



# BIMM 143

## Advanced Database Searching Lecture 3

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UC San Diego

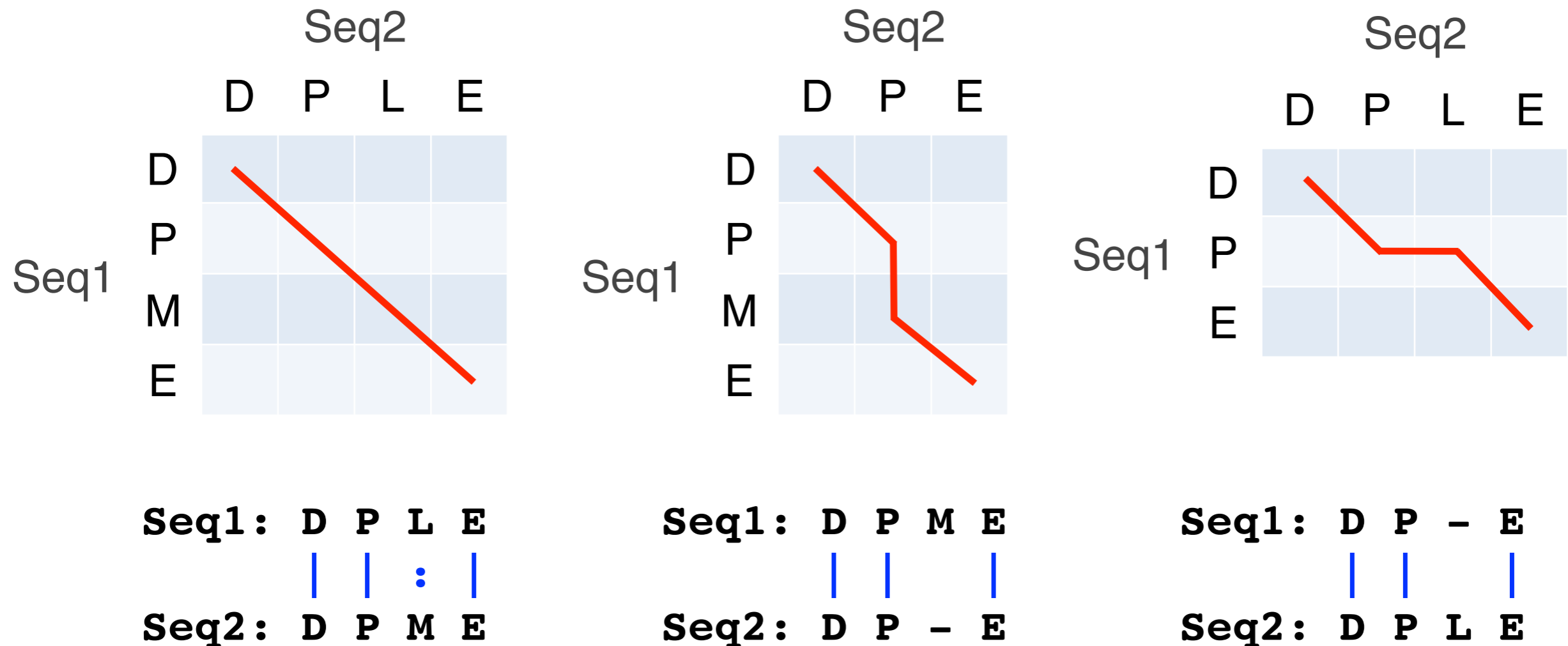
<http://thegrantlab.org/bimm143>

# Recap From Last Time:

- Sequence alignment is a fundamental operation underlying much of bioinformatics.
- Introduced **dot matrices**, **dynamic programming** and the **BLAST heuristic** approaches.
  - ➔ *Key point:* Even when optimal solutions can be obtained they are not necessarily unique or reflective of the biologically correct alignment.
- Introduced classic **global** and **local alignment** algorithms (Needleman–Wunsch and Smith–Waterman) and their major application areas.
- **Heuristic approaches** are necessary for large database searches and many genomic applications.

[\*\*Feedback\*\*](#)

# Muddy Point: Different paths represent different alignments



(Mis)matches are represented by diagonal paths & Indels with horizontal or vertical path segments

# Today's Menu

- **Sequence motifs and patterns:** Simple approaches for finding functional cues from conservation patterns
- **Sequence profiles** and position specific scoring matrices (PSSMs): Building and searching with profiles, Their advantages and limitations
- **PSI-BLAST algorithm:** Application of iterative PSSM searching to improve BLAST sensitivity
- **Hidden Markov models (HMMs):** More versatile probabilistic model for detection of remote similarities

## Side Note:

**Q.** Where do our alignment match and mis-match scores typically come from?

# By default BLASTp match scores come from the BLOSUM62 matrix

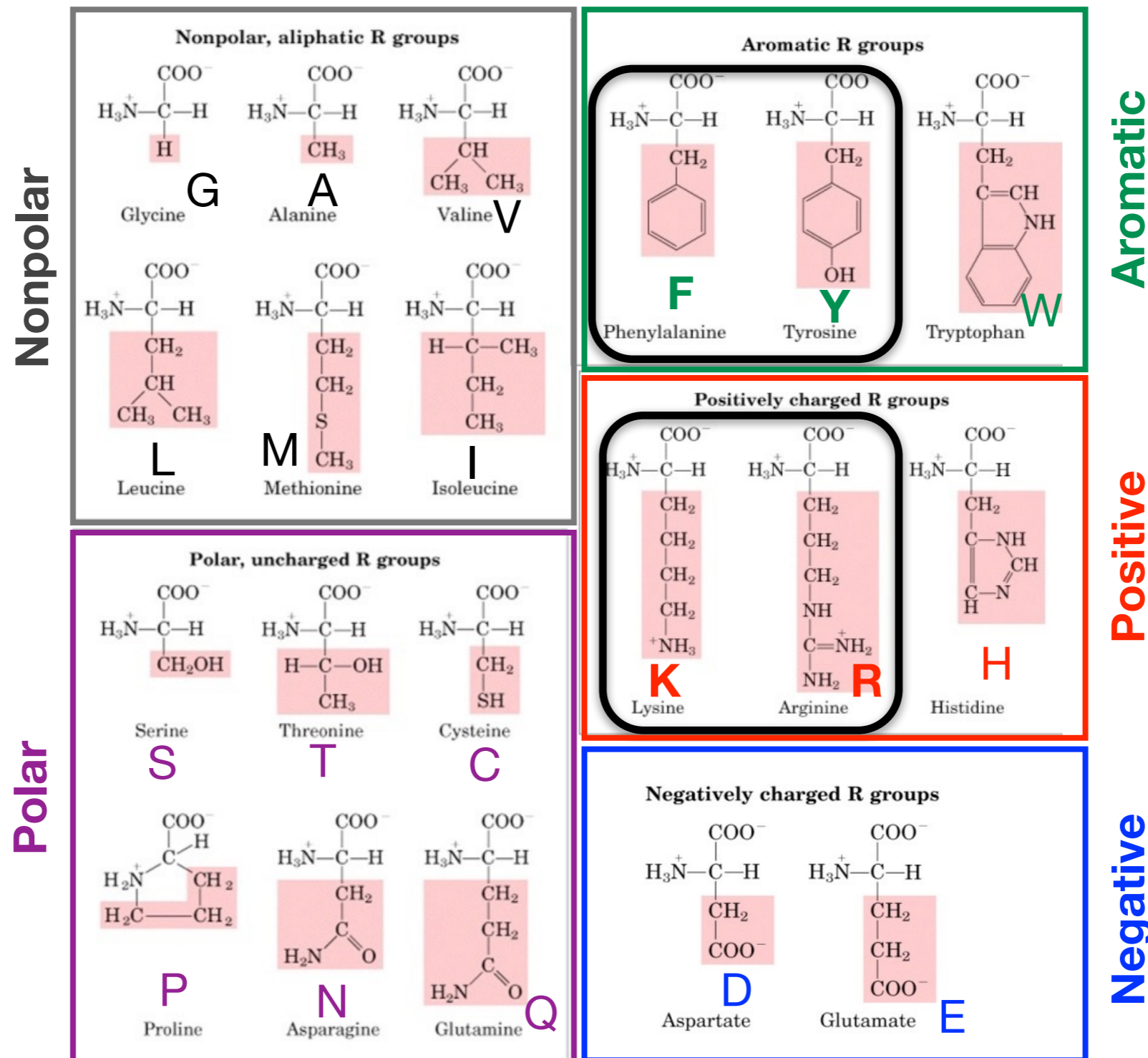
C	9																			
S	-1	4																		
T	-1	1	5																	
P	-3	-1	-1	7																
A	0	1	0	-1	4															
G	-3	0	-2	-2	0	6														
N	-3	1	0	-2	-2	0	6													
D	-3	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	6												
E	-4	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	2	5											
Q	-3	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	0	2	5									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

**B**locks **S**ubstitution **M**atrix. Scores obtained from observed frequencies of substitutions in blocks of aligned sequences with no more than 62% identity.

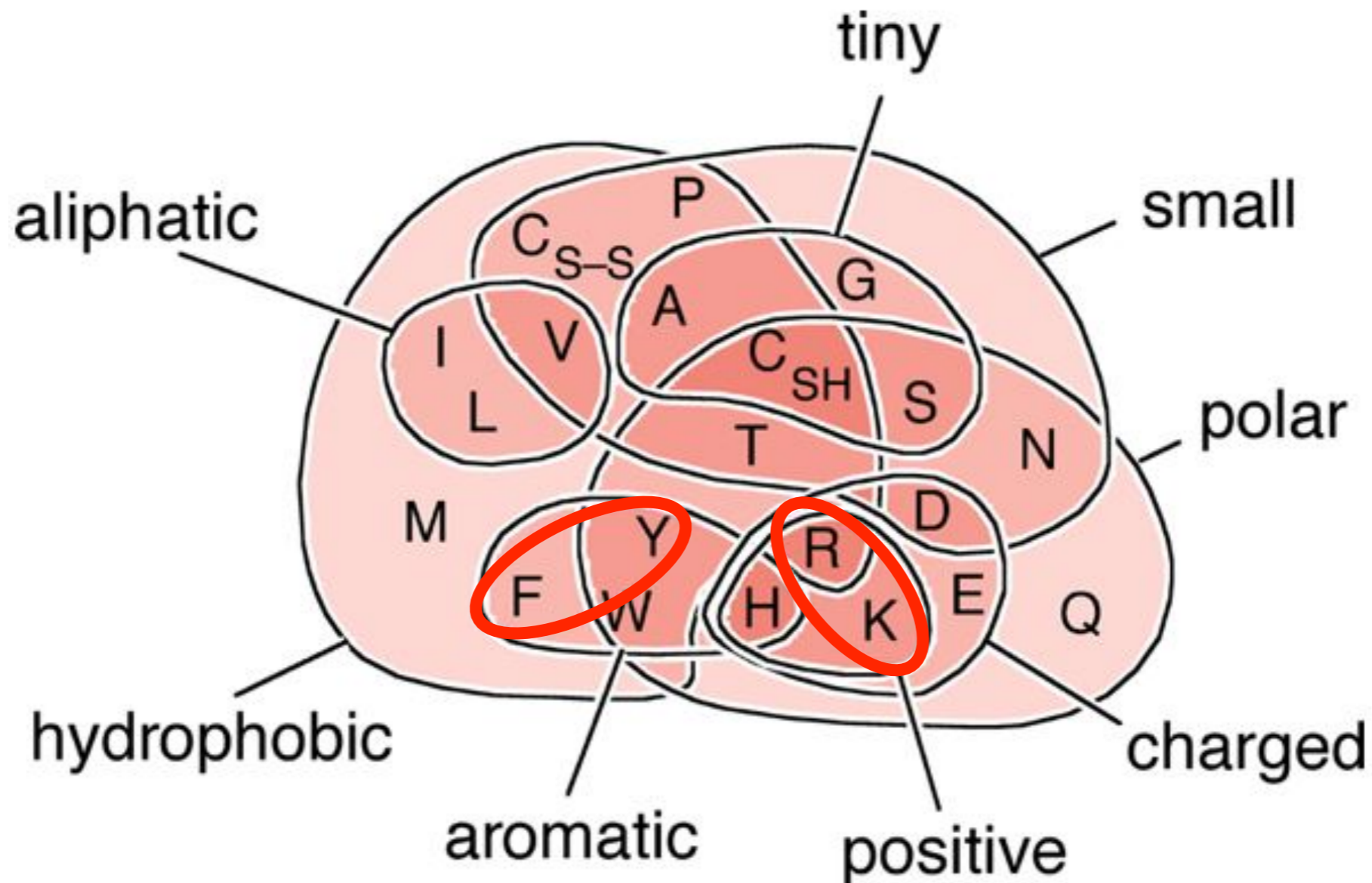
**Note.** Some amino acid mismatches have positive scores (highlighted in red) reflecting the shared physicochemical properties of these amino acids

Not all matches score equally (blue highlighted values)

# Protein scoring matrices reflect the properties of amino acids



# Protein scoring matrices reflect the properties of amino acids



**Key Trend:** High scores for amino acids in the same “biochemical group” and low scores for amino acids from different groups.



**N.B.** BLOUSM62 does not take the local context of a particular position into account (*i.e.* all like substitutions are scored the same regardless of their location in the molecules).

**We will revisit this later...**

# Today's Menu

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# Functional cues from conservation patterns...

Many DNA patterns are binding sites for Transcription Factors.

- E.g., The Gal4 binding sequence  
**C-G-G-N(11)-C-C-G**



	***	***
GAL3	CGGTCCACTGTGTGCCG	CCG
GAL7	CGGAGCACTGTTGAGCG	CCG
GCY1	CGGGGCAGACTATTCCG	CCG
GAL1	CGGATTAGAAGCCGCCG	CCG
GAL10	CGGAGGAGAGTCTTCCG	CCG
GAL2	CGGAAAGCTTCCTTCCG	CCG
PCL10	CGGAGTATATTGCACCG	CCG
	CGG	CCG



# Representing recurrent sequence patterns

Beyond knowledge of invariant residues we can define **position-based** representations that highlight the range of permissible residues per position.

- **Pattern:** Describes a motif using a qualitative consensus sequence (e.g., IUPAC or regular expression). N.B. Mismatches are not tolerated!

[LFI]-x-G-[PT]-P-G-x-G-K-[TS]-[AGSI]

- **Profile:** Describes a motif using quantitative information captured in a position specific scoring matrix (weight matrix). Profiles quantify similarity and often span larger stretches of sequence.
- **Logos:** A useful visual representation of sequence motifs.



Image generated by:  
[weblgo.berkeley.edu](http://weblgo.berkeley.edu)

# PROSITE is a protein pattern and profile database

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Currently contains > 1790 patterns and profiles: <http://prosite.expasy.org/>

Example PROSITE patterns:

PS00087; SOD\_CU\_ZN\_1

[GA]-[IMFAT]-H-[LIVF]-H-{S}-x-[GP]-[SDG]-x-[STAGDE]

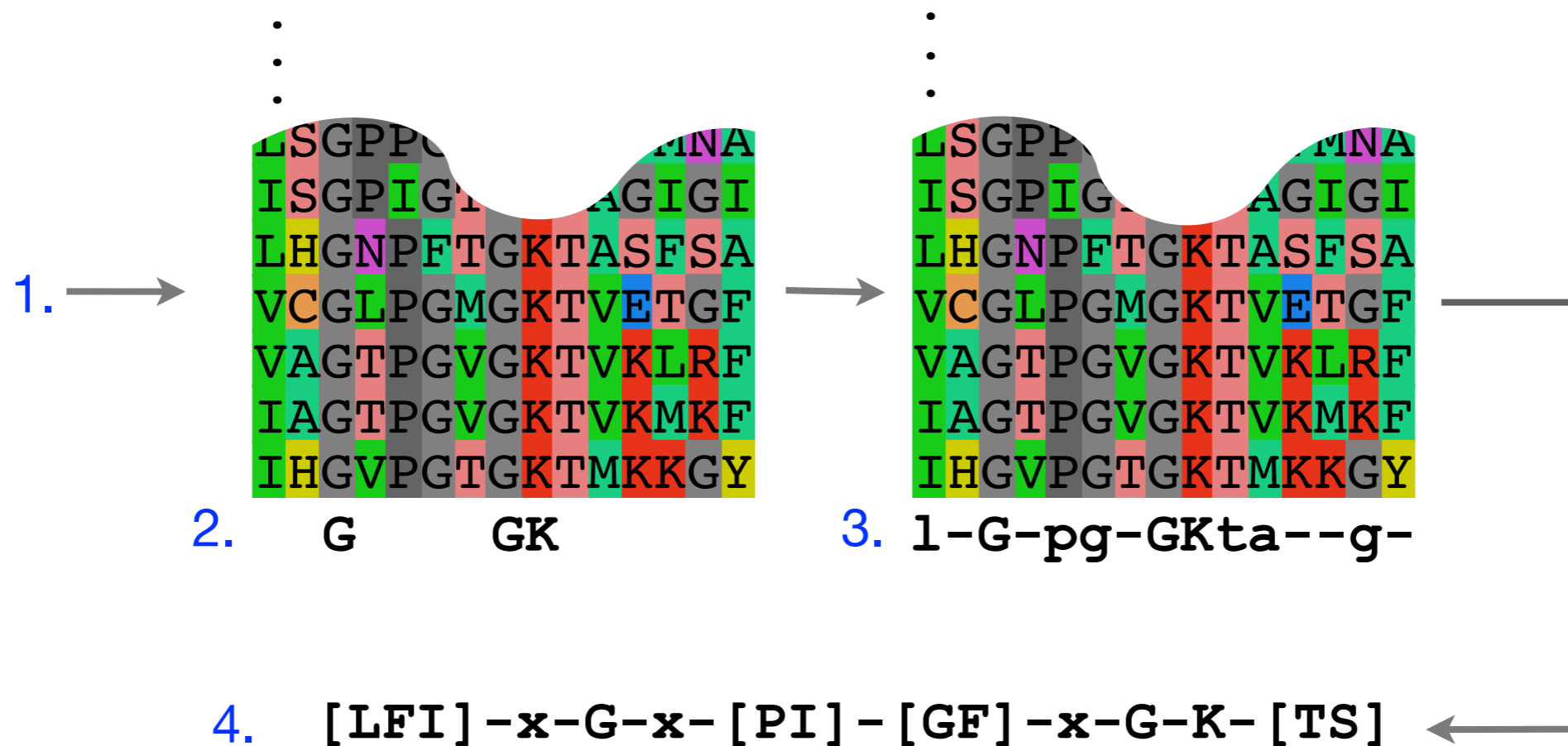
The two Histidines are copper ligands

- Each position in the pattern is separated with a hyphen
- x can match any residue
- [ ] are used to indicate ambiguous positions in the pattern
  - e.g., [SDG] means the pattern can match S, D, or G at this position
- { } are used to indicate residues that are not allowed at this position
  - e.g., {S} means NOT S (not Serine)
- ( ) surround repeated residues, e.g., A(3) means AAA

# Defining sequence patterns

There are four basic steps involved in defining a new PROSITE style pattern:

1. Construct a multiple sequence alignment (MSA)
2. Identify conserved residues
3. Create a core sequence pattern (i.e. *consensus sequence*)
4. Expand the pattern to improve **sensitivity** and **specificity** for detecting desired sequences - more on this shortly...



# Pattern advantages and disadvantages

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## **Advantages:**

- Relatively straightforward to identify (exact pattern matching is fast)
- Patterns are intuitive to read and understand
- Databases with large numbers of protein (e.g., PROSITE) and DNA sequence (e.g., JASPER and TRANSFAC) patterns are available.

## **Disadvantages:**

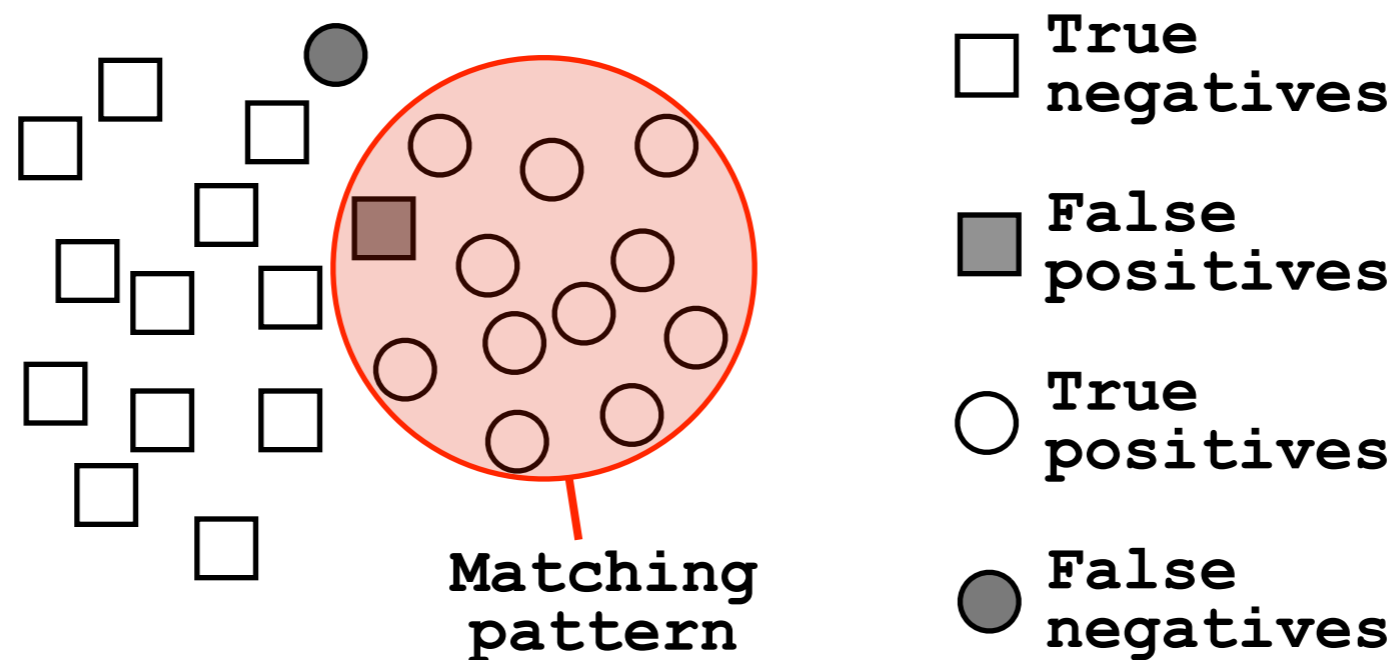
- Patterns are qualitative and *deterministic* (i.e., either matching or not!)
- We lose information about relative frequency of each residue at a position  
E.g., [GAC] vs 0.6 G, 0.28 A, and 0.12 C
- Can be difficult to write complex motifs using regular expression notation
- Cannot represent subtle sequence motifs



# Side note: pattern sensitivity, specificity, and PPV

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In practice it is not always possible to define one single regular expression type pattern which matches all family sequences (*true positives*) while avoiding matches in unrelated sequences (*true negatives*).



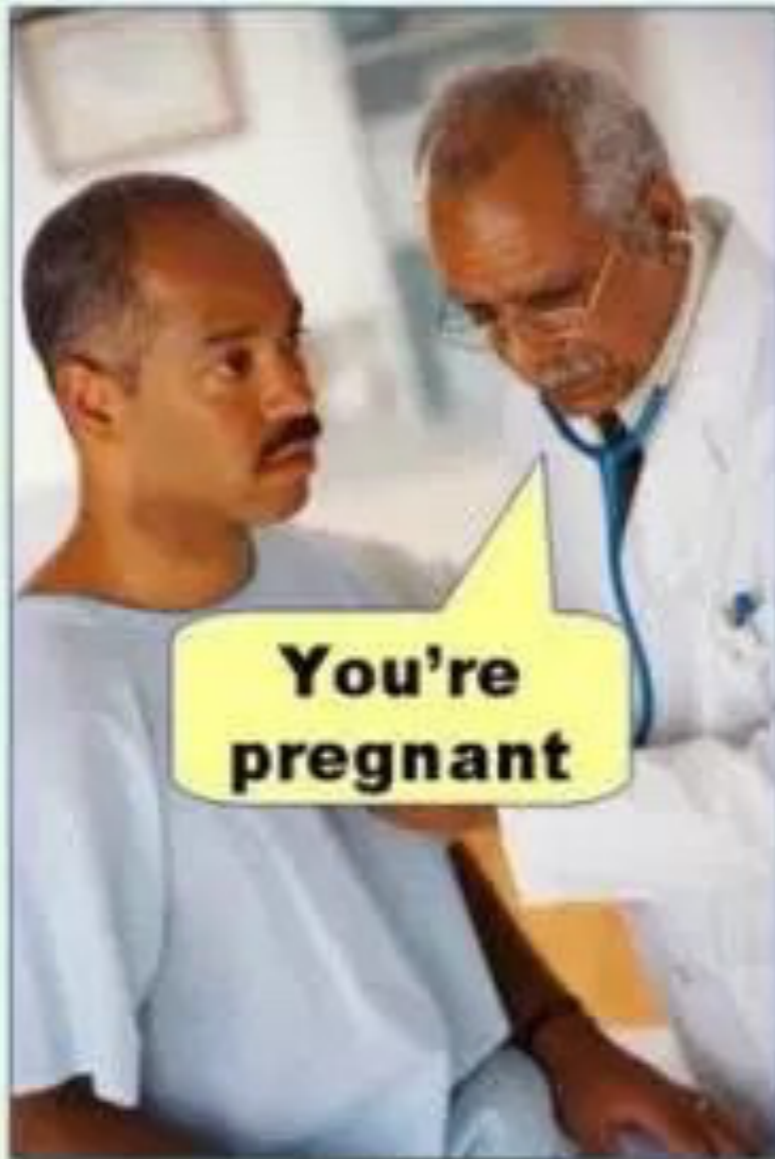
$$\text{Sensitivity} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{Specificity} = \text{TN} / (\text{TN} + \text{FP})$$

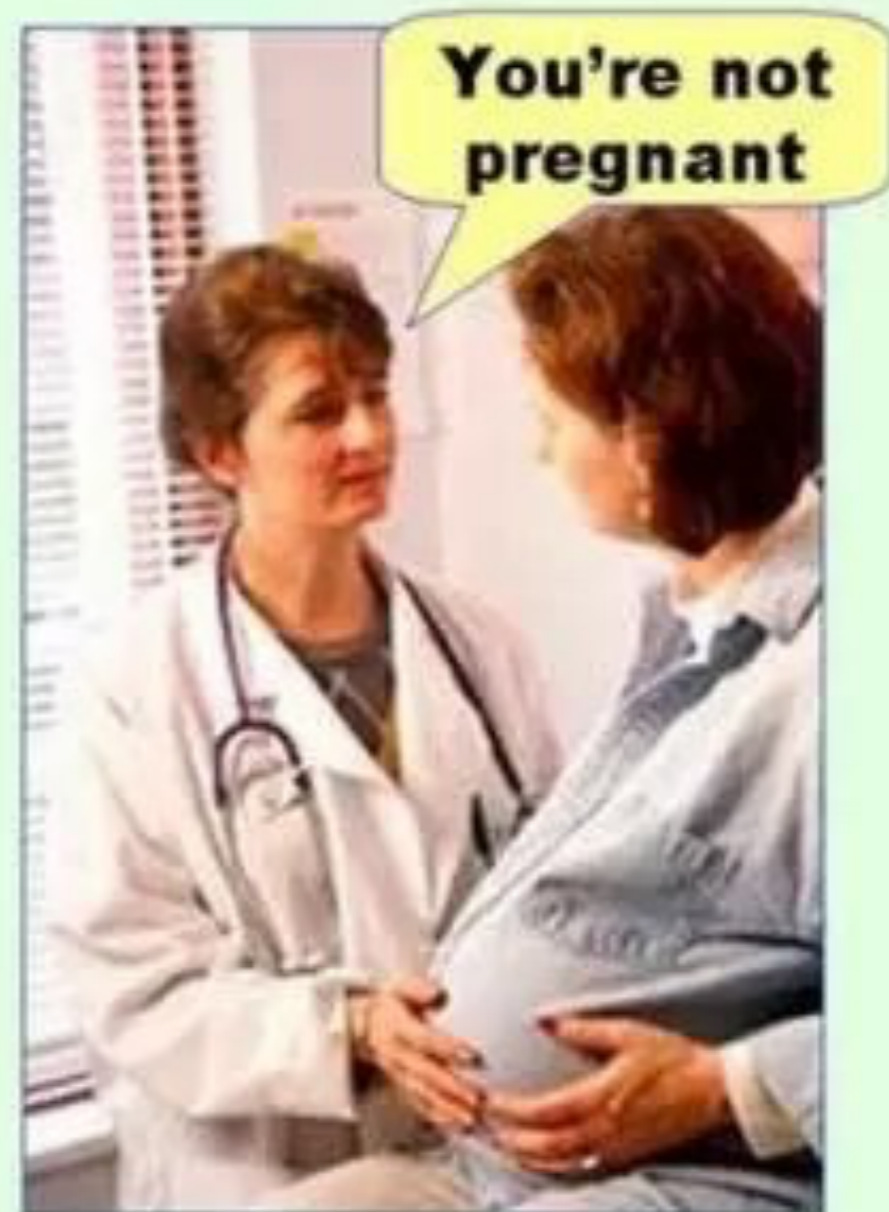
$$\text{PPV} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$$

The positive predictive value (or PPV) assesses how big a proportion of the sequences matching the pattern are actually in the family of interest. (i.e., the probability that a positive result is truly positive!)

**Type I error**  
(false positive)

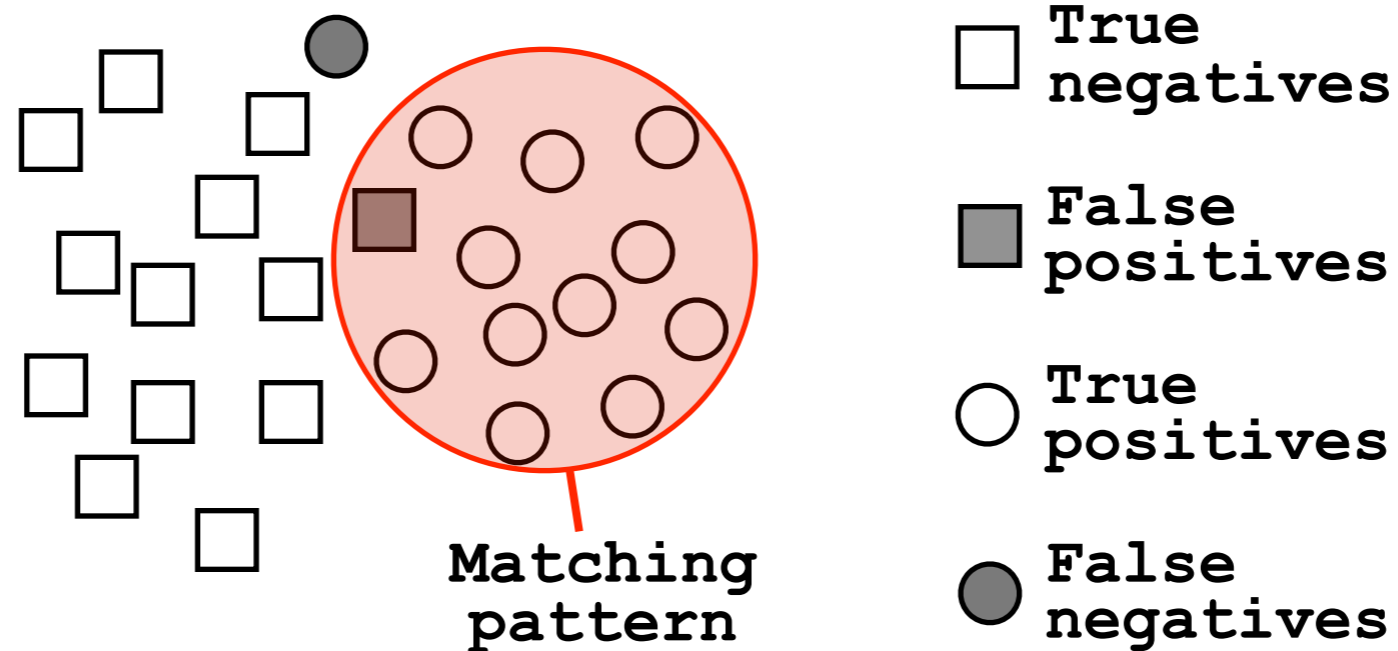


**Type II error**  
(false negative)



# Side note: pattern sensitivity, specificity, and PPV

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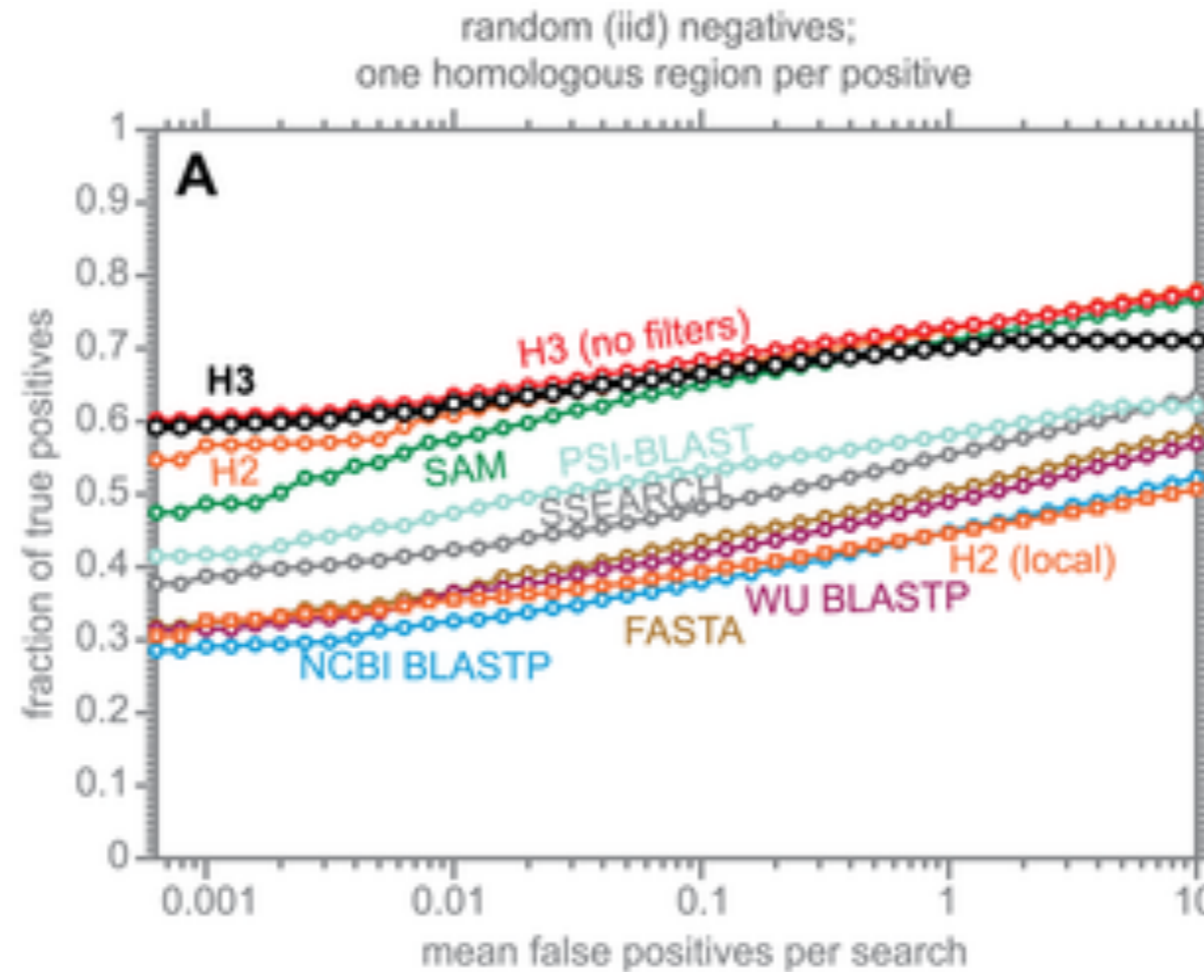
Sensitivity =  $TP / (TP + FN)$  = Fraction of total circles we found  
(i.e. things we want!)

Specificity =  $TN / (TN + FP)$  = Fraction of total squares we missed  
(i.e. things we **don't** want!)

PPV =  $TP / (TP + FP)$  = Fraction of our highlighted matches that are actually circles  
(i.e. proportion of the things we found that are what we want!)

ROC plot example

# ROC plot of sequence searching performance...



H3 (HMMER3) has a much higher search sensitivity and specificity than BLASTp

In each benchmark, true positive subsequences have been selected to be no more than 25% identical to any sequence in the query alignment ... (see paper for details).

See: Eddy (2011) PLoS Comp Biol 7(10): e1002195

# Today's Menu

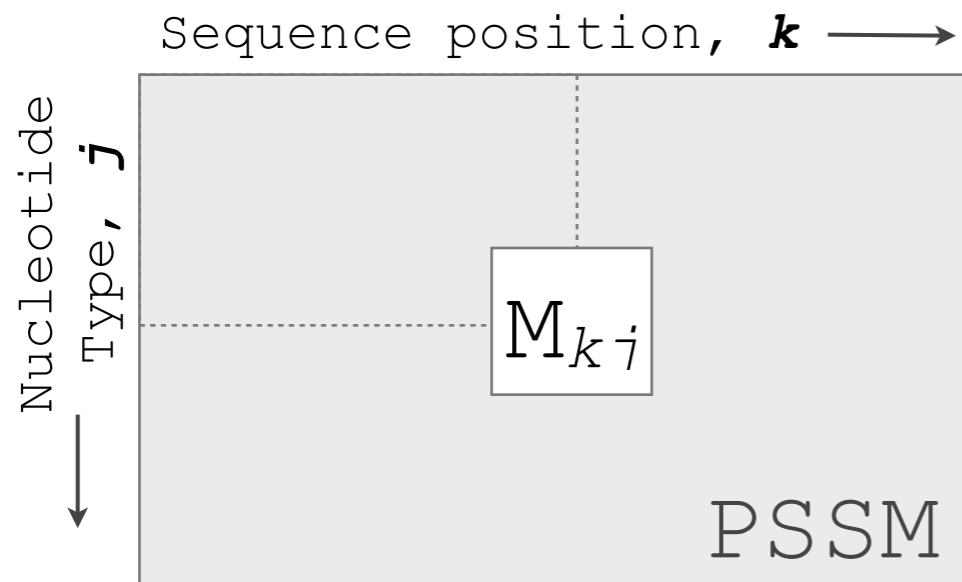
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# Sequence profiles

A sequence profile is a **position-specific scoring matrix** (or **PSSM**, often pronounced 'possum') that gives a *quantitative* description of a sequence motif.

Unlike deterministic patterns, profiles assign a score to a query sequence and are widely used for database searching.

A simple PSSM has as many columns as there are positions in the alignment, and either 4 rows (one for each DNA nucleotide) or 20 rows (one for each amino acid).



$$M_{kj} = \log \left( \frac{p_{kj}}{p_j} \right)$$

- $M_{kj}$  score for the  $j$ th nucleotide at position  $k$
- $p_{kj}$  probability of nucleotide  $j$  at position  $k$
- $p_j$  “background” probability of nucleotide  $j$

# Computing a transcription factor bind site PSSM

```

CCAAATTAGGAAA
CCTATTAAGAAAA
CCAAATTAGGAAA
CCAAATTCGGATA
CCCATTTTCGAAAA
CCTATTTAGTATA
CCAAATTAGGAAA
CCAAATTGGCAAA
TCTATTTTGGAAA
CCAATTTTCAAAA
    
```

Alignment Counts Matrix:

Position k =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>A:</b>	0	0	6	10	5	0	1	5	0	3	10	8	10
<b>C:</b>	9	10	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
<b>G:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	5	0	0	0
<b>T:</b>	1	0	3	0	5	10	9	2	0	1	0	2	0
<b>Consensus:</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>[ACT]</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>[AT]</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>[AT]</b>	<b>A</b>

$$M_{kj} = \log \left( \frac{p_{kj}}{p_j} \right) \quad p_{kj} = \frac{C_{kj} + p_j}{Z + 1}$$

$$M_{kj} = \log \left( \frac{C_{kj} + p_j / Z + 1}{p_j} \right)$$

$C_{kj}$  Number of  $j$ th type nucleotide at position  $k$

$Z$  Total number of aligned sequences

$p_j$  “background” probability of nucleotide  $j$

$p_{kj}$  probability of nucleotide  $j$  at position  $k$

Adapted from Hertz and Stormo,  
Bioinformatics 15:563-577

# Computing a transcription factor bind site PSSM...

Alignment Matrix:  $C_{kj}$

Position k =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>A:</b>	0	0	6	10	5	0	1	5	0	3	10	8	10
<b>C:</b>	9	10	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
<b>G:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	5	0	0	0
<b>T:</b>	1	0	3	0	5	10	9	2	0	1	0	2	0

$$k=1, j=A: M_{kj} = \log\left(\frac{C_{kj} + p_j / Z + 1}{p_j}\right) = \log\left(\frac{0 + 0.25 / 10 + 1}{0.25}\right) = -2.4$$

$$k=1, j=C: M_{kj} = \log\left(\frac{C_{kj} + p_j / Z + 1}{p_j}\right) = \log\left(\frac{9 + 0.25 / 10 + 1}{0.25}\right) = 1.2$$

$$k=1, j=T: M_{kj} = \log\left(\frac{C_{kj} + p_j / Z + 1}{p_j}\right) = \log\left(\frac{1 + 0.25 / 10 + 1}{0.25}\right) = -0.8$$

PSSM:  $M_{kj}$

Position k =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>A:</b>	-2.4	-2.4	0.8	1.3	0.6	-2.4	-0.8	0.6	-2.4	0.2	1.3	1.1	1.3
<b>C:</b>	1.2	1.3	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.2	-0.8	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
<b>G:</b>	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.8	1.2	0.6	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
<b>T:</b>	-0.8	-2.4	0.2	-2.4	0.6	1.3	1.2	-0.2	-2.4	-0.8	-2.4	-0.2	-2.4



# Scoring a test sequence

Query Sequence

**CCTATTAGGATA**

PSSM:

Position k =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>A:</b>	-2.4	-2.4	0.8	<b>1.3</b>	0.6	-2.4	-0.8	<b>0.6</b>	-2.4	0.2	<b>1.3</b>	1.1	<b>1.3</b>
<b>C:</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.2	-0.8	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
<b>G:</b>	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.8	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
<b>T:</b>	-0.8	-2.4	<b>0.2</b>	-2.4	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	-0.2	-2.4	-0.8	-2.4	<b>-0.2</b>	-2.4
Test seq:	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Query Score} &= 1.2 + 1.3 + 0.2 + 1.3 + 0.6 + 1.3 + 1.2 \\ &\quad + 0.6 + 1.2 + 0.6 + 1.3 + -0.2 + 1.3 \\ &= 11.9\end{aligned}$$

# Scoring a test sequence

Query Sequence

**CCTATTAGGATA**

PSSM:

Position k =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A:	-2.4	-2.4	0.8	<b>1.3</b>	0.6	-2.4	-0.8	<b>0.6</b>	-2.4	0.2	<b>1.3</b>	1.1	<b>1.3</b>
C:	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.2	-0.8	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
G:	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.8	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
T:	-0.8	-2.4	<b>0.2</b>	-2.4	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	-0.2	-2.4	-0.8	-2.4	<b>-0.2</b>	-2.4
Test seq:	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Query Score} &= 1.2 + 1.3 + 0.2 + 1.3 + 0.6 + 1.3 + 1.2 \\ &\quad + 0.6 + 1.2 + 0.6 + 1.3 + -0.2 + 1.3 \\ &= \mathbf{11.9}\end{aligned}$$

**Q.** Does the query sequence match the DNA sequence profile?

# Scoring a test sequence...

Query Sequence

**CCTATTAGGATA**

Best Possible Sequence

**CCAATTAGGAAA**

PSSM:

Position k =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>A:</b>	-2.4	-2.4	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	0.6	-2.4	-0.8	<b>0.6</b>	-2.4	0.2	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>C:</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.2	-0.8	-0.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
<b>G:</b>	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-0.8	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4
<b>T:</b>	-0.8	-2.4	0.2	-2.4	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	-0.2	-2.4	-0.8	-2.4	-0.2	-2.4
Max Score:	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>

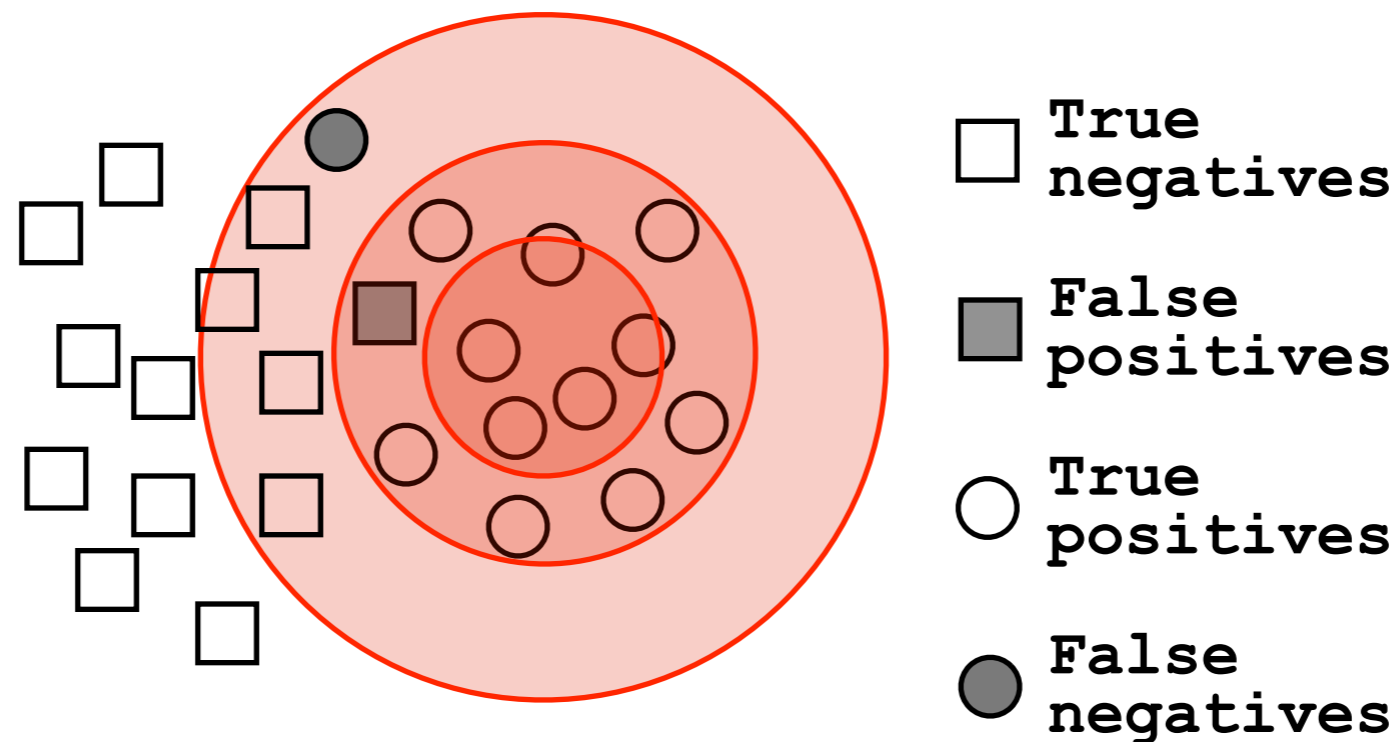
$$\begin{aligned}\text{Max Score} &= 1.2 + 1.3 + 0.8 + 1.3 + 0.6 + 1.3 + 1.2 \\ &\quad + 0.6 + 1.2 + 0.6 + 1.3 + 1.1 + 1.3 \\ &= 13.8\end{aligned}$$

**A.** Following method in Harbison *et al.* (2004) Nature 431:99-104

Heuristic threshold for match = 60% x Max Score = (0.6 x 13.8 = 8.28);  
11.9 > 8.28; Therefore our query is a potential TFBS!

# Picking a threshold for PSSM matching

Again, you want to select a threshold that **minimizes FPs** (e.g., how many shuffled or random sequences does the PSSM match with that score) and **minimizes FNs** (e.g., how many of the 'real' sequences are missed with that score).



FP=0, FN=7, TP=5

$$5/(5+0) = 1$$

FP=1, FN=1, TP=11

$$11/(11+1) = 0.92$$

FP=5, FN=0, TP=12

$$12/(12+5) = 0.71$$

Q. Which threshold has the best PPV (TP/(TP+FP)) ?

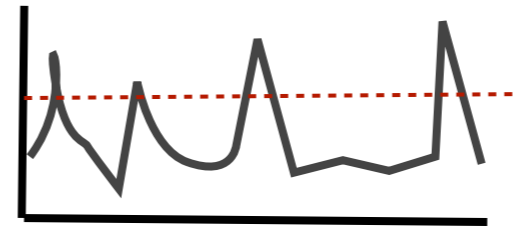
# Searching for PSSM matches

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If we do not allow gaps (i.e., no insertions or deletions):

- Perform a linear scan, scoring the match to the PSSM at each position in the sequence - the “sliding window” method

GCAGGGTATCCTATTAGCAATAGC....  
→



If we allow gaps:

- Can use dynamic programming to align the profile to the protein sequence(s) (with gap penalties)

We will discuss PSI-BLAST shortly...

see Mount, Bioinformatics: sequence and genome analysis (2004)

- Can use hidden Markov Model-based methods

We will cover HMMs in the next lecture...

see Durbin et al., Biological Sequence Analysis (1998)

## Side note: Profiles software and databases...

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**InterPro** is an attempt to group a number of protein domain databases.

<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro>

It currently includes:

- ▶ Pfam
  - ▶ PROSITE
  - ▶ PRINTS
  - ▶ ProDom
  - ▶ SMART
  - ▶ TIGRFAMs
- 
- InterPro tries to have and maintain a high quality of annotation
  - The database and a stand-alone package (**iprscan**) are available for UNIX platforms, see:  
<ftp://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/databases/interpro>

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Your Turn!

## **Hands-on sections 1 & 2:**

**Comparing methods and the trade-off  
between sensitivity, selectivity and  
performance**

**~50 mins**



**Recall:** BLOUSM62 does not take the local context of a particular position into account

(*i.e.* all like substitutions are scored the same regardless of their location in the molecules).

# By default BLASTp match scores come from the BLOSUM62 matrix

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

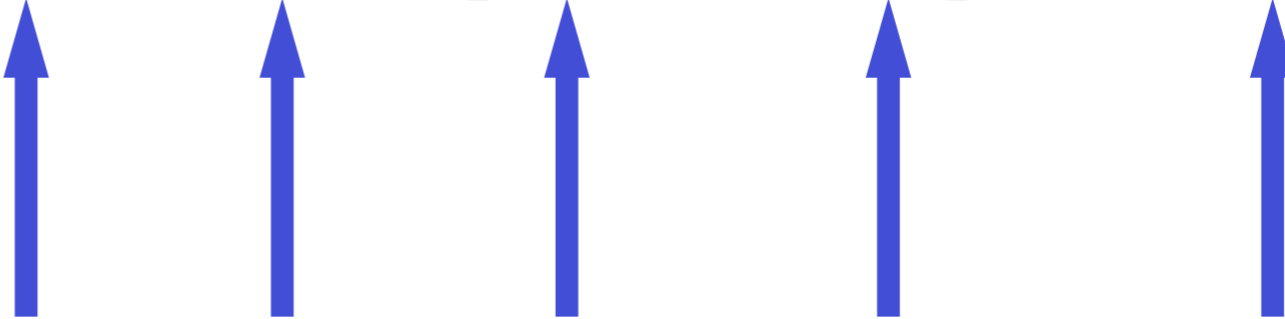
**Note.** All matches of Alanine for Alanine score +4 regardless of their position or context in the molecule.

# PSI-BLAST: Position specific iterated BLAST

- The purpose of PSI-BLAST is to look deeper into the database for matches to your query protein sequence by employing a scoring matrix that is customized to your query
  - PSI-BLAST constructs a multiple sequence alignment from the results of a first round BLAST search and then creates a “profile” or specialized position-specific scoring matrix (PSSM) for subsequent search rounds

# Inspect the blastp output to identify empirical “rules” regarding amino acids tolerated at each position

<a href="#">730496</a>	66	FTVDENGQMSATAKGRVRLFNNWDVCADMIGSFTDTEDEPAKFKMKYWGVAASFLQKGNDH	125
<a href="#">200679</a>	63	FSVDEKGHMSATAKGRVRLLSNWEVCADMVGTFTDTEDEPAKFKMKYWGVAASFLQRGNDH	122
<a href="#">206589</a>	34	FSVDEKGHMSATAKGRVRLLSNWEVCADMVGTFTDTEDEPAKFKMKYWGVAASFLQRGNDH	93
<a href="#">2136812</a>	2	MSATAKGRVRLLNWDVCADMVGTFTDTEDEPAKFKMKYWGVAASFLQKGNDH	53
<a href="#">132408</a>	65	FKIEDNGKTTATAKGRVRILDKLELCANMVGTFIETNDPAKYRMKYHGALAILERGLDDH	124
<a href="#">267584</a>	44	FSVDESGKVTATAHGRVILNNWEMCANMFGTFEDTPDPAKFKMRYWGAAASYLQGTGNDH	103
<a href="#">267585</a>	44	FSVDGSGKVTATAQGRVILNNWEMCANMFGTFEDTPDPAKFKMRYWGAAASYLQSGNDH	103
<a href="#">8777608</a>	63	FTIHEDGAMTATAKGRVILNNWEMCADMMATFETTPDPAKFRMRYWGAAASYLQGTGNDH	122
<a href="#">6687453</a>	60	FKVEEDGTMTATAIGRVILNNWEMCANMFGTFEDTEDEPAKFKMKYWGAAASYLQGTGYDDH	119
<a href="#">10697027</a>	81	FKVQEDGTMTATATGRVILNNWEMCANMFGTFEDTEEPARFKMKYWGAAASYLQGTGYDDH	140
<a href="#">13645517</a>	1	MVGTFTDTEDEPAKFKMKYWGVAASFLQKGNDH	32
<a href="#">13925316</a>	38	FSVDGSGKMTATAQGRVILNNWEMCANMFGTFEDTPDPAKFKMRYWGAAASYLQSGNDH	97
<a href="#">131649</a>	65	YTVEEDGTMTASSKGRVKLFGFWVICADMAAQYTDPTTPAKMYMTYQGLASYLSSGGDNY	126


  
**R,I,K      C      D,E,T      K,R,T      N,L,Y,G**

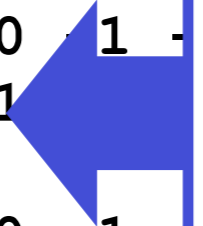
		A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
1	M	-1	-2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	6	0	2	2	1	2	1	1
2	K	-1	1	0	1	-4	2	4	-2	0	-3	-3	3	-2	-4	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-3
3	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	12	2	-3
4	V	0	-3	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	12	2	-3
5	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	12	2	-3
6	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
7	L	-2	-2	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-3	2	0	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	1
8	L	-1	-3	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-1	-2	0	3
9	L	-1	-3	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-3	2	0	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	2
10	L	-2	-2	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-3	2	0	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	1
11	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
12	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
13	W	-2											-3	2	1	-3	-3	-2	7	0	0
14	A	3											-1	-2	-3	-1	1	-1	-3	-3	-1
15	A	2											0	-2	-3	-1	3	0	-3	-2	-2
16	A	4											-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	-1
...																					
37	S	2	-1	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	-3	0	-2	-3	-1	4	1	-3	-2	-2
38	G	0	-3	-1	-2	-3	-2	-2	6	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3	-4	-2	0	-2	-3	-3	-4
39	T	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	5	-3	-2	0
40	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	9	2	-3
41	Y	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3	-2	-2	-3	2	-2	-1	-2	-1	3	-3	-2	-2	2	7	-1
42	A	4	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0

20 amino acids

All the amino acids from position 1 to N (the end of your query protein)

		A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
1	M	-1	-2	-2	-3	-2	-1	-2	-3	-2	1	2	-2	6	0	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	1
2	K	-1	1	0	1	-4	2	4	-2	0	-3	-3	3	-2	-4	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-3
3	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	12	2	-3
4	V	0	-3	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-4	3	1	-3	1	-1	-3	-2	0	-3	-1	4
5	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	12	2	-3
6	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
7	L	-2	-2	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-3	2	0	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	1
8	L	-1	-3	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-1	-2	0	3
9	L	-1	-3	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	2
10	L	-2	-2	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	1
11	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
12	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
13	W	-2	-3	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-2	7	0	0
14	A	3	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	-1	-3	-3	-1
15	A	2	-1	0	1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	3	0	-3	-2	-2
16	A	4	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	-1
...																					
37	S	2	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	4	1	-3	-2	-2
38	G	0	-3	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-2	0	-2	-3	-3	-4
39	T	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	5	-3	-2	0
40	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	9	2	-3
41	Y	-2	-2	-2	-3	-1	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-1	-2	-1	-3	-3	-2	-2	2	7	-1
42	A	4	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0

**Note:** A given amino acid (such as alanine) in your query protein can receive different scores for matching alanine depending on the position in the protein (BLOSUM  $S_{AA} = +4$ )

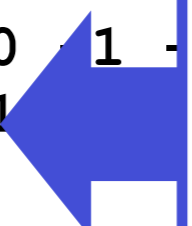


A R N D C Q E G H I L K M F P S T W Y V

The PSI-BLAST PSSM is essentially a query customized scoring matrix that is more sensitive than BLOSUM.

1	M																				
2	K																				
3	W																				
4	V																				
5	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	12	2	-3	
6	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
7	L	-2	-2	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-3	2	0	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	1
8	L	-1	-3	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-1	-2	0	3
9	L	-1	-3	-4	-4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-1	-2	0	3
10	L	-2	-2	-4	-4	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	2	2	-3	1	3	-3	-2	-1	-2	0	3
11	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
12	A	5	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
13	W	-2	-3	-4	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-3	2	0	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	1
14	A	3	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
15	A	2	-1	0	1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
16	A	4	-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
...																					
37	S	2	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
38	G	0	-3	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
39	T	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
40	W	-3	-3	-4	-5	-3	-2	-3	-3	-2	-3	-2	1	-4	-3	-3	12	2	-3		
41	Y	-2	-2	-2	-3	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
42	A	4	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	-3	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0

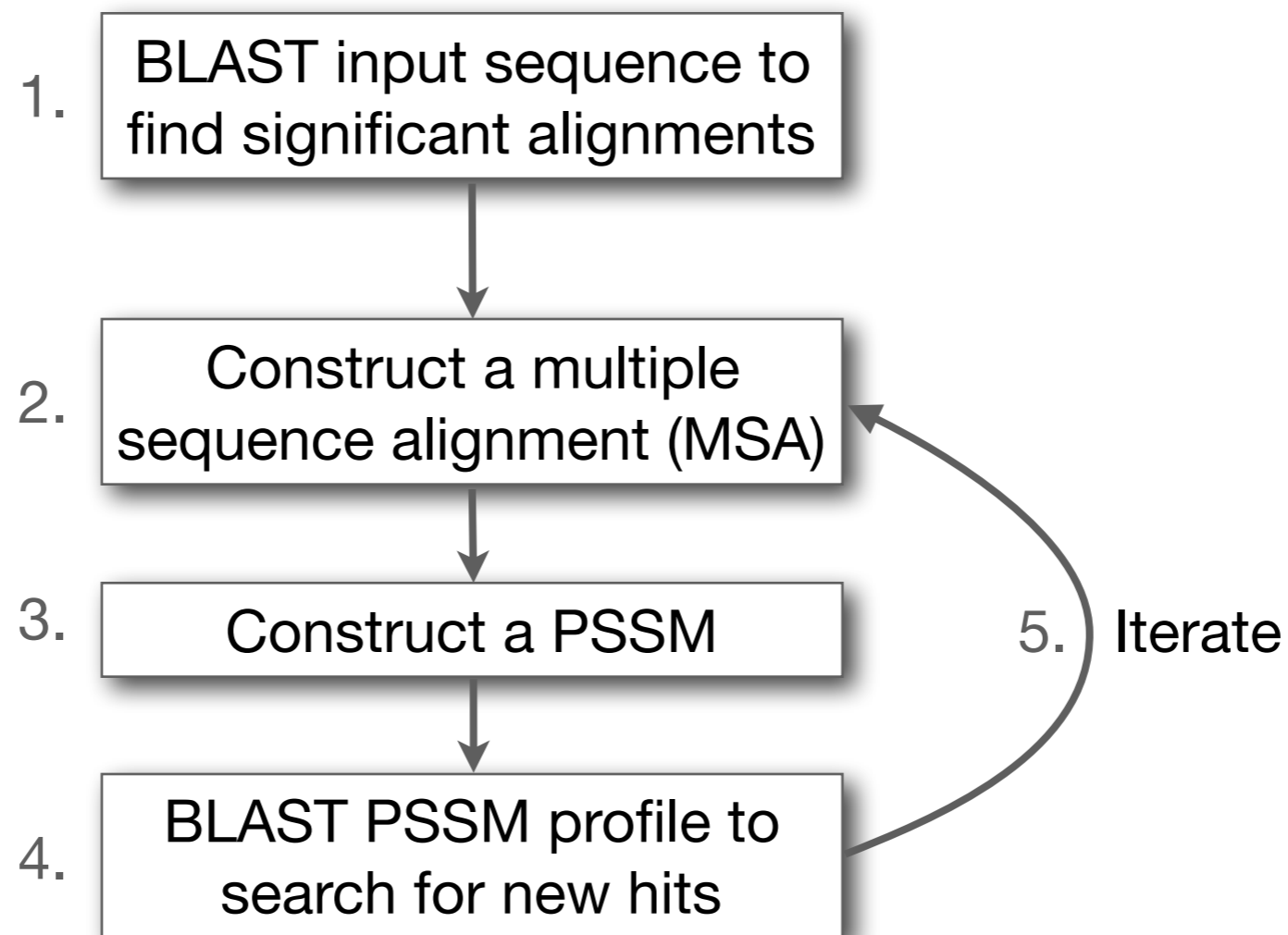
**Note:** A given amino acid (such as alanine) in your query protein can receive different scores for matching alanine depending on the position in the protein (BLOSUM  $S_{AA} = +4$ )



# PSI-BLAST: Position-Specific Iterated BLAST

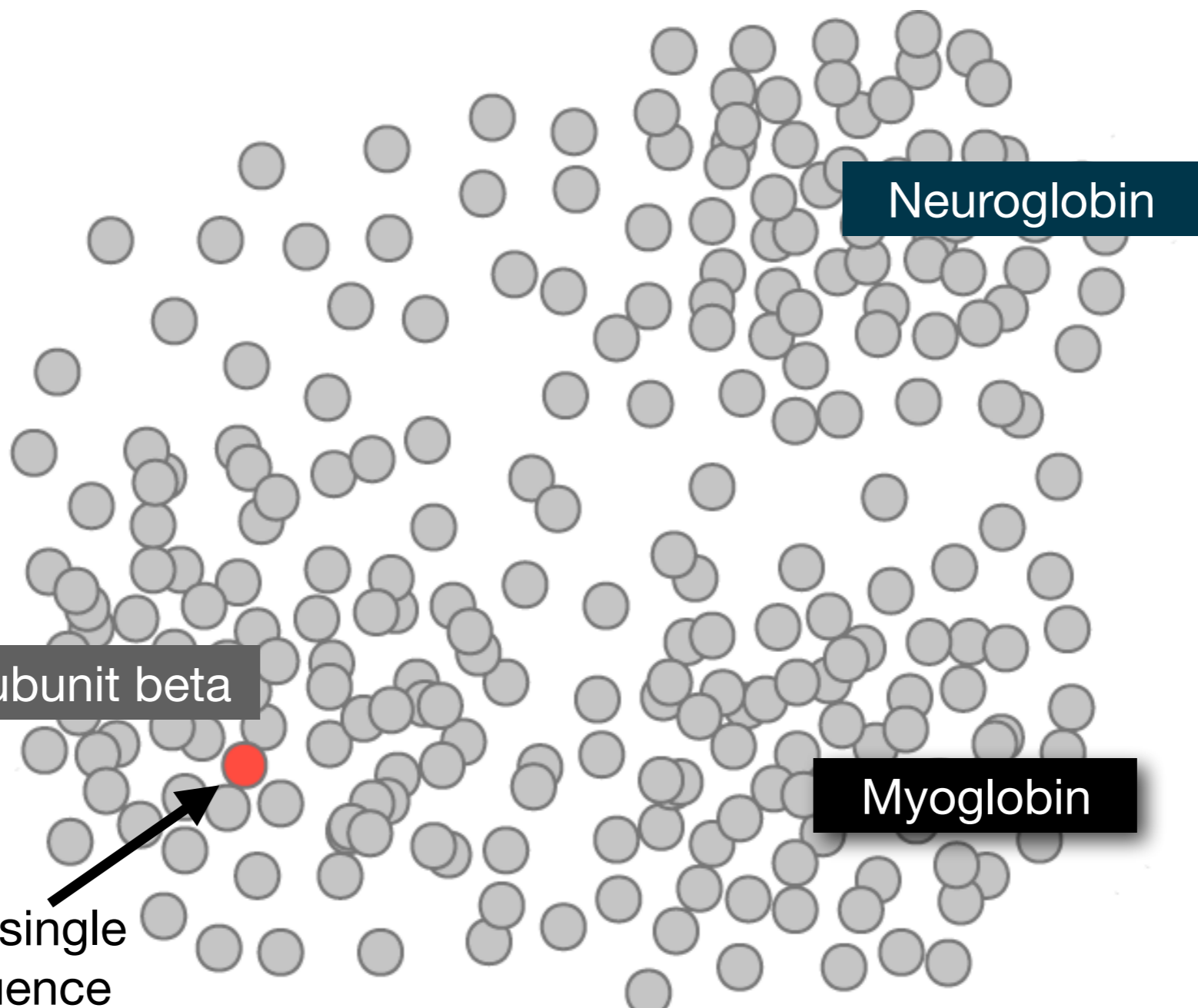
---

Many proteins in a database are too distantly related to a query to be detected using standard BLAST. In many other cases matches are detected but are so distant that the inference of homology is unclear. Enter the more sensitive PSI-BLAST



(see Altschul *et al.*, Nuc. Acids Res. (1997) 25:3389-3402)



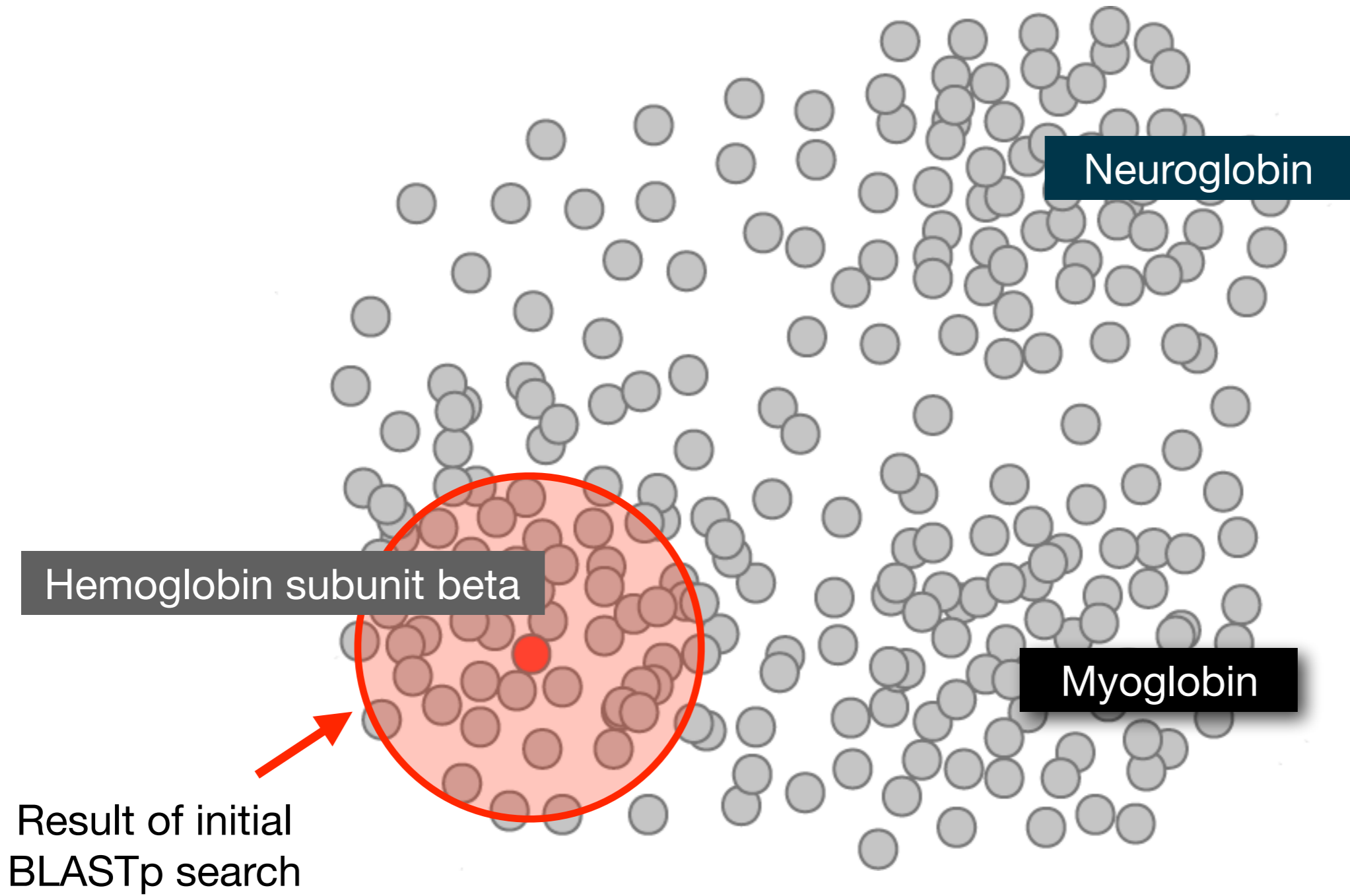


Hemoglobin subunit beta

Neuroglobin

Myoglobin

Start search with single human **HBB** sequence



Neuroglobin

Hemoglobin subunit beta

Myoglobin

Result of initial  
BLASTp search

---

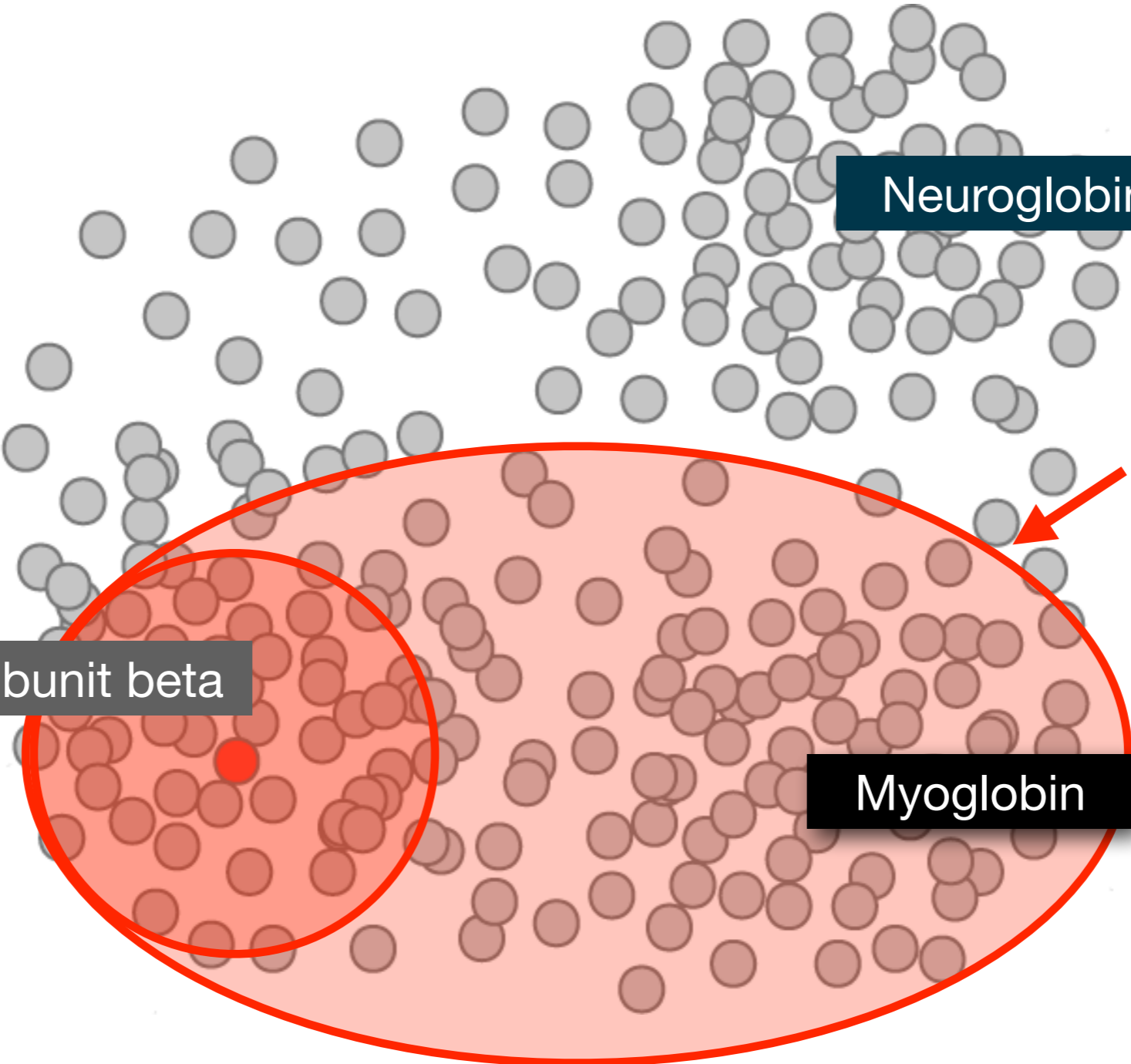
Hemoglobin subunit beta

Neuroglobin

Result of subsequent **PSI-BLAST** iteration

*(note, more globin hits!)*

Myoglobin



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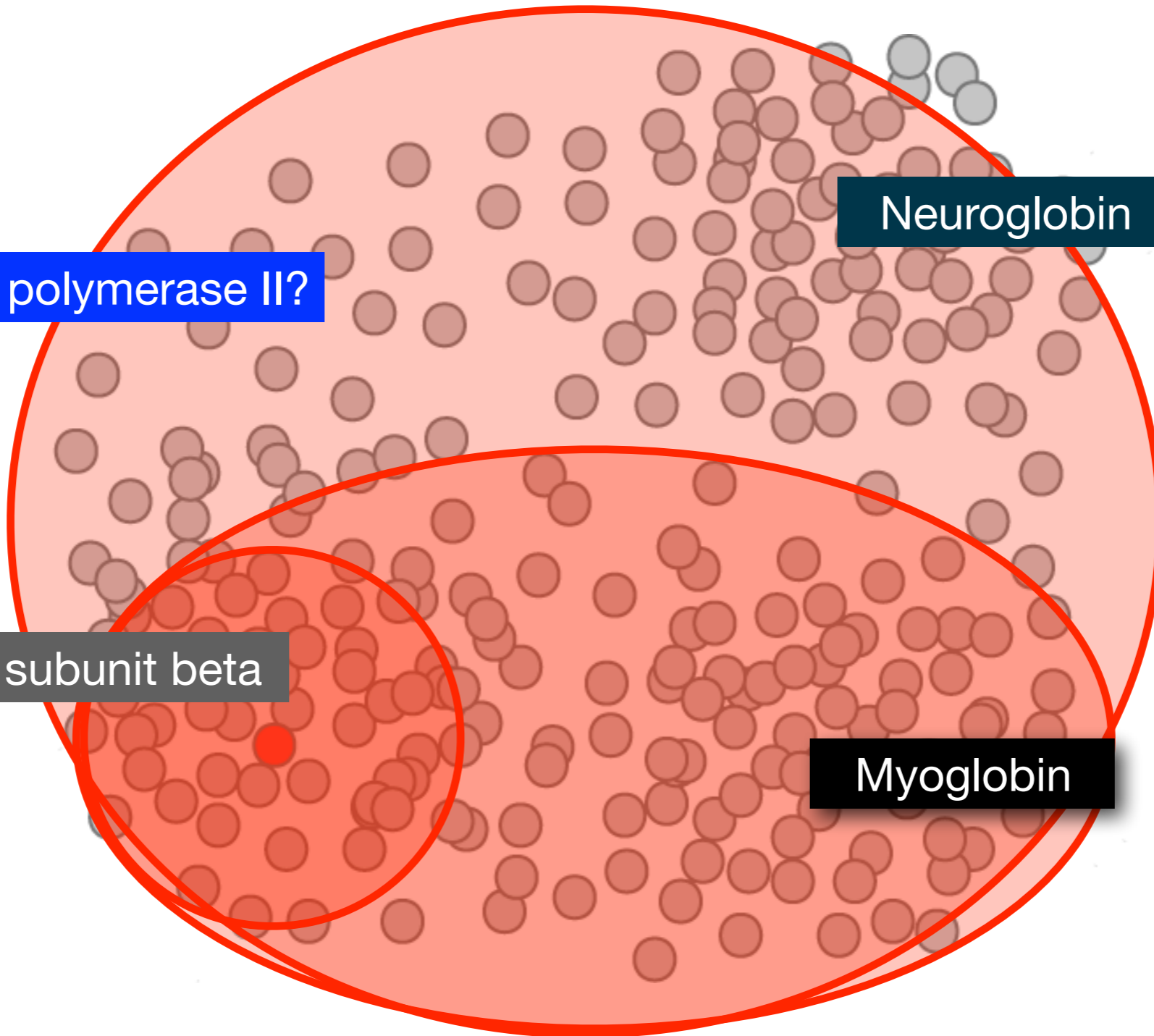
TAF6-like RNA polymerase II?

Neuroglobin

Hemoglobin subunit beta

Myoglobin

Result of later  
**PSI-BLAST**  
iteration  
(note, potential  
*“corruption”!*)



Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit beta [Homo sapiens]</a>	301	301	100%	2e-106	100%	<a href="#">NP_000509.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit delta [Homo sapiens]</a>	284	284	100%	7e-100	93%	<a href="#">NP_000510.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit epsilon [Homo sapiens]</a>	240	240	100%	2e-82	76%	<a href="#">NP_005321.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-2 [Homo sapiens]</a>	235	235	100%	2e-80	73%	<a href="#">NP_000175.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-1 [Homo sapiens]</a>	232	232	100%	3e-79	73%	<a href="#">NP_000550.2</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit alpha [Homo sapiens]</a>	114	114	97%	7e-33	43%	<a href="#">NP_000508.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit zeta [Homo sapiens]</a>	100	100	97%	3e-27	36%	<a href="#">NP_005323.1</a>

Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit beta [Homo sapiens]</a>	301	301	100%	2e-106	100%	<a href="#">NP_000509.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit delta [Homo sapiens]</a>	284	284	100%	7e-100	93%	<a href="#">NP_000510.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit epsilon [Homo sapiens]</a>	240	240	100%	2e-82	76%	<a href="#">NP_005321.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-2 [Homo sapiens]</a>	235	235	100%	2e-80	73%	<a href="#">NP_000175.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-1 [Homo sapiens]</a>	232	232	100%	3e-79	73%	<a href="#">NP_000550.2</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit alpha [Homo sapiens]</a>	114	114	97%	7e-33	43%	<a href="#">NP_000508.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit zeta [Homo sapiens]</a>	100	100	97%	3e-27	36%	<a href="#">NP_005323.1</a>
<a href="#">myoglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	80.5	80.5	97%	2e-19	26%	<a href="#">NP_005359.1</a>
<a href="#">neuroglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	54.7	54.7	92%	2e-09	23%	<a href="#">NP_067080.1</a>

1

2

**New relevant globins found only by PSI-BLAST**

Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit beta [Homo sapiens]</a>	301	301	100%	2e-106	100%	<a href="#">NP_000509.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit delta [Homo sapiens]</a>	284	284	100%	7e-100	93%	<a href="#">NP_000510.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit epsilon [Homo sapiens]</a>	240	240	100%	2e-82	76%	<a href="#">NP_005321.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-2 [Homo sapiens]</a>	235	235	100%	2e-80	73%	<a href="#">NP_000175.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-1 [Homo sapiens]</a>	232	232	100%	3e-79	73%	<a href="#">NP_000550.2</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit alpha [Homo sapiens]</a>	114	114	97%	7e-33	43%	<a href="#">NP_000508.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit zeta [Homo sapiens]</a>	100	100	97%	3e-27	36%	<a href="#">NP_005323.1</a>

1

<a href="#">myoglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	80.5	80.5	97%	2e-19	26%	<a href="#">NP_005359.1</a>
<a href="#">neuroglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	54.7	54.7	92%	2e-09	23%	<a href="#">NP_067080.1</a>

2

<a href="#">myoglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	159	159	97%	3e-50	26%	<a href="#">NP_005359.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit alpha [Homo sapiens]</a>	151	151	97%	3e-47	42%	<a href="#">NP_000508.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit mu [Homo sapiens]</a>	147	147	97%	6e-46	35%	<a href="#">NP_001003938.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit theta-1 [Homo sapiens]</a>	147	147	97%	2e-45	37%	<a href="#">NP_005322.1</a>
<a href="#">neuroglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	134	134	92%	3e-40	23%	<a href="#">NP_067080.1</a>
<a href="#">PREDICTED: cytoglobin isoform X2 [Homo sapiens]</a>	115	115	66%	3e-33	25%	<a href="#">XP_016879605.1</a>

3

<a href="#">PREDICTED: microtubule cross-linking factor 1 isoform X1 [Homo sapie</a>	46.3	46.3	27%	7e-06	39%	<a href="#">XP_011523942.1</a>
<a href="#">PREDICTED: microtubule cross-linking factor 1 isoform X4 [Homo sapie</a>	46.3	46.3	27%	7e-06	39%	<a href="#">XP_005258156.1</a>

?

**Inclusion of irrelevant hits can lead to PSSM corruption**

Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit beta [Homo sapiens]</a>	301	301	100%	2e-106	100%	<a href="#">NP_000509.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit delta [Homo sapiens]</a>	284	284	100%	7e-100	93%	<a href="#">NP_000510.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit epsilon [Homo sapiens]</a>	240	240	100%	2e-82	76%	<a href="#">NP_005321.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-2 [Homo sapiens]</a>	235	235	100%	2e-80	73%	<a href="#">NP_000175.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit gamma-1 [Homo sapiens]</a>	232	232	100%	3e-79	73%	<a href="#">NP_000550.2</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit alpha [Homo sapiens]</a>	114	114	97%	7e-33	43%	<a href="#">NP_000508.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit zeta [Homo sapiens]</a>	100	100	97%	3e-27	36%	<a href="#">NP_005323.1</a>

1

<a href="#">myoglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	80.5	80.5	97%	2e-19	26%	<a href="#">NP_005359.1</a>
<a href="#">neuroglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	54.7	54.7	92%	2e-09	23%	<a href="#">NP_067080.1</a>

2

<a href="#">myoglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	159	159	97%	3e-50	26%	<a href="#">NP_005359.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit alpha [Homo sapiens]</a>	151	151	97%	3e-47	42%	<a href="#">NP_000508.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit mu [Homo sapiens]</a>	147	147	97%	6e-46	35%	<a href="#">NP_001003938.1</a>
<a href="#">hemoglobin subunit theta-1 [Homo sapiens]</a>	147	147	97%	2e-45	37%	<a href="#">NP_005322.1</a>
<a href="#">neuroglobin [Homo sapiens]</a>	134	134	92%	3e-40	23%	<a href="#">NP_067080.1</a>
<a href="#">PREDICTED: cytoglobin isoform X2 [Homo sapiens]</a>	115	115	66%	3e-33	25%	<a href="#">XP_016879605.1</a>
<a href="#">PREDICTED: microtubule cross-linking factor 1 isoform X1 [Homo sapie</a>	46.3	46.3	27%	7e-06	39%	<a href="#">XP_011523942.1</a>
<a href="#">PREDICTED: microtubule cross-linking factor 1 isoform X4 [Homo sapie</a>	46.3	46.3	27%	7e-06	39%	<a href="#">XP_005258156.1</a>

3

**Score and E value depends on PSSM**



# PSI-BLAST is performed in five steps

---

- A normal blastp search uses a scoring matrix (e.g., BLOSUM62) to perform pairwise alignments of your query sequence (such as RBP) against the database. PSI-BLAST also begins with a protein query that is searched against a database of choice.
- PSI-BLAST constructs a multiple sequence alignment (MSA) from an initial blastp-like search. It then creates a **PSSM** based on that multiple alignment.
- This **PSSM** is then used as a query to search the database again.
- PSI-BLAST estimates the statistical significance of the database matches, essentially using the parameters we described for gapped alignments.
- The search process is continued iteratively, typically 3 to 5 times. At each step a new PSSM is built.

# PSI-BLAST returns dramatically more hits

---

You must decide how many iterations to perform and which sequences to include!

You can stop the search process at any point - typically whenever few new results are returned or when no new “sensible” results are found.

Iteration	Hits with E < 0.005	Hits with E > 0.005
1	34	61
2	314	79
3	416	57
4	432	50
5	432	50

Human retinol-binding protein 4 (RBP4; P02753) was used as a query in a PSI-BLAST search of the RefSeq database.



# PSI-BLAST errors: the corruption problem

---

The main source of error in PSI-BLAST searches is the spurious amplification of sequences that are unrelated to the query.

There are three main approaches to stopping corruption of PSI-BLAST queries:

- Perform multi-domain splitting of your query sequence
  - If a query protein has several different domains PSI-BLAST may find database matches related to both individually. One should not conclude that these hits with different domains are related.
  - Often best to search using just one domain of interest.
- Inspect each PSI-BLAST iteration removing suspicious hits.
  - E.g., your query protein may have a generic coiled-coil domain, and this may cause other proteins sharing this motif (such as myosin) to score better than the inclusion threshold even though they are not related.
  - Use your biological knowledge!
- Lower the default expect level (e.g.,  $E = 0.005$  to  $E = 0.0001$ ).
  - This may suppress appearance of FPs (but also TPs)

# Profile advantages and disadvantages

---

## **Advantages:**

- Quantitate with a good scoring system
- Weights sequences according to observed diversity  
Profile is specific to input sequence set
- Very sensitive  
Can detect weak similarity
- Relatively easy to compute  
Automatic profile building tools available

## **Disadvantages:**

- If a mistake enters the profile, you may end up with irrelevant data  
The corruption problem!
- Ignores higher order dependencies between positions  
i.e., correlations between the residue found at a given position and those found at other positions (e.g. salt-bridges, structural constraints on RNA etc...)
- Requires some expertise and oversight to use proficiently

# Today's Menu

- **Sequence motifs and patterns:** Simple approaches for finding functional cues from conservation patterns
- **Sequence profiles** and position specific scoring matrices (PSSMs): Building and searching with profiles, Their advantages and limitations
- **PSI-BLAST algorithm:** Application of iterative PSSM searching to improve BLAST sensitivity
- **Hidden Markov models (HMMs):** More versatile probabilistic model for detection of remote similarities

Your Turn!

**Hands-on sections 3 & 4:**  
Comparing methods and the trade-off  
between sensitivity, selectivity and  
performance

**~30 mins**

# Problems with PSSMs: Positional dependencies

---

Do not capture positional dependencies

**WEIRD**  
**WEIRD**  
**WEIQH**  
**WEIRD**  
**WEIQH**

D					0.6
E		I			
H					0.4
I			I		
Q				0.4	
R				0.6	
W	I				

**Note:** We never see **QD** or **RH**, we only see **RD** and **QH**.  
However,  $P(RH)=0.24$ ,  $P(QD)=0.24$ , while  $P(QH)=0.16$

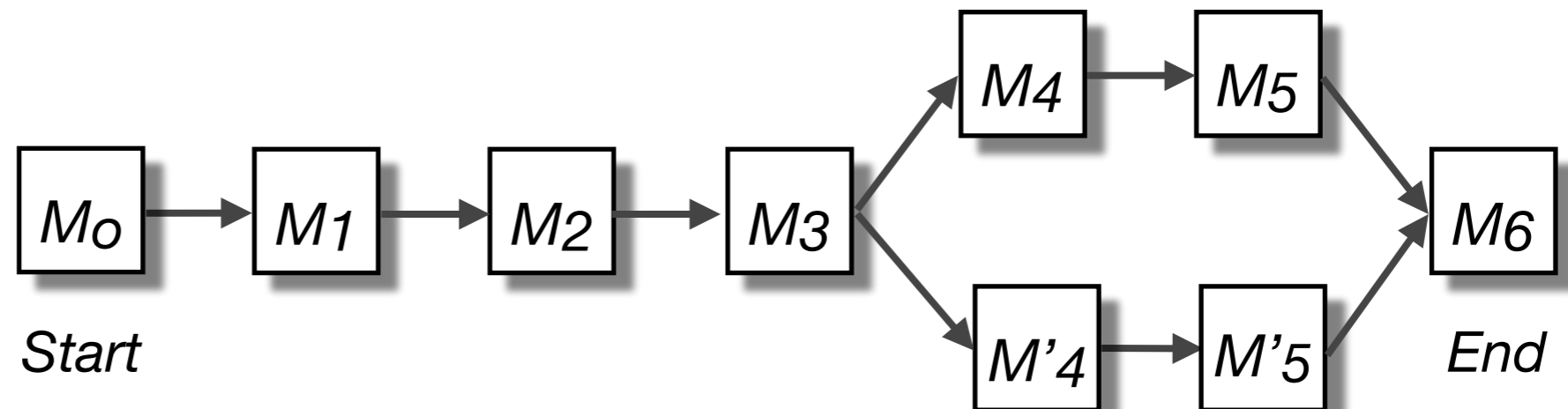


# Markov chains: Positional dependencies



The connectivity or **topology** of a Markov chain can easily be designed to capture dependencies and variable length motifs.

**WEIRD**  
**WEIRD**  
**WEIQH**  
**WEIRD**  
**WEIQH**

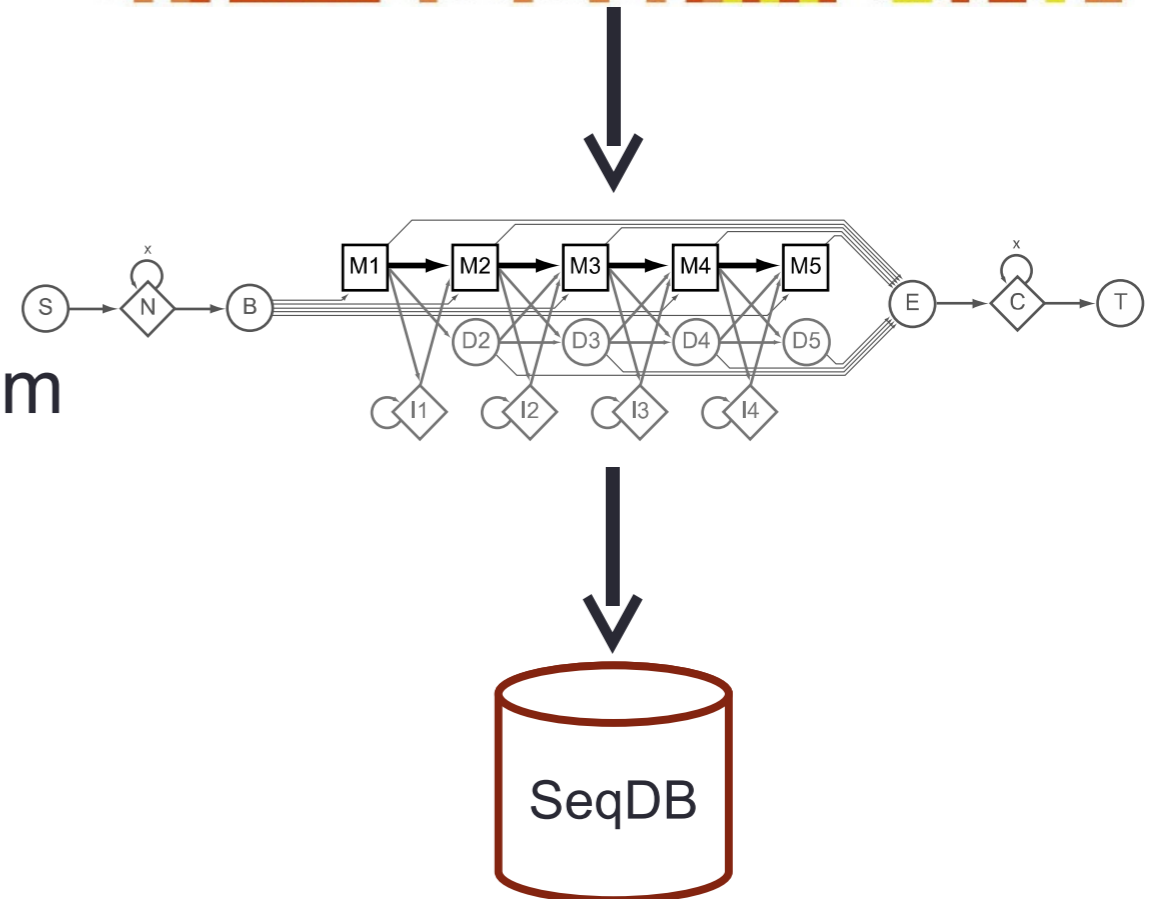


Recall that a PSSM for this motif would give the sequences **WEIRD** and **WEIRH** equally good scores even though the **RH** and **QR** combinations were not observed

# Use of HMMER

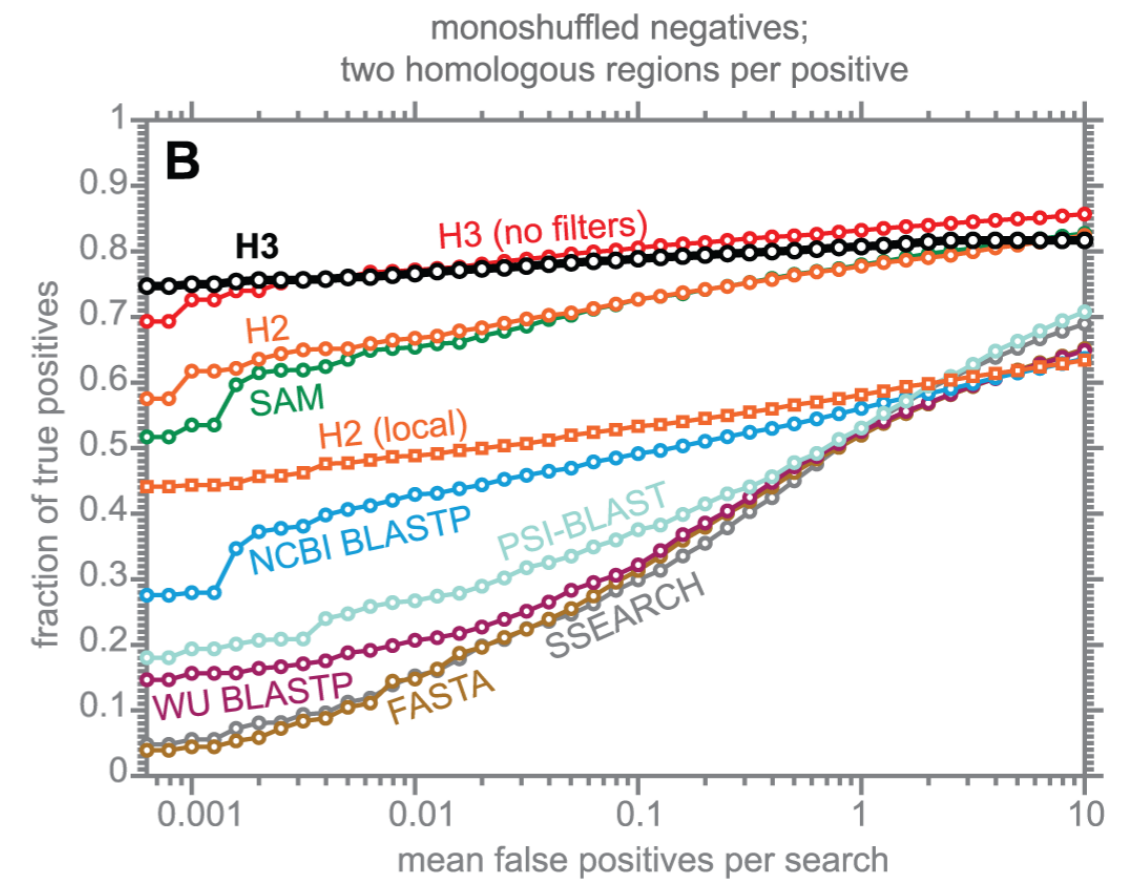
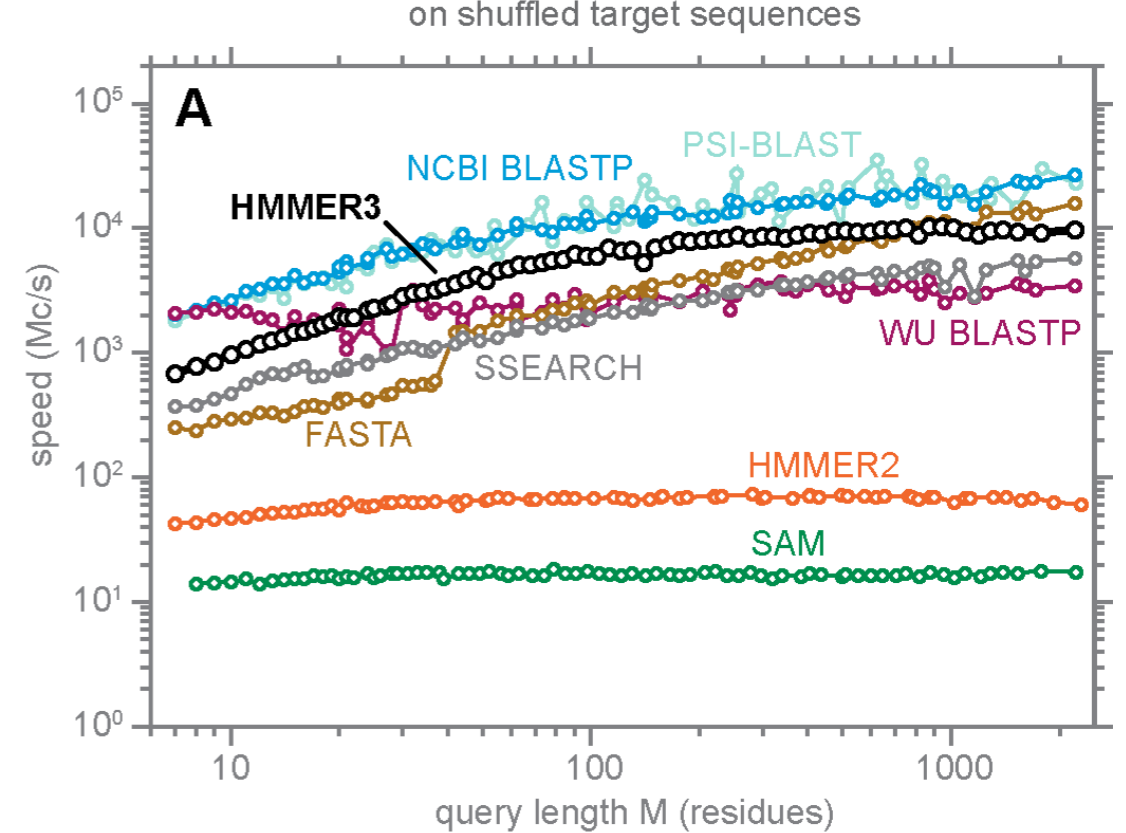
- Widely used by protein family databases
  - Use 'seed' alignments
- Until 2010
  - Computationally expensive
  - Restricted to HMMs constructed from multiple sequence alignments
- Command line application

```
K I I I T G E P G V G K T T L V K K I V E R L - - - G K R A I G F W T E E V R D P E T K K R T G E R I I T T E
K I L I T G R P G V G K T T L I K K L S R L L - - - - Q N A G G F Y T E E M R - - E G E K R I G F K I I T L D
R F F V S G M P G V G K T T L A K R I A D E V R R E G F K V G G I I T E E I R - - E G G K R T G F R V I A L D
R I F I T G M P G V G K T T L A L K I A E K L K E L G Y K V G G F I T K E I R - - D G G K R V G E K I I T L D
R F F V S G M P G V G K T T L A K R I A D E I K R E G F K V G G I I T Q E I R - - S G A R R S G F R V I A L D
H V F L T G P P G V G K T T L I Q K A I E V L Q S S G L P V D G F Y T Q E V R - - Q E G K R I G E D V V T L S
H V F L T G V P G V G K T T L V K K V C D A L - - S G L S V S G F Y T E E V R - - E H G R R V G E D V V T V S
H V F L T G S P G V G K T T L I Q K A I T V L Q S S G L P V D G F Y T Q E V R - - Q G G K R I G E D V V T L S
H V F L T G P P G V G K T T L I H K A S E V L K S S G V P V D G F Y T E E V R - - Q G G R R I G E D V V T L S
```



# HMMER vs BLAST

	HMMER	BLAST
Program	<i>PHMMER</i>	<i>BLASTP</i>
Query	Single sequence	
Target Database	Sequence database	
Program	<i>HMMSCAN</i>	<i>RP SBLAST</i>
Query	Single sequence	
Target Database	Profile HMM database, e.g. Pfam	PSSM database, e.g. CDD
Program	<i>HMMSEARCH</i>	<i>PSI-BLAST</i>
Query	Profile HMM	PSSM
Target Database	Sequence database	
Program	<i>JACKHMMER</i>	<i>PSI-BLAST</i>
Query	Single sequence	
Target Database	Sequence database	



Modified from: S. R. Eddy  
**PLoS Comp. Biol.**, 7:e1002195, 2011.



# Fast Web Searches

- Parallelized searches across compute farm
  - Average query returns ~1 sec
- Range of sequence databases
  - Large Comprehensive
  - Curated / Structure
  - Metagenomics
  - Representative Proteomes
- Family Annotations
  - Pfam
- Batch and RESTful API
  - Automatic and Human interface



The screenshot displays the HMMER website interface. At the top left is the HMMER logo, a red square with a yellow hammer and pickaxe. To its right, the text reads "HMMER biosequence analysis using profile hidden Markov models". In the top right corner, the HHMI Janelia Farm research campus logo is visible. A navigation bar below the header contains links for "Home", "Search", "Results", "Software", "Help", and "About". The main content area is divided into three yellow boxes: "Search" (with a "Start" button and links to hmmsearch, jackhmmmer, hhmsearch, and phmm), "Documentation" (with a download icon and links to command line and webservice documentation), and "Download HMMER" (with a "Download (MacOSX/Intel)" button and "Alternative Download Options" link). A large watermark "hmmmer.janelia.org" is overlaid across the bottom of the screenshot.



Significant Query Matches (12) in *swissprot* (v.2018\_11)

[Customise](#) [Customise](#)

	Target	Description	Species	🔍 Cross-references	E-value
>	<a href="#">HBB_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit beta	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		6.8e-99
>	<a href="#">HBD_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit delta	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		1.6e-91
>	<a href="#">HBE_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit epsilon	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		1.5e-74
>	<a href="#">HBG2_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit gamma-2	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		8.8e-73
>	<a href="#">HBG1_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit gamma-1	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		6.2e-72
>	<a href="#">HBA_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit alpha	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		3.8e-29
>	<a href="#">HBAZ_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit zeta	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		4.5e-23
>	<a href="#">HBAT_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit theta-1	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		5.2e-22
>	<a href="#">HBM_HUMAN</a>	Hemoglobin subunit mu	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		3.4e-19
>	<a href="#">CYGB_HUMAN</a>	Cytoglobin	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		3.1e-14
>	<a href="#">MYG_HUMAN</a>	Myoglobin	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		2.3e-06
>	<a href="#">NGB_HUMAN</a>	Neuroglobin	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>		0.0017

[\(show all\) alignments](#)

Your search took: 0.06 secs

showing rows 1 - 12 of 12

# Visualization of Results – By Score



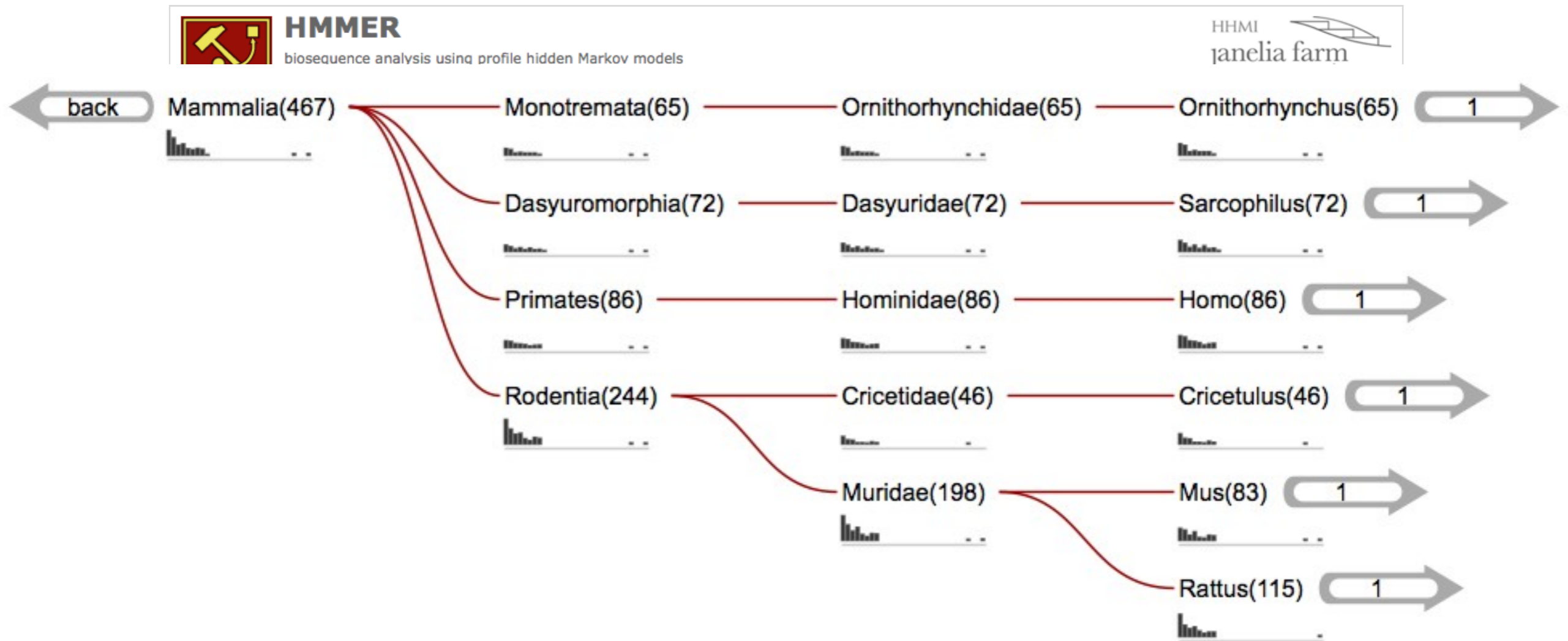
Query		Target Envelope		Target Alignment		Bias	Accuracy	% Identity (count)	% Similarity (count)	Bit Score	E-value	
start	end	start	end	start	end						Ind.	Cond.
V Q16IU8_AEDAE		SH2/SH3 adaptor protein		Aedes aegypti						19.5	0.2	0.00011

```

.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....
Query    7  dpnlfvalydfvasgdntlsitkgeklrvlgynhngewceagt.kngggwvpsnyit 62
          d   va yd+ a g   l + k+e+ +l   + w   q   n   g+vpsny+
Target   9  DVCYVVAKYDYAAQGAQELDLRKNERYLLLD--DSKHWRVQNSHNQSGYVPSNYVK 63
PP       5566799*****987775..455677766516777*****96
    
```



# Visualization of Results – By Taxonomy




Species Distribution		
Species	Count	View
<a href="#">Rattus norvegicus</a>	115	<a href="#">Show</a>
<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>	86	<a href="#">Show</a>
<a href="#">Mus musculus</a>	83	<a href="#">Show</a>
<a href="#">Sarcophilus harrisii</a>	72	<a href="#">Show</a>
<a href="#">Ornithorhynchus anatinus</a>	65	<a href="#">Show</a>
<a href="#">Cricetulus griseus</a>	46	<a href="#">Show</a>

[Search Details](#)  
[Jump to threshold page](#)

[Show All Visible](#)



# Visualization of Results – By Domain



**HMMER**  
biosequence analysis using profile hidden Markov models

Home Search **Results** Software Help About

jackhmmer [Search Again](#)

Score Taxonomy **Domain** Download

Iteration 1

**214 SEQUENCES**  
[Show All](#)

with domain architecture: **SH2**, *example:F6Q3Z0\_CIOIN* [View Scores](#)




**SH3\_1 (PF00018.23)**

**Description:** SH3 domain [[Pfam](#)]

**Coordinates:** 88 - 135 (alignment region 88 - 135)

**202 SEQUENCES**  
[Show All](#)

with domain architecture: **SH2**, **Pkinase\_Tyr**, *example:FYN\_HUMAN* [View Scores](#)




**Match Coordinates**

**Target:** 85 - 245

**Query:** 9 - 161

**57 SEQUENCES**  
[Show All](#)


with domain architecture: **SH2**, **Pkinase\_Tyr**, *example:D6W7G8\_TRICA* [View Scores](#)



[Show All](#) 


**46 SEQUENCES**  
[Show All](#)

with domain architecture: **SH2**, **SOCS\_box**, *example:B3F7U0\_ANOGA* [View Scores](#)



**42 SEQUENCES**  
[Show All](#)

with domain architecture: **SH3\_1**, **SH2**, **SH3\_1**, *example:A8XPY6\_CAEBR* [View Scores](#)





# PFAM: Protein Family Database of Profile HMMs

---

Comprehensive compilation of both multiple sequence alignments and profile HMMs of protein families.

<http://pfam.sanger.ac.uk/>

PFAM consists of two databases:

- **Pfam-A** is a manually curated collection of protein families in the form of multiple sequence alignments and profile HMMs. HMMER software is used to perform searches.
- **Pfam-B** contains additional protein sequences that are automatically aligned. Pfam-B serves as a useful supplement that makes the database more comprehensive.
- Pfam-A also contains higher-level groupings of related families, known as **clans**



# Summary

- **Sequence motifs and patterns:** Simple approaches for finding functional cues from conservation patterns
- **Sequence profiles** and position specific scoring matrices (PSSMs): Building and searching with profiles, Their advantages and limitations
- **PSI-BLAST algorithm:** Application of iterative PSSM searching to improve BLAST sensitivity
- **Hidden Markov models (HMMs):** More versatile probabilistic model for detection of remote similarities

# Homework: DataCamp!

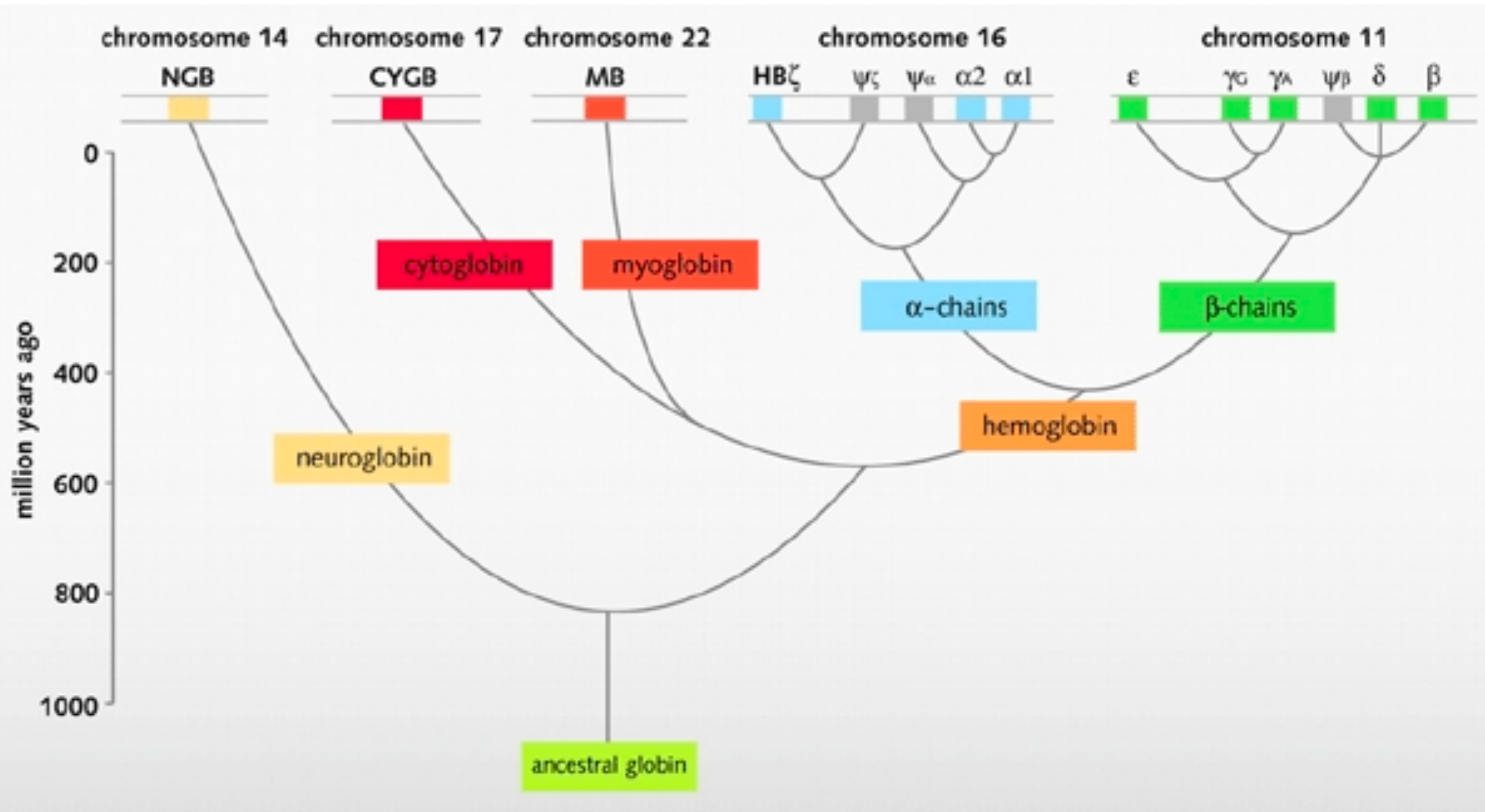
Check your email for an DataCamp invite and sign up with your UCSD username (i.e. first part of your email address) please.

Let me know NOW if you don't see the invite email!



That's it!

**Side Note:** Human Globins



## An evolutionary model of human globins.

The different locations of globin genes in human chromosomes are reported at the top of the figure, distinguishing between the functional genes (in color) and the pseudogenes (in grey).

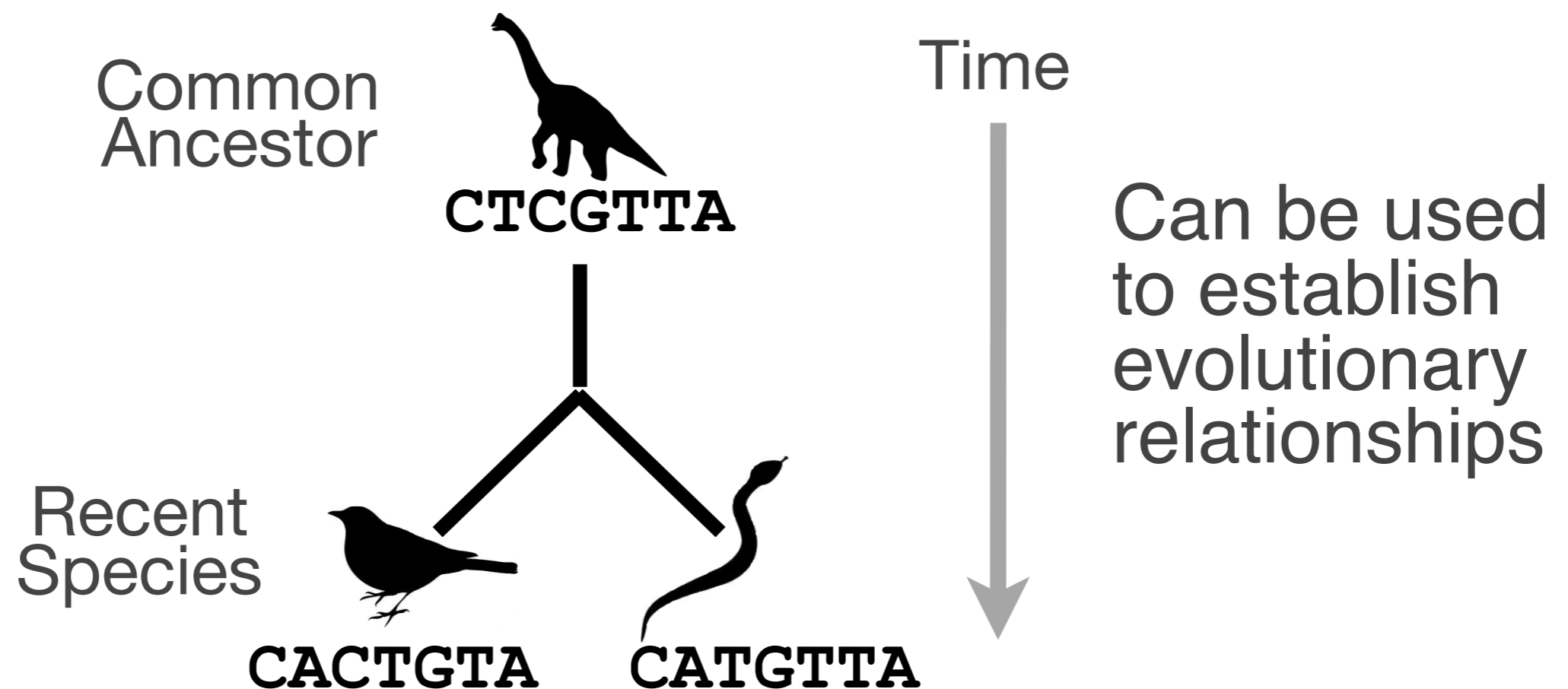
# **Side Note:** Orthologs vs Paralogs



# Sequence comparison is most informative when it detects homologs

Homologs are sequences that have common origins i.e. they share a common ancestor

- They may or may not have common activity



# Key terms

When we talk about related sequences we use specific terminology.

Homologous sequences may be either:

- Orthologs or Paralogs

(Note. these are all or nothing relationships!)

Any pair of sequences may share a certain level of:

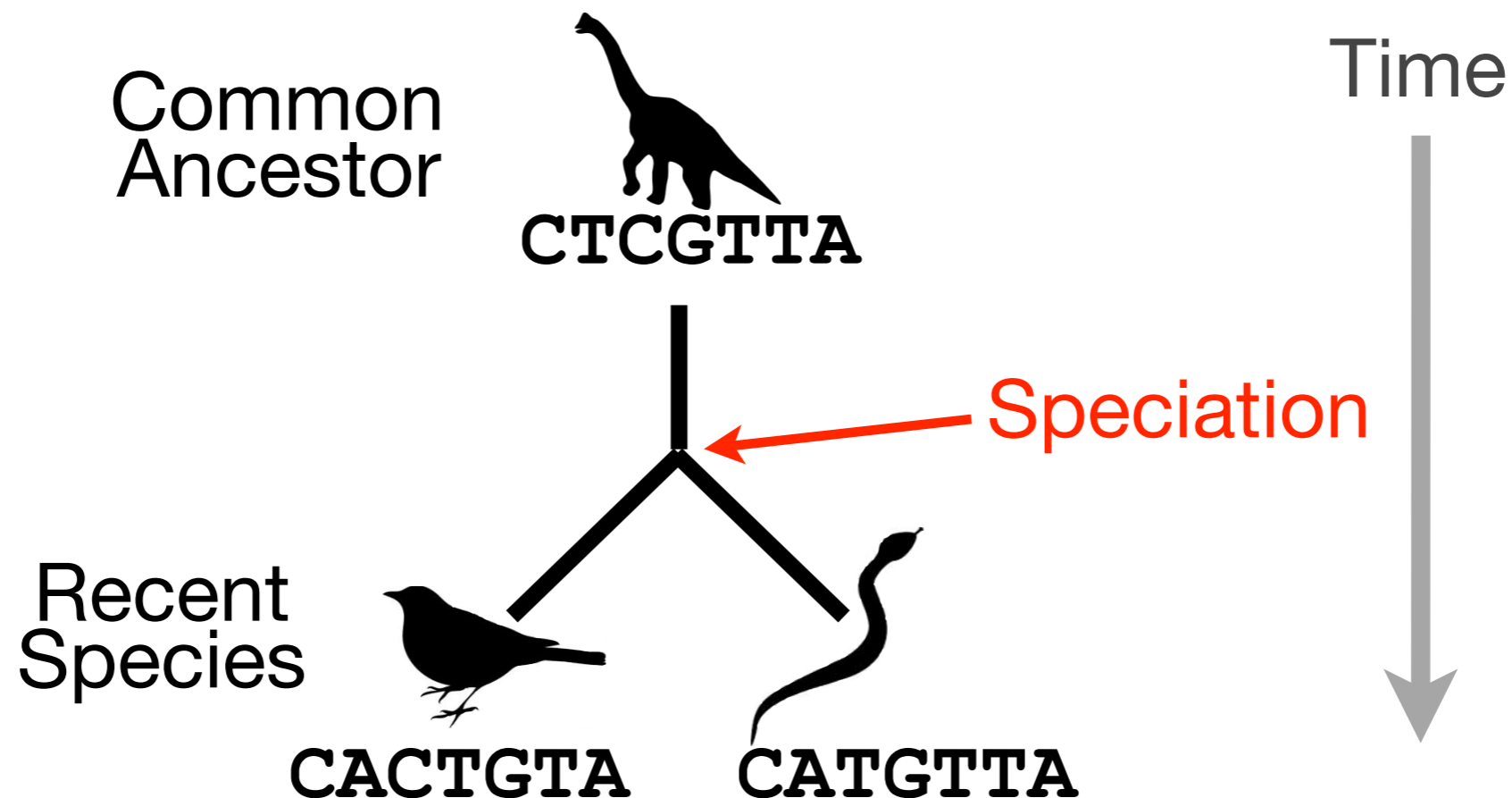
- Identity and/or Similarity

(Note. if these metrics are above a certain level we often infer homology)

# Orthologs tend to have similar function

Orthologs: are homologs produced by speciation that have diverged due to divergence of the organisms they are associated with.

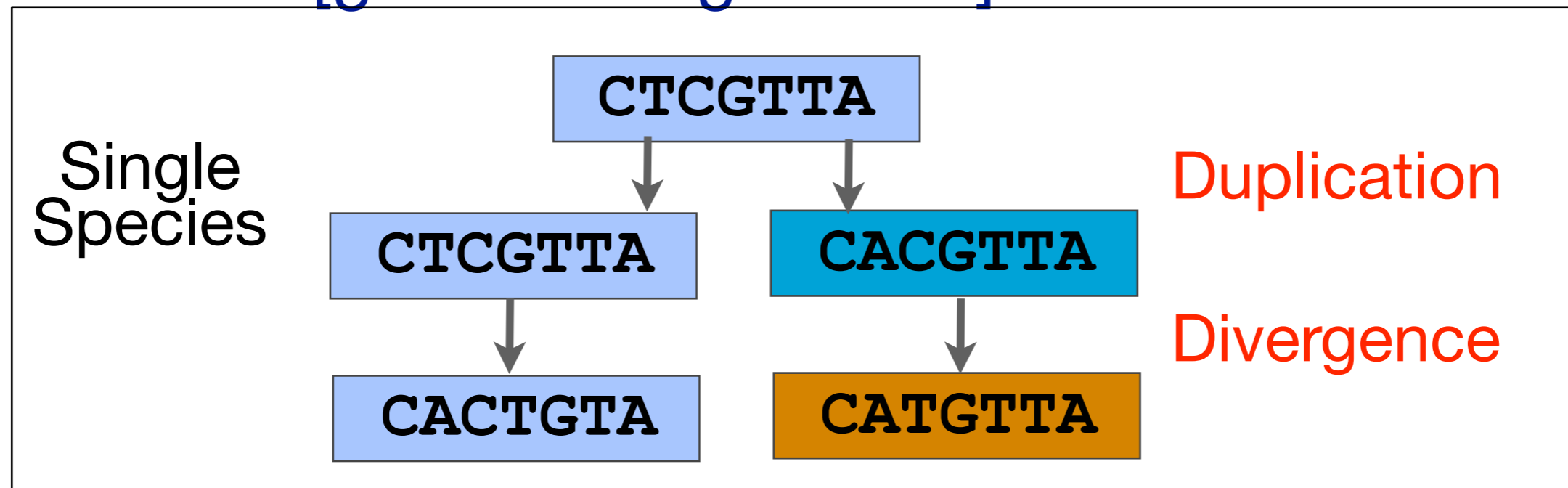
- Ortho = [greek: straight] ... implies direct descent



# Paralogs tend to have slightly different functions

Paralogs: are homologs produced by gene duplication. They represent genes derived from a common ancestral gene that duplicated within an organism and then subsequently diverged by accumulated mutation.

– Para = [greek: along side of]



# Orthologs vs Paralogs

- In practice, determining ortholog vs paralog can be a complex problem:
  - gene loss after duplication,
  - lack of knowledge of evolutionary history,
  - weak similarity because of evolutionary distance
- Homology does not necessarily imply exact same function
  - may have similar function at very crude level but play a different physiological role