

BIOS 477/877 Bioinformatics and Molecular Evolution

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(School of Biological Sciences)

Spring 2026

Lecture 7

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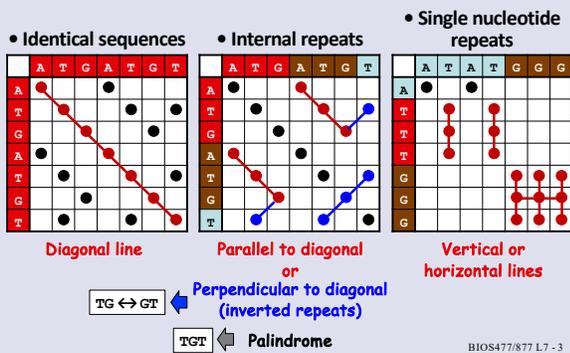
Today's topics

- Assignments 1 & 3 review
- Dot plot examples
- Pairwise alignment continues ...
 - Semi-global alignment
 - Local alignment
- Graduate Only Assignment

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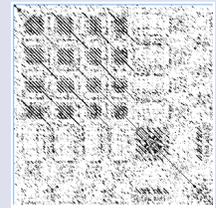
Using dot plot to identify sequence patterns



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Protein domain detection by dot plot

- Dotlet JS
 - [Dotlet Help page](#)
 - [Dotlet example page](#)



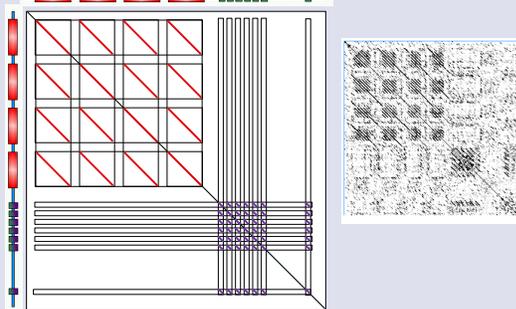
- Dot plot can be used to compare:
- a sequence to itself to identify internal repeats, etc.
 - two sequences to identify their similarity

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Protein domain detection using dotlet

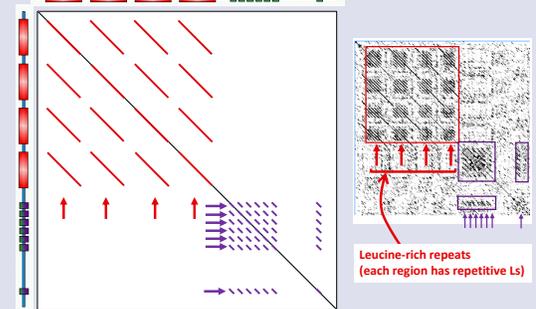
• Dot plot of *Drosophila melanogaster* SLIT protein (P24014) against itself.



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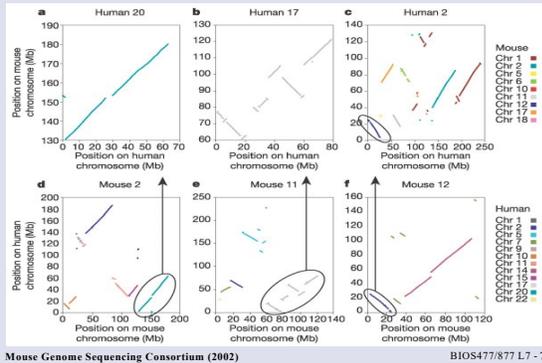
Protein domain detection using dotlet

• Dot plot of *Drosophila melanogaster* SLIT protein (P24014) against itself.



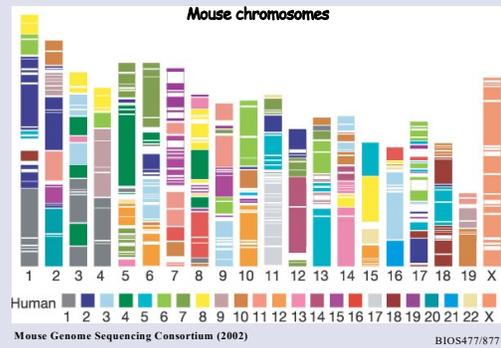
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Comparative genomics using dot plot



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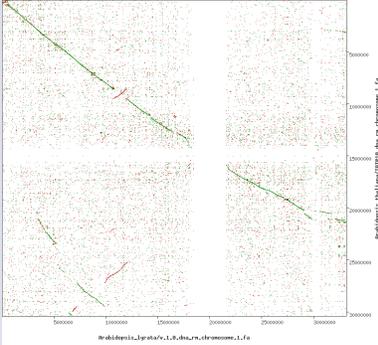
Comparative genomics using dot plot



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Dot plot by YASS

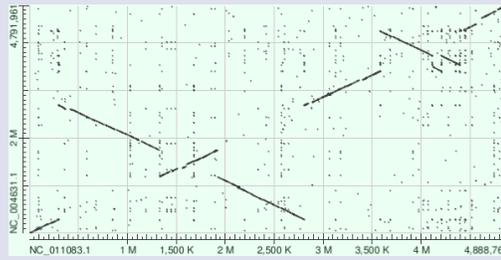
[YASS website](#)



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Dot plot by Blast (bl2seq)

NC_011083.1 (*Salmonella enterica* serovar Heidelberg str. SL476) vs. NC_004631.1 (*Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi str. Ty2)

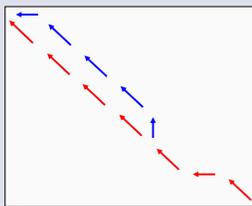


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Pairwise alignment using dynamic programming algorithm

➤ Global alignment

- Needleman & Wunsch (1970)
- Optimizes the alignment (maximizes the alignment score) **over the full length of the sequences**



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Pairwise alignment using dynamic programming algorithm

➤ Global alignment

- Needleman & Wunsch (1970)
- Optimizes the alignment (maximizes the alignment score) **over the full length of the sequences**

➤ Semi-global alignment

- Global alignment with **cost-free end gaps**

➤ Local alignment

- Smith & Waterman (1981)
- Finds **the best matching subsequences**

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Terminal (end) gaps

ACACTGATCG
ACACTG-----

- Terminal gaps are required when sequences are incomplete (no biological meaning)
- They should not be penalized
- Should be treated differently from internal gaps

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Effect of terminal gaps on alignment

Is ACACTGATCG
ACACTG----- optimal alignment?

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
A										
C										
A										
C										
T										
G										

Match = 1, Mismatch = 0, Gap penalty = -1

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Effect of terminal gaps on alignment

ACACTGATCG
ACACTG-----

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G	
	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
A	-1	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
C	-2	0	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6
A	-3	-1	0	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4
C	-4	-2	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2
T	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5	4	3	2	1	0
G	-6	-4	-2	0	2	4	6	5	4	3	2

Match = 1, Mismatch = 0, Gap penalty = -1

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Effect of terminal gaps on alignment

ACACTGATCG ACACTGATCG
ACACTG----- ACACT-----G

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G	
	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
A	-1	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
C	-2	0	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6
A	-3	-1	0	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4
C	-4	-2	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2
T	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5	4	3	2	1	0
G	-6	-4	-2	0	2	4	6	5	4	3	2

Match = 1, Mismatch = 0, Gap penalty = -1

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Effect of terminal gaps on alignment

If Seq 2 is a partial sequence, this alignment should have the maximum score

ACACTGATCG ACACTGATCG ACACTGATCG
ACACTG----- ACACT-----G ACAC-----T-G

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G	
	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
A	-1	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
C	-2	0	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6
A	-3	-1	0	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4
C	-4	-2	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2
T	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5	4	3	2	1	0
G	-6	-4	-2	0	2	4	6	5	4	3	2

Match = 1, Mismatch = 0, Gap penalty = -1

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Effect of terminal gaps on alignment

ACACTGATCG
ACACTG-----

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G	
	0										
A		1									
C			2								
A				3							
C					4						
T						5					
G							6	5	4	3	2

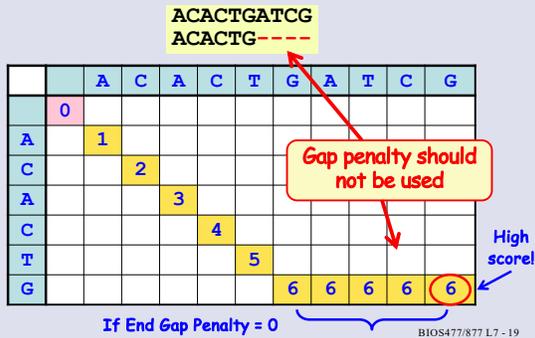
Match = 1, Mismatch = 0, Gap penalty = -1

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How to avoid the effect of terminal gaps

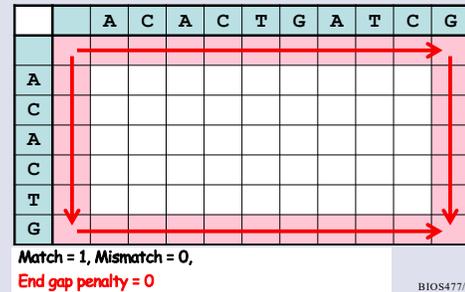
If Seq 2 is a partial sequence,



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Alignment with free end gaps

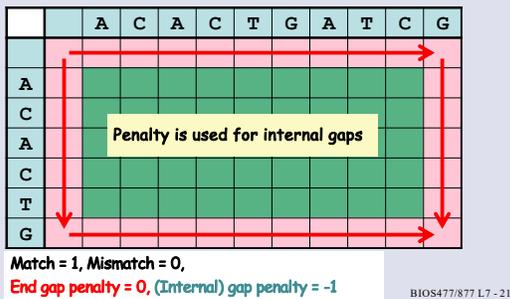
No gap penalty is used in the edge regions



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Alignment with free end gaps

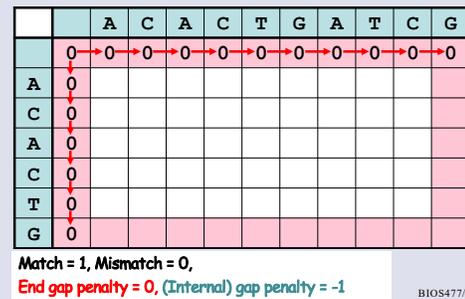
No gap penalty is used in the edge regions



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Alignment with free end gaps: 1. Initialization

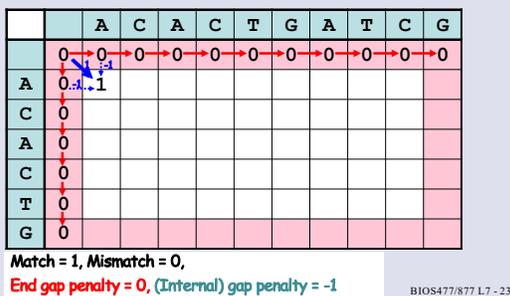
➤ Fill with 0's (no end gap penalty)



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Alignment with free end gaps: 2. Matrix filling

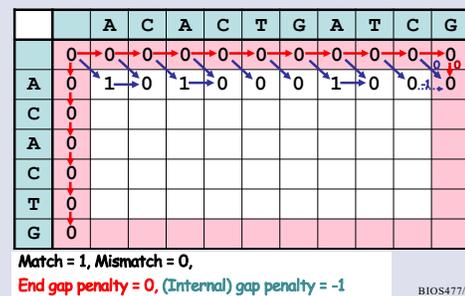
➤ Calculate each cell score as usual



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Alignment with free end gaps: 2. Matrix filling

➤ Gap is not penalized in the edge region



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Alignment with free end gaps: 2. Matrix filling

➤ Gap is not penalized in the edge region

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	1
A	0	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	1
C	0	0	2	2	4	3	2	1	1	1
T	0	0	1	2	3	5	4	3	2	1
G	0	0	0	1	2	4	6	6	6	6

Match = 1, Mismatch = 0,
End gap penalty = 0, (Internal) gap penalty = -1

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Alignment with free end gaps: 2. Matrix filling (completed)

➤ Gap is not penalized in the edge region

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	1
A	0	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	1
C	0	0	2	2	4	3	2	1	1	1
T	0	0	1	2	3	5	4	3	2	1
G	0	0	0	1	2	4	6	6	6	6

Match = 1, Mismatch = 0,
End gap penalty = 0, (Internal) gap penalty = -1

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Alignment with free end gaps: 3. Traceback

ACACTGATCG
ACACTG---- is the optimal alignment!

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	1
A	0	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	1
C	0	0	2	2	4	3	2	1	1	1
T	0	0	1	2	3	5	4	3	2	1
G	0	0	0	1	2	4	6	6	6	6

Match = 1, Mismatch = 0, End gap penalty = 0, (Internal) gap penalty = -1
 ACACTGATCG → 6 matches × 1 + 0 mismatches × 0 + 4 end gaps × 0
 ACACTG---- = 6 (alignment score)

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Pairwise alignment using dynamic programming algorithm

- Global alignment
 - Needleman & Wunsch (1970)
 - Optimizes the alignment (maximizes the alignment score) **over the full length of the sequences**
- Semi-global alignment
 - Global alignment with **cost-free end gaps**
- Local alignment
 - Smith & Waterman (1981)
 - Finds **the best matching subsequences**

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Global vs. local alignments

Global alignment

- Optimizes the alignment over the full length of sequences
- With **free-end gap**:
→ Semi-global alignment

Local alignment

- Finds the best matching subsequence(s)
→ Useful for finding conserved regions

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Local alignment (Smith-Waterman algorithm)

- Top row and leftmost column → fill with 0
- Use negative mismatch score and negative gap penalty
- Cell scores cannot be negative
→ Replace negative scores with 0
- Trace-back can be started anywhere
→ Find the cell(s) with the highest score
- Trace-back stops when it reaches 0

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Local alignment: 1. initialization

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0									
C	0									
A	0									
C	0									
T	0									
G	0									

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 2. matrix filling

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0									
C	0									
A	0									
C	0									
T	0									
G	0									

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 2. matrix filling (continued)

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	-1							
C	0									
A	0									
C	0									
T	0									
G	0									

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 2. matrix filling (continued)

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	-1						
C	0									
A	0									
C	0									
T	0									
G	0									

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 2. matrix filling (continued)

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0									
A	0									
C	0									
T	0									
G	0									

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 2. matrix filling (continued)

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0									
A	0									
C	0									
T	0									
G	0									

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 2. matrix filling (completed)

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
A	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	1	0
T	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	1	1	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	4	2	0

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 3. traceback

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
A	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	1	0
T	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	1	1	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	4	2	0

Only paths involving positive-scores need to be kept for traceback

Match = 1, Mismatch = -1, Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment: 3. traceback

Traceback stops before 0 (no arrow from 0)

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
A	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	1	0
T	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	1	1	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	4	2	0

Traceback starts from the cell with the highest score

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Optimal local alignment

	A	C	A	C	T	G	A	T	C	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
A	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
C	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	1	0
T	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	1	1	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	4	2	0

Optimal local alignment **ACACTG**
Alignment score **6**

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Local alignment (protein sequences)

	M	A	C	D	A	M
	0	0	0	0	0	0
D	0					
A	0					
M	0					
A	0					
C	0					
D	0					

Alignment of amino acid sequences can be done similarly

Match = 2, Mismatch = -1 and Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment (protein sequences)

	M	A	C	D	A	M
	0	0	0	0	0	0
D	0	0	0	2	0	0
A	0	0	2	0	0	0
M	0	2	0	1	0	2
A	0	0	4	2	0	2
C	0	0	2	6	4	2
D	0	0	0	4	8	6

Optimal local alignment (score=8):
MACD
MACD

Maximum Score

Match = 2, Mismatch = -1 and Gap penalty = -2

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Local alignment (protein sequences)

	M	A	C	D	A	M
D	0	0	0	0	2	0
A	0	0	2	0	0	4
M	0	2	0	1	0	2
A	0	0	4	2	0	2
C	0	0	2	6	4	2
D	0	0	0	4	8	6

Optimal local alignment
(score: 8)

MACD
MACD

You can also find
Suboptimal local alignment
(score: 6)

DAM MACDA
DAM MACD-

Match = 2, Mismatch = -1 and Gap penalty = -2

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Graduate Only Assignment

- **Report 1: March 8**
 - Short proposal (2-3 pages)
- **Report 2: May 3**
 - Final report (5-7 pages)
- Comparative analysis of bioinformatics methods
 - *e.g.*, Multiple alignment methods:
 - Clustal W vs. MUSCLE vs. MAFFT
 - Compare three methods
 - Choose appropriate input datasets (3 or more)
 - Read the Guidelines!
- Undergraduate students can do these assignments for bonus points (both reports need to be submitted)

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