Agenda Today

• Introductions
• Course information
• Overview of topics
Course Web Site

- www.biostat.wisc.edu/bmi776/
- Syllabus and policies
- Readings
- Tentative schedule
- Lecture slides (draft posted before lecture)
- Announcements
- Homework
- Project information
- Link to Piazza discussion board
Your Instructor: Colin Dewey

- email: colin.dewey@wisc.edu
- website: www.biostat.wisc.edu/~cdewey/
- office: 2128 Genetics-Biotechnology Center

- Professor in the department of Biostatistics & Medical Informatics with an affiliate appointment in Computer Sciences

- research interests: probabilistic modeling, biological sequence evolution, analysis of “next-generation” sequencing data (RNA-seq in particular), whole-genome alignment
Finding My Office: 2128 Genetics-Biotechnology Center

- slightly confusing building(s)
- best bet: use Henry Mall main entrance
Course TA

• Fangzhou Mu
  – fmu2@wisc.edu
  – MSC 6729
  – Graduate student
    • Pharmacy & CS
Finding Fangzhou’s Office:
MSC 6729

- very confusing building
- best bet: use 420 North Charter St entrance
Office Hours

• To be announced
• Will begin next week
• Doodle poll to determine a good office hour schedule for TA and me
  – Please fill out poll to increase the likelihood that our office hours will work for you!
• You are encouraged to visit our office hours!
You

• So that we can all get to know each other better, please tell us your
  – name
  – major or graduate program
  – research interests and/or topics you’re especially interested in learning about
  – favorite programming language
Course Requirements

• 4 or 5 homework assignments: ~40%
  – Written exercises
  – Programming (Python)
  – Computational experiments (e.g. measure the effect of varying parameter \( x \) in algorithm \( y \))
  – Five late days permitted

• Project: ~25%
• Midterm: ~15%
• Final exam: ~15%
• Class participation: ~5%
Exams

• Midterm: Tuesday, March 12, in class
• Final: Sunday May 5, 12:25-2:25 PM

• Let me know *immediately* if you have a conflict with either of these exam times
Computing Resources for the Class

• Linux servers in Dept. of Biostatistics & Medical Informatics
  – No “lab”, must log in remotely (use WiscVPN)
  – Will create accounts for everyone on course roster
  – Two machines
    mi1.biostat.wisc.edu
    mi2.biostat.wisc.edu
  – HW0 tests your access to these machines
  – Homework must be able to run on these machines

• CS department usually offers Unix orientation sessions at beginning of semester
Programming Assignments

• All programming assignments require Python
  – Project can be in any language

• Have a Python 3 environment on biostat servers
  – Permitted packages on course website
  – Can request others

• HW0 will be Python introduction

• Use Piazza for Python discussion
  – If you know Python, please help answer questions
Project

• Design and implement a new computational method for a task in molecular biology
• Improve an existing method
• Perform an evaluation of several existing methods
• Run on real biological data
• Suggestions will be provided
• Not simply your existing research
• Can email me now to discuss ideas
Participation

• Do the assigned readings before class
• Show up to class
• No one will have the perfect background
  – Ask questions about computational or biological concepts
• Correct me when I am wrong
  – Seriously, it will happen
• Piazza discussion board
  – Questions and answers
Piazza Discussion Board

• Instead of a mailing list
• Post your questions to Piazza instead of emailing the instructor or TA
  • Unless it is a private issue or project-related
• Answer your classmates’ questions
• Announcements will also be posted to Piazza
• Supplementary material for lecture topics
Course Readings

- Mostly articles from the primary literature
- Must be using a campus IP address to download some of the articles (can use WiscVPN from off campus)
Recommended textbook

Python references

- [https://docs.python.org](https://docs.python.org)
- If you want a book:
  - Python 3 for programmers
- Many other good books and online resources

Prerequisites

• BMI/CS 576 or equivalent
• Knowledge of basic biology and methods from that course will be assumed
• May want to go over the material on the 576 website to refresh
• http://www.biostat.wisc.edu/bmi576/
What you should get out of this course

- An understanding of some of the major problems in computational molecular biology
- Familiarity with the algorithms and statistical techniques for addressing these problems
- How to think about different data types
- At the end you should be able to
  - Read the bioinformatics literature
  - Apply the methods you have learned to other problems both within and outside of bioinformatics
  - Write a short bioinformatics research paper
Major Topics to be Covered (the algorithms perspective)

- Expectation Maximization
- Gibbs sampling
- Mutual information
- Network flow algorithms
- Stochastic context free grammars
- Multiple hypothesis testing correction
- Convolutional neural networks
- Linear programming
- Tries and suffix trees
- Markov random fields
Major Topics to be Covered (the task perspective)

• Modeling of motifs and cis-regulatory modules
• Identification of transcription factor binding sites
• Transcriptome quantification
• Transcriptome assembly
• RNA sequence and structure modeling
• Regulatory information in epigenomic data
• Genotype analysis and association studies
• Mass spectrometry peptide and protein identification
• Pathways in cellular networks
• Large-scale sequence alignment
Motif Modeling

What sequence motif do these promoter regions have in common?
What configuration of sequence motifs do these promoter regions have in common?
Transcriptome Analysis with RNA-Seq

What genes are expressed and at what levels?
Transcriptome assembly

https://tacorna.github.io/
RNA Sequence and Structure Modeling

How can we identify sequences that encode this RNA structure?

**E. coli**

**H. influenzae**

**B. subtilis**
Noncoding Genetic Variants

How do genetic variants outside protein coding regions impact phenotypes?

Genome-wide Association Studies

Which genes are involved in diabetes?

Type 2 diabetes association P values by chromosome (386,731 markers). The x-axis is the genomic position by chromosome 1-22 and X (by color), and the y-axis is the negative base 10 logarithm of the P value.
Proteomic Analysis with Mass Spectrometry

What proteins are expressed and at what levels?

Identifying Signaling Pathways

How do proteins coordinate to transmit information?

Yeger-Lotem et al., *Nature Genetics*, 2009
What is the best alignment of these 6 genomes?
Other Topics

• Many topics we aren’t covering
  – Protein structure prediction
  – Protein function annotation
  – Metagenomics
  – Metabolomics
  – Graph genomes
  – Single-cell sequencing
  – Text mining
  – Others?
Reading Groups

• Computational Systems Biology Reading Group
  – http://lists.discovery.wisc.edu/mailman/listinfo/compsysbiojc

• AI Reading Group
  – http://lists.cs.wisc.edu/mailman/listinfo/airg

• ComBEE Python Study Group
  – https://combee-uw-madison.github.io/studyGroup/

• Many relevant seminars on campus