



Universidade de São Paulo  
**Instituto de Química**



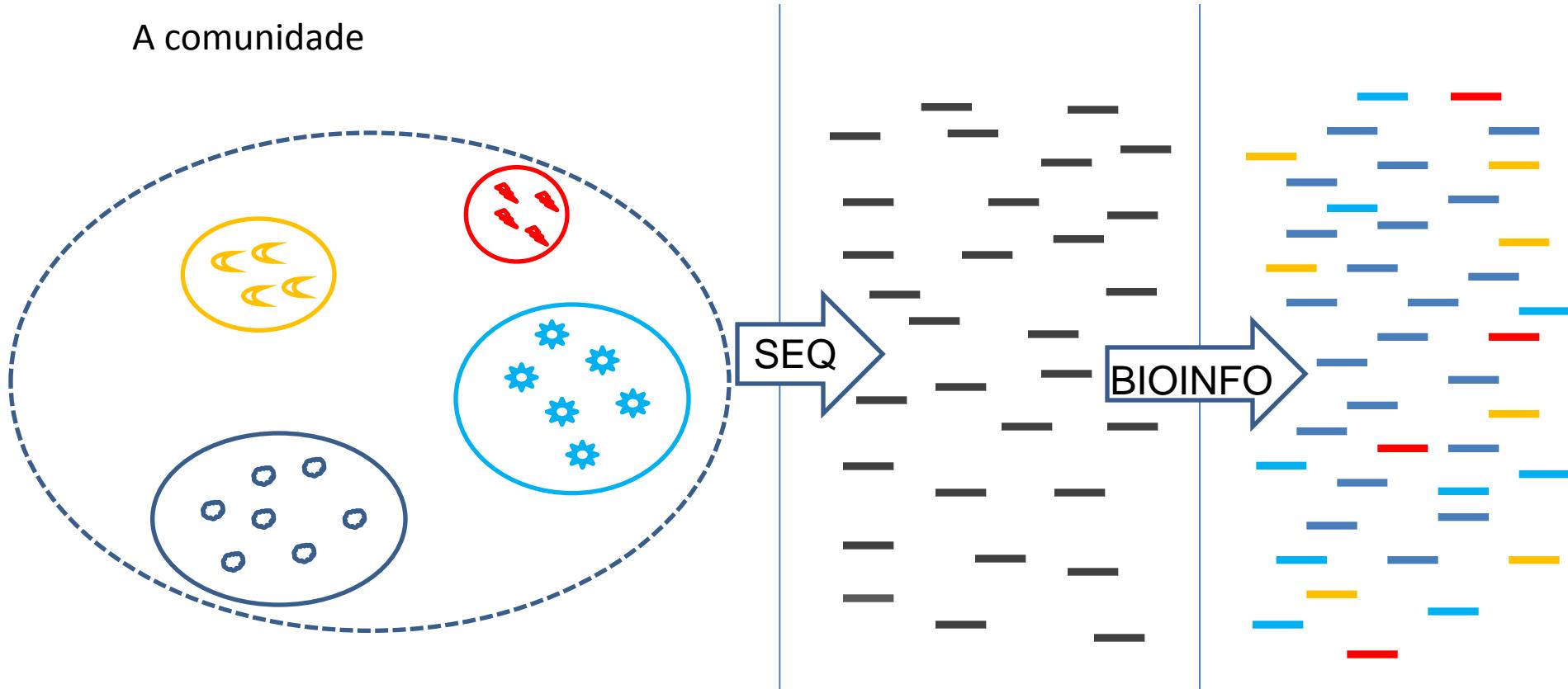
# Metagenômica

João C. Setubal

2016

DNA

A comunidade



# Taxonomia

- Filo: proteobacteria
  - Classe: proteobacteria gama
    - Ordem: xanthomonadales
      - Família: xanthomonadácea
        - » Gênero: xanthomonas
          - Espécie: citri

# OTU

- Unidade taxonômica operacional
- Se for conhecida, leva um rótulo padronizado
- Mas pode ser desconhecida

# Identificação taxonômica

- Estrutura da comunidade microbiana
  - Descoberta de quais OTUs conhecidos estão presentes na amostra
  - Descoberta de **novos** OTUs
  - Os “conhecidos” podem ser na verdade novas OTUs parentes próximas de reais conhecidos
  - Quem são os agentes principais?
    - Nem sempre são os mais abundantes
- Dinâmica temporal da comunidade

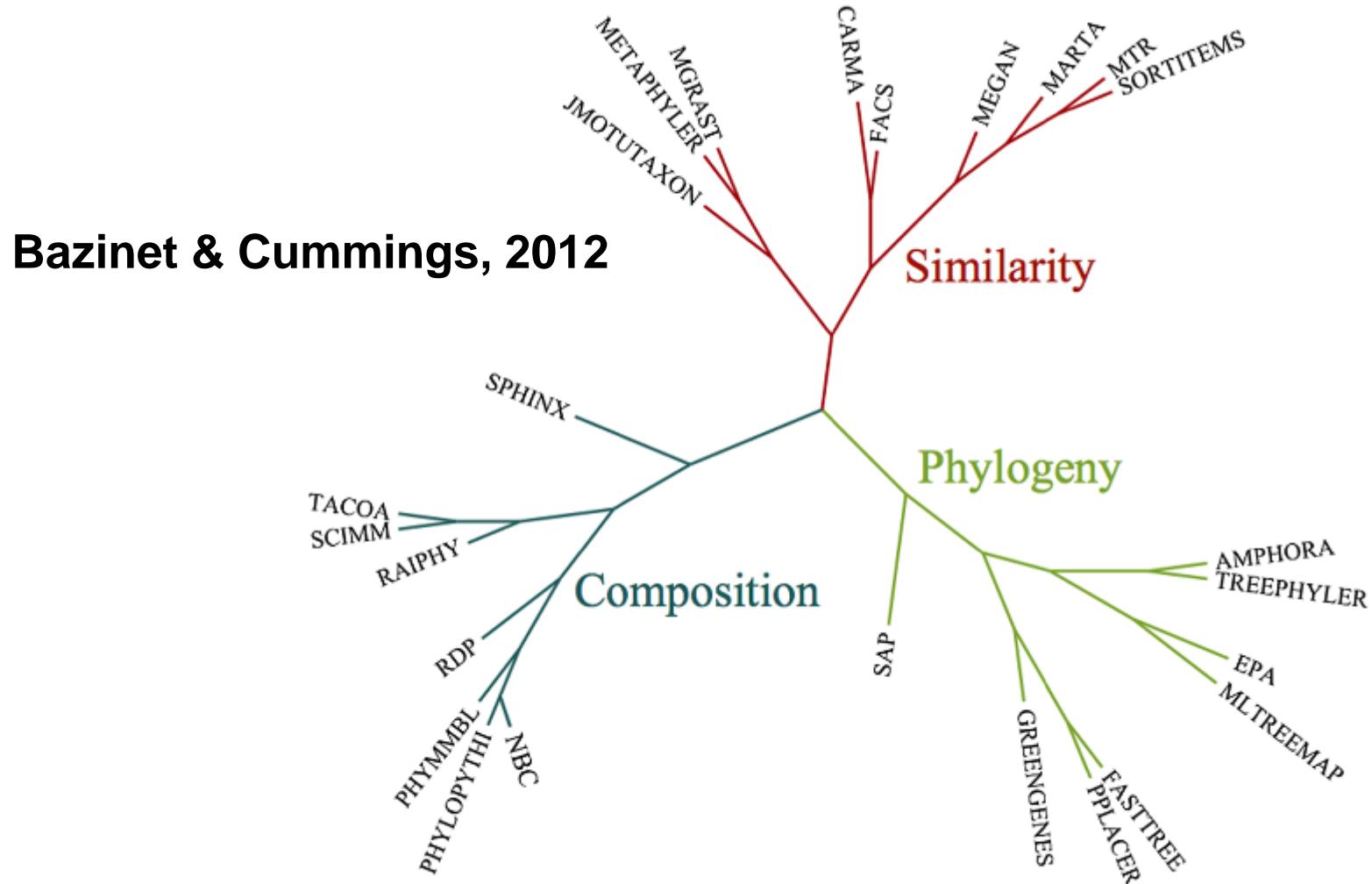
# Dados (sequências)

- 16S
  - Primers específicos
- Dados de DNA total (WMS)
  - Maior parte das sequências vem de genes codificadores de proteínas, mas também tem 16S
- Qual escolher depende dos objetivos do projeto

# Muitas variáveis

Variável	valores
Data type	WMS, 16S amplicon
Sequencing technology	Illumina, 454, Ion, pacBio
WMS Reference database:	NR, NT, M5NR
16S Reference database	Greengenes, RDP, Silva
WMS identification program	Many programs available
Taxonomy level	Phylum, class, order, family, genus, species

# Muitos programas disponíveis!



**Figure 1 Program clustering.** A neighbor-joining tree that clusters the classification programs based on their similar attributes.

# Muitas fontes de erro

- Amostragem
- Preparação da biblioteca
- Sequenciamento
- Tamanho da sequência (pode ser curta demais)
- Algoritmo de identificação
- Viéses dos bancos de dados

# Binning e classificação

- Binning
  - Juntamos em diferentes caixinhas as sequências que são parecidas entre si
    - Não sabemos o que contém cada caixinha
    - OTU1, OTU2, OTU3, etc
- Classificação
  - Procuramos associar um **rótulo taxonômico** a cada caixinha (ou a cada read ou fragmento)

# Análise de abundância

- Que organismos ou funções são mais abundantes num nicho?
- Usar **contagem de reads** como indicador de abundância

# Classificação de reads de DNA total

- Similaridade com sequências de origem conhecida
  - BLAST
- Propriedades intrínsecas de cada sequência
  - Assinaturas genômicas
    - Apropriado para binning

# Classificação com base na frequência de palavras de $k$ bases

$k = 4$ : AAAA, AAAC, AAAG, AAAT, CAAA, etc...

Dada uma janela de  $x$  kb, podemos contar as ocorrências de cada uma dessas palavras dentro da janela

Exemplo:

AGATTA GCGACTATTA TAGCCTAGATCGATCATTACC

AGAT ocorre 2 vezes

ATTA ocorre 3 vezes

etc

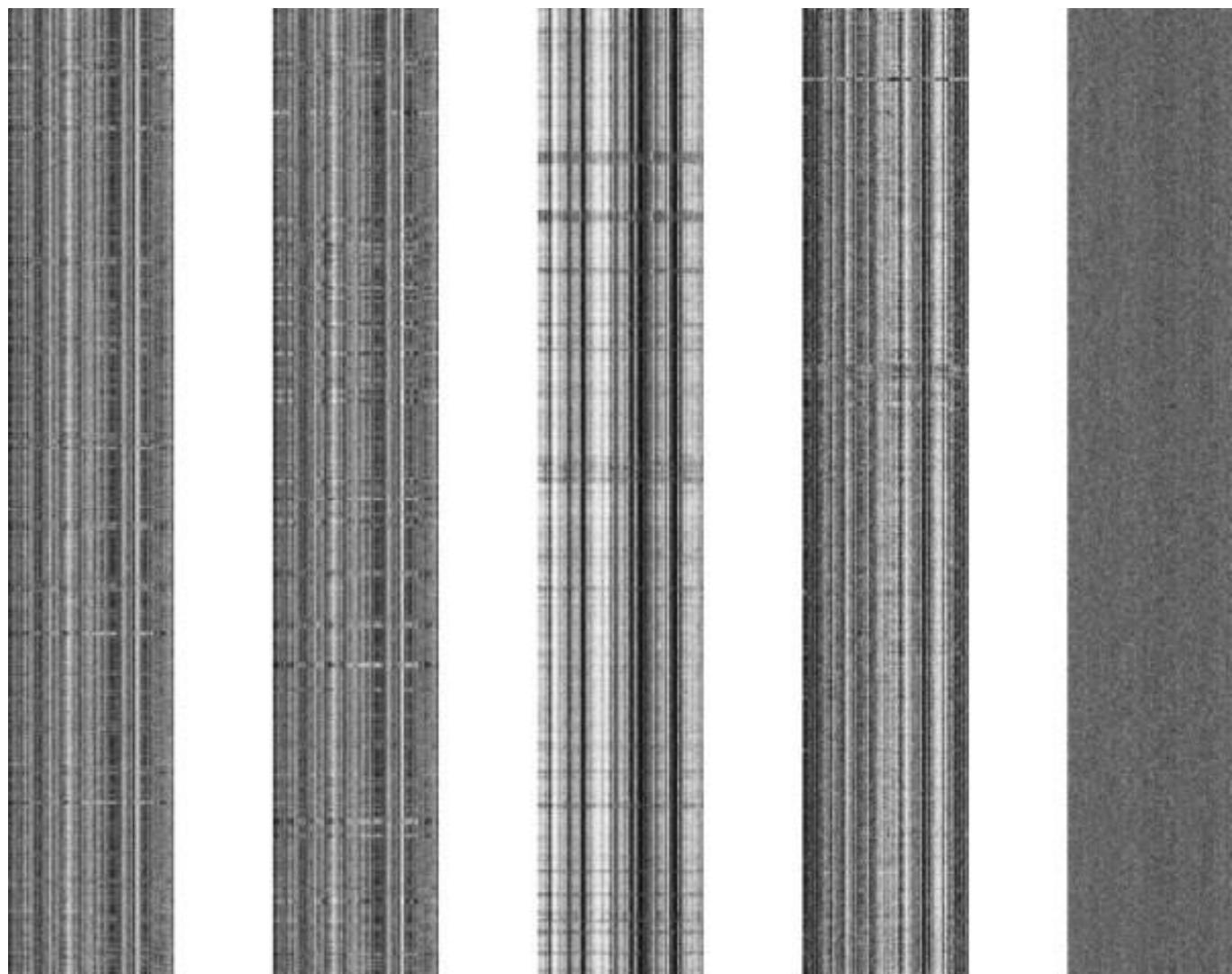
Palavras de  $k$  bases: k-mers (kâmeros)

# Matriz de frequências

janela	AAAA	AAAC	AAAG	AAAT	ACAA	ACAC	ACAG	ACAT
1	15	2						
2	16	3						
3	14	0						
4	13	2						
5	15	4						
6	12	0						
7	18	1						
8	17	3						
9	16	1						

# Genome “barcodes”

*Burkholderia pseudomallei*

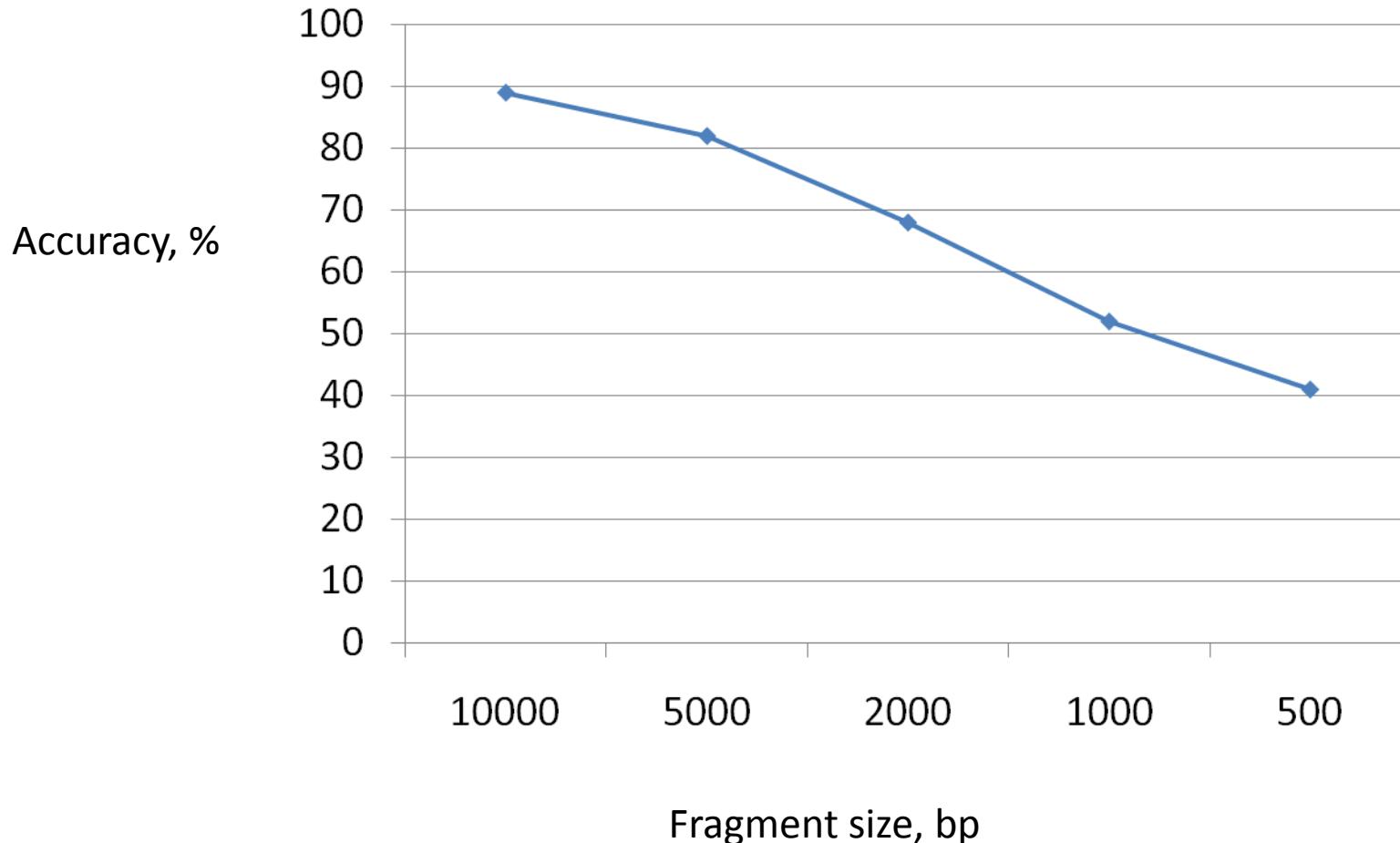


*E. coli K12*

*E. coli O157*

*Pyrococcus furiosus*      random

# Não funciona bem com fragmentos curtos



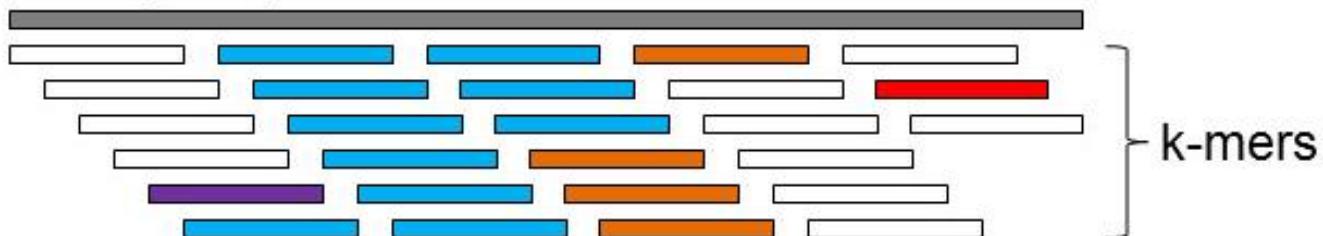
# Exercício

- $S_1 = \text{TTCTACTACT}$
- $S_2 = \text{TTGTACTAGG}$
- $S_3 = \text{ACTTCTACTA}$
- Contar palavras de tamanho 2

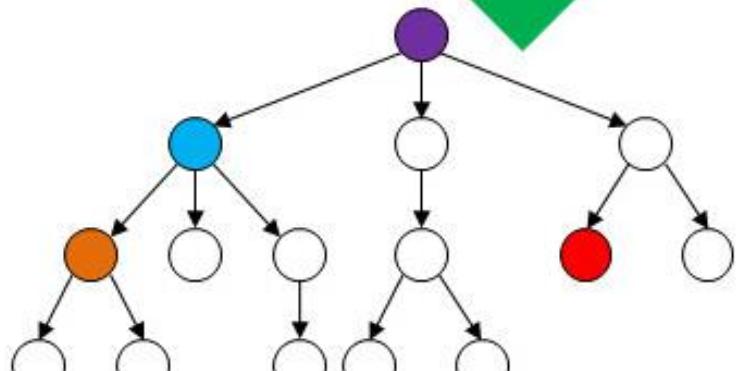
# Kraken

- Wood & Salzberg: *Genome Biology*, 2014
- Ideia: um banco de dados com k-mers e o LCA (ancestral comum mais baixo/próximo) de todos os organismos que contém aquele k-mer

Query sequence

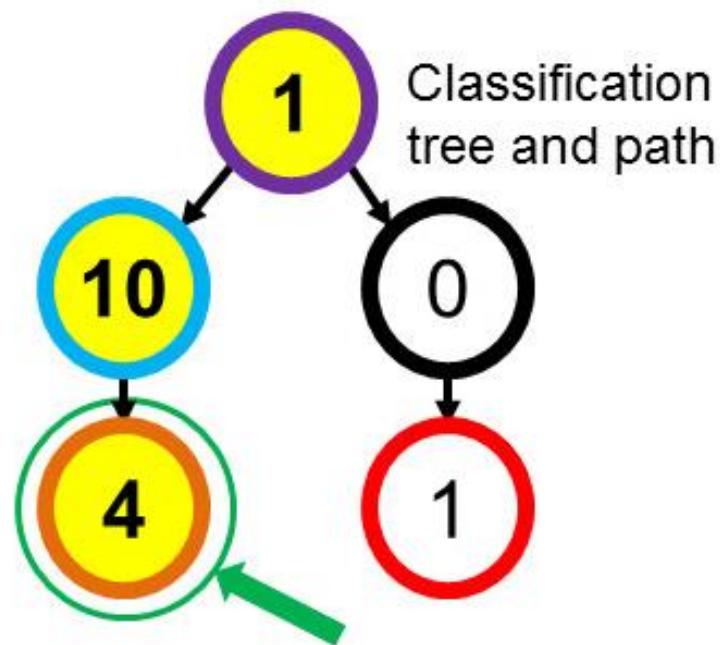


K-mer to LCA mapping  
(pre-computed database)



Taxonomy tree

Examine hit taxa  
and ancestors

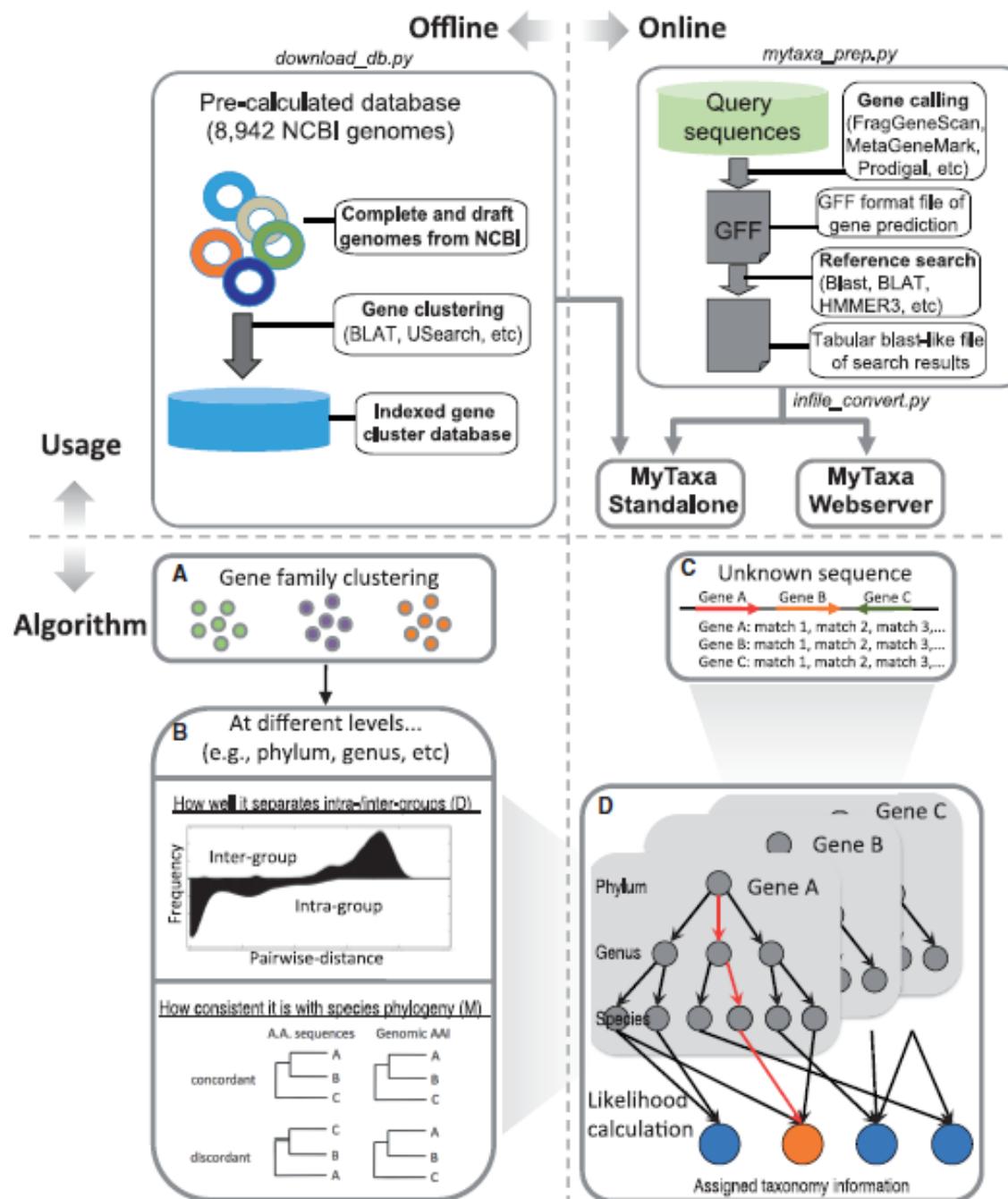


Classification  
tree and path

Sequence classified as belonging to leaf of  
classification (highest-weighted RTL) path

# myTaxa

- Luo, Rodriguez-R, Konstantinidis: *Nucleic Acids Research*, 2014
- The distinguishing aspect of MyTaxa is that it employs all genes present in an unknown sequence as classifiers, weighting each gene based on its (predetermined) classifying power at a given taxonomic level and frequency of horizontal gene transfer

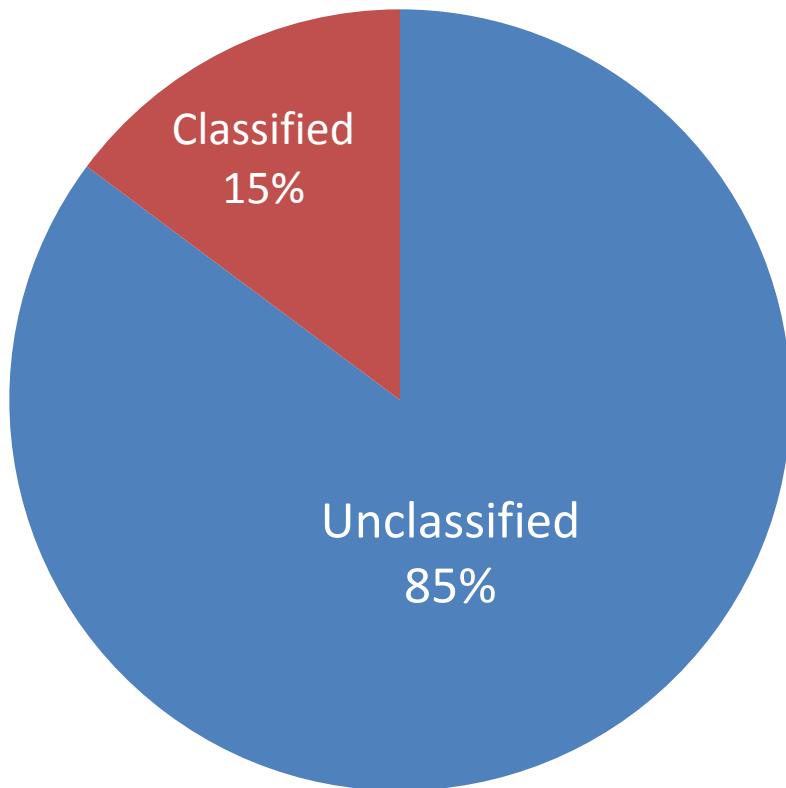


Uma comparação usando dados  
reais

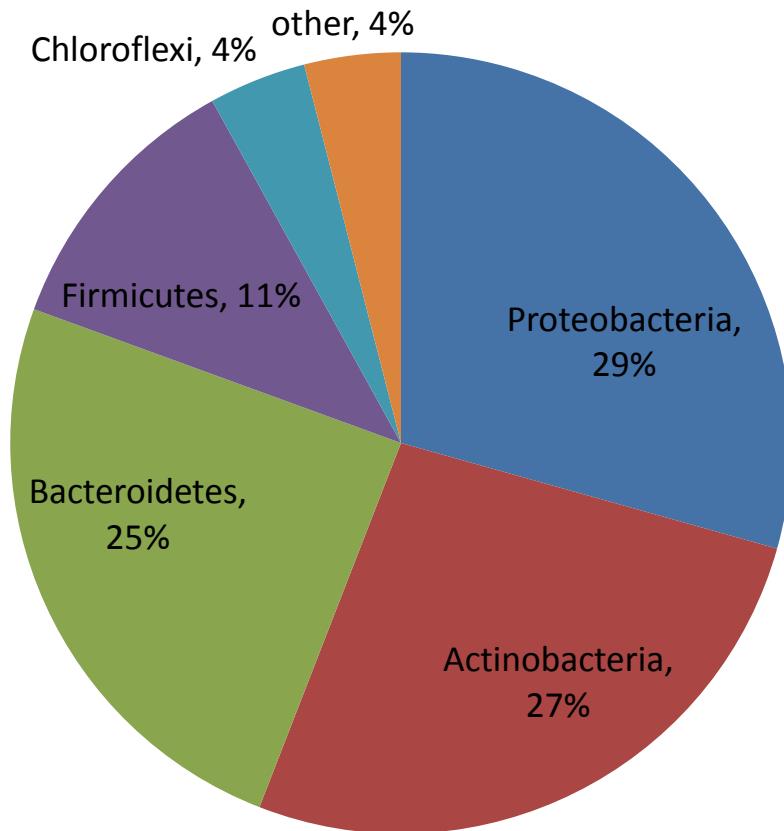
# Dados de entrada

Variable	value
dataset	ZC4, day 15 (metazoo)
Data type	WMS
Sequencing technology	Illumina miSeq
WMS program	Kraken [Wood & Salzberg, 2014]
WMS Reference database:	Kraken database
Taxonomy level	Phylum

# Resultado

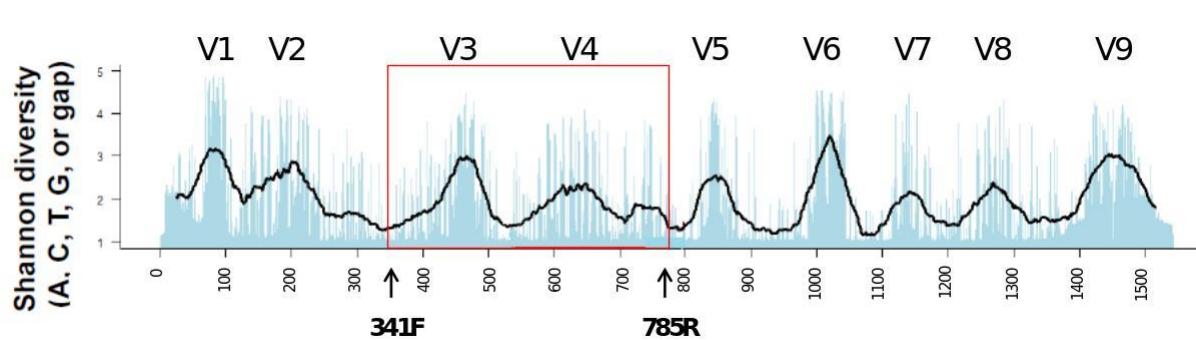


# Dentre os reads classificados como bactérias (99%)



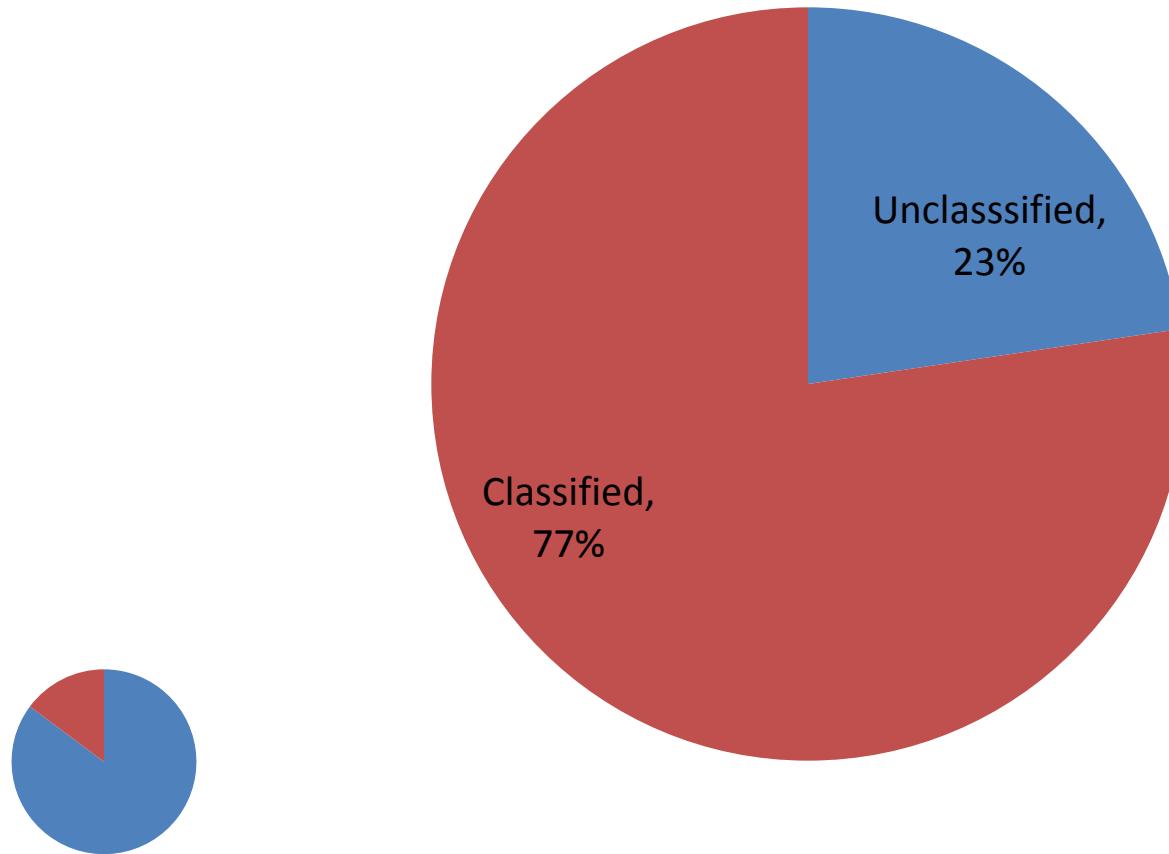
# Outro tipo de análise

Variable	value
dataset	ZC4, day 15
Data type	16S
Data type details	V3 and V4, read size ~416 bp
Sequencing technology	Illumina (miSeq)
16S analysis pipeline	Qiime (RDP classifier + Greengenes)
Taxonomy level	Phylum

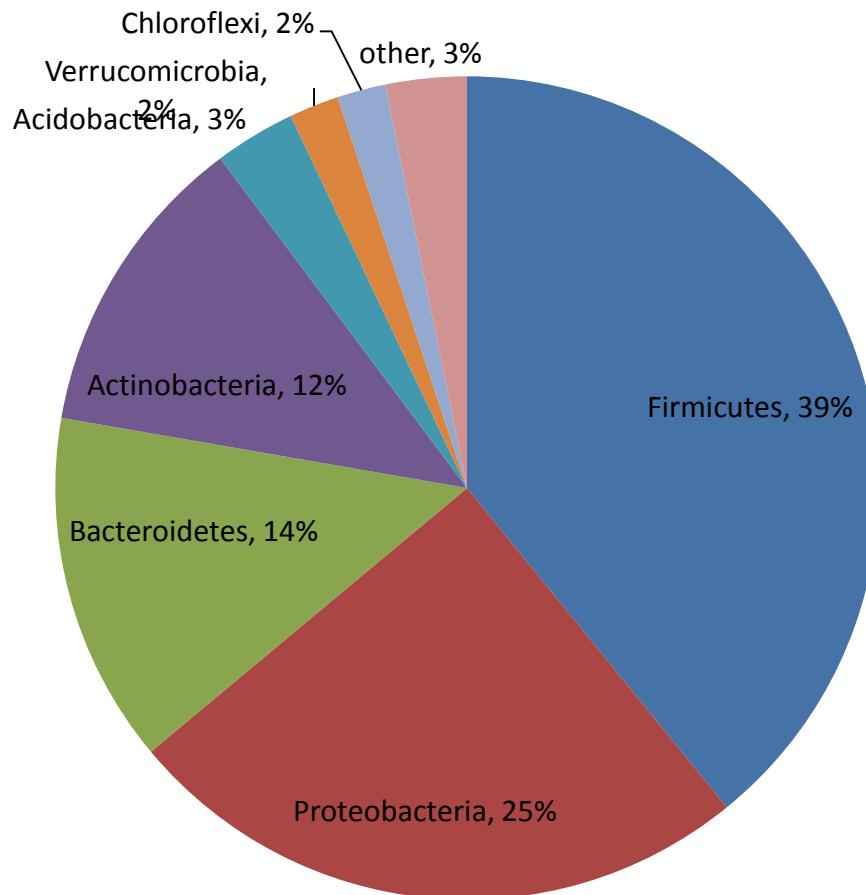


Qiime (Caporaso et al., 2010)

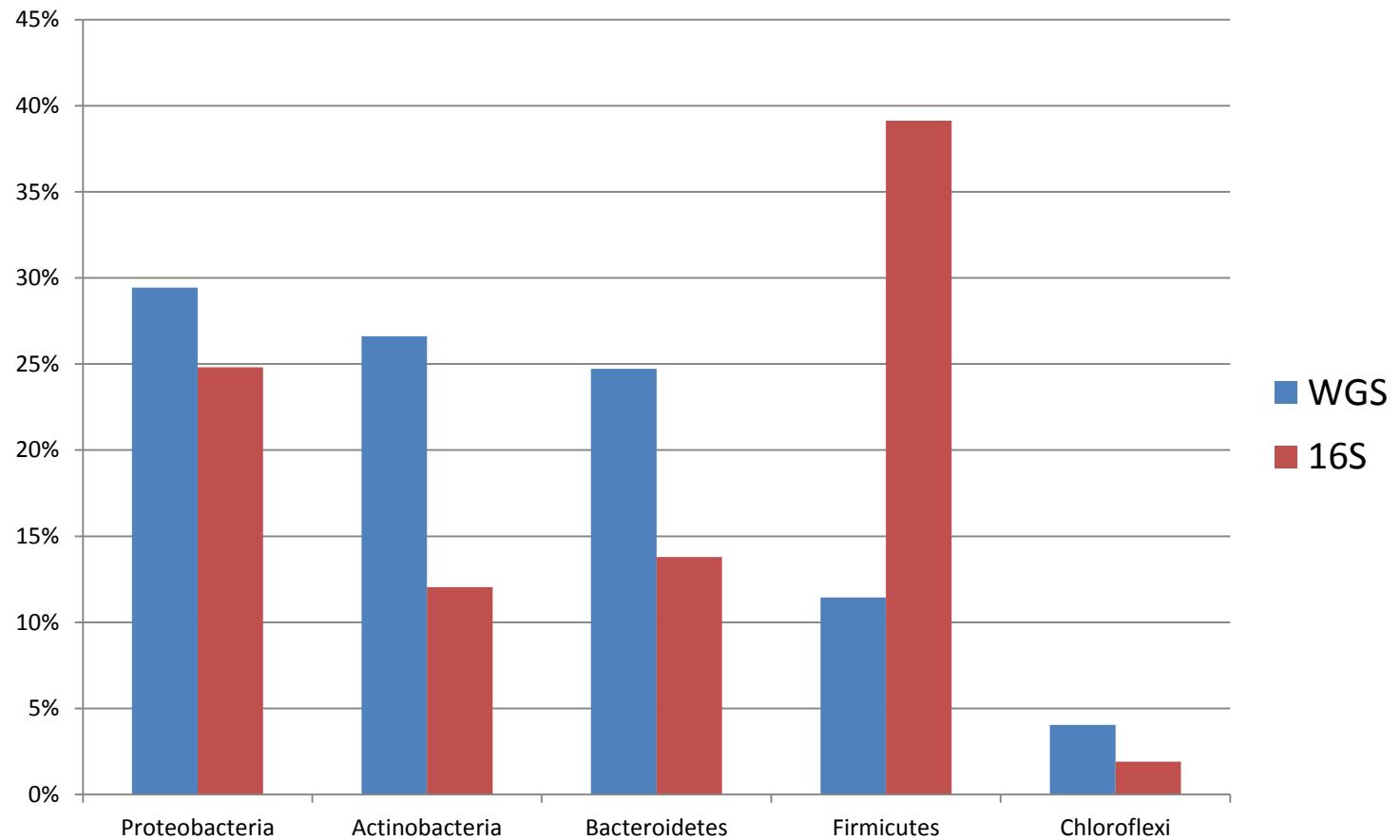
# Resultados



# Dentre os classificados



# WMS e 16S



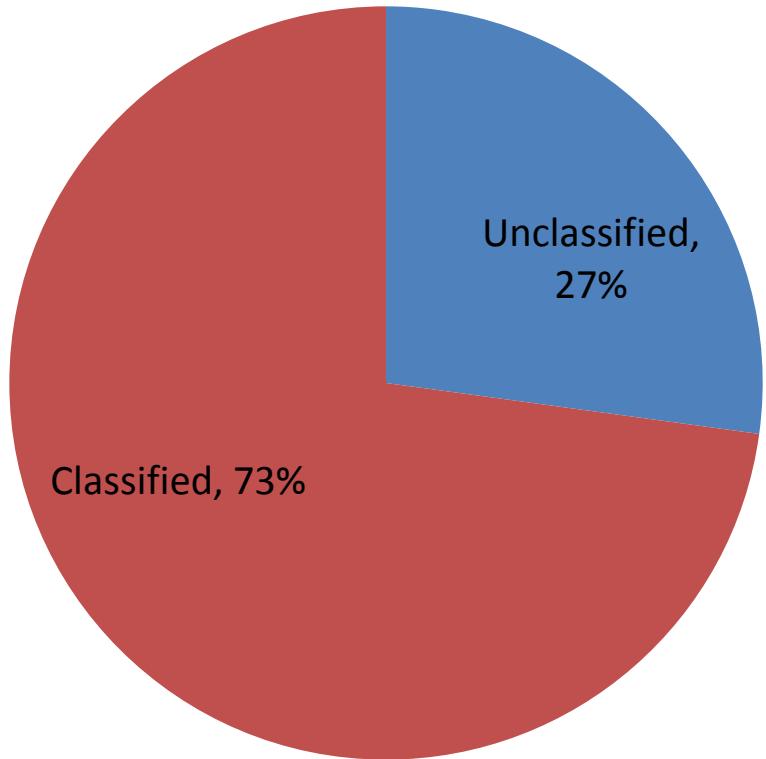
# Comentários

- Concordância qualitativa
  - boa
- Concordância quantitativa (abundância relativa)
  - fraca
    - esp. Firmicutes
- Kraken deixa muitos reads não classificados

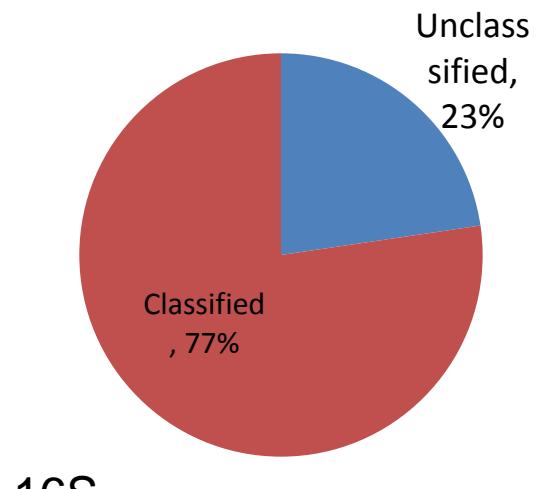
# Vamos mudar o programa identificador

- myTaxa

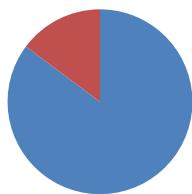
# Resultados



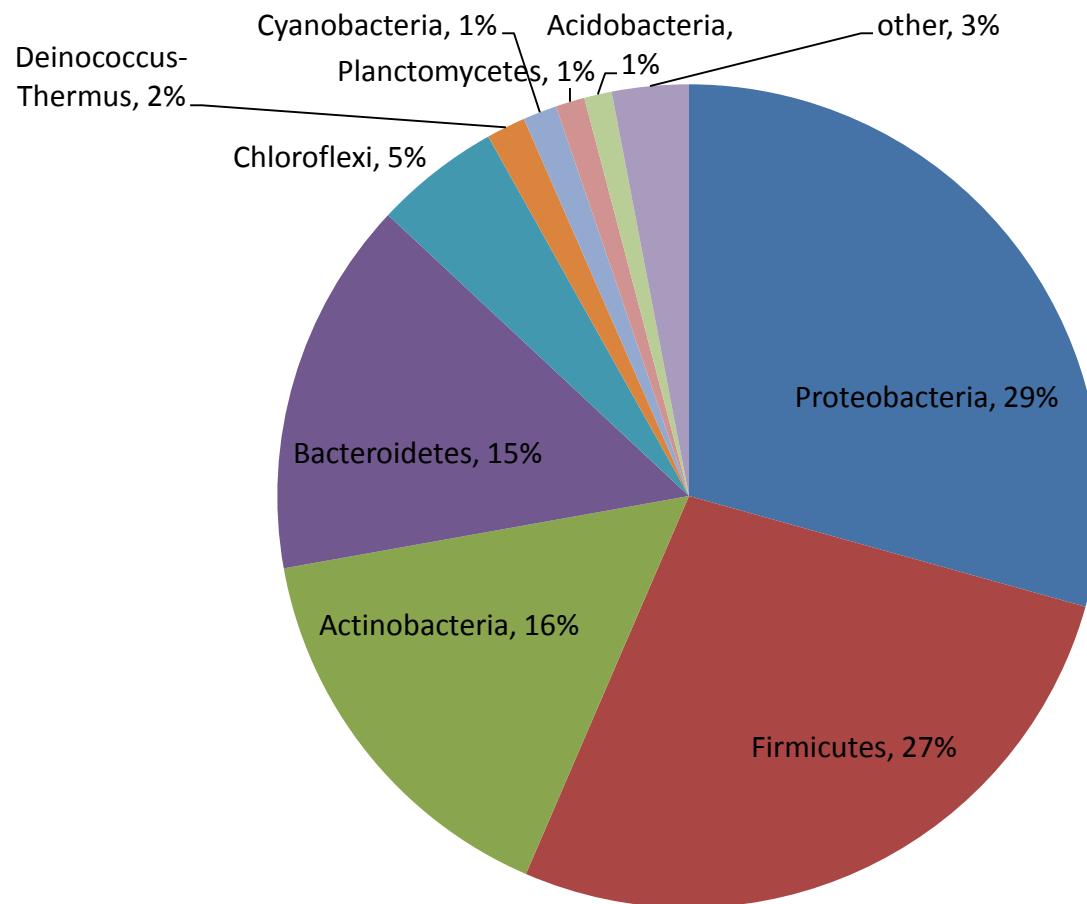
Kraken



16S



# Dentre os classificados como bactéria (99%)

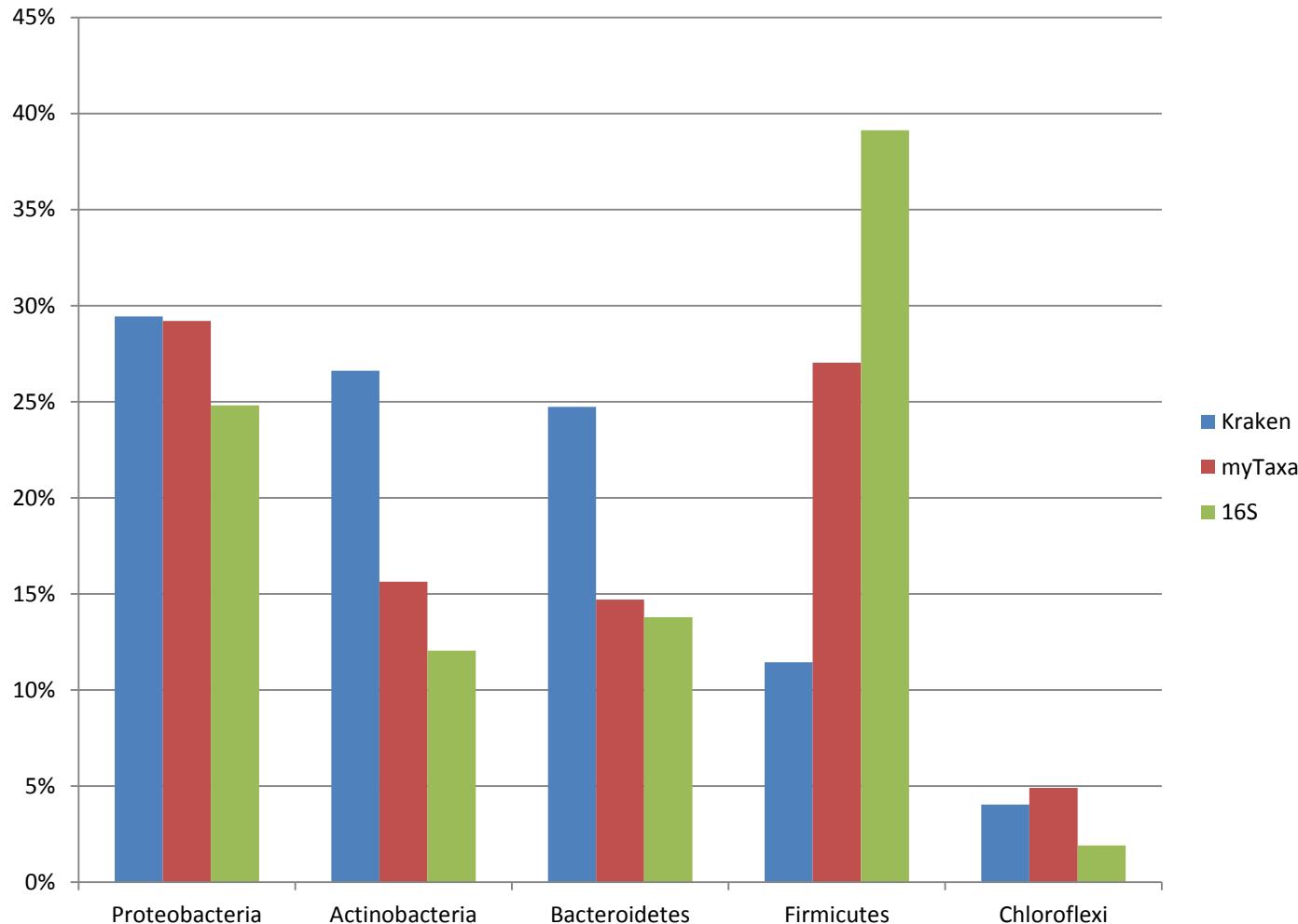


# Prokaryotes in Genbank

filo	# genomas	%
Actinobacteria	4059	13
Bacteroidetes/chlorobi	932	3
Cyanobacteria	340	1
Firmicutes	9628	31
Proteobacteria	14268	46
Spirochaetes	525	2
Others	1500	5

Source: Land et al. 2015

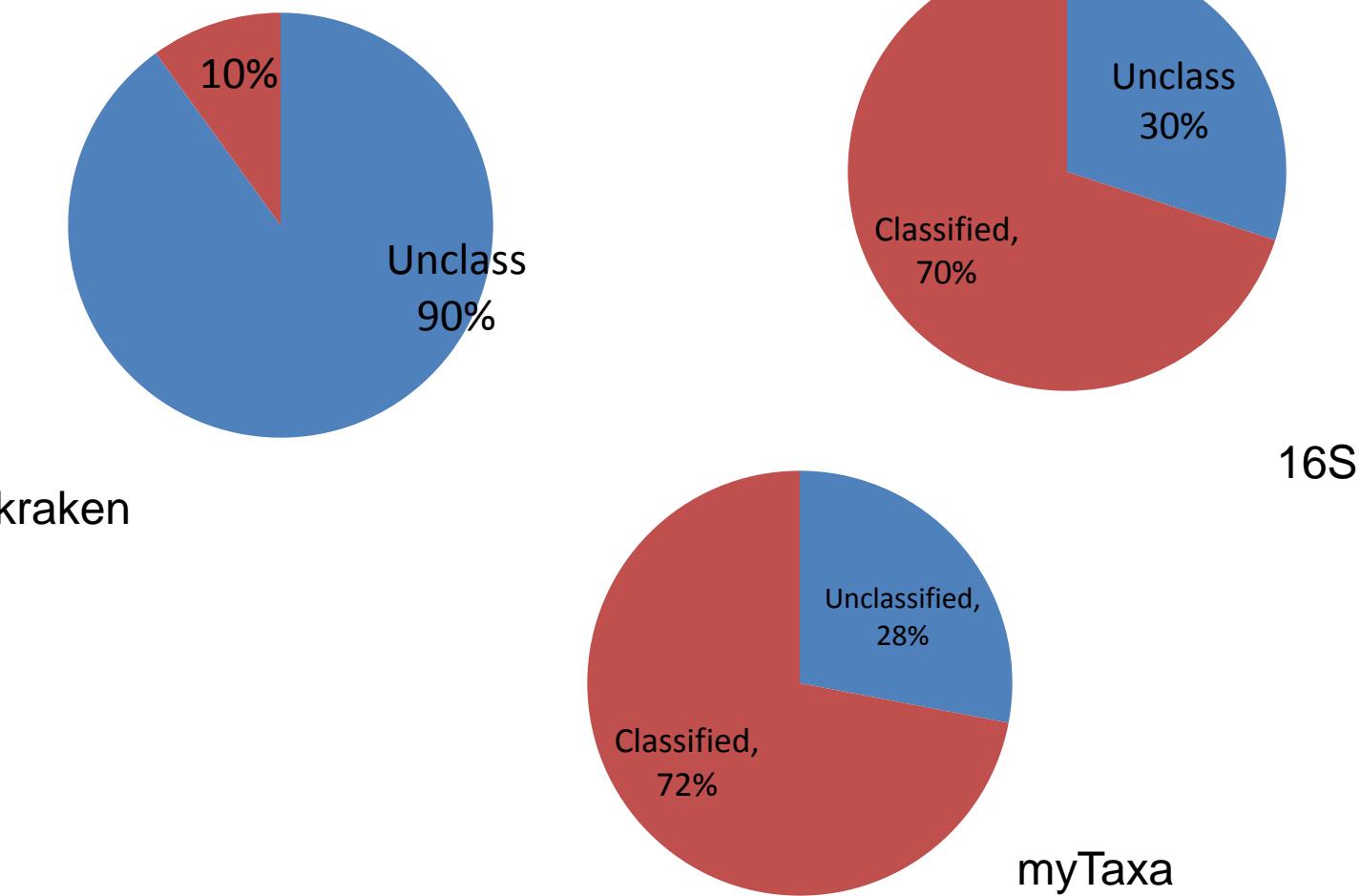
# Comparação de todos os resultados



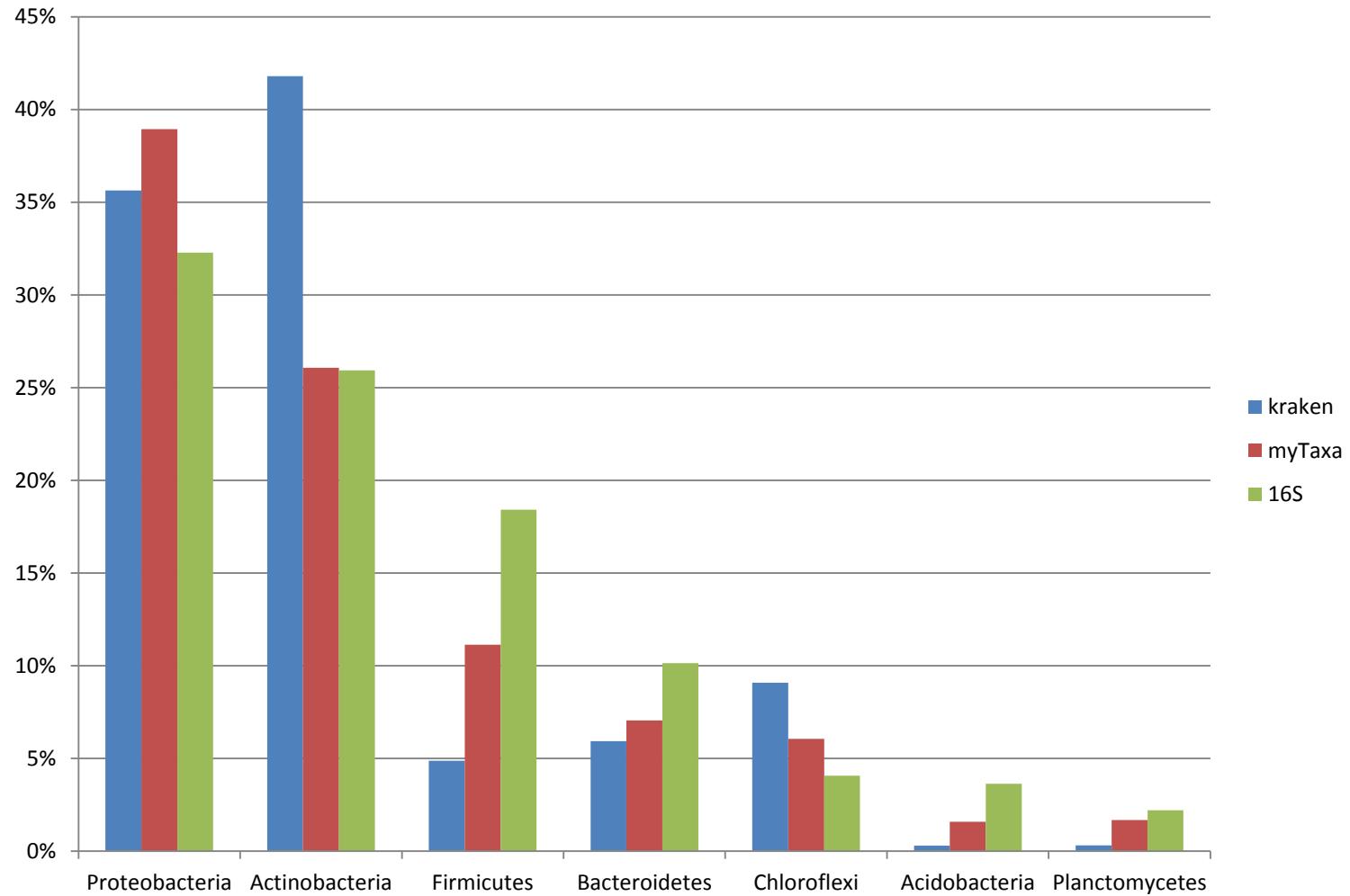
# Réplica

- Outro conjunto de dados: ZC4, day 99
- Mesmas metodologias
  - Kraken
  - myTaxa
  - 16S

# Resultados



# comparação



# Conclusões

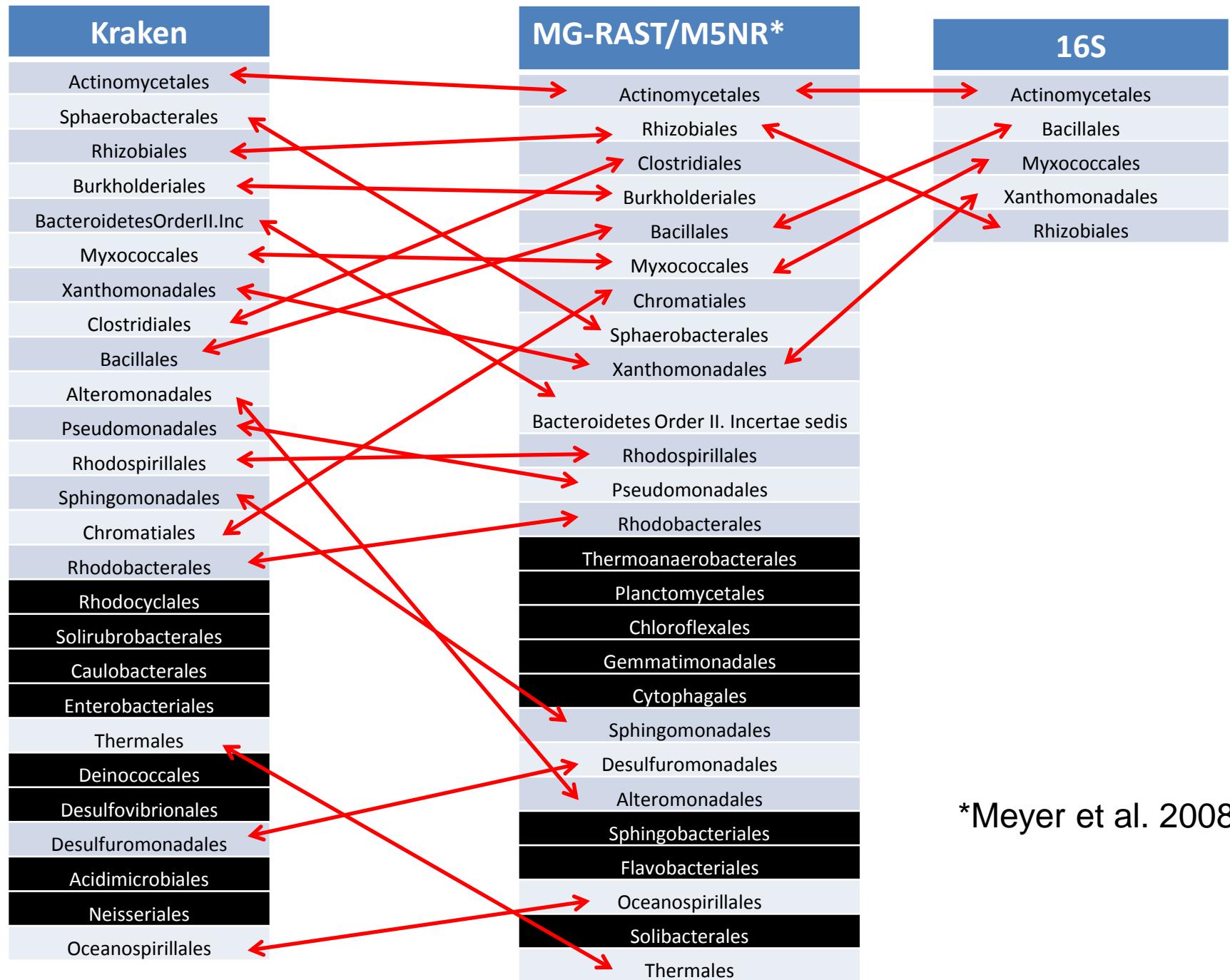
- WMS vs. 16S
  - 16S pode perder OTUs pela especificidade dos primers
    - Menos sensibilidade
  - É mais difícil chegar ao nível de espécie
  - Identificações positivas são confiáveis
    - Especificidade boa
  - WMS tem melhor sensibilidade (pega tudo)
    - Mais sensível aos vieses dos bancos
- myTaxa é um programa melhor do que kraken

# Vamos mudar o nível taxonômico

- Ordem
- Dados: ZC4, day 99

# Fica mais complicado...

- RDP muitas vezes diz que reads pertencem a uma ordem desconhecida
- Idem myTaxa
- Estimativas de abundância ficam ainda menos confiáveis do que ao nível de filo
- Existe maior sensibilidade ao conteúdo dos bancos utilizados

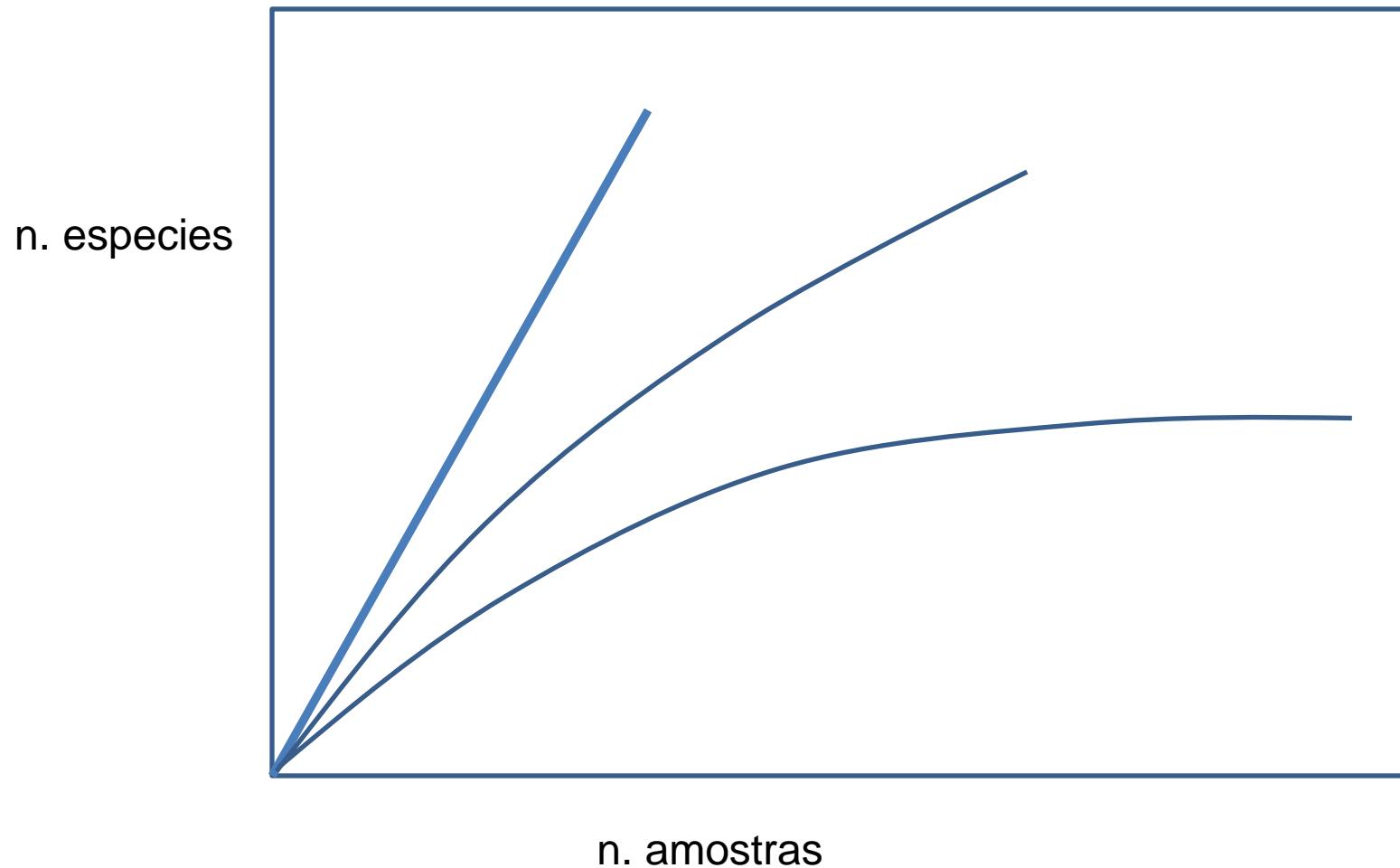


\*Meyer et al. 2008

# Análise de abundância

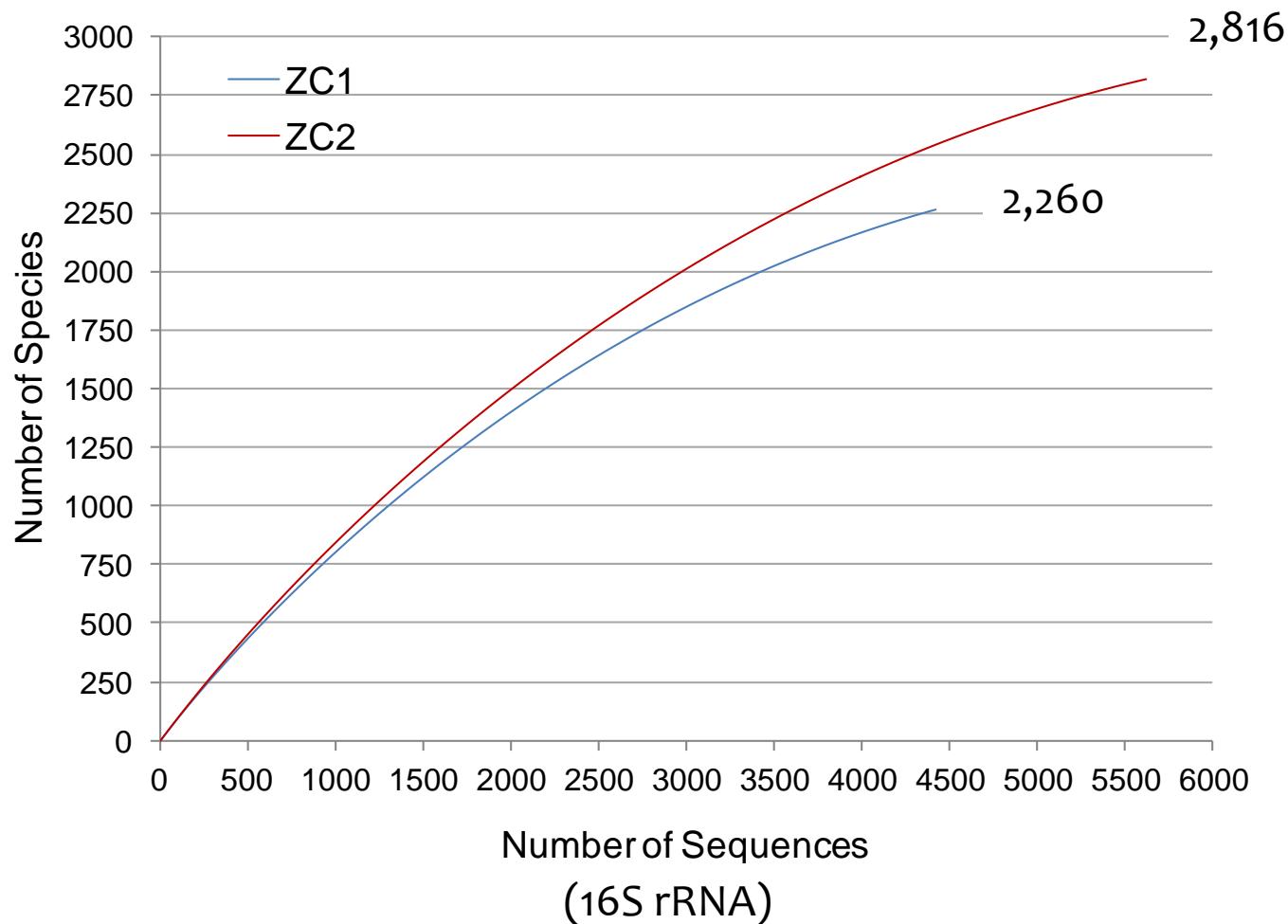
- Abundância relativa
  - Curvas de rarefação
- Variação
  - temporal
  - espacial
  - Entre diferentes condições

# Curvas de rarefação (ou saturamento)

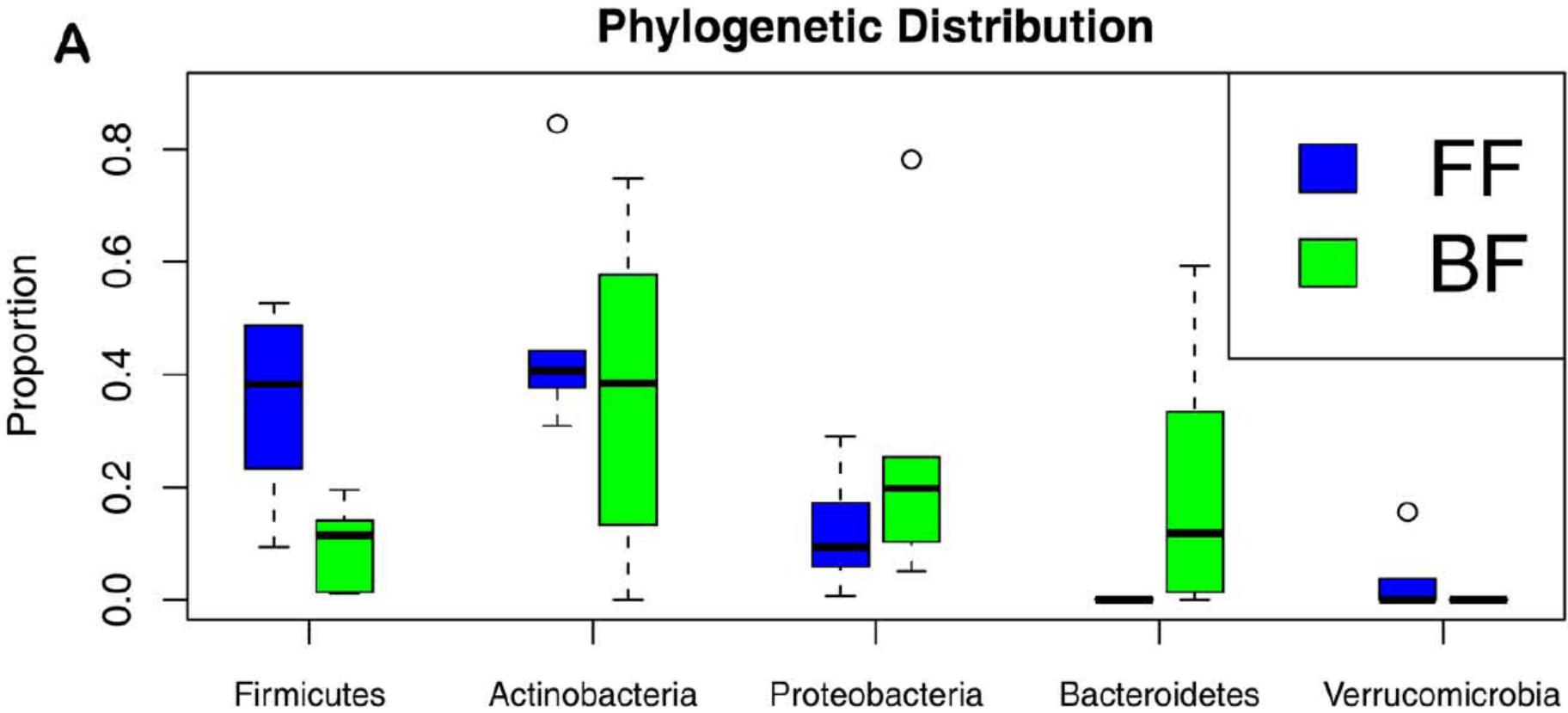


# Amostras metazoo

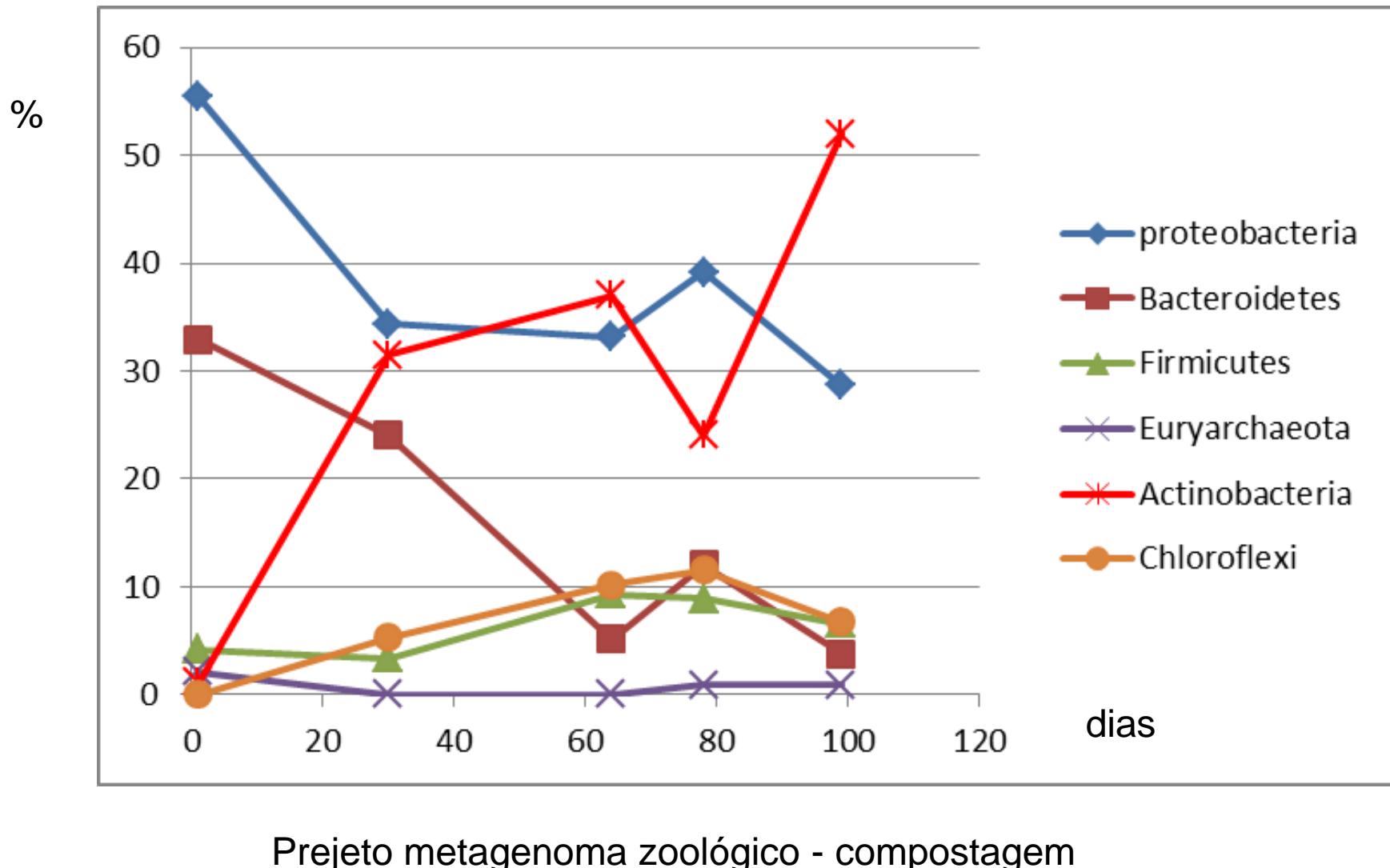
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# Variação da microbiota intestinal entre bebês amamentados no seio e com mamadeira

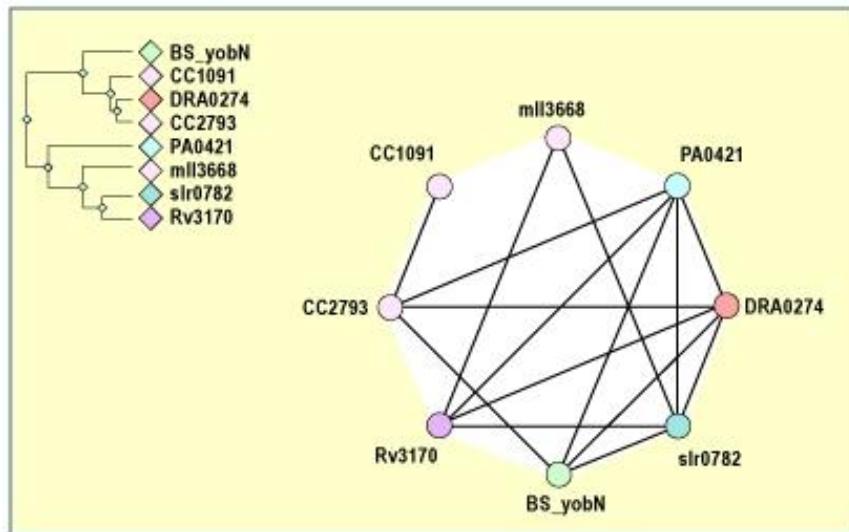


# Variação da abundância relativa no tempo



# Abundância de funções

- BLASTX de reads contra um banco de **COGs**  
**Cluster of Orthologous Groups**



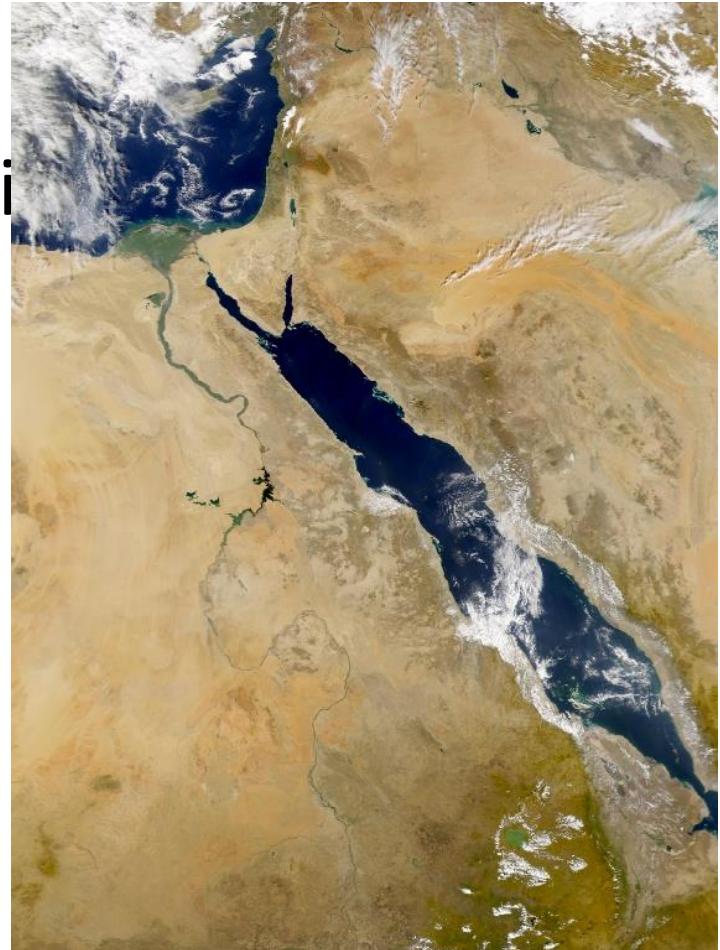
Example of a COG: monoamine oxidase

# Abundância relativa espacial

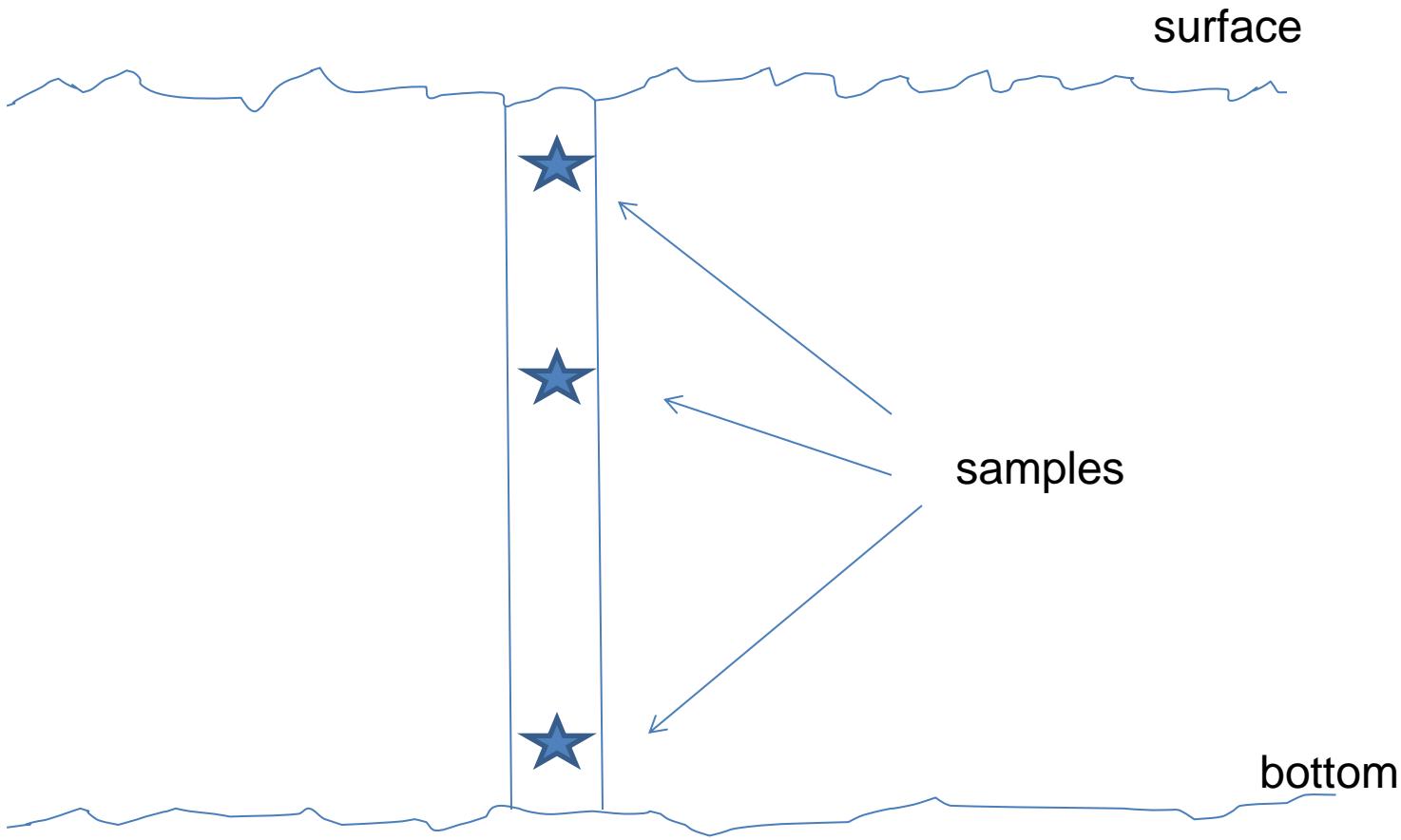
- COGs diferencialmente representados
- Semelhante a genes diferencialmente expressos
- Heat maps, clusterização hierárquica

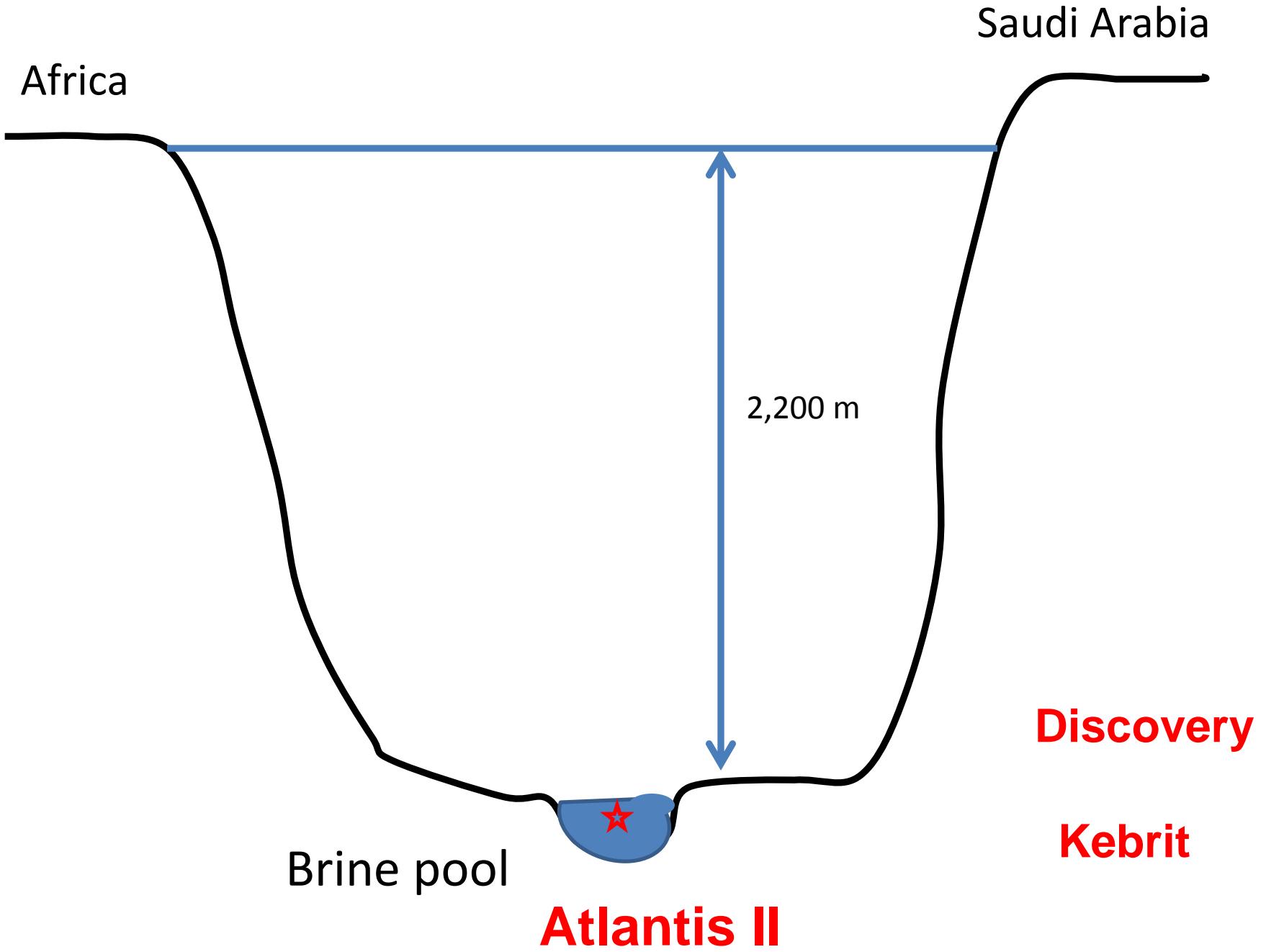
# Motivation

- Red Sea
- American University in Cairo
- KAUST funding



# Ocean water columns





# The brine pools are a special niche

- High salinity (10X more than surface water)
- Enriched with heavy metals: iron, manganese, copper, zinc (1000X more concentrated than normal water)
- High temperatures (70 °C)
- High pressure
- No light



The Oceanus research ship belongs to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

Source: Hamza El Dorry



### A **CTD**: Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth (CTD) sensors

A CTD determines the essential physical properties of ocean water. It gives scientists a precise and comprehensive charting of the distribution and variation of water temperature, salinity, and density that helps to understand how the oceans affect life. (Media Relations, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

As the ship steams slowly ahead, scientists in a lab on the ship will guide the CTD up and down in the water column, occasionally sending the instrument an electronic signal to collect a water sample in a bottle mounted on the instrument's cage. (© C.A. Linder, WHOI)



### One of the labs on **OCEANUS**

Source: Hamza El Dorry

# Data

- Pyrosequencing with Roche 454 (AUC)
- 2 columns (above two different brine pools)
  - 5 samples in each column
- **Esta aula**
  - data for the column above the brine pool **Atlantis II (ATIIC)**

Africa

Saudi Arabia

Water column



50m



200m



700m



1,500m

2,200 m



ATIIC brine pool

# First results

- Comparison among several ocean water columns
  - 11 locations worldwide
  - 24 samples at different depths

## Location of the 11 sites and number of sequences of the 24 data sets

Figure S1



Depth (m)	North Pacific Gyre ALOHA Station, Hawaii, USA	Sargasso Sea BATS Station, Bermudas	Red Sea Atlantis II Basin	Southern Pacific Station 3, Coast of Iquique, Chile	Mediterranean Sea Coast of Alicante, Spain	Sea of Marmara Central Basin, Turkey	Atlantic Ocean, Puerto Rico Trench North of Puerto Rico	Sequences, x10 <sup>3</sup>
20		334						
25	581							
50		410	1100	292	1204			
75	645				529			
85								
100		484						
110	454				334			
200			655	453				
500	954	158						
700			654				253	
1000								
1500			1138					
4000	116							
6000							545	

GOS (surface water): Caribbean Sea (GS018) Eastern Tropical Pacific (GS023) Galapagos Islands (GS034) Indian Ocean (GS114)

Sequences x10 <sup>3</sup>	143	133	134	349
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# Comparison: gene functions

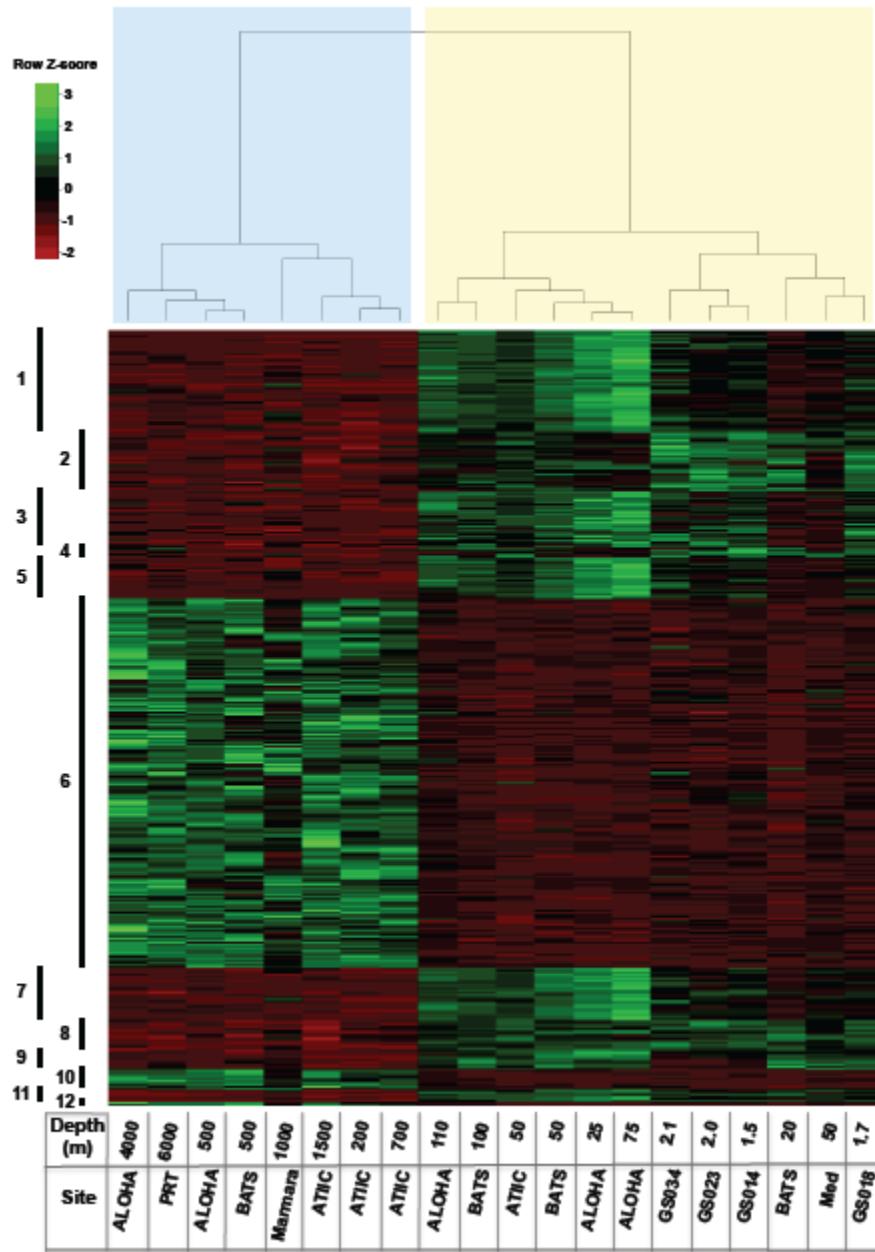
- Based on COG assignments
  - BLASTX against eggNOG [Jensen et al. 2008]
- What functions were present in one site but not in others
- What functions were present at a certain **depth** but not in others
- Rather than presence/absence
  - **Differentially represented COGs**
  - Similar to differentially expressed genes
  - Heat maps, hierarchical clustering

# Methodological issues

- Comparative metagenomics
- How to determine whether an assigned COG is differentially represented
  - Normalization, statistics

# First result: COGs per water column

site	#COGs
ATIIC	483
ALOHA	337
BATS	360
Iquique	174
<b>Total unique</b>	<b>790</b>



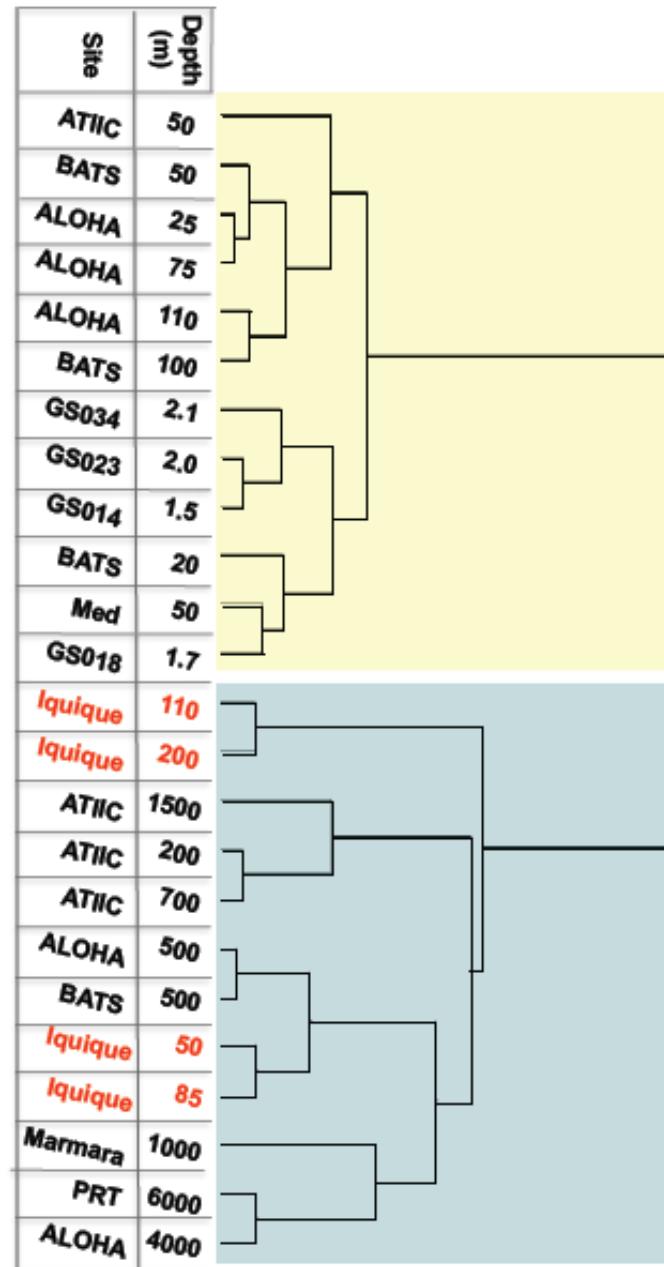
Based on 386 COGs  
shared by ATIIC,  
Aloha, BATS with  
differential  
representation

## COGs

## Iquique not included

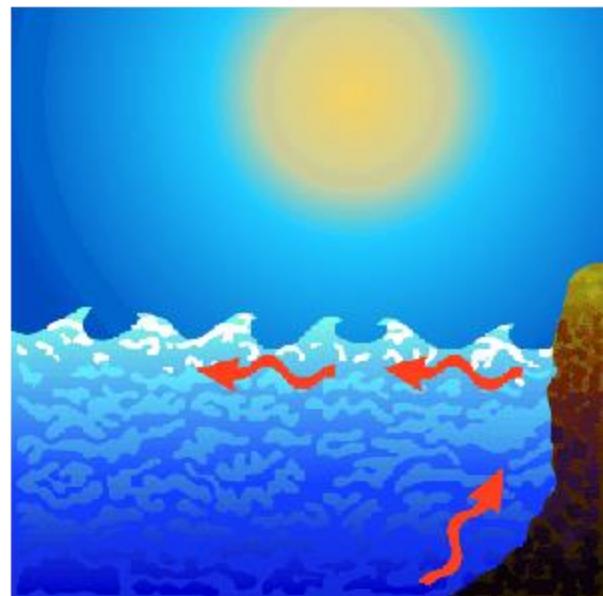
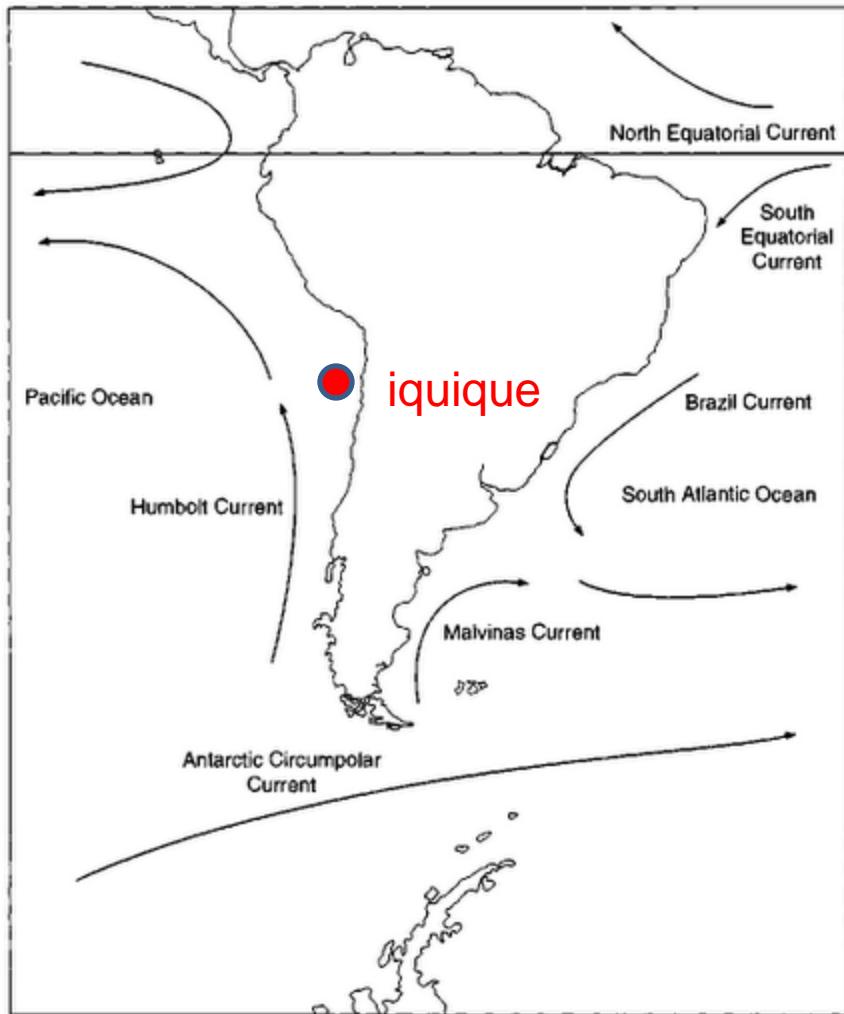
# And Iquique?

# Figure 2A



# Why is Iquique different?

- Humboldt current
- Upwelling phenomenon
  - Cold nutrient-rich water is taken to the surface

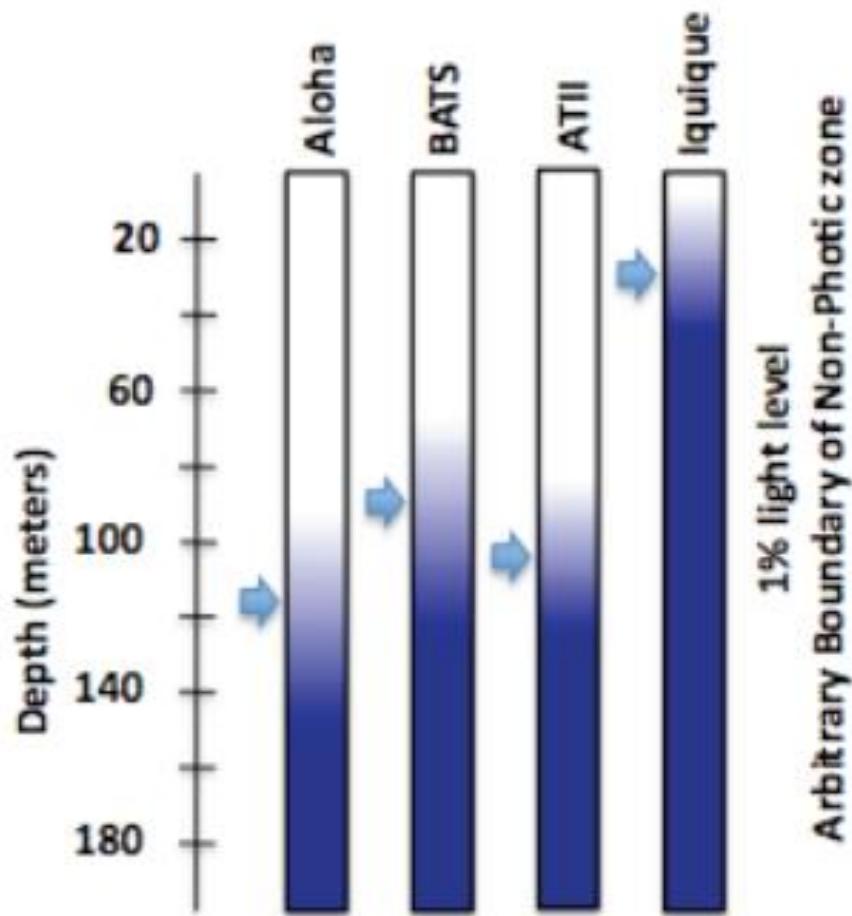


upwelling

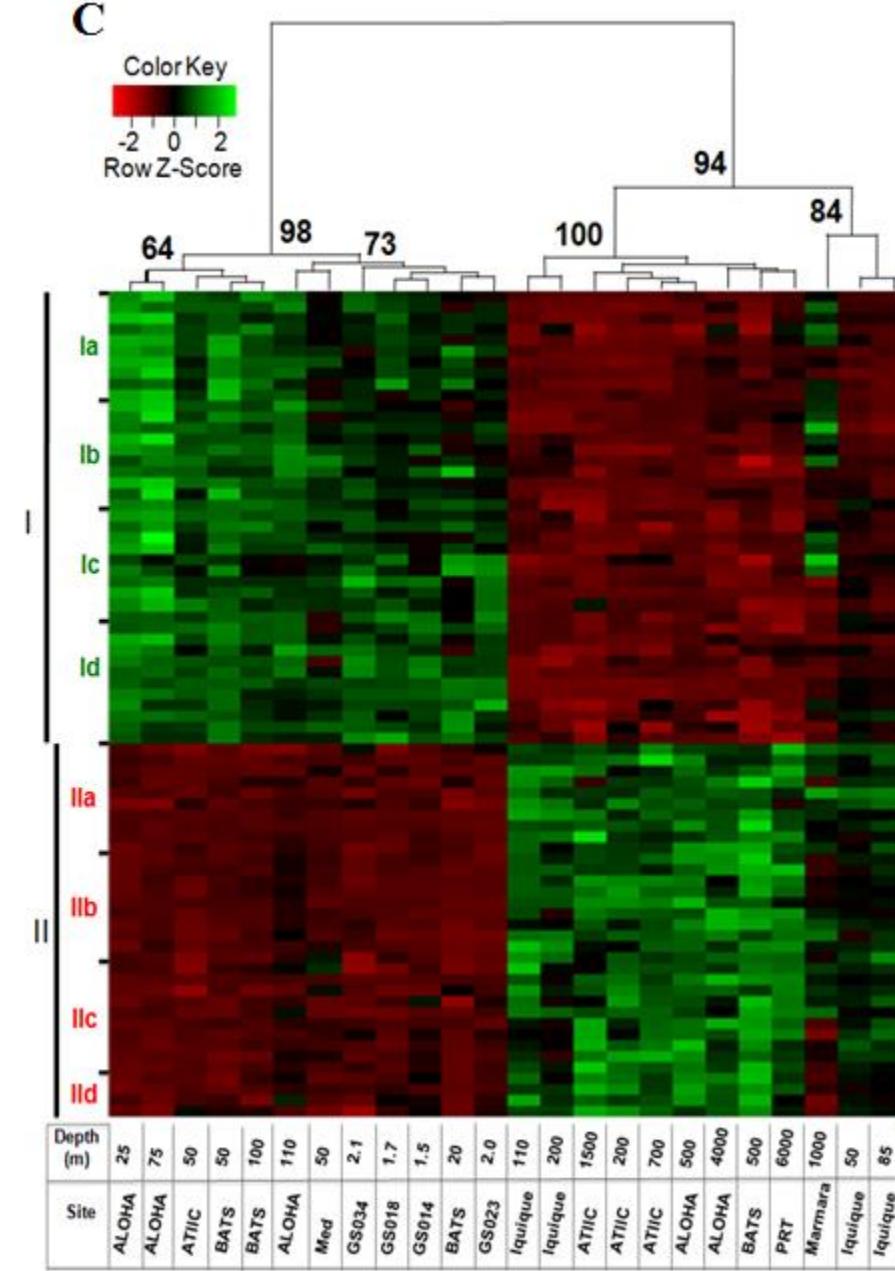
<http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/glossary.php?&word=upwelling>

## Figure 2B

PAR values (Photosynthetically active radiation )



“Photic and aphotic COGs”

**C**

41 COGs with higher abundance in photic zones

34 COGs with higher abundance in aphotic zones

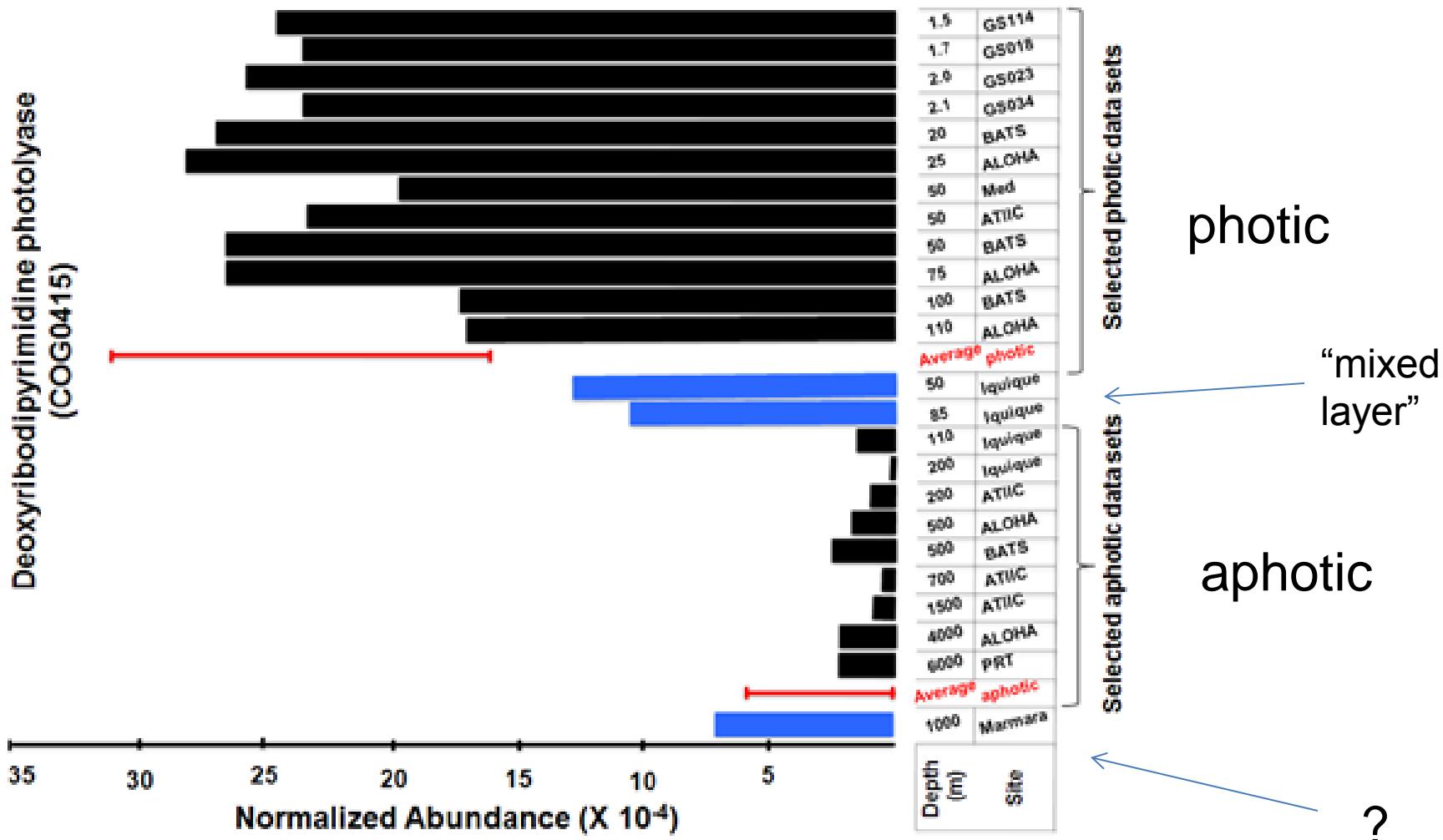
# Photic COGs

- Photosynthesis
- biosynthesis of light-harvesting pigments
- assimilation of CO<sub>2</sub> by photosynthetic bacteria
- Light-induced DNA repair
- oxidative stress response
- N<sub>2</sub> fixation
- phosphate metabolism

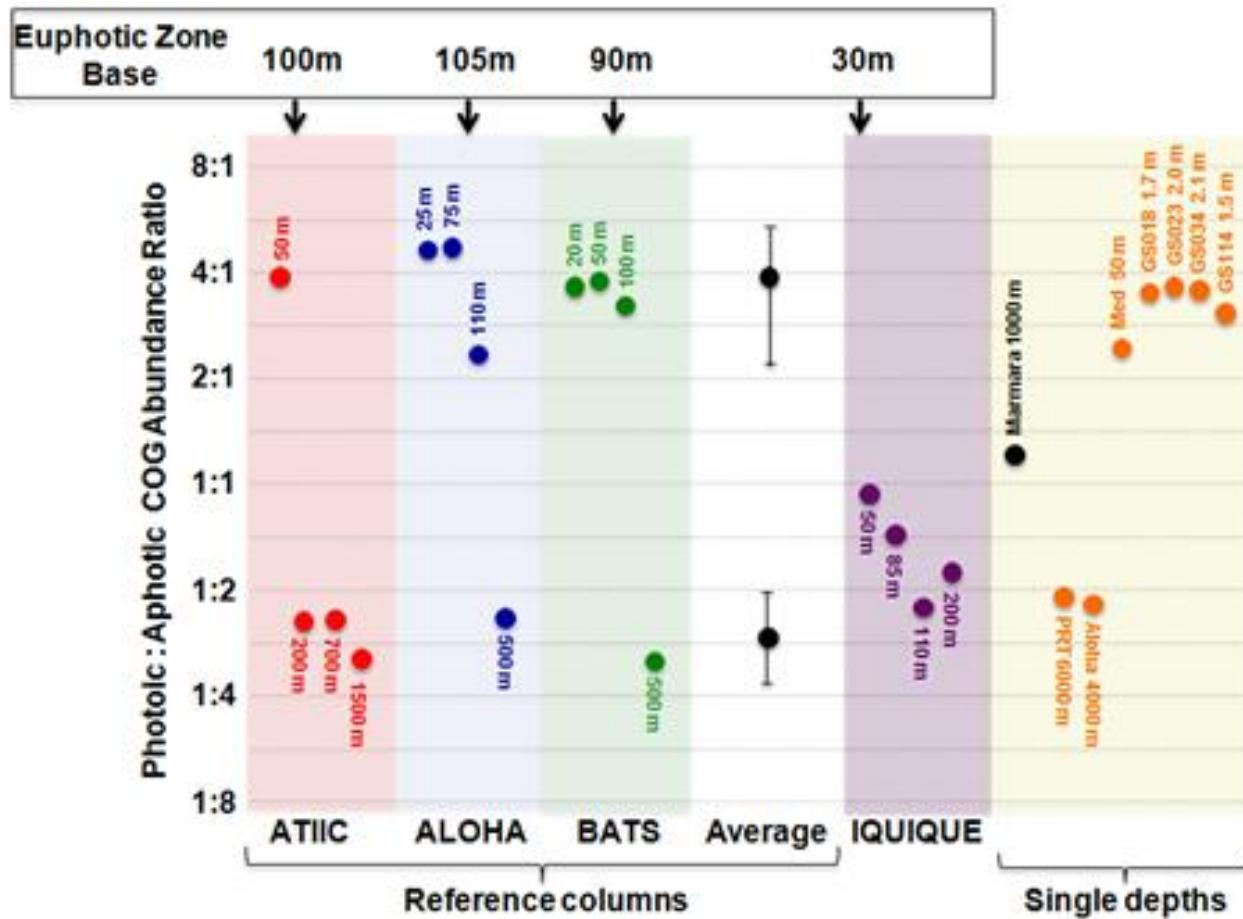
# Aphotic COGs

- Catabolism of proteins and aminoacids
- Methane oxidation
- sulfate assimilation and metabolism
- selenocysteine metabolism
- terpenoid biosynthesis

# Deoxyribodipyrimidine photolyase (repairs DNA damage caused by exposure to ultraviolet light, COG0415)



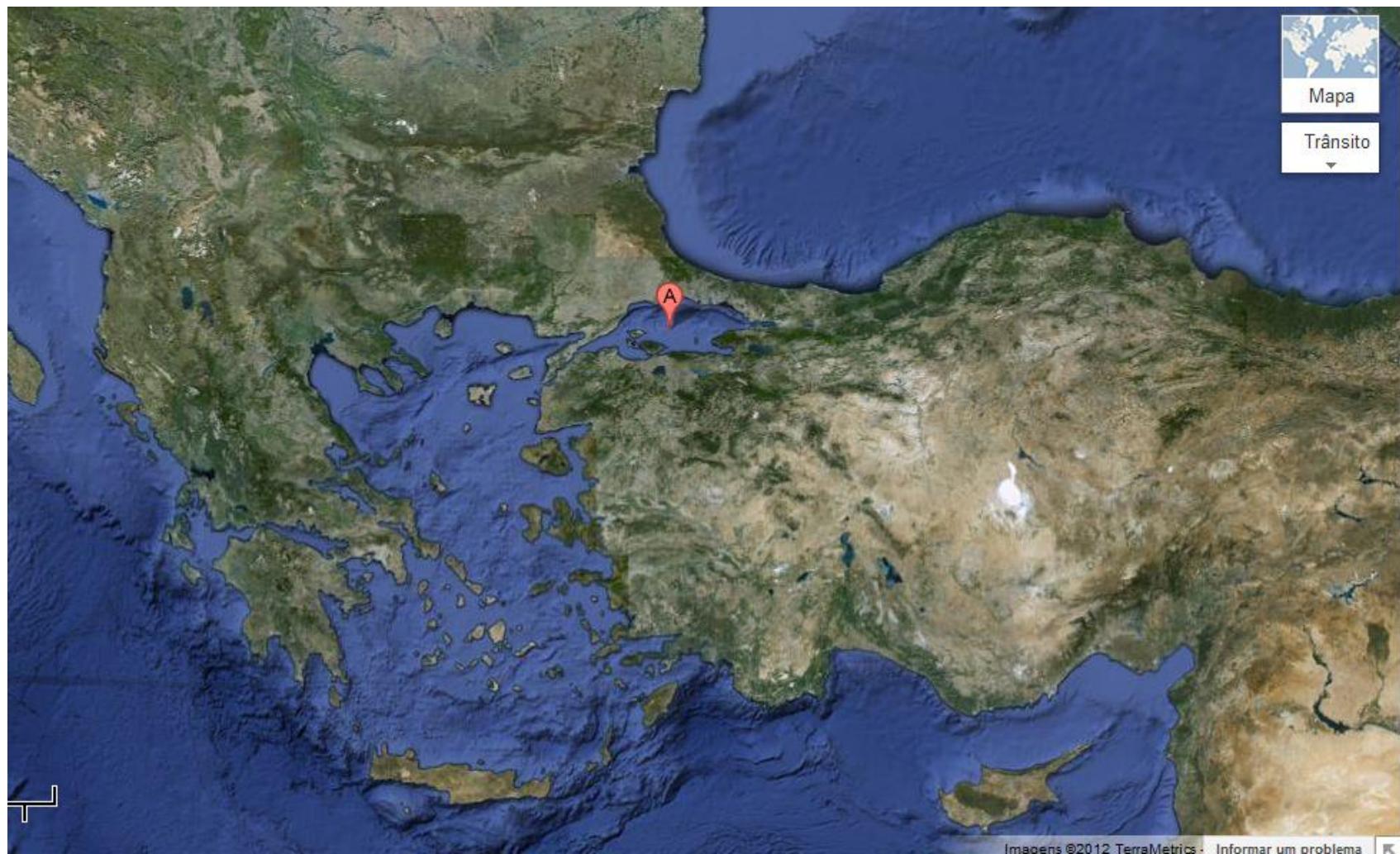
# Abundance ratios



# Another puzzle: Marmara

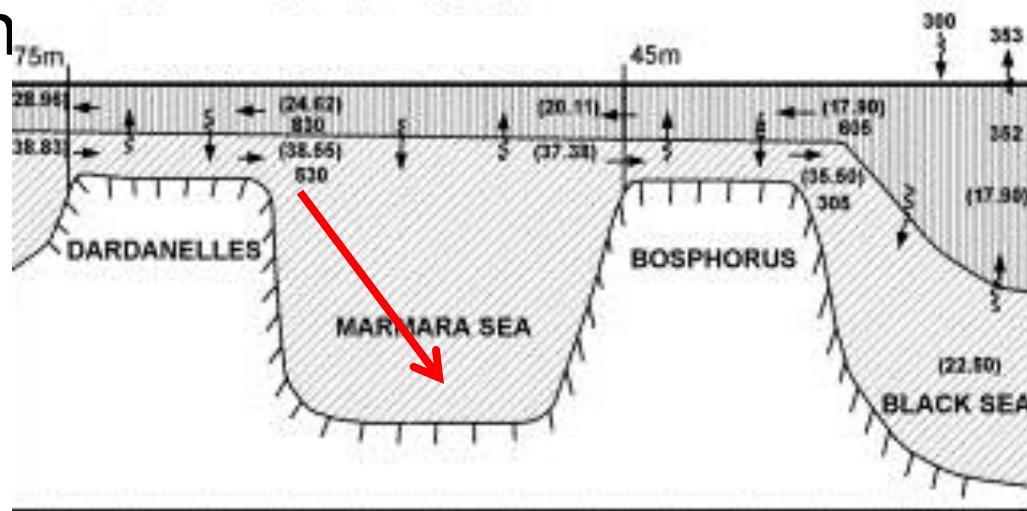
- Relatively high ratio photic:aphotic COGs for the depth
- Overrepresentation of the photolyase COG

# Sea of Marmara



# Conjectured explanation

- The Marmara sea receives **saltier** water inflow from the Mediterranean through the Dardanelles

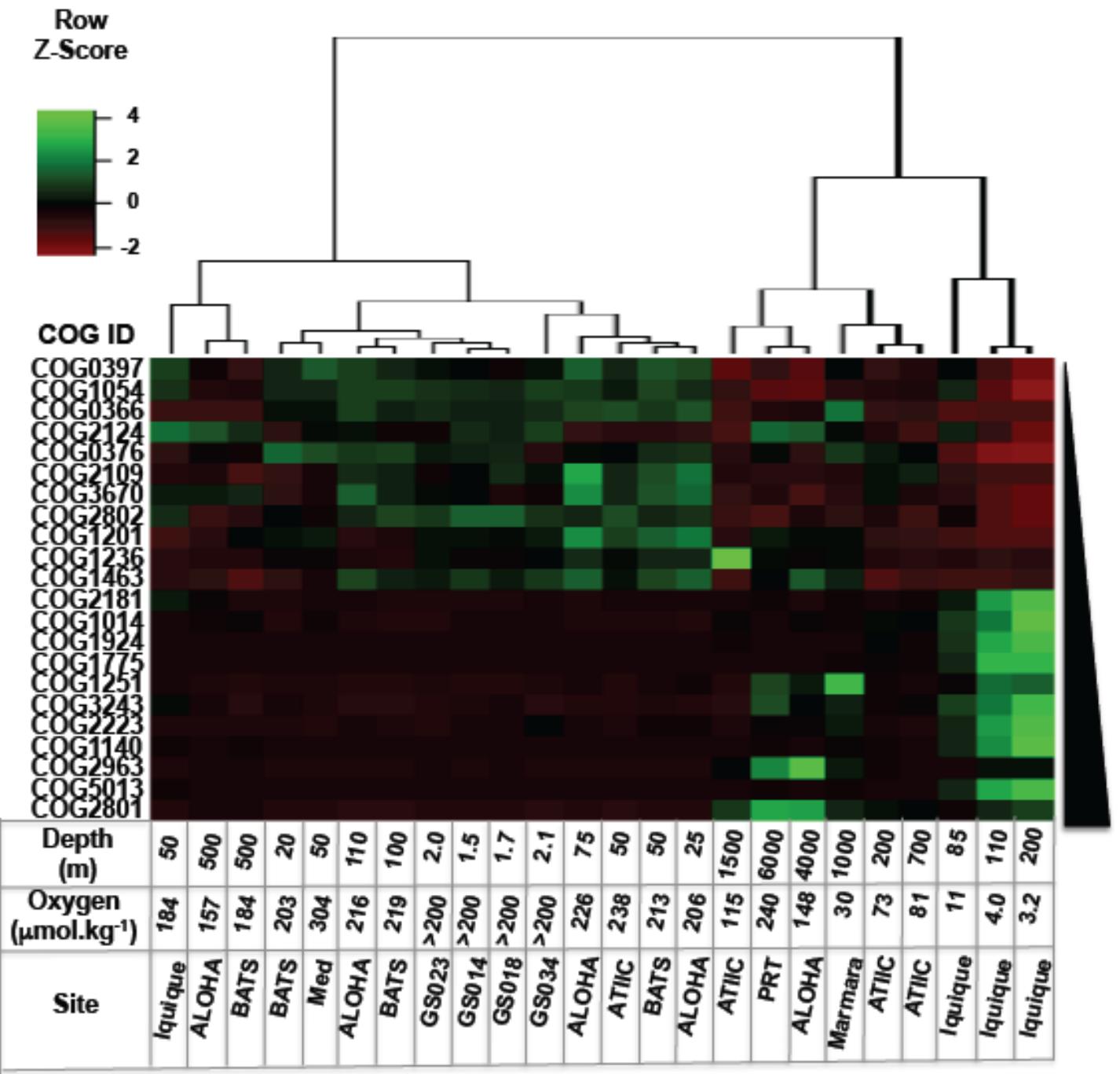


- This water is **denser** therefore it **sinks**

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0034666703001179> Mudie et al., 2004

# Oxygen limitation

- Hypoxic regions in Iquique
  - 85, 110, 200m
  - Lowest O<sub>2</sub> values among all samples
- Are there COGs significantly associated with lack of oxygen?
- We removed 383 photic/aphotic COGs and verified the rest
- Result: 22 differentially represented COGs (11 up, 11 down)



# Gene favored by low oxygen levels: *narG*, involved in denitrification

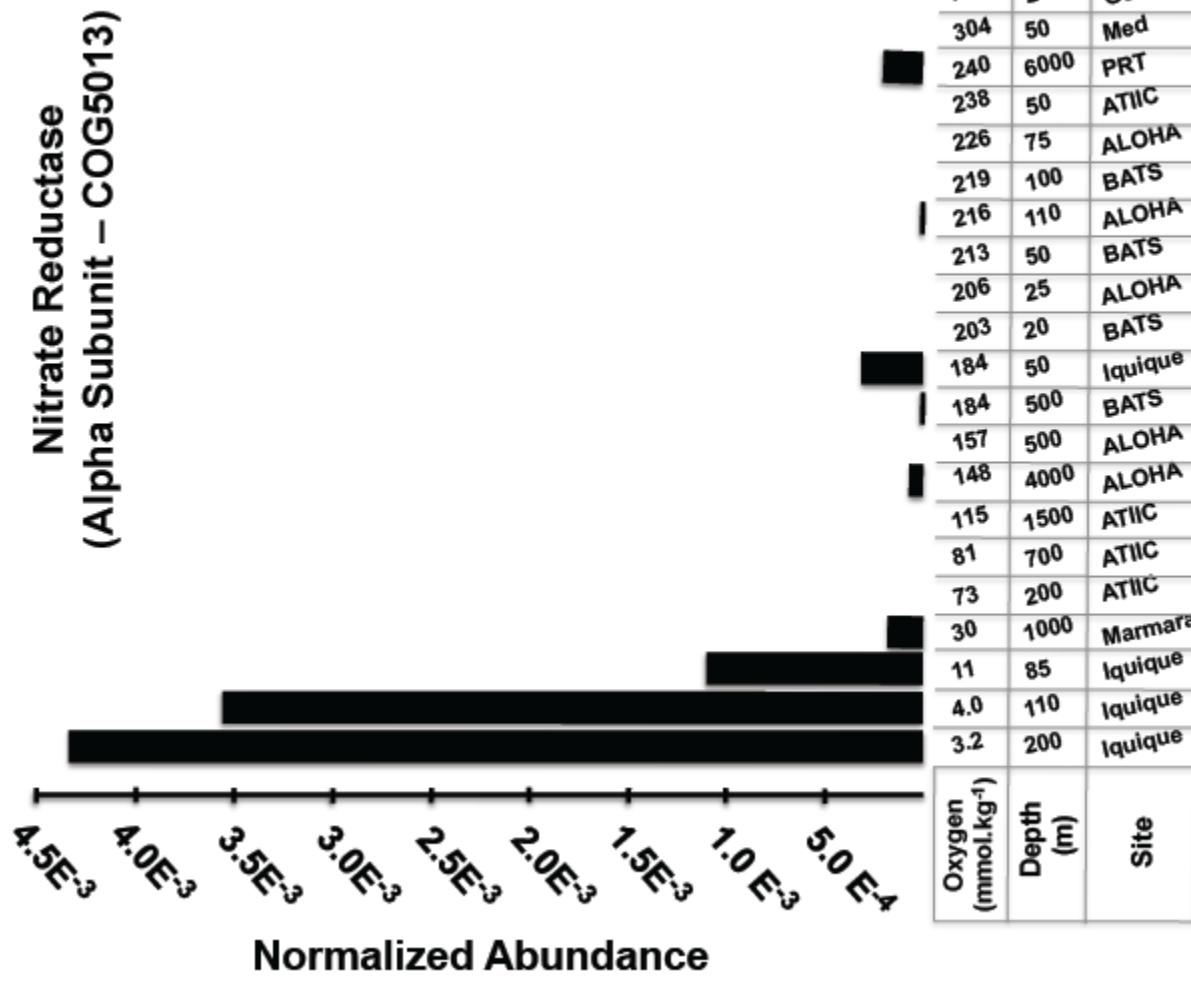


Figure 4B

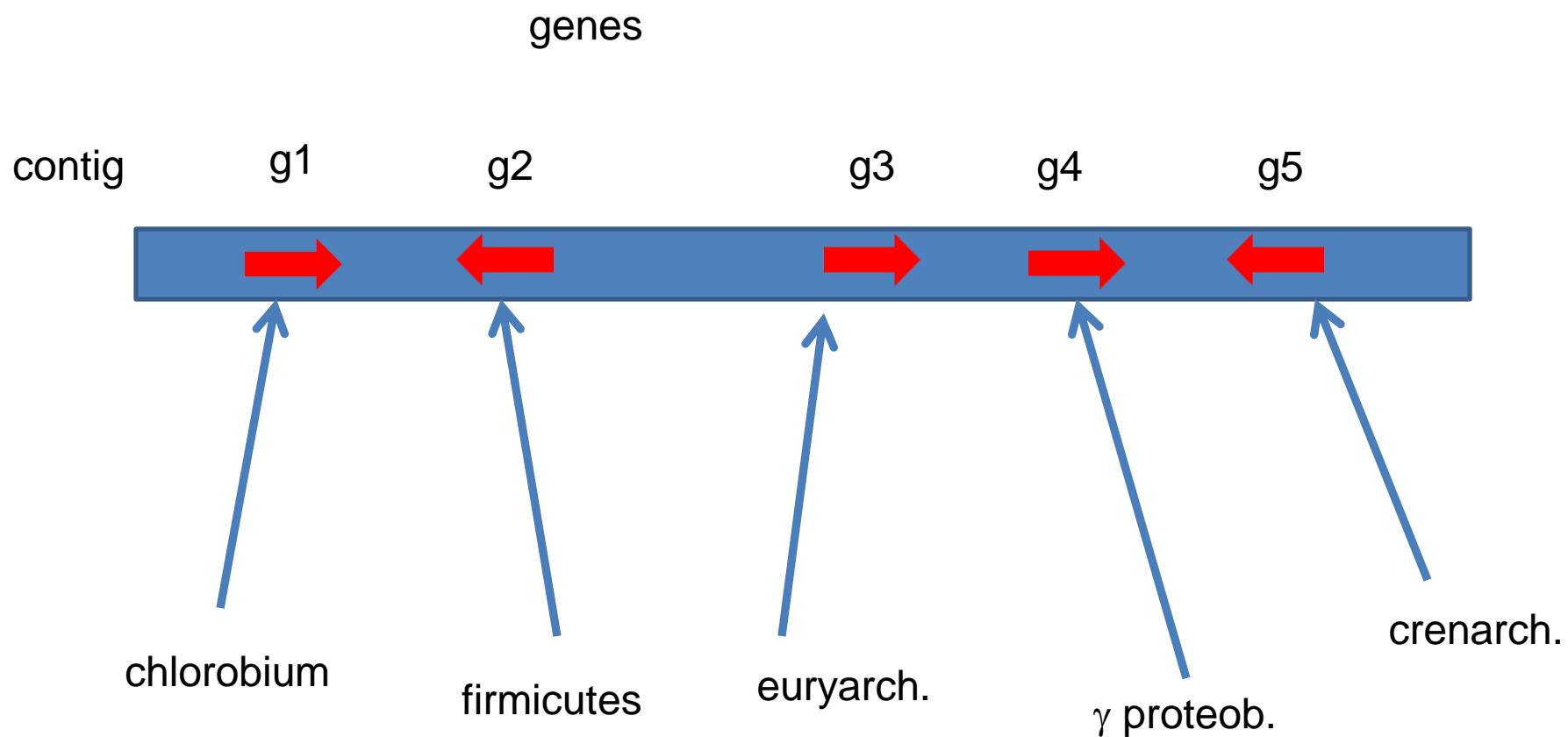
# Summary

- A metagenomics-enabled **functional profiling** analysis
  - Light
  - Oxygen
- **Reference sets** of functional biological activities
  - diagnosis of the physiological and biochemical capabilities of marine microorganisms
- May help monitor “the oceans’ health”

# Montagem

- Em genomas bacterianos isolados, é um processo razoavelmente bem compreendido
- Em metagenomas há velhas e novas dificuldades
  - Mistura de organismos
    - Quimeras
    - Transferência lateral
  - Repetições
  - Tamanho dos conjuntos de dados
    - Chegando a bilhões de reads

# Exemplo de quimerismo



# Reads vs. contigs

- **Reads**: o que sai da máquina sequenciadora
- **Contigs**: resultado da montagem

# Reads

- Essencial usar reads para análises de abundância
- Também é melhor usar reads para identificação taxonômica por causa do possível quimerismo

# Contigs

- Bons para achar genes
  - Mais provável achar ORFs completas em contigs
- Para simples presença de genes **quimerismo**  
**não é um problema sério**

# Montagem de Metagenomas

# Algoritmos de montagem especializados para metagenômica

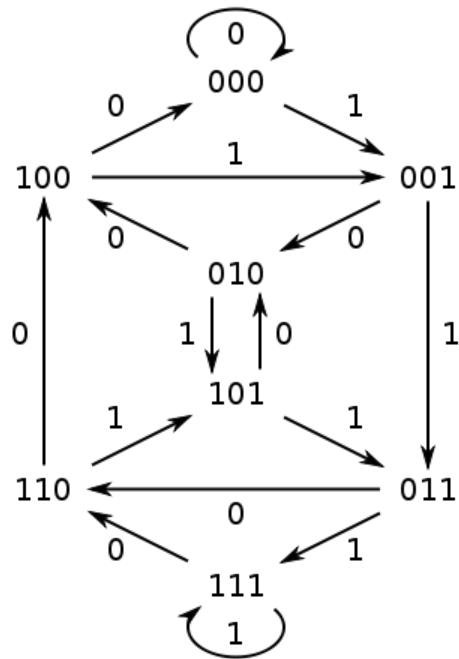
- Genovo [Laserson, Jojic, Koller 2011]
- Metavelvet [Namiki et al. 2012]
- Differential-coverage binning [Albertsen et al. 2013]

# genovo

- Algoritmo probabilístico
- Procura a montagem mais provável para um dado conjunto de reads
- Melhor que newbler
- Muito lento! (3 dias x 2 horas [newbler])

# metavelvet

- Baseado em velvet
- Velvet é baseado em grafos de de Bruijn



Sobreposição de  $k$ -mers

$$k = 1$$

# Grafo de de Bruijn em montagem

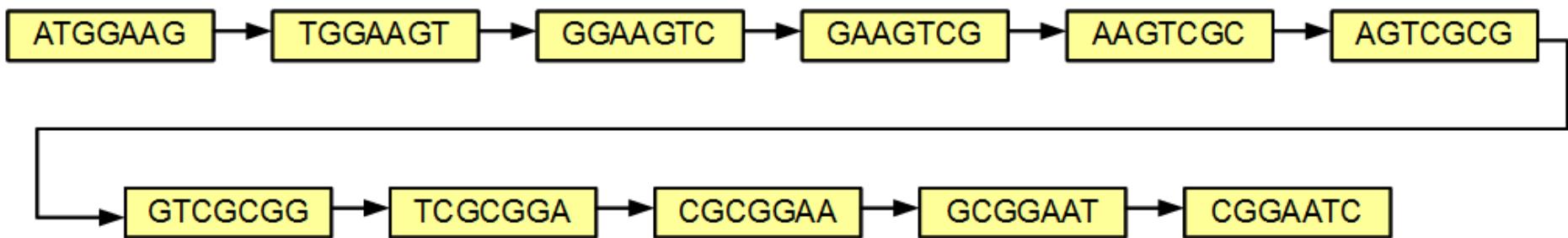
sequence

ATGGAAAGTCGCGGAATC

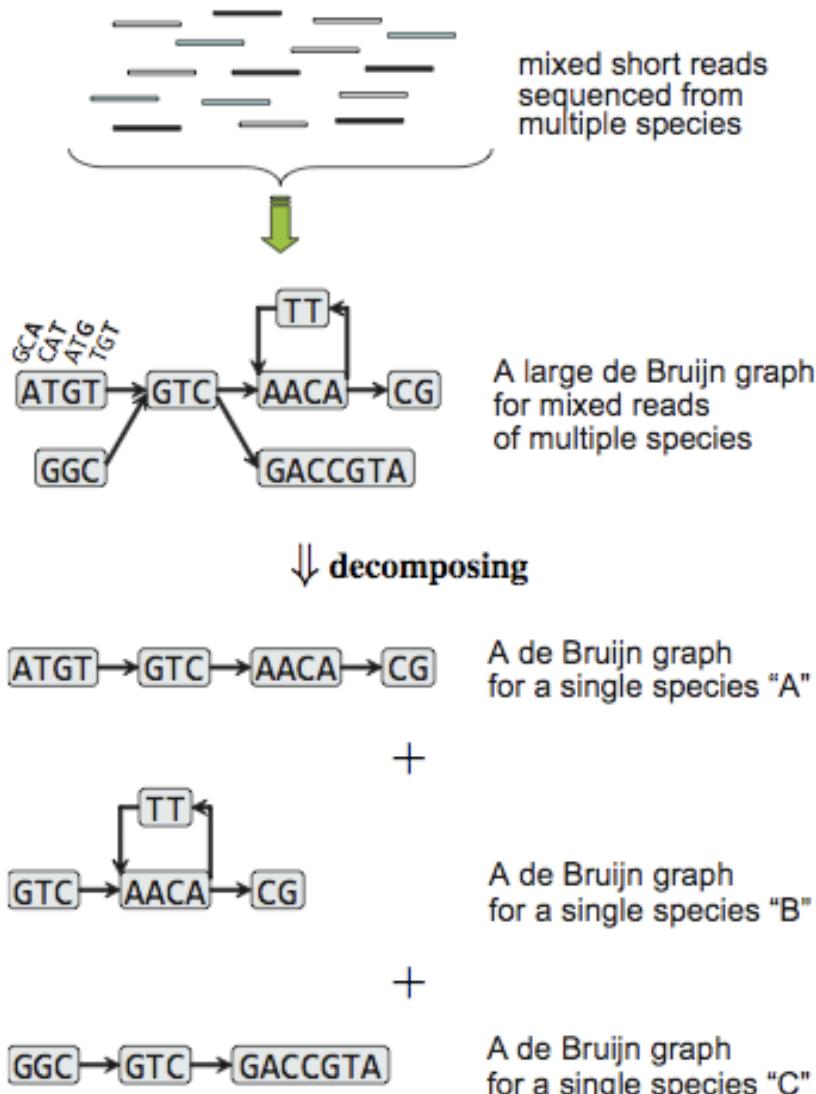
7mers

ATGGAAAG  
TGGAAAGT  
GGAAGTC  
GAAGTCG  
AAGTCGC  
AGTCGCG  
GTCGCGG  
TCGCGGA  
CGCGGAA  
GCGGAAT  
CGGAATC

de Bruijn graph



# metavelvet



Permite escolha de mais de um valor para  $k$

# Na prática, no meu lab

- SoapDeNovo
  - Mais rápido, consegue dar conta de conjuntos grandes de dados, resultados suficientemente bons
  - Luo et al.: SOAPdenovo2: an empirically improved memory-efficient short-read de novo assembler. GigaScience 2012 1:18.

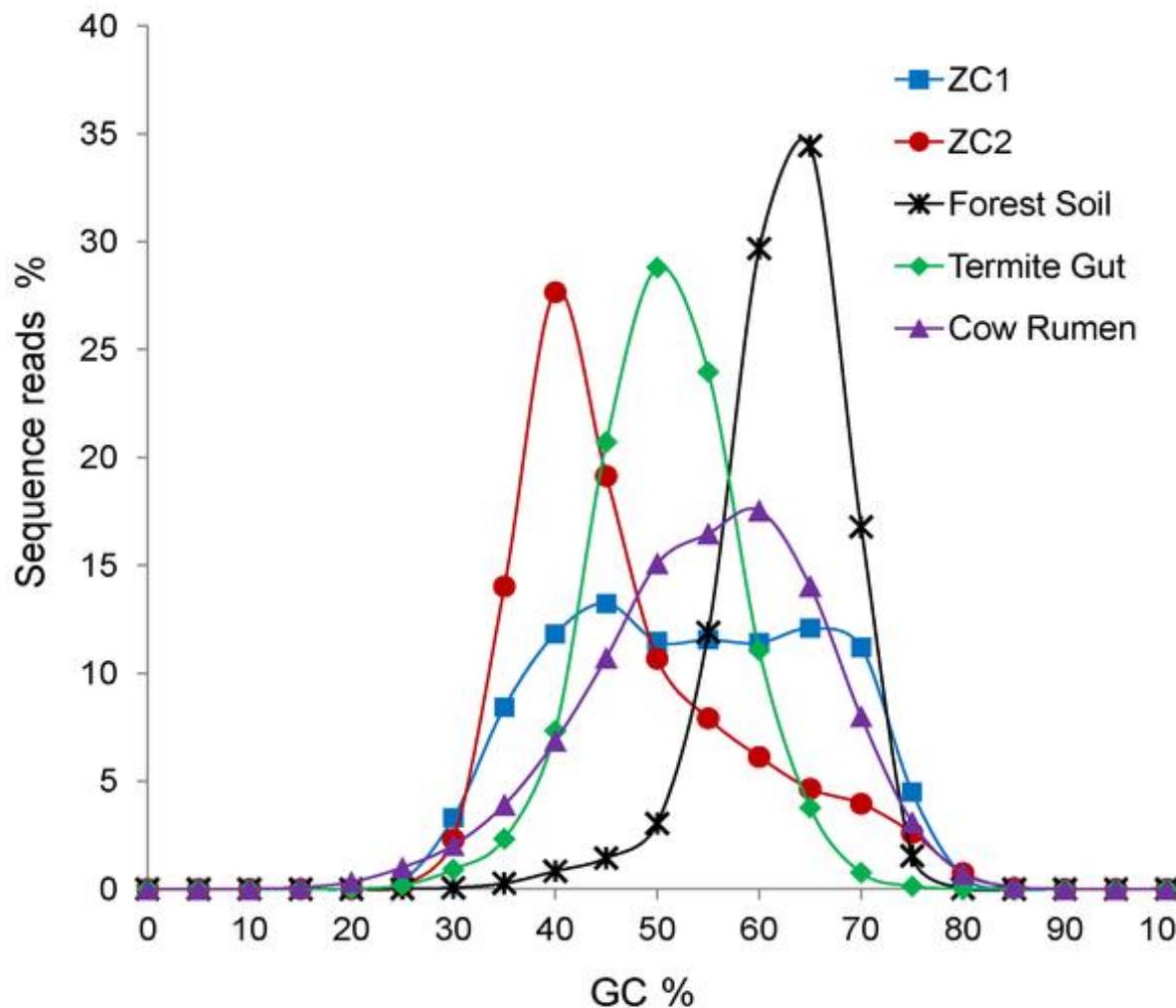
# Anotação funcional

- Pipeline para genomas completos pode ser usado
  - Exemplo: IMG/M
- Problema: maioria das ORFs são parciais
  - Dificulta atribuição de função
    - Potencial gerador de erros

# Comparação de metagenomas

- Genomicamente
- Taxonomicamente
- Funcionalmente
- Recursos oferecidos pelo IMG/M

**Figure 1. Distribution of the GC content percentage for ZC1 and ZC2 compared with selected metagenomes.**



Martins LF, Antunes LP, Pascon RC, de Oliveira JCF, Digiampietri LA, et al. (2013) Metagenomic Analysis of a Tropical Composting Operation at the São Paulo Zoo Park Reveals Diversity of Biomass Degradation Functions and Organisms. PLoS ONE 8(4): e61928. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061928

<http://127.0.0.1:8081/plosone/article?id=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0061928>

# Genome clustering (IMG/M)

## Clustering Type:

### By Function:

- COG
- Pfam
- KO

### By Taxonomy:

- Class
- Family
- Genus

### By Function Category:

- COG Categories
- COG Pathways
- KEGG Pathway Categories (KO)
- KEGG Pathway Categories (EC)
- KEGG Pathways (KO)
- KEGG Pathways (EC)
- Pfam Categories

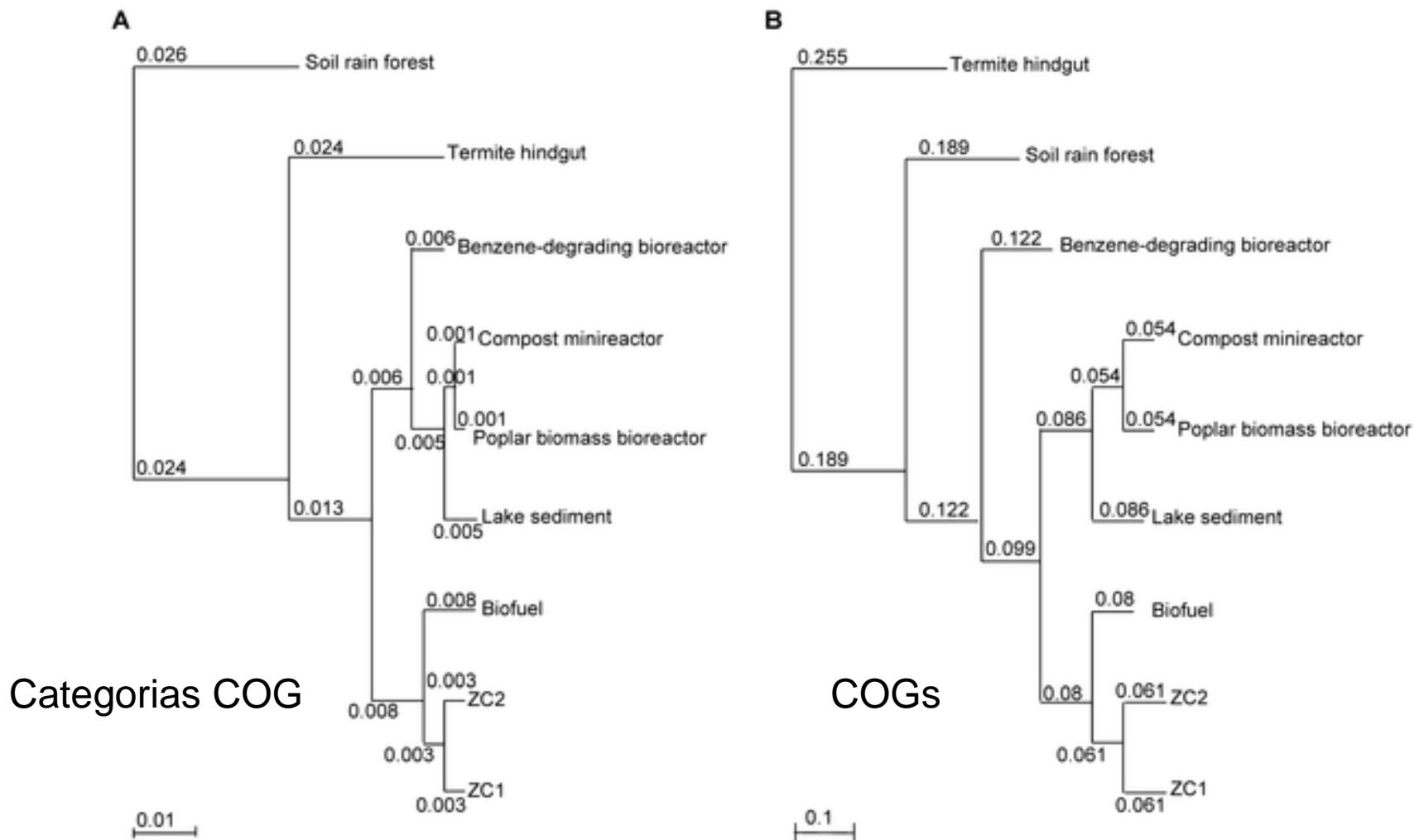
## Clustering Method:

- Hierarchical Clustering
- Principal Components Analysis (PCA)
- Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA)
- Non-metric MultiDimensional Scaling (NMDS)
- Correlation Matrix

Go

Reset

**Figure 8. Hierarchical clustering of functional gene groups of ZC1 and ZC2 and seven public metagenomes.**



Martins LF, Antunes LP, Pascon RC, de Oliveira JCF, Digiampietri LA, et al. (2013) Metagenomic Analysis of a Tropical Composting Operation at the São Paulo Zoo Park Reveals Diversity of Biomass Degradation Functions and Organisms. PLoS ONE 8(4): e61928. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061928

<http://127.0.0.1:8081/plosone/article?id=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0061928>

# Normalização

- É um assunto que requer competência em estatística
- A seguir são apresentadas duas regras práticas
- Motivação: Metagenômica comparativa requer normalização do número de reads das amostras
- Variação pode ser grande; por exemplo:
  - Amostra 1: 200 mil reads
  - Amostra 2: 2 milhões de reads

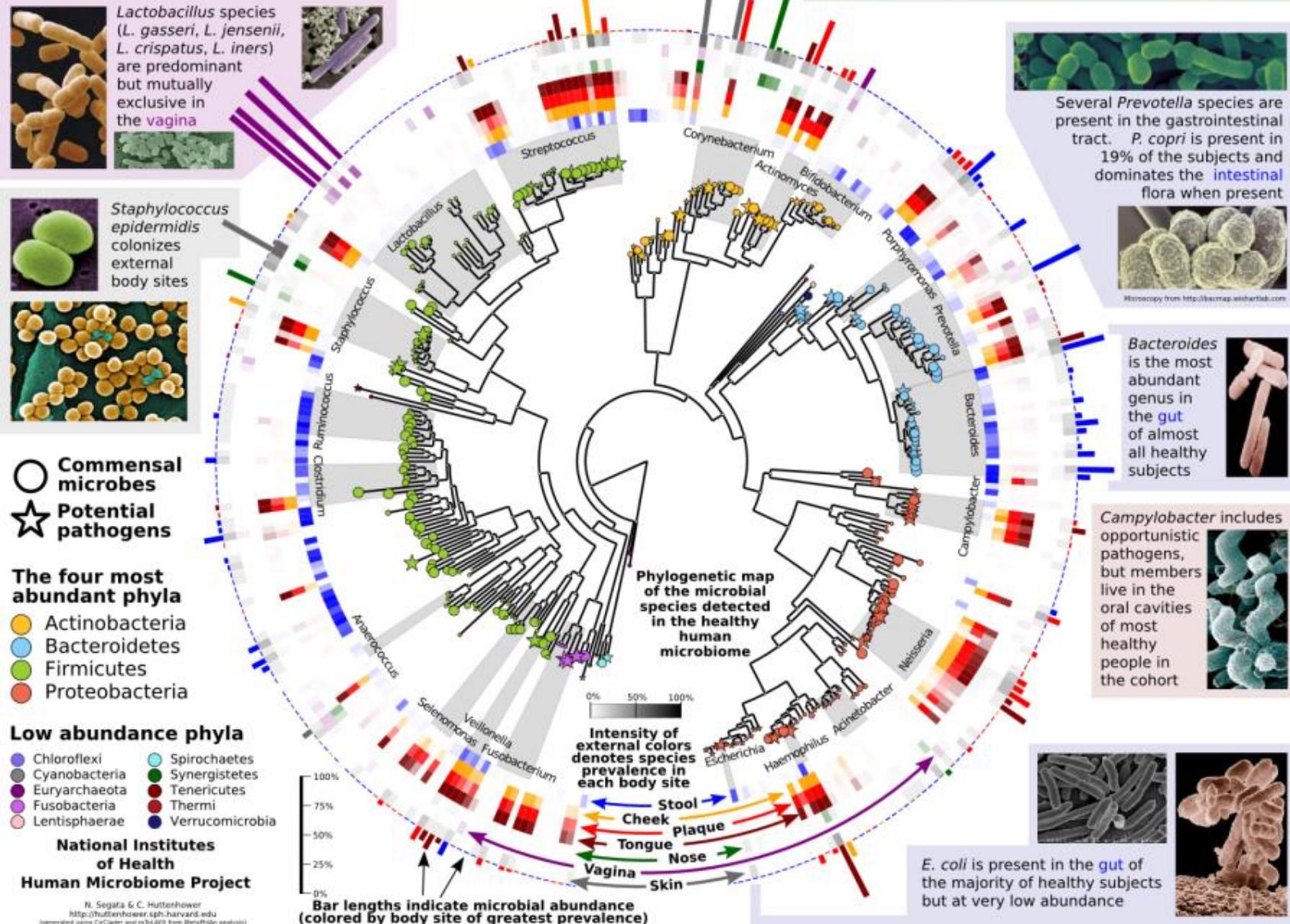
# Método 1

- Determinar a amostra com menor número de reads (suponha  $n_{min}$ )
- Para cada outra amostra
  - Selecionar aleatoriamente  $n_{min}$  reads
- Desvantagem
  - Pode jogar muito dado fora

# Método 2

- Seja  $n_A$  o numero de reads da amostra A
- Seja  $\sigma$  o número médio de reads por amostra
- Seja  $x$  a contagem da característica de interesse em A (ou seja,  $x$  reads tem essa característica)
- Então normalizamos  $x$  pela fórmula
  - $\log_{10} \left[ \left( \frac{x}{n_A} \right) \cdot \sigma + 1 \right]$

# A map of diversity in the human microbiome



<http://huttenhower.sph.harvard.edu/metaphlan>

# Platformas web de processamento

- Laboratórios governamentais
- Serviços padronizados de processamento

# MG-RAST

metagenomics analysis server

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MG-RAST (the Metagenomics RAST) server is an automated analysis platform for metagenomes providing quantitative insights into microbial populations based on sequence data.

# of metagenomes	77,307
# base pairs	25.81 Tbp
# of sequences	236.94 billion
# of public metagenomes	12,527

The server primarily provides upload, quality control, automated annotation and analysis for prokaryotic metagenomic shotgun samples. MG-RAST was launched in 2007 and has over 8000 registered users and 77,307 data sets. The current server version is 3.3.3.3. We suggest users take a look at MG-RAST for the impatient.

[Updates](#)[MG-RAST 3.2.4 release notes \[October 2012\]](#)

\* login required

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[cite MG-RAST](#)

INTEGRATED MICROBIAL GENOMES  
EXPERT REVIEW with MICROBIOME SAMPLES[IMG/M ER Home](#) [Find Genomes](#) [Find Genes](#) [Find Functions](#) [Compare Genomes](#) [Analysis Cart](#) [My IMG](#) [Companion Systems](#) [Using IMG/M ER](#)[Home](#) > Find Genomes

loaded.

## Microbiome Details (Assembled Data)

[Add to Genome Cart](#)[Browse Genome](#)[BLAST Genome](#)

### About Genome

- o [Overview](#)
- o [Statistics](#)
- o [Genes](#)

### Overview

Proposal Name	Sao Paulo Zoo Compost
Sample Name	Sample C4
Taxon Object ID	2156126000
IMG Submission ID	<a href="#">2671</a>
GOLD ID in IMG Database	<a href="#">Project Id: Gm0002180</a>
External Links	
Genome type	metagenome
Sequencing Status	Draft
IMG Release	
Comment	
Sample Information	
Sample Site	Sao Paulo Zoo composting operation
Sample Collection Date	January 26, 2011
Isolation Country	Brazil
Sampling Strategy	8 days after composting started
Sample Isolation	done 8 days after composting started
Temperature Range	Thermophile
Sample Assembly Method	newbler
Sample Geographic Location	Sao Pulo Zoo
Longitude	-46.62
Latitude	-23.65



### Easy submission

Manually supported submission process, with help available for meta-data provision. Accepted data formats include SFF (454) and FASTQ (Illumina and IonTorrent).

[Find out more](#)

### Powerful analysis

Functional analysis of metagenomic sequences using InterPro - a powerful and sophisticated alternative to BLAST-based analyses. Taxonomy diversity analysis is performed using Qiime.

[Find out more](#)

### Data archiving

Data automatically archived at the Sequence Read Archive (SRA), ensuring accession numbers are supplied - a prerequisite for publication in many journals.

[Find out more](#)

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## Projects

### Latest public projects (Total: 37)

**Metatranscriptomics of the marine sponge Geodia barretti: Tackling phylogeny and function of its microbial community.**

Geodia barretti is a marine cold-water sponge harbouring high numbers of microorganisms. ...

[View more](#) - 1 sample

**A metagenomics transect into the deepest point of the Baltic Sea reveals clear stratification of microbial functional capacities**

The Baltic Sea is characterized by hyposaline surface waters, hypoxic and anoxic deep waters and ...

[View more](#) - 6 samples

**Gut metagenome in European women with normal, impaired and diabetic glucose control**

Type 2 diabetes (T2D) is a result of complex gene-environment interactions, and several risk ...

[View more](#) - 147 samples

## Samples

### Latest public samples (Total: 1053)

**Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 1**

Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 1 ...

[View more](#) - Taxonomy | Function results |

**Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 10**

Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 10 ...

[View more](#) - Taxonomy | Function results |

**Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 2**

Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 2 ...

[View more](#) - Taxonomy | Function results |

**Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 3**

Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 3 ...

[View more](#) - Taxonomy | Function results |

**Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 4**

Fecal sample from Crohn's patient 4 ...

[View more](#) - Taxonomy | Function results |

## Data content

1053 public samples (37 public projects)

191 private samples (13 private projects)

## News & events

### Tweets

Follow @EBImetagenomics

**EBI Metagenomics** @EBImetagenomics 30 Sep Check out our new analysis page, using improved data visualisation (Google & Krona charts), and with taxonomic info: ebi.ac.uk/metagenomics/ [Expand](#)

**EBI Metagenomics** @EBImetagenomics 8 Aug The poster we presented at #ISMBECCB is now available at F1000 posters and describes the EBI metagenomics pipeline: [F1000 poster](#)

# Sugestão de leitura



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REVIEW ARTICLE

## Analytical Tools and Databases for Metagenomics in the Next-Generation Sequencing Era

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Metagenomics has become one of the indispensable tools in microbial ecology for the last few decades, and a new revolution in metagenomic studies is now about to begin, with the help of recent advances of sequencing techniques. The massive data production and substantial cost reduction in next-generation sequencing have led to the rapid growth of metagenomic research both quantitatively and qualitatively. It is evident that metagenomics will be a standard tool for studying the diversity and function of microbes in the near future, as fingerprinting methods did previously. As the speed of data accumulation is accelerating, bioinformatic tools and associated databases for handling those datasets have become more urgent and necessary. To facilitate the bioinformatics analysis of metagenomic data, we review some recent tools and databases that are used widely in this field and give insights into the current challenges and future of metagenomics from a bioinformatics perspective.

**Keywords:** computational biology, high-throughput nucleotide sequencing, metagenomics