



Machine Learning for Metabolomics: Module Introduction

Dr Maria Anastasiadi
(m.anastasiadi@cranfield.ac.uk)

MSc Applied Bioinformatics 2024-2025
13-17 January 2025

www.cranfield.ac.uk



Machine Learning for Metabolomics

Module Aims

- To cover the main aspects related to the analysis of the metabolic profile in living organisms.
- To explore statistical and machine learning techniques that are central to the field of metabolomics.
- To introduce the main concepts of predictive modelling.
- To provide practical examples of metabolomics applications in different fields (health, plant science, food safety and food quality).



Machine Learning for Metabolomics

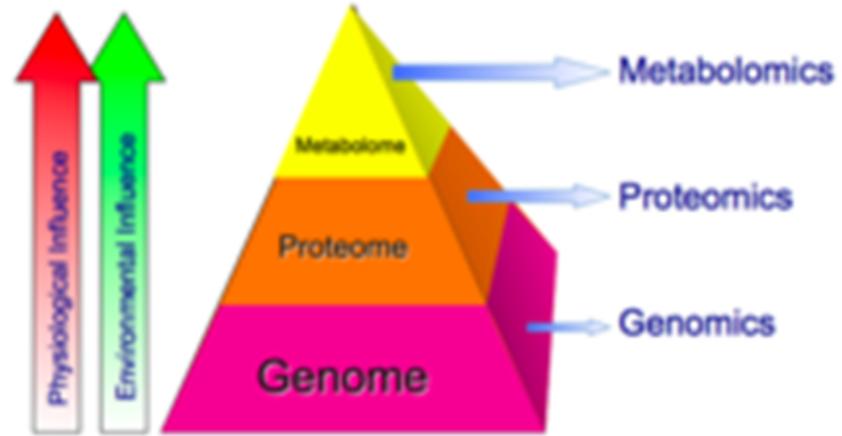
The Module will Cover

- Metabolomics workflow
- Instrumentation for metabolomics
- Advanced topics in R
- Multivariate classification (e.g. PLS-DA, Machine Learning)
- Biomarker discovery
- Regression methods for numerical prediction (e.g. MLR, PLS, Machine Learning)
- Advanced topics in Machine Learning
- Introduction to Image Analysis
- Case Studies (Soil, Computer Vision, Food Safety)



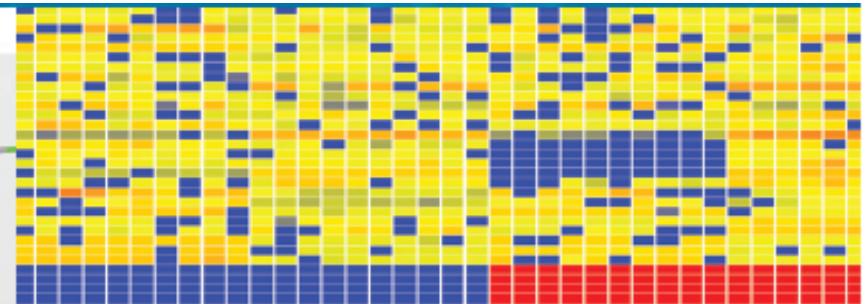
Metabolomics

Metabolites are the end products of cellular processes and represent the ultimate reflection of the response of biological systems to genetic or environmental changes.



Metabolomics is the technology geared towards providing an overview of global changes in an entire metabolite set.

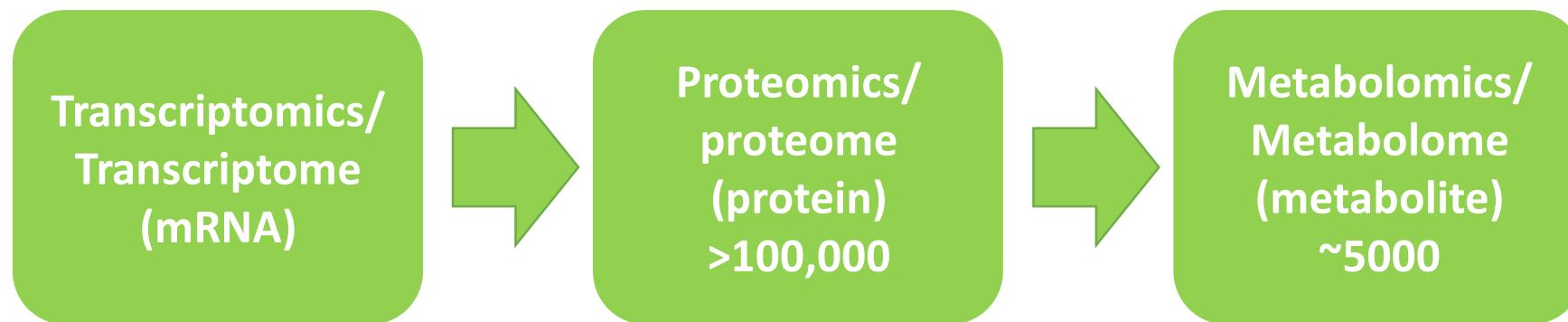
A powerful, emerging discipline with a broad range of applications including **basic research**, **drug development**, **disease biomarker discovery**, **crop optimization** and **food science**.





Metabolomics

Relationship between different “omic” techniques:

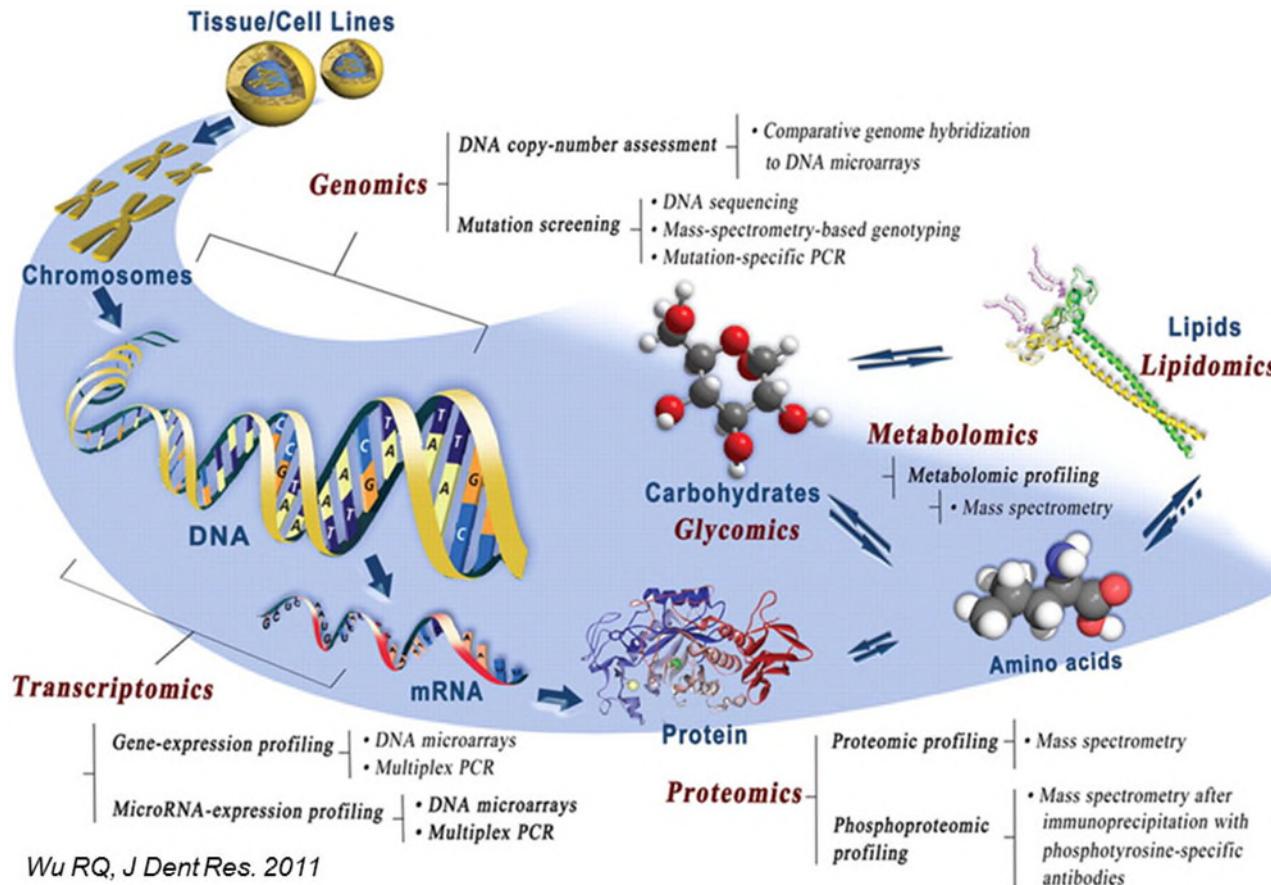


- **Transcriptomics:** observation of alterations in gene expression usually over time (e.g. drug exposure or disease stages).
 - **Proteomics:** semi-quantitative measurement of the production of cellular proteins in response to stimuli.
 - **Metabolomics:** provides evidence of metabolic changes inside an organism following treatment.
- ⚠️ Metabolomics also accounts for lifestyle, diet and environment of an individual.

Moving towards a holistic approach

Systems biology (multi-omics)

- **Aim:** understand whole systems, by studying the effect of altered external factors on the **genome**, **transcriptome**, **proteome** and **metabolome** simultaneously.





Metabolomics

Pros:

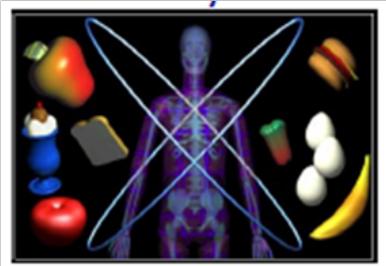
- The metabolome is the final downstream product of gene transcription; changes in the metabolome are amplified relative to changes in the transcriptome and the proteome.
- As the downstream product, the metabolome is closest to the phenotype of the biological system studied.

Cons:

- Although the metabolome contains the smallest domain, it is more diverse, containing many different biological molecules, making it more physically and chemically complex than the other “omes”.

Metabolomics: Workflow

1. Study



- Biological question
- Experimental Design



2. Sampling



- Sample collection
- Sample Storage

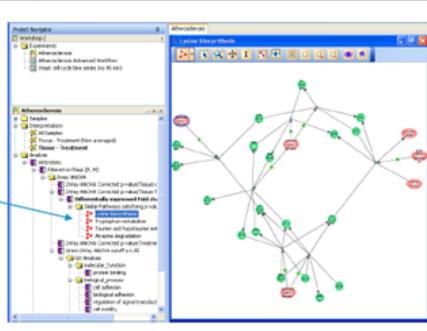
3. Sample preparation



- Sample preparation
- Pre-treatment

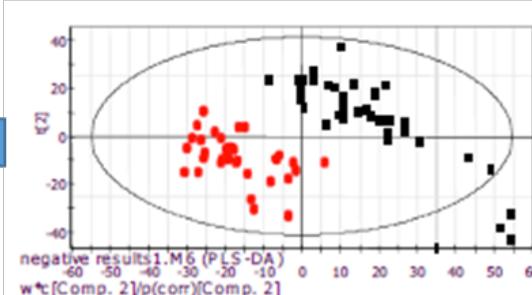


6. Biological interpretation



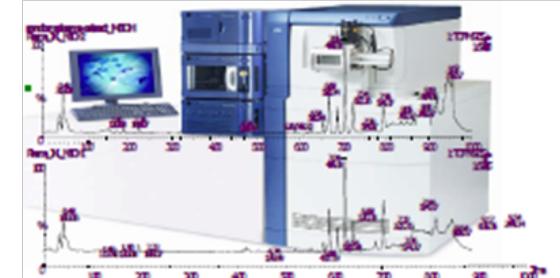
- Database search
- Metabolic pathways

5. Data mining



- Data analysis
- Modelling
- Biomarker discovery

4. Metabolite profiling

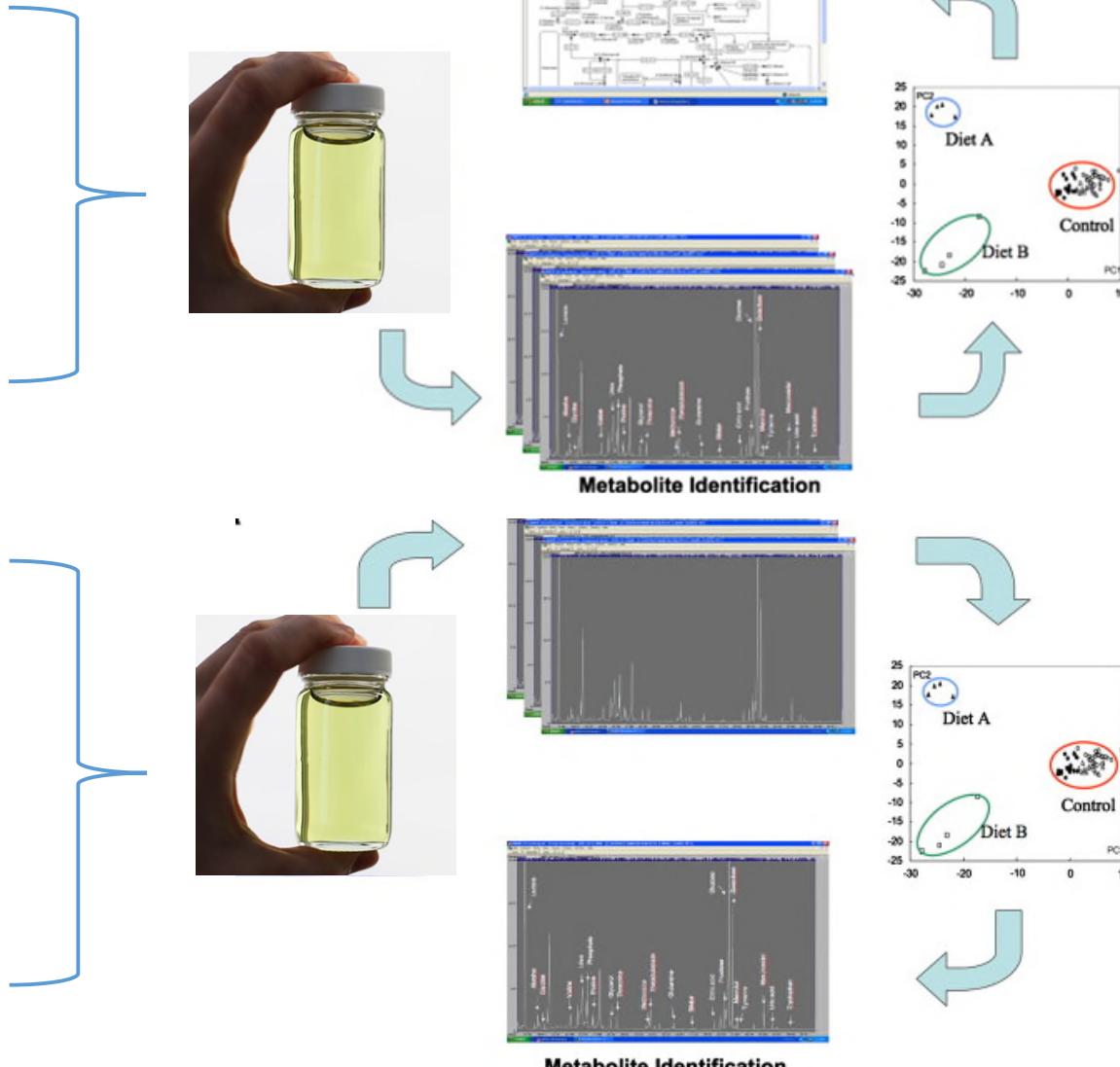


- Data acquisition
- Data pre-processing
- List of peaks/metabolites

Targeted vs Untargeted Metabolomics

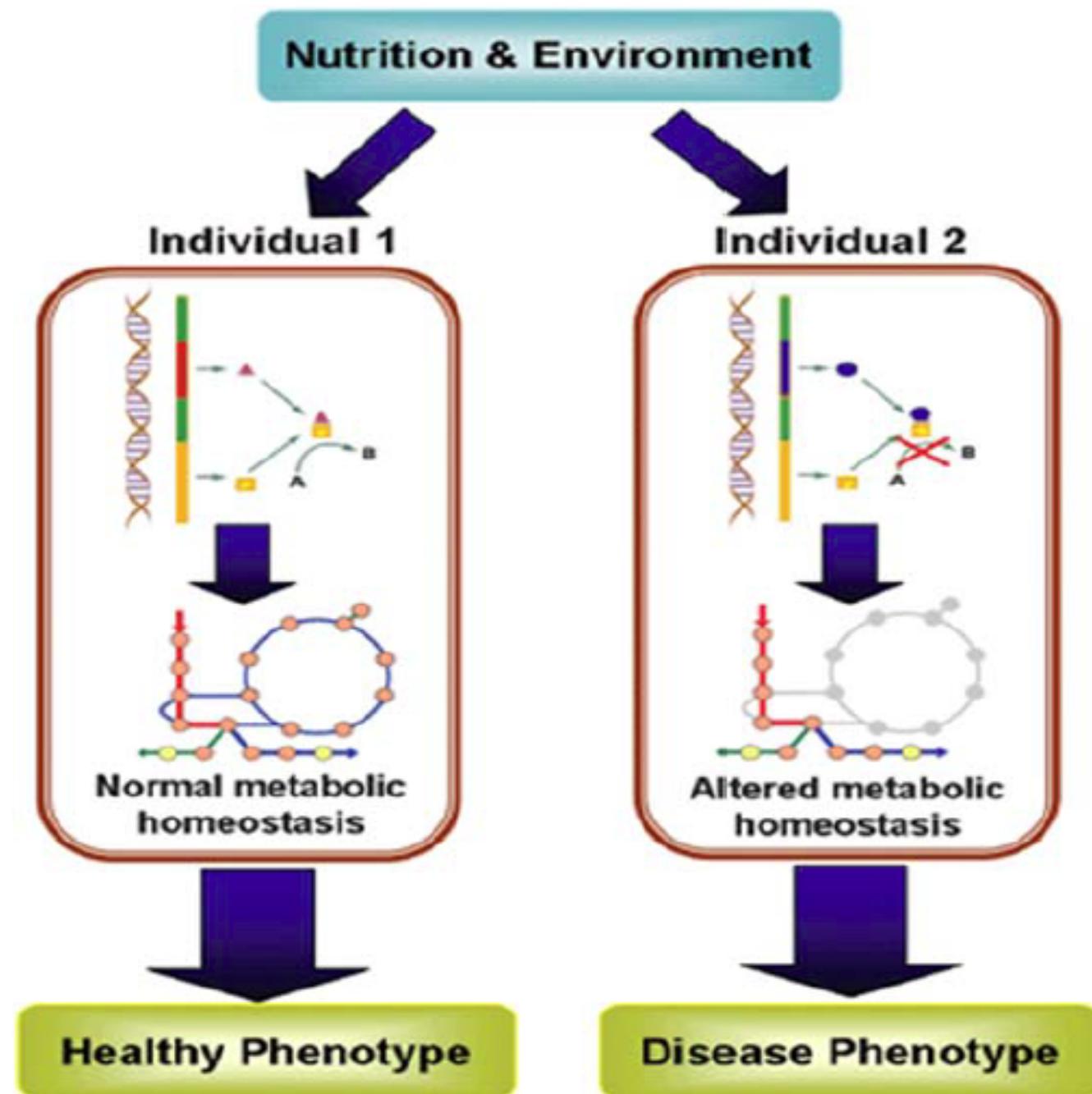
Targeted metabolomics:

Identification/quantification of specific groups of metabolites. Authentic standards required.



Machine Learning for Metabolomics

- Metabolomics: Applications
- Mechanistic understanding of factors influencing the phenotype.
- Investigate metabolic effects due to nutritional, toxicological or biochemical stimulus.
- Investigate relationship between metabolism and disease.
- Biomarker ID.





Machine Learning for Metabolomics

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module a student should be able to:

- Critically assess various metabolomics analytical and spectral platforms.
- Develop critical awareness of various classification and regression models available for metabolomics data analysis acquired from various analytical platforms.
- Apply state-of-the-art best practices in machine learning to fit the purpose of the analysis and derive biological relevant information from multivariate metabolic datasets.

Machine Learning for Metabolomics

MSc Applied Bioinformatics 2024/25

Module 6: Machine Learning for Metabolomics

Module manager: Maria Anastasiadi (m.anastasiadi@cranfield.ac.uk)

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
Date	13th January	Room	14th January	Room	15th January	Room	16th January	Room	17th January	Room
09:00-09:30	Module Introduction MA	Introduction to ML MA	Introduction to Artificial Neural Networks (A) MA	Multivariate Regression MA	Ensemble Methods MA					
09:30-10:00										
10:00-10:15	Break	Break	Break							
10:15-10:30	Metabolic Data Acquisition Methods	Classification with ML (Part A)	Introduction to Artificial Neural Networks (B) MA							
10:30 -11:00			Break	ML Applications: Food Safety FM						
11:00 - 11:30	Break	Break	Break	Practical: Multivariate Regression TK	Break Practical: Ensemble Methods MA					
11.30:12.00	Multivariate Classification MA	Practical: Classification with ML Part A MA	Practical: Intro to ANN MA							
12.00:12.30										
12.30:13.00										
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch					
13:30 - 14:00										
14:00 - 15:30	Practical: Multivariate Classification MA	Classification with ML (Part B) MA	Introduction to Image Analysis MA	SMIS: ML Application in Soil Management TK	Assignment Break Practical: Ensemble Methods MA					
14.30:15.00										
15.00:15:30										
15:30-16:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Computer Vision Applications in AgriFood DL					
16:00-16:30	Practical: Multivariate Classification MA	Practical: Classification with ML Part B MA	Practical: Image Analysis MA	Assignment Break Practical: Ensemble Methods MA						
16.30:17.00										
17.00:17.30										
VENUE:										

Practical
Lecture
Assignment

STAFF:

MA= Maria Anastasiadi
 TK= Tomasz Kurowski
 FM= Fady Mohareb
 DL= Derek Long (guest Lecturer)