

Bioinformatics for Biologists

Computational Methods I: Genomic Resources and Unix

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Mammalian genome databases

- Organizing, analyzing, integrating, and presenting data
- Homes of major genome browsers:
 - NCBI
 - Ensembl
 - UCSC
- Which data/browsers best address your needs?
- Levels of use:
 - Query remote database using web interface
 - Write scripts to query remote database
 - Install database locally and create queries however you want (SQL; Perl)

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NCBI

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=Genome>

- Recent builds:
 - Human: July 2003 (Build 34)
 - Mouse: January 2003 (Build 30)
 - Rat: July 2003 (Build 2)
- Some ways to view the data:
 - Map View: browse a region of the genome
 - Evidence Viewer: see data on a gene model
 - Model Maker: create a gene model from data

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Ensembl:

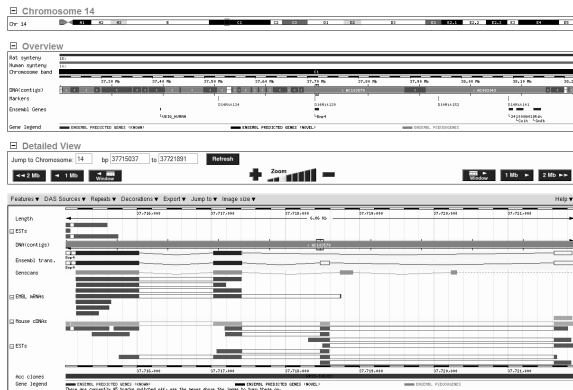
<http://www.ensembl.org/>

- A joint project: EMBL-EBI and the Sanger Institute
- Automated system for genome annotation: prediction + confirmation
- Genome-centric gene sequences
- Genes, exons, transcripts, and proteins
- Many data and display options
- Large analyses:
 - EnsMart
 - Download desired data tables (MySQL)

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Ensembl ContigView



UCSC Genome Informatics:

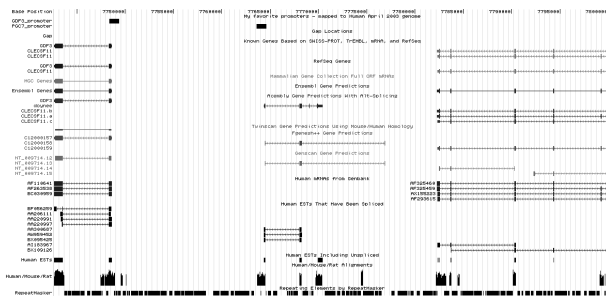
<http://genome.ucsc.edu/>

- One view: alignment of data to genome
- BLAT: rapid alignment of cDNA to genome
- Many data and display options
- Easy to add custom annotation tracks
- Large analyses:
 - Table Browser
 - Download desired data tables (MySQL)

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UCSC Genome Browser



Introduction to Unix

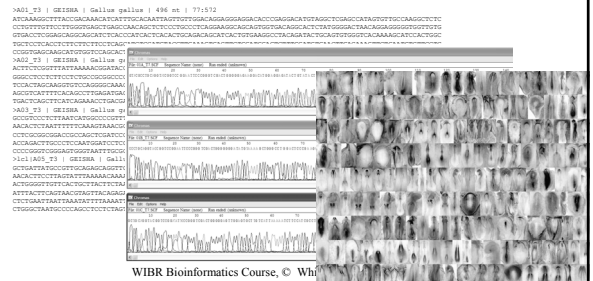
- Why Unix?
- The Unix operating system
- Files and directories
- Ten required commands
- Input/output and command pipelines
- Supplementary information
 - X windows
 - EMBOSS
 - Shell scripts

Objectives

- Get around on a Unix computer
- Run bioinformatics programs “from the command line”
- Design potential ways to streamline data manipulation and analysis with scripts

Why Unix (for me)?

- **GEISHA**, the *Gallus gallus* (chicken) EST and in situ hybridization (ISH) database



Why Unix (in general)?

- Features: multiuser, multitasking, network-ready, robust
- Others use it – and you can benefit from them (open source projects, etc.)
- Good programming and I/O tools
- Scripts can be easily re-run
- Types: Linux, Solaris, etc.
- Can be very inexpensive

Why Unix for Bioinformatics?

- Good for manipulating lots of data
- Many key tools written for Unix
- Don't need to re-invent the wheel
- Unix-only packages: EMBOSS, BioPerl
- Unix tools with other OSs: Mac (OS X) & PC (Cygwin)

Unix O.S.

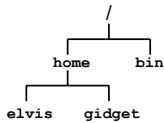
- kernel
 - managing work, memory, data, permissions
- shell:
 - working environment and command interpreter
 - link between kernel and user
 - choices: tcsh, etc.
 - History, filename completion [tab], wildcard (*)
 - Shell scripts to combine commands
- filesystem
 - ordinary files, directories, special files, pipes

Logging in

- ssh (secure shell; for encrypted data flow)
ssh -l user_name hebrides.wi.mit.edu
- passwd: to change your passwd
- logging out
logout

Intro to files and directories

- Arranged in a branching tree
- Root of tree at “/” directory
- User elvis lives at /home/elvis (on ‘hebrides’)
- Full vs. relative pathnames
 - At his home, Elvis’ home dir is “.”
 - To get to /home/gidget, go up and back down: (../gidget relative to /home/elvis)
- Anywhere, your home directory is “~”.



Intro to Unix commands

- Basic form is
command_name options argument(s)
examples:
mv new_data old_data
blastall -p blastn -i myFile.seq -e 0.05
-d nt -T T -o myFile.out
- Use history (↑, ↓, !num) to re-use commands
- Cursor commands: ^A(beginning) and ^E(end)
- To get a blank screen: **clear**
- For info about a command: **man command**

Key commands p. 1

- Where am I?
elvis@hebrides[1]% pwd
/usr/people/elvis
- What's here?
elvis@hebrides [2]% ls
A01.tfa
- elvis@hebrides [3]% ls -a**
. **.cshrc** **A01.tfa**
.. **.twmrc**
- elvis@hebrides [4]% ls -l**
-rw-r--r-- 1 elvis musicians 1102 Jun 19 10:45 A01.fa

Key commands p. 2

- Change directories:
cd ../gidget
/home/gidget
- Make a new directory:
mkdir spleen
- Remove a directory (needs to be empty first):
rmdir spleen

File permissions

- Who should be reading, writing, and executing files?
- Three types of people: user (u), group (g), others (o)
- 9 choices (rwx or each type of person; default = 644)
 - 0 = no permission
 - 1 = execute only
 - 2 = write only
 - 3 = x + w
 - 4 = read only
 - 5 = r + x
 - 6 = r + w
 - 7 = r + w + x
- Setting permissions with chmod:

```
chmod 744 myFile or      chmod u+x myFile
-rwxr--r-- 1 elvis musicians 110 Jun 19 10:45 myFile
chmod 600 myFile
-rw----- 1 elvis musicians 110 Jun 19 10:45 myFile
```

Key commands p.3

- Copying a file:
cp [OPTION]... SOURCE DEST
Ex: cp mySeq seqs/mySeq
- Moving or renaming a file:
mv [OPTION]... SOURCE DEST
Ex: mv mySeq seqs/mySeq
- Looking at a file (one screenful) with 'more'
Ex: more mySeq
(Spacebar a screenful forward,
<enter> a line forward; ^B a screenful back; q to exit)

Key commands (summary)

```
ssh    mkdir    cp
pwd    mkdir    mv
ls     chmod    more
cd
```

To get more info (syntax, options, etc.):
man command

Input/output redirection

- Defaults: stdin = keyboard; stdout = screen
- To modify,
command < inputFile > outputFile
- input examples
sort < my_gene_list
- output examples
ls > file_name (make new file)
ls >> file_name (append to file)
ls foo >& file_name (stderr too)

Pipes (command pipelines)

- In a pipeline of commands, the output of one command is used as input for the next
- Link commands with the "pipe" symbol: |
ex1: **ls *.fasta | wc -l**
ex2: **head -1 *.fasta | grep '^>' | sort**

Managing jobs and processes

- Run a process in the foreground (fg):
command
- Run a process in the background (bg):
command &
- Change a process (fg to bg):
 1. suspend the process: **^Z**
 2. change to background: **bg**

Managing jobs and processes (cont.)

- See what's running (ps)

```
elvis@hebrides[1]% ps -u user_name
```

PID	TTY	TIME	CMD
22541	pts/22	0:00	perl
22060	pts/22	0:00	tcsh

- Stop a process:

```
kill PID
```

```
ex: kill 22541
```

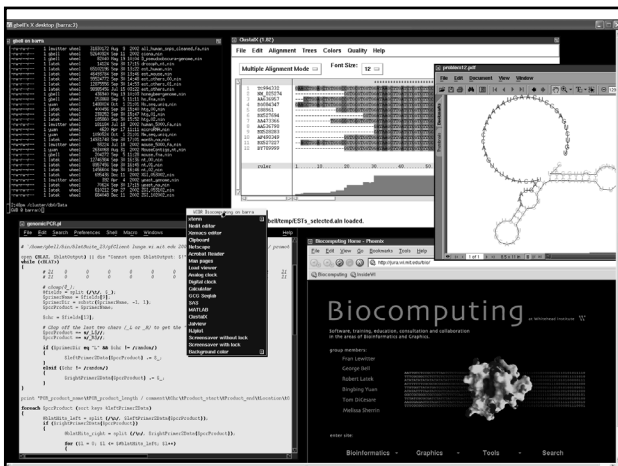
Text editors

- emacs, vi (powerful but unfriendly at first); pico
- xemacs, nedit (easier; X windows only)
- desktop text editors (BBEdit; TextPad) + sftp

Supplementary information

X Windows

- method for running Unix graphical applications
- still allows for command-line operation
- See help pages for getting started
- Some applications with extensive graphics:
 - EMBOSS
 - R
 - Matlab
- Requires a fast network/internet connection



EMBOSS

- The European Molecular Biology Open Software Suite
- List of programs at <http://www.hgmp.mrc.ac.uk/Software/EMBOSS/Apps/>
- ex: Smith-Waterman local alignment (`water`)
- Programs have two formats: interactive and one-line
- Conducive to embedding in scripts for batch analysis
- Traditionally command-line but web interfaces are becoming available

EMBOSS examples

- **needle**: Needleman-Wunsch global alignment
`needle seq1.fa seq2.fa -auto`
`-outfile seq1.seq2.needle`
- **dreg**: regular expression search of a nucleotide sequence
`dreg -sequence mySeq.tfa -pattern`
`GGAT[TC]TAA -outfile mySeq_dreg.txt`

Shell script example

```
#!/bin/csh
# alignSeqs.csh: align a pair of sequences

# Check to make sure you get two arguments (sequence
files)
if ($#argv != 2) then
    echo "Usage: $0 seq1 seq2"; exit 1
endif

# Local alignment
set localOut=$1.$2.water.out
water $1 $2 -auto -outfile $localOut
echo Wrote local alignment to $localOut

# Global alignment
set globalOut=$1.$2.needle.out
needle $1 $2 -auto -outfile $globalOut
echo Wrote global alignment to $globalOut
```

Some other helpful commands

- **rm**: remove (delete) files ex: `rm myOldfile`
- **cat**: concatenate files
ex: `cat *.seq > all_seq.tfa`
- **alias**: create your own command shortcuts
ex: `alias myblastx blastall -p blastx -d nr`
- **find**: find a lost file (ex: look for files with the .fa extension)
ex: `find . -name *.fa`
- **diff**, **comm**: compare files or lists
- **sort**: sort (alphabetically/numerically) lines in a file
- **grep**: search a file for a text pattern
- **tar**: combine files together for storage or transfer
- **sftp**: transfer files between machines
- **gzip** & **gunzip**: compress or uncompress a file

Summary

- Genome browsers: NCBI, UCSC, Ensembl
- Why Unix?
- The Unix operating system
- Files and directories
- Ten required commands
- Input/output and command pipelines
- X windows, EMBOSS, and shell scripts

Demo on the web

- compress, move, and uncompress lots of single sequence files
- make a multiple sequence file
- create a BLAST database
- run BLAST on your database
- extract a sequence from the database