

# Generation, Visualisation and Analysis of Multiple Sequence Alignments

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# What is multiple sequence alignment (MSA)?

- Alignment of three or more sequences
- What does one look like?

# Example Multiple Sequence alignment of 27 SH2 domains

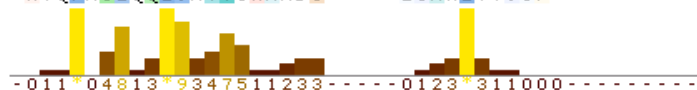
<i>1ju5a_1/1-109</i>	1	-----SWYWGRLSRQEAVALLQGQ--RHGVFLVRDSEST-SPGDVVLVS-----SENS---RVSHYIINSSGPRPPVPPSPAQPPPGVSPSRLRIGD-----80
<i>1x6ca_1/1-118</i>	1	-----GSSGSSGWYHGHMSGGQAETLLQAKG-EPWTFVLVRESLS-QPGDFVLVSLSDQ-PKAGPGSPLRVTHIKVMCEGG-----RTTVGG-----78
<i>2eu0a_1/1-108</i>	1	-----NNLETIEWYFNKSIIRDKAKELLLDLTG-KEGAFMVRDSEST--PGTYTVSVFTKAIISENP-----CIKHVHIKETND-----SPKRYVVAE-----77
<i>2iuhb_1/1-115</i>	1	-----NMSLQNAEWYWGDIISREEVNEKL RDT--ADGTFVLVDASTKMHGDVTLTL-----RKGG--NNKLIKIFHRDGD-----KVGFS-----70
<i>2iuii_1/1-110</i>	1	-----NNNMSLQNAEWYWGDIISREEVNEKL RDT--ADGTFVLVDASTKMHGDVTLTL-----RKGG--NNKLIKIFHRDGD-----KVGFS-----72
<i>2iuii_1/1-107</i>	1	-----MSLQNAEWYWGDIISREEVNEKL RDT--ADGTFVLVDASTKMHGDVTLTL-----RKGG--NNKLIKIFHRDGD-----KVGFS-----69
<i>1aouf_1/1-106</i>	1	-----SIQAEWYFGKLRGKDAERQLLSFGNPRGTFLLIRESSET-TKGAVCLSVSDFD-NAKGL--NVKHYKIRKLDG-----G-GFYITS-----75
<i>2ciaa_1/1-98</i>	1	-----SEWYVGNVTRHQAECALNERG-VEGDFLIRDSESPSDFSVSL-----KASG--KNKHFKVQLVDN-----G-VVIG-----63
<i>1ka7a_1/1-107</i>	1	-----MDAVAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV72
<i>1ka6a_1/1-107</i>	1	-----MDAVAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV72
<i>1d1zd_1/1-101</i>	1	-----VAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV69
<i>1d1zc_1/1-101</i>	1	-----VAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV69
<i>1d1za_1/1-101</i>	1	-----VAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV69
<i>1m27a_1/1-104</i>	1	-----MDAVAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV72
<i>1d4wb_1/1-102</i>	1	-----AVAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV70
<i>1d4ta_1/1-104</i>	1	-----MDAVAVYHGKISRETGEKLLLATG-LDGSVLLRDSESVPGVYVCLCV-----LYHG--YIYTVRVVSQTET-----G-SWSAETAPGV72
<i>1blk_1/1-114</i>	1	GSVAPVETLEVKWFFRTISRKDAERQLLAPMNKAGSFLIRESSES-NKGAFSLSVKDI--TTQGE--VVKHVIRSLDN-----G-GFYISP-----81
<i>1rjaa_1/1-100</i>	1	-----SEPWFPGCISRSEAVRRQAEGNATGAFLIRVSEK-PSADVLSV-----RDTQ--AVRHVYKWRRAAG-----G-RLHLNE-----67
<i>1cwdl_1/1-98</i>	1	-----GSWFFKNLIRKDAERQLLAPGNTHGSFLIRESSES-TAGSFSLSVRDFD-QNQGE--VVKHVIRSLDN-----G-GFYISP-----71
<i>1p13b_1/1-102</i>	1	-----AEWYFGKITRRESERLLNPNPRGTFLLVRESSET-TKGAVCLSVSDFD-NAKGL--NVKHYKIRKLDG-----G-GFYITS-----72
<i>1nzlb_1/1-103</i>	1	-----AEWYFGKITRRESERLLNPNPRGTFLLVRESSET-TKGAVCLSVSDFD-NAKGL--NVKHYKIRKLDG-----G-GFYITS-----72
<i>1nzva_1/1-101</i>	1	-----AEWYFGKITRRESERLLNPNPRGTFLLVRESSET--GAVCLSVSDFD-NAKGL--NVKHYKIRKLDG-----G-GFYITS-----70
<i>1nzla_1/1-101</i>	1	-----AEWYFGKITRRESERLLNPNPRGTFLLVRESSET--GAVCLSVSDFD-NAKGL--NVKHYKIRKLDG-----G-GFYITS-----70
<i>1lcja_1/1-104</i>	1	-----EPEPWFFKNLIRKDAERQLLAPGNTHGSFLIRESSES-TAGSFSLSVRDFD-QNQGE--VVKHVIRSLDN-----G-GFYISP-----73
<i>1lklb_1/1-104</i>	1	-----EPEPWFFKNLIRKDAERQLLAPGNTHGSFLIRESSES-TAGSFSLSVRDFD-QNQGE--VVKHVIRSLDN-----G-GFYISP-----73
<i>1a07a_1-105</i>	1	-----SIQAEWYFGKITRRESERLLNPNPRGTFLLVRESSET-TKGAVCLSVSDFD-NAKGL--NVKHYKIRKLDG-----G-GFYITS-----75
<i>1hcsb_1/1-107</i>	1	-----MDSIQAEWYFGKITRRESERLLNPNPRGTFLLVRESSET-TKGAVCLSVSDFD-NAKGL--NVKHYKIRKLDG-----G-GFYITS-----77

Conservation



<i>1ju5a_1/1-109</i>	81	--QEFDLSLPALEFYKIHYLD-----TTTLIEPVSR-----	109
<i>1x6ca_1/1-118</i>	79	-LETFDLSLTDLVEHFKKTGIE-EASGAFVYLRQPYYSGPSGG----	118
<i>2eu0a_1/1-108</i>	78	-KYVFDIPLLIQYHQYNGGG-----LVTRLRYPVCG-----	108
<i>2iuhb_1/1-115</i>	71	-PLTFSSVVELINHYRNESLAQYNPKLDVKLLYPVSKYQQDQVVKE	115
<i>2iuii_1/1-110</i>	73	-PLTFSSVVELINHYRNESLAQYNPKLDVKLLYPVSKYQ-----	110
<i>2iuii_1/1-107</i>	70	-PLTFSSVVELINHYRNESLAQYNPKLDVKLLYPVSKYQ-----	107
<i>1aouf_1/1-106</i>	76	-RAQFETLQQLVQHYSERAA-----LSRLVVP SHK-----	106
<i>2ciaa_1/1-98</i>	64	-QRRFHTMDELVEHYKKAPIFTSEHGEKLYLVRALQ-----	98
<i>1ka7a_1/1-107</i>	73	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEKKSS-----	107
<i>1ka6a_1/1-107</i>	73	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEKKSS-----	107
<i>1d1zd_1/1-101</i>	70	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEK-----	101
<i>1d1zc_1/1-101</i>	70	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEK-----	101
<i>1d1za_1/1-101</i>	70	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEK-----	101
<i>1m27a_1/1-104</i>	73	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEK-----	104
<i>1d4wb_1/1-102</i>	71	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEK-----	102
<i>1d4ta_1/1-104</i>	73	-HKRYFRKIKNLSAFQKPDQG-----IVIPLQYPVEK-----	104
<i>1blk_1/1-114</i>	82	-RITFPTLQALVQHYSKKGDG-----LCQKLTLPVCNLA-----	114
<i>1rjaa_1/1-100</i>	68	-AVSFLSLPELVNHYRAQSLS-----HGLRLAAPCRKHE-----	100
<i>1cwdl_1/1-98</i>	72	-RITFPLGLHVLVRYHTNASDG-----LCTRLSR-----	98
<i>1p13b_1/1-102</i>	73	-RTQFSSLLQQLVAYYSKHADG-----LCHRLTNVCP-----	102
<i>1nzlb_1/1-103</i>	73	-RTQFSSLLQQLVAYYSKHADG-----LCHRLTNVCP-----	103
<i>1nzva_1/1-101</i>	71	-RTQFSSLLQQLVAYYSKHADG-----LCHRLTNVCP-----	101
<i>1nzla_1/1-101</i>	71	-RTQFSSLLQQLVAYYSKHADG-----LCHRLTNVCP-----	101
<i>1lcja_1/1-104</i>	74	-RITFPLGLHVLVRYHTNASDG-----LCTRLSRPCQT-----	104
<i>1lklb_1/1-104</i>	74	-RITFPLGLHVLVRYHTNASDG-----LCTRLSRPCQT-----	104
<i>1a07a_1-105</i>	76	-RTQFNSLQQLVAYYSKHADG-----LCHRLTTVCP-----	105
<i>1hcsb_1/1-107</i>	78	-RTQFNSLQQLVAYYSKHADG-----LCHRLTTVCP-----	107

Conservation



# Why are Protein (multiple) Sequence Alignments Useful?

- Link proteins at the amino acid level
- Allow identification of conserved features
- Allow prediction of functionally important residues
- Basis for phylogenetic tree construction
- Basis for sensitive profile-based sequence database searching
- Basis for training many methods to predict features from sequence – e.g. secondary structure
- Standard way of describing and illustrating features of protein sequences and their relationships in publications

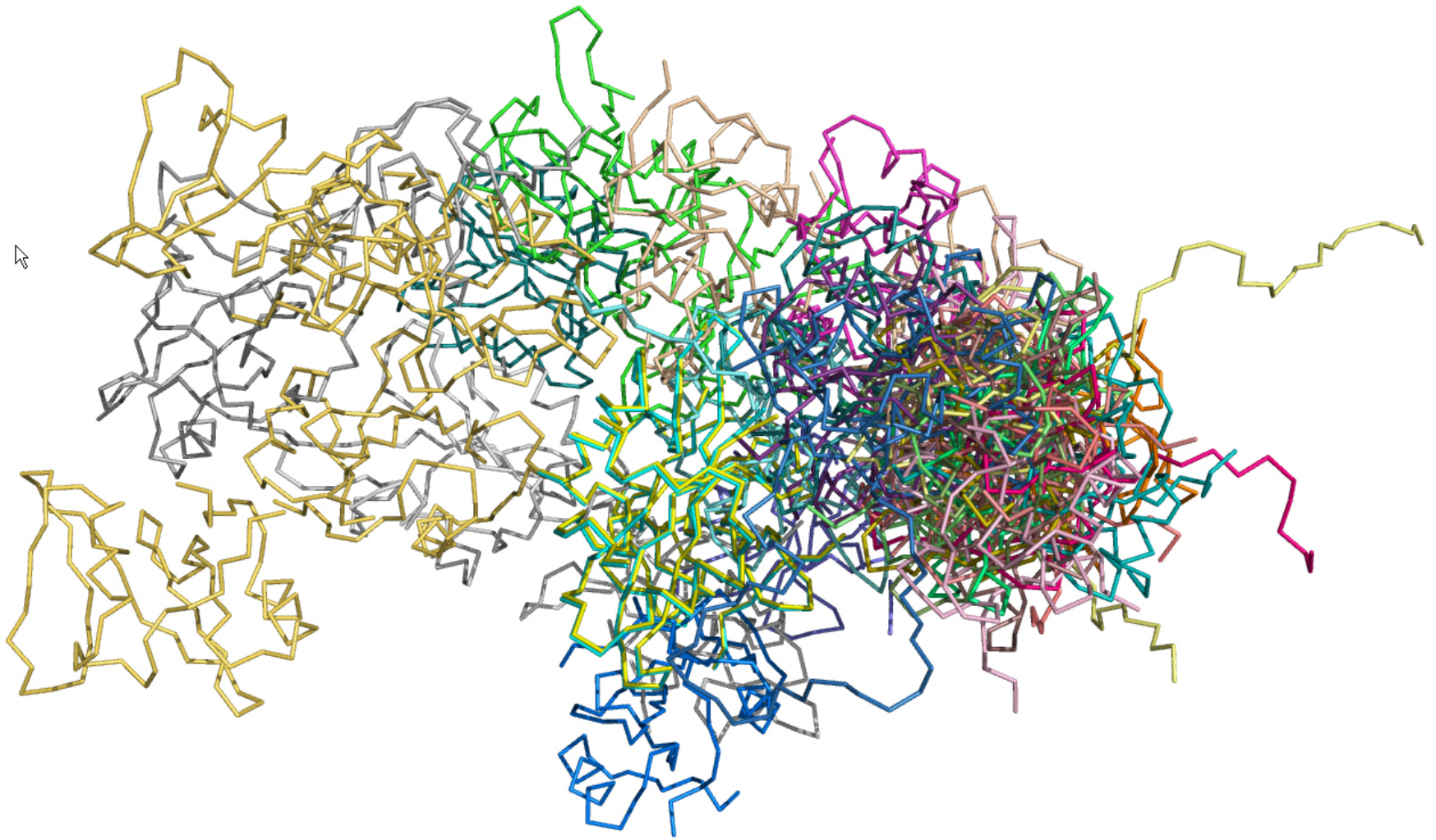


# **Link proteins at the amino acid level**

What does this mean?

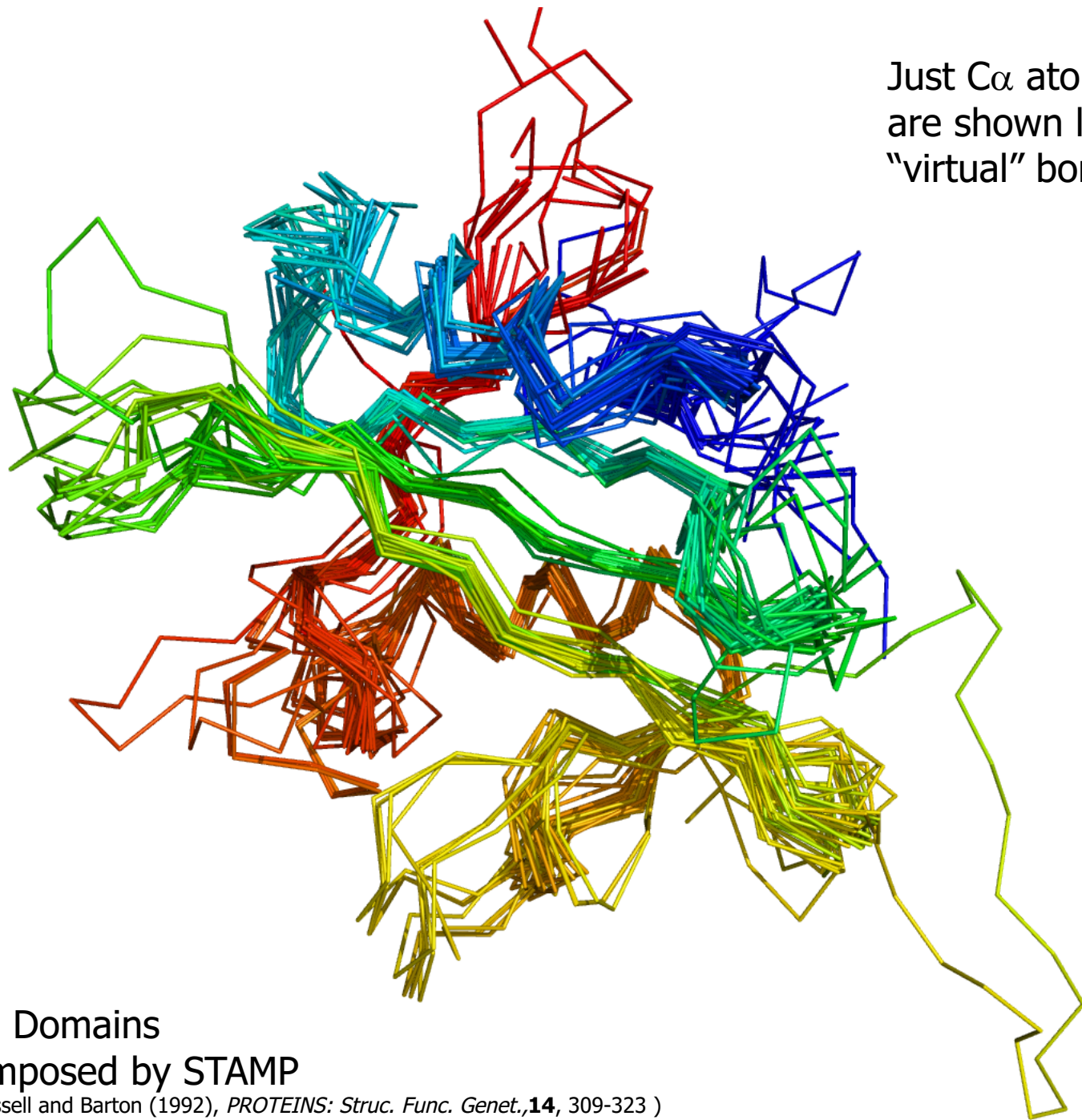
# **Example sequence alignment of SH2 domains**

From the *three-dimensional*  
structures of the proteins



22 SH2 domain structures as they are if just loaded into PyMol from the PDB

Just C $\alpha$  atoms  
are shown linked by  
"virtual" bonds



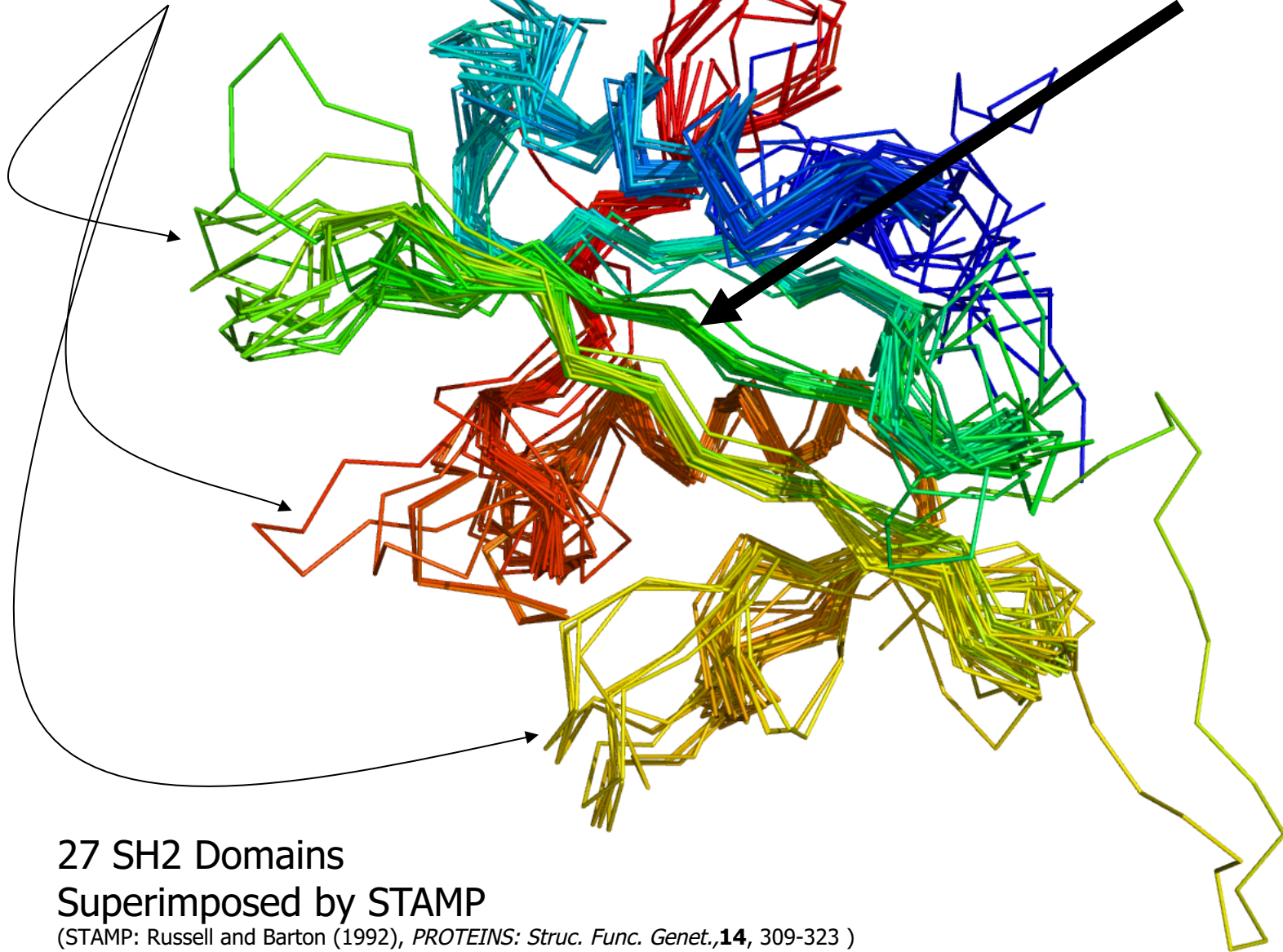
27 SH2 Domains  
Superimposed by STAMP

(STAMP: Russell and Barton (1992), *PROTEINS: Struc. Func. Genet.*, **14**, 309-323 )

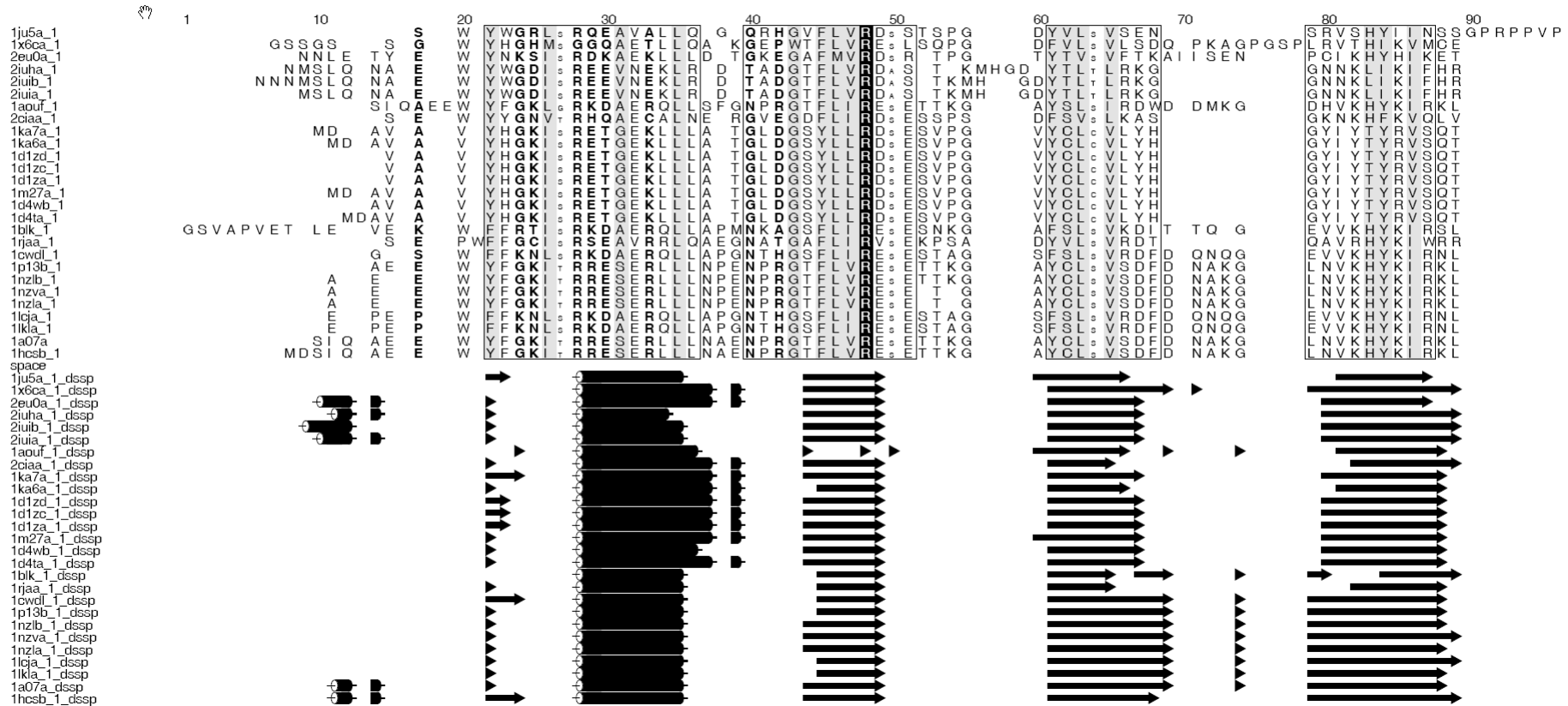


Variability in loops  
connecting regular  
secondary structure

Core of domain  
has "conserved" structure



# Regions considered by STAMP to be aligned reliably



Structural alignment of 27 SH2 domains showing secondary structure – Part I

STAMP alignment – Alscript display



**How are MSAs generated  
when we just have  
sequences and no  
knowledge of 3D  
structure?**



# Multiple Sequence Alignment from the 1960/70s



Courtesy of the University of Edinburgh

# 1984

- Some sequence alignment programs existed but common method was to...
- Align two sequences by writing the amino acid codes on squared paper then sliding them relative to each other to find a good match.
- Use scissors to deal with insertions/deletions
- Yes really!



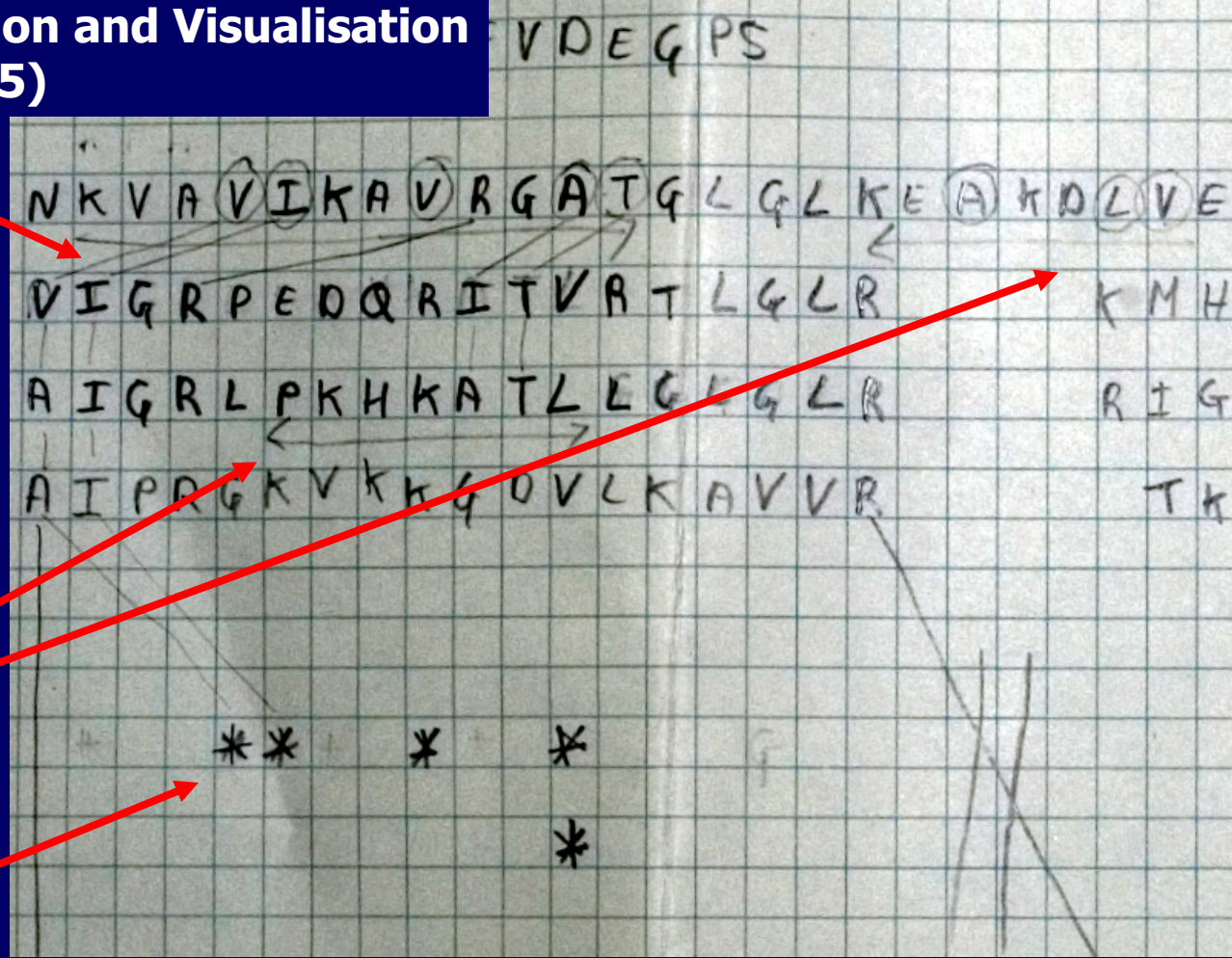
Multiple Alignment Creation and Visualisation  
(1984/5)

"Trace"  
(Alternative Alignment)

Location of Beta-Strand  
(double headed arrows)

"\*" ??

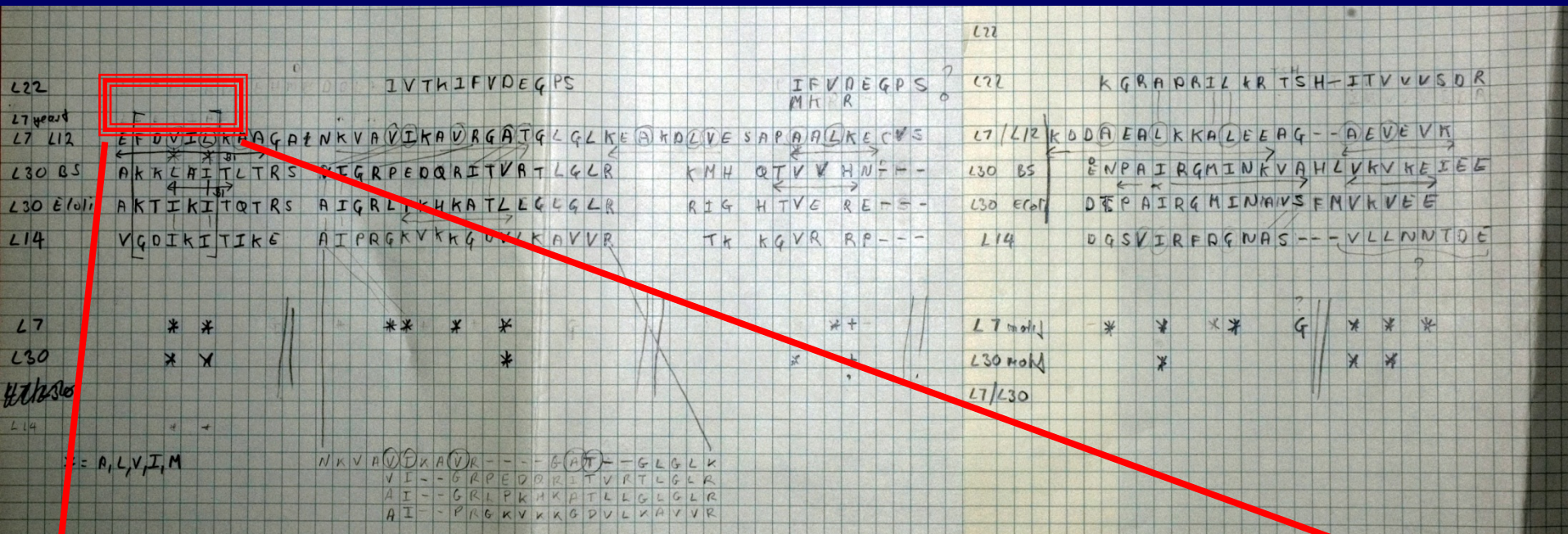
Re-drawn  
Alternative Alignment



$\ast = A, L, V, I, M$



# Multiple Sequence Alignment and Visualisation (1984/5)



**How are MSAs  
generated?**

# **Pair-wise sequence alignment**

# Alignment of *two* Protein Sequences -How?

- Need scoring scheme for matching amino acid residues.
- Need to cope with insertions and deletions (gaps or indels).
- Need algorithm to find 'best' alignment.
- Need some way of judging if the alignment is likely to be correct.



# Protein Scoring Schemes

- A table of scores for aligning each possible amino acid pair.
- **Simplest scheme**, just scores 1 for identity and 0 for non identity.
- Better schemes weight similarities in amino acid properties or observed substitutions. For example, BLOSUM and PAM series. Virtually all of today's programs use these.

# BLOSUM62 Matrix

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V	B	Z	X	*
A	4	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0	-2	-1	0	-4
R	-1	5	0	-2	-3	1	0	-2	0	-3	-2	2	-1	-3	-2	-1	-1	-3	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-4
N	-2	0	6	1	-3	0	0	0	1	-3	-3	0	-2	-3	-2	1	0	-4	-2	-3	3	0	-1	-4
D	-2	-2	1	6	-3	0	2	-1	-1	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-1	0	-1	-4	-3	-3	4	1	-1	-4
C	0	-3	-3	-3	9	-3	-4	-3	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-3	-2	-4
Q	-1	1	0	0	-3	5	2	-2	0	-3	-2	1	0	-3	-1	0	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	3	-1	-4
E	-1	0	0	2	-4	2	5	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	1	4	-1	-4
G	0	-2	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	6	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3	-3	-2	0	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-4
H	-2	0	1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	8	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	2	-3	0	0	-1	-4
I	-1	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	4	2	-3	1	0	-3	-2	-1	-3	-1	3	-3	-3	-1	-4
L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-2	2	0	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	1	-4	-3	-1	-4
K	-1	2	0	-1	-3	1	1	-2	-1	-3	-2	5	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	0	1	-1	-4
M	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	0	-2	-3	-2	1	2	-1	5	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	1	-3	-1	-1	-4
F	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	0	0	-3	0	6	-4	-2	-2	1	3	-1	-3	-3	-1	-4
P	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-4	7	-1	-1	-4	-3	-2	-2	-1	-2	-4
S	1	-1	1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-2	-1	4	1	-3	-2	-2	0	0	0	-4
T	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	5	-2	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-4
W	-3	-3	-4	-4	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3	-2	-3	-1	1	-4	-3	-2	11	2	-3	-4	-3	-2	-4
Y	-2	-2	-2	-3	-2	-1	-2	-3	2	-1	-1	-2	-1	3	-3	-2	-2	2	7	-1	-3	-2	-1	-4
V	0	-3	-3	-3	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	3	1	-2	1	-1	-2	-2	0	-3	-1	4	-3	-2	-1	-4
B	-2	-1	3	4	-3	0	1	-1	0	-3	-4	0	-3	-3	-2	0	-1	-4	-3	-3	4	1	-1	-4
Z	-1	0	0	1	-3	3	4	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	1	4	-1	-4
X	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-4
*	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	1

BLOSUM62 is a log-score matrix – more on this later...

# Gap Penalties

- Score for aligning a residue or residues in one protein to a gap in the other.
- Most usual form:  
$$\text{penalty} = ul + v$$
- where  $l$  is the length of the gap and  $u$  and  $v$  are constants.
- $u$  is often called the gap extension penalty,  $v$ , the gap creation penalty.

# Finding the 'best' alignment

- The mathematically best alignment is the one that gives the highest score when the amino acids of the two proteins are aligned, taking account of any gaps.
- *This alignment is not necessarily the one that is biologically meaningful.*  
(more on this later)

# Finding the best alignment

- Naïve way would be to generate all possible alignments of the two sequences, then take the one with the highest score according to the BLOSUM matrix.
- But... for two sequences of 100 amino acids, there are  $> 10^{75}$  possible alignments...

# Dynamic Programming

- Trick to avoid having to generate all possible alignments.
- First introduced in molecular biology by Needleman and Wunsch (1970).
- Many variations on the theme.
- Basis of (nearly) all sequence alignment programs.
- Finds the mathematically 'best' score for alignment of two sequences of length  $M$  and  $N$  in  $MN$  steps.

(a)

$j =$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	A	W	C	N	I	R	Q	C	L	C	R	P	M
$i = 1$	A	1											
2	I				1								
3	C			1				1		1			
4	I				1								
5	N				1								
6	R					1	4	3	3	2	2	0	0

There may be alternative alignments with the same score, or with scores that are very similar to the best score.

Most alignment programs only report one answer...

(b)

$i =$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	A	8	7	6	6	5	4	4	3	3	2	1	0	0
2	I	7	7	6	6	6	4	4	3	3	2	1	0	0
3	C	6	6	7	6	5	4	4	4	3	3	1	0	0
4	I	6	6	6	5	6	4	4	3	3	2	1	0	0
5	N	5	5	5	6	5	4	4	3	3	2	1	0	0
6	R	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	2	2	0	0
7	C	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	1	0	0
8	K	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	0	0
9	C	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	1	0	0
10	R	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	0
11	B	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
12	P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

From:  
Needleman &  
Wunsch (1970)

# Multiple Sequence Alignment

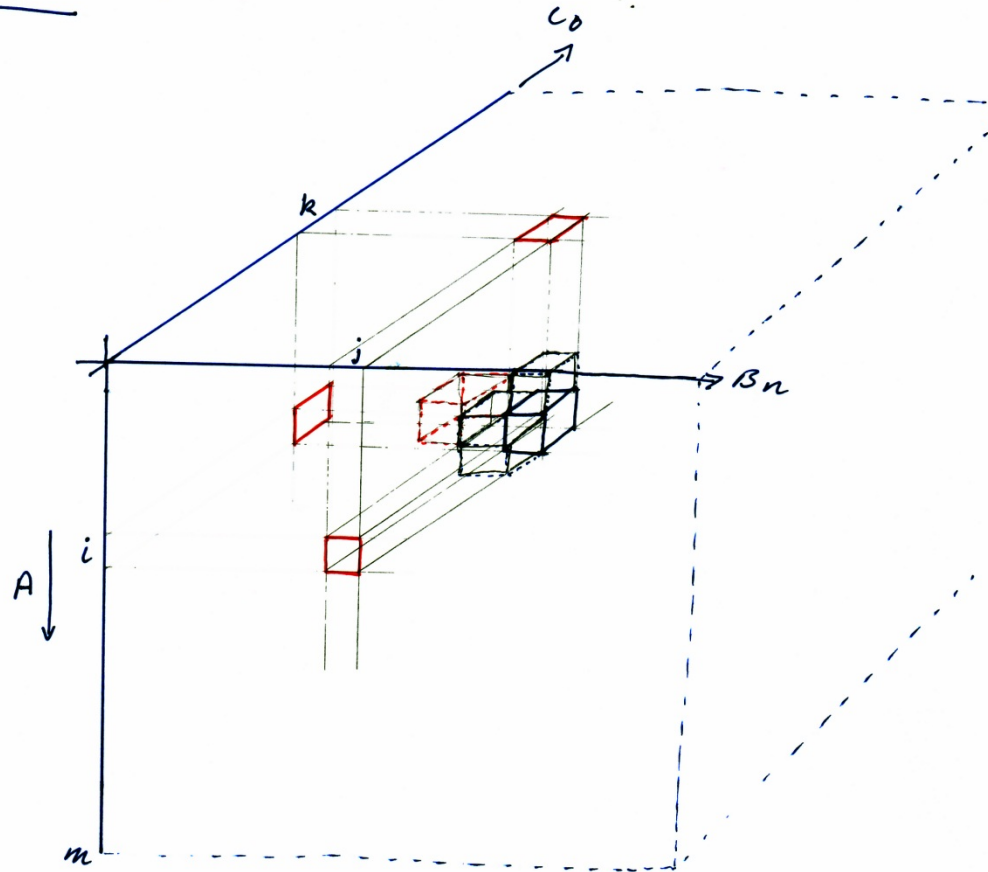
Extension of two-sequence  
dynamic programming



**For three sequences**

Need a 3-dimensional array

3-Sequence?



3-Way Dynamic programming.

- gets complicated! - AND HARD TO DRAW!

BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE

**For  $n$  sequences?**

Need an  $n$ -dimensional array...

# Dynamic programming for $>3$ sequences

- Need an N-dimensional “hypercube”
- Very complex
- Very memory intensive
- Very CPU intensive
- e.g. to align 100 sequences of length 100.  
Need to store  $100^{100}$  bytes.  
i.e. A BIG NUMBER!
- NOT PRACTICAL

# Alternatives to dynamic programming

- Genetic Algorithms
  - Simulate process of “evolution”, but for protein sequence alignments
  - Mutation/recombination of alignments
  - Has been implemented in the SAGA program
- STILL IMPRACTICAL for most use.

# Hierarchical multiple alignment

- Compare all pairs of sequences
- Generate a guide tree or dendrogram
- Follow tree from leaves to root, building the alignment as you go.
- Virtually all current programs use this approach
- Most popular program is CLUSTAL. More recent and often more accurate programs are:
  - probcons, mafft and muscle...

Example: Alignment of 7 sequences with identifier codes HAHU, HBHU etc.

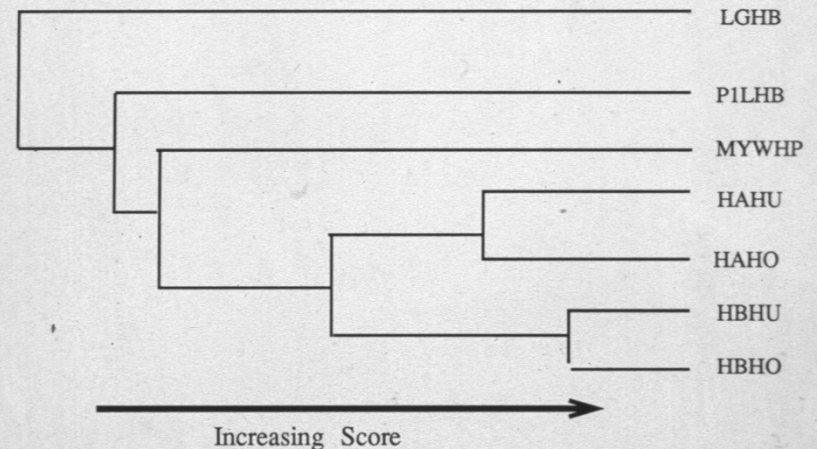
	PAIRWISE SCORES						
	HAHU	HBHU	HAHO	HBHO	MYWHP	P1LHB	LGHB
HAHU							
HBHU	21.1						
HAHO	32.9	19.7					
HBHO	20.7	39.0	20.4				
MYWHP	11.0	9.8	10.3	9.7			
P1LHB	9.3	8.6	9.6	8.4	7.0		
LGHB	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	4.3	

CLUSTER ANALYSIS

"Single linkage" dendrogram.

1. Most similar pair put together
2. Next most similar pair
3. and so on...

When one or both halves of a pair is an existing alignment, then do *profile* comparison.



DENDROGRAM



Sequence vs  
Sequence



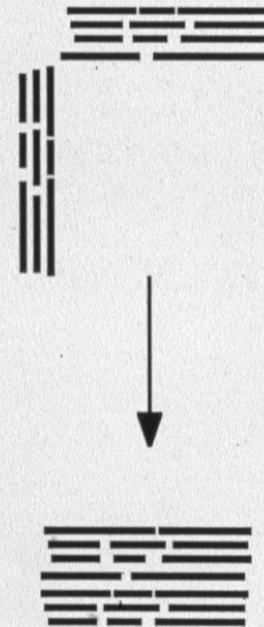
Pairwise Alignment

Alignment vs  
Sequence



Profile Alignment

Alignment vs  
Alignment

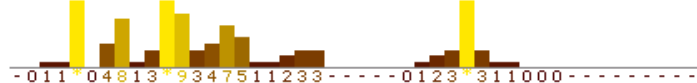
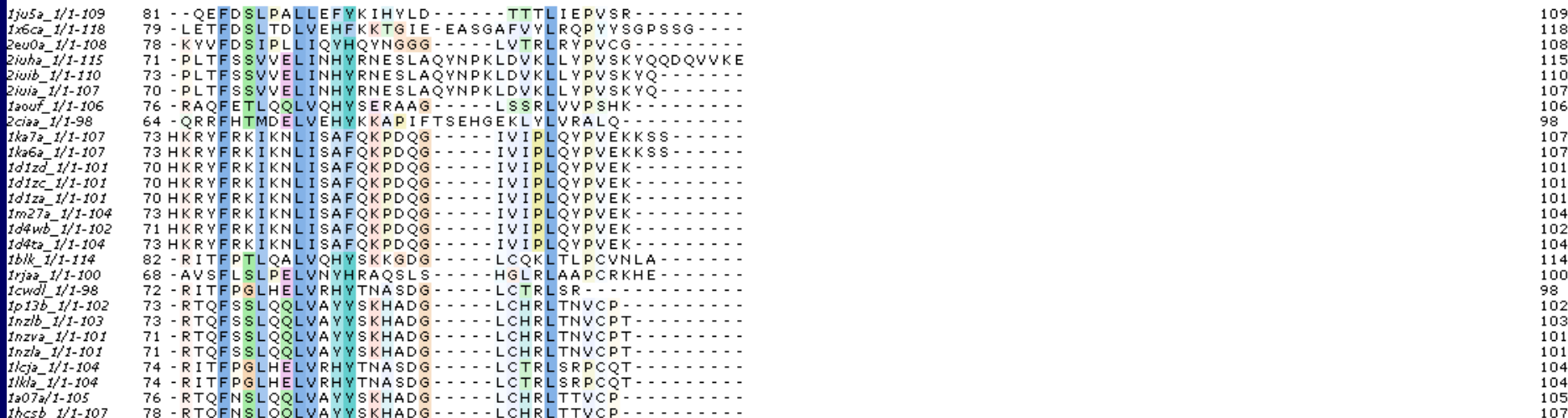
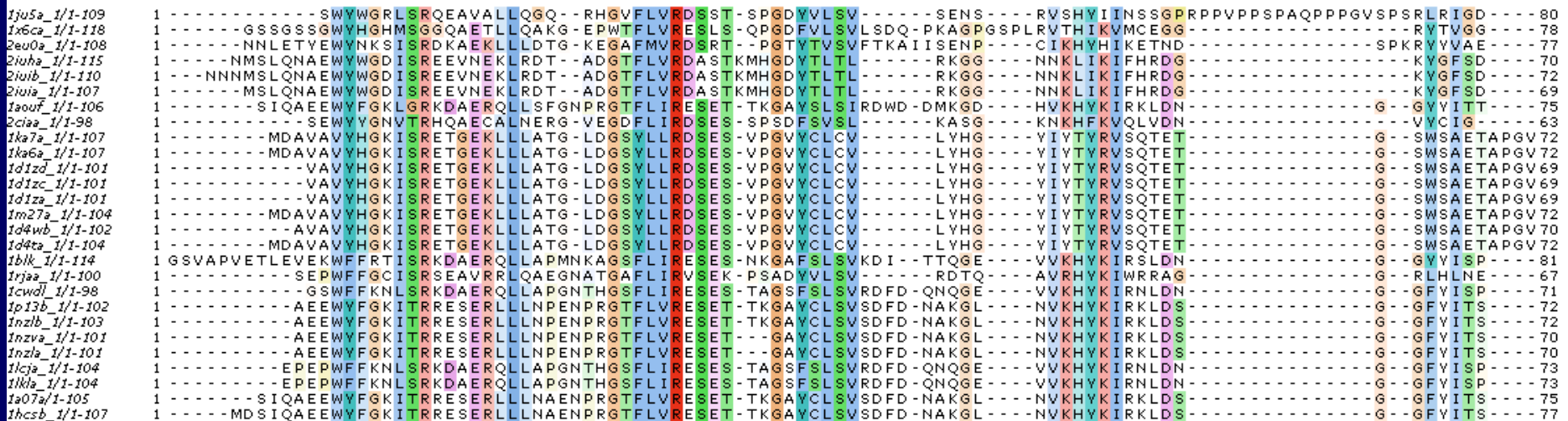


Profile-Profile Alignment

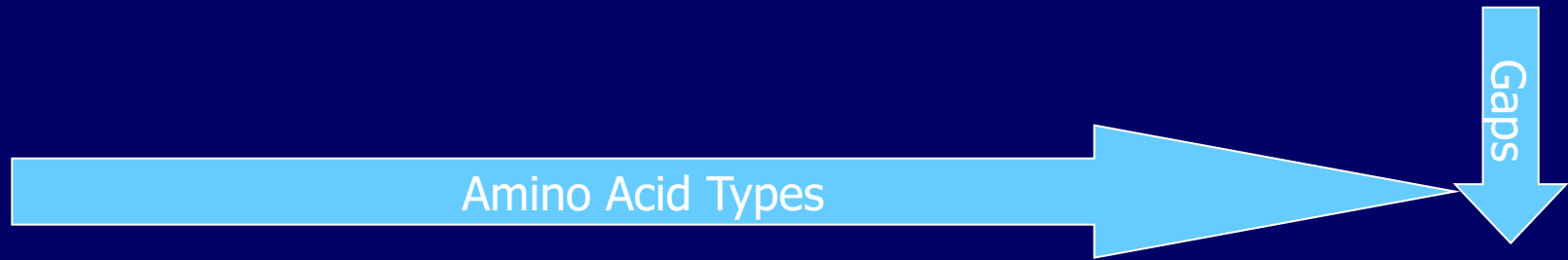


**What is a Profile?**

## Making a profile: Given a multiple sequence alignment...



# Multiple Alignment Frequency Profile



Position in Alignment

Posn:	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V	B	Z	X	-
1:	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2:	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	755	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3:	161	19	15	120	6	39	142	4	4	6	28	113	3	3	38	60	48	1	0	19	0	0	0	0
4:	81	49	27	31	6	29	58	5	16	3	0	21	4	24	1	393	91	2	19	8	0	0	0	3
5:	4	5	0	0	12	0	6	0	0	176	60	19	30	162	0	1	16	66	26	353	0	0	0	0
6:	8	0	38	891	0	10	5	1	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
7:	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	38	0	0	9	0	1	0	956	27	0	0	0	0	1
8:	6	85	0	0	1	4	2	4	0	17	0	0	84	22	24	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
9:	45	17	106	145	4	79	196	16	13	5	24	175	7	3	8	48	115	1	4	34	0	0	0	5
10:	22	64	38	11	119	48	67	2	62	3	39	431	6	14	0	41	13	5	43	10	0	0	0	4
11:	11	13	81	25	1	8	5	728	13	4	3	29	3	1	48	44	11	4	7	1	0	0	0	13
12:	409	9	9	0	56	5	0	28	7	45	35	52	9	15	0	71	72	5	116	98	0	0	0	18
13:	13	1	3	0	5	4	0	1	0	178	70	2	12	3	0	1	5	0	0	770	0	0	0	2
14:	38	18	52	5	2	8	1	66	17	6	16	30	0	1	15	141	625	4	4	21	0	0	0	0
15:	71	22	22	34	0	30	148	41	19	5	0	0	0	0	497	89	29	0	10	6	0	0	0	0
16:	20	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	236	0	0	0	0	24	4	21	0	0	790	0	0	0	0
17:	5	4	26	707	2	2	8	3	2	2	6	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
18:	14	0	2	7	13	7	0	20	11	1	23	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
19:	2	6	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
20:	51	17	17	4	1	23	20	846	23	3	11	48	1	1	3	66	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	1
21:	58	46	118	50	3	235	46	48	50	13	32	53	39	6	25	215	40	7	33	22	0	0	1	4
22:	3	0	4	11123	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	6	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
23:	51	7	32	5	1	2	5	996	1	2	3	8	1	0	3	26	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	3
24:	81	1	4	2	59	1	2	53	0	3	11	0	0	0	0	908	18	3	0	5	0	0	0	2
25:	6	1	0	71042	0	0	13	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	76	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2

# Convert frequency profile into log-odds profile

In words:

$$\log \left( \frac{\text{proportion of a particular amino acid type at a position}}{\text{proportion of that amino acid in the whole alignment}} \right)$$

Results in a

**Negative number** when amino acid is less common at a position than in the alignment as a whole.

or a

**Positive number** if the amino acid is more common at a position than in the alignment as a whole.

Conversion is usually more complex than this because you have to deal with the absence of amino acids at a position. This is done by taking background scores from a pair-score matrix like BLOSUM.

# Example

- Alignment of 30 sequences each of 100 amino acids to give a total of 3000 amino acids
- Position 97 of the alignment has 20 prolines
- There are 300 prolines in the alignment as a whole
- $(20/30)/(300/3000) = 20/3 = 6.67$
- $\log(6.67) = 0.82$
- So, score in profile for proline at position 97 is 0.82
- This is sometimes called a log-likelihood ratio

# Log score profile

- In this example log values are multiplied by 100 to allow for integer arithmetic which is faster on most computers.

Pos	AA	Freq:	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V	B	Z	X	-	^	:	!	
1	A	86:	755	-281	-181	-281	-181	-181	-181	-81	-281	-181	-281	-181	-381	-181	18	-81	-381	-281	-81	-281	-181	-181	200	0	1200	-3000		
2	P	722:	-176	-113	-324	-324	-210	78	77	-454	-20	-367	-212	-291	-114	-217	1486	-161	-127	-220	-117	-113	-11	78	-16	200	0	1200	-3000	
3	A	779:	266	-224	-141	40	-398	-20	271	-602	-180	-299	-212	137	-46	-453	-59	54	86	-721	-175	-276	-9	61	-83	200	0	1200	-3000	
4	A	805:	219	-8	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-469	475	194	-439	-70	-398	-16	19	-69	200	0	1200	-3000	
5	V	849:	-346	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-389	-275	-496	-107	115	329	316	-309	-215	-90	200	0	1200	-3000	
6	D	870:	-183	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	22	-133	-219	-331	-317	-619	558	224	32	200	0	1200	-3000	
7	W	926:	-173	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-481	-211	-485	-87	1734	446	-372	-292	-38	-89	200	0	1200	-3000	
8	R	927:	-143	947	-256	-304	-688	-179	-156	-514	-88	-389	-130	231	-36	-139	68	17	-82	-86	-153	-341	51	137	47	200	0	1200	-3000	
9	A	927:	-29	-246	265	271	-454	78	341	-201	-53	-553	-337	151	-120	-327	-141	85	42	-292	-276	-335	116	111	-71	200	0	1200	-3000	
10	R	862:	-77	131	20	-263	44	19	199	-668	208	-447	-49	366	-139	-12	-375	-9	-165	-50	113	-391	-19	55	-55	200	0	1200	-3000	
11	G	816:	-19	-258	234	79	-331	-270	-66	650	45	-441	-379	-94	-70	-231	-103	141	-143	-26	-165	-662	89	11	-34	200	0	1200	-3000	
12	A	816:	245	-296	-371	-235	-206	-460	-182	-325	-171	-43	6	-151	-48	67	-433	93	-5	-191	166	-13	-210	-159	-121	200	0	1200	-3000	
13	V	734:	11	-508	-342	-290	-315	-529	-217	-726	-270	595	372	-479	360	99	-431	-94	-214	-36	641	-277	-192	-32	200	0	1200	-3000		
14	T	734:	-54	-185	70	-275	-508	-363	-126	-240	-44	-338	-165	-209	-96	-189	-107	311	565	-195	-37	-297	7	-45	-32	200	0	1200	-3000	
15	A	622:	152	-139	-165	-182	-262	-154	197	-401	-107	-339	-347	-92	-98	-160	561	111	-19	-297	-51	-439	-77	18	-113	200	0	1200	-3000	
16	V	471:	83	-304	-406	-344	-152	-260	-286	-678	-354	504	-4	-264	-109	-137	-100	-253	107	-317	-138	607	-338	-263	-114	200	0	1200	-3000	
17	K	416:	-206	449	-268	-231	-259	14	19	-589	-3	-255	-183	-219	59	-113	-99	-32	21	50	-334	-102	-204	-77	-34	25	200	0	1200	-3000
18	D	323:	-298	-15	449	504	-496	-318	47	-472	141	-261	-183	-219	59	-113	-99	-32	21	50	-334	-102	-204	-77	-34	25	200	0	1200	-3000
19	Q	209:	-104	24	-120	-88	-293	698	102	-525	121	-148	-183	-219	59	-113	-99	-32	21	50	-334	-102	-204	-77	-34	25	200	0	1200	-3000
20	G	198:	18	-77	-17	-130	-534	-113	-178	364	-60	-185	-231	-13	-224	-210	-299	14	-181	-274	-188	-232	-65	-90	-130	200	0	1200	-3000	
21	Q	106:	-130	30	-78	-21	-593	122	21	-513	-42	-183	-219	59	-113	-99	-32	21	50	-334	-102	-204	-77	-34	25	200	0	1200	-3000	
22	C	35:	-47	-253	-52	-170	538	-150	-172	-201	-188	-115	-66	-180	-31	-168	-183	-36	-18	-245	-179	35	-148	162	-125	200	0	1200	-3000	
23	G	21:	-77	-98	-51	-109	-172	-9	-66	-151	-51	-177	-161	-51	-72	-188	-140	-51	-61	-172	-82	-161	-93	-40	-114	200	0	1200	-3000	
24	S	390:	-100	-341	53	-2	-82	90	25	-57	-153	-214	-333	-78	-160	-274	-163	380	110	-653	-204	-368	-69	-53	-117	200	0	1200	-3000	
25	C	326:	-76	-215	-78	-167	1043	-137	-156	-230	-130	-116	-71	-140	-65	-121	-233	5	12	-336	-159	-137	-156	-144	-81	200	0	1200	-3000	
26	W	326:	-258	-73	-133	-72	-238	37	-86	-147	-9	-78	-125	-85	50	-14	-180	-400	-228	1182	529	-183	-203	-33	221	200	0	1200	-3000	

# How is a profile used in alignment?

- Rather than getting the score for aligning a particular residue at a position from the BLOSUM matrix take it from the profile.



# Profiles give position-specific scoring

Pos	AA	Freq:	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V	B	Z	X	-	^	:	!		
1	A	86:	755	-281	-181	-281	-181	-181	-181	-81	-281	-181	-281	-181	-181	-381	-181	18	-81	-381	-281	-81	-281	-181	-181	200	0	1200	-3000		
2	P	722:	-176	-113	-324	-324	-210	78	77	-176	-20	-367	-212	-291	-114	-217	1486	-161	-127	-220	-117	-113	-11	78	-16	200	0	1200	-3000		
3	A	779:	266	-224	-141	40	-398	-20	271	-602	-180	-299	-212	137	-46	-453	-59	54	86	-721	-175	-276	-9	61	-83	200	0	1200	-3000		
4	A	805:	219	-8	-4	-232	-374	-85	84	-455	25	-558	-204	-119	-125	-82	-469	475	194	-439	-70	-398	-16	19	-69	200	0	1200	-3000		
5	V	849:	-346	-389	-250	-340	-344	-192	-268	-313	-182	371	247	-399	236	594	-275	-496	-107	115	329	316	-309	-215	-90	200	0	1200	-3000		
6	D	870:	-183	-36	321	1123	-237	-26	122	-444	83	-242	-246	-94	-221	-333	22	-133	-219	-331	-317	-619	558	224	32	200	0	1200	-3000		
7	W	926:	-173	-481	-204	-294	-265	53	-117	-131	-101	-228	212	-115	114	417	-211	-485	-87	1734	446	-372	-292	-38	-89	200	0	1200	-3000		
8	R	927:	-143	947	-256	-304	-608	-179	-156	-514	-88	-389	-130	231	-36	-139	68	17	-82	-86	-153	-341	51	137	47	200	0	1200	-3000		
9	A	927:	-29	-246	265	271	-454	78	341	-381	-53	-553	-337	151	-120	-327	-141	85	42	-292	-276	-335	116	111	-71	200	0	1200	-3000		
10	R	862:	-77	131	20	-263	44	19	199	-668	208	-447	-49	366	-139	-12	-375	-9	-165	-50	113	-391	-19	55	-55	200	0	1200	-3000		
11	G	816:	-19	-258	234	79	-331	-270	-66	650	45	-441	-379	-94	-70	-231	-103	141	-143	-26	-165	-662	89	11	-34	200	0	1200	-3000		
12	A	816:	245	-296	-371	-235	-206	-460	-182	325	-171	-43	6	-151	-48	67	-433	93	-5	-191	166	-13	-210	-159	-121	200	0	1200	-3000		
13	V	734:	11	-508	-342	-290	-315	-529	-217	-726	-278	595	372	-479	360	99	-221	-431	-94	-214	-36	641	-277	-192	-32	200	0	1200	-3000		
14	T	734:	-54	-185	70	-275	-508	-363	-126	-240	-44	-338	-165	-209	-96	-189	-107	311	565	-195	-37	-297	7	-45	-32	200	0	1200	-3000		
15	A	622:	152	-139	-165	-182	-262	-154	-182	-401	-107	-328	-847	82	98	-160	-561	111	10	287	51	-439	-77	18	-113	200	0	1200	-3000		
16	V	471:	83	-304	-406																39	607	-338	-263	-114	200	0	1200	-3000		
17	K	416:	-206	449	-268																82	-5	-10	85	-63	200	0	1200	-3000		
18	D	323:	-298	-15	449																38	-183	261	53	72	200	0	1200	-3000		
19	Q	209:	-104	24	-120	-88	-293	698	102	-525	121	-148	-252	122	-33	-356	-183	-96	-95	-167	-116	-260	-21	272	64	200	0	1200	-3000		
20	G	198:	18	-77	-17	-130	-534	-113	-178	364	-60	-185	-231	-13	-224	-210	-299	14	-181	-274	-188	-232	-65	-90	-130	200	0	1200	-3000		
21	Q	106:	-130	30	-78	-21	-593	122	21	-513	-42	-183	-219	59	-113	-99	-32	21	50	-334	-102	-204	-77	-34	25	200	0	1200	-3000		
22	C	35:	-47	-253	-52	-170	538	-150	-172	-201	-188	-115	-66	-180	-31	-168	-183	-36	-18	-245	-179	35	-148	162	-125	200	0	1200	-3000		
23	G	21:	-77	-98	-51	-109	-172	-9	-66	-151	-51	-177	-161	-51	-72	-188	-140	-51	-61	-172	-82	-161	-93	-40	-114	200	0	1200	-3000		
24	S	390:	-100	-341	53	-2	-82	90	25	-57	-153	214	-33														000	000	000		
25	C	326:	-76	-215	-78	-167	1043	-137	-156	-238	-130	-116	-7															000	000	000	
26	W	326:	-258	-73	-133	-72	-238	37	-86	-147	-9	-78	-12																000	000	000

Aligning to Glycine at position 11 scores +6.5

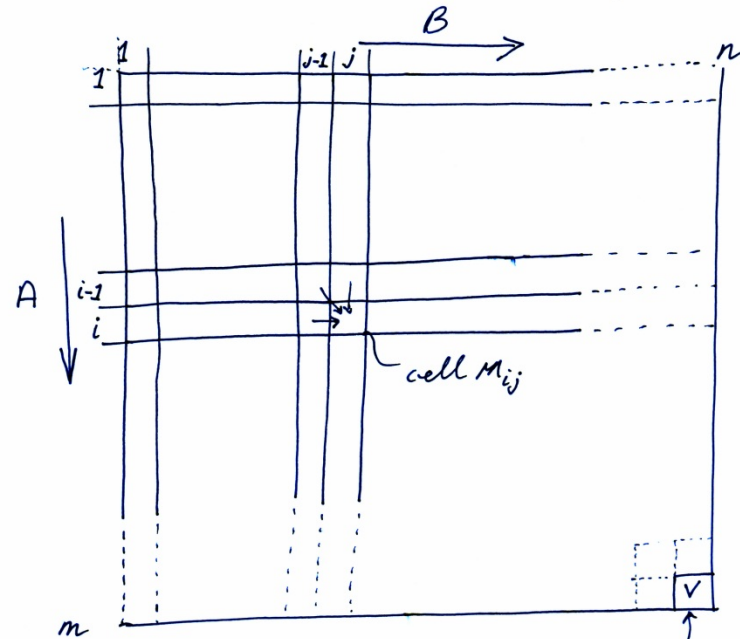
Aligning to Glycine at position 23 scores -1.51

This emphasises position-specific features of the protein family

Compared to Gly-Gly score of 0.6 in the BLOSUM62 matrix.

# DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Matrix  $M$



$V$  = total score for alignment of  $A \neq B$

Sequences  $A_1 \dots m$   
 $B_1 \dots n$

Value of  $M_{ij} = \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M_{i,j-1} - \text{pen} \\ M_{i,j-1} - \text{pen} \\ M_{i,j-1} + \text{Score } A_i, B_j \end{array} \right\}$  where  $\text{pen}$  = gap penalty and  $\text{Score } A_i, B_j$  comes from BLOSUM or PAM substitution matrix (for proteins)

For 2 sequences

$mn$  steps.

When either A or B is a profile, the score comes from the profile rather than the BLOSUM matrix.

If A and B are both profiles, then the score is obtained by combining the scores from the two profiles (Exactly how is beyond this lecture)



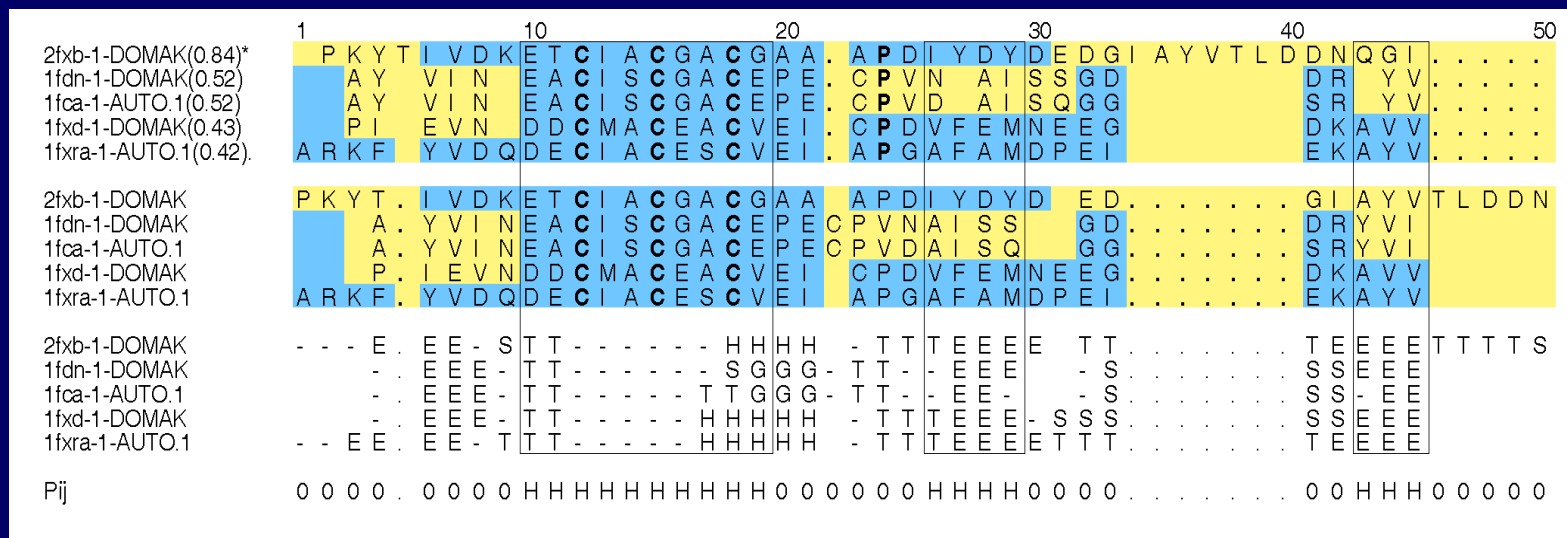
**How good are  
alignments?**

# Use of reference alignments to see how well sequence alignments work

- OXBench – library of 672 multiple structure alignments
- Software to test how well different methods work
  - Raghava GP, Searle SM, Audley PC, Barber JD, Barton GJ. OXBench: a benchmark for evaluation of protein multiple sequence alignment accuracy. BMC Bioinformatics. 2003 Oct 10;4:47.



# Comparison of Structural sequence alignment to sequence alignment



Sequence alignment

Reference structural alignment

Secondary structure for reference alignment

Boxed regions: STAMP reliably structurally aligned

BLUE highlighting: parts of the alignments that are the same.

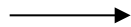
YELLOW highlighting: parts of the alignment that is different.

# Result of comparisons on alignments of 8 sequences or less

*Grouped by percentage sequence identity  
(more on that later)*

Hierarchical Methods

N-way DP with  
corner cutting

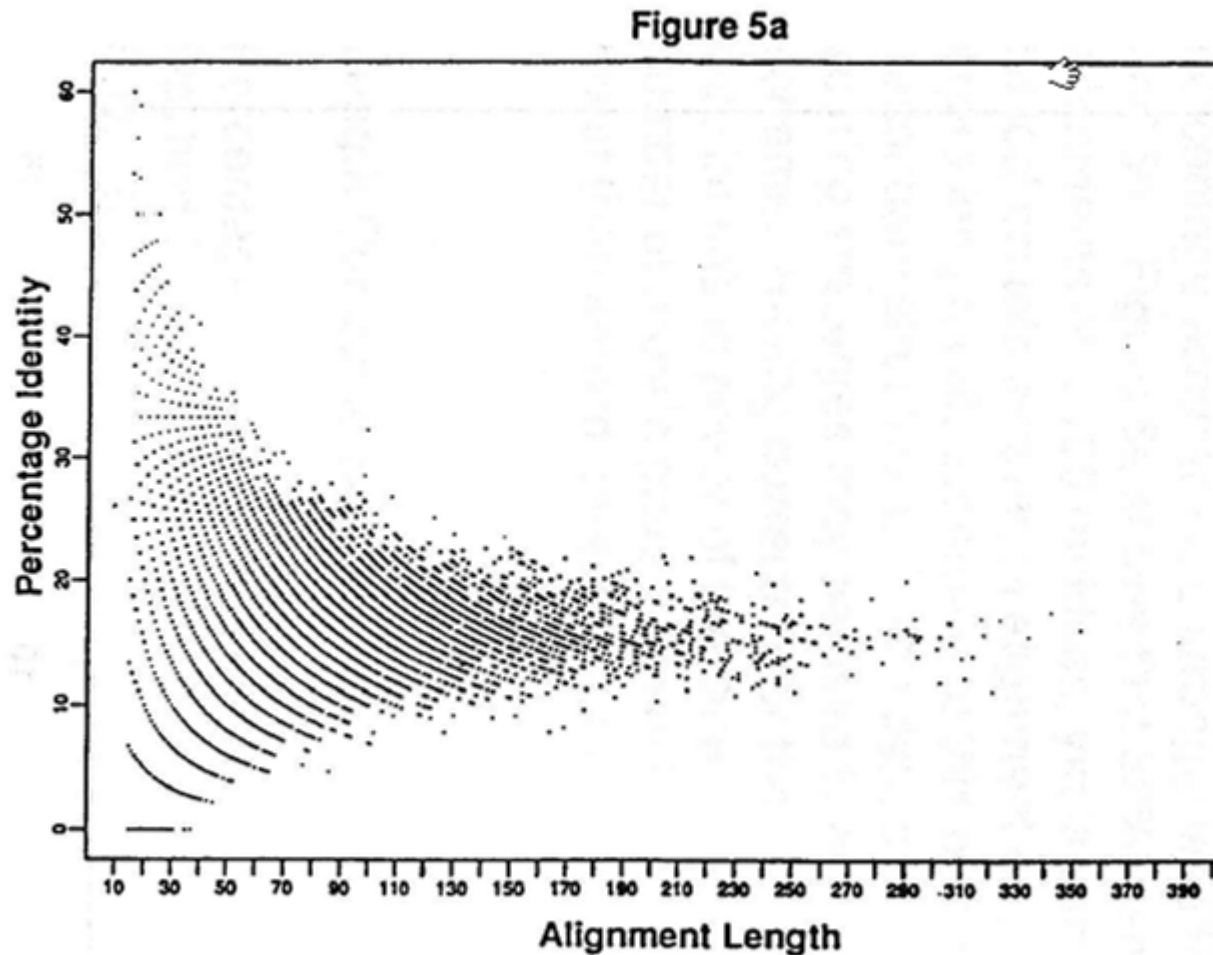


Methods	Percentage Identity Range					Overall
	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-50	50-100	
AMPS	22.2	62.2	81.5	91.3	99.0	89.68
CLUSTALW	21.4	57.0	79.3	91.2	99.0	88.94
PILEUP	25.9	59.5	78.4	90.2	99.0	89.00
PRRP	20.6	58.2	78.6	89.7	98.1	88.14
PIMA	17.4	56.6	78.7	90.1	99.0	88.46
DIALIGN	13.5	44.4	68.3	81.9	96.3	82.91
MSA	18.3	55.2	79.4	90.3	98.5	88.24
HMMER	6.1	13.2	27.8	55.9	89.4	66.20
T-COFFEE	23.1	69.0	87.2	93.3	99.2	91.39
N. Family	21	49	53	142	317	582

Table 10: The performance of methods on the MSA data set (families with  $\leq 8$  members.)

**How similar do sequences  
need to be before we can  
align them reliably?**

## Percentage identity is strongly length dependent



Pair-wise  
sequence  
alignments  
of proteins  
known to be  
unrelated.

Barton, GJ, Proceedings of the CCP4 Study Weekend on Molecular Replacement (31 Jan-1 Feb, 1992)  
There is a more recent ref with similar figure in it by Burkhard Rost, but I must find it!

# Problems with percentage identity

- Length-dependent
- Insensitive
- Dependent on the sequence alignment program and parameters
- Is a family of different scores...
  - Divide by length of shortest sequence
  - Divide by length of alignment
  - Divide by number of aligned positions etc.
    - See: Raghava, G.P.S. and Barton, G. J. Quantification of the variation in percentage identity for protein sequence alignments. BMC Bioinformatics. 2006 Sep 19;7:415.

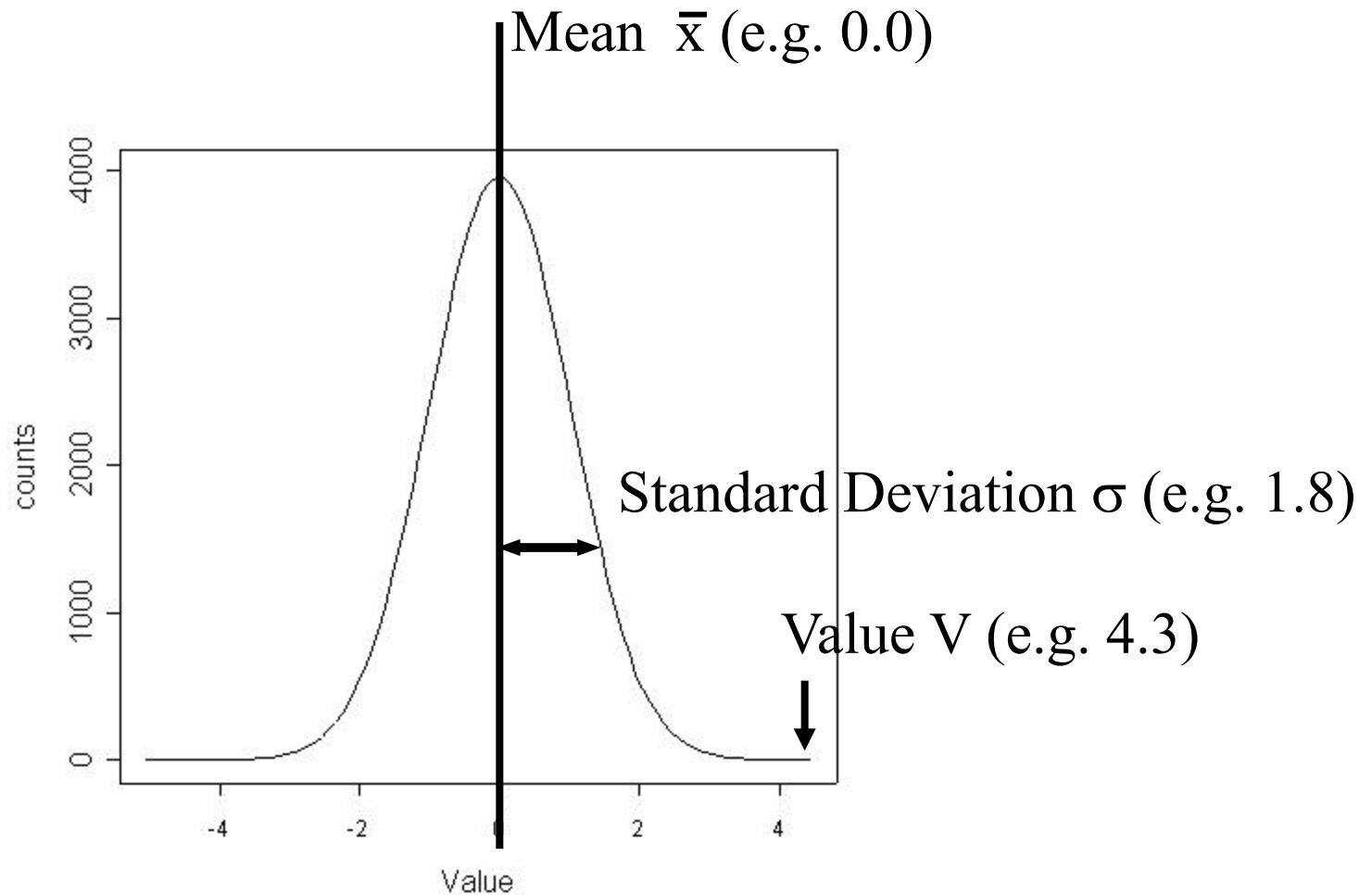


# Z-score compared to percentage identity

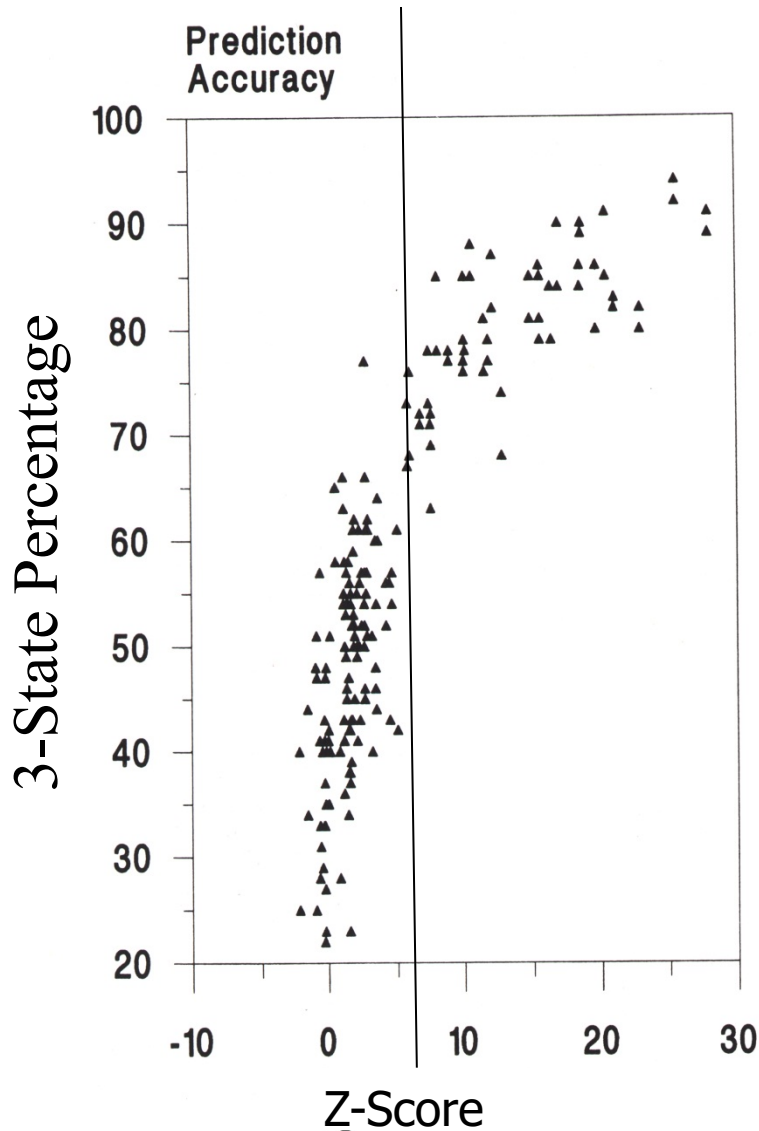
- Corrects for alignment length
- Is as sensitive as the alignment method
- Less sensitive to changes in the alignment method
- Only one way to calculate it

# Z-score

- Align sequences and record score  $S$ .
- Shuffle order of amino acids in the sequences and re-align the pair. Record the score for this alignment, repeat 100 times.
- Calculate mean and Standard Deviation (sd) of shuffled sequence comparison scores.
- $Z = (S - \text{mean}) / \text{sd}$



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Z-score} &= (\text{Value} - \text{Mean}) / (\text{Standard Deviation}) \\ &= (V - \bar{x}) / \sigma \\ \text{e.g.} \quad &= (4.3 - 0.0) / 1.8 = 2.39\end{aligned}$$



**Alignment accuracy  
judged by agreement of  
secondary structure**

No poor alignments for similarity  
> 6 sigma.

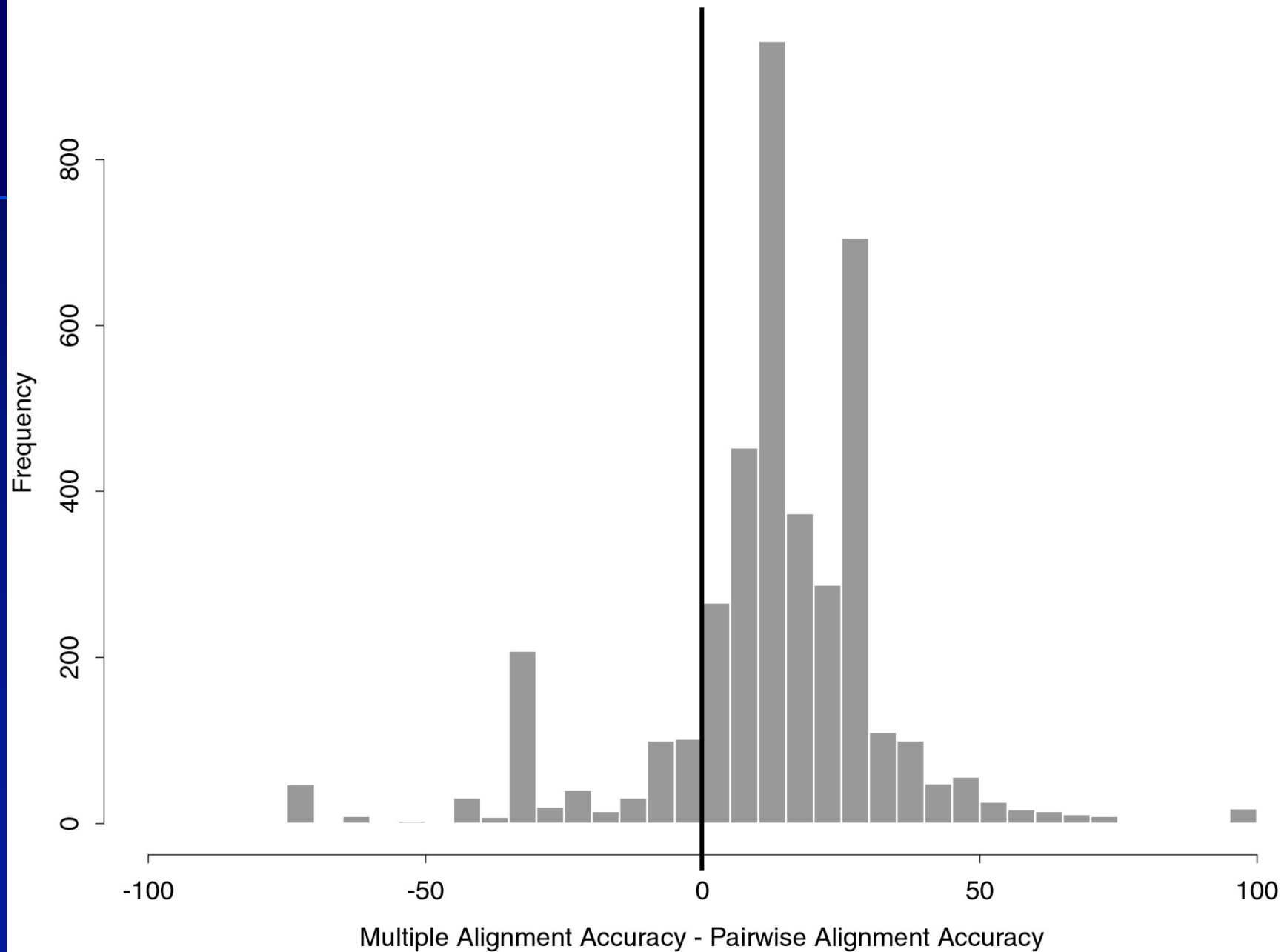
**Fig. 2.** The accuracy of secondary structure prediction by sequence alignment plotted against the alignment SD score to the homologous protein. One hundred and eighty-two predictions were made from pairwise alignment of the proteins in Table I.

Boscott, P. E., Barton, G. J. and Richards, W. G. (1993), *Prot. Eng.*, **6**, 261-266.

# **Alignment Accuracy Improves on Multiple Alignment**



# Improvement in Alignment Accuracy on Multiple Alignment



**So, multiple alignments  
are on average more  
accurate than pair-wise  
alignments**

**Why is multiple alignment  
more accurate in general?**

# Single sequence

**N Q L E V F M D G E L A . . .**

physico-chemical properties of amino acids

# Multiple sequences

N	Q	L	E	V	F	M	D	G	E	L	E	A	.	.	.
N	D	E	K	V	Y	M	E	G	D	I	Q	V	.	.	.

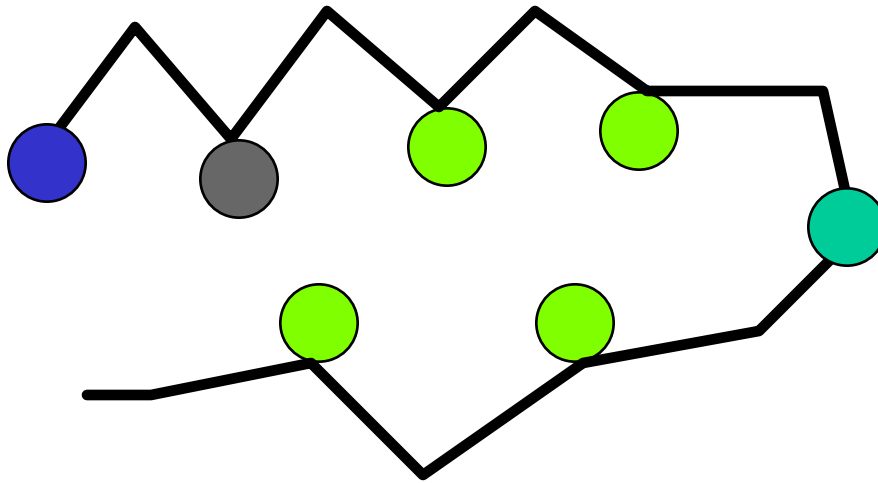
# Multiple sequences

<b>N</b>	Q	L	E	<b>V</b>	F	<b>M</b>	D	<b>G</b>	E	<b>L</b>	E	<b>A</b>	.	.	.
<b>N</b>	D	E	K	<b>V</b>	Y	<b>M</b>	E	<b>G</b>	D	<b>I</b>	Q	<b>V</b>	.	.	.
<b>N</b>	S	S	Q	<b>V</b>	K	<b>I</b>	K	<b>G</b>	Q	<b>V</b>	D	<b>L</b>	.	.	.
<b>N</b>	N	T	N	<b>V</b>	A	<b>M</b>	R	<b>G</b>	K	<b>M</b>	N	<b>T</b>	.	.	.

conserved positions with  
**conserved hydrophobics**

# Multiple sequences

Think of a sequence on a structure

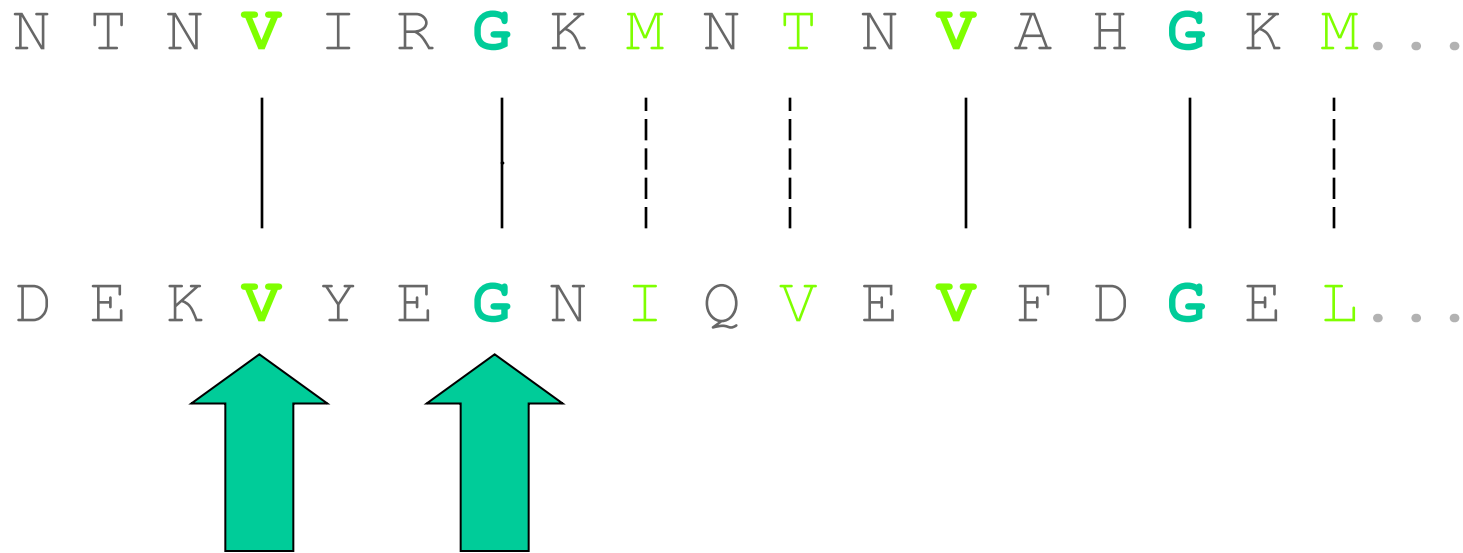


<b>N</b>	Q	L	E	<b>V</b>	F	<b>M</b>	D	<b>G</b>	E	<b>L</b>	E	<b>A</b>	.	.	.
<b>N</b>	D	E	K	<b>V</b>	Y	<b>M</b>	E	<b>G</b>	D	<b>I</b>	Q	<b>V</b>	.	.	.
<b>N</b>	S	S	Q	<b>V</b>	K	<b>I</b>	K	<b>G</b>	Q	<b>V</b>	D	<b>L</b>	.	.	.
<b>N</b>	N	T	N	<b>V</b>	A	<b>M</b>	R	<b>G</b>	K	<b>M</b>	N	<b>T</b>	.	.	.



# Multiple sequences

help alignment itself



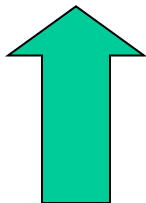
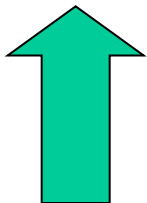
Watch these positions

# Multiple sequences

help alignment itself (also pattern matching)

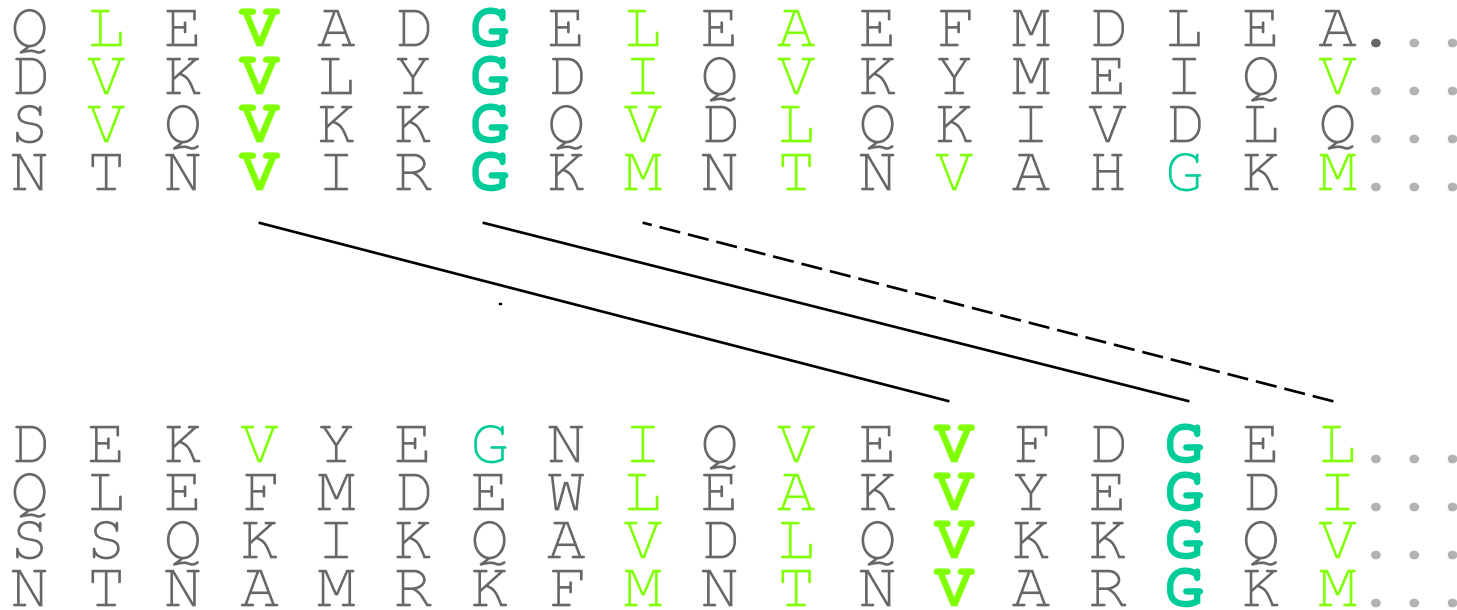
Q	L	E	V	A	D	G	E	L	E	A	E	F	M	D	L	E	A	...
D	V	K	V	L	Y	G	D	I	Q	V	K	Y	M	E	I	Q	V	...
S	V	Q	V	K	K	G	Q	V	D	L	Q	K	I	V	D	L	Q	...
N	T	N	V	I	R	G	K	M	N	T	N	V	A	H	G	K	M	...

D	E	K	V	Y	E	G	N	I	Q	V	E	V	F	D	G	E	L	...
Q	L	E	F	M	D	E	W	L	E	A	K	V	Y	E	G	D	I	...
S	T	Q	K	I	K	Q	A	V	D	L	Q	V	K	K	G	Q	V	...
N	T	N	A	M	R	K	F	M	N	T	N	V	A	R	G	K	M	...



# Multiple sequences

help alignment itself (also pattern matching)



# Multiple sequences

help alignment itself (also pattern matching)

										Q	L	E	V	A	D	G	E	L	E	A	E	F	M	D
										D	V	K	V	L	Y	G	D	I	Q	V	K	Y	M	E
										S	V	Q	V	K	K	G	Q	V	D	L	Q	K	I	V
										N	T	N	V	I	R	G	K	M	N	T	N	V	A	H
										.														
E	K	V	Y	E	G	N	I	Q	V	E	V	F	D	G	E	L	.	.	.					
L	E	F	M	D	E	W	L	E	A	K	V	Y	E	G	D	I	.	.	.					
S	Q	K	I	K	Q	A	V	D	L	Q	V	K	K	G	Q	V	.	.	.					
T	N	A	M	R	K	F	M	N	T	N	V	A	R	G	K	M	.	.	.					

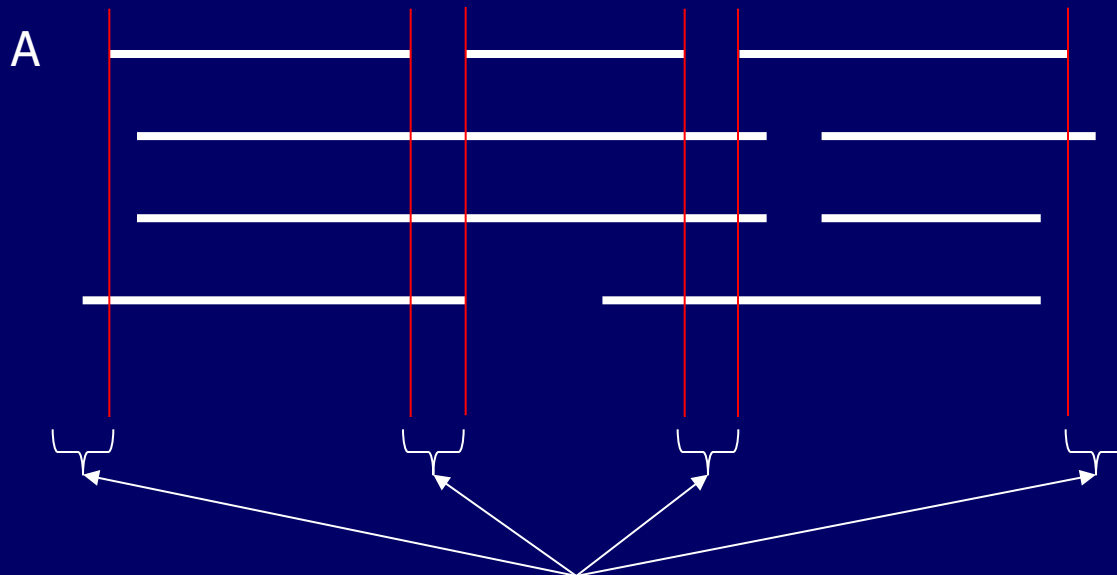
# Multiple alignments for different purposes

- Obtain best “full” alignment of N sequences.
  - Good starting point for most purposes.
- Obtain best alignment relative to one sequence
  - Best when subsequent analysis is focused on the first sequence.
  - Best approach for iterative profile searching since it prevents the alignment length growing longer than the sequence.

## Multiple alignments for different purposes



Normal Hierarchical alignment: Gaps appear in the first sequence if needed



Alignment specific to sequence A.

Alignment relative to first sequence only: Regions of second and subsequent sequences aligned with gaps in first Sequence are sometimes deleted. e.g. JPRED output. and some PSIBLAST output.

Regions deleted from alignment

# Some uses of multiple Alignments

- Basis for sensitive profile searching of databases
- Identification of functional sites
- Phylogeny
- Presentation of sequence-related results
- Improved prediction of
  - Secondary structure
  - Disorder
  - Transmembrane regions
  - Almost any sequence-related property



# Some uses of multiple Alignments

- Basis for sensitive profile searching of databases
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  - Secondary structure
  - Disorder
  - Transmembrane regions
  - Almost any sequence-related property

# Why are multiple alignments useful for prediction?

- Evolution highlights amino acids important to maintaining the structure and function of a protein
- This information can be captured by visual analysis, or better, by machine learning techniques such as Artificial Neural Networks.
- This is what Day 3 of this course is about!

**Jalview – a tool with  
which to tackle many of  
these analyses**

**Also good for RNA and  
DNA**



Jim Procter



Suzanne Duce



Mungo Carstairs



Tochukwu  
(Charles)  
Ofoegbu



Kira Mourao



# Jalview

[www.jalview.org](http://www.jalview.org)

[twitter:@jalview](https://twitter.com/jalview)

First developed in 1996



Tier 1 Resource



supported by  
**wellcome**trust





Jalview

