

# Comparative Metatranscriptomics WorkFlow (CoMW)

*Muhammad Zohaib Anwar (mzanwar@envs.au.dk) and Anders Lanzen*

Department of Environmental Sciences, Aarhus University  
Frederiksborgvej 399, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark

## Overall Dependencies

Third Party tools to be installed and in working \$PATH

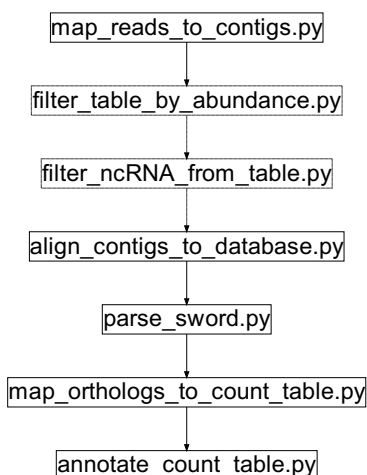
1. SWORD - <https://github.com/rvaser/sword>
2. Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA) - <https://github.com/lh3/bwa>
3. EMBOSS - <http://emboss.sourceforge.net/download/>

Python libraries to be installed and present in \$PYTHONPATH

1. Pyfasta
2. BioPython

## Overview

The CoMW is written in python and is available with number of optional scripts that can be used based on the dataset. These scripts make each step of the workflow straightforward and helps to make these complex analyses more reproducible and the components re-useable in different contexts. Help (Description, input, output and parameters) are provided with each script with each script below. CoMW is based on the results and findings from comparison of approaches, however it has multiple optional steps such as abundance based and non-coding RNA filtering which can be different in data sets from a different environment.



## 1. map\_reads\_to\_contigs.py

```
python map_reads_to_contigs.py -h
usage: map_reads_to_contigs.py [-h] [-f FASTAFILE] [-i READSDIR] [-o OUTPUTFILE]
                               [-t THREADS] [-m MERGED]
```

Author: Muhammad Zohaib Anwar & Anders Lanzen

License: GPL v3.0

### Description:

This script aligns quality filtered mRNA (merged or paired-end reads) against the assembled contigs from RNA-Seq de novo transcriptome assemblers (e.g. Trinity). Given a directory with FASTQ files merged or paired-end and a FASTA file consisting the assembled contigs, the script aligns using BWA mapper and produces an abundance table. This script can be parallelized using the threads option -t.

### Dependencies:

1. BWA mapper <http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net/>
2. \$CoMW/utis/MapReads\_to\_contigs.sh

### Example:

```
python map_reads_to_contigs.py -f contigs.fasta -i $fastq_dir -o $output_dir -t 12 -m 0
aligns paired-end fastq reads present in $fastq_dir against contigs.fasta using 12 threads
and producing the abundance table in $output_dir
```

```
python map_reads_to_contigs.py -f contigs.fasta -i $fastq_dir -o $output_dir -t 16 -m 1
aligns merged fastq reads present in $fastq_dir against contigs.fasta using 16 threads
and producing the abundance table in $output_dir
```

### optional arguments:

```
-h, --help                show this help message and exit
-f FASTAFILE, --fastafile FASTAFILE
                           fasta file of contigs
-i READSDIR, --readsdir READSDIR
                           fastq file directory
-o OUTPUTFILE, --outputfile OUTPUTFILE
                           Output file
-t THREADS, --threads THREADS
                           Number of Threads
-m MERGED, --merged MERGED
                           merged or paired-end files
```

## 2. filter\_table\_by\_abundance.py

```
python filter_table_by_abundance.py -h
usage: filter_table_by_abundance.py [-h] [-i INPUTFILE] [-f FASTAFILE]
                                     [-e EXPRESSION] [-o OUTPUTPREFIX]
                                     [-r REMOVE]
```

Authors: Anders Lanzen & Muhammad Zohaib Anwar  
License: GPL v3.0

### Description:

This is an optional script filters the contigs less than a given threshold of relative expression. eg if `e=1` only contigs with `sum > 1/sum(Minimum Reads)` are selected. Filters out contigs from both count table [output from `map_reads_to_contigs.py`] and fasta file of contigs assembled.

### Example:

Given an input count table and FATSFA file generates a new count table and FASTA file that includes only contigs that have a relative expression of higher than the threshold specified by the user.

### Dependencies:

1. `$CoMW/utils/Filtration.R`
2. Bio.Seq <http://biopython.org/DIST/docs/api/Bio.Seq-module.html>  
from biopython <http://biopython.org>

### Example

```
python filter_table_by_abundance.py -i abundance_table.tsv -f contigs.fasta -e 1
                                     -o out_prefix -r y
```

filters `abundance_table.tsv` and `contigs.fasta` using expression `1%` and producing the new abundance table and contigs file with output prefix `in` same directory

### optional arguments:

- `-h, --help` show this help message and exit
- `-i INPUTFILE, --inputfile INPUTFILE`  
Table file from BWA mapper output
- `-f FASTAFILE, --fastafile FASTAFILE`  
Fasta file
- `-e EXPRESSION, --expression EXPRESSION`  
Relative expression `in` integers
- `-o OUTPUTPREFIX, --outputprefix OUTPUTPREFIX`  
Output prefix `for` filtered table and fasta file
- `-r REMOVE, --remove REMOVE`  
Delete temporary files created `[y/n]`, default `y`

### 3. filter\_ncRNA\_from\_table.py

```
filter_ncRNA_from_table.py -h
```

```
Authors: Anders Lanzen
```

```
License: GPL v3.0
```

#### 4. align\_contigs\_to\_database.py

```
python align_contigs_to_database.py -h
usage: align_contigs_to_database.py [-h] [-f INPUTFASTAFILE] [-s SPLITSIZE]
                                     [-n ORFS] [-o OUTPUTFILE] [-t THREADS]
                                     [-d DATABASE] [-r REMOVE]
```

Author: Muhammad Zohaib Anwar  
License: GPL v3.0

##### Description:

This script will use SWORD to align the assembled contigs from previous step against database of choice from following options

1. Md5nr <https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2105-13-141> and eggNOG annotation <http://eggnogdb.embl.de/#/app/home>
  2. CAZy <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2686590/>
  3. NCyc <https://academic.oup.com/bioinformatics/10.1093/bioinformatics/bty741/5085377>
- to provide alignment results in BM9 format using multiple threads.

##### Dependencies:

1. Databases in `$/databases` folder
2. SWORD aligner <https://github.com/rvaser/sword>
3. EMBOSS Transeq - <http://emboss.sourceforge.net/download/>
4. pyfasta - <https://pypi.python.org/pypi/pyfasta/>

##### Example:

```
python align_contigs_to_database.py -f contigs.fasta -s 12 -n 6 -o SWORD_result.tsv
                                     -t 12 -d 1 -r y
```

Given an input FASTA file `contigs.fasta` is aligned against Md5nr using 12 threads and 6 possible ORFs generated an alignment file `SWORD_result.tsv`. The input file is splitted into 12 parts after translation in order to save running memory

```
python align_contigs_to_database.py -f contigs.fasta -s 12 -n 1 -o SWORD_result.tsv
                                     -t 12 -d 2 -r y
```

Given an input FASTA file `contigs.fasta` is aligned against CAZy using 12 threads and 1 possible ORFs generated an alignment file `SWORD_result.tsv`. The input file is splitted into 12 parts after translation in order to save running memory

```
python align_contigs_to_database.py -f contigs.fasta -s 12 -n 3 -o SWORD_result.tsv
                                     -t 12 -d 3 -r y
```

Given an input FASTA file `contigs.fasta` is aligned against NCyc using 12 threads and 3 possible ORFs generated an alignment file `SWORD_result.tsv`. The input file is splitted into 12 parts after translation in order to save running memory

##### optional arguments:

- h, --help show this help message and exit
- f INPUTFASTAFILE, --inputfastafile INPUTFASTAFILE  
fasta file of assembled contigs, output from Trinity
- s SPLITSIZE, --splitsize SPLITSIZE  
number of parts to be splitted in
- n ORFS, --ORFs ORFS number of ORFs (1-6) to be calculated for alignment
- o OUTPUTFILE, --outfile OUTPUTFILE  
Output file .tsv format

```
-t THREADS, --threads THREADS
                        number of threads to be run
-d DATABASE, --database DATABASE
                        Alignment database of choice 1: Md5nr, 2: CAZy, 3: NCyc
-r REMOVE, --remove REMOVE
                        remove temporary files [y/n]
```

## 5. parse\_sword.py

```
parse_sword.py -h
usage: parse_sword.py [-h] [-i INPUTFILE] [-o OUTPUTFILE] [-e EVALUE]
                     [-d DATABASE]
```

Author: Muhammad Zohaib Anwar  
License: GPL v3.0

### Description:

This script is used for parsing BM9 output file from SWORD alignment to using a specific threshold e.g.  $1E-5$  against a database of choice from following

1. Md5nr <https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2105-13-141>  
and eggNOG annotation <http://eggnogdb.embl.de/#/app/home>
2. CAZy <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2686590/>
3. NCyc <https://academic.oup.com/bioinformatics/10.1093/bioinformatics/bty741/5085377>

### Dependencies:

1. Databases and annotations in \$CoMW/databases

### Example:

```
python parse_sword.py -i SWord_result.BM9 -e 3 -o parsed_SWORD_result.tsv -d 2
```

Given an input SWord\_output in BM9 this script parse BM9 file to produce a readable format parsed\_SWord\_result.tsv and a map file against the CAZy database

### optional arguments:

- h, --help show this help message and exit
- i INPUTFILE, --inputfile INPUTFILE  
SWORD output in bm9 format
- o OUTPUTFILE, --outputfile OUTPUTFILE  
Parsed Result file in .tsv format
- e EVALUE, --Evaluate EVALUE  
Evaluate for threshold eg: 5,6
- d DATABASE, --database DATABASE  
1: Md5nr, 2: CAZy, 3: NCyc

## 6. map\_orthologs\_to\_count\_table.py

```
python map_orthologs_to_count_table.py -h
usage: map_orthologs_to_count_table.py [-h] [-i INPUTFILE] [-m MAPFILE]
                                         [-o OUTPUTFILE]
```

Author: Muhammad Zohaib Anwar  
License: GPL v3.0

Description:  
This script will map the aligned genes to the count table using the map generated in parse\_sword.py

Dependencies:  
1. \$CoMW/Utils/AggregateTables.R

Example:  
python map\_orthologs\_to\_count\_table.py -i abundance\_table.tsv -m SWORD\_result\_eggNOG.map  
 -o eggNOG\_Counttable.tsv

Given an input abundance table abundance\_table.tsv this script maps the identified genes using the map generated in parse\_sword.py

optional arguments:

-h, --help	show this help message and exit
-i INPUTFILE, --inputfile INPUTFILE	Table file from BWA mapper output
-m MAPFILE, --mapfile MAPFILE	Map file from SWORD parsed output
-o OUTPUTFILE, --outputfile OUTPUTFILE	Output file in tsv file



## 7. annotate\_count\_table.py

```

annotate_count_table.py -h
usage: annotate_count_table.py [-h] [-i INPUTFILE] [-o OUTPUTFILE] [-d DATABASE]

Author: Muhammad Zohaib Anwar
License: GPL v3.0

Description:
This script will annotate a given countatble against the database of choice from the following
1. Md5nr https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2105-13-141
and eggNOG annotation http://eggnogdb.embl.de/#/app/home
2. CAZy https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2686590/
3. NCyc https://academic.oup.com/bioinformatics/10.1093/bioinformatics/bty741/5085377

Dependencies:
1. Databases and annotations in $CoMW/databases

Example:
python annotate_count_table.py -i counttable.tsv -o counttable_annotated.tsv -d 1
Given an input count table counttable.tsv is annotated using eggNOG hierarchial annotation

python annotate_count_table.py -i counttable.tsv -o counttable_annotated.tsv -d 2
Given an input count table counttable.tsv is annotated using CAZy hierarchial annotation

python annotate_count_table.py -i counttable.tsv -o counttable_annotated.tsv -d 3
Given an input count table counttable.tsv is annotated using NCyc hierarchial annotation

optional arguments:
  -h, --help            show this help message and exit
  -i INPUTFILE, --inputfile INPUTFILE
                        Table file from mapping output
  -o OUTPUTFILE, --outputfile OUTPUTFILE
                        Output file .tsv format
  -d DATABASE, --database DATABASE
                        1: Md5nr, 2: CAZy, 3: NCyc

```

This work was supported by a grant from the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions program under project number 675546.

