

Sequence Alignments: Determining Similarity and Deducing Homology



Why construct sequence alignments?

- Provide a measure of relatedness between nucleotide or amino acid sequences
- Determining relatedness allows one to draw biological inferences regarding
 - structural relationships
 - functional relationships
 - evolutionary relationships
- Important to use correct terminology when describing phylogenetic relationships



Defining the Terms

- The quantitative measure: **Similarity**
 - Always based on an observable
 - Usually expressed as percent identity
 - Quantify changes that occur as two sequences diverge (substitutions, insertions, or deletions)
 - Identify residues crucial for maintaining a protein's structure or function
- High degrees of sequence similarity *might* imply
 - a common evolutionary history
 - possible commonality in biological function



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Defining the Terms

The conclusion: **Homology**

- **Homology:** Implies an evolutionary relationship
- **Homologs:** Genes that have arisen from a common ancestor
- Genes either *are* or *are not* homologous
(not measured in degrees)

It is worth repeating here that homology, like pregnancy, is indivisible⁸. You either are homologous (pregnant) or you are not. Thus, if what one means to assert is that 80% of the character states are identical one should speak of 80% identity, and not 80% homology.

Fitch, Trends Genet. 16: 227-231, 2000



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Defining the Terms

Orthologs: Genes that diverged as a result of a speciation event

- Sequences are direct descendants of a sequence in a common ancestor (share a common origin)
- Most likely have similar domain and three-dimensional structure
- Usually retain same biological function over evolutionary time
- Can be used to predict gene function in novel genomes

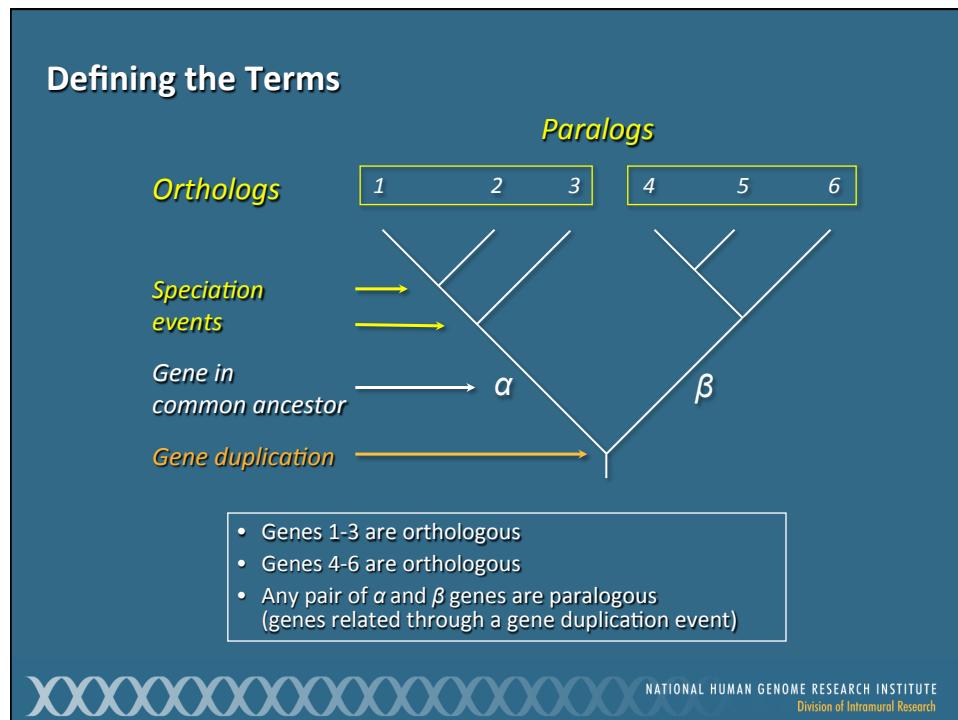


Defining the Terms

Paralogs: Genes that arose by the duplication of a single gene in a particular lineage

- Perhaps less likely to perform similar functions
- Can take on new functions over evolutionary time
- Provides insight into 'evolutionary innovation'





Orthology and Paralogy: Further Reading

Homology
a personal view on some of the problems

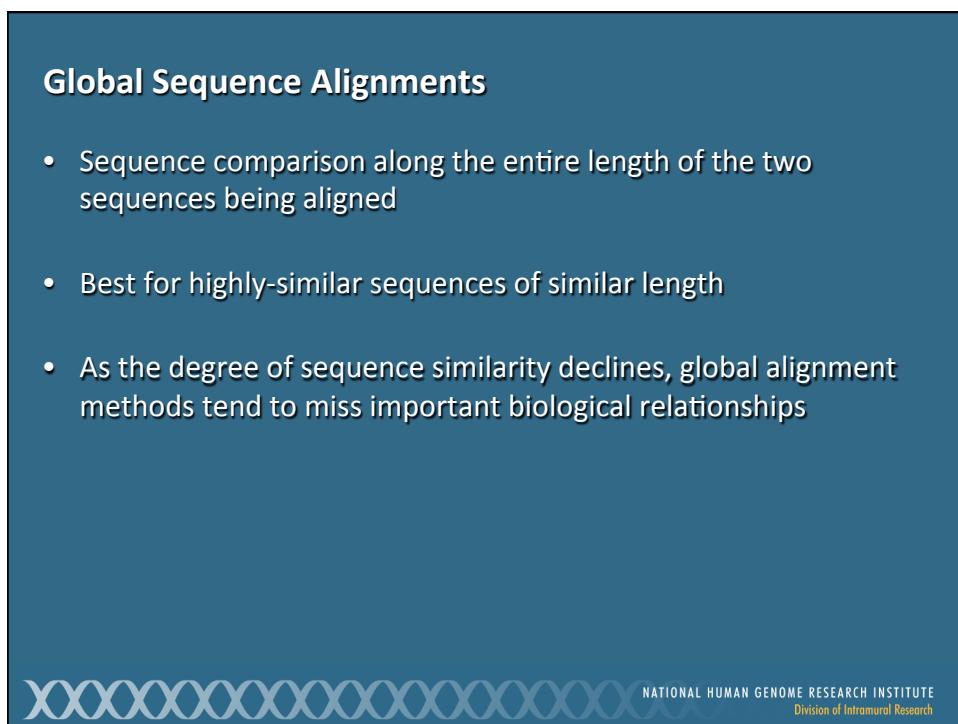
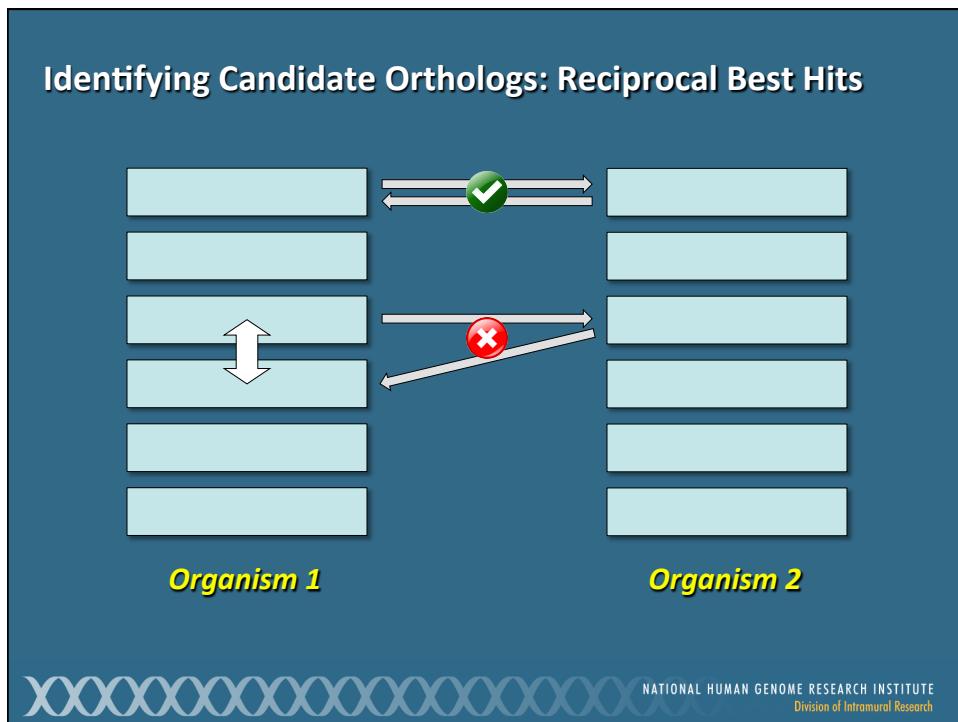
Walter Fitch
Trends Genet.
16: 227-231, 2000

Orthologs, Paralogs, and Evolutionary Genomics¹

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Eugene Koonin
Annu. Rev. Genet.
39: 309-338, 2005

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Local Sequence Alignments

- Sequence comparison intended to find the most similar regions in the two sequences being aligned ('paired subsequences')
- Regions outside the area of local alignment are excluded
- More than one local alignment could be generated for any two sequences being compared
- Best for sequences that share some similarity, or for sequences of different lengths



Scoring Matrices: Construction and Proper Selection



Scoring Matrices

- Empirical weighting scheme representing physicochemical and biological characteristics of nucleotides and amino acids
 - Side chain structure and chemistry
 - Side chain function
- Amino acid-based examples of considerations:
 - Cys/Pro are important for structure and function
 - Trp has a bulky side chain
 - Lys/Arg have positively charged side chains

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Scoring Matrices

- **Conservation:** What residues can substitute for another residue and not adversely affect the function of the protein?
 - Ile/Val - both small and hydrophobic
 - Ser/Thr - both polar
 - *Conserve charge, size, hydrophobicity, additional physicochemical factors*
- **Frequency:** How often does a particular residue occur amongst the entire constellation of proteins?

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Scoring Matrices

Why is understanding scoring matrices important?

- Appear in all analyses involving sequence comparison
- Implicitly represent particular evolutionary patterns
- Choice of matrix can strongly influence outcomes of analyses

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Matrix Structure: Nucleotides

- Simple match/mismatch scoring scheme:

Match +2
Mismatch -3

	A	T	G	C
A	2	-3	-3	-3
T	-3	2	-3	-3
G	-3	-3	2	-3
C	-3	-3	-3	2

- Assumes each nucleotide occurs 25% of the time

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Matrix Structure: Proteins

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V	B	Z	X	*		
A	4	-1	-2	-2	C	-1	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	0	3	-2	0	-2	-1	0	-4			
R	-1	5	0	-2	P	-1	-1	0	-2	0	-3	-2	2	-1	-3	-2	-1	-1	-3	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-4	
N	-2	0	6	1	R	0	0	0	1	-3	-3	0	-2	-3	-2	1	0	-4	-2	-3	3	0	-1	-4		
D	-2	-2	1	6	D	0	2	-1	-1	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	1	0	-1	-4	-3	-3	4	1	-1	-4		
C	0	-3	-3	-3	Q	-3	-4	-3	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-3	-2	-4		
Q	-1	1	0	0	W	-3	5	2	-2	0	-3	-2	1	0	-3	-1	0	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	3	-1	-4	
E	-1	0	0	2	E	-4	2	5	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-2	-3	1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	1	4	-1	-4	
E	0	-2	0	-1	R	-3	-2	-2	2	6	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3	-3	2	0	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-4
G	0	-2	0	-1	G	-3	-2	-2	2	6	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3	-3	2	0	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-4
H	-2	0	1	-1	H	-3	0	0	-2	8	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	2	-3	0	0	-1	-4	
I	-1	-3	-3	-3	I	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	4	2	-3	1	0	-3	-2	-1	-3	-1	3	-3	-3	-1	-4	
L	-1	-2	-3	-4	L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-2	2	0	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	1	-4	-3	-1	-4	
K	-1	2	0	-1	K	-3	1	1	-2	-1	-3	-2	5	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	0	1	-1	-4	
M	-1	-1	-2	-3	M	-1	0	-2	-3	-2	1	2	-1	5	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	1	-3	-1	-1	-4		
F	-2	-3	-3	-2	F	-3	-3	-3	-3	-1	0	0	-3	0	6	-4	-2	-2	1	3	-1	-3	-3	-1	-4	
P	-1	-2	-2	-1	P	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-4	7	-1	-1	-4	-3	-2	-2	-1	-2	-4	
S	1	-1	1	0	S	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-2	1	4	1	-3	-2	0	0	-4			
T	0	-1	0	-1	T	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	5	2	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-4		
W	0	0	1	1	W	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	11	2	1	2	-3	-4	-3	-2	-4	
Y	0	0	2	2	Y	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	7	-1	-3	-2	-1	-4		
V	0	-3	-3	-3	V	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	3	1	-2	1	-1	-2	-2	0	-3	-1	4	-3	-2	-1	-4	
B	-2	-1	3	4	B	-3	0	1	-1	0	-3	-4	0	-3	-3	-2	0	-1	-4	-3	-3	4	1	-1	-4	
Z	-1	0	0	1	Z	-3	3	4	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	1	4	-1	-4	
X	0	-1	-1	-1	X	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-4	
*	-4	-4	-4	-4	*	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-1	

BLOSUM62

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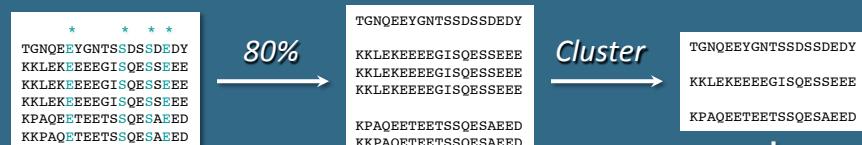
BLOSUM Matrices

- Look only for differences in conserved, ungapped regions of a protein family ('blocks')
- Directly calculated based on local alignments
 - Substitution probabilities (*conservation*)
 - Overall *frequency* of amino acids
- Sensitive to detecting structural or functional substitutions
- Generally perform better than PAM matrices for local similarity searches (*Henikoff and Henikoff, 1993*)
- BLOSUM series can be used to identify both closely and distantly related sequences

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BLOSUM n

- Built using sequences sharing no more than $n\%$ identity
- Contribution of sequences $> n\%$ identical clustered and replaced by a sequence that represents the cluster



↓
*Calculate
BLOSUM80*



BLOSUM n

- Clustering reduces contribution of closely related sequences (less bias towards substitutions that occur in the most closely related members of a family)
- Reducing n yields more distantly related sequences
- Increasing n yields more closely related sequences



Which one to choose?

BLOSUM	% Similarity
90	Short alignments, highly similar
80	Best for detecting known members of a protein family
62	Most effective in finding all potential similarities
30	Longer, weaker local alignments

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The takeaway...

No single matrix is the complete answer for all sequence comparisons

David Wheeler
Curr. Protoc. Bioinformatics
3.5.1 – 3.5.6, 2003

Selecting the Right Protein-Scoring Matrix

UNIT 3.5

OVERVIEW

Every program for searching protein sequences against a database includes a choice of "weight matrices." Weight matrices add sensitivity to sequence comparisons by adding selectivity (see over c). Virtually every user chooses the default, typically PAM 250 or 300. But the choice of weight matrix can strongly influence the outcome of the search. In this unit, we will discuss which weight matrices should be used. In general, computers are good at doing the molecular theory of protein sequence evolution. This page is designed to help you choose the right matrix, as understanding the assumptions underlying the PAM and BLOSUM scoring matrices is the first step in using them effectively. The selection of the right weight matrix is discussed, and finally a brief overview of the other types of specialized scoring matrices provided.

PAM MATRICES

The most widely known weight matrix derived from Accepted Point Mutation (Dayhoff, 1978) is a probabilistic model for amino acid replacement following a single mutation. It is based on the assumption that closely related sequences to the one being compared have been derived by random replacement of amino acids. The basis of this scoring matrix is the probability of a random protein sequence in a substitution process—i.e., some amino acid replacement occurring in a given position in a sequence statistically in related sequences. Amino acid substitution probabilities are derived from the hydrophobicity among other characteristics. One example of a PAM matrix is the one for alanine (C_H) versus histidine (H). The user would expect to find that the probability of an alanine (C_H) versus substituted indole (H) is higher than expected prevalence of these characters in a random sequence of the same length. An excellent discussion of the derivation of the original PAM matrices is given by George et al. (1990).

PAM matrices are the result of computing the probability of one substitution per 100

amino acids, called the PAM λ matrix. Higher PAM λ matrices are derived by multiplying the PAM 1 matrix by itself λ defined number of times. For example, the PAM 250 matrix is obtained by performing 160 matrix multiplications of the PAM 1 matrix. Similarly, the PAM 300 and PAM 230 matrix is derived by multiplying the PAM 1 matrix against itself 230 times.

In contrast, the PAM 20 matrix means that in 100 amino acids there have been 20 substitutions. If each substitution has been a conservative one (i.e., a polar amino acid replaced another polar amino acid), then there have been 2.5 acidic amino acid replacements at each position (i.e., 20/8 = 2.5 amino acid substitutions). This sounds unusual, but remember that the PAM 20 matrix was derived by assuming that an asparagine was changed to a glycine, then to a valine, and then back to an asparagine. These silent changes are the result of the use of conservative acid frequency data in protein families and

Choosing a PAM Matrix

It is extremely important to note that PAM matrices were derived from limited sequence data available in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Most proteins known at that time were small, roughly 100 amino acids long. The user who believes their protein contains substantial hydrophobic regions, such as alpha-helices, beta-sheets, or loops, the PAM matrices are less appropriate. Dayhoff et al. (1978) and George et al. (1978) were the first to define the PAM 200 matrix, which is the PAM 20 matrix. A protein is defined as sequences 95% similar or greater to each other. A protein superfamily is a group of proteins that are 60% similar or greater to each other. A protein superfamily is a group of proteins that are 60% similar or greater to each other. The user should be aware that while the terms "family" and "superfamily" are often used interchangeably, most of the time the original definition of Dayhoff and colleagues is not being used below.

Locating all potential similarities: PAM 250

The most widely used PAM matrix is PAM 250. It is the best for detecting similarities between two proteins that are 100% identical, when the two proteins are up to 70% different from each other (George et al., 1990). Another way to think about this is that the PAM 250

Finding
Similarities
and
Differences
3.5.1

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Gaps

- Used to improve alignments between two sequences
 - Compensate for insertions and deletions
 - As such, *gaps represent biological events*
- Gaps must be kept to a reasonable number, to not reflect a biologically implausible scenario. About one gap per 20 residues is a good rule-of-thumb.
- Cannot be scored simply as a ‘match’ or a ‘mismatch’



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Affine Gap Penalty

Fixed deduction for introducing a gap *plus*
an additional deduction proportional to the length of the gap

$$\text{Deduction for a gap} = G + Ln$$

	nucleotide	protein
where	G = gap-opening penalty	5
	L = gap-extension penalty	2
	n = length of the gap	11
and	$G > L$	1



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BLAST: ***The Basic Local Alignment Search Tool***



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BLAST

- Seeks high-scoring segment pairs (HSPs)
 - Pair of sequences that can be aligned with one another
 - When aligned, have maximal aggregate score (score cannot be improved by extension or trimming)
 - Score must be above score threshold (S)
 - Gapped or ungapped
- Results not limited to the ‘best’ high-scoring segment pair for the two sequences being aligned

Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403-410, 1990



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BLAST Algorithms

<i>Program</i>	<i>Query Sequence</i>	<i>Target Sequence</i>
BLASTN	Nucleotide	Nucleotide
BLASTP	Protein	Protein
BLASTX	Nucleotide, six-frame translation	Protein
TBLASTN	Protein	Nucleotide, six-frame translation
TBLASTX	Nucleotide, six-frame translation	Nucleotide, six-frame translation

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Neighborhood Words

Query Word (W = 3)

Query: GSQSLAALLNKCKT PQG QRLVNQWIKOPLMDKNRIERLNLVAFVED

*Neighborhood
Words*

PQG	18	= 7 + 5 + 6
PEG	15	
PRG	14	
PKG	14	
PNG	13	
PDG	13	
PHG	13	
PMG	13	
PSG	13	
PQA	12	
PQN	12	
etc.		

*Neighborhood Score
Threshold
(T = 13)*

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High-Scoring Segment Pairs

PQG	18
PEG	15
PRG	14
PKG	14
PNG	13
PDG	13
PHG	13
PMG	13
PSG	13
PQA	12
PQN	12
etc.	

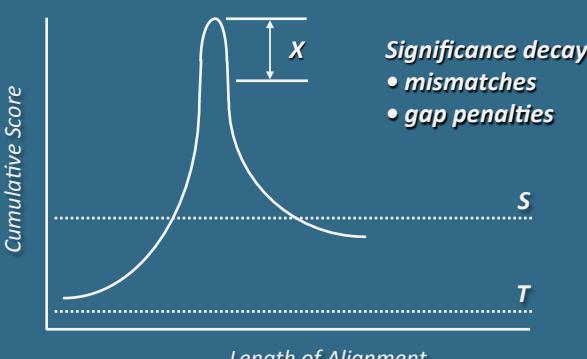
↓

Query: 325 SLAALLNKCKT**PQG**QLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLEA 365
 +LA++L TP G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A
 Sbjct: 290 TLASVLDCTVT**PMG**SRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA 330

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Extension

Query: 325 SLAALLNKCKT**PQG**QLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLEA 365
 +LA++L TP G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A
 Sbjct: 290 TLASVLDCTVT**PMG**SRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA 330



Cumulative Score

Length of Alignment

Significance decay
 • mismatches
 • gap penalties

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Scores and Alignment Length Don't Tell the Whole Story

Query: 1 SGLKSLVGKTALLSGTSSKL 20
 SGLKSLVGKTALLSGTSSKL
 Sbjct: 1 SGLKSLVGKTALLSGTSSKL 20

Score = 91

Query: 1 CQHMWYQWMIQCIWMYHCMQ 20
 CQHMWYQWMIQCIWMYHCMQ
 Sbjct: 1 CQHMWYQWMIQCIWMYHCMQ 20

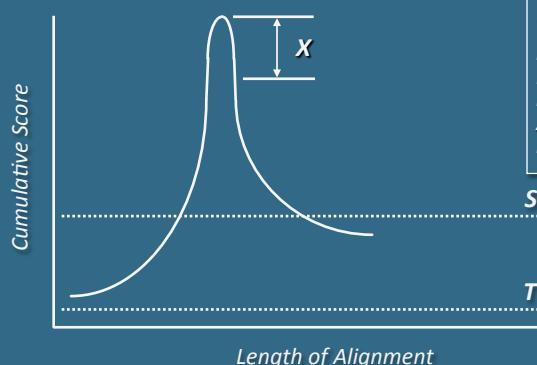
Score = 138



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Scores and Probabilities

Query: 325 SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRILVNQWIKQPLMDKNRRIERLNV 365
 +LA++L TP G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A
 Sbjct: 290 TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVILLERQQTIGA 330



$$E = kmNe^{-\lambda S}$$

m # letters in query
N # letters in database
mN size of search space
 λS normalized score
 k minor constant



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Scores and Probabilities

Query: 325 SLAALLNKCKT**PQG**QRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIERLNVLVEA 365
 +LA++L TP G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A
 Sbjct: 290 TLASVLDCTVT**PMGS**RMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA 330

$E = kmNe^{-\lambda S}$

Number of HSPs found purely by chance
 Lower values signify higher similarity

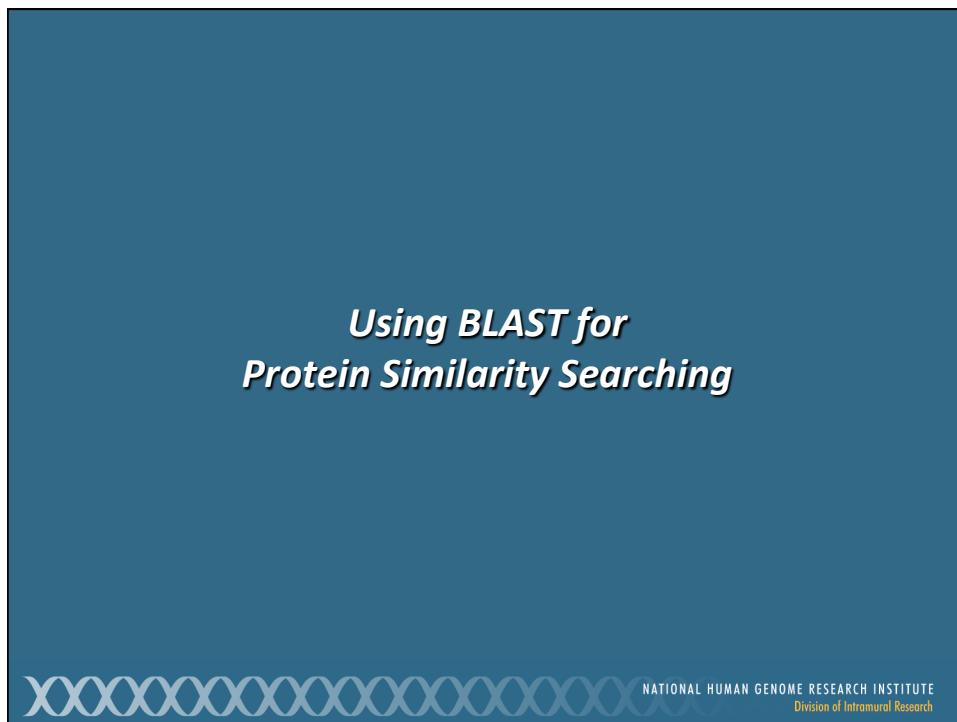
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Scores and Probabilities

Query: 325 SLAALLNKCKT**PQG**QRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIERLNVLVEA 365
 +LA++L TP G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A
 Sbjct: 290 TLASVLDCTVT**PMGS**RMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA 330

$E \leq 10^{-6}$
 for nucleotides
 $E \leq 10^{-3}$
 for proteins

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A screenshot of the NCBI website's main page. The URL 'http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov' is displayed in a green bar at the top right. On the left, a sidebar lists various resources like 'Chemicals & Bioassays', 'Data & Software', and 'Proteins'. In the center, there are sections for 'Submit', 'Download', 'Learn', 'Develop', 'Analyze', and 'Research'. A sidebar on the right lists 'Popular Resources' including PubMed, Bookshelf, and BLAST (which is highlighted with a red box). At the bottom, there are news announcements and a footer with links to 'GETTING STARTED', 'RESOURCES', 'POPULAR', 'FEATURED', and 'NCBI INFORMATION'.

Available protein databases include:

- nr** Non-redundant protein sequences
- refseq** Reference Sequences
- swissprot** SWISS-PROT
- pat** Patents
- pdb** Protein Data Bank
- env_nr** Environmental samples

NCBI RefSeq Database

- **Goal:** Provide a single reference sequence for each molecule of the central dogma (DNA, mRNA, and protein)
- Distinguishing features
 - Non-redundancy
 - Updates to reflect the current knowledge of sequence data and biology
 - Includes biological attributes of the gene, gene transcript, or protein
 - Encompasses a wide taxonomic range, with primary focus on mammalian and human species
 - Ongoing updates and curation (both automated and manual review), with review status indicated on each record

Pruitt et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 42: D756-D763, 2014

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RefSeq Accession Number Prefixes

From curation of GenBank entries:

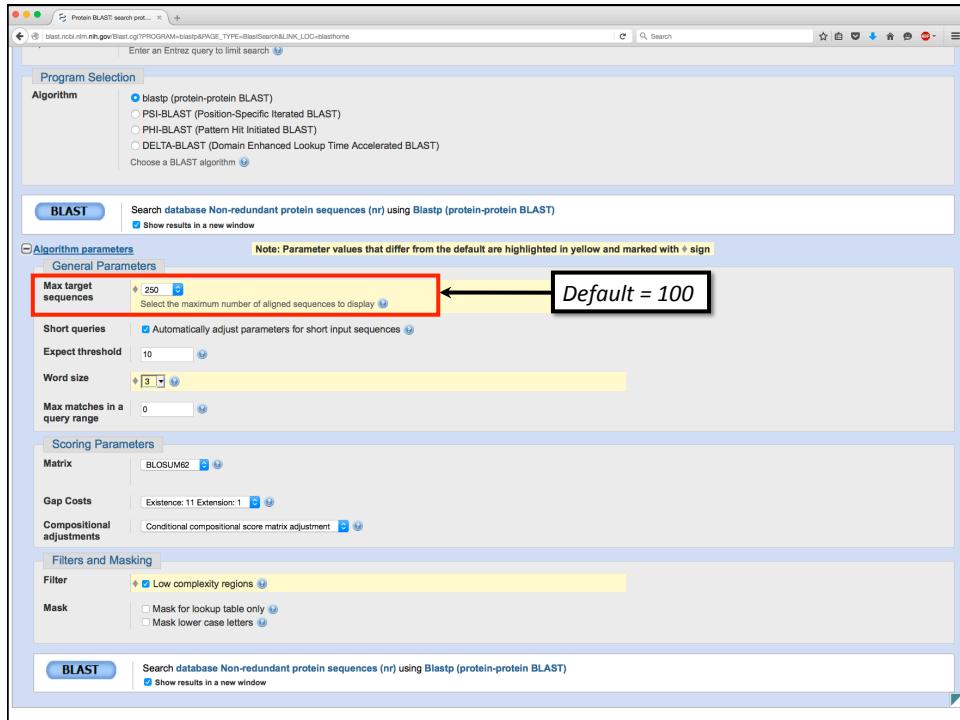
NT_ Genomic contigs
NM_ mRNAs
NP_ Proteins
NR_ Non-coding transcripts

From genome annotation:

XM_ Model mRNA
XP_ Model proteins

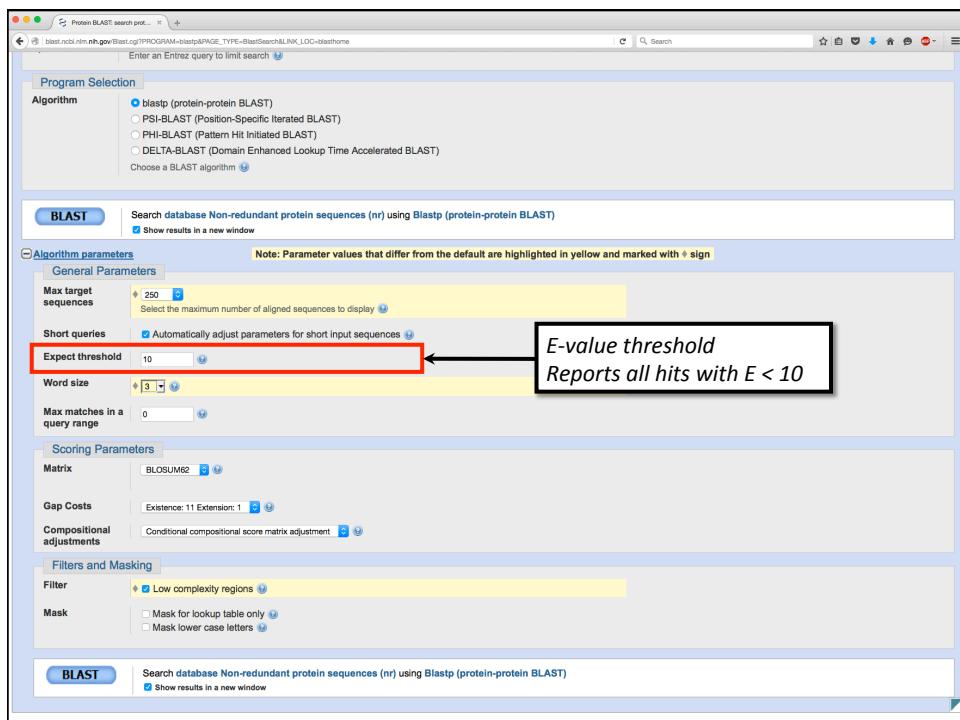
Complete list of molecule types in Chapter 18 of the NCBI Handbook
<http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21091>





The screenshot shows the Protein BLAST search parameters page. In the 'Algorithm' section, 'blastp (protein-protein BLAST)' is selected. Under the 'BLAST' heading, there is a search bar for 'Search database Non-redundant protein sequences (nr) using Blastp (protein-protein BLAST)' and a checkbox for 'Show results in a new window'. The 'Algorithm parameters' section contains several fields:

- Max target sequences:** Set to 250, highlighted with a red box. A callout box indicates the default value is 100.
- Short queries:** Checkboxes for 'Automatically adjust parameters for short input sequences' and 'Expect threshold 10'.
- Word size:** Set to 3.
- Max matches in a query range:** Set to 0.
- Scoring Parameters:** Matrix set to BLOSUM62.
- Gap Costs:** Existence: 11 Extension: 1.
- Compositional adjustments:** Conditional compositional score matrix adjustment.
- Filters and Masking:** Filter set to 'Low complexity regions' (checked). Mask options include 'Mask for lookup table only' and 'Mask lower case letters'.
- BLAST:** Another search bar for 'Search database Non-redundant protein sequences (nr) using Blastp (protein-protein BLAST)' and a 'Show results in a new window' checkbox.



This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the Protein BLAST search parameters page. The 'Expect threshold' field is highlighted with a red box. A callout box provides the following information:

E-value threshold
 Reports all hits with $E < 10$

The screenshot shows the Protein BLAST search parameters page. In the 'Scoring Parameters' section, the 'Matrix' dropdown is set to 'BLOSUM62'. A red box highlights this dropdown. To the right of the dropdown, a list of scoring matrices is displayed in a vertical box:

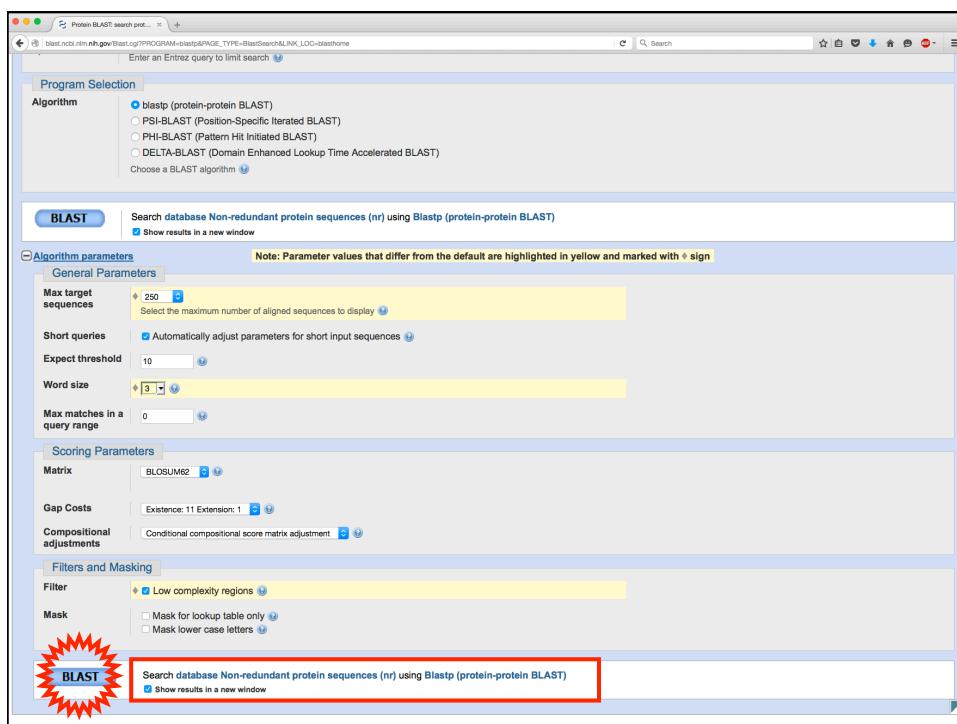
- PAM30
- PAM70
- BLOSUM80
- BLOSUM62
- BLOSUM45
- BLOSUM50
- BLOSUM90

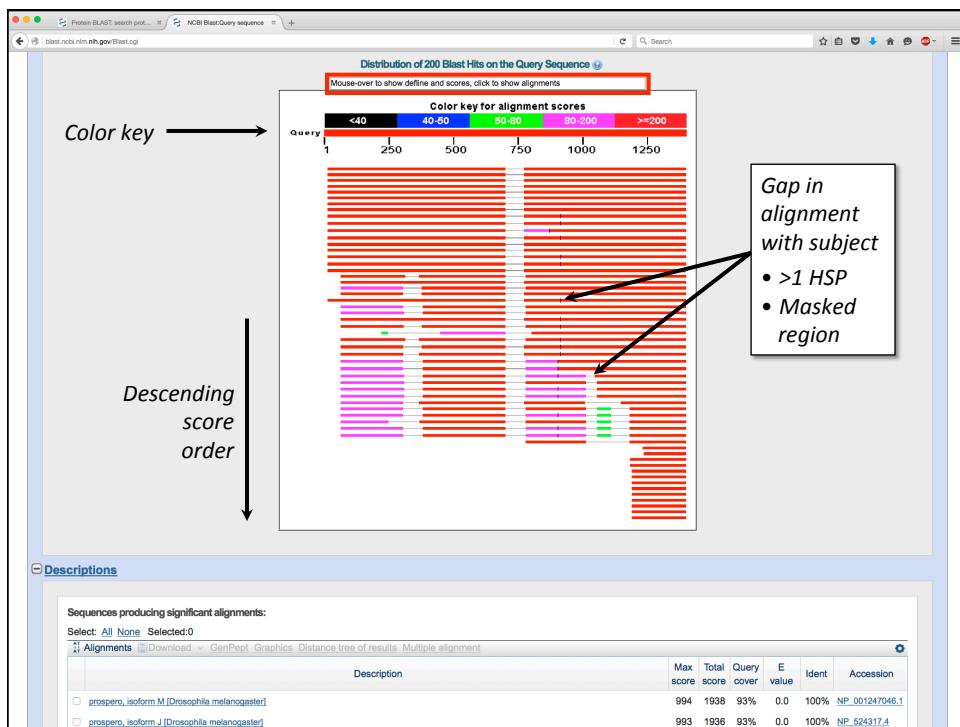
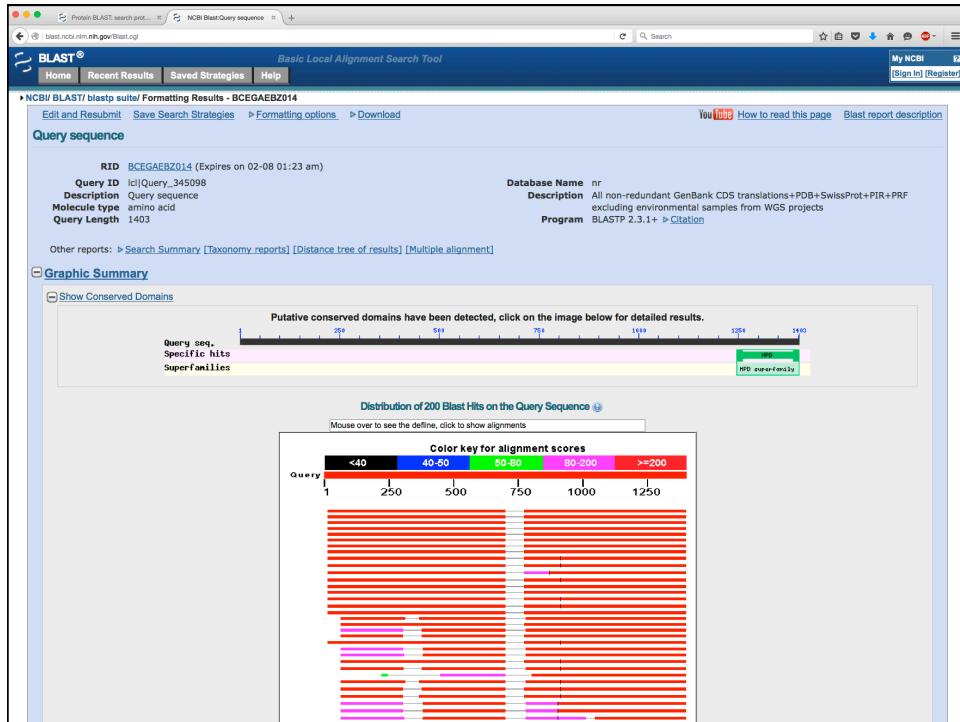
The screenshot shows the Protein BLAST search parameters page. In the 'Filters and Masking' section, the 'Filter' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. The checkbox label is 'Low complexity regions'.

Low-Complexity Regions

- Defined as regions of ‘biased composition’
 - Homopolymeric runs
 - Short-period repeats
 - Subtle over-representation of several residues
- May confound sequence analysis
 - BLAST relies on uniformly-distributed amino acid frequencies
 - Often lead to false positives
- Filtering is advised (but *not* enabled by default)

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Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: All None Selected: 0

Alignments Download GenPept Graphics Distance tree of results Multiple alignment

Description	Max score	Total cover	Query E value	Ident	Accession
prospero, isoform M [Drosophila melanogaster]	994	1938	93%	0.0	100% NP_001247046.1
prospero, isoform J [Drosophila melanogaster]	993	1936	93%	0.0	100% NP_526317.4
prospero [Drosophila melanogaster]	993	1932	93%	0.0	100% AA01464.1
homeodomain transcription factor Prospero [Drosophila melanogaster]	990	1821	93%	0.0	100% AAF05703.1
uncharacterized protein Dera_GG18089, isoform A [Drosophila erecta]	989	1885	93%	0.0	99% XP_001980573.2
Pros protein [Drosophila melanogaster]	982	1811	93%	0.0	97% AAA28841.1
prospero, isoform H [Drosophila melanogaster]	944	1862	93%	0.0	100% NP_001247044.1
prospero, isoform L [Drosophila melanogaster]	943	1858	93%	0.0	100% NP_788636.3
prospero, isoform I [Drosophila melanogaster]	942	1864	93%	0.0	100% NP_001247045.1
prospero, isoform K [Drosophila melanogaster]	942	1863	93%	0.0	100% NP_731565.4
Q92399 (Drosophila sechellia)	935	1987	93%	0.0	98% XP_002031631.1
LOW QUALITY PROTEIN: prospero [Drosophila simulans]	932	1827	93%	0.0	98% KM204266.1
uncharacterized protein Dera_GG18089, isoform B [Drosophila erecta]	915	1810	93%	0.0	95% XP_015910069.1
uncharacterized protein Dana_GF16857, isoform A [Drosophila ananassae]	904	1673	93%	0.0	92% XP_001954214.2
uncharacterized protein Dyak_GF26090 [Drosophila yakuba]	903	1816	93%	0.0	96% XP_002097201.2
uncharacterized protein Dera_GG18089, isoform C [Drosophila erecta]	894	1814	93%	0.0	97% XP_015910070.1
uncharacterized protein Dana_GF16857, isoform C [Drosophila ananassae]	855	1623	93%	0.0	90% XP_014766172.1
uncharacterized protein DwiL_GK1120, isoform A [Drosophila willistoni]	845	1532	85%	0.0	83% XP_002069958.2
uncharacterized protein Dpsa_GA14403, isoform I [Drosophila pseudoobscura pseudoobscura]	825	1456	90%	0.0	82% XP_001359985.4
GH21437 [Drosophila grimshawi]	809	1374	84%	0.0	80% XP_001994360.1
uncharacterized protein Dmoj_GI22896, isoform B [Drosophila mojavensis]	799	1386	84%	0.0	78% XP_002000130.2
uncharacterized protein Dana_GF16857, isoform B [Drosophila ananassae]	767	1627	93%	0.0	83% XP_014766171.1
PREDICTED: homeobox protein prospero isoform X3 [Ceratitis capitata]	692	1111	84%	0.0	66% XP_004529243.2
PREDICTED: homeobox protein prospero [Bactrocera oleae]	690	1115	84%	0.0	70% XP_014096508.1
uncharacterized protein Dpsa_GA14403, isoform D [Drosophila pseudoobscura pseudoobscura]	612	14			8e-179 = 8x10 ⁻¹⁷⁹
gros [Drosophila busckii]	611	14			
AAEL002769-PA [Aedes aegypti]	571	770	62%	8e-179	59% XP_001655942.1
uncharacterized protein DwiL_GK1120, isoform B [Drosophila willistoni]	571	1501	85%	2e-171	77% XP_015032827.1

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: All None Selected: 0

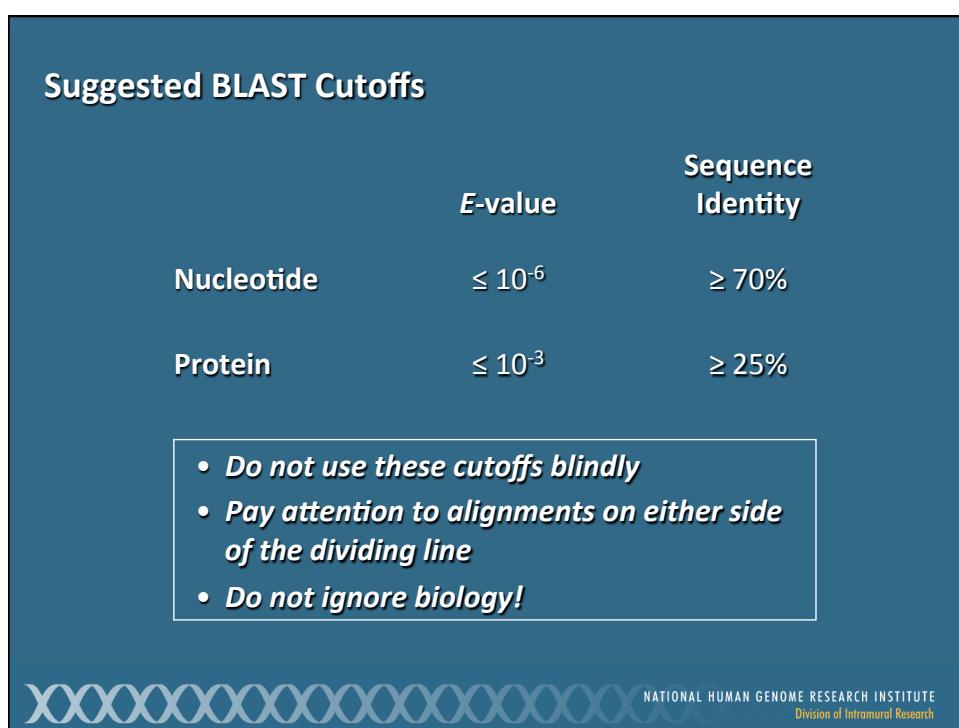
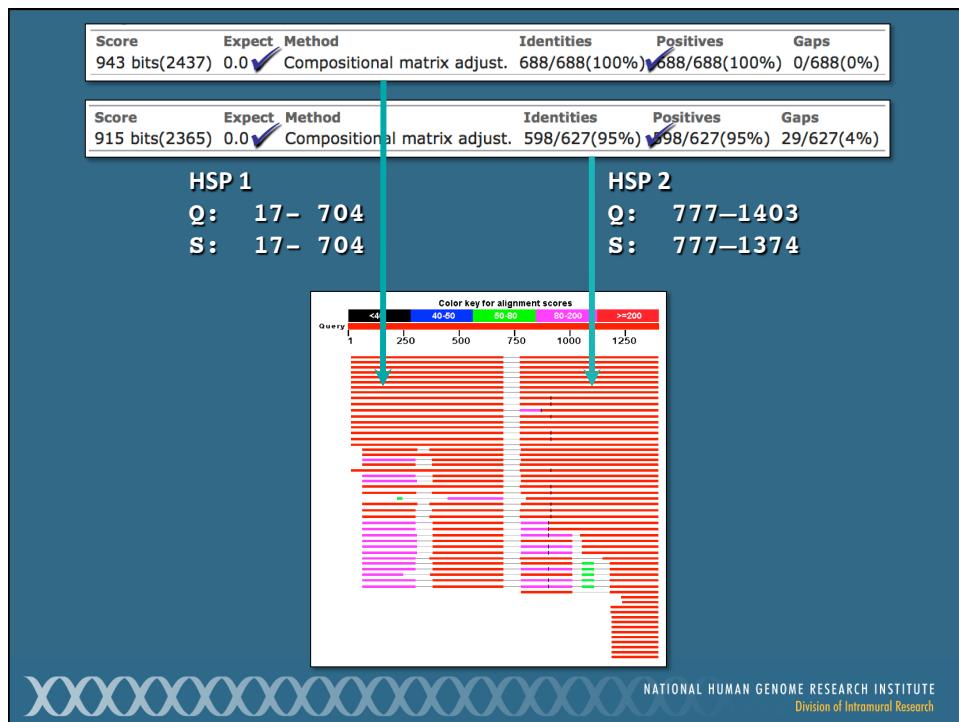
Alignments Download GenPept Graphics Distance tree of results Multiple alignment

Description	Max score	Total cover	Query E value	Ident	Accession
Prospero homeobox protein 1 [Chlamydops mequeenii]	226	270	19%	6e-58	62% KPF45850.1
Prospero homeobox protein 1 [Cuculus canorus]	226	270	19%	6e-58	62% KPO75119.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1-like [Poecilia formosa]	228	228	12%	6e-58	57% XP_007567659.1
Prospero homeobox protein 1 [Pterocles gutturalis]	225	269	19%	6e-58	63% KPV13087.1
homeobox protein prospero/prox-1 [Culex quinquefasciatus]	209	209	9%	6e-58	76% XP_001849683.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Octodon degus]	226	270	19%	7e-58	63% XP_004628924.1
Prospero homeobox protein 1 [Chirurulus vociferus]	226	270	19%	7e-58	62% KGL88766.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Chinchilla lanigera]	226	270	19%	8e-58	63% XP_005374780.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Fukomys damarensis]	226	270	19%	8e-58	63% XP_010640836.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Cavia porcellus]	228	270	19%	8e-58	63% XP_003474644.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X1 [Saimiri boliviensis boliviensis]	226	270	19%	8e-58	63% XP_010339250.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Peromyscus maniculatus bandi]	226	270	19%	8e-58	63% XP_00972145.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Chaetura pelasgus]	225	270	19%	8e-58	63% XP_00993032.1
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Callithrix jacchus]	225	270	19%	8e-58	Accept (for now)
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X1 [Heterocephalus glaber]	225	270	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Otolemur garnetti]	225	269	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Cuculus canorus]	225	270	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Equus asinus]	225	269	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Propithecus coquereli]	225	270	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Colobus angolensis palliatus]	225	269	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Mandrillus leucophaeus]	225	270	19%	8e-58	
prospero homeobox protein 1 [Homo sapiens]	225	270	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: LOW QUALITY PROTEIN: prospero homeobox protein 1-like [Collis striatus]	225	270	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Columba livia]	225	271	19%	8e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Falco cherrug]	225	270	19%	9e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Marmota flaviventris]	225	270	19%	9e-58	
hypothetical protein EGM_01399 [Macaca fascicularis]	225	270	19%	9e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 isoform X2 [Nannopithecus goeldii]	225	270	19%	9e-58	
PREDICTED: prospero homeobox protein 1 [Ochetona princeps]	225	269	19%	9e-58	

Reject above desired threshold ($E \leq 10^{-3}$)

Alignments





BLAST 2 Sequences

- Finds local alignments between two protein or nucleotide sequences of interest
- All BLAST programs available
- Select BLOSUM and PAM matrices available for protein comparisons
- Same affine gap costs (adjustable)
- Input sequences can be masked

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<http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST>

The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Recent Results', 'Saved Strategies', and 'Help'. Below the navigation is a search bar with placeholder text 'BLAST finds regions of similarity between biological sequences.' and a 'GO' button. To the right of the search bar is a 'Your Recent Results' section with a link to 'All Recent results...'. On the left, there's a 'BLAST Assembled Genomes' section listing various organisms with checkboxes. On the right, there's a 'News' section with a link to 'More BLAST news...' and a 'Tip of the Day' section with a link to 'More tips...'. In the center, there are several search categories: 'nucleotide blast', 'protein blast', 'tblastx', 'Search protein database using a translated nucleotide query', 'Search translated nucleotide database using a protein query', and 'Search translated nucleotide database using a translated nucleotide query'. A red arrow points from the text 'Search translated nucleotide database using a translated nucleotide query' to the 'tblastx' link.

The screenshot shows the 'Align Sequences Protein BLAST' search tool. Key features include:

- Query Sequence:** A text input field containing the protein sequence NP_008872.1 SOX-10 [Homo sapiens].
- Job Title:** A dropdown menu set to "NP_008872.1 SOX-10 [Homo sapiens]".
- Align two or more sequences:** A checked checkbox.
- Enter Subject Sequence:** A text input field containing the sequence NP_001131.1 sex determining region Y [Homo sapiens].
- Program Selection:** Set to "blastp (protein-protein BLAST)".
- Algorithm parameters:** A section with a red border containing various search parameters like Max target sequences (100), Short queries (Automatically adjust parameters for short input sequences), Expect threshold (10), Word size (3), and Max matches in a query range (0).

This screenshot shows the same search interface with a focus on the "Algorithm parameters" section. The "General Parameters" group is highlighted with a red border. Other sections shown include:

- Scoring Parameters:** Matrix set to BLOSUM62, with a dropdown menu listing PAM30, PAM70, PAM250, BLOSUM80, BLOSUM62, BLOSUM45, BLOSUM50, and BLOSUM90.
- Filters and Masking:** Filter set to "Low complexity regions" (checked).
- Search button:** "Search protein sequence using Blastp (protein-protein BLAST)" with a red starburst icon.

NCBI BLAST! blast suite-2sequences/ Formatting Results - BCJA4YBV114

[Edit and Resubmit](#) [Save Search Strategies](#) [► Formatting options](#) [► Download](#) [YouTube](#) [How to read this page](#) [Blast report description](#)

Blast 2 sequences

NP_008872.1 SOX-10 [Homo sapiens]

Query ID BCJA4YBV114 (Expires on 02-08 02:28 am)

Query Icl|Query_213409

Description NP_008872.1 SOX-10 [Homo sapiens]

Molecule type amino acid

Query Length 466

Subject ID Icl|Query_213411

Description NP_003131.1 sex determining region Y [Homo sapiens]

Molecule type amino acid

Subject Length 204

Program BLASTP 2.3.1+ > [Citation](#)

Other reports: ► [Search Summary](#) [Multiple alignment]

Graphic Summary

Distribution of 2 Blast Hits on the Query Sequence ⓘ

Mouse over to see the define, click to show alignments

Color key for alignment scores

<40	40-50	50-60	60-200	>=200
-----	-------	-------	--------	-------

Query 1 90 160 270 360 450

Dot Matrix View

Descriptions

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: All None Selected:0

Alignments [Download](#) [Graphics](#) [Multiple alignment](#)

Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
NP_003131.1 sex determining region Y [Homo sapiens]	94.0	109	19%	1e-26	46%	Query_213411

Dot Matrix View

Descriptions

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: All None Selected:0

Alignments [Download](#) [Graphics](#) [Multiple alignment](#)

Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
NP_003131.1 sex determining region Y [Homo sapiens]	94.0	109	19%	1e-26	46%	Query_213411

Alignments

Download [Graphics](#) Sort by: E value

NP_003131.1 sex determining region Y [Homo sapiens]
 Sequence ID: Icl|Query_213411 Length: 204 Number of Matches: 2

Range 1: 51 to 134 Graphics ▾ Next Match ▲ Previous Match ▲ First Match

Score: 94.0 bits(232) Expect: 1e-26 Method: Compositional matrix adjust. Identities: 39/84(46%) Positives: 62/84(73%) Gaps: 0/84(0%)

Query 95 NGASKSKPIVKVRPNNAFMWVQAARRKLADQYPLHLNNEALKTLGKLNWLNNESDKRPF 154
 N + VKRPNAF*YW++ RRK-A + P + N+E-SK LG W+L E+K PF 154
 Sbjct 51 NSKGNVQDVKVRPNNAFIVWSDQRNRKALENFMRNNEISKQLQYQNKMLTEAEKWFFF 110

Query 155 EEARLRLRMHKHDHPDYYKQPRRR 178
 +E+A+L+ R++ P+T+E+P+R+R
 Sbjct 111 QDAQKQZAMHRKRYP?WYKTEPRRK 134

Range 2: 95 to 101 Graphics ▾ Next Match ▲ Previous Match ▲ First Match

Score: 15.4 bits(28) Expect: 1.9 Method: Compositional matrix adjust. Identities: 3/7(43%) Positives: 5/7(71%) Gaps: 0/7(0%)

Query 82 GYDWTLV 88
 GT W ++
 Sbjct 95 GYQWKKML 101



A screenshot of the NCBI BLAST search interface. The URL http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST is displayed at the top. The main search form has "nucleotide blast" selected under "Search a nucleotide database using a nucleotide query". A red arrow points from the text "Algorithms: blastn, megablast, discontiguous megablast" to this selection. To the right, there's a sidebar with "Your Recent Results" and "News" sections. The "News" section includes a link to "Searching Whole Genome Shotgun sequences" and a note about using stand-alone BLAST. The bottom left of the page has a "Tip of the Day" section with a link to "More tips...".

The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST search interface. The main title is "Standard Nucleotide BLAST". The "Program Selection" section is highlighted with a red box. It contains three radio button options: "Highly similar sequences (megablast)" (selected), "More dissimilar sequences (discontiguous megablast)", and "Somewhat similar sequences (blastn)". Below these options is a link "Choose a BLAST algorithm".

Nucleotide-Based BLAST Algorithms

	<i>W</i>	+/-	Gaps
<i>Optimized for aligning very long and/or highly similar sequences (> 95%)</i>			
MegaBLAST (default)	28	1, -2	Linear
<i>Better for diverged sequences and/or cross-species comparisons (< 80%)</i>			
Discontiguous MegaBLAST	11	2, -3	Affine
BLASTN	11	2, -3	Affine
<i>Finding short, nearly exact matches (< 20 bases)</i>			
BLASTN	7	2, -3	Affine



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BLAT

- “BLAST-Like Alignment Tool”
- Designed to rapidly align longer nucleotide sequences ($L \geq 40$) having $\geq 95\%$ sequence similarity
- Can find exact matches reliably down to $L = 33$
- Method of choice when looking for exact matches in nucleotide databases
- 500 times faster than BLAST for mRNA/DNA searches
- May miss divergent or shorter sequence alignments
- Can be used on protein sequences, but BLASTP is more efficient



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When to Use BLAT

- To characterize an unknown gene or sequence fragment
 - Find its genomic coordinates
 - Determine gene structure (the presence and position of exons)
 - Identify markers of interest in the vicinity of a sequence
- To find highly similar (or identical) sequences
 - Alignment of mRNA sequences onto a genome assembly
 - Identification of gene family members
 - Cross-species alignment to identify putative homologs
- To display a specific sequence as a separate track within the UCSC Genome Browser



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The screenshot shows the UCSC Genome Bioinformatics homepage. The URL in the address bar is <http://genome.ucsc.edu>. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links to Genomes, Genome Browser, Tools, Mirrors, Downloads, My Data, Help, and About Us. A red box highlights the 'Blat' link in the 'Genome Browser' section. The main content area is titled 'About the UCSC Genome Bioinformatics Site'. It includes a welcome message, a brief description of the Genome Browser's functionality, and information about the development team at UC Santa Cruz. There are sections for news, a 'DONATE NOW' button, and recent announcements about dbSNP 142 and dbSNP 144. A sidebar on the left lists various genome browser tools and resources.

The screenshot shows the Rhesus BLAT Search page. The URL in the address bar is <https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgBlat>. The page has a similar navigation menu as the homepage. The main title is 'Rhesus BLAT Search'. Below it is a form for 'BLAT Search Genome' with fields for 'Genome:' (set to 'Rhesus'), 'Assembly:' (set to 'Oct. 2010 (BGI CR_1.0/rheMac3)'), 'Query type:', 'Sort output:', and 'Output type:' (set to 'hyperlink'). A large text area contains a DNA sequence starting with '>CB312814 NICHD_RnOv1 Macaca mulatta cDNA clone'. At the bottom of this area is a red circle highlighting the 'submit' button. To the right of the search form is a box containing the text: 'I'm feeling lucky returns only the highest scoring alignment (direct path to genome browser)'. Below the search form, there is a note about pasting query sequences and a file upload section. A note at the bottom states: 'For locating PCR primers, use In-Silico PCR for best results instead of BLAT.'

The screenshot shows the Rhesus BLAT Results page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to Genomes, Genome Browser, Tools, Mirrors, Downloads, My Data, Help, and About Us. Below the navigation bar, the title "Rhesus BLAT Results" is displayed. A red arrow points to the first row of the search results table, which lists multiple entries for "browser details CB312814". The table has columns for ACTIONS, QUERY, SCORE, START, END, QSIZE, IDENTITY, CHRO, STRAND, START, END, and SPAN. The first few rows show identical coordinates: 380, 1, 418, 677, 96.2%, 6, -, 43159698, 43161152, 1455. The last row in the table is "Missing a match?".

The screenshot shows the UCSC Genome Browser interface for the Rhesus Oct. 2010 (BGI CR_1.0/rheMac3) Assembly. The browser window has a blue header with the same navigation links as the BLAT page. The main content area displays a genomic track for chromosome 6. A red arrow points to a specific position on the track where the genome and query sequence differ. A legend at the bottom right of the browser window provides color-coded key for alignment features:

- red:** Genome and query sequence have different bases at this position.
- orange:** The query sequence has an insertion (or genome has a deletion / alignment gap) at this point.
- purple:** The query sequence extends beyond the end of the alignment.
- green:** The query sequence appears to have a polyA tail which is not aligned to the genome.

At the bottom of the browser window, there is a decorative graphic of a DNA double helix and the text "NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE Division of Intramural Research".

Rhesus BLAT Results

Genomes Genome Browser Tools Mirrors Downloads My Data Help About Us

BLAT Search Results

Go back to [chr6:43159698-43164683](#) on the Genome Browser.

ACTIONS	QUERY	SCORE	START	END	QSIZE	IDENTITY	CHRO	STRAND	START	END	SPAN
browser	details CB312814	380	1	418	677	96.2%	6	-	43159698	43161152	1455
browser	det 18 CB312814	23	591	613	677	100.0%	4	-	148338464	148338486	23
browser	det 18 CB312814	22	546	567	677	100.0%	12	-	39379930	39379951	22
browser	det 18 CB312814	21	628	648	677	100.0%	16	+	20696166	20696186	21
browser	det 18 CB312814	21	629	651	677	95.78	1	+	13492821	13492832	23
browser	det 18 CB312814	20	553	574	677	95.5%	11	-	4332656	4332677	22
browser	det 18 CB312814	20	627	646	677	100.0%	1	-	187748214	187748233	20
browser	det 18 CB312814	20	511	530	677	100.0%	1	-	90178654	90178673	20

[Missing a match?](#)

Alignment of CB312814 and chr6:43159698-43161152	
Click on links in the frame to the left to navigate through the alignment. Matching bases in cDNA and genomic sequences are colored blue and capitalized. Light blue bases mark the boundaries of gaps in either sequence (often splice sites).	
cDNA CB312814	
<pre> AGCAATATGCG AGACAGCTTCG GGCCTTGGCTT CCTCTCTCTGCTTCCGAT 50 CGGGAGGAGAC AGAGAGCCAG GACCAAAAGGT CCTCTCTGTAAG GCAACGCCA 100 GGCTTGAGGACA TAAGATGATCA AGATGAGATCA CGTAGACTTCA ATAGCTTCACT 150 GACTCTGGCTC GCTCTCTCTTC AAGCCAGCTTG ATTACCCGTCG ATACTGCAAG 200 CATCTTAATTG CCGAAAGAACAG CGGAGATAAACG TGCGAGAAAAG AGGATATTTCT 250 Aaa[TATTCG] ATATTTGG[Gg] TAATCAATCAA GggATCTTCTT CTTCGATTAAGA 300 ATPACACACATC CTTAGAAAAGA AAGGTCTTCA AGCATATTCG TGTTATATrCA 350 CcAGAAAGAAA ACCAACAGCA TGTCCTGGACT CTTTTAAATGG AAAACAAAGA 400 GACCTCTCCA TATATACGAGG atgttgtccgt ctctggaaaaac acctttgttg 450 gccttttttttcccaacat tggccaaatgg taaaaaaaaaacc ctttttaatgt 500 gttttcctgg aaaaaaaaaag tggaaatttg gctccctccc aaatctccaa 550 aaagaaaaaaaad tttttgtaaaa aaggatgtttt ttgggcaccc gggggggaaaa 600 aaaaattttaa aaacttcccc caccctttttt tttcccttccat tggggactcc 650 ttcccaattt ccggggacat ccccccct </pre>	
Genomic chr6 (reverse strand):	
<pre> atggtaataatgttctggcagg atttatatagaa attcatatgtt aggactgtga 43161203 agttaactat gaagaaggat gacagggtttt ctcttttataa ggacagcccc 43161153 AGCAAAATGCG AGAAAGCTGG GGCCTTGCCCT GGCCTCTCTGCTTCCGAT 43161103 CGGGAGGAGAC AGAGAGCCAG GACCAAAAGGT CCTCTCTGTAAG GCAACGCCA 43161053 GGCTTGAGGACA TAAGATGATCA AGATGAGATCA CGTAGACTTCA ATAGCTTCACT 43160503 GACTCTGGCTC GCTCTCTCTTC AAGCCAGCTTG ATTACCCGTCG ATACTGCAAG 43160553 CATCTTAATTG CCGAAAGAACAG CGGAGATAAACG TGCGAGAAAAG AGGATATTTCT 43160903 Aaa[TATTCG] ATATTTGG[Gg] TAATCAATCAA GggATCTTCTT CTTCGATTAAGA 43160853 ATPACACACATC CTTAGAAAAGA AAGGTCTTCA AGCATATTCG TGTTATATrCA 43160803 CcAGAAAGAAA ACCAACAGCA TGTCCTGGACT CTTTTAAATGG AAAACAAAGA 43160753 GACCTCTCCA TATATACGAGG atgttgtccgt ctctggaaaaac acctttgttg 43160703 gccttttttttcccaacat tggccaaatgg taaaaaaaaaacc ctttttaatgt 43160653 gttttcctgg aaaaaaaaaag tggaaatttg gctccctccc aaatctccaa 43160603 aaagaaaaaaaad tttttgtaaaa aaggatgtttt ttgggcaccc gggggggaaaa 43160553 aaaaattttaa aaacttcccc caccctttttt tttcccttccat tggggactcc 43160503 ttcccaattt ccggggacat ccccccct </pre>	

User Sequence vs Genomic

Alignment of CB312814

CB312814 Rhesus.chr6 block1 block2 together

Side by Side Alignment

tgtta

```
00000001 agcaatgtggagaagtctggggcttgcctggctctgtctccat 00000050
<<<<< ||||| 43161152 a g o a a t g t g g a g a a g t c t g g g c t t g c c t g c t c t g t c t c t c a t 43161103
00000051 cggaggaaacagagggccaggaaaaagctcctttgtaa g c a a c c c c c a 00000100
<<<<< ||||| 43161102 cggaggaaacagagggccaggaaaaagctcctttgtaa g c a a c c c c a 43161053
00000101 gcttggataaagatcaagatccaaatgtcgactccaaatgttcagt 00000150
<<<<< ||||| 43161052 gcttggataaagatcaagatccaaatgtcgactccaaatgttcagt 43161003
00000201 cactaa 00000207
<<<<< ||||| 43160952 cactaa 43160946
00000208 attggaaactcgcaataaaactgtggaaaaaggatattctaaatatt 00000257
<<<<< ||||| 43159908 attggaaactcgcaataaaactgtggaaaaaggatattctaa.tatt 43159860
00000258 cc.tatattttgtgtaaatcatcaaggatctttcgattaaaatcac 00000306
<<<<< ||||| 43159859 ttcttatattttgtgtaaatcatcaaggatctttcgattaaaatcac 43159810
00000307 acatcttagaa 00000318
<<<<< ||||| 43159809 acatcttagaa 43159798
00000321 a a g t t t c a g a g a t t t c t g t a t t t c a c c a g a a a a a c c a a c c g a 00000370
<<<<< ||||| 43159796 a a g t t t c a g a g a t t t c t g t a t t c a a c a a g a a a a a c c a a c a g a 43159747
00000371 t g t c t g g a c t t t t t a . t g g a a c c a a a g a c t c t c a t a t a t g a c 00000418
<<<<< ||||| 43159746 t g t c t g g a c t t t t a a t t g g a a g c a a a g a t g a c t t c t c a t a t a t g a c 43159698
```

*Aligned Blocks with gaps <= 8 bases are merged for this display when only one sequence has a gap, or when gaps in both sequences are of the same size.

Current Topics in Genome Analysis 2016

Next Lecture

February 24, 2016

The Genomic Landscape *circa* 2016

Eric D. Green, M.D., Ph.D.

National Human Genome Research Institute

National Institutes of Health

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