Class 01: Getting Started

Held: Thursday, 25 August 2011

Summary: We start the class by considering the subject matter of the course and by starting to learn to use our computer tools.

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.
- Introductions.
- What is Bioinformatics?
- About the Course.
- Discussion of Wired Dinosaur DNA Reading.
- Getting Started with the Linux Network.
- Getting Started with Python.

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

Introductions
- We introduce ourselves to each other.

What is Bioinformatics?
- We’d like to hear your opinions on this.
- Then we’ll provide our own opinions.
- Bioinformatics: A topic somewhere at the intersection of biology and computer science.
About the Course

- 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)
  - Fun with lab!

Discussion of Wired Dinosaurs 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?
- ... 

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