

Sequence Based Function Annotation

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Biotechnology Resource Center

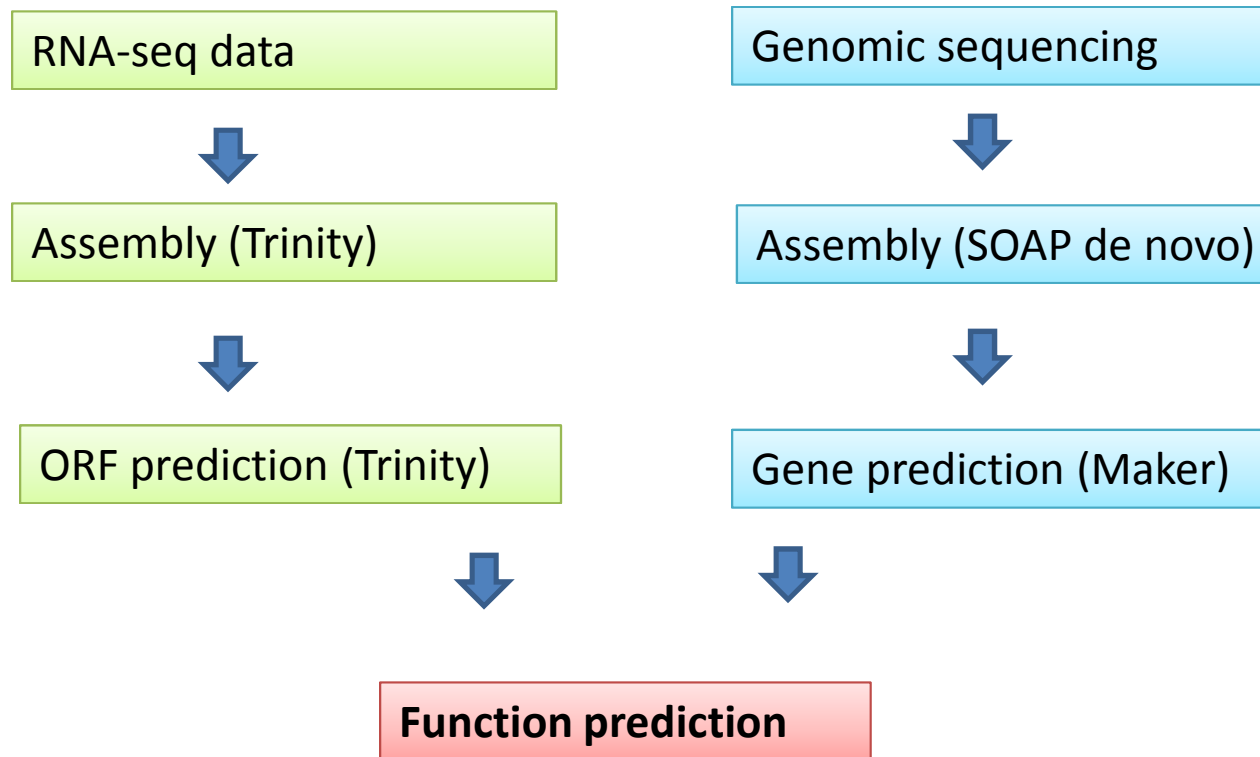
Cornell University

Sequence Based Function Annotation

- 1. Given a sequence, how to predict its biological function?**
- 2. How to describe the function of a gene?**
- 3. How to works with 50,000 genes?**

Usage scenarios for sequence based function annotation

Genomic scale function annotation for non-model organisms



1. Given a protein sequence, how to predict its function?

```
>unknow_protein_1  
MVHLTDAEKAAVSCLWGKVNSDEVGGEALGRLLVVYPWTQR  
YFDSFGDLSSASAIMGNAKVKAHGKKVITAFNDGLNHLDSL  
KGTFASLSELHCDKLHVDPENFRLLGNMIVIVLGHHLGKDF  
TPAAQAAFQKVVAGVATALAHKYH
```

Common approaches

- Identify the homologous gene in a different species with good function annotation; (**BLAST**, et al.)
- Identify conserved motif; (PFAM, **InterProScan**, et al.)

Alternative approaches

- Protein 3D structure prediction (threading methods)
- Co-expression network modules; (Genevestigator)
- Linkage or association mapping;
- ...

NCBI BLAST

- How does BLAST work?
- BLAST and Psi-BLAST: Position independent and position specific scoring matrix.

BLAST® Basic Local Alignment Search Tool

Home Recent Results Saved Strategies Help

My NCBI [Sign In] [Register]

NCBI/ BLAST/ blastp suite Standard Protein BLAST

blastn blastp blastx tblastn tblastx

BLASTP programs search protein databases using a protein query. [more...](#) [Reset page](#) [Bookmark](#)

Enter Query Sequence

Enter accession number(s), gi(s), or FASTA sequence(s) [Clear](#) Query subrange [From](#) [To](#)

Or, upload file [Browse...](#)

Job Title [Enter a descriptive title for your BLAST search](#)

☐ Align two or more sequences

Choose Search Set

Database [Non-redundant protein sequences \(nr\)](#)

Organism [Optional](#) [Enter organism name or id--completions will be suggested](#) ☐ Exclude [+](#)

[Optional](#) [Exclude](#) ☐ Models (XM/XP) ☐ Uncultured/environmental sample sequences

Entrez Query [Enter a search query](#)

Score = 176 bits (447), Expect = 4e-50, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.
Identities = 98/232 (42%), Positives = 139/232 (60%), Gaps = 14/232 (6%)

```

Query  30  MAKVLTLELYKKLRDKETPSGFTVDDVIQTGV--DNPGHPFIMTVGCVAGDEESYEVFKE  87
      + K LT +L+++ +D+   GF+   I +G   N G       VG AG +SY F
Sbjct  26  LQKCLTKDLWEQCKDRRDKYGFSGFKQAIKSGSKWTNSG-----VGVYAGSHDSYYAFAP  79

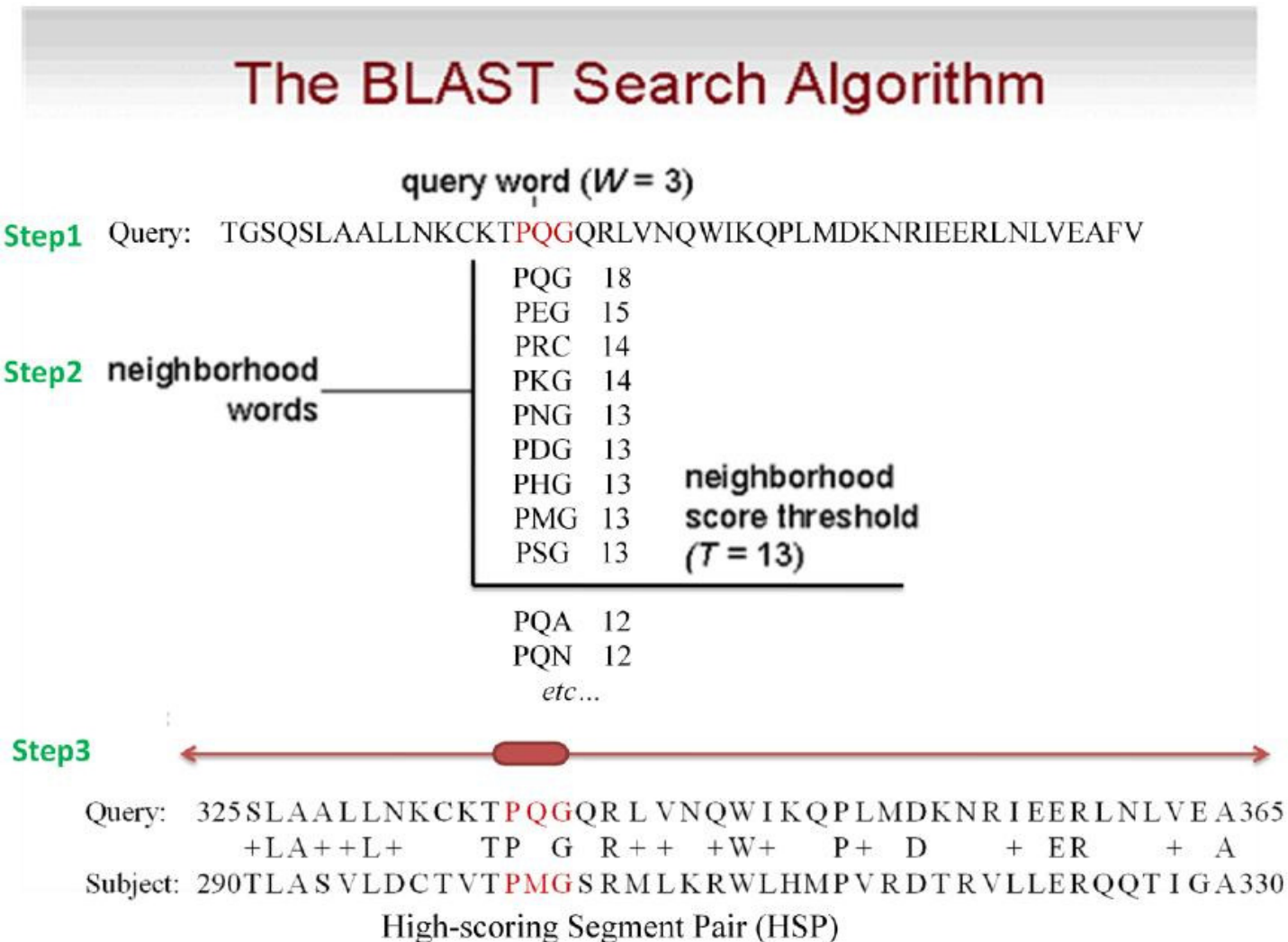
Query  88  LFDPIISDRHGGYKPTDKHKTDNLNHNKGG---DDLDPNYVLSSRVRTGRSIRKGYTLPP  144
      D II  HG +KP+DKH + +++++ L       D D   + S+R+R R++   L
Sbjct  80  FMDKIIIEAYHG-HKPSDKHISMDYKQLNCPFPAPED-KMINSTRIRVARNLAADPLGT  137

Query  145 HCSRGERRAVEKLSVEALNSLTGEFGKGYYPKSMTEKEQQQLIDDHFLFDKPVSPPLLLA  204
      +R ER+ +E L  AL   TGE KGKYY L++M++ E++QLI DHFLF K    L +
Sbjct  138 AVTRKERKEIEHLVTSALGEFTGELKGKYYSLTMSDAEKKQLIADHFLF-KGGDKYLQS  196

Query  205 SGMARDWPDARGIWHNDNKSFLVWVNEEDHLRVISMKEKGGNMKEVFRRCVVG  256
      +G+ RDWP+ARGI+HND K+FLVWVNEED LR+ISM+ G N+ EVF+R V
Sbjct  197 AGLERDWPEARGIFHNDKTFVWVNEEDQLRIISMQAGSNILEVFKRLSVA  248
  
```

How does BLAST work

Step 1. Create alignments between HSPs (High-scoring Segment Pair)



How does BLAST work

Step 2. Score each alignment, and report the top alignments

Number of Chance Alignments = 2×10^{-73}

Score = 288 bits (318), Expect = 2e-73
Identities = 262/325 (81%), Gaps = 8/325 (2%)
Strand=Plus/Plus

Query	1923	TCAGCCTACCATGAGAATAAGAGAAAGA-AAATGAAGATCAAAGCTTATTCATCTGTTT	1981
Sbjct	33774	TCAGACTACCCTGAGAATAAGAGAAAGAGAAATGAAGACCTAGA-CTTATCCATCTCTTT	33832
Query	1982	TTCTTTTTCGTTGGTGTAAGCCAACACCCTGTCTAAAAAACATAAATTTCTTTAATCAT	2041
Sbjct	33892	TTCTTTTTCGTTGGTGTAAGCCAACACCCTGTCTAAAAAACATAAATTTCTTTAATCAT	33892
Query	2042	TTTGCCCTCTTTTCTCTGTGCTACAATTAATAAAAAAATGAAAAGAATCTAATTTAATTGT	2100
Sbjct	33893	TTTGCCCTCTTTTCTCTGTGCTACAATTAATAAAAAAATGAAAAGAATCTAATTTAATTGT	33952
Query	2101	ACAGCACTGTTA-T	2159
Sbjct	33953	CTATGACTGTTATT	34012
Query	2160	AAGTTCCAGTGTTT	2219
Sbjct	34013	AAATTCCACTATTCTCTCTTTCCCTATTTCATGGAGGACTTCTAGTTCCTTCTGGATTA	34072
Query	2220	AT---TAAATAAATCATTAATACT	2240
Sbjct	34073	ATTGCATAAAAGAAACATTAATACT	34097

Match=+2

Mismatch=-3

Gap

$-(5 + 4(2)) = -13$

BLOSUM62, a position independent matrix

Ala	4																			
Arg	-1	5																		
Asn	-2	0	6																	
Asp	-2	-2	1	6																
Cys	0	-3	-3	-3	9															
Gln	-1	1	0	0	-3	5														
Glu	-1	0	0	2	-4	2	5													
Gly	0	-2	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	6												
His	-2	0	1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	8											
Ile	-1	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	4										
Leu	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4									
Lys	-1	2	0	-1	-3	1	1	-2	-1	-3	-2	5								
Met	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	0	-2	-3	-2	1	2	-1	5							
Phe	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	0	0	-3	0	6						
Pro	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-4	7					
Ser	1	-1	1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-2	-1	4				
Thr	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	5			
Trp	-3	-3	-4	-4	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3	-2	-3	-1	1	-4	-3	-2	11		
Tyr	-2	-2	-2	-3	-2	-1	-2	-3	2	-1	-1	-2	-1	3	-3	-2	-2	2	7	
Val	0	-3	-3	-3	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	3	1	-2	1	-1	-2	-2	0	-3	-1	4
	Ala	Arg	Asn	Asp	Cys	Gln	Glu	Gly	His	Ile	Leu	Lys	Met	Phe	Pro	Ser	Thr	Trp	Tyr	Val

How does BLAST work

Step 2. Score each alignment – protein alignment

Number of Chance Alignments = 4×10^{-50}

```
Score = 176 bits (447), Expect = 4e-50, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.
Identities = 98/232 (42%), Positives = 139/232 (60%), Gaps = 14/232 (6%)

Query 30  MAKVLTLELYKKLRDKETPSGFTVDDVIQTGV--DNPGHPFIMTVGCVAGDEESYEVFKE 87
          + K LT +L+++ +D+   GF+   I +G   N G       VG AG +SY F
Sbjct 26  LQKCLTKDLWEQCKDRRDKYGFSPKQAI FSGSKWTNSG-----VG VYAGSHDSYYAFAP 79

Query 88  -----RH-----LM-----L-----
          K           K           Q           Gap
Sbjct 88  -----YH-----MI-----EI-----
          K +5       E +1       F -3       - (11 + 6 (1) ) = -
Query 100  +R ER+ +E L  AL  TGE KGKYY L++M++
          +R ER+ +E L  AL  TGE KGKYY L++M++
Sbjct 138  AVTRKERKEIEHLVTSALGEFTGELKGKYY SLETMSD 18

Query 205  SGMARDWPDARGIWHNDNKSFLVWVNEEDHLRVISMKEKGGNMKEVFRRFCVG 256
          +G+ RDWP+ARGI+HND K+FLVWVNEED LR+ISM+ G N+ EVF+R  V
Sbjct 197  AGLERDWPEARGIFHNDAKTFLVWVNEEDQLRIISMQAGSNILEVFKRLSVA 248
```

Scores from BLOSUM62, a position independent matrix

BLOSUM62 substitution score is position independent

```
Score = 176 bits (447), Expect = 4e-50, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.
Identities = 98/232 (42%), Positives = 139/232 (60%), Gaps = 14/232 (6%)

Query   30   MAKVLTLELYKKLRDKETPSGFTVDDVIQTGV--DNPGHPFIMTVGCVAGDEESYEVFKE   87
      + K LT +L+++ +D+      GF+      I +G      N G      VG AG +SY F
Sbjct   26   LQKCLTKDLWEQCKDRRDKYGFSPKQAI FSGSKWTNSG-----VG VYAGSHDSYYAFAP   79

Query   88   LFDPIISD H GYKPTD H TDLNHNENLKGG-- D LDPNYVLSSRVRTGRSIKGYTLPP   144
      D II  H G +KP+D H + +++++ L      D + S+R+R R++ L
Sbjct   80   FMDKIIEA H -HKPSD H SSMDYKQLNCPFF AED-KMINSTRIRVARNLAADPLGT   137

Query   145  HCSRGERRAVEKLSVEALNSLTGEFKGKYYPLKSMTEKEQQQL D HFLFDKPVSPLLLA   204
      +R ER+ +E L AL TGE KGKYY L++M++ E++QL D HFLF K L +
Sbjct   138  AVTRKERKEIEHLVTSALGEFTGELKGKYY SLETMSDAEKKQL A HFLF-KGGDKYLQS   196

Query   205  SGMARDWPDARGI H DNKSFLVWVNEEDHLRVISMEKGGNMKEVFRFCVG   256
      +G+ RDWP+ARGI H D K+FLVWVNEED LR+ISM+ G N+ EVF+R V
Sbjct   197  AGLERDWPEARGI H DAKTFLVWVNEEDQLRIISMQAGSNILEVFKRLSVA   248
```

Scores from BLOSUM62, a position independent matrix

PSSM Alignment: Globins

cd01040: globin, with user query added

?



Globins are heme proteins, which bind and transport oxygen. This family summarizes a diverse set of homologous protein domains, including: (1) tetrameric vertebrate hemoglobins, which are the major protein component of erythrocytes and transport oxygen in the bloodstream, (2) microorganismal flavohemoglobins, which are linked to C-terminal FAD-dependent reductase domains, (3) homodimeric bacterial hemoglobins, such as from *Vitreoscilla*, (4) plant leghemoglobins (symbiotic hemoglobins, involved in nitrogen metabolism in plant rhizomes), (5) plant non-symbiotic hexacoordinate globins and hexacoordinate globins from bacteria and animals, such as neuroglobin, (6) invertebrate hemoglobins, which may occur in tandem-repeat arrangements, and (7) monomeric myoglobins found in animal muscle tissue.

Feature 1

lASH

query

gi 13810249	18	NILQRLKVKNQW.	[11].	SXGT
gi 20513982	3	SSHERSLIRKTW.	[7].	DVAF
gi 22001638	14	GEEQEALVLKSW.	[8].	NLGI
gi 22960923	8	SPADIHRVRTSF.	[8].	EMAD
gi 25495425	21	NEIKRLKVKLQW.	[11].	DFED
gi 32417616	4	TYQQSKLVRDTI.	[8].	RITS
gi 33300043	12	TQEEKNDLEHSW.	[8].	HIAC
gi 34447132	7	SIEDIRDIQHDW.	[13].	VFGQ

##

ELLD^RHAR

RLAKL^HVS

QLAHL^HQA

ALGGAHQA

RLGATHLR

KLAVDHVR

FLKAQHAP

RMCNKHCS

NLGRRHGK

HLSQQHKE

##	#	#	##
RYKF.	[16].	FAKQGQKILLACHVLCA.	[13].ELLD ^R HAR 99
QPLF.	[4].	IRDQGKKLMGTLAVVVG.	[13].RLAKL ^H VS 84
OKFF.	[12].	FQAHIQRVFGGFDMCIS.	[10].QLAHL ^H QA 109
QKMF.	[16].	FLAQAYTILAGLNVIQ.	[13].ALGGAHQA 96
EQMF.	[15].	LKTHAMSVFVMTCEAAA.	[16].RLGATHLR 110
RTL.	[3].	MTRMKDKFIQTLAVLVG.	[13].KLAVDHVR 89
EKFF.	[12].	FRAFGMRVASGLDMVLS.	[13].FLKAQHAP 115
NNYF.	[6].	NGRQPRALTAVILGFAS.	[13].RMCNKHCS 88
RRLF.	[19].	QAMRFMQVIEGAVKALD.	[10].NLGRRHGK 106
KGVH.	[8].	FKNHVLRVLNGLDNLIN.	[13].HLSQQHKE 102

Conserved Histidine

- NCBI Discovery Workshops

PSSM Viewer

Scores
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
-3
-4
-5
-6
-7
-8

Histidine scored differently at two positions

92 H	93 A	94 K	95 R	96 G
1ASH				
97 H	98 A	99 R	100 D	101 H
H	A	K	R	G
Y	C	A	Y	H
N	K	E	F	K
Q	V	N	K	L
E	I	R	L	N
R	R	S	M	Q
D	S	T	C	A
F	T	G	E	F
K	D	H	H	D
S	F	Q	N	E
A	Q	Y	W	P
G	Y	D	I	R
M	E	P	Q	S
P	G	W	T	W
T	H	F	V	I
W	L	I	A	T
C	N	V	D	V
I	M	L	P	Y
L	P	M	S	M
V	W	C	S	V

Build PSSM with PSI-BLAST

- PSI-BLAST
 1. Iteration 1: Regular BLASTP (BLOSSOM62) to identify a list of closely related proteins. Build PSSM from these proteins.
 2. Iteration 2: Use the PSSM built from Iteration 1 to score alignment in this Iteration.
 3. Repeat multiple iterations.

Build PSSM with DELTA-BLAST

DELTA-BLAST employs a subset of NCBI's Conserved Domain Database (CDD) to construct PSSM

Enter Query Sequence

BLASTP programs search protein databases using a protein query. [more...](#)[Reset page](#)[Bookmark](#)

Enter accession number(s), gi(s), or FASTA sequence(s) [?](#)

NP_001265090

Clear

Query subrange [?](#)

From

To

Or, upload file

Choose File

No file chosen [?](#)

Job Title

Enter a descriptive title for your BLAST search [?](#)

☐ Align two or more sequences [?](#)

Choose Search Set

Database

◆ Reference proteins (refseq_protein) [?](#)

Organism

Optional

Drosophila melanogaster

☐ Exclude [+](#)

Enter organism common name, binomial, or tax id. Only 20 top taxa will be shown. [?](#)

Exclude

Optional

☐ Models (XM/XP) ☐ Uncultured/environmental sample sequences

Entrez Query

Optional

Enter an Entrez query to limit search [?](#)

Program Selection

Algorithm

☐ blastp (protein-protein BLAST)

☐ PSI-BLAST (Position-Specific Iterated BLAST)

☐ PHI-BLAST (Pattern Hit Initiated BLAST)

☒ DELTA-BLAST (Domain Enhanced Lookup Time Accelerated BLAST)

Choose a BLAST algorithm [?](#)

BLAST

Search database Reference proteins (refseq_protein) using DELTA-BLAST (Domain Enhanced Lookup Time Accelerated BLAST)

☐ Show results in a new window

[+ Algorithm parameters](#)

Note: Parameter values that differ from the default are highlighted in yellow and marked with ◆ sign

Heme Binding Site

Conserved Histidine

blastp

```
TFATLSELHCDKLHVD----PENFRLLG  
      S L    KLHV      P ++  +G  
ILPAASRLA--KLHVSYGVQPTHYAPVG
```

DELTA-BLAST

```
TF---ATLSELHCDKLHVDPENFRLLG  
      + L++LH      V P ++  +G  
ILPAASRLAKLHVS-YGVQPTHYAPVG
```

Heme Binding Site

Conserved Histidine

bla

**BLAST is not reliable for
alignment of homologous genes
between distantly related species.**

DELTA-BLAST

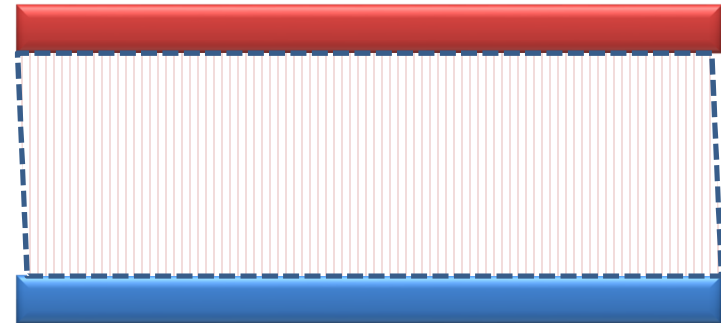
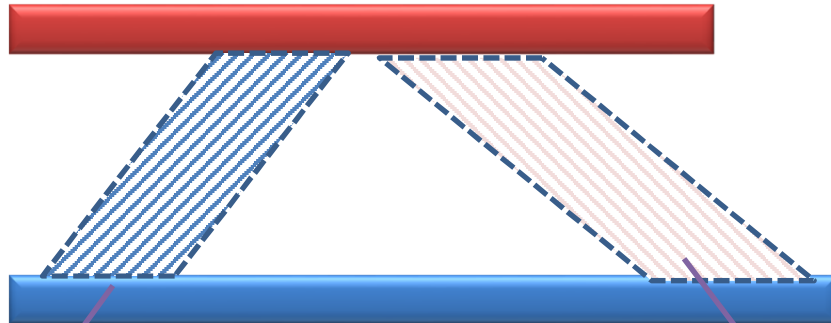
ILPAASRLAKLHVS-YGVQPTHYAPVG

BLAST does Local Alignment (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool)

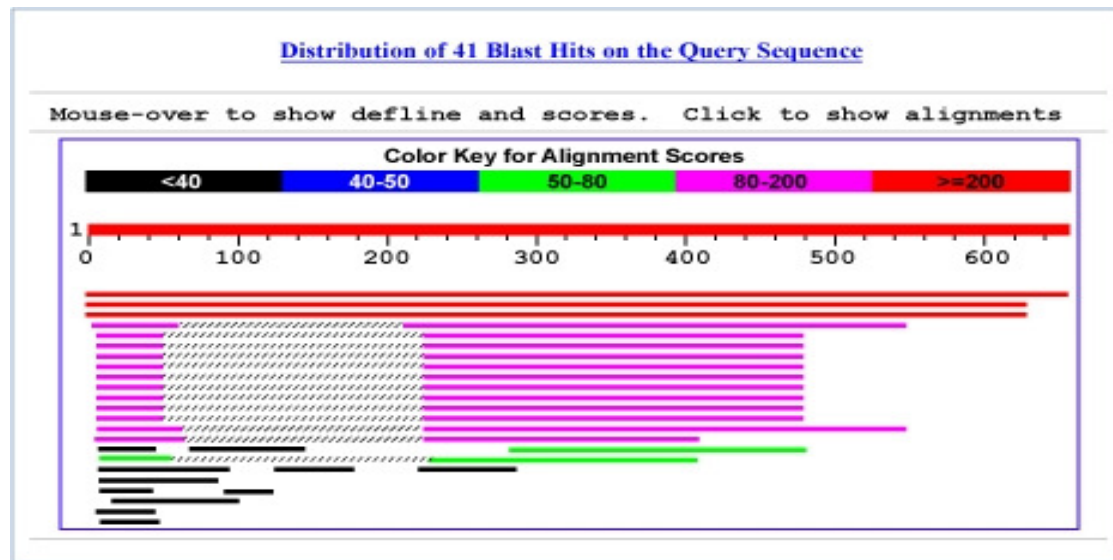
Local Alignment

vs

Global Alignment



(Bowtie, BWA, ClustalW, et al)



BLAST and BLAST-like programs

- Traditional BLAST (formerly blastall) **nucleotide, protein, translations**
 - **blastn** nucleotide query vs. nucleotide database
 - **blastp** protein query vs. protein database
 - **blastx** nucleotide query vs. protein database
 - **tblastn** protein query vs. translated nucleotide database
 - **tblastx** translated query vs. translated database
- Megablast **nucleotide only**
 - **Contiguous megablast**
 - Nearly identical sequences
 - **Discontiguous megablast**
 - Cross-species comparison

Nucleotide Databases: List

Choose Search Set

Database

Organism
Optional

Exclude
Optional

Entrez Query
Optional

☐ Human genomic + transcript ☐ Mouse genomic + transcript ☒ Others (nr etc.):

Nucleotide collection (nr/nt)

Genomic plus Transcript
Human genomic plus transcript (Human G+T)
Mouse genomic plus transcript (Mouse G+T)
Other Databases
Nucleotide collection (nr/nt)
Reference RNA sequences (refseq_rna)
Reference genomic sequences (refseq_genomic)
NCBI Genomes (chromosome)
Expressed sequence tags (est)
Genomic survey sequences (gss)
High throughput genomic sequences (HTGS)
Patent sequences(pat)
Protein Data Bank (pdb)
Human ALU repeat elements (alu_repeats)
Sequence tagged sites (dbsts)
Whole-genome shotgun contigs (wgs)
Transcriptome Shotgun Assembly (TSA)
16S ribosomal RNA sequences (Bacteria and Archaea)

Include +

taxa will be shown.

sequences

Services

megablast

blastn

tblastn

tblastx

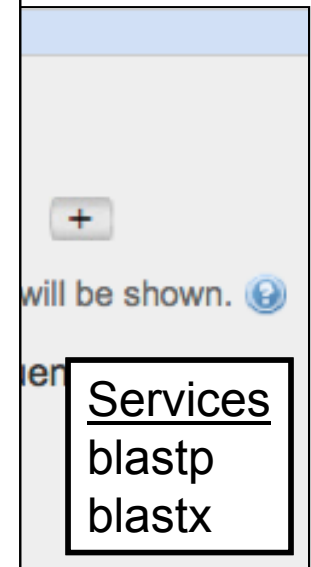
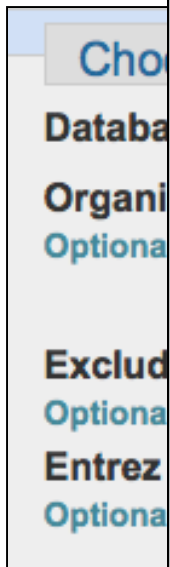
Non-redundant protein

nr (non-redundant protein sequences)

- GenBank CDS translations
- NP_, XP_ refseq_protein
- Outside Protein
 - PIR, Swiss-Prot, PRF
 - PDB (sequences from structures)

pat protein patents

env_nr metagenomes
(environmental samples)



Reference Sequence Databases

Archive Databases

Genbank & Genpept
(NCBI nt and nr)

Genome Based Reference

NCBI Refseq

UCSC Genomes (Animals)

Ensembl (Animals)

Phytozome (Plants)

Ensembl Plants (Plants)

Species Specific Databases

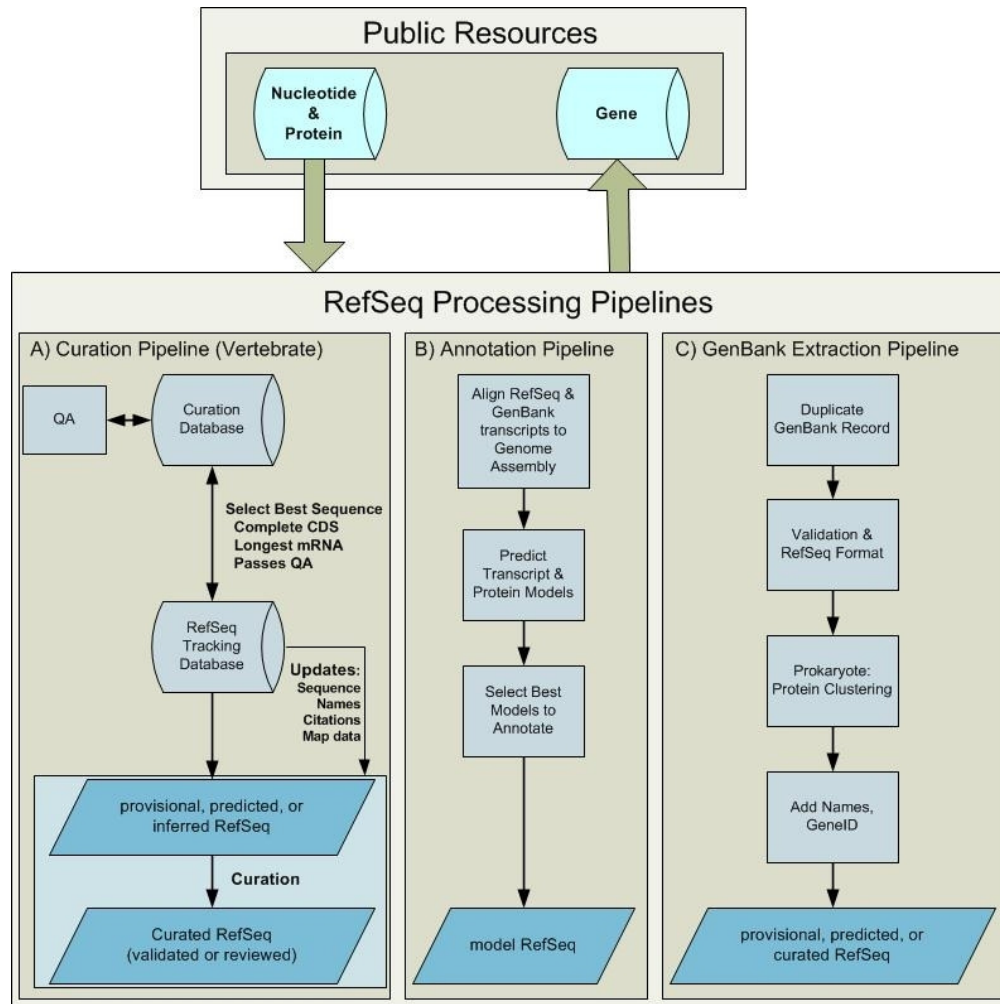
Flybase

Wormbase

TAIR

et al.

RefSeq Curation Pipeline



Accessions:

NM_000000

mRNA

NP_000000

Protein

NC_000000

genome assembly

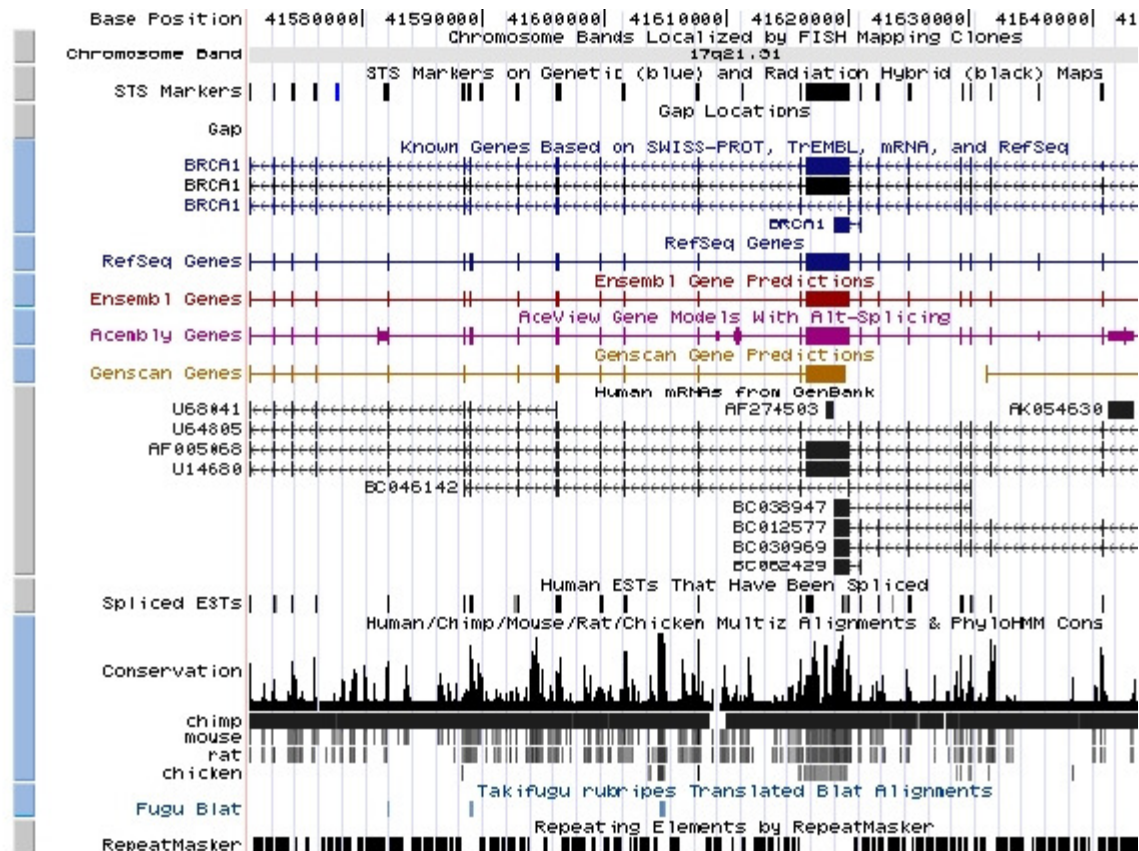
XM_000000

predicted mRNA

XP_000000

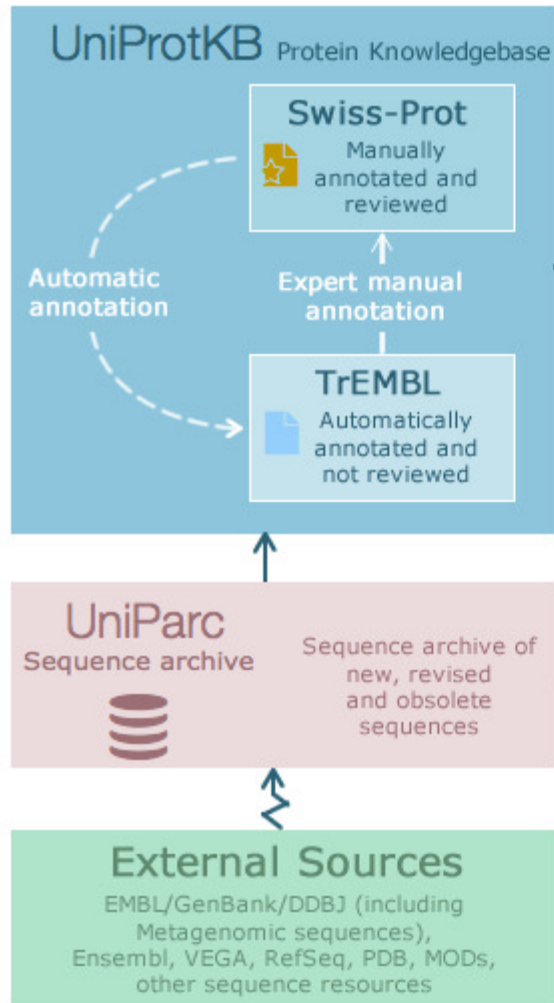
predicted protein

UCSC Genome Database

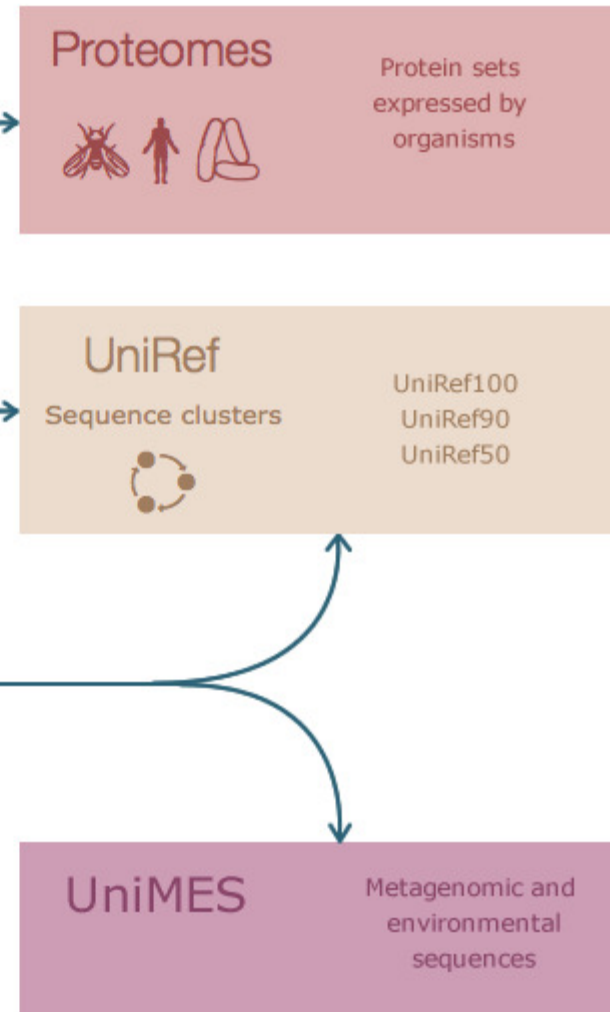


RefSeq records are mapped to the genome by UCSC.

UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot



UniRef



Versions of NCBI, UCSC and Ensembl

Versions of genome assembly:

NCBI: GRCh38 (December 2013)

UCSC: HG38

Ensembl: GRCh38

Versions of gene annotation:

NCBI: release 69 (January, 2015)

UCSC: Daily incremental updates as NCBI

Ensembl: release 79 (March 2015)

Database usage examples

1. Identify species for a list of sequences.

Tool on BioHPC: fastq_species_detector (using NCBI nt database)

<https://cbsu.tc.cornell.edu/lab/userguide.aspx?a=software&i=149#c>

2. Function annotation

- BLAST to a closely related species. (Ensembl, Flybase, et al)
- BLAST to swiss-prot (used by BLAST2GO) or Uni-ref (used by Trinotate).