# statistical systems biology

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# statistical systems biology: agenda

- 1. challenges to keep in mind
- 2. microarrays / regulation
- 3. networks
- 4. final thoughts

# statistical systems biology: challenges

- 1. statistics
- 2. modeling
- 3. validation
- 4. interpretation

# microarrays + transcriptional regulation

- 1. biological questions
- 2. history/context
- 3. methods
  - "unsupervised": cluster first, ask questions later
  - "supervised": predicting methods

#### biology as told by a theorist



#### biology as told by a biologist



Figure 1.24. The effect of Cro. Cro first abolishes synthesis of repressor from  $P_{RM}$  and then turns off synthesis of its own gene as well.

# ptashne's "a genetic switch"

# what is to be measured?

# 1. "expression" via RNA abundance

#### Northern blot

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **northern blot** is a technique used in molecular biology research to study gene expression. It takes its name from the similarity of the procect Southern blot procedure, named for biologist Edwin Southern, used to study DNA, with the key difference that RNA, rather than DNA, is the subbiologian analyzed by electrophoresis and detection with a hybridization probe. This technique was developed in 1977 by James Alwine and colle Stanford University.<sup>[1]</sup>

A notable difference in the procedure (as compared with the Southern blot) is the addition of formaldehyde in the agarose gel, which acts as a denaturant.

As in the Southern blot, the hybridization probe may be made from DNA or RNA.

A variant of the procedure known as the **reverse northern blot** was occasionally (although, infrequently) used. In this procedure, the substrate acid (that is affixed to the membrane) is a collection of isolated DNA fragments, and the probe is RNA extracted from a tissue and radioactively I

The use of DNA microarrays that have come into widespread use in the late 1990s and early 2000s is more akin to the reverse procedure, in the involve the use of isolated DNA fragments affixed to a substrate, and hybridization with a probe made from cellular RNA. Thus the reverse proce though originally uncommon, enabled the one-at-a-time study of gene expression using northern analysis to evolve into gene expression profil which many (possibly all) of the genes in an organism may have their expression monitored.

# what is to be measured?

# 2. regulatory sequence

	>YLR081W	GAL2			
			CEN		
	AGGTTGCAATTTCTTT	TTCTATTAGTAGCTAA	AATG <mark>GGTCACGTG</mark>	ATCT	-451
			GAL4		
	ATATTCGAAAGGGGCG	GTTGCCTCAGGAAGG <mark>C</mark>	ACCGGCGGTCTTTC	GTCC	-401
	<b>GTGC</b> GGAGATATCTGC	GCCGTTCAGGGGTCCA	IGTGCCTTGGACGA	TATT	-351
GAL4					
	AAGGCAGAAGGCAG <mark>TA</mark>	TCGGGGCGGATCACTC	CGAACCGAGATTAG	ATTA	-301
	GCCCTTCCCATCTCAA	GATGGGGAGCAAATGGO	CATTATACTCCTGC	TAGA	-251
	AAGTTAACTGTGCACA	ΤΑΤΤΟΤΤΑΑΑΤΤΑΤΑΟ	ACATTCTGGAGAG	CTAT	-201
	TGTTCAAAAAACAAAC	ATTTCGCAGGCTAAAA	TGTGGAGATAGGAT	AAGT	-151
	TTTGTAGACATATATA.	AACAATCAGTAATTGGA	ATTGAAAATTTGGT	GTTG	-101
	TGAATTGCTCTTCATT	ATGCACCTTATTCAATT	ГАТСАТСААБААТА	GTAA	-51
	TAGTTAAGTAAACACA	АGATTAACATAATAAA	ААААТААТТСТТТ	CATA	-1
	ATGGCAGTTGAGGAGA	ACAATATGCCTGTTGT	TTCACAGCAACCCC	AAGC	+50

# GeneChip(R): "late 80's"

Affymetrix' GeneChip® technology was invented in the late 1980's by a team of scientists led by Stephen P.A. Fodor, Ph.D. The theory behind their work was revolutionary - a notion that semiconductor manufacturing techniques could be united with advances in combinatorial chemistry to build vast amounts of biological data on a small glass chip. This technology became the basis of a new company, Affymetrix, formed as a division of Affymax, N.V. in 1991. Affymetrix began operating independently in 1992.



Circa 1989 - The world's first microarray prototype built using a microscope slide.

Affymetrix has headquarters in Santa Clara, California with offices

# cDNA "spot" arrays: 1995



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*Science* 20 October 1995: Vol. 270. no. 5235, pp. 467 – 470 DOI: 10.1126/science.270.5235.467

REPORTS

#### Quantitative Monitoring of Gene Expression Patterns with a Complementary DNA Microarray

Mark Schena (1), Dari Shalon (1), Ronald W. Davis (2), Patrick O. Brown (3)

A high-capacity system was developed to monitor the expression of many genes in parallel. Microarrays prepared by high-speed robotic printing of complementary DNAs on glass were used for quantitative expression measurements of the corresponding genes. Because of the small format and high density of the arrays, hybridization volumes of 2 microliters could be used that enabled detection of rare transcripts in probe mixtures derived from 2 micrograms of total cellular messenger RNA. Differential expression measurements of 45 *Arabidopsis* genes were made by means of simultaneous, two-color fluorescence hybridization.

# the hope





#### Nature Reviews | Genetics

Nature Reviews | Genetics

?

# other relevant innovation:



Yellow Pages - People Search - City Maps -- Stock Quotes - Sports Scores

# shared data.

# microarrays + transcriptional regulation

#### 1. biological questions

## 2. history/context

#### 3. methods

- "unsupervised": cluster first, ask questions later
- "supervised": predicting methods

### descriptive "models" of regulation:



Spellman et al., Molecular Biology of the Cell 1998 Dec;9(12):3273-97

• "unsupervised" (no input-output relation)

#### descriptive "models" of regulation:



• "unsupervised" (no input-output relation)

# microarrays + transcriptional regulation

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# **REDUCE:** regression

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#### Regulatory element detection using correlation with expression

Harmen J. Bussemaker<sup>1,2</sup>, Hao Li<sup>1</sup> & Eric D. Siggia<sup>1</sup>

#### Acknowledgments

We thank <u>B. Shraiman</u> for suggesting linear multivariate fits to expression data, and L. Grivell, R. Lascaris and H. de Nobel for discussions and critical reading of the manuscript. Support was received from the NSF under grant number DMR 9732083 and from the Keck foundation to H.L.

Received 23 February 2000; accepted 3 January 2001.

# REDUCE: why 7?



Figure 2.4. An  $\alpha$ -helix in a major groove. The side chains that protrude from the  $\alpha$ -helix, not shown here, would extend to the extremities of the DNA major groove.

# ptashne's "a genetic switch"

#### learning networks from biology



### "learning networks": learn network-shaped f



#### GENECLASS: predict expression as class

- complex enough to learn from data
- simple enough
  - to generalize
    - (predict on "held out" experiments)
  - and to be interpretable
     (based on biological rules)
- will exploit 3 tricks

#### trick #1: base on biological rules

parents - "motifs" - children

- 10M-dimensional feature space
- approx 100\*6000 examples



#### trick #2: predict expression as class



FIGURE 1.2. Examples of handwritten digits from U.S. postal envelopes.

#### build a theory of 3's?



large deviation theory: "maximum margin"









# "boosting"?

Anachronistic observation:

$$\langle e^{-\sigma B(ec x)} 
angle$$
 minimized by

$$B(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{p(+|\vec{x})}{p(-|\vec{x})}$$

• Therefore approximate

$$\langle e^{-\sigma B(\vec{x})} \rangle \approx Z \equiv \sum_{s} e^{-\sigma_s \sum_k c_k b_k(\vec{x}_s)}$$
  
• Coordinate descent

Coordinate descent

Interpretations: 
$$c_k o c_k + lpha$$

- Add weight to hard examples
- Greedily add 1 rule per iteration
- learn predictive features from data.

trick #3: boosted alternating decision trees

• One tree: control logic all genes, all expts



[ADTs: Freund & Mason 1999]

#### gene-centric vs. expt-centric vs. integrative



Learn *regulatory program* that makes genomewide, context-specific predictions for differential (up/down) expression of target genes

#### yeast environmental stress response

- Gasch et al. (2000) dataset, 173 microarrays, 13 environmental stresses
- ~5500 target genes, 475 regulators (237 TF+ 250 SM)
- 500bp upstream promoter sequences
- Binning into +1/0/-1 expression levels based on wildtype vs.



#### basic notions: fitting vs. overfitting

• "10-fold cross-validation" yields test loss of 13.6%



- Empirical estimate of generalization error
- not chi squared (not training data, and not normal)

#### basic notions: mining vs. understanding

Test Loss vs. "boosting iteration"=number of edges



• establish a baseline via randomizing

#### 4th trick: learn predictive "f"+ motifs ab initio

- Use *boosting* to iteratively combine predictive regulators and motifs into a tree-structure
- Alternating decision tree = margin-based generalization of decision trees
- Learn motifs ab initio from promoter sequences
- Lower nodes are conditionally dependent on higher nodes ⇒ can possibly reveal
   *combinatorial interactions*



# binding sites + "motif discovery"

# Learning problems:


#### MEDUSA: why dimers?

36

#### PROTEIN-DNA INTERACTIONS AND GENE CONTROL



Figure 2.6. Lambda repressor bound to an operator site. A pair of repressor amino domains fits on a 17 base pair operator site.

## ptashne's "a genetic switch"

#### MEDUSA's individual interactions

...AGCTATGCCATCGACTGCTCCAGTCGCACACACAAAGATTTGAG GCTATAGCTACTTTATAAAGGGGGCTACGGCAAATT... Regulator expression



#### hierarchical sequence agglomeration

- Avoids masking of *correlated individual interactions*
- Improves prediction accuracy on test data

PSSM  $p(x_1, ..., x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_i(x_i), x_i \in \{A, C, G, T\}$ score  $S = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(p_i(x_i)/p^{\text{bg}}(x_i))$ 

2 PSSMs p and q  $d(p,q) \equiv \min_{\text{offsets}} [w_1 D_{KL}(p || w_1 p + w_2 q) + w_2 D_{KL}(q || w_1 p + w_2 q)],$ 



#### MEDUSA: summary

- integrate sequence+ expression to learn a global regulatory program;
- 2. avoid overfitting
- Iearn functional regulators-motif combos
- Iearn binding site motifs, and thresholds, directly from sequence without seeding



[Freund & Mason 1999]

#### reminder: fitting vs. overfitting

• "10-fold cross-validation" yields test loss of 13.6%



- Empirical estimate of generalization error
- not chi squared (not training data, and not normal)

## basic notions: fitting vs. overfitting

- 10-fold cross-validation (held-out experiments), ~60,000 (gene,experiment) training examples, 700 iterations
- (N<sub>k-mers</sub>+N<sub>dimers</sub>+N<sub>PSSMs</sub>)\*N<sub>reg</sub>\*2 ~= 10<sup>7</sup> possible individual interactions at every node
- MEDUSA's motifs give a better prediction accuracy on held-out experiments than database motifs

	test-loss
MEDUSA	13.4%
AlignACE (Pilpel et al. 2001)	16.1%
TRANSFAC	20.8%

## basic notions: fitting vs. overfitting

- Large-scale results: yeast ESR data set, ~170 microarrays, 5-fold cross-validation (held-out experiments), ~60,000 (gene,experiment) training examples, 700 iterations
- MEDUSA's motifs give a better prediction accuracy on held-out experiments than database motifs

	test err	ror •	
TRANSFAC motifs + nearest neighbor	31.3%	4 (L) 2-	
TRANFAC motifs + ADT	20.8%	<sup>°</sup> <sup>°</sup>	
AlignACE motifs + ADT	16.1%	<u>0</u>	
MEDUSA	13.4%	۰. 	
		-15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 prediction score	

#### MEDUSA: ab initio PSSM discovery

TF	MEDUSA	Pattern matched	Database
name	logo		
MSN2/4	- AGGGG	AGGGG	TRANSFAC Sites
HSF1	s -	NGAANNTTCN	YPD
GIS1	AGGG.	AAGGGAT	YPD
YAP1	GCCAC	AAGCCAC	YPD
RAP1	TACGG	ATG <mark>TACGG</mark> ATG	YPD
RAP1	CACCCA	ACACCCATACAT	YPD

## yeast ESR: biological validation



## yeast ESR: biological validation

#### Important regulators identified by MEDUSA

# of weak rules	regulator	
96	TPK1-	Cellular localization
64	USVD	
57	AFR1	- Segal et al. 2003
48	(XBP1)	
19	ATG1	Universal stress repressor
$\frac{15}{15}$	ETR1	-
10	SDS22 CIN5	-
14	PDR3	-
12	GPA2	-
	I	

#### conclusions

- motif discovery + learning transcriptional regulation using large-margin classification
- learn binding sites ab initio
- PSSMs predictive on *test data*
- learn model of transcriptional regulation for all genes and all experiments
- simultaneous *discovery of important regulators*
- no gene clustering, no initialization
- open source:

http://www.cs.columbia.edu/compbio/medusa



- Theme: a predictive network model
  - predict expression
  - learn binding sites *ab initio*
- **Breakdown:** prediction? y=f(x)
- Variation: predicting evolution
  - validating models
  - letting the data decide

- task: learn *predictive* tool: network from microarray and sequence data, w/o prior sequence annotation
- task: predict evolution
   from topology





## what's so great about y=f(x)???!?!???

1. nothing up my sleeve:

CV: 
$$y_V = f_L(x_V)$$
?  
sig.  $y_V = f_R(x_V)$ ?  $y_V = f_L(x_R)$ ?

#### 2. which x matter?





## statistical network physics: definition

# statistical analysis to reveal the mechanism responsible for an observed network topology



#### agenda

- statistical network physics
  - pseudohistory
  - the problem
- statistical learning

biological networks

## statistical network physics: pseudohistory

#### 1999-2001:

- measure p(k) for real networks
   posit models/mechanisms:
  - 1. Erdos-Renyi  $p(\omega) \sim 1$
- 2. Yule/Simon/Barabasi-Albert  $\dot{p}_k = f[k, p(k)]$ 3. calculate  $p(x) = \int_{\omega \in \Omega} d\omega p(x|\omega)p(\omega)$ 4. select model which better agrees

#### statistical physics: cartoon

#### 1800s-:

measure p(x) (or <x>)
 posit models, e.g.:

$$p(\omega) \sim \mathrm{e}^{-E(\omega)/k_B T}$$

- 3. calculate  $p(x) = \int_{\omega \in \Omega} d\omega p(x|\omega) p(\omega)$ 4. select model which best across
- 4. select model which best agrees

#### statistical network physics: measure



#### the problem:



informative statistics?

## statistical network physics: history

1999-2001; **2001-2005** 

measure p(k) for real networks
 posit models/mechanisms:

1. Erdos-Renyi  $p(\omega) \sim 1$ 

2. Yule/Simon/Barabasi-Albert  $\dot{p}_k = f[k, p(k)]$ 

3. calculate  $p(x) = \int_{\omega \in \Omega} d\omega p(x|\omega) p(\omega)$ 4. mega)

5. select model which better agrees

6. overuniversality: almost all models can agree

## proliferation of models (+metrics)

1. DMC

(Vazquez, Flammini, Maritan, Vespignani, 2003)

2. DMR

(Sole, Pastor-Satorras, Smith, Kepler, 2002)

3. RDS

(Erdos, Renyi, 1959)

4. RDĠ

(Callaway, Hopcroft, Kleinberg, Newman, Strogatz, 2001)

5. LPA

(Barabasi, Albert 1999)

6. AGV

(Klemm, Eguiluz, 2002)

7. SMW

(Watts, Strogatz 1998)

•" First, power law distributions are neither new nor rare;

• second, fitting available data to such distributions is suspiciously easy;

• third, even when the fit is robust, it adds little if anything to our knowledge of the actual architecture of the network (many different architectures can give rise to the same power laws)"

- Revisiting "Scale-Free" Networks, E.F.Keller

inferring design in the presence of overuniversality for a target network

#### algorithm:

- forget your favorite design.
- forget your favorite feature.
- forget the target network.
- define a system for feature-generation.
- build a classifier to discriminate proposed designs.
  classify the target network.

## 1-slide summary of classification



## 1-slide summary of classification



## 1-slide summary of classification

• Watts or Barabasi?



- learn predictive
  (not "overrepresented")
  features from data;
- no null model assumed;
- no distribution assumed;

## calculate discriminative features



(and let the data decide which is best model)

#### agenda

- statistical network physics
  - the problem
  - probability
  - statistics
- statistical learning
- biological networks: predicting evolution
  - validating models
  - letting the data decide

#### systematic enumeration of network features

- Subgraph census
  - exploit sparseness ("walks")
  - use a pre-processed hash-table for subgraph isomorphisms
  - 148 subgraphs shown, can easily do 181 subgraphs

## NetBoost: 20 questions



conditionally important subgraphs



## high accuracy (fit vs. overfit ; test-loss)

Table 1. Prediction accuracy (%) for tested networks using fivefold cross-validation (13)

Truth	Prediction						
	DMR	DMC	AGV	LPA	SMW	RDS	RDG
DMR	99.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6
DMC	0.0	99.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
AGV	0.0	0.1	84.7	13.5	1.2	0.5	0.0
LPA	0.0	0.0	10.3	89.6	0.0	0.0	0.1
SMW	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	99.0	0.4	0.0
RDS	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.8	99.0	0.0
RDG	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	99.0

Prediction

- Empirical estimate of generalization error
- not chi squared (not normal, too many parts=parameters)

#### now look @ target: robust predictions



#### DMC?



(from Rice, Kershenbaum, Stolovitzky's *Commentary*)

#### rank scores


#### not just for flies: yeast P-P network



RANK	CLASS	SCORE
1	DMC	$13.1 \pm 2.0$
2	AGV	$-9.4 \pm 3.0$
3	SMW	$-11.5 \pm 3.2$
4	RDS	$-14.3 \pm 2.6$
5	RDG	$-15.2 \pm 4.8$
6	DMR	$-17.1 \pm 4.8$
7	LPA	$-18.1 \pm 2.6$

data courtesy O. Troyanskaya

## why subgraphs?



#### subgraph census: history



•Triad Census to test for **transitivity**, Holland and Leinhardt, 1970



## subgraph census: problems

• Number of isomorphism classes grows rapidly with graph size (Haray, 1955)

3	dyads
16	triads
218	tetrads
9608	pentads

- Census sensitive to density, clustering, degree distributions
- Traditional algorithms limited to n=3 or n=4
- Larger structures require tailored, parameterized algorithms

#### systematic enumeration of network features

- Subgraph census
  - exploit sparseness ("walks")
  - use a pre-processed hash-table for subgraph isomorphisms
  - 148 subgraphs shown,

can easily do 181 subgraphs

or

- Adjacency matrix functionals ("words") (Ziv et al. cond-mat/0306610)
  - more efficient than subgraph census for denser networks
  - up to 4670 features tested

#### matrix functionals & graphs



#### Path operators

- -A = adjacency; (walking down the graph)
- $-A^{T}$  = transpose; (walking up the graph)
- -D = diag; (restriction to closed walks)
- -U = I-D; (restriction to open walks)

#### sparse matrix functionals

In other words ...

#### Number of FFLs =

"sum D(A<sup>2</sup>A<sup>T</sup>)"

Example 1:  $S(D(A^2A^T)) = 40$  = the number of FFLs in the E. coli network Example 2:  $nnz(D(A^2A^T)) = 10$ 16 of 40 FFLs associated with gene csgBA

sum => number of distinct paths between all pairs of endpoints
nnz => number of distinct paths between unique pairs of endpoints

### computational efficiency



Tunable, preferentialattachment (PA) parameter

•Barabasi and Albert, Science '99

> Scalars perform better for networks that are dense, clustered, or networks with long-tailed degree distributions

#### NetClass: predict mechanism as class



q-bio/0402017; BMC Bioinformatics 2004, 5:181

#### NetClass: E. coli Transcriptional Network



### NetClass: E. coli Transcriptional Network



### NetClass: C. elegans Neural Network



N=306; m=2359; d=2.5%; r=.97

#### what is important? let the data decide



**Fig. 1.** Discriminating similar networks. Ten graphs of two different mechanisms exhibit similar average geodesic lengths and almost identical degree distribution and clustering coefficients. (a) Cumulative degree distribution  $p(k > k_0)$ , average clustering coefficient  $\langle C \rangle$  and average geodesic length  $\langle \ell \rangle$ , all quantities averaged over a set of 10 graphs. (b) Prediction scores for all 10 graphs and all five cross-validated (13) ADTs. The two sets of graphs can be perfectly separated by our classifier, even though none of these graphs is used in the classifier training.

# statistical systems biology: agenda

challenges to keep in mind
 microarrays / regulation
 networks
 final thoughts

# things to watch out for:

- 1. methods / how to read
- 2. different data, same issues
- 3. "prediction"
- 4. validation

### how to read/write a comp. sys. bio. paper:

- 1. background
- 2. intuition
- 3. question to be answered, in words
- 4. question to be answered, in math:
- 5. algorithm  $\vartheta = \operatorname{argmin} \mathcal{L}(D, \vartheta; \lambda)$ 6. validation  $\vartheta \in \Omega$

#### "prediction"

### 1. overfitting

- 2. feature ranking / hypothesis generation ("qualitative predictions")
- 3. predicting unseen data

### validation, closely related to prediction

- 1. in literature / by friends
- 2. statistical validation (e.g., CV)
- 3. experiment

#### different data, same issues

- RNAi
   ChIP-chip
   PPi
   image data
- 5. ...

# learning networks from biology

0.8 cm

#### • thanks:

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- for more info:
  - RECOMB, ISMB
- funding:
  - NIH NCBC
- open source.



# learning biology from networks

- thanks: Middendorf, Ziv • for more info: • BMC Bioinfo, PNAS • funding: • NSF/NIH/DOE • open source:
  - sourceforge.net

