

# *A. thaliana*, Apollo and You:

## Collaborative Genome Annotation Editing

With many thanks to Moni Munoz Torres, Apollo Expert extraordinaire

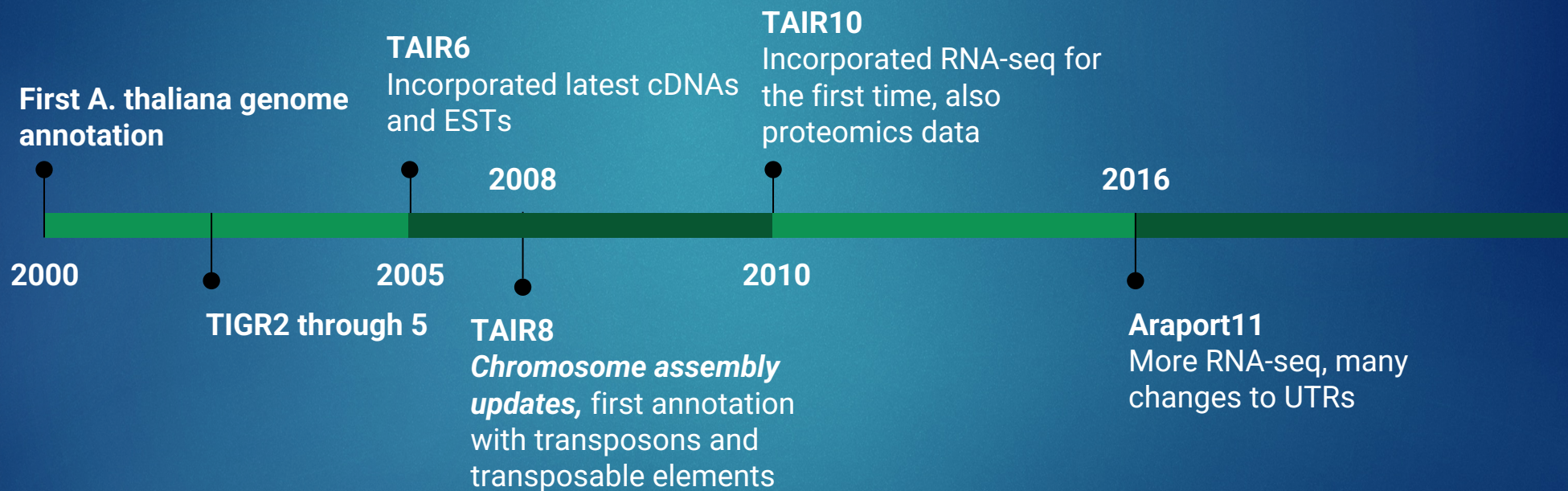
# Today's team:

- ▶ Tanya Berardini
  - ▶ Screen sharing, leading hands on
- ▶ Shabari Subramaniam
  - ▶ Technical issues
  - ▶ Monitoring chat for questions
  - ▶ Sharing links and other info in the chat

# Today:

- ▶ Brief overview of the Arabidopsis reannotation project
- ▶ Intro to Apollo and manual review
- ▶ Hands on exercises
- ▶ What's next

# Rough Timeline





# What has changed over the past 20 years?

- Greater amounts of supporting data
- Increased kinds of supporting data
- Improved sequencing technology, longer reads
- Improved genome assembly software
- Improved automated annotation pipelines

# TAIR: coordinator, community hub



# Reannotation project phases

Assembly

Automated  
Annotation

Manual  
Review

GenBank  
Submission

Dissemination  
/Integration

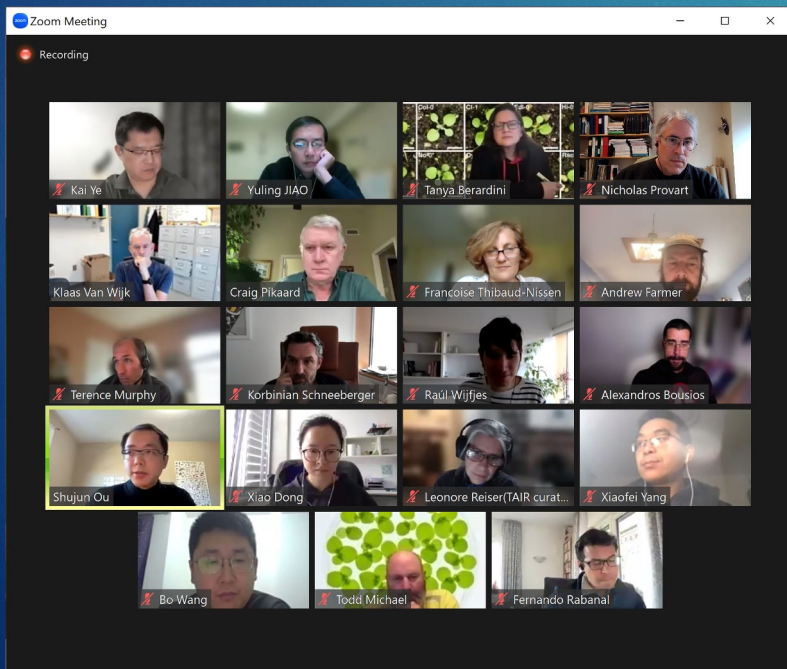
**Who:**  
Schneeberger  
lab (MPI)

**Who:** NCBI (National  
Center for  
Bioinformatics)

**Who:** **Community  
experts for  
review**, TAIR for  
coordination, tool  
hosting

**Who:** TAIR + NCBI

**Who:** BAR, TAIR,  
EnsemblPlants, NCGR  
GCV, AtPeptide Atlas,  
many more





## After this session, you will be able to:

- Log into Apollo and view annotation and evidence tracks
- Navigate through the interface, find genes, zoom in to sequence level
- Perform basic gene model manipulation with ease
- Save comments and status
- Access resources in case you need help remembering what we covered





# Known issues: Patience appreciated

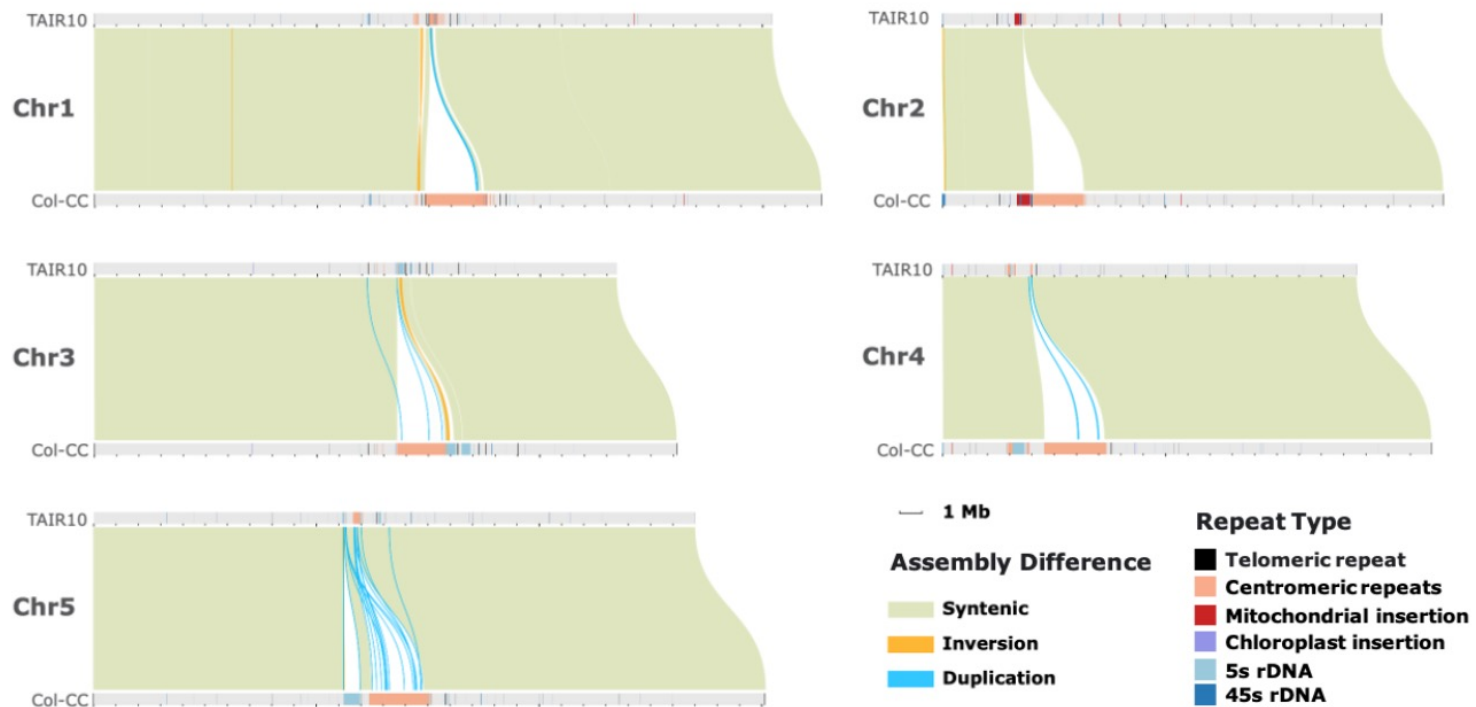
- Mt and Cp annotations not yet visible
- Load time especially the first time can be slow
- Some evidence tracks are still missing (working hard on this)

# The story so far

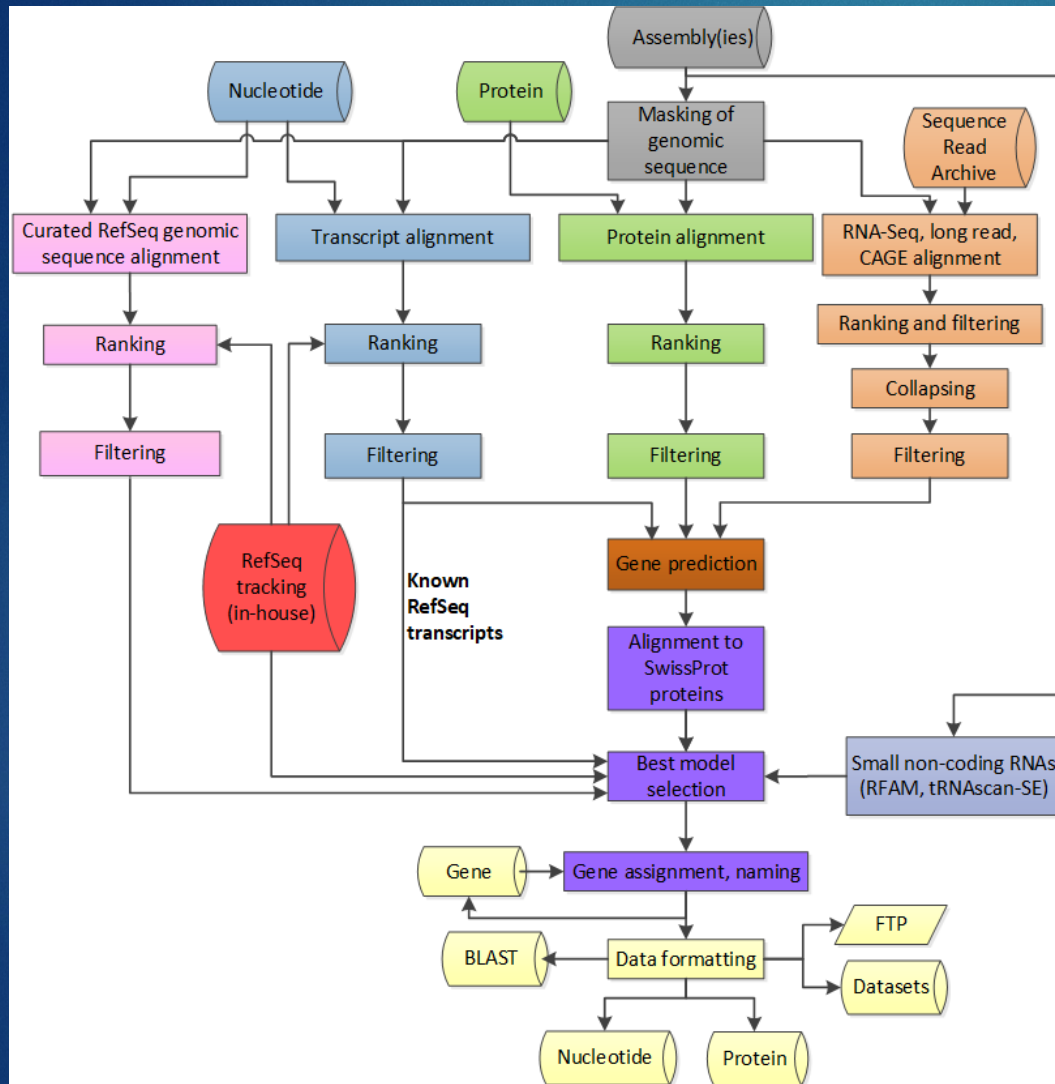


# Col-CC = 13 Col-0 assemblies

## Col-CC: a complete Col-0 assembly (almost)



# The NCBI Eukaryotic Annotation Pipeline



- Automated
- Highly dependent on experimental data
  - Proteins
  - cDNA
  - RNA-Seq
  - IsoSeq, ONT
  - CAGE

# Changes between Araport1.1 and Col-CC

- New genes
- Deleted genes
- Split genes
- Merged genes
- Changes in CDS
- Fewer alternative transcripts

# Why do manual review?

- Remove elements reflecting errors in automated analyses
- To accurately annotate gene families
- To verify novel genes and isoforms
- To efficiently take advantage of transcriptomic analyses
- Achieve the best representation of the genome for translational use in other organisms

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Collaborative, instantaneous,  
web-based, built on top of JBrowse.





# General process of manual review

1. Select or find a **region of interest** (e.g., gene or coordinate range).
2. Select appropriate **evidence** tracks to review the genome element to annotate (e.g., gene model).
3. If necessary, **adjust** the gene model.
4. Check your edited gene model for **integrity and accuracy** by comparing it with available homologs.
5. **Comment, change status,** and finish.



A brief refresher: focus on  
protein-coding genes

# mRNA structure



*"Gene structure" by Daycd - Wikimedia Commons*

# Splice sites

Splicing “signals” (from the point of view of an intron):

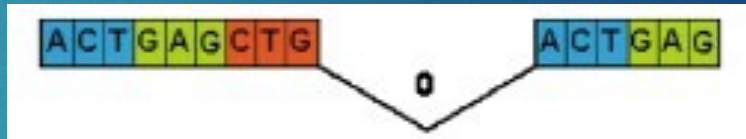
- 5' end splice “signal” (site): usually GT (less common: GC)
- 3' end splice site: usually AG

**...]5' - GT / AG - 3' [...**

Alternatively bringing exons together produces more than one protein from the same genic region: isoforms.

# Exons and Introns

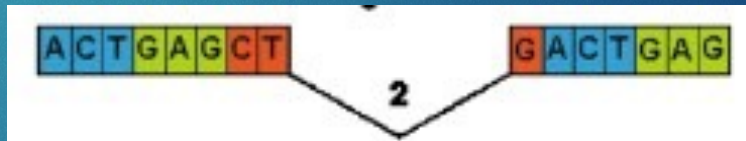
- Introns can interrupt the reading frame of a gene by inserting a sequence between two consecutive codons



- Between the first and second nucleotide of a codon



- Or between the second and third nucleotide of a codon



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# Set up for success: Have these tabs ready to go in your browser window

- **Apollo:** <http://ec2-34-221-77-232.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com:8080/apollo/annotator/index>
- **Apollo User Guide:**  
<https://genomearchitect.readthedocs.io/en/latest/UsersGuide.html>
- **Jbrowse:** [https://jbrowse.arabidopsis.org/index.html?data=Araport11&loc=Chr5%3A8946356..8953040&tracks=TAIR10\\_genome%2CA11-GL-Jan23%2CA11-PC-Jan23&highlight=](https://jbrowse.arabidopsis.org/index.html?data=Araport11&loc=Chr5%3A8946356..8953040&tracks=TAIR10_genome%2CA11-GL-Jan23%2CA11-PC-Jan23&highlight=)
- **BLAST:**  
[https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi?PROGRAM=blastp&PAGE\\_TYPE=BlastSearch&LINK\\_LOC=blasthome](https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi?PROGRAM=blastp&PAGE_TYPE=BlastSearch&LINK_LOC=blasthome)



# Activity

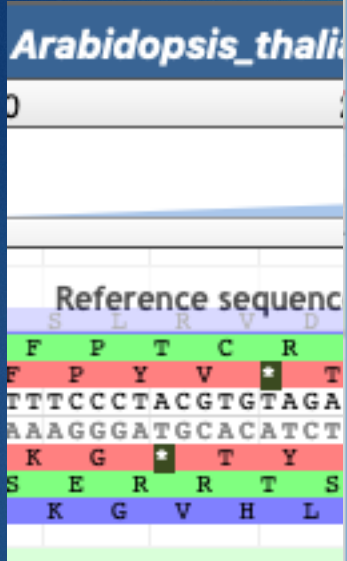
- Set up tabs
- Log into Apollo
- Set up tracks



# Tips and tricks: HELP!



The screenshot displays the Apollo genome browser interface for *Arabidopsis thaliana*. The top menu bar includes 'File', 'View', and 'Help'. A 'Help' dropdown menu is open, listing the following options: 'Quick commands', 'About Apollo', 'User Guide', 'Request feature / report bug', 'Powered by JBrowse', and 'Web Service API'. The main view shows a genomic track with a 'Reference sequence' and several alignment tracks. The reference sequence is 'S E R V D R A M S M K E E'. The alignment tracks show various colored bars representing different data types, with some positions marked with asterisks (\*). The coordinates 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 are visible at the top, and 12,046,400 is shown in the middle of the track.

# Tips and





## Apollo Help

### Navigation

- Move the view by clicking and dragging in the track area, or by clicking  or  in the navigation bar, or by pressing the left and right arrow keys.
- Center the view at a point by clicking on either the track scale bar or overview bar, or by shift-clicking in the track area.

### Zooming

- Zoom in and out by clicking  or  in the navigation bar, or by pressing the up and down arrow keys while holding down "shift".
- Select a region and zoom to it ("rubber-band" zoom) by clicking and dragging in the overview or track scale bar, or shift-clicking and dragging in the track area.

### Searching

- Jump to a feature or reference sequence by typing its name in the location box and pressing Enter.

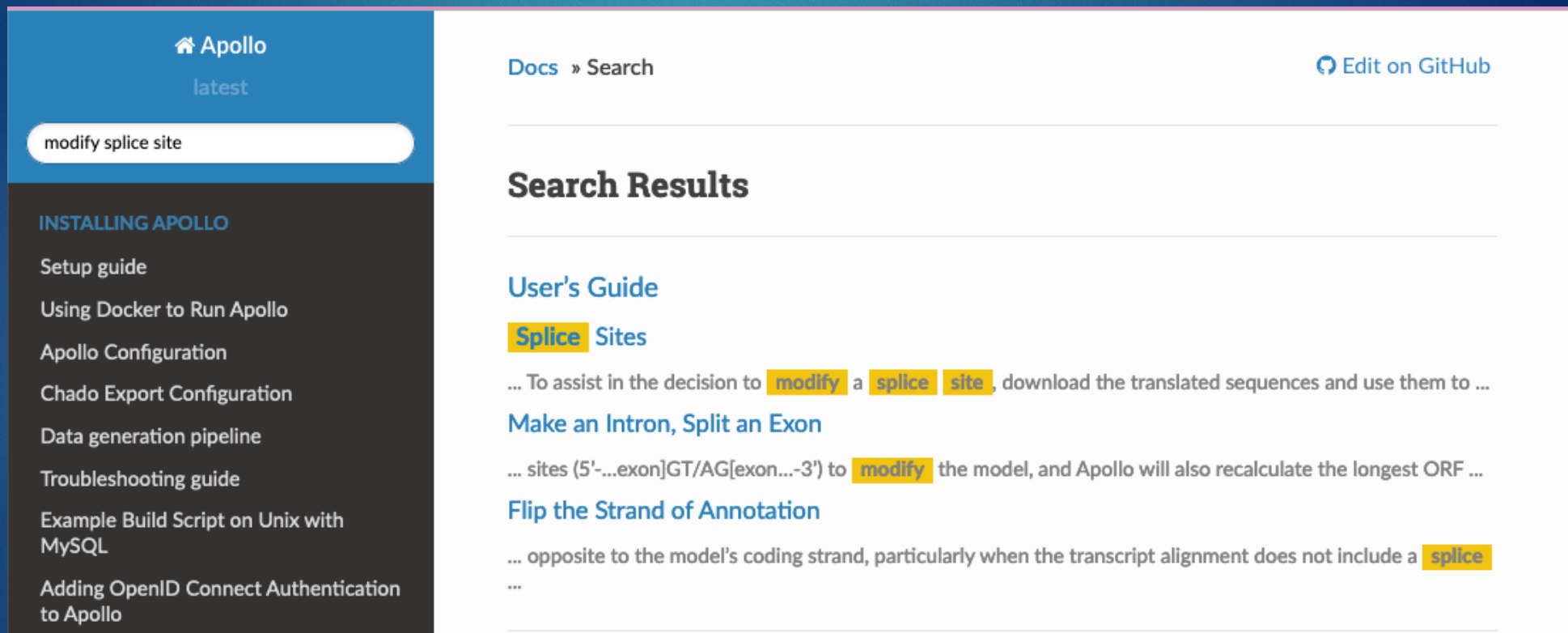
### Annotating features

- Click-and-drag features to the User-created annotations or right click features and select "Create new annotation".
- Use "edge matching" function, shown as red highlight, to match exon boundaries to evidence from gene models or alignments.
- Use "Color by CDS" to highlight the calculated translation frame for annotations and evidence features.
- Add details for each annotation using the "Information Editor" dialog.

### Annotation shortcuts

- Use [ and ] to jump between splice sites in a given annotation on the User-created annotation area.
- Use { and } to jump to the nearest gene on the User-created annotation area.
- Select a feature in the User-created annotation area and press alt-click to quickly reach the "Information editor".

# Tips and tricks: Apollo Help Docs



The screenshot shows the Apollo Help Docs search results page. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: **INSTALLING APOLLO**, Setup guide, Using Docker to Run Apollo, Apollo Configuration, Chado Export Configuration, Data generation pipeline, Troubleshooting guide, Example Build Script on Unix with MySQL, and Adding OpenID Connect Authentication to Apollo. The main content area shows the search results for 'modify splice site'. The breadcrumb is 'Docs » Search' and there is a link to 'Edit on GitHub'. The search results are under the heading 'Search Results' and include a section for 'User's Guide' with a sub-section 'Splice Sites'. The search results text includes: '... To assist in the decision to modify a splice site, download the translated sequences and use them to ...', 'Make an Intron, Split an Exon', '... sites (5'...exon]GT/AG[exon...-3') to modify the model, and Apollo will also recalculate the longest ORF ...', 'Flip the Strand of Annotation', and '... opposite to the model's coding strand, particularly when the transcript alignment does not include a splice ...'.

🏠 Apollo  
latest

modify splice site

Docs » Search [Edit on GitHub](#)

## Search Results

### User's Guide

#### Splice Sites

... To assist in the decision to **modify** a **splice site**, download the translated sequences and use them to ...

#### Make an Intron, Split an Exon

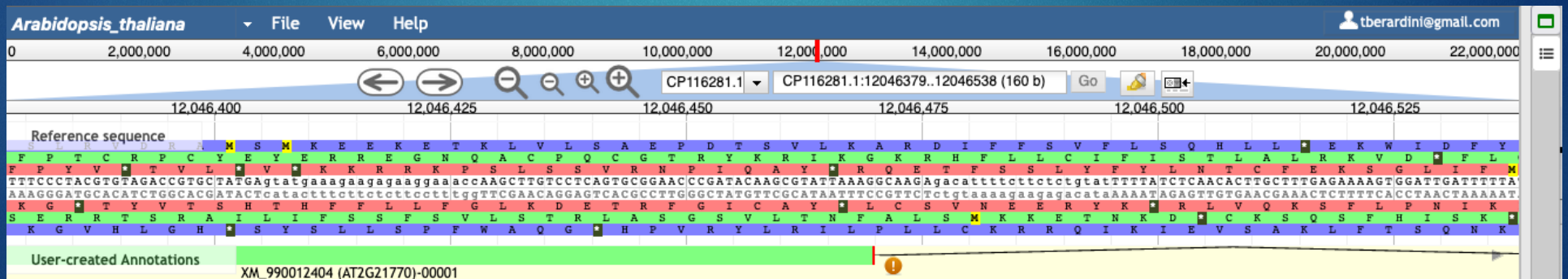
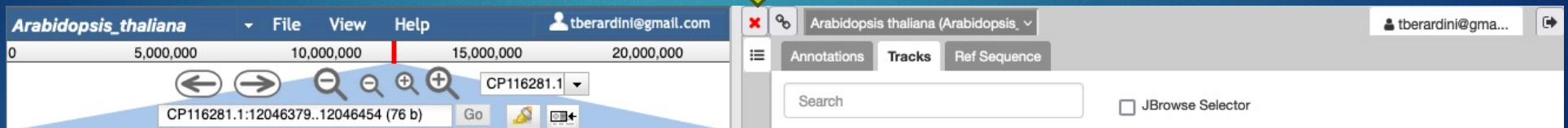
... sites (5'...exon]GT/AG[exon...-3') to **modify** the model, and Apollo will also recalculate the longest ORF ...

#### Flip the Strand of Annotation

... opposite to the model's coding strand, particularly when the transcript alignment does not include a **splice** ...

<https://genomearchitect.readthedocs.io/en/latest/search.html>

# Tips and tricks: Show/hide sidebar



# Exercise 1: Finding regions of interest

- Working with protein coding genes for now
- Search by AGI: AT1G69120
  - Right click menu
- Search by chromosome + coordinates: CP116282.1:19803781..19806663
- What are we looking at ?
  - Colored boxes = exons, coding sequence, reading frames
  - Clear boxes = exons, UTRs
  - Arrows = direction of transcription/translation
  - Lines = introns
- Sanity check: JBrowse view of same AGI/region

## Exercise 2: Creating your own gene model

- Groups
  - 1: AT1G45545
  - 2: AT2G21850
  - 3: AT3G46510
  - 4: AT4G20060
  - 5: AT5G25640
- Click on intron, highlight whole gene annotation
- Drag from Col-CC Annotation track (or Gnomon track) into user-created Annotation band (Yellow)
- Rename
- Delete
- Zoom to Base level
- Toggle sequences

# Tips and tricks: Toggle sequences

12,045,750 12,045,775

S V F V I \* S D \* \* I M N T G G I  
C F C D L I G L V N H E H W R E  
L F L \* S D R T S E S \* T L E G  
tctgtttttgtgatCTGATCGGACTAGTGAATCATGAACACTGGAGGG  
agacaaaaaacactac TTGTGACCTCCCT  
R N K H I V S S P  
E T K T I F V P P  
K Q K Q S S C Q L

- Toggle Reverse Strand
- Toggle Protein Translation
- Create Genomic Insertion
- Create Genomic Deletion
- Create Genomic Substitution

Click in DNA region

## Exercise 3: Adjusting exons and introns

- Create new entry in user-created annotations again
- Verify direction of translation
- Check beginning of translation
- Adjust start of translation
- (Check RNA seq)
- Delete an exon
- Undo
- Delete an intron
- Undo



# Tips and tricks: Saving comments/status

- Click out of the panel you've changed into another one

2. Click here to save

1. Enter comment

The screenshot shows a web interface for viewing annotations. At the top, there are tabs for 'Annotations', 'Tracks', and 'Ref Sequence'. Below the tabs are filters for 'Show All' and 'Show Visible Only', an 'Annotation Name' search box, a 'GO' dropdown menu, and buttons for 'GP' and 'Prov'. There are also filters for 'Reference Sequence', 'All Users', and 'All Statuses'. A table displays a list of annotations with columns for Name, Seq, Type, Length, and Updated. The table is currently showing 10 rows out of 10. Below the table, there is a section for the selected annotation 'gene: XM\_990012404 (AT2G21770)' with a 'Link to annotation' and 'Close(x)' button. At the bottom, there are tabs for 'Details', 'GO', 'Gene Product', 'Provenance', 'DbXref', 'Comment', and 'Attributes'. The 'Comment' tab is active, showing a 'Comment' input field and a dropdown menu with options: '- Add Canned Comment -', 'missing exon' (selected), 'non-canonical splice site', and 'merged gene models'.

Name	Seq	Type	Length	Updated
XM_990012404 (AT2G21770)	CP116281.1	gene	5,130	May 22, 2023
XM_990022240 (AT3G46370)	CP116282.1	gene	6,268	May 22, 2023
XM_990022240 (AT3G46370)	CP116282.1	gene	541	May 22, 2023
XM_990012851 (AT2G24650)a	CP116281.1	gene	4,212	May 21, 2023
XM_990004623 ()	CP116284.1	gene	2,129	May 21, 2023
XM_990012851 (AT2G24650)	CP116281.1	gene	1,939	May 21, 2023
XM_990006555 (AT1G47290)	CP116280.1	gene	3,382	May 19, 2023
XM_990006359 (AT1G42990)	CP116280.1	gene	634	May 18, 2023
XM_990006520 (AT1G45332)	CP116280.1	gene	4,381	May 18, 2023
XM_990006306()	CP116280.1	gene	3,456	May 17, 2023

# Evidence tracks

- Col-CC annotation: end result of pipeline
- Gnomon models: \*one\* of the inputs into the pipeline
- TSA (transcript shotgun assembly): isoseq contigs + extra isoseq
- Protein alignments: alignments of protein sequences from Genbank records (multi-species) with Col-CC models
- (RNA seq) - *A. thaliana*
- (Long read RNA) - *A. thaliana*

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# What's next?

- ▶ Second training session: more with Apollo
  - ▶ Examining evidence
  - ▶ Detailed manipulation/editing
  - ▶ Next week: Wed/Thu (May 31/June 1)
    - ▶ 7 – 8:30 am US PDT (UTC -7)
  
- ▶ ICAR 2023 – June 5 – 9 : who's attending?

# What's next?

## ▶ Gene set assignment

1. split
2. merged
3. deleted
4. novel
5. locus type changed
6. cds changed
7. BUSCO gene disappeared
8. desired gene family (may overlap with 1-7)

# What's next? Further out

- ▶ Website: [tinyurl.com/AthalianaV12](https://tinyurl.com/AthalianaV12)
  - ▶ Updates, training material, video will be accessible from here
  - ▶ Tracking work and review
    - ▶ Google Sheet
    - ▶ Excel spreadsheet (no Google Drive access)
- ▶ Slack channel ([#athalianav12-manual-review](#))
  - ▶ Bug reports, asynchronous feedback/questions, paste the link to the region and the issue
- ▶ When review starts in earnest: Regular call time: Zoom, Wed 7 – 7:30 am Pacific (proposed)

# Thank you!

- ▶ **Col-CC Assembly:** Korbinian Schneeberger and lab team
- ▶ **NCBI Eukaryotic Genome Pipeline:** Françoise Thibaud-Nissen, Terence Murphy
- ▶ **Apollo setup @TAIR:** Shabari Subramaniam, Xingguo Chen, Trilok Prithvi, Chris Childers
- ▶ **Training materials:** Moni Munoz Torres, Marcela Tello Ruiz, Monica Poelchau, Jason Williams
- ▶ **The wider Arabidopsis community**
- ▶ **YOU**

