

Spring 2024

BIOS 477/877

Bioinformatics and Molecular Evolution

Lecture 15

BIOS477/877 L15 - 1

1

TODAY'S TOPICS

- Multiple Alignment
 - T-Coffee
 - MUSCLE and Mafft
 - PRALINE, ClustalΩ, etc.

BIOS477/877 L15 - 2

2

Progressive multiple alignment: Clustal W

Pairwise alignment

S1 → D12

S2 → D13

S3 → D14

S4 → D14

Guide tree

Profile alignment

BIOS477/877 L15 - 3

3

Progressive multiple alignment: Clustal W

➤ How sequence weighting works: Example 2

[Simple average]

(a) Alignment score = 1 + gap penalty
 (b) Alignment score = 2 + gap penalty
 (c) Alignment score = 1 + gap penalty

[Weighted average]

(a) Alignment score = -15.64 + gap penalty
 (b) Alignment score = 27.06 + gap penalty
 (c) Alignment score = 54.36 + gap penalty

[Aligning S4 to the first 3 sequences (S1, S2, and S3) previously aligned]

BIOS477/877 L15 - 4

4

Progressive multiple alignment: Clustal W

➤ How to choose **scoring matrix**:

- Choose only the scoring matrix series (BLOSUM, PAM, etc.)
- Specific matrix is determined based on distance between sequences

80 - 100% identity	→ Blosum80
60 - 80% identity	→ Blosum62
30 - 60% identity	→ Blosum45
0 - 30% identity	→ Blosum30

Thompson *et al.* (1994) BIOS477/877 L15 - 5

5

Progressive multiple alignment: Clustal W

➤ How **gap penalties** are determined:

- **Initial gap penalties**: **GOP** (gap opening) and **GEP** (gap extension) → **set by the user**
- **Weight (scoring) matrix** dependent gap penalties
- **Similarity level** dependent gap penalties
- **Sequence length** dependent gap penalties
- **Position specific** gap penalties
 - if gaps already exist
 - residue specific (*e.g.*, hydrophilic stretches)

Thompson *et al.* (1994) BIOS477/877 L15 - 6

6

Progressive multiple alignment: Clustal W

Pairwise alignment

S1 → D12
S2 → D13
S1 → D13
S3 → D14
S1 → D14
S4 → D14

Guide tree

0.02 S1
0.15 S2
0.09 S3
0.08 S2
0.38 S3
0.46 S4

Profile alignment

D12 -
D13 D23 -

- **Progressive alignment**
 - **Greedy** (finds local optima, but no guarantee for global optima)
 - **Errors (incorrect gap positions)** in the early alignments cannot be rectified later
- **Global alignment only** (local similarity may be missed)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 7

7

Clustal Web servers

<http://www.clustal.org/> (Clustal original website)

Clustal: Multiple Sequence Alignment
Multiple alignment of nucleic acid and protein sequences

Clustal Omega

- Latest version of Clustal - fast and scalable (can align hundreds of thousands of sequences in hours), greater accuracy due to new HMM alignment engine
- Command line/server only (GUI public beta available)

ClustalW/ClustalX

- "Classic Clustal"
- GUI (ClustalX), command line (ClustalW), web server versions available

Use Clustal Ω instead of Clustal W

[Classic version]

<https://galaxy.pasteur.fr/> (part of Galaxy@Pasteur)
<https://www.genome.jp/tools-bin/clustalw/>

BIOS477/877 L15 - 8

8

To solve the progressive-alignment problems

- Incorporate more information to reduce **early errors**
 - **Structural alignment** (e.g., Espresso, PROMALS3D, TM-Coffee, PRALINE, MAFFT-DASH)
 - **Profile/profile-HMM alignment** (e.g., PRALINE, PSI-Coffee, PROMALS3D, ProbCons/CONTRAlign, ClustalΩ, MUSCLE5)
- Avoid the **greedy-algorithm** problem
 - **Iterative refinement** to search the global maxima
 - A good objective function is required (e.g., MUSCLE/MUSCLE5, MAFFT, ProbCons/CONTRAlign)
- **Global (or local) only** alignment problem
 - **Combine both methods** (e.g., T-Coffee)
- More accurate **insertion/deletion placement**
 - **Phylogeny aware gap-placement** (e.g., PRANK, ProPIP, Bali-Phy, SATé)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 9

9

Multiple alignment: T-Coffee

T-Coffee Home page
<https://tcoffee.crg.eu/>
<https://tcoffee.org>

<https://tcoffee.crg.eu/apps/tcoffee/index.html>
(mirror site)

<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/jdispatcher/msa/tcoffee>
(only T-Coffee, without other associated programs)

Notredame, Higgins & Heringa (2000); Taly *et al.* (2011)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 10

10

Multiple alignment: T-Coffee

- T-Coffee: **Tree-based Consistency Objective Function for alignment Evaluation**
- Based on the progressive alignment algorithm
 - Uses a guide tree, fast
- Tries to avoid the **greedy** nature of the progressive algorithm
 - Using **alignment libraries** derived from a mixture of alignment programs (global, local, *etc.*)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 11

11

Multiple alignment: T-Coffee

(Tree-based Consistency Objective Function for alignment Evaluation)

- **Primary libraries of alignments**

ClustalW Primary Library (Global Pairwise Alignment)

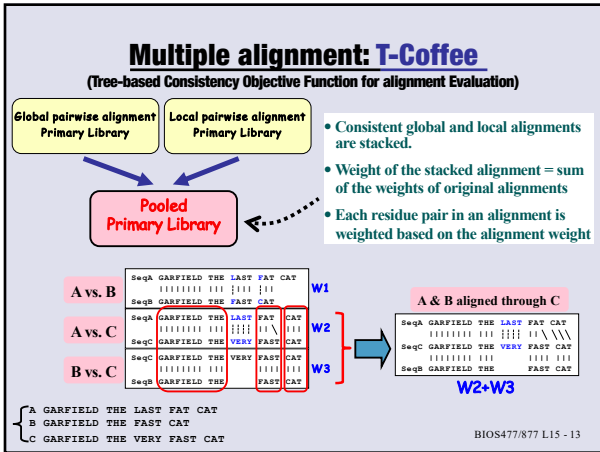
Align Primary Library (Local Pairwise Alignment)

- Global and local, or any combination of pairwise alignment methods
- Each pairwise alignment is given a **weight** based on % identity ignoring gap sites

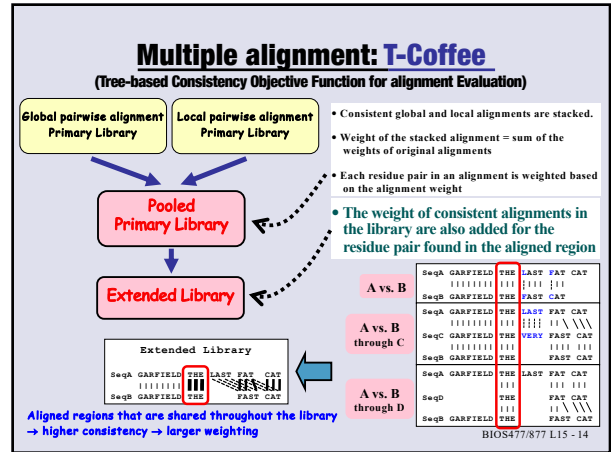
$\frac{ATTTCGG}{ATATGG} \Rightarrow 3/6 = 50\%$

BIOS477/877 L15 - 12

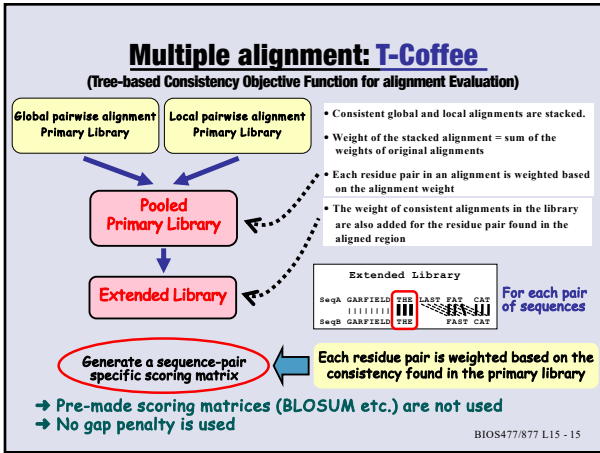
12



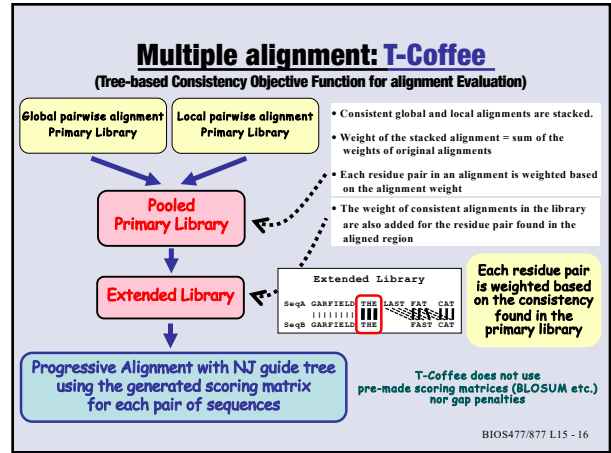
13



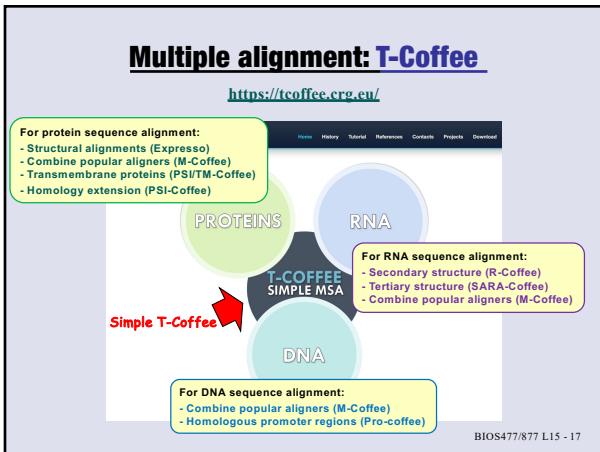
14



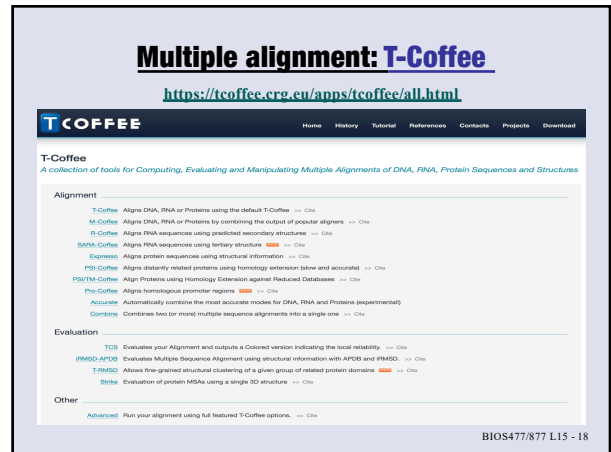
15



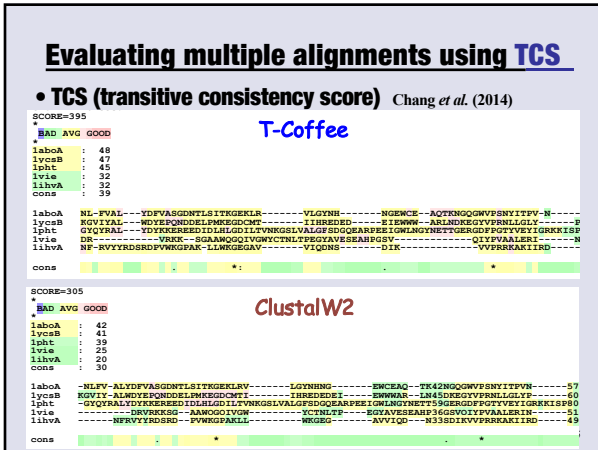
16



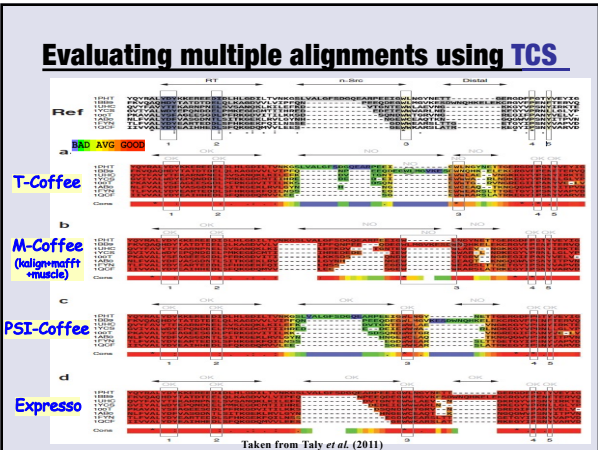
17



18



25



26

To solve the progressive-alignment problems

- Incorporate more information to reduce early errors
 - **Structural alignment** (*e.g.*, Expresso, PROMALS3D, TM-Coffee, PRALINE, MAFFT-DASH)
 - **Profile/profile-HMM alignment** (*e.g.*, PRALINE, PSI-Coffee, PROMALS3D, ProbCons/CONTRAlign, Clustal Ω , MUSCLE5)
- Avoid the greedy-algorithm problem
 - **Iterative refinement** to search the global maxima
 - A good objective function is required (*e.g.*, MUSCLE/MUSCLE5, MAFFT, ProbCons/CONTRAlign)
- **Global (or local) only alignment problem**
 - **Combine both methods** (*e.g.*, T-Coffee)
- **More accurate insertion/deletion placement**
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BIOS477/877 L15 - 27

27

MUSCLE (Edgar 2004)

<http://www.drive5.com/muscle/> <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/jdispatcher/msa/muscle>

- Draft progressive alignment:**
 - K-mer distance & UPGMA
 - (Word or k-tuple)
- Improved progressive alignment:**
 - Kimura protein distance
 - **Tree comparison** (branching orders are changed or not)
 - **Iteration** until the tree stays the same
- Iterative refinement**
 - The tree is partitioned
 - Profiles are obtained from each subtree
 - **Profile alignment**
 - **Iteration** based on SP score

Count the number of shared k-mers

SP score: sum-of-pairs score

28

MUSCLE (Edgar 2004)

BALIiBASE Q scores (Sum-of-pairs: percentage of correctly aligned residue pairs)

Method	Equidistance		< 25% identity		N/C-term	Internal insertion
	Ref1	Ref2	Ref3	Ref4	extension Ref5	
MUSCLE	0.887	0.935	0.823	0.876	0.968	
MUSCLE-p (w/o refinement)	0.871	0.928	0.813	0.857	0.974	
T-Coffee	0.866	0.934	0.787	0.917	0.957	
NWNSI (Mafft)	0.867	0.923	0.787	0.904	0.963	
CLUSTALW	0.861	0.932	0.751	0.823	0.859	
FFTNS1 (Mafft)	0.838	0.908	0.708	0.793	0.947	

BALIiBASE: Benchmark alignment database (includes many subsets representing various alignment problems)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 29

29

MAFFT (Katoh *et al.* 2005, 2019)

<https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/index.html>
<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/jdispatcher/msa/mafft>

- First progressive alignment: FFT-NS-1**
 - 6-tuples distance & UPGMA
 - Fast Fourier transform (FFT) is used to detect highly similar segments
 - Segment to segment dynamic programming
- Improved progressive alignment: FFT-NS-2**
 - A better distance matrix from FFT-NS-1 tree
- Iterative refinement: FFT-NS-i**
 - The tree-dependent restricted partitioning
 - Group-to-group alignment
 - Iteration based on the weighted SP score
- Instead of FFT, full dynamic programming can be used: NW-NS-[12i]** [after version 5.0]
 - COFFEE-like consistency score with pairwise alignment information is included for Global (G-INS-i) or Local (L-INS-i, E-INS-i) alignments
 - *E-INS-i is for more difficult alignment

Alignment	FFT	NW	Consistency score
1st progressive	NS-1	NS-1	
2nd progressive	NS-2	NS-2	
Iterative refinement (i)	NS-i	NS-i	
Global			G-INS-i
Local (SW)			L-INS-i, E-INS-i

BIOS477/877 L15 - 30

30

MAFFT

<https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/eval/accuracy.html>

Method	Ref1	Ref2	Ref3	Ref4	Ref5	Ref6	Overall average	CPU time (s)
Consistency based methods								
MAFFT 3.662 G-RS4	87.11/44.81	90.59/103.73	92.57/48.17	93.59/106.65	91.91/109.47	90.19/104.44	87.95/108.84	5,900
MAFFT 3.662 E-RS4	85.13/44.52	93.84/103.19	92.94/44.32	92.09/108.03	91.42/103.02	89.03/99.19	86.91/105.51	4,000
ProCoRe 1.10 (fullM)	85.99/41.88	94.12/85.82	91.87/42.54	84.05/54.30	92.52/54.27	89.29/56.50	88.46/105.99	43,000
ProCoRe 1.10 (trainM)	86.73/41.47	94.19/85.58	91.85/42.00	84.47/54.03	89.79/51.84	89.34/57.89	86.27/105.71	(44,000)
MAFFT 3.662 G-RS4	60.48/34.53	92.42/81.32	90.34/38.71	85.27/52.73	88.37/52.61	87.87/52.75	84.23/102.64	8,900
TCoffee 2.46	61.48/33.03	90.04/80.26	91.71/39.68	81.91/48.87	89.22/52.90	89.03/57.13	84.56/102.76	(210,000)
Iterative refinement methods								
MAFFT 3.662 FFT-NS-i	58.87/33.47	91.84/80.11	89.54/40.37	83.27/49.97	87.11/47.37	86.27/52.44	82.95*/50.97*	2,800
Muscle 3.52 (most accurate option)	58.82/30.87	90.96/79.59	89.90/35.17	81.07/37.87	85.90/45.08	85.17/48.19	81.87**/46.79*	3,400
PRRN 3.11	58.21/34.74	82.16/79.20	90.40/41.66	82.68/47.83	86.83/47.98	83.83/47.56	82.81**/50.73*	250,000
MAFFT 3.661 FFT-NS-l	54.56/30.28	89.79/76.81	90.12/37.48	82.43/43.33	87.89/50.76	85.85/43.81	81.97*/50.77*	3,000
ClustalW 2.0 (Rambaut+Dempsey, 2007)	49.94/25.08	89.91/75.52	85.90/21.81	72.78/32.43	81.29/40.84	76.49/35.06	76.67**/39.58**	(58,000)
Progressive methods								
Kalign 1.0	54.51/27.70	91.17/79.59	87.79/29.56	79.89/35.47	83.02/42.57	84.59/44.76	80.25**/44.00**	480
MAFFT 3.662 FFT-NS-2	51.80/26.82	89.78/71.55	88.61/35.76	80.78/40.17	84.57/40.06	83.59/49.81	79.89**/44.01**	250
MAFFT 3.662 FFT-NS-1	50.15/22.76	88.16/72.32	88.02/32.98	79.47/34.37	82.96/41.92	81.18/42.06	78.63**/42.00**	140
Muscle 3.52 (fastest option)	53.36/26.87	89.78/72.32	86.39/29.37	77.74/32.93	79.38/41.92	76.59/35.56	77.63**/39.71**	160
ClustalW 1.63	50.06/22.74	86.43/71.14	85.20/21.98	72.50/27.23	78.82/39.55	74.244/30.75	73.54**/37.30**	2,000

The SP and TC scores are shown for each method. * Obsolete version of MAFFT. For iterative options of MAFFT and Muscle, the maximum numbers of iteration were set at 1,000. The significance of difference most accurate method is indicated by * $P < 0.05$ and ** $P < 0.01$ (Wilcoxon test) only for overall average.

Scores: SP (sum of pairs)/TC (total column) tested using BALIBASE benchmarking alignment datasets

BIOS477/877 L15 - 31

31

MAFFT website

<https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/>

MAFFT version 7
Multiple alignment program for amino acid or nucleotide sequences

To avoid overload, try a [light-weight option](#), for MSA of full-length SARS-CoV-2 genomes (2020/Apr).
For a large number of short sequences, try an [experimental service](#).
Experimental service for [aligning raw reads](#) (2019/Aug).
If you need an MSA of only a specific region, then try [extracting the region first](#) (2022/Oct). **New!**

Multiple sequence alignment and NJ / UPGMA phylogeny

Download version
Mac OS X
Windows
Linux
Source

Online version
Alignment
mafft-add
Matrix
Phylogenetic
Branch size
Method/limitations
Algorithms
Data
Benchmarks
Feedback

Input:
Paste protein or DNA sequences in fasta format. Example

or upload a plain text file: Choose File no file selected
Use DASH to add homologous structures (protein only)
Output original plus DASH sequences Output original sequences only
Give structural alignment(s) externally prepared
Allow unusual symbols (Selenocysteine "U", Inosine "I", non-alphabetical characters, etc.) [Help](#)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 32

32

Mafft-homologs

Accuracy of an alignment of distantly related sequences can be improved when aligned with their close homologs

MAFFT options

With homolog (Collects homologs by PSI-BLAST and aligns homologs with input sequences; Protein only) [Help](#)

Or:
Show homologs (if any)
Number of homologs: 60 (5-300)
Threshold: E+1e-1 (1e-1-1e-4)
Use Smafft (less comprehensive and requires shorter search time; previous default)
Use LinKs (more comprehensive and requires longer search time; 2019Apr)

Similar approach is used in **PSI-Coffee, PRALINE, etc.**

PSI-BLAST is used to collect similar sequences

1. Input
2. Alignment
3. Output

n sequences with $E < 10^{-10}$

BIOS477/877 L15 - 33

33

MAFFT-DASH (Rozewicki et al. 2019)

Integrated protein sequence and structural alignment

Original MAFFT alignment

Conserved Aspartic Acid

MAFFT-DASH Alignment

DASH (Database of Aligned Structural Homologs) is used to incorporate the structural information to improve the alignment

or upload a plain text file: Choose File no file selected
Use DASH to add homologous structures (protein only)
Output original plus DASH sequences Output original sequences only
Give structural alignment(s) externally prepared

BIOS477/877 L15 - 34

34

MAFFT-DASH (Rozewicki et al. 2019)

Integrated protein sequence and structural alignment

Table 1. Benchmarks using reference MSAs

Methods / Data	BALIBASE										
	HMFM	MBSF	MBTL	OXFM	BB11	BB12	BB30	BB30	BB40	BB50	SY
[SP scores]											
MAFFT	0.916*	0.726*	0.205*	0.894*	0.649*	0.937*	0.862	0.917	0.899*	0.731**	
ProCoRe	0.945**	0.726*	0.475*	0.940**	0.791	0.926	0.917*	0.883	0.906	0.863	0.840**
T-Coffee	0.922**	0.583*	0.224*	0.909**	0.637**	0.948	0.916*	0.937**	0.897	0.895*	0.778**
Expresso	0.950**	0.708*	0.330*	0.954**	0.734**	0.903**	0.938**	0.927**	0.867**	0.814**	0.805**
MAFFT-DASH	0.971	0.770*	0.436*	0.974	0.764*	0.943	0.937	0.880	0.909	0.918	0.838*
MAFFT-DASH Homologs	0.976	0.787	0.510*	0.975	0.793	0.946	0.938	0.885	0.899	0.919	0.851
ProCoRe-D	0.963*	0.750*	0.496*	0.972*	0.807*	0.937**	0.920*	0.931	0.899	0.929*	0.873*
T-Coffee DASH	0.966*	0.740*	0.396*	0.970*	0.756**	0.941*	0.934*	0.868	0.899	0.917	0.830**
[TC scores]											
MAFFT	0.796*	0.544*	0.075*	0.852**	0.407**	0.838*	0.456**	0.586	0.706	0.591**	0.514**
ProCoRe	0.851**	0.393*	0.296**	0.919**	0.582*	0.837*	0.496**	0.510**	0.508	0.512*	0.601**
T-Coffee	0.808**	0.262**	0.096**	0.871**	0.411**	0.855	0.483**	0.474**	0.566	0.587	0.591**
Expresso	0.843**	0.372**	0.173**	0.919**	0.518**	0.752**	0.369**	0.391**	0.440**	0.514**	0.579**
MAFFT-DASH	0.969	0.440*	0.259**	0.961	0.559	0.853	0.557	0.610	0.533	0.627	0.666
MAFFT-DASH Homologs	0.922	0.464	0.335	0.957	0.588	0.855	0.576	0.603	0.490	0.652	0.684
ProCoRe-D	0.872*	0.451*	0.407	0.952*	0.630	0.755*	0.502*	0.580*	0.490*	0.555*	0.690
T-Coffee DASH	0.896*	0.410**	0.217**	0.950**	0.526**	0.852	0.466**	0.533*	0.519	0.646	0.642**
Number of cases	87	225	34	165	38	44	41	30	49	16	149

HMFM, HomFam; MBSF, Matchless-Superfamily; MBTL, Matchless-Twilight; OXFM, OxFam; BB11-BB50, BALIBASE subsets 11-50; SY, SISYPHUS. Scores that are significantly worse than the best are marked with * ($P < 0.05$) and ** ($P < 0.01$) as calculated with Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Others are in bold.

Incorporates 3D information

BIOS477/877 L15 - 35

35

MAFFT website

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Give structural alignment(s) externally prepared
Allow unusual symbols (Selenocysteine "U", Inosine "I", non-alphabetical characters, etc.) [Help](#)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 36

36

MAFFT website

<https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/add.html>

<https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/merge.html>

BIOS477/877 L15 - 37

37

Alignment Refinement with MAFFT

BIOS477/877 L15 - 38

38

To solve the progressive-alignment problems

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- Avoid the **greedy-algorithm problem**
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 - ➔ A good objective function is required (e.g., MUSCLE/MUSCLE5, MAFFT, ProbCons/CONTRAlign)
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 - **Combine both methods** (e.g., T-Coffee)
- **More accurate insertion/deletion placement**
 - **Phylogeny aware gap-placement** (e.g., PRANK, ProPIP, Bali-Phy, SATé)

BIOS477/877 L15 - 39

39

PRALINE (Simossis, Kleinjung & Heringa 2005)

<https://www.ibi.vu.nl/programs/pralinewww/>

BIOS477/877 L16 - 40

40

PRALINE (Simossis, Kleinjung & Heringa 2005)

• From 624 HOMSTRAD pairwise alignments
 • Q score: Sum-of-pairs (percentage of correctly aligned residue pairs)
 ΔQ: Q score difference from PRALINE without PSI-BLAST

BIOS477/877 L16 - 41

41

Motif-Aware PRALINE (Dijkstra et al. 2021)

Copper-binding site (PS00196):
 [PGA]-x(0,2)-[YSA]-x(0,1)-[VFYL]-[SETD]-C-x(1,2)-[PGA]-x(0,1)-H-x(2,4)-[MQI]

<https://github.com/ibiv/MA-PRALINE>

BIOS477/877 L16 - 42

42

Clustal Ω <http://www.clustal.org/omega/>
<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/jdispatcher/msa/clustalo>

- **Progressive alignment** following the guide tree
- Features a fast method for making “guide trees”
 - calculates only distances to *r* references (**mBed method**)
 - scalable for very large datasets
- Alignment is done using **HAlign** (a profile hidden Markov model alignment)
 - highly accurate alignment
- **Simple iterative refinement**
 - Alignment is converted to hidden Markov model (HMM)
 - Realign input sequences against the HMM

Sievers *et al.* (2011, 2018) BIOS477/877 L16 - 43

43

Clustal Ω <http://www.clustal.org/omega/>
<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/jdispatcher/msa/clustalo>

Table 1 BAIBASe results Top-rated methods use HMM or consistency function or both

Aligner	Av score (218 families)	BB11 (38 families)	BB12 (44 families)	BB2 (41 families)	BB3 (30 families)	BB4 (49 families)	BB5 (16 families)	Tot time (s)	Consistency
MSAprobs	0.607	0.441	0.865	0.464	0.607	0.622	0.608	12 382.00	Yes
Probalign	0.589	0.453	0.862	0.439	0.566	0.603	0.549	10 095.20	Yes
MAFFT (auto)	0.588	0.439	0.831	0.450	0.581	0.605	0.591	1475.40	Mostly (203/218)
Problems	0.558	0.417	0.855	0.406	0.544	0.532	0.573	13 086.30	Yes
Clustal Ω	0.554	0.358	0.789	0.450	0.575	0.579	0.533	539.91	No
T-Coffee	0.551	0.410	0.848	0.402	0.491	0.545	0.587	81 041.50	Yes
Kalign	0.501	0.365	0.790	0.360	0.476	0.504	0.435	21.88	No
MUSCLE	0.475	0.318	0.804	0.350	0.409	0.450	0.460	789.57	No
MAFFT (default)	0.458	0.258	0.749	0.316	0.425	0.480	0.496	68.24	No
FSA	0.419	0.270	0.818	0.187	0.259	0.474	0.398	53 648.10	No
Dialign	0.415	0.265	0.696	0.292	0.312	0.441	0.425	3977.44	No
FRANK	0.376	0.223	0.680	0.257	0.321	0.360	0.356	128 355.00	No
ClustalW	0.374	0.227	0.712	0.220	0.272	0.396	0.368	766.47	No

The figures are total column scores produced using ball score on core columns only. The average score over all families is given in the second column. The results for BAIBASe subgroupings are in columns 3-8. The total run time for all 218 families is given in the second last column. The last column indicates whether the method is consistency based.

Sievers *et al.* (2011) BIOS477/877 L16 - 44

44

Clustal Ω <http://www.clustal.org/omega/>
<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/jdispatcher/msa/clustalo>

Sievers *et al.* (2018) BIOS477/877 L16 - 45

45