Bioinformatics

Five

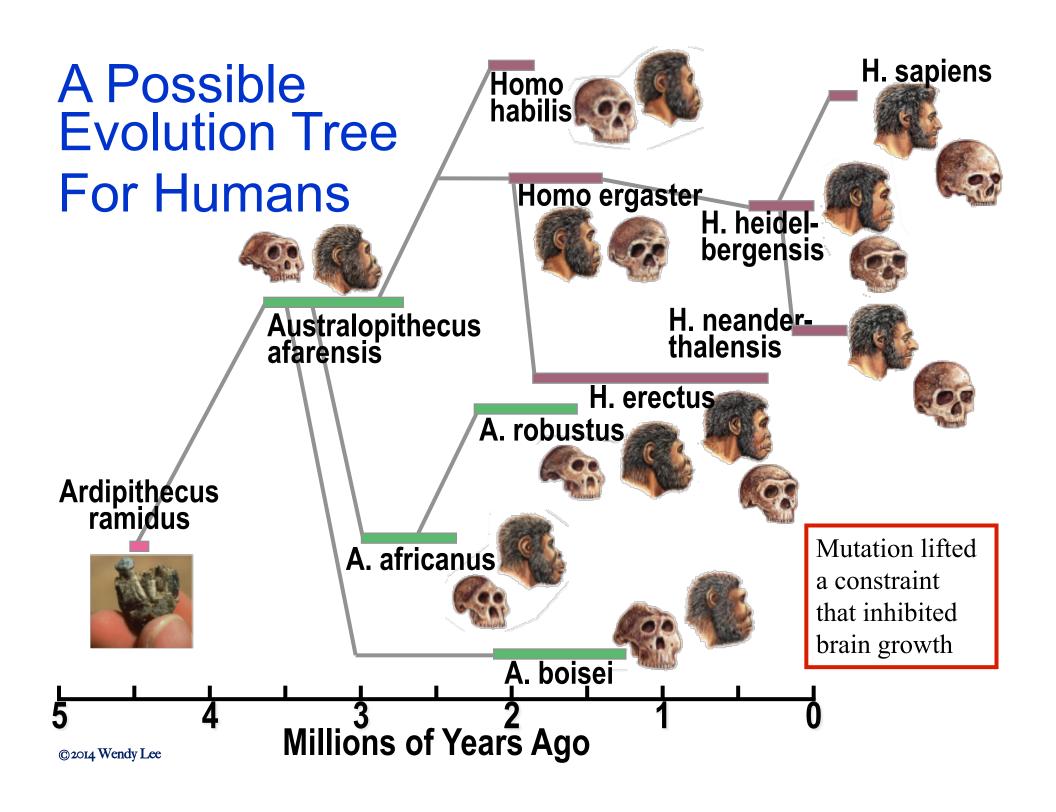
Case Study

The BIG Jaw

Wendy Lee
Department of Computer Science
San José State University
Biology/CS 123/SEA
Fall 2014

Myosin gene mutation correlates with anatomical changes in the human lineage by Hansell H. Stedman et al.

NATURE: VOL 428, 25 MARCH 2004

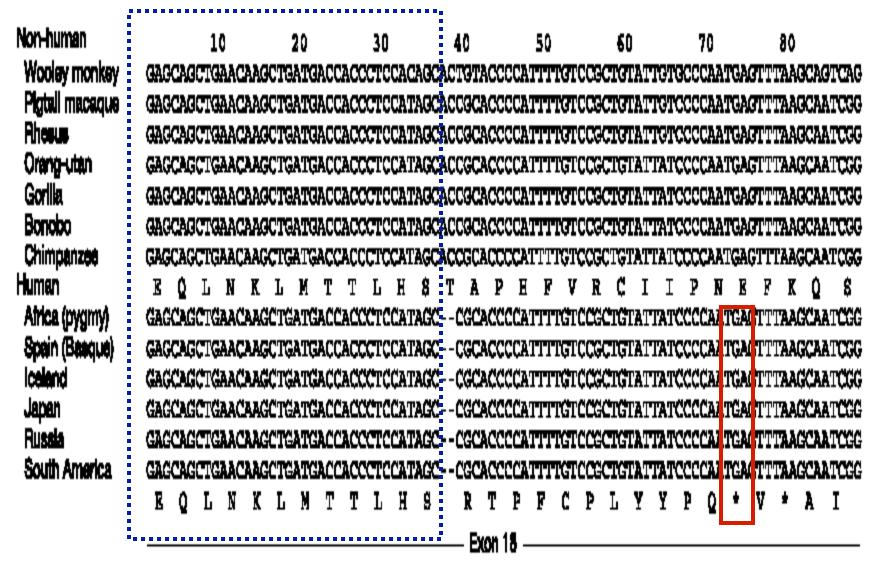


Powerful Masticatory Muscles

- Powerful masticatory muscles are found in most primates, including chimpanzees and gorillas, and also in Australopithecus.
- Masticatory muscles are considerably smaller in members of Homo.
- The gene encoding myosin heavy chain (MYH) expressed in these muscles was inactivated by a frameshifting mutation after the lineages leading to humans and chimpanzees diverged.



A decrease in jaw-muscle size, produced by inactivation of MYH16, removed a barrier to the remodelling of the hominid cranium which consequently allowed an increase in the size of the brain.



MYH16: Myosin Heavy Gene

Accession Number: BK001410 at NCBI (exon 19)

MYH 16, Position relative to start codon

