

Comment préserver les données numériques sur le long terme dans le contexte des ODD

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[...] Currently, data storage in data centres makes up 4 to 8% of our global energy footprint [...]

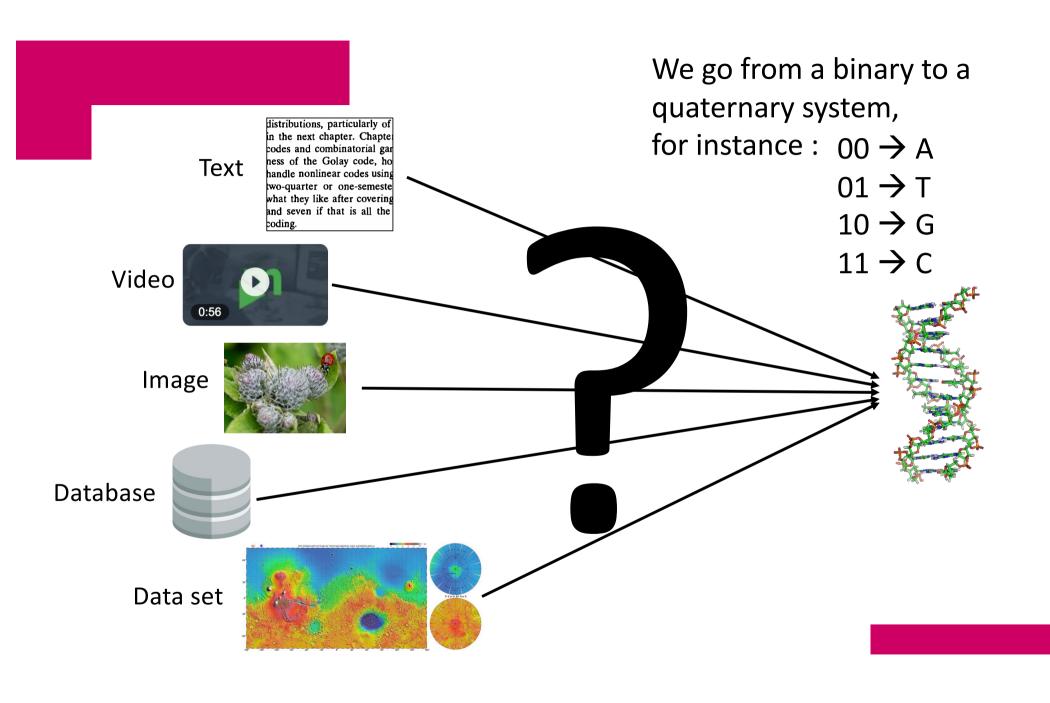
From Mendell et al (2020) The Canadian Geographer DOI: 10.1111/cag.12741

Parameters for 1 exabyte	Current mainstream technology
Infrastructure Cost ⁽¹⁾	> CHF 20 M
Power	About 1 MW
Surface footprint	About 2'000 m ²

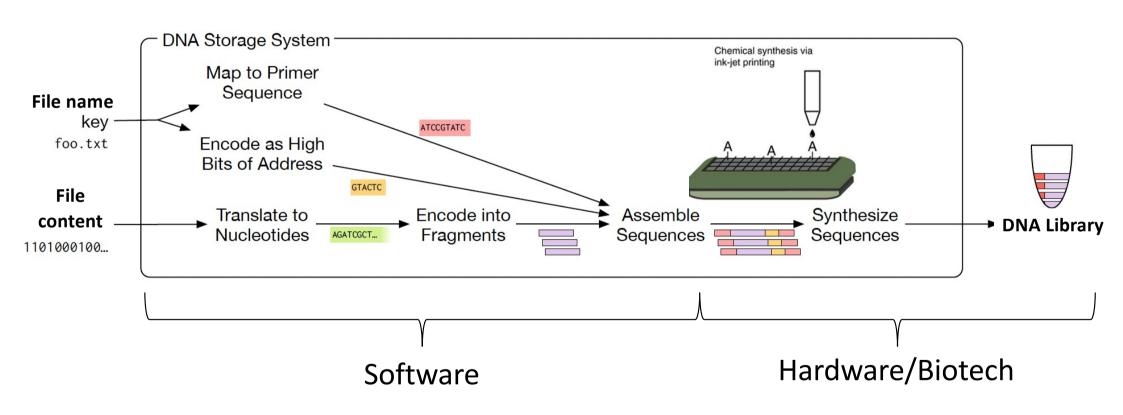
(1) Based on HDD technology

DNA has a theoretical density of over 1 exabyte/mm³ & 1 gram of DNA can contain tens of exabytes

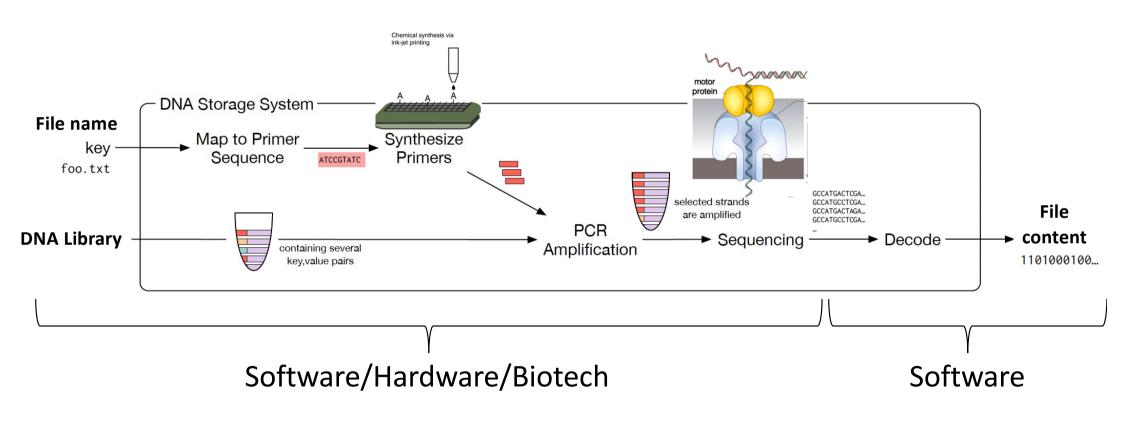




The DNA writing process



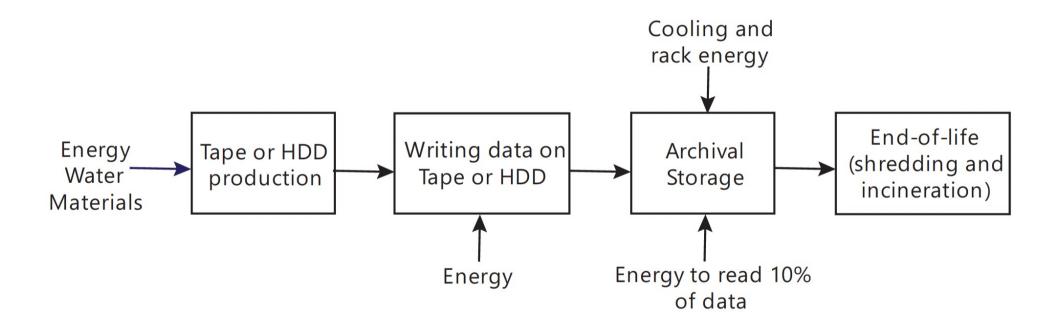
The DNA reading process



[...] The expansionist sales pitch used to promote DNA to archive and preserve traces of humanity beyond the apocalypse is the new greenwashing [...]

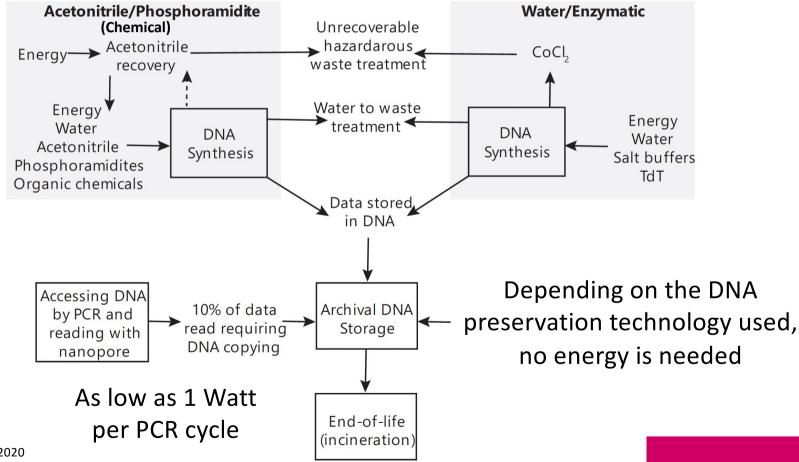
[...] DNA is nowhere near replacing hard drives and servers in data centres yet, but anxieties about the future propel these visions forward; these projections in turn help explain the large-scale investments being made by Big Tech in DNA storage [...]

Cradle-to-grave flow diagram for tapes and hard disks



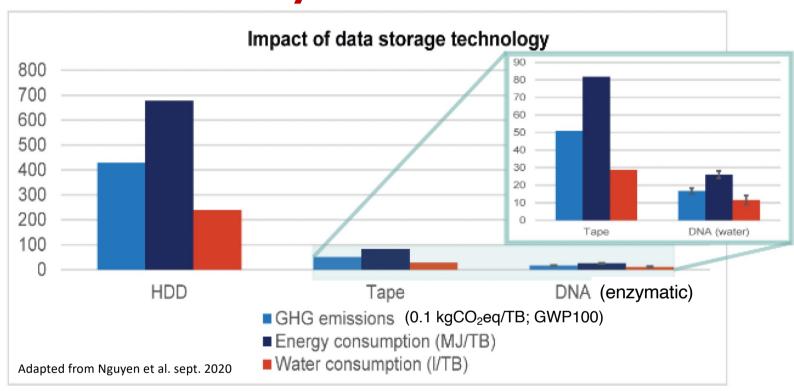
Cradle-to-grave flow diagram for DNA

Made on demand



Adapted from Nguyen et al. sept. 2020

Writing and maintaining 1 TB for a year with a read rate of 10%

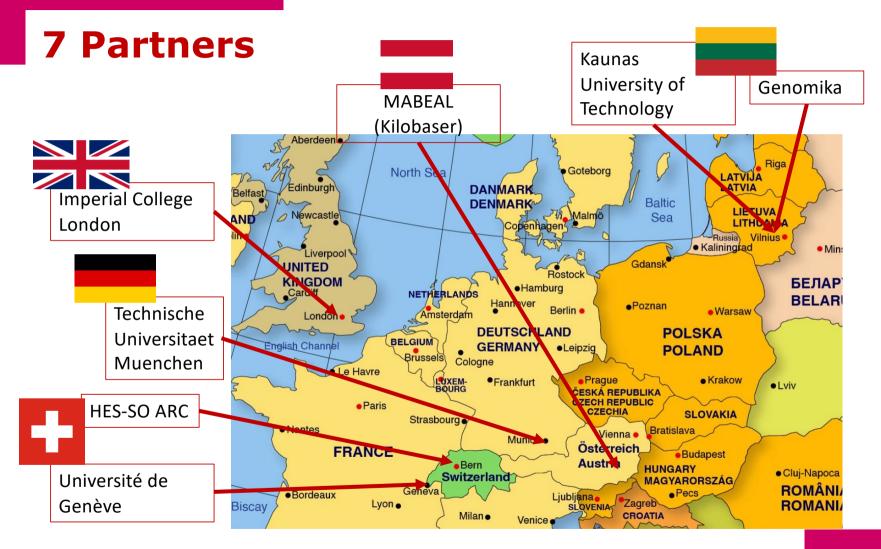


- The main energy consumption of DNA is the production of nucleotides
- The environmental impact of the enzymatic method is about 4 times lower than that of the chemical method

DNAMIC EC Pathfinder project: "DNA Microfactory for Autonomous Archiving"

- Autonomous solution based around a low-energy consumption micro-factory that will be developed for end-to-end DNA data archiving
- The small footprint micro-factory is based around so-called blocks, including storage blocks for DNA samples and reagents and technology blocks
- 3-year term kick-off meeting held on October 2nd, 2023

DN/MIC



Conclusions

- DNA data storage meets the SDG, especially for cold data storage
- The microlean factory concept (microleanlab.ch) should further strengthen these sustainability objectives
- DNA synthesis based on the enzymatic process is promising in terms of low environmental impact and waste reduction
- DNA molecules are manufactured on demand, which avoids overproducing material that will ultimately not be used and will quickly become obsolete

Thank you Merci



