

EXPRESSION ANALYSIS, FUNCTIONAL ENRICHMENT, AND NETWORK INFERENCE

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Background and Disclosures

- Professor of Biostatistics and Computational Biology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Professor of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, Harvard School of Public Health
- Many other academic titles
- Numerous advisory boards
- Co-Founder of Genospace, a Precision Genomic Medicine Software Company



Current Topics in Genome Analysis 2016

John Quackenbush

Genospace, LLC
Co-Founder and Board Chair

NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Division of Intramural Research

Every revolution in science — from Copernican heliocentric model to the rise of statistical and quantum mechanics, from Darwin's theory of evolution and natural selection to the theory of the gene — has been driven by one and only one thing: access to data.

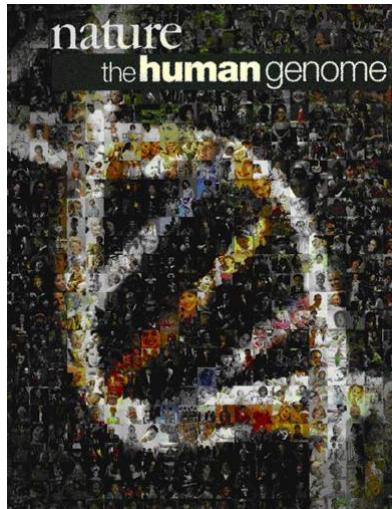
–John Quackenbush

**@johnquackenbush-Every revolution in
the history science has been driven by
one and only one thing: access to data.**

Twitter version, 115 characters with spaces

A Brief History of Expression Analysis

February 2001: Completion of the Draft Human Genome

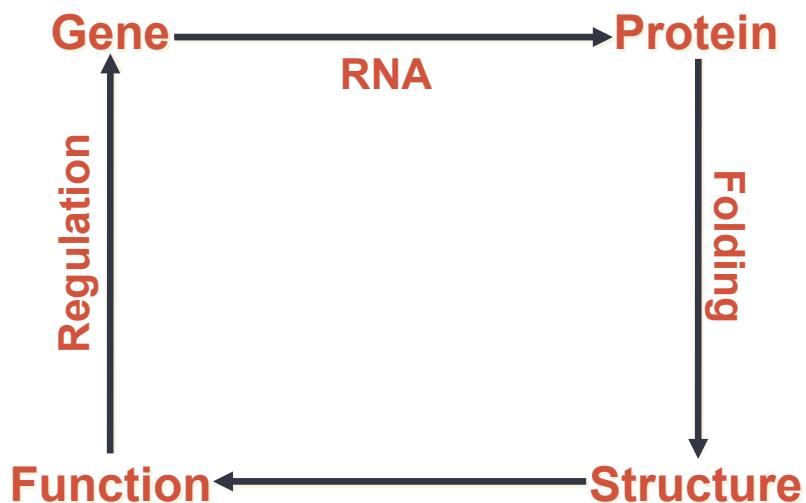


Public HGP

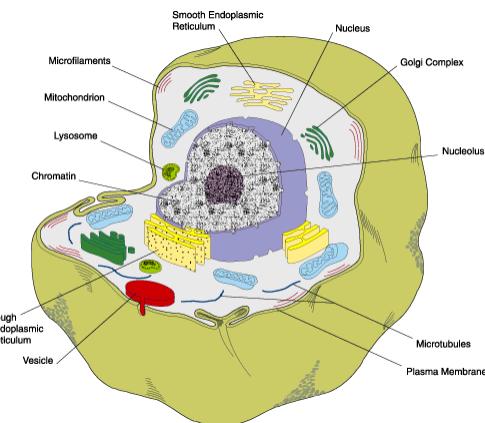


Celera Genomics

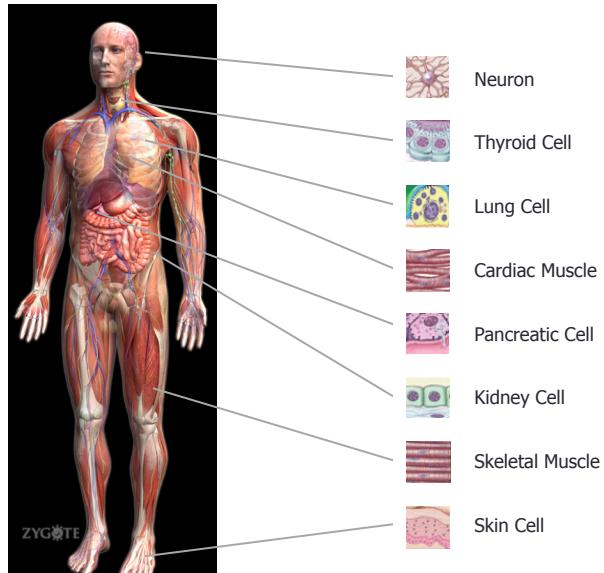
Molecular Biology in 7 Words



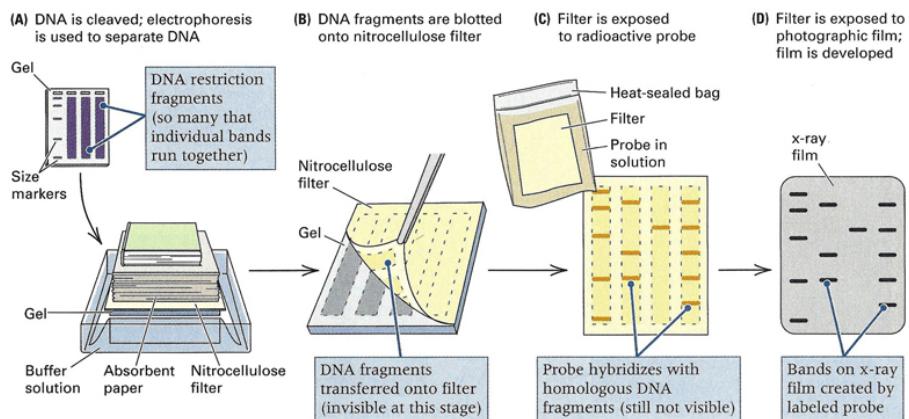
The Genome Project has provided a “parts list” for a human cell



Different cell types express different sets of genes

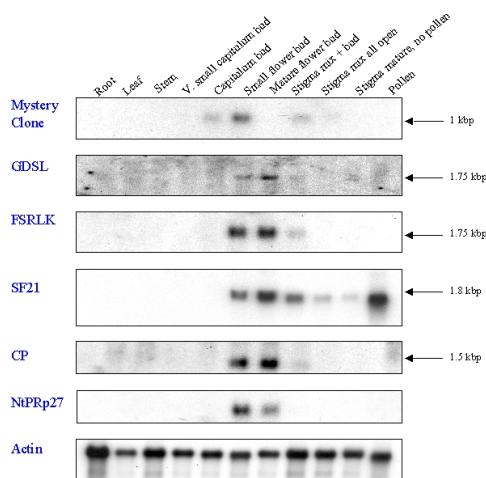


Northern Blots: Before the Dawn of Time

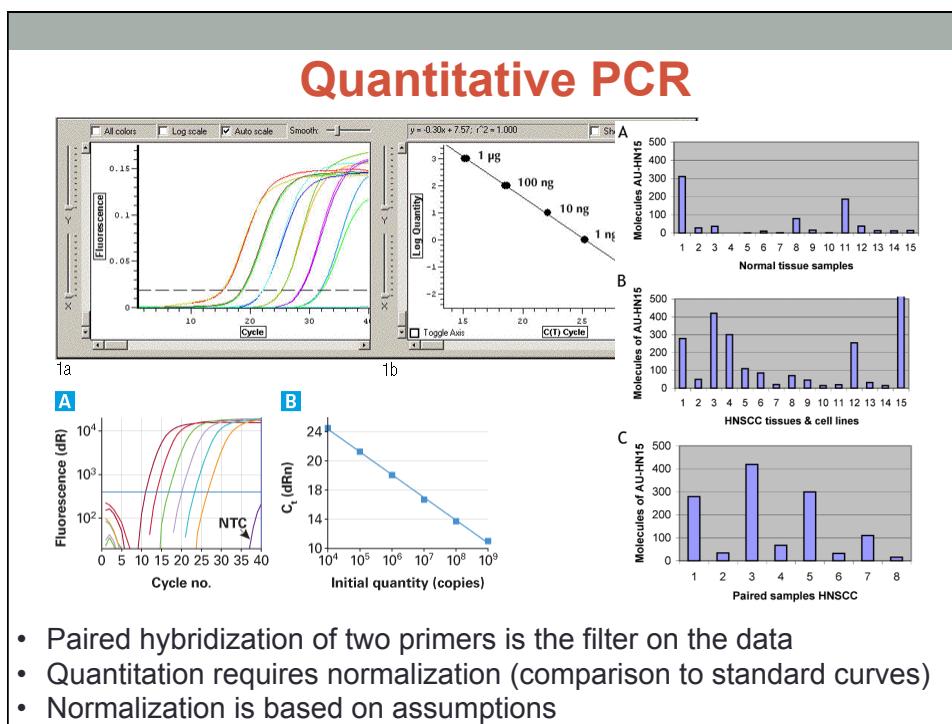
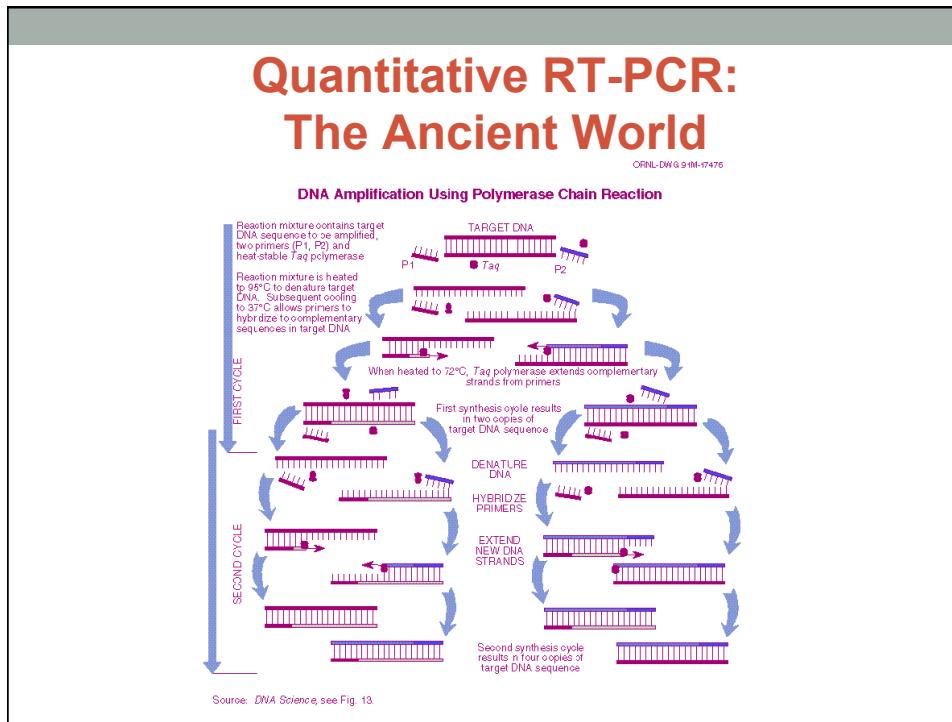


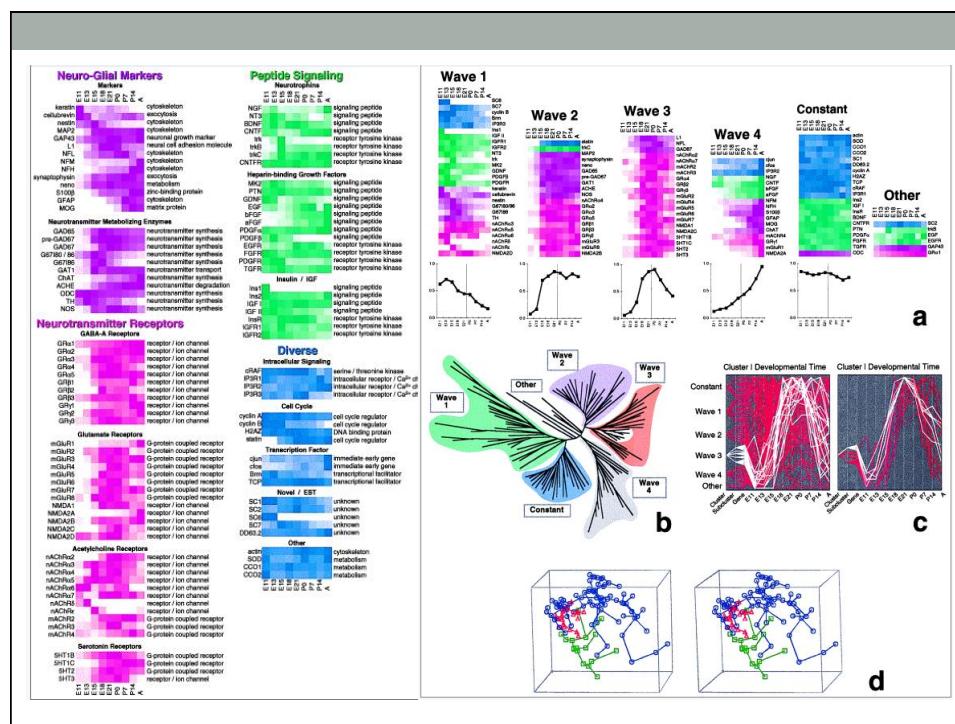
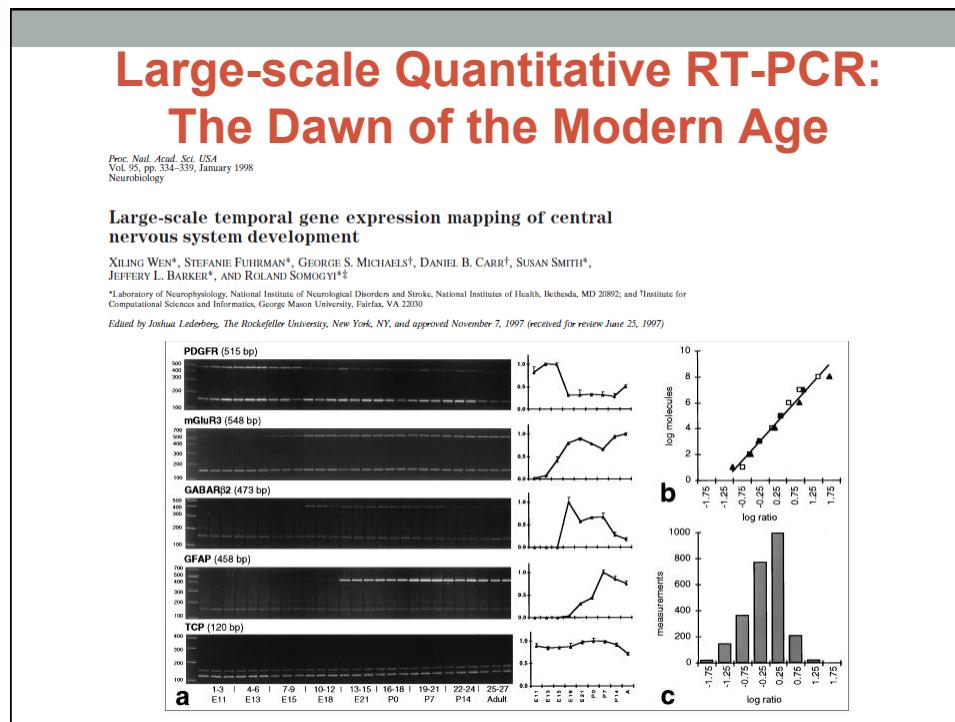
http://www.lookfordiagnosis.com/mesh_info.php?term=Blotting%2C+Northern&lang=1

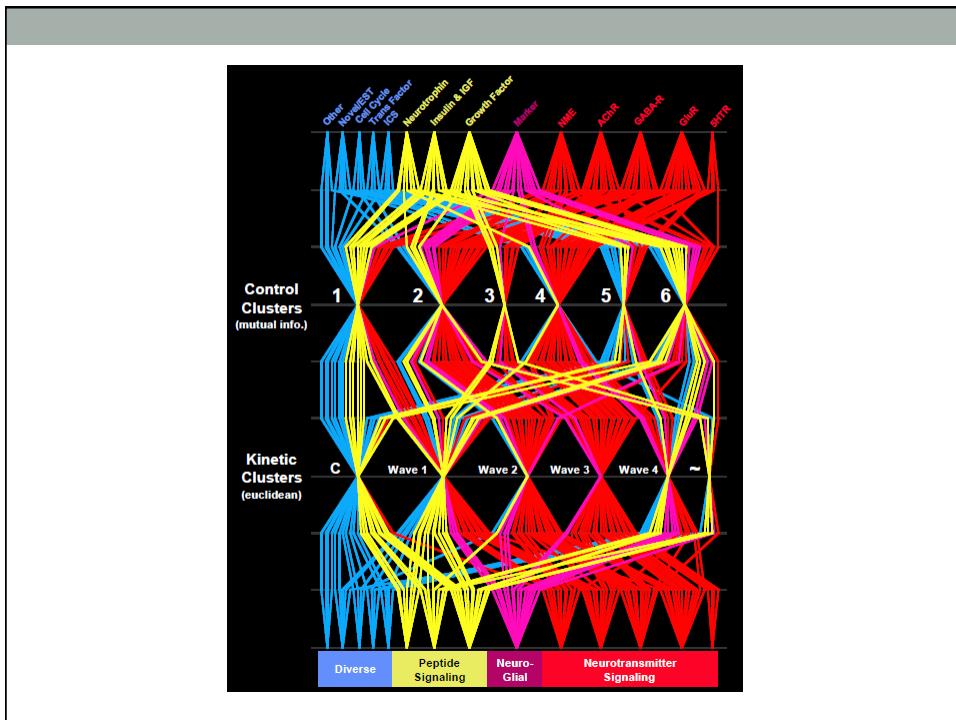
Northern Blots



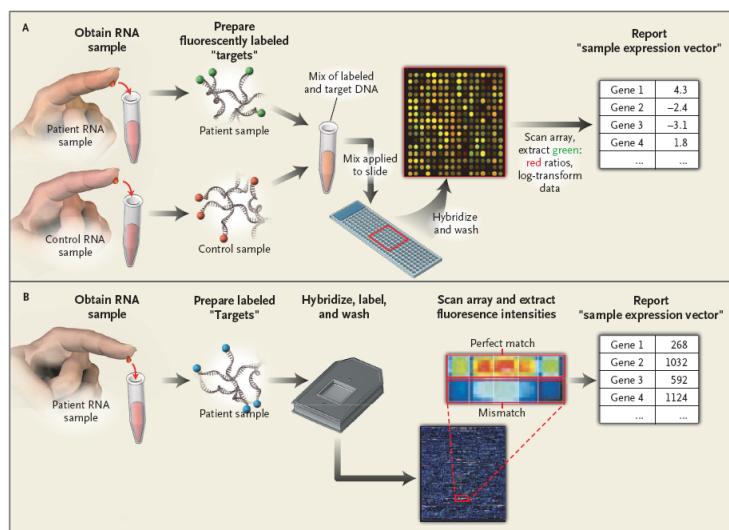
- The size of the amplification product is the filter on the data
- Quantitation requires normalization
- Normalization is based on assumptions





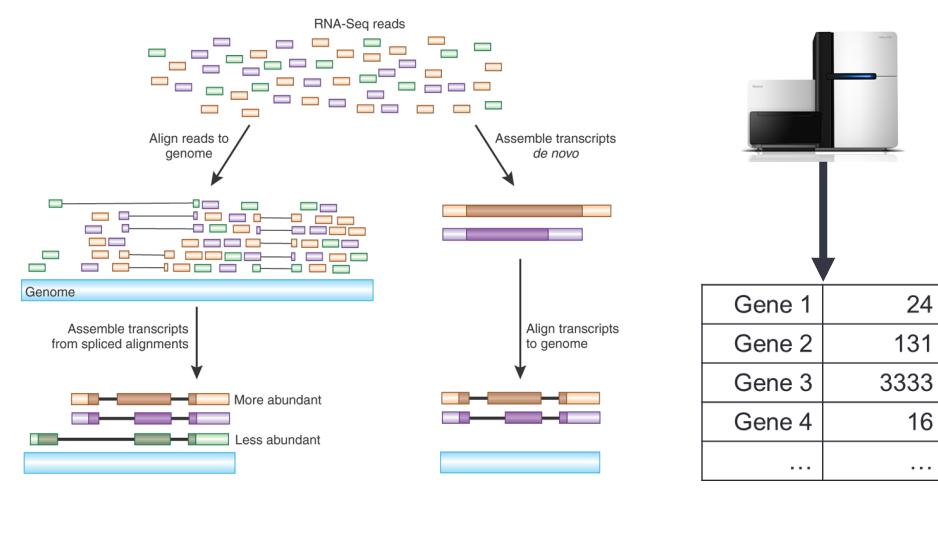


Beyond qRT-PCR: Microarrays

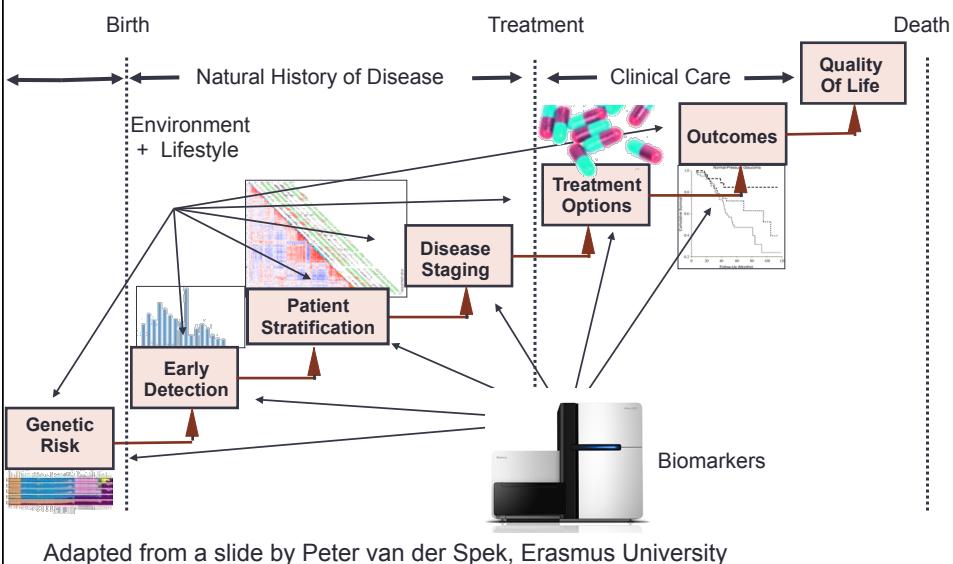


Spatial position is the filter on the data.

Beyond Microarrays: RNA-seq

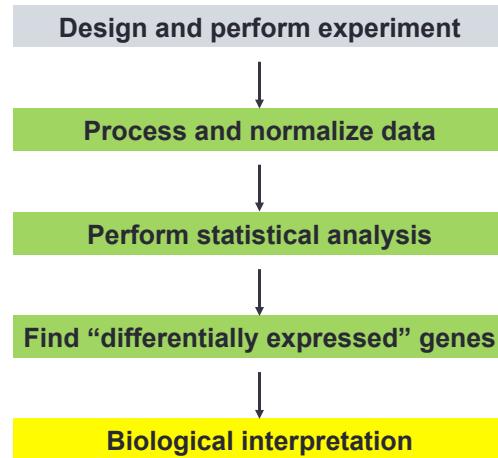


Disease Progression and Precision Care



Experimental Overview

Expression Analysis Pipeline: Microarrays



Design the Experiment

Why Design an Experiment?

- The goal of an experiment dictates everything from how the samples are collected to how the data are generated
- The design of the analytical protocol should be reflected in the design
 - Do we have enough replicates?
 - Do we have sufficient controls?
 - Do we collect samples and data to avoid confounding and batch effects?

Basis of Experimental Design

- In biology, “traditional” approaches to inquiry involved hypothesis testing.
 - We identify a problem and postulate a mechanism
 - We design an experiment in which we perturb the system and then look for changes
 - The response of the system either validates or invalidates our hypothesis
- In these types of experiments, we attempt to tightly control the variables so as to carefully measure the influence of these, perturbing a single parameter at a time
- Good experimental design requires sufficient replication to estimate the effects we wish to measure

Basis of Experimental Design

- Functional genomics technologies have dramatically changed the way in which we approach biological questions
 - We can now survey the responses of thousands of genes, proteins, or metabolites in a particular system and look for patterns of expression
 - These “hypothesis generating” experiments do not (necessarily) require a mechanistic hypothesis ahead of time
 - However, this does not mean we do not have to carefully design our experiment and analyze the data
- Here, we attempt to control the variables so as to carefully measure the influence of these, perturbing a single parameter at a time
- Good experimental design requires sufficient replication to estimate the effects we wish to measure

Types of Experiments

- Class Comparison
 - Can I find genes that distinguish between two classes, such as tumor and normal?
- Class Discovery
 - Given what I think is a uniform group of samples, can I find subsets that are biologically meaningful?
- Classification
 - Given a set of samples in different classes, can I assign a new, unknown sample to one of the classes?
- Large-scale Functional Studies
 - Can I discover a causative mechanism associated with the distinction between classes?

These are often not completely distinct and a single dataset can often be used for multiple purposes

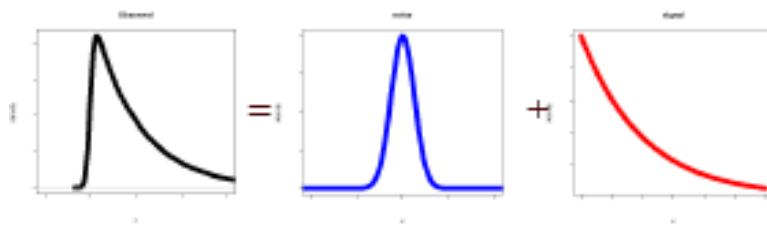
Normalization

Why Normalize Data?

- The goal of normalization is to remove systematic variation from the data and scale it so that comparisons can be made across studies

RMA Background correction

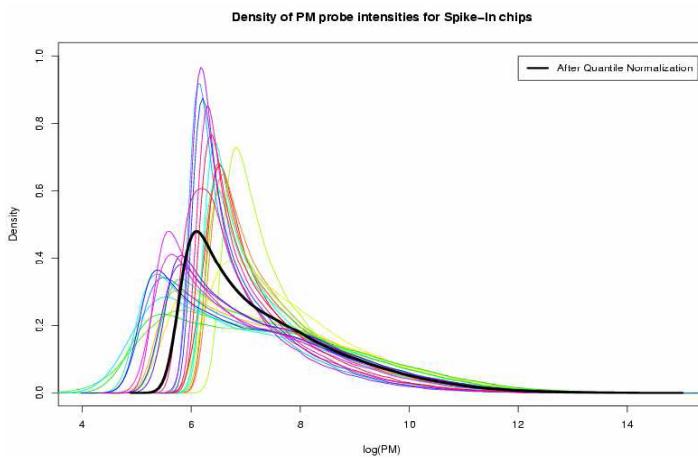
- Expression = Background ($N(0, \sigma^2)$) + Signal ($Exp(\alpha)$)



RMA Normalization

- Force the empirical distribution of probe intensities to be the same for every chip in an experiment
- The common distribution is obtained by averaging each *quantile* across chips:
Quantile Normalization

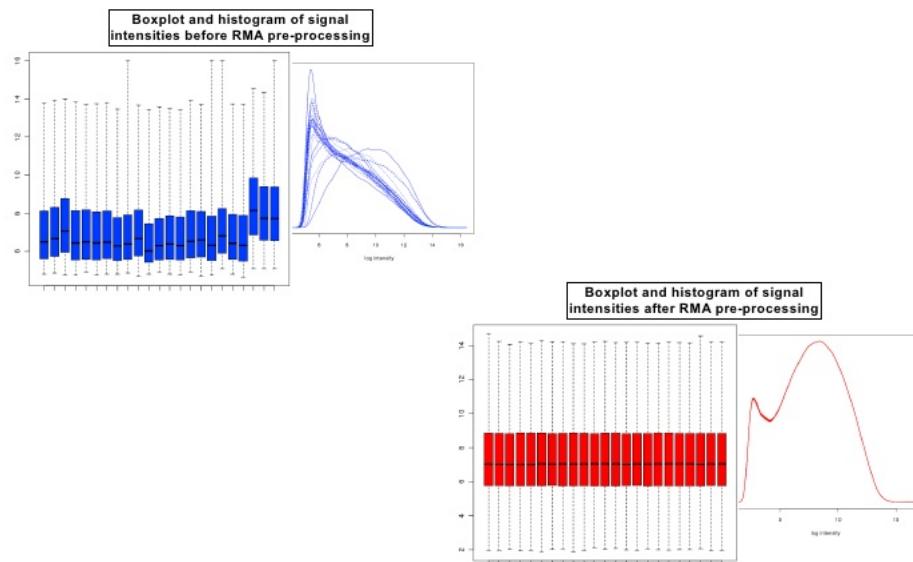
One distribution for all arrays: the black curve



RMA: Probe set summary

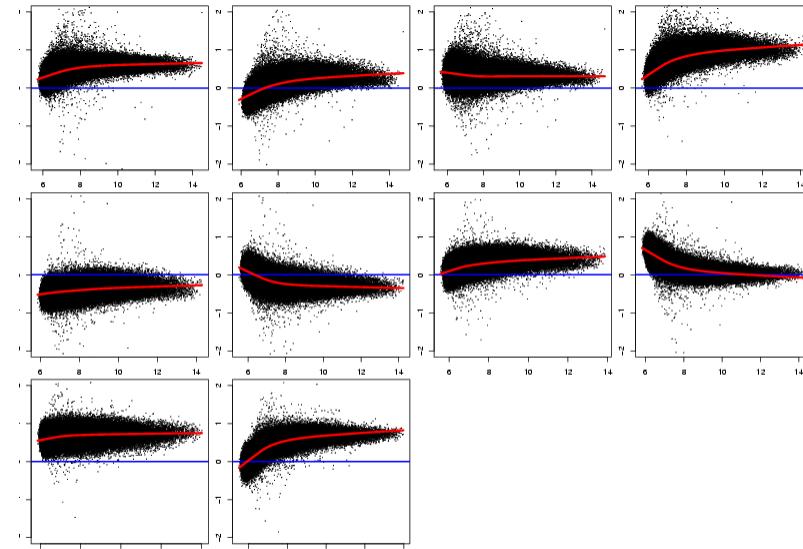
- Robustly fit a two-way model yielding an estimate of $\log_2(\text{signal})$ for each probe set
- Fit may be by
 - median polish (quick) or by
 - Mestimation (slower but yields standard errors and good quality)
- RMA reduces variability without loosing the ability to detect differential expression

RMA: Before and After

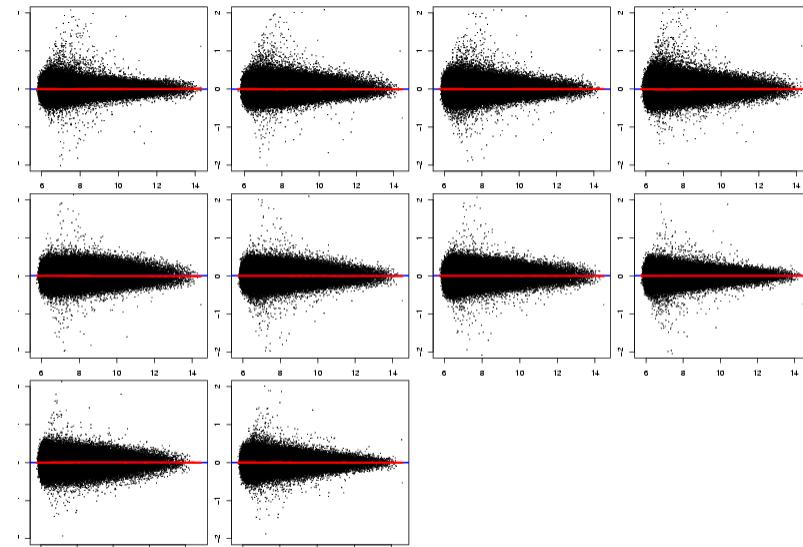


<http://www.slideshare.net/wijessen/covance-talk>

Ratio-Intensity: Before



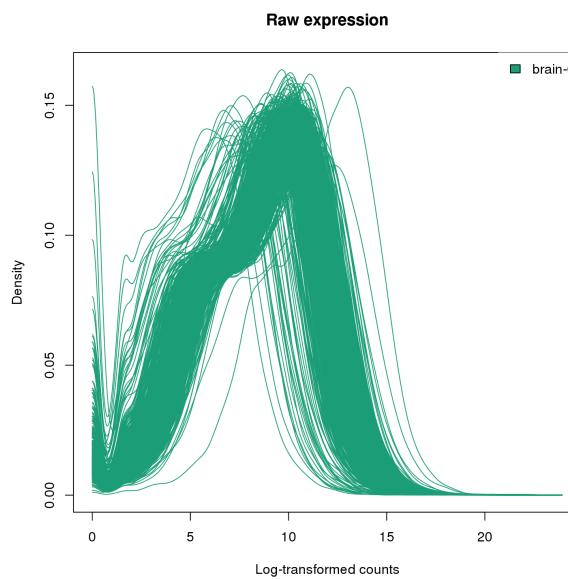
Ratio-Intensity: After



Normalization

- There are many, many methods
- All attempt to do the same thing, but all have their own assumptions that may or may not be violated
- RMA is widely accepted as the standard for microarrays
- There is less consensus on what works best for RNA-seq
- We constantly have to test our assumptions, even with normalization

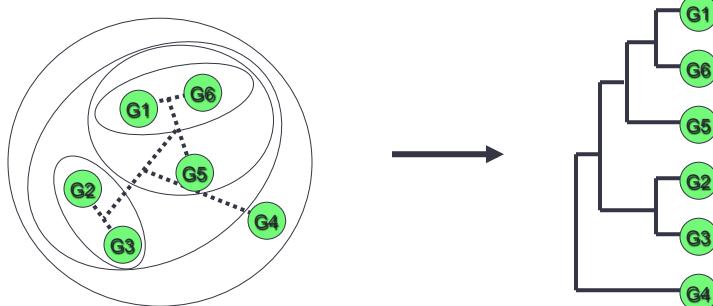
GTEx: Complex data requires complex methods



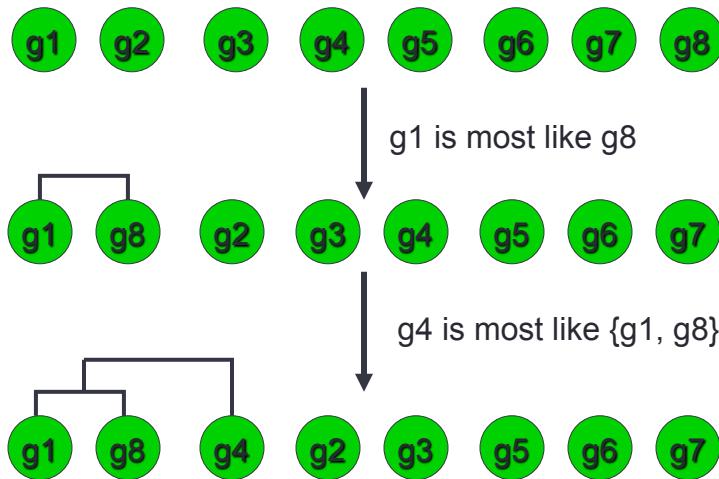
Clustering: Finding Patterns

Hierarchical Clustering

1. Calculate the distance between all genes. Find the smallest distance. If several pairs share the same similarity, use a predetermined rule to decide between alternatives.
2. Fuse the two selected clusters to produce a new cluster that now contains at least two objects. Calculate the distance between the new cluster and all other clusters.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until only a single cluster remains.
4. Draw a tree representing the results.

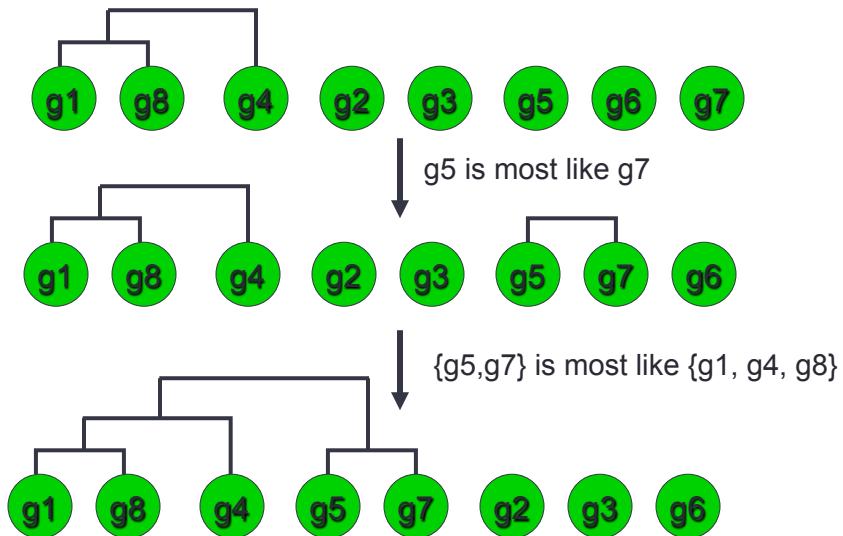


Hierarchical Clustering



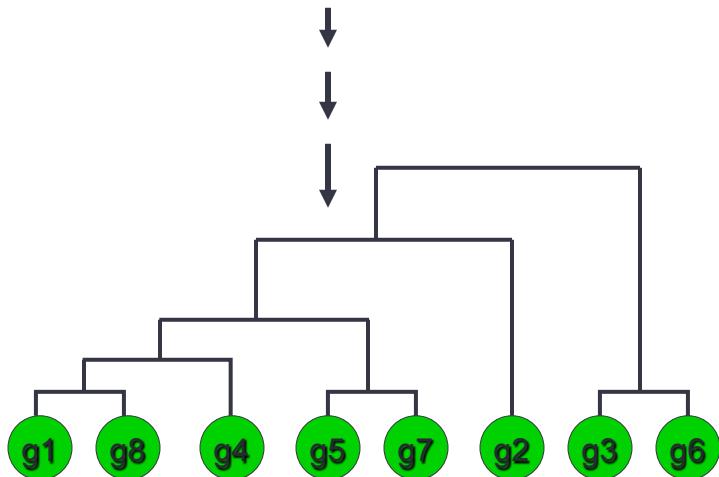
(HCL2)

Hierarchical Clustering



(HCL3)

Hierarchical Clustering



(HCl4)

Agglomerative Linkage Methods

Linkage methods are rules or metrics that return a value that can be used to determine which elements (clusters) should be linked.

Three linkage methods that are commonly used are:

- Single Linkage
 - Average Linkage
 - Complete Linkage

(HCL6)

Single Linkage

Cluster-to-cluster distance is defined as the *minimum distance* between members of one cluster and members of the another cluster. Single linkage tends to create 'elongated' clusters with individual genes chained onto clusters.

$$D_{AB} = \min (d(u_i, v_j))$$

where $u \in A$ and $v \in B$
for all $i = 1$ to N_A and $j = 1$ to N_B



(HCL7)

Average Linkage

Cluster-to-cluster distance is defined as the *average distance* between all members of one cluster and all members of another cluster. Average linkage has a slight tendency to produce clusters of similar variance.

$$D_{AB} = 1/(N_A N_B) \sum \sum (d(u_i, v_j))$$

where $u \in A$ and $v \in B$
for all $i = 1$ to N_A and $j = 1$ to N_B



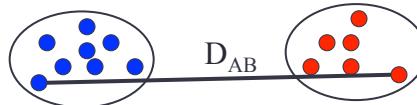
(HCL8)

Complete Linkage

Cluster-to-cluster distance is defined as the *maximum distance* between members of one cluster and members of the another cluster. Complete linkage tends to create clusters of similar size and variability.

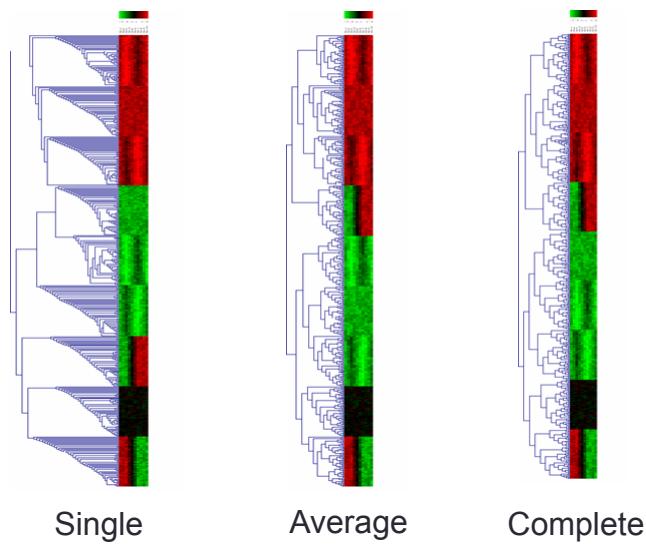
$$D_{AB} = \max (d(u_i, v_j))$$

where $u \in A$ and $v \in B$
for all $i = 1$ to N_A and $j = 1$ to N_B



(HCL9)

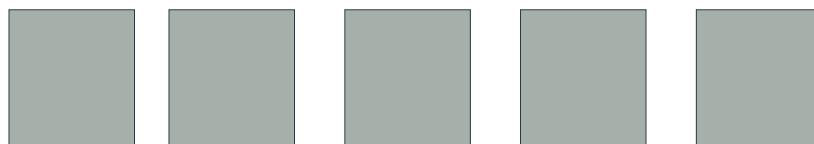
Comparison of Linkage Methods



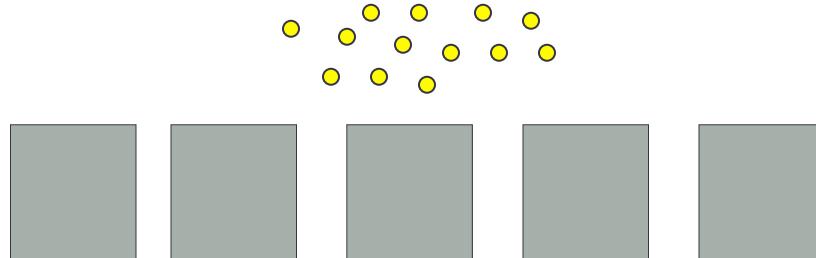
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K-means/K-medians Clustering (KMC)

1. Specify number of clusters, e.g., 5.



2. Randomly assign genes to clusters.

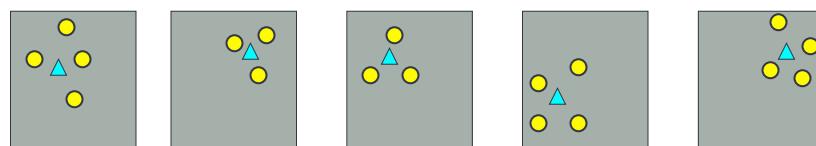


50

KMC, continued

3. Calculate mean / median expression profile of each cluster.

4. Select a gene and move it to the cluster having the closest mean profile.



5. If the gene is shifted to a new cluster, recalculate means for the winning and losing clusters.

6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until genes cannot be shuffled around any more, OR a userspecified number of iterations has been reached.

kmeans is most useful when the user has an *a priori* hypothesis about the number of clusters the genes should belong to.

Finding Differentially Expressed Genes

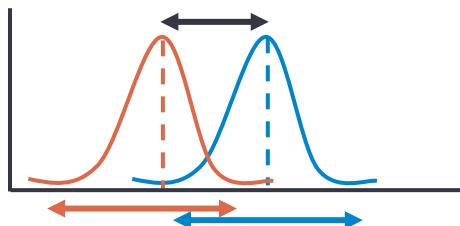
Lies, Damn Lies, and Statistics

Finding Significant Genes

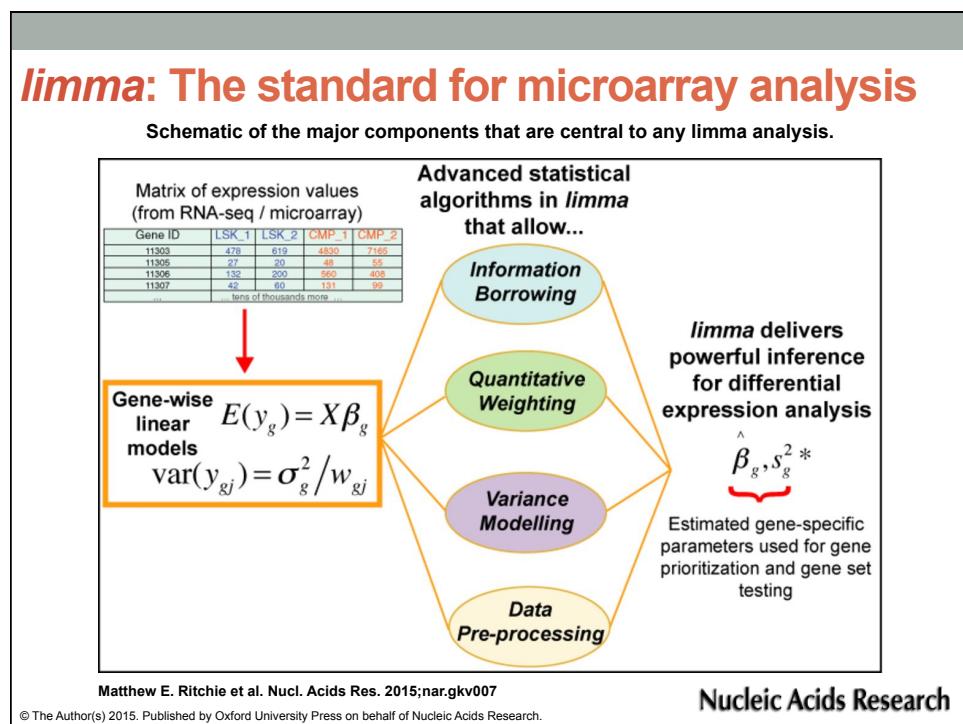
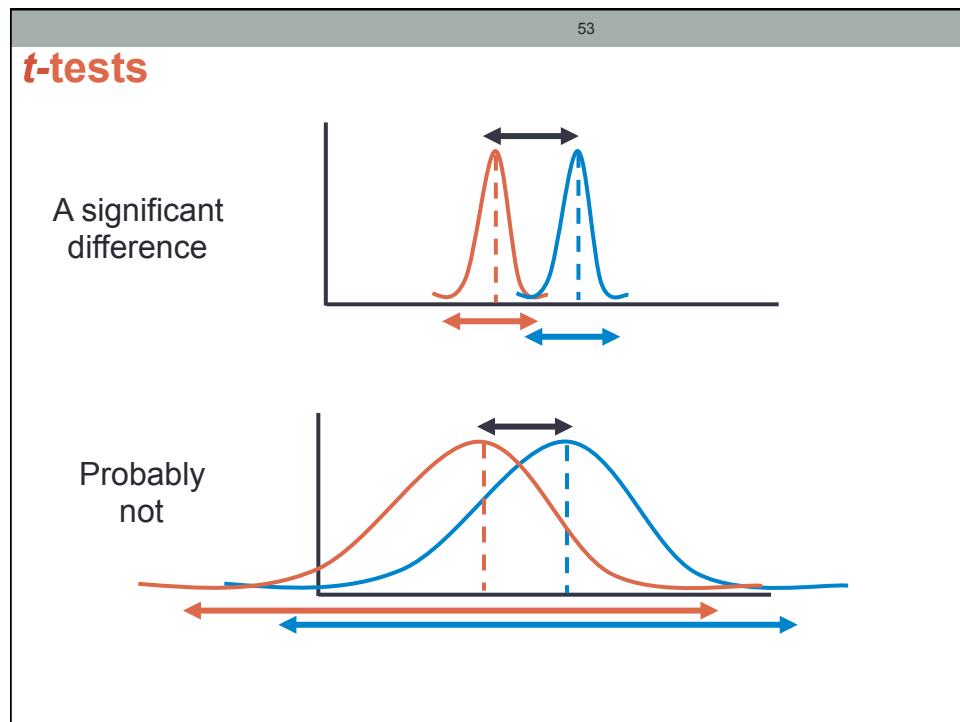
t-test for each gene

- Tests whether the difference between the mean of the query and reference groups are the same
- Essentially measures signal-to-noise
- Calculate p -value (permutations or distributions)
- May suffer from intensity-dependent effects

$$t = \frac{\text{signal}}{\text{noise}} = \frac{\text{difference between means}}{\text{variability of groups}} = \frac{\langle Xq \rangle - \langle Xc \rangle}{\text{SE}(XqXc)}$$



$$t = \frac{\langle Xq \rangle - \langle Xc \rangle}{\sqrt{\frac{\sigma_q^2}{n_q} + \frac{\sigma_c^2}{n_c}}}$$



Biological Interpretation

What do the genes in
this list do?

Tell me a story, Grampa

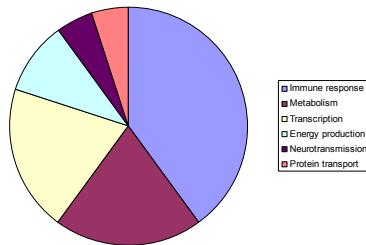
Biological Interpretation

- An obvious way to gain biological insight is to assess the differentially expressed genes in terms of their known function(s)
- Requires an automated and objective (statistical) approach
- Functional profiling or pathway analysis

Early functional analyses

- Manually annotate list of differentially expressed (DE) genes
- Extremely time-consuming, not systematic, user-dependent
- Group together genes with similar function
- Conclude functional categories with most DE genes important in disease/condition under study
- BUT... it may not be the right conclusion
- This is what we call “Biopoetry.”

GO and functional analysis



Functional category	Number of sig genes
Immune response	40
Metabolism	20
Transcription	20
Energy production	10
Neurotransmission	5
Protein transport	5
TOTAL	100

Immune response category contains 40% of all significant genes - by far the largest category.

Reasonable to conclude that immune response may be important in the condition being studied?

However ...

- What if 40% of the genes on the array were involved in immune response?
- Only detected as many significant immune response genes as expected by chance
- Need to consider not only the number of significant genes for each category, but also total number on the array

Same example, relative to background

Functional category	Number of genes on array	Observed number of significant genes	Expected number of significant genes
Immune response	8000	40	40
Metabolism	4000	20	20
Transcription	2000	10	10
Energy production	4000	30	20
Neurotransmission	200	5	1
Protein transport	1800	5	9
ALL	20000	100	

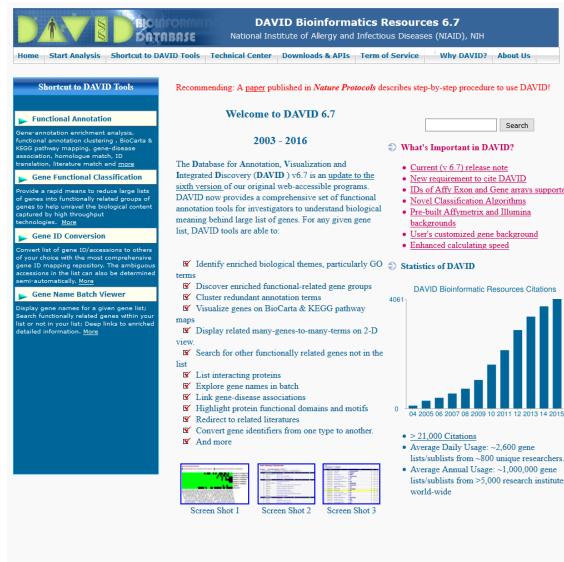


Expected number of significant genes for category X is
 $(\text{num sig genes} \div \text{total genes on array}) * (\text{num genes in category X on array})$

Same example, relative to background

Functional category	Number of genes on array	Observed number of significant genes	Expected number of significant genes
Immune response	8000	40	40
Metabolism	4000	20	20
Transcription	2000	10	10
Energy production	4000	30	20
Neurotransmission	200	5	1
Protein transport	1800	5	9
ALL	20000	100	

- Now, energy production and neurotransmission categories appear more interesting as many more significant genes were observed than expected by chance
- Largest categories are not necessarily the most interesting!



<https://david.ncifcrf.gov/>

The screenshot shows the GSEA homepage with a blue header containing the GSEA logo, navigation links for 'GSEA Home', 'Downloads', 'Molecular Signatures Database', 'Documentation', and 'Contact'. A 'login' and 'register' link are also present. The main content area includes sections for 'Overview', 'What's New', 'Registration', 'Contributors', and 'Citing GSEA'. A central diagram illustrates the process: 'Molecular Profile Data' (represented by a heatmap) and a 'Gene Set Database' (represented by a cylinder) both feed into a 'Run GSEA' button, which then leads to 'Enriched Sets' (represented by a bar chart and scatter plot). A large watermark for 'BROAD INSTITUTE' is visible across the page. At the bottom, there are links to 'Broad Home | Cancer Genomics' and 'MSigDB database v5.1 updated January 2016'.

<http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/index.jsp>

The screenshot shows the Gene Ontology Consortium homepage with a red header featuring the 'Gene Ontology' logo. The main content area includes a search bar, a 'Search GO data' section with dropdown menus for 'biological process', 'Homo sapiens', and 'Submit' (highlighted), and a 'Statistics' section showing various charts. To the right, there is a 'Gene Ontology Consortium' section with a network diagram of biological processes and a 'Highlighted GO term' section. Below these are 'Random FAQs' and a 'Recent news' section with a timeline of publications. A sidebar on the left contains 'Enrichment analysis' tools and a 'User story' section. A footer at the bottom provides copyright information and funding acknowledgments.

KEGG pathway database

WikiPathways

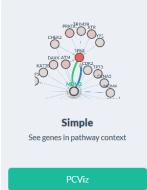
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Pathway Commons



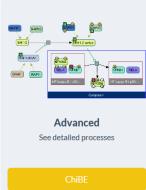
For biologists

Search, visualize and download Pathway Commons pathways as part of an integrated network analysis ([more](#))



Simple
See genes in pathway context

[PCViz](#)



Advanced
See detailed processes

[ChEBI](#)

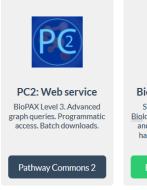


Analyze
Search and analyze pathway relationships

[CyPath2](#)

For computational biologists and software developers

Download all pathways in BioPAX, SIF and other formats for pathway and network analysis. Build software on top of Pathway Commons using our web service API ([more](#))



PC2: Web service
BioPAX Level 3 Advanced graph queries, Programmatic access, Batch downloads.

[Pathway Commons 2](#)



BioPAX & Paxtools
Standard language for Biological Pathway Exchange and a software library for handling data in BioPAX.

[BioPAX & Paxtools](#)



PaxtoolsR
An R interface for Paxtools software and Pathway Commons webservice.

[PaxtoolsR](#)



PC: Previous web service
Obsolete, last updated 2011

[Pathway Commons](#)

MSigDB



GSEA Home Downloads Molecular Signatures Database Documentation Contact

- [MSigDB Home](#)
- [About Collections](#)
- [Browse Gene Sets](#)
- [Browse Gene Lists](#)
- [Investigate Gene Sets](#)
- [View Gene Families](#)
- [Help](#)

Molecular Signatures Database v4.0

Overview

The Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB) is a collection of annotated gene sets for use with GSEA software. From the web site, you can:

- Search for gene sets by keyword.
- Browse gene sets by name or collection.
- Examine a gene set and its annotations. See, for example, the [GO:0007046](#) gene set page.
- Download gene sets.
- Investigate gene sets:
 - Compute overlaps between your gene set and gene sets in MSigDB.
 - Categorize members of a gene set by gene families.
 - View the expression profile of a gene set in any of the three provided public expression compendia.

Registration

Please register to download the GSEA software and view the MSigDB database. After registering, you can log in at any time using your email address. Registration is free. Its only purpose is to help us track usage for reports to our funding agencies.

Current Version

MSigDB database v4.0 updated May 31, 2013. Release notes. GSEA/MSigDB web site v4.05 released June 9, 2014

Contributors

The MSigDB is maintained by the GSEA team with the support and leadership of the MSigDB Scientific Advisory Board. We also welcome and appreciate contributions from the scientific resource and encourage users to submit their gene sets to geneSets@BroadInstitute.org. Our thanks to many contributors!

Funded by: National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences.



Collections

The MSigDB gene sets are divided into 7 major collections:

- C1 positional gene sets** for each human chromosome and cytogenetic band.
- C2 curated gene sets** from online pathway databases, publications in PubMed, and knowledge of domain experts.
- C3 motif gene sets** based on conserved cis-regulatory motifs from a comparative analysis of the human, mouse, rat, and dog genomes.
- C4 computational gene sets** defined directly from large collections of cancer-oriented microarray data.
- C5 GO gene sets** consist of genes annotated by the same GO terms.
- C6 oncogenic signatures** defined directly from cancer gene expression data from cancer gene perturbations.
- C7 immunologic signatures** defined directly from immunogenic gene expression data from immunologic studies.

Using the MSigDB

To cite your use of the Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB), please reference Subramanian, Tamayo, et al. (2005, PNAS 102, 1554-1559) and also the source for the gene sets as cited on the gene set page.

Contact Us

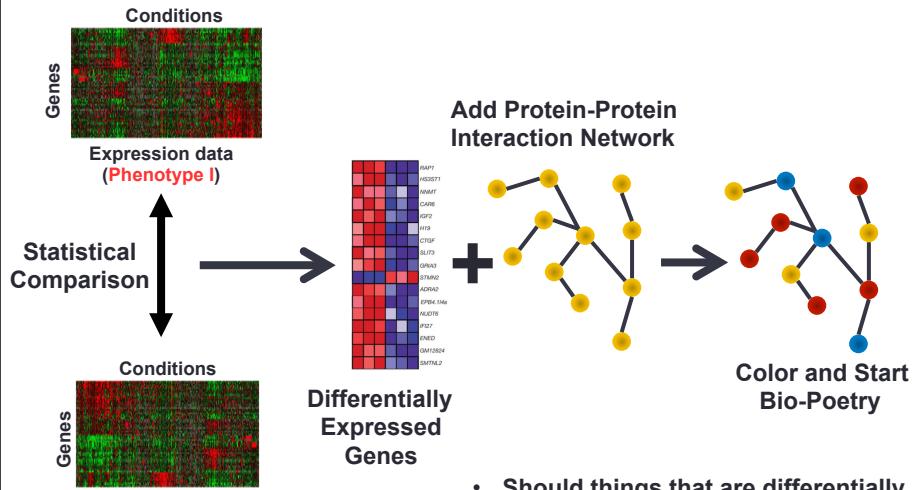
If you have comments or questions, please contact us: geneSets@BroadInstitute.org

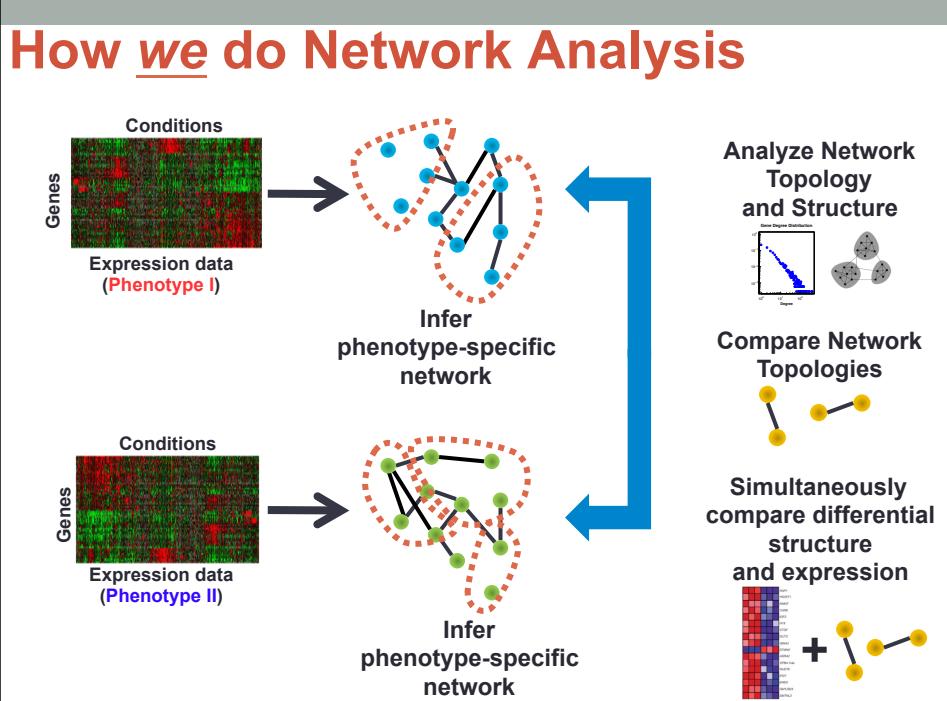
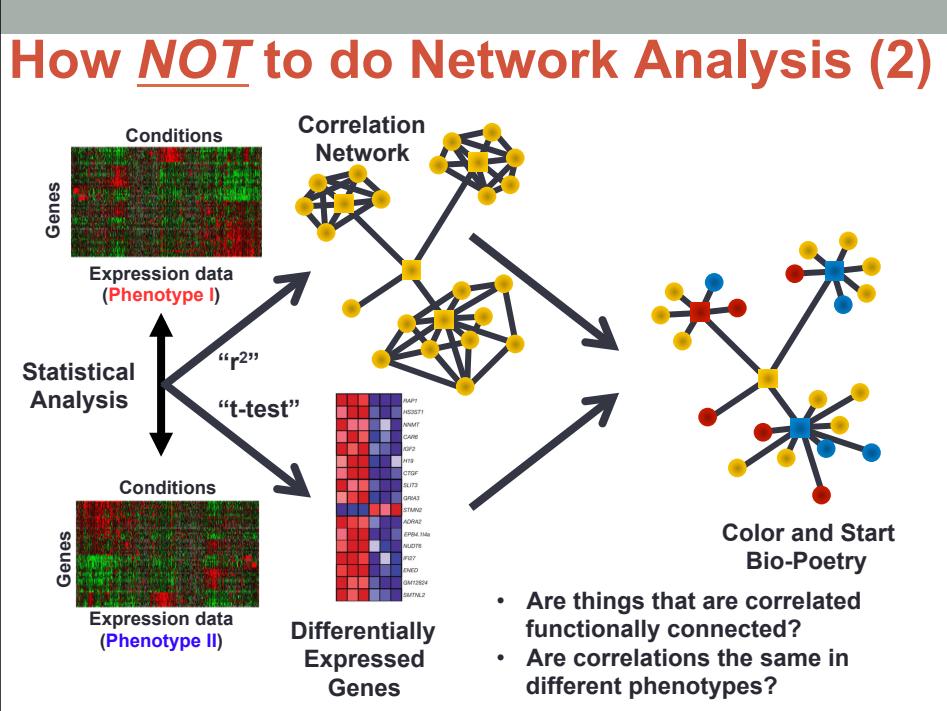
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Biological Networks

Can we make this more complicated?

How NOT to do Network Analysis





Starting Assumptions

- There is no single “right” network
- The structure of the network matters and network structure often changes between states.
- We have to move from asking “Is the network right?” to asking “Is the network useful?”
- The real question is “Does a network model inform our understanding of biology?”

Modeling Gene Regulatory Networks

Integrative Network Inference: PANDA

OPEN  ACCESS Freely available online

 PLOS ONE

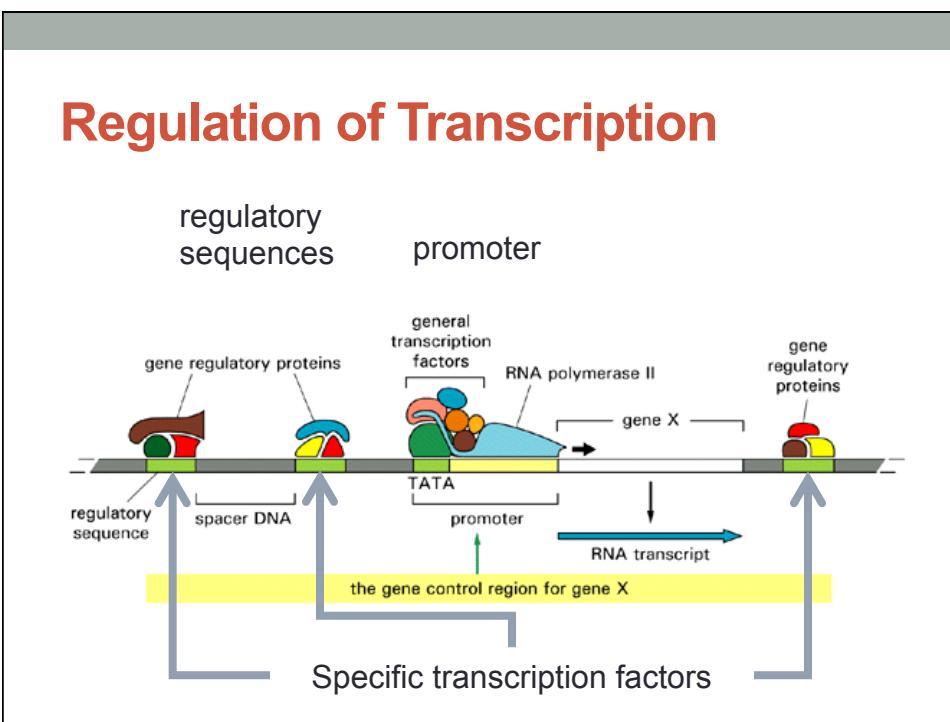
Passing Messages between Biological Networks to Refine Predicted Interactions

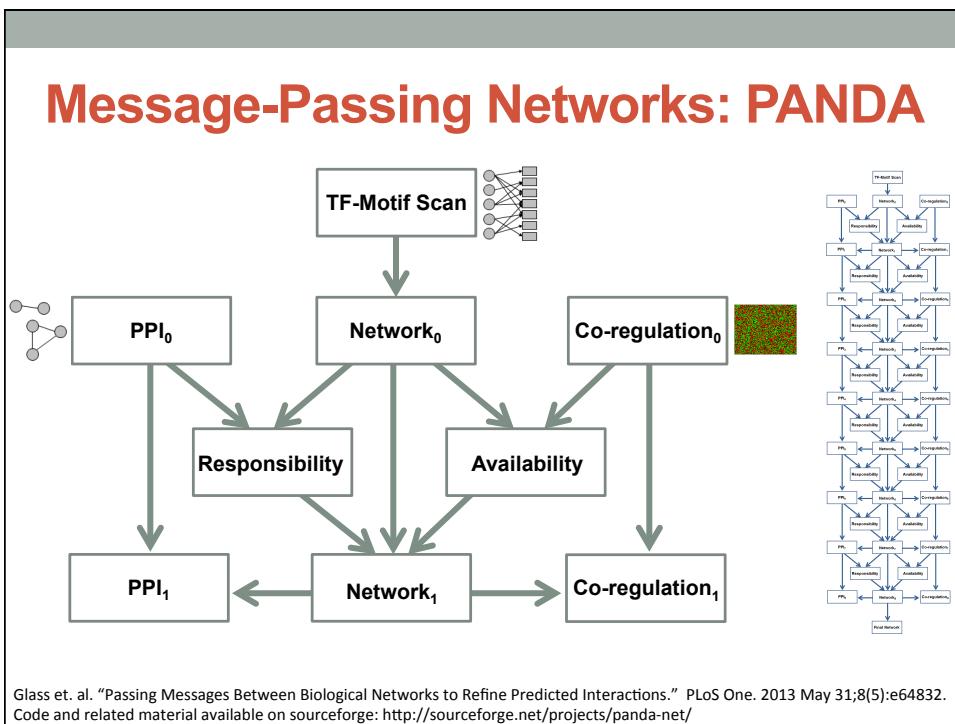
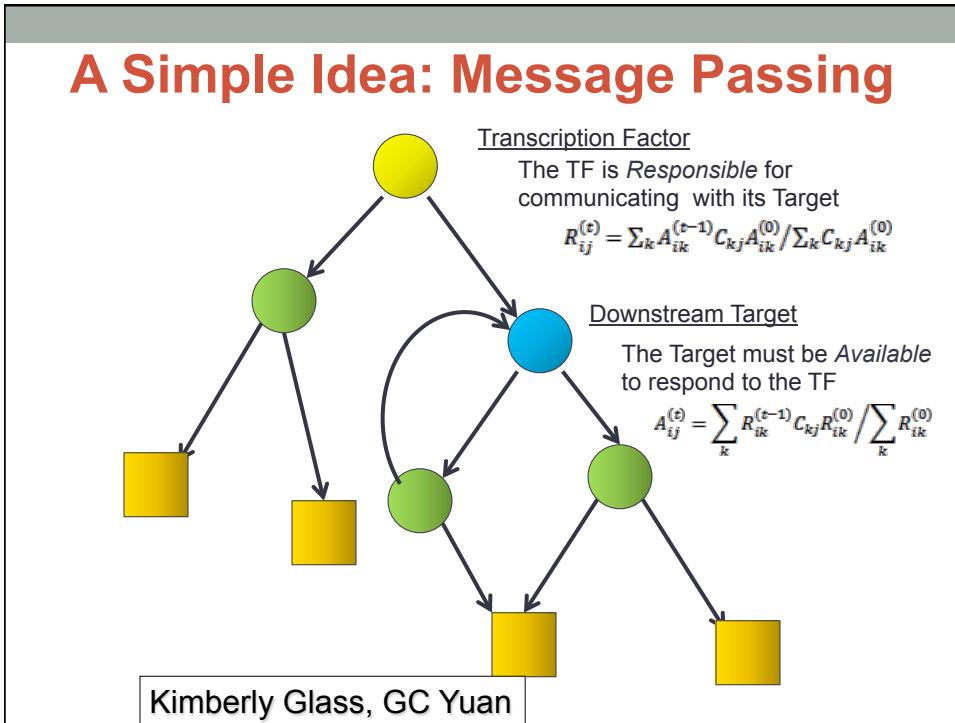
Kimberly Glass^{1,2}, Curtis Huttenhower², John Quackenbush^{1,2*}, Guo-Cheng Yuan^{1,2*}

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Abstract

Regulatory network reconstruction is a fundamental problem in computational biology. There are significant limitations to such reconstruction using individual datasets, and increasingly people attempt to construct networks using multiple, independent datasets obtained from complementary sources, but methods for this integration are lacking. We developed PANDA (Passing Attributes between Networks for Data Assimilation), a message-passing model using multiple sources of information to predict regulatory relationships, and used it to integrate protein-protein interaction, gene expression, and sequence motif data to reconstruct genome-wide, condition-specific regulatory networks in yeast as a model. The resulting networks were not only more accurate than those produced using individual data sets and other existing methods, but they also captured information regarding specific biological mechanisms and pathways that were missed using other methodologies. PANDA is scalable to higher eukaryotes, applicable to specific tissue or cell type data and conceptually generalizable to include a variety of regulatory, interaction, expression, and other genome-scale data. An implementation of the PANDA algorithm is available at www.sourceforge.net/projects/panda-net.





Subtypes of Ovarian Cancer

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

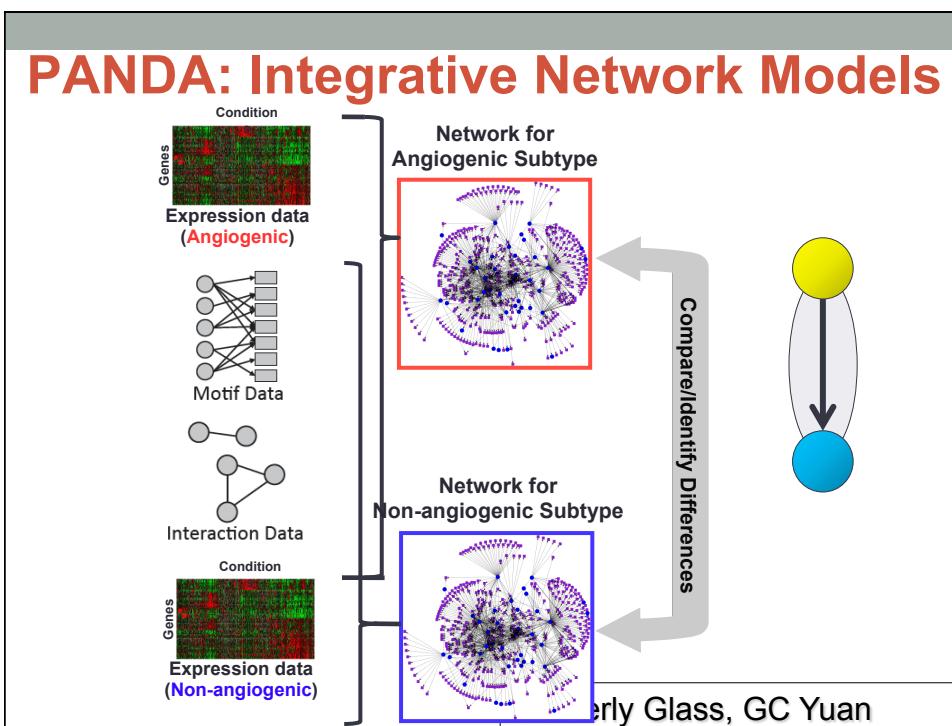
PLOS one

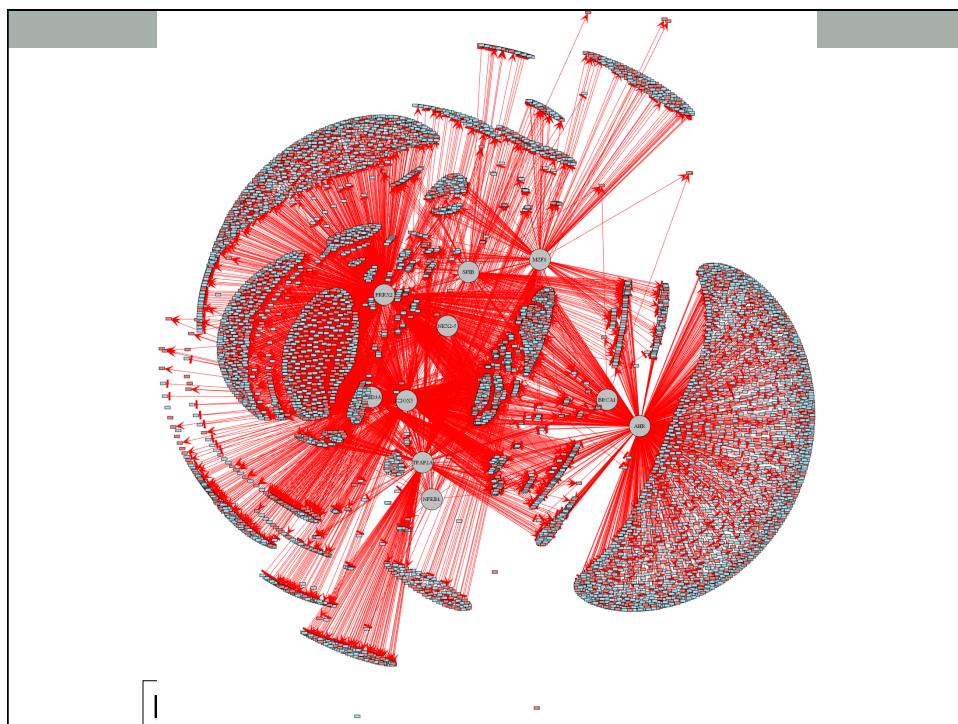
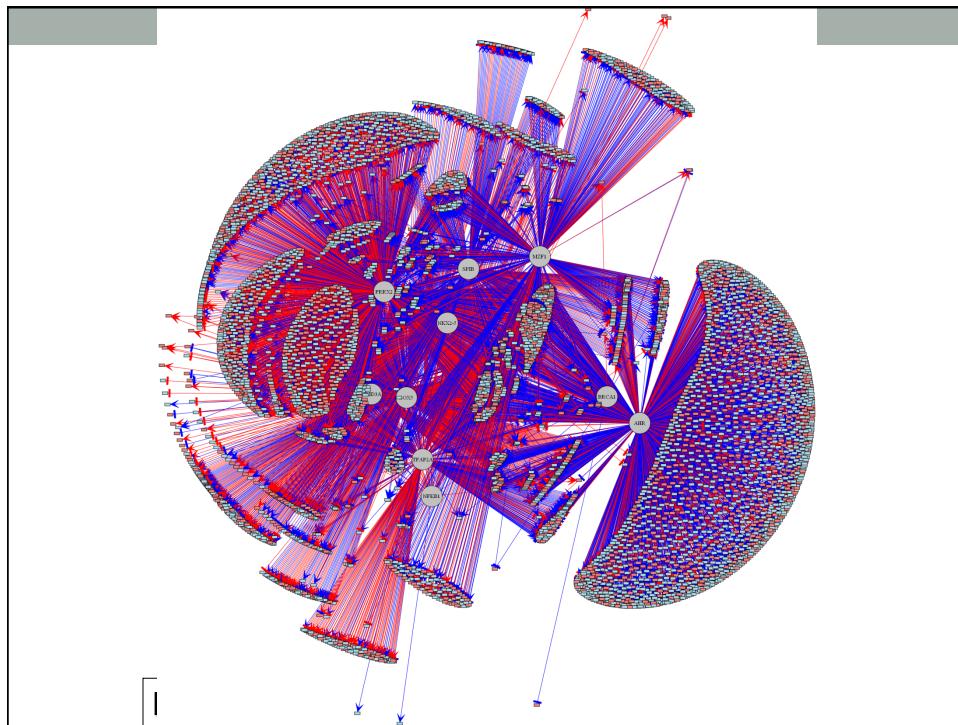
Angiogenic mRNA and microRNA Gene Expression Signature Predicts a Novel Subtype of Serous Ovarian Cancer

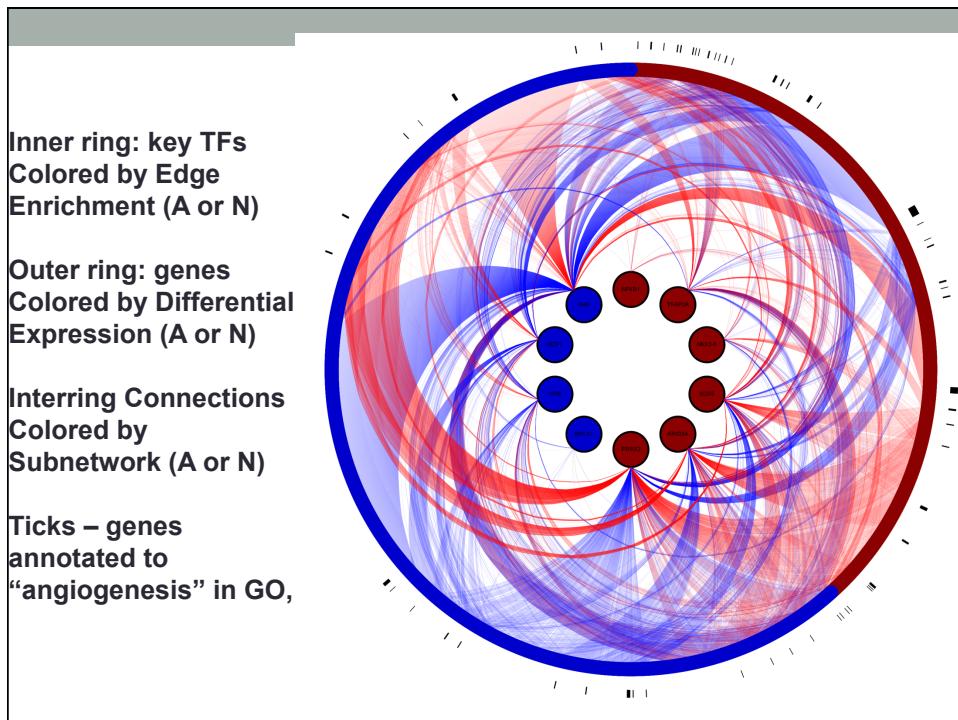
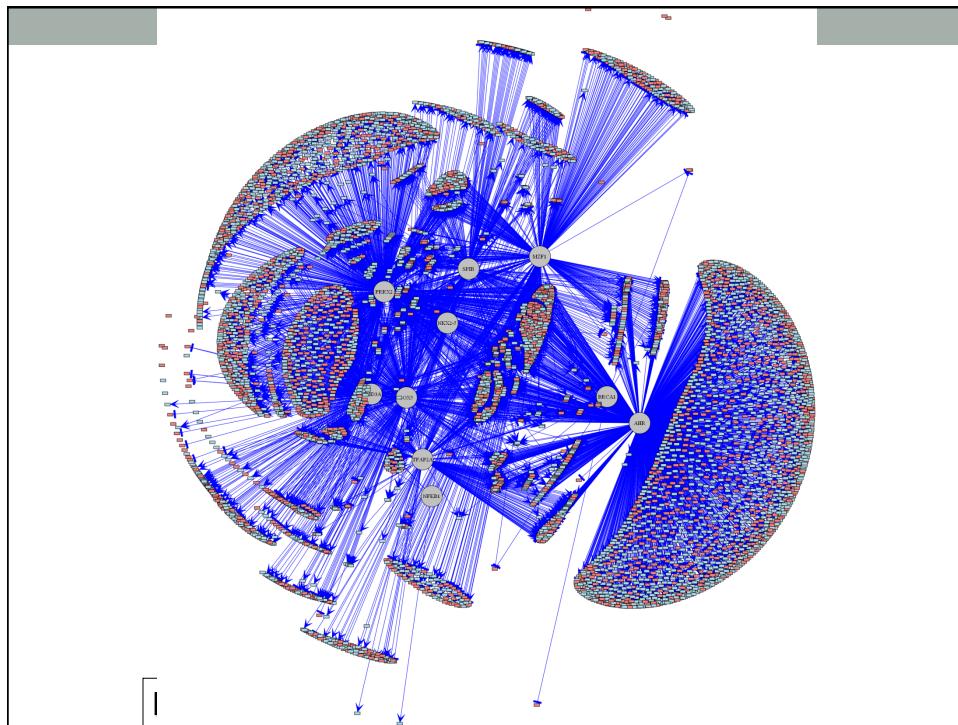
Stefan Bentink^{1,6*}, Benjamin Haibe-Kains^{1,6*}, Thomas Risch¹, Jian-Bing Fan³, Michelle S. Hirsch^{4,7}, Kristina Holton¹, Renee Rubio¹, Craig April³, Jing Chen³, Eliza Wickham-Garcia³, Joyce Liu^{2,7}, Aedin Culhane^{1,6}, Ronny Drapkin^{4,5,7}, John Quackenbush^{1,2,6*}, Ursula A. Matulonis^{5,7†}

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Abstract
Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death for women in the U.S. and the seventh most fatal worldwide. Although ovarian cancer is notable for its initial sensitivity to platinum-based therapies, the vast majority of patients eventually develop recurrent cancer and succumb to increasingly platinum-resistant disease. Modern, targeted cancer drugs intervene in cell signaling, and identifying key disease mechanisms and pathways would greatly advance our treatment abilities. In order to shed light on the molecular diversity of ovarian cancer, we performed comprehensive transcriptional profiling on 129 advanced stage, high grade serous ovarian cancers. We implemented a re-sampling based version of the

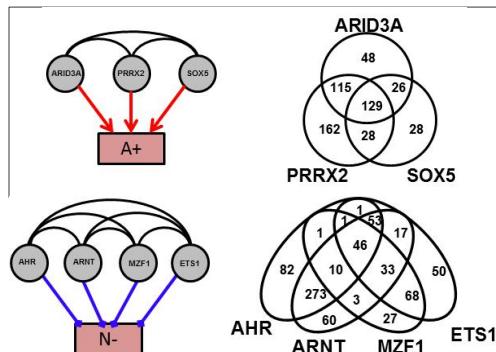






Complex Regulatory Patterns Emerge

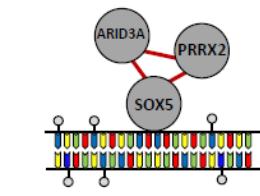
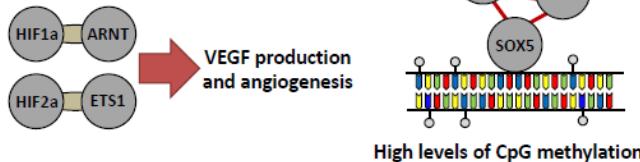
TF1	TF2	sig.	#	Class	Co-regulatory TF Pairs
ARID3A	PRRX2	1.16E-23	244	A+	
ARID3A	SOX5	1.01E-14	155	A+	
PRRX2	SOX5	3.83E-12	157	A+	
ARNT	MZF1	5.83E-23	92	N-	
AHR	ARNT	6.13E-16	382	N-	
ETS1	MZF1	9.08E-16	148	N-	



Kimberly Glass, GC Yuan

Regulatory Patterns suggest Therapies

ANGIOGENIC BEHAVIOR

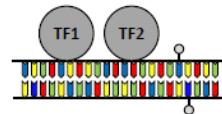


TREATMENT MODEL

(1) Prevent ARNT/HIF1a and ETS1/HIF2a dimerization



(3) Decrease genome-wide methylation



(2) Promote ARNT/AHR and ETS1/AHR dimerization

Kimberly Glass, GC Yuan

The image displays two side-by-side abstracts from BMC journals. The left abstract is titled "A network model of ovarian cancer" and the right one is titled "Sexually-dimorphic targeting of functionally-related genes in COPD". Both abstracts include author information, a brief abstract, background, results, and conclusions sections, along with keywords and acknowledgments. The BMC logo is visible at the top of each section.

A network model of ovarian cancer
Kimberly Glass^{1,2*}, John Quackenbush^{1,2}
Abstract
Background: We recently identified mechanisms involved in angiogenesis, with significant mechanisms that distinguish the subtypes, largely defined by a set of angiogenesis, are not strongly different. These factors are involved in the active differential expression of their networks previously unrecognized pro-angiogenic or combinatorial regulation.
Conclusions: The models we developed networks away from the genes themselves between subtypes suggest therapeutic opportunities.
Keywords: Network modeling, Gene regulation, Angiogenesis

Sexually-dimorphic targeting of functionally-related genes in COPD
Kimberly Glass^{1,2*}, John Quackenbush^{1,2}, Edwin K Silverman^{3,4}, Bartolome Celli⁴, Stephen I Rennard⁵, Guo-Cheng Yuan^{1,2} and Dawn L DeMeo^{3,4}
Abstract
Background: There is growing evidence that many diseases develop, progress, and respond to therapy differently in men and women. This variability may manifest as a result of sex-specific structures in gene regulatory networks that influence how those networks operate. However, there are few methods to identify and characterize differences in network structure, slowing progress in understanding mechanisms driving sexual dimorphism.
Results: Here we apply an integrative network inference method, PANDA (Passing Attributes between Networks for Data Assimilation), to model sex-specific networks in blood and sputum samples from subjects with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). We used a jack-knife approach to build an ensemble of likely networks for each sex. By adapting statistical methods to compare these network ensembles, we were able to identify strong differential-targeting patterns associated with functionally-related sets of genes, including those involved in mitochondrial function and energy metabolism. Network analysis also identified several potential sex- and disease-specific transcriptional regulators of these pathways.
Conclusions: Network analysis yielded insight into potential mechanisms driving sexual dimorphism in COPD that were not evident from gene expression analysis alone. We believe our ensemble approach to network analysis provides a principled way to capture sex-specific regulatory relationships and could be applied to identify differences in gene regulatory patterns in a wide variety of diseases and contexts.
Keywords: Network modeling, Gene regulation, Regulatory networks, Sexual-dimorphism, Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease

More application papers coming....

At the End of the Day

- The goal of an experiment is to discover new biology
- The challenge is sorting through lots of data
- Comparing groups of samples requires thorough annotation
- Making sense of the genes that are significant in such a comparison requires thorough gene annotation
- New technologies are giving us new ways of generating data, but the analysis approaches are more-or-less the same.

**The future is here.
It's just not widely distributed yet.**

- William Gibson

**Before I came here I was confused
about this subject.
After listening to your lecture,
I am still confused but at a higher level.**

- Enrico Fermi, (1901-1954)