# Support Information of the Information of the International Anti-Leonard and Richards 10.1073/pnas.1210909110

#### SI Materials and Methods

fdfBLAST. To our knowledge, there is no standardized automated method to compare genome datasets (i.e., predicted proteomes) for the purpose of identifying differentially distributed gene fusions. To fill this gap, we designed a bioinformatic analysis pipeline to identify differentially distributed gene fusions between wholegenome datasets. This approach is not an exhaustive one but allows the identification of a large number of candidate gene fusions. The five-step bioinformatics pipeline uses a series of Perl scripts available at <https://github.com/guyleonard/fdfBLAST>.

As illustrated in Fig. S1, step 1 performs serial all-against-all BLASTp comparisons of predicted proteome datasets. In step 2 all BLAST search hits at or above a specified e-value threshold are counted to identify differential hit patterns. In step 3 reciprocal BLAST searches are used to confirm differential distributed BLAST hits. The program allows the e-value threshold for step 3 to be adjusted so users can control how differential hits are sampled. For example, a user may want to adjust these e-value thresholds to compare closely related or distantly related species and to manage noise in the form of false-positive BLAST hits. Differential hit patterns are the target datasets (e.g., 1-to-2 or 3 to-4, and so forth); all other patterns are excluded (e.g., 1-to-1, 3-to-3, 1-to-0, 3-to-0, and so forth). The differential hit patterns identified in steps 1–3 theoretically encompass gene families that have diversified under a number of different evolutionary scenarios:  $(i)$  differential gene duplication,  $(ii)$  differential gene loss, (*iii*) differential tandem exon duplication,  $(iv)$  inconsistent recovery of homologs because of differing rates of sequence variation in the gene family, and  $(v)$  gene fusions. The remaining two steps of the fdfBLAST pipeline (described below) generate a series of images that are designed to allow users to curate the results and eliminate datasets consistent with scenarios 1–4 and identify gene fusions (scenario 5).

Step 4 (Fig. S1) involves multiple rank and sorting processes used to distinguish putative fused and unfused pairs. By using the hit-range information from each set of BLAST results, the position of each match can be compared with the query sequence's start (amino acid position zero), end (the number of the last amino acid), and middle (length divided by two). Hits then can be classified (sorted) as left of the middle, right of the middle, or spanning the middle based on the value of the hit's start and end position. Specifically, if the hit's end position is higher than middle, it is recorded as right-sided; if it is lower than the middle value, it is classified as left-sided. The process is repeated using the hit's start position.

Hits that have a mixed results, i.e., a left-sided start position and a right-sided end position, are potential full-length hits. Hits that span the middle and that have a length (defined by the user, currently fixed to 90%) similar to the query full length are excluded and are not shown on the graphical output, because they are likely to represent complete homologous genes and therefore are unlikely to be differentially distributed gene fusions. Shorter hits that span the middle are shown in the graphical output according to the ranking procedures described below.

Hits that produce consistent results (i.e., both start and end are classified as left or as right) are retained and shown in the graphical output. Note that the program is set up so that hits in which  $\leq 10\%$  of the region of similarity spans the middle are not classified as "middle" and are retained and displayed in the output figures.

The final set of split sequences then is ranked in reference to the query sequence in two additional ways. First, each is given a percentage score based on the number of amino acid bases matched to the query sequence. Then each potential unfused ORF alignment is illustrated by a color: 80–100%, green; 70– 80%, light blue; 60–70%, purple; 40–60%, dark red; and <40%, gray. This color scheme is reflected in the cartoons of the final gene-to-gene alignment (Fig. S1, step 4). Second, a ratio is calculated based on the remaining ORFs matched to the query sequence: The lengths of the matched ORFs (left and right matches separately) are ordered from shortest to longest, and a ratio score for each pair of the matched ORFs is calculated. The highest end value from the left match is divided by the lowest start value from the right side, providing a proxy for the distance of the two partial hits relative to the query sequence. A value of 1 suggests that the left and right matches are adjacent when aligned against the query sequence, and a value of 0.1 means that the left and right matches are relatively far apart when aligned against the query sequence. Overlapping hits are removed at an earlier stage in the pipeline and are not shown on the output figure. All combinations are out put by fdfBLAST and organized into folders ranging (in incremental steps of 0.1) from 0.1–1.0 so the graphical results can be searched systematically.

These two rank-and-sort methods, although seemingly complex, make the data produced by fdfBLAST accessible for curation. Because gene-fusion events can be considered the product of the union of multiple domains, it is advantageous (at least programmatically) to categorize the location of matched split ORFs to the potentially "fused"-ORF state. This categorization helps with the manual curation and identification of candidate split ORFs. For example, if all the matched ORFs for one fused ORF are similar in length (and span the whole putative fused ORF), they can be identified as potential complete-gene-length homologs and can be discarded. Similarly, if all the matched ORFs appeared to be one-sided (i.e., match only one half of the putative fused ORF), the putative gene-fusion prediction is likely to be an artifact.

Step 5 (Fig. S1) involves comparison of the candidate sequences with the PFAM database. The sequences representing the fused ORF and the two best unfused ORFs from each set of candidate gene fusions are passed to a program to map conserved functional domains on to the alignment diagrams. The program HMMER (<http://hmmer.org>) (1) is used to search sequence databases of homologous protein sequences using profile hidden Markov models. The data output from HMMER then is displayed as an overlay on the alignment diagrams (domain overlays). We use this step to remove putative gene fusions that do not contain PFAM conserved domains. Although this step may remove a number of gene fusions of domains not represented in the PFAM database, we believe that this approach is important to remove noise created by more frequently occurring false-positive hits (i.e., differential matches for regions of low complexity).

Pipeline for Preliminary Fusion Domain Phylogenetic Analysis. The preliminary phylogenies were calculated from taxon sampling using a MySQL database ([www.mysql.com](http://www.mysql.com)) of predicted proteomes containing a diversity of opisthokont taxa available at the Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute, the National Center for Biotechnology (NCBI) GenBank database, and the Broad Institute (Table S1). For this analysis, we also made use of the Blastocladiella emersonii genome assembly produced in our laboratory in collaboration with Suely Gomes (Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil). All sequence data are available in the form of unmasked and masked alignments (see below) (2). Each candidate sequence was compared against sequences in the

database using BLASTp (3), and the best-similarity hits from each species were extracted (using the e-value 1e-10 gathering threshold). These sequences were aligned using MUSCLE (4), conserved regions from this alignment were sampled using trimAL (5), and phylogenetic trees were constructed using Fast-Tree (6) with the options SLOW and BIONJ and the default substitution model. Topology support was assessed using the SHlike aLRT branch support values.

All fusion gene component phylogenies were inspected manually to check the phylogeny for resolution. If inspection of tree and alignment suggested the domain phylogeny was unlikely to demonstrate useful levels of resolution in and around the fusion branches, no further analysis was conducted, and the dataset was not analyzed further. This process often required several rounds of manual alignment checks and reanalysis for confirmation. For all fusion gene domains we then performed a series of BLAST searches focusing on additional sampling from the GenBank nonredundant (nr) database and the GenBank EST database. Additional sequences were added to the alignments as required. This process was facilitated by using the sequence management for phylogeny programs REFGEN and TREENAMER (7). Each alignment then was edited manually and masked to remove gaps and ambiguous alignment positions using the alignment program SEAVIEW (2). All gene alignments and sequence data are available at [http://gna-phylo.nhm.ac.uk/content/leonard\\_an](http://gna-phylo.nhm.ac.uk/content/leonard_and_richards_2012)[d\\_richards\\_2012.](http://gna-phylo.nhm.ac.uk/content/leonard_and_richards_2012)

In some cases, genes had large sections of the amino acid sequence missing relative to the alignment, most likely because of incomplete assembly or poor gene prediction (specifically intron/ exon boundaries during automatic annotation of the genomes). When the presence of these putatively incomplete sequences did not alter the taxonomic representation significantly relative to the clade of fusion genes under investigation, incomplete sequences were excluded from the alignment. When putatively incomplete sequences were important for evolutionary analysis of the gene fusion, the sequence data were checked manually as described below.

For each domain alignment we identified the optimal model for phylogenetic analysis using MODELGENERATOR (8). For the models used, see Table S3. Then PHYML (9) analysis was used

1. Eddy SR (2011) Accelerated profile HMM SEARCHES. PLOS Comput Biol 7(10):e1002195.

2. Galtier N, Gouy M, Gautier C (1996) SEAVIEW and PHYLO\_WIN: Two graphic tools for sequence alignment and molecular phylogeny. Comput Appl Biosci 12(6):543-548.

- 3. Altschul SF, et al. (1997) Gapped BLAST and PSI-BLAST: A new generation of protein database search programs. Nucleic Acids Res 25(17):3389–3402.
- 4. Edgar RC (2004) MUSCLE: A multiple sequence alignment method with reduced time and space complexity. BMC Bioinformatics 5:113.
- 5. Capella-Gutiérrez S, Silla-Martínez JM, Gabaldón T (2009) trimAl: A tool for automated alignment trimming in large-scale phylogenetic analyses. Bioinformatics 25(15): 1972–1973.

to assess the tree topology using the model parameters identified using MODELGENERATOR. Statistical support was evaluated with 100 bootstrap replicates.

Checks of Gene-Fusion Genome Annotations in Taxa Branching Around Identified Gene Fusions. For taxa with unfused genes or partial sequences that branch close to gene fusions in our domain phylogenies, we checked specifically for cases of misprediction of these genes in individual genome assemblies. Using publicly available genome browsers on the Broad Institute, NCBI, and Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute websites (which allow visual inspection of the genome assembly as tracks and display information about contigs, supercontigs/scaffolds, and their associated gene predictions), we identified genes upand downstream from the location of the unfused gene. This step allowed us to identify the direction in which and the contig on which the gene occurs. If, for example, the two genes we are interested in occur on different contigs, are in opposite orientation, or are both flanked and separated by other genes, we can confirm that the two domains form separate, unfused genes. However, if two separate genes that branch close to the gene fusion on our phylogenetic analyses are next to each other on a genome contig and occur in the same direction, we suggest these genes have been misannotated as separate genes when they should be fused, and so we tentatively annotate this pair of genes as a gene fusion. These alterations can be found in [Dataset S1](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sd01.xls); genes confirmed as separate are marked with a red X in the [SI](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sapp.pdf) [Appendix](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sapp.pdf), and genes corrected to putative fusions are marked with green ticks in the *[SI Appendix](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sapp.pdf)*. We note that, lacking experimental transcription and proteomic data, these annotations are not definitive results; consequently, the relative rate of fission in this dataset may be underestimated, or the position of a gene fission marked on Fig. 2 may be misplaced.

To investigate further evidence in support of each gene fusion, we searched the GenBank nr EST database for sequences that verified that the candidate gene fusion is transcribed as a gene fusion. In 18 of the 63 gene fusions we could identify evidence that the gene fusion was transcribed as a gene pair (gene fusion) using EST data (Table S3).

- 6. Price MN, Dehal PS, Arkin AP (2010) FastTree 2—approximately maximum-likelihood trees for large alignments. PLoS ONE 5(3):e9490.
- 7. Leonard G, Stevens JR, Richards TA (2009) REFGEN and TREENAMER: Automated sequence data handling for phylogenetic analysis in the genomic era. Evol Bioinform Online 5:1–4.
- 8. Keane TM, Creevey CJ, Pentony MM, Naughton TJ, Mclnerney JO (2006) Assessment of methods for amino acid matrix selection and their use on empirical data shows that ad hoc assumptions for choice of matrix are not justified. BMC Evol Biol 6:29.
- 9. Guindon S, Gascuel O (2003) A simple, fast, and accurate algorithm to estimate large phylogenies by maximum likelihood. Syst Biol 52(5):696–704.

### Step 1

#### **Automated Serial BLASTp Analysis**

Genomes of interest are collated and then subjected to NCBI's local BLAST tools, "formatdb" and "blastall".



An all against all analysis is carried out, producing the standard BLAST output. For example; three genomes A, B and C are analysed in this way: A to A, A to B, A to C and B to B, B to A, B to C and C to C, C to A, C to B.

### Step 3

## Reciprocal Hit Matching

For each gene that has displayed evidence of differential hit patterns the reciprocal (e.g. A to B and B to A) analysis is queried to see if the differential pattern is preserved.



Genes with differential hits that display hits in both directions are selected.

If the second gene is not present at the selected e-value cut-off it is not considered a complete reciprocal hit.



Candidate gene fusions are scanned against the Pfam and/or CDD databases using HMMER and RPS-BLAST respectively.

Conserved domains are then mapped on to the previous images in order to help manual confirmation, further narrowing the list of predicted putative gene fusion events.

Fig. S1. Cartoon illustrating the fdfBLAST analysis pipeline. The figure includes notes on the processes coded in the pipeline scripts. See SI Materials and Methods for more details. All pipeline scripts are available at [https://github.com/guyleonard/fdfBLAST.](https://github.com/guyleonard/fdfBLAST)

# Step 2

#### Comparative Hit Counts.

Genes with differential hit patterns are identified and passed on for further analyses by parsing the previous BLAST output using BioPerl.



Program includes user adjustable e-value threshold so that multiple comparisons, with different cut-offs, can be performed.



# Ranking and Sorting

Sorting: The subject ORFs are sorted by their 'location' compared to the query sequence's length; placing them left, right or spanning the middle. This helps remove 'complete full length' homologues (gene M) and identify potential split domains (genes J and K).

# Query Sequence

#### Genome A, Gene X **Subject Sequences** Genome B, Gene I Genome B, Gene J Genome B, Gene K Genome B, Gene L Genome B, Gene M



! Middle

Ranking: Each ORF is given a score based on the number of bases matched to the query sequence divided by the total length. These are coloured; green (80-100), blue (70-80), purple (60-70), red (40-60) and black (<40) based on %-identity in fdfBLAST's output.

The resulting images only include two candidate unfused ORFs, unlike the above image which represents the internal program data structure. Genes I, L and M are discarded.



Fig. S2. BLAST2GO annotation categories represented by the component domains in the 63 gene fusions. For each fusion the individual sequences representing each domain were collated into one FASTA file. This file then was used with the program BLAST2GO to identify gene ontologies. One feature of the program BLAST2GO is the generation of a combined graph that summarizes the functional annotation content of a dataset. Here we show two pie charts of functional content at BLAST2GO level 3: biological process (A) and molecular function (B). We used this analysis to investigate whether the gene fusions were specific to a functional category or if they were classified into a diversity of categories. (A) Level 3 biological process annotations suggest that a large number of the domains function in primary metabolic processes, nitrogen compound metabolism, cellular metabolism, biosynthetic processes, and macromolecule metabolic processes. (B) Molecular function annotation (level 3) demonstrates that a large number of domains function in hydrolase activity, transferase activity, nucleic acid binding, nucleotide binding, or protein binding.

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Fig. S3. Chart showing the relationship between node depth and gene fission, demonstrating that the number of fissions increases with the phylogenetic depth of the fusion. This analysis identified a cohort of gene fusions  $(n = 5)$  for which, given a depth of eight or more nodes (nine derived genomes), the fusion appeared fixed (red circles). Two lines of best fit are shown. The red line includes putatively fixed fusions. The black line excluded putatively fixed fusions.



Fig. S4. (A) Chart showing the relationship between node depth and the relative rate of gene fission. This analysis demonstrated that the gene fusions generally are divided between recent gene fusions that show a high relative rate of fission (black squares) and old gene fusions that show a low relative rate of fission (blue diamonds). (B) Trends in putative function among recent gene fusions with a high rate of fission and old fusions with a low rate of fission. Using the BLAST2GO approach described in Fig. S2 and focusing on the subsets of 13 gene fusions representing each trend, we investigated the putative functional trends in each category. This analysis demonstrated no clear functional trend among old/slow and recent/fast fusion genes.

#### Table S1. Genomes used for comparative fusions analyses and phylogeny

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Genome sampled for domain phylogeny Genome sampled for 67-gene fungal phylogeny?



# Table S1. Cont.



Genome sampled for 67-gene fungal phylogeny?

Lottia gigantea	Not included as not fungi
Magnaporthe grisea	Yes
Malassezia globosa	Yes
Melampsora laricis-populina	Yes
Microsporum canis	Yes
Microsporum gypseum	Yes
Monosiga brevicollis	Not included as not fungi
Mucor circinelloides	Yes
Mus musculus	Not included as not fungi
Mycosphaerella fijiensis	Yes
Mycosphaerella graminicola	Yes
Nectria hematococca	Yes
Nematostella vectensis	Not included as not fungi
Neosartorya fischeri	Yes
Neurospora crassa	Yes
Neurospora tetrasperma	Yes
Paracoccidioides brasiliensis	Yes
Phanerochaete carnosa	Yes
Phanerochaete chrysosporium	Yes
Phlebia brevispora	Yes
Phlebiopsis gigantea	Yes
Phycomyces blakesleeanus	Yes
Pichia membranifaciens	Yes
Pichia stipitis	Yes
Pleurotus ostreatus PC15	Yes
Pleurotus ostreatus PC9	Excluded from 67-gene phylogeny because
Pneumocystis carinii	represented by other Pleurotus genome
	Excluded from 67-gene phylogeny because of
	long-branch artifact
Podospora anserina	Yes
Postia placenta	Yes
Puccinia graminis	Yes
Punctularia strigosozonata	Yes
Pyrenophora teres	Yes
Pyrenophora tritici-repentis	Yes
Rhizopus oryzae	Yes
Rhodotorula graminis	Yes
Rhystidhysteron rufulum	Yes
Saccharomyces cerevisiae	Yes
Schizophyllum commune	Yes
Schizosaccharomyces cryophilus	Yes
Schizosaccharomyces japonicus	Yes
Schizosaccharomyces octosporus	Yes
Schizosaccharomyces pombe	Yes
Sclerotinia sclerotiorum	Yes
Septoria musiva	Yes
Septoria populicola	Yes
Serpula lacrymans	Yes
Setosphaeria turcica	Yes
Spathaspora passalidarum	Yes
Sphaeroforma arctica jp610	Not included as not fungi
Spizellomyces punctatus daom br117	Yes
Sporobolomyces roseus	Yes
Sporotrichum thermophile	Yes
Stagonospora nodorum Stereum hirsutum	Yes Yes
Strongylocentrotus purpuratus	
	Not included as not fungi
Takifugu rubripes Thecamonas trahens atcc 50062	Not included as not fungi
Thielavia terrestris	Not included as not fungi
Trametes versicolor	Yes Yes
Tremella mesenterica	Yes

# Table S1. Cont.

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Genome sampled for 67-gene fungal phylogeny?









—, Rate value absent as only one type of character transition was identified (fission or fusion).

\*When only fusions or fissions were present, the MK 1 model was used. When both fusions and fissions were present, the Asymm 2 param. model was used. † <sup>t</sup>In some cases proportional likelihood analyses of fusion states favored separate convergent gene fusions, in these cases two values are listed. The proportional likelihood values which correspond to each fusion are labeled on the Mesquite output trees in [SI Appendix](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sapp.pdf).

Proportional likelihood values for multiple fissions are listed. The proportional likelihood values that correspond to each fission are labeled on the Mesquite output trees in [SI Appendix](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sapp.pdf).

1. Maddison WP, Maddison DR (2011) Mesquite: A modular system for evolutionary analysis. Version 2.75. Available at<http://mesquiteproject.org>.

2. Slot JC, Rokas A (2010) Multiple GAL pathway gene clusters evolved independently and by different mechanisms in fungi. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 107(22):10136-10141.

Table S2. Cont.

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# Table S3. EST data providing support that the gene is transcribed as a gene fusion and listing model used for domain phylogenies





#### Table S3. Cont.

#### EST support



— indicates not selected by MODELGENERATOR analysis.

\*Gene fusion number 1–62. †

<sup>+</sup>Substitution model used for domain 1 phylogeny, selected by MODELGENERATOR analysis. LG/WAG/RTREV/CPREV represent alternative amino acid replacement matrices.

‡ Invariant sites.

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§ Alpha parameter for the gamma distribution.

{ Substitution model used for domain 2 phylogeny, selected by MODELGENERATOR analysis. LG/WAG/RTREV/CPREV represent alternative amino acid replacement matrices.

# Table S4. Protein domains used for fungal species phylogeny



Table S4. Cont.



Fifty-seven of these 67 proteins are derived from ref.1. The 10 remaining proteins (gray shading) are gene families we favor for multigene phylogeny of the Fungi.

1. Torruella G, et al. (2012) Phylogenetic relationships within the Opisthokonta based on phylogenomic analyses of conserved single-copy protein domains. Mol Biol Evol 29(2):531-544.

#### [Dataset S1 \(XLS\)](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sd01.xls)

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Data showing genome checks of gene fusion/fission annotations.

#### [SI Appendix \(PDF\)](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sapp.pdf)

Collated phylogenetic data and genome analysis of fusions 1–63. This PDF file contains all 63 final accepted gene fusions, with the numbering scheme used in Fig. 2 (32 contains two fusions labeled "32a" and "32b"). The file therefore is split into 62 sections, each containing the gene sequences (in FASTA format) of the separate domains that form the gene fusion, a note on how the tree was constructed, a note explaining the absence of one domain tree (if absent), and the trees annotated with PFAM domains for each sequence given. Bootstrap supports are given (in red). Putative genome annotation corrections on the presence and absence of gene-fusion characters are labeled with ticks or crosses (where appropriate). The data supporting these annotation corrections can be found in [Dataset S1](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1210909110/-/DCSupplemental/sd01.xls). Trees that indicate additional fusions are labeled with the appropriate number and can be found elsewhere in the file as indicated by the number given. Diagrammatic results from Mesquite analysis also are included for each fusion.