GATB: Toolbox for developing efficient NGS software
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▶ To cite this version:
Erwan Drezen, G Rizk, R Chikhi, Charles Deltel, C Lemaitre, et al.. GATB: Toolbox for developing efficient NGS software. 9th Brazilian Symposium on Bioinformatics, BSB 2014, Oct 2014, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. <hal-01088828>

HAL Id: hal-01088828
https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01088828
Submitted on 4 Dec 2014

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1. What is GATB?

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

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

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, contigger, 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.

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.

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 graph API
- Simple and powerful multithreading model
- HDFS usage for data storage
- Fully documented with numerous code samples
- Complete test suite

7. Publications

G. Rizk, D. Lavenier, R. Chikhi, **DSK: k-mer counting with very low memory usage**, Bioinformatics, 2013 Mar 1;29(5):652-3
G. Chikhi, G. Rizk, **Space-efficient and exact de Bruijn graph representation based on a Bloom filter**, Algorithms for Molecular Biology 2013, 8:22
C. Lemaitre, G. Rizk, R. Chikhi, D. Lavenier, **Minia on Raspberry Pi, assembling a 100 Mbp genome on a Credit Card Sized Computer**, Poster at the [ISMB] conference, 2013 Jul 1-4 (Tokyo) Best poster award
K.J. Šalšiková, G. Sacomoto, G. Kucherov, **Using Cascading Bloom Filters to Improve the Memory Usage for de Bruijn Graphs**, Algorithms in Bioinformatics, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Volume 8126, 2013, pp 364-376

8. 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