



# Ebola virus phylogenetic analysis protocol

## Nanopore | bioinformatics

Document: ARTIC-EBOV-phylogeneticsSOP-v1.0.0

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Author: Andrew Rambaut

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**Overview:** An analysis protocol for an initial phylogenetic analysis of consensus genomes. Includes alignment, phylogeny estimation and visualization.

### This document is part of the Ebola virus Nanopore sequencing protocol package:

<http://artic.network/ebov/> 

#### *Related documents:*

#### **Ebola virus Nanopore sequencing protocol:**

<http://artic.network/ebov/ebov-seq-sop.html> (/ebov/ebov-seq-sop.html)

#### **Setting up the laptop computing environment using Conda:**

<http://artic.network/ebov/ebov-it-setup.html> 

#### **Ebola virus Nanopore bioinformatics protocol:**

<http://artic.network/ebov/ebov-bioinformatics-sop.html> 



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## Preparation

Set up the computing environment as described in this document: [ebov-it-setup \(ebov-it-setup.html\)](#)

This protocol also assumes that the setup and installation of the bioinformatics protocol has been performed as described in this document: [ebov-bioinformatics-sop \(ebov-bioinformatics-sop.html\)](#) .

### Installing software

Activate the ARTIC Conda environment:

```
source activate artic-ebov
```

### Reference genomes

An alignment of 35 complete or nearly-complete genomes spanning 1976-2014 is available. This has representatives from many of the Middle Africa outbreaks in DRC, Gabon and Republic of Congo and 3 from the West African outbreak in Guinea in 2014. This set is intended to provide a framework in order to place new, previously uncharacterised, outbreak sequences.

[35 EBOV genome alignment - FASTA file.](#) [↗](#)

This is a FASTA format file which contains a multiple alignment of the 35 genomes.

### Test data

To test these instructions you can find a synthetic genome in the ARTIC repository. This file, called `fake_ebolavirus_genome.fasta` is an artificial genome sequence constructed to fall within the diversity of the 35 provided reference genomes to simulate the discovery of a new lineage of EBOV. This is for testing only and shouldn't be included in any analyses.

## Building a multiple alignment

Use [MUSCLE](#) [↗](#) multiple alignment software to align the new genome consensus sequences to the existing reference genome alignment:

```
muscle -profile -in1 ebov-reference-genomes-35.fasta -in2 new_genomes.fasta -fastaout aligned.afa
```

This method keeps the existing alignment and pair-wise aligns the new sequence to it.

**Note:** The `profile` option is much quicker than doing a full multiple alignment but could be problematic if the new genome is divergent from all the reference genomes. It may be worth doing a full re-alignment.

- Optional step – To re-align an existing alignment:

```
muscle -in aligned.afa -out re-aligned.afa -refine
```

## Inferring a phylogenetic tree

We will infer a phylogenetic tree using maximum likelihood (ML) with [PhyML](#). This program uses the PHYLIP alignment format and we can use the [Goalign](#) utility to convert from FASTA format:

```
goalign reformat phylip -i aligned.afa > aligned.phy
```

Then build the tree. This will use the default nucleotide model (HKY with gamma distributed site rate heterogeneity):

```
phymL --input aligned.phy --datatype nt
```

The output goes into two files: `aligned.phy_phymL_stats.txt` provides all the estimated parameter values and other information, `aligned.phy_phymL_tree.txt` is the resulting tree in NEWICK format.

By default an ML tree is arbitrarily rooted so to help with the interpretation of the tree, so use the [Gotree](#) utility to re-root the tree so the 1970s viruses are at the root:

```
gotree reroot outgroup -i aligned.phy_phymL_tree.txt 'KC242791|Bonduni|DRC|1977-06' 'KC242801|deRoover|DRC|1976' 'KM655246|Yambuku-Ecran|DRC|1976' > rooted.tree
```

[ETE3](#) can be used to open a window to view the resulting tree:

```
ete3 view -t rooted.tree
```