

Building Gene Networks by Information Extraction, Cleansing, & Integration

Limsoon Wong



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Plan



- **Motivation for study of gene network**
- **Example Efforts at I2R**
 - Disease Pathweaver
 - Dragon ERG Solution
- **Technical Challenges Involved**
 - Name entity recognition
 - Co-reference resolution
 - Protein interaction extraction
- **Discussion on issues**

Motivation



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Some Useful Information Sources



- **Disease-centric resources**
 - OMIM [[NCBI OMIM, 2004](#)]
 - Gene2Disease [[Perez-Iratxeta et al., Nature, 2002](#)]
 - MedGene [[Hu et al., J. Proteome Res., 2003](#)]
- **Emphasized direct gene-disease relationships**
 - Provide lists of disease-related genes
 - Do not provide info on gene-gene interactions & their networks
- **Related interaction resources**
 - KEGG [[Kanehisa, NAR, 2000](#)]
- **Manually constructed protein interaction networks**
- **Mostly metabolic pathways and few disease pathways**
 - Only 7 disease pathways

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Why Gene Network?

- **Many common diseases are**
 - not caused by a genetic variation within a single gene
- **But are influenced by**
 - complex interactions among multiple genes
 - environmental & lifestyle factors



Monogenic → Heterogenic

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Desired Outcome of Gene Network Study

- **Help scientists understand the mechanism of complex diseases by**
 - Greatly reducing work load for primary study of genetic diseases, broaden the scope of molecular studies
 - Easily identifying key players in the gene network, help in finding potential drug targets
- **Scalability framework**
 - Extend to many genetic diseases
 - Include other resources of gene interactions

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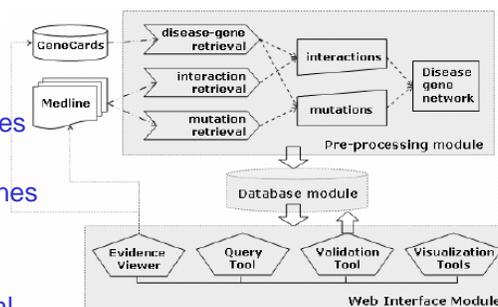
Some Gene Network Study Efforts at I²R

Disease Pathweaver
Dragon ERG Solution



Disease Pathweaver, Zhang et al. APBC 2005

- **Automatic constructing disease pathways**
 - Identify core genes
 - Mine info on core genes
 - Construct interaction network betw core genes
- **Data sources:**
 - Online literature
 - High-thru'put biological data



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Disease Pathweaver: The Portal



- **Portal for human nervous diseases gene networks**
 - <http://research.i2r.a-star.edu/NSDPath>
- **Statistics**
 - 37 Human Nervous System Disorders
 - 7 ~ 60 core genes per disease
 - 2 ~ 320 core interactions per disease

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Disease Pathweaver:
A Tour

Nervous System
Disease PathWeaver

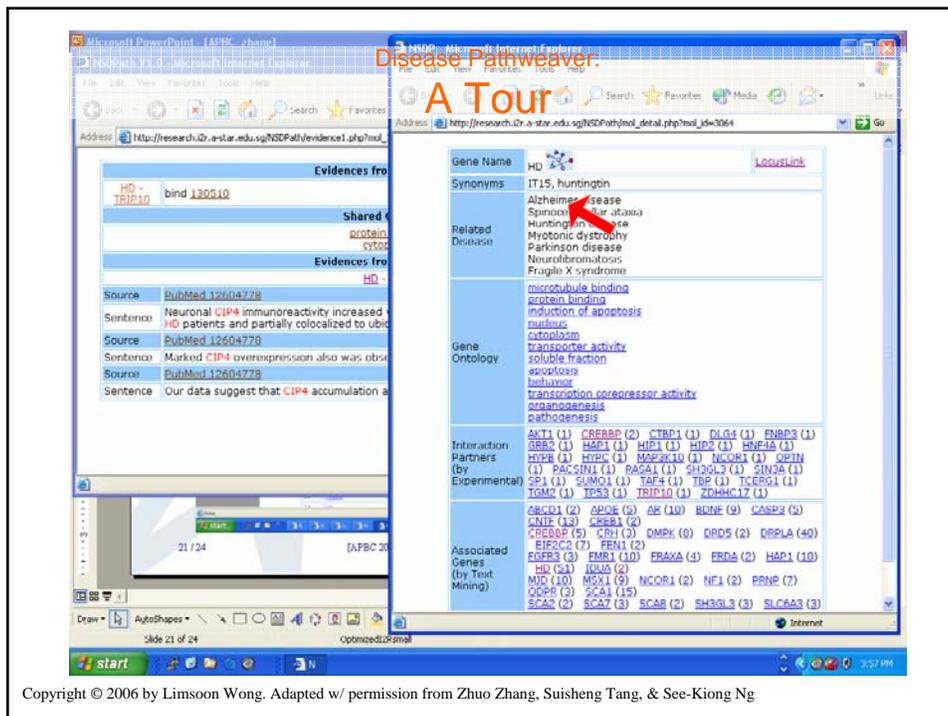
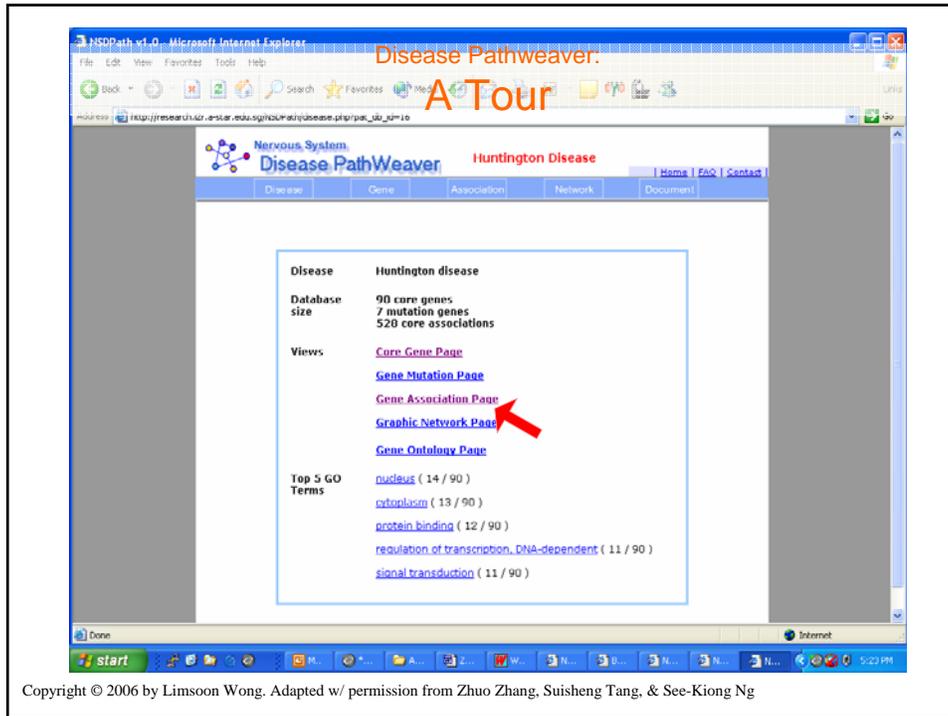
Home | FAQ | Contact

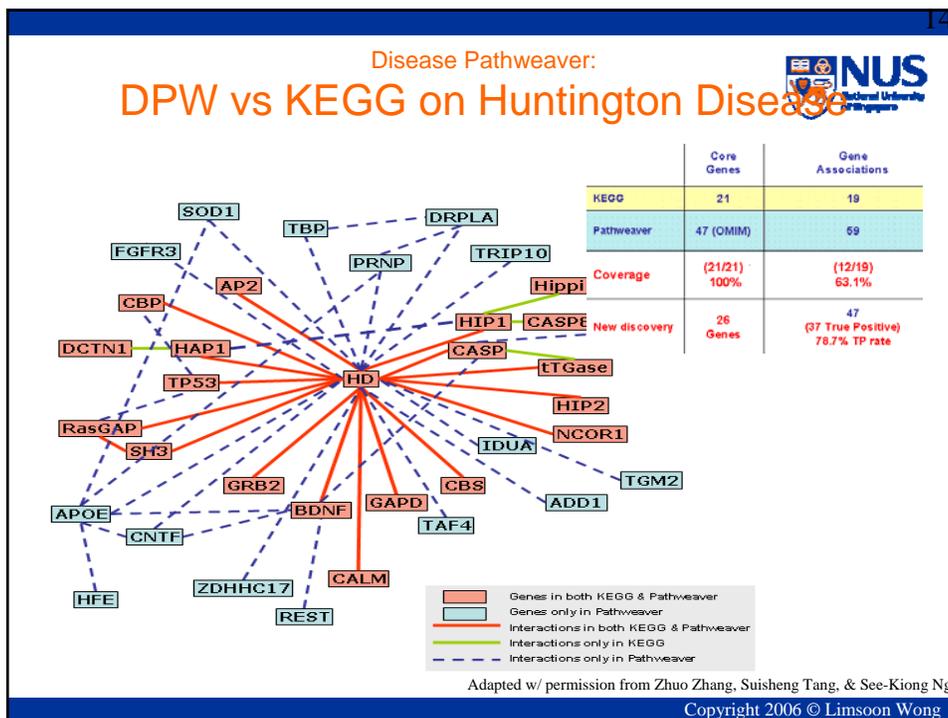
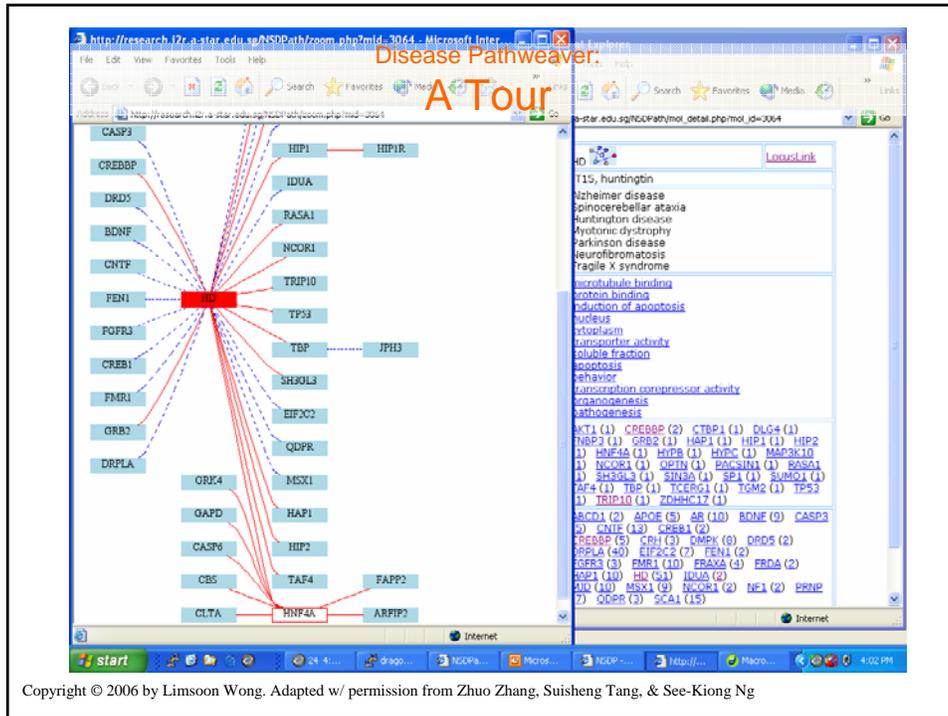
Select

There Current tely 37 diseases in NSDPath.
Please select a disease from the list:

no.	Disease name
1	Adrenoleukodystrophy
2	Alzheimer disease
3	Amotrophic lateral sclerosis
4	Angelman syndrome
5	Ataxia telangiectasia
6	CharcotMarieTooth syndrome
7	Cockayne syndrome
8	Deafness
9	Duchenne muscular dystrophy
10	Epilepsy
11	Essential tremor
12	Familial Mediterranean fever
13	Fragile X syndrome
14	Friedreich's ataxia
15	Gayle's syndrome
16	Hirschman's syndrome
17	Lesch-Nyhan syndrome
18	Martin's syndrome

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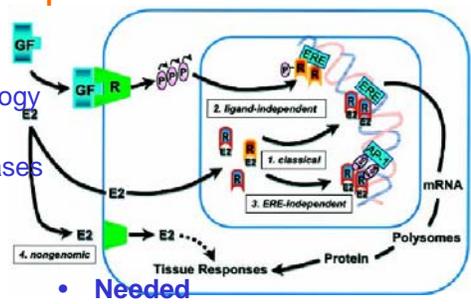






Estrogen-Responsive Genes

- **Why**
 - Affects human physiology in many aspects
 - Related to many diseases
 - Widely used in clinic
- **Challenges**
 - Multiple pathways
 - Difficult to predict ERE
 - Many estrogen-responsive genes but only a few are well-studied
 - Difficult to keep up w/ speed of knowledge accumulation

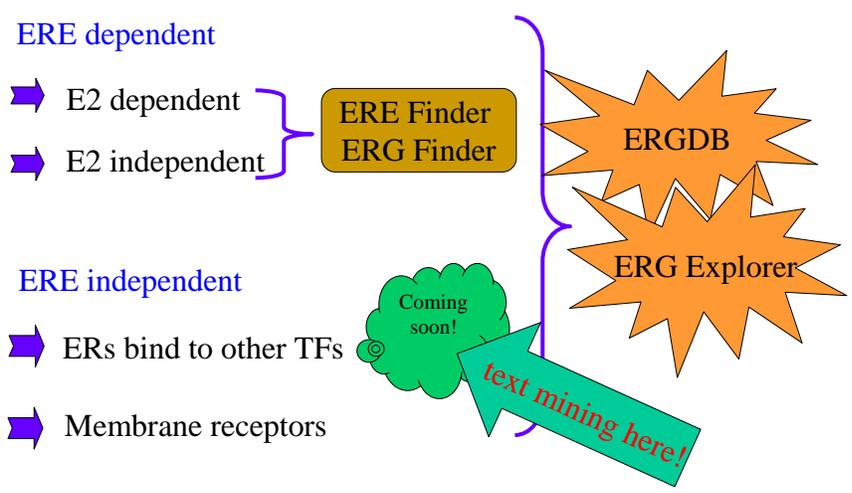


- **Needed**
 - Tools to predict ERE & estrogen-responsive genes
 - Database of useful info
 - Systems to predict imp regulatory units, associate gene functions, & generate global view of gene network

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Dragon ERG Solution



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Dragon ERG Solution:
Dragon ERE Finder,
 Bajic et al, *NAR*, 2003

- Predict functional ERE in genomic DNA
- One prediction in 13.3k bp
- Allow further analysis

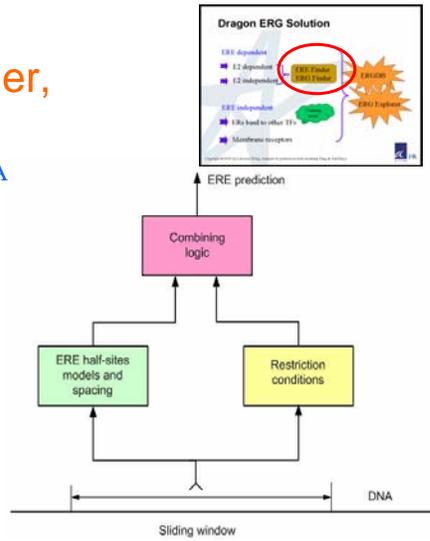
Sequence name: **gl|18590884:438190-434690|chromosome|19**
 Sequence length: **3501**
 # of bases: **A=906, C=974, G=928, T=693**
 Expected ERE sensitivity: **83%**

Predicted positions relative to the 5' end of the input sequence
ERE (red)

Forward strand
 1363 ◁ AG-GGTCA-CTT-CGGCC-CA new pattern
 3301 ▷ AA-GATCA-GTC-TGGCC-AA new pattern
 # of ERE guesses = 2

Reverse complement strand
 # of ERE guesses = 0

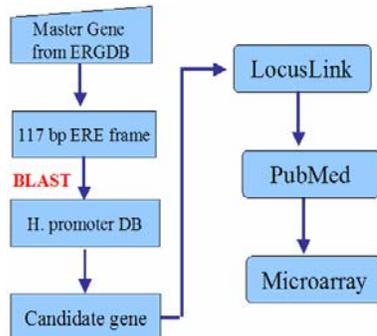
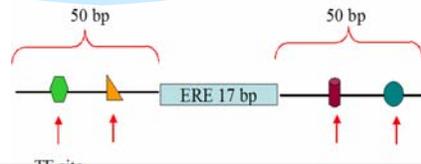
<http://sdmc.i2r.a-star.edu.sg/ERE-V2/index>



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Dragon ERG Solution:
Dragon Estrogen-Responsive Gene
Finder, Tang et al, *NAR*, 2004a

- Only for human genome
- Using 117 bp ERE frame
- Evaluated by PubMed & microarray data



http://sdmc.i2r.a-star.edu.sg/DRAGON/ERGP1_0

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Dragon ERG Solution:
Dragon Estrogen-Responsive Genes Database, Tang et al, *NAR*, 2004b



- Contains >1000 genes
- Manually curated
- Basic gene info
- Experimental evidence
- Full set of references
- ERE sites annotated

Gene Information	
Organism:	Homo sapiens (human)
Gene:	BCL2
Alternate Symbols:	Bcl-2
Description:	B-cell CLL/lymphoma 2
Chromosome:	18
Contig:	NT_025028
Locus Link:	596
Unigene Entry:	Hs.79241
Refseq/GenBank Link:	M13995, NM_000633, M13994, M14745, BC027258, X06487, NM_000657
Experimental Information	
Method:	RT-PCR, Northern, Southern and Western blots
In vivo/In vitro:	in vitro
Regulation:	up
Cell Line/Tissue:	ovary, surface epithelium cell lines
Time Point:	24 h - 6 days
	PUID:11356682

<http://sdmc.i2r.a-star.edu.sg/promoter/ERGdb-v11>

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Dragon ERG Solution:
DEERGE



Dragon Explorer of Estrogen Responsive Genes Functionality (DEERGE) Version 1.0

ATF3 (Homo sapiens)

- ⊗ Link to ERGDB ver 1.1 for gene ATF3 (Homo sapiens)
- ⊙ Orthologs of gene ATF3 (Homo sapiens)
- ⊙ *Ab-initio* DNA motifs found in the ortholog group of gene ATF3 (Homo sapiens)
- ⊙ **PFs and GO categories associate via text-mining to gene ATF3**
- ⊙ Gene expression (using eVOC) of ATF3 (Homo sapiens)

Submit Reset

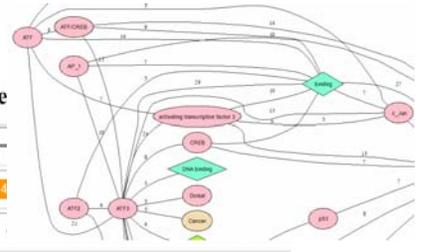
Graphical Representation for Ortholog Gene



Gene name ATF3
DEERGE

PubMed ID: 15231918
 Title: Adenyl Cyclase Type VI Gene Transfer Reduces Phospholamban Expression in Cardiac Myocytes via **Activating Transcription Factor 3**
 Abstract: Cardiac-directed expression of adenyl cyclase type VI (ACVI) increases stimulated cAMP production, improves the cardiomyopathy. In contrast, pharmacological agents that increase **phospholamban** levels of cAMP have detrimental effects on cardiac effects that an independent of cAMP might be responsible for these salutary outcomes associated with ACVI) expression. We investigated the effects of adenyl cyclase type VI (ACVI) on MRP-2 expression and protein expression induced by a phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) in cultured neonatal rat cardiac myocytes, with a particular focus on genes of MRP-2 expression in **ATF3** deficient CPTX-1532 cells, where the **ATF3** mRNA was destroyed with a DNazyme oligo. Finally, reconstitution of **ATF3** successfully restored the inhibitory effects of E-10 on MRP-2 gene expression. Taken together, 1-phosphorylated **ATF3** and the CREB consensus domain in E-10 suppresses of MRP-2 gene expression in primary human prodt.

Electrophoretic mobility DNA assays combined with antibody-based immunoblot assays of activating transcription factor **ATF3** immunoprecipitates with tyrosine specific antibodies reveal that **ATF3** to activate **phospholamban** in the **CREB** domain and suppress MRP-2 expression. Studies with stable, E-10 transfected CPTX suppress MRP-2 expression in **ATF3** deficient CPTX-1532 cells, where the **ATF3** mRNA was destroyed with a DNazyme oligo. Finally, reconstitution of **ATF3** successfully restored the inhibitory effects of E-10 on MRP-2 gene expression. Taken together, 1-phosphorylated **ATF3** and the CREB consensus domain in E-10 suppresses of MRP-2 gene expression in primary human prodt.

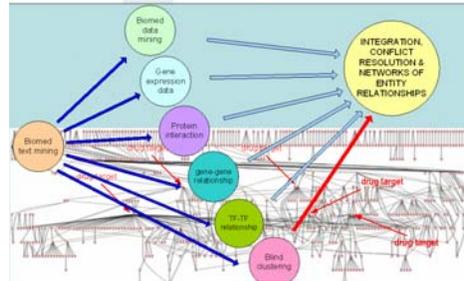


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Dragon ERG Solution:
Case-Specific TF relation networks, Pan et al, *NAR*, 2004



- Analyse abstracts
- Stemming, POS tagging
- Use ANNs, SVM, discriminant analysis
- Simplified rules for sentence analysis
- Constraints on the forms of sentences
- Sensitivity ~75%
- Precision ~82%



- Produce reports & direct links to PubMed docs, & graphical presentations of entity links

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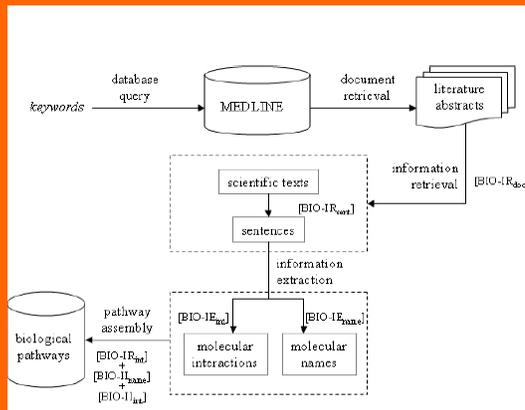
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Technical Challenges

Named entity recognition

Co-reference resolution

Data cleansing



Bio Entity Name Recognition,



Zhou et al., *BioCreAtIvE*, 2004

LEGEND

Virus
Tissue
RNA
Protein
Polynucleotide
Peptide
OtherOrganicCompound
OtherName
OtherArtificialSource
Organism
Nucleotide
MultiCell
MonoCell
Lipid
Inorganic
DNA
CellType
CellLine
CellComponent
Carbohydrate
BodyPart
Atom
AminoAcidMonomer

Erythropoietin stimulates transcription of the TAL1/SCL gene and phosphorylation of its protein products.

Activation of the TAL1 (or SCL) gene, originally identified through its involvement by a recurrent chromosomal translocation, is the most frequent molecular lesion recognized in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The protein products of this gene contain the basic-helix-loop-helix motif characteristic of a large family of transcription factors that bind to the canonical DNA sequence CANNTG as protein heterodimers. TAL1 expression by erythroid cells in vivo and in chemical-induced erythroleukemia cell lines in vivo suggested the gene might regulate aspects of erythroid differentiation. Since the terminal events of erythropoiesis are controlled by the glycoprotein hormone erythropoietin (Epo), we investigated whether the expression or activity of the TAL1 gene and its protein products were affected by Epo in splenic erythroblasts from mice infected with an anemia-inducing strain of Friend virus (FVA cells). Epo elicited a rapid, dose-related increase in TAL1 mRNA by increasing transcription of the gene and stabilizing one of its mRNAs. An Epo-inducible TAL1 DNA binding activity was identified in FVA cell nuclear extracts that subsequently decayed despite accumulating mRNA and protein. Induction of DNA binding activity was associated temporally with Epo-induced phosphorylation of nuclear TAL1 protein. These results indicate that Epo acts at both transcriptional and posttranscriptional levels on the TAL1 locus in Friend virus-induced erythroblasts and establish a link between Epo signaling mechanisms and a member of a family of transcription factors involved in the differentiation of diverse cell lineages.

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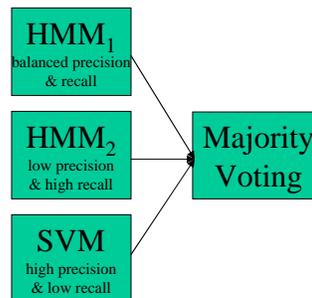
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Bio Entity Name Recognition:

Ensemble Classification Approach



- **Features considered**
 - orthographic, POS, morphologic, surface word, trigger words (TW₁: receptor, enhancer, etc. TW₂: activation, stimulation, etc.)
- **SVM**
 - Context of 7 words
 - Each word gives 5 features, plus its position
- **HMMs**
 - 3 features used (orthographic, POS, surface word)
 - HMM₁ & HMM₂ use POS taggers trained on diff corpora



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Bio Entity Name Recognition: Performance at *BioCreative 2004*



Modules	Closed-1	Closed-2	Closed-3	Open-1
SVM	Surface word, orthographic feature, suffix, trigger			
	GENIA-POS	Refined-BioCreative-POS	Refined-BioCreative-POS	Refined-BioCreative-POS
HMM1	Surface word, orthographic feature,			
	GENIA-POS	Refined-BioCreative-POS	Refined-BioCreative-POS	Refined-BioCreative-POS
HMM2	Surface word, orthographic feature, BioCreative-POS			
Ensemble	Majority Voting			
Abbreviation Res.	Abbreviation Resolution based on the parentheses structure			
Refinement of protein/gene names	N/A	N/A	YES	N/A
Dictionary Matching	Closed Dictionary	Closed Dictionary	Closed Dictionary	Open Dictionary
Overall Performance	P79.97 R80.15 F80.23	P80.46 R80.80 F80.63(+0.40)	P82.00 R83.17 F82.58(+2.35)	P75.10 R81.26 F78.06(-4.52)

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Co-Reference Resolution, Yang et al., *IJCNLP*, 2004



During training, for each anaphor NP_j in a given text, a positive instance is generated by pairing NP_j with its closest non-pronominal antecedent. A set of negative instances is also formed by NP_j and each of the non-pronominal markables occurring between NP_j and NP_i.

A training instance is associated with a feature vector which, as described in Table 2, consists of 16 features, 12 of which are used in Soon *et al.*'s system. Here two string match features are tried in

When the training instances are ready, a classifier is learned by C5.0 algorithm (Quinlan, 1993).

During resolution, each encountered noun phrase NP_j, is paired in turn with each preceding noun phrase, NP_i, from right to left. Each pair is associated with a feature vector as during training, and then presented to the coreference classifier. The classifier returns a positive or negative result indicating whether or not NP_i is coreferential to NP_j. The process terminates once an antecedent is found for NP_j, or the beginning of the text is reached. In the former case, NP_j is to be linked into the coreferential chain where the antecedent occurs

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Co-Reference Resolution: Baseline Features Used

Features describing the antecedent candidate (NP_i):

1. ante_DefNP	1 if NP _i is a definite NP; else 0
2. ante_DemoNP	1 if NP _j start with a demonstrative; else 0
3. ante_IndefNP	1 if NP _i is an indefinite NP; else 0
4. ante_Pron	1 if NP _i is a pronoun; else 0
5. ante_ProperNP	1 if NP _i is a proper NP; else 0

Features describing the anaphor candidate (NP_j):

6. ana_DefNP	1 if NP _j is a definite NP; else 0
7. ana_DemoNP	1 if NP _j start with a demonstrative; else 0
8. ana_IndefNP	1 if NP _j is an indefinite NP; else 0
9. ana_Pron	1 if NP _j is a pronoun; else 0
10. ana_ProperNP	1 if NP _j is a proper NP; else 0

Features describing the antecedent candidate (NP_i) and the possible anaphor (NP_j):

11. GenderAgree	1 if NP _i and NP _j agree in gender; else 0 if disagree; -1 if unknown
12. NumAgree	1 if NP _i and NP _j agree in number; 0 if disagree; -1 if unknown
13. Appositive	1 if NP _i and NP _j are in an appositive structure; else 0
14. Alias	1 if NP _i and NP _j are in an alias of the other; else 0
15. SemanticAgree	1 if NP _i and NP _j agree in semantic class; 0 if disagree; -1 if unknown
	1 if NP _i and NP _j contain the same head string; else 0
16. HeadStrMatch	1 if NP _i and NP _j contain the same string after discarding determiners;
16' FullStrMatch	else 0

Table 2: Feature set for the baseline coreference resolution system

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Co-Reference Resolution: New Features Used & Performance

Features describing the antecedent candidate (NP_i):

17. ante_Relative	1 if NP _i is modified by a relative clause; else 0
18. ante_specialNP	1 if NP _i is a special definite np which acts as a non-anaphor; else 0

Features describing the anaphor candidate (NP_j):

19. ana_Relative	1 if NP _j modified by a relative clause; else 0
20. ana_SpecialNP	1 if NP _j is a special definite np which refers to no antecedent; else 0

Features describing the antecedent candidate (NP_i) and the possible anaphor (NP_j):

21-29. ante_ana_(EntireNP, Number, Verb, Prep, AdjJ, AdjR, AdjS, ProperNP, CommonNP)	Matching degree of NP _i .(EntireNP, ..., CommonNP) and NP _j .(EntireNP, ..., CommonNP)
30-38. ana_ante_(EntireNP, Number, Verb, Prep, AdjJ, AdjR, AdjS, ProperNP, CommonNP)	Matching degree of NP _j .(EntireNP, ..., CommonNP) and NP _i .(EntireNP, ..., CommonNP)

Table 4: New string matching features of our coreference resolution system

	Recall	Precision	F-measure
<i>HeadStrMatch</i>	71.4	53.1	60.9
<i>FullStrMatch</i>	51.0	68.5	58.4
<i>NewFeature*</i>	70.5	63.8	66.9
<i>Non.Anaphor+NewFeature*</i>	68.1	69.7	68.9

Base Classifier: C5.0

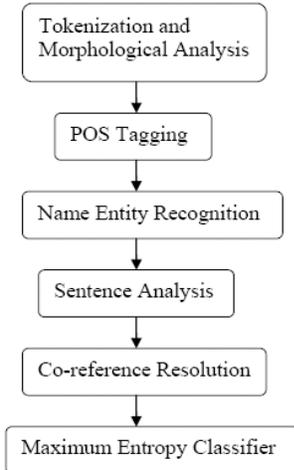
Table 5: Experimental results on the Medline data set using C5.0 (the *ed systems use *ContainRatio* metric with *Binary* weighting scheme)

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Protein Interaction Extraction,

Xiao et al, IJCNLP 2004



- The max entropy model:

$$P(o, h) = \frac{1}{Z(h)} \prod_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^{f_j(h,o)}$$

- where
 - o is the outcome
 - h is the feature vector
 - Z(h) is normalization function
 - f_j are feature functions
 - α_j are feature weights

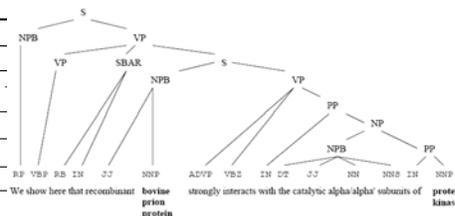
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Protein Interaction Extraction: Features Used



Feature names	Feature values
First protein name	p1_bovine, p1_prion, p1_protein
Second protein name	p2_protein, p2_kinase
Words between two protein names	b_strongly, b_interact, b_with, b_the, .
Left words	l_here, l_that, l_recombine
Right words	r_.
Overlap	ProteinNameInBetween=0
Keyword	Keyword=interacts_between
Chunk heads in between	chunk_head_strongly, chunk_head_interacts, chunk_head_with, chunk_head_alpha/alpha', chunk_head_subunit, chunk_head_of
Surrounding chunk heads	leftChunkHead=here_that, rightChunkHead=interacts
Chunk types in between	ChunkType=ADV VP PP NP NP PP
Parser tree path	ParserPath=NPB_S_VP_PP_NP_PP
Dependent	Dependent=false
Dependent root	DependentRoot=interacts, DependentRootPos=VBZ
Pair of two protein heads	PairOfProteinHead=prion_kinase
Pair of abbreviations	AbbreviationPair=bprp_protein_kinase



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Protein Interaction Extraction: Performance on IEPA Corpus



Words in two names	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Words between two names	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Surrounding words		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overlap			*							
Keyword feature				*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chunk features					*	*	*	*	*	*
Parse tree						*	*	*	*	
Dependent tree							*	*	*	
Pair of proteins								*	*	*
Abbreviation pair									*	*
Recall (%)	80.5	86.1	85.9	86.6	87.2	87.1	87.2	90.1	93.6	93.9
Precision (%)	73.0	81.2	81.1	81.7	83.1	83.0	82.8	83.3	88.0	88.0
F-measure	77.5	83.6	83.3	84.1	85.1	85.0	84.9	87.7	90.7	90.9

IEPA = Interaction Extraction Performance Assessment

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Some Interesting Issues in Constructing Gene/Protein Networks



Issues

- **Sound:**
 - Is the contents of our databases correct?
- **Complete:**
 - Is the structure of our databases expressive enough to capture critical information explicitly?
- **Understandable:**
 - Is our databases or search results understandable?
- **Other issues relating to NLP/IE**

Soundness:
Is the content of our
databases correct?

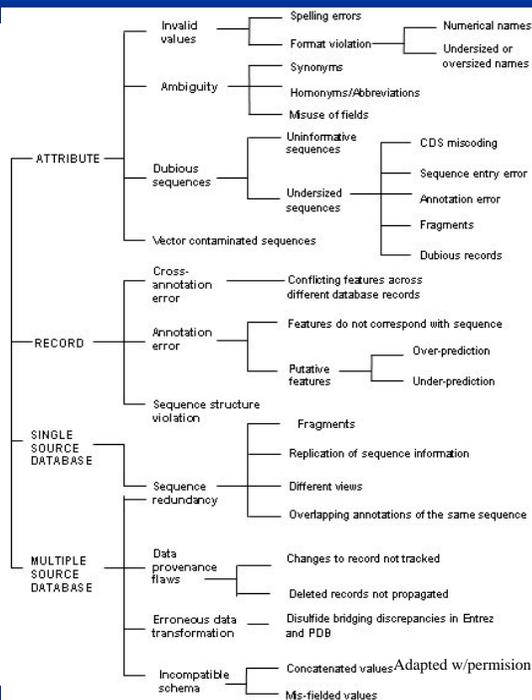


Sources of Errors, Koh et al, DBiDB, 2005

- **11 types & 28 subtypes of data artifacts**
 - Critical artifacts (vector contaminated sequences, duplicates, sequence structure violations)
 - Non-critical artifacts (misspellings, synonyms)
- **> 20,000 seq records in public contain artifacts**
- **Identification of these artifacts are imp't for accurate knowledge discovery**
- **Sources of artifacts**
 - Diverse sources of data
 - Repeated submissions of seqs to db's
 - Cross-updating of db's
 - Data Annotation
 - Db's have diff ways for data annotation
 - Data entry errors can be introduced
 - Different interpretations
 - Lack of standardized nomenclature
 - Variations in naming
 - Synonyms, homonyms, & abbrevn
 - Inadequacy of data quality control mechanisms
 - Systematic approaches to data cleaning are lacking

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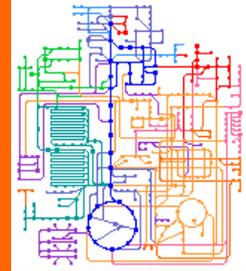


Classification of Errors

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Completeness:
Is the structure of our
databases expressive enough
to capture critical information
explicitly?



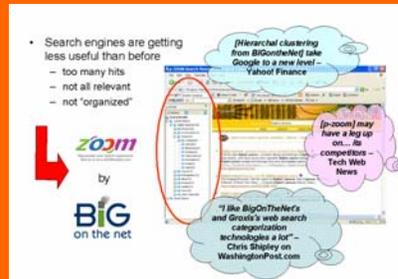
38

Expressive Power



- Take a key paper such as the Kohn paper that summarises current knowledge on p53 regulation.
- Is there a structured database that is able to capture all info in that paper explicitly?
- Is there a semi-structured database that is able to capture all info in that paper explicitly?
- How well does this (semi-) structured database generalize to other similar type of papers?

Understandability:
Is our databases or
search results
understandable?



Self-Organization



- Take a search on p53. You will get >300k hits or some number like that on MEDLINE
- It is not feasible for anyone to go thru all of that to find what he wants! And this problem is growing bigger as MEDLINE doubles every 1-2 year.
- Need to organize the database and/or the search results into hierarchy or “semantic” net to make it easier for users to understand or to browse the results
- How do we define this hierarchy/net?
- Can this hierarchy/net be self-organized?

Problems relating to NLP/IE



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Handling full-length papers



- **Source document structure parsing**
- **Hyper-linked file tracking**
- **Figure and table processing**
- **Special symbol handling**

Information retrieval

- Document and sentence retrieval
- Relevant interaction filtering

Bio name recognition

- Nomenclature loosely followed
- Frequent use of conjunction and disjunction in bio names with multiple bio-entity names sharing one head noun
- Long descriptive names
- Names of genes and proteins used interchangeably

Bio-interaction extraction

- Inherent complexity of biological interactions**

Generally, biological interactions involve both first-order basic molecular interaction events:

`<molecule_1> <interact> <molecule_2>`

as well as complex second-order causal events such as:

`<event_1> is_caused_by <event_2>
provided <event_3>`

⇒ **Sentences describing them also tend to be complicated**

Bio-interaction extraction

- Domain knowledge is often needed for interaction template filling**

"c-Abl tyrosine kinase activity is blocked by pRb, which binds to the c-Abl kinase domain."



(pRb *inhibit* tyrosine kinase activity-of c-Abl)
(pRb *bind-to* c-Abl kinase domain)

(pRb *inhibit* tyrosine kinase activity-of c-Abl)
is-caused-by
(pRb *bind-to* c-Abl *at* kinase domain)

Extraction of other relevant info

- **Contextual information**
 - Species, cell type, cellular localisation, etc
- **Negative information**

negation sentence such as “We have found no evidence that protein A is involved in the regulation of gene B.” is often reported

- **Speculative & incomplete facts**

“We suggest that HNF-3 may play a dual role on glucagon gene transcription by 1) inhibiting the transactivation potential of Pax6 on the G1 and G3 elements and 2) direct activation through G1 and G2.”

Information integration

- **Bio-name mapping**

“IL-1, alone, or in combination with IFN-gamma and TNF-alpha leads to islet cell dysfunction and death.” (4)

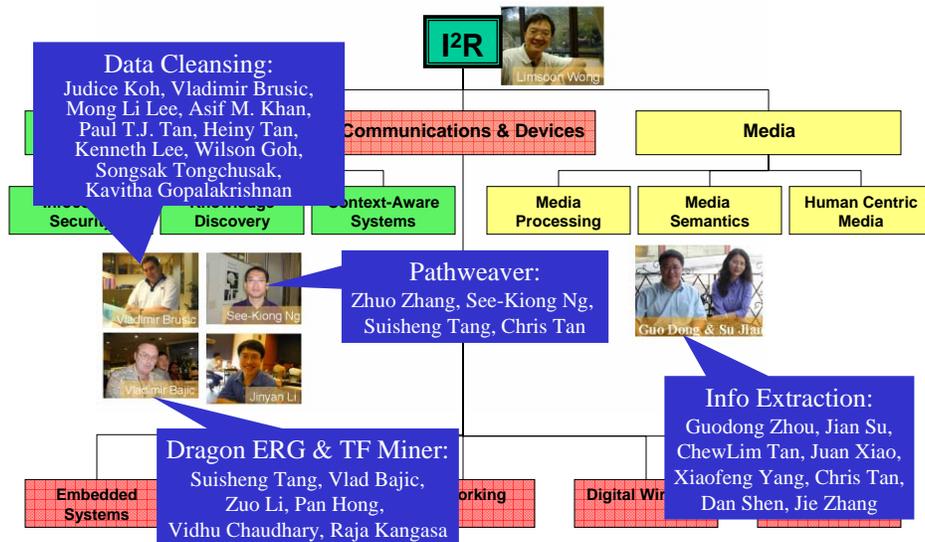
“Exposure of fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS)-purified rat and mouse beta cells to interleukin-1beta (IL-1beta), in combination with IFN-gamma and/or TNF-alpha, leads to cell death by necrosis and predominantly by apoptosis.” (5)

- **Bio-interaction mapping**
 - how do you know two complex sentences are talking about the same interaction?

Resource for training & benchmarking

- Is there such a good resource, especially for the more complex tasks?

Acknowledgements





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