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Chromosome-scale and haplotype-resolved genome assembly of a tetraploid potato cultivar

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Potato (Solanum tuberosum) is an important tuber crop and is among the five most produced crops in the world. Globally more than 350 billion kg of potato are produced per year with an increasing trend particularly in developing countries in Asia. Despite the social and economic importance, the breeding success of potato remained low over the past decades due to its heterozygous, autotetraploid genome and the high levels of inbreeding depression, which challenge usual breeding strategies commonly applied to inbred, diploid crops1–5.

A fundamental tool for modern breeding is the availability of reference sequences. The reference sequence for potato was generated from a double haploid plant, DM1-3516R44 (DM) and was initially published in 2011 and continuously improved over the past years including a recent update based on long read sequencing8. Another major advancement in potato genomics was the recent genome assembly of a heterozygous diploid potato, RH89-039-16 (RH)7. This haplotype-resolved genome was generated from a variety of different sequencing technologies and phase information from a genetic map derived from selfed progeny. However, as of now, there is no haplotype-resolved assembly of a tetraploid potato cultivar available nor is there a straightforward method that would enable the assembly of the individual haplotypes of a tetraploid genome. The latest methods for haplotype phasing include the separation of sequencing reads based on the differences between the parental genomes1–4 or on haplotype information derived from gamete6–12 or offspring genomes13–15. Similarly, chromosome conformation capture sequencing (for example, Hi-C) can help to resolve haplotypes during or before the assembly14–18 and has been applied to polyploids already15–17. However, even though straightforward in its application, chromosome conformation capture sequencing can lead to haplotype switch errors and requires additional efforts such as genetic maps for correction7,8,18.

Results

Genome assembly of a tetraploid potato. We generated an assembly of the autotetraploid genome of S. tuberosum ‘Otava’ using high-quality long PacBio HiFi reads (30x per haplotype) using hifiasm19 (Fig. 1, Supplementary Table 1 and Extended Data Fig. 1; Methods). The initial assembly consisted of 6,366 contigs with an N50 of 2.1 megabases (Mb) (Supplementary Fig. 1). While the total assembly size of 2.2 gigabases (Gb) was much larger than the estimated haploid genome size of ~840 Mb, it accounted only for ~65% of the tetraploid genome size (Extended Data Fig. 1b) indicating that a major portion of the genome collapsed during the assembly. A sequencing depth histogram across the contigs featured four distinct peaks, which originated from regions with either one, two, three or four (collapsed) haplotype(s) (Fig. 1b). While most of the contigs represented only one haplotype (referred to as haplotigs) and accounted for 1.5 Gb (68%) of the assembly, contigs representing two, three or four collapsed haplotypes (referred to as diplotigs, triplotigs or tetraplotigs) still made up 470 Mb (21%), 173 Mb (8%) or 43 Mb (2%). Regions with even higher coverages were virtually absent (9.4 Mb, 0.4%).

As there is no straightforward solution to untangle collapsed contigs after the assembly, we restarted the genome assembly but this time based on four separated read sets each derived from one of the four haplotypes. In diploids, such a read separation before the assembly can be performed by sorting the reads according to their similarity to the parental genomes (trio binning)20. But as autotetraploid individuals inherit two haplotypes through both the maternal and paternal lineages, this cannot be applied to autotetraploid genomes. Alternatively, the reads can also be separated using the haplotypes found in gamete genomes (gamete binning)20. While this is straightforward with haploid gametes from diploid individuals, tetraploid potato develops diploid gametes, which again does not separate individual haplotypes. However, as the pairing of the two...
haplotypes in a diploid gamete is random in potato, we speculated that it might be possible to gain information on individual haplotypes (and thus to separate the reads into four distinct sets) if we sequence a sufficient number of diploid gametes.

To test if gamete binning could be applied for the genome assembly of 'Otava', we sequenced the genomes from 717 pollen nuclei with Illumina short reads with an average sequence coverage of 0.18× (Supplementary Fig. 2) and aligned each of the 717 read sets against the initial assembly. As defining a high-density single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) list can be difficult in a highly heterozygous autotetraploid genome, we defined 'coverage markers' (using average alignment depth in 50 kilobase (kb) windows) to assess if a genomic region was present in a pollen genome or not (Methods).

**Fig. 1 | Haplotype-resolved assembly of an autotetraploid potato genome.**

**a.** Assembly strategy (gamete-binning) for tetraploid genomes. Long reads are sequenced from somatic DNA and an initial contig-level assembly is generated. In addition, sequencing data of gamete genomes are generated. Genetic linkage enables grouping of the contigs into clusters, which represent the individual haplotypes. Long reads are assigned to haplotypes on the basis of their similarity to the contigs. Each haplotype can be assembled separately and scaffolded to chromosome-scale using Hi-C. The potato plant figure was created with BioRender.com.

**b.** Histogram of sequencing depth within 10-kb windows of the initial assembly (top) revealed the presence of haplotigs (68.3%), diplotigs (21.4%), triplotigs (7.9%) and tetraplotigs (2.0%). As a comparison, only one major peak was observed (with increased frequency) in the final assembly (bottom). On the y-axis, 'k' represents for '1,000'.

**c.** Linkage grouping. PAPs (presence/absence patterns) at each coverage marker (50-kb region) are defined by the absence or presence of corresponding sequencing reads from each of the pollen genomes. For instance, the PAP of contig A is '111000', where '1' refers to pollen genomes with reads that align to the contig and '0' refers to pollen genomes without such reads. PAPs of coverage markers A and F are highly correlated and can be grouped as {A, F}. Similarly, B and D are grouped as {B, D}, while E remains ungrouped as {E}. The diplotig coverage marker C shows highest correlations to {A, F} and {B, D} as compared to {E} and therefore extends these to larger clusters. The final result is the three clusters {A, C, F}, {B, C, D} and {E}.

**d.** Assembly sizes of the haplotypes, which were highly consistent with the DM and RH assemblies.

**e.** k-mer based evaluation of the haplotyping accuracy. Each point represents one individual haplotype of one chromosome. The values on the x and y axes indicate the numbers of k-mers within the haplotype sequence that are unique to either of the parental genomes of 'Hera' or 'Stieglitz'. Overall, 99.6% of the variation was correctly phased.
A coverage marker will be covered by reads if one of the two haplotypes of a pollen carries the region of the coverage marker. With this, we could assess the presence/absence pattern (PAP) of a coverage marker across all the 717 pollen genomes (Fig. 1c). Closely linked markers feature highly similar PAPs, however, recombination breakpoints, which are integrated into the pollen genomes during meiosis, change the haplotype within a pollen genome and thereby slightly change the PAPs along the chromosome. But, as recombination is generally rare, closely linked coverage markers still feature highly correlated PAPs. We therefore could use the similarities between the PAPs to cluster the contigs into 48 groups representing the four haplotypes of all 12 chromosomes (Extended Data Fig. 2 and Supplementary Fig. 3). Haplotigs were assigned to single clusters. Diplotigs, triplotigs and tetraplotigs represented multiple haplotypes and were therefore assigned to two, three or four of the clusters (Methods).

Once the contigs were assigned to haplotypes, the PacBio HiFi reads could also be assigned to these haplotypes on the basis of their alignments against the contigs. Reads aligned to diplotigs, triplotigs or tetraplotigs were randomly assigned to one of the respective haplotypes. With this, >99.9% of the nonorganellar PacBio HiFi reads could be assigned to one of the 48 read sets (Supplementary Fig. 4; Methods). Assembling the read sets using hifiasm resulted in 48 haplotype-resolved assemblies with an average N50 of 7.1 Mb and a total size of 3.1 Gb. Finally, we used Hi-C short read data (150x per haplotype) to scaffold the contigs of each assembly to a genome-scale, haplotype-resolved assembly (Extended Data Fig. 3; Methods). Comparison of the full assembly to whole genome sequencing short reads of ‘Otava’ using Mercury revealed very high base accuracy (QV > 51.7) and completeness (97.3%) of the ‘Otava’ genome (Methods).

The sizes of the four haplotypes of each chromosome were highly consistent with each other as well as with those of the DM and RH assemblies except for the consistently shorter assemblies of LG10, which indicated the presence of large-scale chromosomal rearrangements between different cultivars, similar to those previously described (Fig. 1d). Apart from the LG10 differences, the ‘Otava’ assembly was in high synteny to the DM reference sequence suggesting that also the structure of the chromosomes was assembled correctly (Extended Data Fig. 4). To evaluate the haplotyping accuracy of the tetraploid assembly in more depth, we sequenced the parent cultivars of ‘Otava’, ‘Stieglitz’ and ‘Herz’, with Illumina short reads at 10x coverage per haplotype, as each of the chromosomes was either inherited from ‘Stieglitz’ or from ‘Herz’. Comparing the k-mers, which are specific to one of the parental genomes with each of the 48 chromosome assemblies, we found that each chromosome included almost exclusively k-mers from one but not the other parent revealing a haplotyping accuracy of 99.6% (Fig. 1e; Methods).

Integrating ab initio predictions, protein and RNA-seq read alignments, we annotated 152,855 gene models across four haplotypes, with an overall benchmarking universal single-copy orthologs (BUSCO) completeness score of 97.3%, which is highly comparable with the annotations of the RH and DM assemblies (Supplementary Tables 2 and 3; Methods). In addition, we found comparable amounts of various different types of noncoding RNA for all haplotype genomes, which in total accounted for 33.9 Mb across the entire genome (Supplementary Table 4). Repetitive sequences made up 66% of the assembly with long terminal repeat retrotransposons as the most abundant class and ribosomal DNA clusters of up to 600 kb in size, which were assembled without any gaps (Supplementary Tables 5 and 6; Methods). The distribution of genes and repeats along the chromosome followed the typical distribution of monocentric plant genomes with high gene and low repeat densities at the distal parts of the chromosome, while in the pericentromeric regions the gene densities were low and the repeat densities were high (Fig. 2).

The genomic footprints of inbreeding. A histogram of sequence differences within 10-kb windows between the haplotypes revealed two separated peaks implying the presence of highly similar as well as highly different regions (Fig. 3a). The divergent regions included 1 SNP per 60 bp on average, while the remaining 50% of the regions were almost without any differences (Fig. 3a). This extreme similarity between some of the haplotypes suggested that they were recently inherited from a common ancestor. In fact, the pedigree of many of the cultivated potatoes, including ‘Otava’, contains cultivars that occur more than once in their ancestry (Supplementary Fig. 6 and Supplementary Table 8). While comparable with the annotations of the RH and DM assemblies, the domestication history of potato26.

Extreme haplotype differences and their influence on genes. The highly similar IBDS blocks were contrasted by high levels of structural rearrangements between the nonshared regions of the genome (Fig. 3 and Extended Data Figs. 5–10; Methods). Inversions, duplications and translocations made up 3.8–42.9% of each of the haplotypes (or 19.3% of the genome) depending on the abundance of IDB blocks in the respective haplotypes. Duplications and translocations were highly enriched for Gypsy and Copia retrotransposons near their breakpoints revealing their active role during genome diversification as it was described for other plant genomes before23, while inversions were not enriched for transposable elements (Supplementary Fig. 6 and Supplementary Table 8).

Excluding IBDS blocks, structural rearrangements made up 15.0–65.8% of each chromosome. In addition, each haplotype included 11.0–42.5% of unique sequence that could not be aligned to any of the other haplotypes (Fig. 3d). This amount of structural variation and haplotype-specific sequence was much higher than has been reported for any other crop species so far, supporting earlier suggestions that genomic introns from wild relatives were part of the domestication history of potato26.

Overall, we found 661 structural variations longer than 100 kb which all were supported by the contiguity of the assembled contigs or Hi-C contact signals, including 220 duplications, 207 translocations and 234 inversions (Fig. 2, Extended Data Figs. 3 and 5–10, Supplementary Fig. 7 and Supplementary Table 9). While comparable in number, inversions were much larger than the other types of rearrangements and reached sizes of up to 12.4 Mb (Fig. 3c,f). Although these large inversions were mostly located in the pericentromeric regions where genes occur at low density, they still harbored nearly 5% of all genes (7,958 out of 152,855). Meiotic
crossover events from the pollen genomes were virtually absent in inversions, indicating that these regions are likely to introduce large segregating haplotypes among cultivated potato (Fig. 3c).

Pairwise allelic divergence of the genes ranged from 0 to 140 differences per kb and included identical as well as divergent alleles. The average pairwise difference of the divergent alleles was 18 differences per kb (Fig. 4a) and only 53.6% of the genes were present in all four haplotypes. The remaining 46.4% of the genes were present in three (20.0%), two (15.9%) or even only one (10.5%) of the haplotypes (Fig. 4b) with an average of 3.2 copies per gene. In addition, the coding sequences of some of these copies were identical to each other. For example, only 3,066 (15.4%) of the genes with four copies also featured four distinct alleles. In consequence, even though each gene featured 3.2 copies on average, there were only 1.9 distinct alleles per gene (Fig. 4b).

While it was expected to find identical gene alleles within the IBD blocks, only ~45% of the identical gene alleles were actually within shared regions. To test if the high number of identical alleles between the otherwise different haplotypes was indicative of selection, we tested whether these genes were enriched for specific functions. This revealed a significant enrichment for genes with gene ontology (GO) terms involving photosynthesis, chlorophyll binding and translation (Fig. 4c) suggesting a selection-induced reduction of allelic diversity through the optimization of plant performance.

The low number of distinct alleles per gene and a selection-induced reduction of allelic diversity also implied that the tetraploid nature of the genome is not a necessary feature of the high performance of potato in different environments. However, transforming potato into a diploid suffers from the random distribution of the nonfunctional alleles throughout the individual haplotypes implying that any ploidy reduction would lead to a significant gene loss. In fact, the BUSCO score (indicating completeness) of the annotations of the individual haplotypes was 89.5% on average, while the score of all four haplotypes combined was 97.3% (Supplementary Table 3) providing evidence that the individual haplotypes lack genes that are present elsewhere in the genome. Likewise, the doubled-monoploid DM1,5 and the diploid RH2 genomes feature 5,901 (15.4%) or 3,245 (8.5%), respectively, less genes as compared with the tetraploid genome. The gene family with the highest percentage of genes with presence/absence variation (45.4%; 316 out of 696 genes) were the NLR resistance genes (Supplementary Table 10), which are known for their high intraspecies variability27,28.

To investigate how genes are expressed in this tetraploid genome, we sequenced 367 million read pairs of the ‘Otava’ leaf transcriptome in three replicates (Supplementary Table 1; Methods). The four haplotype genomes contributed highly similar amounts of RNA, suggesting that none of the haplotypes was dominant (Fig. 4d and Supplementary Fig. 8), which is similar to observations in another autoploid species15. Comparable to earlier analyses on the effects of copy number variations (CNVs) on gene expression29, the number of allelic copies also impacted on gene expression. Genes with more allelic copies showed a significantly increased gene expression as compared to genes with fewer allelic copies (Fig. 4e). Although gene expressions of the four haplotype genomes were comparable at genome scale, 10.9% of the genes with four allelic copies featured significant expression differences between the individual alleles, which were enriched in hydrolase activity, photosynthesis, light harvesting and RNA methylation (Fig. 4f and Supplementary Tables 11 and 12).

To understand more about the regulation of allele-specific expression, we sequenced the DNA methylome of ‘Otava’ using enzymatic methylome sequencing with three replicates, each with 277 million read pairs (Supplementary Table 1 and Methods). Overall, we found that DNA methylation was consistent across all haplotypes while DNA methylation levels in IBD blocks were slightly higher as compared to the nonshared regions in the other haplotypes (Fig. 2 and Supplementary Fig. 9). Of the 1,219 genes with significant differences in the allele-specific expression, 327 genes were significantly correlated with the level of methylation at the up/downstream regions of these genes (Fig. 4g, Supplementary Figs. 10 and 11 and Supplementary Tables 11–14), suggesting that ~25% of the allele-specific expression is regulated through DNA methylation.

Discussion

Here, we reported the first high-quality haplotype-resolved assembly of an autotetraploid potato. Leveraging long reads and single-cell genotyping of diploid gametes, we were able to reconstruct the sequences of all four haplotypes. The structural rearrangements between the haplotypes were much higher as compared to the differences commonly found in natural populations and were rather reminiscent of the differences found between species. In fact, many of the potato cultivars contain genomic introgressions from wild species. In the pedigree of ‘Otava’, for example, we can find ‘Edinense fraglich’. It was probably a variety of S. demissum or S. tuberosum or S. edinense or S. demissum X S. tuberosum, which was used to introduce resistance against Phytophthora infestans during the first decades of the last century30.

The high level of sequence differences, however, was contrasted by widespread IBD blocks, which were most likely introduced by crossing related genotypes during breeding, even though we cannot exclude that some of these blocks might have been formed via double reduction during meiosis31. This similarity of the IBD blocks was the reason for the abundant collapsed regions in the initial assembly. As these regions were almost identical, it was not possible to assemble them from the sequence data alone. IBD blocks are...
a widespread phenomenon in many crops or livestock in general, though the challenges associated with the high similarity between haplotypes can be solved by using the power of genetics and analysing individual gamete genomes.

The abundance of IBD blocks, in addition to IBD-independent allele sharing, led to the unexpected observation that the tetraploid genome only included 1.9 diverse allelic copies per gene. This implied that the maximal allelic diversity that could be included in the tetraploid genome was not reached, even though the high yield and yield stability of potato is supposed to be promoted by the effects of heterosis, which itself is based on nonadditive interactions of diverse alleles\(^2\). Whether the high abundance...
Fig. 4 | Impact of haplotype divergence on genes and their expression. **a**, Pairwise evaluation of allelic divergence of genes. **b**, Presence/absence variations of genes. Overall, 53.6%, 20.0%, 15.9% or 10.5% of the genes showed four, three, two or one allelic copies/copy within the tetraploid genome with an average of 3.2 allelic copies per gene. Different configurations of divergent alleles were observed for the sets of genes with four, three or two copies, for instance, within the genes with four allelic copies, one (22.3%), two (29.8%), three (32.5%) or four (15.4%) divergent allele/s were observed. Overall, this led to an average of 1.9 distinct alleles per gene. **c**, GO enrichment analysis of genes with four identical alleles (P value adjusted with Benjamini–Hochberg method). **d**, Four haplotypes of chromosome 1 showed comparable amounts of expressed transcripts (FPKM; chromosomes 2-12 given by Supplementary Fig. 8). **e**, Genes with more allelic copies are with significantly higher expression than those with fewer copies (** indicates statistical significance: two-sided Student’s t-test). Respective number of genes (satisfying log2-scaled FPKM over –15) with four copies—16,036, three copies—11,154, two copies—3,520 and one copy—1,906. Intervals for boxplots: center, median (50th percentile); lower bounds of box, 25th percentile (Q1); upper bounds of box, 75th percentile (Q3); lower whisker, maximum of (minima, Q1 – 1.5x IQR); upper whisker, minimum of (maxima, Q3 + 1.5x IQR). IQR, interquartile range (range of Q1 to Q3). **f**, Among the four haplotypes, 10.8% (1,219) of the 11,154 genes with four functional alleles (at least three samples showing counts per million reads >1.0) showed allele-specific expression (Supplementary Tables 11 and 12). **g**, Among those, allele-specific expression of 327 genes was significantly correlated with DNA methylation levels, which were measured in the 1-kb upstream or downstream regions surrounding the genes (two-sided correlation test; Supplementary Tables 13 and 14 and Supplementary Fig. 11).

of shared alleles suggests that the effects of heterosis could still be optimized by increasing the number of polymorphic alleles or if this indicates that the limits of heterosis were already reached remains to be seen.

Over the past years, considerable success has been made in redomesticating potato from a clonally propagated, tetraploid crop into a seed-propagated, diploid crop to increase reproduction rate, decrease costs in storage and transportation and improve disease control1,23–35. However, the random distribution of loss-of-function alleles in tetraploid potato can lead to the accelerated manifestation of inbreeding depression in the diploid genomes, when they are derived from tetraploids16,26. Haplotype-resolved assemblies of autotetraploids like the one presented here have the potential to support the design of optimal haplotypes by avoiding the combination of known incompatibility alleles16. Of course, this new possibility to assemble autotetraploid genomes does not eliminate all breeding-related problems that result from the tetraploid nature of potato. However, being able to reconstruct the four haplotypes of cultivated potato is a breakthrough for modern genomics-assisted breeding strategies and ultimately has the power to increase the breeding success of potato in the future.

Online content
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Methods
Plant material. Plant material was matured at Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (MPIZ, Germany). The three potato cultivars ‘Otava’, ‘Hera’ and ‘Stieglitz’ (Extended Data Fig. 1) were clonally propagated and grown on Murashige-Skoog medium for 3–4 weeks at MPIZ. Seedlings were transferred to soil in 7 × 7 cm petri dishes and grown in a Percival growth chamber for 2–3 weeks. Afterwards, potato plants were transferred to 1-l pots and grown until flowering. Potatoes were grown in long day conditions (16 h light, 8 h night cycle) at 22°C. Details of DNA/RNA library preparation and sequencing are given in the Supplementary Information.

Genome size estimation. After trimming off 10x genomic barcodes and hexamers from the 370.3-Gb reads combined from the 10x single-cell CNV libraries and single-molecule libraries, k-mer counting (k = 21) was performed with Jellyfish (v2.2.10)42. The k-mer histogram was provided to findCSE (v1.0)43 to estimate the haplotype/tetraploid genome size of ‘Otava’ under the heterozygous mode (with ‘esp_hom = 200; Extended Data Fig. 1).

Initial tetraploid genome assembly, polishing and purging. The initial assembly of the tetraploid genome was performed using hisa4 (v0.7.0)44 with default settings with the 102.2-Gb raw PacBio HiFi reads of ‘Otava’, where the output consisting of unitigs (locally haplotype-resolved contigs) was selected for further processing. Then the short reads from the two 10x single-cell CNV libraries were aligned to the assembly using bowtie2 (v2.2.8)45 with options of –fix bases ––diploid –mindepth 0.8. Further, short reads of the two 10x single-cell CNV libraries, additional single-molecule libraries and PacBio HiFi reads were all aligned to the polished assembly (using bowtie2 and minimap2). Among 17,153 raw contigs, 9,041 contigs which were longer than 50 kb and an average sequencing depth over 80x were kept. HiFi reads were re-aligned to the purged assembly and contigs covered less than 3x were removed. The HiFi reads-based purging process was repeated for five rounds to get an initial assembly of 6,366 contigs for subsequent analysis (Supplementary Fig. 1).

Coverage marker definition by sequencing depth analysis. All Illumina paired-end short reads from 10x single-cell/molecule libraries (and PacBio HiFi long reads) were mapped to the initial assembly using bowtie2 and minimap2. Potentially duplicated short reads were removed using picard MarkDuplicates function (http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/). The depth along each contig was calculated with samtools depth function (v1.1.0)46 for each type of (short and long) reads and the depth at each position of each contig was taken as the sum of all types. Each contig was dissected into 10-kb windows and the average sequencing depth per base was calculated within each window. According to the average genome-wide depth of 113x per haplotype (denoted by H), windows with depths in [0, 100x], [101x, 283x], [284x, 396x], [397x, 509x] and [≥510x] were respectively determined as contig types of haploid, diploid, triploid, tetraploid and reticulated, where the upper bound on depth for each type of (short or long) reads was denoted by H = H × r (1 + t/2), with t being 1, 2, 3, 4. Neighboring 10-kb windows (along the same contig) were further merged as larger 50-kb coverage markers if they were classified as the same contig type (to ensure sufficient read signal for genotyping within each single pollen genome).

Linkage-based grouping of contigs. The read count (denoted by r) at each coverage marker of size W (in bp) for each of the selected 717 pollen genomes (Supplementary Fig. 2), which were collected using bedtools (v2.29.0)47, was firstly normalized using niti = n × (10/W) × (10/N), where N is the total number of reads aligned to the assembly of 6,366 contigs. Meanwhile, the average read count, mni, for all coverage markers with more than 7 × (N/10) reads was calculated for each pollen genome. The coverage (genotype) at a marker for each pollen was set to mni, which would be rounded to 0, 1 or 2. In general, coverages across 717 pollen read sets at the same window marker were used to build up a PAP: X = X1, X2, . . . , X717, where Xi was in {0, 1, 2}, [0, 1, 2], [1, 2] or [2], depending on whether the marker type was haploid, diploid, triploid or tetraploid. The correlation between two PAPs X and Y was calculated as corrXY = ∑[(X – mX) × (Y – mY)] / ∑[(X – mX)2] ∑[(Y – mY)2], which mX and mY were the respective average values. Initially, any pair of haplotigs/vertices (with sizes ≥100 kb) was connected by an edge, if the highest correlation value between the PAPs of the markers at two ends of the haplotigs was >0.55 (Supplementary Fig. 3). This graph-based clustering led to 48 groups representing the 48 haplotypes (Extended Data Fig. 2). However, the correlation value between any pair of the markers of any two groups was less than ~0.25, they could be determined as homologous linkage groups (same chromosome, different haplotypes). With this, the 48 groups were clustered into 12 chromosomes, each with four different haplotypes. Each of the remaining haplotigs h (<100 kb) was integrated into the group with the marker showing the highest correlation with h. For a diploid marker (with PAP 2), which represents h as one of the parental genomes, X and Y, it can be expected that Z = X + Y, where X and Y are PAPs of two markers which closely linked to the diploid marker (Fig. 1c). We can therefore expect Z≥X = X and Z≥Y = Y, where ‘X’ refers to the bit-wise AND-operation. As a result, the correlations of ‘Z&X’ with X and ‘Z&Y’ with Y should give the two highest values. Therefore, the two coverage markers from two of the 48 groups that show the highest correlations to a diploid marker reveal the two groups that the diploid will be assigned to. Similarly, triploid markers can be associated with three groups. If all coverage markers of a contig are tetraploid-type, the contig cannot be associated with any group because the information for linking a chromosome is missing. Only if at least one nontetraploid coverage marker can be grouped, the tetraploid marker of the contig can be grouped.

Note, meiotic recombination can influence the linkage grouping. In the most simple case, that is, when no pollen genome carries a single meiotic recombination event, all PAPs at coverage markers from the same haplotype would be identical while PAPs at coverage markers from other haplotypes would be different (because haplotypes randomly occur in pollen genomes in a pairwise manner) and thus they can be grouped. In the presence of meiosis, a few crossovers along each chromosome change the PAP values of the coverage markers but, as recombination is rare, the PAP values change only marginally. Thus, linkage grouping based on PAPs works even in the presence of meiotic recombination.

Haplotypic-specific PacBio HiFi read separation and haplotype assembly. HiFi reads were classified into 48 groups on the basis of alignments to the 50-kb coverage markers using customized code48. Specifically, to assign a read to a marker, at least 500 bp of the read had to be aligned to the marker (reads aligning two neighboring markers were assigned to the marker with a larger overlapping size). Reads overlapping non-haplotig marker were randomly assigned to one of the marker-associated groups.

Each set of HiFi reads was independently assembled using hisa4 (v0.7.0)44 with default settings. The resulting contigs were first polished with short reads using align with –fix bases ––diploid ––mindepth 0.8 and then with HiFi reads using racon (v1.4.10)49 with –u –no-trimming.

Evaluation of haplotyping accuracy. For each haplotype assembly and the sequencing data of the parental genomes, k-mers (k = 21) were counted using KMC50. Specifically, k-mers found in ‘Hera’ but not in ‘Stieglitz’ (with a coverage of 6–12), as well as k-mers found in ‘Stieglitz’ but not in ‘Hera’ (with a coverage of 5–11) were selected using kmc tools simple. For each haplotype, the sets of assembled k-mers were intersected with the two sets of parental-specific k-mers (using kmc tools simple with subfunction intersect), which revealed k-mers common with either of the parental genomes. As a haplotype can only be inherited from one of the parents, it is expected to find parental-specific k-mers only of one parent. The overall haplotyping precision was determined as the total number of correctly phased k-mers divided by the total number of k-mers investigated in the 48 haplotype assemblies. Note, this was done before and after contig polishing, where we observed the same haplotyping accuracy.

Haplotypic-specific contig scaffolding using group-specific Hi-C reads. Each haplotype-specific contig level assembly was indexed with bwa index (–a yes –b 78.13×14) on all PacBio HiFi reads classified into 48 groups on the basis of alignments to the 50-kb coverage markers using customized code49. Each set of HiFi reads was independently assembled using bwa aln and bwa samse. Aligned reads (in pairs) were converted into BAM files using samtools view with options of –b –F12. The BAM files were filtered with filterBAM forHiC.pl (from ALLHiC package, v0.9.13)51 to remove nonuniquely mapped reads. Then BAM files were converted to bed files using bamToBed (from bedtools package) and sorted by read name. The bed files were provided to ALLSALSA (run with –multiply 0000000000 –y +10 –e DNASIE)52. Potential chimeric contigs were broken at the chimeric sites given by ALLSALSA output file of input_breaks, leading to a new set of contigs for each of the 48 original groups.

For each new group of contigs, the above process of contig indexing, Hi-C read alignment and BAM filtering was repeated. Then, for each haplotype, ALLHiC partition was run with –e GATC k1 m25: allichic extract was run with –REGATC: allichic optimize and ALLHiC_build were run with default settings; the chromosome contact map was visualized with ALLHiC_plot at 1-Mb resolution, where obvious mis-placement/orientation of large contigs were visually identified and manually corrected (Extended Data Fig. 3).

Genome annotation and assessment. Protein-coding genes for each haplotype genome were annotated with three types of evidences, including ab initio gene predictions (considering outputs by Augustus53, GlimmerHMM54 and SNAP55), transcripts assembled from Illumina short RNA-seq reads and alignments of homologous protein sequences. Specifically, protein sequences from Solanum tuberosum L.56, Arabidopsis thaliana and other plant proteins from UniProtKB were aligned to each haplotype assembly independently using Exonerate57 with options of –percent 60 –minintron 10 –maxintron 60000. RNA-seq reads from two recent potato genome assembly work58 were downloaded. All reads were first trimmed to the full haplotype resolved genome assembly using HISAT2 (v2.2.0)59. Then for each of the 12 linkage groups, reads aligned to the respective four haplotypes were extracted and combined as one set with samtools view –I and bedtools bamtofastq. Within each linkage group, each set of reads from the
group was re-aligned to each haplotype sequence independently using HISAT2 and transcripts were assembled using StringTie\(^5\). Finally, all the above evidences were integrated with EvidenceModeler\(^7\) to generate high-quality gene models for each haplotype assembly. Transposon elements (TE) were annotated using RepeatModeler and RepeatMasker (http://www.repeatmasker.org). TE-related genes were filtered by investigating their overlapping with TEs (overlapping percentage $\geq$ 50\%), sequence alignment with TE-related protein sequences and A. thaliana TE-related gene sequences (requiring blastn alignment identity and coverage $\geq$ 30\%). To rescue potentially mis-annotated genes, all gene models were further improved. Specifically, against each of the four haplotypes, we first aligned the gene sequences of the other three haplotypes using blastn and, similarly, aligned the protein sequences of the other three haplotypes against those from the target haplotype using blastp\(^7\) and Scipio\(^8\). If there were counterparts in the target haplotype to the other three (based on the alignments), the potential missing genes were added according to gene models given by ab initio prediction. Besides, gene models were split into smaller genes or merged as larger genes if all the alignments of genes from the other three haplotypes indicated a mis-merged or mis-split gene model.

The final assembly and annotation completeness were evaluated by BUSCO (v.4.1.4)\(^9\) with 2,326 single-copy genes from the lineage database eudicots,odb10. The functional annotation of genes was performed with InterProScan (v.5.48)\(^{10}\) with default parameters except for option -goterms. The GO terms were extracted using GOTools (v.4.1.4)\(^{11}\) with 2,326 single-copy genes from the lineage database eudicots,odb10. The GO terms were extracted (v.4.1.4)\(^{11}\) with 2,326 single-copy genes from the lineage database eudicots,odb10. The GO terms were extracted with default parameters except for option -goterms. The GO terms were extracted with default parameters except for option -goterms. The GO terms were extracted with default parameters except for option -goterms. The GO terms were extracted with default parameters except for option -goterms.

**Comparison of chromosome sequences.** Within each of the 12 homologous linkage groups (LGs), the chromosome-level sequences of the four haplotypes were aligned to each other as well as to the recently assembled DM genome using minimap2 with -axasm200eq. For each pair of haplotypes, the alignments were provided to SyRI\(^{11}\), which searched for synteny, single-nucleotide difference as well as large-scale structural variations (with -k $\geq$ 3). Allelic expression analysis. Quality control. Short reads from RNA sequencing were trimmed with Trimmomatic (v.0.39)\(^{12}\) under paired-end mode, with options ILLUMINA:adapters.fq:2:30:10:8:true (adapters provided by the tool itself). SLIDINGWINDOW:4:15 LEADING:3 TRAILING:3 MINLEN:36.

Read separation. All reads were aligned to the final haplotype-resolved assembly using HISAT2 (v.2.2.0) with option -k 1 and reads were thus separated into 48 haplotype-specific groups with samtools view -l 1 and bedtools bamtofastq.

Expression analysis was performed following the literature\(^{13}\), using Steiglitz-1 genome as reference. Within each of the 12 linkage groups, the four sets of haplotype-wise RNA-seq reads were independently aligned to the respective Steiglitz-1 chromosome as reference, using HISAT2. The number of fragments at each gene was counted as fragments per kilobase per million reads (FPKM)\(^{14}\). For testing dominance in stranded expression, reads assigned to either parent were counted, with HISAT2 (v.2.2.0) with option -k 1 and reads were thus separated into 48 haplotype-specific groups with samtools view -l 1 and bedtools bamtofastq. Expression analysis was performed following the literature\(^{13}\), using Steiglitz-1 genome as reference. Within each of the 12 linkage groups, the four sets of haplotype-wise RNA-seq reads were independently aligned to the respective Steiglitz-1 chromosome as reference, using HISAT2. The number of fragments at each gene was counted as fragments per kilobase per million reads (FPKM)\(^{14}\).

Note that, using the 12 Steiglitz-1 chromosomes as reference, the well clustering of the three biological replicates regarding four haplotypes based on CG, CHG or CHH methylation levels in 50-kb windows at a step of 25-kb (using hclust in R) showed that there was a high consistency between the replicates (Supplementary Fig. 10). Thus the final methylation level (and the related z-score, similarly calculated as given in gene expression analysis) at each window was taken as the average of the levels at three replicates in all related analysis.

Other methods used in analysis have been provided in the Supplementary Information.

**Statistics.** All presented P values correspond to two-sided P values. Correlation test between the levels of allele-specific expression and methylation was done using cor.test function in R.

**Reporting Summary.** Further information on research design is available in the Nature Research Reporting Summary linked to this article.

**Data availability.** High-throughput sequencing data analysed in this project are available under NCBI BioProject PRJNA751899, This Whole Genome Shotgun project (including assembly and annotation) has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the accessions JAIVGA0000000000, JAIVGB0000000000, JAIVGC0000000000 and JAIVGD0000000000. The version described in this paper is version JAIVGA0100000000, JAIVGB0100000000, JAIVGC0100000000 and JAIVGD0100000000. The genome assembly and gene annotation of Otava are also available on Spud DB (http://spuddb.ugra.edu/). Source data are provided at Zenodo (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5796732). Genome information for DM and RH used in this study are available on Spud DB (http://spuddb.ugra.edu/).

**Code availability.** Custom code and scripts supporting this work are available at github.com/ schneebelar/GameteBinning_tetraploid or Zenodo (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5775114).

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Author contributions
H.S., J.A.C. and K.S. conceptualized the project. K.S. supervised the project. H.S. designed and implemented the genome assembly pipeline, performed data analysis and drafted the manuscript. H.S., K.K., J.A.C., K.F-D., C.K. and B.H. generated the data. All other authors contributed to the paper in different ways. H.S., J.A.C., K.K., K.F-D., K.S. and B.H. were responsible for revising the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Extended Data Fig. 1 | General information about the autotetraploid potato cultivar ‘Otava’. a, Pedigree of ‘Otava’. The potato cultivar ‘Otava’ resulted from a cross of ‘Hera’ and ‘Stieglitz’ in 1981. Note that ‘Hera’ and ‘Stieglitz’ have common ancestors like ‘HINDENBURG’ (1916) and ‘CARNEA’ (1938) explaining the presence of IBD regions between the four haplotypes of Otava genome. This illustration was modified from the Potato Pedigree Database (https://www.plantbreeding.wur.nl/PotatoPedigree). b, K-mer frequency distribution of the tetraploid genome of ‘Otava’ and genome size estimation. Note, 844 Mb depicts the estimated haploid genome size, while the tetraploid genome size would be four times the haploid genome size, that is, 3,375 Mb.
**Extended Data Fig. 2 | Clustering of initially assembled contigs.** The graph (consisting of 48 sub-graphs) visualizes the clustering of haplotigs of over 100 kb into 48 groups representing the 48 haplotype-specific chromosomes. Vertices in red represent contigs, edges in yellow represent a positive correlation (over 0.55) of the PAPs of the connected coverage markers (vertices). All nodes in the same box in gray represent a group of contigs belonging to the same chromosome labeled with $G_i$, where $i = 1, 2, \ldots, 48$. The graph was visualized with Graphviz (https://graphviz.org/).
Extended Data Fig. 3 | Hi-C contact map for each of the 48 haplotype-specific chromosomes. HomLG 6, 11, 4, 9, 12, 3, 8, 10, 5, 1, 2, 7 correspond to LG 1 to 12 of reference genome. For example, homLG_6 corresponds to LG 1 in the reference assembly (of DM). The four sub-groups (LG_20, LG_26, LG_48 and LG_6) correspond to the four haplotype-specific chromosomes of ‘Otava’ (for which the identifiers were defined by the linkage grouping step of gamete binning as given by Extended Data Fig. 2).
Extended Data Fig. 4 | Comparison of the ‘Otava’ assembly to the DM assembly within linkage groups 1-12. a-l: Linkage group (LG) 1-12. Within each LG, there were four haplotype sequences from ‘Otava’ with two of them inherited from ‘Hera’ (in light blue) and two inherited from ‘Stieglitz’ (in light red). Alignments between any two sequences above 50 kb are shown. Specifically, for LG10 (given by j), the four haplotype-specific chromosomes showed clear large gaps when aligned to the DM chromosome, indicating that there were potential large chromosomal rearrangements between the two cultivars.
Extended Data Fig. 5 | Comparison of haplotype sequences within linkage groups 1 (a) and 2 (b). Each of the four horizontal rows represents a haplotype of the chromosome (Hera 1, Hera 2, Stieglitz 1 and Stieglitz 2). For each haplotype, three types of information are within each box, top: IBD and unique regions along the chromosome (at 50 kb resolution), middle: distribution of SNPs at IBD regions, and bottom: scaffolded contigs. For each chromosome, three pairwise structural comparisons are shown highlighting inversions (orange), duplications (blue), translocations (green) and syntenic regions (gray). Note that all the regions involving the breakpoints of the SVs ended within contigs. IBD regions can be shared by two (dip), three (trip) or even four (tetrap) haplotypes. The x-axis scale: 0–100 Mb.
Extended Data Fig. 6 | Comparison of haplotype sequences within linkage groups 3 (a) and 4 (b). Each of the four horizontal rows represents a haplotype of the chromosome (Hera 1, Hera 2, Stieglitz 1 and Stieglitz 2). For each haplotype, three types of information are within each box, top: IBD and unique regions along the chromosome (at 50 kb resolution), middle: distribution of SNPs at IBD regions, and bottom: scaffolded contigs. For each chromosome, three pairwise structural comparisons are shown highlighting inversions (orange), duplications (blue), translocations (green) and syntenic regions (gray). Note that all the regions involving the breakpoints of the SVs ended within contigs. IBD regions can be shared by two (dip), three (trip) or even four (tetrap) haplotypes. The x-axis scale: 0–100 Mb.
Extended Data Fig. 7 | Comparison of haplotype sequences within linkage groups 5 (a) and 6 (b). Each of the four horizontal rows represents a haplotype of the chromosome (Hera 1, Hera 2, Stieglitz 1 and Stieglitz 2). For each haplotype, three types of information are within each box, top: IBD and unique regions along the chromosome (at 50 kb resolution), middle: distribution of SNPs at IBD regions, and bottom: scaffolded contigs. For each chromosome, three pairwise structural comparisons are shown highlighting inversions (orange), duplications (blue), translocations (green) and syntenic regions (gray). Note that all the regions involving the breakpoints of the SVs ended within contigs. IBD regions can be shared by two (dip), three (trip) or even four (tetrap) haplotypes. The x-axis scale: 0–100 Mb.
Extended Data Fig. 8 | Comparison of haplotype sequences within linkage groups 7 (a) and 8 (b). Each of the four horizontal rows represents a haplotype of the chromosome (Hera 1, Hera 2, Stieglitz 1 and Stieglitz 2). For each haplotype, three types of information are within each box, top: IBD and unique regions along the chromosome (at 50 kb resolution), middle: distribution of SNPs at IBD regions, and bottom: scaffolded contigs. For each chromosome, three pairwise structural comparisons are shown highlighting inversions (orange), duplications (blue), translocations (green) and syntenic regions (gray). Note that all the regions involving the breakpoints of the SVs ended within contigs. IBD regions can be shared by two (dip), three (trip) or even four (tetrap) haplotypes. The x-axis scale: 0–100 Mb.
Extended Data Fig. 9 | Comparison of haplotype sequences within linkage groups 9 (a) and 10 (b). Each of the four horizontal rows represents a haplotype of the chromosome (Hera 1, Hera 2, Stieglitz 1 and Stieglitz 2). For each haplotype, three types of information are within each box, top: IBD and unique regions along the chromosome (at 50 kb resolution), middle: distribution of SNPs at IBD regions, and bottom: scaffolded contigs. For each chromosome, three pairwise structural comparisons are shown highlighting inversions (orange), duplications (blue), translocations (green) and syntenic regions (gray). Note that all the regions involving the breakpoints of the SVs ended within contigs. IBD regions can be shared by two (dip), three (trip) or even four (tetrap) haplotypes. The x-axis scale: 0–100 Mb.
Extended Data Fig. 10 | Comparison of haplotype sequences within linkage groups 11 (a) and 12 (b). Each of the four horizontal rows represents a haplotype of the chromosome (Hera 1, Hera 2, Stieglitz 1 and Stieglitz 2). For each haplotype, three types of information are within each box, top: IBD and unique regions along the chromosome (at 50 kb resolution), middle: distribution of SNPs at IBD regions, and bottom: scaffolded contigs. For each chromosome, three pairwise structural comparisons are shown highlighting inversions (orange), duplications (blue), translocations (green) and syntenic regions (gray). Note that all the regions involving the breakpoints of the SVs ended within contigs. IBD regions can be shared by two (dip), three (trip) or even four (tetrap) haplotypes. The x-axis scale: 0–100 Mb.
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Data analysis

All routine analysis were performed using tools publicly available. Barcodes were corrected using cellranger (10x Genomics, v1.1.0). Read quality control: Trimomatic (v0.39). Short/long reads were aligned using bowtie2 (2.2.8)/minimap2 (2.20.1061), hisat2 (v2.2.0). BAM, VCF file processing and sequencing depth analysis were performed using samtools (v1.9) and bedtools (v2.27.1). PacBio sequence reads were assembled using hifiasm (v0.7). Contig polishing: pilon (v1.22) and racon (1.4.10). Structural variations were identified using SvR (v1.0) based on minimap2 genome alignments. Methylation calling was performed with bismark (v0.23.0) pipeline. Genome size was estimated using findGSE (v1.0). k-mers were counted and handled using jellyfish (v2.2.10), kmc3 (v3.1.1) and Merqurey (v1.3). Statistical analysising including t-test and correlation test were performed using R (v3.5.1). Blast of nucleotides was performed with blast tool kit [v2.10.0+]. Hi-C data was processed using ALLHiC (v0.9.8) and SALSA2 (v2.2) pipeline. BUSCO analysis using BUSCO (version 4.1.4). Genome annotation: Augustus (version 1.2.3), GlimmerHMM (version 3.0.1), SNAP (v2006-07-08), exonerate (v2.2.0), StringTie (v1.3.4d), EvidenceModeler (version not available), RepeatModeler (v2.0.1), RepeatMasker (open-4.0), Infernal (v1.1). RNA-seq quantification: HTSeq (v0.13.5). Replicates of expression and methylation clustering: package hclust (v3.5.1) in R. Protein sequence alignment: blastp (v2.10.0+) and Scipio (v1.4.1). Functional annotation: InterProscan (v5.48) and R package ClusterProfiler [v3.14].
Data

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- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our policy

High-throughput sequencing data analyzed in this project are available under NCBI BioProject: PRJNA751899. This Whole Genome Shotgun project (including assembly and annotation) has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the accessions JAIVGA0000000000, JAIVGB0000000000, JAIVGC0000000000 and JAIVGD0000000000. The version described in this paper is version JAIVGA01000000, JAIVGB01000000, JAIVGC01000000 and JAIVGD01000000. The genome assembly and gene annotation of ‘Otava’ are also available on Spud DB (http://spuddb.uga.edu/sf). Source data are provided at Zenodo under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5796752). Genome information of DM and RH used in this study are available on Spud DB (http://spuddb.uga.edu/sf).

All the databases/datasets used in the study are along with appropriately accessible links/accession-codes in the manuscript under the “Data availability” section as well as in this reporting summary.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☑ Life sciences ☐ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nz-reporting-summary-list.pdf

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size Three samples/cultivars were selected, including Hera, Stieglitz and Otava, which make a trio for genome and haplotyping analysis.

Data exclusions No data were excluded from the analysis.

Replication Three biological replicates were respectively used for both RNA and methylation sequencing and analysis. All attempts at replication were successful.

Randomization This is not relevant to this study, as it is about assembly and analysis of a single cultivar.

Blinding No group allocation was needed in this study.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
| ☑ | Antibodies |
| ☑ | Eukaryotic cell lines |
| ☑ | Palaeontology and archaeology |
| ☑ | Animals and other organisms |
| ☑ | Human research participants |
| ☑ | Clinical data |
| ☑ | Dual use research of concern |

Methods

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
| ☑ | ChiP-seq |
| ☑ | Flow cytometry |
| ☑ | MRI-based neuroimaging |