# Current Topics in Genome Analysis Fall 2003 

## Week 4 Biological Sequence Analysis I

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## Overview

- Week 4: Comparative methods and concepts
- Similarity vs. Homology
- Global vs. Local Alignments
- Dotplots
- Scoring Matrices
- BLAST
- Week 5: Predictive methods and concepts
- Profiles, patterns, motifs, and domains
- Secondary structure prediction
- Structures: VAST, Cn3D, and de novo prediction


## Why do sequence alignments?

- Provide a measure of relatedness between nucleotide or amino acid sequences
- Determining relatedness allows one to draw biological inferences regarding
- structural relationships
- functional relationships
- evolutionary relationships


## Defining the Terms

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


## Defining the Terms

- The conclusion: Homology
- Genes are or are not homologous (not measured in degrees)
- Homology implies an evolutionary relationship
- The term "homolog" may apply to the relationship
- between genes separated by the event of speciation (orthology)
- between genes separated by the event of genetic duplication (paralogy)


## Defining the Terms

- Orthologs
- Sequences are direct descendants of a sequence in a common ancestor
- Most likely have similar domain structure, threedimensional structure, and biological function
- Paralogs
- Related through a gene duplication event
- Provides insight into "evolutionary innovation" (adapting a pre-existing gene product for a new function)

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## Defining the Terms



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## Determining Sequence Similarity

- Global sequence alignments
- Sequence comparison along the entire length of the two sequences being aligned
- Best for highly-similar sequences of similar length
- Local sequence alignments
- Sequence comparison intended to find the most similar regions in the two sequences being aligned ("paired subsequences")
- Regions outside the area of local alignment are excluded
- Best for sequences that share some similarity, or for sequences of different lengths


## Dotplots

- Visual method for comparing two sequences
- Allows for quick identification of
- Regions of local alignment
- Direct or inverted repeat regions
- Insertions
- Deletions
- Low-complexity regions
- No statistical measure of the overall quality of the alignment

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## Constructing a Dotplot



## Tools for Constructing Dotplots

- Dotlet (Java applet)
http://www.isrec.isb-sib.ch/java/dotlet/Dotlet.html
- Dotter
http://www.cgr.ki.se/cgr/groups/sonhammer/Dotter.html
- Dottup (for complete genomes) http://www.emboss.org
- Dotplot subroutines also available through several software suites (GCG, DNA Strider)


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## Identifying Repeats

## >gi|189599|gb|AAA60019.1| mucin

MTPGTQSPFELLLLLTVLTVVTGSGHASSTPGGEKETSATQRSSVPSSTEKNAVSMTSSVLSSHSPGSGSSTTQGQDVTL APATEPASGSAATWGQDVTSVPVTRPALGSTTPPAHDVTSAPDNKPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVISAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTF PAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTE PAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDนุRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVISAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVHSAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDTHRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVISAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGYISAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDHRPAPGSTAPPAHGVIS APDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVISAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVISAPDTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTSAPDFRPAPGSTAPPAHGVIS
 ASGSASGSASTLVHNGTSARATTTPASKSTPEST઼SHHSDTPTTLASHSTKTDASSTHHSSVPPLTSSNHSTSPQLSTGV SFFFLSFHISNLQENSSLEDPSTDYYQELQRDISEMFLQIYKQGGELGLSNIKFRPGSVVVQITTLAFREGTINVHDVETQ FNQYKIFAASRYNLTISDVSVSDVPFPESAQSGAGVPGWGIALLVLVCVLVALAIVYLIALAぞCQCRRKNYGQLDIFPAR DTYHPMSEYPTYHTHGRYVPPSSTDRSPYణRiVSAGNGGSSLSYTNPAVAAASANL

## PAPGSIAPPAHGVISAPDIR



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## Identifying Low-Complexity Regions

- Regions of biased composition
- Homopolymeric runs
- Short-period repeats
- Subtle over-representation of several residues
- Biological origins and role not well-understood
- DNA replication errors (polymerase slippage)?
- Unequal crossing-over?
- May confound sequence analysis
- BLAST relies on uniformly-distributed amino acid frequencies
- Often lead to false positives
- Filtering is advised (and usually enabled by default)

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## Identifying Low-Complexity Regions

Example: Drosophila achaete-scute
>gi|20455478|sp|P50553|ASC1_HUMAN Achaete-scute homolog 1 (HASH1) MESSAKMESGGAGQQPQPQPQQPFLPPAACFFA DGQPSGGGHKSAPKQVKRQRSSSPELMRCKRRLNFSGFGYSLPQQQF AVARRNERERNRVKLVNLGFAT LREHVPNGAANKKMSKVETLRSAVEYIRALQQLIDEHDAVSAAFQAG VLSPTISPNYSNDLNSMAGSPVS SYSSDEGSYDPLSPEEQELLDFTNWE

## Homopolymeric

alanine-glutamine tract

## Identifying Low-Complexity Regions



## Scoring Matrices

- Empirical weighting scheme to represent biology (side chain chemistry, structure, and function)
- Cys/Pro important for structure and function
- Trp has bulky side chain
- Lys/Arg have positively-charged side chains



## Scoring Matrices

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

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## Scoring Matrices

- Importance of understanding scoring matrices
- Appear in all analyses involving sequence comparison
- Implicitly represent a particular theory of evolution
- Choice of matrix can strongly influence outcomes


## Matrix Structure: Nucleotides

|  | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{G}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{W}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $\mathbf{Y}$ | $\mathbf{K}$ | $\mathbf{M}$ | $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{V}$ | $\mathbf{H}$ | $\mathbf{D}$ | $\mathbf{N}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | -4 | -4 | -4 | -4 | 1 | 1 | -4 | -4 | 1 | -4 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -2 |
| $\mathbf{T}$ | -4 | $\mathbf{5}$ | -4 | -4 | -4 | 1 | -4 | 1 | 1 | -4 | -1 | -4 | -1 | -1 | -2 |
| $\mathbf{G}$ | -4 | -4 | $\mathbf{5}$ | -4 | 1 | -4 | 1 | -4 | 1 | -4 | -1 | -1 | -4 | -1 | -2 |
| $\mathbf{C}$ | -4 | -4 | -4 | $\mathbf{5}$ | 1 | -4 | -4 | 1 | -4 | 1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -4 | -2 |
| $\mathbf{S}$ | -4 | -4 | 1 | 1 | -1 | -4 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -1 | -3 | -3 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{W}$ | 1 | 1 | -4 | -4 | -4 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -3 | -3 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{R}$ | 1 | -4 | 1 | -4 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -4 | -2 | -2 | -3 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{Y}$ | -4 | 1 | -4 | 1 | -2 | -2 | -4 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -3 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{K}$ | -4 | 1 | 1 | -4 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -4 | -1 | -3 | -3 | -1 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{M}$ | 1 | -4 | -4 | 1 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -4 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -1 | -3 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{B}$ | -4 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -3 | -3 | -1 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{V}$ | -1 | -4 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -3 | -3 | -1 | -2 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{H}$ | -1 | -1 | -4 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -2 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{D}$ | -1 | -1 | -1 | -4 | -3 | -1 | -1 | -3 | -1 | -3 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -1 |
| $\mathbf{N}$ | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |

## Matrix Structure: Proteins



## BLOSUM62

## PAM Matrices

- Margaret Dayhoff, 1978
- Point Accepted Mutation (PAM)
- Look at patterns of substitutions in highly related proteins ( $>85 \%$ similar), based on multiple sequence alignments
- The new side chain must function the same way as the old one ("acceptance")
- On average, 1 PAM corresponds to 1 amino acid change per 100 residues
- 1 PAM ~ $1 \%$ divergence
- Extrapolate to predict patterns at longer evolutionary distances


## PAM Matrices: Assumptions

- All sites are equally mutable
- Replacement is independent of surrounding residues
- Replacement is independent of previous mutations at the same position (Markov model)
- Sequences being compared are of average composition
- Forces responsible for sequence evolution over shorter time spans are the same as those for longer evolutionary time spans


## PAM Matrices: Sources of Error

- Small, globular proteins used to derive matrices (departure from average composition)
- Errors in PAM 1 are magnified up to PAM 250
- Does not account for conserved blocks or motifs


## BLOSUM Matrices

- Henikoff and Henikoff, 1992
- Blocks Substitution Matrix
- Look only for differences in conserved, ungapped regions of a protein family ("blocks")
- Directly calculated, using no extrapolations
- More sensitive to structural or functional substitutions
- Generally perform better than PAM matrices for local similarity searches (Henikoff and Henikoff, 1993)



## BLOSUM $n$

- Calculated from sequences sharing no more than $n \%$ identity
- Contribution of sequences $>n \%$ identical clustered and weighted to 1

| TGNQEEYGNTSSDSSDEDY |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| TGNLEKEEEEGISOESSEEE | $80 \%$ |
| KKLEKEEEEGISQESSEEE |  |
| KKLEKEEEEGISQESSEEE |  |
| KPAQEETEETSSOESAEED <br> KKPAQETEETSSOESAEED |  |
|  |  |

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## BLOSUM $n$

- Clustering reduces contribution of closely-related sequences (less bias towards substitutions that occur in the most closely related members of a family)
- Substitution frequencies are more heavily-influenced by sequences that are more divergent than this cutoff
- Reducing $n$ yields more distantly-related sequences



## So many matrices...

Triple-PAM strategy (Alschul, 1991)

| PAM 40 | Short alignments, highly similar | $>70 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| PAM 120 |  | $>50 \%$ |
| PAM 250 | Longer, weaker local alignments | $>30 \%$ |

BLOSUM (Henikoff, 1993)
BLOSUM $90 \quad$ Short alignments, highly similar $>60 \%$
BLOSUM $80 \quad>50 \%$
BLOSUM 62 Most effective in detecting known $>35 \%$ members of a protein family
BLOSUM 30 Longer, weaker local alignments


## So many matrices...

- Matrix Equivalencies

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\text { PAM } 250 & \sim & \text { BLOSUM } 45 \\
\text { PAM } 160 & \sim & \text { BLOSUM } 62 \\
\text { PAM } 120 & \sim & \text { BLOSUM } 80
\end{array}
$$

- Specialized matrices
- Transmembrane proteins
- Species-specific matrices

Wheeler, 2003


## Gaps

- Compensate for insertions and deletions
- Used to improve alignments between two sequences
- Must be kept to a reasonable number, to not reflect a biological implausible scenario ( $\sim 1$ gap per 20 residues good rule-of-thumb)
- Cannot be scored simply as a "match" or a "mismatch"



## Affine Gap Penalty

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

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

where $\quad G=$ gap-opening penalty $L=$ gap-extension penalty $\quad 2 \quad 1$
and $n=$ length of the gap

Can adjust scores to make gap insertion more or less permissive, but most programs will use values of $G$ and $L$ most appropriate for the scoring matrix selected

## BLAST

- Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
- Seeks high-scoring segment pairs (HSP)
- pair of sequences that can be aligned without gaps
- when aligned, have maximal aggregate score (score cannot be improved by extension or trimming)
- score must be above score threshhold $S$
- gapped or ungapped
- Results not limited to the "best HSP" for any given sequence pair


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## Neighborhood Words



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## Extension




## Scores and Probabilities




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## Scores and Probabilities

| $\longrightarrow$ - |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Query : | 325 | SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA | 365 |
|  |  | +LA++L TP+G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A |  |
| Sbjet : | 290 | TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA | 330 |



## Scores and Probabilities

| $\longrightarrow \longrightarrow$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Query : | 325 | SLAALLNKCKTPQGQ | QRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA | 365 |
|  |  | +LA++L TP+G | R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A |  |
| Sbjct: | 290 | TLASVLDCTVTPMG | SRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA | 330 |



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## Database Searching Artifacts

- Low-complexity regions
- Nucleotide searches: removed with DUST ( $\rightarrow$ X)
- Protein searches: removed with SEG $(\rightarrow \mathrm{N})$
- Repetitive elements
- LINE, SINE, Alu
- Automatic masking "still under development"
- RepeatMasker
http://repeatmasker.genome.washington.edu


## Database Searching Artifacts

- "Hypothetical protein" hits
- Some entries result from gene prediction or translation of transcripts
- An ORF does not imply translation into a real protein
- Low-quality sequence hits
- ESTs
- Single-pass sequence reads from large-scale sequencing (possibly with vector contaminants)


## BLAST2SEQUENCES

- Finds local alignments between two protein or nucleotide sequences of interest
- All BLAST programs available
- Select BLOSUM and PAM matrices available for protein comparisons
- Same affine gap costs (adjustable)
- Input sequences can be masked
- Implementations
- NCBI Web interface
- bl2seq downloadable executable ftp://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/executables/


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## MegaBLAST

- Optimized for aligning long and/or highlysimilar sequences ("greedy algorithm")
- Good for batch nucleotide searches
- Search targets
- Entire eukaryotic genomes
- Trace Archives (125 million sequence traces)
- Run speeds approximately 10 times faster than BLASTN
- Adjusted word size
- Different gap scoring scheme


## BLASTN vs. MegaBLAST

- Word size
- BLASTN default = 11
- MegaBLAST default $=28$
- Non-affine gap penalties

Deduction for a gap $=r / 2-q$
where
$r=$ match reward
(default 1)
$q=$ mismatch penalty
(default -2)
and no penalty for opening the gap

## Discontiguous MegaBLAST

- Designed specifically for the comparison of diverged sequences, particularly from different organisms
- Since these types of comparison may yield low degrees of identity, this variant performs better than the original MegaBLAST, which is optimized for sequences that are highly similar


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>ref $\mid$ NW_044164.1|Rn9 1524 Rattus norvegicus chromosome 9 WGS supercontig
Length $=2 \overline{9} 12845$

Score $=4711$ bits (2450), Expect $=0.0$ Identities $=2450 / 2450$ (100\%)
Strand = Plus / Plus

```
>ref|NW_044163.1|Rn9_1523 Rattus norvegicus chromosome 9 WGS supercontig
    Length = 6多44367
    Score = 4711 bits (2450), Expect = 0.0
    Identities = 2450/2450 (100%)
Strand = Plus / Plus
```

>ref|NW_043915.1|Rn5_1274 Rattus norvegicus chromosome 5 WGS supercontig
Length $=1 \overline{7} 4842$
Score $=4572$ bits (2378), Expect $=0.0$
Identities $=2381 / 2382$ (99\%), Gaps $=1 / 2382$ ( $0 \%$ )
Strand $=$ Plus $/$ Minus


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## FASTA

- SSEARCH

Smith-Waterman algorithm
Rigorous and quite sensitive, but slow

- FASTA

Regions of local alignment
Approximation of Smith-Waterman algorithm Faster, but sacrifices sensitivity

- Bill Pearson, University of Virginia http://fasta.bioch.virginia.edu

