# Chromosome communities in the human pangenome



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#### The complete sequence of a human genome

CHM13 filled 8% of the reference which was incomplete.

The acrocentric p-arms were assembled for the first time.

Figures from Nurk, Koren, Rhie, Rautiainen et al., 2022.

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47 accurate and near-complete haplotype-resolved human genome assemblies



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Community structure







#### Workflow



HPRC assemblies

We decided to take a closer look, focusing on the best assemblies in these regions.





Acrocentric contigs covering (+/- 1Mbp) both the p and q arms (pq-contigs)



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PanGenome Graph Builder (PGGB)

https://github.com/pangenome/pggb







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This provides an all-to-all alignment model that is non-redundant (one graph) and highly sensitive (transitive relationships are captured).

# Acrocentric pq-contig pangenome graph



The pq-contig set produces the same graph structure we observed in the full HPRC acrocentric graph.

# Acrocentric pq-contig pangenome graph



# Acrocentric pq-contig pangenome graph



*Untangling* extracts pairwise alignments from variation graphs.



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Identify cut points in the graph

Feature available in ODGI (Guarracino, Heumos et al., 2022).

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# Pangenome untangling: grounding



query	start	end	target	start	end	jaccard	rank
chr14-contig	A	в	chr13	<b>X1</b>	¥1	1	1
chr14-contig	A	в	chr14	<b>X2</b>	¥2	0.95	2
chr14-contig	A	в	chr15	<b>X</b> 3	¥3	0.7	3

# Pangenome untangling: grounding



For each query segment, we find its best mapping against a specific acrocentric chromosome.

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# Untangling results - By contig - chr13













sequence exchange between "non-homologous" chromosomes.

# Untangling results - By contig - chr13 - 5 best hits



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# Untangling results - By contig - chr13 - 5 best hits



#### Towards traces of recombination

The high level of homology of the acrocentric chromosomes could be due to **non-homologous recombination**.

High-quality *de novo* assemblies and pangenomic approaches will shed light on the most difficult regions of the human genomes. Volume 16 Number 4 1988

**Nucleic Acids Research** 

Homologous alpha satellite sequences on human acrocentric chromosomes with selectivity for chromosomes 13, 14 and 21: implications for recombination between nonhomologues and Robertsonian translocations

K.H.Choo\*, B.Vissel, R.Brown, R.G.Filby and E.Earle

#### ABSTRACT

We report a new subfamily of alpha satellite DNA (pTRA-2) which is found on all the human acrocentric chromosomes. The alphoid nature of the cloned DNA was established by partial sequencing. Southern analysis of restriction enzyme-digested DNA fragments from mouse/human hybrid cells containing only human chromosome 21 showed that the predominant higher-order repeating unit for pTRA-2 is a 3.9 kb structure. Analysis of a "consensus" in situ hybridisation profile derived from 13 normal individuals revealed the localisation of 73% of all centromeric autoradiographic grains over the five acrocentric chromosomes, with the following distribution: 20.4%, 21.5%, 17.1%, 7.3% and 6.5% on chromosomes 13, 14, 21, 15 and 22 respectively. An average of 1.4% of grains was found on the centromere of each of the remaining 19 nonacrocentric chromosomes. These results indicate the presence of a common subfamily of alpha satellite DNA on the five acrocentric chromosomes and suggest an evolutionary process consistent with recombination exchange of sequences between the nonhomologues. The results further suggests that such exchanges are more selective for chromosomes 13, 14 and 21 than for chromosomes 15 and 22. The possible role of centromeric

alpha satellite DNA in the aetiology of 13q14q and 14q21q Robertsonian translocations involving the common and nonrandom association of chromosomes 13 and 14, and 14 and 21 is discussed.

Chroo et al., 1988

#### Untangling results - By contig - chr14





#### Untangling results - By contig - chr15





#### Untangling results - By contig - chr21 chr21 30 40 Scale 10 Mb t2t-chm13-v1.1 15,000,000 chr21: 5.000.000 10,000,000 20,000,000 jaccard Segmental Duplications SEDEF Segmental Dups 111 0.25 11 1 Segmental Dups Low Id 1 1 1 1 11 lepeating Elements by RepeatMasker 0.50 RepeatMasker 0.75 GC Percent in 5-Base Windows GC Percent 1.00 CAT Gene + LiftOff Annotations V4 tan) i petto peter petero-en alla Maxie celei CAT Genes + LiftOff V4 | na a manifera mei-fim ( an erfern in enter () ser anne UH 10001-01 target Issues from read low-coverage Issues chm13#chr13 chm13#chr21. arch38#chr21\_ chm13#chr14 HG002#MAT#chr21.prox-HG002#PAT#chr21.proxchm13#chr15 735#2#JAHBCG01000066 1-G02886#1#JAHAOU010000106.1chm13#chr2 NA18906#1#JAHEOO010000072.1-NA19240#2#JAHEOL010000065 1-1 chm13#chr22 5.0e+06 0.0e+00 1.0e+0 Position chm13#chr21-1 grch38#chr21-1 HG002#MAT#chr21.prox-1 HG002#PAT#chr21.prox-1 HG00735#2#JAHBCG010000066.1-1 HG02886#1#JAHAOU010000106.1-1 NA18906#1#JAHEOO010000072.1-1 NA19240#2#JAHEOL010000065.1-1

1.0e+07



# Untangling results - By contig - chr22













