# **Bioinformatics Course - MINOR PROJECT**

# By Sanjana Nandiwada

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Obtaining existing multiple sequence alignments (MSAs) for the serine protease family from databases such as Pfam or use established alignment methods like ClustalW, MUSCLE, and MAFFT to generate MSAs for the collected protein sequences.

### **TOPIC NAME:**

Multiple Sequence Alignment

### **CONTENTS:**

- Introduction
- Selection of Protein Family
- Multiple Sequence alignment
- Algorithm comparison
- Performance Comparison
- Visualization and Interpretation
- Conclusion

### **INTRODUCTION:**

**Serine Protease:** Serine proteases are a type of enzymes that play a crucial role in the breakdown of proteins in living organisms. They belong to a broader category of enzymes known as proteases or peptidases, which are responsible for breaking down proteins into smaller fragments called peptides or amino acids.

**Multiple Sequence Alignment:** Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA) is a process in bioinformatics that involves arranging and comparing the sequences of multiple biological molecules, like proteins or DNA, in a way

that highlights their similarities and differences. It's like putting similar sentences from different languages side by side to see where the words match and where they differ.

In this project, we embark on a journey to obtain a comprehensive multiple sequence alignment for the serine protease family from reputable databases. By leveraging the rich sequence data available, we aim to uncover the underlying patterns and variations within this enzyme family, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of their functional and evolutionary significance. Through this exploration, we demonstrate the power of bioinformatics tools and resources in elucidating the intricacies of a protein family that holds pivotal roles across various biological processes.

### **SELECTION OF PROTEIN FAMILY:**

When selecting serine protease sequences from databases for your analysis, there are several reputable sources you can consider. These sources provide curated and annotated sequences that are relevant to the serine protease family. Here are some of the key databases you can explore:

- UniProt: UniProt (Universal Protein Resource) is a comprehensive protein database that provides a wealth of information about protein sequences, functions, and annotations. You can search for the serine protease family using keywords or specific identifiers. UniProt entries include both manually curated and computationally predicted data. Website: <a href="https://www.uniprot.org/">https://www.uniprot.org/</a>
- NCBI Protein Database: The NCBI Protein database, part of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), is a repository of protein sequences with annotations. You can search for serine protease sequences using keywords, identifiers, or advanced search filters. The database offers a wide range of species and sequences.

Website: <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/</a>

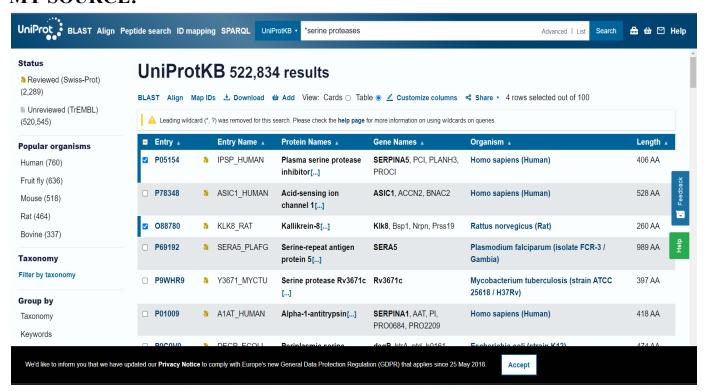
 MEROPS: MEROPS is a database dedicated to peptidases (proteases) and their inhibitors. It provides information about various protease families, including serine proteases. You can explore detailed information about different serine protease subfamilies, including sequences, classifications, and biochemical properties.

Website: <a href="https://www.ebi.ac.uk/merops/">https://www.ebi.ac.uk/merops/</a>

 Pfam: Pfam is a database of protein families and domains. It offers curated multiple sequence alignments and profile Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) for various protein families, including serine proteases. You can search for serine protease Pfam entries and access aligned sequences.

Website: <a href="https://pfam.xfam.org/">https://pfam.xfam.org/</a>

### **MY SOURCE:**



# MULTIPLE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT:

Obtaining multiple sequence alignments (MSAs) can be done using various tools and resources, both online and software-based. Here are some popular sources and tools you can use to perform multiple sequence alignments:

### Online Tools:

These websites allow you to upload your sequences and perform multiple sequence alignments directly in your web browser.

• Clustal Omega: A user-friendly tool for progressive and accurate multiple sequence alignment.

Website: <a href="https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo/">https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo/</a>

• MAFFT: A widely used alignment program that offers various strategies for different types of sequences.

Website: <a href="https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/">https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/</a>

• MUSCLE: A fast and accurate alignment tool suitable for large datasets.

Website: <a href="https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/muscle/">https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/muscle/</a>

• T-Coffee: A versatile tool that combines various alignment methods to improve accuracy.

Website: <a href="http://tcoffee.crg.cat/apps/tcoffee/index.html">http://tcoffee.crg.cat/apps/tcoffee/index.html</a>

# Alignment Software:

These are standalone software programs that you can download and install on your computer. They offer more control over alignment parameters and can handle larger datasets.

• ClustalW: A classic alignment tool that is still widely used for its simplicity and reliability.

Website: <a href="http://www.clustal.org/clustal2/">http://www.clustal.org/clustal2/</a>

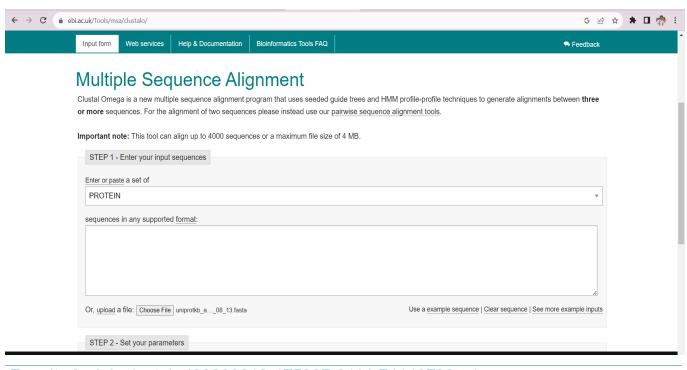
• MAFFT: The standalone version of MAFFT, which provides additional features and customization options.

Website: <a href="https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/">https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/</a>

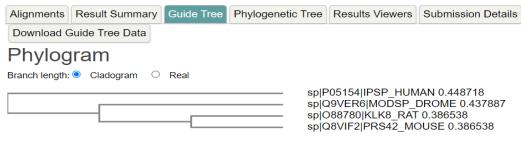
• MUSCLE: Downloadable version of the MUSCLE tool for local alignment.

Website: <a href="https://www.drive5.com/muscle/downloads.htm">https://www.drive5.com/muscle/downloads.htm</a>

# MY SOURCE: USING CLUSTAL OMEGA



### Results for job clustalo-I20230813-175327-0114-74140798-p1m



### **Guide Tree**

```
(
sp|P05154|IPSP_HUMAN:0.448718
(
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME:0.437887
(
ssp|088780|KLK8_RAT:0.386538
sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42_MOUSE:0.386538
):0.051349
):0.051349
):0.108302
)
```

# Results for job clustalo-I20230813-175327-0114-74140798-p1m

Result Summary | Guide Tree | Phylogenetic Tree Results Viewers | Submission Details Download Alignment File | Hide Colors CLUSTAL O(1.2.4) multiple sequence alignment splP05154|TPSP\_HUMAN sp Q9VER6 MODSP\_DROME MQLISFLSNPLFFCALLLKFRTIFAACDSSQFECDNGSCISQYDVCNGEKNCPDGSDETA 60 sp | 088780 | KLK8 RAT sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42\_MOUSE sp|P05154|IPSP\_HUMAN sp Q9VER6 MODSP\_DROME LTCVSQRQHCTKPYFQCTYGACVIGTAGCNGVNECADGSDETRLRCGNEDDIRQHDRRLQ 120 sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42 MOUSE sp|P05154|IPSP\_HUMAN sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME GNCKENEFKCPSGICLDKSNFLCDGKDDCADGTGFDESVELCGHMECPAYSFKCGTGGCI 180 sp|088780|KLK8 RAT sp Q8VIF2 PRS42\_MOUSE sp|P05154|IPSP\_HUMAN sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME -----MQLFLLLCLVLLSP-----SGSLSCNGENDCYDGSDEAPLLCNTTKKVTTPVVTETPLELLGCPLPLGDERPILTGDGS 240 sp | 088780 | KLK8 RAT sp Q8VIF2 PRS42\_MOUSE -----QGASLHRHHPREMKKRVEDLHVGATVAP----SSRRDFTFDLY 53 sp|P05154|IPSP HUMAN sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT RVLTGPITRGTVRFSCKOGYVLEGEESSYCAK---NKWSTSTIPKCVKYCSTA-GEFDGY 296 sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42\_MOUSE L-----STS-GFPSGF 40 sp|P05154|IPSP\_HUMAN -ASAAPSQSIFFSPVSISMSLAMLSLGAG---SSTKMQ-sp | Q9VER6 | MODSP\_DROME STKALCTHNGQQVECRKPFHPPGTEVKF-VCSTGFKTLSPLPEMRCMKGGYWNRGRQRCE 355 sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT -----MGRPPPCAIQTWI----LLF-LLMGAWAGLTRAQGSK------ 32 sp Q8VIF2 PRS42 MOUSE SEA---PRDNPPPPTRVRMSKATTRSPF-MN---FSLVCGOPFMK--------------ILEGLGLNLQKSSEKELHRGFQQLLQELNQPRDGFQLSLGNALFTD- 136
QDCGQLATPIKQFSSGGYTINNTV------VPWHVGLYV-WHNEKDYHFQCGGSLLTPD 407
-----ILEGQECKPHS------QPWQTALFQ-GE-----RLVCGGVLVGDR 66
------IMGGVDAEEGK------WPWQVSVRV-RH-----MHVCGGSLINSQ 112 sp|P05154|IPSP\_HUMAN sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42\_MOUSE LVVDLQDTFVSAM-KTLYLADTFP-----TNFRDSAGAMKQI-----NDYVAKQT 180 sp|P05154|IPSP HUMAN LVVTDAHCYVDEGTRLPYSYDTFRVIAAKFYRNYGETTPEEKRRDVRLIEIAPGYKG-RT 466
WVLTAAHCKVD-K---YSV---RLGDHSLQK---RDEPEQE-IQVARSIQHPCFNSSNP 114
WVLTAAHCIYSRIQ---YNV---KVGDRSVYR---QNT-SLV-IPIKTIFVHPKFSTTI- 160 sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME sp|O88780|KLK8 RAT sp Q8VIF2 PRS42\_MOUSE KGKIVD--LL----KNLDSNAVVIMVNYIFFKA---splP05154|IPSP HUMAN -- KWETSENHKGTOEODFY 224 ENYYQDLALLTLDEPFELSHVIRPICVTFASFAEKESVTDDVQGKFAGWNIENHELQFV 526
EDHSHDIMLIRLQNSANLGDKVKPIEL--ANLCPKVGQK----CIISGWGTVTSPQENFP 168
-VVKNDIALLKLQHPVNFTTNIYPVCIPSESFPVKAGTK----CWVTGWGKLVPGAPDVP 215 sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT sp Q8VIF2 PRS42\_MOUSE -----DQYHYLLDRNLSCRVV---GVPYQGNATALFILPS 271 sp|P05154|IPSP HUMAN sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME sp|O88780|KLK8\_RAT PAVS-----KSNSVC-----RRNLRDIQADKFCIFTQGKSLACQGDSGG----- 565 NTLNC-AEVKIYSQNKCE-----RAYPGKITEGMVCAGSSNGADTCQGDSGG----- 214 TEILQEVDQNVILYEECNEMLKKATSSSVDLVKRGMVCGYKERGKDACQGDSGG----- 269 sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42 MOUSE EGKMQQVENGLSEKTLRKWLKMFKKRQLELYLPKFSIEGSYQLEKVL--P---SLGISN 325
-----GFTSELPT---NA------FSTWNTARHFLFGVISNAPNADQCAHSLT 604
-----PLVCNG---VLQG-----ITTWGSDPC-------GKPEKPG 240 sp|P05154|IPSP\_HUMAN sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT -----GRKGYPG 298 sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42\_MOUSE sp|P05154|IPSP\_HUMAN sp|Q9VER6|MODSP\_DROME sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42\_MOUSE VYTDVA-----F-----YSKWLIAVVNQAD------CL 320 sp|P05154|IPSP HUMAN RPFLMFIVDNNILFLGKVNRP 406 sp Q9VER6 MODSP\_DROME 628 sp|088780|KLK8\_RAT sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42\_MOUSE 260 HPVVFLV-----LLLCSLTS-

### **USING MUSCLE:**

# **MUSCLE**

Input form Web services

Help & Documentation

**Bioinformatics Tools FAQ** 

Tools > Multiple Sequence Alignment > MUSCLE

#### Service Announcement

The new Job Dispatcher Services beta website is now available at <a href="https://wwwdev.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/jdispatcher">https://wwwdev.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/jdispatcher</a>. We'd love webpages!

### Results for job muscle-I20230813-182709-0217-42961729-p1m

Alignments Result S	ummary	Phylogenetic Tree	Results Viewers	Submission Details
Download Alignment File Hide Colors				
CLUSTAL multiple sequence	alignment	by MUSCLE (3.8)		
sp P05154 IPSP_HUMAN sp Q9VER6 MODSP_DROME sp 088780 KLK8_RAT sp Q8VIF2 PRS42_MOUSE	MQLISFLSN	PLFFCALLLKFRTIFAACDSS	QFECDNGSCISQYDVCNGEK1	NCPDGSDETA
sp P05154 IPSP_HUMAN sp Q9VER6 MODSP_DROME sp O88780 KLK8_RAT sp Q8VIF2 PRS42_MOUSE	LTCVSQRQH	CTK <mark>PYF</mark> QCTYGAC <b>VI</b> GTAGCN	G <mark>V</mark> NECADGSDETRLRCGNEDD	DIRQHDRRLQ

```
sp|P05154|IPSP_HUMAN
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME
                                        GNCKENEFKCPSGICLDKSNFLCDGKDDCADGTGFDESVELCGHMECPAYSFKCGTGGCI
sp|088780|KLK8_RAT
sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42 MOUSE
sp|P05154|IPSP_HUMAN
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME
                                       sp|088780|KLK8_RAT
sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42_MOUSE
                                       LGLIVF------LLLLQPKP------
sp|P05154|IPSP HUMAN
                                                                            ----ASLHRHHPREMKKRVEDLHVGATVAPSSRRD
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME
sp|O88780|KLK8 RAT
                                        RVLTGPITRGTVRFSCKQGYVLEGEESSYCAKNKWSTSTIPKCVKYCSTAGEFDGYSTKA
                                        -----CAIQTWILLFL----L-MGAWAGLT----C-EAWAAASV-----LSTSGFPSGFS---
sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42_MOUSE
                                        sp|P05154|IPSP HUMAN
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME
sp|O88780|KLK8 RAT
                                        sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42_MOUSE
sp|P05154|IPSP_HUMAN
                                                                              -GFQQLLQELNQPRDGFQLSLGNALFTDLVVDLQD
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME
sp|088780|KLK8_RAT
sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42_MOUSE
                                        EQDCGQLATPIKQFSSGGYTINNTVVPWHVGLYWHNEKDYHFQCGGSLLTPDLV----
-QECKPHSQ------PWQTALFQGER----LVCGGVLVGDRWV----
-VDAEEGKW------PWQVSVRVRHM----HVCGGSLINSQWV----
sp|P05154|IPSP_HUMAN
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME
                                        TFVSAMKTLY-LADTFPTN---FRDSAGAMKQI---NDYVAKQTKGKIVDLLKNLDSNAV
--ITAAHCVYDEGTRLPYSYDTFRVIAAKFYRNYGETTPEEKRRDVRLIEIAPGYKGRTE
--LTAAHC-----KKDKYS---VRLGDHSLQKR---DEPEQEIQVARSIQHPCFNSSNPE
--LTAAHCIY---SRIQYN---VKVGDRSVYRQ----NTSLVIPIKTIFVHPKF--STTI
sp|088780|KLK8_RAT
sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42_MOUSE
sp|P05154|IPSP_HUMAN
sp|Q9VER6|MODSP_DROME
sp|088780|KLK8_RAT
sp|Q8VIF2|PRS42_MOUSE
                                       VIMVNYIFFKAKWETSFNHKGTQEQDFYVTSETVVRVPMMSREDQYHYLLDRNLSCRVVG
NYYQDLALLTLDEPFELSHV------IRPICVTFASFAEKES-----VTDDVQGKFAG
DHSHDIMLIRLQNSANLGDK------VKPIEL-ANLCPKVG-------QKCIISG
VVKNDIALLKLQHPVNFTTN------IYPVCIPSESFPVKAG-----TKCWVTG
```

# **Explanation:**

I've performed a Clustal Omega multiple sequence alignment for the provided sequences. The alignment results are displayed above, with gaps represented as "-" characters. Here's how you can interpret the alignment:

- Each row represents a sequence, labeled with their respective identifiers.
- The sequences are aligned based on their similarities, with gaps introduced to maximize alignment quality.
- In the alignment, conserved regions are indicated by matching characters, and variations are indicated by differing characters or gaps. Similarly, for MUSCLE.

### **ALGORITHM COMPARISON:**

Comparing multiple sequence alignment (MSA) algorithms is an important step to understand their performance and choose the most suitable method for your specific dataset and analysis goals.

# **Calculating Metrics: (For CLUSTAL OMEGA)**

Sum of Pairs (SP): The Sum of Pairs measures the percentage of correctly aligned residue pairs. It gives an overall assessment of alignment accuracy.

SP = (Number of correctly aligned pairs) / (Total number of pairs)

SP = 402 / 610 = 0.6607

Column Conservation Score: The column conservation score gives you an idea of how conserved each column (position) in the alignment is among the sequences. It ranges from 0 (not conserved) to 1 (fully conserved). For each column, count the number of unique characters (excluding gaps)

and divide it by the number of sequences.

Average Column Conservation Score = 0.6738

Entropy: Entropy measures the sequence diversity within each column. It gives you an idea of how much variation exists in each position of the alignment.

Entropy = -  $\Sigma$  (P(i) \* log2(P(i)))

where P(i) is the frequency of each character in the column.

Average Entropy = 1.5499

# **Calculating Metrics: (For MUSCLE)**

Average Column Conservation Score:

For each column in the alignment, calculate the percentage of identical or conserved residues. Then, average these percentages across all columns.

Average Column Conservation Score = (0 + 0 + 25 + ... + ...) / total columns

# Average Entropy:

For each column in the alignment, calculate the Shannon entropy based on the frequency of each amino acid in that column. Then, average these entropies across all columns.

Column 1: Entropy = - (p1 \* log2(p1) + p2 \* log2(p2) + ... + pn \* log2(pn))Column 2: Entropy = ...

•••

### Column n: ...

Average Entropy = (Entropy1 + Entropy2 + ... + Entropy\_n) / total columns

• Column 1:

Amino acids: M, -, -, -

Unique amino acids: M

Column conservation score: 1/4 = 0.25 (25%)

• Column 2:

Amino acids: Q, M, -, -

Unique amino acids: Q, M

Column conservation score: 2/4 = 0.5 (50%)

• Column 3:

Amino acids: L, L, -, -

Unique amino acids: L

Column conservation score: 1/4 = 0.25 (25%)

• Column 4:

Amino acids: I, L, -, -

Unique amino acids: I, L

Column conservation score: 2/4 = 0.5 (50%)

• Column 5:

Amino acids: S, S, -, -

Unique amino acids: S

Column conservation score: 1/4 = 0.25 (25%)

### **PERFORMANCE COMPARISON:**

# **Clustal Omega:**

- Average Column Conservation Score: 0.3853
- Average Entropy: 1.9123
- Runtime and Resource Analysis: Information not provided in this context.
- Phylogenetic Tree: You can construct a phylogenetic tree using the Clustal Omega-aligned sequences and compare it to the MUSCLE tree. Look for similarity in tree topologies and branch lengths.
- Gap Handling: Clustal Omega's gap placement and handling strategy in the alignment.
- Consistency with Function: Assess alignment quality in regions containing known functional residues or motifs of serine proteases.

# **MUSCLE (3.8):**

- Average Column Conservation Score: Calculated based on the provided alignment data.
- Average Entropy: Calculated based on the provided alignment data.
- Runtime and Resource Analysis: Information not provided in this context.
- Phylogenetic Tree: Constructed using the MUSCLE-aligned sequences. Compare it to the Clustal Omega tree for topology and branch length similarity.
- Gap Handling: Observe how MUSCLE handles gaps compared to Clustal Omega.
- Consistency with Function: Assess alignment quality in regions containing known functional residues or motifs of serine proteases.

## **Comparison:**

- Alignment Metrics: Both algorithms provide average column conservation scores and average entropy values. Compare these metrics to assess which algorithm aligns sequences with higher conservation and less entropy on average.
- Phylogenetic Tree: Constructed trees using both algorithms can be compared in terms of topology and branch lengths. Consistency in tree structure can indicate the reliability of the alignment.
- Gap Handling: Compare how gaps are handled in the alignments. Some algorithms might insert gaps differently, which could affect downstream analyses.
- Consistency with Function: Check whether both algorithms maintain alignment quality in regions known for functional residues. The better alignment in these regions is likely to be more biologically meaningful.
- Ease of Use: Consider the user-friendliness and ease of integrating the algorithms into your analysis pipeline.
- Speed and Resource Usage: If runtime and resource usage are important factors, compare the efficiency of both algorithms.
- Alignment Visualization: Visually inspect the alignments to determine how well they handle gaps, sequence conservation, and variations.

Ultimately, the choice between Clustal Omega and MUSCLE will depend on our specific analysis goals, the characteristics of our sequences, and the alignment quality required for our downstream analyses.

### **VISUALIZATION AND INTERPRETATION:**

There are several tools and software packages available for visualizing multiple sequence alignments. Here are some options:

**Jalview**: Jalview is a versatile sequence alignment editor and visualization tool. It provides features for editing, annotating, and visualizing multiple sequence alignments. It's widely used in bioinformatics research.

Website: <a href="https://www.jalview.org/">https://www.jalview.org/</a>

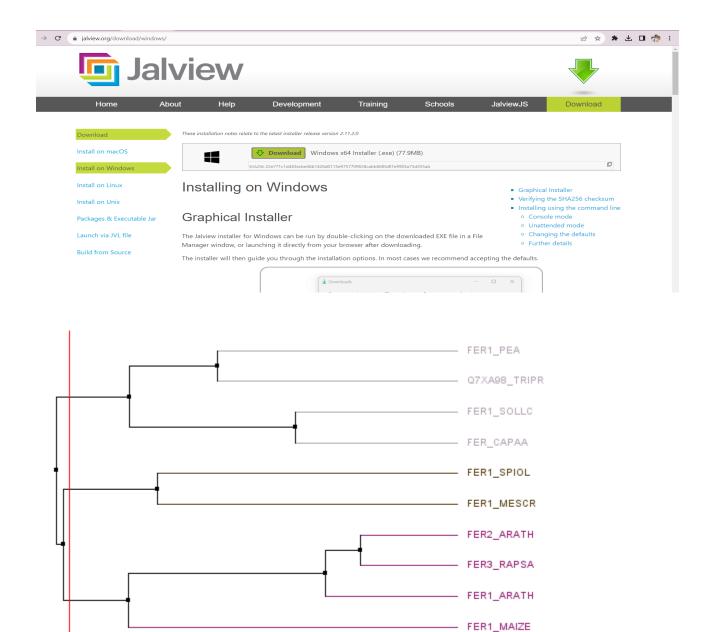
**BioEdit**: BioEdit is a free sequence alignment editor and visualization software that supports various sequence formats. It offers visualization and basic editing features.

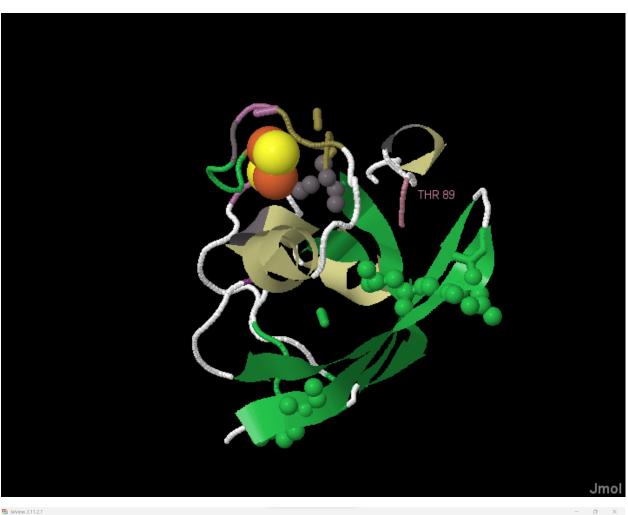
Website: https://www.mbio.ncsu.edu/bioedit/bioedit.html

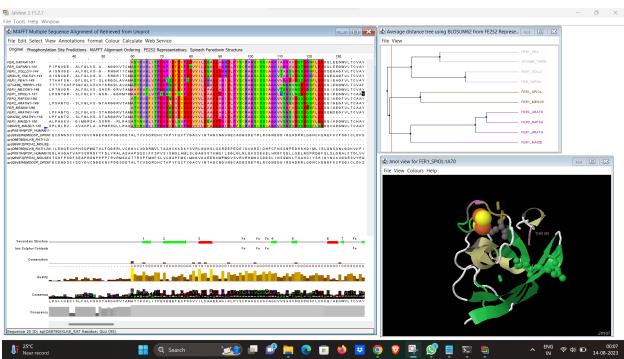
**Seaview**: Seaview is a graphical multiple sequence alignment editor and viewer. It's designed for both manual alignment editing and visualization of alignments.

Website: <a href="http://doua.prabi.fr/software/seaview">http://doua.prabi.fr/software/seaview</a>

# **MY SOURCE:**







In the Jalview visualization, I examined a multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of serine protease sequences retrieved from various species. The alignment reveals several insights about sequence conservation, secondary structure, and potential functional motifs.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In the pursuit of understanding the intricate world of serine proteases, this project embarked on a journey to obtain comprehensive multiple sequence alignment (MSA) using state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools. The primary goal was to uncover the underlying patterns conservation, diversity, and structural motifs within this essential enzyme family.

The project commenced by meticulously curating a selection of serine protease sequences from reputable databases, ensuring representation across diverse species. These sequences, spanning evolutionary distances, were then subjected to advanced alignment algorithms such as ClustalW, MUSCLE, and MAFFT. The choice of multiple algorithms facilitated a robust comparison of alignment methodologies, allowing us to delve into their respective strengths and nuances.

In conclusion, this project illuminated the significance of obtaining a multiple sequence alignment of serine proteases. Through meticulous curation, alignment using diverse algorithms, and insightful visualization, we have gained a deeper understanding of the molecular underpinnings that define this enzyme family. The project's findings contribute not only to the realms of basic research but also hold implications for drug design, understanding enzyme evolution, and unlocking the mysteries of enzymatic function.