Daniele Soria, 24/11/2006

Computing and Molecular Biology course

Description:

The course was held during 21st – 22nd November 2006.
The aim of the course was to introduce participants to computer methods for DNA and protein analysis. Material is available on-line at http://dmg.nott.ac.uk/molbio/molbio2000.htm

Day 1:

The first day was basically based on using the World Wide Web (WWW). In fact there are a vast number of free sequence analysis services accessible using the WWW. It was shown the effective use of these services (including database retrieval of sequence records and database searching) and demonstrated how to avoid the common pitfalls encountered in their use.

Day 2:

The second day was divided in two parts: in the morning an introduction to the ACS UNIX computer system was made and in the afternoon the tutor explained us the use of the GCG on it. The GCG is a powerful sequence analysis suite freely accessible. We had free time at the end of the day to explore our sequence analysis problems.

Skills learned:

During the two days I learned how to identify on-line resources for DNA and protein analysis. Additionally, given a test sequences, I am now able to identify related sequences in gene databases. I can also predict structural and functional characteristics of a given gene sequence. Finally, I am now a bit more expert on the UNIX system and its language.

Feedback:

The course was organised in a good way, also because an introduction to UNIX was made for people without any knowledge on it.
I noticed some links to the “Post-Genomics and Bioinformatics” course I had attended in May. They were quite useful for me.
As I reported on the feedback for the GradSchool, I think that the descriptive part about the resources available on the web should be shorter in order to give more practical examples.