BIOL8620 Eukaryotic Genetics

Genome Evolution: Gene numbers, Clusters & Repeats

> Chapter 5 & 6, parts of 7 & 8

Туре	Structural Features	Mechanism of Movement	Examples			
DNA-MEDIATE	DNA-MEDIATED TRANSPOSITION					
Bacterial insertion sequences (IS elements)	≈50-bp inverted repeats flanking region encoding transposase and, in some, resolvase	Excision or copying of \underline{DNA} and its insertion at target site	IS1, IS10			
Bacterial transposons	Central antibiotic-resistance gene flanked by IS elements	Copying of <u>DNA</u> and its insertion at target site	Tn9			
Eukaryotic transposons	Inverted repeats flanking coding region with introns	Excision of \underline{DNA} and its insertion at target site	P element (Drosophila); Ac and Ds elements (corn)			
RNA-MEDIATE	RNA-MEDIATED TRANSPOSITION					
Viral retrotransposons	≈250- to 600-bp direct terminal repeats (LTRs) flanking region encoding <u>reverse transcriptase</u> , integrase, and retroviral-like Gag <u>protein</u>	Transcription into <u>RNA</u> from <u>promoter</u> in left LTR by <u>RNA polymerase</u> II followed by reverse <u>transcription</u> and insertion at target site	Ty elements (yeast); Copia elements (Drosophila)			
Nonviral retrotransposons	Of variable length with a 3' A/T-rich region; full-length copy encodes a <u>reverse transcriptase</u>	Transcription into <u>RNA</u> from internal <u>promoter</u> ;folding of <u>transcript</u> to provide <u>primer</u> for reverse <u>transcription</u> followed by insertion at target site	F and G elements (Drosophila); LINE and SINE elements (mammals); <i>Alu</i> sequences (humans)			



DNA Transposition	Example	Enzyme(s)	Transposon Target
Replicative	Tn3 Tn7	Transposase / Resolvase Transposase (TnsB) - Endonuclease (TnsA)	Crossover structure (strand transfer complex): Nicked ends of transposon are joined to nicked ends of target
Nonreplicative two-strand	Tn5 Tn7	Transposase Transposase (TnsB) + Endonuclease (TnsA)	
Nonreplicative four-strand	Tn10 Ac autonomous (Ds) nonautonomous	Transposase Transposase (controlled by Methylation)	Donor is released The is joined to target



Example

Enzyme(s)



Replicative

Nonreplicative two-strand

Nonreplicative four-strand



DNA Transposition	Example	Enzyme(s)	Transposon Target
Replicative	Tn3 Tn7	Transposase / Resolvase Transposase (TnsB) - Endonuclease (TnsA)	Single-strand cuts generate staggered ends in both transposon and target Crossover structure (strand transfer complex): Nicked ends of transposon are joined to nicked ends of target Replication from free 3' ends generates cointegrate: Single molecule has two copies of transposon
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Retrotransposition	Example(s)	Enzyme(s)	
Retroviruses	HIV, Feline Leukemia	Reverse Transcriptase + Integrase	
LTR Retroelements	Ty elements, Copia-like elements ERV	Reverse Transcriptase + Integrase	Image: display the image: display
TPRT Retroelements	LINES, L1 (humans) autonomous	Reverse Transcriptase endonuclease Initial host transcription (controlled by Methylation)	B Step 1 1st Cleavage Step 2 Text (1st Stand Step 3 Step 3

SINES, Alu1 nonautonomous (controlled by Methylation)







- Retroviral genomes exist as RNA and DNA sequences
- A short sequence (R) is repeated at each end of the viral RNA.
 - The 5' and 3' ends are R-U5 and U3-R, respectively.

Retrotransposition Example(s) Enzyme(s) aving fragments Retroviruses HIV, Feline Leukemia **Reverse Transcriptase** www.www + Integrase \sim s completed 5, **111**111111111 LTR Retroelements Ty elements, **Reverse Transcriptase** Copia-like elements + Integrase ~~~~~~ BNA-processing enzy Poly(A) polymerase **ERV** ~~~ (A).

TPRT Retroelements

LINES, L1 (humans) autonomous

SINES, Alu1 nonautonomous Reverse Transcriptase endonuclease Initial host transcription (controlled by Methylation)



Retrotransposition

Example(s)

Enzyme(s)



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autonomous

SINES, Alu1 nonautonomous

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- Retrotransposons of the viral superfamily are transposons that mobilize via an RNA that does not form an infectious particle.
- Some retrotransposons directly resemble retroviruses in their use of LTRs.
 Others do not, and have no LTRs.

	LTR retrotransposons	non-LTR retroposons	SINES
Common types	Ty (<i>S. cerevisiae</i>) copia (<i>D.melanogaster</i>)	L1 (human) B1, B2 ID, B4 (mouse)	SINES (mammals) Pseudogenes of pol III transcripts
Termini	Long terminal repeats	No repeats	No repeats
Target repeats	4–6 bp	7–21 bp	7–21 bp
Enzyme activities	Reverse transcriptase and/or integrase	Reverse transcriptase /endonuclease	None (or none coding for transposon products)
Organization	May contain introns (removed in subgenomic mRNA)	One or two uninterrupted ORFs	No introns

- Despite having an **RT activity**, LINES lack the **LTRs** of the viral superfamily and use a unique mechanism to prime the reverse transcription **rxn**.
- The non-viral superfamily may have originated from RNA sequences;
- **SINES** are derived from RNA polymerase III transcripts.



Ty elements in yeast generate virus-like particles.

Reprinted from J. Mol. Biol., vol. 292, H. A. AL-Khayat, et al., Yeast Ty retrotransposons..., pp. 65-73. Copyright 1999, with permission from Elsevier [http:// www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00222836]. Photo courtesy of Dr. Hind A AL © 2013 by Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC an Ascend Learning Company Khayat, Imperial College London, United Kingdom. *Ty* elements in Yeast (~35 copies per genome) represent a third type of transposositional insertion....*Retrotransposition*.



Ty elements ~5.1kbp in size and encode for a 300 bp **tandem** repeats (δ 's), which can be seen scattered around Yeast genomes. They cause **5 bp repeats** in target site and transpose through an **RNA intermediate!!!** How can we know this?



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 Although retroelements that lack LTRs, also transpose via reverse transcriptase, they employ a distinct method of integration and are phylogenetically distinct from both retroviruses and LTR retrotransposons.

 Other elements can be found that were generated by an RNA-mediated transposition event, but they do not themselves code for enzymes that can catalyze transposition.



• **Retroelements** constitute almost half (48%) of the human genome.

Element	Organization	Length (Kb)	Human genome	
			Number	Fraction
Retrovirus/LTR retrotransposon	LTR gag pol (env) L	.TR 1–11	450,000	8%
LINES (autonomous), e.g., L1	ORF1 (pol) (A) _n 6–8	850,000	17%
SINES (nonautonomous), e.g., Alu		A) _n <0.3 1	,500,000	15%
DNA transposon	Transposase	2-3	300,000	3%

- LINES and SINES comprise a major part of the animal genome. They were originally defined by the existence of a large number of relatively short sequences that were related to one another.
- They are described as interspersed nuclear elements because of their common occurrence and widespread distribution. L1 = active human LINES; ALU = active human SINES

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- short-interspersed elements (SINEs) A major class of short (<500 bp) nonautonomous retrotransposons that occupy ~13 -15% of the human genome.
 - Alu element One of a set of dispersed, related sequences, each ~300 bp long, in the human genome (members of the SINE family).



Karyotype from a female human lymphocyte (46, XX). Chromosomes were hybridized with a probe for Alu elements (green) and counterstained with TOPRO-3 (red). Alu elements were used as a marker for chromosomes and chromosome bands rich in genes.



Fig. 14 Model of SC structure in control and TSA-treated rats. a SC of a control rat. The chromatin of homologous chromosomes is anchored to the lateral elements (LE) through lateral elements-associated repeat sequences (LEARS), for which chromatin structure is dictated by histone posttranslational modifications like H3K9me3,

H3K27me3, and H4K20me3. **b** Upon inhibition of histone deacetylases, the presence of H3K27me3 in SINE and LTR sequences decreases dramatically, which could favor detachment of such sequences from the LEs. This is accompanied by alteration of the SC's central region (CR)



A LINE is transcribed into an RNA that is translated into proteins that assemble into a complex with the RNA. The complex translocates to the nucleus, where it inserts a DNA copy into the genome A transposon is transcribed into an RNA that is translated into proteins that move independently to the nucleus, where they act on any pair of inverted repeats with the same sequence as the original transposon.



(a) Transcription. L1 amplification initiates with transcription, and regulation of L1 at this step can be modified by epigenetic modifications, DNA methylation, and recruitment of transcription factors.

(b) Before leaving the nucleus, the number of retrocompetent full length L1 transcripts can be reduced by RNA processing through premature polyadenylation and splicing.

(c) Translation. Full length L1 enters the cytoplasm to be translated, producing **ORF1** and **ORF2** proteins for retrotransposition. The two proteins interact with the L1 transcript to form an **L1 ribonucleoprotein** particle (RNP). RNA interference can affect this step.

(d) Insertion of a new L1 copy. The L1 RNP reaches the nucleus, where the DNA is cleaved by the L1 ORF2 endonuclease activity. It is proposed that reverse transcription occurs through a process referred to as "target primed reverse transcription" (TPRT) [71]. The L1 ORF2 reverse transcriptase activity generates the first strand of DNA. DNA repair proteins are likely to be involved in inhibiting the L1 integration step.

(e) Effects of external stimuli. Ionizing radiation or heavy metals can affect L1 at multiple steps, such as transcriptional activation or altering DNA repair pathways.







(Step 1) the **endonuclease** (red oval) from the upstream subunit is responsible for first strand cleavage.

(Step 2) The **RT** (green oval) of the upstream subunit catalyzes reverse transcription of the RNA template using the cleaved DNA target site as primer, a reaction we call **Target Primed Reverse Transcription**, **TPRT**.

(Step 3) The downstream subunit cleaves the second DNA strand.

(Step 4) The downstream subunit provides the polymerase to perform second strand TPRT displacing the RNA template as it uses the first DNA strand as template.

- DNA transposons and LTR elements are believed to be "extinct" in the human genome, but the average human carries approximately 80 100 potentially active L1 elements in a diploid genome.
- LINES and SINES are NOT extinct
- L1 is active in BOTH the germ line and somatic cells.
- The full length human **L1 retrotransposon** is 6kb and contains
 - a 910 bp 5'-UTR with bidirectional promoter activity
 - An ORF1 region which encodes an RN binding protein with a leucine zipper domain
 - An ORF2 region which encodes a 150 kDa protein with endonuclease and reverse transcriptase activities
 - A 3'-UTR which contains a functional **polyadenylation sequence**
- The L1 element is flanked by 2 to 20 bp target site duplications.



• The EN domain is thought to originate from a host endonuclease present in early eukaryotes. The element can move without a functional EN, but the endonuclease-independent integration is less efficient and occurs rarely.

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2005: Callinan Pauline A; Wang Jianxin; Herke Scott W; Garber Randall K; Liang Ping; Batzer Mark A **Alu retrotransposition-mediated deletion.**

Journal of molecular biology 2005;348(4):791-800

Alu Retrotransposition-mediated Deletion

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Alu repeats contribute to genomic instability in primates *via* insertional and recombinational mutagenesis. Here, we report an analysis of *Alu* element-induced genomic instability through a novel mechanism termed retrotransposition-mediated deletion, and assess its impact on the integrity of primate genomes. For human and chimpanzee genomes, we find evidence of 33 retrotransposition-mediated deletion events that have eliminated approximately 9000 nucleotides of genomic DNA. Our data suggest that, during the course of primate evolution, *Alu* retrotransposition may have contributed to over 3000 deletion events, eliminating approximately 900 kb of DNA in the process. Potential mechanisms for the creation of *Alu* retrotransposition-mediated deletions include L1 endonuclease-dependent retrotransposition, internal priming on DNA breaks, and promiscuous target primed reverse transcription. A comprehensive analysis of the collateral effects by *Alu* mobilization on all primate genomes will require sequenced genomes from representatives of the entire order.

Keywords: short interspersed elements; target primed reverse transcription

Abbreviations used: SINE, short interspersed element; LINE, long interspersed element; ARD, Alu retrotransposition-mediated deletion; HuARD, human-specific ARD; TSD, target site duplication; pTPRT, promiscuous target primed reverse transcription

Article Outline





L1 expression leads to different types of DNA damage.

Schematic structures of an **SVA element** (labeled SVA), showing the CCCTCT repeat, the **Alu derived (A-like) region**, the variable number tandem repeat (VNTR) region, and the long terminal repeat (LTR)derived region; an Alu element (labeled Alu (SINE)), showing left (purple) and right (pink) halves separated by the Arich region (A) and the variable length Atail ((A)n) followed by the 3' region (white), which has a variable length and sequence; and an L1 element (labeled LINE1), showing open reading frame (ORF)1 (light blue) and ORF2 (dark blue) and the 5' untranslated region, interORF region and 3' untranslated region (white).

(a) The typical insertion of these elements into the genome, which can lead to insertional mutagenesis. In breast cancer **BRCA1** and **BRCA2** are also known to be disrupted by **TE insertion**

(b) Dispersed repetitive elements such as Alu elements can undergo non-allelic homologous recombination, which can cause a deletion (shown) or duplication (not shown). The dashed arrow indicates the potential site of DNA damage by an L1 endonuclease that may help initiate these recombination events.

(c) Potential outcomes of the repair of the L1 induced double strand breaks (DSBs). The L1 recognition site is in black; surrounding sequence is in blue; inserted nucleotides are in red. The associated changes are typical of what might be seen with repair of the DSB by **non homologous end joining (NHEJ) mechanisms**. It is also possible that the sites are simply re-ligated with no mutation occurring, or alternatively, these sites may cause recombination, as shown in (b).





Gene NUMBERS and FUNCTION can be changed by unequal crossing-

- **gene families** sets of genes within a genome that code for related or identical proteins or RNAs.
 - The members were derived by duplication of an ancestral gene followed by accumulation of changes in sequence between the copies.
 - Most often the members are related but not identical.

• gene clusters – Groups of adjacent genes that are identical or related.

- **pseudogenes** Inactive but stable components of the genome derived by mutation of an ancestral active gene.
 - Usually they are inactive because of mutations that block transcription or translation or both.

 The sum of the number of unique genes and the number of gene families is an estimate of the number of types of genes.



Many genes in a genome are duplicated and, as a result, form a number of different gene families more so in higher eukaryotes
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Each of the α -like and β -like globin gene families is organized into "clusters", which includes functional genes and pseudogenes.

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Gene Duplication is a Major Force in Genome Evolution



Divergence accumulates at 0.1%/million years

Silencing of one copy takes ~4 million years Active Pseudogene

After a globin gene has been duplicated, differences may accumulate between the copies

Pseudogenes Are Nonfunctional Gene Copies

- **Processed pseudogenes** result from reverse transcription and integration of mRNA transcripts.
- Nonprocessed pseudogenes result from incomplete duplication or second-copy mutation of functional genes.



Many changes have occurred in a beta-globin gene since it became a pseudogene

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Each of the α -like and β -like globin gene families is organized into a single cluster, which includes functional genes and pseudogenes.





Gene NUMBERS and FUNCTION can be changed by unequal crossing-

over



Some males have as many as 9 copies of genes encoding the red and green opsin genes, when two are enough. The sequences of the red and green genes are effectively very similar at 98% of their nucleotides. This high degree of similarity creates the risk of mismatches in synapsis during meiosis with **unequal crossing over.**

- Different thalassaemias are caused by various deletions that eliminate α- or β-globin genes.
 - The severity of the disease depends on the individual deletion.



α-thalassaemias result from
various deletions in the
α- globin gene cluster

Unequal Crossing-over Rearranges Gene Clusters



Hb Lepore – An unusual globin protein that results from unequal crossing-over between the δ and β genes.

 Hb Kenya – A fusion gene produced by unequal crossing-over between the Aγand β-globin genes

Species	Genomes (Mb)	Genes	Lethal loci
Mycoplasma genitalium	0.58	470	~300
Rickettsia prowazekii	1.11	834	
Haemophilus influenzae	1.83	1743	
Methanococcus jannaschi	1.66	1738	
B. subtilis	4.2	4100	
E. coli	4.6	4288	1800
S. cerevisiae	13.5	6034	1090
S. pombe	12.5	4929	
A. thaliana	119	25,498	
O. sativa (rice)	466	~30,000	
D. melanogaster	165	13,601	3100
C. elegans	97	18,424	
H. sapiens	3,300	~25,000	

Genome sizes and gene numbers are known from complete sequences for several organisms.



• The minimum number of genes for a parasitic prokaryote is about 500; for a free-living non-parasitic prokaryote it is about 1500.

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	(Mb) 0.58 1.11 1.83 1.66 4.2 4.6 13.5 12.5 119 466 165 97	(Mb)Genes0.584701.118341.8317431.6617384.241004.6428813.5603412.5492911925,498466~30,00016513,6019718,424

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500 genes Intracellular (parasitic) bacterium



1500 genes Free-living bacterium



5000 genes Unicellular eukaryote



13,000 genes Multicellular eukaryote



25,000 genes Higher plants



25,000 genes Mammals



The "minimum" gene number required for any type of organism increases with its complexity.....

Courtesy of Eishi Noguchi, Drexel University College of Medicine.

- There is no definitive correlation between genome size and genetic complexity.
- C-value The total amount of DNA in the genome (per haploid set of chromosomes)

 C-value paradox – The lack of relationship between the DNA content (C-value) of an organism and its coding potential.





Human genes can be classified according to how widely their homologues are distributed in other species.

Morphological Complexity Evolves by Adding New Gene Functions



Common eukaryotic proteins are concerned with essential cellular functions

Increasing complexity in eukaryotes is accompanied by accumulation of new proteins for **transmembrane** and **extracellular** functions

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1025t

Human

The Human Genome Has Fewer Genes Than Originally Expected

- Only 1% of the human genome consists of exons.
- Exons comprise ~5% of each gene, so genes (exons plus introns) comprise ~25% of the genome.
- The human genome has between 20,000 to 25,000 genes.

Genes occupy 25% of the human genome, but protein-coding sequences are only a small part of this fraction, ~1%.



- Repeated sequences (present in more than one copy) account for >50% of the human genome.
- The great bulk of repeated sequences consists of copies of nonfunctional transposons.
- There are many duplications of large chromosome regions.
- There are many duplications of large chromosome regions.

Indeed, the largest component of the human genome consists of transposons.



The Human Genome Has Fewer Genes Than Originally Expected



The average human gene is ~27 kb long and has 9 exons, usually comprising two longer exons at each end and seven smaller, internal exons.

- ~60% of human genes are alternatively spliced.
- Up to 80% of the alternative splices change protein sequence, so the proteome has upward of 50,000 to 60,000 members.

 Syntenic relationships can be extensive, as seen between mouse and human genomes, where most of the similar active genes are in a syntenic region.





"Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny ??" Haec 1870's



- satellite DNA DNA that consists of many tandem repeats (identical or related) of a short basic repeating unit
- minisatellite DNAs consisting of tandemly repeated copies of a short repeating sequences, with more repeat copies than a microsatellite but fewer than a satellite.
 - The length of the repeating unit is measured in tens of base pairs.
 - The number of repeats varies between individual genomes.

- Satellite DNA is often the major constituent of centromeric heterochromatin.
- As opposed to euchromatin Regions that comprise most of the genome in the interphase nucleus which are less tightly coiled than heterochromatin, and contain most of the active or potentially active single-copy genes.



Cytological hybridization shows that mouse satellite DNA is located at the centromeres.

Photo courtesy of Mary Lou Pardue and Joseph G. Gall, Carnegie Institution.

- Highly repetitive DNA (or satellite DNA) has a very short repeating sequence and no coding function....
- **simple sequence DNA** Short repeating units of DNA sequence.
- Satellite DNA occurs in large blocks that can have distinct physical properties.



Mouse DNA is separated into a main band and a satellite by centrifugation through a density gradient of CsCl

Arthropod Satellite DNA Have Very Short Identical Repeats

- The repeating units of arthropod satellite DNAs are only a few nucleotides long.
 - Most of the copies of the sequence are identical.

Satellite	Predominant Sequence	Total Length	Genome Proportion	
I	A C A A A C T T G T T T G A	1.1 x 10 ⁷	25%	
П	A T A A A C T T A T T T G A	3.6 x 10 ⁶	8%	
Ш	А С А А А Т Т Т G Т Т Т А А	3.6 x 10 ⁶	8%	
Cryptic	А А Т А Т А G Т Т А Т А Т С	Sate	ellite DNAs of	<i>D. virilis</i> are related

Mammalian Satellites Consist of Hierarchical Repeats

 Mouse satellite DNA appear to have evolved through duplication and mutation of a short repeating unit to give a basic repeating unit of 234 bp in which the original half-, quarter-, and eighth-repeats can be recognized.

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110
GGACC	FGGAATATGG	GAGAAAACT	GAAAATCACGG	AAAATGAGAA	ATACACACTT	TAGGACGTG	AAATATGGCGA	GAAAACTGAA	AAAGGTGGAA	AATTAGAAAT	GTCCACTGTA
GGACG	TGGAATATGG	AAGAAAACT	GAAAATCATGG	AAAATGAGAA	ACATCCACTT	GACGACTTG	AAAAATGACGA	AATCACTAAA	AAACGTGAAA	AATGAGAAAT	GCACACTGAA
120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230

FIGURE 15: The repeating unit of mouse satellite DNA contains two halfrepeats, which are aligned to show the identities (in blue)

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110
GGACCT	GGAATATGGO	GAGAAAACTG	AAAATCAOGG	AAAATGAGAAA	ATACACACTT	TAGGACGTGA	AATATGGCGA	GAAAACTGAA	AAAGGTGGAA	AATTAGAAAT	GTCCACTGTA
GGACGT	GGAATATGGC	AAGAAAACTG	AAAATCATGG	AAAATGAGAAA	ACATCCACTTO	GACGACTTGA	AAAATGACGA	AATCACTAAA	AAACGTGAAA	AATGAGAAAT	GCACACTGAA
120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230

	10	20	30	40	50
GGACCTO	GAATATGGCG	AGAAAACTGA	AAATCACGGA	AAATGAGAAA	TACACACTT
60	70	80	90	100_	110
GGACGTO	70 AAATATGGCG	AGAAAACTGA	AAAAGGTGGA	AAATTAGAAA	TGTCCACTG
120	130	140	150	160	170
GGACGTO	GAATATGGCA	AGAAAACTGA	AAATCATGGA	AAATGAGAAA	CATCCACTT
180	190	200	210	220	230
CGACTTO	AAAAATGACG	AAATCACTAA	AAAACGTGAA	AAATGAGAAA	TGCACACTO

The repeating unit of mouse satellite DNA contains two half-repeats, which are aligned to show the identities (in blue), along with significant additional homologies between the first and second half of each half-repeat.

10 GGACCTGGAATA	20 TGGCGAGAAAACTGAA	30 40 AATCAOGGAAAATGAGAAA	50 60 AT ACACACT TT AGGACGT	70 80 GAAATATGGCGAGAAAACTG	90 100 Балаладдтддалалттадаа	110 ATGTCCACTGTA
GGACGTGGAATA	TGGCAAGAAAACTGAA	AATCATGGAAAATGAGAAA 150 160	ACATCCACTTGACGACTT 170 180	GAAAAATGACGAAATCACTA 190 200	AAAAACGTGAAAAATGAGAAA 210 220	ATGCACACTGAA 230
	10	20	30	40	50	
GGACCT	G <mark>G</mark> AATATG	GCGAGAAAA	CTGAAAATC	ACGGAAAATG	AGAAATACAC	ACTTTA
60	70	C 80	90	100	<u>)</u> 110	
GGACGT	G <mark>A</mark> AATATG	GCGAGAAAA			AGAAATGTCC	ACT <mark>GT</mark> A
120	130	140	15	50 16	50 17	0
GGACGT	G <mark>G</mark> AATATG	GCAAGAAAA	CTGAAAATC	ATGGAAAATG	AGAAACATCC	ACT <mark>TG</mark> A
180 CGACTT	19 G <mark>A</mark> AAAATG		200 CTAAAAAA	210 GTGAAAAATG	220 AGAAAT <mark>GCA</mark> C	230 ACT <mark>GA</mark> A

The repeating unit of mouse satellite DNA contains two half-repeats, which are aligned to show the identities (in blue), along with significant additional homologies between the first and second half of each half-repeat.



The alignment of eighth-repeats shows that each quarter-repeat consists of an α and a β half.

* indicates inserted triplet in β sequence C in position 10 is extra base in α sequence Eventually giving rise to the existence of an overall consensus sequence is shown by effectively writing the satellite sequence as a 9 bp repeat.

ABCABCABCABCABCABCABCABC ABCABCABCABCABCABCABCABC **ABCABCABCABCAB CABCABCABCABCABC** ABCABCABCABCABCABC





Alleles may differ by number of repeats at a minisatellite locus, so digestion generates restriction fragments that differ in length.



Alleles may differ by number of repeats at a minisatellite loci, so digestion of endonuclease sites flanking these repeats...generates restriction fragments that differ in length.



Alleles may differ by number of repeats at a minisatellite locus, so digestion generates restriction fragments that differ in length. VNTR's...

I think AL The between A & B. ching En & ulition. C+B.The finat gradation, B + D rather greater Distriction The gener would be from. - being whaten

Exert from Darwin's diary


Phylogenetic tree (unrooted)



Phylogenetic tree (rooted)



Phylogenetic tree (rooted)



Monophyletic group

(a)



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(b)



Comparing Characteristics - Similarity Score -

Many properties can be used:

- Morphological characters
- Isoelectric points
- Molecular weights
- Nucleotides or amino acid composition

Expressed Gene Number Can Be Measured En Masse

• DNA microarray technology allows detailed comparisons of related animal cells to determine (for example) the differences in expression between a normal cell and a cancer cell.



women who breastfed ≥ 6 months (red lines) or who never breastfed (blue lines)

Different tumor subtypes blue, green, red, and purple bars

Heat map of 59 invasive breast tumors from women who breastfed ≥6 months or who never breastfed with RED higher expression of tumors and BLUE lower expression of tumors.

Image courtesy of Rachel E. Ellsworth, Clinical Breast Care Project, Windber Research Institute.

- Phenetics versus Cladistics
 - •Cladistics can be defined as the study of the pathways of evolution. In other words, cladists are interested in such questions as: how many branches there are among a group of organisms; which branch connects to which other branch; and what is the branching sequence.

A tree-like network that expresses such ancestor-descendant relationships is called a cladogram. Thus, a cladogram refers to the "**topology**" of a rooted phylogenetic tree.

•Phenetics is the study of **relationships among a group of organisms** on the basis of the **degree of similarity** between them, be that similarity **molecular, phenotypic, or anatomical.**

A tree-like network expressing **phenetic** relationships is called a **phenogram**.

Choosing which tree is the "most reasonable" or demonstrates the "correct relationship" varies upon a knowledge of any number of factors, and is often resolved through the use of a "maximium parsimony" (Cladistic) and UPGMA [Unweighted Pair Group



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Molecular Clocks..(?)..





The Port Jackson shark..

Heterodontus portusjacksoni

independence of molecular and morphological evolution

Globins	Number of amino acid changes
human alpha vs. human ß	147
carp alpha vs. human ß shark-alpha vs. shark ß	149 150

Amino acid differences between the - and ß-hemoglobins, for three species pairs.

After Kimura (1983).

DNA Sequences can be envisaged to Evolve by Mutation followed by some some form of "Sorting Mechanism"



(a) Twelve different base substitutions can occur in DNA.

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Selective Pressure Can Be Detected by Measuring Sequence Variation

- At the molecular level, the probability of a mutation becoming **fixed** in a population is influenced by the likelihood that the particular error/change will occur **and** the likelihood that it will be repaired.
- **synonymous mutation** A change in DNA sequence in a coding region that **does not alter** the amino acid that is encoded.
- non synonymous mutation A change in DNA sequence in a coding region that alters the amino acid that is encoded.
- Neutral mutation -a change in DNA sequence that gives NO selective advantage or disadvantage

Selective pressure Can Be Detected by Measuring Sequence Variation

- The ratio of non synonymous to synonymous substitutions in the evolutionary history of a gene is a measure of positive and/or negative selection.
- Low heterozygosity of a gene may indicate recent selective events.
- **genetic hitchhiking** The change in frequency of a genetic variant due to its linkage to a selected variant at another locus.



DNA Sequences can be envisaged to Evolve by Mutation followed by some some form of "Sorting Mechanism"

- Neo Darwinism: Natural Selection vs. Genetic Drift
- In small populations, the frequency of a mutation will change randomly and new mutations are likely to be eliminated by selection or chance.
- **fixation** The process by which a new allele replaces the allele that was previously predominant in a population.

- The frequency of a mutation that affects phenotype will be influenced by negative or positive selection and also population size
- Whereas, the frequency of a neutral mutation largely depends on genetic drift, the strength of which depends on the size of the population

The fixation or loss of alleles by random genetic drift occurs more rapidly in (A) populations of 10 than in (B) populations of 100



Data courtesy of Kent E. Holsinger, University of Connections [http://darwin.eeb.uconn.edu]

- Comparing the rates of substitution among related species can indicate whether **selection** on the gene has occurred.
- **linkage disequilibrium** A nonrandom association between alleles at two different loci, often as a result of linkage.



A higher number of **non synonymous** substitutions in lysozyme sequences in the cow/deer lineage as compared to the pig lineage...

Adapted from N. H. Barton, et al. Evolution. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2007. Original figure appeared in J. H. Gillespie, The Causes of Molecular Evolution. Oxford University Press, 1991.

Selection Can Be Detected by Measuring Sequence Variation



The recently cloned G6PD allele has rapidly increased in frequency

Adapted from E. T. Wang, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 103 (2006): 135-140.

A Constant Rate of Sequence Divergence would give rise to a "**Molecular Clock**" -like Sorting Mechanism

- The sequences of orthologous genes in different species vary at non synonymous sites (where mutations have caused amino acid substitutions) and synonymous sites (where mutation has not affected the amino acid sequence).
- Synonymous substitutions accumulate ≈10 stepster than non synonymous substitutions.

A Constant Rate of Sequence Divergence Is a Molecular Clock



Divergence of DNA sequences depends on evolutionary separation

Gene	Meaningful rate	Silent rate
ß2 microglobulin	1.21	11.77
albumin	0.92	6.72
histoneH4	0.027	6.13
immunoglobin YH	1.07	5.67
a hemoglobin ß hemoglobin	0.56 0.87	3.94
parathyroid hormone	0.44	1.73
average		
(38 proteins)	0.88	4.65

Rates of evolution for "meaningful " (i.e. amino acid changing) and silent base changes in various genes.

Rates are expressed as inferred number of base changes per 109 years. Simplified from Li, Wu & Luo (1985).



The insulin protein is made by snipping the center out of a larger proinsulin peptide. The rate of evolution in the central part, which is discarded, is found to be **slightly higher** than that of the functional extremities. From Kimura (1983).



Figure: the rate of evolution of hemoglobin. Each point on the graph is for a pair of species, or groups of species. Some of the points are for a-hemoglobin, others for ß -hemoglobin. From Kimura (1983).

- The evolutionary divergence between two DNA sequences is measured by the "corrected" percent of positions at which the corresponding nucleotides differ.
- Substitutions may appear to accumulate at a more or less constant rate after genes separate, so that the divergence between any pair of globin sequences (for example) is proportional to the time since they last shared a common ancestry.

sequence Csequence Asequence B(functional)(functional)(functional)



To test a MC, a relative rate test that does not depend on absolute divergence times can be used.



Where a, b and c are the numbers of evolutionary changes in the three segments of the tree. The "out group" can be any species known to have a much greater distant common ancestor between each of the pair of species being compared. The evidence suggests that "a" approximately equals "b" for many species, whereas a would be less than b if generation time influenced evolutionary rate...



Linear relationships of the number of amino acid substitutions per residue (dA) and the numbers of synonymous (dS) and nonsynonymous (dN) nucleotide substitutions per site, with divergence times based on the **fossil record** (a) **and molecular data** *b*).

Each point represents the average sequence divergence of 4,198 nuclear genes with ≥ 100 codons from 10 vertebrate species (human versus1 = chimpanzee, 2 = orangutan, 3 = macaque, 4 = mouse, 5 = cow, 6 = opossum, 7 = chicken, 8 = western clawed frog, 9 = zebrafish). Sequence and orthology data are from Ensembl (147). The *d*A distance was computed by the Poisson correction method, whereas *d*S and *d*N were computed by the modified Nei–Gojobori method (178) with a transition/transversion ratio of 2.

Report

Adaptive Introgression of Anticoagulant **Rodent Poison Resistance** by Hybridization between Old World Mice

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Summary

Polymorphisms in the vitamin K 2,3-epoxide reductase subcomponent 1 (vkorc1) of house mice (Mus musculus domesticus) can cause resistance to anticoagulant rodenticides such as warfarin [1-3]. Here we show that resistant house mice can also originate from selection on vkorc1 polymorphisms acquired from the Algerian mouse (M. spretus) through introgressive hybridization. We report on a polymorphic introgressed genomic region in European M. m. domesticus that stems from M. spretus, spans >10 Mb on chromosome 7, and includes the molecular target of anticoagulants vkorc1 [1-4]. We show that in the laboratory, the homozygous complete vkorc1 allele of M. spretus confers resistance when introgressed into M. m. domesticus. Consistent with selection on the introgressed allele after the introduction of rodenticides in the 1950s, we found signatures of selection in patterns of variation in M. m. domesticus. Furthermore, we detected adaptive protein evolution of vkorc1 in M. spretus (Ka/ Ks = 1.54-1.93) resulting in radical amino acid substitutions that apparently cause anticoagulant tolerance in M. spretus as a pleiotropic effect. Thus, positive selection produced an adaptive, divergent, and pleiotropic vkorc1 allele in the donor species, M. spretus, which crossed a species barrier and produced an adaptive polymorphic trait in the recipient species, M. m. domesticus.

to alter blood clotting kinetics and/or in vitro VKOR activities in humans and rodents in response to exposure to anticoagulants [2]; additional SNPs in vkorc1 await such experimental proof. A mere ~10 years after the inception of warfarin as a rodenticide in the 1950s, reports of resistant Norway rats (Rattus norvegicus) emerged between 1960 and 1969, followed by reports of resistant house mice (Mus musculus spp.) in 1964, roof rats (R. rattus) in 1972, and other rat species (e.g., R. tiomanicus, R. r. diardii, and R. losea) [3, 8-10]. Resistant rodent colonies have been discovered in Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Australia [8]. In response to such warfarin-resistant colonies, other anticoagulant rodenticides were developed that target VKOR, including coumatetralyl, bromadiolone, and difenacoum. However, resistance to these has also evolved in rats and mice. The degree to which vkorc1-mediated resistance has convergently evolved in different rodent pest species, and in different populations within each species, illustrates how large natural rodent populations can respond to selection on novel and/or standing genetic variants.

In house mice (M. musculus spp.), ten nonsynonymous SNPs at nine positions in vkorc1 are now known (Figure 1A). Of these, nine were previously published [2, 3] and a novel one is reported here (Figure 1A). Foremost, however, we report here that in mice, at least four of ten nonsynonymous SNPs (40%) at four of nine positions (~45%) of vkorc1 were introduced into the M. m. domesticus genome by adaptive introgressive hybridization with M. spretus (Figure 1A). We use the term "adaptive introgressive hybridization" [11] to describe the naturally occurring process that includes interspecific mating (hybridization) followed by generations of backcrossing (introgression) and selection on introgressed alleles if these are expressed as advantageous traits at some point of their sojourn times. Changes in ecological settings. such as sudden rodenticide exposure, can render introgressed effectively neutral alleles adaptive [11].

We studied patterns of vkorc1 introgression between M. spretus and M. m. domesticus from across Western Europe (Figure 1B; see also Table S1 available online). M. spretus separated from M. musculus spp. ~1.5-3 million years ago [12]. The species are more strongly reproductively isolated than is predicted by Haldane's rule [13, 14], i.e., female





« Children share when they work together, chimps do not Moon wanes, Leo rises - lion attacks more common in week after a full moon »

House mice picked up poison resistance gene by having sex with related species

Warfarin works by acting against vitamin K. This vitamin activates a number of genes that create clots in blood, but it itself has to be activated by a protein called **VKORC1**. Warfarin stops **VKORC1** from doing its job, thereby suppressing vitamin K. The clotting process fails, and bleeds continue to bleed.

Rodents can evolve to shrug off warfarin by tweaking their vkorc1 gene, which encodes the protein of the same name.

In European house mice, scientists have found at least 10 different genetic changes (mutations) in **vkorc1** that change how susceptible they are to warfarin. But only six of these changes were the house mouse's own innovations. The other four came from a close relative – the Algerian mouse, which is found throughout northern Africa, Spain, Portugal, and southern France.

The two species separated from each other between 1.5 and 3 million years ago. They rarely met, but when they have, they can breed with one another. The two species have identifiably different versions of vkorc1. But Song found that virtually all Spanish house mice carry a copy of vkorc1 that partially or totally matches the Algerian mouse version.

Even in Germany, where the two species don't mingle, a third of house mice now copies of vkorc1 that descended from Algerian peers.



Figure 2. Genome Profiling of Ten M. m. domesticus from Germany and Spain

(A) Coverage of genes, their transcript orientation, and their chromosomal positions (in megabases) (see Table S2 for gene and PCR/sequencing primer information).

(B) VISTA plot depicting pairwise DNA sequence similarity scores (y axes, right, scaled between 90% and 100%) between C57BL/6J and six *M. m. domesticus* from Germany (genome profiles I–VI) and four *M. m. domesticus* from Spain (genome profiles VII–X). Exons are shown in purple; the coloring scheme is as in Figure 1 indicating, at a coarse resolution, regions comprised of predominantly *M. m. domesticus* sequences (pink) and *M. spretus* (*M. spr.*) sequences (yellow).

(C) Minimum number of recombination events (black diamonds) within chromosome 7 among *M. m. domesticus* (excluding *M. spretus* and C57BL/6J). See also the analysis of linkage disequilibrium in Figure S1B.

(D) Gene genealogies of *M. m. domesticus* identified as monophyletic (Mono.) or paraphyletic (Para.) with respect to *M. spretus* using 90% support for nodes as cutoff (Figures S1C and S1D). Significance of topologies is given in percent bootstrap values supporting monophyly of *M. m. domesticus* samples (top) or both clusters in paraphyletic topologies (bottom; first number *M. m. domesticus*, second number *M. spretus*). Asterisk indicates significance for *vkorc1* 5′ region taken from genealogy constructed using C57BL/6J as outgroup.

(E) Plot of polymorphism (expected hereozygosity; π) in *M. m. domesticus* relative to divergence (Jukes Cantor corrected K) to *M. spretus*.

(F) Asterisks mark significance (at α = 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001) of rejection of Hudson-Kreitman-Aguade (HKA) testing performed on select nonrecombining segments representing reference genes (gray boxes; see A for gene identifiers).



A bird's-eye view of the tree of life, showing the vines in red and the tree's branches in grey [Bacteria] and green [Archaea]. The last universal common ancestor is shown as a yellow sphere.

Gene Duplication Provides a Major Force in Evolution change of the different genomes

- Most of the genes that are unique to vertebrates are concerned with the immune or nervous systems.
- Duplicated genes may diverge to generate different genes, or one copy may become an inactive or *pseudogene*.
- ... "nothing in evolution makes sense except in the light of the genome and development".

Gene Duplication is a Major Force in Genome Evolution







After a globin gene has been duplicated, differences may accumulate between the copies

Pseudogenes Are Nonfunctional Gene Copies

- **Processed pseudogenes** result from reverse transcription and integration of mRNA transcripts.
- Nonprocessed pseudogenes result from incomplete duplication or second-copy mutation of functional genes.
- Some pseudogenes:
- may gain functions
- different from those
- of their parent genes,
- such as regulation of
- gene expression, and
- take on different names.



eg. Many changes have occurred in a beta-globin gene since it first became a pseudogene through duplication


Diverg time (M			
	Evolutionary rate		
	Pseudo- genes	- Silent sites	
7 15 25 35 35 17	1.2 1.0 1.5 1.6 1.9 2.7	1.3 2 2.2 - 4.2	
	time (M 7 15 25 35 35	time (Myr) Evolution Pseudo- genes 7 1.2 15 1.0 25 1.5 35 1.6 35 1.9	

Curiously, **pseudogenes** evolve at about the same rate as **silent base changes.** Rates are expressed in numbers of base changes per 109 years. The comparisons are for various genes and pseudogenes in the globin gene family.

Simplified from Li, Tanimura & Sharp (1987)



Figure 8. Diagram illustrating the relationship between the relative frequency of codon usage for leucine (open bars) and the relative abundance of the corresponding cognate tRNA species (solid bars) in (a) *Escherichia coli* and (b) *Sacharomyces cerevisiae*. The plus signs (e.g., between codons CUC and CUU for *E. coli*) indicate that each of these pairs of codons is recognized by a single tRNA species (e.g., tRNA₂^{Leu} for CUC and CUU in *E. coli*).

Codon	Human	Drosophila	E.coli
Arginine:			
AGA	22 %	10%	1%
AGG	23 %	6%	1%
CGA	10 %	8%	4 %
CGC	22 %	49%	39 %
CGG	14 %	9%	4 %
CGU	9 %	18%	49%
Total number of arginine codons	2403	506	149
Total number of genes	195	46	149

Frequencies of six arginine codons in the DNA of three species.

The table gives the percentages of arginine amino acids that are encoded by each of the six codons in various numbers of genes in species.

Simplified from Grantham, Perrin & Mouchiroud (1986).

A Maximum Likelihood Method for Analyzing Pseudogene Evolution: Implications for Silent Site Evolution in Humans and Rodents

1. Carlos D. Bustamante, Rasmus Nielsen and Daniel L. Hartl

Author Affiliations

We present a new likelihood method for detecting constrained evolution at synonymous sites and other forms of nonneutral evolution in putative pseudogenes. The model is applicable whenever the DNA sequence is available from a protein-coding functional gene, a pseudogene derived from the proteincoding gene, and an orthologous functional copy of the gene. Two nested likelihood ratio tests are developed to test the hypotheses that (1) the putative pseudogene has equal rates of silent and replacement substitutions; and (2) the rate of synonymous substitution in the functional gene equals the rate of substitution in the pseudogene. The method is applied to a data set containing 74 human processed-pseudogene loci, 25 mouse processed-pseudogene loci, and 22 rat processed-pseudogene loci. Using the informatics resources of the Human Genome Project, we localized 67 of the humanpseudogene pairs in the genome and estimated the GC content of a large surrounding genomic region for each. We find that, for pseudogenes deposited in GC regions similar to those of their paralogs, the assumption of equal rates of silent and replacement site evolution in the pseudogene is upheld; in these cases, the rate of silent site evolution in the functional genes is ~70% the rate of evolution in the pseudogene. On the other hand, for pseudogenes located in genomic regions of much lower GC than their functional gene, we see a sharp increase in the rate of silent site substitutions, leading to a large rate of rejection for the pseudogene equality likelihood ratio test.

Globin Clusters Are Formed by Duplication and Divergence

- All globin genes are descended from duplications and mutations from an ancestral gene that had three exons.
- ... "nothing in evolution makes sense except in the light of the genome **and development**".

Globin Clusters Are Formed by Duplication followed by Divergence



Each of the α -like and β -like globin gene families is organized into a single cluster, which includes functional genes and pseudogenes.

 All globin genes are descended from duplications and mutations from an ancestral gene that had three exons.

- Different thalassaemias are caused by various deletions that eliminate α- or β-globin genes.
 - The severity of the disease depends on the individual deletion.



α thalassaemias result from various deletions in the aglobin gene cluster



Some of the clusters of β -globin genes and pseudogenes that are found in vertebrates.



Different hemoglobin genes are expressed during embryonic, fetal, and adult periods of human development.



Genome Duplication Has Potentially Played a Role in....Bacterial, Plant and Vertebrate Evolution



Gene and genome duplication

Adapted from G. Blanc and K. H. Wolfe, Plant Cell 16 (2004): 1667-1678.



All globin genes appear to have evolved by a series of duplications, transpositions, and subsequent mutations -from a single ancestral gene

- The evolutionary divergence between two proteins can be measured by:
 - The percent of positions at which the corresponding amino acids differ.
- Mutations accumulate at a "more or less" clock like rate AFTER genomes diverge and then separate.
 - The divergence between any pair of globin sequences is approximately proportional to the time since their genes separated.



Genome Duplication Has Played a Role in Plant and Vertebrate Evolution

- Genome duplication events can be obscured by the evolution and/or loss of duplicates as well as by chromosome rearrangements.
- Genome duplication has been detected in the evolutionary history of many flowering plants and of vertebrate animals.
- 2R hypothesis The hypothesis that the early vertebrate genome has actually undergone at least two rounds of duplication.

Review

Timing and mechanism of ancient vertebrate genome duplications –

vertebrate genome duplications – the adventure of a hypothesis

Georgia Panopoulou and Albert J. Poustka

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Complete genome doubling has long-term consequences for the genome structure and the subsequent evolution of an organism. It has been suggested that two genome duplications occurred at the origin of vertebrates (known as the 2R hypothesis). However, there has been considerable debate as to whether these were two successive duplications, or whether a single duplication occurred, followed by large-scale segmental duplications. In this article, we review and compare the evidence for the 2R duplications from vertebrate genomes with similar data from other more recent polyploids.

period following the split of the cephalochordate and vertebrate lineages and before the emergence of gnathostomes (Figure 1). Based on the apparent stepwise increase in the gene copy-number from invertebrates to jawless

Glossary

(AB)(CD) topology measure: the nodes of the phylogenetic tree of four duplicates generated from two duplication events should have the (AB)(CD) topology where the dates of duplication for the (AB) and (CD) nodes are the same. Neighbor genes within paralogons that have the same topology are assumed to have been generated through the same event. Agnathans: jawless vertebrates.







Figure 4. Illustration of the comparative approach used to prove genome duplications in yeast and *Tetraodon*. Genome 1 undergoes a Genome duplication (e.g. *Tetraodon*) creating two identical sets of chromosomes and genes followed by gene loss (left side). Genome 2 (e.g. human) experiences only some gene insertions and serves as 'unduplicated' reference genome. In most cases, large regions of 'double conserved synteny' can be identified (i.e. every chromosome of Genome 2 maps to two chromosomes of Genome 1 in an interleaving pattern; (middle lower panel). Genes that have been retained in two copies (arrowheads) would function as anchor points to identify a paralogon. The approach has been shown to be effective in detecting 'double conserved segments' in a genome that has undergone a WGD around 200–300 Mya and it has separated from its reference genome ~450 Mya.

Genome Duplication Has Played a Role in Plant and Vertebrate Evolution

....more so in plants

- Genome duplication occurs when polyploidization increases the chromosome number by multiples of... TWO.
- **autopolyploidy** Polyploidization resulting from mitotic or meiotic errors within a species.
- allopolyploidy Polyploidization resulting from hybridization between two different but reproductively compatible species.

Genome Duplication Has Played a Role in Plant and Vertebrate Evolution....more so in plants

- Autopolyploids typically have multivalent pairing - chromosomes are more or less
- identical
- Allopolyploids are variable
- bivalent pairing with more genetic divergence
- multivalent pairing when closely related



Allopolyploidy – Polyploidization resulting from hybridization between two different but reproductively compatible species.

Characteristics of Allopolyploids

- Larger cells
- Vigorous plant
- Less complex than autopolyploids
- Recessive characters may appear less frequent

Allopolyploidy – Polyploidization resulting from hybridization between two different but reproductively compatible species.



Allopolyploidy – Polyploidization resulting from hybridization between two different but reproductively compatible species.



The common bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) is an allohexaploid containing three distinct sets of chromosomes derived from three different diploid species of goat-grass (*Aegilops*) through a tetraploid intermediary (durum wheat).



T.astivum

Gene Duplication Provides a Major Force in Evolution CHANGE in different genomes

- Most of the genes that are unique to vertebrates are concerned with the immune or nervous systems.
- Duplicated genes may diverge to generate different genes, or one copy may become an inactive or *pseudogene*.

Gene Duplication Provides a Major Force in Evolution CONSTANCY within gene families

- Most of the genes that are unique to vertebrates are concerned with the immune or nervous systems.
- Duplicated genes may diverge yet converge with respect to their orthologues within gene families...

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Review

Nature 299, 111-117 (9 September 1982) | doi:10.1038/299111a0

Molecular drive: a cohesive mode of species evolution

Gabriel Dover

It is generally accepted that mutations may - Top become fixed in a population by natural selection and genetic drift. In the case of many families of genes and noncoding sequences, however, fixation of mutations within a population may proceed as a consequence of molecular mechanisms of turnover within the genome. These mechanisms can be both random and directional in activity. There are circumstances in which the unusual concerted pattern of fixation permits the establishment of biological novelty and species discontinuities in a manner not predicted by the classical genetics of natural selection and genetic drift.

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Gabriel Dover

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Back to Basics

Molecular drive

Gabriel Dover

What is it?

Molecular drive is an evolutionary process, like natural selection and neutral drift, that changes the genetic composition of a population, through the generations. It is distinct from natural selection and neutral drift in that it emerges from the activities of a number of ubiquitous mechanisms of DNA turnover (MOT), such as gene conversion, unequal crossing over, slippage, transposition, retrotransposition and so on.

So, how does it work?

Consider a single mutation arising at a single location, on a single chromosome, in a single individual. The theories of natural selection and neutral drift assume that this mutation cannot increase in

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Crossover Fixation Could Maintain Identical Repeats abcde

10

bbbbbbb



Unequal recombination allows one particular repeating unit to occupy the entire cluster

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 Unequal crossing-over (nonreciprocal recombination) – Unequal crossing-over results from an error in pairing and crossing-over in which nonequivalent sites are involved in a recombination event.



Unequal crossing-over results from pairing between nonequivalent repeats in regions of DNA consisting of repeating units





Figure 19. Concerted evolution by unequal crossing-over. Repeated cycles of unequal crossover events cause the duplicated genes on each chromosome to become progressively more homogenized. The process also affects the number of repeated sequences on each chromosome. From Ohta (1980).

Concerted Evolution of Multigene Families



 The synthesis-dependent strandannealing model (SDSA) is relevant for mitotic recombination, as it produces gene conversions from double-strand breaks without associated crossovers.



