VisFeature: a standalone program for features extraction and visualization of biological sequence

A User Manual

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Contents

1 Intr	oducti	on	2
2 Usa	age		3
S	Step 1.	Installation	3
S	Step 2.	Input	4
	1)	Type by keyboard	5
	2)	Copy and paste from "Fetch Result"	5
	3)	Open a file	8
S	Step 3.	Visualization	.12
	1)	Visualization Mode 1 (Single sequence)	.12
	2)	Visualization Mode 2 (Multiple sequences)	.15
	3)	Compute And Visualization	.18
3 Oth	ner Info	ormation	.24
3	3.1 Aut	hors correspondence	.24
3	3.2 Sub	omitting your add-ons	.24
3	3.3 Res	sources	.24

1 Introduction

analysis.

In order to predict biological functions and cellular attributes, one of the most challenging problems is to find a valid approach to visually represent the features of biological sequences. Therefore, it is important to analyze the features of biological sequences. In this paper, we propose VisFeature, a stand-alone program for features extraction and visualization of DNA, RNA and protein sequences. It provides a function for downloading a number of biological sequences automatically and integrates 29 sequence representation modes for extracting the features of DNA, RNA and protein sequences rapidly. It can also convert sequences into sequence graphs and probability density maps based on their physicochemical properties or feature vectors. Through the feature visualization, the differences between different sequences or groups can be observed visually, which is convenient and valid for sequence

There are four main functions in VisFeature, which are "Fetch data", "Visualization Mode 1 (Single sequence)", "Visualization Mode 2 (Multiple sequences)" and "Compute And Visualization".

You can use "Fetch data" to download a large number of DNA, RNA and protein sequences by identifier or query expression. You can use "Visualization Mode 1 (Single sequence)" to visualize a DNA, RNA or protein sequence by physicochemical properties. You can use "Visualization Mode 2 (Multiple sequences)" to visualize multiple DNA, RNA or protein sequences and do multiple sequence alignment then visualize the alignment result by physicochemical properties. You can use "Compute And Visualization" to calculate feature vectors from DNA, RNA and protein sequences. It allows the users to define their own representation mode, their own physicochemical properties, or even their own types of biological sequences. After the calculation, you can also use this function to visualize sequences by their feature vectors. Details will be given below.

2 Usage

Step 1. Installation

VisFeature has no dependency on Windows. You only need to download the VisFeature package and unpack it in your favorite location then open "VisFeature.exe".

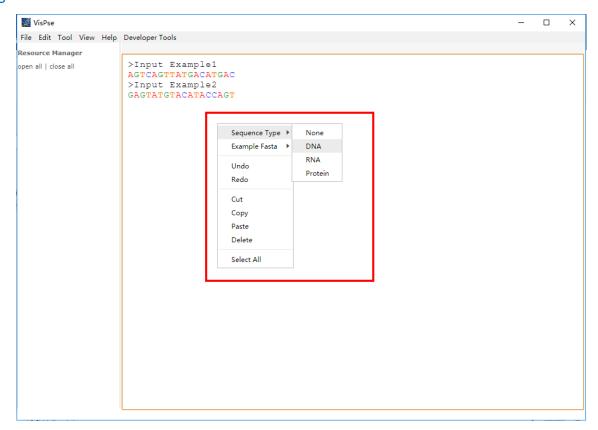
swiftshader	2019/6/2 星期日	文件夹	
chrome_100_percent.pak	2019/6/2 星期日	PAK 文件	164 KB
chrome_200_percent.pak	2019/6/2 星期日	PAK 文件	244 KB
d3dcompiler_47.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	4,245 KB
ffmpeg.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	2,077 KB
icudtl.dat	2019/6/2 星期日	DAT 文件	9,979 KB
	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	107 KB
libGLESv2.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	4,984 KB
LICENSE	2019/6/2 星期日	文件	2 KB
LICENSES.chromium.html	2019/6/2 星期日	HTML 文件	1,948 KB
natives_blob.bin	2019/6/2 星期日	BIN 文件	123 KB
osmesa.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	2,881 KB
resources.pak	2019/6/2 星期日	PAK 文件	8,517 KB
snapshot_blob.bin	2019/6/2 星期日	BIN 文件	628 KB
v8_context_snapshot.bin	2019/6/2 星期日	BIN 文件	1,018 KB
version	2019/6/2 星期日	文件	1 KB
VisFeature.exe	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序	91,698 KB
	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	339 KB
VkLayer_core_validation.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	3,190 KB
VkLayer_object_tracker.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	2,179 KB
VkLayer_parameter_validation.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	2,790 KB
VkLayer_threading.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	2,077 KB
VkLayer_unique_objects.dll	2019/6/2 星期日	应用程序扩展	2,096 KB

Step 2. Input

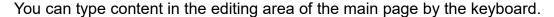
There are three ways to input into VisFeature, type, paste, and open file, respectively. Details will be given below.

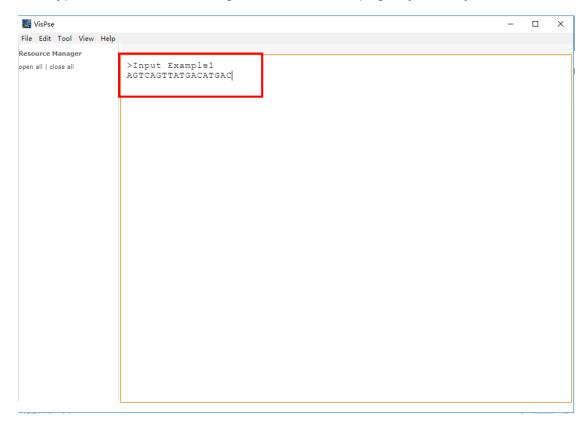
Please note:

You can right-click on the edit area and select the type of sequence by clicking "Sequence Type" to change the color of letters. It is important to note that if you edit or paste or open a large file, please set the sequence type to "None" first, which can improve the speed of the program.



1) Type by keyboard



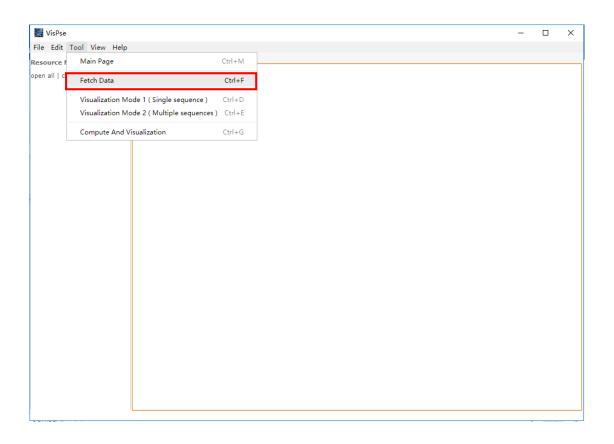


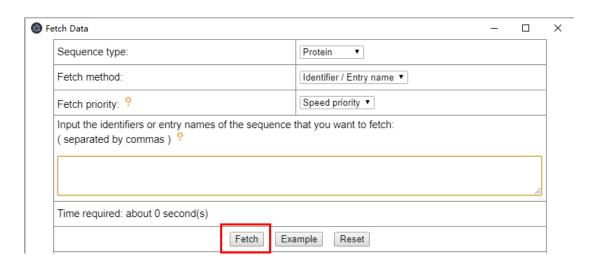
2) Copy and paste from "Fetch Result"

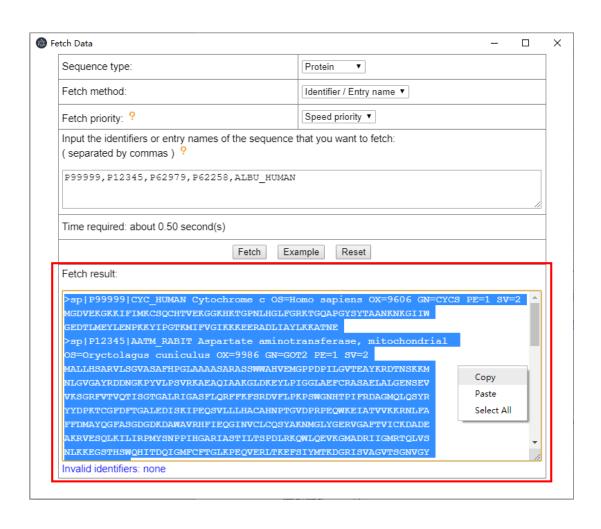
Click "Fetch Data" from "Tool" in the menu bar, then complete all parameters. Finally, input identifiers or query expression and click "Fetch" to fetch data of sequence. You can right-click on the fetch result area and select "Copy", then right-click on the input area of the main page and select "Paste". You can also use the corresponding shortcut keys.

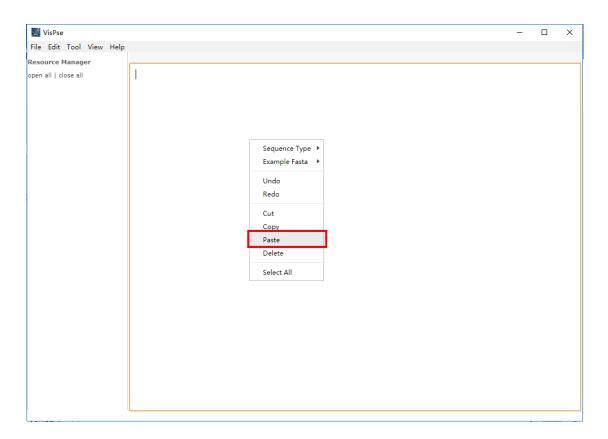
Please note:

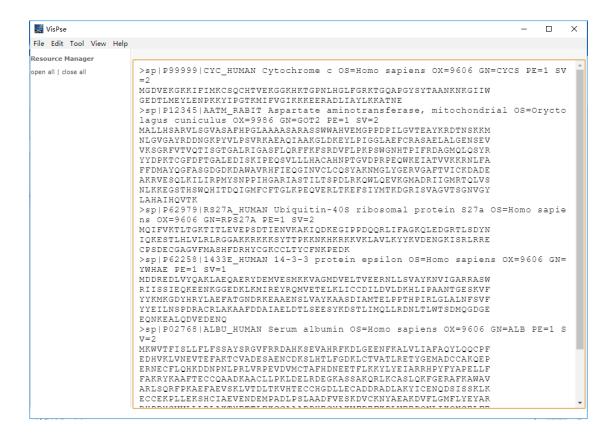
There are two options in "Fetch priority". They are "Speed priority" and "Order priority". If you select "Speed priority", this will make the speed of fetch faster. There is **no guarantee** that the order of sequences of the fetch result will be the same as the order of input. If you select "Order priority", the order of sequences of the fetch result will be the same as the order of input, but this result in a slower speed than "Speed priority".





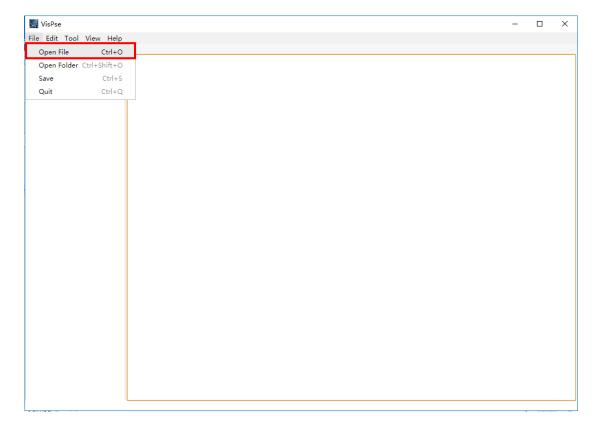


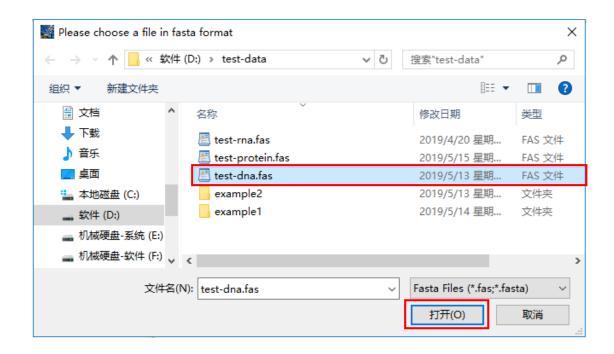


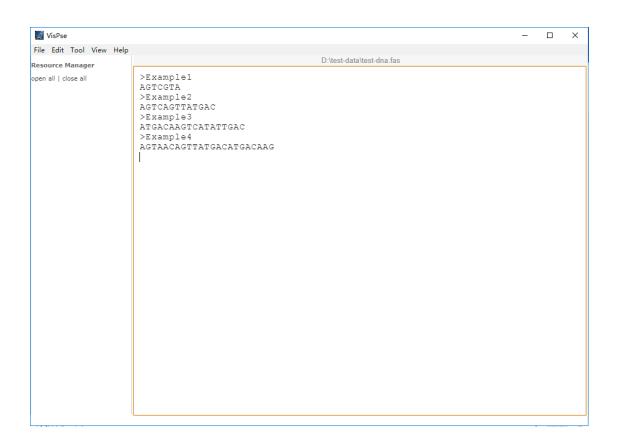


3) Open a file

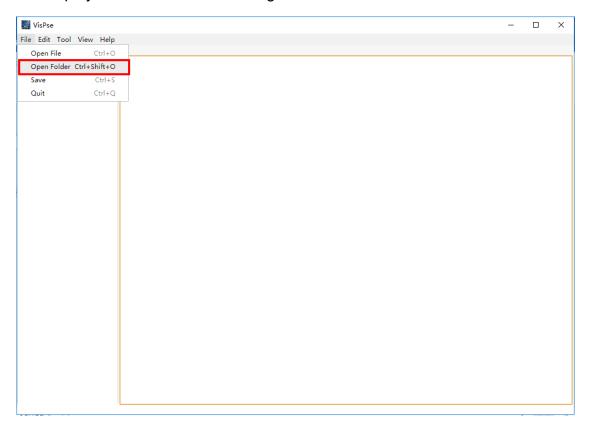
Method 1. Open a file by clicking "Open File" from "File" in the menu bar.

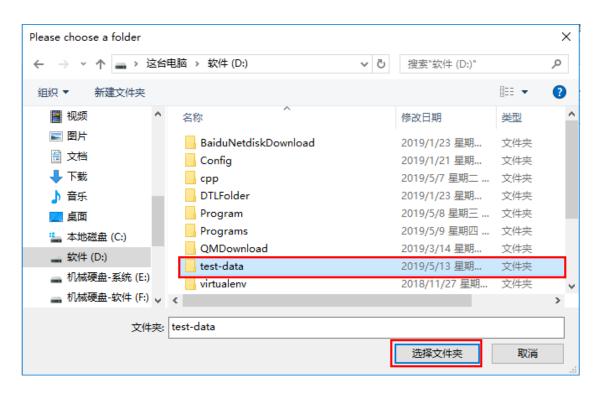






• Method 2. Open the file from the resource manager. First, you need to open a folder, then the resource manager will display the contents of this folder. You can open a file by clicking on it. Files with fas, fasta, csv and txt suffixes will be displayed in the resource manager.





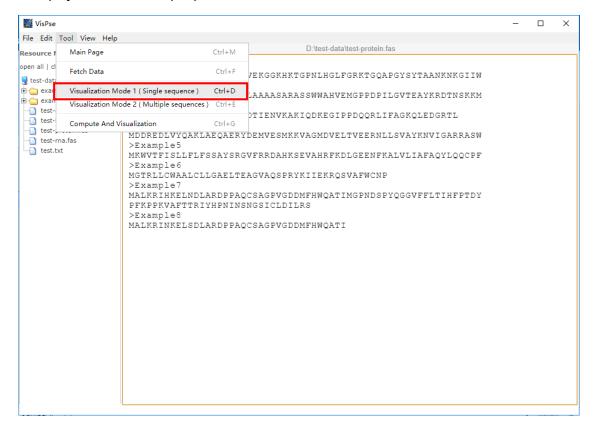


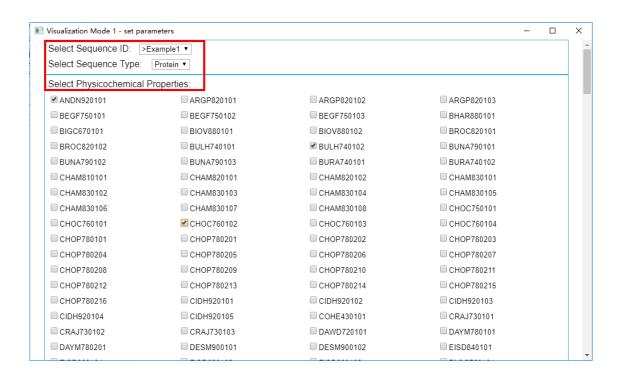
Step 3. Visualization

There are three visual modes in VisFeature, which are "Visualization Mode 1 (Single sequence)", "Visualization Mode 2 (Multiple sequences)" and "Compute And Visualization". In order to meet different needs, you can use "Zoom In" and "Zoom Out" for scaling from "View" in the menu bar. Of course, you can use them on other pages. Details will be given below.

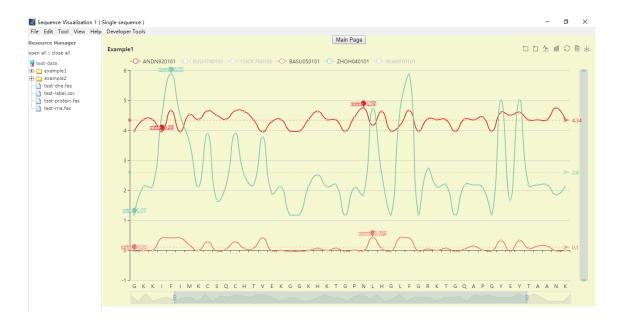
1) Visualization Mode 1 (Single sequence)

First, you need to click "Visualization Mode 1 (Single sequence)" from "Tool" in the menu bar, then complete all parameters and click "Submit". Finally, the program will jump to the visual page. Visual page will display the curves according to the sequence and physicochemical properties that you select, where the dotted lines represent the average level of that physicochemical properties.









There are many tools on this page. They can help you with further analysis.

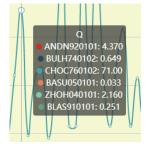
 You can click on the name of the physicochemical property to show or hide its corresponding curve.

```
-O- ANDN920101 -O- BULH740102 -O- CHOC760102 -O- BASU050101 -O- ZHOH040101 -O- BLAS910101
```

You can slide the bar tool of the x-axis and the y-axis or move the mouse wheel for data scaling. You can also drag the mouse to view the local information on the chart. In these ways, you can focus on the details of data or outline the data as a whole. It's worth mentioning that you can observe the bar tool on the x-axis to find the trend of data change.



You can hover over any point in the chart to observe all data for that point.



There are seven buttons in the upper right corner of the page, they are "Zoom In Area", "Restore Zoom", "Line Chart", "Bar Chart", "Restore", "Data View" and "Save".
 Click "Zoom In Area" to expand the area that you selected. Click "Restore Zoom" to undo

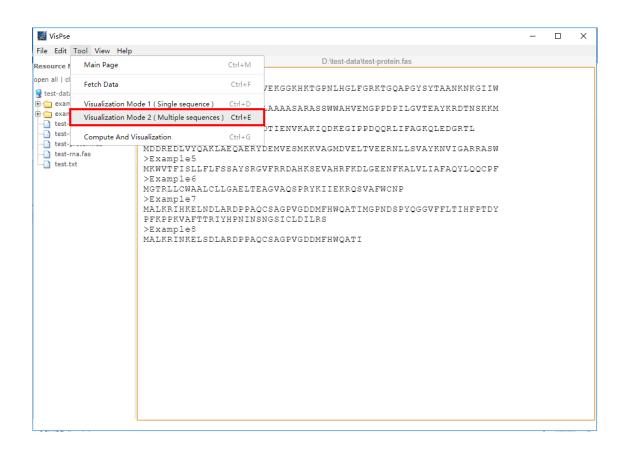
expand. Click "Line Chart" to display the line chart. Click "Bar Chart" to display the bar chart. Click "Restore" to restore the chart to its original state. Click "Data View" to view or edit data for all curves. After editing the data, you can click "Update" to update the chart. Click "Save" to save the chart to your computer hard drive.

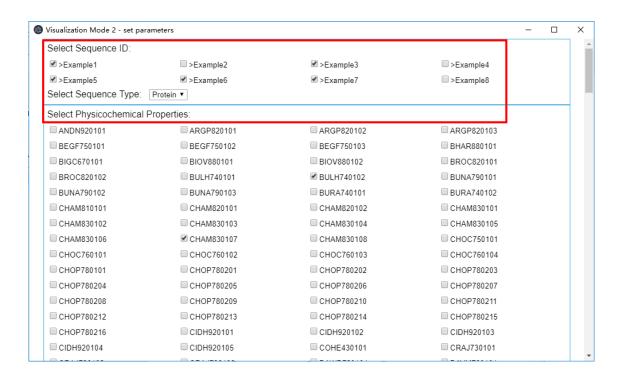


2) Visualization Mode 2 (Multiple sequences)

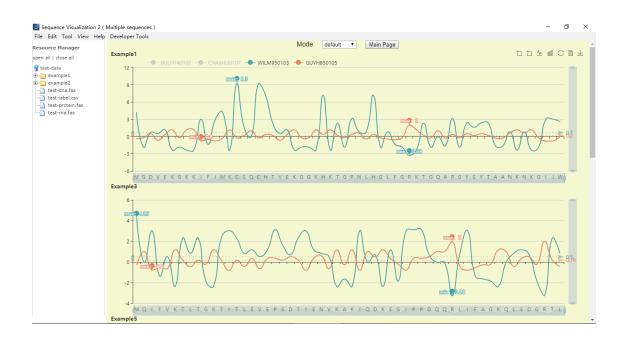
First, you need to click "Visualization Mode 2 (Multiple sequences)" from "Tool" in the menu bar, then complete all parameters and click "Submit". Finally, the program will jump to the visual page. The visual page will display the curves according to the sequences and physicochemical properties that you select, where the dotted lines represent the average level of that physicochemical properties. There are three sub-modes in this mode, which are "default", "truncation" and "clustalw2". The functions of the toolbar are the same as that in Visualization Mode 1 (Single sequence).

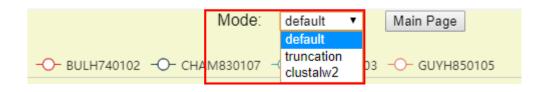
- If you select " truncation ", the program will truncate the sequences according to the shortest sequence of all the sequences you select, which means that the length of all sequences in this sub-mode is the same.
- If you select " clustalw2", the program will use clustalw2 for multiple sequence alignment and then visualize the alignment result.

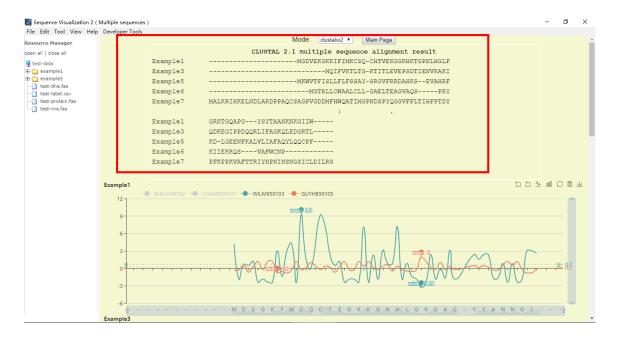












3) Compute And Visualization

First, you need to click "Compute And Visualization " from "Tool" in the menu bar, then complete all parameters and click "Submit". Finally, the program will generate the vectors that can effectively reflect its key features according to sequences in your FASTA file. In this page, you can upload a label file and click on "Visualization" to visualize the feature vectors. Waiting for about 10 seconds, the program will jump to the visual page. This page will display the probability density maps of the feature vectors. There are two sub-modes in this mode, which are "single composition" and "multiple compositions". You can save the chart to your computer hard disk by clicking "save".

- If you select "single composition", the visual page will display probability density maps of a dimension of all feature vectors in a chart. For example, if the dimension of each vector in the result is λ, then this sub-mode will generate λ charts.
- If you select "multiple compositions", the visual page will display probability density maps
 of all dimensions of all feature vectors in a chart. This sub-mode will generate 2 charts,
 which are the charts that display by column and display by row.

The label file must follow this format: **Identifier,Group.** When the output format that you choose is csv(comma separated) and tsv(tab-separated), the identifier in the label file is the **first** element of each result. When the output format that you choose is svm(libSVM), the identifier in the file is the string after the "#" in each feature vector. Group is a string used to represent the category of a sequence.

 When output format that you choose is csv(comma separated), do not enter commas in the identifier of sequence in your FASTA file if you want to visualize the feature vectors.
 For example, If the computed result of your FASTA file is as follows:

```
sp|P99999, 5.714, 1.905, 2.857, 7.619, 2.857, 12.381, 2.857, 7.619, 17.143, 5.714, 3.810, 4.762, 3.810, 1.905, 1.905, 1.905, 6.667, 2.857, 0.952, 4.762, CYC_HUMAN Cytochrome c OS=Homo sapiens OX=9606 GN=CYCS PE=1 SV=2
```

Your label file MUST follow this format:

```
sp|P99999,A
```

 When output format that you choose is tsv(tab-separated), do not enter tab character in the identifier of sequence in your FASTA file if you want to visualize the feature vectors.
 For example, If the computed result of your FASTA file is as follows:

```
|gene_id|100040529|transcript_id|XR_875063 Gm2824 Mus musculus IncRNA 31.599 19.360 19.900 29.140 (null)
```

Your label file **MUST** follow this format:

```
|gene_id|100040529|transcript_id|XR_875063 Gm2824 Mus musculus IncRNA,B
```

When output format that you choose is svm(libSVM), do not enter space in the identifier
of sequence in your FASTA file if you want to visualize the feature vectors. For example,
If the computed result of your FASTA file is as follows:

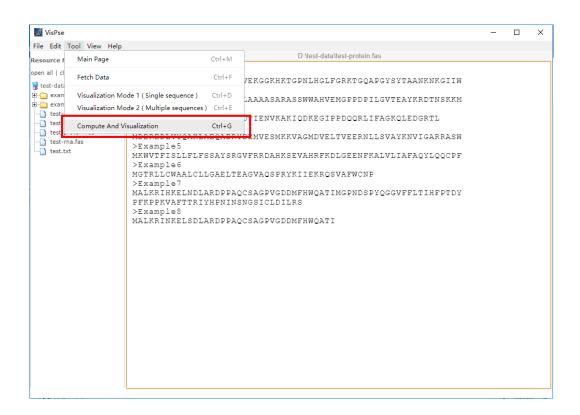
```
0 1:6.564 2:1.544 3:3.475 4:5.405 5:5.019 6:6.564 7:2.703 8:5.019 9:5.792 10:10.811 11:1.544 12:3.861 13:8.494 14:5.019 15:4.247 16:6.178 17:6.564 18:6.564 19:1.158 20:3.475 # sp|Q8N2K1
```

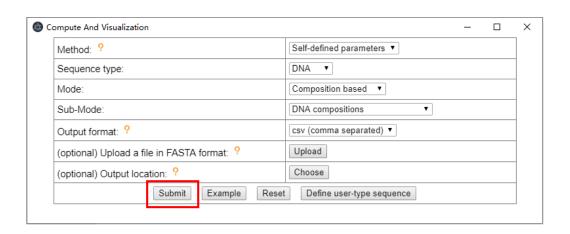
Your label file **MUST** follow this format:

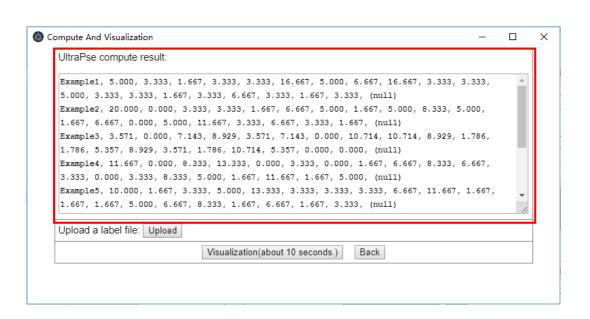
```
sp|Q8N2K1,C
```

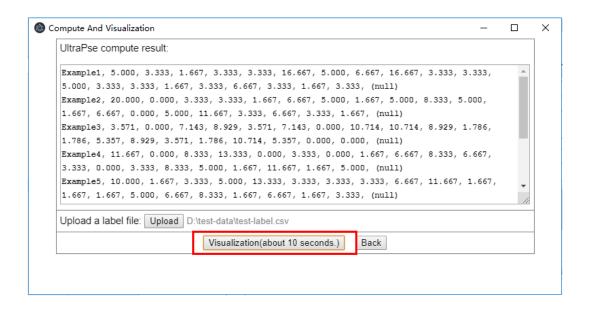
Please note:

- It is optional to upload a file in FASTA format on the page of set parameters. If you do not upload a file, the program will take the contents of the input area as input. If you upload a file, the program will take this file as input. If both methods are used, the program will take the file that you upload as input. Please upload a FASTA format file on this page when your FASTA file is large. Because open a large file is slow, upload a large file on this page is very fast.
- The maximum dimension of the visual feature vector is 30, exceeded parts will be ignored.
- In the label file, groups with fewer than two data points will be dropped. This means that
 if the number of sequences in a group is less than two, the chart of this group will be
 empty.

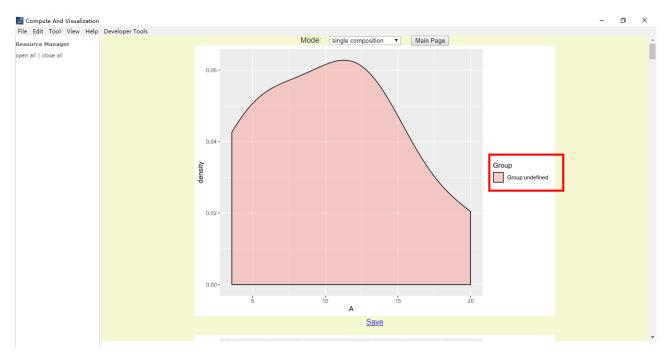




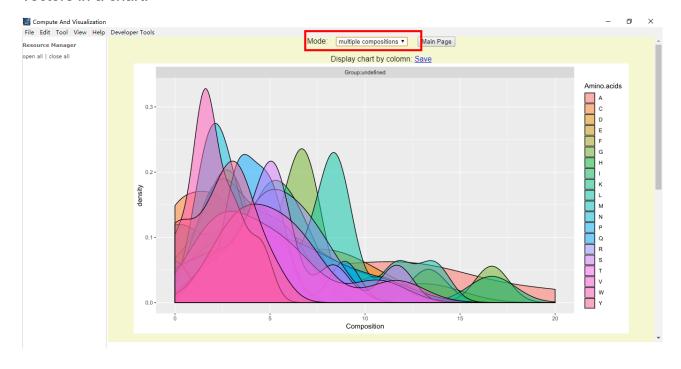




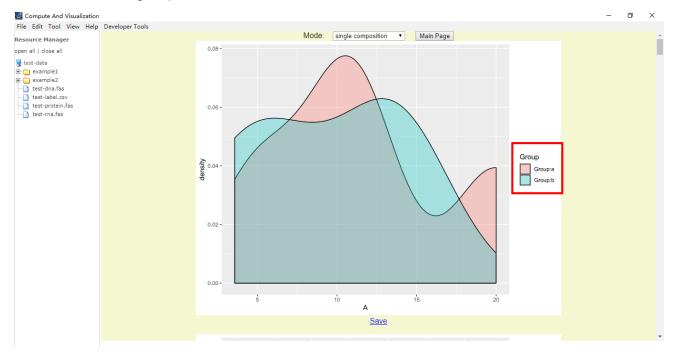
If you don't define groups of sequences, then the groups of these sequences are "Group:undefined". The following is an example of "single composition" in which groups of all sequences are not defined. The visual page will display probability density maps of a dimension of all feature vectors in a chart.



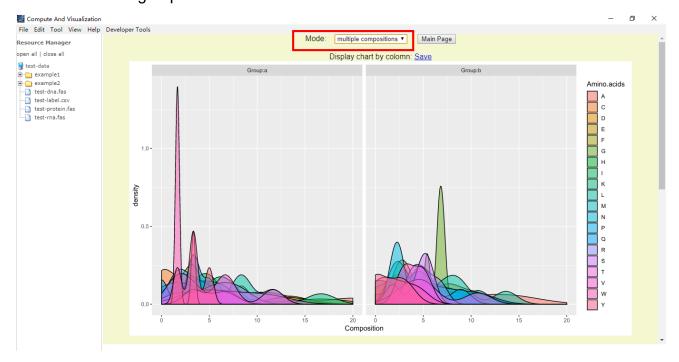
The following is an example of "multiple compositions" in which groups of all sequences are undefined. The visual page will display probability density maps of all dimensions of all feature vectors in a chart.



The following is an example of "single composition" and all sequences are divided into two groups. The visual page will display probability density maps of a dimension of all feature vectors from two groups in a chart.



The following is an example of "multiple compositions" and all sequences are divided into two groups. The visual page will display probability density maps of all dimensions of all feature vectors from two groups in a chart.



3 Other Information

3.1 Authors correspondence

If you have any questions or bug reports about VisFeature, please feel free to contact JunWang, Email: wi0708@tju.edu.cn.

3.2 Submitting your add-ons

If you want to contribute plugins for VisFeature, just join the project on GitHub. The address of VisFeature is https://github.com/wangjun1996/VisFeature.

3.3 Resources

The following resources may be useful when you use VisFeature.

UltraPse

https://github.com/pufengdu/UltraPse

How to fetch data by Uniprot API

https://www.uniprot.org/help/api

How to fetch data by NCBI API

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/home/develop/api/

Clustalw2

https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalw2/

Electron

https://electronjs.org/

Echarts

https://github.com/apache/incubator-echarts

R

https://www.r-project.org/

Lua official site

http://www.lua.org/

PseAAC

http://www.csbio.sjtu.edu.cn/bioinf/PseAAC/

PseAAC-General

https://github.com/pufengdu/PseAAC-General

• Pse-In-One

http://bioinformatics.hitsz.edu.cn/Pse-in-One/home/