

# Knowledge-guided Algorithms in Systems Biology

**Charles Blatti**

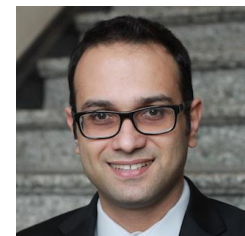
*Research Scientist*

National Center for Supercomputing Applications  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



June 10th, 2022

Some Slides By **Amin Emad**  
*Assistant Professor at McGill University*  
<http://www.ece.mcgill.ca/~aemad2/>



## Plan for this Lecture

**Topic:** Methods for analyzing omics datasets while integrating prior knowledge

- Systems Biology and Knowledge Networks
- Sample Clustering
- Gene Prioritization
- Gene Set Characterization

**Emphasis:** tools that take advantage of prior knowledge networks (KnowEnG)

**Goal:** understand basic concepts and aware of approaches and resources

# Systems Biology

- Systems biology is the computational and mathematical modeling of **complex biological systems**.

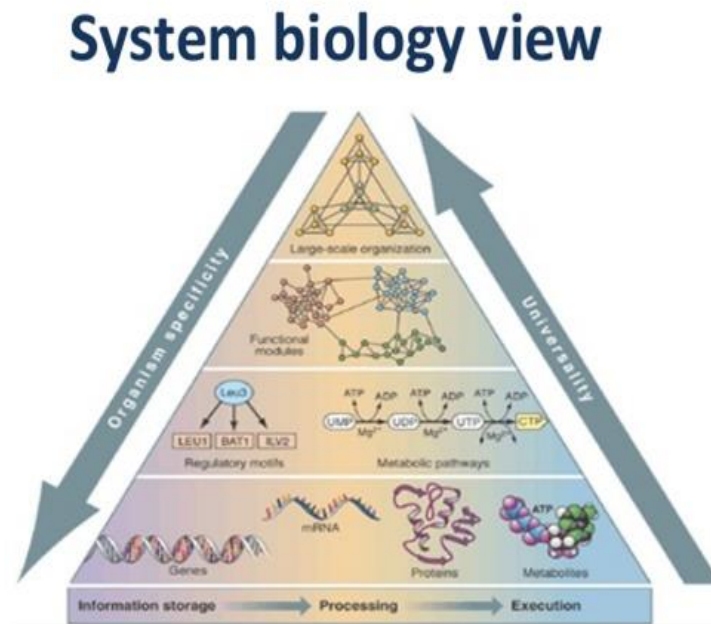


Figure from Oltvai, Z.N. and Barabasi  
Life's complexity pyramid.

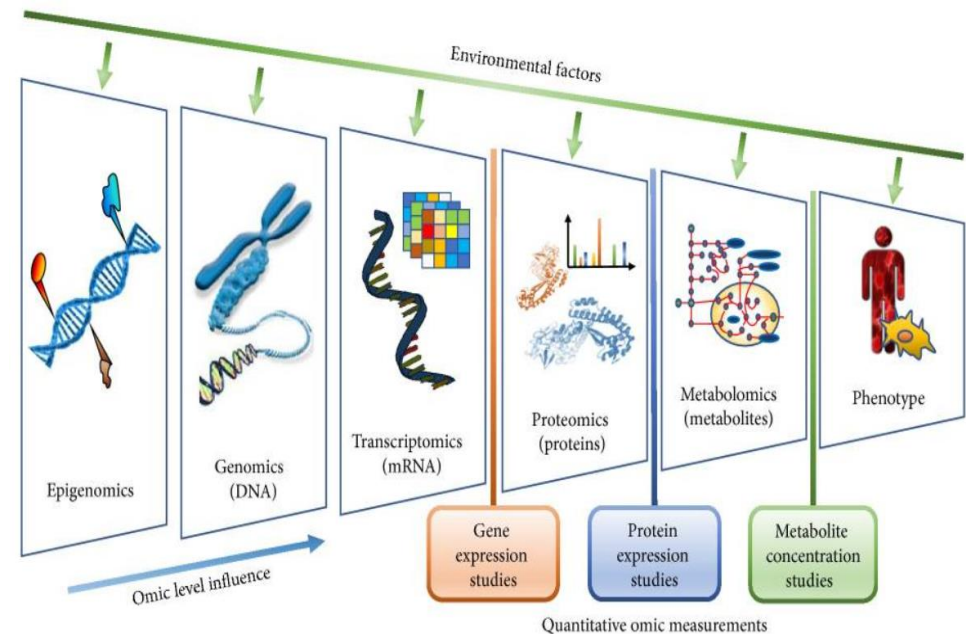


Figure from Angione, C. Human Systems Biology and Metabolic Modelling: A Review-From Disease Metabolism to Precision Medicine. Biomed Res Int 2019.

- Studies the **interactions** between the components of biological systems such as genes, proteins, metabolites, etc. (i.e. biological networks), and how these interactions give rise to the **function** and **behavior** of that system (phenotype)

# Using Statistical and Machine Learning Methods

Applied to heterogeneous 'omics and phenotype data and prior knowledge

Unsupervised  
Learning

Supervised  
Learning

- **No training** example exists and the goal is to learn structure in the data
- **Training examples** are provided with desired inputs and outputs to help learning the desired rule

Clustering  
(subtyping)

Classification  
(resistance group)

Regression  
(survival time)

Dimensionality Reduction  
(data visualization)

Supervised Feature Selection  
(biomarkers)

# Some Example Applications

## Clustering (subtyping)

- Identifying the subtypes of a disease

## Supervised Feature Selection (biomarkers)

- Identifying genes associated with a disease

## Classification (resistance group)

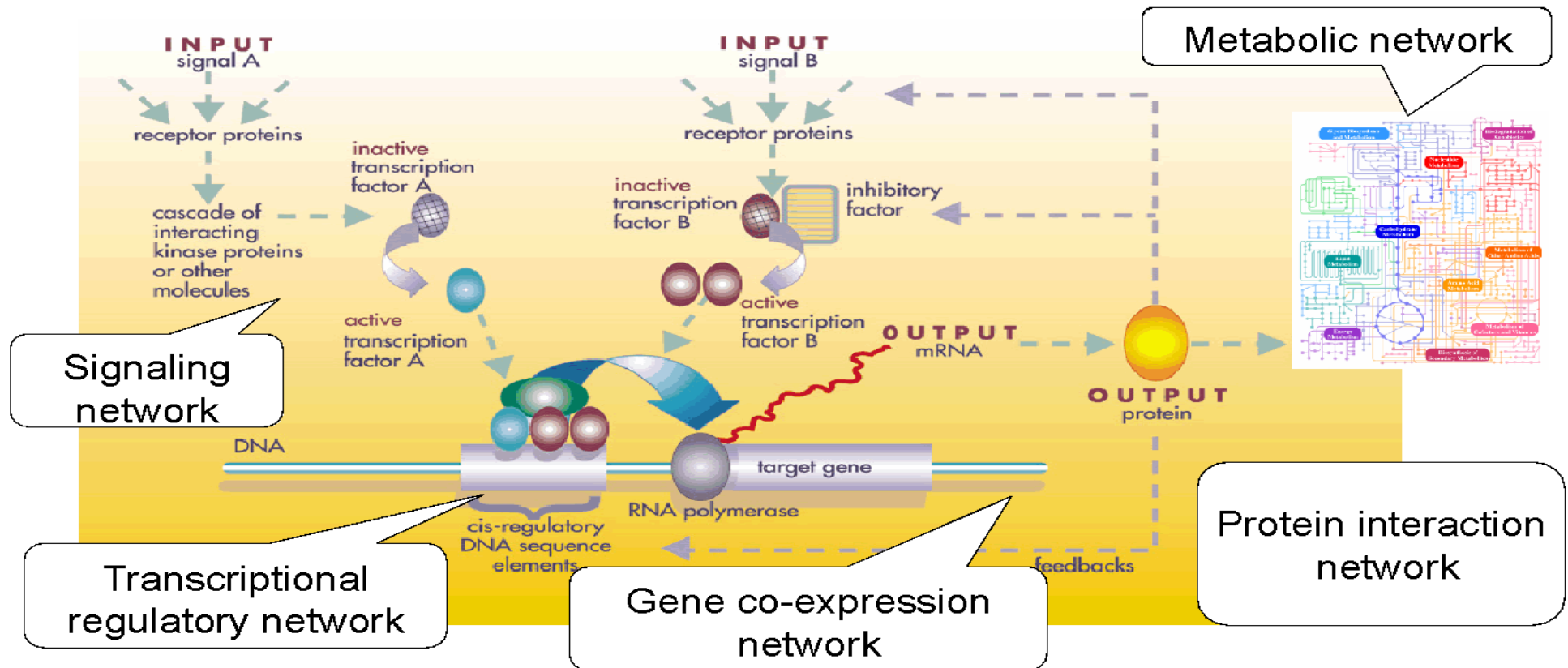
- Predicting whether a patient is sensitive or resistant to a drug

## Regression (survival time)

- Predicting the survival probability of a cancer patient
- etc.

# Prior Knowledge as Biological Networks

- Existing **prior knowledge** in literature captures known interactions within and across different levels of the biological systems
- Knowledge Network** - a graphical representation of the interactions of the components of a biological systems



# Directed Biological Networks

## Gene regulatory networks

- Nodes represent genes, proteins, etc.
- Edges show regulatory relationships between the nodes
- The network shows which entities (e.g. transcription factors) regulate the expression of each gene
- Edges can have meaningful weights

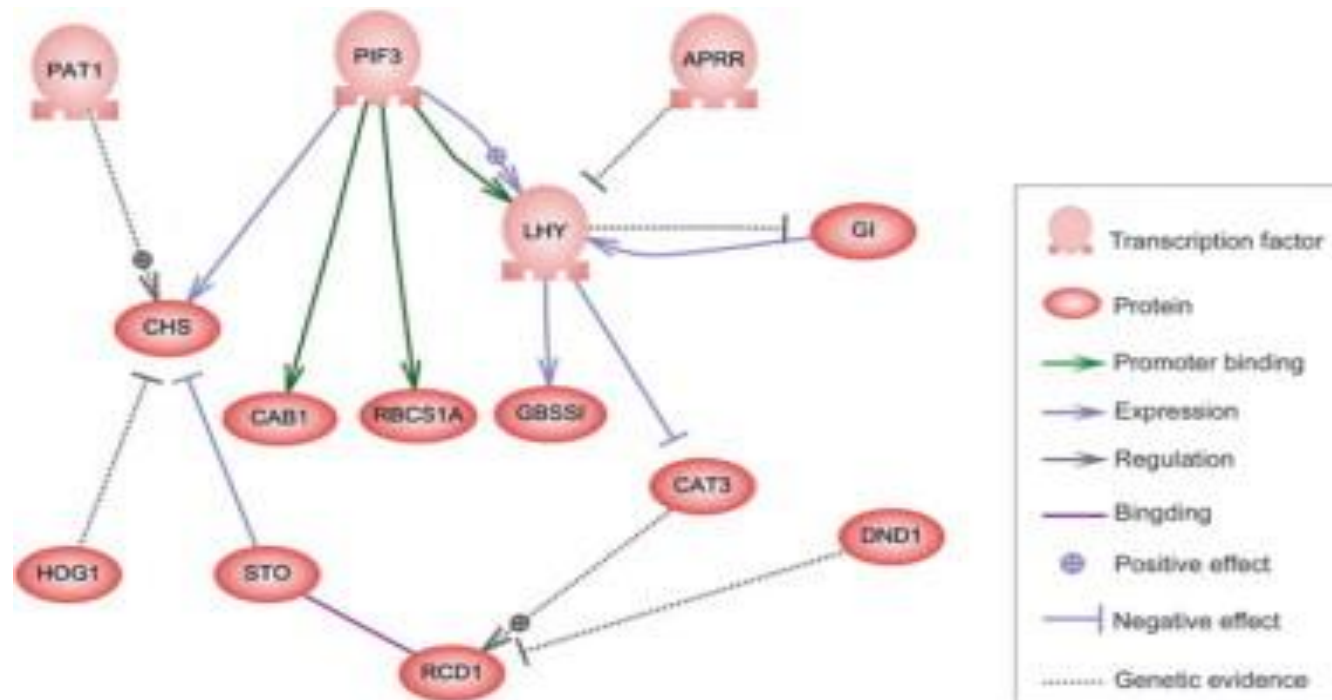
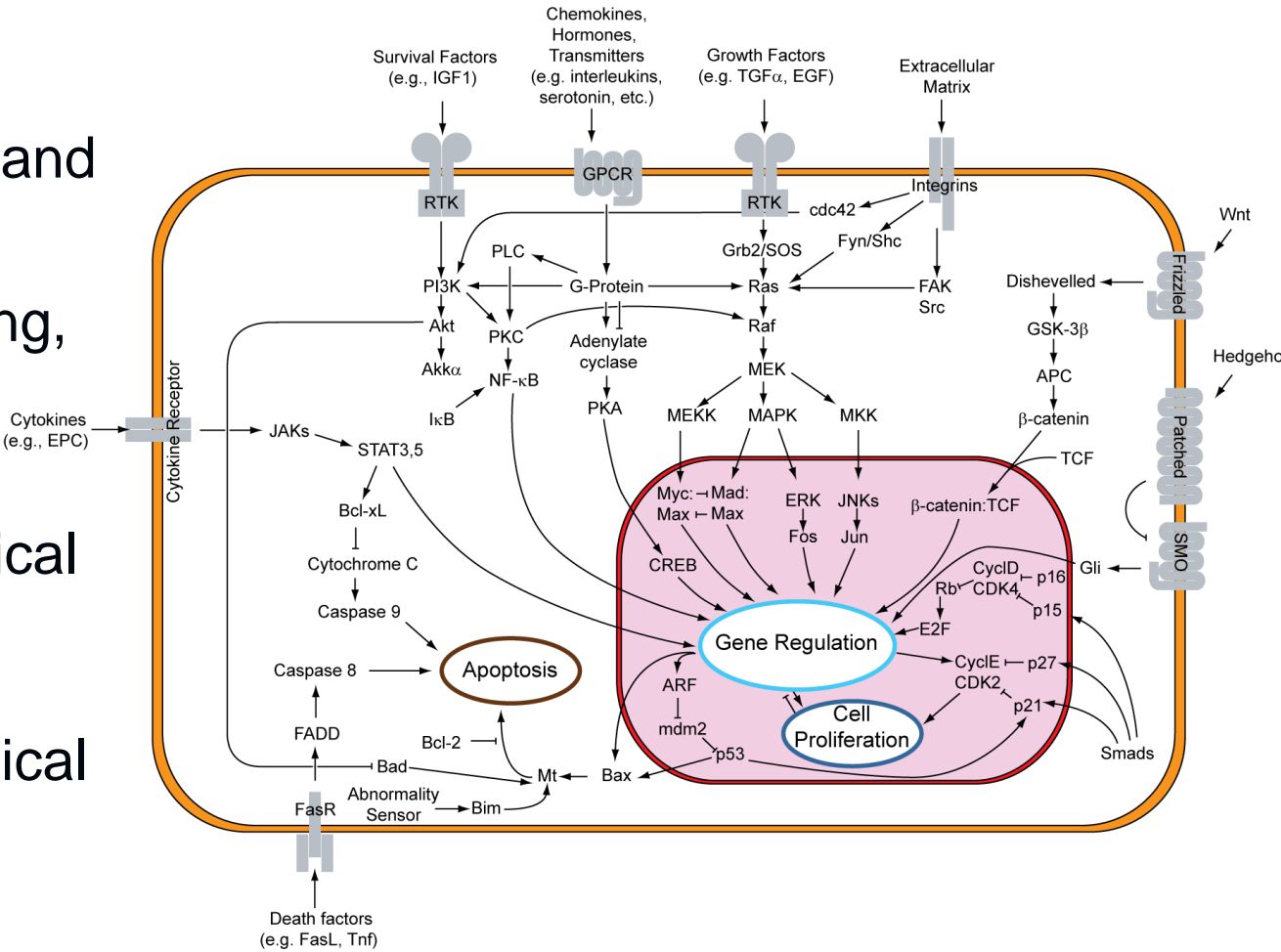


Figure from Song, et al. "Comparative transcriptional profiling and preliminary study on heterosis mechanism of super-hybrid rice." *Molecular plant* 3.6 (2010).

# Directed Biological Networks

## Signaling Networks

- Represents communications within and between cells
- Responsible for receiving, transmitting and processing information
- The network is a graphical representation of the interactions of the components of a biological systems





# Experimental Networks

## Protein-protein interaction networks

- Nodes represent proteins
- Edges show interactions between proteins
- Interactions usually refer to different levels of physical contact and proximity of protein molecules

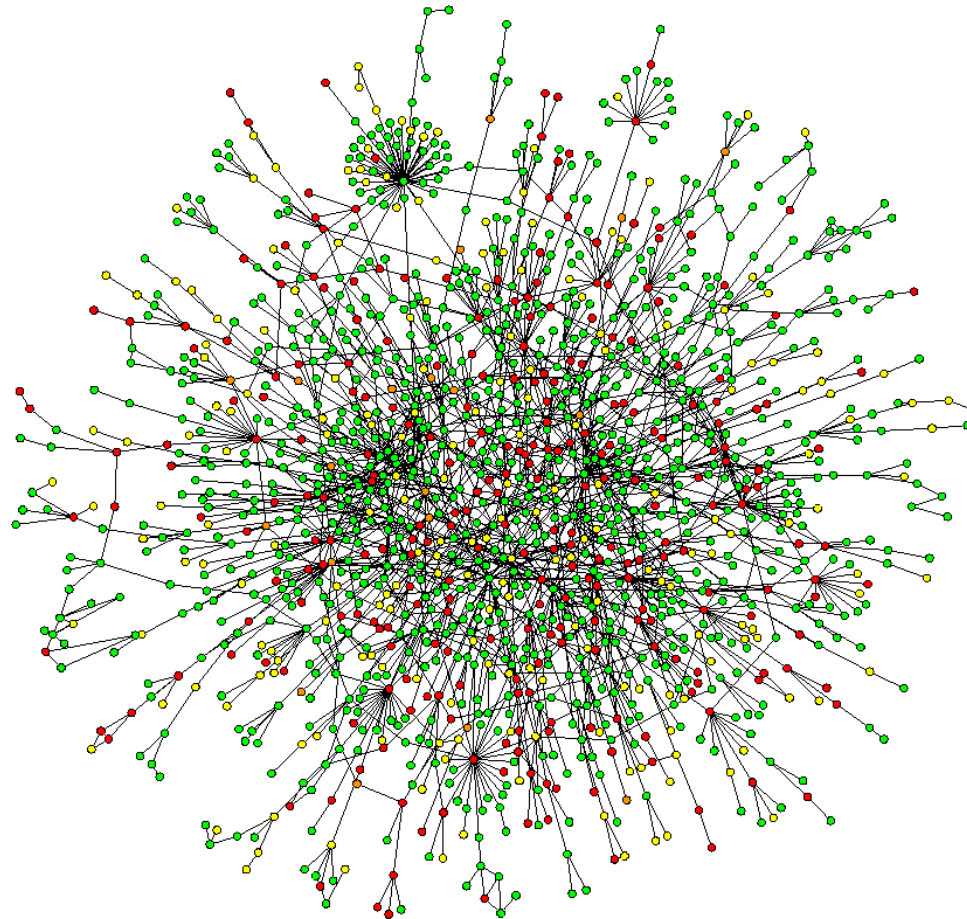
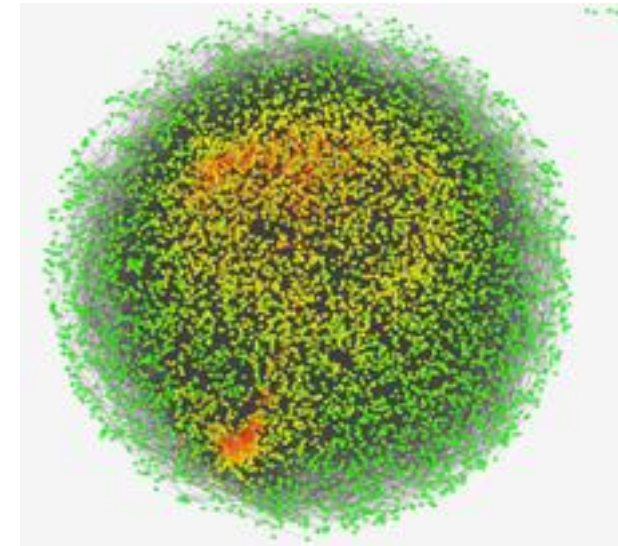


Figure from Jeong, Hawoong, et al. "Lethality and centrality in protein networks." *Nature* 411.6833 (2001).

# Experimental Networks

## Gene co-expression networks

- Nodes represent genes
- An edge exists between two genes that are highly co-expressed across different samples



[BMC Bioinformatics](#), 2008; 9: 559.  
Published online 2008 Dec 29. doi: [10.1186/1471-2105-9-559](https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2105-9-559)

PMCID: PMC2631488

### WGCNA: an R package for weighted correlation network analysis

Reviewed by [Peter Langfelder](#)<sup>1</sup> and [Steve Horvath](#)<sup>2</sup>

Figure from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gene\\_co-expression\\_network\\_with\\_7221\\_genes\\_for\\_18\\_gastric\\_cancer\\_patients.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gene_co-expression_network_with_7221_genes_for_18_gastric_cancer_patients.png)

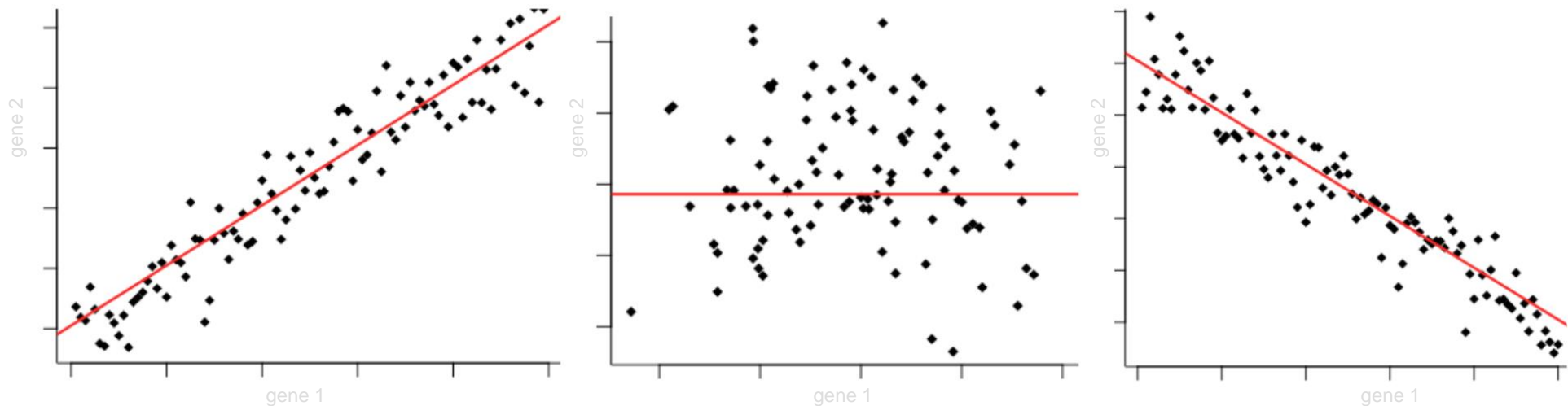
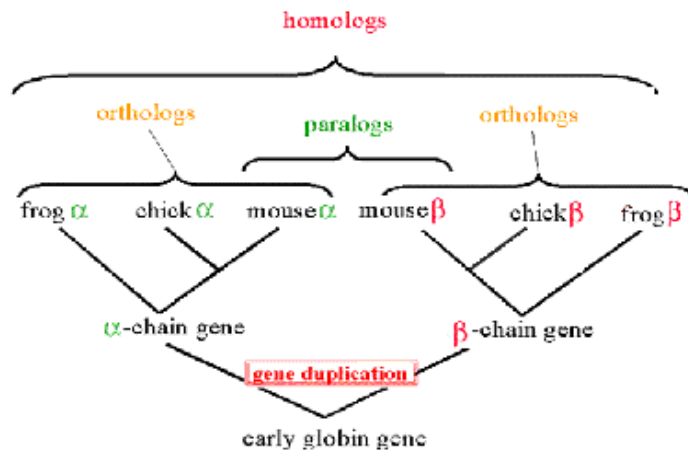


Figure from <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/how-machines-make-predictions-finding-correlations-in-complex-data-dfd9f0d87889/>

# Computational Networks

## Evolutionary Conservation networks

- Nodes represent gene DNA or protein amino acid sequences
- Edges represent the similarity between the pair of sequences, the more similarly the more recently the nodes share an evolutionary history



[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1762/pdf/Bookshelf\\_NBK1762.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1762/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK1762.pdf)

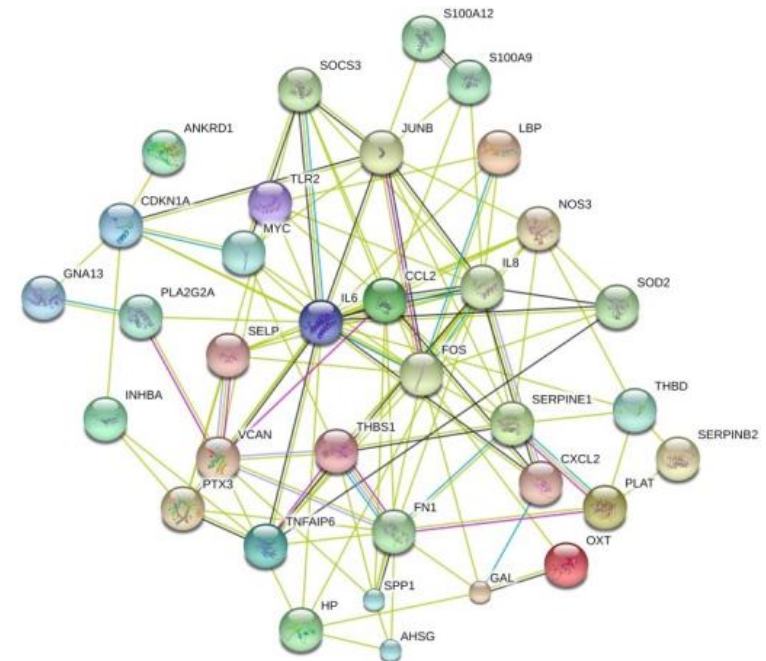


Figure from Yahaya, et al. "Gene expression changes associated with the airway wall response to injury." *PLoS one* 8.4 (2013).

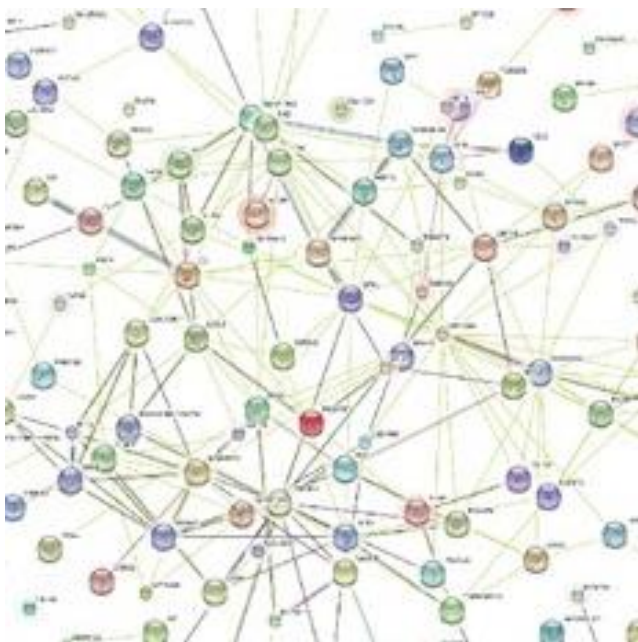
## Text Mining networks

- Nodes represent gene entities
- Edges represent the frequency names, aliases, and synonyms for a pair of genes co-occur in literature abstracts

# Computational Networks

## Integrated networks

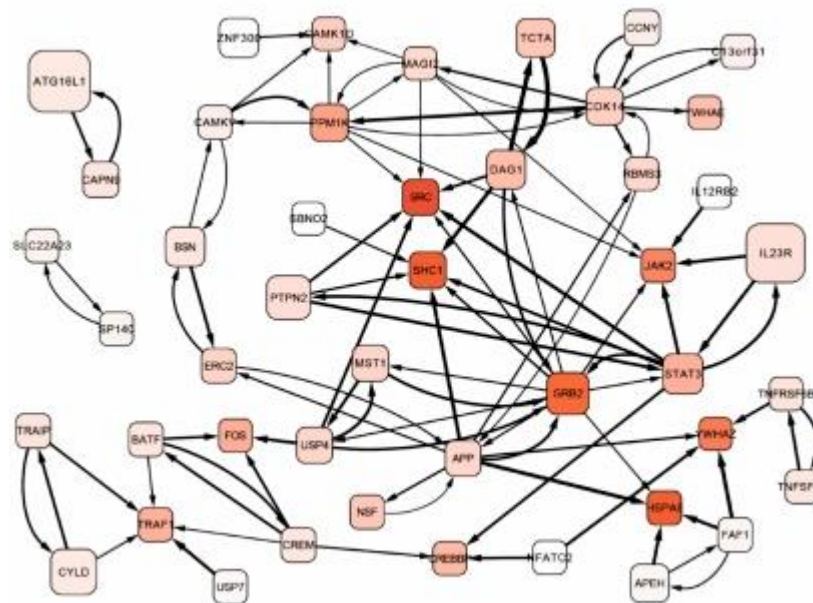
- Nodes represent gene or proteins
- Edges represent the weighted combination of normalized edge weights from many different types of network edges based on some predetermined criteria



[Nucleic Acids Res.](#) 2015 Jan;43(Database issue):D447-52. doi: 10.1093/nar/gku1003. Epub 2014 Oct 28.

**STRING v10: protein-protein interaction networks, integrated over the tree of life.**

[Szklarczyk D<sup>1</sup>](#), [Franceschini A<sup>1</sup>](#), [Wyder S<sup>1</sup>](#), [Forslund K<sup>2</sup>](#), [Heller D<sup>1</sup>](#), [Huerta-Cepas J<sup>2</sup>](#), [Simonovic M<sup>1</sup>](#), [Roth A<sup>1</sup>](#), [Santos A<sup>3</sup>](#), [Tsafou KP<sup>3</sup>](#), [Kuhn M<sup>4</sup>](#), [Bork P<sup>5</sup>](#), [Jensen LJ<sup>6</sup>](#), [von Mering C<sup>7</sup>](#).

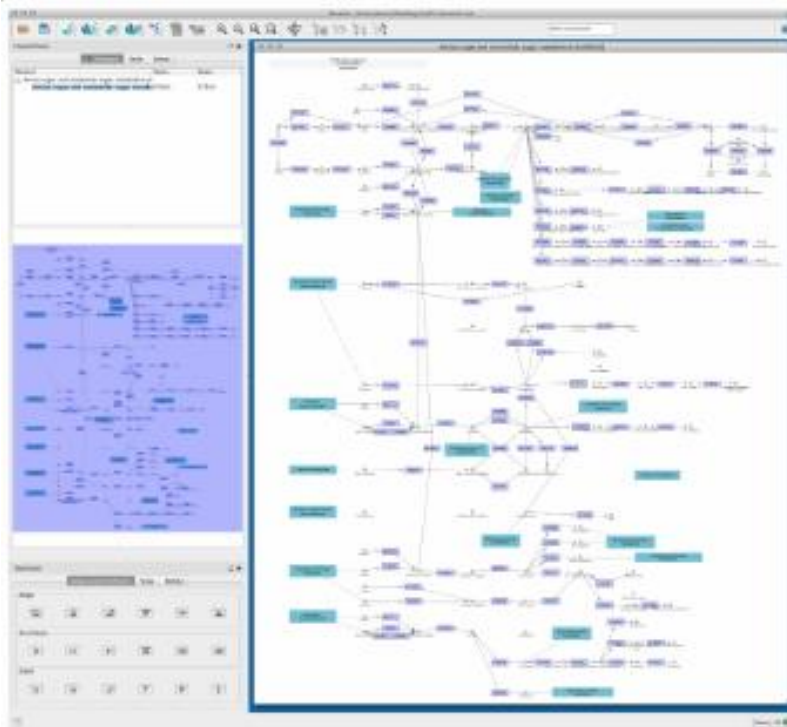


[Genome Res.](#) 2011 Jul;21(7):1109-21. doi: 10.1101/gr.118992.110. Epub 2011 May 2.

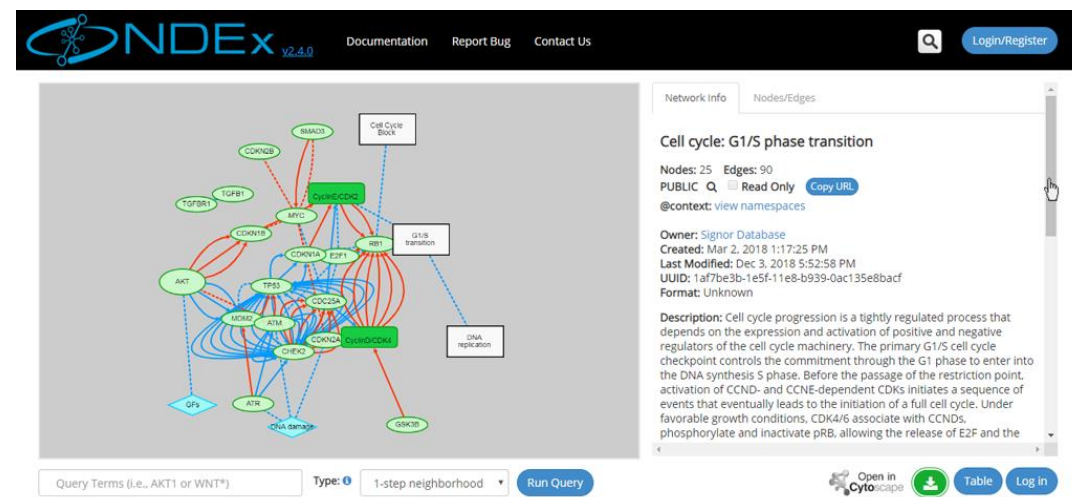
**Prioritizing candidate disease genes by network-based boosting of genome-wide association data.**

[Lee I<sup>1</sup>](#), [Blom UM](#), [Wang PI](#), [Shim JE](#), [Marcotte EM](#).

# Visualizing and Sharing Biological Networks



[https://cytoscape.org/release\\_notes\\_3\\_2\\_1.html](https://cytoscape.org/release_notes_3_2_1.html)



<https://home.ndexbio.org/quick-start/>

# KnowEnG: Platform for Network-guided Analysis

**knoweng** Analysis Pipelines Data Support

**Start a New Pipeline**

Welcome, Charles Blatti

**About KnowEnG Pipelines**

- Sample Clustering
- Feature Prioritization
- Gene Set Characterization

You have a set of genes. You want to know if these genes are enriched for a pathway, a Gene Ontology term, or other types of annotations. This pipeline tests your gene set for enrichment against a large compendium of annotations. You have the option of using a standard statistical test or a Knowledge Network-based approach similar to Google's PageRank algorithm.

**Start this Pipeline**

- Signature Analysis
- Spreadsheet Visualization

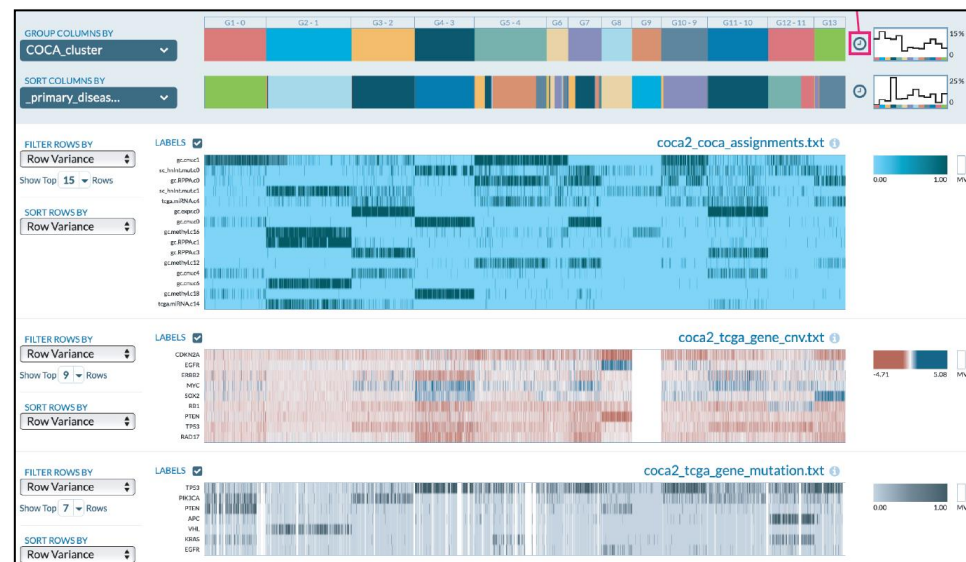
Welcome to the KnowEnG Platform. KnowEnG enables machine learning and graph mining analysis on gene sets using scalable cloud computation and exploration of results through interactive visualizations. We hope you find it useful and we welcome your feedback.

**Read the Quickstart Guide**

To get started immediately, check out our [Quickstart Guide](#) for examples using the platform. Also, watch out for the release of additional [Knowledge-Guided Pipelines](#). For a more comprehensive set of resources, visit our [Support](#) page.

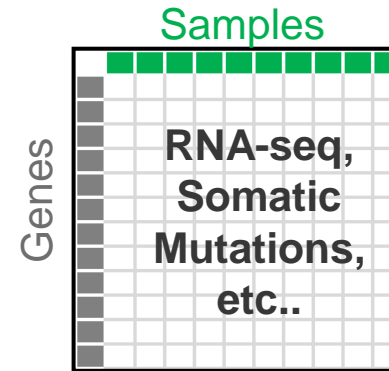
**Learn About the Knowledge Network**

The knowledge-guided analyses use the KnowEnG Knowledge Network, which integrates biological datasets of gene/protein interactions, relationships, and annotations.

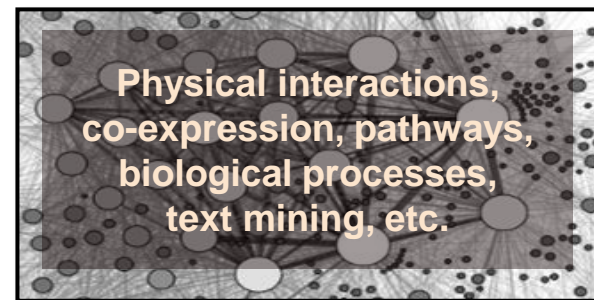


# KnowEnG: Knowledge Engine for Genomics

- 'omics Data Analysis Pipelines



- Using Prior Knowledge

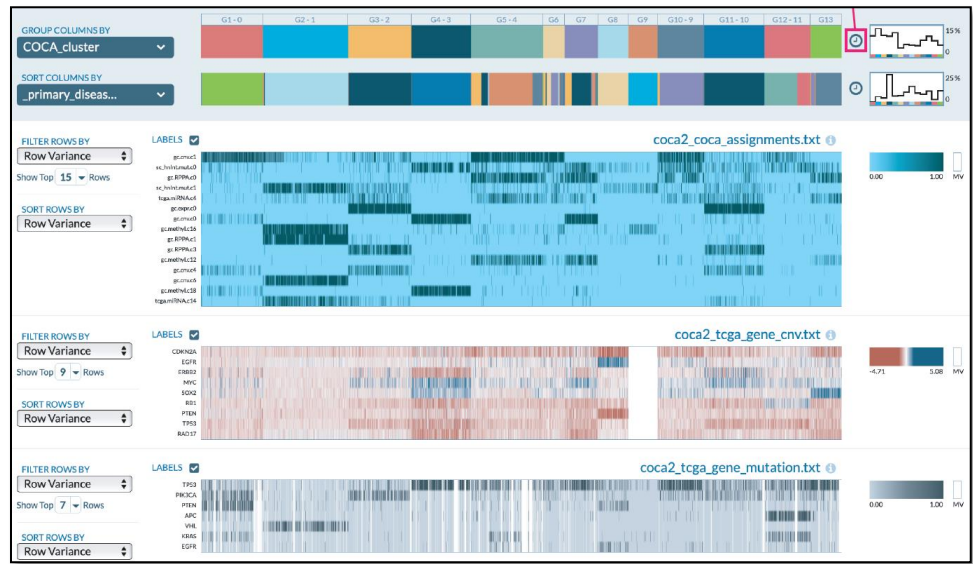
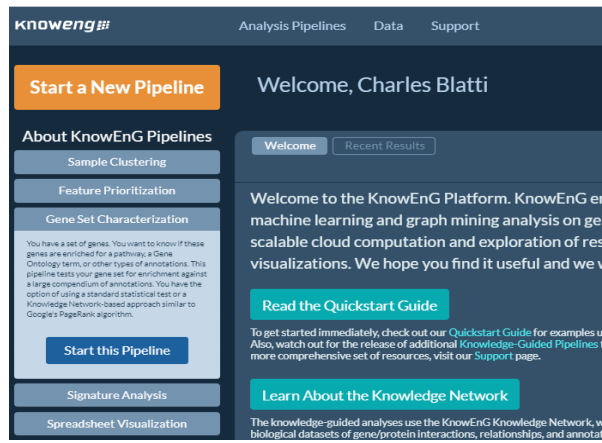


- In a Scalable Cloud Platform



# KnowEnG Pipelines and User Interface

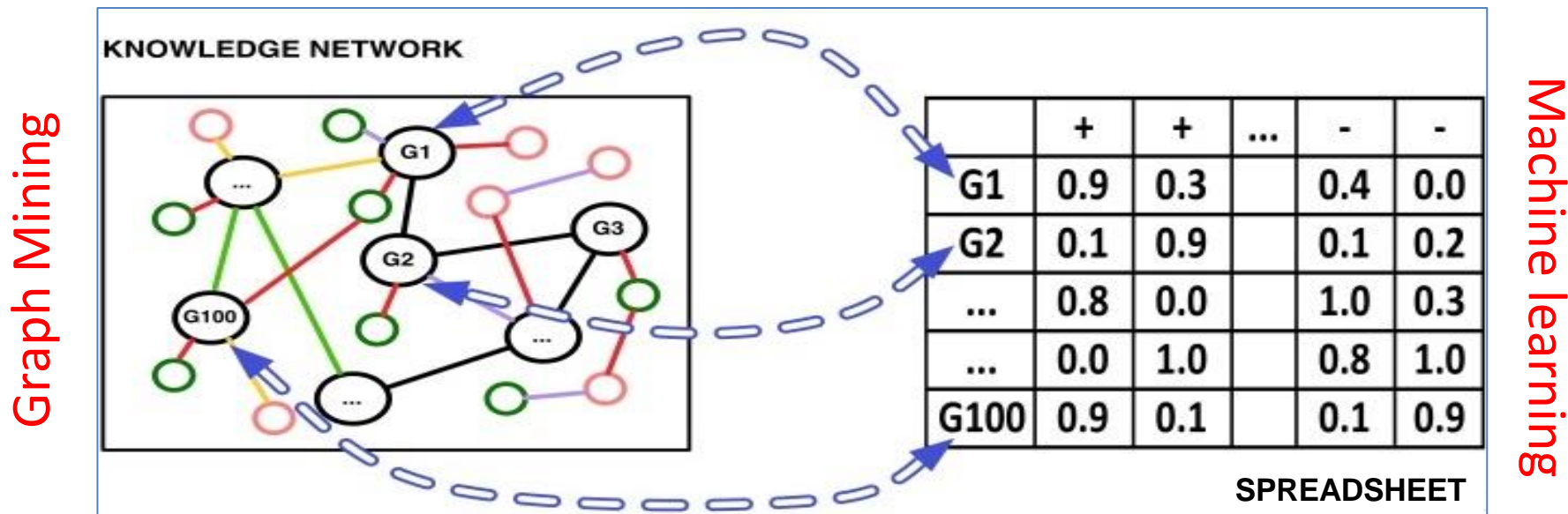
- **Sample Clustering**
  - What are the separate transcriptomic subtypes of patients and how do they relate to outcome?
- **Feature(Gene) Prioritization**
  - What genes are differentially expressed with respect to viral shedding
- **Gene Set Characterization**
  - What pathways do these differentially expressed genes relate to?
- **Signature Analysis**
  - Given a new patient, what subtype does their profile most resemble?
- **Spreadsheet Visualization**
  - Given multiple omics and clinical datasets on patient samples, what features relate to selected phenotypes?





# Analysis Pipelines Using Prior Knowledge

- **Knowledge Network (KN):** heterogeneous graph whose nodes and edges encodes major public data sets as a network represented by genes/proteins, their properties, and relationships
- **Omics data:** a spreadsheet (rows = genes or proteins) to be analyzed



Knowledge network + user spreadsheet

# KnowEnG Prior Knowledge Networks

**KNOWLEDGE NETWORK CONTENTS:**

<b>Version:</b>	KN-20rep-1702
<b>Number of Species:</b>	20
<b>Number of Resources:</b>	13
<b>Number of Datasets:</b>	159
<b>Number of Edge Types:</b>	43
<b>Number of Edges:</b>	233,459,368
<b>Number of Nodes:</b>	594,474
<b>Number of Gene Nodes:</b>	404,868
<b>Number of Property Nodes:</b>	189,605

**Gene-Gene**

- Protein-Protein Interactions
- Protein Homology
- Regulation

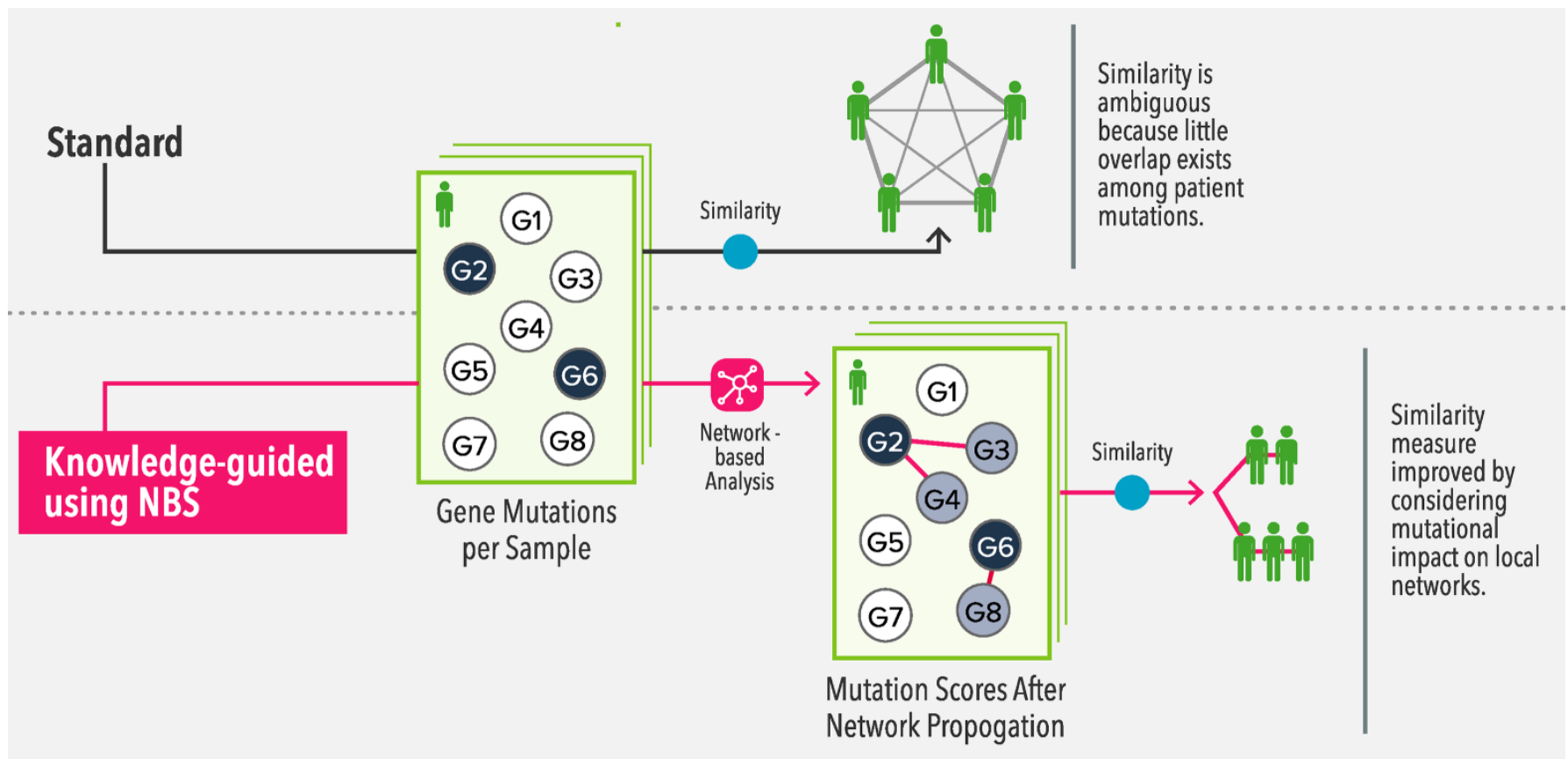
**Gene-Property**

- Annotations
- Characteristics
- Experimental Outcomes

Edge Type Collection	Human Network Edges (millions)	Human Datasets	All Network Edges (millions)	All Datasets
Text_Mining/Integrated	9.0	2	130.6	19
Coexpression	7.3	2	119.8	19
Experimental_Interaction	5.4	4	108.7	21
Conservation/Proximity	1.6	2	26.1	36
Pathway_Database	1.1	3	63.4	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>448.7</b>	<b>42</b>

Edge Type Collection	Human Network Edges (millions)	Human Property Nodes (thousands)	Human Datasets	All Network Edges (millions)	All Property Nodes (thousands)
Tissue_Expression	13.7	25.9	32	13.7	25.9
Disease/Drug	6.0	82.3	13	6.3	83.4
Regulation	4.4	3.3	10	4.4	3.3
Pathways	0.6	16.9	5	1.4	34.6
Ontologies	0.3	17.2	5	1.8	23.5
Protein_Domains	0.0	6.2	2	0.5	7.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>151.7</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>178.5</b>

# Network-guided Sample Clustering



# Network-guided Sample Clustering

## Goal:

- Stratification (clustering) of tumor samples based on somatic mutation profiles

## Main Issue:

- The mutation data is very sparse and most conventional clustering techniques fail to identify reasonable patterns
- Although two tumors may not share the same somatic mutations, they may affect the same pathways and interaction networks

# Knowledge-Guided Analysis for Sample Clustering

- **Problem:** Data sparsity in gene-level somatic mutation data
- **Toy Example**
  - Due to the sparsity of the data, all samples are at equal distance of each other

	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
G01			■			
G02		■				
G03			■			
G04	■					
G05		■				
G06	■					
G07				■		
G08				■		
G09					■	
G10						■
G11						■
G12					■	
G13		■				
G14				■		
G15						■
G16					■	
G17	■					
G18			■			

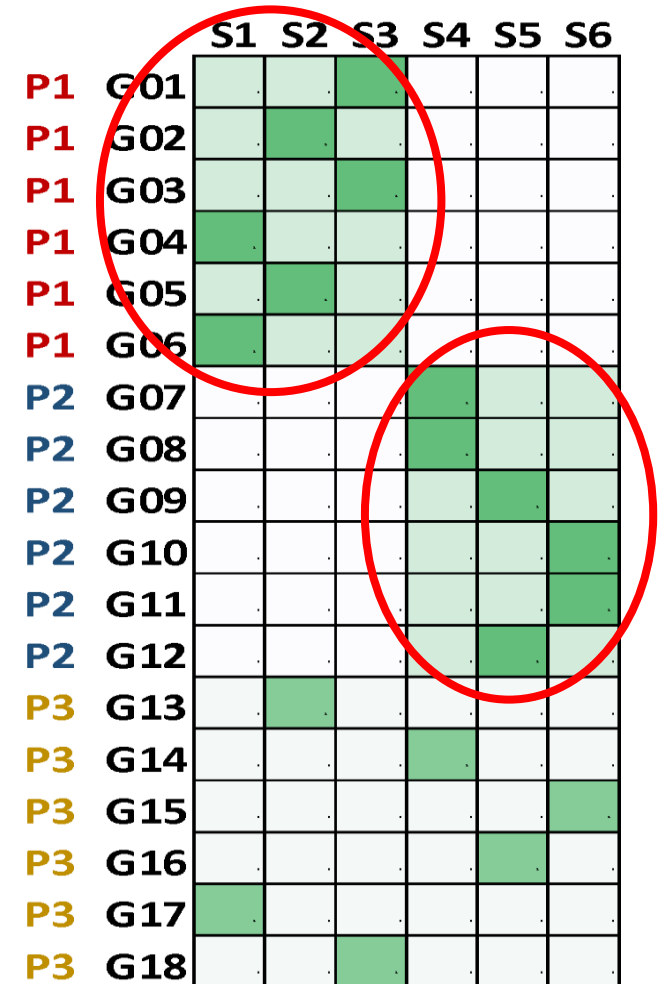
# Knowledge-Guided Analysis for Sample Clustering

- **Problem:** Data sparsity in gene-level somatic mutation data
- **Toy Example**
  - Due to the sparsity of the data, all samples are at equal distance of each other
  - Pathway information clarifies the similarity among some samples

		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
<b>P1</b>	G01			■			
<b>P1</b>	G02		■				
<b>P1</b>	G03			■			
<b>P1</b>	G04	■					
<b>P1</b>	G05		■				
<b>P1</b>	G06	■					
<b>P2</b>	G07				■		
<b>P2</b>	G08				■		
<b>P2</b>	G09					■	
<b>P2</b>	G10						■
<b>P2</b>	G11						■
<b>P2</b>	G12					■	
<b>P3</b>	G13		■				
<b>P3</b>	G14				■		
<b>P3</b>	G15						■
<b>P3</b>	G16					■	
<b>P3</b>	G17	■					
<b>P3</b>	G18			■			

# Knowledge-Guided Analysis for Sample Clustering

- **Problem:** Data sparsity in gene-level somatic mutation data
- **Toy Example**
  - Due to the sparsity of the data, all samples are at equal distance of each other
  - Pathway information clarifies the similarity among some samples
  - Conventional clustering methods can then identify clusters based on network-smoothed features



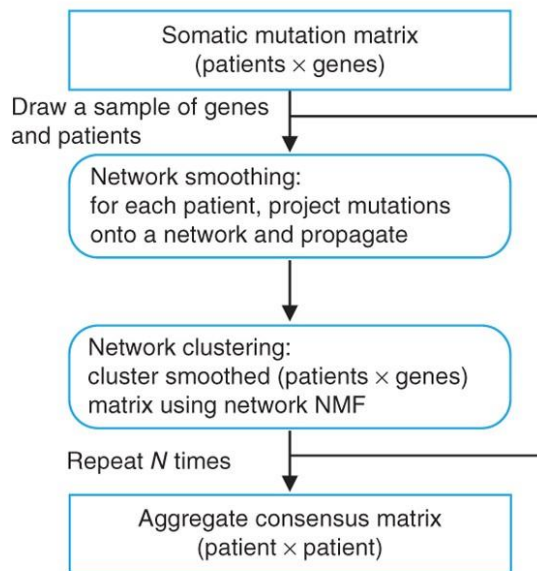
# Network-based Stratification (NBS)

Nat Methods. 2013 Nov;10(11):1108-15. doi: 10.1038/nmeth.2651. Epub 2013 Sep 15.

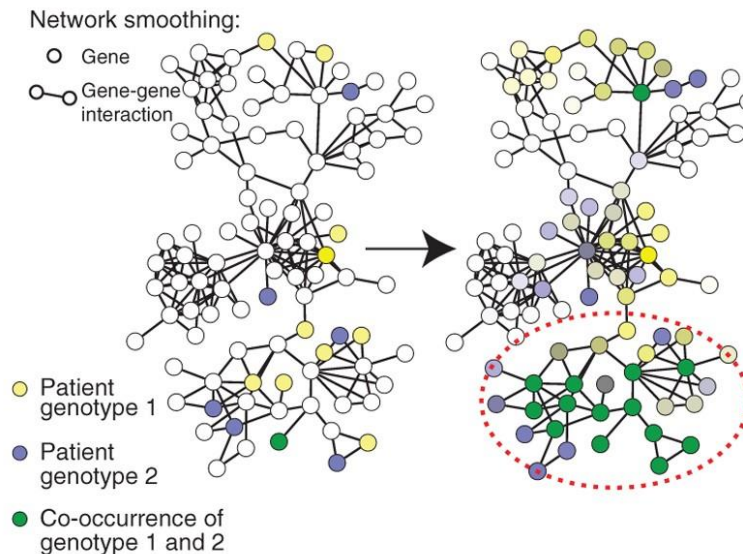
## Network-based stratification of tumor mutations.

Hofree M<sup>1</sup>, Shen JP, Carter H, Gross A, Ideker T.

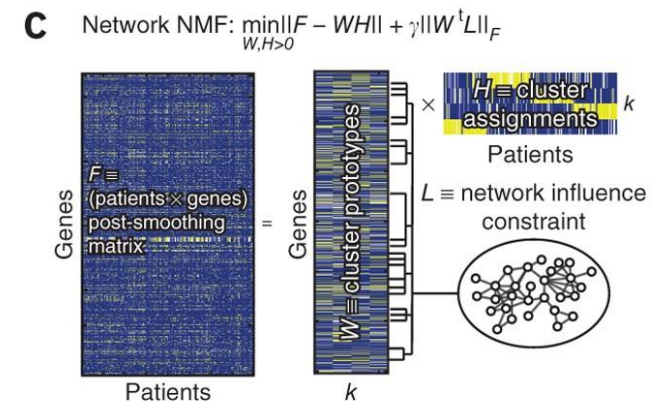
**a**



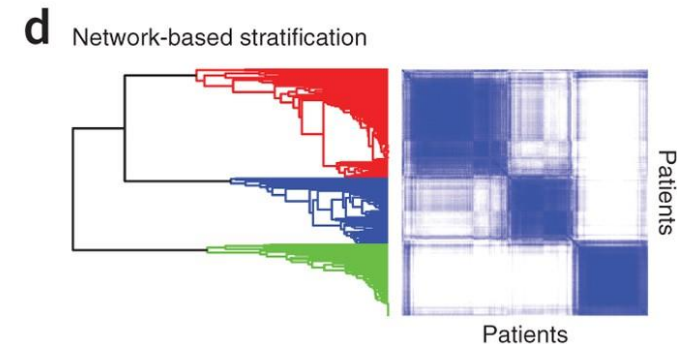
**b**



**c**



**d**

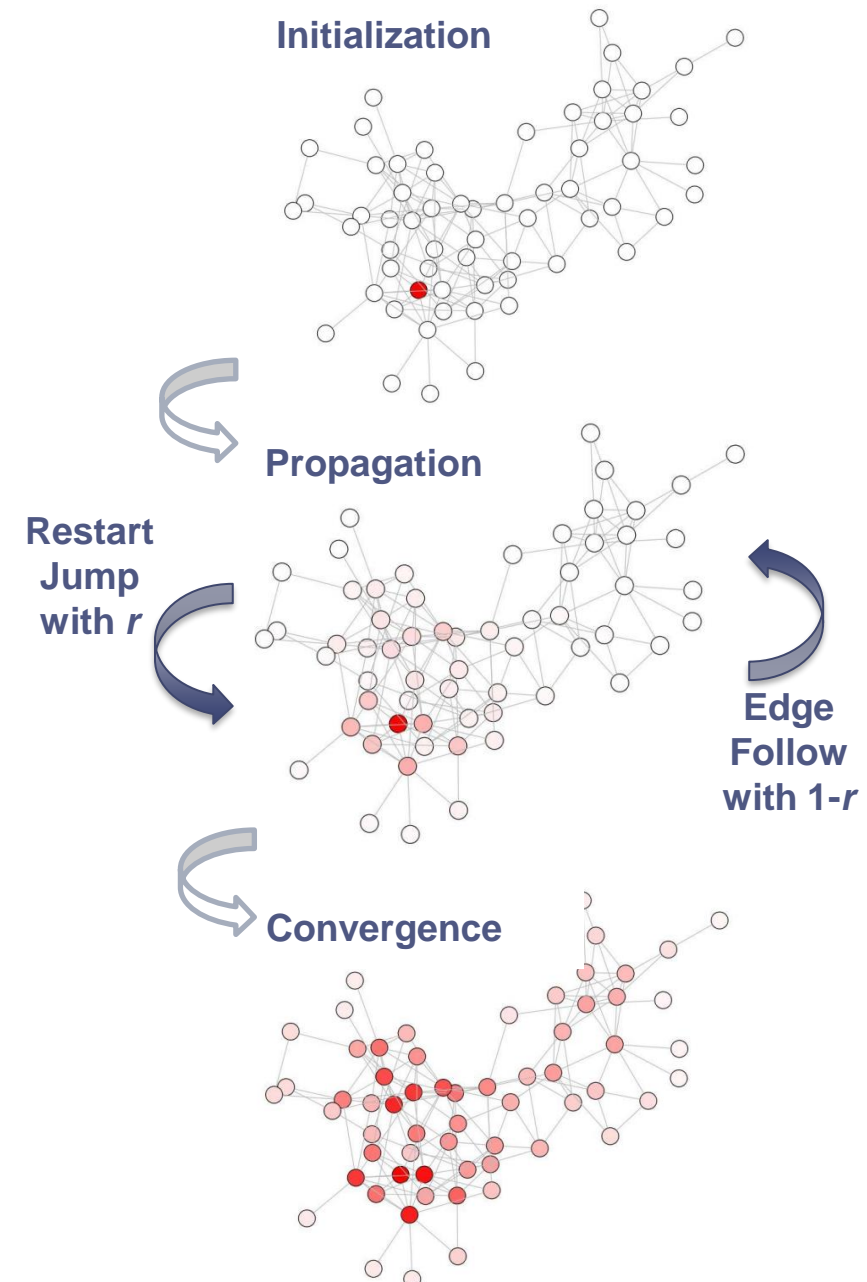


- Network Smoothing – Random Walk with Restart
- Patient Sampling for Robust Clustering



# Random Walk With Restart Algorithm

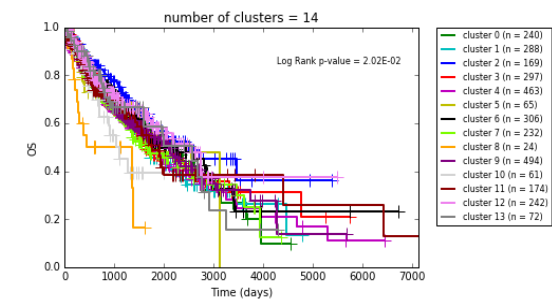
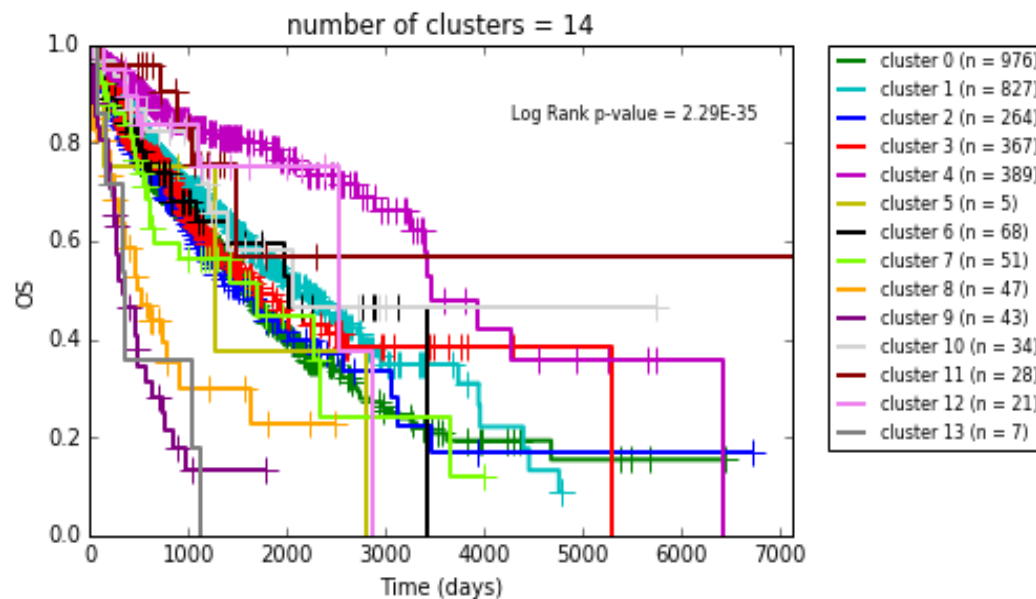
- Fast, scalable guilt-by-association method
  - Same ideas as personalized PageRank
- Intuition
  - Walker at a node either
    - With probability  $1-r$ , follows an outgoing edge
    - With restart probability  $r$ , returns to node in restart set
  - Converges to long run “stationary” distribution of the walker over the nodes
- Final node ranking based on distribution incorporates
  - Connectedness of node in network
  - Proximity of node to restart set



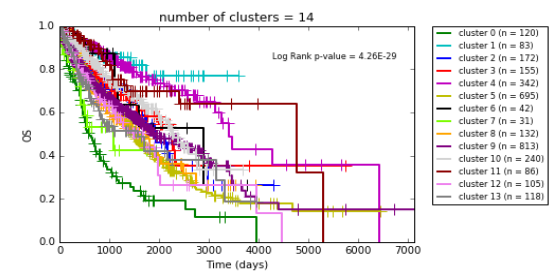
# NBS Sample Clustering with KnowEnG

- 3276 tumor samples from TCGA from 12 cancer projects with sparse non-synonymous somatic mutation
- Perform standard and network-guided **Sample Clustering** in platform
- Knowledge-guided clusters significantly relate to survival outcome

- Much better than standard methods that do not incorporate prior knowledge



- In line with specialized method developed in TCGA paper that would be very difficult to reproduce

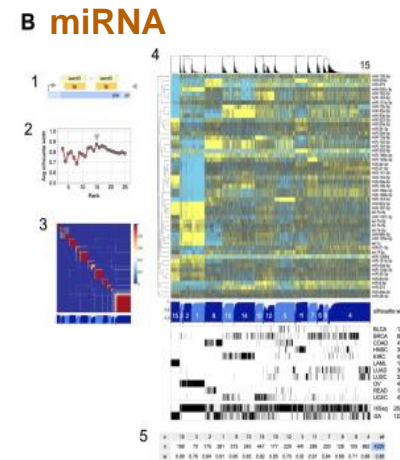
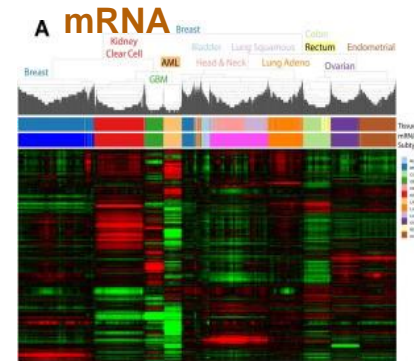


## Knowledge-guided analysis of "omics" data using the KnowEnG cloud platform

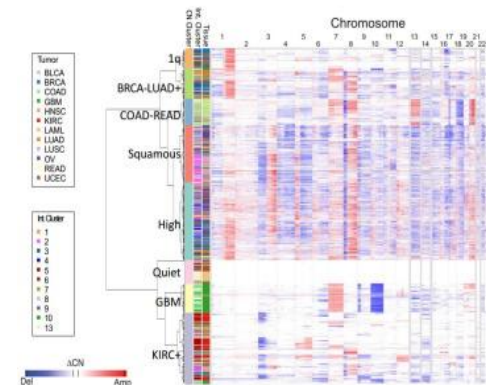
Charles Blatti III , Amin Emad , Matthew J. Berry, Lisa Gatzke, Milt Epstein, Daniel Lanier, Pramod Rizal, Jing Ge, Xiaoxia Liao, Omar Sobh, Mike Lambert, Corey S. Post, Jinfeng Xiao, [...], Saurabh Sinha   [ view all ]

# Integrating Experimental Assays for Stratification

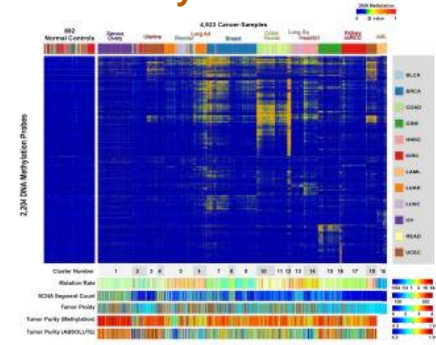
- Data from each experimental assay is subjected to sample clustering to find cancer subtypes per assay
- Mutation data required specialized knowledge guided methods (panel F)



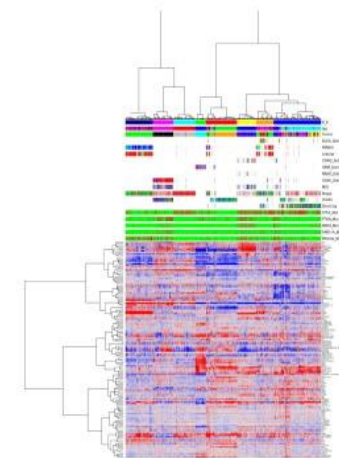
**C Copy Number**



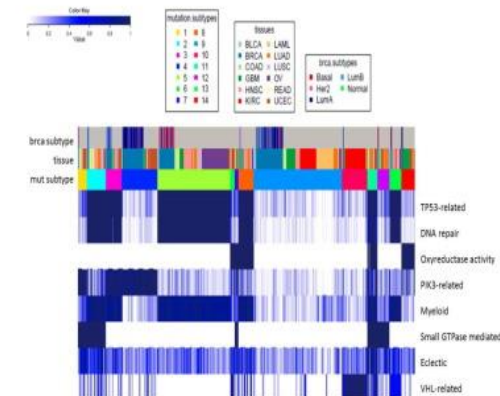
**D DNA Methyl**



**E Protein RPPA**



**F Mutations**



**Cell**

Volume 158, Issue 4, p829-944, 14 August 2014

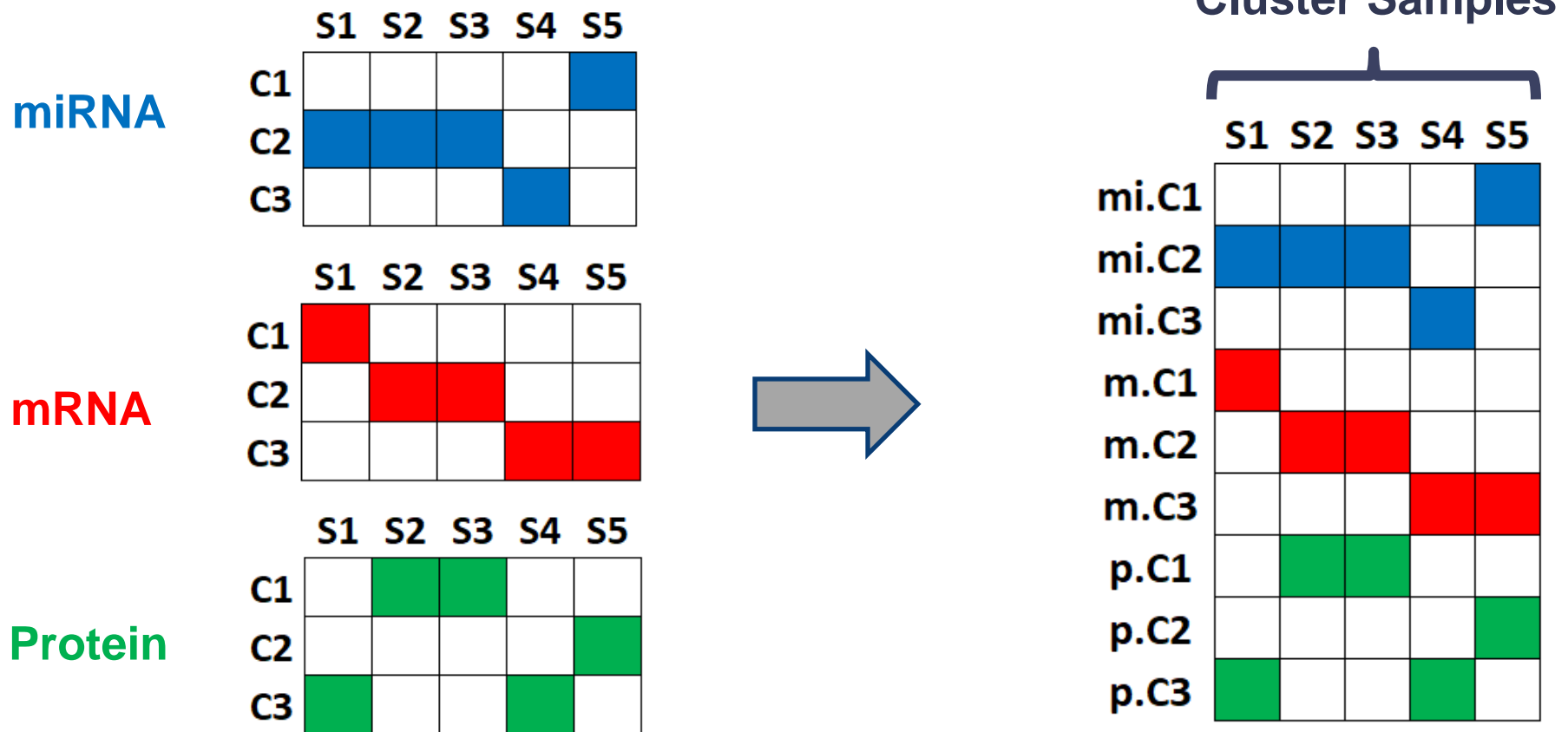
**RESOURCE**

**Multiplatform Analysis of 12 Cancer Types Reveals Molecular Classification within and across Tissues of Origin**

Katherine A. Hoadley<sup>20</sup>, Christina Yau<sup>20</sup>, Denise M. Wolf<sup>20</sup>, Andrew D. Cherniack<sup>20</sup>, David Tamborero, Sam Ng, Max D.M. Leiserson, Bailing Niu, Michael D. McLellan, Vladislav Uzunangelov, Jilshah Zhang, Dyrhao Kandath, Hehan Akbani, Hui Shen<sup>22</sup>, Larsson Omberg, Andy Chu, Adam A. Margolin<sup>21</sup>, Laura J. van't Veer, Nuria Lopez-Bigas, Peter W. Laird<sup>22</sup>, Benjamin J. Raphael, Li Ding, A. Gordon Robertson, Lauren A. Byers, Gordon B. Mills, John N. Weinstein, Carter Van Wessel, Zhong Chen, Eric A. Collisson, The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Christopher C. Benz<sup>23</sup>, Charles M. Perou<sup>24</sup>, Joshua M. Stuart<sup>25</sup>

# Cluster-Of-Cluster-Assignments (COCA)

- Merge cluster assignments x samples matrices
- Cluster the samples in the multi-omics matrix



# 13 Cancer Subtypes from 6 Assays

- Strong relationship between subtypes & disease
- Interesting relations between clusters of different data types

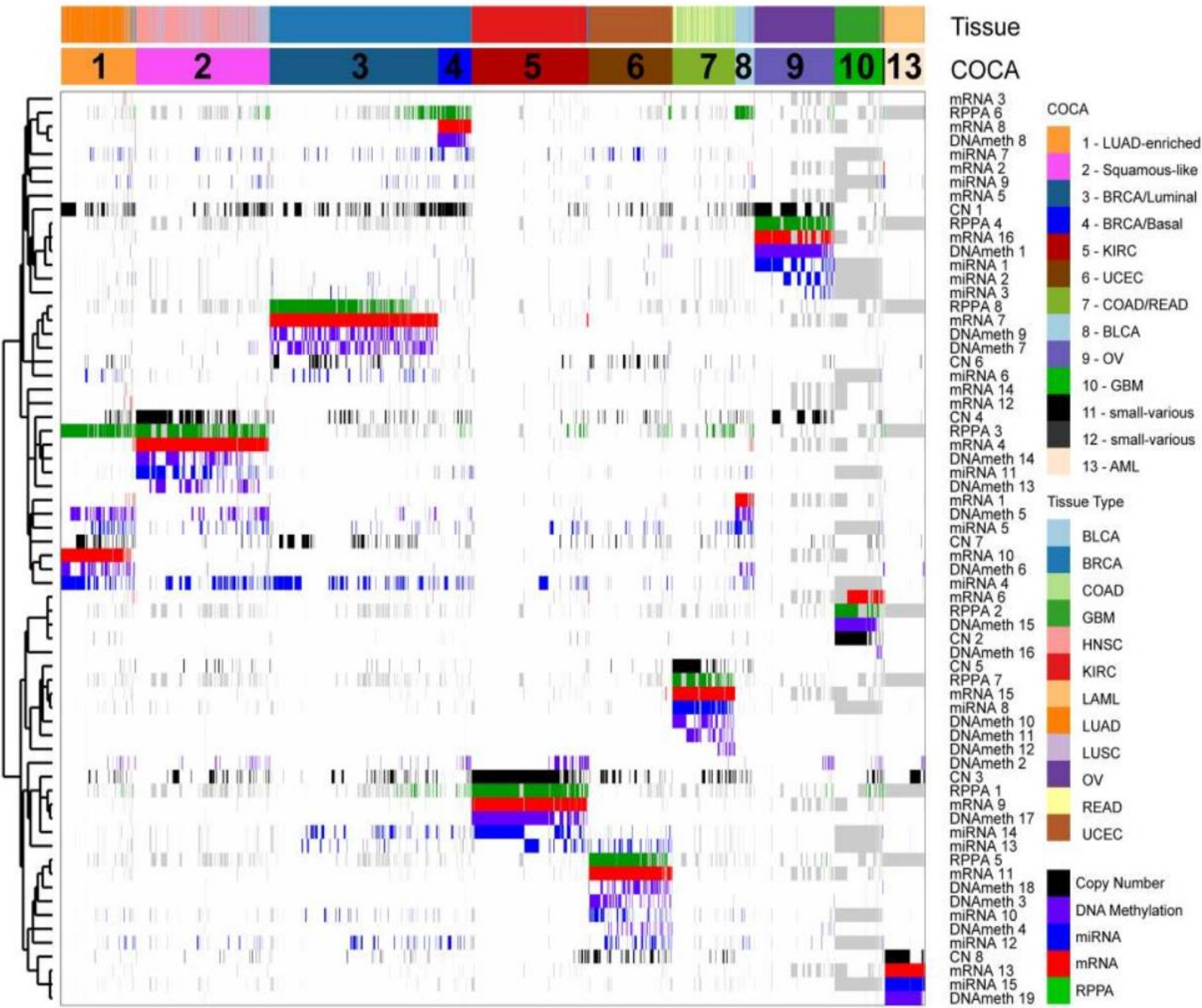
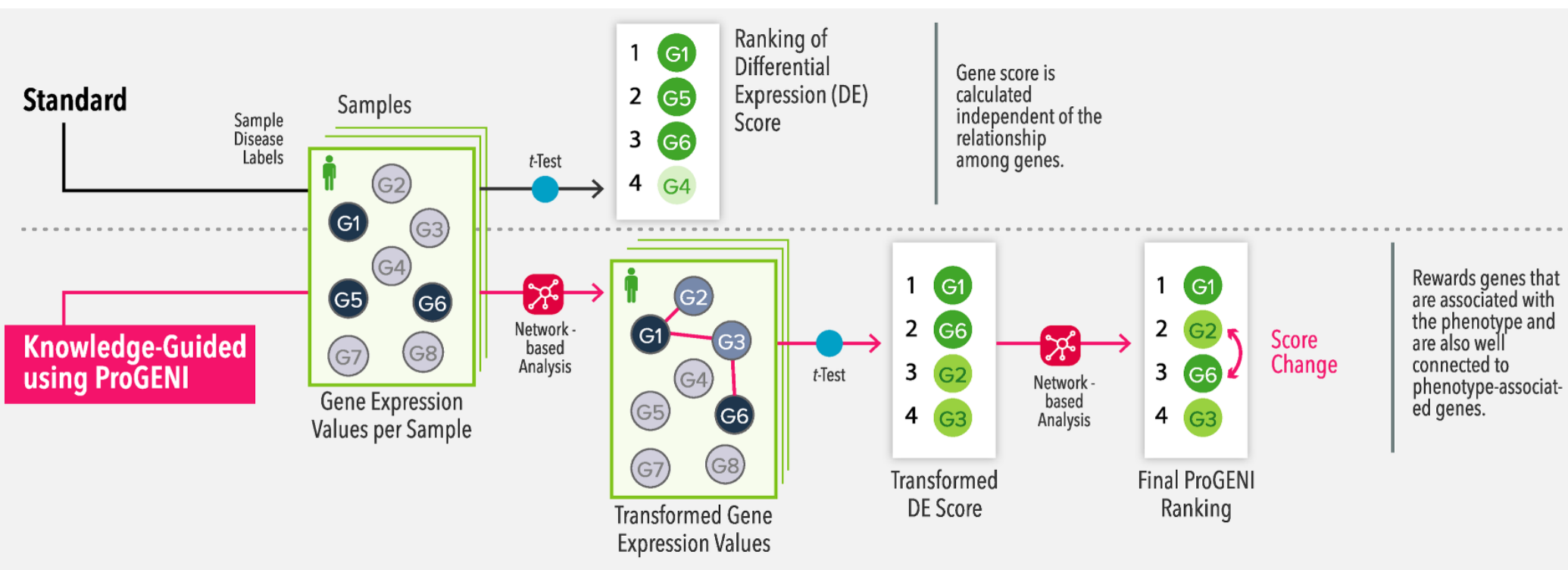


Figure from Hoadley, et al. "Multiplatform analysis of 12 cancer types reveals molecular classification within and across tissues of origin." *Cell* 158.4 (2014).

# Network-Guided Gene Prioritization



# Next Stop in Characterizing Cancer Subtypes

- Find top related mutations and copy number alterations
- Compare each subtype vs `all others`
- KnowEnG calls this `**Gene Prioritization`**

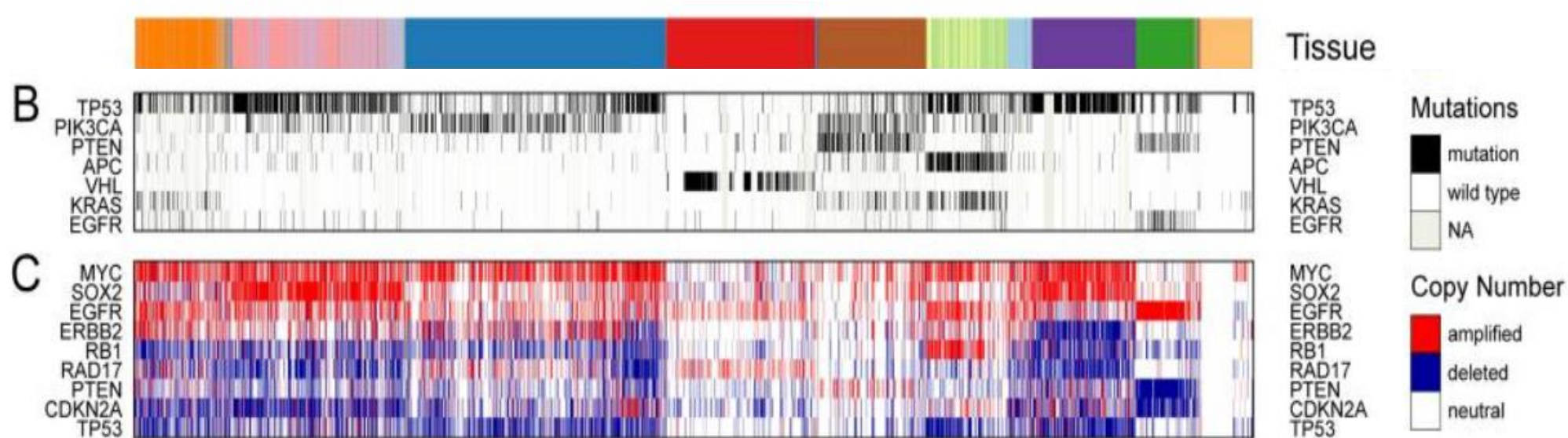
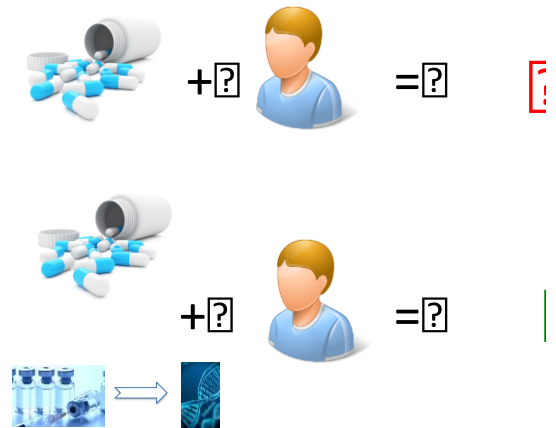


Figure from Hoadley, et al. "Multiplatform analysis of 12 cancer types reveals molecular classification within and across tissues of origin." *Cell* 158.4 (2014).

# Towards Network-Guided Gene Prioritization

## Drug Sensitivity Example

- **Goal:**
  - Identifying genes whose basal mRNA expression determines the drug sensitivity in different samples (supervised feature selection)
- **Motivations:**
  - Overcoming drug resistance
  - Revealing drug mechanism of action
  - Identifying novel drug targets
  - Predicting drug sensitivity of individuals





# Gene Prioritization

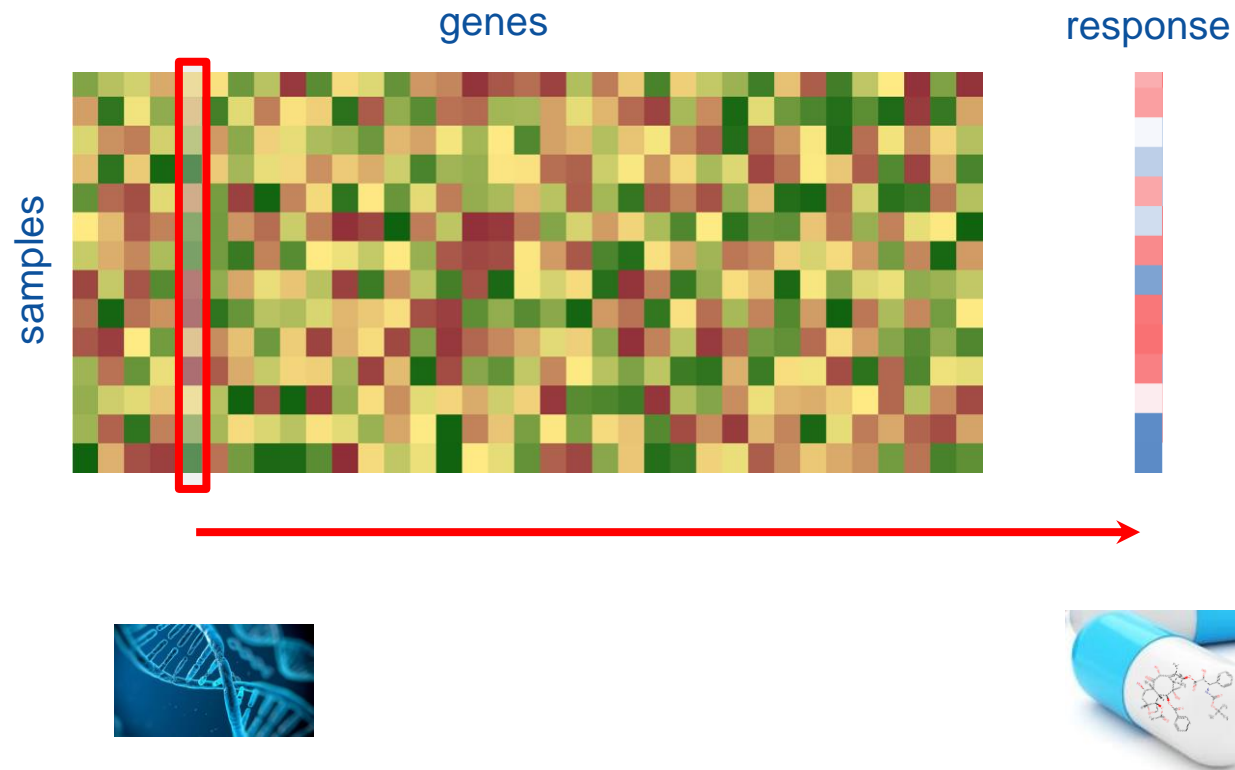
## Examples of current methods:

- Score each gene based on the correlation of its expression with drug response

*Nat Chem Biol*, 2016 Feb;12(2):109-16. doi: 10.1038/nchembio.1986. Epub 2015 Dec 14.

### Correlating chemical sensitivity and basal gene expression reveals mechanism of action.

Rees MG<sup>1</sup>, Seashore-Ludlow B<sup>1,2</sup>, Cheah JH<sup>1,2</sup>, Adams DJ<sup>1,2</sup>, Price EV<sup>1,2</sup>, Gill S<sup>1</sup>, Javaid S<sup>3</sup>, Coletti ME<sup>1</sup>, Jones VL<sup>1</sup>, Bodycombe NE<sup>1,2</sup>, Soule CK<sup>1,2</sup>, Alexander B<sup>1</sup>, Li A<sup>1</sup>, Montgomery P<sup>1</sup>, Kotz JD<sup>1</sup>, Hon CS<sup>1</sup>, Munoz B<sup>1</sup>, Liefeld T<sup>1,2</sup>, Dančik V<sup>1</sup>, Haber DA<sup>3</sup>, Clish CB<sup>1</sup>, Bittker JA<sup>1</sup>, Palmer M<sup>1,2</sup>, Wagner BK<sup>1</sup>, Clemons PA<sup>1</sup>, Shamji AF<sup>1</sup>, Schreiber SL<sup>1</sup>.



# Gene Prioritization

## Examples of current methods:

- Score each gene based on the correlation of its expression with drug response
- Use multivariable regression algorithms such as Elastic Net to relate multiple genes' expression values to drug response

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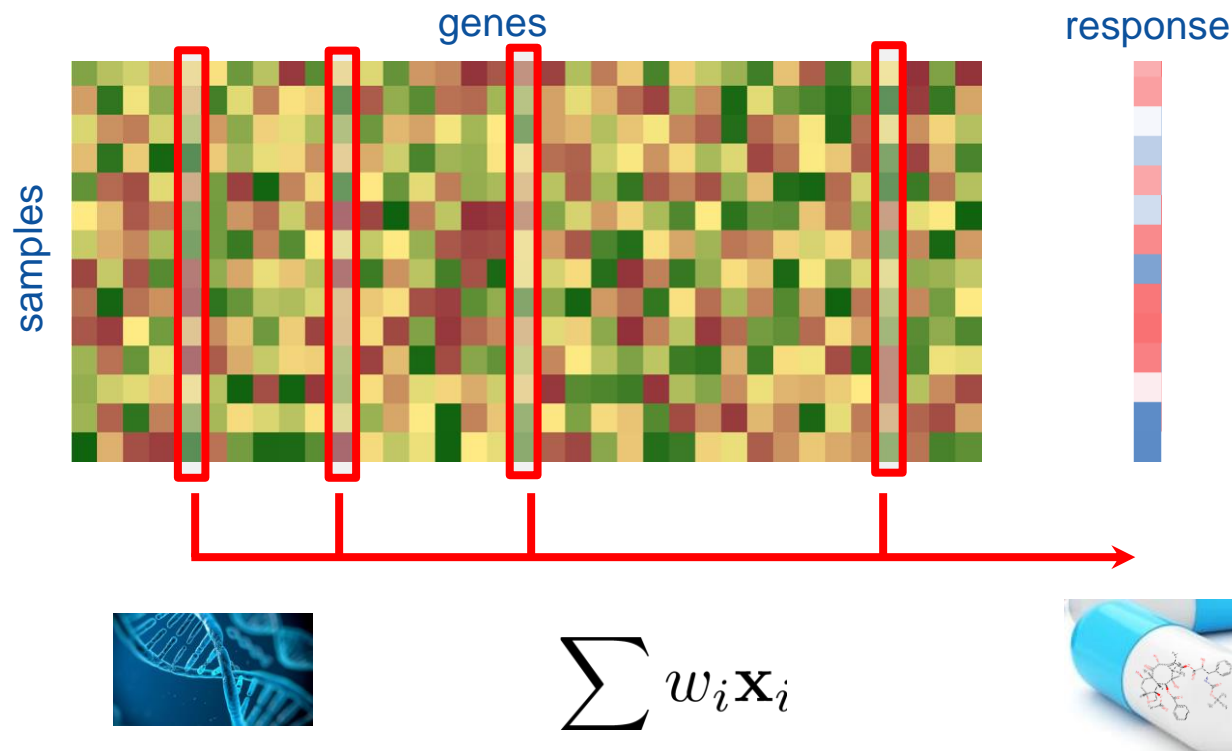
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[Nature](#), 2012 Mar 28;483(7391):603-7. doi: 10.1038/nature11003.

### The Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia enables predictive modelling of anticancer drug sensitivity.

Barretina J<sup>1</sup>, Caponigro G, Stransky N, Venkatesan K, Margolin AA, Kim S, Wilson CJ, Lehár J, Kryukov GY, Sonkin D, Reddy A, Liu M, Murray L, Berger MF, Monahan JE, Morais P, Meltzer J, Korejwa A, Jané-Valbuena J, Mapa FA, Thibault J, Bric-Furlong E, Raman P, Shipway A, Engels IH, Cheng J, Yu GK, Yu J, Aspesi P Jr, de Silva M, Jagtap K, Jones MD, Wang L, Hatton C, Palesscandolo E, Gupta S, Mahan S, Sougnez C, Onofrio RC, Liefeld T, MacConaill L, Winckler W, Reich M, Li N, Mesirov JP, Gabriel SB, Getz G, Ardlie K, Chan V, Myer VE, Weber BL, Porter J, Warmuth M, Finan P, Harris JL, Meyerson M, Golub TR, Morrissey MP, Sellers WR, Schlegel R, Garraway LA.



# Gene prioritization

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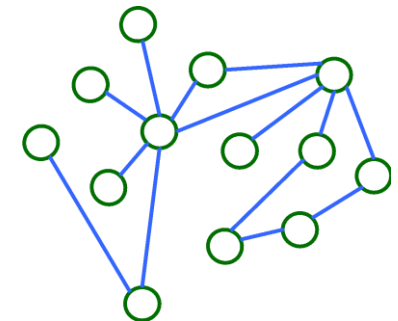
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## Shortcoming:

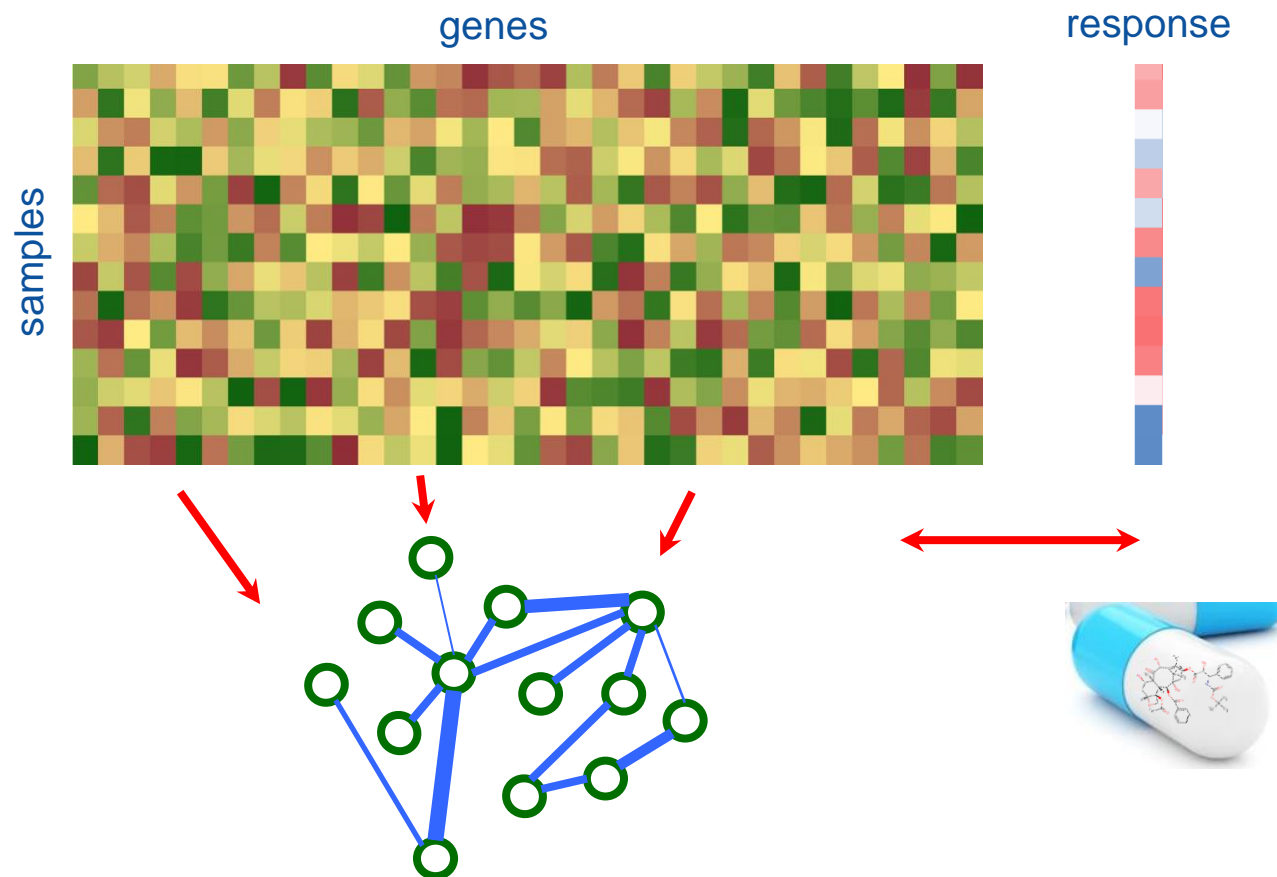
- These methods do not incorporate prior information about the interaction of the genes



# ProGENI

## Hypothesis:

- Since genes and proteins involved in drug MoA are functionally related, prior knowledge in the form of gene interaction network (e.g. PPI) can improve accuracy of the prioritization task



## ProGENI: Network-guided gene prioritization

- An algorithm that incorporates gene network information to improve prioritization accuracy



Featured article: new insights into mechanisms of chemoresistance



Emad *et al.* *Genome Biology* (2017) 18:153  
DOI 10.1186/s13059-017-1282-3

Genome Biology

RESEARCH

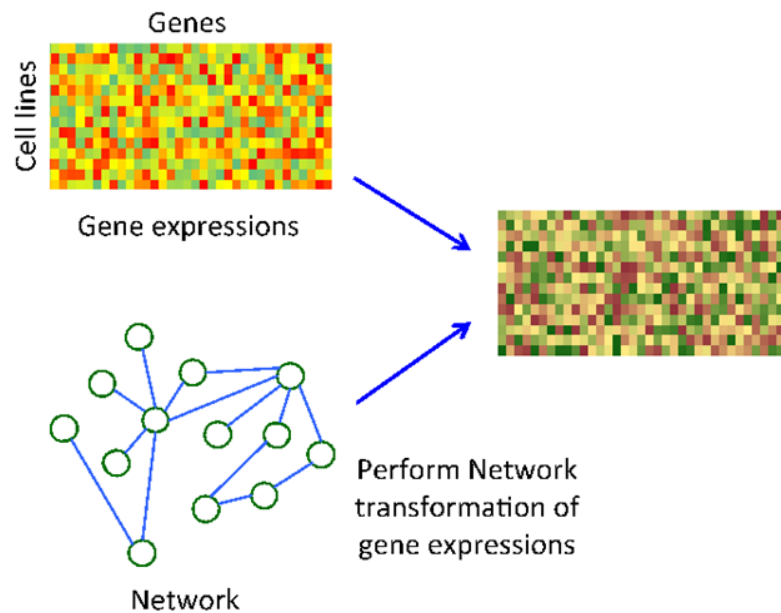
Open Access



## Knowledge-guided gene prioritization reveals new insights into the mechanisms of chemoresistance

Amin Emad<sup>1</sup> , Junmei Cairns<sup>2</sup>, Krishna R. Kalari<sup>3</sup>, Liewei Wang<sup>2\*</sup> and Saurabh Sinha<sup>4\*</sup>

**Step 1:** Generate new features representing **expression of each gene** and the **activity level of their neighbors** weighted proportional to their relevance



# ProGENI

**Step 1:** Generate new features representing expression of each gene and the activity level of their neighbors weighted proportional to their relevance

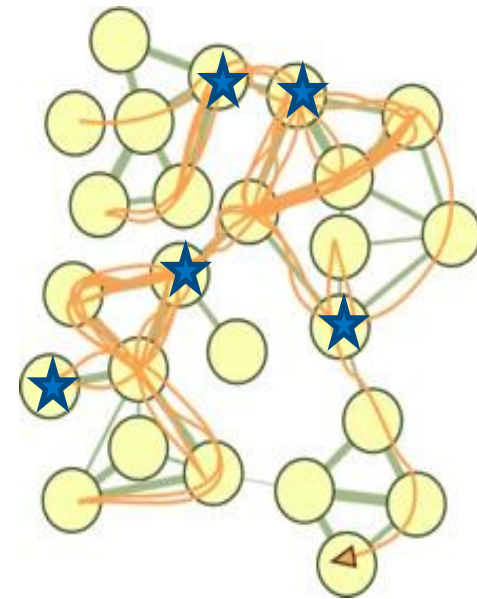
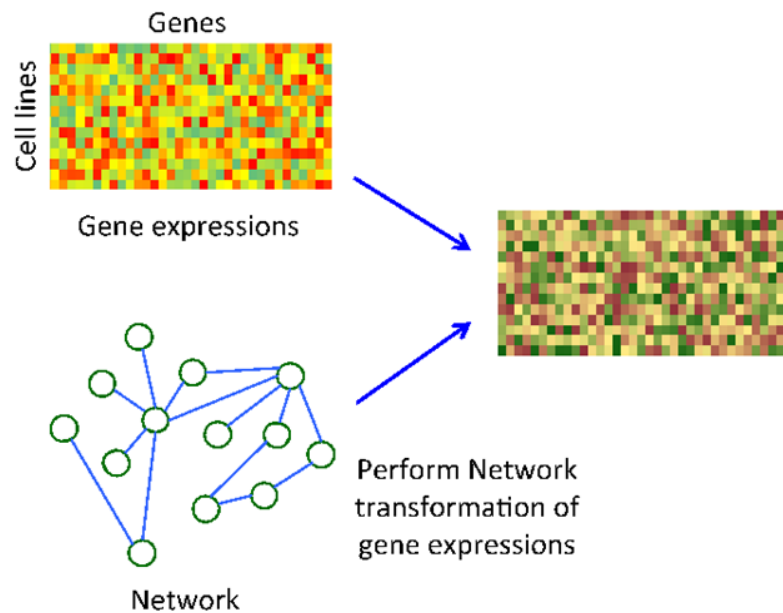
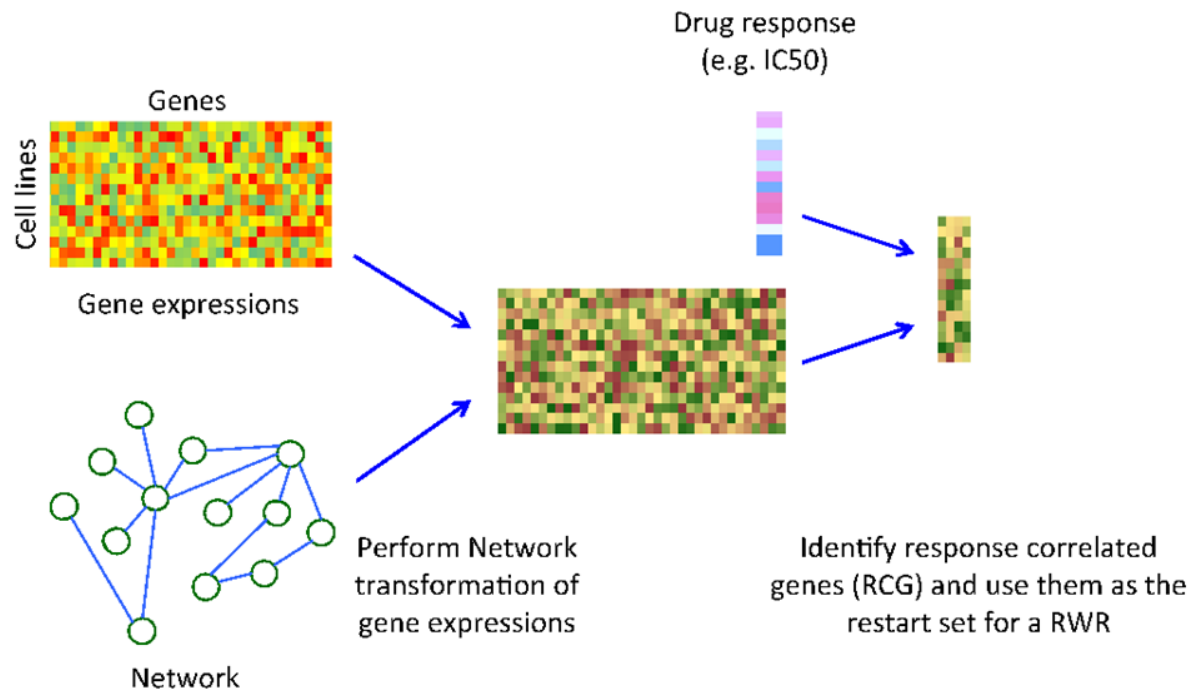


Figure from Rosvall and Bergstrom. "Maps of random walks on complex networks reveal community structure." *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences* 105.4 (2008).

# ProGENI

**Step 1:** Generate new features representing expression of each gene and the activity level of their neighbors weighted proportional to their relevance

**Step 2:** Find genes most correlated with drug response (RCG set)



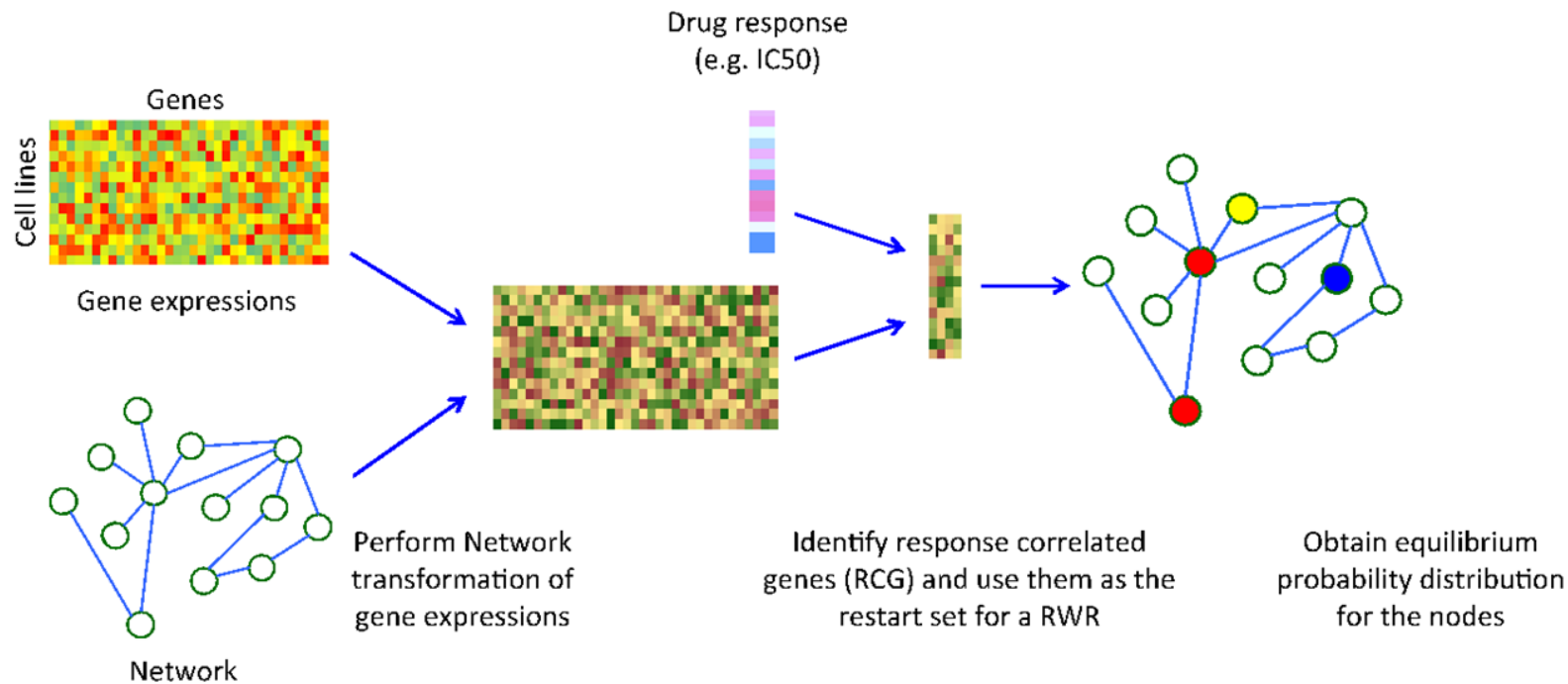


# ProGENI

**Step 1:** Generate new features representing expression of each gene and the activity level of their neighbors weighted proportional to their relevance

**Step 2:** Find genes most correlated with drug response (RCG set)

**Step 3:** Score genes based on their relevance to the RCG set



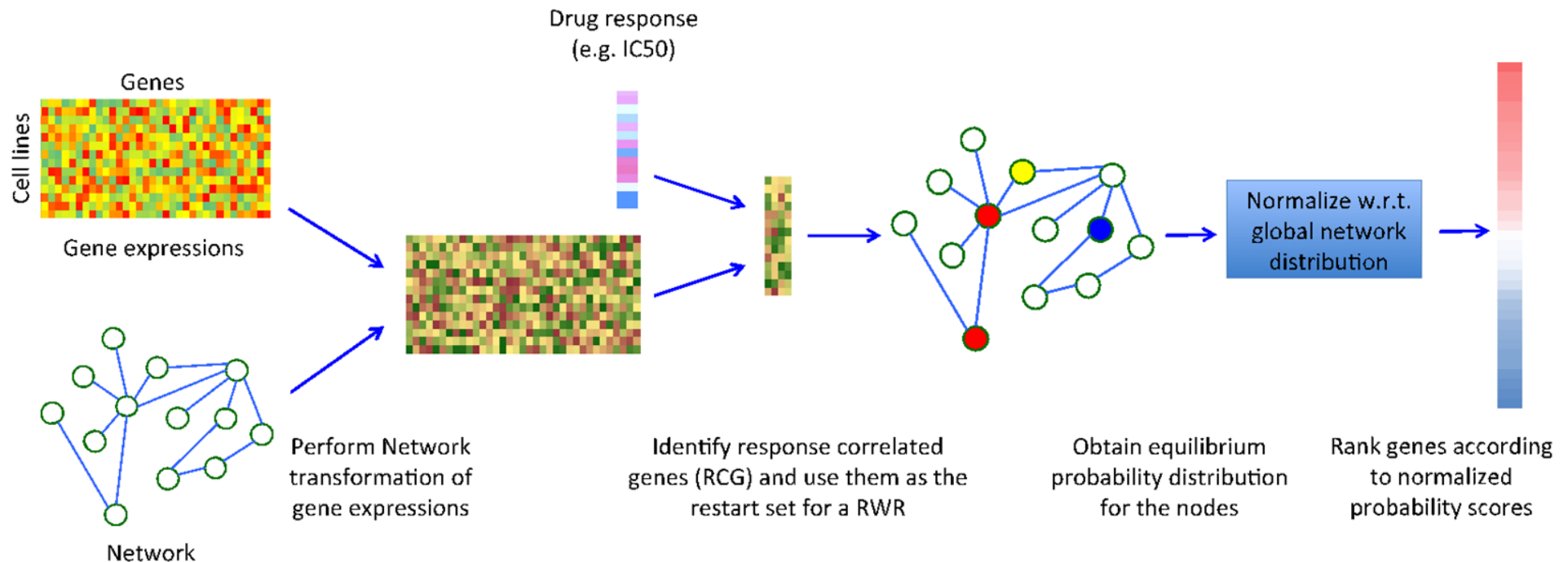
# ProGENI

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**Step 3:** Score genes based on their relevance to the RCG set

**Step 4:** Remove network bias by normalizing scores w.r.t. scores corresponding to global network topology



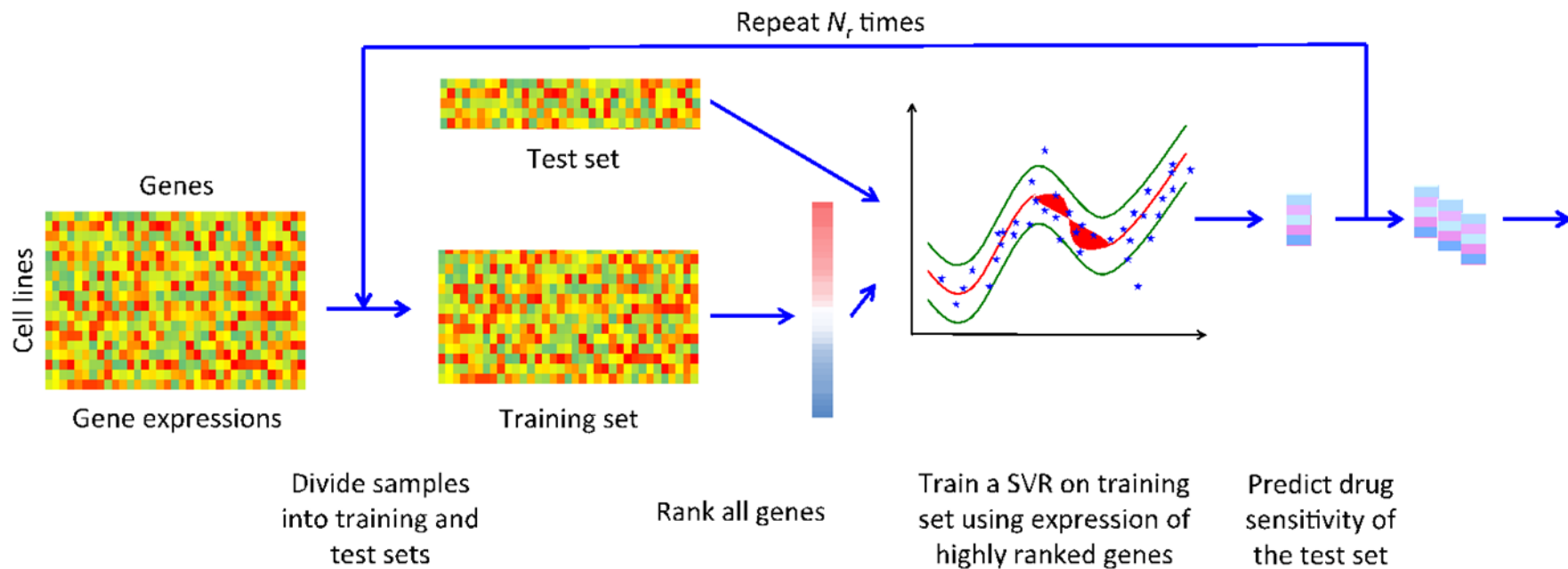
# Datasets

- **Human lymphoblastoid cell lines (LCL)**
  - Gene expression (~17K genes of ~300 cell lines)
  - Drug response of 24 cytotoxic treatments
- **Publicly available dataset from GDSC**
  - Gene expression (~13K genes of ~600 cell lines from 13 tissues)
  - Drug response of 139 cytotoxic treatments
- **Publicly available prior knowledge**
  - Network of gene interactions (PPI and genetic interactions) from STRING (~1.5M edges, ~15.5K nodes)



# Validation using drug response prediction

- Genes ranked highly using a good prioritization method are good predictors of drug sensitivity

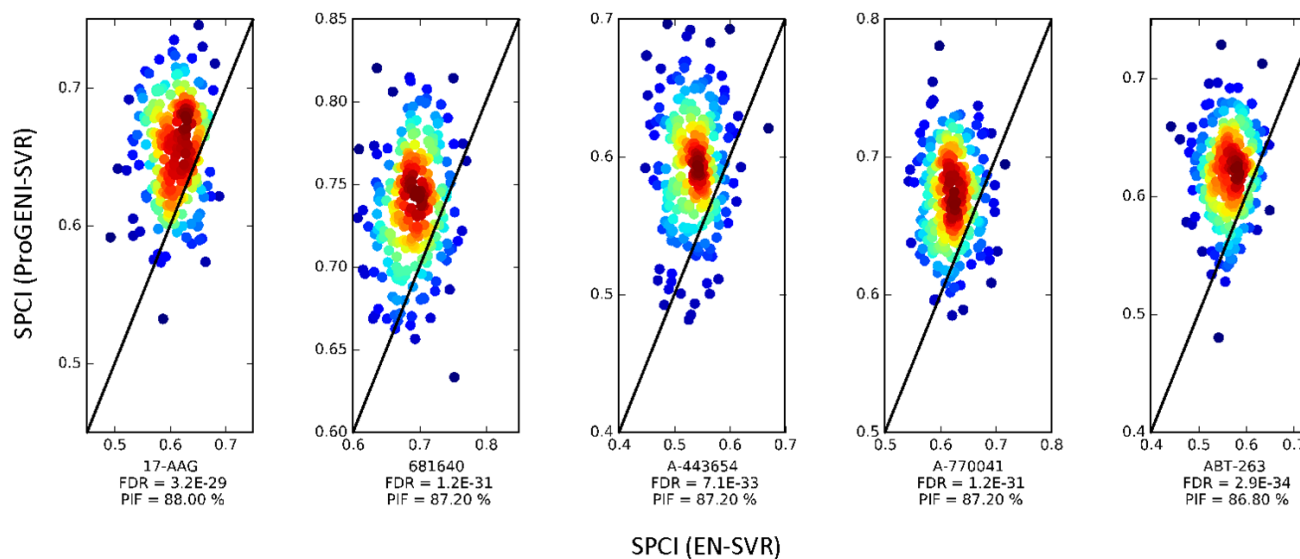


# Validation using drug response prediction

LCL Dataset	Pearson	Elastic Net
Num. Drugs (out of 24) ProGENI > Baseline	14	20
FDR (Wilcoxon signed-rank test)	6.5 E-3	9.6 E-5

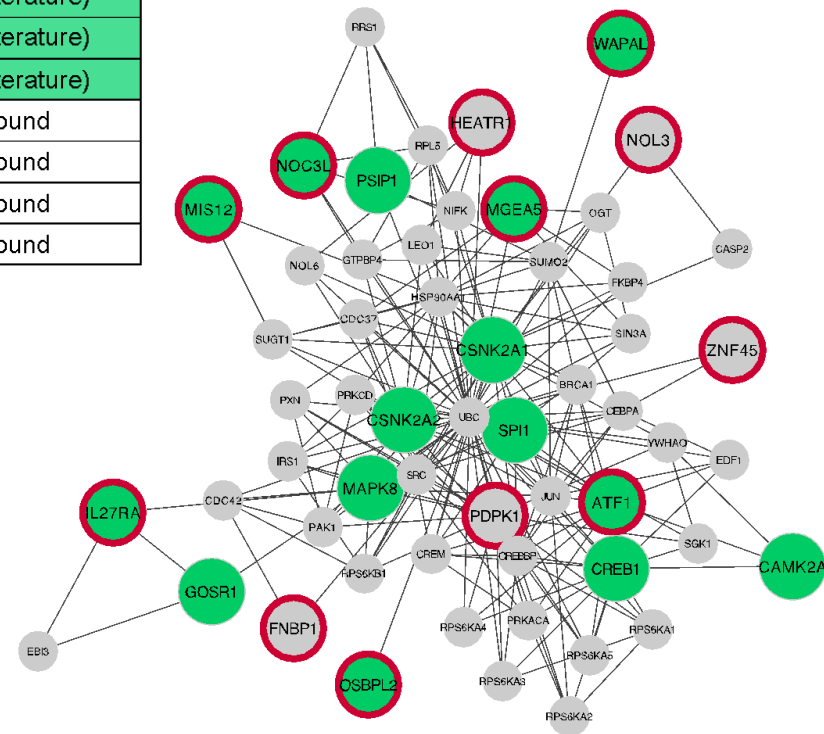
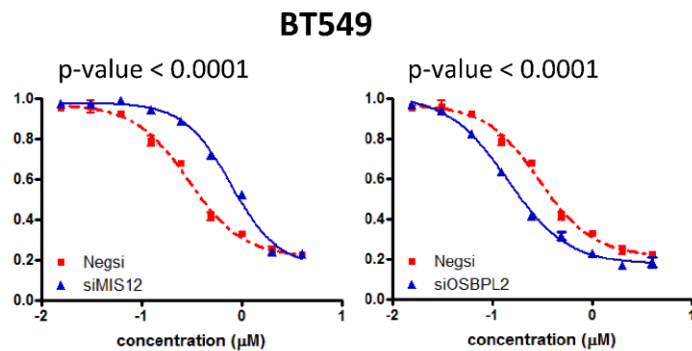
GDSC Dataset	Pearson	Elastic Net
Num. Drugs (out of 139) ProGENI > Baseline	66	110
FDR (Wilcoxon signed-rank test)	9.1 E-4	4.0 E-21



# Functional validation

We validated role of 33 (out of 45) genes (73%) for three drugs.

Gene Symbol	Rank (ProGENI)	Rank (Pearson)	Absolute value of Pearson correlation coefficient	Evidence
<i>ATF1</i>	1	1	0.2000	Direct (this study)
<i>MIS12</i>	2	4	0.1887	Direct (this study)
<i>OSBPL2</i>	5	6	0.1865	Direct (this study)
<i>CSNK2A1</i>	7	1587	0.0752	Direct (literature)
<i>PSIP1 (LEDGF)</i>	8	46	0.1537	Direct (literature)
<i>CAMK2A</i>	9	6991	0.0157	Direct (literature)
<i>CSNK2A2</i>	10	4870	0.0347	Direct (literature)
<i>GOSR1</i>	11	6867	0.0167	Direct (this study)
<i>MAPK8</i>	13	7574	0.0112	Direct (literature)
<i>SPI1</i>	14	6287	0.0217	Direct (literature)
<i>CREB1</i>	15	665	0.1000	Direct (literature)
<i>NOC3L</i>	3	3	0.1893	Not found
<i>IL27RA</i>	4	2	0.1911	Not found
<i>MGEA5</i>	6	7	0.1814	Not found
<i>WAPAL</i>	12	8	0.1805	Not found



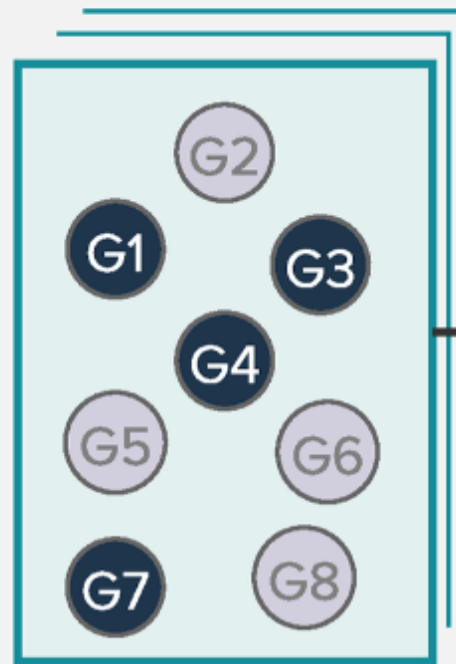
# Gene Expression Signatures

Samples



Gene Expression  
Values

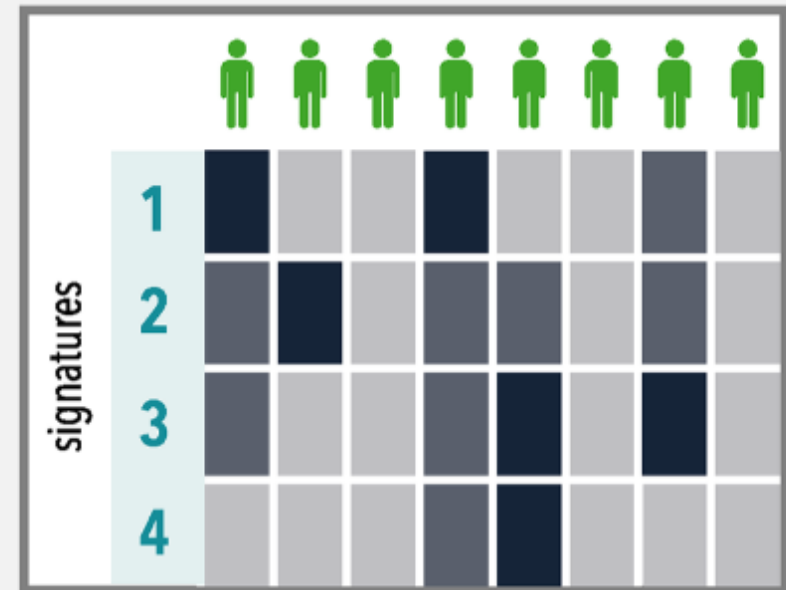
Signatures



Gene Expression  
Values

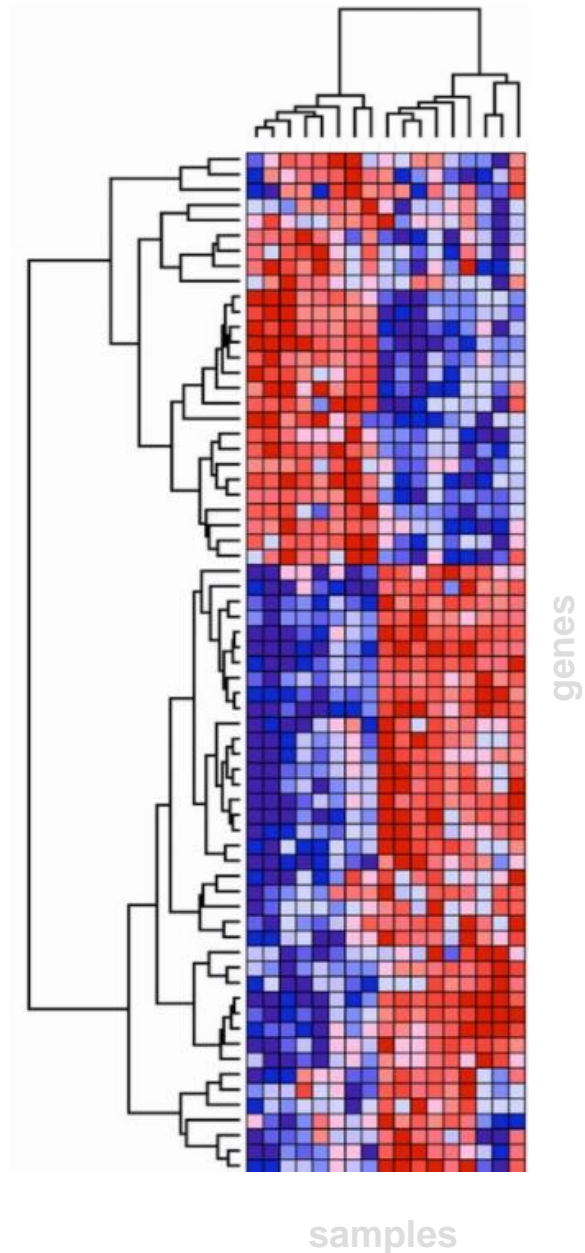
Similarity

Sample-Signature Similarity



# Gene Expression Signatures

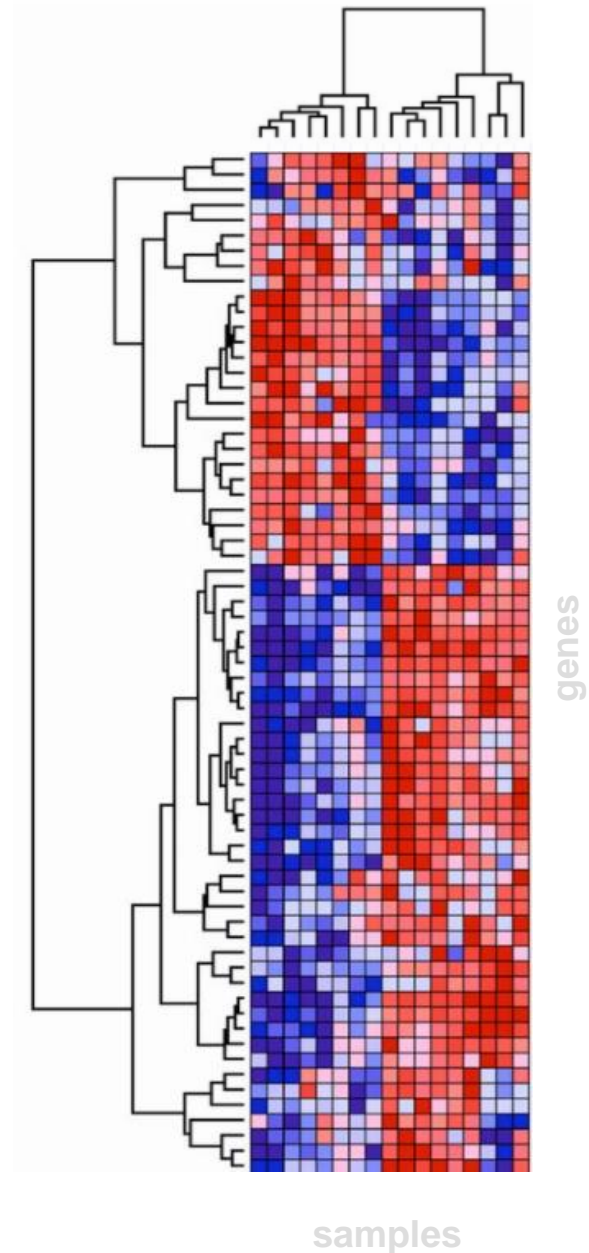
- Massive Transcriptomic Profiling Projects
  - TCGA and ICGC
  - GTEX and CCLE
  - LINCS
- Definitions
  - Projects produce **expression vectors** for samples (e.g. gene expression levels)
  - Scoring the difference in expression between samples of two (or more) conditions produces **differential expression vectors**
- **Signature** (of a biological state):
  - **Gene Set** – differentially, characteristically expressed genes in that state relative to some reference (control or population)
  - **Differential Expression Vector** – the differential expression scores for the subset of genes in the same comparison





# Gene Expression Signatures

- Example Comparisons
  - Mutated vs Wild-Type
  - Metastatic vs Primary
  - Tumor vs Normal
  - Perturbagens
    - Drug Treatment vs Placebo
    - Environmental Stimuli vs Control
- Gene Signatures provide a uniquely characteristic pattern of gene expression that is tied to its studied biological or medical phenomenon
  - Enable researchers to relate samples and other phenomenon by finding the similarity to the gene signatures
  - Focus understanding on underlying mechanism for phenomenon to a subset of gene behaviors



# Public Resources for Gene Signatures

- There are many public resources for acquiring gene expression signatures

- Extracting signatures yourself



- Libraries of Curated Signatures

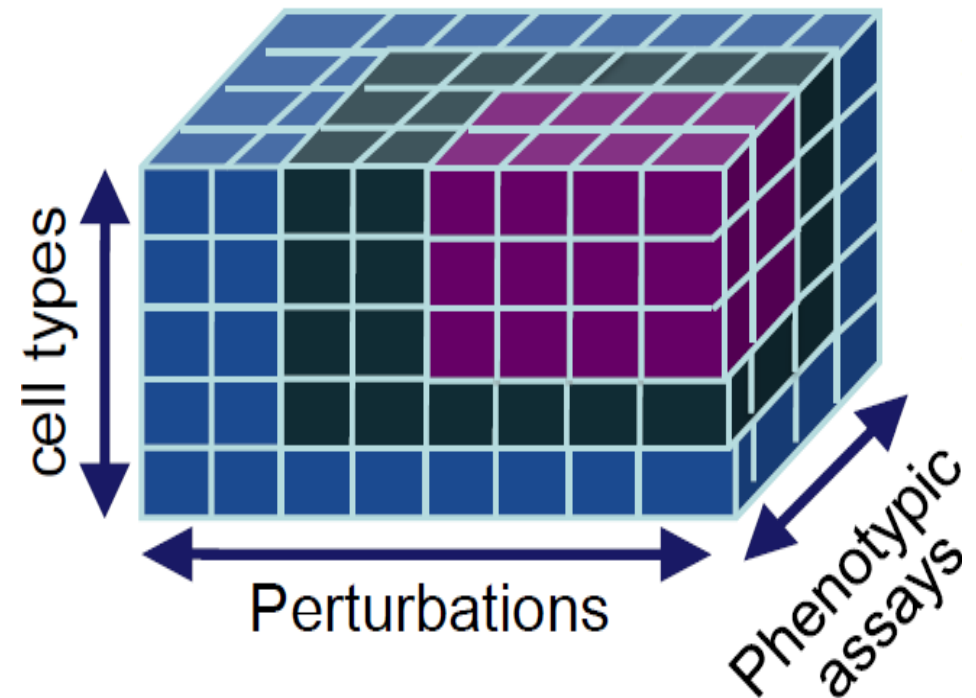


- Lab will use signatures from the Library of Integrated Network-Based Cellular Signatures (LINCS)



# The LINCS DataCube of Signatures

- Gathering a data cube of gene signatures
- Using many different:
  - Cell Types
    - Dozens of cell lines
    - Induced pluripotent stem cells
    - Primary Cells
  - Perturbagens
    - Small molecules / Drugs
    - CRISPR overexpression and shRNA knockdown
    - Microenvironments
    - Ligands
  - Experimental Assays
    - Gene expression: microarray, RNA-seq, **L1000**
    - Protein expression: RPPA, P100 mass spectrometry
    - Morphological and Proliferation: biochemical and imaging assays



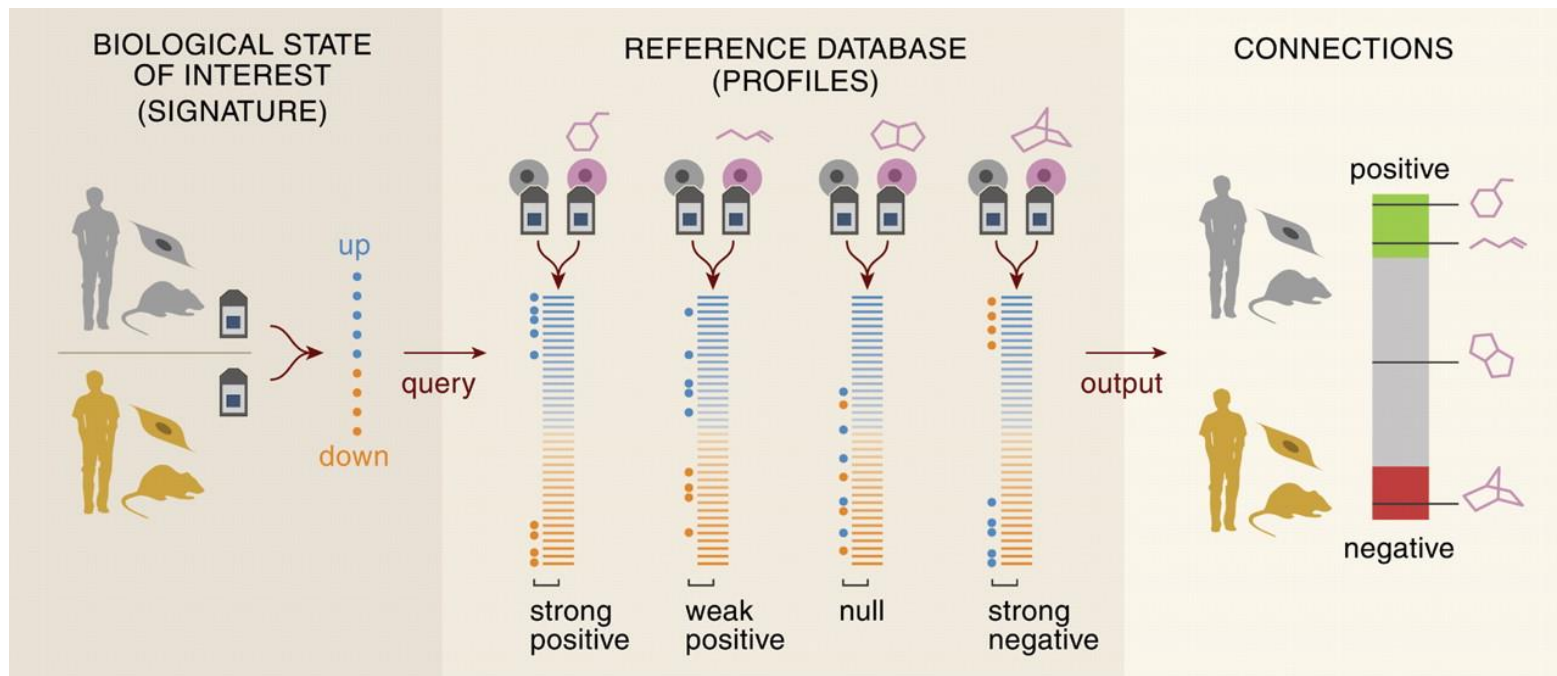
# Signature Similarity Analysis

- Given a query signature and a library of reference signatures, how do you find the similar signatures?

Mol Cell Biol. 2008 Oct;28(19):5951-64. doi: 10.1128/MCB.00305-08. Epub 2008 Aug 4.

**A gene signature-based approach identifies mTOR as a regulator of p73.**

Rosenbluth JM<sup>1</sup>, Mays DJ, Pino ME, Tang LJ, Pieterpol JA.



## Types of Similarity Comparisons

Gene Set & Differential Expression Vector

Differential Expression Vector & Differential Expression Vector

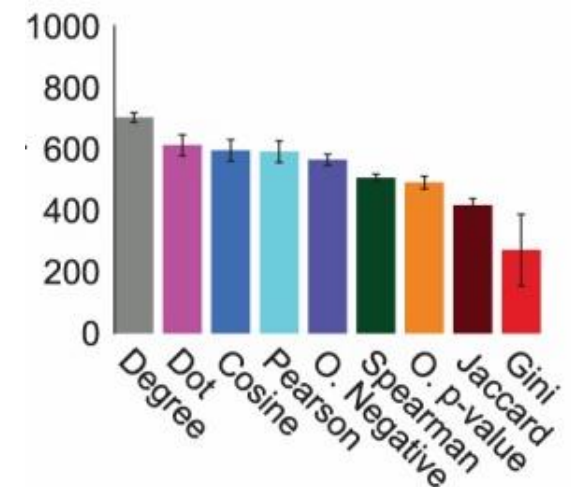
Gene Set & Gene Set

# Standard Similarity Measures

- When both signatures are represented as differential expression vectors:

	Correlation	Formula (x, y)	Description	Study
1	Pearson	$\frac{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$	Linear similarity measure that uses mean-centering and normalization of the profiles.	Pearson 1920 [29]
2	Cosine	$\frac{\sum_i x_i y_i}{\sqrt{\sum_i x_i^2} \sqrt{\sum_i y_i^2}}$	Linear similarity measure that uses normalization of the profiles.	
3	Spearman	$\frac{\sum_i (r_i - \bar{r})(s_i - \bar{s})}{\sqrt{\sum_i (r_i - \bar{r})^2} \sqrt{\sum_i (s_i - \bar{s})^2}}$ where $r_i$ is rank of $x_i$ in x, $s_i$ is rank of $y_i$ in y.	Spearman correlation is Pearson correlation on the ranks of elements in the profile.	Spearman 1904 [34]

- In one analysis, they did not observe a large performance difference between the possible measures



PLoS One, 2013 Jul 10;8(7):e68664. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0068664. Print 2013.

## Comparison of profile similarity measures for genetic interaction networks.

Deshpande R<sup>1</sup>, Vandersluis B, Myers CL.

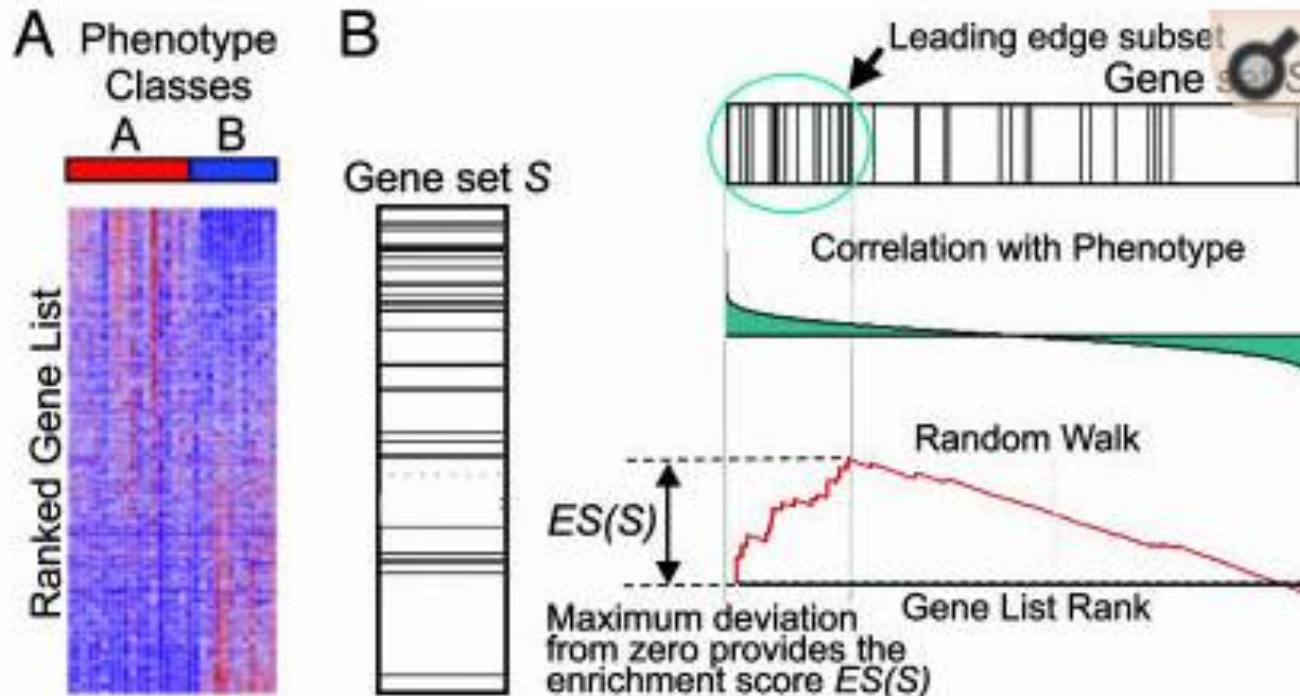
- When sample signature is **vector** and library signature is **gene set**

- GSEA - <http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/index.jsp>

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2005 Oct 25;102(43):15545-50. Epub 2005 Sep 30.

**Gene set enrichment analysis: a knowledge-based approach for interpreting genome-wide expression profiles.**

Subramanian A<sup>1</sup>, Tamayo P, Mootha VK, Mukherjee S, Ebert BL, Gillette MA, Paulovich A, Pomeroy SL, Golub TR, Lander ES, Mesirov JP.



- Modification of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistic

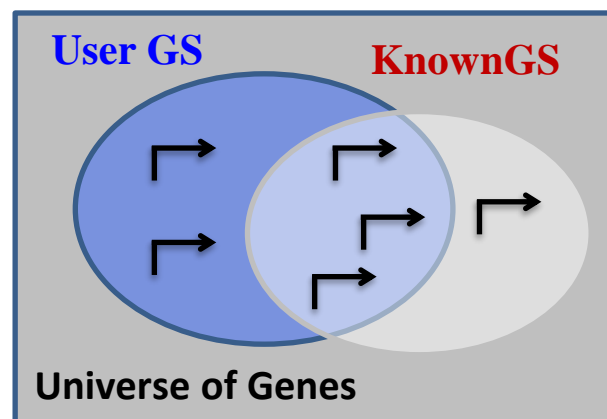
- Calculate the enrichment score (ES) that represents the amount the genes in the gene set are over-represented in the top or the bottom of the signature vector
- Estimate statistical significance of the ES by permuting the mappings between the data
- Adjust for multiple hypothesis testing when analyzing a large number of gene sets

# Gene Set Association Tests

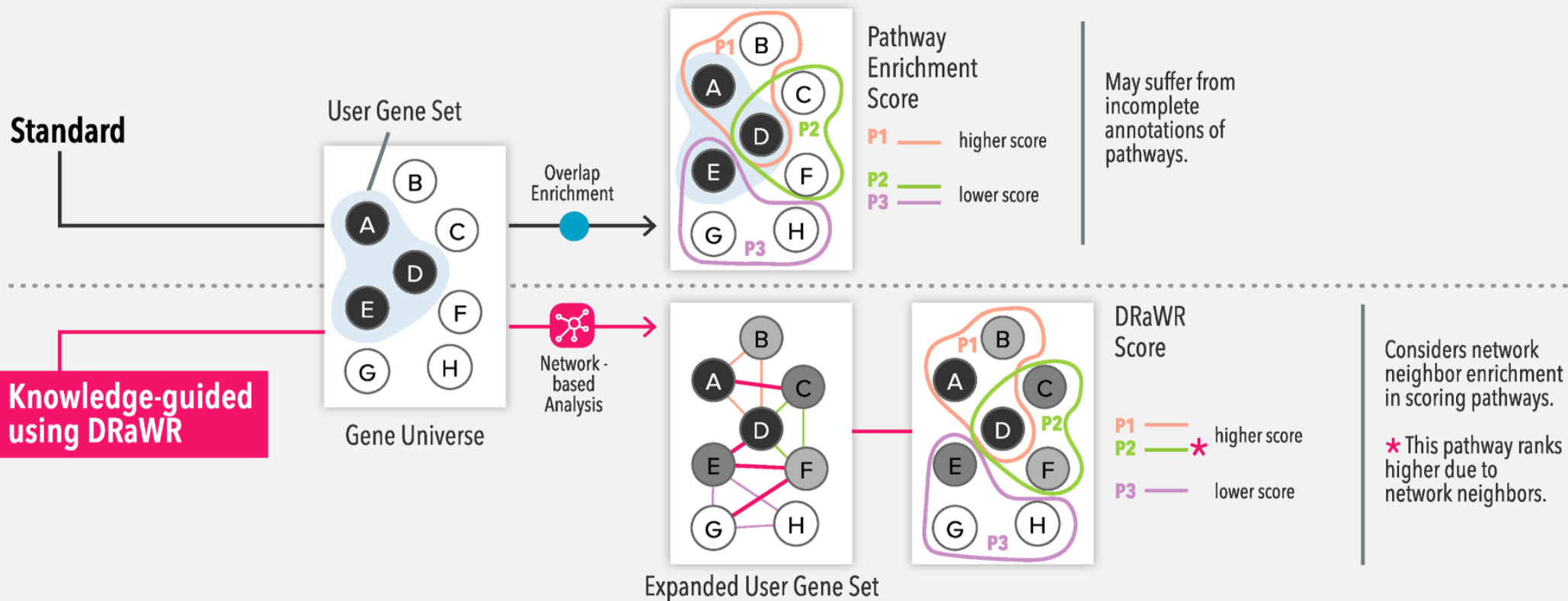
- For use when **both** signatures are **gene sets**
  - Also known as Gene Set Characterization
- One-sided exact Fisher / Hypergeometric distribution tests
  - Covered by Saurabh this morning
- Available through tools like:
  - DAVID - <https://david.ncifcrf.gov/>
  - Enrichr - <http://amp.pharm.mssm.edu/Enrichr/>
  - Metascape - <http://metascape.org/gp/index.html>



Standard Enrichment Test



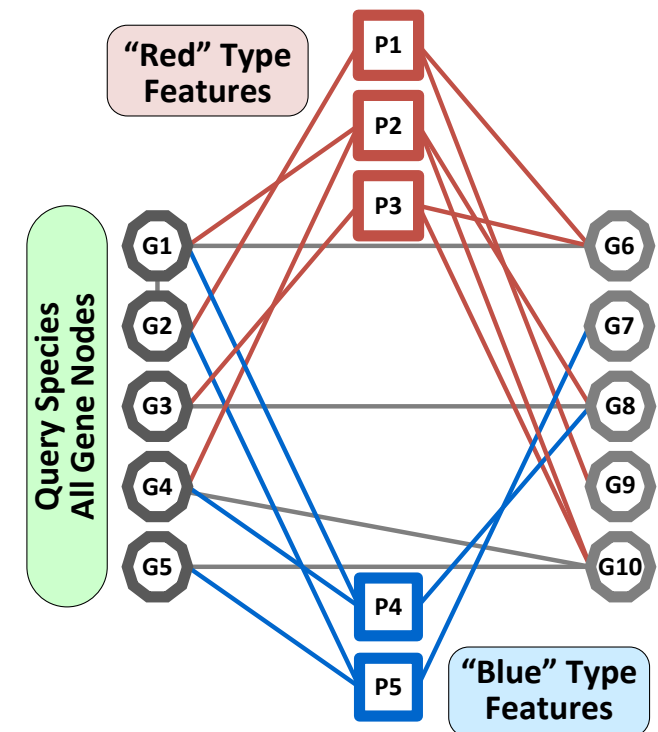
# Network-Guided Gene Set Characterization





# Idea for a Network-based Method

- Use guilt-by-association principles to find out which annotations are well connected to the query genes in a heterogeneous network.
- These well connected annotations should be specific to the query genes, and not simply hub nodes in the network.
- Developed Discriminative Random Walks with Restart (DRaWR)



*Bioinformatics*. 2016 Jul 15;32(14):2167-75. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btw151. Epub 2016 Mar 19.

**Characterizing gene sets using discriminative random walks with restart on heterogeneous biological networks.**

Blatti C<sup>1</sup>, Sinha S<sup>2</sup>.

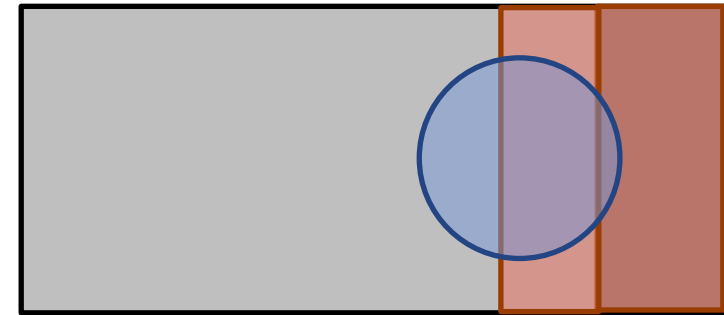
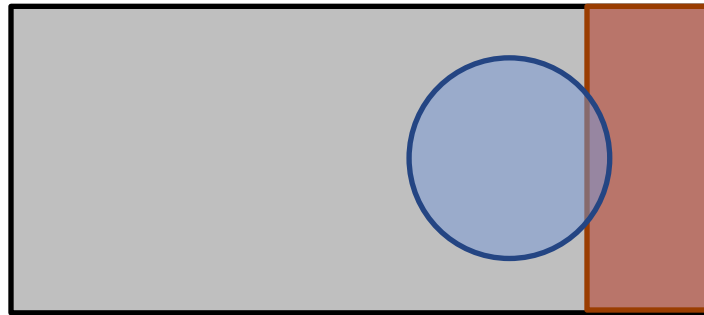
# Value of Network-Guided Analysis

- Take advantage of gene neighbors

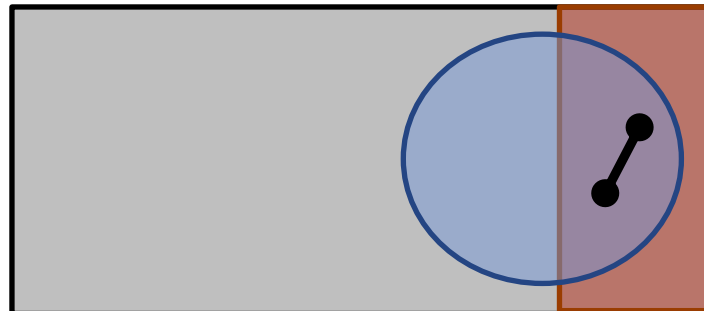
User Set

Apoptosis Genes

Genes That Bind To  
Apoptosis Genes

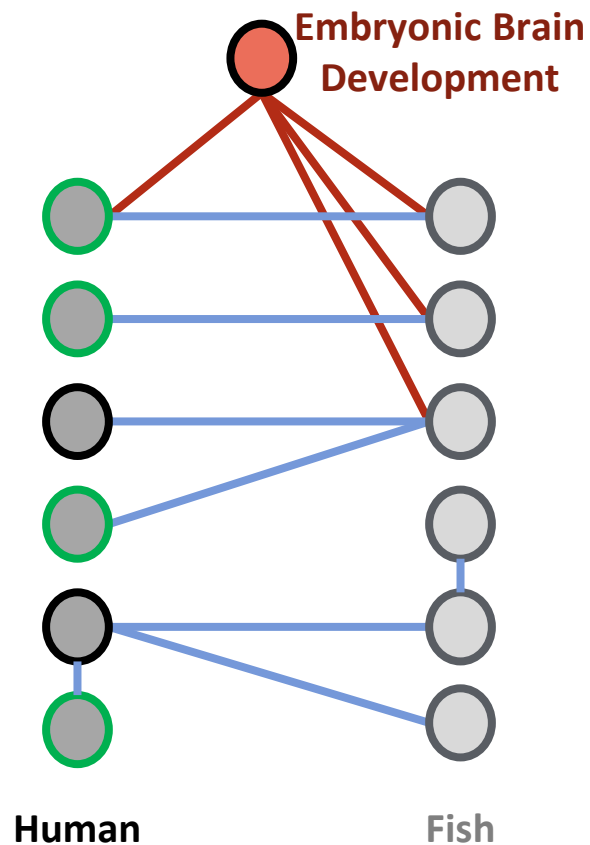


- Incorporate dependencies from separate knowledge in analysis

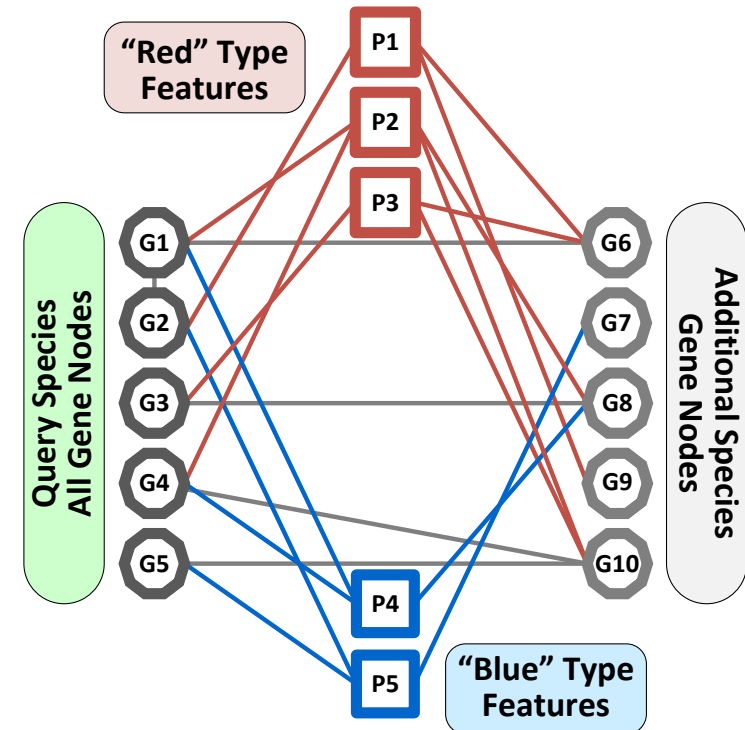


# Value of Network-Guided Analysis

- Extension to poorly annotated domains

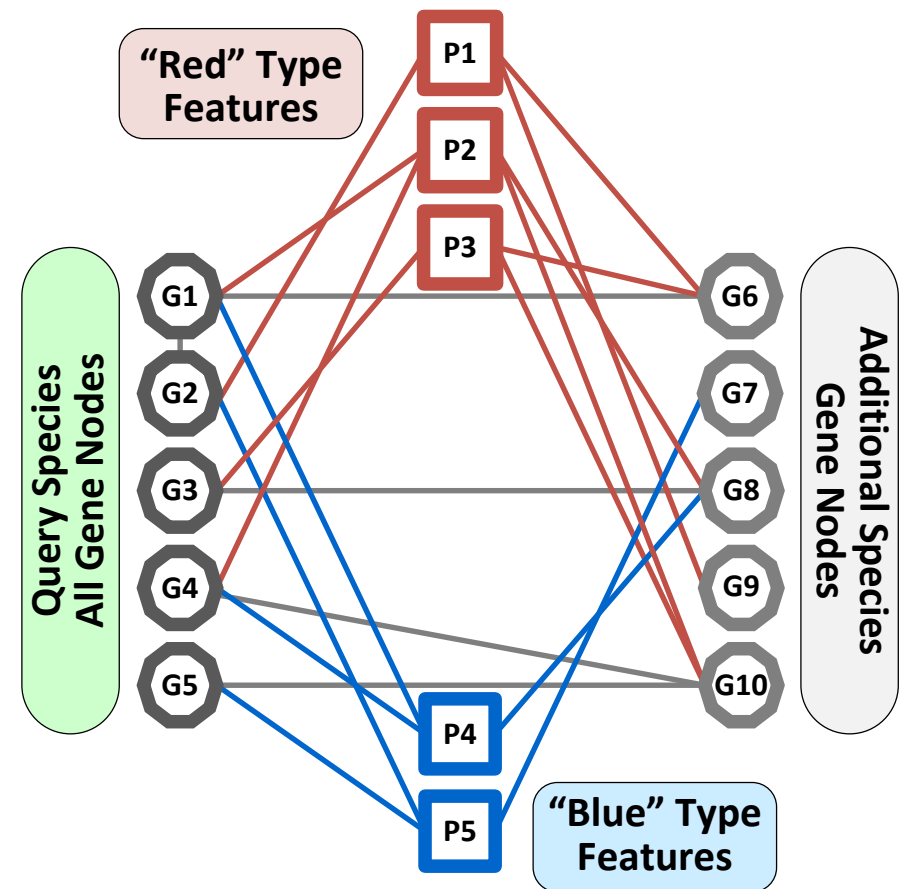


- Integrating multiple data types



# Network-based DRaWR Method

- DRaWR – using random walks on a network
  - Construct a heterogeneous network of interest



Heterogeneous  
Edge Types

type\_A

type\_B

type\_C

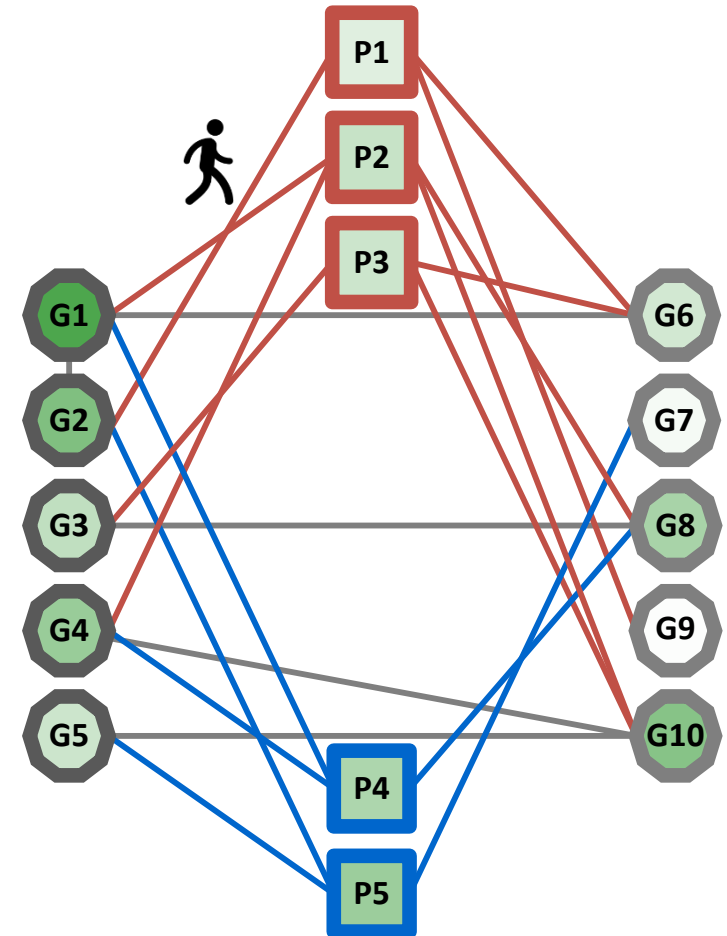
[Bioinformatics](#). 2016 Jul 15;32(14):2167-75. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btw151. Epub 2016 Mar 19.

Characterizing gene sets using discriminative random walks with restart on heterogeneous biological networks.

Blatti C<sup>1</sup>, Sinha S<sup>2</sup>.

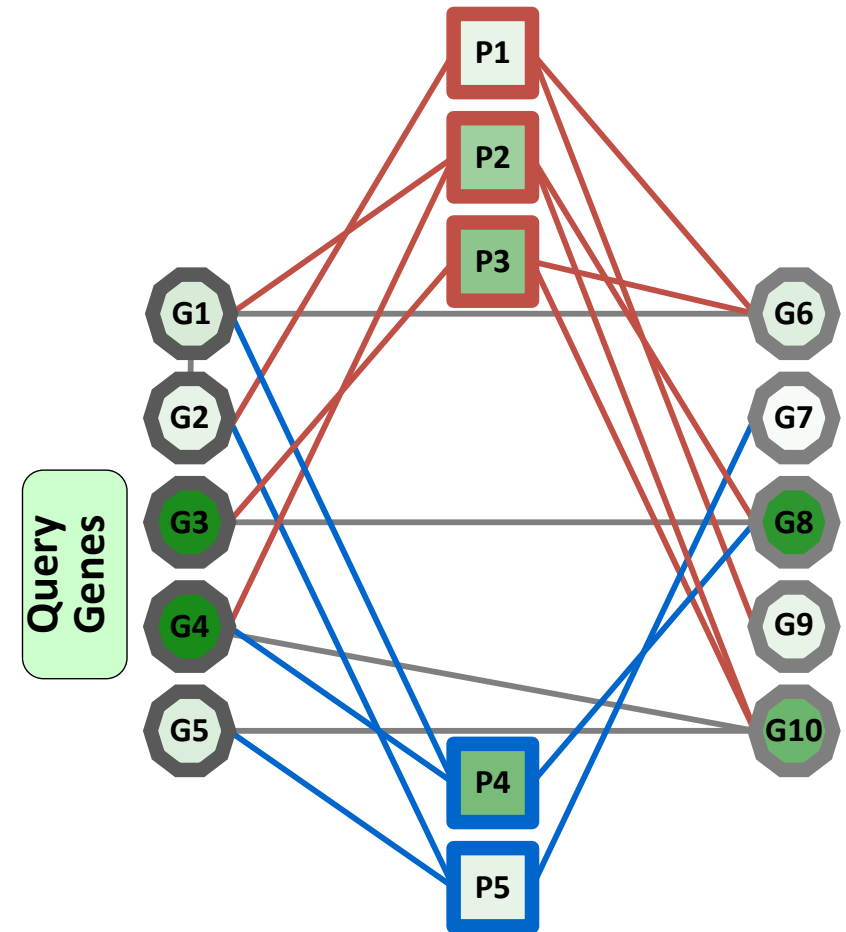
# Network Methods for GSC

- DRaWR – using random walks on a network
  - Construct a network of interest
  - Find stationary distribution on network



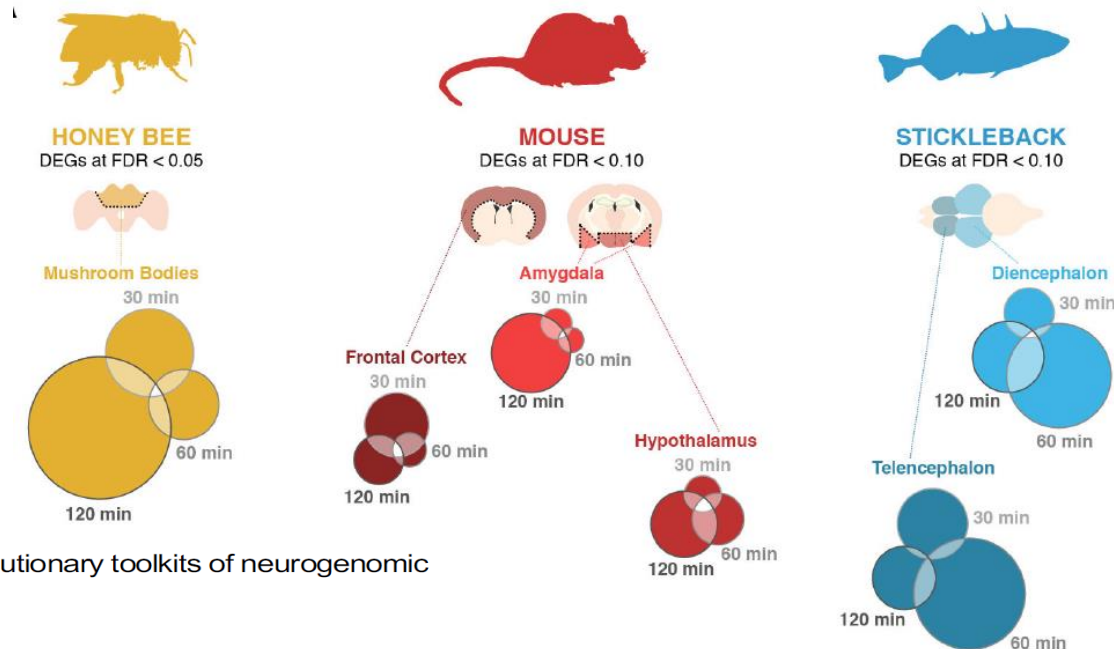
# Network Methods for GSC

- DRaWR – using random walks on a network
  - Construct a network of interest
  - Find stationary distribution on network
  - Find gene set specific distribution
  - Return annotation nodes that are especially related to the query



# Application of DRaWR to Social Aggression

- Idea: Evolutionary “toolkits” – genes and modules with lineage-specific variations but deep conservation of function
- Questions: Are there toolkits that underlie social behaviors
  - Such as aggressive response to territorial intrusions?
- Study: gather brain transcriptomic responses to social challenge from three social species – honey bees, mice, and stickleback fish
  - With and without exposure to intraspecies intruder
  - From different brain regions and/or durations after event
- Results: sets of differentially expressed genes across three species

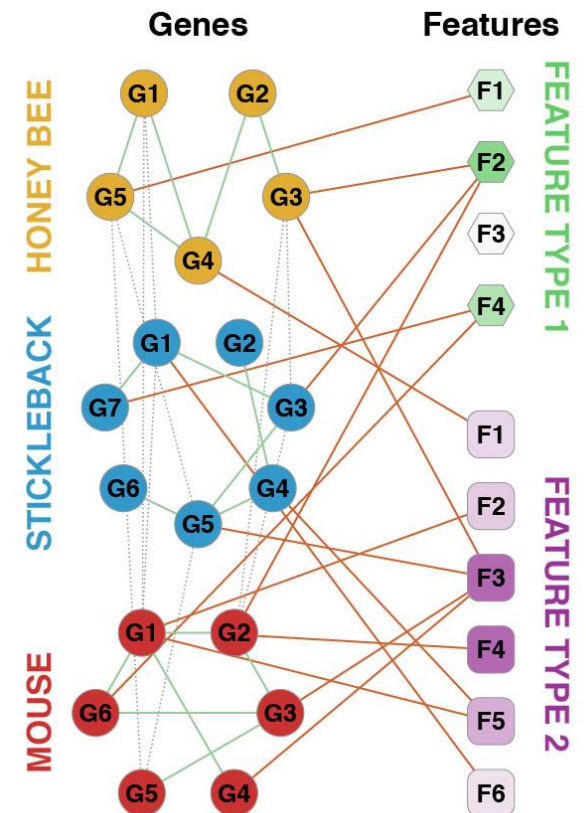
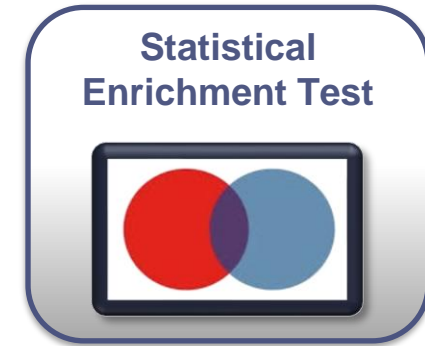


Cross-species systems analysis of evolutionary toolkits of neurogenomic response to social challenge

Michael C. Saul<sup>1</sup>, Charles Blatti<sup>1,2</sup>, Wei Yang<sup>1,2</sup>, Syed Abbas Bukhari<sup>1,3</sup>, Hagai Y. Shpigler<sup>1,4</sup>, Joseph M. Troy<sup>1,3</sup>, Christopher H. Seward<sup>1,5</sup>, Laura Sloofman<sup>1,6</sup>, Sriram Chandrasekaran<sup>7</sup>, Alison M. Bell<sup>1,3,8,9</sup>, Lisa Stubbs<sup>1,3,5,9</sup>, Gene E. Robinson<sup>1,9,10</sup>, Sihai Dave Zhao<sup>1,11,\*</sup>, and Saurabh Sinha<sup>1,2,10,\*</sup>

# Failure of Standard Approach

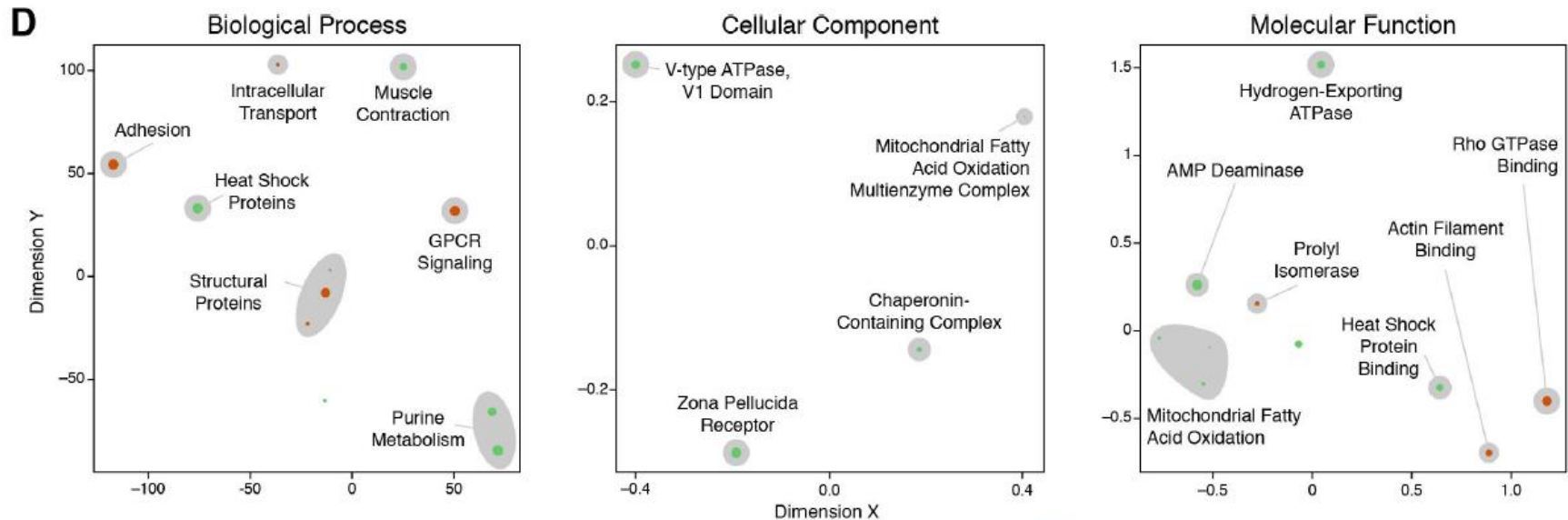
- Would like to find Gene Ontology annotations that:
  - Relate to DE gene sets of all three species
    - However, Gene Ontology annotation quality varies greatly in three species
  - Or relate to DE genes sets of the Mouse
    - However, the corresponding sets from the other species might have greatly different function
- Solution:
  - Integrate Orthology and Gene Ontology information in a three species network
  - Find Gene Ontology terms that are strongly connected to the DE gene sets of all three species simultaneously





# Findings with DRaWR

- Annotations of two (red and green) conserved Gene Modules



- Specific results for red module

Branch	GO ID	GO Description	#Annotated			DRaWR GO Term Rank					Fisher Pvalue			
			HB	MM	SB	Combo	HB	MM	SB	Max	HB	MM	SB	Min
BP	GO:0032366	intracellular sterol transport		2		0.3%	1.6%	0.1%	0.4%	1.6%		0.040		0.040
BP	GO:0071704	organic substance metabolic process	3	5	4	2.3%	2.2%	0.3%	0.4%	2.3%	0.134	0.040		0.040
BP	GO:0016043	cellular component organization	4	9	12	2.3%	2.2%	2.9%	0.8%	2.9%	0.175	0.151	0.002	0.002
BP	GO:0007160	cell-matrix adhesion	5	74	16	2.5%	0.4%	3.5%	1.8%	3.5%	0.002	0.001		0.001
MF	GO:0017048	Rho GTPase binding	6	30	13	3.1%	2.0%	3.9%	0.8%	3.9%	0.020	0.024	0.002	0.002
BP	GO:0038032	termination of G-protein coupled receptor signaling pathway	11	1	44	1.6%	6.8%	1.4%	0.3%	6.8%			0.000	0.000
MF	GO:0051015	actin filament binding	17	114	9	7.6%	4.0%	8.0%	8.3%	8.3%	0.013	0.125		0.013
MF	GO:0003755	peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase activity	22	42	17	4.7%	2.1%	9.1%	1.3%	9.1%	0.031		0.108	0.031
BP	GO:0031032	actomyosin structure organization	2	18		1.8%	0.4%	2.7%	9.6%	9.6%	0.047			0.047
MF	GO:0003779	actin binding	48	284	78	8.7%	10.0%	6.9%	8.3%	10.0%	0.086	0.021	0.001	0.001

# Gene Ranking / Function Prediction

- Given:
  - Novel gene set(s) generated by a genomic researcher
- Task:
  - **Rank** genes for the strength of their relationship to the user's gene set(s)...
  - ... in order to assess the coherence of the genes in the experimental gene set or identify putative related genes

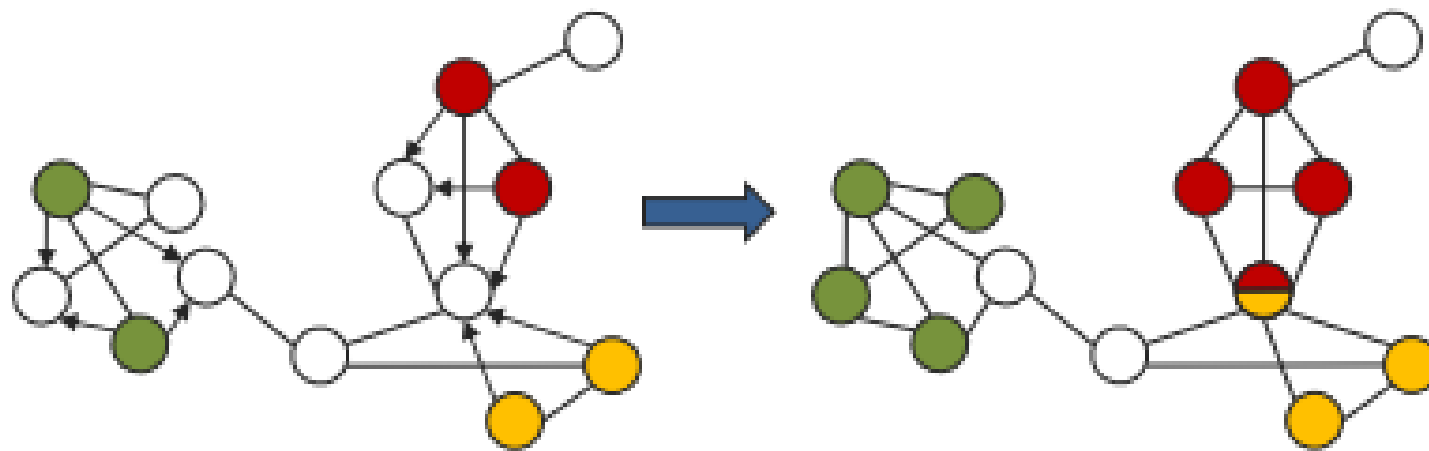


Figure from Arzt, et al. "Pipa: custom integration of protein interactions and pathways." *GI-Jahrestagung*. 2011.

- GeneMANIA stands for
  - Multiple Association Network Integration Algorithm
- Main Idea
  - Given a gene set with a known functions
  - And several gene-gene interaction affinity networks
  - Find genes that relate to the functional set through the edges of the given networks
- Approach
  - Find out how well each network predicts the membership of the given set
    - A linear regression-based algorithm that calculates a single composite functional association network from multiple data sources
  - Do label propagation guilt-by-association algorithm on the composite functional association network

[Genome Biol.](#) 2008;9 Suppl 1:S4. doi: 10.1186/gb-2008-9-s1-s4. Epub 2008 Jun 27.

**GeneMANIA: a real-time multiple association network integration algorithm for predicting gene function.**

[Mostafavi S](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Ray D](#), [Wardle-Farley D](#), [Grouios C](#), [Morris Q](#)

# GeneMANIA Performance

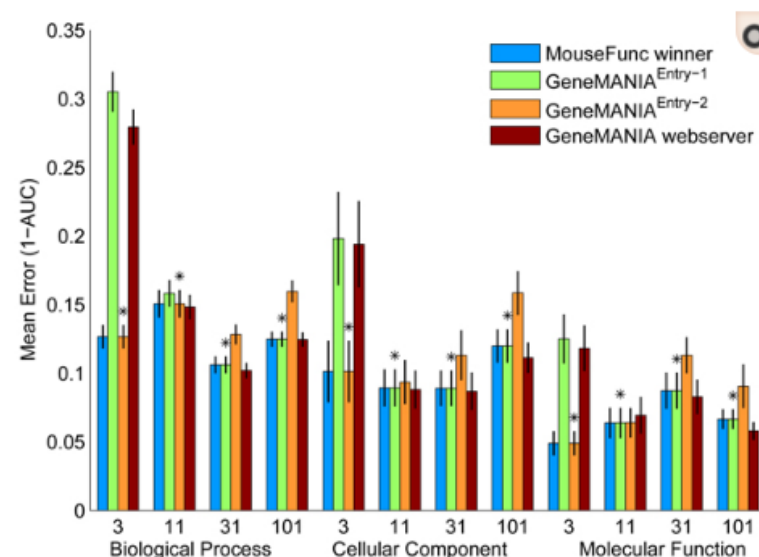
- Participated in grand challenge for this function prediction task on Mouse genes

*Genome Biol.* 2008;9 Suppl 1:S2. doi: 10.1186/gb-2008-9-s1-s2. Epub 2008 Jun 27.

## A critical assessment of *Mus musculus* gene function prediction using integrated genomic evidence.

Peña-Castillo L<sup>1</sup>, Tasan M, Myers CL, Lee H, Joshi T, Zhang C, Guan Y, Leone M, Pagnani A, Kim WK, Krumpelman C, Tian W, Obozinski G, Qi Y, Mostafavi S, Lin GN, Berriz GF, Gibbons FD, Lanckriet G, Qiu J, Grant C, Barutcuoglu Z, Hill DP, Warde-Farley D, Grouios C, Ray D, Blake JA, Deng M, Jordan MI, Noble WS, Morris Q, Klein-Seetharaman J, Bar-Joseph Z, Chen T, Sun F, Troyanskaya OG, Marcotte EM, Xu D, Hughes TR, Roth FP.

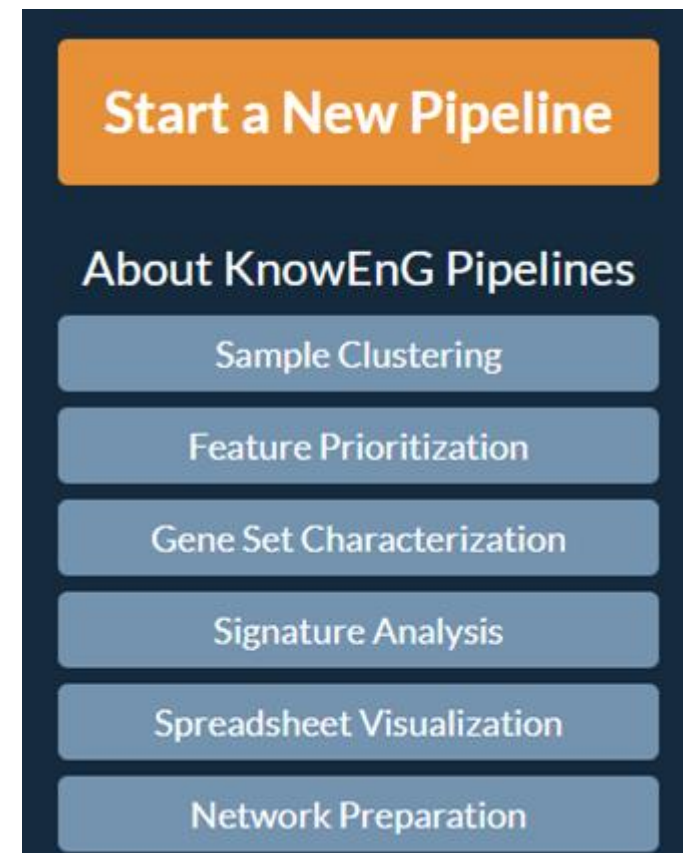
- Did extraordinary well in the competition and has improve method since then



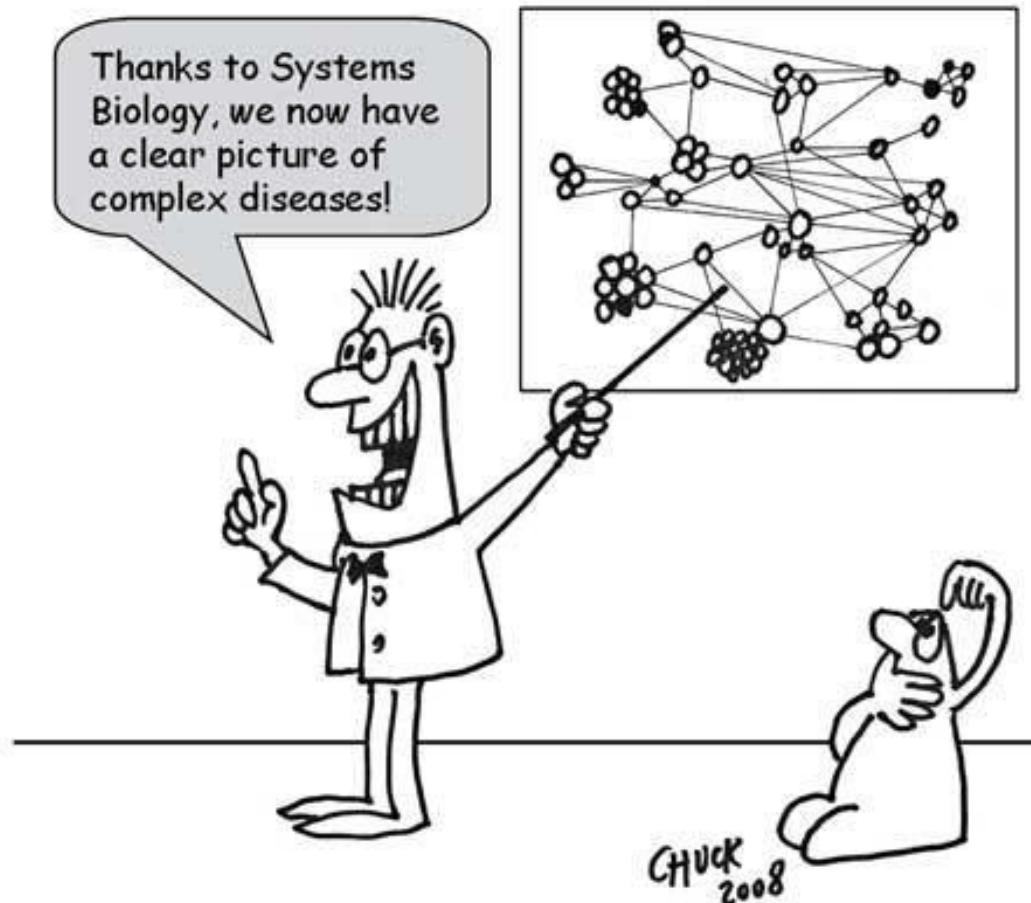
- Has easy to use webserver for running functional prediction with small genesets

## In this Lecture and **the Lab**

- Biological Knowledge Networks
  - **KnowEnG Platform**
- Network-Guided Sample Clustering
  - **Network Based Stratification**, COCA
- Network-Guided Gene Prioritization
  - **ProGENI**
- Gene Signatures and Similarity Methods
  - **LINCS**, GSEA, Enrichr, DAVID
- Network-based Gene Set Characterization
  - **DRaWR**
- Network-based Function Prediction
  - **GeneMANIA**



## Thank you, Any Questions?





- **Also Check Out:**
  - Network Preparation for uploading your custom network to the platform for analysis
  - Signature Analysis for mapping samples to signatures by correlation of omics profiles
- **Tutorials:**
  - Quickstarts: <https://knoweng.org/quick-start/>
  - YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjyIloICaZIGtZC20XLBOyg>
- **Resources:**
  - Data Preparation Guide: [https://github.com/KnowEnG/quickstart-demos/blob/master/pipeline\\_readmes/README-DataPrep.md](https://github.com/KnowEnG/quickstart-demos/blob/master/pipeline_readmes/README-DataPrep.md)
  - Knowledge Network Contents:
    - Summary: <https://knoweng.org/kn-data-references/>
    - Download: [https://github.com/KnowEnG/KN\\_Fetcher/blob/master/Contents.md](https://github.com/KnowEnG/KN_Fetcher/blob/master/Contents.md)
- **Research**
  - Knowledge-guided analysis of omics Data (KnowEng cloud platform paper): <https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000583>
  - TCGA Analysis Walkthrough: [https://github.com/KnowEnG/quickstart-demos/tree/master/publication\\_data/blatti\\_et\\_al\\_2019](https://github.com/KnowEnG/quickstart-demos/tree/master/publication_data/blatti_et_al_2019)
- **Source Code:**
  - Docker Images: <https://hub.docker.com/u/knowengdev/>
  - Github Repos: <https://knoweng.github.io/>
- **Other Cloud Platforms**
  - <https://cgc.sbgenomics.com/public/apps?q?search=knoweng>
- **Contact Us with Questions and Feedback:** [knoweng-support@illinois.edu](mailto:knoweng-support@illinois.edu)



# Using A Permanent KnowEnG Account

- For permanent account:
  - Go to <https://knoweng.org/analyze/>
  - Click on “Create an account”
  - Follow the instructions

PLATFORM IS NOW AVAILABLE !

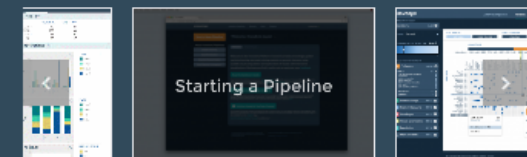
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Welcome to the KnowEnG Platform !

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Researchers can upload their data in form of a spreadsheet and choose from **several analysis**



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# Regression algorithms

- **Lasso:** learns a linear model from the training data using only a few features (sparse linear model)

$$\hat{\beta} = \arg \min_{\beta} (\|y - X\beta\|^2 + \lambda_1 \|\beta\|_1)$$

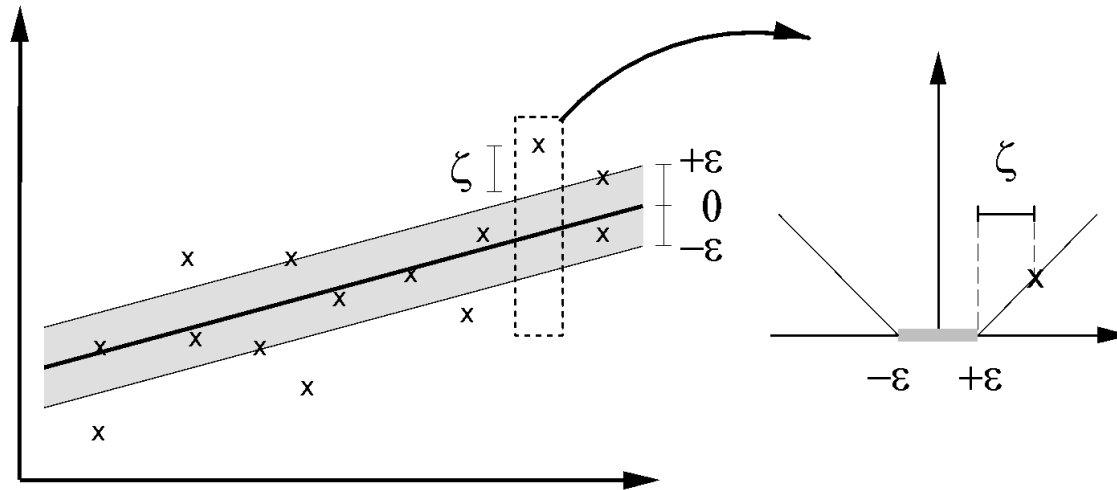
- **Elastic Net:** learns a linear model from the training data by linearly combining ridge and Lasso regression regularization terms (a generalization of both Lasso and ridge regression)

$$\hat{\beta} = \arg \min_{\beta} (\|y - X\beta\|^2 + \lambda_2 \|\beta\|_2 + \lambda_1 \|\beta\|_1)$$

# Regression algorithms

- **Kernel-SVR:**

- Linear SVR learns a linear model such that it has at most  $\varepsilon$ -deviation from the response values and is as flat as possible



(Smola and Schölkopf, 1998)

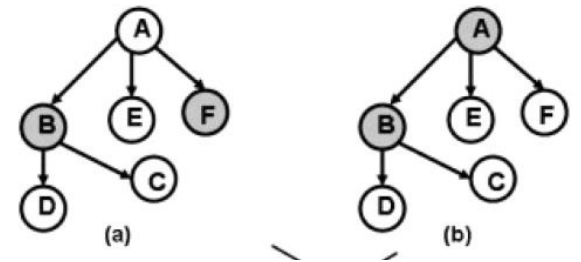
- Kernel-SVR generalizes the idea to nonlinear models by mapping the features to a high-dimensional kernel space

# Other Network Based Characterization Methods

Bioinformatics, 2009 Jan 1;25(1):75-82. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btn577. Epub 2008 Nov 5.

## A novel signaling pathway impact analysis.

Tarca AL<sup>1</sup>, Draghici S, Khatri P, Hassan SS, Mittal P, Kim JS, Kim CJ, Kusanovic JP, Romero R.



- SPIA Idea:**

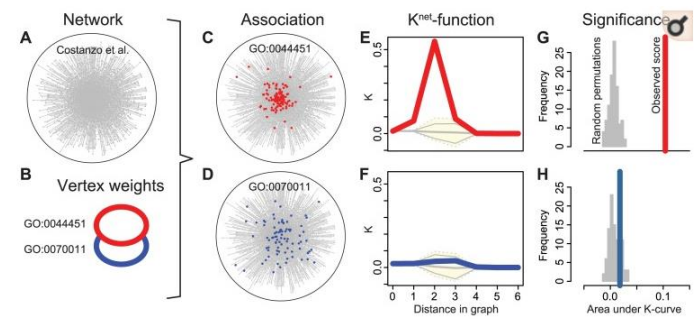
- Combine with standard enrichment p-value that asks about the significance of the number of perturbed genes in the pathway
- Perturbagen p-value, which asks if the amount of total accumulated perturbation after one network propagation step is significant when considering the value it takes with random controls

PLoS Comput Biol. 2014 Sep 11;10(9):e1003808. doi: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003808. eCollection 2014 Sep.

## SANTA: quantifying the functional content of molecular networks.

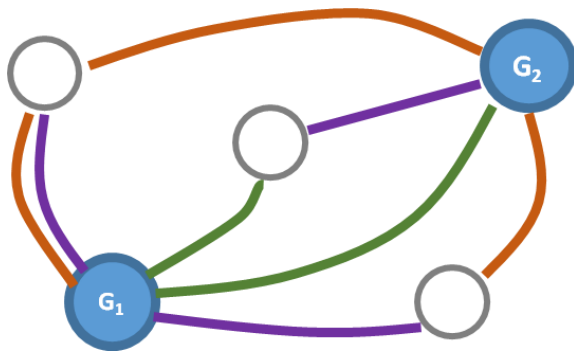
Cornish AJ<sup>1</sup>, Markowitz F<sup>2</sup>.

Shortest Path Length criteria



# Incorporating Meta-Paths

- DRaWR random walks on heterogeneous networks make no consideration / memory of the edge **types** they have followed



## Paths from G1 -> G2:

type\_A

type\_A - type\_B

type\_C - type\_C

type\_B - type\_C (x2)

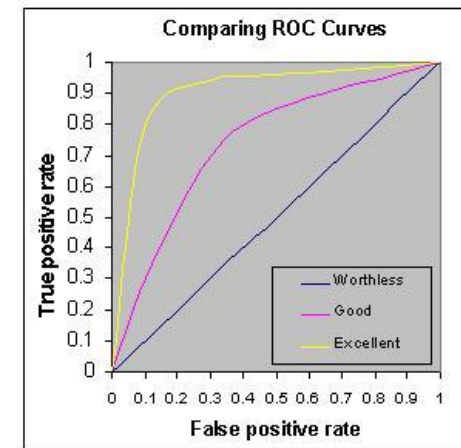
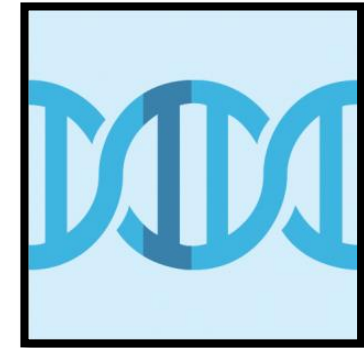
## meta-path:

a path defined by  
sequence of edges  
types between two  
nodes

- Explore if similarity in a gene set can best be described by particular **types of meta-paths** amongst its genes.

# Ranking Genes for Disease

- Initial Study:
  - 53 MSigDB DE gene sets from separate cancer studies
- Question:
  - If we hide a subset of genes disrupted by the development of cancer, what types of networks are best suited to recover them?
- Evaluation:
  - Partition 75% of DE genes for training, 25% for testing
  - Use DRaWR on KnowNet subnetworks and training data to rank genes
  - Report average AUCs of ranking using test genes as truth



- Gene-Gene Edge Types
  - **H**: Homology
  - **CoEx**: Co-Expression
  - **TM**: Text Mining
  - **Exp**: Experimental Interaction
- Gene-Property Edge Types
  - **PD**: Protein Domains
  - **GO**: Gene Ontology
- Number of Species
  - **Human**: only
  - **2sp**: Human and Mouse
- Specificity of the edges
  - **Specific**: high confidence edges
  - **Loose**: all edges of that types
- Combinations of Edge Types
  - **1ty**: One primary type
  - **2ty**: Primary type + homology
  - **Many**: 3+ edge types

# Best Networks

- Gene Ontology annotations and Text Mining relations are the best edge types for recovering cancer set DE genes
- Networks with all edges (Loose) are better at recovering gene than networks with only high confidence edges
- Protein Domain annotations are poor predictors for cancer DE genes, but great for embryonic development

Species	NEdgeT	EdgeType	EdgeThresh	avg	min	max
Human	many	GO.TM.H	Loose	0.723	0.610	0.847
Human	many	All	Loose	0.722	0.614	0.863
2sp	many	GO.TM.H	Loose	0.721	0.610	0.843
2sp	many	All	Loose	0.714	0.606	0.852
2sp	2ty	GO.H	Loose	0.706	0.578	0.862
2sp	2ty	TM.H	Loose	0.701	0.567	0.813
Human	many	All	Specific	0.701	0.590	0.838
Human	many	GO.TM.H	Specific	0.701	0.584	0.855
Human	many	GO.TM	Loose	0.701	0.545	0.870
2sp	many	GO.TM.H	Specific	0.699	0.579	0.848
2sp	many	All	Specific	0.698	0.594	0.824
2sp	many	GO.TM	Loose	0.695	0.537	0.863
2sp	2ty	GO.H	Specific	0.694	0.555	0.853
Human	1ty	Text Mining	Loose	0.693	0.544	0.838
Human	1ty	Gene Ontology	Loose	0.690	0.541	0.851
2sp	1ty	Gene Ontology	Loose	0.689	0.538	0.848
Human	many	GO.TM	Specific	0.675	0.539	0.831
2sp	2ty	TM.H	Specific	0.673	0.563	0.797
2sp	many	GO.TM	Specific	0.671	0.541	0.823
2sp	2ty	PPI.H	Loose	0.668	0.557	0.800
2sp	1ty	Gene Ontology	Specific	0.666	0.515	0.844
Human	1ty	Gene Ontology	Specific	0.664	0.534	0.842
2sp	2ty	CoE.H	Loose	0.663	0.508	0.827
2sp	2ty	Exp.H	Specific	0.656	0.549	0.769
Human	1ty	Text Mining	Specific	0.656	0.555	0.812
2sp	2ty	Exp.H	Loose	0.647	0.533	0.763
2sp	2ty	PPI.H	Specific	0.644	0.515	0.746
Human	1ty	Co-expression	Loose	0.629	0.498	0.840
Human	1ty	Experimental	Specific	0.604	0.455	0.756
Human	1ty	Co-expression	Specific	0.601	0.353	0.875
Human	1ty	Prot-Prot Inter	Loose	0.598	0.475	0.730
2sp	2ty	CoE.H	Specific	0.598	0.477	0.725
2sp	2ty	PD.H	Loose	0.592	0.481	0.701
Human	1ty	Experimental	Loose	0.589	0.424	0.778