# **IMGT/HighV-QUEST for NGS antibody repertoire** analysis

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IMGT®, the international ImMunoGeneTics information system®, created in 1989 at Montpellier, France, by Marie-Paule Lefranc (CNRS and Université Montpellier 2), is at the birth of immunoinformatics. IMGT® manages the immunogenetics data, and more particularly the sequences, genes and structures of immunoglobulins (IG) or antibodies and T cell receptors (TR). Standardization and data integration are obtained through the IMGT-ONTOLOGY [1] concepts of identification (IMGT standardized keywords), classification (IMGT standardized nomenclature: IMGT gene and allele names approved by HGNC and used by NCBI Gene), description (IMGT standardized labels) and numerotation (IMGT unique numbering and IMGT Colliers de Perles: widely used for antibody engineering and humanization). IMGT® comprises seven databases (including IMGT/mAb-DB), seventeen tools and more than 15,000 pages of Web resources. To answer the needs of high throughput and Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) data, the IMGT/HighV-QUEST tool [2-4] was developed which analyses up to 500,000 long 454 sequences by run. The results, based on IMGT-ONTOLOGY, include identification of the closest germline genes and alleles for genotype and haplotype analysis, and standardized characterization of the 'IMGT clonotypes (AA)' for antibody clonal diversity and expression and achieve, for the first time, a degree of resolution for NGS verifiable by the user at the sequence level. Amino acid frequency can be determined at each CDR-IMGT and FR-IMGT positions. This tool provides a paradigm for IG clonal diversity and expression repertoire analysis from NGS and high resolution results for antibody engineering and combinatorial library construction.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE: \* IMGT/HighV-QUEST analyses antibody NGS data at a sequence level verifiable by the user. \* Standardized characterization of IMGT clonotypes, based on the IMGT-ONTOLOGY concepts,

#### identifies clonal diversity and expression, \* Amino acid frequency can be determined at each CDR-IMGT and FR-IMGT position. [1] Giudicelli V and Lefranc M-P, Front Genet, 3:79, 2012. [2] Alamyar E et al. Mol Biol 882:569-604, 2012. [3] Alamyar E et al. Immunome Res 8(1):26, 2012.

[4] Li S et al. Nat. Commun. 4:2333 doi: 10.1038/ncomms3333 (2013).

# **Biological Context**

The adaptive immune response is characterized by an extreme diversity of the specific antigen receptors that comprise the immunoglobulins (IG) or antibodies and the T cell receptors (TR) (10<sup>12</sup> different IG and 10<sup>12</sup> different TR per individual, in humans). The complex molecular mechanisms (DNA rearrangements, N-diversity, and for IG, somatic hypermutations) that occur in B cells and T cells are at the origin of that huge diversity.



### **Prototypes of IG and TR V, D, J genes**



Prototypes are graphical representation based on the concepts of description

### **IMGT-ONTOLOGY** Concepts

### DESCRIPTION

The concepts of description correspond to IMGT® standardized labels. They are more than 560 standardizerd labels (available in the IMGT Scientific chart), 277 for the nucleotide sequences and 285 for the 3D structures.

### CLASSIFICATION

The concepts of classification allowed to classify and name the human IG and TR genes and alleles which were approved by HGNC and endorsed by WHO-IUIS. They provide the frame for the standardized IG and TR nomenclature of jawed vertebrates.

#### NUMEROTATION

The concepts of numerotation comprise the 'IMGT unique numbering' and 'IMGT Collier de Perles'.

## IMGT/HighV-QUEST based on IMGT® standard

**IMGT-ONTOLOGY** concepts



# **IMGT Clonotypes (AA)**

In IMGT<sup>®</sup>, the clonotype designated as 'IMGT clonotype (AA)' is defined among the '1 copy' 'single allele' (for V and J) by a unique V-(D)-J rearrangement (IMGT genes and alleles determined at the nt level), conserved anchors (C104, W or F 118), and a unique CDR3-IMGT AA in frame junction [4]. Each 'IMGT clonotype (AA)' is characterized by a selected unique representative sequence.

	ID		IMGT clonotype (AA) definition						IMGT clonotype (AA) representative sequence			Nb			IMGT clonotypes (nt)
#		Exp. ID	V gene and allele	D gene and allele	J gene and allele	CDR3- IMGT length (AA)	CDR3-IMGT sequence (AA)	Anchors 104,118	V %	Sequence length	Sequence ID	Total nb of '1 copy'	Total nb of 'More than 1'	Total	Sequences file ('1 copy')
Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F															
	1	137-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD2-2*01 F	Homsap IGHJ6*03 F	22 AA	ARDLYCSSTSCYGGWYYYYMDV	C,F	95.14	425	GJNZTB402H8X9K length=425	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> file
	2	157-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD6-6*01 F	Homsap IGHJ6*03 F	22 AA	ARERVGRSIAARRAPDYYYMDV	C,F	97.92	426	GJNZTB402H4DK W_length=426	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> file
	3	305-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD3-22*01 F	Homsap IGHJ4*02 F	21 AA	ARGPYHRPTYYYDSSGYYGDY	C,F	96.15	374	GJNZTB402FSHFL length=374	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> file
	4	331-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD3-10*02 F	Homsap IGHJ3*02 F	21 AA	ARNVGHRPGSSDAWEADAFDI	C,F	99.31	422	GJNZTB402JFJ2O length=422	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> <u>file</u>
	5	374-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD3-3*01 F	Homsap IGHJ3*02 F	21 AA	ATTHEPAITIFGVVINDAFDI	C,F	96.18	422	GJNZTB402H3QEP _length=422	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> file
	6	647-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD6-19*01 F	Homsap IGHJ6*03 F	19 AA	AKGAIAVAGTNYYYYYMDV	C,F	97.74	330	GJNZTB402HVTXP length=330	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> file
	7	693-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD3-22*01 F	Homsap IGHJ5*02 F	19 AA	ARDGSTYYYDSSGYYWFDP	C,F	99.65	417	GJNZTB402FI7QZ _length=417	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> file
	8	709-mid5	Homsap IGHV1-2*02 F	Homsap IGHD4-23*01 ORF	Homsap IGHJ2*01 F	19 AA	ARDMGRYGGNLRRYWYFDL	C,F	97.57	416	GJNZTB402G7EN4 _length=416	1	0	1	<u>Sequences</u> file

hours of computational resources. About 32 terabytes of results were generated.

### VH clonal diversity

Clonal diversity is the number of 'IMGT clonotypes (AA)' per V, D and J gene.



## VH clonal expression

Clonal expression is the number of sequences assigned to 'IMGT clonotypes (AA)' per V, D and J gene.



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