

# Package ‘blaster’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Native R Implementation of an Efficient BLAST-Like Algorithm

**Version** 1.0.3

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**Description** Implementation of an efficient BLAST-like sequence comparison algorithm, written in C++11 and using native R datatypes. Blaster is based on 'nsearch' - Schmid et al 2018; <doi:10.1101/399782>.

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**Imports** Rcpp (>= 1.0.5)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**SystemRequirements** C++14

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.1

**URL** <https://github.com/manutamminen/blaster>

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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**Repository** CRAN

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blast	<i>Runs BLAST sequence comparison algorithm.</i>
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### Description

Runs BLAST sequence comparison algorithm.

### Usage

```
blast(
  query,
  db,
  maxAccepts = 1,
  maxRejects = 16,
  minIdentity = 0.75,
  alphabet = "nucleotide",
  strand = "both",
  output_to_file = FALSE
)
```

### Arguments

query	A dataframe of the query sequences (containing Id and Seq columns) or a string specifying the FASTA file of the query sequences.
db	A dataframe of the database sequences (containing Id and Seq columns) or a string specifying the FASTA file of the database sequences.
maxAccepts	A number specifying the maximum accepted hits.
maxRejects	A number specifying the maximum rejected hits.
minIdentity	A number specifying the minimal accepted sequence similarity between the query and hit sequences.
alphabet	A string specifying the query and database alphabet: 'nucleotide' or 'protein'. Defaults to 'nucleotide'.
strand	A string specifying the strand to search: 'plus', 'minus' or 'both'. Defaults to 'both'. Only affects nucleotide searches.
output_to_file	A boolean specifying the output type. If TRUE, the results are written into a temporary file a string containing the file name and location is returned. Otherwise a dataframe of the results is returned. Defaults to FALSE.

### Value

A dataframe or a string. A dataframe is returned by default, containing the BLAST output in columns QueryId, TargetId, QueryMatchStart, QueryMatchEnd, TargetMatchStart, TargetMatchEnd, QueryMatchSeq, TargetMatchSeq, NumColumns, NumMatches, NumMismatches, NumGaps, Identity and Alignment. A string is returned if 'output\_to\_file' is set to TRUE. This string points to the temporary file containing the output table.

## Examples

```
query <- system.file("extdata", "query.fasta", package = "blaster")
db <- system.file("extdata", "db.fasta", package = "blaster")

blast_table <- blast(query = query, db = db)

query <- read_fasta(filename = query)
db <- read_fasta(filename = db)
blast_table <- blast(query = query, db = db)

prot <- system.file("extdata", "prot.fasta", package = "blaster")
prot_blast_table <- blast(query = prot, db = prot, alphabet = "protein")
```

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blaster

*Blaster*

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## Description

Blaster implements an efficient BLAST-like sequence comparison algorithm using native R datatypes.

## Author(s)

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read\_fasta

*Reads the contents of nucleotide or protein FASTA file into a dataframe.*

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## Description

Reads the contents of nucleotide or protein FASTA file into a dataframe.

## Usage

```
read_fasta(
  filename,
  filter = "",
  non_standard_chars = "error",
  alphabet = "nucleotide"
)
```

**Arguments**

filename	A string specifying the name of the FASTA file to be imported.
filter	An optional string specifying a sequence motif for sequence filtering. Only keeps those sequences containing this motif. Also splits the matched sequences and provides the split parts in two additional columns.
non_standard_chars	A string specifying instructions for handling non-standard nucleotide or amino acid characters. Options include 'remove', 'ignore' or throw an 'error'. Defaults to 'error'.
alphabet	A string specifying the query and database alphabet: 'nucleotide' or 'protein'. Defaults to 'nucleotide'.

**Value**

A dataframe containing FASTA ids (Id column) and sequences (Seq column). If 'filter' is specified, the split sequences are stored in additional columns Part1 and Part2.

**Examples**

```
query <- system.file("extdata", "query.fasta", package = "blaster")  
query <- read_fasta(filename = query)
```

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