

# Searching Sequence databases 1: Blast

The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST homepage. At the top left is the NCBI logo. To its right are navigation links for PubMed, Entrez, BLAST, OMIM, Taxonomy, and Structure. A yellow banner below the navigation links contains a news item: "10 February 2004 BLAST 2.2.8 has been released. Read more...". The main content area is divided into six categories: Nucleotide, Protein, Translated, Genomes, Special, and Meta. Each category contains a list of search options. A left sidebar provides additional navigation links under sections like Info, Education, Download, and Support. At the bottom, there are links for Disclaimer, Privacy statement, Accessibility, and Valid XHTML 1.0, CSS.

**NCBI** **BLAST**

PubMed Entrez **BLAST** OMIM Taxonomy Structure

**10 February 2004** BLAST 2.2.8 has been released. Read more...

**Nucleotide**

- Discontiguous megablast
- Megablast
- Nucleotide-nucleotide BLAST (blastn)
- Search for short, nearly exact matches
- Search trace archives with megablast or discontiguous megablast

**Protein**

- Protein-protein BLAST (blastp)
- PHI- and PSI-BLAST
- Search for short, nearly exact matches
- Search the conserved domain database (rpsblast)
- Search by domain architecture (cdart)

**Translated**

- Translated query vs. protein database (blastx)
- Protein query vs. translated database (tblastn)
- Translated query vs. translated database (tblastx)

**Genomes**

- Environmental samples: **ICM**
- Human, mouse, rat
- Fugu rubripes, zebrafish
- Insects, nematodes, plants, fungi, malaria
- Microbial genomes, other eukaryotic genomes

**Special**

- Align two sequences (bl2seq)
- Screen for vector contamination (VecScreen)
- Immunoglobulin BLAST (IgBlast)

**Meta**

- Retrieve results by RID
- Get this page with javascript-free links

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# Quiz

- Expectation:
  - Discrete variable  $X$  takes values 1,2,3
    - $\Pr[X=1]=0.2$
    - $\Pr[X=2]=0.6$
    - $\Pr[X=3]=0.2$
    - $E(X)$ ?
  - $X$  is one of  $n$  values  $X_1 \dots X_n$ , and they are equiprobable.
    - $E(X)$ ?
  - How is a scoring matrix used?

# Blosum62 (PAM)

ARSTW  
AASTD

Score=8

blosum62

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y
A	4	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	0	-3	-2
R	-1	5	0	-2	-3	1	0	-2	0	-3	-2	2	-1	-3	-2	-1	-1	-3	-2
N	-2	0	6	1	-3	0	0	0	1	-3	-3	0	-2	-3	-2	1	0	-4	-2
D	-2	-2	1	6	-3	0	2	-1	-1	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-1	0	-1	-4	-3
C	0	-3	-3	-3	9	-3	-4	-3	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2
Q	-1	1	0	0	-3	5	2	-2	0	-3	-2	1	0	-3	-1	0	-1	-2	-1
E	-1	0	0	2	-4	2	5	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2
G	0	-2	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	6	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3	-3	-2	0	-2	-2	-3
H	-2	0	1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	8	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	2
I	-1	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	4	2	-3	1	0	-3	-2	-1	-3	-1
L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-2	2	0	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1
K	-1	2	0	-1	-3	1	1	-2	-1	-3	-2	5	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2
M	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	0	-2	-3	-2	1	2	-1	5	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1
F	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	0	0	-3	0	6	-4	-2	-2	1	3
P	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-4	7	-1	-1	-4	-3
S	1	-1	1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-2	-1	4	1	-3	-2
T	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	5	-2	-2
W	-3	-3	-4	-4	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3	-2	-3	-1	1	-4	-3	-2	11	2
Y	-2	-2	-2	-3	-2	-1	-2	-3	2	-1	-1	-2	-1	3	-3	-2	-2	2	7
V	0	-3	-3	-3	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	3	1	-2	1	-1	-2	-2	0	-3	-1

# Matrix Multiplication

- Consider 3  $n \times n$  matrices  $A_1, A_2, A_3$
- Let  $A_3 = A_1 A_2$

$$A_3[i, j] = \sum_{k=1}^n A_1[i, k] A_2[k, j]$$

# PAM again

- Two sequences are 1 PAM apart if they differ in 1% of residues
- Two sequences  $s$  and  $t$  are  $k$  PAMs apart if
  - There exists sequence  $s'$  such that
    - $s$  and  $s'$  are 1 PAM apart
    - $s'$  and  $t$  are  $k-1$  PAMs apart

$$PAM_2['A', 'L'] = \prod_{X='A'}^{'Y'} PAM_1['A', X] PAM_1[X, 'L']$$

$$PAM_3['A', 'L'] = \prod_{X='A'}^{'Y'} PAM_1['A', X] PAM_2[X, 'L']$$

$$PAM_{250}['A', 'L'] = \prod_{X='A'}^{'Y'} PAM_1['A', X] PAM_{249}[X, 'L']$$

$$PAM_2 = PAM_1^2$$

$$PAM_3 = PAM_1 \square PAM_2 = PAM_1^3$$

$$PAM_{250} = PAM_1 \square PAM_{249} = PAM_1^{250}$$

# P-value computation

- How significant is a score? What happens to significance when you change the score function
- A simple empirical method:
  - Compute a distribution of scores against a random database.
  - Use an estimate of the area under the curve to get the probability.
  - OR, fit the distribution to one of the standard distributions.

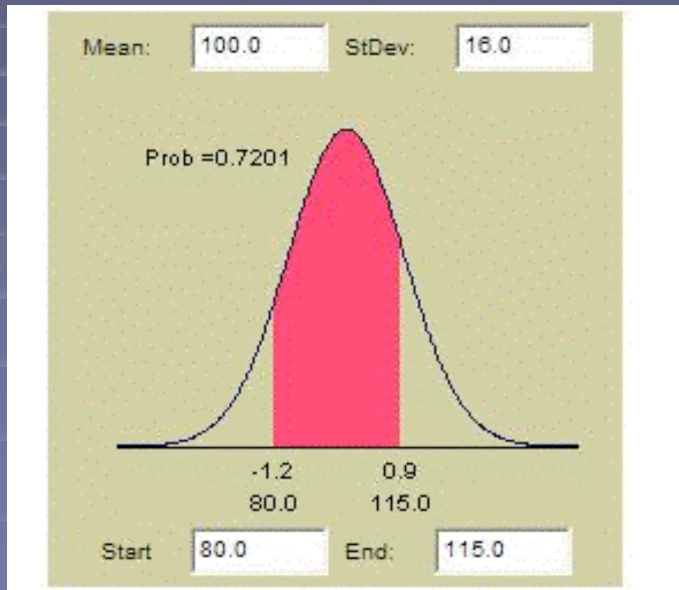
# Z-scores for alignment

- Initial assumption was that the scores followed a normal distribution.
- Z-score computation:
  - For any alignment, score  $S$ , shuffle one of the sequences many times, and recompute alignment. Get mean and standard deviation

$$Z_S = \frac{S - \mu}{\sigma}$$

- Look up a table to get a P-value

# Normal Distribution



$$P(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



# Blast E-value

- 1990, Karlin and Altschul showed that ungapped local alignment scores follow an exponential distribution
- Practical consequence:
  - Longer tail.
  - Previously significant hits now not so significant

# Exponential distribution

- Random Database,  $\Pr(1) = p$
- What is the expected number of hits to a sequence of  $k$  1's

$$(n - k)p^k \approx ne^{k \ln p} = ne^{k \ln \frac{1}{p}}$$

- Instead, consider a random binary Matrix. Expected # of diagonals of  $k$  1s

$$\approx (n - k)(m - k)p^k \approx nme^{k \ln \frac{1}{p}}$$

- As you increase  $k$ , the number decreases exponentially.
- The number of diagonals of  $k$  runs can be approximated by a Poisson process

$$\Pr[u \text{ hits}] = \frac{\lambda^u e^{-\lambda}}{u!}$$

$$\Pr[u > 0] = 1 - e^{-\lambda}$$

- In ungapped alignments, we replace the coin tosses by column scores, but the behaviour does not change (Karlin & Altschul).
- As the score increases, the number of alignments that achieve the score decreases exponentially

# Blast E-value

- Choose a score such that the expected score between a pair of residues  $< 0$
- Expected number of alignments with a particular score

$$E = Kmne^{-\lambda S} = mn2^{\frac{\lambda S - \ln K}{\ln 2}}$$

$$\Pr(\# \text{ hsp} > 0) = 1 - e^{-Kmne^{-\lambda S}}$$

- For small values, E-value and P-value are the same

# Keyword Search