

# **STOCHASTIC PROCESSES IN POPULATION GENETICS**

<http://physics.ucsd.edu/students/courses/spring2015/physics274/>

**Instructor:** Prof. Massimo Vergassola  
Office: Urey Hall 7262  
email: [massimo@physics.ucsd.edu](mailto:massimo@physics.ucsd.edu)

**Time and Location:** Tue and Thu  
09:30 am – 10:50 am  
Mayer Hall 2623

**Homework:** Around 6 problem sets, with a week to do each.

There will be a final presentation as exam  
Grade will be a combination of homework, final project/exam and participation

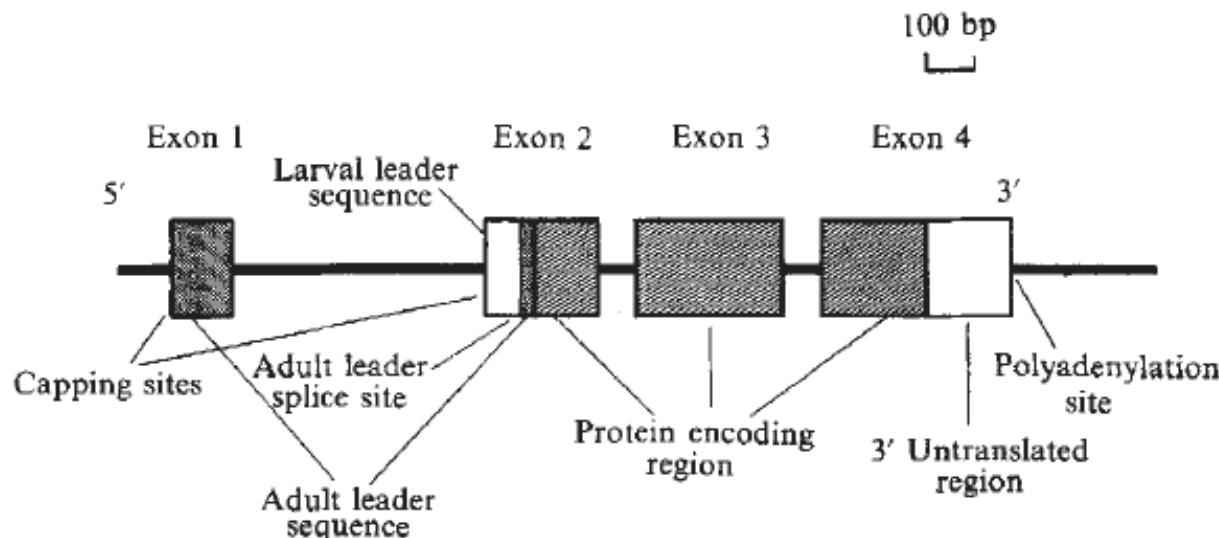
- A walk through the main mechanisms of evolution in population genetics
  - Genetic variation and Hardy-Weinberg law
  - Genetic drift and coalescent
  - Natural selection
  - Multi-loci dynamics
  - Non-random mating and migration
  - Quantitative genetics
  - Evolutionary advantage of sex
- 
- Mathematically more advanced discussion of selected topics

# Nucleotide polymorphism at the alcohol dehydrogenase locus of *Drosophila melanogaster*

Martin Kreitman

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA

The sequencing of eleven cloned *Drosophila melanogaster* alcohol dehydrogenase (Adh) genes from five natural populations has revealed a large number of previously hidden polymorphisms. Only one of the 43 polymorphisms results in an amino acid change, the one responsible for the two electrophoretic variants (fast, Adh-f, and slow, Adh-s) found in nearly all natural populations. The implication is that most amino acid changes in Adh would be selectively deleterious.





What are the evolutionary forces that lead to this pattern of divergence and selection?

Why preponderance of silent over replacements?

Can we tell anything meaningful out of 11 alleles?

Do intra-species patterns have anything to do with inter-species?

Mel vs erecta	Polymorphic	Fixed
Silent	13	26
Replacement	1	10

# Loci and alleles

Differences by origin, state and descent

- Origin: Same locus, different chromosomes
- State difference (sequence, phenotype, etc)
- Descent: Do not share a common ancestor (within a relevant past timespan)
- Hetero vs homozygous