Introduction to BIOINFORMATICS

What is Bioinformatics?

The marriage between biology and informatics



Understanding nature's mute elegant language of living cells is the question of modern molecular biology.

From an alphabet of only four letters representing the chemical subunits of DNA, emerges a syntax of life processes whose most complex expression is man.

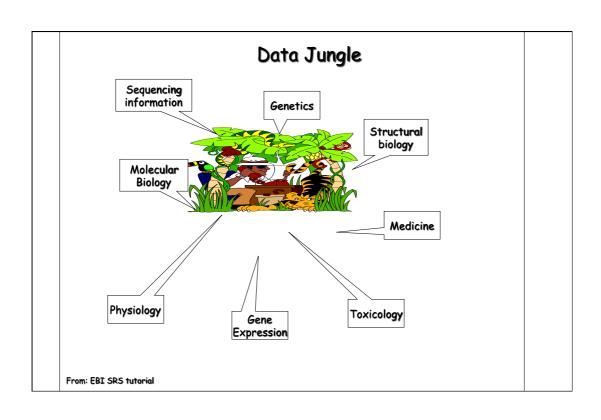
From the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), http:://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

The challenge is in finding new approaches to deal with the volume and complexity of data, and in providing researchers with better access to analysis and computing tools in order to advance understanding of our genetic legacy and its role in health and diseases.

From the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), http:://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Essentially, Bioinformatics has three components

- The creation of databases allowing the storage and management of large biological data sets.
- The development of algorithms and statistics to determine relationships among members of large data sets.
- The use of these tools for the analysis and interpretation of various types of biological data, including DNA, RNA and protein sequences, protein structures, gene expression profiles, and biochemical pathways



Factors that made bioinformatics so important

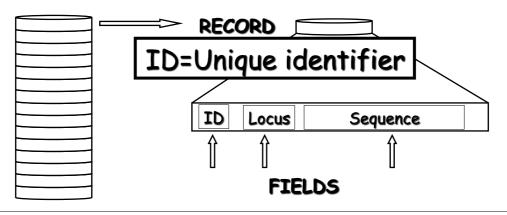
- ■Rapid and cheap techniques for DNA sequencing
- The development of powerful computers
- ■Internet and the Wide World Web

DATA SOURCES FOR DATABASES

- Direct scientific submission
- Genome sequencing labs and groups
- Scientific literature
- Patent applications

DATABASE: a collection of data that has a regular structure and that is organized in such a way that a computer can easily find and retrieve information.

A database is generally a collection of RECORDS, available through specific entries, each of which contains one or more FIELD.



Data Resources at NCBI

Databases: Primary and Derivative

Primary Databases

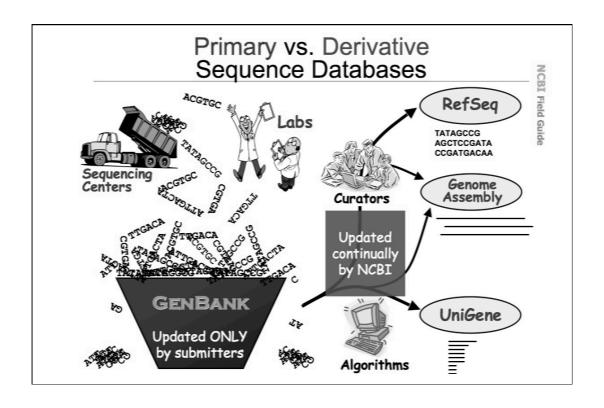
- Archival submissions of experimental results
- · Database staff organize but don't add additional information

Genbank dbEST dbSNP Probe

Derivative Databases

- ·Curated/expert review
- · Computationally derived
- · Combinations

Refseq Genomes UniGene UniSTS Homologene



■Bioinformatics Developers

They develop tools for bioinformatics

- Experts in Mathematics, Statistics and Informatics
- Computational biologists

■ Bioinformatics Users

They use the tools of bioinformatics

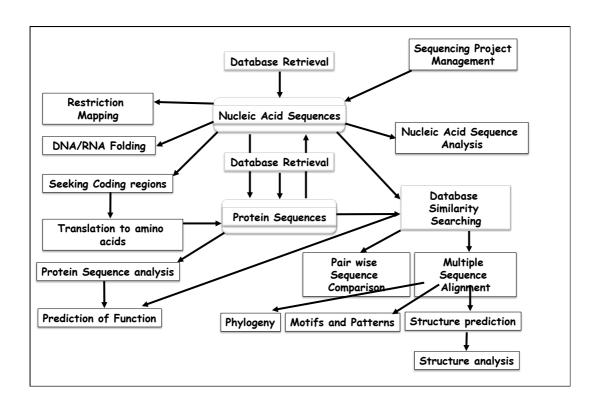
Researchers (Biologists, Biotechnologist,...)

Biological complexity

COMPLEXITY

Ecological processes & populations
Tissue & organism physiology
Cellular & developmental processes
Biochemical pathways & processes
Complete genomes
Genes, Proteins, RNA......

Introduction to Bioinformatics: www.bioinformatics.com/courses.com/bioinfom



Sites where the integration among databases and between databases and software is developed

- USA
 NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information)
- Europe
 EBI (European Bioinformatics Institute, Hinxton, UK)
- Japan
 NIG (National Institute of Genetics)

Biological database history

1965

M. Dayhoff et al. published "Atlas of Protein Sequences and Strucures"

1982

EMBL started the DNA sequence collection

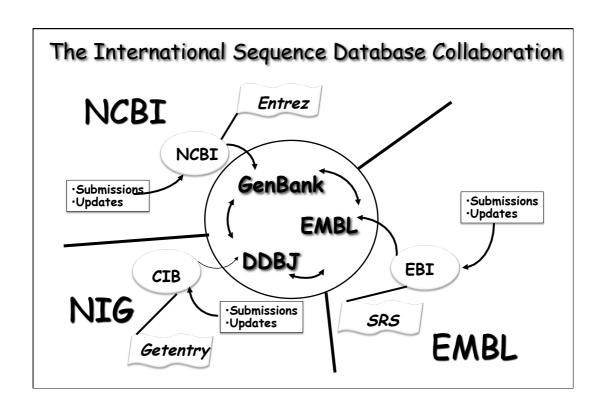
1983

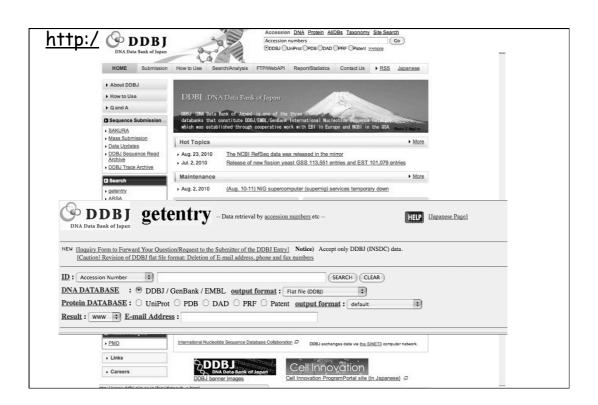
Genbank started the DNA sequence collection

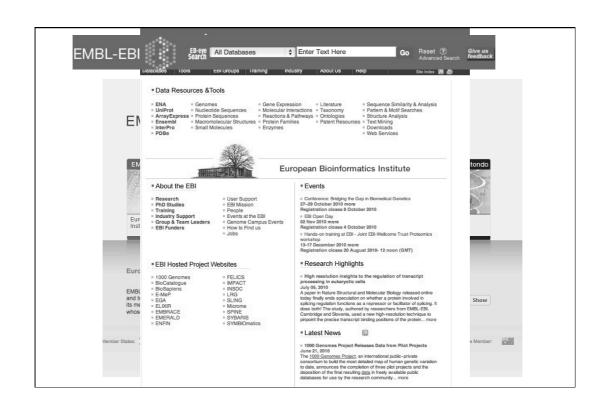
<u> 1984</u>

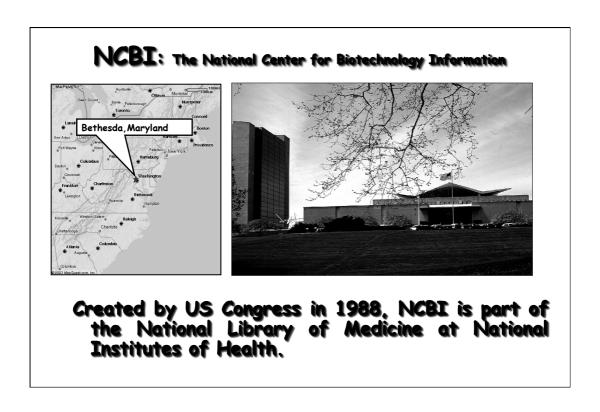
DNA sequence databases of Japan

Embl/GenBank/DDBJ agreed on common format for data elements









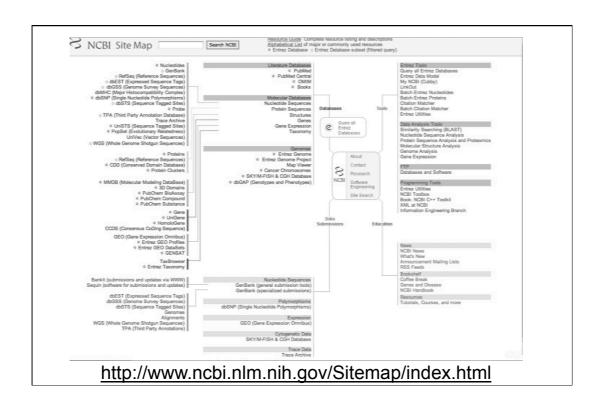


The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)

- Created as a part of the <u>National Library of</u>
 <u>Medicine</u> in 1988
 - Establish public databases
 - Research in computational biology
 - · Develop software tools for sequence analysis
 - Disseminate biomedical information
- Tools: BLAST(1990), Entrez (1992)
- GenBank (1992)
- Free MEDLINE (PubMed, 1997)
- Other databases: dbEST, dbGSS, dbSTS, MMDB, OMIM, UniGene, GeneMap, Taxonomy, CGAP, SAGE, Gene, RefSeq







Databases connections

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Database/datamodel/index.html

