

LOSCHMIDT  
LABORATORIES



# PROTEIN ENGINEERING

## 2. *IN SILICO* IDENTIFICATION OF PROTEINS



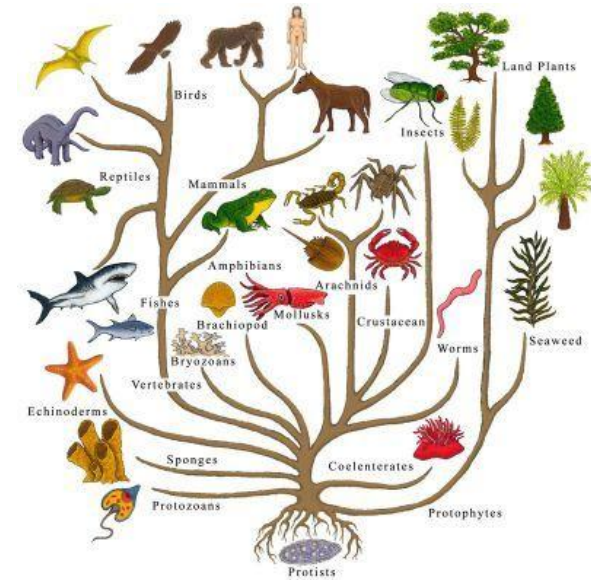
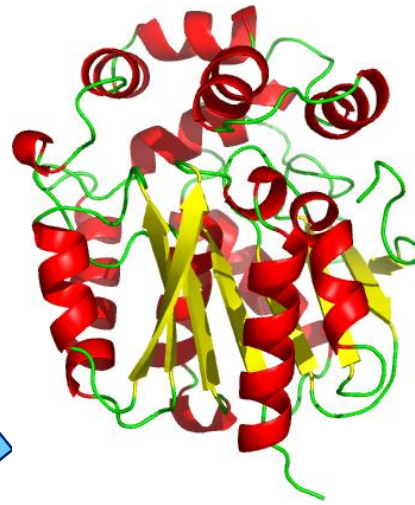
DALL·E 3

# 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?

# Strategies for protein optimization

## Optimization of protein for applications



Protein engineering

Natural diversity

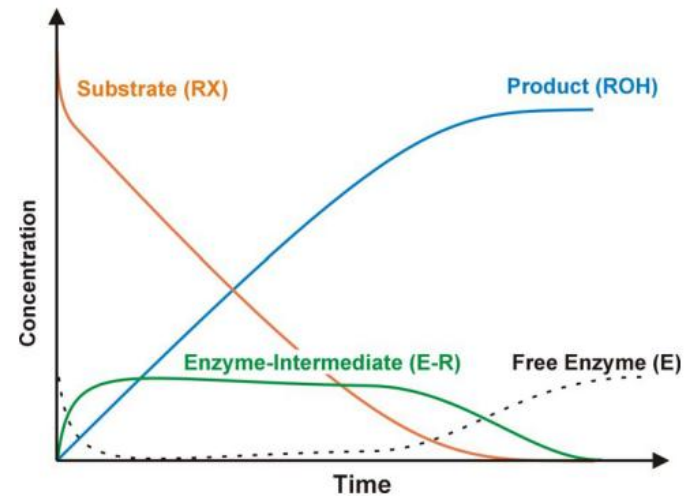
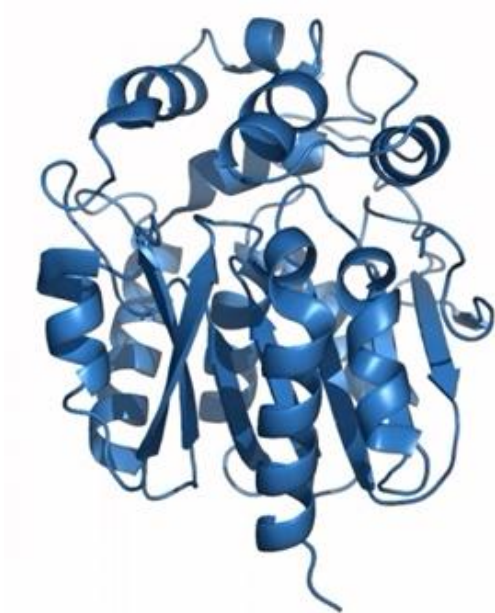
# Why to search for new proteins?



DALL-E 3

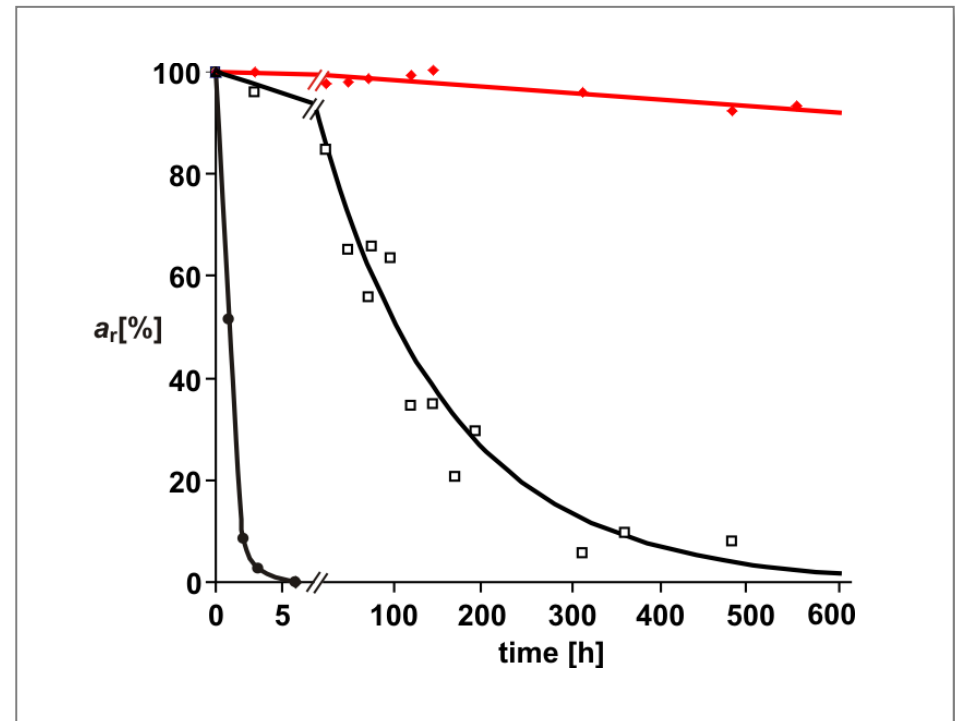
# Why to search for new proteins?

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



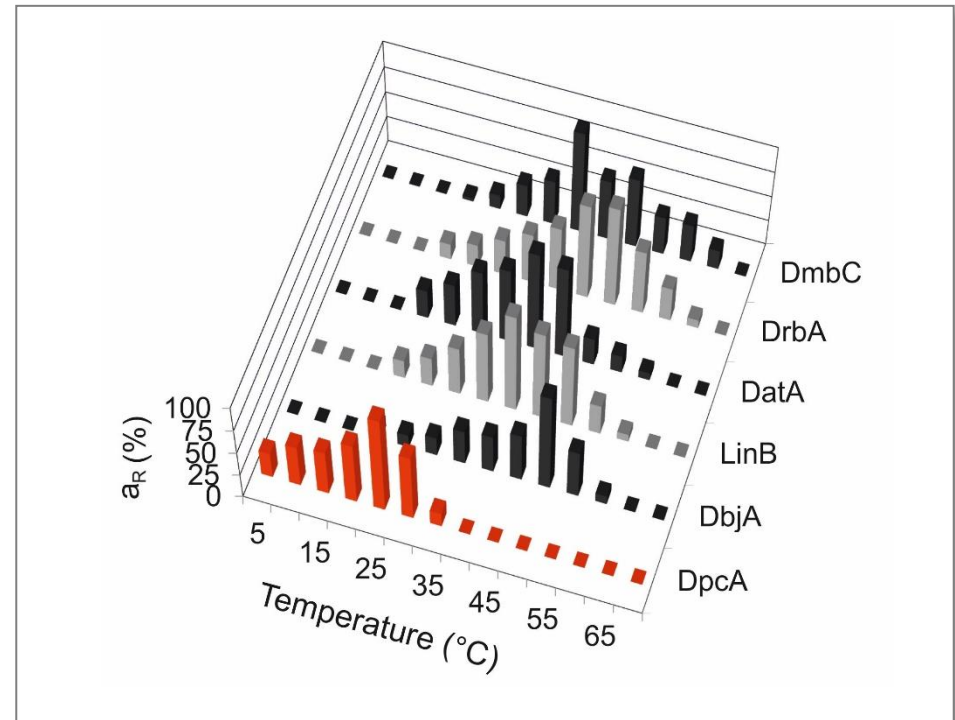
# Why to search for new proteins?

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



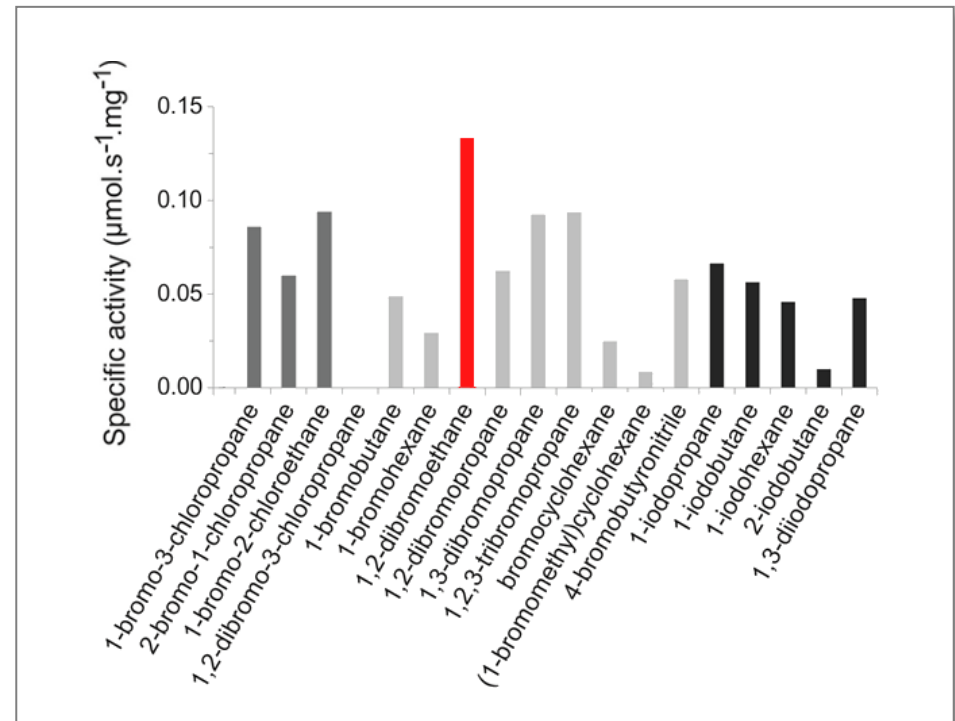
# Why to search for new proteins?

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



# Why to search for new proteins?

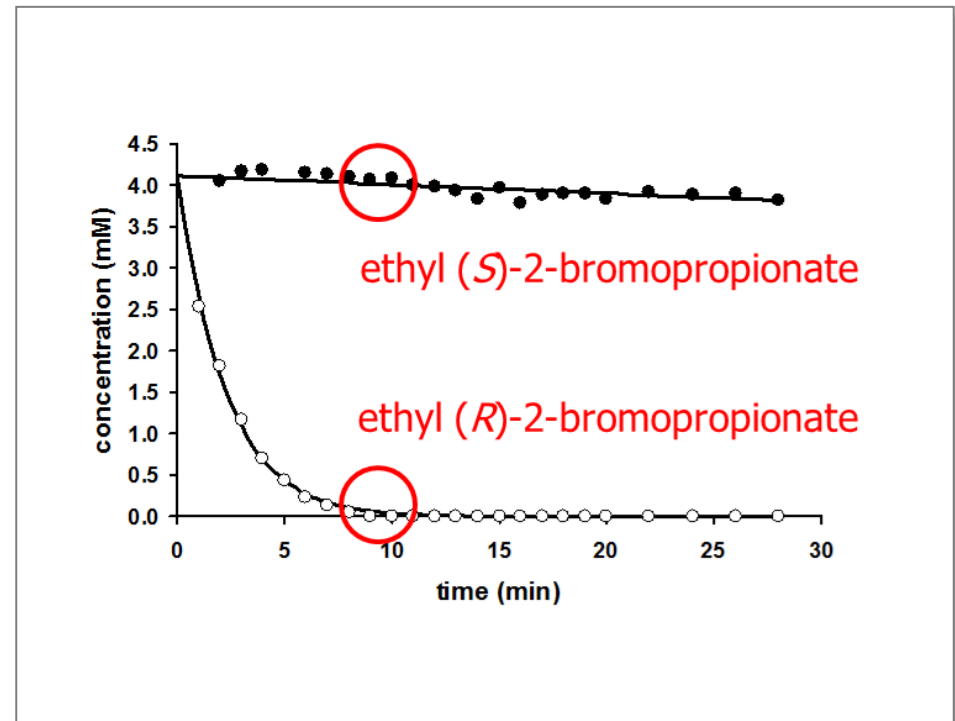
- better understanding of structure-function relationships
- novel properties
  - stability
  - temperature profile
  - activity
  - specificity





# Why to search for new proteins?

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

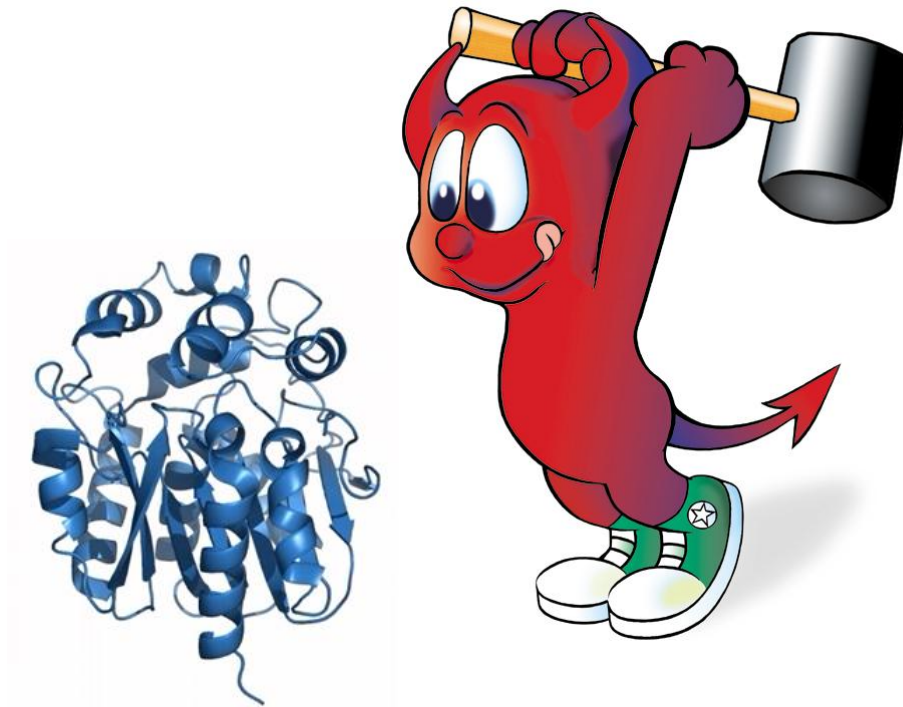


# Why to search for new proteins?

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

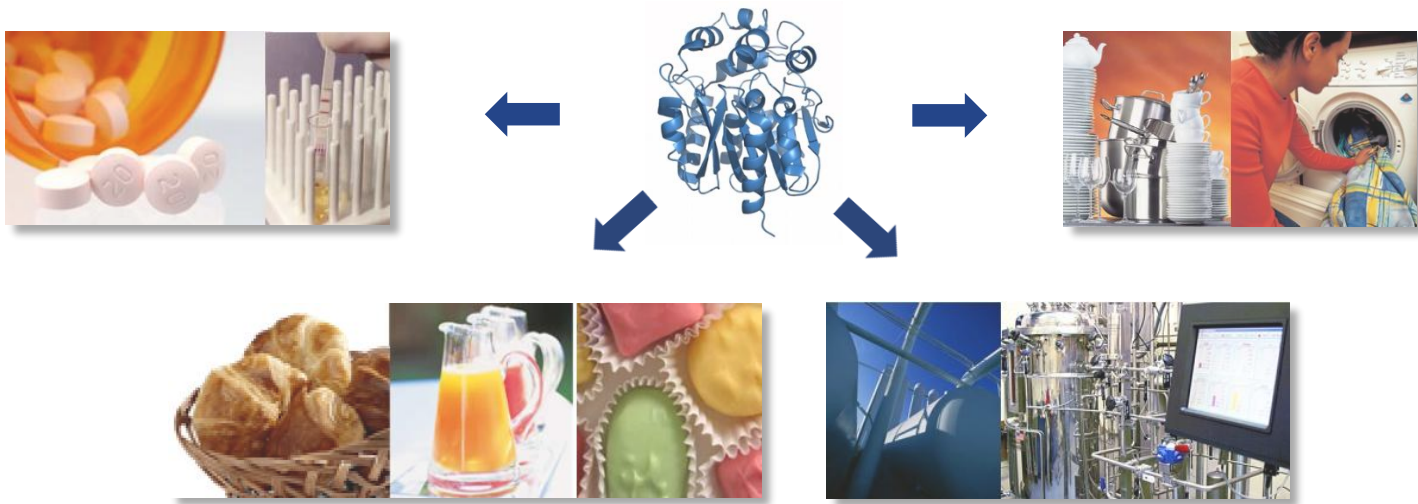
# Why to search for new proteins?

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



# Why to search for new proteins?

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



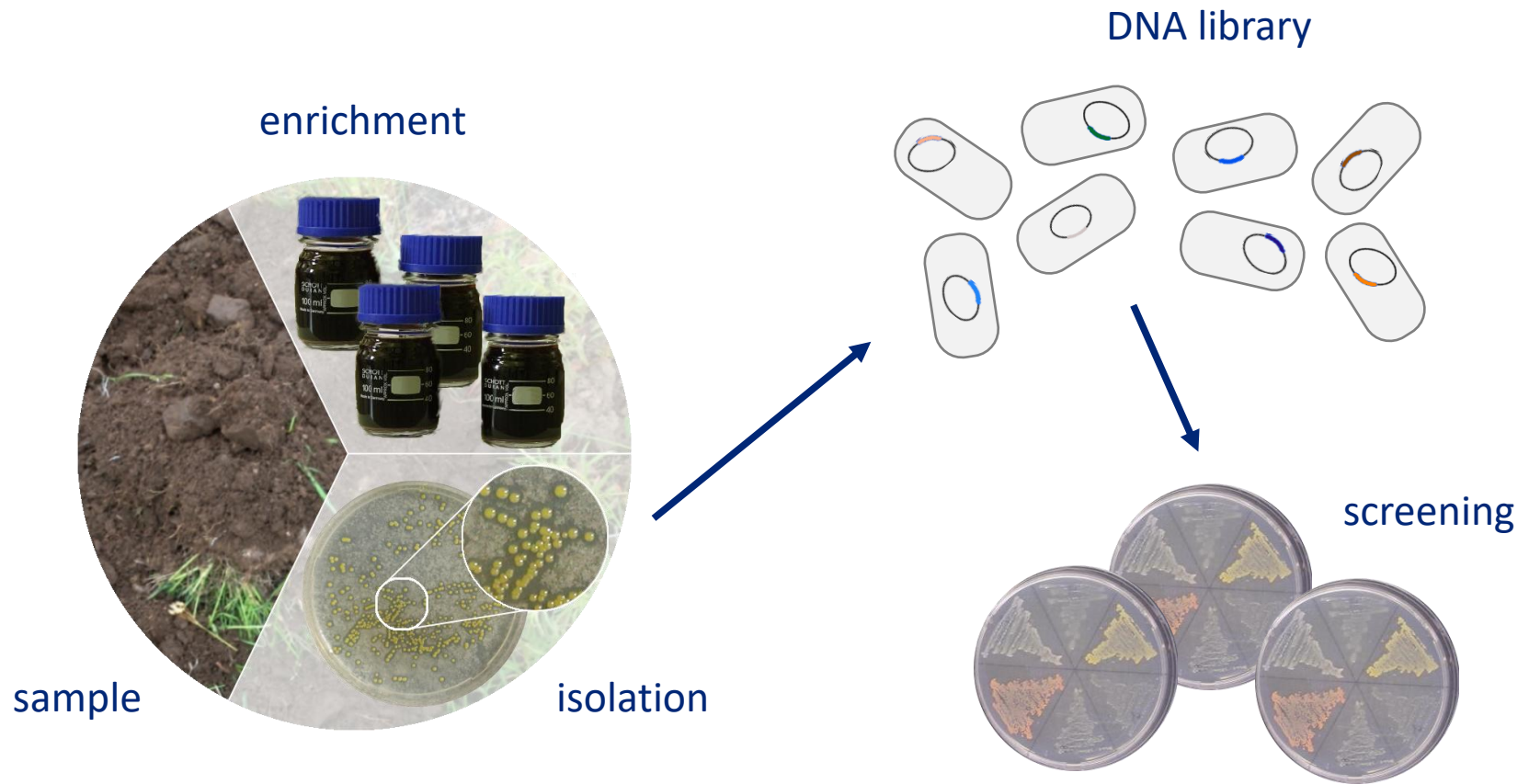


## How to acquire new proteins?

- traditional approach
- metagenomic approach
- bioinformatic approach

# How to acquire new proteins?

- traditional approach



# How to acquire new proteins?

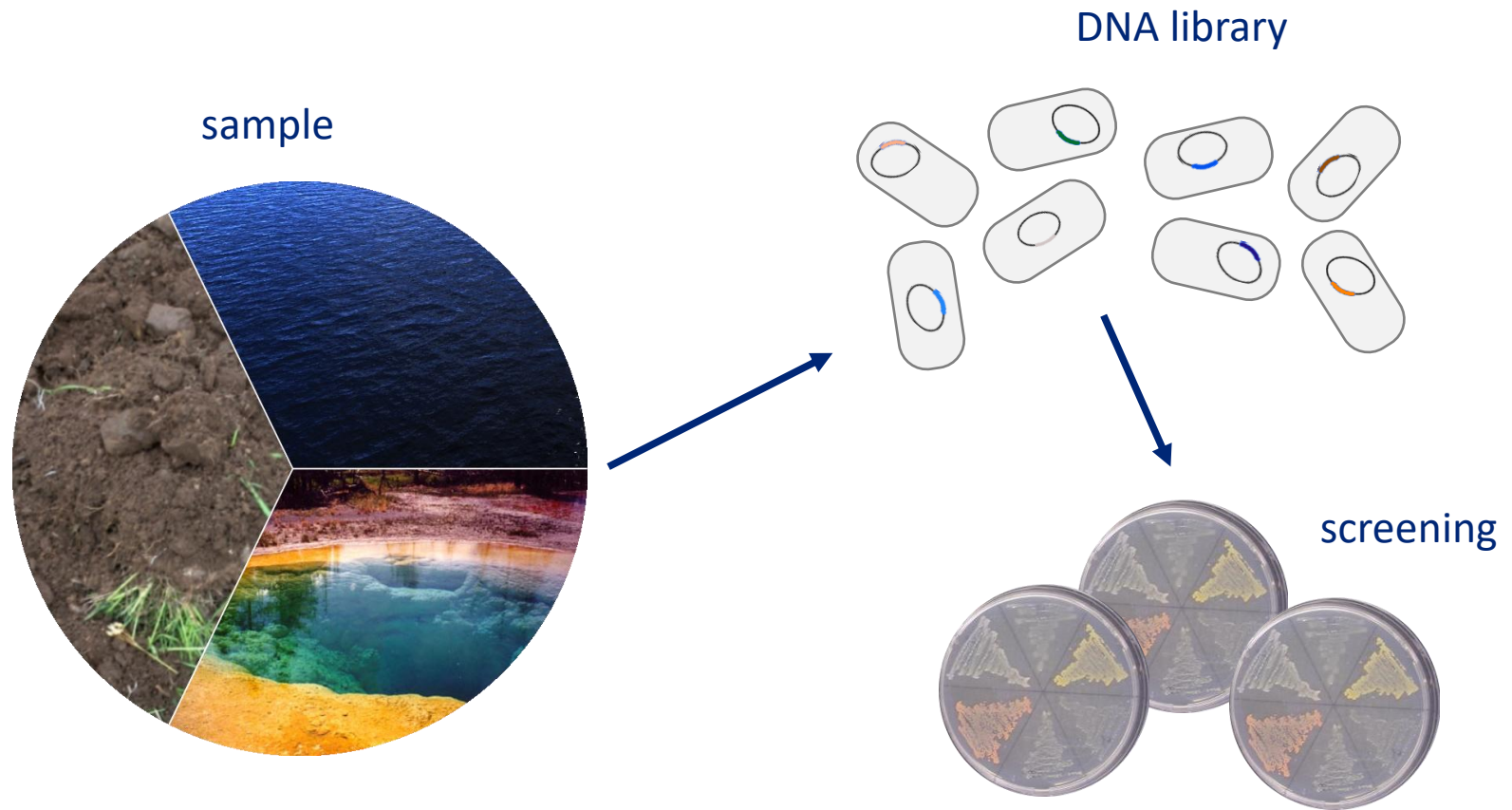


## □ traditional approach

- 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, etc.
- majority of microorganisms (> 99 %) **cannot be cultivated** using standard techniques → a large fraction of the microbial diversity in an environment is lost

# How to acquire new proteins?

- metagenomic approach





# How to acquire new proteins?

## □ metagenomic approach

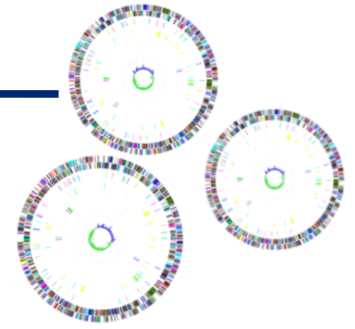
- isolation and cloning of **DNA** extracted directly **from environmental sample** (without culturing the present organisms)
- genes recovered by DNA library screening or PCR with specific primers,...
- enables to explore biodiversity of uncultured microorganisms

# How to acquire new proteins?

## bioinformatic approach

sequence database

(meta)genomic sequencing projects



*in silico* "screening"

```
 1: ABI93216. Reports: LinB [Xanthomonas...[gi:115291795]
>gi|115291795|gb|ABI93216.1| LinB [Xanthomonas sp. ICHL2]
MILGANPFGKGFIEIKGRMAYIDEGTGDPILFQHGNETS SYLGRNIMPHCAGLGELIACDLIGMGDSD
KLDPSGPEKTYAEHRDYLDAWEALDLGDWLVVWHDGQSVLGFDAERHREEQGIAZYMEVITMPLDQ
ADFPQQRDLFQAFRSQAGEELVLQDNVFEQGLPLGLILRPLSEADMAAYREPLAAGEAREPTLSQWFRQ
IPIAGTPADQWAIARDYAGOLSESPIPKLFINAEPGALTTGRMEDFCRTWPNQTEITVAGAHFIQEDSPD
EI GAIAAFVRR

 2: AAR05978. Reports: LinB [Sphingomonas...[gi:37963683]
>gi|37963683|gb|AAR05978.1| LinB [Sphingomonas paucimobilis]
MSLGANPFGKGFIEIKGRMAYIDEGTGDPILFQHGNETS SYLGRNIMPHCAGLGELIACDLIGMGDSD
KLDPSGPEKTYAEHRDYLDAWEALDLGDWLVVWHDGQSVLGFDAERHREEQGIAZYMEVITMPLDQ
ADFPQQRDLFQAFRSQAGEELVLQDNVFEQGLPLGLILRPLSEADMAAYREPLAAGEAREPTLSQWFRQ
IPIAGTPADQWAIARDYAGOLSESPIPKLFINAEPGALTTGRIRDFCRTWPNQTEITVAGAHFIQEDSPD
EI GAIAAFVRELRPA
```

gene synthesis, DNA request

# How to acquire new proteins?

## □ 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
  - one cannot find what is not in the database (but there is a lot of data - more than one usually needs)
- genes are recovered by gene synthesis or obtained from sequencing consortia upon request



## Where to find target sequences?

- databases of nucleotide sequences
- databases of protein sequences

# Databases of nucleotide sequences

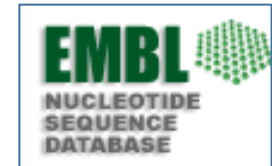
## □ GenBank

- <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 the wide community
  - contain data obtained from genomic centers or research institutions
  - everyday synchronization of new or updated data
  - contain about **250,000,000** sequences (Feb 2024)
  - mostly **automatic annotations** – lower quality, errors

# Databases of protein 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



# Databases of protein sequences

- 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 **250,000,000** sequences (Feb 2024)
  - mostly **automatic annotations** – lower quality, errors



# Databases of protein 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)

The screenshot shows the UniProt website search interface. At the top left is the UniProt logo, followed by navigation links: BLAST, Align, Peptide search, ID mapping, and SPARQL. On the top right, it says "Release 2024\_05 | Statistics" with icons for a printer, home, and help. The main heading is "Find your protein". Below this is a search bar with "UniProtKB" selected on the left and "Advanced | List Search" on the right. Below the search bar, it provides examples: "Examples: Insulin, APP, Human, P05067, organism\_id:9606". At the bottom of the search bar area, it states: "UniProt is the world's leading high-quality, comprehensive and freely accessible resource of protein sequence and functional information. [Cite UniProt](#)”

**Proteins**  
UniProt Knowledgebase

Reviewed (Swiss-Prot)  
572,214

Unreviewed (TrEMBL)  
248,266,673

**Species**  
Proteomes

Protein sets for species with sequenced genomes from across the tree of life

**Protein Clusters**  
UniRef

Clusters of protein sequences at 100%, 90% & 50% identity

**Sequence archive**  
UniParc

Non-redundant archive of publicly available protein sequences seen across different databases

# Databases of protein sequences

## □ UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot

- high-quality annotations, i.e., manually annotated entries or expert-reviewed automatic annotations
- source of **reliable information**
- contains “only” ~ **570,000** sequences (Feb 2025)

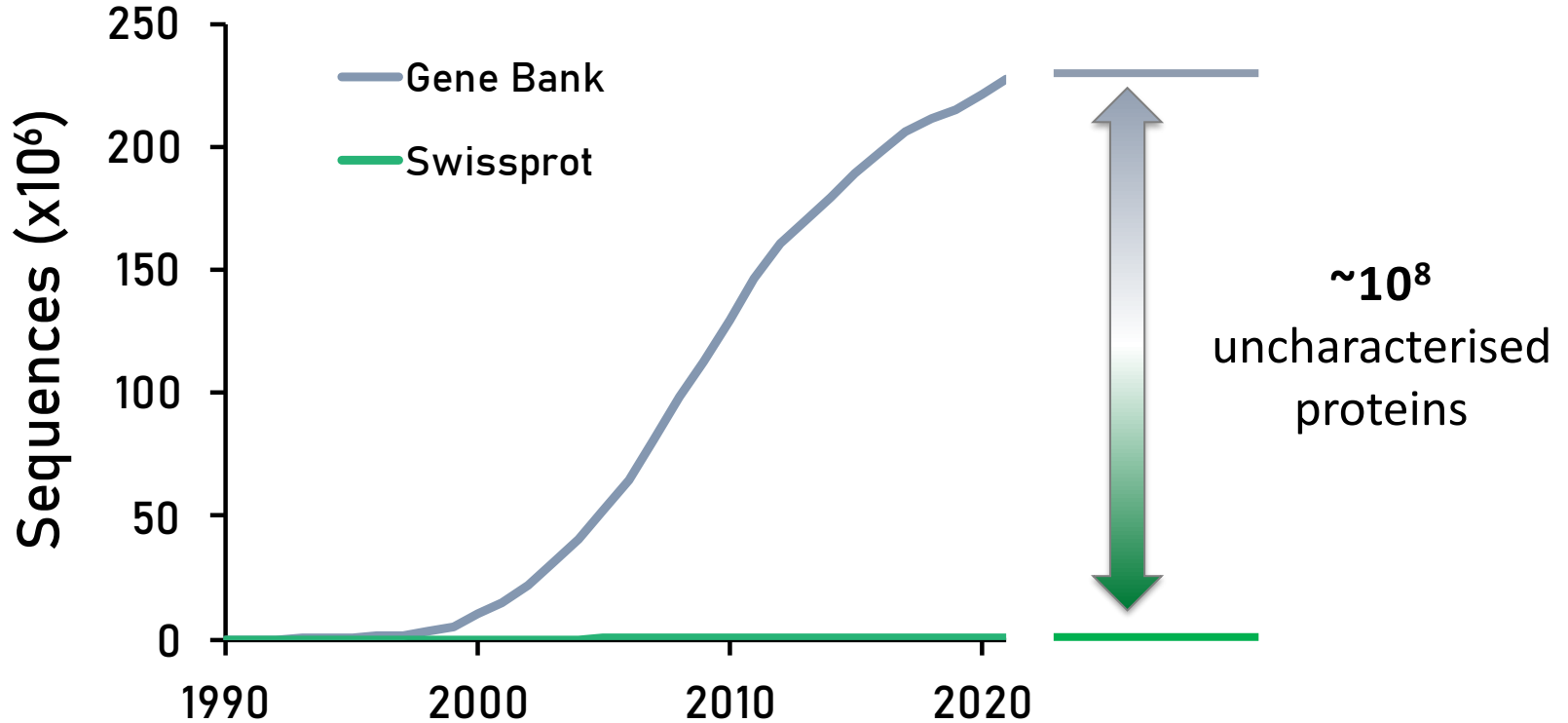
## □ UniProtKB/TrEMBL

- **automatic** annotations – lower quality, errors
- contains ~ **250,000,000** sequences (Feb 2025)

# Databases of protein sequences

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?

- text-based searches
- sequence-based searches

# Data format

## □ Fasta sequence:

- Header starting with “>” followed by the sequence description
- Sequence data are on the new line

```
>Haloalkane dehalogenase LinB
```

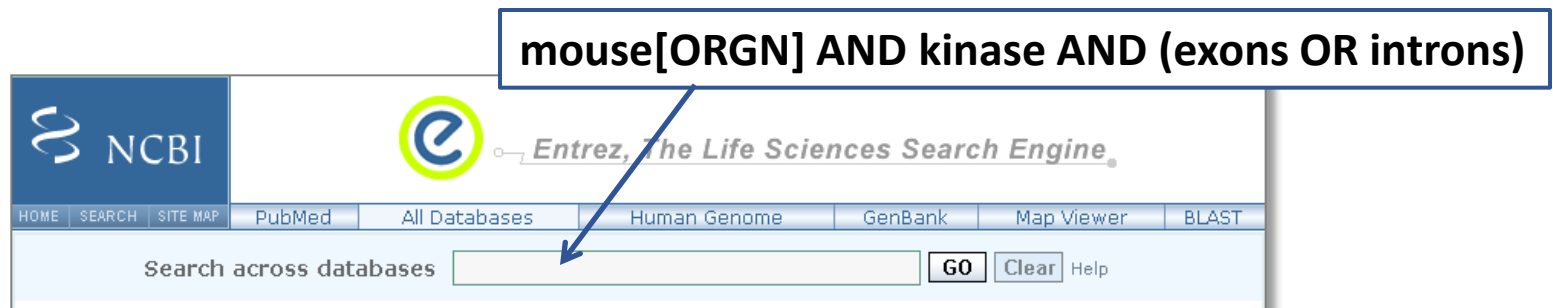
```
MSLGAKPFGEKKFIEIKGRRMAYIDEGTGDPILFQHGNPTSSYLWRNIMPHCAGLGRLIACDLI  
GMGDSDKLDPSGPERYAYAEHRDYLDALWEALDLGDRVVLVVHDWGSALGFDWARRHRERVQGI  
AYMEAIAMPIEWADFPEQDRDLFQAFRSQAGEELVLQD
```

# 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



The image shows a screenshot of the NCBI Entrez search engine interface. At the top left is the NCBI logo. To its right is the Entrez logo and the text "Entrez, The Life Sciences Search Engine". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "HOME", "SEARCH", "SITE MAP", "PubMed", "All Databases", "Human Genome", "GenBank", "Map Viewer", and "BLAST". The main search area contains the text "Search across databases" followed by a search input field, a "GO" button, a "Clear" button, and a "Help" link. A blue box with a white border is positioned above the search input field, containing the text "mouse[ORGN] AND kinase AND (exons OR introns)". A blue arrow points from this box down into the search input field.

**mouse[ORGN] AND kinase AND (exons OR introns)**



# Text-based searches

## ❑ database retrieval systems

Search across databases    [Help](#)

■ - Result counts displayed in gray indicate one or more terms not found

|             |   |      |  |
|-------------|---|------|--|
| <b>1258</b> | <b>PubMed:</b> biomedical literature citations and abstracts  | 30   | <b>Books:</b> online books                                     |
| 312         | <b>PubMed Central:</b> free, full text journal articles       | 703  | <b>OMIM:</b> online Mendelian Inheritance in Man               |
| 4           | <b>Site Search:</b> NCBI web and FTP sites                    | none | <b>OMIA:</b> online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals           |
| <b>152</b>  | <b>Nucleotide:</b> Core subset of nucleotide sequence records | none | <b>dbGaP:</b> genotype and phenotype                           |
| 1           | <b>EST:</b> Expressed Sequence Tag records                    | 1    | <b>UniGene:</b> gene-oriented clusters of transcript sequences |
| 12          | <b>GSS:</b> Genome Survey Sequence records                    | none | <b>CDD:</b> conserved protein domain database                  |
| <b>96</b>   | <b>Protein:</b> sequence database                             | none | <b>3D Domains:</b> domains from Entrez Structure               |

# Text-based searches

- ❑ database retrieval systems
- ❑ advanced search options

### Advanced Search<sup>i</sup> ×

Searching in  
UniProtKB ▼

|                    |                               |  |        |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------|
| <span>▼</span>     | Gene Name [GN] <span>▼</span> | Gene Name [GN]<br>YDJ1 <span>×</span>                      | Remove |
| AND <span>▼</span> | Taxonomy [OC] <span>▼</span>  | Taxonomy [OC]<br>Mammalia (mammals) [40674] <span>×</span> | Remove |
| AND <span>▼</span> | Keyword [KW] <span>▼</span>   | Keyword [KW]<br>Activator [KW-0010] <span>×</span>         | Remove |

[Add Field](#) Cancel Search

# Sequence-based searches

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L | S | P | A | E | I | A | A | Y | E | A | P | F | F | T | P | D | Y | K | A | G | A | R | A | F | P | A | L | V | P | T | S | P |
| 2 | L | T | D | A | E | A | A | A | Y | G | A | P | F | F | D | Q | R | Y | K | A | G | V | R | R | F | P | E | L | V | P | V | S | P |
| 3 | M | S | P | D | E | C | A | A | Y | N | A | P | F | F | D | K | G | H | R | A | A | L | R | A | F | P | L | M | V | P | E | S | E |
| 4 | L | S | D | A | E | R | S | A | Y | D | A | P | F | F | D | E | S | Y | K | E | G | A | R | I | F | P | A | L | V | P | I | T | P |
| 5 | V | P | A | G | V | R | A | G | Y | D | A | P | F | F | D | K | T | Y | Q | A | G | A | R | A | F | P | R | L | V | P | T | S | P |
| 6 | L | S | T | D | V | L | N | A | Y | D | A | P | F | F | T | E | A | H | K | A | G | V | R | Q | F | P | L | L | V | P | A | T | T |
| 7 | V | P | A | G | V | R | A | G | Y | D | A | P | F | F | D | K | T | Y | Q | A | G | A | R | A | F | P | R | L | V | P | T | S | P |

# Sequence-based searches

## □ BLAST

- Heuristic search of similarity on significant sequences
- Reasonable sensitivity and good speed
- Gold standard in sequence search

## □ PSI-BLAST

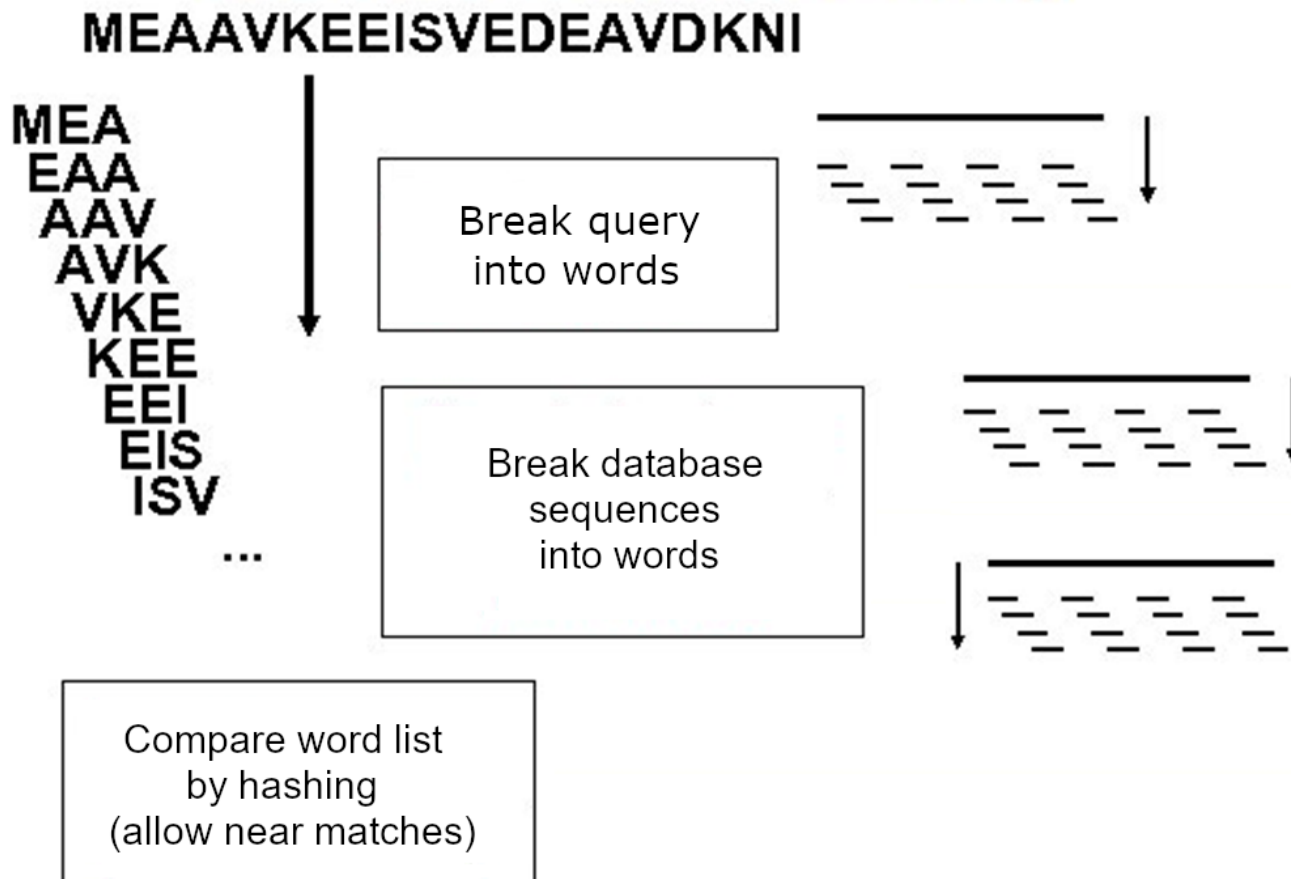
- “iterative BLAST” making use of multiple sequence alignment
- more **sensitive search** to detect weak but biologically significant similarities between sequences

## □ HMMER

- Uses Hidden Markov Models for **sensitive** detection of remote homologs
- Slower than BLAST for simple sequence similarity searches
- Widely used in protein family classification and domain identification

# BLAST

## □ Basic Local Alignment Search Tool





# Sequence-based searches

## □ BLAST input

The screenshot displays the NIH BLAST search interface. At the top, the NIH logo and "National Library of Medicine National Center for Biotechnology Information" are visible. Below this, the text "BLAST® » blastp suite" is shown. The main search area is titled "Enter Query Sequence" and contains a text input field with the sequence "MSLGAKPFGKFKFIEIKGRRMAYIDEGTGDPILFQHGNPTSSYLWRNI" pasted into it. A yellow box highlights this sequence. Below the input field, there are options to "Or, upload file" (with a "Browse..." button and "No file selected." text) and a "Job Title" field. There are also checkboxes for "Align two or more sequences" and "Compare" (with a sub-option "Select to compare standard and experimental database"). The "Choose Search Set" section includes radio buttons for "Standard databases (nr etc.):" (selected) and "Experimental databases". A button for "Try experimental clustered nr database" is also present. The "Standard" section includes a dropdown for "Database" (set to "Non-redundant protein sequences (nr)"), an "Organism" field with an "Add organism" button, and an "Exclude" section with checkboxes for "Models (XM/XP)", "Non-redundant RefSeq proteins (WP)", and "Uncultured/environmental sample sequences".

# Sequence-based searches

## BLAST results

Score

E-value

hits

| Sequences producing significant alignments  |   |           |             |             |         |            |                                |
|---|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Download <span>▼</span> Manage Columns <span>▼</span> Show 100 <span>▼</span> <span>?</span>  |   |           |             |             |         |            |                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> select all 100 sequences selected <span>GenPept</span> <span>Graphics</span> <span>Distance tree of results</span> <span>Multiple alignments</span> |   |           |             |             |         |            |                                |
|   | Description   | Max Score | Total Score | Query Cover | E value | Per. Ident | Accession                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Homo sapiens]</a>                        | 373       | 373         | 100%        | 2e-130  | 100.00%    | <a href="#">NP_005161.1</a>    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Pongo abelii]</a>                        | 368       | 368         | 100%        | 3e-128  | 98.96%     | <a href="#">XP_002821424.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Nomascus leucogenys]</a>                 | 361       | 361         | 100%        | 2e-125  | 97.41%     | <a href="#">XP_003282133.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Macaca nemestrina]</a>                   | 356       | 356         | 100%        | 1e-123  | 96.37%     | <a href="#">XP_011719606.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Ptilinopus tephrosceles]</a>             | 356       | 356         | 100%        | 1e-123  | 96.37%     | <a href="#">XP_023039276.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Papio anubis]</a>                        | 297       | 297         | 100%        | 3e-100  | 95.85%     | <a href="#">XP_003909431.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Chlorocebus sabaeus]</a>      | 297       | 297         | 100%        | 3e-100  | 95.34%     | <a href="#">XP_008003331.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Rhinopithecus bieti]</a>      | 294       | 294         | 100%        | 3e-99   | 95.34%     | <a href="#">XP_017741776.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Cebus capucinus imitator]</a> | 271       | 271         | 92%         | 4e-90   | 96.07%     | <a href="#">XP_017363199.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Callithrix jacchus]</a>       | 269       | 269         | 100%        | 3e-89   | 94.82%     | <a href="#">XP_009006952.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Sus scrofa]</a>                          | 265       | 265         | 100%        | 1e-87   | 84.97%     | <a href="#">NP_001116463.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Caora hircus]</a>             | 261       | 261         | 92%         | 5e-86   | 85.39%     | <a href="#">XP_017899088.1</a> |



# Sequence-based searches

## □ BLAST results

Sequences producing significant alignments Download Manage Columns Show  ?

select all *100 sequences selected* GenPept Graphics Distance tree of results Multiple alignment

|                                     | Description   | Max Score | Total Score | Query Cover | <b>E value</b> | Per. Ident | Accession                      |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Homo sapiens]</a>                        | 373       | 373         | 100%        | 2e-130         | 100.00%    | <a href="#">NP_005161.1</a>    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Pongo abelii]</a>                        | 368       | 368         | 100%        | 3e-128         | 98.96%     | <a href="#">XP_002821424.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Nomascus leucogenys]</a>                 | 361       | 361         | 100%        | 2e-125         | 97.41%     | <a href="#">XP_003282133.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Macaca nemestrina]</a>                   | 356       | 356         | 100%        | 1e-123         | 96.37%     | <a href="#">XP_011719606.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Ptilinopus tephrosceles]</a>             | 356       | 356         | 100%        | 1e-123         | 96.37%     | <a href="#">XP_023039276.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Papio anubis]</a>                        | 297       | 297         | 100%        | 3e-100         | 95.85%     | <a href="#">XP_003909431.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Chlorocebus sabaeus]</a>      | 297       | 297         | 100%        | 3e-100         | 95.34%     | <a href="#">XP_008003331.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Rhinopithecus bieti]</a>      | 294       | 294         | 100%        | 3e-99          | 95.34%     | <a href="#">XP_017741776.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Cebus capucinus imitator]</a> | 271       | 271         | 92%         | 4e-90          | 96.07%     | <a href="#">XP_017363199.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Callithrix jacchus]</a>       | 269       | 269         | 100%        | 3e-89          | 94.82%     | <a href="#">XP_009006952.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">achaete-scute homolog 2 [Sus scrofa]</a>                          | 265       | 265         | 100%        | 1e-87          | 84.97%     | <a href="#">NP_001116463.1</a> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#">PREDICTED: achaete-scute homolog 2 [Caora hircus]</a>             | 261       | 261         | 92%         | 5e-86          | 85.39%     | <a href="#">XP_017899088.1</a> |

# Sequence-based searches

## □ BLAST Score

- **raw score** normalized on the basis of the scoring method
- sum of substitution scores and gap penalties
- **higher is better**, but does not adequately represent significance of alignment

## □ BLAST *E*-value

- number of BLAST alignments with a given or better Score that are expected to be seen simply by chance (with random sequence)
- indicator of alignment **significance** (adjusted to the database size)
- 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

# Sequence-based searches

## □ 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)

# Sequence-based searches

## □ PSI-BLAST results

alignment

```
>gb|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 SEIGTGFPFDPHYVEVLGERMHYVDVGPRDGTPLVFLHGNPTSSYLWRNIIPHV-APSHR 60
      I + FPF VEV G + YVD G G PVLFLHGNPTSSYLWRNIIP+V A +R
Sbjct 41 LPISSEFPFAKRTVEVEGATIAYVDEG--SGQPVLFLHGNPTSSYLWRNIIPYVVAAGYR 98

Query 61 CIAPDLIGMGKSDKPDLDYFFDDHVRYLDAFIEALGLEEVVLVIHDWGSALGFHWAKRNP 120
      +APDLIGMG S KPD++Y DHV Y+D FI+ALGL+++VLVIHDWGS +G A+ NP
Sbjct 99 AVAPDLIGMGDSAKPDIEYRLQDHVAYMDGFIDALGLDDMVLVIHDWGSVIGMRHARLNP 158

Query 121 ERVKGIAACMEFIRPI----PTWDEWPEFARETFQAFRTADVGRELIIDQNAFIEGVLPK- 175
      +RV +A ME + P P+++ F+ RTADVG ++++D N F+E +LP+
Sbjct 159 DRVAAVAFMEALVPPALPMPSEYAMGPQLGPLFRDLRTADVGEKMLDGNFFVETILPEM 218

Query 176 CVVRPLTEVEMDHYREPFLKPVDPREPLWRFPNEIPIAGEPANIVALVEAYMNWLHQSPVP 235
      VVR L+E EM YR PF R P ++P E+PI GEPA A V WL SP+P
Sbjct 219 GVVRSLSEAEMAAYRAPFPTRQSRPLPTLQWPREVPIGGEPAFAEAEVLKNGEWLMASPIP 278

Query 236 KLLFWGTPGVLIPPAEAAARLAESLPNCKTVDIGPGLHYLQEDNPDIGSEIARWLPG 292
      KLLF PG L P L+E++PN + +G G H+LQED+P LIG IA WL
Sbjct 279 KLLFHAEPGALAPKPVVDYLSENVNLEVRVFGAGTHFLQEDHPHLIGQGIADWLRR 335
```

# Optimal search strategy

## □ text-based search

- 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
  1. text-based search
  2. subdivision of identified sequences into evolutionarily related groups
  3. selection of a 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?

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

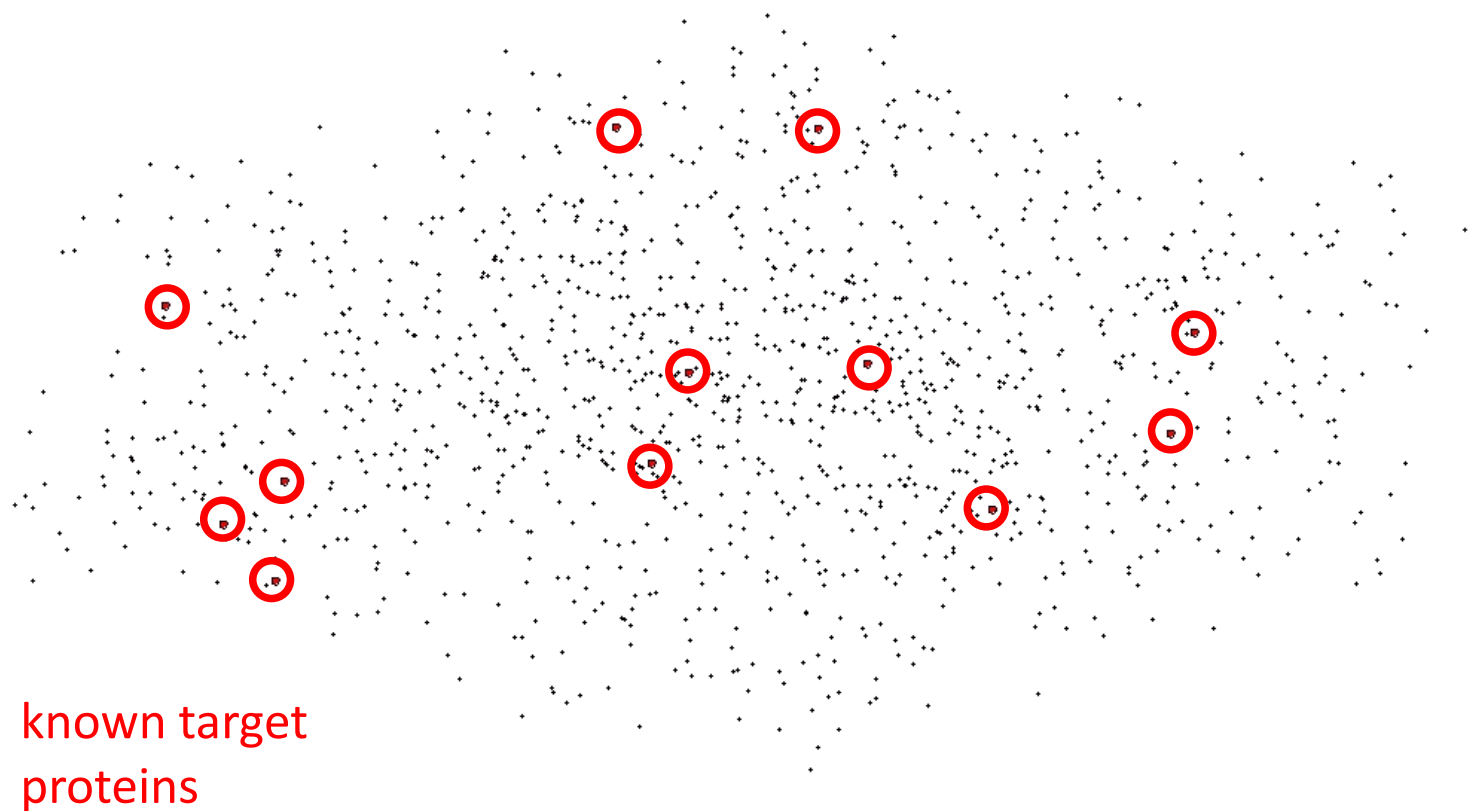


# Sequence clustering

- ❑ 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**
- ❑ Tools:
  - **CLANS** - visualization of pairwise sequence similarities in three-dimensional space → overview of sequence space (<https://toolkit.tuebingen.mpg.de/tools/clans>)
  - **CD-HIT** - clustering and comparison of protein or nucleotide sequences (<https://sites.google.com/view/cd-hit/>)

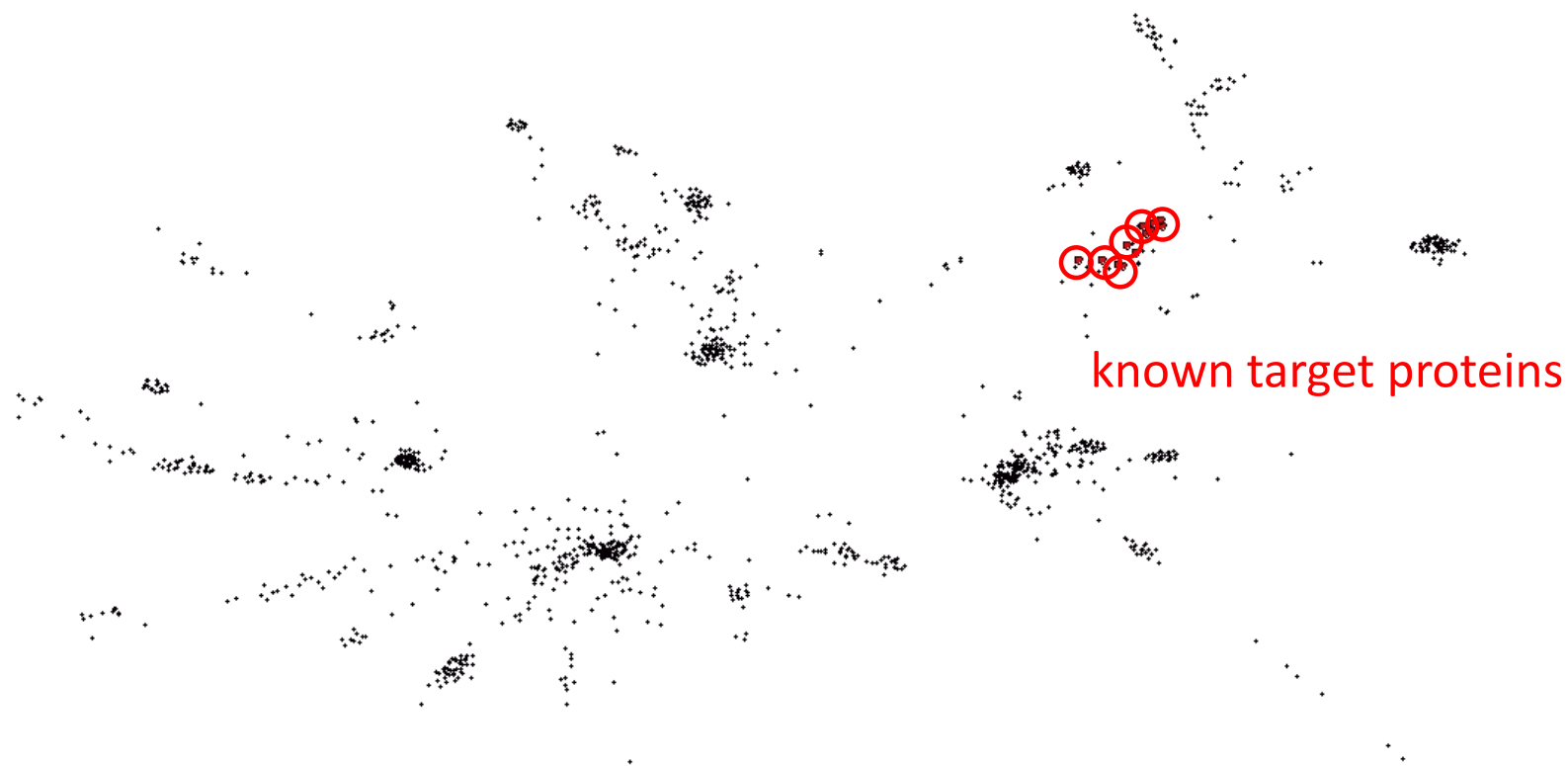
# Sequence clustering

- Clustering based on pairwise sequence similarities



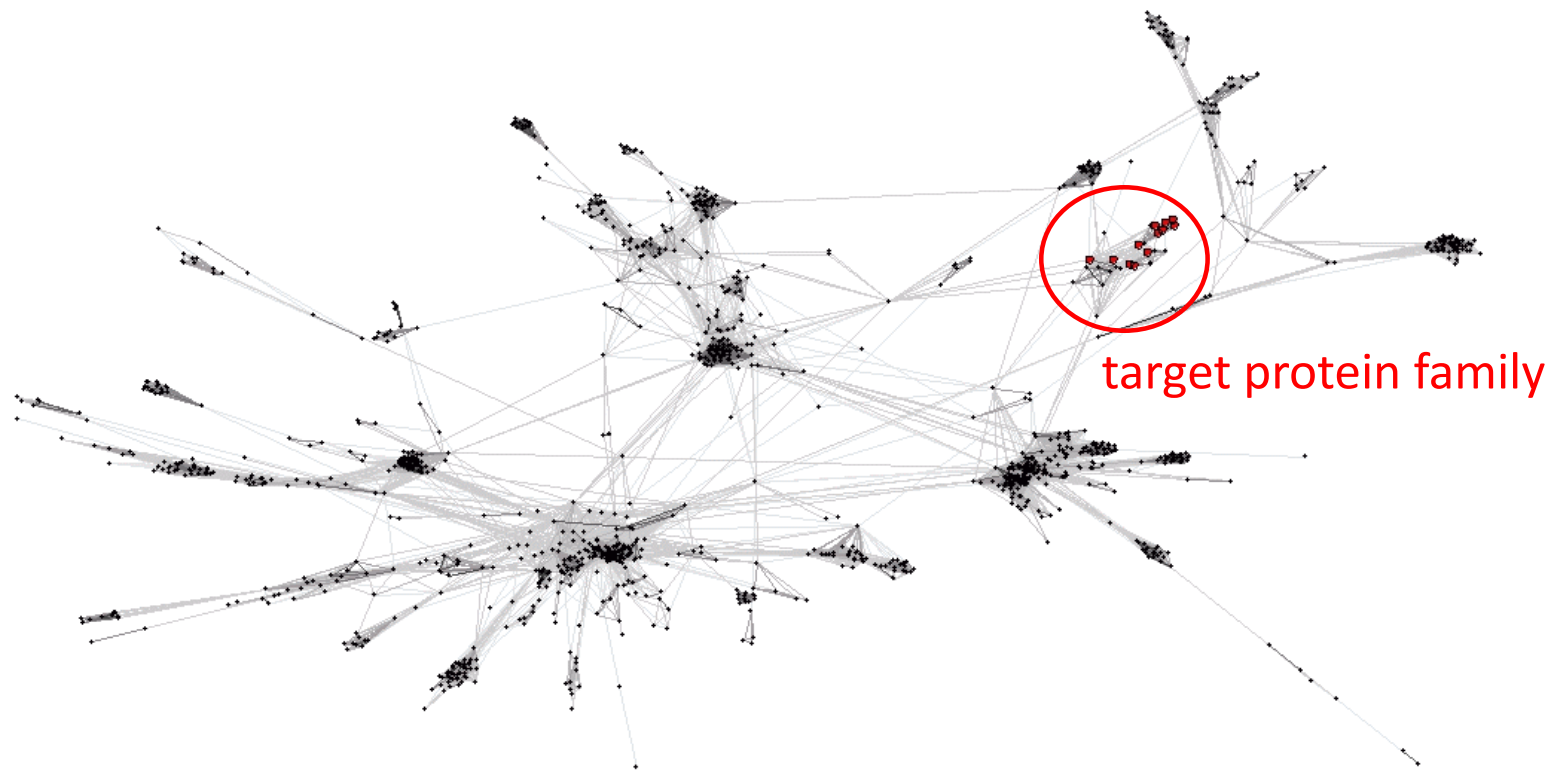
# Sequence clustering

- Clustering based on pairwise sequence similarities



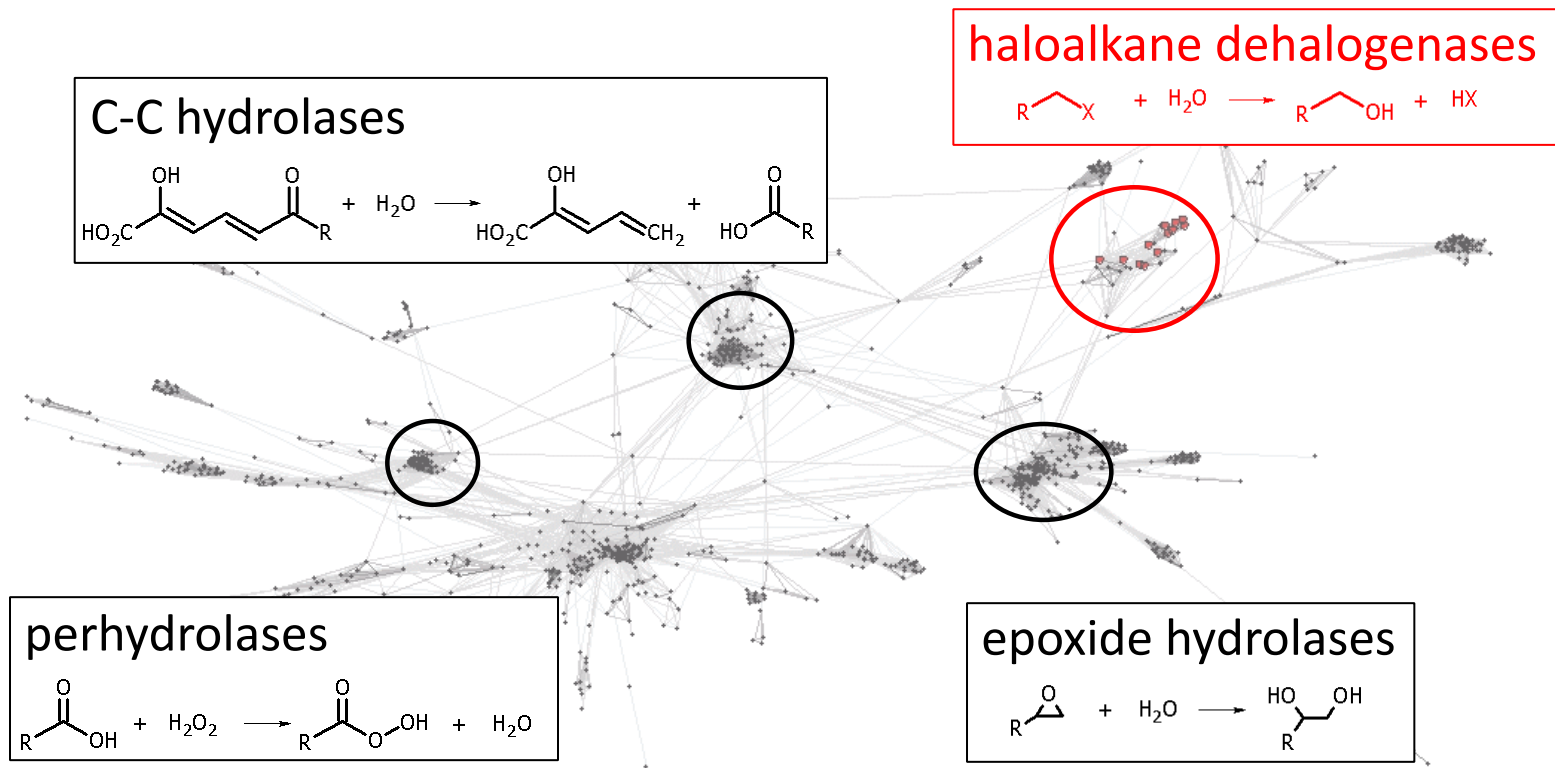
# Sequence clustering

- Clustering based on pairwise sequence similarities



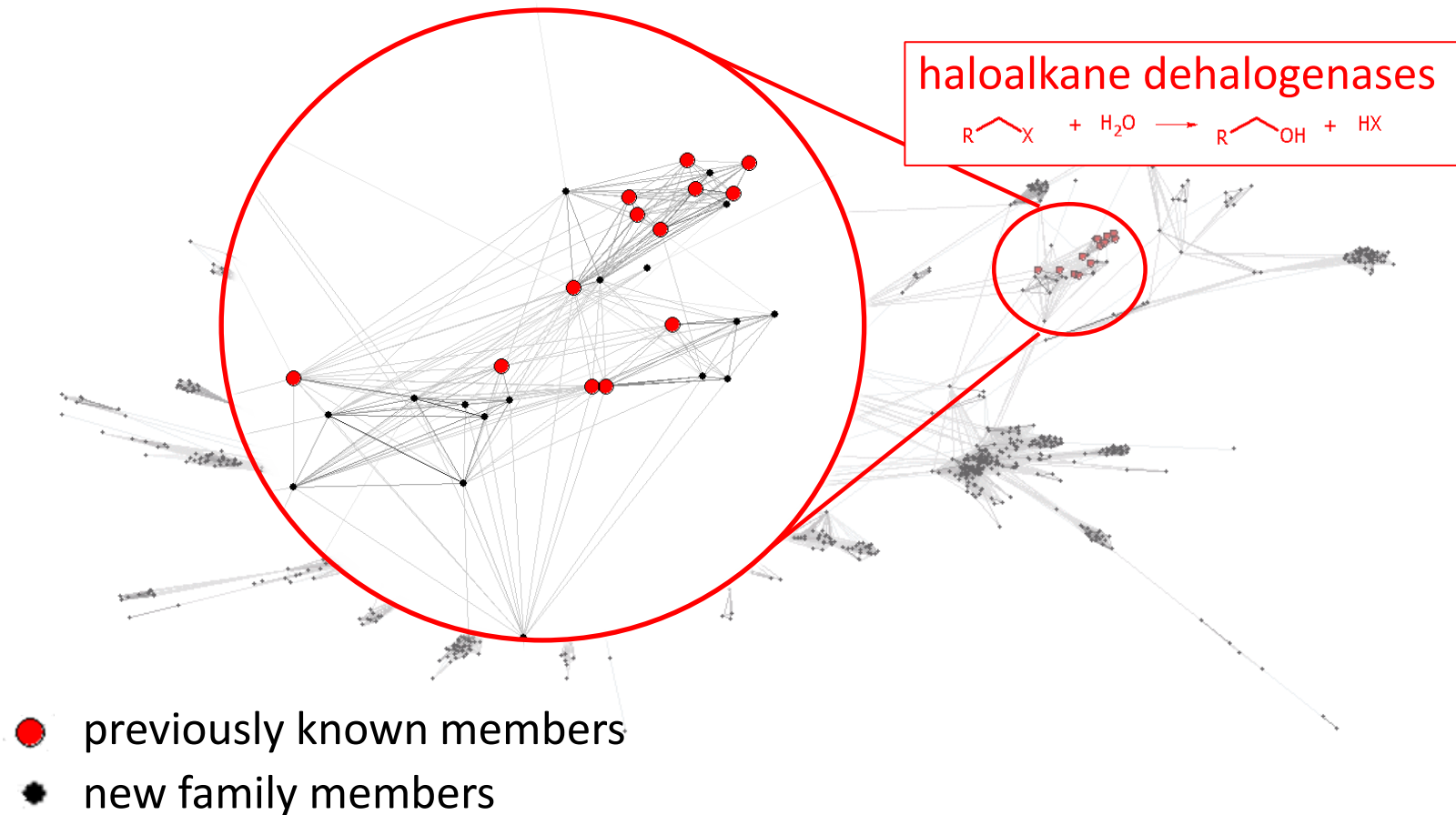
# Sequence clustering

- Clustering based on pairwise sequence similarities



# Sequence clustering

- Clustering based on pairwise sequence similarities



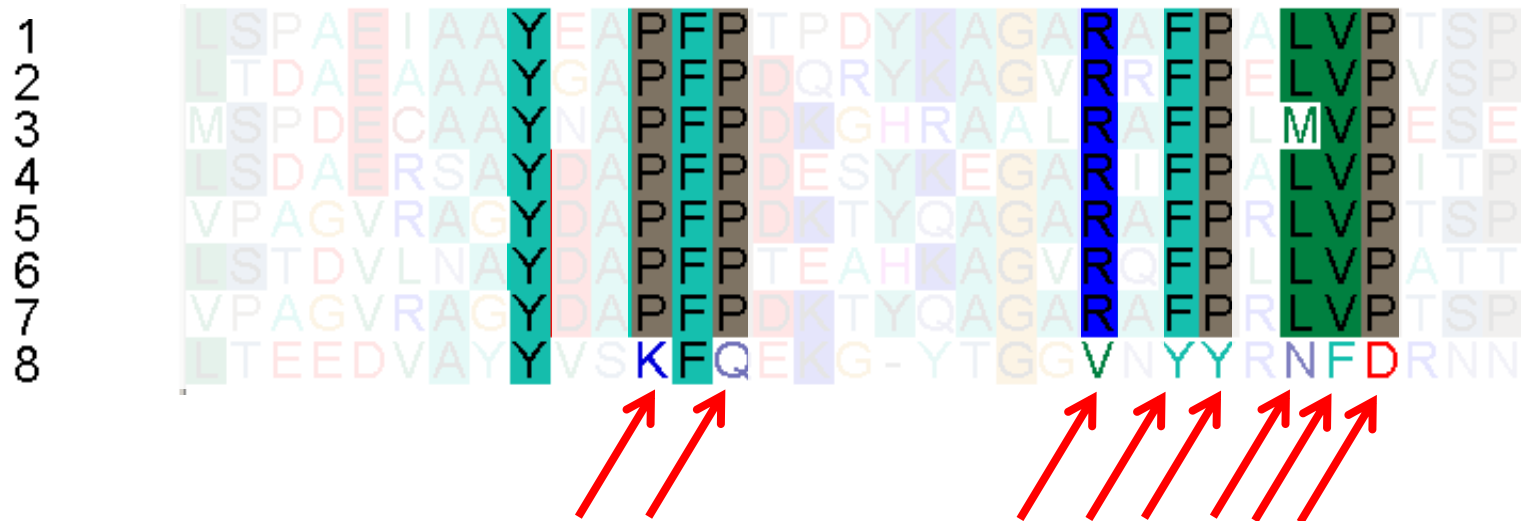
# Sequence comparison

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L | S | P | A | E | I | A | A | Y | E | A | P | F | F | T | P | D | Y | K | A | G | A | R | A | F | P | A | L | V | P | T | S | P |
| 2 | L | T | D | A | E | A | A | A | Y | G | A | P | F | F | D | Q | R | Y | K | A | G | V | R | R | F | P | E | L | V | P | V | S | P |
| 3 | M | S | P | D | E | C | A | A | Y | N | A | P | F | F | D | K | G | H | R | A | A | L | R | A | F | P | L | M | V | P | E | S | E |
| 4 | L | S | D | A | E | R | S | A | Y | D | A | P | F | F | D | E | S | Y | K | E | G | A | R | I | F | P | A | L | V | P | I | T | P |
| 5 | V | P | A | G | V | R | A | G | Y | D | A | P | F | F | D | K | T | Y | Q | A | G | A | R | A | F | P | R | L | V | P | T | S | P |
| 6 | L | S | T | D | V | L | N | A | Y | D | A | P | F | F | T | E | A | H | K | A | G | V | R | Q | F | P | L | L | V | P | A | T | T |
| 7 | V | P | A | G | V | R | A | G | Y | D | A | P | F | F | D | K | T | Y | Q | A | G | A | R | A | F | P | R | L | V | P | T | S | P |
| 8 | L | T | E | E | D | V | A | Y | Y | V | S | K | F | Q | E | K | G | - | Y | T | G | G | V | N | Y | Y | R | N | F | D | R | N | N |

# Sequence comparison

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





# Sequence comparison

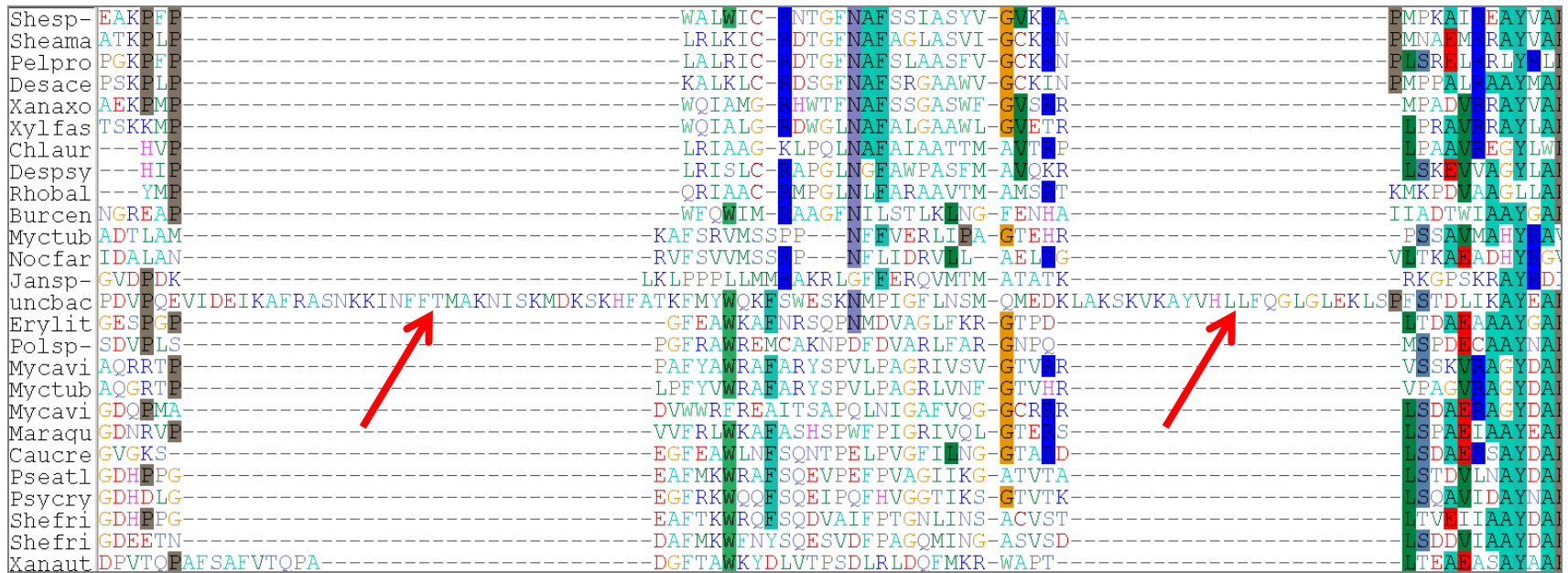
- multiple sequence alignment
  - analysis of conserved residues within protein family → identification of protein **family members**



# Sequence comparison


## □ multiple sequence alignment

- identification of sequences with **unique features** → proteins with potentially novel characteristics or problematic for production



# Sequence comparison

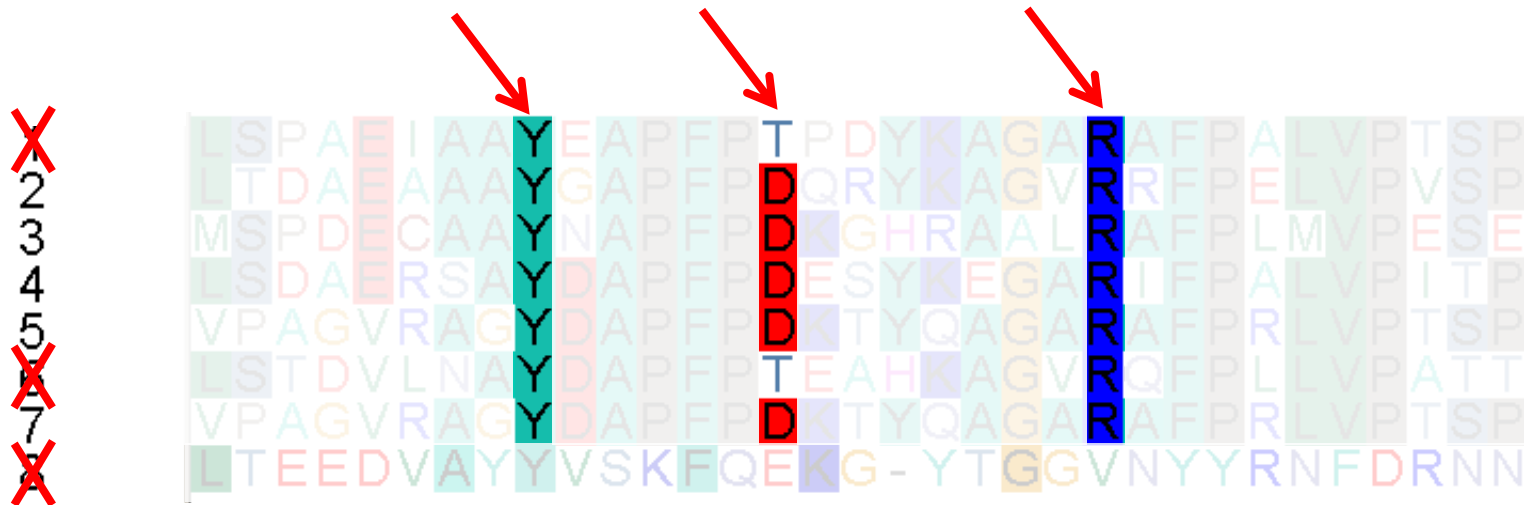
- multiple sequence alignment
  - identification of sequences with **unique features** → proteins with potentially novel characteristics or problematic for production



|         |          |            |           |           |          |          |         |        |              |       |             |              |    |     |        |
|---------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|--------|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------|----|-----|--------|
| Shespa  | EAKKFF   | -----      | WALWIC    | NTGFNAF   | SSIASYV  | CVKIA    | -----   | EMPKAT | EAAYVA       |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Sheama  | ATKPLP   | -----      | LRLKIC    | DTGFNAF   | AGLASVI  | CCKIN    | -----   | FMNAM  | RAYVA        |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Pelpro  | PKKFFP   | -----      | LALRIC    | DTGFNAF   | S LAASFV | CCKIN    | -----   | P      | SRLRLRLYL    |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Desace  | PSKPLP   | -----      | KALKLC    | D DSGFNAF | SRGAAWV  | CCKIN    | -----   | EMPPAL | AAAYMA       |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Xanaxo  | AEKLEP   | -----      | WQIAMG    | HWTFNAF   | SSGASWF  | CVSIR    | -----   | MPADV  | FRAYVA       |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Xylfas  | TSKKMP   | -----      | WQIALG    | DWGLNAF   | ALGAAWL  | CVETR    | -----   | -----  | PRAYVA       |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Chlaur  | ---HVE   | -----      | LRIAAG    | KLPQLNAF  | AIAATTM  | AVTIP    | -----   | -----  | PAAV         |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Despsy  | ---HIP   | -----      | LRISLC    | PAPGLNGE  | AWPASFM  | AVQKR    | -----   | -----  | SKV          |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Rhobal  | ---YME   | -----      | QRIAAC    | PMPGLNLE  | ARAAVTM  | AMST     | -----   | -----  | KMKPD        |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Burcen  | NGREAP   | -----      | WFOIM     | SAAGFNI   | LSTLKN   | FENHA    | -----   | -----  | IIADTWIAAYGA |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Myctub  | ADTLAM   | -----      | KAFSRVMSS | PP        | ---NF    | VERLLIA  | GTEHR   | -----  | -----        |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Nocfar  | IDALAN   | -----      | RVFSVMSS  | P         | ---NF    | LIDRV    | L       | AELG   | -----        |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| Jansp   | GVDLTK   | -----      | LKLPPPL   | LMM       | AKRLGF   | ERQVMTM  | ATATK   | -----  | -----        |       |             |              |    |     |        |
| luncbac | PDVPEQEV | IDEIKAFRAS | NKKINFF   | TMAKNI    | SKMDKSK  | HFATK    | FMYWQK  | SWESK  | MPIGFLNSM    | QMEDK | LAKSKVKAYVH | LLFQGLGLEKLS | EF | STD | LKAYEA |
| Erylit  | GESPC    | -----      | GF        | EAWKAF    | NRSQPN   | MDVAGL   | FKR     | GTPD   | -----        | ----- | TDAA        | AAAYGA       |    |     |        |
| Polsp   | SDVELS   | -----      | PG        | RAWRE     | EMCAKN   | PDFD     | VARLFAR | GNPO   | -----        | ----- | MSPD        | CAAYNA       |    |     |        |
| Mycavi  | AQRRT    | -----      | PAFYAW    | RAFARY    | SPVLP    | PAGRIVSV | GTVIR   | -----  | -----        | ----- | VSKV        | PAGYDA       |    |     |        |
| Myctub  | AQRRT    | -----      | LPFYVW    | RAFARY    | SPVLP    | PAGRLVNF | GTVHR   | -----  | -----        | ----- | VPAGV       | PAGYDA       |    |     |        |
| Mycavi  | GDCMA    | -----      | DVWWR     | FREAIT    | SAPQLN   | IGAFVQG  | GCCR    | -----  | -----        | ----- | LSDA        | PAGYDA       |    |     |        |
| Maraqu  | GDNRVE   | -----      | VVFR      | LWKAF     | ASHSPWF  | PIGRIVQL | GTESS   | -----  | -----        | ----- | LSPA        | IAAYEA       |    |     |        |
| Caucre  | GVGKS    | -----      | EGF       | EAWLNF    | SQNTPE   | LPVGF    | ING     | GTARD  | -----        | ----- | SDA         | PAYDA        |    |     |        |
| Pseatl  | GDH      | PG         | -----     | EAFMK     | RAF      | SQEVPE   | PVAGLIK | ATVTA  | -----        | ----- | STD         | LNAYDA       |    |     |        |
| Psychry | GDHDLG   | -----      | EGFR      | KWQ       | QF       | SQEI     | QFHV    | GGTIKS | GTVTK        | ----- | SCA         | IDAAYNA      |    |     |        |
| Shefri  | GDH      | PG         | -----     | EAF       | TKW      | RQ       | SQDVAI  | FPTGN  | LINS         | ACVST | TV          | IIAAYDA      |    |     |        |
| Shefri  | GDEETN   | -----      | DAFM      | KWF       | NYSQ     | ESVDF    | PAGQ    | MING   | ASVSD        | ----- | SDD         | IAAYDA       |    |     |        |
| Xanaut  | DPVTP    | AFSAFV     | TOPA      | -----     | -----    | -----    | -----   | -----  | -----        | ----- | TF          | ASAYAA       |    |     |        |

# Sequence comparison

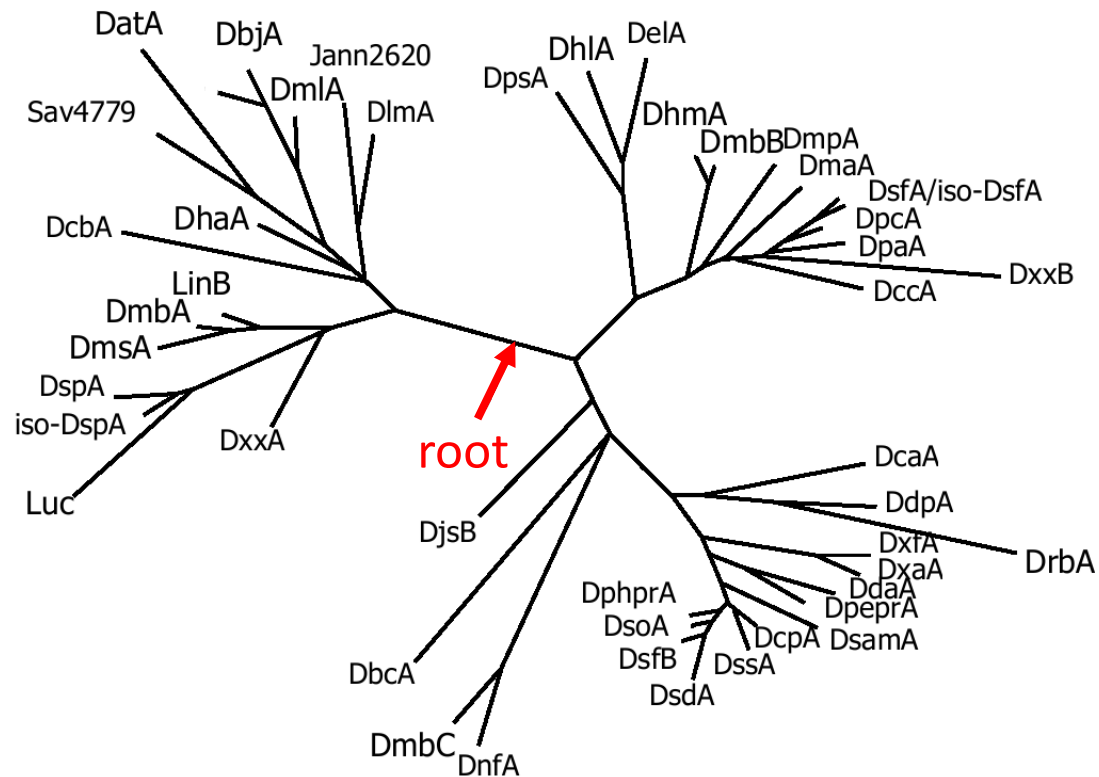
- multiple sequence alignment
- essential residues
  - analysis of conserved residues important for function (catalytic, binding, coordinating residues, etc.)
  - In UniProt/SwissProt -> Function -> Features -> list of active or binding site residues



# Sequence comparison

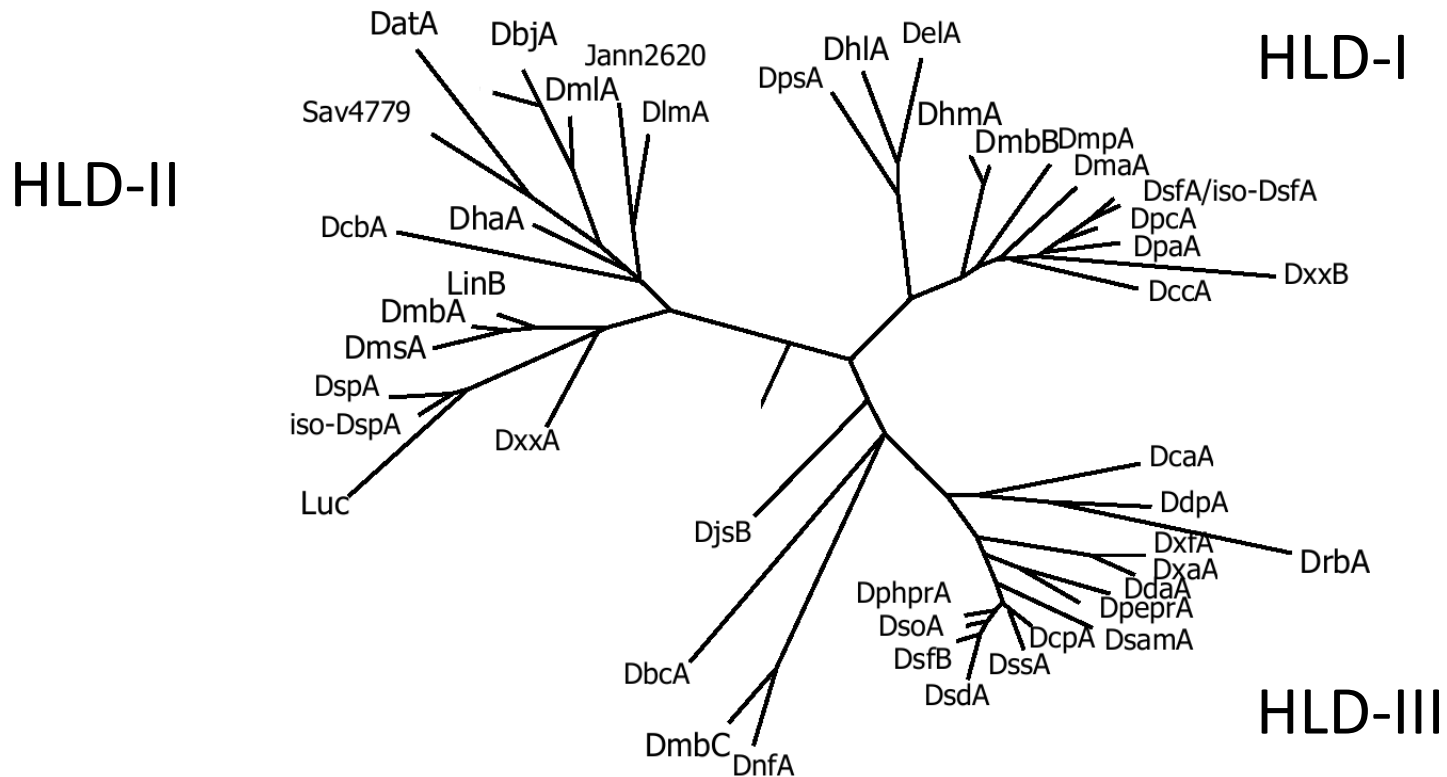
## □ phylogenetics

- establishment of **evolutionary relationships** among sequences



# Sequence comparison

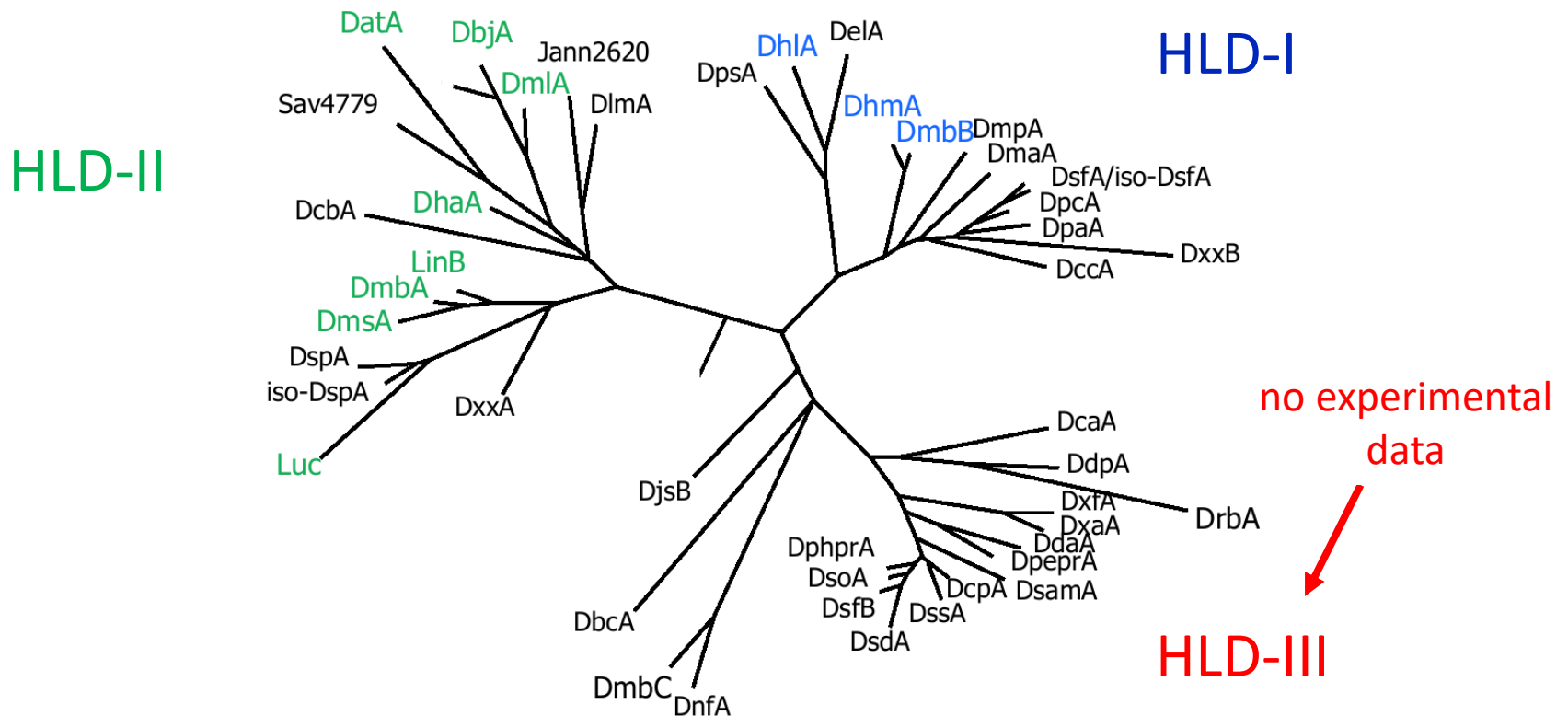
- phylogenetics
  - classification of sequences



# Sequence comparison

- phylogenetics

- information about experimental data → selection of novel proteins



# Information about host organisms

- **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





# Information about host organisms

- ❑ Genomes OnLine Database (GOLD)
  - <http://www.genomesonline.org/>
  - list of complete (>36,000) and ongoing (> 115,000) information about individual projects and **source organisms** (Feb 2024)
  
- ❑ Entrez Genome
  - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/genome>
  - provided by NCBI
  - ~700,000 genome information by organism
  - information about genome, **source organism**, genes, encoded proteins, graphical representations, ...

# Information about host organisms




## □ GOLD

### Metagenomes



#### Classification

- Studies: 370
- Samples: 2642

### Isolate Genomes

-  Complete Projects: 4169
-  Incomplete Projects: 17714
-  Targeted Projects: 1500

### Organism Metadata

|   |                             |              |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|
| <a href="#">MIGS 22</a>      | <b>OXYGEN REQUIREMENT</b>   | Aerobe       |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.1</a>    | <b>CELL SHAPE</b>           | Rod-shaped   |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.2</a>    | <b>MOTILITY</b>             | Nonmotile    |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.3</a>    | <b>SPORULATION</b>          |              |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.4</a>    | <b>PRESSURE</b>             |              |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.12</a>   | <b>TEMPERATURE RANGE</b>    | Psychrophile |
|   | <b>SALINITY</b>             | Halotolerant |
|   | <b>PH</b>                   |              |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.5</a>  | <b>CELL DIAMETER</b>        |              |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.6</a>  | <b>CELL LENGTH</b>          |              |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.7</a>  | <b>COLOR</b>                |              |
| <a href="#">MIGS 37.8</a>  | <b>GRAM STAINING</b>        |              |
| <a href="#">MIGS 15</a>    | <b>BIOTIC REALTIONSHIPS</b> | Free living  |

# Information about host organisms

## □ Entrez Genome

### Psychrobacter cryohalolentis

Psychrotolerant organism

Lineage: Bacteria[4049]; Proteobacteria[1682]; Gammaproteobacteria[750]; Pseudomonadales[122]; Moraxellaceae[51]; Psychrobacter[10]; Psychrobacter cryohalolentis[1]

**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 temperatures.

**Human Pathogen:** no

| Type  | 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          |
| Plasm | 1    | NC_007968.1 | CP000324.1 | 0.041221  | 38.3 | 44      | -    | -    | -         | 44    | -          |

#### Biological Properties

- Morphology
  - Shape : Bacilli
  - Motility : No
- Environment
  - Salinity : ModerateHalophilic
  - TemperatureRange : Psychrophilic
  - Habitat : Multiple

← biological properties

#### Genome Sequencing Projects

● Chromosomes [1] ● Scaffolds or contigs [0] ● SRA or Traces [0] ○ No data [0]

| Organism  | BioProject                             | Assembly  | Status | Chrs | Plasmids | Size (Mb) | GC%  | Gene  | Protein |
|---|--|-----------|--------|------|----------|-----------|------|-------|---------|
| <a href="#">Psychrobacter cryohalolentis K5</a> | <a href="#">PRJNA58373, PRJNA13920</a> | ASM1390v1 | ●      | 1    | 1        | 3.1       | 42.2 | 2,581 | 2,511   |

# Automated *in silico* enzyme identification

## □ EnzymeMiner

- <https://loschmidt.chemi.muni.cz/enzymeminer/>
- Search for **novel enzymes** with particular activity
- Only input is **fasta** sequence and **essential residues**
- Filtering of sequences using catalytic residues, MSA, clustering
- Annotations of sequences based on bioinformatics predictions, information available in sequence and genome databases
- 2D space of sequence similarity network

# Automated *in silico* enzyme identification

## □ EnzymeMiner

> LinB

```
MSLGAKPFGEKKFIEIKGRRMAYIDEGTGDPILFQHGNPTSSYLWRNIMPHCAGLGRLIACDLIGMGDSKLDPSGPERYAYAEHRD  
YLDALWEALDLGDRVVLVVDWGSALGFDWARRHRERVQGIAYMEAIAMPIEWADFPEQDRDLFQAFRSQAGEELVLQDNVFE  
QVLPGLILRPLSEAEMAAYREPFLAAGEARRPTLSWPRQIPIAGTPADVVAIARDYAGWLSESPKLFINAEPGALTTGRMRDFCRT  
WPNQTEITVAGAHFIQEDSPDEIGAAIAAFVRRLRPA
```



| Accession     | Halide 1 | Nucleophile | Halide 2 | Proton donor | Proton acceptor |
|---------------|----------|-------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|
|               | N, W     | D           | W        | E, D         | H               |
| <b>D4Z2G1</b> | 38       | 108         | 109      | 132          | 272             |
| <b>P22643</b> | 125      | 124         | 175      | 260          | 289             |

# Automated *in silico* enzyme identification

## EnzymeMiner



Automated mining of soluble enzymes with diverse structures, catalytic properties and stabilities



[Submit new job](#) [Help](#) [Example](#) [Acknowledgements](#)

Job ID:

[Find job](#)

### JOB INPUT

[Swiss-Prot sequences](#) [Custom sequences](#)

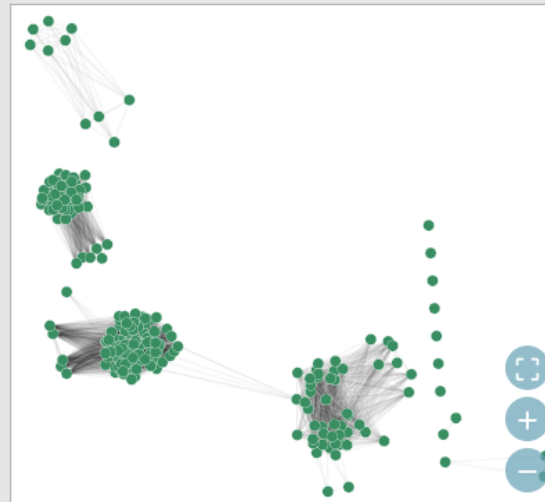
1.1.1.1 - Alcohol dehydrogenase. (240)

[Load example](#)

Select sequences from table (max. 40)

| Accession                           | ER | Length | Sequence plot |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A0A075TMP0 | 9  | 340    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A1A835     | 7  | 369    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A1CFL1     | 7  | 388    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A1L4Y2     | 14 | 394    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A2XA23     | 14 | 381    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A5JYX5     | 1  | 309    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A6ZTT5     | 0  | 382    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A7ZIA4     | 7  | 369    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A7ZX04     | 7  | 369    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B1J085     | 7  | 369    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B1LIP1     | 7  | 369    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B4M8Y0     | 4  | 254    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E1ACQ9     | 8  | 339    |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F37670     | 10 | 374    |               |

Select sequences from similarity network (max. 40)



Select representative sequences of clusters

### USER STATISTICS

- Number of visitors: 3822
- Number of jobs: 628

### CONTACT

Loschmidt Laboratories

- [enzymeminer@sci.muni.cz](mailto:enzymeminer@sci.muni.cz)
- <https://loschmidt.chemi.muni.cz/>

### OTHER TOOLS



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



# Automated *in silico* enzyme identification

## Target selection table

TARGET SELECTION TABLE

Select all Deselect all Undo Redo

Solubility threshold: 0.50 Identity to queries: 25 90

Primary domains: PF00561 (Abhydrolase\_1) x

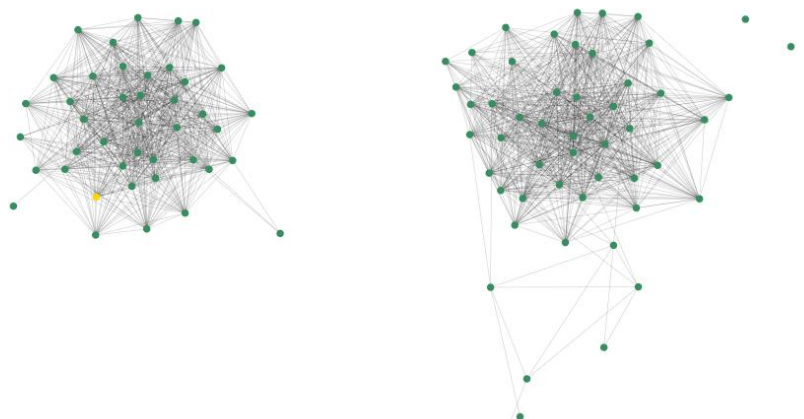
Selected Full Dataset Extra Domain Known Organism Temperature Salinity Biotic Relationship Disease Transmembrane 3D Structure

| Accession                               | Annotation                 | Closest query | Identity closest qu... ↓ | Kingdom | Solubility | Sequence length | Domain annotation |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> KAB2639994.1   | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 74.1                     | B       | 0.6026     | 294             | Abhydrolase_1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_084084852.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 72.7                     | B       | 0.6433     | 275             | Abhydrolase_1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_071575177.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 70.8                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AOY91276.1     | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 70.5                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TMJ55042.1     | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 70.3                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_071068776.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 70.2                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_066929894.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 70.1                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_096502050.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.9                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_071011817.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.8                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_015306650.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.8                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_110315832.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.8                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_064949090.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.7                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_083164861.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.7                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_057374253.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.6                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WP_015290793.1 | haloalkane dehalogena...   | D4Z2G1        | 69.6                     |         |            |                 |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2QVB_A         | Chain A, Crystal Struct... | D4Z2G1        | 69.5                     |         |            |                 |                   |

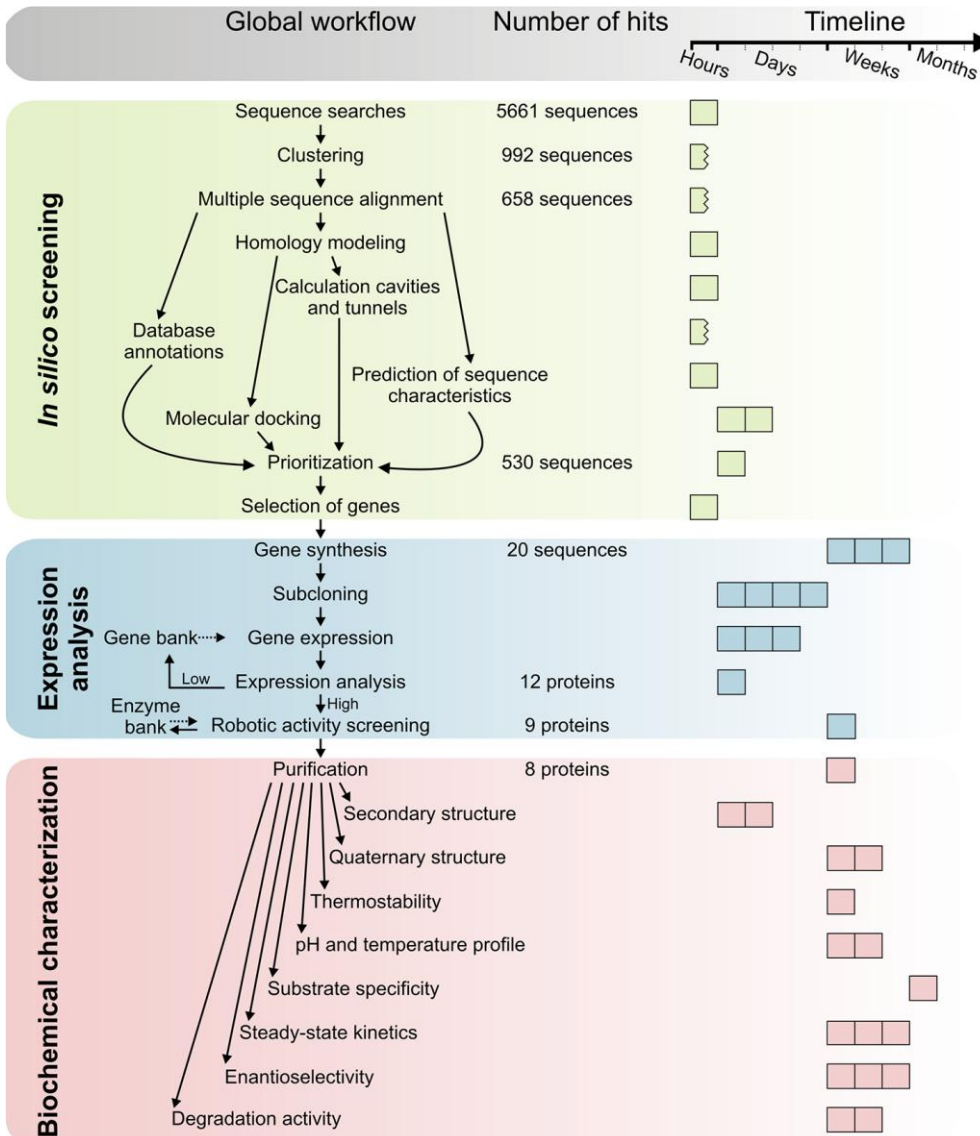
## Sequence similarity network

SEQUENCE SIMILARITY NETWORK

Select network: Identity: 50%, Nodes: 94, Edges: 1466 Download Cytoscape session (50 %)



# EnzymeMiner use case



Putative dehalogenases  
2,905 sequences

Gene synthesis  
67 sequences

Characterization  
35 proteins



# EnzymeMiner use case

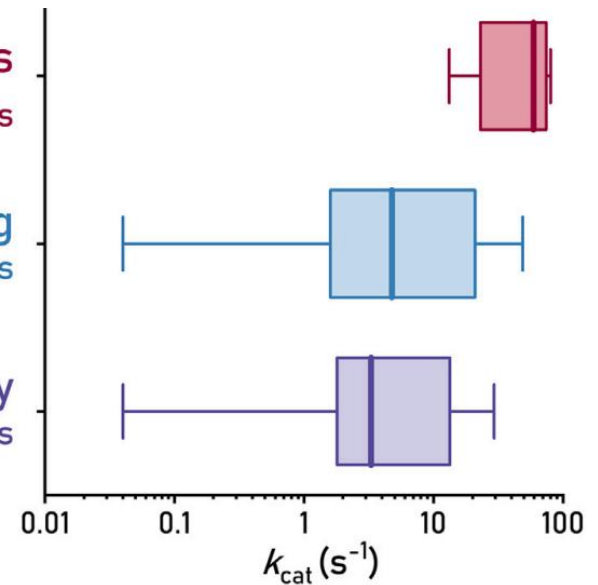
The most thermostable

enzyme  $T_m = 71^\circ\text{C}$

Adv. Bioinformatics  
 $\mu$ Enzymology 3+ years

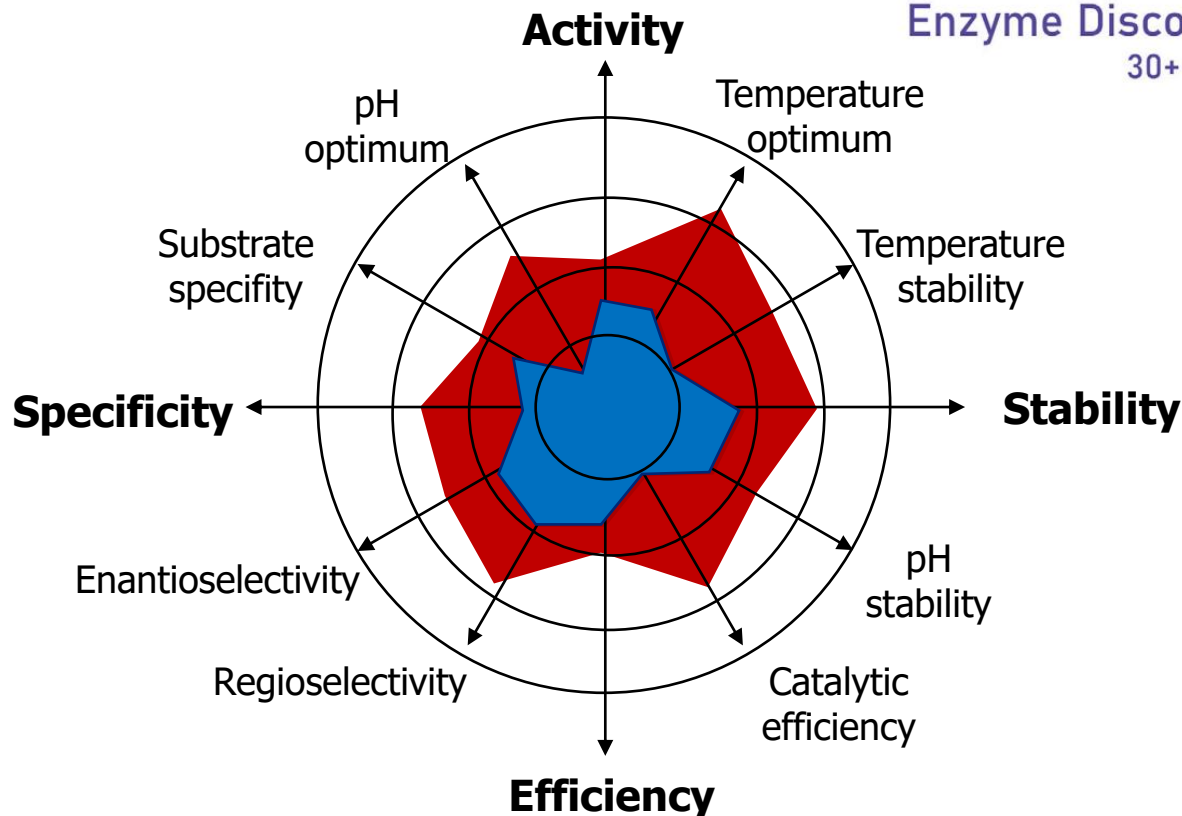
Enzyme Engineering  
25+ years

Enzyme Discovery  
30+ years

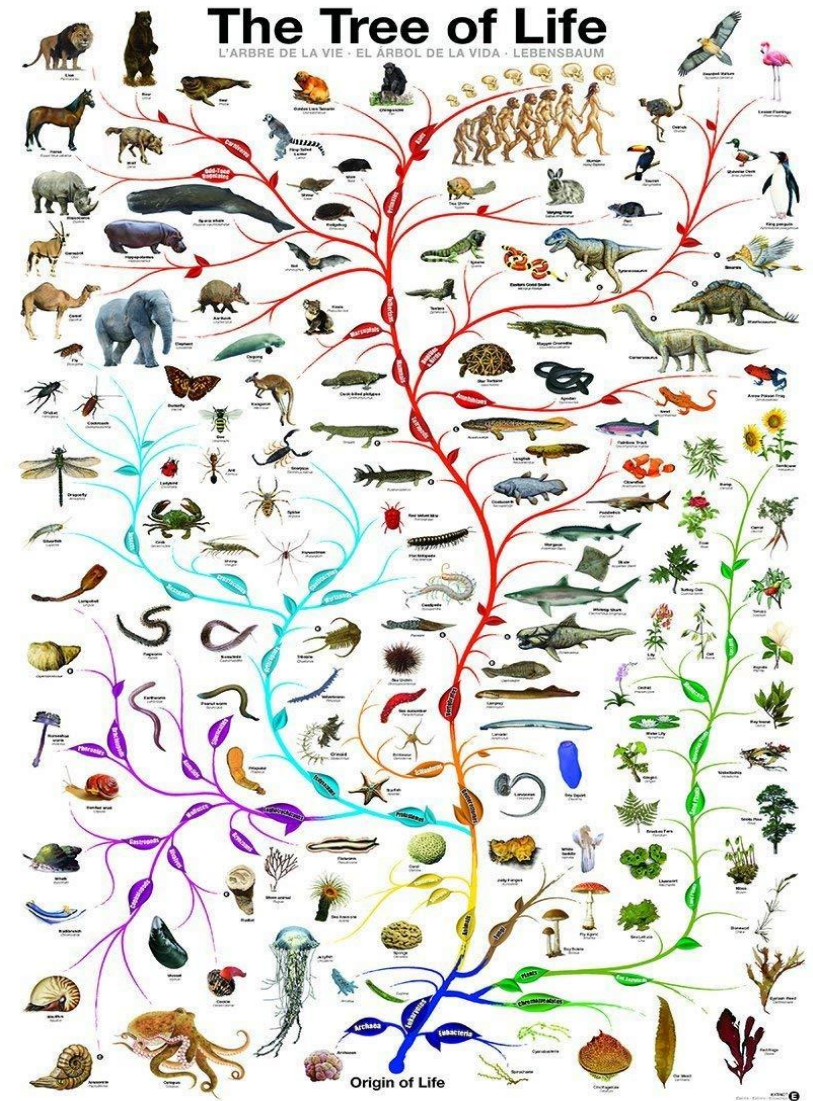
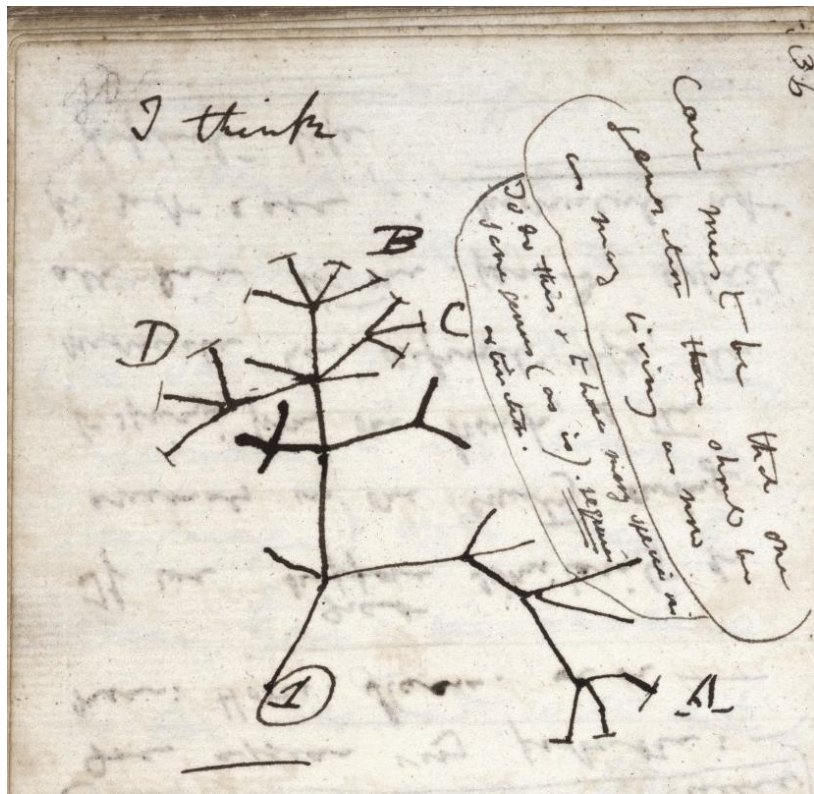


The most catalytically  
efficient enzyme (100x)

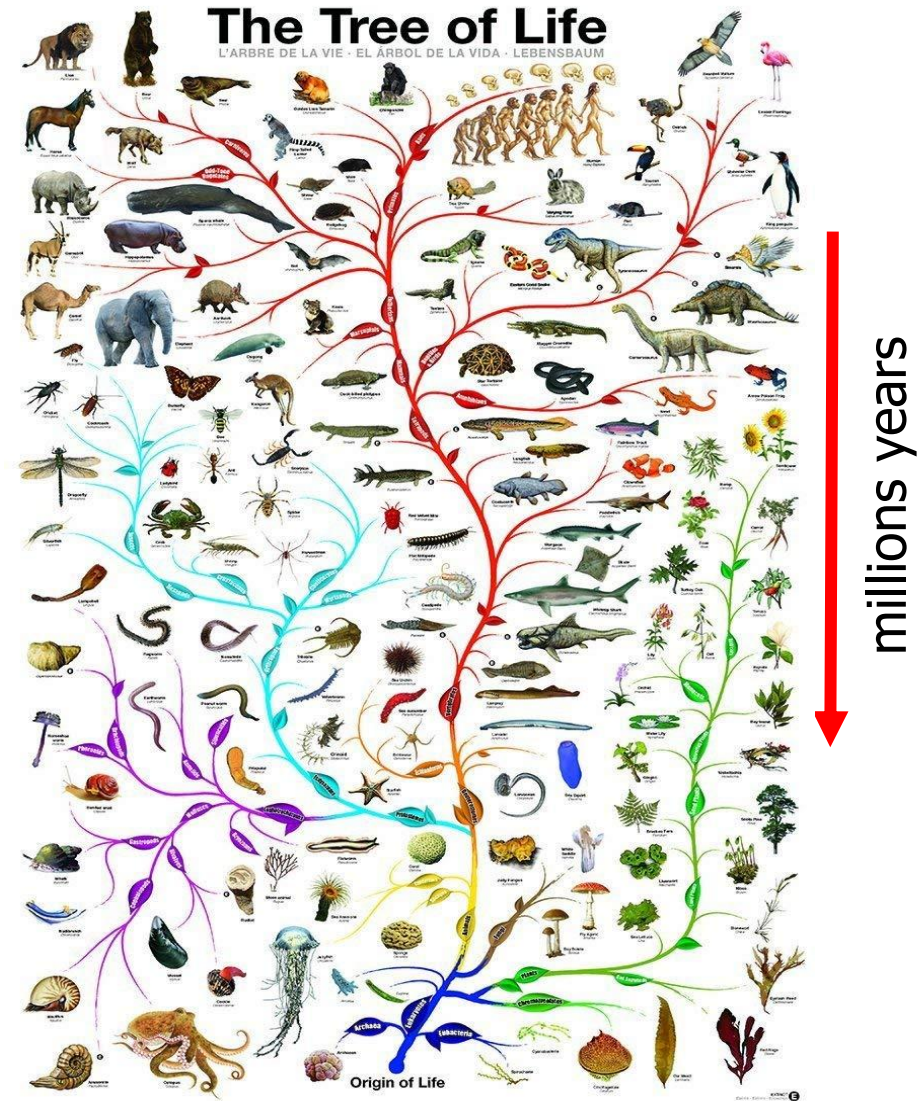
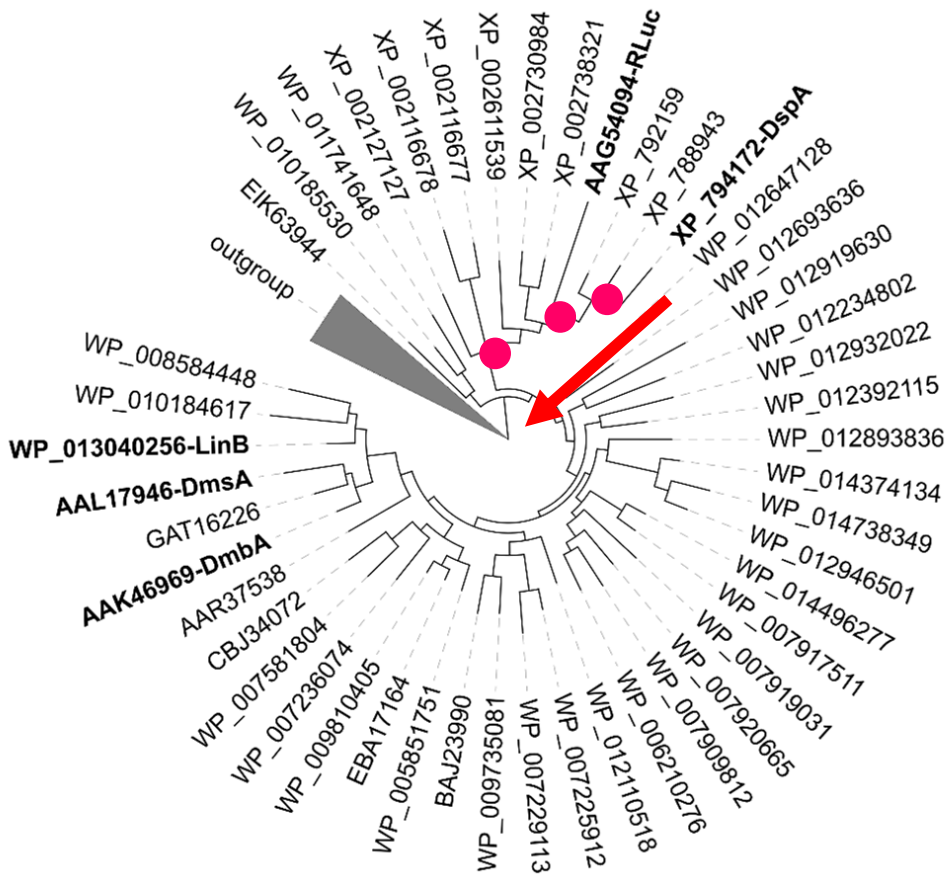
Enzymes active at near-to-  
zero temperature



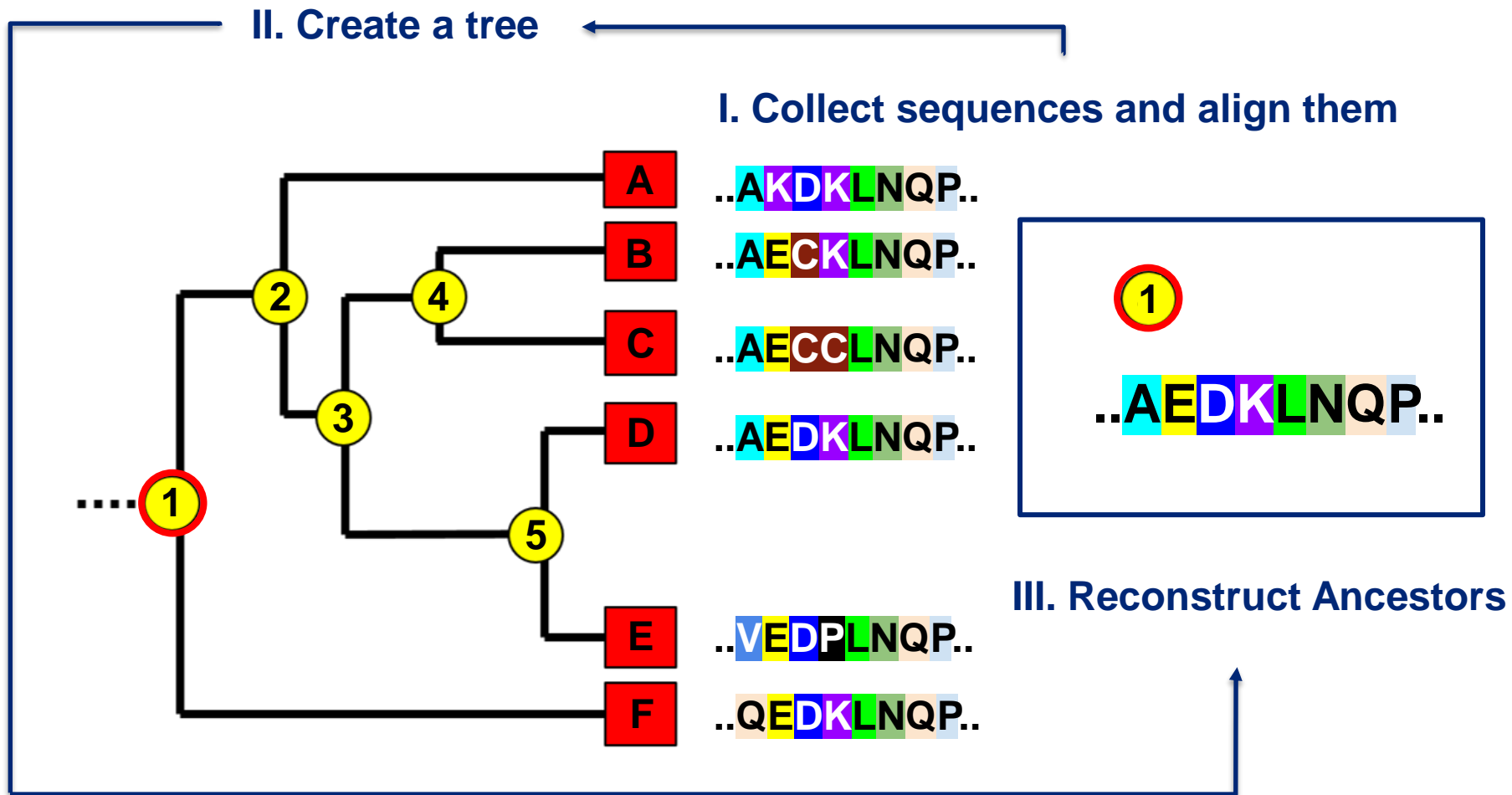
# Reconstruction of ancestral proteins



# Reconstruction of ancestral proteins



# Reconstruction of ancestral proteins



# Reconstruction of ancestral proteins

## □ FireProt<sup>ASR</sup>

- <https://loschmidt.chemi.muni.cz/fireprotasr/>
- Web server for **automated** ancestral sequence reconstruction
- Ancestral reconstruction, successor prediction, latent space analysis
- Design of stable proteins with good yields and broad specificity

The screenshot displays the FireProt ASR web interface. At the top, the logo features a stylized protein structure next to the text "FIREPROT ASR v1.0" and "Fully automated ancestral sequence reconstruction". A navigation bar includes links for "Submit new job", "Help", "Example", "Use cases", and "Acknowledgement", along with a "Job ID" field and a "Find job" search icon.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- SELECT THE STARTING POINT:** Contains two panels: "SEQUENCE" with a protein structure icon and "USER DATA" with a gear icon.
- STARTING FROM SEQUENCE:** Features a "Load example" button and a "Source" section with radio buttons for "Enter own sequence" (selected) and "Upload sequence file". Below this is a text area for the "Sequence" containing a long amino acid sequence: `MSEIGTGFPPDPHYVEVLGERMHYVDVGRDGP VLFHGNPTSSYLWRNIIPVAPSHRCIAPDLIGMG KSDKPDLDYFFDDHRYLDAFIEALGLEEVVLIHD WGSALGFHWAKRNPVERVKGIACMEFIRIPTWDE WPEFARETFQAFRTADVGRELIIDQNAFIEGALPKC VVRPLTEVEMDHYREPFLKPVDRPLWRFPNELPI AGEFANIVALVEAYMNLHQSVPVKLLFWGTGVL`. A "Validate" button with a checkmark is located below the text area.
- JOB INFORMATION:** Includes input fields for "Job title (optional)" and "E-mail (optional)".

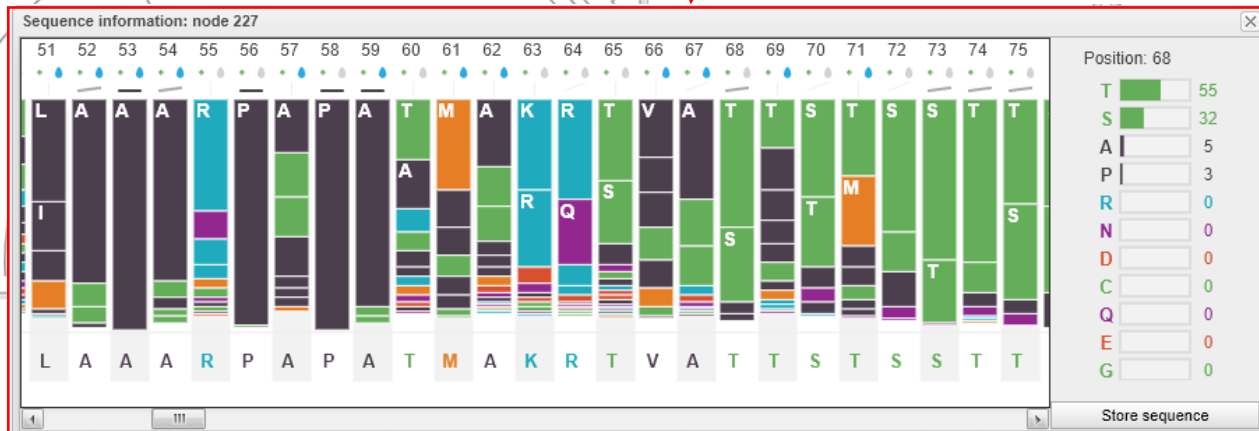
On the right side, there are several informational panels:

- REFERENCE:** Cites "Musil M, Khan R, Stourac J, Bednar D, Damborsky J. 2020: FireProt-ASR: Web Server for Fully Automated Ancestral Sequence Reconstruction. (submitted)".
- USER STATISTICS:** Shows "Number of visitors: 2917" and "Number of jobs: 967".
- CONTACT:** Lists "Loschmidt Laboratories" with email "fireprot@sci.muni.cz" and website "http://loschmidt.chemi.muni.cz".
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** Features the "elixir CZECH REPUBLIC" logo.
- VIDEO TUTORIAL:** Includes a video player with a play button and a progress bar.

At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Next" navigation buttons.

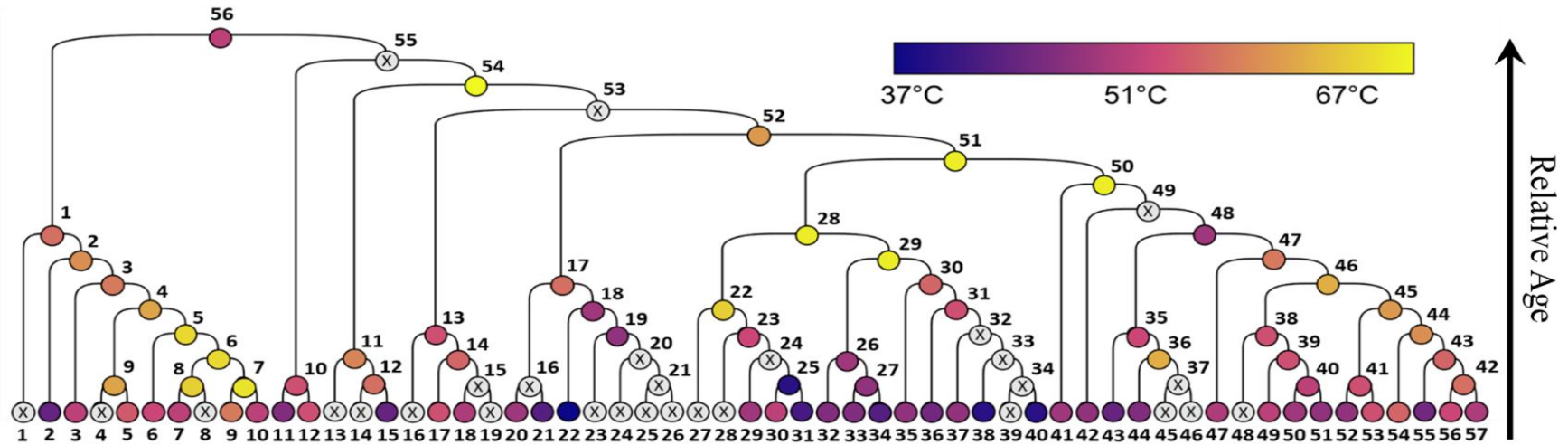
# Reconstruction of ancestral proteins

## □ FireProt<sup>ASR</sup>

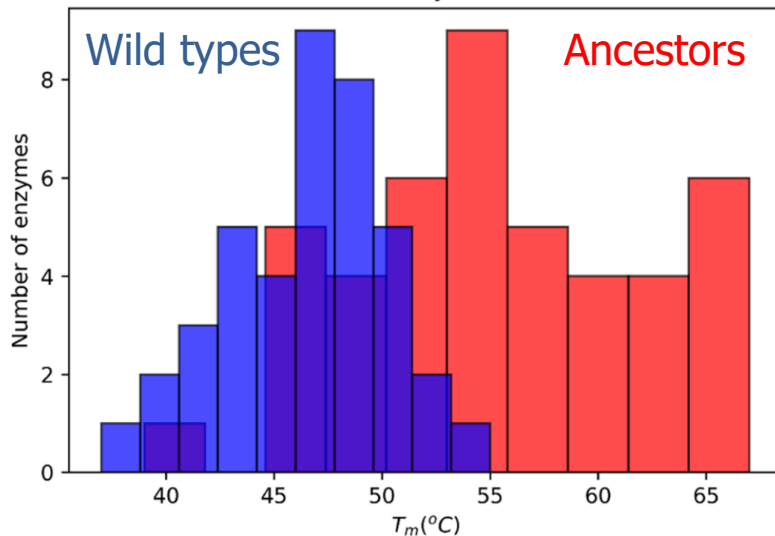


# FireProt<sup>ASR</sup> use case

57 wild types and 56 ancestors tested



Thermostability distribution



Ancestors:

- Average  $T_m$  +9 °C
- 60 % have higher  $T_m$  than the best WT
- enzymes with top activity
- Slightly better yields





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
  - false positive results: sequences should be filtered
- ❑ selection of proteins for experimental characterization
  - **clustering**: classification and filtering of hits from database searches
  - **sequence comparison**: classification and identification of unique sequences
  - sequences from **extremophiles**: potentially adapted to extreme conditions
  - **EnzymeMiner**: automated identification of interesting catalysts
  - **FireProt<sup>ASR</sup>**: design of stable, soluble, and broad specificity proteins

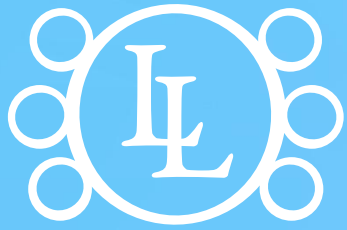
# What to keep in mind?



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

# References

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- ❑ Steele, H.L. *et al.* (2009). Advances in Recovery of Novel Biocatalysts from Metagenomes. *Journal of Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology* **16**: 25–37.
- ❑ NCBI Resource Coordinators (2013). Database resources of the National Center for Biotechnology Information. *Nucleic Acids Research* **41**: D8-D20.
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- ❑ Frickey, T. and Lupas, A. (2004). CLANS: a Java application for visualizing protein families based on pairwise similarity. *Bioinformatics* **20**: 3702-3704.
- ❑ Pagani, I. *et al.* (2012). The Genomes OnLine Database (GOLD) v.4: status of genomic and metagenomic projects and their associated metadata. *Nucleic Acids Research* **40**, D571-579.
- ❑ Van den Burg, B. (2003). Extremophiles as a source for novel enzymes. *Current Opinion in Microbiology* **6**: 213-218.



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# Protein production

Protein Engineering Lecture #3  
Michal Vašina

