

# CSE 427

# Computational Biology

<http://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse427>

Larry Ruzzo  
Autumn 2021



UW CSE Computational Biology Group

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.

-- Chinese Proverb

# Today

Admin

Why Comp Bio?

The world's shortest Intro. to Mol. Bio.

# Admin Stuff



# University of Washington

## Computer Science & Engineering

### CSE 427, Au '21: Computational Biology

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#### Administrative

- [FAQ](#)
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#### Course Email/BBoard

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- [E-mail Course Staff](#)

#### Lecture Slides

#### Lecture Recordings

[Here](#)

#### Resources

- [Pubmed](#)
- [BLAST](#)
- [PDB](#)
- [NHGRI Talking Glossary](#)

**Lecture:** CSE2 G10, TuTh 11:30-12:50

#### Office Hours Location

**Instructor:** [Larry Ruzzo](#), ruzzo@cs TBA  
**TA :** Cailin Winston, cailinw@cs TBA  
**TA :** Zoey Shi, shiz27@cs TBA

**Course Email:** [cse427a\\_au21@uw.edu](mailto:cse427a_au21@uw.edu)

placements and general interest student/staff Q&A about homework, lectures, etc. The instructor and TAs are subscribed to this list. Enrolled students are as well, but probably should [change their email address](#) to [cse427a\\_au21@uw.edu](mailto:cse427a_au21@uw.edu). See [subscription options](#). Messages are automatically [archived](#).

For fastest response, questions of general interest should be directed to the instructor and TAs collectively via the "Course Email" link at left. Individual email addresses (above) may also be used, if needed.

**Discussion Postings:** Feel free to use the course-specific [Ed Discussion Board](#) to discuss lectures, homework, or anything else (loosely) course-related.

**Catalog Description:** Algorithmic and analytic techniques underlying analysis of large-scale biological data. Topics include DNA, RNA, and protein sequences or structures, expression and proteomic profiling. Prerequisites include experience with databases, analysis tools, and genome markers. Applications such as sequence alignment, BLAST, phylogenetics, and Markov models.

**Prerequisites:** [CSE 312](#); [CSE 332](#)

**Credits:** 3

**Learning Objectives:** The availability of the complete genome sequences of humans and other organisms is one of the landmark achievements of science. Understanding this enormous volume of data is a problem that will challenge scientists for decades to come, and the nature and scope of the problem means that computer scientists will play a vital role. The primary objective of the course is for students to understand the variety of computational problems and solutions that arise in this interdisciplinary field. Students will

<http://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse427>

# Course Mechanics & Grading

Hybrid in-class/livestream format

Web:

<http://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse427/21au>

Reading

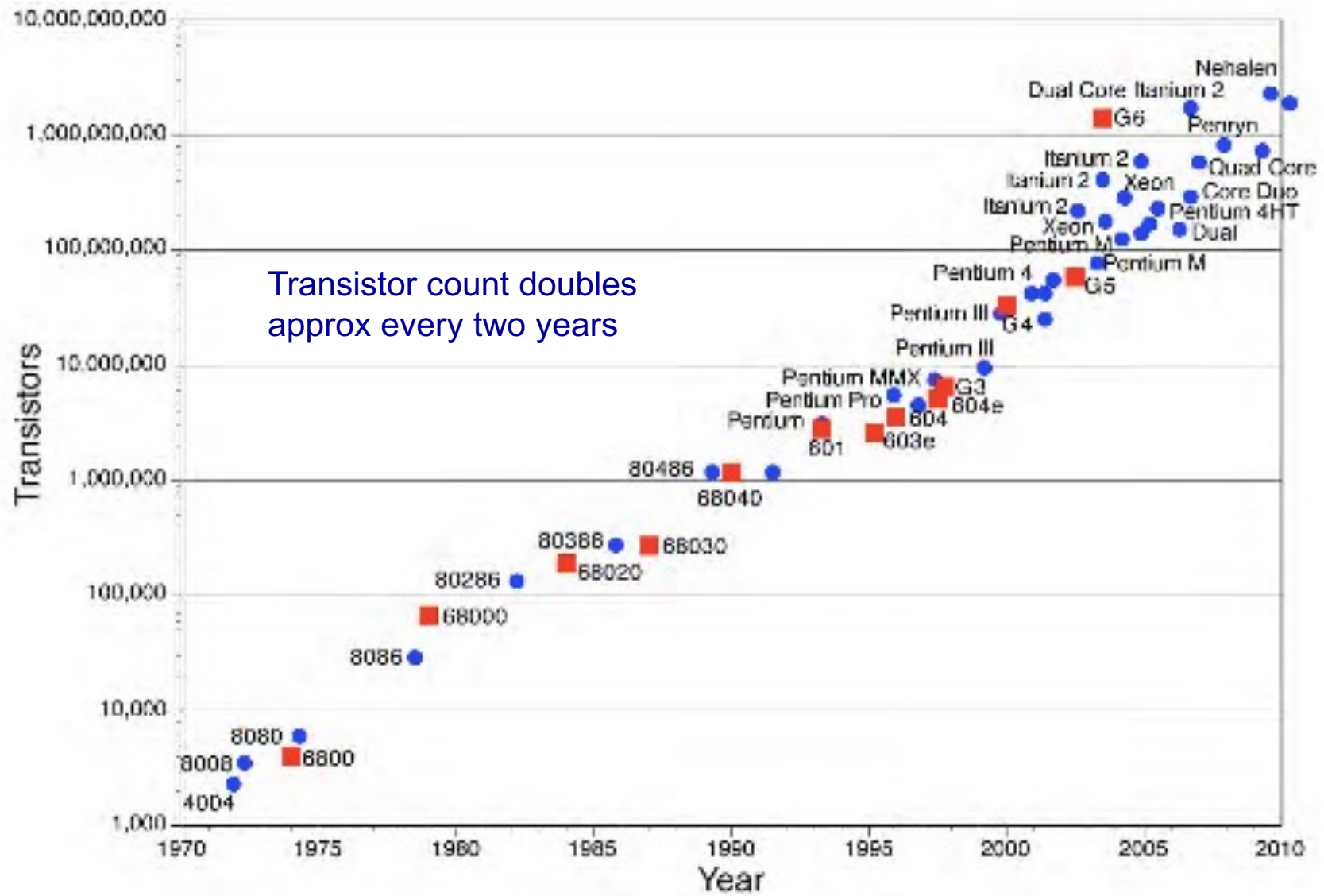
In class discussion

Homeworks: paper exercises & programming

No exams: maybe oversized last homework in lieu of final

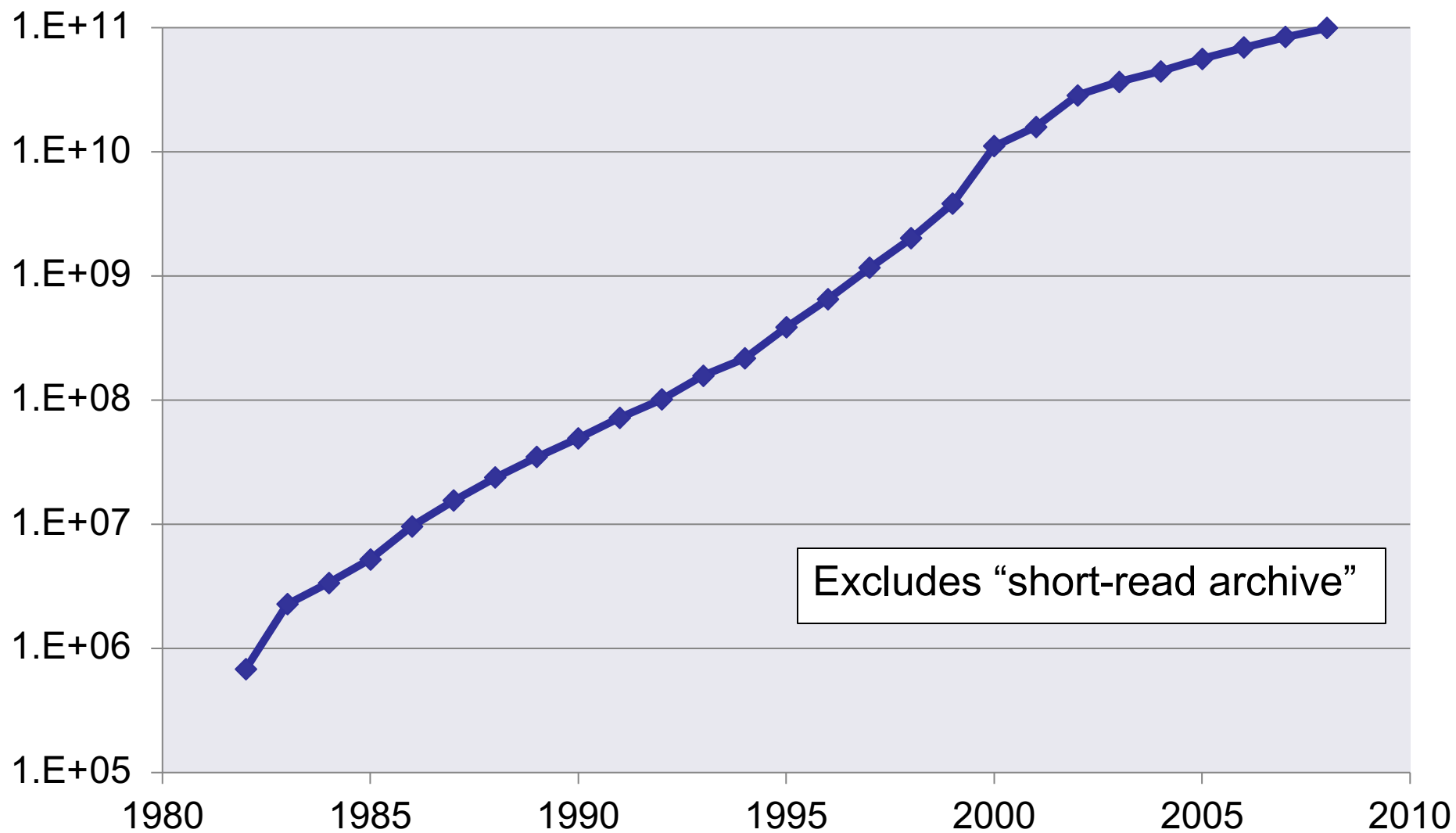
# Background & Motivation

# Moore's Law

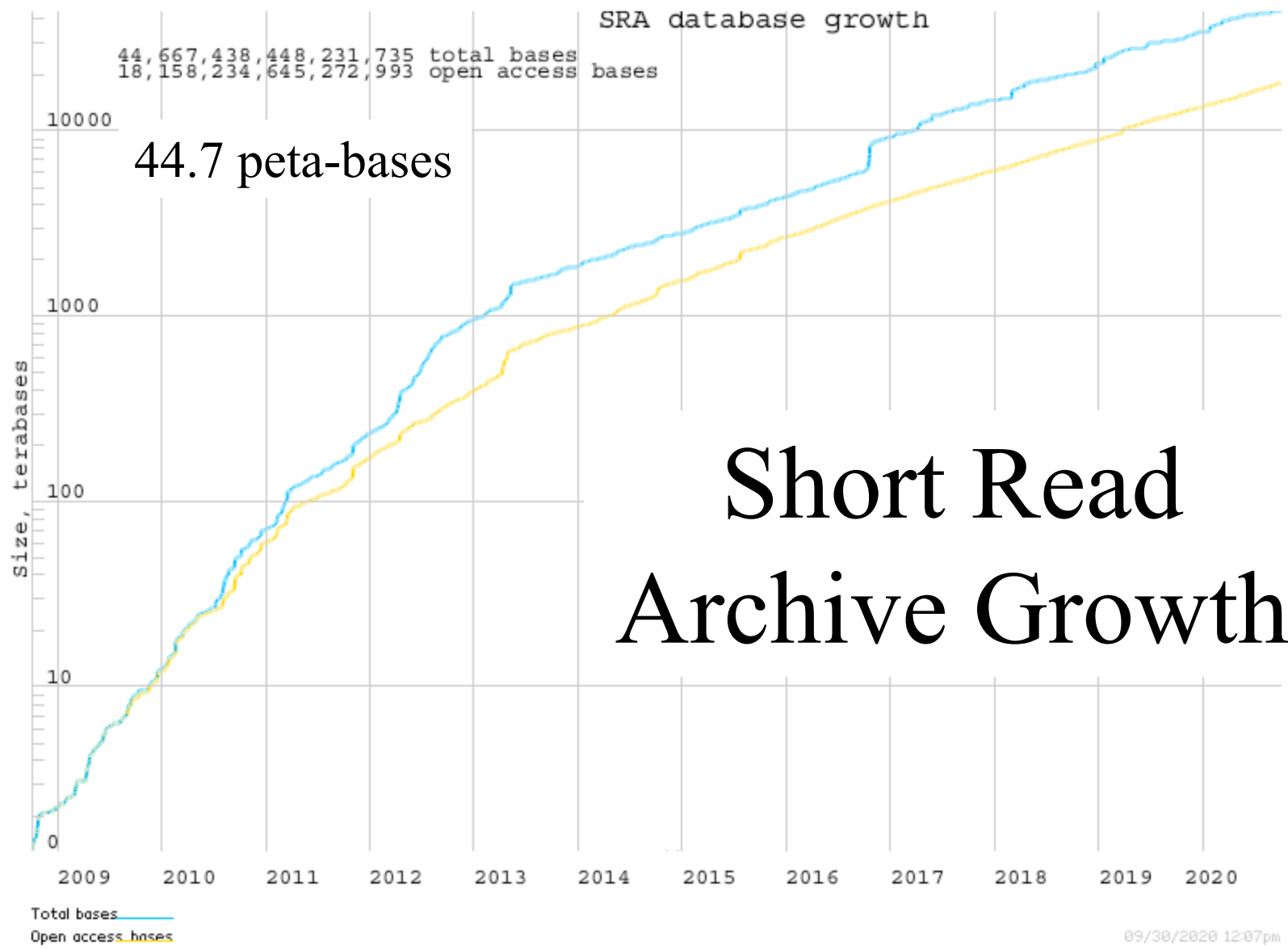




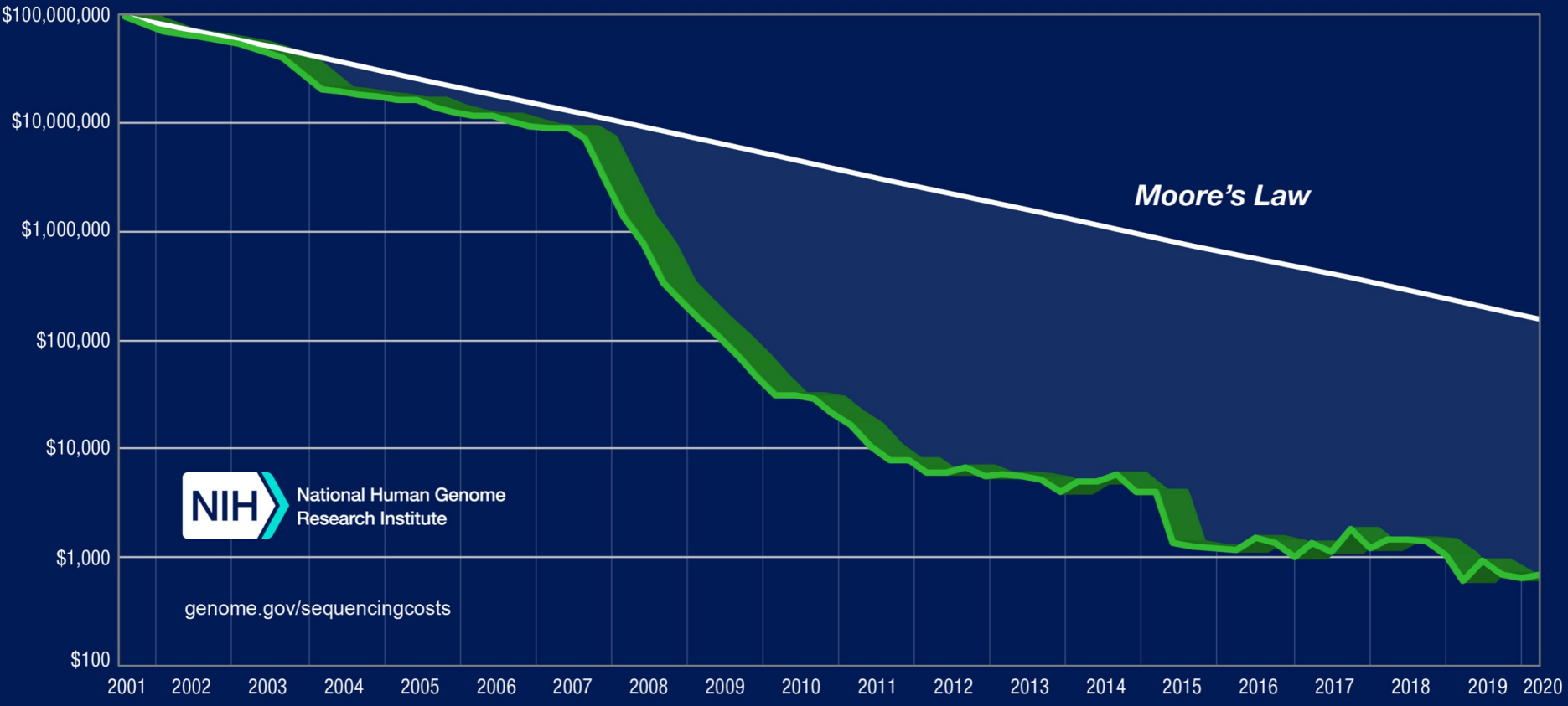
## Growth of GenBank (Base Pairs)



Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/genbankstats.html>



# Cost per Human Genome



**NIH** National Human Genome Research Institute

[genome.gov/sequencingcosts](http://genome.gov/sequencingcosts)

# Modern DNA Sequencing

A box the size of a  
double oven  
(but costs a bit more ... ;-)  
can generate  
 $\sim 3 \times 10^{12}$  BP of DNA  
seq/day; i.e.,  
1<sup>st</sup> 30 yrs of genbank  
1000 x your genome



# Big Data: Astronomical or Genomical?

Stephens, et al. (2015). PLoS Biol 13(7): e1002195. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1002195

**Table 1. Four domains of Big Data in 2025.**

In each of the four domains, the projected annual storage and computing needs are presented across the data lifecycle.

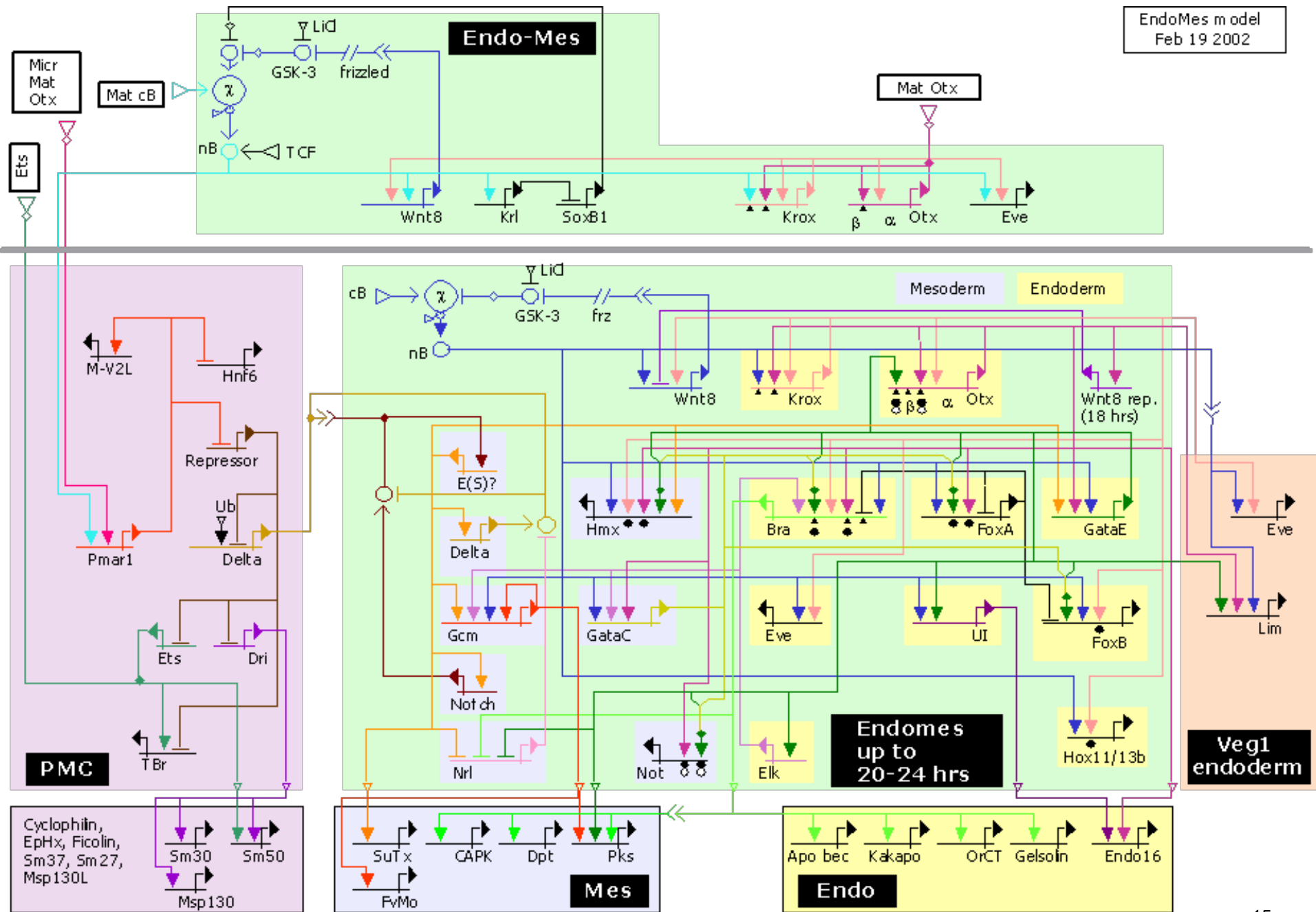
Data Phase	Astronomy	Twitter	YouTube	Genomics
<b>Acquisition</b>	25 zetta-bytes/year	0.5–15 billion tweets/year	500–900 million hours/year	1 zetta-bases/year
<b>Storage</b>	1 EB/year	1–17 PB/year	1–2 EB/year	2–40 EB/year
<b>Analysis</b>	In situ data reduction	Topic and sentiment mining	Limited requirements	Heterogeneous data and analysis
	Real-time processing	Metadata analysis		Variant calling, ~2 trillion CPU hours
	Massive volumes			All-pairs genome alignments, ~10,000 trillion CPU hours
<b>Distribution</b>	Dedicated lines from antennae to server (600 TB/s)	Small units of distribution	Major component of modern user's bandwidth (10 MB/s)	Many small (10 MB/s) and fewer massive (10 TB/s) data movements

# The Human Genome Project

```
1 gagcccggcc cgggggacgg gcggcgggat agcgggaccc cggcgcggcg gtgcgcttca
61 gggcgcagcg gcggccgcag accgagcccc gggcgcggca agaggcggcg ggagccggtg
121 gcggctcggc atcatgctgc gagggcgtct gctggagatc gccctgggat ttaccgtgct
181 tttagcgtcc tacacgagcc atggggcgga cgccaatttg gaggctggga acgtgaagga
241 aaccagagcc agtcgggcca agagaagagg cggtgaggga cacgacgcgc ttaaaggacc
301 caatgtctgt ggatcacgtt ataatgctta ctgttgccct ggatggaaaa ccttacctgg
361 cggaaatcag tgtattgtcc ccatttgccg gcattcctgt ggggatggat tttgttcgag
421 gccaaatatg tgcacttgcc catctgggtca gatagctcct tcctgtggct ccagatccat
481 acaacactgc aatattcgct gtatgaatgg aggtagctgc agtgacgatc actgtctatg
541 ccagaaagga tacatagggga ctcactgtgg acaacctgtt tgtgaaagtg gctgtctcaa
601 tggaggaagg tgtgtggccc caaatcgatg tgcatgcact tacggattta ctggacccca
661 gtgtgaaaga gattacagga caggcccatg ttttactgtg atcagcaacc agatgtgcca
721 gggacaactc agcgggattg tctgcacaaa acagctctgc tgtgccacag tcggccgagc
781 ctggggccac ccctgtgaga tgtgtcctgc ccagcctcac ccctgccgcc gtggcttcat
841 tccaaatatc cgcacgggag cttgtcaaga tgtggatgaa tgccaggcca tccccgggct
901 ctgtcaggga ggaaattgca ttaatactgt tgggtctttt gagtgcaaat gccctgctgg
961 acacaaactt aatgaagtgt cacaaaaatg tgaagatatt gatgaatgca gcaccattcc
1021 ...
```



The sea urchin *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*





# Goals

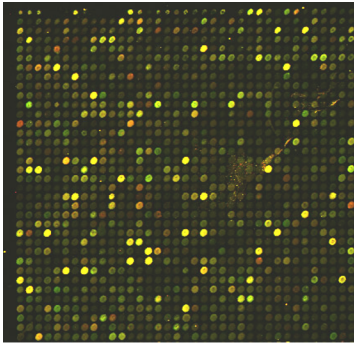
Basic biology

Drug discovery, validation & development

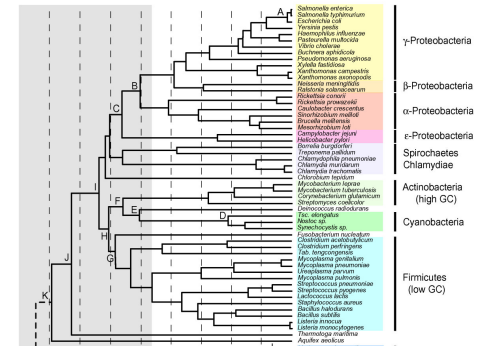
Disease diagnosis/prognosis/treatment

Individualized/precision medicine

...



# “High-Throughput BioTech”

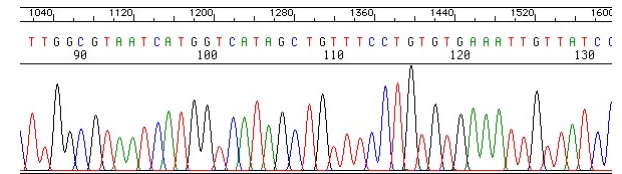
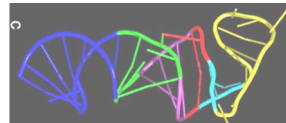


## Sensors

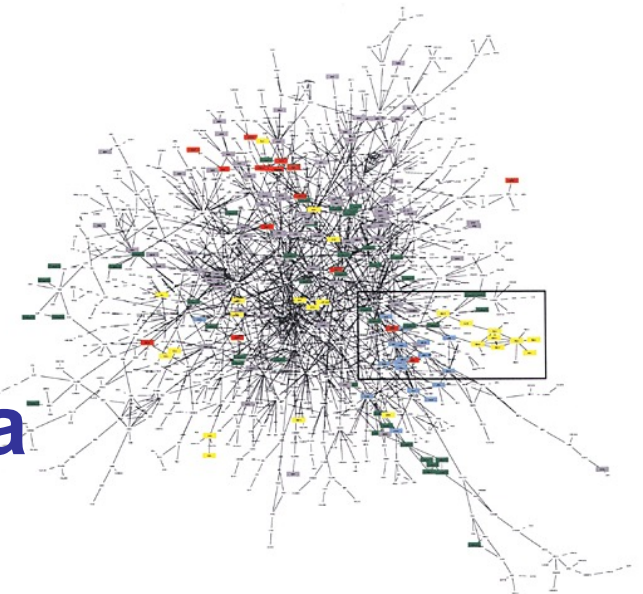
- DNA / RNA sequencing
- Gene expression
- Mass Spectrometry/Proteomics
- Protein/protein & DNA/protein interaction

## Controls

- Cloning
- Gene knock out/knock in
- CRISPR

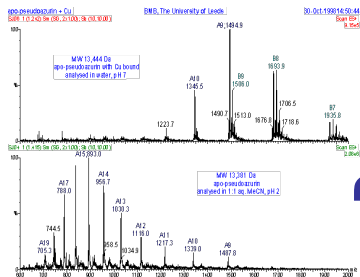


A



**Floods of data**

**“Grand Challenge” problems**



# What's all the fuss?

The human genome is “finished”...  
Even if it were, that's only the beginning  
Explosive growth in biological data is  
revolutionizing biology & medicine

“All pre-genomic lab  
techniques are obsolete”

(and computation and mathematics are  
crucial to post-genomic analysis)

# CS Points of Contact & Opportunities

## Scientific visualization

Gene expression patterns, development, immune response, ...

## Databases

Integration of complex, disparate, overlapping data sources

Distributed genome annotation in face of shifting underlying genomic coordinates, individual variation, ...

## AI/NLP/Text Mining

Information extraction from text with inconsistent nomenclature, indirect interactions, incomplete/inaccurate models, ...

## Machine learning

System level synthesis of cell behavior from low-level heterogeneous data (DNA seq, gene expression, protein interaction, mass spec,...)

## Algorithms

...

# Computers in biology: Then & now

**Trends in Biochemical Sciences**  
Volume 12 , 1987, Pages 279-280

doi: 10.1016/0960-0804(87)90105-6  
Copyright © 1987 Published by Elsevier Science Ltd.

**Microfile**

## Sequence alignment by word processor

**D. Ross Boswell**

Department of Haematological Medicine, University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Addenbrooke's Road, Cambridge CB2 2QL, UK

ACGGGTAA

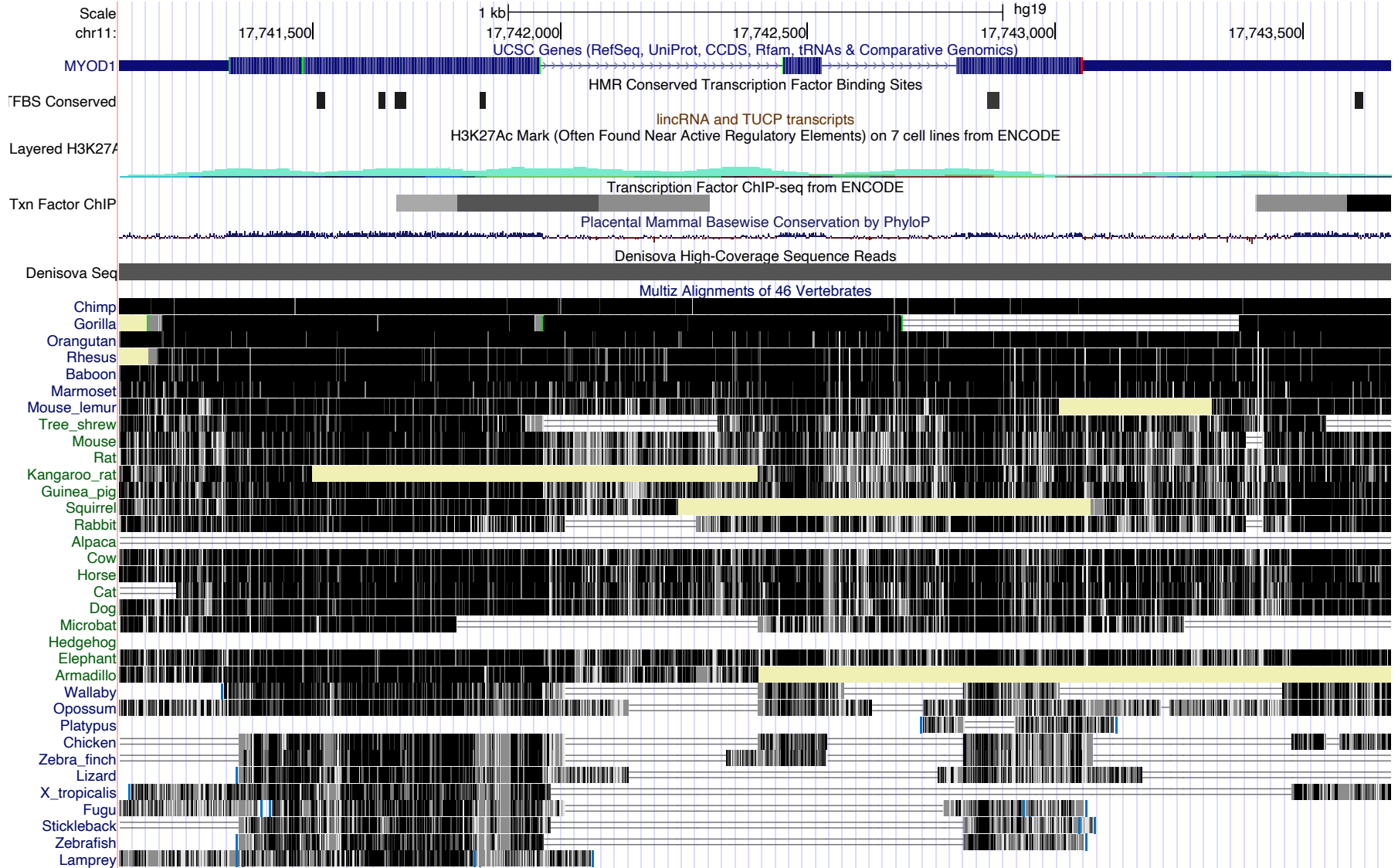


AC GGTAA

# UCSC Genome Browser on Human Feb. 2009 (GRCh37/hg19) Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

chr11:17,741,110-17,743,678 2,569 bp.



# More Admin

# Course Focus & Goals

Mainly sequence analysis

Algorithms for alignment, search, & discovery

Specific sequences, general types (“genes”, etc.)

Single sequence and comparative analysis

Techniques: HMMs, EM, MLE, Gibbs, Viterbi...

Enough bio to motivate these problems

including very light intro to modern biotech supporting them

Math/stats/cs underpinnings thereof

Applied to real data



# Why Take This Course?

IT and Genomics are, and probably will remain, the 2 most explosively transformative technologies of your lifetimes

Even if you don't choose to work at that interface, having some knowledge of it will be valuable

Hopefully, you will learn useful alg, ML, stats techniques and ideas for how to apply them in novel domains

# A *VERY* Quick Intro To Molecular Biology

# The Genome

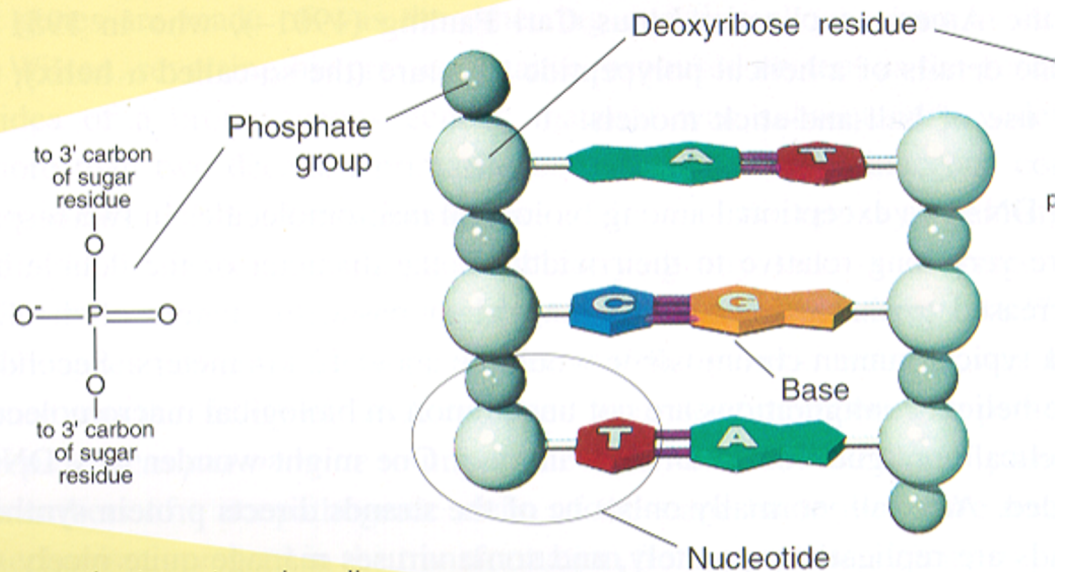
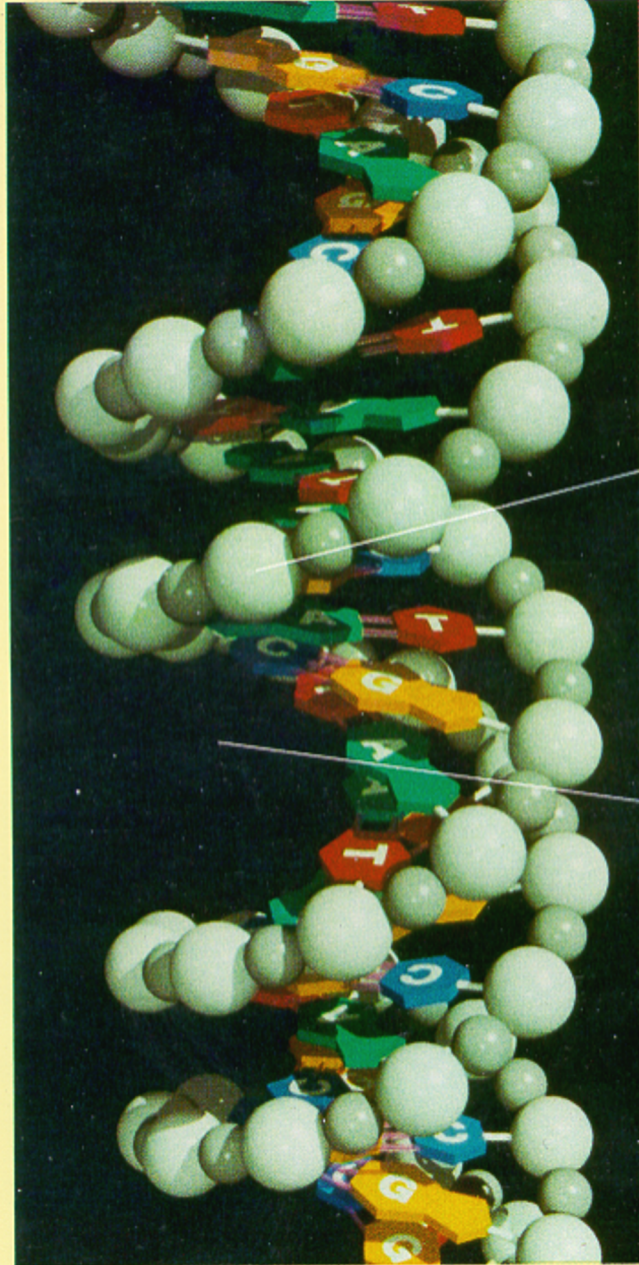
The hereditary info present in every cell

DNA molecule -- a long sequence of  
*nucleotides* (A, C, T, G)

Human genome -- about  $3 \times 10^9$  nucleotides

The genome project -- extract & interpret  
genomic information, apply to genetics of  
disease, better understand evolution, ...

# The Double Helix



As shown, the two strands coil about each other in a fashion such that all the bases project inward toward the helix axis. The two strands are held together by hydrogen bonds (pink rods) linking each base projecting from one backbone to its so-called complementary base projecting from the other backbone. The base A always bonds to T (A and T are comple-

Shown in (b) is an uncoiled fragment of (a three complementary base pair chemist's viewpoint, each strand a polymer made up of four repeated deoxyribonucleotides

# DNA

Discovered 1869

Role as carrier of genetic information – 1940's

4 “bases”:

adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), thymine (T)

The Double Helix - Watson & Crick (& Franklin) 1953

Complementarity

$A \longleftrightarrow T$      $C \longleftrightarrow G$

Visualization:

<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/explore.do?structureId=123D>

# Genetics - the study of heredity

A *gene* -- classically, an abstract heritable attribute existing in variant forms (*alleles*)

ABO blood type—1 gene, 3 alleles

## Mendel

Each individual has two copies of each gene

Each parent contributes one (randomly)

Independent assortment (approx, but useful)

## *Genotype vs phenotype*

I.e., genes vs their outward manifestation

AA or AO genotype → “type A” phenotype

# Cells

Chemicals inside a sac - a fatty layer called the *plasma membrane*

*Prokaryotes* (bacteria, archaea) - little recognizable substructure

*Eukaryotes* (all multicellular organisms, and many single celled ones, like yeast) - genetic material in nucleus, other organelles for other specialized functions, like photosynthesis

# Chromosomes

1 pair of (complementary) DNA molecules  
(+ protein wrapper)

Most prokaryotes: just 1 chromosome

Eukaryotes - ~~all~~<sup>most</sup> cells have same number  
of chromosomes, e.g. fruit flies 8, humans  
& bats 46, rhinoceros 84, ...



# Mitosis/Meiosis

Most eukaryotes are *diploid* - have homologous *pairs* of chromosomes, one maternal, other paternal (exception: sex chromosomes)

*Mitosis* - cell division, duplicate each chromosome, 1 copy to each daughter cell

*Meiosis* - 2 specialized divisions form 4 *haploid* gametes (egg/sperm)

*Recombination/crossover* -- exchange maternal/paternal segments

# Proteins

Chain of amino acids, of 20 kinds

Proteins: the major functional elements in cells

- Structural/mechanical

- Enzymes (catalyze chemical reactions)

- Receptors (for hormones, other signaling molecules, odorants,...)

- Transcription factors

- ...

3-D Structure is crucial: the protein folding problem

# The “Central Dogma”

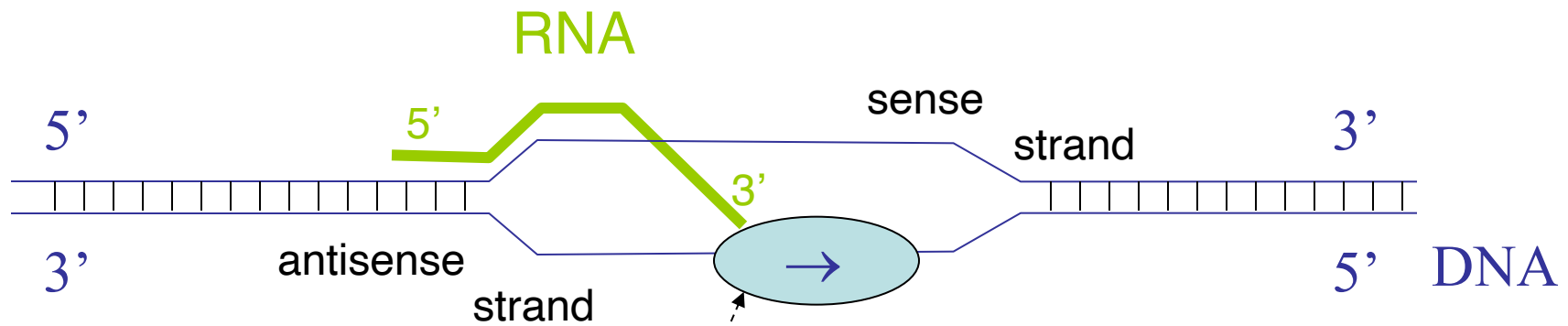
Genes encode proteins

DNA transcribed into messenger RNA

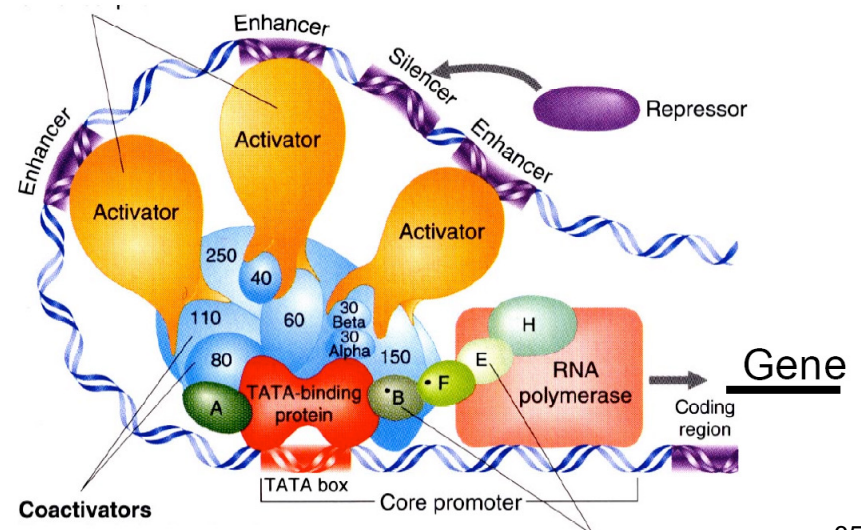
mRNA translated into proteins

Triplet code (codons)

# Transcription: DNA → RNA



RNA polymerase

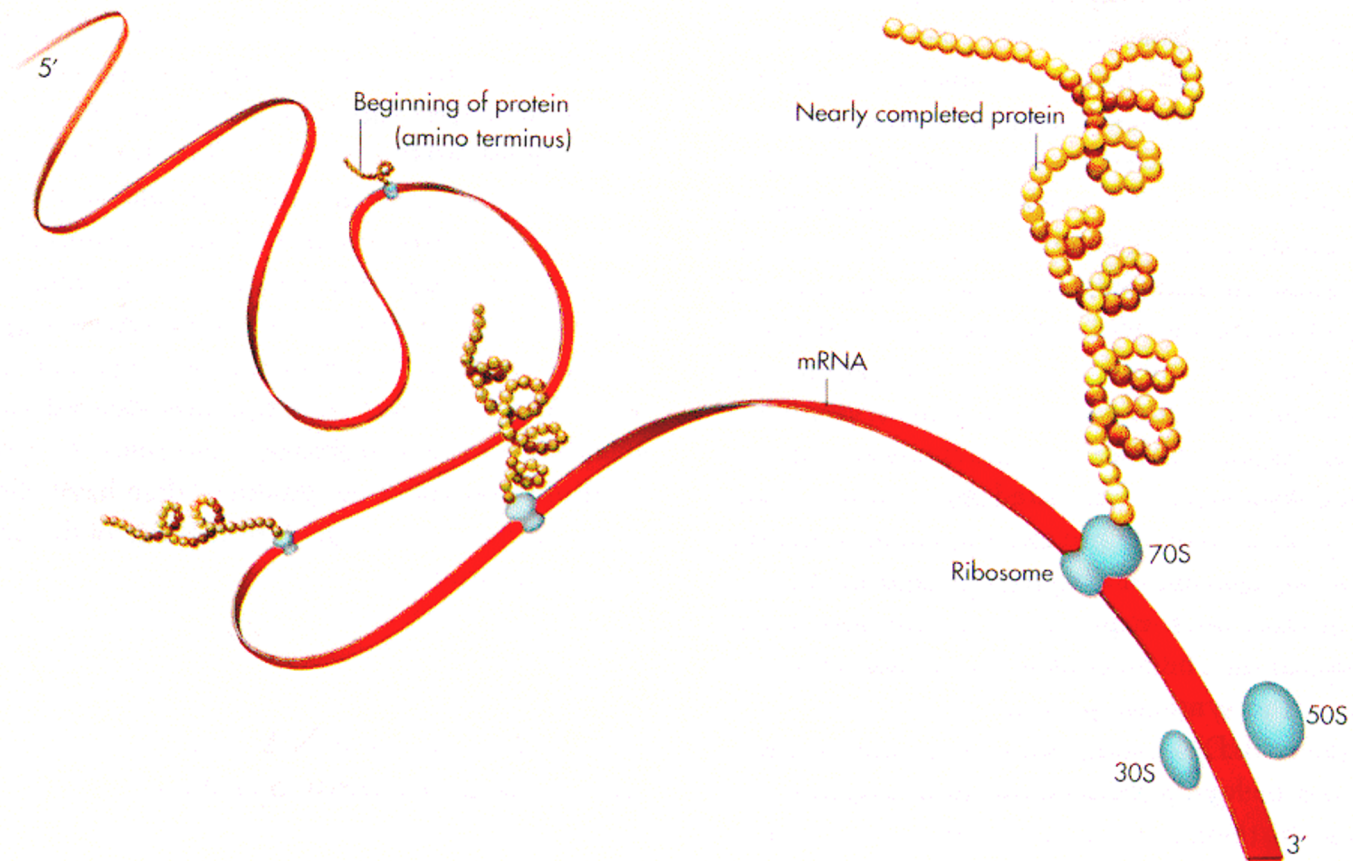


# Codons & The Genetic Code

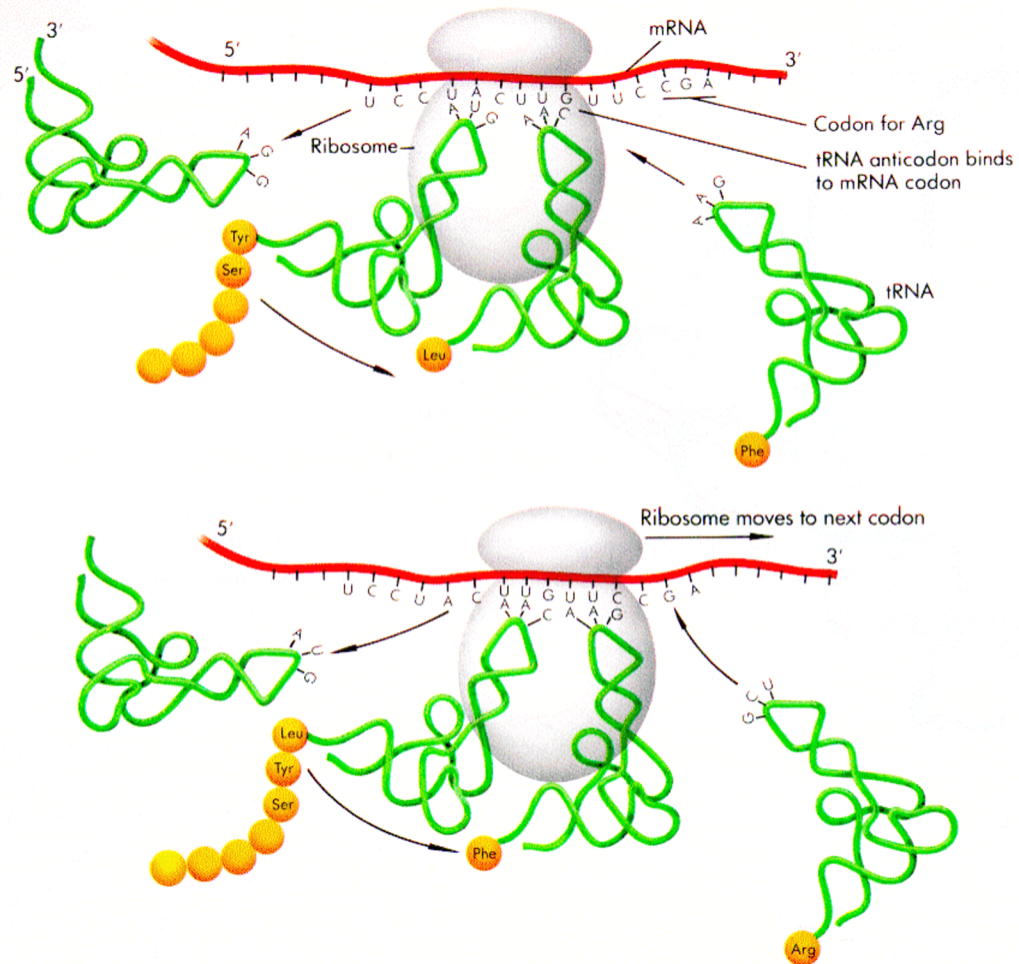
		Second Base					
		U	C	A	G		
First Base	U	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	Third Base	U
		Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys		C
		Leu	Ser	Stop	Stop		A
		Leu	Ser	Stop	Trp		G
	C	Leu	Pro	His	Arg		U
		Leu	Pro	His	Arg		C
		Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg		A
		Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg		G
	A	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser		U
		Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser		C
		Ile	Thr	Lys	Arg		A
		Met/Start	Thr	Lys	Arg		G
	G	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly		U
		Val	Ala	Asp	Gly		C
		Val	Ala	Glu	Gly		A
		Val	Ala	Glu	Gly		G

Ala : Alanine  
 Arg : Arginine  
 Asn : Asparagine  
 Asp : Aspartic acid  
 Cys : Cysteine  
 Gln : Glutamine  
 Glu : Glutamic acid  
 Gly : Glycine  
 His : Histidine  
 Ile : Isoleucine  
 Leu : Leucine  
 Lys : Lysine  
 Met : Methionine  
 Phe : Phenylalanine  
 Pro : Proline  
 Ser : Serine  
 Thr : Threonine  
 Trp : Tryptophane  
 Tyr : Tyrosine  
 Val : Valine

# Translation: mRNA → Protein



# Ribosomes



# Gene Structure

mRNA built 5' to 3'

Promoter region and transcription factor binding sites (usually) precede 5' end

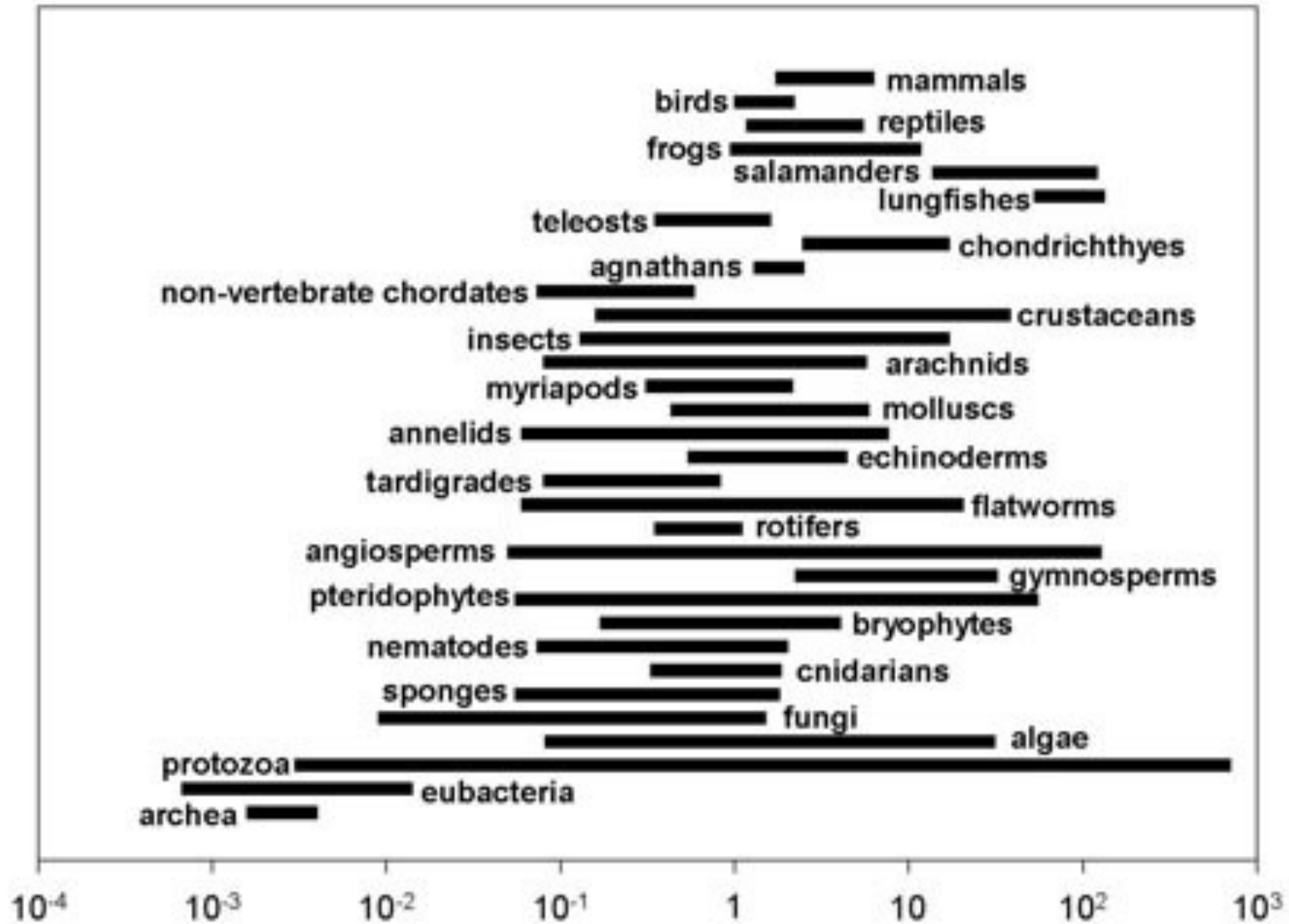
Transcribed region includes 5' and 3' untranslated regions

In eukaryotes, most genes also include *introns*, spliced out before export from nucleus, hence before translation



# Genome Sizes

	Bases	Genes
SARS-CoV-2	29,903	12
Mycoplasma genitalium	580,073	483
Pandora Virus	2,900,000	2,500
E. coli	4,639,221	4,290
Saccharomyces cerevisiae	12,495,682	5,726
Caenorhabditis elegans	95,500,000	19,820
Arabidopsis thaliana	115,409,949	25,498
Drosophila melanogaster	122,653,977	13,472
Humans	$3.3 \times 10^9$	~21,000
Amoeba dubia	~ 200 x human	



DNA content (picograms)

<http://www.genomesize.com/statistics.php>

# Genome Surprises

Humans have  $< 1/3$  as many genes as expected

But perhaps more proteins than expected, due to *alternative splicing, alt start, alt end*

Protein-wise, all mammals are just about the same

But more individual variation than expected

Many other non-coding regions are highly conserved, e.g., across all vertebrates

Subset of DNA being transcribed is  $\gg 2\%$  coding, giving many *non-coding RNAs* -- more than protein-coding genes, by some estimates

Complex, subtle “epigenetic” information

... and much more ...

Read one of the many intro surveys or books for much more info.

# Bio Concept Summary

cells

DNA

base pairing

genome

replication, transcription, translation