

# Gene function annotation

Paul D. Thomas, Ph.D.  
University of Southern California  
October 2014

# What is function annotation?

- The formal answer to the question: what does this gene do?
- The association between: a **description of biological function**, in **electronic form**, with a **biological sequence** (gene or gene product e.g. protein or functional RNA)

# In this lecture

- Introduction to databases of gene function
- Methods and online information sources for function annotation
  - Understand what you are getting from each source so you can use it wisely
  - Gene Ontology
  - Pathway databases
- Emphasis on understanding “computationally predicted” function annotations (homology)
  - These make up the bulk of available annotations

# Ontologies

- A formal structuring of knowledge
- Consists of concepts and relations
- Concept (entity, class, term): a class of things in the real world
  - Continuant (thing that exists)
  - Occurrent (process)
- Relation: a type of relationship between concepts
  - E.g. is\_a, part\_of

# Entrez Gene: INSR

Process	Evidence Code	Pubs
<a href="#">G-protein coupled receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">activation of MAPK activity</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">activation of protein kinase B activity</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">activation of protein kinase activity</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">carbohydrate metabolic process</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">cellular response to growth factor stimulus</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">cellular response to insulin stimulus</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">epidermis development</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">exocrine pancreas development</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">glucose homeostasis</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">heart morphogenesis</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">insulin receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">insulin receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">TAS</a>	
<a href="#">male sex determination</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">peptidyl-tyrosine autophosphorylation</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">peptidyl-tyrosine phosphorylation</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>

# Gene function annotation sources

- Gene Ontology (GO)
- Pathway databases
  - Reactome
  - PANTHER
  - BioCyc
  - KEGG (kind of)

Thomas PD, Lewis SE, Mi H, Ontology annotation:  
mapping genomic regions to biological function, Curr.  
Opin. Biol. Chem. 11:1-8 (2007)

# Gene Ontology

- Formal representation of biology knowledge domain, as it relates to genes and gene products (mostly proteins)
- Three knowledge domains:
  - Molecular function: what a gene product does with its direct physical interaction partners, e.g. protein kinase
  - Cellular component: where the protein is located when the function is carried out, e.g. plasma membrane
  - Biological process: “system” function carried out by multiple molecular functions working together in a regulated manner, e.g. pathways, cellular processes, organ functions, organism behavior
- Concepts are joined together by directional Relations: is\_a, part\_of, regulates

# Entrez Gene: INSR

Process	Evidence Code	Pubs
<a href="#">G-protein coupled receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">activation of MAPK activity</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">activation of protein kinase B activity</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">activation of protein kinase activity</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">carbohydrate metabolic process</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">cellular response to growth factor stimulus</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">cellular response to insulin stimulus</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">epidermis development</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">exocrine pancreas development</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">glucose homeostasis</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">heart morphogenesis</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">insulin receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>
<a href="#">insulin receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">TAS</a>	
<a href="#">male sex determination</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">peptidyl-tyrosine autophosphorylation</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>	
<a href="#">peptidyl-tyrosine phosphorylation</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>	<a href="#">PubMed</a>

is\_a  
relations  
from the  
GO are  
NOT  
shown by  
Entrez

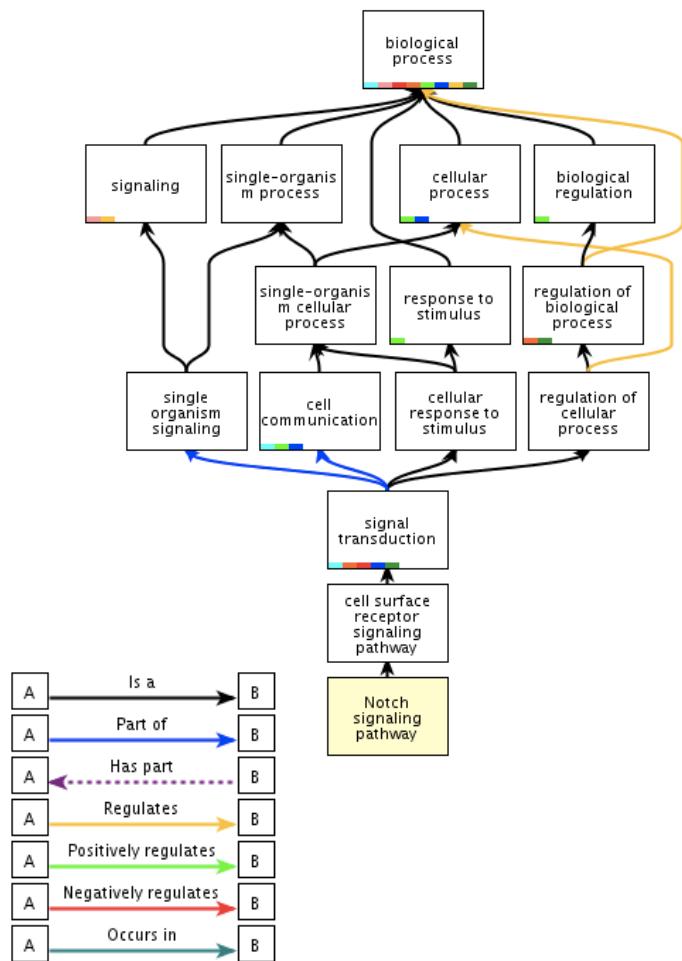


# Pathway representations

- Point of view from the molecular reaction
  - Generalized to include covalent and noncovalent (e.g. binding) reactions
- Concepts are reaction, molecule classes
- Relations are between molecule classes and reactions
  - Catalyst
  - Reactant
  - Product
- Top level structure provided by SBML, BioPAX
  - Systems modeling community vs. Genomics community

# Notch signaling pathway in GO

Relations to  
more general classes

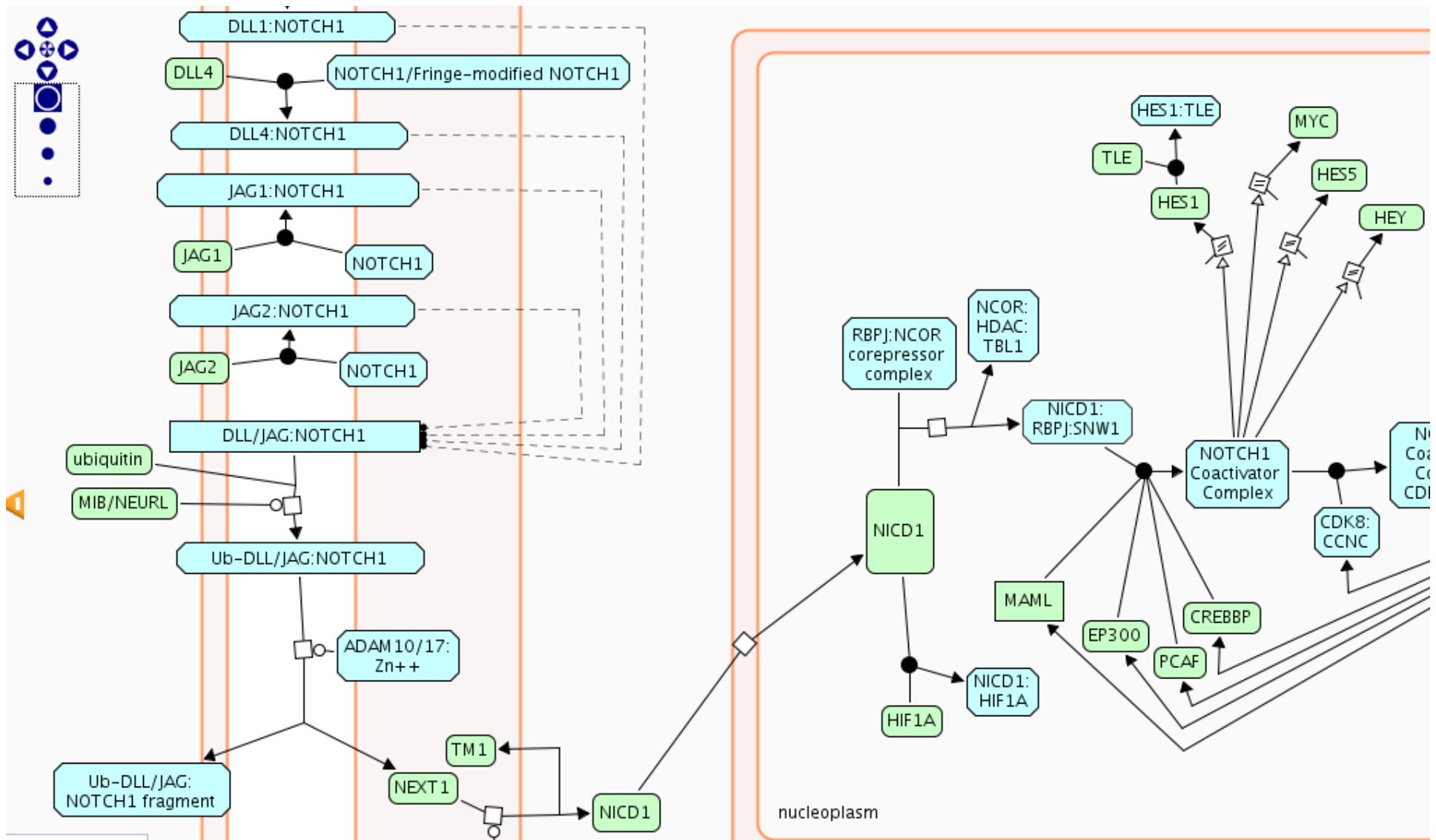


Relations to  
more specific classes

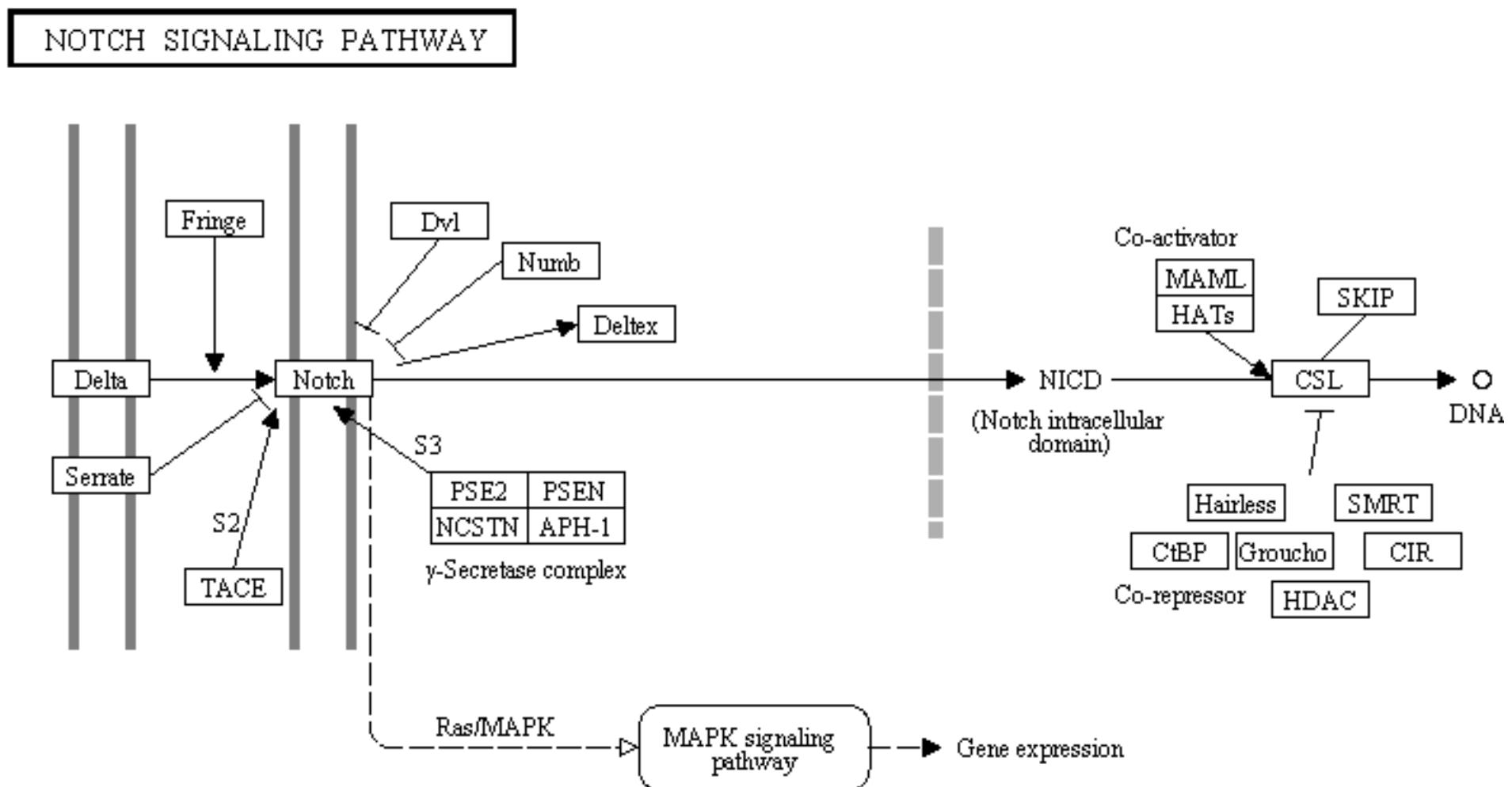
## ▼ GO:0007219 Notch signaling pathway

- R GO:0045746 negative regulation of Notch signaling pathway
- P GO:0035333 Notch receptor processing, ligand-dependent
- I GO:0061314 Notch signaling involved in heart development
- I GO:0060853 Notch signaling pathway involved in arterial endothelial cell fate commitment
- I GO:0060227 Notch signaling pathway involved in camera-type eye photoreceptor fate commitment
- I GO:0021876 Notch signaling pathway involved in forebrain neuroblast division
- I GO:0021880 Notch signaling pathway involved in forebrain neuron fate commitment
- I GO:0003137 Notch signaling pathway involved in heart induction
- I GO:2000796 Notch signaling pathway involved in negative regulation of venous endothelial
- I GO:0003270 Notch signaling pathway involved in regulation of secondary heart field cardiac
- I GO:1902359 Notch signaling pathway involved in somitogenesis
- R GO:0045747 positive regulation of Notch signaling pathway
- P GO:0007221 positive regulation of transcription of Notch receptor target
- R GO:0008593 regulation of Notch signaling pathway

# Notch signaling in Reactome



# Notch signaling in KEGG



# GO vs. pathway representations

- GO is a simpler representation of molecular events, but has more biological context
- Pathway representations are more detailed at the molecular level, and can capture dependencies and temporal series

# GO annotations know what you're getting

- Annotation is an association between
  - A gene/gene product
  - A Gene Ontology term

Annotation 1: INSR performs\_function ‘receptor activity’

Annotation 2: INSR located\_in ‘plasma membrane’

Annotation 3: INSR involved\_in ‘insulin receptor signaling pathway’

- But there is more information
  - Qualifier
  - Evidence code and evidence

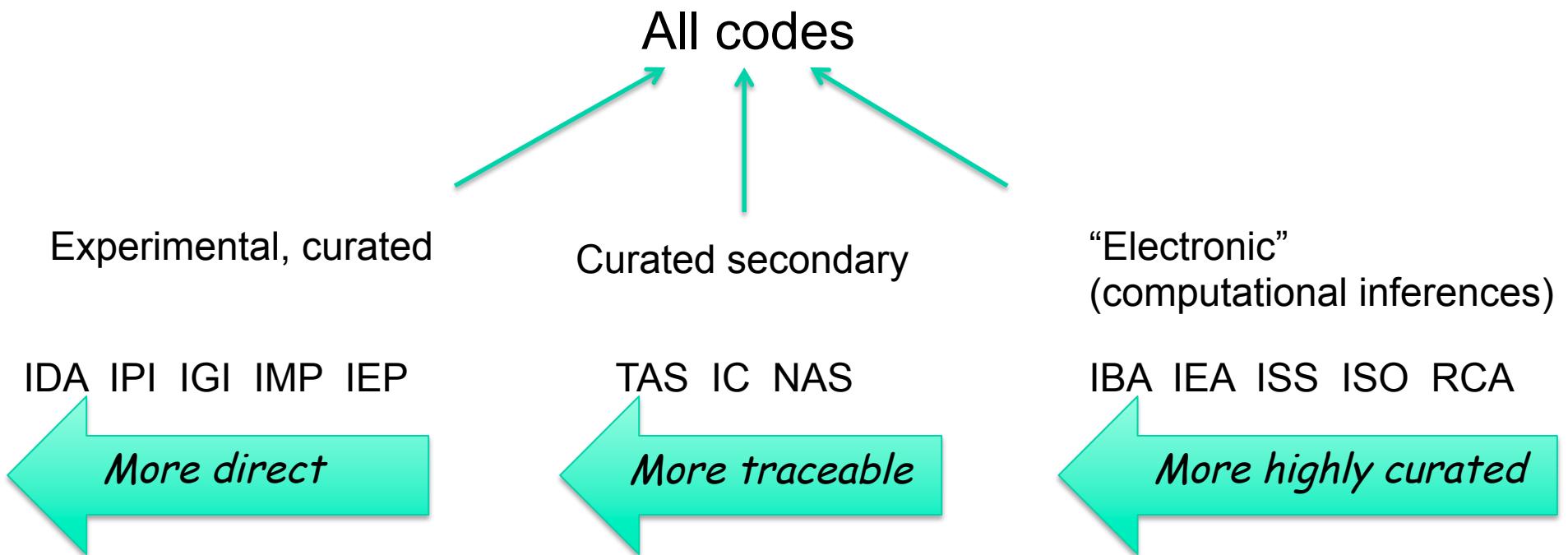
# Common qualifiers

- NOT
  - This is really important, it means that the gene product does NOT have a particular function
- contributes\_to
  - This is usually used when a gene product is part of a complex that has a particular molecular function, but it is not the active subunit

# Evidence

- GO annotations are based on evidence, which is given a type (evidence code) and a reference (usually a PubMed identifier)
- Evidence types
  - Curated from the primary literature
    - EXP, IDA, IEP, IGI IMP, IPI
  - Curated from "secondary sources"
    - TAS, NAS, IC
  - Curated from homology inference
    - ISS, IBA
  - Uncurated
    - IEA, RCA

# GO evidence codes



IDA tends to be more "direct" than IMP, which can be a downstream causal effect

Process	Evidence Code
<a href="#">G-protein coupled receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>
<a href="#">activation of MAPK activity</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>
<a href="#">activation of protein kinase B activity</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>
<a href="#">activation of protein kinase activity</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>
<a href="#">carbohydrate metabolic process</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>
<a href="#">cellular response to growth factor stimulus</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>
<a href="#">cellular response to insulin stimulus</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>
<a href="#">epidermis development</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>
<a href="#">exocrine pancreas development</a>	<a href="#">IEA</a>
<a href="#">glucose homeostasis</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>
<a href="#">heart morphogenesis</a>	<a href="#">IMP</a>
<a href="#">insulin receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">IDA</a>
<a href="#">insulin receptor signaling pathway</a>	<a href="#">TAS</a>
<a href="#">male sex determination</a>	<a href="#">IFA</a>

# Experimental evidence codes

- Expert biologist reads a paper, and selects GO terms that best describe functions that are experimentally demonstrated in the paper
- GO database currently includes annotations from over 100,000 scientific papers
- Reference field links to paper and allows you to verify the annotation

# Direct, literature-based annotation

- Function annotation **inference** based on direct evidence in the scientific literature
  - Experiment performed on that gene product itself
- Text mining and management (Textpresso)
  - Very active area of research
- Curator reads abstract or article and manually enters annotation
- GO annotation is performed at 12 different “model organism databases” and UniProt
- Two types:
  - Primary source: experimental paper (Evidence codes: IMP, IGI, IDA, IEP, IPI)
  - Secondary source: review article, introduction to another article, curator inference (TAS, NAS, IC)

GO experimental annotations cover  
a few major “model organisms”

Mouse	72183
<i>C. elegans</i> (worm)	59453
Human	59064
<i>A. thaliana</i> (plant)	41805
<i>D. melanogaster</i> (fruit fly)	34296
<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (yeast)	34003
Rat	28724
<i>C. albicans</i> (yeast)	18766
<i>S. pombe</i> (fission yeast)	16931
Zebrafish	14134
<i>A. nidulans</i> (fungus)	7982
<i>M. tuberculosis</i>	6001
<i>D. discoideum</i> (slime mold)	5107
<i>E. coli</i>	2013

# Experimental evidence types

- "Experimental" evidence codes
  - IDA: inferred from direct assay
  - IGI: inferred from genetic interaction
  - IPI: inferred from protein interaction
  - IMP: inferred from mutant phenotype
  - IEP: inferred from expression pattern
  - EXP: inferred from experimental evidence
- Important distinctions
  - IDA, IGI, IPI: usually the most direct
  - IMP, IEP: can be indirect, downstream effects
  - IEP is used very cautiously by curators

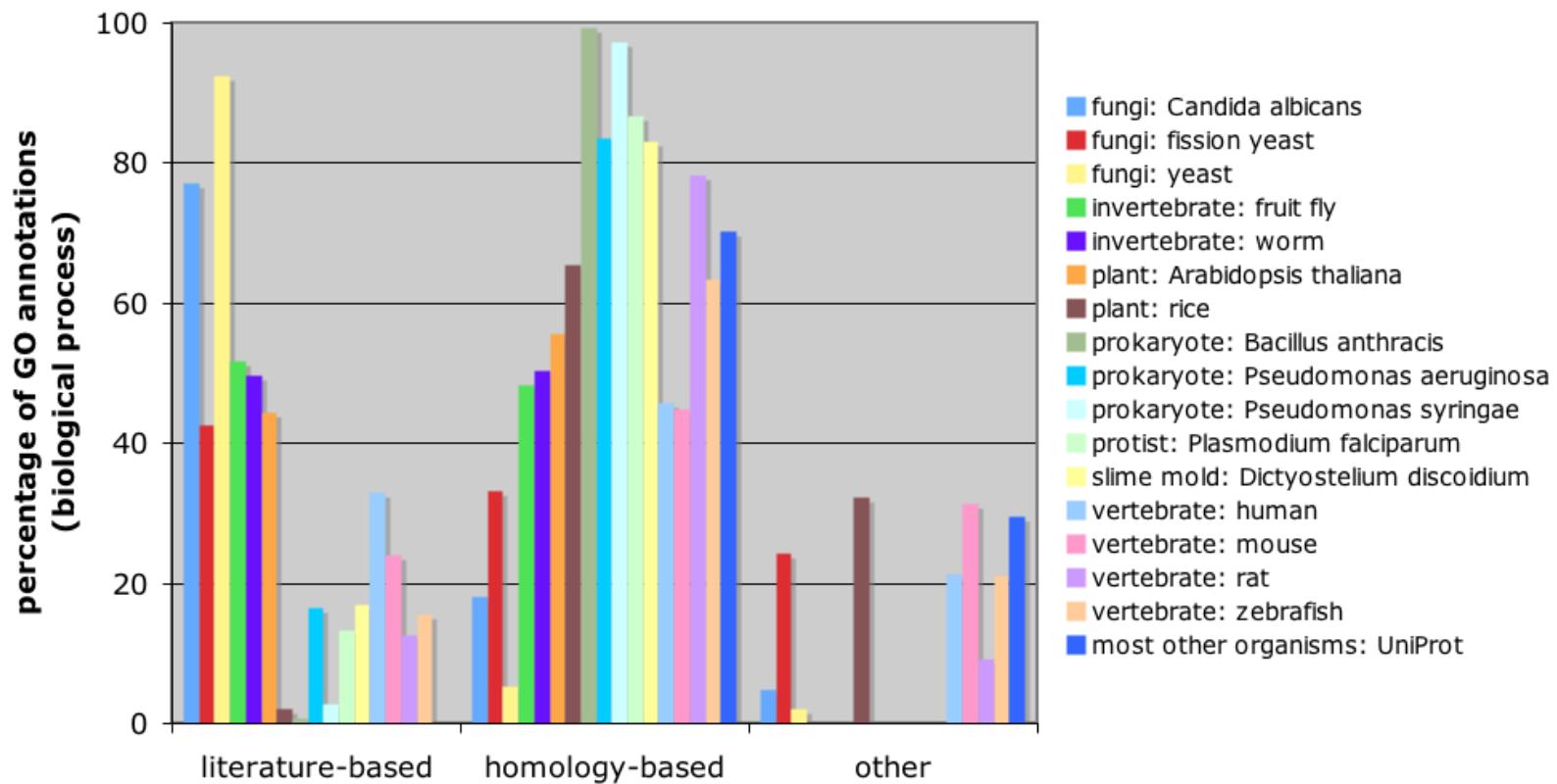
# “Secondary” source annotations from literature

- TAS: traceable author statement
  - The author referenced another paper; these are being traced and replaced by primary annotations
- NAS: nontraceable author statement
  - The author did not reference another paper; these are no longer commonly used as evidence
- IC: inferred by curator
  - For example, a paper demonstrates transcription factor activity in a human cell; curator infers that it must function in the nucleus

# “Electronic” evidence

- Important distinction: degree of manual review
  - RCA: no systematic review, mostly “guilt by association” methods
  - ISO: no review, but conservative rules for function inference for some 1:1 orthologs
  - ISS: review of pairwise homology and function, but no consistent rules
  - IEA: review of large lists of homologous proteins and selection of which terms to infer
  - IBA: review of ALL experimental annotations for each gene family and selection of which terms to infer by constructing explicit evolutionary model

# Most GO annotations are based on homology (except for some yeasts)



[Curr Opin Chem Biol. 2007 Feb;11\(1\):4-11. Epub 2007 Jan 5.](#)

**Ontology annotation: mapping genomic regions to biological function.**

Thomas PD, Mi H, Lewis S.

Evolutionary Systems Biology Group, Artificial Intelligence Center, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA. paul.thomas@sri.com

# Homology is still the most informative predictor of function

- Many “guilt by association” methods, e.g. protein interaction network analysis, gene co-expression, etc.
- In recent function prediction experiment (CAFA), homology still found to be major component of informative predictions
  - See BMC Bioinformatics 14:suppl 3 (2013), e.g. Hamp et al., Gillis et al.

# Homology-based annotation

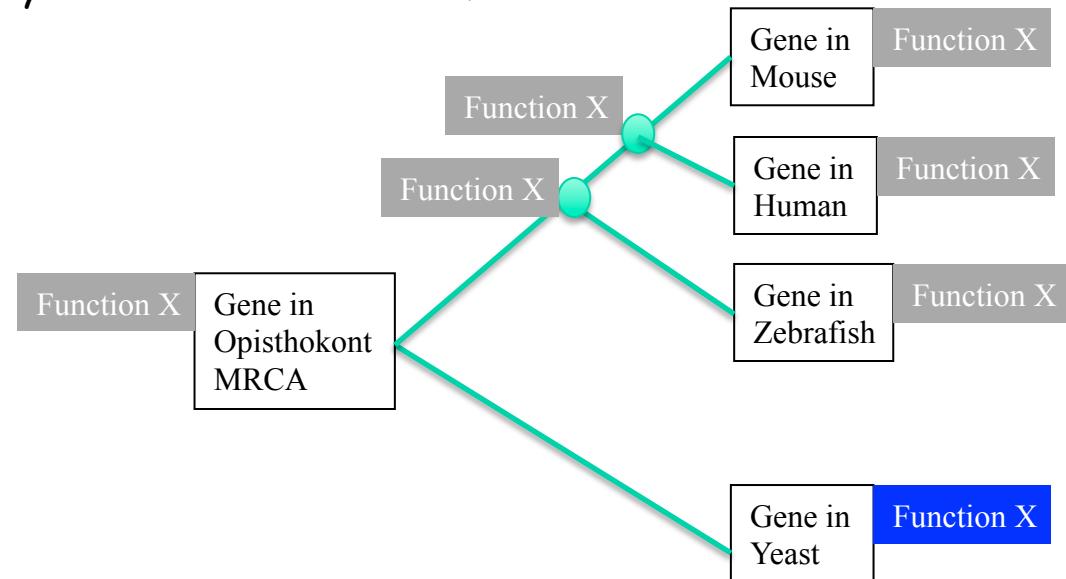
- “traditional” pairwise view
  - If two sequences are similar, they are likely to share some functions in common
  - So if I know the function of one gene, I can make inferences about the function of another gene
    - “transitive annotation” (ISS evidence code in GO)
  - Very commonly applied, in database search algorithms like BLAST, FASTA (e.g. Blast2GO)
  - This success has led to overinterpretation of its meaning by many casual users
    - A class of database search has become a metaphor, implying that **“genes have similar functions because they have similar sequences”**

# ISS is based on pairwise sequence comparison: example BLAST results for human MTHFR vs. SwissProt database



# Understanding what homology inference really is

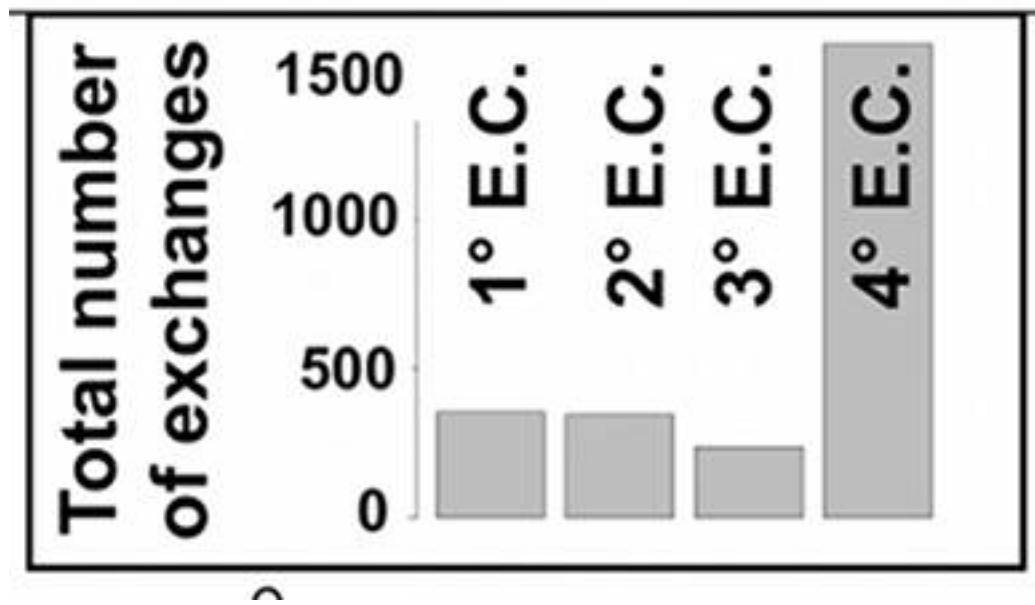
- Two sequences are similar **because** they are homologous (at least for relatively long, non-repetitive sequences, i.e. almost all genes)
- More properly, transitive annotation of function is inheritance!
- “related genes have a common function **because** their common ancestor had that function, which was inherited by its descendants”
- not just an inference about one gene. It is also making inferences about
  - The most recent common ancestor (MRCA)
  - Continuous inheritance since the MRCA
  - Potential inheritance by other descendants of the MRCA



# Fundamental challenge in using sequence similarity to annotate function (1): SEQUENCES of different genes (proteins) evolve at different rates

- Sequence divergence (e.g. BLAST score or E-value) cannot be simply converted to an evolutionary relationship
  - Score depends on time, selective constraints, length of gene/protein sequence, sequence composition
- Problem can be addressed using phylogenetic trees

# Fundamental challenge in using sequence similarity to annotate function (2): Different GO functions in same protein family evolve at different rates



- Enzyme mechanism (1-3) evolves more slowly than substrate specificity (4)
- In general, no pairwise similarity threshold to reliably predict all different functions!
- Problem can be addressed by treating different functions independently

[PLoS Comput Biol. 2012;8\(3\):e1002403. Epub 2012 Mar 1.](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002403)

**Exploring the evolution of novel enzyme functions within structurally defined protein superfamilies.**

Furnham N, Sillitoe I, Holliday GL, Cuff AL, Laskowski RA, Orengo CA, Thornton JM.

EMBL-EBI, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, United Kingdom. [nickf@ebi.ac.uk](mailto:nickf@ebi.ac.uk)

# Using trees to get relationships between genes

- ISO: inferred from sequence orthology
  - From Ensembl Compara
  - Function annotations are NOT REVIEWED
    - For vertebrates: infers that all experimental annotations in any vertebrate are true of all vertebrates IF there is one-to-one gene orthology
    - For plants: infers that all experimental annotations in any plant are true of all plants IF orthology AND sequence identity > 60%.

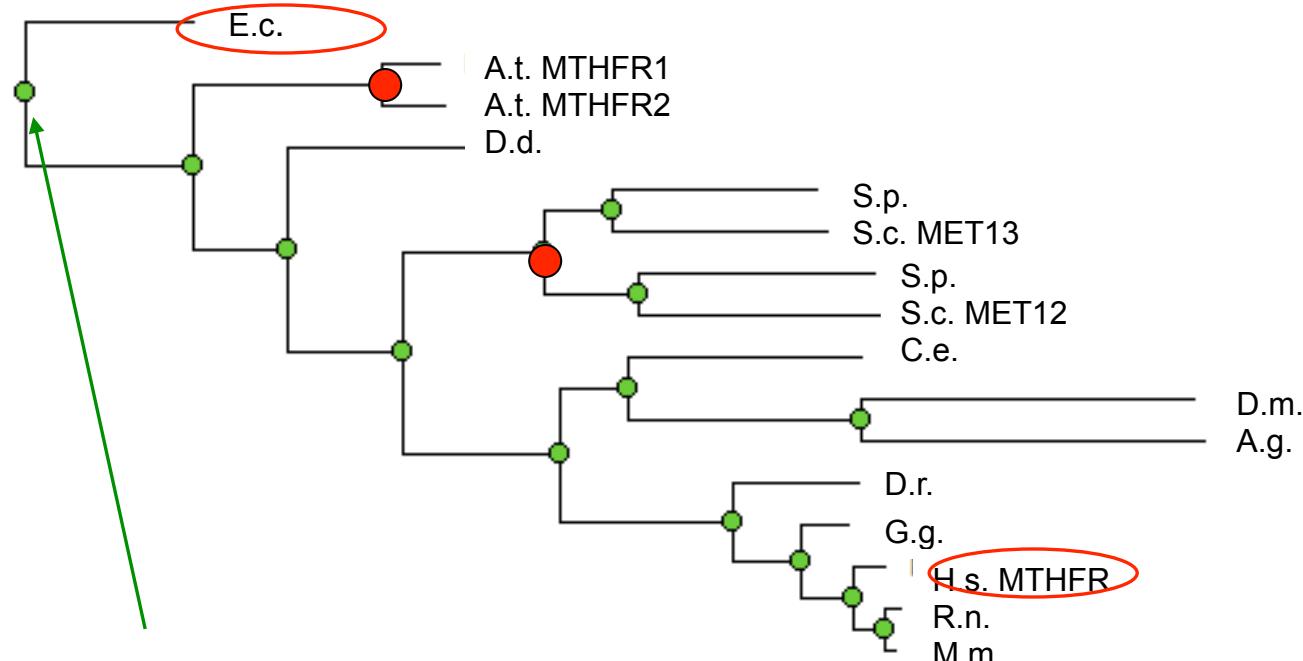
# Understanding ISO: Concept of orthologs

- The term “orthologs” is often used to denote “the same gene” in different organisms but this is not technically correct, and can lead to confusion
- Defined by J. Fitch (Syst Zool 19:99, 1970)
- Orthologs share a MRCA immediately preceding a speciation event
  - i.e. they can be traced to a **single** gene in the most recent common ancestor population/species
- Paralogs share a MRCA immediately preceding a gene duplication event
  - i.e. they can be traced to a gene duplication event in the most recent common ancestor population/species, and can be traced to **distinct** ancestral genes in that species

# Why orthology is confusing

- It is a statement about an evolutionary relationship and not about gene function
  - Orthologs may be doing different things in their respective species
- It is a pairwise definition, yet “ortholog group” or “ortholog cluster” are common terms
  - Orthology is NOT TRANSITIVE
    - An ortholog cluster may contain pairs that are paralogs!
- Proposed solutions are also complicated
  - One solution is to ignore any cases except “one-to-one orthologs” where no gene duplication occurs, but this misses many functionally similar genes
    - All current ISO annotations are from one-to-one orthology
  - Another solution is to allow “close paralogs” (“in-paralogs”, Sonnhammer) into the cluster.

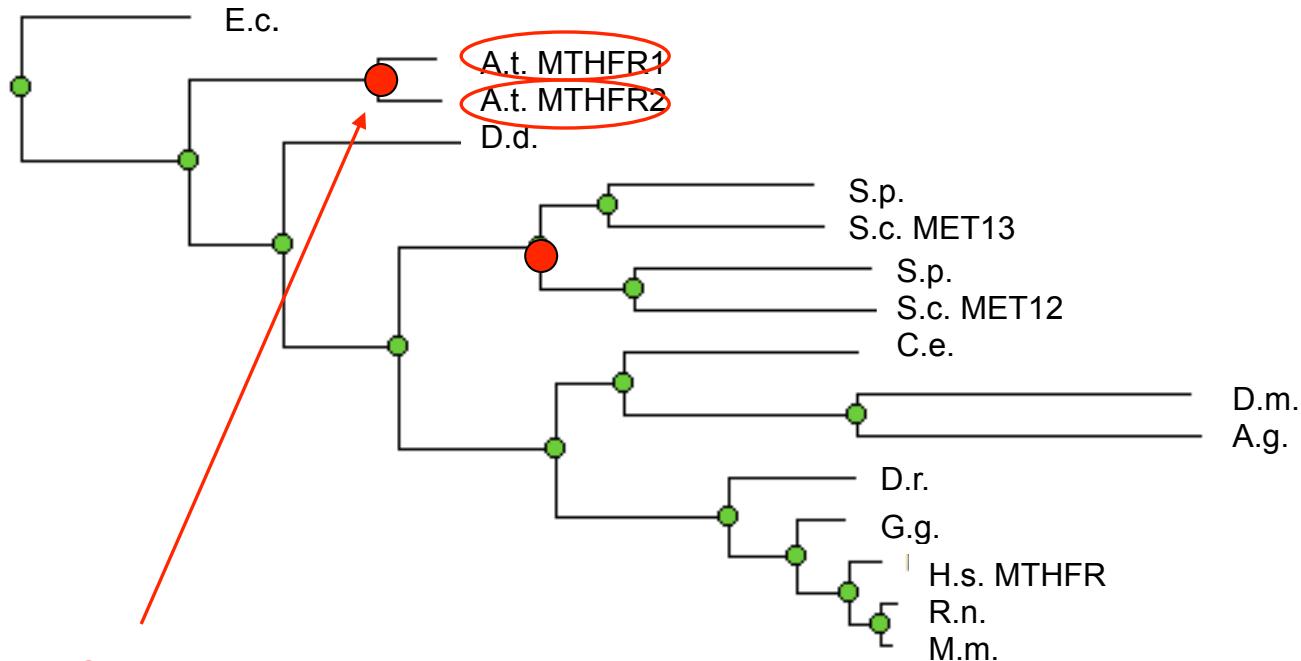
# Orthology only defined for PAIRS of genes



LCA is a speciation event  
So these are orthologs

Two genes are orthologs if their LCA was a speciation event

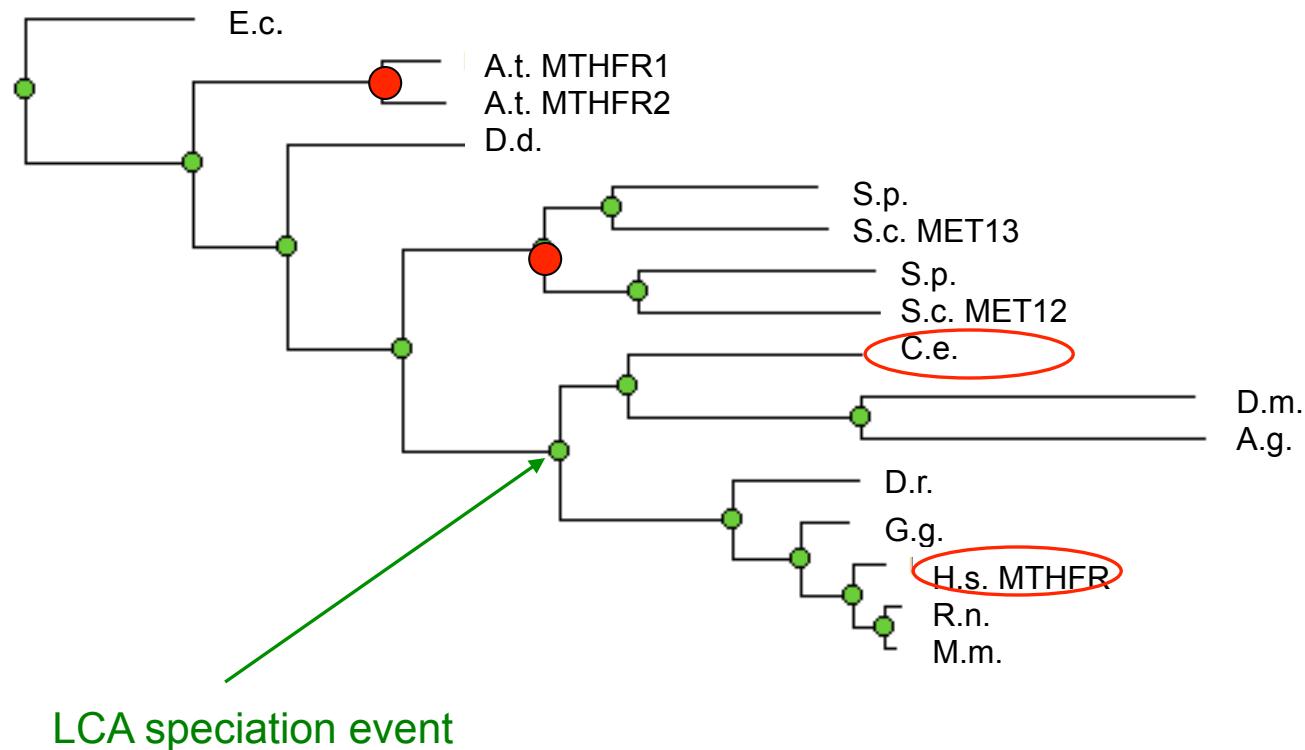
# Paralogy only defined for PAIRS of genes



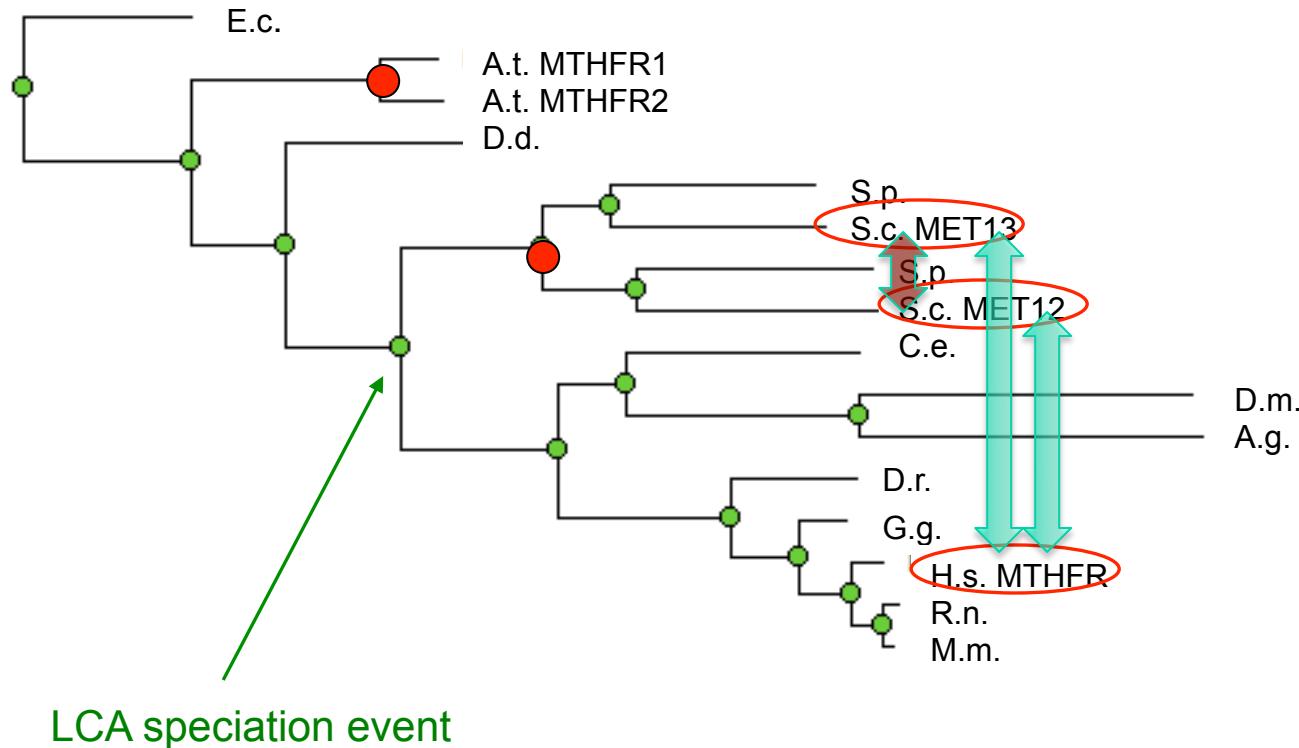
LCA is a duplication event  
So these are paralogs

Two genes are paralogs if their LCA was a duplication event

# Orthology is simple when there are no duplications following speciation

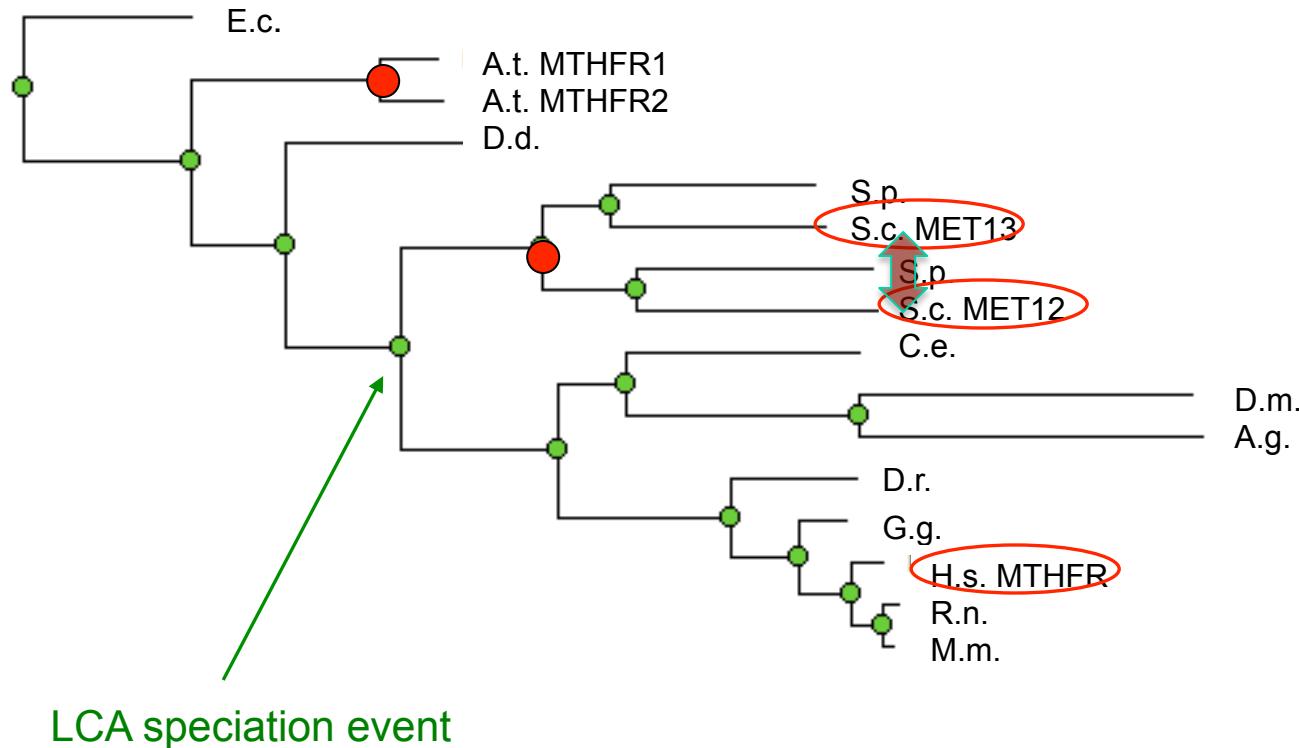


# Orthology gets more complicated when there are duplications following speciation



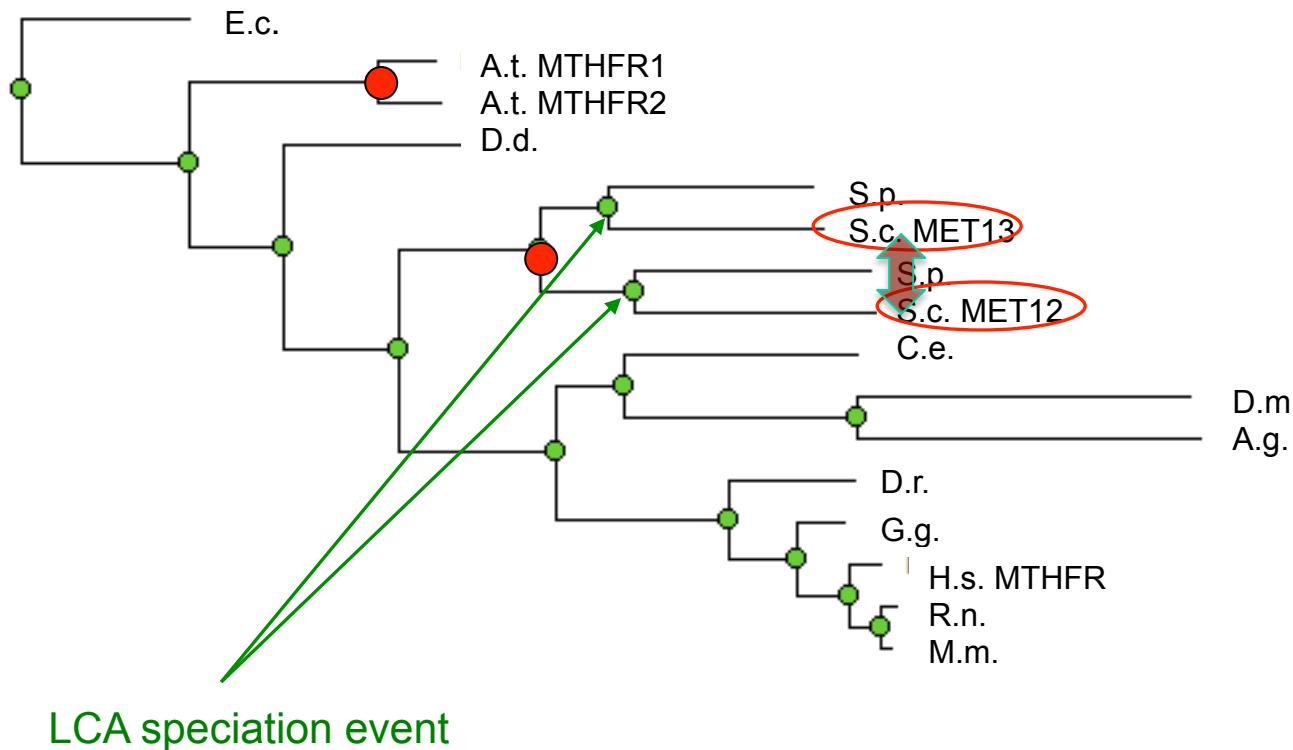
H.s. MTHFR has two orthologs in yeast  
And these two orthologs are paralogs of each other

These genes are “in paralogs” with respect to each other when comparing to animal genomes



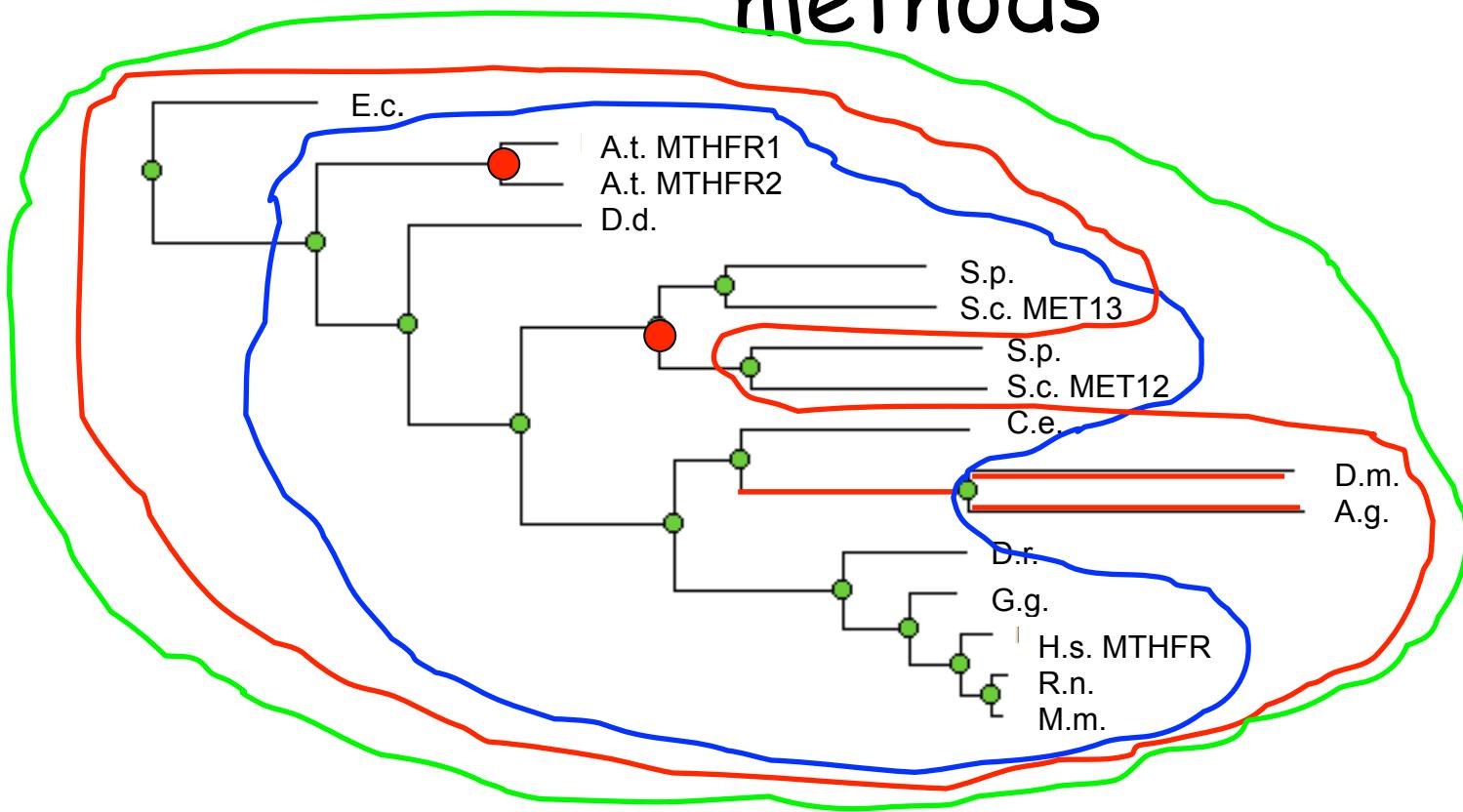
H.s. MTHFR has two orthologs in yeast  
And these two orthologs are paralogs of each other

But these same genes are "out paralogs" with respect to each other when comparing fungal genomes



H.s. MTHFR has two orthologs in yeast  
And these two orthologs are paralogs of each other

# Clusters from different “orthology” methods



- OrthoMCL in red; PhiGs in blue; InParanoid in green
- An “ortholog cluster” is made by one or more “slices” through the protein family tree

# IEA annotations have multiple sources

- IEA annotations far outnumber any other type
- Two major sources
  - Swiss-Prot keywords, mapped to GO terms
    - Assigned manually, or by unreviewed sequence similarity
    - No evidence trail
  - InterPro models, mapped to GO terms manually
    - Assigned manually to families of related sequences, not to individual sequences

# IEA annotations: InterPro

- InterproScan is among most highly-used automatic method
- Combines most popular web resources into one package
- Most of these are homology-based, searching a library of Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)
- Two distinct types of model
  - Domain-based (e.g. Pfam, SMART, Superfamily)
    - Model divergent groups usually with relatively ancient common ancestor
    - Domain shuffling has often occurred since this ancestor
    - Useful for seeing modular architecture
    - Will often predict only very general function, conserved since MRCA of module
  - Subfamily-based (e.g. PANTHER, TIGRFAMs, PRINTS)
    - Model groups that are more closely related (relatively recent ancestor or less divergent phylogenetic groups)
    - Domain shuffling has generally not occurred since this ancestor
    - Can predict much more specific functions

# HMM: “generative model”, first-order, learn “hidden” states and probabilities

A sequence alignment of mammalian tyrosinases from various vertebrates. The sequences are color-coded by residue type: hydrophobic (black), polar uncharged (white), and polar charged (grey). The alignment shows a highly conserved structural motif across the different species.

```
PFTGVDDREDWPAVFYNRCTQCNMFNCGECRFGFSGPNCAERR.MRM.RRSIFQL  
PFSGVDDREDWPSVFYNRCTCRGNMFNCGECKFGFSGQNCTERR.LRT.RRNIFQL  
PFSGVDDREDWPSVFYNRCTCRGNMFNCGECKFGFSGQNCTERR.LRT.RRNIFQL  
PFSGVDDREDWPSVFYNRCTCRGNMFNCGECKFGFSGQNCTERR.LRT.RRNIFQL  
PFSGVDDREDWPSVFYNRCTCRGNMFNCGECKFGFSGQNCTERR.LRT.RRNIFQL  
PFSKVDDREDWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGDCKFGFIGPNCLERK.LLL.RRSIFDL  
PFSRVDDREEWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGDCKFGFLGPNCLEERR.LLV.RRSIFDL  
PIFIGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTCHCSGNMFFDCGNCRFGLGGPSCTERR.MLV.RRNIFDL  
PFTGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFSCGNCKFGYLGPNCTEKR.VLV.RRNIFDL  
PFTGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFSCGSCKFGYRGPNCSQKR.VLV.RRNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGNCKFGFGGSNCTEKR.LLI.RRNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGNCKFGFGGPNCTEKR.VLI.RRNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGNCKFGFGGPNCTEKR.VLI.RRNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGNCKFGFGGPNCTEKR.VLI.RRNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGNCKFGFGGPNCTEKR.VLI.RRNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGNSKEFGFGGPNCTEKR.VLI.RRNIFDL  
PFTGMDDRESWPTVFYNRCTQCSGNMFFDCGNCRFGFGGPNCETR.FLV.RRNIFDL  
PFTGVDDRESWPTVFYNRCTQCSSNFMDFDGNCRFGFGGPNCERR.FLV.RRNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGXCKFGFRGPNCTER.FLV.RKNIFDL  
PFKGVDDRESWPSVFYNRCTQCSGNMFNCGNCKFGFRGPNCTER.K.FLV.RKNIFDL
```

Mammalian tyrosinases excerpted from  
an alignment spanning vertebrates

# Profile-based annotation

- Define a group of homologous sequences
  - Family/domain (e.g. Pfam)
  - Subfamily (e.g. PANTHER)
- For most methods, build an HMM to recognize members of the homologous group
- Annotate the group with functions/processes all known members have in common

## PANTHER: A Library of Protein Families and Subfamilies Indexed by Function

Paul D. Thomas, Michael J. Campbell, Anish Kejariwal, et al.

*Genome Res.* 2003 13: 2129-2141

[Database \(Oxford\)](#), 2012 Feb 1;2012:bar068. Print 2012.

## Manual GO annotation of predictive protein signatures: the InterPro approach to GO curation.

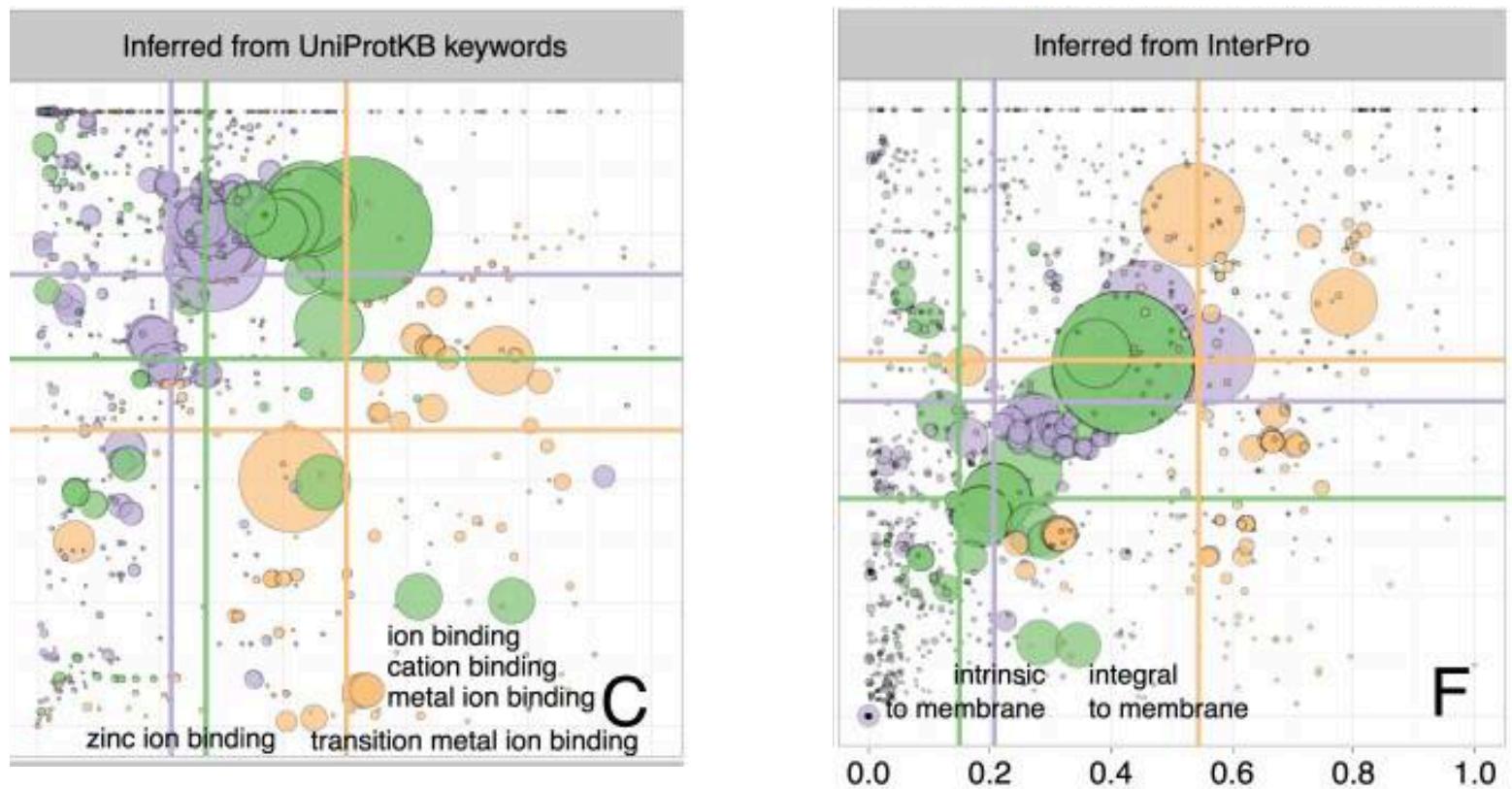
Burge S, Kelly E, Lonsdale D, Mutowo-Muellenet P, McAnulla C, Mitchell A, Sangrador-Vegas A, Yong SY, Mulder N, Hunter S.

EMBL-EBI, The Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire CB10 1SD, UK.

# Profile-based annotation

- Driven by sequence relationships first, function later
  - Generally works well for molecular function
    - Sometimes loses specificity, depending on the approach
  - Loses specificity especially for biological process largely because of
    - co-option into new processes during evolution
    - Domain shuffling

# IEA: keywords are more reliable than InterPro



[PLOS Comput Biol. 2012 May;8\(5\):e1002533. Epub 2012 May 31.](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002533)

## Quality of computationally inferred gene ontology annotations.

Biological process

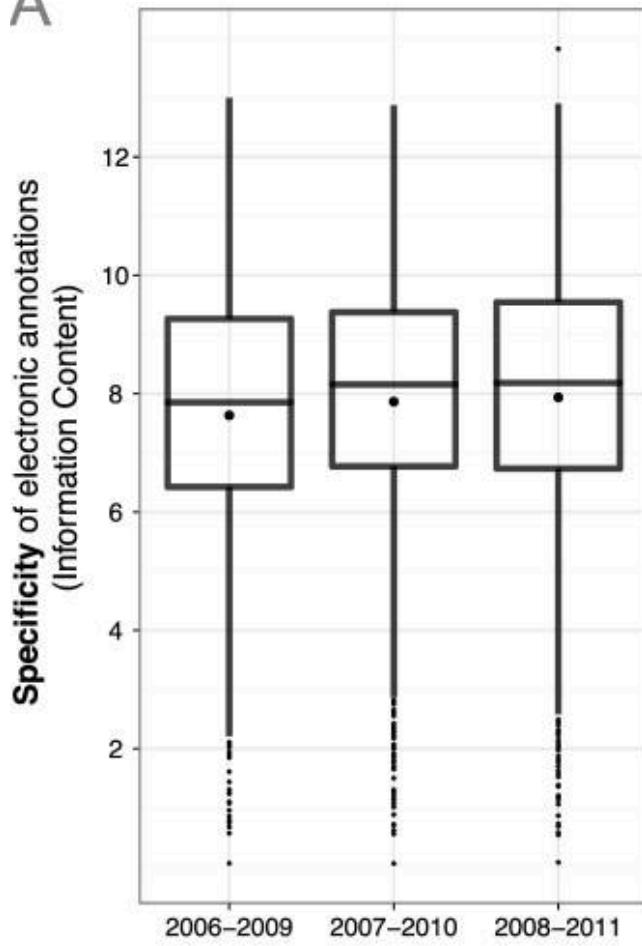
Skunca N, Altenhoff A, Dessimoz C.

Ruđer Bošković Institute, Division of Electronics, Zagreb, Croatia.

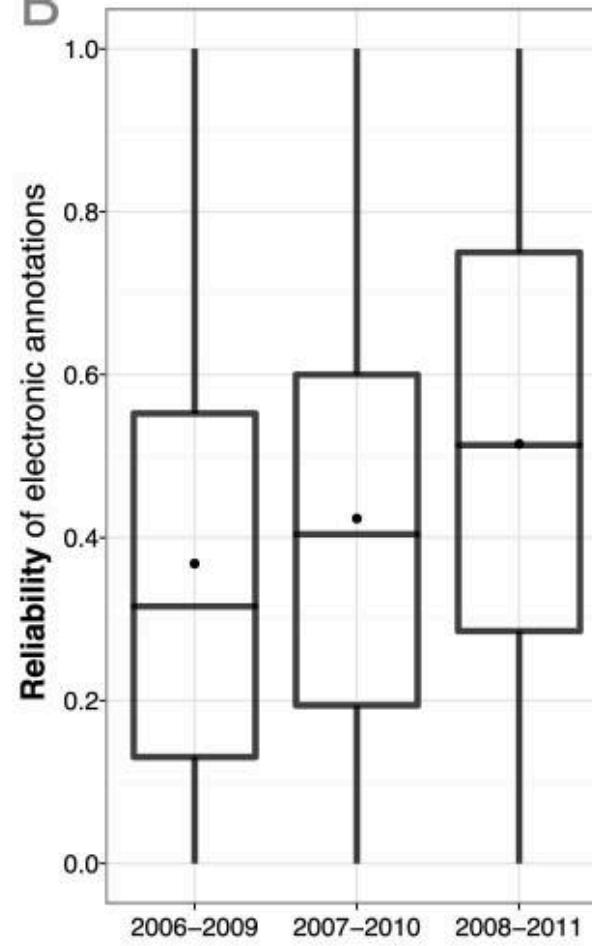


# IEAs have become more specific and more reliable

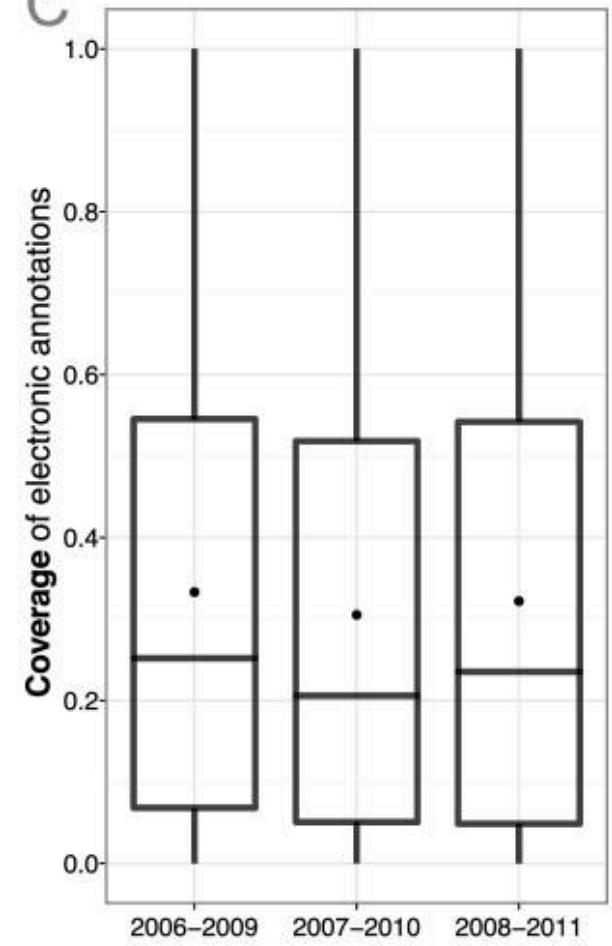
A



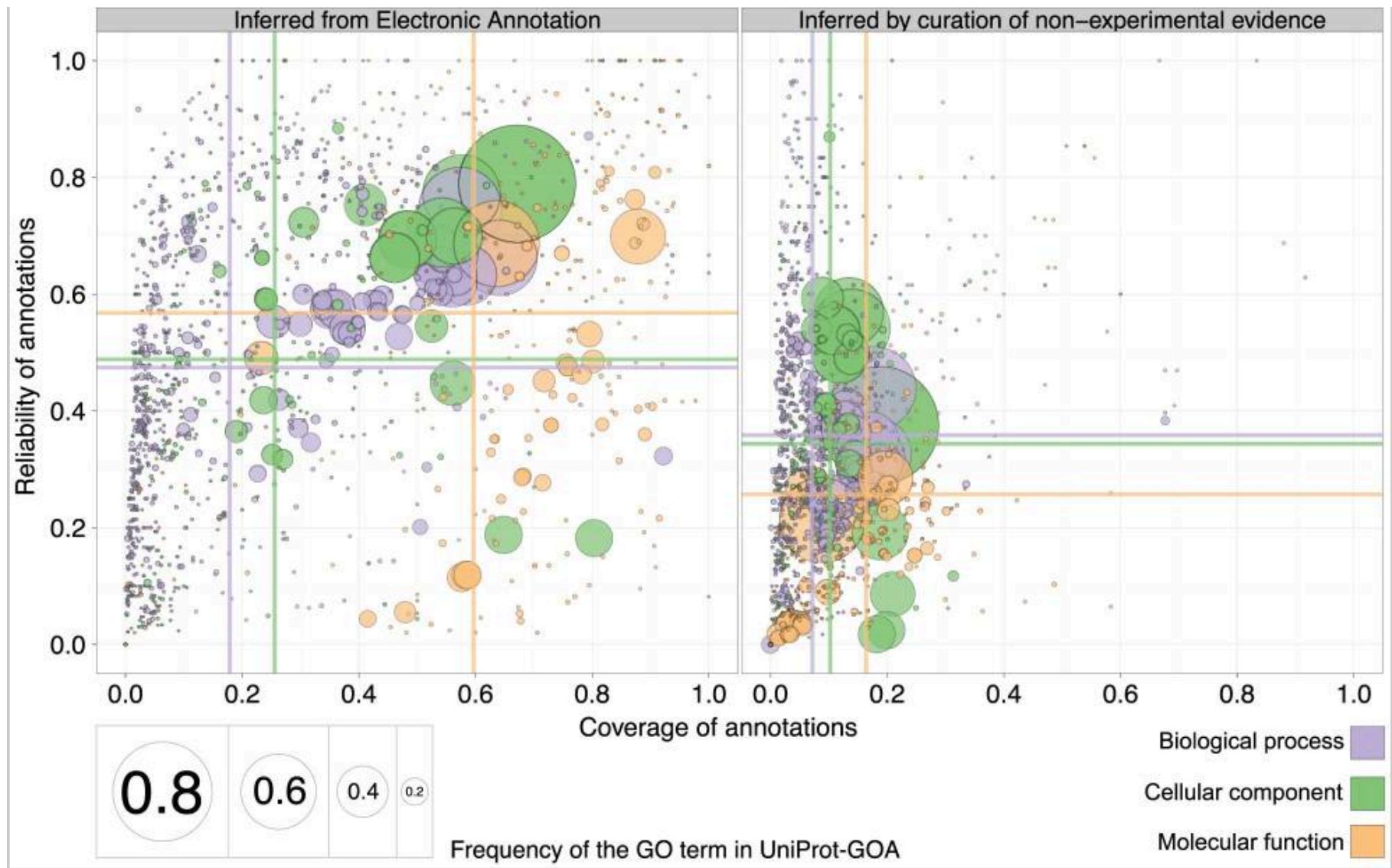
B



C



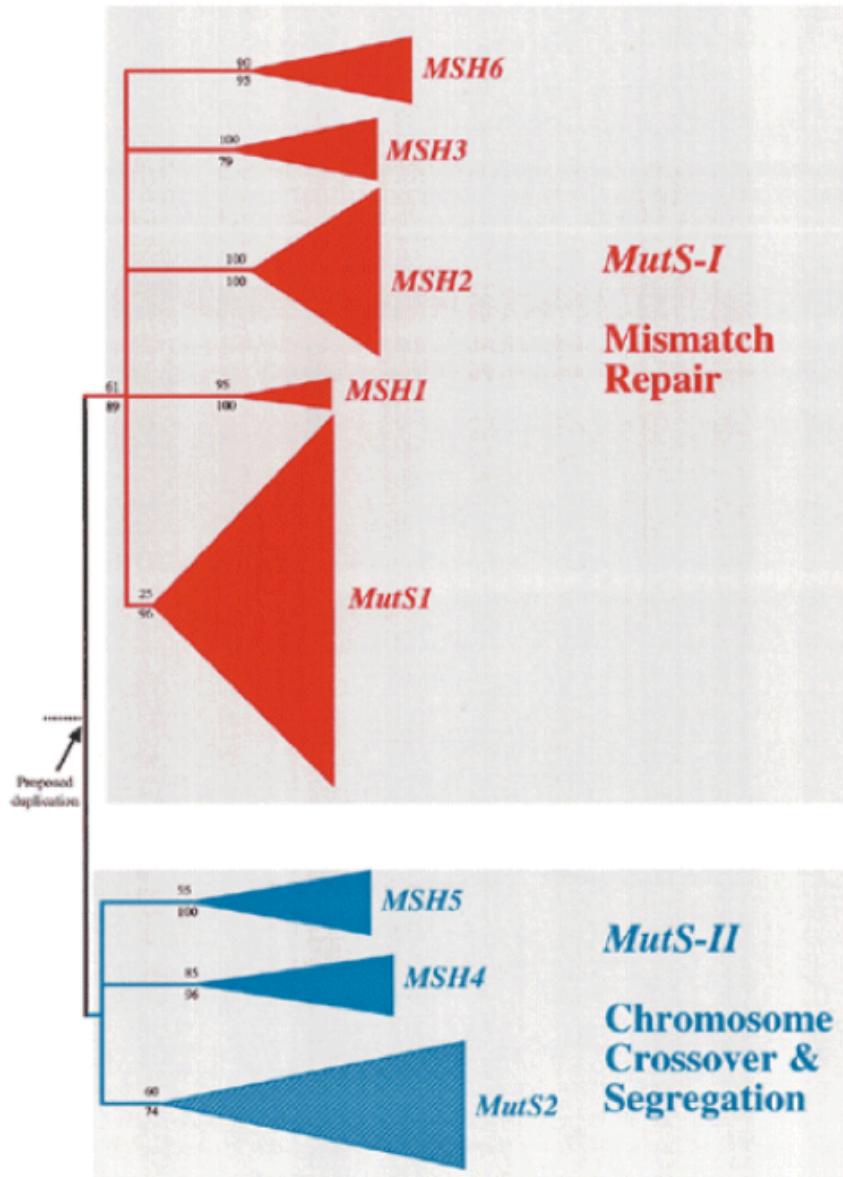
# IEA is more reliable than ISS+IC



# IBA: inferred annotations using manually annotated ancestral genes

- New effort within GO Consortium
  - Currently covers ~10% of genes in 85 genomes, growing daily
- Review ALL experimental annotations for ALL genes in a gene family
- Build explicit models of function evolution
  - Use "evolutionary reasoning": descendants generally share a character because they inherited it from a common ancestor
    - Infer the function of an ancestor from knowledge about its descendants
    - Infer the function of uncharacterized descendants from inference about its ancestor
  - Create a model of evolution of function for every gene family
    - Gains of function
    - Losses of function

# "Phylogenomic" function annotation



- View known data in the context of phylogenetic tree
- Infer subfamilies that share function

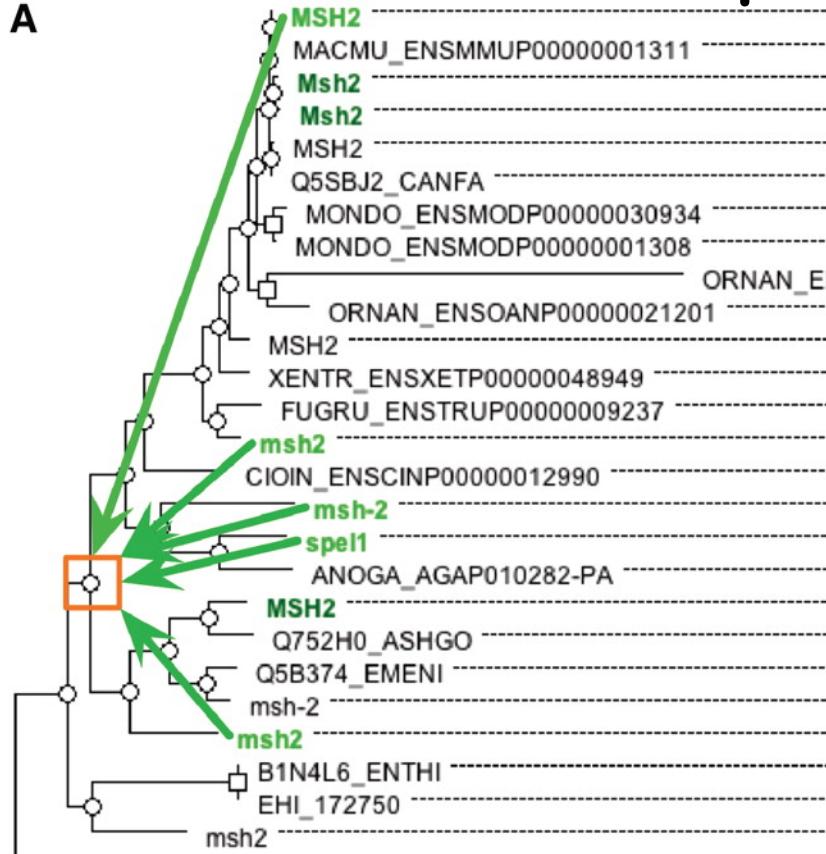
[Nucleic Acids Res. 1998 Sep 15;26\(18\):4291-300.](#)

**A phylogenomic study of the MutS family of proteins.**

[Eisen JA.](#)

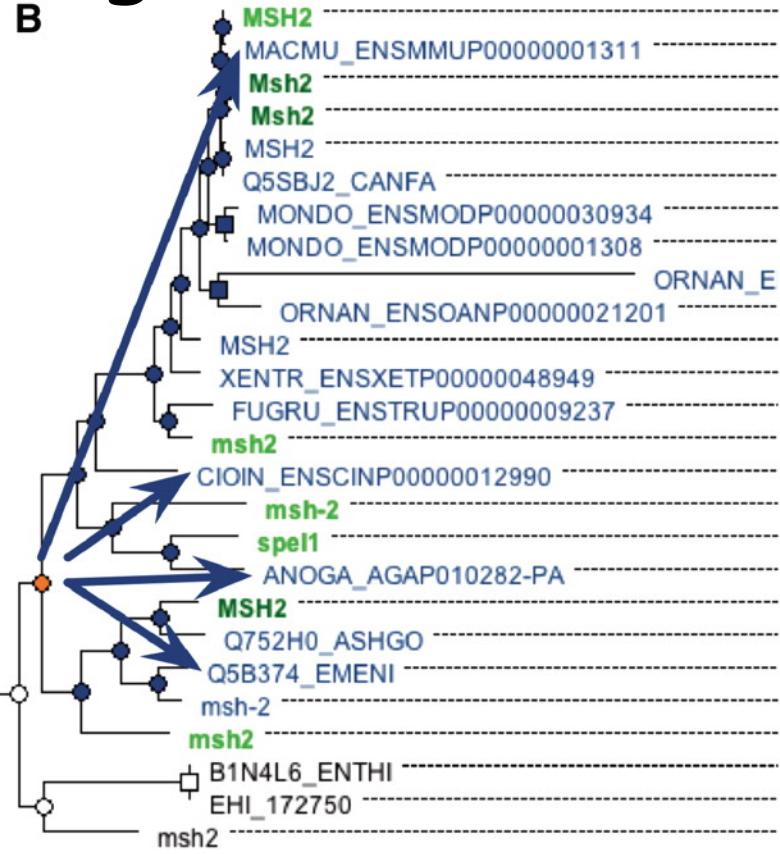
# IBA: Use multiple pieces of evidence in a phylogenetic tree

A



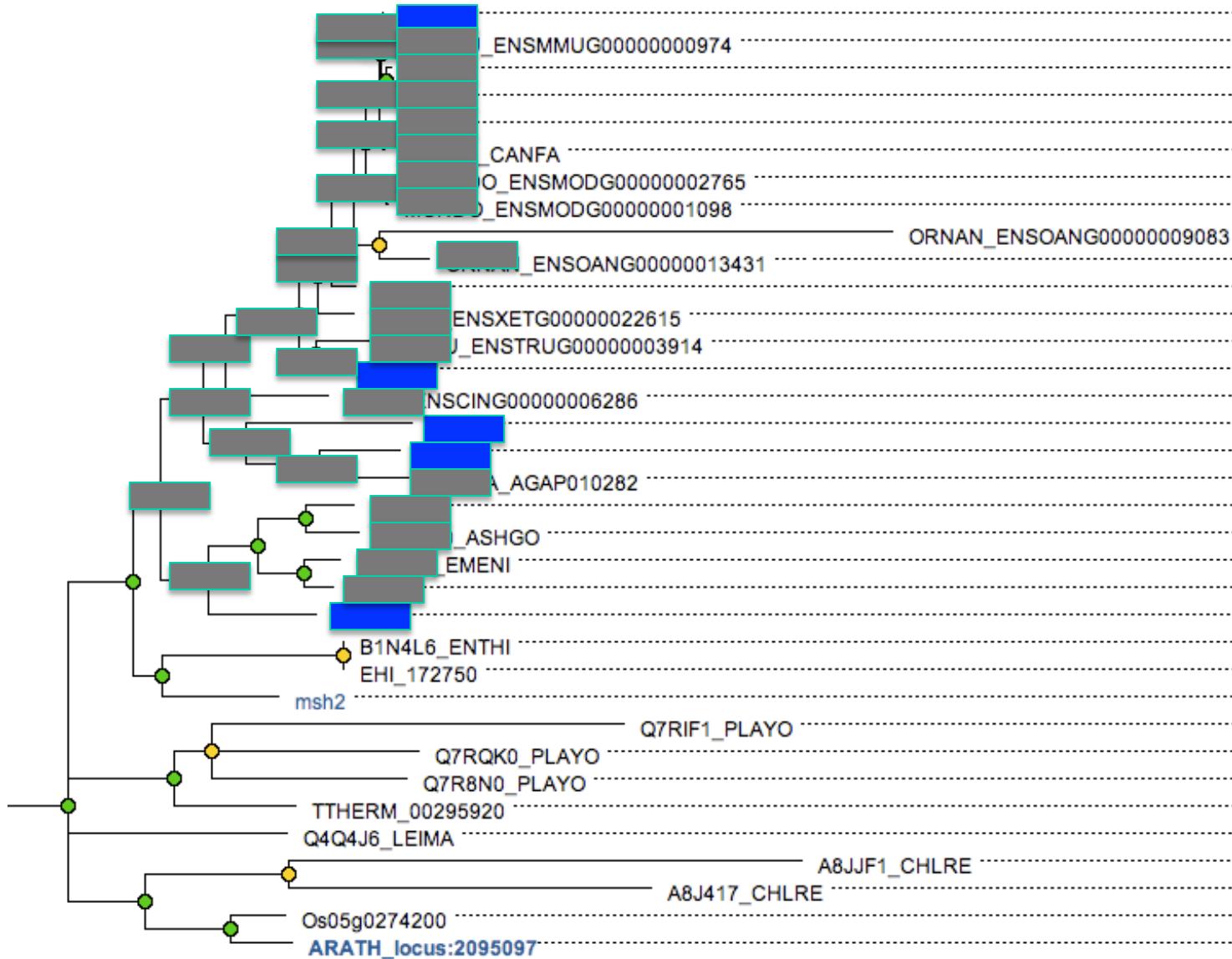
Integration of experimental GO annotations from different models (curated)

B



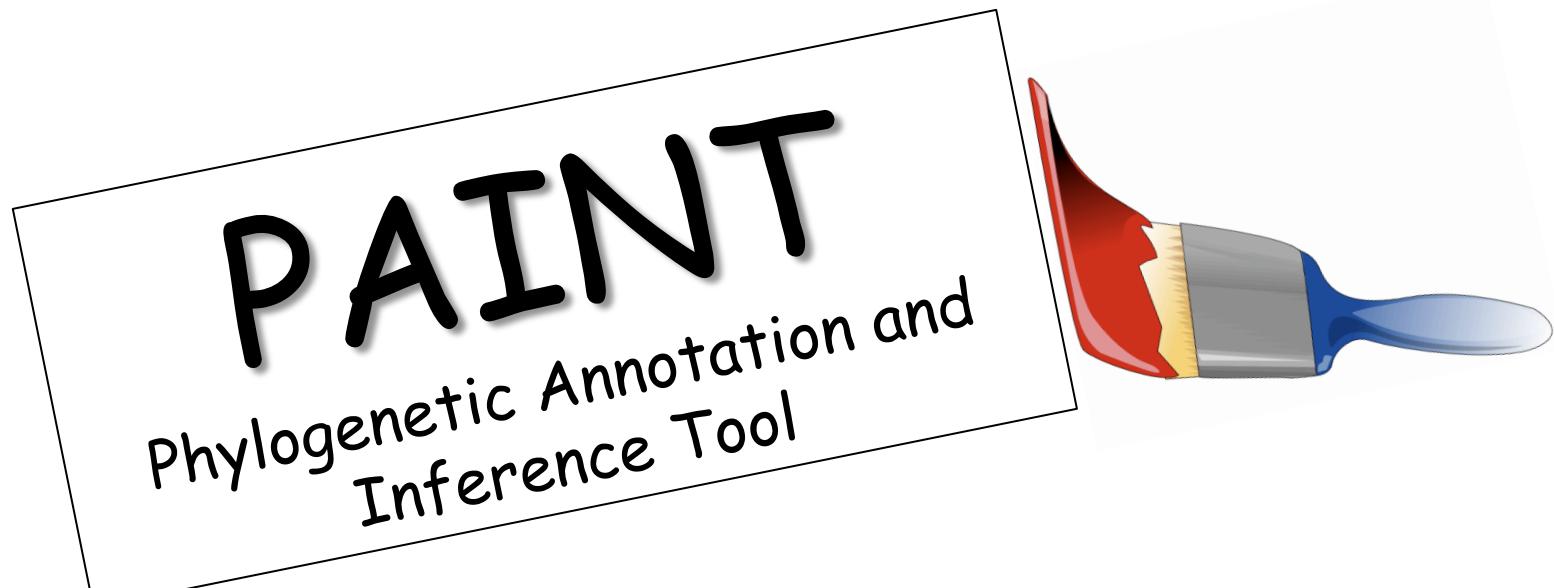
Inheritance of inferred ancestral annotations to annotate extant genes (automatic)

# Example annotation: maintenance of DNA repeat elements



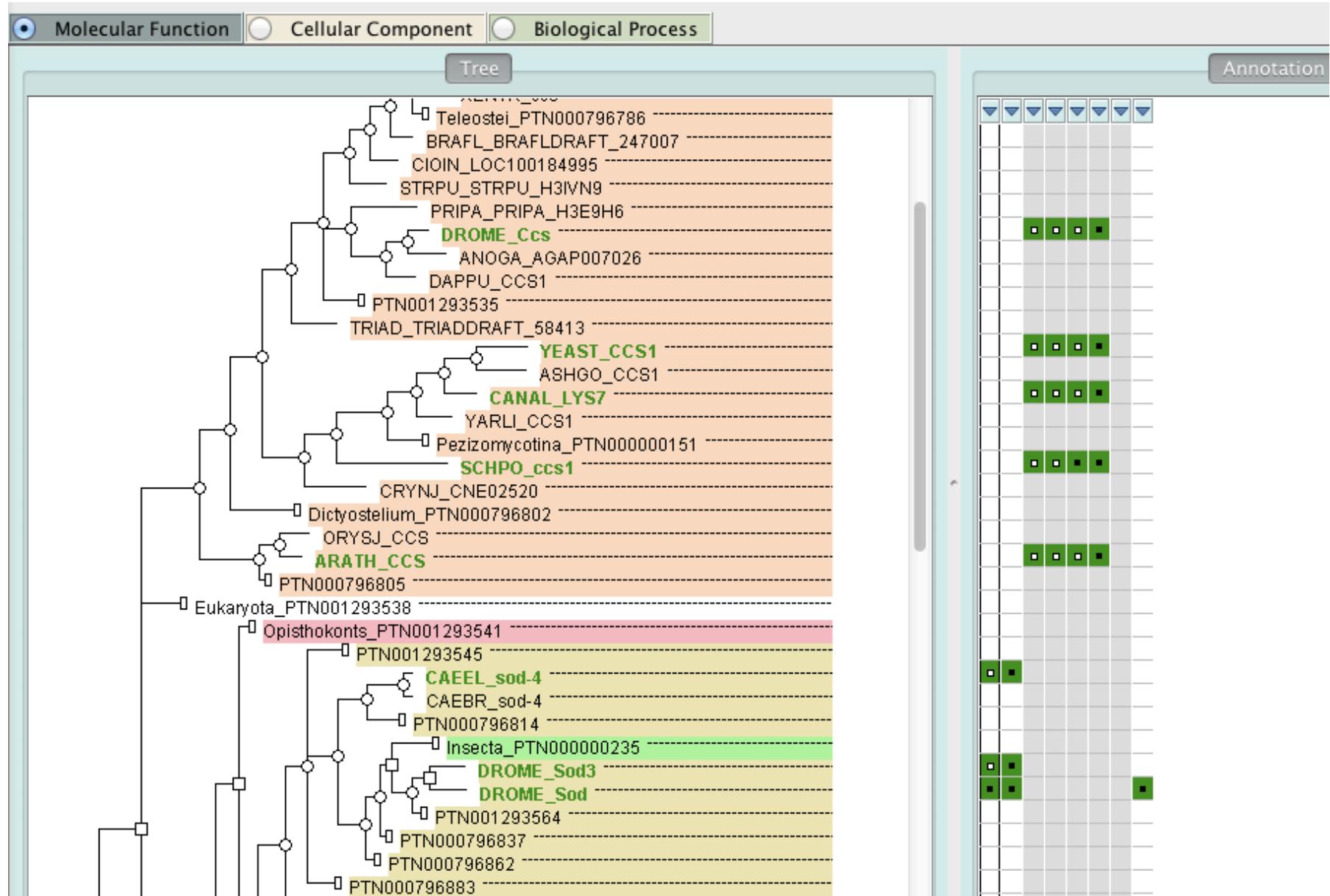
# IBA: software-assisted manual annotation

- Need to view tree, annotations and additional relevant information
- Need to annotate trees with function gain and loss events

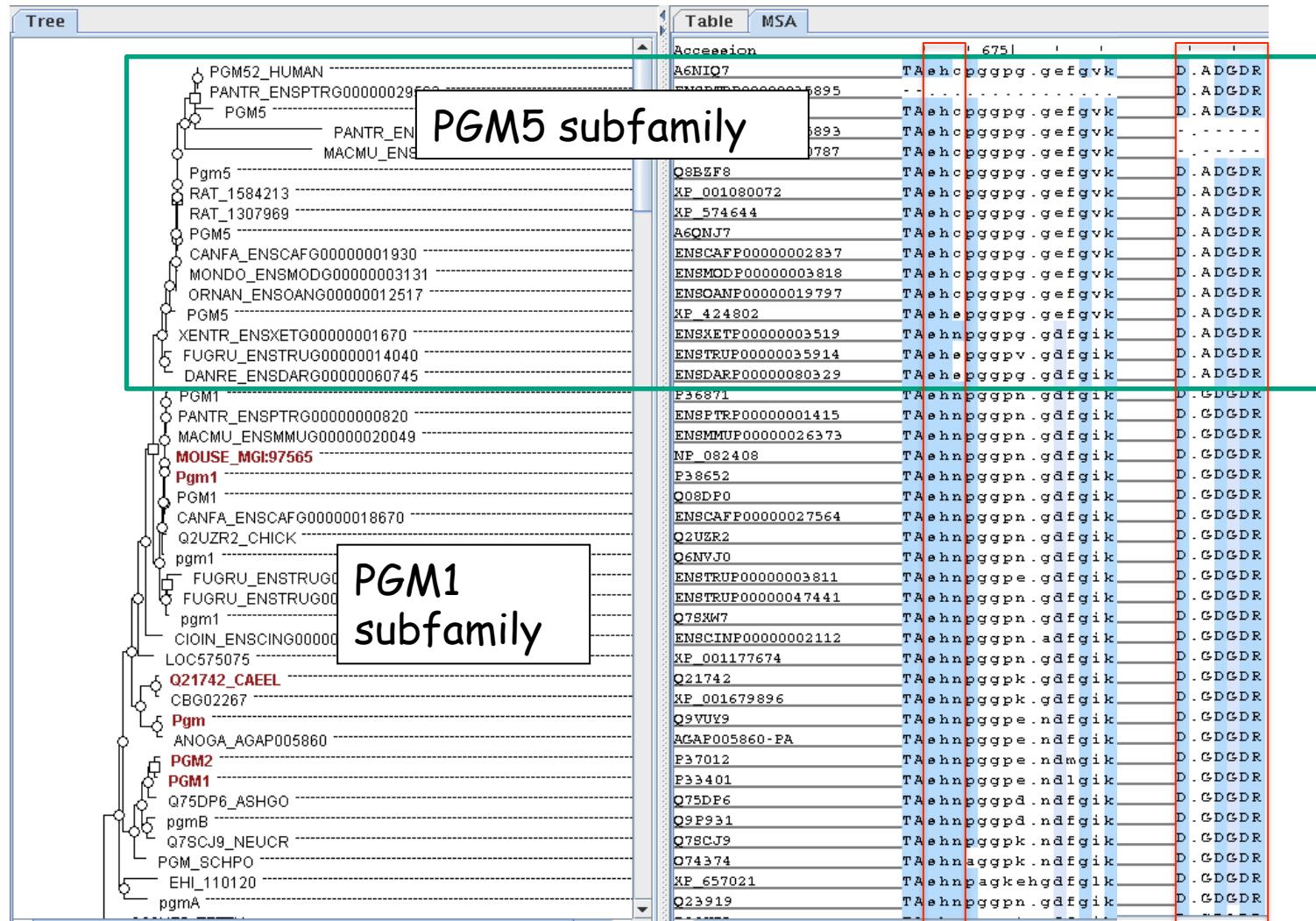


# Integration of multiple types of biological knowledge

- GO annotations (from literature)
- Sequence feature annotations
  - Domains
  - Active sites
  - Modification sites
- Tree branch lengths



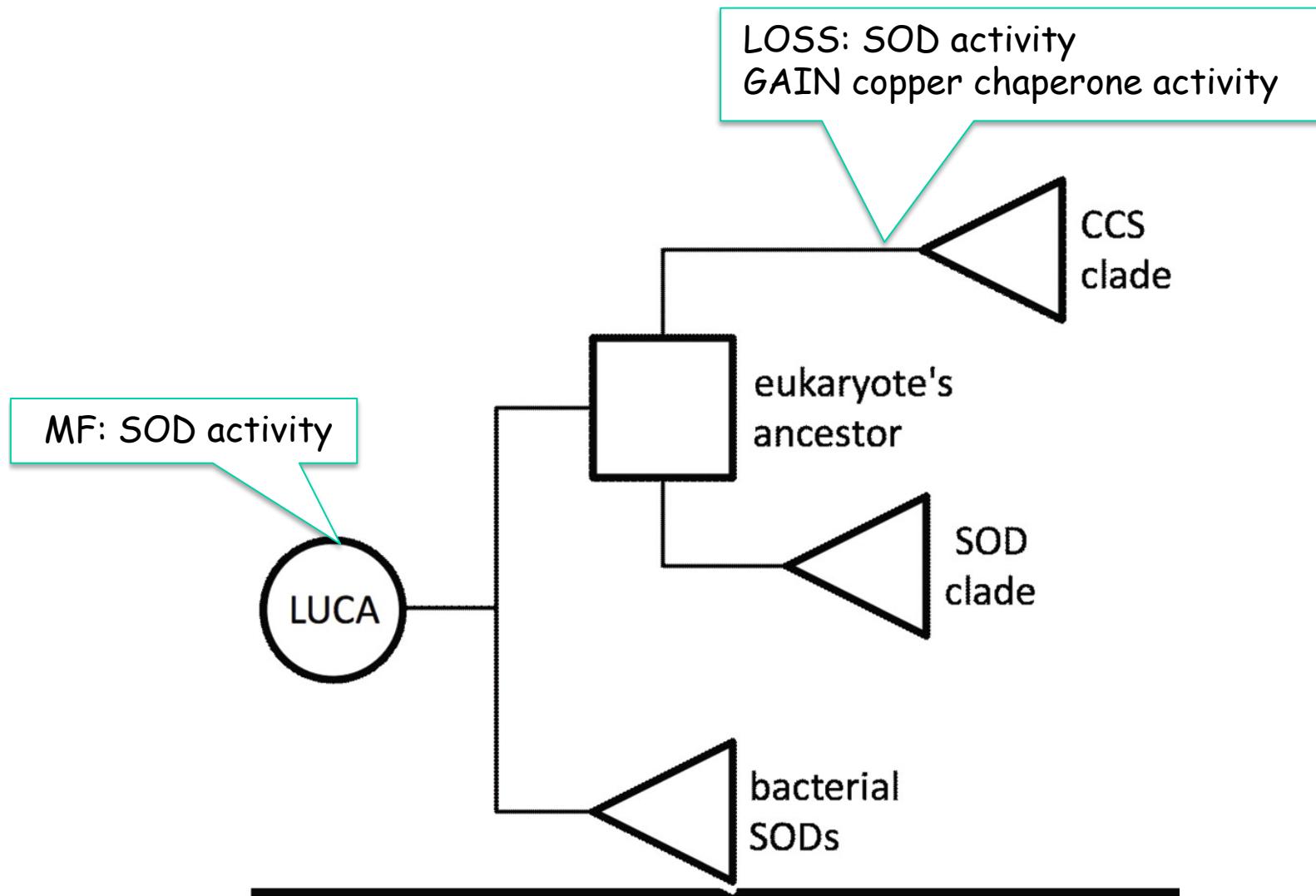
# Evidence from specific protein sites

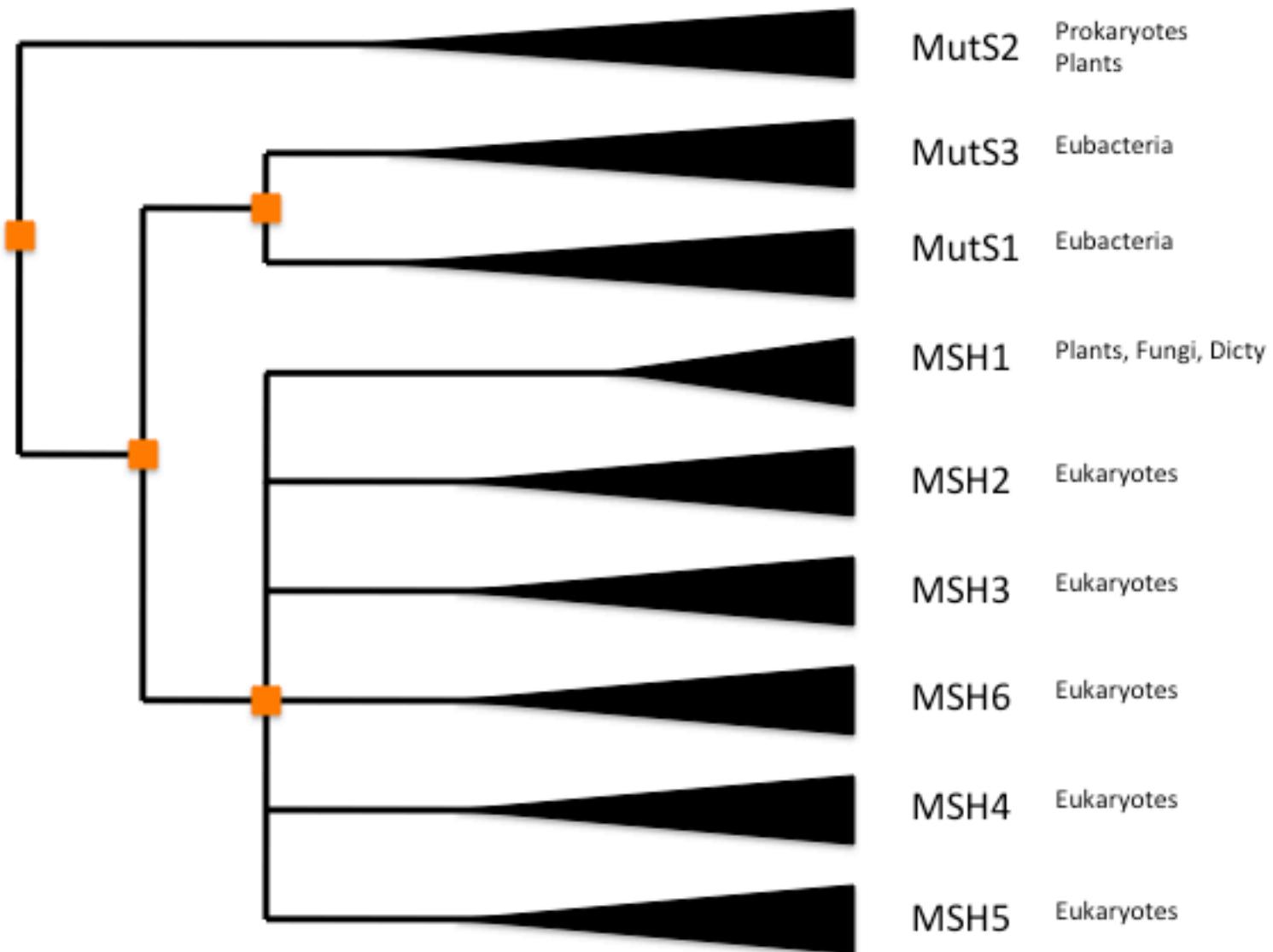


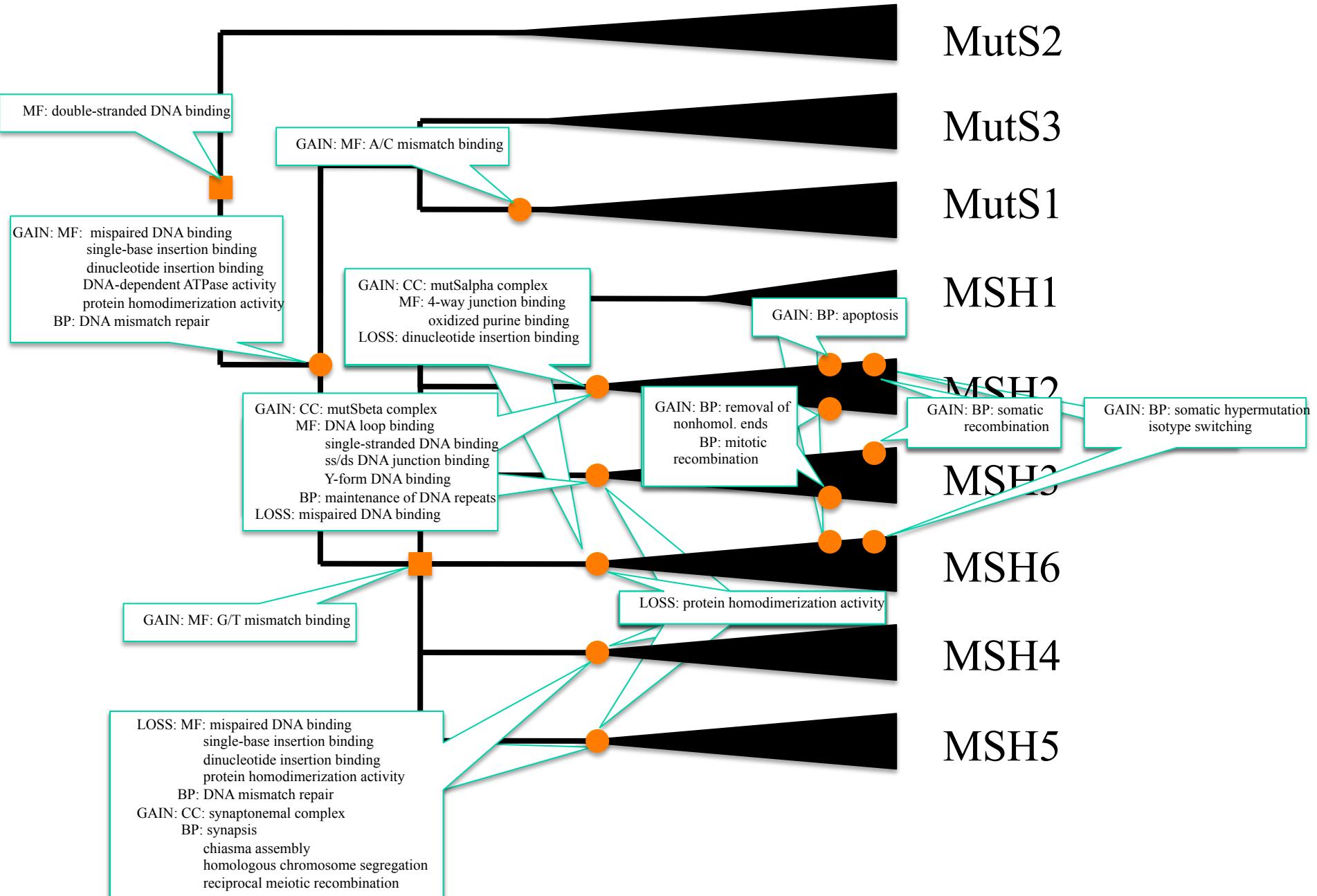
Curated  
active site  
information  
from CDD  
(cd03085)

- phosphoglucomutase activity **LOSS** phosphoglucomutase activity (PGM5 subfamily)

# IBA: Loss of function can be annotated







# IBA vs ISO for SOD family

Only most informative annotations are propagated  
 Inferences can be made from non-vertebrate homologs

---

Compara			PAINT
SOD1	MF	SOD activity, chaperone binding	SOD activity, zinc ion binding, copper ion binding
	CC	Nucleus, cytoplasm, mitochondrion, neuronal cell body	Nucleus, cytosol, mitochondrion, extracellular region
	BP	Activation of MAPK activity, response to reactive oxygen species, ovarian follicle development, myeloid cell homeostasis, retina homeostasis, anti-apoptosis, spermatogenesis, aging, locomotory behavior, response to drug, 31 others	Removal of superoxide radicals
CCS			SOD copper chaperone activity, zinc ion binding, copper ion binding, NOT SOD activity
			Cytosol, mitochondrion, nucleus
			Removal of superoxide radicals, intracellular copper ion transport
metabolic process			Glycogen biosynthetic process, glucose-1-phosphate metabolic process

# IBA vs IEA (InterPro) for SOD family

## Higher specificity

SOD1	MF	Metal ion binding	SOD activity, zinc ion binding, copper ion binding
	CC		Nucleus, cytosol, mitochondrion, extracellular region
	BP	Superoxide metabolic process, oxidation-reduction process,	Removal of superoxide radicals
CCS	MF	Metal ion binding	SOD copper chaperone activity, zinc ion binding, copper ion binding, NOT SOD activity
	CC		Cytosol, mitochondrion, nucleus
	BP	Superoxide metabolic process, oxidation-reduction process, metal ion transport	Removal of superoxide radicals, intracellular copper ion transport

# IBA vs IEA (InterPro) for PGM family Higher specificity

Fewer false positive predictions

PGM1	MF	Magnesium ion binding, intramolecular transferase activity, phosphotransferases	Phosphoglucomutase activity
	CC		Cytosol
	BP	Carbohydrate metabolic process	Glycogen biosynthetic process, glucose-1-phosphate metabolic process
PGM5	MF	Magnesium ion binding, intramolecular transferase activity, phosphotransferases	NOT phosphoglucomutase activity
	CC		Cytosol, spot adherens junction, Z disc, stress fiber, focal adhesion, intercalated disc
	BP	Carbohydrate metabolic process	NOT glycogen biosynthetic process, NOT glucose-1-phosphate metabolic process

# Bottom line

- Experimental evidence codes remain the “gold standard”
  - BUT only available for a small subset of well-studied organisms
  - NOTE: be aware of indirect effects annotated from IMP and IEP, you may want to filter these for some applications
- The next most reliable and specific tier is IBA, followed by IEA, then followed by ISS and IC
- If you want a more concise “summary” list of GO annotations, use IBA

# Where to get the data

- GO annotations
  - Gene Ontology website
- Pathway data in SBML format
  - Pathway Commons website
- For any analysis, make sure you note the version number and download date, as these resources are always being updated and analysis results may change from version to version