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Introduction

The Human Microbiome



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- Paradigm shift: from pathogenicity to symbiosis ("super-organism")

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The Human Microbiome



- The human body contains and is covered by thousands of microbes
- Paradigm shift: from pathogenicity to symbiosis ("super-organism")
- Microbiome involved in obesity, irritable bowel syndrome, gingivitis, and cancer
- Understanding the function of the microbial communities in health and disease is a grand challenge

Guiding Metaphor

Modeling the human gut as a bioreactor provides a novel perspective for the analysis of digestion, disease, and the design of medical interventions.



Figure: (Wikipedia)

Preliminary Dissertation Proposal

Specific Aims:

 Develop data mining methods for analyzing human distal gut high-throughput datasets

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- 3 Apply flux balance analysis to the reconstructed metabolic model

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Specific Aim #1: Data Mining

Develop data mining methods for analyzing human distal gut high-throughput datasets

Example: A novel enzymatic distance measure for analyzing metagenomic data. Complements 16S-based measures such as UniFrac.

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Scale of HMP Metagenomic Data

Data	Scale
Samples	139
Annotation Files	33G
Genes	$27.8 imes10^{6}$
Unique MetaCyc Reactions	3388

MetaCyc Reactions As Distance Measure

PCoA of HMP Metagenomic Stool Samples



Figure: PCoA with cosine similarity over enzyme abundance: First two components as axes.

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Enzyme Copy Number Variation



Figure: Exponential distribution of enzyme copy numbers.

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HMP Stool Sample PGDB



Figure: Cellular Overview of Pathway/Genome Database built from HMP metagenome sample SRS011405.

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Metagenome Definition Impacts Pathway Prediction



Figure: Neighboring fermentation pathways have contrasting robustness to enzyme copy number variation.

Benefits of Modeling Multi-Organism Metabolic Pathways



 Integrate domain knowledge into Pathway/Metagenome Database

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(Wikipedia)

Benefits of Modeling Multi-Organism Metabolic Pathways



(Wikipedia)

- Integrate domain knowledge into Pathway/Metagenome Database
- Allow disparate data modalities to be compared: 16S rRNA, (meta)genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, etc.

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- Integrate domain knowledge into Pathway/Metagenome Database
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- Analysis of model drives hypothesis generation

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Specific Aim #2: Model Construction

Construct a bioreactor model of the human distal gut

A coarse-grained description of the major in-flows and out-flows of a gut microbe commonly used to analyze bioreactors:

glucose and ammonia \rightarrow biomass, carbon dioxide, water, and a short-chain fatty acid

$$C_{6}H_{12}O_{6} + bNH_{3} \rightarrow cCH_{1.79}O_{0.5}N_{0.2} + dCO_{2} + eH_{2}O + gCH_{\frac{7}{4}}O_{\frac{1}{2}}$$

For b = 0.26, c = 2.6, d = 0.67, e = 2.9, and g = 1.3, colonic bacteria consume 197 $\frac{kcal}{day}$, or 8% to 9% of daily diet.

Specific Aim #3: Flux Balance Analysis

Apply flux balance analysis to the reconstructed metabolic model



Figure: Flux balance analysis modeling the first several reactions of the glycolysis pathway (Wikipedia)

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Questions?

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Specific Aim #2: Model Construction

Parameterize a bioreactor model of the human distal gut using physiological data and metabolic modeling:

An in silico model of the human distal gut:



Figure: An analogous model: Simulator of the Human Intestinal () a source of the Human Intestinal ()