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Genomic Data-Guided Mathematical Modeling of Cancer

Introduction- Cancer

- Cancer is caused by genetic and epigenetic mutations in a single cell which cause it to gain a selective advantage
- Uncontrolled, rapid exponential cell division creates a tumor
- Cancer is treated by killing all cancerous cells
 - Surgery
 - Chemotherapy
 - Radiation
 - Immunotherapy





3d model of tumor growth

Immunotherapy

- Immunotherapy activates immune system
- Benefits
 - Cells within the human body kill cancer cells
 - better chance of killing ALL cancer cells
- Risks
 - Overly active immune system can kill healthy cells
 - Hard to predict body's response



Modeling Immune-Cancer Cell competition-Predator-Prey modeling



Immune cells are predators, Cancer cells are prey

Lotka-Volterra Equations

Project-Create a Mathematical Model of Tumor Growth

1. Create the Model Equations

- Begin with Lotka-Volterra
 (Predator-Prey modeling)
- Adapt equations to reflect immune response to cancer
 - Exponential cell growth
 - Additional species to represent additional populations with more mutations
- 2. Estimate Parameters from Experimental Data

- 3. Create MATLAB simulations to view results
- 4. Incorporate into existing models
 - 3D spatial model

Goal:

Predict response to Immunotherapy

Thank You

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