

# Generalizable Gene Self-Expressive Network

Sergio Peignier et Federica Calevro

Laboratory of Functional Biology, Insects and Interactions (BF2i)  
INRAE/INSA-Lyon, University of Lyon



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# Gene Regulatory Networks (GRNs)

## Definition

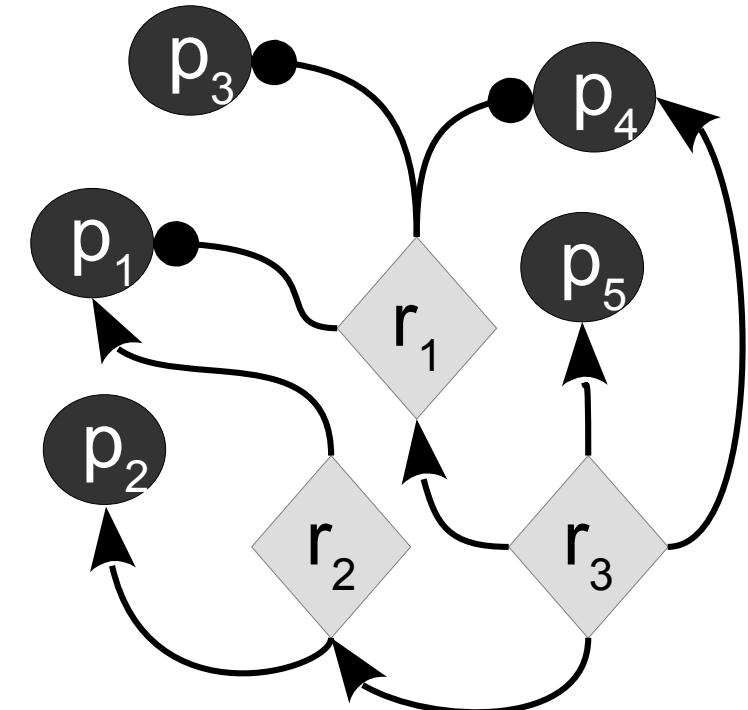
**Interacting molecular regulators** (e.g. transcription factors) controlling the gene expression

$G = \langle V, E \rangle$ : **oriented graph** with nodes  $V$  and edges  $E$  s.t.

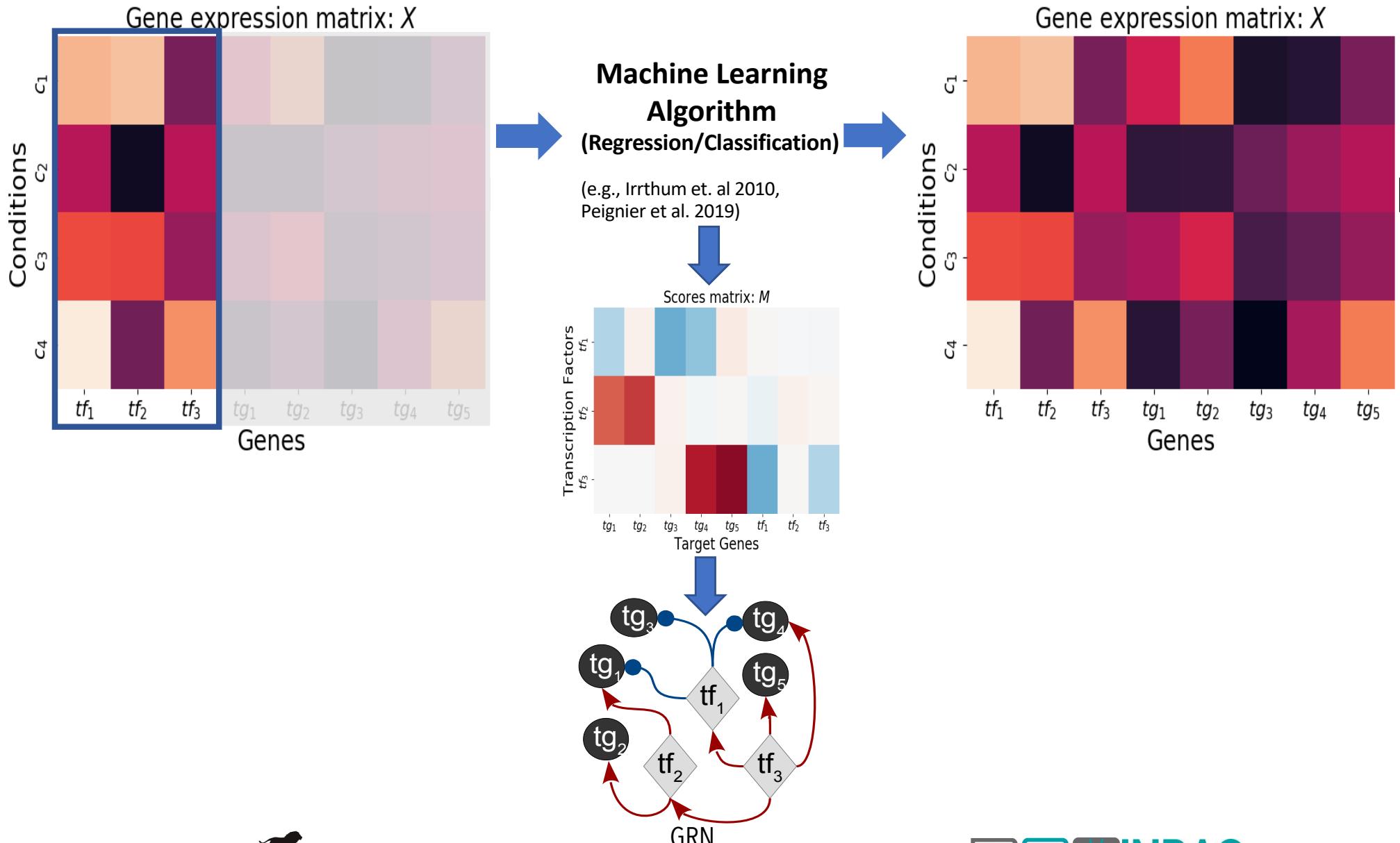
- Let  $V$  is the set of **genes**
- Let  $R \subset V$  be a set of **regulators**
- $\exists e = (r, p) \in E$  if  $r \in R$  **controls the gene expression** of  $p$

- **Wide range of mechanisms:**  
(e.g., epigenetic, transcriptional ...)

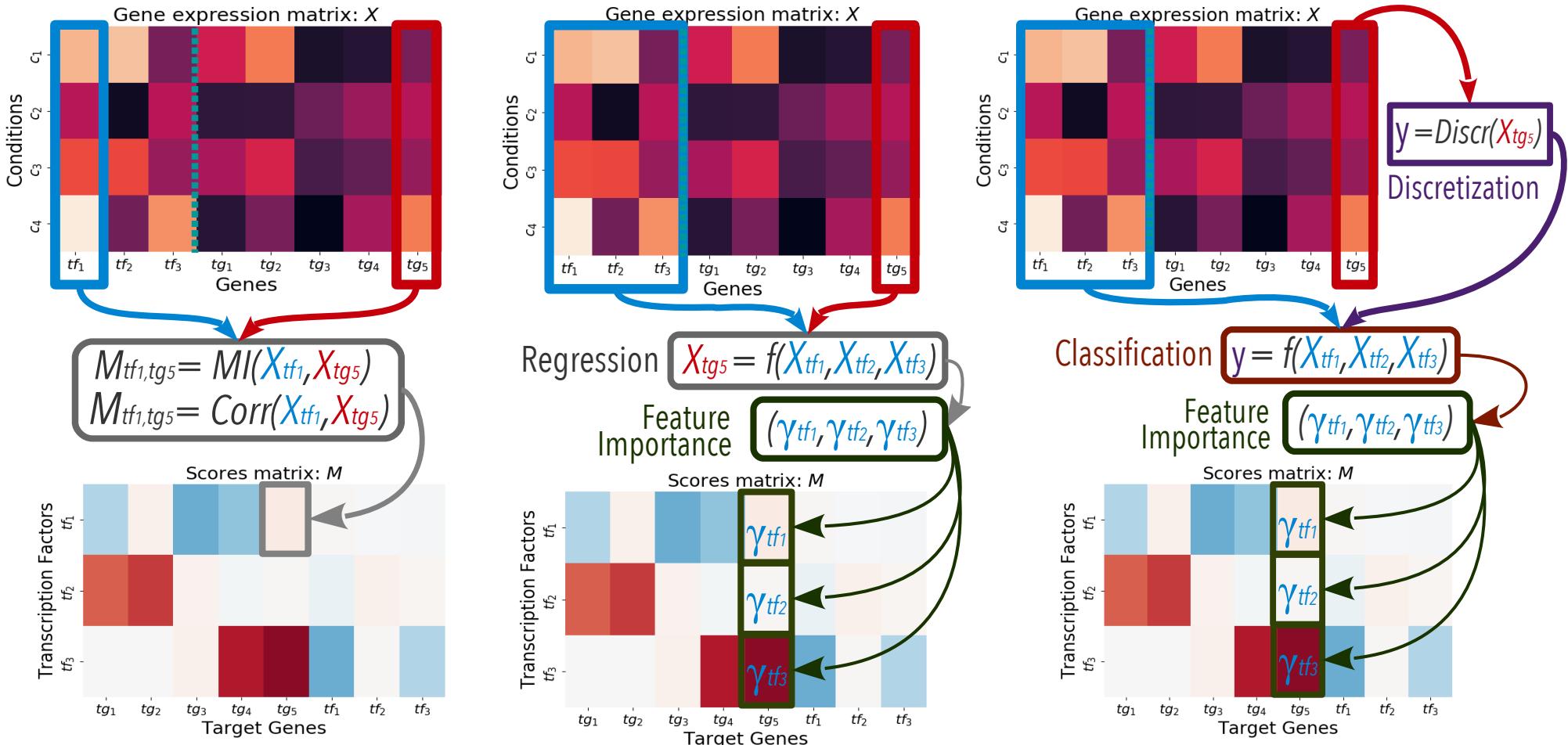
- **Important biological role:**
  - Adaptation
  - Versatility
  - Differentiation
  - Morphogenesis ...



# Data-driven GRN inference methodology

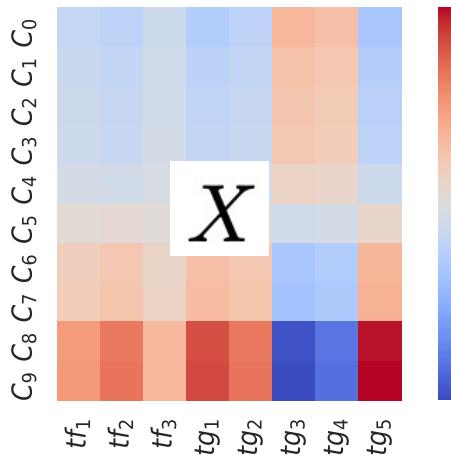


# Data-driven GRN Inference families

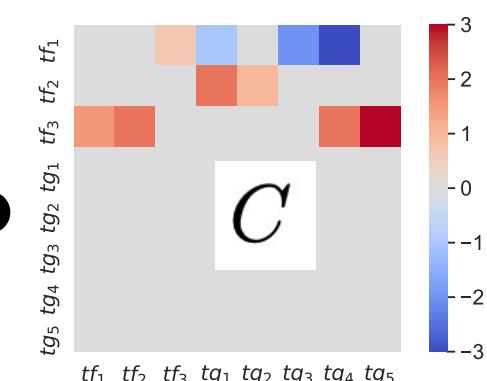
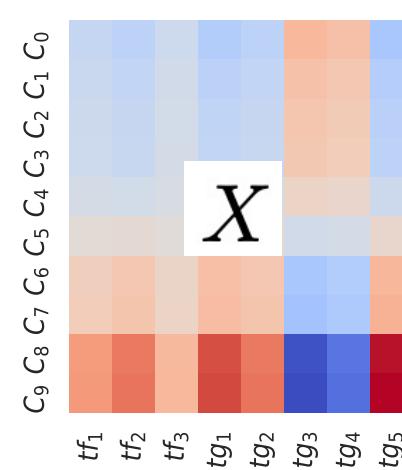


# Self-expressiveness

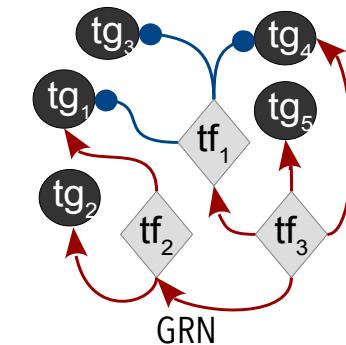
- Characterize the **relationship between object in a dataset**: Express each object as a **linear combination of other objects**
- Used in computer vision, time series analysis, inference of Causal Graphs
- Self-expressiveness and GRN Inference are **strongly related**



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Adjacency Matrix

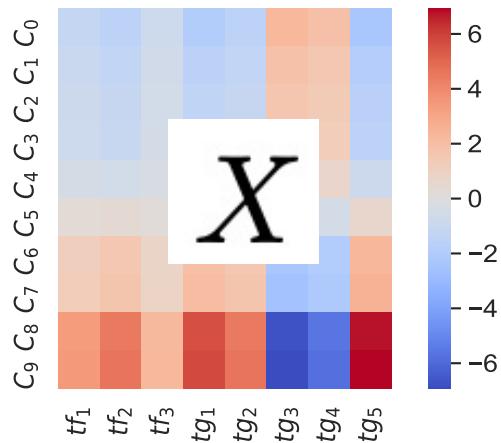


$$X = X \cdot C \quad \text{s.t. } C_{j,j} = 0 \quad \forall j$$

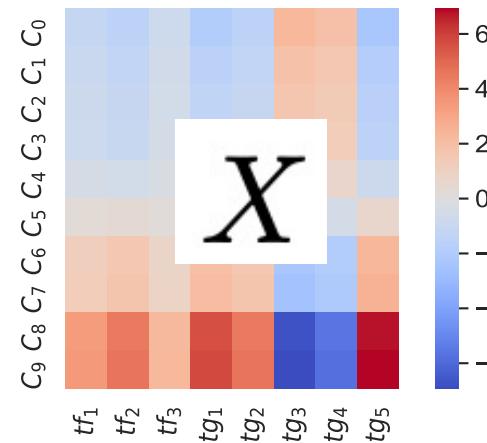
**Many solutions exist for matrix  $C$  ...  
which one should be chosen?**

# Subspace preserving self-expressiveness

- Express **each data point** as linear combinations of **other points** laying in the **same subspace**
- Sparsity-inducing norms** -> remove connections between points from **different subspaces**:
  - **L0 norm** (e.g., Orthogonal Matching Pursuit - OMP)
  - **L1 norm** (e.g., LASSO)
  - **L1 & L2 norm** (e.g., ElasticNet)



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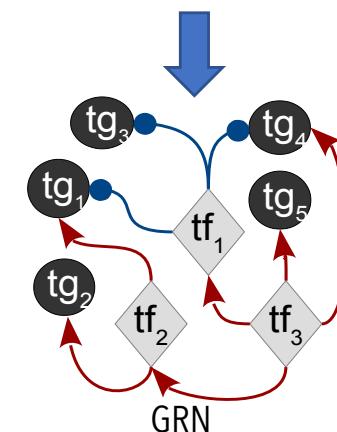
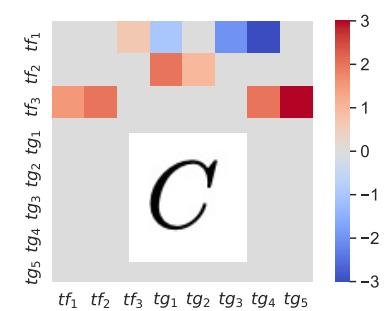


$$C_{*,j}^* = \underset{C_{*,j}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|C_{*,j}\|$$

with  $X_{*,j} = X \cdot C_{*,j}$  and  $C_{j,j} = 0$

Possible to add other constraints (e.g., motifs presence)

**Sparse**  
Adjacency Matrix



# Generalizable Gene Self-eXpression Networks - GXN

- $D$  : Number of conditions
- $\Gamma$  : Set of  $N$  genes
- $\Psi$  : Set of regulatory genes ( $\Psi \subset \Gamma$ )

## **GXN•OMP : Orthogonal Matching Pursuit – L0 norm**

$$C_{\star,g}^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{C_{\star,g}} \|X_{\star,g} - X \cdot C_{\star,g}\|_2^2$$

with  $\|C_{\star,g}\|_0 \leq d_0$ ,  $C_{g,g} = 0 \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N\}$  and  $C_{j,g} = 0 \quad \forall j \notin \Psi$

- $d_0$  : Maximal number of regulators per Target Gene (parameter)

## **GXN•EN : ElasticNet – L1 & L2 norm**

$$C_{\star,g}^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{C_{\star,g}} \frac{\|X_{\star,g} - X \cdot C_{\star,g}\|_2^2}{2D} + \alpha\rho\|C_{\star,g}\|_1 + \frac{\alpha(1-\rho)}{2}\|C_{\star,g}\|_2^2$$

with  $C_{g,g} = 0 \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N\}$  and  $C_{j,g} = 0 \quad \forall j \notin \Psi$

- $\rho \in [0, 1]$  : Mixing parameter (0 -> L2 regularization, 1 -> L1 regularization)
- $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+$  : Regularization strength (0 -> No regularization)

## **Parameters calibration?**

# Data-driven GRN Inference limitations

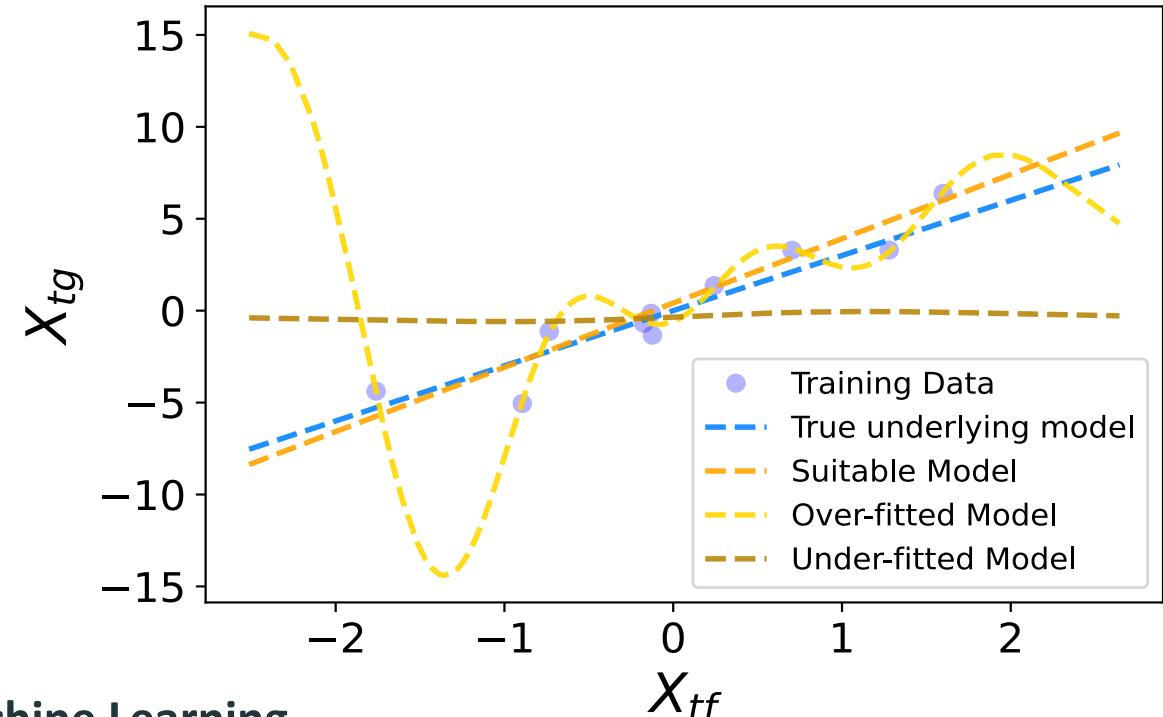
Parameter calibration -> Under/over-fitting tradeoff

- **Underfitted models:**

Lack of expressiveness, lead to over-simplistic predictions

- **Overfitted models:**

More parameters than needed.  
Poor and biased predictions



## Generalization: a major goal in Machine Learning

Predict accurately the outputs of examples that were not used during the training phase.

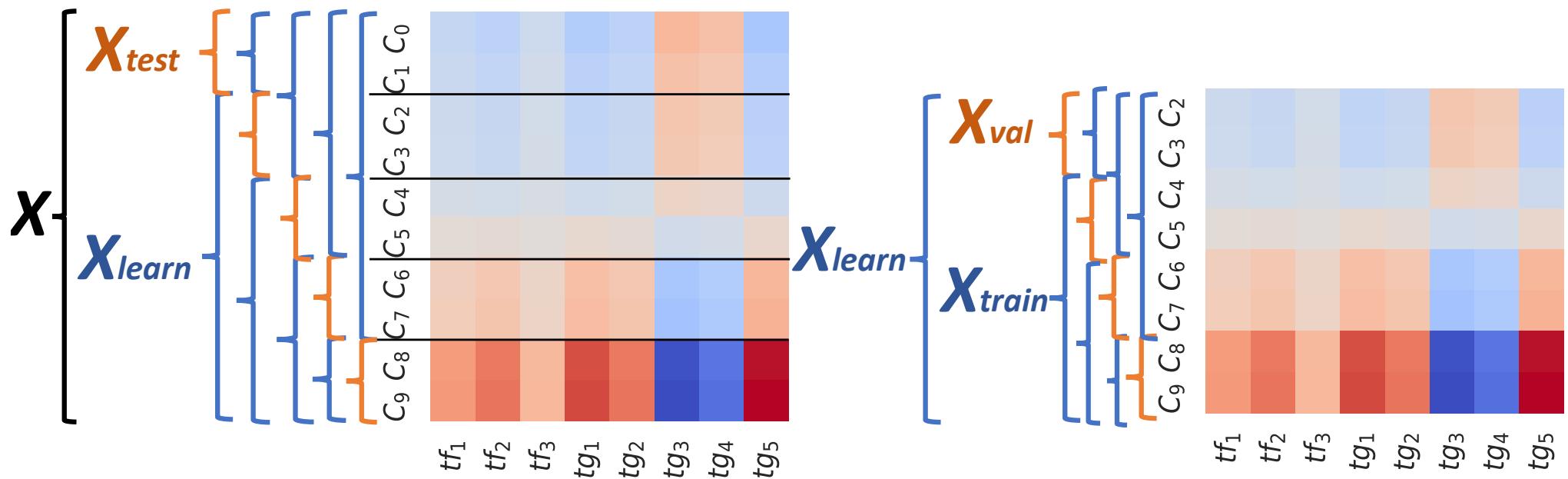
## Generalization and GRN inference

GRN Inference methods do not measure model's generalization during parameters tuning or evaluation

# Nested K-fold cross-validation

## Outer cross-validation:

- Xtrain : Train the model with a given parameter setting
- Xval : Evaluate the Generalization capabilities to choose the best parameters
- Xtest : Evaluate the Generalization capabilities of the best model



**Internal evaluation metric:**  $R^2$  determination coefficient ( $-\infty$ : worse quality -> 1: best quality)

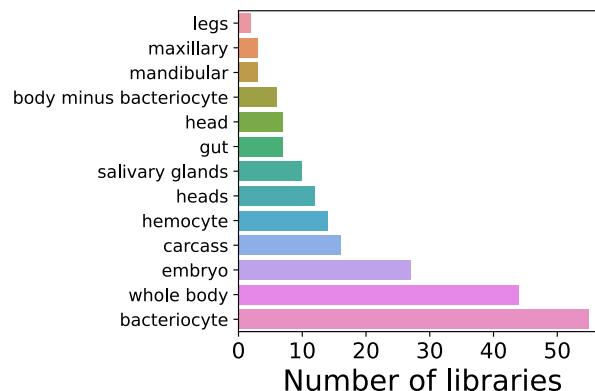
# Datasets

## DREAM5 Benchmark and RNAseq Eukaryote datasets

DREAM5	Data	$D$	$ \Gamma $	$ \Psi $	$ E_{gold} $	$\frac{ E_{gold} }{ E_{full} }$	$ E^{full} $
<i>In silico</i>	Simulated	805	1,643	195	4,012	0.014	320,190
<i>S. aureus</i>	Microarray	160	2,810	99	515	0.028	278,091
<i>E. coli</i>	Microarray	805	4,511	334	2,066	0.013	1,506,340
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	Microarray	536	5,950	333	3,940	0.017	1,981,017
Eukaryotes	Data	$D$	# Tissues	$ \Psi  =  \Gamma $		$ E^{full} $	
<i>C. familiaris</i>	RNAseq	75	6	2,286		5,223,510	
<i>R. norvegicus</i>	RNAseq	80	11	2,358		5,557,806	
<i>H. sapiens</i>	RNAseq	657	3	2,454		6,019,662	

***D. melanogaster*** :  $D = 72$ , 1 tissue (eyes),  $|\Gamma| = 15345$  ,  $|\Psi| = 841$

***A. pisum*** :  $D = 206$ , 10 tissues + Whole aphids,  $|\Gamma| = 17594$  ,  $|\Psi| = 1046$



# Evaluation : Evaluation Metrics

- Internal regression evaluation metric (on test set):

$R^2$  determination coefficient ( $-\infty$ : worse quality -> 1: best quality)

- Network topology assessment:

**Set of edges:**  $E = \{(\psi, g) \in \Psi \times \Gamma \mid C_{g,\psi} \neq 0\}$

**Set of possible edges:**  $E^{full} = \{(\psi, g) \in \Psi \times \Gamma \mid \psi \neq g\}$

- $sparsity = \frac{|E^{full} \setminus E|}{|E^{full}|} \times 100$ .
- $deg^+(\psi) = |\{g \in \Gamma \mid (\psi, g) \in E\}|$
- $deg^-(g) = |\{\psi \in \Psi \mid (\psi, g) \in E\}|$

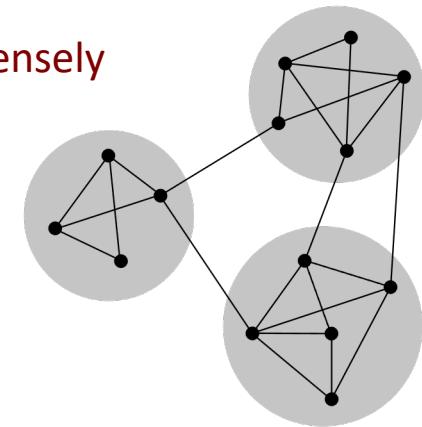
- Gold Standard Comparison (DREAM5):

- AUPR (0: worse quality -> 1: best quality)
- AUROC (0: worse quality -> 1: best quality)

# Evaluation: Community Detection

Do inferred GRNs structure in communities (i.e., sub-networks of genes densely intra-connected by regulatory links) sharing common functional roles?

- Set of Edges:  $E = \{(\psi, g) \in \Psi \times \Gamma \mid C_{g,\psi} \neq 0\}$
- In-degree:  $\deg^-(g) = |\{\psi \in \Psi \mid (\psi, g) \in E\}|$
- Out degree:  $\deg^+(\psi) = |\{g \in \Gamma \mid (\psi, g) \in E\}|$



Communities detection method: Clauset-Newman-Moore greedy **modularity maximization**  
High modularity Q -> 1, Low modularity Q -> 0

$$Q = \frac{1}{|E|} \sum_{g \in \Gamma, \psi \in \Psi} \left( C_{\psi,g} - r \cdot \frac{\deg^+(\psi) \cdot \deg^-(g)}{|E|} \right) \cdot \zeta(\psi, g)$$

$$\zeta : \Psi, \Gamma \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \quad \begin{cases} \zeta(\psi, g) = 1 & \text{Gene and regulator are in the same community} \\ \zeta(\psi, g) = 0 & \text{Gene and regulator are not in the same community} \end{cases}$$

$r \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$  **Resolution** (High-> many small communities, low -> few large communities)

# Evaluation: Communities GSEA and GO enrichment

## Gene Set Enrichment Analysis - GSEA:

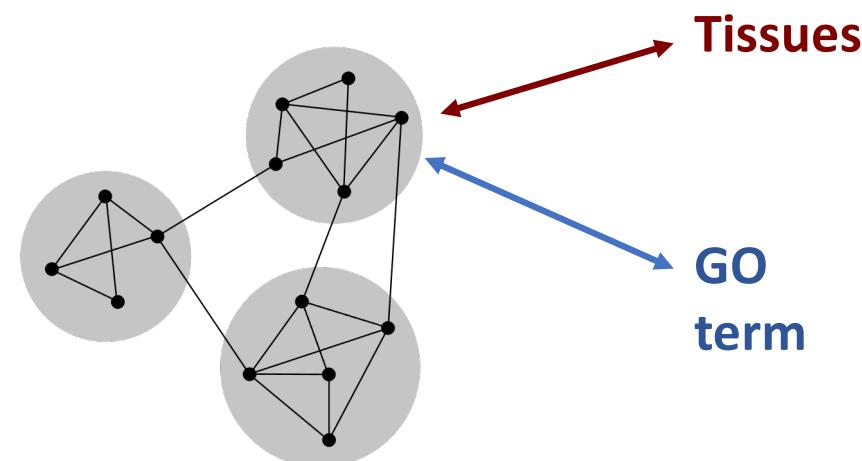
Are **communities** of genes that are **collectively over-expressed or under-expressed**, with statistical significance, in a **particular tissue or cell-type**.

- Ranking method: difference-of-classes
- 10,000 gene-set permutations
- Retain relationships with a False-Discovery-Rate (FDR) < 0.05

## Gene Ontologies – GO (GO:0048856 anatomical structure development):

Do **communities** of genes exhibit significantly **over-represented GO terms**?

- GOATTOOLS
- Benjamini Hochberg multiple test FDR correction
- Retain relationships with a False-Discovery-Rate (FDR) < 0.05



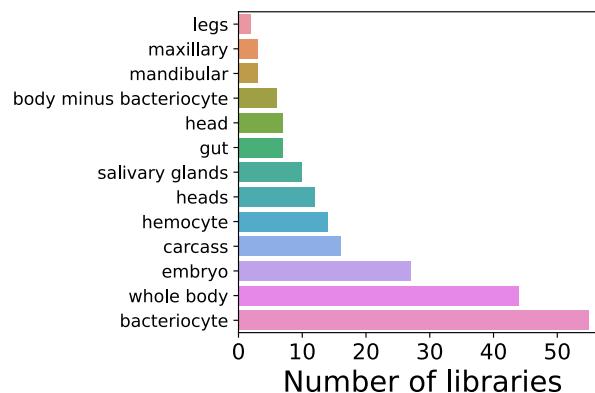
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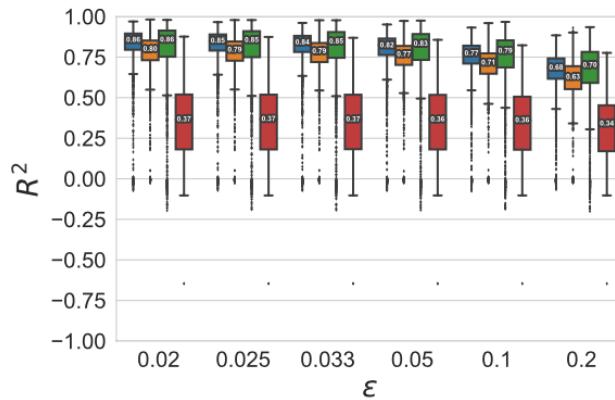


## Results: DREAM5 - Sparsity

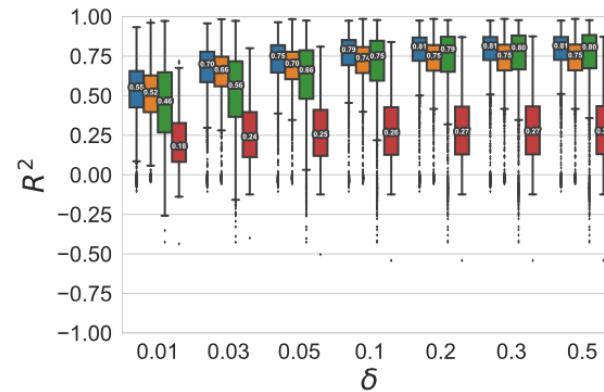
		<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>In silico</i>
State-of-the-art methods	<i>SVR</i>	0.025%	0.027%	0.021%	0.021%
	<i>RF</i>	0.036%	0.002%	0.002%	0.019%
	GXN•OMP (Min)	84.474%	83.530%	75.760%	97.037%
	GXN•OMP (Max)	99.258%	99.181%	98.990%	99.487%
	GXN•EN (Min)	79.119%	69.949%	67.240%	86.456%
	GXN•EN (Max)	94.929%	94.454%	90.238%	93.429%

**GXN•OMP GXN•EN** exhibit high sparsity structure

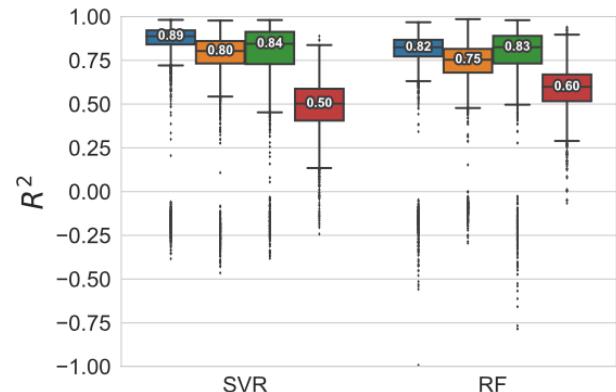
# Results: DREAM5 – Inner evaluation



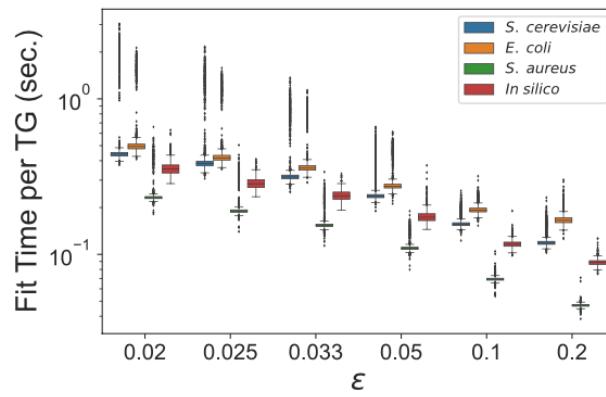
(a) GXN•EN -  $R^2$



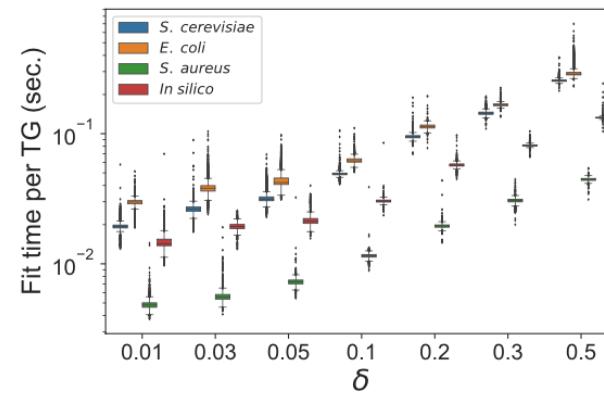
(b) GXN•OMP -  $R^2$



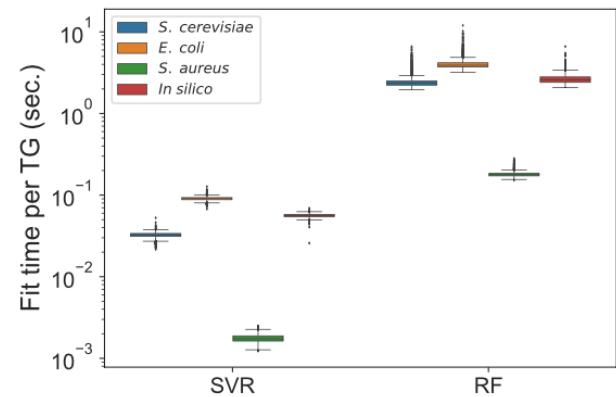
(c) SVR and RF -  $R^2$



(d) GXN•EN - Runtime



(e) GXN•OMP - Runtime

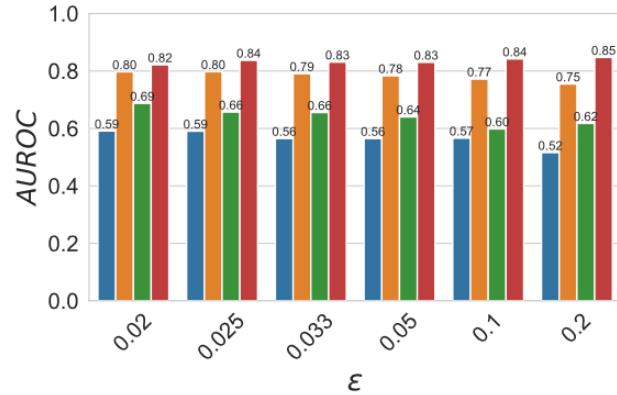


(f) SVR and RF - Runtime

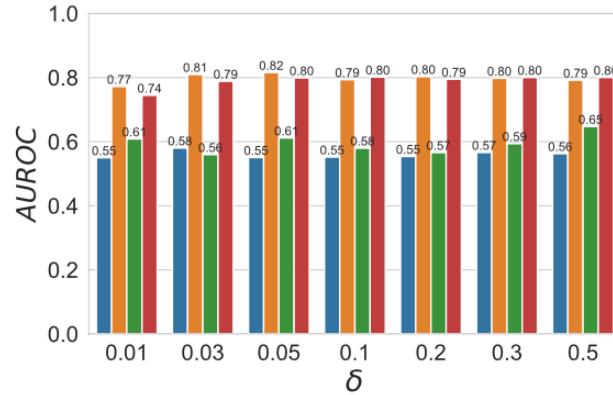
**GXN•OMP** and **GXN•EN** exhibit comparable  $R^2$  scores wrt SVR and RF

**GXN•OMP** and **GXN•EN** training runtime are lower than RF and comparable to SVR

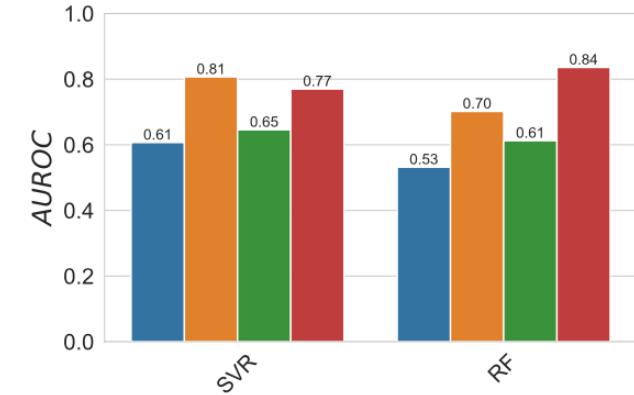
# Results: DREAM5 – External evaluation



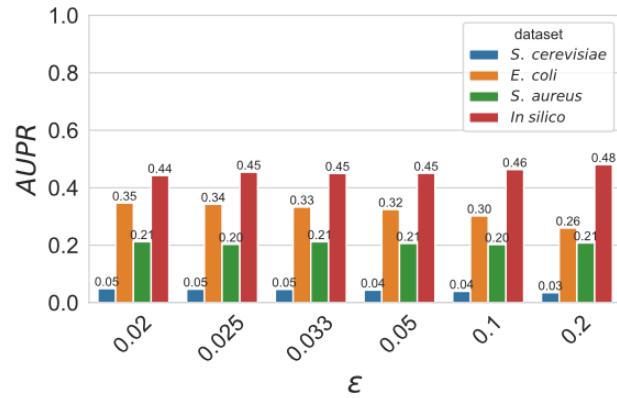
(a) GXN•EN - AUROC



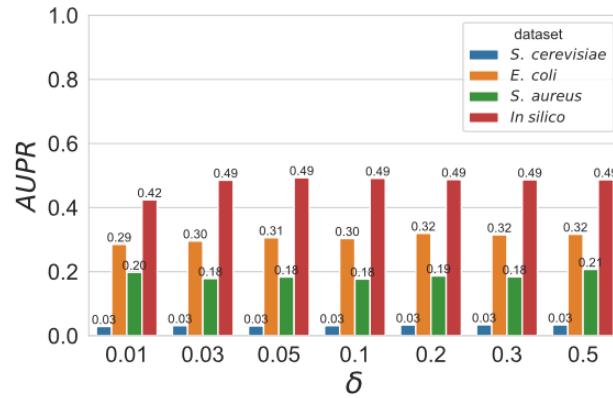
(b) GXN•OMP - AUROC



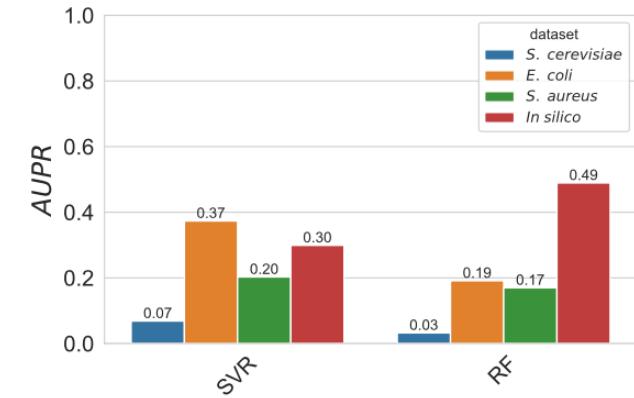
(c) SVR and RF - AUROC



(d) GXN•EN - AUPR



(e) GXN•OMP - AUPR



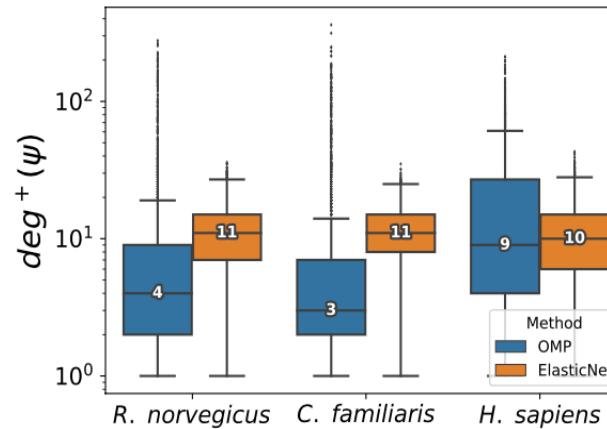
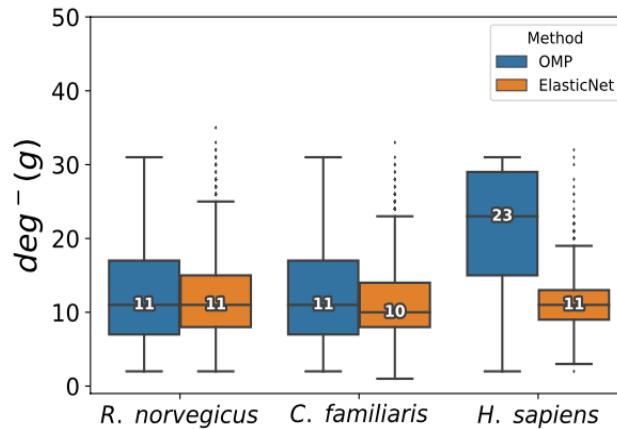
(f) SVR and RF - AUPR

**GXN•OMP** and **GXN•EN** exhibit comparable AUROC and AUPR wrt SVR and RF

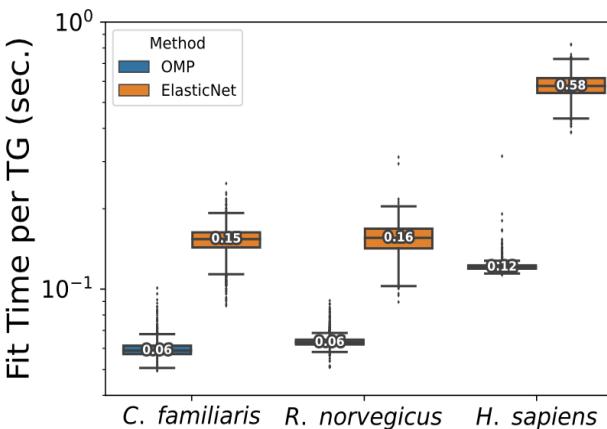
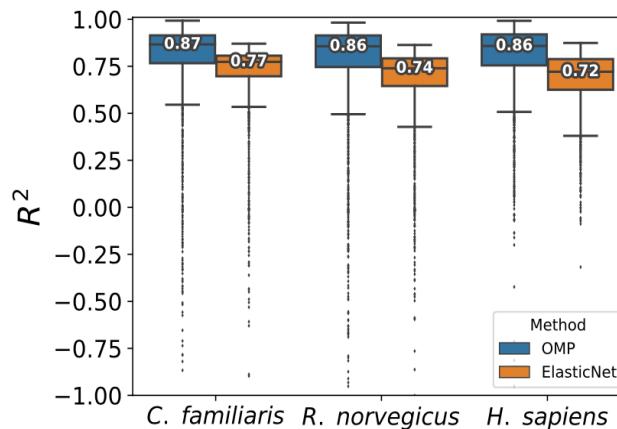
# Results: Mammal datasets – evaluation metrics

	Sparsity (%)		Modularity	
	GXN•EN	GXN•OMP	GXN•EN	GXN•OMP
<i>R. norvegicus</i>	99.495	99.39	0.575	0.829
<i>C. familiaris</i>	99.491	99.357	0.627	0.835
<i>H. sapiens</i>	99.538	99.087	0.658	0.573

**GXN•OMP GXN•EN** exhibit high sparsity and modularity

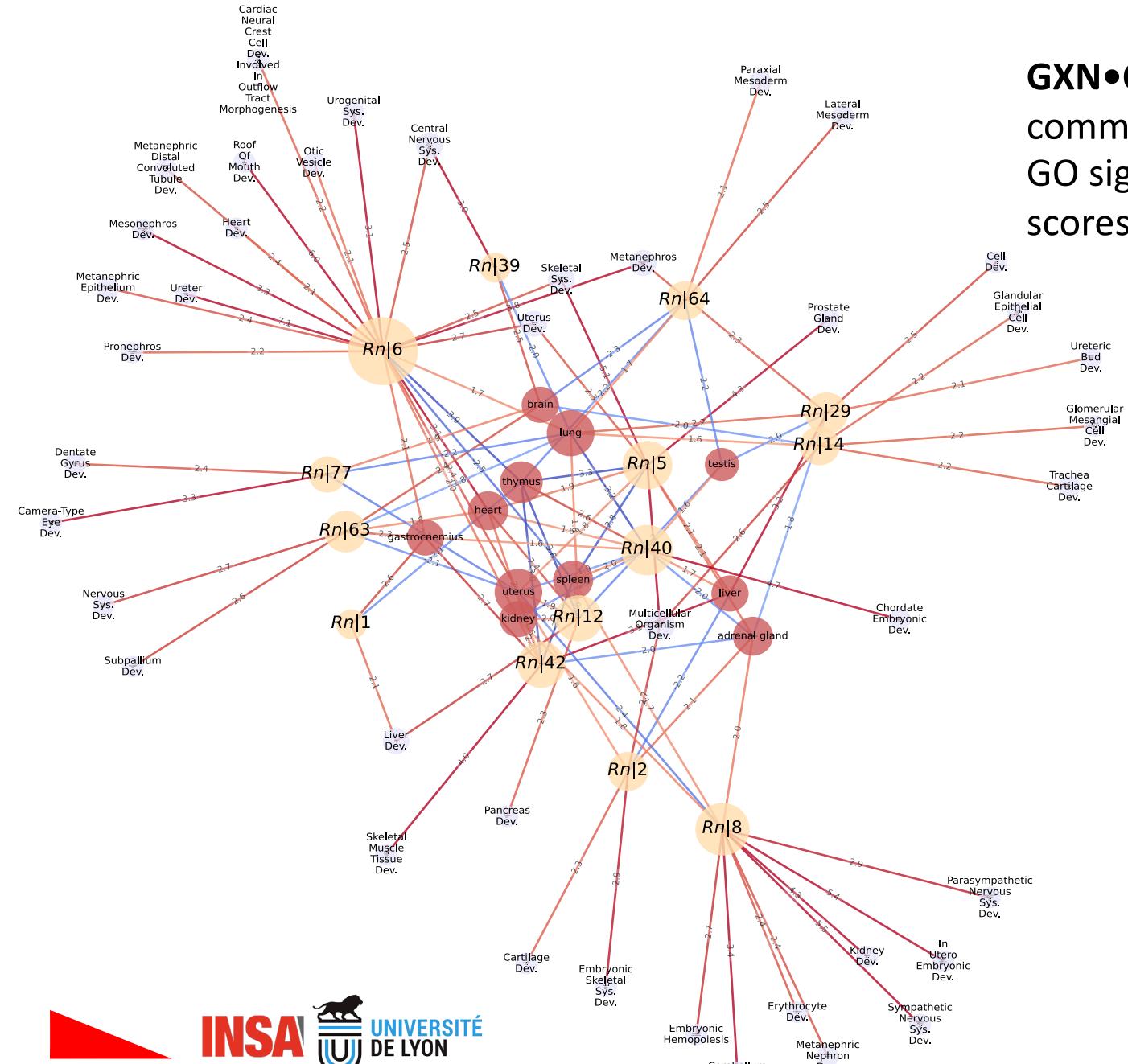


**GXN•OMP GXN•EN** exhibit simple and interpretable regulatory models



**GXN•OMP GXN•EN** exhibit high R2 scores and are fast to train

# Results: Mammal datasets – Community structure

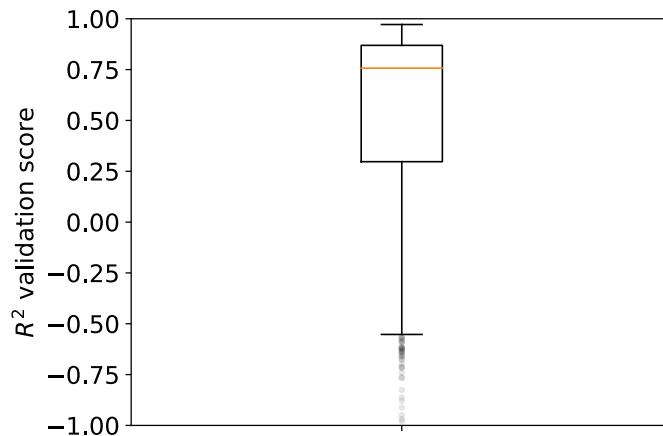
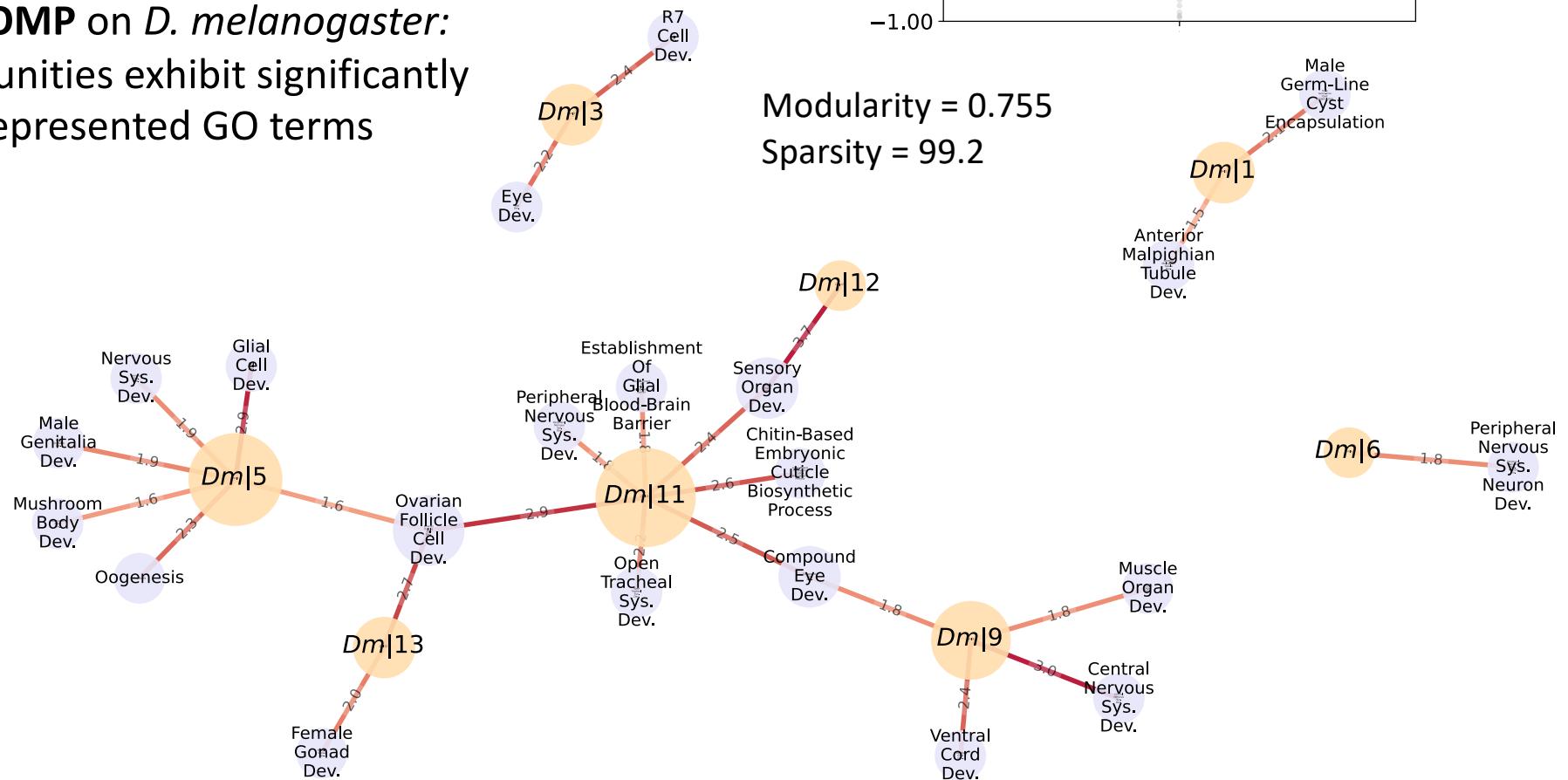


**GXN•OMP on *R. norvegicus*:**  
communities exhibit GSEA and  
GO significant and coherent  
scores

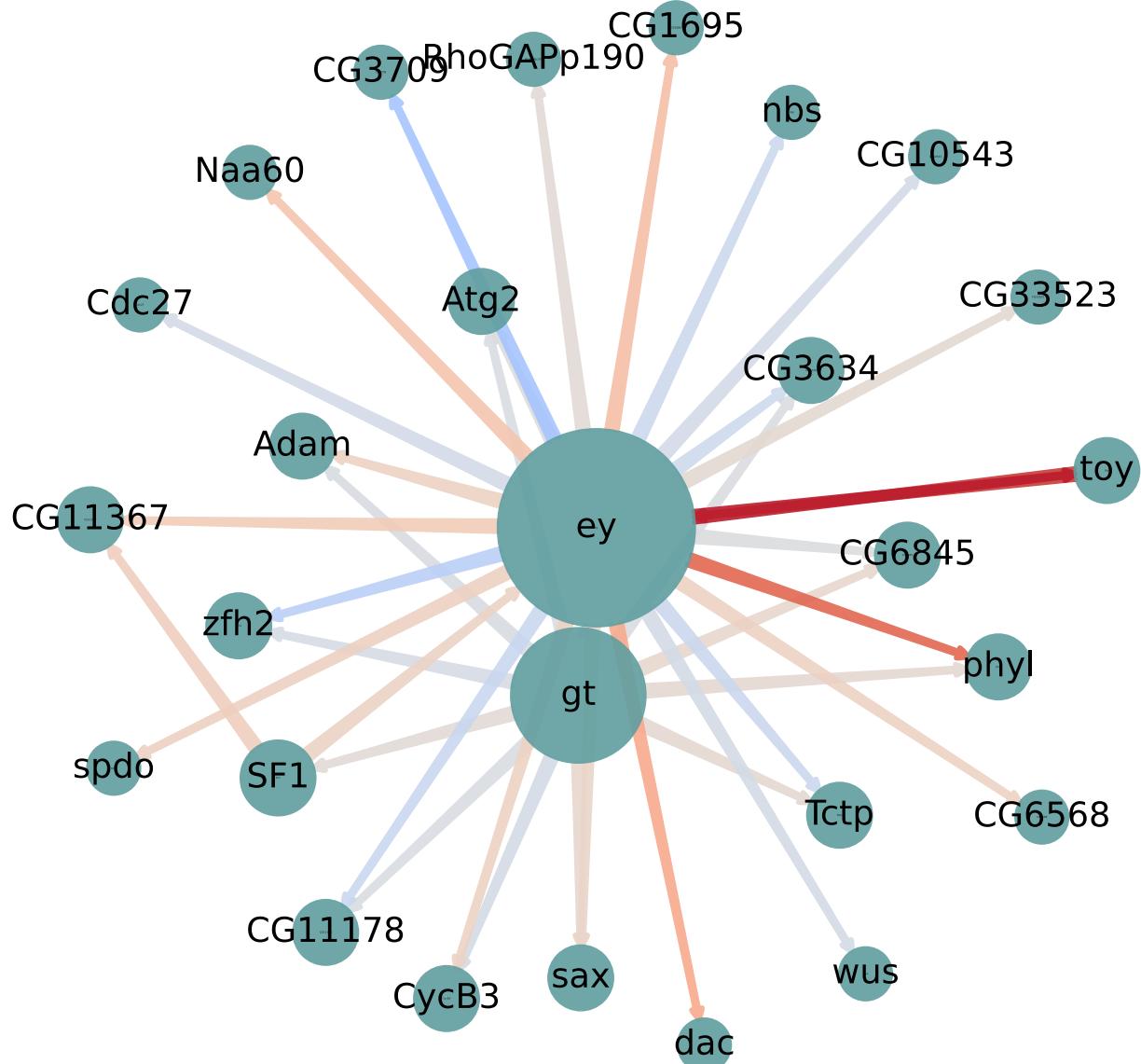
# Results: *D. melanogaster* dataset

Motif constrained inference (motifs for 372 TFs)

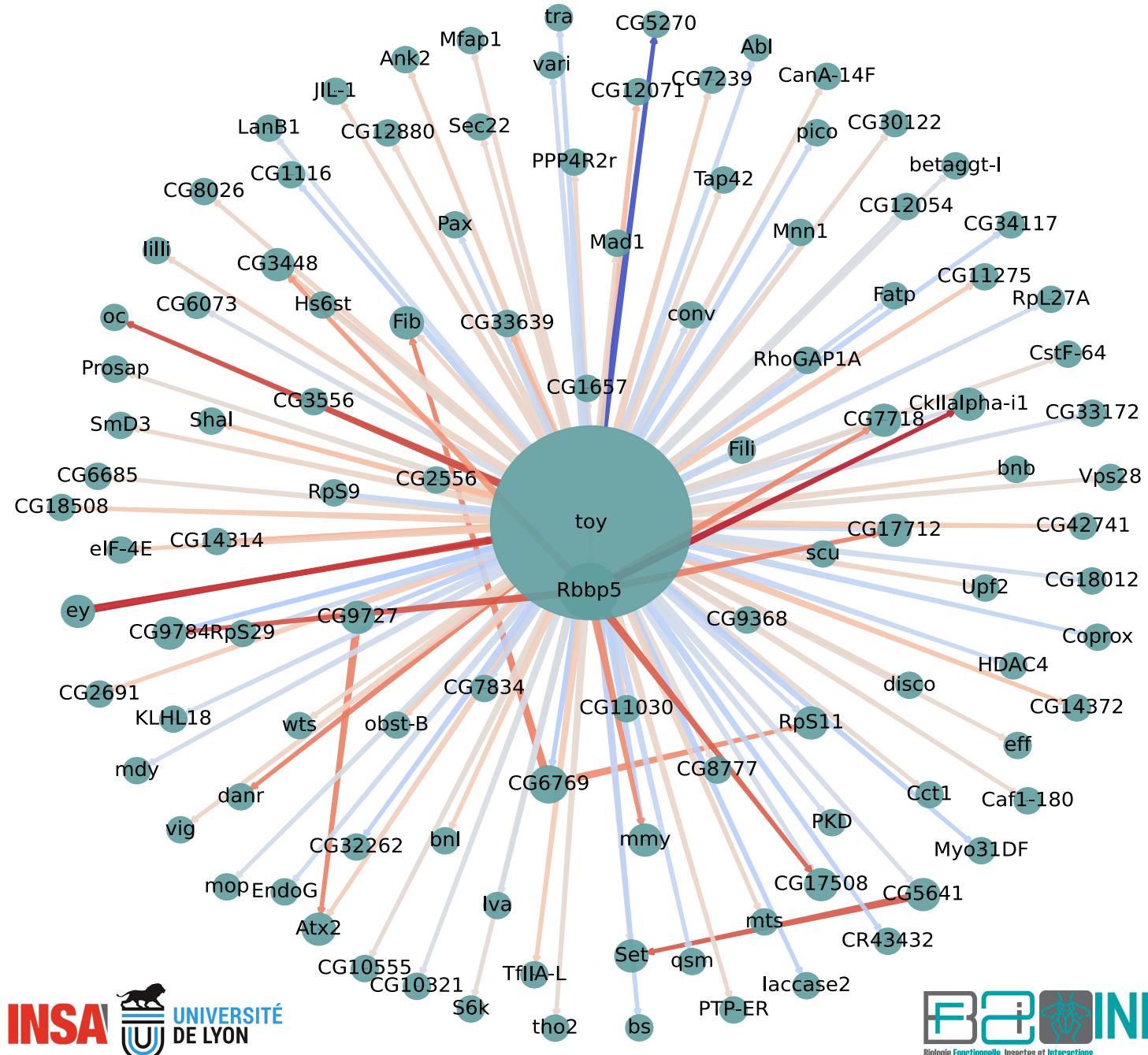
**GXN•OMP on *D. melanogaster*:**  
communities exhibit significantly  
over-represented GO terms



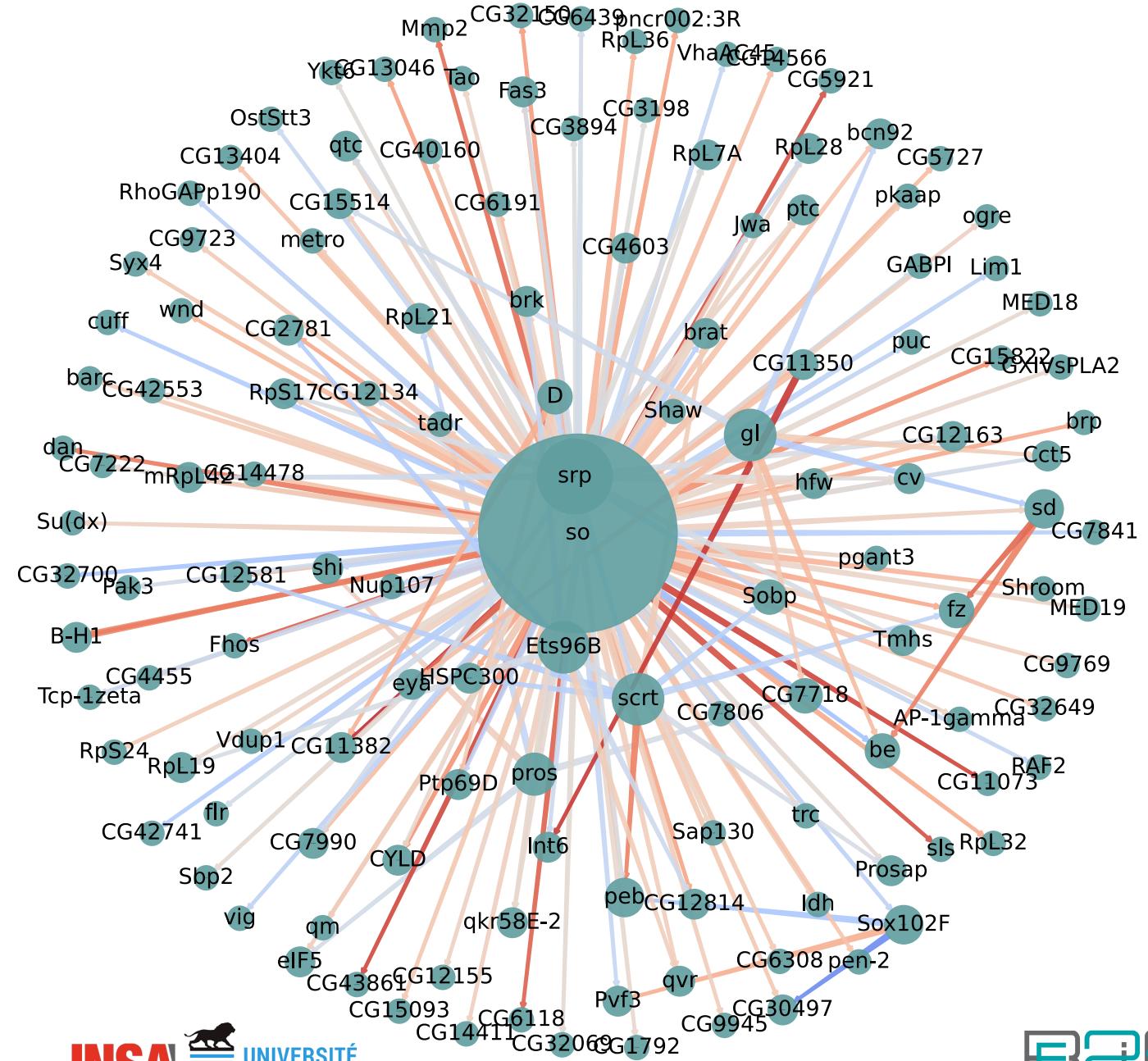
## Results: *D. melanogaster* dataset - ey gene



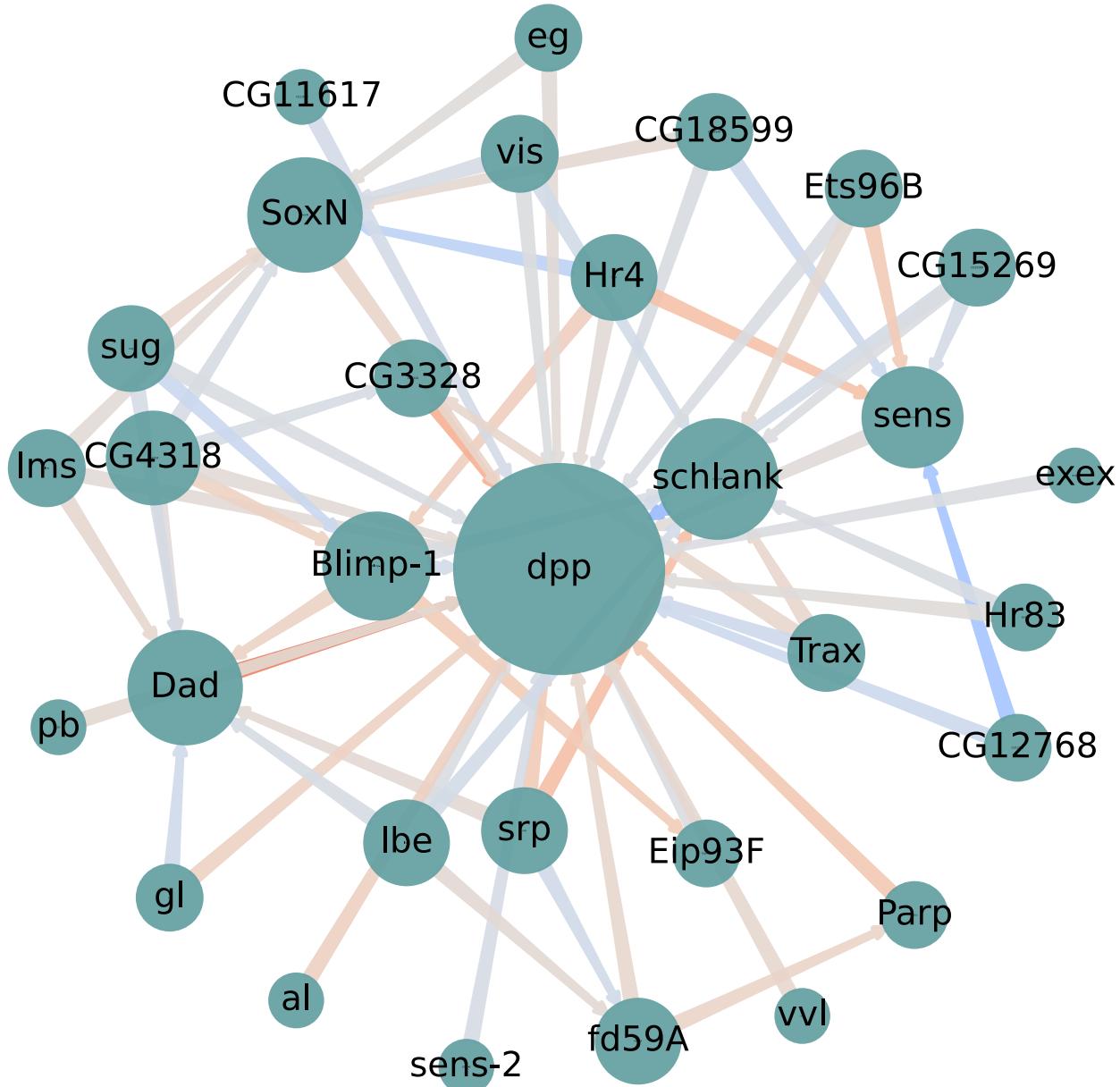
# Results: *D. melanogaster* dataset - toy gene



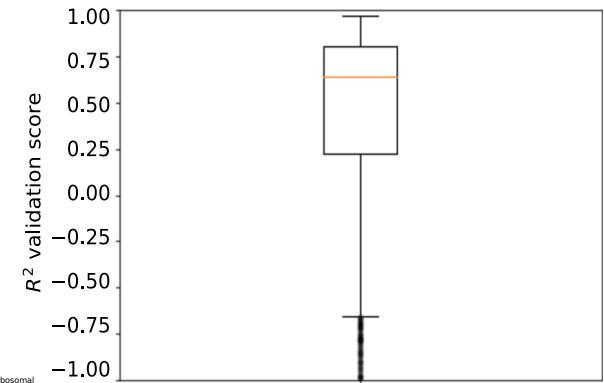
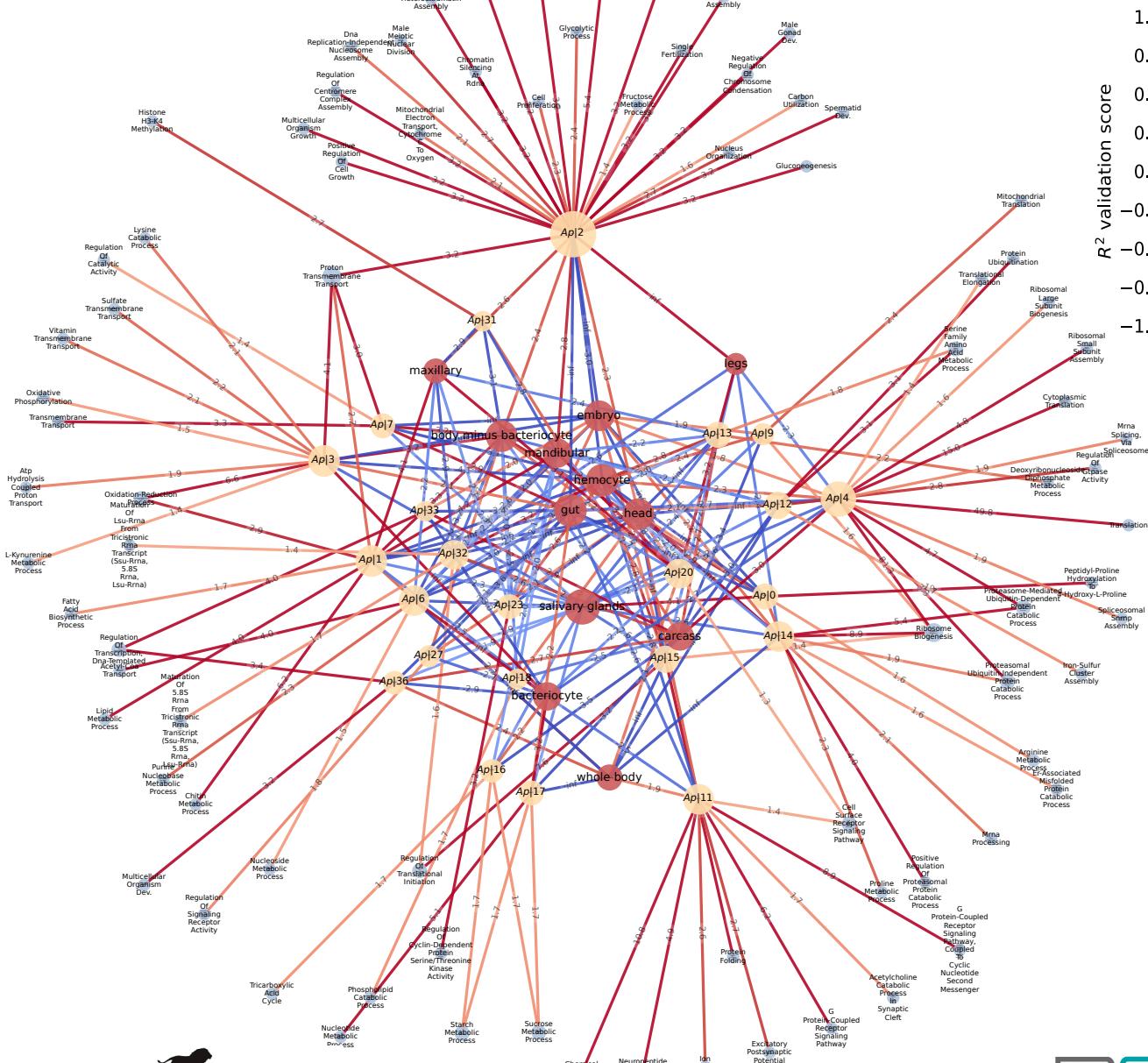
## Results: *D. melanogaster* dataset - so gene



# Results: *D. melanogaster* dataset - dpp gene

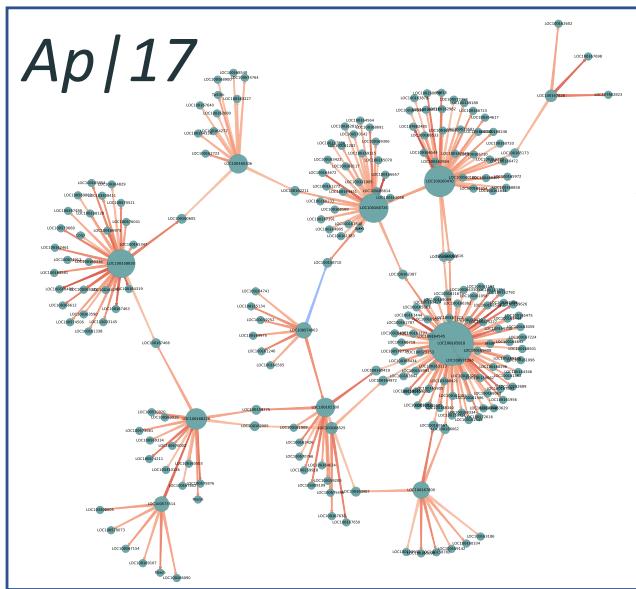


# Results: *A. pisum* dataset – highly over-expressed only

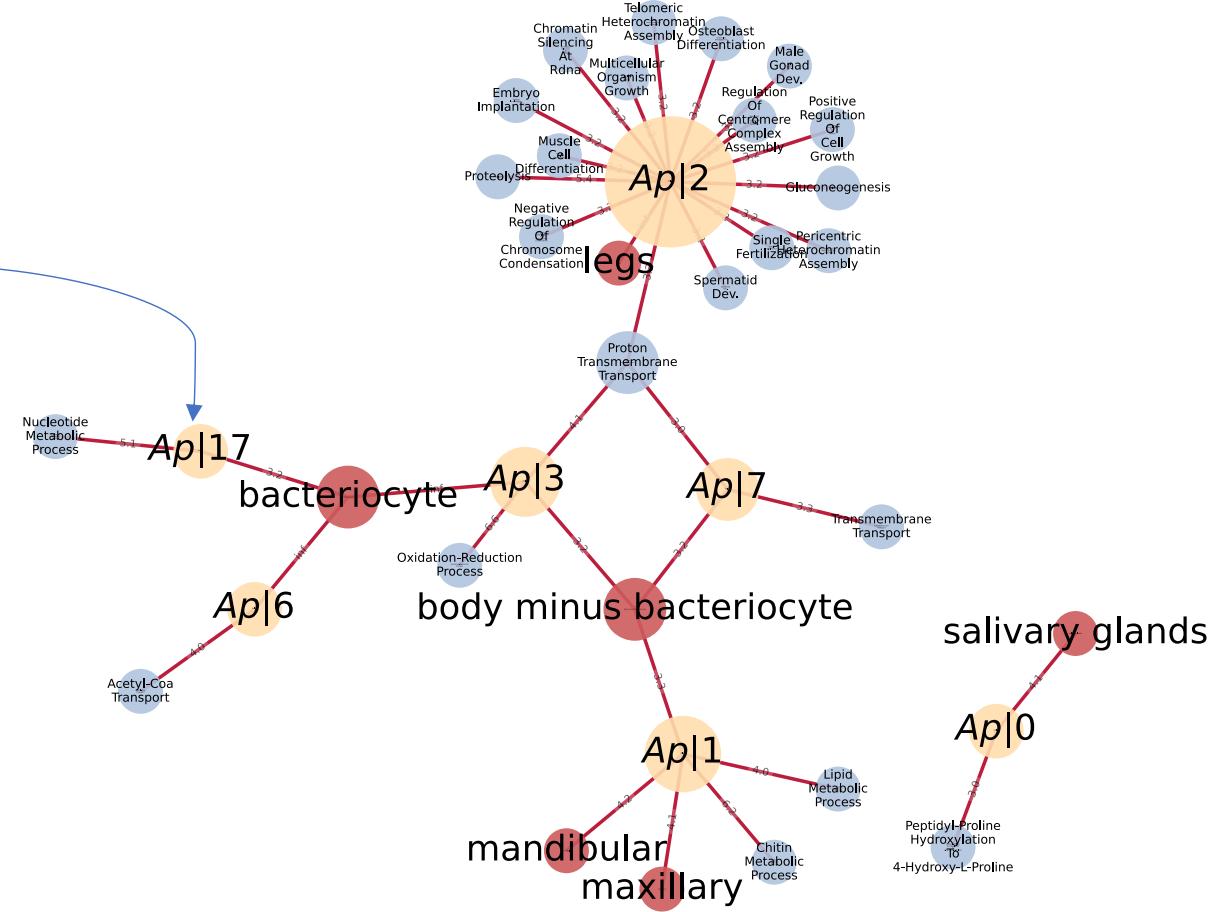


Modularity = 0.692  
Sparsity = 98.4

# Results: *A. pisum* dataset – highly over-expressed only



- First representation of the GRN communities for different aphid tissues
- Discovery of bacteriocyte-specific GRN communities



Statistically significant GO terms and positive GSEA scores between GRN genes communities and *A. pisum* tissue-types

# Thanks to ...



Nicolas Parisot



Patrick Callaerts



Patrice Baa-Puyoulet



Mélanie Ribeiro  
Lopes



Gabrielle Duport



Karen Gaget



Hubert Charles

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Pauline Schmitt (M1 INSA Lyon)

Baptiste Sorin (M1 INSA Lyon)

Timothée Frouté (M2 Lyon1)