

Consensus

Each base of a consensus sequence is calculated as a function of the corresponding column bases. There are different methods to calculate the consensus. Each method reveals unique biological properties of the aligned sequences. The *Alignment Editor* allows switching between different consensus modes. To switch the consensus mode go to the *General tab* of the *Options Panel* or activate the context menu (using the right mouse button) or the *Actions* menu and select the *Consensus mode* item and *General tab* will be opened automatically:

The screenshot shows the 'General' tab of the 'Options Panel' in the 'Alignment Editor'. The panel has a title bar 'General' and a vertical toolbar on the right with icons for various functions. The main content area is divided into four sections, each with a collapsed arrow icon:

- Reference sequence:** Contains a button with a right arrow and the text 'Select and add', and a close button with an 'X'.
- Alignment info:** Displays 'Length: 199950' and 'Sequence number: 18'.
- Consensus mode:** Includes a 'Consensus type:' dropdown menu set to 'Default', a 'Threshold:' label, a slider bar, and a '100%' value field with up/down arrows.
- Copy to clipboard:** Includes a 'Format:' dropdown menu set to 'Stockholm' and a 'Copy' button.

There are several consensus modes:

- **JalView (Default)** — it is based on the JalView algorithm. Returns '+' if there are 2 characters with high frequency. Returns symbol in lower case if the symbol content in a row is lower than the specified threshold.
- **ClustalW** — emulates the ClustalW program and file format behavior.
- **Levitsky** — this algorithm is proposed by Victor Levitsky to calculate consensus of DNA alignments. At first, it collects global alignment frequencies for every symbol using extended (15 symbols) DNA alphabet. Then, for every column it selects the rarest symbol in the whole alignment with percentage in the column greater or equals to the threshold value.
- **Strict** — the algorithm returns gap character ('—') if symbol frequency in a column is lower than the threshold specified.

Also you can select copy to clipboard parameter. The following [chapter](#) describe more details about copying sequences.

Also the *General tab* shows the general information about an alignment and allows to select a reference sequence. The following chapter describes how to export a consensus sequence:

- [Export Consensus](#)