A brief introduction to applying de Bruijn graphs for de novo genome assembly

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NOTE: most of the images are from reference [2] and [3].

Worksheet p.1
Konigsberg in Prussia (modern day Russia). 7 bridges connecting 4 parts of the city. Can one stroll through every part of the city by walking across each bridge exactly one?

Euler (1735) formulated it as a graph problem. Define Eulerian paths & cycles.

**Euler’s Theorem** A strongly connected, [directed]* graph G contains a Eulerian cycle if and only if every node is balanced.

1. Prove theorem in both directions.
2. So how is this related to genome assembly? first, introduce concept of de bruijn graphs.

Worksheet p.2
1. Don’t think about reads yet. Just how given a circular genome, a number $k=3$, you would convert it to a de Bruijn graph.
2. Show how to make nodes and connect edges
3. Show that with this construction the graph is always balanced

Worksheet p.4
1. (students) try to find a Eulerian path! (p.4)
2. Show that a particular Eulerian path reconstructs the genome
3. Show that as opposed to (3), if one or more k-mer (ex: CGT) is missing, no Eulerian cycle exists
4. Show that an alternative path to (4) does NOT give the right genome ➔ instead, we need the reads themselves to help us!

Worksheet p.3
1. Given a bunch of reads sequenced from the genome, represent them on the graph as a set of read paths $P$.
2. **Eulerian Superpath Problem** Given a Eulerian graph $G$ and a set of paths $P$, find an Eulerian cycle that contains all paths in $P$ as subpaths.
3. How do we solve (2)? A series of equivalent transformations! See paper [2].
4. Work through the example first, then talk about the rules of transformation. (p.5 as guidance)
Worksheet p.6
1. The simple no-multidge de Bruijn graph doesn’t work for this example when 
k=3 because of multiplicity
2. Show how to add the multiplicity in
3. Show how to do the transformation with correct updating of paths

Show a printed list of assembly papers? (brief summary? cite the review?)
(opt) Talk about different sequencing technologies (show WT animations?)
(opt) Talk about the old OLC approach and why not good (Hamilton NP-complete)

Other topics if more time:

**Problems in real sequencing**
1. Sequencing error & polymorphisms. Worksheet p.7 (a) seq err at read end; 
   (b) seq err middle of read OR polymorphisms. **Solution:** error correction 
   through spectral alignment (EULER) and m-count cutoffs (VELVET) and 
   finally, collapse near-identical sequences.
2. Repeats. Worksheet p.7 (c). **Solution:** consult reads and mate pairs.
3. Palindrome (seq = its own rev comp). **Solution:** (VELVET) require that k is 
   odd.
Genome: ATGGCGTGCAATG
Real genome:
ATGGCGTGCA

Sequenced reads:
ATGGCGT
GGCGTGC
CGTGCAA
TGCAATG
CAATGGGC
Original:
ATG → TGG → GGC → GCG → CGT
GGC → GCG → CGT → GTG → TGC
CGT → GTG → TGC → GCA → CAA
TGC → GCA → CAA → AAT → ATG
CAA → AAT → ATG → TGG → GGC

Detach TGG → GGC:
ATG → TGGC → GCG → CGT
TGGC → GCG → CGT → GTG → TGC
CGT → GTG → TGC → GCA → CAA
TGC → GCA → CAA → AAT → ATG
CAA → AAT → ATG → TGGC

Detach GTG → TGC:
ATG → TGGC → GCG → CGT
TGGC → GCG → CGT → GTGC
CGT → GTGC → GCA → CAA
GTGC → GCA → CAA → AAT → ATG
CAA → AAT → ATG → TGGC
Real genome:
ATGCGGTGCCTGTCGCA

Sequenced reads:
ATGCGGT
GCGGTGC
GGTGCGT
GCGTGGC
CGTGCGCA
GGCAATG
References

4. DNA animations | Wellcome Trust. at <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Education-resources/Teaching-and-education/Animations/DNA/>