FASTA Parser Implemented in Rust with Nom

Tianyi Shi

2020-08-23

Contents

1	Parsing a single FASTA Record		1
	1.1	Representing the Record in Rust	1
	1.2	Parsing the Title	1

Nom makes it possible to

1 Parsing a single FASTA Record

An example of FASTA record is shown below.

>gi|2765658|emb|Z78533.1|CIZ78533 C.irapeanum 5.8S rRNA gene and ITS1 and ITS2 DNA CGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGGAAGGATCATTGATGAGACCGTGGAATAAACGATCGAGTG AATCCGGAGGACCGGTGTACTCAGCTCACCGGGGGGCATTGCTCCCGTGGTGACCCTGATTTGTTGTTGGG CCGCCTCGGGAGCGTCCATGGCGGGTT

>(another FASTA record)

Each record starts with a > character, which is followed by the title on the same line. The title can be further divided into an ID and description, which is separated by a space character. In this case, the ID is gi|2765658|emb|Z78533.1|CIZ78533 and the description is 'C.irapeanum 5.8S rRNA gene and ITS1 and ITS2 DNA'.

The sequence starts from the second line. There can be line breaks within the sequence.

1.1 Representing the Record in Rust

When we parse data, we *parse it into something that is meaningful in that language*. In Rust, users can define custom struct and enum data structures, and in this case, a C-like struct is the most appropriate.

To make it simple, we define one two fields, title and seq:

```
fn main(){
#[derive(Debug)]struct Record { title: String, seq: String}
}
```

1.2 Parsing the Title

To make it