FAQ for easyExon

I. Technical problem

1. What environment is required for easyExon?

A: We recommend users to download the latest version of Java Runtime Environment (JRE). The recommended version of JRE is version 6.

2. How to set the environment for Mac OS X?

A: Since JRE 6 is the recommended version, users for Mac OS X need to set the JRE version 6 before using easyExon. Users need to choose *Applications -> Utilities -> Java -> Java Preferences* first. Detail is shown in Figure 1. Second, users have to change the "Java Application Runtime Settings" to Java SE 6 (64-bit). The setting is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Path of "Java Preferences"

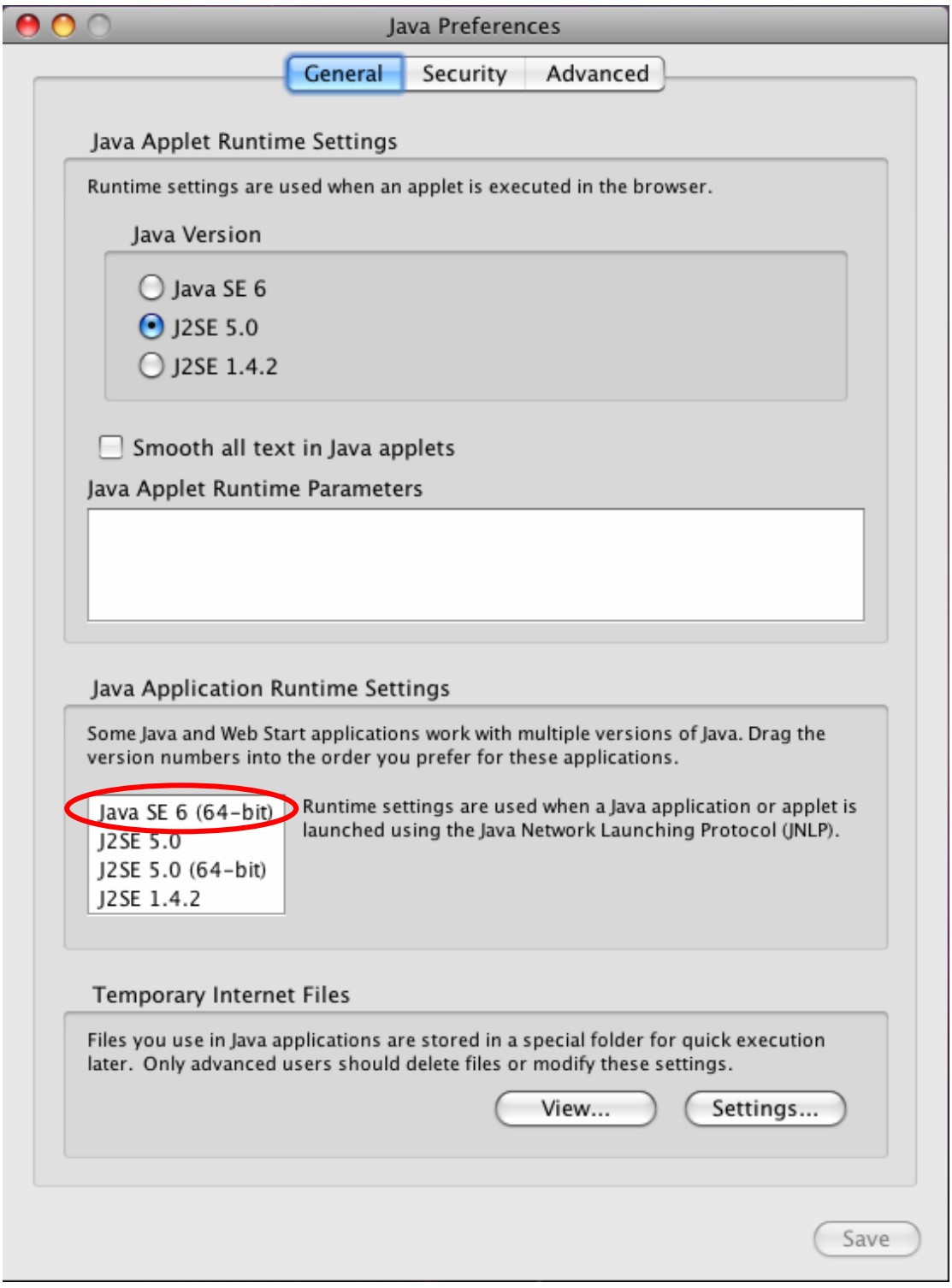

Figure 2: Java Preferences Setting

3. How much memory is needed for easyExon?

A: The default memory heap size is 1 Gigabyte. When user needs to change the heap size, please download the jar file and use the command line to change memory heap size.

Download jar file: [Jar file for JRE 6]

4. What should I do when initial interface is broken?

A: When initial interface is broken like Figure 3, please new a study to continue. An Alt-Splicing study can be added by following step. Click “File” at the menu bar first, and select “New Alt-Splicing Study.” Detail is shown in Figure 4.

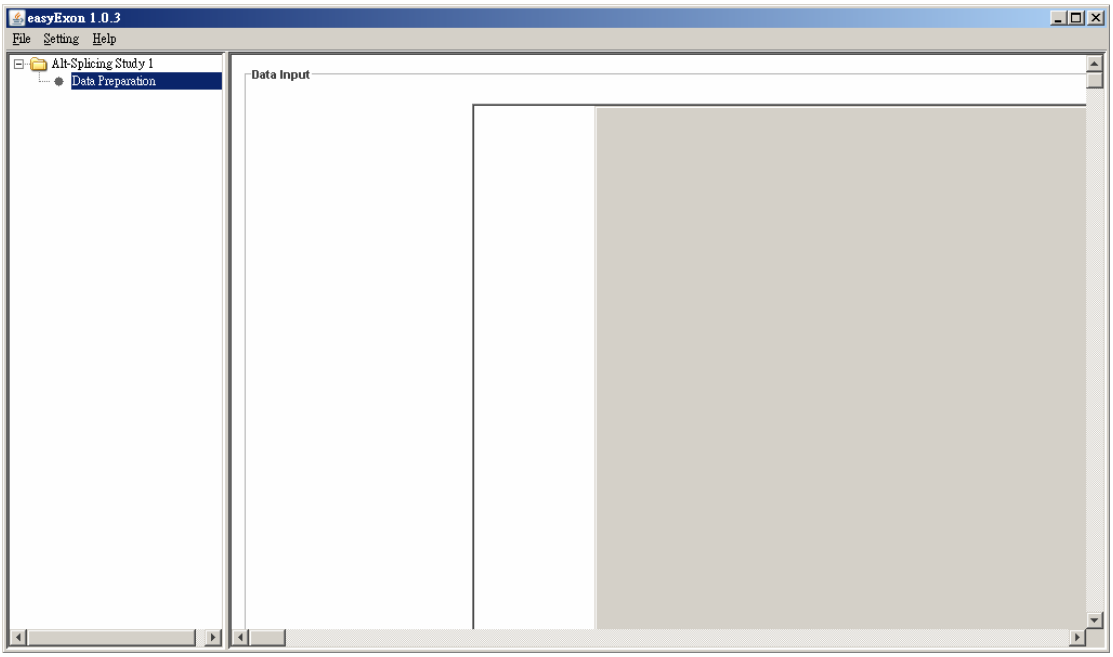

Figure 3: Broken initial interface

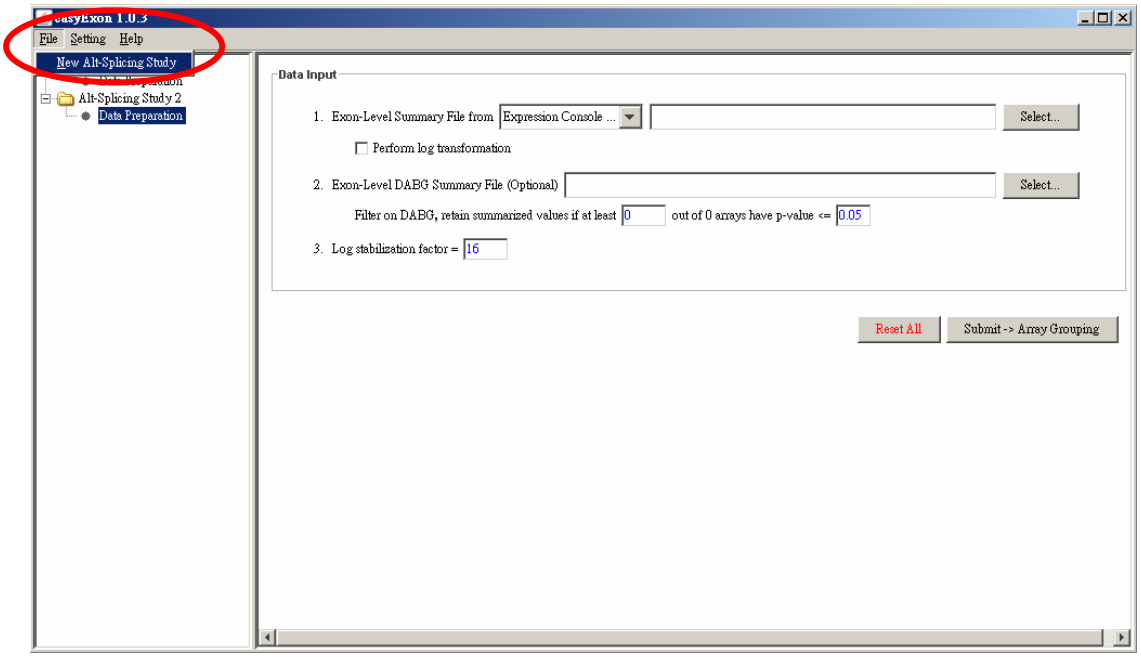

Figure 4: New an Alt-Splicing Study

5. Why can’t I access the database?

A: Since our database is connected through port 3306, users need to make sure the connection to port 3306 is workable. Users may check the firewall and other internet connection problems to solve the problem.

II. easyExon

1. How many arrays are needed for each group?

A: For the statistic calculation, the minimum number of sample for each group is three at least. However, for the reliability of prediction, more arrays included, more reliable the prediction is.

2. Does the sample size affect the results?

A: Yes, it does. As the samples represent the population, more arrays included, more reliable the prediction is.

3. What algorithms are used in easyExon?

A: easyExon mainly adopts the Affymetrix MIDAS (Microarray Detection of Alternative Splicing) and PAC (Pattern-Based Correlation) for Exon to do the statistical filtration. For the details, please see “easyExon Statistics” in our homepage.