GATB: a software toolbox for genome assembly and analysis

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1. What is GATB?

**Objective**

The Genome Assembly Tool Box (GATB)

- is an open-source software
- provides an easy way to develop efficient and fast NGS tools
- is based on data structure with a very low memory footprint
- allows complex genomes to be processed on desktop computers

**Motivation**

NGS technologies produce terabytes of data. Efficient and fast NGS algorithms are essential to analyze them.

**Strength of GATB**

GATB makes this graph compact by using a Bloom filter (a space efficient probabilistic data structure) and by using a CFP additional structure that avoids false positive answers from the Bloom filter due to its probabilistic nature.

2. Software Solution

The GATB philosophy proposes a 3-layer construction to analyze NGS datasets

1. **GATB-CORE**: a C++ library holding all the services needed for developing software dedicated to NGS data.

2. **GATB-TOOLS**: a set of elementary NGS tools mainly built upon the GATB library (k-mer counter, contig, scaffold, variant detection, etc.).

3. **GATB-PIPELINE**: a set of NGS pipeline that links together tools from the previous layer.

3. Compact de Bruijn graph data structure

The core data structure of GATB is a de Bruijn graph that encodes the main information from the sequencing reads.

**How to analyze complex genomes on a simple desktop computer?**

4. Workflow

Here is a typical workflow when working with GATB

GATB-CORE transforms the reads into a de Bruijn graph, saves it in a HDF5 file that can be opened by other tools developed with the GATB-CORE API.

5. GATB helps you as a NGS user

GATB's de Bruijn graph: a basis for families of tools

- Data error correction
- Assembly
- Biological motif detection

Several tools based on GATB are already available:

- **Bloocoo**: K-mer spectrum based read error corrector for large datasets
- **Minia**: Short read assembler based on a de Bruijn graph. Results are of similar contiguity and accuracy to other de Bruijn assemblers (e.g. Velvet)
- **DiscoSNP**: Discover Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) from non-assembled reads
- **TakeABreak**: Detects inversion breakpoints without a reference genome by looking for fixed size topological patterns in the de Bruijn graph

6. GATB helps you as a NGS developer

The GATB C++ library gives you the opportunity to quickly develop new NGS tools that fit your needs.

**Major facts about the GATB C++ library**

- Object oriented design
- Simple and powerful de Bruijn graph API
- Simple and powerful multithreading model
- HDF5 usage for data storage
- Full Doxygen documentation including many code samples
- Test suite that checks the correct behavior of the library

License & Web Site

GATB is released under the GNU Affero General Public License. Proprietary licencing for software editors or services providers is currently being studied.

For more details on GATB: [http://gatb.inria.fr](http://gatb.inria.fr)

Publications

- R. Chikhi, G. Rizk, *Space-efficient and exact de Bruijn graph representation based on a Bloom filter*, Algorithms for Molecular Biology 2013, 8:22

Partners

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