

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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