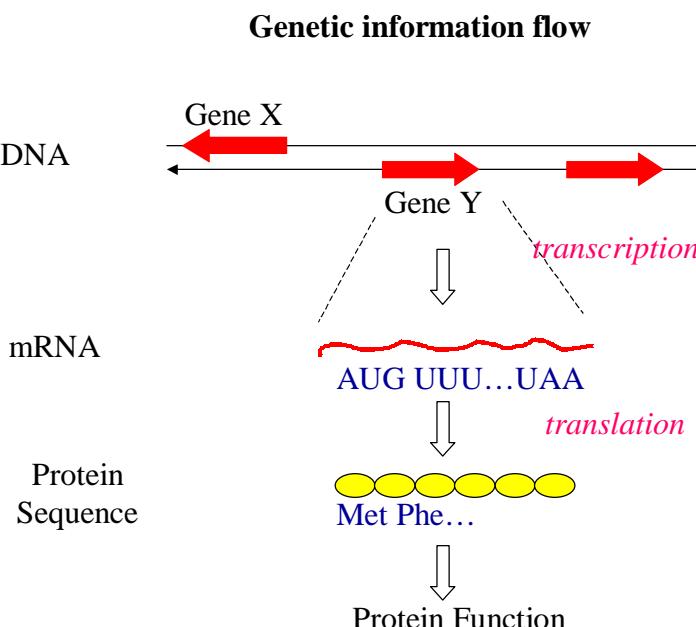


Introduction to Bioinformatics

KITP, UCSB
Hao Li, Feb 20, 2003



Some of the canonical bioinformatics tasks

Centered around the processing of genetic information

Finding genes: exons, introns, transcription start site, splicing signal,...

Inferring the function of protein based on sequence

Understanding gene regulation from sequence signal

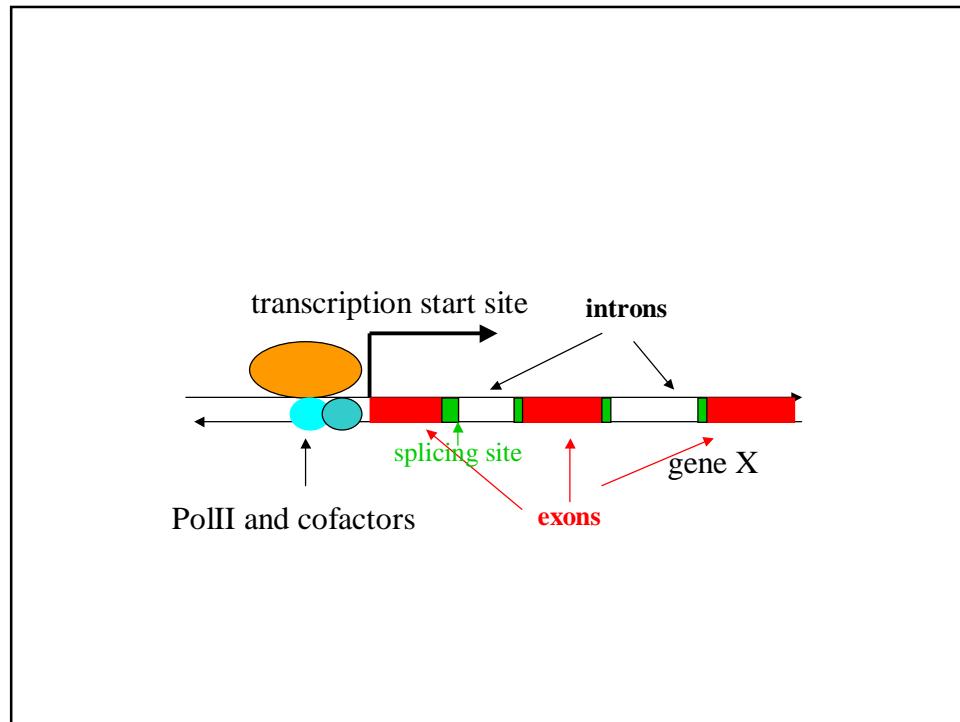
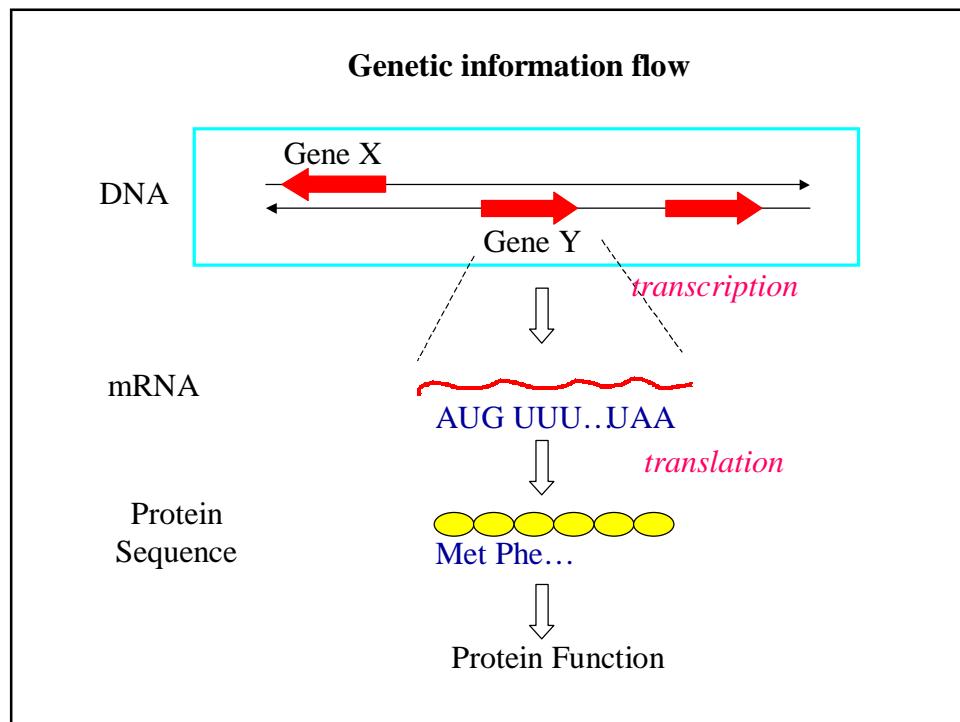
Strategy:

Mimic what the cell does

Use statistics cell can not utilize

Information available

- Primary Sources
 - DNA sequences, [GeneBank](#)
 - Protein sequences and structures, [SwissProt](#), [PDB](#)
- Genome databases for various organisms
- Other more specialized sources, E.g.,
 - Protein families, domains, structure classification, [Pfam](#), [BLOCK](#)...
 - Promoter databases, [EPD](#)
 - Transcription factor binding sites, [TRANSFAC](#)
- Large scale experimental data
 - Gene expression (DNA micro-array, proteomics data), [SMD](#)...
 - Genomic scale functional assay
 - Protein protein interaction data (e.g., two hybrid screen), [DIP](#)...
 - Transcription factor location data (e.g.,CHIP-on-CHIP)



Gene finding

Type of signals

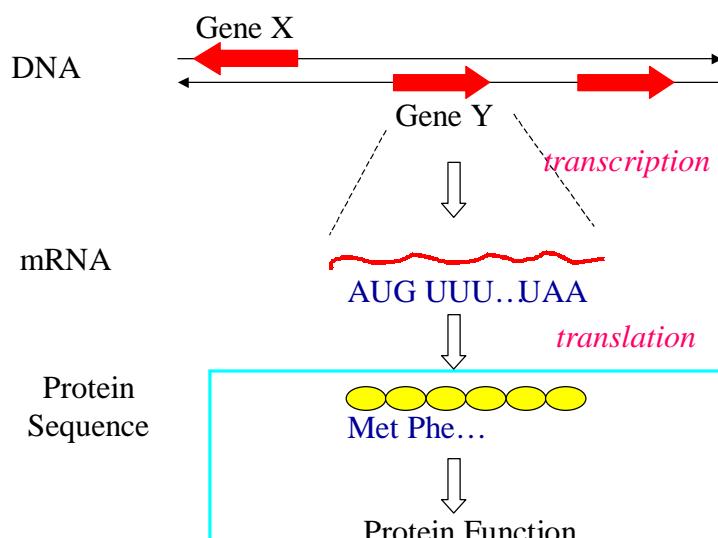
promoter, splicing site, transcription termination, etc
base frequency at diff. codon positions, 6'mer, etc
homology to EST, known protein seq.

Need training set

[a list of gene finding algorithms](#)

GENSCAN HMM ~90% single bp, ~80% exon

Grail neural network



Predicting structure and/or function from sequence

what does it do → function

how → mechanism

can I design a new one with desired
properties → critical residues,
structure/function domains etc.

Predicting function/structure by homology

- 1) find similar sequence with known function/structure
[Blast/PSI-Blast/Smith-Waterman](#) form hypothesis
homology modeling, structure classification etc. 
- 2) Find similar sequences with unknown functions
Structure information, important residues
Multiple sequence alignment may give some clue
[ClustalW](#)
- 3) No homology detected by sequence alignment
Try pattern/profile search
[Prosite, BLOCKS, Pfam](#) etc

sequence alignment

```
DALGKTNAVAHKLLVDD  
| | | | | | | |  
DLLGK--VAQHKLLTAD
```

How to score an alignment

match and mismatch: [scoring \(substitution\) matrix](#)
[gap penalty](#): opening a gap; extension of a gap

Significance of an alignment

[E value](#): expected number by chance

Substitution matrices

$$s(a, b) = \log\left(\frac{p_{ab}}{q_a q_b}\right)$$

frequency of aligned pairs
frequency of amino acids

PAM (Dayhoff) matrices: derived from the ungapped alignment of very similar proteins, extrapolate to longer evolutionary distance. PAM-x, larger x corresponds to longer distance

BLOSUM matrices: derived from aligned ungapped regions in the block database. BLOSUM-y, smaller y corresponds to longer distance

Recommended matrices and gap costs

Query length	Substitution matrix	Gap costs
<35	PAM-30	(9,1)
35-50	PAM-70	(10,1)
50-85	BLOSUM-80	(10,1)
>85	BLOSUM-62	(11,1)

Sequence alignment algorithms

Needleman-Wunsch: global alignment, align two sequences from end to end

Smith-Waterman: local alignment, find the alignment of two local pieces that gives highest score.

Blast: approximation to Smith-Waterman, heuristic

Sequence alignment: Blast

NCBI Blast server: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST>
ftp site: <ftp://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast>

Options:

- different databases to search
- different versions of the program

program	Probe type	Database type	translate
blastn	n	n	
blastp	p	p	
blastx	n	p	probe
tblastn	p	n	database
tblastx	n	n	probe and database

Sequence alignment: Blast

Choice of parameters:

[scoring matrix](#)

BLOSUM 62 standard for length>85
other matrices for short query seq

[effect of gap penalty](#)

Gap open	Gap extension	comment
large	large	Very few ins. Or del
large	small	A few large insertions
small	large	Many small insertions

Sequence alignment

What is a significant hit

protein: E value < 0.001
length > 80 AA sequence identity > 30%

coding DNA: use blastx, tblastx, translate

noncoding DNA: may use small gap penalty

PSI-Blast

Position Specific Iterated Blast

Using statistically significant hit from Blast
Convert the alignments into position specific score matrix
Search database using the matrix
iterate

Can detect weaker homology

An example
result1 result2

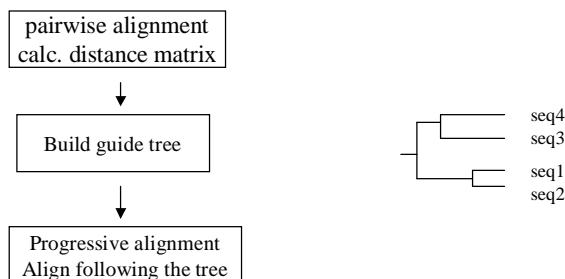
Multiple sequence alignment → structural/evolutionary
Relationship (Nature performed mutagenesis for us)

```
sp|P49789|FHIT_HUMAN -----MSFRFGQHLIKPSVVFLKTELSFALVNRKPVVPGHVLVCPL  
sp|O89106|FHIT_MOUSE -----MSFRFGQHLIKPSVVFLKTELSFALVNRKPVVPGHVLVCPL  
sp|P49776|APH1_SCHPO -----PKQLYFSKFPVG-SQVFYRTKLSAAFVNLKPILPGHVLVIPQ  
sp|P49775|HNT2_YEAST MILSKTKPKSMNKPIYFSKFLVT-EQVFYKSKTYALVNLRIVPGHVLIVL  
sp|Q11066|YHIT_MYCTU -----MPCVFCAIAGEAPAIRIYEDGGYLAILDIRPFTRGHTLVPK  
sp|Q58276|Y866_METJA -----MCIFCKIINGEIPAKVVEDEHVLAFLDINPRNKGHTLVVPK
```

Multiple sequence alignment

Generalization of dynamical programming works only
for small number (<8) of short sequences

Progressive alignment: practical algorithms for a large number
of sequences



Multiple sequence alignment

clustalW

sequence weighting according to divergence
substitution matrix chosen based on expected similarity
carefully fine tuned gap penalties
position specific, residue specific

example

result

Searching local profiles

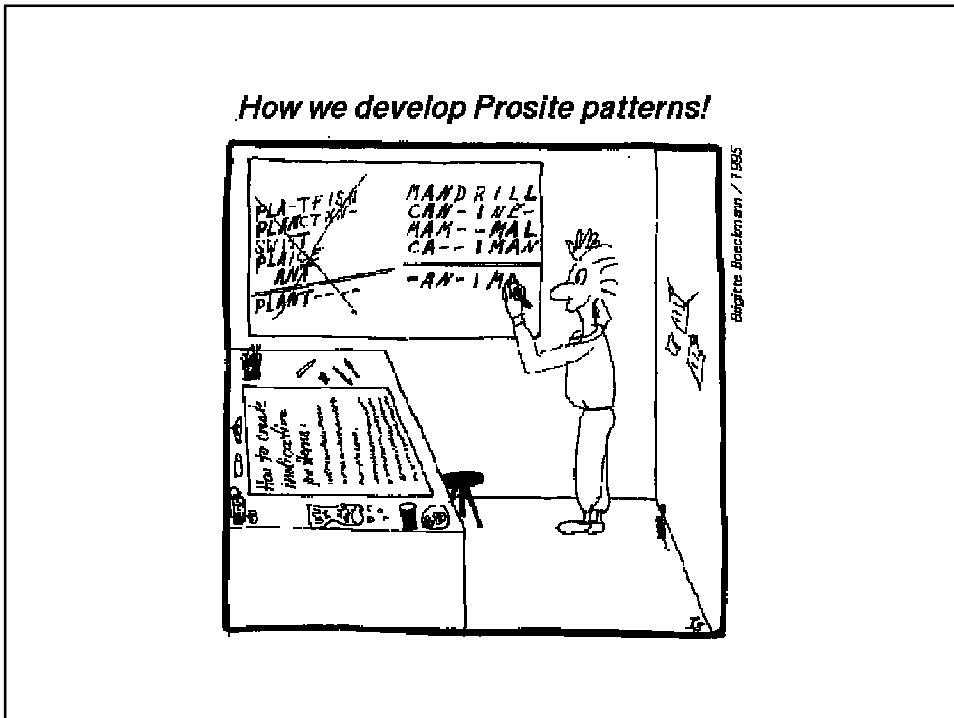
using profile databases

Prosite: patterns and profiles from conserved motifs, functional sites
1580 patterns and profiles (release 17.28 Nov 2002)

BLOCKS: based on automatic ungapped alignment, position specific
scoring matrices
2101 groups 8656 blocks (version 13.0)

Pfam: multiple sequence alignment and profile HMMs
models for 4832 protein families (Oct, 2002)

Several others



An example of pattern/profile databases

Prosite:

originally only regular expression patterns
now include profiles
e.g., build pattern around an active residue

ALRDFAT~~H~~DDF

SMTAEAT~~H~~DSI

ECDQAAT~~H~~EAS

CONSENSUS PATTERN **A**T~~H~~[D,E]

BLOCKS:

Construct position specific scoring matrix (PSSM)
based on gapless blocks of multiply aligned sequences

$$w(x, a) = \sum_b f(x, b) \times s(b, a)$$

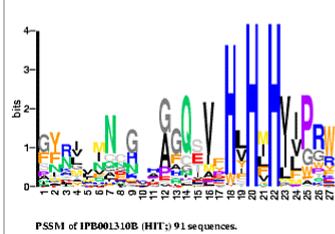
f(x, b) weighted frequency of b at position x
s(b, a) is the scoring matrix. there are more elaborated
Method based on position dependent pseudo-counts

For example,

... . VGAHA
... . VNVDE
... . VEADE
... . FNANP
... . IAGAD

$$M(1, a) = 3/5 * s(V, a) + 1/5 * s(F, a) + 1/5 * s(I, a)$$

Example of blocks profile
Histidine triad
Zinc binding motif



Predicting structure from sequence

transmembrane helices 80%~95% accuracy

windows of 20 hydrophobic AA, database of known helices
http://www.ch.embnet.org/software/TMPRED_form.html

secondary structure prediction 70% ~80%

tertiary structure prediction ?

homology modeling, fold recognition, ab initio
homology modeling:
<http://www.expasy.ch/swissmod/SWISS-MODEL.html>

Secondary structure prediction

single sequence based

Chou and Fasman helix propensity

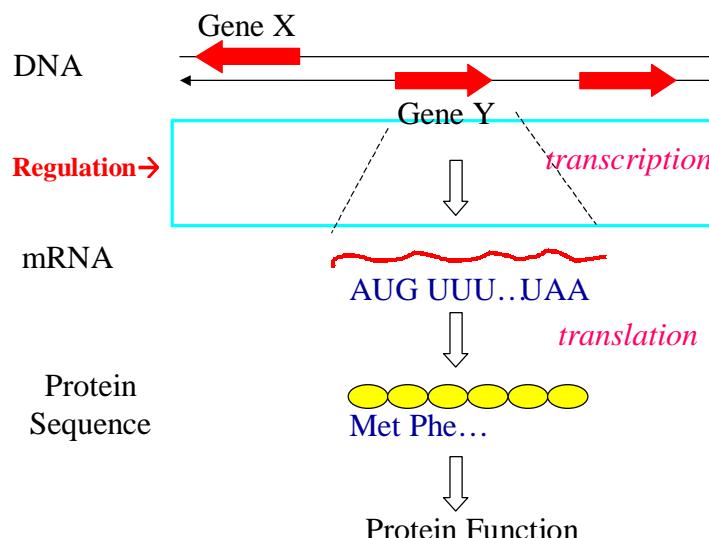
[nnpred](#) (Kneller, Cohen, Langridge) neural nets based

....

Algorithms using multiple sequence information

PHD

....



Gene regulation

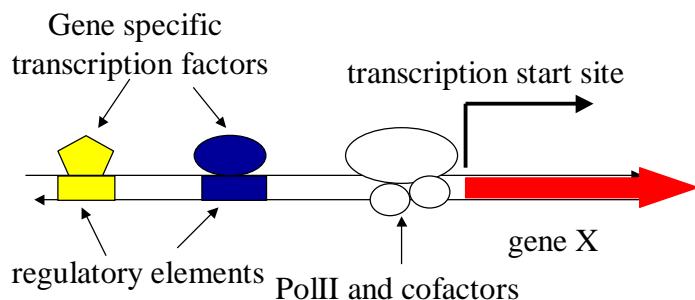
The expression of gene can be controlled in various ways

transcriptional: the amount of mRNA synthesized
translational: the amount of proteins made
post-translational: modify proteins

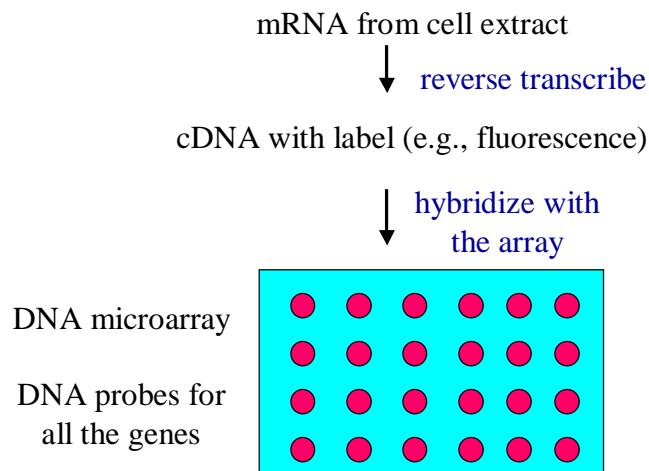
Transcriptional control is a major mechanism for regulation

transcriptional program is encoded in genomic DNA

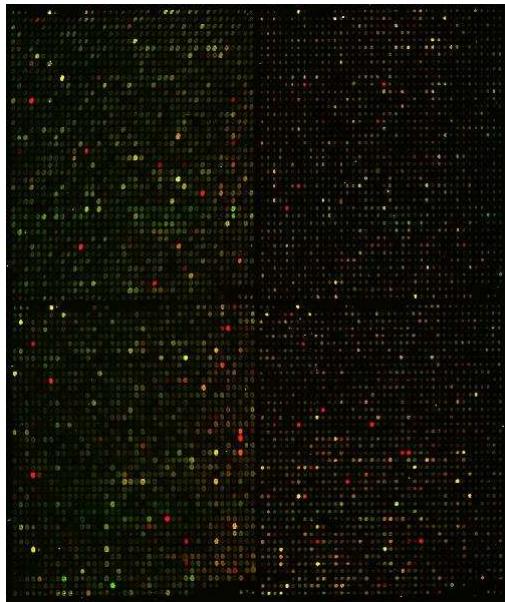
Transcriptional regulation

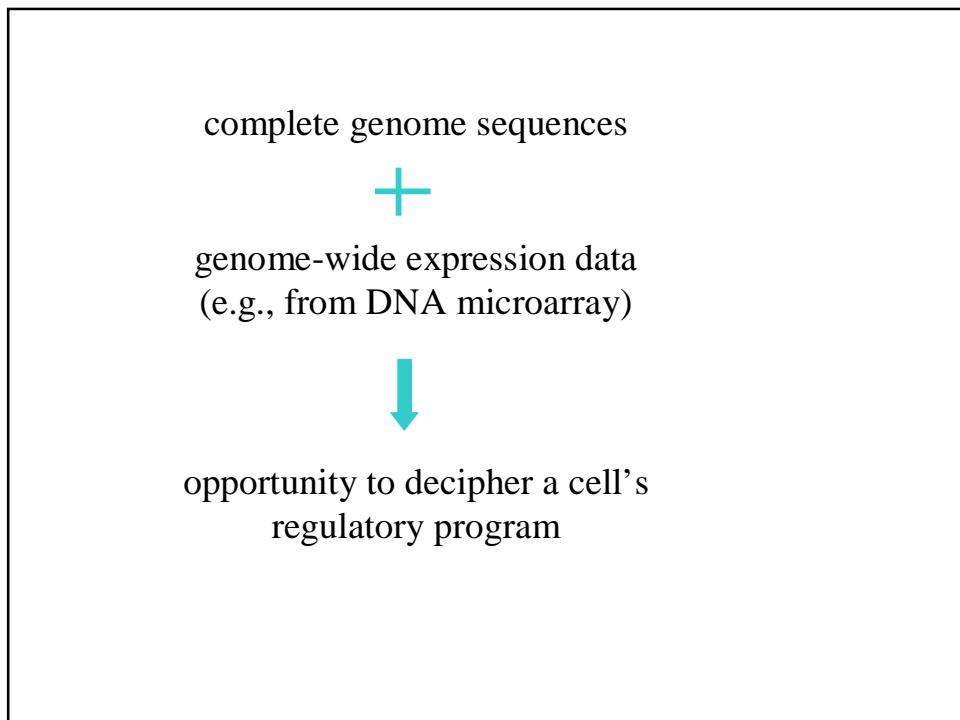
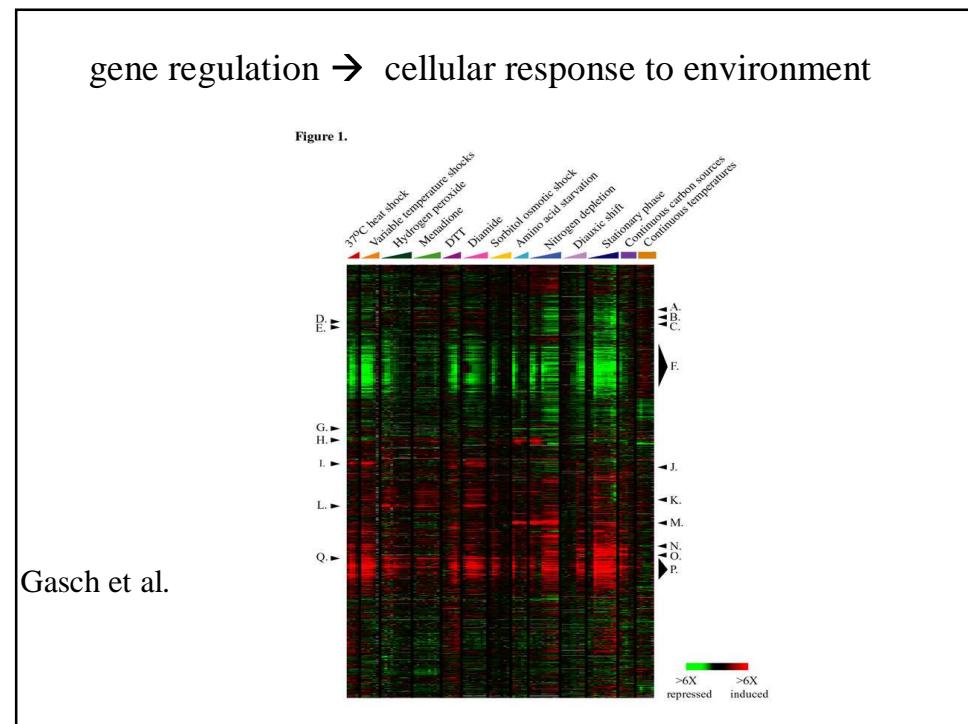


Measure genome-wide gene expression



Derisi et al
Diauxic shift





General approaches

Knowledge based approach

collect examples of known TF binding sites → databases
build profiles of TF recognition sites → search query seq.

Discover novel regulatory sites

pattern recognition

finding patterns in a group of co-regulated genes
identifying combinatorial motifs from the whole genome

knowledge based: Databases of TF binding sites

TRANSFAC: The Transcription Factor Database
a collection of experimentally determined
transcription factor binding sites
Release IV
site: 8415
gene: 1078
factor: 2785
profiles: 309 matrices

SCPD: TF binding sites database for Yeast
~ 500 sites representing ~100 factors

E Coli: Church lab website
~ 800 sites representing ~ 60 factors

Knowledge based: building TF recognition profiles

Align examples of binding sites for a given TF (MCB)

```
>YDL102W    ACGCGT
>YDL164C    ACGCGT
>YDL164C    ACGCGA
>YJL194W    ACGCGT
>YJL194W    ACGCGA
>YMR199W    CCGCGT
>YMR199W    TCGCGA
>YMR199W    ACGCGT
>YNL102W    ACGCGT
>YNL102W    ACGCGT
>YOR074C    ACGCGT
>YOR074C    ACGCGT
```

A	10	0	0	0	0	3
T	1	0	0	0	0	9
G	0	0	12	0	12	0
C	1	12	0	12	0	0

← Alignment matrix

position specific probability matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
A	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	$f_{i,\sigma}$
C	0.08	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	
G	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	
T	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	

probability of certain base occurring in the binding site is given by the above matrix

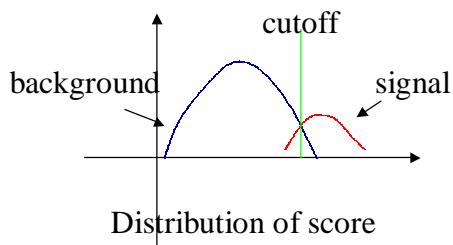
probability of observing certain base not in the binding site is given by the background frequency f_σ^0

Predicting new sites using the matrix

$$w_{i\sigma} = \ln[f_{i\sigma} / f_\sigma^0]$$

Score a sequence using the position weight matrix

AGACGT → $w_{1A} + w_{2C} + w_{3A} + w_{4T} + w_{5G} + w_{6A}$ Log likelihood ratio



Knowledge based: searching for known sites in query seq.

Example: his4 histidine biosynthesis

Extract the putative regulatory region for his4, 600bp 5' of the coding region

```
gggttaaagaacgcgaacaattgaaaatgcataacgattcgctcagtaaagaatacc
aaaattttagcaaggaactattttgacaaaaccacaagattcctcatcggaagagggtg
gcatccctaacgaaaaacttgaagaggctaataaaaaatcaaacagttggAACAGG
ctcaagcacaaacagccgtgaatcggtgccaatttcgacccccctgcaccagtgcata
ccacggcaggaagacaacagtgggtgagcattgcgatacgtgggtcataatacagca
aatgcggccatcacaatcctgacaaccagcagttctctaggcagtcgaactgactctaa
tgtgactccgttaatttagttaattaattgcataacccatgcacagtgactcacgttttatca
gtcattcgatatacgatggaaaggatgactatgacatggactgttatataat
agatatggAACGTTatattcacctccgatgtgttttacataaaaaatcatagcacaa
ctgcgtgtatagtaatacatagttacaaaatttttctgaata
```

Submit the query sequence to TRANSFAC
Using profile matrices for Fungi to search for
Putative binding sites of known factors

The result

Identify binding sites de novo

1. finding patterns in a group of co-regulated genes

group genes by their similarity (biochem. func., gene expression profiles)

extract the putative regulatory regions of the group

search for common sequence patterns (various algorithms)

Clustering based method

Focus on a subset of genes
likely to share a common binding site

Cluster genes based on
Similarity in their expression profile (DNA microarray)

boosted by the rapid accumulation
of DNA microarray data

Deriving co-regulated clusters from Gene expression data

Clustering algorithms

Hierarchical clustering
K mean
self organized map
Stat. Mech. spin models
.....

Hierarchical clustering (Eisen et. al.)

Define similarity between a pair of genes X and Y

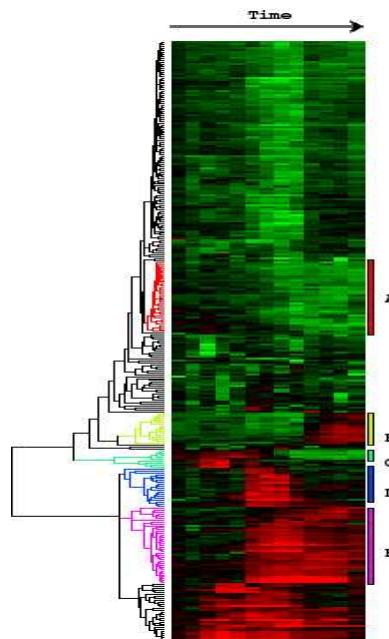
X_i : expression level of X in experiment i
 Y_i : expression level of Y in experiment i

$$s(X, Y) = \frac{\sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{N\sigma_X\sigma_Y}$$

Assemble genes into a dendrogram based on the pairwise similarities

Example from Eisen et al.

human fibroblasts
serum stimulated



Subsets of genes defined by the clusters

**detecting common sequence patterns in
the regulatory sequences of the subset of genes**

- ❑ frequency count of substrings or regular expression patterns
- ❑ local multiple sequence alignment

Algorithm based on frequency contrast

oligonucleotides frequency contrast

(van Helden, Andre, and Collado-vides)

count the number in the dataset

count the number in a contrast dataset (e.g., whole genome promoters)

use the expected frequency from contrast set to calculate significance
of over-representation

An example of van helden algorithm

Find a group of genes involve in
Methionine synthesize pathway

Extract the upstream 600 bp region

Submit the sequence to the website

<http://www.ucmb.ulb.ac.be/bioinformatics/rsa-tools>

1 seq oligomer sequence
2 identifier oligomer identifier
3 expected_freq expected relative frequency
4 occ observed occurrences ;
5 exp_occ expected occurrences ;
6 occ_prb occurrence probability (binomial) ;
7 occ_sig occurrence significance (binomial) ;
8 rank

Seq	identifier	expected_freq	occ	exp_occ	occ_prob	occ_sig	rank
cacgtg	cacgtg cacgtg	0.000117	24	2.23	2.8e-09	5.24	1
acgtga	acgtga tcacgt	0.000166	18	3.16	7.9e-09	4.79	2

Correctly identify the binding site of Cbf1-Met4-Met28 complex

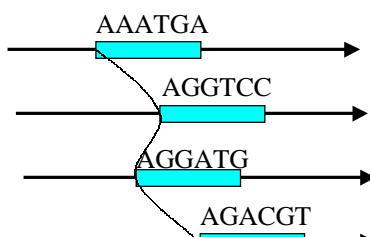
Algorithms based on multiple local alignments

Consensus (Hertz and Stormo)

Gibbs-Sampler (Lawrence, Liu, Newald et al.)

MEME (Baily and Elkan)

*Solving the problem
A model for the motif*



alignment matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	4	1	2	1	0	1
C	0	0	0	1	1	1
G	0	3	2	0	2	1
T	0	0	0	2	1	1

position specific frequency matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
A	1.00	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.25	$f_{i\sigma}$
C	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	
G	0.00	0.75	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.25	
T	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.25	0.25	



Information 2 bits

$$Information = \sum_{i,\sigma} f_{i\sigma} \ln[f_{i\sigma} / f_\sigma^0]$$

Alignment based algorithms
MEME, Consensus, Gibbs Sampler
Search for alignment path → optimize information

Statistical Model:

probability of observing certain base inside
the motif is given by the position-specific prob. matrix

probability of observing certain base outside
the motif is given by the background frequency

Maximum likelihood formulation

Starting positions of the motif unknown $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$

Position specific probability matrix unknown $f_{i,\sigma}$

need to be inferred from the observed sequence data

$$P(seq | f_{i,\sigma}, \vec{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^N \left(\prod_{j=1}^{x_i-1} f_{\sigma_{ij}}^0 \prod_{j=x_i}^{x_i+w-1} f_{j-x_i+1, \sigma_{ij}} \prod_{j=x_i+w}^L f_{\sigma_{ij}}^0 \right)$$

N Number of sequences

L Length of the sequence

w Width of the motif

σ_{ij} Base of sequence i at position j

$$P(seq | f_{i,\sigma}, \vec{x}) = const \prod_{j=1}^w \prod_{\sigma} \left(\frac{f_{j,\sigma}}{f_{\sigma}^0} \right)^{n_{j,\sigma}(\vec{x})} \quad \text{likelihood ratio}$$

$n_{j,\sigma}(\vec{x})$ Total number of count for base σ at position j in the alignment

Maximizing $P(seq, \vec{x} | f_{i,\sigma})$ w.r.t. $f_{i,\sigma}$ With \vec{x} fixed

$$\log P(seq, \vec{x} | \hat{f}_{i,\sigma}) = N \sum_{j=1}^w \hat{f}_{j,\sigma} \log \left(\frac{\hat{f}_{j,\sigma}}{f_{\sigma}^0} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{log likelihood ratio} \\ \text{relative entropy} \end{array}$$

$$\hat{f}_{j,\sigma} = \frac{n_{j,\sigma}(\vec{x})}{\sum_{\sigma} n_{j,\sigma}(\vec{x})} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{in reality, this formula is modified} \\ \text{by adding pseudo counts due to} \\ \text{Bayesian estimate} \end{array}$$

Then maximize the above relative entropy w.r.t. \vec{x}
 → Alignment path.

Introduction to Bioinformatics

Stormo-Hartzell Algorithm: Consensus

- each of the length w substrings of the first sequence are aligned against all the substrings of the same length in the second sequence, matrices derived, N top matrices with highest information contents are saved
 - the next sequence on the list is added to the analysis, all the matrices saved previously are paired with the substrings of the added sequence and top N matrices saved
 - repeat the previous step until all the sequences have been processed

Example: 22 genes identified as pho4 target by microarray, O'shea lab

Introduction to Bioinformatics

Consensus output for Pho4 regulated genes

MATRIX 1
number of sequences = 22
information = 8.80903
 $\ln(p\text{-value}) = -153.757$ p-value = 1.67566E-67
 $\ln(\text{expected frequency}) = -13.357$ expected frequency = 1.58165E-06

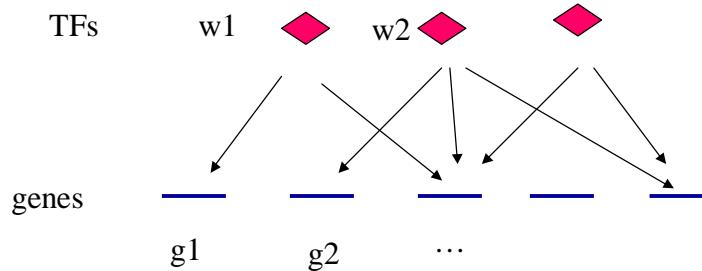
A	6	5	20	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	6
G	11	0	0	5	22	0	21	15	14	2	
C	4	17	0	14	0	0	1	2	8	1	
T	1	0	2	0	0	19	0	5	0	13	
	G	C	A	C	G	T	G	G	G	T	

1|1 : 1/317 ACACGTGGGT
2|2 : 2/55 AAAGGTCTGT
3|3 : 3/347 ACACGTGGGA
4|4 : 4/274 GCACGTGGGA
5|5 : 5/392 CAACGTGTCT
6|6 : 6/395 ACAAGTGGGT
7|7 : 7/321 ACACGTGGGA
8|8 : 8/536 GCAAGTGGCT
9|9 : 9/177 GCTGGTGTGT
10|10 : 10/443 GCACGTGTCT
11|11 : 11/14 CCAGGTGCCT
12|12 : 12/502 GAAAGAGGCA
13|13 : 13/354 GCACGAGGGGA
14|14 : 14/257 GCACGTGCGA
15|15 : 15/358 TCACGTGTGT
16|16 : 16/316 ACACGTGGGT
17|17 : 17/479 GCACGTGGCT
18|18 : 18/227 GATGGTGGCT
19|19 : 19/186 GCACGTGGGG
20|20 : 20/326 GAAGGAGGGGG
21|21 : 21/307 CCACGTGGGC
22|22 : 22/255 CCACGTGGCT

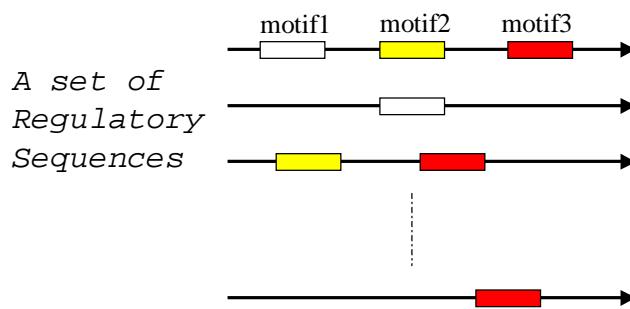
2. Identifying combinatorial motifs

dictionary approach: finding words from a scrambled text
[Mobydick](http://genome.ucsf.edu:8080/mobydick), <http://genome.ucsf.edu:8080/mobydick>

Cell's regulatory network is complicated



Combinatorial control

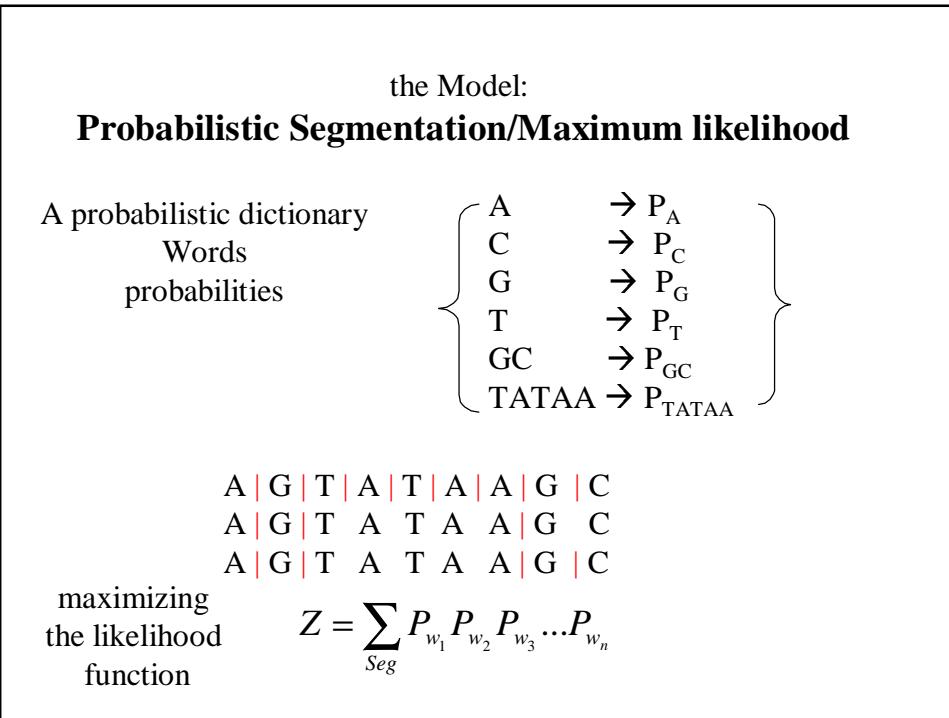


How do we find these motifs?

chapterptgbqdrfztezptqtasctmvivwpecjsnisrmbtqlmlfvet1
loomingsfkicallxjgkmekysjerishmaeljplfsomeylqyearstvh
njbagoaxhjtjcokhvneverpmqpmindhowzrbdlzjllonggbhqi
preciselysunpvskepfjdjktcgarwtnxybgcvdjfbnohavinglittl
ezorunozsoyapmoneyyvugsgtsqintmyteixpurseiwmjwgj
nyyveqxwftlamnbxkrsbkyandrnothingcgparticularwtzao
qsjtnmtoqsnwvxfiupinterestztimebymonlnshoreggditho
ughtyxfxmhqixceojjzdhouldsailpcaboutudxsbsnewtpg
gvjaasxmsvlittleplvcydaowgwlbzizjlnzyxandzolwcudthjd
osbopxkkfdosxardgcsebbthefzrsskdhmawateryjikzicim
y partmosprtheluworldvtoamfutitazpisagewewayrqbkiosh
avebojwphiixofprmalungipjdrivingpkuyoikrxwoffodhicb
nimtheixyucpdzacemspleenqbpcrmhwvddyaiwnandada
bkpgzmptoregulatingeetheslcirculationvsuctzwvfyxstuzr
dfwvgygzoejdfmbqescwheneverpitfindfmselfcgrowingne
ostumrydrrthmjsmgrimcczhjmgbkwczoaboutjbwanbwzq
thehrjvdrcjjgmouthuutwheneveritddfouishlawwpbxnae

Moby Dick: CHAPTER 1 Loomings

Call me Ishmael. Some years ago- never mind how long precisely-having little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part of the world. It is a way I have of driving off the spleen and regulating the circulation. Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from deliberately stepping into the street, and methodically knocking people' s hats offthen, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can.



Ditionary1	Ditionary2	Dictionary3
e 0.065239	e 0.048730	e 0.042774
t 0.055658	s 0.042589	s 0.040843
a 0.052555	a 0.040539	a 0.038595
o 0.050341	t 0.040442	i 0.036897
n 0.049266	i 0.038550	t 0.036871
i 0.048101	d 0.038547	d 0.036323
s 0.047616	o 0.036486	l 0.035336
h 0.047166	l 0.036300	c 0.034818
r 0.043287	g 0.034509	m 0.034650
l 0.041274	r 0.034496	y 0.034482
d 0.039461	c 0.033916	b 0.034396
u 0.034742	m 0.033724	r 0.034105
m 0.034349	n 0.033321	p 0.034044
g 0.034001	y 0.033227	w 0.033819
w 0.033967	p 0.033156	n 0.033817
c 0.032934	f 0.032863	g 0.033676
f 0.032597	b 0.032780	f 0.033534
y 0.031776	w 0.032009	o 0.033206
p 0.031711	h 0.031494	h 0.033200
b 0.031409	v 0.030727	k 0.032103
v 0.028268	k 0.030445	v 0.031498
k 0.028113	u 0.030379	j 0.031209
j 0.026712	j 0.029268	u 0.031186
q 0.026561	z 0.028905	z 0.031003
z 0.026542	x 0.028404	x 0.030544
x 0.026357	g 0.028123	q 0.030244
	th 0.009954	the 0.005715
	in 0.006408	ing 0.003237
	er 0.004755	and 0.003128
	an 0.004352	in 0.002968
	ou 0.003225	ed 0.002547
	on 0.003180	to 0.002496
	he 0.003108	of 0.002486
	at 0.002851	en 0.001331
	ed 0.002804	an 0.001313
	or 0.002786	th 0.001270
	en 0.002538	er 0.001250
	to 0.002511	es 0.001209
	of 0.002475	at 0.001181
	st 0.002415	it 0.001171
	nd 0.002297	that 0.001165

Words	<Nw>	quality factor
abominate	2.0000	1.0000
achieved	2.0000	1.0000
aemploy	2.0000	1.0000
affrighted	2.0000	1.0000
afternoon	2.0000	1.0000
afterwards	5.0000	1.0000
ahollow	2.0000	1.0000
american	3.0000	1.0000
anxious	2.0000	1.0000
apartment	2.0000	1.0000
appeared	4.0000	1.0000
astonishment	4.0000	1.0000
attention	2.0000	1.0000
avenues	2.0000	1.0000
bashful	2.0000	1.0000
battery	2.0000	1.0000
beefsteaks	2.0000	1.0000
believe	2.0000	1.0000
beloved	2.0000	1.0000
beneath	6.0000	1.0000
between	12.0000	1.0000
boisterous	3.0000	1.0000
botherwise	2.0000	1.0000
bountiful	2.0000	1.0000
bowsprit	2.0000	1.0000
breakfast	5.0000	1.0000
breeding	2.0000	1.0000
bulkington	3.0000	1.0000
bulwarksb	2.0000	1.0000
bumpkin	2.0000	1.0000
business	6.0000	1.0000
carpenters	2.0000	1.0000

summary

Enormous amount of systematic data
 DNA sequence, protein sequence & structure, functional data

Various Databases (general purpose + specialized)

Analysis tools

Tasks driven by known mechanisms

Combine multiple source of data

 build mechanistic models

 suggest new principle