Introduction to Bioinformatics (ITBI)

Martin Reczko^{*} + Alexandros Dimopoulos

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Bioinformatics overview + sequence alignment

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○ A = https://eclass.uoa.gr/courses/DI425/

🗅 dev 🗋 sci



Εθνικόν και Καποδιστριακόν
Πανεπιστήμιον Αδηνών
—— IAPYOEN TO 1837——

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骨 Portfolio / Introduction to Bioinformatics

Introduction to Bioinformatics (M413) Martin Reczko - Alexandros Dimopoulos

Description



The course introduces students into the basic concepts of bioinformatics. It starts with a general overview of the various fields of bioinformatics and introduces dynamic programming as a solution to the sequence comparison problem (1). Next, a first introduction to the GNU / Linux operating system and the hands on use of basic command-line commands (CLI) as well as bash scripting is given. In addition, basic bioinformatics command line programs such as bedtools, vcftools, samtools, etc. are presented and used (2+3). Students are then familiarized with the programming language R, the use of IDE RStudio and the basic tools provided by the Bioconductor repository (4+5). Next, detailed examples of

NGS bioinformatics analysis and pipelines are explained for:

- RNAseq (quality control, gene expression analysis) (6),
- denovo assembly (both on the genome and transcriptome level) (7)
- ChipSeq, ClipSeq and (8)
- variant calling (exome sequencing example using GATK) (9)

Finally, the concept of flux More 🕹

E 🗘

mareczko

늪



Αρχική Σελίδα / Introduction to Bioinformatics / Documents

Grades - February 2024

A

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Introduction to Bioinformatics (M413) Documents						
Root	directory					
Туре	Filename 🗢	Size	Date	Qo		
-	2024-25		10/7/24			
ß	FOSSwire Unix/Linux Command Cheat Sheet	69.09 KB	10/19/17	*		

96.54 KB

5/15/24

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Root d	directory » 2024-25			qU t
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80	exercises		10/9/24	
	lectures		10/9/24	

Αρχική Σελίδα / Introduction to Bioinformatics / Documents

Please verify name+email in participant list at

https://tinyurl.com/suzfj6y4

Enter all emails you might use (to get an account on the virtual machine from

20 CPUs, 512GB RAM, 1024 GB disk shared f





Syllabus and grading

#	Date	Short title	Lecturer	Subject
1	10/102024	introduction	MR	Overview of Bioinformatics, sequence alignment
2	17/102024	Linux/shell/ssh	AD	Introduction to Linux and the command line, bash scripting and ssh
3	24/102024	R (1)	AD	Introduction to the R programming language and Rstudio usage
4	31/102024	R (2)	AD	Advances R subjects, introduction to Bioconductor
5	07/112024	QC+RNASeq	MR	Next generation sequencing: introduction, quality control and gene expression analysis for RNAseq
6	14/112024	bedtools/vcftools/samtools	AD	Command line tool usage: bedtools, vcftools, samtools etc.
7	21/112024	Denovo	MR	NGS for denovo genome and transciptome assembly
8	28/112024	Exome/SNP calling	AD	Pipelines for SNP calling, especially for exome sequencing using the GATK pipeline
9	05/122024	ChipSeq/chirp	MR	NGS analysis for molecular interactions (ChipSeq, (Par-)Clip, structural sequencing, chromosome conformation capture (3C))
10	12/122024	presentations	MR+AD	Pipelines for SNP calling, especially for exome sequencing using the GATK pipeline
11	19/122024	presentations	MR+AD	Paper presentations by students
12	09/012025	metabolomics	MR	Genome-scale models of metabolism and macromolecular expression, Biological applications of Transformers
13	16/012025	final projects support	MR+AD	Support for the final project

Grade	100%	
Presentation	30%	
Exercises	20%	

Subjects:

- 'Just enough' biology
- Dynamic programming
- Approximate string similarity
- Bioinformatics fields
- Recent machine learning results

An Eukaryotic Cell (biological



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Image from: On-Line Biology Book





Hydrogen bonds (->*Hybrydization*)



Rosalind Franklin



Watson and Crick, 1953 in Cambridge



PROTEIN SYNTHESIS



Transcription

- transcription is accomplished by RNA polymerase
- RNA polymerase binds to **promoters**
- promoters have distinct regions "-35" and "-10"
- transcription start and stop affected by DNA structure
- Additional regulatory sequences can be positive or negative

Complete Assembly of Eukaryotic Gene Regulatory System



Interaction of a transcription factor and DNA



Myc Proto-Oncogene Protein, causing cell division and proliferation

Transcription: DNA -> RNA



Image from: On-Line Biology Book http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/BioBookTOC.html

RNA processing

- eukaryotic genes are interrupted by introns
- these are "spliced" out to yield final messenger RNA (mRNA)
- splicing done by spliceosomes
- splicing sites are quite degenerate but not all are used



Images from: http://biochem218.stanford.edu (Doug Brutlag)

Translation

- conversion from RNA to protein is by
 codon: 3 bases = 1 amino acid
- translation done by ribosome
- translation stops after reading the stop codon



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http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/BioBookTOC.html

The 'universal' genetic

code:



64 different transfer RNA molecules



			U		C		A		G	
			Phenyl- alanine	UCU UCC	Forino	UAU UAC	Tyrosine	UGU UGC	Cysteine	U C
	Ů	UUA UUG	Leucine	UCA UCG	Serme	UAA UAG	Stop codon Stop codon	UGA UGG	Stop codon Tryptophan	A G
letter	, ,	CUU CUC	Lauriaa	CCU CCC	Proline	CAU CAC	Histidine	CGU CGC	Argiging	U C
		CUA CUG	Leucine	CCA CCG	Frome	CAA CAG	Glutamine	CGA CGG	Arginnie	A G
First		AUU AUC I	Isoleucine	ACU ACC	Thracaina	AAU AAC	Asparagine	AGU AGC	Serine	U C
	Ŷ	AUA	Methionine; initiation codon	ACA ACG	Threonine	AAA AAG	Lysine	AGA AGG	Arginine	A G
· · · · ·	c	GUU GUC	Valino	GCU GCC	Alanino	GAU GAC	Aspartic acid	GGU GGC	Glucing	U C
		GUA GUG	vanne	GCA GCG	Alanine	GAA GAG	Glutamic acid	GGA GGG	Giycine	A G

Pictures taken from On-Line Biology Book

The 20 amino acids, building blocks for proteins



Building proteins (chemistry):

Amino acids are linked together by joining the amino end of one molecule to the carboxyl end of another. Removal of water allows formation of a type of covalent bond known as a <u>peptide bond</u>.



The above image is from http://zebu.uoregon.edu/internet/images/peptide.gif.

Protein folding: Sequence determines structure



C. Anfinsen, 1973

The above images are from

http://www.biosci.uga.edu/almanac/bio 103/notes/may 14.html.

Levels of structural description



primary structure (amino acid sequence)





tertiary structure (folded individual peptide)



The above images are from <u>http://www.biosci.uga.edu/almanac/bio_103/notes/may_14.html</u>.

Protein localization

- leader sequences can specify cellular location (e.g., insert across membranes)
- leader sequences usually removed by cleavage
- Like an address sticker

Protein localization



(A)

Central Paradigm of Bioinformatics



Doug Brutlag: http://cmgm.stanford.edu/biochem218/01Representation.pdf

Protein/Ligand interactions:

- Understanding How Structures Bind Other Molecules (Function)
- Designing Inhibitors
- Docking, Structure Modeling

(From left to right, figures adapted from Olsen Group Docking Page at Scripps, Dyson NMR Group Web page at Scripps, and from Computational Chemistry Page at Cornell Theory Center).







Information flow

- A major task in computational molecular biology is to "decipher" information contained in biological sequences
- Since the nucleotide sequence of a genome contains all information necessary to produce a functional organism, we should in theory be able to duplicate this decoding using computers



Data growth in the life sciences

- Computer speed and storage capacity is
 doubling every 18
 months and this rate is
 steady (Moore's law)
- The amount of life science data doubles every 12 months and the growth rate is predicted to continue

Cantelli et al. The European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) in 2021, Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 50, Issue D1, 7 January 2022, Pages D11–D19



Data resources in life sciences



The *Nucleic Acids Research* online Database Collection: <u>http://www.oxfordjournals.org/nar/database/a/</u>

RNA sequence databases
Protein sequence databases
Structure Databases
Genomics Databases (non-vertebrate)
Metabolic and Signaling Pathways
Human and other Vertebrate Genomes
Human Genes and Diseases
Microarray Data and other Gene Expression Databases
Proteomics Resources



Incoming data size classes:

Organism	Number of chromosomes	Genome size in base pairs
<u>Bacteria</u>	1	~400,000 - ~10,000,000
<u>Yeast</u>	12	14,000,000
Worm	6	100,000,000
Fly	4	300,000,000
Weed	5	125,000,000
Human	23	3,000,000,000

Only the surface is scratched:

Organism	The number of predicted genes	Part of the genome that encodes proteins (exons)
E.Coli (bacteria)	5000	90%
Yeast	6000	70%
Worm	18,000	27%
<u>Fly</u>	14,000	20%
Weed	25,500	20%
Human	30,000	< 5%

A. Brazma et. al.:

http://www.ebi.ac.uk/microarray/biology_intro.htmlml

'Alien finds a broken hard-disk' situation

. Reczko, reczko@ics.forth.gr

The function of human genes



42 % of the genes has unknown function, even having accurate predicted protein structures (AlphaFold2)

Graphics from Dimitris Kafetzopoulos, IMBB

From Genomics to Drugs

Thomas I engauer (Fd)



Fig. 1.7 A schematic overview of bioinformatics

> NGS+Robotics at BSRC Alexander Fleming: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CaUGFimbgQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUdDY3kvWpc
Homology Modeling

- observation: proteins with similar sequences tend to fold into similar structures
- given: a query sequence Q, database of protein structures
- do:
 - find protein P such that
 - structure of P is known
 - P has high sequence similarity to Q

return P's structure as an approximation to Q's structure



Mark Craven/Thomas Anantharaman:

Basic biological sequence analysis:

Exact string matching:

-Boyer – Moore string search algorithm (UNIX: grep)

- suffix trees

Inexact string matching:

- Complete sequence (global) or parts (local)
- Similarity measures

Pairwise vs. multiple comparisons

<u>Aligning Text Strings</u>

- Raw Data ??? тсат б CA т T G
- 2 matches, 0 gaps
 - т CA TG т CAT G
- 3 matches (2 end gaps)
 - G т С Α т . С Α т т G

- 4 matches, 1 insertion CA т G т Α С т т G 4 matches, 1 insertion
 - т C Α т G Α С т т G

Ambiguity

T C A T G T C A T G A T Ť G

САТТ G

Definition

S

Global alignment Two sequences S and T of roughly the same length. QUESTION: What is the maximum similarity between them? Find a best alignment.

Local

alignment **INPUT:** Two sequences S and T.

QUESTION: What is the maximum similarity between a subsequence of S and a subsequence of T? Find most similar subsequences.

Definition A gap is the maximal contiguous run of spaces in a single sequence within a given alignment. The length of a gap is the number of indel operations on it. A gap penalty function is a function that measures the cost of a gap as a (nonlinear) function of its length.

Gapped alignment INPUT: Two sequences S and T (possibly of different length). QUESTION: Find a best alignment between the two sequences using the gap penalty function.

Graphical solution: dotplot



Dynamic programming algorithms for sequence comparison

- Introduced for biological sequences by
 - S. B. Needleman & C. D. Wunsch. A general method applicable to the search for similarities in the amino acid sequence of two proteins. *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443-453 (1970)

Dynamic programming reminder: Shortest path



Dynamic programming reminder: Shortest path



Best solutions up to n

One node added: n updates to find new best **Dynamic Programming Idea:**



© Copyright Russ Altman 2001,http://smi-web.stanford.edu/projects/helix/bmi214/4-4-02clr.pdf

Key Idea in Dynamic Programming

- The best alignment that ends at a given pair of positions (i and j) in the 2 sequences is the score of the best alignment previous to this position PLUS the score for aligning those two positions.
- An Example Below
 - Aligning <u>R to K</u> does not affect alignment of previous N-terminal residues. Once this is done it is **fixed**. Then go on to align <u>D to E</u>.
 - o How could this be violated?

Aligning R to K changes best alignment in box.



ACSQRP--LRV-SH -R SENCV A-SNKPQLVKLMTH VK DFCV

<u>Optimal alignment between</u> <u>sequences</u>

Problem:



similarity score contains: -variable score for match

- variable cost for gaps
- variable cost for mismatches

Protein amino acid similarity score: Dayhoff's Acceptable Point Mutations (PAMs)

Ala	А																				
Arg	R	30																			
Asn	Ν	109	17																		
Asp	D	154	0	532																	
Cys	С	33	10	0	0																
Gln	Q	93	120	50	76	0															
Glu	Е	266	0	94	831	0	422														
Gly	G	579	10	156	162	10	30	112													
His	Н	21	103	226	43	10	243	23	10												
lle	Т	66	30	36	13	17	8	35	0	3											
Leu	L	95	17	37	0	0	75	15	17	40	253										
Lys	К	57	477	322	85	0	147	104	60	23	43	39									
Met	М	29	17	0	0	0	20	7	7	0	57	207	90								
Phe	F	20	7	7	0	0	0	0	17	20	90	167	0	17							
Pro	Ρ	345	67	27	10	10	93	40	49	50	7	43	43	4	7						
Ser	S	772	137	432	98	117	47	86	450	26	20	32	168	20	40	269					
Thr	Т	590	20	169	57	10	37	31	50	14	129	52	200	28	10	73	696				
Trp	W	0	27	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	13	0	0	10	0	17	0			
Tyr	Υ	20	3	36	0	30	0	10	0	40	13	23	10	0	260	0	22	23	6		
Val	V	365	20	13	17	33	27	37	97	30	661	303	17	77	10	50	43	186	0	17	
		А	R	Ν	D	С	Q	E	G	Н	Ι	L	К	М	F	Р	S	Т	W	Y	V
		Ala	Arg	Asn	Asp	Cys	Gln	Glu	Gly	His	lle	Leu	Lys	Met	Phe	Pro	Ser	Thr	Trp	Tyr	Val

Steps of basic dynamic programming method

- 1. Initialize matrix to match scores (for simplicity: 0 or 1)
- 2. Do summation operation
 - Finds the maximum number of matches that can be obtained starting at any position and proceeding "forward"
- 3. Traceback to find maximum match alignment



Robert F. Murphy: http://www.cmu.edu/bio/education/courses/03310/LectureNotes/LecturesPa rt07.pptf







Robert F. Murphy:





Robert F. Murphy:



Robert F. Murphy:





HGQKV

	V	Ĥ	D	Ĥ	L	T	К	Р	V	Ν	F	К	F	Ĥ	V	Ĥ	Н
Η	10	9	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	1
G	10	9	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
Q	10	9	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
Κ	10	9	8	7	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	1	
V	11	-9	8	7	6	5	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	1	
Ĥ	9	10	8	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	
D	8	8	9	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
Ĥ	7	8	7	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	
L	6	6	6	6	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
T	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
Κ	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	2	1	
Ĥ	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	
V	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	
Ĥ	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	
Η																	1
Sta	tus:	Sh	owi	ng	max	imu	m f	oun	d i	n t	rac	eba	ck				
				-													



HGQKVA



----VADALTK

HGQKVADALTK



HGQKVADALTK

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Robert F. Murphy:

http://www.cmu.edu/bio/education/courses/03310/LectureNotes/LecturesPa

	V	Ĥ	D	Ĥ	L	T	Κ	Ρ	V	Ν	F	Κ	F	Ĥ	V	Ĥ	Η
Η	10	9	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	1
G	10	9	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
Q	10	9	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
K	10	9	8	7	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	1	
V	11	9	8	7	6	5	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	1	
A	- 9	10	8	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	
D	8	8	9	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
Ĥ	7	8	7	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	
L	6	6	6	6	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
Τ	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	
К	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	2	1	
Ĥ	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	
V	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	
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HGQKVADALTK----A

Robert F. Murphy: http://www.cmu.edu/bio/education/courses/03310/LectureNotes/LecturesPa rt07 pntf

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	10	Ĥ	0	Â	L	T フ	K	P	V	Ν	F	K	F	Â	V	Ĥ	H 1	
п С	10 10	9	0 8	ר 7	7	ר 7	0	0	J 5	5 5	5 5	4 Л	4 1	3	2	1	1	
n	10 19	g	8	7	ż	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1		
K	10	ģ	8	ż	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	1		
Ū	11	9	8	7	6	5	5	5	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	1		
Ĥ	9	10	8	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	2		
D	8	8	9	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1		
Ĥ	7	8	7	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	2		
L	6	6	6	6	7_	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1		
I	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	2	1		
K	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	2	1		
	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	2		
	J 1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	J 1	2	2	2	2	2	ن ۱	1		
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Summation operation

- 1. Start in lower right corner
- 2. Move up one position and left one position
- 3. Find largest value in either (a) row segment starting one below current position and extending to the right or (b) column segment starting one to the right of current position and extending down

Summation operation (cont.)

- 4. Add this value to the value in the current cell
- 5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for all cells to the left in current row and all cells above in current column
- 6. If we are not in the top left corner, go to step 2

Multiple sequence alignment



Calc. of optimal solution infeasible for >5 sequences

- ⇒ Heuristic solutions
- \Rightarrow e.g. progressive alignment (CLUSTALW)

Multiple sequence alignment for phylogenetic trees



chromo shadow domains





Introduction novel sequence learning algorithm (BLSTM)



- Use start of proteinsequence to predict its compartment
- BLSTMs precursors of transformer networks



NH₂

signal

peptide

IEEE Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics 2006, 4(3), pp.441-6.



ARTICLES https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-021-01252-x

nature methods

Check for updates

OPEN Effective gene expression prediction from sequence by integrating long-range interactions

Žiga Avsec[®]¹[∞], Vikram Agarwal^{2,4}, Daniel Visentin^{1,4}, Joseph R. Ledsam^{1,3}, Agnieszka Grabska-Barwinska¹, Kyle R. Taylor¹, Yannis Assael¹, John Jumper¹, Pushmeet Kohli[®]^{1∞} and David R. Kelley[®]^{2∞}


What if solving one problem could unlock solutions to thousands more?

DeepMind

6

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Median Free-Modelling Accuracy



Improvements in the median accuracy of predictions in the free modelling category for the best team in each CASP, measured as best-of-5 GDT.

https://deepmind.com/blog/article/putting-the-power-of-alphafold-into-the-worlds-hands

AlphaFold2 architecture





https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03819-2.pdf

AlphaFold2 database of predicted structures



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ELIXIR

ELIXIR is an intergovernmental organisation that brings together life science resources such as databases, software tools, training materials, standards and compute resources, from across Europe.

The goal of ELIXIR is to **coordinate life science resources from across Europe so they form a single infrastructure**. This makes it easier for scientists to:

Find and share data Exchange expertise Agree on best practices in scientific research

Check: <u>https://elixir-europe.org</u>

https://elixir-greece.org





Viral sequences 🔿

Raw and assembled sequence and analysis of SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses.

111,900 records >

Host sequences \ominus

Raw and assembled sequence and analysis of human and other hosts.

973 records >

About this portal

The COVID-19 Data Portal was launched in April 2020 to bring together relevant datasets for sharing and analysis in an effort to accelerate coronavirus research. It enables researchers to upload, access and analyse COVID-19 related reference data and specialist datasets as part of the wider European COVID-19 Data Platform.

To enquire on how to collaborate on the European COVID-19 platform: ecovid19@ebi.ac.uk.

To share your data on COVID-19 Data Portal: virus-dataflow@ebi.ac.uk.

Viral sequences Host sequences Expression Proteins

Biochemistry Literature **Related Resources** About the Portal SARS-CoV-2 Data Hubs

Our Partners Submit Data





Data Optimisation Model

EVALUATION

MACHINE LEARNING

Website: https://dome-ml.org/

Data Optimisation Model Evaluation

Provenance Data splits Redundancy Availability AlgorithmInterpretabilityMeta-predictionsExecution timeData encodingAvailability ofParameterssoftwareFeaturesFittingAvailabilityAvailability

Evaluation Performance Comparison Confidence Availability



Dangers of deep/machine learning



https://www.theverge.com/21298762/face-depixelizer-ai-machine-learning-tool-pulse-stylegan-obama-bias

ITBI students are winners: 2 2nd places in 2023, with Dimitra Panou



BioASQ: Int. competition for biomedical QA



2024: Introduced a 'Farm' of LLMs





AI generated using Copilot

Paper link : https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3740/paper-17.pdf



2024: 2 1st and 3 2nd places

• Our awards:

X

X

5 Batch 4 Snippet Identification

Batch 1 Exact Answers

Batch 2 Exact Answers

Batch 2 Ideal Answers

Batch 1 Documents retrieval



With Rea Kalampaliki: RMSD Estimation Algorithm (REA)



REA: Improvement in the accuracy of the predicted 3D structure of an RNA Nanosquare chain



- DeepFoldRNA #4 3D model (left, purple, RMSD = 1.37Å), predicted by SumReaSVR
- trRosettaRNA 3D model (pink, RMSD = 7.38Å)
- Reference structure (green, PDB: 3P59, chain A)
- Improvement ~6Å in the accuracy of the predicted 3D model

Ago2 - miR - target AlphaFold3 models



Transformers help clustering all scientifc papers





Figure 6: Retracted papers group together. All retracted papers with intact abstracts (11,756) are highlighted in black, plotted on top of the non-retracted papers. First inset corresponds to one of the regions with higher density of retracted papers (3.8%), covering research on cancer-related drugs, marker genes, and microRNA. Second inset corresponds to a subregion with a particularly high fraction of retracted papers (10.8%), the one we used for manual inspection.

https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.04.10.536208v2

TODAY ON THE SHOW SHOP WELLNESS PARENTS FOOD

• TODAY all day Q

HEALTH & WELLNESS

A boy saw 17 doctors over 3 years for chronic pain. ChatGPT found the diagnosis

Alex experienced pain that stopped him from playing with other children but doctors had no answers to why. His frustrated mom asked ChatGPT for help.

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Sept. 11, 2023, 5:42 PM EEST / Updated Sept. 12, 2023, 5:31 PM EEST / Source: TODAY
By Meghan Holohan

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Courtney bought a bounce house for her two young children. Soon after, her son, Alex, then 4, began experiencing pain.

"(Our nanny) started telling me, 'I have to give him Motrin every day, or he has these gigantic meltdowns,'" Courtney, who asked not to use her last name to protect her family's privacy, tells TODAY.com. "If he had Motrin, he was totally fine."

Then Alex began chewing things, so Courtney took him to the dentist. What followed was a three-year search for the cause of Alex's increasing pain and eventually other symptoms.



Alex saw 17 doctors over three years for his chronic pain, but none were able to find a diagnosis that explained all of his symptoms, his mom says. Courtesy Courtney

Get your account on the Virtual Machine for the exercises in hands-on during the lectures and at home

- use 20 CPUs, 512GB RAM for all
- 50GB disk-space for each + 200GB shared

Install x2go to access graphical user interface



- X2Go Gathering 2014

Access to virtual machine

• Install x2go from: https://wiki.x2go.org/doku.php/download:start

	Session name: MR_Trinity	
Vora	< change icon	
X2go:	Path: /	
	Server	
	Host: snf-7	
	Login: ubuntu	
	SSH port: 22	
	Use RSA/DSA key for ssh connection:	
L	Try auto login (via SSH Agent or default SSH key)	
	Kerberos 5 (GSSAPI) authentication	
Session ty	Delegation of GSSAPI credentials to the server	
Lubuntu -e L	Use Proxy server for SSH connection	
(Virtualbo)	Session type	<i>i</i> a
	Custom desktop Command: //usr/bin/lxsession -:	

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Introduction to Bioinformatics 2024-2025

Exercise 1 (M. Reczko):

(Adapted from:

https://web.archive.org/web/20150425010121/http://www.ableweb.org/volumes/vol-28/v28reprint.php?ch=8

In a hypothetical scenario many people in a city suddenly come down with a serious illness. All the victims have in common is that they were all in a downtown pedestrian mall at a certain time five days before. Could terrorists have released a cloud of viruses or bacteria from a vehicle downwind of the mall? You work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and you have to find out.

A sample of non-human DNA (bacterial or viral) has been isolated from the victims. Identify the DNA sample as well as you can. Some of the DNA molecules are very short, and have been partially degraded. You will notice that the sequence is sprinkled with Ns, "N" stands for "nucleotide" and means that the nucleotide at that position could not be determined. Some judgment is called for as you interpret your results. First, everyone has bacteria and viruses in his or her body, and sometimes they can cause disease. However, we are looking for exotic pathogens with bioterrorism potential (e.g., anthrax or smallpox rather than the common cold). Even AIDS, although it is deadly, would not work as a bioterror weapon because the disease develops too slowly and the virus is too hard to disseminate. For the purposes of this exercise, we will not consider a pathogen a bioterror agent unless it is listed as a potential agent on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at <u>https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist.asp</u>.

Second, organisms that are evolutionarily related have similar DNA, which might lead you to sound a false alarm. For example, say you find the following when you do a BLAST search on a certain DNA sample:

	Score	E
Sequences producing significant alignments:	(Bits)	Value
gi 40012 emb X02369.1 BSORIC Bacillus subtilis oriC region	5967	0.0
gi 32468687 emb 299104.2 BSUB0001 Bacillus subtilis complete	5967	0.0
gi 467326 dbj D26185.1 BAC180K B. subtilis DNA, 180 kilobase reg	5967	0.0
gi 39877 emb X12778.1 BSDNAA Bacillus subtilis dnaA gene 5'-regi	846	0.0
gi 56160984 gb CP000002.2 Bacillus licheniformis ATCC 14580, co	690	0.0
gi 52346357 gb AE017333.1 Bacillus licheniformis DSM 13, comple	690	0.0
gi 39878 emb X12779.1 BSDNAAN Bacillus subtilis genes for dnaA (587	8e-164
gi 39893 emb X17013.1 BSDPD Bacillus subtilis lys gene for di	525	2e-145
gi 51973633 gb CP000001.1 Bacillus cereus E33L, complete genome	337	1e-88
gi 49328240 gb AE017355.1 Bacillus thuringiensis serovar kon	329	3e-86
gi 50082967 gb AE017334.2 Bacillus anthracis str. 'Ames Ancesto	329	3e-86
gi 49176966 gb AE017225.1 Bacillus anthracis str. Sterne, compl	329	3e-86

Bacillus subtilis is a harmless and very common soil bacterium. It is closely related to Bacillus anthracis. Bacillus anthracis causes anthrax, and is a dangerous bioterror weapon. Note from the similarity score (second column from the right) that Bacillus subtilis DNA is far more similar to the sample than Bacillus anthracis DNA is. Unless one of your samples gives a stronger indication of Bacillus anthracis than this, the mention of B. anthracis in the output is probably just due to genetic similarities between it and B. subtilis.

1. Analyze the samples

>outbreak14

GCCGAGTTAGTCTTGTGCTNACGGAACTTATTGTATGAGTANTGATTTGAAAGAGCTANANT TAAAAAATCACTAATNAATNTAAGAGCGGACTTAACNAGCGTAAAACTGTCTTACTAATTAAT TGTCAGTTAGCTCGTTCAGGTAATGGTTCCTANCGGNCAATGCAGGAAGAGTTCTACCTGG AACTGANAGACCGCTGGCGGTGACAACACACACTACGTCAAAATAAGA >outbreak15 TAGTCTTGTGCTNACGGAACTTATTTATGAGGTACCCACCGANTCTGAAAACCGCTAATANA GCACTTTAAAAATAAGAGCAGAATGGGATTTAAGGATAG

separately using both megablast and blastn at

https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi?PROGRAM=blastn&PAGE_TYPE=BlastSearch&BLAST_SPEC=&LINK_LOC=blasttab

and to determine if there is any evidence of bioterror agents. Use the general nucleotide collection (nr/nt). Report any differences between the 2 algorithms.

2. Check the CDC Web site at <u>https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist.asp</u> . to see if the CDC considers any found organism to be a potential weapon. If you've found a bioterror agent, research it on the CDC site so you can describe its effects on humans.

3. The health effects of many pathogenic bacteria are briefly described on the NCBI Genomes Web site at <<u>http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/lproks.cgi</u>>. Click on a species name to see its information. It also might be helpful to do a general web search.

SEND SOLUTIONS (for M.Reczko exercise) ONLY TO: mareczko@di.uoa.gr