

Sequence Alignment

GBIO0002

Archana Bhardwaj

University of Liege

What is Sequence Alignment ?

A sequence alignment is a way of arranging the sequences of DNA , RNA, or protein to identify regions of similarity.

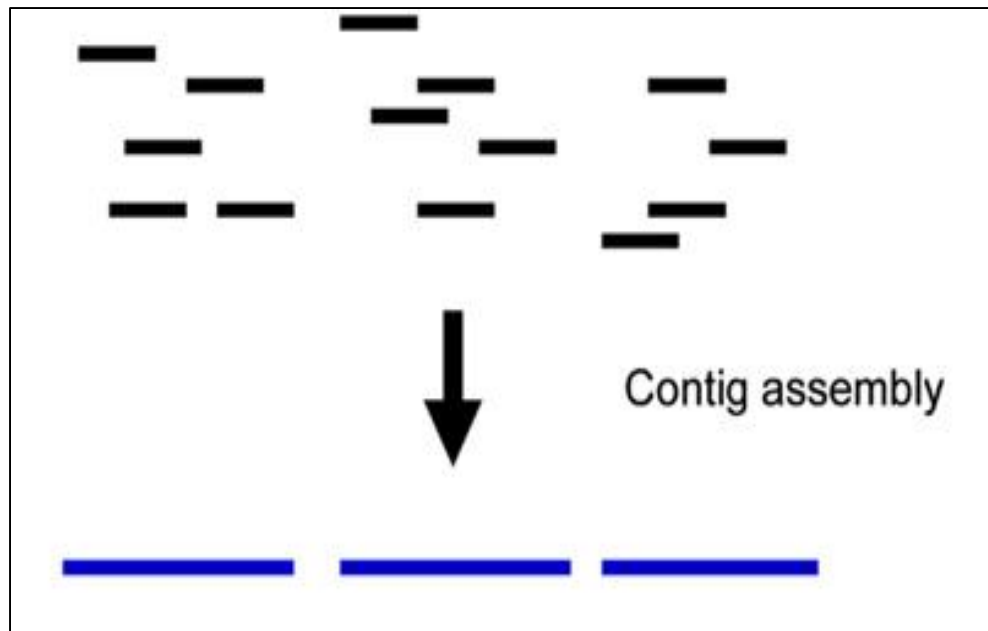


Comparable ?



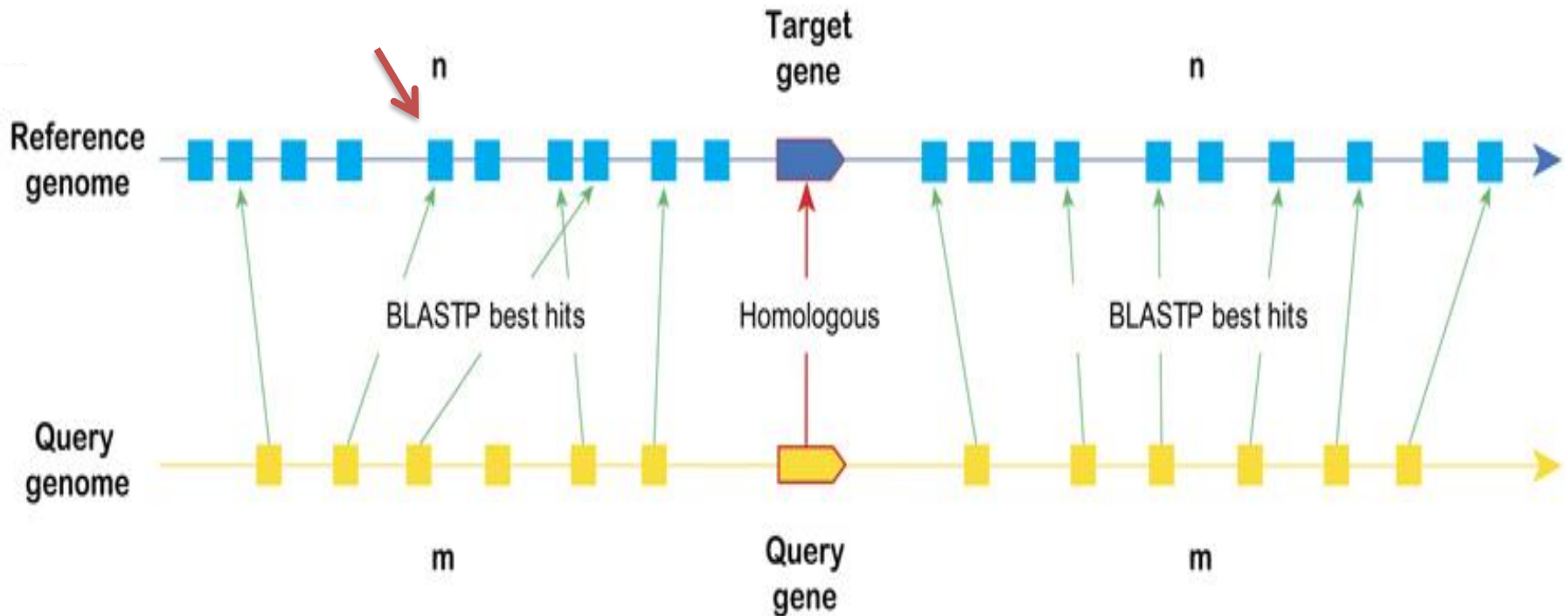
Sequence Alignment :Uses (1)

- **Sequence Assembly** : Genome sequence are assembled by using the sequence alignment methods to find the overlap between many short pieces of DNA .



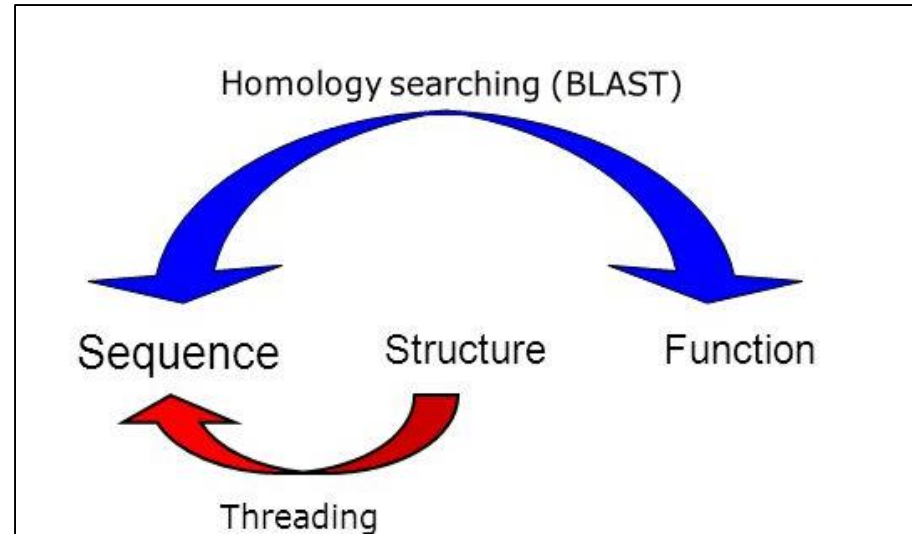
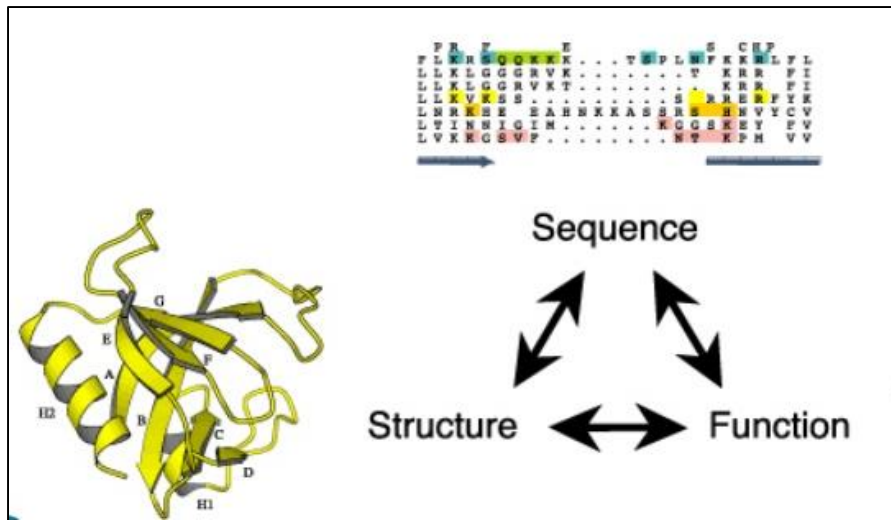
Sequence Alignment :Uses (2)

- **Gene Finding** : Sequence similarity could help us to find the gene prediction just by doing comparison against the other set of sequences.



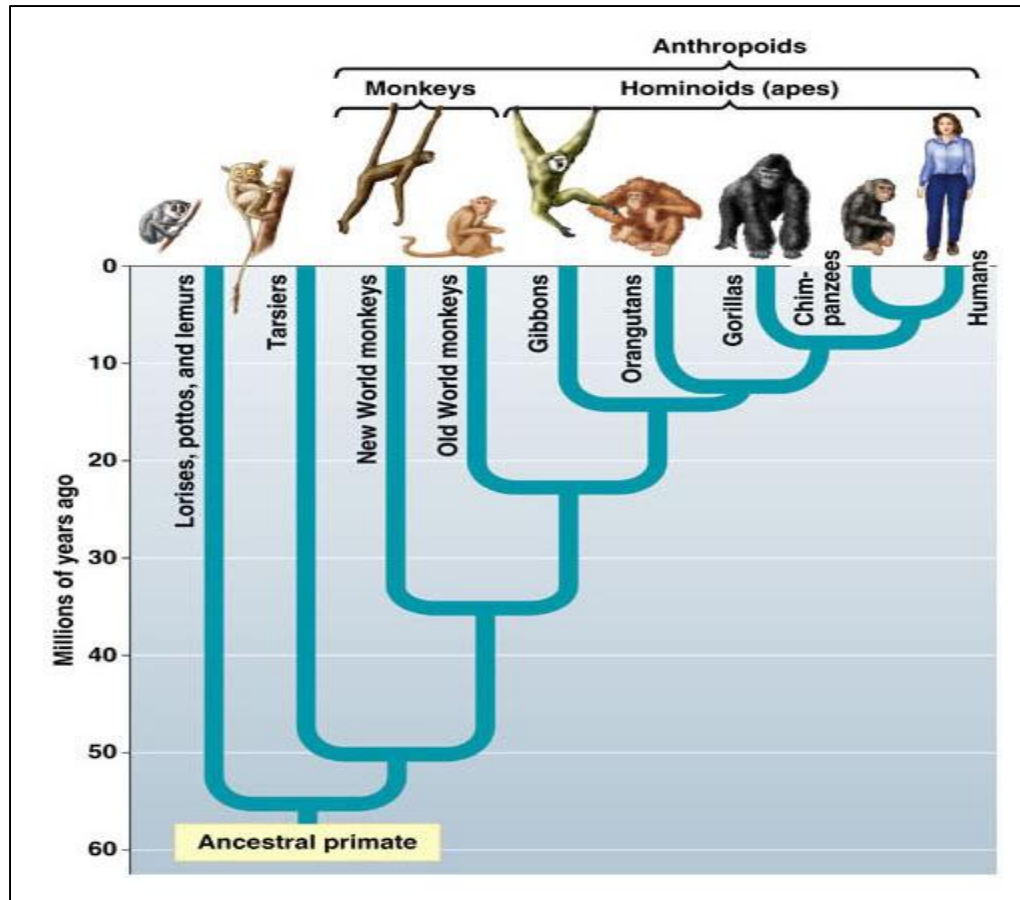
Sequence Alignment :Uses (3)

- **Function prediction** : Function of any unknown sequence could be predicted by comparing with other known sequence .



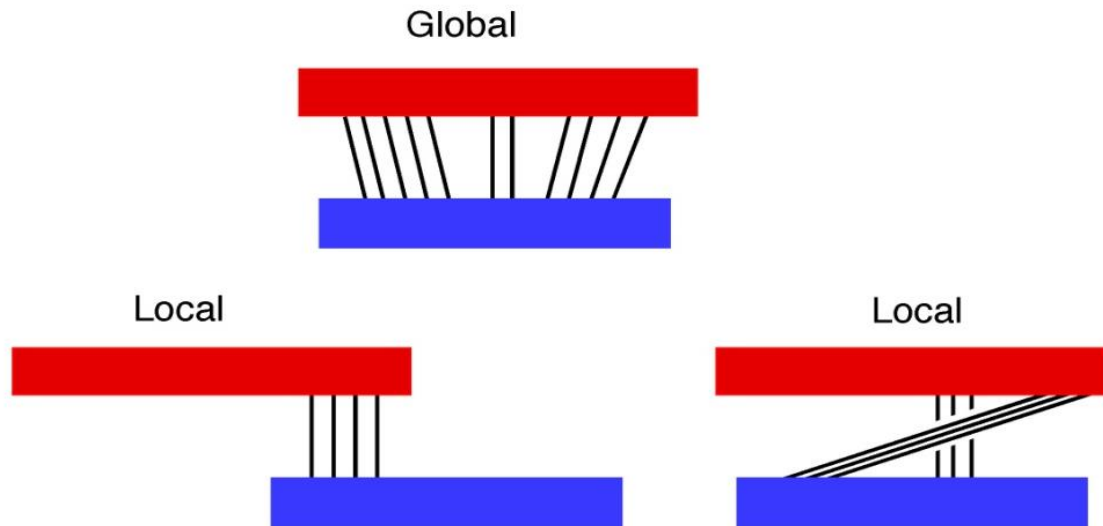
Sequence Alignment :Uses (4)

- **Sequence Divergence** : Amount of sequence similarity (10%, 20%,30% ...sometimes 90 %) between sequences tell us how closely they are related



Types of Alignments

- **Global** : This attempt to align every residue in every sequence.
- **Local**: It is more useful for dissimilar sequences that are suspected to contain regions of similarity or similar sequence motifs within their larger sequence context.



Local Alignment

Target Sequence

5' ACTACTAGATTACTTACGGATCAGGTACTTTAGAGGCTTGCAACCA 3'

||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||

Query Sequence

5' TACTCACGGATGAGGTACTTTAGAGGC 3'

Global Alignment

Target Sequence

5' ACTACTAGATTACTTACGGATCAGGTACTTTAGAGGCTTGCAACCA 3'

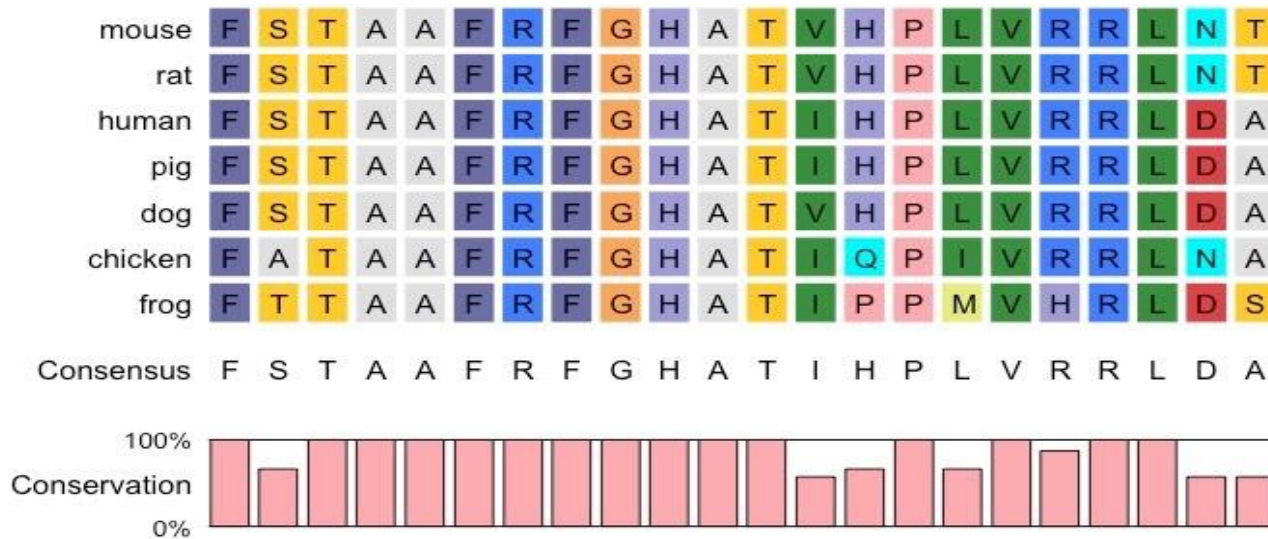
||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||

5' ACTACTAGATT-----ACGGATC--GTACTTTAGAGGCTAGCAACCA 3'

Query Sequence

Types of Alignments: Based on number of sequences

- **Pair wise Sequence Alignment** : This alignments can only be used between two sequences at a time.
- **Multiple Sequence Alignment** : This alignments can only be used between more than two sequences at a time.




Tools for Sequence Alignments

There are many tools for sequence Alignment. In this session, we will discuss about

- **BLAST**
- **BLAT**
- **CLUSTALW**


Sequence Alignment : BLAST

- **BLAST** stands for **B**asic **L**ocal **A**lignment **S**earch **T**ool



Journal of Molecular Biology

Volume 215, Issue 3, 5 October 1990, Pages 403-410



Basic local alignment search tool

Stephen F. Altschul¹, Warren Gish¹, Webb Miller², Eugene W. Myers³, David J. Lipman¹

⊞ [Show more](#)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-2836\(05\)80360-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-2836(05)80360-2) [Get rights and content](#)

A new approach to rapid sequence comparison, basic local alignment search tool (BLAST), directly approximates alignments that optimize a measure of local similarity, the maximal segment pair (MSP) score. Recent mathematical results on the stochastic properties of MSP scores allow an analysis of the performance of this method as well as the statistical significance of alignments it generates. The basic algorithm is simple and robust; it can be implemented in a number of ways and applied in a variety of contexts including straight-forward DNA and protein sequence database searches, motif searches, gene

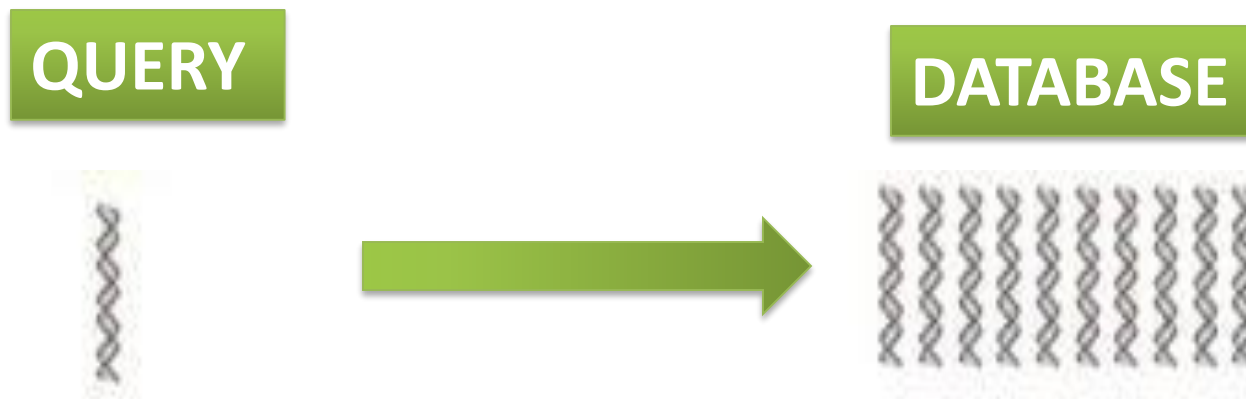
▪ **Blast was developed by Stephan Altschul and colleagues at NCBI in 1990.**



▪ **BLAST is an algorithm for comparing primary biological sequence information, such as the amino-acid sequences of proteins or the nucleotides of DNA sequences.**

▪ **Blast is most used bioinformatics program (cited >60000 times).**

- A BLAST search enables a researcher to compare a query sequence with a library or databases of sequences, and identify library sequences that resemble the query sequence above a certain threshold.



Types of BLAST (1)

▪ **BLASTN** : search nucleotide databases using a nucleotide query

(A) Query : ATGCATCGATC

(B) Database : ATCGATGATCGACATCGATCAGCTACG

▪ **BLASTP** : search protein databases using a protein query

(A) Query : VIVALASVEGAS

(B) DATABASE : TARDEFGGAVIVADAVISASTILHGGQWLC

▪ **BLASTX** : search protein databases using a translated nucleotide query

(A) Query : ATGCATCGATC

(B) DATABASE : TARDEFGGAVIVADAVISASTILHGGQWLC

Types of BLAST (2)

- **TBLASTN** : search translated nucleotide databases using a protein query

(A)Query : TARDEFGGAVI

(B)DATABASE : ATCGATGATCGACATCGATCAGCTACG

- **TBLASTX** : search translated nucleotide databases using a translated nucleotide query

(A)Query : CGATGATCG

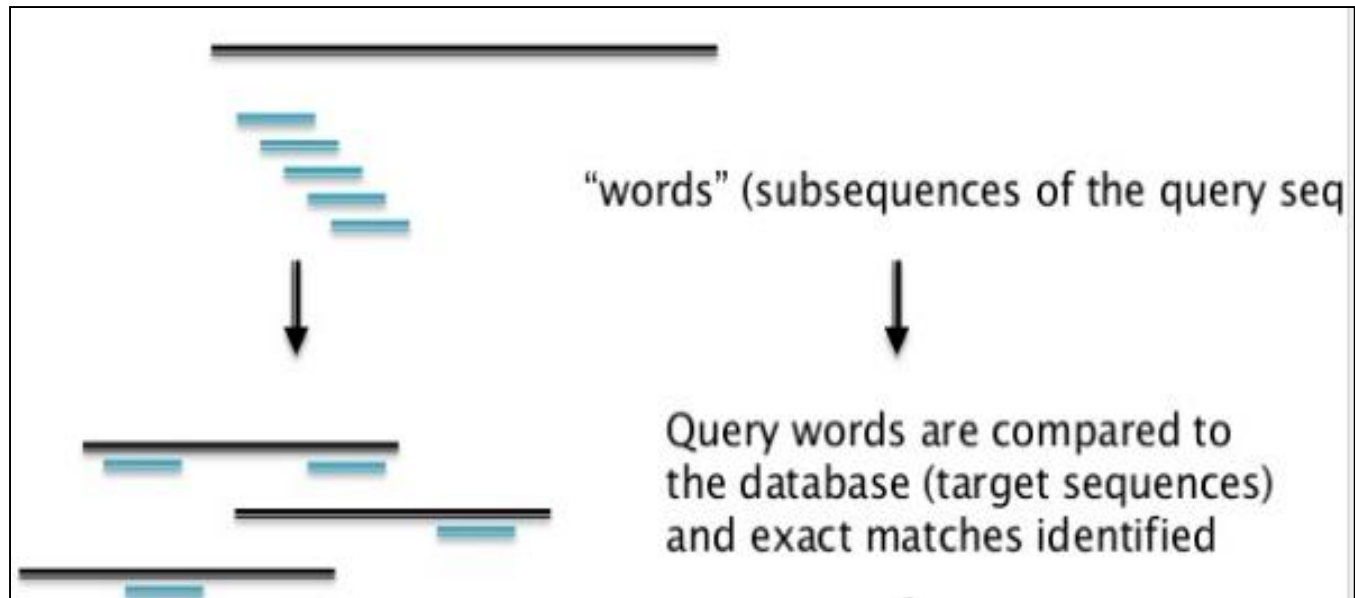
(B)DATABASE : ATCGATGATCGACATCGATCAGCTACG

Types of BLAST : ALL

Program	Database	Query
BLASTN	Nucleotide	Nucleotide
BLASTP	Protein	Protein
BLASTX	Protein	Nt. → Protein
TBLASTN	Nt. → Protein	Protein
TBLASTX	Nt. → Protein	Nt. → Protein

How does BLAST Works?

- Construct a dictionary of all words in the query
- Initiate a local alignment for each word match between query and DB



BLAST: Global Alignment

- **It compares the whole sequence with another sequence.**
- **So, output of Global is one to one comparison of two sequences.**
- **This method is useful if you have small group of sequences.**

BLAST: Local Alignment

- Local method uses the subset of sequence and attempts to align against the subset of another sequence.
- So, output of local alignment gives the subset of regions which are highly similar.
- Example : Compare two sequence A and B

(A) GCATTACTAATATATTAGTAAATCAGAGTAGTA

|||||

(B) AAGCGAATAATATATTATACTCAGATTATTGCGCG

BLAST: Input Format

Many program for sequence alignment expect sequences to be in FASTA format

Example 1 :

```
>L37107.1 Canis familiaris p53 mRNA, partial cds
GTTCCGTTTGGGGTTCCTGCATTCCGGGACAGCCAAGTCTGTTACTTGGACGTACTCCCCTCTCCTCAAC
AAGTTGTTTTTGCCAGCTGGCGAAGACCTGCCCCGTGCAGCTGTGGGTCAGCTCCCCACCCCCACCCAATA
CCTGCGTCCGCGCTATGGCCATCTATAAGAAGTCGGAGTTCGTGACCGAGGTTGTGCGGGCGCTGCCCCA
CCATGAACGCTGCTCTGACAGTAGTGACGGTCTTGCCCCCTCCTCAGCATCTCATCCGAGTGGAAAGGAAAT
TTGCGGGCCAAGTACCTGGACGACAGAAACACTTTTCGACACAGTGTGGTGGTGCCTTATGAGCCACCCG
AGGTTGGCTCTGACTATAACCACCATCCACTACAACACTACATGTGTAACAGTTCCTGCATGGGAGGCATGAA
CCGGCGGCCCATCCTCACTATCATCACCTGGAAGACTCCAGTGGAAACGTGCTGGGACGCAACAGCTTT
GAGGTACGCGTTTGTGCCTGTCCCGGGAGAGACCGCCGGACTGAGGAGGAGAATTTCCACAAGAAGGGGG
AGCCTTGTCCTGAGCCACCCCCCGGGAGTACCAAGCGAGCACTGCCTCCCAGCACCAGCTCCTCTCCCC
GAAAAGAAGAAGCCACTAGATGGAGAATATTTACCCCTTCAGATCCGTGGGCGTGAACGCTATGAGATG
TTCAGGAATCTGAATGAAGCCTTGGAGCTGAAGGATGCCAGAGTGGAAAGGAGCCAGGGGGAAGCAGGG
CTCACTCCAGCCACCTGAAGGCAAAGAAGGGGCAATCTACCTCTCGCCATAAAAAACTGATGTTCAAGAGAGAA
```

Example 2 :

```
>NM_033360.3 Homo sapiens KRAS proto-oncogene, GTPase (KRAS), transcript
variant a, mRNA
TCCTAGGCGGCGGCCGCGGCGGCGGAGGCAGCAGCGGCGGCGGCAGTGGCGGCGGCGAAGGTGGCGGCGG
CTCGGCCAGTACTCCCGGCCCGCCATTTCCGACTGGGAGCGAGCGGCGCAGGCACTGAAGGCGGCGG
GCGGGGCCAGAGGCTCAGCGGCTCCCAGGTGCGGGAGAGAGGCCTGCTGAAAATGACTGAATATAAACTT
GTGGTAGTTGGAGCTGGTGGCGTAGGCAAGAGTGCCTTGACGATACAGCTAATTCAGAATCATTTTGTGG
ACGAATATGATCCAACAATAGAGGATTCCTACAGGAAGCAAGTAGTAATTGATGGAGAAACCTGTCTCTT
GGATATTCTCGACACAGCAGGTCAAGAGGAGTACAGTGAATGAGGGACCAGTACATGAGGACTGGGGAG
GGCTTTCTTTGTGTATTTGCCATAAATAATACTAAATCATTTGAAGATATTCACCATTATAGAGAACAAA
TTAAAAGAGTTAAGGACTCTGAAGATGTACCTATGGTTCCTAGTAGGAAATAAATGTGATTTGCCTTCTAG
```

NCBI BLAST SERVER

Open the website : <https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>

The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NIH logo, "U.S. National Library of Medicine", "NCBI National Center for Biotechnology Information", and a "Sign in to NCBI" link. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with "BLAST®" and links for "Home", "Recent Results", "Saved Strategies", and "Help".

The main content area features a "Basic Local Alignment Search Tool" section. It includes a description: "BLAST finds regions of similarity between biological sequences. The program compares nucleotide or protein sequences to sequence databases and calculates the statistical significance." and a "Learn more" link.

To the right of this section is a "NEWS" box with the headline "Magic-BLAST 1.3.0 released" and the subtext "A new version of the BLAST RNA-seq mapping tool is now available." The date is "Thu, 28 Sep 2017 16:00:00 EST" and there is a "More BLAST news..." link.

Below the main content is a "Web BLAST" section with three large buttons:

- Nucleotide BLAST**: nucleotide ▶ nucleotide
- blastx**: translated nucleotide ▶ protein
- tblastn**: protein ▶ translated nucleotide
- Protein BLAST**: protein ▶ protein

Window of BLASTN



Standard Nucleotide BLAST

blastn blastp blastx tblastn tblastx

Enter Query Sequence

BLASTN programs search nucleotide databases using a nucleotide query. [more...](#)

[Reset page](#) [Bookmark](#)

Enter accession number(s), gi(s), or FASTA sequence(s)

[Clear](#)

Query subrange

From

To

Or, upload file

Choose file No file chosen

Job Title

Enter a descriptive title for your BLAST search

Align two or more sequences

Choose Search Set

Database

Human genomic + transcript Mouse genomic + transcript Others (nr etc.)

Nucleotide collection (nr/nt)

Organism
Optional

Enter organism name or id—completions will be suggested Exclude +

Enter organism common name, binomial, or tax id. Only 20 top taxa will be shown

Exclude
Optional

Models (XM/XP) Uncultured/environmental sample sequences

Limit to
Optional

Sequences from type material

Entrez Query
Optional

Enter an Entrez query to limit search

[YouTube](#) [Create custom database](#)

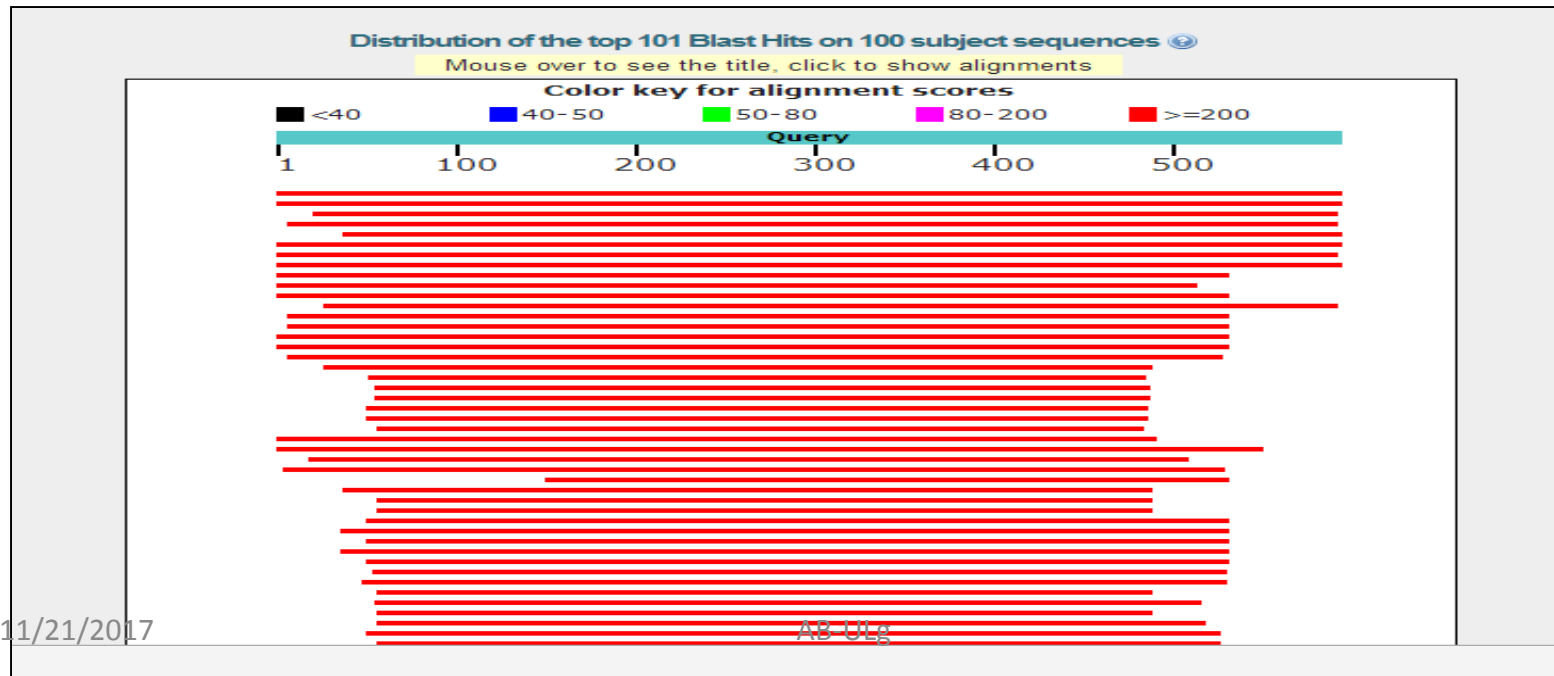
Let us work on BLASTN

- Select following sequence and give input into NCBI BLASTN query section

>Seq1

```
ACCAAGGCCAGTCCTGAGCAGGCCCAACTCCAGTGCAGCTGCCACCCCTGCCGCCATGTCTCTGACCAAG
ACTGAGAGGACCATCATTGTGTCCATGTGGGCCAAGATCTCCACGCAGGCCGACACCATCGGCACCGAGA
CTCTGGAGAGGCTCTTCCTCAGCCACCCGCAGACCAAGACCTACTTCCCCTACTTCGACCTGCACCCGGG
GTCCGCGCAGTTGCGCGGCACGGCTCCAAGTGGTGGCCGCCGTGGGCGACGCGGTGAAGAGCATCGAC
GACATCGGCGGCGCCCTGTCCAAGCTGAGCGAGCTGCACGCCCTACATCCTGCGCGTGGACCCGGTCAACT
TCAAGCTCCTGTCCACTGCCTGTGGTCACCCTGGCCGCGCGCTTCCCCTGCGACTTCACGGCCGAGGC
CCACGCCCTGGGACAAGTTTCCTATCGGTTCGTATCCTCTGTCTGACCGAGAAGTACCGCTGAGCGCCG
CCTCCGGGACCCCCAGGACAGGCTGCGGCCCTCCCCGTCTTGAGGTTCCCCAGCCCCACTTACCGCG TAATGCGCCAATAAACCAATGAACGAAGC
```

- You will get list of Hits



■ You will see statistic of alignments (Identity, E value)

Descriptions

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: [All](#) [None](#) Selected:0

[Alignments](#) [Download](#) [GenBank](#) [Graphics](#) [Distance tree of results](#)

	Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Homo sapiens hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), transcript variant X2, mRNA	1088	1088	100%	0.0	100%	XM_005255288.3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Homo sapiens hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), mRNA	1088	1088	100%	0.0	100%	NM_005332.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Homo sapiens hemoglobin, zeta, mRNA (cDNA clone MGC:34397 IMAGE:5224569), complete cds	1048	1048	96%	0.0	100%	BC027892.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Pan paniscus hemoglobin, zeta (HBZ), mRNA	1035	1035	98%	0.0	99%	XM_003809392.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Homo sapiens hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), transcript variant X1, mRNA	1020	1020	93%	0.0	100%	XM_005255287.3
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Papio anubis hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), mRNA	968	968	100%	0.0	96%	XM_021931587.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Macaca nemestrina hemoglobin, zeta (HBZ), transcript variant X1, mRNA	968	968	99%	0.0	97%	XM_011748565.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Cercocebus atys hemoglobin subunit zeta (LOC105574663), mRNA	966	966	100%	0.0	96%	XM_012035766.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Pan troglodytes hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), mRNA	941	941	89%	0.0	99%	XM_016928972.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Gorilla gorilla gorilla hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), mRNA	918	918	86%	0.0	99%	XM_004056859.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Macaca nemestrina hemoglobin, zeta (HBZ), transcript variant X2, mRNA	896	896	89%	0.0	97%	XM_011748566.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Rhinopithecus roxellana hemoglobin subunit zeta (LOC104676970), mRNA	893	893	95%	0.0	96%	XM_010381860.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Macaca fascicularis hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), mRNA	891	891	88%	0.0	98%	XM_005590729.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Macaca mulatta hemoglobin subunit zeta (LOC100428886), mRNA	880	880	88%	0.0	97%	XM_015125184.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREDICTED: Cebus capucinus imitator hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), mRNA	863	863	89%	0.0	96%	XM_017510871.1

Click here (with red arrow pointing to the first description)

How well alignment is ? : Bad, Good, Very Good?

PREDICTED: Homo sapiens hemoglobin subunit zeta (HBZ), transcript variant X2, mRNA
 Sequence ID: [XM_005255288.3](#) Length: 1342 Number of Matches: 1

Range 1: 748 to 1336 [GenBank](#) [Graphics](#) ▼ Next Match ▲ Previous Match

Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
1088 bits(589)	0.0	589/589(100%)	0/589(0%)	Plus/Plus
Query 1		ACCAAGGCCAGTCCTGAGCAGGCCCAACTCCAGTGCAGCTGCCACCCTGCCGCCATGTC		60
Sbjct 748		ACCAAGGCCAGTCCTGAGCAGGCCCAACTCCAGTGCAGCTGCCACCCTGCCGCCATGTC		807
Query 61		TCTGACCAAGACTGAGAGGACCATCATTGTGTCCATGTGGGCCAAGATCTCCACGCAGGC		120
Sbjct 808		TCTGACCAAGACTGAGAGGACCATCATTGTGTCCATGTGGGCCAAGATCTCCACGCAGGC		867
Query 121		CGACACCATCGGCACCGAGACTCTGGAGAGGCTCTTCTCAGCCACCCGCAGACCAAGAC		180
Sbjct 868		CGACACCATCGGCACCGAGACTCTGGAGAGGCTCTTCTCAGCCACCCGCAGACCAAGAC		927
Query 181		CTACTTCCCGCACTTCGACCTGCACCCGGGGTCCGCGCAGTIGCGCGCACGGCTCCAA		240
Sbjct 928		CTACTTCCCGCACTTCGACCTGCACCCGGGGTCCGCGCAGTIGCGCGCACGGCTCCAA		987
Query 241		GGTGGTGGCCGCCGTGGGCGACGCGGTGAAGAGCATCGACGACATCGGCGGCGCCCTGTC		300
Sbjct 988		GGTGGTGGCCGCCGTGGGCGACGCGGTGAAGAGCATCGACGACATCGGCGGCGCCCTGTC		1047
Query 301		CAAGCTGAGCGAGCTGCACGCCTACATCCTGCGCGTGGACCCGGTCAACTTCAAGCTCCT		360
Sbjct 1048		CAAGCTGAGCGAGCTGCACGCCTACATCCTGCGCGTGGACCCGGTCAACTTCAAGCTCCT		1107
Query 361		GTCCCACTGCCTGCTGGTACCCCTGGCCGCGCGCTTCCCCGCCGACTTCACGGCCGAGGC		420
Sbjct 1108		GTCCCACTGCCTGCTGGTACCCCTGGCCGCGCGCTTCCCCGCCGACTTCACGGCCGAGGC		1167
Query 421		CCACGCCGCCTGGGACAAGTTTCTATCGGTTCGTATCCTCTGTCTGACCGAGAAGTACCG		480
Sbjct 1168		CCACGCCGCCTGGGACAAGTTTCTATCGGTTCGTATCCTCTGTCTGACCGAGAAGTACCG		1227
Query 481		CTGAGCGCCGCCTCCGGGACCCCCAGGACAGGCTGCGGCCCTCCCCGTCCTGGAGGTT		540
Sbjct 1228		CTGAGCGCCGCCTCCGGGACCCCCAGGACAGGCTGCGGCCCTCCCCGTCCTGGAGGTT		1287
Query 541		CCCCAGCCCCACTTACCGCGTAATGCGCCAATAAACCAATGAACGAAGC	589	
Sbjct 1288		CCCCAGCCCCACTTACCGCGTAATGCGCCAATAAACCAATGAACGAAGC	1336	

RESULT INTERPRETATION

- 1. How many sequences crossed the threshold E value ???**
- 2. How many sequences show > 50 % identity with database ??**
- 3. How many sequences show > 90 % identity with database ??**
- 4. Prepare tabular output for BLASTP and BLASTN results.**

QUESTIONS

Blastx : Let us run

1 . Perform the blastx

2. How many sequences shows 90% identity against the database

3. What is their e-value ??

QUESTIONS

- Is it possible to localise its position on human genome ?
- How to analysis its gene structure ?
- **For this, Open the UCSC Browser available at <https://genome.ucsc.edu/>**

[Genomes](#)[Genome Browser](#)[Tools](#)[Mirrors](#)[Downloads](#)[My Data](#)[Help](#)[About Us](#)

Our tools

- **Genome Browser**
interactively visualize genomic data
- **BLAT** ← **Click "BLAT"**
rapidly align sequences to the genome
- **Table Browser**
download data from the Genome Browser database
- **Variant Annotation Integrator**
get functional effect predictions for variant calls
- **Data Integrator**
combine data sources from the Genome Browser database
- **Gene Sorter**
find genes that are similar by expression and other metrics
- **Genome Browser in a Box (GBiB)**
run the Genome Browser on your laptop or server
- **In-Silico PCR**
rapidly align PCR primer pairs to the genome
- **LiftOver**
convert genome coordinates between assemblies
- **VisiGene**
interactively view in situ images of mouse and frog

More tools...

Difference Between BLAST and BLAT

- **BLAT is an alignment tool like BLAST, but it is structured differently.**
- **BLAT works by keeping an index of an entire genome in memory.**
- **Thus, the target database of BLAT is not a set of GenBank sequences, but instead an index derived from the assembly of the entire genome.**

Advantages of BLAT over BLAST

- Its Speed is very high (no queues, response in seconds).
- The ability to submit a long list of simultaneous queries in fasta format.
- A direct link into the UCSC browser.
- Alignment block details in **natural genomic order**.
- An option to launch the alignment later as part of a custom track.

- **Paste following sequence into Query search Box and click Submit**

>Seq1

```
ACCAAGGCCAGTCCTGAGCAGGCCCAACTCCAGTGCAGCTGCCCACCCTGCCGCCATGTCT
CTGACCAAGACTGAGAGGACCATCATTGTGTCCATGTGGGCCAAGATCTCCACGCAGGCCG
ACACCATCGGCACCGAGACTCTGGAGAGGCTCTTCCTCAGCCACCCGCAGACCAAGACCTA
CTTCCCGCACTTCGACCTGCACCCGGGGTCCGCGCAGTTGCGCGCGCACGGCTCCAAGGTG
GTGGCCGCCGTGGGGCGACGCGGTGAAGAGCATCGACGACATCGGCGGGCGCCCTGTCCAAGC
TGAGCGAGCTGCACGCCTACATCCTGCGCGTGGACCCGGTCAACTTCAAGCTCCTGTCCCA
CTGCCTGCTGGTCACCCTGGCCGCGCGCTTCCCCGCCGACTTCACGGCCGAGGCCACGCC
GCCTGGGACAAGTTCCTATCGGTTCGTATCCTCTGTCTGACCGAGAAGTACCGCTGAGCGC
CGCCTCCGGGACCCCCAGGACAGGCTGCGGCCCCCTCCCCCGTCCTGGAGGTTCCCCAGCCC
CACTTACCGCGTAATGCGCCAATAAACCAATGAACGAAGC
```

Which output did you see ??

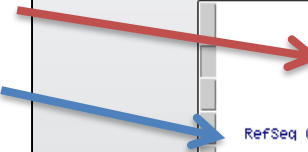
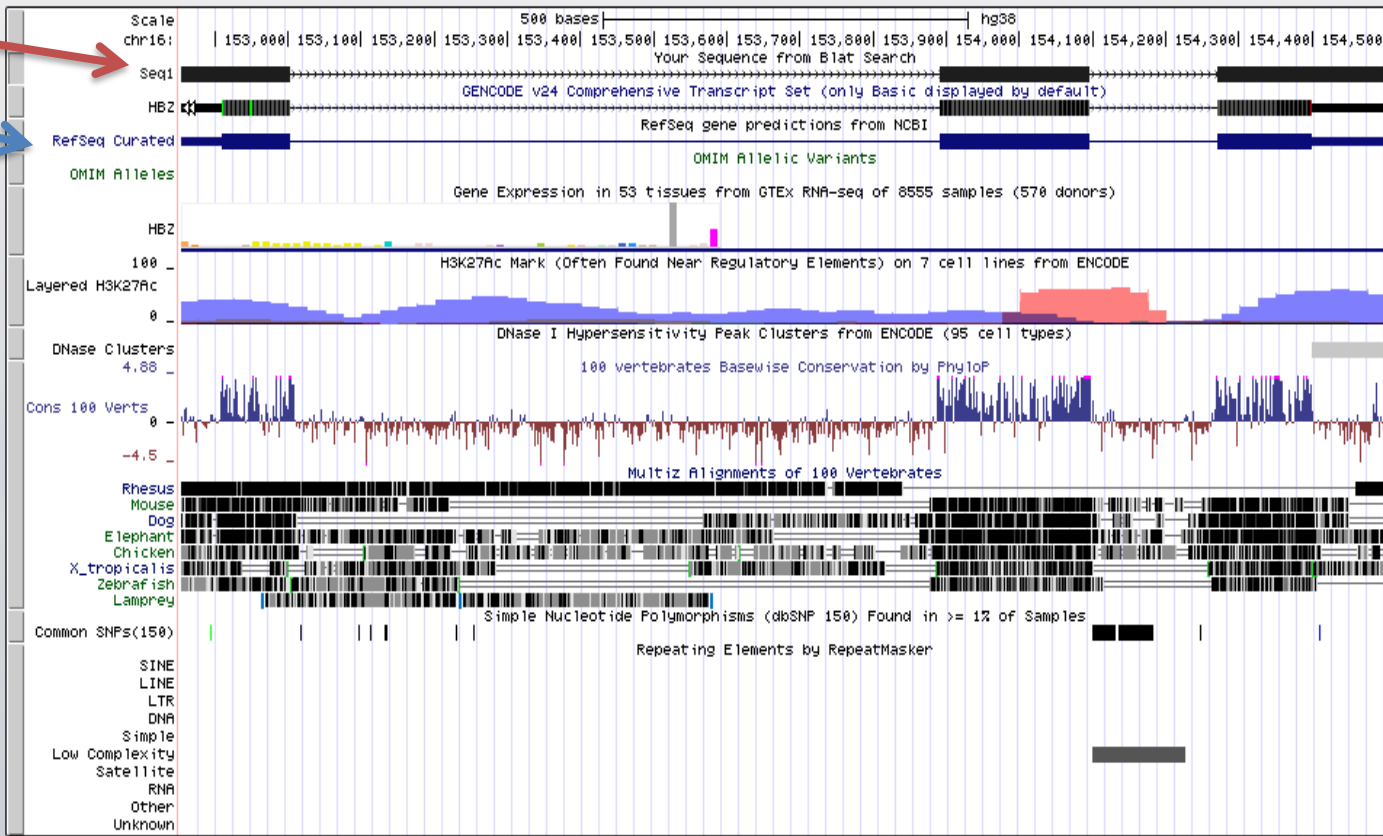
Can you have a look at your sequence ? How ?

How many exons are present in your sequence ?

UCSC Genome Browser on Human Dec. 2013 (GRCh38/hg38) Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x 100x

chr16:152,855-154,505 1,651 bp. enter position, gene symbol, HGVS or search terms go



QUESTIONS