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Systems Biomedicine
Concepts and Perspectives

系统生物医学 概念与展望

Edison T. Liu and Douglas A. Lauffenburger



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Systems Biomedicine

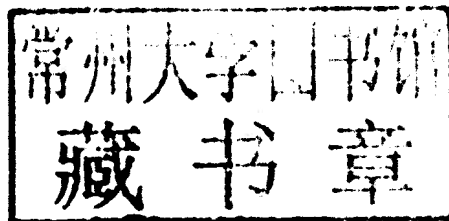
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系统生物医学领域的一本切合时宜的好书

——评《系统生物医学：概念与展望》

陶生策

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在过去的半个多世纪中, 生命科学领域最为重要的发现莫过于 DNA 双螺旋结构的提出。在 DNA 双螺旋结构的基础上发展起来的分子生物学和其他相关实验手段则极大地加速了生命科学的进程, 阐明了生命系统中的无数分子事件, 生命科学也已从单基因、单蛋白质层面的研究转向了组学研究。这些组学研究包括基于大规模 DNA 测序的基因组分析、基于 DNA 芯片的表达谱分析、基于质谱的蛋白质组学研究, 以及基于对代谢产物进行系统性分析的代谢组学研究等。组学研究的共同特点是可以在较短时间内产生海量数据, 对这些数据的分析和深度发掘上的迫切需求促使包括生物学、计算机科学、化学甚至物理学等各个不同学科的专家坐到一起。对各类组学数据的整合, 使得从系统层次来理解生物学问题成为可能, 而且必要。在此基础上形成了一门迅速崛起的学科——系统生物学 (Systems Biology)。

系统生物学着眼于从系统角度认识和理解生命。试图从系统水平理解和阐明生命现象并非一个全新的理念, 早在 20 世纪中叶以 Wiener 为代表的科学家就开始了最初的探索, 但是由于缺乏有效的研究手段, 他们不能从分子水平了解生命系统的细节, 因此这些最初尝试的结果并不理想。由于生物学的进步, 包括分子生物学在内的新技术手段的飞速发展, 人们从来没有像今天这样对生命现象背后的分子机制有如此深刻的理解。因此, 在试图从系统水平理解生命现象方面, 虽然现代系统生物学并非首发, 但的确是第一次试图将这种系统水平的理解建立在扎实、详尽、多层次的实验数据的坚实基础之上。那么, 到底什么是现代意义上的系统生物学呢? 一个比较公认的定义是由系统生物学创始人 Leory Hood 所给出的: 在过去的 30 年中成功的生物学研究方式是一次只研究一个基因或者一个蛋白质, 系统生物学与此不同, 它所研究的是一个鲜活的生物系统中全部组分的行为和相互关系。系统生物学的终极目的是在系统性实验和分析的基础上, 建立有效的数学模型, 实现对生命系统的有效控制和设计。

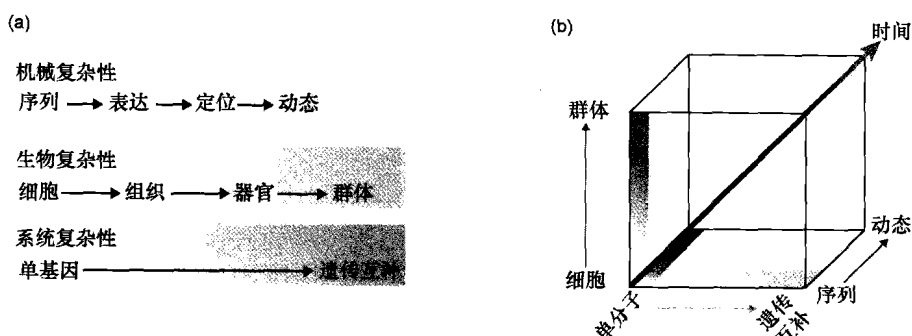
在系统生物学的基础上, 结合对中医药的深刻理解, 陈竺院士最早在国内提出了系统生物医学 (Systems biomedicine) 的理念。其核心是以现代生物学研究手段为基础, 以系统生物学的理论和方法, 结合传统中医药的哲学思想和经验,

研究临床医学实践中产生的重大科学问题，为实现预测、预防、参与和个性化医学做出实质性贡献。系统生物学和系统生物医学是新兴学科，尚在飞速的发展过程之中，目前国内的系统生物医学专门研究机构有陈竺院士领衔的上海交通大学系统生物医学研究院和程京院士领衔的清华大学医学系统生物学研究所，以及新近刚成立的北京大学系统生物医学研究所。

由新加坡基因组研究所 Edison T. Liu 和麻省理工学院的 Douglas A. Lauffenburger 主编的《系统生物医学：概念与展望》（*Systems Biomedicine: Concepts and Perspectives*）是系统生物医学领域的第一本专著，该书由数十位活跃在系统生物学领域的一流专家参与编写，内容精炼，囊括了系统生物医学的几个主要方面的最新进展。该书由三部分，共 18 章组成。第一部分为系统生物学的生物学基础，介绍了系统生物医学研究的概况以及系统生物学研究中的一些核心技术手段，具体包括基因组学技术，蛋白质组学技术等。同时还介绍了系统生物学研究的一些重要实例：细胞调节网络研究，microRNA 和转录因子调节网络，整合素调节的细胞附着中的蛋白质网络以及干细胞生物学研究等。第二部分为系统生物学中的计算和建模。重点介绍了系统生物学对计算和建模方面所带来的需求和挑战。作为案例，还介绍了虚拟细胞项目以及一些用于系统生物学数据处理的软件。第三部分介绍了系统生物学的应用。分别从生理组学（physiome）、发育、免疫、癌症研究、药物开发以及定量生物学等六个方面，以最新的研究为实例进行了介绍。

作者从系统生物医学的概念入手，将系统生物医学作为一个有机的整体，从生物学基础、计算和建模以及具体的应用三个方面进行了精炼的介绍。

本书切合时宜，适合作为研究生课程的教科书或参考书，对于从事基础医学和临床医学、高通量生物学、生物信息学以及生物系统集成的教学和科研人员均有重要的参考价值。



进行推断、标注和定量。系统生物医学的终极目的是针对生命系统建立模型，通过模型准确地预测系统对特定输入的反应。系统性的研究方式有如下几个特点：

1. 追求定量的和精确的数据；
2. 追求数据的完整性和全面性；
3. 关注系统各个组分之间的关联和网络；
4. 愿意定义、测量和操控生物系统的复杂性；
5. 有兴趣在计算（定量）的基础上去预测系统的反应。

当然，读者会说历史上所有的生物学研究都具有上述特点。任何以寻找隐藏的规律或模型为目的，对科学观察进行测量和系统化的努力，都将使得科学家能够对生物系统的结果进行预测。然而，正在发生的技术和实验手段的变革将会深刻地影响生物学研究的模式。全基因组序列使得我们能够了解一个物种的全部遗传信息。以表达谱芯片、多通道流式细胞技术以及高通量筛选为代表的多重分析能够提供精确和全面的数据。已有的和发展中的计算能足以应付基于计算模型的推论和预测，即便是系统的数量级（系统中的组分和相互作用关系的数目）和其相关的数据在持续增长。系统生物学与还原论生物学的区别在于我们能够分析复杂的数据以及由于数据的完整性所能达到的更高分析精度。

此外，系统生物学是一门快速发展的新学科，有非常快的更新速度。基于此，我们将本书组织成了一系列相关的章节，主要描述策略和过程。对于不同的主题，我们在不同的章节中会有深度的讨论并且鼓励争论。我们将主要澄清事实和强调概念，而非罗列过时知识。从这本备受期待的系统生物学著作将会衍生出许多东西，在本书中，我们讨论的范畴从模式系统，到人体生物学以及药学；我们将重点关注系统性研究手段在医学问题上的应用。读者也许会提出真正的系统性手段需要精确的数学模型，然而，由于在人体实验的复杂性，我们将讨论从系统生物学、系统定量到假设产生等更广泛的相关概念。

最后，我们将对系统生物医学进行进一步的讨论。通常，最合理的研究方式是针对简单并能被精确界定的模式系统进行研究，然后针对这些系统进行计算机建模，这些模式系统包括噬菌体、细菌以及酵母等。但现在的情况是，这样的系

概 论

Douglas Lauffenburger

对于什么是系统生物学，有多种不同的理解。Leory Hood 领导的系统生物学研究所的定义是：“传统的生物学往往一次只研究一个特定的基因或者蛋白质，这一研究模式在过去的 30 年中取得了巨大的成功，而系统生物学则与此不同，系统生物学所试图研究的是有功能的生物系统中所有组分的行为和相互关系。” [Ideker et al., 2001]。美国国立卫生研究院国家通用医学研究中心的 [NIH, 2006] 定义则是：“系统生物学是一种新的多学科交叉研究模式，涉及到的学科包括生物学、数学、计算机科学、物理学以及工程学等。生物系统都非常复杂，即使采用当今最强的计算模型也不足以捕获生物系统的所有特性。一个有用的模型应该能够对所研究的系统进行准确的概念化并能进行可靠的预测。为了达到这一目的，我们必须进行简化，从而可以专注于我们所感兴趣的系统行为而忽略其他的细节。” 以上两种定义非常清楚地认识到了生物系统复杂性的几个互补的侧面：前者强调需要同时研究的组分的数目，而后者则关注了定量预测能力，对系统组分、特性以及相互作用的概念性简化”。在我们看来，由于生物系统的复杂性和多维性，上述两种定义所强调的两个方面均很重要。为了能够预测性地理解分子组分的特性是如何决定细胞、组织、器官和机体的表型和行为，科学家和工程师必须将多个相互作用的组分以及与这些组分相关的定量信息整合到一起。此外，通过对生物系统组分和其相互作用的计算机建模能够使我们生物系统的预测性理解达到一个更高的层次，而非靠单纯的直觉，并能够有助于假设的提出和检验。

由于这本书所关注的是系统生物学在医学方面的应用，我们需要考虑生物系统的第三维复杂性。这一维的复杂性代表的是需要将对分子过程的分析从简单的细胞培养实验系统上升到组织和器官层次，以及个体（患者）甚至群体层次。基因组学正在努力地将基因序列和表达信息同人的病理生理状态进行关联，毫无疑问的是，实现这一关联必须要通过建立计算机模型将基因组、蛋白质组与控制细胞功能的分子网络进行整合，然后将建立的模型推广到更大的空间尺度和时间尺度，并最终在分子水平上实现对机体的病理生理状态的预测。生物系统复杂性的三维概念如图所示（这一概念最初由 Peter Sorger 在 MIT 的计算与系统生物学讨论会上提出）。

在本书中，我们将对系统生物医学进行介绍和讨论，它是一种生物医学研究的全新手段。系统生物医学试图对生命系统中的分子和细胞过程的复杂的变量

统性研究策略可用于更复杂的哺乳动物系统甚至是人类疾病，这类系统性研究必然与以原核生物为模型所进行的研究有所不同，并且可能不全面，其原因在于前者的解空间比后者的要大上几个数量级。尽管如此，研究者已经在包括药物开发在内的多个方面，进行了积极的尝试，并且取得了不错的效果。

我们在组织编写这本书时尽可能地体现实验生物学和医学研究的系统性策略的特点：全面（即使不能穷尽）地并定量地测量；针对所研究的系统采用定量的数据去建立模型；并且将复杂性作为一个实验依赖性变量。最终，我们将尝试将这些原则应用于生物医学问题研究。

我们是以记叙的方式来组织编写这本书的，而非简单地罗列一些没有相互关联的条目或章节。虽然无法预计读者将最终从这本书中学到什么，我们还是建议读者从第一章系统生物医学的概念性介绍开始，按照记叙文的方式按章节的排列顺序来阅读这本书。

这本书的第一部分介绍了实验基础。首先是基因组学技术（第二章）和蛋白质组学技术（第三章）的总结性介绍，这两项技术是所有观察和测量的基础，相关的计算模型源于此并且最终将被这两项技术所验证。第四章和第五章描述了调节细胞对外界输入作出何种反应的分子网络，这些分子网络是将要发展的多种模型的基础。紧随其后的是对两种不同的分子网络的介绍——细胞/基质黏附网络（第六章）以及调节干细胞行为的分子网络（第七章）。

本书的第二部分重点介绍用于对前述的分子网络和其后续的细胞行为进行建模的数学和计算机方法。第八章对分子网络建模中的挑战进行了概括，紧随其后的三章则描述了不同的建模方法。第九章关注“高层次”的方法，重点强调了分子和细胞过程中的关系性和逻辑性操作，而第十章和第十一章则关注于“低层次”的方法，在建模的过程中会引入生理和化学机制方面的细节。作为这一部分的结束，第十二章讨论了各种建模软件。

第三部分展示了系统生物学在特定的生物医学研究领域和制药业方面的初步尝试。在生理学方面，第十三章尝试对心血管疾病的病理生理进行系统建模，第十四章针对的则是发育调节，第十五章讨论了免疫系统的调节。本书的高潮在系统生物学/生物医学的重要实际应用上，第十六章讨论了疾病的药物治疗，第十七章描述了预测性系统分析在肿瘤药物发现中的应用，第十八章则讨论了系统性概念在临床试验中的应用。

本书的三个部分所涉及的系统生物医学研究领域均刚刚起步。实验技术的发展将会持续地加速，从而使得我们能够在对生物系统进行测量和操控的过程中，在接近全基因组水平上获取分子和细胞过程的更全、更准和更深层次的信息。这将会激发相关研究人员开发更加多样、复杂以及更有效的算法和模型，同时还将使研究者能够有较强的动力去对模型作出的预测进行测试和验证。更为重要的是，系统生物医学的成功研究实例必定会持续增加，虽然目前这一增加的速度可

能比较慢，而且这些研究所针对的系统可能相对较小并且受到了约束，但我们仍然会从中得到不少新的认识和有用的预测。我们满怀信心地期待本书中所描述的系统生物医学的成功实例将会从学术界、生物技术业和制药业吸引来更多更好的资源，并最终使得系统生物学在更具前景的合理性治疗设计中发挥作用。

(陶生策 译)

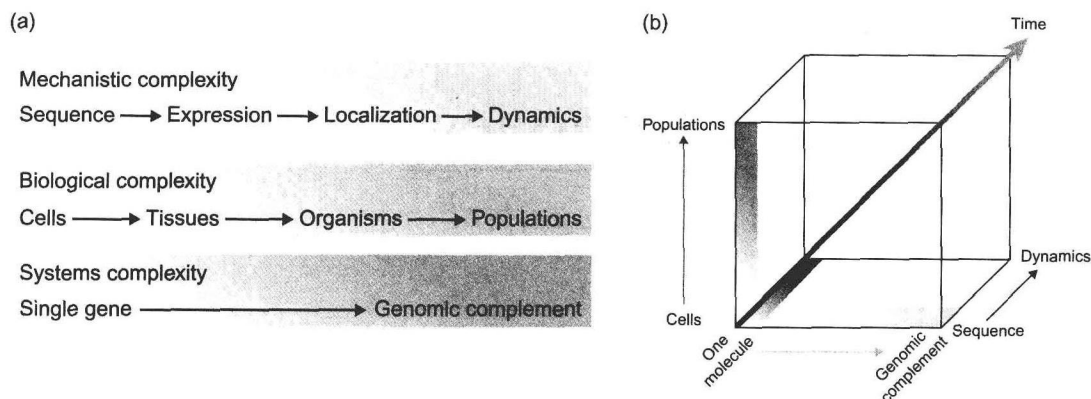
Overview

Douglas Lauffenburger

Systems biology is different things to different people. One definition, from Lee Hood's Institute for Systems Biology [Ideker et al., 2001], is: *"Systems Biology does not investigate individual genes or proteins one at a time, as has been the highly successful mode of biology for the past 30 years. Rather, it investigates the behavior and relationships of all the elements in a particular biological system while it is functioning."* A second, from the US National Institute of General Medical Sciences [NIH, 2006], is: *"Systems biology is a new interdisciplinary science that derives from biology, mathematics, computer science, physics, engineering, and other disciplines... Most biological systems are too complex for even the most powerful computational models to capture all the system properties. A useful model, however, should be able to accurately conceptualize the system under study and provide reliable predictive values. To accomplish this, a certain level of abstraction may be required that focuses on the system behaviors of interest while neglecting some of the other details."* These two definitions clearly recognize complementary aspects of biological system complexity: the first emphasizes the number of components under consideration, while the second features the quantitative predictive capability and conceptual abstraction of system components, properties and interactions. From where we sit, both of these aspects are important, for biological system complexity is multi-dimensional. To gain

predictive understanding of how phenotypic behavior of cells, tissues, organs, and organisms is dependent on molecular component characteristics, scientists and engineers must incorporate multiple interacting components and quantitative information concerning their properties into their studies. Moreover, this predictive understanding can most effectively be raised beyond the confines of mere intuition by constructing computational models of the components and interactions, both for hypothesis generation and hypothesis testing.

A third dimension of biological complexity must also be considered for purposes of this particular book, which is aimed at systems biology applications to human medical concerns. This dimension represents the need to move from analysis of molecular processes in simplified cell culture experimental systems, up to tissue and organ physiological contexts, to organisms (patients) and populations thereof. Although genomics by itself is currently striving to connect gene sequence and expression information directly to human pathophysiology, there is no question that the most powerful approach to this connection will be via computational models that move information from genome to proteome to molecular networks governing cell functions, then propagate these models to larger length-scales and time-scales for eventual prediction of organism pathophysiology in terms of molecular properties. The notion of these three dimensions of biological



systems complexity is schematically illustrated in the figure (originally developed by Peter Sorger for the MIT Computational & Systems Biology Initiative).

In this book, then, systems biomedicine can be described as an emerging approach to biomedical science that seeks to integratively infer, annotate, and quantify multi-variate complexity of the molecular and cellular processes of living systems, with ultimate aim of constructing formal algorithmic models for prediction of process outcomes from component input. Systems approaches are characterized by several key attributes:

1. A pursuit of quantitative and precise data;
2. The comprehensiveness and completeness of the datasets used;
3. A focus on interconnectivity and networks of the component parts;
4. A willingness to define, measure, and manipulate biological complexity;
5. An interest to computationally (and therefore quantitatively) predict outcomes.

Certainly it can be said that all of biological research historically could be characterized by these descriptors. Any scientific endeavor seeks to measure and systematize observations (quantification) and, in finding underlying order (model), would allow scientists to predict outcome. However, there is an ongoing evolution of

technologies and experimental approaches that is changing the conduct of biological research. The availability of whole genome sequences provides the complete catalog of genetic knowledge of an entire organism. Multiplex sensors such as expression arrays and multi-channel flow cytometry, and high throughput screening maneuvers generate precise and comprehensive data. Contemporary and developing computational capabilities are sufficiently powerful to envision capability for computing model-based inferences and/or predictions even as the magnitude of systems (in terms of number of components and their interactions) and associated data-sets continue increase. The difference between systems and reductionist biology is in the objectivity with which we can analyze complex data and the resolution afforded by the completeness of the datasets.

Furthermore, systems biology does not remain constant from year to year. Obsolescence occurs in a matter of months. For this reason, this book has been written and assembled as a series of linked essays that convey strategies and processes. The arguments are bolstered by commissioned chapters on specific topics discussed in depth. These should be considered as examples to clarify points and to stress concepts rather than as an encyclopedia of past knowledge. There will be more departures from

an expected book on systems biology. Our discussion will extend from model systems to human biology and pharmacology. We will focus on applications of systems approaches to medical problems and thus the title *Systems Biomedicine*. Some would demand that true systems approaches require precise mathematical models; however, in this book, because of the experimental complexity in human systems, we wish to broaden the inclusion criteria for systems biology to qualitative systems and hypothesis generators.

Our attempt to describe systems medicine is our final experiment. Often, the most rational experimental strategy is to identify the simplest, most definable model system to study and then to construct a computational model around data output from such systems; ergo, the use of phage, microbial systems, and yeast. However, such systems strategies can now be applied to more complex mammalian systems and even to study human disease. The experimental systems approaches to studying a human problem will, by necessity, be different and potentially less complete than attacking a question using prokaryotes simply because the possible solution space is orders of magnitude greater. Nevertheless, productive strategies have been tried and the outcomes have proven useful even in drug development.

We are attempting to organize this book in a manner reflecting important distinguishing characteristics of systems strategies in experimental biology and medicine: comprehensive (even though not exhaustive) and quantitative measurement, using quantitative data to construct a model of the system, and defining complexity as an experimental dependent variable. Finally, we explore the applications of these principles to biomedical problems.

Rather than an assembly of independent entries or chapters, we have composed this book as a narrative. Whereas we cannot project how this book will ultimately benefit our readers, we suggest that it is best read in sequence as a

narrative should be heard, starting with Chapter 1 (by Liu) which offers a conceptual introduction to systems biomedicine.

The first section of the book lays experimental groundwork. It begins with summaries of experimental technologies in genomics (Chapter 2, by Liu) and proteomics (Chapter 3, by Hanash), to set a foundation for the observations and measurements which motivate, populate, and test associated computational models. Chapters 4 (by Lauffenburger and Liu along with associated colleagues) and 5 (by Lim) describe molecular networks regulating cell functional responses to environmental inputs, which form a basis for a wide variety of envisioned models. These are followed by presentations of two particular manifestations of these networks – cell/matrix adhesion networks (Chapter 6, by Geiger and colleagues) and networks regulating stem cell behavior (Chapter 7, by Ng and colleagues).

The second section of the book focuses on mathematical and computational methods for modeling of these kinds of molecular networks and consequent cell behaviors. Chapter 8 (by Subramaniam and Maurya) starts by outlining fundamental challenges for network modeling, followed by three chapters describing different modeling approaches. Chapter 9 (by Janes, Woolf, and Peirce) focuses on “high level” approaches, which emphasize relational and logical operations of molecular and cellular processes, whereas Chapters 10 (by Doyle and Petzold and associates) and 11 (by Loew and associates) focus on “low level” approaches in which details of physico-chemical mechanism are incorporated. This section is rounded out by Chapter 12 (by Sauro and Bergmann) discussing modeling software.

Finally, the third section offers some early attempts at application of systems biology perspectives to particular biomedical science areas and pharmaceutical industry challenges. With respect to physiological areas, Chapter 13 (by Hunter and Cooling) directs systems modeling

toward cardiac pathophysiology, Chapter 14 (by Asthagiri and Giurumescu) to developmental regulation, and Chapter 15 (by Young and colleagues) to immune system operation. Important practical focus provides a climax to this book, with Chapter 16 (by Liu and Qiang) on pharmacological treatment of disease, Chapter 17 (by Gaynor and associates at Eli Lilly) on predictive systems analysis for cancer drug discovery, and Chapter 18 (by Harrington and Hodgson) on the applications of systems concepts to clinical trials.

We close by noting that in each of these three sections the field is only in its infancy. There will be continuing acceleration of advance in experimental methods for gaining increasingly complete, accurate, and intensive information of molecular and cellular processes nearing genome-wide coverage in measurement and manipulation. This progress will motivate more diverse, sophisticated, and rigorous computational modeling algorithms, along with stronger

insistence on dedicated test of model predictions. Most importantly, the number of "success stories" in which new insights and useful predictive understanding even of relatively small and constrained systems are demonstrated should at least slowly but surely increase. We confidently anticipate that these successes will motivate wider and stronger commitment of resources, in academia and in biotech/pharma industry, for applying the systems biology perspective to the larger promise of rationally informed therapeutics design.

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(陶生策 译)

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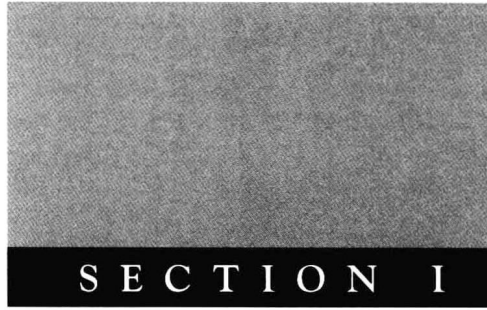
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