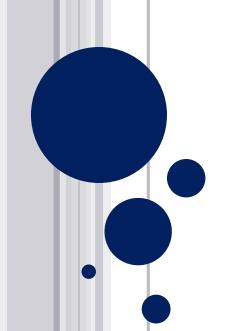


Jessie Bologna 5/18/20

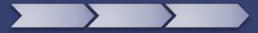
NYU Bioinformatics — Problem Solving for Bioinformatics



INTRODUCTION:

ORF1ab Spike Protein:

- The novel virus SARS-CoV-2 which is the virus responsible for the Covid-19 outbreak is closely related to its predecessor SARS-CoV with both viruses sharing 79% sequence identity.
- Both viruses also use angiotensin converting enzyme-2 (ACE2) as its cellular receptor.
- However the SARS-CoV-2 spike-protein has nearly a 10-20-fold higher affinity for ACE2 than the corresponding spike protein of SARS-CoV which accounts for its higher virulence capacity
- (Kober et al., 2020)
- The ORF1ab spike protein mediates binding and entry into the host cells which allows the virus to infect the individual.
- This protein is often a good target for vaccine development, therefore it is important to understand any changes or mutations that affect this protein.
- (Wrap et al, 2020).



The following sequence analysis pipeline will outline and detail the steps of analyzing the genomic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 OFR1ab spike protein.

ANALYSIS PIPELINE:

Step 1: Mapping the SNPS (mutations)



Step 2: Parsing the files to obtain the coding sequences for each gene and strain in the whole genome



Step 3: Multiple Sequence Alignment: Using BLAST+

 Compare the coding sequences from all the various strains of ORF1ab to the mutated reference genome file.



Step 4: Parse and interpret output files

STEP 1: MAPPING THE SNPs

- Map mutations to reference genome NC_045512.fasta, by using the SNP table.
 - Input file: The virus's full genome fasta file(obtained from NCBI)
- Create a new genome file with the incorporated SNPs
 - Output file: mutated reference genome titled NC_045512_Mutated.fasta.
- Perform this operation for each genome strain.

```
1 #Get full genome sequence from file and turn into a list for parsing
 2 import os
 3 def Map Mutations (input file):
        with open (input file, 'r') as input file:
            #open fasta file to get the genome for reading
            #remove the first line
           header = input file.readline()
           #turn the sequence into a list
9
           wild type list = [x for line in input file.read().split('\n') for x in line]
10
            #print the first mutation location to check that it is the wildtype file
11
            print(wild type list[240])
12
13
        #Then open the SNP location file for reading to get the mutated genome from the locations
14
        with open ('countResult.txt', 'r') as input file2:
15
            #remove the first line
16
           input file2.readline()
17
            #open a file to write the final mutated genome
18
            out = open('NC 045512 mutated.txt', 'w')
19
            #loop through the snp location file and split at the :
20
            #then get insert the mutated snp at the index location in the wild type genome list
21
           for i in input file2.readlines():
22
                coord, mutate = i.split(':')
23
                wild type list[int(coord)-1] = mutate[4]
24
            print(wild type list[240])
           mutation = "".join(wild type list)
25
26
27
            output dir = os.getcwd()
28
            if not os.path.isdir(output dir + '/Mutated fasta/' ):
29
                os.mkdir(output dir + '/Mutated fasta/')
30
            with open(output dir + '\Mutated fasta\\' + 'NC 045512 Mutated.fasta', "w") as f:
                f.write(str('>2019-nCoV|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05') + '\n'+ mutation)
32
            print( '\n'+ "Files Saved in Directory" + '\n')
33
```

STEP 1: MAPPING SNP'S CONT.

- ☑ Map changes to reference genome NC_045512.fasta, by using the SNP table.
- ☑ Create a new genome file with the incorporated SNPs, called NC_045512_Mutated.fasta.
- Perform the previous operation for each genome strain
 - Here we create a new file containing the mutated coding sequences's for each gene by obtaining the genes coordinates from the virus's Genbank file

```
def Mutated CDS per Genes(input file):
       with open (input file, 'r') as f: #Just make sure to change this file to the mutated file
            data = f.read()
            #get the mutated cds for each gene
            #slide at the locations of each gene from the genbank file
            ORFlab = (data[265:21555])
            #write the sliced data to the outfile as the mutated cds for each gene
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene ORFlab' + '\n' + str(ORFlab) + '\n')
            S = (data[21562:25384])
10
           out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene S' + '\n' + str(S) + '\n')
11
           ORF3a = (data[25392:26220])
12
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene ORF3a' + '\n' + str(ORF3a) + '\n')
13
            E = (data[26244:26472])
           out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene E' + '\n' + Step 1:E) + '\n')
14
15
           M = (data[26522:27191])
16
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene M' + '\n' + str(M) + '\n')
            ORF6 = (data[27201:27387])
18
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene ORF6' + '\n' + str(ORF6) + '\n')
19
            ORF7a = (data[27393:277591)
20
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene ORF7a' + '\n' + str(ORF7a) + '\n')
21
            ORF7b = (data[27755:27887])
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene ORF7b' + '\n' + str(ORF7b) + '\n')
23
            ORF8 = (data[27893:28259])
24
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene ORF8' + '\n' + str(ORF8) + '\n')
25
           N = (data[28273:29533])
26
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene N' + '\n' + str(N) + '\n')
27
            ORF10 = (data[29557:29674])
28
29
            out.write('Mutated CDS for Gene ORF10' + '\n' + str(ORF10) + '\n')
            out.close()
```

STEP 2: Parsing the Coding Sequences

- Parse the coding sequences for all genes and strains. (Your file should look like below image)
 - Input file: SARS-CoV-2-CdsFastaResults.fasta (provided by professor)
 - Output files: A separate file for each gene which will contain all of the genes various strains coding sequences.
- Then create files of the coding sequences for each ORF1ab strain
- Translate each coding sequence for ORF1ab into its corresponding protein sequence.

```
11 def parse fasta per gene (input file):
       with open (input file, 'r') as input file:
           output dir = os.getcwd()
           if not os.path.isdir(output dir + '/SARS-CoV2 CDS Outputfile/' ):
                os.mkdir(output dir + '/SARS-CoV2 CDS Outputfile/')
15
16
           Genes = ['E','M','N', 'NS3','NS6','NS7a','NS7b','NS8','orfla','orflab','S','ORF10','ORF3a','ORF6
18
           list = []
19
          #loop through each element to split
          for element in input file:
               list.append(element)
           line = ''.join(list)
          x = line.split('>')
         for i in Genes:
              symbol = 'Gene Symbol:'+ i
               filename = symbol + '-' + '.fasta'
               filename = filename.replace('Gene Symbol:', 'Gene and Strains')
               #open outfile for writing
               out file = open(output dir + '\\SARS-CoV2 CDS Outputfile\\' + filename, 'w')
               for line in x:
                   if symbol in line:
                       out file.write(str('>') + line)
               out file.close()
```

```
>gb:MN988668:26244-26471|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2|Strain Name:2019-nCoV WHU01|Protein Name:envelope protein|Gene Symbol:E
ATGTACTCATTCGTTTCGGAAGAGACAGGTACGTTAATAGCGTACTTCTTTTCTTGCTTTCG
TGGTATTCTTGCTAGTTACACTAGCCATCCTTACTGCGCTTCGATTGTGTGCGTACTGCTGCAATATTGT
TAACGTGAGTCTTGTAAAACCTTCTTTTTACGTTTACCGTGTAAAAAATCTGAATTCTTCTAGAGTT
CCTGATCTTCTGGTCTAA

pgb:MN988669:26244-26471|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2|Strain Name:2019-nCoV WHU02|Protein Name:envelope protein|Gene Symbol:E
ATGTACTCATTCGTTGGAAGAGGACAGGTACGTTAATAGTTAATAGCGTACTTCTTTTCTTGCTTTCG
TGGTATCTTCTGGTAAAACCTTCTTTACGTTTACGTTTACGTTGTGCGTACTGCTGCAATATTGT
TAACGTGAGTCTTGTAAAAACCTTCTTTTTACGTTTACGTTTAAAAAATCTGAATTCTTCTAGAGTT
CCTGATCTTCTGGTCTAA
```

STEP 2: Parsing Coding Sequences for ORF1ab

- ☑ Parse the coding sequence for ORF1ab from all genome strains.
- Translate each coding sequence for ORF1ab into its corresponding protein sequences.
 - Input file: File created from previous step for the ORD1ab gene (this contains all the CDS's for each of ORF1ab's strains.
 - Output file: The output file will be very similar to the input file, except the coding sequences for each strain will now
 be translated into its amino acid sequence. We do this by using the below codon table in our code.
 - *Note: I used the Biopython modules: SeqIO, Alphabet, and IUPAC.

```
from Bio import SeqIO
from Bio.Alphabet import IUPAC
def parse fasta protein (input file):
    input file = SeqIO.parse("SARS-CoV-2-CdsFastaResults.fasta", 'fasta')
    #open outfile for writing
    with open('Gene orflab Protein.txt', 'w') as out file;
        # DNA codon table
        protein = {"TTT" : "F", "CTT" : "L", "ATT" : "I", "GTT" : "V",
                   "TTC": "F", "CTC": "L", "ATC": "I", "GTC": "V",
                   "TTA" : "L", "CTA" : "L", "ATA" : "I", "GTA" : "V",
                   "TTG" : "L", "CTG" : "L", "ATG" : "M", "GTG" : "V",
                   "TCT" : "S", "CCT" : "P", "ACT" : "T", "GCT" : "A",
                   "TCC": "S", "CCC": "P", "ACC": "T", "GCC": "A",
                   "TCA" : "S", "CCA" : "P", "ACA" : "T", "GCA" : "A"
                   "TCG": "S", "CCG": "P", "ACG": "T", "GCG": "A",
                   "TAT" : "Y", "CAT" : "H", "AAT" : "N", "GAT" : "D",
                   "TAC" : "Y", "CAC" : "H", "AAC" : "N", "GAC" : "D",
                   "TAA": "STOP", "CAA": "Q", "AAA": "K", "GAA": "E",
                   "TAG" : "STOP", "CAG" : "Q", "AAG" : "K", "GAG" : "E",
                   "TGT" : "C", "CGT" : "R", "AGT" : "S", "GGT" : "G",
                   "TGC" : "C", "CGC" : "R", "AGC" : "S", "GGC" : "G",
                   "TGA" : "STOP", "CGA" : "R", "AGA" : "R", "GGA" : "G",
                   "TGG" : "W", "CGG" : "R", "AGG" : "R", "GGG" : "G"
        protein sequence = ""
        for line in input file:
           if 'orflab' in line.description:
                Seq1 = line.seq
        for i in range (0, len (Seq1) - (3+len (Seq1) %3), 3):
            if protein[Seq1[i:i+3]] == "STOP" :
                break
            protein sequence += protein[Seq1[i:i+3]]
```

STEP 3: MULTIPLE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

- Here I will run the multiple sequence alignment in BLAST+ on my local machine
 - To do this make sure to install BLAST+ on your computer by following the install instructions from NCBI
- First set up our BLAST databases by running *makeblastdb*:
 - One db with the reference genome file
 - One db with the mutated genome file that we created by mapping the SNP's

For the mutated ref database I used the mutated fasta file as the -in file

```
lmin@admin-PC /cygdrive/c/users/admin/desktop/NCBI/blast-2.10.0+/db
 makeblastdb -in NC_045512.fasta -dbtype nucl -title SARSCOV2_ref -out NC_045512.fasta_ref
Building a new DB, current time: 05/18/2020 19:00:23
New DB name: C:\users\admin\desktop\NCBI\blast-2.10.0+\db\NC_045512.fasta_ref
New DB title: SARSCOV2_ref
Sequence type: Nucleotide
Deleted existing Nucleotide BLAST database named C:\users\admin\desktop\NCBI\blast-2.10.0+\db\NC_045512.fasta_ref
Keep MBits: T
                                                                              For the non-mutated ref
Maximum file size: 1000000000B
Adding sequences from FASTA: added 1 sequences in 0.000860156 seconds.
                                                                                database Lused the
                                                                             reference genome file as
                                                                                    the -in file
admin@admin-PC /cygdrive/c/users/admin/desktop/NCBI/blast-2.10.0+/db
$ makeblastdb -in NC 045512 Mutated.fasta -dbtype nucl -title SARSCOV2 Mutated ref -out NC 045512 Mutated.fasta ref
Building a new DB, current time: 05/18/2020 19:15:19
New DB name: C:\users\admin\desktop\NCBI\blast-2.10.0+\db\NC_045512_Mutated.fasta_ref
New DB title: SARSCOV2_Mutated_ref
Sequence type: Nucleotide
Keep MBits: T
Maximum file size: 1000000000B
dding sequences from FASTA; added 1 sequences in 0.00121503 seconds.
  ding sequences from FASTA; added 1 sequences in 0.00121503 seconds.
```

STEP 3: MULTIPLE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

The next step is to run the sequence alignment:

- We are going to run a series of local alignments on the virus's key gene ORF1ab, which forms the spike protein structure that attaches itself to the ACE2 receptor enabling it to enters the host cell.
- We are going to do our alignment using *blastn*.
 - Run all of ORF1ab's strains against the mutated database (I also ran against the non-mutated db just as a reference)
 - Run based on different perc_identity: 95, 90, and 85 (also you can change various other parameters)
 - Note: I obtained two different file formats; the default format and an xml format. The xml format will be used in the next step to parse the results for easier analysis.

```
admin@admin-PC /cygdrive/c/users/admin/desktop/NCBI/blast-2.10.0+/db
$ blastn -query Gene_and_strains_orflab.fasta -db NC_045512_Mutated.fasta_ref -perc_identity 90 -outfmt 5 -out MSA_Results_90

admin@admin-PC /cygdrive/c/users/admin/desktop/NCBI/blast-2.10.0+/db
$ blastn -query Gene_and_strains_orflab.fasta -db NC_045512_Mutated.fasta_ref -perc_identity 90 -out MSA_Results_90_txt
```

Here is a snippet of what the Database: SARSCOV2 Mutated ref summary results look like-1 sequences; 29,903 total letters located on the top and bottom of each alignment in the output file Query= qb:MN988668:265-21554|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2|Strain Name: 2019-nCoV WHU01|Protein Name: orflab polyprotein|Gene Symbol:orflab Length=21291 Score Sequences producing significant alignments: (Bits) Value 2019-nCoV|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05 37331 0.0 >2019-nCoV|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05 Length=29903 Score = 37331 bits (20215), Expect = 0.0 Identities = 20925/21291 (98%), Gaps = 1/21291 (0%)

Lambda 1.33 0.621 1.12 Gapped Lambda 0.460 0.850 1.28 Effective search space used: 635641293 Database: SARSCOV2 Mutated ref Posted date: May 18, 2020 7:15 PM Number of letters in database: 29,903 Number of sequences in database: 1 Matrix: blastn matrix 1 -2 Gap Penalties: Existence: 0, Extension: 2.5

STEP 4: PARSE THE RESULTS

- Parse the output file to check for variations of the of1ab gene per strains:
 - Use NCBIXML parser to parse the output file (make sure to format the output file as XML)
 - The output file (default format) produces an alignment for each strain note on the below images that not all strains have the same scores
 - By parsing the file (XML format) we can check the alignments to see where the strains vary
 - (* Here I used the Biopython modules Blast and Bio.Blast NCBIXML)

```
from Bio import Blast
from Bio. Blast import NCBIXML
import os
def Parse MSA Results (input file):
    #use SegIO parser to parse the file
    with open (input file, 'r') as f:
        results = NCBIXML.parse(f)
        out = open('MSA Results.txt','w')
        for result in results:
            for alignment in result.alignments:
                for hsp in alignment.hsps:
                    if hsp.expect <= 0.00:
                        out.write('\n' + '****Alignment****' + '\n')
                        out.write ('sequence: ' + str(alignment.title) + '\n')
                        out.write('ID:' + str(result.guery id) + "\n")
                        out.write('ID:' + str(result.query[:170])+ "\n")
                        out.write('score: ' + str(hsp.score) + '\n')
                        out.write('gaps:' + str(hsp.gaps) + '\n')
                        out.write(hsp.query[0:75] + '...' + '\n')
                        out.write (hsp.match[0:75] + '...' + '\n')
                        out.write(hsp.sbjct[0:75] + '...' + '\n')
        out.close()
```

```
Query= gb:MN908947:266-21555|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2|Strain Name:Wuhan-Hu-1|Protein Name:orflab polyprotein|Gene Symbol:orflab

Length=21291
Score E
Sequences producing significant alignments: (Bits) Value
2019-nCoV|WH01|NC_045512|2020-01-05 37331 0.0

>2019-nCoV|WH01|NC_045512|2020-01-05
Length=29903
Score = 37331 bits (20215), Expect = 0.0
Identities = 20925/21291 (98%), Gaps = 1/21291 (0%)
```

Strand=Plus/Plus

```
Query= qb:MT246473:192-21478|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome
coronavirus 2|Strain Name:SARS-CoV-2/human/USA/WA-UW216/2020|Protein
Name:orflab polyprotein|Gene Symbol:orflab
Length=21288
                                                                       Score
Sequences producing significant alignments:
                                                                                 Value
                                                                      (Bits)
2019-nCoV|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05
                                                                       37296
                                                                                  0.0
>2019-ncov|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05
Length=29903
 Score = 37296 bits (20196), Expect = 0.0
 Identities = 20916/21291 (98%), Gang = 4/21291 (98%)
 Strand=Plus/Plus
```

STEP 4: PARSE THE RESULTS

Variations between strains:

- After parsing the output file it is easier to read and to see where the alignments vary
- In the below sample of the parsed output file you can see that some strains have larger variations in scores and gaps.

```
****Alignment****
sequence:qn1|BL ORD ID|0 2019-nCoV|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05
ID: Query 1
ID:gb:MN988668:265-21554|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2|Strain Name:2019-nCoV WHU01|Protein Name:orflab
polyprotein|Gene Symbol:orflab
score: 20215.0
gaps:1
ATGGAGAGCCTTGTCCCTGGTTTCAACGAGAAAACACACGTCCAACTCAGTTTGCCTGTTTTACAGGTTCGCGAC...
\tt ATGGAGAGCCTTGTCCCTGGTTTCAACGAGAAAACACACGTCCAACTTAGTTTGCCTGTTTTACAGGTTTGCGAC\dots
****Alignment****
sequence:gnl|BL ORD ID|0 2019-nCoV|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05
ID:gb:MN988669:265-21554|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2|Strain Name:2019-nCoV WHU02|Protein Name:orflab
polyprotein|Gene Symbol:orflab
score: 20215.0
gaps:1
ATGGAGAGCCTTGTCCCTGGTTTCAACGAGAAAACACACGTCCAACTCAGTTTGCCTGTTTTACAGGTTCGCGAC...
ATGGAGAGCCTTGTCCCTGGTTTCAACGAGAAAACACACGTCCAACTTAGTTTGCCTGTTTTACAGGTTTGCGAC...
****Alignment****
sequence:qn1|BL ORD ID|0 2019-nCoV|WH01|NC 045512|2020-01-05
ID:Query 3
ID:gb:LC521925:263-21528|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2|Strain Name:2019-nCoV/Japan/AI/I-004/2020|Protein
Name:orflab polyprotein|Gene Symbol:orfla
score:20140.0
gaps:25
AICCAGAGCCT/GTCCCTGGTTTCAACGAGAAAACACACGTCCAACTCAGTTTGCCTGTTTTACAGGTTCGCGAC...
ATGGAGAGCCTTGTCCCTGGTTTCAACGAGAAAACACACGTCCAACTTAGTTTGCCTGTTTTACAGGTTTGCGAC...
```

STEP 4: PARSE THE RESULTS

Variations between strains –

- You can change the parameters when parsing the output file to show lower scoring hits, or hits with high number of gaps etc.
- See below example of some strains from orf1ab that have a higher variation from the mutated genome file
- From these files you can note important changes and variations between strains in the ORF1ab region of the genome to reach conclusions about the viruses ability to bind to the receptor site –
 - Such changes can cause either a higher ability to bind and enter the cell causing it to be more virulent
 - Or some mutations can work against the virus by limiting its ability to bind to the receptor site making it more difficult to enter the cell.
- A further step is to run an alignment using the ORF1ab's translated sequence to look for specific amino acid changes which will help to analyze these variations and mutations.

```
from Bio import Blast
from Bio.Blast import NCBIXML
import os
def Parse MSA Results (input file):
    #use SeqIO parser to parse the file
    with open(input file, 'r') as f:
        results = NCBIXML.parse(f)
        out = open('MSA Results low score.txt', 'w')
        for result in results:
            for alignment in result.alignments:
                for hsp in alignment.hsps:
                    if hsp.score <= 20150:
                        out.write('\n' + '****Alignment****' + '\n')
                        out.write ('sequence:' + str(alignment.title) + '\n')
                        out.write('ID:' + str(result.query id) + "\n")
                        out.write('ID:' + str(result.query[:170])+ "\n")
                        out.write('score: ' + str(hsp.score) + '\n')
                        out.write('gaps:' + str(hsp.gaps) + '\n')
                        out.write(hsp.query[0:75] + '...' + '\n')
                        out.write (hsp.match[0:75] + '...' + '\n')
                        out.write(hsp.sbjct[0:75] + '...' + '\n')
        out.close()
```

****Alignment****

sequence:gnlIBL ORD IDI0 2019-nCoVIWH01INC 045512I2020-01-05

ID:gb:LC521925:263-21528|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2| Strain Name:2019-nCoV/Japan/AI/I-004/2020 | score:20140.0

gaps:25

****Alignment****

sequence:gn1|BL_ORD_ID|02019-nCoV|WH01|NC_045512|2020-01-05

ID:gb:MT044258:266-21531|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 |Strain Name:2019-nCoV/USA-CA6/2020 score:20134.0

gaps:25

****Alignment****

sequence:gnl|BL_ORD_ID|02019-nCoV|WH01|NC_045512|2020-01-05

ID:gb:MT159716:266-21540|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2| Strain Name:2019-nCoV/USA-CruiseA-18/2020 | score:20166.0

gaps:16

****Alignment****

sequence:gnl|BL_ORD_ID|02019-nCoV|WH01|NC_045512|2020-01-05

ID:gb:MT039887:266-21555|Organism:Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2| Strain Name:2019-nCoV/USA-WI1/2020 | score:20208 0

gaps:4

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