ICQB

Introduction to Computational & Quantitative Biology (G4120) Fall 2022 Oliver Jovanovic, Ph.D. Columbia University Department of Microbiology & Immunology

What is bioinformatics and computational biology?

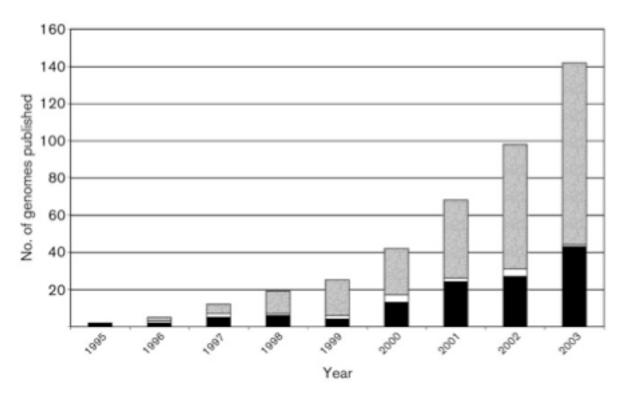
What is bioinformatics and computational biology?

"Biologists doing things with computers." – Lincoln Stein, CSHL

History of Sequencing

1977	Maxam-Gilbert and Sanger sequencing
1980	øX174 (5,386 bp)
1981	Human mitochondria (16,569 bp)
1981	Poliovirus (7,440 bp)
1990	Human Genome Project
1992	The Institute for Genomic Research
1994	RK2 (60,099 bp)
1995	Haemophilus influenzae (1.8 Mb)
1995	Mycoplasma genitalium (0.58 Mb)
1996	Saccharomyces cerevisiae (12.1 Mb)
1997	Escherichia coli (4.7 Mb)
1998	Celera, Inc.
1998	Caenorhabditis elegans (97 Mb)
2000	Drosophila melanogaster (180 Mb)
2000	Arabidopsis thaliana (115 Mb)
2001	Salmonella typhimurium (4.8 Mb)
2001	Homo sapiens (2.9 Gb)
2002	Mus musculus (2.6 Gb)
2003	Nanoarchaeum equitans (0.49 Mb)
2004	Legionella pneumophila (3.4 Mb)
2005	Pan troglodytes (2.8 Gb)
2006	454 Pyrosequencer
2007	Illumina HiSeq
2010	Ion Torrent
2011	Illumina MiSeq and PacBio RS
2013	PacBio RS II
2014	Illumina NexSeq
2015	Oxford Nanopore MinION and PacBio Sequel
2017	Illumina NovaSeq
2019	Oxford Nano. PromethION and PacBio Sequel

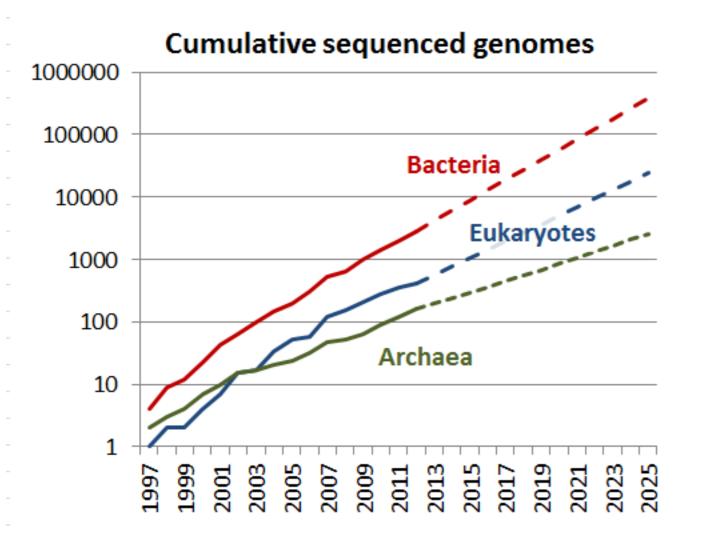
Growth of Sequenced Prokaryotic Genomes



Source: David W. Ussery (2004) Genome Update: 161 prokaryotic genomes sequenced, and counting, *Microbiology* **150**: 261-263.

The Genomics Era

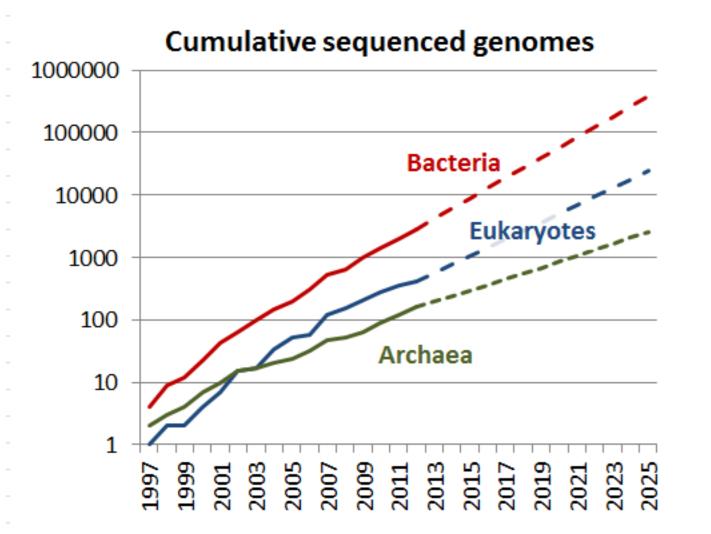
2013 Predictions



Source: GOLD Release v.5 May 28, 2014, genomesonline.org and Su, Andrew (2013) Cumulative sequenced genomes, dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.723384

The Genomics Era

2013 Predictions



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Cumulative sequenced genomes

Bacteria	398,322	4 x
Eukaryotes	46,481	5 x
Archaea	4,956	4 x

Exponential Growth of Biological Data and Computing Power

GenBank

"From 1982 to the present, the number of bases in GenBank has doubled approximately every 18 months."

Source: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/statistics

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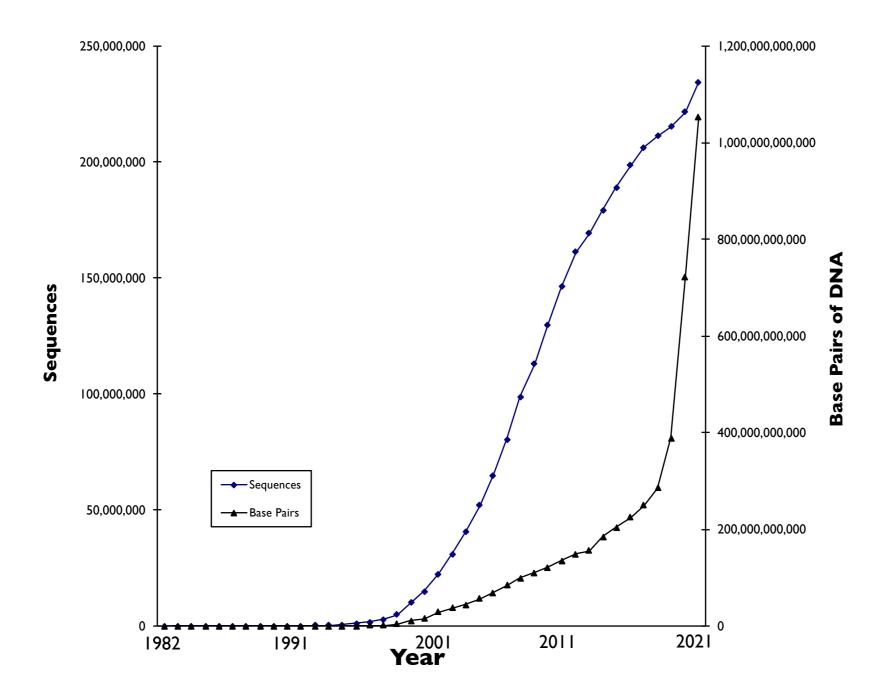
Source: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/statistics

Moore's Law

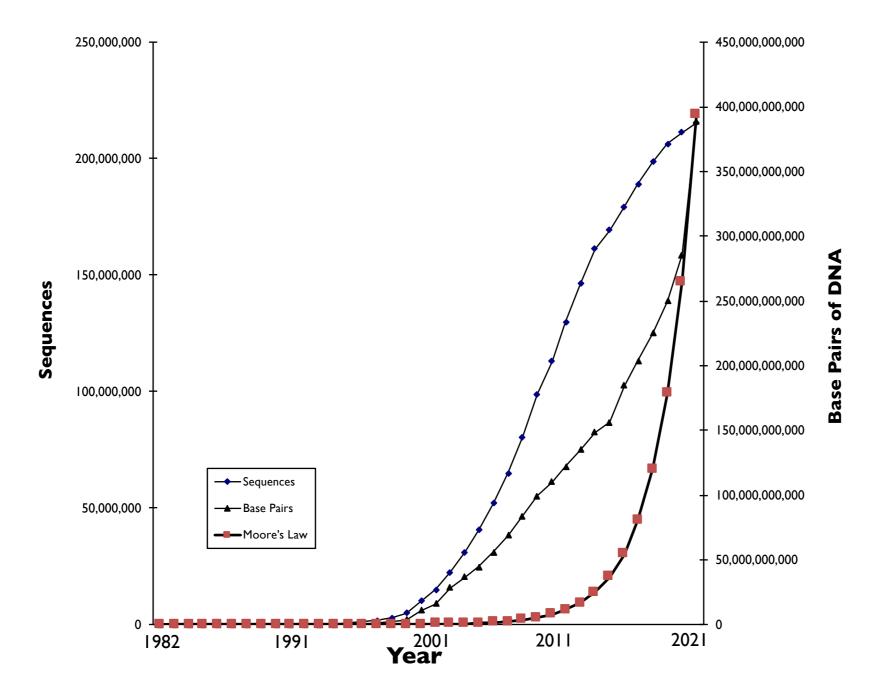
Over the history of computing hardware, the number of transistors in a dense integrated circuit doubles approximately every 18 to 24 months.

Source: Moore, Gordon E. (1965) Cramming more components onto integrated circuits. Electronics: 114-117 (with subsequent adjustments).

Growth of GenBank



Moore's Law

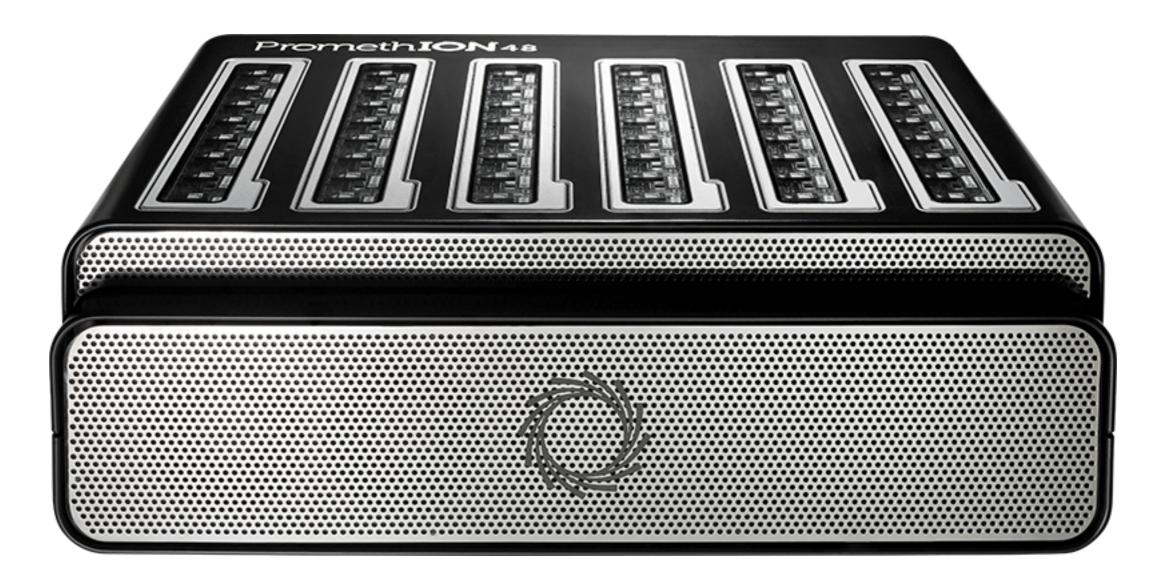


Third Generation DNA Sequencing?



minION from Oxford Nanopore Technologies

Fourth Generation DNA Sequencing



PromethION 48 from Oxford Nanopore Technologies

Dealing with exponentially increasing biological data...

...requires assistance.

What is the oldest device developed by humans to assist in computation?



c. 40,000 B.C.



Lebombo Bone Tally Stick

A baboon fibula with 29 notches discovered in the Lebombo Mountains of Africa.



c. 20,000 B.C.



Ishango Bone Number Stick

A baboon fibula with a sharp piece of quartz embedded in one end and tally marks carved on it in three columns. The left column consists of the prime numbers 19, 17, 13 and 11. The center column consists of the numbers 7, 5, 5, 10, 8, 4, 6 and 3. The right column consists of the numbers 9, 19, 21 and 11. It was discovered in Ishango in central Africa, near one of the headwaters of the Nile.



c. 2400 B.C.



The Abacus

Evidence of its use in a simpler form dates back to 2400 B.C. in Sumer. The ancient Akkadian word "abq" means dust. Texts dating to 190 A.D. detail its use in a more sophisticated form in China.

Source: Photo by Dave Fischer depicts a suanpan as used c. 1200 A.D.



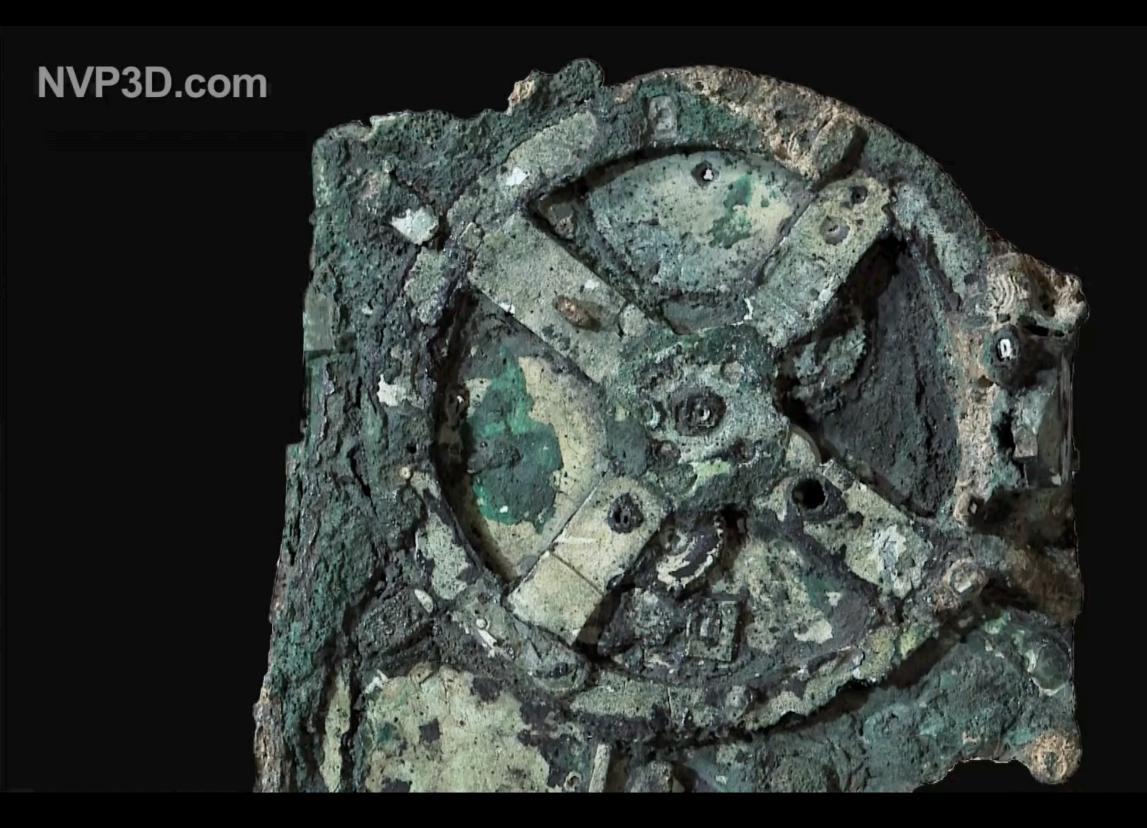
c. 200 B.C.



The Antikythera Mechanism

An ancient Greek analogue computer consisting of 37 meshed gears that precisely mimicked the movements of the sun and moon, including the phases of the moon, tracked a 19 year Metonic calendar, predicted solar eclipses, calculated the timing of various Panhellenic games, and tracked the position of the five other planets known at the time.

Source: Freeth, T., et al. (2006) Decoding the ancient Greek astronomical calculator known as the Antikythera Mechanism. Nature 444: 587–591.



History of Early Computing

40,000 BC	Tally systems	Africa & Europe
20,000 BC	Prime system	Africa
2400 BC	Abacus	Sumer & Babylon
200 BC	Antikythera mechanism	Greece
1500	Mechanical calculator	Leonardo da Vinci
1621	Slide rule	William Oughtred
1642	Arithmetic Machine	Blaise Pascal
1822	Difference Engine	Charles Babbage
1831	Computer program	Lady Ada Lovelace
1936	Z1 Computer	Konrad Zuse
1936	Turing Machine	Alan Turing
1938	Boolean Circuits	Claude Shannon
1943	COLOSSUS	Alan Turing
1945	von Neumann Machine	John von Neumann
1946	ENIAC	John Mauchly & J. Presper Eckert
1947	Transistor	William Shockley, John Bardeen & Walter Brattain
1958	Integrated Circuit	Jack Kilby & Robert Noyce

Computational Biology

Data

Sequencers, FACS, scanners, microscopes, etc.

Analysis

Software, scripting, programming, etc.

Storage

Databases, local, network or cloud storage, backup, etc.

Sharing

Web, Internet, email, portable or cloud storage, etc.

History of Early Bioinformatics

1869	DNA	Johann Friedrich Miescher
1924	Chromosomal DNA	Robert Feulgen
1928	Transforming principle	Franklin Griffith
1944	DNA transformation	Oswald Avery, Maclyn McCarty & Colin MacLeod
1948	Information Theory	Claude Shannon
1949	Chargaff's Rule	Erwin Chargaff
1953	Double helix	James Watson & Francis Crick
1955	Protein sequencing	Fred Sanger
1961	Codons	Sidney Brenner & Francis Crick
1966	Genetic code	Marshall Nirenberg, Robert Holley & Har Khorana
1970	Restriction enzyme	Hamilton Smith, Johns Hopkins
1970	Needleman-Wunsch	S. Needleman & C. Wunsch
1971	MEDLINE	NIH/NLM
1977	DNA sequencing	Allan Maxam & Walter Gilbert/Frederick Sanger
1977	Staden programs	Roger Staden
1981	Smith-Waterman	Temple Smith & Michael Waterman
1982	GenBank	LANL/EMBL/NCBI
1988	NCBI	NIH/NLM
1988	FASTA	William Pearson & David Lipman
1988	DNA Strider	Christian Marck
1990	BLAST	Stephen Altschul & David Lipman, NCBI
1994	DNA computer	Leonard Adelman
1997	PubMed	NCBI

Sequence Analysis

Position	Score	Predicted promoter sequence (-35 < gap>-10)	Name
2313	52.94	GTTAATTGCTTTTCGA <10> TTAGCTAAACTTTC	
3075	55.29	CGACATTGCTTGACCC <11> GCGTGTTCAATTCG	korE
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26625	50.58	ACCAGGCGTTTGACTA <9> AGGAGTAACTTATG	
35054	43.52	CTCGCGCTGTAGCCTC <11> TGTGCTAATGTGGT	parD
38324	64.70	ATCGTGGCGTTGACAA <11> CTGGCTACACTATG	aphA
40006	54.70	TCGTAGTTCTTGCCGA <11> TTCTCAAAGATGCC	
47326	52.35	ATCAGTTGCTTGATGC <11> TTGCTGACGTTGCG	
48938	54.70	CAAACGGTTTTGGCTT <12> TTTCGTCCAATGCG	
51306	57.64	GAAAAAGGATGGATAT <9> ATCGCTATAATGAC	traK
59051	54.70	TGTTTTTTTTTTGGCGT <11> TTCCGGACGATGTA	
2375c	66.47	CTAAAGGTGTTGACGA <12> TTAGCTAAACTTCT	klaA
3711c	52.94	ATTCTTGTTTTGAGGC <11> CCAGGTCAATTACC	
3745c	67.05	TAAAATTGCTTGACAA <12> TGCCCTATTCTTGT	kleC
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4400c	65.88	TAAATTTCCTTGACTA <12> TGCCCTAATATAGC	kleA
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5619c	51.76	CATATATACTTTAGAT <12> TCATTTTTAATTTA	
5647c	54.70	CATTGGTAACTGTCAG <11> TCATATATACTTTA	

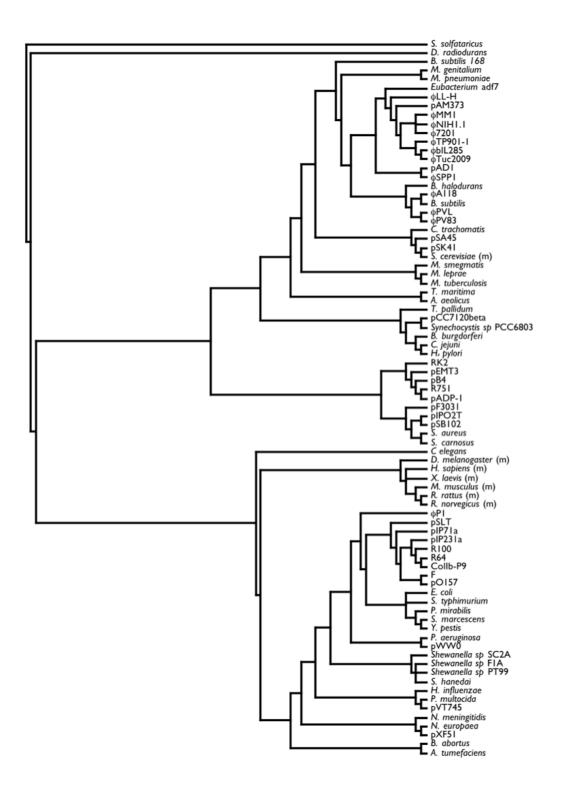


SeqMatrix E. coli promoter output:

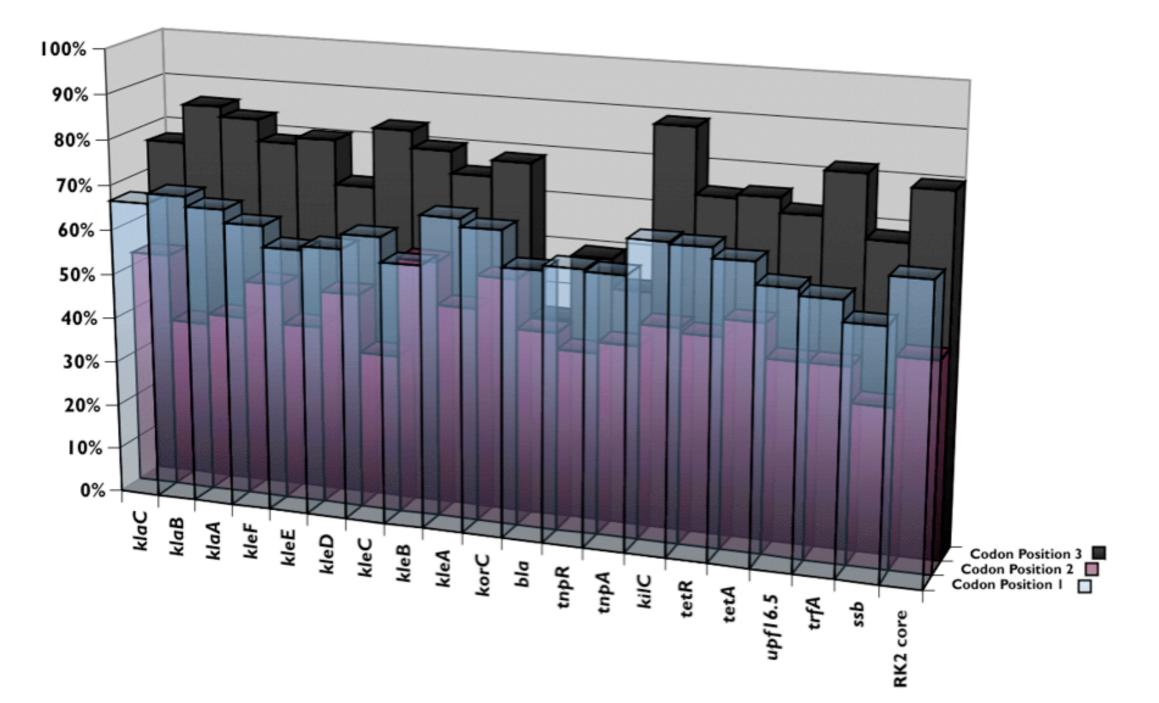
DNA Location: 3,075 Spacer Length: 11 Similarity Score: 55.29

CGACATTGCTTGACCC <11> GCGTGTTCAATTCG

Phylogeny



Data Visualization



Multimedia

L27758. Birmingham IncP-a...[gi:508311] Related Sequences, PubMed, Taxonomy

LOCUS	BIACOMGEN 60099 bp DNA linear BCT 08-JUL-1994								
DEFINITION	Birmingham IncP-alpha plasmid (R18, R68, RK2, RP1, RP4) complete								
	genome.								
ACCESSION	L27758								
VERSION	L27758.1 GI:508311								
KEYWORDS	complete genome.								
SOURCE	Birmingham IncP-alpha plasmid (plasmid Birmingham IncP-alpha								
	plasmid, kingdom Prokaryotae) DNA.								
ORGANISM	Birmingham IncP-alpha plasmid								
	broad host range plasmids.								
REFERENCE	1 (bases 1 to 60099)								
AUTHORS	Pansegrau,W., Lanka,E., Barth,P.T., Figurski,D.H., Guiney,D.G.,								
	Haas,D., Helinski,D.R., Schwab,H., Stanisich,V.A. and Thomas,C.M.								
TITLE	Complete nucleotide sequence of Birmingham IncP-alpha plasmids:								
	compilation and comparative analysis								
JOURNAL	J. Mol. Biol. 239, 623-663 (1994)								
MEDLINE	94285211								
FEATURES	Location/Qualifiers								
source	160099								
	/organism="Birmingham IncP-alpha plasmid"								
	/plasmid="Birmingham IncP-alpha plasmid"								
	/db_xref="taxon:35419"								
BASE COUNT	10839 a 18681 c 18448 g 12131 t								
ORIGIN									
1 t	tcacccccg aacacgagca cggcacccgc gaccactatg ccaagaatgc ccaaggtaaa								
	attaccaac cccaccataa aatccataaa taccccaaca accaaaataa aaaacaaac								

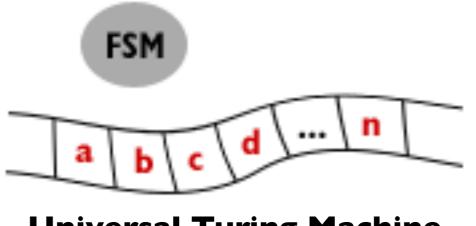
61 aattgccggc cccgccatga agtccgtgaa tgccccgacg gccgaagtga agggcaggcc 121 gccacccagg ccgccgcct cactgcccgg cacctggtcg ctgaatgtcg atgccagcac 181 ctgcggcacg tcaatgcttc cgggcgtcgc gctcgggctg atcgcccatc ccgttactgc 241 cccgatcccg gcaatggcaa ggactgccag cgccgcgatg aggaagcggg tgccccgctt 301 cttcatcttc gcgcctcggg cctcgaggcc gcctacctgg gcgaaaacat cggtgtttgt

etc.

Binary Computing and DNA

Modern computers are digital machines, which means their basic function involves using discrete symbols from a finite set.

In 1936, Alan Turing proved that a finite state machine (FSM) moving up or down a tape of symbols, reading or writing one symbol at a time, could solve any computable problem, and serve as a universal machine.



Universal Turing Machine

The most basic level of information in nearly all current computers represents only one of two possibilities: **0** (off) or **1** (on). A signal that can carry one of two possible messages (**0** or **1**) is called a binary signal, or a **bit**, so these computers are binary machines.

The Digital Language of Computers

	I bit =	0 or I	= 2 possibilities
Binary Units 0 or 1 = 1 bit	2 bits =	0 0 or or I I	$= 2 \times 2 = 4$ possibilities
8 bits = 1 byte	3 bits =	0 0 0 or or or I I I	= $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ possibilities
1,024 bits = 1 kilobit 1,024 bytes = 1 kilobyte (K)	4 bits =	0 0 0 0 or or or or I I I I	= $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 16$ possibilities
1,024 kilobytes = 1 megabyte (M)	5 bits =	0 0 0 0 0 or or or or I I I I I	= $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 32$ possibilities
1,024 megabytes = 1 gigabyte (G) 1,024 gigabytes = 1 terabyte (T)	6 bits =	0 0 0 0 0 0 or or or or or I I I I I I	= 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 = 64 possibilities
	7 bits =	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 or or or or or or I I I I I I I	= 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 = 128 possibilities
	8 bits =	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 or or or or or or or or I I I I I I I I I	= 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 = 256 possibilities

DNA has only four possibilities (so can be represented by 2 bits)

- G = 00
- C = 11
- A = 01
- T = 10

Complementation (with intelligent choice of representation)

ASCII Coding of DNA

American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII)

- For practical purposes, DNA and RNA is generally represented in ASCII code, using the upper or lower case letters A, C, G, and T or A, C, G and U.
- Each ASCII character occupies one byte, and thus has 256 possibilities, including all upper and lower case letters of the English alphabet, the ten Arabic numerals, punctuation, and special characters, such as @.
- Thus, a kilobase of DNA (1,000 base pairs) occupies just under a kilobyte (1 K = 1,024 bytes) of storage in ASCII. An entire human genome, roughly 3 billion base pairs (3 gigabases), occupies just under 3 gigabytes of storage in ASCII.

Transcription

• Transcription is computationally trivial. One need only substitute a U for a T if dealing with a sense strand, or complement, then transcribe if dealing with the antisense strand.

Translation

- Translation is also computationally trivial. A computer can refer to a species appropriate translation table to translate DNA or RNA into the appropriate protein sequence.
 - AUAIIsoleucineAUCIIsoleucineAUGMMethionine startAUUIIsoleucineetc.IIsoleucine

Alternate Representation

• Can readily convert an ASCII representation of DNA into other forms, such as graphics, or even music.

Information Content

Uncertainty

Uncertainty can be thought of as the number of yes/no questions required to identify the state something is in. It can be measured in bits.

- A coin toss, with only 2 possibilities, can be identified with a single question (i.e., "Is it heads?")
- A nucleotide, with 4 possibilities, can be identified with two questions (i.e. "Is it a purine? Is it adenine?")

Maximum Uncertainty

Maximum Entropy = log₂(n) where n is the number of possible states

Coin $\log_2(2) = 1$ bit DNA $\log_2(4) = 2$ bits Protein $\log_2(20) = 4.32$ bits

Compression algorithms offer one approach to testing the randomicity of a DNA sequence. A very random DNA sequence will require close to 2 bits per nucleotide to represent it, even when compressed. A sequence of DNA that has repeating patterns, or is otherwise highly structured, should be capable of being represented by less than 2 bits per nucleotide.

Algorithms in Computational Biology

Algorithm

• An algorithm is simply a series of steps used to solve a problem. One of a computer's great strengths is its ability to rapidly and accurately repeat recursive steps in an algorithm.

Consensus

- Early algorithms for searching sequence data depended on consensus sequences. Thus, to find a prokaryotic promoter, one would try to find something that matched a consensus -10 sequence (TATAAT), not too far downstream of a consensus -35 sequence (TTGACA).
- It rapidly became clear that biologically significant sequences rarely perfectly matched a consensus, and more sophisticated approaches were adopted, including the use of matrices, Markov chains and hidden Markov models.

Matrices

 Matrices take into account the distribution of every possible nucleotide (or amino acid) at a position in a set of known sequences. Searching with a matrix is therefore more sensitive than searching with a consensus, and can find biological features that a strict consensus approach would miss.

Markov chains and hidden Markov models (HMMs)

- Markov chains and hidden Markov models are probabilistic models of sequences, and have proven useful in database searching, gene finding and multiple sequence alignment.
- A first-order Markov chain is a finite state automaton (a restricted Turing machine which only moves left to right) with probabilities for each transition to a new state (symbol) based on its current state. Higher order Markov chains take into account one or more previous states.
- A hidden Markov model is a Markov chain in which only the output can be observed (its current state is hidden).

Consensus vs. Matrix

E. coli Promoter Consensus

 -35 Region
 -10 Region

 TTGACA
 TATAAT

E. coli Promoter Matrix

									-35 Region							
										Т	Т	G	Α	С	Α	
Α	11	8	8	7	8	7	3	5	5	0	1	0	14	5	9	5
С	3	4	2	4	4	3	5	2	8	1	1	2	3	11	2	5
G	3	2	4	2	4	5	5	5	5	2	1	17	1	2	3	3
Т	4	7	7	8	5	6	8	9	3	17	18	2	4	3	7	9
Spacer Region																
Len	gth		9	10	11	17	2 1	13	14	l 1!	5					
			1	6	14	(6	1	1	L .	1					
							-1	0 R	legio	n						
						Т	Α	Т	Α	Α	Т					
Α	4	5	3	4	4	0	20	5	12	11	0	7	4	6		
С	5	4	5	4	5	2	0	3	3	4	1	2	7	6		
G	2	5	5	8	7	2	0	3	3	3	0	6	5	6		
Т	10	6	8	5	6	17	1	9	3	4	20	6	5	4		

Matrix Analysis Example

Position	Score	Predicted promoter sequence (-35 < gap>-10)	Name	
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3075	55.29	CGACATTGCTTGACCC <11> GCGTGTTCAATTCG	korE	SeqMatrix E. coli promoter output:
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Stochastic Modeling

Stochastic Model

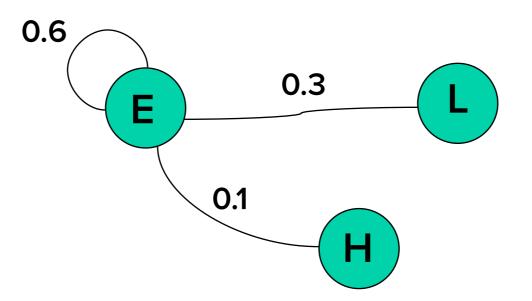
A model involving chance or probability. Markov models are a particular form of stochastic model.

Current Residue	Next Residue					
	Α	С	G	т		
Α	40%	15%	15%	30%		
С	25%	25%	25%	25%		
G	20%	25%	30%	25%		
т	35%	20%	20%	25%		

Markov Modeling

Markov State

A Markov state emits a symbol each time you visit it. It connects to other states (and possibly itself), with transition probabilities attached. The sum of the transition probabilities is 1.



E = Extended

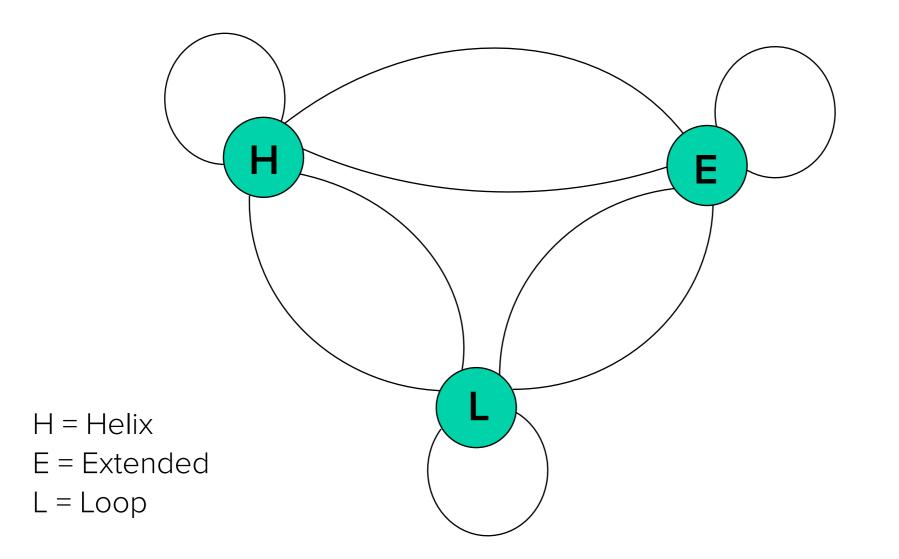
L = Loop

H = Helix

Markov Chains

Markov Chain

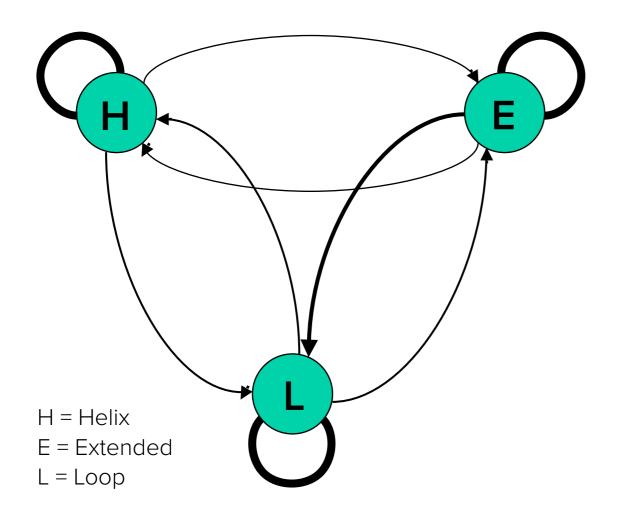
A Markov chain is an interlinked chain, or network, of states connected by transition probabilities.



Markov Transition Matrices

Transition Matrix

A transition matrix for a first order Markov chain, the simplest kind. The sum of the transition probabilities from each state is 1.

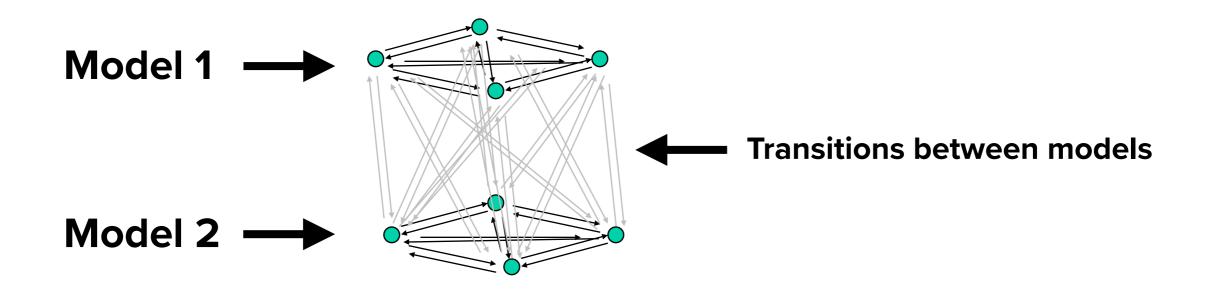


	Н	Е	L
н	0.93	0.01	0.06
Е	0.01	0.80	0.19
L	0.04	0.06	0.90

Hidden Markov Models

Hidden Markov Model (HMM)

A hidden Markov model consists of two Markov chains connected such that a one to one correspondence between the state and the emitted symbol no longer exists.



GeneMark

GeneMark and GeneMark.hmm

Mark Borodovsky, Georgia Institute of Technology http://exon.gatech.edu/GeneMark/

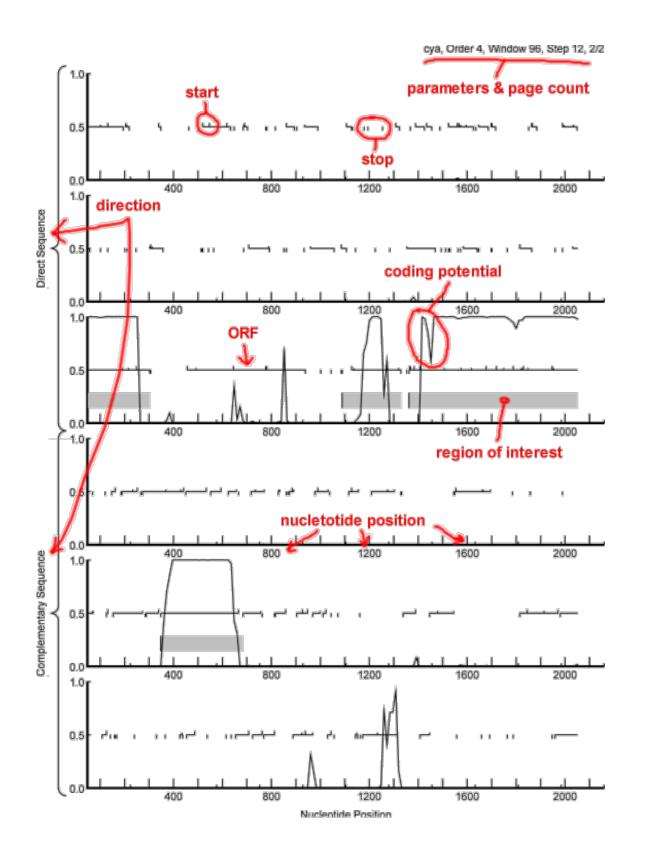
GeneMark

GeneMark evaluates the protein-coding potential of a DNA sequence (within a sliding window) by using Markov models of coding and non-coding regions for various prokaryotic species. This approach is sensitive to local variations of coding potential, and the GeneMark graph shows details of the coding potential distribution along a sequence. It has been used since 1995 to provide automatic gene annotation for the H. influenza, M. jannaschii, B. subtilis and E. coli genomes.

GeneMark.hmm

GeneMark.hmm predicts genes and intergenic regions in a sequence as a whole using hidden Markov models with a hidden state network reflecting the "grammar" of gene organization. It identifies the most likely parse of the whole sequence into protein coding genes (with possible introns) and intergenic regions. It is currently used as a microbial genome annotation tool by the NCBI.

GeneMark Example



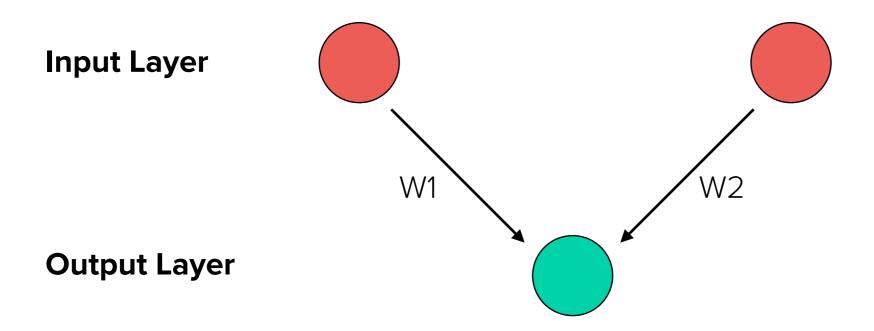
Source

http://bioweb.pasteur.fr/docs/ genemark/images/cyay.gif

Neural Networks

Artificial Neural Network

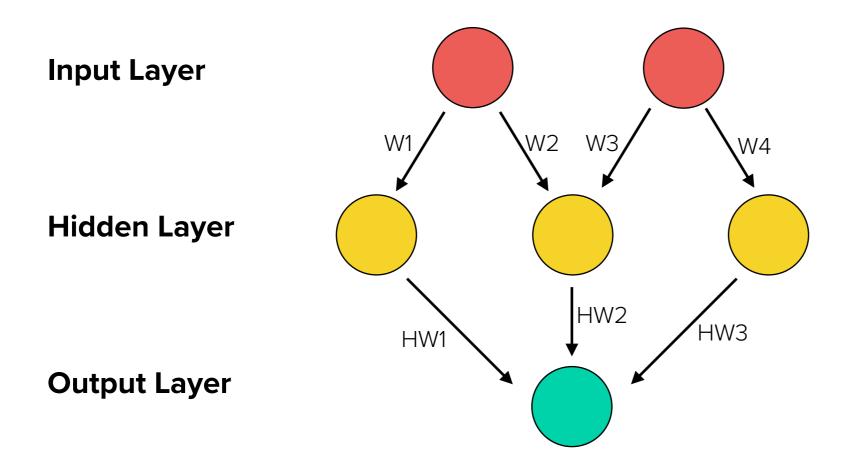
Artificial neural networks (ANN) are computational networks inspired by the connections of neurons in the brain. Artificial neurons are connected in a network that allows the output of some neurons to become the input of others, with weights assigned to each connection. The weights can be adjusted to better perform a particular task. A simple network is limited in the tasks it can perform.



Hidden Layers

Hidden Layers in Artificial Neural Networks

Adding even a single hidden layer to a neural network allows it to perform more complex calculations. Such networks have become widely used in pattern recognition, signal processing and machine learning.



Deep Neural Networks

Deep Neural Networks and Deep Learning

Deep neural networks (DNNs) are artificial neural networks (ANNs) with multiple layers between the input and output layer. They have become widely used in machine learning and performing complex tasks, including cell classification and predicting gene-function relationships in bioinformatics.

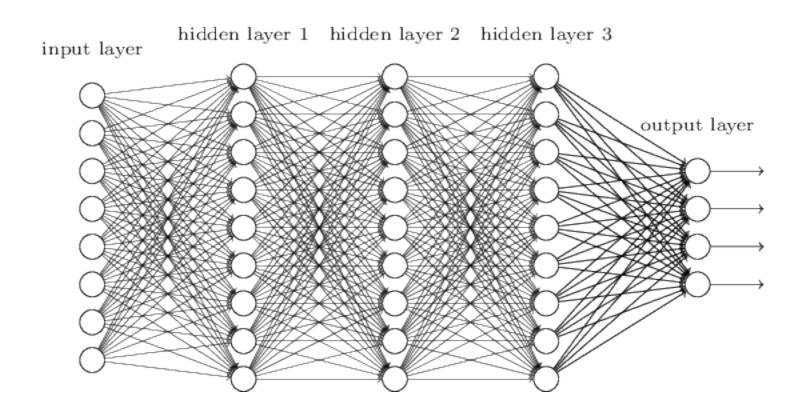


Image Source: Michael A. Nielsen, "Neural Networks and Deep Learning", Determination Press, 2015.

Programming in Bioinformatics

Computer programming is simply how we instruct computers to perform tasks for us. These are some of the programming techniques and languages commonly used in bioinformatics:

- Regular expressions (regex)
- Shell scripting (e.g bash), pipelines and redirects (Unix) and macros
- Structured Query Language (SQL)
- Perl practical extraction and reporting programming language
- Python programming language
- BioPython programming libraries
- R statistical computing and graphics language
- MATLAB numerical computing environment and language
- Java general object oriented programming language

Regular Expressions

Regular expressions originated in the 1950s, when a mathematician, Stephen Kleene, described regular languages (finite languages that can be described with regular expressions) with a mathematical notation called regular sets. This notation could be used to easily match repeating patterns in strings, and has been widely adapted for this purpose by programmers.

Regular expressions are now a feature of many programming languages, text editors (such as BBEdit) and utilities (such as grep), and can be used in bioinformatics for pattern matching and reformatting text files (commonly known as data munging).

ICQB Course Website

https://microbiology.columbia.edu/icqb

The course website will be the home of all course information, including the syllabus, lecture notes, downloads, and any updates or other news.

ICQB Course Schedule

The course will meet Tuesdays, between 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM in HHSC 1307. A related hands-on session will follow each Thursday, from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM in HHSC 1307.

Check the syllabus on the course website for the most up to date schedule, but the current schedule is:

September 13th	Introduction to Computational Biology
September 20th	Introduction to Internet Resources and Databases
September 27th	Introduction to Unix and Scripting
October 4th	Introduction to Programming
October 11th	Introduction to Python and BioPython
October 18th	Quantitative Analysis and Presentation of Visual Data
October 25th	Introduction to Statistics
November 8th	No class (Election Day)
November 15th	Genomics (Anne-Catrin Uhlemann)
November 22nd	No class (Thanksgiving)
November 29th	Introduction to Sequence Analysis and RNA-Seq (Thomas Postler)
December 6th	Sequence Analysis and RNA-Seq (Thomas Postler)