

*Bioinformatics identification of small RNA targets
in the Glaucophyte alga Cyanophora paradoxa:
Analysis of ancient evolutionary mechanisms
that arose in primordial algae*

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Overview

- Background and Introduction
- Hypothesis and experimental rationale
- Methods: Bioinformatics pipelines
- Results
- Future Objectives
- References
- Questions

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Evidence for Widespread Exonic Small RNAs in the Glaucophyte Alga *Cyanophora paradoxa*

Jeferson Gross¹, Sana Wajid¹, Dana C. Price¹, Ehud Zelzion¹, Junyi Li¹, Cheong Xin Chan²,
Debashish Bhattacharya^{1*}

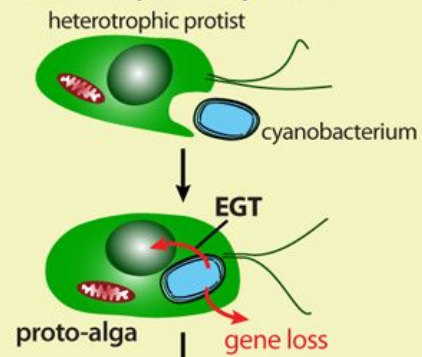
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Background and Introduction

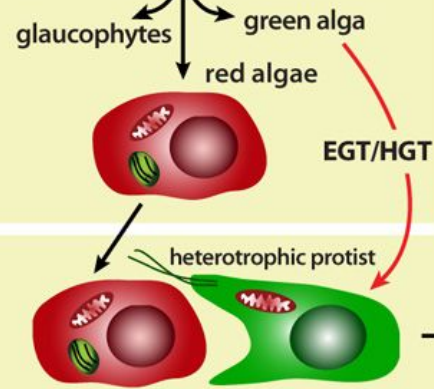
Cyanophora paradoxa elucidates primary endosymbiosis

- The plastid originated at least once > 1.5 billion years ago, where a cyanobacterial ancestor that was captured by a single-celled protist as food-stuff but remained as an endosymbiont.
- Following many photoautotrophic cyanobacterial capture events, a *novel metabolic-toolkit*, which involved photosynthesis, emerged among microbiological life.

A. Primary endosymbiosis

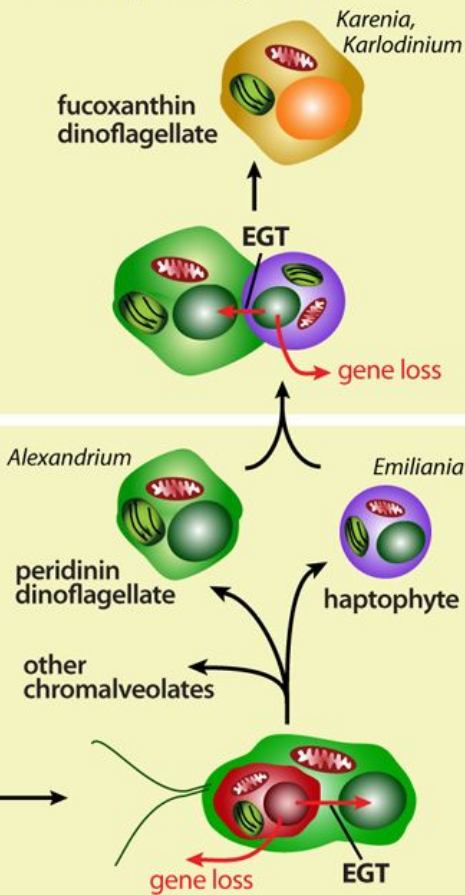


Plantae



B. Secondary endosymbiosis

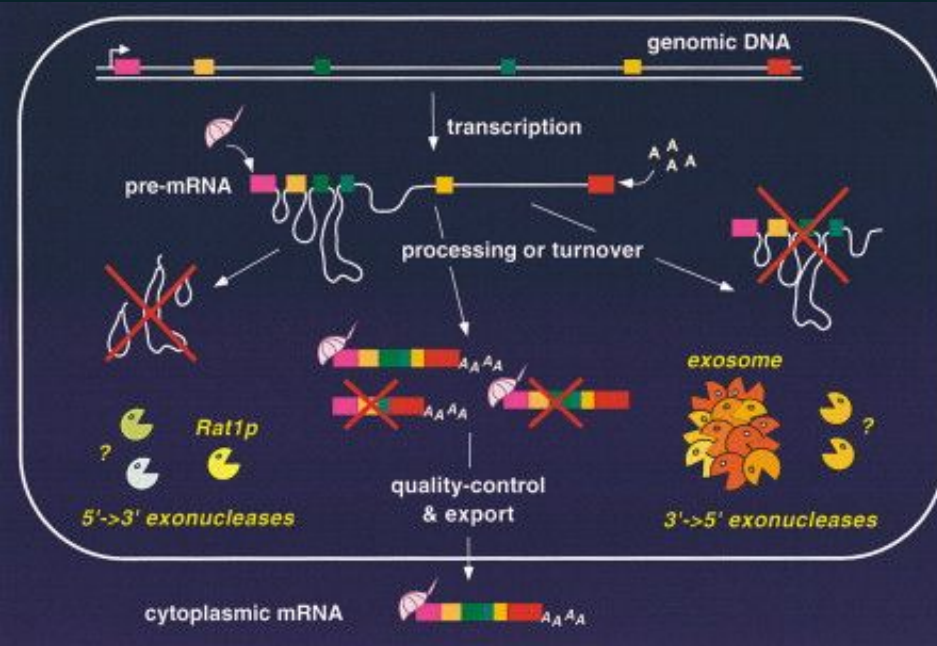
C. Tertiary endosymbiosis



- *Cyanophora paradoxa* is a model organism for endosymbiosis
- Contains two blue-greenish vesicles called cyanelles in its protoplasm which were thought to be acquired endosymbiotically from cyanobacteria

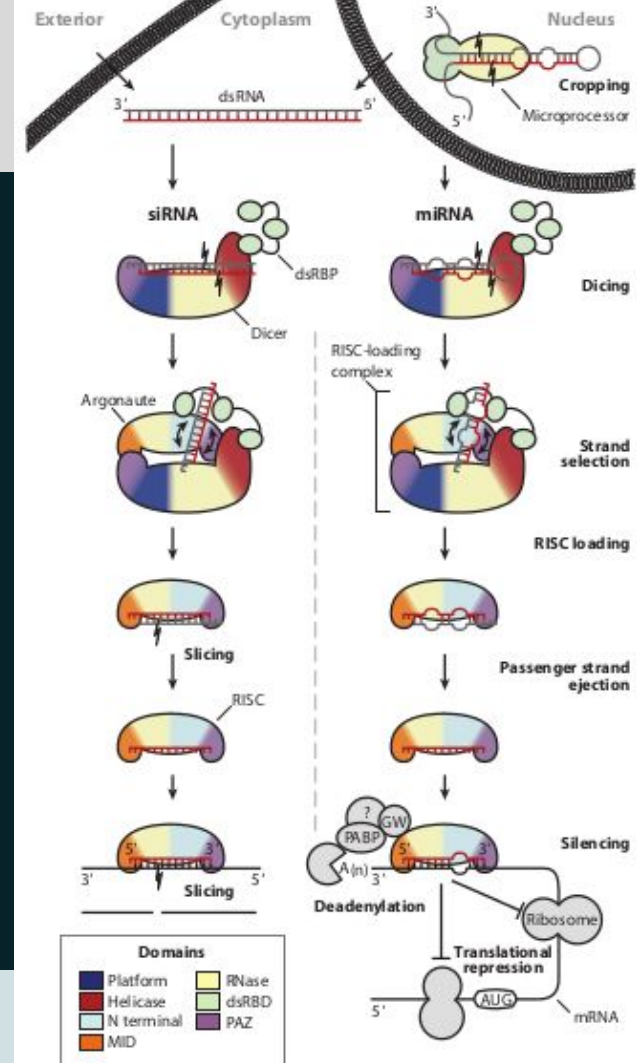
Post-transcriptional silencing is a form of negative regulation

- Silencing can occur through:
- ◆ translational repression then RNA decay or
 - ◆ endonucleolytic cleavage through argonaute slicing mechanisms



RNA Turnover mechanisms utilize RNA interference

- RNAi/siRNA is primarily used for gene silencing (i.e. inhibition of gene expression)
- Double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) intermediates are tagged then undergo degradation



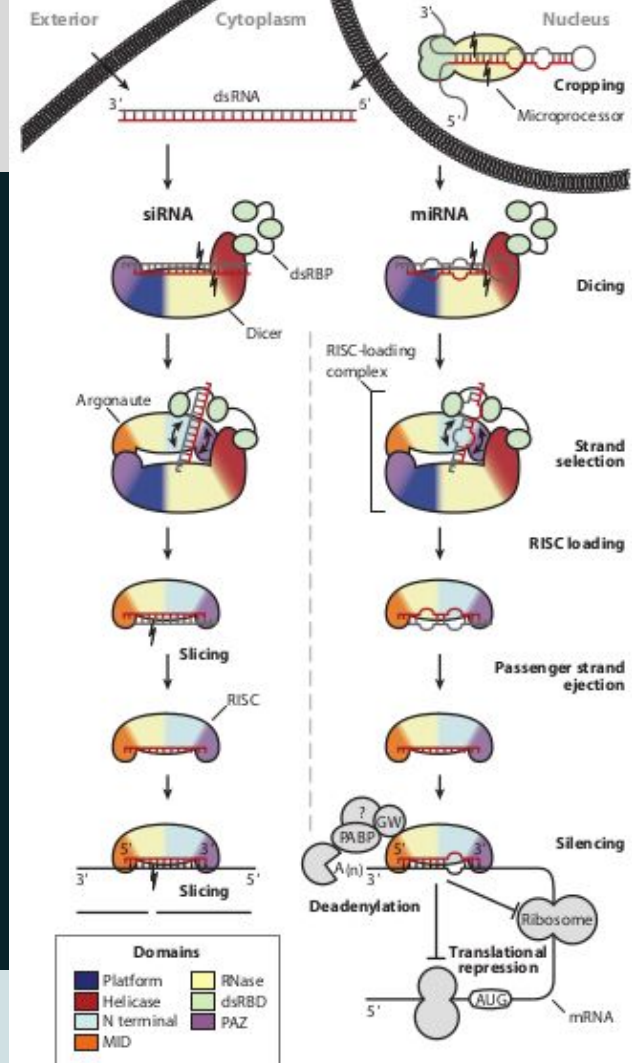
RNAi is specific to eukaryotes

- RNAi is an ancient process that likely existed before the split of prokaryotes and eukaryotes
- RNAi may have served primarily as an anti-viral and transposon defense mechanism
- For example, in early evolution, genomic defense against self and non-self RNA became an important tool to abate pervasive and parasitic self-replicating autonomous genomes

Outcomes of the RNAi gene-protein network

- Canonical RNAi mechanism is triggered by the formation of dsRNA duplex precursor which is cleaved by Ribonuclease III enzyme Dicer at both termini and then loaded onto the Argonaute complex
- Products of Dicer cleavage are small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) of variable sizes (21-25 nt) with siRNA 3'-2 nt overhang pairing and 5'-monophosphates

(24, 29)

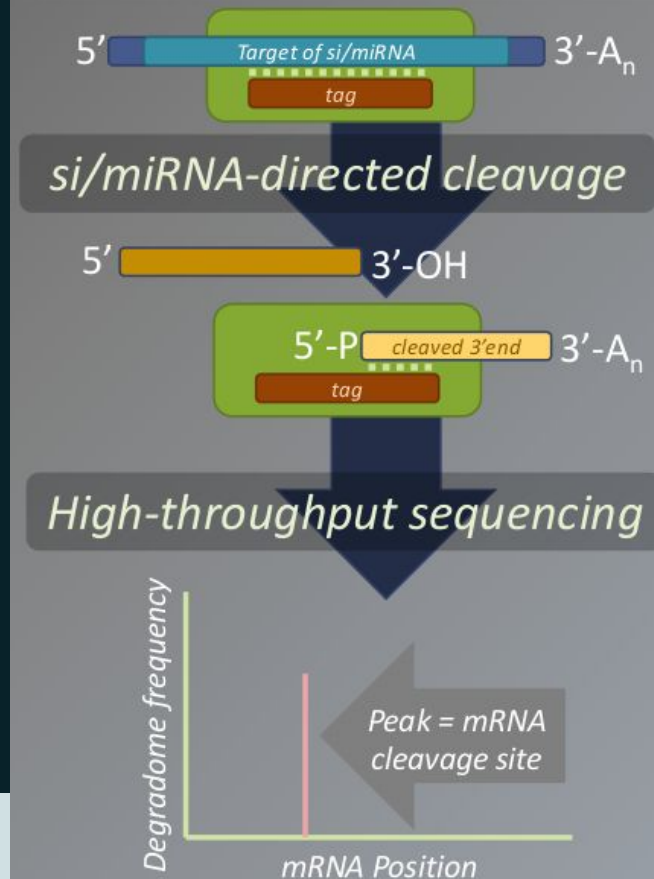


Evolutionary origins of sRNA pathways in eukaryotes

- Comparative genomic studies based on existence of the three main components of RNAi by Cerutti and Mollano (2006) and Shabalina and Koonin (2008) using also parsimonious evaluation reveal the following.
 - ◆ Several unicellular eukaryotes which have lost RNAi functionalities, perhaps independently and multiple times: Opisthokonta (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*), Excavata, Archaeplastida, Chromalveolata (20, 22).
- It is likely that the RNAi mechanism is not necessary for unicellular eukaryotic life whereas it remains an integral part of multicellular eukaryotic developmental gene regulation (e.g. complex body pattern formation) (20).

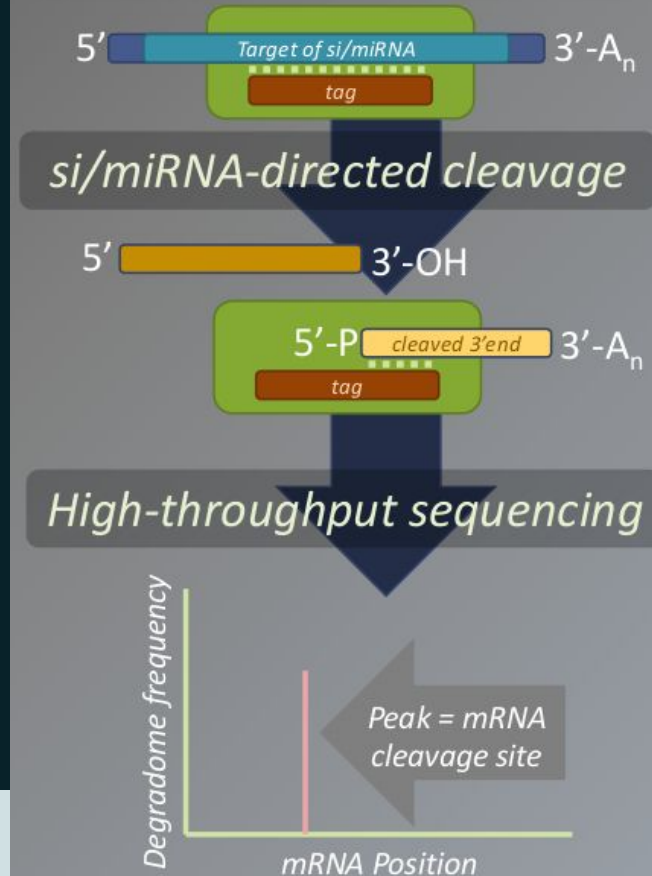
Next-generation sequencing of non-coding RNAs

- Genome wide analysis of small RNAs in *C. paradoxa* for a clearer picture of the composition of epigenomes (i.e. RNA expression)
- Other reasons include, Look for essential sRNA hotspots regulating stress responses, growth and development



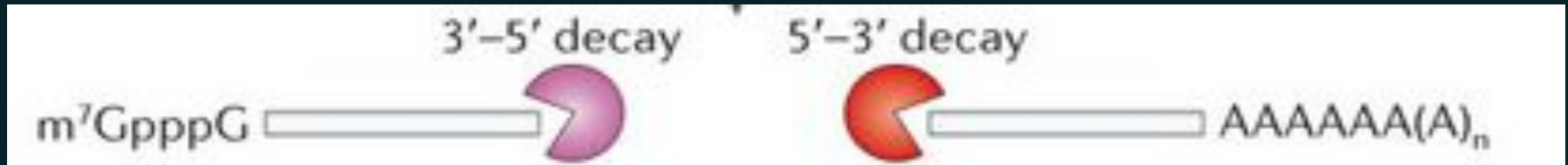
The 5' monophosphate is an important biochemical marker

- The 5' monophosphate is fundamental to bioinformatic studies because it allows us to trace the *degradome*
- Decapping prevents mRNA from translation process



Sequencing the degradome

- A snapshot of the transcriptome is achieved using methods that exist for degradome sequencing and identification of si/miRNA cleavage sites by locating the 5' monophosphate and study 5'→3' decay.
- Genome-wide mapping of uncapped transcripts (GMUCT) is a protocol which samples the 5'-ends of uncapped mRNAs but not 3'→5' decay (27).



Hypothesis and experimental rationale

Experimental Rationale

- For this study, a means of visually analyzing RNA-seq degradome data from *Cyanophora paradoxa* is proposed.
- Our lab has recently sequenced genome of *Cyanophora paradoxa* and this was used as a template for preliminary evolutionary bioinformatic checks to indicate presence of the RNAi molecular toolkit.
- According to Gross et. al (2013), *Cyanophora paradoxa* nuclear genome contains gene model matches with high BLASTp e-values to three RNAi components: Dicer, Ago and RDRp.

Methods

Sequencing of sRNA & degradome



Read profiling, trimming raw seq data and expression analysis

- Three template sequence libraries of *C. paradoxa* exist: genomic contigs, EST contigs (nt \geq 200) and CDS.
- Mapping filtered sRNAs against these three sequence libraries with 100% identity produced the small RNA and degradome library data used for this analysis
- Using CLC Genomics, reads were mapped to *C. paradoxa* contigs, ESTS and CDS
- Expression analysis of reads mapped to CDS of different conditions

Results & Discussion

Alignments with 1762675 alignments and 1 metadata column:

```

seqnames      strand      cigar
  <Rle>      <Rle> <character>
[1] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig10000x1 -      18M
[2] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig10002x1 +      16M
[3] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig10002x1 -      22M
[4] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig10002x1 +      16M
[5] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig10002x1 +      23M
...
[1762671] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig9997x3 +      16M
[1762672] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig9997x3 +      24M
[1762673] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig9998x3 +      16M
[1762674] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig9998x3 +      19M
[1762675] Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig9998x3 +      21M

      qwidth      start      end      width      njunc
  <integer> <integer> <integer> <integer> <integer>
[1]      18      332      349      18      0
[2]      16       56       71      16      0
[3]      22      160      181      22      0
[4]      16      178      193      16      0
[5]      23      261      283      23      0
...
[1762671]      16       59       74      16      0
[1762672]      24      208      231      24      0
[1762673]      16      194      209      16      0
[1762674]      19      210      228      19      0
[1762675]      21      213      233      21      0

      seq
  <DNAStringSet>
[1] AGGCGGCCCGAGGCGACGG
[2] CAAGAACAACGGGACC
[3] GCAGATTTCGGAAGCATCATCCG
[4] TCCGTGCCGTTGGACG
[5] CTCCGGAGGATTGGGGGCTTGA
...
[1762671] ATGCGGACGAGGGAAC
[1762672] GCGATTGGCTCAGTCCGCAGCTAC
[1762673] GCCACGGGGGGATGAA
[1762674] GTCGTCCCGCAACCTACTC
[1762675] GTCCCGCAACCTACTCCAGAT

```



SAM file <->

GappedAlignment object
stores the following information:

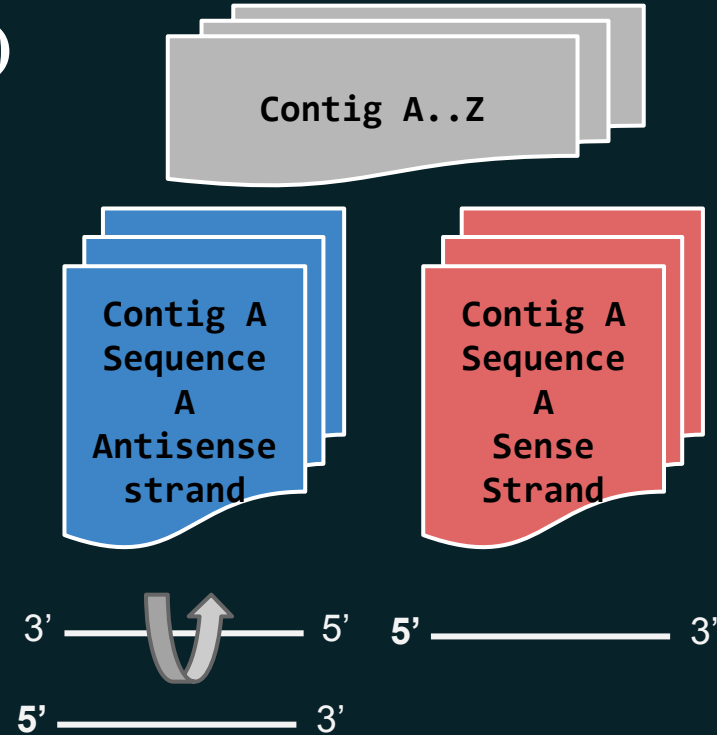
- ◆ Contig Name
- ◆ Strand as + or -
- ◆ Start
- ◆ End
- ◆ Width
- ◆ Sequence
- ◆ etc.

5' position CDS and DEG tag density

processSeqs <- function (takes in mapping)

For each contig (subset):

- 1. Separate sequences based on + or -**
 - sense
 - antisense
- 2. Modify start position for antisense as plot will consist of 5' ends' first position only**
 - start = end
 - end = end + width

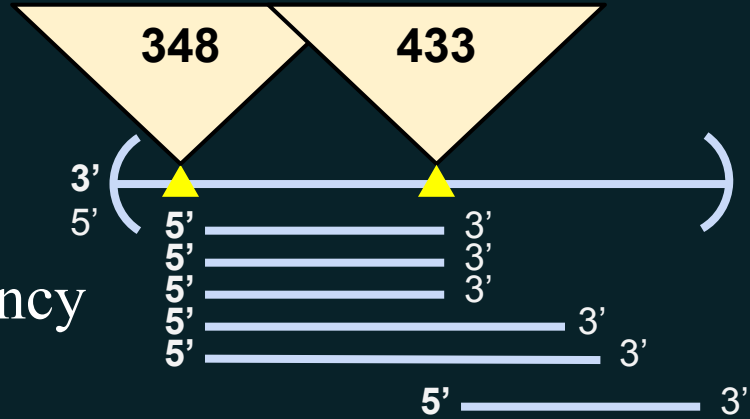


5' position CDS and DEG tag density

3. For each start position

But separately per - and +

- a. nPosition = normalized position*
- b. pFrequency = actual frequency at position
- c. nFrequency = normalized frequency



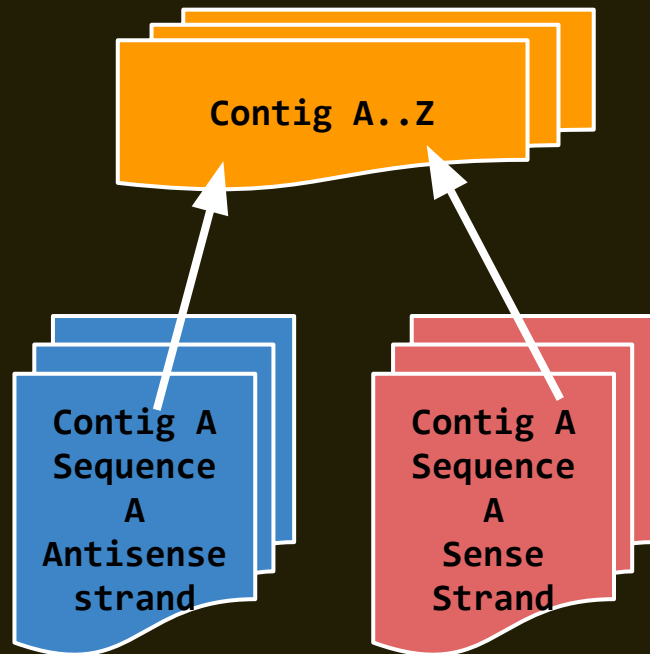
nFrequency = $\text{Frequency}_i / \sum_{1,i} \text{Frequency}_i$
where i = position of 5' end of sRNA or deg tag

5' position CDS and DEG tag density

4. Bind separated subsets

```
> sub.antisense.freq
```

| | nPosition | pFrequency | nFrequency | cName |
|---|-----------|------------|------------|---------|
| 1 | 38 | 1 | 1 | 55596x1 |
| 2 | 346 | 1 | 1 | 55596x1 |
| 3 | 348 | 5 | 5 | 55596x1 |
| 4 | 433 | 1 | 1 | 55596x1 |
| 5 | 639 | 1 | 1 | 55596x1 |
| 6 | 716 | 1 | 1 | 55596x1 |



5. Plot histogram

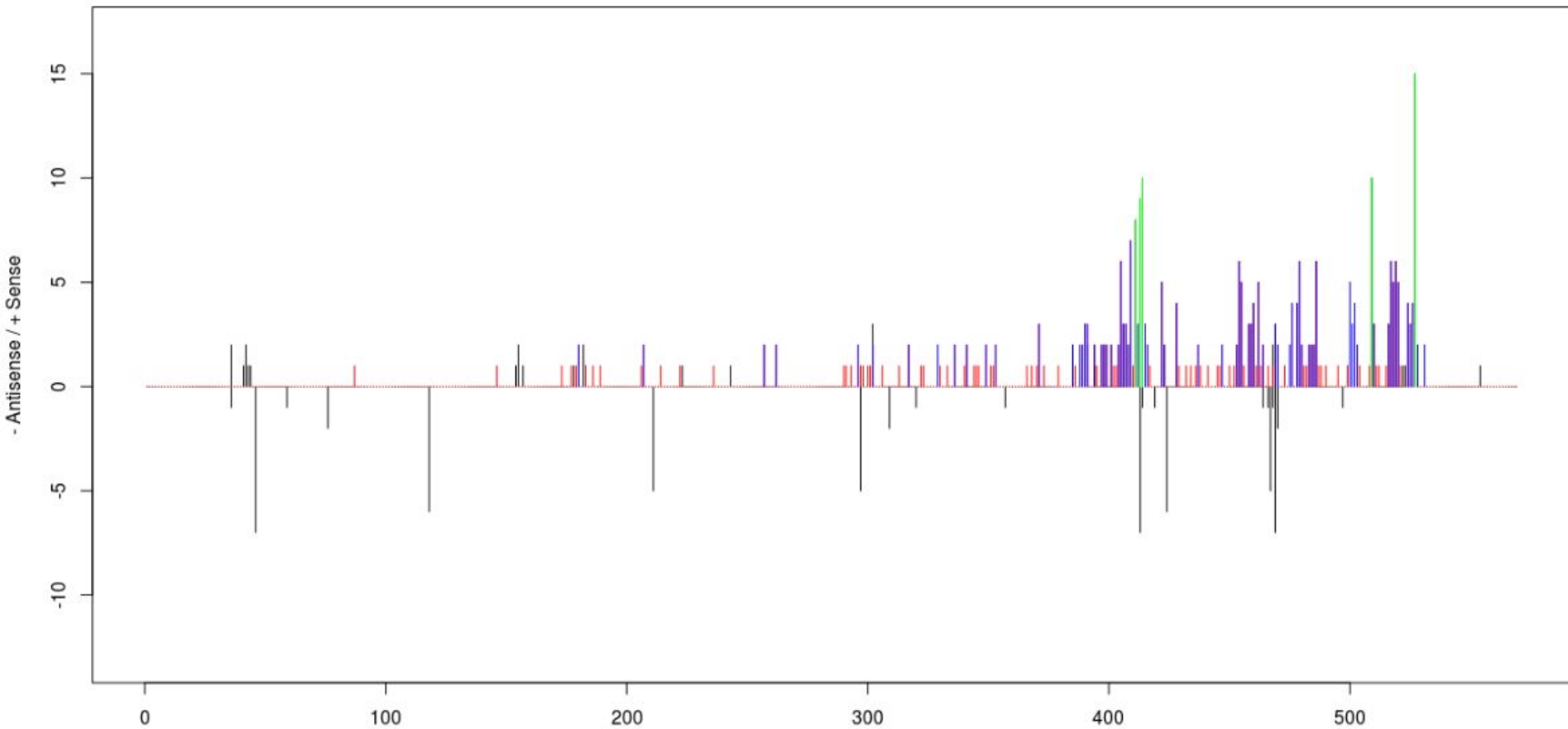
contigSize - position

5' position CDS and DEG tag density

5. Plot histogram

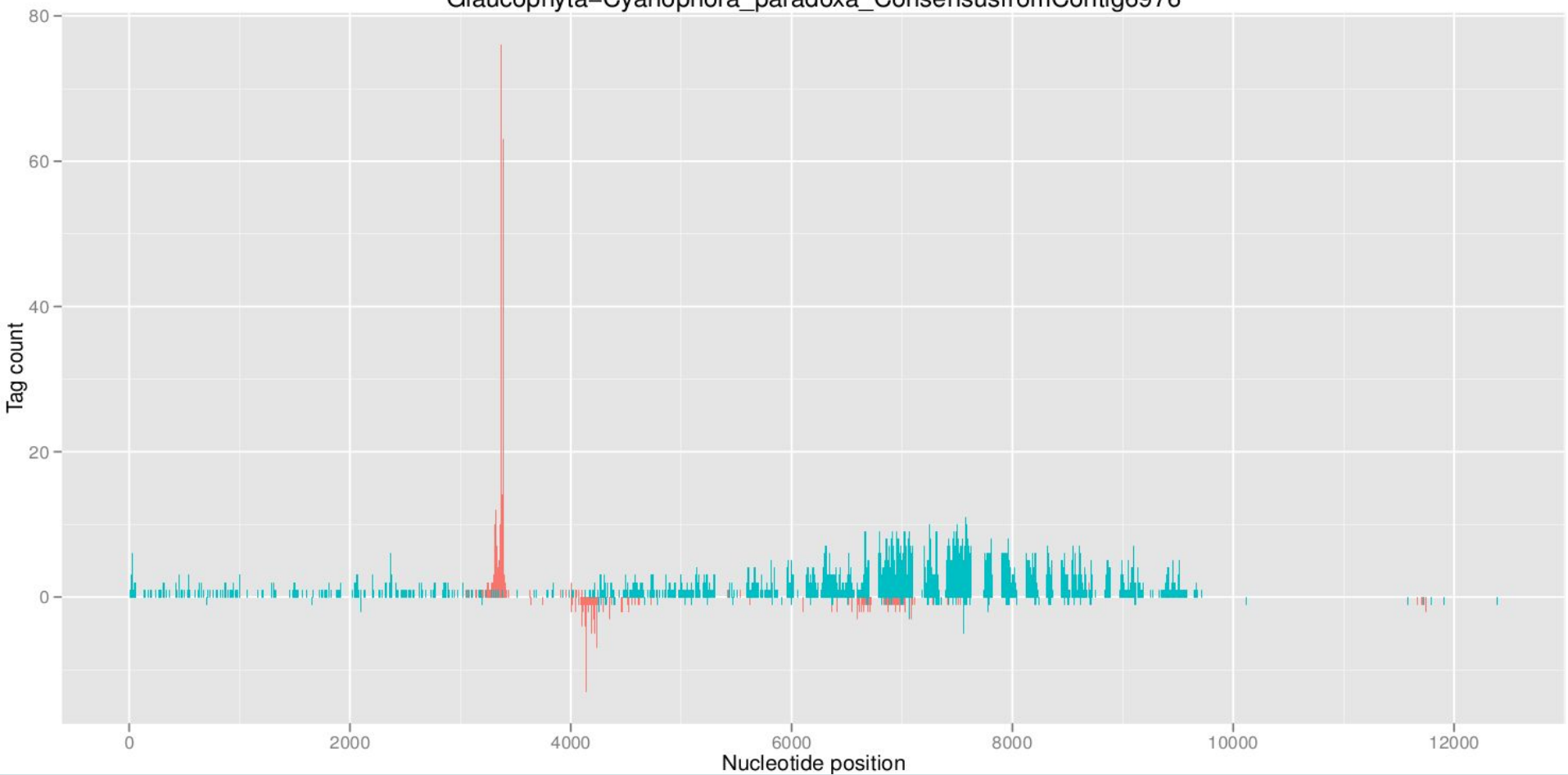
```
plotContig <- function(cds.sense.freq, cds.antisense.freq, deg.sense.freq, cds.antisense.freq){  
  #SIMPLE DEG + CDS PLOT  
  plot(cds.sense.freq$nPosition, cds.sense.freq$pFrequency, type = "h", ylim =  
c(((max(deg.antisense.freq$pFrequency)/2)*-1), max(deg.sense.freq$pFrequency)/2)) #, xlim =  
c(1350,1450))  
  points(cds.antisense.freq$nPosition, cds.antisense.freq$pFrequency*-1, type = "h")  
  points(deg.antisense.freq$nPosition, deg.antisense.freq$pFrequency * -1, type = "h", col =  
"red")  
  points(deg.sense.freq$nPosition, deg.sense.freq$pFrequency, type = "h", col = "red")  
  title(main=as.data.frame(seqnames(CDS))[1,])  
}  
cutoff <- mean(deg.sense.freq$nFrequency)
```

Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_dxContig10094x2

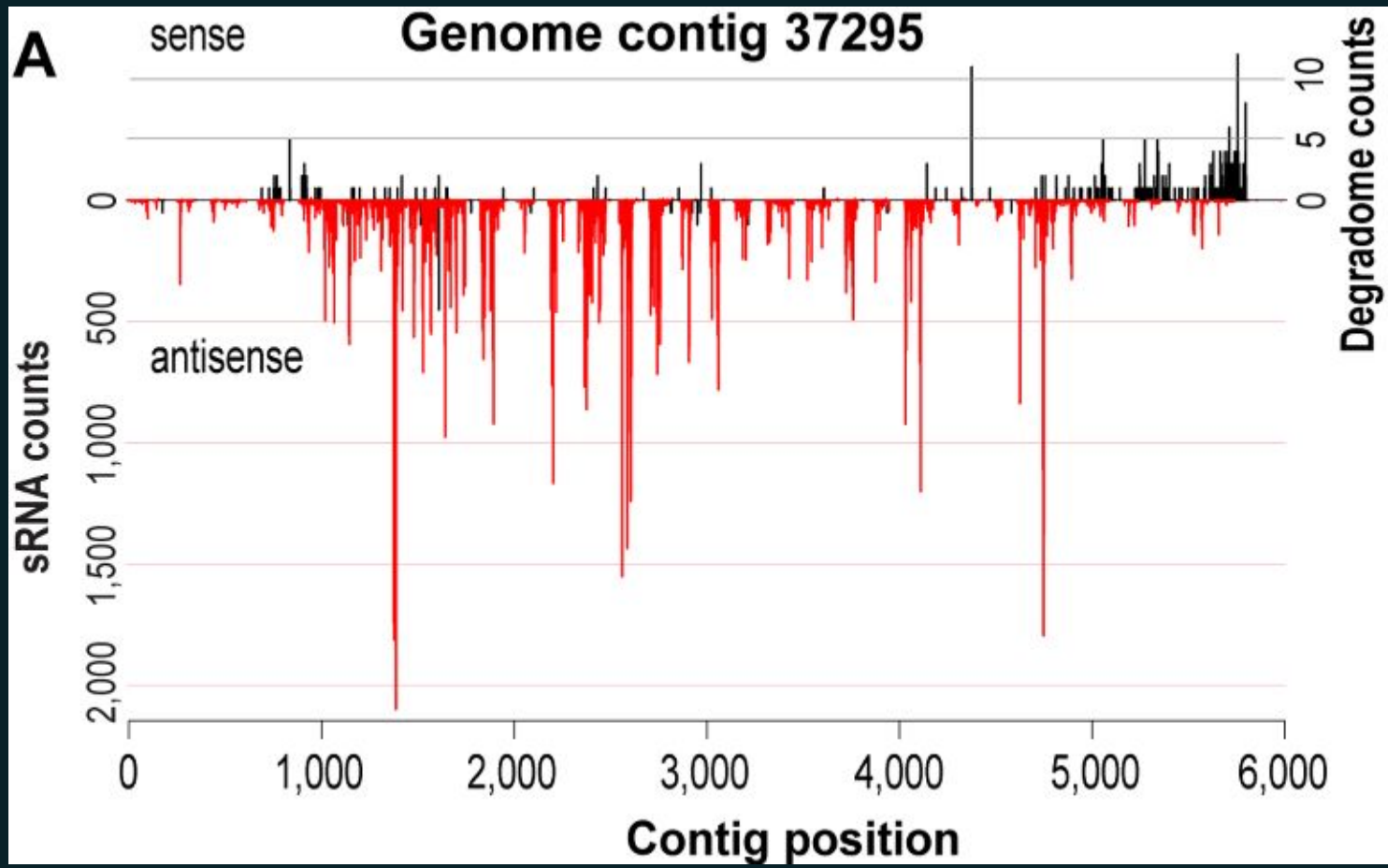


Top: sense; Bottom: antisense

Glaucophyta-Cyanophora_paradoxa_ConsensusfromContig6976



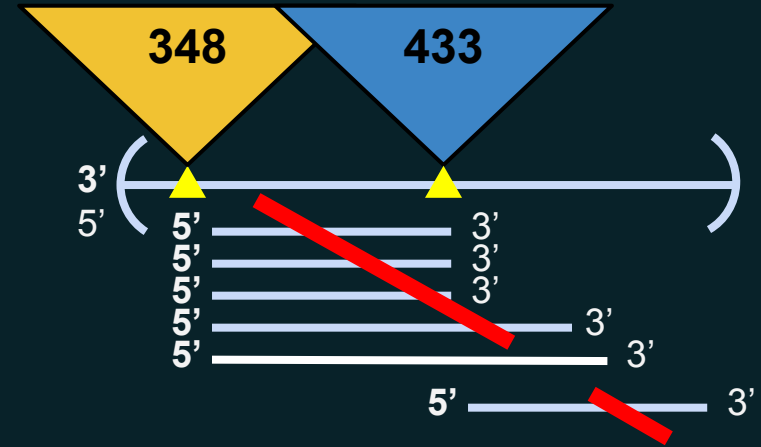
DEG = Red, CDS = Blue



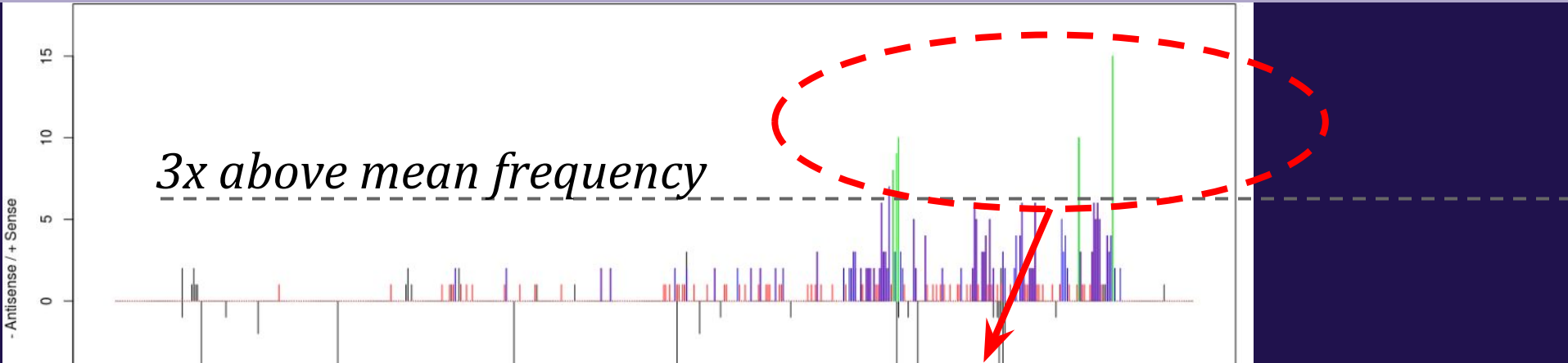
DEG = Red, CDS = Blue

Cleavage tag abundance and noise reduction of dataset

1. **For each contig**
 - a. Take the mean
 - i. Mean = mean of contig
 - ii. Filter peaks that are X above mean
2. **For each position**
 - a. Take the mean across all contigs



Building and filtering a “peak” database



Relevant database of peaks from all contigs

| | nPosition | pFrequency | nFrequency | cName | seq |
|-----|-----------|------------|------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 722 | 409 | 7 | 0.02058824 | 10094x2 | gaggtgcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggaggtca |
| 724 | 411 | 8 | 0.02352941 | 10094x2 | ggtgcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggaggtcaag |
| 726 | 413 | 9 | 0.02647059 | 10094x2 | tgcgctcaaggcgaaccaggaggtcaaggc |
| 727 | 414 | 10 | 0.02941176 | 10094x2 | gcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggaggtcaaggcc |
| 784 | 509 | 10 | 0.02941176 | 10094x2 | gcaaggtcaccaagctcccggtcgtcacggg |
| 798 | 527 | 15 | 0.04411765 | 10094x2 | cggtcgtcacgggcgactcgctcggtcggg |

Building and filtering a “peak” database

Normalized relative frequency of an X-multiple small RNA across this contig in that position % away from the stop codon (1-this.contig_length)

Contig Name

Genomic (DNA) sequence ± 15 bases around first base position of sense strand of sRNA: used for generating fasta file when/if needed

Relevant database of peaks from all contigs

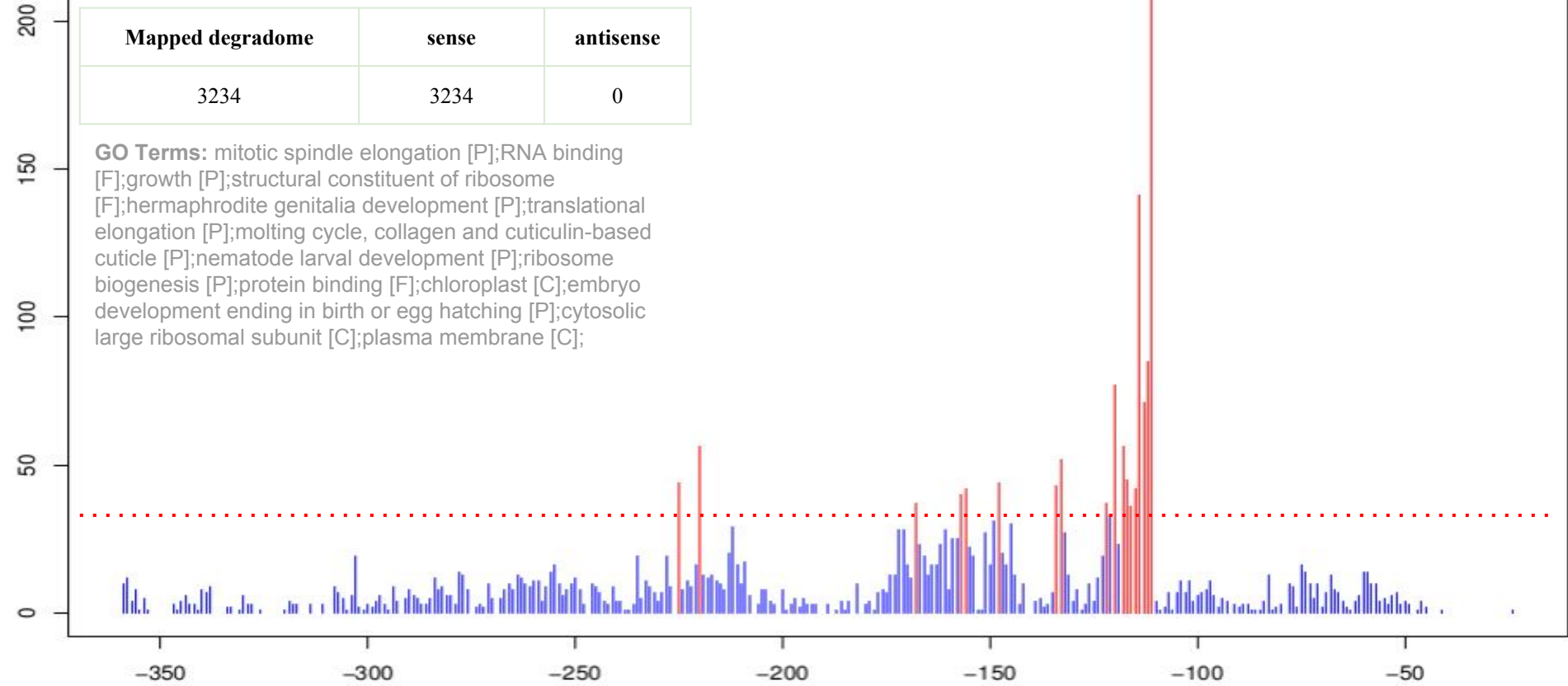
| | pPosition | pFrequency | nFrequency | cName | seq |
|-----|-----------|------------|------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 722 | 409 | 7 | 0.02058824 | 10094x2 | gaggtgcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggaggtca |
| 724 | 411 | 8 | 0.02352941 | 10094x2 | ggtgcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggaggtcaag |
| 726 | | | 0.02647059 | 10094x2 | tgcgctcaaggcgaaccaggaggtcaaggc |
| 727 | | | 0.02941176 | 10094x2 | gcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggaggtcaaggcc |
| 784 | | | 0.02941176 | 10094x2 | gcaaggtcaccaagctccggtcgtcacggg |
| 798 | | | 0.04411765 | 10094x2 | cggtcgtcacgggcgactcgctcggctcggg |

Number of multiples of this sRNA (regardless of length) that start at this position

CDS 7658x3 (60S ribosomal protein L31)
Degradome counts

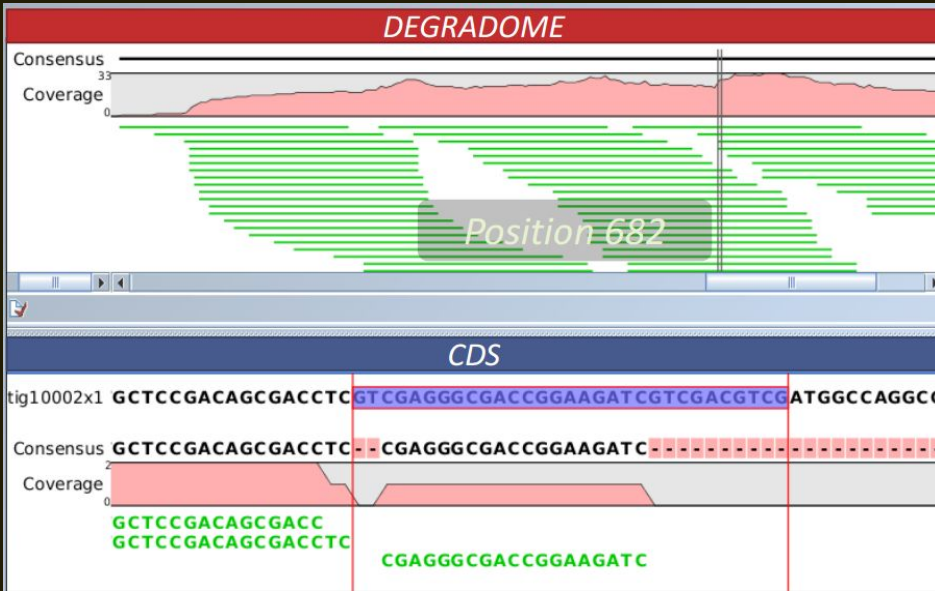
| Mapped degradome | sense | antisense |
|------------------|-------|-----------|
| 3234 | 3234 | 0 |

GO Terms: mitotic spindle elongation [P];RNA binding [F];growth [P];structural constituent of ribosome [F];hermaphrodite genitalia development [P];translational elongation [P];molting cycle, collagen and cuticulin-based cuticle [P];nematode larval development [P];ribosome biogenesis [P];protein binding [F];chloroplast [C];embryo development ending in birth or egg hatching [P];cytosolic large ribosomal subunit [C];plasma membrane [C];



Red = 3x above mean

Peak “Mining” with BLAST



1. Generate fasta from non-redundant peak database top sequences: **CDS** and **Degradome**
2. Align with BLAST
3. Same with randomized 30 nt (+/- 15 nt from first position → randomize nPosition)
4. Align randomized peak dataset with BLAST
5. Look for significance (actual vs. random peaks)

```

10002x1 , gtcgagggcgaccggaagatcgtcgacgtcg , 682
10027x1 , cgagctggtggaccatccgtttgagacacga , 477
10038x2 , acggaatcctcttcgtttacaatcccagga , 275
10051x1 , ggtaaacacacgcgtgttgatgagcttctg , 985
10051x1 , aaacaacagcgtgttgatgagcttctg , 988
10056x1 , actgcgttcctattcctattgcaagcgctc , 760
10056x1 , ctgcaatatggtggcactcgaagatctgaaa , 846
10056x1 , ccagaccccgaaaacgcttcagtgagggtc , 964
10056x1 , tgcaagcaagtccttgcgtggtcgcaagttt , 1041
10056x1 , aagcaagtccttgcgtggtcgcaagtttgc , 1044
10064x1 , cacacctcgctcgtgaagatcgagggcgctgc , 82
10064x1 , cgcaacgaggtcgacttctacctcggaagc , 118
10064x1 , caacgaggtcgacttctacctcggaagc , 120
10064x1 , cggcaacaacggcatcgctcgcgccaagttc , 279
10064x1 , catcgctcgcgccaagttccggaagaacctg , 291
10064x1 , atcgctcgcgccaagttccggaagaacctgc , 292
10064x1 , tcgtccgcgccaagttccggaagaacctgcc , 293
10064x1 , cgtccgcgccaagttccggaagaacctgcc , 294
10094x2 , gaggtgcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggagggtca , 409
10094x2 , ggtgcgcgtcaaggcgaaccaggagggtcaag , 411>
    
```

Project standard for naming blast related files:

FASTA:
 > 2-letter-orgName.3-letter-identifier | strand | contigName | startPosition | endPosition | coverage or frequency
 [Sequence]

Reads Mapped to sRNAs in CDS

| | CDS data | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|
| Sense reads (+) | 36,7709 | 20.86% |
| Antisense reads (-) | 1,394,966 | 79.14% |
| Total reads | 1,762,675 | |
| Contigs | 31,895 | |

Construction of peak database

Construction of a non-redundant database from RNA-seq SAM file

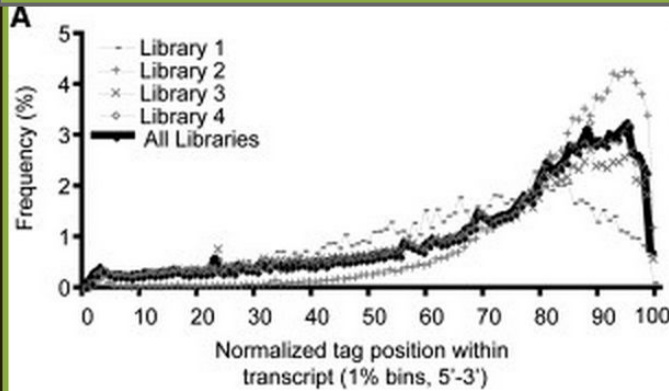
- Compresses database from 1,762,675 to 322,039 rows or down to 18.2699% of the original database
- Keeps account of frequency or coverage of each unique small RNA

| | rname | strand | start | seq | cigar | qwidth | end | width | ngap | freq |
|---|---------|--------|-------|-------------------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|------|------|
| 1 | 10000x1 | - | 332 | AGGCGGCCGAGGCGACGG | 18M | 18 | 349 | 18 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 10000x2 | + | 178 | CTGCTCACGGCCGCCACG | 18M | 18 | 195 | 18 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 10002x1 | - | 160 | GCAGATTCGGAAGCATCATCCG | 22M | 22 | 181 | 22 | 0 | 1 |
| 4 | 10002x1 | + | 178 | TCCGTGCCGTTGGACG | 16M | 16 | 193 | 16 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 | 10002x1 | + | 261 | CTCCGGAGGATTTGGGGGCTTGA | 23M | 23 | 283 | 23 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 | 10002x1 | + | 266 | GAGGATTTGGGGGCTTGA | 18M | 18 | 283 | 18 | 0 | 1 |

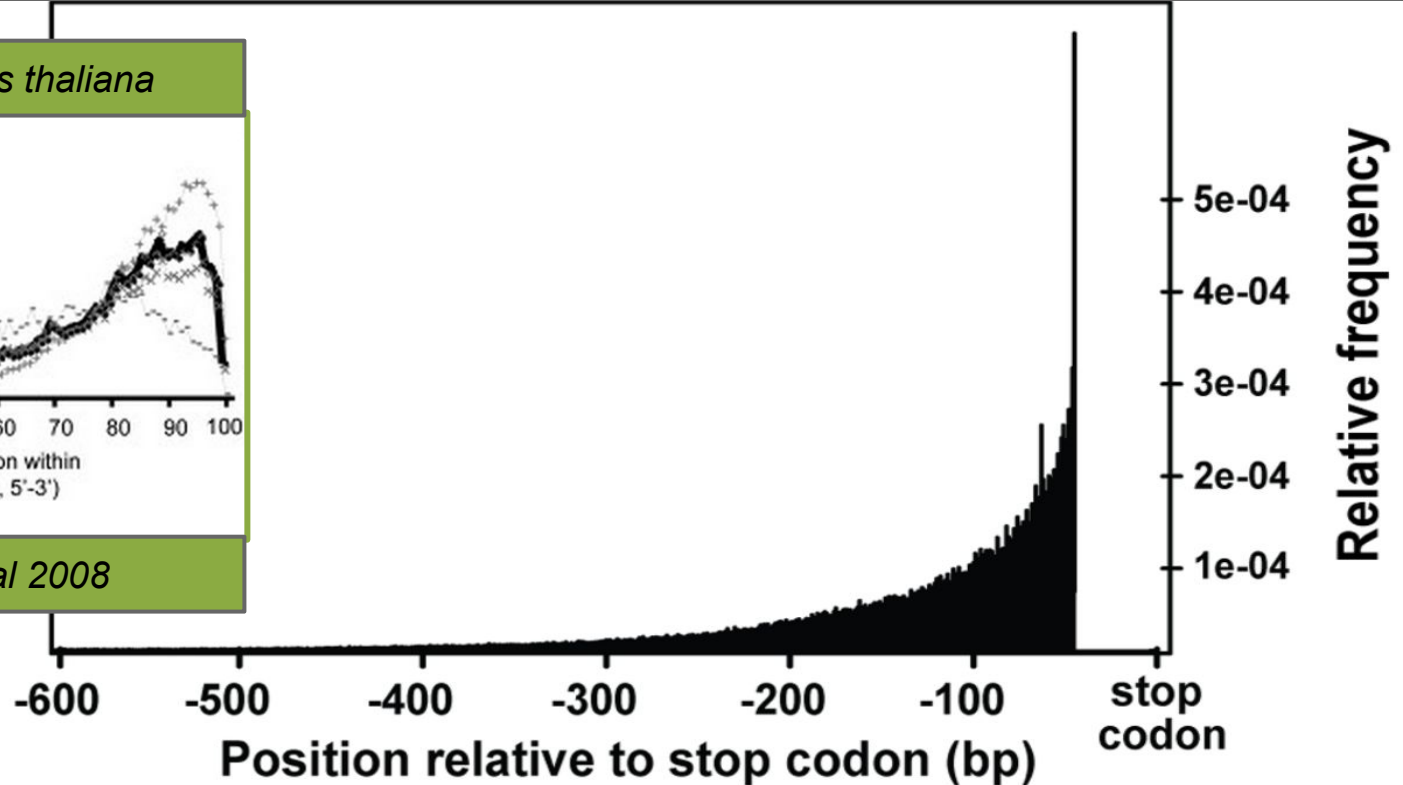
Using *R/lattice* to generate an aggregate exonucleolytic profile: 5'->3'

Our generated profile of the 3' bias in *Cyanophora paradoxa*

3' bias in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

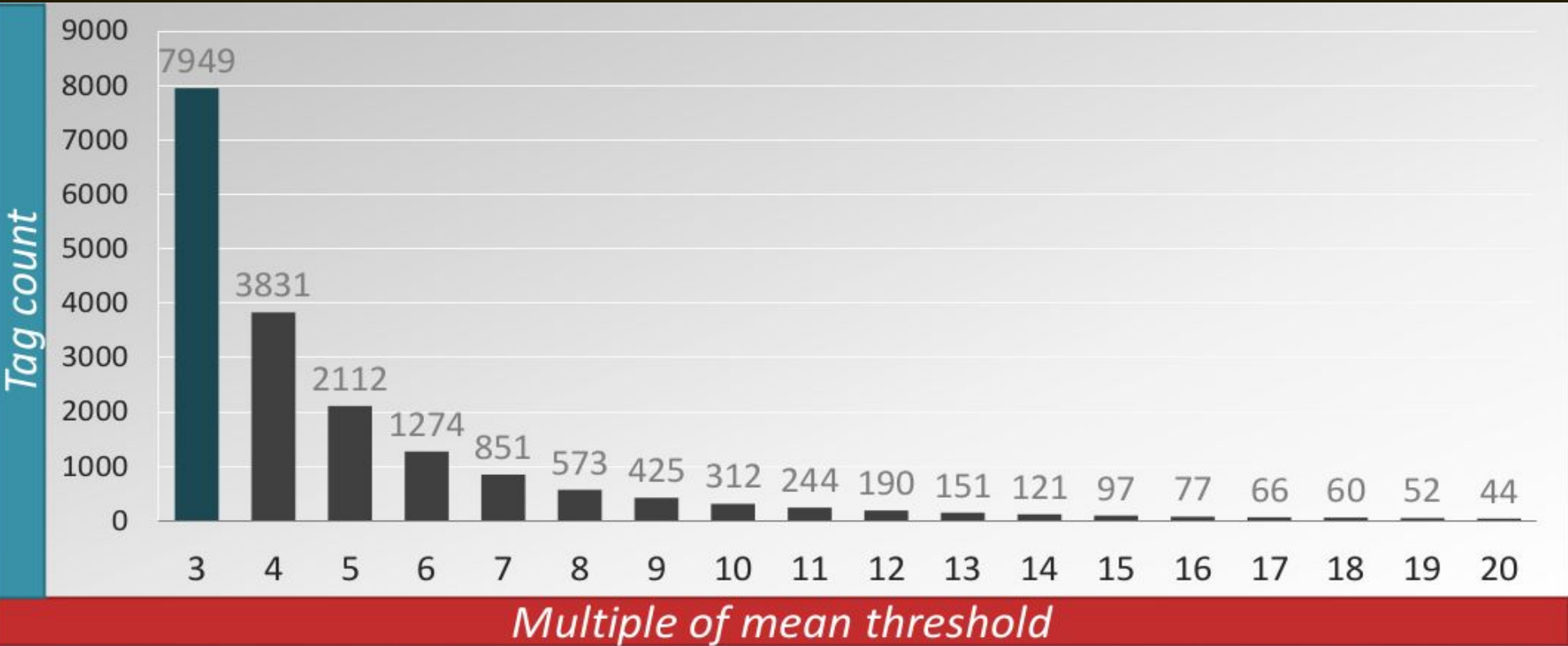


Addo-Quaye et. al 2008



Gross et. al 2013

Cleavage tag abundance and noise reduction of dataset



Degradome peaks nX above mean

Discussion

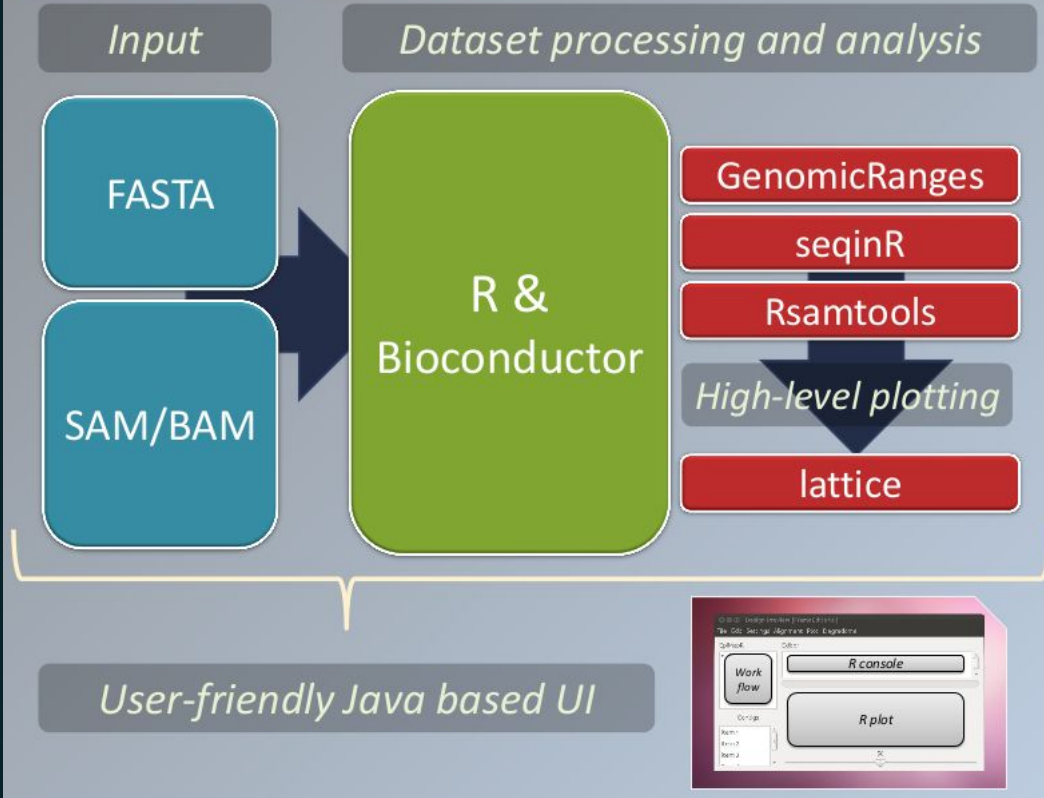
- Degradome tags are biased to the 3' end of transcripts
 - ◆ Indicated 3' bias due to overrepresentation of 5'→3' decay
- Bias for antisense small RNAs
 - ◆ In the CDS data: 31,895 contigs had at least one read mapped from a total pool of 1,762,675 reads
 - ◆ 1,394,966 (79.14%) were antisense and 367,709 (20.86%) were sense.

Take Aways

- There are specific exonic hotspots of sRNA production
 - ◆ Reads mapped to the *Cyanophora paradoxa* datasets (CDS, EST, Genomic) are exonic: predominantly associated with mRNA
- Possible secondary siRNA pathway may exist that is also seen in plants
 - ◆ May account for “blocking pattern” seen in some contigs
 - ◆ Transitivity may be a common ancestral trait in Plantae group

Conclusion & Future Objectives

EpiMapR: Graphical tool for exploring degradome and epigenome data



The R Series

Programming Graphical User Interfaces in R



Michael F. Lawrence
John Verzani

 **CRC Press**
Taylor & Francis Group
A CHAPMAN & HALL BOOK

User-friendly tool for exploring epigenomic data

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Thank you for your time!
Questions?