

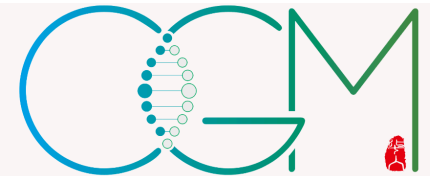
# Unleashing the power of public gene expression data

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Aug. 30, 2017



北美华人基因组学在线沙龙  
Chinese Genomics Meet-up online

# Outline

1. Background

2. The landscape of gene expression

3. Expression plasticity

The same orange tree  
grows differently in  
different place



**North**



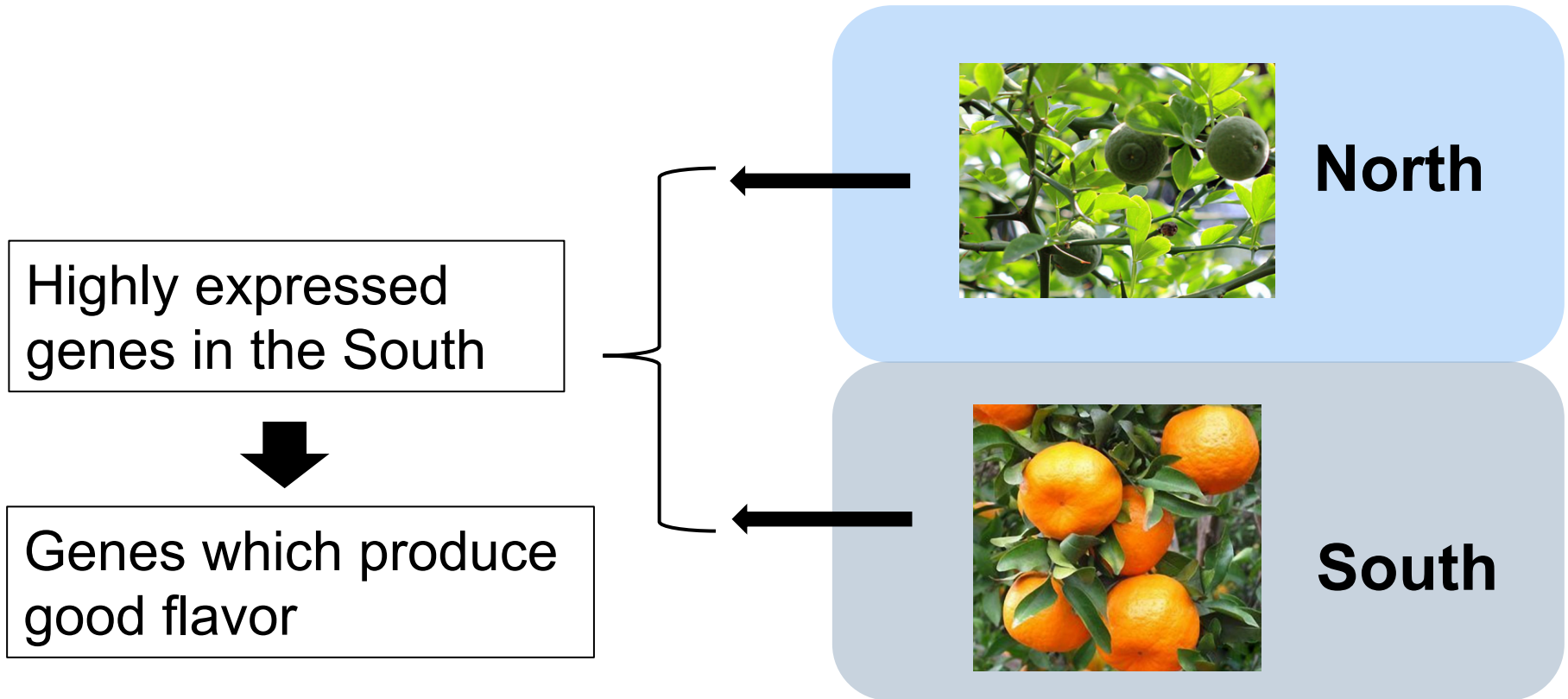
**South**



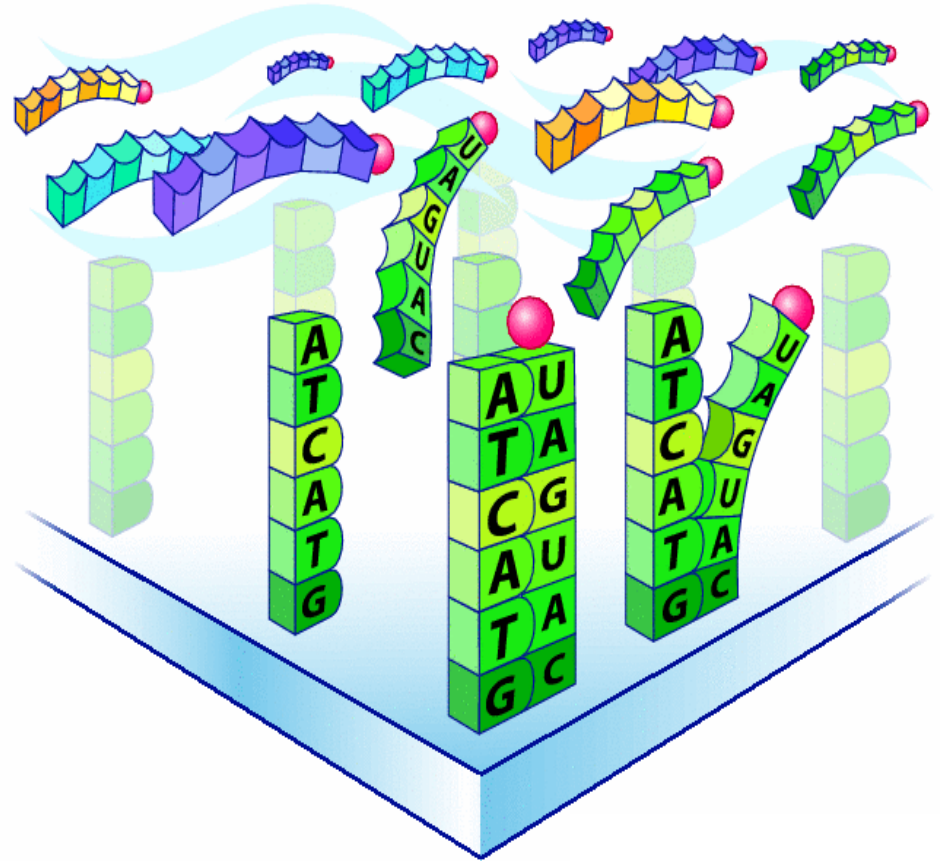
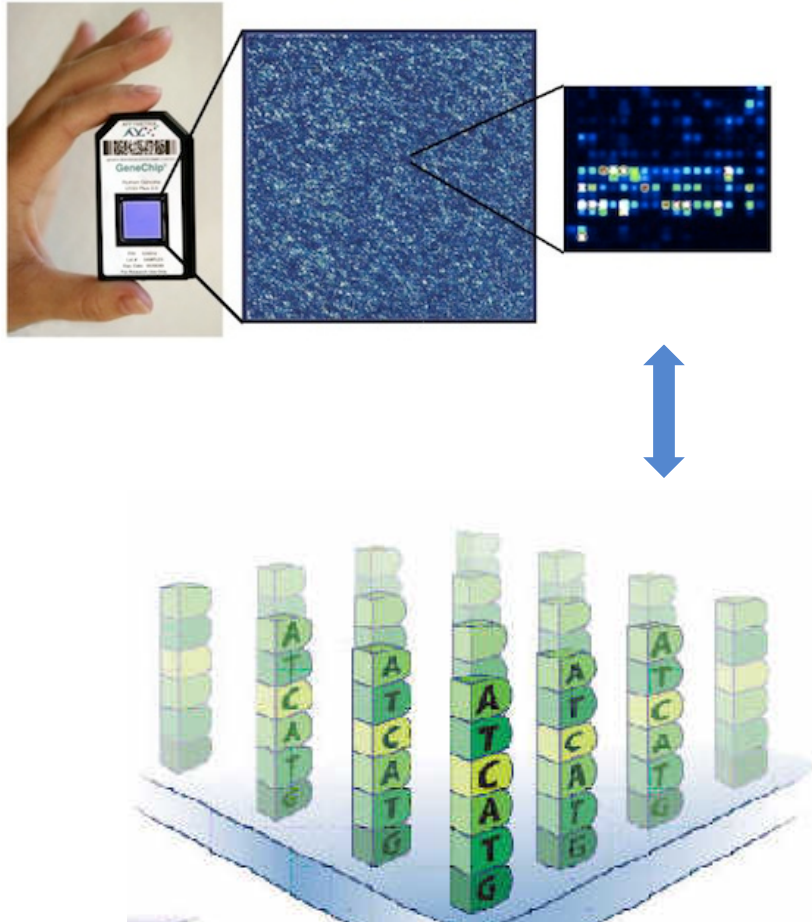
晏婴像

500 B. C.

# Molecular mechanism can be revealed by comparing gene expression



# Microarray can measure gene expression at a large-scale



# A lot of microarray data are generated and stored in public databases

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>



More than 1 million human microarray samples are stored in GEO.

1,000,000 columns

20,000 rows

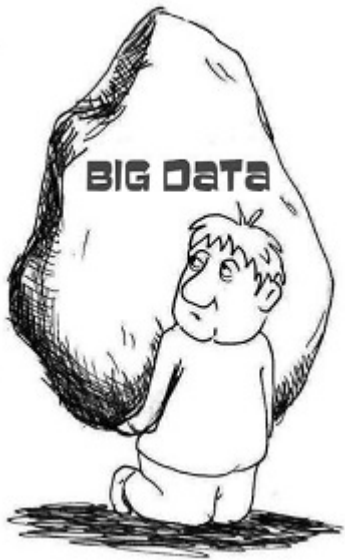
	sample1	sample2	...	sampleN
Gene1	8.70865	8.31004	...	9.40389
Gene2	12.1558	12.1916	...	13.0548
Gene3	13.1479	12.9955	...	13.7968
...	...	...	...	...
GeneX	9.3123	8.87413	...	8.21619

# Making sense of public gene expression data is challenging

*Nature Reviews Genetics* **14**, 89-99 (February 2013) | doi:10.1038/nrg3394

## Reuse of public genome-wide gene expression data

Johan Rung<sup>1</sup> & Alvis Brazma<sup>1</sup> [About the authors](#)

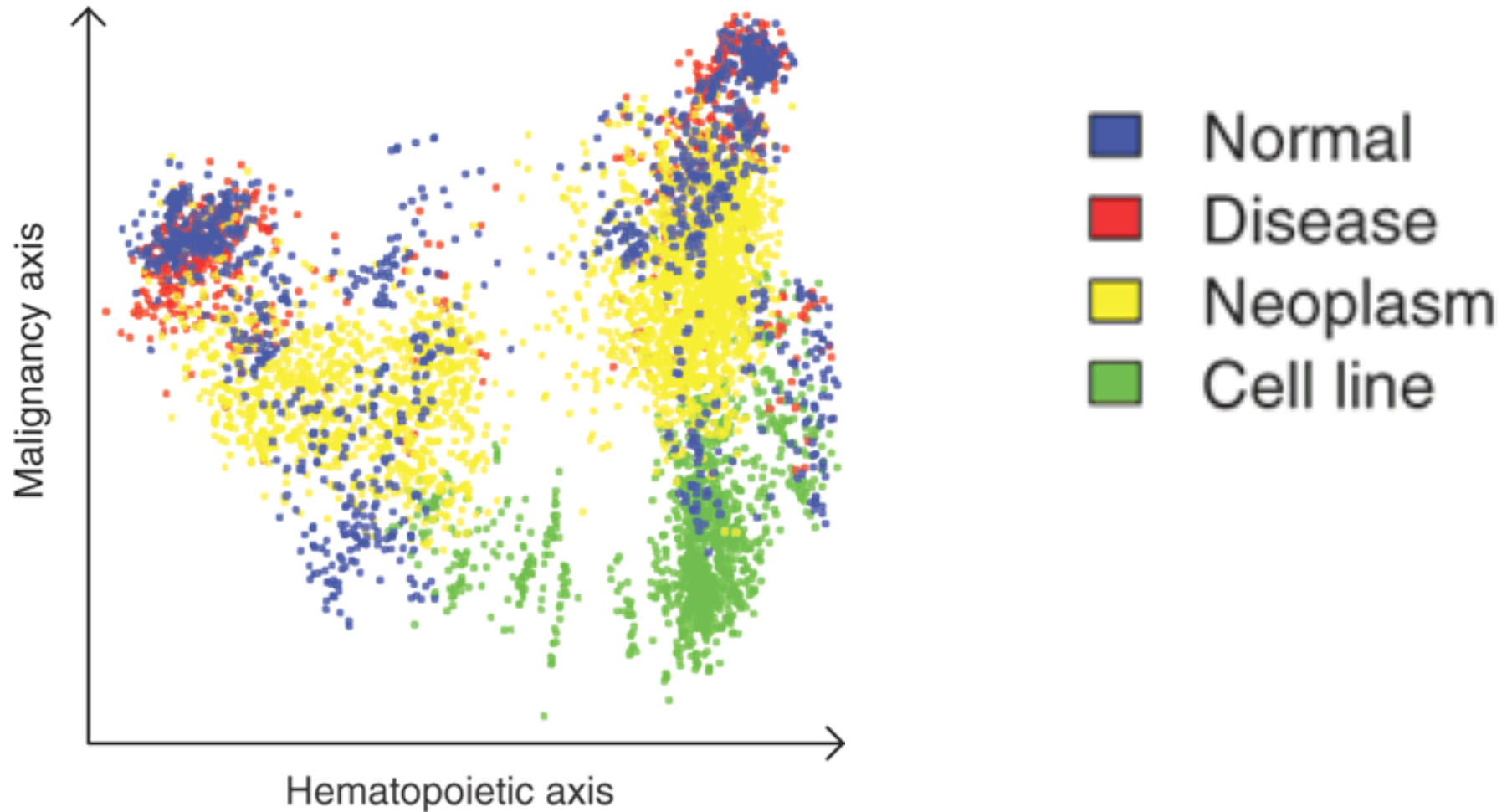


‘Reuse of public data can be very powerful, but there are many obstacles in data preparation and analysis and in the interpretation of the results.’



# A human gene expression map

Lukk et al., 2010 Nature Biotechnology





# Outline

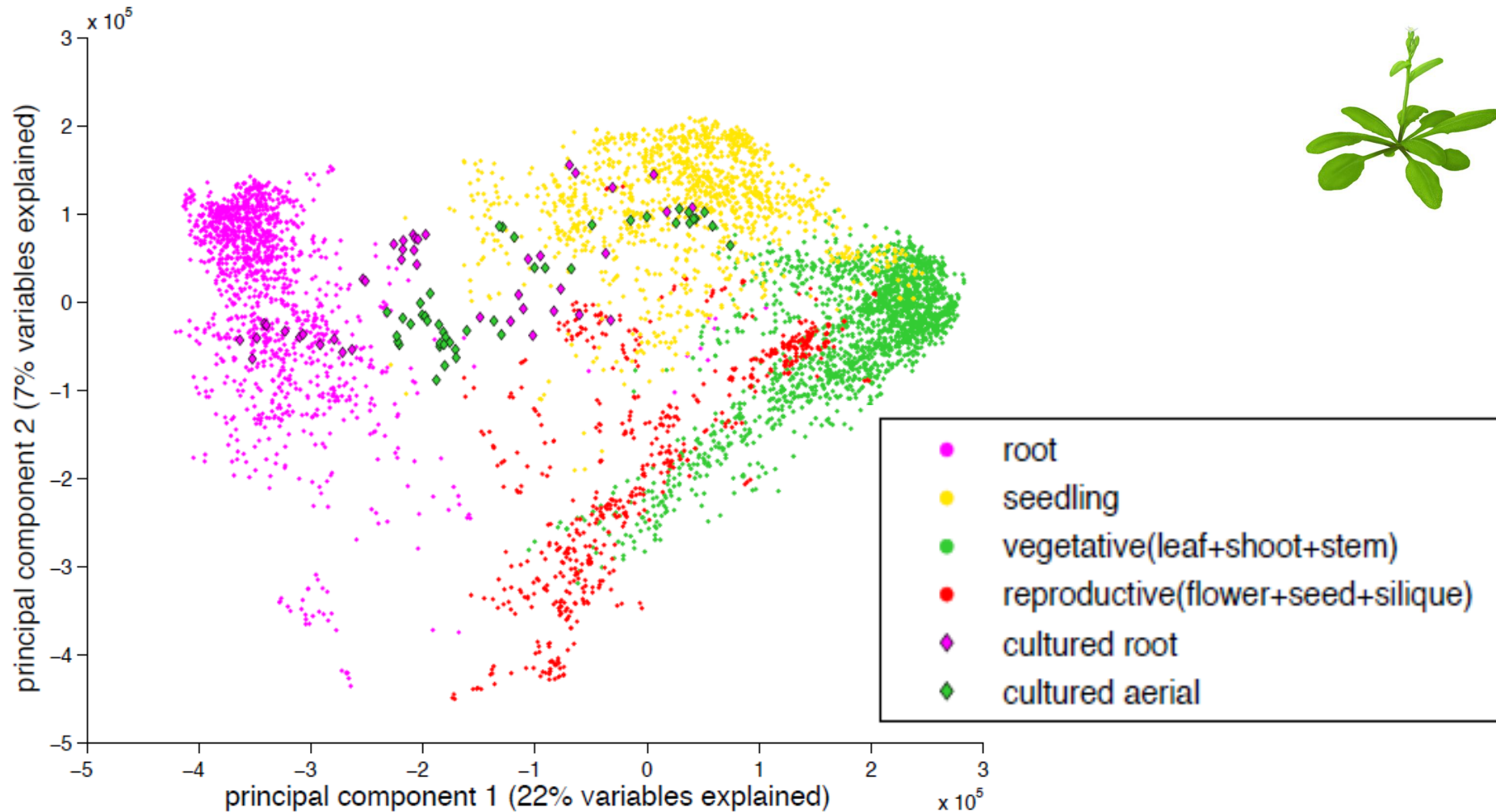


1. Background

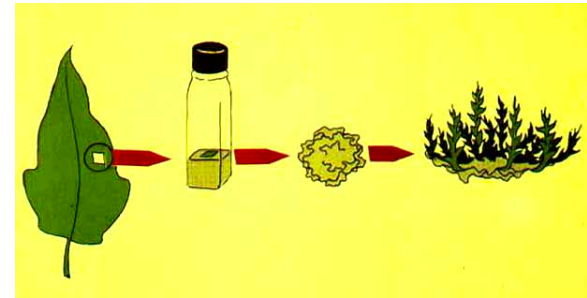
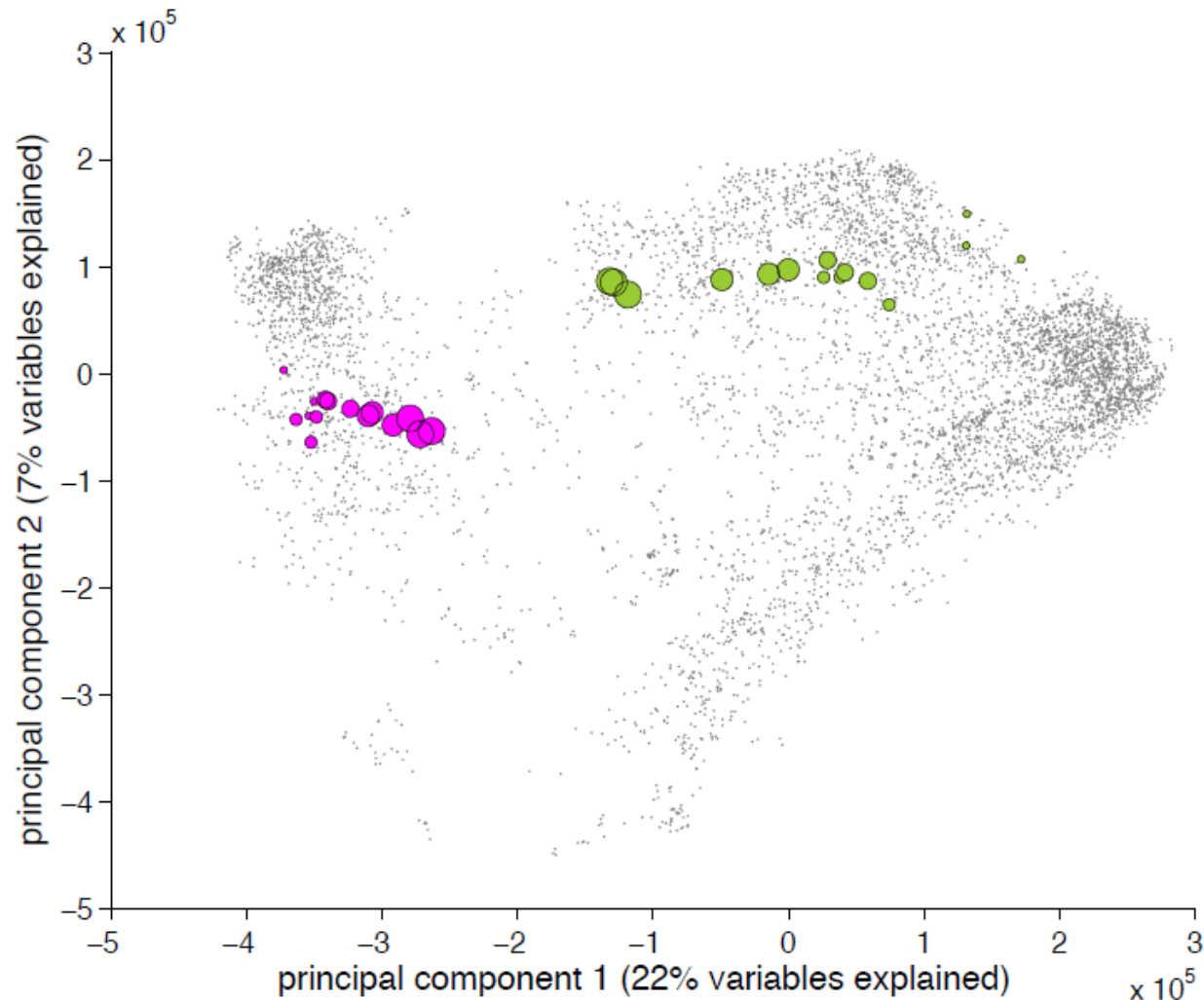
2. The landscape of gene expression

3. Expression plasticity

# A gene expression landscape for Arabidopsis was revealed by meta-analysis of more than 6000 microarray samples



# The position of an expression sample indicates its cellular state



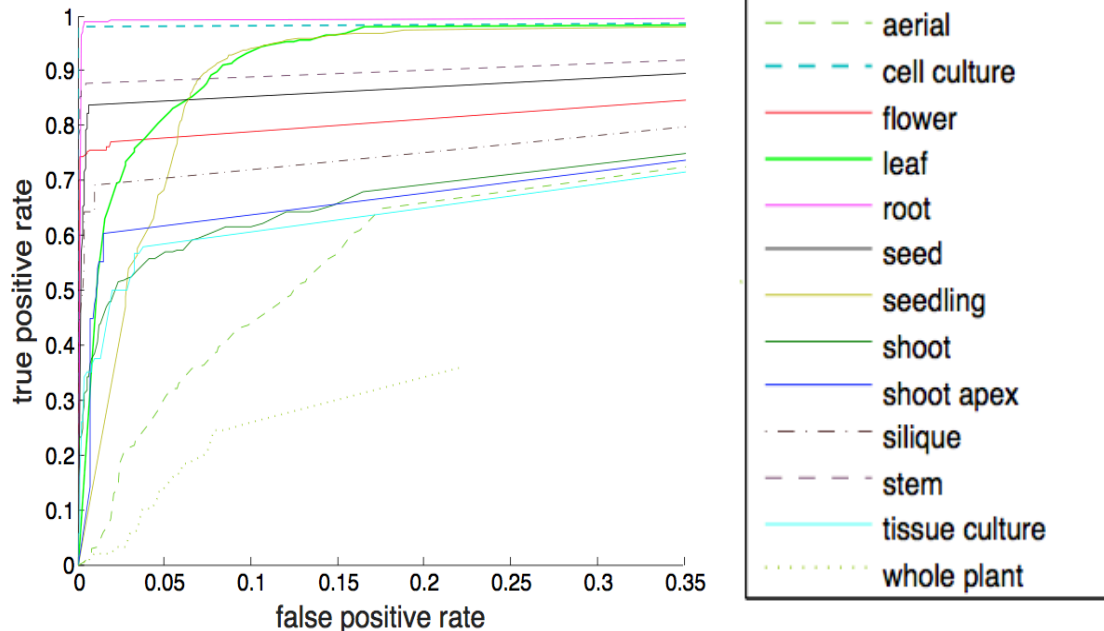
- root: 0h after callus induction
- root: 12h after callus induction
- root: 24h after callus induction
- root: 48h after callus induction
- root: 96h after callus induction
- aerial: 0h after callus induction
- aerial: 12h after callus induction
- aerial: 24h after callus induction
- aerial: 48h after callus induction
- aerial: 96h after callus induction

# Automatic annotation of tissue type for Arabidopsis transcriptome data

We can actually predict mistakenly annotated samples in the NCBI GEO. For example, samples from GSE6826 were described as shoot, however those samples were predicted as root in our results.



Shinjae Yoo



Potential use cases:  
Quality control for public data

# Outline

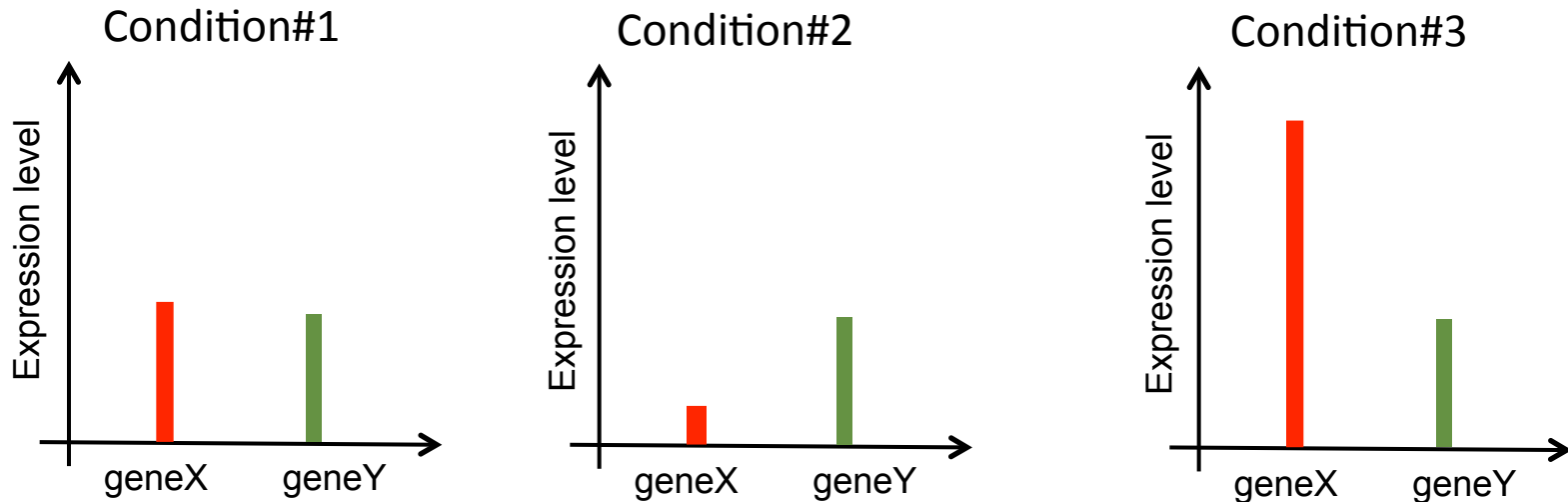
1. Background

2. The landscape of gene expression

3. Expression plasticity

# Plasticity: gene's ability to respond to different signals

My hypothesis: plasticity is an internal trait for genes.  
Some genes tend to respond to signals frequently.  
Some genes tend to not respond to any signals.



GeneX has higher plasticity than geneY

# Infer gene expression plasticity using public expression data

$$\text{plasticity} = \log_2 \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=0}^k (\log_2 r_i)^2$$

$k$  is the number of comparisons.  
 $r$  is the fold change for a gene under a certain perturbation.

~ 2000 genes

	control	treatment	fold change
Gene1	7.06215	6.88064	1.026
Gene2	11.63293	11.32395	1.027
Gene3	9.79024	9.78699	1
Gene4	3.59434	5.92511	0.607
Gene5	5.2207	9.98731	0.523
Gene6	8.9892	4.28404	2.098
Gene7	4.20937	3.91764	1.074
	...	...	...
Gene20001	4.33115	5.99459	0.723
Gene20002	9.06153	9.27241	0.977



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## One comparison

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We collected >1000 such comparisons from public repositories for Arabidopsis

Now, we calculated a number to represent the plasticity of a gene  
The larger this value, the more likely for a gene to response to environmental perturbations.

# ‘Cutting Big Data Down to a Usable Size’



>10,000 columns

20000 rows

	sample1	sample2	...	sampleN
Gene1	8.70865	8.31004	...	9.40389
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Gene ID	Plasticity
Gene1	0.02
Gene2	0.09
Gene3	0.87
...	...
GeneX	0.31



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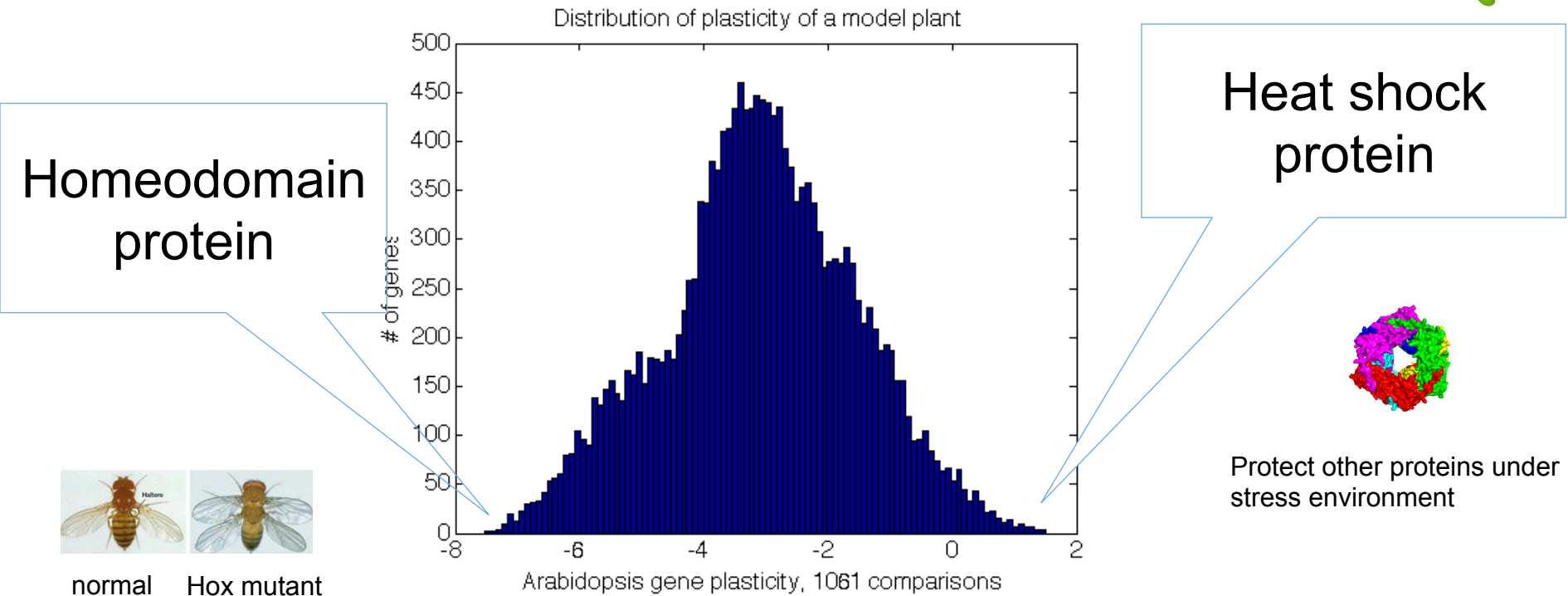


Gene ID	Plasticity
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What kind of genes have the largest expression plasticity?

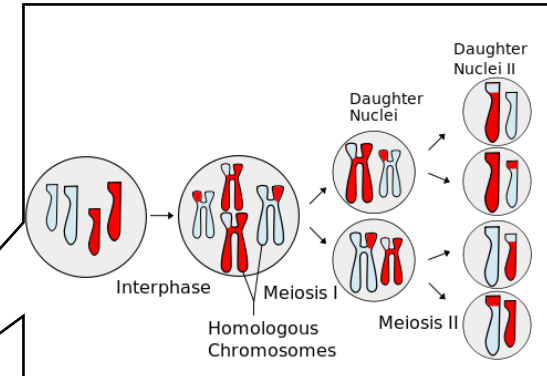
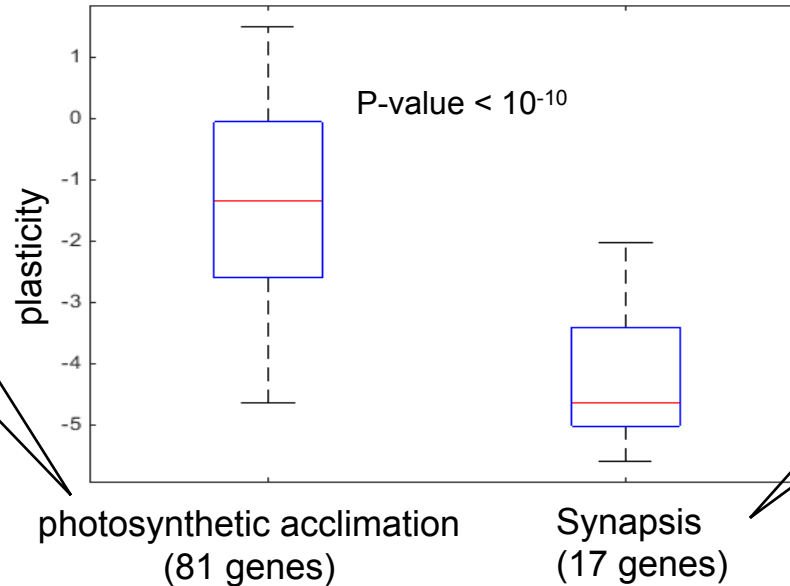
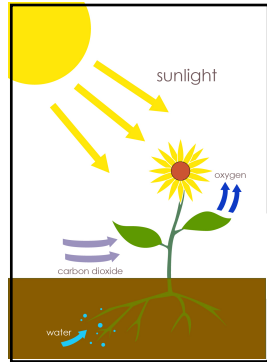


# Expression plasticity might be an attribute for genes in Arabidopsis



It looks like expression plasticity is corresponding to gene function.

# Different functional groups have different expression plasticity



- Reproductive systems may need to be very stable under different environments in order to maintain the genetic stability.
- Photosynthetic system may need to be highly responsive to environmental signals in order to generate energy



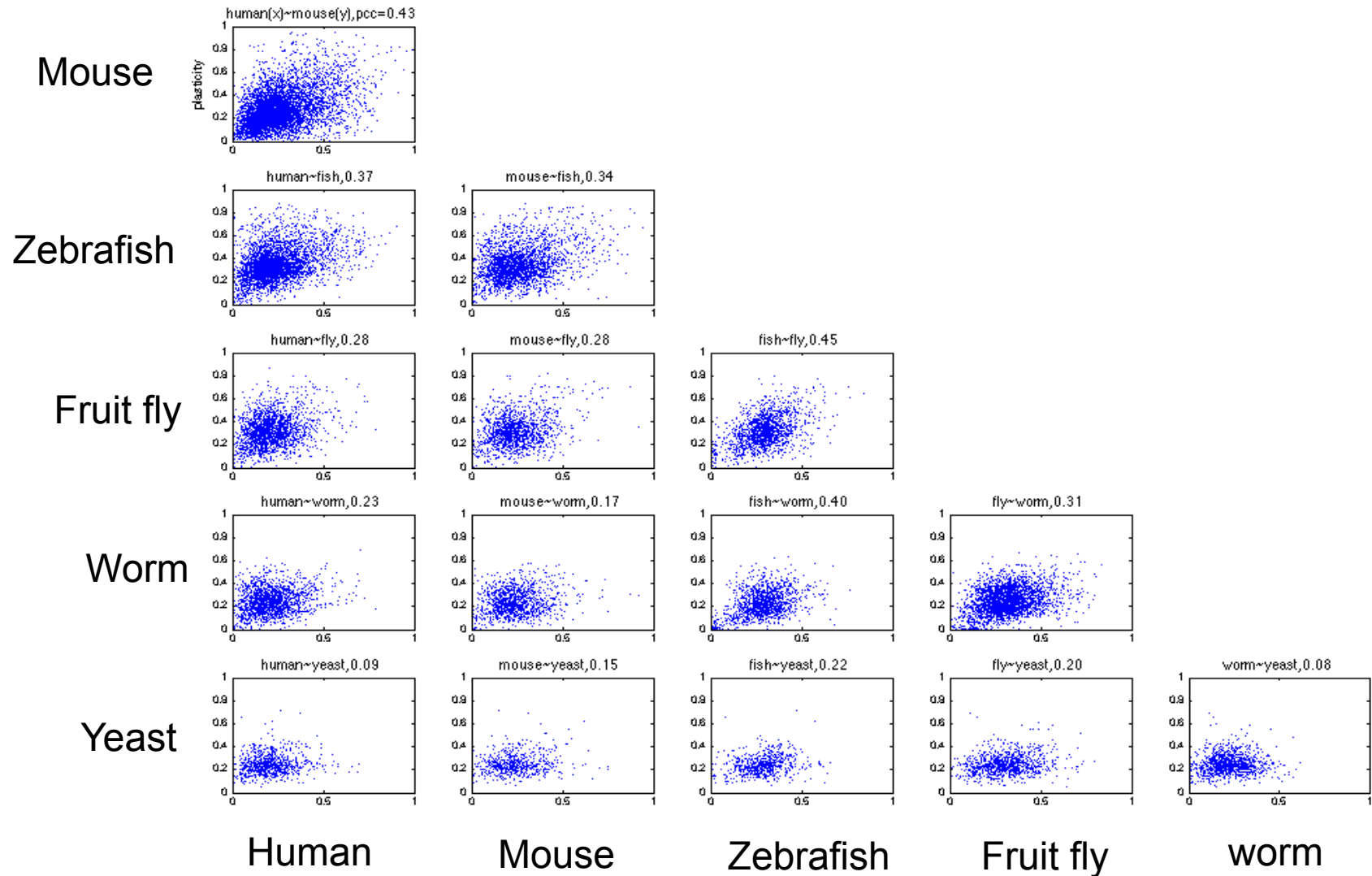
Why not calculating the expression plasticity for other model organisms?



# Expression plasticity is an evolvable trait

Dot represents 1vs1 ortholog

Each species contains 1000~6000 samples.



# Acknowledgements



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Zhuo Du@Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Beijing, China