# BIO634: making sense of gene lists



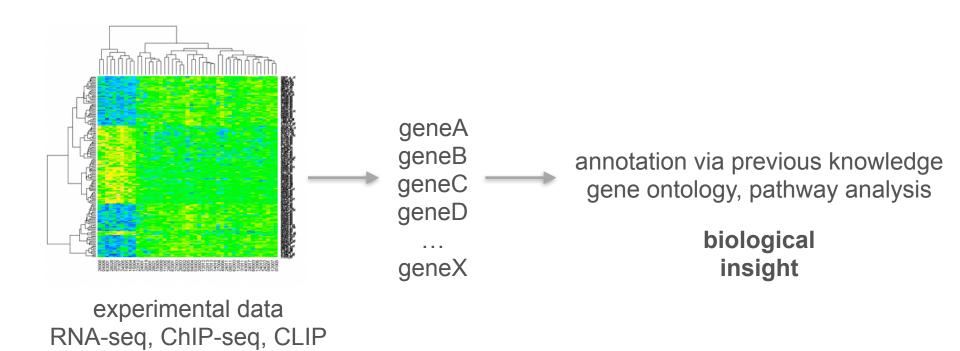
Adapted from **Stefan Wyder** class on BIO634



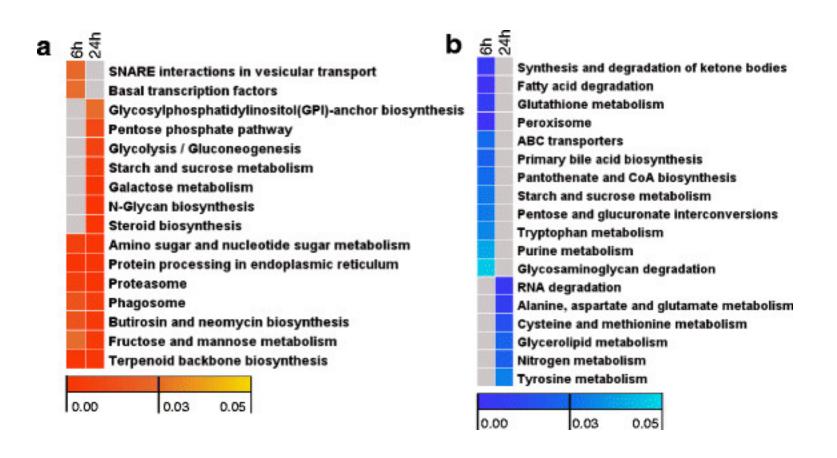


#### Gene list annotation

you performed a genomic experiment and obtained a gene list hundreds of genes is too much, you would like to pinpoint interesting gene candidates



#### Gene list annotation



## **Biological insight**

interpretation of an experiment find regulated processes / pathways find involved regulatory elements, TF, RNA-binding proteins identify new members of a pathway find similar experiments

Analysis based on gene lists expected to be more robust and reproducible compared to single gene analysis.

## **Enrichment analysis**

### 1 Over-representation analysis

hypergeometric / Fisher's exact test setting a cutoff a priori different results at different thresholds

### 2 GSEA, gene set enrichment analysis

bypasses the need for a cutoff

input: list of all measured genes ranked by some measure / effect size weak but consistent regulation of several members of a gene set can be detected

Molecular Profile Data

Gene Set Database

**GSEA** 

Enriched Sets

### 3 Network analysis

also covers less understood parts of gene interactions often inferred from co-expression data

string-db.org, combines co-expression, co-citation, protein-protein interaction

## 1 Over-representation analysis

5.000 black and 10 red "genes"10 red "genes" are cytochromes



our list of differentially expressed genes

CYP4F11

CYP1A

MEP1A

CYP26B

CYP3A43

what is the probability?

selected not-selected

red 4

6

black 1

4989

one sided Fisher's exact test p-value: 4.03e-11

## **Gene Ontology**

describes how gene products behave in a cellular context: biological process, cellular component, molecular function

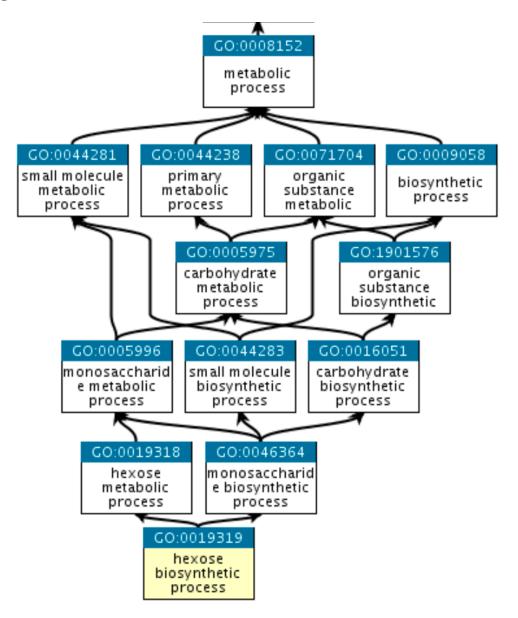
controlled vocabulary of terms

transparent (sources)

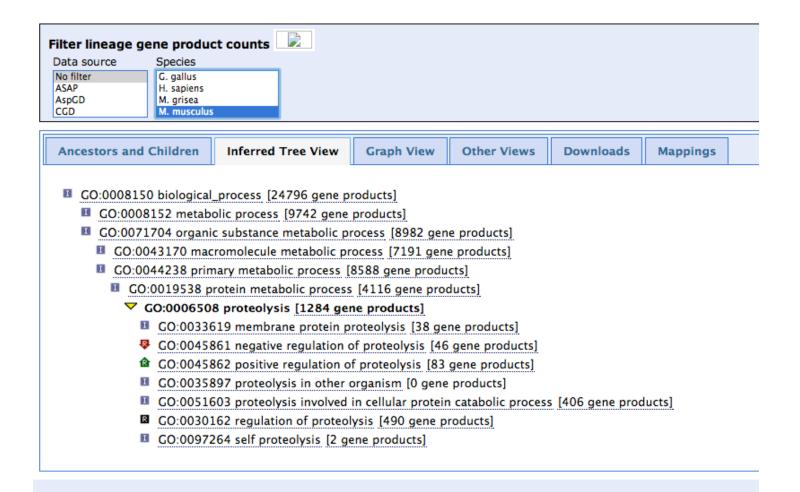
manually curated lists for model species

transfer to orthologs in other species (inferred annotation)

## **Gene Ontology**



#### **GO** table view



## **Gene Ontology example**

#### murine ADAM10

#### **Molecular Function**

GO:0008237 metallopeptidase activity

GO:0042169 SH2 domain binding

. .

#### **Biological Process**

GO:0007220 Notch receptor processing

GO:0001701 in utero embryonic development

GO:0008284 positive regulation of cell proliferation

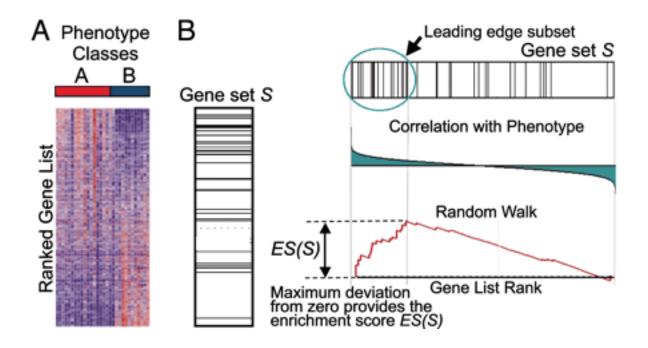
. .

### **Cellular Compartment**

GO:0005794 Golgi apparatus

GO:0009986 cell surface

## 2 Gene Set Enrichment Analysis



## **Pathways**

pathway maps (aka reaction networks / wiring diagrams) represent experimental knowledge on metabolism and various other functions of the cell and the organism

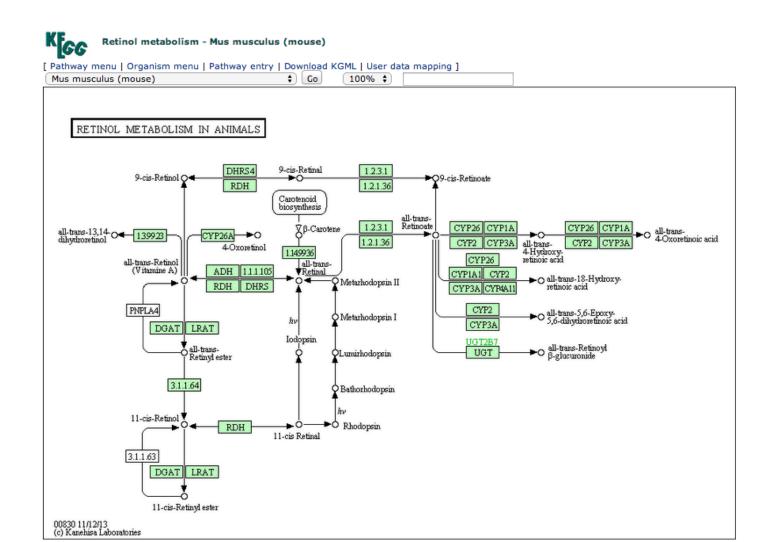
manually curated

the main databases are **KEGG** and **Reactome** 

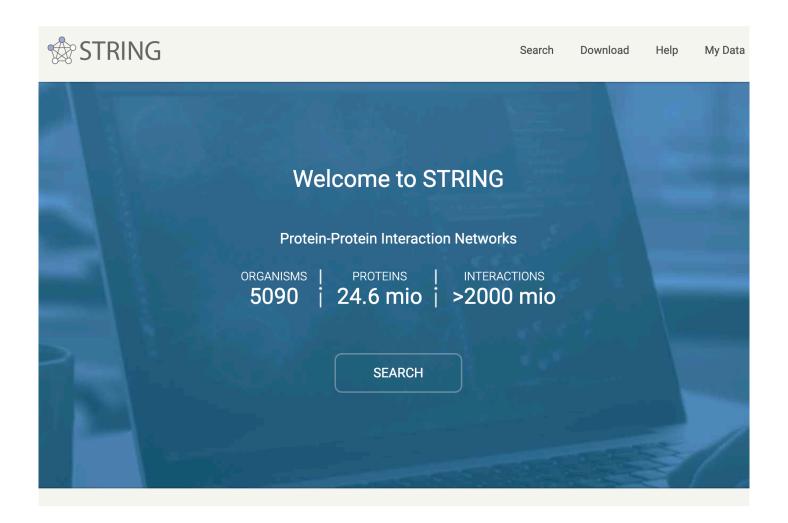
KEGG is free to use over the web but file download requires subscription

KEGG covers > 3.800 species (Archae, Bacteria, Plants, Animals) and Reactome covers 20 species (mostly mammals + fly + plants + E.coli)

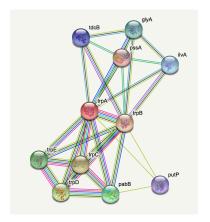
## **KEGG**: example



## 3 Network analysis: string-db.org



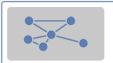
## string-db.org



functional association networks (physical or functional interactions) focus on useability and speed

integrated scoring scheme (each interaction has confidence score)

information transfer between species (>5000 species: Animals, Bacteria, Plants)



#### Network

currently showing

Summary view: shows current interactions. Nodes can be moved; popups provide information on nodes & edges.



#### Neighborhood

Groups of genes that are frequently observed in each other's genomic neighborhood.



#### **Experiments**

Co-purification, co-crystallization, Yeast2Hybrid, Genetic Interactions, etc ... as imported from primary sources.



#### **Fusion**

Genes that are sometimes fused into single open reading frames.



#### **Databases**

Known metabolic pathways, protein complexes, signal transduction pathways, etc ... from curated databases.



#### Cooccurrence

Gene families whose occurrence patterns across genomes show similarities.



#### **Textmining**

Automated, unsupervised textmining - searching for proteins that are frequently mentioned together.



#### Coexpression

Proteins whose genes are observed to be correlated in expression, across a large number of experiments.

## string-db.org

### More than gene-list annotation

predict gene function

identify candidates for an unknown enzyme in a pathway

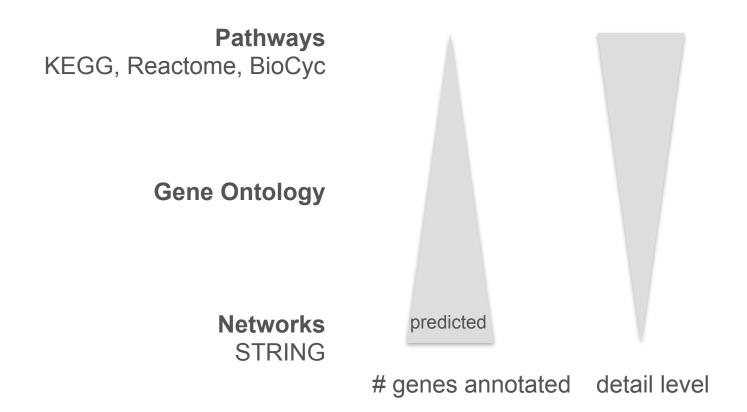
identify new member genes of a biological process

find relevant literature

STRING performs well compared with single-species databases

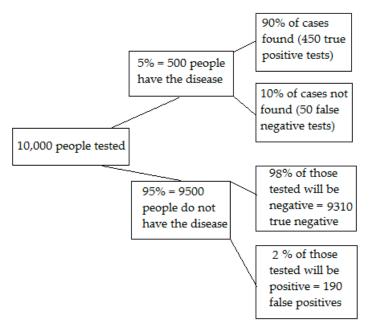
R package to access STRING functionality from R

### **Annotation sources**



## FDR: false discovery rate

"if you repeat a test enough times, you're going to find an effect...but that effect may not actually exist"



The FDR approach adjusts the p-value for a series of tests. A p-value gives you the probability of a false positive on a single test; If you're running a large number of tests from small samples (which are common in fields like genomics and protoemics), you should use q-values instead.

- A p-value of 5% means that 5% of all tests will result in false positives.
- A q-value of 5% means that 5% of *significant* results will be false positives.

The procedure to control the FDR, using q-values, is called the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure, named after Benjamini and Hochberg (1995), who first described it.

## **Summary**

Gene list annotation with Pathways and Gene Ontology can help to obtain biological insight

A Over-Representation Analysis

B Gene Set Enrichment Analysis, GSEA

C Network Analysis

Biological interpretation requires broad knowledge of physiology & biochemistry and is often the most difficult and time-consuming step of an experiment

Even experts can usually not make sense of all the significantly enriched processes/ pathways in well understood biological systems

Good experiments start with good experimental design, think of possible confounders