

Transcript analysis and reconstruction

Brazil 2001



Genes

Why are there only a few tens of thousands of genes in the human genome?

How do genes express themselves to manufacture the proteome?

How can available sequence information be processed in order to deliver understanding of gene expression?

Genomic expression

Within eukaryotes, genes have shared basic characteristics. They have single or multiple exons and introns distributed along the gene in coding and non-coding regions with

- 5' Flanking region with transcription regulation signals

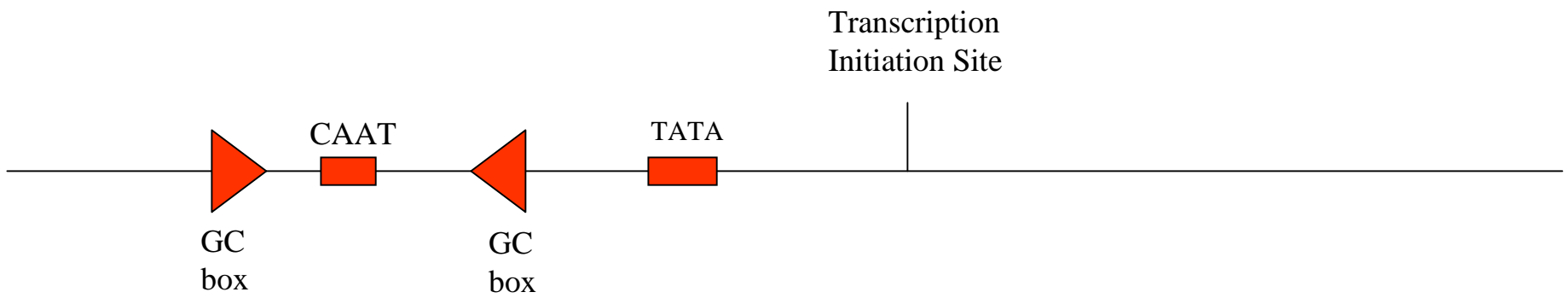
- Transcription initiation start site (5')

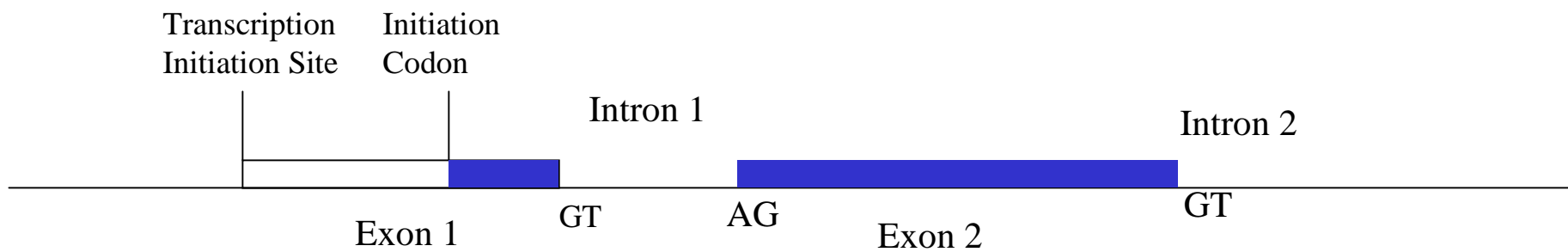
- Initiation codon for protein coding sequence

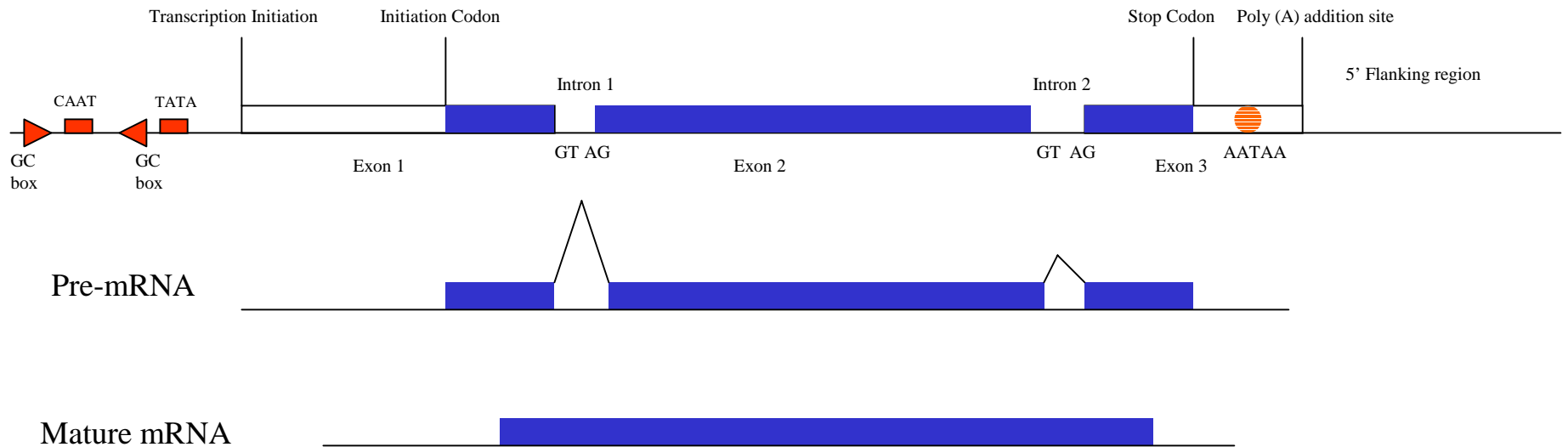
- Exon-intron boundaries with splice site signals at the boundaries

- Termination codon for protein coding sequence

- 3' signals for regulation and polyadenylation







Gene Expression

Transcription products can vary.

Transcription initiation at the start site (TSS)

Exon length

Exon presence/absence in the mature transcript

Alternate transcription termination and polyadenylation

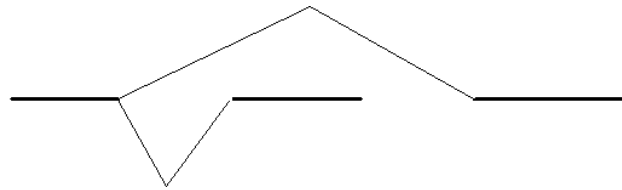


Examples of alternative splicing

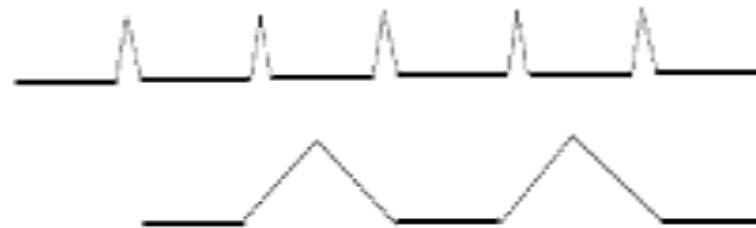
Alternative donor and acceptor splice sites

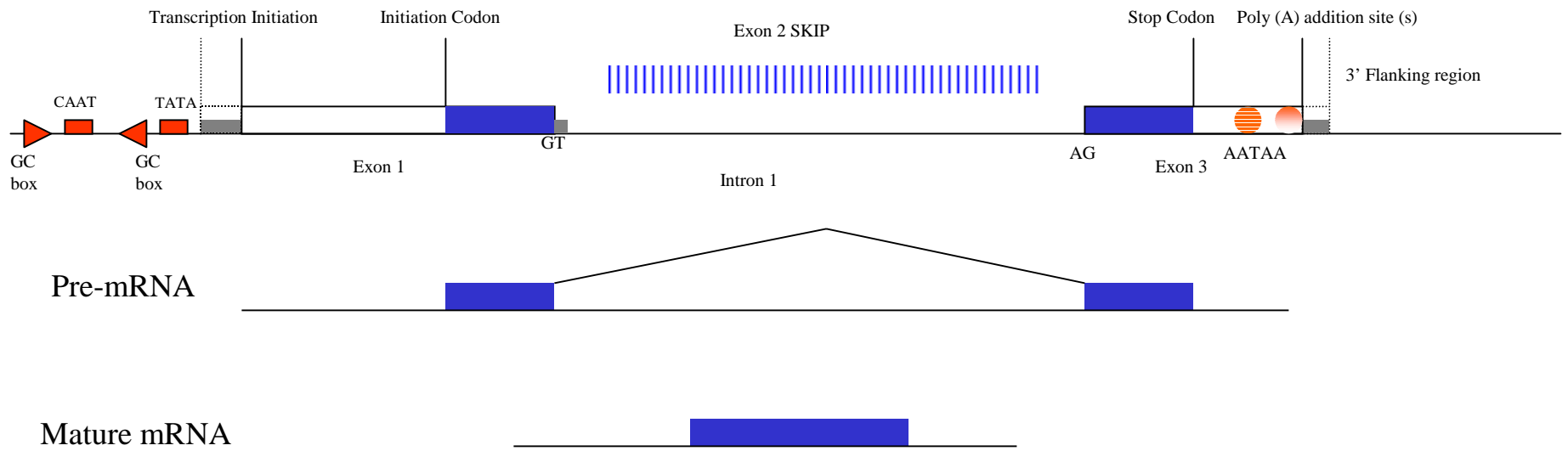


Alternative polyadenylation



Exon skipping





Capturing expressed transcripts

Databases - Sequences

dbEST

Several collapsed datasets

TIGR-THC

Allgenes

Unigene

BodyMap


STACK

Several more specialised

Genome Sequence as it appears:



Expression Capture

- Serial Analysis of Gene Expression
 - DNA fragments that act as unique markers of gene transcripts. 
 - Assay of numbers of each marker in a set of sequence yields a measure of gene expression
- Array
 - Laydown of sequence clones to provide an organised series for hybridisation

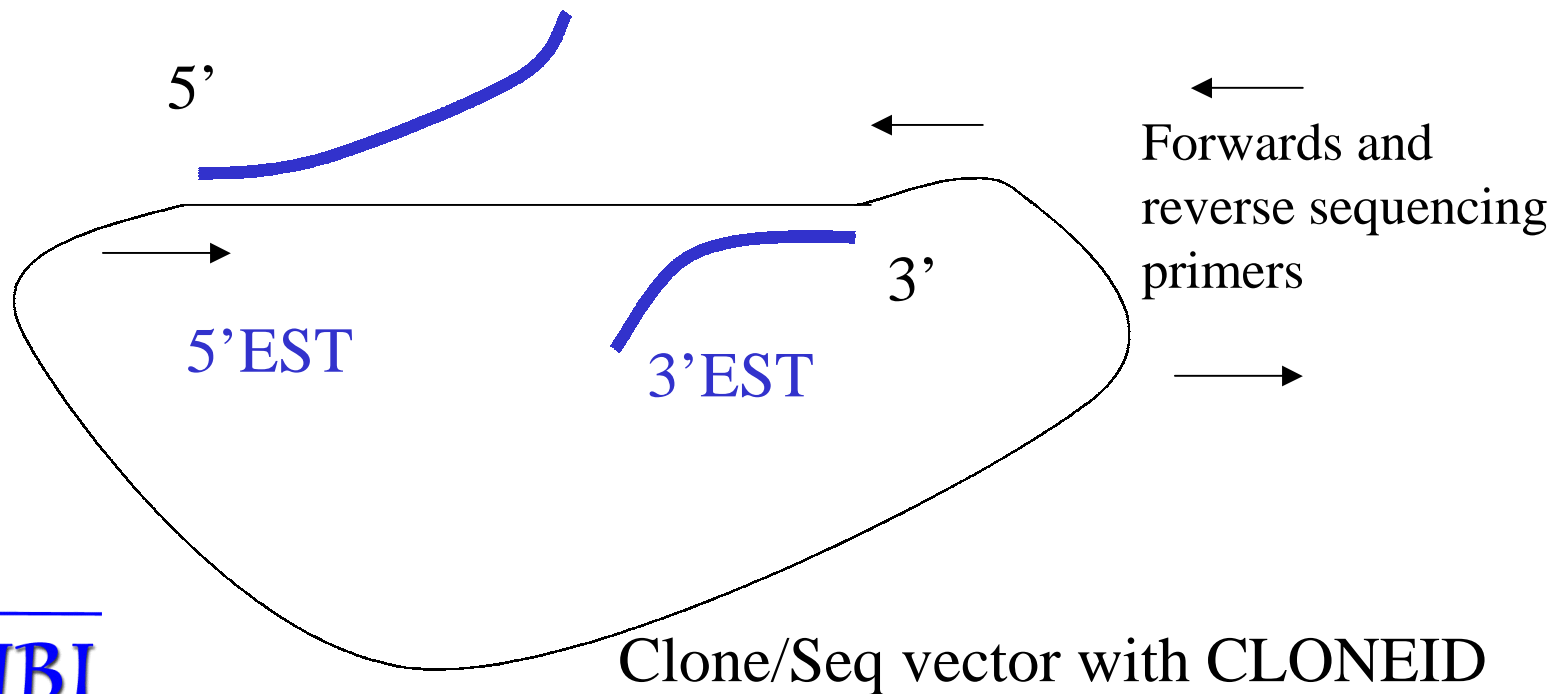
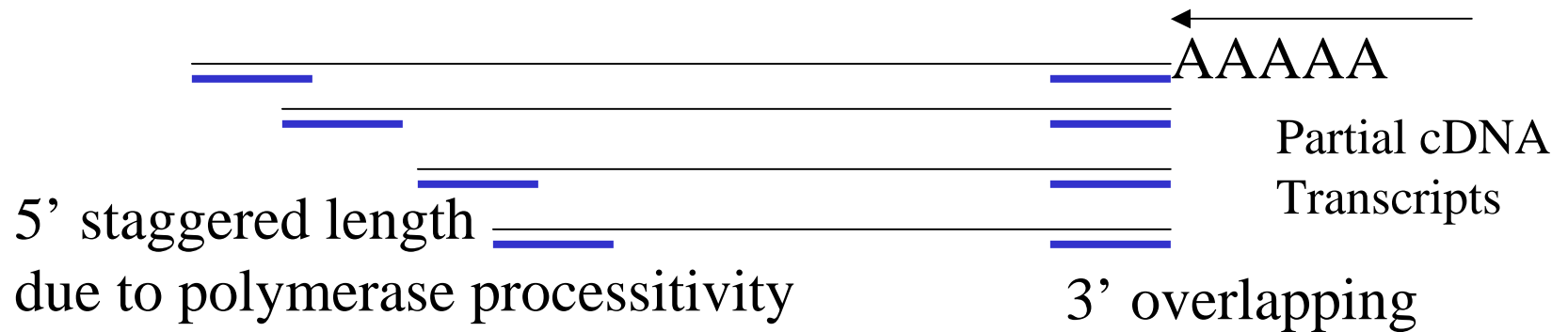
Resolution of Captured Expression

ESTS Low resolution, broad capture, provides
template for SAGE and Array

SAGE Medium resolution, need template, noise can
be an issue, stoichiometry is revealed but standardisation a
problem

ARRAY High resolution, need template, noise,
stoichiometric resolution highest, standardisation a
problem.

What is an EST?



What potential do ESTs hold?

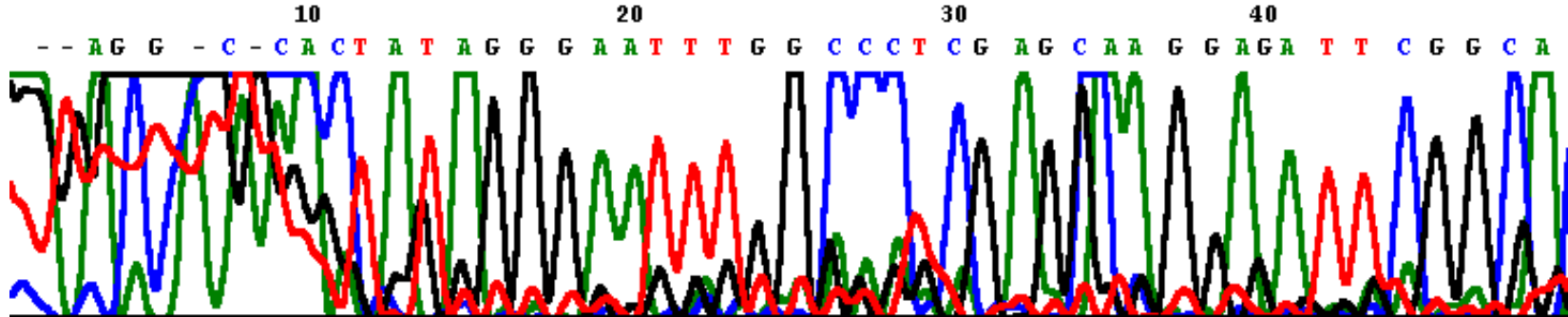
- Expression counts
- Consensus sequences
- Alternate expression-form characterisation
- Identification of genes expressed in a pilot gene discovery project
- Identification of genes specifically expressed in a chosen library or tissue

Use of Transcripts in Completed genomes

- Identification of genes
 - Exon boundaries
 - Alternate transcripts
- Genomic annotation
 - Expression sites of encoded genes
- Comparative genomics

EST data quality

```
>T27784 g609882 | T27784 CLONE_LIB: Human Endothelial cells. LEN: 337  
b.p. FILE gbest3.seq 5-PRIME DEFN: EST16067 Homo sapiens cDNA 5' end  
AAGACCCCGTCTCTTTAAAAATATATATATTTTAAATATACTTAAATATATATTTCTAATATCTTTAAAT  
ATATATATATATTTNAAAGACCAATTTATGGGAGANTTGCACACAGATGTGAAATGAATGTAATCTAATAG  
ANGCCTAATCAGCCCACCATGTTCTCCACTGAAAAATCCTCTTTCTTTGGGGTTTTTCTTTCTTTCTTTT  
TGATTTTGCACCTGGACGGTGACGTCAGCCATGTACAGGATCCACAGGGGTGGTGTCAAATGCTATTGAAAT  
TNTGTTGAATTGTATACTTTTTTCACTTTTTTGATAATTAACCATGTAAAAAATG
```



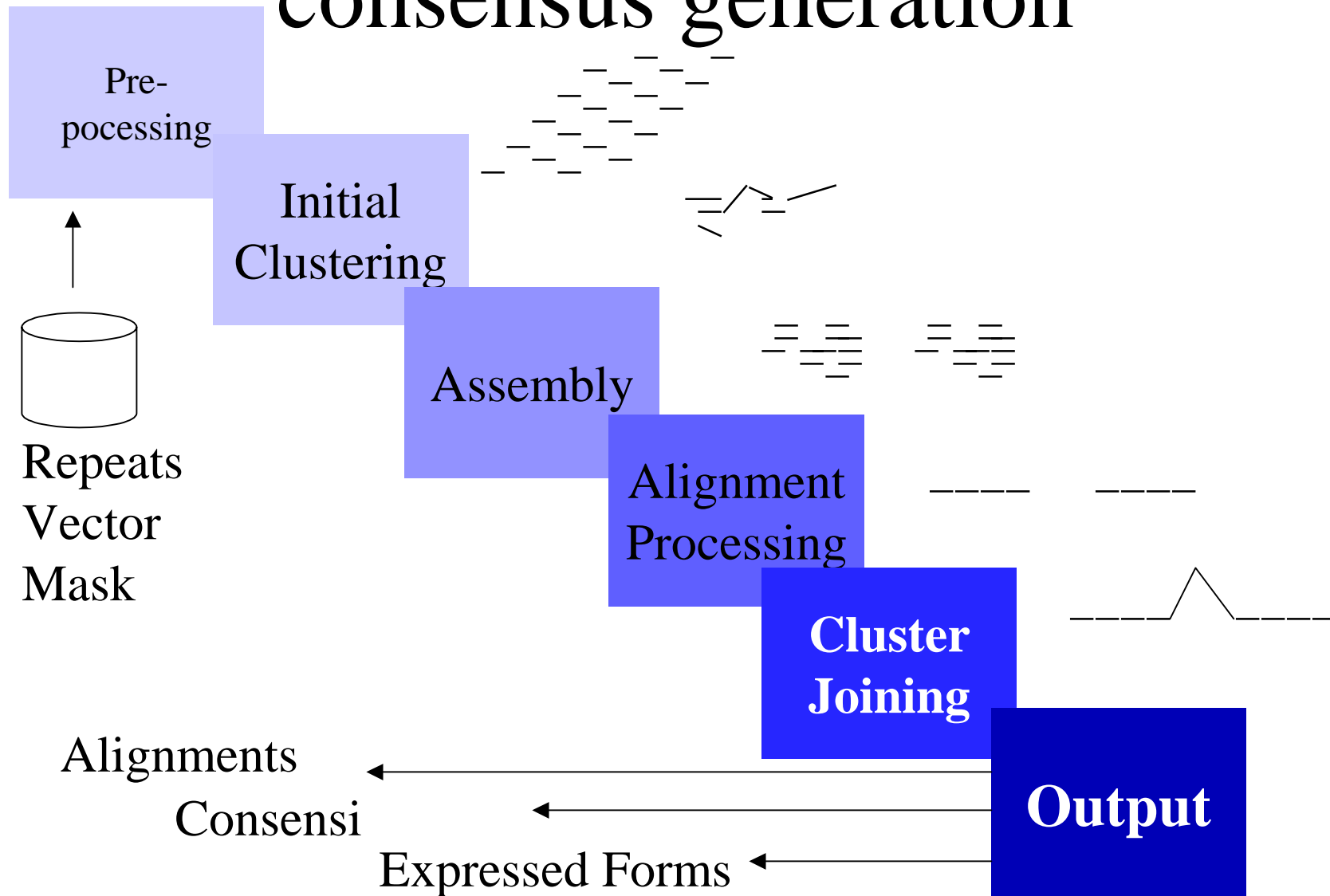
EST is Poor Quality data with contaminants

Vector

Repeat MASK

Individual items are prone to error but an entire collection contains valuable genetic information

Overview of clustering and consensus generation



Transcript reconstruction

What is an EST cluster?

A cluster is fragmented, EST data and (if known) composite exon transcript sequence data, consolidated, placed in correct context and indexed by gene such that all expressed data concerning a single gene is in a single index class, and each index class contains the information for only one gene.

(Burke, Davison, Hide, Genome Research 1999).

Loose and stringent clustering

- Stringent - greater fidelity, lower coverage
 - One pass
 - Shorter consensi
 - Lower inclusion rate of expression-forms
- Loose - lower fidelity, higher coverage
 - Multi-pass
 - Longer consensus sequences but paralogs need attention
 - Comprehensive inclusion of expression-forms

Supervised clustering

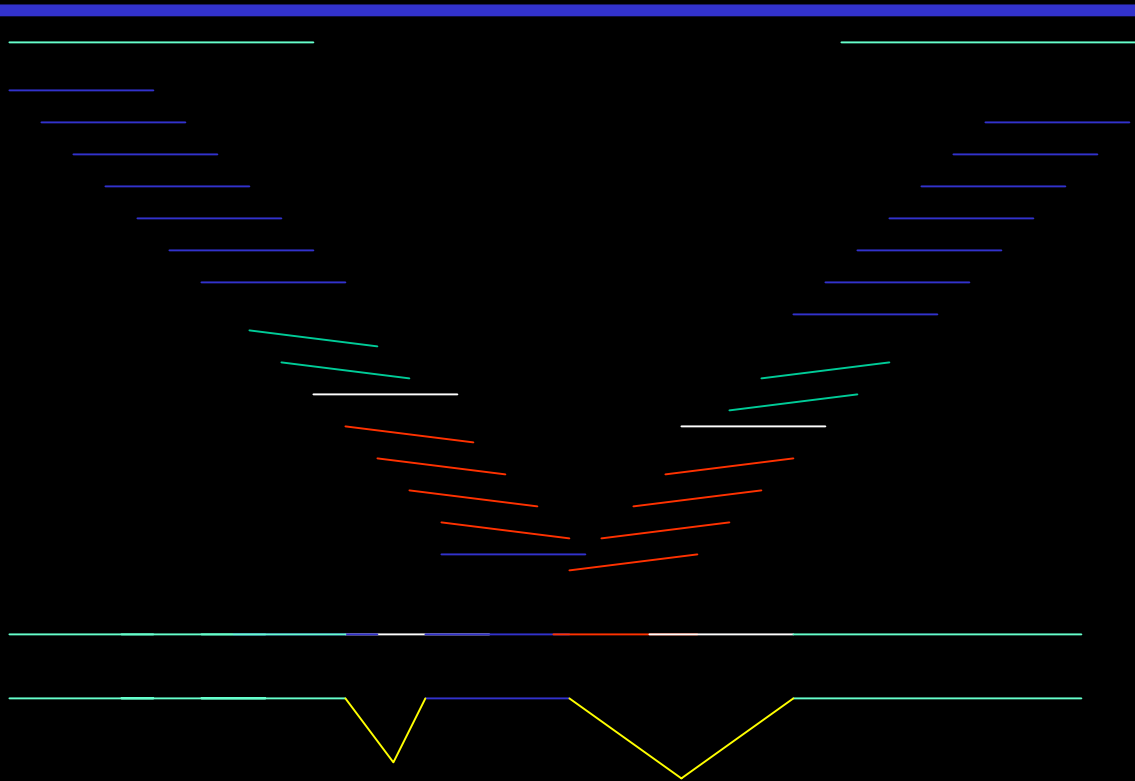
- ‘Template for hybridisation’ is a transcript composite derived from:
 - A captured ‘full length’ mRNA
 - A composite exon construct from a genomic sequence
 - An assembled EST cluster consensus

Clean Short and Tight

TIGR-THC

UniGene

STACK



Long and Loose

Data apprehension and input format.

- Sources: In-House, Public, Proprietary
- ‘Accession’ / Sequence-run ID
- Location/orientation
- Source Clone
- Source library and conditions

Pre-processing

- Minimum informative length
- Low complexity regions
- Removal of common contaminants
 - Vector, Repeats, Mitochondrial, Xenocontaminants
 - XBLAST,
 - Repeatmasker, VecBase and others
 - BLIND masking
- Pre-clustering *vs* known transcripts (data reduction)

Initial clustering

- Stepwise clustering ‘Multistate’.
 - sequence identity
 - annotation
 - verification

Assembly

- Including chromatograms - SNPs and Paralogs
- PHRAP and CAP series
- Multiple assemblies can fragment from one input cluster
 - fidelity
 - alt. forms
 - error

Alignment processing

- Consensus generation
- Alternate forms
- Errors
- Choosing the ‘correct consensus’

Cluster joining

- Clone joining
 - Choosing to accept a clone annotation
 - 1 clone ID
 - 2 clone ID's
- Available parents
 - mRNA (incomplete/alternate)
 - Composite(constructed from Genomic)
 - intronic sequence ~ 2%

Output

- Alignment
 - alternate expression-forms
 - polymorphisms
 - error assessment
- Cluster
 - raw cluster membership
 - contextual links
- Formats: FASTA, GenBank, EMBL

Alignment scoring methods:

- Correct position of sequence elements against each other maximizes some score
- BLAST and FASTA
 - Heuristic
 - cutoff and identity
 - pairwise alignment
 - ~fast

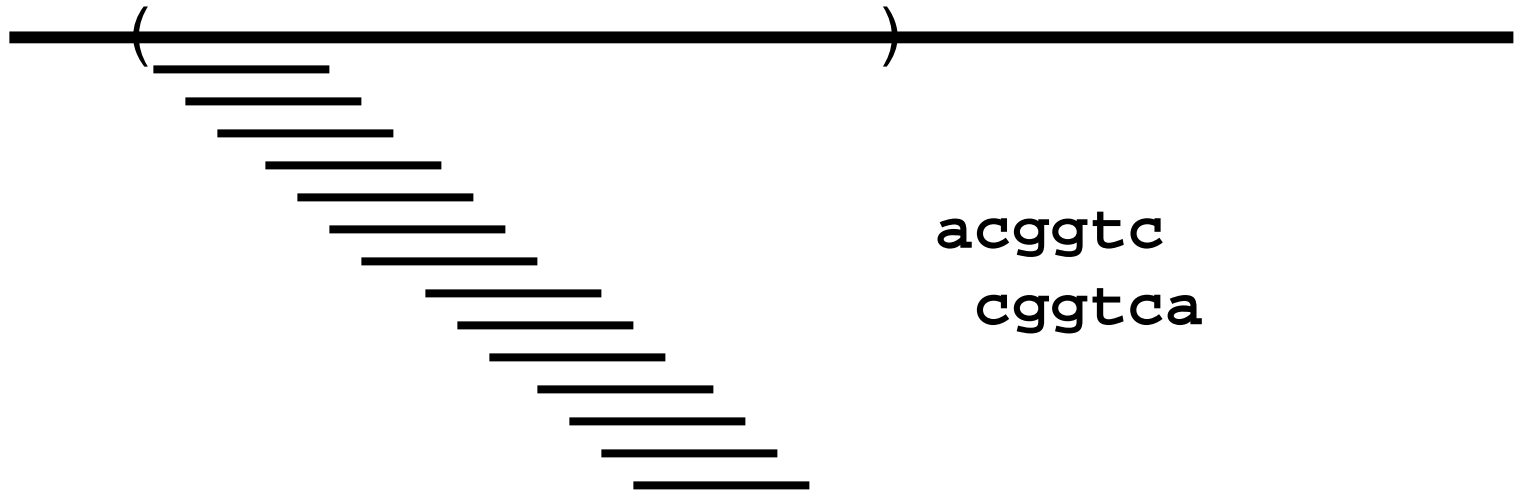
EST clustering methods

- Est sequence is littered with errors, stutters, in-dels and re-arrangements
- alignment approach is sensitive to these
- 3' only comparison

Non-alignment based scoring methods: D2-cluster

- No alignment so a speedup
- Sensitivity improved by multiplicity measure
- low weight to low complexity
- very error tolerant
- transitive closure
- 96% ID over 100 or 150 bases.

Word table



Multiplicity comparison



3



2

$$(d)^2 = 4$$



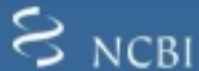
3

TIGR_ASSEMBLER

- THC_BUILD: BLAST-FASTA id all overlaps and are stored.
- Tigr-assembler then uses rapid oligo nucleotide comparison and assembles non-repeat overlaps. (95% ID over 40bp)
- matching constraints on sequence ends
- minimum sequence id within a sequence group - more fragmented as a result
- Other TIGR approaches are similar



UniGene



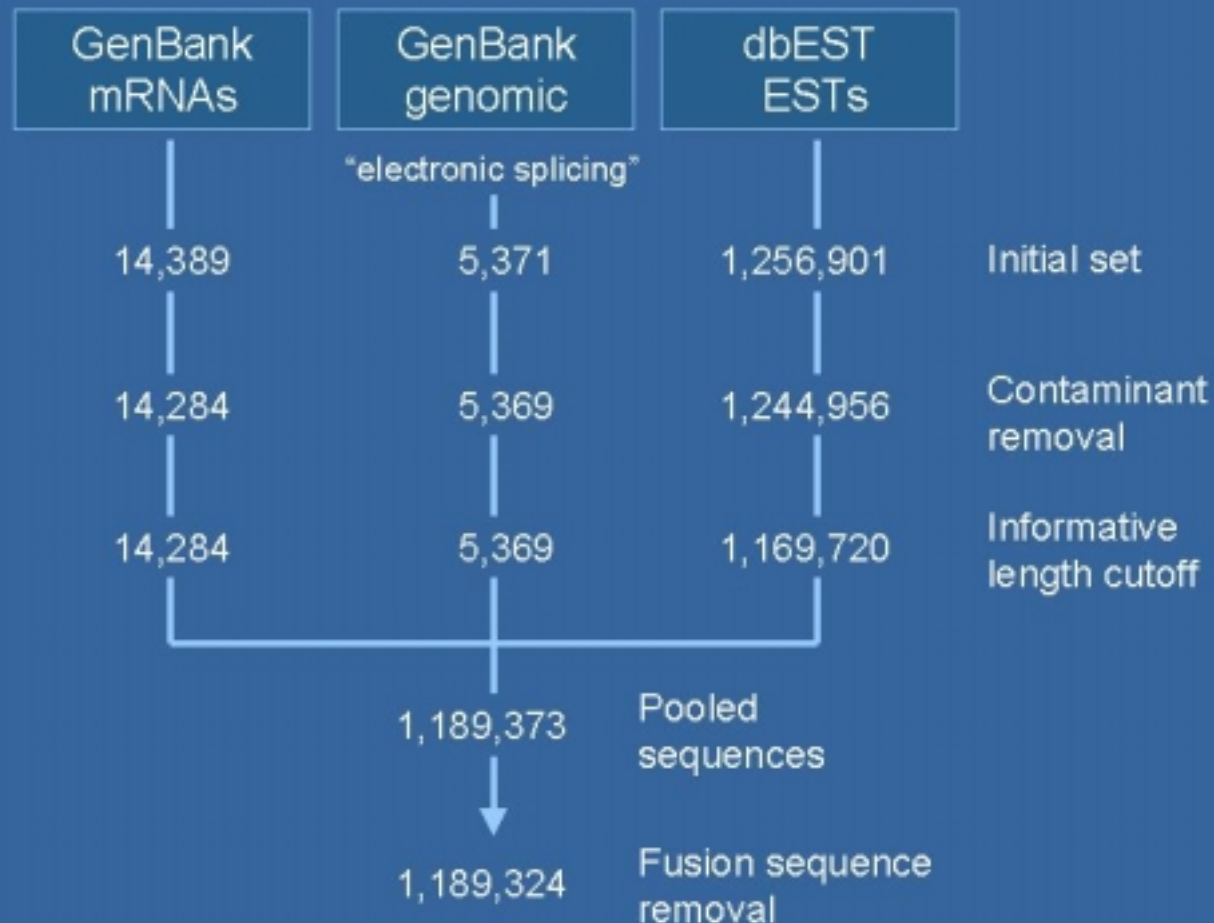
Selection of Sequences for UniGene

Sequences screened for E.coli, yeast, rRNA and mitochondrial

Sequences screened for vector, repetitive elements and simple repeats

"Informative length" is longest run of consecutive bases after trimming/masking

Manually maintained exclusion list for fusion sequences



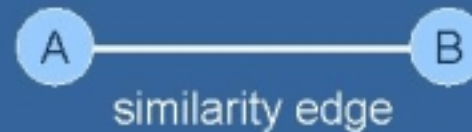
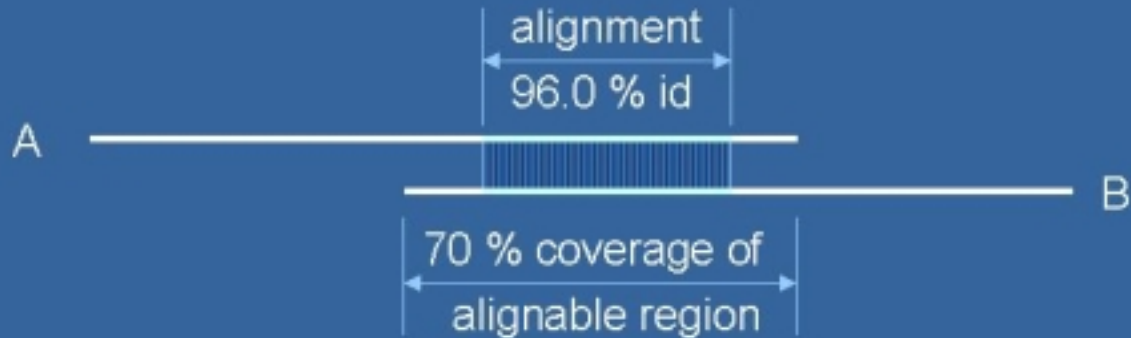
Unigene approach

- Originally 3' only + mRNA common words of length 13 separated by no more than 2 bases.
- ID>Annotation>Shared clone ID
- Genbank, genomic ad dbEST > DUST > 100bp min >MEGABLAST

Sequence comparisons done with MegaBLAST (Zhang, Schwartz, Wagner, and Miller, unpublished)

Constraints placed on alignment quality and coverage of alignable region

Alignment coverage requirement reduces problems caused by chimeric sequences

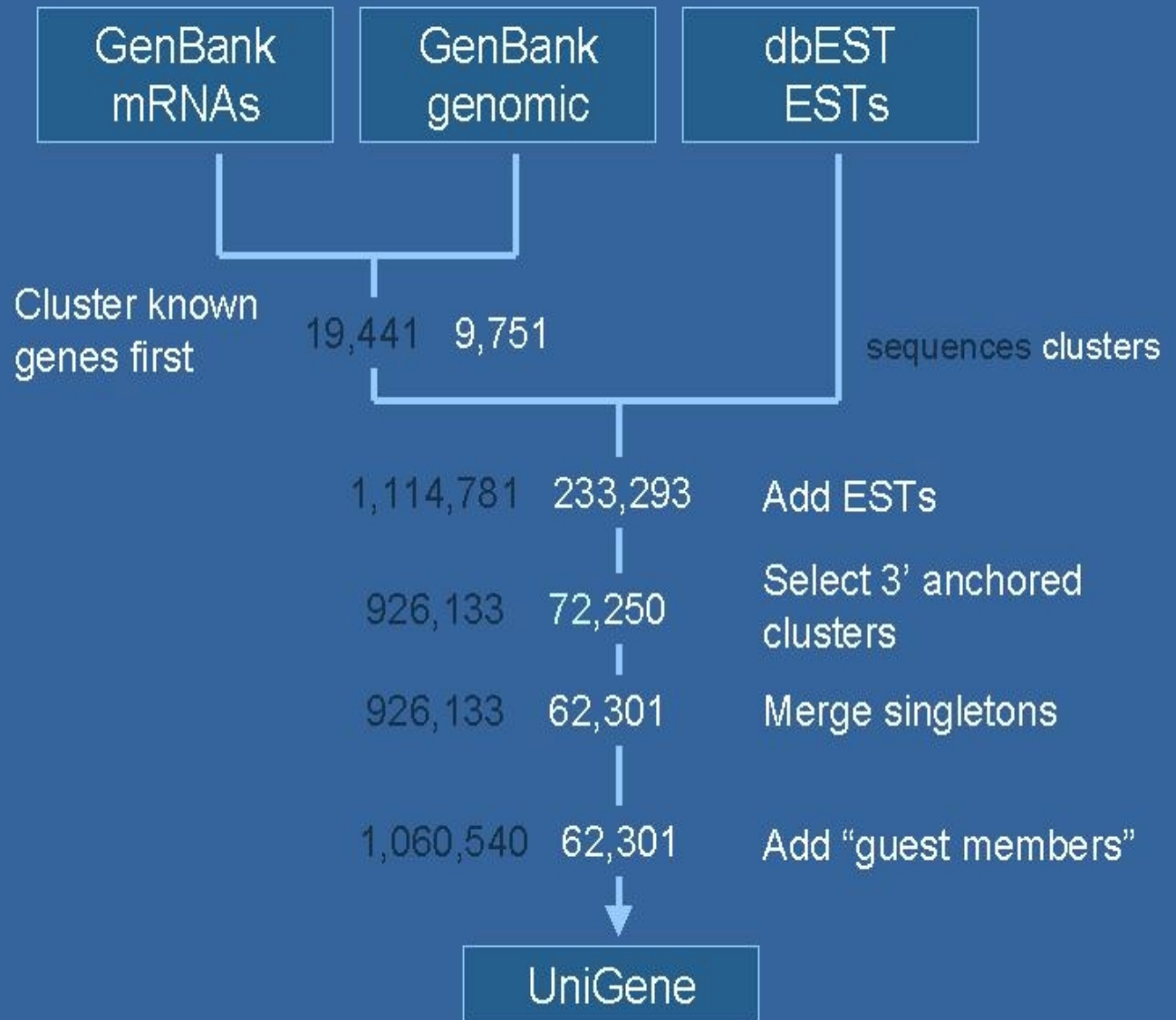


Multi-step Clustering

Multi-step clustering prevents bad ESTs from corrupting good mRNA/gene clusters

More reliable data used before less reliable data

3' ends desired to avoid multiple clusters per gene



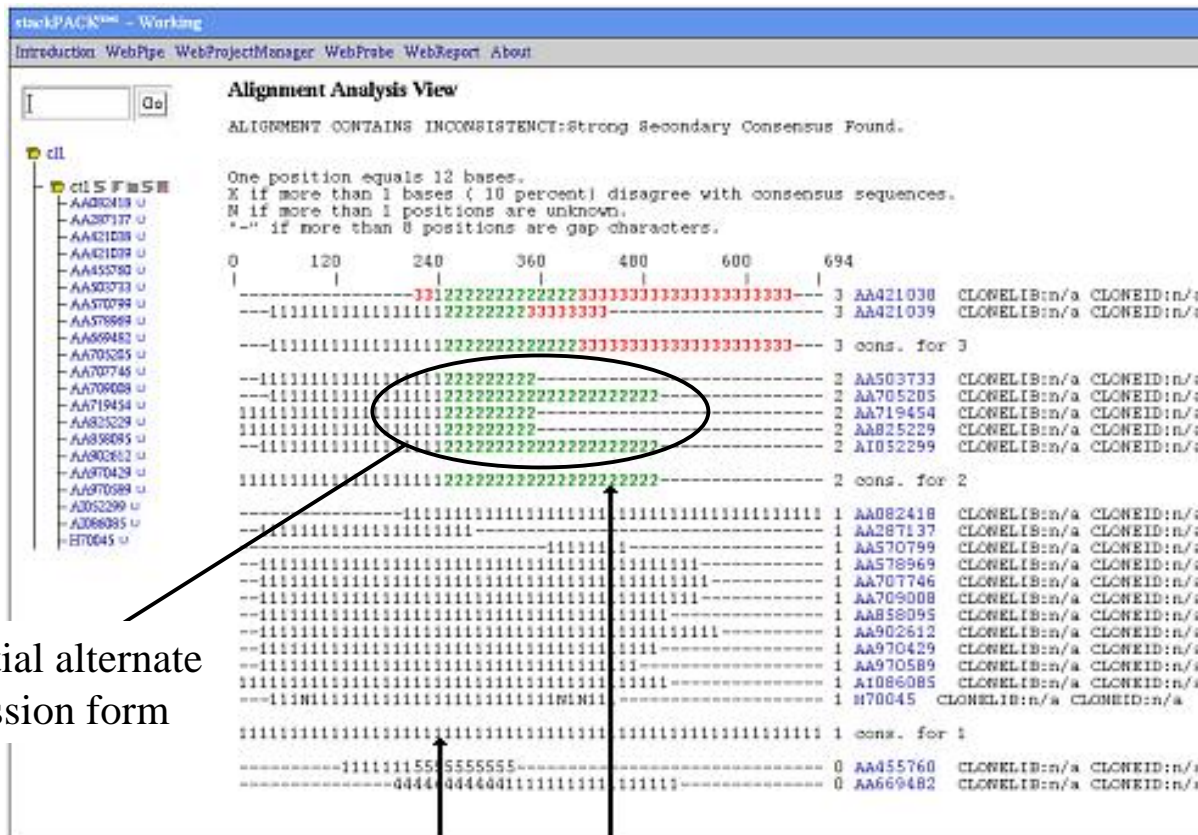
Fragmentation Comparison

Methodology	Input Sequences	Singleton Groups	%Singleton Groups
TIGR Gene Index	626 163	135 140	21.83
STACK_PACK	415 833	58 070	13.96

STACK_PACK analysis of UniGene clusters resulted in a fragmentation rate just over half of the TIGR index.



Alignment Analysis



Three subassemblies

Potential alternate expression form

Cluster alternate alignment

Cluster primary alignment

Orthologs and Paralogs

- Orthologs
 - Genes that share the same ancestral gene that perform the same biological function in different species but have diverged in sequence makeup due to selective evolution
- Paralogs
 - Genes within the same genome that share an ancestral gene that perform diverse biological functions.

Needs

- Functional assignments
- Expression states of alternate forms and their sites of expression
- Exon level resolution of expression
- Representative forms for application to arrays
- Physical gene locations
- Relationship to disease

Exploration

- Availability of genomic sequence and partial transcription products means characterisation of alternate transcription can begin in earnest.
- Contribution to variation of expressed products and effects on biology are likely to be significant

How to trap useful genome sequence to manufacture a genome virtually?

Gene level approach

Trap Expressed Sequence Tags

~1.8 M tags, ~35-100K genes

Combine to form virtual genes

Annotate and analyse these genes

Correlate with phenotype(s) = disease

Understand the expression basis of disease

Reconstruction of transcripts

Derive understanding of expressed gene products

Use of expressed sequence data requires complex processing

Processed datasets are badly needed

Capture a first glimpse of a genome's activities

Genomic level sequence is the final state, but its products can provide powerful information very early.

Characterize underlying gene structure

Exon boundaries are difficult to define accurately and consistently

Assess effect of an intervention on gene expression products

A rough EST profile is a quick identifier of key expression products

Associate isoforms with expression states

Expression forms vary, how and when?

What does a full length cDNA really mean?

Why is transcript data a problem?

Transcript Data

Full length cDNA

GenBank has many entries that confuse 'full length' with 'complete Coding Sequence'

Partial cDNA

Redundant partial cDNA sequences

Exon Composite

All confirmed exons combined to form a 'complete transcript'

Expressed Sequence Tag

Single pass sequence

Genome Survey Sequence

Single pass sequence

Small genomes contain more coding sequences in GSS than larger genomes

Genome Sequence:

Characterizing underlying gene structure

Fanfare fragment

First Pass Annotated

Exon boundaries

Predicted

Cross species conservation

Transcript confirmation

Composite exon transcript

How do you define a transcript?

STACKing approach

Distill quality from quantity

Accurate consensus sequence representation

Identify expression variation, both spatial and developmental

Facilitate better understanding of gene expression

Exon-level gene expression profile

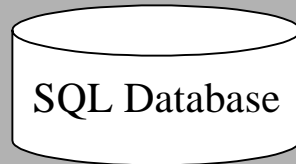
Integration of expression with genome sequence

Confirm and discover expressed exons

Provide gene candidacy delivery

Integrate with phenotype

STACKPACK



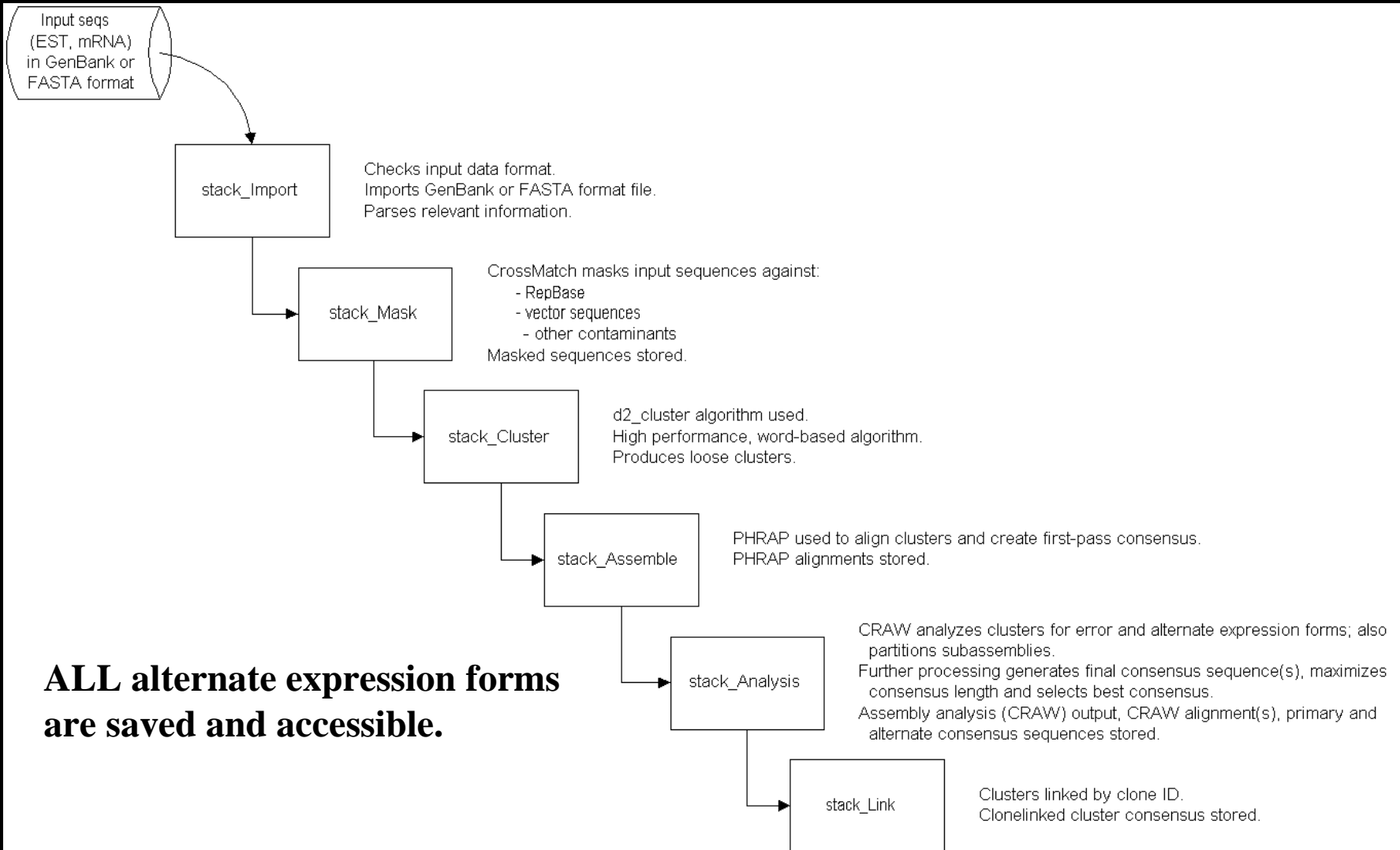
Data abstraction

Application management

Process Scheduler

User
Interface

- C++, MySQL, HTML, Java



ALL alternate expression forms are saved and accessible.

WebProbe - View by clonelink accession

stackPACK? - WebProbe

Introduction WebPipe WebProjectManager WebProbe WebReport About

WebProbe provides viewing tools that link consensus sequences, alignments and alignment analyses. Please complete the following to view the stackPACK results.(help)

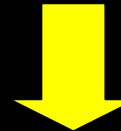
Project Name : (...)

Accession Number

All clusters with potential alternate expression forms

Summary Report

Entering a project name and cluster accession number displays the clonelink Consensus View.



stackPACK? - Working

Introduction WebPipe WebProjectManager WebProbe WebReport About

Consensus view

>ln1; COVERAGE:0.74; TOTAL_ESTS:4; LENGTH:852bp ; MAP: ; CATEGORIES:
 GGAGAGCAGGCCCTACTTCCAGGGAAACAGGTTGAGATCTGGAGTCCCTGTAGGGTCAGAG
 CTAGAGGACCCAGAGGAGGAGTCTCTGGAGGCCCTTCTGGAGGAGGGGCTGTCTAGAGCT
 GAGTCCAAACTGAAGAGGCATTTGCAATCCAGGGAGAAAGCGACCCCTGGTAGGGGNAGCT
 GCAAGAGGAAAAGCTGAGAGATACCAGAAATGCAAGGGACCTGCATCCCATG-CATCCC
 CTGCCCATCTGCAGGGGCACTTAGAAGTACACGGAGCCCTCGCTGTCTCTTGGGTCACTC
 AATTTCTGGATCEGAGTCTTGGAGATGCCTCAGTTTACCCTTCAGGTAGGTTGGCAGCGAC
 CTGCTTNTCCAGGGAAGCCAGGGTNCCTAGGCAGGGCGAGACCCGGAAATTTTNNNNNNN
 NNNNNNNNNNNNTCAAAAACAGCGCCCCCGCCCTCCGTGCCAGCCCGAGCCGGGACC
 CCACAGGCAAAAGCCAAAGAGATTGTSTTTGAGGATGAGTTGCTCTCCAGGCCCTCCTG
 GCGNCCAGGAAGCTATTGGAGCCATCCCTAAGGGGCATAGCCCTAGGCACCCACAGTGC
 CCGACTATGAGTTAAGTACCCGCCAGTGAAGCAGTGAGAGGGAACCGAGGCGCTATGTGCG
 AGTGTCCAGGACCGAGTACGGAGAGTTCTTGGGAGCTCCAGCACGGAGGTGGGGGTGTTG
 CACAGGCAAGTTCAGGGCAGCTGGGAGGCCCTGCTTGTAGCTCCCTTGCACCCACCCAAA
 GCCAGAGGGGAGGCCAATTTGCAGGCCGGTTTTTTGGAGGATTTTTATTTGAAGNGA
 TTGGTTCATTTT

ln1 #

- ct6
 - H54402 U
 - H54414 U
- ct18
 - H54451 U
 - H54465 U

Cluster consensus sequence

Cluster consensus sequence

Consecutive N Linker region

Link to corresponding UniGene entry

Clonelink cluster ID
 Cluster ID
 Contig ID

Input EST accession numbers

In all views, the full cluster 'family tree' is shown in the panel on the left.

Alignment and Analysis

- PHRAP Alignment
 - first alignment created
 - all ESTs in one alignment
- Alignment Analysis
 - CRAW used to look for subassemblies
 - Identifies potential alternate expression forms
- CRAW Alignment
 - Final alignment for each subassembly
- Consensus Analysis
 - Statistics used to select best consensus
 - Notes degree of matching between EST & consensus

The Value of Cluster Data

Microarray Studies

Clusters represent unique forms associated with a specific state

Gene Discovery

Unique transcripts revealed in association with expression libraries – especially in little studied organisms

Functional Annotation

Virtual genes can be searched against the database to provide functional annotation of the products of a genome

Expressed Gene Structure

Exons boundaries are revealed by transcript confirmation

How to trap useful genome sequence to manufacture a genome virtually?

- Gene level approach
- Trap Expressed Sequence Tags
- Combine to reconstruct virtual genes
- Manufacture a substrate for microarray studies
- Annotate and analyse these genes
- Compare between species
 - Species-specific characteristics
 - Reveal genes under selection

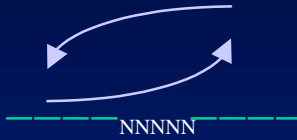
Protein Fragments



predict CDS



Joined Consensi



Consensi



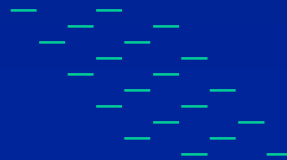
Alignments



Clusters



Raw ESTs



Virtual Protein
Sequence and transcript
reconstruction

Detection of virulence genes in malarial pathogens

Rahlston Muller

Reconstruction of transcripts from gene expression
projects in the USA

Collaboration with Jane Carlton at NCBI

Delivery of over several previously unknown genes in
Plasmodium spp.

Discovery of 76 genes that may be involved in
virulence and pathogenicity

Vaccine and drug candidates

Sequence re-construction and assembly

- ESTs re-constructed using stackPack
 - 6,697 submitted
 - 860 Multiple Sequence clusters, and
 - 2,786 singletons
- GSSs assembly using PHRAP
 - Clones may contain a higher proportion of CDS
 - 18,082 submitted
 - 2,784 contigs
 - 10,979 singletons
- All together now : 17,409 consensus sequences
- Subsequent analysis

Redundancy determination

- PF
 - ESTs 15%
 - GSSs 14%
- PB
 - ESTs 50%, not normalized
 - GSSs 24%
- PV
 - Sal I 26%
 - Belem 25%

ckPACK - Working

roduction WebPipe WebProjectManager WebProbe WebReport About

Go

```

One position equals 8 bases.
X if more than 1 bases ( 10 percent) disagree with consensus sequences.
N if more than 1 positions are unknown.
"--" if more than 5 positions are gap characters.
0      80      160      240      320      400      454
|      |      |      |      |      |
AW621092 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW621092 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW330241 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW330241 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW330230 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW330230 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW330161 U 11111111111111111111111111----- 1 AW330161 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW330151 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW330151 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW329963 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW329963 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325299 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325299 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325286 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325286 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325279 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325279 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325260 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325260 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325234 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325234 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325174 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325174 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325034 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325034 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW325024 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW325024 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW324970 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW324970 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L
AW324832 U -----11111111111111111111----- 1 AW324832 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA L

11111111111111111111111111111111111111 1 cons. for 1

```



```

aggccccct-ggtgcgggccaccggcggtg-aagcacgcaca-c-gc-cgctggcgccc-ggg R.C.AW325024 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized
aggccccct-ggtgcgggccaccggcggtg-aagcacgcacacg-gc-cg-tggcgccc-ggg R.C.AW324970 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized
aggccccct-ggtgcgggccaccggcggtg-aagcacgc-cancagc-c-ctggcgccc-ggg R.C.AW324832 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized

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```

| 240      | 250      | 260      | 270      | 280      | 290      | 300
CACCGTGGC-CGTC-CGCGAGATCCGCCAGTTCCAGCGCTCCACGGACCTTCTTCTGCAG cons. c11
----- AW621092 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggc-c-tc-cg-gagatccggccagttctcagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW330241 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtgag--gtc-cg-gagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW330230 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggc-gctc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagc----- AW330203 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
----- AW330161 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggcgcg-c-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW330151 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
----- gccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW329963 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggc-cgtc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW325299 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggc-gctcag-gagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW325286 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
----- gaaccggccagttaccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW325279 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggc-c-tc-cg-gagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag AW325260 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggg-gctc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctggag AW325234 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
caccggtggt-c-tc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag R.C.AW325174 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized
caccggtggc--gtc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttcttcag R.C.AW325034 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized
caccggtgtg-c-tc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag R.C.AW325024 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized
caccggtggc---tc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag R.C.AW324970 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized
caccggtgag-c-tc-cg-cgagatccggccagttccagcgctccacggaccttcttctgcag R.C.AW324832 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized

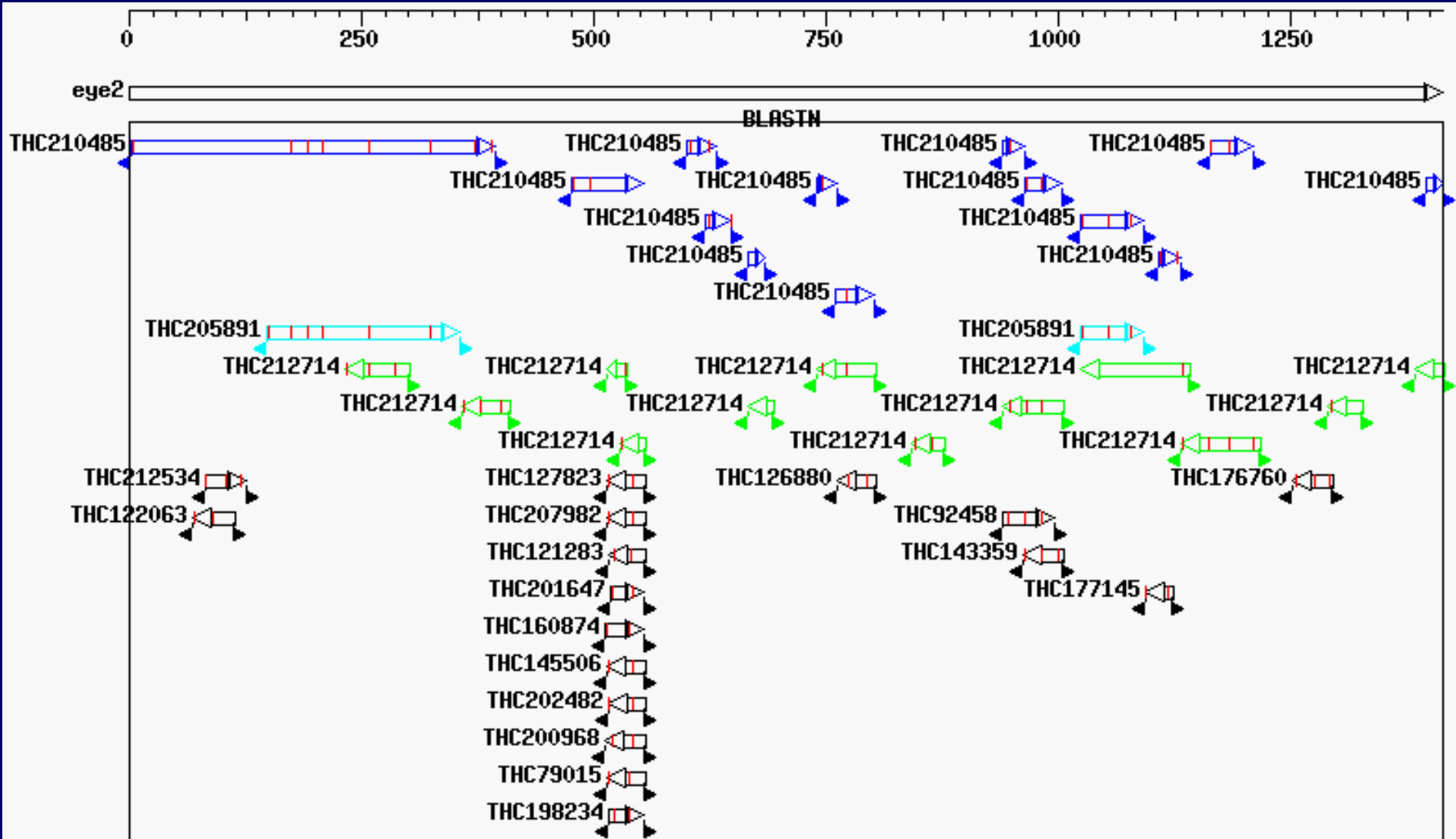
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| 300      | 310      | 320      | 330      | 340      | 350      | 360
AAGGCGCCCTTCCAGCGC-CTGGTGC GTGAGGTGTCGGGTGCGCAGAAGG-AGGGCCTGC cons. c11
----- AW621092 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
aaggcgcccttccagcgc-ctggtgcggtgaggtgtcgggtgctcagaaagg-agggcctgc AW330241 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
aaggcgcccttccagcgc--ctggtgcggtgaggtgtcgggtgctcagaaagg-agggcctgc AW330230 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
----- AW330203 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
----- AW330161 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
aaggcgcccttccagcgc-ctggtgcggtgagc----- AW330151 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
aaggcgcccttccagcgc--ctggtgcggtgaggtgtcgggtgctcagaaaggagggcctgc AW329963 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
aaaggcgcccttccagcgc--ctggtgcggtgaggtgtcgggtgctcagaaagg-agggcctgc AW325299 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
gaggcgcccttccagcgc-ctggtgcggtgaggtgtcgggtgctcagaa----- AW325286 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
agaggcgcccttccagcgc-ctggtgcggtgaggtgtcgggtgctcagaaagg-agggcctgc AW325279 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA
aaggcgcccttccagcgc-ctggtgcggtgaggtgtcgggtgctcagaaagg-agggcctgc AW325260 T.cruzi epimastigote normalized cDNA

```

Sample Graphical Output of a STACK Eye sequence eye2 BLASTN search Vs TIGR Tentative Human Consensus Sequences.



Outputs

Raw State Expression

Representative unique forms associated with a specific state

Gene Discovery

Unique transcripts revealed in association with expression libs

Isoform coupled expression

Gene Structure

Exons boundaries are revealed by transcript confirmation

Protein prediction, using PHAT

- Putative open reading identified, using criteria other than db searches
- HMM gene finder for *Plasmodium*
 - *P.falciparum* 56% predicted
 - *P.berghei* 60% predicted
 - *P.vivax* 84% predicted
- 72% (12,530/17,408) predicted proteins