Comp 555 - BioAlgorithms - Spring 2022



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One class of TEs: Endogenous Retroviruses (ERV)

During evolution various Retroviruses have incorporated themselves permanently into vertebrate genomes.

These "Endogenous" Retroviruses are generally dormant, but they occasionally awaken and, rather than leave the cell, they incorporate new copies of themselves back into the host DNA.

Thus, they are a form of Retrotransposon.



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ERV genome structure

The ERV genome is flanked by two 5' LTR "Identical sequences" called Long Terminal Repeats, LTRs.

These LTRs contain the transcription start and end sites that are used when the ERV is copied (retrotransposed). These are LTR parentheses enclosing the "proviral" sequence.

LTRs are required for the ERV to activate.





Env





LTRs can lose their virus

Active ERVs are bad news.

They tend to insert themselves into genes, and generally reduce the fitness of their host.



One way of cleaning the genome of ERVs is to remove their viral sequence.

The genome has a natural way of doing this, through a process call recombination (the same mechanism that exchanges sequences between the two chromosome copies).

The "identical" sequences of the two LTRs are their Achilles Heel. Sometimes, they pair up and recombine, and as a side-effect the viral sequence is excised.

The genome is full of these vestigial LTRs.

Let's look for some ERVs

There are several ways that we could proceed.

- 1. We could start by looking at all those 45-mers that are over-represented in the genome. But, not all of these sequences are ERV LTRs
- 2. We could start with a viral template. Where do we get one?

Luckily, biologists have used the first method to give us templates that we can use for the second approach.

There are databases with these "approximate" sequences.







Getting started

In [3]: import gzip



Some old code...

```
def loadFasta(filename):
   """ Parses a classically formatted and possibly
       compressed FASTA file into a list of headers
       and fragment sequences for each sequence contained"""
   if (filename.endswith(".gz")):
       fp = gzip.open(filename, 'r')
    else:
       fp = open(filename, 'r')
   # split at headers
   data = fp.read().split('>')
    fp.close()
   # ignore whatever appears before the 1st header
   data.pop(0)
   headers = []
    sequences = []
   for sequence in data:
       lines = sequence.split('\n')
       headers.append(lines.pop(0))
       # add an extra "+" to make string "1-referenced"
       sequences.append('+' + ''.join(lines))
   return (headers, sequences)
```

```
In [4]: header, seq = loadFasta("data/LTR14A.fa")
print(len(header), "sequences")
for i in range(len(header)):
    print(header[i])
    print(len(seq[i])-1, "bases", seq[i][:30], "...", seq[i][-30:])
```

1 sequences DF0000410.4 LTR14A 344 bases +tgggagaaaagctgagtgttgggagagaa ... gacctggtgttgggtctgatcaccccaaca

Looking at an LTR sequence



Let's get some sense of what we're looking for.

- 344 base pair consensus LTR sequence for an ERV class
- What is a consensus? (We'll quantify this concept next lecture)
- There are 0 exact matches in the genome
- Tyranny of consensus-- being close to many, but having no perfect match

```
In [5]: def revComp(dnaSeq):
    return ''.join([{'A':'T','C':'G','G':'C','T':'A'}[base] for base in reversed(dnaSeq)])
```

```
In [7]: print(ltr)
```

In [12]: print("-"+revComp(ltr[1:]))

Then what do we search for?



- Find clusters of genome subsequences that are shared with the LTR
- In the same relative order
- "Signature" k-mers
- LTRs can be on either strand

```
In [6]: ltr = seq[0].upper()
K = 19
forward = dict([(ltr[i:i+K], i) for i in range(1,len(ltr)-K+1)])
print(len(forward))
rev = "-" + revComp(ltr[1:])
reverse = dict([(rev[i:i+K], -i) for i in range(1,len(rev)-K+1)])
print(len(reverse))
# Check if any k-mer is in both lists
for key in forward:
    if key in reverse:
        print(key)
```

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Let's go fishing



Now scan the genome looking for LTRs...

```
In [*]: import time
        DATA = ".../HumanGenome/"
        chromo = [str(i) for i in range(1,23)] + ['X', 'Y', 'MT']
        chrSize = []
        ltrFind = []
        for contig in chromo:
            tick = time.time()
            with open(DATA+"Chr%s.seq" % contig, 'r') as fp:
                chrseq = fp.read()
            chrSize.append(len(chrseq))
            position = []
            for i in range(1,len(chrseq)-K+1):
                kmer = chrseq[i:i+K]
                if (kmer in forward):
                     position.append((contig,i,forward[kmer]))
                elif (kmer in reverse):
                     position.append((contig,i,reverse[kmer]))
                 else:
                     if (len(position) > 2) and (position[-2][2] == 0) and (position[-1][2] == 0):
                        position.pop()
                    position.append((contig,i,0))
            tock = time.time()
            print(contig, len(chrseq), len(position), "%6.2f secs" % (tock - tick))
            tick = tock
            ltrFind.append([tup for tup in position])
```

1	2	4	89	95	56	4	23		1	69	8		1	9	7	•	1	2		S	e	C	s	
2	2	4	2:	19	93	5	30		1	26	5		1	8	5		5	2		s	e	c	s	
3	1	9	82	29	95	56	50		1	06	0)	1	5	7		7	6		s	e	C	s	
4	1	9	02	21	14	5	56		7	86	;	1	6	3		4	0		s	e	c	s		
5	1	8	1	5	38	20	50		1	24	3		1	4	6		1	9		s	e	c	s	
6	1	7	08	36	95	98	80		1	39	3		1	4	8		2	8		s	e	C	s	
7	1	5	93	34	15	9	74		1	30	1		1	3	8		7	8		s	e	c	s	
8	1	4	5:	13	38	6	37		3	45	,	1	3	5		2	4		s	e	с	s		
9	1	3	83	39	94	7:	18		5	11		1	2	4		1	9		s	e	с	s		
10		1	33	37	79	74	12	3		21	8	1		1	7	1		1	2		s	e	c	5
11		1	3	56	8	66	52	3		91	.4		2	4	6		9	4		s	e	c	s	
12		1	33	32	27	5	31	0	1	63	8	:	2	6	5		5	8		s	e	c	s	
13		1	14	13	36	4	32	9	1	62	0	,	1	5	6		6	4		s	e	C	s	
14		1	07	76	94	3	71	9		20	9		1	3	9		8	3		s	e	c	s	
15		1	0:	19	99	1:	19	0		83	9		1	8	9		8	0		s	e	c	s	
16		9	03	33	88	34	46		1	73	;	1	2	8		0	9		s	e	с	s		
17		8	32	25	57	44	12		7	01		1	0	4		9	2		s	e	с	s		
18		8	03	37	73	28	86		2	88	3		6	3		8	2		s	e	с	s		
19		5	86	51	17	6	17		6	93	;		7	3		2	1		s	e	с	s		
20		6	44	14	14	10	58		1	18	3		5	8		7	8		s	e	с	s		
21		4	67	76	99	98	84		3	47	1		4	1		7	2		s	e	с	s		
22		5	08	31	18	4	59		9	24			4	6		0	5		s	e	с	s		
х	1	5	66	34	10	8	96		1	66	5		1	3	7		2	8		s	e	C	s	
Y	5	7	22	27	74	10	5	3	9	1		4	8		0	7		s	e	с	s			
MT		1	6	57	70	1	3		1	0.	0	4		s	e	c	s							

Big Picture



The LTRs of ERV14's are everywhere



Let's take a Zoomed-in look





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Going directly to the sequence



In [14]: contig = "1"

with open(DATA+"Chr%s.seq" % contig, 'r') as fp: chrseq = fp.read() print(chrseq[62178464:62183771+K])

TGTTGGGGTGATCAGACCCAAGGTCATGGGGACGACGACGAAGTCGGGGGGCGAAGGAATGATTAAAAAGACAGTTTGAGAGAAGTGGGCCCAGGGGGCCATCGTGTGAGGGCCGCGAAGGC CCAAGCTCTGGGAGCCCACGCTATTTATTGGTGCTCAAAGAAACAGGTGGTGGGGGGGTGGGGGTTTGAAAAGAAACAGTGTATCAAGTGAATGAGAGACATATGGCTACTTGAGATAATGGCAGTGC TGGAAGCAAGGAGCCAGCAAGTCTAGCACACATGCAAGCTCTGCCTCAGCTTCTCCCCAACACTCAGCTTTTCTCCCCAACATGCCCCCCTTCTTTTTTGTAAAAACCGCCACAGCT TACTAGCATAAGGTGGCCTCTTTCTAAAATTGAGCAAGGCAATCACAGGCTGTGCAGCCCTTAATTGCCAGTTGGTGATCCAGCTTCATTTTCTTAGCCCTTATTCAAAATGGAGTCGCTCT GGTTTGAATGCTTCCTACATATTTCCCCTTTTCCAGAGGACCCTTAATCCTAGGGGTTGCAGAAGGATGAAGGTCCACCTTCTGTAACTTCATGCTGAATAGGGGCGATGA TACCTATTAGGGTCTCTTGTATTCAGGGTAGAGGGGGGTCCAGTCAGGAAAGCATTGGTTCGTTAAGTATCTATAGGTAAAACCCTGGCACTCCAGCACTTTCTCAGCATGGCTCATACT CCAGTCCATGGTTGGGATCCATGGGTCCTTCCAGTCTCCATGGTCGTACACATCTTGAGGGCACCTACGTGGTTTGTTCATCTCCTGCAAAAACACAAAGCATACCTTCACCCCCA TAAATCTACTGAAACAGAAGCAAAAACGTTTGTGGCTGTAGCTGGGAGGCATGCTATTGCTGAAGCATTTGTAACTCAGCTTCTGCCTCTTTGGTTAATTACCATGGGGCAAAACTTACTGT ACGAGAAGCAGGCCCCTTCTAACAGAAGGCACAGAGAAAGCAAATCAAGGCTTAAAAGCAATCCTTAAACCTTCAATTTGCACTGTACAGGTGGGT TAGATGTTTGGTGGGCACCCACACAGGCACCTGATTGTCACCTGGAGAGACACAAGCACAAGCACAAGCCACATAACATTATCTTTCCTTTTCCCAGTTCTTTGTATGTGCATCCCCTCACATATA TCTTGTCCAGCCTTTTTATTTTCCTTTTGTCCTGTCAGGAGTTGTTCAGCTGCCGTAATGGGTTGATCTTTTTGTAAAACTTTAAAAAATTTAATGTTAATAAAGCTAAATGCAATTGCAT TCTTATATTCCTGGTCCCCTTTTGCTTTTGAGTTTTTGAGTTTTTAAAGTACTATATTAGCTCTTTCCACTATTGCTTGTCCTCGTGAGTTATACGGAATACCTGCAGTATGGGTAATATTCCATTGTT GAAAAAATGTAGCCATGGCTTTACTATAGTATCCTGGGCTGTTACCAGTTTTGATTTTTCGGGGATTCCCATAACTGAAAAGCAAGATAAAAGATGTCCTTTAACATGAGCTGT TTGACATGTGGCCCAGATAAAAATGTGAATAGGTACCTGAAAACATGAACAAAGGACAAATTTCCAAAAGCAGGAATATGTGTTACATCCACCAGCAGAATAGGAATTTGGAGAATAAACCTCTACGG AAGAATGAAATGTTTGTGCATCAGCAAAGGCTGCAGACAACAATGCATCCGCCCTTTGATTAAGTTTAGTTAAAGGGCCGAGGAGGTTAGTATGTGCTCTCATATGAGTGATACAGAAAGGTGAATG CCTTTATTGTATTGTTTGCTGTAAAGAATGAAATGAAAAGATAAAGATGATCATCAGTCACATTCGAGTAAGGCACATTCAATCCAGTATTTTGGGATCATTGTTGGGGAGAGCAGCCCTGGTTAT AGTGTGCCCATGGGTTGAATCACAGGATTAACAGCCCTTAAATCTGTTAACATTCTCCACTTACCAGCTTTTTTCTTAATGACAAATACAGGAGAAATACAGGGGGAGAAAGTAGGCTCTATATGTC AATGGCCGCTCCTAAAAATGGCACCACAATCTGGTCCGACCTGTTTGCCCTTTTAATTCTAAAGGTTCTGATTGGTCATTTATCTTTTTCTAGTCCTTTTCCCAGGCGATATCCCATATTTTTCATC GACCATCCAGCCCTTGACATGGTAAAAATCAAAGAACTCTGAAAAAACTTCCGAGGCAGCTCCTACTCCAACAATACCAATGGATGCCTTTCGCTTAGGCCAGTGCCAGGGCCATTGATTTAG AATAGAGACATCAGCTCCAGTATCTACTAGTCCTTCAGAATCTTTTCCCTGAATGGTTACTGTGCAAATAGGTCTTTTGTCAGACACTTGATTAACCCAATACACAGCCTTTCCTGCTGGA ATTTCTCCAGTATAATCAGAGTCAATTATTCCTCTATGTACAGTAACACCCTTTTAAATTTAGACTAGATCTTCCAAGTAATAGACCGACTGTTCCTGACGGTAAGGGTCCCCTAACTCCCAT GTATGCCTCGGTTTGTTGAGGGGCCTTGAGGTGGGCCCCCTCTTCCCGTTTCCTGAAATAGGTTGTCCATCTTTGCTAAATTTAGAATGACAATGATTTCCCCAGTGATTGCCTTTCTTATACCAGGGA CATATACCGGGACTTTTCTGTTGATTGATGGCAGTAGTTTTTGCCTTTTGATTTCCTTTTCTACATTCCTTTGTATGTCCAAATTGCCCACAATTAAAGCAAGAGCCTGAGAAATGGGGCATAC AGTTTGACACTCTGCATTAGCATTATCGTATGCAAGAAGCTGTATTACAACATCCTGAGCCGTTTTATCAGTTATGGCTTTATACACAGCCTCTTGGAACCAAGCAATAAAATCAACATATGGTTCT TTACGTCCTTGTCGGACAGAACTGAAAGAAGGATATTTTTCCCTCGTAACATTTATCCTTTCCCACGCCTGTAAGCACACAAAGCGCAGCTGAACAATGGCAACAATCGCCACTTGATTCT CTAACCGACCCCAATTAGGGCCAACTCCCATTAACTGTTCAAAGGAAACAGGCACAGGTGGCTGTGCTTGTATGTTTTCCCTTGTCTGAGCTTCAACCACCACCAGGTTTTAAACTGCAA GCTTAAATTCCTTTAGTAACTTAAAAGGAAAAGCGGCCCAATTAGTTATATTCTGTCCTCGTGGATTATAGTAATGGGAAATTGCCATGCTTCAAGGTCTCCCTTGGCTGTAGCTTT ATCTGAATCTGCCTCATCATCTGTTTGAAATGGCTCAAGAGCCGTCTTTATTAGCACCCACACTGACCAAATGAAAACTGGAATTTCTGCTCCCTCTTTTAATGCCTTTTTAAAATCT CTCTCCCATTCATCCAACTCCACAGTCCCTTGTTCAGGAAACCATGGACAAAACTGCTTTACTGTACTAAAGAGTGATAACAAATTCTGAGTACTAACTTACTCCCCCTCTTCGTAATAAAA AAGAAATGTAAATAAGCGGAATGTCTGCTTTCACTTTGTCCCATTGTTACTCTGGTTCTTCCAAGTGCTCAGCTTTCCTGTCAAGCTTCTTTAGACCCCCATGCTCTAGCGTTGCTTCACT TGAATGAGAAACATATGGCTGCTTGACATAATGGCAGTGCTAGAAGCAAGGAGCCAGCAAGTCTAGGACACATGCAAGCCCTGCCTCAGCTTCTCCCCAACACTCAGCTTTTCTCCCA

These is an ERV that includes an ancient version of the viral sequence. Note: it is on the reverse DNA strand.....

+TGGGAGAAAAGCTGAGTGTTGGGAGAGAAGCTGAGGCAGGG CTTGCATGTCTGCTAGACTTGCTGGCTCCTTGCTTCTAGCAC TCCCATTATCTCAAGCAGCCATATGTTTCTCATTCACTTGAT ACACCGTTTCCTTTCAACCCCCACATCCTCACCACCTGTTTC TTTGTTTGAGCACCAATAAATAGCGTGGGCTCCCAGAGCTCG GGGCCTTCGCAGCCTCCACACTCGCGATGGCCCCCTGGTCCC ACTTTCTCTCTCAAACTGTCTTTTTCTCATTCCTTTGACTCC GCCGGACTTCGTCGCCCCCACGACCTGGTGTTGGGTCTGATC ACCCCAACA

Next Time



Looking for hidden patterns in DNA without a template

