

What is bioinformatics?

an interdisciplinary field at the interface of the computational and life sciences

“The ultimate goal of the field is to enable the discovery of new biological insights as well as to create a global perspective from which unifying principles in biology can be discerned. ”

National Center for Biotechnology Information
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

What is bioinformatics?

- the analysis and interpretation of nucleotide and protein sequences and structures

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- development of algorithms and software to support the acquisition ... of biomolecular data

What is bioinformatics?

- the analysis and interpretation of nucleotide and protein sequences and structures
- development of algorithms and software to support the acquisition ... of biomolecular data
- the development of software that enables efficient access and management of biomolecular information

Bioinformatics stems from parallel revolutions in biology and computing

At the beginning of World War II (1939-1944):

- The shared program computer had not yet been invented, and there were no programming languages, databases, or computer networks.
- The relationship between genes and proteins, the molecular basis of genes, the structure of DNA and the genetic code were all unknown.

The Origins of Computational Biology

Amino acid sequencing

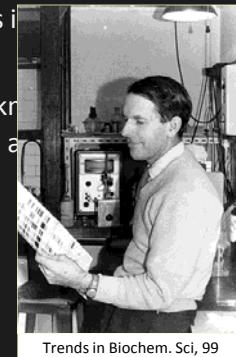
Sanger sequences i

Stein, Moore, Spackman automatic amino acid analyzer

Turing designs a stored

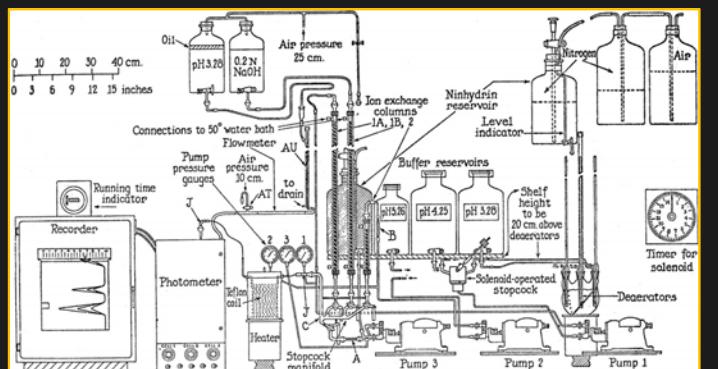
program computer

EDSAC: 1st stored program computer



Trends in Biochem. Sci, 99

Automatic recording apparatus used in the chromatographic analysis of mixtures of amino acids



Stein, Moore, Spackman, 1958

EDSAC: The first stored-program computer.



The Origins of Computational Biology

Amino acid sequencing
Sanger sequences insulin.

Stein, Moore, Spackman:
automatic amino acid
analyzer

Turing designs a stored
program computer

1950 Edsac: 1st stored
program computer

Grace Murray Hopper
co-invents COBOL and
finds the first bug



Grace Murray Hopper
finds the first bug

Rear Admiral Grace Hopper over-seeing her
team of programmers, Philadelphia Inquirer,
1957



Grace Murray Hopper

The Origins of Computational Biology

Amino acid sequencing
Sanger sequences insulin.

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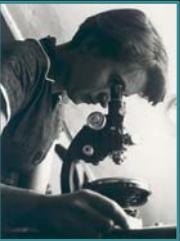
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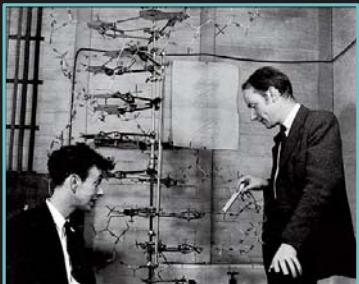
Discovery of DNA structure,
Watson, Crick, Franklin

The helical structure of DNA



Rosalind Franklin

James Watson and Francis Crick



The genetic code

The genetic code is a degenerate, non-overlapping, triplet code. Crick, Barnett, Brenner, and Watts-Tobin, 1961

Determination of the genetic code

		Second Base			Third Base		
		U	C	A	G		
First Base	U	UUU Phe UUC UUA UUG	UCU Ser UCC UCA UCG	UAU Tyr UAC	UGU Cys UGC UAG Stop UAA Stop	U	C
	C	CUU CUC CUA CUG	CCU CCC CCA CCG	CAU His CAC Pro CAA Gin CAG	CGU U CGC C CGA Arg A CGG G	G	G
A	A	AUU AUC Ile AUA	ACU ACC Thr ACA	AAU Asn AAC AAA Lys AAG	AGU Ser AGC AGA Arg A AGG G	U C	G
	G	AUG Met / Start	ACG	AGA	GGU U GGC C GGA Gly A GGG G		

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Determination of the genetic code

Fortran, Basic, LISP

1960

1970

The Origins of Computational Biology

Determination of the genetic code

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1960

On going protein sequencing, Dayhoff publishes the Protein Atlas

1970

Atlas of Protein Sequence & Structure 1965 - 1978



Margaret Dayhoff
PhD in Chemistry, 47
Watson Computing Lab Fellow 47 - 48

The Origins of Computational Biology

Determination of the
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Fortran, Basic, LISP

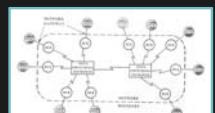
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Arpanet

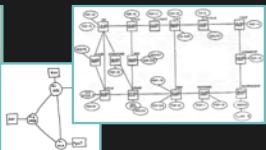
1970

The ARPAnet is established,
precursor to the Internet.



Packet switching is invented, which supports
flexible, multi-node network

Interface Message
Processor (IMP) network is
constructed, linking 4, and
then 15 nodes



The Origins of Computational Biology

Determination of the
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Fortran, Basic, LISP

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The Protein Data Bank is
established.

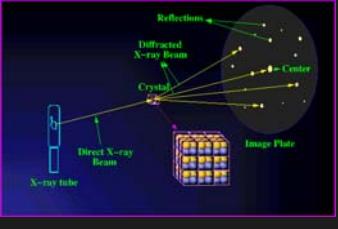
1970

Protein Data Bank (PDB)

Growing collection of X-ray diffraction protein structure data

Development of molecular graphics display for 3D visualization

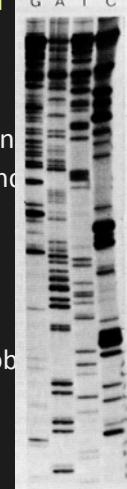
SEARCH program supports remote access



The Origins of Computational Biology

Sanger-Coulson sequencing
Maxam-Gilbert sequencing

Gilbert, Sanger win Nobel Prize



TCP/IP
Internet

First royal email
USENET newsgroups

The Origins of Computational Biology

1970

Sanger-Coulson sequencing
Maxam-Gilbert sequencing

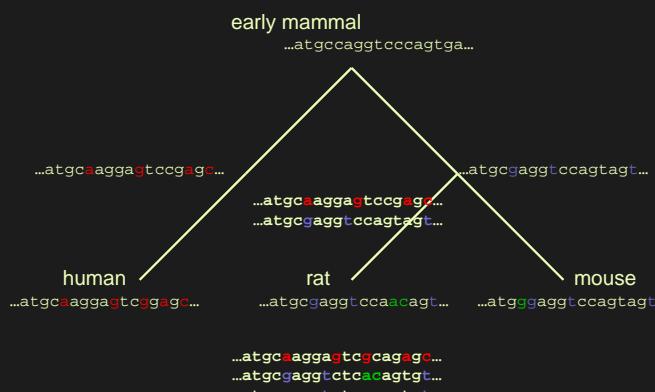
Gilbert, Sanger win Nobel Prize

1980

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Beginnings of molecular evolution



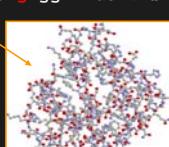
Sequence similarity → structural similarity

Structure?

...vkltpegtr_wgghpoldekflske...

...vhltpettrgwgghmldekeiske...

Estimate protein structure from a related protein with known structure and similar sequence.



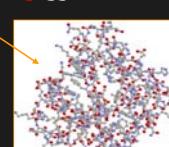
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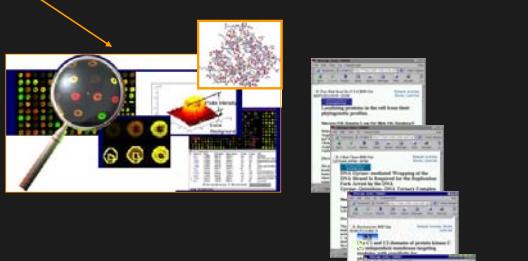


Sequence similarity → functional similarity

?

...atgcgaggabtcgtcgaaagacagcga...

...atgcaggaggatc_gttcacagac...



The Origins of Computational Biology

Congress establishes Genbank **1990**

Human Genome Project begins (DOE)

Basic local alignment search tool (BLAST)

BLAST

The image shows a screenshot of a scientific publication. At the top left, it says "J. Mol. Biol. (1990) 215: 403-419". Below that is the title "Basic Local Alignment Search Tool". The authors listed are Stephen F. Altschul¹, Warren Gish¹, Webb Miller², Eugene W. Myers² and David J. Lipman¹. There are several affiliations mentioned: ¹National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20894, U.S.A.; ²Department of Computer Science, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, U.S.A.; ³Department of Computer Science, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, U.S.A.. The text discusses a new approach to rapid sequence comparison, the basic local alignment search tool (BLAST), which directly approximates alignments that optimize a measure of local similarity, the normalized segment pair score (NIPS). It includes a figure showing a scatter plot of NIPS scores versus the number of alignments generated, and a table comparing BLAST's performance with other tools like FASTA and MULTALIN. The paper concludes that BLAST is significantly faster than existing sequence comparison tools while maintaining comparable sensitivity.

The Origins of Computational Biology

Congress establishes Genbank	1990	Information superhighway
Human Genome Project begins (DOE)		World Wide Web,
Basic local alignment search tool (BLAST)		NCSA Mosaic

The internet we know and love

Al Gore Creates Bill to Fund "Information Superhighway"

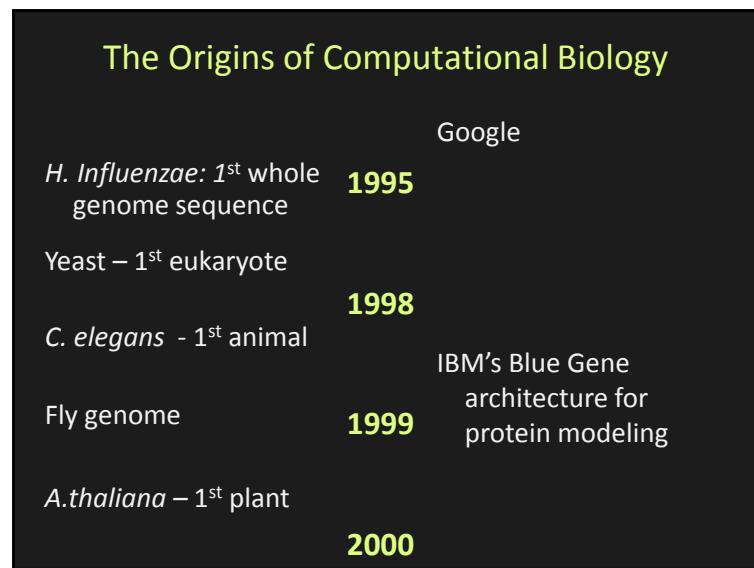
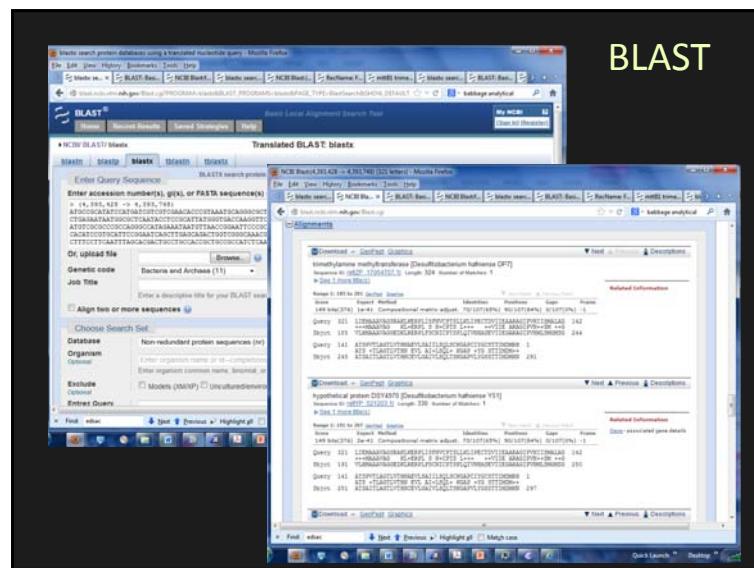
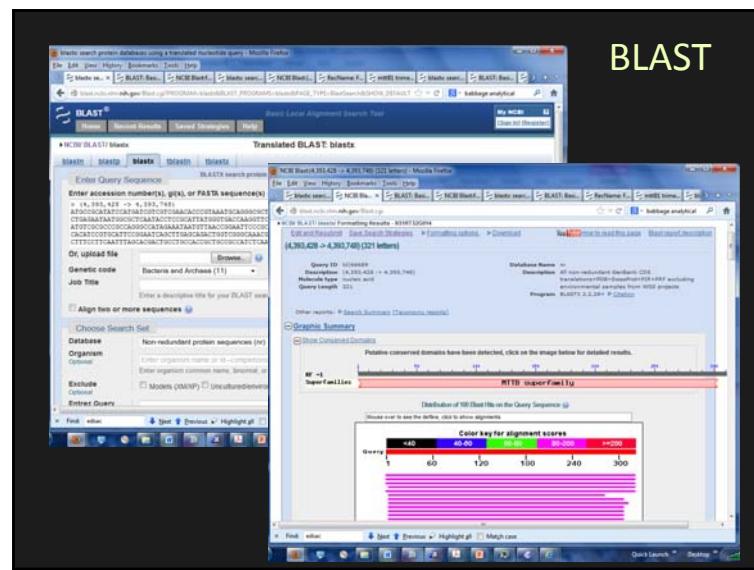
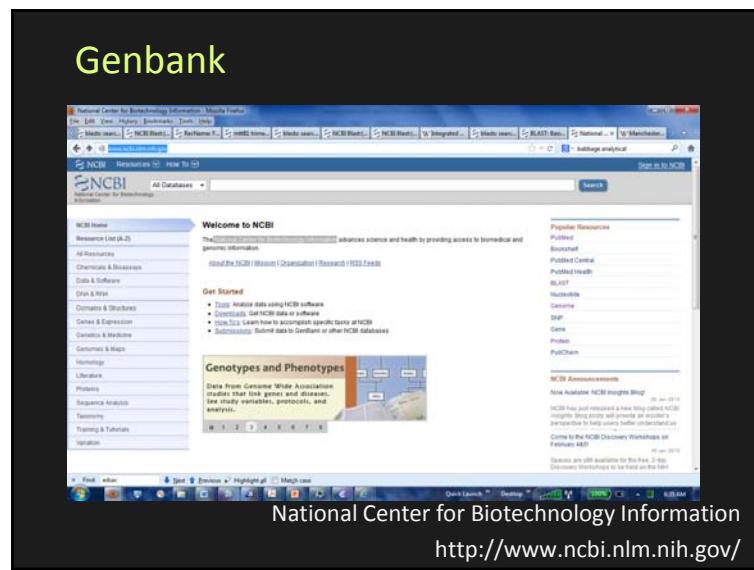
Tim Berners-Lee proposes a design for information sharing that becomes the World Wide Web

The first web browser

The image block contains historical milestones related to the early Internet. It features a large green checkmark icon. Below the checkmark, there is text about Al Gore creating a bill for the Information Superhighway. To the right is a small image of Al Gore holding a flag. Below that is text about Tim Berners-Lee proposing the World Wide Web, accompanied by his logo. At the bottom is a screenshot of the NCSA Mosaic web browser, showing its user interface with various links and icons.

The Origins of Computational Biology

Congress establishes Genbank	1990	Information superhighway
Human Genome Project begins (DOE)		World Wide Web,
Basic local alignment search tool (BLAST)		NCSA Mosaic
GenBank goes online.		Pizza Hut goes on line



Sequence Assembly

Limits of gel electrophoresis: ~ 500bp in one “read”

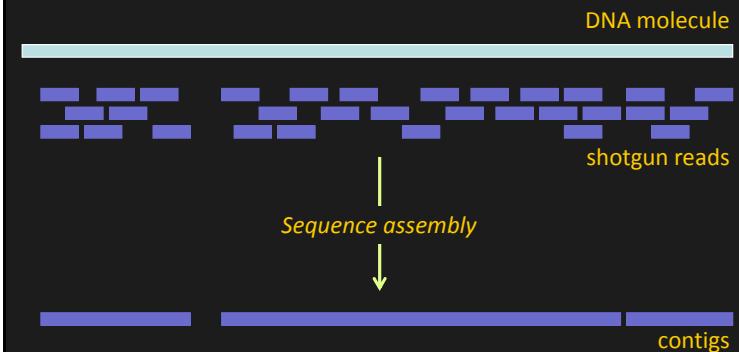
To sequence more than 500 bp:

Sequence 500bp fragments separately

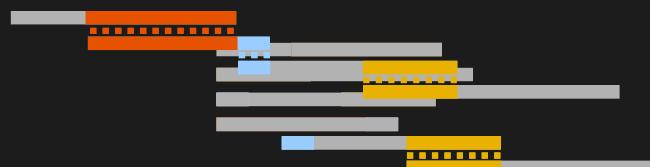
Combine *computationally* using sequence comparison



Shotgun sequencing



Sequence Assembly



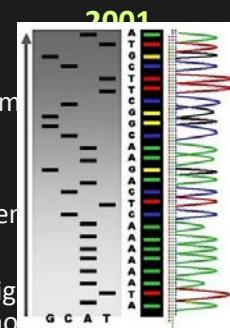
Algorithm to assemble the sequence identity

The Origins of Computational Biology

Draft human genome

ABI Capillary sequencer

Chimp genome, aligned with human genome



Wikipedia, Captcha

Linux Foundation: open source, W3P
gent policy

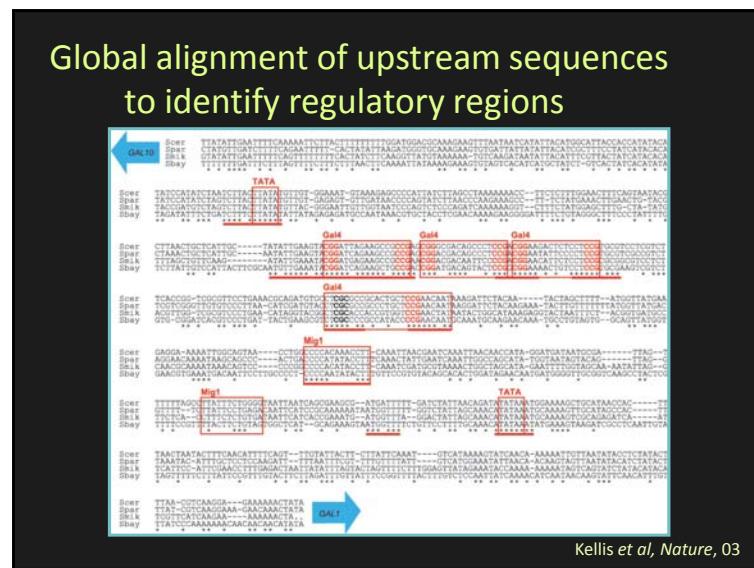
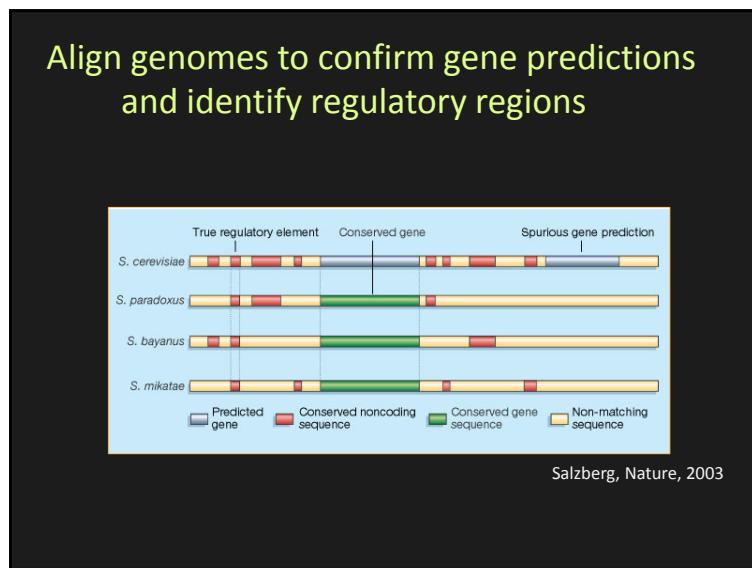
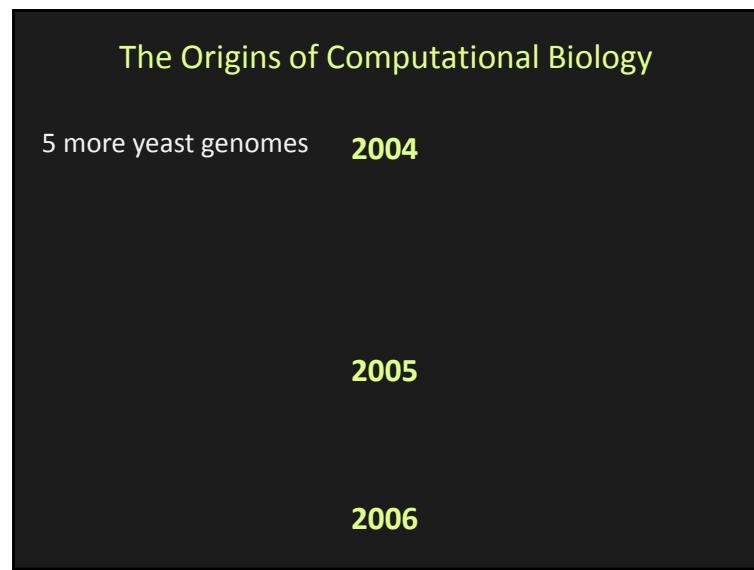
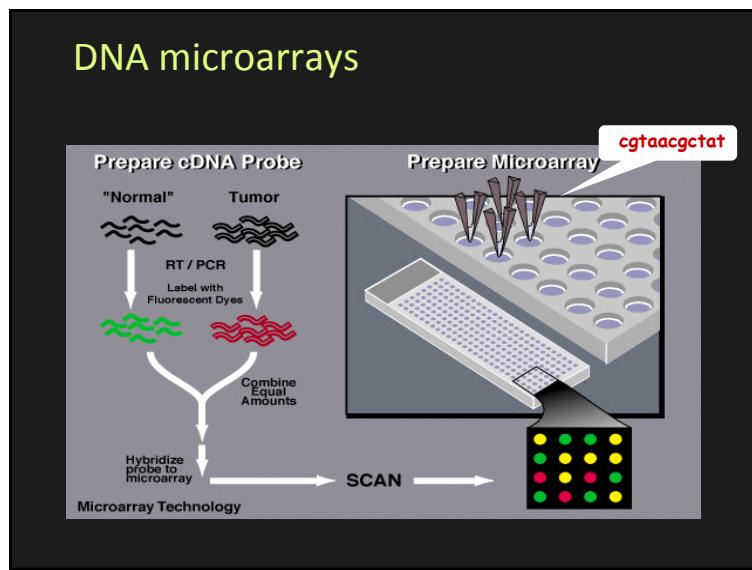
How to interpret whole genome sequence

- Where are the genes?
 - When and where are those genes expressed?
 - What proteins do they encode?
 - What do they do?
 - Molecular function?
 - Biological pathway or process?

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DNA PATTERNS IN THE *E.coli* lexA GENE



The Origins of Computational Biology

5 more yeast genomes **2004**

454 pyrosequencer Rosetta@home

Hi-thrput, short read sequencing Facebook, Twitter

2005

12 *Drosophila* genomes US cyberworm attacks
Iranian centrifuges

2006

The Origins of Computational Biology

5 more yeast genomes **2004**

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Iranian centrifuges

2006

Next-generation, short read sequencing

Sanger Sequencing

- read lengths up to 1,000 bp
- accuracy 99.999%
- costs \$500 per megabase

Illumina sequencing

- read lengths up to 36 bp
- error rates 1-1.5%
- cost \$2 per megabase

454 sequencing

- read lengths 200-300 bp
- accuracy problem with homopolymers
- costs \$60 per megabase

Next-generation, short read sequencing

Advantages

- High throughput
- Does not require PCR amplification
- Accurate measures of abundance
- Cheaper

Disadvantages

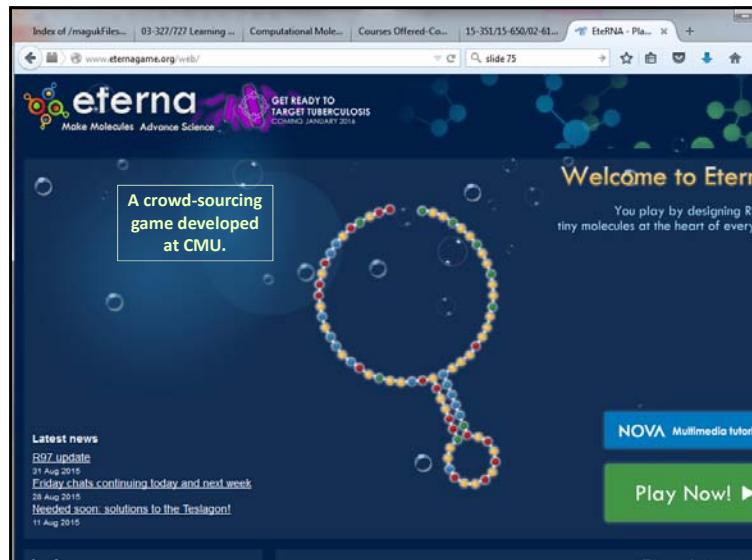
- Short reads are unlikely to be unique.
- Difficult to identify the origin of a given read
- Particular challenge for genome assembly

Some next generation sequencing applications

- Bacterial genomes
- Sample diversity in a bacterial population (e.g., your throat when you have strep)
- Transcription: more accurate and quantitative compared with microarrays
- Medical diagnostics: sequence short genomic regions to identify mutations associated with disease

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1000 Genomes project	2007	Apple iPhone
Human microbiome project.		Estonia: First national elections via Internet
First tumor/normal genome published	2008	Foldit: Crowd-sourced protein folding game
Draft Neanderthal genome		
	2009	

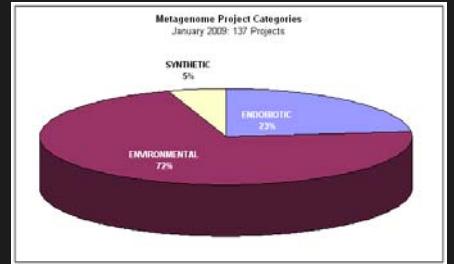


Metagenomics

- Sample communities of microbial organisms directly from their natural environments, bypassing the need for isolation and lab cultivation of individual species.
- Result: a collection of DNA fragments that characterize the organismal and functional diversity of the environment

Metagenomics

- Production-scale plant fermenter
- Fungal communities from the Arctic
- Singapore indoor air filters
- Yellowstone Obsidian Hot Spring
- Fossil microbiome
- Human microbiome



What makes us human?

- Human metabolic features- combo of human and microbial traits
- Microbiota- microorganisms that live inside and on humans
- Microbiome- the genomes of the microbial symbionts

The Origins of Computational Biology

2010

Chocolate (*Theobroma cacao*) genome

Social networking
topples regime in
Egypt

2011

3rd Generation sequencing:
Pac Bio, Ion Torrent

Crystal structure ... solved by protein folding game players,
Nature Structural Biology

2012

What is bioinformatics?

Development of algorithms and software to support the acquisition and interpretation of biomolecular data

- Acquisition: Microarray design, Sequence assembly
- Interpretation: Sequence comparison, clustering of microarrays, gene finding, phylogenetic profiling, ...

What is bioinformatics?

Development of software that enables efficient access and management of biomolecular information

- Genbank
- BLAST
- Protein visualization

What is bioinformatics?

The analysis and interpretation of nucleotide and protein sequences and structures

Application of all of these methods to address specific questions about specific biological systems

