Jobim 2005 - Lyon

ClusterInspector

a tool to visualize ontology based relationships

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SimCT : Similarity Clustering Tree

a tool to visualize ontology based relationships

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A frequent situation

large scale biological dataset



how to group together **objects** which are **similar** ?

A frequent situation

> objects ?

- genes
- proteins
- DNA/RNA stretches
- tissues
- mutants
- •

> similar ?

- sequence
- 3D structure
- expression pattern
- function
- localization
- phenotype
- ...

A frequent situation

> objects ?

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> similar ?

- sequence
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. . .

- localization
- phenotype

similarity : often more *qualitative* than *quantitative* ...

ontologies

- features increasingly described by ontologies
 - functions
 - anatomical description
 - developmental stages



Open Biomedical Ontologies ~ 40 ontologies http://obo.sourceforge.net/main.html

 definition:
 an ontology is a hierarchical data structure with terms and relationships

ontologies

- features increasingly described by ontologies
 - functions
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> definition:

an ontology is a **hierarchical** data structure with **terms** and **relationships**

the structure of ontologies (DAG) can be used to quantify a similarity between terms

structure of ontologies

higher terms are more **generic**...

...lower terms are more **specific**





can we quantify this ?

...lower terms are more **specific**



structure of ontologies

depth

- not unambigously defined
- does not take into account the fact that some branches are longer than others



structure of ontologies

depth

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- we introduce our definitions :
 - **precision** of term
 - **similarity** between two terms

precision of a term



precision of a term

- n = size of the **sub-DAG**
- N = size of ontology







similarity between 2 terms:



similarity between 2 terms:

s(T,T') = precision of the most precise common ancestor



Our tool SimCT

Goal:

- cluster biological objects based on the similarity between their annotations
- > display the relationships as a hierarchical tree

very general:

any type of biological objects from **any** organism annotated to **any** OBO ontology !

treating multiple annotations



several annotations

heart development immune response mesoderm development regulation of transciption ...

which one shall we choose ?

treating multiple annotations



several annotations

heart development immune response mesoderm development regulation of transcription ...

which one shall we choose ?



flowchart of SimCT











available online

http://gin.univ-mrs.fr/SimCT



an example (1)

study of the pleiotropy of a protein

how widespread are the biological functions in which dorsal is involved ?

> build all dorsal annotation combinations and cluster them...







an example (2)

protein complexes

how to assign (a) molecular function(s) to a yeast protein complex ?

> build all protein annotation and cluster them...





Conclusions & Outlook

2 new notions: - precision - similarity

clustering procedure

- visualize relationships
- annotate clusters
- define sub-clusters



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http://gin.univ-mrs.fr/SimCT