YACOP - Readme file

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1 General

The metatool Yacop [1] generates a prediction, which is based on the output of existing gene finding programs like Glimmer or Orpheus. In present Yacop supports the combination of Critica105b [5] (with wublast or NCBI blast), Glimmer2.02 [3] or Glimmer2.10 [2] (with RBSfinder [4]), Orpheus [6] (with dps [7]) and ZCurve1.0 [8]. However, it's possible to extend Yacop and integrate additional tools (see section 8, p.8), for its source code is available. The current version of Yacop is realized in Perl (v.5.6.1). Its implemented and tested under RedHat Linux v2.4.18 and Debian Linux v2.6.5.

YACOP expects input in FASTA (starting with script combinate) or multiple-FASTA format (starting with script combinate_multi). Some of the methods used internally rely on nucleotide, codon, or oligomer frequencies that have to be derived from the input therefore the minimal length of the

input sequence is 50 kB. When started with option concat, even shorter contigs can be analyzed, if sufficient fragments of the sequence are available (given as multiple-FASTA).

The starter script combinate automatically triggers the gene finding programs and evaluation of their predictions. That prerequisites the correct installation of the tools (Critica, Glimmer etc.). In case of problems concerning the individual gene finding programs, please consult the respective readme files. For ZCurve, Critica and Orpheus it is as well possible to post an output file as to start the program ¹. The paths directing to the tools should be set in the central ini-file of YACOP (see section 4, p. 2).

2 System requirements

Most gene prediction tools are implemented in Perl, C or C++. Therefore, these programming languages should be available on your system. If you don't use default paths or default compilers, the tools as well as the sources of YACOP should be edited individually.

Some gene prediction tools (Critica, Orpheus), used by YACOP rely on database searches and statistical analysis, for that it is not recommendable to install i on an normal pc. Unless you would like to use YACOP to combine the output of Glimmer and ZCurve, which are fast and require far less capacity.

The following programming languages have to be available on your system:

- 1. Perl5.6.1 or higher (should be installed in /usr/bin/perl)
- 2. BioPerl.3 or higher
- 3. C and C++ (default compiler gcc) needed for Glimmer, Orpheus, dps and Critica

YACOP can be used on multi-processor systems running PBS (Portable Batch System) as well as on single processor systems. In this case, the programs are executed sequentially. For the adaptation of the YACOP source code to different system architectures, see section 7, p. 6.

3 Additional scripts

Some additional conditions have to be fulfilled: The scripts check_qstat, gl2rbs, separate and toUp need to be available in your PATH. You can either copy the scripts to your bin directory or set respective links there. Another possibility is to integrate the whole YACOP home directory into your PATH. If you would like to use the scripts manually, have a look at the comments. When you just type the name of a script in the command line, it will give you a line how to use it correctly.

- gl2rbs is needed for conversation of Glimmer output to input of RBSfinder.
- toUp converts lowercase sequences to Critica-compatible uppercase version. If you start YACOP with combinate_multi invocation of toUp occurs automatically, unlike during startup of combinate, where you should trigger the script manually (if your sequence is composed of lowercase characters). The uppercase sequence is written to the file FASTAfile_uc (after usage with combinate_multi this file will be removed).
- check_qstat is only needed if you use Yacop on multi-processor machines. It checks out current state of the subprocesses. In the script the monitoring utility qstat is called, which is part of the OpenPBS.

¹This is only integrated in the last version of Yacop (since June 2004). The feature to post Critica or Orpheus output to Yacop was added, because of the long runtime of this programs for big genome projects. In the case of ZCurve a Linux version was not available at the time of the first implementation. For older versions the output can be generated under Windows (or Linux) and then be posted manually during invocation to the script combinate (not possible for combinate_multi).

- separate will be invoked in -concat mode. It separates the output of *.tbl or .sum_out to the subsets of the concatenated contigs. The individual results will be written to ~/data/long-time/contigs_tbl/_nr.NAME or ~/data/longtime/contigs_sum/_nr.NAME. The suffix NAME corresponds to the contig name. The invocation of separate is triggered by combinate. By default, only the mode-dependent results in *.tbl will be separated. If you like to use separate on the whole results (mode- and length independent), which are stored in .sum_out, you should comment respective code in.

4 Running YACOP

4.1 Parameters during invocation of Yacop

There are two sets of parameters to be considered. First the required parameters: your sequence in FASTA format, the ini-file and a prefix for your organism. These should be given in exact order (like in the example). Second the optional parameters (given in []): the flags for the tools to use and the flags for special modes (concat and verbose). Here the order doesn't matter. The script combinate should be called with a statement like:

```
combinate gene.fasta ini-file PREFIX [-gr/-gc -c [critica.out] -o [orpheus.out]
-gb gene.gbk -z [zcurve.pred] -v -concat]
```

(The [] are only added to denote optional arguments and should be left out in a real call.) The parameters for combinate_multi are alike:

```
combinate_multi multi_fasta ini-file PREFIX [-c -o -gr/-gc -z -gb file.gbk -v -concat]
```

Note, tthat you should type 'perl ~/YACOP/combinate ...' if you didn't add the YACOP home directory to your PATH variable.

The filename of the FASTA file must be given with the **absolute path**. The term PREFIX is synonym for a prefix naming your organism. It is used to compose names of result-files and may be formatted according to the regular expression / R[A-Z]{2,3}/.

The parameters -gr, -c, -z and -o tell YACOP which tools to use. The parameter -c activates invocation of Critica, if no Critica output file (normally *3.cds) is given (not possible for combinate_multi). -gr activates Glimmer plus RBSfinder. Instead of -gr the parameter -gc can be given. This triggers Glimmer with RBSfinder like -gr, meanwhile for Glimmer training Critica output is used ([9]). This requires, that Critica should be also started or Critica output should be given (-c). -o triggers the invocation of Orpheus in combination with dps, if no Orpheus output file is given (not possible for combinate_multi). With the parameter -z ZCurve will be started, if no ZCurve output file is added (not possible for combinate_multi).

The parameter -gb must be set together with the path to a GenBank file. This option allows to check the performance of Yacop and the integrated tools, by comparing the annotation deposited at GenBank with the output generated by the programs (see section 6, p. 6.

The Parameter -v is for verbose mode (writing information of ini-file to properties.inf). -concat starts YACOP in concatenation-mode (see section 5.1, p. 4).

YACOP copies the resulting output to a directory ~/data/longtime (located at the current home directory), see section 6, p. 5.

Summery of parameters:

-c triggers invocation of Critica or posting Critica output, if a file is added (*.cds)

-gr triggers invocation of Glimmer/RBSfinder

- -gc triggers invocation of Glimmer/RBSfinder, with Critica-output as training set ([9]). Requires Critica output! So Critica should be invoked (-c) or Critica output should be given (-c *.cds)
 - -o triggers invocation of Orpheus or posting Orpheus output, if a file is added
- -z posting ZCurve output or starting ZCurve, if you only type -z without adding a file
- -gb posting a GenBank file
 - -v printing properties to file (verbose)

-concat run combinate in concatenation-mode (see section 5.1, p. 4)

4.2 The ini-file

The ini-file (example is given in YACOP/GenePred.ini) contains all parameters required by the tools, the path to their home directories and parameters needed by the Perl program meta_pred.pl. Additionally a short description of their function and an example is given. All parameters can be set by using this central repository. For a more detailed description of the individual parameters of the tools, you should have a look at the respective readme-files.

The parameter mode defines how YACOP merges the individual predictions and how to select the gene starts. Possible settings are:

- crit_orp_gl combines the predictions of Critica with the predictions made by both Glimmer and Orpheus. For the prediction of the startcodons the output of Critica gets the highest priority. If an orf is not predicted by Critica, but by Orpheus and Glimmer, the Orpheus output is favored.
- crit_zc_gl outputs Critica predictions with the intersection of ZCurve and Glimmer, Critica starts will be preferred, else-wise the start position predicted by ZCurve is taken into account.
- zc_crit_gl combines Critca predictions with the intersection of ZCurve and Glimmer predictions. Starts of ZCurve are favored where possible, else-wise Critica starts are taken.
- crit_zc_gl_orp combines the predictions of Critica with the intersection of the predictions of Glimmer, ZCurve and Orpheus. Start coordinates are taken from Critica output, otherwise for predictions not found in Critica output the prediction of ZCurve is taken.
- zc_crit_gl_orp combines the predictions of Critica with the intersection of the predictions of Glimmer, ZCurve and Orpheus. For the prediction of startcodons, in this mode the ZCurve output is favored. If a predicted orf is not found in the ZCurve output, the Critica start coordinate is taken.
- zc_gl outputs intersection of predictions of ZCurve and Glimmer with ZCurve start.
- gl only glimmer output is considered.

In order to implement additional modes, the subroutine eval_start_mode (HASH) has to be modified (see section 7, p. 6).

Additionally a parameter <code>-minlength</code> can be set in the <code>ini-file</code>. This causes the tool to reject all predictions shorter than given number (denoted in BP). This limitation obtains for all predictions except such made by Critica. For ZCurve also the specific call (i. e. the name of the executable) should be set. If Glimmer should be trained with Critica output, it is possible to confine the predicted genes that will be considered in the training by p-Value (<code>gr_crit_maxpval</code>) and by length (<code>gr_crit_minlen</code>).

5 Input format

5.1 FASTA or multiple-FASTA

The input format should be of type FASTA or multiple-FASTA. The script combinate handles the triggering of the individual tools. The script combinate_multi splits multiple-FASTA input into several FASTA-files. Each of these temporarily generated files will then be processed by an instance of combinate, created by combinate_multi. If started in concat mode combinate_multi concatenates the sequence fragments in given multiple-FASTA file and posts it as one sequence to combinate. All predicted coding regions traversing a concatenation site are removed from the result and stored to file meta_pred.msg in resp. output directory.

Example for the FASTA format:

combinate accepts only sequences composed of uppercase characters. This is due to limitations imposed by some of the tools that do not work for lowercase sequences. combinate_multi does not have this limitation. The script toUp is called before passing sequence files to combinate. toUp (see section 3, p. 2) converts the input sequence to an uppercase version.

The annotation of a contig should start with > (FASTA convention) and should not exceed one line. Note that some of the tools used for prediction do not accept sequence ids which are too long or contain white spaces. E. g. Critica uses the id to form the names of the output files. If the names contain special characters or are too long this may cause Critica to crash without any error message.

6 Output formats

YACOP stores results in the directory ~/data/longtime. Where longtime corresponds to the time of invocation of YACOP in long format. If you are not contend with this, you can change the output path in the script combinate (see variable output_dir).

Each prediction of YACOP consists of three basic output files:

6.1 PREFIX.sum_out

The file PREFIX.sum_out contains all predictions made by the tools integrated in YACOP. The file can be regarded as a table. Each line describes one predicted orf. The landmarks used to organize the output are the stopcodons occurring in the sequence. The first column contains the positions of the stopcodons (sorted in ascending order), given by the first nucleotide of the codon. The second column lists the reading frame of the gene (comp). The following columns contain the output of the different tools. Each start coordinate is defined as the first nucleotide of startcodon.

Start positions given for **Glimmer** are those generated by RBSfinder (Glimmer/RBSfinder). RBSfinder alters the initial predicted start of Glimmer by shifting them up or downstream if the results differ. The number, given in column 3 is the offset, RBSfinder has introduced for the start position. In brackets the amount of the shift from the position Glimmer has predicted is denoted. A positive number indicates a downstream shift, a negative correspondingly an upstream shift. The output for **Critica** is the position of the startcodons and a p-value, rating the quality of the prediction. For **Orpheus**, only the predicted start position is given. For **ZCurve** the predicted start will be given with a score (like Critica score, rating the prediction of ZCurve). In evaluation mode, i.e. the name of a **GenBank** file is given during startup, the start position and the annotation as deposited

in the file are added to the output.

Example for a file of type PREFIX.sum_out (with all integrated outputs):

```
2081 F
             164 (33)
                           197 6.82e-147
                                            164
                                                   197 0.18091
                                                                  197 glucose inhibited divis
 2771 R
            2924 (
                    -)
                                                                2278 ATP synthase A chain
 3100 F
                    -)
                                                 2278 0.22193
            2278 (
                          2278
                                3.08e-20
                                           2278
 3376 F
            3139 (
                    -)
                          3139
                                2.27e-07
                                                 3139 0.25229
                                                                3139 ATP synthase C chain
 3980 F
            3497 (
                          3497
                                8.36e-16
                                           3497
                                                 3497 0.27178
                                                                3497 ATP synthase B chain
                                                    \mathbf{ZCurve}
stop comp Glimmer/RBSf.
                              Critica
                                          Orpheus
                                                                         GenBank
```

6.2 PREFIX.tbl

The file PREFIX.tbl contains a gene table. The genes compiled in this file are extracted from the sets of genes predicted by the individual tools. The arrangement of genes is depending on the mode, which has to be set in the ini-file. The default mode (as given in example ini-file, see section 4, p. 2) is crit_zc_gl. For each predicted coding region, one line of output is generated. The first column contains the id of the gene. The id results from the given PREFIX and a number incremented automatically. The id is formatted according to the regular expression /^R([A-Z]{2,3})\d{5,6}/. In addition, the name of the contig and the coordinates of the gene are added.

NOTE: 3'-end is given exclusive stopcodon, 5'-end is inclusive startcodon. An example for the format of PREFIX.tbl:

```
RBU000001 AP000398_Buchnera_sp._APS_complete_genome._197_2080
RBU000002 AP000398_Buchnera_sp._APS_complete_genome._2278_3099
RBU000003 AP000398_Buchnera_sp._APS_complete_genome._3139_3375
RBU000004 AP000398_Buchnera_sp._APS_complete_genome._3497_3979
```

6.3 PREFIX.fasta

The file PREFIX.fasta consists of the amino acid sequences (inclusive startcodon) of all predicted genes in PREFIX.tbl. Each sequence is annotated with the id according to the entries deposited in the tbl-file.

>RBU000001

MFNLRNFDVIVVGAGHAGTEAAMASSRMGCKTLLLTQKISDLGALSCNPAIGGIGKSHLVKEIDAL
GGMMAKAIDYSGIQFRILNSSKGPAVRSTRAQADKILYHETVKKILKKQNNLLILEAEVKDLIFKN
YSVVGVLTQNEINFYSRSVVLAAGTFLGGKIHIGLKSYSAGRIGDKSAIDLSVRLRELSLRVNRLK
TGTPPRIDINTVNFNNLLIQNSDTPVPVFSFMGNVSHHPKQIPCYLTHTNEKTHEIIRKNLDKSPI
YTGFLKGLGPRYCPSIEDKIVRFPDRKSHQVFLEPEGLSSIKVYPNGISTSLPIEVQEQIVASIKG
LEKSKIIRPGYAIEYDFFDPKDLNLTLESKLIKGLFFAGQINGTTGYEEAASQGLLAGLNAALSSK
NTEGWFPRRDQAYLGVLIDDLTTQGTEEPYRMFTSRAEYRLSLREDNADLRLTEIGRKLGLVNDSR
WIRYNQKVLNIQTEMNRLKKNKISPISPDADILKKLYNINLIKEISMSELLKRPQIRYQDLQSLES
FRTGIVDLEAIGQIENEIKYAGYIKRQSEEIERHLKNENTFLSSIYDYNKIRGLSSEVVKKLNDYK
PISIGQASRISGITPAAISILLIHLKKESYKHTL

6.4 Other files in the output directory

In the output directory you will find several more files. Most of these are output files of the tools, Critica, Glimmer, ZCurve and Orpheus (see table 'Output files'). You will also find a file meta_pred.msg. This file contains error messages and predicted genes, that were removed from the resultset in concat mode (because they cross concatenation sites). If you started YACOP in verbose mode (option -v) the file properties.inf will be added. This file contains the parameter composition of this invocation of YACOP (set in the .ini file). The files named sh_clongtime.sh and sh_olongtime.sh are the invocation scripts of Critica and Orpheus if YACOP is startet on

multi-processor mashines using PBS. *longtime* denotes the instantiation time of resp. Nudge object in long format (set in *Nudge.pm, e. g. CritcaNudge.pm). In this case the files sh_*longtime.o contain all messages printed to STDOUT and sh_longtime.e all messages printed to STDERR by Critica (*=c) or Orpheus (*=o).

Table 1: Additional YACOP files

file	description	
meta_pred.msg	error messages, removed genes in concat mode	
properties.inf	configuration of properties for this run (verbose mode)	
${ t sh_c} long time.{ t sh}$	qsub starterscript for Critica	
${ t sh_olongtime.sh}$	qsub starterscript for Orpheus	
${ t sh_longtime.o}$	STDOUT messages of batch processes (i. e. Critica or Orpheus)	
${ t sh_longtime.e}$	STDERR messages of batch processes (i. e. Critica or Orpheus)	

Table 2: Output files of the integrated tools

		8
Tool	script	output file
Glimmer	long-orfs	<pre>gl_PREFIX.orfs, gl_PREFIX.msg_lo</pre>
	extract	gl_PREFIX.extract
	build-icm	gl_PREFIX.model
	glimmer2	<pre>gl_PREFIX.out, gl_PREFIX.msg_gl</pre>
RBSfinder	gl2rbs	PREFIX_tmp.gl2rbs
		<pre>gl_PREFIX.rbs_out, gl_PREFIX.rbs_msg</pre>
Critica	blast-contigs	PREFIX.blast
	make-blastpairs	PREFIX.blast.pairs
	scanblastpairs	PREFIX.triplets
	iterate-critica	$PREFIXnr.cds (nr \equiv iteration)$
Orpheus	dps	orph_PREFIX.dps
	orpheus2 (-wcu)	orph_PREFIX.nuc_usage
	orpheus2 (sure oder rcu)	NAME.orfaln, NAME.orfnuc, NAME.orfprot
	starter	orph_PREFIX.weights

7 Modification of the source code

7.1 Adaptation to multi- or single-processor machines

The current version of YACOP can be startet using PBS (Portable Batch System, see 2, p. 1) for Critica and Orpheus. Glimmer and ZCurve are always started as non-batch-processes. The invocation of the batch processes occures with the command qsub(1B), which is provided in the OpenPBS package. The script combinate calls the starter objects (inheriting from Nudge.pm, e. g. CriticaNudge.pm) to create the scripts for submission via qsub and triggers the invocation of the scripts. The objects extending Nudge.pm also provide subroutines to start the subprograms sequentially.

In the source code of combinate the line

\$critica->start_qsub_all();

triggers invocation of Critica as batch process. If Critica shall be started as non-batch process, this line should be commented out and the following lines should be commented in:

```
$critica->start_blastcontigs();
$critica->start_makeblastpairs();
$critica->start_scanblastpairs();
$critica->start_iteratecritica();

The code adaption for Orpheus looks quite similar.
Running as batch process:
$orpheus->start_qsub_all();

Running as non-batch process:
$orpheus->start_starter(OrpheusNudge->nuc());
$orpheus->start_dps();
$orpheus->start_orpheus2(OrpheusNudge->wcu());
$orpheus->start_orpheus2(OrpheusNudge->sure());
$orpheus->start_starter(OrpheusNudge->rcu());
$orpheus->start_starter(OrpheusNudge->rcu());
$orpheus->start_orpheus2(OrpheusNudge->rcu());
```

For the usage of qsub, additionally the script <code>check_qstat</code> is provided. During invocation of <code>check_qstat</code> the name of a qsub-script has to be given as a commandline parameter (this is done automatically by <code>combinate</code>). It is used to control the execution of the respective subprocess. If you are not using a bash (borne-again shell) on your system, the scripts <code>check_qstat</code> and the variable <code>Nudge::BASH_CALL</code> (in <code>Nudge.pm</code>) should be modified.

7.2 Adding new output modes

The output modes of YACOP are implemented in meta_pred.pl. To add new modes you should declare a global variable (like \$M_CRIT_ZC_GL) to store the name of the new mode. In the routine eval_start_mode(HASH), you should add an if-clause with the code to execute, if your mode is set (i. e. which predicted start should be returned). This routine is called by the routine quick_results(ResultSet), which composes the reduced result object QuickResults, containing only start and stop of a predicted gene respective to your mode (used to write the files PREFIX.tbl and PREFIX.fasta). If the new mode is set in the ini-file (with the name you stored in the global variable, see above), it will be automatically set by combinate and executed by meta_pred.pl. Additionally you should add the mode to respective if-clause in the routine write_all(Data-Handle), which is called by output_all(ResultSet) and writes all predictions of the tools used in your mode to PREFIX.sum_out. If you intend to add the predictions of a new tool to the output of YACOP you should add a new elsif-clause to that routine, in which the predictions of your tool (called MyTool in the example) will be written to STDOUT like:

```
elsif ($MODE eq $M_ZC_GL_MYTOOL){
    printf "%7s %s %7s (%3s) %7s %5s %5 %s %s\n",
    $val->{$STOP}, $val->{$COMPL}, $val->{GlimmerRBSParser->type},
    $val->{(GlimmerRBSParser->type)."S"}, $val->{ZCurveParser->type},
    $val->{(ZCurveParser->type)."S"}, $val->{(MyToolParser->type)},
    $val->{GenebankParser->type}, $val->{$GBK_ANNO};
}
```

7.3 Altering output format

If you require other formats you should change one of the writing routines or create a new one and add the functioncall to the main program of meta_pred.pl. If you do so, note that the object QuickResult only contains the predictions respective to current mode and minlength, meanwhile ResultSet contains all.

Current output- and related routines in meta_pred.pl are:

- output_all(ResultSet) calling write_all(HASH)
 (writing PREFIX.sum_out)
- write_table(QuickResults) calling eval_start_mode(HASH)
 (writing PREFIX.tbl)
- write_multiple_fasta(QuickResults) calling eval_start_mode(HASH)
 (writing PREFIX.fasta)

Additionally, predictions which are discarded in concat mode are written to STDERR in routine trim_results(ResultSet). Error messages of meta_pred.pl are redirected to the file meta_pred.msg in combinate::start_metapred().

8 Integration of other prediction tools

8.1 Invocation of your tool

The invocation of your tool has to be added to the skript combinate. You should add a flag to the hash %arg, which corresponds to the commandline parameter of combinate you chose for your tool. Additionally a variable to hold the starter object of your tool (like \$glimmer_rbs) should be declared in the script. The parameters needed for your tool (e. g. home directory etc.) should be added to the ini-file. In the routine eval_args the commandline parameters of combinate will be evaluated. For the invocation itself you should write an object extending Nudge.pm comparable to GlimmerNudge.pm and you should add the incarnation of this object with the necessary arguments to eval_args like:

```
$glimmer_rbs=GlimmerNudge->new($arg{FASTA_FILE}, $output_dir, $arg{PREFIX}))
```

You also should add the call of respective subroutines to combinate like:

```
$glimmer_rbs->start_glimmer();
```

8.2 Handling the output of your tool

For parsing the output of your tool, a parser according to GlimmerParser.pm should be implemented and integrated to meta_pred.pl. For the invocation of meta_pred.pl, the commandline parameter invoking your tool should be set in a variable in meta_pred.pl like:

```
my $F_GLIMMER_RBS = 'gr';
```

The invocation of meta_pred.pl is triggered by combinate. For that you should add the parameter for your tool to the hash %orf_check_commm, which is used in the routine start_metapred() (or script_metapred() (if meta_pred.pl is started as batch process) to create the commandline call of meta_pred.pl like:

```
$orf_check_comm{GLIMMER_RBS}=" ".$arg{GLIMMER_RBS}." ".$glimmer_rbs->get_resultoutput();
```

In start_metapred() you should add the new value of %orf_check_comm to the call in start_metapred(). You also should add a new output mode to integrate the predictions of your tool (see 7.2, p. 7).

9 Links

```
Critica1.05 http://geta.life.uiuc.edu/~gary/programs/CRITICA/wublast http://blast.wustl.edu/
```

```
NCBI blast http://www.ncbi.nih.gov/BLAST/
Glimmer2.01 http://www.tigr.org/software/glimmer/
Glimmer2.10 http://www.tigr.org/software/glimmer/
RBSfinder http://www.tigr.org/software/
Orpheus http://pedant.gsf.de/orpheus/
dps ftp://cs.mtu.edu/pub/huang/
ZCurve1.0 http://tubic.tju.edu.cn/Zcurve_B/
Perl5.6.1 http://www.perl.com/
BioPerl1.3 http://bioperl.org/
PBS http://www.openpbs.org/
```

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