Gene ontology, gene set over-representation analyses and public databases: Peeking into functional roles of gene sets

NGS analysis for gene regulation and epigenomics
Physalia 2021

An ontology is a <u>formal representation</u> of a <u>body of knowledge</u>
 within a given domain

Jacques Serizay

- An ontology term primarily consists of:
 - A definition of a concept
 - A representation of this concept
 - A formal naming of this concept

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=== Example term ===

:id: GO:0000016

:name: lactase activity

:ontology: molecular_function

:def: "Catalysis of the reaction: lactose + H2O=D-

glucose + D-galactose." [EC:3.2.1.108]

:synonym: "lactase-phlorizin hydrolase activity"

BROAD [EC:3.2.1.108]

:synonym: "lactose galactohydrolase activity" EXACT

[EC:3.2.1.108]

:xref: EC:3.2.1.108

:xref: MetaCyc:LACTASE-RXN

:xref: Reactome:20536

:is_a: GO:0004553! hydrolase activity,

hydrolyzing O-glycosyl compounds

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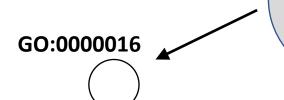
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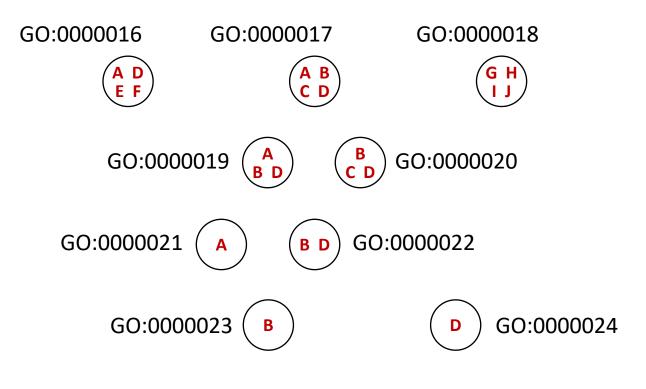


 An ontology term can be further enriched with additional information:

Elements can be annotated to individual terms



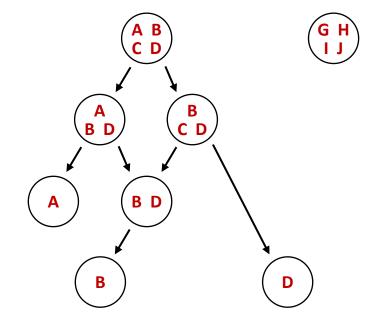
- An ontology term can be further enriched with additional information:
 - Elements can be associated to individual terms
 - Elements can be associated to multiple terms



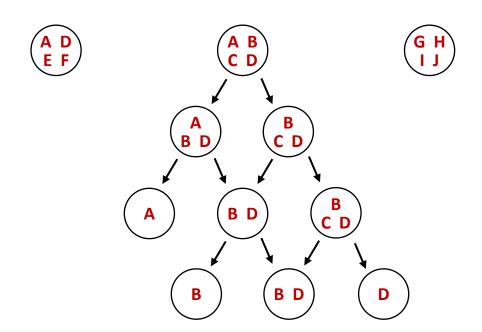
 Ontology terms are (loosely) hierarchically ordered in a graph structure:



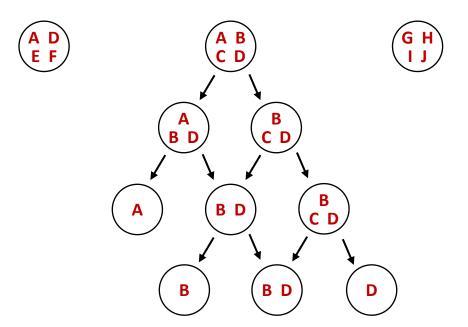
- Terms are nodes
- Relationships between the terms are edges between the nodes



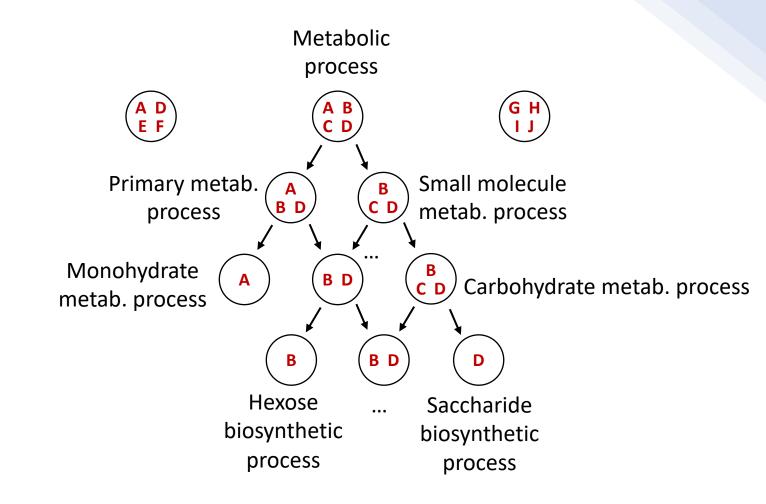
 Ontology terms can contain identical sets of elements



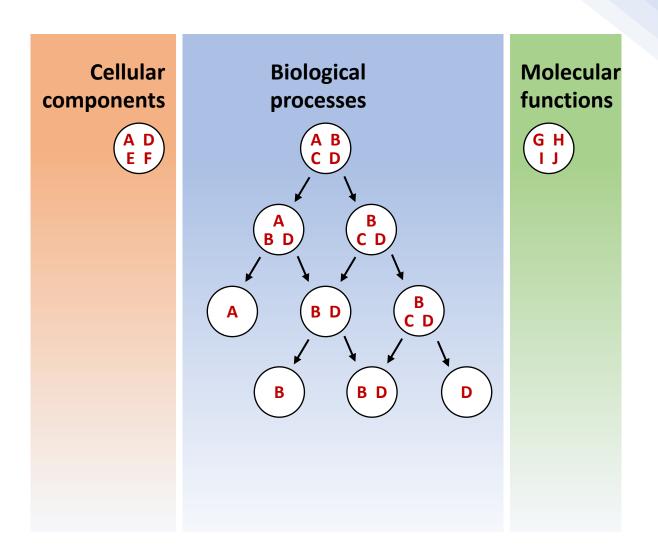
In our case, the Gene
Ontology (GO) describes the
current state of knowledge
of the three main biological
domains



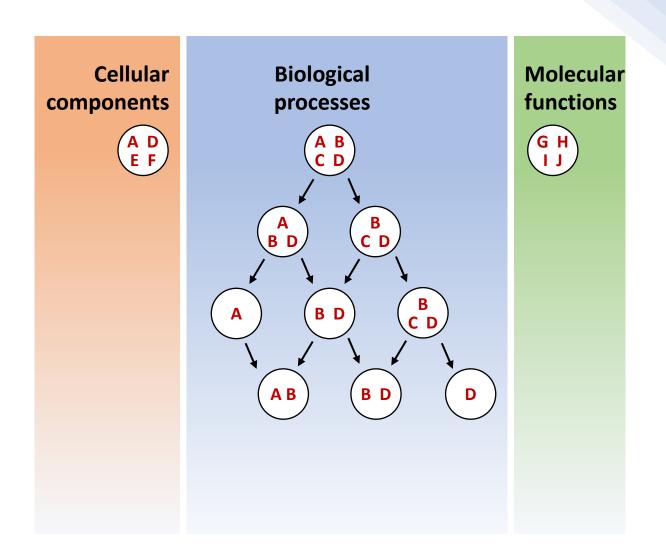
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- Gene Ontology (GO) is divided in three domains
 - Biological Processes (BP)
 - Cellular Components (CC)
 - Molecular Functions (MF)

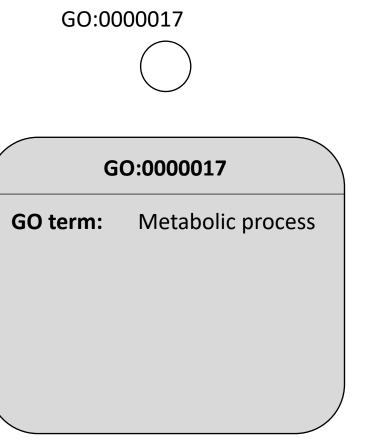


 The Gene Ontology (GO) is a dynamic, frequently updated database



IMPORTANT:

A <u>GO term</u> (e.g. GO:0000017) is different from its <u>annotations</u> (i.e. the association of some genes to this term)



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GO:0000017



GO:0000017

GO term: Metabolic process

GO annotations: Gene A

Gene B

Gene C

Gene D

IMPORTANT:

- GO consortium organizes GO terms and their hierarchy
- External providers manage GO term annotations

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- C. elegans annotations are provided by Wormbase
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Official GO database

GO Consortium is the provider of official Gene Ontology.





About the GO

Mission Statement: The mission of the GO Consortium is to develop an up-to-date, comprehensive, computational model of biological systems, from the molecular level to larger pathways, cellular and organism-level systems.

The Gene Ontology resource provides a computational representation of our current scientific knowledge about the functions of genes (or, more properly, the protein and non-coding RNA molecules produced by genes) from many different organisms, from humans to bacteria. It is widely used to support scientific research, and has been cited in tens of thousands of publications.

Official GO database

- GO Consortium is the provider of official Gene Ontology.
- Additional refined gene ontologies exist, either from GO Consortium or from independent providers, e.g.:
 - "Slim"-ed versions
 - Non-model organisms

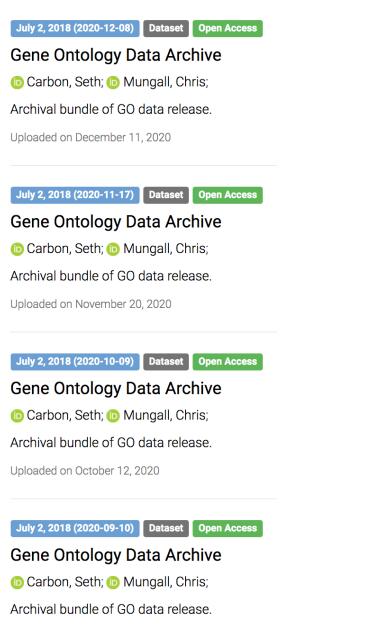
Jacques Serizay

Downloading official GO database

Versioned database

Easy access to entire database

OBO format



Downloading official GO database

wget http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/go.obo

OBO format

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> head - n · 100 · go. obo
 format-version: 1.2
 data-version: releases/2020-12-08
 ontology: go
 [Term]
 id: G0:0000001
name: mitochondrion inheritance
namespace: biological_process
def: "The distribution of mitochondria, including the mitochondrial genome, into daughter cells after mitosis or meiosis, mediated by interactions
between mitochondria and the cytoskeleton." [GOC:mcc, PMID:10873824, PMID:11389764]
synonym: "mitochondrial inheritance" EXACT []
is_a: GO:0048308 ! organelle inheritance
is_a: GO:0048311 ! mitochondrion distribution
 [Term]
 id: G0:0000002
name: mitochondrial genome maintenance
namespace: biological_process
def: "The maintenance of the structure and integrity of the mitochondrial genome; includes replication and segregation of the mitochondrial chromosome.'
 [GOC:ai, GOC:vw]
is_a: GO:0007005 ! mitochondrion organization
```

Also versioned

All most recent annotations for individual species available at:

http://current.geneontology.org/annotations/

aspgd.gaf.gz aspgd.gpad.gz aspgd.gpi.gz cgd.gaf.gz cqd.qpad.qz cgd.gpi.gz dictybase.gaf.gz dictybase.gpad.gz dictybase.gpi.gz ecocyc.gaf.gz ecocyc.gpad.gz ecocyc.gpi.gz fb.gaf.gz fb.gpad.gz fb.qpi.qz genedb lmajor.gaf.gz genedb lmajor.gpad.gz genedb lmajor.gpi.gz genedb tbrucei.gaf.gz genedb tbrucei.gpad.gz genedb tbrucei.gpi.gz goa chicken.gaf.gz goa chicken.gpad.gz goa chicken.gpi.gz goa chicken complex.gaf.gz

Parent

goa dog rna.gpad.gz goa dog rna.gpi.gz goa human.gaf.gz goa human.gpad.gz goa human.gpi.gz goa human complex.gaf.gz goa human complex.gpad.gz goa human complex.gpi.gz goa human isoform.gaf.gz goa human isoform.gpad.gz goa human isoform.gpi.gz goa human rna.gaf.gz goa human rna.gpad.gz goa human rna.gpi.gz goa pig.gaf.gz goa pig.gpad.gz goa pig.gpi.gz goa pig complex.gaf.gz goa pig complex.gpad.gz goa pig complex.gpi.gz goa pig isoform.gaf.gz goa pig isoform.gpad.gz goa pig isoform.gpi.gz goa pig rna.gaf.gz goa pig rna.gpad.gz goa pig rna.gpi.gz goa uniprot all.gaf.gz goa uniprot all noiea.gaf.gz goa uniprot all noiea.gpad.gz goa uniprot all noiea.gpi.gz

goa chicken complex.gpad.gz goa chicken complex.gpi.gz goa chicken isoform.gaf.gz goa chicken isoform.gpad.gz goa chicken isoform.gpi.gz goa chicken rna.gaf.gz goa chicken rna.gpad.gz goa chicken rna.gpi.gz goa cow.gaf.gz goa cow.qpad.qz goa cow.gpi.gz goa cow complex.gaf.gz goa cow complex.gpad.gz goa cow complex.gpi.gz goa cow isoform.gaf.gz goa cow isoform.gpad.gz goa cow isoform.gpi.gz goa cow rna.gaf.gz goa cow rna.gpad.gz goa cow rna.gpi.gz goa dog.gaf.gz goa dog.gpad.gz goa dog.gpi.gz goa dog complex.gaf.gz goa dog complex.gpad.gz goa dog complex.gpi.gz goa dog isoform.gaf.gz goa dog isoform.gpad.gz goa dog isoform.gpi.gz goa dog rna.gaf.gz

mgi.gaf.gz mgi.gpad.gz mgi.gpi.gz pombase.gaf.gz pombase.gpad.gz pombase.gpi.gz pseudocap.gaf.gz pseudocap.gpad.gz pseudocap.gpi.gz reactome.gaf.gz reactome.gpad.gz reactome.gpi.gz rgd.gaf.gz rgd.gpad.gz rqd.qpi.qz sqd.qaf.qz sqd.qpad.qz sgd.gpi.gz sqn.qaf.qz sgn.gpad.gz sgn.gpi.gz tair.gaf.gz tair.gpad.gz tair.gpi.gz wb.gaf.gz wb.gpad.gz wb.gpi.gz zfin.gaf.gz zfin.gpad.gz zfin.qpi.qz

Also versioned

E.g. most recent annotation for yeast (SGD is the provider):

http://current.geneontology.org/annotations/sgd.gaf.gz

GAF format:

It's in the name: **GO Annotation F**ormat

GAF format:

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!Header from source association file:
!Generated by GO Central
!Date Generated by GOC: 2020-12-08
!Header from sqd source association file:
!Date: 20201207
!From: Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD)
!URL: https://www.yeastgenome.org/
!Contact Email: sgd-helpdesk@lists.stanford.edu
!Funding: NHGRI at US NIH, grant number U41-HG001315
!Header copied from paint sqd valid.qaf
!Created on Mon Dec 7 11:33:04 2020.
!generated-by: PANTHER
!date-generated: 2020-12-07
!PANTHER version: v.15.0.
!GO version: 2020-11-17.
!Documentation about this header can be found here: https://github.com/geneontology/go-site/blob/master/docs/gaf_validation.md
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0003682 PMID:24508389 IDA F Mitogen-activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen-activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0004707 PMID:10805732 IDA F Mitogen-activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen-activated protein kinase HOG1
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4.4
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!gaf-version: 2.1

GAF format

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                10G1 GO:0006468 PMID:12743037 IDA P Mitogen-activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen-activated protein kinase HOG1
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!Documentation about this header can be found here: https://github.com/geneontology/go-site/blob/master/docs/gaf_validation.md
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SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0004707
                                              DA F Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
                                              PI UniProtKB:P06787 F Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
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                                              DA P Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0006468
                                              DA P Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
                                              IP P Mitogen−activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen−activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0006972
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:000723
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SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0016241
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SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:003326
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                                           Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0003682 PMID:2450838
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0004707 PMID:108057
                                                  Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
                                                 niProtKB:P06787 F Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0005516 PMID:274219
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0006468 PMID:108057
                                                  Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0006468 PMID:127430
                                                  Mitogen-activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen-activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0006468 PMID:231788
                                                 Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
                                                 Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0006972 PMID:768122
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0007231 PMID:768122
                                                 Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0016241 PMID:1687410
                                           IMP ■ Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 GO:0033262 PMID:231788
                                             IDA
                                                  Mitogen—activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen—activated protein kinase HOG1
SGD S000004103 HOG1 G0:0045944 PMID:1274303
                                            IDA Mitogen-activated protein kinase involved in osmoregulation YLR113W|SSK3|mitogen-activated protein kinase HOG1
```

• When you have a **defined** set of tens to hundreds of genes

When you have a <u>defined</u> set of tens to hundreds of genes

• Genes significantly over-expressed (e.g. fold-change > 2 and adj. p-value < 0.01) in one condition vs a control

• Genes whose promoter is bound by a specific combination of transcription factors

When you have a defined set of tens to hundreds of genes

Thousands are probably too many genes...

Essentially, to know whether GO terms are over-enriched in a specific list of genes

- To get <u>an</u> idea of the functional/structural role of your set of genes
- To bring <u>a</u> piece of evidence that your treatment triggers some BP/MF/CC
- To know how much of the genes involved in a specific BP/MF/CC are present in your set of interest.

• Finding over-represented GO terms in a given set of genes is one of the most common tasks in genomics.

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- It usually relies on a straightforward Fisher test:

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- It usually relies on a straightforward Fisher test:

for all the genes annotated in an ontology (e.g. <u>all the genes annotated within the Biological Processes namespace</u>), it tests the <u>independence</u> between:

→ These genes belonging to a gene set of interest (e.g. over-expressed genes)

And

→ These genes being annotated to a GO term (e.g. genes annotated to the GO:0000017 term)

• Finding over-represented GO terms in a given set of genes is one of the most common tasks in genomics.

It usually relies on a straightforward Fisher test

Think about it in terms of contingency tables

UNIVERSE = All Yeast genes annotated in the Biological Processes (5067 genes)	Genes over-expressed in an assay (152)	Genes over-expressed in an assay	
Genes annotated <i>in GO:0006836</i> (243)	89	154	→ Sum = number of genes in GO:0006836 (243)
Genes annotated in GO:0006836	63	5067 – 89 – 154 - 63	

√
Sum = number of
genes over-expressed
in an assay (152)

Total sum = number of genes in BP (5067)

2020/01/13

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Genes annotated in GO:0006836 (243)	89	154
Genes annotated in GO:0006836	63	5067 – 89 – 154 - 63

→ Now repeat that for the 44,945 GO terms in the GO database...........

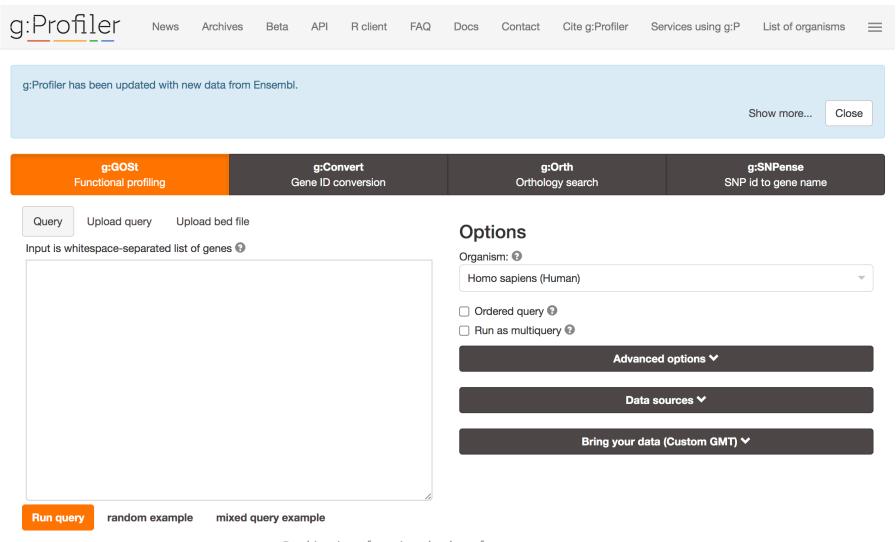
UNIVERSE = All Yeast genes annotated in the Biological Processes (5067 genes)	Genes over-expressed in an assay (152)	Genes over-expressed in an assay
Genes annotated in GO:0006836 (243)	89	154
Genes annotated in GO:0006836	63	5067 – 89 – 154 - 63

- → Now repeat that for the 44,945 GO terms in the GO database...........
- → AND DON'T FORGET TO CORRECT FOR MULTIPLE TESTING (because testing 44,945 times is multiple testing...)

 Fortunately, there are many tools already out there to efficiently perform these calculations

- Some web-based, some with programmatic access
- They function with a range of "autonomy". Some need you to download the GO database, the GO annotations, or are doing all the work for you in the background

Programs to run GO over-representation analyses: gProfiler



Programs to run GO over-representation analyses: gProfiler

- Also available in R!
- Simple, but many optional parameters to optimize your search

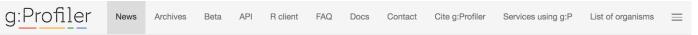
```
gprofiler2::gost(
    geneList,
    organism = 'scerevisiae'
)
```





Ontologies

- PANTHER™ GO slim (version 16.0, based on GO release 2020-11-16, released 2020-12-01)
 - 3336 total terms
 - 2235 biological process terms
 - 543 cellular component terms
 - 558 molecular function terms
- PANTHER™ Protein Class (version 16.0, released 2020-12-01)
 - 210 total terms
- Gene Ontology (from GO database released 2020-10-09, DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4081749)
 - 47308 total terms
 - 12103 molecular function terms
 - 30816 biological process terms
 - 4389 cellular component terms



g:GOSt g:Convert g:Orth g:SNPense
Functional profiling Gene ID conversion Orthology search SNP id to gene name

g:Profiler has been updated with new data from Ensembl.

The database versions in this release are:

- Ensembl 101
- Ensembl Genomes 48
- Wormbase ParaSite 14

Changes in g:GOSt

There are now evidence codes available for Human Protein Atlas (HPA) results.

There is now an option to exclude evidence codes from query results. When the "No evidence codes" option is chosen, the gene-term matrix will not be shown and for large queries, the results will be somewhat faster.

Published on Tue Oct 20 2020

g:Profiler has been updated with new data from Ensembl.

The database versions in this release are:

- Ensembl 100
- Ensembl Genomes 47
- Wormbase ParaSite 14

Published on Wed Jul 22 2020

g:Profiler has been updated with new data from Ensembl.

The database versions in this release are:

- Ensembl 99
- Ensembl Genomes 46
- Wormbase ParaSite 14

There have been many minor UI improvements and small feature enhancements. One of the larger updates is the overhaul of our g:GOSt multiquery interface. Comparing the enrichment of two or more gene lists should be easier and less cluttered.

There is a new API endpoint for accessing the metadata about available species. It provides the names, ID-s and available namespaces for all our organisms. The endpoint is documented on our API page (https://biit.cs.ut.ee/gprofiler/page/apis).

It's now possible to export high-DPI (300 or 600) images of your results for use in presentations or publications.

We have updated the documentation of our r client (https://biit.cs.ut.ee/gprofiler_beta/page/r) and created an instructional vignette (https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/gprofiler2/vignettes/gprofiler2.html).

Published on Mon Mar 09 2020

2020/01/13

GREAT predicts functions of cis-regulatory regions.

Many coding genes are well annotated with their biological functions. Non-coding regions typically lack such annotation. GREAT assigns biological meaning to a set of non-coding genomic regions by analyzing the annotations of the nearby genes. Thus, it is particularly useful in studying cis functions of sets of non-coding genomic regions. Cis-regulatory regions can be identified via both experimental methods (e.g. ChIP-seq) and by computational methods (e.g. comparative genomics). For more see our Nature Biotech Paper.

News

- Aug. 19, 2019: GREAT version 4 adds support for human hg38 assembly and updates ontology datasets for all supported assemblies.
- Sep. 8, 2018: GREAT has served over 1 million job submissions.
- Oct. 23, 2017: GREAT is moved to a VM to eliminate proxy errors.
- June 22, 2017: GREAT hardware upgrade to meet increasing submission volume.
- Nov. 16, 2015: The GREAT user help forums are frozen.
- Feb. 15, 2015: GREAT version 3 switches to Ensembl genes, adds support for zebrafish danRer7 and mouse mm10 assemblies, and adds new ontologies.
- Apr. 3, 2012: GREAT version 2 adds new annotations to human and mouse ontologies and visualization tools for data exploration.
- Feb. 18, 2012: The GREAT user help forums are opened.
- May 2, 2010: GREAT version 1 is launched, concurrent to Nature Biotechnology publication (reprint, Faculty of 1000 "Must Read"). How to Cite GREAT?

More news items...

Species Assembly	○ Human: GRCh38 (UCSC hg38, Dec. 2013)
	○ Human: GRCh37 (UCSC hg19, Feb. 2009)
	O Mouse: NCBI build 37 (UCSC mm9, Jul. 2007)
	Can Luse a different species or assembly?

2020/01/13

The DAVID Knowledgebase (DAVID 6.8, Current version available at https://david.ncifcrf.gov)

Main Annotation Sources

Data Sources	Release / Download Date	DAVID Update Date
ENSEMBL	Mar 2016	May 2016
ENTREZ	May 2016	May 2016
UNIPROT	May 2016	May 2016

Secondary Sources

	occorriadi y occi occ		
Data Sources	Release / Download Date	DAVID Update Date	
AFFYMETRIX	Jun 2015	May 2016	
AGILENT	Dec 2013	May 2016	
BBID	Sep 2009	May 2016	
BIOCARTA	Nov 2014	May 2016	
CGAP_EST_QUARTILE	Oct 2006	May 2016	
CGAP_SAGE_QUARTILE	Oct 2006	May 2016	
COG_ONTOLOGY	Sep 2009	May 2016	
GENE ONTOLOGY	Apr 2016	May 2016	
GNF_U133A_QUARTILE	Oct 2006	May 2016	
KEGG	Dec 2015	May 2016	
UCSC_TFBS	Sep 2009	May 2016	
UP_SEQ_FEATURE	Sep 2009	May 2016	
UP_TISSUE	Sep 2009	May 2016	
ZFIN_ANATOMY	Sep 2009	May 2016	

GOrilla News

March. 8th 2013

• Added option to supply an e-mail address to which a link to the results will be sent.

December 3rd 2012

• Try our new tool miTEA for miRNA target enrichment analysis

October. 29th 2012

• Added option to supply a name for the analysis which will appear in the results page

May. 28th 2012

- A false discovery rate (FDR) column added to the results table
- Maximum input size increased to 1MB

Dec. 29th 2010

GOrilla has been moved to a new and faster server

Aug. 30th 2010

- The GOrilla GO database is now automatically updated weekly
- The analysis results can now be exported to <u>REViGO</u> for further visualization

Feb. 7th 2010

- You can now run all 3 GO ontologies (Process, Function and Cellular component) in a single run.
 (We thank Ben Gordon for the idea)
- · GO and gene files were updated

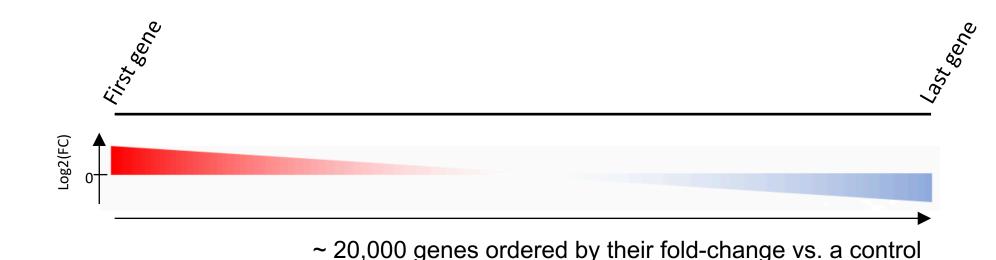
Oct. 15th 2009

- GOrilla now supports Danio rerio (Zebrafish)
- · GO and gene files were updated

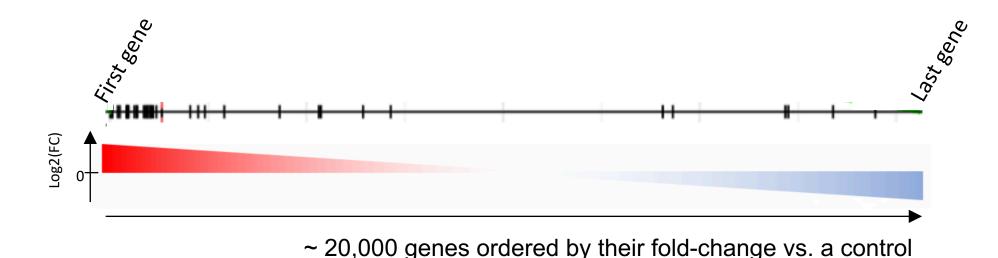
What if I don't have a gene set of interest?

- Sometimes, you cannot really decide what is significant or not
- You don't like the idea of taking the top 100 genes differently expressed genes
- How to set a threshold for your genes? FC>2? FC>5? ???

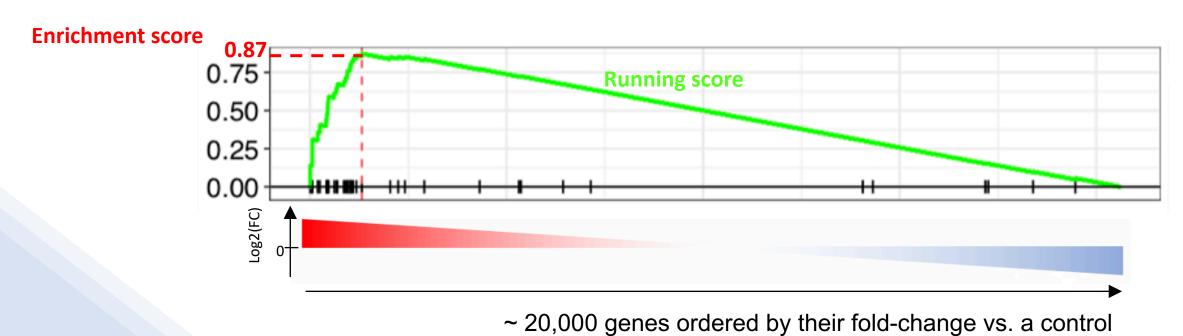
 GSEA (Gene Set Enrichment Analysis) uses a ranked list of genes as input



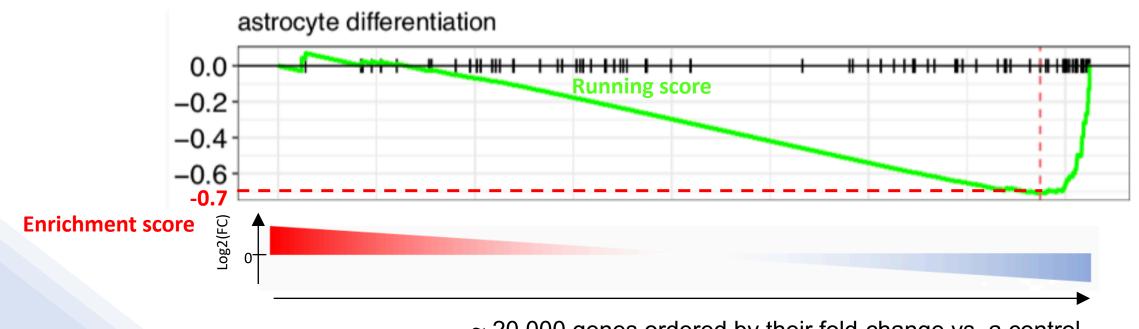
 Within this list, it flags the genes belonging to a gene set (e.g. genes annotated in "centriole assembly" GO term)



 Based on the distribution of the flagged genes, it computes a "running score" and an "enrichment score"



 It can also find negative enrichment scores (indicated a depletion of genes of interest in the top of a ranked list)



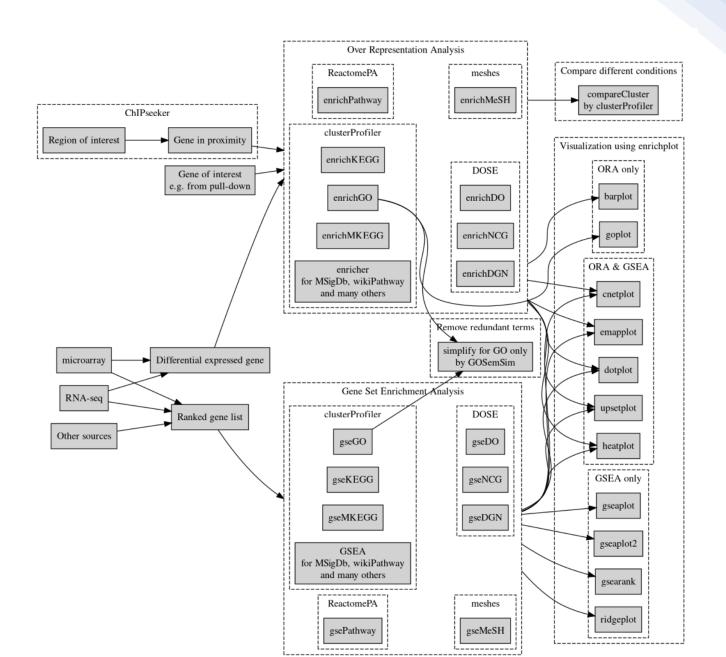
How to perform GSEA?

- Original software: in JAVA
 - I never managed to use it...

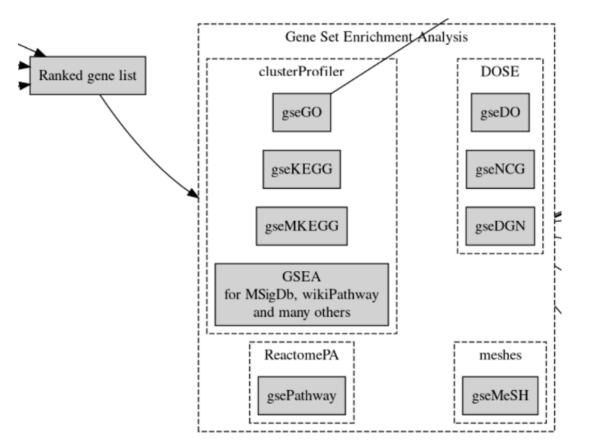
How to perform GSEA?

- Original software: GUI in JAVA
 - I never managed to use it...
- Since then: many programmatic implementations notably in R
 - clusterProfiler is my personal favorite
 - Based on fgsea, the original GSEA implementation in R
 - Very complete and extensive doc
 - Nice visualization outputs
 - Well-integrated with GO ecosystem and other databases (disease ontology, Reactome, ...)

 clusterProfiler is a rich set of tools to assess and visualize enrichment of a set of genes of interest compared to different databases



 clusterProfiler provides multiple gse*() functions, based on the type of gene sets you want to use



 clusterProfiler provides multiple gse*() functions, based on the type of gene sets you want to use

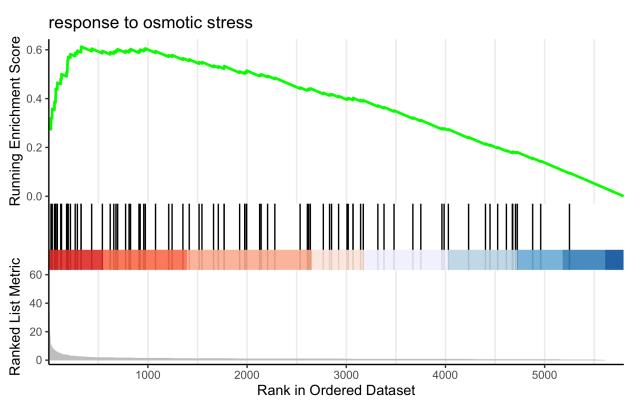
 gseGO() compares your ranked list of genes to the reference up-to-date GO annotations

```
clusterProfiler::gseGO(
    rankedGeneLit,
    keyType = "ENSEMBL",
    OrgDb = org.Sc.sgd.db::org.Sc.sgd.db
)
```

 clusterProfiler provides plotting functions to check the results for a given GO term

```
TERM <- "response to osmotic stress"
enrichplot::gseaplot2(
    gsea_results,
    title = TERM,
    geneSetID = which(gsea_results@result$Description == TERM)
)</pre>
```

 clusterProfiler provides plotting functions to check the results for a given GO term



Resources

 Ten Quick Tips for Using the Gene Ontology, Blake PLoS Comp. Biol. 2013

Tip 1: Know the Source of the GO Annotations You Use

 clusterProfiler: universal enrichment tool for functional and comparative study, Guangchuang Yu (http://yulab-smu.top/clusterProfiler-book/)