

Biological Knowledge Assembly and Interpretation

We have looked at interesting changes and patterns in microarray and RNA-Seq data:

1. PSON: Change in RNA-Seq expression levels between brca cell lines
2. TCGA: 500 genes with highest variance across breast cancer samples
3. Hierarchical agglomerative clustering: ER status
4. Principal components analysis: Metagenes

Exploratory data analysis

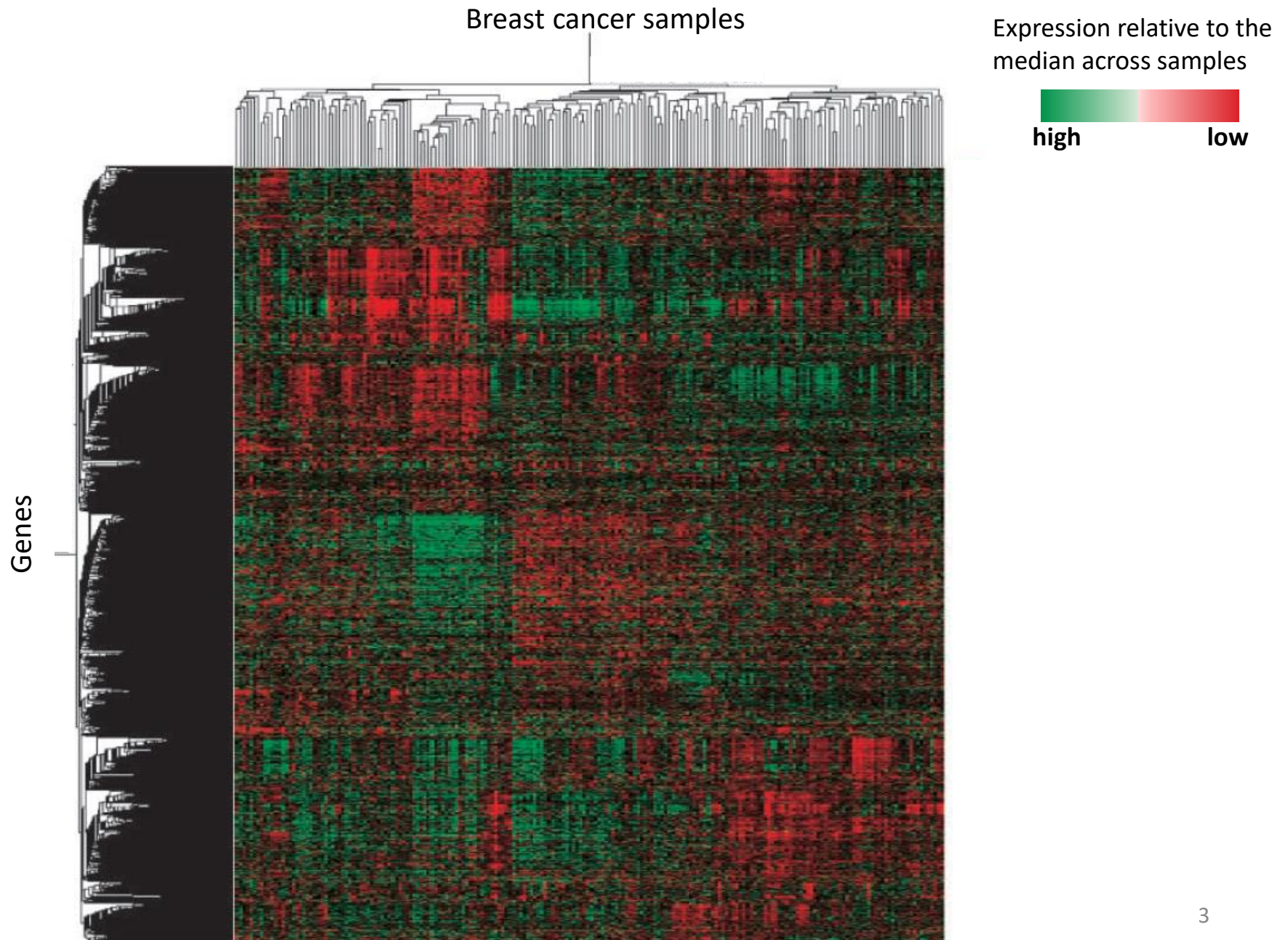
Next goal: Extract biological meaning

The Humoral Immune System Has a Key Prognostic Impact in Node-Negative Breast Cancer

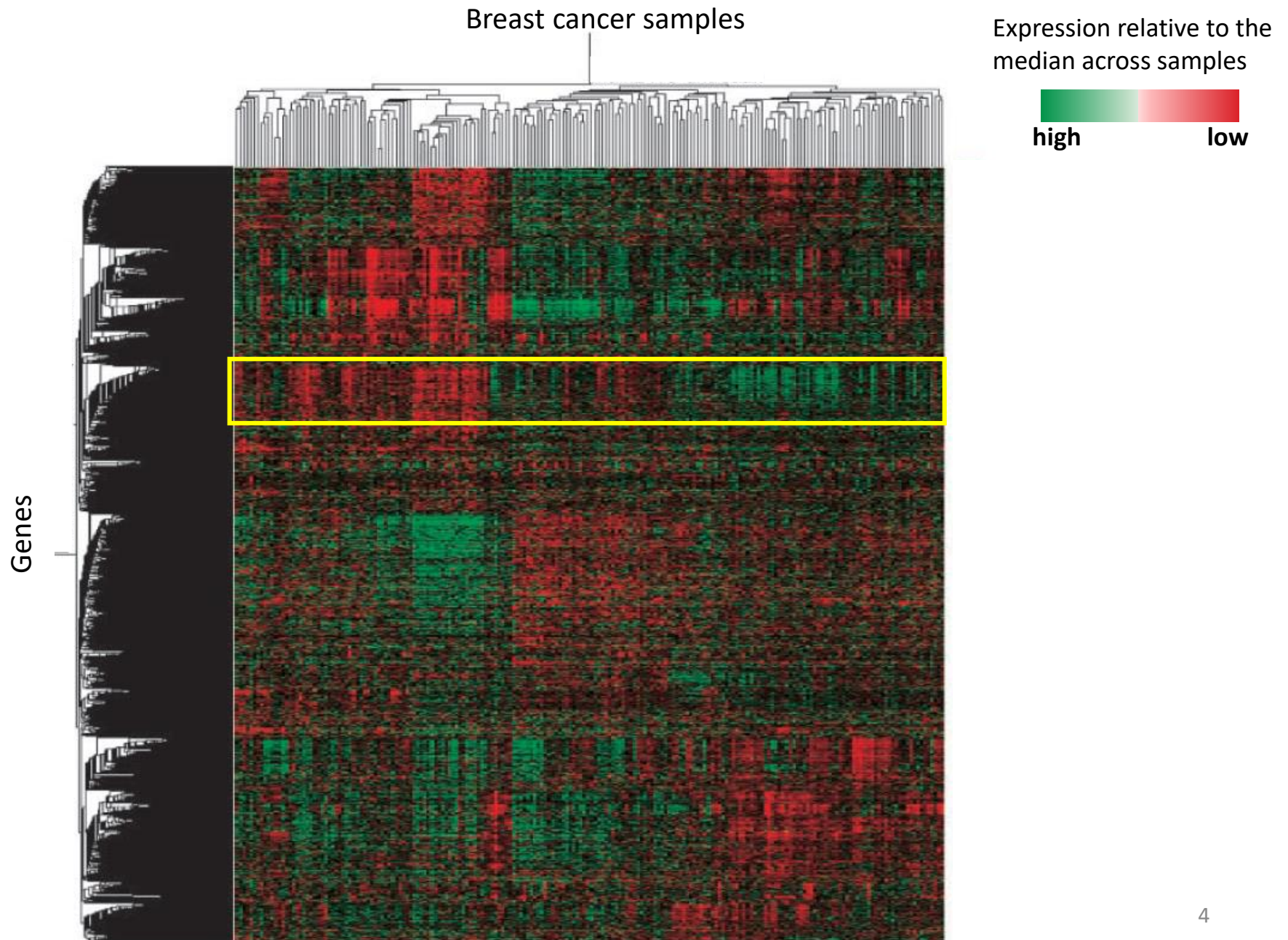
Marcus Schmidt,¹ Daniel Böhm,¹ Christian von Törne,² Eric Steiner,¹ Alexander Puhl,¹ Henryk Pilch,³ Hans-Anton Lehr,⁵ Jan G. Hengstler,⁴ Heinz Kölbl,¹ and Mathias Gehrman²

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany; ²Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics GmbH, Cologne, Germany; ³Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and ⁴Center for Toxicology, Institute of Legal Medicine and Rudolf-Boehm Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany; and ⁵Department of Pathology, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Mainz data set from Schmidt et al.



Mainz data set from Schmidt et al.



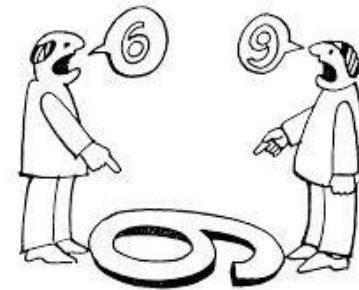
Find biological associations “by hand”?



Time-consuming



Extremely subjective and not systematic





Enrichment analysis

Your gene IDs here...

biological process ▾

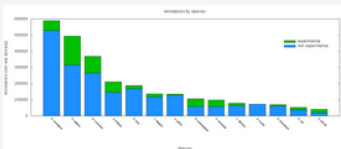
Homo sapiens ▾

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Other GOC tools

Gene Ontology Consortium

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Search for terms and gene products...

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Gene Ontology: the framework for the model of biology. The GO defines concepts/classes used to describe gene function, and relationships between these concepts. It classifies functions along three aspects:

molecular function

molecular activities of gene products

cellular component

where gene products are active

biological process

pathways and larger processes made up of the activities of multiple gene products.

[more](#)

Annotations

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GO annotations: the model of biology. Annotations are statements describing the functions of specific genes, using concepts in the Gene Ontology. The simplest and most common annotation links one gene to one function, e.g. FZD4 + Wnt signaling pathway. Each statement is based on a specified piece of evidence. [more](#)

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. [more](#)

Search documentation

Search



What is the Gene Ontology?

- [An introduction to the Gene Ontology](#)
- [What are annotations?](#)
- [Enrichment analysis](#)
- [Downloads](#)

Complexity of biological systems and datasets of increasing size.



→ We depend on knowledge in stored computable form to analyze biomedical research.

The Gene Ontology (GO) project is the most comprehensive resource for computable knowledge regarding the functions of genes and gene products.

Two primary components:

- 1) The **Gene Ontology (GO)** provides the logical structure of biological functions ('terms') and their relationships to one another.
- 2) The **GO annotations** are evidence-based statements relating a gene product to a specific ontology term

Gene Ontology: tool for the unification of biology

Michael Ashburner, Catherine A. Ball, Judith A. Blake, David Botstein , Heather Butler, J. Michael Cherry , Allan P. Davis, Kara Dolinski, Selina S. Dwight, Janan T. Eppig, Midori A. Harris, David P. Hill, Laurie Issel-Tarver, Andrew Kasarskis, Suzanna Lewis, John C. Matese, Joel E. Richardson, Martin Ringwald, Gerald M. Rubin & Gavin Sherlock

Nature Genetics **25**, 25–29 (2000) |

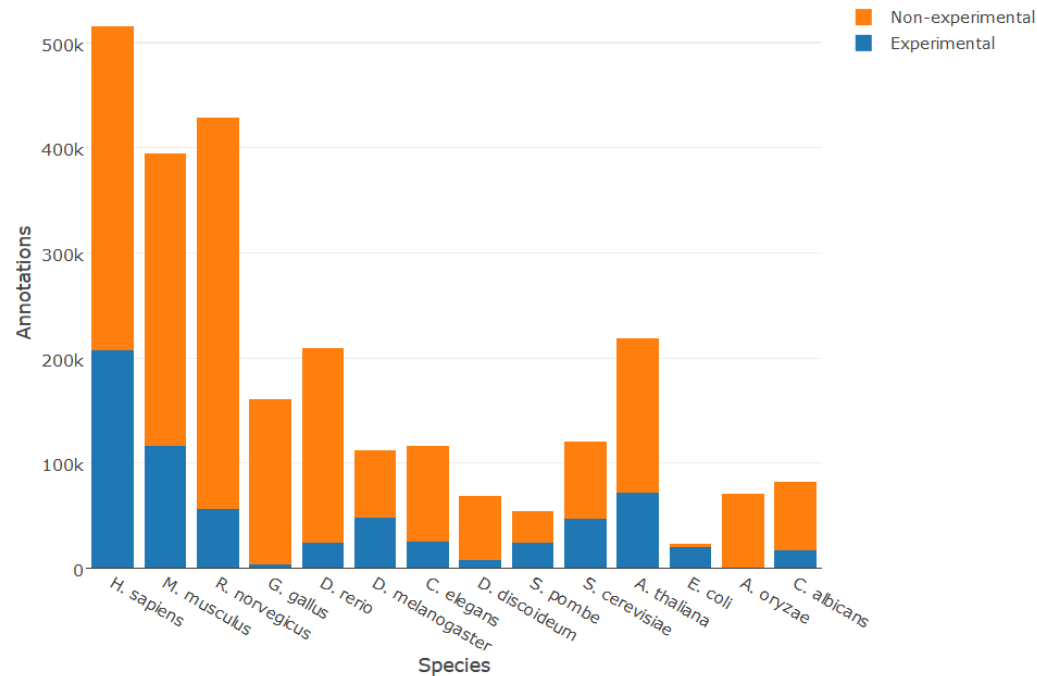
Genomic sequencing has made it clear that a large fraction of the genes specifying the core biological functions are shared by all eukaryotes. Knowledge of the biological role of such shared proteins in one organism can often be transferred to other organisms. The goal of the Gene Ontology Consortium is to produce a dynamic, controlled vocabulary that can be applied to all eukaryotes even as knowledge of gene and protein roles in cells is accumulating and changing. To this end, three independent ontologies accessible on the World-Wide Web (<http://www.geneontology.org>) are being constructed: biological process, molecular function and cellular component.

Evolution of GO

- Original GO created in 2000
- Three databases involved:
 - FlyBase (*Drosophila*)
 - MGI (Mouse)
 - SGD (*S. cerevisiae*)



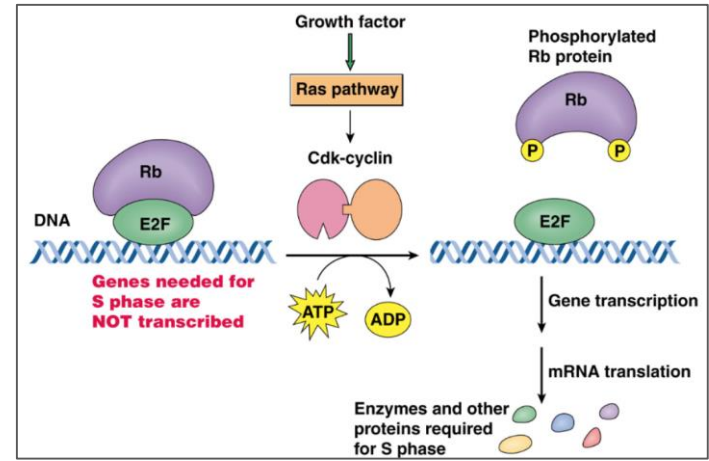
Experimental annotations by species



Three “aspects” of GO

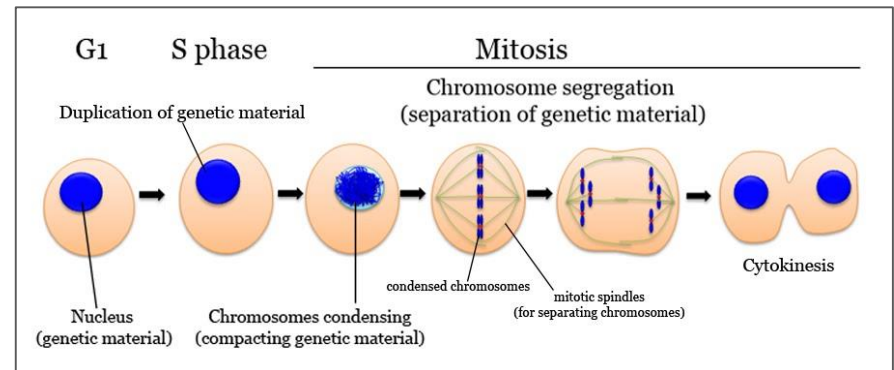
1. Molecular Function (MF)

An elemental activity



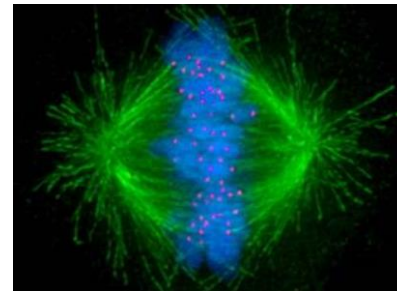
2. Biological Process (BP)

A commonly recognized series of events



3. Cellular component

Where a gene product is located



Spindle
Microtubule cytoskeleton

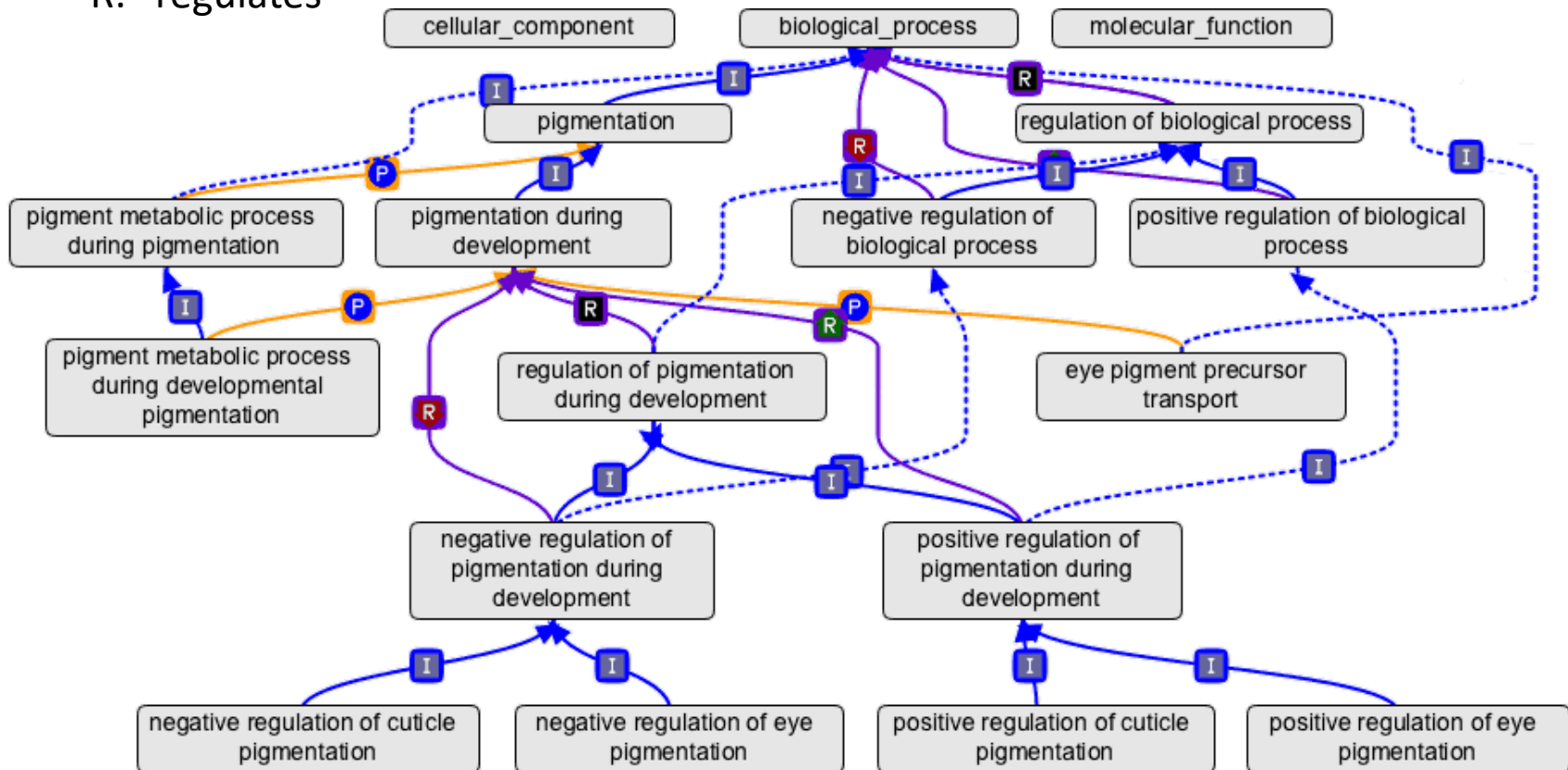
Hierarchical structure and relationships in GO

I: “is a”

P: “is part of”

R: “regulates”

Less specific concepts



More specific concepts



A major bioinformatics initiative with the aim of standardizing the representation of gene and gene product attributes across species and databases.

Three main goals:

1. Maintain and further develop its vocabulary
2. Annotate genes and gene products, disseminate annotation data
3. Provide tools to facilitate access to data

The most common use of the Gene Ontology annotations is for interpretation of large-scale molecular biology experiments.

Given a set of genes that are up-regulated under certain conditions, **Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis** will find which GO terms are over- or under-represented using the annotations for the set of genes.

We want to interpret the underlying molecular differences between:

- A cancer cell and a normal cell,

- Two different cells lines,

- Across tumor samples, etc.

GO enrichment analysis identifies relevant groups of genes that function together.

Reduces thousands of molecular changes to a much smaller number of biological functions.

GO Annotation Tools

Most of these tools work in a similar way:

- > input a gene list and a subset of 'interesting' genes
- > tool shows which GO categories have most interesting genes associated with them i.e. which categories are 'enriched' for interesting genes
- > tool provides a statistical measure to determine whether enrichment is significant



Enrichment analysis

Your gene IDs here...

biological process ▾

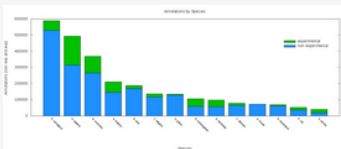
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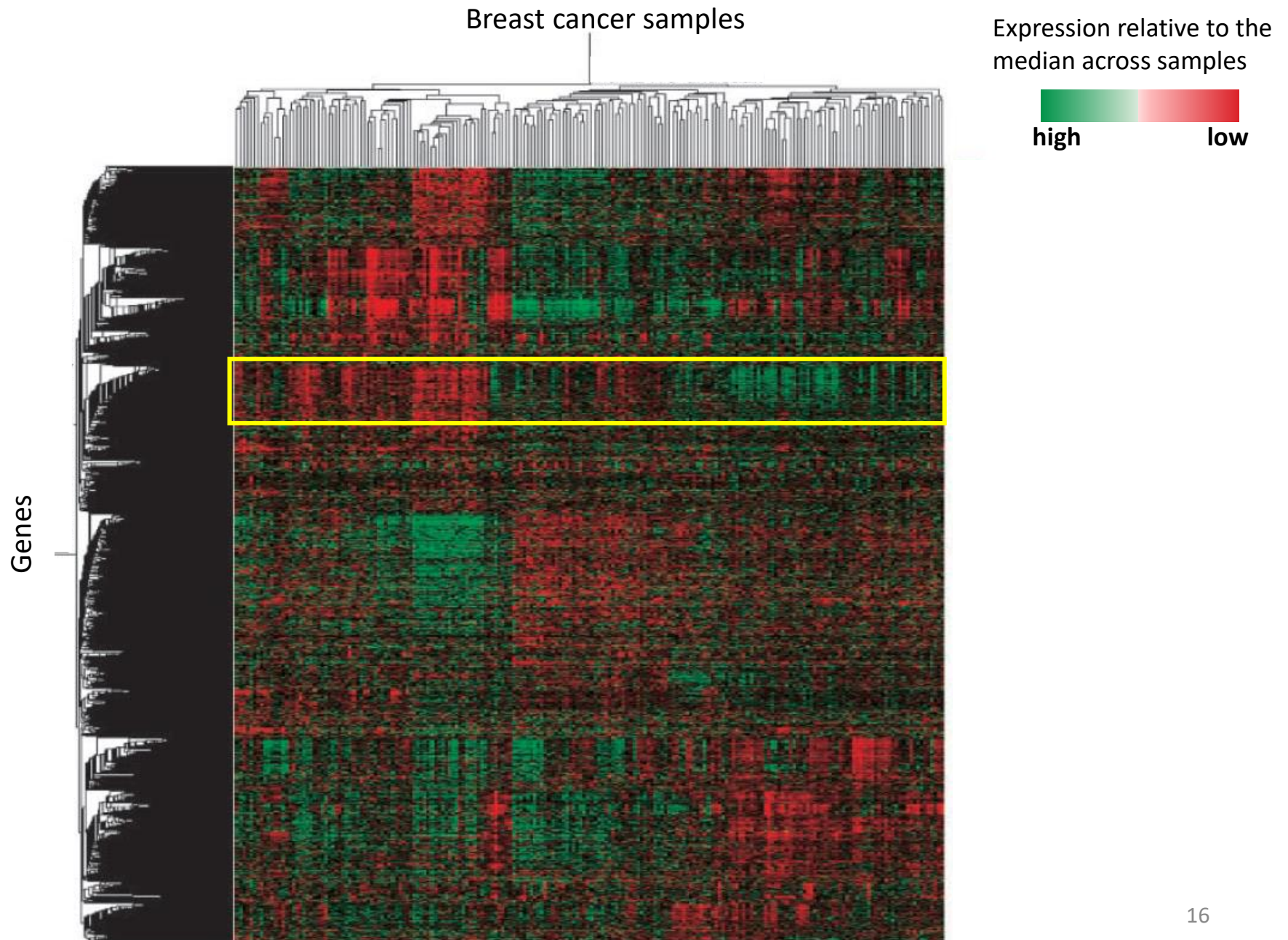
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Mainz data set from Schmidt et al.



	Homo sapiens (REF)	upload 1 (Hierarchy) NEW! (?)				
GO cellular component complete	#	#	expected	Fold Enrichment	+/-	raw P value
spindle	335	26	3.45	7.53	+	5.99E-15
chromosome, centromeric region	193	19	1.99	9.55	+	6.73E-13
condensed chromosome, centromeric region	118	16	1.22	13.15	+	5.60E-13
condensed chromosome	218	19	2.25	8.45	+	4.89E-12
kinetochore	134	16	1.38	11.58	+	3.27E-12
spindle microtubule	56	12	.58	20.78	+	4.16E-12
mitotic spindle	96	14	.99	14.14	+	6.78E-12
chromosome	1008	38	10.40	3.66	+	7.92E-12
chromosomal region	332	22	3.42	6.43	+	1.52E-11
condensed chromosome kinetochore	105	13	1.08	12.01	+	2.47E-10
chromosomal part	882	33	9.10	3.63	+	2.72E-10

Interpreting the Results Table

List of **significant shared GO terms** used to describe the set of genes

	Homo sapiens (REF)	upload_1 (Hierarchy) NEW! (?)				
GO cellular component complete	#	#	expected	Fold Enrichment	+/-	raw P value
spindle	335	26	3.45	7.53	+	5.99E-15
chromosome, centromeric region	193	19	1.99	9.55	+	6.73E-13
condensed chromosome, centromeric region	118	16	1.22	13.15	+	5.60E-13
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chromosomal part	882	33	9.10	3.63	+	2.72E-10

The number of genes annotated to a GO term in the entire background set,

The number of genes annotated to that GO term in the input list.

The number of genes expected in the input list for this category, based on the reference list.

The number of category genes observed in the uploaded list over the expected number.

> 1, category is overrepresented in your experiment.

< 1 the category is underrepresented.

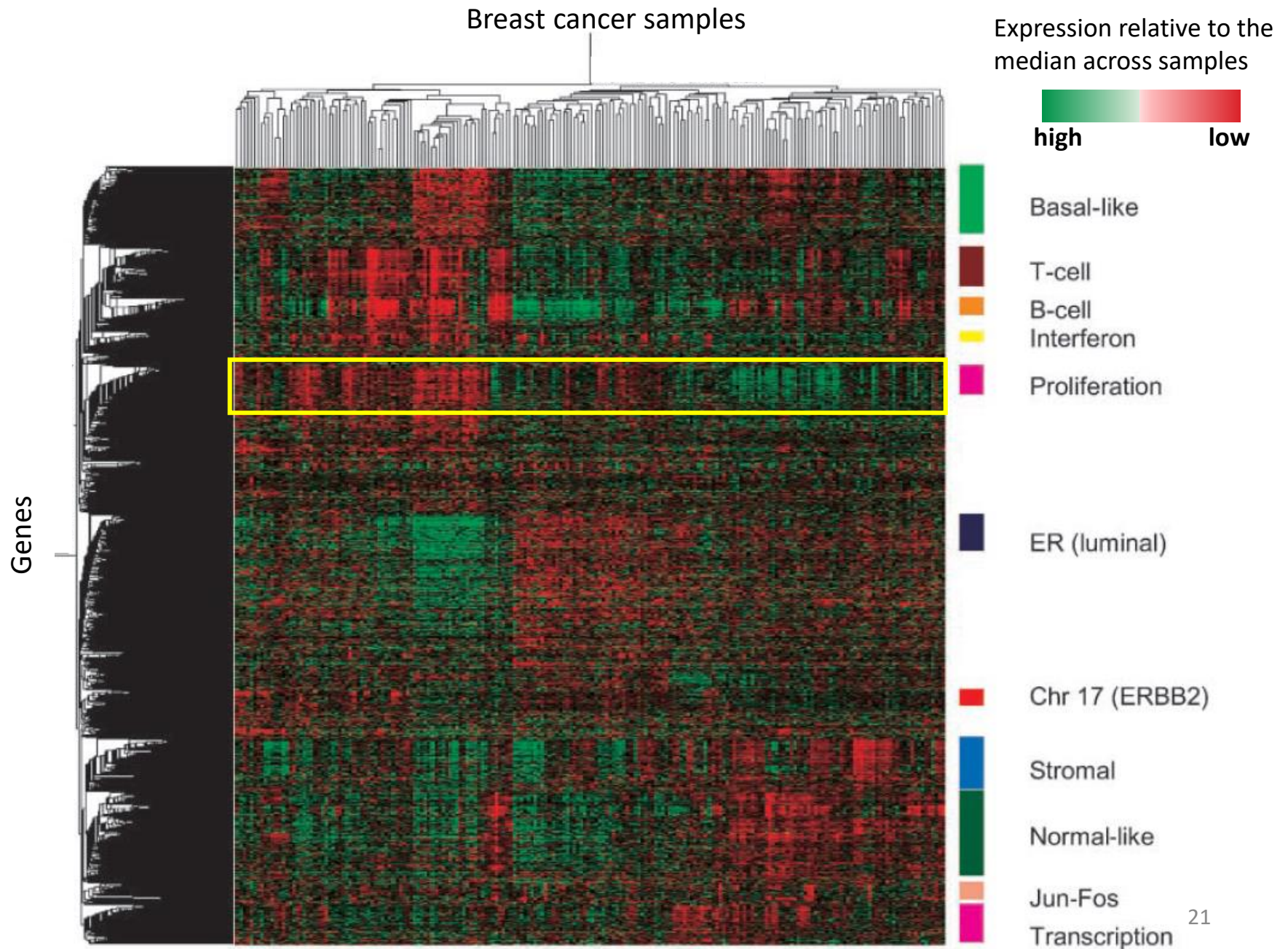
This is the probability that the number of genes you observed in this category occurred by chance (randomly), as determined by your reference list.

	Homo sapiens (REF)	upload 1 (Hierarchy) NEW! (?)				
GO molecular function complete	#	#	expected	Fold Enrichment	+/-	raw P value
microtubule binding	273	16	2.82	5.68	+	5.09E-08
tubulin binding	371	17	3.83	4.44	+	5.46E-07
chemokine activity	49	7	.51	13.85	+	1.59E-06
CXCR3 chemokine receptor binding	5	4	.05	77.57	+	1.28E-06
motor activity	145	10	1.50	6.69	+	4.52E-06
histone kinase activity	19	5	.20	25.52	+	3.84E-06
chemokine receptor binding	66	7	.68	10.28	+	9.65E-06
microtubule motor activity	124	9	1.28	7.04	+	9.29E-06
RAGE receptor binding	11	4	.11	35.26	+	1.32E-05
anion binding	2793	52	28.80	1.81	+	2.08E-05
signaling receptor binding	1685	36	17.38	2.07	+	4.27E-05
CXCR chemokine receptor binding	17	4	.18	22.82	+	5.51E-05
extracellular matrix structural constituent	101	7	1.04	6.72	+	1.22E-04
cytokine activity	217	10	2.24	4.47	+	1.19E-04

	Homo sapiens (REF)	upload 1 (Hierarchy) NEW! (?)				
GO biological process complete	#	#	expected	Fold Enrichment	+/-	raw P value
mitotic cell cycle	681	48	7.02	6.83	+	1.93E-25
mitotic cell cycle process	591	45	6.09	7.38	+	4.02E-25
mitotic nuclear division	143	26	1.47	17.63	+	2.87E-23
nuclear division	280	31	2.89	10.74	+	9.02E-22
organelle fission	309	31	3.19	9.73	+	1.28E-20
cell cycle process	963	49	9.93	4.93	+	3.45E-20
cell division	488	36	5.03	7.15	+	1.01E-19
cell cycle	1328	56	13.70	4.09	+	1.82E-19
chromosome segregation	261	28	2.69	10.40	+	2.08E-19

Knowledge about the molecular mechanisms involved in the processes of estrogen-dependent tumor growth and proliferative activity has led to the successful development of therapeutic concepts.

Mainz data set from Schmidt et al.



What do we need?

- A shared, consistent functional vocabulary
- Systematic linkage between genes and functions
- A way to determine which genes are relevant to the study condition
- Statistical analysis
- A way to identify a set of “related” genes we want to functionally annotate

What do we need?

- A shared, consistent functional vocabulary

GO: Gene Ontology

- Systematic linkage between genes and functions

GO annotation

- A way to determine which genes are relevant to the study condition

Fold change, ranking

- Statistical analysis

Enrichment analysis

- A way to identify a set of “related” genes we want to functionally annotate

Exploratory data analysis

Function annotation of proteins



“The nice thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from”

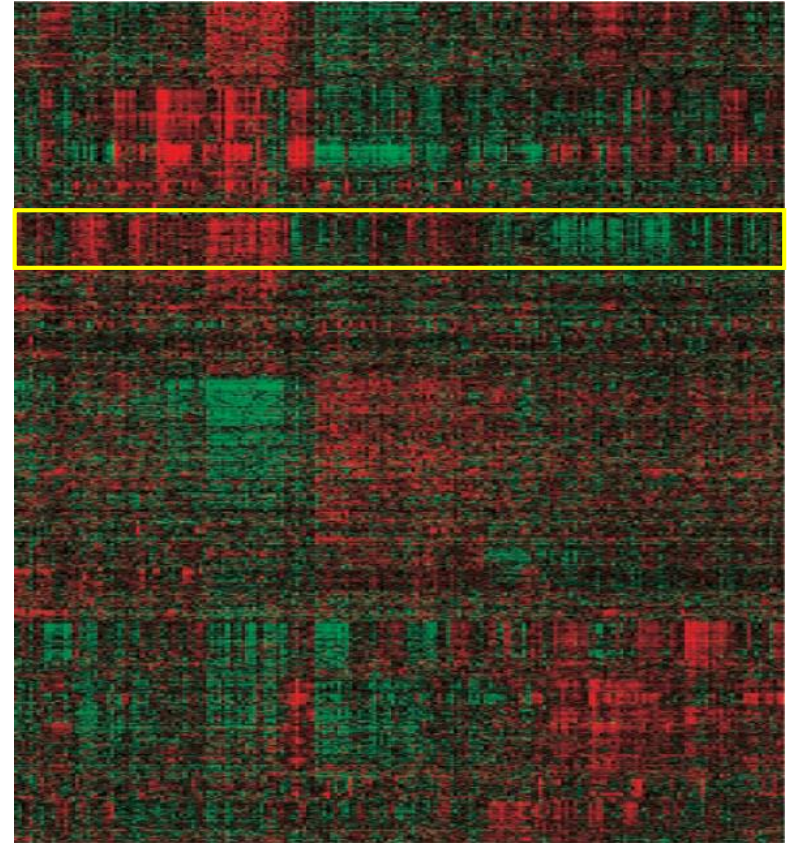
Andrew S. Tanenbaum

Picking relevant genes

Significant differential expression

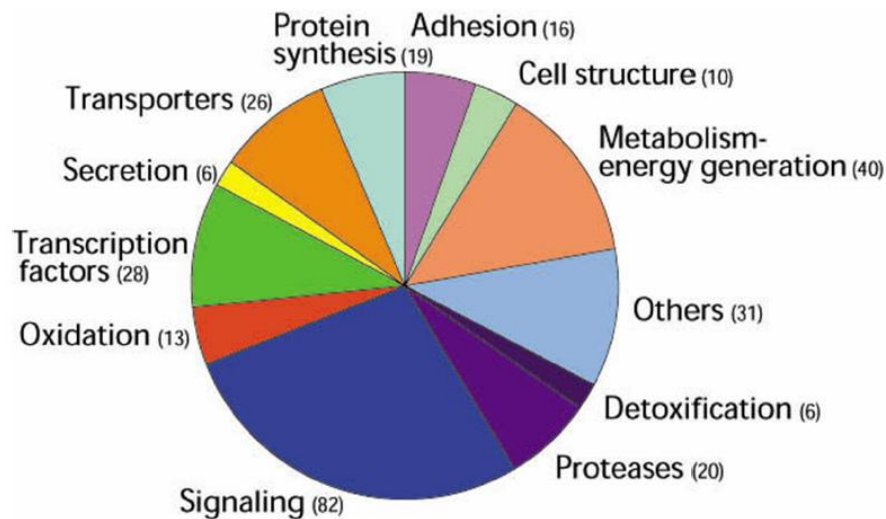
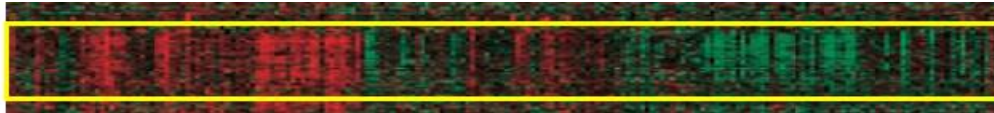
Fold change cutoff (e.g., > 2 fold change)

Fold change rank (e.g., top 10%)



Functional enrichment analysis

Study set of genes



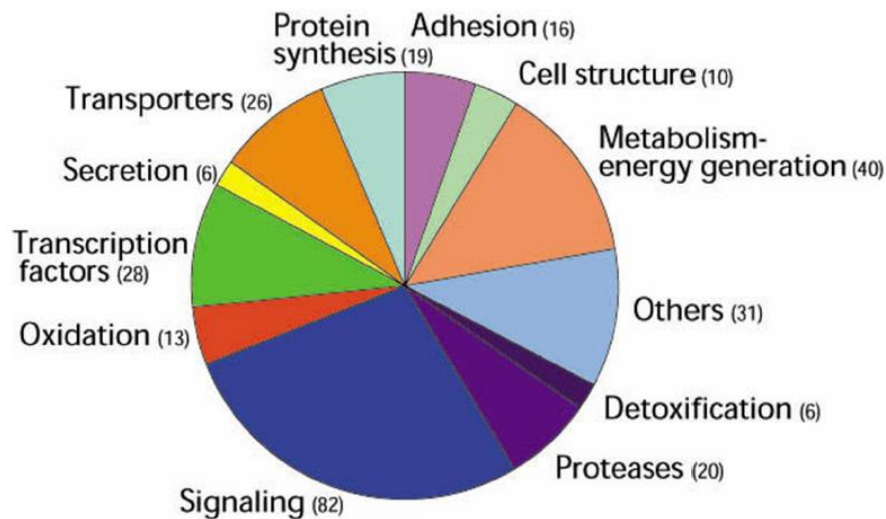
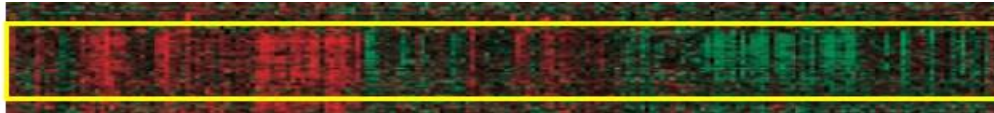
Functional category	# genes in study set	% in study set
Signaling	82	28%
Metabolism	40	14%
Other	31	10%
Trans factors	28	9%
Transporters	26	9%
Proteases	20	7%
Protein synthesis	19	7%
Adhesion	16	5%
Oxidation	13	4%
Cell structure	10	3%
Secretion	6	2%
Detoxification	6	2%

Largest category is Signaling: contains 27.6% of all genes in the study set

Conclude: Signaling may be important in the condition under study.

Functional enrichment analysis: The Wrong Way

Study set of genes



Functional category	# genes in study set	% in study set
Signaling	82	28%
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Largest category is Signaling: contains 27.6% of all genes in the study set

Conclude: Signaling may be important in the condition under study.

Functional enrichment analysis: A better way

What if ~27% of the genes on the array are involved in signaling?

What is the number of signaling genes in the set is what expected by chance?

Functional category	# genes in study set	% in study set	% on array
Signaling	82	28%	26%
Metabolism	40	14%	15%
Other	31	10%	11%
Trans factors	28	9%	10%
Transporters	26	9%	2%
Proteases	20	7%	7%
Protein synthesis	19	7%	7%
Adhesion	16	5%	6%
Oxidation	13	4%	4%
Cell structure	10	3%	8%
Secretion	6	2%	2%
Detoxification	6	2%	2%

Which categories are **enriched and over-represented**?

We need to consider not only the number of genes in the set for each category, but also the total number on the array.

Functional enrichment analysis: **A better way**

Categories that **depleted** and **under-represented** are important, too.

Functional category	# genes in study set	% in study set	% on array
Signaling	82	28%	26%
Metabolism	40	14%	15%
Other	31	10%	11%
Trans factors	28	9%	10%
Transporters	26	9%	2%
Proteases	20	7%	7%
Protein synthesis	19	7%	7%
Adhesion	16	5%	6%
Oxidation	13	4%	4%
Cell structure	10	3%	8%
Secretion	6	2%	2%
Detoxification	6	2%	2%

Suggests that maintenance of normal cell structure is not necessary or impaired.

Functional enrichment analysis: **An even better way**

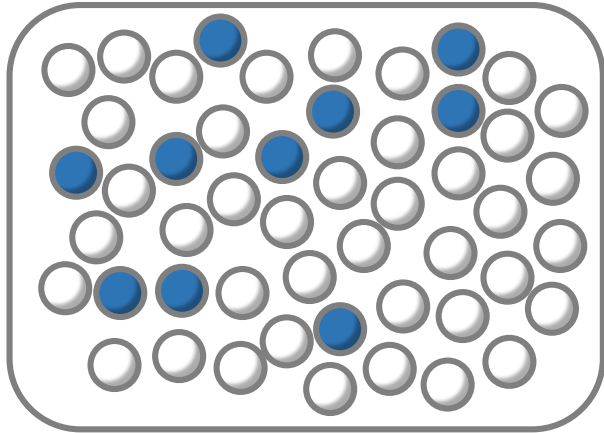
Assume the study set has nothing to do with the specific function at hand and was selected randomly, *would we be surprised to see a certain number of genes annotated with this function?*

Need a statistical test based on a null model

The “urn” version: You pick a set of 8 balls from an urn that contains 50 white and blue balls. How surprised will you be to find that 4 of the balls you picked are blue?

Functional enrichment analysis: **An even better way**

Genes (balls) in our experiment

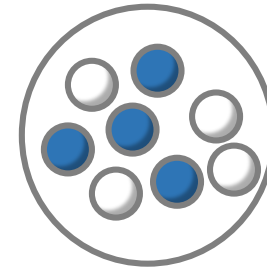


10 out of 50

Differential expression
Gene cluster, etc.



Study set

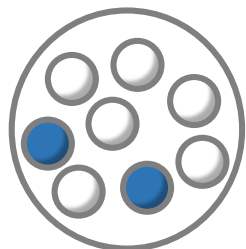


4 out of 8

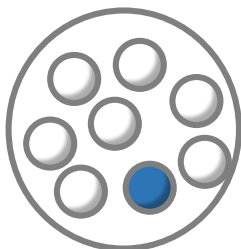
Do I have a surprisingly high number of blue genes, e.g. annotated as “signaling”?

Null model: The 8 genes (balls) are selected randomly

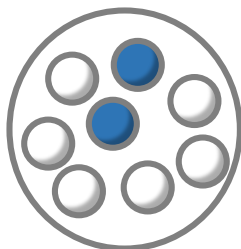
50 balls, 10 of which are blue. Pick 8 at random; what is the probability that k are blue?



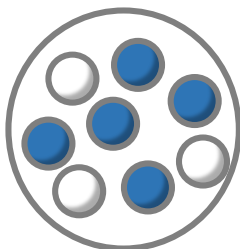
2 out of 8



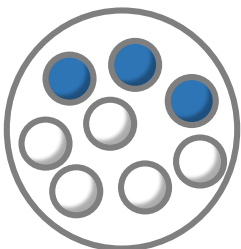
1 out of 8



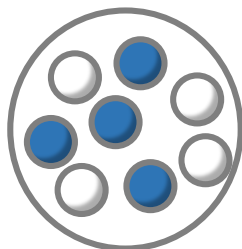
2 out of 8



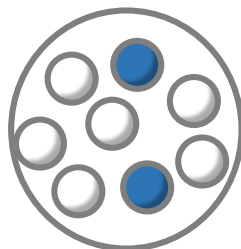
5 out of 8



3 out of 8



4 out of 8



2 out of 8

...

Modified Fisher's exact test

50 balls in experiment, 10 of which are blue.

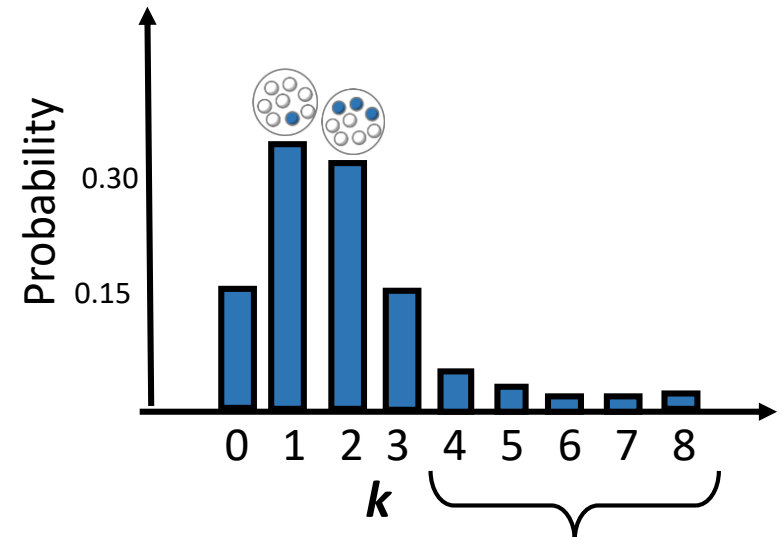
8 balls in study set, 4 of which are blue.

Pick 8 at random; what is the probability that k balls in the study set are blue?



Do I have a surprisingly high number of blue genes, e.g. annotated as “signaling”?

What is the probability of getting at least 4 blue genes in the null model?



$P(\sigma_t \geq 4)$

Hypergeometric distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(\sigma_t = k) = \frac{\binom{m_t}{k} \binom{m-m_t}{n-k}}{\binom{m}{n}}$$

$m=50, m_t=10, n=8, \sigma_t = 4$

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chromosome, centromeric region	193	19	1.99	9.55	+	6.73E-13
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KEGG PATHWAY database: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes

<http://www.kegg.com>



Consolidated set of databases that cover
genomics (GENE),
chemical compounds (LIGAND), and
reaction networks (PATHWAY)

Broad focus on metabolics, signal transduction, disease, *etc.*

Species-specific views available



http://www.kegg.com

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KEGG Identifiers

KGML

KEGG API

KEGG FTP

KegTools

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[Global map](#) *New!*



KEGG: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes

A grand challenge in the post-genomic era is a complete computer representation of the cell, the organism, and the biosphere, which will enable computational prediction of higher-level complexity of cellular processes and organism behaviors from genomic and molecular information. Towards this end we have been developing a bioinformatics resource named KEGG as part of the research projects of the Kanehisa Laboratories in the Bioinformatics Center of Kyoto University and the Human Genome Center of the University of Tokyo.

Main entry point to the KEGG web service

[KEGG2](#)

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[KEGG Atlas](#)

[New interface to navigate pathway maps](#)

[KEGG PATHWAY](#)

[Pathway maps and pathway modules](#)
[Pathway maps](#)

[KEGG BRITE](#)

[Functional hierarchies and ontologies](#)
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Organism-specific entry points

[KEGG Organisms](#)

Select

(example) [hsa](#)

Subject-specific entry points

[KEGG DISEASE](#)

[Gene/molecule based disease information resource](#)

[KEGG DRUG](#)

[Chemical structure based drug information resource](#)

[KEGG GLYCAN](#)

[Glycome informatics resource](#)

[KEGG COMPOUND](#)

[Knowledge base for biochemical compounds](#)

[KEGG REACTION](#)

[Knowledge base for biochemical reactions](#)

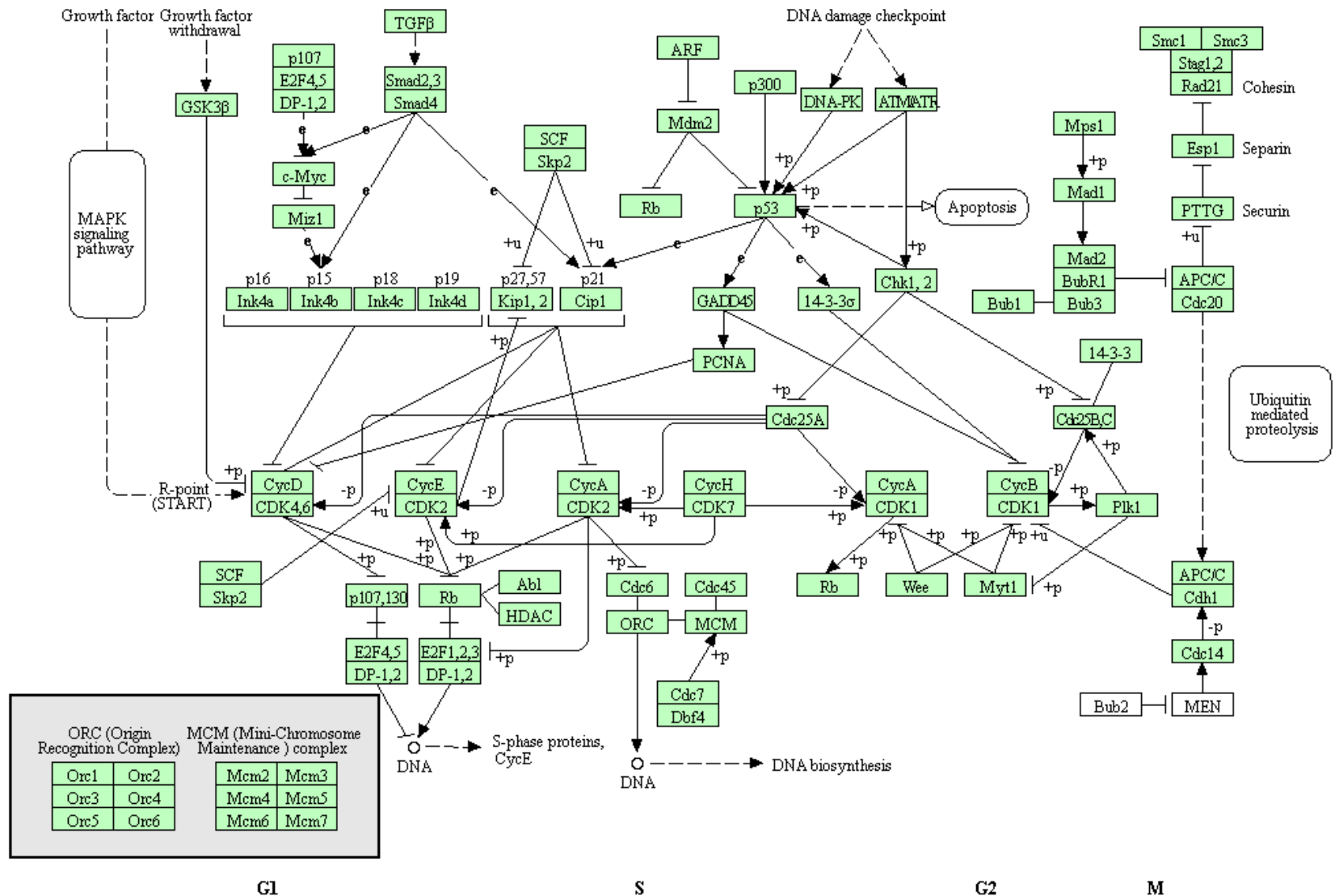
[KEGG PLANT](#)

[Knowledge base for plant natural products](#)

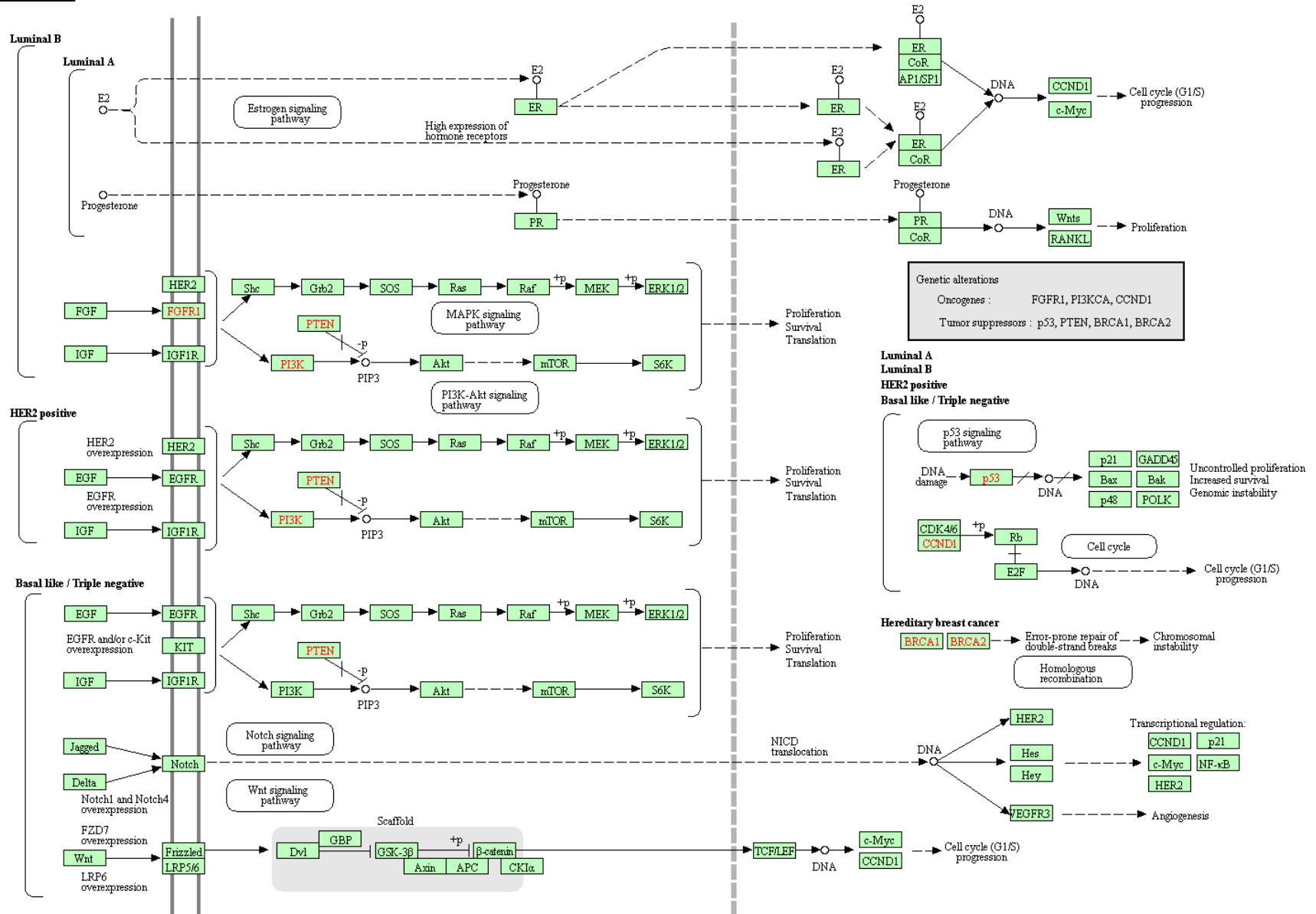
[KAAS](#)

[KEGG automatic annotation server](#)

CELL CYCLE



BREAST CANCER



STRING is a database of known and predicted protein-protein interactions. The interactions include direct (physical) and indirect (functional) associations; they stem from computational prediction, from knowledge transfer between organisms, and from interactions aggregated from other (primary) databases.

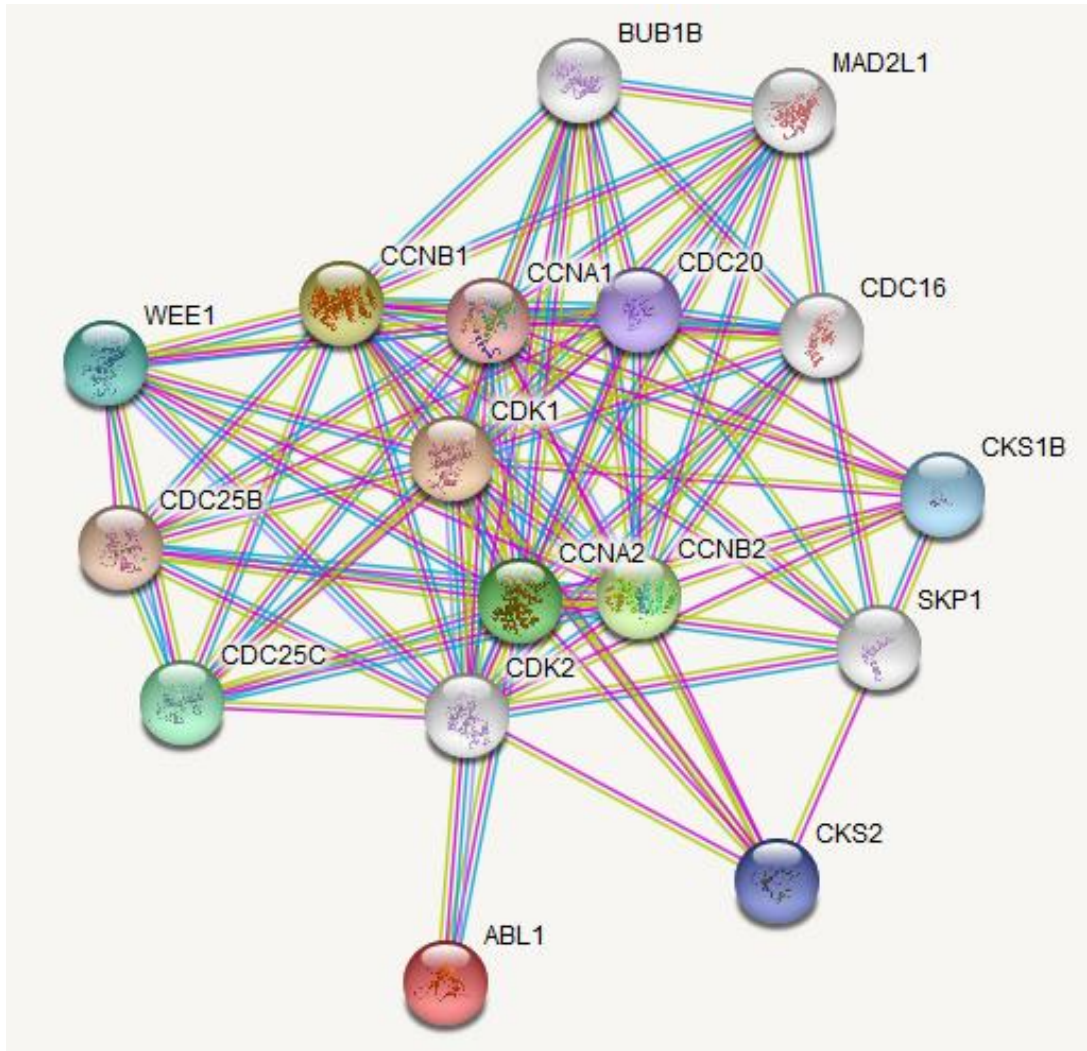
Data Sources

Interactions in STRING are derived from five main sources:

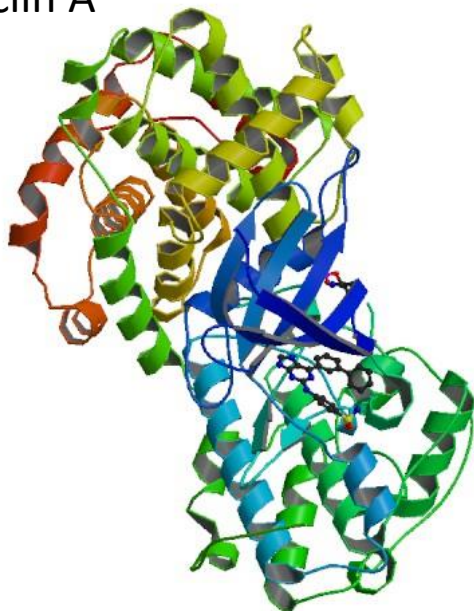


The screenshot shows the STRING database search interface. At the top, the STRING logo is on the left, and the URL <https://string-db.org/> is in the center. To the right of the URL are links for Search, Download, Help, and My Data. Below the header, a sidebar on the left lists search options: Protein by name, Protein by sequence, Multiple proteins (highlighted in blue), Multiple sequences, Organisms, Protein families ("COGs"), Examples, and Random entry. The main content area is titled "SEARCH" and "Multiple Proteins by Names / Identifiers". It contains a text input field for "List Of Names:" with a placeholder "(one per line; examples: #1 #2 #3)". Below this is a button "Browse ..." and a dropdown menu for "Organism:" set to "auto-detect". At the bottom is a large blue "SEARCH" button.

STRING network of functional protein interactions for ABL1 and CDK2



Cyclin A



CDK2

5NEV

CDK2/Cyclin A in complex with compound 73

DOI: [10.2210/pdb5NEV/pdb](https://doi.org/10.2210/pdb5NEV/pdb) Entry 5NEV supersedes 5LQE

Classification: [TRANSFERASE](#)

Organism(s): [Homo sapiens](#)

Expression System: [Escherichia coli BL21\(DE3\)](#)

Deposited: 2017-03-12 Released: 2017-03-29

Deposition Author(s): [Coxon, C.R.](#), [Anscombe, E.](#), [Harnor, S.J.](#), [Martin, M.P.](#), [Carbain, B.](#), [Hardcastle, I.R.](#), [Harlow, L.K.](#), [Korolchuk, S.](#), [Matheson, C.J.](#), [Noble, M.E.M.](#), [Newell, D.R.](#), [Turner, D.](#), [Sivaprakasam, M.](#), [Wang, L.Z.](#), [Wong, C.](#), [Golding, B.T.](#), [Griffin, R.J.](#), [Cano, G.](#)

Thursday:

1) PSON cell line data: Expression and motility

2) TCGA brca data

Classification

Over/under-representation analysis

Statistical tests.

Gene set enrichment analysis