Functional Annotation / Protein Annotation

- · Protein structure
- · Structure/Function prediction
- · Functional Classification

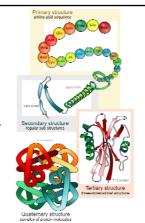
Functional prediction

- In absence of a proven function or mutant phenotype, a gene is no more than a transcribed piece of DNA
- If we can predict gene function in a genome, we can create a "parts list" of molecular functions that allow to make assumptions about the organism
- Actual experiments to elucidate or even just validate gene function usually take many years. Per gene!

From sequence to function DNA sequence (ATGAAGTTGATGGCAGCG...) simple rule protein sequence (MKLMAA...) prediction secondary ab initio folding structure sequence alignment / domain assignment protein function prediction sequence alignment / domain assignment

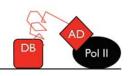
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- Primary
 - AA sequence
 - Post-translational modifications
- Secondary
 - α-helix
 - β-sheet
- Tertiary
 - 3d folding driven by nonspecific hydrophobic interactions
 - Stabilised by specific tertiary interactions
- Quaternary
 - Like tertiary but with multiple protein chains



Protein domains

 Many proteins consist of several structural and functional entities called "domain"

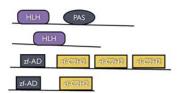


E.g. Transcription factor

DNA-binding and trans-activating domain structurally and functionally different.

 Often, proteins of the same family are 'mixtures' of a set of standard domains

Domain architectures





Descriptions of domains: http://pfam.sanger.ac.uk/

Ab initio prediction of secondary structure from primary structure

- learning directly from X-ray structures
- · consideration of environment
- · neural network-based training

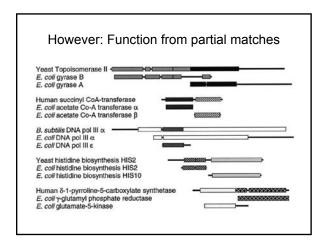
e.g. Dor *et al.* - Achieving 80% ten-fold cross-validated accuracy for secondary structure prediction by large-scale training – Proteins 2007

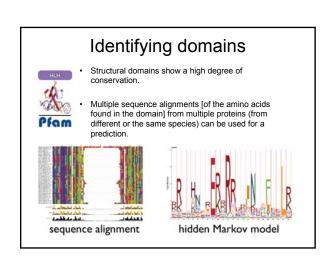
Prediction by alignment

- Primary sequence similarity >30% can be assumed to have the same 3D structure (but not necessarily function - beware of details!)
- Any available structural or functional data on orthologues (the "same" protein in a different organism) can be of great relevance.

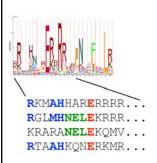
The 30% sequence identity rule Threshold for structural homology BLAST bi-directional best hit is often the most simple tool to establish orthology BLAST of Agencia I identifies Agencia I as best hits as best hits and sequence similarity > 30%. BINGO.

Intermediate sequences increase the detection of homology between sequences 1. A B 1 and 2 are homologous 2 and 3 are homologous 1 and 3 are not homologous 1 and 3 are not homologous 1. A' C ... Multi-domain proteins introduce errors Park et al. - Intermediate sequences increase the detection of homology between sequences – J Mol Bio. 1997



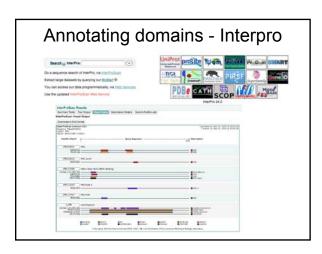


Learning a profile



HMM profiles have a higher sensitivity than alignment-based approaches AND effectively compare the candidate sequence against all sequences in the alignment profile at the same time.

Limitations of profile HMMs Higher-order relationships are not preserved (but this is also true for sequence alignments). RKMAHHARERRRR... RGLMHNELEKRRR... KRARANELEKOMV... RTAAHKONERKMR... Why are amino acids linked?



Functional annotation

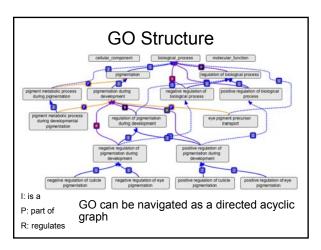
- For enzymes: EC number
- 6 groupings Oxidoreductases, Transferases, Hydrolases, Lyases, Isomerases, Ligases

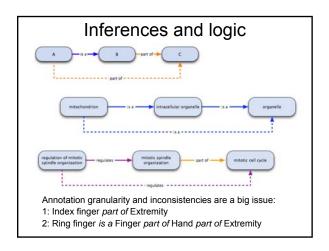


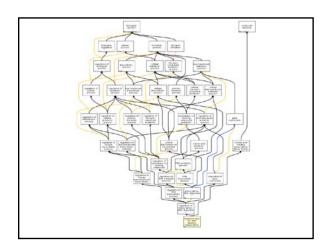
Functional annotation

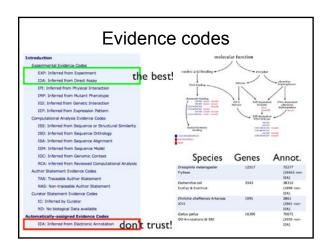
For other proteins: Gene Ontology, Reactome, KEGG

- GO is the *de facto* standard used by all major model organism databases
- Founded in 2000 by the GO Consortium lead by Michael Ashburner
- Database curators read the scientific literature and assign functional classifications along with an evidence code to proteins
- These annotations follow a controlled vocabulary that is organized into an ontology.









References

- Dor et al. Achieving 80% ten-fold crossvalidated accuracy for secondary structure prediction by large-scale training – Proteins 2007
- Sander & Schneider Database of homologyderived protein structures and the structural meaning of sequence alignment – Proteins 1991
- Park et al. Intermediate sequences increase the detection of homology between sequences – J Mol Bio. 1997

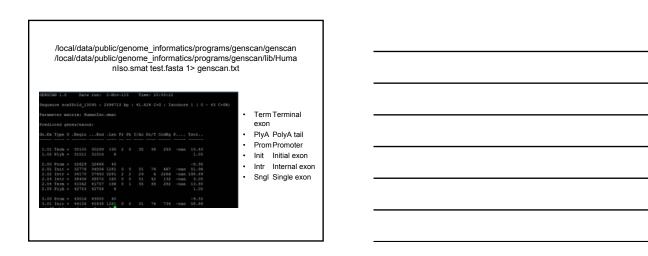
References

 Must read: The documentation at – www.geneontology.org

Assignment 2

- 20 min group presentations
- Annotate *Drosophila* species, compare annotations across species
- Groups on Moodle either Gene or Protein
- ALL submit a copy of the presentation on Moodle; PER GROUP print out a copy of slides and give to me on day of presentations

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