Introduction to Bioengineering BIOE/ENGR.80
Stanford University

Spring 2020 Class Slides

Day 22 27 May 2020

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## Week 7 reprise



Impact versus effort mapping

Project topic selection



Communicating clearly

Storytelling for engagement

Performing for impact



#### Week 8 look ahead



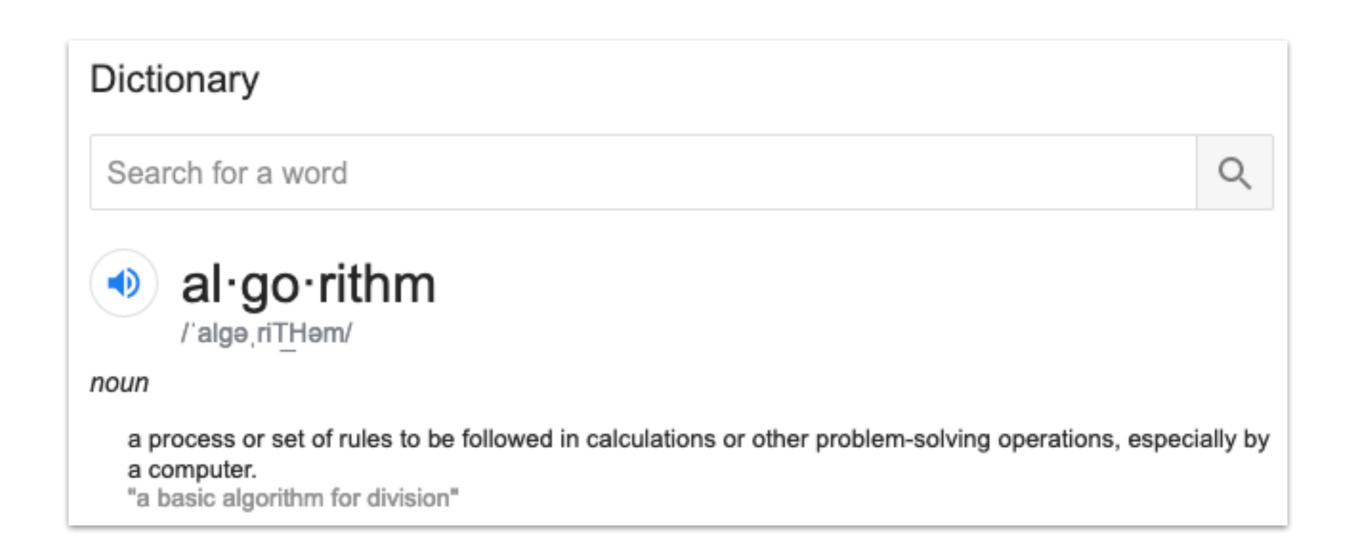
Evolution as algorithm

Evolution as service

Evolution 2.0?

<Evolutionary algorithm sandbox>

## Evolution as algorithm\*



\*By algorithm, we simply mean to represent that a few things must be happening for evolution to happen. We do not mean to imply any higher purpose to the process.

## Evolution as algorithm

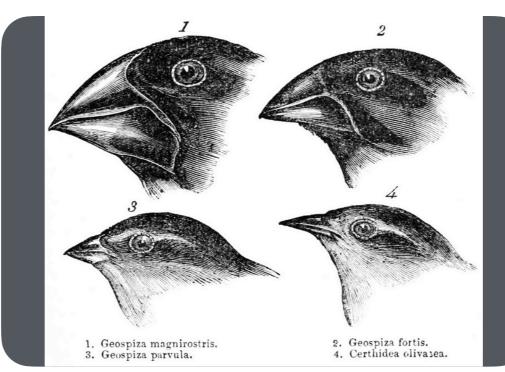
Competition among individuals whose behaviors vary (i.e., phenotypes).

genotypes influence phenotypes

Random changes in the heritable material passed from survivors to their offspring (i.e., genotypes)

survival of the fittest

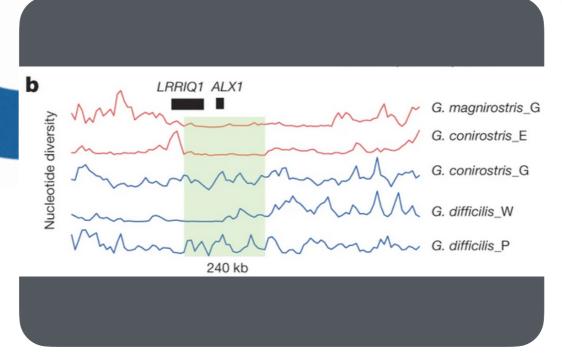
## Evolution as algorithm



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwin%27s\_finches

survival of the fittest

genotypes influence phenotypes



https://www.nature.com/articles/nature14181

## Evolution as algorithm

Competition among individuals whose behaviors vary (i.e., phenotypes).

genotypes influence phenotypes

Random changes in the heritable material passed from survivors to their offspring (i.e., genotypes)

survival of the fittest

## Evolution as substrate agnostic algorithm

Challenging the Evolutionary Strategy to Synthesis Analogue Computational Circuits

1037

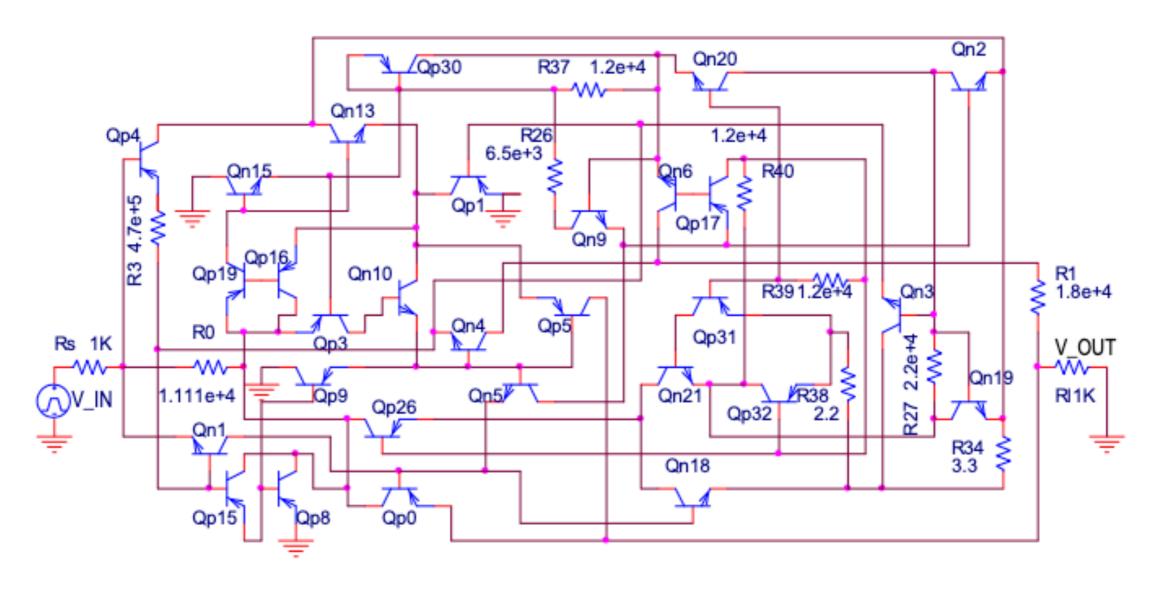


Figure 6. The evolved cube root circuit.

# Q. how to evolve electrical circuits? Q. what else can be evolved?

## Factors influencing evolution

Competition among individuals whose behaviors vary (i.e., phenotypes).

details of the competition?

to what extent?

genotypes influence phenotypes

survival of the fittest

Random changes in the heritable material passed from survivors to their offspring (i.e., genotypes)

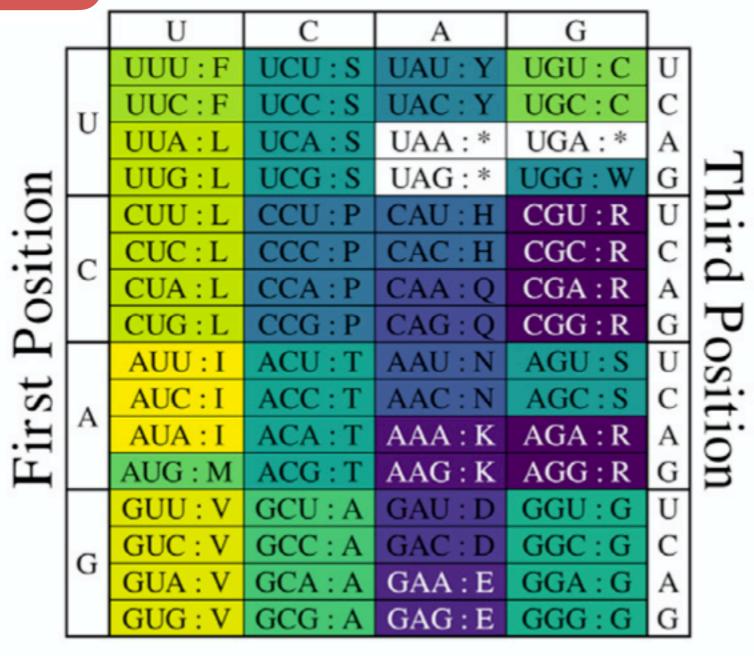
how many survivors?

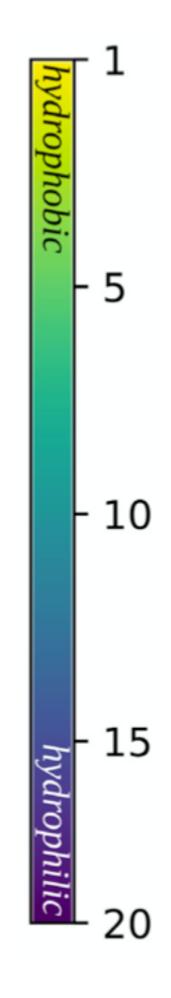
what sorts of changes?
how many changes per
individual per generation?

E.g., to what extent (do changes in genotypes result in changes in phenotypes)?

#### Standard Code

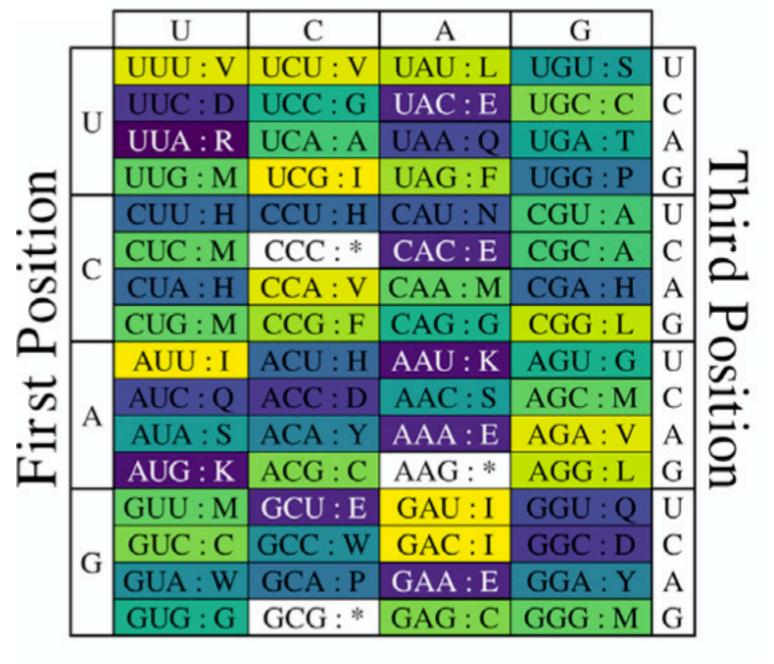
#### Second Position

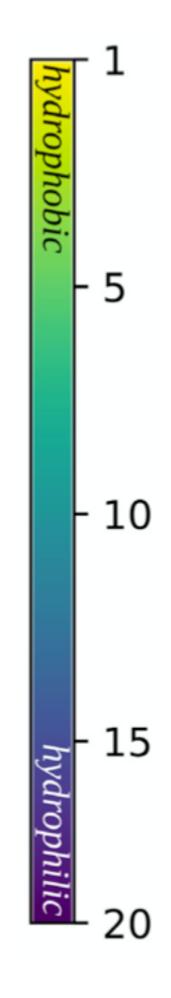




#### Random Code

#### Second Position

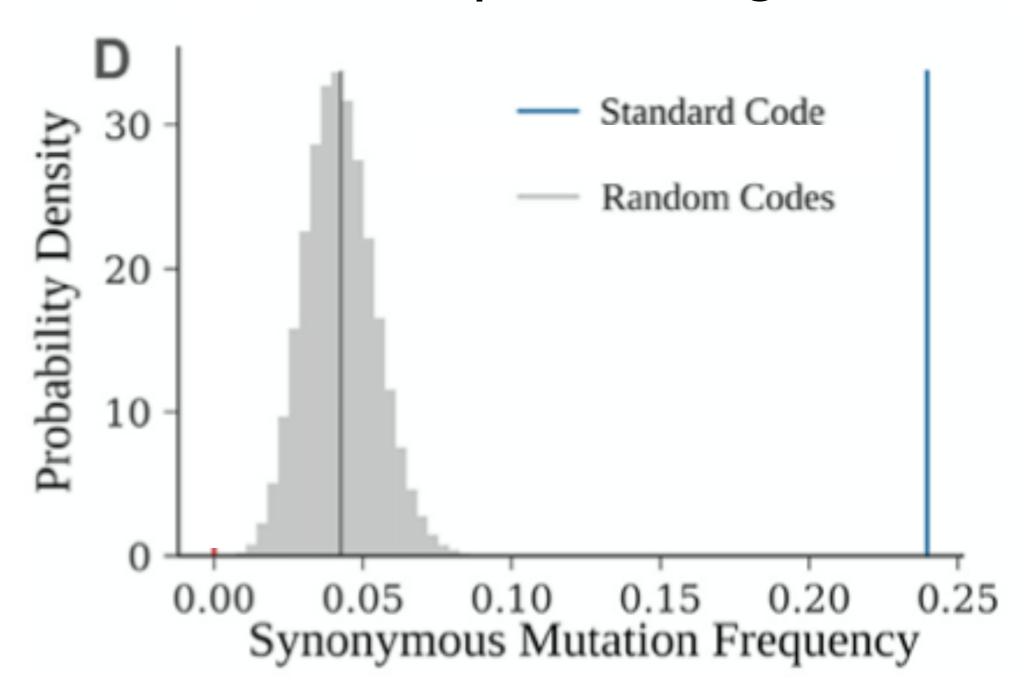




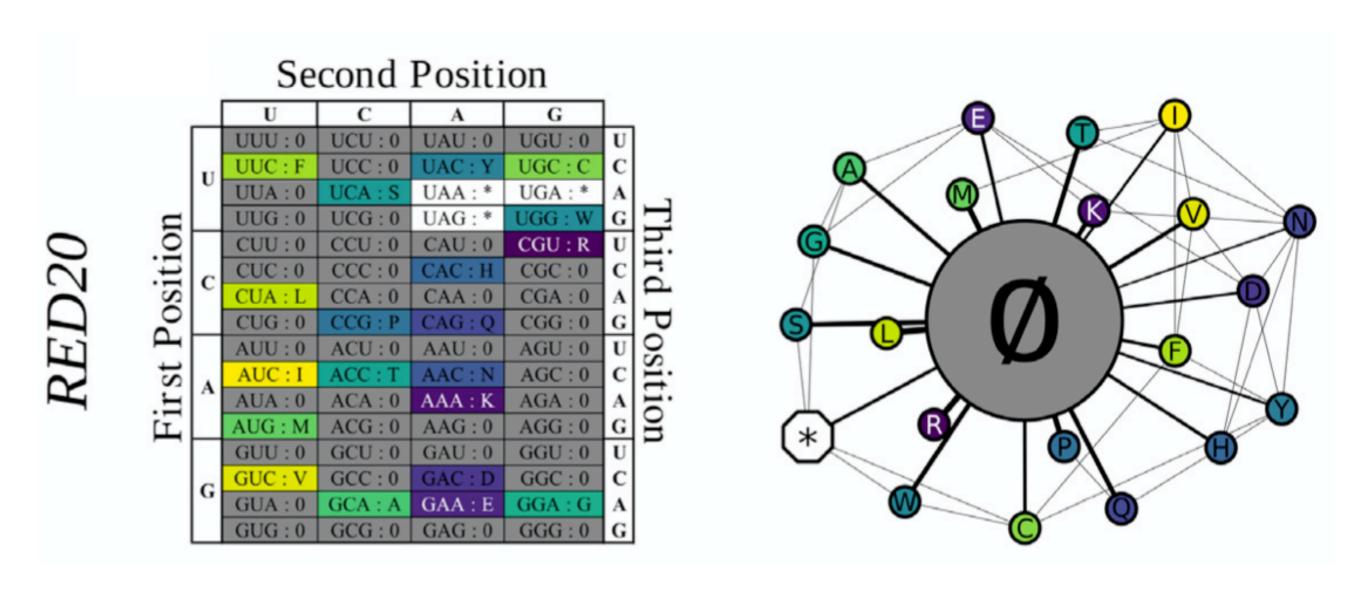
#### Standard Code Random Code **Second Position** Second Position UAA:\* UGA:\* UAG:\* First Position First Position CAC: E Position CGG: R CGG: L AAU: K AGA: R AGG: R AAG:\* AAG: K GGU: G GGU: Q GGC: G GCC: W GAC: I GGC: D GAA: E GAA: E 10 GAG: E GGG: G 15

https://academic.oup.com/nar/article/47/19/10439/5568210

Q. why is the standard genetic code six-fold less likely to change an amino acid given any point mutation in an open reading frame?



# Q. what would be the expected impact on evolution for organisms in which most point mutations land on codons that cannot be decoded?



#### The origin of mutants

John Cairns, Julie Overbaugh & Stephan Miller

Department of Cancer Biology, Harvard School of Public Health, 665 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA

Nucleic acids are replicated with conspicuous fidelity. Infrequently, however, they undergo changes in sequence, and this process of change (mutation) generates the variability that allows evolution. As the result of studies of bacterial variation, it is now widely believed that mutations arise continuously and without any consideration for their utility. In this paper, we briefly review the source of this idea and then describe some experiments suggesting that cells may have mechanisms for choosing which mutations will occur.

Claim — mutations are not random in occurrence, rather genes whose mutating would be most beneficial for fitness in a given environment are somehow preferentially mutated...

Q. How would this work?

#### A. Evolution is cleverer than we are\*

## Evidence That Selected Amplification of a Bacterial *lac* Frameshift Allele Stimulates Lac<sup>+</sup> Reversion (Adaptive Mutation) With or Without General Hypermutability

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Manuscript received January 7, 2002 Accepted for publication May 2, 2002

#### ABSTRACT

In the genetic system of Cairns and Foster, a nongrowing population of an E. coli lac frameshift mutant appears to specifically accumulate Lac+ revertants when starved on medium including lactose (adaptive mutation). This behavior has been attributed to stress-induced general mutagenesis in a subpopulation of starved cells (the hypermutable state model). We have suggested that, on the contrary, stress has no direct effect on mutability but favors only growth of cells that amplify their leaky mutant lac region (the amplification mutagenesis model). Selection enhances reversion primarily by increasing the mutant lac copy number within each developing clone on the selection plate. The observed general mutagenesis is attributed to a side effect of growth with an amplification—induction of SOS by DNA fragments released from a tandem array of lac copies. Here we show that the S. enterica version of the Cairns system shows SOS-dependent general mutagenesis and behaves in every way like the original E. coli system. In both systems, *lac* revertants are mutagenized during selection. Eliminating the 35-fold increase in mutation rate reduces revertant number only 2- to 4-fold. This discrepancy is due to continued growth of amplification cells until some clones manage to revert without mutagenesis solely by increasing their lac copy number. Reversion in the absence of mutagenesis is still dependent on RecA function, as expected if it depends on *lac* amplification (a recombination-dependent process). These observations support the amplification mutagenesis model.

### In-progress project assessments

Group-1	Green
Group-2	Yellow - Red
Group-3	Red
Group-4	Yellow - Red
Group-5	Yellow - Red
Group-6	Yellow-Green
Group-7	Red
Group-8	Green
Group-9	Yellow - Red
Group-10	Yellow-Green
Group-11	Yellow-Green
Group-12	Yellow-Green
Group-13	Yellow - Red
Group-14	Yellow - Red
Group-15	Yellow-Green
Group-16	Yellow-Green
Group-17	Yellow
Bioe Baddies	Yellow