Manual of BioAider V1.423

A richly featured desktop platform libraries for analysis of bioinformatics datas

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Home page: https://github.com/ZhijianZhou01/BioAider

Content

1. Introduction	3
2. Download and install	3
3. Functions	3
3.1. SeqTools	3
3.1.1. Seqformat Convertor	3
3.1.2. SeqVary	4
3.1.3. SequenceID Rename	5
3.1.4. Split Sequence Fragmenet	5
3.1.5. Combine Gene (Tandem Gene)	6
3.1.6. Visual Gene Extractor	7
3.1.7. Fast Annotation	9
3.1.8. Vrial *.gb file parser	10
3.1.9. Correction ambiguous bases	11
3.2. Similar Analysis	12
3.2.1. Sequence Identity Matrix	12
3.2.2 Remove High-Similar Sequence	12
3.2.3 Delete Low-Similar Sequence	13
3.2.4 Repeat Fragment Search	14
3.3. Align tools	14
3.3.1. <i>Mafft</i>	15
3.3.2. <i>Muscle</i>	15
3.3.3. Clustal-Omeg	16
3.4. Mutation Tools	16
3.4.1. Mutation Analysis	16
3.4.2. Site Counter	20
3.4.3. Site Scree	21
3.5. Drawing module	21
3.5.1. Lollipop chart of gene mutation	21
3.5.1. Commonly used statistics	23
4. Test Datas	24
5 Ciation	24

1. Introduction

With the development of sequencing technology, a large amount of genomic sequenced datas has been accumulated. Analyzing these data will help us understand their genetic variation at the molecular level. However, processing a large-scale sequences is difficult for biological or clinical expert without bioinformatics and programming skills. Besides, the needs are also diverse due to different research purposes. Therefore, simplicity of operation and diversity of function are needed.

Bioinformatics Aider (BioAider) V1.423 was developed based on Python3 and PySide2, which is a user-friendly GUI-interface program. As a desktop platform for genomic sequencing data studies, BioAider is designed to simplicity of operation and high summary of analysis results, which could save a lot of time for researchers.

2. Download and install

BioAider and all the updated versions is freely available for non-commercial user at https://github.com/ZhijianZhou01/BioAider/releases. After obtaining the program, users could directly run the program in Windows, MacOS or Linux(Ubuntu 16.04 or more) systems without installation.

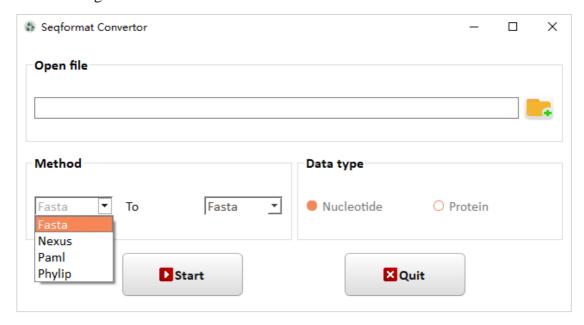
BioAider will be in the long-term update, this document briefly introduces some of its current commonly functions. In V1.423, we've beautified the interface again and added a variety of interface themes to make BioAider more interesting.

3. Functions

3.1. SeqTools

3.1.1. Segformat Convertor

BioAider provides mutual conversion among several common sequence formats, which are Fasta, Nexus, Paml, and Phylip. Of note, the "*Data type*" option is only available when the target format is "Nexus".



3.1.2. *SeqVary*

The <u>"SeqVary"</u> option of BioAider provides some small functions for sequence preprocessing. For example, <u>"SeqLength+GC%"</u> is used to batch calculate sequence length and content of GC.

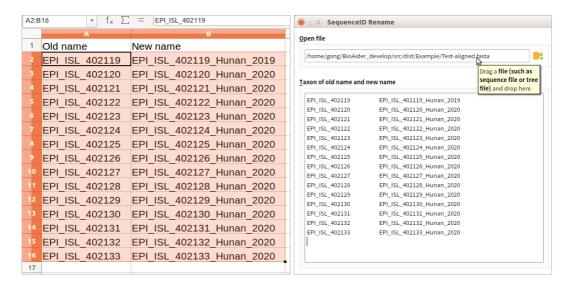


Note: the <u>"DNA_Protein"</u> option requires the gene sequences datas to be aligned based on codons.

3.1.3. SequenceID Rename

BioAider could rename the original name in sequence datas or tree file etc. In particular, the pictures of the evolutionary tree used for publication often require the taxons of tree to follow a uniform format, so first batch replacement in the tree file saves the trouble of using vector graphics tools to modify later.

First, make a table of **new and old names** in a table editor, then copy and paste them into BioAider:

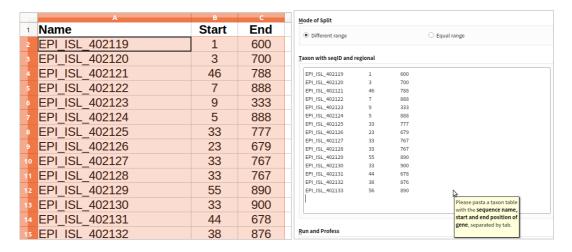


Generally speaking, as long as the input file is a text file, BioAider could successfully perform this work.

3.1.4. Split Sequence Fragmenet

This function can batch intercept the specified range of gene fragments, two different modes are available: specified different range ("Different range") for each sequence, equal range for all sequences ("Equal range").

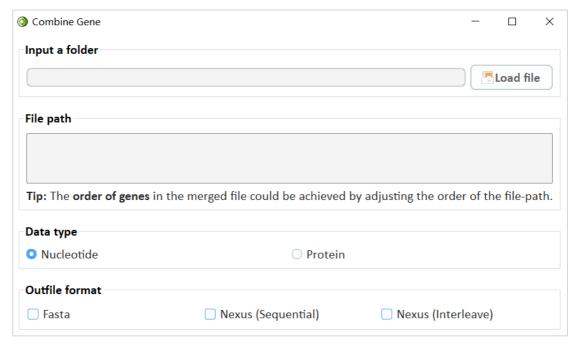
If you want to use the <u>"Different range"</u> to split for each sequence, make a table of start and end location firstly, then copy and paste them into BioAider:



If users choose the options of <u>"Equal range"</u>, BioAider will split all the sequences according to the same specified range.

3.1.5. Combine Gene (Tandem Gene)

This function is used to concatenate multiple gene sequences into one. Users can first put different genes dataset files into the same folder, and then drag the folder into the *inputbox*, then click the *"Load file button"* import the file path of each genes datasets into *textbox*. It should be pointed out that the sequence names in different gene data sets should be consistent, otherwise BioAider cannot be associated with them, but BioAider allows some data in a certain gene datasets to be missing and will represent them by gaps ("-").



Note, users can **modify the order of genes** in tandemy sequence by adjusting the sort of inputfile path in the <u>textbox</u>. **Of note**, all the sequences which are used for combined should be fasta format.

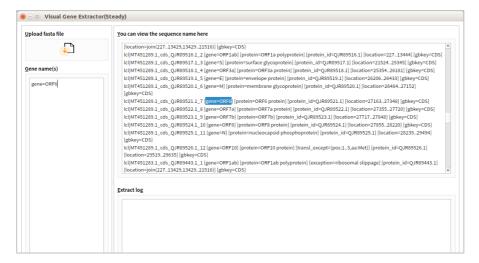
3.1.6. Visual Gene Extractor

This function is used to extract the sequences included specified gene from mixed coding gene sequence set, especially when these sequences datas are downloaded from NCBI database. Given that the same gene may have different manifestations in different studies, the textbox of <u>"Gene name"</u> could enter multiple names, and BioAider will extract the corresponding gene sequence which contain these gene names.

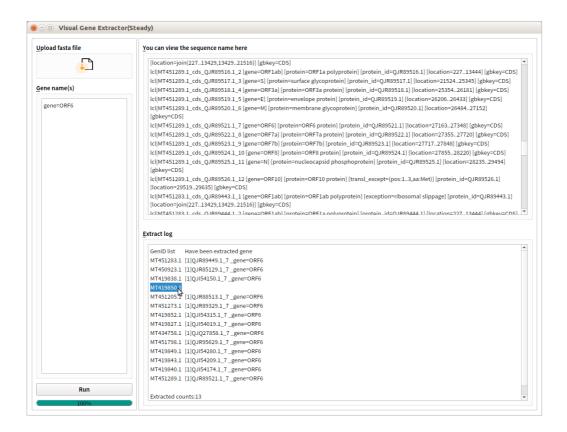
BioAider providers two versions, *Visual Gene Extractor(Streamlit)* and **Visual Gene Extractor(Steady)**. The versions of *Visual Gene Extractor(Streamlit)* was developed based on *Streamlit*, so if you use this version, you need to install Streamlit on your computer first. On the other hand, the *Visual Gene Extractor(Steady)* does not need any other environment.

Next, we demonstrate the use of *Visual Gene Extractor*(*Steady*).

Example 1 (The sequences datas are directly downloaded from NCBI database, including some gene fragments of SARS-CoV-2):

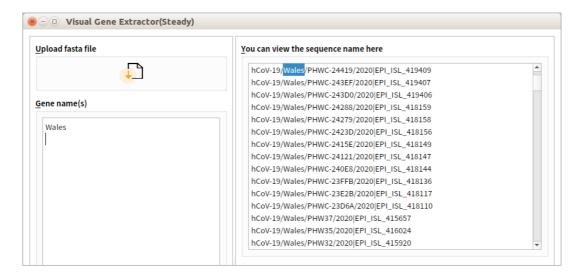


After uploading the sequence to BioAidrs as above, then we extract ORF6 gene sequence of SARS-CoV-2. Input a string **containing at least the gene name** to textbox of <u>"Gene name(s)"</u>, then click button of <u>"Run"</u>, run log as follows:

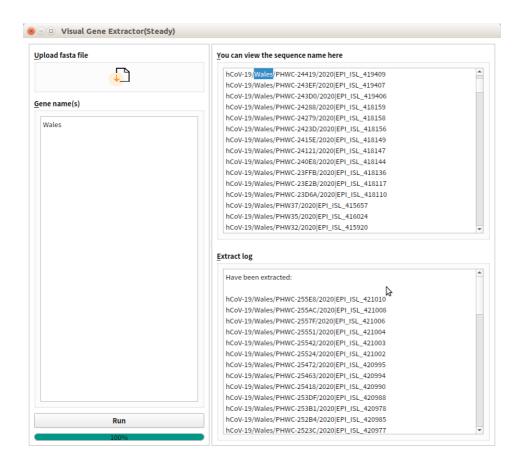


If some gene fragments are not extracted (as shown by the arrow), the possible reason is that the strain does not contain this gene fragment or the gene owns other names in some sequences. If it is the second case, you can append other names of this gene to the next line of "Gene name(s)" textbox.

Example 2 (Arbitrary fasta sequence):



As shown above, if you want to extract these sequences which containing the tags of "Wales", BioAider could accomplish it well.

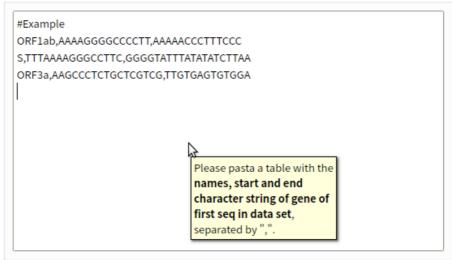


The extracted sequence will be saved in the directory where the input file is located.

3.1.7. Fast Annotation

For these strain sequences from the same or highly related species, their nucleotide identity is usually relatively higher. Therefore, the sequences annotation could be based on the gene information of the reference sequence after multi-sequence alignment.

Information of gene

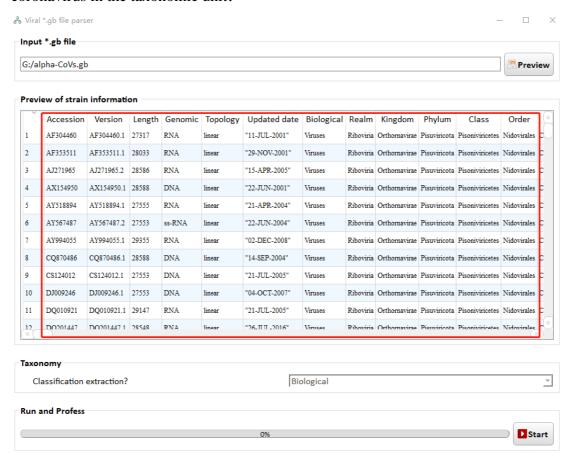


BioAider provides a quickly sequence annotation function, users can import the aligned complete genome sequence set (fasta format file), and adjust the reference sequence for annotation to the forefront of the file. Paste the gene information of reference sequence in aligned sets, name, starting string and end string into the <u>textbox</u>, separated by ",". Then batch abstract genes.

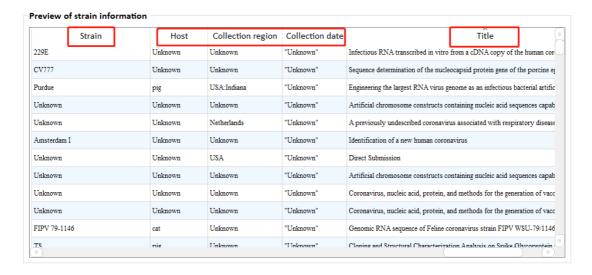
Note that the start string or end string of the gene is not limited in length, but it is required to be unique in the reference sequence. Besides, the higher of similarity among sequences, the higher accuracy of the annotation.

3.1.8. Vrial *.gb file parser

A simple function is used to parse the *.gb file of the virus in a batch method, then extract the information. Especially, BioAider make relevant optimizations for the coronavirus in the taxonomic unit:

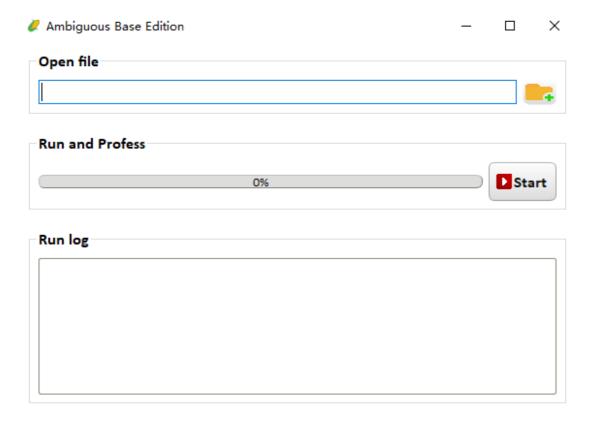


Additional information, such as **host**, **date and location of sampling**, **and even published literature**, can be quickly obtained:



3.1.9. Correction ambiguous bases

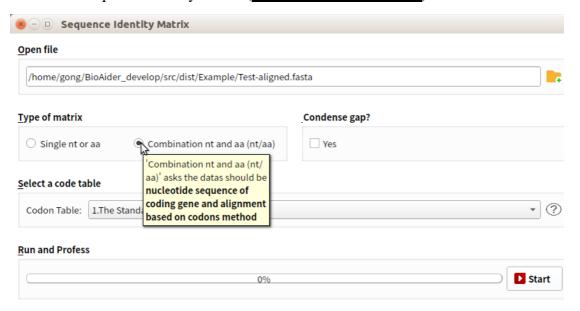
In some scenarios based on multiple sequence analysis, ambiguous bases may cause an impact, such as PAML-based selection pressure analysis. For multiple sequences aligned by codon method, BioAider could correct ambiguous bases:



3.2. Similar Analysis

3.2.1. Sequence Identity Matrix

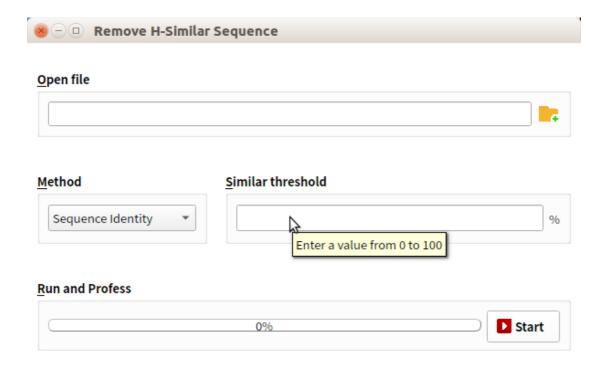
By inputting the aligned sequence datasets in fasta format, and a pairwise sequence identity matrix can be generated. This function contains two different modes: nucleotide or amino acid sequence identity matrix (<u>"Single nt or aa"</u>), nucleotide plus amino acid sequence identity matrix (<u>"Combination nt and aa"</u>).



It should be noted that if the <u>"Combination nt and aa"</u> is selected, the inputed sequences should be aligned based on codon method in advance. In order to better fit the variation characteristics, BioAider provides the <u>"Condense gap"</u> function. If the option was selected, the program will treat every three consecutive inserted or deleted bases as one.

3.2.2 Remove High-Similar Sequence

This function could remove highly similar sequences and keep one by specifing the threshold of similarity (<u>"Similar threshold"</u>). BioAider provides 6 different methods for calculating the similarity of sequences.

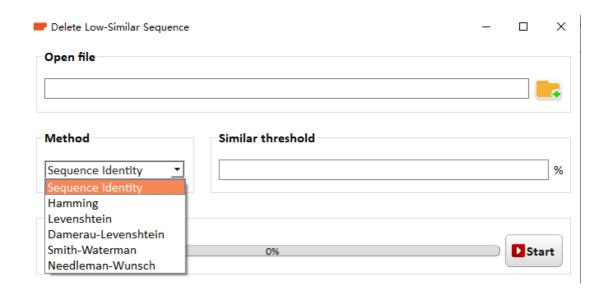


It should be noted that the <u>"Sequence Identity"</u> and <u>"Hamming"</u> methods require the input sequences data are aligned, and we suggest that the sequences datasets for remaining 4 methods better not be pre-aligned, because these algorithm own alignment function. If "Similar threshold" is seted to 100, the function of eliminateing duplicate sequences will be turned on. Note, if the "Similar threshold" is set to 100, no matter what algorithm is selected, it is the same because the program adopts another efficient processing mechanism.

If you want to obtain the sequence similarity matrix calculated by the above 6 methods, you can click *the right button of mouse* in any region of the program interface to call up the functional menu.

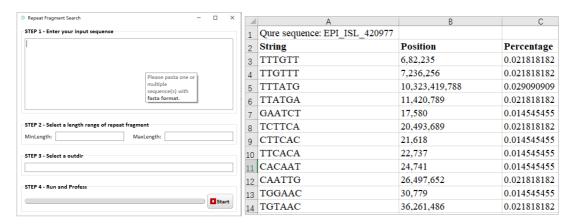
3.2.3 Delete Low-Similar Sequence

Specify a threshold (<u>"Similar threshold"</u>) to keep only one sequence with a similarity below a certain value.



3.2.4 Repeat Fragment Search

This function searches the sequence for repeating domains by specifying the length range of the repeating segment. You could enter multiple sequences (nucleotides or amino acids) for query at the same time, and the result examples are as follows:

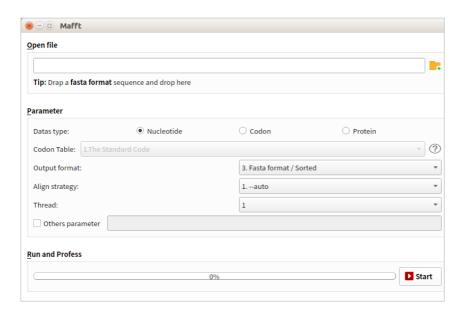


3.3. Align tools

Multiple-Sequence-Alignment (MSA) is the most common analysis in sequence processing, most classic MSA software runs as a command symbol. It is very inconvenient for non-bioinformatics analysts. BioAider packed three MSA software (Mafft, Muscle and Clsutal-Omega) in the graphical interface, and provided translation-alignment additionally based on multiple sets of codon tables.

3.3.1. *Mafft*

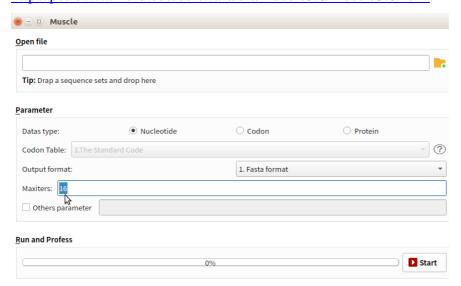
Mafft is a very popular MSA software with higher comparison accuracy, and its comparison speed is also relatively good. Some common parameter are encapsulated into the graphical interface in BioAider, and other parameters also could be add flexibly. More detailed information about Mafft could be got from https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/.



3.3.2. Muscle

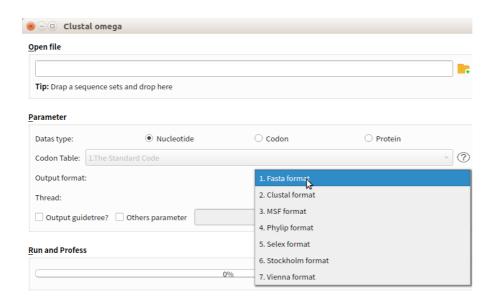
The comparison rate and accuracy of Muscle are good, according to the instruction manual of Muscle, setting <u>"Maxiters"</u> to 1 or 2 will significantly speed up the operation. More detailed please reference

http://petrov.stanford.edu/software/src/muscle3.6/muscle3.6.html.



3.3.3. Clustal-Omeg

As a relatively classic MSA software, *Clustal* has a broad user base. As the latest addition to the Clustal family. Clustal-Omega offers a significant increase in scalability over previous versions, more detailed reference http://www.clustal.org/omega/.



3.4. Mutation Tools

3.4.1. Mutation Analysis

This function could be used for analysis of the **mutations characteristicson on large numbers of sequenced strains**. The sequence datas for analysis needs to be aligned in advance, and they could be nucleotides, proteins (amino acid) sequences or simply coding gene fragments. For nucleotides and proteins sequences, BioAider could summarizes all the mutation sites with corresponding frequency and strains.

Of course, if the datas is codon gene, BioAider provides multiple sets of different codon tables for users, and could scan each condon sites in aligned sequence datasets, and identifies the type of mutation, including synonymous, non-synonymous, insertions and deletions and early termination. Finally, BioAider will automatically summarize and output the relevant analysis results.

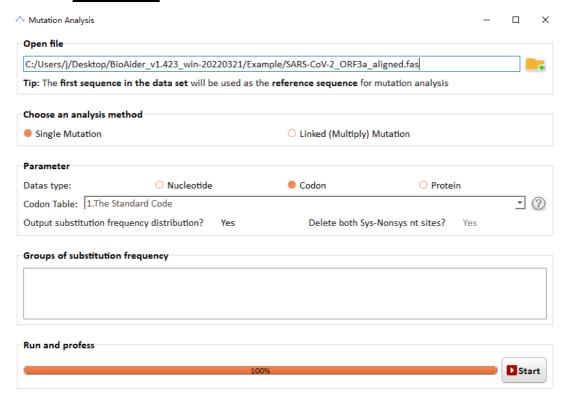
Note: The codon gene sequences for mutations analysis have to be aligned by translation-alignment methon in advance, It is worth mentioning that BioAider packed

three multiple-sequence-alignment software (mafft, muscle and clsutal-omega) in the graphical interface, and provided translation-alignment additionally.

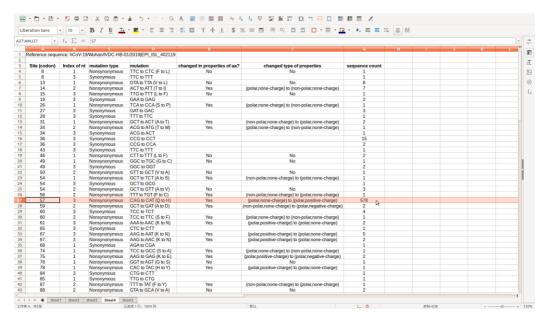
Whether it's nucleotides or amino acids or coding genes, BioAider could plot the frequency distribution graph for mutation sites through specifing groups of substitution frequencey in custom.

Eaxmple of mutations analysis for aligned SARS-CoV-2 ORF3a gene sequences (an aligned coding gene sequence).

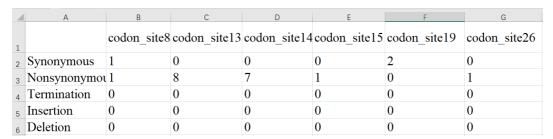
First, Drag the sequence to be analyzed to the input box, and select "Codon" single button in <u>"Datas type"</u>:



After the run is over, these analysis result could be found in the directory where the source file is located, you could scan the *_mutation site summary file then know the overall variation and mutation hotspots.



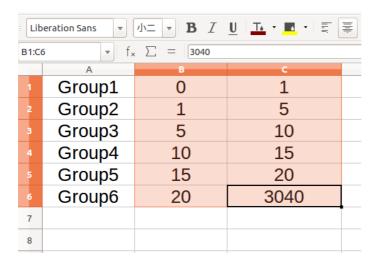
Codon-wise statistics on synonymous and non-synonymous substitutions are also provided in "Statistics in codons" directory:



Besides, BioAider uniquely provides statistical synonymous and non-synonymous substitution nucleotide positions in "base" units:

	А	В	С	D	E
1	Codon	Base index	Nucleotide site	Туре	Substitution frequency
2	8	3	24	Synonymous	1
3	19	3	57	Synonymous	2
4	27	3	81	Synonymous	3
5	28	3	84	Synonymous	1
6	34	3	102	Synonymous	1
7	36	3	108	Synonymous	17
8	43	3	129	Synonymous	1
9	49	3	147	Synonymous	2
10	54	3	162	Synonymous	1
11	60	3	180	Synonymous	4

If you also need to plot the distribution of synonymous/non-synonymous substitution bases, you can prepare a grouping table first:



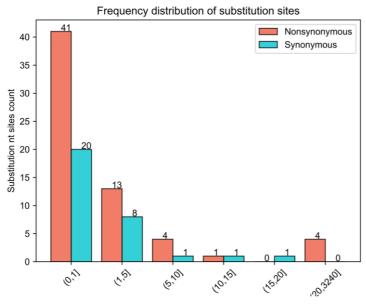
The each groups of substitution frequencey contains start value and end value which are separated by tab symbol. **Note**, *the start value* of each group is not included in the range of frequency, and the frequencies of different groups need to be consecutive integers.

Then copy them to the textedit box of BioAider,

```
Groups of substitution frequency

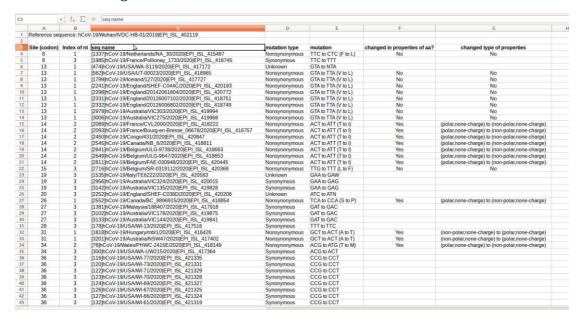
0 1
1 5
5 10
10 15
15 20
20 3240
```

You could also konw the number of mutation nucleotide site under each mutation frequency group through view *_substitution frequency distribution.png.



It is not difficult to find that more than half of the mutation sites only appear in a single strain, although there are many mutation sites in ORF3a gene. Of course, BioAider additionally provides vector graphics (*_substitution frequency distribution.pdf), users can edit them and facilitate publication.

Besides, users could obtain the corresponding mutant strains of these variant sites in the detailed *_log.txt file.

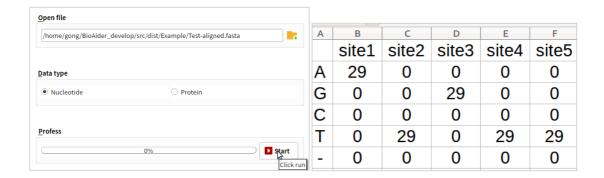


Of note, if these sequences are much divergent, such as from different family enver order and contain a lot of gaps ("-") in the aligned sequence, I usually don't recommend using them for mutation analysis. On the one hand, they would make a lot of calculations, on the other hand, they are inherently highly variable and have no value of analysis.

But if you still want to study their variation, it is recommended to use the following function of "Site Counter".

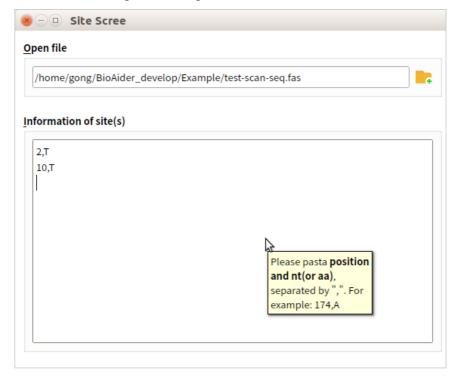
3.4.2. Site Counter

This function could summary the type, count and proportion of bases (or amino acids) at each site for the aligned sequence datasets. In addition, BioAider will output a consensus sequence based on the highest proportion base (or amino acid) in each site. For DNA sequence datasets, the one of results (*_site_count.csv) was as follows:



3.4.3. Site Scree

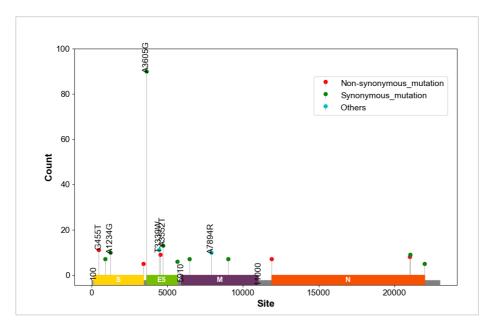
This function is used to extract the sequences with corresponding base (or amino acid) in *specified one or more* site(s). It is very useful for studying whether there is linkage inheritance among different gene sites.



3.5. Drawing module

3.5.1. Lollipop chart of gene mutation

Lollipop map is an efficient method to display gene mutation sites and frequencies, they look like the following:

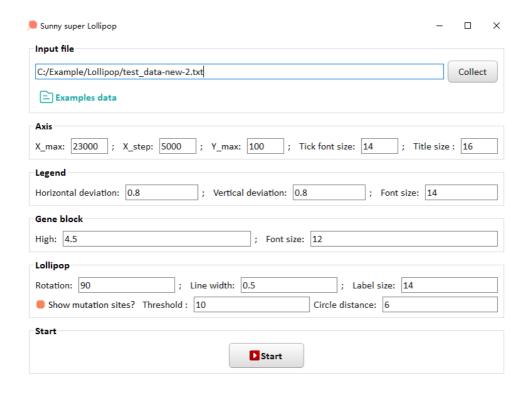


In BioAider, you only need to prepare the corresponding matrix file and simply set the parameters to quickly complete the drawing:

	Site	Gene	Туре	Count	Mutation	Color
2	100	S	Start	11	100	#FFD306
3	455	S	Non-synonymous_mutation	11	G455T	#FFD306
4	900	S	Synonymous_mutation	7	C900A	#FFD306
5	1234	S	Synonymous_mutation	10	A1234G	#FFD306
6	3400	S	Non-synonymous_mutation	5	G3400A	#FFD306
7	3605	E5	Synonymous_mutation	90	A3605G	#73BF00
В	4439	E5	Others	11	T3339W	#73BF00
9	4540	E5	Non-synonymous_mutation	9	G3440C	#73BF00
0	4700	E5	Synonymous_mutation	13	A3552T	#73BF00
1	5653	E5	Synonymous_mutation	6	C5653G	#73BF00
2	5910	M	Start	7	5910	#6C3365
3	6444	M	Synonymous_mutation	7	G6444C	#6C3365
4	7894	M	Others	10	A7894R	#6C3365
5	9004	M	Synonymous_mutation	7	G9004C	#6C3365
6	11000	M	End	2	11000	#6C3365
7	11894	N	Non-synonymous_mutation	7	G11894A	#F75000
8	21004	N	Non-synonymous_mutation	8	G21004T	#F75000
9	21984	N	Synonymous_mutation	5	A21984G	#F75000
20	21029	N	Synonymous mutation	9	C21029T	#F75000

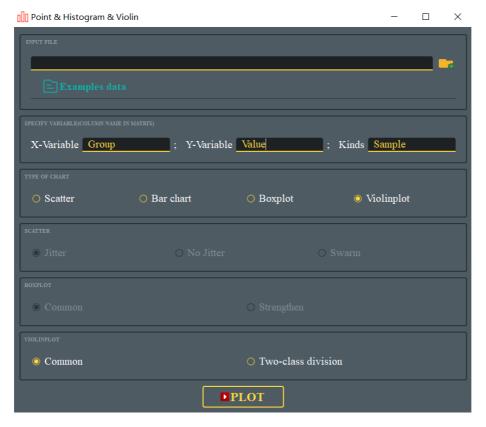
Tip: Note that the data **has only 5 columns**, **and the column names cannot be changed**, and other information can be flexibly configured. **Besides**, lollipops are not drawn at sites marked "Start" or "End" in the "Type" column, but are used to assist in gene scoping

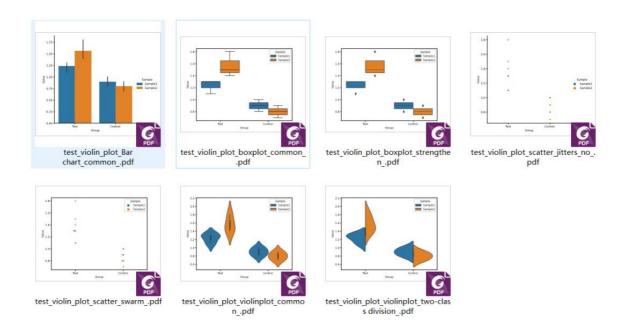
Then submit to BioAider for drawing:



3.5.1. Commonly used statistics

BioAider provides a GUI interface for quickly drawing scatter, box and violin plots based on the seaborn package:





4. Test Datas

Examples and test are available

at https://github.com/ZhijianZhou01/BioAider/tree/master/Example.

5. Ciation

If you wish to cite BioAider in a publication, we suggest the following:

Zhou ZJ, Qiu Y, Pu Y, Huang X, Ge XY*. BioAider: An efficient tool for viral genome analysis and its application in tracing SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Sustain Cities Soc. 2020;63:102466. doi:10.1016/j.scs.2020.102466.

Publication of BioAider is available at Journal of: Sustainable Cities and Society