

Constructing Genetic Networks using Biomedical Literature and Rare Event Classification

A text mining approach used to construct the genetic network of the human genome “*H.Sapiens*”. Text mining has become an important tool in bioinformatics research with the massive growth in the biomedical literature over the past decade. Mining the biomedical literature has resulted in an incredible number of computational algorithms that assist many bioinformatics researchers. In this study, they present a text mining system called Gene Interaction Rare Event Miner (GIREM) that constructs gene-gene interaction networks for human genome using information extracted from biomedical literature. GIREM identifies functionally related genes based on their co-occurrences in the abstracts of biomedical literature. For a given gene g ,

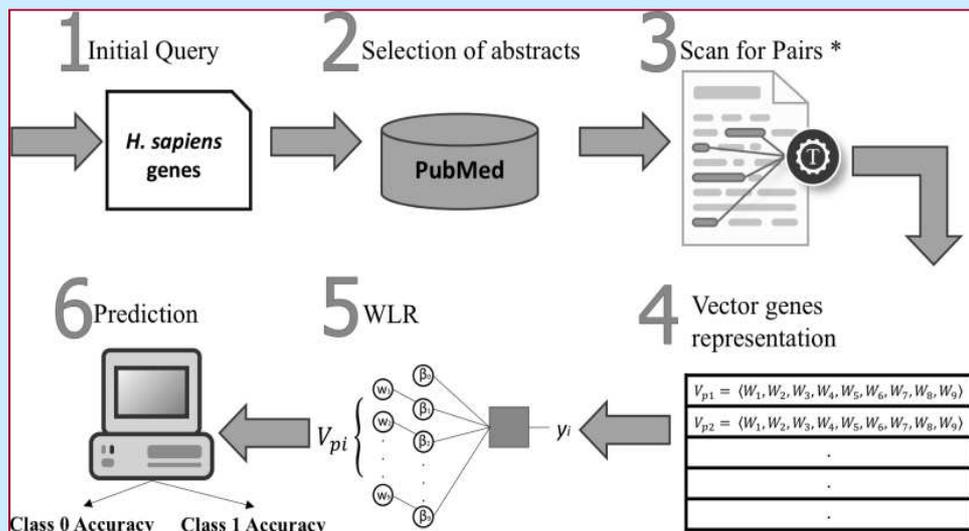


Figure: The sequential steps taken by the system. GIREM extract the co-occurrence of pairs of genes at three level; the abstract, the sentence and the semantic level.

GIREM first extracts the set of genes found within the abstracts of biomedical literature associated with g . GIREM aims at enhancing biological text mining approaches by identifying the semantic relationship between each co-occurrence of a pair of genes in abstracts using the syntactic structures of sentences and linguistics theories. It uses a supervised learning algorithm, weighted logistic regression to label pairs of genes to related or un-related classes, and to reflect the population proportion using smaller samples. We evaluated GIREM by comparing it experimentally with other well-known approaches and a protein-protein interactions database. Results showed marked improvement.

Source: Amira Al-Aamri *et al.* Scientific reports,2017

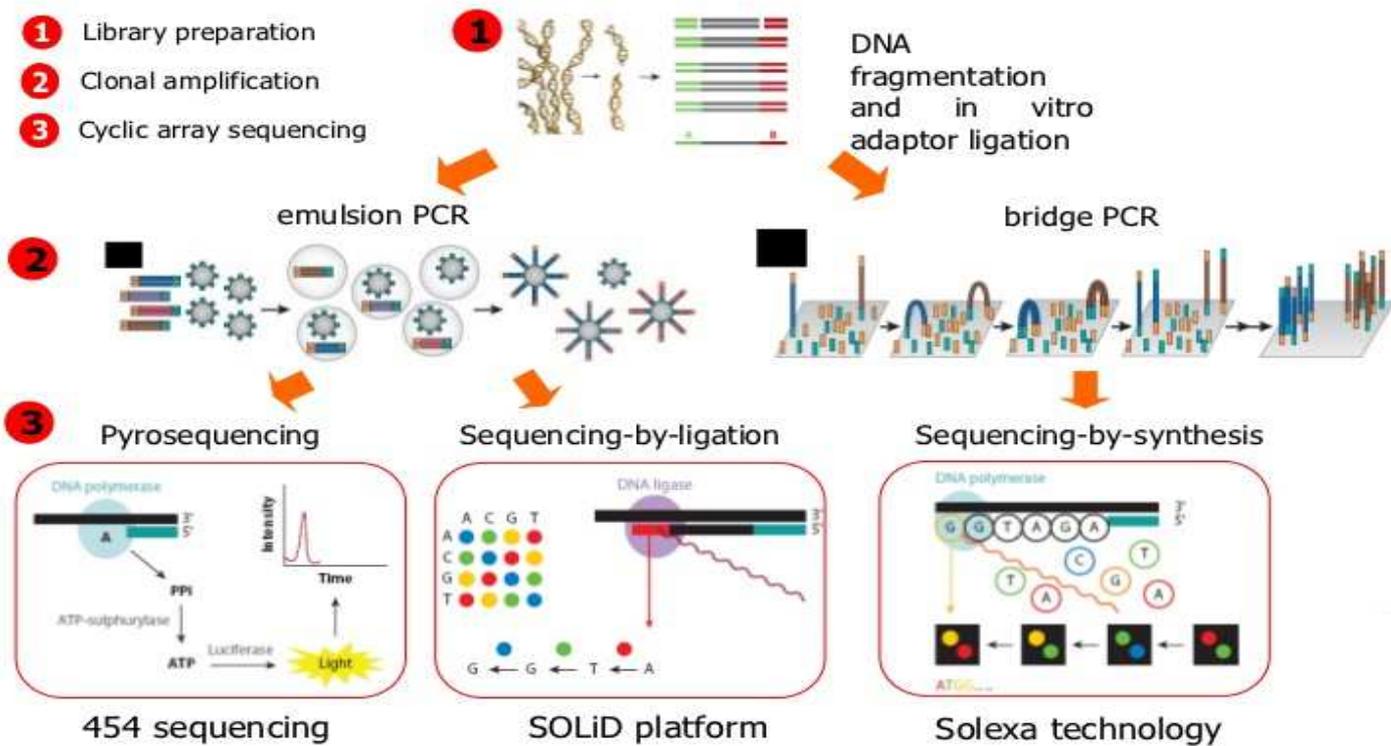
PinAPL-Py: A comprehensive web application for the analysis of CRISPR/Cas9 screens

The screenshot shows the PinAPL-Py web application interface. It includes a navigation bar with links for 'Download Test Dataset', 'Example Results', 'Documentation', 'Contact Us', and 'Submit a Bug'. Below the navigation bar is a progress bar with four steps: 1. Set up a new Run, 2. Drag & Drop your Files, 3. Provide Sample Information, and 4. Choose Library & Adjust Parameters. The main content area features the PinAPL-Py logo (a pineapple) and the title 'Platform-independent Analysis of PooLed screens using Python'. Below the title is a description: 'A comprehensive web application for quality control, read alignment and enrichment/depletion analysis of CRISPR/Cas9 screens.' There are input fields for 'Name this Run' and 'E-mail Address (optional)', and a 'Submit' button.

Large-scale genetic screens using CRISPR/Cas9 technology have emerged as a major tool for functional genomics. With its increased popularity, experimental biologists frequently acquire large sequencing datasets for which they often do not have an easy analysis option. While a few bioinformatic tools have been developed for this purpose, their utility is still hindered either due to limited functionality or the requirement of bioinformatic expertise. To make sequencing data analysis of CRISPR/Cas9 screens more accessible to a wide range of scientists, we developed a Platform-independent Analysis of Pooled Screens using Python (PinAPL-Py), which is operated as an intuitive web-service. PinAPL-Py implements state-of-the-art tools and statistical models, assembled in a comprehensive workflow covering sequence quality control, automated sgRNA sequence extraction, alignment, sgRNA enrichment/depletion analysis and gene ranking. The workflow is set up to use a variety of popular sgRNA libraries as well as custom libraries that can be easily uploaded. Various analysis options are offered, suitable to analyze a large variety of CRISPR/Cas9 screening experiments. Analysis output includes ranked lists of sgRNAs and genes, and publication-ready plots. PinAPL-Py helps to advance genome-wide screening efforts by combining comprehensive functionality with user-friendly implementation. PinAPL-Py is freely accessible at <http://pinapl-py.ucsd.edu> with instructions and test datasets.

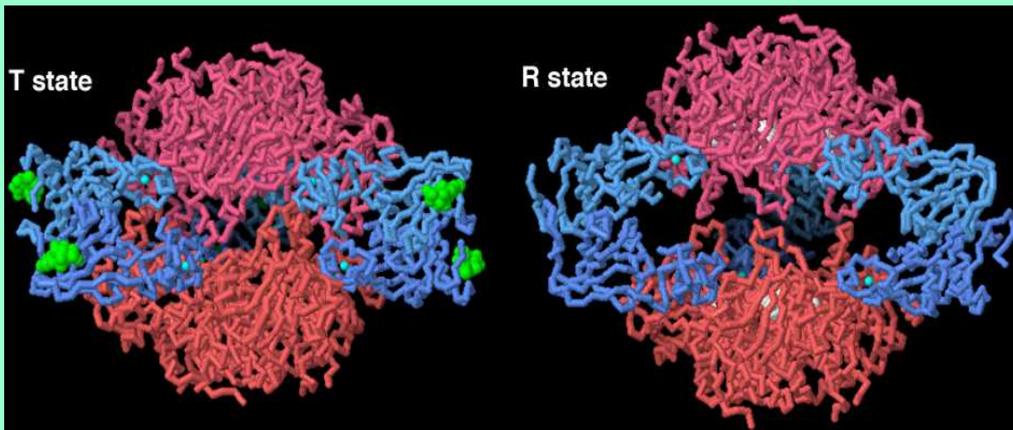
Source: Philipp N. Spahn *et al.* Sc.reports 2017

Next-generation DNA sequencing



Aspartate Transcarbamoylase

Aspartate transcarbamoylase (ATCase) performs an early step in the production of pyrimidine rings, which are used to build nucleotides in DNA and RNA. Early studies found that *Escherichia coli* ATCase is regulated by the level of CTP, a nucleotide with a pyrimidine ring. Based on biochemical data, researchers proposed a model with two states: a “tense” T state that is inactive, and a “relaxed” R state that can perform the reaction. The structure revealed that ATCase is a large complex, with six catalytic chains arranged in the center, surrounded by three pairs of regulatory chains. The whole complex is usually in the inactive state, but the catalytic chains are cooperative: as with the cooperativity of the four chains of hemoglobin, binding of starting materials to a few active sites stabilizes the R state, making the whole complex more active. When CTP levels are high, however, it binds to the regulatory chains, stabilizing the inactive T state.



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Source : <http://pdb101.rcsb.org/motm/214>



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Patents

Methods and systems of molecular recording by Crispr-cas system

WO 2017142999 A2

Inventors: George M. Church

Abstract

This invention provides methods of altering a cell including providing the cell with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a Cas1 protein and/or a Cas2 protein of a CRISPR adaptation system, providing the cell with a CRISPR array nucleic acid sequence including a leader sequence and at least one repeat sequence, where in the cell expresses the Cas1 protein and/or the Cas2 protein and wherein the CRISPR array nucleic acid sequence is within genomic DNA of the cell or on a plasmid. Also provided are methods and systems for nucleic acid storage and in vivo molecular recordings of events into a cell.

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