

Module 1b

Bioinformatics for Biologists



How similar are two sequences?



1. How similar are two sequences?

Seq1: GANDALF

Seq2: SCANDAL

Pairwise alignment

GANDALF	-GANDALF	G-ANDALF	--GANDALF	G--ANDALF
SCANDAL	SCANDAL-	SCANDAL-	SC-ANDAL-	-SCANDAL-

Which is the better alignment?

How can we evaluate which is the better alignment?



1. How similar are two sequences?

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Seq2: SCANDAL

Pairwise alignment

GANDALF	-GANDALF	G-ANDALF	--GANDALF	G--ANDALF
SCANDAL	SCANDAL-	SCANDAL-	SC-ANDAL-	-SCANDAL-

Which is the better alignment?

We need a substitution matrix and a gap penalty to evaluate the alignments.



Substitution matrix

Gives the score or probability for an amino acid i to be substituted into amino acid j . Amino acid frequencies for pairs of amino acids are estimated from a database or a large dataset.

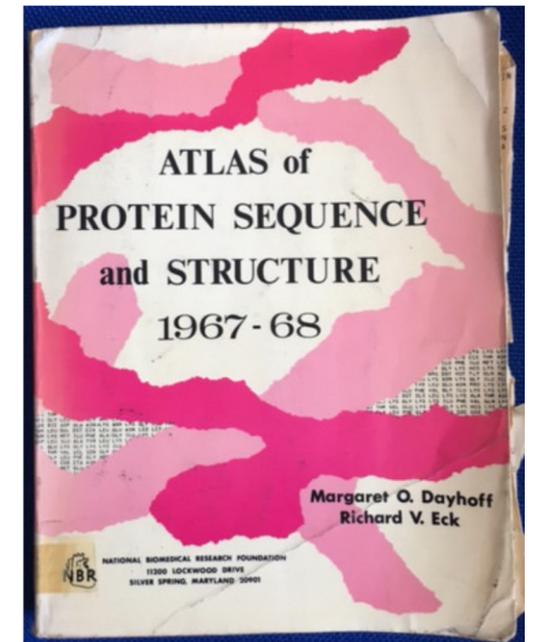


Margaret Dayhoff

Pioneer of bioinformatics

Atlas of protein sequence and structure
was a book with sequences

PAM matrices



key for the development of
molecular biology, molecular
evolution and bioinformatics.



PAM Step 1: **A**ccepted **P**oint **M**utations (APM or PAM) are defined not by the pairwise alignment but with respect to the common ancestor



Dayhoff et al. evaluated amino acid changes. They applied an evolutionary model to compare changes such as 1 versus 2 not to each other but to an inferred common ancestor at position 5.



PAM Step 2: Frequency of amino acids

TABLE 3.1 Normalized frequencies of amino acid. These values sum to 1. If the 20 amino acids were equally represented in proteins, these values would all be 0.05 (i.e., 5%); instead, amino acids vary in their frequency of occurrence.

Gly	0.089	Arg	0.041
Ala	0.087	Asn	0.040
Leu	0.085	Phe	0.040
Lys	0.081	Gln	0.038
Ser	0.070	Ile	0.037
Val	0.065	His	0.034
Thr	0.058	Cys	0.033
Pro	0.051	Tyr	0.030
Glu	0.050	Met	0.015
Asp	0.047	Trp	0.010

L, S, R = 6 codons; M, W = 1 codon in the genetic code



PAM Step 3: amino acid substitutions

	A Ala	R Arg	N Asn	D Asp	C Cys	Q Gln	E Glu	G Gly	H His	I Ile	L Leu	K Lys	M Met	F Phe	P Pro	S Ser	T Thr	W Trp	Y Tyr	V Val
A																				
R	30																			
N	109	17																		
D	154	0	532																	
C	33	10	0	0																
Q	93	120	50	76	0															
E	266	0	94	831	0	422														
G	579	10	156	162	10	30	112													
H	21	103	226	43	10	243	23	10												
I	66	30	36	13	17	8	35	0	3											
L	95	17	37	0	y	75	15	17	40	253										
K	57	477	322	85	0	147	104	60	23	43	39									
M	29	17	0	0	0	20	7	7	0	57	207	90								
F	20	7	7	0	0	0	0	17	20	90	167	0	17							
P	345	67	27	10	10	93	40	49	50	7	43	43	4	7						
S	772	137	432	98	117	47	86	450	26	20	32	168	20	40	269					
T	590	20	169	57	10	37	31	50	14	129	52	200	28	10	73	696				
W	0	27	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	13	0	0	10	0	17	0			
Y	20	3	36	0	30	0	10	0	40	13	23	10	0	260	0	22	23	6		
V	365	20	13	17	33	27	37	97	30	661	303	17	77	10	50	43	186	0	17	
	A Ala	R Arg	N Asn	D Asp	C Cys	Q Gln	E Glu	G Gly	H His	I Ile	L Leu	K Lys	M Met	F Phe	P Pro	S Ser	T Thr	W Trp	Y Tyr	V Val



PAM Step 3: amino acid substitutions

	A Ala	R Arg	N Asn	D Asp	C Cys	Q Gln	E Glu	G Gly
A								
R	30							
N	109	17						
D	154	0	532					
C	33	10	0	0				
Q	93	120	50	76	0			
E	266	0	94	831	0	422		
G	579	10	156	162	10	30	112	
H	21	103	226	43	10	243	23	10

Zooming in on the previous table, note that substitutions are very common (e.g. $D \rightarrow E$, $A \rightarrow G$) while others are rare (e.g. $C \rightarrow Q$, $C \rightarrow E$). The scoring system we use for pairwise alignments should reflect these trends.



PAM Step 4: Mutation probability matrix for the evolutionary distance of 1 PAM (= 1 per cent accepted mutations; 99 % sequence identity)

		Original amino acid																			
		A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
		Ala	Arg	Asn	Asp	Cys	Gln	Glu	Gly	His	Ile	Leu	Lys	Met	Phe	Pro	Ser	Thr	Trp	Tyr	Val
Replacement amino acid	A	98.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
	R	0.0	99.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
	N	0.0	0.0	98.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
	D	0.1	0.0	0.4	98.6	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	C	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Q	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	98.8	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	E	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.4	98.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	G	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	99.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
	H	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	99.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	I	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3
	L	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	99.5	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
	K	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
	M	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	98.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	F	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	99.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
	P	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	S	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	98.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
	T	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	98.7	0.0	0.0	0.1
	W	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.8	0.0	0.0
	Y	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.5	0.0
	V	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	99.0

This mutation probability matrix includes original amino acids (columns) and replacements (rows). The diagonals show that at a distance of 1 PAM most residues remain the same about 99% of the time (see shaded entries). Note how cysteine (C) and tryptophan (W) undergo few substitutions, and asparagine (N) many.



PAM Step 5: PAM₀ and PAM_∞

replacement amino acid

original amino acid

PAM ₀	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G
A	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
N	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
D	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0
Q	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
E	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100

original amino acid

PAM _∞	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G
A	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
R	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
N	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
D	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
C	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Q	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
E	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
G	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9

At the extreme of perfectly conserved proteins (PAM₀) there are no amino acid replacements. At the extreme of completely diverged proteins (PAM_∞) the matrix converges on the background frequencies of the amino acids.



PAM250 matrix: for proteins that share ~20% identity

		Original amino acid																			
		A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
Replacement amino acid	A	13	6	9	9	5	8	9	12	6	8	6	7	7	4	11	11	11	2	4	9
	R	3	17	4	3	2	5	3	2	6	3	2	9	4	1	4	4	3	7	2	2
	N	4	4	6	7	2	5	6	4	6	3	2	5	3	2	4	5	4	2	3	3
	D	5	4	8	11	1	7	10	5	6	3	2	5	3	1	4	5	5	1	2	3
	C	2	1	1	1	52	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	4	2
	Q	3	5	5	6	1	10	7	3	7	2	3	5	3	1	4	3	3	1	2	3
	E	5	4	7	11	1	9	12	5	6	3	2	5	3	1	4	5	5	1	2	3
	G	12	5	10	10	4	7	9	27	5	5	4	6	5	3	8	11	9	2	3	7
	H	2	5	5	4	2	7	4	2	15	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2
	I	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	6	2	6	5	2	3	4	1	3	9
	L	6	4	4	3	2	6	4	3	5	15	34	4	20	13	5	4	6	6	7	13
	K	6	18	10	8	2	10	8	5	8	5	4	24	9	2	6	8	8	4	3	5
	M	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
	F	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	5	6	1	4	32	1	2	2	4	20	3
	P	7	5	5	4	3	5	4	5	5	3	3	4	3	2	20	6	5	1	2	4
	S	9	6	8	7	7	6	7	9	6	5	4	7	5	3	9	10	9	4	4	6
	T	8	5	6	6	4	5	5	6	4	6	4	6	5	3	6	8	11	2	3	6
	W	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	55	1	0
	Y	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	15	1	2	2	3	31	2
	V	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	15	10	4	10	5	5	5	7	2	4	17

PAM1

		A	R	N	D	C	
		Ala	Arg	Asn	Asp	Cys	
Replacement amino acid	A	98.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0
	R	0.0	99.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	N	0.0	0.0	98.2	0.4	0.0	0
	D	0.1	0.0	0.4	98.6	0.0	0
	C	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.7	0
	Q	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	9
	E	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0
	G	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0
	H	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0
	I	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	L	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	K	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0
	M	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	F	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	P	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	S	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0
	T	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0
	W	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	Y	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	V	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0

Compare this to a PAM1 matrix, and note the diagonal still has high scores but much information content is lost.



PAM Step 6: from a mutation probability matrix to a relatedness odds matrix

$$R_{ij} = \frac{M_{ij}}{f_i}$$

A relatedness odds matrix reports the probability that amino acid j will change to i in a homologous sequence.

The numerator models the observed change. The denominator f_i is the probability of amino acid residue i occurring in the second sequence by chance.

A positive value indicates a replacement happens more often than expected by chance. A negative value indicates the replacement is not favored.



PAM Step 7: log odds scoring matrix

$$s_{ij} = 10 \times \log_{10} \left(\frac{M_{ij}}{f_i} \right)$$

A log odds matrix is the logarithmic form of the relatedness odds matrix. s_{ij} is the score for aligning any two residues in a pairwise alignment. (There is also a score for aligning a residue with itself.) M_{ij} is of the observed frequency of substitutions for each pair of amino acids. These values (“target frequencies”) are derived from a mutation probability matrix.

Example of a score for aligning cysteine and leucine using the values in a PAM250 scoring matrix:

$$s_{(\text{cysteine, leucine})} = 10 \times \log_{10} \left(\frac{0.02}{0.085} \right) = -6.3$$



Substitution matrix

Amino acid frequencies for pairs of amino acids are estimated from a database or a dataset.

PAM (Point Accepted Mutations)

Score of mutation $i \leftrightarrow j =$

$$10 \times \log_{10} \frac{\text{observed } i \leftrightarrow j \text{ mutation rate}}{\text{mutation rate expected from amino acid frequencies}}$$

1 PAM = 1 per cent accepted mutations; 99 % sequence identity

PAM30 – 75 % sequence identity

PAM80 – 50 % sequence identity

PAM110 – 60 % sequence identity

PAM200 – 25 % sequence identity

PAM250 – 20 % sequence identity

- This matrix was derived by Margaret Dayhoff in the 70s.
- The sequence data used to calculate the PAM distances consisted of less than 1600 mutations in 71 protein families. In each protein family, the proteins had at least 85% sequence identity, but the entire protein length was used (GLOBAL alignment) and sequences were analyzed in a phylogenetic context.



Substitution matrix

BLOSUM (BLOcks SUbstitution Matrix)

Goal: To generate matrices for less similar proteins.

- Used blocks of protein alignments (LOCAL alignment) without gaps.
- Does not consider the phylogenetic context.
- Different threshold for protein sequence identity was used to generate different matrices.
- BLOSUM80 – 80 % sequence id
- BLOSUM62 – 62 % sequence id
- BLOSUM45 – 45 % sequence id



PAM & BLOSUM

BLOSUM62 is the default matrix for BLAST

BLOSUM90

BLOSUM62

BLOSUM45

PAM30

PAM120

PAM250

Less divergent



More divergent

Human versus
chimpanzee beta globin

Human versus
bacterial globins

A higher PAM number, and a lower BLOSUM number, tends to correspond to a matrix tuned to more divergent proteins.



Gap penalty

- Sequences also evolve by insertion and deletion (indel event).
- How can we score an indel event?
 1. Starting a gap in an alignment is more costly (commonly -10).
 2. Once the gap is there, extending it is cheaper (commonly -1).

→ *What is the biological rationale for making gap openings more costly than gap extensions?*



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SCANDAL-	SCANDAL-	SC-ANDAL-	-SCANDAL-

Which is the better alignment?

We need a substitution matrix and a gap penalty to evaluate the alignments.



1. How similar are two sequences?

Why Courier New font? Every letter is the same size so they will always line up!

Seq1: GANDALF

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Pairwise alignment

-GANDALF	G-ANDALF	--GANDALF	G--ANDALF
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-GANDALF G-ANDALF
SCANDAL- SCANDAL-

--GANDALF G--ANDALF
SC-ANDAL- -SCANDAL-

Substitution matrix

G ↔ S 4

G ↔ C 2

Same = 5

Gap penalty

open -5

extend -1



1. How similar are two sequences?

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Seq2: SCANDAL

Pairwise alignment

-GANDALF G-ANDALF

--GANDALF G--ANDALF

SCANDAL- SCANDAL-

SC-ANDAL- -SCANDAL-

$(-5)+2+(5*5)+(-5)=17$

$(4)+(-5)+(5*5)+(-5)=19$

$(-5)+(-1)+(-5)+(5*5)+(-5)=9$

$(-5)+(-5)+(-1)+(5*5)+(-5)=9$

Substitution matrix

$G \leftrightarrow S \ 4$

$G \leftrightarrow C \ 2$

Same = 5

Gap penalty

open -5

extend -1



With BLAST we need to find the sequences to align in a database...

And this will be the topic of the next module.

[Download](#) ▾ [GenPept](#) [Graphics](#)

phenylalanine-4-hydroxylase [Homo sapiens]

Sequence ID: [ref|NP_000268.1|](#) Length: 452 Number of Matches: 1

Range 1: 30 to 451 [GenPept](#) [Graphics](#)

▾ Next Match ▲ Previous Match

	Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps
	467 bits(1202)	7e-160	Compositional matrix adjust.	224/428(52%)	304/428(71%)	14/428(3%)
Query	78	DGNAVLNLLFSLRGTKPSSLSRAVKVFETFEAKIHLETRPAQRPLAGSPHLEYFVRFEV				137
		+ N ++L+FSL+ + +L++ +++FE + + H+E+RP++ E+F +				
Sbjct	30	NQNGAISLIFSLK--EEVGALAKVLRLEFEENDVNLTHIESRPSR---LKKDEYEFFTHLDK				85
Query	138	PSGDLAALLSSVRRVSDDV-----RSAREDKVPWFPRKVSSELDKCHHLVTKFDPDL				189
		S L AL + ++ + D+ R ++D VPWFPR + ELD+ + + + +LD				
Sbjct	86	RS--LPALTNIKILRHDIGATVHELSDRDKKDTVPWFPRTIQELDRFANQILSYGAELD				143
Query	190	LDHPGFSDQVYRQRRLIAEIAFQYKHGEPIPHVEYTAEEIATWKEVYVTLKGLYATHAC				249
		DHPGF D VYR RRK A+IA+ Y+HG+PIP VEY EE TW V+ TLK LY THAC				
Sbjct	144	ADHPGFKDPVYRARRKQFADIAYNRHRGQPIPRVEYMEEKKTWGTVFKTLKSLYKTHAC				203
Query	250	REHLEGFQLLERYCGYREDSIPQLEDVSRFLKERTGFQLRPVAGLLSARDFLASLAFRVF				309
		E+ F LLE+YCG+ ED+IPQLEDVS+FL+ TGF+LRPVAGLLS+RDFL LAFRVF				
Sbjct	204	YEYNHIFPLLEKYCGFHEDNIPQLEDVSQFLQTCTGFRLRPVAGLLSSRDFLGGLAFRVF				263
Query	310	QCTQYIRHASSPMHSPEPDCHELLGHVPLADRTFAQFSQDIGLASLGASDEEIEKLST				369
		CTQYIRH S PM++PEPD CHELLGHV+ +DR+FAQFSQ+IGLASLGA DE IEKL+T				
Sbjct	264	HCTQYIRHGSKPMYTPEPDICHELLGHVPLFSDRSFAQFSQEIGLASLGAPDEYIEKLAT				323
Query	370	VYWFTVEFGLCKQNGELKAYGAGLLSSYGELLHSLSEEPEVRAFDPDTAAVQPYQDQTYQ				429
		+YWFTVEFGLCKQ +KAYGAGLLSS+GEL + LSE+P++ + + A+Q Y +Q				
Sbjct	324	IYWFTVEFGLCKQGDSIKAYGAGLLSSFGEIQYCLSEKPKLLPLELEKTAIQNYTVTEFQ				383
Query	430	PVYFVSESFNDAKDKLRNYASRIQRPFSVKFDPYTLAIDVLDSPHTIQRSLEGVQDELHT				489
		P+Y+V+ESFNDAK+K+RN+A+ I RPFSV++DPYT I+VLD+ ++ + + E+				
Sbjct	384	PLYYYVAESFNDAKEKVRNFAATIPRPFSVRYDPYTQRIEVLNNTQQLKILADSINSEIGI				443
Query	490	LAHALSAI 497				
		L AL I				
Sbjct	444	LCSALQKI 451				

