

# Genetic Improvement by Evolving Program Data

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[A Comprehensive Survey, IEEE TEVC](#)

Simple blue example of Genetic Improvement

[opencv\\_gp.tar.gz](#)

[RN/18/06](#)

GI 2  19

[GI 2019](#), Montreal, ICSE-2019 workshop



WIKIPEDIA  
Genetic Improvement



# Genetic Improvement of Software

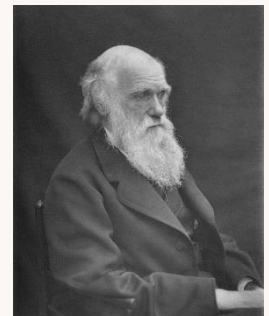
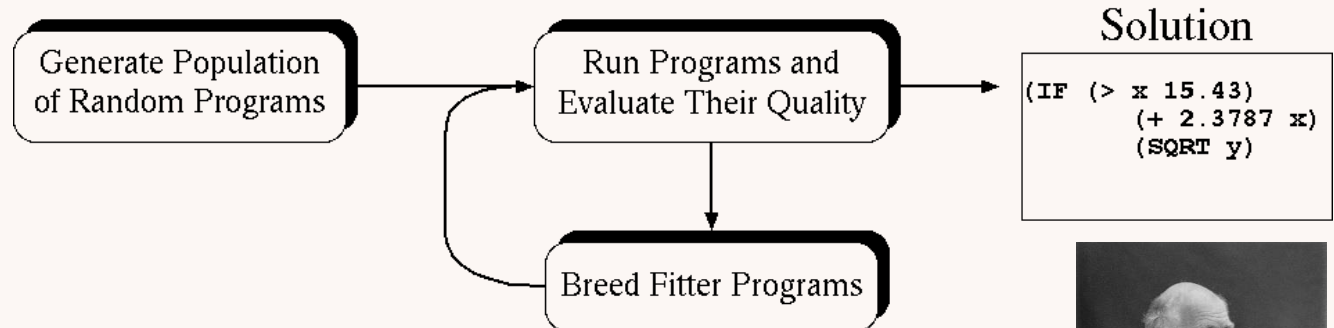
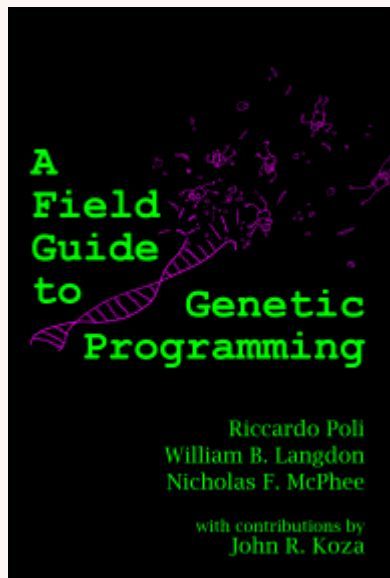
- What is Genetic Improvement
  - Genetic Programming (GP) on existing code
- What has Genetic Improvement done
  - Technology behind automatic bug fixing
  - Improvement of existing code: speedup, transplanting, program adaptation, parallel, mobile energy reduction
- Genetic Improvement of Data
  - RNAfold (GI parameters shipped since 2.4.7)
  - Transforming GNU C library: cbrt, log2
- Conclusions

# What is Genetic Improvement

# Genetic Improvement

Use GP to evolve a population of computer programs

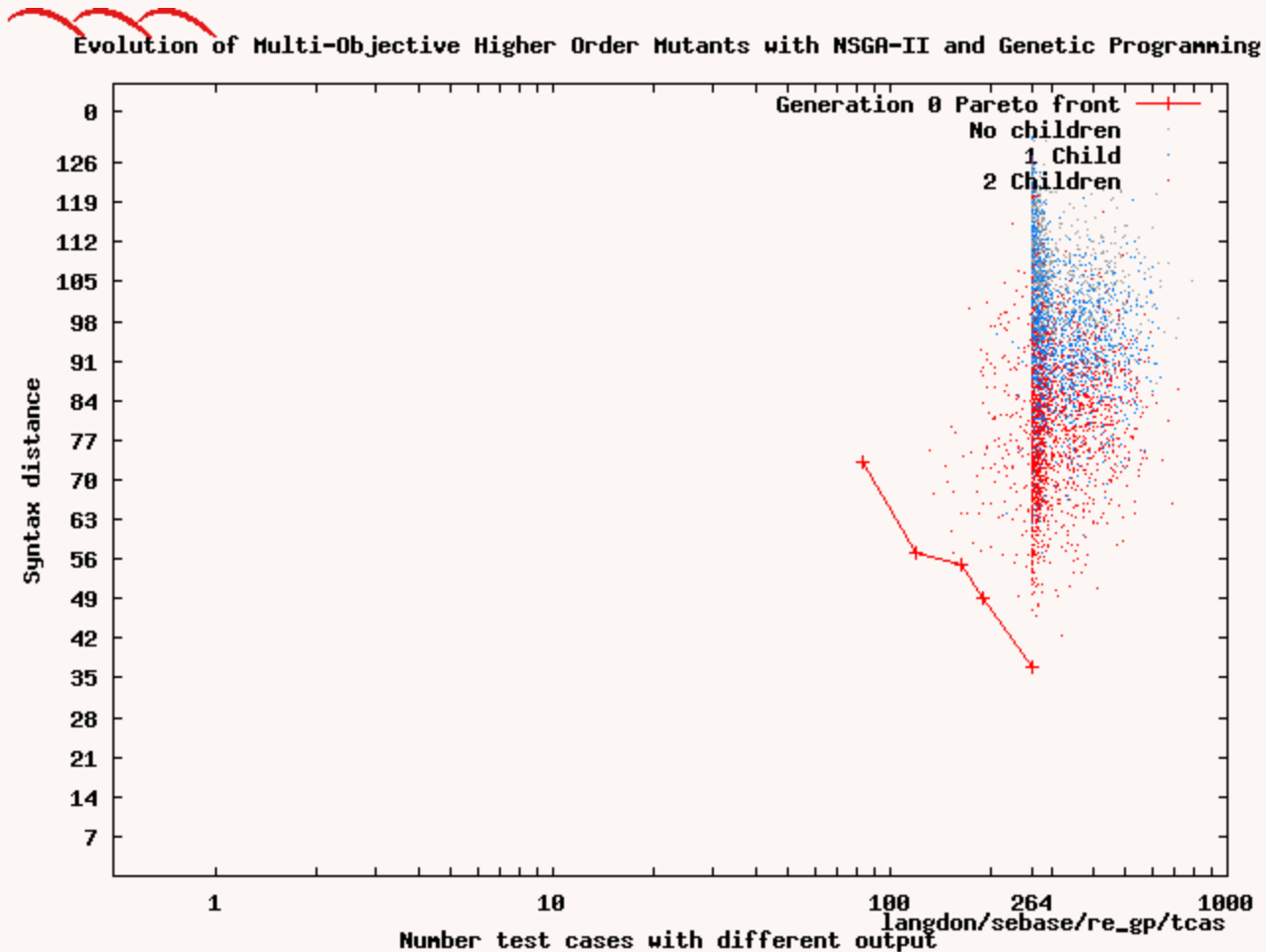
- Start with representation of human written code
- Programs' fitness is determined by running them
- Better programs are selected to be parents
- New generation of programs are created by randomly combining above average parents or by mutation.
- Repeat generations until solution found.



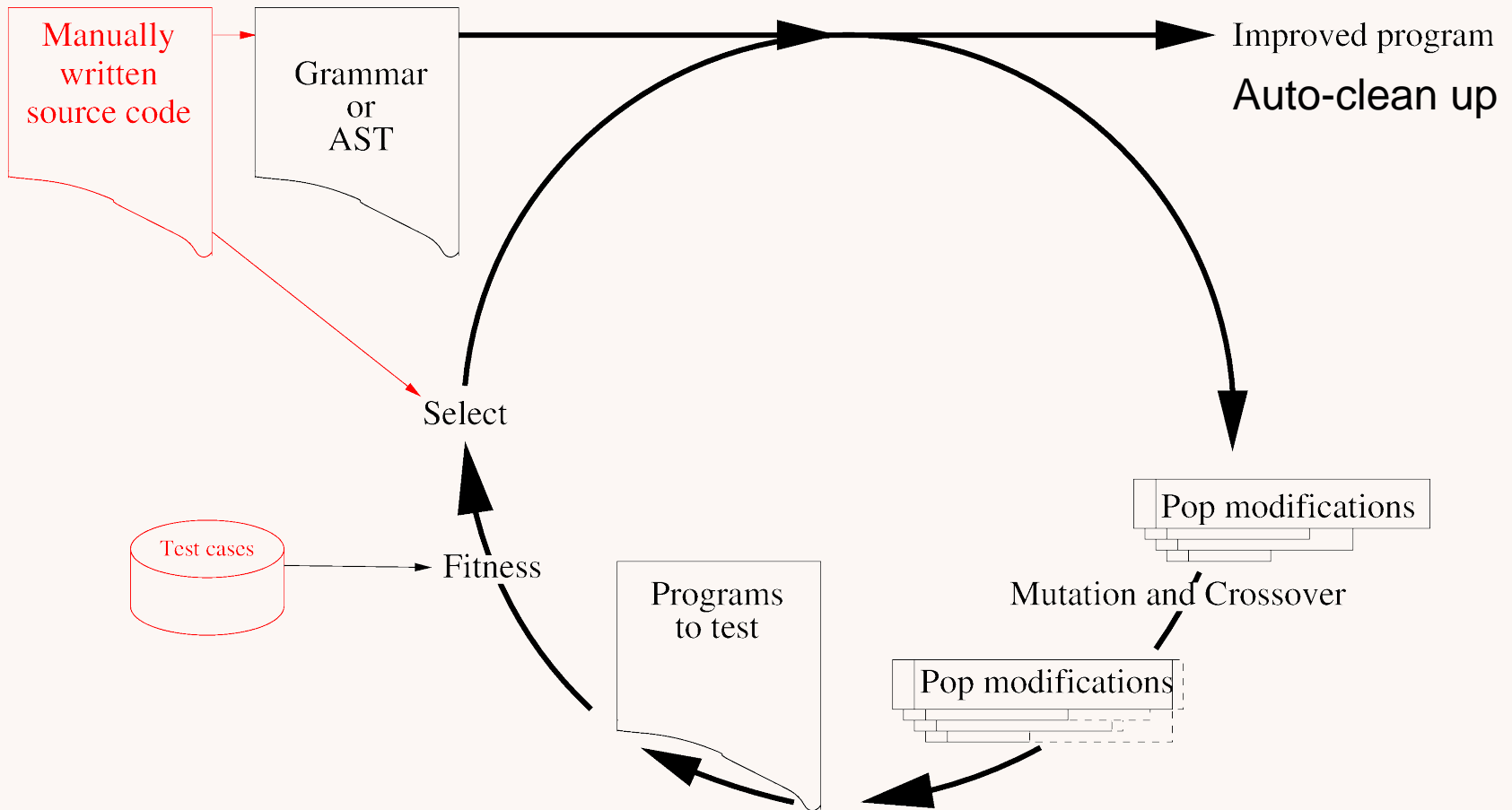
Charles Darwin 1809-1882

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# Evolving population of programs



# Typical GI Evolutionary Cycle



Many types of mutation.

Eg replace line of C++ code with another from the same file.


# GI Automatic Coding

- Genetic Improvement does not start from zero
- Use existing system
  - Source of non-random code
    - Use existing code as test “Oracle”.  
(Program is its own functional specification)
    - Can always compare against previous version
    - Easier to tell if better than if closer to poorly defined goal functionality.
- Testing scales (sort of). Hybrid with “proof” systems

# What has Genetic Improvement done




# GP Automatic Bug Fixing (APR)

- Run code: example to reproduce bug, a few tests to show fixed code still works.
- Search for replacement C statement within program which fixes bug. Fault location tool
- Real bugs in real programs (mostly C/C++ or Java).
  - Multiple prizes and best papers, including:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> prize Human-Competitive [[ICSE](#)] Gold [Humie](#)
- In daily use: Iceland health clinic [[GI-2017](#)] Python Facebook [SapFix](#)  Mark Harman



# GI to Speed up human written programs

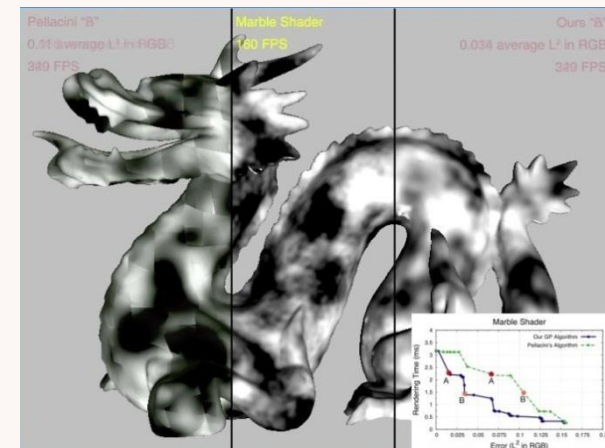
- Bowtie2, 70 times faster [[IEEE TEVC 2015](#)]
  - GPGPU BarraCUDA [[BioData Mining](#)]
    - In use since 2015. 4000 downloads from [SF](#)
    - On real data speed up to 3 times ([arXiv.org](#))
    - Commercial use by [Lab7](#) (in BioBuilds [2015](#))
    - Ported by IBM to their Power8
    - [Cambridge Epigenetix](#)   
GTX 1080 21x faster than bwameth (twin core CPU)
- [Microsoft Azure GPU cloud](#)

# Genetic Improvement to Reduce Resource Consumption

- Energy reduction [[GECCO 2015a](#),[SSBSE](#)] particularly for mobile computing [[GI-2017](#)]
- RAM memory reduction [[GECCO 2015b](#)]
- Reduce run time [[pknotsRG](#),[OpenCV](#), [RNAfold](#)]
- Choose better library [[SSBSE-2017](#)]
- Improve library [[SSBSE 2014](#),[2016](#)]

# GI to Improve functionality

- Transplanting C++ [[Marginean SSBSE'15](#), [ISSTA'15](#)]  
E.g. graph layout into Kate, H.264 into VLC, awarded Gold [Humie](#), 26hours CPU v. 20days
- Autoporting
  - gzip to GPU [[CEC 2010](#)], RNAfold to SSE [[GI-2017](#)]
- Better RNA structure prediction
- Improving GPU shaders [[2011](#)]



# GI Improving GPU shaders [2011]

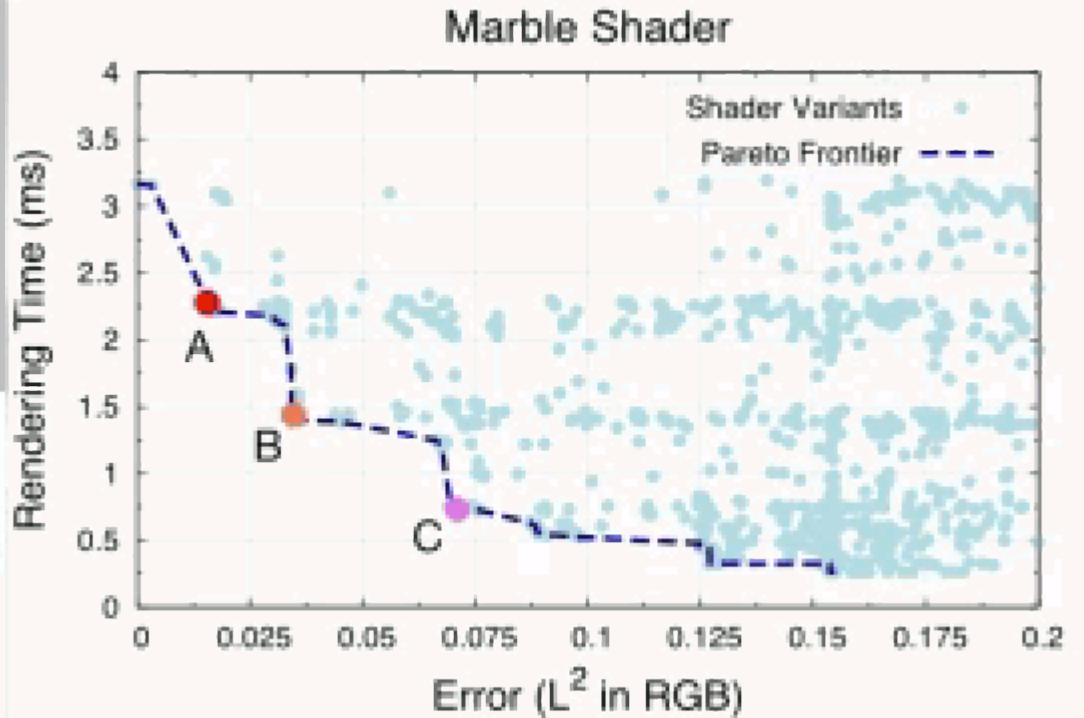
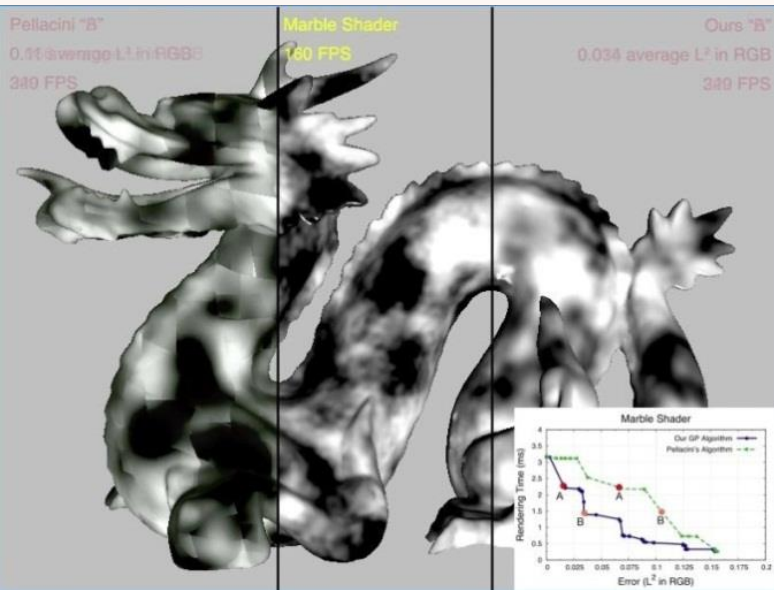
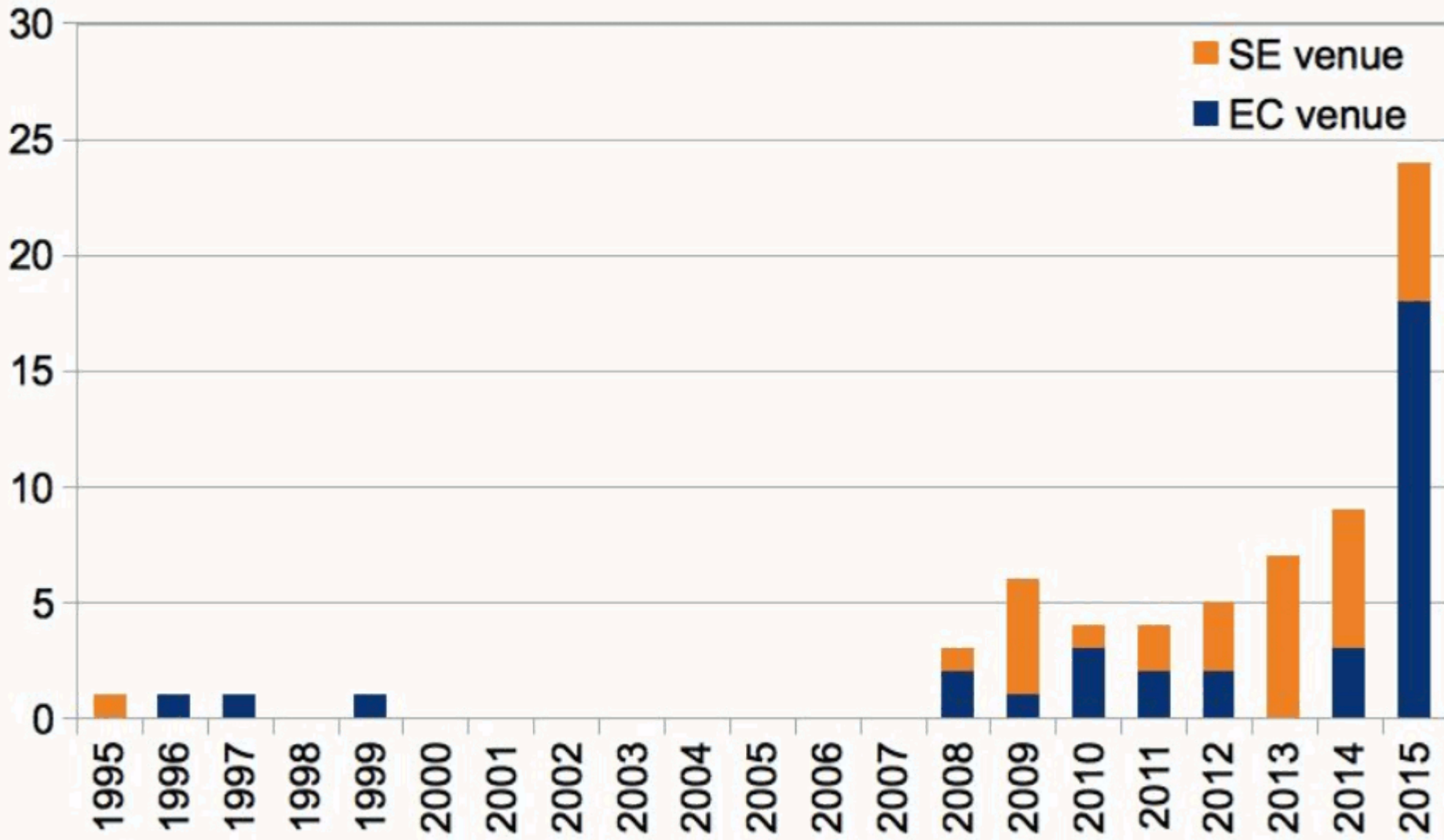
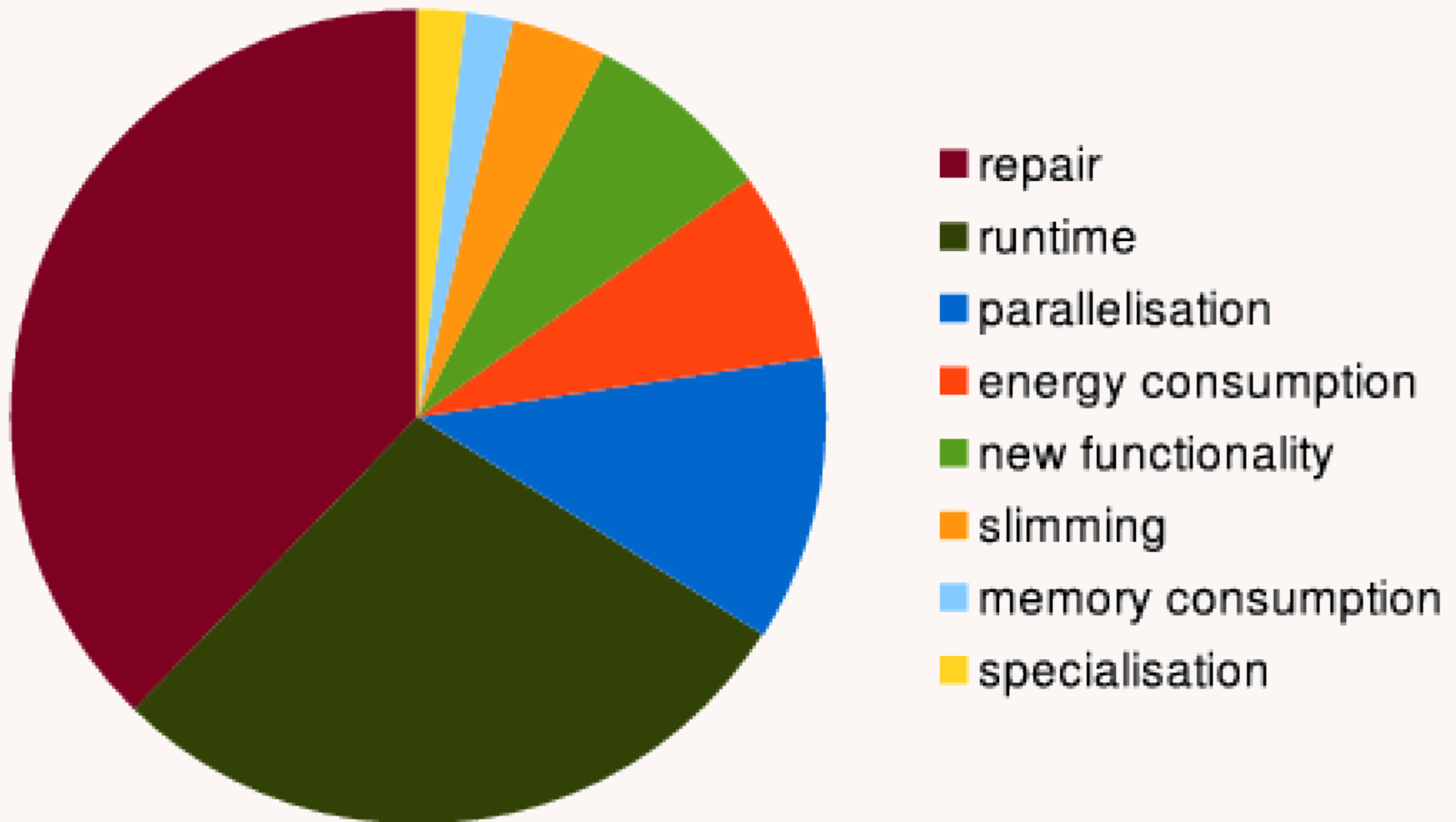


Fig 1. number of core papers on genetic improvement



## Fig 3. software applications of empirical studies in core papers on genetic improvement



# Maintaining Embedded Constants

- EuroGP 2018
  - RNAfold 7000 lines of code 50000 numbers
  - net 20% better prediction of RNA structures
  - Shipped since 2.4.7
- SSBSE-2018 sqrt converted to cube root
- RN/18/05 generate  $\log_2$  from open source maths framework



# Genetic Improvement of RNAfold

- RNA→protein, enzyme, gene regulation
- Biomolecule shape controls function
- What is RNAfold
- Known RNA structures: RNA\_STRAND
  - Evolving functional improvement
  - Representation
  - Mutation and Crossover
  - Fitness
- Evolved parameters better than published

# What is RNAfold?

- Part of ViennaRNA package (170,000 lines)
- RNAfold 7100 lines .c (i.e. excluding .h)
- Predicts the secondary structure of RNA molecules from their base sequence
- State of the art, users include EteRNA



[SRP\\_00287](#)

Signal Recognition

Particle RNA

533 bases

[Matthews correlation coefficient](#) MCC 0.519169

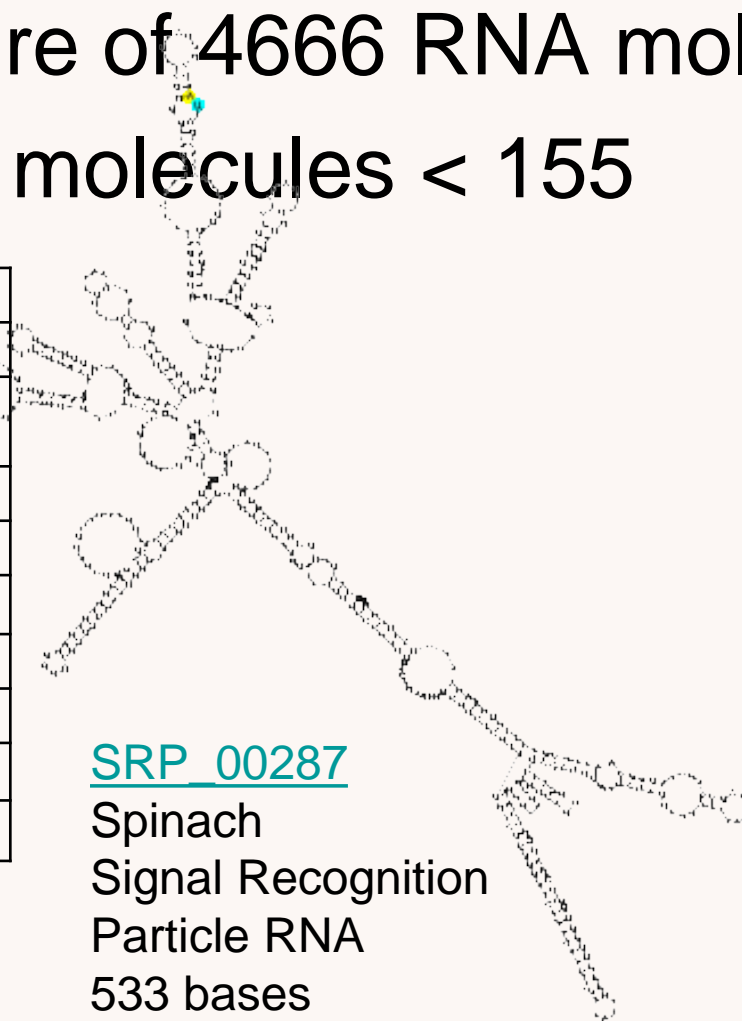
# Training/Test data: RNA STRAND

Known structure of 4666 RNA molecules

Train on short molecules < 155

# File SRP_00287.ct					
# RNA SSTRAND database					
# External source: SRP Database, file name: SAC.CAS..ct, ID: SAC.CAS.					
1	A	0	2	15	1
2	G	1	3	14	2
3	G	2	4	13	3
...					
531	A	530	532	0	531
532	C	531	533	0	532
533	U	532	534	0	533

↑ Paired positions ↑



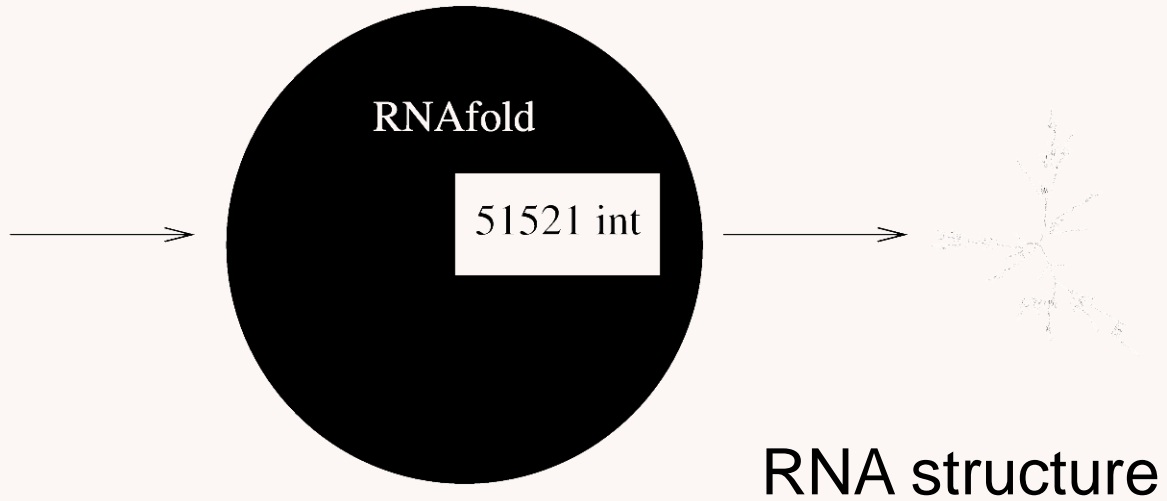
# RNAfold

- Uses dynamic programming to select structure with minimum energy.
- Source code contains 31 read only scalars and arrays which hold parameters for model of interactions between RNA bases.
- Total 51745 parameters (all int)
- Use GP to optimise 51745 parameters

# RNAfold

```
> CRW_01446
UUCAAACGAGGAAA.....
.....
.....
UGAAC
```

RNA sequence



RNA structure

RNAfold reads RNA molecules base sequence.  
 Outputs prediction of how molecule will fold up.  
 Internally RNAfold uses 51521 parameters.

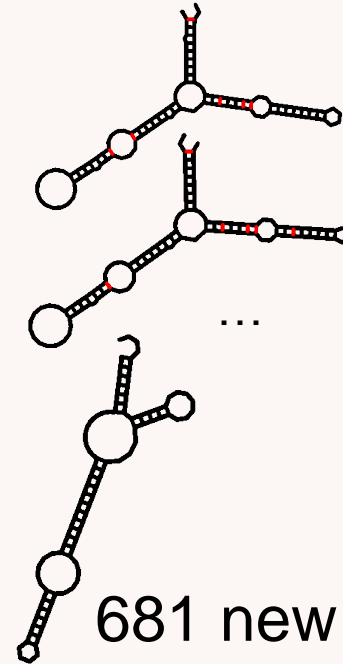
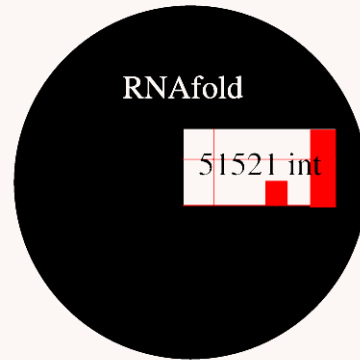
# Fitness of Mutated RNAfold

```
> CRW_00550  
NAUUUACGGCGGUC.....  
GACAC
```

```
> CRW_00553  
NNNUUGGUGGCGGAG....  
CAAGC
```

...

```
> TMR_00272  
GGGGAUGAAUU.....  
CACCA
```



681 short training sequences

681 new predictions

- Mutate constants (file wbl\_patch\_arrays.txt)
- Run RNAfold on training RNA sequences
- Compare each new prediction with real structure
- Fitness mean Matthew's correlation coefficient on 681 training RNA molecules

# Optimise 50,000 parameters in RNAfold

- Mutate read-only arrays before RNAfold runs dynamic programming
- Compare new predicted structure with correct structure from RNA\_STRAND
- Use  $\frac{1}{3}$  molecules for training
- Run time excessive:
  - use small molecules for training, size  $< 155$
  - still running RNAfold 681 times (too many?)

# Representation: Genotype→Phenotype

- Variable length genotype. Each gene specifies one or more changes to one scalar or array parameter.
- Apply changes in order (canonical operator removes some redundant genes, bloats anyway).
- Multiple types of mutation
- Two point (variable length) crossover



# Mutate scalar or array values

> Replace all values with another

`int22 260>80` Replace every 260 with 80

< Replace one or more values with another

`mismatchI *,*,0<100` Volume overwrite `[*,*,0]` by 100

• Increment one or more values with another

`mismatchM *,3,*+=20` Add 20 to all `mismatchM[*,3,*]` (40)

• Respect energy values (all multiples of 10 or INF) and “small values” (0...8). Cannot inc/dec INFINITY.

• 20% creep mutation: change value in existing mutation.

# Example individual

fitness 0.685112 changes 2387

noLP 2|dangle3 -10>-20|mismatch23l 0>70|hairpin \* <530|int11 120>270|  
mismatchM \*,0,\* +=-50

Variable length, e.g. six elements, separated by vertical bars

Data Structure	Operation	Effect
noLP	2	Set scalar noLP to 2
dangle3	-10>-20	All elements of dangle3 which are -10 set to -20
mismatch23l	0>70	All elements of mismatch23l which are zero set to 70
hairpin	* <530	Every element of hairpin set to 530
int11	120>270	All elements with value 120 replaced by 270
mismatchM	*,0,* += -50	All elements in two slices (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> dimension) are increment by -50

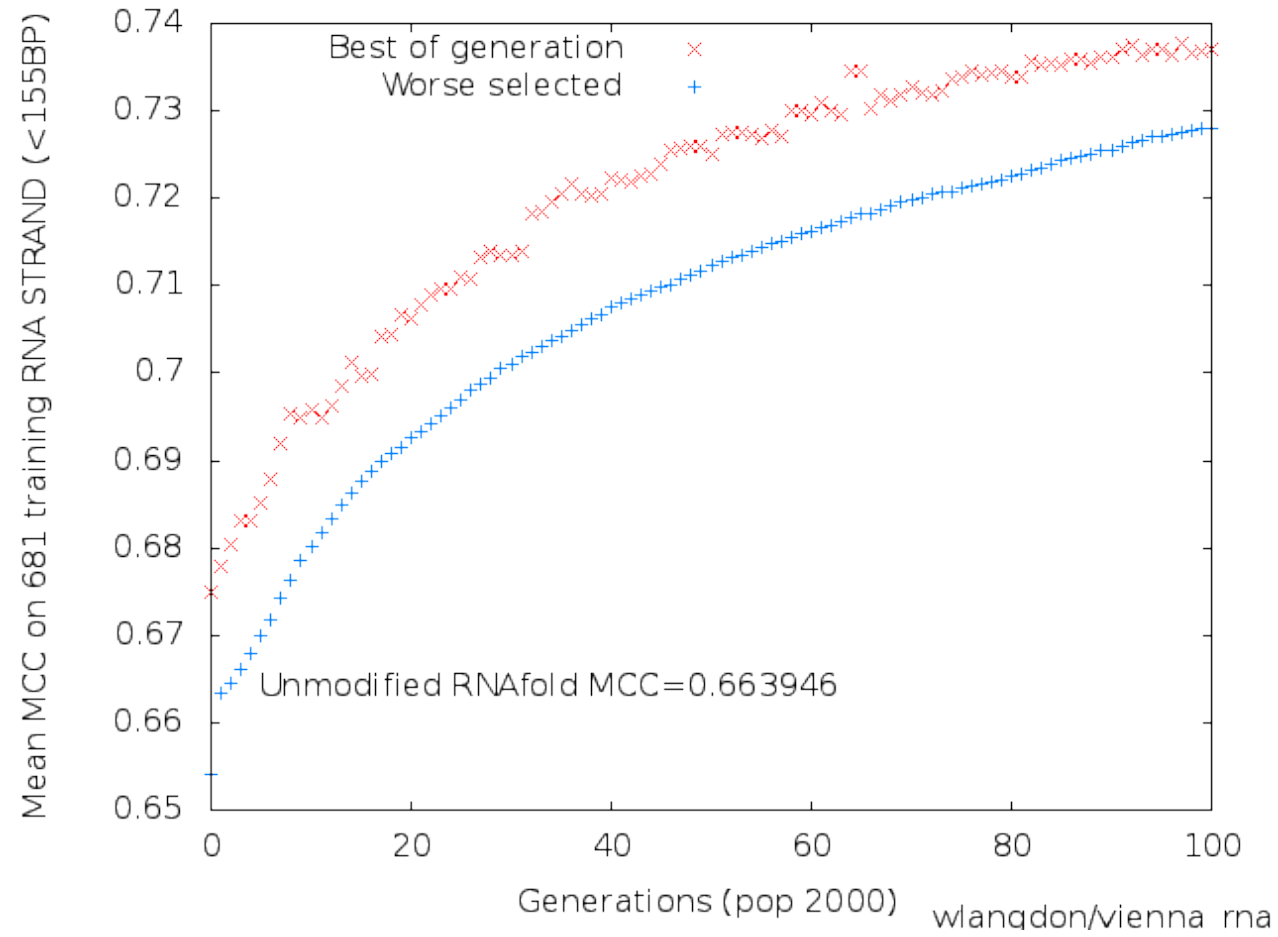
# Fitness

- Run RNAfold on whole of training set of RNA molecules ( $\text{len} < 155$ ) from RNA\_STRAND
- Compare each predicted structure against actual structure in RNA\_STRAND using Matthews Correlation Coefficient (MCC) and against unmuted prediction. Fitness is mean MCC, but
  - If no changes: cannot be parent
  - If RNAfold segfaults: cannot be parent
  - If can't mutate params: cannot be parent
- Select best half of population to be parents

# Evolution

- 50% mutation, 50% crossover
- Promote search:
  - Reduce to canonical form
  - Tabu search to prevent repeated evaluation of genetically identical children
  - Anti-elitism: fitness cannot be parent more than 20 times (ie 1% popsize).
- 100 generations, population 2000

# Evolution of Training Fitness



# Results

- Take best of last generation (100)
  - Length 2849, MCC 0.737044
- Remove bloat by removing genes which do not help (two passes).
  - Length 42, MCC 0.737752
- Little over fitting: holdout MCC 0.730137

# Evolved change

hairpin \* < 560

mismatchM -70 > -130 | \*, 3, \* += 20 | \*, 1, \* += -40 | -110 > -130 | \*, 0, \* += -170 | -60 > -40

internal\_loop \* += -40

mismatchM many changes

MLintern \* += 10 | 3 < -150

rtype 6 < 6 | 2 += 1

rtype base A treated as C, X as K

int11 \*, \*, \*, \* < 200 | 6, \*, \*, 2 += -70

int21 230 > 260 | \*, \*, \*, \*, 3 += -70 | 220 > 10000000

int22 260 > 80 | 180 > 280 | \*, \*, 2, \*, \*, \* += 10 | 280 > 200 | 200 > 10000000

dangle3 5, \* += -80

mismatchH \*, \*, \* += -90 | \*, \*, 3 < -130 | \*, 1, 2 < -80 mismatchH Rewrite array

mismatchExt \*, \*, \* += 80 | \*, \*, 1 < -40

TerminalAU 80

mismatch23I 70 > 10000000

mismatchI \*, \*, 0 < 100 | \*, \*, 1 += -10 | 2, 3, 1 += -100 | \*, 4, \* += -40 mismatchI many changes

ninio[2] 80

dangle5 \*, \* += 60

stack -100 > 60 | -140 > 0 | 2, 2 += -20 | \*, 4 < -50 stack many changes

mismatch1nl 70 > 110

bulge \* += 40

# Impact on MCC

mismatch1nI	0.47%
mismatch23I	0.64%
int22	1.11%
dangle3	1.86%
int21	4.12%
dangle5	4.43%
bulge	5.15%
TerminalAU	6.02%
ninio[2]	7.53%
int11	10.70%
MLintern	10.72%
internal_loop	10.89%
hairpin	10.97%
mismatchExt	15.45%
stack	20.32%
mismatchI	21.12%
rtype	21.48%
mismatchM	21.62%
mismatchH	27.91%

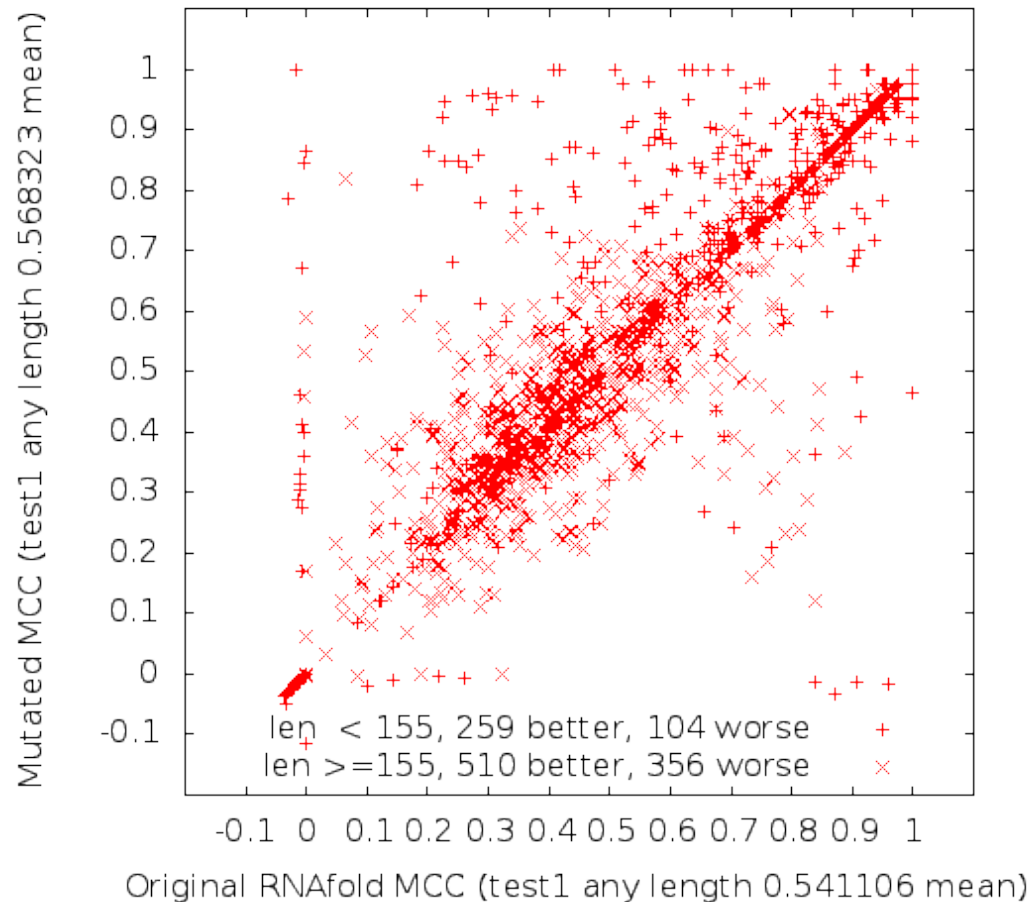
Fraction of improvement in  
MCC lost if remove changes to  
each scalar or array.  
(Measured on training data.)



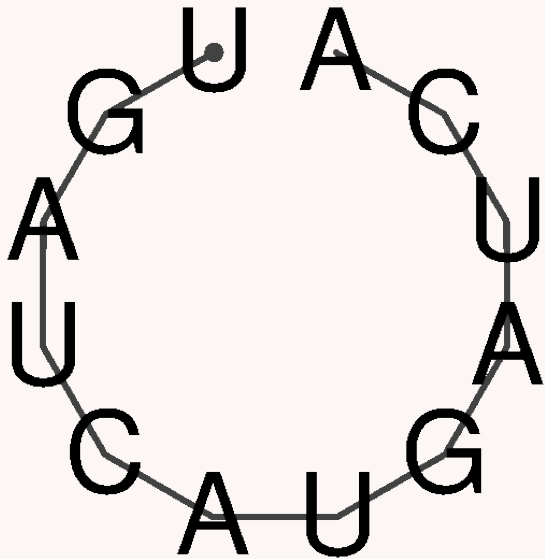
# Out of Sample Performance

Generalises (MCC on test set  $\approx$  training) and  
extrapolates (MCC long RNA similar to training).

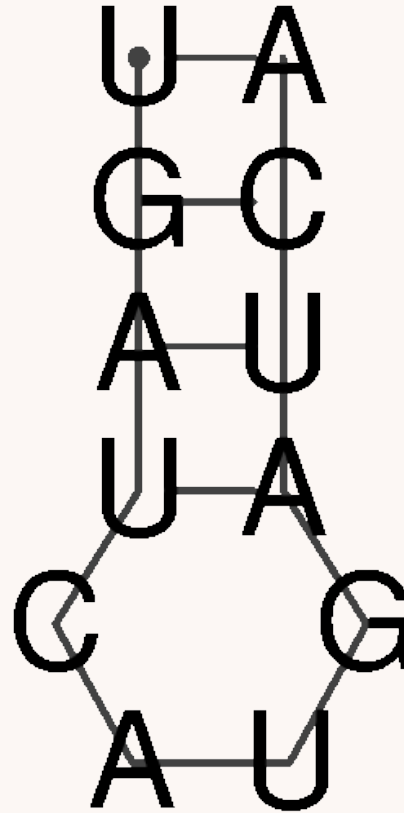
Total 769 better, 460 worse on holdout  $\frac{1}{3}$  RNA STRAND (1553).  
Total overall out-of-sample improvement 19.897%



# NDB\_00028

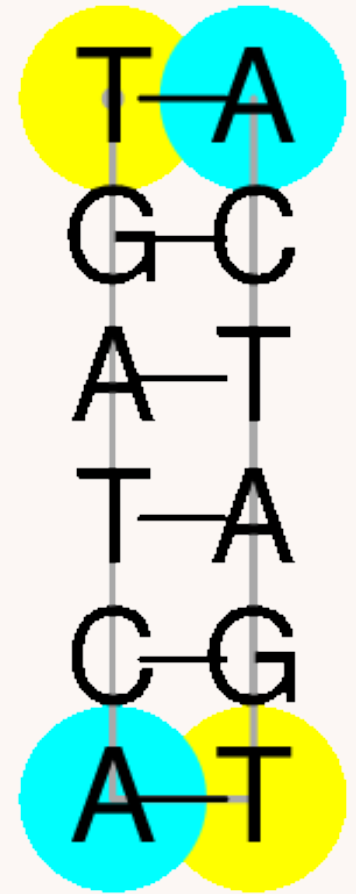


Original, MCC = 0



Mutant, MCC 0.803219

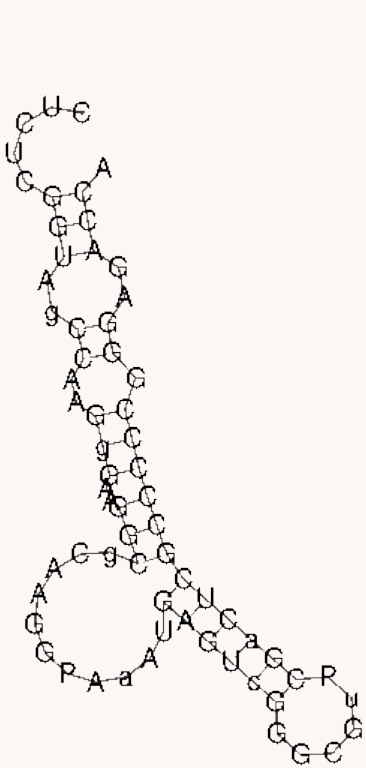
Symmetric



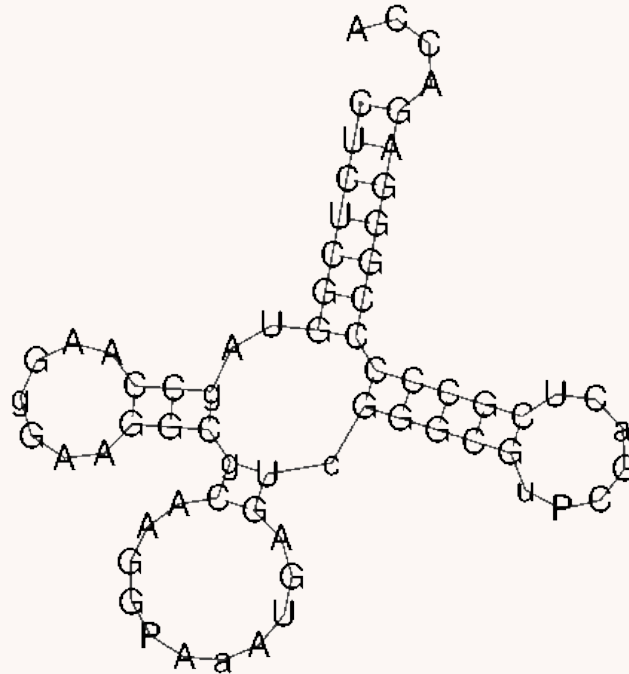
True

# PDB\_01001

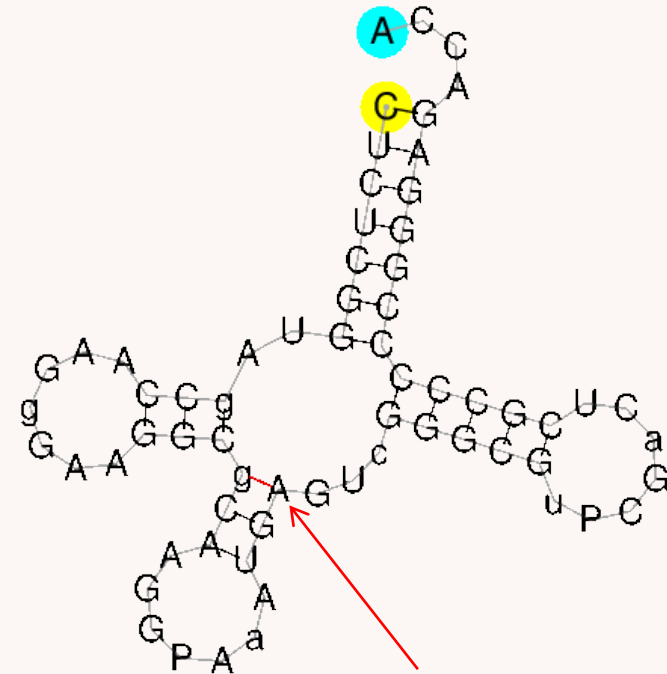
## yeast enzyme (in protein manufacture)



Original, MCC -0.008222



Mutant, MCC 0.856324

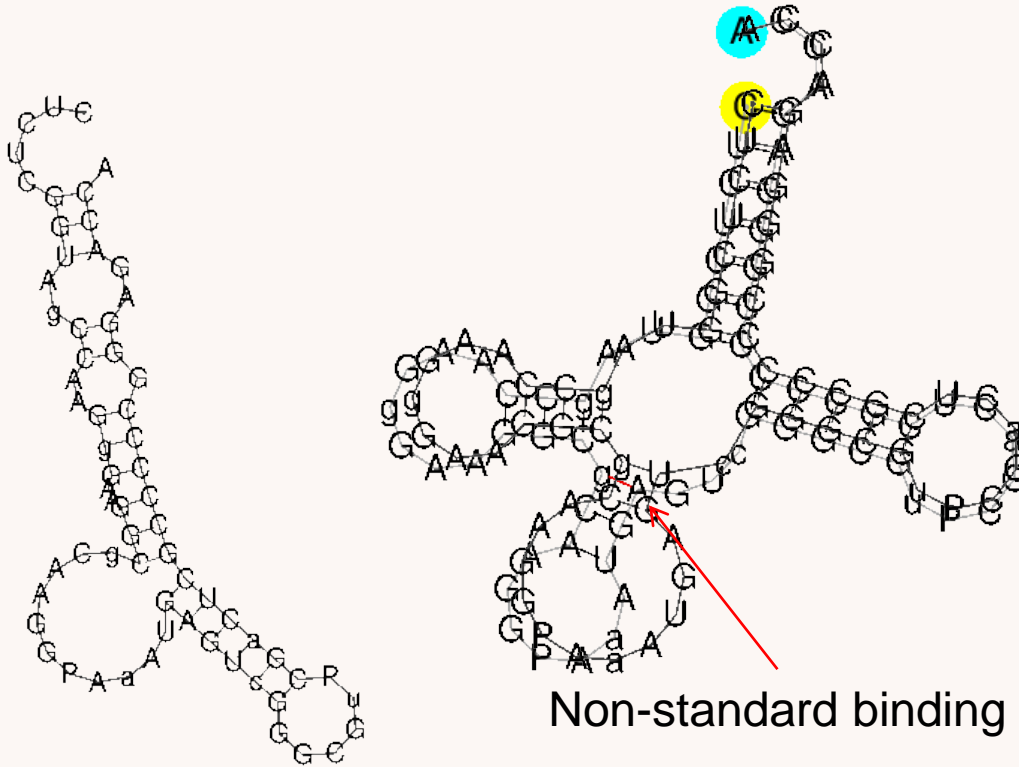


Non-standard binding

True

# PDB\_01001

yeast enzyme (in protein manufacture)



Original, MCC -0.008222

Mutated, MCC 0.856324

# Six impossible things before breakfast



- To have impact do something considered impossible.
- If you believe software is fragile you will not only be wrong but shut out the possibility of mutating it into something better.
- Genetic Improvement has repeatedly shown mutation need not be disastrous and can lead to great things.

# Conclusions

- Genetic Improvement (GI) applies Darwinian survival of the fitness to software
- GI for automated parameter update

bugfixing, software transplanting, performance improvement, faster answers or better answers.

[BarraCUDA](#) 3,095 sourceforge downloads (26 months).

Commercial use by [Lab7](#) (in BioBuilds [Nov 2015](#))

IBM Power8.

[RNAfold data](#), [SSE](#), [CUDA](#) (17,061 downloads)

- **Software is not fragile**  
**break it, bend it, Evolve it**

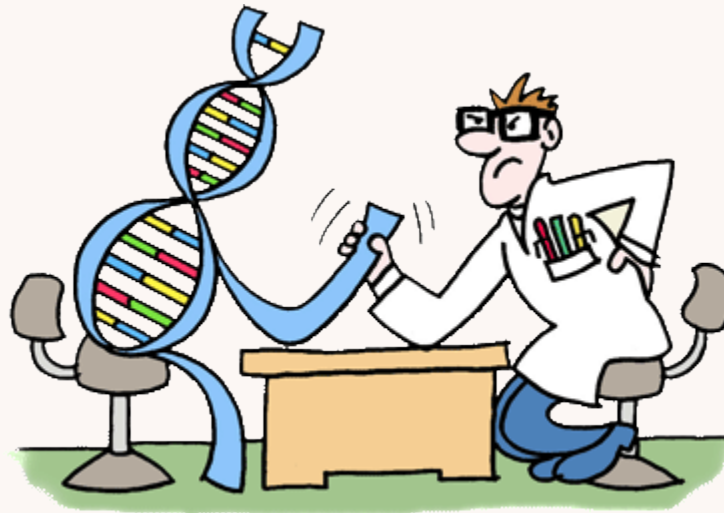


# GI 2019

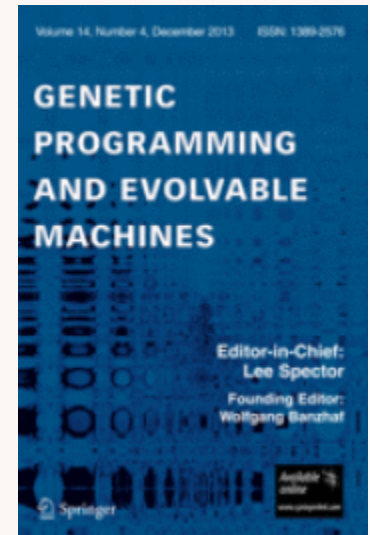
[GI 2019](#), Montreal, ICSE-2019 workshop.  
Submission (2 or 8 pages) due 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019



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Genetic Improvement



[Humies](#): Human-Competitive  
\$10,000 prizes. Finals in Prague



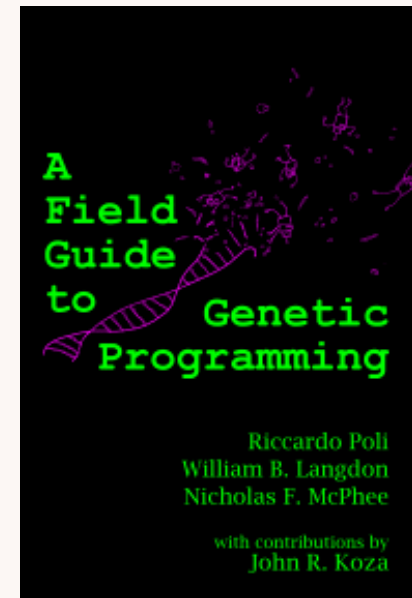
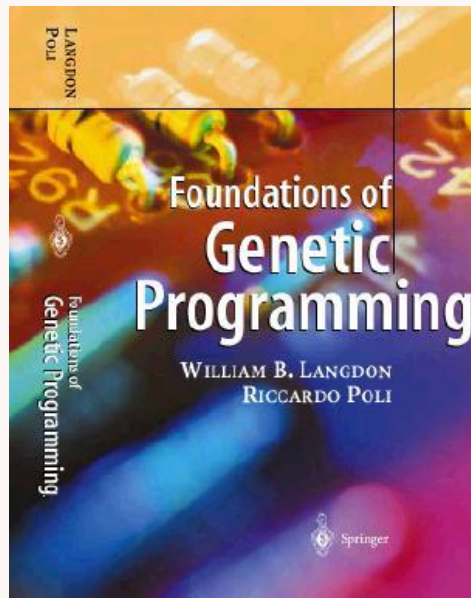
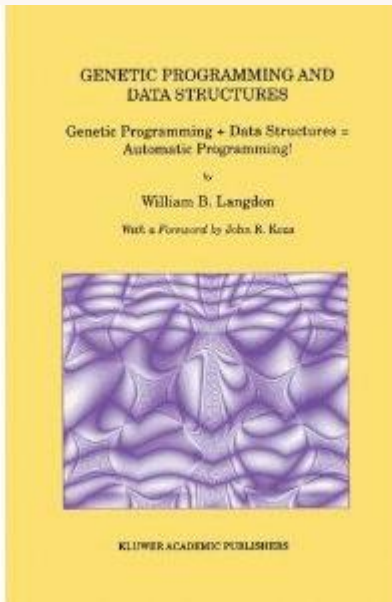
[GI special issue](#)



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# Matthews Correlation Coefficient (MCC)

$$\text{MCC} = \frac{TP \times TN - FP \times FN}{\sqrt{(TP + FP)(TP + FN)(TN + FP)(TN + FN)}}$$

- Correlation between observed and predicted
- Range -1.00 to +1.00
- 0 no correlation
- Large class imbalance
  - Almost all possible pairs are not observed and correctly predicted as being absent
  - Number of true negatives (TN) is huge

# Automatic Oracle Generation

- Current automatic oracles are crude:
  - did the program terminate? Did it crash?
- Given huge number of existing open source test suites [[SBST 2017](#)], can Machine Learning:
  - infer the answer expected of a test case?
  - could Machine Learning get close or give plausible answers?
  - Reject non-plausible answers?

# Demo count blue pixels

- Assumes Unix, tsch gcc
- [http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/staff/W.Langdon/ftp/gp-code/opencv\\_gp.tar.gz](http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/staff/W.Langdon/ftp/gp-code/opencv_gp.tar.gz)
- `gunzip -c ftp/gp-code/opencv_gp.tar.gz | tar xvf -`
- **README.txt**

# Genetic Improvement of RNAfold

RNAfold state of the art prediction of how RNA molecule will fold up based on its sequence of bases.

- Speed up via Intel SSE parallel instructions [GI 2017](#). Shipped since V2.3.5
- ViennaRNA Package [v2.3.0cuda](#)
- Better predictions by evolving parameters
  - On average better predictions of RNA folding.
  - Shipped since 2.4.7
- AVX parallel speedup due release 2.4.11

# The Genetic Programming Bibliography

<http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~wbl/biblio/>

12667 references, [11000 authors](#)

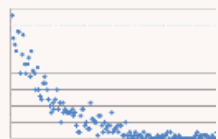
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