

BioNumerics Tutorial:

Clustering Omnilog carbon source oxidation data

1 Aim

Cluster analysis is a collective noun for a variety of algorithms that have the common feature of visualizing the hierarchical relatedness between samples by grouping them in a dendrogram or tree. In this tutorial we will create a dendrogram based on trend data. We will also see how to alter the layout of the dendrogram and how to export the cluster analysis to use it in a publication, presentation, etc.

2 Example data

1. Import the Omnilog .csv trend data files as described in the tutorial: "Importing Omnilog csv files".

Each csv file contains information about the utilization of carbon substrates of a certain strain.

3 Comparison window

1. In the *Database entries* panel of the *Main* window, select all entries in the database for which Omnilog trend curves are present: use the **Ctrl-** key to select the entries, or alternatively right-click on the *Omnilog* column in the *Experiment presence* panel and select *Select entries with experiment*.
2. Highlight the *Comparisons* panel in the *Main* window and select *Edit > Create new object...* () to create a new comparison for the selected entries.
3. Click on the  next to the experiment name **Omnilog** in the *Experiments* panel to display the defined parameter(s) in the *Experiment data* panel (see Figure 1).
4. Select *TrendData > Show parameter values colors* to display the values of the parameter together with the color as defined in the *Trend type* window.
5. Select a parameter in the *Experiment data* panel and select *TrendData > Sort entries by parameter value* ()

The entries are sorted according to increasing value of the selected parameter.

6. A tab-delimited text file of the entries and trend data values contained in the comparison can be exported with *TrendData > Export character table*.

4 Cluster analysis

Cluster analysis is a two-step process. First, all pairwise similarity values are calculated with a **similarity coefficient**. Then, the resulting similarity matrix is converted into a dendrogram with a **clustering algorithm**. Although in practice these steps are performed together, they each require their own comparison settings.

1. Make sure **Omnilog** is selected in the *Experiments* panel and select *Clustering > Calculate > Cluster analysis (similarity matrix)...*

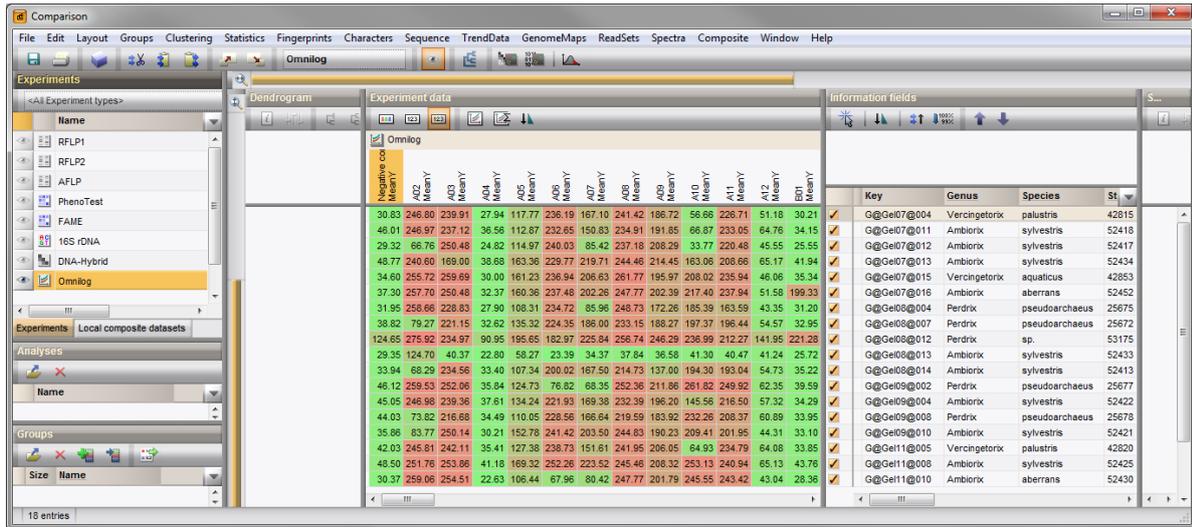


Figure 1: The Comparison window.

The first step deals with the similarity coefficient for the calculation of the similarity matrix (see Figure 2).

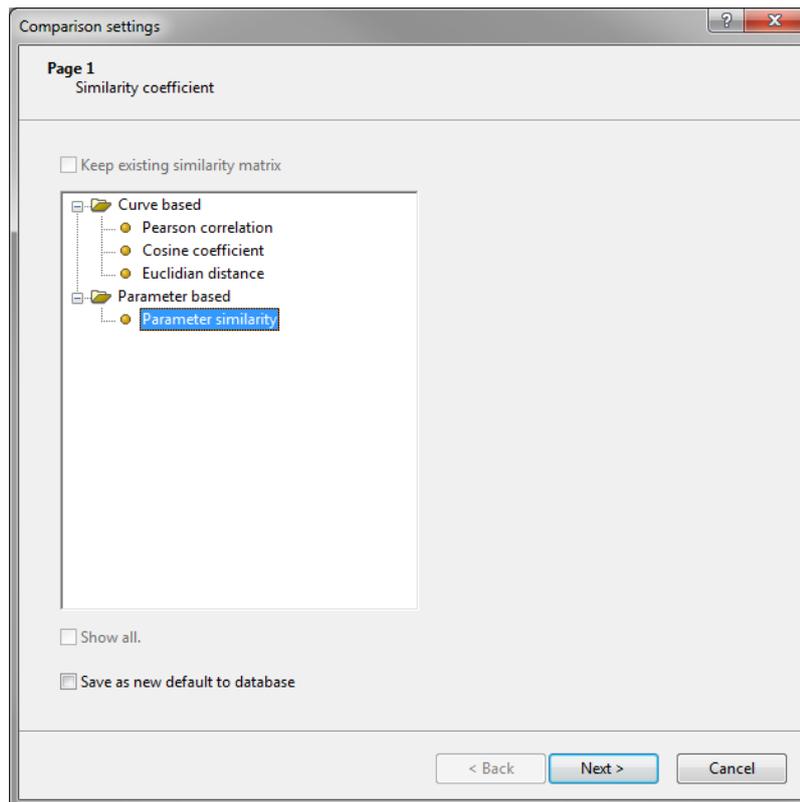


Figure 2: Select similarity coefficient.

In case of trend data, two groups of coefficients can be applied for the calculation of the similarity matrix:

- Curve based coefficients: provide similarities based upon the original data points of the curves.
- Parameter based coefficient: measures the similarity by comparing the values of the parameter(s), defined in the *Trend* type window.

2. Select a coefficient from the list, e.g. *Parameter similarity* and press <Next>.

In step two the options related to the clustering algorithms are grouped. Under *Method*, the clustering algorithm to be applied on the similarity matrix can be selected. A *Dendrogram name* can be entered in the corresponding text box. By default, the name of the experiment type will be used.

3. Select *UPGMA* and select *Cophenetic correlation* from the *Branch quality* list (see Figure 3).

The *Cophenetic Correlation* is a parameter that expresses the consistency of a cluster. This method calculates the correlation between the dendrogram-derived similarities and the matrix similarities. The value is calculated for each cluster thus estimating the faithfulness of each sub-cluster of the dendrogram.

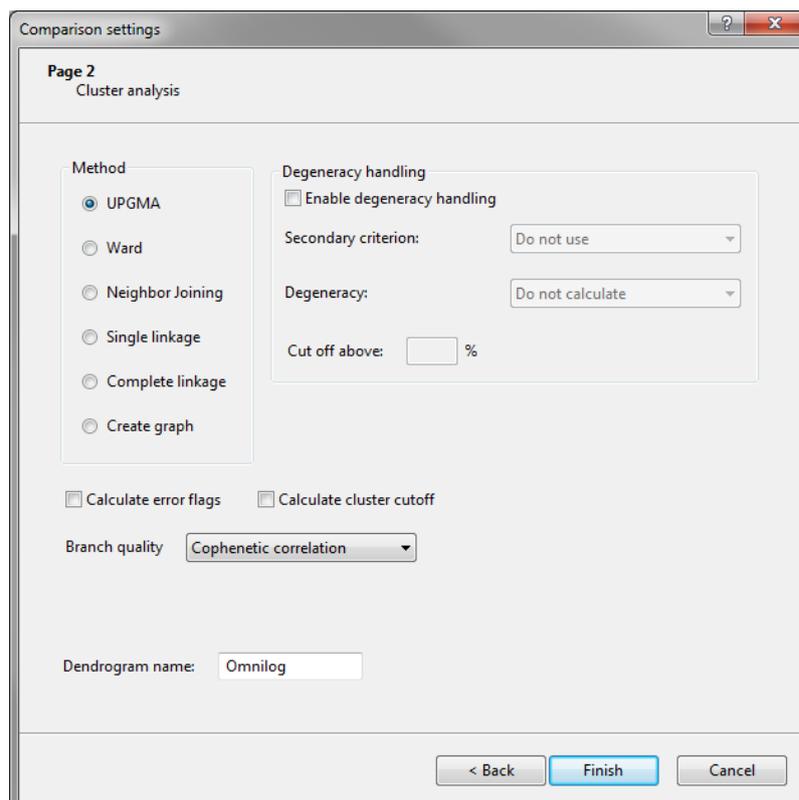


Figure 3: Select clustering algorithm.

4. Press <Finish> to start the cluster analysis.

During the calculations, the program shows the progress in the *Comparison* window's caption (as a percentage), and there is a green progress bar in the bottom of the window.

When finished, the dendrogram and the similarity matrix are displayed in their corresponding panels. The cluster analysis is listed in the *Analyses* panel of the *Comparison* window (see Figure 4).

The *Cophenetic correlation* is shown at each branch, together with a colored dot, of which the color ranges between green-yellow-orange-red according to decreasing cophenetic correlation. This makes it easy to detect reliable and unreliable clusters at a glance.

5. Press the **F4** key to clear any selection in the database.
6. Left-click on the dendrogram to place the cursor on any node or tip (where a branch ends in an individual entry).
7. To select entries in a cluster, click on the node of the cluster while holding the **Ctrl-** button.

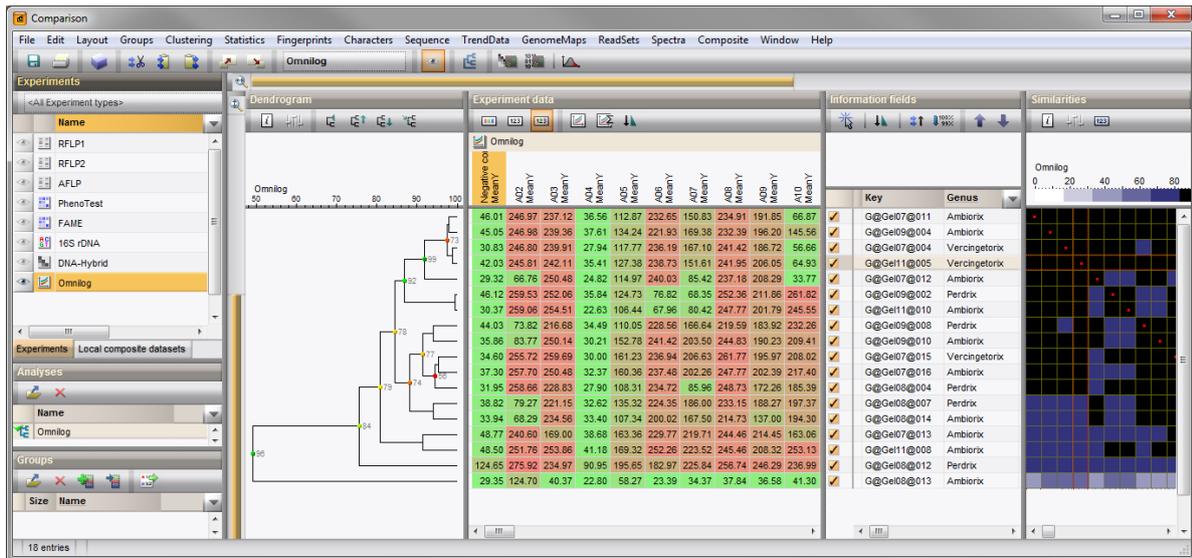


Figure 4: The *Comparison* window.

8. Press **Edit** > **Cut selection** (✂), **Ctrl+X** to remove the selected entries from the cluster analysis. Confirm the action. The dendrogram is automatically updated.
9. Select **Edit** > **Paste selection** (📄), **Ctrl+V**. The cluster analysis is recalculated automatically, and the selected entries are placed back in the dendrogram.

A branch can be moved up or down to improve the layout of a dendrogram:

10. Click the branch which you want to move up in the dendrogram and select **Clustering** > **Move branch up** (⬆).
11. Click the branch which you want to move down in the dendrogram and select **Clustering** > **Move branch down** (⬇).

To simplify the representation of large and complex dendrograms, it is possible to simplify branches by abridging them as a triangle.

12. Select a cluster of closely related entries and select **Clustering** > **Collapse/expand branch** (⏏). Repeat this action to undo the abridge operation.
13. Select **Clustering** > **Dendrogram display settings...** (⚙) to call the *Dendrogram display settings* dialog box.
14. Uncheck **Show branch quality** and press <OK> to remove the cophenetic correlation from the tree.
15. Select **Clustering** > **Show information** (ℹ) to display a report containing the comparison settings. Close the report.

The similarity values in the *Similarities* panel are represented by shades of blue.

16. To show the values in the matrix, select **Clustering** > **Similarity matrix** > **Show values** (📄).
17. Save the comparison with the dendrogram by selecting **File** > **Save** (💾), **Ctrl+S**. Specify a name (e.g. **Omnilog**) and press <OK>.

5 Exporting and printing a cluster analysis

BioNumerics can export the cluster analysis as it appears in the *Comparison* window.

1. Select **File > Print preview...** (, **Ctrl+P**).

The *Comparison print preview* window now appears.

2. To scan through the pages that will be printed out, use **Edit > Previous page** (, **Page Up**) and **Edit > Next page** (, **Page Down**).
3. To zoom in or out, use **Edit > Zoom in** (, **Ctrl+Page Up**) and **Edit > Zoom out** (, **Ctrl+Page Down**) or use the zoom slider.
4. To enlarge or reduce the whole image, use **Layout > Enlarge image size** () or **Layout > Reduce image size** ().
5. If a similarity matrix is available, it can be included with **Layout > Show similarity matrix** ().
6. On top of the page, there are a number of small yellow slider bars, which can be moved.
7. To preview and print the image in full color select **Layout > Use colors** ().
8. Export the image to the clipboard with **File > Copy page to clipboard** () and selecting an appropriate format.
9. If a printer is available, use **File > Print this page** () or **File > Print all pages** () to print one or all pages.
10. Select **File > Exit** to close the *Comparison print preview* window.