

WHAT MAKES A GOOD ALIGNMENT...

-THE MORE DIVERGEANT THE SEQUENCES, THE BETTER

-THE FEWER INDELS, THE BETTER

-NICE UNGAPPED BLOCKS SEPARATED WITH INDELS

-DIFFERENT CLASSES OF RESIDUES WITHIN A BLOCK:

- Completely Conserved
- Conserved For Size *and* Hydropathy
- Conserved For Size *or* Hydropathy

-THE ULTIMATE EVALUATION IS A MATTER OF PERSONNAL JUDGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE.

DO NOT OVERTUNE!!!

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chite  ---ADKPKRPLSAAYMLWLNSARES IKRENPDFK-VTEVAKKGGELWRGLKD
wheat  --DENKPKRAPSAFVFVFMGEFREEFKQKNPKNSVAAVGKAAGERWKSISE
trybr  KKDSNAPKRAMTSEMFSSDFRS---KHSDLS-IVEMSKAAGAAMKELGP
mouse  ----KPKRPRSAYNIYVSESFQ----EAKDDS-AQGKIKLVNEAWKNLSP
          *** . . . . . * . . . *
chite  AATAKQNYIRALQEYERNGG-
wheat  ANKIKGEYINKAIAAYNKGESA
trybr  AEKDKERYKREM-----
mouse  AKDDRIRYDNEKMSWEEQMAE
          * . . . *
  
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DO NOT PLAY WITH PARAMETERS IF YOU KNOW THE ALIGNMENT YOU WANT: MAKE IT YOURSELF!

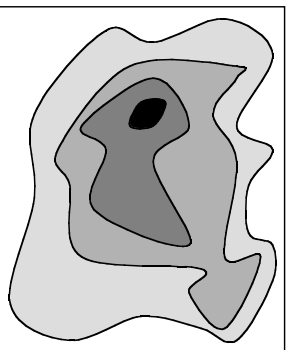
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chite  ---ADKPKRPLSAAYMLWLNSARES IKRENPDFK-VTEVAKKGGELWRGLKD
wheat  --DENKPKRAPSAFVFVFMGEFREEFKQKNPKNSVAAVGKAAGERWKSISE
trybr  KKDSNAPKRAMTSEMFSSDFRS---KHSDLS-IVEMSKAAGAAMKELGP
mouse  ----KPKRPR-SAYNIYVSESFQ----EAKDDS-AQGKIKLVNEAWKNLSP
          *** . . . . . * . . . *
chite  AATAKQNYIRALQEYERNGG-
wheat  ANKIKGEYINKAIAAYNKGESA
trybr  AEKDKERYKREM-----
mouse  AKDDRIRYDNEKMSWEEQMAE
          * . . . *
  
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TUNING or NOT TUNNING?

-PARAMETERS TO TUNE USUALLY INCLUDE:

- GOP/ GEP
- MATRIX
- SENSITIVITY VS SPEED



Substitution Matrices
(Etzold and al. 1993)

Gonnet	61.7
Blosum50	59.7
Pam250	59.2

-MOST METHODS ARE TUNED FOR WORKING WELL ON AVERAGE

-PARAMETERS BEHAVIOUR DO NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THE THEORY (i.e. Substitution Matrices).

-A GOOD ALIGNMENT IS USUALLY ROBUST(i.e. Changes little).

-TUNE IF YOU WANT TO CONVINCE YOURSELF.

KEEP A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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chite  ---ADKPKRPLSAYMLWINSARES IKRENPDFK-VTEVAKKGGELMWRGLKD
wheat  --DPNKKPRAPSAFFVEMGEFFREEFKÖKNPKKSVAAVGAAGERWKSLSSE
trybr  KDNSAPKRAMTSEMFSSDFRS---KHSDLIS-IVEMSKAAGAAMKELGP
mouse  ----KPKRPRSAYNIVSESFQ---EAKKDS-AÖGKLIKLVNEAWKNLSP
          *** . . . . . * . . . *
chite  AATAKÖNYIRALQÖYERNGG-
wheat  ANKIKGEYNKAIIAAYNKGESA
trybr  AEKDKERYKREM-----
mouse  AKDDRIRRYDNEMKSWEEÖMAE
          * . . . * . . .
    
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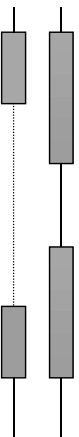
DIFFERENT PARAMETERS

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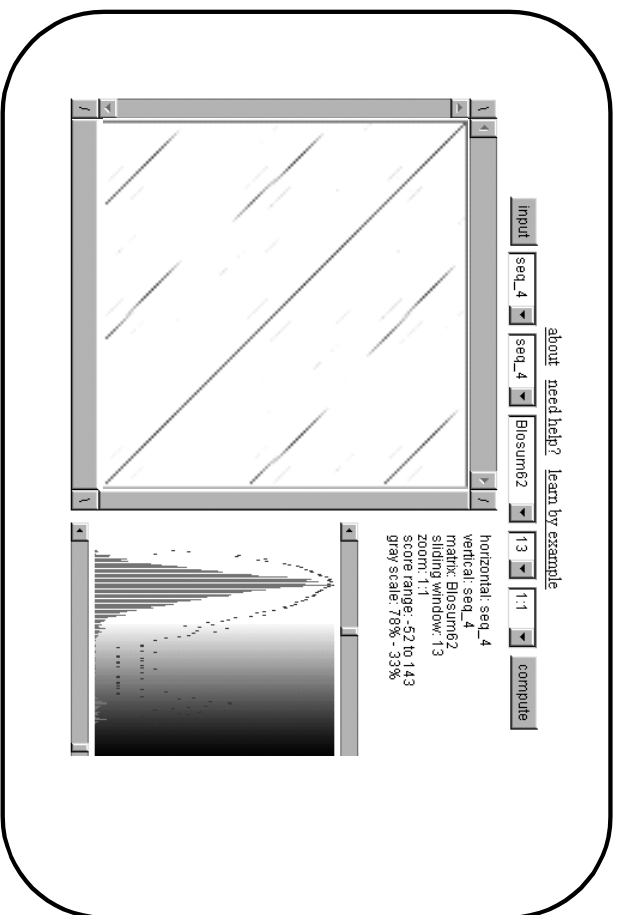
chite  AD--K-----PKR-PL YMLWINS-ARES IKRENPDFK-VT-EVAKKGGELMWRGL-
wheat  -DPNK-----PKRAP-FFVEMGE-FFREEFKÖKNPKKSVAAVGAAGERWKSLS
trybr  -K--KDNSAPKRA-AMT-MFFSSDFR-S-KH-S-DLS-IV-EMSKAAGAAMKELG
mouse  ----K-----PKR-PRYNIVSESFQEA-K--D-D-S-AÖGKL-KLVNEAWKNLS
          * *** . . . . . * . . . *
chite  KSEWEAKAATAKÖNY-I--RALQÖ-YERNG-G-
wheat  KAPYVAKANKLIKGEY-N--KAIAA-YNK-GESA
trybr  RKVYEEMA EKDKERY-----K--RE-M-----
mouse  KÖAYIÖLAKDDRIRRYDNEMKSWEEÖMAE-----
          . . . . * . . . .
    
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REPEATS

THERE IS A PROBLEM WHEN TWO SEQUENCES DO NOT CONTAIN THE SAME NUMBER OF REPEATS



IT IS THEN BETTER TO MANUALLY EXTRACT THE REPEATS AND TO ALIGN THEM. INDIVIDUAL REPEATS CAN BE RECOGNIZED USING DOTTER



Choosing The Right Method

Source: Balibase, Thompson et al, NAR, 1999

PROBLEM	PROGRAM	METHOD
	ClustalW	
	ClustalW	
	MSA	
	DIALIGN II	
	DIALIGN II	
	DIALIGN II	

Playing With Blocks: tRNA Synthases

	Motif 1	Scrambled set
ECOLYS	194 IRQFMVNRGEMEVET	283 L RNMFIETSTIDRV
YSTLYS	257 IRRFLDQRKFEVET	42 L DTIDEAALVYPHV
ECOASP	148 VRRFMDDHGFIDIEI	137 L AETLRTEFCONGI
RATASP	206 FRETLLNKGEVEIQI	210 L RTNLQAKFLAOFG
YSTASP	258 FREYIATKRFTEVHT	205 L TERPTLNKRSY
ECOHIS	29 LKNVLGSGYSEIRL	56 L ARVHEAWLQIRL
HAMHIS	80 IICCFRRHGAEVIDT	276 L LKRYAFPGRAR
YSTHIS	79 LSGLEFKKHGGVTIDT	163 L KALELGIKIKSR
ECOPHE	132 EI.EDDYHNFDALNI	278 L TRVWAKHIGNDAI
MITPHE	91 EPVVTTMENDSLGE	346 L TKNQAARDEEG
YSTPHE	253 QYVETGFHNDALYV	370 L LAARVAASEKTEHL
ECOASN	148 LHRFENEQGFVWST	268 L LEGAVARKLVYGF
YSTTHR	367 LRTEYRKRKGFEVIT	479 L TAISDAEREEMST
ECOTHR	281 VRSKIKREYQYQEVKG	624 L LIKCKAWTLTONN
ECOPRO	57 VREEMNNAGATEVSM	89 L DNLRGQAAGMAQR
ECOSER	181 IDIHTEQHGXSENYV	306 L RAVQVAYFEPKSVL
YSTSER	196 GIQFLAKKGYTFLQA	336 L VHQGRKAMCYQLNN

Figure 1. Comparison of a block derived from aminoacyl tRNA synthetase sequences to a block constructed from scrambled sequences.

(A) Motif 1 from Figure 3 of Eriani *et al.* (1990), using their criteria for strictly and strongly conserved regions. The sequences in bold type show the initial alignment from their Fig. 2. (B) A block from scrambled sequences with average searching strength found by the MOTIF program (Smith *et al.*, 1990) in the 17 randomized synthetase sequences. The position of the first residue is indicated for each segment. The single-letter code for the amino acid residues is as follows: A, Ala; C, Cys; D, Asp; E, Glu; F, Phe; G, Gly; H, His; I, Ile; K, Lys; L, Leu; M, Met; N, Asn; P, Pro; Q, Gln; R, Arg; S, Ser; T, Thr; V, Val; W, Trp; and Y, Tyr.

Playing With Blocks: RTase

EST1	VFFLDLS..EDFI	57	DLINSPINCSGNIYSHAPKRSYLFEBD	11	LDENDDPXY	45	GVTW.NASK
	* **				* * * *		*
	---Motif A---	17-87	-----Motif B-----	5-65	--Motif C-	5-62	-Motif D-
CBPB	ASVEDVGLSYEGR	22	DRDII.FIDGGI:HAREWIABSTVYIV	35	AYFTDRLIM	13	GSVL..GCK

Figure 3. Alignment of EST1 and Carboxypruidase B (CBPB) with four blocks derived from selected RNA-dependent RNA polymerases using the procedure of Lundblad and Blackburn (1990).

The numbers indicate distance in amino acid residues between the blocks for the known polymerases at the top, and for EST1 and CBPB beneath. The EST1 alignment is taken from their figure. Asterisks indicate conserved residues for both the reverse transcriptases and the RNA polymerases. To align CBPB using the same rules, Motif C was anchored at the IF Y14DD and the other 3 invariant residues (in bold) were found by scanning the flanking regions while maintaining interblock distances consistent with those seen in known polymerases. A single gap extension was allowed, consistent with their arbitrary extension of the L-amino acid gap to 2 amino acids in Motif A. Hydrophobic residues are MLIVFWAP.

Conclusion

The Best Alignment Method:

- Your Brain
- The Right Data

The Best Evaluation:

- Your Eyes
- Experimental Information (SwissProt)

What Can I Conclude:

- Homology => Information Extrapolation

How Can I go Further?:

- PrositePatterns.
- PrositeProfiles.