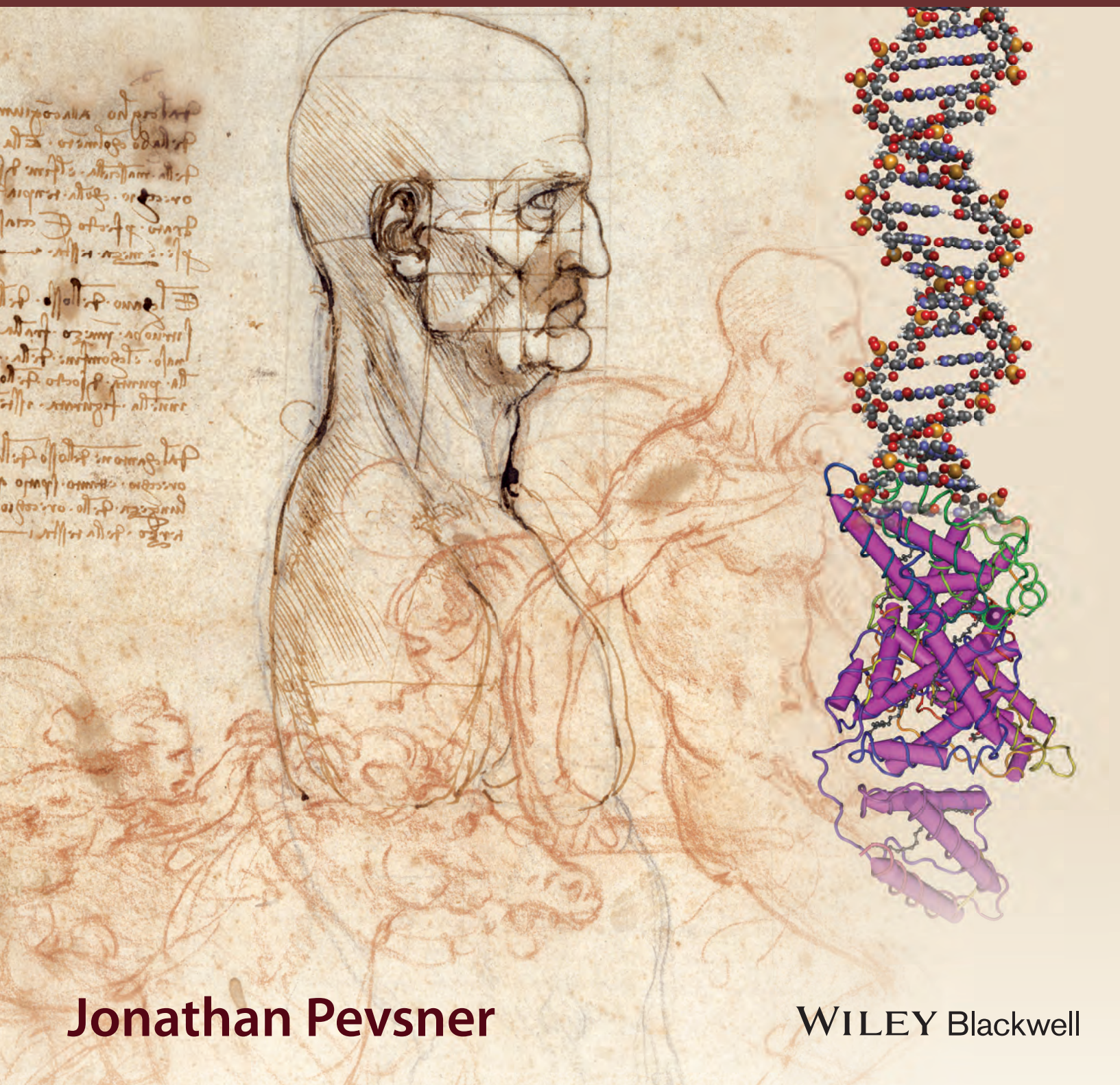


BIOINFORMATICS AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS

third edition



Jonathan Pevsner

WILEY Blackwell

BIOINFORMATICS AND
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Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics

Third Edition

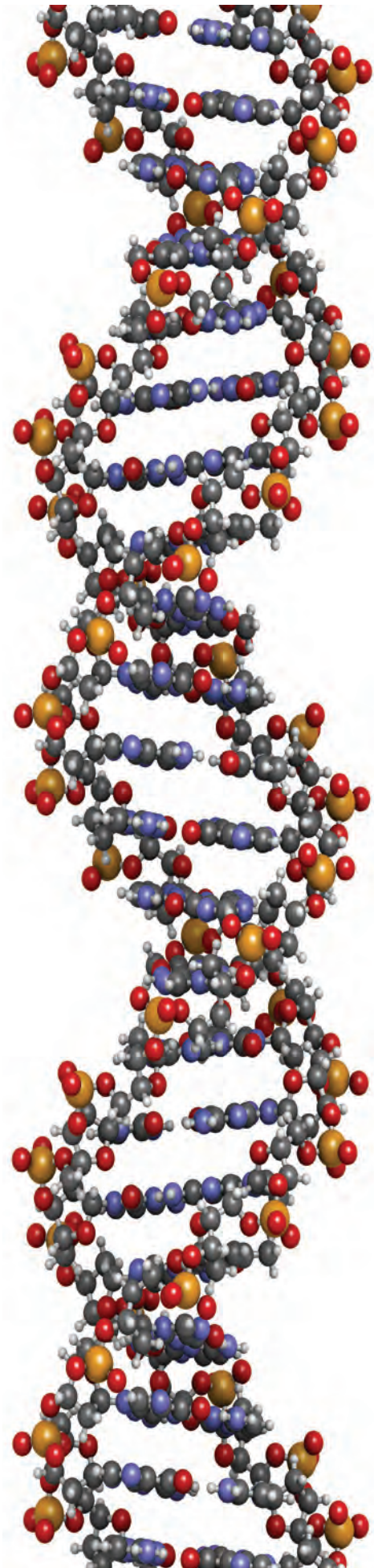
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The cover image is by Leonardo da Vinci, a study of a man in profile with studies of horse and riders (reproduced with kind permission of the Gallerie d'Accademia, Venice, Ms. 7r [236r], pen, black and red chalk). To the upper right a DNA molecule is shown (image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons) and a protein (human serum albumin, the most abundant protein in blood plasma, accession 1E7I, visualized with Cn3D software described in Chapter 13). Leonardo's text reads: "From the eyebrow to the junction of the lip with the chin, and the angle of the jaw and the upper angle where the ear joins the temple will be a perfect square. And each side by itself is half the head. The hollow of the cheek bone occurs half way between the tip of the nose and the top of the jaw bone, which is the lower angle of the setting on of the ear, in the frame here represented. From the angle of the eye-socket to the ear is as far as the length of the ear, or the third of the face." (Translation by Jean-Paul Richter, *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*, London, 1883.)

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*For three generations of family: to my parents
Aihud and Lucille; to my wife Barbara; to my daughters Kim,
Ava, and Lillian; and to my niece Madeline*

Contents in Brief

PART I Analyzing DNA, RNA, and Protein Sequences

- 1 Introduction, 3
- 2 Access to Sequence Data and Related Information, 19
- 3 Pairwise Sequence Alignment, 69
- 4 Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST), 121
- 5 Advanced Database Searching, 167
- 6 Multiple Sequence Alignment, 205
- 7 Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution, 245

PART II Genomewide Analysis of DNA, RNA, and Protein

- 8 DNA: The Eukaryotic Chromosome, 307
- 9 Analysis of Next-Generation Sequence Data, 377
- 10 Bioinformatic Approaches to Ribonucleic Acid (RNA), 433
- 11 Gene Expression: Microarray and RNA-seq Data Analysis, 479
- 12 Protein Analysis and Proteomics, 539
- 13 Protein Structure, 589
- 14 Functional Genomics, 635

PART III Genome Analysis

- 15 Genomes Across the Tree of Life, 699
- 16 Completed Genomes: Viruses, 755
- 17 Completed Genomes: Bacteria and Archaea, 797
- 18 Eukaryotic Genomes: Fungi, 847
- 19 Eukaryotic Genomes: From Parasites to Primates, 887
- 20 Human Genome, 957
- 21 Human Disease, 1011

GLOSSARY, 1075

SELF-TEST QUIZ: SOLUTIONS, 1103

AUTHOR INDEX, 1105

SUBJECT INDEX, 1109

Contents

Preface to the Third Edition, xxxi

About the Companion Website, xxxiii

PART I ANALYZING DNA, RNA, AND PROTEIN SEQUENCES

1 Introduction, 3

Organization of the Book, 4

Bioinformatics: The Big Picture, 5

 A Consistent Example: Globins, 6

Organization of the Chapters, 8

Suggestions For Students and Teachers: Web Exercises, Find-a-Gene, and

 Characterize-a-Genome, 9

Bioinformatics Software: Two Cultures, 10

 Web-Based Software, 11

 Command-Line Software, 11

 Bridging the Two Cultures, 12

 New Paradigms for Learning Programming for Bioinformatics, 13

 Reproducible Research in Bioinformatics, 14

Bioinformatics and Other Informatics Disciplines, 15

Advice for Students, 15

 Suggested Reading, 15

 References, 16

2 Access to Sequence Data and Related Information, 19

Introduction to Biological Databases, 19

Centralized Databases Store DNA Sequences, 20

Contents of DNA, RNA, and Protein Databases, 24

 Organisms in GenBank/EMBL-Bank/DDBJ, 24

 Types of Data in GenBank/EMBL-Bank/DDBJ, 26

 Genomic DNA Databases, 27

 DNA-Level Data: Sequence-Tagged Sites (STSs), 27

 DNA-Level Data: Genome Survey Sequences (GSSs), 27

 DNA-Level Data: High-Throughput Genomic Sequence (HTGS), 27

 RNA data, 27

 RNA-Level Data: cDNA Databases Corresponding to Expressed Genes, 27

 RNA-Level Data: Expressed Sequence Tags (ESTs), 28

 RNA-Level Data: UniGene, 28

- Access to Information: Protein Databases, 29
 - UniProt, 31
- Central Bioinformatics Resources: NCBI and EBI, 31
 - Introduction to NCBI, 31
 - The European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), 32
- Ensembl, 34
- Access to Information: Accession Numbers to Label and Identify Sequences, 34
 - The Reference Sequence (RefSeq) Project, 36
 - RefSeqGene and the Locus Reference Genomic Project, 37
 - The Consensus Coding Sequence CCDS Project, 37
 - The Vertebrate Genome Annotation (VEGA) Project, 37
- Access to Information via Gene Resource at NCBI, 38
 - Relationship Between NCBI Gene, Nucleotide, and Protein Resources, 41
 - Comparison of NCBI's Gene and UniGene, 41
 - NCBI's Gene and HomoloGene, 42
- Command-Line Access to Data at NCBI, 42
 - Using Command-Line Software, 42
 - Accessing NCBI Databases with EDirect, 45
 - EDirect Example 1, 46
 - EDirect Example 2, 46
 - EDirect Example 3, 46
 - EDirect Example 4, 47
 - EDirect Example 5, 48
 - EDirect Example 6, 48
 - EDirect Example 7, 48
- Access to Information: Genome Browsers, 49
 - Genome Builds, 49
 - The University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) Genome Browser, 50
 - The Ensembl Genome Browser, 50
 - The Map Viewer at NCBI, 52
- Examples of How to Access Sequence Data: Individual Genes/Proteins, 52
 - Histones, 52
 - HIV-1 pol, 53
- How to Access Sets of Data: Large-Scale Queries of Regions and Features, 54
 - Thinking About One Gene (or Element) Versus Many Genes (Elements), 54
 - The BioMart Project, 54
 - Using the UCSC Table Browser, 54
 - Custom Tracks: Versatility of the BED File, 56
 - Galaxy: Reproducible, Web-Based, High-Throughput Research, 57
- Access to Biomedical Literature, 58
 - Example of PubMed Search, 59
- Perspective, 59
- Pitfalls, 60
- Advice for Students, 60

Web Resources, 60

Discussion Questions, 61

Problems/Computer Lab, 61

Self-Test Quiz, 63

Suggested Reading, 64

References, 64

3 Pairwise Sequence Alignment, 69

Introduction, 69

Protein Alignment: Often More Informative than DNA Alignment, 70

Definitions: Homology, Similarity, Identity, 70

Gaps, 78

Pairwise Alignment, Homology, and Evolution of Life, 78

Scoring Matrices, 79

Dayhoff Model Step 1 (of 7): Accepted Point Mutations, 79

Dayhoff Model Step 2 (of 7): Frequency of Amino Acids, 79

Dayhoff Model Step 3 (of 7): Relative Mutability of Amino Acids, 80

Dayhoff Model Step 4 (of 7): Mutation Probability Matrix for the
Evolutionary Distance of 1 PAM, 82

Dayhoff Model Step 5 (of 7): PAM250 and Other PAM Matrices, 84

Dayhoff Model Step 6 (of 7): From a Mutation Probability Matrix to a
Relatedness Odds Matrix, 88

Dayhoff Model Step 7 (of 7): Log-Odds Scoring Matrix, 89

Practical Usefulness of PAM Matrices in Pairwise Alignment, 91

Important Alternative to PAM: BLOSUM Scoring Matrices, 91

Pairwise Alignment and Limits of Detection: The “Twilight Zone”, 94

Alignment Algorithms: Global and Local, 96

Global Sequence Alignment: Algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch, 96

Step 1: Setting Up a Matrix, 96

Step 2: Scoring the Matrix, 97

Step 3: Identifying the Optimal Alignment, 99

Local Sequence Alignment: Smith and Waterman Algorithm, 101

Rapid, Heuristic Versions of Smith–Waterman: FASTA and BLAST, 103

Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST), 104

Pairwise Alignment with Dotplots, 104

The Statistical Significance of Pairwise Alignments, 106

Statistical Significance of Global Alignments, 106

Statistical Significance of Local Alignments, 108

Percent Identity and Relative Entropy, 108

Perspective, 110

Pitfalls, 112

Advice for Students, 112

Web Resources, 112

Discussion Questions, 113

Problems/Computer Lab, 113

Self-Test Quiz, 114
Suggested Reading, 115
References, 116

4 Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) , 121

Introduction, 121
BLAST Search Steps, 124
 Step 1: Specifying Sequence of Interest, 124
 Step 2: Selecting BLAST Program, 124
 Step 3: Selecting a Database, 126
 Step 4a: Selecting Optional Search Parameters, 127
 Step 4b: Selecting Formatting Parameters, 132
 Stand-Alone BLAST, 135
BLAST Algorithm Uses Local Alignment Search Strategy, 138
 BLAST Algorithm Parts: List, Scan, Extend, 138
 BLAST Algorithm: Local Alignment Search Statistics and *E* Value, 141
 Making Sense of Raw Scores with Bit Scores, 143
 BLAST Algorithm: Relation Between *E* and *p* Values, 143
BLAST Search Strategies, 145
 General Concepts, 145
 Principles of BLAST Searching, 146
 How to Evaluate the Significance of Results, 146
 How to Handle Too Many Results, 150
 How to Handle Too Few Results, 150
 BLAST Searching with Multidomain Protein: HIV-1 Pol, 151
Using Blast For Gene Discovery: Find-a-Gene, 155
Perspective, 159
Pitfalls, 160
Advice for Students, 160
Web Resources, 160
 Discussion Questions, 160
 Problems/Computer Lab, 160
 Self-Test Quiz, 161
 Suggested Reading, 162
 References, 163

5 Advanced Database Searching , 167

Introduction, 167
Specialized BLAST Sites, 168
 Organism-Specific BLAST Sites, 168
 Ensembl BLAST, 168
 Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, 170
Specialized BLAST-Related Algorithms, 170
 WU BLAST 2.0, 170
 European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), 170

- Specialized NCBI BLAST Sites, 170
- BLAST of Next-Generation Sequence Data, 170
- Finding Distantly Related Proteins: Position-Specific Iterated BLAST (PSI-BLAST) and DELTA-BLAST, 171
 - PSI-BLAST Errors: Problem of Corruption, 177
 - Reverse Position-Specific BLAST, 177
 - Domain Enhanced Lookup Time Accelerated BLAST (DELTA-BLAST), 177
 - Assessing Performance of PSI-BLAST and DELTA-BLAST, 179
 - Pattern-Hit Initiated BLAST (PHI-BLAST), 179
- Profile Searches: Hidden Markov Models, 181
 - HMMER Software: Command-Line and Web-Based, 184
- BLAST-Like Alignment Tools to Search Genomic DNA Rapidly, 186
 - Benchmarking to Assess Genomic Alignment Performance, 187
 - PatternHunter: Nonconsecutive Seeds Boost Sensitivity, 188
 - BLASTZ, 188
 - Enredo and Pecan, 191
 - MegaBLAST and Discontinuous MegaBLAST, 191
 - BLAST-Like Tool (BLAT), 192
 - LAGAN, 192
 - SSAHA2, 194
- Aligning Next-Generation Sequence (NGS) Reads to a Reference Genome, 194
 - Alignment Based on Hash Tables, 194
 - Alignment Based on the Burrows–Wheeler Transform, 196
- Perspective, 197
- Pitfalls, 197
- Advice For Students, 198
- Web Resources, 198
 - Discussion Questions, 198
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 198
 - Self-Test Quiz, 199
 - Suggested Reading, 200
 - References, 201

6 Multiple Sequence Alignment, 205

- Introduction, 205
 - Definition of Multiple Sequence Alignment, 206
 - Typical Uses and Practical Strategies of Multiple Sequence Alignment, 207
 - Benchmarking: Assessment of Multiple Sequence Alignment Algorithms, 207
- Five Main Approaches to Multiple Sequence Alignment, 208
 - Exact Approaches to Multiple Sequence Alignment, 208
 - Progressive Sequence Alignment, 208
 - Iterative Approaches, 214
 - Consistency-Based approaches, 218
 - Structure-Based Methods, 220
- Benchmarking Studies: Approaches, Findings, Challenges, 221

- Databases of Multiple Sequence Alignments, 222
 - Pfam: Protein Family Database of Profile HMMs, 223
 - SMART, 224
 - Conserved Domain Database, 226
 - Integrated Multiple Sequence Alignment Resources: InterPro and iProClass, 226
 - Multiple Sequence Alignment Database Curation: Manual Versus Automated, 227
- Multiple Sequence Alignments of Genomic Regions, 227
 - Analyzing Genomic DNA Alignments via UCSC, 229
 - Analyzing Genomic DNA Alignments via Galaxy, 229
 - Analyzing Genomic DNA Alignments via Ensembl, 231
 - Alignathon Competition to Assess Whole-Genome Alignment Methods, 231
- Perspective, 234
- Pitfalls, 234
- Advice for Students, 235
 - Discussion Questions, 235
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 235
 - Self-Test Quiz, 237
 - Suggested Reading, 238
 - References, 239

7 Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution, 245

- Introduction to Molecular Evolution, 245
- Principles of Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution, 246
 - Goals of Molecular Phylogeny, 246
 - Historical Background, 247
 - Molecular Clock Hypothesis, 250
 - Positive and Negative Selection, 254
 - Neutral Theory of Molecular Evolution, 258
- Molecular Phylogeny: Properties of Trees, 259
 - Topologies and Branch Lengths of Trees, 259
 - Tree Roots, 262
 - Enumerating Trees and Selecting Search Strategies, 263
- Type of Trees, 266
 - Species Trees versus Gene/Protein Trees, 266
 - DNA, RNA, or Protein-Based Trees, 268
- Five Stages of Phylogenetic Analysis, 270
 - Stage 1: Sequence Acquisition, 270
 - Stage 2: Multiple Sequence Alignment, 271
 - Stage 3: Models of DNA and Amino Acid Substitution, 272
 - Stage 4: Tree-Building Methods, 281
 - Distance-Based, 282
 - Phylogenetic Inference: Maximum Parsimony, 287

- Model-Based Phylogenetic Inference: Maximum Likelihood, 289
- Tree Inference: Bayesian Methods, 290
- Stage 5: Evaluating Trees, 293
- Perspective, 295
- Pitfalls, 295
- Advice for Students, 296
- Web Resources, 297
 - Discussion Questions, 297
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 297
 - Self-Test Quiz, 298
 - Suggested Reading, 298
 - References, 299

PART II GENOMEWIDE ANALYSIS OF DNA, RNA, AND PROTEIN

8 DNA: The Eukaryotic Chromosome, 307

- Introduction, 308
 - Major Differences between Eukaryotes and Bacteria and Archaea, 308
- General Features of Eukaryotic Genomes and Chromosomes, 310
 - C Value Paradox: Why Eukaryotic Genome Sizes Vary So Greatly, 312
 - Organization of Eukaryotic Genomes into Chromosomes, 310
 - Analysis of Chromosomes Using Genome Browsers, 314
 - Analysis of Chromosomes Using BioMart and biomaRt, 314
 - Example 1, 317
 - Example 2, 319
 - Example 3, 319
 - Example 4, 319
 - Example 5, 320
 - Analysis of Chromosomes by the ENCODE Project, 320
 - Critiques of ENCODE: the C Value Paradox Revisited and the Definition of Function, 322
- Repetitive DNA Content of Eukaryotic Chromosomes, 323
 - Eukaryotic Genomes Include Noncoding and Repetitive DNA Sequences, 323
 - Interspersed Repeats (Transposon-Derived Repeats), 325
 - Processed Pseudogenes, 326
 - Simple Sequence Repeats, 331
 - Segmental Duplications, 331
 - Blocks of Tandemly Repeated Sequences, 333
- Gene Content of Eukaryotic Chromosomes, 334
 - Definition of Gene, 334
 - Finding Genes in Eukaryotic Genomes, 336
 - Finding Genes in Eukaryotic Genomes: EGASP Competition, 339
 - Three Resources for Studying Protein-Coding Genes: RefSeq, UCSC Genes, GENCODE, 340
 - Protein-Coding Genes in Eukaryotes: New Paradox, 342

Regulatory Regions of Eukaryotic Chromosomes, 342
Databases of Genomic Regulatory Factors, 342
Ultraconserved Elements, 345
Nonconserved Elements, 345
Comparison of Eukaryotic DNA, 346
Variation in Chromosomal DNA, 347
Dynamic Nature of Chromosomes: Whole-Genome Duplication, 347
Chromosomal Variation in Individual Genomes, 349
Structural Variation: Six Types, 351
Inversions, 351
Mechanisms of Creating Duplications, Deletions, and Inversions, 351
Models for Creating Gene Families, 353
Chromosomal Variation in Individual Genomes: SNPs, 354
Techniques to Measure Chromosomal Change, 355
Array Comparative Genomic Hybridization, 356
SNP Microarrays, 356
Next-Generation Sequencing, 359
Perspective, 359
Pitfalls, 359
Advice to Students, 360
Web Resources, 360
Discussion Questions, 361
Problems/Computer Lab, 361
Self-Test Quiz, 364
Suggested Reading, 365
References, 366

9 Analysis of Next-Generation Sequence Data, 377

Introduction, 378
DNA Sequencing Technologies, 377
Sanger Sequencing, 379
Next-Generation Sequencing, 379
Cyclic Reversible Termination: Illumina, 382
Pyrosequencing, 384
Sequencing by Ligation: Color Space with ABI SOLiD, 385
Ion Torrent: Genome Sequencing by Measuring pH, 387
Pacific Biosciences: Single-Molecule Sequencing with Long Read Lengths, 387
Complete Genomics: Self-Assembling DNA Nanoarrays, 387
Analysis of Next-Generation Sequencing of Genomic DNA, 387
Overview of Next-Generation Sequencing Data Analysis, 387
Topic 1: Experimental Design and Sample Preparation, 389
Topic 2: From Generating Sequence Data to FASTQ, 390
Finding and Viewing FASTQ files, 392
Quality Assessment of FASTQ data, 393
FASTG: A Richer Format than FASTQ, 394

- Topic 3: Genome Assembly, 394
 - Competitions and Critical Evaluations of the Performance of Genome Assemblers, 396
 - The End of Assembly: Standards for Completion, 398
- Topic 4: Sequence Alignment, 399
 - Alignment of Repetitive DNA, 400
 - Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK) Workflow: Alignment with BWA, 401
- Topic 5: The SAM/BAM Format and SAMtools, 402
 - Calculating Read Depth, 405
 - Finding and Viewing BAM/SAM files, 405
 - Compressed Alignments: CRAM File Format, 406
- Topic 6: Variant Calling: Single-Nucleotide Variants and Indels, 408
- Topic 7: Variant Calling: Structural Variants, 409
- Topic 8: Summarizing Variation: The VCF Format and VCFtools, 410
 - Finding and Viewing VCF files, 413
- Topic 9: Visualizing and Tabulating Next-Generation Sequence Data, 413
- Topic 10: Interpreting the Biological Significance of Variants, 417
- Topic 11: Storing Data in Repositories, 421
- Specialized Applications of Next-Generation Sequencing, 421
 - Perspective, 422
 - Pitfalls, 423
 - Advice for Students, 423
 - Web Resources, 424
 - Discussion Questions, 424
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 424
 - Self-Test Quiz, 425
 - Suggested Reading, 425
 - References, 425

10 Bioinformatic Approaches to Ribonucleic Acid (RNA), 433

- Introduction to RNA, 433
- Noncoding RNA, 436
 - Noncoding RNAs in the Rfam Database, 436
 - Transfer RNA, 438
 - Ribosomal RNA, 441
 - Small Nuclear RNA, 445
 - Small Nucleolar RNA, 445
 - MicroRNA, 445
 - Short Interfering RNA, 447
 - Long Noncoding RNA (lncRNA), 447
 - Other Noncoding RNA, 448
 - Noncoding RNAs in the UCSC Genome and Table Browser, 448
- Introduction to Messenger RNA, 450
 - mRNA: Subject of Gene Expression Studies, 450
 - Low- and High-Throughput Technologies to Study mRNAs, 452

- Analysis of Gene Expression in cDNA Libraries, 455
- Full-Length cDNA Projects, 459
- BodyMap2 and GTEx: Measuring Gene Expression Across the Body, 459
- Microarrays and RNA-Seq: Genome-Wide Measurement of Gene Expression, 460
 - Stage 1: Experimental Design for Microarrays and RNA-seq, 461
 - Stage 2: RNA Preparation and Probe Preparation, 461
 - Stage 3: Data Acquisition, 464
 - Hybridization of Labeled Samples to DNA Microarrays, 464
 - Data acquisition for RNA-seq, 465
 - Stage 4: Data Analysis, 465
 - Stage 5: Biological Confirmation, 465
 - Microarray and RNA-seq Databases, 465
 - Further Analyses, 465
- Interpretation of RNA Analyses, 466
 - The Relationship between DNA, mRNA, and Protein Levels, 466
 - The Pervasive Nature of Transcription, 467
 - eQTLs: Understanding the Genetic Basis of Variation in Gene Expression through Combined RNA-seq and DNA-seq, 468
- Perspective, 469
- Pitfalls, 470
- Advice to Students, 470
- Web Resources, 470
 - Discussion Questions, 471
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 471
 - Self-Test Quiz, 471
 - Suggested Reading, 472
 - References, 473

11 Gene Expression: Microarray and RNA-seq Data Analysis, 479

- Introduction, 479
- Microarray Analysis Method 1: GEO2R at NCBI, 482
 - GEO2R Executes a Series of R Scripts, 482
 - GEO2R Identifies the Chromosomal Origin of Regulated Transcripts, 485
 - GEO2R Normalizes Data, 486
 - GEO2R uses RMA Normalization for Accuracy and Precision, 488
 - Fold Change (Expression Ratios), 490
 - GEO2R Performs >22,000 Statistical Tests, 490
 - GEO2R Offers Corrections for Multiple Comparisons, 494
- Microarray Analysis Method 2: Partek, 495
 - Importing Data, 496
 - Quality Control, 496
 - Adding Sample Information, 497
 - Sample Histogram, 498
 - Scatter Plots and MA Plots, 498

- Working with Log₂ Transformed Microarray Data, 498
- Exploratory Data Analysis with Principal Components Analysis (PCA), 498
- Performing ANOVA in Partek, 501
- From *t*-test to ANOVA, 503
- Microarray Analysis Method 3: Analyzing a GEO Dataset with R, 504
 - Setting up the Analyses, 504
 - Reading CEL Files and Normalizing with RMA, 506
 - Identifying Differentially Expressed Genes (Limma), 508
 - Microarray Analysis and Reproducibility, 510
- Microarray Data Analysis: Descriptive Statistics, 511
 - Hierarchical Cluster Analysis of Microarray Data, 511
 - Partitioning Methods for Clustering: k-Means Clustering, 516
 - Multidimensional Scaling Compared to Principal Components Analysis, 517
 - Clustering Strategies: Self-Organizing Maps, 517
 - Classification of Genes or Samples, 517
- RNA-Seq, 519
 - Setting up a TopHat and CuffLinks Sample Protocol, 523
 - TopHat to Map Reads to a Reference Genome, 524
 - Cufflinks to Assemble Transcripts, 525
 - Cuffdiff to Determine Differential Expression, 525
 - CummeRbund to Visualize RNA-seq Results, 526
 - RNA-seq Genome Annotation Assessment Project (RGASP), 527
- Functional Annotation of Microarray Data, 528
- Perspective, 529
- Pitfalls, 530
- Advice for Students, 531
- Suggested Reading, 531
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 532
 - Self-Test Quiz, 532
 - Suggested Reading, 533
 - References, 534

12 Protein Analysis and Proteomics, 539

- Introduction, 539
 - Protein Databases, 540
 - Community Standards for Proteomics Research, 542
 - Evaluating the State-of-the-Art: ABRF analytic challenges, 542
- Techniques for Identifying Proteins, 543
 - Direct Protein Sequencing, 543
 - Gel Electrophoresis, 543
 - Mass Spectrometry, 547

- Four Perspectives on Proteins, 551
 - Perspective 1: Protein Domains and Motifs: Modular Nature of Proteins, 552
 - Added Complexity of Multidomain Proteins, 557
 - Protein Patterns: Motifs or Fingerprints Characteristic of Proteins, 557
 - Perspective 2: Physical Properties of Proteins, 559
 - Accuracy of Prediction Programs, 561
 - Proteomic Approaches to Phosphorylation, 563
 - Proteomic Approaches to Transmembrane Regions, 565
 - Introduction to Perspectives 3 and 4: Gene Ontology Consortium, 567
 - Perspective 3: Protein Localization, 568
 - Perspective 4: Protein Function, 570
- Perspective, 575
- Pitfalls, 575
- Advice for Students, 575
- Web Resources, 576
 - Discussion Questions, 578
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 578
 - Self-Test Quiz, 579
 - Suggested Reading, 580
 - References, 580

13 Protein Structure, 589

- Overview of Protein Structure, 589
 - Protein Sequence and Structure, 590
 - Biological Questions Addressed by Structural Biology: Globins, 591
- Principles of Protein Structure, 591
 - Primary Structure, 591
 - Secondary Structure, 594
 - Tertiary Protein Structure: Protein-Folding Problem, 598
 - Structural Genomics, the Protein Structure Initiative, and Target Selection, 600
- Protein Data Bank, 602
 - Accessing PDB Entries at NCBI Website, 606
 - Integrated Views of Universe of Protein Folds, 609
 - Taxonomic System for Protein Structures: SCOP Database, 610
 - CATH Database, 613
 - Dali Domain Dictionary, 615
 - Comparison of Resources, 617
- Protein Structure Prediction, 617
 - Homology Modeling (Comparative Modeling), 618
 - Fold Recognition (Threading), 619
 - Ab Initio* Prediction (Template-Free Modeling), 621
 - A Competition to Assess Progress in Structure Prediction, 621
- Intrinsically Disordered Proteins, 622
- Protein Structure and Disease, 622
- Perspective, 625

Pitfalls, 625
Advice for Students, 625
 Discussion Questions, 625
 Problems/Computer Lab, 626
 Self-Test Quiz, 627
 Suggested Reading, 628
 References, 628

14 Functional Genomics, 635

Introduction to Functional Genomics, 635
 The Relationship Between Genotype and Phenotype, 637
Eight-Model Organisms For Functional Genomics, 638
 1. The Bacterium *Escherichia coli*, 639
 2. The Yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, 640
 3. The Plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, 643
 4. The Nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, 643
 5. The Fruit Fly *Drosophila melanogaster*, 645
 6. The Zebrafish *Danio rerio*, 645
 7. The Mouse *Mus musculus*, 646
 8. *Homo sapiens*: Variation in Humans, 647
Functional Genomics Using Reverse and Forward Genetics, 648
 Reverse Genetics: Mouse Knockouts and the β -Globin Gene, 650
 Reverse Genetics: Knocking Out Genes in Yeast Using Molecular Barcodes, 653
 Reverse Genetics: Random Insertional Mutagenesis (Gene Trapping), 657
 Reverse Genetics: Insertional Mutagenesis in Yeast, 660
 Reverse Genetics: Gene Silencing by Disrupting RNA, 662
 Forward Genetics: Chemical Mutagenesis, 665
 Comparison of Reverse and Forward Genetics, 665
Functional Genomics and the Central Dogma, 666
 Approaches to Function and Definitions of Function, 646
 Functional Genomics and DNA: Integrating Information, 668
 Functional Genomics and RNA, 668
 Functional Genomics and Protein, 670
Proteomics Approaches to Functional Genomics, 670
 Functional Genomics and Protein: Critical Assessment of Protein Function Annotation, 672
 Protein–Protein Interactions, 672
 Yeast Two-Hybrid System, 673
 Protein Complexes: Affinity Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry, 675
 Protein–Protein Interaction Databases, 676
 From Pairwise Interactions to Protein Networks, 678
 Assessment of Accuracy, 680
 Choice of Data, 680

- Experimental Organism, 680
- Variation in Pathways, 681
- Categories of Maps, 681
- Pathways, Networks, and Integration: Bioinformatics Resources, 682
- Perspective, 685
- Pitfalls, 686
- Advice for Students, 686
- Web Resources, 686
 - Discussion Questions, 686
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 686
 - Self-Test Quiz, 687
 - Suggested Reading, 688
 - References, 688

PART III GENOME ANALYSIS

15 Genomes Across the Tree of Life, 699

- Introduction, 700
 - Five Perspectives on Genomics, 701
 - Brief History of Systematics, 701
 - History of Life on Earth, 705
 - Molecular Sequences as the Basis of the Tree of Life, 705
 - Role of Bioinformatics in Taxonomy, 709
- Prominent Web Resources, 710
 - Ensembl Genomes, 710
 - NCBI Genome, 710
 - Genome Portal of DOE JGI and the Integrated Microbial Genomes, 710
 - Genomes On Line Database (GOLD), 710
 - UCSC, 710
- Genome-Sequencing Projects: Chronology, 711
 - Brief Chronology, 711
 - 1976–1978: First Bacteriophage and Viral Genomes, 711
 - 1981: First Eukaryotic Organellar Genome, 712
 - 1986: First Chloroplast Genomes, 714
 - 1992: First Eukaryotic Chromosome, 715
 - 1995: Complete Genome of Free-Living Organism, 715
 - 1996: First Eukaryotic Genome, 715
 - 1997: *Escherichia coli*, 715
 - 1998: First Genome of Multicellular Organism, 716
 - 1999: Human Chromosome, 716
 - 2000: Fly, Plant, and Human Chromosome 21, 716
 - 2001: Draft Sequences of Human Genome, 716
 - 2002: Continuing Rise in Completed Genomes, 717
 - 2003: HapMap, 717
 - 2004: Chicken, Rat, and Finished Human Sequences, 717

2005: Chimpanzee, Dog, Phase I HapMap, 718
2006: Sea Urchin, Honeybee, dbGaP, 718
2007: Rhesus Macaque, First Individual Human Genome, ENCODE Pilot, 718
2008: Platypus, First Cancer Genome, First Personal Genome Using NGS, 718
2009: Bovine, First Human Methyome Map, 718
2010: 1000 Genomes Pilot, Neandertal , Exome Sequencing to Find Disease Genes, 719
2011: A Vision for the Future of Genomics, 719
2012: Denisovan Genome, Bonobo, and 1000 Genomes Project, 719
2013: The Simplest Animal and a 700,000-Year-Old Horse, 719
2014: Mouse ENCODE, Primates, Plants, and Ancient Hominids, 719
2015: Diversity in Africa, 720
Genome Analysis Projects: Introduction, 720
Large-Scale Genomics Projects, 721
Criteria for Selection of Genomes for Sequencing, 722
Genome Size, 722
Cost, 722
Relevance to Human Disease, 723
Relevance to Basic Biological Questions, 724
Relevance to Agriculture, 724
Sequencing of One Versus Many Individuals from a Species, 724
Role of Comparative Genomics, 724
Resequencing Projects, 725
Ancient DNA Projects, 725
Metagenomics Projects, 725
Genome Analysis Projects: Sequencing, 728
Genome-Sequencing Centers, 728
Trace Archive: Repository for Genome Sequence Data, 728
HTGS Archive: Repository for Unfinished Genome Sequence Data, 730
Genome Analysis Projects: Assembly, 730
Four Approaches to Genome Assembly, 730
Genome Assembly: From FASTQ to Contigs with Velvet, 733
Comparative Genome Assembly: Mapping Contigs to Known Genomes, 734
Finishing: When Has a Genome Been Fully Sequenced?, 735
Genome Assembly: Measures of Success, 735
Genome Assembly: Challenges, 735
Genome Analysis Projects: Annotation, 737
Annotation of Genes in Eukaryotes: Ensembl Pipeline, 738
Annotation of Genes in Eukaryotes: NCBI Pipeline, 739
Core Eukaryotic Genes Mapping Approach (CEGMA), 739
Assemblies from the Genome Reference Consortium, 741
Assembly Hubs and Transfers at UCSC, Ensembl, and NCBI, 741
Annotation of Genes in Bacteria and Archaea, 741
Genome Annotation Standards, 741
Perspective, 742

- Pitfalls, 742
- Advice for Students, 743
 - Discussion Questions, 743
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 743
 - Self-Test Quiz, 745
 - Suggested Reading, 743
 - References, 745

16 Completed Genomes: Viruses, 755

- Introduction, 755
 - International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) and Virus Species, 756
- Classification of Viruses, 758
 - Classification of Viruses Based on Morphology, 758
 - Classification of Viruses Based on Nucleic Acid Composition, 758
 - Classification of Viruses Based on Genome Size, 758
 - Classification of Viruses Based on Disease Relevance, 760
 - Diversity and Evolution of Viruses, 762
 - Metagenomics and Virus Diversity, 764
- Bioinformatics Approaches to Problems in Virology, 765
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), 766
 - NCBI and LANL resources for HIV-1, 766
- Influenza Virus, 771
- Measles Virus, 774
- Ebola Virus, 775
- Herpesvirus: From Phylogeny to Gene Expression, 776
 - The Pairwise Sequence Comparison (PASC) Tool, 780
- Giant Viruses, 782
 - Comparing genomes with MUMmer, 783
- Perspectives, 785
- Pitfalls, 786
- Advice for Students, 786
- Web Resources, 786
 - Discussion Questions, 787
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 787
 - Self-Test Quiz, 788
 - Suggested Reading, 789
 - References, 789

17 Completed Genomes: Bacteria and Archaea, 797

- Introduction, 797
- Classification of Bacteria and Archaea, 798
 - Classification of Bacteria by Morphological Criteria, 800
 - Classification of Bacteria and Archaea Based on Genome Size and Geometry, 801

- Classification of Bacteria and Archaea Based on Lifestyle, 805
- Classification of Bacteria Based on Human Disease Relevance, 808
- Classification of Bacteria and Archaea Based on Ribosomal RNA Sequences, 809
- Classification of Bacteria and Archaea Based on Other Molecular Sequences, 810
- The Human Microbiome, 811
- Analysis of Bacterial and Archaeal Genomes, 814
 - Nucleotide Composition, 817
 - Finding Genes, 819
 - Interpolated Context Model (ICM), 822
 - GLIMMER3, 824
 - Challenges of Bacterial and Archaeal Gene Prediction, 825
 - Gene Annotation, 825
 - Lateral Gene Transfer, 827
- Comparison of Bacterial Genomes, 830
 - TaxPlot, 830
 - MUMmer, 833
- Perspective, 834
- Pitfalls, 835
- Advice for Students, 835
- Web Resources, 835
 - Discussion Questions, 836
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 836
 - Self-Test Quiz, 836
 - Suggested Reading, 837
 - References, 837

18 Eukaryotic Genomes: Fungi, 847

- Introduction, 847
- Description and Classification of Fungi, 848
- Introduction to Budding Yeast *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*, 849
 - Sequencing Yeast Genome, 851
 - Features of Budding Yeast Genome, 851
 - Exploring Typical Yeast Chromosome, 854
 - Web Resources for Analyzing a Chromosome, 854
 - Exploring Variation in a Chromosome with Command-Line Tools, 857
 - Finding Genes in a Chromosome with Command-Line Tools, 858
 - Properties of Yeast Chromosome XII, 860
- Gene Duplication and Genome Duplication of *S. cerevisiae*, 860
- Comparative Analyses of Hemiascomycetes, 865
 - Comparative Analyses of Whole-Genome Duplication, 866
 - Identification of Functional Elements, 868
- Analysis of Fungal Genomes, 869
 - Fungi in the Human Microbiome, 870

- Aspergillus, 871
- Candida albicans, 871
- Cryptococcus neoformans*: model fungal pathogen, 872
- Atypical Fungus: Microsporidial Parasite *Encephalitozoon cuniculi*, 873
- Neurospora crassa, 873
- First Basidiomycete: *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, 875
- Fission Yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, 875
- Other Fungal Genomes, 876
- Ten Leading Fungal Plant Pathogens, 876
- Perspective, 876
- Pitfalls, 877
- Advice for Students, 877
- Web Resources, 877
 - Discussion Questions, 877
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 878
 - Self-Test Quiz, 879
 - Suggested Reading, 880
 - References, 880

19 Eukaryotic Genomes: From Parasites to Primates, 887

- Introduction, 887
- Protozoans at Base of Tree Lacking Mitochondria, 890
 - Trichomonas*, 890
 - Giardia lamblia*: A Human Intestinal Parasite, 891
- Genomes of Unicellular Pathogens: Trypanosomes and *Leishmania*, 890
 - Trypanosomes, 892
 - Leishmania*, 894
- The Chromalveolates, 895
 - Malaria Parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, 895
 - More Apicomplexans, 898
 - Astonishing Ciliophora: *Paramecium* and *Tetrahymena*, 899
 - Nucleomorphs, 902
 - Kingdom Stramenopila, 904
- Plant Genomes, 906
 - Overview, 906
 - Green Algae (*Chlorophyta*), 908
 - Arabidopsis thaliana* Genome, 910
 - The Second Plant Genome: Rice, 913
 - Third Plant: Poplar, 914
 - Fourth Plant: Grapevine, 915
 - Giant and Tiny Plant Genomes, 915
 - Hundreds More Land Plant Genomes, 915
 - Moss, 916
- Slime and Fruiting Bodies at the Feet of Metazoans, 916
 - Social Slime Mold *Dictyostelium discoideum*, 916

Metazoans, 917

Introduction to Metazoans, 917

900 MYA: the Simple Animal *Caenorhabditis elegans*, 918900 MYA: *Drosophila melanogaster* (First Insect Genome), 919900 MYA: *Anopheles gambiae* (Second Insect Genome), 921

900 MYA: Silkworm and Butterflies, 922

900 MYA: Honeybee, 923

900 MYA: A Swarm of Insect Genomes, 923

840 MYA: A Sea Urchin on the Path to Chordates, 924

800 MYA: *Ciona intestinalis* and the Path to Vertebrates, 925

450 MYA: Vertebrate Genomes of Fish, 926

350 MYA: Frogs, 929

320 MYA: Reptiles (Birds, Snakes, Turtles, Crocodiles), 929

180 MYA: The Platypus and Opossum Genomes, 931

100 MYA: Mammalian Radiation from Dog to Cow, 933

80 MYA: The Mouse and Rat, 934

5–50 MYA: Primate Genomes, 937

Perspective, 940

Pitfalls, 941

Advice for Students, 941

Web Resources, 942

Discussion Questions, 942

Problems/Computer Lab, 942

Self-Test Quiz, 943

Suggested Reading, 944

References, 944

20 Human Genome, 957

Introduction, 957

Main Conclusions of Human Genome Project, 958

Gateways to Access the Human Genome, 959

NCBI, 959

Ensembl, 959

University of California at Santa Cruz Human Genome Browser, 961

NHGRI, 961

Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, 964

Human Genome Project, 964

Background of Human Genome Project, 964

Strategic Issues: Hierarchical Shotgun Sequencing to Generate Draft Sequence, 966

Human Genome Assemblies, 966

Broad Genomic Landscape, 968

Long-Range Variation in GC Content, 969

CpG Islands, 969

Comparison of Genetic and Physical Distance, 970

- Repeat Content of Human Genome, 971
 - Transposon-Derived Repeats, 972
 - Simple Sequence Repeats, 973
 - Segmental Duplications, 973
- Gene Content of Human Genome, 974
 - Noncoding RNAs, 975
 - Protein-Coding Genes, 975
 - Comparative Proteome Analysis, 975
 - Complexity of Human Proteome, 978
- 25 Human Chromosomes, 979
 - Group A (Chromosomes 1–3), 981
 - Group B (Chromosomes 4, 5), 982
 - Group C (Chromosomes 6–12, X), 983
 - Group D (Chromosomes 13–15), 983
 - Group E (Chromosomes 16–18), 984
 - Group F (Chromosomes 19, 20), 984
 - Group G (Chromosomes 21, 22, Y), 984
 - Mitochondrial Genome, 985
- Human Genome Variation, 986
 - SNPs, Haplotypes, and HapMap, 986
 - Viewing and Analyzing SNPs and Haplotypes, 988
 - HaploView, 988
 - HapMap Browser, 988
 - Integrative Genomics Browser (IGV), 988
 - NCBI dbSNP, 988
 - PLINK, 992
 - SNPduo, 990
 - Major Conclusions of HapMap Project, 994
 - The 1000 Genomes Project, 995
 - Variation: Sequencing Individual Genomes, 998
- Perspective, 999
- Pitfalls, 1000
- Advice for Students, 1001
 - Discussion Questions, 1001
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 1001
 - Self-Test Quiz, 1003
 - Suggested Reading, 1004
 - References, 1004

21 Human Disease, 1011

- Human Genetic Disease: A Consequence of DNA Variation, 1011
 - A Bioinformatics Perspective on Human Disease, 1012
 - Garrod's View of Disease, 1014
 - Classification of Disease, 1015
 - NIH Disease Classification: MeSH Terms, 1017

- Categories of Disease, 1020
 - Allele Frequencies and Effect Sizes, 1020
 - Monogenic Disorders, 1021
 - Complex Disorders, 1024
 - Genomic Disorders, 1025
 - Environmentally Caused Disease, 1029
 - Disease and Genetic Background, 1030
 - Mitochondrial Disease, 1030
 - Somatic Mosaic Disease, 1032
 - Cancer: A Somatic Mosaic Disease, 1033
- Disease Databases, 1036
 - OMIM: Central Bioinformatics Resource for Human Disease, 1036
 - Human Gene Mutation Database (HGMD), 1039
 - ClinVar and Databases of Clinically Relevant Variants, 1040
 - GeneCards, 1041
 - Integration of Disease Database Information at the UCSC Genome Browser, 1041
 - Locus-Specific Mutation Databases and LOVD, 1041
 - The PhenCode Project, 1044
 - Limitations of Disease Databases: The Growing Interpretive Gap, 1045
 - Human Disease Genes and Amino Acid Substitutions, 1045
- Approaches to Identifying Disease-Associated Genes and Loci, 1046
 - Linkage Analysis, 1047
 - Genome-Wide Association Studies, 1047
 - Identification of Chromosomal Abnormalities, 1050
 - Human Genome Sequencing, 1051
 - Genome Sequencing to Identify Monogenic Disorders, 1051
 - Genome Sequencing to Solve Complex Disorders, 1051
 - Research Versus Clinical Sequencing and Incidental Findings, 1052
 - Disease-causing Variants in Apparently Normal Individuals, 1054
- Human Disease Genes in Model Organisms, 1055
 - Human Disease Orthologs in Nonvertebrate Species, 1056
 - Human Disease Orthologs in Rodents, 1058
 - Human Disease Orthologs in Primates, 1059
- Functional Classification of Disease Genes, 1060
- Perspective, 1063
- Pitfalls, 1063
- Advice for Students, 1063
 - Discussion Questions, 1064
 - Problems/Computer Lab, 1062

Self-Test Quiz, 1065
Suggested Reading, 1066
References, 1066

GLOSSARY, 1075

SELF-TEST QUIZ: SOLUTIONS, 1103

AUTHOR INDEX, 1105

SUBJECT INDEX, 1109

Preface to the Third Edition

When the first edition of this textbook was published in 2003, the Human Genome Project had just been completed at a cost of nearly US\$ 3 billion. When the second edition came into print in 2009, the first genome sequence of an individual (J. Craig Venter) had recently been published at an estimated cost of US\$ 80 million.

Let me tell you a remarkable story. It is now 2015 and it costs just several thousand dollars to obtain the complete genome sequence of an individual. Sturge-Weber syndrome is a rare neurocutaneous disorder (affecting the brain and skin) that is sometimes debilitating: some patients must have a hemispherectomy (removal of half the brain) to alleviate the severe seizures. We obtained paired samples from just three individuals with Sturge-Weber syndrome: biopsies were from affected parts of the body (such as port-wine stains that occur on the face, neck, or shoulder) or from presumably unaffected regions. We purified DNA and sequenced these six whole genomes, compared the matched pairs, and identified a single base pair mutation in the *GNAQ* gene as responsible for Sturge-Weber syndrome. (The mutation is somatic, mosaic, and activating: somatic in that it occurs during development but is not transmitted from the parents; mosaic in that it affects just part of the body; and activating because *GNAQ* encodes a protein that in the mutated form turns on a signaling cascade.) We found that mutations in this gene also cause port-wine stain birthmarks (which affect 1 in 300 people or about 23 million people worldwide). Matt Shirley, then a graduate student in my lab, performed the bioinformatics analyses that led to this discovery. He analyzed about 700 billion bases of DNA. After finding the mutation he confirmed it by re-sequencing dozens of samples, typically at over 10,000-fold depth of coverage. We reported these findings in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2013.

This story illustrates several aspects of the fields of bioinformatics and genomics. First, we are in a time period when there is an explosive growth in the availability of DNA sequence. This is enabling us to address biological questions in unprecedented ways. Second, while it is inexpensive to acquire DNA sequences, it is essential to know how to analyze them. One goal of this book is to introduce sequence analysis. Third, bioinformatics serves biology: we can only interpret the significance of DNA sequence variation in the context of some biological process (such as a disease state). In the case of the *GNAQ* mutation, that gene encodes a protein (called *Gαq*) that we can study in tremendous detail using the tools of bioinformatics; we can evaluate its three-dimensional structure, the proteins and chemical messengers it interacts with, and the cellular pathways it participates in. Fourth, bioinformatics and genomics offer us hope. For Sturge-Weber syndrome patients and those with port-wine stain birthmarks, we are hopeful that a molecular understanding of these conditions will lead to treatments.

This book is written by a biologist who has used the tools of bioinformatics to help understand biomedical research questions. I introduce concepts in the context of biological problem-solving. Compared to earlier editions, this new text emphasizes command-line software on the Linux (or Mac) platform, complemented by web-based approaches.

In an era of “Big Data” there is a great divide between those whose intellectual core is centered in biomedical science and those whose focus involves computer science. I hope this book helps to bridge the divide between these two cultures.

Writing a book like this is a wonderful and constant learning experience. I thank past and present members of my lab who taught me including Shruthi Bandyadka (for advice on R), Christopher Bouton, Carlo Colantuoni, Donald Freed (for extensive advice on next-generation sequencing or NGS), Laurence Frelin, Mari Kondo, Sarah McClymont, Nathaniel Miller, Alicia Rizzo, Eli Roberson, Matt Shirley (who also provided extensive NGS advice), Eric Stevens, and Jamie Wangen. For advice on specific chapters, I thank: Ben Busby of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) for advice regarding Chapters 1, 2, and 5 and detailed comments on Chapters 9 and 10; Eric Sayers and Jonathan Kans of NCBI for advice on EDirect in Chapter 2; Heiko Schmidt for advice on TREE-PUZZLE and MrBayes in Chapter 7; Joel Benington for detailed comments on Chapters 8 and 15–19 and helpful discussions about teaching; Harold Lehmann for guidance on various fields of informatics; and N. Varg for helpful comments on all chapters. I thank many colleagues who participated in teaching bioinformatics and genomics courses over the years. I’ve learned from all these teachers, including Dimitri Avramopoulos, Jef Boeke, Kyle Cunningham, Garry Cutting, George Dimopoulos, Egert Hoiczky, Rafael Irizarry, Akhilesh Pandey, Sean Prigge, Ingo Ruczinski, Alan Scott, Alan F. Scott, Kirby D. Smith, David Sullivan, David Valle, and Sarah Wheelan. I am grateful to faculty members with whom I taught genomics workshops including Elana Fertig, Luigi Marchionni, John McGready, Loris Mulroni, Frederick Tan, and Sarah Wheelan. This book includes several thousand literature references, but I apologize to the many more colleagues whose work I did not cite. I also cite 900 websites and again apologize to the developers of the many I did not include.

I also acknowledge the support of Dr Gary W. Goldstein, President and CEO of the Kennedy Krieger Institute where I work. Kennedy Krieger Institute sees 22,000 patients a year, mostly children with neurodevelopmental disorders from common conditions (such as autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability) to rare genetic diseases. I am motivated to try to apply the tools of bioinformatics and genomics to help these children. This perspective has guided my writing of this book, which emphasizes the relevance of all the topics in bioinformatics and genomics to human disease in general. We are hopeful that genomics will lead to an understanding of the molecular bases of so many devastating conditions, and this in turn may one day lead to better diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and perhaps even cures.

It is my pleasure to thank my editors at Wiley-Blackwell – Laura Bell, Celia Carden, Beth Dufour, Elaine Rowan, Fiona Seymour, Audrie Tan, and Rachel Wade – for generous support throughout this project. I appreciate all their dedication to the quality of the book.

On a personal note I thank my wife Barbara for her love and support throughout the very long process of writing this textbook. Finally, to my girls Ava and Lillian: I hope you’ll always be inspired to be curious and full of wonder about the world around us.

About the Companion Website

This book is accompanied by a companion website:

www.wiley.com/go/pevsnerbioinformatics

Readers can visit this website for supplemental information, such as PowerPoint files of all the figures and tables from the book, solutions to the Self-Test Quizzes and Problems found at the end of each chapter.

The author also maintains a comprehensive website for the book:

www.bioinfbook.org

This site features lecture files (in PowerPoint and audiovisual format), over 900 Web Links and over 130 Web Documents that are referred to throughout the book as well as videocasts of how to perform many basic operations.