

Gene Sequence Analysis

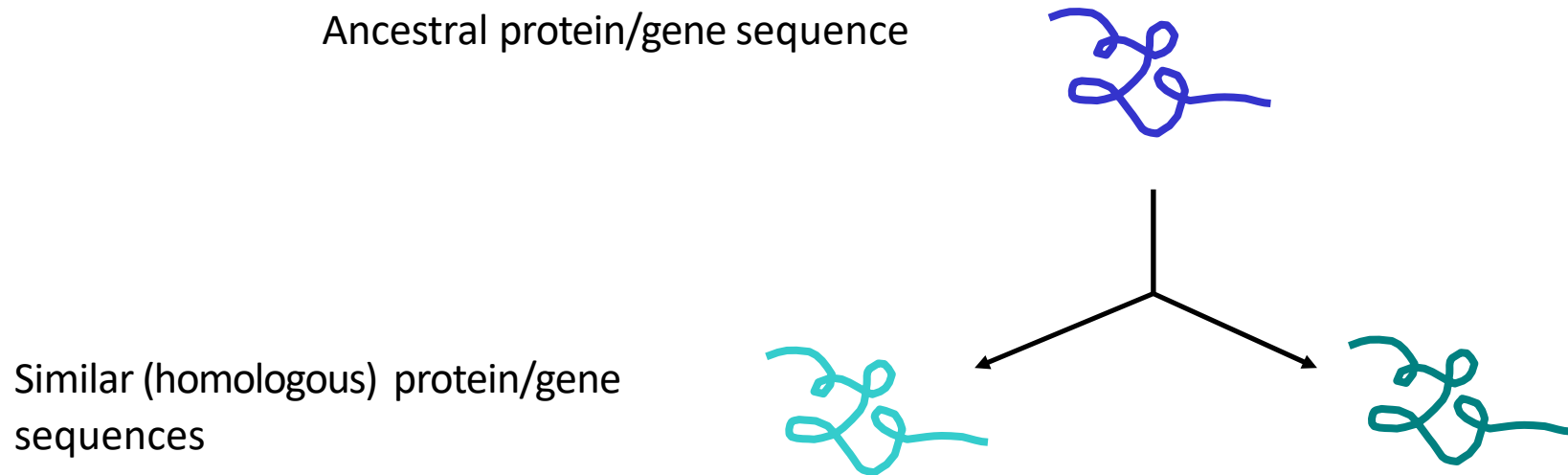
Lecture 2: **Pairwise Alignment**

30/05/2024

Phuc-Loi Luu, PhD

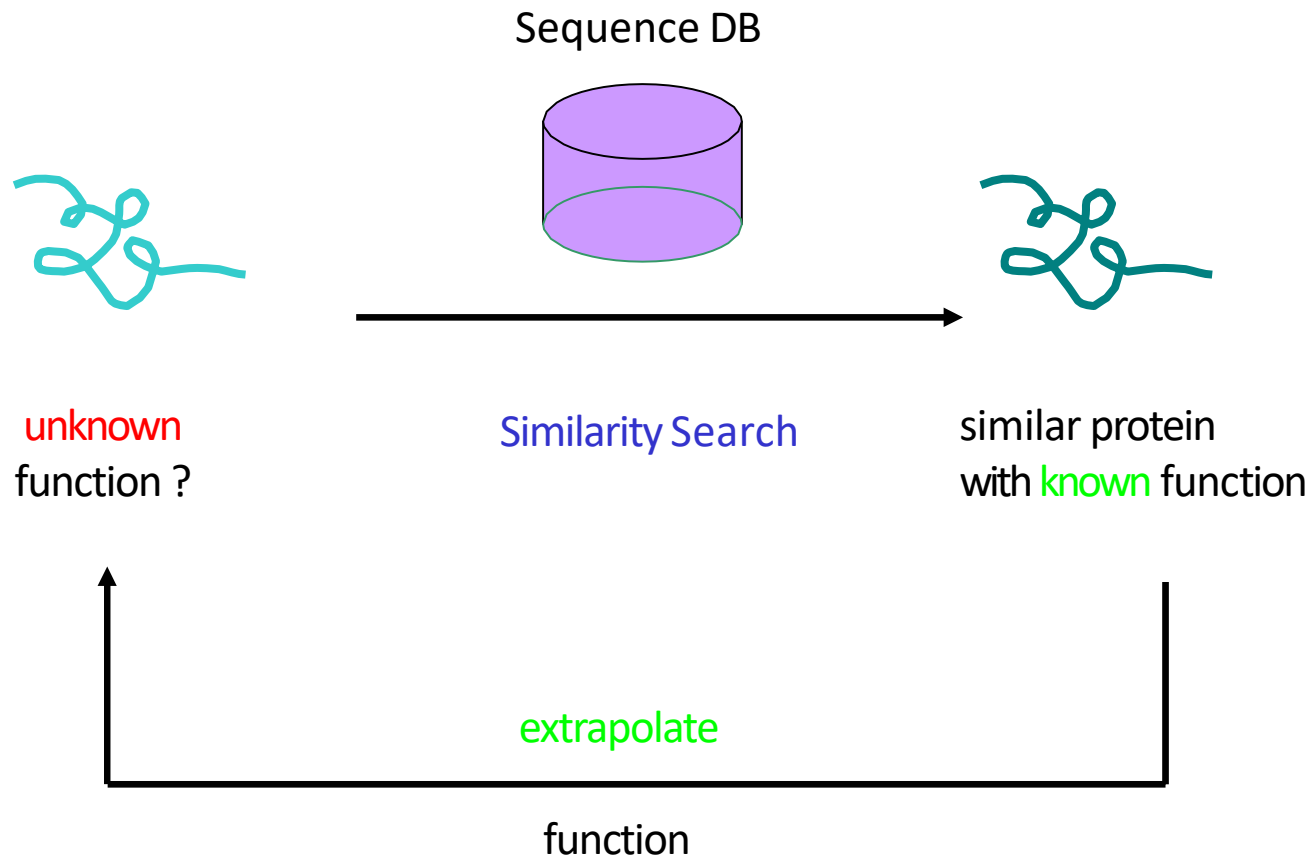
Adapted from Dr. Morgan Langille's Lecture

Importance of Similarity



Similar sequences: probably have the same ancestor, share the same structure, and have a similar biological function

Importance of Similarity



Importance of Similarity

Rule-of-thumb:

If your sequences are more than **100 amino acids** long (or 100 nucleotides long) you can consider them as homologues if **25%** of the **aa** are identical (**70%** of **nucleotide** for DNA). Below this value you enter the **twilight zone**.

Twilight zone = protein sequence similarity between ~0-20% identity: is **not** statistically **significant**, i.e. could have arisen by chance.



Beware:

- E-value (*Expectation value*)
- length of the segments similar between the two sequences
- The number of insertions/deletions

BLAST, FASTA, SSEARCH, and other commonly used similarity searching programs produce accurate statistical estimates that can be used to reliably infer homology. Searches with protein sequences (BLASTP, FASTP, SSEARCH,) or translated DNA sequences (BLASTX, FASTX) are preferred because they are 5- to 10-fold more sensitive than DNA:DNA sequence comparison. The 30% identity rule-of-thumb is too conservative; statistically significant [$E() < 10^{-6} - 10^{-3}$] protein homologs can share less than 20% identity. E()-values and bit scores (bits >50) are far more sensitive and reliable than percent identity for inferring homology.

Descriptions

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: [All](#) [None](#) Selected:0

[Alignments](#) [Download](#) [GenBank](#) [Graphics](#) [Distance tree of results](#)

Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens laminin subunit alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant 2, mRNA	11596	11596	100%	0.0	99%	NM_002290.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens laminin, alpha 4, mRNA (cDNA clone MGC:74960 IMAGE:6164247), complete cds	11533	11533	100%	0.0	99%	BC066552.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens laminin subunit alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant 3, mRNA	11516	11516	100%	0.0	99%	NM_001105207.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens laminin subunit alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant 1, mRNA	11498	11498	100%	0.0	99%	NM_001105206.2
<input type="checkbox"/> laminin alpha 4 chain [human, fetal lung, mRNA, 6204 nt]	11407	11407	98%	0.0	99%	S78569.1
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Gorilla gorilla gorilla laminin, alpha 4, transcript variant 1 (LAMA4), mRNA	11383	11383	100%	0.0	99%	XM_004044552.1
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Homo sapiens laminin, alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant X1, mRNA	11367	11367	99%	0.0	99%	XM_005266983.3
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Gorilla gorilla gorilla laminin, alpha 4, transcript variant 2 (LAMA4), mRNA	11311	11311	100%	0.0	99%	XM_004044553.1
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Gorilla gorilla gorilla laminin, alpha 4, transcript variant 3 (LAMA4), mRNA	11287	11287	100%	0.0	99%	XM_004044554.1
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Homo sapiens laminin, alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant X2, mRNA	11236	11236	97%	0.0	99%	XM_005266984.3
<input type="checkbox"/> H.sapiens mRNA for laminin alpha 4 protein	11158	11158	95%	0.0	100%	X91171.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens mRNA for LAMA4 variant protein, clone: hh01833	10966	10966	95%	0.0	99%	AB210027.1
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Pan paniscus laminin, alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant X2, mRNA	10924	10924	96%	0.0	99%	XM_003822216.3
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Pan troglodytes laminin, alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant X2, mRNA	10890	10890	96%	0.0	99%	XM_518696.5
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Pan paniscus laminin, alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant X1, mRNA	10852	10852	96%	0.0	99%	XM_008975760.1
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Pan paniscus laminin, alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant X3, mRNA	10831	10831	96%	0.0	99%	XM_008975761.1
<input type="checkbox"/> PREDICTED: Pan troglodytes laminin, alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant X1, mRNA	10816	10816	96%	0.0	99%	XM_009451861.1

[Download](#) [GenBank](#) [Graphics](#)

Homo sapiens laminin subunit alpha 4 (LAMA4), transcript variant 2, mRNA

Sequence ID: [ref|NM_002290.4|](#) Length: 7355 Number of Matches: 1

Range 1: 116 to 6412 [GenBank](#) [Graphics](#)

[Next Match](#) [Previous Match](#)

Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
11596 bits(6279)	0.0	6291/6297(99%)	0/6297(0%)	Plus/Plus

Query 1 AGAAGGTAAAAAGGGAGTGGTGAGAATGAATGTGAGAAGGAAGCCAGGACAGCGCAGTCC 60
 Sbjct 116 AGAAGGTAAAAAGGGAGTGGTGAGAATGAATGTGAGAAGGAAGCCAGGACAGCGCAGTCC 175

Query 61 CCAGTCCCCGAACGGCCAGGGAGAGGAGGTGGCCTAGCGCTGGCGGGGCTACCCCCAATCC 120
 Sbjct 176 CCAGTCCCCGAACGGCCAGGGAGAGGAGGTGGCCTAGCGCTGGCGGGGCTACCCCCAATCC 235

Query 121 GTCTGCCTTTTGATGCCGTACTCTGCTGGTTGCGCAGCCACCTCGGGATACTGCACACGG 180
 Sbjct 236 GTCTGCCTTTTGATGCCGTACTCTGCTGGTTGCGCAGCCACCTCGGGATACTGCACACGG 295

Query 181 AGAGGAGGGAAAATAAGCGAGGCACCGCCGCACCACGCGGGAGACCTACGGAGACCCACA 240
 Sbjct 296 AGAGGAGGGAAAATAAGCGAGGCACCGCCGCACCACGCGGGAGACCTACGGAGACCCACA 355

Query 241 GCGCCCCGAGCCCTGGAAGAGCACTACTGGATGTCAGCGGAGAAATGGCTTTGAGCTCAGC 300
 Sbjct 356 GCGCCCCGAGCCCTGGAAGAGCACTACTGGATGTCAGCGGAGAAATGGCTTTGAGCTCAGC 415

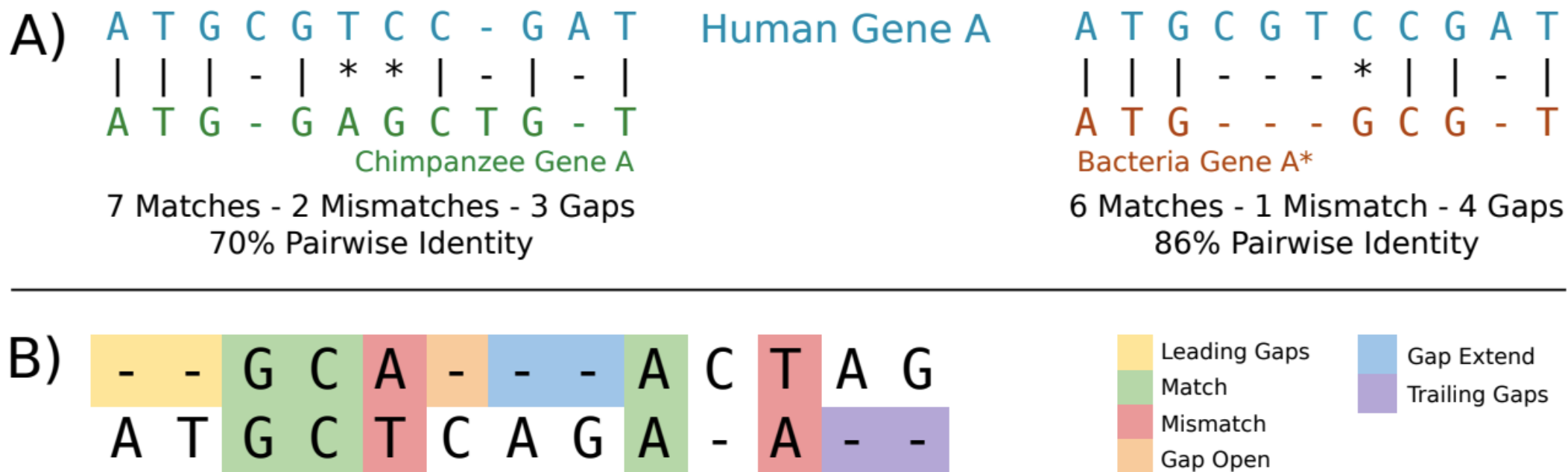


FIGURE 1.2: Similarity versus homology and alignment scoring: *A)* Two sequence alignments to Human Gene A highlighting how true homologs (Chimpanzee Gene A) can have similar similarity to non-homologous sequences (Bacteria Gene A*). *B)* A sequence alignment with different reward or penalties highlighted to illustrate how homology search algorithms score alignments based on sequence similarity.

Doolittle's twilight zone is between 15-25% and is a 'rule of thumb' for sequences of 100 amino acid length or greater (29). The 100 amino acids caveat is due to the greater probability of short sequences having the same amino acid sequence by chance and therefore the level of confidence in short alignments is not as easy to give general advice for (19, 29). No quantitative experiment was done to determine this

As a part of a study of structural ncRNAs that were used to benchmark multiple sequence alignment programs the twilight zone for nucleotide alignment accuracy was calculated (11). It was between 50-60% which is much higher than the 10-20% calculated by Thompson *et al.* 1999 for protein alignments (32). This zone represents

billion years ago (e.g. humans to bacteria). Moreover, DNA:DNA alignment statistics are less accurate than protein:protein statistics; while protein:protein alignments with expectation values < 0.001 can reliably be used to infer homology, DNA:DNA expectation values $< 10^{-6}$ often occur by chance, and 10^{-10} is a more widely accepted threshold for homology based on DNA:DNA searches. The most effective way to improve search sensitivity with DNA sequences is to use translated-DNA:protein alignments, such as those produced by BLASTX and FASTX, rather than DNA:DNA alignments.

Outline

- PSSMs/PSI-BLAST
- HMMs/HMMer RNA Alignments
- Genome Alignments
- Assemblers Mappers

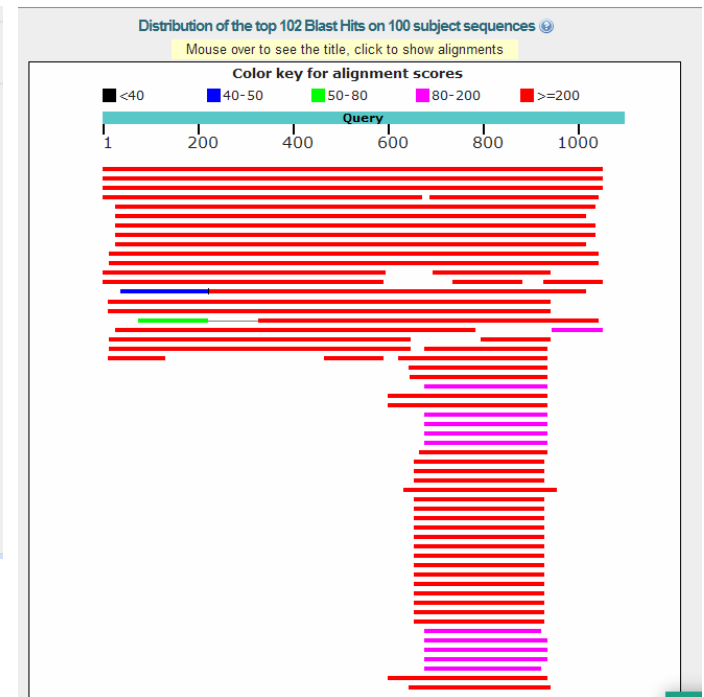
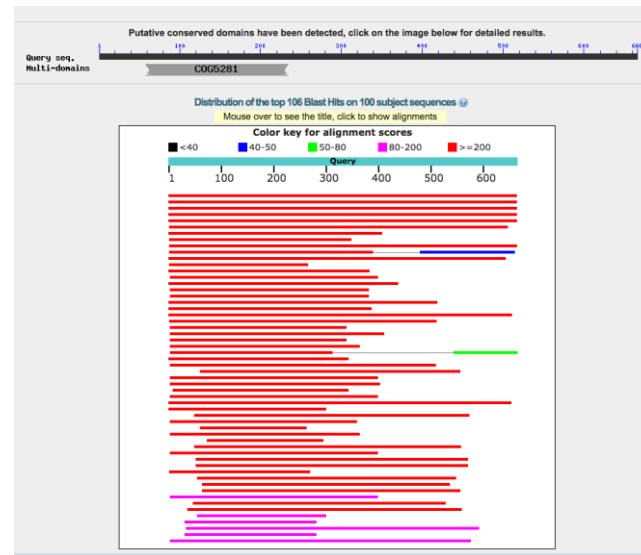
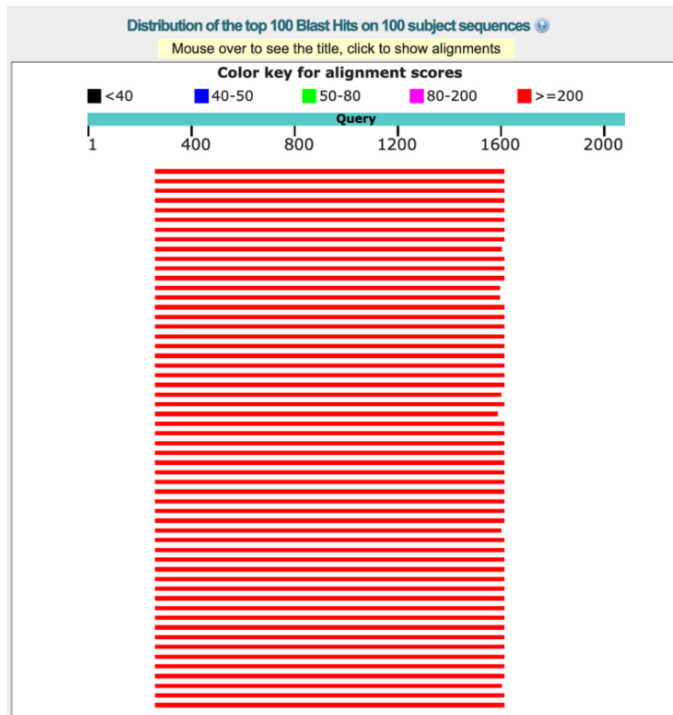
Different tools for homology searching

- Searching for protein families
- Aligning genomes
- Looking for RNA genes
- Combining overlapping sequences (assemblers)
- Finding the position of a sequence in a genome

One tool does not do it all

- Blast may give you an answer
 - BUT you could find the answer much quicker or with more precision by using the right tool!

Typical BLAST output



Histone H1 (residues 120-180)

HUMAN	KKASKPKKAASKAPT	KKPKATPVKKAKKKL	LAATPKKAKKPKTVKAKPVKASKPKKAKPVK
CHIMP	KKASKPKKAASKAPT	KKPKATPVKKAKKKL	LAATPKKAKKPKTVKAKPVKASKPKKAKPVK
MOUSE	KKAAKPKKAASKAPS	SKKPKATPVKKAKKKPA	ATPKKAKKPKVVKVPVKASKPKKAKTVK
RAT	KKAAKPKKAASKAPS	SKKPKATPVKKAKKKPA	ATPKKAKKPKIVKVPVKASKPKKAKPVK
COW	KKAAKPKKAASKAPS	SKKPKATPVKKAKKKPA	ATPKKTKKPKTVKAKPVKASKPKKTKPVK
	:	**:	*****:***

NON-CONSERVED
AMINO ACIDS

Conservative

Conservative

Non-conservative

Conservative

Non-conservative

Semi-conservative

Non-conservative

Distance related proteins

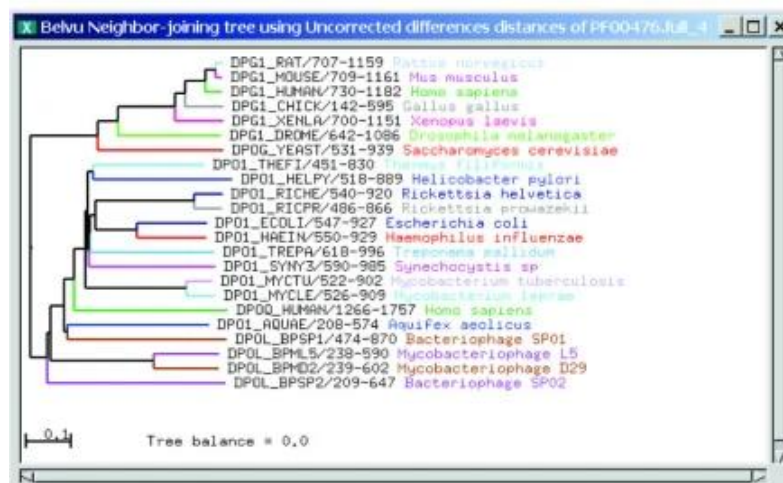
Belvu: PF00476.full_4

File Edit Colour Sort Picked: Column 124: DP01_THEAQ 55/451-830 H = 533 (1 match)

(25x648) ---250-----260-----270-----280-----290-----300-----310-----

DPG1_RAT	707	1159	.....KAMVQAP...	PG--YVLVGADVDSQELWIARVLGDAHFAGMHGCTAFGWMTLQGRKSRGTDLHsKTA
DPG1_MOUSE	709	1161	.....KAMVQAP...	PG--YVLVGADVDSQELWIARVLGDAHFAGMHGCTAFGWMTLQGRKSRGTDLHsKTA
DPG1_HUMAN	730	1182	.....KAMVQAP...	PG--YTLVGADVDSQELWIARVLGDAHFAGMHGCTAFGWMTLQGRKSRGTDLHsKTA
DPG1_CHICK	142	595	.....KAMVQVP...	PG--YSLVGADVDSQELWIARVLGEAHFAGMHGCTAFGWMTLQGGKSSGTDLHsKTA
DPG1_XENLA	700	1151	.....KAMVQVP...	PG--YHLVGADVDSQELWIARVLGEAHFAGIHGCTAFGWMTLQGGKSSGTDLHsKTA
DPG1_DROME	642	1086	.....RSMVQAP...	PG--YRLVGADVDSQELWIARVLGDAYACGEHGATPIGWMTLSGSKSN6SDMHs1TA
DPOG_YEAST	531	939	.....KTQVKAP...	PG--YCFVGADVDSQELWIARVLGDSIFN-VHGGTAIGMCLGKTKNEGTDLHsKTA
DP01_RICHE	540	920	.....RQAFIAR...	EG--YKLISADYSQIELRILSHIANIDALKQAFINKdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_RICPR	486	866	.....REAFIAR...	EG--YKLISADYSQIELRILSHIANIDVLKQAFINKeDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_ECOLI	547	927	.....RQAFIAR...	ED--YVIVSADYSQIELRIMAHLSRDKGLLTAFAGKDIHRATAAEVFLPLE.t--
DP01_ECOLI SA	547	927	.....RQAFIAR...	EG--YKLISADYSQIELRILSHIANIDALKQAFINKdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_ECOLI SS	547	927	.....RQAFIAR...	EG--YKLISADYSQIELRILSHIANIDVLKQAFINKeDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_HAEIN	550	929	.....RQAFIAR...	EG--YSLVADYSQIELRIMAHLSGDQGLINAFSGKDIHRSTAREIFGVSLD.e--
DP01_TREPA	618	996	.....RQAFIAR...	EG--YSLVADYSQIELRILSHIANIDALKQAFINKdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_SYNY3	590	985	.....RRAFLPQ...	KD--WLLVADYSQIELRILAHLSQEPVLLQAYGDRdDVHGVTAKLLFGKEDI.t--
DP01_MYCTU	522	902	.....RDAFVVG...	EG--YKLISADYSQIELRILSHIANIDALKQAFINKdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_MYCLE	526	909	.....RDAFVVGsenNGY-	TELMTADYSQIELRIMAHLSRDEGLIEAFHTGeDLHSFVASRAFGVPIE.d--
DPOQ_HUMAN	1266	1757	pfsismRHAFVVF...	PG--GSILADYSQIELRILAHLSHQRRLIQVNTGaDVFISIAAEWKMIPE.s--
DP01_THEFI	451	830	.....RKAFVAE...	EG--WLLVADYSQIELRILAHLSGDENLKRVFREGdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_HELPY	518	889	.....RKAFIAS...	SKE--YCLLGVDYSQIELRLAHLSQDKDLMEAFKLGdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DP01_AQUAE	208	574	.....RGIFKAE...	EG--NTFVISDYSQIELRIAAEYVKDPLMLDAFKGKGMHRYTASVVLGKKEE.e--
DPOL_BPSP1	474	870	.....KKMFNSR...	FDDGGVIVQFDYSQIELRILVCYYSRPYITIDLYRSGaDLKAVASDAFGVAIE.e--
DPOL_BPHL5	238	590	.....RRCFIAR...	PG--DVMSADYSQIELRILAHLSGDENLKRVFREGdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DPOL_BPHD2	239	602	.....RRCFIAR...	PG--DVMSADYSQIELRILAHLSGDENLKRVFREGdDIHTGTACQIFNLKQH.e--
DPOL_BPSP2	209	647	.....RTAFIPS...	EG--NEFYVSDYSQIELRIAAEYVKDPLMLDAFKGKGMHRYTASVVLGKKEE.e--

A



PSI-BLAST

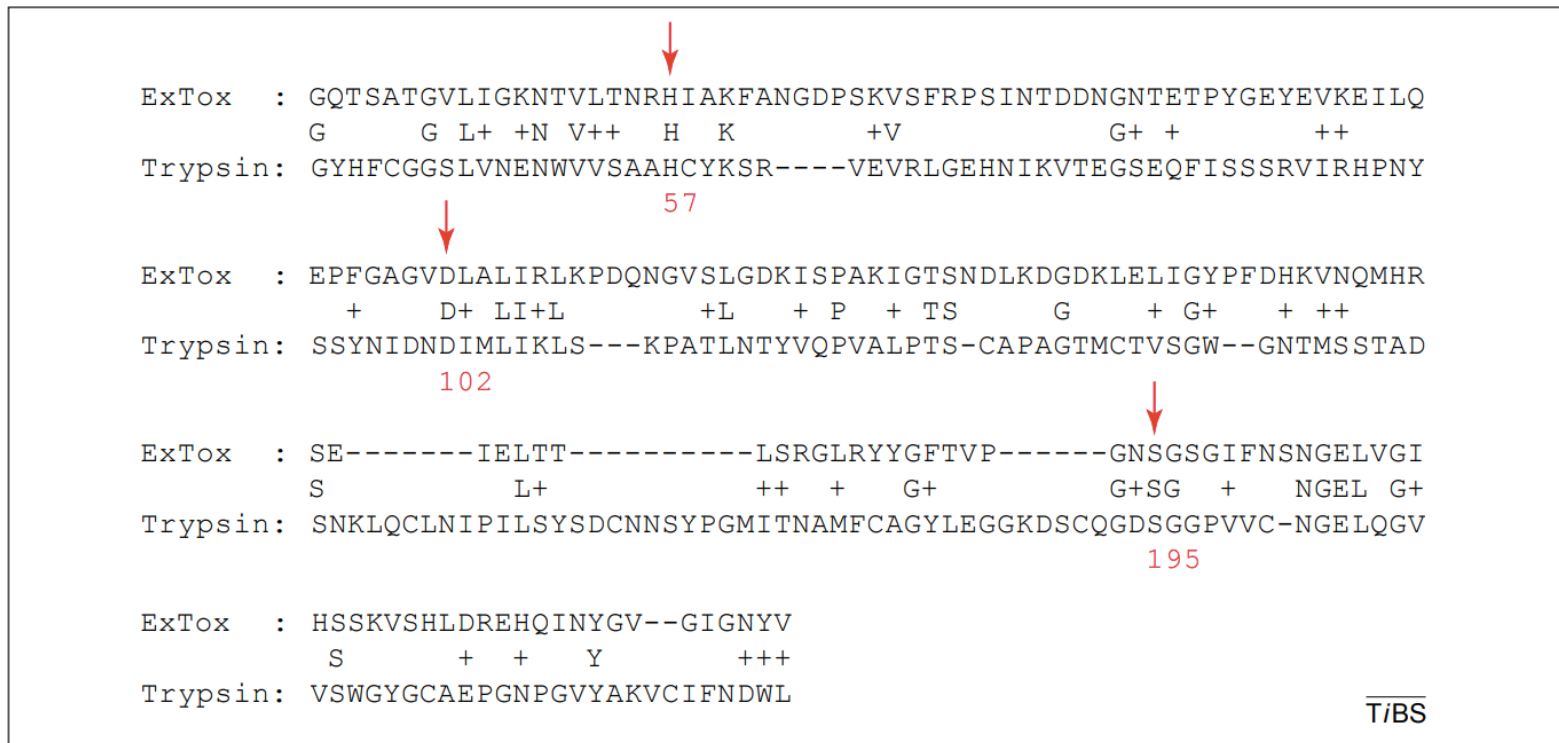


Fig. 1 Third-iteration PSI-BLAST result from querying exfoliative toxin (ExTox) A from *Staphylococcus aureus* (BAA97652.1) against the non-redundant database. His, Asp and Ser residues are indicated with arrows and numbered as for trypsin [anionic; complexed with the inhibitor benzamidine (1bit)]. The alignment has 15% identity (32/206) and the E -value = 6×10^{-21} . The threshold E -value for inclusion in the profile was 0.005 and the effective search space was 22 926 875 677.

PSI-BLAST

```
gi|2622094 (AE000872) conserved protein [Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum]
Length = 143

Score = 84.7 bits (206), Expect = 4e-16
Identities = 56/156 (35%), Positives = 81/156 (51%), Gaps = 16/156 (10%)

Query: 4 MYKKILYPTDFSETAEIALKHVKAFKTLKAEVILLHVIDEREIKKRDIFSLLLGVAGLN 63
          MY KIL PTD S+ A A +H E+I L V++ S L+G+
Sbjct: 1 MYSKILLPTDGSKQANKAAEHAIWIARESGAETIALTVMET-----SSLVGLPA-- 49

Query: 64 KSVVEEFENELKNKLTEEAKNKMENIKKELEDVGFKVKDIIIVV--GIPHEEIVKIAEDEGV 121
          ++ L+ L EEA +E +KK +E+ G +K + G P E I++ E EGV
Sbjct: 50 ---DDLIIIRLREMLEEEASRSLEAVKKLVEESGADIKLTVRTDEGSPAAILRTVEKEGV 106

Query: 122 DIIIMGSHGKTNLKEILLGSVTENVIKKSNKPVLVV 157
          D+++MG+ GK L LLGSV E V++ + PVLVV
Sbjct: 107 DLVVMGTSGKHGLDRFLLGSVAEKVVRSAGCPVLVV 142
```

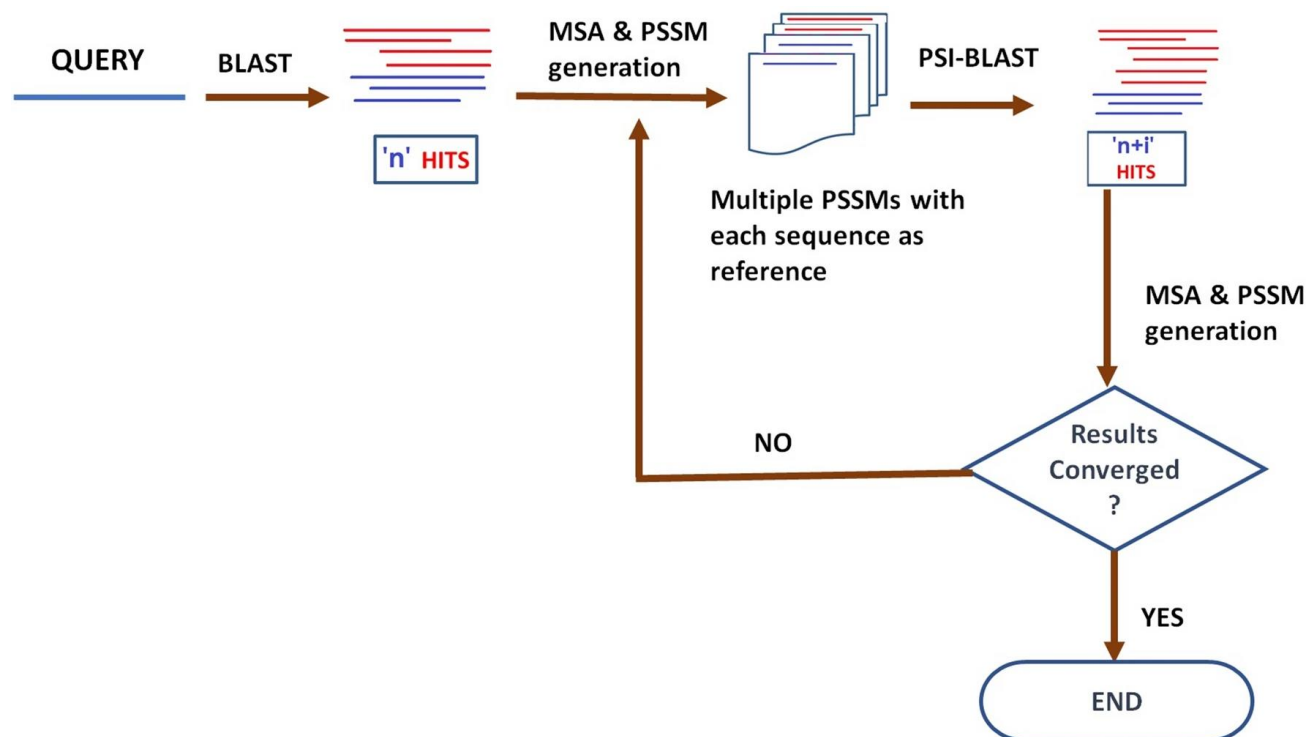
An example of high-scoring segment pairs (HSP) found by PSI-BLAST. The first peptide pairs as marked by the box are similar, and we assign the secondary structure element of each amino acid in MYKKILY to its counterpart in MYSKILL.

PSI-BLAST

- Position Specific Iterated – BLAST A
- cycling/iterative method
 - Gives increased sensitivity for detecting **distantly related proteins**
 - Can give insight into functional relationships
 - Very refined statistical methods
- Fast – still based on BLAST methods
- Simple to use

PSI-BLAST

- Essentially we are using intermediate sequences to infer similarity between two sequences that are too dissimilar to link directly.



Profiles & PSSMs Need Multi-sequence Alignment

	1					50
P43871-1	.....	...IKKLDSN	SIHAIIS	DIP	YGIDYDDWDI	LHSNTNSALG
S18997-1	LMSKIYQMDA	VDWLKTLENC	SVDLFIT	DPP	YESL.EKYRQ	IGTTTRLKES
P23192-1	EINKIHQMNC	FDFLDQVENK	SVQLAVID	DPP	YNL.....	.....
P29538-1	MDQRLICSNA	IKALKNLEEN	SIDLIIT	DPP	YNLG.KDY..	.....
P14751-1	TRHVYDVCDC	LDTLAKLPDD	SVQLIIC	DPP	YNI.....	.....
P34721-1	KNFNIYQGNC	IDFMSHFQDN	SIDMIFAD	DPP	YFLS.NDG.L	TFKNSIIQ..
P50178-1	ENAILVHADS	FKLLEKIKPE	SMDMIFAD	DPP	YFLS.NGG.M	SNSGGQIV..
P20590-1	FLNTILKGDC	IEKLKTIPNE	SIDLIFAD	DPP	YFMQ.TEGKL	LRTNGDEF..
S43876-1	GPETIIHGDC	IEQMNALPEK	SVDLIFAD	DPP	YNLQ.LGGDL	LRPDNSKV..
P28638-1	EAKTIIHGDA	LAELKKIPAE	SVDLIFAD	DPP	YNIG.KNF..	.....
P23941-1	DLGKLYNGDC	LELFKQVPDE	NVDTIFAD	DPP	FNLD.KEY..	.....
P14230-1	RSCKIIVGDA	REAVQGLDSE	IFDCVVT	SPP	YWGL.RDY..	.....
P14243-1	NGATLFEGDA	LSVLRRLPSG	SVRCIVT	SPP	YWGL.RDY..	.....
Q04845-1	LNNMLLQGNC	AETLKKLPDE	SVNLVFT	SPP	YY.....	.....
S53866-1	WVNDIHEGDA	EEVLAELPES	SVHVMVT	SPP	YFGL.RDY..	.....
P29568-1	.....	...MNELKDK	SINLVVT	SPP	YPMV.EIWDR	LFSELNPKIE

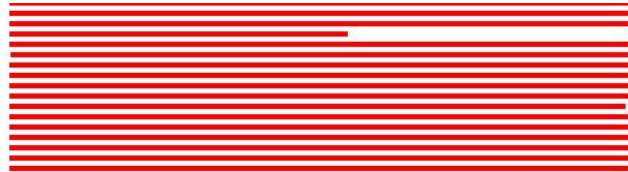
Signature Sequence:

DPP Y

How does PSI-BLAST work?

- 1) First, a standard blastp is performed
- 2) The highest scoring hits are used to generate a multiple alignment
- 3) A Position Specific Scoring Matrix (PSSM) is generated from the multiple alignment.
 - Highly conserved residues get high scores
 - Less conserved residues get lower scores
 - The PSSM describes the sequence similarity between your query and all significant blastp hits
- 4) Another similarity search is performed, this time using the new PSSM as the query sequence.
 - This PSSM (scoring matrix) is now customized to find sequences that are related to your original query
 - Steps 2-4 can be repeated until convergence
 - Convergence occurs when no new sequences appear after iteration

PSI-BLAST Example



Descriptions

Legend for links to other resources: [U](#) UniGene [E](#) GEO [G](#) Gene [S](#) Structure [M](#) Map Viewer [B](#) PubChem BioAssay

NEW - alignment score below the threshold on the previous iteration

- alignment was checked on the previous iteration

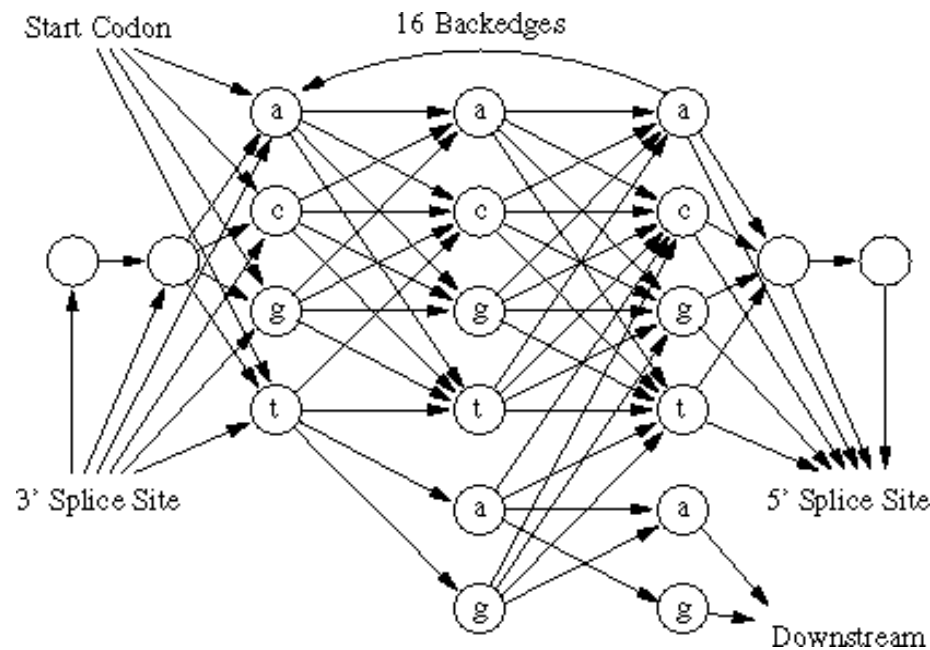
Run PSI-Blast iteration 2 with max [Go](#)

Sequences producing significant alignments with E-value BETTER than threshold

	Accession	Description	Max score	Total score	Query coverage	E value	Max ident	Links
NEW	NP_625085.1	tetracycline resistance protein [Streptomyces coelicolor A3(2)]	1172	1172	100%	0.0	98%	G
NEW	ZP_07295505.1	tetracycline resistance protein TetP [Streptomyces hygroscopicus ATCC	650	650	97%	0.0	61%	
NEW	YP_003342575.1	unnamed protein product [Streptosporangium roseum DSM 43021]	637	637	97%	0.0	58%	G
NEW	YP_004811081.1	small GTP-binding protein [Streptomyces violaceusniger Tu 4113]	634	634	97%	0.0	58%	G
NEW	ZP_06532924.1	tetracycline resistance protein [Streptomyces lividans TK24]	587	587	48%	0.0	99%	
NEW	YP_004920166.1	unnamed protein product [Streptomyces cattleya NRRL 8057]	586	586	97%	0.0	58%	G
NEW	YP_003118884.1	small GTP-binding protein [Catenuispora acidiphila DSM 44928]	560	560	97%	0.0	54%	G
NEW	YP_003486610.1	unnamed protein product [Streptomyces scabiei 87.22]	472	472	95%	2e-156	50%	G
NEW	ZP_06921723.1	translation elongation factor G [Streptomyces svceus ATCC 29083]	468	468	95%	3e-155	50%	
NEW	YP_003383525.1	small GTP-binding protein [Kribbella flavida DSM 17836]	467	467	97%	4e-155	48%	G
NEW	ZP_04163174.1	GTP-binding elongation factor protein, TetM/TetO [Bacillus mycoides Roc	462	462	96%	4e-153	38%	
NEW	ZP_07276632.1	translation elongation factor G [Streptomyces sp. AA4]	462	462	97%	5e-153	47%	
NEW	ZP_04151746.1	GTP-binding elongation factor protein, TetM/TetO [Bacillus pseudomycoi	459	459	96%	9e-152	38%	
NEW	ZP_04157524.1	GTP-binding elongation factor protein, TetM/TetO [Bacillus mycoides Roc	457	457	96%	5e-151	38%	
NEW	ZP_04198058.1	GTP-binding elongation factor protein, TetM/TetO [Bacillus cereus AH60.	457	457	96%	6e-151	38%	
NEW	ZP_09405061.1	putative tetracycline resistance protein [Streptomyces sp. W007]	454	454	97%	1e-149	50%	
NEW	ZP_04097136.1	GTP-binding elongation factor protein, TetM/TetO [Bacillus thuringiensis	453	453	97%	1e-149	38%	
NEW	ZP_04228518.1	GTP-binding elongation factor protein, TetM/TetO [Bacillus cereus Rock3	451	451	96%	1e-148	38%	
NEW	ZP_07308418.1	translation elongation factor G [Streptomyces viridochromogenes DSM 4	449	449	97%	6e-148	47%	

HMMs & HMMer

- The more powerful way to search for protein families than PSSMs



Hidden Markov Models

Hidden Markov Models in Bioinformatics

- **Used extensively in gene prediction**
- **Used to create Sequence Profiles and to classify sequences into families**
- **Used in Multiple Sequence Alignment**

HMMER 3

- Suite of sequence analysis programs based on HMMs
- Used to build the Pfam database
- Available for free download at
 - <http://hmmer.org/>

HMMER 3

- HMMER 2 was used for many years
 - Biggest draw back was always speed
- HMMER 3 released in 2011
 - Very fast with comparable speeds to BLAST
 - 100X faster than v2

HMMER Programs

- **hmmbuild** – build a HMM from multiple sequence alignment
- **hmmsearch** – searches a query sequence(s) against a database of HMMs (used by PFAM)
- **hmmsearch** – searches a query HMM against a database of sequences (e.g. like psi-blast)
- **phmmer** – search a protein sequence vs a sequence database (e.g. like blastp)

HMMER Search & Software

- <http://hmmer.janelia.org/search>
- PFAM
 - <http://pfam.sanger.ac.uk/>

RNA Alignments

- RNA alignments are “special”
- RNA genes often have secondary structures that allow improved searching
- Improved searching is needed since
 - Must search in DNA space (less complex than protein sequences)
 - Often shorter length than proteins

Infernal (RNA Search)

- Infernal is like HMMER
 - Includes use of secondary structure information
 - Uses profile “stochastic context-free grammar”
 - SCFGs vs HMMs
 - “consensus RNA secondary structure profiles”
- Infernal is slow!
- Infernal can be used to search RFAM

RNAseq alignment with Magic-BLAST

Software | [Open Access](#) | Published: 25 July 2019

Magic-BLAST, an accurate RNA-seq aligner for long and short reads

[Grzegorz M. Boratyn](#), [Jean Thierry-Mieg](#), [Danielle Thierry-Mieg](#), [Ben Busby](#) & [Thomas L. Madden](#) 

[BMC Bioinformatics](#) **20**, Article number: 405 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

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Abstract

Background

Next-generation sequencing technologies can produce tens of millions of reads, often paired-end, from transcripts or genomes. But few programs can align RNA on the genome and accurately discover introns, especially with long reads. We introduce Magic-BLAST, a new aligner based on ideas from the Magic pipeline.

Results

Magic-BLAST uses innovative techniques that include the optimization of a spliced alignment score and selective masking during seed selection. We evaluate the performance of Magic-BLAST to accurately map short or long sequences and its ability to discover introns on real RNA-seq data sets from PacBio, Roche and Illumina runs, and on six benchmarks, and compare it to other popular aligners. Additionally, we look at alignments of human idealized RefSeq mRNA sequences perfectly matching the genome.

RNAseq alignment with Magic-BLAST

NCBI Magic-BLAST RNA-seq mapping tool

NCBI Magic-BLAST Documentation

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Magic-BLAST is a tool for mapping large next-generation RNA or DNA sequencing runs against a whole genome or transcriptome. Each alignment optimizes a composite score, taking into account simultaneously the two reads of a pair, and in case of RNA-seq, locating the candidate introns and adding up the score of all exons. This is very different from other versions of BLAST, where each exon is scored as a separate hit and read-pairing is ignored.

Magic-BLAST incorporates within the NCBI BLAST code framework ideas developed in the NCBI Magic pipeline, in particular hit extensions by local walk and jump (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26109056>), and recursive clipping of mismatches near the edges of the reads, which avoids accumulating artefactual mismatches near splice sites and is needed to distinguish short indels from substitutions near the edges.

More details about the algorithm and comparison with other similar tools are published here:

Boratyn GM, Thierry-Mieg J, Thierry-Mieg D, Busby B, Madden TL. (2019) **Magic-BLAST, an accurate RNA-seq aligner for long and short reads.** *BMC Bioinformatics* 20: 405. [\[article\]](#)

We call the whole next generation run (from Illumina, Roche-454, ABI, or another sequencing platform excluding SOLID), a query. The input reads may be provided as SRA accession or a file in a SRA, FASTA, and FASTQ format. Read pairs can be presented as parallel files, or as successive reads in a single file.

The reference genome or transcriptome can be given as a BLAST database or a FASTA file. It is preferable to use BLAST database for large genomes, such as human, or transcript collections, such as all of RefSeq, Ensembl, or AceView. See here on [how to create a BLAST database](#).

The full list of options is listed when you use `-help` option.

Thank you for trying this tool and providing us with feedback. Please, let us know of any desired enhancement, problem or difficulty.

E-mail blast-help@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov with questions or comments.

[Download NCBI Magic-BLAST](#)

Homo sapiens chromosome 17, GRCh38.p12 Primary Assembly

Sequence ID: [NC_000017.11](#) Length: 83257441 Number of Matches: 21

Range 1: 47189145 to 47189224 [GenBank](#) [Graphics](#) [Next Match](#) [Previous Match](#)

Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
145 bits(160)	1e-31	80/80(100%)	0/80(0%)	Plus/Minus

Features: [cell division cycle protein 27 homolog isoform 3](#)
[cell division cycle protein 27 homolog isoform 2](#)

```
Query 7 CCGCTACAggggggCCTGAGGCACTGCAGAAAGTGGGCCTGAGCCTCGAGGATGACGGT 66
      |||
Sbjct 47189224 CCGCTACAGGGGGGGCCTGAGGCACTGCAGAAAGTGGGCCTGAGCCTCGAGGATGACGGT 47189165

Query 67 GCTGCAGGAACCCGTCCAGG 86
      |||
Sbjct 47189164 GCTGCAGGAACCCGTCCAGG 47189145
```

Range 2: 47181562 to 47181640 [GenBank](#) [Graphics](#) [Next Match](#) [Previous Match](#) [First Match](#)

Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
143 bits(158)	4e-31	79/79(100%)	0/79(0%)	Plus/Minus

Features: [cell division cycle protein 27 homolog isoform 4](#)
[cell division cycle protein 27 homolog isoform X6](#)

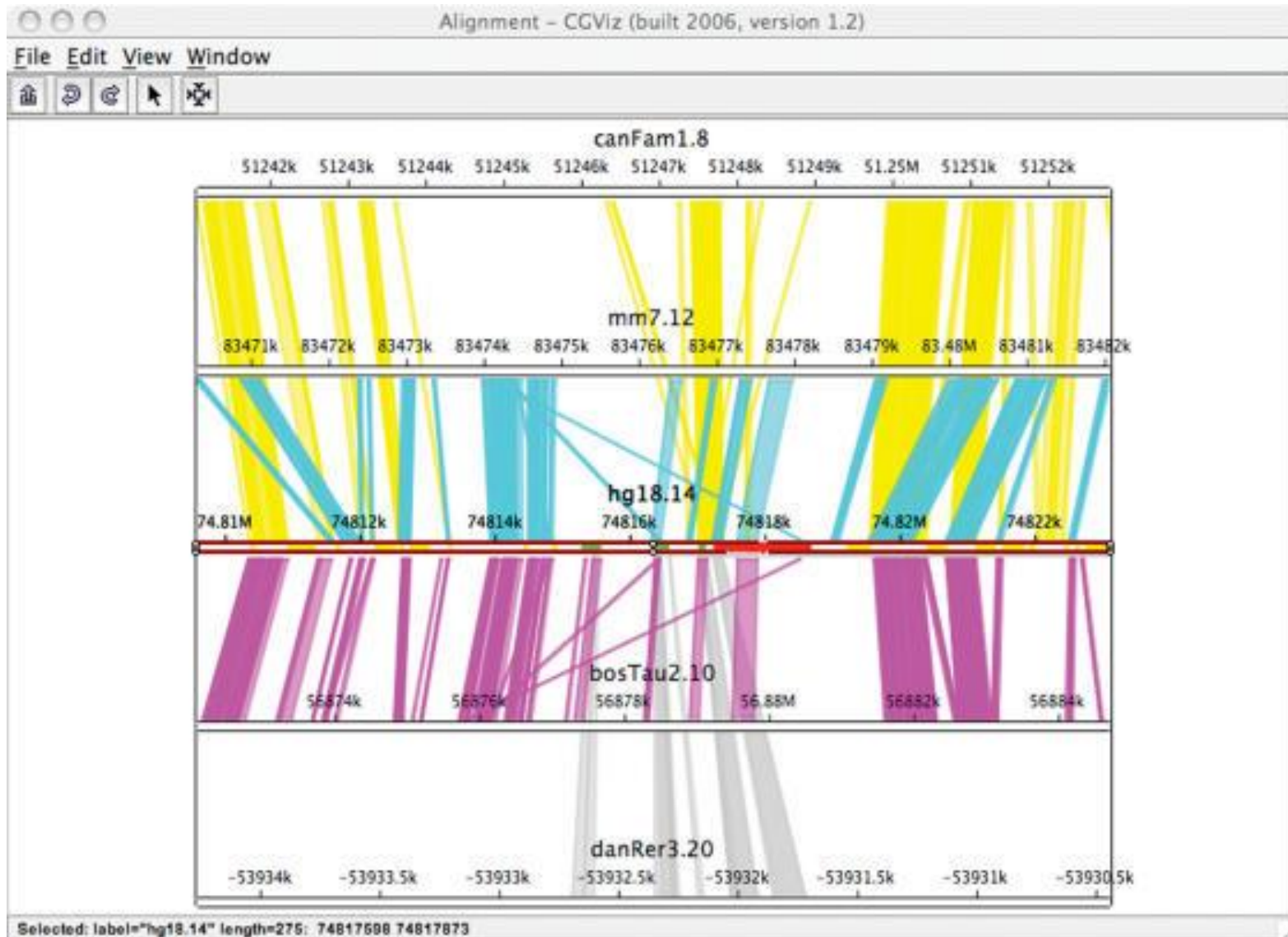
```
Query 83 CAGGCTGCTATATGGCAAGCACTAAACCACTATGCTTACCGAGATGCGGTTTTCTCGCA 142
      |||
Sbjct 47181640 CAGGCTGCTATATGGCAAGCACTAAACCACTATGCTTACCGAGATGCGGTTTTCTCGCA 47181581

Query 143 GAACGCCTTTATGCAGAAG 161
      |||
Sbjct 47181580 GAACGCCTTTATGCAGAAG 47181562
```

<https://ncbi.github.io/magicblast/>

<https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12859-019-2996-x>

Genome Alignment



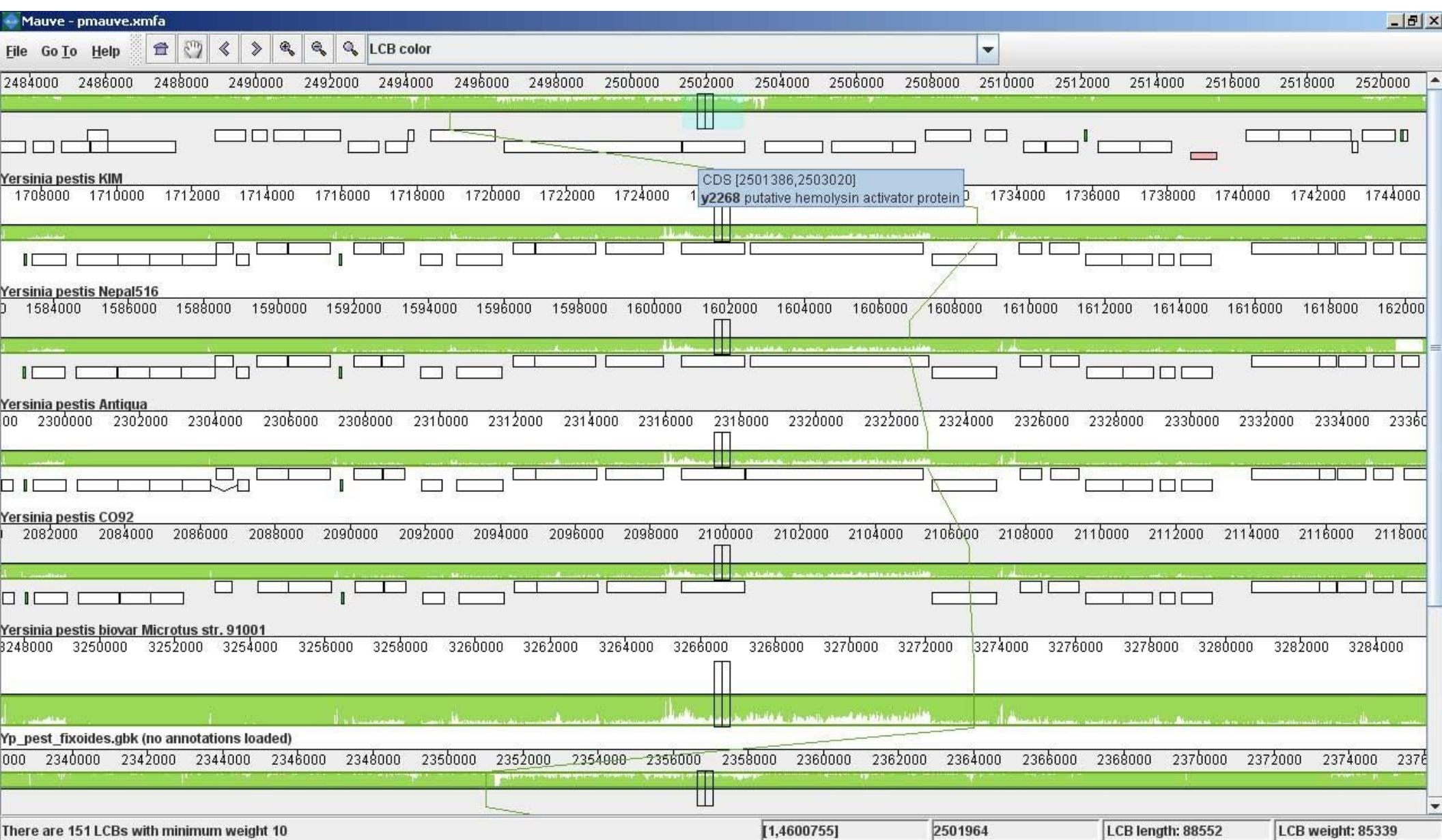
Genome Alignment

- Genome alignment useful for
 - Visualizing genome
 - Rearrangements
 - Insertions/deletions
 - Inversions
 - Annotating genomes
 - Comparing gene annotations across species

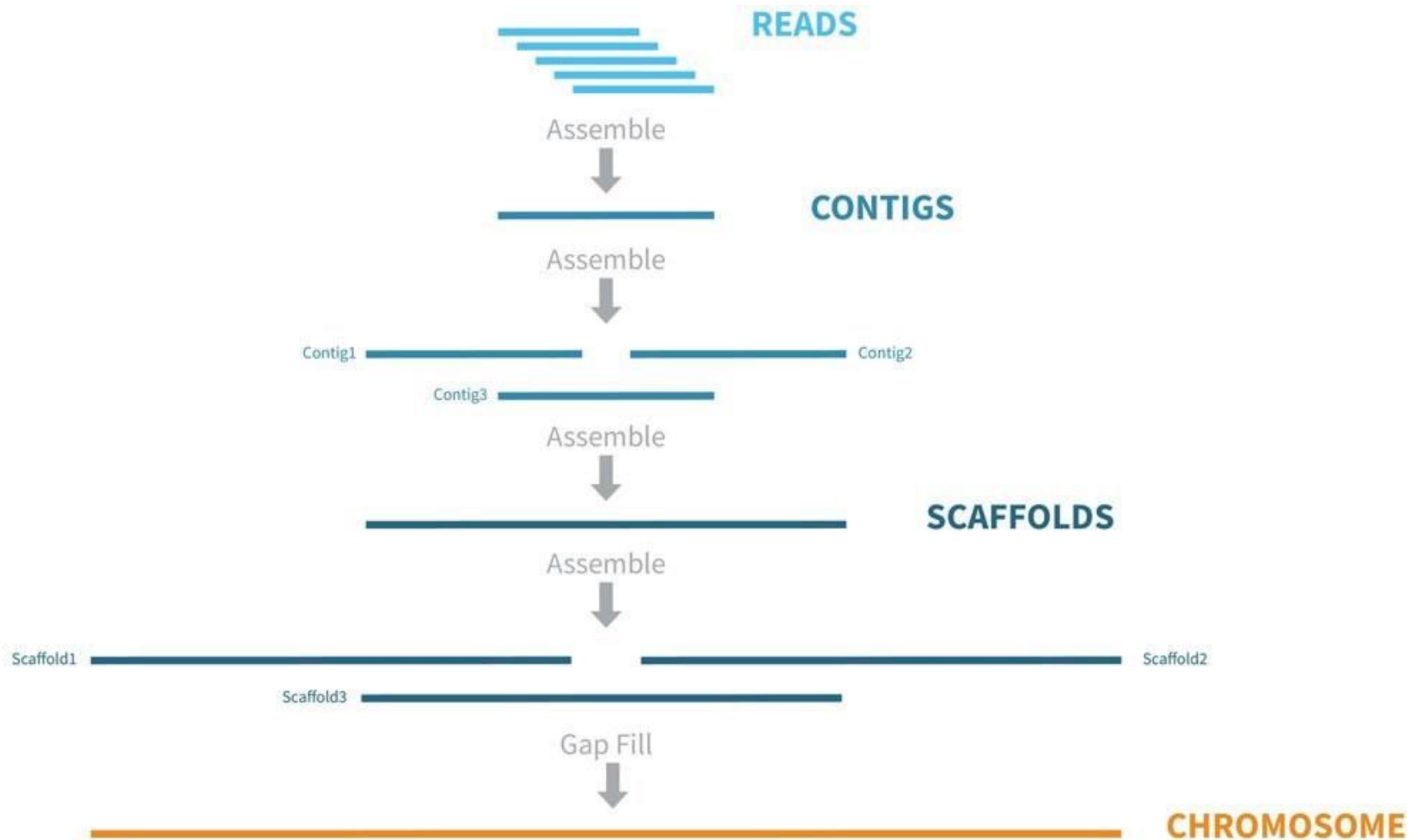
Mauve



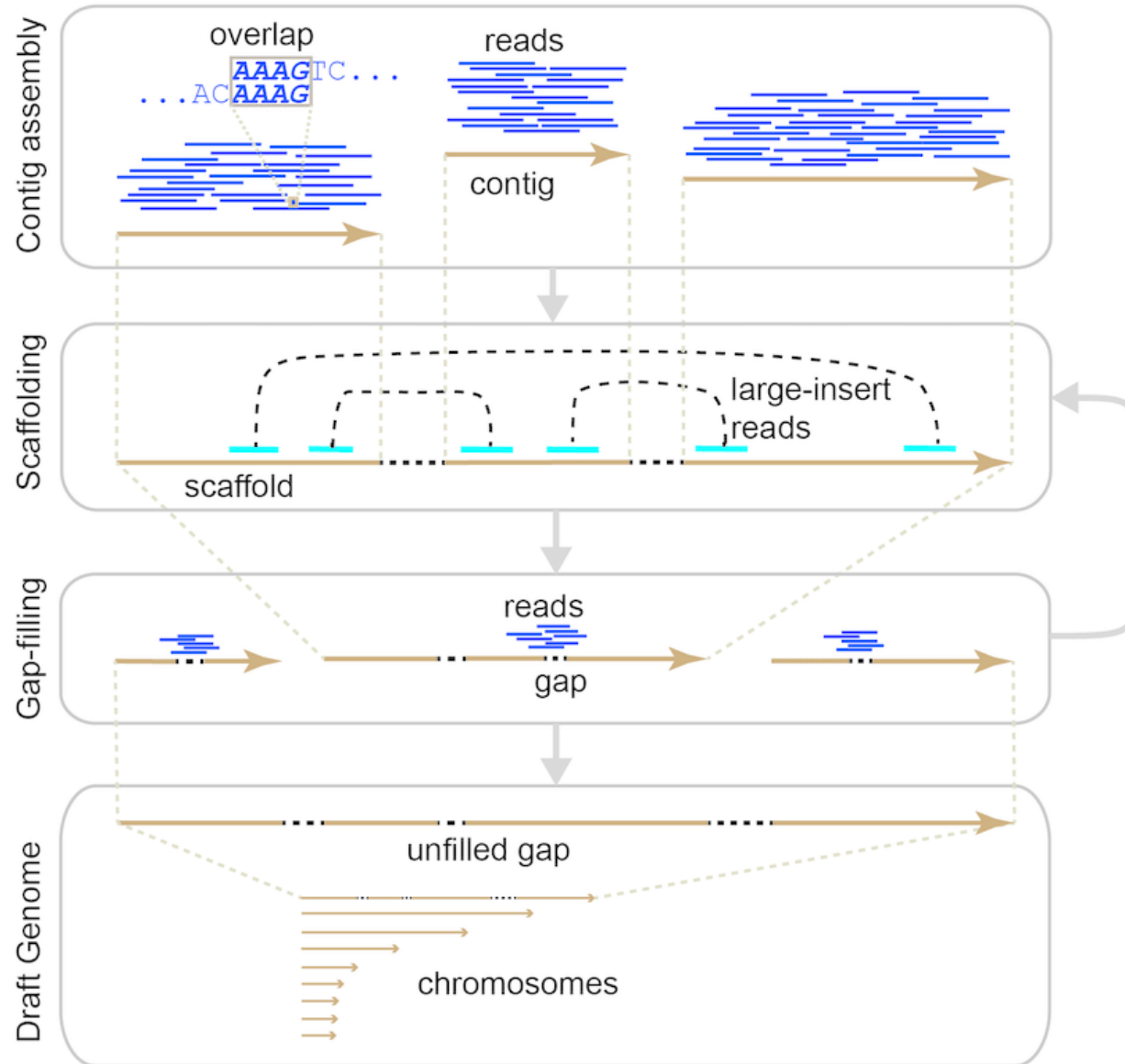
Mauve (zoomed in)



Assemblers



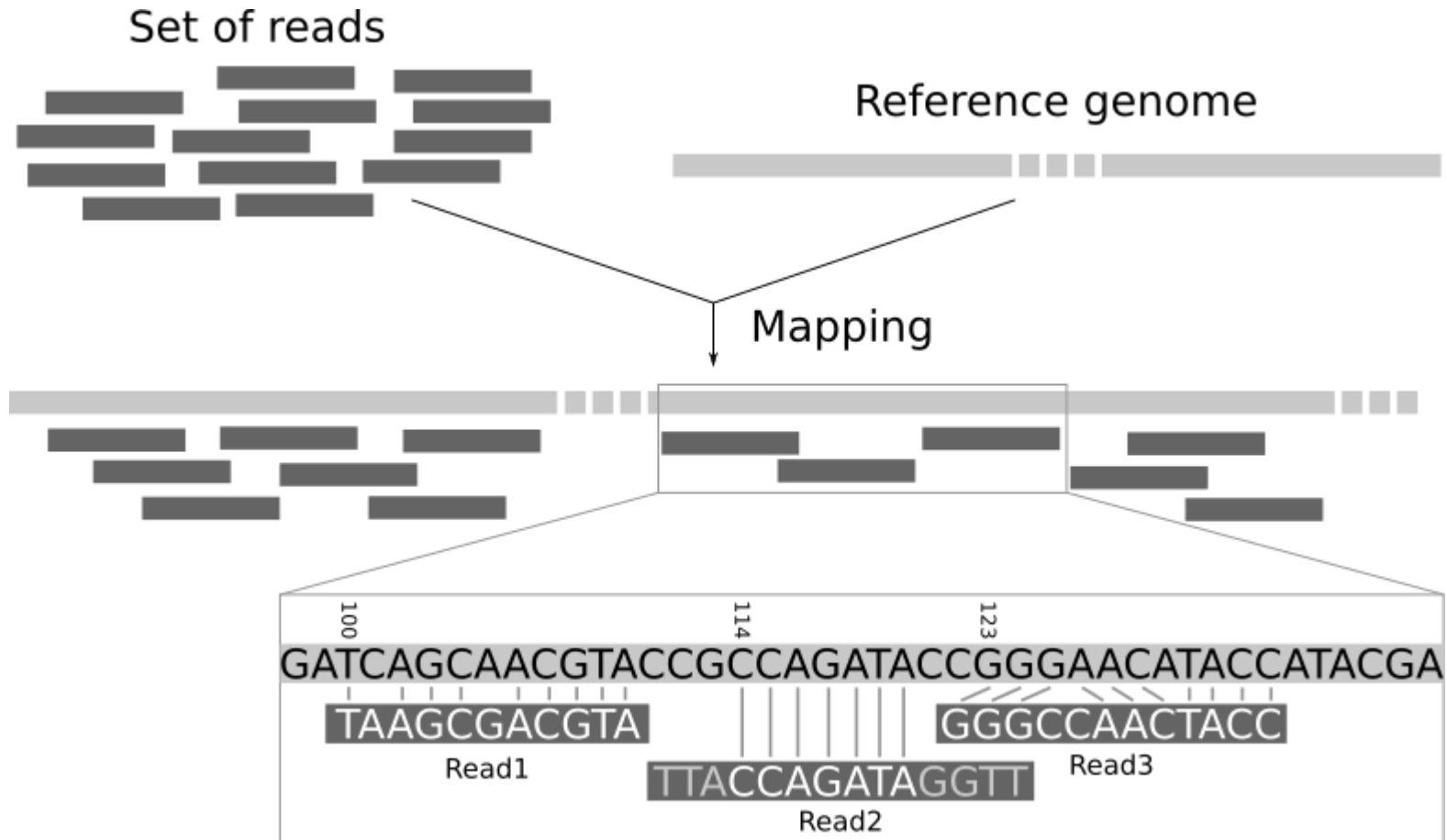
Assemblers



Assemblers

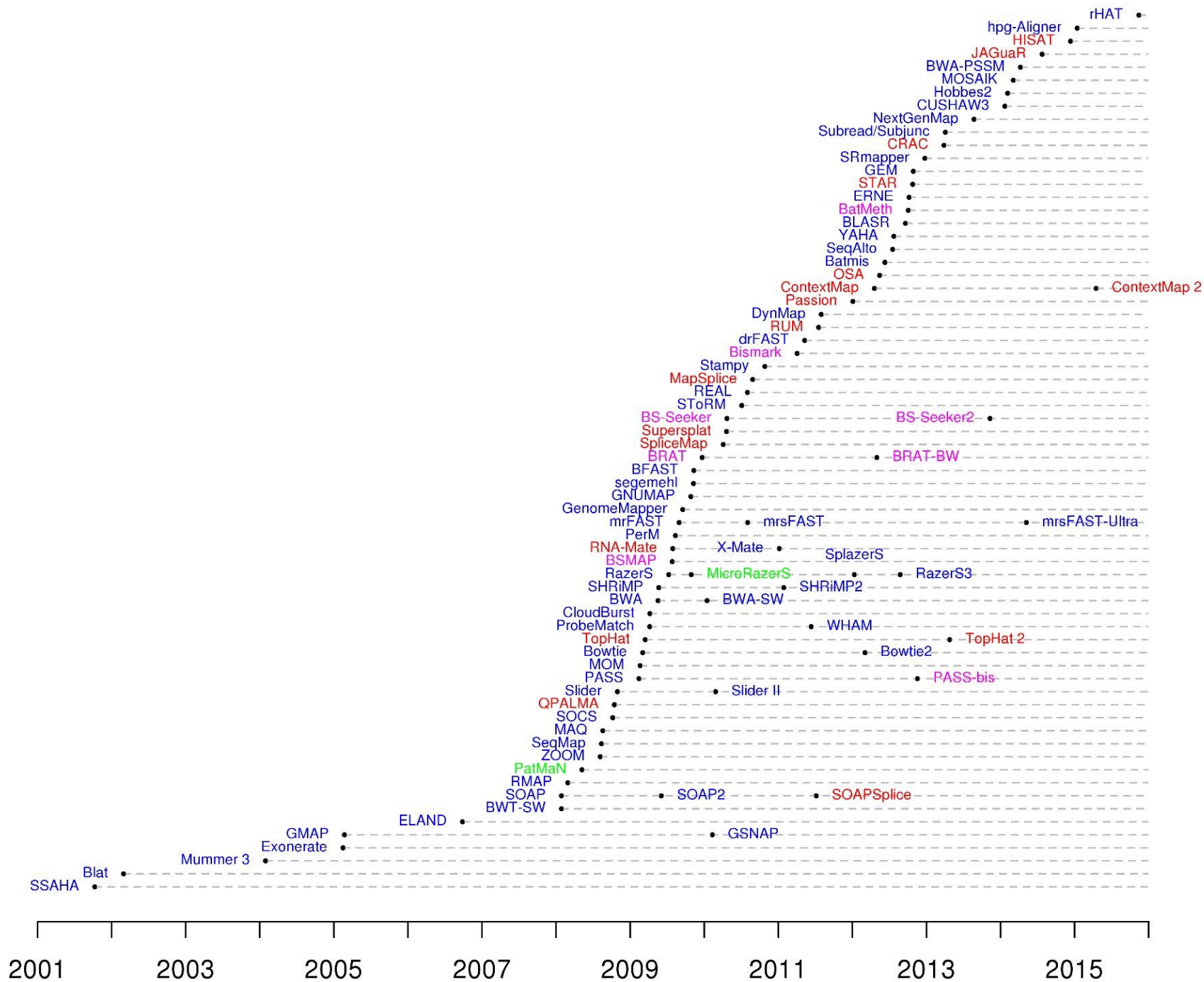
- Assemblers job is to make longer sequences from shorter ones.
- Nothing like homology searching
- Must efficiently compare and join billions of sequences
- Soap-Denovo: <http://soap.genomics.org.cn/soapdenovo.html>
- Amos: <http://sourceforge.net/apps/mediawiki/amos/index.php?title=AMOS>
- Many, many, more

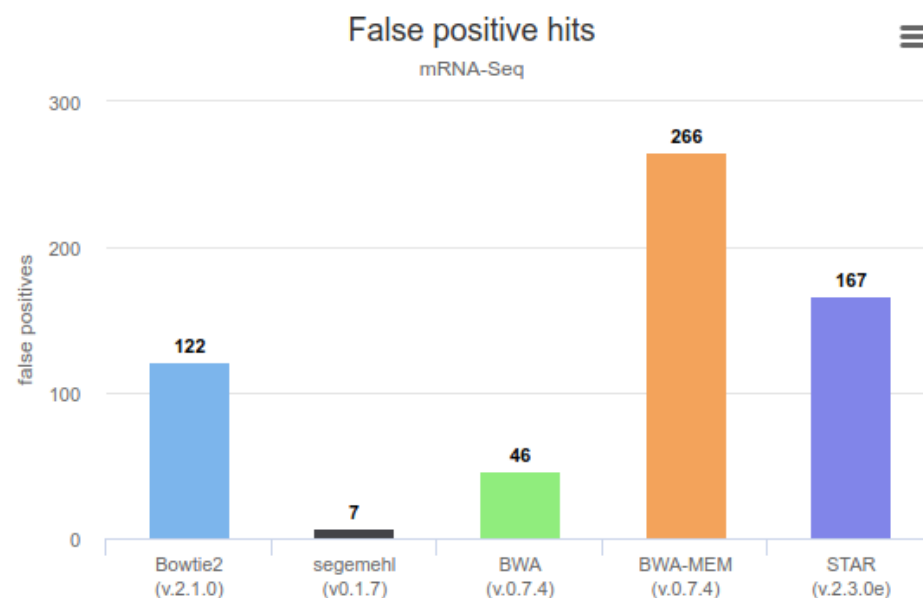
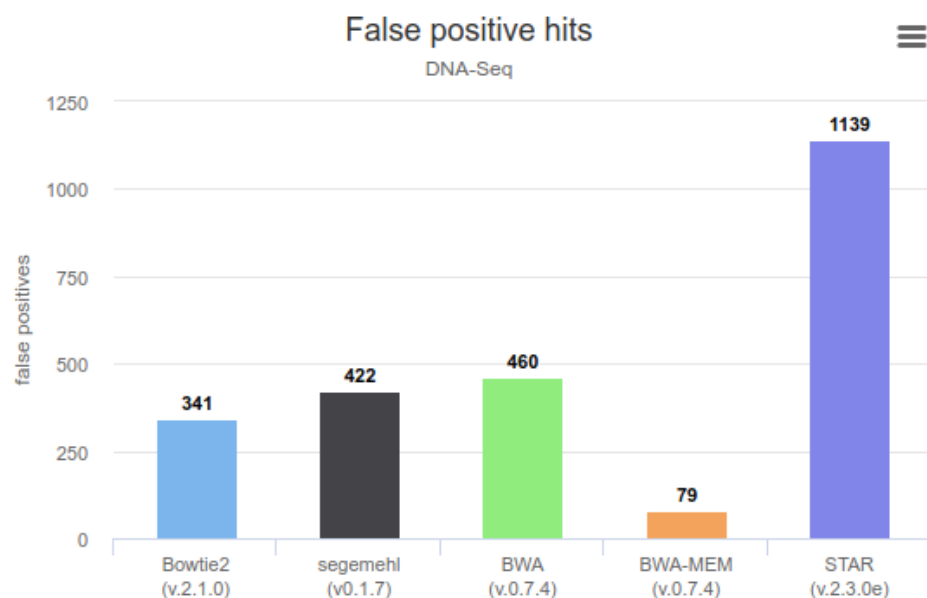
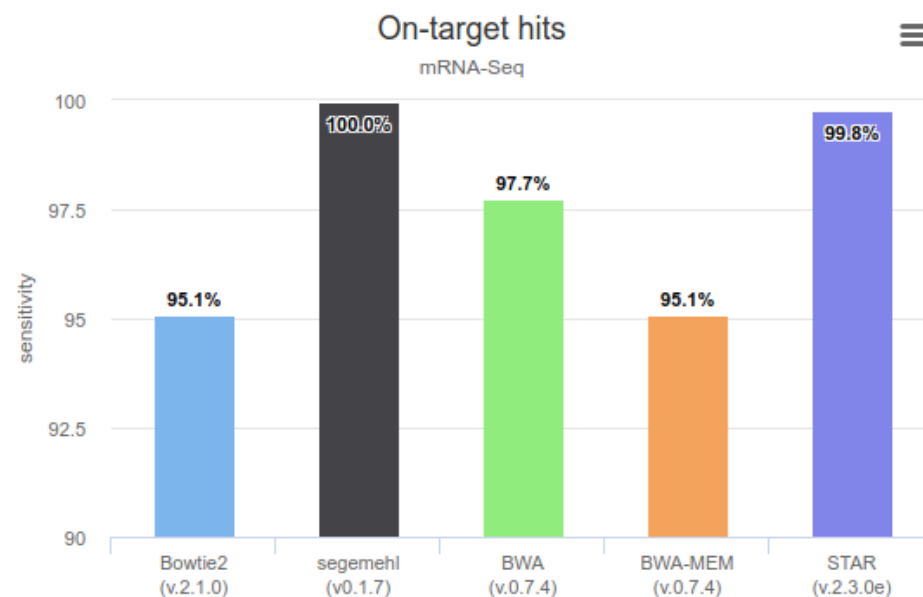
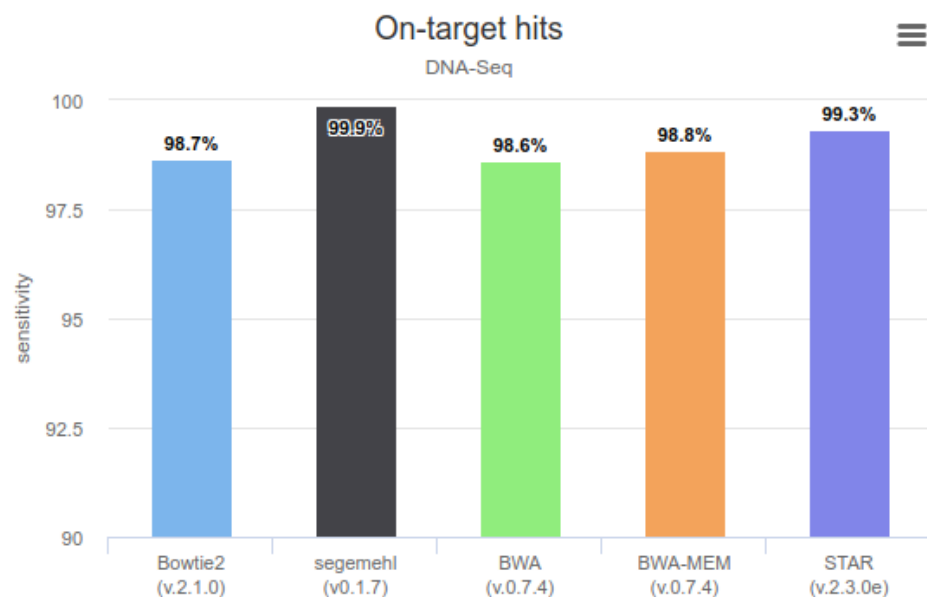
Mappers (Aligners)



Mappers

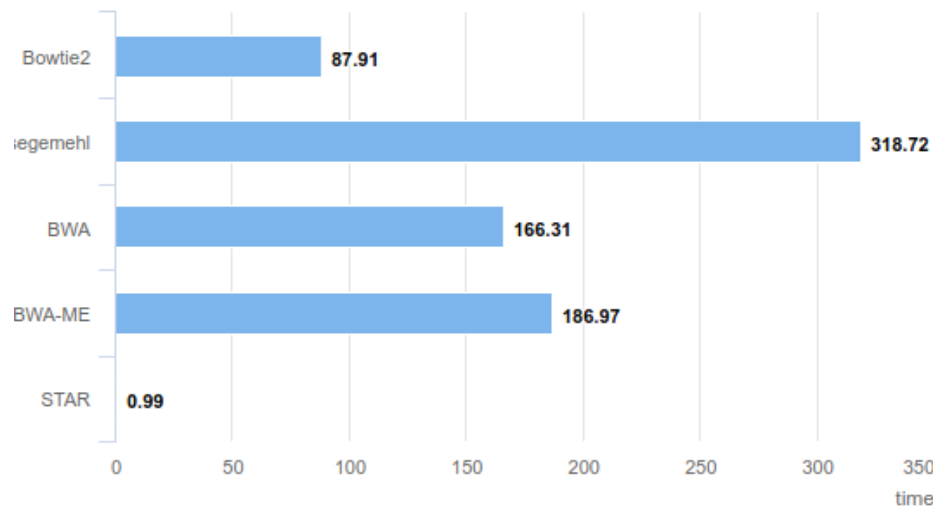
- These map a read to a reference genome
- Useful for assembly when a reference genome is already known
 - (think assembly of personal human genomes)
- Identifying SNPs within the same species Very Fast!
- BWA: <https://github.com/lh3/bwa>
- Bowtie: <http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/index.shtml>
- Stampy: <http://www.well.ox.ac.uk/project-stampy>
- Many Others
-





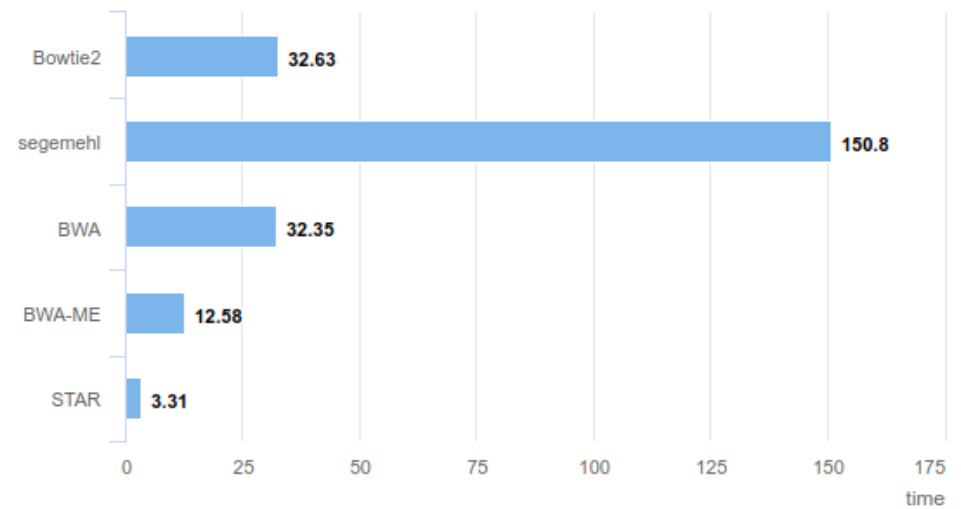
User time [s]

DNA-Seq



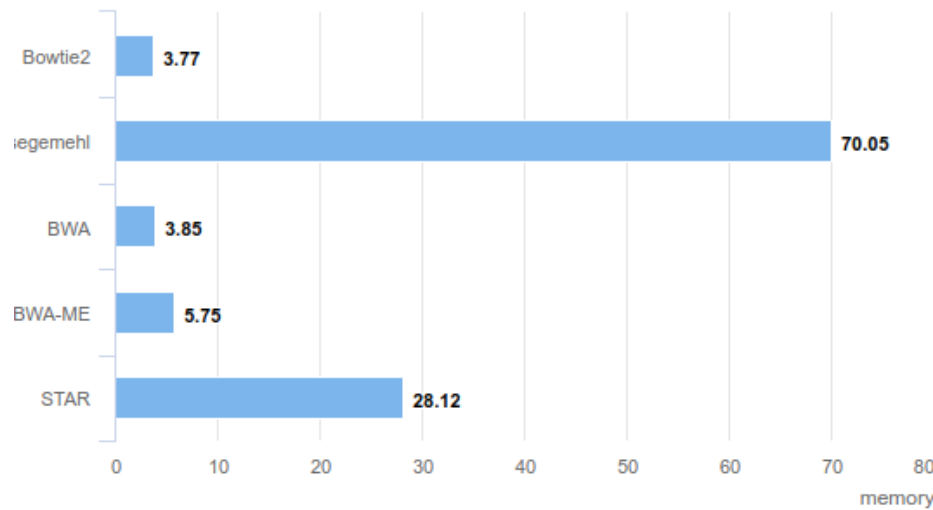
User time [s] (mRNA-Seq)

mRNA-Seq



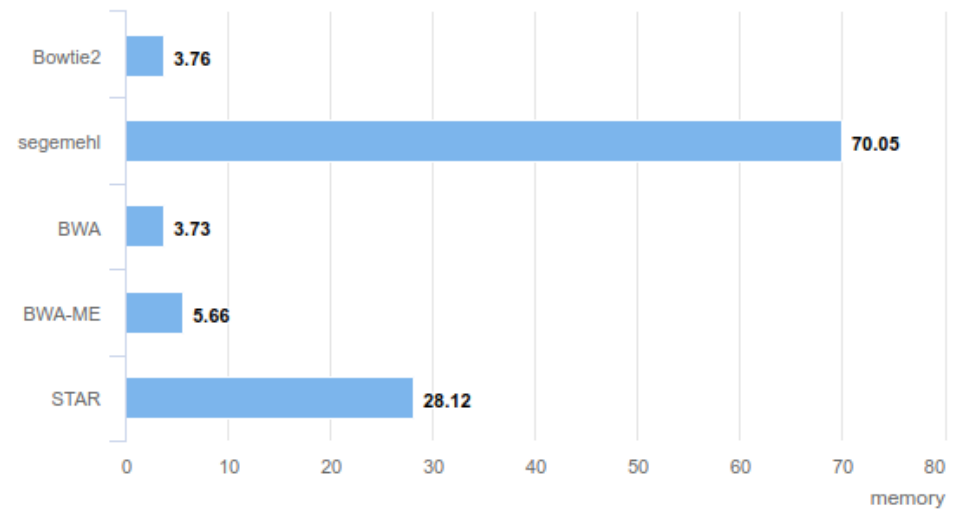
Memory consumption [GB]

DNA-Seq

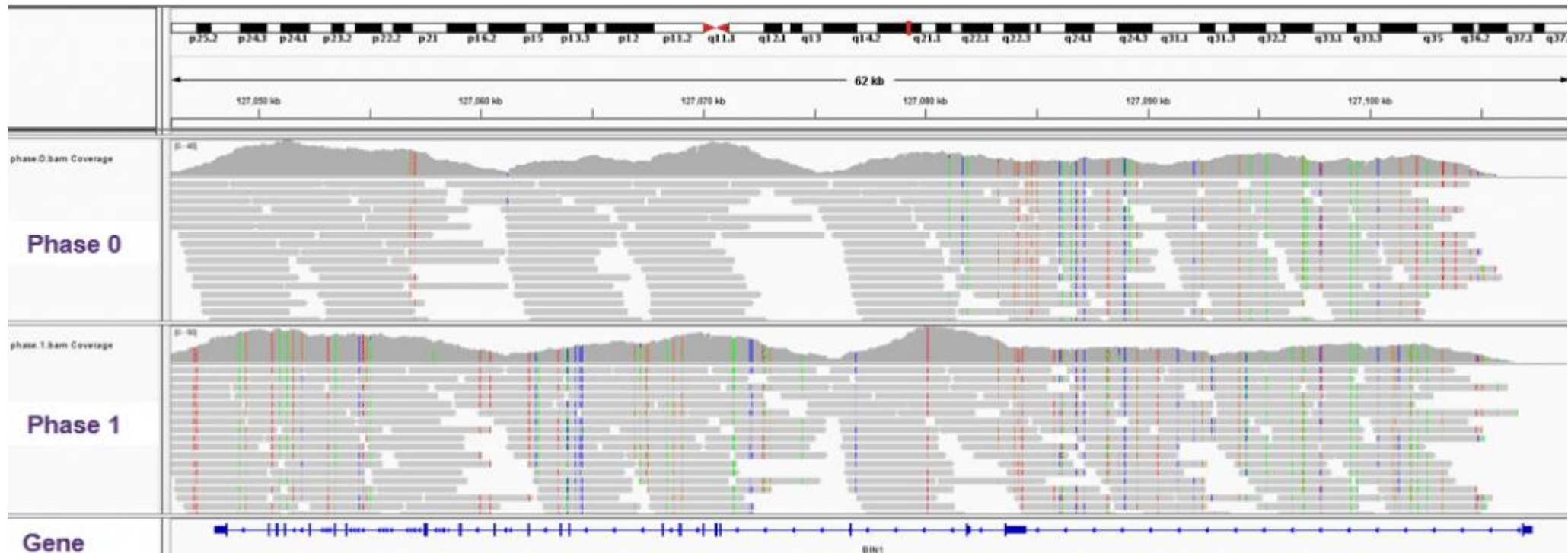


Memory consumption [GB]

mRNA-Seq



Mappers



IGV snapshot with reads in bam file