For written notes on this lecture, please read chapter 19 of *The Practical Bioinformatician* and *Hawkins & Kihara, JBCB 5(1):1-30, 2007*

CS2220: Introduction to Computational Biology Lecture 7: Sequence Homology Interpretation

Limsoon Wong
13 March 2009



Plan



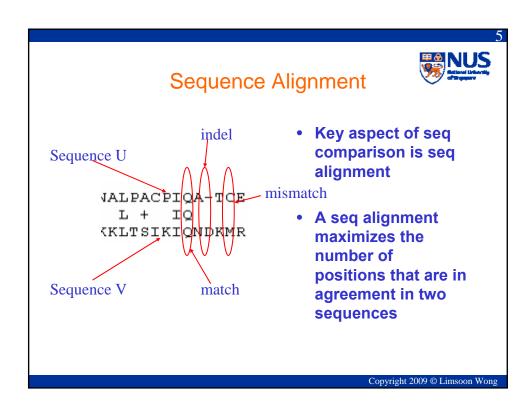
- · Recap of sequence alignment
- Guilt by association
- Active site/domain discovery
- What if no homology of known function is found?
 - Genome phylogenetic profiling
 - Protfun
 - SVM-Pairwise
 - Protein-protein interactions
- Key mutation site discovery

Very Brief Recap of Sequence Comparison/Alignment



Motivations for Sequence Comparison

- DNA is blue print for living organisms
- ⇒ Evolution is related to changes in DNA
- ⇒ By comparing DNA sequences we can infer evolutionary relationships between the sequences w/o knowledge of the evolutionary events themselves
- Foundation for inferring function, active site, and key mutations



Sequence Alignment: Poor Example NUS

- Poor seq alignment shows few matched positions
- ⇒ The two proteins are not likely to be homologous

Alignment by FASTA of the sequences of amicyanin and domain 1 of ascorbate oxidase

No obvious match between Amicyanin and Ascorbate Oxidase



- · Good alignment usually has clusters of extensive matched positions
- ⇒ The two proteins are likely to be homologous

```
Sgi|13476732|ref|NP_108301.1| unknown protein [Mesorhizobium loti]
gil14027493|dbj|BAB53762.1| unknown protein [Mesorhizobium loti]
        Length = 105
Score = 105 bits (262), Expect = 1e-22
Identities = 61/106 (57%), Positives = 73/106 (68%), Gaps = 1/106 (0%)
Query: 1 MKPGRLASIALAIIFLPMAVPAHAATIEITMENLVISPTEVSAKVGDTIRWVNKDVFAHT 60
                         MA PA AATIE+T++ LV SP V AKVGDTI WVN DV AHT
          MK G L ++
         MKAGALIRLSWLAALALMAAPAAAATIEVTIDKLVFSPATVEAKVGDTIEWVNNDVVAHT 60
Shict: 1
                    good match between
         Amicyanin and unknown M. loti protein
```

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Multiple Alignment: An Example



- Multiple seq alignment maximizes number of positions in agreement across several segs
- seqs belonging to same "family" usually have more conserved positions in a multiple seq alignment

FHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKACNP--QYAGAIVVHCSAGVGRTGTFVVIDAMLD gi|126467| gi|2499753 FHFTGWPDHGVPYHATGLLSFIRRVKLSNP--PSAGPIVVHCSAGAGRTGCYIVIDIMLD gi|462550| YHYTQWPDMGVPEYALPVLTFVRRSSAARM--PETGPVIVHCSAGVGRTGTYIVIDSMLQ FHFTSWPDHGVPDTTDLLINFRYLVRDYMKQSPPESPILVHCSAGVGRTGTFIAIDRLIY gi|2499751 FQFTAWPDHGVPEHPTPFLAFLRRVKTCNP--PDAGPMVHCSAGVGRTGCFIVIDAMLE gi|1709906 LHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKTLNP--VHAGPTVVHCSAGVGRTGTFIVIDAMMA
FHFTGWPDHGVPYHATGLLSFIRRVKLSNP--PSAGPIVVHCSAGAGRTGCYIVIDIMLD gi|126471| gi|548626| FHFTGWPDHGVPYHATGLLGFVRQVKSKSP--PNAGPLVVHCSAGAGRTGCFIVIDIMLD gi|131570| FHFTSWPDHGVPDTTDLLINFRYLVRDYMKQSPPESPILVHCSAGVGRTGTFIAIDRLIY gi|2144715 ..* *** *** * * * * 1 * ****... ** ..

Conserved sites

Application of Sequence Comparison: Guilt-by-Association



A protein is a ...



- A protein is a large complex molecule made up of one or more chains of amino acids
- Protein performs a wide variety of activities in the cell



Function Assignment to Protein Sequence

SPSTNRKYPPLPVDKLEEEINRRMADDNKLFREEFNALPACPIQATCEAASKEENKEKNR
YVNILPYDHSRVHLTPVEGVPDSDYINASFINGYQEKNKFIAAQGPKEETVNDFWRMIWE
QNTATIVMVTNLKERKECKCAQYWPDQGCWTYGNVRVSVEDVTVLVDYTVRKFCIQQVGD
VTNRKPQRLITQFHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKACNPQYAGAIVVHCSAGVGRTG
TFVVIDAMLDMMHSERKVDVYGFVSRIRAQRCQMVQTDMQYVFIYQALLEHYLYGDTELE
VT

 How do we attempt to assign a function to a new protein sequence?

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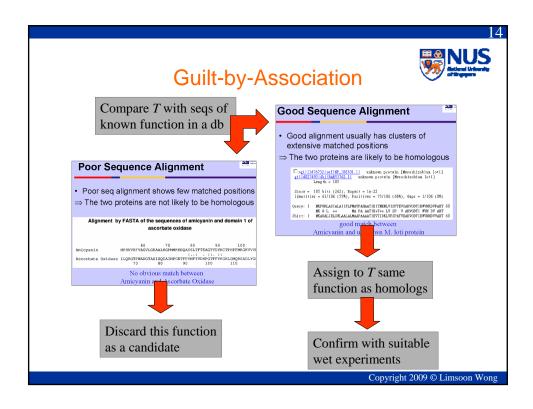
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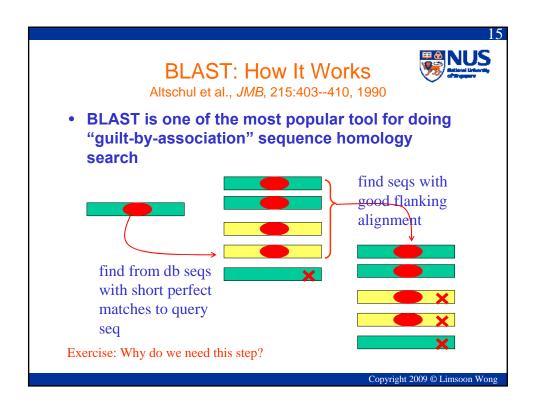
Invariant and Abductive Reasonir Function is determined ⇒ Abductive reasoning by 3D struct of protein & - If those invariant environment protein is in properties are seen in a protein, then the protein is homolog of this protein Constraints imposed by Entailment A → B 3D struct & environment give rise to "invariant" properties observed in Hypothesis/ Observation/ proteins having the Fact A Conclusion B ancestor with that function ⇒ "Guilt by association"

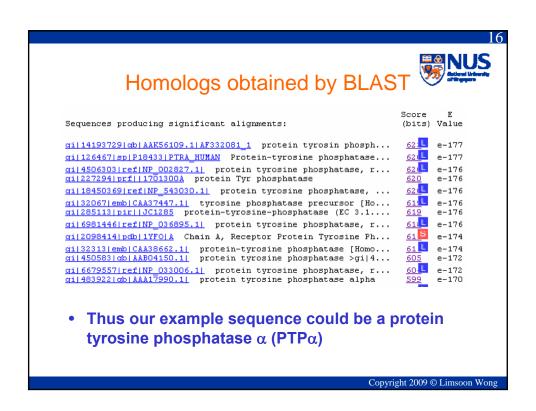


Guilt-by-Association

- Compare the target sequence T with sequences $S_1, ..., S_n$ of known function in a database
- Determine which ones amongst S₁, ..., S_n are the mostly likely homologs of T
- Then assign to T the same function as these homologs
- . Finally, confirm with suitable wet experiments









Example Alignment with PTP α

```
Score = 632 bits (1629), Expect = e-180
 Identities = 294/302 (97%), Positives = 294/302 (97%)
Query: 1 SPSTNRKYPPLPVDKLEEEINRRMADDNKLFREEFNALPACP:QATCEAASXXXXXXXXR 60
           SPSTNRKYPPLPVDKLEEEINRRMADDNKLFREEFNALPACP:QATCEAAS
Sbjot: 202 SPSTNRKYPPLPVDKLEEEINRRMADDNKLFREEFNALPACPIQATCEAASKEENKEKNR 261
Query: 61 YVNILPYDHSRVHLTPVEGVPDSDYINASFINGYQEKNKFIAAQGPKEETVNDFWRMIWE 120
           YVN ILPYDHSRVHLTPVEGVPDSDY I NASF I NGYQEKNKF I AAQGPKEETVNDFWRMI WE
Sbjct: 262 YVNILPYDHSRVHLTPVEGVPDSDYINASFINGYQEKNKFIAAQGPKEETVNDFWRMIWE 321
Query: 121 QNTATIVMVTNLKERKECKCAQYWPDQGCWTYGNVRVSVEDVTVLVDYTVRKFCIQQVGD 180
           QNTATIVMVTNLKERKECKCAQYWPDQGCWTYGNVRVSVEDVTVLVDYTVRKFCIQQVGD
Sbjet: 322 QNTATIVMVTNLKERKECKCAQYWPDQGCWTYGNVRVSVEDVTVLVDYTVRKFCIQQVGD 381
Query: 181 VTNRKPQRLITQFHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKACNPQYAGAIVVHCSAGVGRTG 240
           VTNRKPQRLITQFHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKACNPQYAGAIVVHCSAGVGRTG
Sbjct: 382 VTNRKPQRLITQFHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKACNPQYAGAIVVHCSAGVGRTG 441
Query: 241 TFVVIDAMLDMMHSERKVDVYGFVSRIRAQRCQMVQTDMQYVFIYQALLFHYLYGDTELE 300
           TFVVIDAMLDMMHSERKVDVYGFVSRIRAQRCQMVQTDMQYVFIYQALLEHYLYGDTELE
Sbjet: 442 TFVVIDAMLDMMHSERKVDVYGFVSRIRAQRCQMVQTDMQYVFIYQALLEHYLYGDTELE 501
```

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Guilt-by-Association: Caveats

- Ensure that the effect of database size has been accounted for
- Ensure that the function of the homology is not derived via invalid "transitive assignment"
- Ensure that the target sequence has all the key features associated with the function, e.g., active site and/or domain

Law of Large Numbers

- Suppose you are in a room with 365 other people
- Q: What is the prob that a specific person in the room has the same birthday as you?
- A: 1/365 = 0.3%
- Q: What is the prob that there is a person in the room having the same birthday as you?
- A: 1 (364/365)³⁶⁵ = 63%
- Q: What is the prob that there are two persons in the room having the same birthday?
- A: 100%

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Interpretation of P-value

- Seq. comparison progs, e.g. BLAST, often associate a P-value to each hit
- · P-value is interpreted as prob that a random seq has an equally good alignment
- Suppose the P-value of an alignment is 10⁻⁶
- If database has 10⁷ seqs, then you expect $10^7 * 10^{-6} =$ 10 seqs in it that give an equally good alignment
- ⇒ Need to correct for database size if your seq comparison prog does not do that!

Exercise: Name a commonly used method

for correcting p-value for a situation like this

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Note: $P = 1 - e^{-E}$



Lightning Does Strike Twice!

- Roy Sullivan, a former park ranger from Virgina, was struck by lightning 7 times
 - 1942 (lost big-toe nail)
 - 1969 (lost eyebrows)
 - 1970 (left shoulder seared)
 - 1972 (hair set on fire)
 - 1973 (hair set on fire & legs seared)
 - 1976 (ankle injured)
 - 1977 (chest & stomach burned)
- September 1983, he committed suicide



Cartoon: Ron Hipschman Data: David Hand

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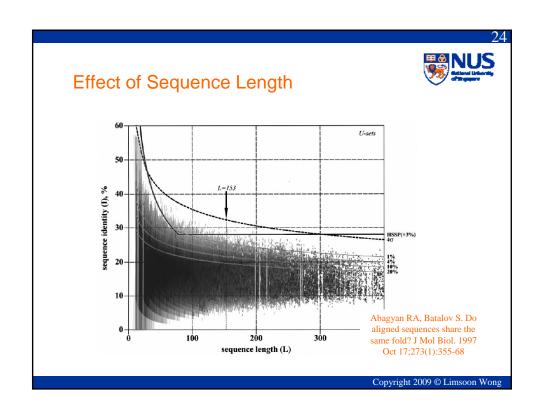
23

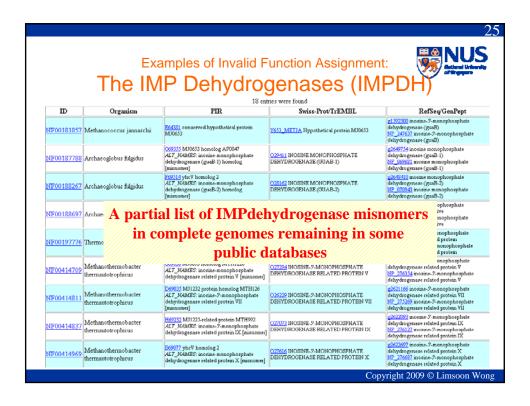


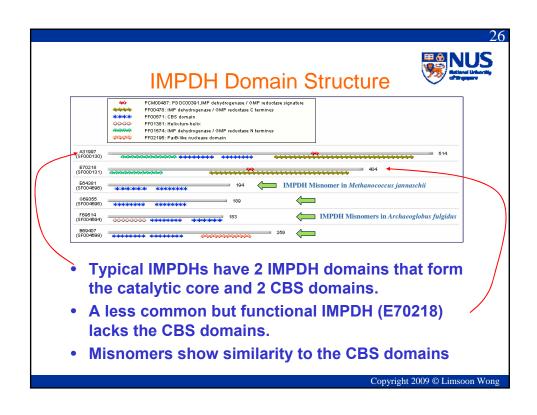
Effect of Seq Compositional Bias

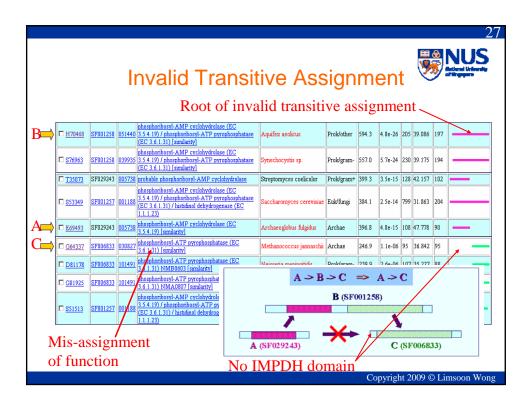
- One fourth of all residues in protein seqs occur in regions with biased amino acid composition
- Alignments of two such regions achieves high score purely due to segment composition
- ⇒ While it is worth noting that two proteins contain similar low complexity regions, they are best excluded when constructing alignments
- E.g., by default, BLAST employs the SEG algo to filter low complexity regions from proteins before executing a search

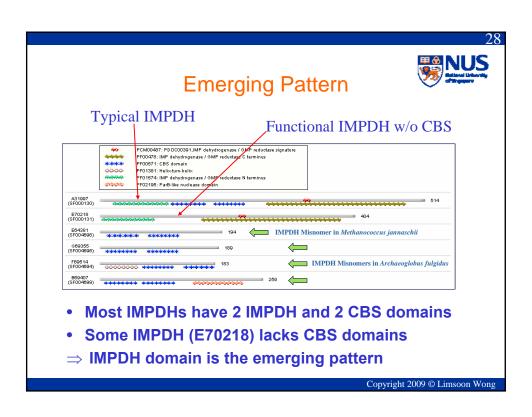
Source: NCBI











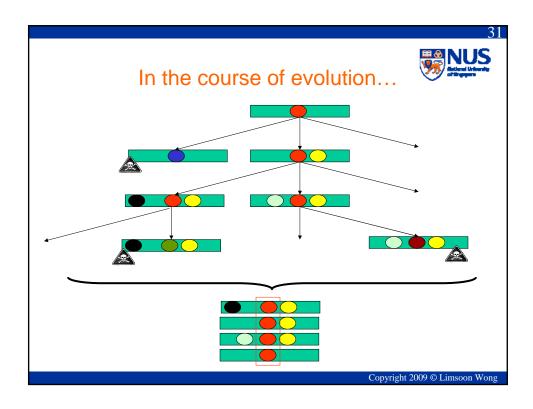
Application of Sequence Comparison: Active Site/Domain Discovery





- How to discover the active site and/or domain of a function in the first place?
 - Multiple alignment of homologous seqs
 - Determine conserved positions
 - ⇒ Emerging patterns relative to background
 - ⇒ Candidate active sites and/or domains
- Easier if sequences of distance homologs are used

Exercise: Why?





Multiple Alignment of PTPs

qi 126467	FHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKACNPOYAGAIVVHCSAGVGRTGTFVVIDAMLD
	FHFTGWPDHGVPYHATGLLSFIRRVKLSNPPSAGPIVVHCSAGAGRTGCYIVIDIMLD
gi 2499753	
gi 462550	YHYTQWPDMGVPEYALPVLTFVRRSSAARMPETGPVLVHCSAGVGRTGTYIVIDSMLQ
gi 2499751	${ t FHFTSWPDHGVPDTTDLLINFRYLVRDYMKQSPPESPILVHCSAGVGRTGTFIAIDRLIY}$
gi 1709906	FQFTAWPDHGVPEHPTPFLAFLRRVKTCNPPDAGPMVVHCSAGVGRTGCFIVIDAMLE
gi 126471	LHFTSWPDFGVPFTPIGMLKFLKKVKTLNPVHAGPIVVHCSAGVGRTGTFIVIDAMMA
gi 548626	FHFTGWPDHGVPYHATGLLSFIRRVKLSNPPSAGPIVVHCSAGAGRTGCYIVIDIMLD
gi 131570	FHFTGWPDHGVPYHATGLLGFVRQVKSKSPPNAGPLVVHCSAGAGRTGCFIVIDIMLD
gi 2144715	${\tt FHFTSWPDHGVPDTTDLLINFRYLVRDYMKQSPPESPILVHCSAGVGRTGTFIAIDRLIY}$

- Notice the PTPs agree with each other on some positions more than other positions
- These positions are more impt wrt PTPs
- Else they wouldn't be conserved by evolution
- ⇒ They are candidate active sites

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Guilt-by-Association:
What if no homolog of known function is found?

genome phylogenetic profiles protfun's feature profiles Similarity of dissimilarities





- Guilt by other types of association!
 - Domain modeling (e.g., HMMPFAM)
 - √ Similarity of phylogenetic profiles
 - ✓ Similarity of dissimilarities (e.g., SVM-PAIRWISE)
 - Similarity of subcellular co-localization & other physico-chemico properties(e.g., PROTFUN)
 - Similarity of gene expression profiles
 - ✓ Similarity of protein-protein interaction partners
 - **–** ...
 - Fusion of multiple types of info

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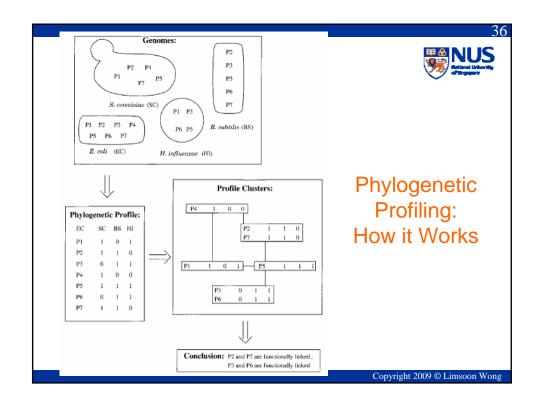
35



Phylogenetic Profiling

Pellegrini et al., PNAS, 96:4285--4288, 1999

- Gene (and hence proteins) with identical patterns of occurrence across phyla tend to function together
- ⇒ Even if no homolog with known function is available, it is still possible to infer function of a protein



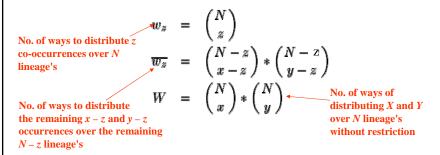
Phylogenetic Profiling: P-value



The probability of observing by chance z occurrences of genes X and Y in a set of N lineages, given that X occurs in x lineages and Y in y lineages is

$$P(z|N,x,y) = \frac{w_z * \overline{w_z}}{W}$$

where



Phylogenetic Profiles: Evidence Pellegrini et al., PNAS, 96:4285--4288, 1999 No. No. of nonneighbors neighbors homologous in random proteins in in keyword group Keyword group group Ribosome 197 27 Transcription 36 17 1026 5 tRNA synthase and ligase 11 5 25 Membrane proteins* 80 3 Flagellar 21 89 2 2 19 31 Iron, ferric, and ferritin 18 31 Galactose metabolism Molybdoterin and Molybdenum,

12

1,084

108,226

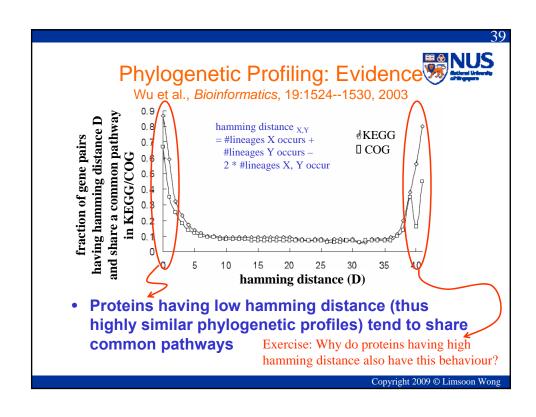
 E. coli proteins grouped based on similar keywords in SWISS-PROT have similar phylogenetic profiles

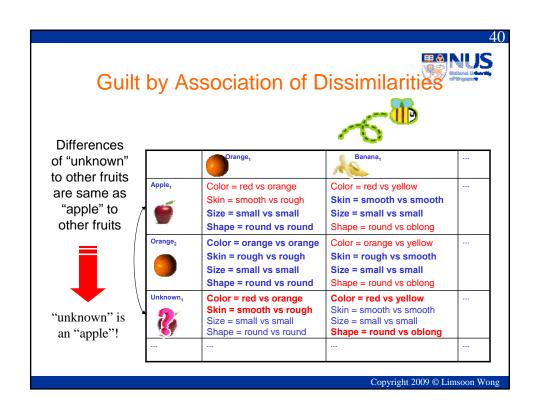
and molybdoterin

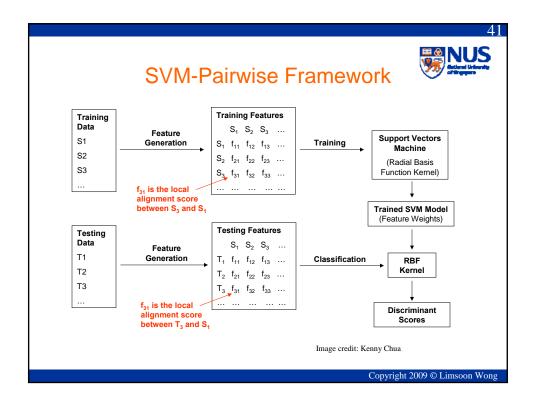
Hypothetical[†]

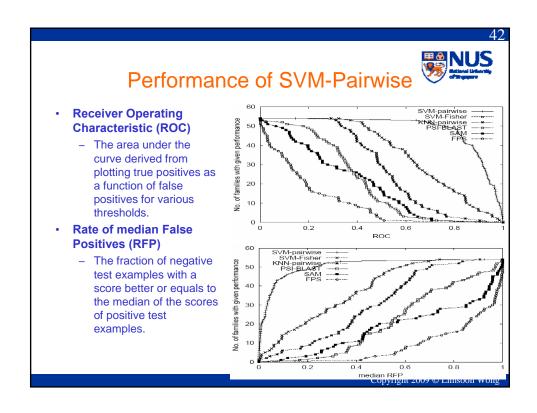
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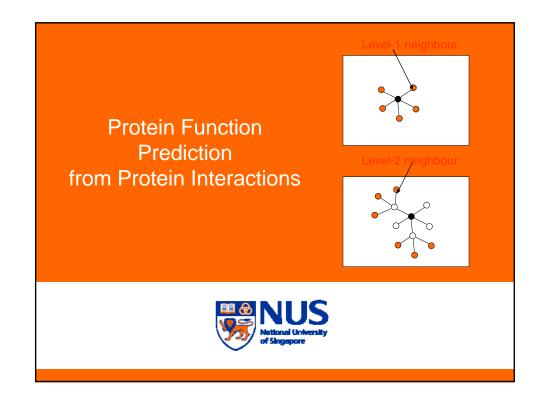
8,440











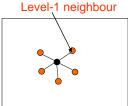


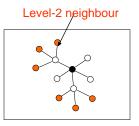
• Direct functional association:

- Interaction partners of a protein are likely to share functions w/ it
- Proteins from the same pathways are likely to interact

Indirect functional association

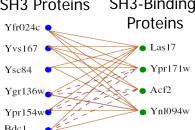
- Proteins that share interaction partners with a protein may also likely to share functions w/ it
- Proteins that have common biochemical, physical properties and/or subcellular localization are likely to bind to the same proteins



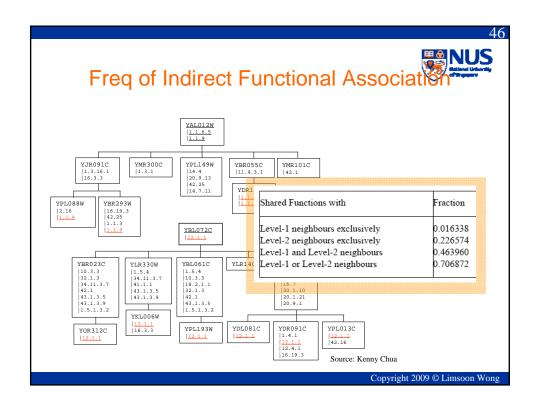


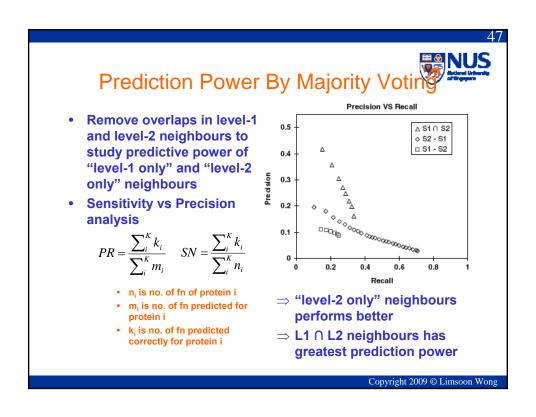
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An illustrative Case of Indirect Functional Association? SH3 Proteins SH3-Binding



- Is indirect functional association plausible?
- Is it found often in real interaction data?
- Can it be used to improve protein function prediction from protein interaction data?







Functional Similarity Estimate: Czekanowski-Dice Distance

• Functional distance between two proteins (Brun et al., 2003)

$$D(u,v) = \frac{|N_u \Delta N_v|}{|N_u \cup N_v| + |N_u \cap N_v|}$$

- N_k is the set of interacting partners of k
- X ∆ Y is symmetric diff betw two sets X and Y
- · Greater weight given to similarity

Is this a good measure if u neighbours?

⇒ Similarity can be defined as

$$S(u,v)=1-D(u,v)=\frac{2X}{2X+(Y+Z)}$$

Functional Similarity Estimate: FS-Weighted Measure



FS-weighted measure

$$S(u,v) = \frac{2|N_u \cap N_v|}{|N_u - N_v| + 2|N_u \cap N_v|} \times \frac{2|N_u \cap N_v|}{|N_v - N_u| + 2|N_u \cap N_v|}$$

- N_k is the set of interacting partners of k
- · Greater weight given to similarity
- ⇒ Rewriting this as

$$S(u,v) = \frac{2X}{2X+Y} \times \frac{2X}{2X+Z}$$



Correlation w/ Functional Similarit

• Correlation betw functional similarity & estimates

Neighbours	CD-Distance	FS-Weight
S_1 S_2 $S_1 \cup S_2$	0.471810 0.224705 0.224581	0.498745 0.298843 0.29629

 Equiv measure slightly better in correlation w/ similarity for L1 & L2 neighbours

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Reliability of Expt Sources



- Diff Expt Sources have diff reliabilities
 - Assign reliability to an interaction based on its expt sources (Nabieva et al, 2004)
- Reliability betw u and v computed by:

$$r_{u,v} = 1 - \prod_{i \in E_{u,v}} (1 - r_i)$$

- r_i is reliability of expt source i,
- E_{u,v} is the set of expt sources in which interaction betw u and v is observed

Source	Reliability	
Affinity Chromatography	0.823077	
Affinity Precipitation	0.455904	
Biochemical Assay	0.666667	
Dosage Lethality	0.5	
Purified Complex	0.891473	
Reconstituted Complex	0.5	
Synthetic Lethality	0.37386	
Synthetic Rescue	1	
Two Hybrid	0.265407	

Functional Similarity Estimate: FS-Weighted Measure with Reliability

 Take reliability into consideration when computing FS-weighted measure:

$$S_{R}(u,v) = \frac{2\sum_{w \in (N_{u} \cap N_{v})} r_{u,w} r_{v,w}}{\left(\sum_{w \in N_{u} - N_{v}} r_{u,w} + \sum_{w \in (N_{u} \cap N_{v})} r_{u,w} (1 - r_{v,w})\right) + 2\sum_{w \in (N_{u} \cap N_{v})} r_{u,w} r_{v,w}} \times \frac{2\sum_{w \in (N_{u} \cap N_{v})} r_{u,w} r_{v,w}}{\left(\sum_{w \in N_{v} - N_{u}} r_{v,w} + \sum_{w \in (N_{u} \cap N_{v})} r_{v,w} (1 - r_{u,w})\right) + 2\sum_{w \in (N_{u} \cap N_{v})} r_{u,w} r_{v,w}}$$

- N_k is the set of interacting partners of k
- $r_{u,w}$ is reliability weight of interaction betw u and v
- ⇒ **Rewriting**

$$S(u,v) = \frac{2X}{2X+Y} \times \frac{2X}{2X+Z}$$

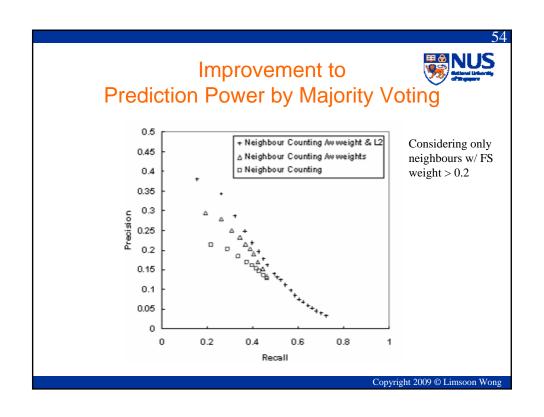
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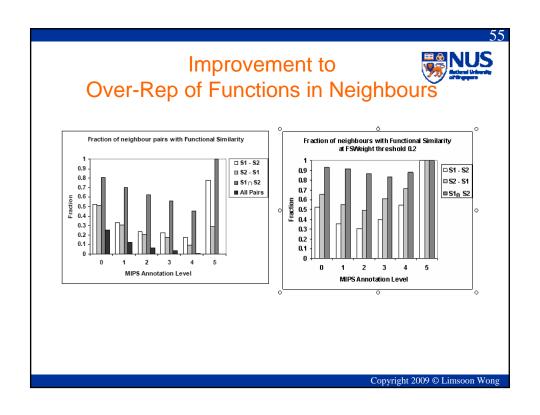
Integrating Reliability



 Equiv measure shows improved correlation w/ functional similarity when reliability of interactions is considered:

Neighbours	CD-Distance	FS-Weight	FS-Weight R
S_1 S_2 $S_1 \cup S_2$	0.471810 0.224705 0.224581	0.298843	0.532596 0.375317 0.363025







• FS-weighted Average

$$f_{x}(u) = \frac{1}{Z} \left[\lambda r_{\text{int}} \pi_{x} + \sum_{v \in N_{u}} \left(S_{TR}(u, v) \delta(v, x) + \sum_{w \in N_{v}} S_{TR}(u, w) \delta(w, x) \right) \right]$$

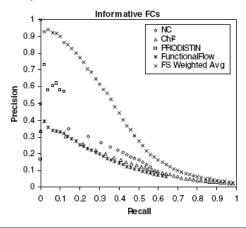
- r_{int} is fraction of all interaction pairs sharing function
- λ is weight of contribution of background freq
- $\delta(k, x) = 1$ if k has function x, 0 otherwise
- N_k is the set of interacting partners of k
- π_x is freq of function x in the dataset
- Z is sum of all weights,

$$Z = 1 + \sum_{v \in N_u} \left(S_{TR}(u, v) + \sum_{w \in N_v} S_{TR}(u, w) \right)$$

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Performance of FS-Weighted Averaging

 LOOCV comparison with Neighbour Counting, Chi-Square, PRODISTIN



Application of Sequence Comparison: Key Mutation Site Discovery



Identifying Key Mutation Sites K.L.Lim et al., JBC, 273:28986--28993, 1998



Sequence from a typical PTP domain D2

>g1|00000|PTPA-D2

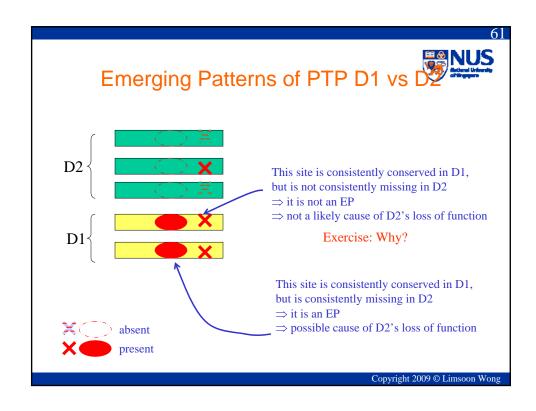
EEFFRITSIRIQMDEERTGHIP AMERIKANEVIQIIPYEFMRVIIPVERGEENTDYWASF IDOYRQEDSYIASQOPLLETIED FERKIEEEKSSIVELTELEEROQE RCAQYEPSDOLV SYOD ITVELKKEEECESYTVRDLLVYNTREHKSRQIRQFEFBOEPEVOIPSDOROEISII AANORQQQQGSGHEPITVECSAGAGRTOTYCALSTVLERVEAEGILDVFQTVKSLRLQRPE EVQTLEQYEFCYKWYOEYIDAFSDYAMFK

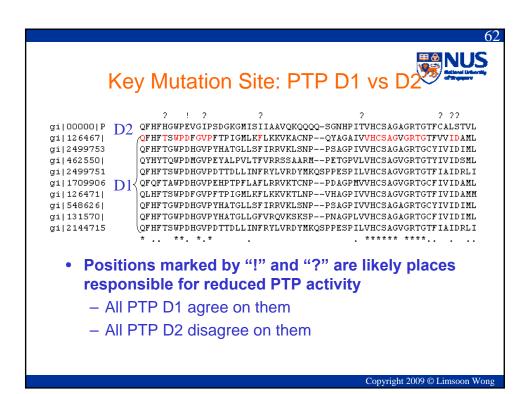
- Some PTPs have 2 PTP domains
- PTP domain D1 is has much more activity than PTP domain D2
- Why? And how do you figure that out?

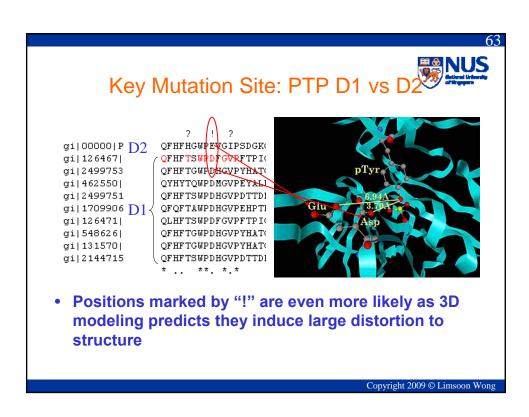


Emerging Patterns of PTP D1 vs I

- Collect example PTP D1 sequences
- Collect example PTP D2 sequences
- Make multiple alignment A1 of PTP D1
- Make multiple alignment A2 of PTP D2
- Are there positions conserved in A1 that are violated in A2?
- These are candidate mutations that cause PTP activity to weaken
- Confirm by wet experiments









- What wet experiments are needed to confirm the prediction?
 - Mutate $E \rightarrow D$ in D2 and see if there is gain in PTP activity
 - Mutate D \rightarrow E in D1 and see if there is loss in PTP activity

Exercise: Why do you need this 2-way expt?

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Concluding Remarks





What have we learned?

- General methodologies & applications
 - Guilt by association for protein function inference
 - Invariants for active site discovery
 - Emerging patterns for mutation site discovery
- Important tactics
 - Genome phylogenetic profiling
 - SVM-Pairwise
 - Protein-protein interactions

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Any Questions?





Acknowledgements

 Some of the slides are based on slides given to me by Kenny Chua

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