

BIOC0023 – A (shortened) introduction to computing

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Aims and Objectives

To introduce some fundamentals of:

- Computing concepts
- Operating systems
- Databases
- Algorithms
- Programming
- Using the command line

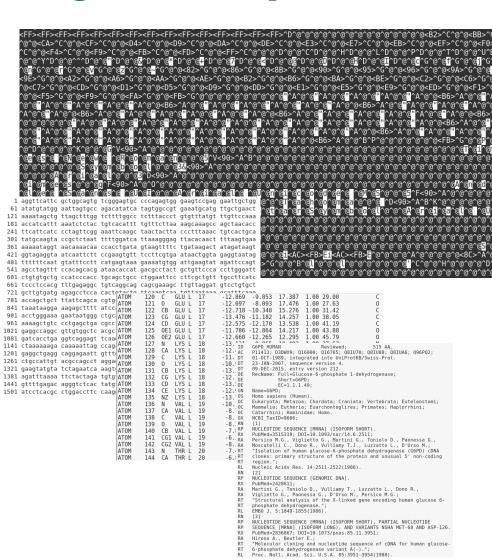




Data

Program

Database





Data

Program

Database

```
if(((wpdb = blReadWholePDBAtoms(in)) == NULL)||(wpdb->pdb==NULL))
   fprintf(stderr, "Error: Unable to read atoms from input file%s%s\n",
            ((gLabel[0])?" Label: ":""),
            ((gLabel[0])?gLabel:""));
   return(1);
pdb = wpdb->pdb;
if(UseSEQRES)
   /* Read MODRES and SEORES records
  modres = blGetModresWholePDB(wpdb);
  segres = blGetSegresAsStringWholePDB(wpdb, segchains, modres,
/* Extract sequence from PDB linked list
if((atomchains = blGetPDBChai
   fprintf(stderr, "Error:
   return(1);
/* Convert PDB linked list
if(SkipX)
   if(doNucleic)
      if((sequence = blPDB2))
          fprintf(stderr, "E
          return(1);
                                                                                                                     Theat
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Traper
                                                                               [ ... ]
                                                                                                  Visual
Output
                                                                               Visit 
Output
```



Data

Program

Database

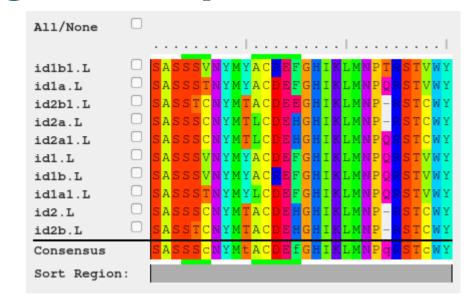


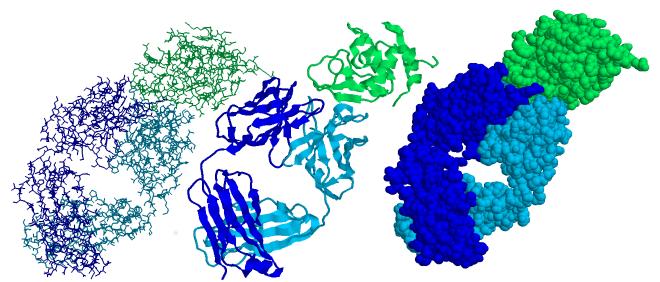


Data

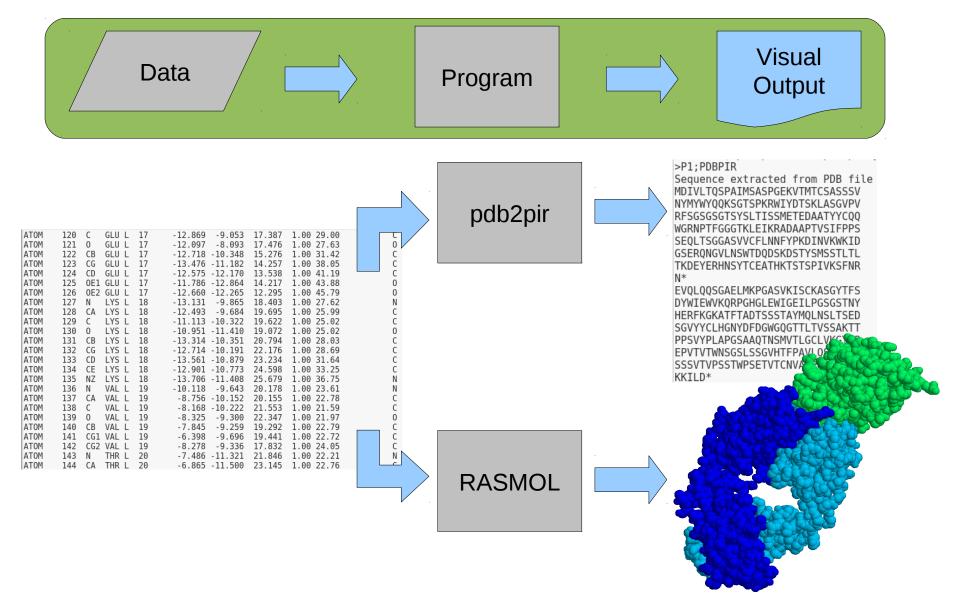
Program

Database











Operating systems



Operating Systems

- The software interface between users' software and the computer's hardware
- Provides low-level networking
- Provides a set of tools for:
 - file handling
 - user handling and security (e.g. passwords)
- May provide a graphical user interface (GUI)
- May include other non-essential bundled tools



Operating Systems

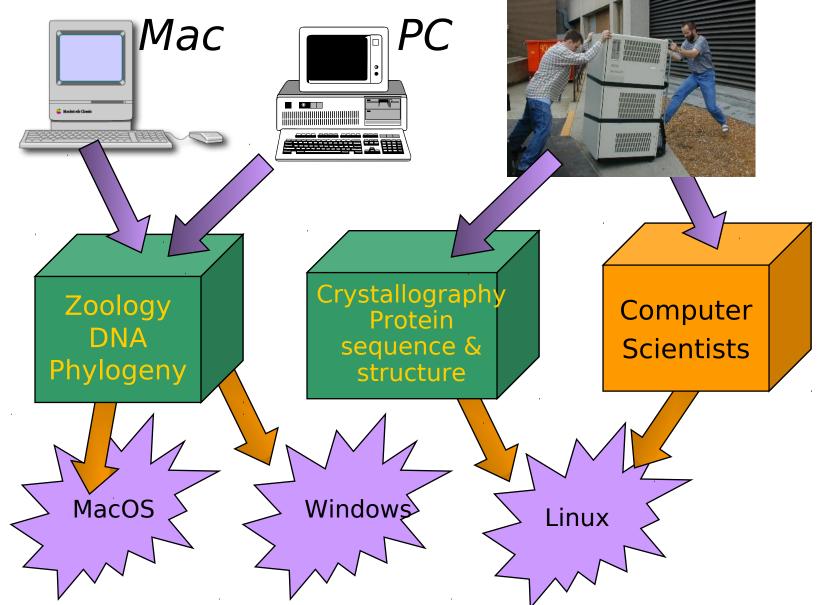
- VMS (Dec)
- VME (ICL)
- CP/M (PCs)
- PRIMOS (Prime)
- MS-DOS (PCs)
- OS/2 (PCs)
- AmigaDOS (CBM)
- Unix (Various)
- MacOS (Apple)



- Windows (PCs)
- Unix/Linux (Various)
- MacOS (Apple)



Operating Systems





Databases



Databases and databanks

Databank

- A collection of data (normally in simple text files) without an associated query tool
- Query tools may be written as separate applications

Database

A structured collection of data with some tool enabling it to be 'queried'



Relational databases

- Microsoft Access
- SQL Server
- Oracle
- Sybase
- ► MySQL
- PostgreSQL



Relational databases

- Data are separated into tables or relations
- ► Good database design requires
 - careful thought and planning
 - normalization
- Maintains data integrity



SQL - Structured Query Language

- 'Standard' database query language
 - Unfortunately most databases extend or deviate from the standard

- Provides 4 types of command:
 - Schema creation
 - Data insertion
 - ▶ Data extraction
 - Database management





"A process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations, especially by a computer."

A complete and precise set of steps that will solve a problem and achieve an identical result whenever given the same set of data to a defined level of accuracy.

- Ordered steps
- Repeatable
- Known/defined accuracy



Suppose we wish to count the amino acids in a PDB file...

Count the C-alpha (CA) atoms

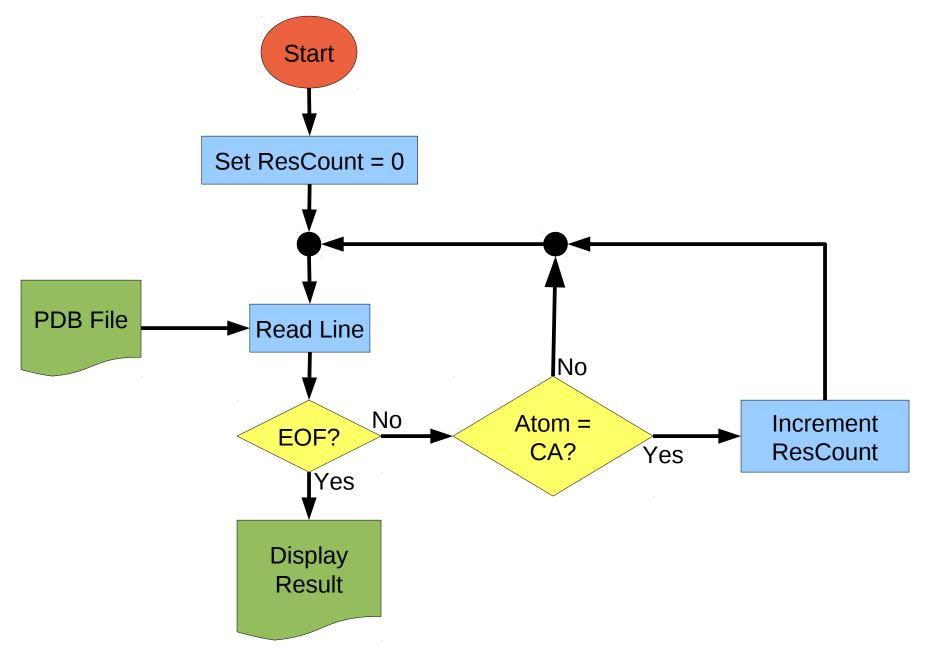
Image from:



Count the CA atoms

MOTA	412	N	LYS L	53	-3.744	0.441	32.828	1.00 19.24	
MOTA	413	CA	LYS L	53	-3.918	1.859	32.529	1.00 21.00	
MOTA	414	C	LYS L	53	-3.602	2.152	31.066	1.00 19.26	
MOTA	415	0	LYS L	53	-2.544	1.771	30.559	1.00 19.24	
ATOM	416	CB	LYS L	53	-3.005	2.700	33.430	1.00 22.69	
MOTA	417	CG	LYS L	53	-3.163	2.411	34.918	1.00 27.89	
MOTA	418	CD	LYS L	53	-4.592	2.607	35.383	1.00 31.37	
MOTA	419	CE	LYS L	53	-4.727	2.311	36.869	1.00 34.46	
MOTA	420	NZ	LYS L	53	-6.149	2.369	37.331	1.00 34.97	
MOTA	421	N	LEU L	54	-4.514	2.835	30.382	1.00 19.88	
MOTA	422	CA	LEU L	54	-4.303	3.155	28.975	1.00 18.71	
MOTA	423	C	LEU L	54	-3.428	4.390	28.776	1.00 21.13	
MOTA	424	0	LEU L	54	-3.642	5.427	29.410	1.00 20.98	
MOTA	425	CB	LEU L	54	-5.646	3.368	28.271	1.00 20.67	
MOTA	426	CG	LEU L	54	-6.632	2.192	28.234	1.00 22.27	
MOTA	427	CD1	LEU L	54	-7.786	2.553	27.308	1.00 24.52	
MOTA	428	CD2	LEU L	54	-5.938	0.930	27.745	1.00 24.94	
MOTA	429	N	ALA L	55	-2.439	4.276	27.895	1.00 20.95	
MOTA	430	CA	ALA L	55	-1.550	5.397	27.602	1.00 20.98	
MOTA	431	C	ALA L	55	-2.332	6.453	26.820	1.00 22.37	
MOTA	432	0	ALA L	55	-3.423	6.179	26.311	1.00 20.12	
MOTA	433	CB	ALA L	55	-0.355	4.916	26.792	1.00 20.40	
MOTA	434	N	SER L	56	-1.779	7.657	26.718	1.00 25.32	
MOTA	435	CA	SER L	56	-2.468	8.731	26.009	1.00 27.06	
MOTA	436	C	SER L	56	-2.741	8.390	24.547	1.00 25.53	
MOTA	437	0	SER L	56	-1.869	7.888	23.833	1.00 26.22	
MOTA	438	CB	SER L	56	-1.671	10.038	26.099	1.00 29.91	
MOTA	439	0G	SER L	56	-0.396	9.914	25.494	1.00 35.66	
MOTA	440	N	GLY L	57	-3.972	8.652	24.117	1.00 25.76	
MOTA	441	CA	GLY L	57	-4.359	8.380	22.748	1.00 24.53	
MOTA	442	C	GLY L	57	-4.862	6.970	22.498	1.00 24.68	
MOTA	443	0	GLY L	57	-5.416	6.694	21.437	1.00 25.32	
MOTA	444	N	VAL L	58	-4.684	6.075	23.464	1.00 22.98	
ATOM	445	CA	VAL L	58	-5.130	4.693	23.286	1.00 22.67	
MOTA	446	C	VAL L	58	-6.646	4.581	23.452	1.00 23.27	
ATOM	447	0	VAL L	58	-7.192	4.959	24.490	1.00 22.54	
MOTA	448	CB	VAL L	58	-4.426	3.758	24.290	1.00 21.70	
ATOM	449		VAL L	58	-4.874	2.315	24.068	1.00 19.47	
MOTA	450	CG2	VAL L	58	-2.918	3.878	24.129	1.00 20.49	







Programming



Programming languages

- Rarely write directly in instructions understood by a computer
- Use a high-level language
- Many such languages:

>C

≻Forth

►BCPL

> Perl

►BASIC

JavaScript

C++

FORTRAN

▶ Pascal

≻Java

► Modula-II

AWK

>Smalltalk

➤ Simula

≻LISP

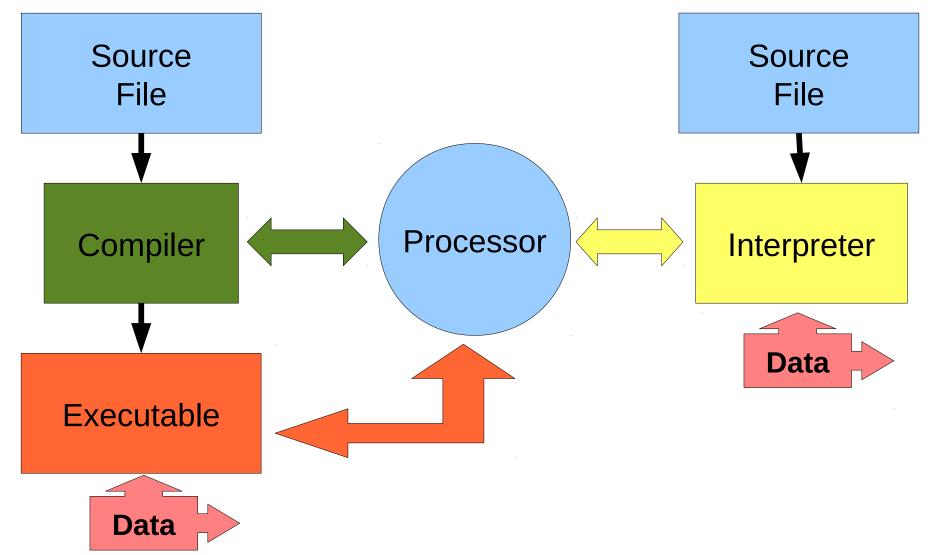
Python

▶ Prolog

≻Cobol



Language Categories





General Purpose Languages - Python

General Purpose / JIT/Part-Compiled / OO

- Design emphasizes code readability; concise syntax.
- Comprehensive standard library, plus maths and scientific and BioPython libraries.



Variables

Scalar variables

```
a = 5
a = a + 1
print (a)
b = 'Hello world'
```



Variables

Lists / Arrays (vectors)

```
position = [5.4, 2.7, 9.5]
print (position[1])
position[2] = 3.6
```



Variables

Dictionaries / Hashes

```
position = {}
position['x'] = 5.4
position['y'] = 2.7
position['z'] = 9.5
```



Control statements

```
if:
   x = -6
   if x > 0:
      print "Positive"
   elif x == 0:
      print "zero"
   else:
      print "negative"
```

Comparisons:



Control statements

while:

```
x = 5
while x > 0:

print x
x = x - 1
```



Control statements

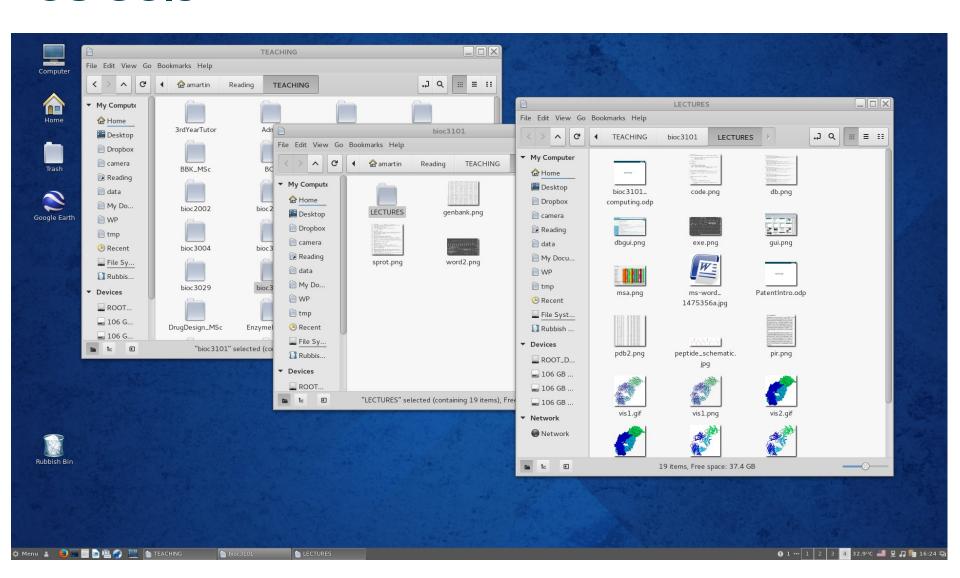
```
for:
   x = [100, 200, 300]
   for i in x:
                             Up to but not
                             including this
       print i
                               number
   for i in range(0, 100):
       print i
   x = [100, 200, 300]
   for i in range(3):
       print x[i]
```



Folders, trees and directories

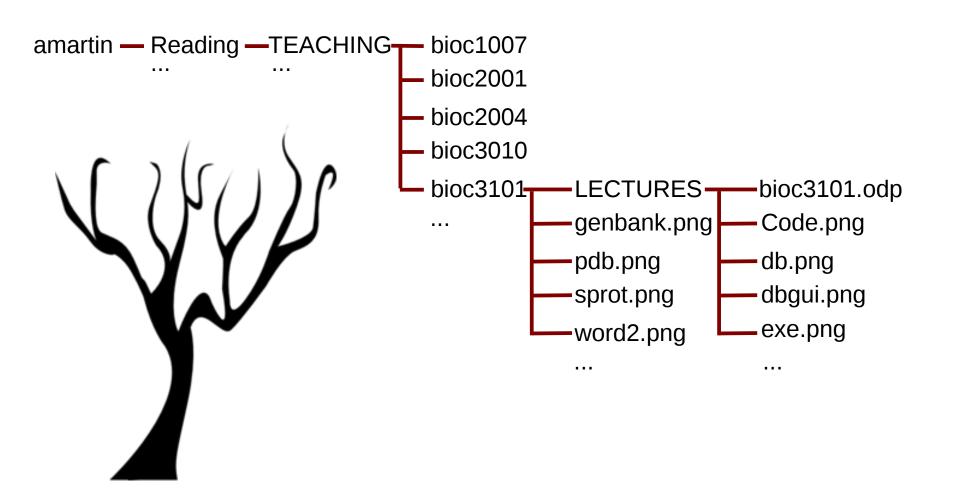


OS GUIS





Trees and directories





Trees and directories

Windows

Each disk (or network share) is the root of the tree:

C:\system

D:\data

Linux/Mac

Everything lives under the same root:

```
/
/home
/home/amartin
/data
/data/pdb
```



Using the BASH shell command line

Linux / Mac :- the standard command line Windows :- git-bash



Navigating the tree

Where am I?

pwd

/c/Documents and Settings/amartin

What's in here?

Is

Application Data/ Desktop/

Cookies/ Favorites/

- Long format
- Sort by time
- Reverse the sort -r
- Human format for file sizes -h

Is -ltrh



Navigating the tree

Moving down the tree

cd Desktop pwd

/c/Documents and Settings/amartin/Desktop

Moving up the tree

cd ..

Moving across the tree

cd ../Start\ Menu pwd

/c/Documents and Settings/amartin/Start Menu

Going home

```
cd --or-- cd ~ --or-- cd $HOME
pwd /c/Documents and Settings/amartin/
```



Handling files

View a whole file

cat /etc/bash.bashrc

View a page at a time

less /etc/bash.bashrc

Press

spacebar for next page

'b' for previous page

'>' for last page

'<' for first page

'/string' to search for 'string'

'q' to quit

Copying a file

cp /etc/bash.bashrc ~/mybashrc.txt



Default input and output

Default input (stdin) is the keyboard

cat (no command prompt displayed)

Hello

World

CTRL-d (i.e. press and hold CTRL while pressing d)

Default output (stdout) is the screen

cat ~/mybashrc.txt



Redirection and pipes

Send the output of a command to a file

cat > test.txt Hello World CTRL-d (no command prompt displayed)

cat test.txt

Hello World

Receive input from a file

cat < test.txt

Hello World

Sending the output of one program to the input of another

cat /etc/bash.bashrc | less



Other

Searching: Find lines in a file that contain a string

grep return /etc/bash.bashrc (finds all lines containing 'return')

Creating directories

mkdir newdir

Removing an empty directory

rmdir newdir

Removing a file

rm myfile

Removing a directory and all its content

rm -rf newdir



Other

Sorting

sort /etc/bash.bashrc (alphabetical sort of lines in the file)

Making scripts executable

chmod +x scriptfile



Programming in BASH

Renaming a set of files with extension .text to .txt

```
for file in *.text
do
mv $file `basename $file .text`.txt
done
```