

article
general-instructionsGeneral instructions
Instructions for filling in the worksheets:

Worksheets include questions (some are for refreshing the knowledge, whereas some will probably require a little bit of learning). Each step of the bioinformatics analysis should be well documented and explained why it was performed and why each tool. Bioinformatics tools which you will use have several options. I encourage you to explore why they are used for. Make suggestions. Comments regarding the worksheets, how can be improved, what should be added, etc. are welcome.

setting-up-your-environmentSetting up your environment

Virtual environments are great, because they let you have separate environments for separate projects. This is achieved with `conda`.

An advantage that **Conda** provides is not only for managing Python libraries, but also command line tools. This can be done with `conda`. I recommend installing Conda with these instructions: docs.conda.io/projects/conda/en/latest/user-guide/install/index.html.

`conda` can be used to install **Bioconda**. To use certain bioinformatics tools, we need to use the **Bioconda** channel. No installation is needed, only this 3 commands:
`conda config --add channels bioconda`
`conda config --add channels conda-forge`
`conda config --set channel_priority strict`

Finally, we can create an environment for this project using:

```
conda create --name ans
```

Answer the prompt with yes to create an environment and then **activate** the environment with `conda activate ans`.

finding-our-dataFinding our data
During this course we were tasked to work on the RNA-seq dataset linked to the article titled “*Wolbachia pipientis*”.

bioproject-accession-numberBioProject accession number
First thing to do is to find this article on **NCBI** or **PubMed**. This can be done with a quick Google search: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20250421105830/>.
In the article, find the section *Data availability*. There will be an accession number for a **BioProject** (a BioProject accession number) and an **SRA** accession number.

We can search for sequencing data related to this BioProject through the command line using **NCBI Entrez Direct**.
`esearch` queries the database and returns all accession numbers that match that query.
`efetch` fetches the data linked to those accession numbers.

```
esearch -db sra -query PRJNA1166928 --efetch -format runinfo > runinfo.csv
```

`-db` specifies an NCBI database to search

`-query` specifies the search query

`|` pipes the output of the previous command as input for this command

`-format` specifies the output format

If we take a quick look at this file, it has many different columns, while we are only interested in the SRA (sequencing) data.

```
tail -n +2 runinfo.csv --cut -d ',' -f1 > SraAccList.txt
```

`-n +2` tells `tail` to start displaying from the second line

The `-d` flag is used to specify a delimiter and the `-f1` tells `cut` to extract the first field.

Each of us students had to choose one accession number. I choose **SRR30833097**. Save this into a file with `echo SRR30833097` into a file named `accession.txt`.

a-what-is-the-aim-of-the-study-described-in-the-scientific-articlea) What is the aim of the study, described in the scientific article?

To study how *Wolbachia pipientis* influences **gene expression** (particularly the gene expression of genes associated with the host's immune response).

b-provide-some-info-about-the-dataset-you-will-work-with-and-which-sequencing-technology-was-used.b) Provide some information about the dataset you will work with and which sequencing technology was used.

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Name: - This dataset contains reads from ovarie tissue of infected and uninfected *Drosophila melanogaster* organism.

Sequencing technology: - ILLUMINA (NextSeq 500).

Run statistics: - The data comes from a single sequencing run with the mentioned technology. - 4.5 million reads.

Library: - Source material are transcripts. - Selection (filtering of RNA) by polyA tail was used. - SINGLE layout.

c-which-kit-was-used-for-sequencing-library-preparation-does-this-kit-preserve-strand-information-stranded-library-or-not?c) Which kit was used for sequencing library preparation? Does this kit preserve strand information (stranded library) or not?

The kit is not listed, so I cannot answer this question.

d-what-is-the-advantage-of-stranded-mrna-library-preparation-compared-to-non-stranded-libraryd) What is the advantage of stranded mRNA library preparation compared to non-stranded library?

Stranded libraries are prepared in a way to contain information about the strand of cDNA from which the transcript was derived.

This kind of library: - allows you to **distinguish between the sense** and **antisense** strands of cDNA - is useful for studying gene expression.

source: <https://youtu.be/yp9A5E-Y49Y?si=qzVTqlXUeowulKG>, <https://lsciences.com/why-is-strand-specific-library-preparation-important/>

downloading-dataDownloading data

prefetchPrefetch

Sequencing data is obtained from the SRA database with the SRA Toolkit. It can be installed with `conda install sra-tools`.

```
prefetch --option-file OurAcc.txt
```

Prefetch is used to obtain *Runs* (sequence files in compressed SRA format). The `--output-file` flag is used to specify the output file.

The prefetched runs can be converted into FastQ format using `fasterq-dump`, that takes the created directory as input.

```
fasterq-dump --skip-technical SRR30833097/
```

`--skip-technical` returns only biological reads.

Since we have only single-end sequences, it should output a single `.fastq` file in the current directory. You can check with `ls`.

```
wc -l SRR30833097.fastq
```

generating-a-quality-reportGenerating a quality report

a-run-fastqc-over-your-dataset-explain-the-resultsa) Run FastQC over your dataset. Explain the results

command-line-fastqcCommand line FastQC

To get a **full report** on all sequences in our dataset, we can use **FastQC tool**. Install it with `conda install -c bioconda fastqc`.

```
fastqc SRR30833097.fastq
```

The quality report is the generated `.html` file. To view the rendered file, you can open it with your browser (e.g. `firefox`).

gui-fastqcGUI FastQC

Alternatively, you can open a **graphical user interface** of FastQC tool by executing only `fastqc`. This will open a web browser.

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Click on **File** > **Open** and select your file. When it's finished, you should see the report. Click on **File** > **Save report**.

explaining-the-resultsExplaining the results

FastQC shows a summary of modules that were run on our data. On the left there is a **green tick** if the module successfully passed.