

Genotype-Phenotype Association



One of our ultimate goals in biological research is manipulating important phenotypes by rational gene perturbation.



<u>Gene network</u> would help us to map links between genotype and complex phenotypes.

So we will discuss about

(1) How to construct a gene network

(2) How to use a gene network to map gene-phenotype association

Mapping functional links between genes

- 1. Protein-protein interaction
- 2. Genetic interactions
- 3. Genome context
- 4. Co-expression
- 5. Associalogs

Binary interactions

Methods	Split proteins	Assay/Readout		
Yeast two-hybrid	Transcription factor, ubiquitin	Transcription		
Protein fragment complementation assay	Dehydrofolate reductase GFP or YFP	Antibiotic resistence Fluorescence		



Cell 144: SnapShot (2011)

Experimental determination of PPI

Yeast two-hybrid (Y2H): Nature 340:245 (1989)



High-throughput yeast two-hybrid by Protein array: Using double transformation, one-by-one assay (*Uetz et al. Nature 2000*)

Array of haploid yeast cells expressing activation domainprey fusion proteins



Two hybrid positive diploid yeast (on selective media) probed with DNAbinding domain-Pcf11 bait fusion protein

A comprehensive analysis of protein–protein interactions in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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Y2H maps are not much overlapped.

The largest network reconstructed from interaction data

Dataset	Proteins in the largest network/total proteins (%)	Interactions in the largest network/total interactions (%)
Conventional studies* This study [†]	1,003/1,858 (54)	1,504/2,209 (68)
Core data All data	417/797 (52) 2,838/3,278 (87)	544/806 (67) 4,224/4,475 (94)



Modeling PPI by hypergeometric distribution



$$p(\# \text{interactions} \ge k \mid n, m, N) = \sum_{i=k}^{\min(n,m)} p(i \mid n, m, N)$$

where





where k = the number of times the interaction between A and B is observed, n and m are the total number of interactions for proteins A and B, and N is the total number of interactions observed in the entire data set.

Protein-fragment complementation assay (PCA) Science 320:1465

Two proteins of interest are fused to *complementary fragments of a reporter protein*. If the proteins of interest interact physically, the reporter fragments are brought together and fold into their native structure, thus reconstituting the reporter activity of the PCA.



- Neither Y2H nor TAP-MS measures interactions between proteins in their *natural cellular context*, and are not easily amenable to studying protein complexes that are transiently associated or dynamic under different conditions, that do not survive *in vitro* purification, or that cannot be transported to the nucleus.
- PCA provides a simple direct means for the detection of PPIs in vivo, and do so with <u>endogenously expressed full-length proteins</u> in their <u>native</u> <u>post-translationally modified states and cellular location</u>.
- <u>Survival-selection assay</u> based on a mutant of <u>Murine dihydrofolate</u> reductase (mDHFR) that is insensitive to the DHFR inhibitor methotrexate but retains full catalytic activity and allows detection of PPIs with as few as 25-100 complexes per cell.
- Tarassov *et al.* identified 2770 interactions among 1124 endogeneously expressed yeast proteins. Most were not known by other previous studies.
- However, precision-recall analysis of PCA shows generally worse performance than Y2H (*personal analysis results*).

Molecular machines/Protein complexes comembership

Methods

Affinity purification/Mass spectrometry Biochemical purification of affinity-tagged baits followed by MS identification of copurifying preys



Cell 144: SnapShot (2011)





Recall (fraction of MIPS co-complex interactions)

"biologically significant" ~All protein interactions are functional interactions

Not all functional interactions are physical interactions

Many other biological data also can support functional interactions.

- Genetic interaction by synthetic lethal screen
- Genome context relationship with many sequenced genomes
- Co-expression across array of transcriptome profiles
- Many more...

Functional interaction from genetic (epistatic) interaction

Definitions of epistasis

Nature Reviews Genetics 5:618, 9:855, Genetics 149:1167

- 1. From the *Mendelian (classical geneticist) viewpoint* (by Willian Beteson 1909):
- The *action of one locus mask the allelic effects of another locus*, in the same way that completely dominant alleles mask the effects of the recessive allele at the same locus.
- Epistasis translates directly to "standing upon".
- Frequently genes interact with one another, *distorting simple Mendelian ratios* and sometimes leading to novel phenotypes.

<i>A-B</i> -	A-bb	aaB-	aabb
9	3	3	1
1	2 3 1		
9	3	4	
9	6 1		1
	15 1		
9		7	
1	3	3	
	9 1 9 9 9	9 3 12 9 3 9 6 15	9 3 4 9 6 15 9 7

Some unusual segregation ratios. Arrows join genotypes with similar phenotypes.



Mendelian epistasis in the vulval differentiation pathway of *C. elegans*.

- The effect of lin-39 is masked by the effect of lin-26, and thus lin-26 is 'epistatic to', and upstream of, lin-39.
- Similarly, lin-39 is epistatic to let-23.

Journal of Biology 8:35 (2009)

2. From the *Statistical (population) geneticist viewpoint* (by R. A. Fisher 1918):

- Any statistical deviation from the additive (or multiplicative depending on scale) combination of two loci in their effects on a phenotype (*epistatic deviation*).
- This is more inclusive than Beteson's definition because many forms of gene interaction can lead to epistatic deviations.

Formal representation of epistasis

 $\varepsilon = W_{ab} - W_a^* W_b$

Where W_a , W_b , and W_{ab} represent the *fitness (or growth rates)* relative to wild-type organisms with mutation A, with mutation B, and with both mutations, respectively.

ε = 0 for *no epistasis*

ε < 0 for *aggravating, negative, synergistic interaction, synthetic sick, synthetic lethal* interactions

ε > 0 for *alleviating, positive, antagonistic, buffering, partial suppressor* interactions



SGA (Science 294:2364)

- A query mutation is first introduced into a haploid starting strain, of mating type MATα, and then crossed to the array of genedeletion mutants of the opposite mating type, MATa.
- b. Sporulation of resultant diploid cells leads to the formation of doublemutant meiotic progeny. The MAT α strain carries a reporter, *MFA1pr-HIS3*, that is only expressed in MATa meiotic progeny, which ensures that carryover of the diploid parental strain and/or conjugation of meiotic progeny does not give rise to falsenegative interactions.
- c-f. Both query mutation and the genedeletion mutations were linked to dominant selectable markers to allow for selection of double mutants.

Double mutants with slow growth are synthetic sick/lethal partner candidate.

Limit: cannot test essential genes, false positives (~50%)



Genetic interaction screen for *C. elegans* using RNA interference (Nature Genetics 38:896)

- Target genes are knock down using RNAi by bacterial feeding in the background of defective query gene.
- Lehner et al. screen ~1750 RNAi library genes for signaling pathway components for 37 query strains, so tested ~65,000 pairs, and identified ~350 genetic interactions. All 37 query genes function in signaling pathways that are mutated in human diseases including components of the EGF/Ras, Notch and Wnt pathways.
 - They identified a class of highly connected 'hub' genes: inactivation of these genes can enhance the phenotypic consequences of mutation of many different genes. These hub genes all encode chromatin regulators, and their activity as genetic hubs seems to be conserved across animals.

Mechanistic interpretation of genetic interactions



a Between-pathway genetic interactions

- Possible mechanisms depend on the characteristics of the interacting alleles. The common ٠ interpretation is that the genes function in parallel pathways that impinge on a shared essential function. This is often referred to as the 'between-pathway model' and typically reflects bidirectional genetic redundancy, in that each pathway compensates for defects in the other.
- Conversely, in the 'within-pathway model', synthetic lethality indicates that both gene function ٠ in the same essential pathway, the function of which is diminished by each mutation.
- It has been demonstrated that *positive genetic interactions* can identify pairs of genes for within-pathway (Cell 123:507, Nature 446:806), whereas negative genetic interactions exist for between-pathway (Science 303:808).

Modeling genetic interactions using protein physical interaction map (By Kelley and Ideker, Nature Biotechnology 23:561)

 Used both between-pathway and within-pathway models. Here, 'pathway' is loosely defined as any densely connected set of proteins in the physical network. This method can explain ~40% of known genetic interactions that time, and <u>between-pathway explanations are better than within-pathway</u> <u>explanations</u>.



Pathway links by direct genetic link vs. Pathway links by similarity between genetic interactors



• Why? Many direct genetic interactions are between pathways, thus they do not support functional association.

Discovery of functional interaction from Genome sequences

Genomes carry *intrinsic information* about the cellular systems and pathways they encode. This information can be revealed by comparative genomics.

1 genome ---> can model the genes

>1 genome --> can model

the functions of the genes gene, pathway & organismal evolution genomic/organismal diversity molecular characteristics of speciation etc...

Methods for using comparative genomics for discovering pathways:

(1) Analyzing gene fusions

"Inferring protein interactions from genome sequences on the basis of the observation that some pairs of interaction proteins have homologs in another organism fused into a single protein chain" (*Nature 285:751*)

(2) Analyzing gene phylogenies

"Proteins that function together in a pathway or structural complex are likely to evolve in a correlated fashion. During evolution, all such functionally linked proteins tend to be either preserved or eliminated in a new species." (*PNAS 96:4285*)

(3) Analyzing operons (Conserved gene neighbors)

"One of the most striking features of prokaryotic gene clusters is that typically they are composed of functionally related genes." (*PNAS 96:2896*)

Genes --> comparisons between the genes from different organisms --> discovery of pathways --> integration of the pathways for all of the genes of a single organism --> "global" view of pathway

Genome context approaches



1. Gene Fusion

Some pairs of interaction proteins have homologs in another organism fused into a single protein chain.



Science 285, 751-753 (1999)



2. Phylogenetic Profiling

During evolution, all such functionally linked proteins tend to be either preserved or eliminated in a new species (co-evolution).





Estimating the significance of matching phylogenetic profiles

Profile 1:00010111000110010110011110011Profile 2:00010111100110010100011110011

The distance between both pairs of profiles is 2 bits.

However, the first pair is much less complex, therefore less informative, than the second pair.

Mutual information = Entropy (Profile 1) + Entropy (Profile 2) - Relative Entropy (Profile 1 and 2)









3. Conserved gene neighbors in bacteria

Prokaryotic gene clusters are composed of functionally related genes (Operon).



Bacterial Orthologs of organism #1


Nature Biotechnology 22:911

Inferring functional interaction from co-expression pattern



Lee H K et al. Genome Res. 2004;14:1085-1094

• Assumption: genes for same biological processes are under same transcriptional program.



• With massive amount of microarray data, it turned out to be one of most powerful data for pathway modeling.

Associalogs method (Lee et al. Nature Genetics 2008)

- Inferring functional links in the target organism by transferring information from other organisms' gene networks.
- Similar to <u>Interolog method</u>, but transfer not only protein-protein interactions but also functional association, which is much more comprehensive.
- Transferred associalogs from animals to plant can predict plant-specific pathways (*Lee et al. Nature Biotechnology 2010*)

Target Organism (e.g. Yeast)





Constructing a functional gene network



Fraser & Marcotte, *Nature Genetics* (2004) Lee *et al. Science* (2004) Standardization of data intrinsic scores by an Unified Score

Based on Bayesian Likelihood

Posterior Odds Log Likelihood Scores (*LLS*) = $\ln \left(\frac{P(I/D) / \sim P(I/D)}{P(I) / \sim P(I)} \right)$ Prior Odds

I: two genes interact each other (with at least one shared functional annotation)

D: given data

If LLS = 0, equal to random chance



Integrating diverse functional genomics data produces a larger and more accurate network





Lee et al. Science (2004) Lee et al. PLOS One (2007)





Network-guided discovery of new ribosomal biogenesis genes





Experimentally validated ~40 new ribosome biogenesis genes from 100 tested candidates





"Network-guided focused genetics"



Key Ideas

Guilt-by-association: connected genes in a network are functionally associated

Seed & connections to seed: select unknown genes connected to known seed genes

Focused test: ONLY genes highly connected to seed

Reduces time, labor, and can rescue false negatives

Easier interpretation : functional clues from network neighbors

Gene network for Systems Genetics

What is Systems Genetics?

"Mendel's genetics has its focus on single-gene traits. However, phenotypic variation, including many human diseases, often results from multiple interactions among numerous genetic and environmental factors. Systems genetics seeks to understand this complexity by integrating the questions and methods of systems biology with those of genetics to solve the fundamental problem of interrelating genotype and phenotype in complex traits and diseases." (Nadeau and Dudley, Science 2011)

Therefore, Systems Genetics = Systems Biology + Genetics

Here, we have gene networks as a Systems Biology method.

Predict genes associated to a phenotype using seed genes and gene network





McGary et al. Genome Biology (2007)

How do we measure predictive power of a network for a given phenotype?





Specific yeast knockout phenotypes can be predicted.





Predictive network for animals and plants?



Expected to be very difficult. Why?

- Much larger genome
 - Combinatorial Explosion of the number of gene pairs
 - ~18M tests for yeast vs. ~200M tests for human
 - Do we have ~10fold more data?
- Multiple cell/tissue types
 - single cell for yeast vs. 100 trillion (M of M) cells for human
 - ~200 known distinct cell types for human
 - But we have a single integrated network model for all cell types
 - Many raw data are not cell/tissue type specific (e.g., Y2H)
- Would animal or plant networks be equally predictive?

Tested in C. elegans (Worm). Why?



- Only 959 cells for a whole body (for adult hermaphrodite)
- High-throughput gene silencing by bacterial feeding RNA interference (RNAi)



WormNet: C. elegans probabilistic gene network 🦉



experimental observations

Version 2: 999,367 links / 15,139 genes (~75% of proteome)

Specific C. elegans RNAi phenotypes can be predicted.





Functionally linked genes in an animal network therefore also tend to exhibit related loss-of-function phenotypes

Lee, Lehner et al. Nature Genetics (2008)

Massive amount of Genetics data are publicly available.

Do we understand inheritance of complex phenotypes now?



By 04/13/2011, 862 GWAS papers published, 4306 trait-associated SNPs (A catalog of GWAS)

How much trait can we explain by the trait-associated SNPs?

Phenotype	Number of GWAS loci	Proportion of heritability explained (%)*	
Type 1 diabetes	41	~60	
Fetal haemoglobin levels	3	~50	
Macular degeneration	3	~50	
Type 2 diabetes	39	20–25	
Crohn's disease	71	20–25	
LDL and HDL levels	95	20–25	(Nature 470:187)
Height	180	~12	(Nature 470.107)

Where the missing inheritance of complex traits come from?

- 1. Lack of statistical power to detect weak genetic penetration per each SNP.
- 2. Lack of considering polygenic effect for traits (Epistatic interactions).

Thus, the next challenge in genetics of complex traits is (1) improving statistical power to identify more trait-associated genes, (2) mapping epistatic interactions. But How?

Boosting GWAS signal by HumanNet



- It is very hard to pass the statistical test with *Bonferroni correction*.
- Many minor contributors are below the threshold.
- Can we boost GWAS signal by pathway relations?



Analysis:

- Boost original *p-values* from WTCCC(Welcome Trust Case Control Consortium) 2007 study
- Validate boosted genes by newly identified genes by meta analysis with larger sample (Barrett et al. 2008, Zeggini et al. 2008)

Validation by meta GWAS data: Crohn's disease





- Original study identified IL23R, PTPN2, ATG16L1 ٠
- STAT3, JAK2, GRB2, SHC1 are strongly boosted. •

Validation by meta GWAS data: type 2 diabetes





Complex diseases are due to complex networks of disease related genes.



"Genetic interactions to two major tumor suppressor genes, p53 and p19ARF construct the network of genes that are likely to cooperate in tumorigenesis."

Cell, May 16, 2008



Modifiers of the same gene are interconnected.



Hypothesis: genetic modifiers for the same disease gene tend to participate in the same pathway.





Lee et al. Genome Research (2010)

Identification of genetic modulators for three disease-related genes in worm







Strain

Lee et al. Genome Research (2010)

Pathways modulating disease genes in worm





Lee et al. Genome Research (2010)

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Science (2004) PLOS One (2007)

Nature Genetics (2008), Genome Research (2010)

WormNet 😌

Probabilistic Functional Gene Network of Caenorhabditis elegans

Genome Research (2011)
HumanNet

Probabilistic Functional Gene Network of Homo sapiens

Nature Biotechnology (2010), Nature Protocols (2011)



Submitted



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