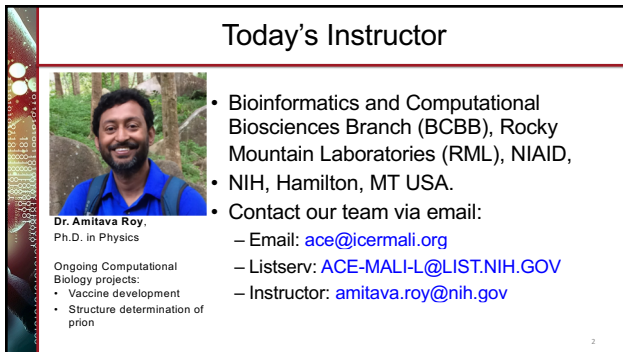


**AFRICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE
IN BIOINFORMATICS**


KAMPALA, UGANDA

WEB COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY TRAINING

1



Today's Instructor



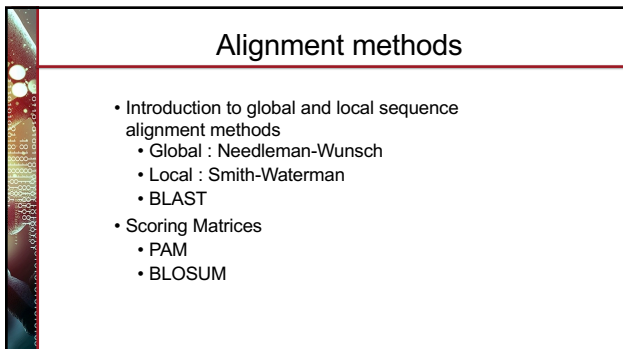
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Ongoing Computational Biology projects:

- Vaccine development
- Structure determination of prion

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Alignment methods

- Introduction to global and local sequence alignment methods
 - Global : Needleman-Wunsch
 - Local : Smith-Waterman
 - BLAST
- Scoring Matrices
 - PAM
 - BLOSUM

Function Prediction

- Multiple Sequence Alignment
Dynamics Programming
ClustlW, t-Coffee, Muscle
- Motif Search and Function Prediction
Expectation Maximization, MEME
- Software
- Markov Model and Hidden Markov Model

Alignment - Why search sequence databases?

I have just sequenced something. What is known about the thing I sequenced?

I have a unique sequence. Is there similarity to another gene that has a known function?

I found a new protein in a lower organism. Is it similar to a protein from another species?

Alignment - Perfect Searches

- First "hit" should be an exact match.
- Next "hits" should contain all of the genes that are related to your gene (homologs)
- Next "hits" should be similar but are not homologs

How does one achieve the “perfect search”?

- Comparison Matrices (PAM vs. BLOSUM)
- Database Search Algorithms
- Databases
- Search Parameters
 - Expect Value-change threshold for score reporting
 - Translation-of DNA sequence into protein
 - Filtering-remove repeat sequences

Alignment Algorithms

- Global : Needleman-Wunch
Local : Smith-Watermann
- These two dynamic programming alignment algorithm are guaranteed to give OPTIMAL alignments
 - But $O(m*n)$ quadratic

Scoring

- **Quality** = $[10(\text{match})] + [-1(\text{mismatch})] - [(\text{Gap Creation Penalty})(\text{\#of Gaps}) + (\text{Gap Ext. Pen.})(\text{Total length of Gaps})]$

Scoring scheme incorporates an evolutionary model--

- Matches are conserved
- Mismatches are divergences
- Gaps are more likely to disrupt function, hence greater penalty than mismatch. Introduction of a gap (indel) penalized more than extension of a gap.

Scoring - Estimating $p(\cdot, \cdot)$ for proteins

Generate a large diverse collection of accepted mutations. An **accepted mutation** is a mutation due to an alignment of closely related protein sequences. For example, Hemoglobin alpha chain in humans and other organisms (*homologous* proteins).

Let $p_a = n_a/n$ where n_a is the number of occurrences of letter a and n is the total number of letters in the collection, so $n = \sum_a n_a$.

Mutation counts

$f_{ab} = f_{ba}$ be the number of mutations $a \leftrightarrow b$,

$f_a = \sum_{b \neq a} f_{ab}$ be the total number of mutations that involve a ,

$f = \sum_a f_a$ be the total number of amino acids involved in a mutation.

Note that f is twice the number of mutations.

Scoring - PAM-1 matrices

Define M_{ab} to be the symmetric probability matrix for switching between a and b . We set, $M_{aa} = 1 - m_a$, so that m_a is the probability that a is involved in a change.

$$M_{ab} = \Pr(a \rightarrow b) = \Pr(a \rightarrow b \mid a \text{ changed}) \cdot \Pr(a \text{ changed}) = \frac{f_{ab}}{f_a} m_a$$

We define M_{ab} , such that only 1% of amino acids change according to this matrix or 99% don't. Hence the name, **1-Percent Accepted Mutation (PAM)**. In other words,

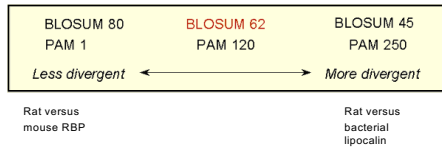
$$\sum_a p_a M_{aa} = \sum_a p_a (1 - m_a) = 1 - \sum_a p_a m_a = 0.99$$

Scoring - BLOSUM Outline

- **Idea:** use aligned ungapped regions of **protein families**. These are assumed to have a common ancestor. Similar ideas but better statistics and modeling. It uses 2000 conserved blocks from 500 families.
- **Procedure:**
 - Cluster together sequences in a family whenever more than L% identical residues are shared, for BLOSUM-L.
 - Count number of substitutions across different clusters (in the same family).
 - Estimate frequencies using the counts.
- **Practice:** BLOSUM-50 and BLOSUM62 are widely used.

Considered the state of the art nowadays.

Scoring - BLOSUM vs PAM



MSA

- Multiple sequence alignment (MSA)
- Generalize DP to 3 sequence alignment
 - Impractical
- Heuristic approaches to MSA
 - Progressive alignment – ClustalW (using substitution matrix based scoring function)
 - Consistency-based approach – T-Coffee (consistency-based scoring function)
 - MUSCLE (MUSCLE-fast, MUSCLE-prog): reduces time and space complexity

MSA -From pairwise to multiple alignment

- Alignment of 2 sequences is represented as a 2-row matrix
- In a similar way, we represent alignment of 3 sequences as a 3-row matrix

```

A T _ G C G _
A _ C G T _ A
A T C A C _ A

```

- Score: more conserved columns, better alignment

What's multiple sequence alignment (MSA)

- A model
- Indicates relationship between residues of different sequences
- Reveals similarity/disimilarity

Why we need MSA

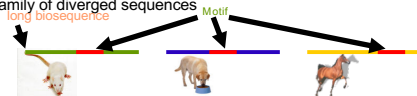
- MSA is central to many bioinformatics applications
- Phylogenetic tree
- Motifs
- Patterns
- Structure prediction (RNA, protein)

Motif

- Set of similar substrings,
- within a single long sequence



- or a family of diverged sequences



Protein Motif: Activity Sites

..YKFSTYATWIRQAITR..

5' 10 10 3'

Example: Globin Motifs

Hemoglobin alpha subunit

Motif discovery problem

Given sequences

Find motif

- the number of motifs
- the width of each motif
- the locations of motif occurrences

seq. 1

seq. 2

seq. 3

IGRGGFGEVY at position 515

IGRGGFGEVY at position 430

IGRGGFGEVY at position 682

Why find motifs?

- In proteins—may be a critical component
 - Find similarities to known proteins
 - Find important areas of new protein family
- In DNA—may be a *binding site*
 - Discover how the gene expression is regulated



Why is this hard?

Input sequences are long (thousands or millions of residues)

Motif may be *subtle*

- Instances are short.
- Instances may be only slightly similar.



Computational problems for *in silico* motif detection

- Extract a motif model based on (experimentally) identified motifs

Supervised learning

- Search for motif instances based on given motif model(s)

Prediction

- Uncover novel motifs computationally from genomic sequences

Unsupervised learning

Profile based predictors of protein domains / motifs



Motif database in form of regular expressions. Not necessarily the whole domain.

K-x(12)-[DE] = lysine, any 12, Aspartic acid or Glutamic acid.
Returns 1 or 0, i.e. very rigid and can be very inaccurate for small simple motifs



Motif search tools based on Prosite but with multiple alignment profiling



Collection of HMM's usually covering the whole domain

Exercises:

Section A:

- Sequence retrieval of a *P. falciparum* protein (cyclophilin) using SRS
- BLAST and Fasta searches by cutting & pasting the sequence.

Section B:

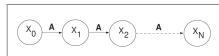
- Exercise I Part I (row 1): Search PROSITE server by cutting & pasting the cyclophilin sequence
- Exercise I Part II (row 2): Pfam server
- Exercise I Part III (row 3): SMART server
- Exercise I Part IV (row 4): InterPro server
- Exercise 2: Sequence retrieval of *P. falciparum* PFC0125w protein using SRS.
- TMHMMv2.0 server.
- SignalPv3.0 server.

Section C:

- Other web resources

Introducing Hidden Markov Models First – a Markov Model

A **Markov Model** is a chain-structured process where future states depend only on the present state, not on the sequence of events that preceded it.



The X at a given time is called the **state**.
The value of X_n depends only on X_{n-1} .

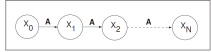


State : sunny cloudy rainy sunny ?

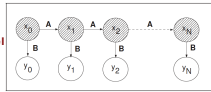
The Hidden Markov Model

A **Hidden Markov Model** is a Markov chain for which the state is only partially observable.

A **Markov Model**



A **Hidden Markov Model**



Hidden states : the (TRUE) states of a system that can be described by a Markov process (e.g., the weather).

Observed states : the states of the process that are 'visible' (e.g., umbrella).
