
CS273A



Lecture 2: Protein Coding Genes

MW 1:30-2:50pm in Clark **S361*** (behind Peet's)

Profs: Serafim Batzoglou & Gill Bejerano

CAs: Karthik Jagadeesh & Johannes Birgmeier

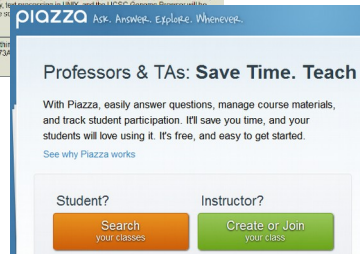
* Handful of lectures/primers elsewhere: track on website/piazza

Announcements



- <http://cs273a.stanford.edu/>
 - Course guidelines, office hours, etc.
 - Lecture 1 is posted
 - Problem set 1 rolls out next week

- Course communications via Piazza
 - Auditors please sign up too



- The first tutorial this Friday in Beckman B-302 from 2:00pm-3:30pm. It's the only one some students should consider skipping. While they may be familiar with the first half of the Molecular Biology 101 lecture, we also cover gene regulation and genome rearrangements.
- CAs will be sending out a Doodle poll via Piazza to identify ideal times for office hours. Students can contact them via Piazza for questions.

Class Goals



- Meet your genome (learn to surf, learn the surf)
- Understand genomic tools (theory, applications)
- DIY (pose questions, write & run tools, understand answers)

Class Topics

- (0) Genome context:
cells, DNA, central dogma
- (1) Genome content / genome function:
genes, gene regulation, repeats, epigenetics
- (2) Genome sequencing:
technologies, assembly/analysis, technology dependence
- (3) Genome evolution:
evolution = mutation + selection, modes of evolution,
comparative genomics, ultraconservation, exaptation
- (4) Population genomics:
Tracking human migration patterns via neutral evolution
- (5) Genomics of human disease:
disease susceptibility, cancer genomics, personal genomics
- (6) Genome “output” (organism) evolution:
Evolutionary developmental biology (“evo-devo”)

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CAACTACTTAATAAATGATTGTATGATAATGTTTTGAATGTAAGAGATTTGGATTATCCTTATAGTTTCATACATGCTTCAACTACT
TAAATGATTGTATGATAATGTTTTCAATGTAAGAGATTTGATTATCCTTATAGTTTCATACATGCTTCAACTACTTAATAAATGAT

Genome context

Organism – Cell - Genome

10^{13} different cells in an adult human. The cell is the basic unit of life.

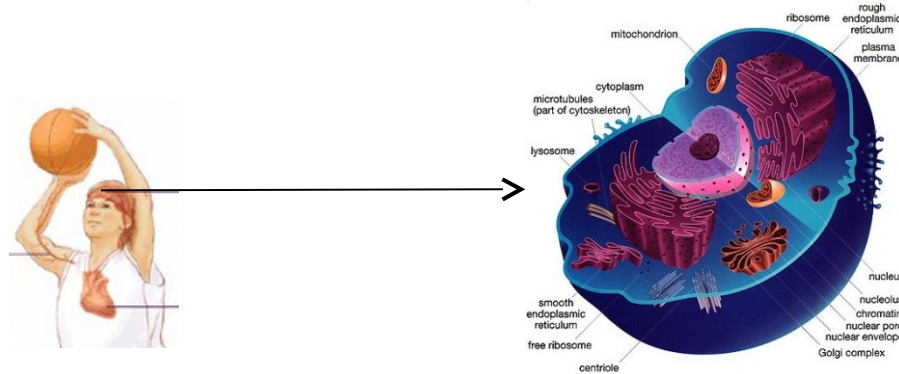
DNA = linear molecule inside the cell that carries instructions needed throughout the cell's life ~ long string(s) over a small alphabet

Alphabet (nucleotides/bases) {A,C,G,T}

Strings (chromosomes) of length 10^4 - 10^{11}

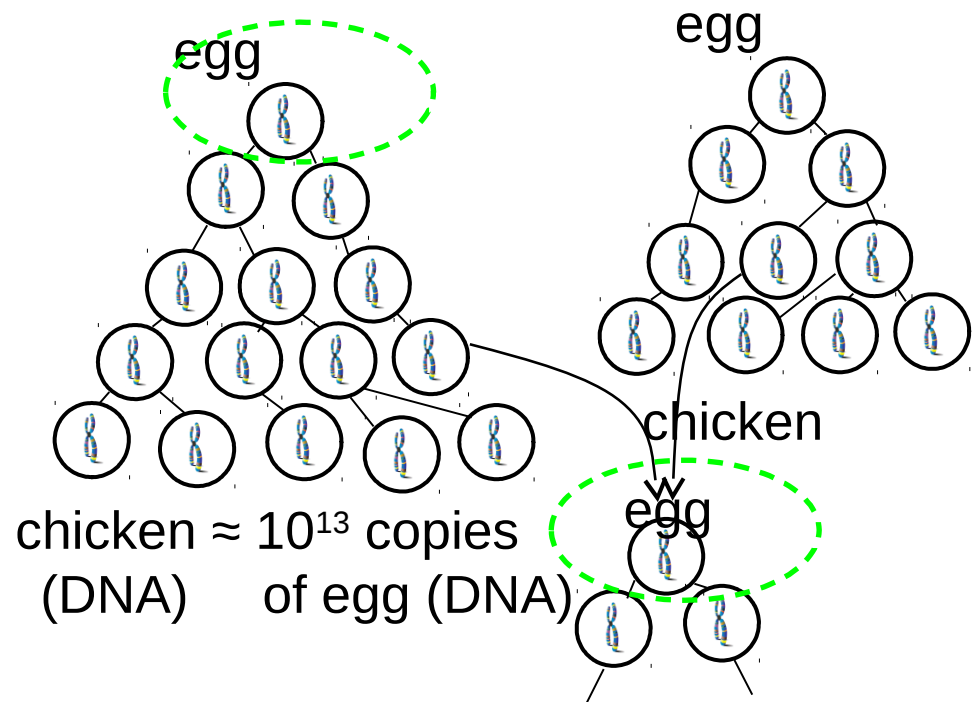
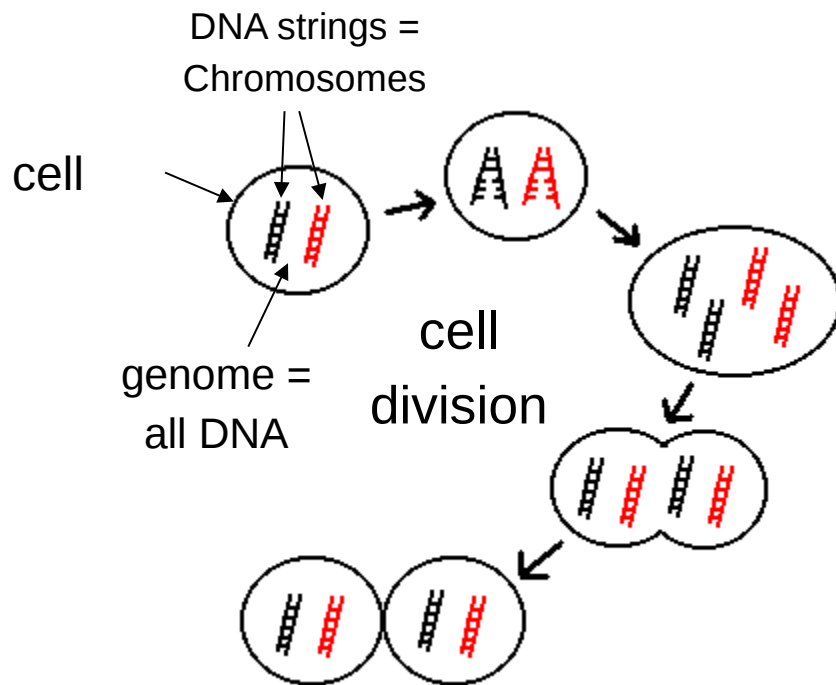
Genome: “instruction”

...ACGTACGACTGACTAGCATCGACTACGACTAGCAC...



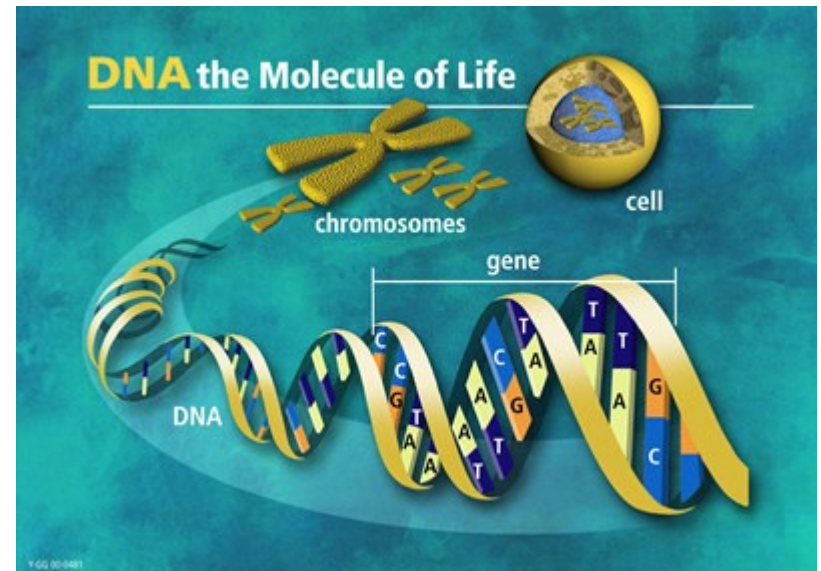
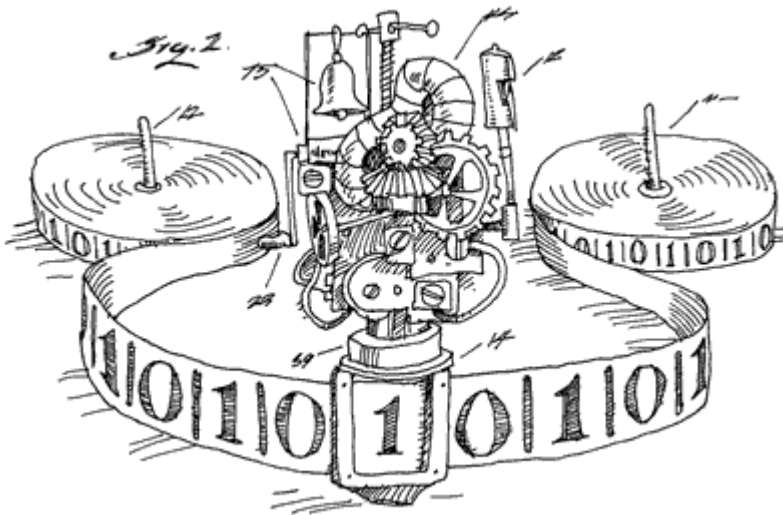
One Cell, One Genome, One Replication

- Every cell holds a copy of all its DNA = its genome.
- The human body is made of $\sim 10^{13}$ cells.
- All originate from a *single* cell through *repeated* cell divisions.



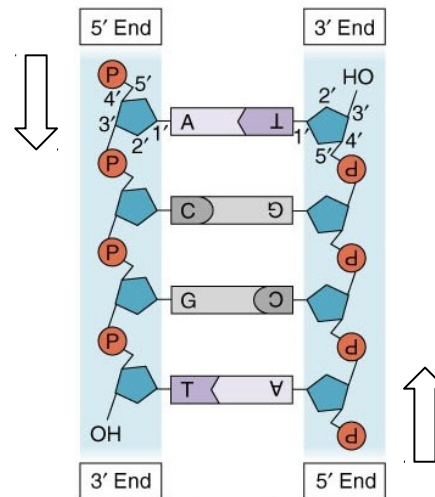
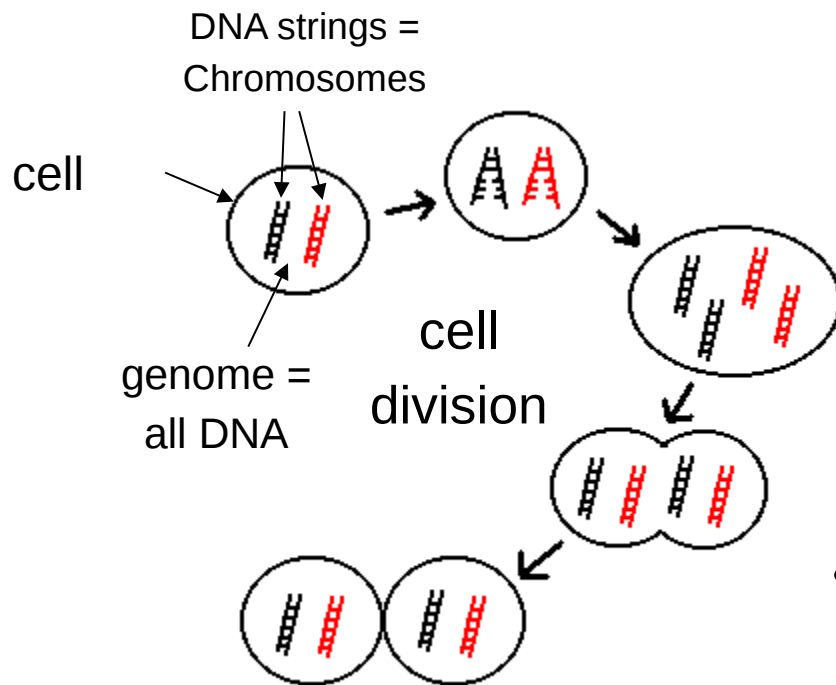
What will we study?

The most amazing “Turing tape” in existence, your genome.



How to Read The Genome

- Genome = DNA.
- Genome is broken up into several strings = chromosomes.
- Humans: Females = $(2 \times \text{chr.1-22}) + XX$ Males = $(2 \times \text{chr.1-22}) + XY$



- DNA is double stranded.
- Complementation is rigid.
- Information can be read off of either strand.

- Every cell contains 2 copies of your genome, one from mom, one from dad.

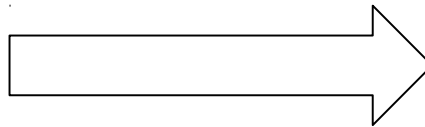
The Biggest Challenge in Genomics...

... is computational:

How does this

```
GCATAGATCGCC TGGTA  
GCTTTGCGCCGTCAA  
GTCTTGAAGGCTGTGA  
TCAAGCTTCTTGCGAI  
CCCGTTTGACCGGAGC  
CTTGCCAATGAGTTCT  
CAGCTGTCTATATGA  
TCACAAAAATACGCAAT
```

Program



encode *this*



Output

This “coding” question has profound implications for our lives

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Genome Content

Genomes, Genes & Proteins

The most visible instructions in our genome are Genes.
Genes explain exactly HOW to synthesize any protein.
Proteins are the work horses of every living cell.

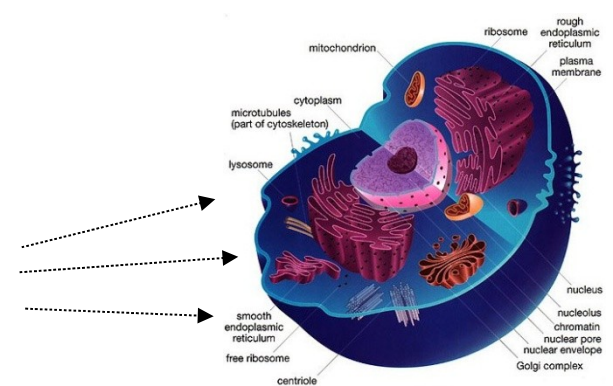
Genome: gene

...ACGTACGACTGACTAGCATCGACTACGACTAGCAC...

linear
(folded)
molecule

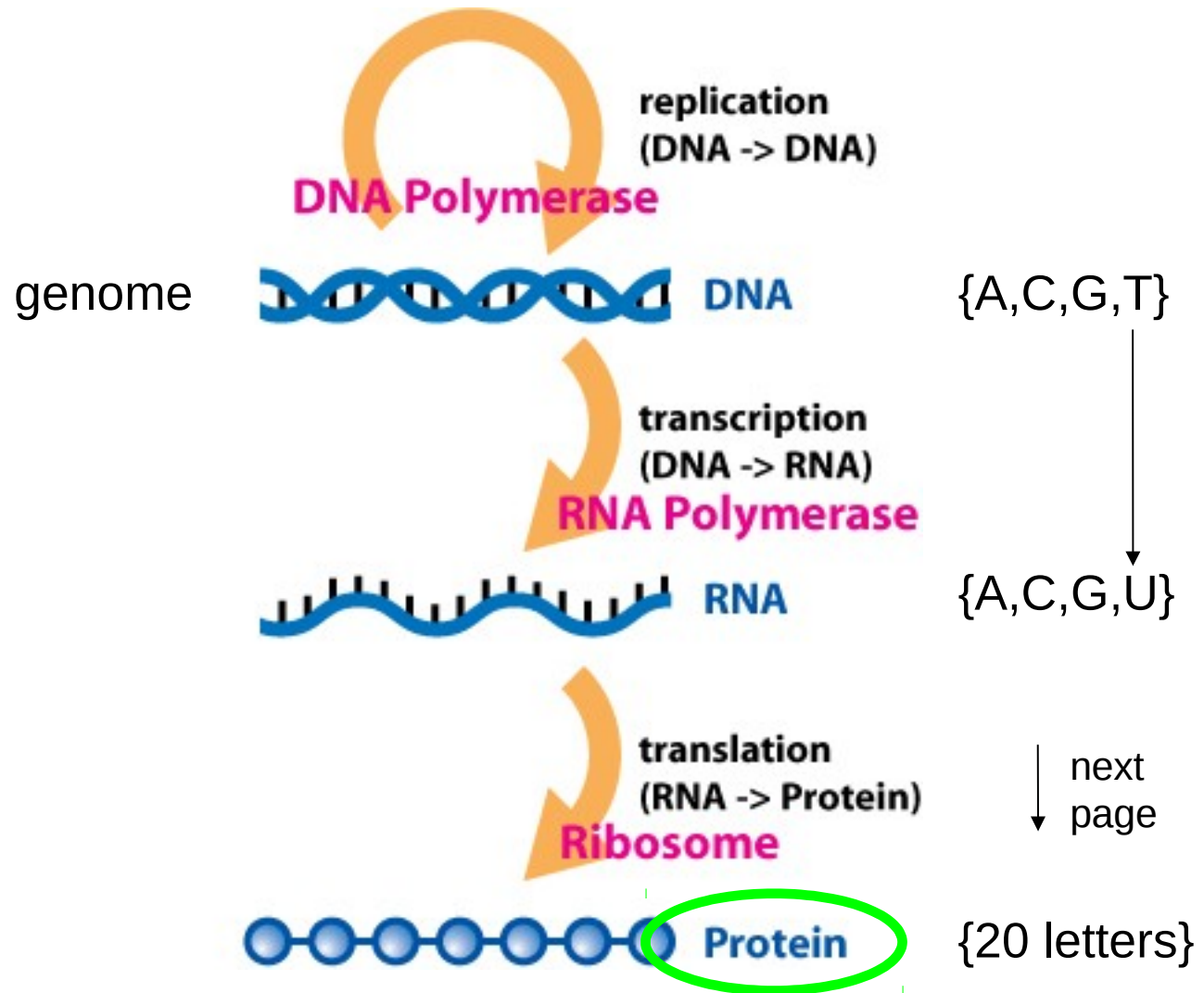


protein

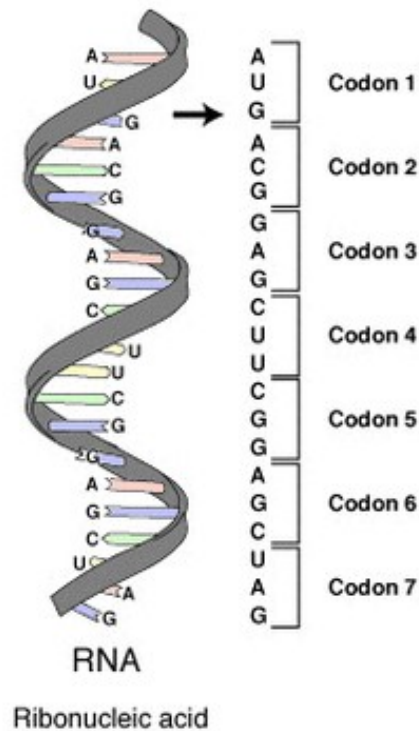


cell

Central Dogma of Biology



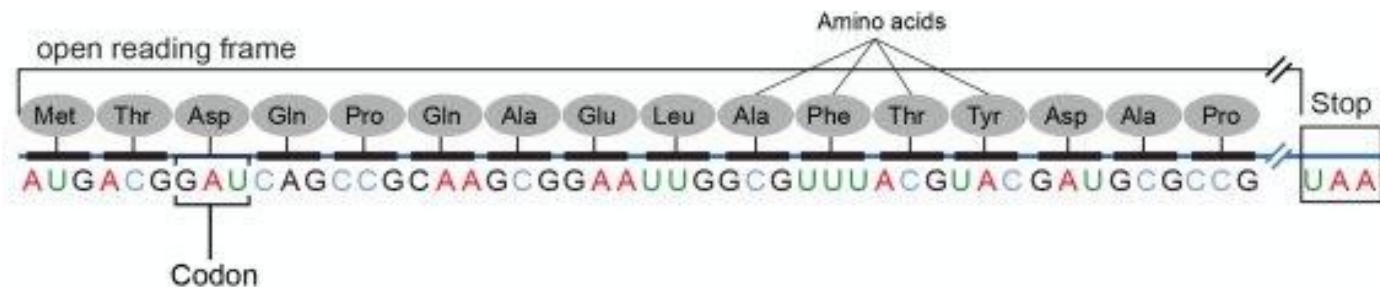
Translation: The Genetic Code



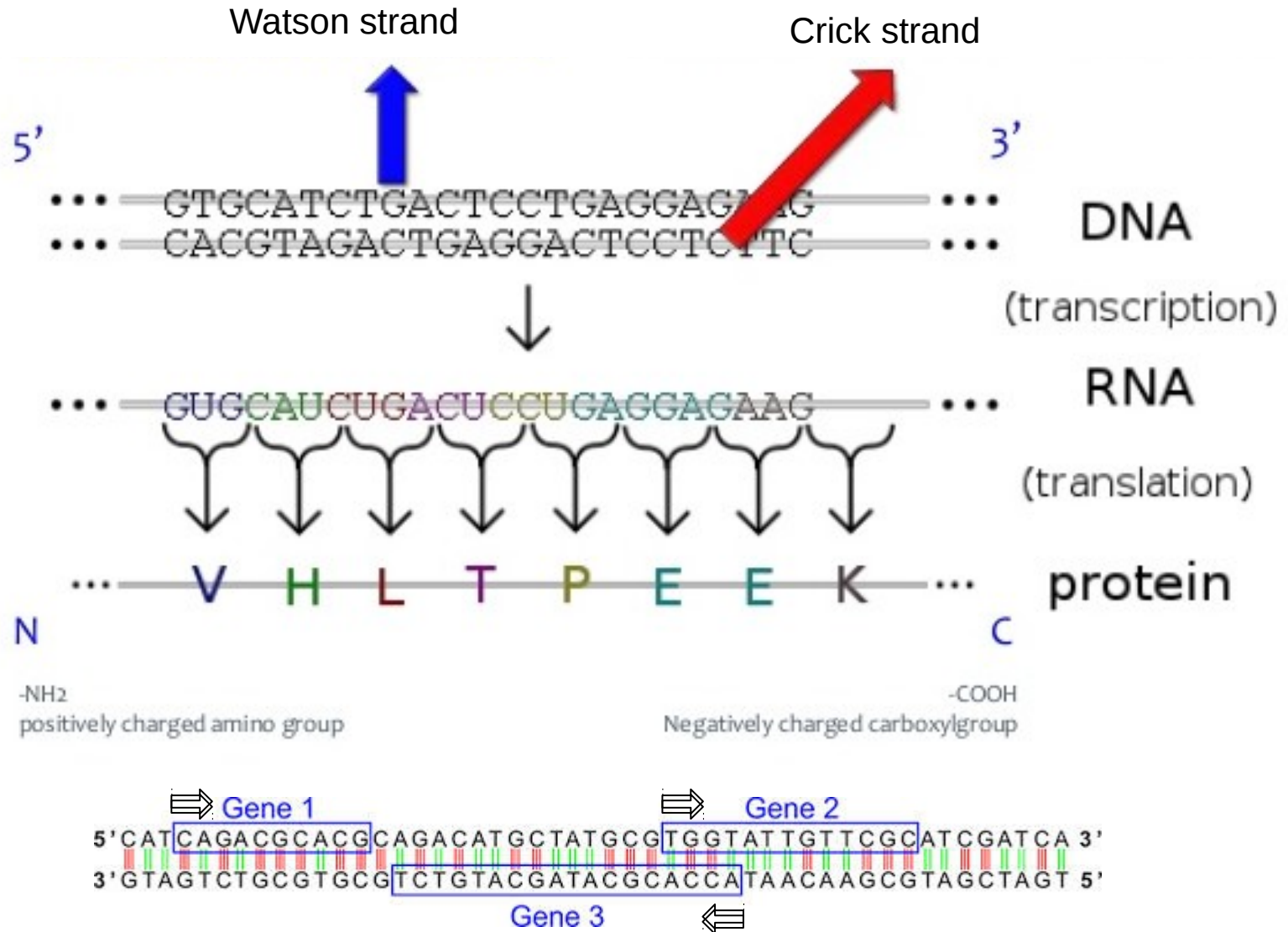
	U	C	A	G	
First position (5' end)	U	UCU } Phe UUC } UUA } Leu UUG }	UCC } Ser UCA } UCG }	UAU } Tyr UAC } UAA } Stop UAG }	UGU } Cys UGC } UGA } Stop UGG } Trp
	C	CUU } Leu CUC } CUA } CUG }	CCU } Pro CCC } CCA } CCG }	CAU } His CAC } CAA } Gln CAG }	CGU } Arg CGC } CGA } CGG }
	A	AUU } Ile AUC } AUA } AUG }	ACU } Thr ACC } ACA } ACG }	AAU } Asn AAC } AAA } Lys AAG }	AGU } Ser AGC } AGA } Arg AGG }
	G	GUU } Val GUC } GUA } GUG }	GCU } Ala GCC } GCA } GCG }	GAU } Asp GAC } GAA } Glu GAG }	GGU } Gly GGC } GGA } GGG }
					Third position (3' end)

Amino acid names:

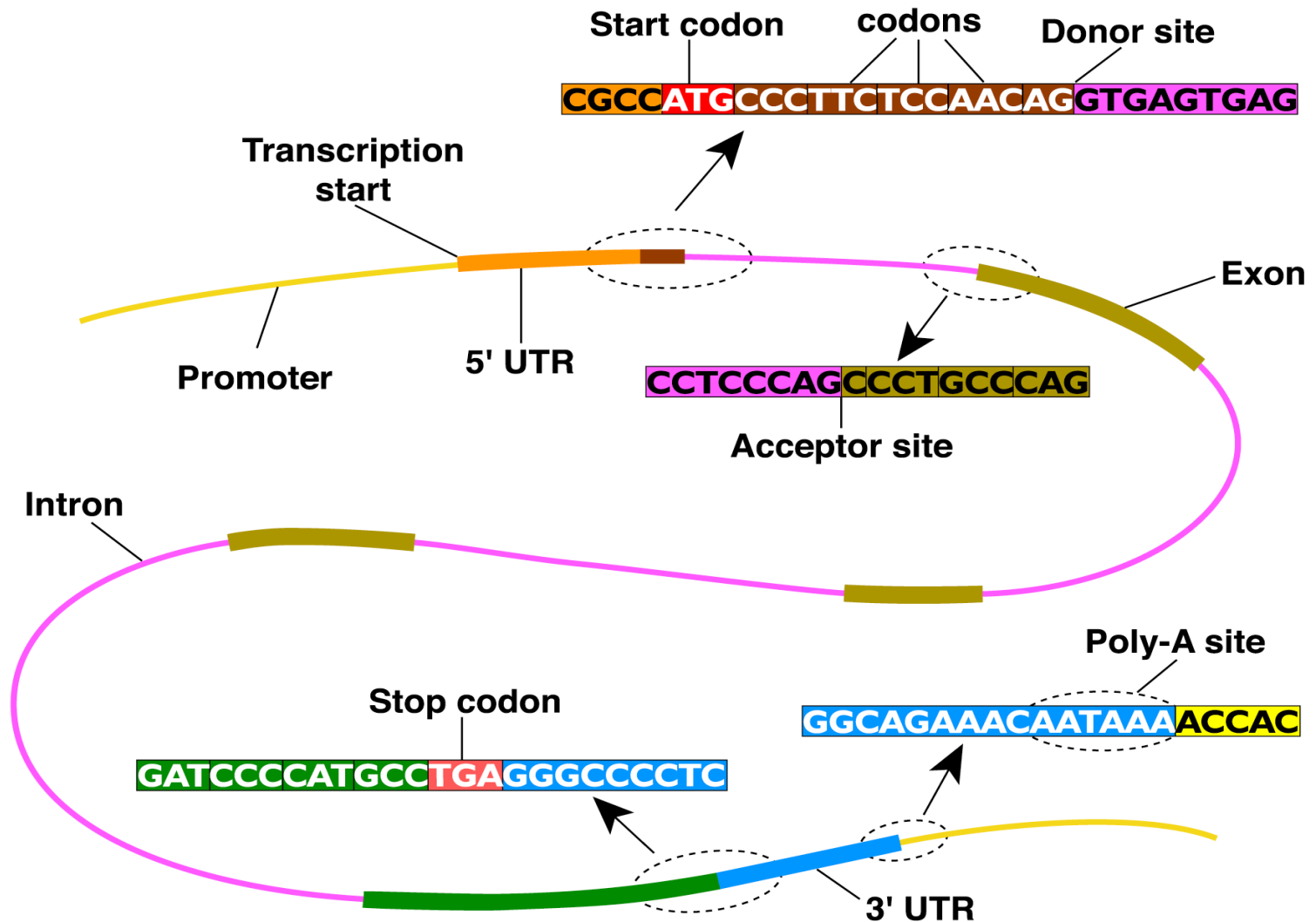
Ala = alanine	Gln = glutamine	Leu = leucine	Ser = serine
Arg = arginine	Glu = glutamate	Lys = lysine	Thr = threonine
Asn = asparagine	Gly = glycine	Met = methionine	Trp = tryptophan
Asp = aspartate	His = histidine	Phe = phenylalanine	Tyr = Tyrosine
Cys = cysteine	Ile = Isoleucine	Pro = proline	Val = valine



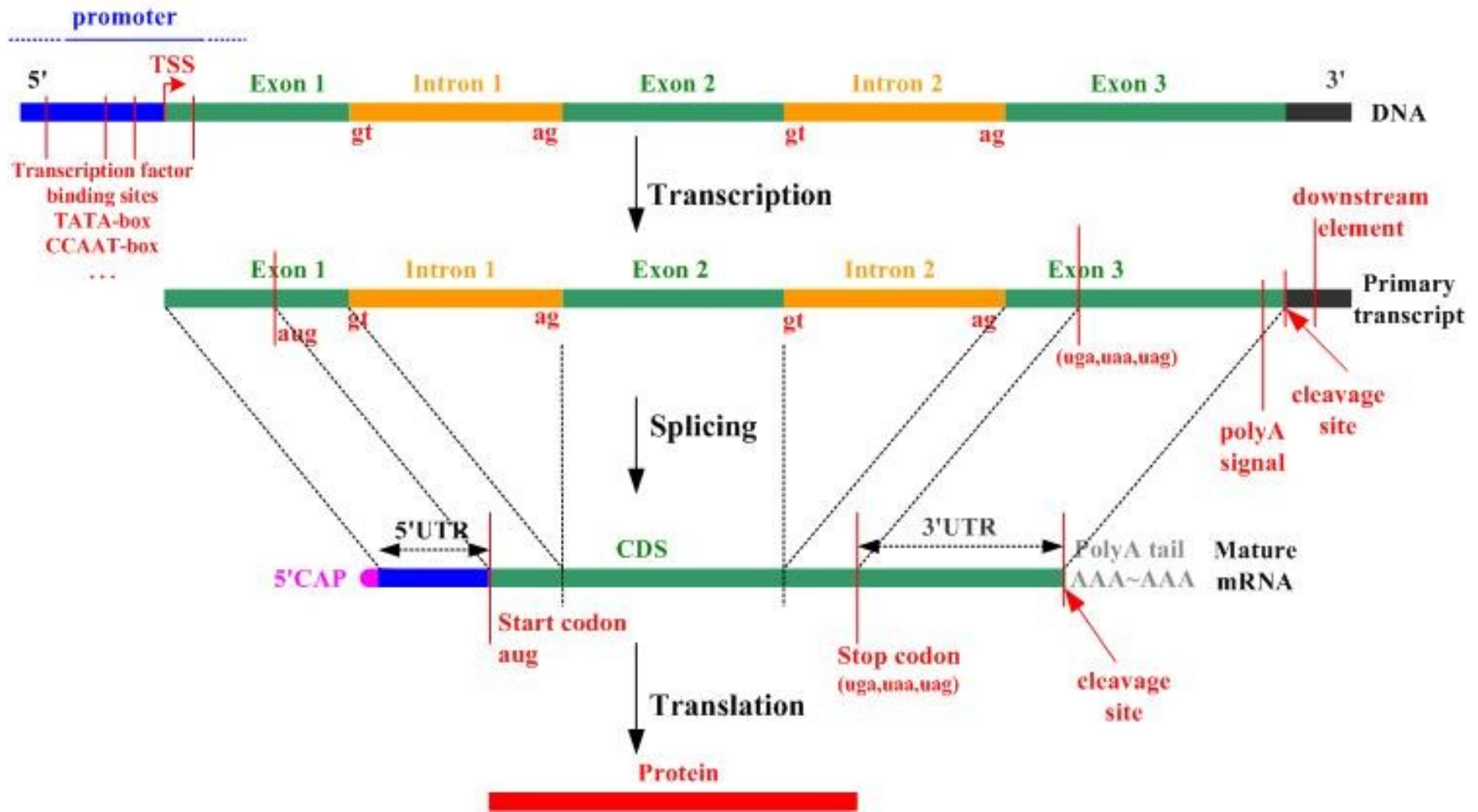
Genes Can Be Encoded on Either Strand



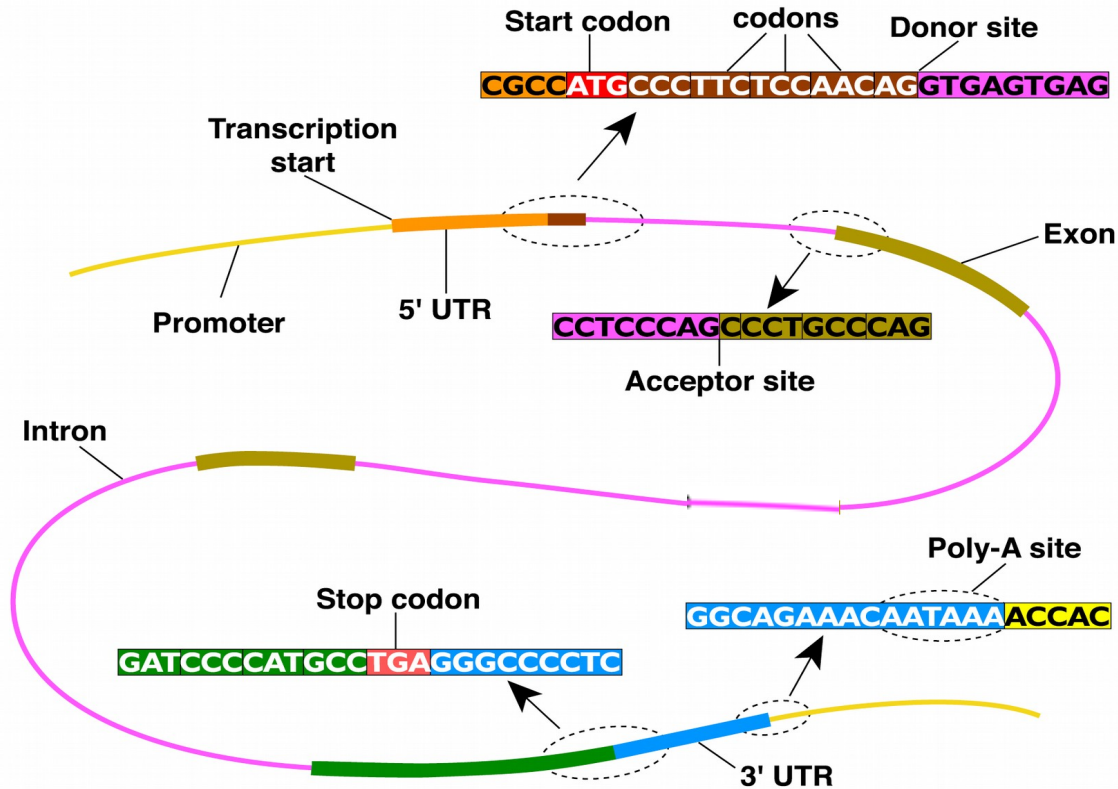
Gene Structure



Gene Splicing

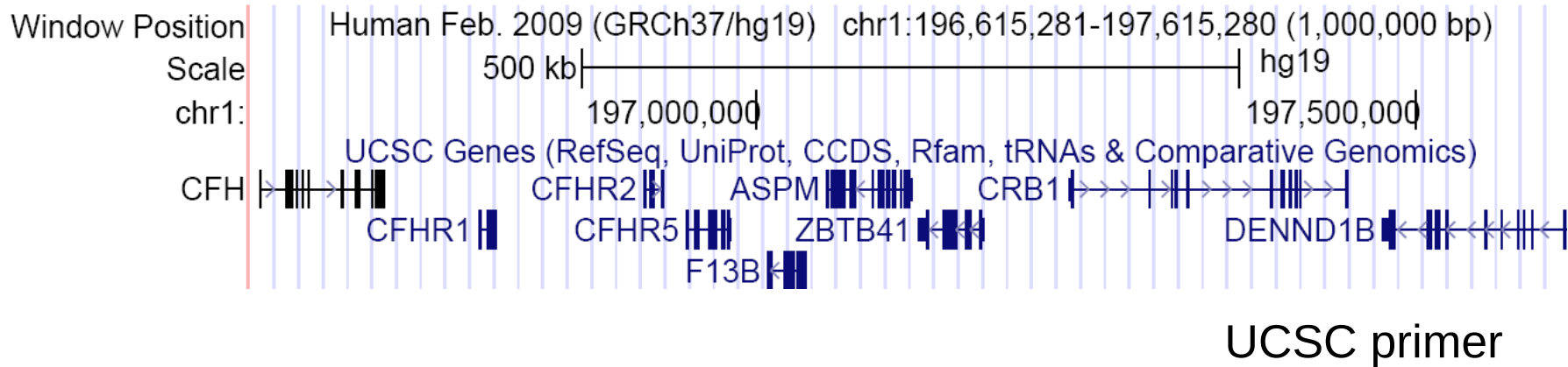
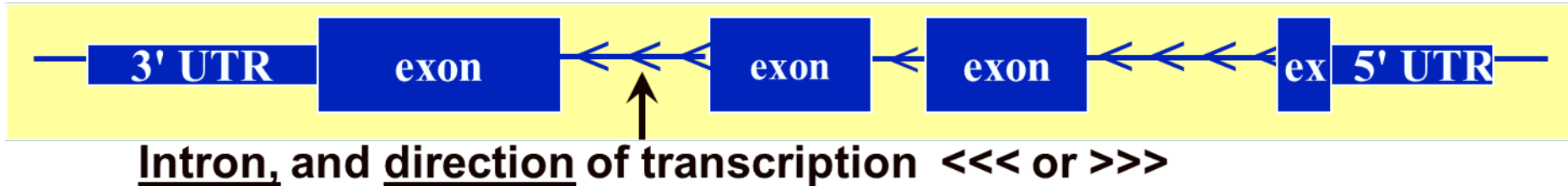


Visualizing Gene Structure



Intron, and direction of transcription <<< or >>>

Genes in the Human Genome

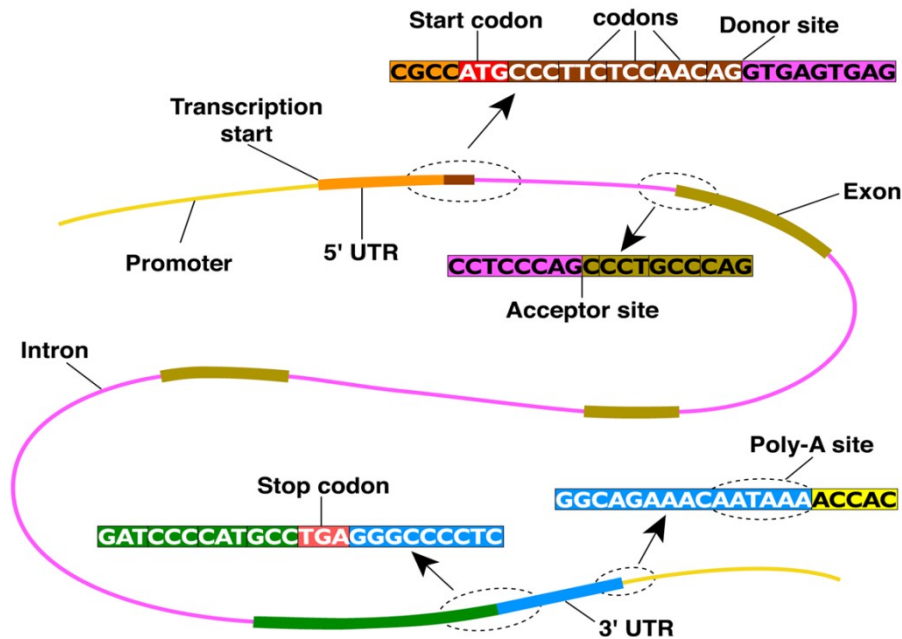


There are ~20,000 protein coding genes in the human genome.
(Even half way through sequencing the human genome,
Researchers thought there will be well over 100,000 genes).

Gene Finding

Computational Challenge:

“Find the genes, the whole genes, and nothing but the genes”



Understand Biology

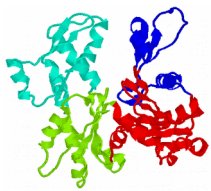


Write discovery tools

(Our) answer depends on our understanding, data & tools

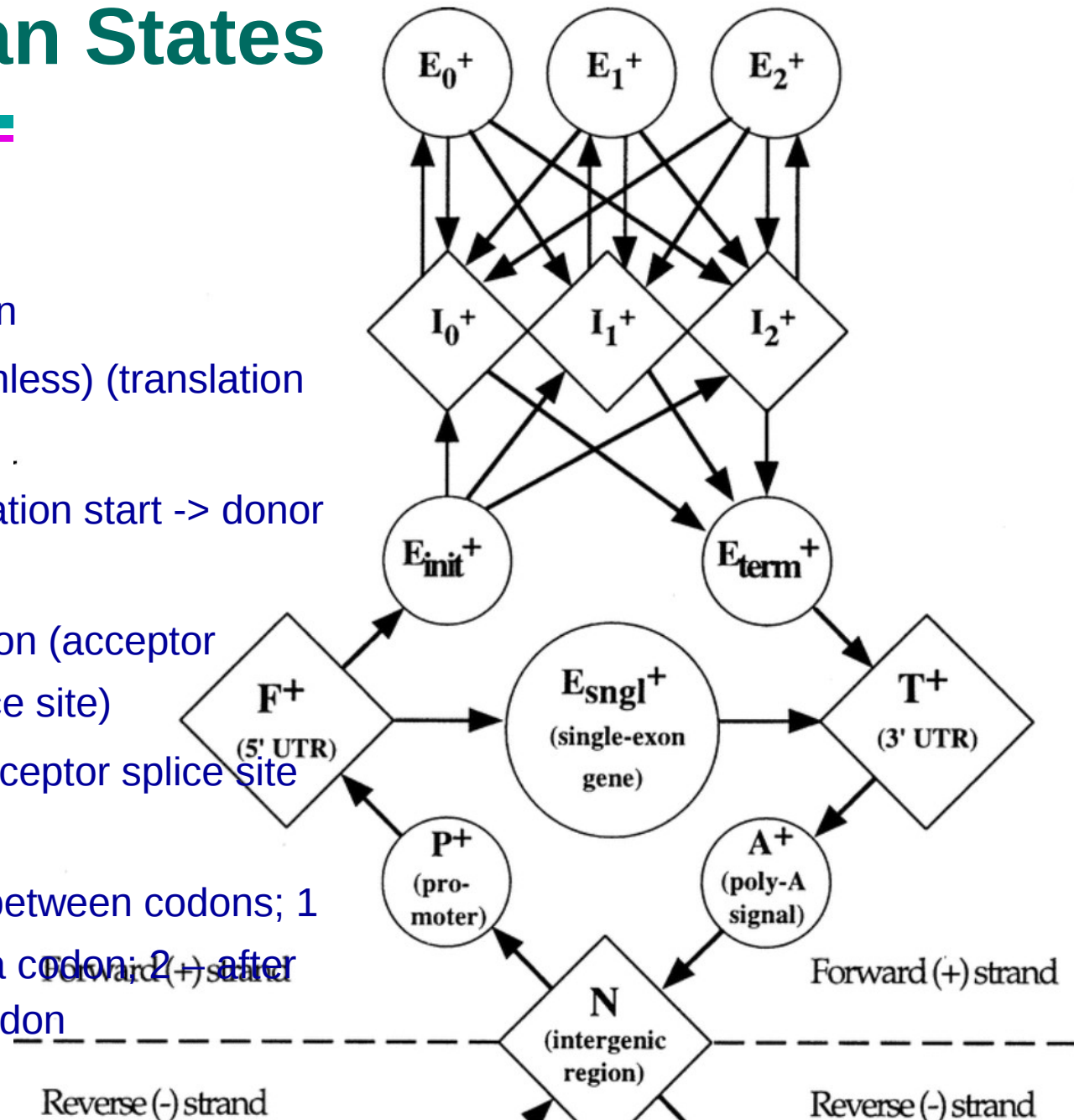
Gene prediction approaches

- Rule-based programs
 - ◆ Use explicit set of rules to make decisions.
 - ◆ Example: GeneFinder
- Neural Network-based programs
 - ◆ Use data set to build rules.
 - ◆ Examples: Grail, GrailEXP
- Hidden Markov Model-based programs
 - ◆ Use probabilities of states and transitions between these states to predict features.
 - ◆ Examples: Genscan, GenomeScan

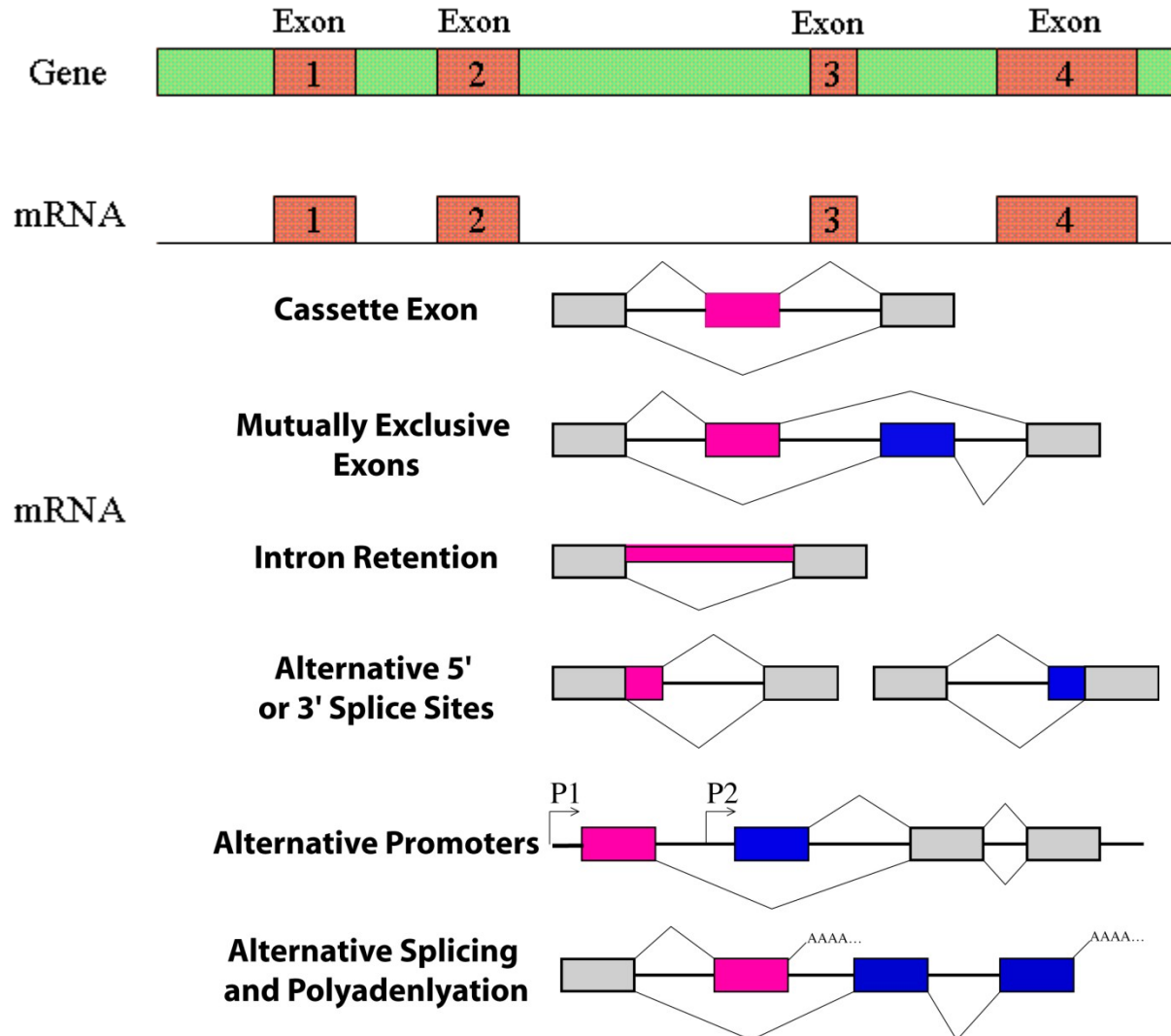


GenScan States

- N - intergenic region
- P - promoter
- F - 5' untranslated region
- E_{sngl} - single exon (intronless) (translation start -> stop codon)
- E_{init} - initial exon (translation start -> donor splice site)
- E_k - phase k internal exon (acceptor splice site -> donor splice site)
- E_{term} - terminal exon (acceptor splice site -> stop codon)
- I_k - phase k intron: 0 - between codons; 1 - after the first base of a codon; 2 - after the second base of a codon

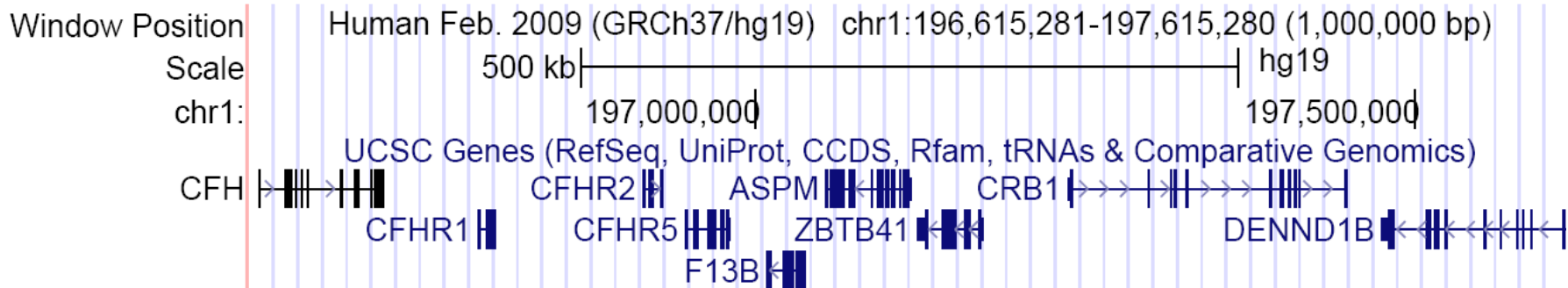


Alternative Splicing

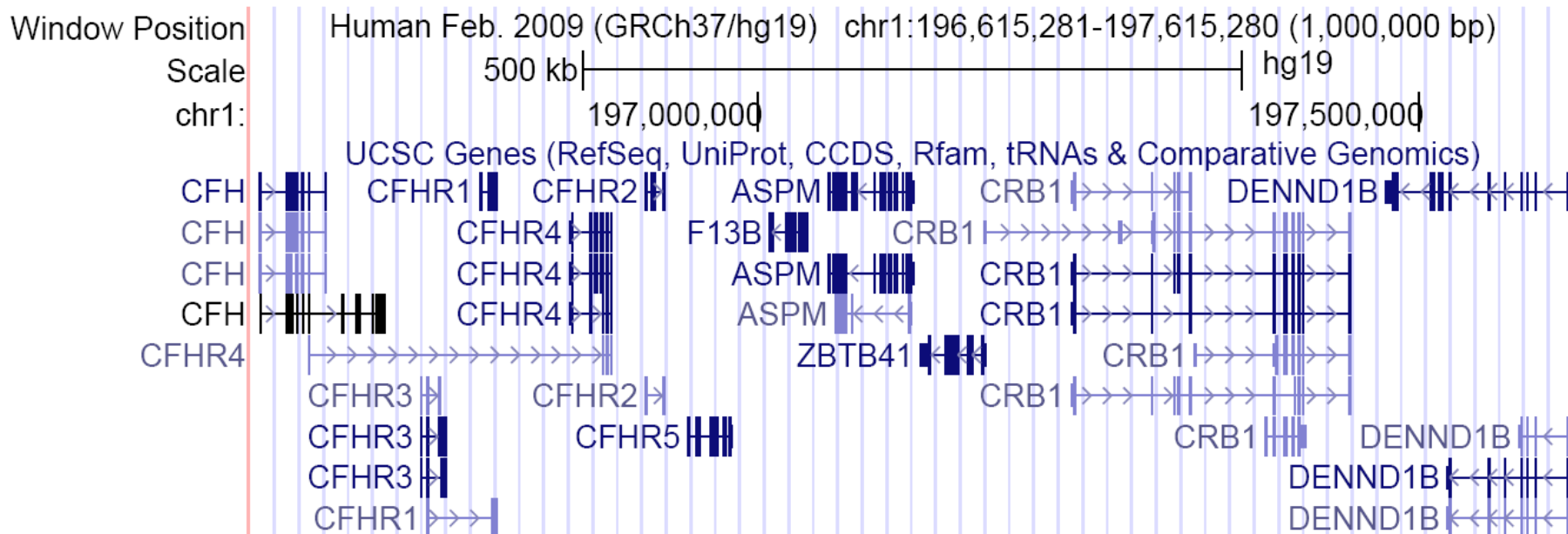


Genes in the Human Genome

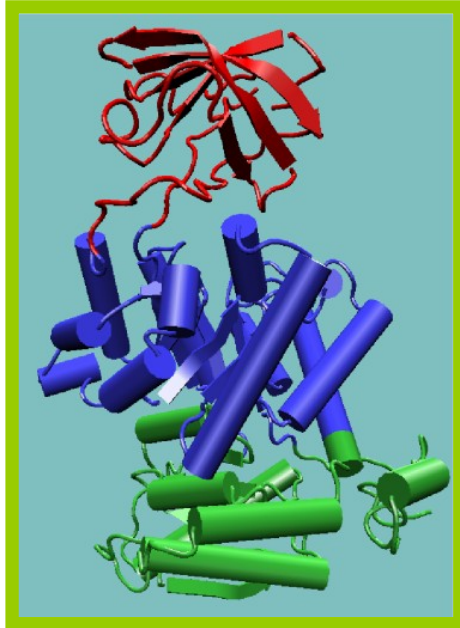
When you only show one transcript per gene locus:



If you ask the GUI to show you all well established gene variants:



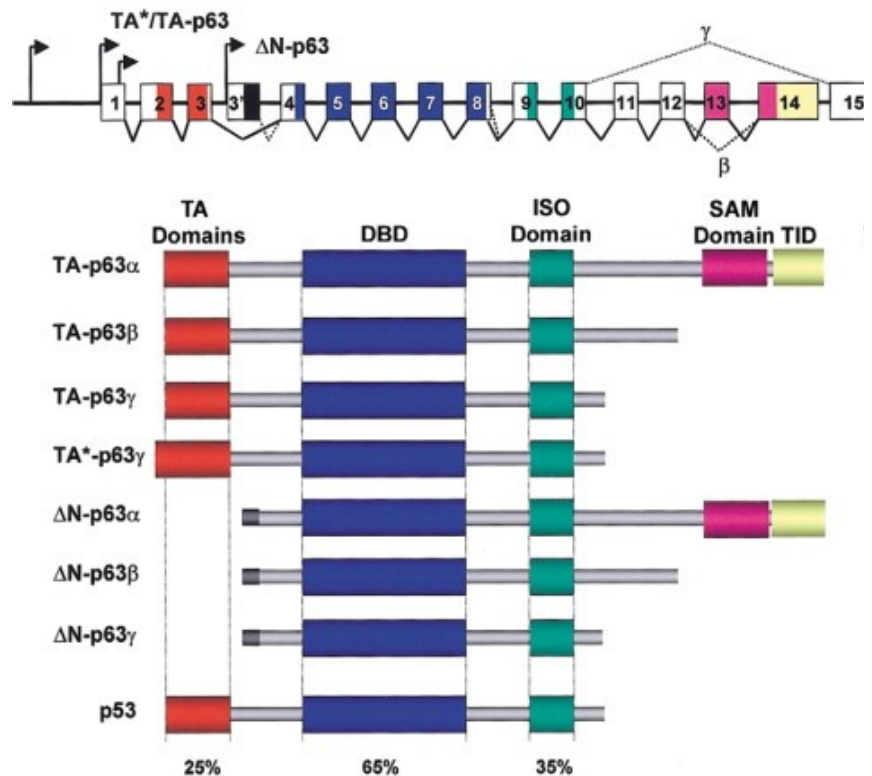
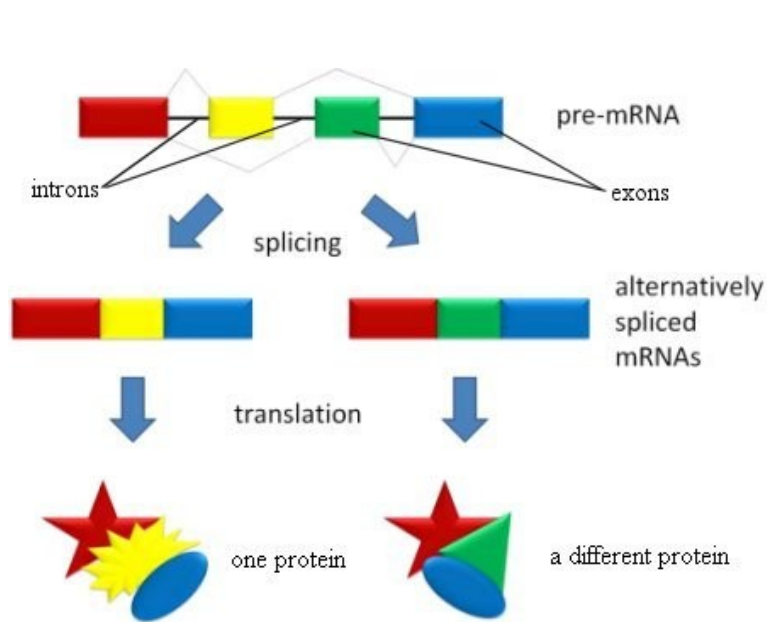
Protein Domains



SKSHSEAGSAFIQTQQLHAAMADTFLEHMCRLDIDSAPITARNT
GIICTIGPASRSVETLKEMIKSGMNVARMNFSHGTHEYHAETIK
NVRTATESFASDPILYRPVAVALDTKGPEIRTGLIKGSGTAEVE
LKKGATLKITLDNAYMAACDENILWLDYKNICKVVEVGSKVYVD
DGLISLQVKQKGPDLVTEVENGGFLGSKKGVNLPGAAVDLPAV
SEKDIQDLKFGVDEDVDMVFASFIRKAADVHEVRKILGEKGKNI
KIISKIENHEGVRRFDEILEASDGIMVARGDLGIEIPAEEKVFLA
QKMIIGRCNRAGKPVICATQMLESMIKKPRPTRAEGSDVANAVL
DGADCIMLSGETAKGDYPLEAVRMQHIAAREAAMFHRKLFEE
LARSSSHSTDLMAMAMGSVEASYKCLAAALIVLTESGRSAHQV
ARYRPRAPIIAVTRNHQTARQAHLYRGIFPVVCKDPVQEAWAED
VDLRVNLAMNVGKAAGFFKKGDVVIVLTGWRPGSGFTNTMRVVP
VP

A protein domain is a subsequence of the protein that folds independently of the other portions of the sequence, and often confers to the protein one or more specific functions.

Alt. Splicing and Protein Repertoire

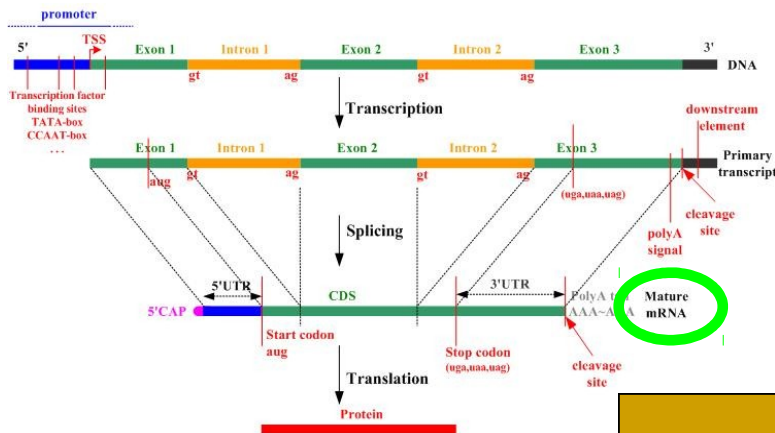


Alternative splicing often produces protein variants that have a different domain composition, and thus perform different functions. What if we want to predict all splice variants that are ever made? Can we even do it from sequence alone?

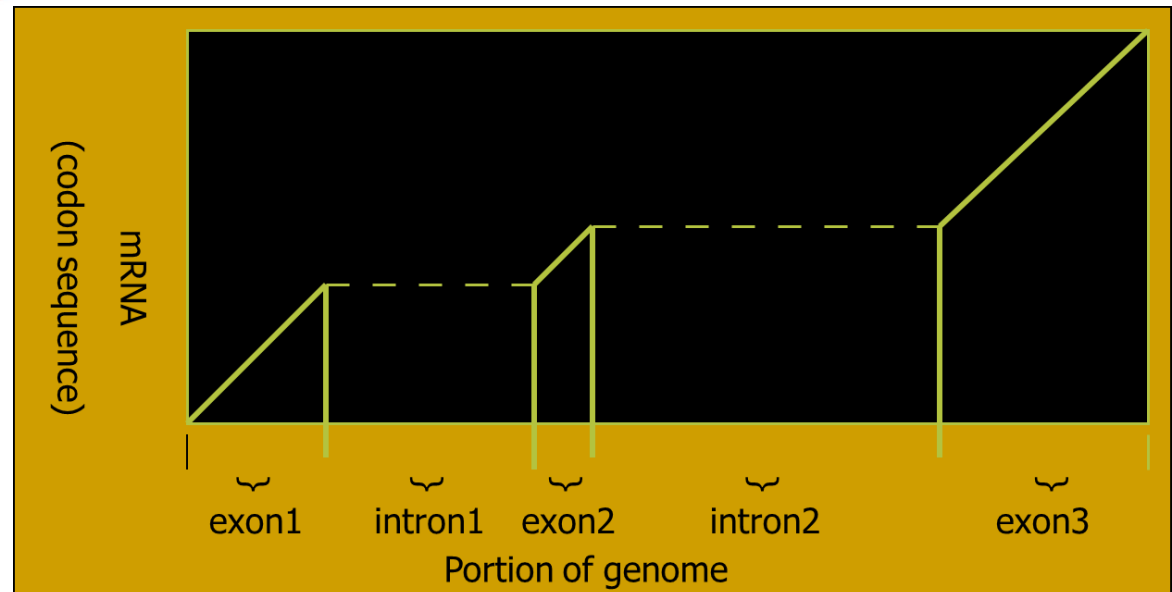
Common Problems

- Common problems with gene finders
 - Fusing neighboring genes
 - Splitting a single gene
 - Miss exons or entire genes
 - Overpredict exons or genes
- Other challenges
 - Nested genes
 - Noncanonical splice spites
 - Pseudogenes
 - Different isoforms of same gene

We can sequence all mRNA of a given cell



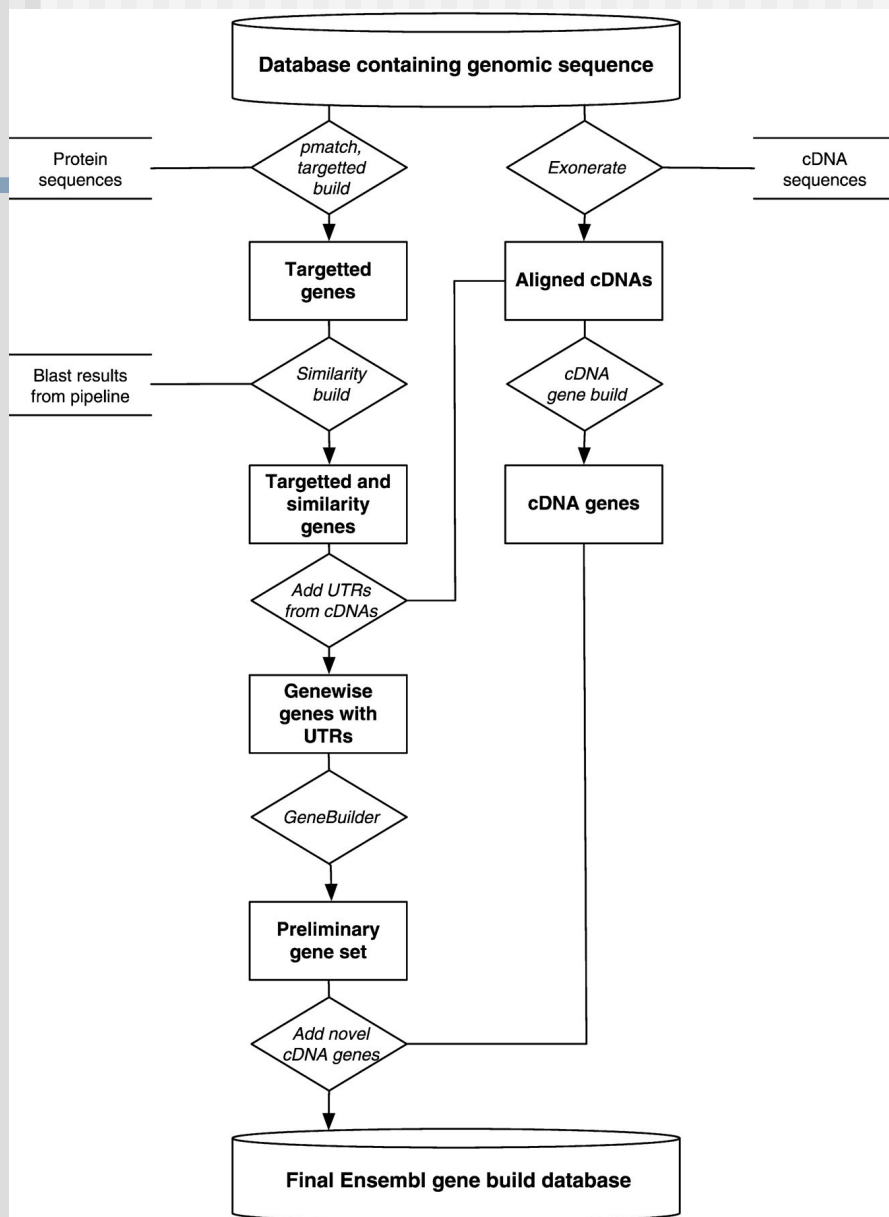
(Great, but not all genes/isoforms are expressed in all cells. Some are very exotic).



AUGGUG --- GGCCCUUUGGGA --- CACUAA

GTGAGGATGGTAAATAGGGCAT --- GGATTGAGCACUAATAA

Gene Annotation System



- All Ensembl gene predictions are based on experimental evidence
- Predictions based on manually curated Uniprot/Swissprot/Refseq databases
- UTRs are annotated only if they are supported by EMBL mRNA records

Val Curwen, et al. The Ensembl Automatic Gene Annotation System Genome Res., (2004) 14 942 - 950.

First full draft of the Human Genome



Human Genome Consortium
(HGC)



Celera

2001

Everything in Genomics is a *Moving* Target

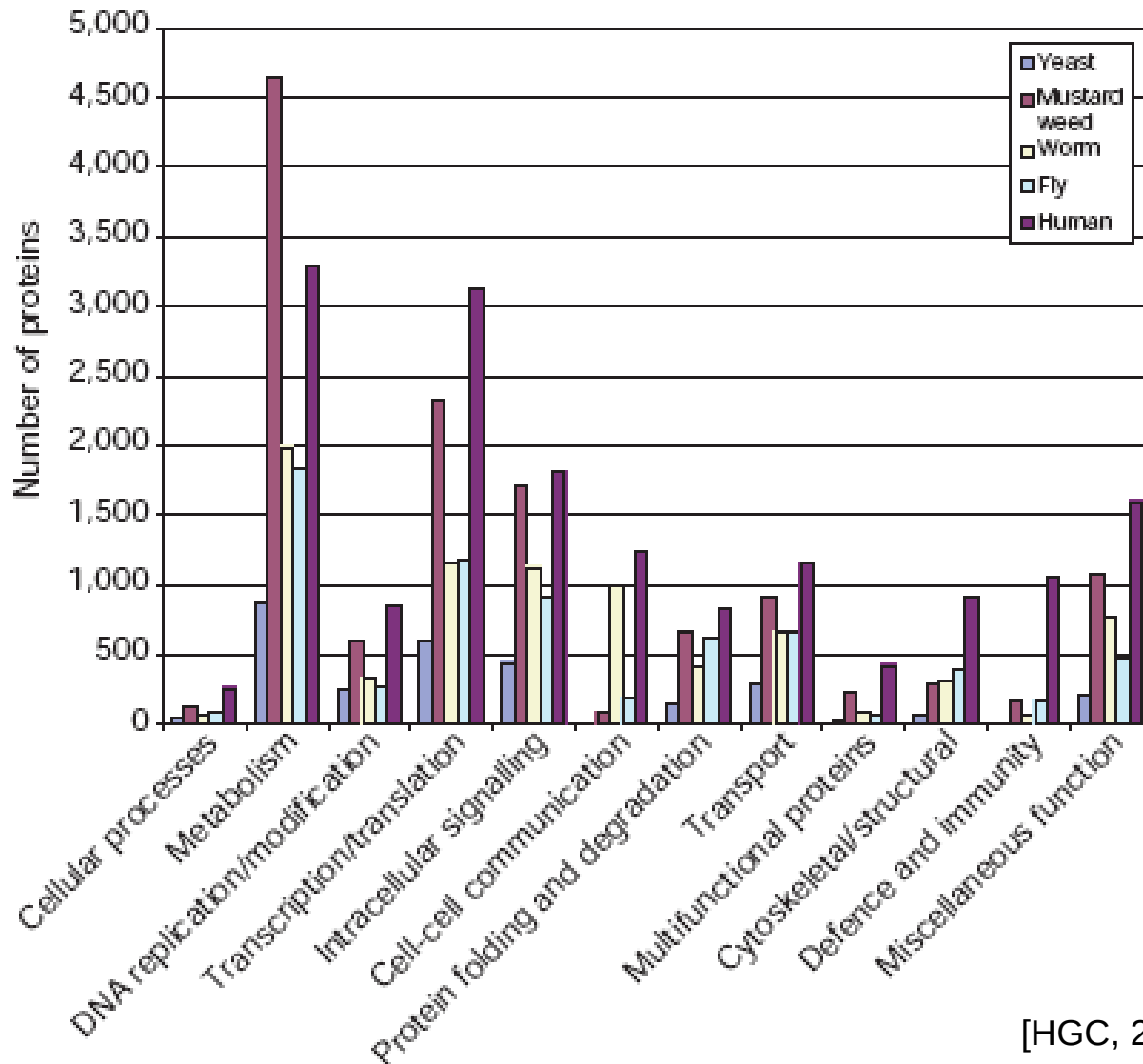
- The genomes (ie, assemblies)
- Their annotations
- Our understanding of Biology
- The portals

Conclusion:
write code
that can be
run...



and rerun
and rerun
and rerun
and rerun

Biological Functions of the Human Gene Set



Focus on
the X axis:

[HGC, 2001]

Molecular Functions of the Human Gene Set

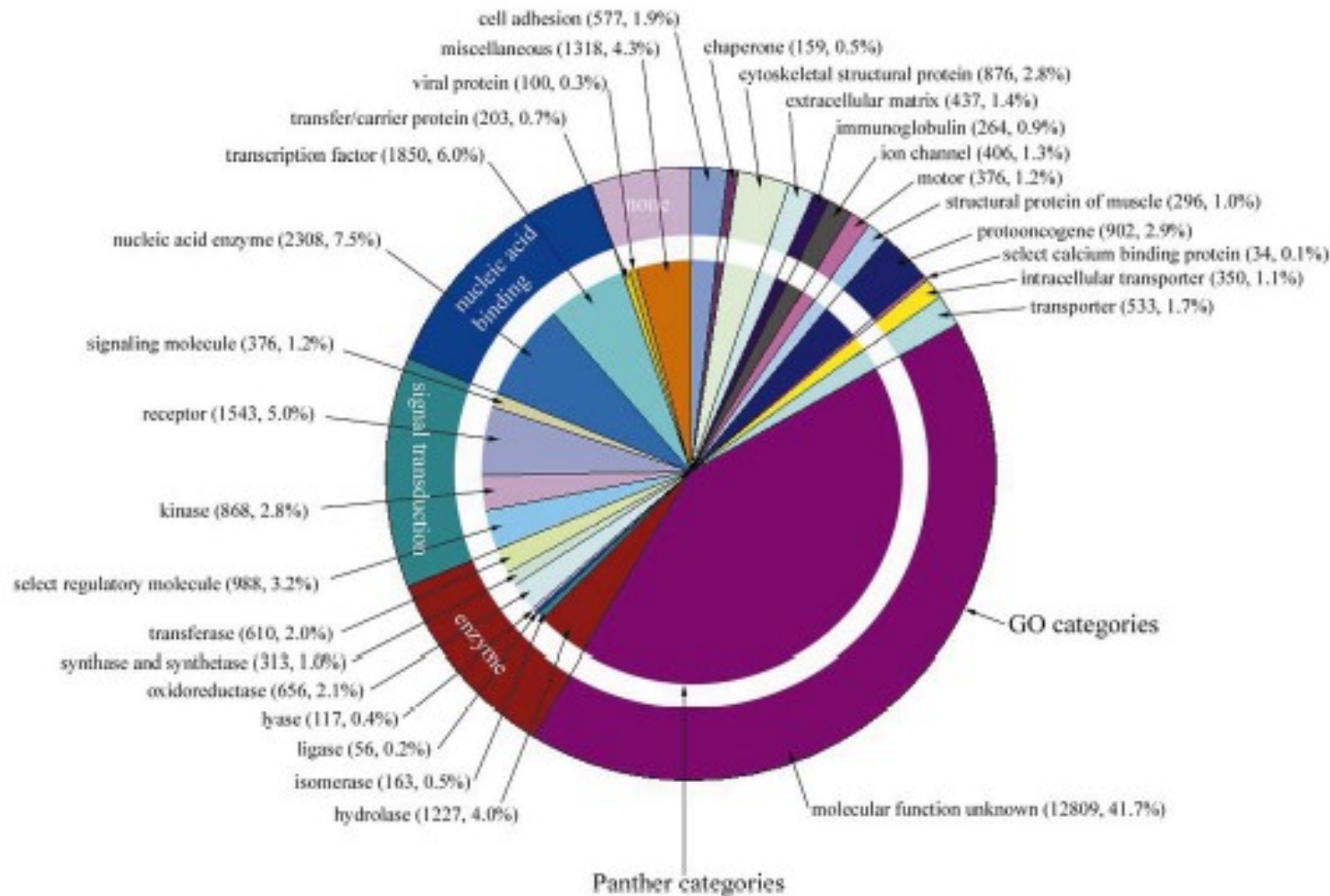
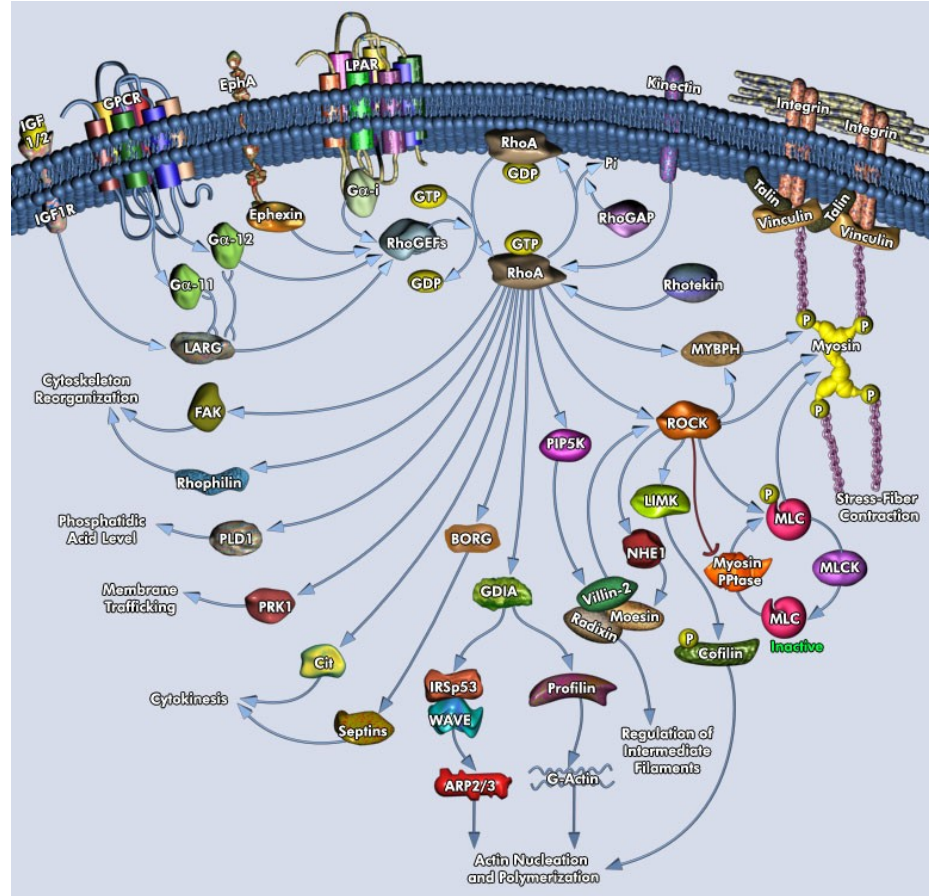


Fig. 15. Distribution of the molecular functions of 26,383 human genes. Each slice lists the numbers and percentages (in parentheses) of human gene functions assigned to a given category of molecular function. The outer circle shows the assignment to molecular function categories in the Gene Ontology (GO) (179), and the inner circle shows the assignment to Celera's Panther molecular function categories (116).

[Celera, 2001]

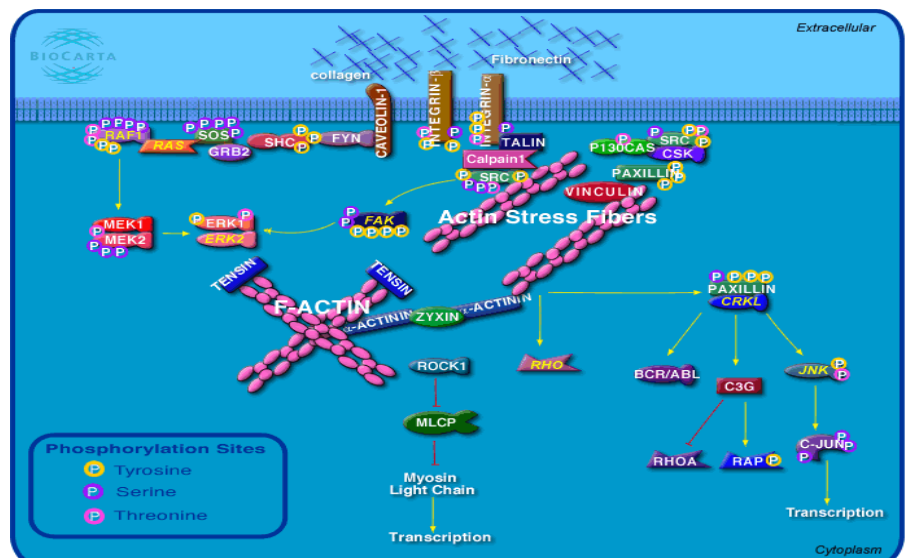
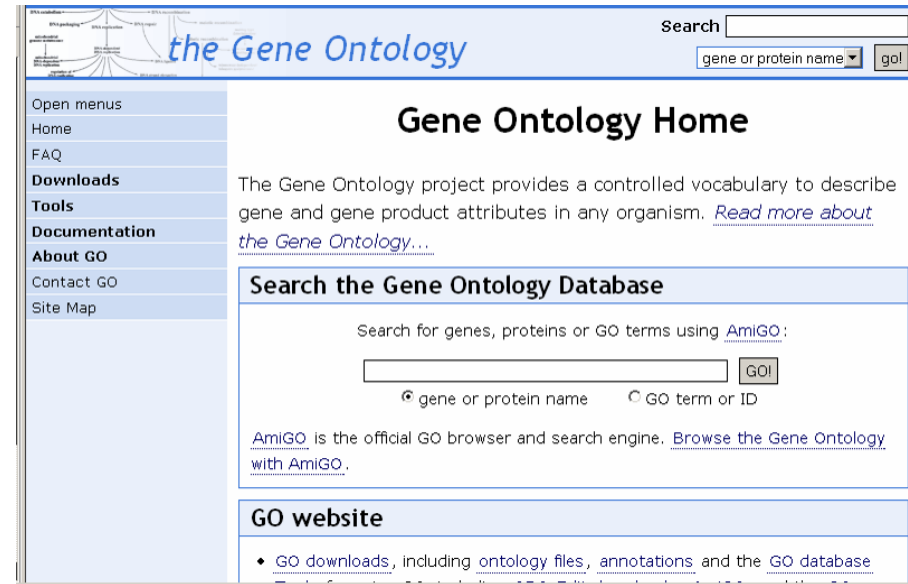
Biological vs. Molecular Function: Pathways



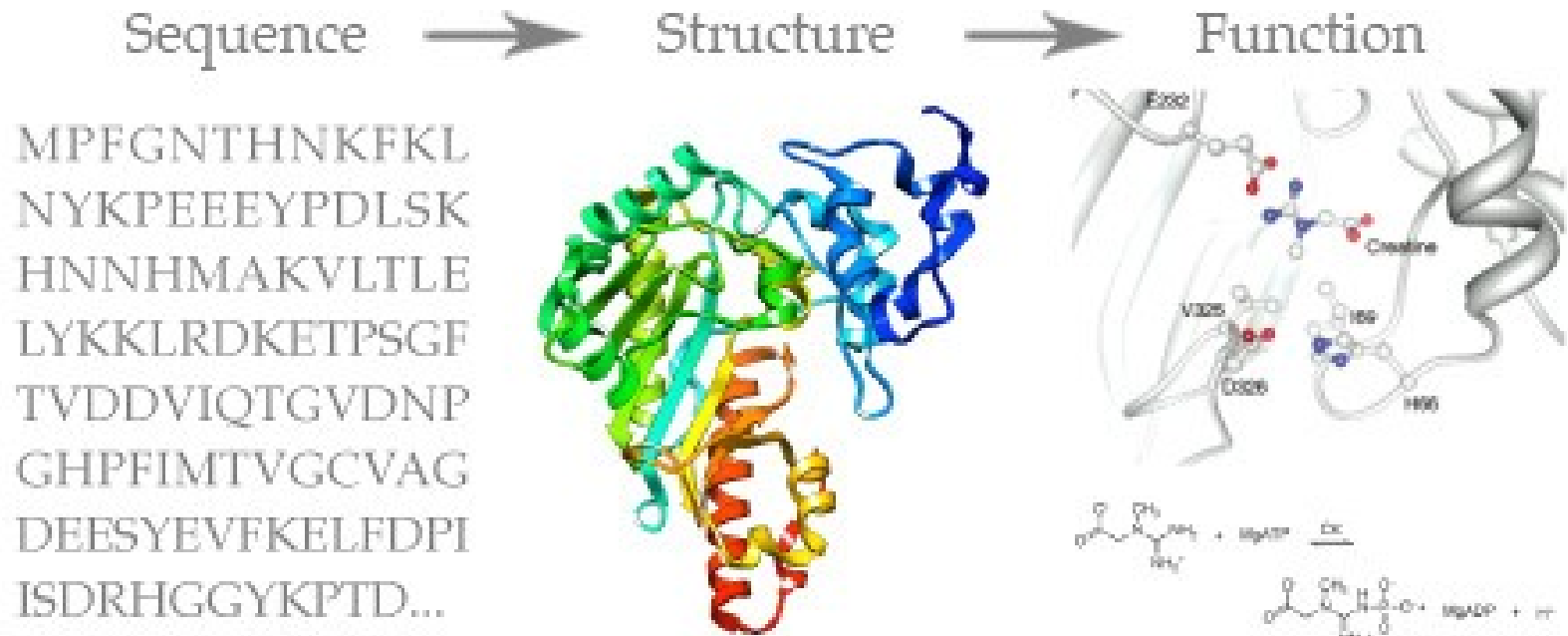
Proteins with very different molecular functions participate to manifest a single biological function, for example: a pathway.

Gene Sets

- Gene Ontology (“GO”)
 - Biological Process
 - Molecular Function
 - Cellular Location
- Pathway Databases
 - KEGG
 - BioCarta
 - Broad Institute
- Multiple others

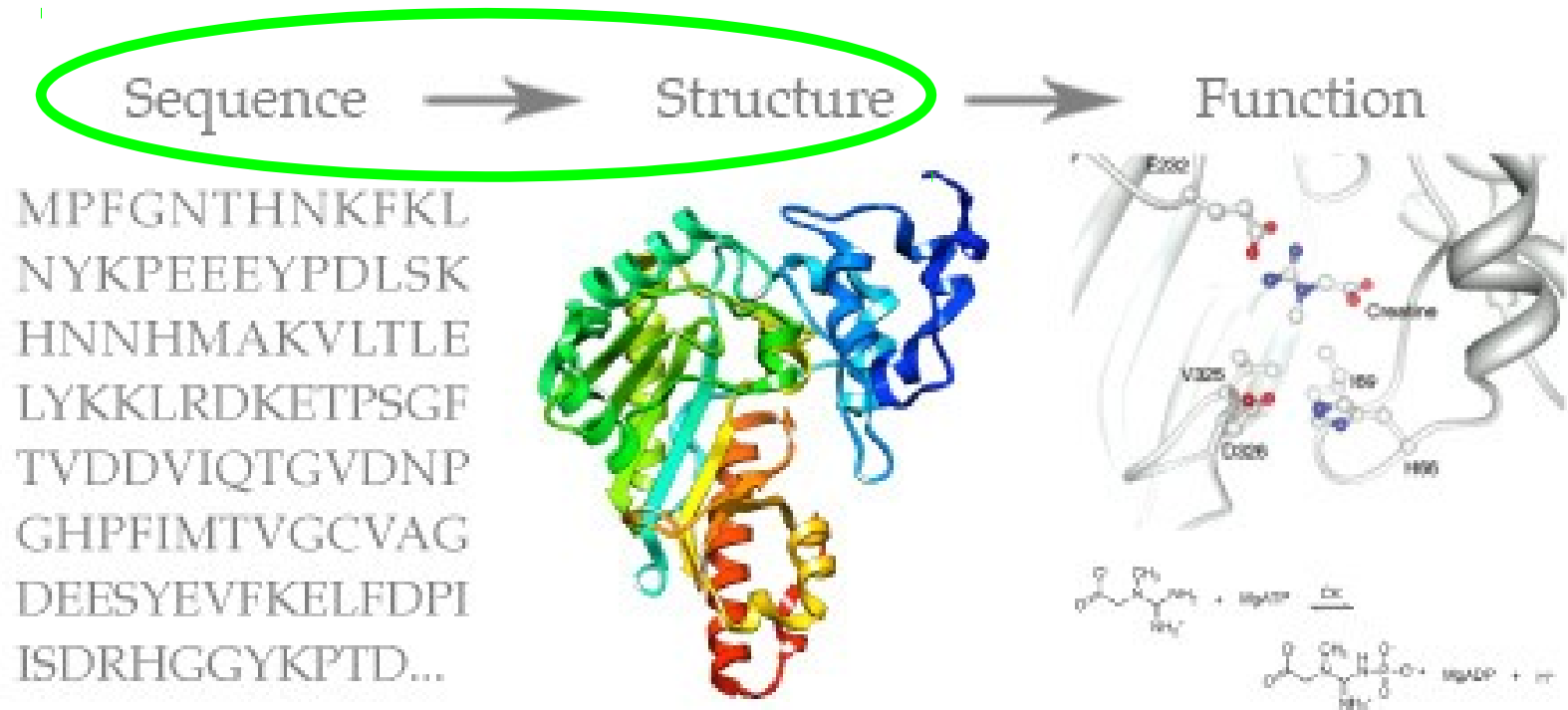


Genes & Their Functions



Gene (DNA) sequence determines protein (AA) sequence,
which determines protein (3D) structure,
which determines protein's function.

Protein Folding



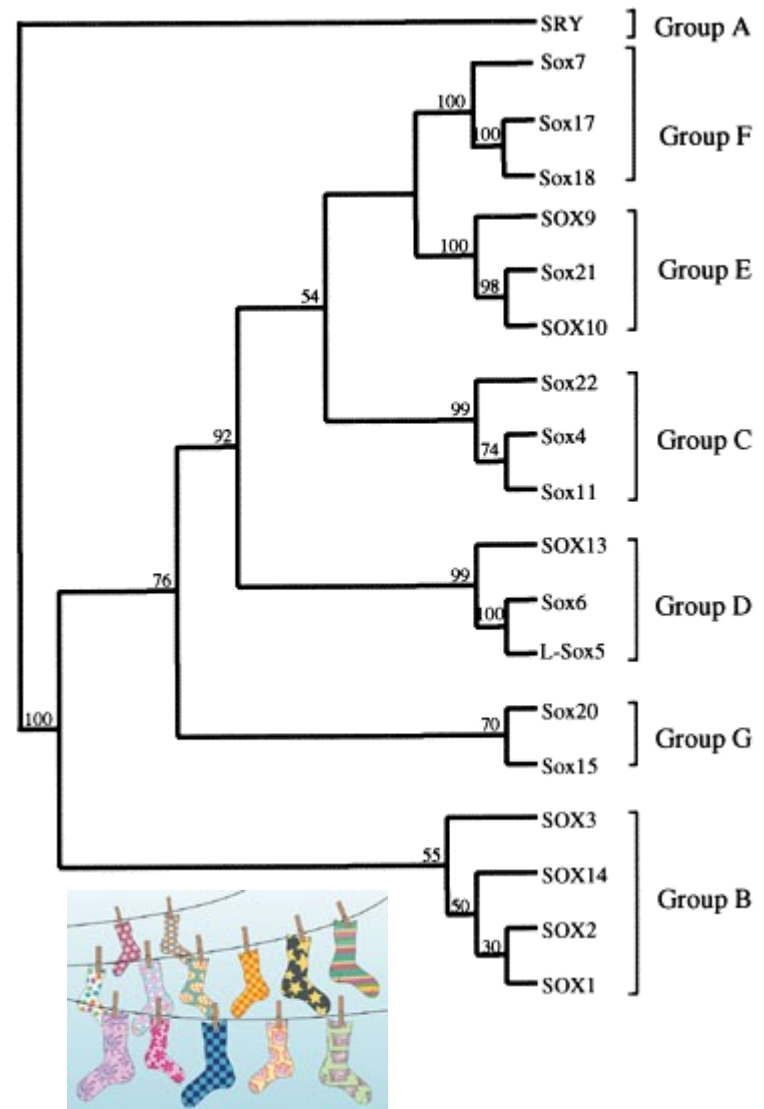
Protein folding is the challenge of deducing protein structure from protein sequence.

Gene Families, Gene Names

Genes (proteins) come in families.
Genes of the same family have similar sequences.

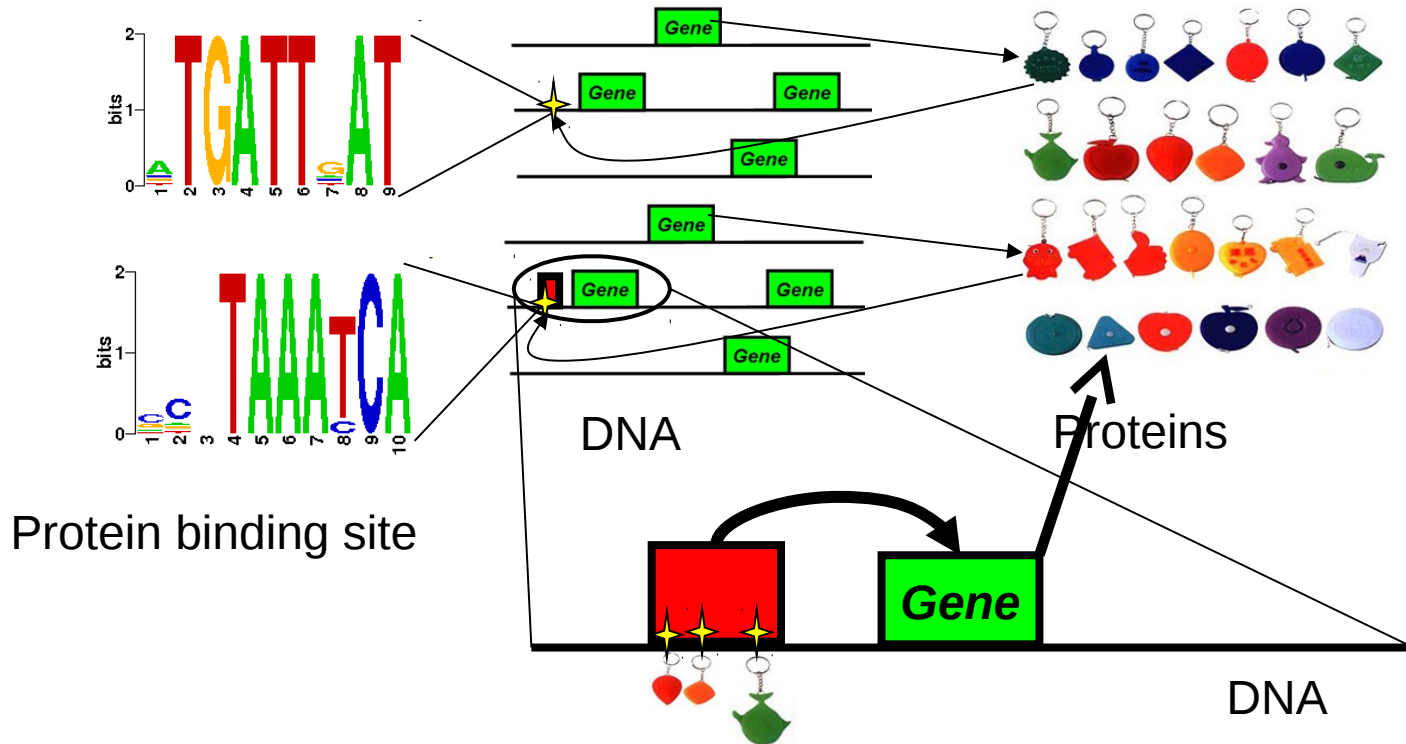
Which is why they fold into similar structure and perform similar functions.

Genes of the same family will typically have a “family name” followed by a (sequential) number or “first name”.



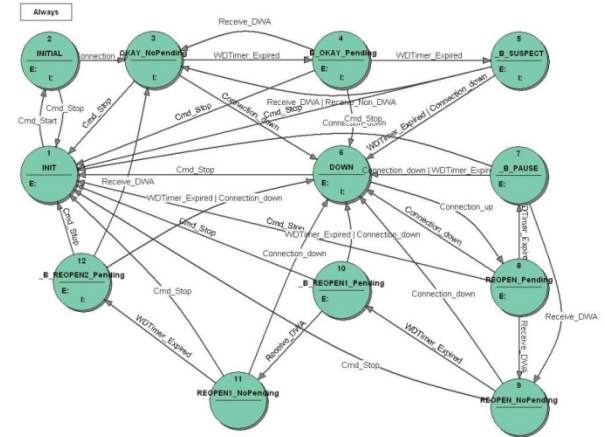
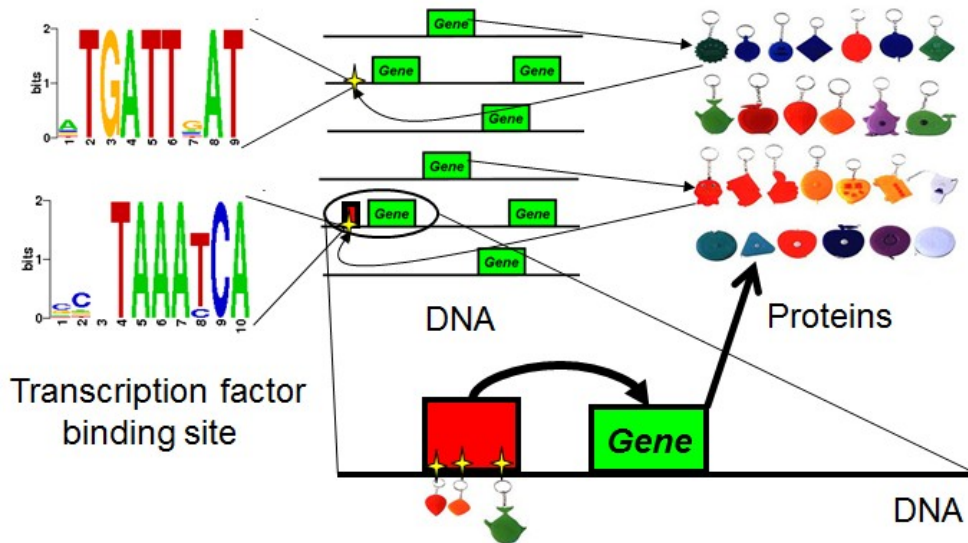
Some “Special” Functions: Gene Regulation

2,000 different proteins can bind specific DNA sequences.



Proteins that regulate the transcription of other proteins are called transcription factors.

The Importance of Gene Regulation

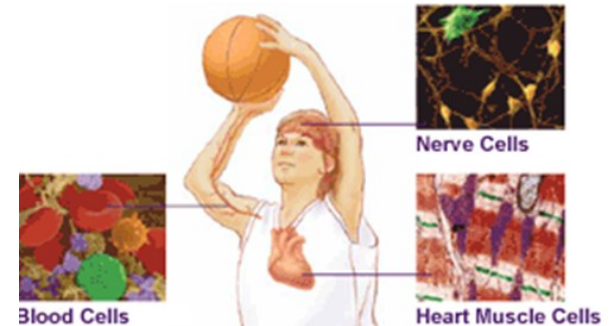


The looks & capabilities of different cells are determined by the subset of genes they express.

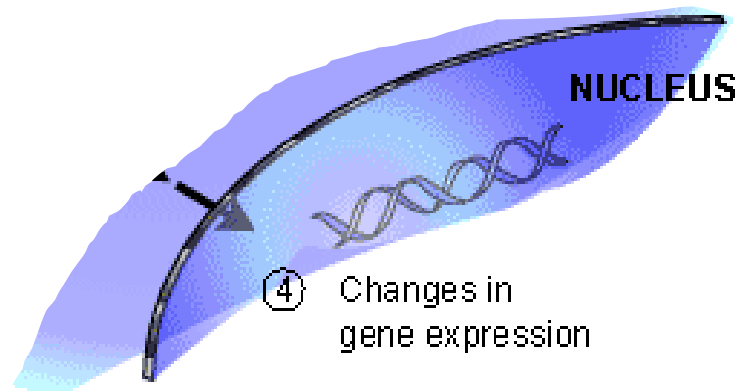
Different cell types express very different gene repertoires (from the same genome).

To change its behavior a cell can change its transcriptional program.

Think of it as a giant state machine...

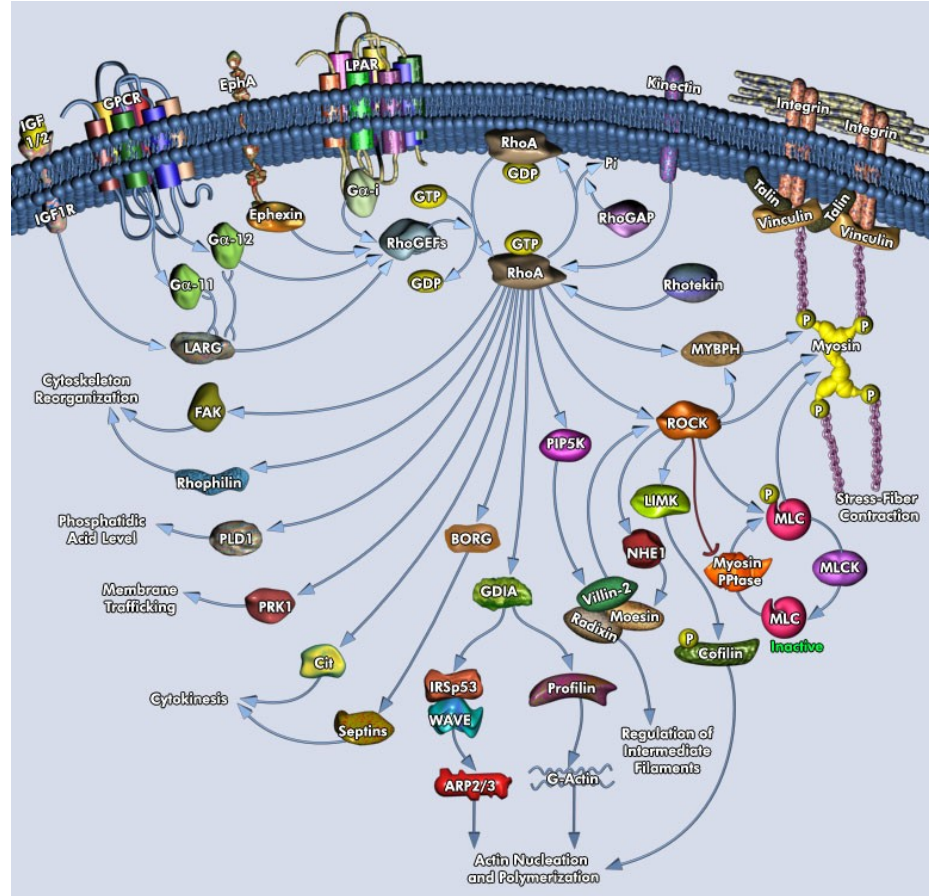


“Special” Function: Cell Signaling



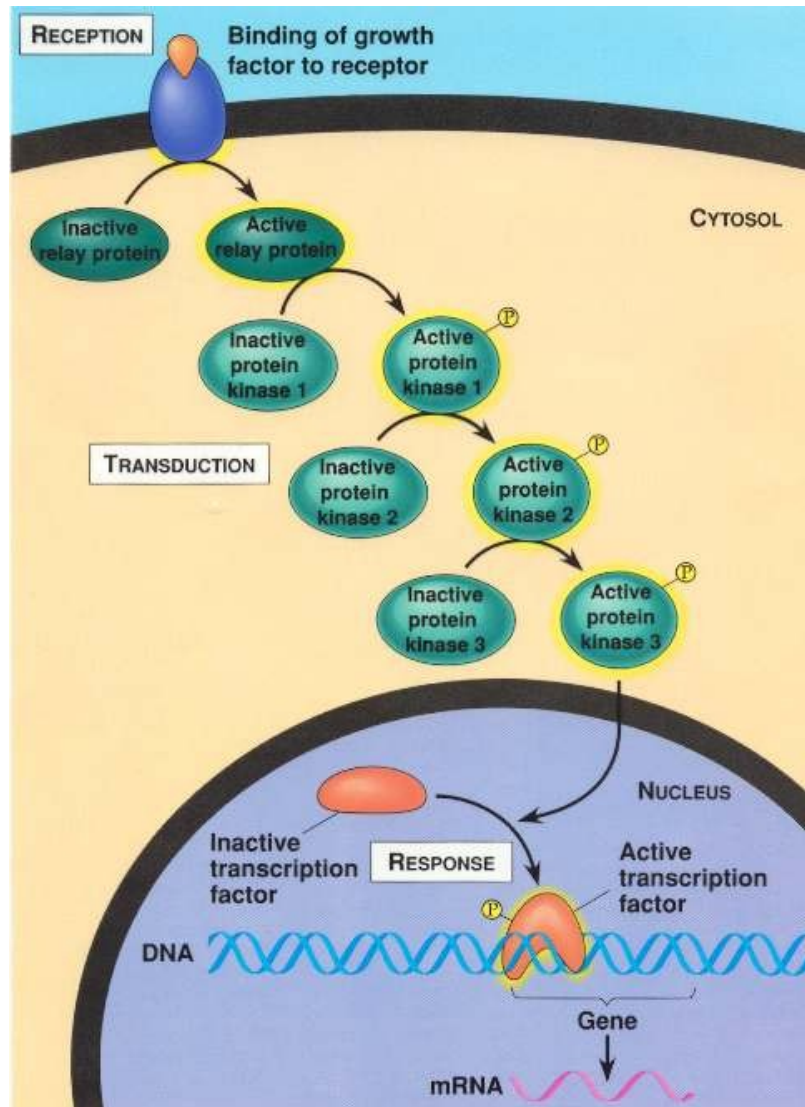
Cells also talk with each other. They send and receive messages, and change their behavior according to messages they receive.

Biological vs. Molecular Function: Pathways



Proteins with very different molecular functions participate to manifest a single biological function, for example: a pathway.

Signal Transduction



Now its an even bigger state machine of individual state machines (=cells) talking with each other, orchestrating their individual activities.

