

#### PROTEIN ENGINEERING

2. IN SILICO IDENTIFICATION OF PROTEINS

Loschmidt Laboratories

Department of Experimental Biology

Masaryk University, Brno

- Outline
  - Why to search for new proteins?
  - How to acquire new proteins?
    - traditional approach
    - metagenomic approach
    - bioinformatic approach
  - Bioinformatic approach
    - Where to find target sequences?
    - How to find target sequences?
    - How to recognize interesting sequences?
  - What to keep in mind?



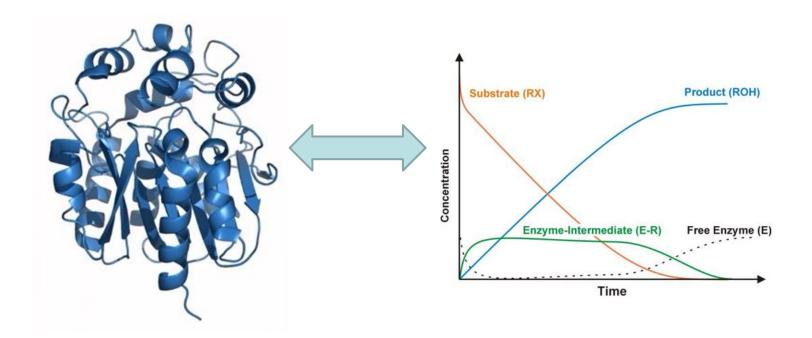




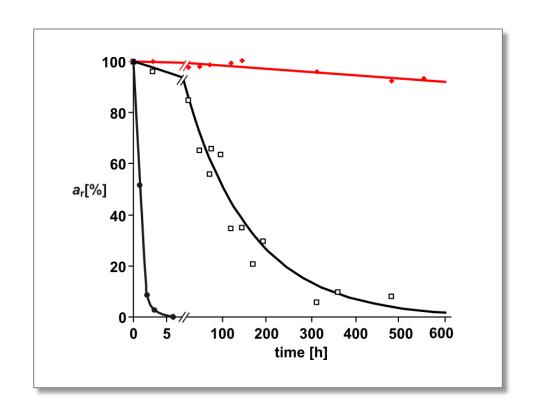


plenty of reasons

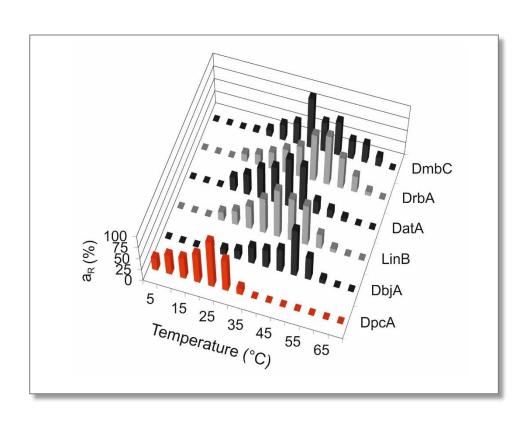
- better understanding of structure-function relationships
  - required for rational design



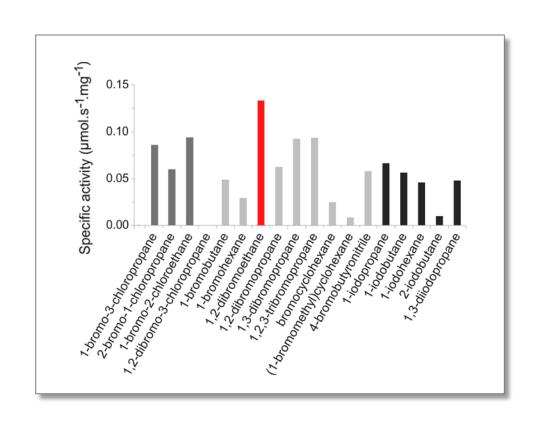
- better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
  - stability



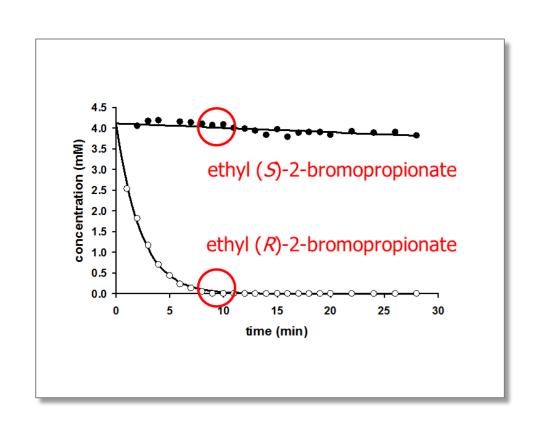
- better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
  - stability
  - temperature profile



- □ better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
  - stability
  - temperature profile
  - activity
  - specificity

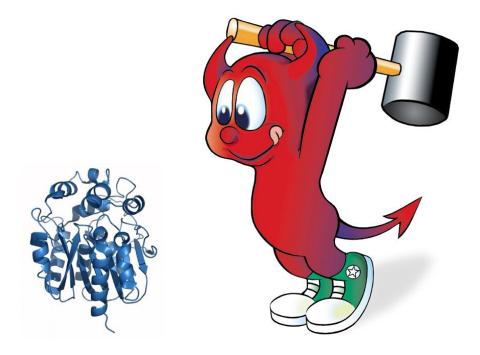


- better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
  - stability
  - temperature profile
  - activity
  - specificity
  - enantioselectivity

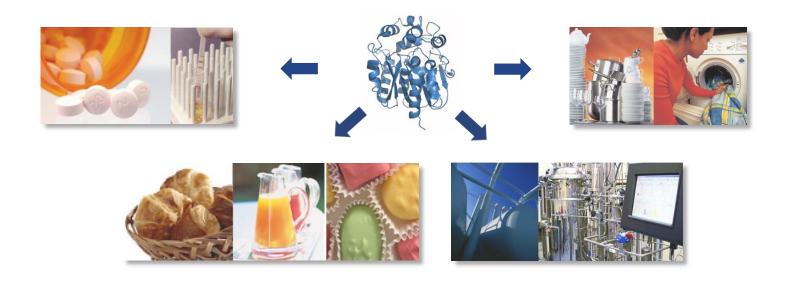


- better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
  - stability
  - temperature profile
  - activity
  - specificity
  - enantioselectivity
  - •

- better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
- better starting points for protein engineering



- better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
- better starting points for protein engineering
- → proteins with desired properties → practical applications



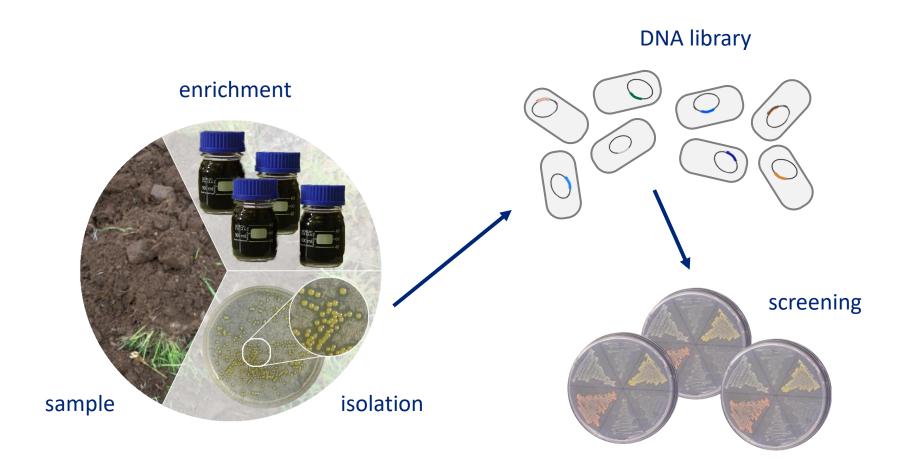






- traditional approach
- metagenomic approach
- bioinformatic approach

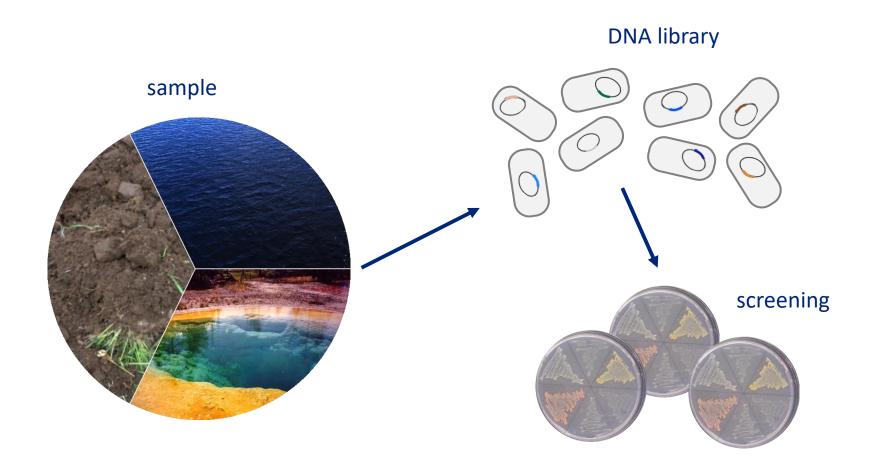
traditional approach



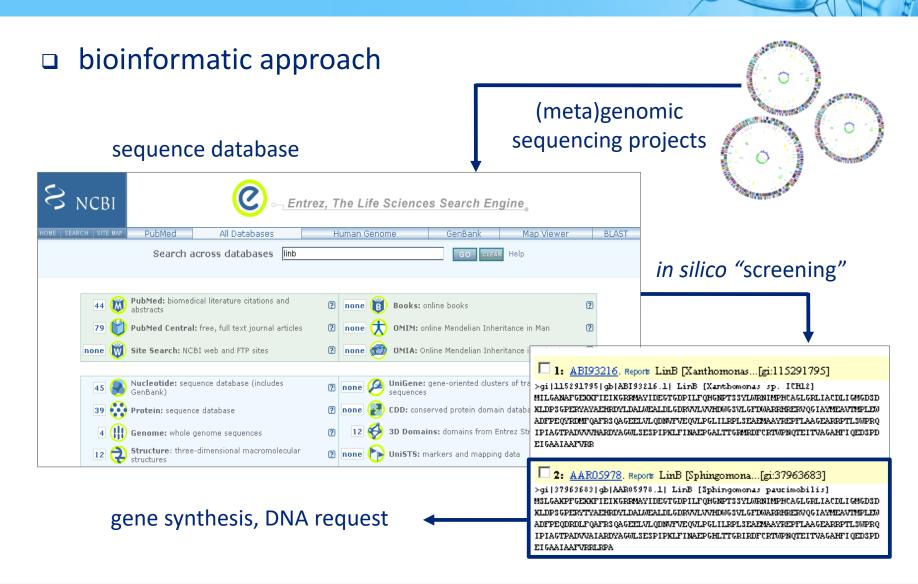
#### traditional approach

- microorganisms possessing target activity are enriched from the environment and isolated in pure culture
- proteins or corresponding genes are recovered from organisms by protein purification, DNA library screening, PCR with specific primers,...

metagenomic approach



- metagenomic approach
  - isolation and cloning of DNA extracted directly from environmental sample (without culturing the present organisms)
  - genes recovered by DNA library screening or PCR with specific primers,...
  - © enables to explore biodiversity of uncultured microorganisms



- bioinformatic approach
  - sequence data from genomic and metagenomic sequencing projects are stored in sequence databases
  - in silico searching of sequence databases
    - → © fast and cheap way to identify novel proteins
    - → ② one cannot find what is not in the database (but there is a lot of data - more than one usually needs ②)
  - genes are recovered by gene synthesis or obtained from sequencing consortia upon request





Where to find target sequences?



#### Where to find target sequences?

- databases of nucleotide sequences
- databases of protein sequences

#### Databases of nucleotide sequences

- GenBank
  - http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/



provided by NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information)

- □ EMBL-BANK
  - http://www.ebi.ac.uk/embl/
  - provided by EBI (European Bioinformatics Institute)



- DDBJ
  - http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/
  - provided by National Institute of Genetics from Japan



#### Databases of nucleotide sequences

- GenBank, EMBL-Bank, DDBJ
  - annotated collections of all publically available nucleotide sequences
  - freely available to wide community
  - contain data obtained from genomic centers or research institutions
  - everyday synchronization of new or updated data
  - © contain about 250,000,000 sequences

- UniProtKB
  - http://www.uniprot.org/
  - provided by EBI, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics and Protein
     Information Resource

- nr Protein database
  - http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/
  - provided by NCBI

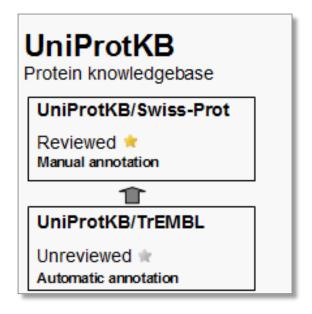


**UniProt** 

- UniProtKB, nr Protein database
  - annotated collections of publically available protein sequences
  - freely available to wide community
  - contain data obtained by conceptual translation of coding sequences from EMBL-Bank/GenBank/DDBJ or provided by research institutions
  - © contain more than 100,000,000 sequences

#### ■ UniProtKB

- rich annotations (e.g., information about function of protein and individual amino acids, experimental data, biological ontologies, classifications, ...)
- clear indication of annotation quality (manual vs. automatic)



#### □ UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot

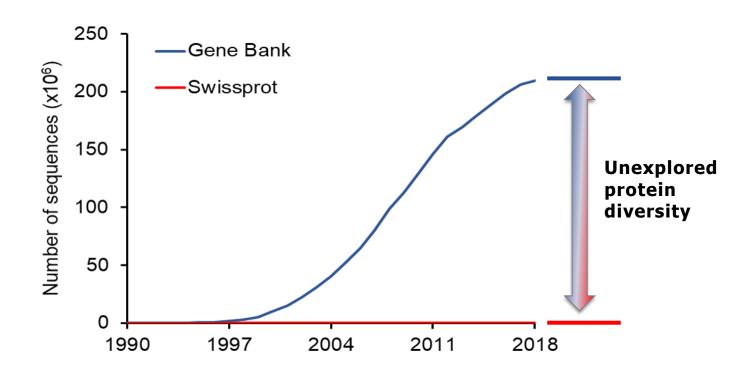
- high quality annotations, i.e., manually annotated entries or expertreviewed automatic annotations
- Source of reliable information
- ⊝ contains "only" ~ 600,000 sequences

#### UniProtKB/TrEMBL

- automatic annotations lower quality, errors
- © contains ~ 180,000,000 sequences

### Unexplored protein diversity

- Number of sequences
- Number of characterized proteins



#### Pitfalls of sequence databases

- □ large number of errors ⊗
  - errors in sequences (wrong base, frameshift errors)
  - wrong positions of genes
  - exon-intron boundary errors
  - errors and inaccuracies in annotations
  - •





How to find target sequences?





### How to find target sequences?

- text-based searches
- sequence-based searches

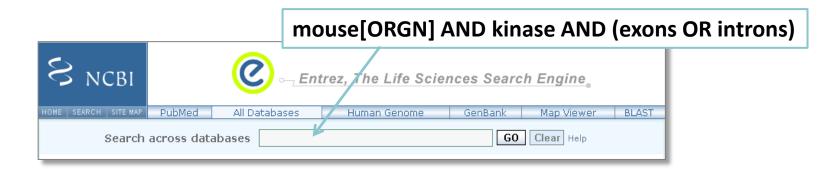
#### Text-based searches

- database retrieval systems
  - enable quick and easy search of many databases at the same time
  - specification of queries using logical operators (AND, OR, NOT,...)
  - Entrez (NCBI), SRS (EBI)

- results dependent on sequence annotations
  - erroneous, inaccurate or too general annotations
  - synonyms
  - misspellings
  - •

#### Text-based searches

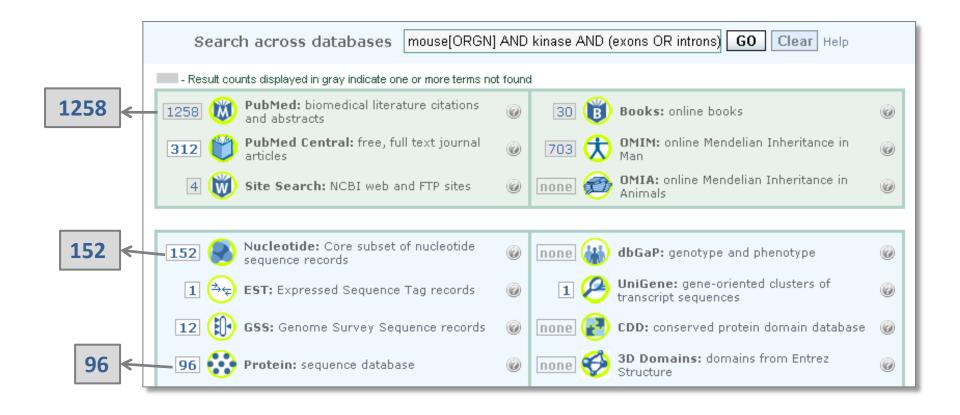
database retrieval systems



#### Text-based searches

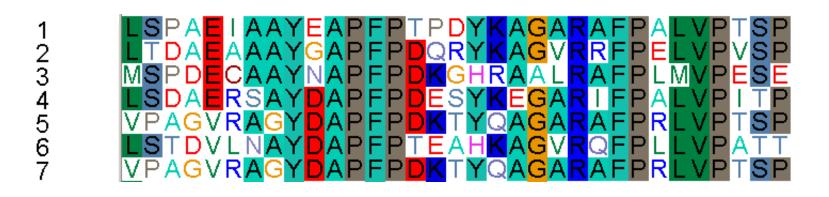


#### database retrieval systems



#### Sequence-based searches

- searches based on sequence similarity
  - © results not influenced by sequence annotations
- rely on assumption that proteins with the same function have similar sequence
  - ③ not always true close homologs vs. distant homologs vs. analogs





based on local pairwise alignment

#### PSI-BLAST

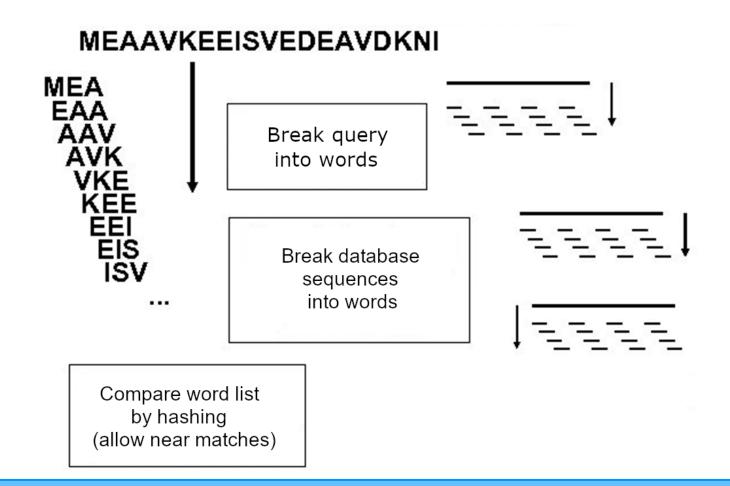
- "iterative BLAST" making use of multiple sequence alignment
- very sensitive search strategy to detect weak but biologically significant similarities between sequences

**...** 

#### **BLAST**



#### Basic Local Alignment Search Tool



#### **BLAST**



►Exact match is scanned.

#### Basic Local Alignment Search Tool

Query sequence: R P P Q G L F

Database sequence: D P P E G V V

#### **BLOSUM** scoring matrix

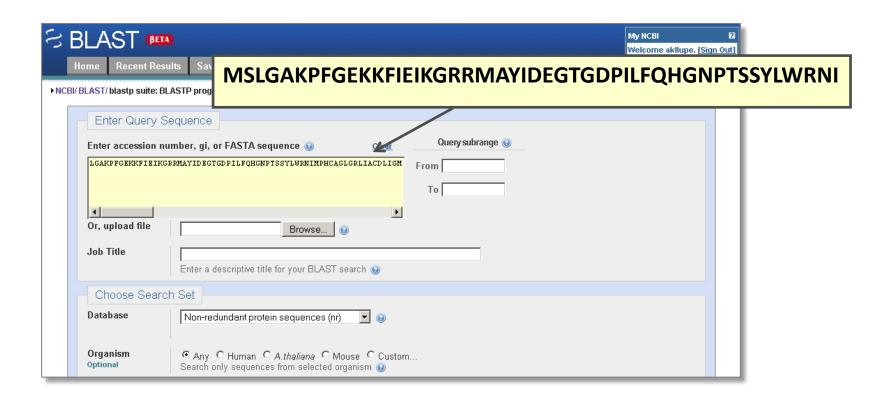
Ala Arg Asn Asp Cys Gln Glu Gly His Ile Leu Lys Met Phe Pro Ser Thr Trp Tyr Val

Score: -2 7 7 2 6 1 -1

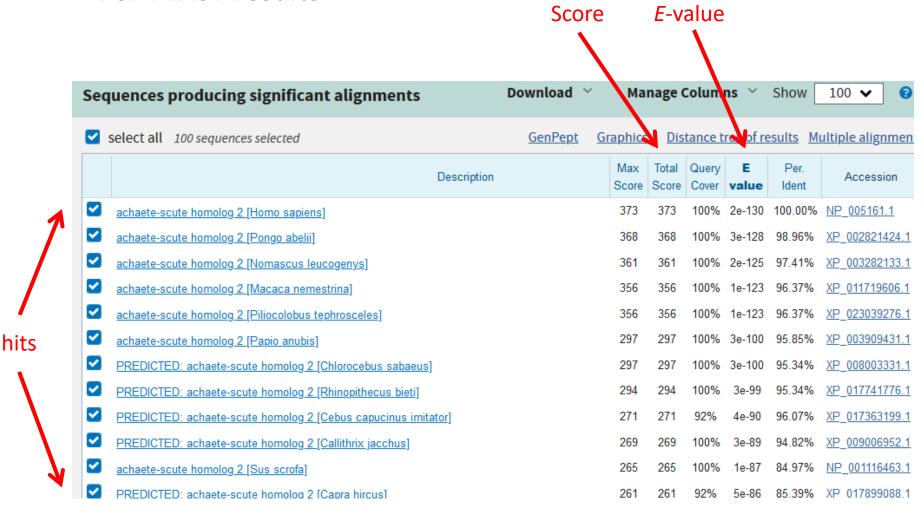
Optimal accumulated score = 7+7+2+6+1=23



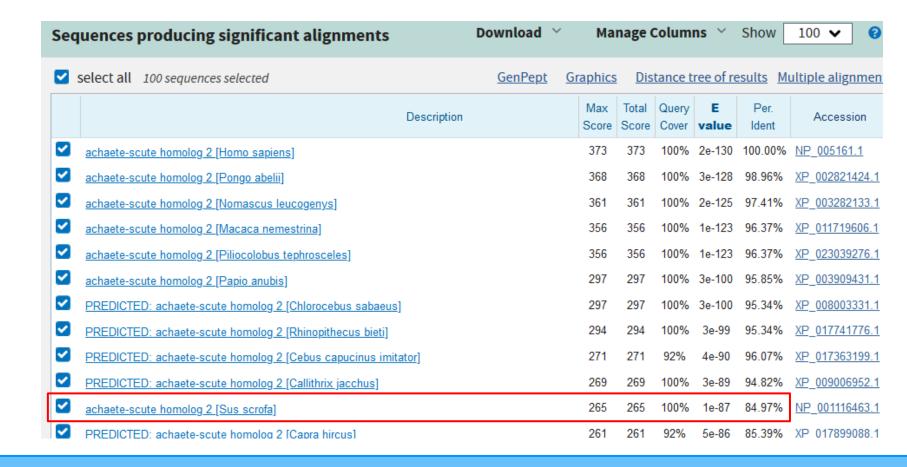
#### □ PSI-BLAST input













#### □ PSI-BLAST results

#### alignment

```
>mgb|AAT70109.1| CurN [Lyngbya majuscula]
Length=341
 Score = 303 bits (777), Expect = 8e-81, Method: Composition-based stats.
 Identities = 148/297 (49%), Positives = 188/297 (63%), Gaps = 8/297 (2%)
Query 2 SEIGTGFPFDPHYVEVLGERMHYVDVGPRDGTPVLFLHGNPTSSYLWRNIIPHV-APSHR
             I + FPF
                        VEV G + YVD G G PVLFLHGNPTSSYLWRNIIP+V A +R
     41 LPISSEFPFAKRTVEVEGATIAYVDEG--SGQPVLFLHGNPTSSYLWRNIIPYVVAAGYR
Sbict
                                                                         98
Query 61
                                                                         120
          CIAPDLIGMGKSDKPDLDYFFDDHVRYLDAFIEALGLEEVVLVIHDWGSALGFHWAKRNP
            +APDLIGMG S KPD++Y
                                 DHV Y+D FI+ALGL+++VLVIHDWGS +G
Sbict
           AVAPDLIGMGDSAKPDIEYRLQDHVAYMDGFIDALGLDDMVLVIHDWGSVIGMRHARLNP
                                                                         158
      121 ERVKGIACMEFIRPI----PTWDEWPEFARETFQAFRTADVGRELIIDQNAFIEGVLPK-
                                                                         175
Query
                              P+++
                                           F+ RTADVG ++++D N F+E +LP+
           +RV +A ME + P
Sbjct
      159
           DRVAAVAFMEALVPPALPMPSYEAMGPOLGPLFRDLRTADVGEKMVLDGNFFVETILPEM
                                                                         218
                                                                         235
      176 CVVRPLTEVEMDHYREPFLKPVDREPLWRFPNEIPIAGEPANIVALVEAYMNWLHQSPVP
Query
            VVR L+E EM YR PF
                                  R P ++P E+PI GEPA
                                                       AV
Sbjct
      219
           GVVRSLSEAEMAAYRAPFPTROSRLPTLOWPREVPIGGEPAFAEAEVLKNGEWLMASPIP
                                                                         278
      236 KLLFWGTPGVLIPPAEAARLAESLPNCKTVDIGPGLHYLQEDNPDLIGSEIARWLPG
Query
                                          +G G H+LQED+P LIG IA WL
                  PG L P
                              L+E++bN +
Sbjct
     279 KLLFHAEPGALAPKPVVDYLSENVPNLEVRFVGAGTHFLQEDHPHLIGQGIADWLRR
                                                                      335
```



- normalized raw score
- raw score = sum of substitution scores and gap penalties
- higher is better, but does not adequately represent significance of alignment

#### BLAST E-value

- equal to the number of BLAST alignments with a given Score that are expected to be seen simply by a chance
- indicator of alignment significance
- results associated with the lowest E-values are the best
- hits with an E-value score > 0.01 belong to the "grey zone" do not trust them

#### BLAST alignment

- identity and similarity level between query and aligned sequence
- alignment length and coverage of query sequence the alignment is local, therefore one should always check that the alignment covers a significant portion of the query sequence (e.g., the alignment may involve only few amino acids from the query sequence → not significant hit)

## Optimal search strategy



- good for finding evolutionary "unrelated" proteins with some specific function
- a large number of false negatives (missed proteins with target function) and false positives (identified proteins with different function) results due to erroneous or inaccurate annotations

#### Optimal search strategy

- □ text-based search
- sequence-based search
  - good for finding members of a protein family (i.e., group of evolutionary related proteins sharing some specific function) → not suitable for finding "unrelated" proteins
  - potential false positive results (i.e., proteins belonging to other evolutionary related families)
  - searches using protein sequence queries are generally more sensitive than using nucleotide sequence queries (20 different amino acids vs. 4 different nucleotides)

#### Optimal search strategy

- □ text-based search
- sequence-based search
- combination of text-based and sequence-based approaches
  - text-based search
  - subdivision of identified sequences into evolutionary related groups
  - 3. selection of few representatives for each group
  - 4. sequence-based searches using each representative as a query
  - potential false positive results should be filtered





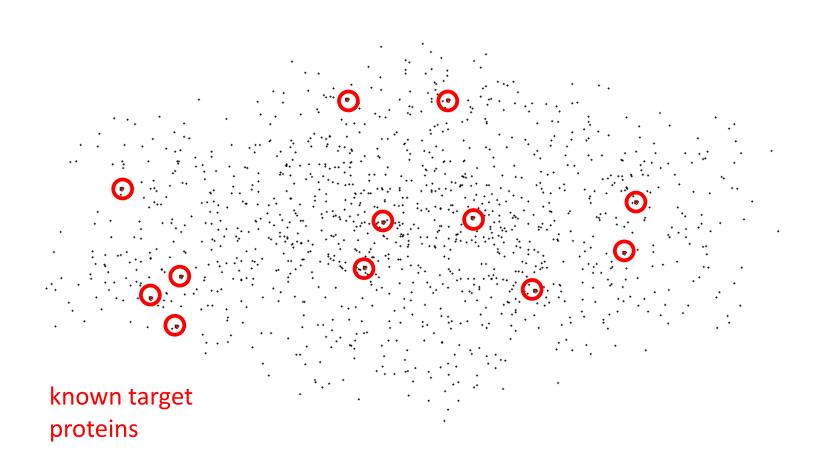
How to recognize interesting sequences?

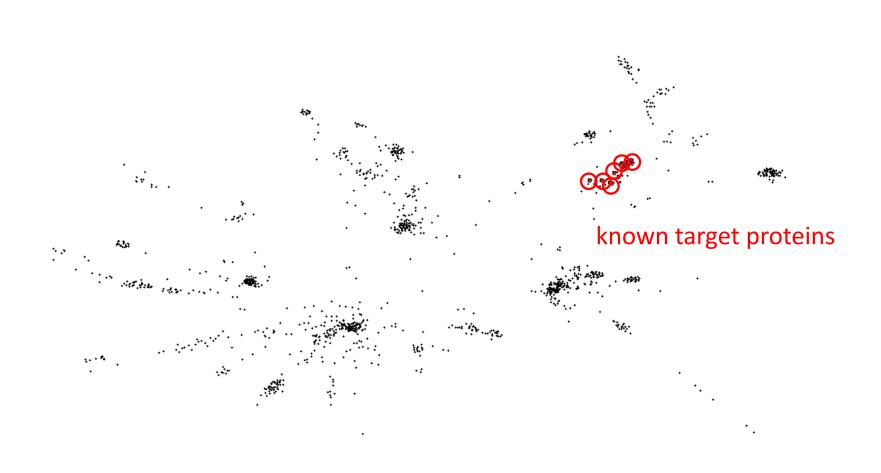


#### How to recognize interesting sequences?

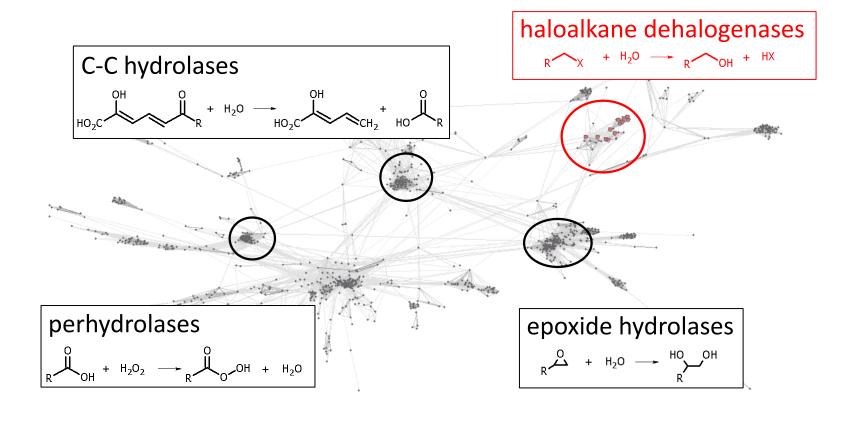
- sequence clustering
- sequence comparison
- information about host organisms
- automated in silico enzyme identification
- ancestral sequence reconstruction

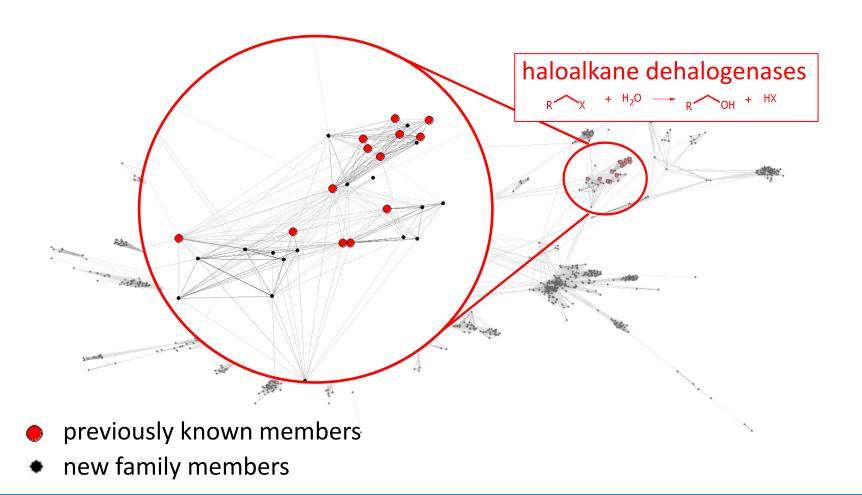
- clustering based on pairwise sequence similarities
  - can be used for a fast and rough classification of sequences in large datasets (thousands of sequences)
    - → effective way to filter results of database searches
    - → identification of members of individual protein families
  - CLANS visualization of pairwise sequence similarities in threedimensional space → overview of sequence space







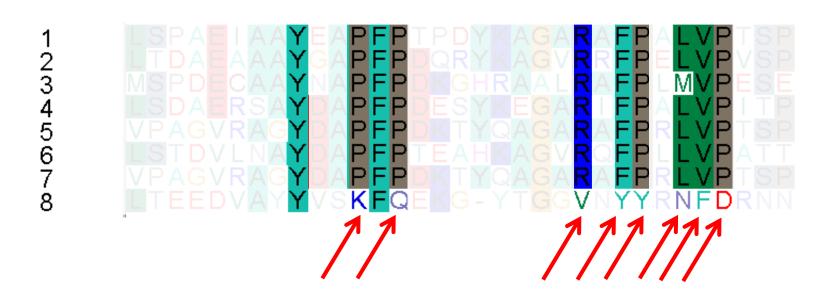




- multiple sequence alignment
  - analysis of conserved residues within protein family → identification of protein family members

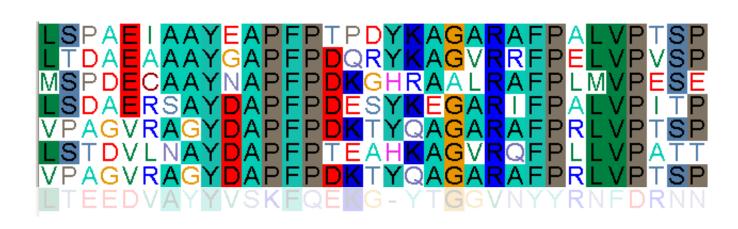


- multiple sequence alignment
  - analysis of conserved residues within protein family → identification of protein family members



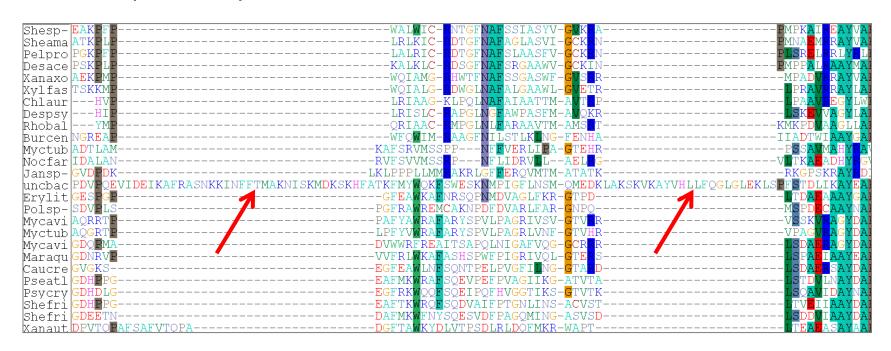
- multiple sequence alignment
  - analysis of conserved residues within protein family → identification of protein family members

1234567



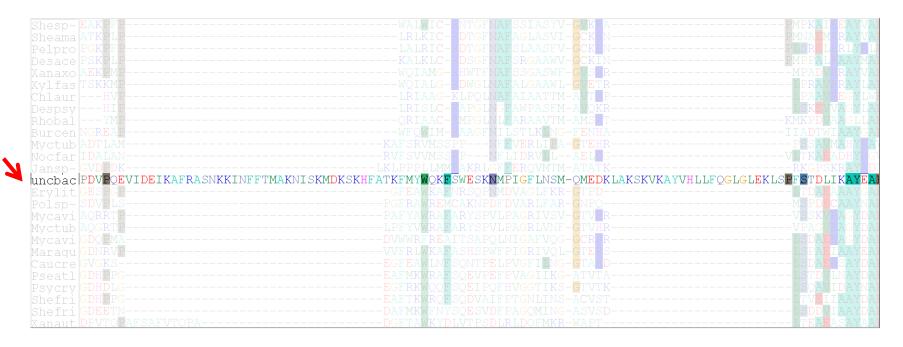


- multiple sequence alignment
  - identification of sequences with unique features → proteins with potentially novel characteristics

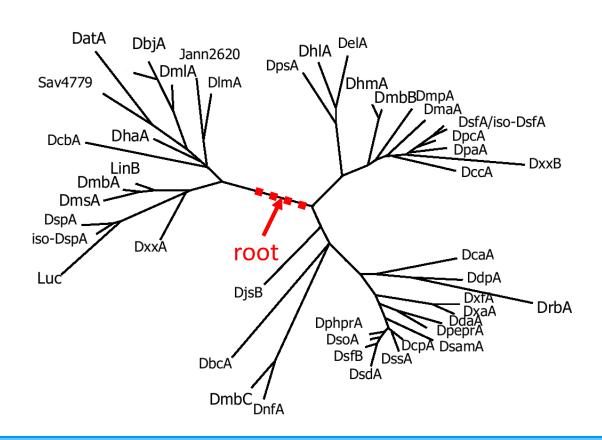




- multiple sequence alignment
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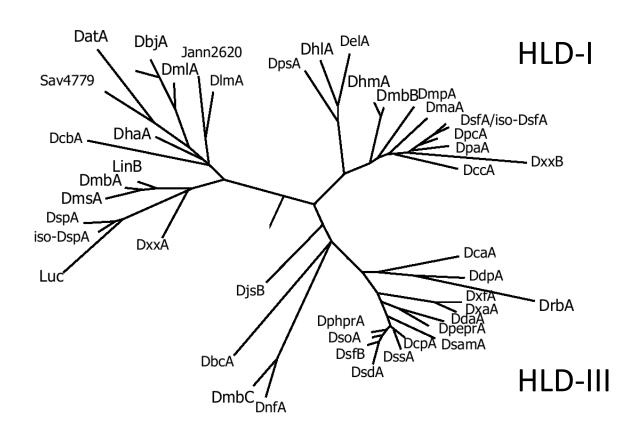
- phylogenetics
  - establishment of evolutionary relationships among sequences



#### phylogenetics

classification of sequences

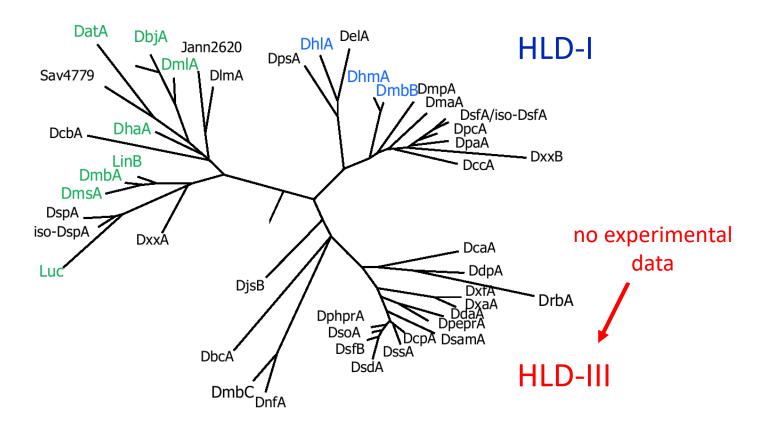
HLD-II



#### phylogenetics

■ information about experimental data → selection of novel proteins

**HLD-II** 



- extremophiles microorganisms living in extreme conditions
  - geochemical extremes (pH, salinity)
  - physical extremes (temperature, pressure)
- proteins from extremophiles
  - often adapted to extreme conditions → unique characteristics, useful for practical applications







- Genomes OnLine Database (GOLD)
  - http://www.genomesonline.org/
  - list of complete (>6,000), ongoing (> 27,000) and targeted genome
     (>1,000) projects
  - information about individual projects and source organisms

#### Entrez Genome

- http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/genome
- provided by NCBI
- data from more than 20,000 finished or ongoing genome projects (includes almost 10,000 organisms)
- information about genome, source organism, genes, encoded proteins, graphical representations, ...



#### GOLD

#### Metagenomes

#### **Isolate Genomes**

**&** Classification

• Studies: 370

• Samples: 2642

Complete Projects: 4169

Incomplete Projects: 17714

Targeted Projects: 1500

Organism Metadata					
MIGS 22 0	OXYGEN REQUIREMENT	Aerobe			
MIGS 37.1 0	CELL SHAPE	Rod-shaped			
MIGS 37.2 0	MOTILITY	Nonmotile			
MIGS 37.3 •	SPORULATION				
MIGS 37.4 0	PRESSURE				
MIGS 37.12 0	TEMPERATURE RANGE	Psychrophile			
	SALINITY	Halotolerant			
	PH				
MIGS 37.5 0	CELL DIAMETER				
MIGS 37.6 0	CELL LENGTH				
MIGS 37.7 •	COLOR				
MIGS 37.8 0	GRAM STAINING				
MIGS 15 <b>◎</b>	BIOTIC REALTIONSHIPS	Free living			



#### Entrez Genome

#### Psychrobacter cryohalolentis

Psychrotolerant organism

Lineage: Bacteria[4049]; Proteobacteria[1682]; Gammaproteobacteria[750]; Pseudomonadales[122]; Moraxellaceae[51]; Psychrobacter[10]; Psychrobacter

Psychrobacter. These bacteria are commonly isolated from low temperature environments, Psychrobacter spp. are cold-adapted organisms that are often isolated from extreme environments such as permafrost or the Antarctic ice. Psychrobacter cryohalolentis. Psychrobacter cryohalolentis, formerly Psychrobacter cryopegella More...

#### Representative

■ Community selected, Calculated : Psychrobacter cryohalolentis K5

Psychrobacter cryohalolentis K5. This organism was isolated from saline liquid (12-14%) found 11-24 m below the surface within a forty thousand-year-old Siberian permafrost at the Kolyma-Indigirka lowland in Siberia. This strain will provide insight into growth at extremely low

#### Human Pathogen: no

Туре	Name	RefSeq	INSDC	Size (Mb)	GC%	Protein	rRNA	tRNA	Other RNA	Gene	Pseudogene
Chr	-	NC_007969.1	CP000323.1	3.06	42.3	2,467	12	48	6	2,537	4
Plsm	1	NC_007968.1	CP000324.1	0.041221	38.3	44	-	-	-	44	-

#### **Biological Properties**

- Morphology
  - o Shape : Bacilli
  - Motility : No



#### biological properties

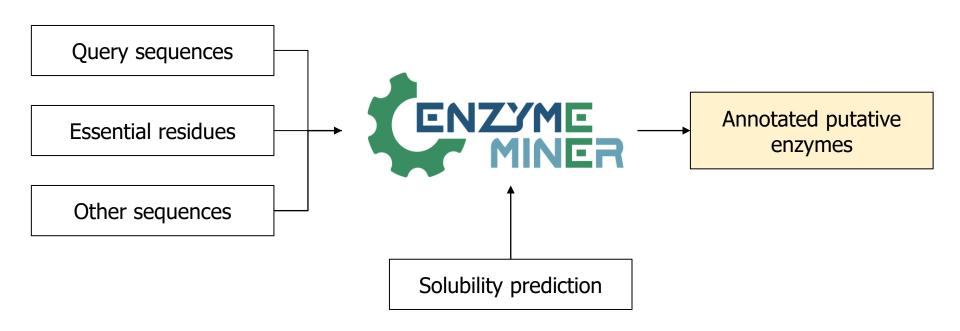
- Environment
  - · Salinity : ModerateHalophilic
  - TempératureRange : Psychrophilic
  - Habitat : Multiple

#### Genome Sequencing Projects

● Chromosomes [1] ① Scaffolds or contigs [0] ① SRA or Traces [0] ○ No data [0]									
Organism	BioProject	Assembly	Status	Chrs	Plasmids	Size (Mb)	GC%	Gene	Protein
Psychrobacter cryohalolentis K5	PRJNA58373, PRJNA13920	ASM1390v1	•	1	1	3.1	42.2	2,581	2,511

#### Enzyme Miner

https://loschmidt.chemi.muni.cz/enzymeminer/

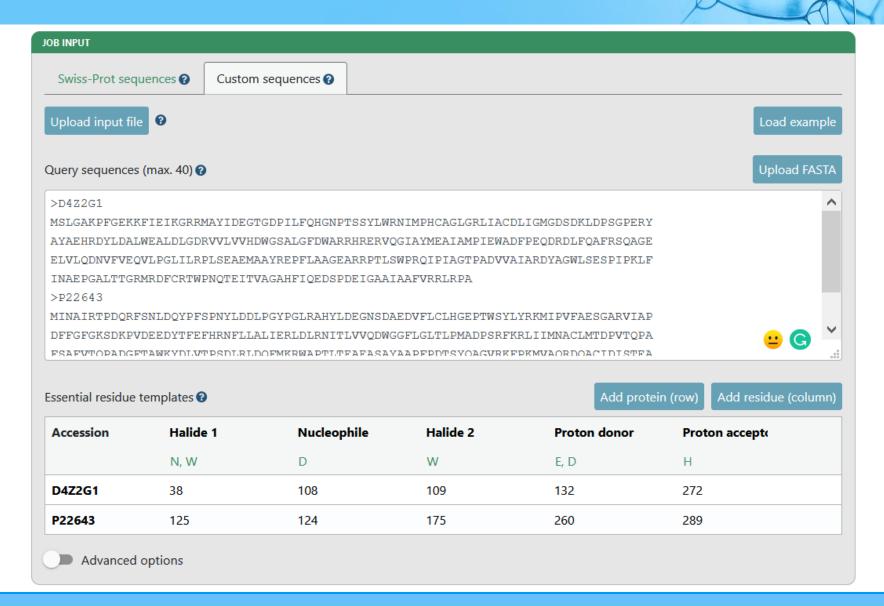


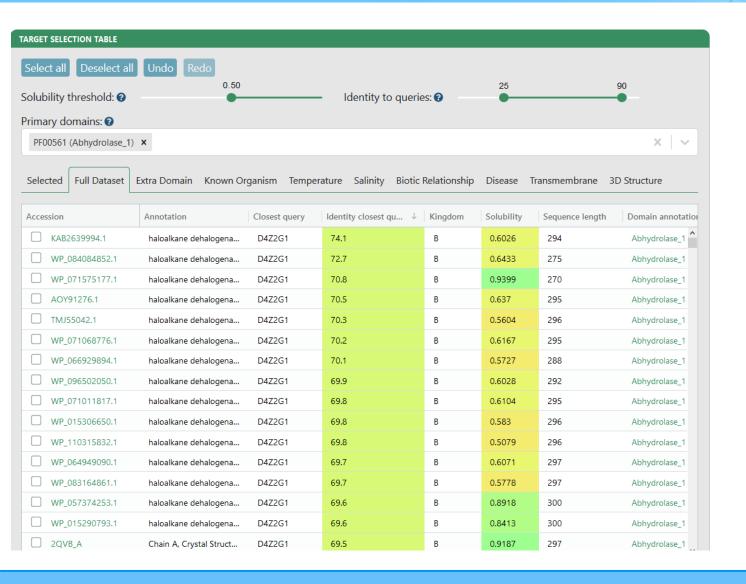


Automated mining of enzymes with diversified function.

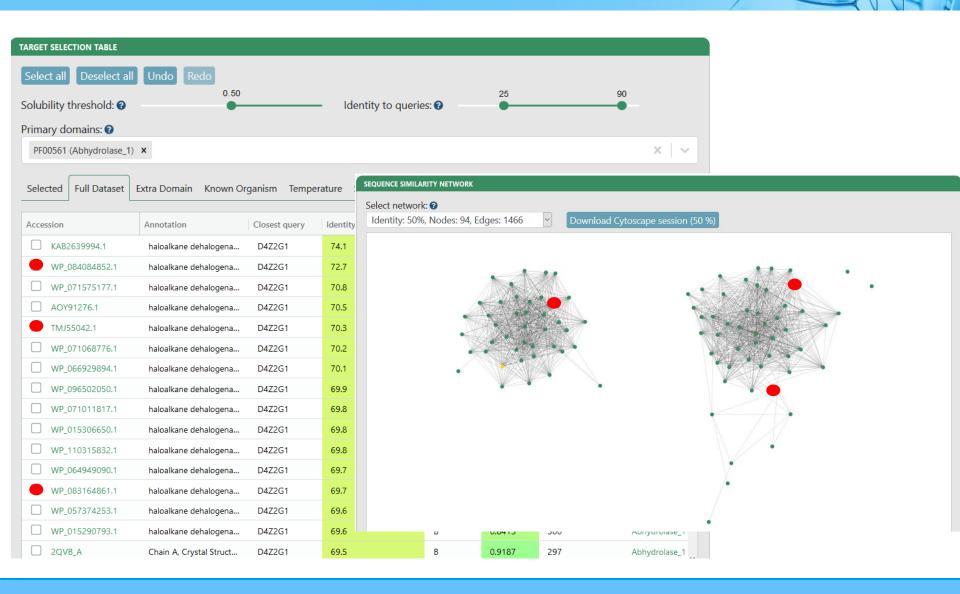


<u>Submit new job</u> Help Example Use cases Acknowledgements	Job ID:	e.g. xxxxxx
INPUT		REFERENCES
Swiss-Prot sequences Custom sequences Enter EC number		Hon, J., Borko, S., Bednar, D., Prokop, Z., Martinek, T., Damborsky, J., 2019: EnzymeMiner: Web Server for Automated Mining of Sequences Encoding Enzymes with Diversified Functions. Nucleic Acids Research (in preparation).
Advanced options		Pub Med OPEN OACCESS
JOB INFORMATION		USER STATISTICS
Job title:		Number of visitors: -     Number of jobs: 60
		CONTACT
Email:		Loschmidt Laboratories     email 1     email 2
		OTHER TOOLS
Next		PREDICTSNP
THERE !		CAVER  FIREPROT
		FIREPROT
		<b>HOTSPOT</b> WIZARD





## Automated in silico enzyme identification



- Proteins with exceptional properties
  - improved stability, yields, specificity...
- Resurrection of the most probable protein sequences from past
  - selection of homologous sequences
  - multiple sequence alignment
  - construction of phylogenetic tree
  - reconstruction of ancestral sequences



..<mark>AKDKL</mark>NQP..

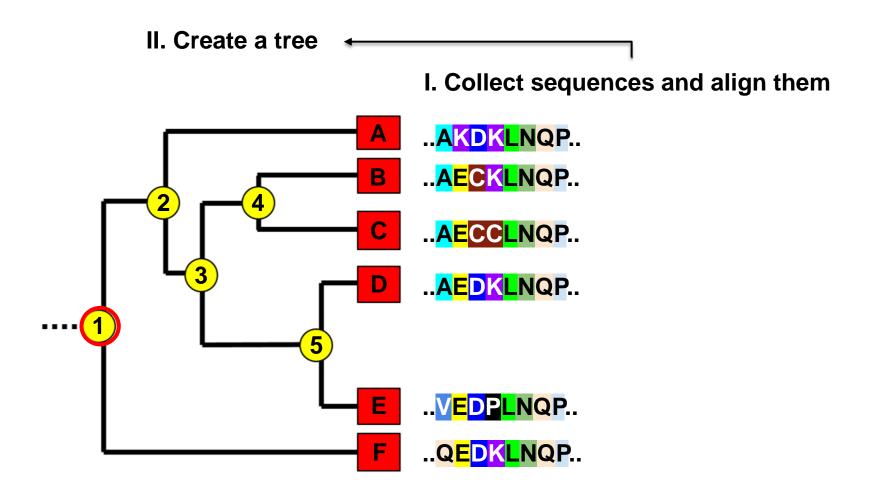
..AECKLNQP..

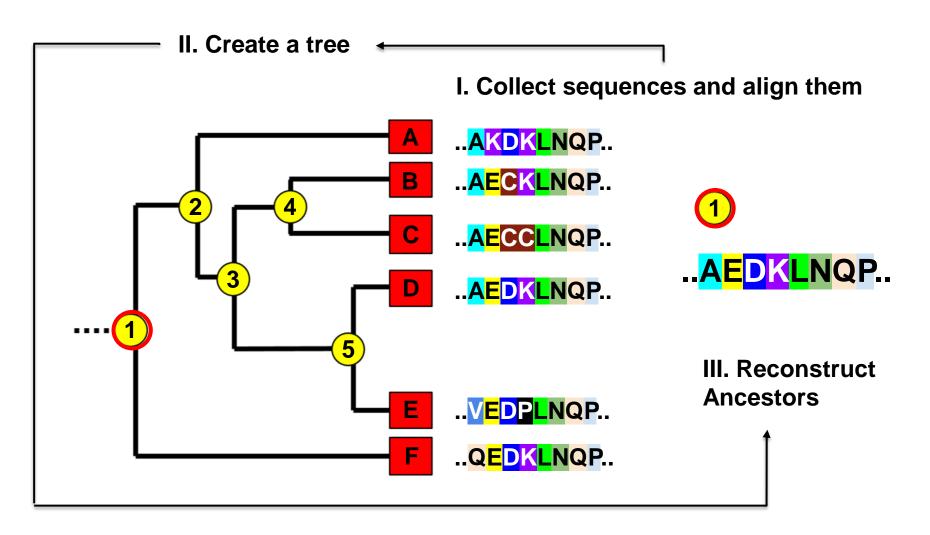
..AECCLNQP..

..<mark>AEDKL</mark>NQP..

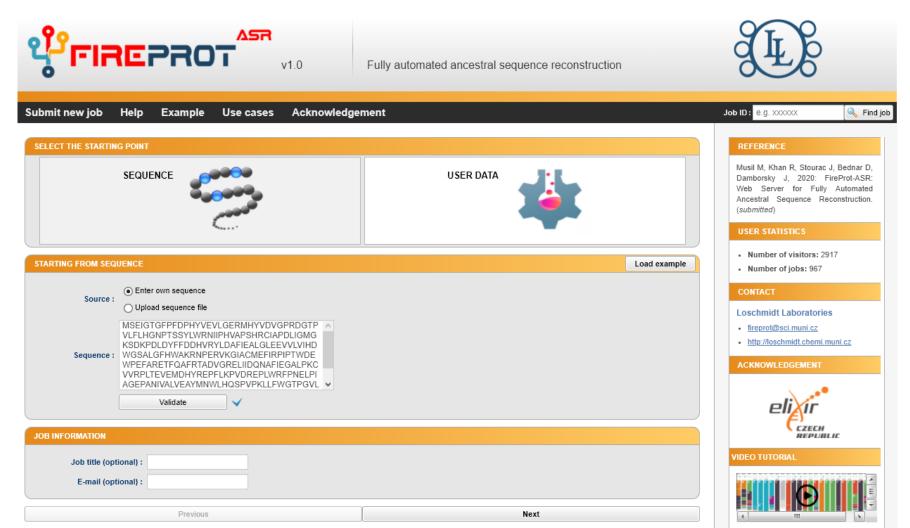
..VEDPLNQP..

..QEDKLNQP..





- □ FireProt<sup>ASR</sup> web server
  - https://loschmidt.chemi.muni.cz/fireprotasr/



- □ FireProt<sup>ASR</sup> web server
  - https://loschmidt.chemi.muni.cz/fireprotasr/







What to keep in mind?

### What to keep in mind?

- sequence databases
  - nucleotide: GenBank, EMBL-BANK, DDBJ; protein: UniProtKB, nr Protein database
  - errors in sequences and annotations
- database searches
  - text-based: results influenced by sequence annotations
  - sequence-based: identification of family members BLAST, PSI-BLAST E-value
  - combination of both approaches: optimal strategy to filter false positives
- selection of proteins for experimental characterization
  - clustering: classification and filtering of hits from database searches CLANS
  - sequence comparison: classification and identification of unique sequences
  - sequences from extremophiles: potentially adapted to extreme conditions
  - Enzyme Miner: automated identification of interesting catalysts
  - Ancestral protein sequences with interesting properties

## What to keep in mind?

 in silico identification and analysis of sequences - fast and cheap way to identify new proteins



#### References

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#### PROTEIN ENGINEERING

# 3. PREPARATION OF RECOMBINANT PROTEINS, PROTEIN EXPRESSION AND PURIFICATION

Loschmidt Laboratories

Department of Experimental Biology

Masaryk University, Brno