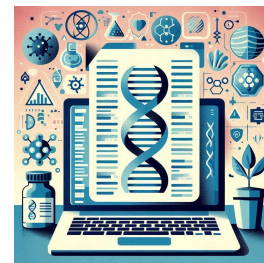


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🌐 MetaAMRSpotter: Automated workflow with shell scripting for uncovering hidden AMR hotspots from metagenomes

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

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Keywords: AMR gene prediction, metagenomics, automated pipeline, shell scripting, analyzing metagenomic data, robust solution for metagenomic data analysis, metagenomic data analysis, metagenomic, metagenomic data from various sample, amr hotspots from metagenome, raw sequencing read, amr gene prediction, metagenome, functionalities for pathogen identification, pathogen identification, genome, automated workflow with shell scripting, sequencing, metaamrspotter, pipeline for each sample, gene detection, automated workflow, uncovering of hidden amr hotspot, antimicrobial resistance, different software tool, pipeline, hidden amr hotspot, friendly pipeline

Disclaimer

This protocol can be run on Linux & Ubuntu systems with enough RAM and memory (for databases and tools) to enable appropriate data run and generation.

Abstract

This protocol employs a novel, open-source automated pipeline scripted entirely in shell for analyzing metagenomic data from various samples. Designed to streamline the workflow, the pipeline integrates functionalities for pathogen identification, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) gene detection, and listing the probable antibiotics to which the genes are resistant. This user-friendly pipeline eliminates the need for manual tools installation and configuration, simplifying the analysis process. It directly analyzes raw sequencing reads, if there is presence of appropriate reference genomes and runs through the pipeline for each sample. This protocol runs nine tools together, with just one input given at the start of the program. Demonstrated using publicly available data on both a desktop Linux system and a high-performance computing cluster, the pipeline acknowledges potential variations arising from different software tools and versions, providing users the flexibility to modify them as needed. This approach offers a robust solution for metagenomic data analysis from varied samples, facilitating efficient and accurate detection and uncovering of hidden AMR hotspots.

Keywords: AMR gene prediction, metagenomics, automated pipeline, shell scripting

Guidelines

This protocol works well for paired end metagenome samples.

Materials

This protocol employs nine tools that are automated to run one after the other.

Safety warnings

 NA

Ethics statement

NA

Before start

1. All necessary tools and databases must be downloaded and installed.
2. Make sure the reference file for the respective selected organism is indexed and placed in the reference folder.



RETRIEVAL OF METAGENOME SAMPLES

- 1 The metagenomic samples of various organisms can be retrieved from NCBI SRA. Respective organisms' reference genomes can also be downloaded from NCBI Ref-Seq and indexed.

The following command can be used for indexing the reference:

Command

Indexing

```
bowtie2-build <reference.fasta> <index_name>
```

DIRECTORY SPECIFICATION AND UNZIPPING FILES

- 2 Specify the directory of the file and unzip all .gz files in the directory. Check if the file is found first and if yes, then proceed to the next step.

Code provided below:

**Note**

```
# Specify the
directory where your .gz files are located

# Unzip all .gz
files in the directory
for file in *.gz;
do
  # Check if the file exists and is a .gz file
  if [ -e "$file" ]; then
    echo "Unzipping $file..."
    gunzip "$file"
    echo "Done."
  else
    echo "File not found or not a .gz
file: $file"
  fi
done
```

RUNNING FASTQC

- 3 This tool describes the quality of the raw sequence data which is a result of high through-put sequencing techniques. The tool measures length distribution, GC content and level of duplications. Quality score for the sequence which has the potency to have low-quality regions will be detected and the tool also analyzes the adapter sequence and overexpressed k-mers which could lead to errors.

The following code was used to run FastQC for selected genomes.



Note

```
# Check if the "fastqc" directory exists,
and create it if not
if [ ! -d "fastqc" ]; then
  mkdir fastqc
fi

# Create an array to store unique prefixes
prefixes=()

# Loop through all FASTQ and FASTQ.gz files in the
current directory
for input_file in *.fastq; do
  # Extract the
  prefix from the input file name

  prefix=$(basename "$input_file" | sed -E
  's/_[12]\.(fastq|fastq.gz)//')

  # Check if the
  prefix is already in the array
  if [[ ! "
  ${prefixes[@]} " =~ " $prefix " ]]; then

    prefixes+=("$prefix")

    # Find the
    input files for this prefix

    input_r1="${prefix}_1.fastq"
    input_r2="${prefix}_2.fastq"

    # Define
    output file names based on the prefix

    output_r1_paired="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/1_paired.fastq"
    output_r2_paired="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/2_paired.fastq"
    output_r1_unpaired="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/1_unpaired.fastq"
    output_r2_unpaired="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/2_unpaired.fastq"
    mkdir -p "result/${prefix}/fastqc"
    mkdir -p
    "result/${prefix}/trimmomatic"
    echo
    "Processing prefix: $prefix"

    # Run fastqc on the input files and save the results
    in the "fastqc" directory
    fastqc "$input_r1" -o
    "result/${prefix}/fastqc/" -t 16
```



```
fastqc
"$input_r2" -o "result/${prefix}/fastqc/" -t 16

echo "FastQC analysis completed for
$prefix."
```

RUNNING TRIMMOMATIC

- 4 This tool is designed to pre-process the next-generation sequencing data. Trimming will enhance the quality of the file. The tool supports both single-end read and paired-end reads data. The tool eliminates low-quality reads which optimizes ensuring all the high-quality data are retained.

The below code runs Trimmomatic.

Note

```
# Define Trimmomatic command with desired parameters
java -jar
trimmomatic-0.39.jar PE -phred33 "$input_r1" "$input_r2"
"$output_r1_paired" "$output_r1_unpaired"
"$output_r2_paired" "$output_r2_unpaired" ILLUMINACLIP:TruSeq3-PE.fa:2:30:10
LEADING:3 TRAILING:3 SLIDINGWINDOW:4:15 MINLEN:36
# Check the
exit status of the Trimmomatic command
if [ $? -eq
0 ]; then
    echo
    "Trimmomatic completed successfully for $prefix."
else
    echo
    "Trimmomatic encountered an error for $prefix."
fi
```

ALIGNMENT USING BOWTIE2

- 5 Bowtie aligns sequences against the references and it supports gapped, local and paired-end alignment. It generates genome index using a technique called Burrows-Wheeler Transform (BWA) via similar algorithms such as Needleman-Wunch and Smith Waterman algorithms. This tool will optimize the sequence read by alignment process.

The provided code runs Bowtie2 tool.

**Note**

```
# Define the index
file

index="reference/indexed_file_name"

output_dir="result/${prefix}/mapping"
mkdir -p "$output_dir"

input_file_1="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/1_paired.fastq"

input_file_2="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/2_paired.fastq"

# Check if input files were found
if [ -z "$input_file_1" ] || [ -z
"$input_file_2" ]; then
    echo "Input files not found in the
current directory."
    exit 1
fi

# Run bowtie2
bowtie2 -x "$index" -1
"$input_file_1" -2 "$input_file_2" --un-conc
"$output_dir/unmapped.fastq"

# Check the exit
status of bowtie2
if [ $? -eq 0 ]; then
    echo "bowtie2 alignment completed
successfully."
else
    echo "bowtie2 encountered an
error."
Fi
```

SPADES ASSEMBLY

- 6 SPADES is a genome assembly tool which works on de Bruijn Graph algorithm that reconstructs the entire genomes sequence by reading the fragments. It provides simplified graphs for the user. The tool measures the distance between k-mers and adjusts the scores to accurate distances. The contig file generated has valuable information and are high-quality assemblies that are optimized and analyzed for sequenced data.

The below code runs the Spades assembly.

Note

```
echo "SPAdes assembly with error correction"

forward="result/${prefix}/mapping/unmapped.1.fastq"
reverse="result/${prefix}/mapping/unmapped.2.fastq"
output_path="result/${prefix}/assembly/spades/"

# Run SPAdes
spades.py
--meta --pe1-1 "$forward" --pe1-2 "$reverse" -o
"$output_path" --phred-offset
33 -t 8 -m 16 --only-error-correction

# Rename and
compress output files

output_dir="$output_path/corrected"

output_file_1="$output_dir/unmapped.1.00.0_0.cor.fastq.gz"
output_file_2="$output_dir/unmapped.2.00.0_0.cor.fastq.gz"

echo
"SPAdes assembly with error correction done"
echo
"SPAdes assembly"

forward="result/${prefix}/assembly/spades/corrected/unmapped.1.00.0_0.cor.fastq.g
z"

reverse="result/${prefix}/assembly/spades/corrected/unmapped.2.00.0_0.cor.fastq.gz
"

output_path="result/${prefix}/assembly/spades/contigs"

# Run SPAdes
spades.py
--meta --pe1-1 "$forward" --pe1-2 "$reverse" -o
"$output_path" -t 16 --only-assembler

# Rename and
compress output files

output_dir="$output_path/corrected/contigs"

output_file="$output_dir/contigs.fasta"

echo "SPAdes assembly is done"
```



RUNNING QUAST

- 7 The tool abbreviation stands for Quality Assessment Tool to analyze the genome assembled. The tool compares the sequence by either comparing with the available reference genome to identify the gaps in the contigs or performs de novo comparison without the reference genome and predicts the assembly quality. This tool optimizes the assembled file and predicts the low gene-coverage and provides possible results with tables and graphs.

PROFILING USING METAPHLAN

- 8 Metaphlan is the most diversely used computational tool to perform microbial profiling. It mainly focuses on metagenomic shot-gun sequencing data. The database has pre-defined markers specific to the microbial community and the sequencing data aligns against the database. The assigned reads are taxonomical labels to the given samples. It provides insights in composition and diversity of microbial populations. It is essential to determine the microbes in agriculture, health-disease, pathology and food production.

The codes for running Quast and Metaphlan are provided below:

Note

QUAST & METAPHLAN CODE:

```
# Rename and compress output files

output_dir="$output_path/corrected/contigs"

output_file="$output_dir/contigs.fasta"

echo
"SPAdes assembly is done"
echo "QUAST"

input="result/${prefix}/assembly/spades/contigs/contigs.fasta"
output_path="result/${prefix}/quast"

# Run quast
quast.py
"$input" -o "$output_path" --min-contig 100

echo
"QUAST is done"
echo
"Metaphlan"

output_dir="result/${prefix}/metaphlan"
mkdir -p
"$output_dir"

output_file_2="result/${prefix}/metaphlan/metagenome.bowtie2.bz2"

output_file_1="result/${prefix}/metaphlan/profiled.txt"

input_r1_pattern="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/1_paired.fastq"

input_r2_pattern="result/${prefix}/trimmomatic/2_paired.fastq"

# Check if
input files were found

metaphlan
"$input_r1_pattern","$input_r2_pattern" --bowtie2out
"$output_file_2" --nproc 32 --input_type fastq -o
"$output_file_1"
echo
"Metaphlan is done"
```

IDENTIFICATION OF AMR GENES

9 **ABRICATE AMR**

Abricate is a computational tool to identify antimicrobial resistance genes and virulence genes. Microbial genome is considered as the input. The tool uses database which contains AMR genes and is specific to sequences associated to resistance to antibiotics. Followed by comparison of sequence against the reference to determine the high similarity to sequence in AMR gene database.

10 **ABRICATE PLASMID FINDER**

This tool is used to identify the plasmids in the bacterial genome that could have adapted antimicrobial resistance genes, this serves as reference to identify the similarity. The report generated has names corresponding to the matched plasmid and the alignment coverage scores.

11 **ABRICATE VIRULENCE FACTOR**

This is used to find similarity against virulence factor using a pre-built database. The report generated consist of specific virulence factors' names, the alignment coverage and the virulence factor associated. The virulence factors indicate the risk of pathogenicity specific to the bacterium and this helps to understand the crucial need of developing potential therapies.

Codes for running abricate and detection of AMR genes:

Note

OVERALL ABRICATE CODE TO BE RUN:

```
echo
"abricate"

input="result/${prefix}/assembly/spades/contigs/contigs.fasta"
output_dir="result/${prefix}/abricate"
mkdir -p "$output_dir"

output_amr="result/${prefix}/abricate/amr.txt"

output_pf="result/${prefix}/abricate/pf.txt"

output_vf="result/${prefix}/abricate/vf.txt"

log_amr="result/${prefix}/abricate/amr.log"

log_pf="result/${prefix}/abricate/pf.log"

log_vf="result/${prefix}/abricate/vf.log"

echo "Abricate AMR"
abricate --threads 16 --mincov 60 --db ncbi
"$input" > "$output_amr" 2> "$log_amr"

echo "Abricate Plasmidfinder"
abricate --threads 16 --mincov 60 --db
plasmidfinder "$input" > "$output_pf" 2>
"$log_pf"

echo "Abricate Virulencefactor"
abricate --threads 16 --mincov 60 --db vfdb
"$input" > "$output_vf" 2> "$log_vf"

echo "abricate is done"

echo "abricate summary"

input_amr="result/${prefix}/abricate/amr.txt"

input_pf="result/${prefix}/abricate/pf.txt"

input_vf="result/${prefix}/abricate/vf.txt"

output_amr="result/${prefix}/abricate/amr_summary.txt"

output_pf="result/${prefix}/abricate/pf_summary.txt"

output_vf="result/${prefix}/abricate/vf_summary.txt"
```

```
echo "Abricate AMR Summary"
abricate --summary "$input_amr"
> "$output_amr"

echo "Abricate Plasmidfinder
Summary"
abricate --summary "$input_pf"
> "$output_pf"

echo "Abricate Virulencefactor
Summary"
abricate --summary "$input_vf"
> "$output_vf"

echo "abricate summary is done"
```

STITCHING THESE CODES TOGETHER - FORMULATING WHOLE PIPELINE

12 These individual codes for each tool were stitched together thereby automating the entire protocol for easy use. All users who would like to use this protocol may choose to stitch the code to run the workflow.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES - HUMAN, POULTRY AND GOAT DEMO

13 This shell scripted workflow has been run for human genomes, poultry and goat to identify the AMR genes and the possible antibiotics they are resistant to. Expected outcomes are provided below.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	#FILE	SEQUENCE	START	END	STRAND	GENE	COVERAGE	COVERAGE_MAP	GAPS	%COVERAGE	%IDENTITY	DATABASE	ACCSSION	PRODUCT	RESISTANCE
	result/ERR4083685/assembly/s	NODE_124571ength_561cov_	2	402	-	dfrA40	1-401/513	#ERROR	0/0	78.17	83.04	ncbi	NG_148594.1	trimethoprim-sistantdihydrof	TRIMETHOPRIM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	pa de s/ co nti gs /c on tig s.f ast a	2. 61 06 72												ola te re du ct as e Df rA 40	
	re sul t/E RR 40 83 68 5/ as se m bly /s pa de s/ co nti gs /c on tig s.f ast a	N O DE _13 _91 _le ng th_ 15 _33 _c ov _4. 53 18 00	36 7	11 55	-	aa dA 27	1- 78 9/ 78 9	#E RR OR	0/ 0	10 0	98 .61	nc bi	N G_ 05 46 60 .1	AN T(3'')-II fa mil y am ino gly co sid e nu cle oti dyl tra ns fer as e Aa dA 27	SPEC TINO MYCI N;ST REPT OMY CIN
	re sul t/E RR 40 83 68 5/ as se m bly /s pa de s/ co nti gs /c on tig	N O DE _17 _75 _le ng th_ 13 _42 _c ov _4. 50 34 97	39 9	12 35	+	ap h(6) -ld	1- 83 7/ 83 7	#E RR OR	0/ 0	10 0	99. 88	nc bi	N G_ 04 74 64 .1	am ino gly co sid e O- ph os ph otr an sfe ra se AP H(6)- ld	STRE PTO MYCI N

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	s.f ast a														
	re sul t/E RR 40 83 68 5/ as se m bly /s pa de s/ co nti gs /c on tig s.f ast a	N O DE _2 20 3_l en gt h_1 19 9_ co v_ 3.1 33 74 1	55	87 9	-	bl aO X A- 10 44	1- 82 5/ 82 5	#E RR OR	0/ 0	10 0	96. 48	nc bi	N G_ 07 92 34 .1	OX A- 211 fa mil y ca rb ap en e m- hy dr oly zin g cla ss D be ta- lac ta ma se OX A- 10 44	BETA - LACT AM
	re sul t/E RR 40 83 68 5/ as se m bly /s pa de s/ co nti gs /c on tig s.f ast a	N O DE _3 91 _le ng th_ 36 77 _c ov _1 0. 52 92 66	22 03	33 90	+	tet (3 9)	1- 11 88 /11 88	#E RR OR	0/ 0	10 0	10 0	nc bi	N G_ 04 81 37. 1	tet ra cy cli ne eff lux M FS tra ns po rte r Te t(3 9)	TETR ACYC LINE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	result/ERR408365/assembly/space/s/contigs/contigs.fasta	NO DE_46_length_h16755_cov_30.079760	384	894	+	dfrA44	1-511/513	#ERROR	0/0	99.61	86.5	ncbi	NG_073446.2	trimethoprim-resistance dihydrofolate reductase DfrA44	TRIMETHOPRIM

AMR genes detected in Goat metagenome sample

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	#FILE	SEQUENCE	START	END	STRAND	GENE	COVERAGE	COVERAGE_MAP	GAPS	%COVERAGE	%IDENTITY	DATABASE	ACCESSION	PRODUCT	RESISTANCE
	result/ERR5295139/assembly/spades/contigs/contigs	NO DE_10225_length_h1216_cov_3.423773	211	1077	-	aadE	1-867/867	#ERROR	0/0	100	99.89	ncbi	NG_047378.1	aminoglycoside 6-adenylyltransferase AadE	STREPTOMYCIN

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	gs. fas ta														
	res ult /E RR 52 95 13 9/ as se mb ly/ sp ad es/ co nti gs/ co nti gs. fas ta	N O DE _10 _51 _le ng th_ 71 06 _c ov _4. 40 44 82	13 37	19 78	+	ca tD	1- 63 9/ 63 9	#E RR OR	04 - Ma y	99. 84	99. 07	nc bi	NG _0 47 62 2.1	typ e A- 11 chl or am ph eni col O- ac ety ltra nsf era se Ca tD	CH LO RA MP HE NI CO L
	res ult /E RR 52 95 13 9/ as se mb ly/ sp ad es/ co nti gs/ co nti gs. fas ta	N O DE _10 _85 9_ en gt h_1 17 0_ co v_ 2. 60 53 81	71	61 3	+	sat 4	1- 54 3/ 54 3	#E RR OR	0/ 0	10 0	10 0	nc bi	NG _0 48 07 2.1	str ept oth rici n N- ac ety ltra nsf era se Sat 4	ST RE PT OT HR ICI N
	res ult /E RR 52 95 13 9/ as	N O DE _11 _30 4_ en gt h_1	92	95 5	+	aa dS	1- 86 4/ 86 4	#E RR OR	0/ 0	10 0	99. 65	nc bi	NG _0 47 38 0.1	am ino gly co sid e 6- aden	ST RE PT O M YC IN

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	se mb ly/ sp ad es/ co nti gs/ co nti gs. fas ta	141 _c ov _5. 87 84 53												yly ltra nsf era se Aa dS	

Human AMR genes from human metagenome sample

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	#FI LE	SE Q UE N CE	ST AR T	EN D	ST RA N D	GE NE	C OV ER AG E	CO VE RA GE _M AP	GA PS	% CO VE RA GE	%I DE NT IT Y	DA TA BA SE	AC CE SS IO N	PR OD UC T	RE SIS TA NCE
	res ult/ SR R6 32 33 57/ as se mb ly/ sp ad es/ co nti gs/ co nti gs. fas ta	N O DE _10 85 2_ len gt h_ 62 3_ co v_1 .85 03 52	1	62 3	-	ap h(6)- ld	13 6- 75 8/ 83 7	..= == == == == =.	0/ 0	74. 43	10 0	nc bi	NG _0 47 46 5.1	am ino gly co sid e O- ph os ph otr an sfe ras e AP H(6)- ld	ST RE PT O M YC IN
	res ult/ SR R6 32 33 57/ as	N O DE _13 67 4_ len gt	13 7	47 7	-	lnu (C)	15 6- 49 5/ 49 5	 == == /=	01 - Ja n	68. 69	98. 83	nc bi	NG _0 47 92 4.1	lin co sa mi de nu cle oti	LI NC OS A MI DE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	se mb ly/ sp ad es/ co nti gs/ co nti gs. fas ta	h_ 51 4_ co v_ 2. 90 41 39												dyl tra nsf era se Ln u(C)	
	res ult/ SR R6 32 33 57/ as se mb ly/ sp ad es/ co nti gs/ co nti gs. fas ta	N O DE _14 33 5_ en gt h_ 49 8_ co v_ 1. 16 25 28	15 5	49 8	+	aa c(6') _E 64	1- 34 4/ 43 5	#E RR OR	0/ 0	79. 08	10 0	nc bi	NG _2 42 16 8.1	am ino gly co sid e 6'- N- ac ety ltra nsf era se AA C(6') - E6 4	A MI KA CI N; KA NA M YC IN; TO BR A M YC IN
	res ult/ SR R6 32 33 57/ as se mb ly/ sp ad es/ co nti gs/ co nti gs. fas ta	N O DE _15 25 6_ en gt h_ 47 6_ co v_ 2. 21 61 52	1	47 6	-	cat A9	9- 48 4/ 65 1	#E RR OR	0/ 0	73. 12	99. 79	nc bi	NG _0 47 56 4.1	typ e A- 9 chl or am ph eni col O- ac ety ltra nsf era se	CH LO RA MP HE NI CO L

Detection of poultry AMR genes from poultry metagenome sample

The reference genomes must be taken according to the genome in question being studied.

Expected result

1. As noted above, the AMR genes can be detected for various samples, with the antibiotics they are resistant to.
2. This workflow may be applied to diverse range of samples to uncover any hidden AMR hotspots.

CONCLUSION

- 14 This study thus introduces an open-source pipeline for streamlined and quick analysis of metagenomic data from various samples. Scripted entirely in shell, it integrates pathogen identification, AMR gene detection, and antibiotic resistance prediction. The pipeline directly analyzes raw reads whose quality checks have been completed priorly, eliminating manual tool setup and simplifying workflows. Demonstrated on diverse samples, it offers flexibility for customization and facilitates efficient AMR gene detection. Thus, this workflow may be applied to diverse range of samples to uncover any hidden AMR hotspots.

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