

# Active sulfur and carbon cycling in deep Greenland groundwaters

Sophie L Nixon<sup>1</sup>, Malin Bomberg<sup>2</sup>, Lillemor Claesson Liljedahl<sup>3</sup>,  
Tiina Lamminmäki<sup>4</sup>, Anne Kontula<sup>4</sup>

Bioinformatic Working Group:  
*Using Big Data Approaches to Understand Microbial Communities*  
10.02.22

# Greenland deep biosphere

Spin out from Greenland

- nr Kangarlussuaq, West Greenland
- 1800-1900 Ma Archaeal fossils
- Candidate location for boreholes
- 2 deep boreholes studied
  - DH-GAP01 **191m**
  - DH-GAP04 **649m**

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE  
Front. Microbiol. 11 July 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2019.01351>

**Highly Diverse Archaeal Assemblages Separated by Permafrost Distinct Features in Borehole Sediment Niches**

## The Greenland Analogue Project: Final report

Claesson Liljedahl L<sup>1</sup>, Kontula A<sup>2</sup>, Harper J<sup>3</sup>, Näslund J-O<sup>1</sup>,  
Selroos J-O<sup>1</sup>, Pitkänen P<sup>2</sup>, Puigdomenech I<sup>1</sup>, Hobbs M<sup>4</sup>,  
Follin S<sup>5</sup>, Hirschorn S<sup>4</sup>, Jansson P<sup>6</sup>, Kennell L<sup>4</sup>, Marcos N<sup>7</sup>,  
Ruskeeniemi T<sup>8</sup>, Tullborg E-L<sup>9</sup>, Vidstrand P<sup>1</sup>

1 Svensk Kärnbränslehantering AB

2 Posiva Oy

3 University of Montana

4 Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

5 Golder associates

6 Department of Physical Geography, Stockholm University

7 Saanio & Riekola Oy

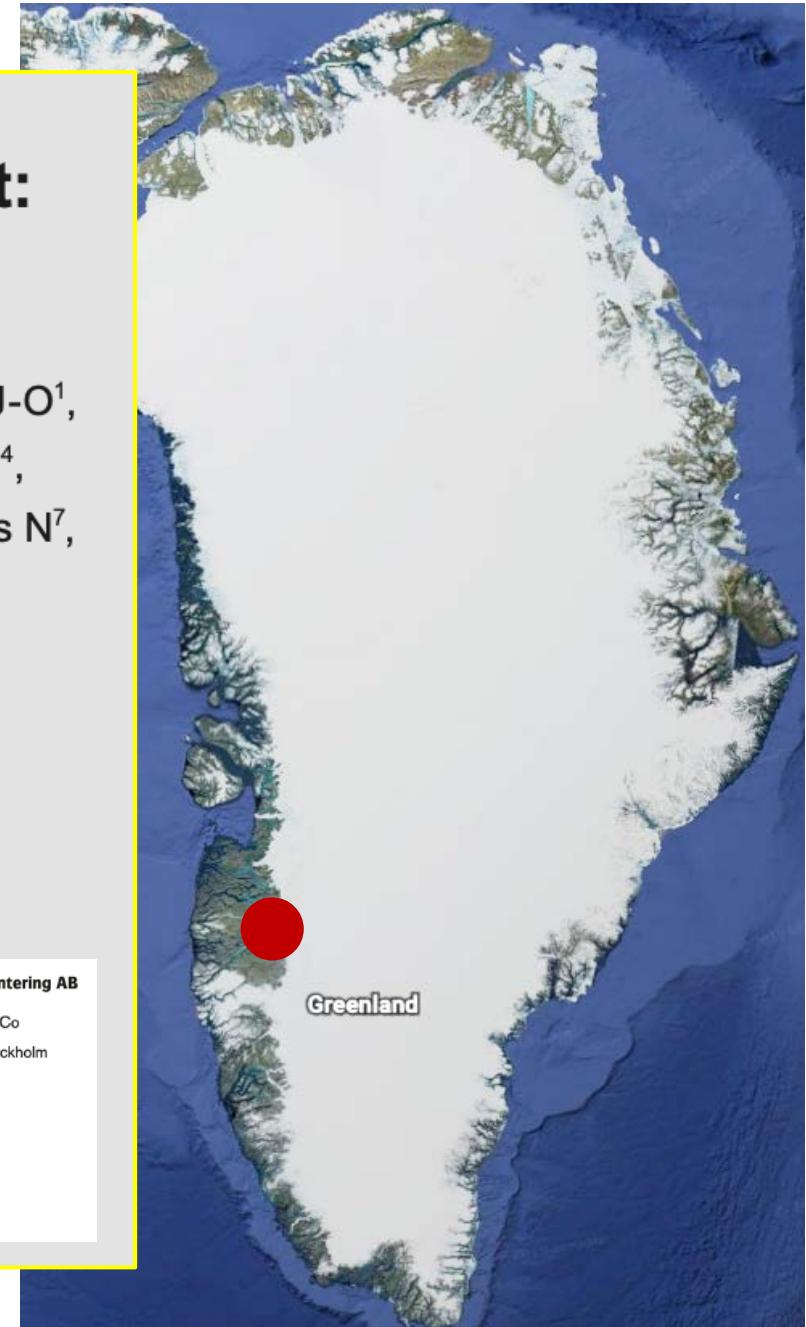
8 Geological Survey of Finland

9 Terralogica AB

Svensk Kärnbränslehantering AB  
Swedish Nuclear Fuel  
and Waste Management Co  
Box 250, SE-101 24 Stockholm  
Phone +46 8 459 84 00

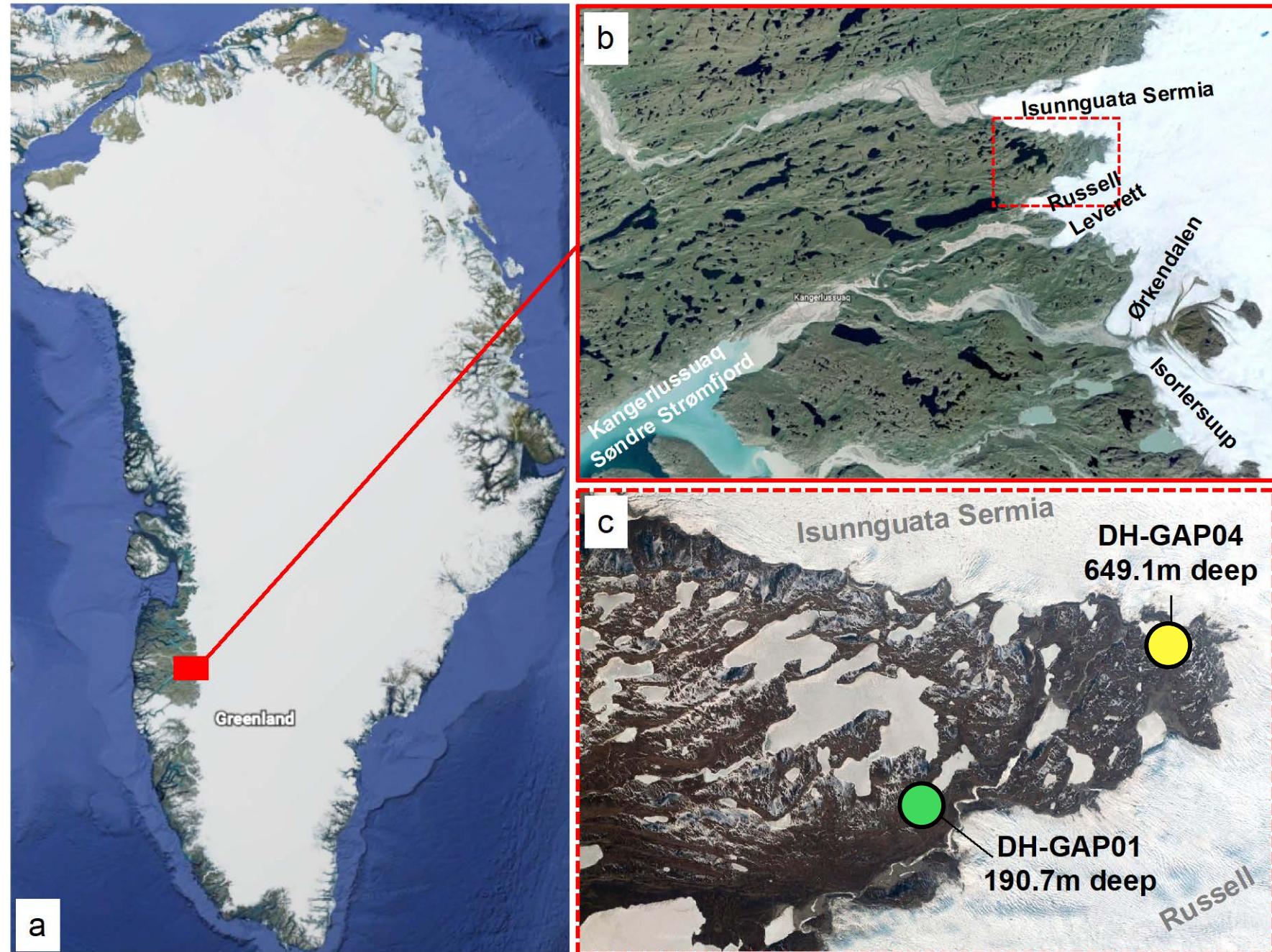


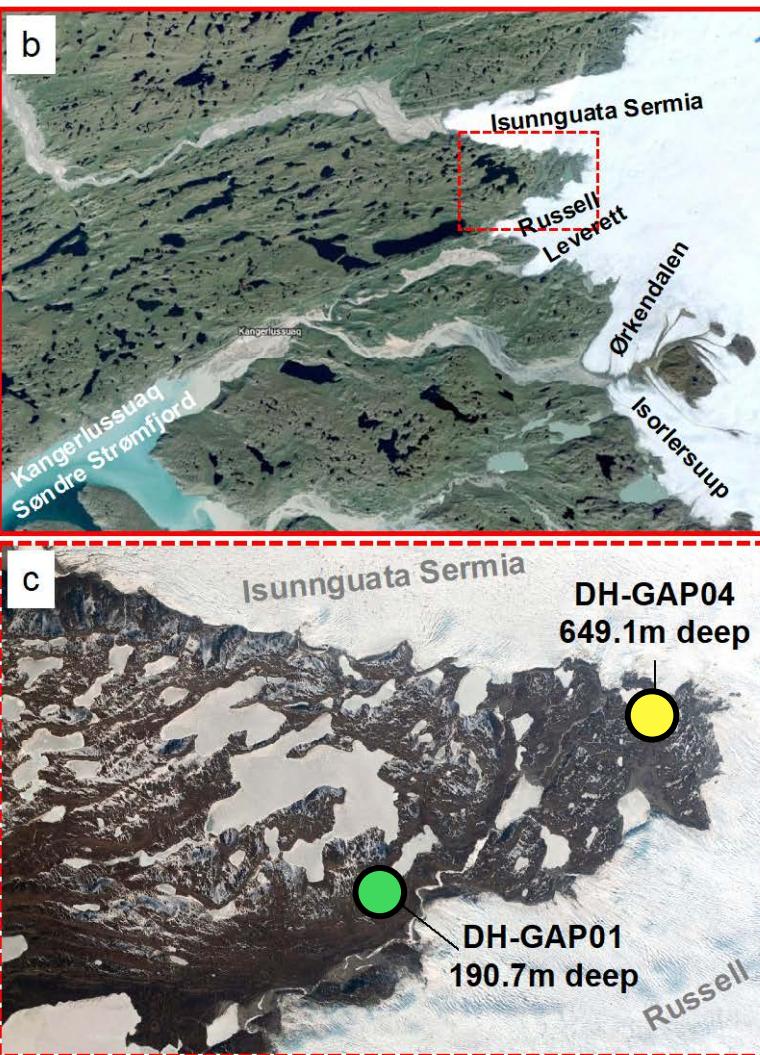
August 2016



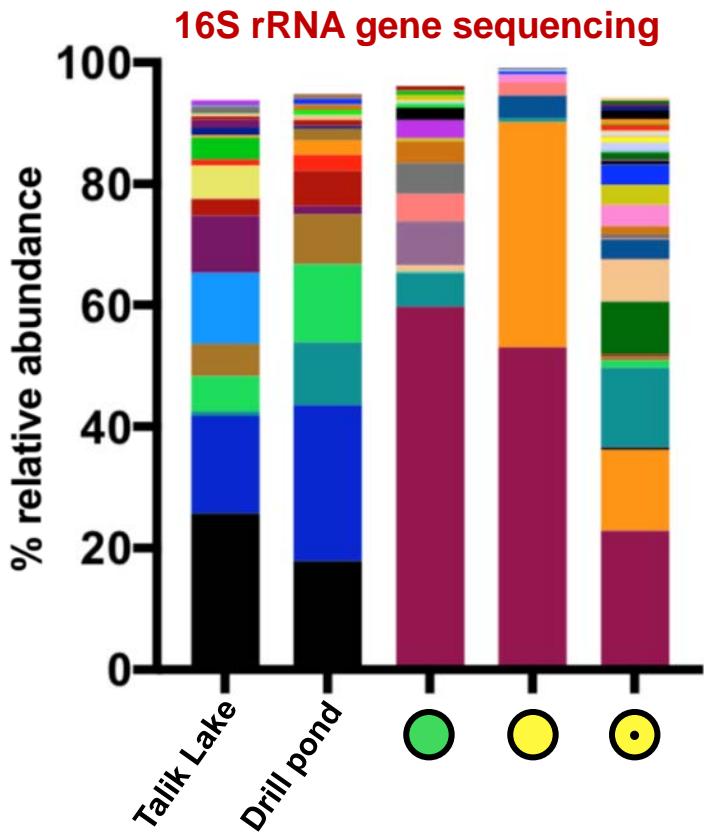
# Why study it?

- Subsurface harbours '**unseen majority**' but diversity and function not well understood
- Deep biosphere is an **extreme environment** – understanding life in extremes helps define limits of life, and search for life elsewhere
- Extremely challenging to access – **makes use of existing boreholes**





	Depth (m)	Volume (L)
DH-GAP04-LOW	●	
DH-GAP04-HIGH	●	0.4



- Firmicutes | Clostridia | Clostridiales | Peptococcaceae | Desulfosporosinus
- Firmicutes | Clostridia | Thermoanaerobacterales | SRB2
- Actinobacteria | Actinobacteria | Frankiales | Sporichthyaceae | hgcl clade
- Actinobacteria | Actinobacteria | Frankiales | Sporichthyaceae
- Bacteroidetes | Flavobacteriia | Flavobacteriales | Flavobacteriaceae | Flavobacterium

(Bomberg et al., 2019)

# Methods

Talik Lake  
Drill pond

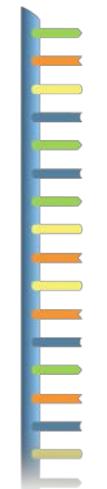
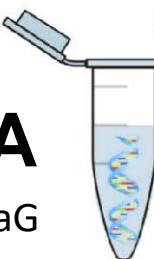
DH-GAP01  
DH-GAP04  
DH-GAP04

## extraction



**DNA**

2x metaG  
libraries per  
sample

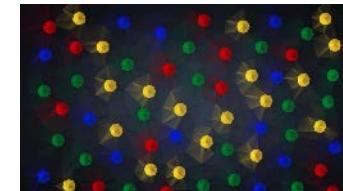


**RNA**

all RNA  
&  
rRNA removed



## sequencing

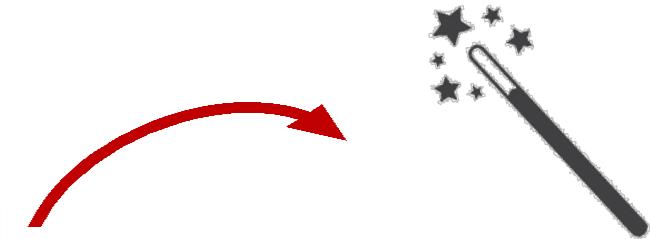


**metaG**



**metaT**

## bioinformatics



**Who's there and what can they do?**

- metaG
- functional potential

**Who's active and what are they doing?**

- metaT
- genes expressed

**Key biogeochemical processes?**

- metaG and metaT
- pathways encoded / expressed

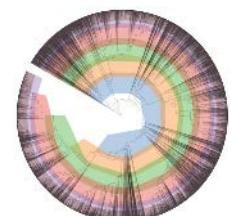
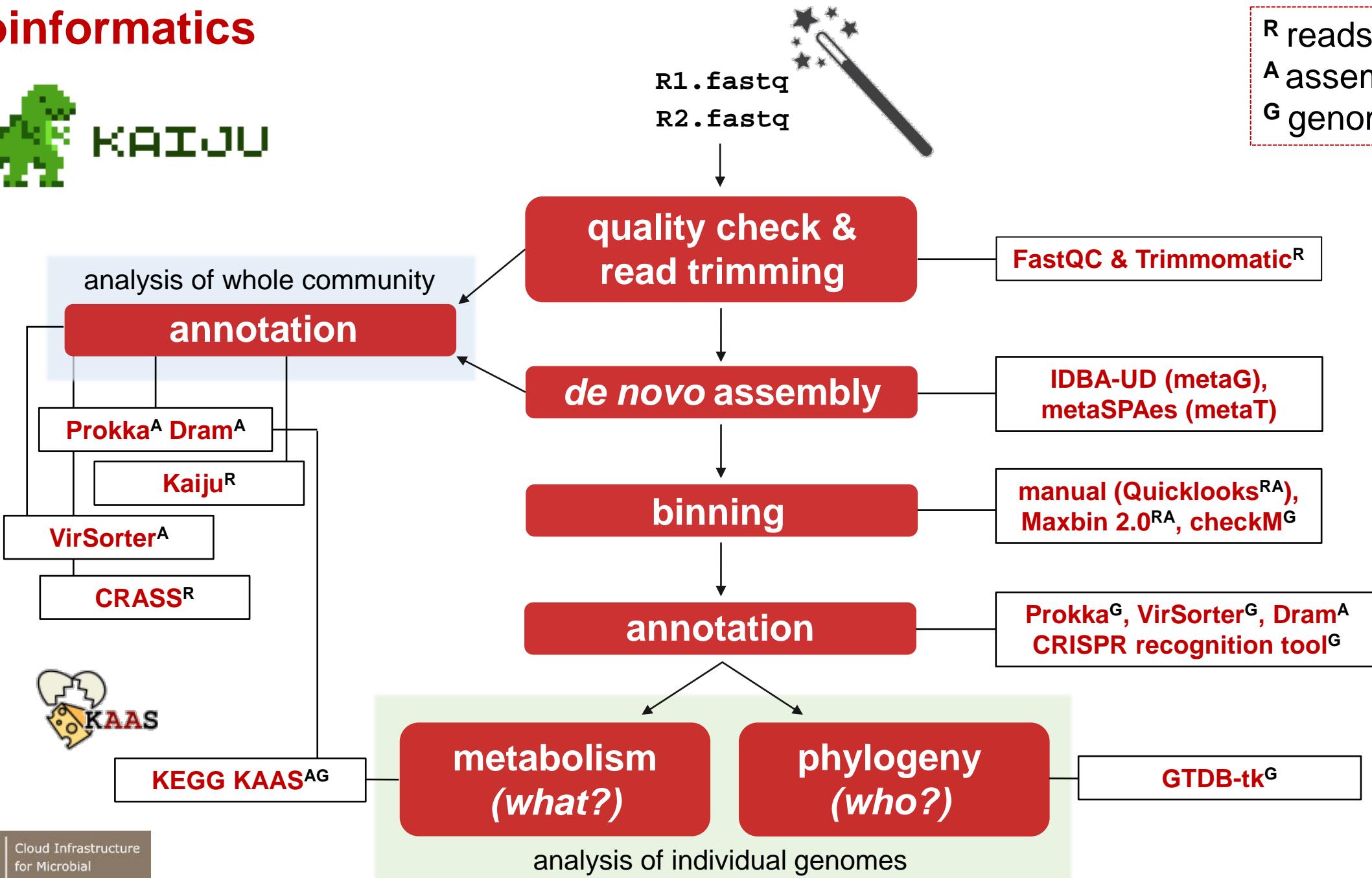
**Viral interactions?**

- metaG and metaT
- phage and prophage
- CRISPRs

# Bioinformatics



R reads-based  
A assembly-based  
G genome-based



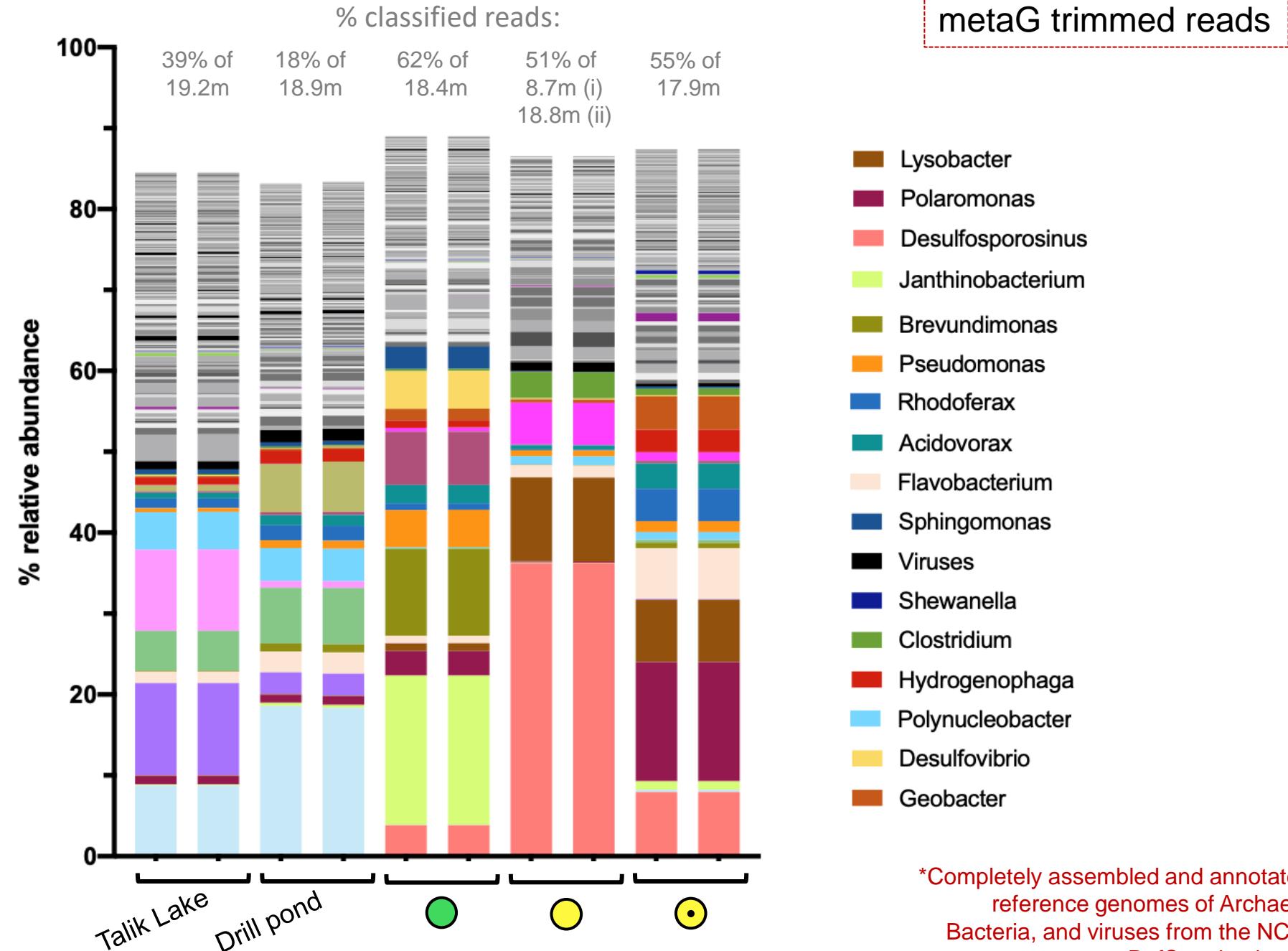
# Who's there?



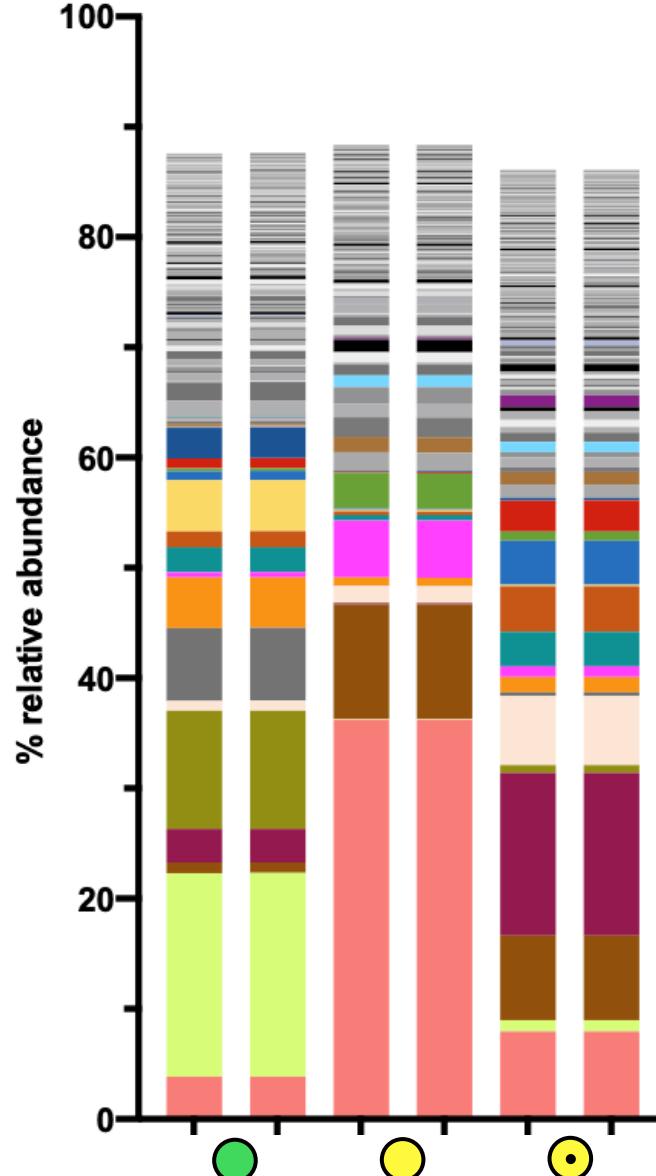
with refseq database\*

- **Highly diverse** communities in all samples
- **Distinct composition** in above vs below permafrost samples

Genus-level taxonomic assignment of trimmed metagenomic reads (Kaiju). Only taxa >0.3% across all samples are shown



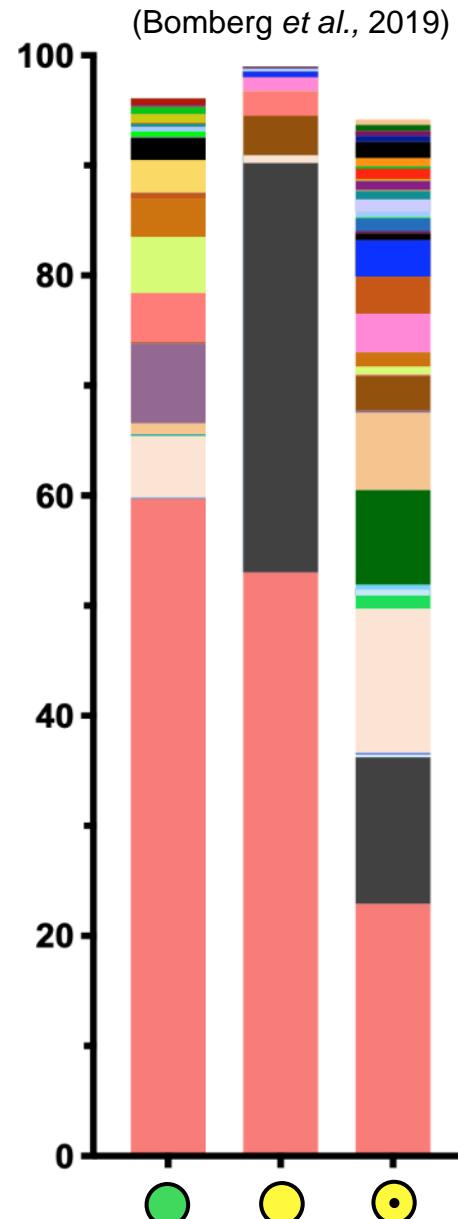
# Who's there?



- Significantly **more diversity** in metaG vs 16S rRNA seq
- **Desulfosporosinus less dominant** than in published 16S rRNA gene seq data (but different DNA extracts)

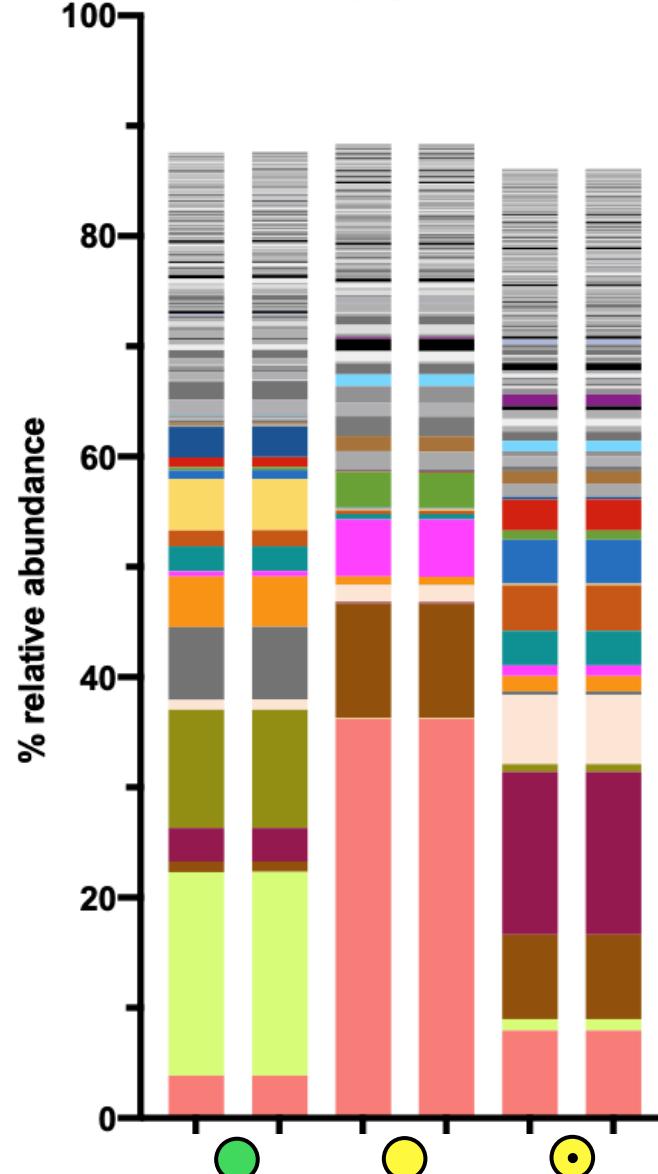
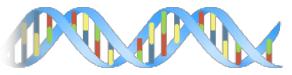
Polaromonas	Viruses
Desulfosporosinus	Shewanella
Janthinobacterium	Clostridium
Brevundimonas	Hydrogenophaga
Pseudomonas	Polynucleobacter
Rhodoferax	Desulfovibrio
Acidovorax	Geobacter
Flavobacterium	Firmicutes   SRB2
Sphingomonas	

metaG trimmed reads vs published 16S rRNA gene seq



(Bomberg et al., 2019)

# Who's active?

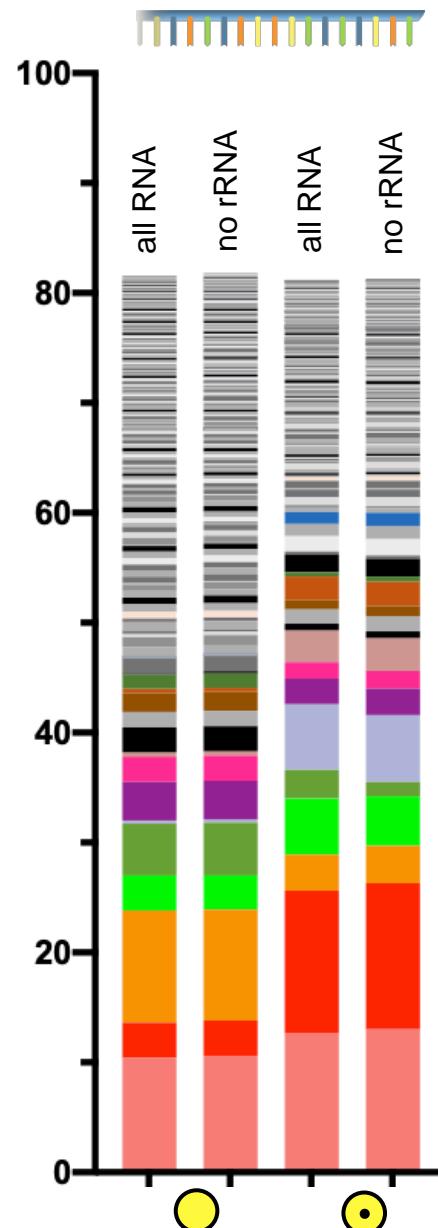


- Active communities are **highly diverse**
- **Low abundance taxa** appear to be **highly active** (Legionella (!), Bacillus, Lacunisphaera...)

Legend:

- Desulfosporosinus
- Legionella
- Bacillus
- Lacunisphaera
- Dechloromonas
- Pseudomonas
- Clostridium

metaG vs metaT trimmed reads



# Community functional potential

KEGG-annotated assembled metaG



	C fixation (Wood-Ljungdhal)	N fixation (nifDKH)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> reduction	Thiosulfate reduction (SOX)
191 m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
561 – 571 m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
571 – 600 m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Talik Lake	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Drill pond	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗

# Community activity

KEGG-annotated assembled metaT



	C fixation (Wood-Ljungdhal)	N fixation (nifDKH)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> reduction	Thiosulfate reduction (SOX)
561 – 571 m	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
571 – 600 m	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

- Key genes / pathways expressed in one or both deep borehole sample
- Active C, N and S cycling

# Community functional potential

assembled metaG

DRAM

		C fixation (Wood Ljungdhal)	N fixation ( <i>nifDKH</i> )	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> reduction	Thiosulfate reduction (SOX)
191 m	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
561 – 571 m	86%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
571 – 600 m	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Talik Lake	43%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	
Drill pond	43%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	

# Community activity

assembled metaT

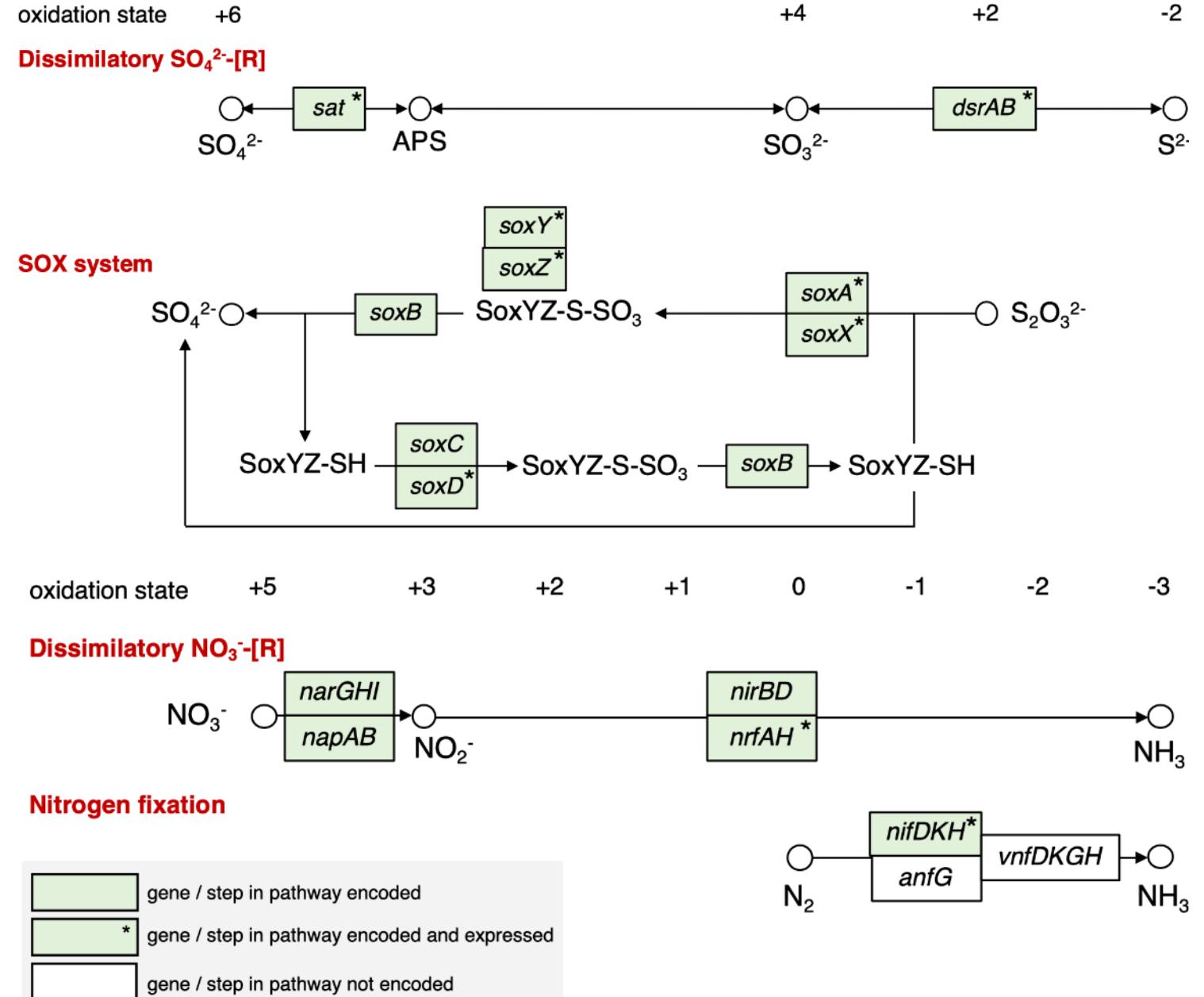
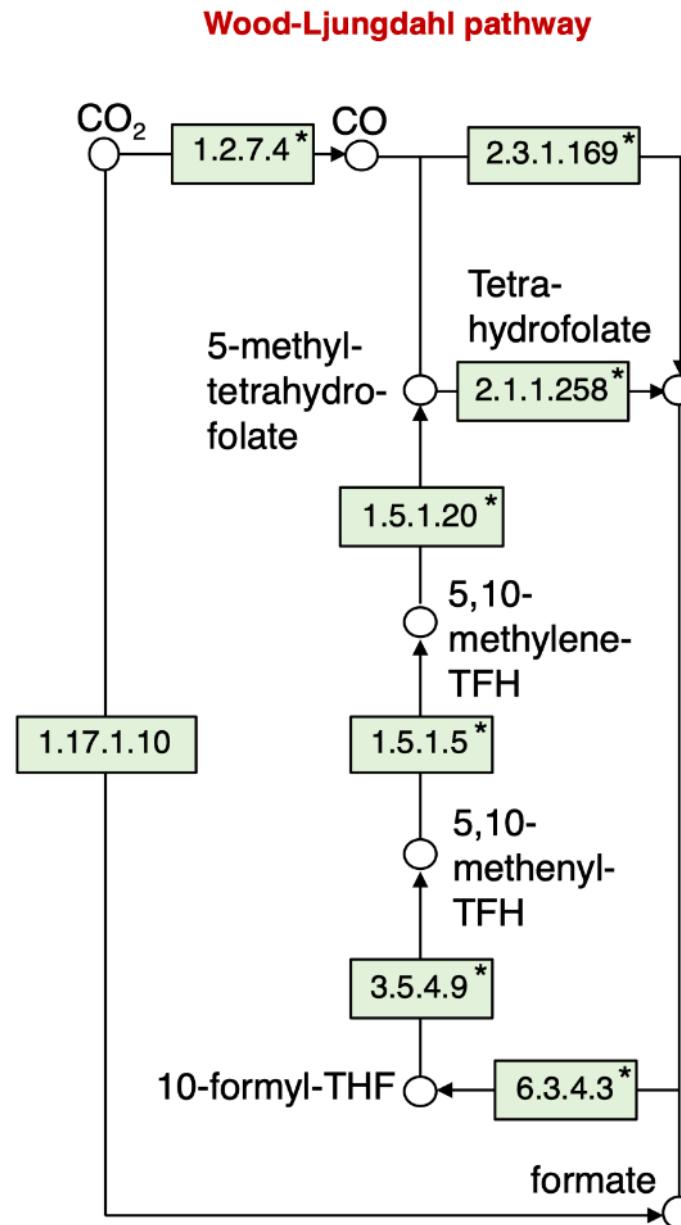
DRAM

		C fixation (Wood Ljungdhal)	N fixation (nifDKH)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> reduction	Thiosulfate reduction (SOX)
561 – 571 m	43-71%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	
571 – 600 m	29%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	

- Key genes / pathways expressed in one or both deep borehole sample
- Active C and S cycling

# Expressed biogeochemical pathways

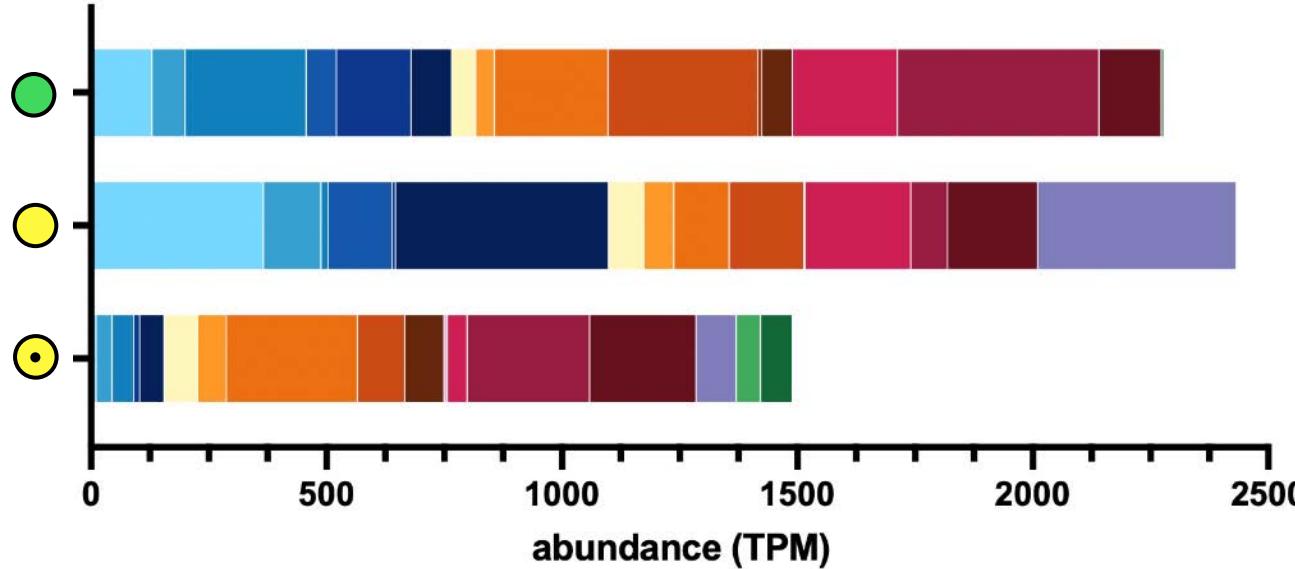
KEGG-annotated assembled metaGT



# Carbon fixation

metaGT reads mapped to Prokka-annotated assembled metaGT

Encoded



## Reductive acetyl-CoA (Wood-Ljundahl) pathway

- anaerobic carbon-monoxide dehydrogenase\*
- acetyl-CoA synthase\*
- formate dehydrogenase (NADP+)\*
- formate dehydrogenase (hydrogenase)**
- methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (NADH)\*
- 5-methyltetrahydrofolate corrinoid/iron sulfur protein methyltransferase\*

## Hydroxypropionate and hydroxybutyrate cycles

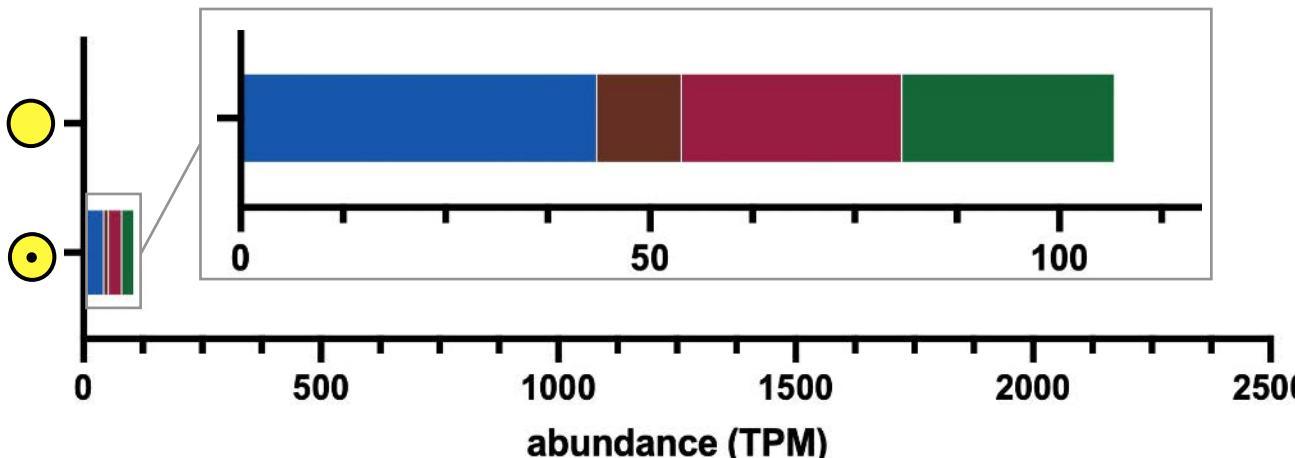
- malonyl-CoA reductase / 3-hydroxypropionate dehydrogenase (NADP+)\*
- 3-hydroxypropionyl-coenzyme A synthetase
- 3-hydroxypropionyl-coenzyme A dehydratase**
- acryloyl-coenzyme A reductase\*
- propionyl-CoA carboxylase\*
- succinyl-CoA:(S)-malate CoA-transferase\*
- 2-methylfumaryl-CoA isomerase
- 3-methylfumaryl-CoA hydratase\*
- succinyl-CoA reductase
- succinate semialdehyde reductase (NADPH)
- 4-hydroxybutyrate-CoA ligase
- 4-hydroxybutyryl-CoA dehydratase\*
- enoyl-CoA hydratase\***
- 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase\*
- pyruvate carboxylase
- NADH-dependent fumarate reductase
- citryl-CoA synthetase
- citryl-CoA lyase

## Calvin cycle

- glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (NADP+)
- phosphoribulokinase\*
- ribulose-bisphosphate carboxylase (RuBisCO)\***

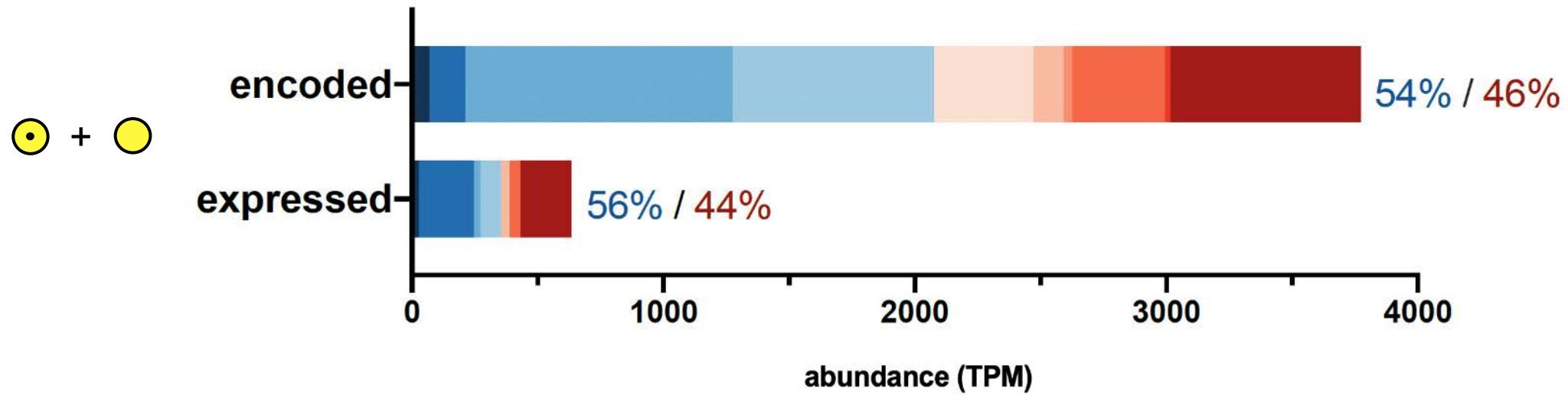
\*encoded in all metaGs  
absent in all metaGs  
expressed in metaT

Expressed



# Net carbon fixation?

metaGT reads mapped to Prokka-annotated assembled metaGT



## *CO<sub>2</sub>-fixing enzymes*

- ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase
- phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase
- 2-oxoglutarate synthase
- acetyl-CoA carboxylase

encoded  
expressed

## *CO<sub>2</sub>-producing enzymes*

- acetolactate decarboxylase
- acetolactate synthase
- pyruvate decarboxylase
- formate dehydrogenase
- 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase
- 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase
- pyruvate dehydrogenase

# High quality MAGs

(Metagenome-assembled genomes)



manually binned metaG assemblies

MAG	Binning method	Compl. / contam %	C fixation (Wood-Ljungdhal)	N fixation (nifDKH)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> reduction	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> reduction	Thiosulfate reduction	Fe(III) reduction	Taxonomy
Desulfo_42_786	manual	97.4 / 0.6	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	g_ <b>Desulfosporosinus</b>
Desulfo_43_18	manual	97.9 / 0.6	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	g_ <b>Desulfosporosinus</b>
Flavo_36_14	manual	92.1 / 3.5	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	g_ <b>Flavobacteria</b>
Xantho_67_416	manual	96.1 / 1.3	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	g_ <b>Lysobacter</b>
Elusi_67_181	manual	95.0 / 1.5	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	c_ <b>Elusimicrobia</b>
Actino_63_150	manual	95.0 / 1.7	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	c_ <b>Coriobacteriia</b>
Erysipelo_33_100	manual	94.3 / 0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	f_ <b>Erysipelotrichaceae</b>
Geobacter_60_60	manual	<b>99.4 / 0.7</b>	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	g_ <b>Geobacter</b>
Actino_49_34	manual	93.2 / 0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	f_ <b>Nanopelagicaceae</b>
Erysipelo_41_14	manual	70.1 / 0.9	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	f_ <b>Erysipelotrichaceae</b>
Desulfovib_63_448	manual	<b>99.1 / 0.0</b>	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	<b>Desulfovibrio</b>
Lyo_66_53	manual	95.1 / 1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	<b>Lysobacter*</b>
Pseudorho_61_33	manual	95.3 / 1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>Pseudorhodobacter*</b>
Pseudom_60_25	manual	95.0 / 2.5	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	<b>Pseudomonadales*</b>

\*CheckM taxonomic assignment

# Manual binning

## QUICKLOOKS pipeline

(adapted from WrightonGroup for UoM HPC)

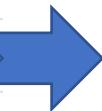
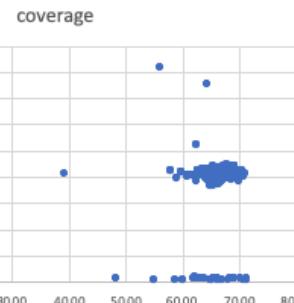
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	contig	gene	length	GC	coverage	sbjct_id	Taxon		Identity	value	bit_score
102	_scaffold_596	1	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A1VW06_FAD-dependent_pyridine_nucleotide-disulphide_oxidore	Polaromonas_naphthalenivorans_(strain_CJ2)_TaxID=365044_		90.8	1.20E-85	324.3
103	_scaffold_596	2	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_UP1000BBCD568_hypothetical_protein_n=1_Tax=Polaromonas_sp.	Polaromonas_sp._AER18D-145_TaxID=1977060_		56.8	1.50E-41	177.6
104	_scaffold_596	3	# 22623	59.74	457.58						
105	_scaffold_596	4	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A1VX29_Phage_integrase_family_protein_n=1_Tax=Polaromonas	Polaromonas_naphthalenivorans_(strain_CJ2)_TaxID=365044_		92.4	2.70E-160	573.2
106	_scaffold_596	5	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_N6Y9J2_Uncharacterized_protein_n=2_Tax=Thauera_TaxID=33057	Thauera_TaxID=33057_		76.2	8.00E-170	605.1
107	_scaffold_596	6	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_UP10005577216_hypothetical_protein_n=1_Tax=Herbaspirillum	Herbaspirillum_TaxID=963_		80.3	2.90E-88	333.2
108	_scaffold_596	7	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A1VX52_Relaxase/mobilization_nuclease_family_protein_n=2_Ta	Polaromonas_naphthalenivorans_TaxID=216465_		66.1	1.10E-224	788.5
109	_scaffold_596	8	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A1VX53_Uncharacterized_protein_n=2_Tax=Polaromonas_naphtha	Polaromonas_naphthalenivorans_TaxID=216465_		81	5.10E-39	168.7
110	_scaffold_596	9	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_T0Z8C3_Uncharacterized_protein_n=1_Tax=Leptospirillum_sp._Gr	Leptospirillum_sp._Group_IV'_UBA_BS'_TaxID=1260983_		46.4	3.40E-19	103.2
111	_scaffold_596	10	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A0A1E7YTM2_Uncharacterized_protein_n=1_Tax=Acidithiobacillus	Acidithiobacillus_caldus_TaxID=33059_		69.9	6.60E-81	308.9
112	_scaffold_596	11	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A0A068YH56_Uncharacterized_protein_n=1_Tax=Polaromonas_sp	Polaromonas_sp._CG9_12_TaxID=1504672_		60.1	1.10E-76	295
113	_scaffold_596	12	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A1WDD9_Uncharacterized_protein_n=7_Tax=Burkholderiales_Tax	Burkholderiales_TaxID=80840_		62.7	8.20E-19	101.3
114	_scaffold_596	13	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_UP10004864034_KfrA_protein_n=1_Tax=Curvibacter_gracilis	Curvibacter_gracilis_TaxID=230310_		65.9	2.70E-107	397.1
115	_scaffold_596	14	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_UP100082CA883_recombinase_family_protein_n=2_Tax=Marinoba	Marinobacterium_profundum_TaxID=1714300_		90	2.50E-95	356.7
116	_scaffold_596	15	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_UP1000561A89A_hypothetical_protein_n=1_Tax=Methylobacter_w	Methylobacter_whittenburyi_TaxID=39770_		59.6	1.00E-129	471.9
117	_scaffold_596	16	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_UP100055F6179_transposition_protein_TnIB_n=1_Tax=Methyloba	Methylobacter_whittenburyi_TaxID=39770_		81.4	3.80E-132	479.6
118	_scaffold_596	17	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_UP100055EC4F6_transposase_n=1_Tax=Methylobacter_whittenbu	Methylobacter_whittenburyi_TaxID=39770_		76.4	5.60E-246	858.6
119	_scaffold_596	18	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A0A2Z5VKH5_IS5od9_transposase_n=46_Tax=Bacteria_TaxID=2_F	Bacteria_TaxID=2_		83	0	1667.5
120	_scaffold_596	19	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A0A2S1FIJ2_Replication_initiation_protein_n=1_Tax=Polaromonas	Polaromonas_sp._H1N_TaxID=1840283_		95.8	1.20E-151	544.3
121	_scaffold_596	20	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A0A2S1FI71_Putative_partitioning_protein_ParB_n=1_Tax=Polaro	Polaromonas_sp._H1N_TaxID=1840283_		87.9	1.10E-44	187.6
122	_scaffold_596	21	# 22623	59.74	457.58	UniRef90_A0A2S1FI83_Partitioning_protein_ParA_n=1_Tax=Polaromonas_sp	Polaromonas_sp._H1N_TaxID=1840283_		97.4	2.10E-117	430.3
123	_scaffold_2500	1	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_A0A0A0EQF8_Patatin_n=1_Tax=Lysobacter_concretionis_Ko07_=	Lysobacter_concretionis_Ko07=_DSM_16239_TaxID=1122185_		76.5	4.80E-116	426
124	_scaffold_2500	2	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_A0A0Q9EP21_ATPase_n=7_Tax=Lysobacter_TaxID=68_ReplID=A0A	Lysobacter_TaxID=68_		83.7	0	1875.9
125	_scaffold_2500	3	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_E6WWY3_50S_ribosomal_protein_L33_n=35_Tax=Xanthomonadal	Xanthomonadales_TaxID=135614_		85.2	1.50E-18	99.8
126	_scaffold_2500	4	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_A0A345ZMX2_50S_ribosomal_protein_L28_n=2_Tax=Lysobacter_T	Lysobacter_TaxID=68_		92.3	6.20E-34	151.4
127	_scaffold_2500	5	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_A0A0Q8CTA7_Uncharacterized_protein_n=2_Tax=Xanthomonadac	Xanthomonadaceae_TaxID=32033_		91.9	1.20E-54	220.7
128	_scaffold_2500	6	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_A0A0Q8CWE8_Dolichol-phosphate_mannosyltransferase_n=10_Ta	Lysobacter_TaxID=68_		87.9	1.20E-118	434.5
129	_scaffold_2500	7	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_UP1000F429F70_ParB/RepB/Spo0J_family_partition_protein_n=1	Lysobacter_sp._ZS60_TaxID=1327343_		85.2	4.50E-136	492.7
130	_scaffold_2500	8	# 8630	68.00	446.03	UniRef90_UP1000E6B464C_ParA_family_protein_n=1_Tax=Lysobacter_sp._C	Lysobacter_sp._C8-1_TaxID=2315424_		83.3	5.30E-111	409.1
131	_scaffold_22027	1	# 2488	62.46	443.68	UniRef90_A0A2S1FI54_Transposase_n=2_Tax=Polaromonas_TaxID=52972_R	Polaromonas_TaxID=52972_		83.6	1.60E-74	287.3
132	_scaffold_22027	2	# 2488	62.46	443.68	UniRef90_UP100049825CA_IS3_family_transposase_n=1_Tax=Polaromonas	Polaromonas_glacialis_TaxID=866564_		91.6	5.60E-191	675.2
133	_scaffold_22027	3	# 2488	62.46	443.68	UniRef90_A1VVP6_Transposase_IS3/IS911_family_protein_n=1_Tax=Polaro	Polaromonas_naphthalenivorans_(strain_CJ2)_TaxID=365044_		87.7	5.10E-57	228.8
134	_scaffold_22027	4	# 2488	62.46	443.68	UniRef90_A1VVP7_IS66_Orf2_family_protein_n=5_Tax=Comamonadaceae_1	Comamonadaceae_TaxID=80864_		97.6	2.10E-40	172.9

# Manual binning

# QUICKLOOKS pipeline

(adapted from WrightonGroup for CSF3)

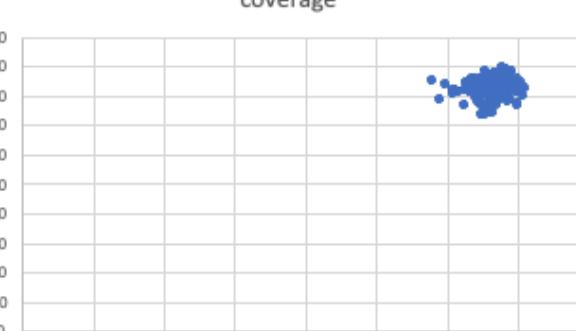
	contig	gene	Reads	length	GC	coverage	sbjct_id	Taxon	Identity	evalue	bit_score
2	_scaffold_20	1	11747	1800	56.06	<b>815.76</b>	UniRef90_ACXanthomonas_fragariae_TaxID=		93	1.60E-39	170.2
3	_scaffold_20	2	11747	1800	56.06	<b>815.76</b>	UniRef90_ACcellular_organisms_TaxID=1315		88	4.90E-16	91.3
4	_scaffold_31	1	7638	1269	64.30	<b>752.36</b>	UniRef90_ACXanthomonas_camppestris_pv_t		73.5	6.70E-118	432.2
5	_scaffold_31	2	7638	1269	64.30	<b>752.36</b>	UniRef90_ACXanthomonas_TaxID=338_		70.8	1.30E-28	134
6	_scaffold_53	1	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>	UniRef90_UIMassilia_sp_K1S02-61_TaxID=2		71.5	1.90E-174	620.9
7	_scaffold_53	2	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>	UniRef90_ULDyella-like_sp_DHo_TaxID=166		84.5	2.30E-171	610.1
8	_scaffold_53	3	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>	UniRef90_ACGamma proteobacteria_bacteriu		84.9	4.30E-34	152.1
9	_scaffold_53	4	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>	UniRef90_ACGamma proteobacteria_bacteriu		92	2.10E-31	142.9
10	_scaffold_53	5	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>	UniRef90_UIVulcaniibacterium_tengchongen		71.6	3.20E-17	95.9
11	_scaffold_53	6	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>	UniRef90_ULysobacter_TaxID=68_		70.7	2.60E-147	530.4
12	_scaffold_53	7	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>	UniRef90_AClysobacter_arsenicireducens_ZS		78.1	3.20E-134	486.5
13	_scaffold_53	8	33334	7954	62.56	<b>523.86</b>					
14	_scaffold_25	1	30794	8630	68.00	<b>446.03</b>	UniRef90_AClysobacter_concretionis_Ko07_		76.5	4.80E-116	426
15	_scaffold_25	2	30794	8630					83.7	0	1875.9
16	_scaffold_25	3	30794	8630					85.2	1.50E-18	99.8
17	_scaffold_25	4	30794	8630					92.3	6.20E-34	151.4
18	_scaffold_25	5	30794	8630					91.9	1.20E-54	220.7
19	_scaffold_25	6	30794	8630					87.9	1.20E-118	434.5
20	_scaffold_25	7	30794	8630					85.2	4.50E-136	492.7
21	_scaffold_25	8	30794	8630					83.3	5.30E-111	409.1
22	_scaffold_33	1	33134	9357					77.2	0	3672.5
23	_scaffold_33	2	33134	9357					69.6	3.90E-190	672.9
24	_scaffold_44	1	87342	24667					72.2	3.80E-62	246.1
25	_scaffold_44	2	87342	24667					68.2	1.50E-106	394.4
26	_scaffold_44	3	87342	24667							
27	_scaffold_44	4	87342	24667					76.2	5.60E-154	552.4
28	_scaffold_44	5	87342	24667					64.1	4.10E-35	156
29	_scaffold_44	6	87342	24667	68.42	<b>442.61</b>	UniRef90_AClysobacter_TaxID=68_		79.6	0	1305.8
30	_scaffold_44	7	87342	24667	68.42	<b>442.61</b>	UniRef90_AClysobacter_TaxID=68_		87.8	1.30E-134	487.6
31	_scaffold_44	8	87342	24667	68.42	<b>442.61</b>	UniRef90_AClysobacter_concretionis_Ko07_		77	5.00E-158	565.8
32	_scaffold_44	9	87342	24667	68.42	<b>442.61</b>	UniRef90_ACXanthomonadaceae_TaxID=3203		91.1	1.30E-75	290.8
33	_scaffold_44	10	87342	24667	68.42	<b>442.61</b>	UniRef90_ACXanthomonadaceae_TaxID=3203		90.7	2.10E-35	156.8
34	_scaffold_44	11	87342	24667	68.42	<b>442.61</b>	UniRef90_ULysobacter_sp_Z560_TaxID=132		82.6	2.50E-145	523.5



Xantho\_67\_416

Scatter plot showing GC content versus coverage for various scaffolds.

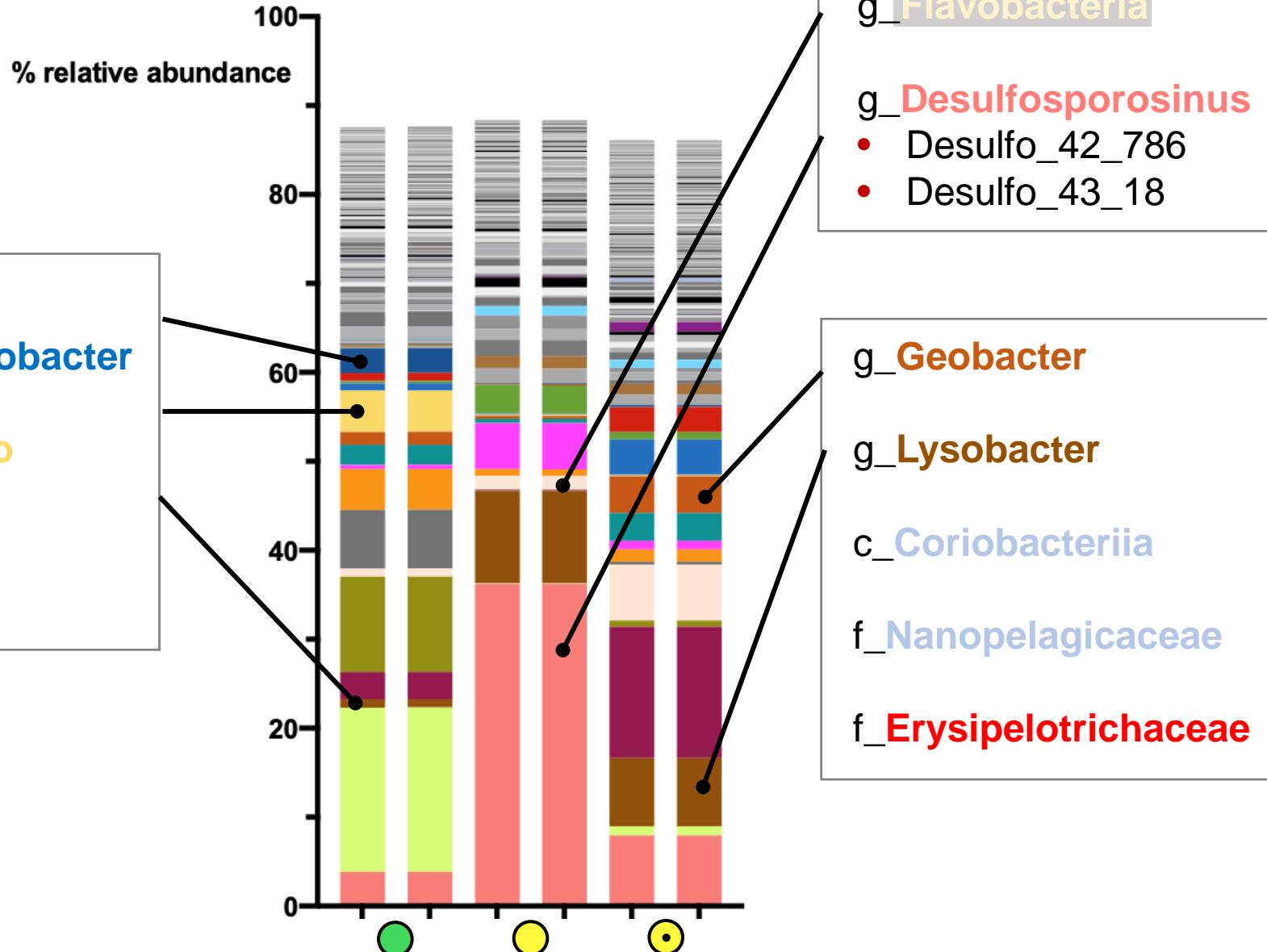
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	contig	length	GC	coverage				
2	_scaffold_11	14563	58.11	<b>423.69</b>				
3	_scaffold_20	2228	59.07	<b>392.67</b>				
4	_scaffold_19	11025	59.86	<b>419.83</b>				
5	_scaffold_28	11329	60.91	<b>408.48</b>				
6	_scaffold_26	1445	61.04	<b>400.95</b>				
7	_scaffold_16	3311	61.07	<b>408.30</b>				
8	_scaffold_19	15637	61.77	<b>406.06</b>				
9	_scaffold_39	1034	62.57	<b>383.70</b>				
10	_scaffold_20	19984	62.72	<b>408.73</b>				
11	_scaffold_59	13306	62.80	<b>417.40</b>				
12	_scaffold_19	19769			coverage			
13	_scaffold_73	19638						
14	_scaffold_10	3006						
15	_scaffold_23	9360						
16	_scaffold_12	14532						
17	_scaffold_55	4889						
18	_scaffold_18	16980						
19	_scaffold_26	8297						
20	_scaffold_22	10768						
21	_scaffold_19	1849						
22	_scaffold_16	2137						
23	_scaffold_19	35945						



.18	2587259	66.51	415.68
.19		1.98	14.73
20			
21	CheckM v1.0.18	25.5.20	
22	96.1% complete, 1.28% contaminated		
23			

# MAGs in context

g\_Pseudorhodobacter  
g\_Desulfovibrio  
g\_Lysobacter



# Expressed genes in *Desulfosporosinus*

annotated metaT  
(vs binned metaG)

## BLASTp to *Desulfo\_43\_786*

15,556 hits from annotated metaT to MAG!  
(e-value e-10, bit score >60)

195 chemotaxis

163 putative multidrug resistance genes

99 osmoprotectant import

96 sporulation

33 acetyl-CoA dehydrogenase

24 pyruvate synthase

14 sulfite reductase

14 cytochrome c

13 alkaline shock protein genes

...

## QUICKLOOKS pipeline\*

Genes from assembled metaT taxonomically assigned to *Desulfosporosinus*

Flagellin / flagellar synthesis

Dissimilatory sulfite reductase (MAG 42\_18?)

cytochrome c family protein (MAG 43\_786?)

oxidoreductases

CO dehydrogenase

Tellurium reductase & stress proteins

...

# Viral community members

(water samples filtered through 0.22um)

metaG reads  
and assemblies



KAIJU

	Virus abundance (% classified reads)	# Viral contigs (# total)	Viral contigs (# per million read pairs)	CRISPRs (# per million read pairs)
191 m	0.1%	103	2.8	2.8
561 – 571 m	1.0%	103	3.7	1.0
571 – 600 m	0.4%	115	3.2	1.9
Talik Lake	0.6%	105	2.7	5.2
Drill pond	1.1%	...	...	6.0

- **Similar (low) abundance of viruses** across all communities, despite sample filtration
- **Lower viral immunity in subsurface communities** compared with surface lake / pond communities

# Viral immunity in MAGs

MAGs

before I finished manual binning...

MAG	Binning method	Compl. / contam %	Prophage	CRISPR loci	# CRISPR spacers	Taxonomy
Desulfo_42_786	manual	97.4 / 0.6	1	2	9	g_ <i>Desulfosporosinus</i>
Desulfo_43_18	manual	97.9 / 0.6	-	-	-	g_ <i>Desulfosporosinus</i>
Flavo_36_14	manual	92.1 / 3.5	-	1	4	g_ <i>Flavobacteria</i>
108_001	Maxbin 2.0	97.3 / 2.0	1	2	115	g_ <i>Lysobacter</i>
108_003	Maxbin 2.0	94.9 / 1.6	1	-	-	TBD
108_004	Maxbin 2.0	95.0 / 5.1	1	-	-	c_ <i>Coriobacteriia</i>
108_006	Maxbin 2.0	95.1 / 3.8	1	-	-	TBD
108_007	Maxbin 2.0	98.7 / 1.6	-	-	-	g_ <i>Geobacter</i>
108_012	Maxbin 2.0	100 / 4.7	-	-	-	f_ <i>Nanopelagicaceae</i>
108_023	Maxbin 2.0	91.0 / 2.4	-	-	-	f_ <i>Erysipelotrichaceae</i>
Desulfovib_63_448	manual	99.1 / 0.0	-	-	-	Desulfovibrio
110_007	Maxbin 2.0	98.9 / 9.8	-	-	-	Lysobacter
110_012	Maxbin 2.0	97.8 / 3.4	-	-	-	Pseudorhodobacter
110_013	Maxbin 2.0	94.3 / 5.2	-	1	55	f_ <i>Burkholderiaceae</i>

# Key findings

- **Highly diverse** communities in all samples
- **Distinct composition** in above vs below permafrost samples

- Active communities are **highly diverse**
- **Low abundance taxa** appear to be **highly active** (Legionella (!), Bacillus, Lacunisphaera...)

- *Desulfosporosinus* members of the community actively expressing genes for flagellar / chemotaxis, sporulation, C fixation, sulfite [R] and stress response

- Subsurface communities encode **C, N and S cycling pathways**
- metaT data demonstrates that these pathways **are active in deep borehole**

- Several **high quality MAGs** were recovered from deep borehole samples
- Many **have the capacity for N fixation and dissimilatory nitrate/nitrite reduction**, few MAGs encode C fixation and sulfate reduction / thiosulfate oxidation

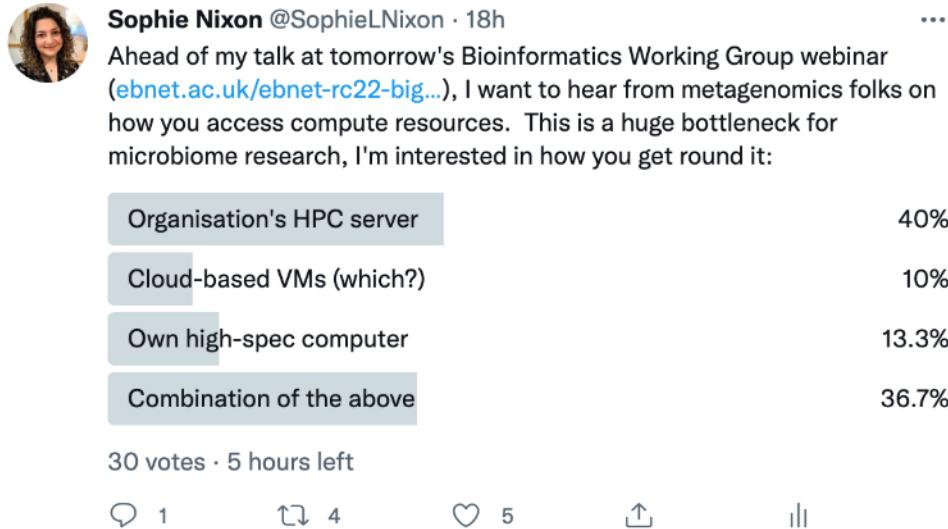
- **Some MAGs have prophage** and evidence of **viral immunity**

- **Net C fixation –** implications for geological CO<sub>2</sub> storage?

- **Similar (low) abundance of viruses** across all communities, despite sample filtration
- **Lower viral immunity in subsurface communities** compared with surface lake / pond communities

# Challenges

- Access to (and cost of!) computational resources...



Have been using university HPC systems or clouds.

My lab has its own server and storage resources which we built from scratch. We are looking into further hardware expansion, but also cloud computing. Our university's HPC system doesn't work for microbiome research. Also, data storage and backup for HPC cost \$200/TB per year!

We have a self-built system (1.5TB RAM nodes, NAS system with 1PB) but run VMs on them, recently bought a ceph cluster (4PB), and are now involved in the new HPC system of the university with ~30k cores. All our microbiome data is backed on tape at two sites. Forgot to say that our core system contains all flash system and EXTREMELY fast (has a very expensive).

- server 78 cores, 1.5 TB of RAM was about 32k (all euros), now with 256 cores (AMD) only 22k  
- NAS system 0.5 PB about 50k  
- Ceph cluster (4PB), 700k  
- xTreme IO 40 TB about 280k  
keep in mind: own system, own maintenance.  
HPC clusters are maintained for free usually!

- and bioinformatics training for microbiome analysis



Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council

(watch this space!)

# PhD opportunity



## Microbial carbon cycling in geological CO<sub>2</sub> storage environments

The University of Manchester > Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences based in the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology



Dr Sophie Nixon, Prof R Breitling, Dr M Buckley, Prof D Johnson, Prof Perdita Barran

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Funded PhD Project (Students Worldwide)

- high pressure subsurface simulation
- anaerobic cultivation
- geochemical characterisation
- genome-resolved metagenomics
- metatranscriptomics
- metabolomics
- proteomics
- stable isotope probing
- biotechnological potential
- microbiome modeling