Class 01: What is Bioinformatics? (1)

Held: Thursday, 27 August 2009

Related Pages:
- EBoard.
- Reading: Ratliff 2009.

Notes:
- Introductory Survey assigned, due Tuesday.
- Please fill out the RISC Survey asap.
- Three readings from *Science* distributed (links on Pioneerweb). Read and respond for Tuesday’s class. See the notes on response papers for information on writing responses

Overview:
- Survey
- Discussion of *Wired* Dinosaur DNA Reading
- About the Course
- Getting Started with the Linux Network
- Getting Started with Python

Survey
- We begin with a short survey about the course.

Discussion of *Wired* Dinosaur DNA Reading
- What does the reading tell you about bioinformatics?
- What does the reading tell you about the roles of computer science and biology in bioinformatics?
- What did you find troubling about the reading?
- ...

About the Course
- Bioinformatics: A topic somewhere at the intersection of biology and computer science
- Multiple approaches
  - For CS students vs. For Biology students vs. For both students
  - Using tools vs. Building tools
  - ...
- Experimental course
- While we’ve each studied the other field, we will be learning some things with you.
- We expect to change (and add to) the syllabus as time goes on.
- We may over-prepare and under-prepare for some days.

- Primary work
  - Lots of readings from the primary literature
  - Some lecture on biology topics to extend the book
  - Some use of tools
  - Lots of programming (some in class, some outside of class)

**Getting Started with the Linux Network**

- Do the lab.
- Experienced students will have done something similar already
  - Please help the other students.
  - Follow the instructions for adding a link to the Python idle environment.
- Ask questions!

**Getting Started with Python**

- Do the lab (if there’s time).

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