2. Genes and proteins

- The sequence as a model of DNA
- Genes: from Mendel to molecular biology
- The genetic code
- A translation algorithm
- Implementing the genetic code
- Algorithms + data structures = programs
- The algorithm design trade-off
- DNA sequencing
- Whole genome sequencing
- How to find genes?

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BIOINFORMATICS: GENOMES AND ALGORITHMS

The algorithm design trade-off



Computed indexes

Function lookupGeneticCode (char1, char2, char3: character)
returns character

/* GeneticCode: array [1:64] of character

is supposed to be known inside the function */

I, J, K: integer

I ← IndexNucleotide (char1)

J ← IndexNucleotide (char2)

K ← IndexNucleotide (char3)

return GeneticCode (1 + (I-1)*16 + (J-1)*4 + (K-1))

end lookupGeneticCode

Function IndexNucleotide (char: character)
returns integer

case char of
 "T": return 1
 "C": return 2
 "G": return 3
 "A": return 4
endcase

end IndexNucleotide

Computed indexes

- TTT: 1
- GGG: 64
- CCA: 24
- ATT: 49



Let's evaluate this algorithm

- In the best case: 3 comparisons
- In the worst case: 12 comparisons

But

2 multiplications

But

No additional data structures

Trade-off between time performance, memory requirements and... simplicity