# Clustal W

#### Introduction

- Clustal W is a general purpose multiple sequence alignment program for DNA or proteins.
- It produces biologically meaningful multiple sequence alignments of divergent sequence.
- It calculate the best match for the selected sequence ,and lines them up so that the identiies.

## Algorithm

- Clustal W is a matrix-based algorithm, whereas tools like T-coffee are consistency-based.
- Clustal W has a fairly efficient algorithm that competes well against in other software.
- The first step to the algorithm is computing a rough distance matrix between each pair of sequence, also known as pairwise sequence alignment.

Accuracy and Results

- The algorithm ClustalW uses provides a close -to-optimal result almost every time.
- However, it does exceptionally well when the data set contains sequences with varied degrees of divergence.

#### Clustal Omega

- Clustal omega is a new multiple sequence alignment program that uses seeded guide trees and HMM profile –profile technique to generate alignment between three or more sequence.
- Ideally, might think to build up multiple alignments through weighted sum of pairs (pairwise scores)
- But this is too computationally intensive
  - And doesn't make much biological sense

# Basic Steps

- Compute the pairwise alignments for all against all sequences.
- The similarities are stored in a matrix
- Convert the sequence similarity matrix values to distance measures , reflecting evolutionary distance between each pair of sequence.
- Construct a tree for the order in which pairs of sequence are to be aligned and combined with previous alignments.
- Progressively align the sequence together into each branch point of the guide tree, starting with the least distance pairs of sequence.

## Uses of MSA

- Functional prediction
- Phylogeny
- Structural prediction
- Protein analysis
- To distinguish between orthology and parology

- Ideally, might think to build up multiple alignments through weighted sum of pairs (pairwise scores)
- But this is too computationally intensive
  And doesn't make much biological sense
- So use heuristics and progressive alignment methods

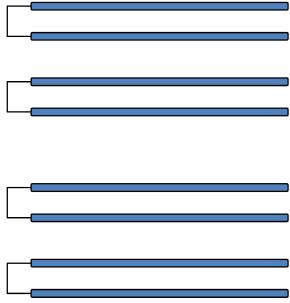
## ClustalW

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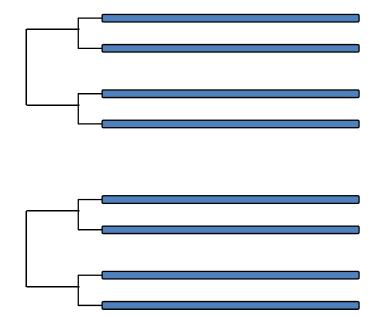
#### www.clustal.org

- Quick, pairwise alignment of all sequences
- Line up pairs, with the most similar first

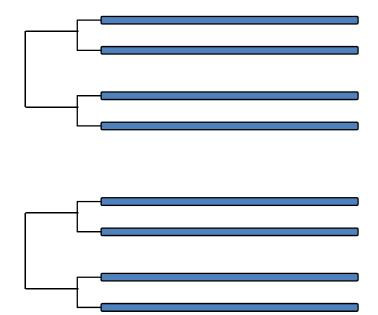
• Fix the alignment between pairs and treat as one sequence



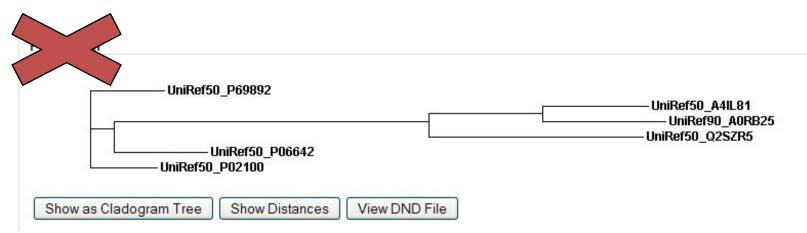
• Align your fixed pairs with each other



• Align your fixed pairs with each other



- Note, this is not a phylogram!
- Only a guide tree for the alignment



#### ClustalW at the EBI

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#### **ClustalW**

CLUSTAL W (1.83) multiple sequence alignment

beta globin	MVHLTPEEKSAVTALWGKVNVDEVGGEALGRLLVVYPWTQRFFESFG- 47	1					
myoglobin	MGLSDGEWQLVLNVWGKVEADIPGHGQEVLIRLFKGHPETLEKFDKFK- 48	}					
neuroglobin	MERPEPELIRQSWRAVSRSPLEHGTVLFARLFALEPDLLPLFQYNCR 47	1					
soybean	MVAFTEKQDALVSSSFEAFKANIPQYSVVFYTSILEKAPAAKDLFSFLA- 49	,					
rice	MALVEDNNAVAVSFSEEQEALVLKSWAILKKDSANIALRFFLKIFEVAPSASQMFSFLR- 59	,					
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beta globin	DLSTPDAVMGNPKVKAHGKKVLGAFSDGLAHLDNLKGTFATLSELHCDKLHVDPE 10	2					
myoglobin	HLKSEDEMKASEDLKKHGATVLTALGGILKKKGHHEAEIKPLAQSHATKHKIPVK 10	3					
neuroglobin	QFSSPEDCLSSPEFLDHIRKVMLVIDAAVTNVEDLSSLEEYLASLGRKHRAVGVKLS 10	)4					
soybean	NGVDPTNPKLTGHAEKLFALVRDSAGQLKASGTVVADAALGSVHAQKAVTDP 10	)1					
rice	NSDVPLEKNPKLKTHAMSVFVMTCEAAAQLRKAGKVTVRDTTLKRLGATHLKYGVGDA 11	.7					
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beta globin	NFRLLGNVLVCVLAHHF-GKEFTPPVQAAYQKVVAGVANALAHKYH 147						
myoglobin	YLEFISECIIQVLQSKH-PGDFGADAQGAMNKALELFRKDMASNYKELGFQG 154						
neuroglobin	SESTVCESTLYMLERCL-CDAETDATRAAWSOLVCAWOOAMSBCWDCE 151						

neuroglobin SFSTVGESLLYMLEKCL-GPAFTPATRAAWSQLYGAVVQAMSRGWDGE---- 151 soybean QFVVVKEALLKTIKAAV-GDKWSDELSRAWEVAYDELAAAIKKA----- 144 rice HFEVVKFALLDTIKEEVPADMWSPAMKSAWSEAYDHLVAAIKQEMKPAE--- 166 : : :: :: : \* . . :

Note how the region of a conserved histidine (▼) varies depending on which of five prominent algorithms is used

#### Homology

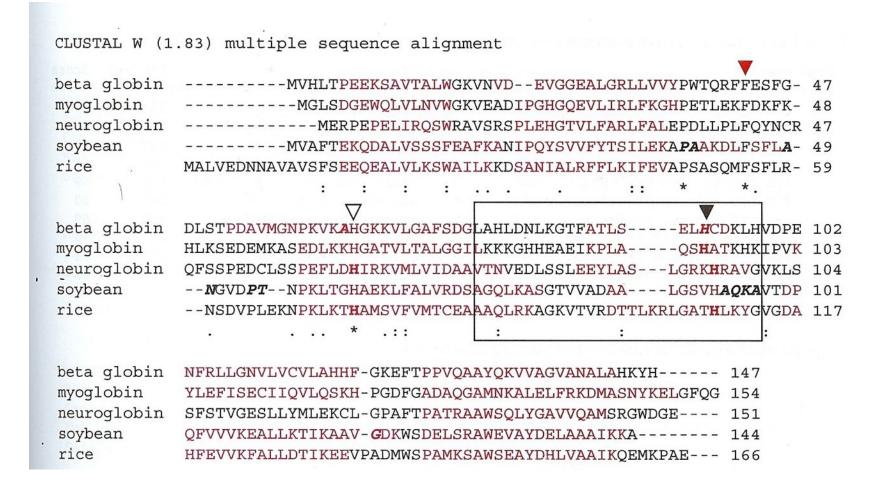
VS.

# Similarity

- Presence of similar features because of common decent
- Cannot be observed since the ancestors are not anymore
- Is inferred as a conclusion based on 'similarity'
- Homology is like pregnancy: Either one is or one isn't! (Gribskov – 1999)

- Quantifies a 'likeness'
- Uses statistics to determine 'significance' of a similarity
- Statistically significant similar sequences are considered 'homologous'

# ClustalW example



Pevsner, Jonathan. Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics. 2nd. Baltimore Maryland: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. 179-207. Print.

# Summary of ClustalW method

- For years, ClustalW was the best method available.
- It's still a solid performer, provided that sequences are closely related and do not have significant structural differences
- Distinguishing characteristics:
  - Progressive alignment based on a guide tree
  - Gap parameters informed by hydrophobicity of amino acids and by previously inserted gaps
  - Amino acid substitution matrices derived from observed sequence divergence (different matrices for different groups).

# THANK YOU