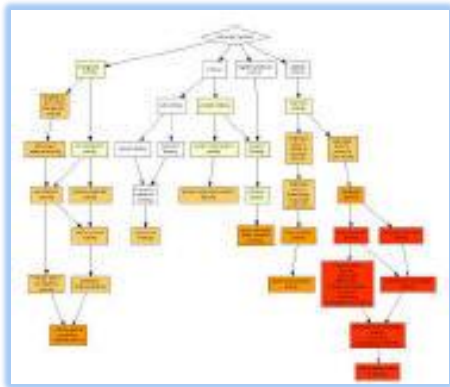




Functional analysis of gene lists using Gene Ontology (GO)



Noa Wigoda

17.12.19

An Introduction to deep-sequencing analysis for biologists

OUTLINE

- Single gene analysis / information
- Analysis of group of genes
- Gene ontology (GO)
- Enrichment analysis
 - Hypergeometric Test and Fisher exact test
 - GO Independence Assumption

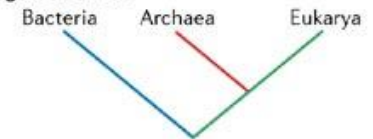
Genome sequence and annotation



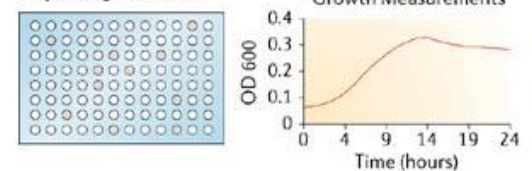
Available literature



Phylogenetic data



Physiological data

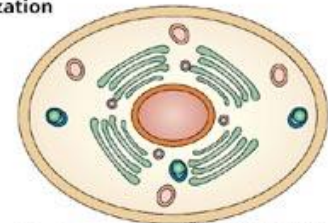


Databases



EcoCyc

Localization



Signal sequences: PLLLLPISGSALP

20 Questions



Ask question which can be answered with a simple "Yes" or "No."

20 Questions

Is it a protein coding gene?

Is it part of a complex?

Is it a regulator – transcription factor?

Is it in the nucleus?

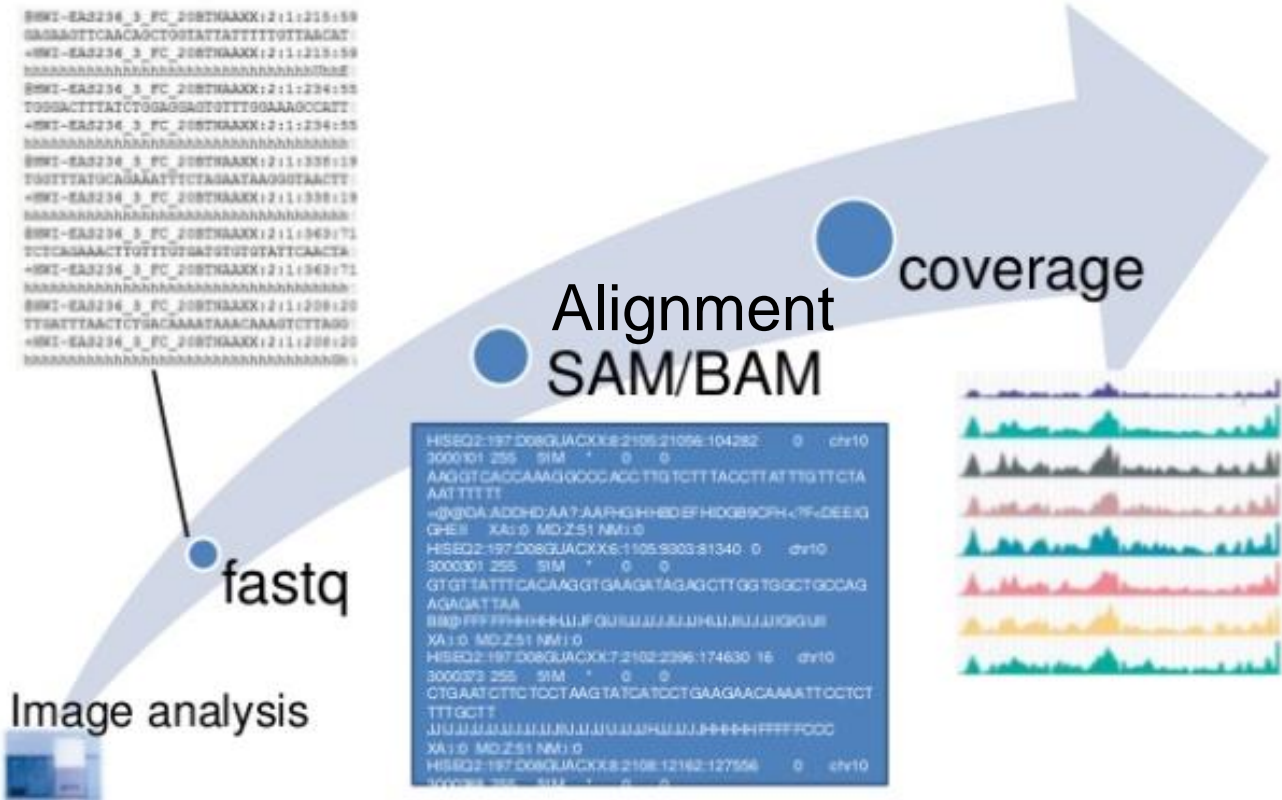
Is it an enzyme?

Is it related to a disease?

All the answers are “attributes” or characteristics of the item (gene).

What have we done until now?

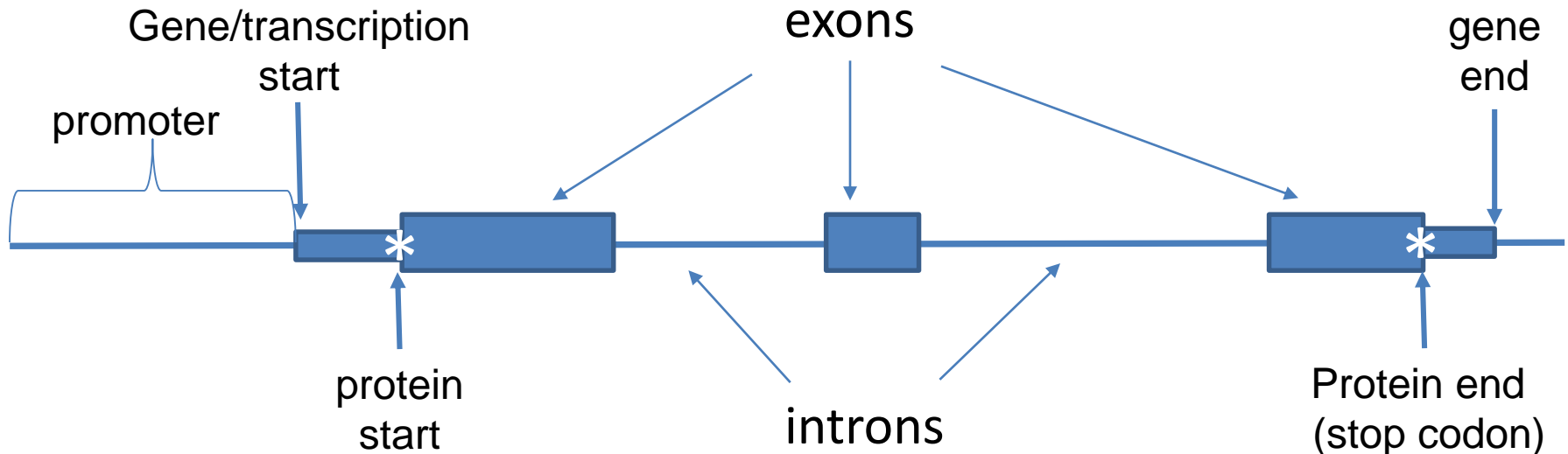
Information flow of sequencing data



What is a Gene ?

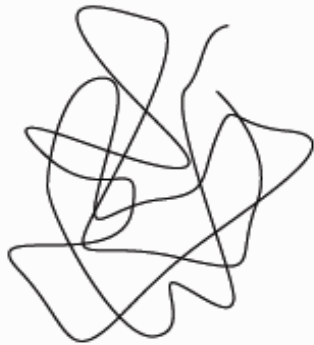
A gene is a region of DNA that encodes instructions for how the cell can make a gene product, which can be:

- a protein
- a noncoding RNA.

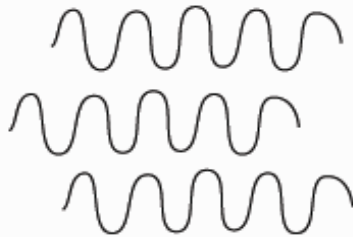


Data sources

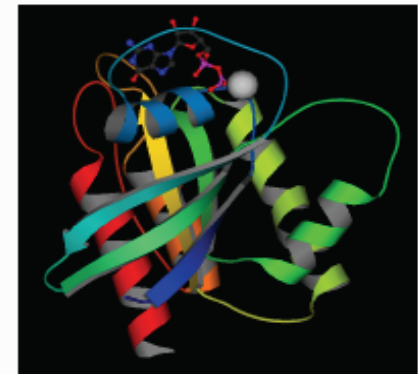
Genome



Transcripts



Protein



- There are several kinds of databases, looking at the genome, transcriptome or proteome level
- The mapping of the different names is not trivial

Levels of annotation per gene

Level	Database
Sequence	GenBank SwissProt (curated)
Metabolic pathways	Kegg Transpath MetaCyc
Literature	PubMed
Gene ontology (GO)	Biological process Molecular function Cell compartment
Integrated – Meta databases	GeneCards Entrez Gene OMIM InterPro

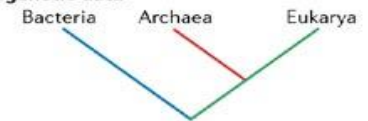
Genome sequence and annotation



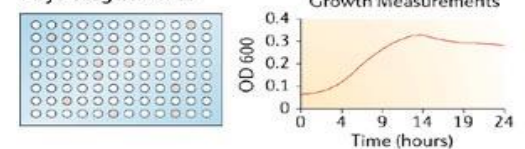
Available literature



Phylogenetic data



Physiological data

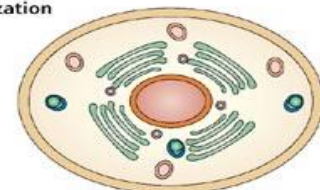


Databases



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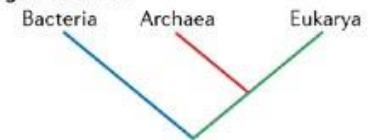
Genome sequence and annotation



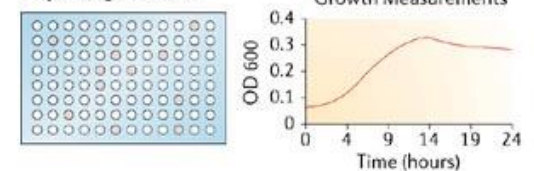
Available literature



Phylogenetic data



Physiological data

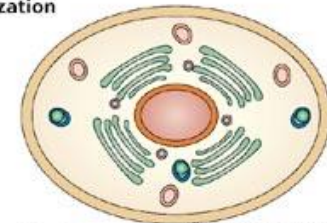


Databases



EcoCyc

Localization



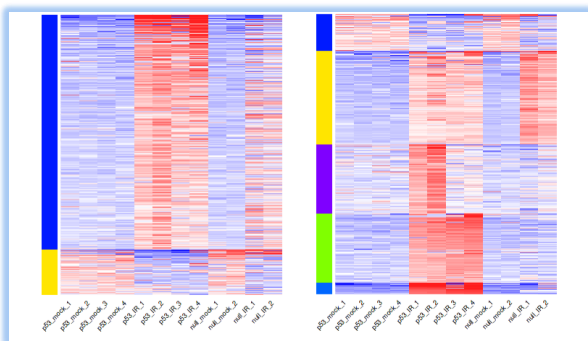
Signal sequences: PLLLLPISGSALP

What have we done until now?

A complex high-throughput experiment:
Deep Sequencing
Proteomics
Microarrays

What did we get?

Lists of genes



Clusters of differential genes

```
genome:~/SIBC/original
ER-Neovins4 d51628_s_at 255.3
ER-Neovins4 d51628_s_at 1396.0
ER-Neovins4 d51628_s_at 209.5
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 695.3
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 115.6
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 596.3
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 119.6
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 573.5
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 104.7
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 507.8
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 88.1
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 688.0
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 149.9
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 593.3
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 115.8
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 2932.8
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 425.6
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 2852.8
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 598.0
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 846.5
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 140.1
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 1033.6
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 207.3
```

Up regulated

```
genome:~/SIBC/original
ER-Neovins4 d51628_s_at 255.3
ER-Neovins4 d51628_s_at 1396.0
ER-Neovins4 d51628_s_at 209.5
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 695.3
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 115.6
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 596.3
ER-Neovins4 d51716_at 119.6
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 573.5
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 104.7
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 507.8
ER-Neovins4 d51762_at 88.1
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 688.0
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 149.9
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 593.3
ER-Neovins4 d51763_at 115.8
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 2932.8
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 425.6
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 2852.8
ER-Neovins4 d51764_at 598.0
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 846.5
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 140.1
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 1033.6
ER-Neovins4 d51765_at 207.3
```

Down regulated

Functional Genomics: Find the biological meaning

- Take a list of "interesting" genes and find their biological meaning
- Requires a reference set of "biological knowledge"
- Linking between genes and biological function:
 - ❖ Gene ontology: GO
 - ❖ Pathways databases

The problem

- Vast amounts of biological data
- Different names/terms for the same concepts

For example: the same function can be called translation or protein synthesis.

- Cross-species comparison is difficult

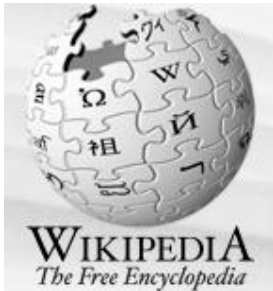
Part of the solution

Gene Ontology

What is Ontology?



1700s



Ontology (from the Greek...) is the philosophical study of the nature of being, existence or reality in general, as well as of the basic categories of being and their relations.

Traditionally listed as a part of the major branch of philosophy known as metaphysics, ontology deals with questions concerning what entities exist or can be said to exist, and how such entities can be grouped, related within a hierarchy, and subdivided according to similarities and differences.



- The Gene Ontology (GO) project is a collaborative effort to address the need for consistent descriptions of gene products in different databases.
- Gene ontology is an annotation system
- The project provides the controlled and consistent vocabulary of terms and gene product annotations, i.e. terms occur only once, and there is a dictionary of allowed words

Why use GO?

- The goal of the GeneOntology (GO) project is to provide a uniform way to describe the functions of gene products from organisms across all kingdoms of life and thereby enable analysis of genomic data.
- bio-ontologies such as GO make domain knowledge available to both humans and computers.
- GO provides the ability to group gene products to some high level term.



There are three structured, controlled vocabularies (ontologies) that use terms to describe gene products in a species-independent manner:

- **Biological processes**

- A recognized series of events, must have more than one distinct steps
- Examples: cell division, pyrimidine metabolic process

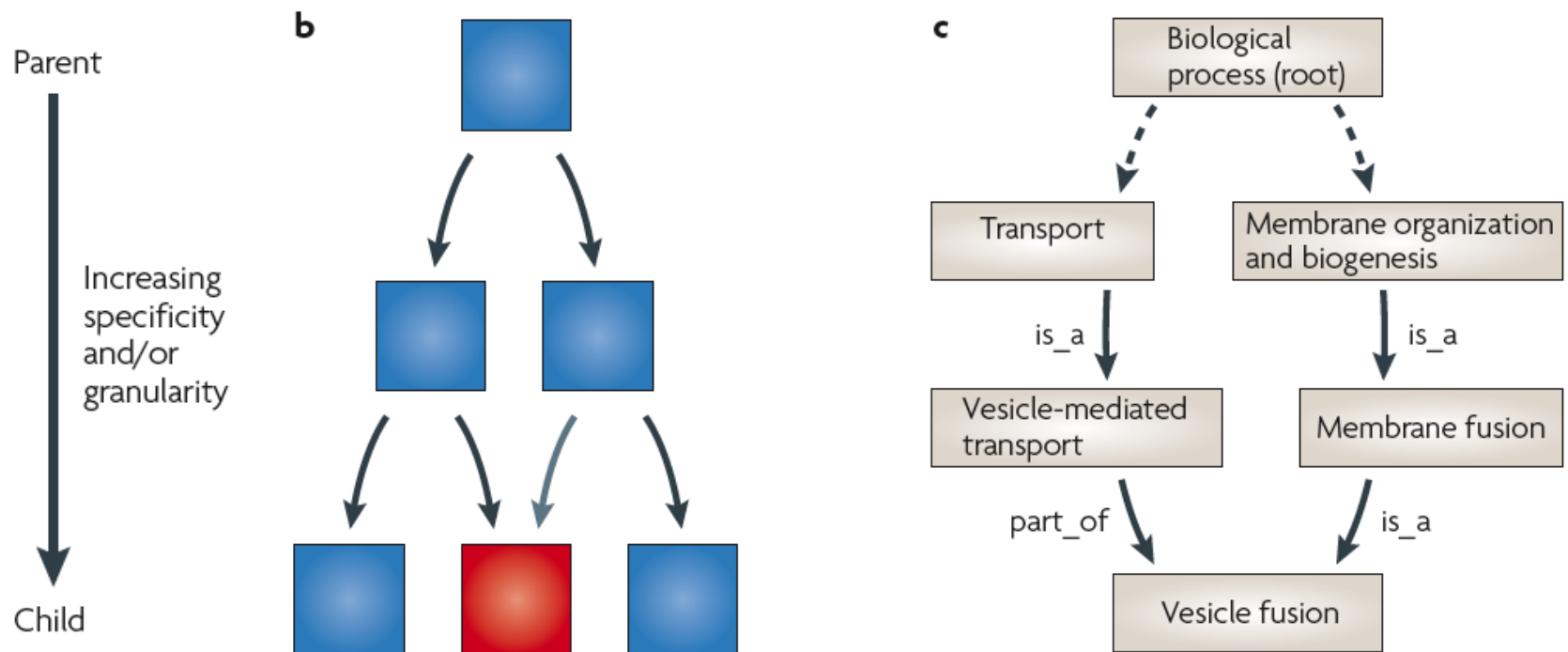
- **Cellular components**

- Where a gene product is located (an anatomical structure)
- Examples: nucleus, proteasome

- **Molecular functions**

- describes activities, such as catalytic or binding activities

Gene ontology is represented as a directed acyclic graph (DAG)

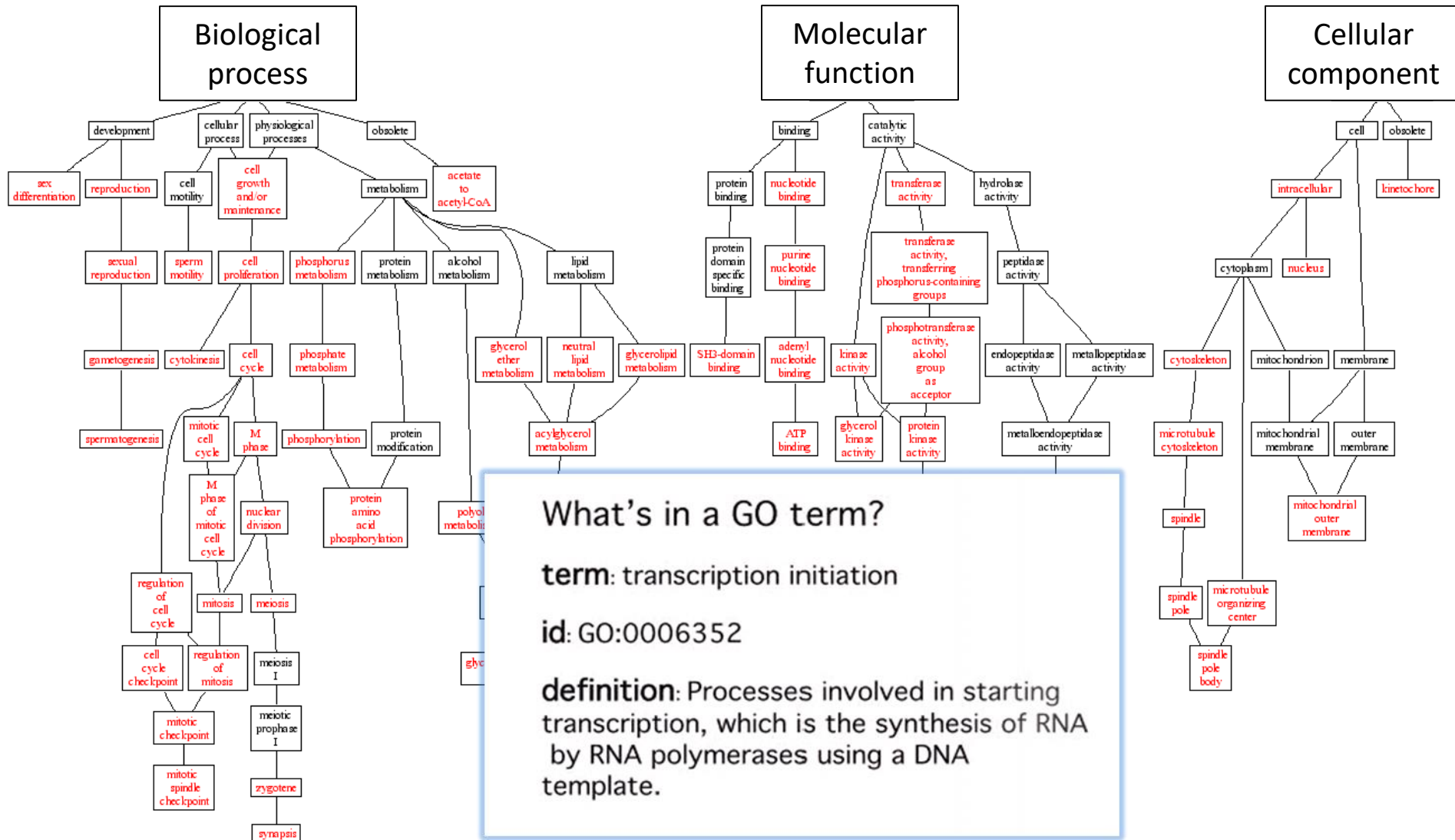


Taken from: Nature Reviews Genetics 9:509-515 (2008)

Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

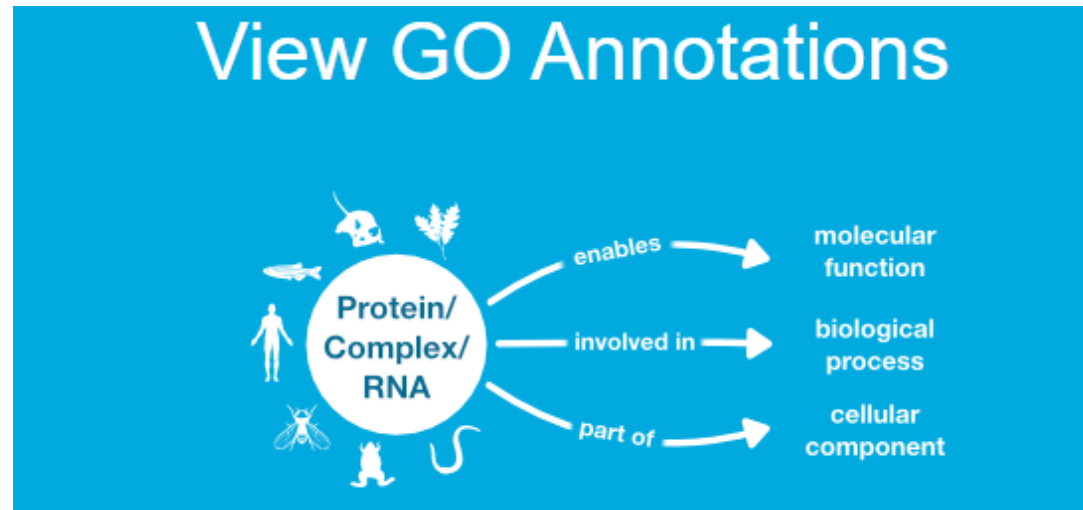
- A child can have more than one parent
 - parents are closer to the root and are more general
 - children are further from the root and more specific
- There are no cycles - there is a root
- It is a directed graph
- You can skip levels in the graph

Example





GO annotation

- A GO annotation is a statement about the function of a particular gene.
- GO annotations are associations made between gene products or protein complexes and the GO terms that describe them.
 - attributed to a source
 - indicate the evidence upon which it is based.

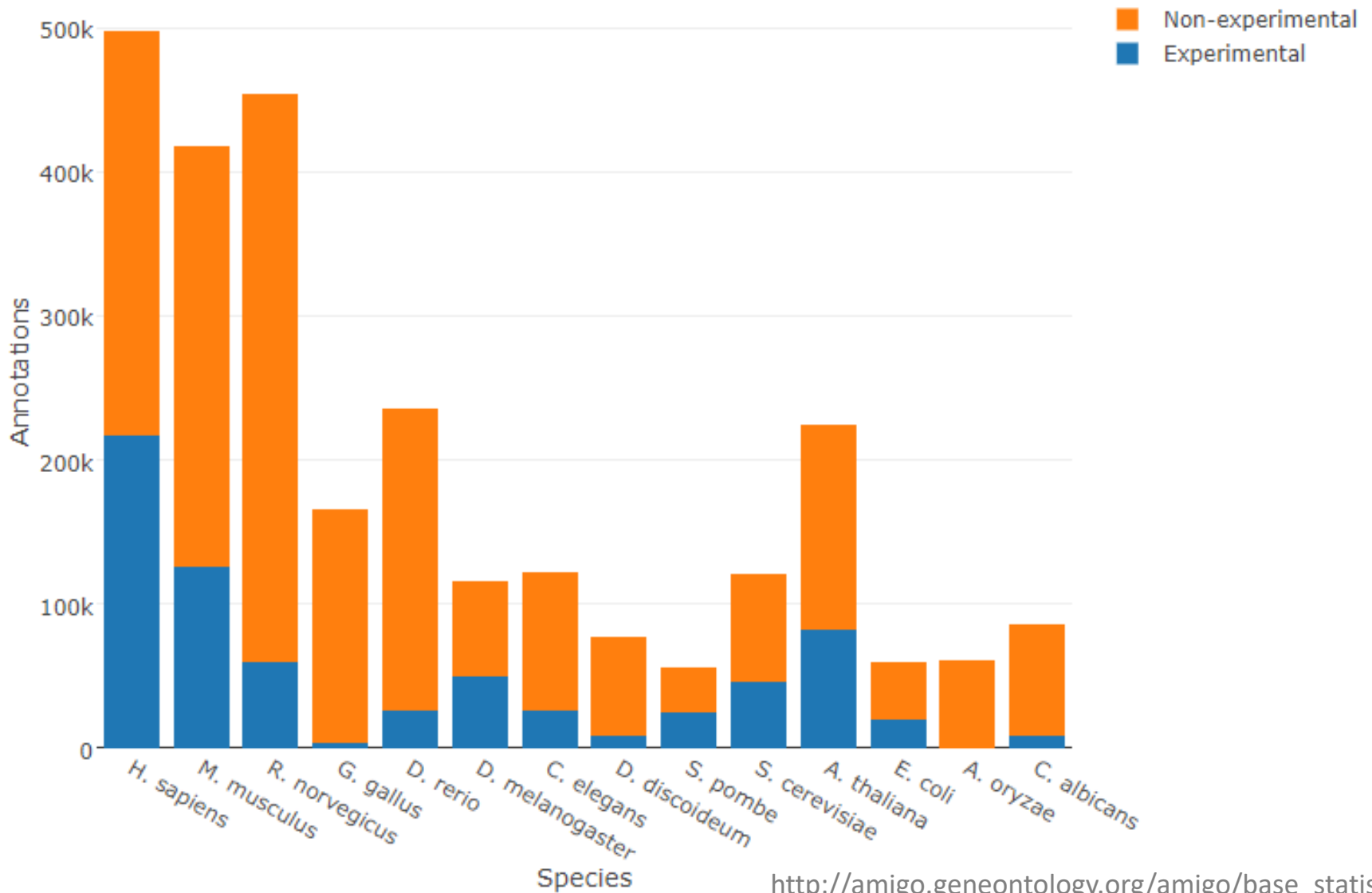


Evidence codes

not all annotations are created equal

HTP	EXP	Inferred from Experiment Inferred from High Throughput Experiment	BLAST
HDA	IDA	Inferred from Direct Assay	
	IPI	Inferred from Physical Interaction	
HMP	IMP	Inferred from Mutant Phenotype	
HGI	IGI	Inferred from Genetic Interaction	
HEP	IEP	Inferred from Expression Pattern	
ISS		Inferred from Sequence/Structural Similarity	
TAS		Traceable Author Statement	
NAS		Non-traceable Author Statement	
IC		Inferred by Curator	
ND		No Data available	
IEA		Inferred from electronic annotation	

Type of annotation per species

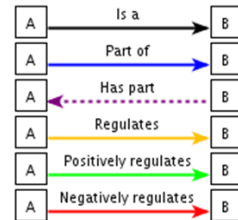
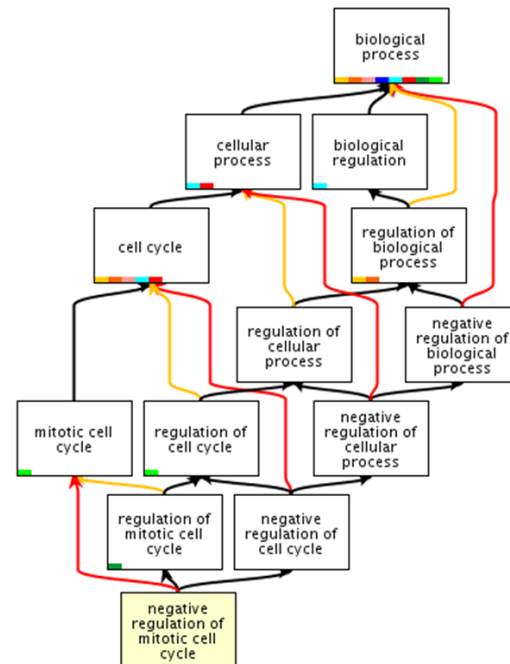


Ontology Relations

Defines the relationships (the arrows) between the ontology terms.

There are three types of relationships:

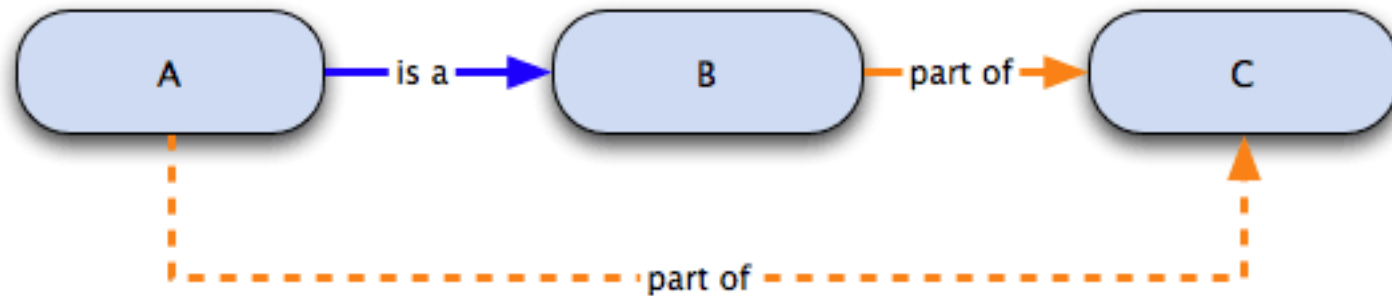
- ❖ is_a
- ❖ part_of
- ❖ regulates:
 - positively regulates
 - negatively regulates



Ontology Relations

- `is_a` is a simple class-subclass relationship

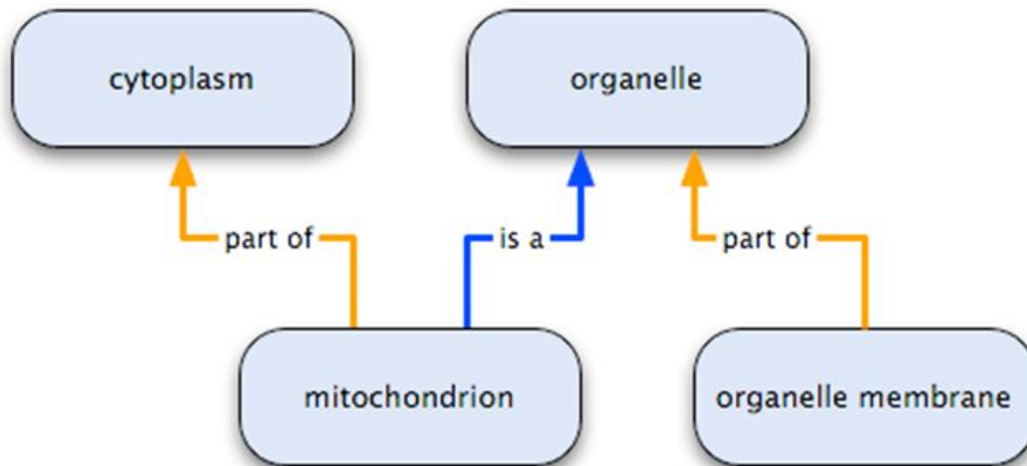
Example: nuclear chromosome `is_a` chromosome.



A dotted line means an inferred relationship, e.g. one that has not been expressly stated

Ontology Relations

- **part_of** represent part-whole relationships; C **part_of** D means that whenever C is present, it is always a part of D.



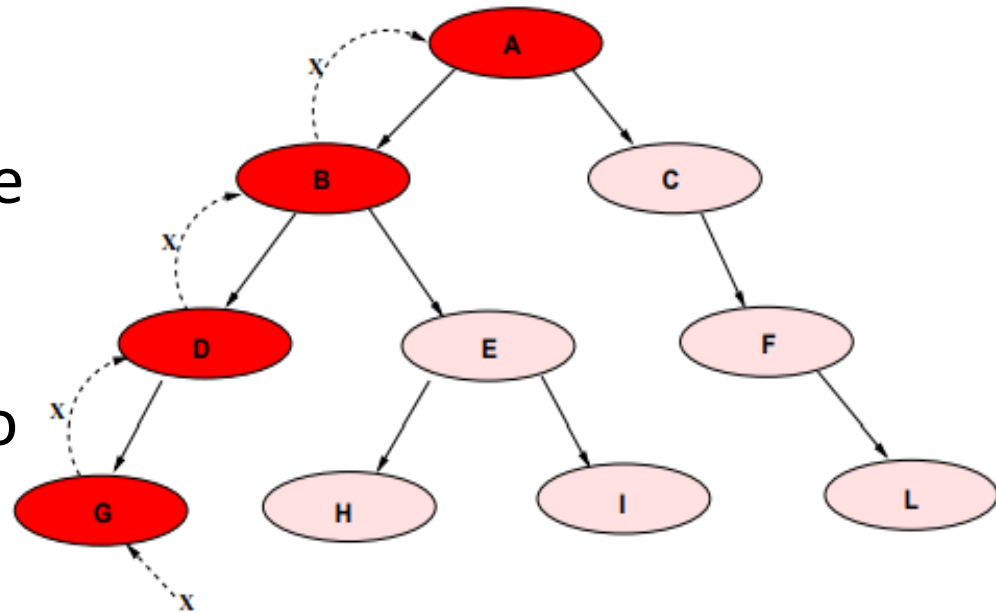
Example: nucleus **part_of** cell; nuclei are always part of a cell, but not all cells have nuclei.

mitochondrion has two parents: it *is an* organelle and it is *part of* the cytoplasm;
organelle has two children: mitochondrion *is an* organelle, and organelle membrane is *part of* organelle

Ontology Structure

Every GO term obeys “the true path rule”:

- If a child term describes the gene product, then all its ancestors (parent) terms must also apply to that gene product.
- If a gene is not annotated to a term, it cannot be annotated to its offsprings.



AmiGO

a web application to query, browse and visualize ontologies

The screenshot displays the AmiGO 2 web application interface. The browser window title is "AmiGO 2: Drill-down Browser - Google Chrome". The address bar shows the URL "amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/dd_browse". The navigation menu includes "Home", "Search", "Browse" (highlighted), "Tools & Resources", "Help", "Feedback", and "About". A "Quick search" input field and a "Search" button are present. The main content area is titled "Drill-down Browsing of Ontologies". On the left, a "Filter tree gene products" section shows "Total gene products: 1433391" and "No current user filters." Below this, a section titled "Your search is pinned to these filters" lists "- document_category: bioentity". Further down, there are input fields for "Organism" and "Type". The main area displays a hierarchical tree of ontologies with counts in grey bubbles:

- biological_process (1172078)
- cellular_component (1114895)
- molecular_function (1097092)
 - antioxidant activity (8167)
 - binding (460118)
 - cargo adaptor activity (327)
 - cargo receptor activity (716)
 - catalytic activity (581985)
 - molecular carrier activity (1502)
 - molecular function regulator (43111)
 - molecular sequestering activity (12)
 - molecular transducer activity (52647)
 - negative regulation of molecular function (17606)
 - nutrient reservoir activity (125)
 - positive regulation of molecular function (29909)
 - protein folding chaperone (1933)
 - protein tag (1519)
 - regulation of molecular function (68043)
 - small molecule sensor activity (1807)

The URL <http://amigo.geneontology.org> is visible in the bottom right corner.

Available GO Information

Current ontology statistics: as of Dec, 2019:

44674 terms, 100.0% defined

- 29,380 Biological process terms
- 11,113 Molecular function terms
- 4,181 Cellular component terms
- 2711 obsolete terms (not included in figures above)

20 Questions



Which attribute is not a GO term?

Is it part of a complex?

Is it a protein coding gene?

Is it a regulator – transcription factor?

Is it in the nucleus?

Is it an enzyme?

Is it related to a disease?

All the answers are “attributes” or characteristics of the item (gene).

Reminder



GENEONTOLOGY

Unifying Biology

There are three structured, controlled vocabularies (ontologies) that use terms to describe gene products in a species-independent manner:

- Biological processes

- must have more than one distinct steps
- Examples: signal transduction,

- Cellular components

- an anatomical structure
- Examples: nucleus, proteasome

- Molecular functions

- describes activities, such as catalytic or binding activities

Is it a protein coding gene?

Is it part of a complex?

Is it a regulator – transcription factor?

Is it in the nucleus?

Is it an enzyme?

Is it related to a disease?

Not a GO term...

What is not GO?

- Gene products: e.g. cytochrome c is not in the ontologies, but attributes of cytochrome c, such as oxidoreductase activity, are
- Processes, functions or components that are unique to mutants or diseases: e.g. oncogenesis
- Attributes of sequence such as intron/exon parameters
- Protein domains or structural features
- Protein-protein interactions
- Environment, evolution and expression
- It is not **complete**, it is done “by hand” by curators
- A pathway

GO Pitfalls

- Not complete
- Computational annotations
- NOT qualifier
- Identifier flagged as 'obsolete', some tools do not update their databases

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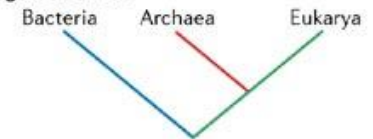
Genome sequence and annotation



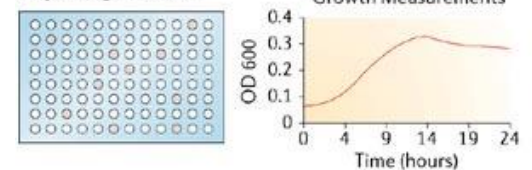
Available literature



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Physiological data

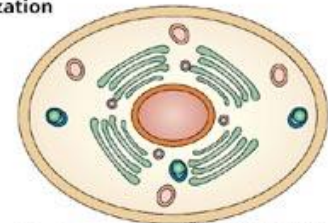


Databases



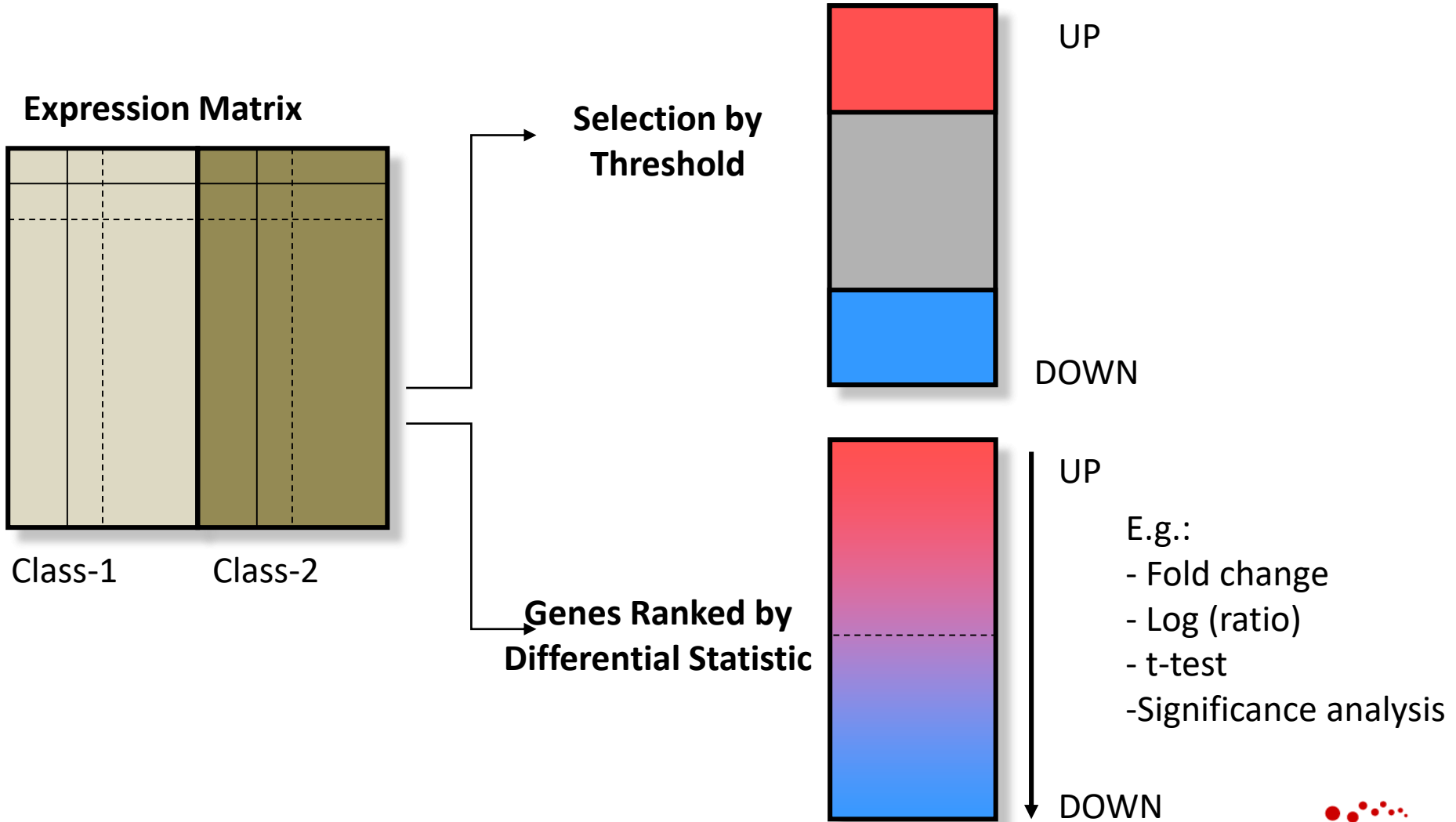
EcoCyc

Localization



Signal sequences: PLLLLPISGSALP

Two-class Design

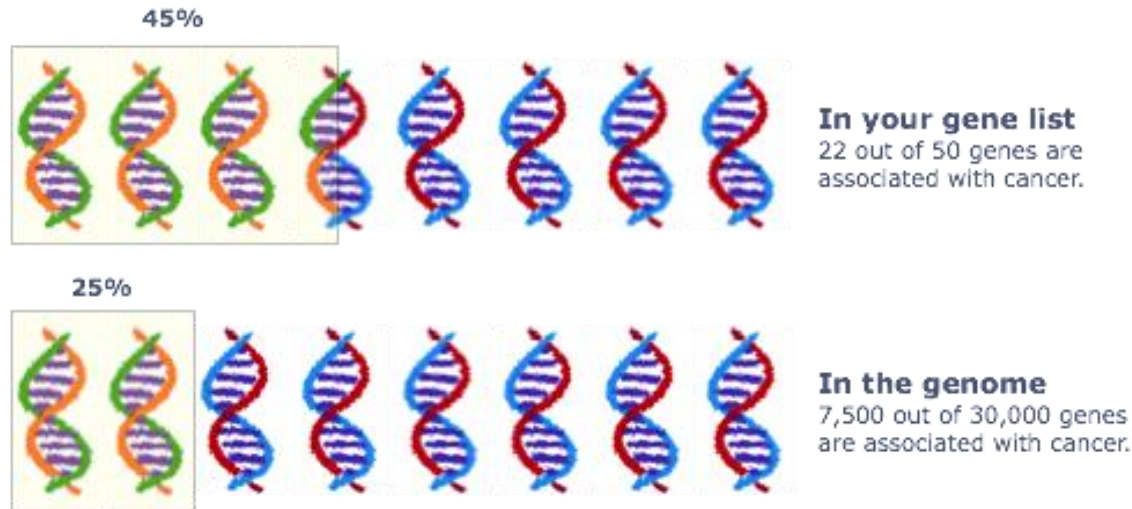


What is functional enrichment?

- It is a measure of how much a group of gene products is found in our data set
- It requires some type of background measure, as a basis for comparison
- What we look at is how many we have (observed) as opposed to how many we would expect to see at random, given our background.

Background

The choice of an appropriate background is critical to get meaningful results

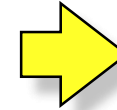
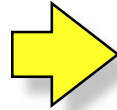
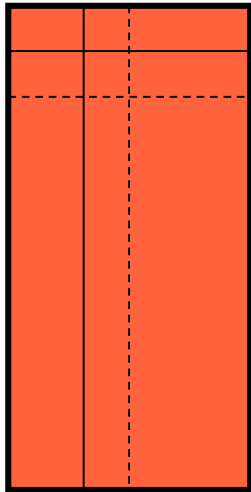


$$\text{Fold of enrichment} = 45\% / 25\% = 1.8$$

You should use all the genes detected by the method used in your experiment, not all the genes in the genome, if possible.

Enrichment test

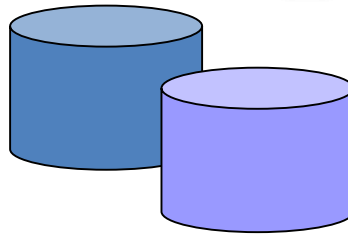
RNA-seq experiment
(gene expression table)



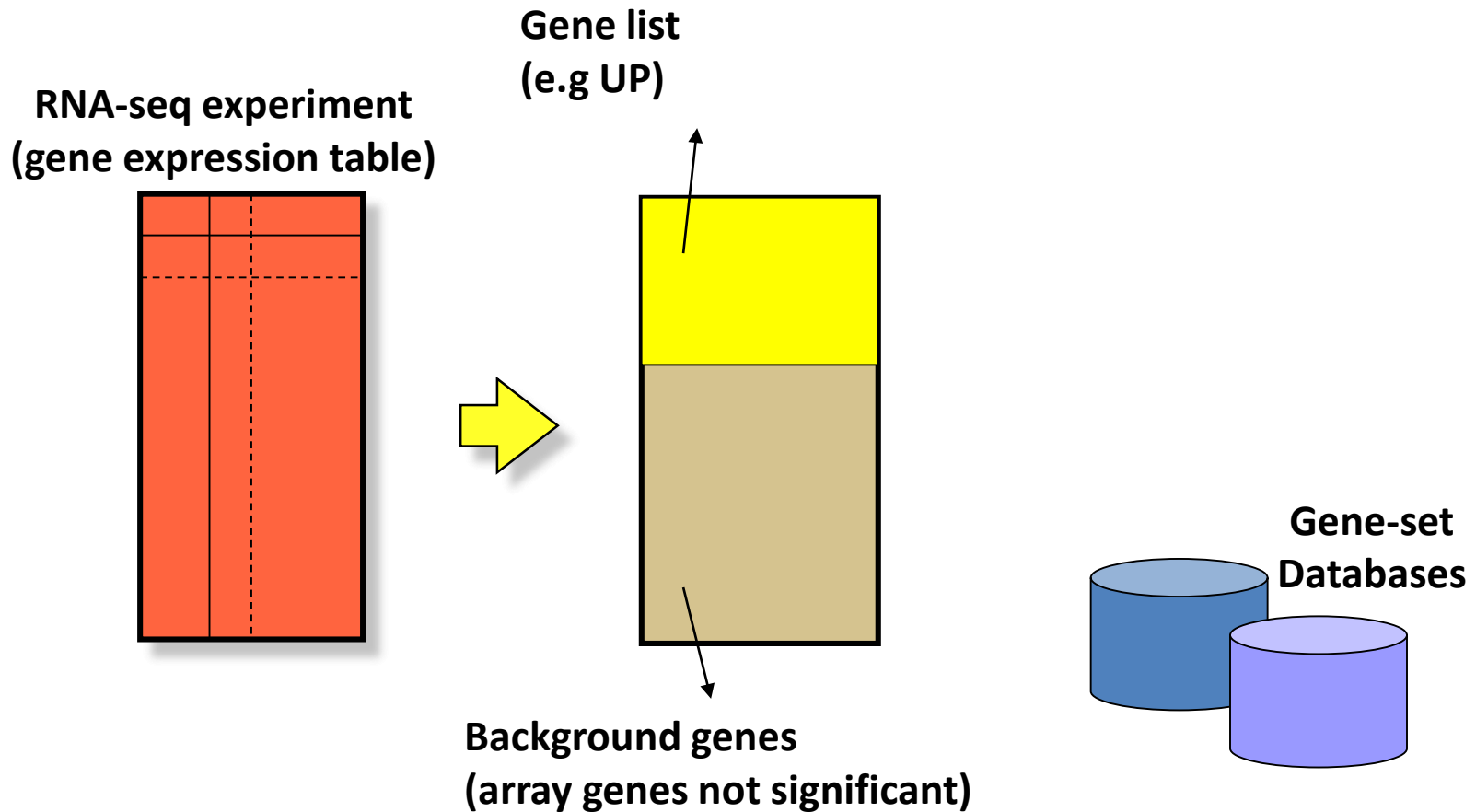
Enrichment Table

Spindle	0.00001
Apoptosis	0.00025

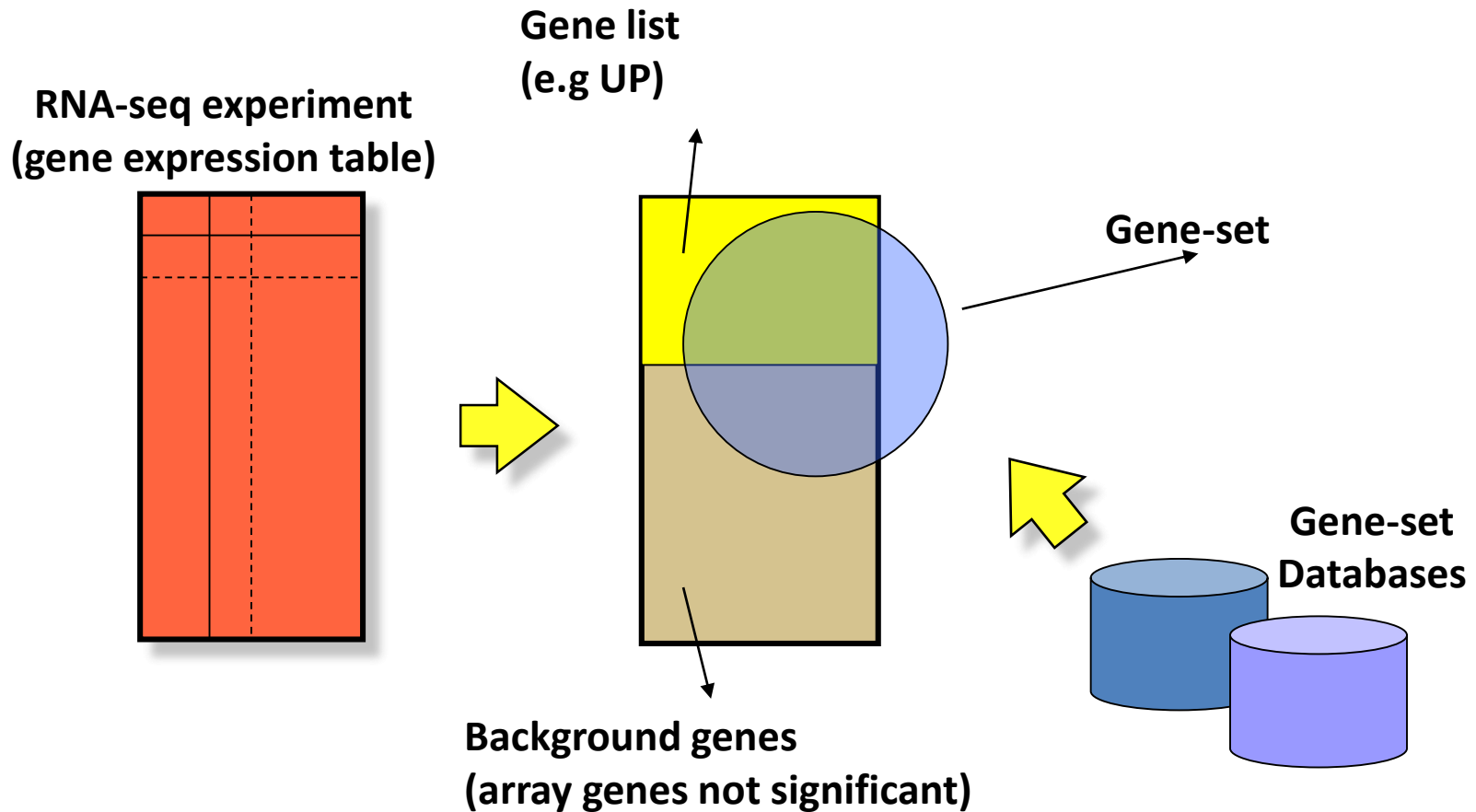
Gene-set
Databases
(GO)



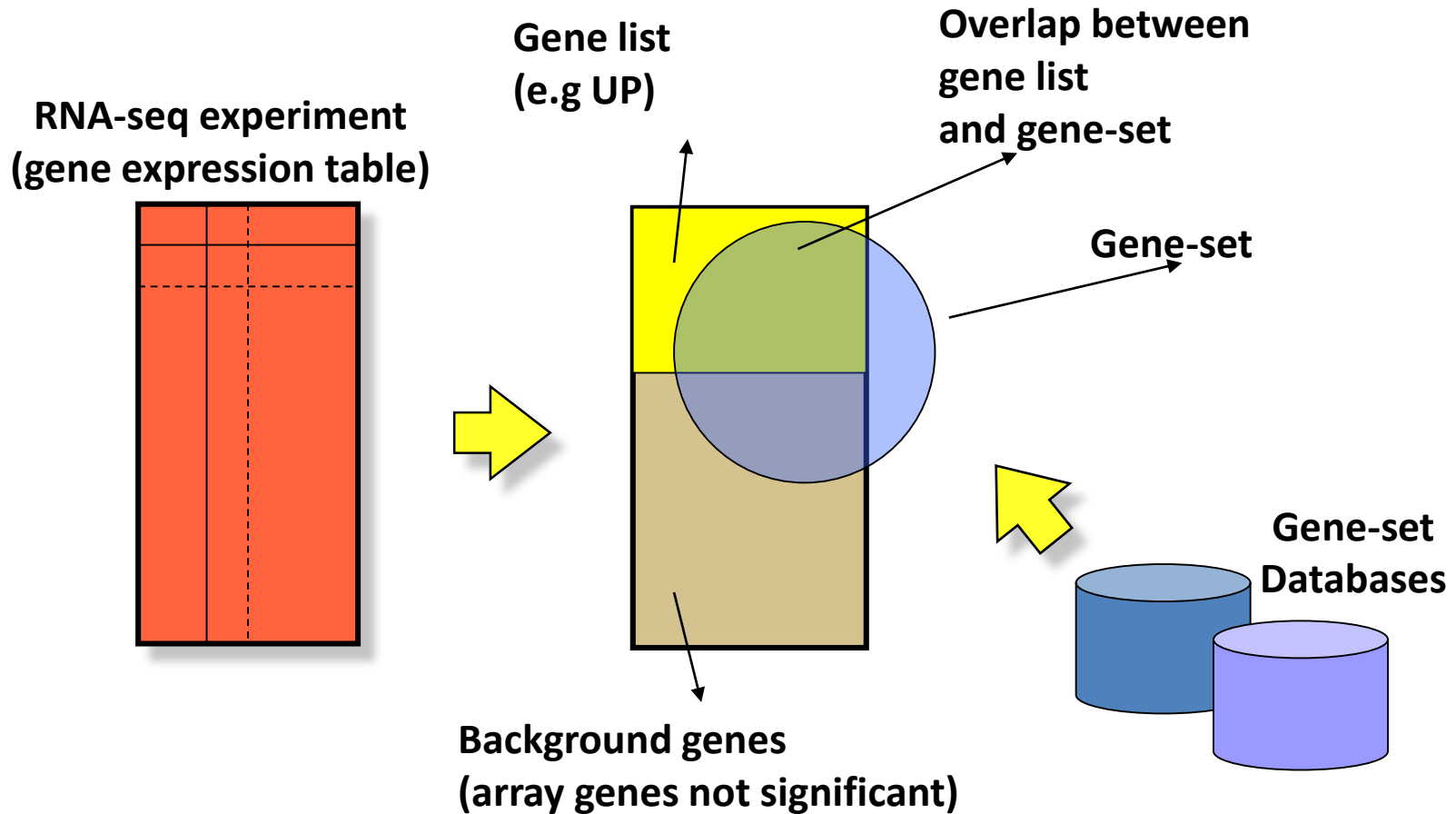
Enrichment test



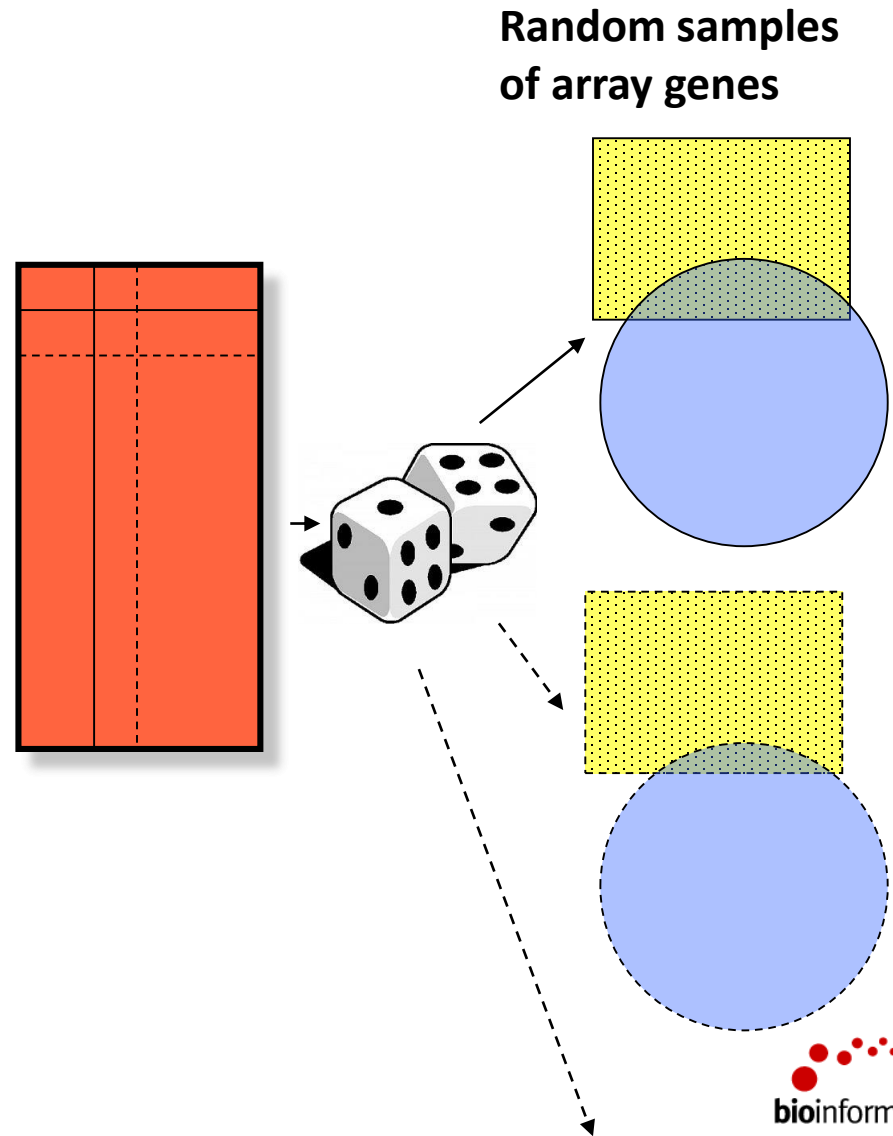
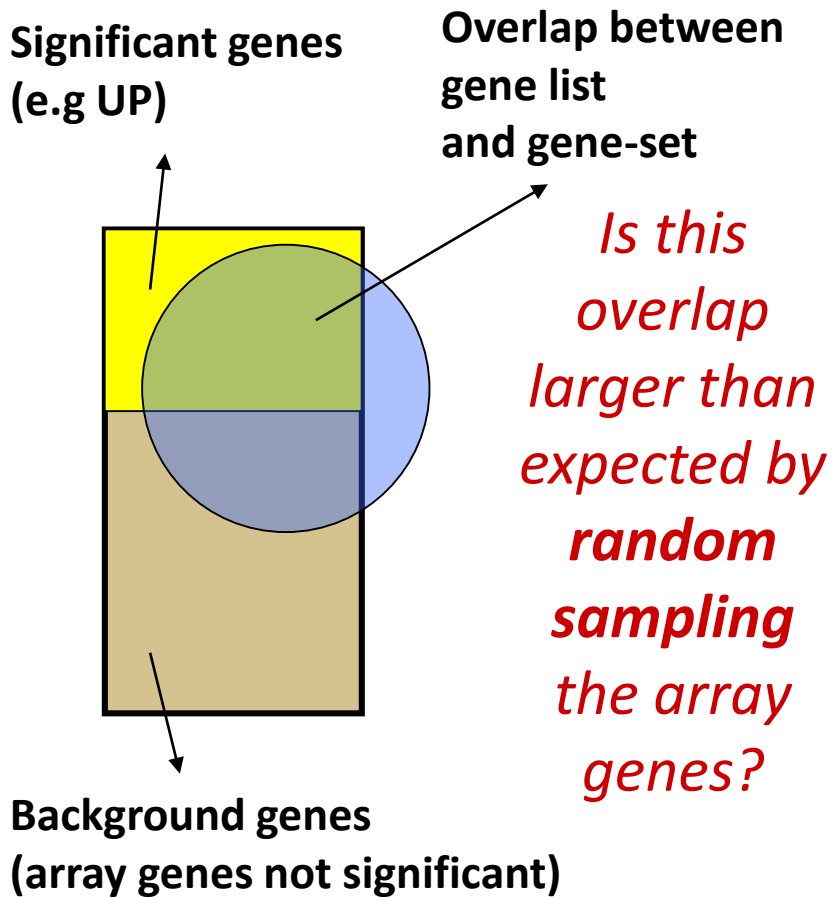
Enrichment test



Enrichment test



Enrichment test

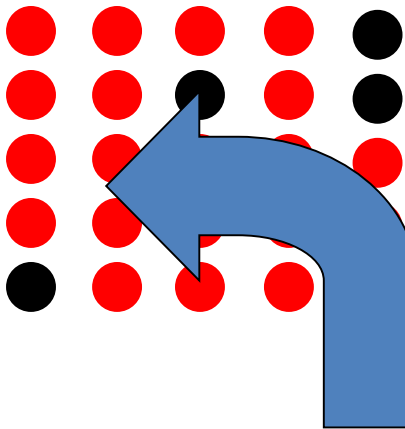


Enrichment analysis

- Given:
 1. Gene list: e.g. RRP6, MRD1, RRP7, RRP43, RRP42
 2. Gene sets or annotations: e.g. Gene ontology, transcription factor binding sites in promoter
- Question: *Are any of the gene annotations surprisingly enriched in the gene list?*
- Details:
 - Where do the gene lists come from?
 - How to assess “surprisingly” (statistics)
 - How to correct for repeating the tests

Randomization test

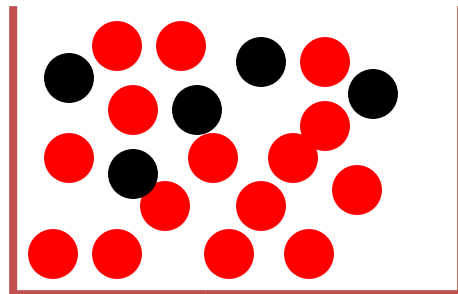
Random draws



... 7,834 draws later ...



*Expect a random draw
with observed enrichment
once every $1 / P\text{-value}$
draws*



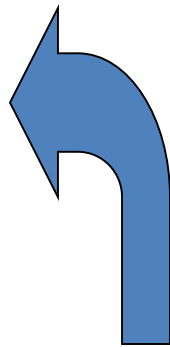
Background population:
500 black genes
4500 red genes

Fisher's exact test

a.k.a., the hypergeometric test

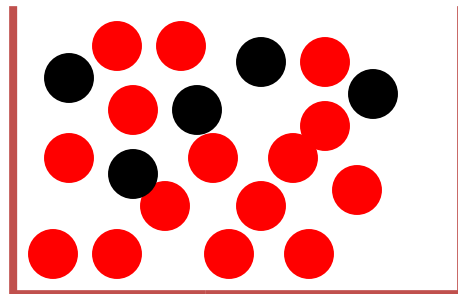
Gene list

- RRP6
- MRD1
- RRP7
- RRP43
- RRP42



Null hypothesis: List is a random sample from population

Alternative hypothesis: More black genes than expected



Background population:

500 black genes

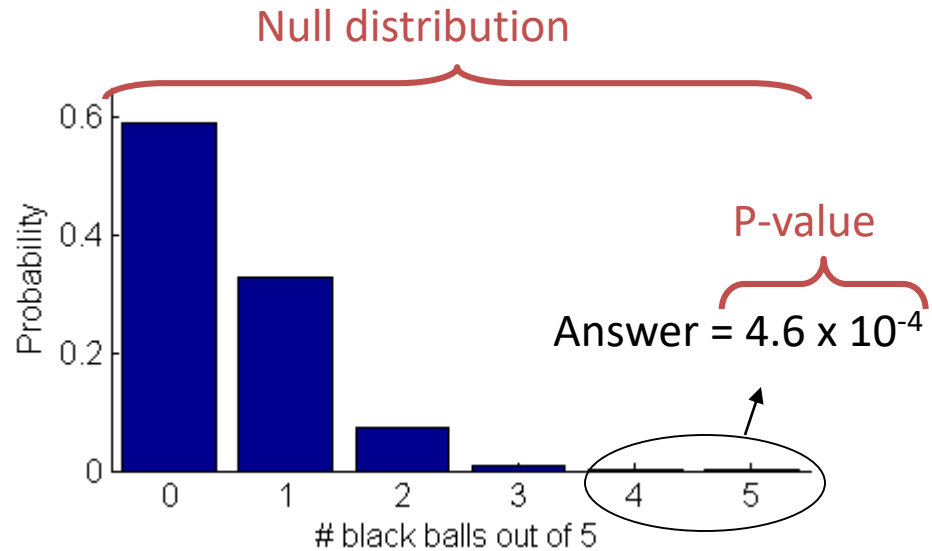
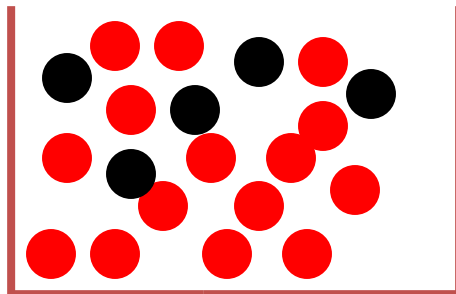
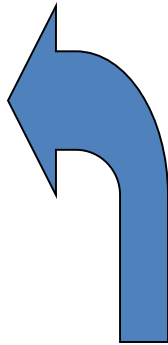
4500 red genes

Fisher's exact test

a.k.a., the hypergeometric test

Gene list

- RRP6
- MRD1
- RRP7
- RRP43
- RRP42



Background population:

500 black genes

4500 red genes

Problems working with large data sets

- The more comparisons we make, the more there is a chance that we will get random hits
- We need to correct for multiple tests, using statistical methods such as Bonferroni, FDR (Benjamini)
- Statistical significance doesn't necessarily mean biological significance

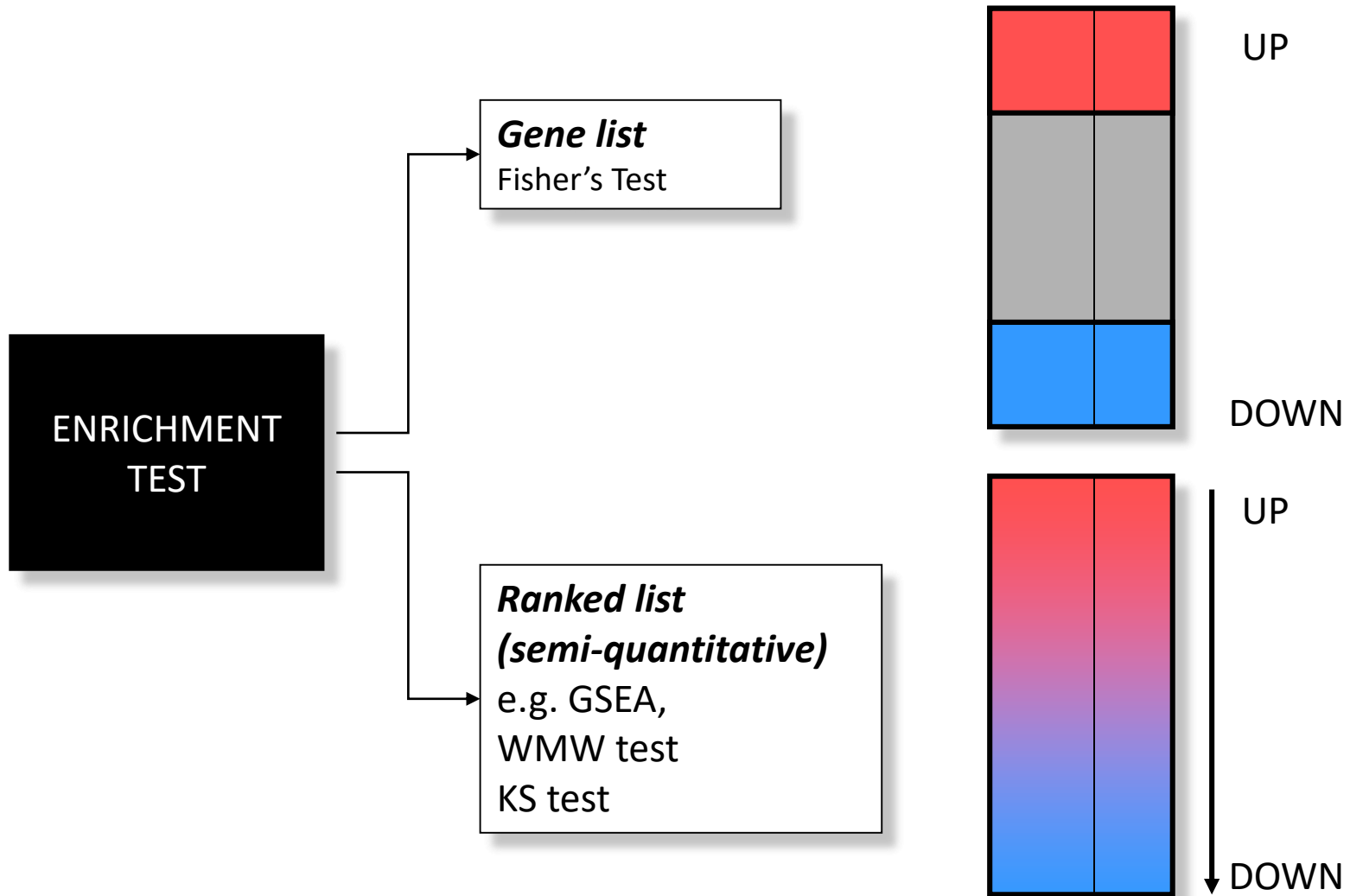
Beyond Fisher's Exact Test

Possible problems with Fisher's Exact Test:

- No “natural” value for the threshold
- Different results at different threshold settings
- Possible loss of statistical power due to thresholding
 - No resolution between significant signals with different strengths
 - Weak signals neglected

Solution: enrichment tests based on ranked lists

Beyond Fisher's Exact Test



OUTLINE

- Single gene analysis / information
- Analysis of group of genes
- Gene ontology (GO)
- Enrichment analysis
 - Hypergeometric Test and Fisher exact test
 - GO Independence Assumption

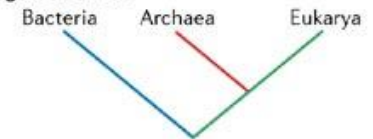
Genome sequence and annotation



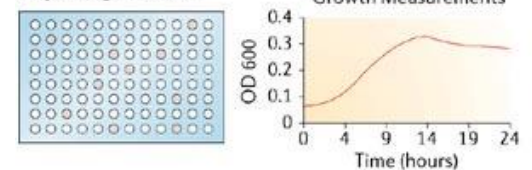
Available literature



Phylogenetic data



Physiological data

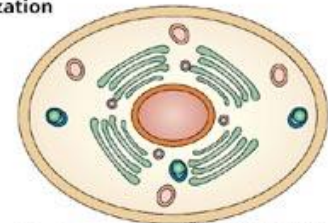


Databases



EcoCyc

Localization

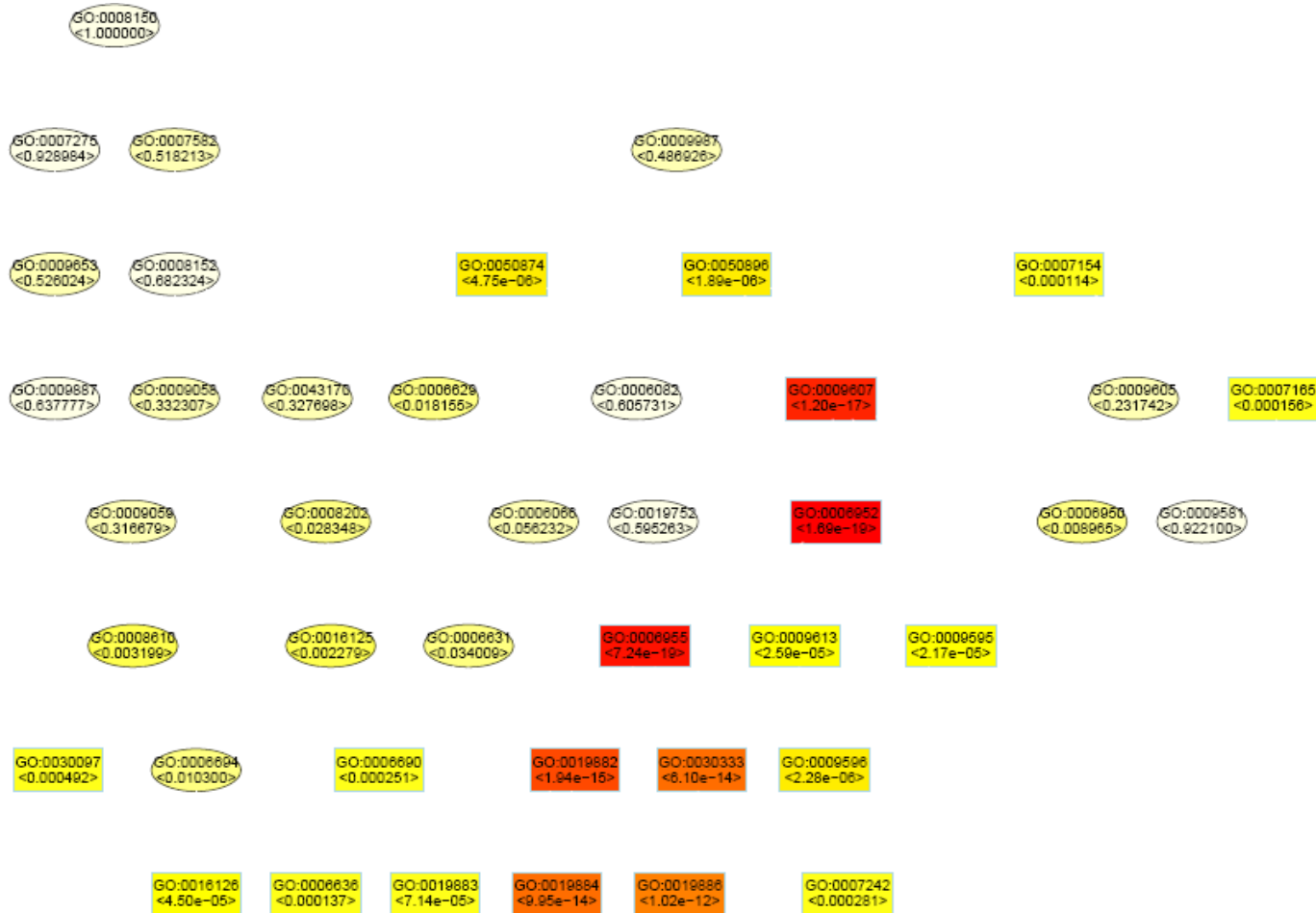


Signal sequences: PLLLLPISGSALP

Term-for-term

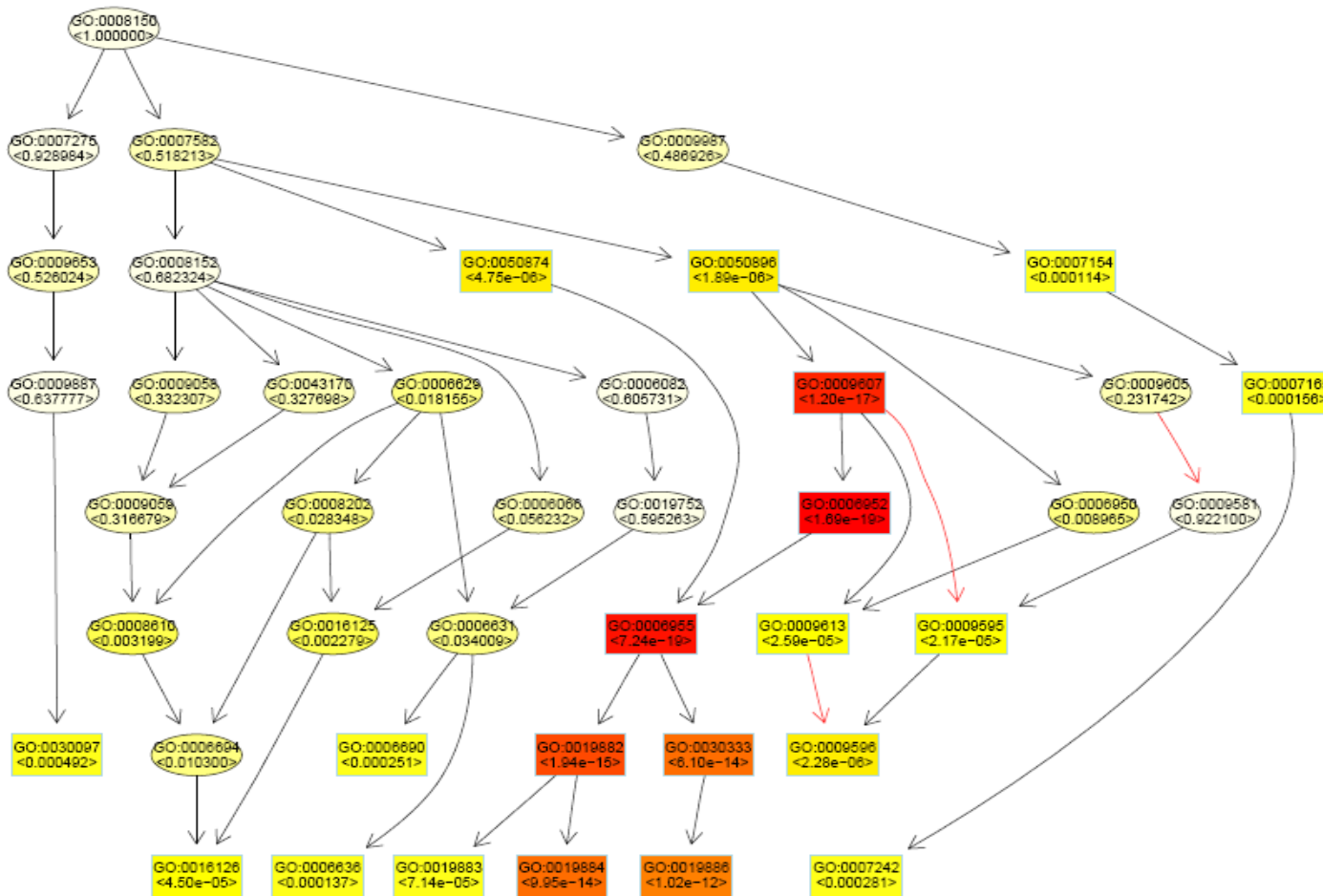
- The most common type of analysis
- Each term is considered independently of its neighbors in the GO tree
- Compares observed to expected and calculates significance

GO Independence Assumption



Note: The coloring of the nodes represent the *relative* significance of the GO terms: **dark red** is the most significant, **light yellow** is the least significant from the graph

GO Independence Assumption



Note: The coloring of the nodes represent the *relative* significance of the GO terms: **dark red** is the most significant, **light yellow** is the least significant from the graph

Algorithms review

▶ classic algorithm

- Calculate significance of each GO term independently.
- Adjust pvalues for multiple testing (Bonferroni, FDR, etc.).
- Kolmogorov-Smirnov test can easily be used in this case

▶ elim algorithm

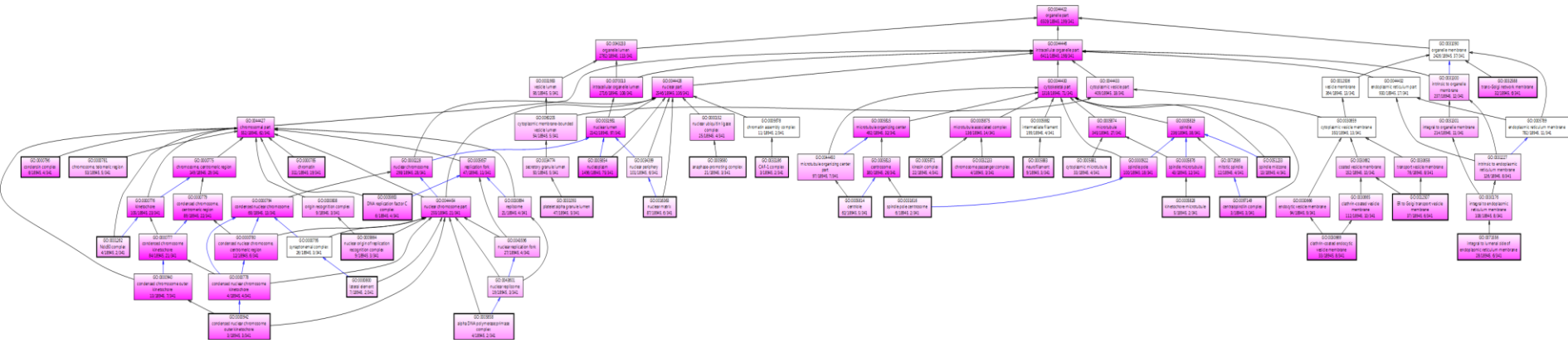
- Nodes are **processed bottom-up** in the GO graph.
- It iteratively **removes** the genes annotated to significant GO terms **from more general** GO terms.
- **Intuitive and simple** to interpret.

▶ weight algorithm

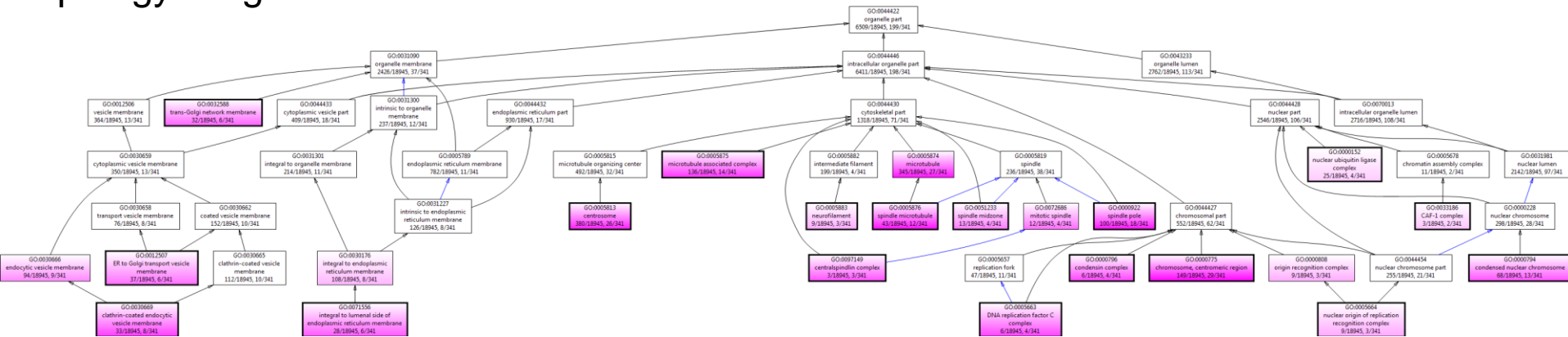
- The genes obtain weights that denote the **gene relevance** in the significant nodes.
- To decide if a GO term u better represents the interesting genes, **the enrichment score of node u is compared with the scores of its children.**
- Children with a **better score** than u better **represent the interesting genes**; their significance is increased
- Children with a lower score than u have their significance reduced.

Same input data – different results....

Term for term



Topology weighted



Thanks to:

Dr. Esti Feldmeser & Dr. Shifra Ben Dor for
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for
your attention
Questions?