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Detection of an archaeal-specific viral family, previously thought to infect exclusively hyperthermophiles, in human gut metaviromes

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H. Ngo



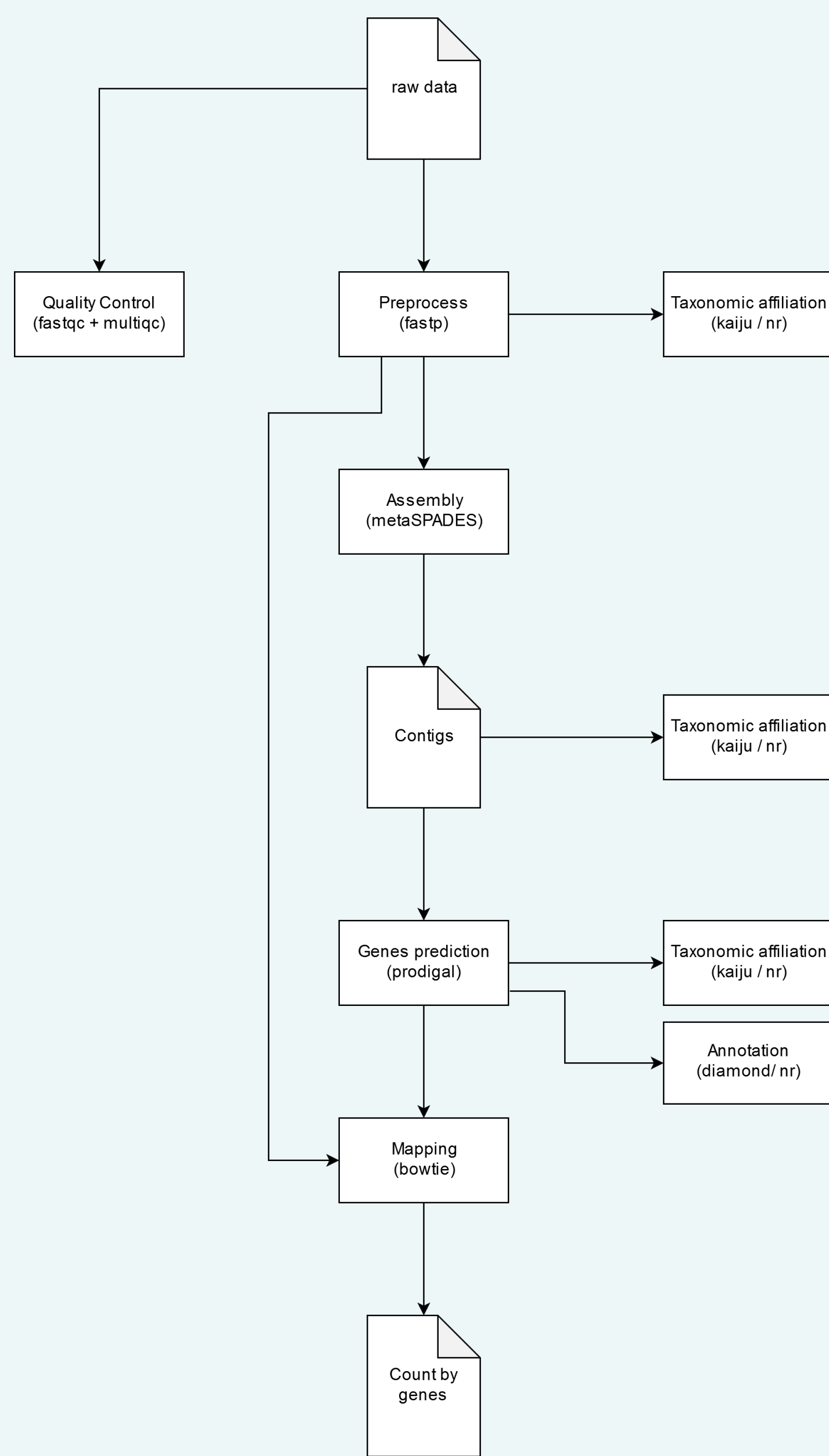
A. Bize

Context

Development of a metagenomics pipe-line for the study of archaeal viruses in anaerobic digestion ecosystems

- Test of the pipe-line on 4 previously published human gut metaviromes from healthy individuals [1]
- Analysis of contigs predicted to belong to known archaeal virus families

Metagenomics pipe-line



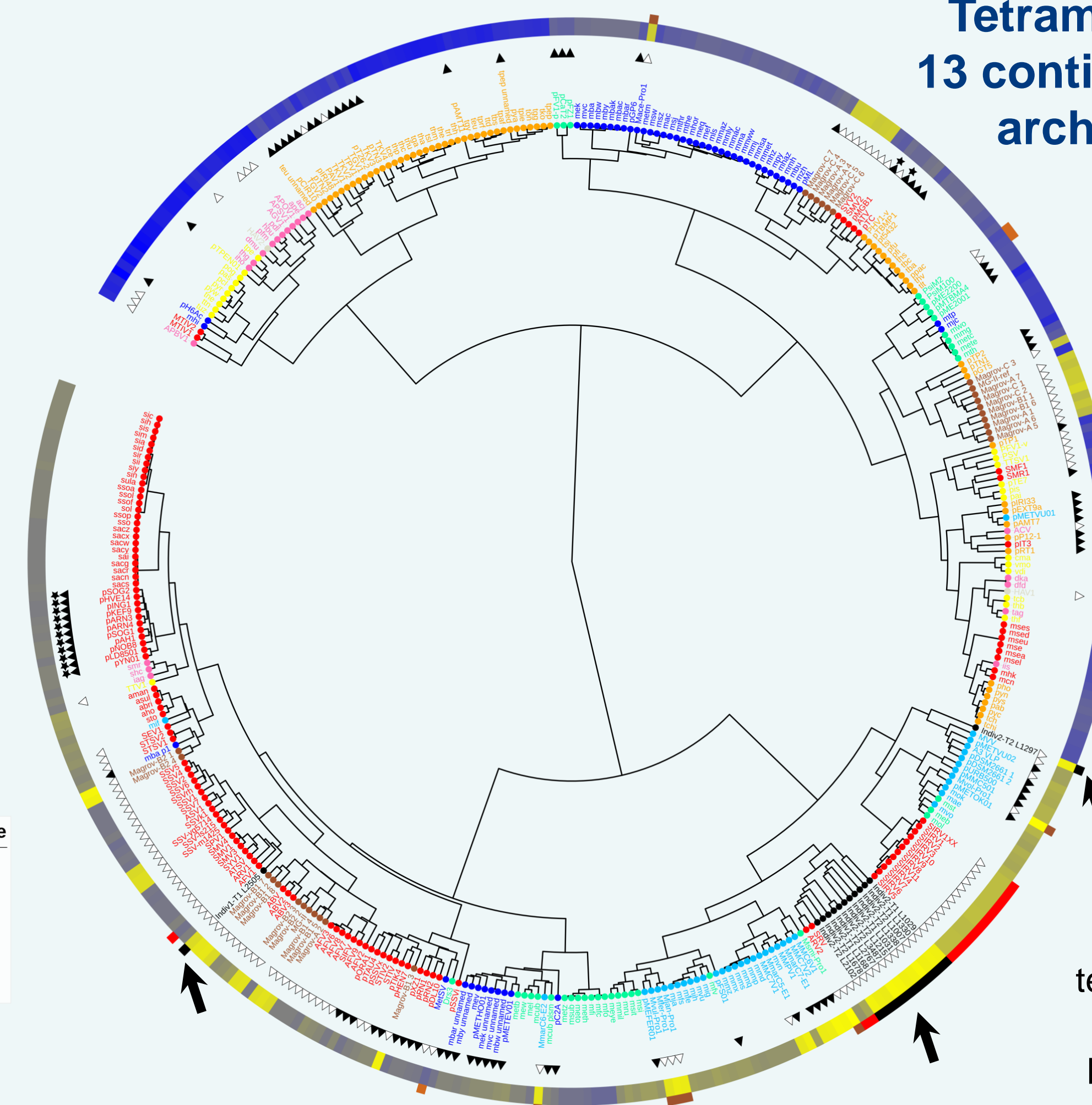
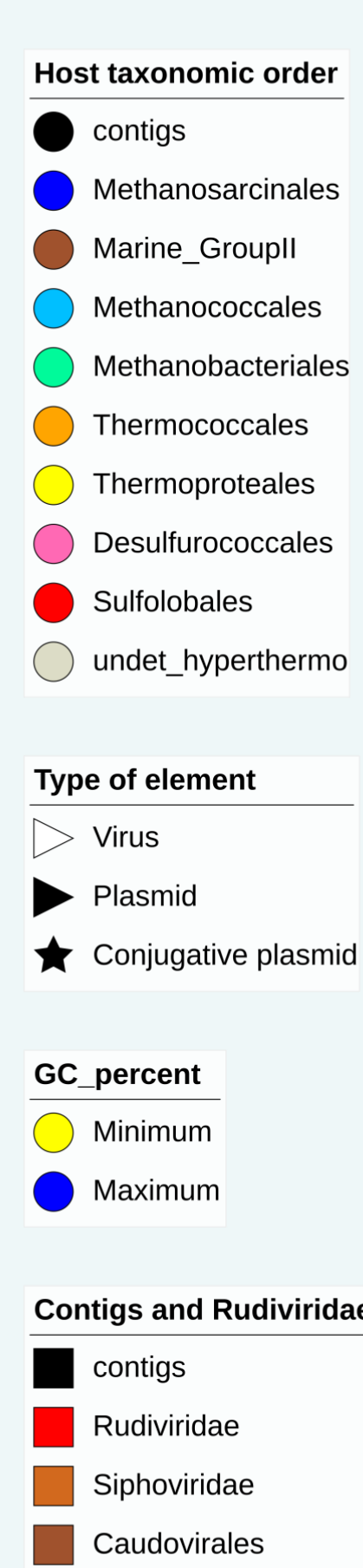
Basic statistics on the obtained metaviromes

	Indiv1-T1	Indiv1-T2	Indiv2-T1	Indiv2-T2
Reads				
# raw read pairs (M Seqs)	2.9	3.8	3.3	3.6
# filtered read pairs (M Seqs)	2.85	3.7	3.3	3.5
filtered read GC (%)	38.10%	40.30%	37.90%	38.10%
Assembly				
# contigs (>= 1000 bp)	3272	5946	1082	2002
Largest contig	177458	408314	227678	161497
Total length (>= 1000 bp)	12201808	20209687	5703620	7776961
N50	7235	6573	35485	11643
N75	2171	1830	3646	2215
L50	233	326	36	113
L75	1101	2052	193	585
GC (%)	33.75	40.73	40.36	44.02
Predicted genes				
# predicted genes (unique)	16257	26350	7675	11373
# predicted genes (>= 300 bp)	11858	19538	5405	7633
# predicted genes (>= 1500 bp)	1036	1764	554	639

13 contigs assigned to Rudiviridae, an archaea-specific viral family whose described members are rod-shaped and infect acidothermophilic crenarchaea from terrestrial acidic hot springs

Sample	Nb contigs	Length	Coverage	GC%	Taxomic affiliation (kaiju / nr)	Predicted host (WiSH [2])
Indiv1-T1	1	2505	2.1	19.76	Rudiviridae; ARV2	<i>Methanosarcina thermophila</i>
Indiv1-T2	1	2707	2.8	14.40	Rudiviridae; NA	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>
Indiv2-T1	4	1029	2.0	15.99	Rudiviridae; SIRV11	<i>Methanosarcina barkeri</i>
		1031	1.8	15.37	Rudiviridae; NA	<i>Acidianus hospitalis</i>
		1168	1.25	16.86	Rudiviridae; NA	<i>Methanobrevibacter millerae</i>
		1330	1.7	15.49	Rudiviridae; SIRV10	<i>Methanosphaera stadtmanae</i>
Indiv2-T2	7	1007	2.5	15.95	Rudiviridae; SIRV9	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>
		1215	1.75	15.71	Rudiviridae; SIRV9	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>
		1297	1.75	15.71	Rudiviridae; SIRV3	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>
		1338	1.5	14.34	Rudiviridae; NA	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>
		1678	2.9	16.05	Rudiviridae; SIRV3	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>
		2102	3.1	15.53	Rudiviridae; NA	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>
		3487	2.5	14.70	Rudiviridae; NA	<i>Sulfurisphaera tokodaii</i>

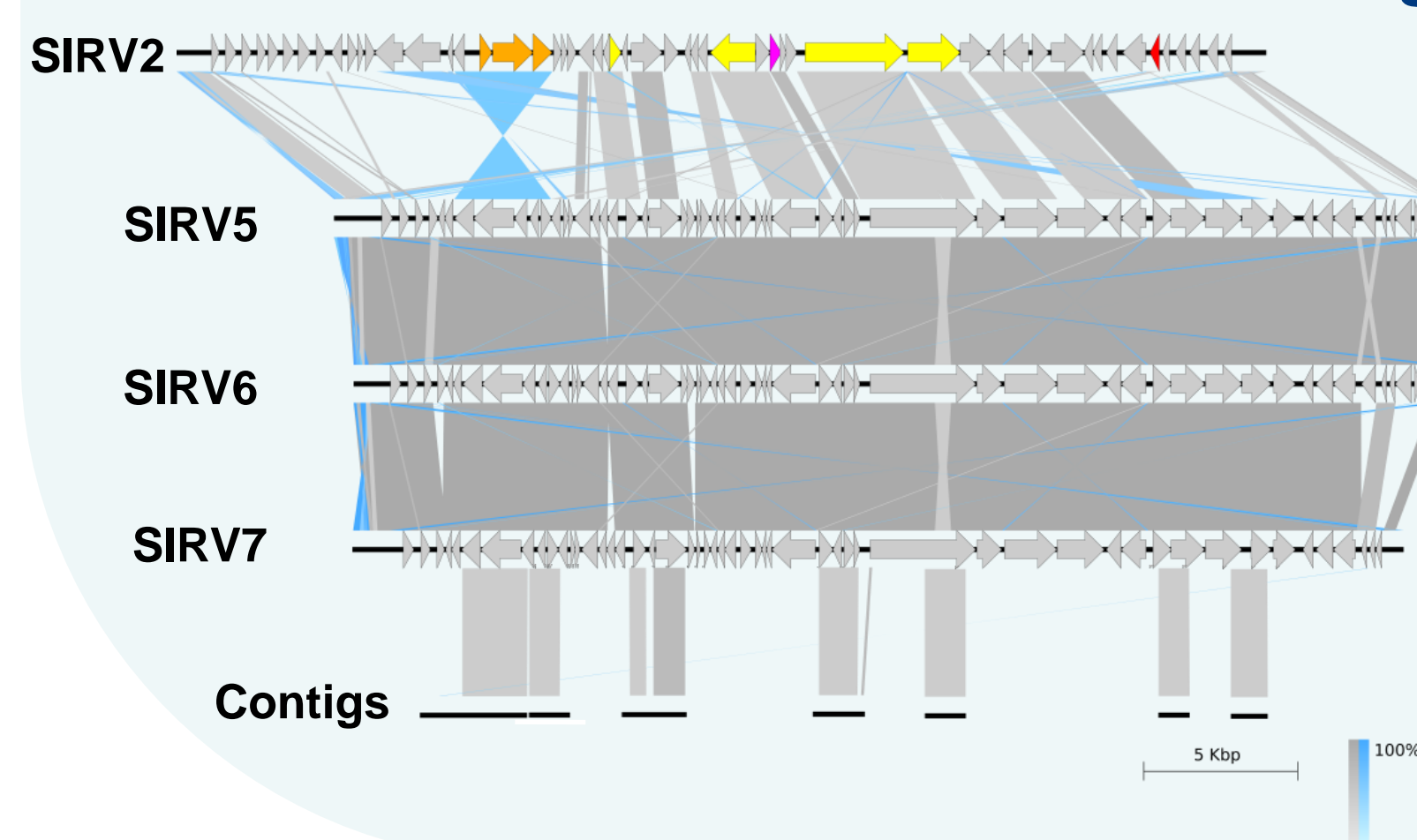
Tree scale: 0.1



Tetramer composition of the 13 contigs compared to some archaeal viruses and cells

The position of the contigs in the dendrogram based of tetramer frequencies is in most cases consistent with the predicted taxonomy and hosts

Indiv2-T2 Rudiviridae contigs: alignments with length > 900 pb



- Alignment regions are distributed all along the considered Rudiviridae genomes
- Some contigs cover conserved regions of the Rudiviridae genomes, including portions of genes coding for virion structural proteins

Conclusions and perspectives

- DNA from viruses similar to rudiviruses seems to be present in the studied metaviromes, especially in Indiv2-T2
- A contamination issue cannot be excluded. However, some authors have recently reported the detection of morphotypes and sequences, similar to viral families specific for acidothermophilic archaea, in anaerobic digestion samples [3]. We also observed unusual morphotypes in anaerobic digestion microcosms [Poster 1].
- Enrichment approaches could be interesting to study these putative unknown archaeal viruses, which are in low abundance

References

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[3] Calusinska M, Marynowska M, Goux X, Lentzen E, Delfosse P. Analysis of ds DNA and RNA viromes in methanogenic digesters reveals novel viral genetic diversity. *Environ. microbiol*. 2016 18:1162-75