Bioinformatics Topics

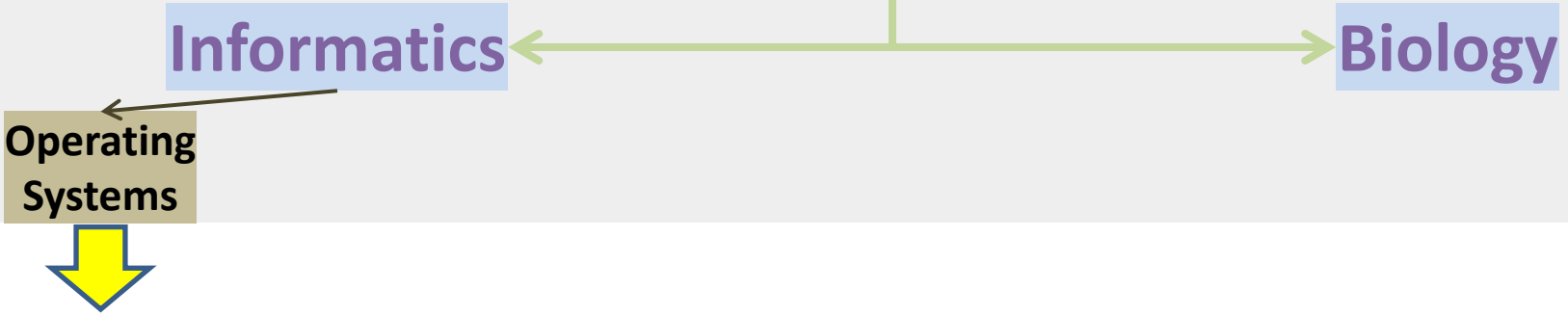
Informatics ← → Biology

Operating Systems

Windows, Macintosh both offer an intuitive GUI … familiarity can be assumed?

Linux with a Windows like GUI interface … also, familiarity can be assumed?

Bioinformatics Topics



Linux command line! … complexity is overstated, but some instruction is required.

All OS options are conceptually identical … enabling control over files, folders, and programs.

Linux command line! … the only option for compute intense software.

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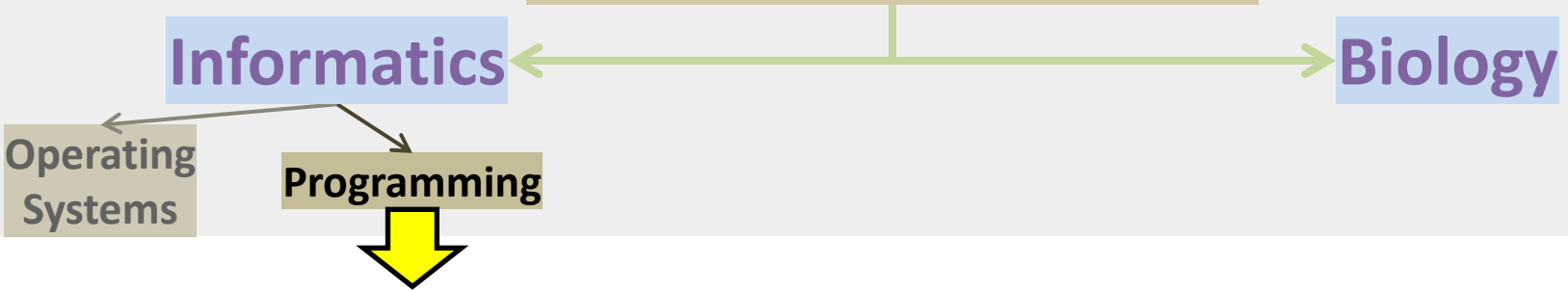

Rarely is there a need to become a truly proficient programmer.

BUT - Sufficient skill to affect basic management of large datasets is important.

AS IS - Sufficient skill to construct simple customised pipelines.

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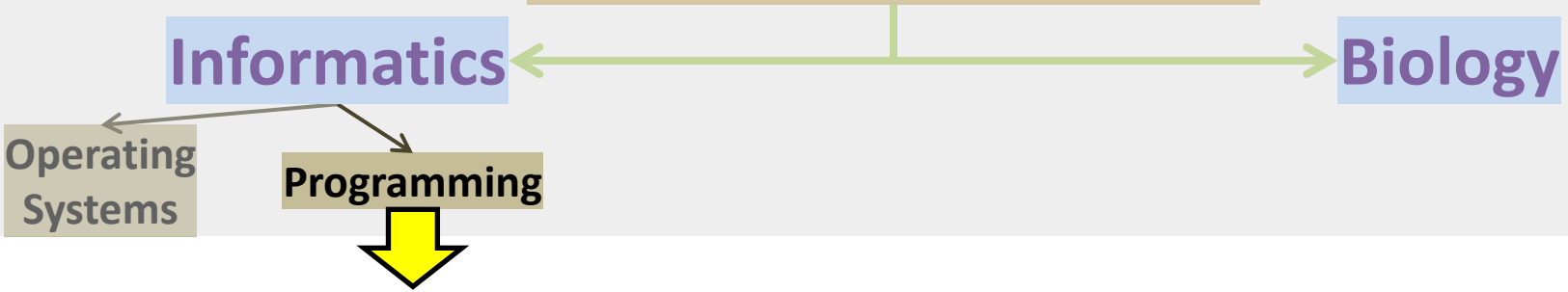
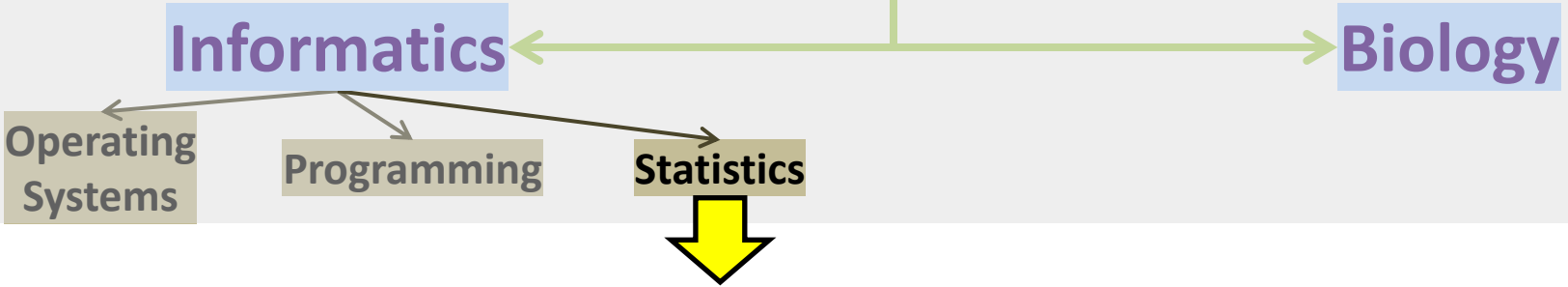


Python is currently the most popular Programming Language for Bioinformatics.

Minimal programming skill levels would allow:

The construction of small programs.
The understanding of slightly larger programs.
Ability to convey program specifications to a specialist.

Bioinformatics Topics



A basic understanding of Statistics is just as vital when designing an experiment.

"To call in the statistician after the experiment is done may be no more than asking him to perform a post-mortem examination: he may be able to say what the experiment died of."

As it is when large datasets need to be interpreted, which sensibly demands a working familiarity with a quality Statistical Package.

Bioinformatics software commonly employs statistics to select the most probable answer from a set of many possible answers to a given question.

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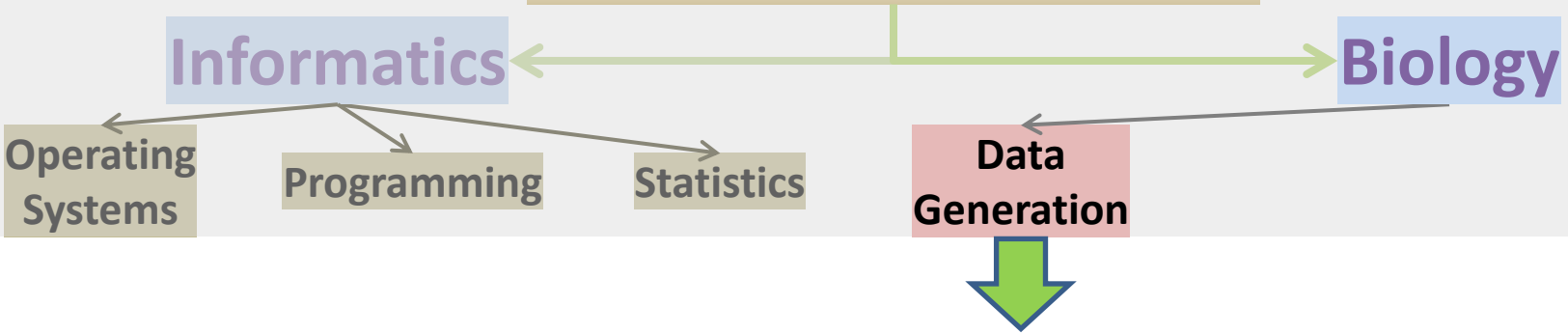


Experimental Data types include :

Sequences - Typically Next-Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS).

3D Protein Structures - X-ray crystallography or Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR)

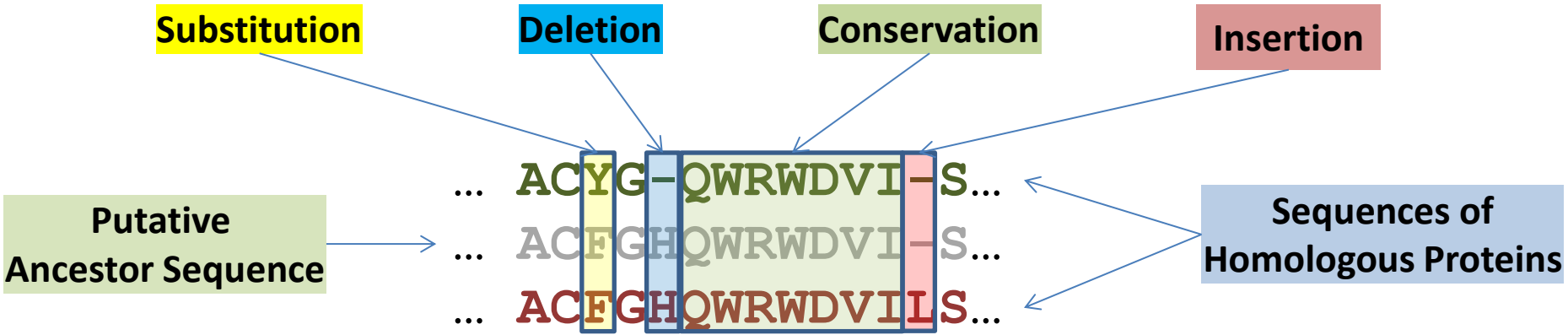
Gene Expression Data - Microarrays

Bioinformatics Topics

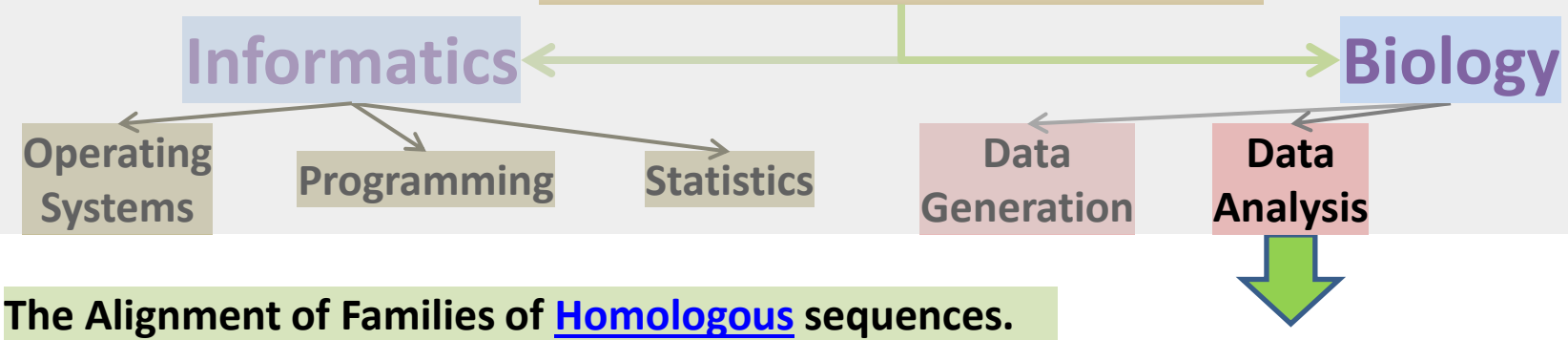
- Informatics
  - Operating Systems
  - Programming
  - Statistics
- Biology
  - Data Generation
  - Data Analysis

The Alignment of Pairs of Homologous DNA/Protein sequences.

Fundamental to most forms of DNA/Protein Sequence analysis



Bioinformatics Topics

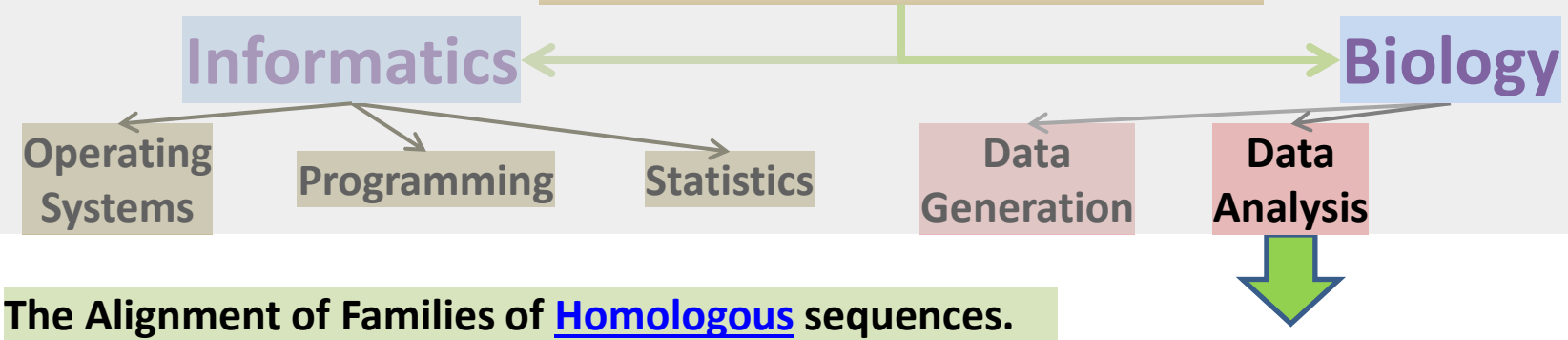


The Alignment of Families of Homologous sequences.

First, find a family of Homologous sequences.

```
... APFELVISWKLIVESPAINCDWRTENGLANDSGMLVNOWPAI ...
... APYELVISQWKLIVESNPAINKDWRTYENGLANDSGMLVNOWAI ...
... APFELVISWKLIVESNPAINCDWRTENGLANDSGMLVNOWAI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRTENGLANDSGMLVNOWAI ...
... APYELVISWKLIVESNPINCDWRTENGLANDRSGMLINOWAI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRTENGLANDSGMLVNOWLI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINDWRTENGLANDSGMLVNOWAI ...
... APYELVISWKLIVESNPAINCDWRTENGLANDSGMLLNOWMI ...
```

Bioinformatics Topics

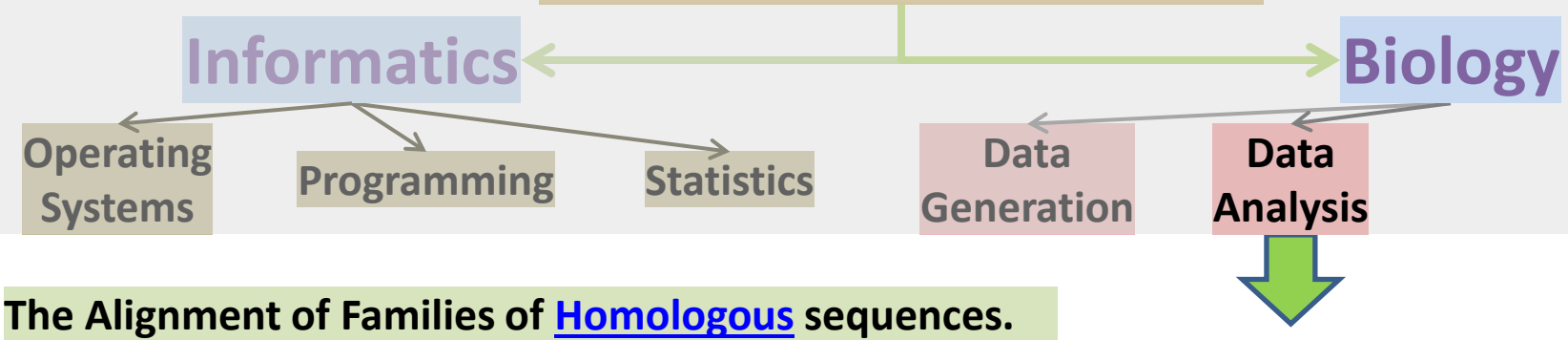


The Alignment of Families of Homologous sequences.

Then, align by inserting "–"s representing InDels, in each sequence.

```
... APFELVIS-WKLIVES-PAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOWPAI ...
... APYELVISQWKLIVESNPAINKDWRTYENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVIS-WRLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APYELVIS-WKLIVESNP-INCDWRT-ENGLANDRSGMLINOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-LI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAIN-DWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APYELVIS-WKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLL-NOW-MI ...
```

Bioinformatics Topics



The Alignment of Families of Homologous sequences.

Next, identify the columns where Substitutions and/or InDels have been predicted.

```
... APFELVIS-WKLIVES-PAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOWPAI ...
... APYELVISQWKLIVESNPAINKDWRTYENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVIS-WRLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APYELVIS-WKLIVESNP-INCDWRT-ENGLANDRSGMLINOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-LI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAIN-DWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
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```
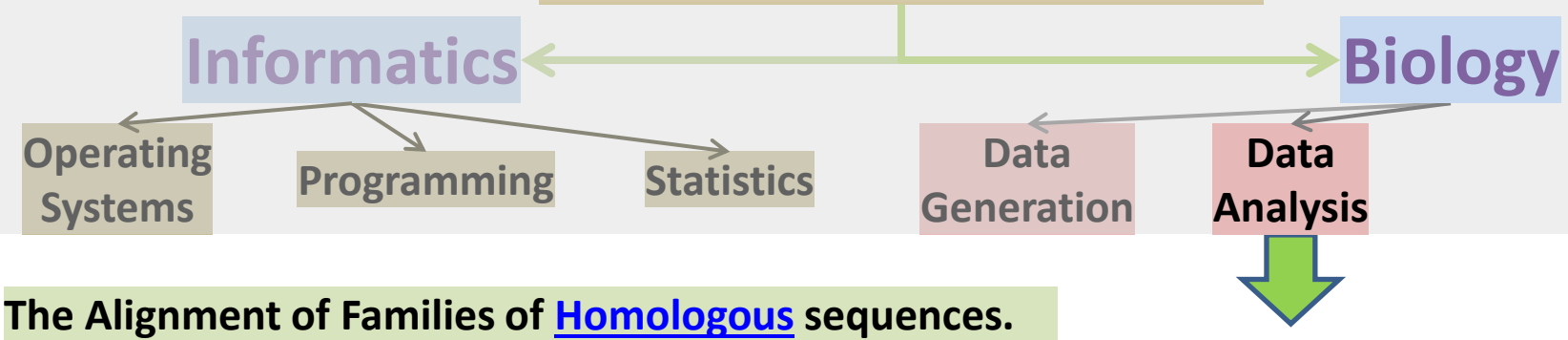

Bioinformatics Topics



The Alignment of Families of Homologous sequences.

Then, identify the columns where full Conservation has been predicted.

```
... APFELVIS-WKLIVES-PAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOWPAI ...
... APYELVISQWKLIVESNPAINKDWRTYENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVIS-WRLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APYELVIS-WKLIVESNP-INCDWRT-ENGLANDRSGMLINOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-LI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAIN-DWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APYELVIS-WKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLL-NOW-MI ...
```

Bioinformatics Topics

- Informatics
  - Operating Systems
  - Programming
  - Statistics
- Biology
  - Data Generation
  - Data Analysis

The Alignment of Families of Homologous sequences.

Finally … Identify the Glorious Message!!!!.

```
... APFELVIS-WKLIVES-PAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOWPAI ...
... APYELVISQWKLIVESNPAINKDWRTYENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVIS-WRLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-AI ...
... APYELVIS-WKLIVESNP-INCDWRT-ENGLANDRSGMLINOW-AI ...
... APFELVISQWKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLV-NOW-LI ...
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... APYELVIS-WKLIVESNPAINCDWRT-ENGLANDSGMLL-NOW-MI ...
```
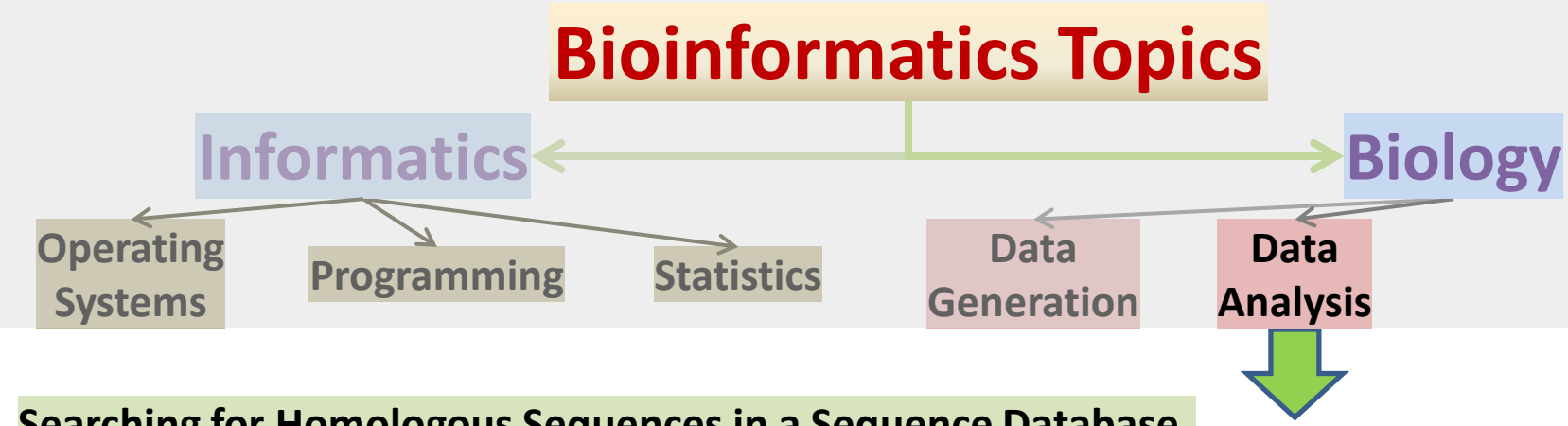



Searching for Homologous Sequences in a Sequence Database.

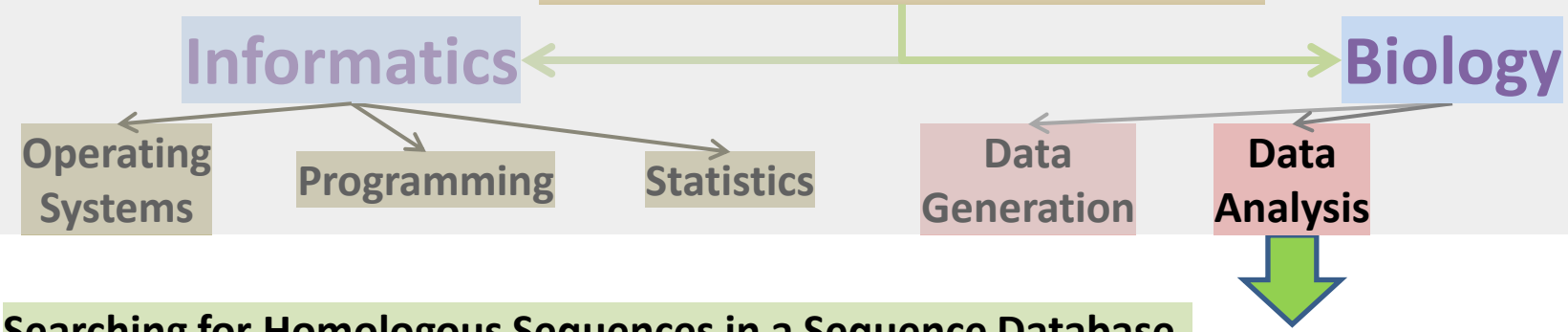
Database searching is the most common Bioinformatics process by far.

Database searching is pairwise comparison repeated many times.

Non-optimal comparison methods are essential for practical reasons.

A list of matches, ordered by the improbability of occurring just by chance is generated.

Bioinformatics Topics



Searching for Homologous Sequences in a Sequence Database.

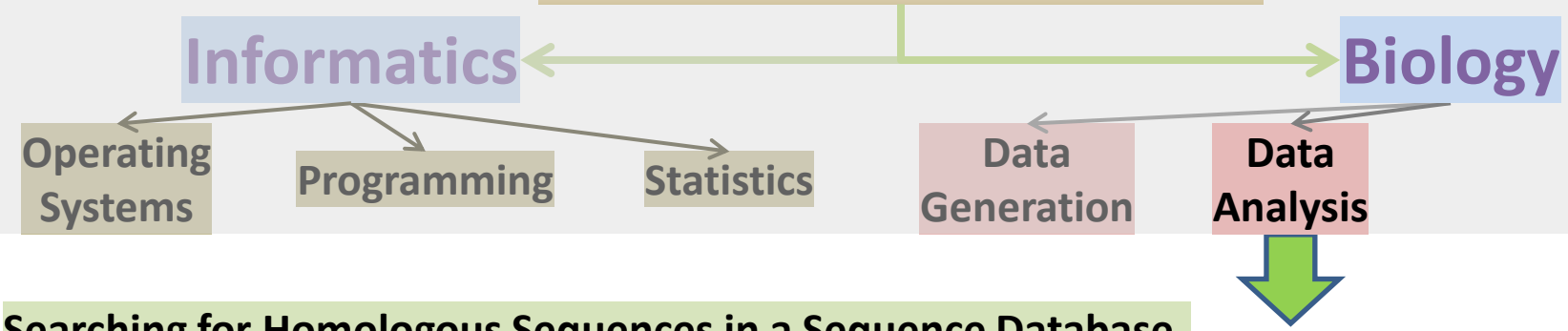
Database searching seeks “Similarity”. Users seek “Homology”.

```
Query            KLYPLRPQTPEPPPPPPPPPPPLPAAPPQP
Similarity       +L P +P    P P PP P PP     PP+P
Database Entry   RLTPPQPLMMPPRPTPPTPLPPATLTVPPRP
```

Homology?

Or 2 proteins including a lot of Prolines??

Bioinformatics Topics



Searching for Homologous Sequences in a Sequence Database.

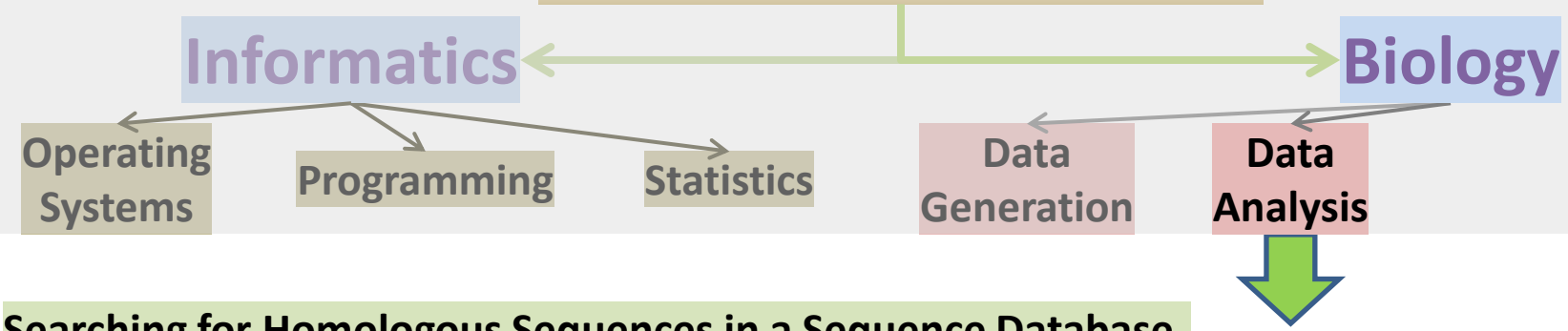
Database searching seeks “Similarity”. Users seek “Homology”.

```
Query            TCTCCCATTCGTAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
Similarity       ||| ||||| ||||||||||||||||||||
Database Entry   TCTTCCATTTGTAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
```

Homology?

Or 2 unrelated mRNAs??

Bioinformatics Topics



Searching for Homologous Sequences in a Sequence Database.

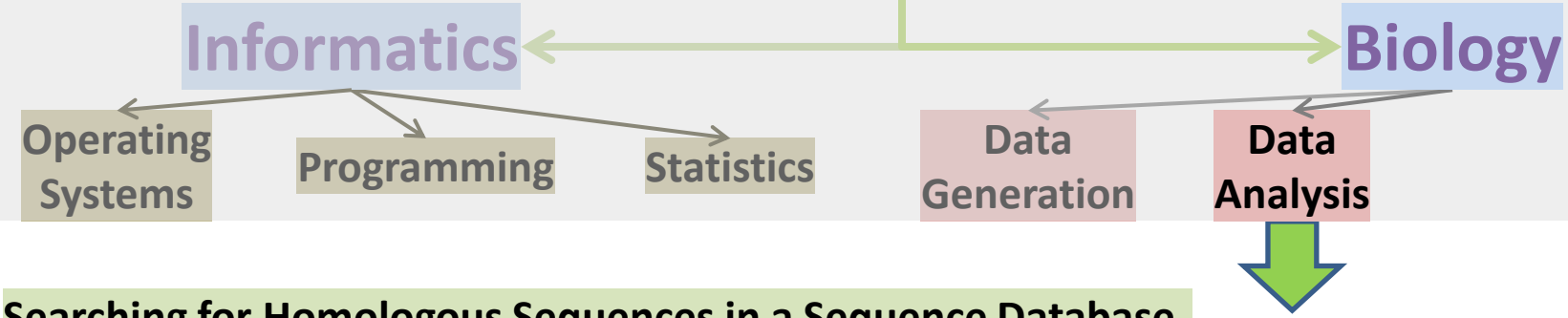
Database searching seeks “Similarity”. Users seek “Homology”.

```
Query            TTAGCAAGATCAGCCCTAACTCGGCATCTT
Similarity         |  ||   |  ||  |  |  |  ||   |  ||   |
Database Entry   CTTGCGCGCTCTGTCTTGACGAGACACTTA
```

Homology?

A very unconvincing alignment!!

Bioinformatics Topics



Searching for Homologous Sequences in a Sequence Database.

Database searching seeks "Similarity". Users seek "Homology".

TTAGCAAGATCAGCCCTAACTCGGCATCTT

Query	L	A	R	S	C	L	T	R	H	L
Similarity	L	A	R	S	C	L	T	R	H	L
Database Entry	L	A	R	S	C	L	T	R	H	L

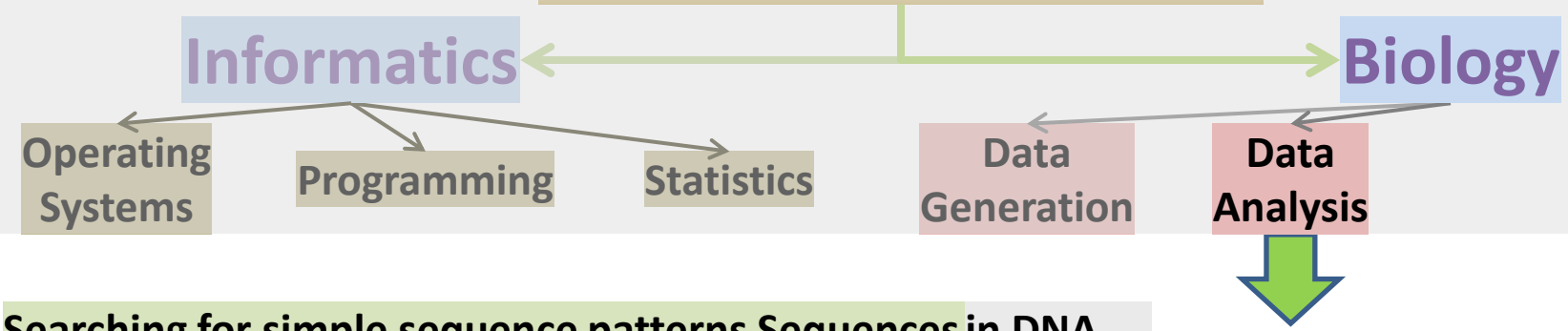
CTTGCGCGCTCTGTCTTGACGAGACACTTA

Homology?

Probable --- a perfect protein match??

In all circumstances – <u>always</u> align at the protein level wherever possible.

Bioinformatics Topics



Searching for simple sequence patterns Sequences in DNA.

Largely a matter of finding short sequences within longer ones.

Computationally trivial.

A concrete example is required:

Restriction Mapping

Detecting Restriction Enzyme Recognition Sites is complicated by their redundancy.

Few Recognition Sites can be simply defined using only the codes A, C, G and T.

The solution is to use the Nucleotide Ambiguity Codes defined by IUPAC.

Unambiguous site (EcoRI): G/AATC

Ambiguous site (PpuMI): RG/GWCCY

Cut here

And here

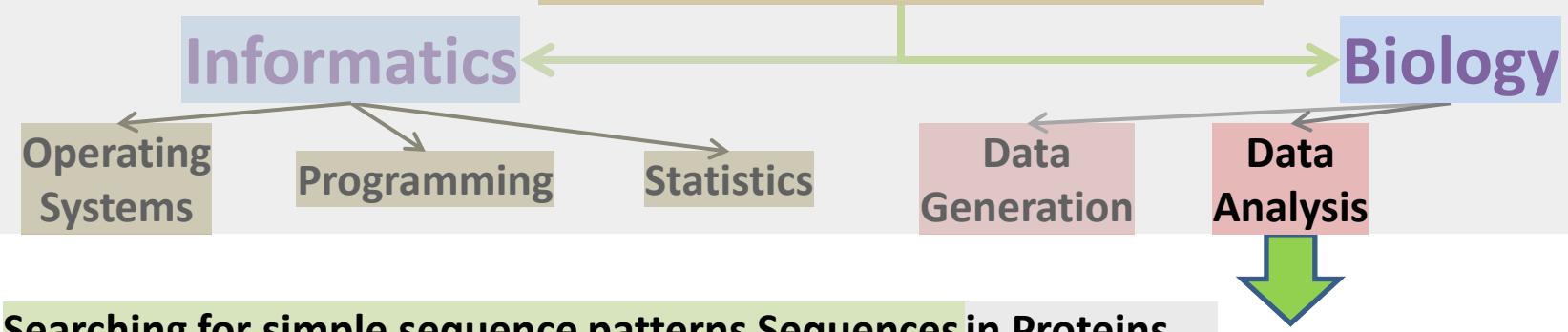
TTAGCAAGATCAGGACCTACTCGGCATCTTCCTGGGTCCC

RGGWCCY

IUPAC DNA Alphabet

Code	Meaning
A	A
C	C
G	G
T/U	T/U
M `aMino`	A|C
R `puRine`	A|G
W `Weak`	A|T
S `Strong`	C|G
Y `pYrimidine`	C|T
K `Keto`	G|T
V `not T`	A|C|G
H `not G`	A|C|T
D `not C`	A|G|T
B `not A`	C|G|T
N `aNy`	A|C|G|T

Bioinformatics Topics



Searching for simple sequence patterns Sequences in Proteins.

Patterns can be derived manually to represent conserved regions of MSAs

Simple where conservation is 100%

```
... CQVLNPYYHWGQCGGIGWSGPTVCASGTT ...
... CQYSNDYYHWGQCGGIGWSGCKTCTSGTT ...
... CHVLNPYYQWGQCGGIGWTPSTTCASPYT ...
... CSTLNPYYVWGQCGGIGWSGPTNCAPGSA ...
... CVYSNDYYVWGQCGGIGWSGPTCCASGST ...
```

WGQCGGIGW ← **Pattern**

Bioinformatics Topics

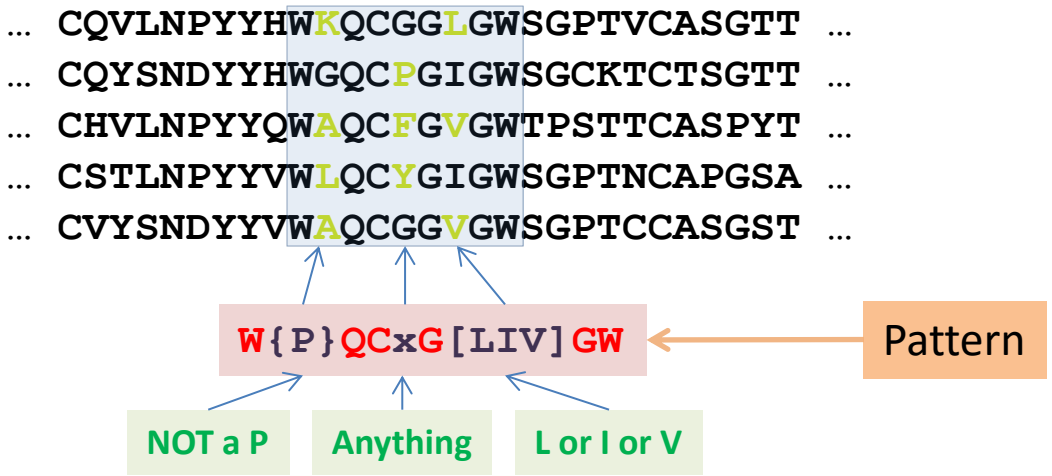
- Informatics
  - Operating Systems
  - Programming
  - Statistics
- Biology
  - Data Generation
  - **Data Analysis**

Searching for simple sequence patterns Sequences in Proteins.

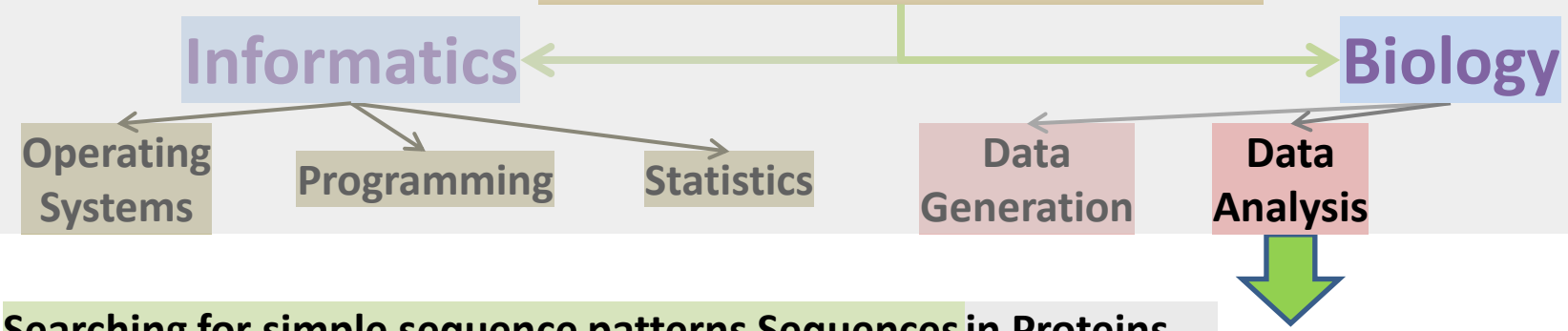
Not so easy where conservation is less than perfect

An Amino Acid Alphabet including all ambiguities is not practical!

The solution is a simple syntax for ambiguous amino acid sequences.



Bioinformatics Topics



Searching for simple sequence patterns Sequences in Proteins.

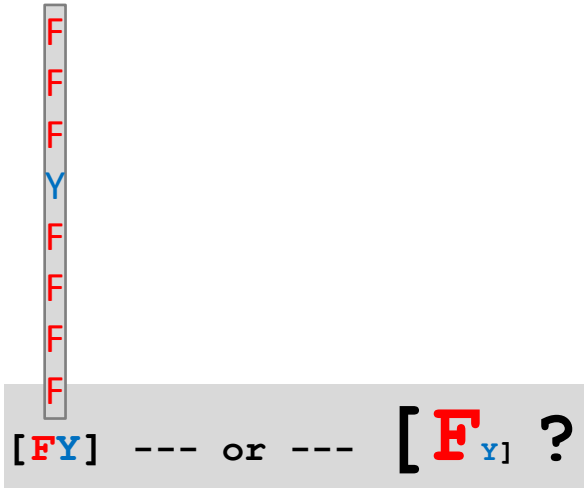
Bioinformatics Topics

Searching for simple sequence patterns Sequences in Proteins.

Simple Protein patterns are of limited precision.

Only highly conserved regions can be described usefully.

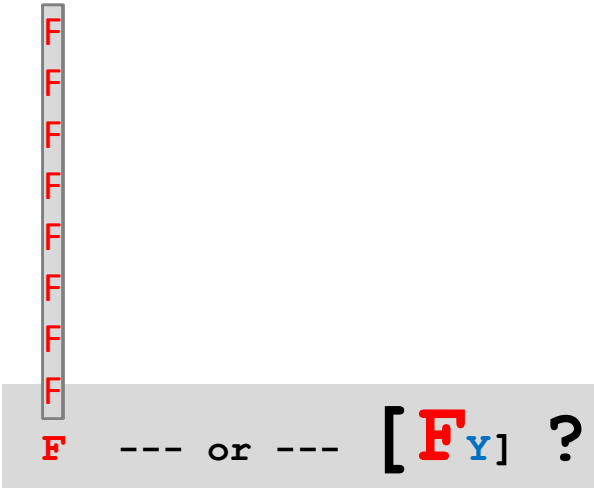
Patterns cannot weight possibilities by frequency.



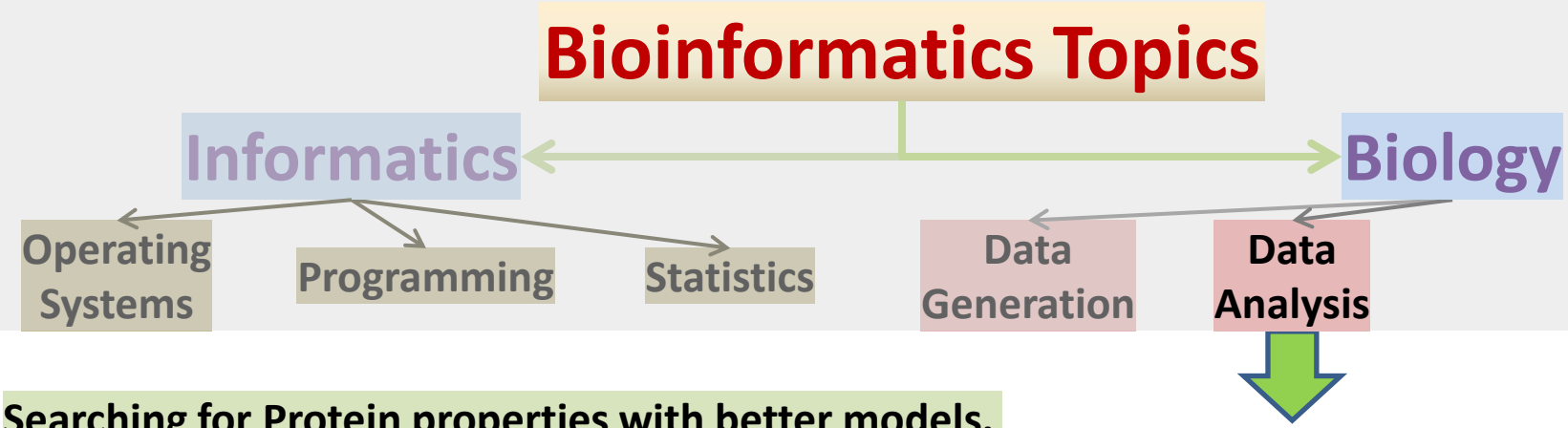
Bioinformatics Topics

Searching for simple sequence patterns Sequences in Proteins.

Simple Protein patterns are of limited precision.



Patterns do not reflect commonly accepted substitutions.



Searching for Protein properties with better models.

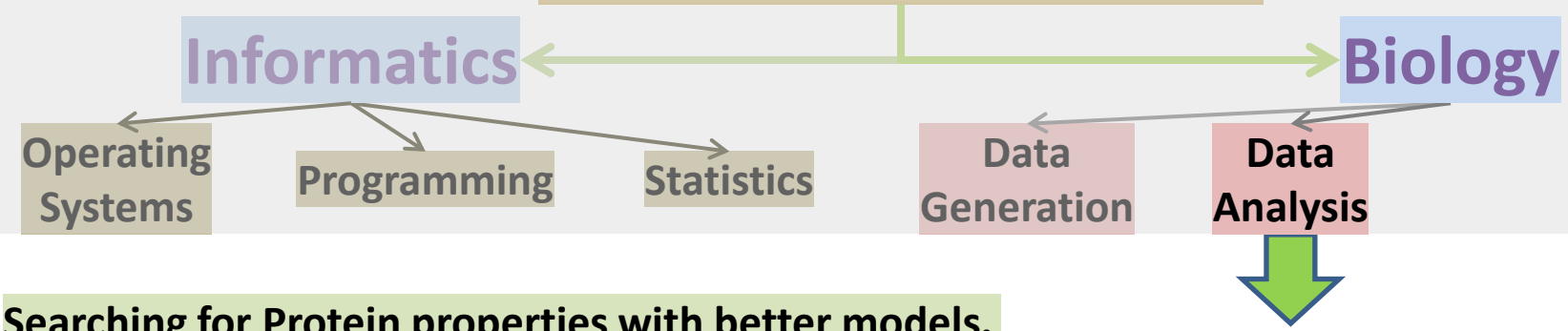
Again, start with an MSA of instances of the feature to be modelled.

Create a “suitable” representation of the relevant portion of MSA

Compare the model along other protein sequences was illustrated for simple patterns.

Where matches are detected, the corresponding protein property is likely to occur.

Bioinformatics Topics

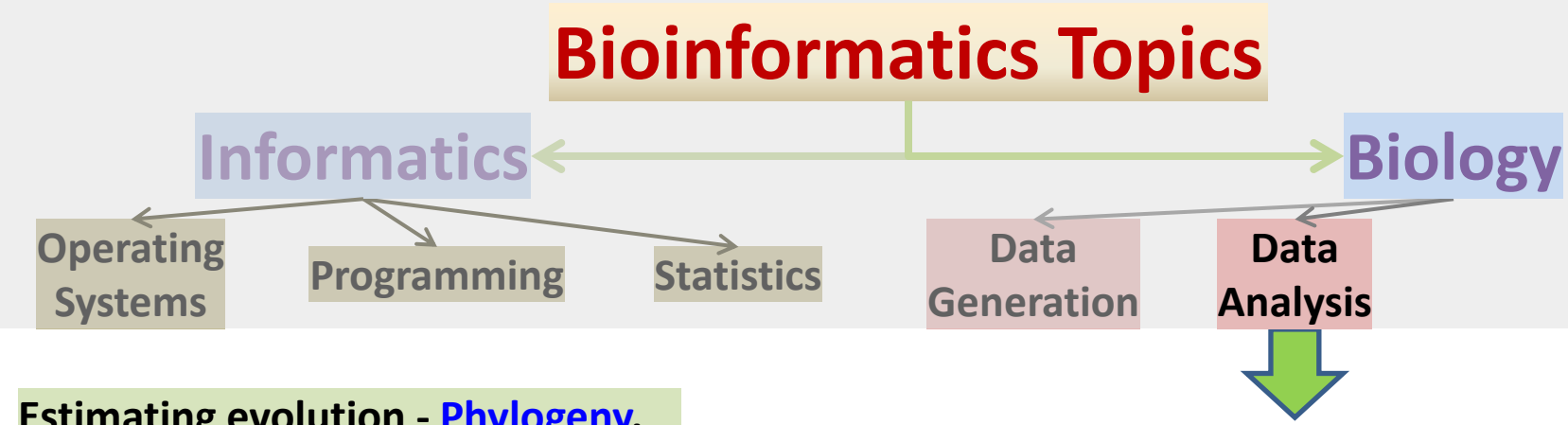


Searching for Protein properties with better models.

A variety of simple models have been developed (e.g. Position Weight Matrices) for a number of purposes, including:

- Gene discovery in bacteria genomes (DNA)
- Early versions of 2D protein Structure Prediction
- Transmembrane Alpha Helix prediction
- TATA box Detection (DNA)
- Helix-Turn-Helix (HTH) Prediction
- Prediction of Coiled Coils

The most powerful and prolific current profiles are Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)



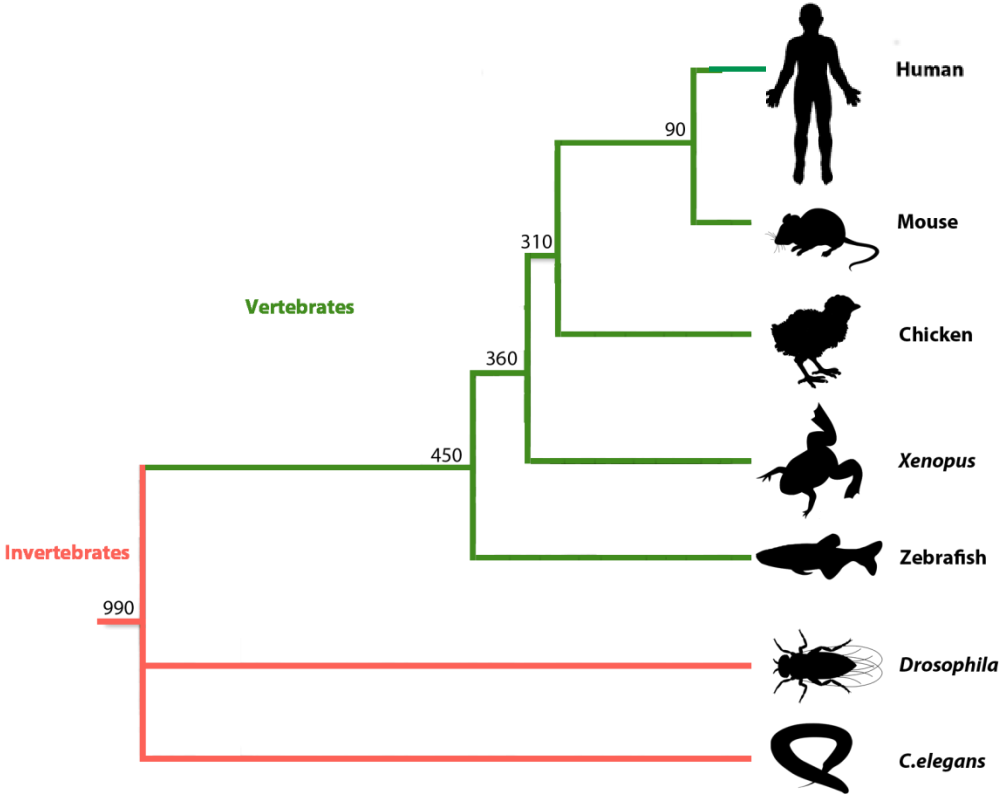
Estimating evolution - Phylogeny.

Broadly, the estimation of evolutionary history from available evidence.

"Evidence" does not *have* to be a carefully crafted MSA of Orthologous sequences from a range of organisms.

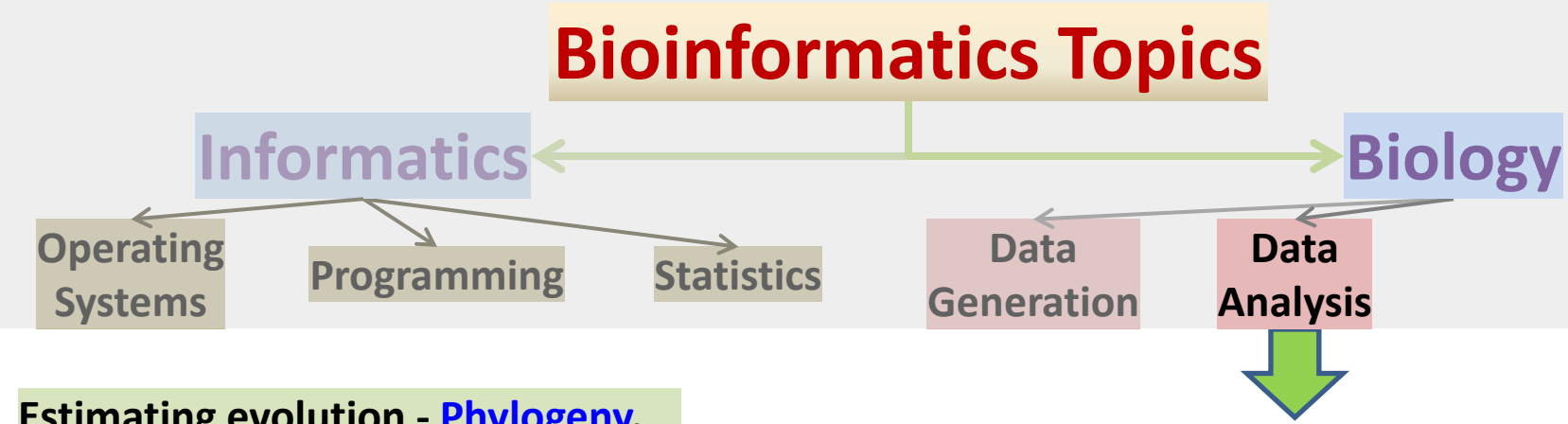
However, in the context of Bioinformatics, it invariably is.

Typically, conclusions of Phylogenetic analysis are represented as Evolutionary Trees.



Which are very Beautiful!!

My personal preference is for trees that place *ME* as far away from a *MOUSE* as possible!!!!



Estimating evolution - Phylogeny.

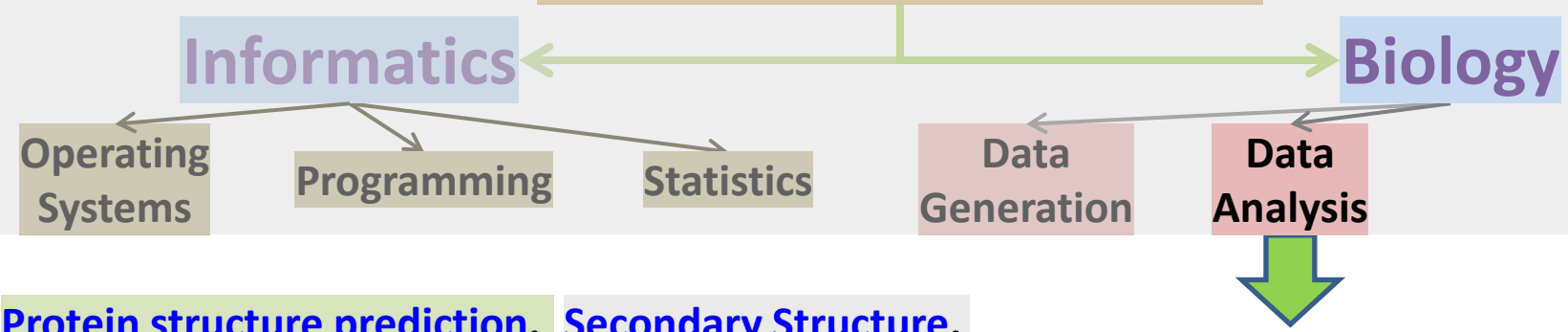
Phylogeny is another example of an analysis based on MSAs.

One very effective Phylogenetic strategy is to seek an answer to the question:

"What is the most probable Evolutionary Tree, given I believe this MSA to be perfect?"

Reinforcing how central is the role of Statistics in Bioinformatics.

Bioinformatics Topics



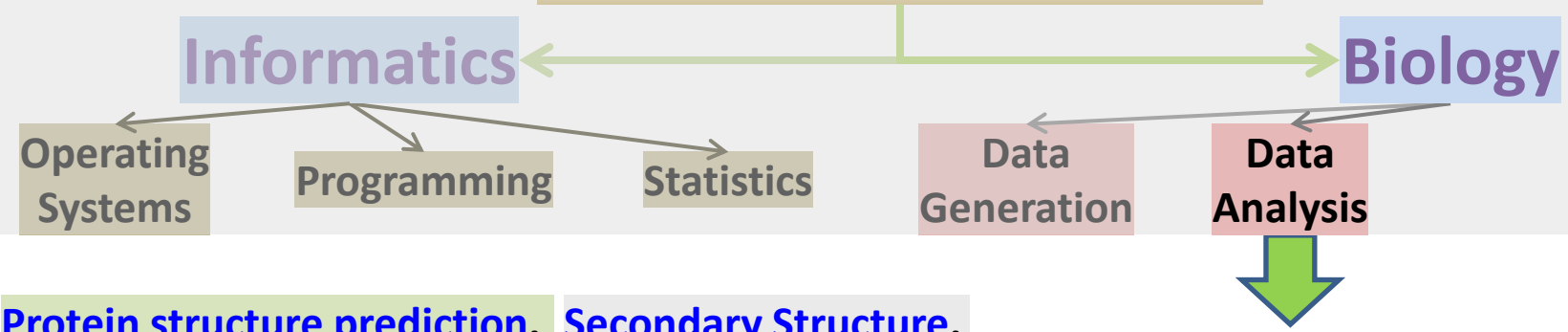
Protein structure prediction. Secondary Structure.

Essentially predicting the locations of Alpha Helices, Beta Sheets and Turns.

Modern methods employ Machine Learning to generate Artificial Neural Networks.

That is profiles computed by “learning” from observation of examples.

Bioinformatics Topics



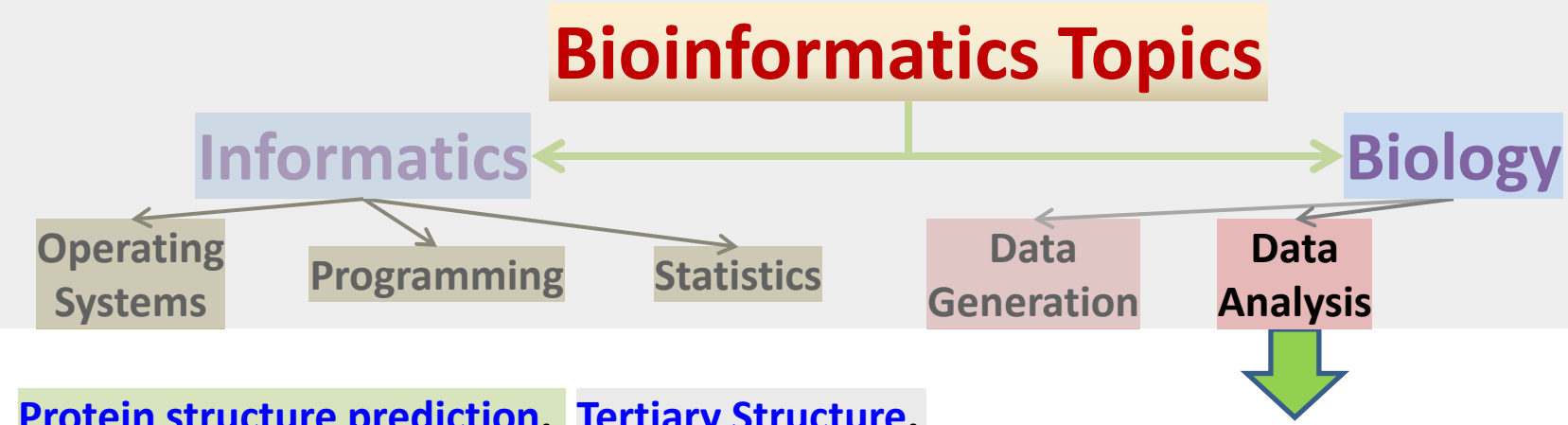
Protein structure prediction. Secondary Structure.

Better predictions are obtained from MSA data than from individual protein sequences.

General principle being, the more information offered, the more reliable the prediction.

Some systems will automatically generate an MSA if offered a solitary protein sequence.

Prediction will be based on the MSA, computed by iterative database searching.



Protein structure prediction. Tertiary Structure.

Predicting Tertiary Structure directly from Primary Structure is not currently practical.

De novo protein structure prediction requires better algorithms and more computing power.

Homology modelling requires a reliable Tertiary Structure for a homologous protein.

Tertiary Structure for a protein is predicted by comparison with the homologous structure.

Homology modelling is hampered by low volumes and uneven spread of available structures.

And now … Once again … Your turn!
Some issue for consideration, discussion and reaction

The Bioinformatics topics mentioned here do not constitute a comprehensive list. What would suggest is missing … in order of importance?

The term algorithm was mentioned once or twice. There are slightly differing definitions. Pick the one you like best and justify your selection.

Define the three terms Homologue, Paralogue and Orthologue, being ever assiduous to ignore offensive American misspellings!

The is but one basic strategy for computing Pairwise Alignments that is considered optimal. However, this strategy can be implemented to compute either Global Alignments or Local Alignments.
Just informally, how do these two possibilities differ?

Generally speaking, would you compute MSAs using a Global or a Local approach? Briefly justify your choice.

Generally speaking, would you conduct Database Similarity searches using a Global or a Local approach? Briefly justify your choice.

"Sequence alignment only makes sense for sequences representing Homologous entities"

A profound observation made by the ever sagacious David Philip Judge whilst sipping an eventide cup of Tesco's very cheapest tea in the penthouse suite of his Ivory Tower (personal communication, 2016.06.10).

Consider and comment upon this fundamental truth.

"A Multiple Alignment of Homologous sequences which were a mixture of Orthologues and Paralogues would not be suitable as input data for Phylogenetic analysis "

Another deep one from DPJ

Consider and comment upon this further pearl of enlightenment.

In the course of the dialogue for this presentation, there was mention of "Accepted Substitutions", more formally referred to as "Accepted Point Mutations", or … if you enjoy clumsy for the sake of a pronounceable acronym, "Point Accepted Mutation" (PAM).

How would you informally define an "Accepted Point Mutation"?

The Extended syntax for ScanProsite is the most common syntax used for protein pattern definition. ScanProsite being the program for searching the of the Prosite database. Prosite was first created way back in the 1980s and, initially, was composed exclusively of protein patterns.

There is no great value, at this stage, to be entirely familiar with this very simple syntax. However, from the hints in this presentation and a quick glance at the appropriate web pages, can you interpret the pattern?

```
C{P}x(3,7)[FY](2)Wx(2)[VIL]
```

In the slides preceding, Protein Domains and Protein Sequence Motifs were mentioned with rather sparse explanation.

Define both of these terms and describe simply the difference between them.

In the slide notes, there is mention of Position Weight Matrices (PWMs).

Can you say, simply, what a Position Weight Matrix might be and how it might be used?

What obvious property does a PWM possess that is lacking in a simple sequence pattern (or consensus sequence)?

The best secondary structure programs are reckoned to be around 80% accurate.

It is further suggested that 80% is about as good as it is possible to achieve.

Stated simply, why would you suppose that 100% accuracy might be unobtainable?

Hint: Do you think that two human experts, given the very best evidence of Tertiary Structure, would also agree upon the exact amino acid positions where an Alpha Helix starts and finishes?

Homology Modelling is mentioned in the slides as a method for predicting tertiary structure when structure(s) of protein(s) homologous to the query protein are available. The process involves aligning the query protein with the known structure, using the known sequence as a guide.

It is also possible to predict Tertiary Structure when, known structures thought to be appropriate exist, but only for sequences that ARE NOT HOMOLOGOUS. In such cases, the Primary Sequence corresponding to the known structure will be of little assistance.

Tricky eh!? What are the name(s) for those types of method? ONLY if you can do so VERY simply. Say a few words to say how they over come the lack of a homologous sequence.

It was noted in the slides that often different Protein Feature searches often do not exactly agree.

It is common for two services to agree upon the presence of a domain, but not upon it precise start and end positions within a protein.

Would you find this to be worrying? Surprising? If not, why not?

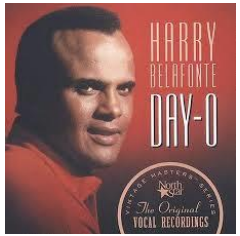
End of Part 2

BREAK!

More to come I fear … but time for a swift cup of tea perchance?

Maybe time for a short jig? The whistling of a merry tune?

Or, mayhap, a delving into the melodic possibilities of youtube?
There be much good stuff there … I offer you a few of my favourites.



Once fully refreshed …. Click on mon braves!