


NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE Division of Intramural Research

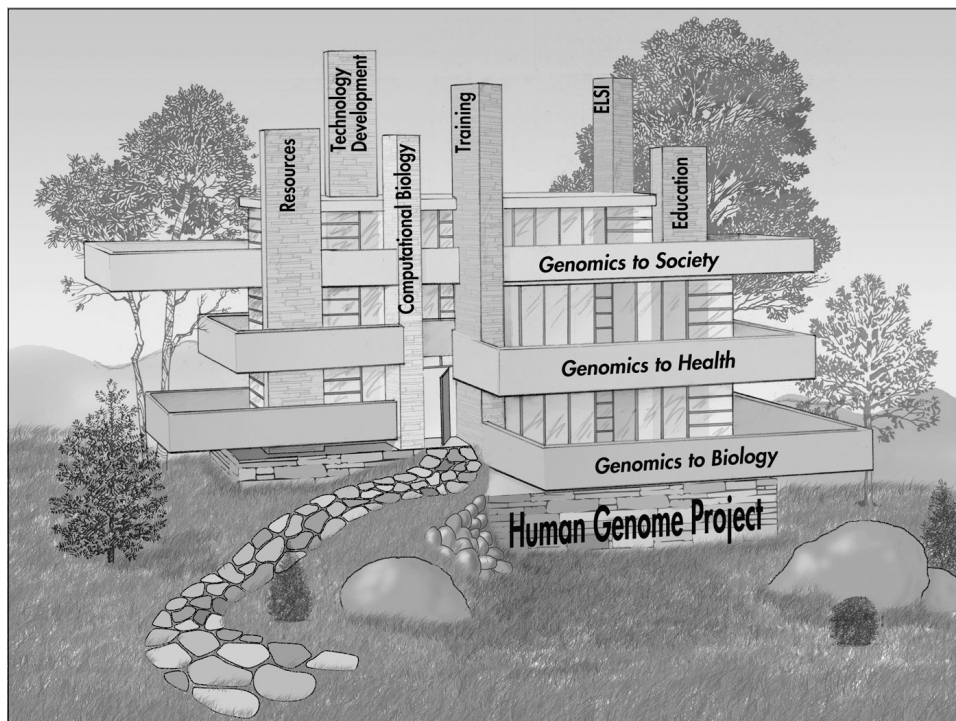



**Current Topics in Genome Analysis  
Spring 2008**

**Week 2: Biological Sequence Analysis I**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH | genome.gov/DIR



## Overview

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- Week 2
  - Similarity vs. Homology
  - Global vs. Local Alignments
  - Scoring Matrices
  - BLAST
  - BLAT
- Week 3
  - Profiles, Patterns, Motifs, and Domains
  - Structures: VAST, Cn3D, and *de novo* Prediction
  - Multiple Sequence Alignment



## Why do sequence alignments?

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- 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

→ *importance of using correct terminology*



## Defining the Terms

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- 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* imply
  - a common evolutionary history
  - possible commonality in biological function



## Defining the Terms

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- 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

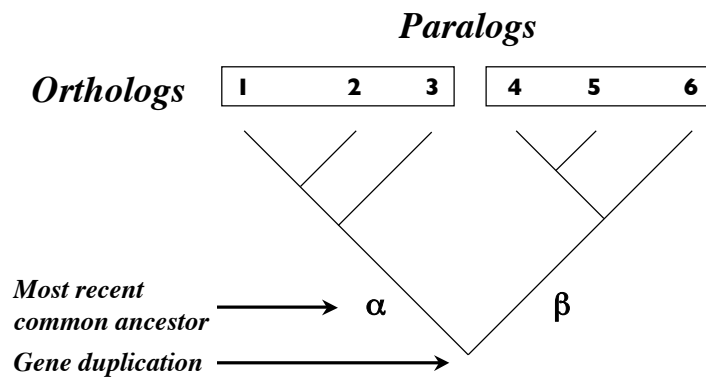
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- Orthologs
  - Sequences are direct descendants of a sequence in a common ancestor
  - Most likely have similar domain structure, three-dimensional structure, and biological function
- Paralogs
  - Related through a gene duplication event
  - Provides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



## Defining the Terms

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- Genes 1-3 are orthologous
- Genes 4-6 are orthologous
- Any pair of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  genes are paralogous (genes related through a gene duplication event)



## Global Sequence Alignments

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- Sequence comparison along the entire length of the two sequences being aligned
- Best for highly-similar sequences of similar length
- As the degree of sequence similarity declines, global alignment methods tend to miss important biological relationships



## Local Sequence Alignments

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- 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
- More than one local alignment could be generated for any two sequences being compared
- Best for sequences that share some similarity, or for sequences of different lengths



## Scoring Matrices

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- Empirical weighting scheme representing physicochemical and biological characteristics of nucleotides and amino acids
  - Side chain structure and chemistry
  - Side chain function
- Amino acid-based examples:
  - Cys/Pro important for structure and function
  - Trp has bulky side chain
  - Lys/Arg have positively-charged side chains



## Scoring Matrices

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- **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?



## Scoring Matrices

- Why is understanding scoring matrices important?
  - Appear in all analyses involving sequence comparison
  - Implicitly represent particular evolutionary patterns
  - Choice of matrix can strongly influence outcomes of analyses



## Matrix Structure: Nucleotides

	A	T	G	C	S	W	R	Y	K	M	B	V	H	D	N
A	5	-4	-4	-4	-4	1	1	-4	-4	1	-4	-1	-1	-1	-2
T	-4	5	-4	-4	-4	1	-4	1	1	-4	-1	-4	-1	-1	-2
G	-4	-4	5	-4	1	-4	1	-4	1	-4	-1	-1	-4	-1	-2
C	-4	-4	-4	5	1	-4	-4	1	-4	1	-1	-1	-1	-4	-2
S	-4	-4	1	1	-1	-4	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-3	-1
W	1	1	-4	-4	-4	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-1	-1
R	1	-4	1	-4	-2	-2	-1	-4	-2	-2	-3	-1	-3	-1	-1
Y	-4	1	-4	1	-2	-2	-4	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-1	-3	-1
K	-4	1	1	-4	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-4	-1	-3	-3	-1	-1
M	1	-4	-4	1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-4	-1	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1
B	-4	-1	-1	-1	-1	-3	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1	-2	-2	-2	-1
V	-1	-4	-1	-1	-1	-3	-1	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	-1
H	-1	-1	-4	-1	-3	-1	-3	-1	-3	-1	-2	-2	-1	-2	-1
D	-1	-1	-1	-4	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1	-3	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1
N	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1

- *Simple match/mismatch scoring scheme:*

Match + 5

Mismatch - 4

- *Assumes each nucleotide occurs 25% of the time*



## Matrix Structure: Proteins

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V	B	Z	X	*
A	4	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0	-2	-1	0	-4	
R	-1	5	0	-2	-1	1	0	-2	0	-3	-2	2	-1	-3	-2	-1	-1	-3	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-4
N	-2	0	6	1	-1	0	0	0	1	-3	-3	0	-2	-3	-2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	3	0	-1	-4
D	-2	-2	1	6	-1	0	2	-1	-1	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-1	0	-1	-1	-3	-3	4	1	-1	-4
C	0	-3	-3	-3	3	-3	-4	-3	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-3	-2	-4
Q	-1	-1	0	-3	5	2	-2	0	-3	-2	1	0	-3	-1	0	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	3	-1	-4	
E	-1	0	0	2	-4	2	5	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	1	4	-1	-4
G	0	-2	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	6	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3	-3	-2	0	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-4
H	-2	0	1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	8	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	2	-3	0	0	-1	-4
I	-1	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	4	2	-3	1	0	-3	-2	-1	-3	-1	3	-3	-3	-1	-4
L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-2	2	0	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	1	-4	-3	-1	-4
K	-1	2	0	-1	-3	1	1	-2	-1	-3	-2	5	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	0	1	-1	-4
M	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	0	-2	-3	-2	1	2	-1	5	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	1	-3	-1	-1	-1	-4
F	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	0	0	-3	0	6	-4	-2	-2	-1	3	-1	-3	-3	-1	-4
P	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-4	7	-1	-1	-1	-3	-2	-2	-1	-2	-4
S	1	-1	1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-2	-1	4	1	-2	-2	0	0	0	0	-4
T	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	5	-1	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-4	
W	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	11	2	-3	-4	-3	-2	-4	
Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	-1	-3	-2	-1	-4	
V	0	-3	-3	-3	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	3	1	-2	1	-1	-2	-2	0	-3	-1	4	-3	-2	-1	-4
B	-2	-1	3	4	-3	0	1	-1	0	-3	-4	0	-3	-3	-2	0	-1	-4	-3	-3	4	1	-1	-4
Z	-1	0	0	1	-3	3	4	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	1	4	-1	-4
X	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-4
*	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	1



BLOSUM62

## 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 detecting structural or functional substitutions
  - Generally perform better than PAM matrices for local similarity searches (*Henikoff and Henikoff, 1993*)

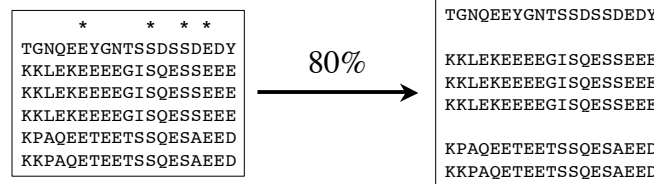




## BLOSUM $n$

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



*A+T Hook Domain (Block IPB000637B)*



*2,000 blocks representing > 500 groups of related proteins*

## BLOSUM $n$

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- 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...

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BLOSUM		% Similarity
90	Short alignments, highly similar	70-90
80	Best for detecting known members of a protein family	50-60
62	Most effective in finding all potential similarities	30-40
30	Longer, weaker local alignments	< 30



Wheeler, 2003

## So many matrices...

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*No single matrix is  
the complete answer for  
all sequence comparisons*



## Gaps

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- 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 (~1 gap per 20 residues good rule-of-thumb)
- Cannot be scored simply as a “match” or a “mismatch”



## Affine Gap Penalty

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

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

where	$G$	= gap-opening penalty	nuc	pro
	$L$	= gap-extension penalty	5	11
	$n$	= length of the gap	2	1
and	$G$	> $L$		



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

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- Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
- Seeks high-scoring segment pairs (HSP)
  - pair of sequences that can be aligned with one another
  - when aligned, have maximal aggregate score (score cannot be improved by extension or trimming)
  - score must be above score threshold  $S$
  - gapped or ungapped
- Results not limited to the “best HSP” for any given sequence pair



## BLAST Algorithms

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<i>Program</i>	<i>Query Sequence</i>	<i>Target Sequence</i>
BLASTN	Nucleotide	Nucleotide
BLASTP	Protein	Protein
BLASTX	Nucleotide, six-frame translation	Protein
TBLASTN	Protein	Nucleotide, six-frame translation
TBLASTX	Nucleotide, six-frame translation	Nucleotide, six-frame translation



## Neighborhood Words

Query Word ( $W = 3$ )

Query: GSQSLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEAFVED

Neighborhood  
Words

PQG	18	= 7 + 5 + 6
PEG	15	
PRG	14	
PKG	14	
PNG	13	
PDG	13	
PHG	13	
PMG	13	
PSG	13	
PQA	12	
PQN	12	
etc.		

Neighborhood Score  
Threshold  
( $T = 13$ )



## High-Scoring Segment Pairs

PQG	18
PEG	15
PRG	14
PKG	14
PNG	13
PDG	13
PHG	13
PMG	13
PSG	13
PQA	12
PQN	12
etc.	

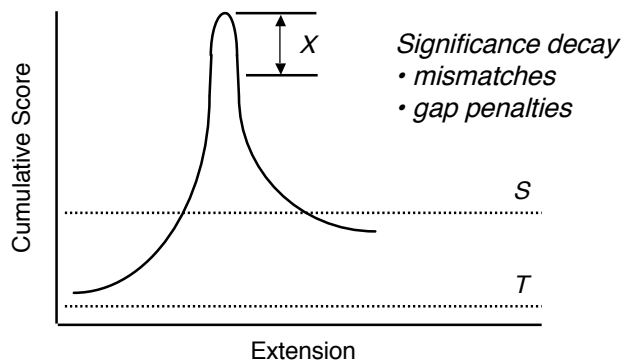
Query: 325 SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA 365  
 +LA++L TP+G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A  
 Sbjct: 290 TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA 330



## Extension

←───────────────────┐───────────────────→

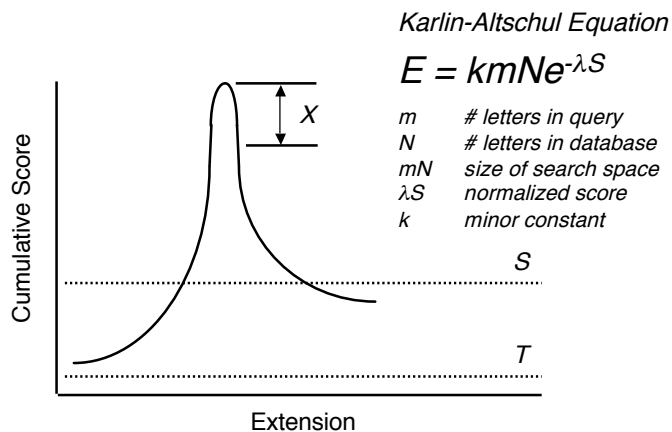
Query:	325	SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA	365
		+LA++L TP+G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A	
Sbjct:	290	TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA	330



## Scores and Probabilities

←───────────────────┐───────────────────→

Query:	325	SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA	365
		+LA++L TP+G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A	
Sbjct:	290	TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA	330



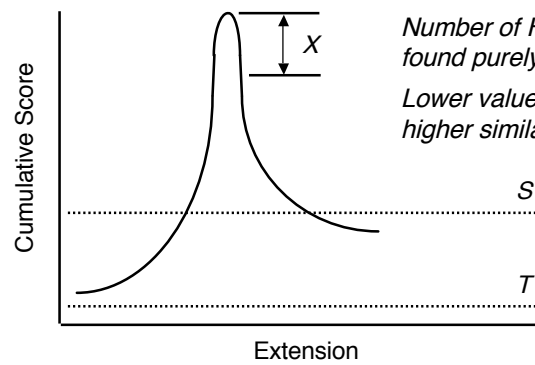
## Scores and Probabilities

	←—————□————→	
Query:	325 SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA 365	
	+LA++L TP+G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A	
Sbjct:	290 TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA 330	

$$E = kmNe^{-\lambda S}$$

Number of HSPs  
found purely by chance

Lower values signify  
higher similarity



## Scores and Probabilities

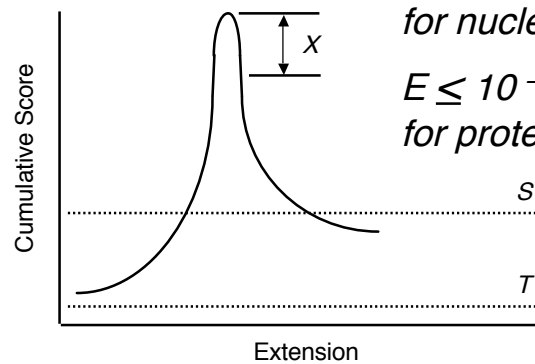
	←—————□————→	
Query:	325 SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA 365	
	+LA++L TP+G R++ +W+ +P+ D + ER + A	
Sbjct:	290 TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA 330	

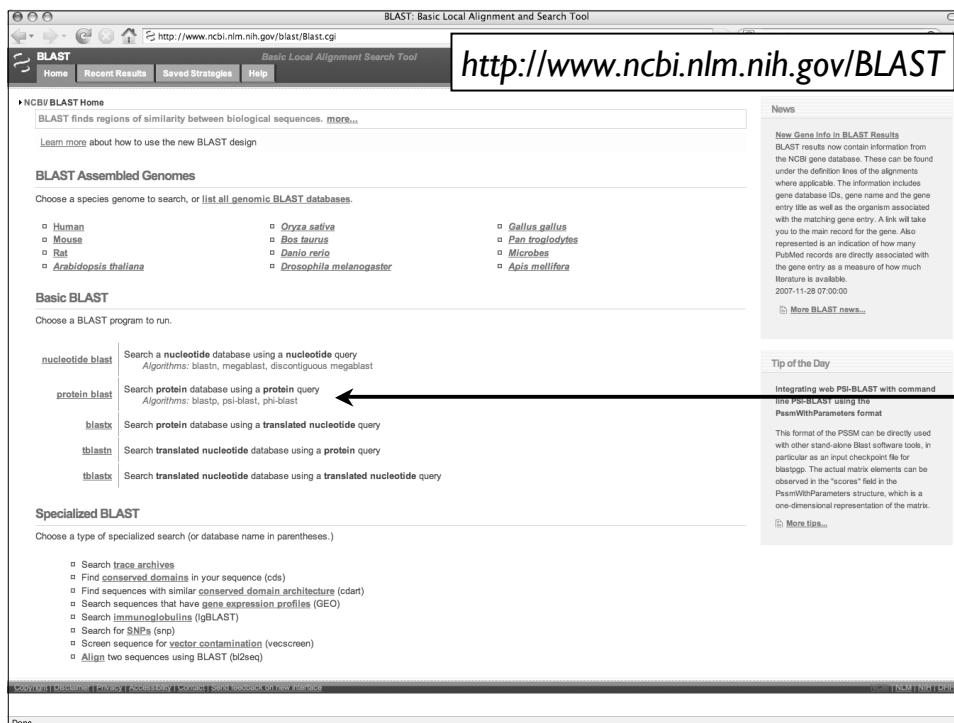
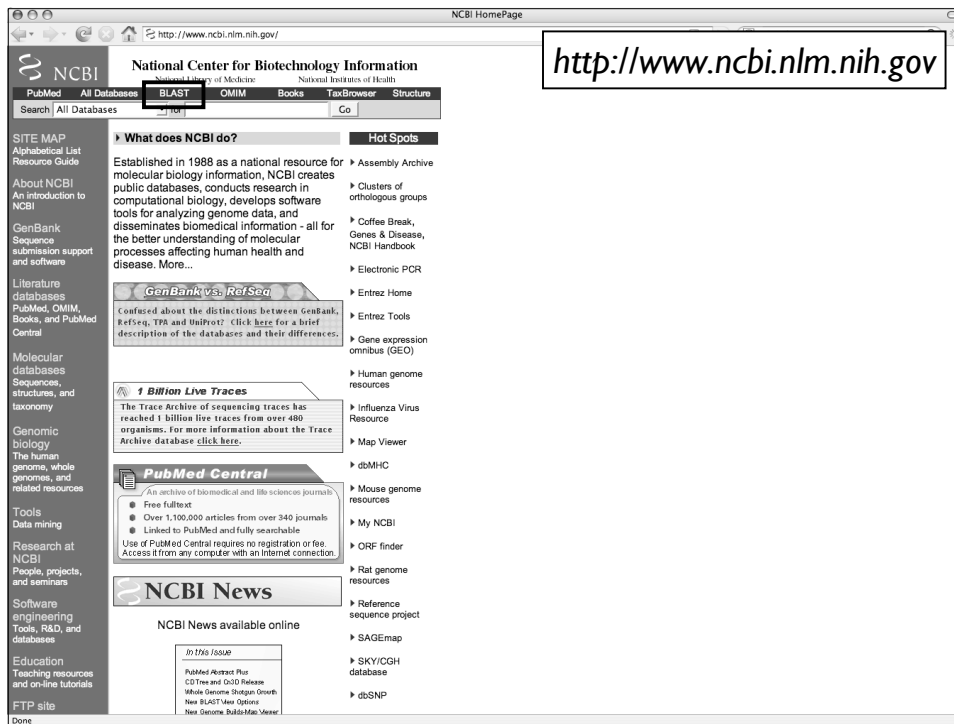
$$E \leq 10^{-6}$$

for nucleotides

$$E \leq 10^{-3}$$

for proteins







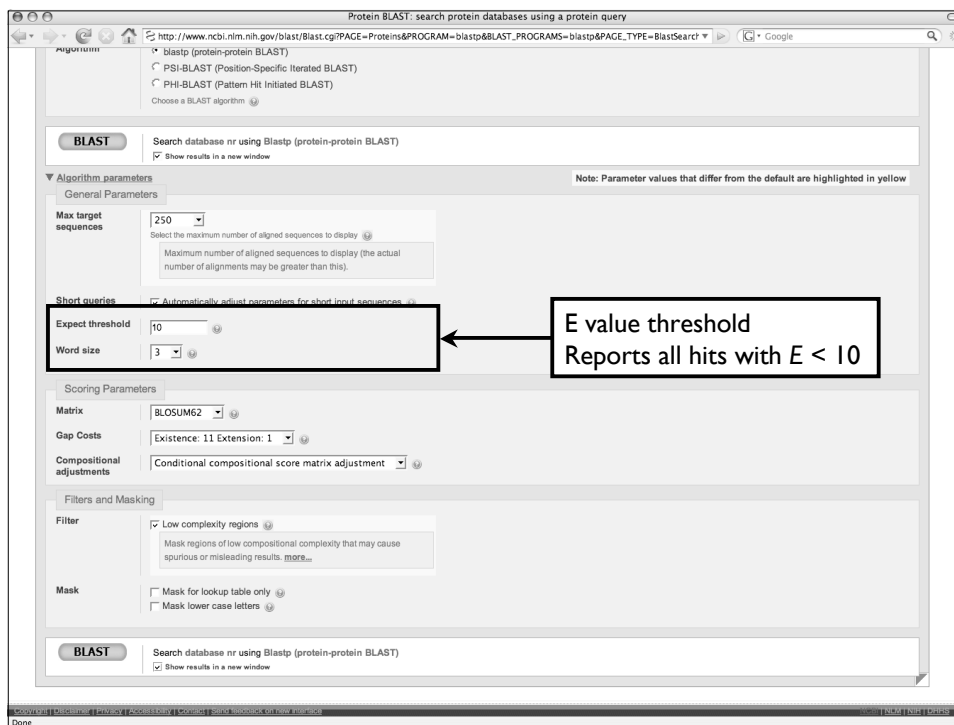
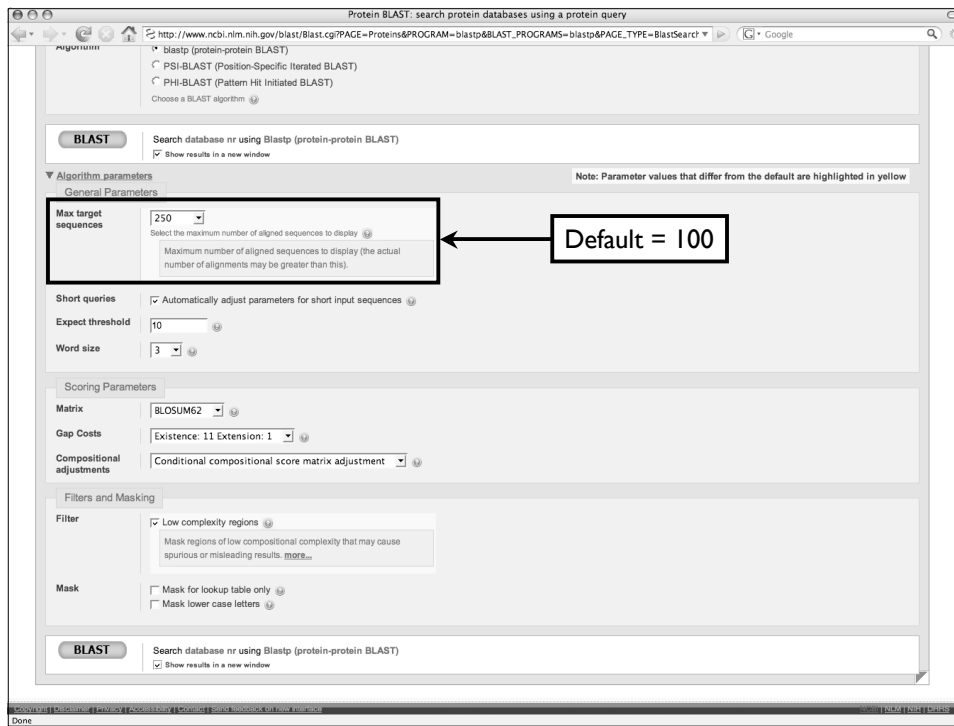
The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST search page. A callout box on the right lists available protein databases:

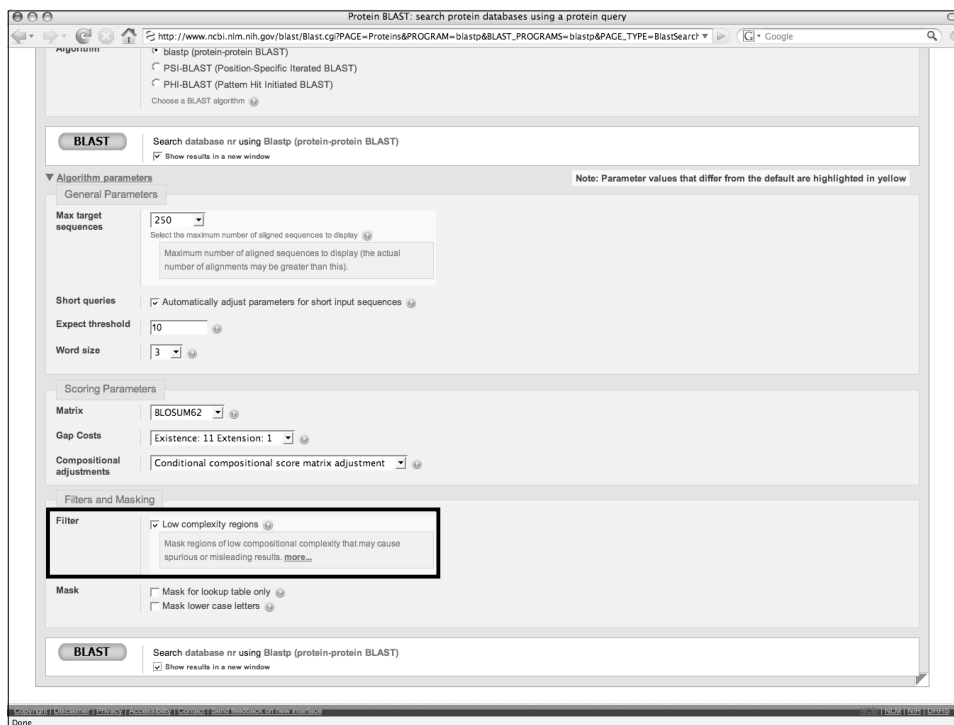
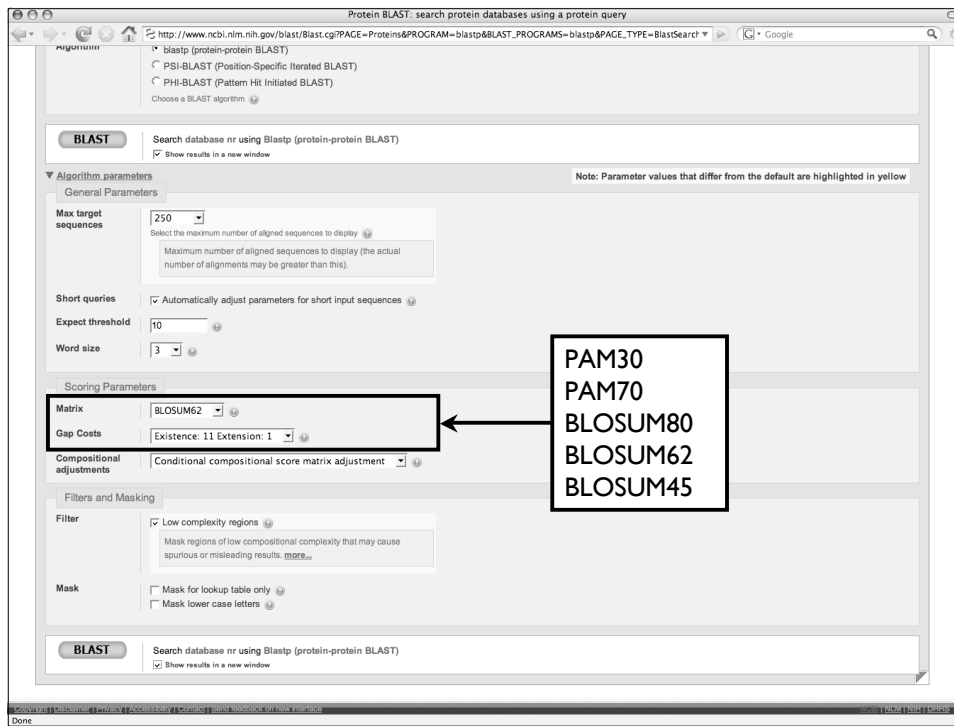
nr	Non-redundant
refseq	Reference Sequences
swissprot	SWISS-PROT
pat	Patents
pdb	Protein Data Bank
env_nr	Environmental samples

The callout box also includes the text: "Available protein databases include:" and "Note: Parameter values that differ from the default are highlighted in yellow".

The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST search page. A callout box on the right highlights the "Organism" field in the "Choose Search Set" section, with the text: "Limit by organism or taxonomic group".

The "Organism" field is currently set to "Non-redundant protein sequences (nr)".





## Low-Complexity Regions

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Defined as regions of biased composition

- Homopolymeric runs
- Short-period repeats
- Subtle over-representation of several residues

```
>gi|20455478|sp|P50553|ASC1_HUMAN Achaete-scute homolog 1 (HASH1)  
MESSARMESGGAGQQPQPQPQPFLPPAACFFAIAAAAAAAAAAQAQQQQQQQQQQQAPQLRPAA  
DQQPSGGGHKSAPKQVKRQRSSPELMRCKRRLNFSGFGYSLPQQQAAVARRNERERNRVKLVNLGFAT  
LREHVPNGAANKKMSKVETLRSAVEYIRALQQLLDEHDAVSAAFQAVLSPTTISPNYSNDLNSMAGSPVS  
SYSSDEGSYDPLSPPEEQELLDFTNWF
```

Homopolymeric  
alanine-glutamine tract

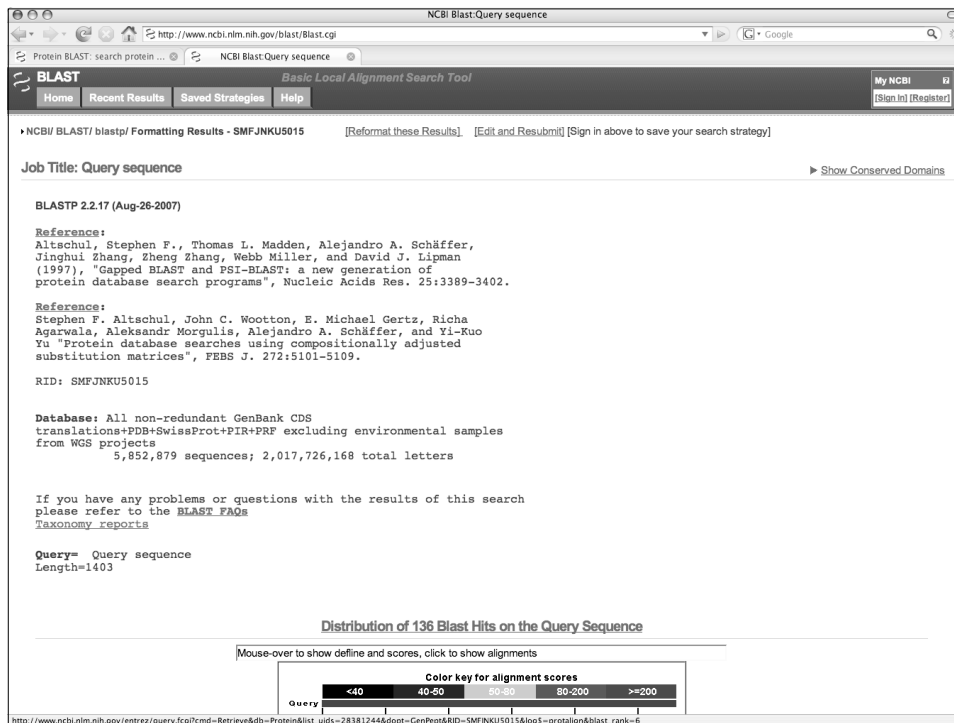
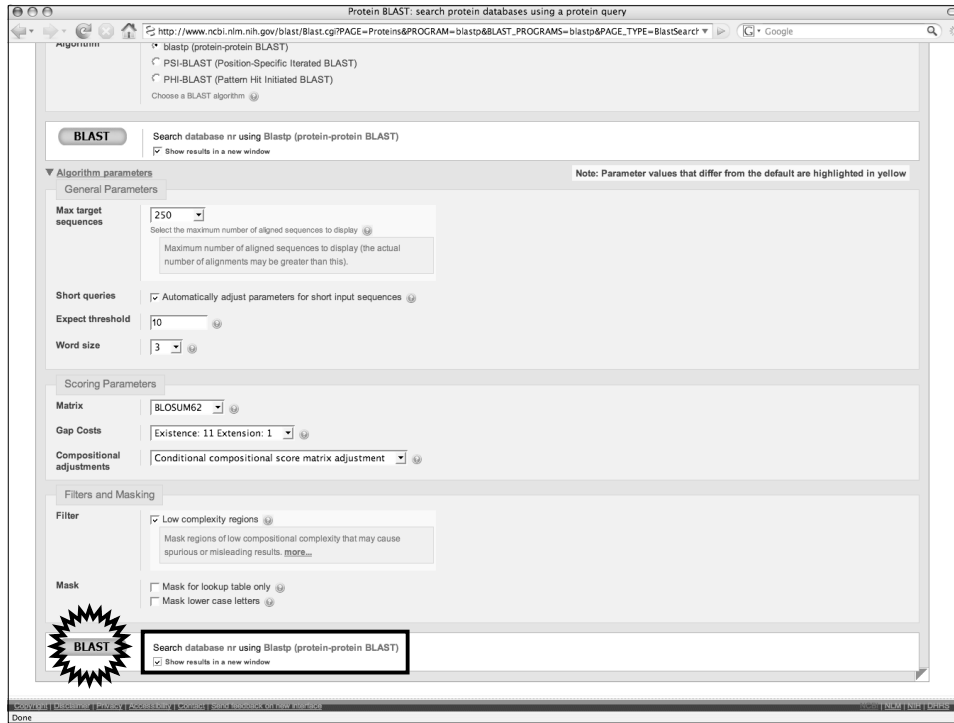


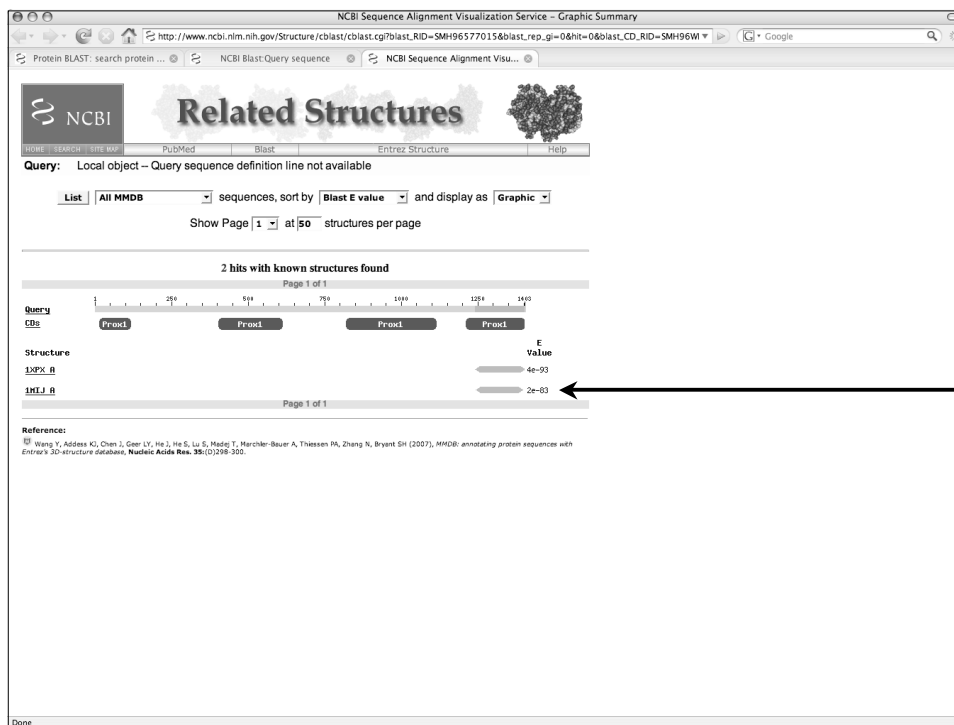
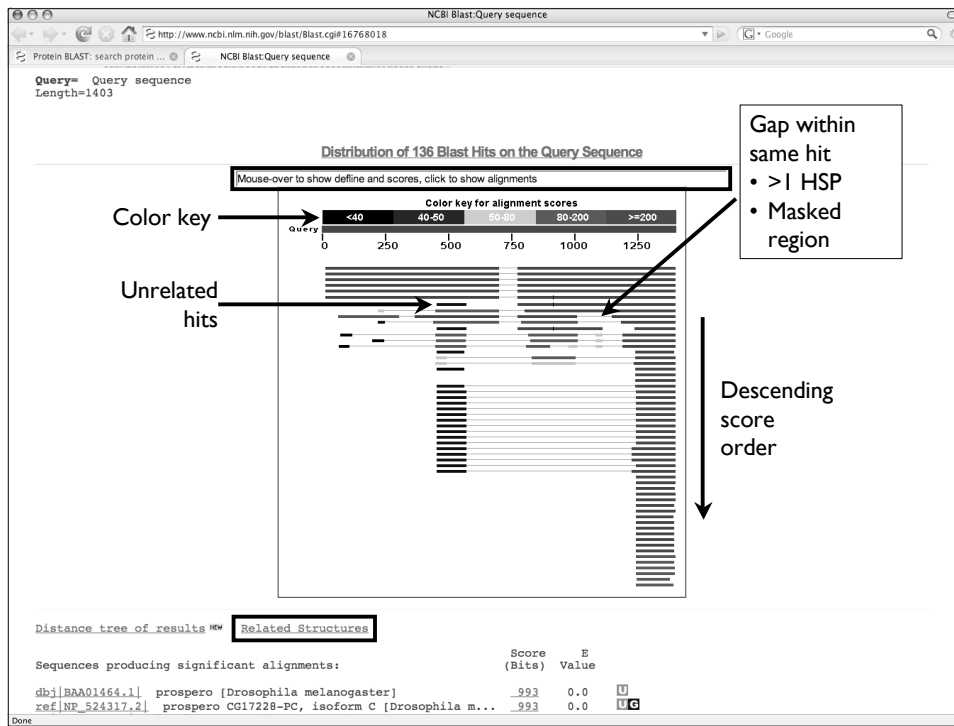
## Identifying Low-Complexity Regions

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- 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 (but *not* enabled by default)







NCBI Sequence Alignment Visualization Service -- Alignment detail

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Structure/cblast/cblast.cgi?client=blast&output=html&blast\_RID=SMH965770156&blast\_rep\_gi=27065

Protein BLAST: search protein ... NCBI Blast-Query sequence NCBI Sequence Alignment Visu...

## Related Structures

Local object -- Query sequence definition line not available  
 Structure: 1MIJ Chain A, Crystal Structure Of The Homeo-Prospero Domain Of D. Melanogaster Prospero  
 Reference: [MMD] [PubMed]

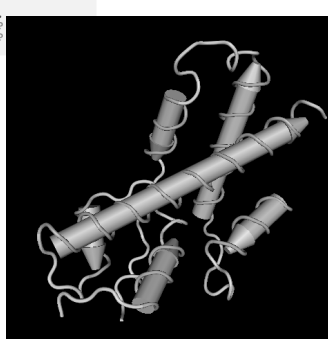
Get 3D Structure data ID: View in Cn3D (To display structure, download Cn3D)

E-value = 2e-83, Bit score = 315, Aligned length = 152, Sequence Identity = 96%

```

    10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80
    query 1245 SSTLTPMHLRKRKALMFVWVYFSSAVLKMYPFDIKFNKNTAQLVKWFSNREFYYIQEKYARQAVTEGIKTPDLLIA 1324
    1MIJ_A 1 SSTLTPMHLRKRKALMFVWVYFSSAVLKMYPFDIKFNKNTAQLVKWFSNREFYYIQEKYARQAVTEGIKTPDLLIA 80

    90 100 110 120 130 140 150
    query 1325 GDSLYRVLNLYNRRNHIEVQNFQRFVVESTLREFFRALQGGKDTQSWKRSYKILSRMDDVPVEYFKSP
    1MIJ_A 81 GDSLYRVLNLYNRRNHIEVQNFQRFVVESTLREFFRALQGGKDTQSWKRSYKILSRMDDVPVEYFKSP
    
```



References:  
 Wang Y, Adress KI, Chen J, Geer LY, He J, He S, Lu S, Medo T, Marchler-Bauer A, Thiessen PA, Zhang N, Bryant SH (2007), MMD: annotating protein sequences with Entrez's 3D-structure database, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 35(12):298-300.

NCBI Blast-Query sequence

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/Blast.cgi#16768018

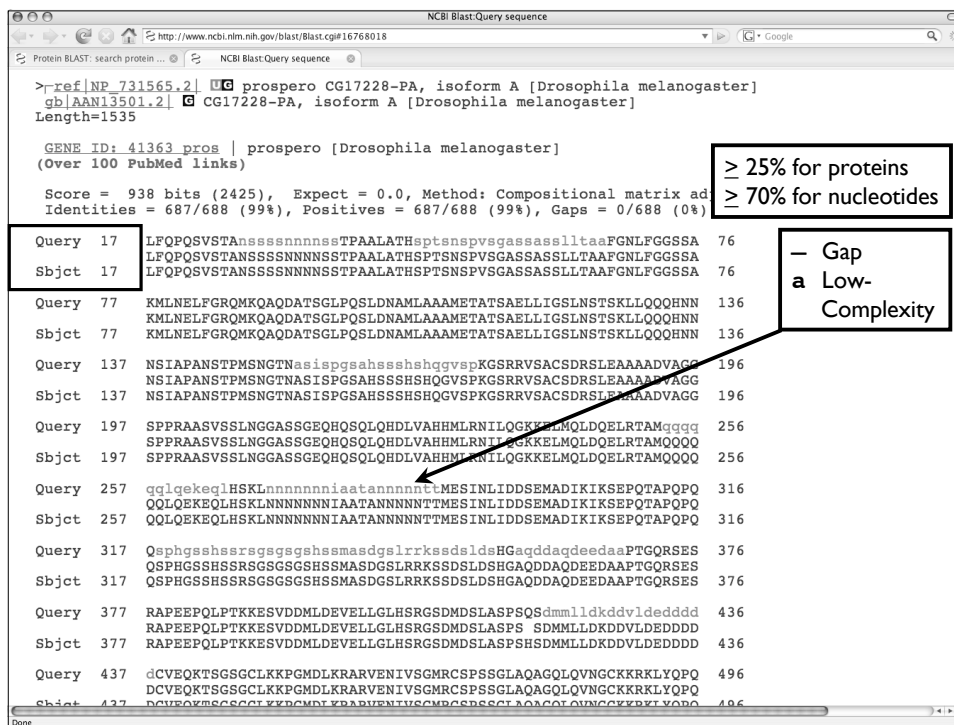
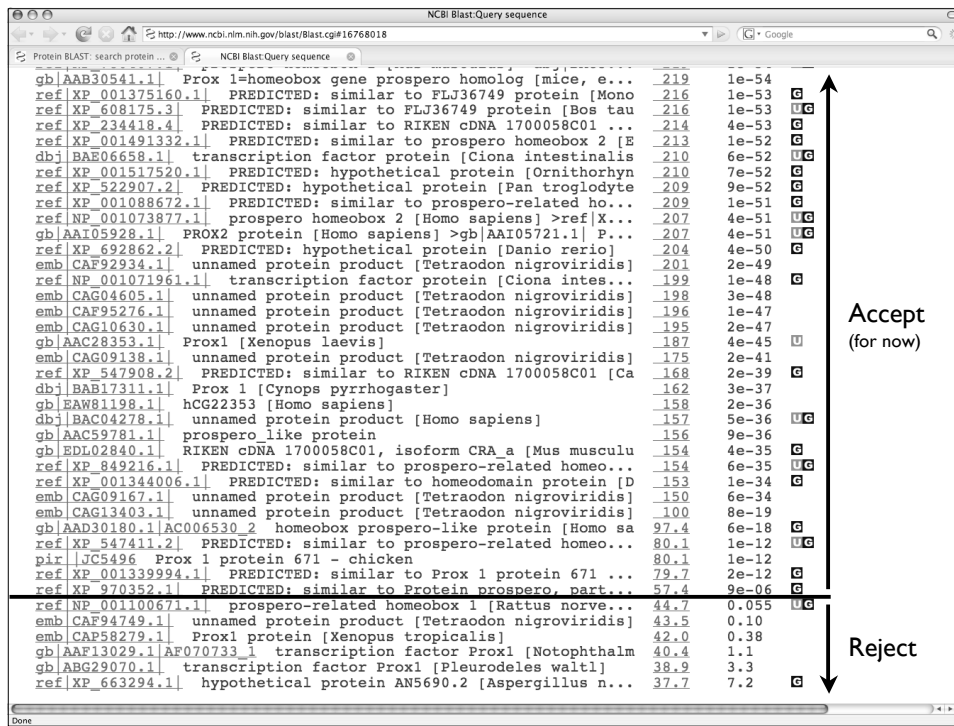
Protein BLAST: search protein ... NCBI Blast-Query sequence

Sequences producing significant alignments:

dbj BAA01464.1  prospero [Drosophila melanogaster]	Score (Bits)	E Value
ref NP_524317.2  prospero CG17228-PC, isoform C [Drosophila melanogaster]	993	0.0
gb AAF05703.1  AF190403.1 homeodomain transcription factor 1 [Drosophila melanogaster]	993	0
gb AAA28841.1  Prospero protein [Drosophila melanogaster]	993	0
ref NP_788636.1  prospero CG17228-PD, isoform D [Drosophila melanogaster]	940	0
ref NP_731565.2  prospero CG17228-PA, isoform A [Drosophila melanogaster]	938	0
ref XP_001359935.1  CA14403-PA [Drosophila pseudoobscura] >gb ...	588	1e-165
ref XP_001655942.1  homeobox protein prospero/prox-1 [Aedes albopictus]	571	2e-160
sp O91061 PROS_DROVI Protein prospero >gb AAF06660.1 AF190405...	430	4e-118
ref XP_309606.4  AGAP004052-PA [Anopheles gambiae str. PEST]	363	4e-98
pdb 1XPX A Chain A, Structural Basis Of Prospero-Dna Interact...	347	4e-98
ref XP_001602599.1  PREDICTED: similar to homeobox protein pr...	345	1e-98
ref XP_971664.1  PREDICTED: similar to CG17228-PD, isoform D ...	342	1e-98
ref XP_392355.3  PREDICTED: similar to prospero CG17228-PA, i...	333	4e-89
pdb 1MIJ A Chain A, Crystal Structure Of The Homeo-Prospero D...	315	2e-83
emb CAE00181.1  prospero protein [Cupiennius salei]	298	2e-78
dbj BAE87100.1  Prospero [Achaearanea tepidariorum]	294	4e-77
gb AAL28228.1  GH11848p [Drosophila melanogaster]	284	3e-77
gb EDP34031.1  Homeobox protein ceh-26, putative [Brugia malayi]	264	4e-77
ref XP_001666659.1  hypothetical protein CBG22984 [Caenorhabditis elegans]	256	9e-77
ref NP_498760.1  C.Elegans Homeobox family member (ceh-26) [C. elegans]	253	1e-77
ref XP_781578.1  PREDICTED: similar to prospero-related homeo...	235	2e-77
gb AAC50656.1  homeodomain protein [Drosophila melanogaster]	227	5e-77
ref NP_002754.2  prospero homeobox 1 [Homo sapiens] >ref XP_001359935.1	225	1e-77
gb EAW93359.1  prospero-related homeobox 1, isoform CRA a [Homo sapiens]	225	2e-56
ref NP_032963.1  prospero-related homeobox 1 [Mus musculus] >...	225	2e-56
ref XP_001488506.1  PREDICTED: similar to Prospero-related ho...	225	2e-56
ref XP_858135.1  PREDICTED: similar to prospero-related homeo...	225	2e-56
ref XP_881339.1  PREDICTED: similar to Prospero-related homeo...	225	2e-56
ref XP_001511202.1  PREDICTED: similar to Prospero-related ho...	225	2e-56
ref XP_001367045.1  PREDICTED: similar to Prospero-related ho...	225	2e-56
ref NP_001005616.1  prospero homeobox 1 [Gallus gallus] >sp Q0...	224	3e-56
gb AAH95584.1  Prospero-related homeobox gene 1 [Danio rerio]	223	1e-55
ref NP_571480.2  prospero-related homeobox gene 1 [Danio rerio]	222	1e-55
gb AAC70926.1  homeodomain protein [Danio rerio]	222	1e-55
ref NP_001084172.1  Prox 1 [Xenopus laevis] >dbj BAB17310.1  ...	221	4e-55
gb ABN03942.1  prospero-related homeobox protein [Carassius auratus]	220	7e-55
ref NP_784047.1  prospero homeobox 2 [Mus musculus] >dbj BAC...	219	1e-54

Annotations:

- Descending score order (arrow pointing to the Score column)
- 0.0 means <math>10^{-1000}</math> (box around 0.0)
- $4e-98 = 4 \times 10^{-98}$  (box around 4e-98)
- Structure Gene UniGene (box around S, G, U icons)





NCBI Blast Query sequence

Protein BLAST: search protein ... NCBI Blast Query sequence

Query 617 NHKEETGQERpgsspspsplkpktslgESSDSGANMLSQMMSKMMSGKLNHNLVGVGHP 676  
 Sbjct 617 NHKEETGQERPGSSPSPLKPKTSLGESSDSGANMLSQMMSKMMSGKLNHNLVGVGHP 676

Query 677 ALPQGFPELLQHMGDMSHAAAMYQOFF 704  
 Sbjct 677 ALPQGFPELLQHMGDMSHAAAMYQOFF 704

Score = 635 bits (1639), Expect = 6e-180, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.  
 Identities = 461/498 (92%), Positives = 463/498 (92%), Gaps = 32/498 (6%)

Query 906 PONGPTPATQSAAMFQAPKTPQGMNPVAAAALYNSMTGPFCLPPDqqqqqataggggaa 965  
 Sbjct 1070 P P+P +AAAMFQAPKTPQGMNPVAAAALYNSMTGPFCLPPDQQQQQTAQQQQA PHIRPSP---TAAAMFQAPKTPQGMNPVAAAALYNSMTGPFCLPPDQQQQQTAQQQQA

Query 966 qqqqqsgqtqqqLEQNEALSUVVTPKKRHKVTDTRITRPTVSRILAQDgvpvptggpp 1025  
 Sbjct 1127 QQQQSSQQTQQLEQNEALSUVVTPKKRHKVTDTRITRPTVSRILAQDgvpvptggpp

Query 1026 slpqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqASNGGNSNATPAQSPTRSSGGAAYHqppppppppmmp 1025  
 Sbjct 1187 STPQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQASNGGNSNATPAQSPTRSSGGAAYHQPppppppmmp

Query 1086 VSLPVSVAIPNPSLHESKVFSPYSPFFNPhaaaggataaqlhghhghhphhgmqlsss 1126  
 Sbjct 1247 VSLPVSVAIPNPSLHESKVFSPYSPFFNPhaaaggataaqlhghhghhphhgmqlsss

Query 1146 ppgslGALMDSRDSPPLPHPPSMLHPALLAAHHGGSPDYKTCCLRAVMDAQRQSECNSA 1205  
 Sbjct 1307 PPGSLGALMDSRDSPPLPHPPSMLHPALLAAHHGGSPDYKTCCLRAVMDAQRQSECNSA

Query 1206 DMQFDGMAPTISFYKQMLKTEHQESLMAKHCSLTPHPSLTPMHLRKAALMFFWVRY 1265  
 Sbjct 1367 DMQFDGMAPT-----SSTLTPMHLRKAALMFFWVRY

Query 1266 PSSAVLKMYPDIKFNKNNTAQLVKWFSNFRIFYIQMEKYARQAVTEGKTPDDLIIAG 1325  
 Sbjct 1398 PSSAVLKMYPDIKFNKNNTAQLVKWFSNFRIFYIQMEKYARQAVTEGKTPDDLIIAG

Query 1326 DSELYRVLNLHYNRNHHIEVPQFRFVVESTLREFFRAIQGKDEQSWKKSIIKIRSM 1385

No definition line .: second HSP identified

Gap a Low-Complexity

```
>ref|NP_731565.2| UG prospero CG17228-PA, isoform A [Drosophila melanogaster]
gb|AA13501.2| G CG17228-PA, isoform A [Drosophila melanogaster]
Length=1535
```

Score = 938 bits (2425), Expect = 0.0, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.  
 Identities = 687/688 (99%), Positives = 687/688 (99%), Gaps = 0/688 (0%)

Score = 635 bits (1639), Expect = 6e-180, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.  
 Identities = 461/498 (92%), Positives = 463/498 (92%), Gaps = 32/498 (6%)

HSP 1  
 Q: 17-704  
 S: 17-704

HSP 2  
 Q: 906-1403  
 S: 1070-1535

Color key for alignment scores

Query

## Suggested BLAST Cutoffs

---

	<i>E</i> -value	Sequence Identity
Nucleotide	$\leq 10^{-6}$	$\geq 70\%$
Protein	$\leq 10^{-3}$	$\geq 25\%$

- *Do not use these cutoffs blindly!*
- *Pay attention to alignments on either side of the dividing line*
- *Do not ignore biology!*



## Database Searching Artifacts

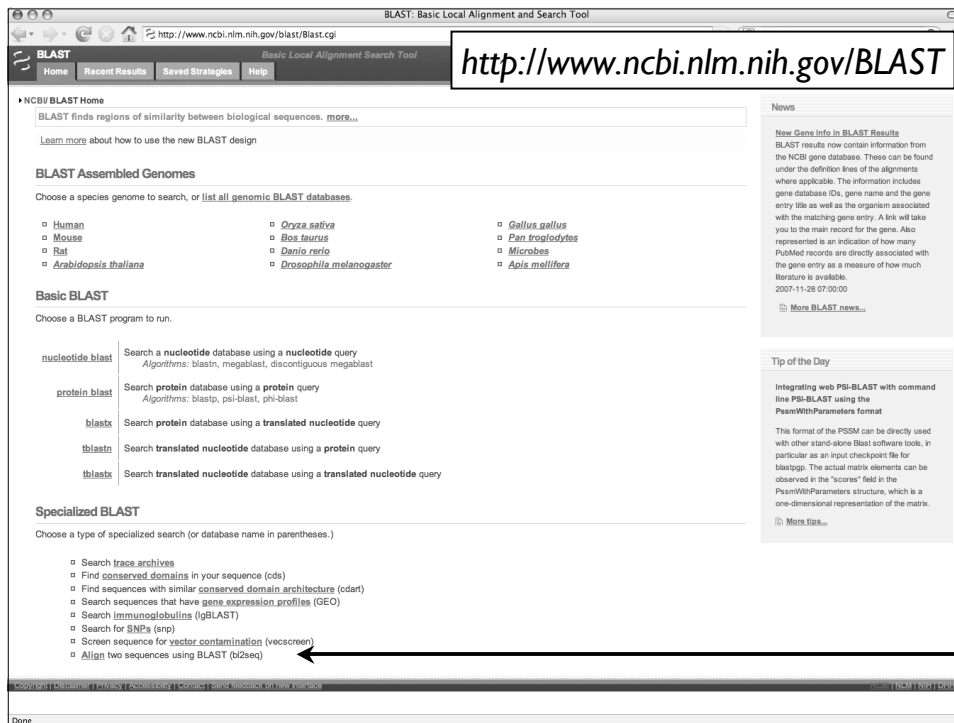
---

- Low-complexity regions
- Repetitive elements
  - LINEs, SINEs, retroviral repeats
  - Choose “Filter: Species-Specific Repeats” when using BLASTN
  - RepeatMasker  
<http://www.repeatmasker.org>
- Low-quality sequence hits
  - Expressed sequence tags (ESTs)
  - Single-pass sequence reads from large-scale sequencing (possibly with vector contaminants)

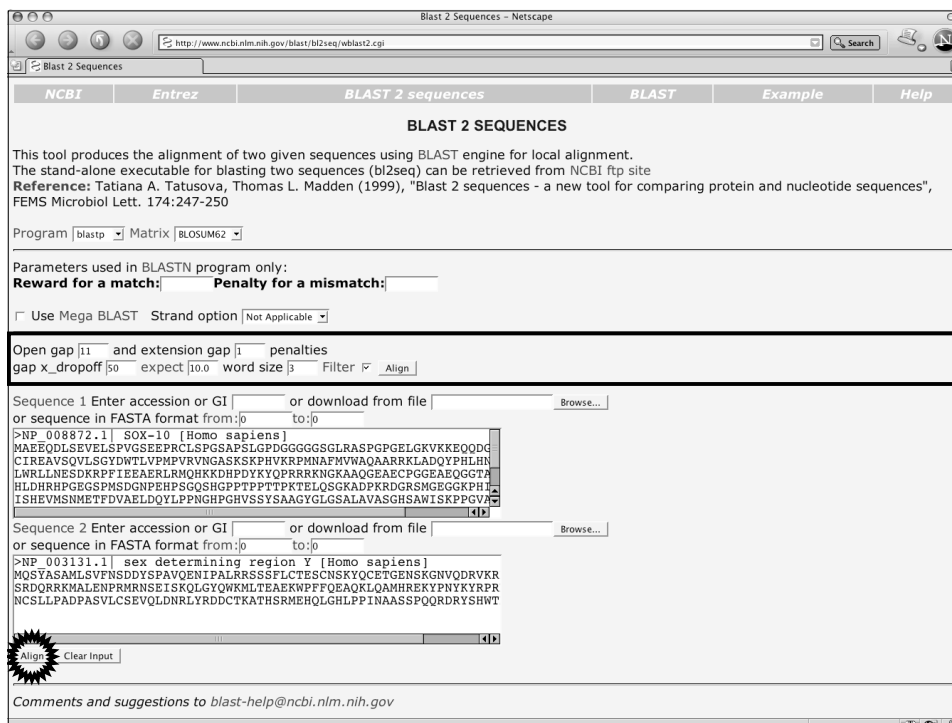
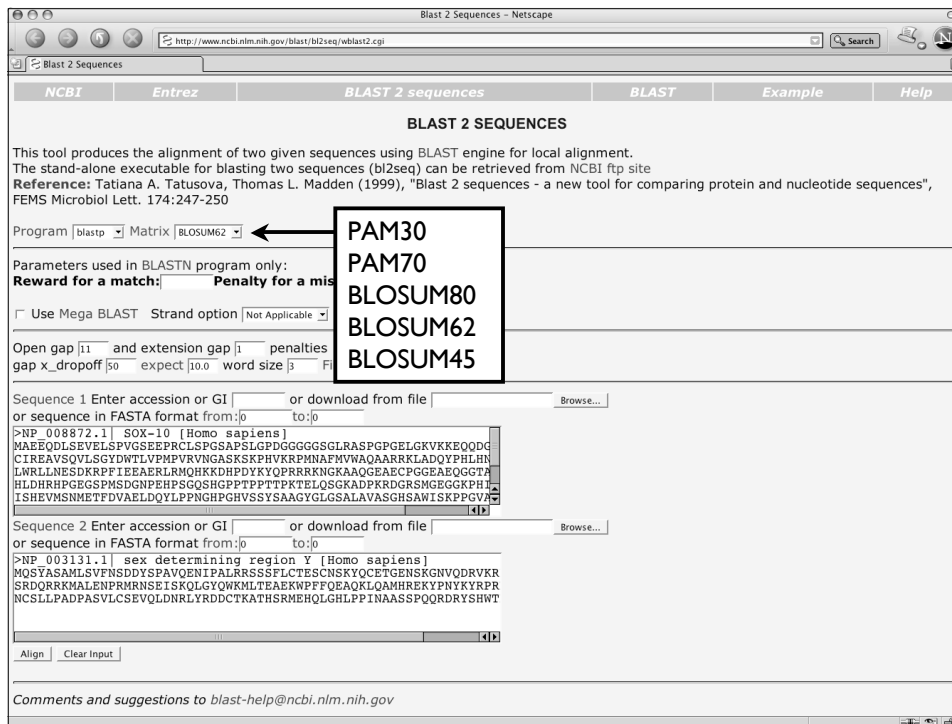


## BLAST 2 Sequences

- 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



The screenshot shows the BLAST web interface in a browser window. The address bar displays <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST>. The page title is "BLAST: Basic Local Alignment and Search Tool". The main content area is titled "NCBI/BLAST Home" and includes a search box, a "BLAST Assembled Genomes" section with a list of species (Human, Mouse, Rat, Arabidopsis thaliana, Oryza sativa, Bos taurus, Danio rerio, Drosophila melanogaster, Gallus gallus, Pan troglodytes, Microbes, Apis mellifera), a "Basic BLAST" section with options for nucleotide, protein, and translated searches, and a "Specialized BLAST" section with options for trace archives, conserved domains, expression profiles, immunoglobulins, SNPs, and vector contamination. A black arrow points to the "Align two sequences using BLAST (tblastx)" option in the Specialized BLAST section. The right sidebar contains "News" and "Tip of the Day" sections.



NCBI Blast 2 Sequences results

BLAST 2 SEQUENCES RESULTS VERSION BLASTP 2.2.10 [Oct-19-2004]

Matrix: BLOSUM62 gap open: 11 gap extension: 1  
x\_dropoff: 50 expect: 10.000 wordsize: 3 Filter: Align

Sequence 1 |c|tmpseq\_0 SOX-10 [Homo sapiens] Length 466 (1.. 466)  
Sequence 2 |c|tmpseq\_1 sex determining region Y [Homo sapiens] Length 204 (1.. 204)

NOTE: The statistics (bitscore and expect value) is calculated based on the size of nr database

Score = 94.7 bits (234), Expect = 8e-18  
Identities = 39/84 (46%), Positives = 62/84 (73%)

Query: 95 NGASKSPHVKRPMNFMVWQAARRKLDQYPHLHNAELSKTLGKLRLLNESDKRPF 154  
N + VKRPMNMF+VW++ RRR+A + P + N+E+SK LG W+L E+K PF  
Sbjct: 51 NSKGNVQDRVKRPMNMFVWVSRDQRRKMALENPRMRNSEISKOLGYQWKMLTEAEKWPFF 110

Query: 155 EEAERLRMQHKDHPDYKQPRRR 178  
+EA++L+ H++ +P+YKY+PRR+  
Sbjct: 111 QEAQKLQAMHREKYPNKYRPRRK 134

CPU time: 0.03 user secs. 0.01 sys. secs 0.04 total secs.

Lambda K H  
0.311 0.130 0.399

Gapped

## MegaBLAST

- Optimized for aligning very long and/or highly-similar sequences
- Good for batch nucleotide searches
- Search targets include
  - Entire eukaryotic genomes
  - Complete chromosomes and contigs from RefSeq
- Run speeds approximately 10 times faster than BLASTN
  - Adjusted word size
  - Different gap scoring scheme



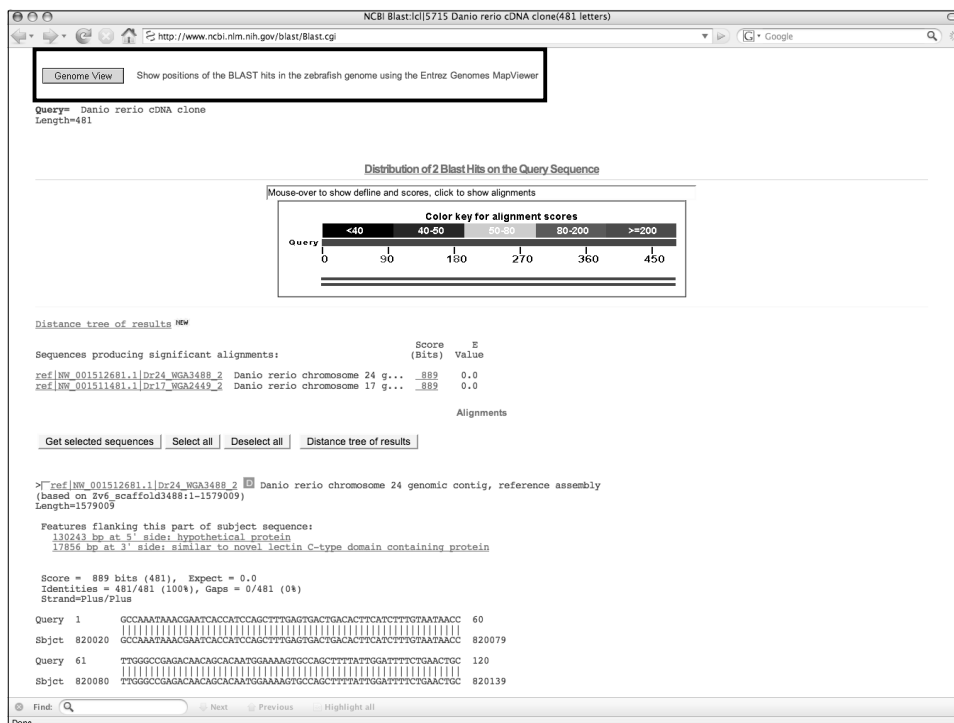
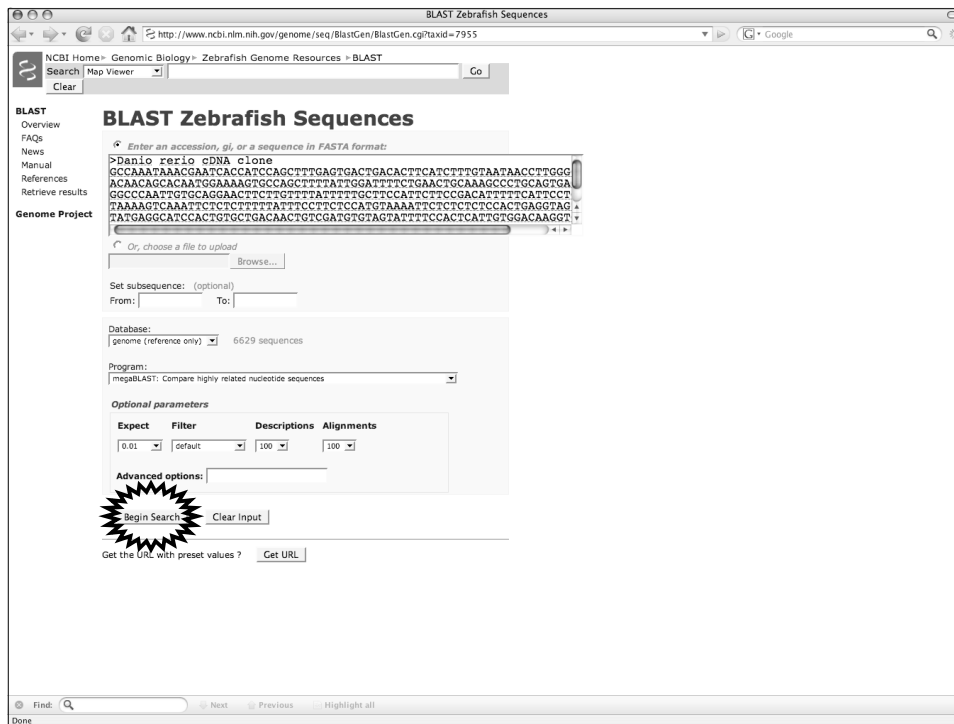
## BLASTN vs. MegaBLAST

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

$$\text{Deduction for a gap} = r/2 - q$$

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





The screenshot shows the NCBI Map Viewer interface for the *Danio rerio* (zebrafish) genome. A BLAST search for a cDNA clone has been performed, resulting in two hits. The results table is as follows:

Chr	Map element	Type	Hits	Score	E value
17	NW_001511481	CONTIG	1	889	0.0
24	NW_001512681	CONTIG	1	889	0.0

A callout box with a black border and white background points to the two hits in the table. The text inside the box reads: "Sequence truly not unique? Artifact of assembly process? Finished sequence needed Check subsequent builds of zebrafish genome".

## BLAT

- “BLAST-Like Alignment Tool”
- Designed to rapidly-align longer nucleotide sequences ( $L \geq 40$ ) having  $> 95\%$  sequence similarity
- Can find exact matches reliably down to  $L = 33$
- Method of choice when looking for exact matches in nucleotide databases
- 500 times faster for mRNA/DNA searches
- May miss divergent or shorter sequence alignments
- Can be used on protein sequences





## When to Use BLAT

- To characterize an unknown gene or sequence fragment
  - Find its genomic coordinates
  - Determine gene structure (the presence and position of exons)
  - Identify markers of interest in the vicinity of a sequence
- To find highly-similar sequences
  - Identify gene family members
  - Identify putative homologs
- To display a specific sequence as a separate track



UCSC Genome Browser Home

http://genome.ucsc.edu

UCSC Genome Bioinformatics

Genomes - Blat - Tables - Gene Sorter - PCR - VisiGene - Proteome - Session - FAQ - Help

**About the UCSC Genome Bioinformatics Site**

Welcome to the UCSC Genome Browser website. This site contains the reference sequence and working draft assemblies for a large collection of genomes. It also provides a portal to the ENCODE project.

We encourage you to explore these sequences with our tools. The Genome Browser zooms and scrolls over chromosomes, showing the work of annotators worldwide. The Gene Sorter shows expression, homology and other information on groups of genes that can be related in many ways. Blat quickly maps your sequence to the genome. The Table Browser provides convenient access to the underlying database. VisiGene lets you browse through a large collection of *in situ* mouse and frog images to examine expression patterns. Genome Graphs allows you to upload and display genome-wide data sets.

The UCSC Genome Browser is developed and maintained by the Genome Bioinformatics Group, a cross-departmental team within the Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering (CBSE) at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC). If you have feedback or questions concerning the tools or data on this website, feel free to contact us on our public mailing list. To view the results of the Genome Browser users' survey we conducted in May 2007, click here.

**News**

To receive announcements of new genome assembly releases, new software features, updates and training seminars by email, subscribe to the genome-announce mailing list.

**8 Jan. 2008 - Additional Job Opening with UCSC Genome Browser Project**

In addition to the openings listed in the 12 Dec. 2007 announcement (see below), the UCSC Genome Browser project is accepting applications for Research Software Architect, a position in the UC Project Scientist academic series. For the job description, qualifications and application information, please see the Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering website. To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by 22 Jan. 2008.

**12 Dec. 2007 - Job Openings with UCSC Genome Browser Project**

The UCSC Genome Browser project is currently accepting applications for two positions on our development team: Software Development Engineer (Programmer/Analyst 3) and Biological Database Testing/User Support Technician (Programmer/Analyst 1). We are looking for talented self-motivated individuals who would like to use their skills in computer science, biology, and bioinformatics on a fast-paced project featuring the work of top genomics scientists worldwide.

For a summary of the position details and qualifications, see the entries for Software Developer and Biological Database Testing/User Support Technician on the Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering (CBSE) website. For detailed job descriptions and application information, go to the UCSC Staff Employment website, click the "Search Postings" link on the sidebar, and type in job #0701419 (Software Developer) or job #0701391 (Testing/User Support Technician).

**Conditions of Use**

The sequence and annotation data displayed in the Genome Browser are freely available for any use with the following conditions:

- Genome sequence data use restrictions are noted within the species sections on the Credits page.

Rat BLAT Search

Home Genomes Tables Gene Sorter PCR Session FAQ Help

### Rat BLAT Search

#### BLAT Search Genome

Genome:  Assembly:  Query type:  Sort output:  Output type:

```
>CB312815 NICHDRc Pfl1 Rattus norvegicus cDNA clone IMAGE:6890065
GGGGCTCCGCTGGGCTGTGTCAGAAAGCTTTCACCTCTCCCTTGTGAATTCCTAAACTCTC
TACCTTCGGTTCATGTTCCGCTCTCTGGATAGCTGTGTGCAATGAGCCCTAAAGGAATATTCGAATGA
GCTAAGAGCTTGGAGCTTCCCTAGGAAAGGCTTCCACTGGGACACGAAAGGAATTCATTCGCTCT
SCTCCTAAGTCACAGGTTATCCAGAGCCCACTTACCCCAAGAGACAGCCCTCCCCATCCCTAGGAAA
CAGTAGAGCTTAGGAAAATGAATGACTCCACCACATCAAGAGGCTTCAAAATGTATACTTGGCATTCT
GATTCAGTTCGAAATCTTCCTTAGTGTGGGAAATAGAAATGGAGTACACCTTGTGATTTA
AAAAACCATGAAATTAAGGAAATGAAATCATGCCACATAAAACATGATGAAAGTCTTCATGTTTT
GATCATGGCGGGGATATAGCTCAGTCATGGAGTCCCTGCATAGCAATGTGCAATCCGAGGTTCAAGC
CCACGACCGAAAGAGAAACGGGAGGATGGAGGCAATCCACGACGCTTTTCAATAGGCGCAAG
GGGAGAGCTTTAAACCTTCTCAGGGAATGGATAAGCGGAGTCCCTTCTCTATCTCCGGGATGCT
AGTCATCACGTAAGAAAAGTTGGAAAATGATAAAATACCAATGGGATGGATCCCTTAAACCATCC
```

Paste in a query sequence to find its location in the genome. Multiple sequences may be searched if separated by lines starting with '>' followed by the sequence name.

**File Upload:** Rather than pasting a sequence, you can choose to upload a text file containing the sequence.  
 Upload sequence:

Only DNA sequences of 25,000 or fewer bases and protein or translated sequence of 10000 or fewer letters will be processed. Up to 25 sequences can be submitted at the same time. The total limit for multiple sequence submissions is 50,000 bases or 25,000 letters.

For locating PCR primers, use In-Silico PCR for best results instead of BLAT.

#### About BLAT

BLAT on DNA is designed to quickly find sequences of 95% and greater similarity of length 25 bases or more. It may miss more divergent or shorter sequence alignments. It will find perfect sequence matches of 33 bases, and sometimes find them down to 20 bases. BLAT on proteins finds sequences of 80% and greater similarity of length 20 amino acids or more. In practice DNA BLAT works well on primates, and protein blat on land vertebrates.

BLAT is not BLAST. DNA BLAT works by keeping an index of the entire genome in memory. The index consists of all non-overlapping 11-mers except for those heavily involved in repeats. The index takes up a bit less than a gigabyte of RAM. The genome itself is not kept in memory, allowing BLAT to deliver high performance on a reasonably priced Linux box. The index is used to find areas of probable homology, which are then loaded into memory for a detailed alignment. Protein BLAT works in a similar manner, except with 4-mers rather than 11-mers. The protein index takes a little more than 2 gigabytes.

Rat BLAT Results

Home Genomes Tables Gene Sorter PCR Session FAQ Help

### Rat BLAT Results

#### BLAT Search Results

ACTIONS	QUERY	SCORE	START	END	QSIZE	IDENTITY	CHRO	STRAND	START	END	SPAN
browser details	CB312815	710	1	733	768	98.18	5	+	101455599	101456323	725
browser details	CB312815	29	501	537	768	89.28	2	+	38736251	38736287	37
browser details	CB312815	25	501	529	768	93.28	3	+	22960346	22960374	29
browser details	CB312815	22	341	363	768	100.08	1	+	122930956	122930979	24
browser details	CB312815	21	202	222	768	100.08	17	-	33248146	33248166	21
browser details	CB312815	21	706	727	768	100.08	3	+	46857920	46857942	23
browser details	CB312815	21	552	574	768	95.78	1	+	157973111	157973133	23
browser details	CB312815	20	277	298	768	95.58	2	-	240446870	240446891	22
browser details	CB312815	20	442	461	768	100.08	1	-	216323127	216323146	20
browser details	CB312815	20	508	527	768	100.08	1	-	56102029	56102048	20
browser details	CB312815	20	453	474	768	95.58	2	+	186587336	186587357	22

ACTIONS	QUERY	SCORE	START	END	QSIZE	IDENTITY	CHRO	STRAND	START	END	SPAN
browser details	CB312815	710	1	733	768	98.14	5	+	101455599	101456323	725
browser details	CB312815	29	501	537	768	89.24	2	+	38736251	38736287	37
browser details	CB312815	25	501	529	768	93.24	3	+	22960346	22960374	29
browser details	CB312815	22	341	363	768	100.0%	1	+	122930956	122930979	24
browser details	CB312815	21	202	222	768	100.0%	17	-	33248146	33248166	21
browser details	CB312815	21	706	727	768	100.0%	3	+	46857920	46857942	23
browser details	CB312815	21	552	574	768	95.74	1	+	157973111	157973133	23
browser details	CB312815	20	277	298	768	95.54	2	-	240446870	240446891	22
browser details	CB312815	20	442	461	768	100.0%	1	-	216323127	216323146	20
browser details	CB312815	20	508	527	768	100.0%	1	-	56102029	56102048	20
browser details	CB312815	20	453	474	768	95.54	2	+	186587336	186587357	22



## FASTA

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- Identifies regions of local alignment
- Employs an approximation of the Smith-Waterman algorithm to determine the best alignment between two sequences
- Method is significantly different from that used by BLAST
- Online implementations at  
*<http://fasta.bioch.virginia.edu>*  
*<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/fasta33>*

