

Ensembl API Course: REST API

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Outline

- 1. Ensembl
 - 1. Data available
 - Data access
- 2. The REST API
 - 1. What is it
 - 2. How to query it
 - 3. Examples
 - 1. Retrieve sequence
 - 2. From region to variation
 - 3. Write a script





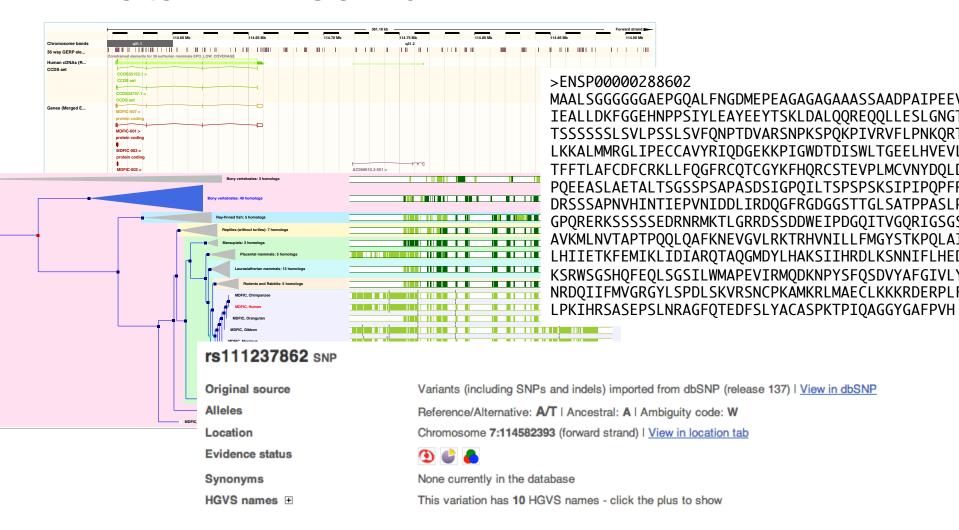
Presentation

- https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-presentation/
 - https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-presentation/blob/master/API/ REST/REST_bitesized.pptx?raw=true
 - https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-presentation/blob/master/API/ REST/REST_bitesized.pdf?raw=true





Data in Ensembl









Access to data

- Ensembl web site
- *Pre!* web site
- Archive! web site
- GRCh37 web site
- **BioMart**
- FTP site
- **MySQL**
- Perl API
- REST API
- GRCh37 REST API

http://www.ensembl.org http://pre.ensembl.org http://archive.ensembl.org http://grch37.ensembl.org

http://www.ensembl.org/biomart/martview

ftp://ftp.ensembl.org

http://www.ensembl.org/info/data/mysql.html

http://www.ensembl.org/info/data/api.html

http://rest.ensembl.org

http://grch37.rest.ensembl.org





What Is A REST API

- REpresentational State Transfer
- Simple APIs with very few external dependencies
- Can use the web (HTTP) to communicate
- Can be queried by
 - Web browsers
 - Command line tools
 - Programming languages











How Do You Query A REST API?

With URLs; the same way you go to any webpage







How A URL Is Formed

Server

Endpoint and parameters

Optional parameters

http://rest.ensembl.org/info/ping?content-type=application/json







How Do You Query?

- The web browser can be used as a test client
- Plugins are available for most browsers
 - Firefox RESTClient
 - Chrome REST Console or Postman
- All major programming languages can perform HTTP requests



Constructing a URL

- Find the endpoint you need
 - Use find on the main page for more information
- Copy an example URL into a text editor
- 3. Edit with your variables
 - Check the options available
- 4. Paste back into the address bar and press return http://rest.ensembl.org/sequence/region/:species/:region.fasta

<u>human</u> 6:2198711..2198900







Example

Using the stable ID ENSG00000157764 (human BRAF)

- a) Retrieve its genomic sequence in plain text
- b) Soft mask this in FASTA format
- c) Retrieve all linked protein sequences in JSON



Example

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Start from the main page

http://rest.ensembl.org



Endpoints

User Guide

Change Log

About the Ensembl Project

Contact Ensembl

Ensembl REST API Endpoints

Archive

Resource	Description	
GET archive/id/:id	Uses the given identifier to return the archived sequence	
POST archive/id/	Retrieve the archived sequence for a set of identifiers	







Find the correct endpoint

Sequence

GET sequence/id/:id	Request multiple types of sequence by stable identifier.	
POST sequence/id	Request multiple types of sequence by a stable identifier list.	
GET se nce/region/:species/:region	Returns the genomic sequence of the specified region of the given species.	
PC se/region/:species	Request multiple types of sequence by a list of regions.	

Find and click sequence/id/:id

 \mathbb{H} / Ctrl + f = find within page







Check the options available

The URL and required parameters

GET sequence/id/:id

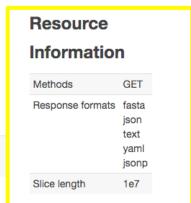
Request multiple types of sequence by stable identifier.

Required parameters and examples

Parameters

Requi	red			
Name	Туре	Description	Default	Example Values
id	String	An Ensembl stable ID	-	ENSG00000157764 ENSG00000157764.fasta (supported on some deployments)

Supported HTTP methods and output formats



Optional

Name	Туре	Description	Default	Example Values
callback	String	Name of the callback subroutine to be returned by the requested JSONP response. Required ONLY when using JSONP as the serialisation method. Please see the user guide.	-	randomlygeneratedname
db_type	String	Restrict the search to a database other than the default. Useful if you need to use a DB other than core	-	core
expand_3prime	Int	Expand the sequence downstream of the sequence by this many basepairs. Only available when using	-	1000
		genomic sequence type.		

The optional parameter set







Select an example

/sequence/id/ENSG00000157764?content-type=text/plain

Example output

Perl

Python2

Python3

Ruby

Java

Curl Wget

CGCCTCCCTTCCCCCGCCGGACAGCGGCCGCTCGGGCCCCGGCTCTCGGTTATAAGATGGCGGCGCTGAGCGGTGGCGGTGGTGGCGGCGCGGAGCCGGGCCAGGCTCTGTTCAACGGGGAACA TTTATTTTGGAAAGAGGCGGCGGTGGGGGCTTGATGCCCTCAGCCACCTTCTCGGGCCAGCTCCGCGGGCTGGGAGGTGGGCATCGCCCCCGTGTCCCTCTCCGTCATGCAGCGCCCTTCCTACGTAAAC ACACACAATGGCCCGGGGGGTTTCCCTGGCCCCCACCCCAGATGTGGGGATTGGGGCAGCGGTGGTTGAGCGGGAGGCTATCAATAGGGGGCGAAACTCAGGGTTGGTCCGAGAAGGTCACGATTGGCT $\mathsf{GGATGATGGGGCTCATCATTTCCTCTCTCCCGGGACTGCCCCCCTTCTCAGTCCGCTGCCCTTTTTCACTTTTTCAGGGGATTTCTCTTCACCTGTTTTACCCAGCAAATTATTTTGATTTA$ TCATTTTCCAGTTGTCGGACCTGCCTTCTAACCCCAGCTCCCACTTAAGAGCATTTTTGCACTTCTCTTACCCTGGTCCTCTTGAGGCTCTGTACTTGATCTCACCACTCCCTAACATTGTTGTC TGTTGTTATCTTCACAAATCCTCCTGGACACTTTGGAGCCTACTTGTTTTCTGAGCCCAGAAGCTGTCAAGATTCCATCAGGTTTCACTTGGCTCTTTTCGCGCTTGCACTACTGGCACTTTTTTGGCTAG ${\sf CAAAATGTGTTCTGTACCATCATCTGTACTGTTCTAAAATTTCTCATTTTTAAGTTTCTTAAAATCATTTCAGTTTCGGTATGGATTTTTGGTTAGATCAGTTTCCTCTAAAATTTTCTCTTTTTTTCCCCC$







Copy and paste in the navigation bar





rest.ensembl.org/sequence/id/ENSG00000157764?content-type=text/plain







Example

Using the stable ID ENSG00000157764 (human BRAF)

- a) Retrieve its genomic sequence in plain text
- b) Soft mask this in FASTA format
- c) Retrieve all linked protein sequences in JSON



Check the parameters

mask

Enum(hard,soft)

Request the sequence masked for repeat sequences. Hard will mask all repeats as N's and soft will mask repeats as lowercased characters. Only available when using genomic sequence type. hard





Check the formats available

Resource

Information

Methods	GET
Response formats	fasta json text yaml jsonp
Slice length	1e7



Output formats

https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-rest/wiki/Output-formats

Format	Content-type	Extension	Notes
FASTA	text/x-fasta	.fasta	Sequence serialisation format. Only supported on the /sequence endpoint.
GFF3	text/x-gff3	.gff3	Genomic feature serialisation format. Only supported on the /overlap endpoint.
BED	text/x-bed	.bed	Browser Extensible Data format as defined by UCSC. Only supported on the /overlap endpoint.







Modify the required parameters





rest.ensembl.org/sequence/id/ENSG00000157764.fasta?mask=soft

>ENSG00000157764 chromosome:GRCh38:7:140719327:140924764:-1 cgcctcccttccccgcccgaCAGCGGCCGCTCGGGCCCCGGCTCTCGGTTATAA GATGGCGCCCTGAGCGGTGCCGTGGTGGCGCGCGCGGGCCCAGGCTCTGTTCAA CGGGGACATGGAGCCCGAggccggcgccggcgcggcgcgcgcgcgcgcTCTTCGGCTGCGGA CCCTGCCATTCCGGAGGAGGTGAGTGCTGGCGCCCACCCTGCCGCCCCTCCCGACTCCGGGC TCGGCGGCTGGCTGTTTATTTTGGAAAGAGGCGGCGGTGGGGGCTTGATGCCCTCAG CCACCTTCTCGGGCCAGCTCCGCGGGCTGGGAGGTGGGCATCGCCCCCGTGTCCCTCTCC GTCATGCAGCGCCTTCCTACGTAAACACACACAATGGCCCGGGGGGGTTTCCCTGGCCCCC ACCCCAGATGTGGGGATTGGGGCAGCGGTGGTTGAGCGGGAGGCTATCAATAGGGGGCGA AACTCAGGGTTGGTCCGAGAAGGTCACGATTGGCTGAAGTATCCAGCTCTGCATCTCTGT GGGGTGGGGGCGCCGCCTCGACGTGGAGGATATAGGTTAGTTGCTGGGGCTGAGAC AACAGCCCGAGTTACTGTCGCGTGTAATTCTTACATGGTCGTGGGGGATGATGGGGGCTCAT CATTTCCTCTCTCCCCGGACTGCCCCCCTTCTCAGTCCGCTGCCCTTTTTTCACTTT TCTATTTGGGGATTTCTCTCTCACCTGTTTTACCCAGCAAATTATTTTGATTTAGTCTTTA CTTTTTCAATCCTAAATCGCAGTTTCCGATGCCTTTTCTGGTCTCTGGTCCTCTGTTCCT AATGTTTGTCAGCGCTCTGTCGCTGATTGGTAACCCCCATTCTATTCCCATCTACCGCCC GCTCATTTTCCAGTTGTCGGACCTGCCTGCCTTCTAACCCCAGCTCCCACTTAAGAGCAT TTTTGCACTTCTCTTACCCTGGTCCTCTTGAGGCTCTGTACTTGATCTCACCACTCCCTA







Example

Using the stable ID ENSG00000157764 (human BRAF)

- a) Retrieve its genomic sequence in plain text
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- c) Retrieve all linked protein sequences in JSON



Check the parameters

type

Enum(genomic,cds,cdna,protein)

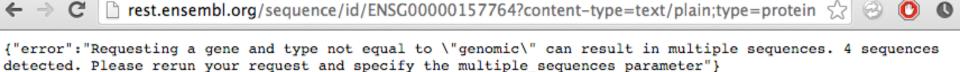
Type of sequence. Defaults to genomic where
applicable, i.e. not translations. cdna refers to the
spliced transcript sequence with UTR; cds refers to the
spliced transcript sequence without UTR.







Modify the required parameters









Check the parameters (again)

multiple_sequences Boolean

Allow the service to return more than 1 sequence per identifier. This is useful when querying for a gene but using a type such as protein.

0







Modify the required parameters





← → C rest.ensembl.org/sequence/id/ENSG00000157764?type=protein;multiple_sequences=1

>ENSP00000419060

XSTTGLSATPPASLPGSLTNVKALOKSPGPORERKSSSSSEDRNRMKTLGRRDSSDDWEI PDGOITVGORIGSGSFGTVYKGKWHGDVAVKMLNVTAPTPOOLOAFKNEVGVLRKTRHVN ILLFMGYSTKPOLAIVTOWCEGSSLYHHLHIIETKFEMIKLIDIAROTAOGMDYLHAKSI IHRDLKSNNIFLHEDLTVKIGDFGLATVKSRWSGSHOFEOLSGSILWMAPEVIRMODKNP YSFOSDVYAFGIVLYELMTGOLPYSNINNRDOIIFMVGRGYLSPDLSKVRSNCPKAMKRL MAECLKKKRDERPLFPOILASIELLARSLPKIHRSASEPSLNRAGFOTEDFSLYACASPK TPIOAGGYGEFAAFK

>ENSP00000288602

MAALSGGGGGAEPGOALFNGDMEPEAGAGAGAAASSAADPAIPEEVWNIKOMIKLTOEH IEALLDKFGGEHNPPSIYLEAYEEYTSKLDALOOREOOLLESLGNGTDFSVSSSASMDTV TSSSSSLSVLPSSLSVFONPTDVARSNPKSPOKPIVRVFLPNKORTVVPARCGVTVRDS LKKALMMRGLIPECCAVYRIODGEKKPIGWDTDISWLTGEELHVEVLENVPLTTHNFVRK TFFTLAFCDFCRKLLFQGFRCQTCGYKFHQRCSTEVPLMCVNYDQLDLLFVSKFFEHHPI POEEASLAETALTSGSSPSAPASDSIGPOILTSPSPSKSIPIPOPFRPADEDHRNOFGOR DRSSSAPNVHINTIEPVNIDDLIRDOGFRGDGGSTTGLSATPPASLPGSLTNVKALOKSP GPQRERKSSSSSEDRNRMKTLGRRDSSDDWEIPDGQITVGQRIGSGSFGTVYKGKWHGDV AVKMLNVTAPTPOOLOAFKNEVGVLRKTRHVNILLFMGYSTKPOLAIVTOWCEGSSLYHH LHIIETKFEMIKLIDIAROTAOGMDYLHAKSIIHRDLKSNNIFLHEDLTVKIGDFGLATV KSRWSGSHOFEOLSGSILWMAPEVIRMODKNPYSFOSDVYAFGIVLYELMTGOLPYSNIN NRDOIIFMVGRGYLSPDLSKVRSNCPKAMKRLMAECLKKKRDERPLFPOILASIELLARS LPKIHRSASEPSLNRAGFOTEDFSLYACASPKTPIOAGGYGAFPVH >ENSP00000418033

IHRDLKSNNIFLHEDLTVKIGDFGLATVKSRWSGSHQFEQLSGSILWMAPEVIRMQDKNP YSFOSDVYAFGIVLYELMTGOLPYSNINNRDOVLCPPWEYNK

>ENSP00000420119

OALFNGDMEPEAGAGAGAAASSAADPAIPEEVWNIKOMIKLTOEHIEALLDKFGGEHNPP SIYLEAYEEYTSKLDALOOREOOLLESLGNGTDFSVSSSASMDTVTSSSSSSLSVLPSSL SVFONPTDVARSNPKSPOKPIVRVFLPNKORTVVPARCGVTVRDSLKKALMMRGLIPECC AVYRIODGSFLELT







Existing endpoints

Endpoint	Entry point	Output data
/alignment	A region	Whole genome alignments from Compara
/genetree	A gene or tree identifier	The corresponding gene tree
/homology	A gene	Corresponding orthologs and paralogs
/xrefs	An external symbol	Corresponding Ensembl object
/info	Species or nothing	Information about data available
/lookup	A stable identifier	Information related to that feature
/map	A region to convert	Equivalent coordinates in another context
/overlap	A region or feature	All features overlapping that region
/regulatory	A stable identifier	Corresponding regulatory features
/sequence	A stable identifier	The corresponding sequence
/variation	A variation id	Corresponding variation features
/vep	A region or a variation id	Corresponding variant consequences







Example

Starting with a region in GRCh37, 17:64216194-64218564:1

- a) Find the corresponding region in assembly GRCh38
- b) Find genes overlapping this region
- c) Explore the corresponding gene tree
- d) Look for variant consequences



Example

Starting with a region in GRCh37, 17:64216194-64218564:1

- a) Find the corresponding region in assembly GRCh38
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Find the correct endpoint

Description
Convert from cDNA coordinates to genomic coordinate API.
Convert from CDS coordinates to genomic coordinates
Convert the co-ordinates of one assembly to another
Convert from protein (translation) coordinates to genome the Ensembl API.





Select an example

Example Requests

/map/human/GRCh37/X:1000000..1000100:1/GRCh38?content-type=application/json

Example output Perl Python2 Python3 Ruby Java Curl Wget

```
{
    "mappings": [
    {
        "original": {
            "seq_region_name": "X",
            "strand": 1,
            "coord_system": "chromosome",
        "end": 1000100,
        "start": 1000000,
        "assembly": "GRCh37"
    },
    "mapped": {
        "seq_region_name": "X",
        "strand": 1,
        "coord_system": "chromosome",
        "end": 1039365,
        "start": 1039265
```







Copy and paste in the navigation bar



GRCh7:17:64216194-64218564:1 maps to GRCh38:17:66220076-66222446:1







Example

Starting with a region in GRCh37, 17:64216194-64218564:1

- a) Find the corresponding region in assembly GRCh38
- b) Find genes overlapping this region
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- d) Look for variant consequences



Find the correct endpoint

Resource

GET overlap/id/:id

GET overlap/region/:species/:region

GET overlap/translation/:id

Description

Retrieves features (e.g. genes, transcripts, variations et

Retrieves multiple types of features for a given region.

Retrieve features related to a specific Translation as de









Select an example

Example Requests

/overlap/region/human/7:140424943-140624564?

feature=gene;feature=transcript;feature=cds;feature=exon;content-

type=application/json

Example output Perl Python2 Python3 Ruby Java Curl Wget

```
[
{
    "source": "ensembl_havana",
    "logic_name": "ensembl_havana_gene",
    "feature_type": "gene",
    "external_name": "RAB19",
    "havana_version": "1",
    "seq_region_name": "7",
    "havana_gene": "OTTHUMG00000157410",
    "strand": 1,
    "id": "ENSG00000146955",
```







Copy and paste in the navigation bar

Found one gene: ENSG00000091583







Example

Starting with a region in GRCh37, 17:64216194-64218564:1

- a) Find the corresponding region in assembly GRCh38
- b) Find genes overlapping this region
- c) Explore the corresponding gene tree
- d) Look for variant consequences



Find the correct endpoint

Comparative Genomics

Resource	Description
GET genetree/id/:id	Retrieves a gene tree dump for a gene tree stable identifier
GET genetree/member/id/:id	Retrieves a gene tree that contains the stable identifier
GET genetree/member/symbol/:species/:symbol	Retrieves a gene tree containing the gene identified by a symbol







Select an example

Example Requests

/genetree/member/id/ENSG00000157764?content-type=text/x-phyloxml%2Bxml

Example output Perl Python2 Python3 Ruby Java Curl Wget







Copy and paste in the navigation bar

← → C rest.ensembl.org/genetree/member/id/ENSG00000091583

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<phyloxml xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.phyloxml.org http://www.phy</pre>
  <phylogeny rooted="true" type="gene tree">
    <clade branch length="0">
      <confidence type="duplication confidence score">0.9853</confidence</pre>
      <taxonomy>
        <id>33213</id>
        <scientific name>Bilateria</scientific name>
      </taxonomy>
      <events>
        <type>speciation or duplication</type>
        <duplications>1</duplications>
      </events>
      <clade branch length="0">
        <taxonomy>
          <id>33213</id>
          <scientific name>Bilateria</scientific name>
        </taxonomy>
        <clade branch length="0.014137">
          <confidence type="duplication confidence score">0.1970</cc</pre>
          <taxonomy>
            <id>7711</id>
```







Example

Starting with a region in GRCh37, 17:64216194-64218564:1

- a) Find the corresponding region in assembly GRCh38
- b) Find genes overlapping this region
- c) Explore the corresponding gene tree
- d) Look for variant consequences

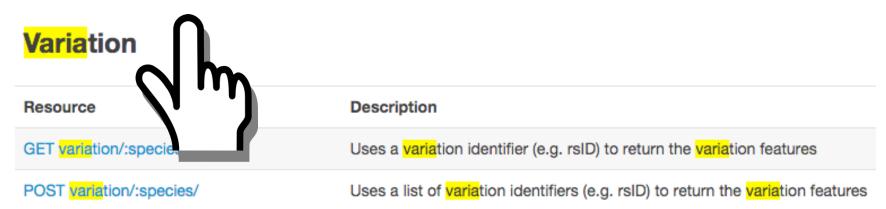




Find the correct endpoint

VEP

Resource	Description
GET vep/:species/hgvs/:hgvs_notation	Fetch variant consequences based on a HGVS notation
GET vep/:species/id/:id	Fetch variant consequences based on a variation identifier
POST vep/:species/id	Fetch variant consequences for multiple ids
GET vep/:species/region/:region/:allele/	Fetch variant consequences
POST vep/:species/region	Fetch variant consequences for multiple regions









Select an example

Example Requests

/vep/human/region/9:22125503-22125502:1/C?content-type=application/json

Example output Perl Python2 Python3 Ruby Java Curl Wget







Copy and paste in the navigation bar

← → C rest.ensembl.org/vep/human/region/17:66220076-66222446:1/C?content-type=text/xml

This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The document tree is shown below.

```
▼<opt>
 ▼<data id="temp"
   allele string="AAAGATTTTTAAAATGTGTAACAATCAGACAGCAACCCAGTCTTAACCTTCATCTCCTAGGACTCTCCAATTTAACCCAGG
   assembly name="GRCh38" end="66222446" most severe consequence="splice acceptor variant" seq region
   ▼<transcript consequences biotype="protein coding" gene id="ENSG00000091583" gene symbol="APOH"
      <consequence terms>splice acceptor variant</consequence terms>
      <consequence terms>splice donor variant</consequence terms>
      <consequence terms>coding sequence variant</consequence terms>
      <consequence terms>intron variant</consequence terms>
    </transcript consequences>
   ▼<transcript consequences biotype="protein coding" gene id="ENSG00000091583" gene symbol="APOH"
      <consequence terms>splice acceptor variant</consequence terms>
      <consequence terms>splice donor variant</consequence terms>
      <consequence terms>coding sequence variant</consequence terms>
      <consequence terms>intron variant</consequence terms>
    </transcript consequences>
   ▼<transcript consequences biotype="protein coding" gene id="ENSG00000091583" gene symbol="APOH"
      <consequence terms>splice donor variant</consequence terms>
      <consequence terms>coding sequence variant</consequence terms>
```







Write a script: documentation

Multiple stub clients designed Example output Python2 Python3 Ruby Perl Java Wget to get you working with REST fast my \$server = 'http://rest.ensembl.org'; my \$ext = '/overlap/region/human/7:140424943-140624564?feature=gene;feature=transcript;feature=cds;feature=exon'; 9. 10. my \$response = \$http->get(\$server.\$ext, { 11. headers => { 'Content-type' => 'application/json' } 12. }); 13. 14. die "Failed!\n" unless \$response->{success}; 17. use JSON: 18. use Data::Dumper: 19. if(length \$response->{content}) { 20. my \$hash = decode_json(\$response->{content}); Show more advanced techniques e.g. local \$Data::Dumper::Terse = 1; 22. local \$Data::Dumper::Indent = 1; providing headers and looking at 23. print Dumper \$hash; server response codes for errors 24. print "\n";







Modify the example script

```
my $server = 'http://rest.ensembl.org';
my $ext = '/overlap/region/human/7:140424943-140624564?feature=gene';
my $response = $http->get($server.$ext, {
   headers => { 'Content-type' => 'application/json' }
});
```



Modify the example script

```
my $server = 'http://rest.ensembl.org';
my $ext = '/overlap/region/human/7:140424943-140624564?feature=gene';
my $response = $http->get($server.$ext, {
  headers => { 'Content-type' => 'application/json' }
});
my $server = 'http://rest.ensembl.org';
my $region = '7:140424943-140624564';
my $overlap_endpoint = '/overlap/region/human/';
my $overlap_options = '?feature=gene';
my $ext = $overlap_endpoint . $region . $overlap_options;
my $response = $http->get($server.$ext, {
  headers => { 'Content-type' => 'application/json' }
});
```





Create re-usable methods

```
sub perform rest action {
 my ($endpoint, $headers) = @ ;
 $parameters ||= {};
 $headers ||= {};
 $headers->{'Content-Type'} = 'application/json' unless exists $headers->{'Content-Type'};
 my $url = $server.$endpoint;
 my $response = $http->get($url, {headers => $headers});
 my $status = $response->{status};
 if(!$response->{success}) {
     my ($status, $reason) = ($response->{status}, $response->{reason});
     die "Failed for $endpoint! Status code: ${status}. Reason: ${reason}\n";
  $request_count++;
 if(length $response->{content}) {
    return $response->{content};
  return;
```





Multiple queries

/sequence/id

Example output Example input Perl Python2 Python3 Ruby Java Curl Wget

```
use strict;
      use warnings;
      use HTTP::Tiny;
5.
6.
      my $http = HTTP::Tiny->new();
7.
      my $server = 'http://rest.ensembl.org';
      my $ext = '/sequence/id';
10.
      my $response = $http->request('POST', $server.$ext, {
11.
        headers => {
12.
              'Content-type' => 'application/json',
13.
              'Accept' => 'application/json'
14.
       },
        content => '{ "ids" : ["ENSG00000157764", "ENSG00000248378" ] }'
     });
17.
18.
      die "Failed!\n" unless $response->{success};
19.
```







https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-rest/wiki

Ensembl REST 4.3 User Guide

The following guide refers to the 4.3 release of the Ensembl REST API. For support please contact helpdesk or our dev mailing list.

Contents

- 1. Writing Your First Client
- 2. Example Clients (all query for a Gene and look for overlapping variation)
 - Example Java Client
 - Example Perl Client
 - Example Python Client
 - Example Ruby Client







Documentation and Help

- https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-presentation/
 - This presentation
- https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-rest/wiki
 - How to write your first client
 - How to write POST requests
- dev@ensembl.org mailing list:
 - http://www.ensembl.org/info/about/contact/mailing.html searchable mailing list archive:
 - http://blog.gmane.org/gmane.science.biology.ensembl.devel
- Ensembl helpdesk:
 - helpdesk@ensembl.org







Feedback

http://tinyurl.com/Ensembl-REST







Ensembl Acknowledgements

The Entire Ensembl Team

Fiona Cunningham¹, M. Ridwan Amode¹, Daniel Barrell^{1,2}, Kathryn Beal¹, Konstantinos Billis¹, Simon Brent², Denise Carvalho-Silva¹, Peter Clapham², Guy Coates², Stephen Fitzgerald¹, Laurent Gil¹, Carlos García Girón¹, Leo Gordon¹, Thibaut Hourlier¹, Sarah E. Hunt¹, Sophie H. Janacek¹, Nathan Johnson¹, Thomas Juettemann¹, Andreas K. Kähäri², Stephen Keenan¹, Fergal J. Martin¹, Thomas Maurel¹, William McLaren¹, Daniel N. Murphy^{1,2}, Rishi Nag¹, Bert Overduin¹, Anne Parker¹, Mateus Patricio¹, Emily Perry¹, Miguel Pignatelli¹, Harpreet Singh Riat¹, Daniel Sheppard¹, Kieron Taylor¹, Anja Thormann¹, Alessandro Vullo¹, Steven P. Wilder¹, Amonida Zadissa¹, Bronwen L. Aken¹, Ewan Birney¹, Jennifer Harrow², Rhoda Kinsella¹, Matthieu Muffato¹, Magali Ruffier¹, Stephen M.J. Searle², Giulietta Spudich¹, Stephen J. Trevanion¹, Andy Yates¹, Daniel R. Zerbino¹ and Paul Flicek^{1,2,*}

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Species Required

Standard Ensembl REST Parameters

:id - The global ID for that object. Normally a stable ID

ENSG00000157764

ENSGT00390000003602

:species – Species name (any Ensembl alias will do)

human

homo_sapiens

:region – 1 base locations CHR:START-END:STRAND

1:1000-2000

chr1:1000-2000:-1

:symbol - Reserved for Genes. Indicates a name to use

BRAF

BRCA2







Specifying Output Formats

- File extension
 - http://rest.ensembl.org/sequence/id/ENST00000288602.json?
 type=cds
- HTTP Parameter
 - http://rest.ensembl.org/sequence/id/ENST00000288602?contenttype=application/json;type=cds
- HTTP Header
 - http://rest.ensembl.org/sequence/id/ENST00000288602?type=cds
 - Content-Type: application/json







Programming Against REST

Build a URL Specify the response format Send HTTP query Read the response · Parse the result if successful If not report the error Respect the rate limit







Rules When Writing a Client

- Choose your most convenient language
 - If you are a Python programmer, use Python
- Find a good HTTP and JSON library for your language
- Try to limit your requests to 15 per second
 - We will limit you to ~54,000 per hour
 - Basic way is to count & sleep for fractions of seconds
- Create reusable methods for querying
 - It will make things easier







Pre-Written REST Clients

All of these are 3rd party contributed

- R https://github.com/acbb/EnsemblRest
- Node.js https://github.com/jermth/EnsemblFetches
- Ruby https://github.com/ALTree/bio-ensembl-rest
- Java https://github.com/heuermh/ensembl-rest-client
- Python https://github.com/pyOpenSci/pyEnsemblRest





REST Terminology

Томи	Definition	Evenue
Term	Definition	Example
Endpoint	A URL which will respond to a HTTP request and return data	/sequence/id/ ENST00000288602.fasta
HTTP Header	Sent to the server along side the requested URL.	Accepts: application/json Content-type: application/json
HTTP Parameter	Key value pairs separated by an = sign given to an endpoint after all required parameters.	?type=cds
HTTP Method	Tells the server the kind of operation you want to perform. Are you retrieving data or sending data to the server	GET POST
HTTP Status Code	Indicates to the client what the server did with a request ranging from "OK", to "Server Error" and "Your Input Was Wrong"	200 400 404 500
JSON	Common cross-language data structure interchange format	{ "key": [1, "two"]}







Output Formats

Format	Content-Type	Extension	Notes
FASTA	text/x-fasta	.fasta	
GFF3	text/x-gff3	.gff3	
JSON	application/json	.json	Standard serialisation format
JSONP	text/javascript	.jsonp	Used to avoid browser sandbox issues. Use CORS instead
Newick	text/x-nh	.nh	Old tree format. Use PhyloXML instead
SeqXML	text/x-seqxml+xml	.seqxml	FASTA replacement
PhyloXML	text/x-phyloxml+xml	.phyloxml	Phylogenetic format
Text	text/plain	.txt	
XML	text/xml	.xml	
YAML	text/x-yaml	.yaml	







Response Codes - Server Meta Data

Code	Class	Meaning
200	Success	Everything is groovy!
4xx	Client error	Range specifying some kind of error in the user request.
400	Client error	User has made a bad request e.g. bad parameters
404	Client error	Location cannot be found
415	Client error	Unsupported media type; bad format request made
429	Client error	Too many requests made. Observe the Retry-After header
5xx	Server error	Anything in the 500 range is a server issue. You cannot fix this
503	Server error	Server unavailable. Probably down for maintenance.







HTTP Response Headers

Name	Data type	Meaning
Content-type	MIME type	Describes what format the response is. The formats are the same as those used in the content-type request header
Retry-After	Floating point seconds	If found you must wait for this long before retrying the server
X-RateLimit-Limit	Integer	What the total limit of requests is
X-RateLimit-Remaining	Integer	How many requests you have left
X-RateLimit-Reset	Floating point seconds	How long before your tokens reset to the amount given in X-RateLimit-Limit
X-Runtime	Floating point seconds	The amount of time this request took







Documentation and Help

- https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-rest/wiki
 - How to write your first client
 - How to write POST requests
- dev@ensembl.org mailing list:
 - http://www.ensembl.org/info/about/contact/mailing.html searchable mailing list archive:
 - http://blog.gmane.org/gmane.science.biology.ensembl.devel
- Ensembl helpdesk:
 - helpdesk@ensembl.org



