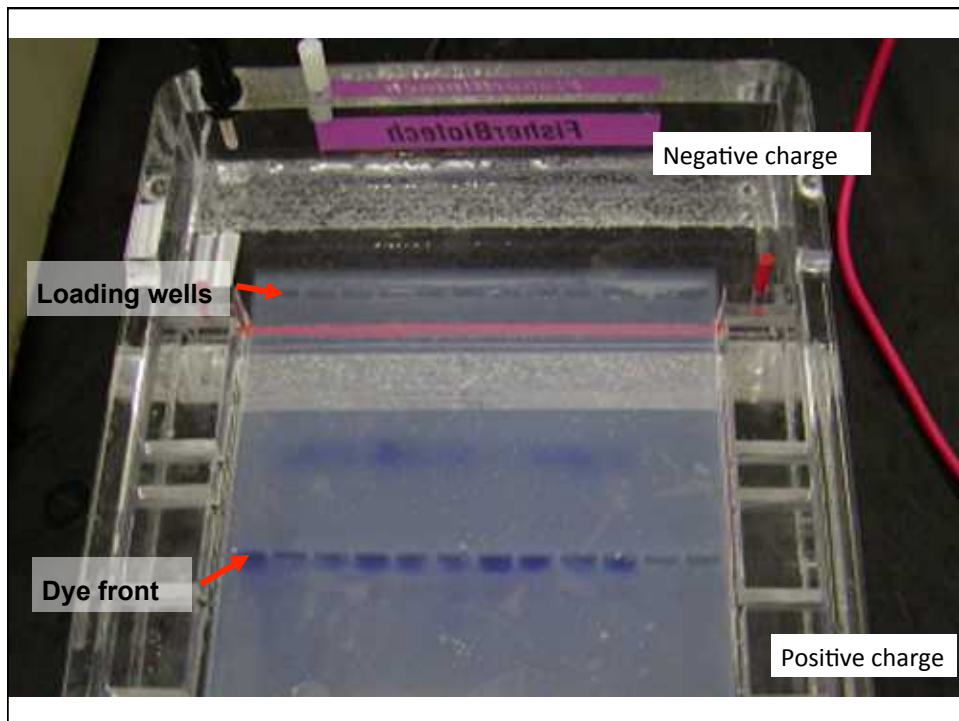
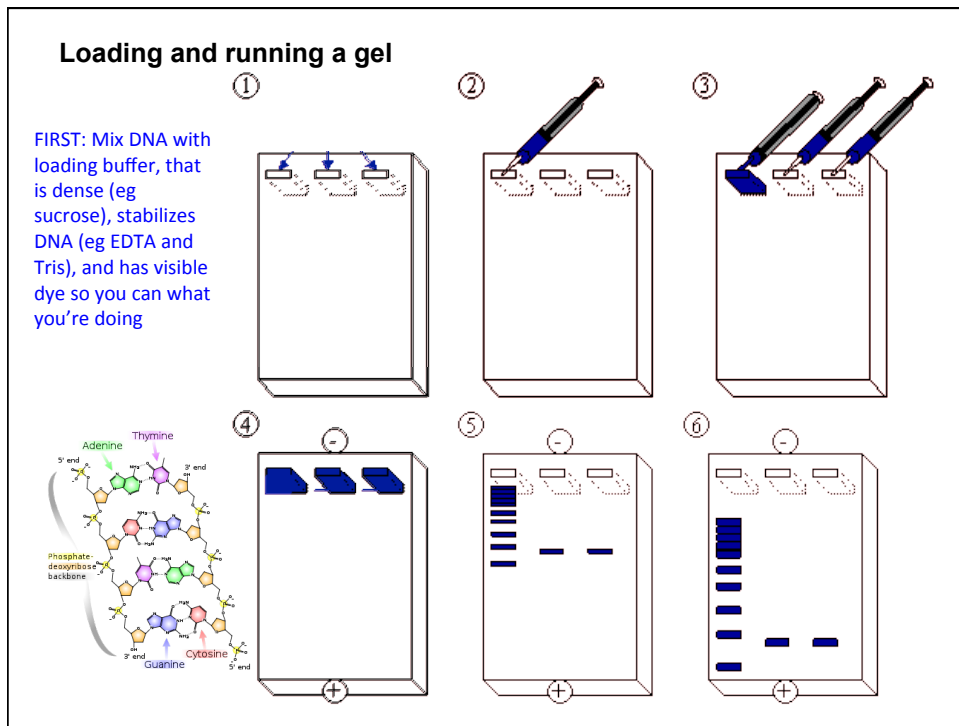
### Primer Design

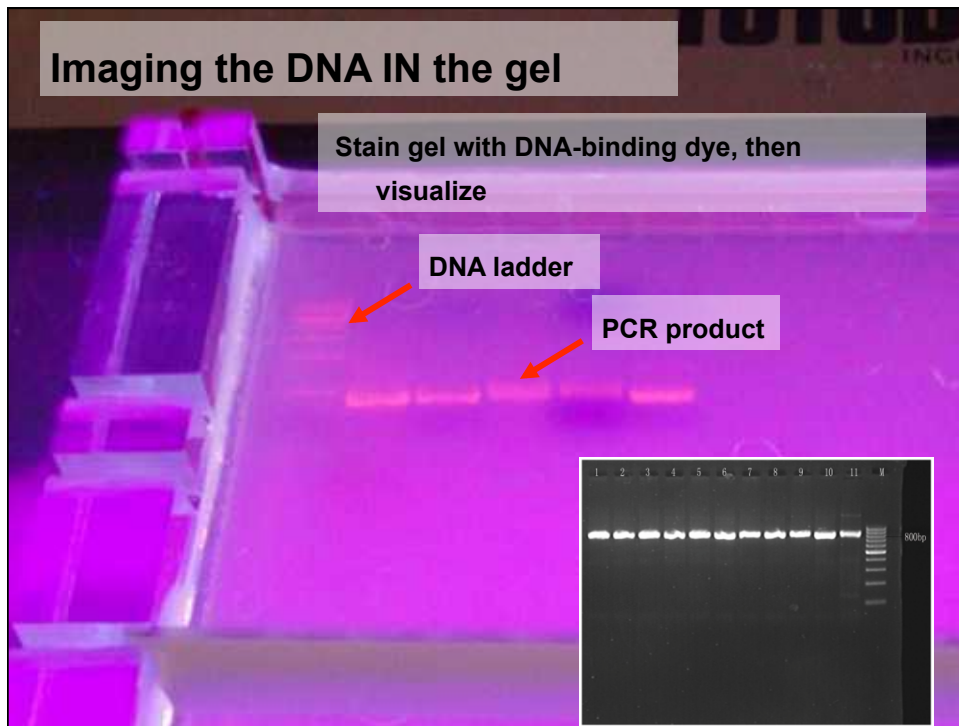
- Primer length – 17 to 30 bp
  - GC content > 50%
  - Conserved sequences - universal
    - 16S rDNA
    - Dehydrogenase genes
  - Conserved sequences – genus level
    - Nod genes
    - Rhl genes
    - LamB genes
- + RANDOM PRIMING FOR NON-SPECIFIC AMPLIFICATION

### General considerations when doing PCRs:

- Include **no-template negative control!**
- Include **positive control!**
- Identify your **limit of detection** (sensitivity)
- Caution when using **degenerate primers and/or mixed templates**
  - all targets may not amplify equivalently... (why not?)
  - some variant primers getting used up before others (→ use “reconditioning PCR”)
  - stochastic variation in early rounds of amplification can have big effect (pool rxns)







Biorad's (first) PCR song...

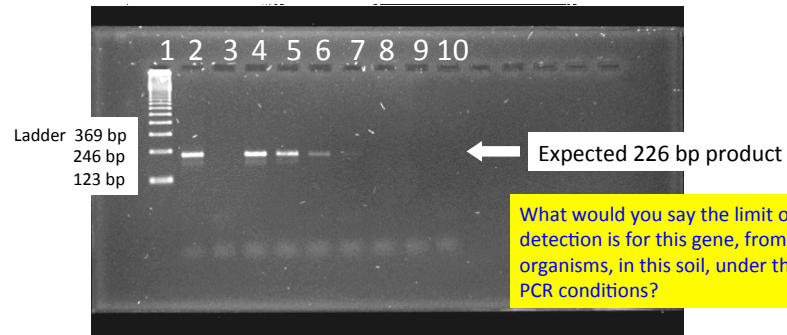
<http://youtu.be/x5yPkxCLads>

## EXAMPLE

GOAL: Identifying limit-of-detection of PCR of the *rhIB* gene in soil DNA extracts (to know how well you can use PCR to detect this gene in the environment).

DESIGN: Sterile Gila soil was inoculated with *P. aeruginosa*, which carries *rhIB*.

*rhIB* gene is part of rhamnolipid production pathway...



Why include lane 2?

Lane 2 – *P. aeruginosa*

Lane 7 -  $10^3$  cells/g

Why include lane 3?

Lane 3 – *E. coli*

Lane 8 -  $10^2$  cells/g

Lane 4 –  $10^6$  cells/g

Lane 9 – sterile soil

Lane 5 –  $10^5$  cells/g

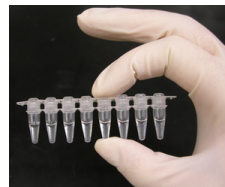
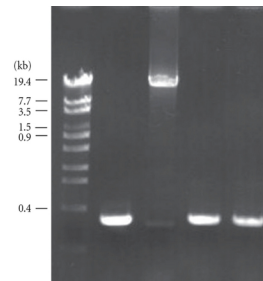
Lane 10- water

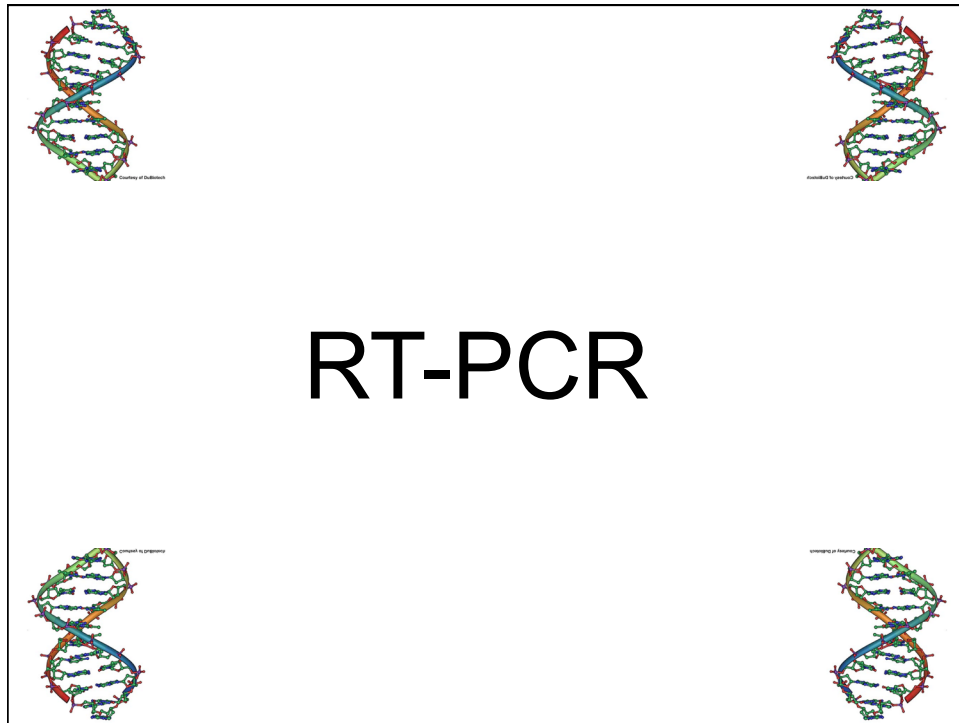
Lane 6 -  $10^4$  cells/g

A PCR product should be confirmed to be what you think it is in at least two ways initially.

These can include:

1. Correct product size.
2. Sequence the product.
3. RFLP analysis (see later).
4. Use a gene probe to confirm the product (see later).
5. Use alternate PCR approaches... (eg seminested PCR, won't discuss here)





**RT-PCR** *Reverse transcriptase (RT) is a naturally-occurring enzyme used by VIRUSES and by some regions of eukaryotic and bacterial chromosomes for replication via an RNA stage.*

mRNA molecule

+ reverse transcriptase

+ dNTPs

+ primer, type selected based on mRNA origin & amplification goal

<p><b>Random primer</b></p> <p>5' ————— AAAAAAAAA 3'</p> <p>← N<sub>6</sub> ← N<sub>6</sub> ← N<sub>6</sub> ← N<sub>6</sub> ← N<sub>6</sub></p>	<p>mRNA first-strand cDNA</p>	<p>→ <b>Normal PCR</b> with two primers</p>
<p><b>Oligo(dT) primer</b></p> <p>5' ————— AAAAAAAAA 3'</p> <p>3' ←———— TTTTTTT 5'</p>	<p>mRNA first-strand cDNA</p>	
<p><b>Sequence-specific primer (—)</b></p> <p>5' ————— AAAAAAAAA 3'</p> <p>3' ←———— 5'</p>	<p>mRNA first-strand cDNA</p>	



The following RT-PCR example is review at home if you don't know this method well already

Is a gene **present** vs. it **expressed**: RT-PCR example

Working to understand microbial hydrocarbon degradation in model lab organism, *Pseudomonas*



**Pseudomonas cells**  
(visualized by what type of microscopy?)

Growth of *Pseudomonas* on salicylate over time showing degradation of substrate

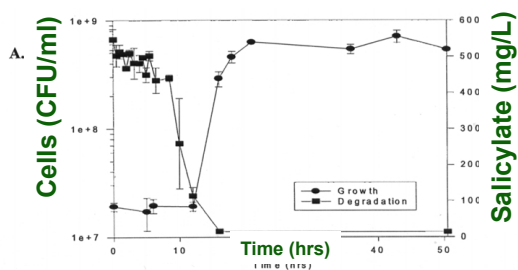
*Pseudomonas* naphthalene-degradation gene *nahAc* gene, induced by 2 substrates: naphthalene & salicylate.



naphthalene



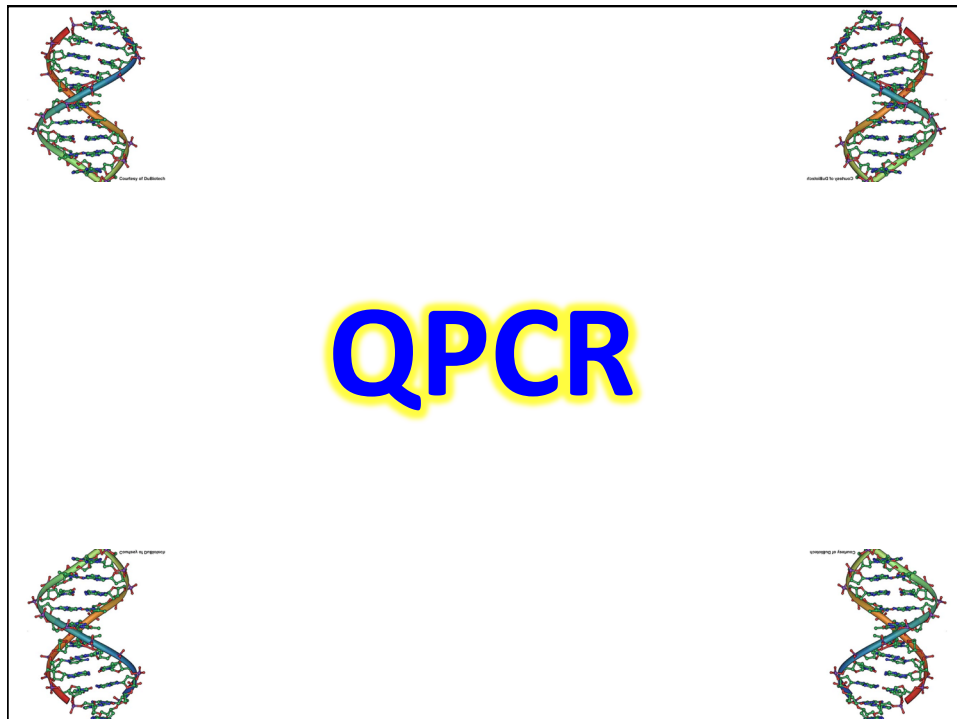
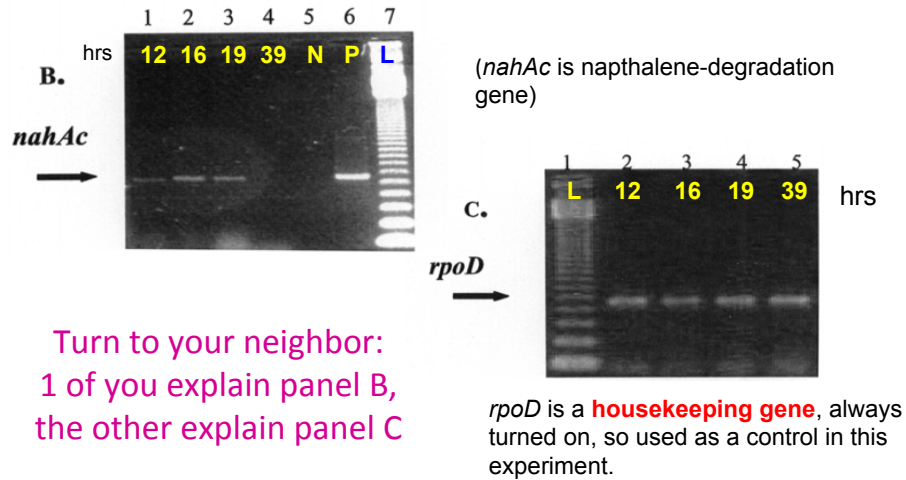
salicylate



Marlowe, Wang, Pepper and Maier, 2002. AEM

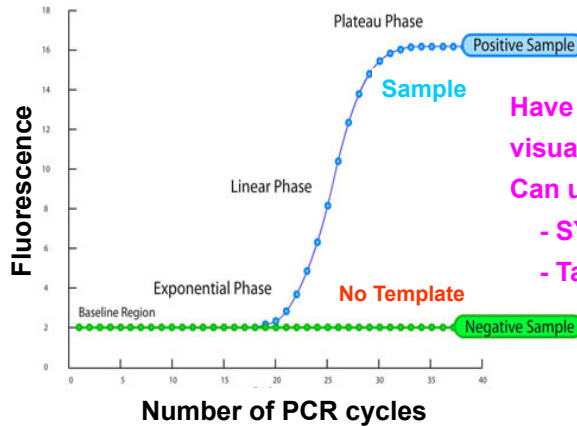
mRNA was extracted during growth of a *Pseudomonas* on salicylate

**RT-PCRs were performed,  
and are visualized here by gel electrophoresis**



## Real-Time PCR aka quantitative PCR = qPCR

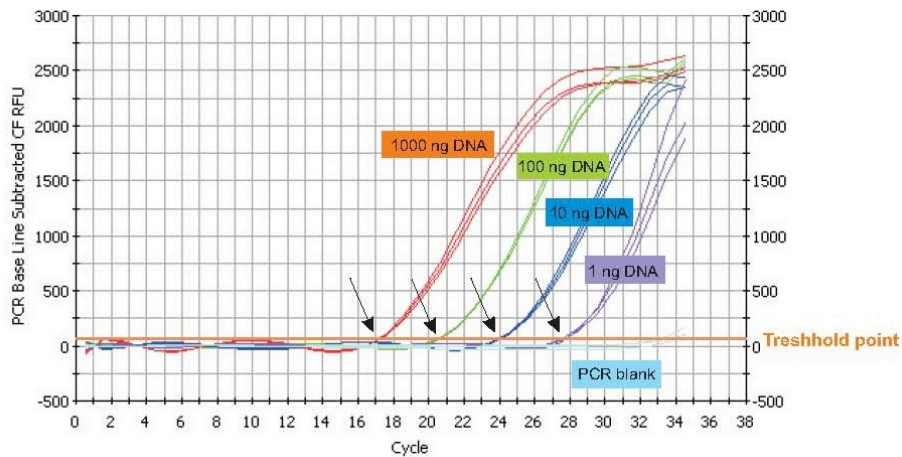
- allows quantitation of starting template material (DNA or RNA).
- Quantification from cycle # when product is first detected, NOT amount of product accumulated after a fixed number of cycles. Why?
- The higher the starting copy number of the nucleic acid target, the sooner a significant increase in fluorescence is observed.



Have to label amplicons to visualize their accumulation.

Can use e.g.:

- SYBR Green (non-specific)
- TaqMan probes (specific)



A typical amplification plot generated using a 10-fold dilution series of genomic DNA

The following QPCR example is review at home if you don't know this method well already

Is a gene **present** vs. it **expressed**, *part 2: qRT-PCR example*

- Simulated **diesel spill** in the Canadian high arctic at Ellesmere Island Bioremediation Experimental site
- Compared **control site to contaminated site**, and **time post-nutrient-amendment**, for **gene copies** and **gene expression** of degradation genes



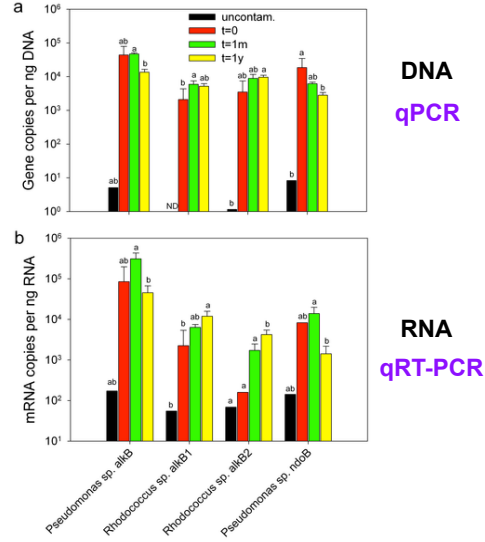
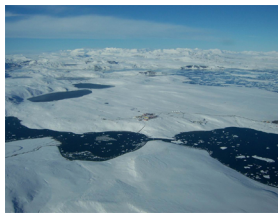
Yergeau E, Sanschagrin S, Beaumier D, Greer CW (2012) Metagenomic Analysis of the Bioremediation of Diesel-Contaminated Canadian High Arctic Soils. PLoS ONE 7(1): e30058. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030058  
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0030058>

PLoS one

## Is a gene present vs. it expressed, part 2: qRT-PCR example

Figure 2. Hydrocarbon-degrading gene relative abundance and expression.

- Simulated diesel spill in the Canadian high arctic at Ellesmere Island Bioremediation Experimental site
- Compared control site to contaminated site, and time post-nutrient-amendment, for gene copies and gene expression of degradation genes



Yergeau E, Sanschagrin S, Beaumier D, Greer CW (2012) Metagenomic Analysis of the Bioremediation of Diesel-Contaminated Canadian High Arctic Soils. PLoS ONE 7(1): e30058. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030058  
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0030058>



CDC Home  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 CDC 24/7: Saving lives, protecting people, reducing health costs

A-Z Index: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness & Response > Specific Hazards > Bioterrorism > A-Z > Anthrax

**Specific Hazards**  
 Bioterrorism  
 Anthrax

**Preparedness for All Hazards**

What CDC Is Doing  
 What You Can Do  
 Blog: Public Health Matters  
 What's New  
 A - Z Index

**Anthrax Q & A: Laboratory Testing**

**Can I get screened or tested to find out whether I have been exposed to anthrax?**  
 There is no screening test for anthrax; there is no test that a doctor can do for you that says you've been exposed to or carry it. The only way exposure can be determined is through a public health investigation. Nasal swabs and environmental tests, are not tests to determine whether an individual should be treated. These kinds of tests are used only to determine the extent of exposure in a given building or workplace.

**If patients are suspected other family members:**  
 Anthrax is not known to spread from person to person. If you are exposed to the same source as someone with anthrax, you should be tested.

**Does CDC collect samples?**  
 CDC is engaging its partner States. The LBN is a collaborative effort between CDC and state laboratories with advanced water, and food-testing lab. Laboratory testing is used to confirm the definitive or highly specific network; none of them are.

**When an area is tested the results?**  
 Before testing can begin, it takes to get test results of workload. Some tests may take many days to get the results. Testing is a two-step process: sample is large and contain confirmation test, conduct needed depends in part on the sample is received in it.

**Cepheid**

Global Distributors | Career Opportunities | LOCATION: North America

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**TESTS & REAGENTS**

- Overview
- Clinical IVD Tests
- ASR Products
- RUO Products
- Cepheid microRNA
- Industrial Reagents
- Anthrax Test
- Literature/MSDS
- Request Information

**Anthrax Test**

In the blink of an eye, go from crisis to calm.

Real-time PCR is a well-established method for the highly sensitive and specific detection of cells at extremely low levels. Gene sequences are amplified from very few copies. This assay can detect as few as 30 *Bacillus anthracis* spores in a sample.<sup>1</sup> Cepheid's technologies enhance the capabilities of this powerful chemistry by employing a unique 4-color real-time PCR system.

MEET THE NEW GENEXPERT® SYSTEMS

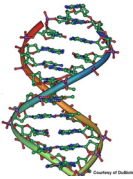
How do you access the information in these molecules?



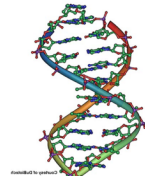
Study single or few genes  
(or transcripts)

1. **Selective amplification via PCR or RT-PCR**

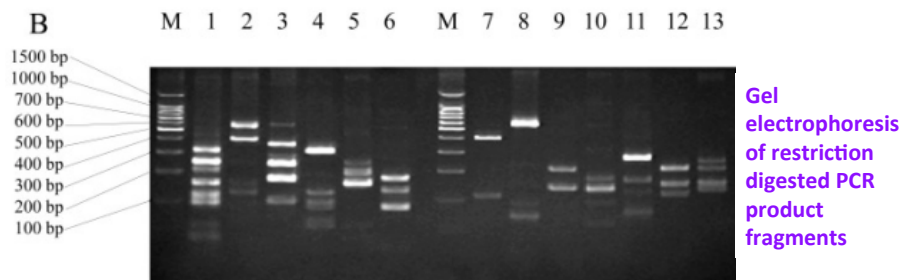
- Differentiate type(s) by “Fingerprinting” approaches
- Quantify by qPCR / realtime PCR
- Separate types by Cloning (e.g. functional expression, some seq'ing)
- Characterize definitively by Sequencing



## “Fingerprinting” methods



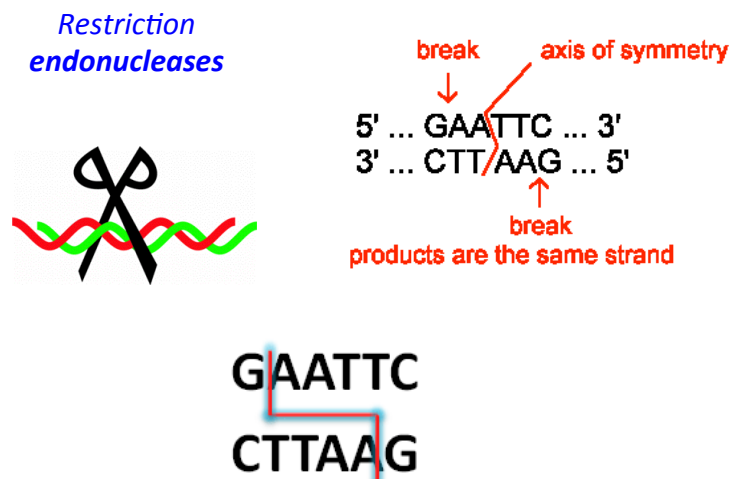
- “Fingerprinting” genomic DNA or PCR products to examine whether they are the same or different is a quick inexpensive alternative to sequencing that you might read about.
- There are **many** fingerprinting techniques.
- They do not provide information about the identity or relatedness of the organisms, just an indication of overall differences.



The following explanation  
of one type of  
fingerprinting is to read  
at home if you don't get  
this general concept and  
wish to

The brief example of "RFLP" fingerprinting

First review restriction enzymes:



### RFLP Fingerprinting Analysis

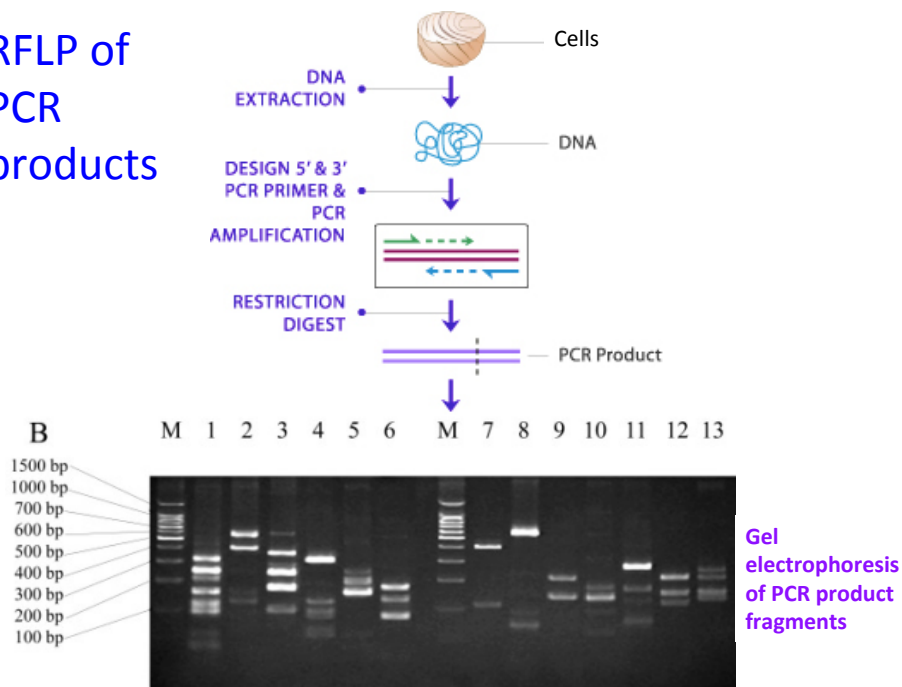
RFLP = restriction fragment length polymorphism

DNA is cut into fragments using one or a set of restriction enzymes.

For PCR products a simple fragment pattern can be distinguished immediately on a gel. This is used to confirm the PCR product or to distinguish between different isolates based on restriction cutting of the 16S-rDNA sequence "ribotyping". Also developed into a diversity measurement technique called "TRFLP".

For chromosomal DNA the RFLP fragments are separated by gel electrophoresis, transferred to a membrane, and probed with a gene probe.

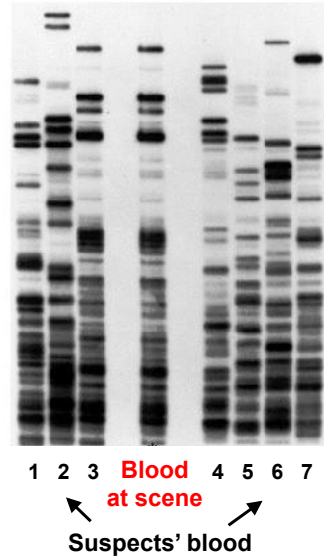
### RFLP of PCR products





### DNA fingerprinting in forensics

1. DNA is isolated from crime scene, victim, and suspect.
2. DNA in each sample is digested with a restriction enzyme(s).
3. The restriction fragments are separated by agarose gel electrophoresis.
4. The DNA is denatured and transferred to a nylon membrane (Southern blot).
5. The membrane is probed with a radiolabeled probe specific for a single polymorphic VNTR locus.
6. Autoradiography is performed to visualize the fingerprint.



How do you access the information in these molecules?



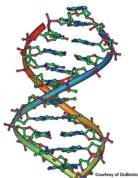
Study single or few genes  
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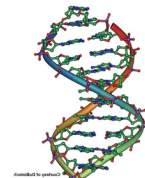
- Differentiate type(s) by “Fingerprinting” approaches
- Quantify by qPCR / realtime PCR
- Separate types by Cloning (e.g. functional expression, some seq'ing)
- Characterize definitively by Sequencing


#### 3/4. Study or hunt for target function(s) via “heterologous expression”

- Put genes (in targeted or blind way) into a “model organism” to search or study




# Cloning





# CLONING

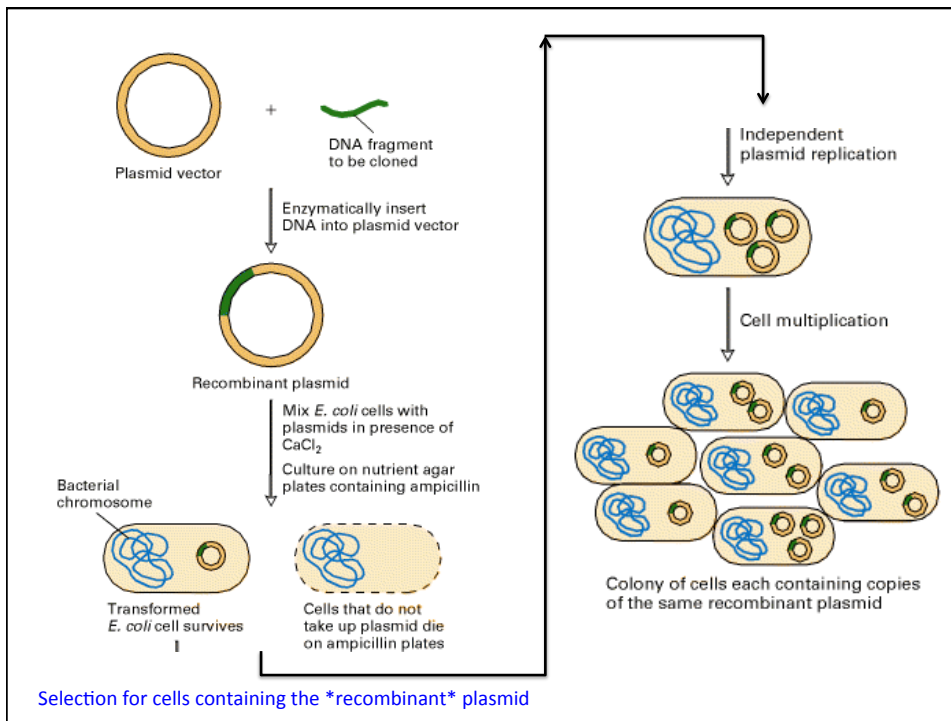
DNA cloning  
(NOT organismal cloning)  
= the process of introducing a foreign piece of DNA into a replication vector and multiplying the DNA – making many many copies (clones) of it...

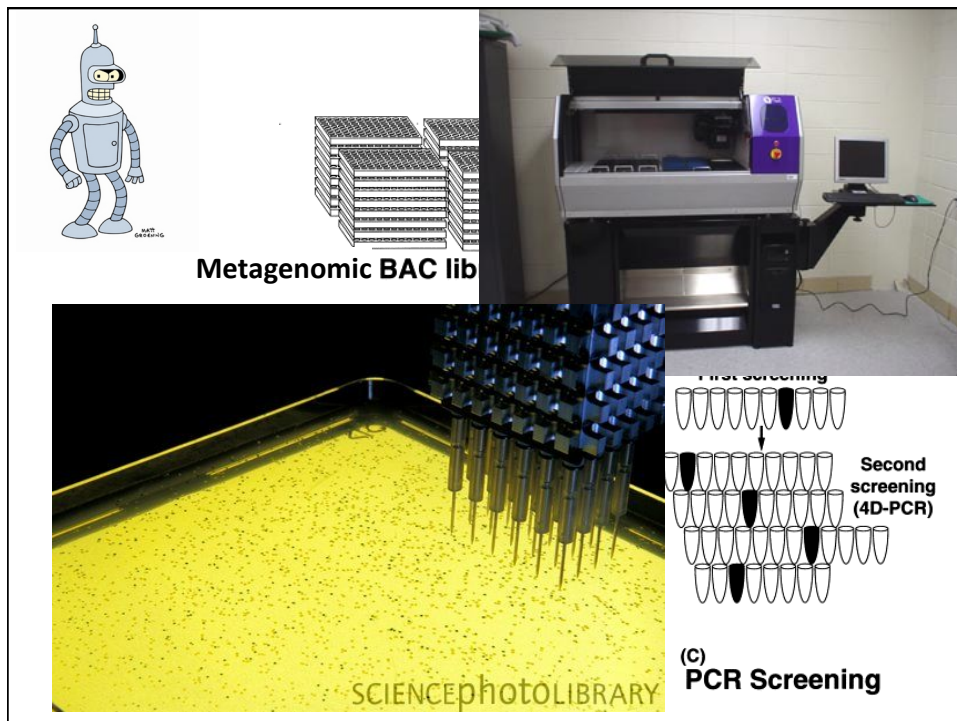
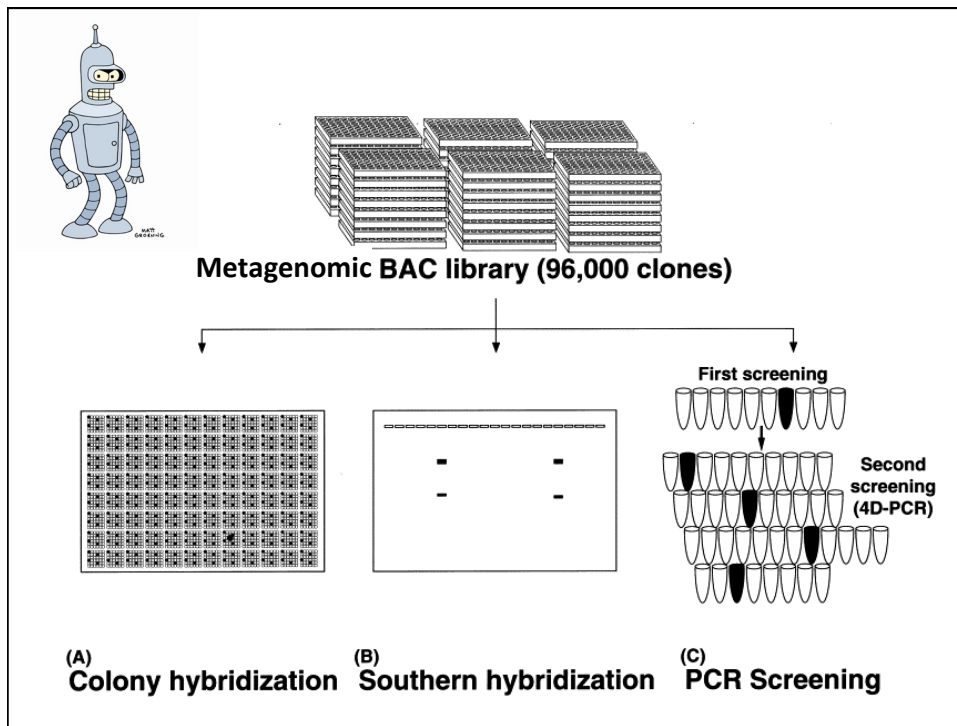


Recombinant DNA = foreign DNA inserted into a vector.


**Cloning DNA in environmental microbiology is used to:**

1. Make many *identical* copies of a gene as required for “old school” Sanger sequencing.
2. Produce large amounts of a gene PRODUCT (enzyme, etc)
3. Make stable “clone library” of environmental metagenomic DNA pieces, for:
  - a. Screening for clones of interest (carrying specific genes)
  - b. Sequencing (but not required for newer sequencing methods)
  - c. Functional screening (for e.g. bioprospecting)





Li et al. *Biotechnology for Biofuels* 2011, **4**:23  
<http://www.biotechnologyforbiofuels.com/content/4/1/23>

 **Biotechnology  
for Biofuels**

**RESEARCH** **Open Access**

**Bioprospecting metagenomics of decaying wood: mining for new glycoside hydrolases**

Luen-Luen Li<sup>1,2</sup>, Safiyh Taghavi<sup>1,2</sup>, Sean M McCorkle<sup>1,2</sup>, Yian-Biao Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Michael G Blewitt<sup>1</sup>, Roman Brunecky<sup>2,3</sup>, William S Adney<sup>2,3</sup>, Michael E Himmel<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Phillip Brumm<sup>4,5</sup>, Colleen Drinkwater<sup>4,5</sup>, David A Mead<sup>4,5</sup>, Susannah G Tringe<sup>6</sup> and Daniel van der Lelie<sup>1,2,7\*</sup>

**ARTICLE**


**BIOTECHNOLOGY  
and  
BIOENGINEERING**

**Cloning, Expression, and Characterization of Novel Thermostable Family 7 Cellobiohydrolases**

Sanni P. Voutilainen,<sup>1</sup> Terhi Puranen,<sup>2</sup> Matti Siika-aho,<sup>1</sup> Arja Lappalainen,<sup>1</sup> Marika Alapuranen,<sup>2</sup> Jarno Kallio,<sup>2</sup> Satu Hooman,<sup>1</sup> Liisa Viikri,<sup>1</sup> Jari Vehmaanperä,<sup>2</sup> Anu Koivula<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, P.O. Box 1000, FI-02044 VTT, Finland; telephone: +358-20-7225110; fax: +358-20-7227071; e-mail: anu.koivula@vtt.fi  
<sup>2</sup>ROAL Oy, P.O. Box 57, FI-05201 Rajamäki, Finland

Received 4 July 2007; revision received 22 January 2008; accepted 10 April 2008  
 Published online 15 April 2008 in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com). DOI 10.1002/bit.21940



**ABSTRACT:** As part of the effort to find better cellulases for bioethanol production processes, we were looking for novel GH-7 family cellobiohydrolases, which would be particularly active on insoluble polymeric substrates and participate in the rate-limiting step in the hydrolysis of cellulose.

**KEYWORDS:** cellulose; cellobiohydrolase; *Trichoderma reesei*; *Chaetomium thermophilum*; *Acremonium thermophilum*; *Thermascus aurantiacus*

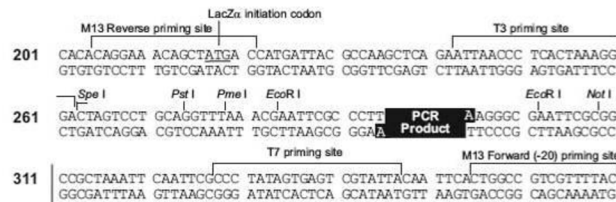
A little more on cloning  
to read at home if you  
want to know more...

### Cloning vectors differ generally by:

- **size** (of vector itself and amount of foreign DNA they can carry)
- **host** organism
- **copy #** in that host
- whether foreign DNA gets **expressed** or not, and if so how much...

Vector Type	Host Type	Insert size (kb)
Plasmid	Bacteria e.g. <i>E. coli</i>	<10 kb
Phage	Bacteria e.g. <i>E. coli</i>	9-20 kb
Fosmid	Bacteria e.g. <i>E. coli</i>	40kb
BAC (Bacterial Artificial Chromosome)	Bacteria e.g. <i>E. coli</i>	75-150 kb
YAC (Yeast Artificial Chromosome)	Bacteria and Yeast	100-1000 kb

## Cloning Vector Map



Restriction enzymes play key role here too!



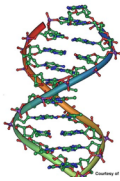
How do you access the information in these molecules?



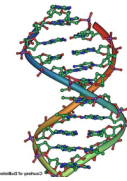
Study single or few genes  
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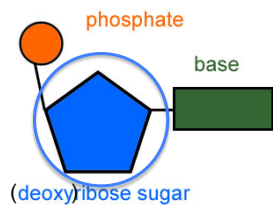
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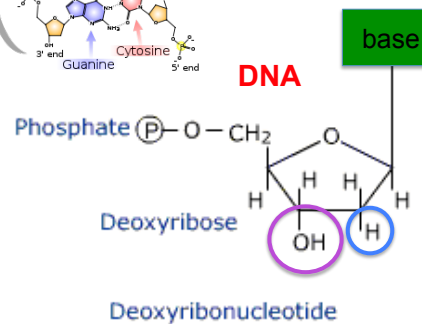
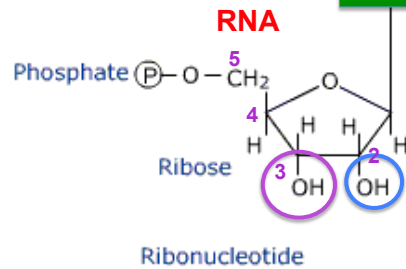
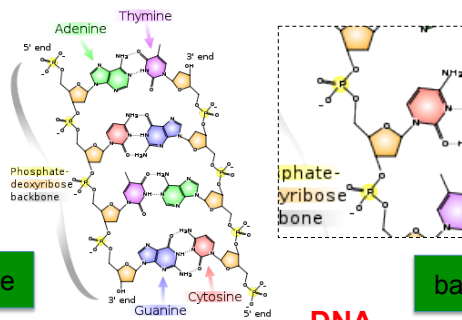
# SEQUENCING



Molecular techniques are based on the structure of these biomolecules, let's focus here on DNA and RNA



© scienceaid.co.uk



# Sanger Sequencing:

“chain terminating” nucleotide analogs sprinkled among normal dNTPs

ddNTPs terminate DNA synthesis.

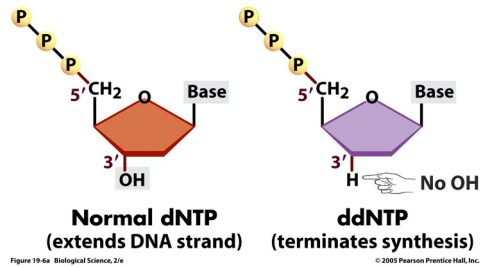
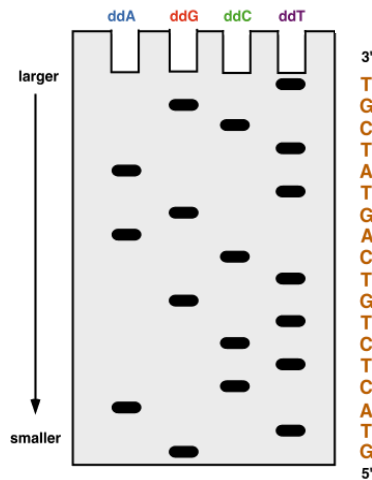


Figure 19-4a Biological Science, 2/e

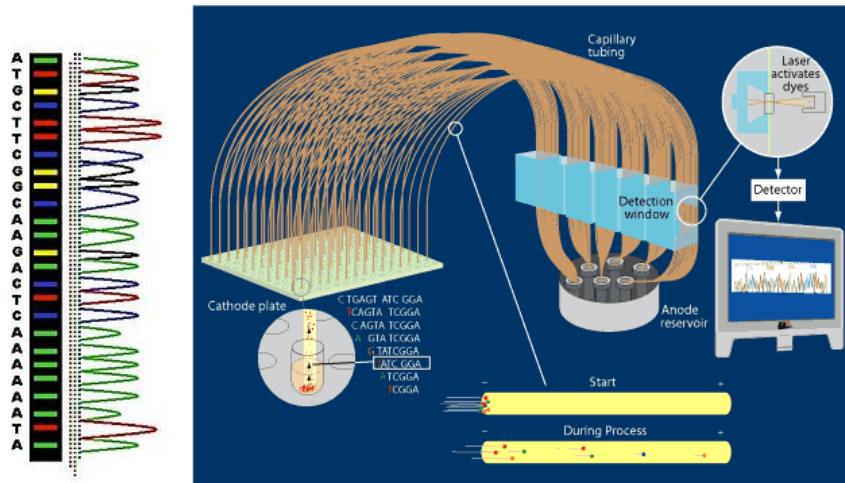
© 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

4 separate reactions, each run on separate lane of gel...



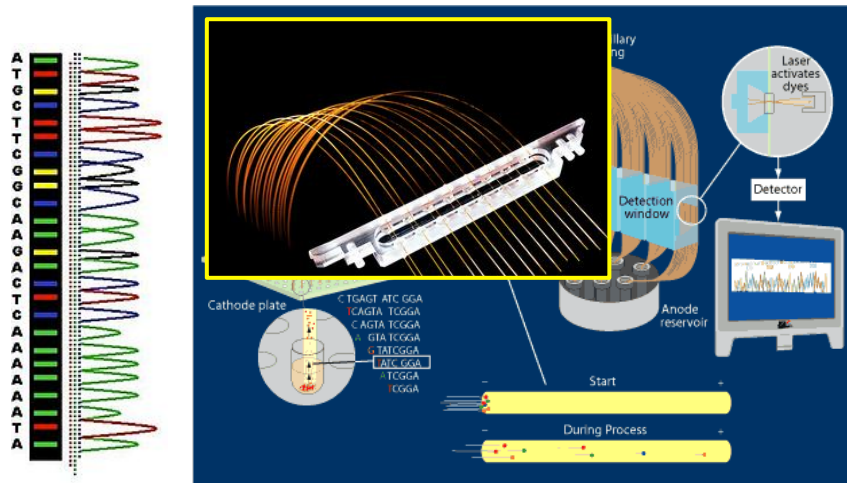
# Today's version of Sanger:

- separates fragments through capillary electrophoresis not gel
- performed 96 to 384 “lanes” at a time
- using fluorescently-labeled ddNTPs (so can use 1 lane per sample instead of 4)
- ~750bp / read



## Today's version of Sanger:

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## "Next Generation" High Throughput Sequencing Technologies

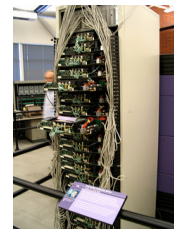
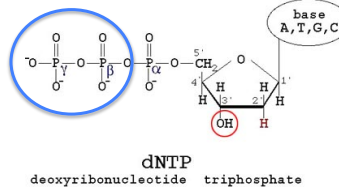
- 454 Pyrosequencing
- Illumina sequencing
- NUMEROUS others

"Next-gen" sequencing is:

- Much cheaper per base
- MUCH higher-throughput – thousands to millions of reads per sample
- Gives shorter reads (400bp for 454, 150 for Illumina)
- Does not require cloning first

Almost all are still "sequencing by synthesis"

- they "read" the sequence of DNA as it is copied from the template
- the signal they see is based on either
  - a. labeled dNTPs, like in modern Sanger (Illumina)
  - b. Detection of the successful addition of a dNTP and release of PPi (c. others)





Many options here  
at UofA ...



Sanger, Illumina, Pyrosequencer @ Arizona Genomics Institute (Rod Wing)



Sanger, Pyrosequencer @ Arizona Research Labs

Proteomics + Flow cytometry cores



**BIO5**



## Special case of 1-gene sequencing: **high-throughput 16S rRNA amplicon sequencing**

**Amplicons generated first by PCR; sequenced by pyrosequencing called "pyrotags",  
sequenced by Illumina called "iTags"**

Angiuoli et al., 2011, PLoS ONE, Evaluated different seq'ing methods for different applications;  
excerpt from table here to show high # of sequences recovered per human gut habitat

Dataset	Data type	Sequencing platform	Library type <sup>1</sup>	Total reads	Units <sup>2</sup>	Avg. read length [bp]	Size [MB]	Samples
Humanized mice [41] <sup>4</sup>	Amplicon	454 GS FLX	SE	530030	1.1 plates	232	122.5	215
Infant gut 16S [38]	Amplicon	454 GS FLX	SE	399127	0.8 plates	179	95.1	63

<sup>1</sup>Abbreviations: bp, basepairs; SE, single-end; PE, paired-end (in parentheses: insert size); WGS, whole-genome shotgun.

<sup>2</sup>References for unit sizes: Roche/454 GS GS FLX, 500 K reads per plate (two half plates); Roche/454 GS GS FLX Titanium, 1 M reads per plate (two half plates); Illumina GAII, 40 M reads per channel (eight channels per flowcell).

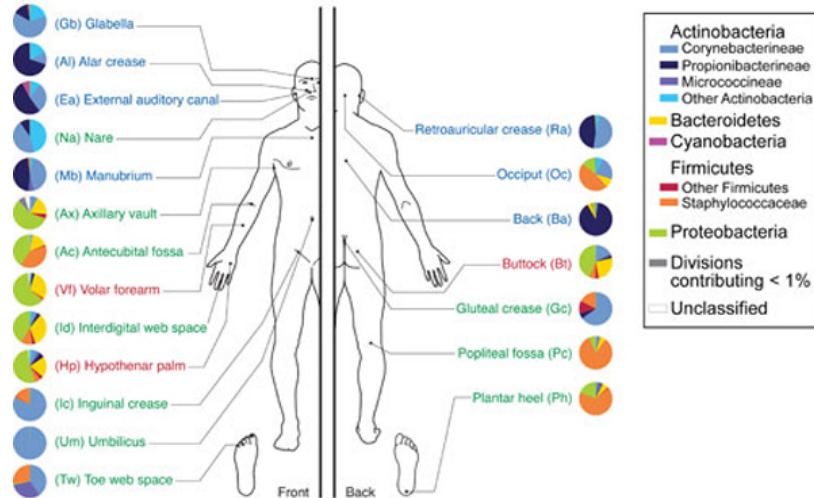
<sup>3</sup>Trimmed datasets.

<sup>4</sup>Dataset used for Figures 2 and 3.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0026624.t001

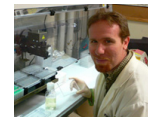
- **Multiplexing! Short DNA "barcodes" allow multiple samples to be run together**

## Example of skin microbiome



Elizabeth Grice & Discover Magazine. In a thorough survey of our skin microbiome, Elizabeth Grice identified species from at least 205 different genera. Your forearm has the richest community with an average of 44 species, while your nostril, ears and inguinal crease (between leg and groin) are the most stable habitats. Grice also found that bacteria from a specific body part have more in common than those from a specific person. Your butt microbes have more in common with mine than they do with your elbow microbes.

Here are a number of slides on different types of sequencing technologies to read at home / refer back to when interested (courtesy of MBS)



## 454 Pyrosequencing - the generations

Stats/ run	GS20	FLX	Titanium
Total sequence (Mb)	40	100	1,000
Read length (bp)	100	>200	>400
# reads	400,000	400,000	1M
Paired Ends?	NO	Y, 50%	Y, 50%



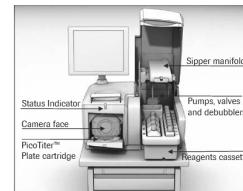
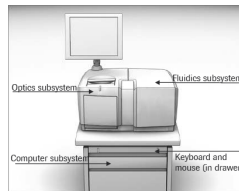
Cost / bp -->

0.03 ¢

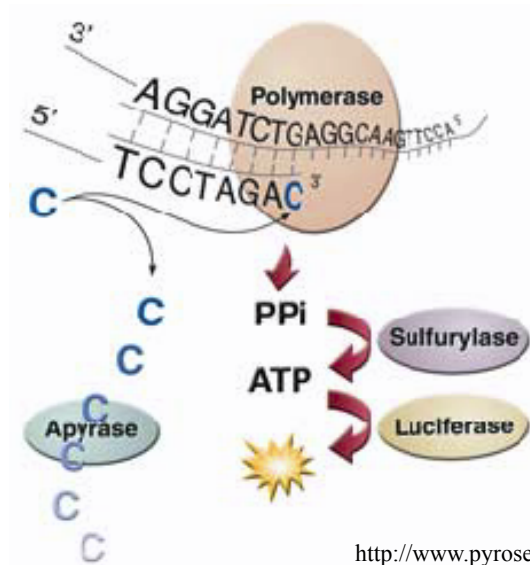
0.01 ¢

0.003 ¢

(Sanger is currently 0.1 ¢)

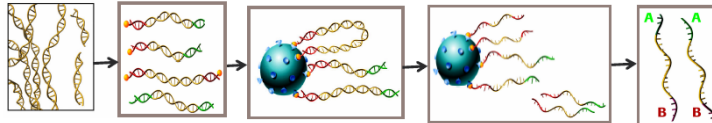


## The “pyro” in pyrosequencing

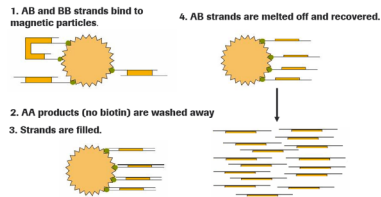
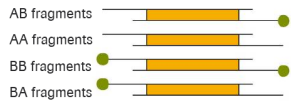


<http://www.pyrosequencing.com/>

## Pyrosequencing - Library construction

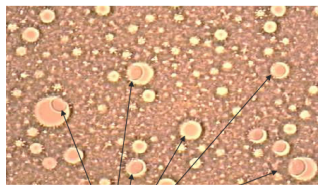
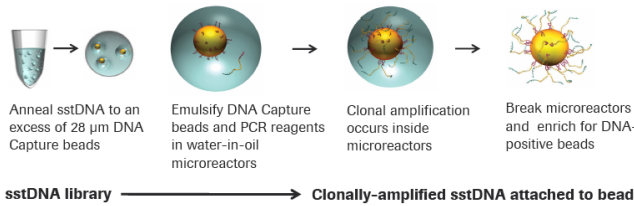


- Library is created from any dsDNA
- Genome fragmentation by nebulization
- Ligation of adapters A & B
- A/B fragments selected using streptavidin-biotin purification
- Denaturation to select for sstDNA library with A/B adaptors
- No cloning; no colony picking



Images courtesy of Roche (Technical presentation)

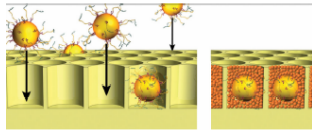
## Pyrosequencing - emPCR



DNA Capture Beads

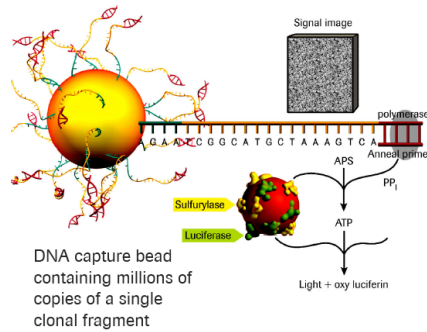
“colonies” generated by bead-associated emulsion PCR

# Pyrosequencing - sequencing

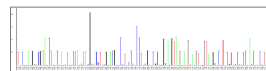
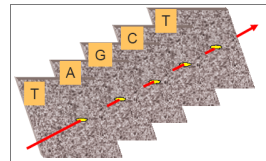
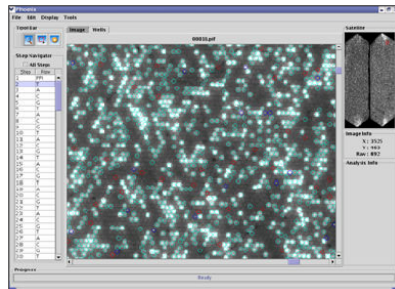


- Well diameter average for PicoTiterPlate is 44 μm
- A single clonally amplified sstDNA bead is deposited per well.
- A layer of packing and enzyme beads are deposited
- Plate is loaded into instrument for sequencing

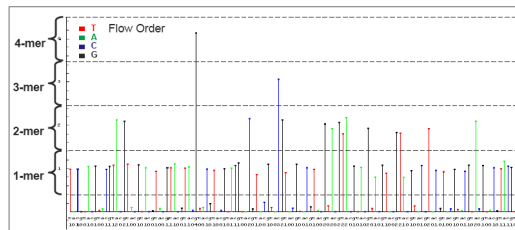
Amplified sstDNA library beads → Packed PTP



# Pyrosequencing - image processing



Signal strength is determined by homopolymer length.



TCAG

# Illumina Genome Analyzer (bought Solexa in 2006)

Sequencing-by-synthesis using “bridged” amplification to generate “colonies”

~30-35bp (50bp) reads, 2GB, \$4K / run

Not strong for “denovo” genomic sequencing

Useful for  
 - “resequencing” genome projects  
 - gene expression in model systems  
 (replace the microarray?)

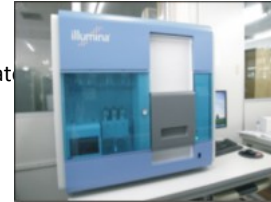
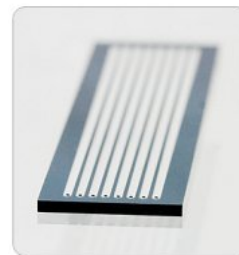


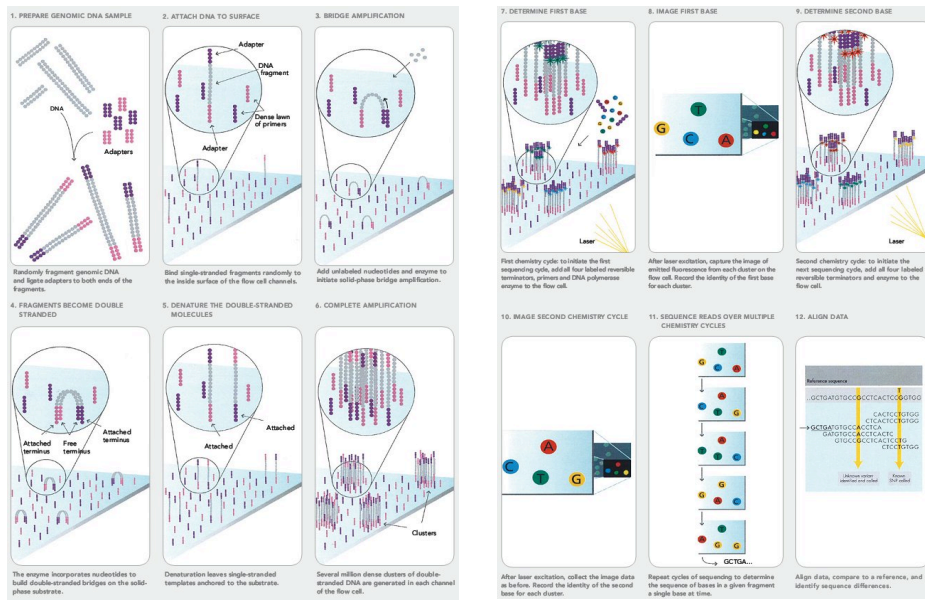
FIGURE 1: ILLUMINA GENOME ANALYZER FLOW CELL



Up to eight samples can be loaded onto the flow cell for simultaneous analysis on the Illumina Genome Analyzer.

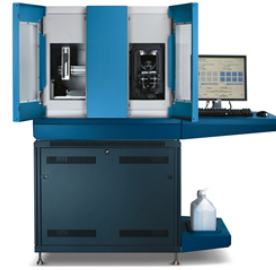
## Cluster station

## 1G sequencer

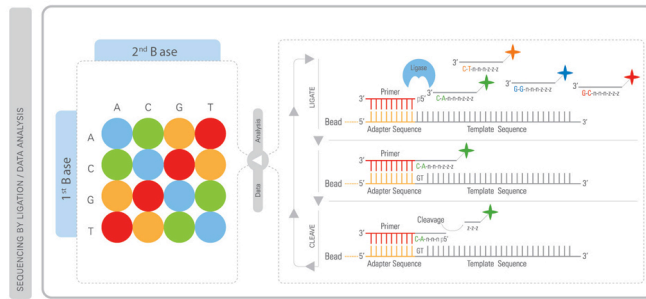


# ABI SOLiD

SOLiD 2.0 = 2GB/run  
 SOLiD 3.0 = 20Gb from 400M reads  
 (~35bp reads, 25bp for PE reads, but 600bp-10kb insert-size PE reads)



Fragment, ligate linkers, emPCR, deposit beads on slide ... then ... sequence by ligation with TWO-base calling

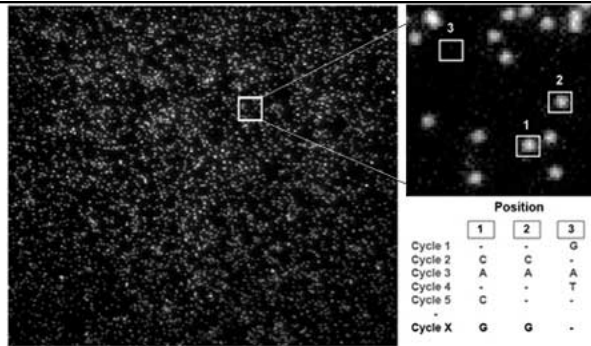


# HeliScope

Sequencing-by-synthesis

tSMS = single DNA molecules are captured on an application-specific proprietary surface

[See web page video](#)



25GB/run = 1 billion reads x 25bp each  
 NOW: 25 Mb / hr  
 SOON: 90Mb/hr (improve efficiency / error) to 360Mb/hr  
 (increased spot density)  
 - 1 wk data acquisition, server holds 2 runs of data  
 A 2000 pound, 32-CPU, \$1.35M jalopy?



## PacBio

***The Polonator***: open-source

- novel, low-cost PCR polymerase and ligase, + license-free fluors —  
“freedom fluors!”

Now: 1 run = 80hours, 10Gb @ 28bp / read (14bp from each PE)

By 2013: all “real-time” runs to yield a draft human genome in < 3  
minutes, and finished human genome in 15 minutes

Images each fluor-labelled nucleotide as it is incorporated  
into growing DNA strand by tethering polymerase to a 20-  
zeptoliter well ( $10^{-21}$  = “the world’s smallest detection  
volume”) and visualizing ~10 base additions per second



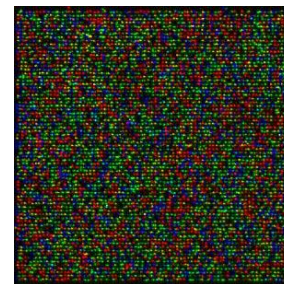
## Complete Genomics: Service only

32,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility = 1,000 human genomes in 2009  
+ 20,000 genomes in 2010

Data not published, but \$4,000 human genome sequenced July ‘08  
“The speed of the instrument is about 10 times faster than SOLiD and Illumina,”  
Reid claims. “This [genome] ran 4 instruments for a 7 day run -- a 28-instrument-  
day experiment. By the launch of our product in Q2 [of 2009], it will be a 4-  
instrument-day experiment.”

\$1,000 human genome in “Spring 2009”

(sequencing-by-hybridization using ligation + gridded arrays to 1 billion DNA  
“nanoballs” = cPAL or combinatorial probe-anchor ligation)  
40bp “reads” (linkers)





How do you access the information in these molecules?



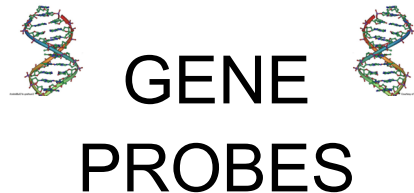
Study single or few genes  
(or transcripts)

1. Selective amplification via PCR or RT-PCR

- Differentiate type(s) by “Fingerprinting” approaches
- Quantify by qPCR / realtime PCR
- Separate types by Cloning (e.g. functional expression, some seq’ing)
- Characterize definitively by Sequencing

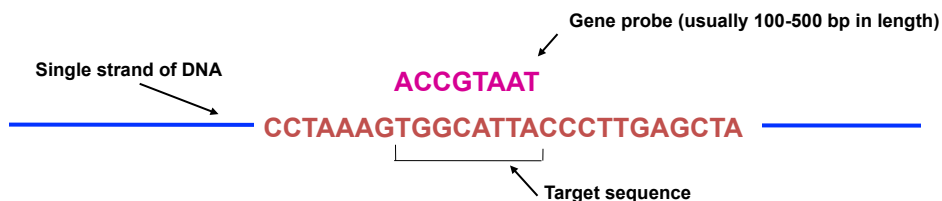
2. Hunt for target(s) via “Gene probes”

- used to hybridize to “blots”
- used in microscopy to ID particular cells (“FISH”)
- Can be used in *flow sorting* to ID particular cells
- Used in *microarrays* (probes stuck to surface)

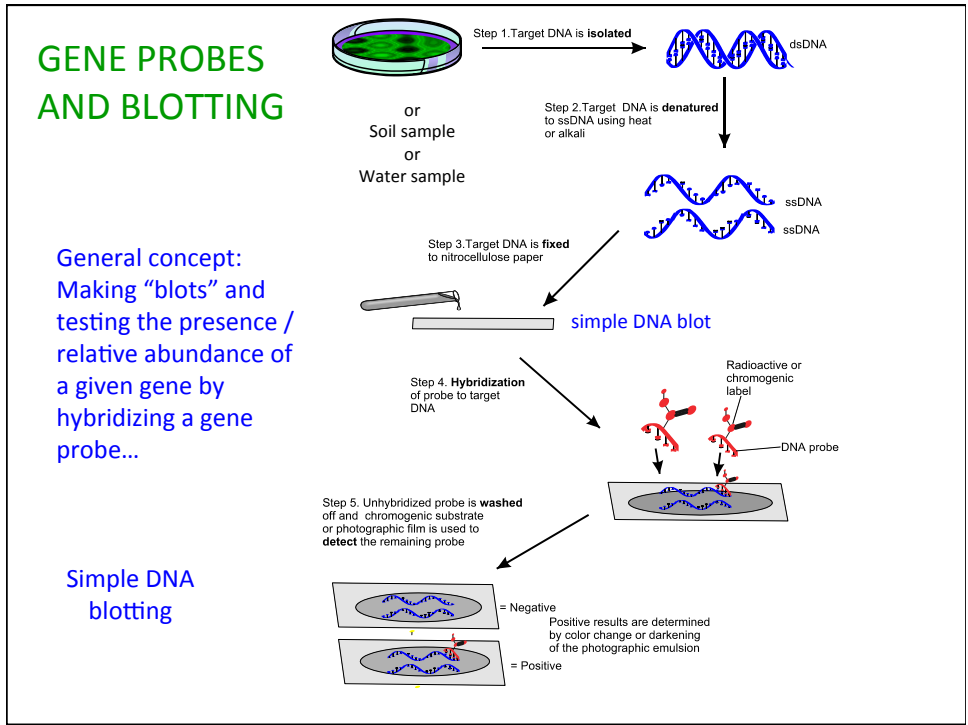


Gene probes

A gene probe is a short specific sequence of DNA that is used to query whether a sample contains “target” DNA, or DNA complementary to the gene probe.



The target sequence can be a universally conserved region such as the **16S-rDNA gene** or it can be in a region that is conserved within a specific genus or species such as the *nod* genes for nitrogen fixation by *Rhizobium* or the *rhl* genes for rhamnolipid biosurfactant production by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, or the *mcrA* gene of methanogenesis in various *Archaea*.



## Example: Gene probes + microscopy = FISH, fluorescent in situ hybridization

Bisha & Brehm-Stecher, 2009. AEM.

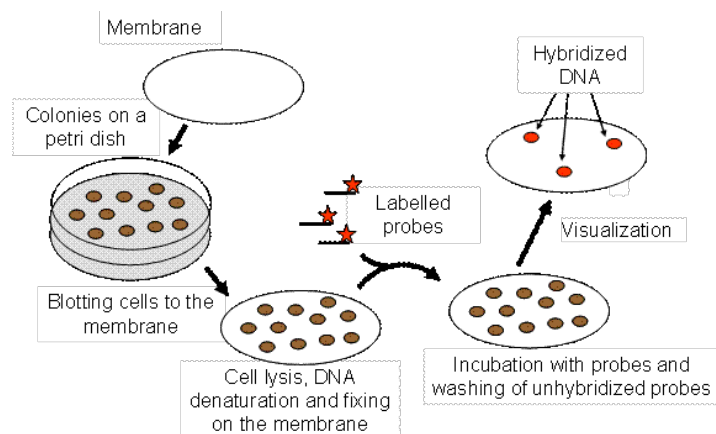
FIG. 1. Tape-FISH for detection of *Salmonella* strains in mixed culture from tomato surfaces. Tomatoes were spiked with a mixture of *S. enterica* serovar Typhimurium ( $10^7$  CFU  $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ) and *R. glutinis* ( $10^6$  CFU  $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ) and then sampled with adhesive tape after drying. Tapes were hybridized for 30 min with a combination of probes targeting *Salmonella* cells (Sal3/Salm-63 cocktail, green label) and eukaryotic cells (EUK 516, red label). These results demonstrate the utility of tape-FISH for simultaneous visualization of the distribution and interactions between multiple phylotypes occurring together on produce surfaces.

**Cells lifted from tomato surface, hybridized with fluorescently-labeled DNA probes targeting 16S (or 18S) rRNA. Probes for eukaryotic cells and for Salmonella bacteria. Which color is for which?**

Two more examples to read at home if you want to know more...

**Example 1: Using a PCB-degrading gene probe to examine whether there are PCB-degraders in a given soil sample.**

Colony blotting

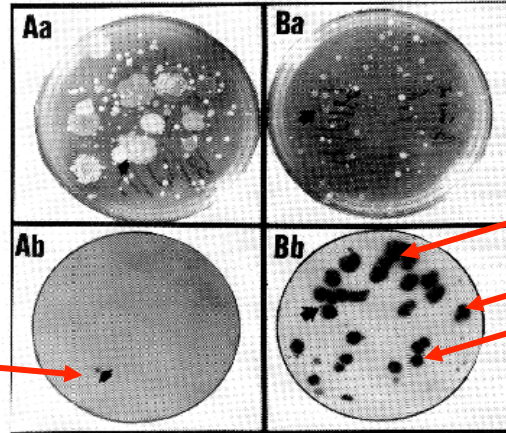


Example 1: Using a **PCB-degrading gene probe** to examine whether there are PCB-degraders in a given soil sample.

Colonies

vs.

Colony blots



Aa – Bacterial colonies from garden soil

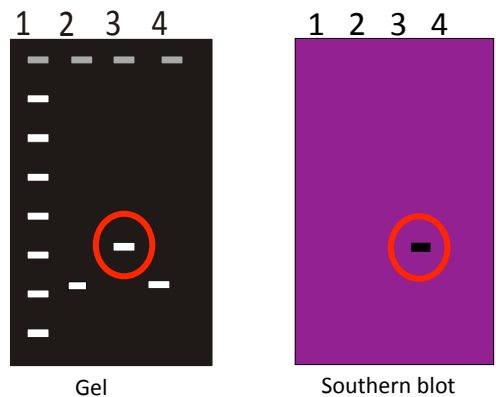
Ab – Colony hybridization with gene probe from PCB-degrading genes

Ba – Bacterial colonies from a PCB-contaminated landfill site

Bb – Colony hybridization with gene probe from PCB-degrading genes

Example 2: Southern blot (developed by EM Southern)

Electrophoresed DNA is transferred onto a membrane and probed.



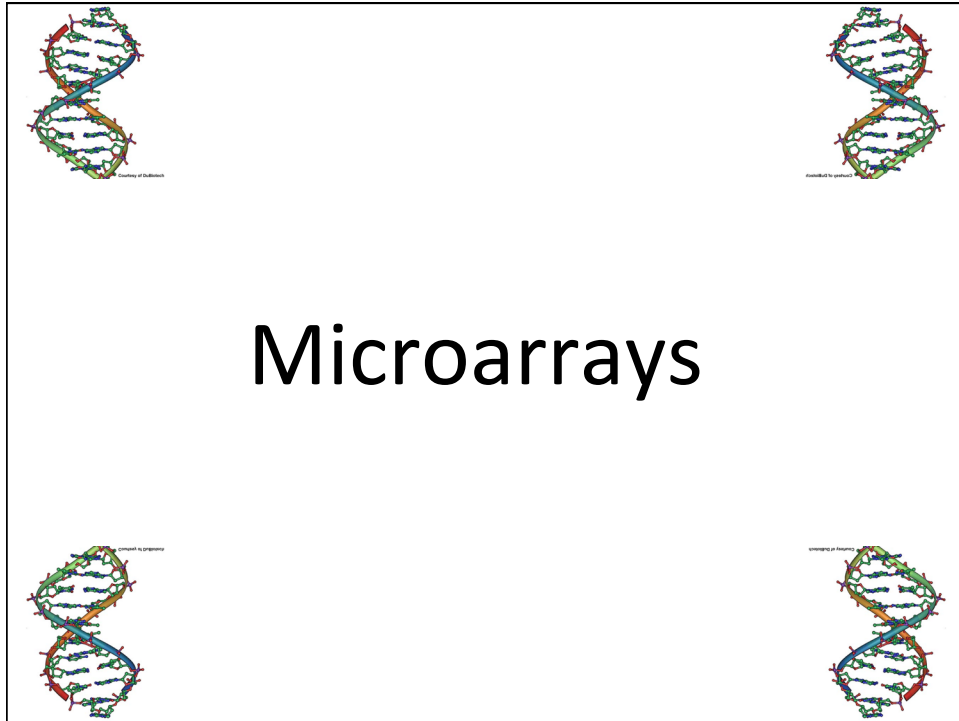
Forensics!

**Northern blot ?**

Electrophoresed RNA is transferred onto a membrane & probed.

**Western blot ?**

You guessed it, separated proteins transferred to membrane & probed.



### Microarray basics

Microarray = many copies of specific DNA sequences immobilized on a substrate

The diagram illustrates the basic components of a microarray. On the left, a photograph shows a dark, rectangular substrate, identified as a glass microscope slide. A purple square highlights a small area on the slide. A purple line connects this area to a larger, detailed grid of green spots. This grid represents the microarray, where each spot contains thousands of copies of a specific DNA sequence. Two purple boxes on the right side of the grid highlight individual spots, with lines pointing to explanatory text. The text states that each spot contains many thousands of copies of the same DNA sequence, and that different spots contain different DNA sequences, known as "probes".

Substrate can be e.g. a glass microscope slide

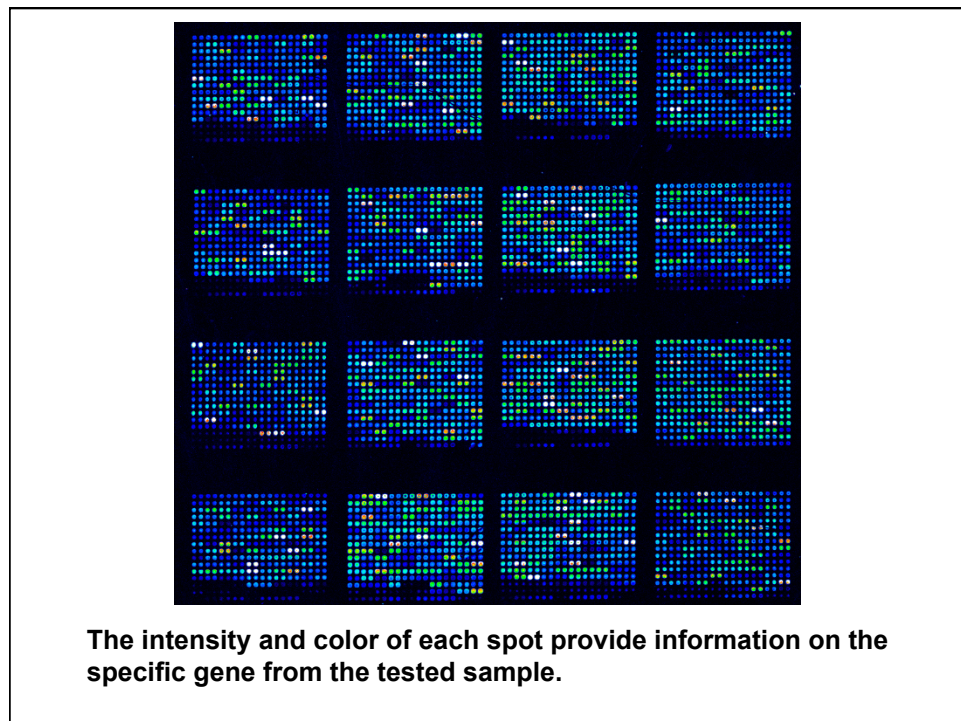
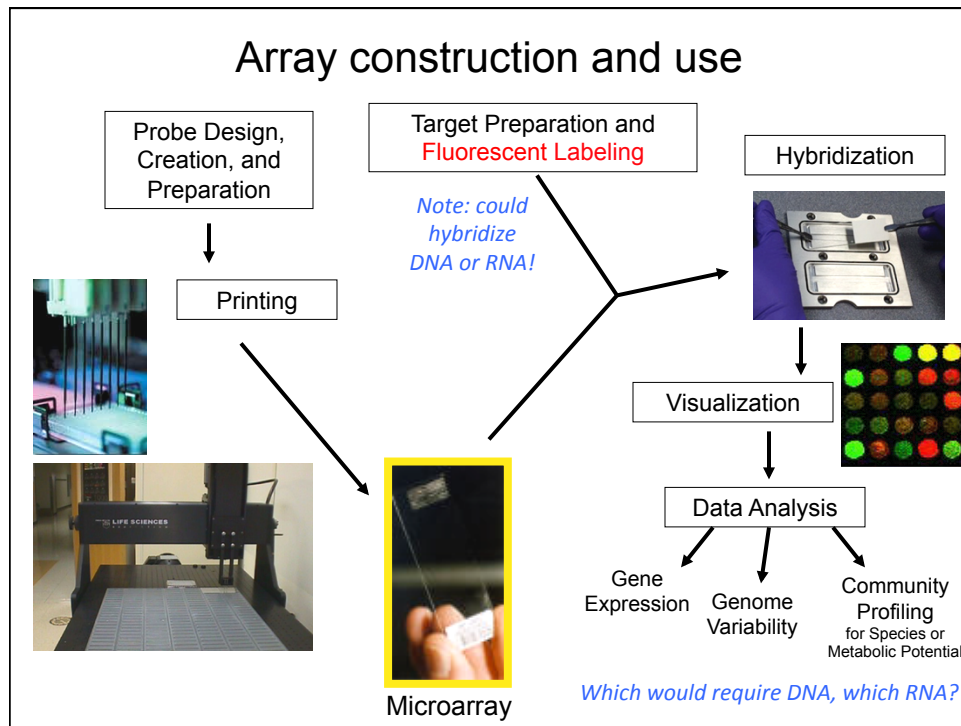
Spotted DNAs, visualized with a DNA stain

Each spot is many thousands of copies of the same DNA sequence

Different spots contain different DNA sequences, aka "probes"

A small photograph in the bottom right corner shows a man wearing safety glasses and a white lab coat, holding a small, dark microarray chip. He is standing in a laboratory setting with computer monitors and equipment visible in the background.

Jack Small, PNNL, via DOE website



## Three *Main* types of Arrays used in Environmental Microbiology:

1. **Functional Gene Arrays**: Target known “functional genes” (products mediate a process of interest) (e.g. “Geochip”)

2. **“Phylochips”**: Target 16S rRNA “fingerprint” genes

3. **Organism-specific arrays** (usually for transcriptomics): e.g. *Bacillus subtilis* Genome Array, *E. coli* Genome Arrays...

## How do you access the information in these molecules?



Study single or few genes  
(or transcripts)

1. **Selective amplification via PCR or RT-PCR**

- Differentiate type(s) by “Fingerprinting” approaches
- Quantify by qPCR / realtime PCR
- Separate types by Cloning (e.g. functional expression, some seq’ing)
- Characterize definitively by Sequencing

2. **Hunt for target(s) via “Gene probes”**

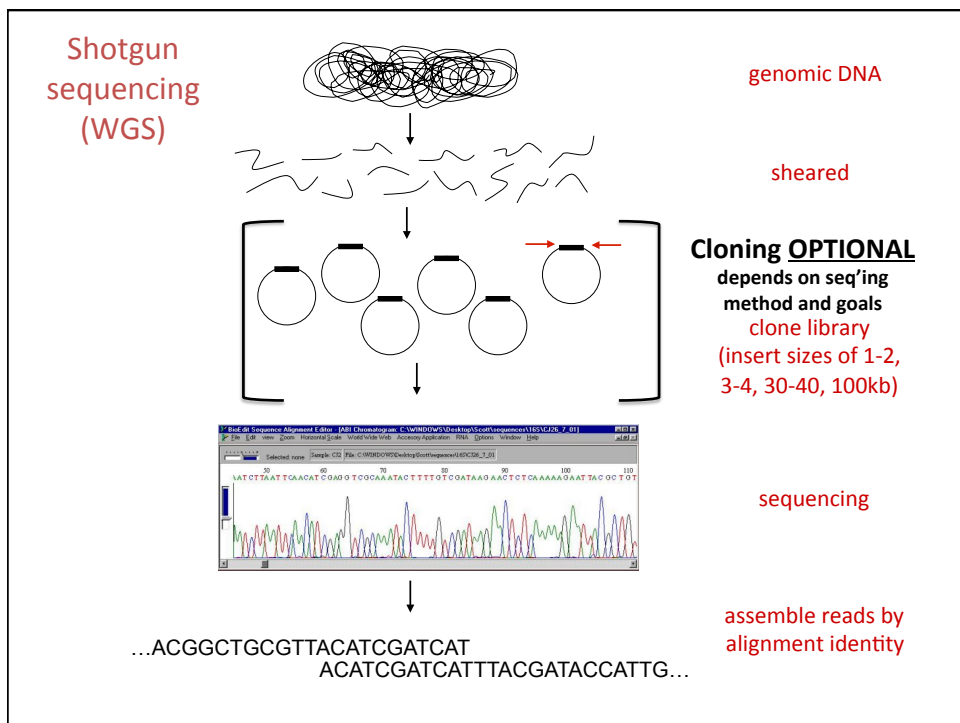
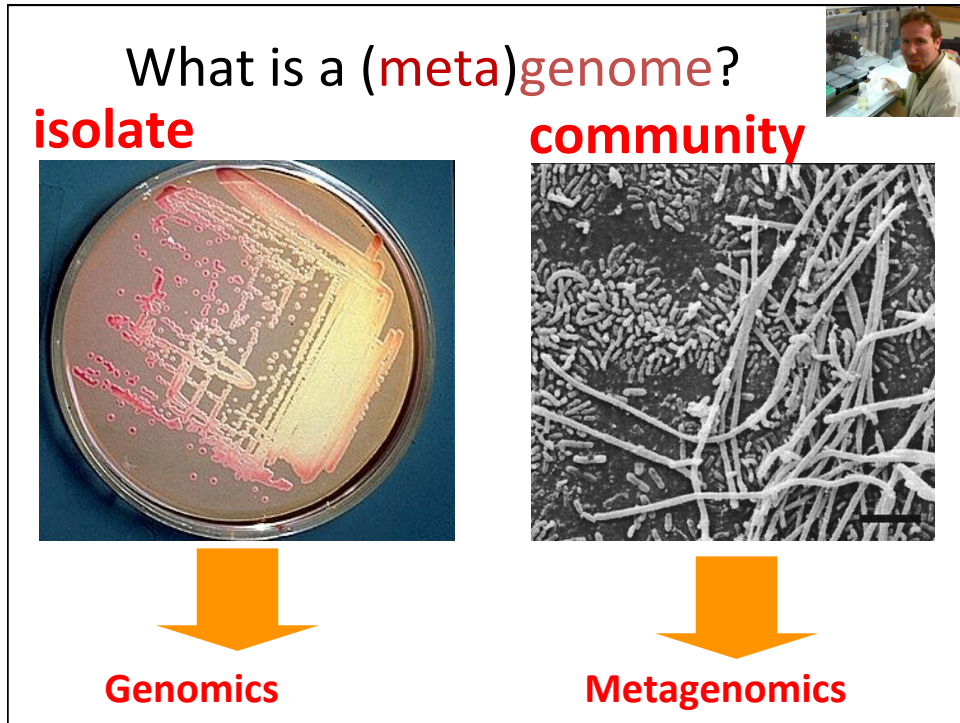
- used to hybridize to “blots”
- used in microscopy to ID particular cells (“FISH”)
- Can be used in flow sorting to ID particular cells
- Used in microarrays (probes stuck to surface)

Study entire genome  
(or transcriptome), or  
**metagenome**  
(aka community genome)

1. Assay genome size(s)
2. Differentiate type(s) by “Fingerprinting” approaches
3. Characterize **more fully** by Sequencing

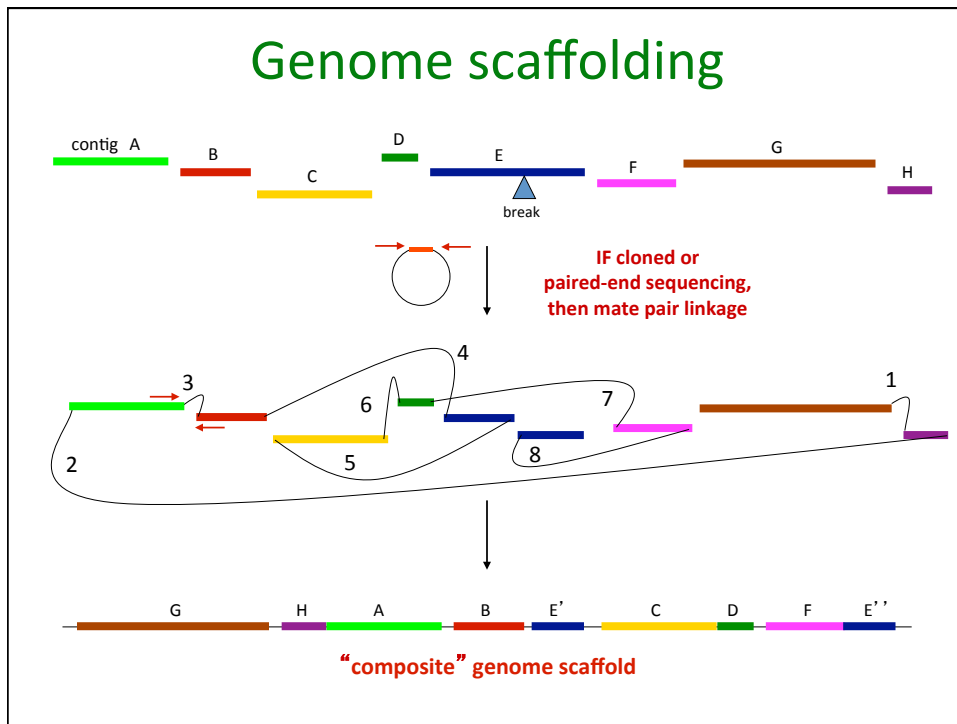
3/4. **Study or hunt for target function(s) via “heterologous expression”**

- Put genes (in targeted or blind way) into a “model organism” to search or study





## Genome scaffolding



## Genome assembly



## Genome assembly



### When is a genome “finished”? (by Poisson Calculations)

Fold coverage	Percent of genome sequenced
0.25 x	22%
0.50 x	39%
0.75 x	53%
1 x	63%
2 x	88%
3 x	95%
4 x	98%
5 x	99.4%
6 x	99.75%
7 x	99.91%
8 x	99.97%
9 x	99.99%
10 x	99.995%

Genome annotation is never done ...

## Community genomics (a.k.a. metagenomics)

**Environmental Sample**

**Extract DNA**

**Shared Size selection**

Clone: OPTIONAL depends on seq'ing method and goals:

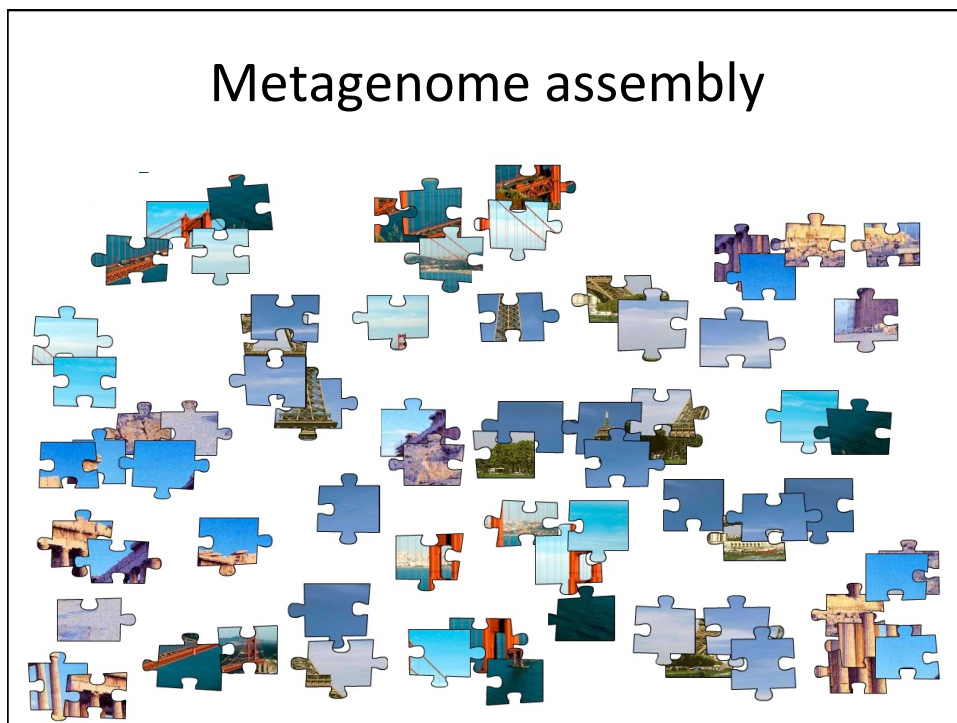
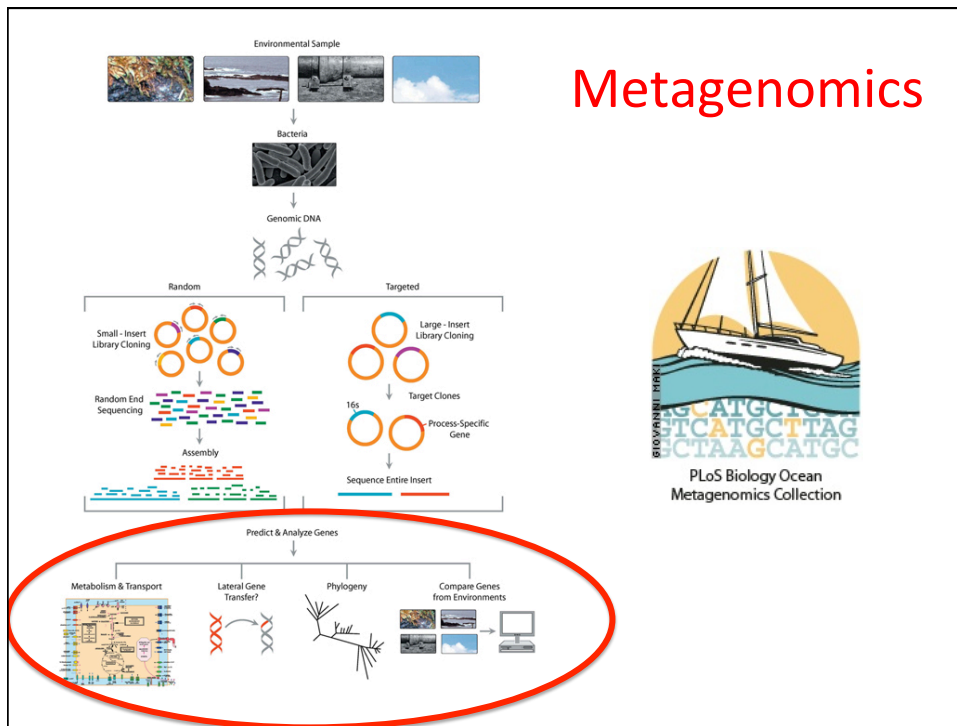
**Library Type:**  
 Shotgun (small-insert) 3kb  
 Fosmid (large-insert) 40 kb  
 BAC (large-insert) BIG STUFF!  
 --- transcription-free? ---

**High throughput sequence**

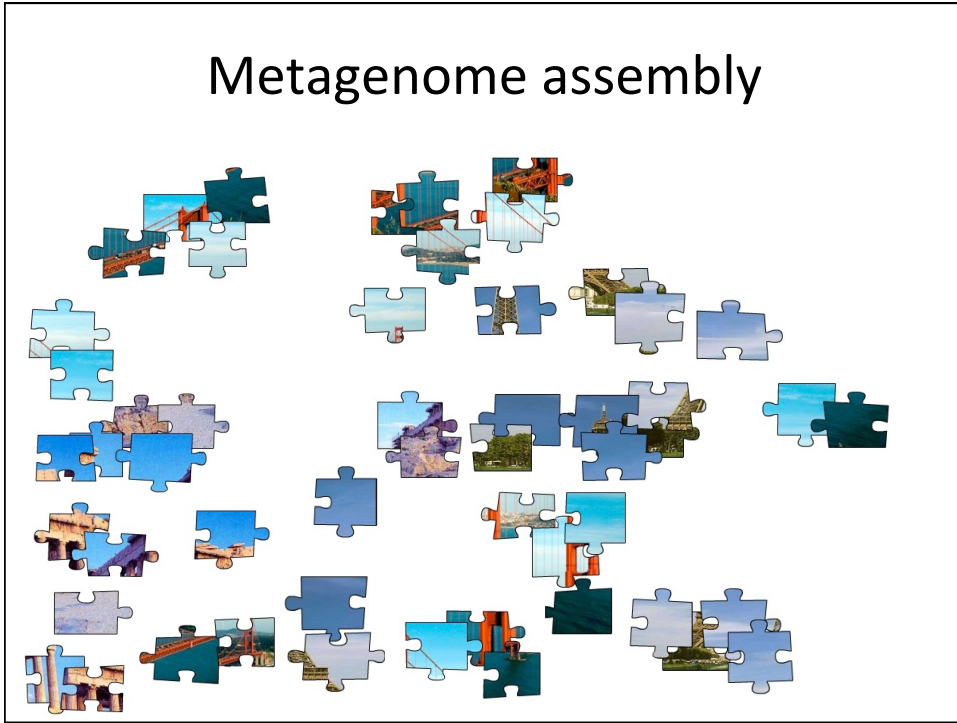
Assemble reads

Call genes

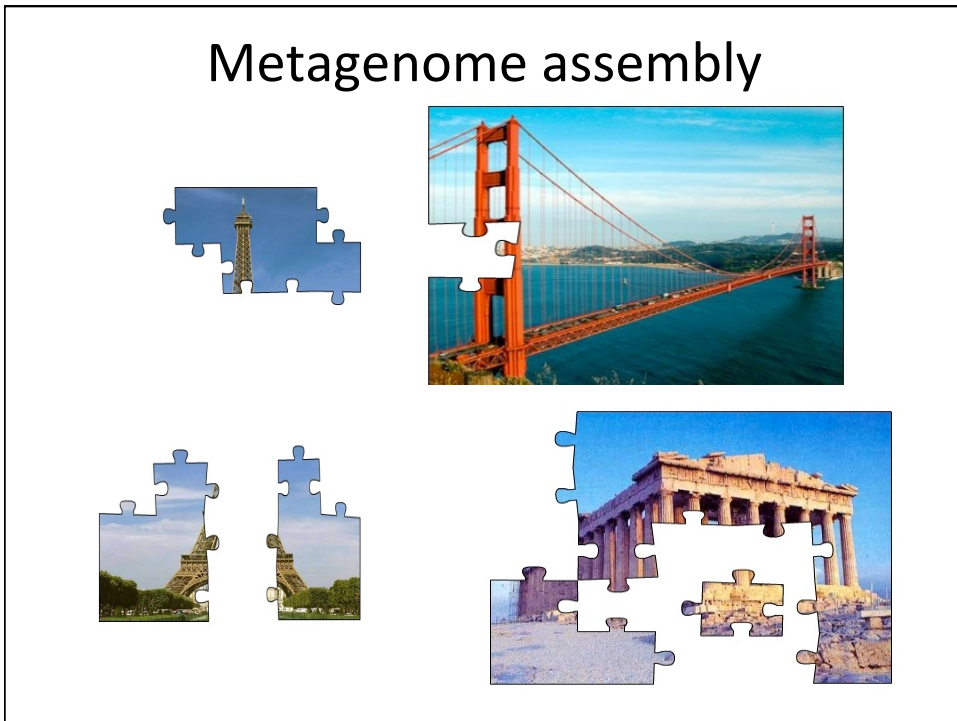
Annotate potential function

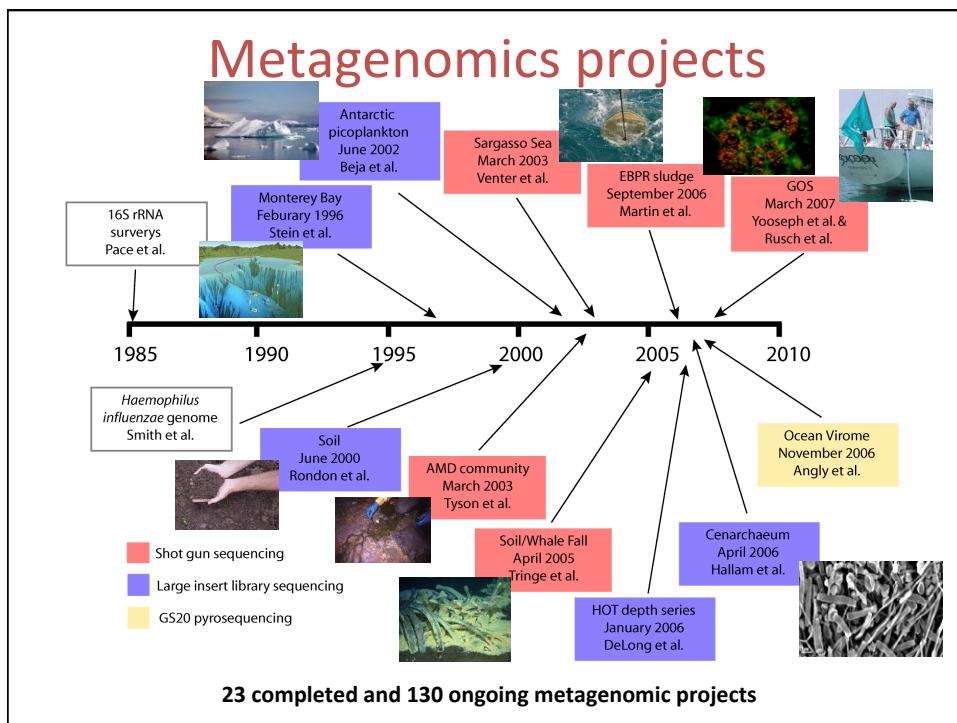
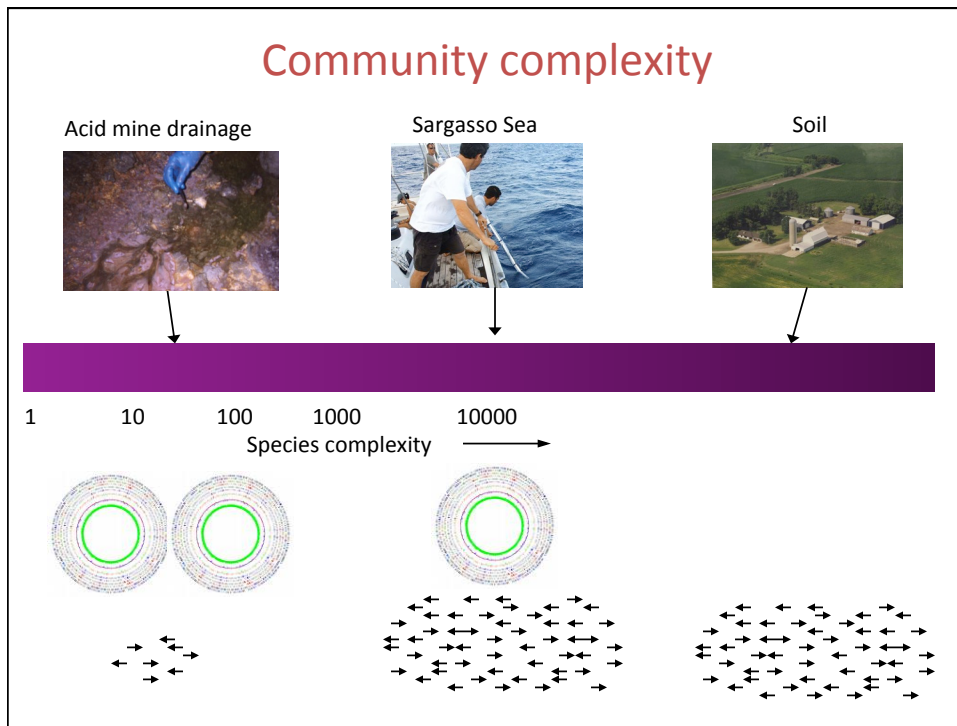


## Metagenome assembly



## Metagenome assembly





## What to do with the data?

EGTs = Environmental Gene Tags

Predict ORFs (genes) in sequence data

Assign a function to ORFs

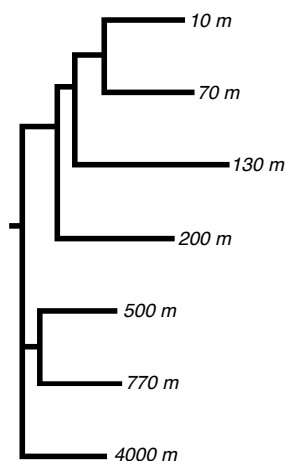
Compare relative abundance across habitats

### Community Genomics Among Stratified Microbial Assemblages in the Ocean's Interior

Edward F. DeLong,<sup>1\*</sup> Christina M. Preston,<sup>2</sup> Tracy Mincey,<sup>1</sup> Virginia Rich,<sup>3</sup> Steven J. Hallam,<sup>2</sup> Niels-Ulrik Frigaard,<sup>3</sup> Asuncion Martinez,<sup>2</sup> Matthew B. Sullivan,<sup>3</sup> Robert Edwards,<sup>3</sup> Beltran Rodriguez Brito,<sup>3</sup> Sallie W. Chisholm,<sup>2</sup> David M. Karl<sup>4</sup>

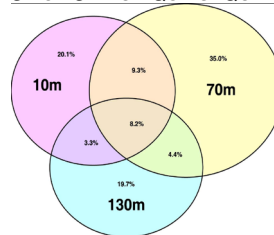
SCIENCE VOL 311 27 JANUARY 2006

#### Cladogram

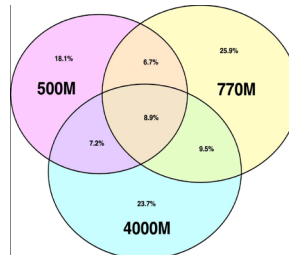


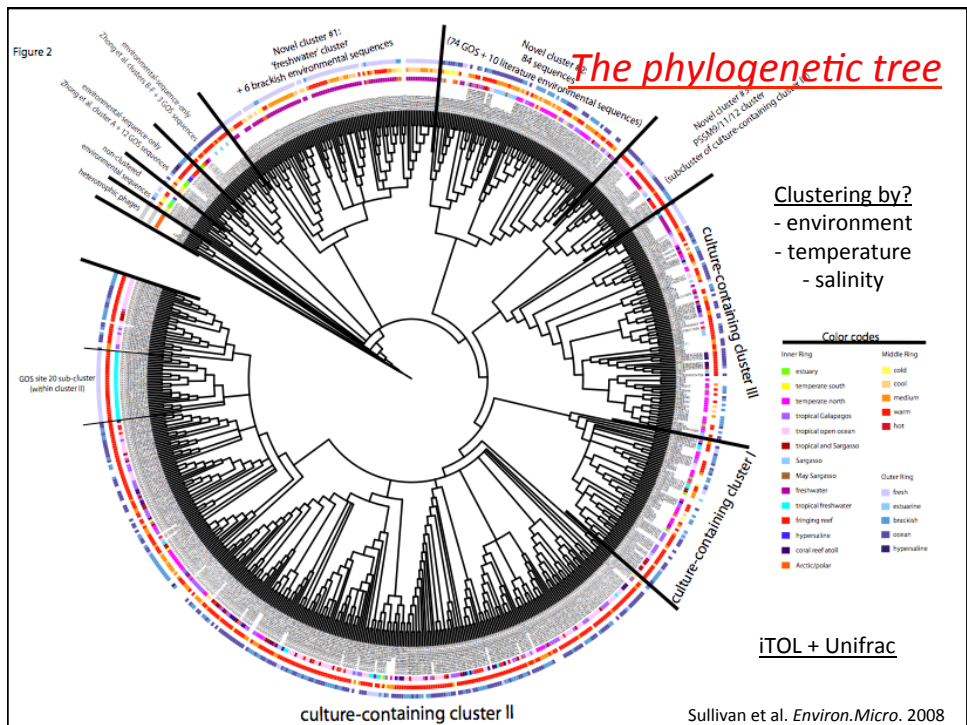
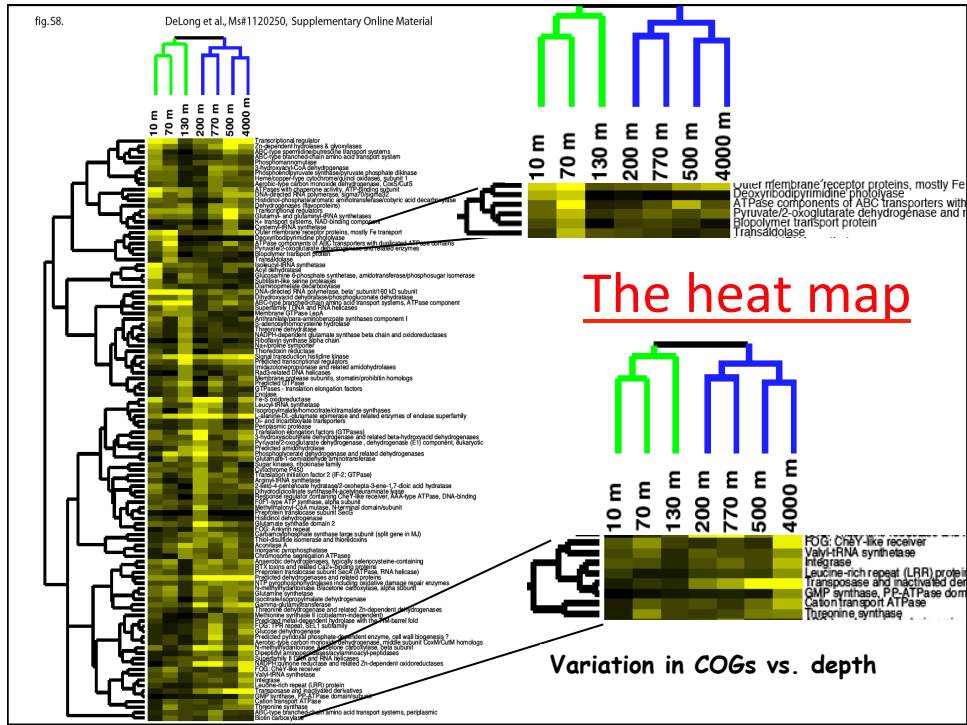
#### Venn diagram

PHOTIC ZONE UNIQUE SEQUENCES

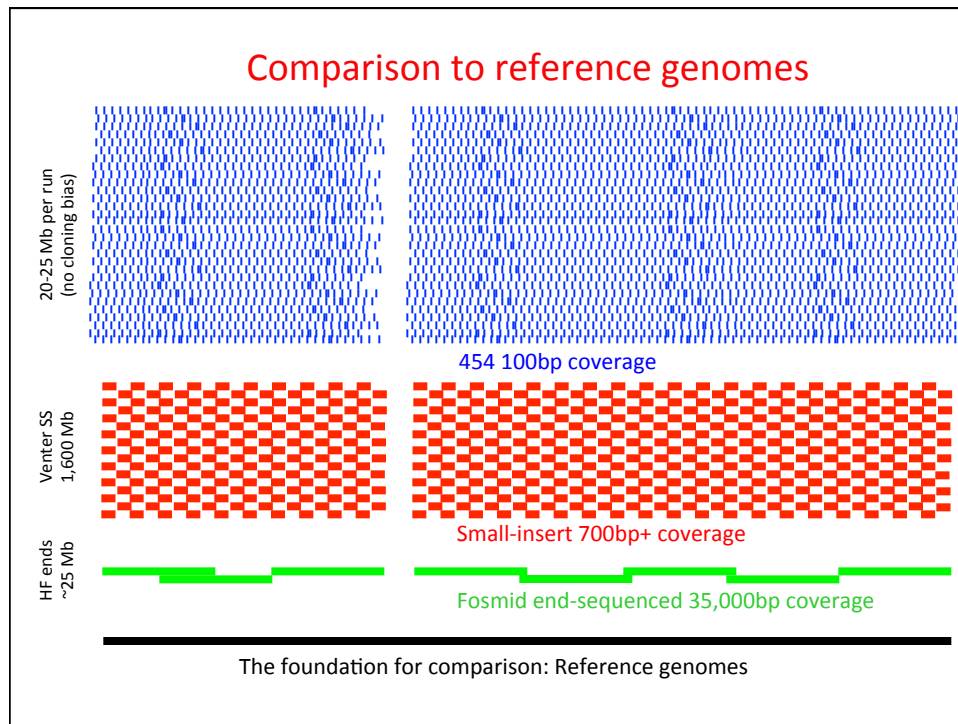


DEEP WATER UNIQUE SEQUENCES



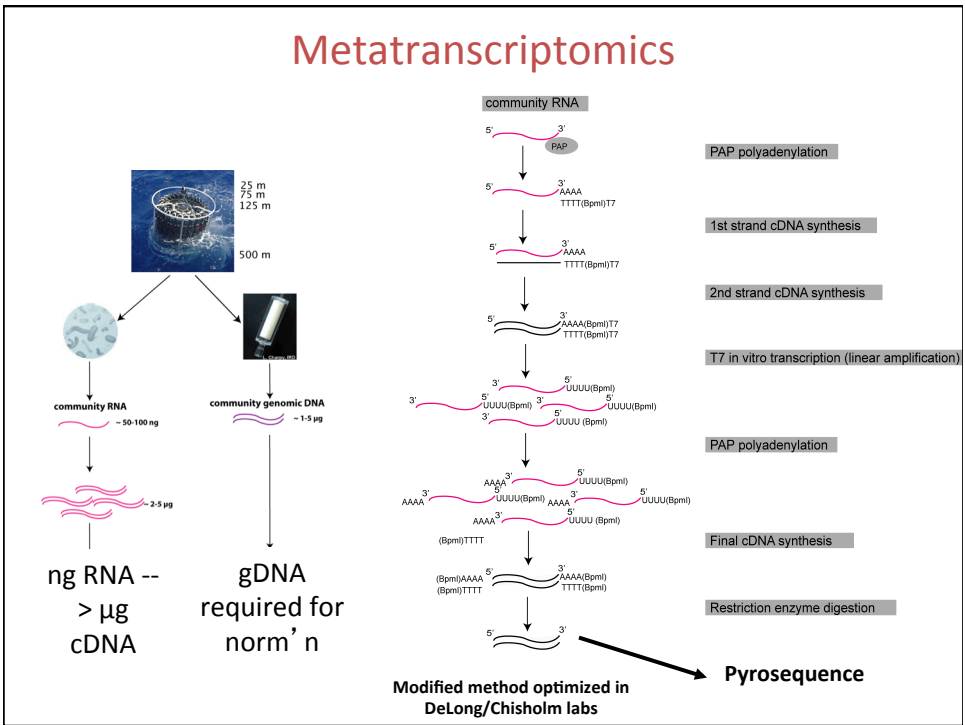
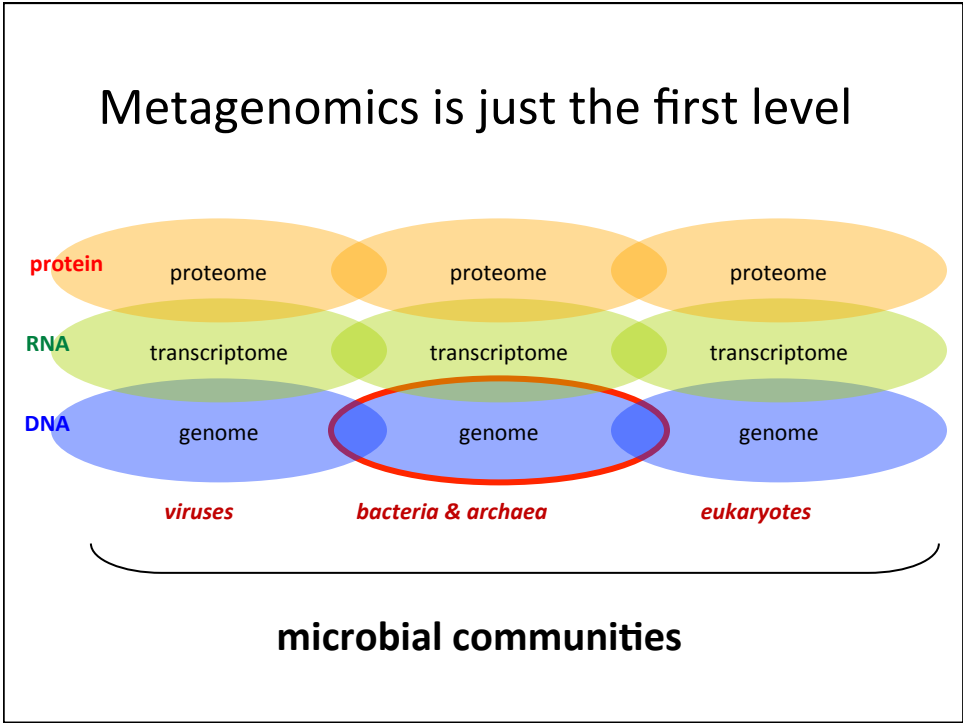


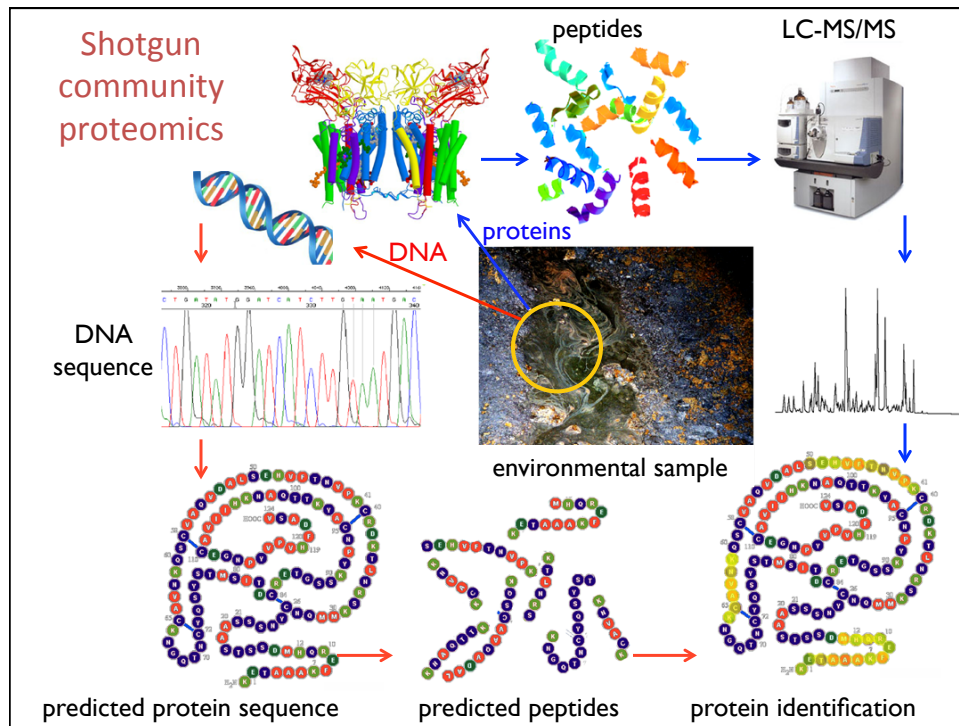




Genomic analyses are strong  
(tho' functional database limited)

**comparative** genomic analyses are  
limited  
+ **metagenomic** analyses are still fairly  
primitive





## Handling the data

“We keep the sequences and quality values, and throw away pretty much everything else almost immediately. It's cheaper to re-sequence than to store the raw data.”

“We’re burning data on hard drives to ship between sites.”

“Nothing is backed up to tape anymore.”

## ... and the metadata ... and data analyses ...

**Metadata:** sample information must be databased and linked to each sequence

**Data analysis:**

Two main work-flows: reference-guided assemblies (for variant analysis) and all-against-all (for metagenomics and transcriptomics applications)

The emergence of “Proxy” data in database searches

## What does it mean to you?

No matter the organism -- **time to think about genomics**

- genomes, metagenomes, gene + protein expression
- population studies through phylogenies, association studies, population genOMICs

(Clinical researchers soon will include a personal genome within a patient's electronic medical record)