

How were contigs assembled?

Sequence alignment

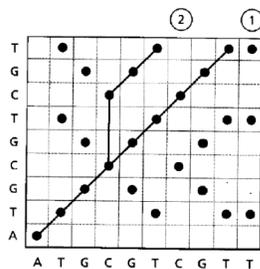
BLAST scores

Demo of NCBI and UCSC

How do we score these alignments?

Which alignment do we choose?

How do we score gaps?



```
ATGCGTCGTT
|||||
ATGCGTCGT
```

```
ATG - - CGTCGTT
|||   |||
ATGCGTCGT
```

Basic sequence alignment and database searching:
BLAST nucleotide searches

Sophisticated programming

- Dynamic programming
- Look up tables
 - Database broken up into short segments which are screened first for exact matches (word size). If a “hit” occurs, then try to extend.
- Needle-Wunsch alignments
 - Optimal alignment

Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST)

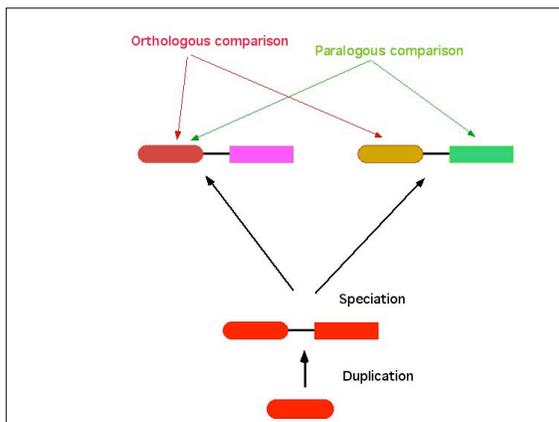
- Compares a QUERY (your sequence) to a database (i.e. GenBank).
- Different programs depending on sequence
 - BLASTN (DNA vs DNA)
 - BLASTP (AA vs AA)
 - BLASTX (Translated DNA vs AA)
 - TBLAST: Translated database searches

Main questions for today

- I have a DNA/protein sequence, is it similar to anything else in the database?
- My sequence is similar to something in the database, is it significant?

What does statistically significant similarity mean?

- Common ancestry
 - Homologous (all or none)
 - Orthologous: separated by speciation event: same locus
 - Paralogous: Separated by gene duplication: different locus
- May provide clues to similar function



Three scores from BLAST

- Raw score
 - No information unless know scoring matrix
- Bit Score
 - Takes into account scoring matrix
- E-value
 - Easy to interpret statistic, takes into account database search size.

Raw score

- Sum up score for matches
- Subtract penalties for miss-match
- Subtract penalties for gaps (open and extend)

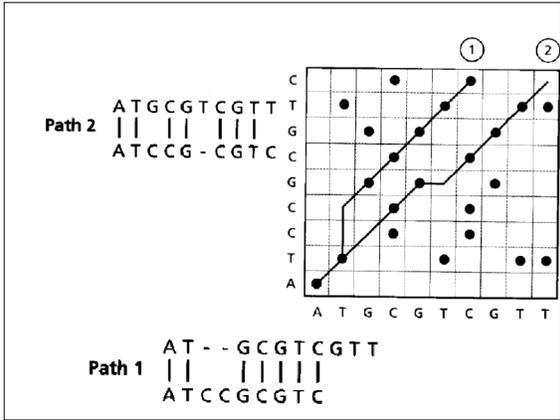
C	C	A	A	G	A	C
C	C	A	T	G	A	C
1	1	1	-2	1	1	1

Raw Score = 1+1+1-2+1+1+1 = 4

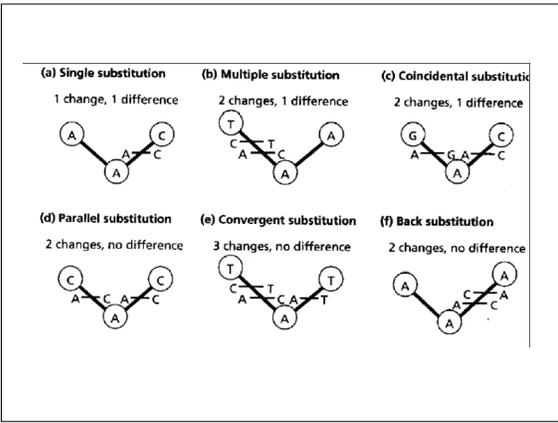
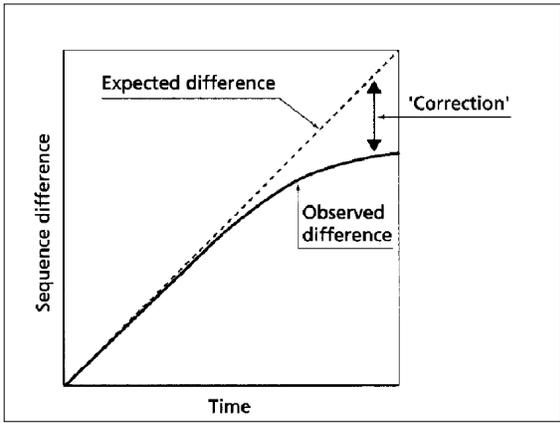
Bit score: take into account the scoring system

- Normalize raw scores
- Two values describe scoring system
 - K and λ (λ (both values determined by program))

$$S' = \frac{\lambda S - \ln K}{\ln 2}$$



One thing we did not consider was multiple substitutions



More sensitive searches

- Profiles
 - Position Specific Scoring Matrix (PSSM)
- PSI-Blast
 - automated PSSM
- Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)

PAM250 substitution matrix
Matrices can be optimized for different distances
Newer matrices are BLOSSUM

	C	S	T	P	A	G	N	D	E	Q	H	R	K	M	I	L	V	F	Y	W
C	12	0	2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
S	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
T	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P	-1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
A	-1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
G	-1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
N	-1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
D	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
E	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Q	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
H	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
R	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
K	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
M	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
I	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
L	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
V	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
F	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
Y	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
W	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3

Compute each sequence comparison to Profile

```
Pos. : 1 2 3 4 5 6
Seq 1:Lys Ser Thr Val Ser Lys
Seq 2:Asp Val Val Val Ser Arg
```

```
Profile vs. Sequence 1:24 0
Profile vs. Sequence 2:17 17
```

```
Pos. : 1 2 3 4 5 6
Seq 1:Lys Ser Thr Val Ser Lys
Seq 2:Asp Val Val Val Ser Arg
```

```
PAM 250 (Seq. 1 vs 2) : 0 -1 0 4 2 3 = 8
Profile vs. Sequence 1:24 0 8 34 16 24 = 106
Profile vs. Sequence 2:17 17 18 34 16 26 = 128
```

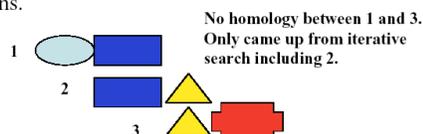
Look at alignment and see why scores are different for the 3 valines

Psi-Blast

- Use BlastP to search protein database.
- Blast makes alignments with all hits with an E-value lower than given value (default e^{-3}).
- Calculates position specific scoring matrix and compares to the database.
- Single gap penalty (different from profiles)
- New "hits" are used to recalculate PSSM and redo the search.
- Searches continue to be done iteratively until no new hits are found.

Problems with iterative searching with Psi-Blast

- You do not make the multiple alignment. There could be errors in the alignment.
- Can pick up significant hits due to shared domains.



Summary

- Blastp may miss some significant matches.
- Using evolutionary information in the form of a multiple alignment increases sensitivity of database searching.

1. What kind of search does BlastX perform? Why would you use BlastX?
1. Describe a scoring matrix (i.e. PAM250).
2. A blast score has an E-value of e^{-3} , is this statistically significant? Is it biologically significant?
3. I want to search for EST sequences, should I search the DNA nr database?
4. BlastP replaced part of my sequence with X's, why did it do that?
5. Name of few databases you would search using BlastN.
6. Describe the type of search that is performed by BlastN, BlastP, and BlastX?
7. What does an E-value from blast mean?
8. Define homologous, orthologous, and paralogous.
9. You have a protein coding sequence and want to compare it to the database. Should you search the protein or DNA sequence? Why?
10. You are told a sequence alignment has a raw score of 1000. Is this a significant match?
11. What does the filter do in a Blast search?
12. The bit score includes the parameters k and lamda (λ). Why are these parameters in the equation to calculate bit scores?
13. The E-value score includes parameters m and n. Why are these parameters in the equation to calculate E-values?
14. What is a position specific scoring matrix?
15. How does Psi-Blast differ from BLASTP?