CS123A Midterm #2 Study Guide

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The Big Jaw

Big Jaw – Constraint that inhibited brain growth

Powerful masticatory muscles: Found in most primates including chimpanzees and gorillas

Human Masticatory Muscles – Much smaller compared to other animals in the Homo genus.

Myosin Heavy Chain (MYH): Gene expressed in masticatory muscles. Inactivated in humans by a frameshift mutation after the lineage of humans and chimpanzees diverged.

Mutation removed a barrier for the remodelling of the hominid cranium which consequently allowed for an increase in the size of the brain

Viruses

Virus – Small living particles that can infect cells and change how the cells function. The effect on the cell's function depends on the type of virus and the cells that are infected. Surrounded by protein case.

Pathogen: A disease product. It can include both infectious organisms (bacteria, fungi, etc.) as well as viruses. **Virulence:** Ability of an infectious agent (i.e. pathogen) to cause a disease.

Many viruses are virulent sometimes and asymptomatic at other times.

Immunodeficiency – The result when the immune system is unable to protect the host from disease causing agents or from malignant cells.

Acquired Immunodeficiency: Loss of immune function because the genetic or development deficiency was not acquired at birth. It results from exposure to various agents.

Virus – A single stranded RNA virus that employs a double stranded DNA (dsDNA) intermediate for replication.

Reverse Transcriptase: Turns viral RNA into DNA. It turns the RNA strand into DNA. It then uses the DNA to make it complementary strand.

cDNA – Complementary DNA made from mRNA by reverse transcriptase.

Capsid – Surrounds mRNA in virus particle.

Viral DNA is integrated into the DNA of the host cell.

HIV

HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus

Type of retrovirus.

Inherited from:

- Chimpanzees
- Mangabyes

Transmitted through **bodily fluids** (e.g. blood, semen) when the virus of an infected individual contacts the **mucous membrane** or **enters the blood stream** of an uninfected individual.

Cells Affected by HIV:

- Macrophages Large immune cells that devours invading pathogens and other intruders. Stimulates other immune cells by presenting them small pieces of the invaders.
- CD4+ T Cells (aka T-Helper Cells) White blood cells that orchestrate the immune response. They signal other cells to perform their special functions.

Lentivirus – "Slow viruses" where the period between initial infection and the onset of serious symptoms is long.

Other Lentiviruses:

- FIV Feline Immunodeficiency Virus
- SIV Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (Infects monkeys and nonhuman primtates)

Body's Immune Response to HIV

Destroys the **virions** floating in the bloodstream before they can infect new cells.

Destroys the infected CD4 helper T-cells depleting the body's ability to fight disease. This causes an immune system collapse. This leads to AIDS (Acquired immunodeficiency Syndrome).

Three Types of Proteins Involved in Viral (Virion) Replication

- GAG Encodes for core proteins and structural virion components.
- POL Encodes for reverse transcriptase, integrase, and protease.
- Env Encodes for the structural protein components that surrounds the virus. Needed for the virus to leave the cell.

Miscellaneous HIV Notes

Many subgroups of HIV-1 exist.

Within a single subtype and in a single infected person, the virus changes constantly.

Transmission from chimp to humans happened multiple times in the past.

Sanger Sequencing

Developed by Frederick Sanger in **1977**. Most widely used technology for ~25 years.

Replaced by "Next Generation Sequencing" techniques.

Still widely used for smaller scale projects and for long contiguous DNA sequences (>500 nucleotides).

Dideoxynucleotides – Nucleotides where the OH molecule on the 3' carbon of the sugar is modified to simply an –H making a subsequent phosphodiester linkage impossible.

These are floating in the gel and sometimes DNA polymerase selects a normal nucleotide and other times the **dideoxy analog** which terminate the sequence. **This sugar can fluoresce**.

DNA polymerase makes a complement of a partial sequence within a DNA molecule.

Synthesis is primed from a chemically synthesized fragment (i.e. primer) that is complementary to a part of the DNA sequence known from other studies.

DNA polymerase builds strand from 5' to 3'.

Pyrosequencing

Developed in 1996.

Based off the detecting of released pyrophosphate during DNA synthesis. This detection is through the detection of light.

Sequences a single strand of DNA by synthesizing the strand's complement.

Benefits of Pyrosequencing:

- "Sequencing by synthesis"
- Accurate
- Simple and robust
- No labels or gels
- Real time results.

Nucleotides are dispensed sequentially and then removed from the reaction (this is done by **apyrase**). Light is only produced when the solution complements the first unpaired base of the template strand.

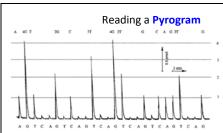
A mini strand with a magnetic bead for DNA polymerase serves as a primer.

Example Pryosequencing Instruments PSQ96

- 500 samples per hour
- 4500 samples per day.
- Includes CCD camera.

PSQHS96A

- 10,000 samples per day
- 30,000 samples per day with triplex analysis.



Bases released sequentially. Depending on intensity of light you can determine the number of sequential bases.

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

- Occurs every 500 to 1000 bases in DNA.
- Most common cause of inter-individual variation.

HPV - Human Papillomavirus

- Sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- Usually does not cause health problems but can cause cancer of the vulva, vagina, penis, and anus as well as in the back of throat.
- Different primers used to detect the specific strain of HPV infection.

Wild Type – Original, nonmutated version of a gene. For bacteria, it would be the original non-drug resistant version.

Pyrosequencing begins with a primer that binds to the DNA sequence. Primer has a "general primer site."

Primers

Primer Design: Required step before beginning pyrosequencing. This includes running PCR (polymerase chain reaction).

General Primer - Will anneal with all alleles.

Have a magnetic bead at 5' end.

Polymerase Chain Reaction

Used to amplify a specific DNA sequence. Exponentially increases number of copies of a DNA sequence.

Step #1: Denaturing – Heating the DNA sequence to render it single stranded. Example time: 1 minute at 94C.

Step #2: Annealing - Two primers bind the appropriate complementary strands.

Step #3: Extension – DNA polymerase extends the primers.

Primer Characteristics

- Lack of secondary priming sites (uniqueness)
- Absence of hairpin formation (bends in single strand).
 Caused by intermolecular interaction within the primer.

Uniqueness: There should be only one place the primer can bind in the template DNA. There should be no possible contaminant binding sites either (e.g. from other animals such as human, rat, mouse, etc.

Length – Related to uniqueness and melting/annealing temperatures. The longer the primer, the more likely to be unique and the higher the melting/annealing temperatures.

Minimum Length: 15 bases Ideal Length: 17-28 bases

Base Composition – Random base composition is best. Best to avoid long A/T and G/C chains.

50-60% G+C content leads to the right annealing/melting temperatures.

Melting Temperature

Temperature at which half the DNA strands are single stranded and half are double stranded.

More G/C nucleotides in a strand means higher melting temperature since more hydrogen bonds.

Notation: T_m

Annealing Temperature

Temperature at the primer anneals (bonds) to the DNA stand.

Calculated as:

 $T_{anneal} = T_{m_{primer}} - 4^{o}C$

Internal Structure

Primers can anneal to themselves or to other primers.

Hairpin: Primer bending back to bind to itself.
Self Dimer: Primer bonding to another of the same primer

Dimer: Primer binding to a **complementary strand primer**.

Stability at 5' end of the primer is critical.

Primers work in pairs. Two types of primers:

- Forward Primer
- Reverse Primer

Annealing temperatures of the two strands must be compatible (maximum 3 degrees) of each others.

Primer Design

Generally done best by computers.

Example primer design tools:

Primer3 (tool used in class from MIT), BioTools, GCG, Oligo

Adjustable Features in Primer Design Tools:

- Primer Length
- Melting Temperature
- (G+C)%

Multiplex PCR

Multiple primer pairs are added together in PCR. This allows for the amplifying of multiple sites.

Challenges of this Approach:

- Different melting temperatures.
- Ensuring no dimer formation

Most primers are designed to **amplify a single product.**

Universal Primer: A single primer that can be used to amplify multiple products.

Semi-universal Primer: A single primer can be used to amplify a subset of template sequences from a large group of similar sequences.

Guessmer

In some cases, DNA sequences are unavailable or difficult to align. Example: **Back-translated a protein** which is degenerate so the nucleotide sequence cannot be known.

Procedural Differences in Primer Design:

- Length: Primer should be longer than normal at about 30 bases to offset decreased hybridization.
- Set higher annealing temperature to increase primer annealing stringency.

Homework #3 Keywords

Hydrophobic Amino Acid – Does not react with water. Tends to be buried within a protein surrounded by other hydrophobic amino acids. Polar, hydrophilic Amino Acid — Typically surrounded by water molecules. Generally buried inside protein surrounded by other oppositely charged hydrophilic amino acids. Protein Domain – Conserved part of protein where the protein has folder into these discrete structural units. Core of each domain is α -helixes, β -sheets, or a mixture of both.

Tetramer – Protein that consists of four monomer subunits. Example: **Hemoglobin**.

SQL – Structured Query Language HTML – Hypertext Markup Language

XHTML – Extended Hypertext Markup Language Flat File Database – Rely on basic text files to store information. Still in use due to their simplicity and relatively low cost. Annotation – Nonsequence information in a database entry. It can include interpretation of data, relevant research citations, and related entries in other databases.

Non-redundant database – Database with no duplicate entries. **GI Number** – Unique identifier given to a sequence. If a sequence ever changes, a new GI is assigned.

Accession Number – Unique number assigned to a database entry and it never changes.

Ontology – Set of field-specific descriptors that enable the sharing of the same concepts and definitions for specific terms.

Gene Ontology – Collaborative project that provides a controlled vocabulary that describes genes and genes associated information.

Hypothetical Gene – A gene identified in a protein sequence purely through computational methods. No experimental data supports this as a gene. May be correct or incorrect.

Swiss-Prot – Protein database that does not use computer based annotation. All curating is done manually by experts.

Three Types of Nucleotide Sequences in Databases

Raw Genomic Sequence – Represents chromosomal DNA and includes non-coding regions (e.g. introns, control regions, UTR) as well as coding regions (i.e. exons).

cDNA (Complementary DNA) – Result of reverse transcription from RNA to DNA. Does not include anything beyond the coding sequence.

Expressed Sequence Tag (EST) – A partial cDNA sequence that is around 300 bases in length.

Pseudogene – Sequences in genomic DNA that is similar to known coding genes but do not produce functional proteins. Mutate faster than normal genes since no longer under selection pressure. Possibly due to gene duplication. Up to 20,000 pseudogenes in human genome.

Window Size – Number of consecutive sequence objects used for comparison in a dot plot.

Stringency –
Number of exact
matches in a dot
plot window that
must be identical to
be considered a
match.

Protein versus Nucleotide Sequence Comparison

- Proteins have more 20 amino acids versus only 4 nucleotide bases. Hence, one character has more information in a protein.
- Genetic code is redundant so insignificant variations are filtered out when looking at proteins.
- Structure and function of protein is entirely dependent on amino acid sequence so amino acid sequences tend to change less over time.

RCSB Protein Database – Tool used to view protein structures. **Gene Locus Format:**

{Chromosome #}.{P/Q}{Chromosome Region}

Example: 17.p21 is on the P-arm of chromosome 17 in region 21.

Nonsense Mutation— A point mutation in a DNA sequence that results in a premature stop codon (or nonsense codon). The mRNA is truncated, incomplete, and usually non-functional.

Missense Mutation – A point mutation in which a single nucleotide change results in a codon that codes for a different amino acid.

Homework #4 Keywords

Purine: Adenine and Guanine
Pyrimidine: Cytosine and Thymine

Transition: Nucleotide substitution of:

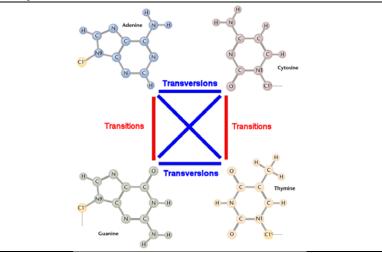
Purine to Purine

Pyrimidine to Pyrimidine

Transversion: Nucleotide substitution of:

- Purine to Pyrimidine
- Pyrimidine to Purine

Transitions are more common than transversions since transitions tend to have less effect on the protein sequence.



Silent Mutation – Point mutation that does not affect the amino acid sequence of a protein. Can occur in both coding and non-coding regions.

Synonymous Mutation: Point mutation that does not affect the amino acid sequence of the gene. Limited to those substitutions in the coding region (i.e. exons).

"misc_feature" – Notation in a Genbank record to indicate a noteworthy feature in a sequence. Example: "polymorphic (TAAA)n" is a repeat sequence of "TAAA" multiple times.

Missense Mutation – A point mutation in which a single nucleotide change results in a codon that codes for a different amino acid.

Needleman-Wunsch – Global sequence alignment dynamic programming algorithm.

Most rigorous and guaranteed to return the best alignment.

Smith-Waterman – Local sequence alignment dynamic programming algorithm.

Most rigorous and guaranteed to return the best alignment.

SSEARCH – Alignment program built off of Smith-Waterman.

Twilight Zone – Region between 20% and 30% identity in amino acid sequences. Homology may exist between the proteins but cannot be reliably assumed in the absence of other experimental data.

Midnight Zone – Region where there is less than 20% identity between two amino acid sequences. Very unlikely the two sequences are homologous.

Gap Penalty -

Penalty that is subtracted from the alignment score anytime a gap is inserted in the alignment. Gap Extension Penalty –

Penalty to extend an existing gap. This penalty is generally less than when a new gap is inserted.

Gap Penalty Differences Based on Amino Acids – Some amino acids tend to be more important for a protein's protein (e.g. Tryptophan). Hence, depending on the amino acid, the gap penalty may vary.

FASTA and BLAST: Heuristic based sequence alignment programs. Use heuristic to filter possible matches then runs dynamic program on those that passed the heuristic test.

FASTA is a fast database-search method based on **matching short identical sequences**.

BLAST based on finding very similar short segments.

Phenotype: A composite of an organism's observable characteristics or traits. It is related to but not entirely dependent on the genotype as two organisms may have the same genotype but different physical characteristics due to the environmental factors.

Using Different Substitution
Matrices – A single substitution
score matrix is not ideal for all
cases. Differences can include:

- Degree of similarity between the sequences
- Looking for closely related sequences or very distantly related evolution relationships

Blastp – Compares a query protein sequence against a protein database.

Blastn – Compares a query nucleotide sequence against a nucleotide database.

Blastx – Compares a nucleotide sequence translated into all six reading frames against a protein database.

E-Value – Expectation value. Statistical measure for estimating the significance of alignments.

The smaller the E-value, the more likely that the two sequences are homologous.

Closely related sequences have an E-value of less than 10⁻²⁰.

Low Complexity Region -

Sequence segments (both nucleotide and amino acid) that have only a few types of bases or amino acids.

Often removed from protein sequences before a database search as they can lead to misleading hits.

Motif – A conserved element of a sequence alignment.

Constructed by the "consensus method" where multiple sequences are aligned and the most conserved regions are used to construct a pattern.

Logo – Visual representation of a set of aligned sequences. For each position in the sequence, a letter or set of letter is shown with larger letters indicating more conservation.



ClustalW and ClustalOmega

Tools used for Multiple Sequence alignment.

Can illustrate both transitions and transversions.

Indels (insertions and deletions) are indicated with a "-".

gi | 37222316 | gb | AY350716.1 | gi | 37222318 | gb | AY350717.1 | gi | 37222320 | gb | AY350718.1 | gi | 37222322 | gb | AY350719.1 |

gi|37222324|gb|AY350720.1| gi|37222326|gb|AY350721.1| gi|37222328|gb|AY350722.1| gi|45752610:36298-36383

Example CLUSTAL OMEGA Output

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FASTA Format – File format for specifying sequence information.

Techniques to Reduce the Number of Search Hits

- Provide a maximum E-Value.
- Search only newest elements in the database.