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Reconstruct regulatory networks from trascriptomics data

With applications in functional genomics

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The complexity of living things

- Cell function and regulation depend on transient interactions among thousands of different macromolecules in the cell.
- It is necessary a systemic approach to understand how the cell is organized and how genes and proteins interact (Ludwig von Bertalanffy, 1934)







Data































Model induction Numbers may lie





naked statistics

STRIPPING THE DREAD FROM THE DATA





A photograph of the Sun taken at the same time every day for a year will yield the visual pattern seen here, known as analemma

Reverse engineering of gene regulatory nets





Living thing

Gene regulatory Model

Reverse engineering of gene regulatory nets

What we know about gene regulation?

Regulation of gene expression

- Cells share the same DNA but different cell types synthesise different sets of RNAs and proteins
- reads

(B)

(A)

- Many processes are common to all cells and many other are specific for each cell type
- Moreover, external signals can cause a cell to change the expression of its genes



S. Djebali et al., Nature 489:101-109, 2012

Regulation of gene expression

Gene Expression Can Be Regulated at Many of the Steps in the Pathway from DNA to RNA to Protein. How can this occur?



Recognize specific sequences of DNA (typically 5-12 nucleotides)

Approximately 10% of protein coding genes are devoted to transcription regulators





Genes can be switched OFF by repressor proteins (e.g. tryptophan in E.coli)





Genes can be switched ON by activator proteins



Lac operon in E.coli is controlled by two transcription regulators, causing it to be expressed only when needed,

i.e. lactose present AND glucose absent

RNA cis-regulatory sequence for CAP -35





Eukaryotic gene control region includes many cis-regulatory sequences allowing transcription regulators to work in groups as coactivators and co-repressors.

Co-activators an co-repressors can acts in a variety numbers of ways





Summary of biochemical relationships



Summary of biochemical relationships



Differential equation model





Differential equation model





Differential equation model





Negative feedback is a powerful strategy in Cell Regulation



Negative feedback is a powerful strategy in Cell Regulation

$$\frac{d[A]}{dt} = \frac{\beta_A \cdot m_A}{1 + K_R[R]} - \frac{[A]}{\tau_A}$$
$$\frac{d[R]}{dt} = \beta_R \cdot m_R \frac{K_A[A]}{1 + K_A[A]} - \frac{[R]}{\tau_R}$$
Equation set 8–8





Delayed negative feedback can induce oscillations



Delayed negative feedback can induce oscillations



time



Positive feedback is important for switch-like responses and bistability

(A)





Positive feedback is important for switch-like responses and bistability







- E.g. an artificial bistable system in E. coli. (Gardner et al., Nature, 2000)
- Lacl represses the expression of TetR (and GFP, used as a reporter of the status of tetR transcription), and TetR represses the expression of Lacl
- The system could toggle between the TetR-off and TetR-on states by the addition of external trigger stimuli



Current Opinion in Cell Biology

Incoherent feed-forward loops generates pulses




Mathematically analysis of cell function

Incoherent feed-forward loops generates pulses

CAP GalS GalS Gal



Mathematically analysis of cell function

Coherent feed-forward detects persistent inputs ignoring random fluctuations







Mathematically analysis of cell function

Transcription regulators can exert combinatorial control



Genetic circuits



Par of the genetic circuit of the sea urchin developing embryo, (E.H. Davidson, Nature 474:635-639, 2011)

Genetic circuits



Par of the genetic circuit of the sea urchin developing embryo, (E.H. Davidson, *Nature* 474:635-639, 2011)

Digital electronics circuits













Living thing

Gene regulatory Model























Nguyen et al., Briefing in bioinformatics, 2020





Connect similar genes Correlation Mutual Information (ARACNE)



Connect similar genes Correlation Mutual Information (ARACNE) Model Based Sparse regression (GENIE3) Boolean/Bayesian networks



Connect similar genes Correlation Mutual Information (ARACNE) Model Based Sparse regression (GENIE3) **Boolean/Bayesian networks** Supervised SIRENE





• Choose a measure of association F(X, Y)



- Choose a measure of association F(X, Y)
- Define a threshold value τ_F



- Choose a measure of association F(X, Y)
- Define a threshold value au_F
- For all pairs of genes (X, Y) compute their association F(X, Y)





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- Define a threshold value τ_F
- For all pairs of genes (X, Y) compute their association F(X, Y)
- Retain associations such that $F(X, Y) > \tau_F$





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- Define a threshold value au_F
- For all pairs of genes (X, Y) compute their association F(X, Y)
- Retain associations such that $F(X, Y) > \tau_F$

No direction Indirect association (confounding variables)







Nature Genetics 37, 382 - 390 (2005) Published online: 20 March 2005 | doi:10.1038/ng1532

Reverse engineering of regulatory networks in human B cells

Katia Basso¹, Adam A Margolin², Gustavo Stolovitzky³, Ulf Klein¹, Riccardo Dalla-Favera^{1,4} & Andrea Califano²

ARACNE: An Algorithm for the Reconstruction of Gene Regulatory Networks in a Mammalian Cellular Context

Adam A Margolin, Ilya Nemenman, Katia Basso, Chris Wiggins, Gustavo Stolovitzky, Riccardo Dalla Favera & Andrea Califano 🖂

BMC Bioinformatics 7, Article number: S7 (2006) Cite this article







The measure of association F(X, Y) is the Mutual Information between two genes I(X, Y)

The measure of association F(X, Y) is the Mutual Information between two genes I(X, Y)

The threshold value τ_I is computed with a permutation test

The measure of association F(X, Y) is genes I(X, Y)

The threshold value τ_I is computed with a permutation test Indirect associations are removed through the Data Process Inequality

The measure of association F(X, Y) is the Mutual Information between two

Information Entropy H



BLA BLA BLA ...



Claude Shannon A mathematical theory of communication, 1948

Information Entropy H



BLA BLA BLA ...

(certain) 0

Η

Information Entropy H



A A A B A A B B ...

P(A) probability of emitting A P(B) probability of emitting B

 $H(Mary) = -P(A)log_2P(A) - P(B)log_2P(B)$

(certain) 0

Н

Information Entropy H



A A A B A A B B ...

P(A) probability of emitting A P(B) probability of emitting B

 $H(Mary) = -P(A)log_2P(A) - P(B)log_2P(B)$



Information Entropy H



\$AVAFA&A%A\$"£(\$B% ...

P(i) probability of emitting symbol i

$$H(Mary) = \sum_{i \in S} -P(i)log_2P(i)$$
Information Entropy H



\$AVAFA&A%A\$"£(\$B% ...

P(i) probability of emitting symbol i

$$H(Mary) = \sum_{i \in S} -P(i)log_2P(i)$$

- Measures (in bits) of the uncertainty associated with a random variable.
- How much information we learn on average from one instance of the random symbol i

Mutual Information I





Mutual Information I





Mutual Information I



 $H(Mary) = \sum_{i \in S} -P(i)log_2P(i)$



 $H(Joe) = \sum_{j \in Z} - P(j)log_2 P(j)$

Mutual Information I



 $H(Mary) = \sum_{i \in S} -P(i)log_2P(i)$



 $H(Joe) = \sum_{j \in Z} - P(j)log_2 P(j)$

Mutual Information I



 $H(Mary) = \sum_{i \in S} -P(i)log_2P(i)$



$$H(Joe | Mary) = \sum_{i \in Z, j \in S} - P(i | j) log_2 P(i)$$





Mutual Information I



 $H(Mary) = \sum -P(i)log_2P(i)$ $i \in S$



 $H(Joe | Mary) = \sum -P(i | j) log_2 P(i | j)$ $i \in \mathbb{Z}, j \in S$

I(Joe, Mary) = H(Joe) - H(Joe | Mary)

 $H(Joe) = \sum -P(j)log_2P(j)$ j∈Z



Mutual Information I



 $H(Mary) = \sum -P(i)log_2P(i)$ $i \in S$



 $H(Joe | Mary) = \sum -P(i | j) log_2 P(i | j)$ $i \in \mathbb{Z}, j \in S$ I(Joe, Mary) = H(Joe) - H(Joe | Mary)= H(Mary) - H(Mary | Joe)

$$H(Joe) = \sum_{j \in Z} - P(j)log_2 P(j)$$





Mutual Information I



 $H(Mary) = \sum_{i \in S} -P(i)log_2P(i)$



$$H(Joe | Mary) = \sum_{i \in Z, j \in S} -P(i | j)log_2P(i | J)$$

 $H(Joe) = \sum_{j \in Z} - P(j)log_2 P(j)$





Mutual Information I



 $H(Mary) = \sum_{i \in S} -P(i)log_2P(i)$



$$H(Joe | Mary) = \sum_{i \in Z, j \in S} - P(i | j) log_2 P(i | j)$$

$$I(Joe, Mary) = H(Joe) - H(Joe | Mary)$$

$$= H(Mary) - H(Mary | Joe)$$

$$= I(Mary, Joe)$$

$$= \sum_{i \in S} \sum_{j \in Z} P(i, j) log_2 \frac{P(i, j)}{P(i)P(j)}$$

$$H(Joe) = \sum_{j \in Z} - P(j)log_2 P(j)$$



Mutual Information I between two genes X and Y







Measure the information that genes X and Y share

$$I(X, Y) = \iint F_{X,Y}(x, y) \log_2 \frac{F_{X,Y}(x, y)}{F_X(x)F_Y(y)}$$



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Association	Pearson	Mutual Information
Independent	0.51	0.51



Measure the information that genes X and Y share

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Association	Pearson	Mutual Information
Independent	0.51	0.51
Linear	1.00	0.79



Measure the information that genes X and Y share

$$I(X, Y) = \iint F_{X,Y}(x, y) \log_2 \frac{F_{X,Y}(x, y)}{F_X(x)F_Y(y)}$$

Association	Pearson	Mutual Information
Independent	0.51	0.51
Linear	1.00	0.79
Exponential	0.99	0.90



Measure the information that genes X and Y share

$$I(X, Y) = \iint F_{X,Y}(x, y) \log_2 \frac{F_{X,Y}(x, y)}{F_X(x)F_Y(y)}$$

Association	Pearson	Mutual Information
Independent	0.51	0.51
Linear	1.00	0.79
Exponential	0.99	0.90
Bistable	0.40	1.00



Measure the information that genes X and Y share

$$I(X, Y) = \iint F_{X,Y}(x, y) \log_2 \frac{F_{X,Y}(x, y)}{F_X(x)F_Y(y)}$$

Association	Pearson	Mutual Information
Independent	0.51	0.51
Linear	1.00	0.79
Exponential	0.99	0.90
Bistable	0.40	1.00
Quadratic	0.21	1.00

Siqueira Santos et al. Briefing in Bioinformatics, 2013

The threshold value τ_F is computed with a permutation test



The threshold value τ_F is computed with a permutation test



Random permutations

The threshold value τ_F is computed with a permutation test



The threshold value τ_F is computed with a permutation test



Indirect Associations



Indirect Associations



Indirect Associations



Indirect Associations



Data Process Inequality: links are removed if $I(X,Z) \le min(I(X,Y),I(Y,Z))$

If Mutual Information can be measured without errors, ARACNE will reconstruct the network exactly by removing all false candidate interactions.



Margolin et al., BMC Bioinformatics, 2006



Margolin et al., BMC Bioinformatics, 2006

PLOS ONE

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Inferring Regulatory Networks from Expression Data Using Tree-Based Methods

Vân Anh Huynh-Thu 🔤, Alexandre Irrthum, Louis Wehenkel, Pierre Geurts

Published: September 28, 2010 • https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0012776



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DREAM CHALLENGES

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Overall winner of DREAM4 (2019) and DREAM5 (2010) challenges





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Model Based: learn a model that explains as well as possible the observed expression data and extract the network from this model



powered by Sage Bionetworks

Overall winner of DREAM4 (2019) and DREAM5 (2010) challenges







Decompose the problem into p subproblems. Each sub-problem $i \in \{1, ..., p\}$ finds the most strong regulators of G_i







 $e(G_1) = f_1(e(G_2), \dots, e(G_p))$

 $e(G_2) = f_2(e(G_1), \dots, e(G_p))$

 $e(G_p) = f_2(e(G_1), \dots, e(G_{p-1}))$



f_i can be learned in several ways

 $e(G_1) = f_1(e(G_2), \dots, e(G_p))$

 $e(G_p) = f_2(e(G_1), \dots, e(G_{p-1}))$



GENIE3 adopts a random forest approach which is:

- non-parametric
- can deal with interacting features
- work well with high dimensional datasets
- it is scalable










Equipatory nets



JOURNAL ARTICLE

SIRENE: supervised inference of regulatory networks

Fantine Mordelet **X**, Jean-Philippe Vert

Bioinformatics, Volume 24, Issue 16, 15 August 2008, Pages i76–i82,

extract the network from this model

Supervised Model Based: learn from known gene-gene interaction a SVM model that explains as well as possible the observed expression data and



JOURNAL ARTICLE

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Expression data



JOURNAL ARTICLE

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Machine Learning



Many algorithms **kNN** Naive Bayes **Decision Tree** Random Forest Support Vector Machine Deep Learning (Neural Networks)



Local Model

for each Transcription Factor (tf_i), learn to discriminate the regulated vs non-regulated genes



Local Model (One-class approach) for each Transcription Factor (tf_i), learn a score $S_{tf_i}(e(G_i))$ function to assess the similarity with the set of known positive expression profiles. Then classify the unknown genes decreasing score.

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Known Positives regulated by tf_i

Local Model (One-class approach) for each Transcription Factor (tf_i), learn a score $S_{tf_i}(e(G_i))$ function to assess the similarity with the set of known positive expression profiles. Then classify the unknown genes decreasing score.



Learned score function $S_{tf_i}()$

Local Model (One-class approach) for each Transcription Factor (tf_i), learn a score $S_{tf_i}(e(G_i))$ function to assess the similarity with the set of known positive expression profiles. Then classify the unknown genes decreasing score.



Classification of Unknown genes



E.coli benchmark used by Faith et al., (2007)

Mordelet and Vert, Bioinformatics, 2008

Method	Recall at 60% (%)	Recall at 80% (%)
SIRENE	44.5	17.6
CLR	7.5	5.5
Relevance networks	4.7	3.3
ARACNe	1	0
Bayesian network	1	0

E.coli benchmark used by Faith et al., (2007)

Mordelet and Vert, Bioinformatics, 2008





Our bioinformatics group

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2008 Bioinformatics @Unisannio @Biogem



2022 Bioinformatics @Unina @Unisannio @Biogem

Our bioinformatics group



...see you at lab session



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