
Networking Genes and Drugs: Understanding Gene Function and Drug Mode of Action from Large-scale Experimental Data

Diego di Bernardo

Antisense strand

RNA polymerase

ATGA GGAT AG G AAG GGAATTGG GA ATAA

UA UG UAGU GG GUU

RNA Transcript

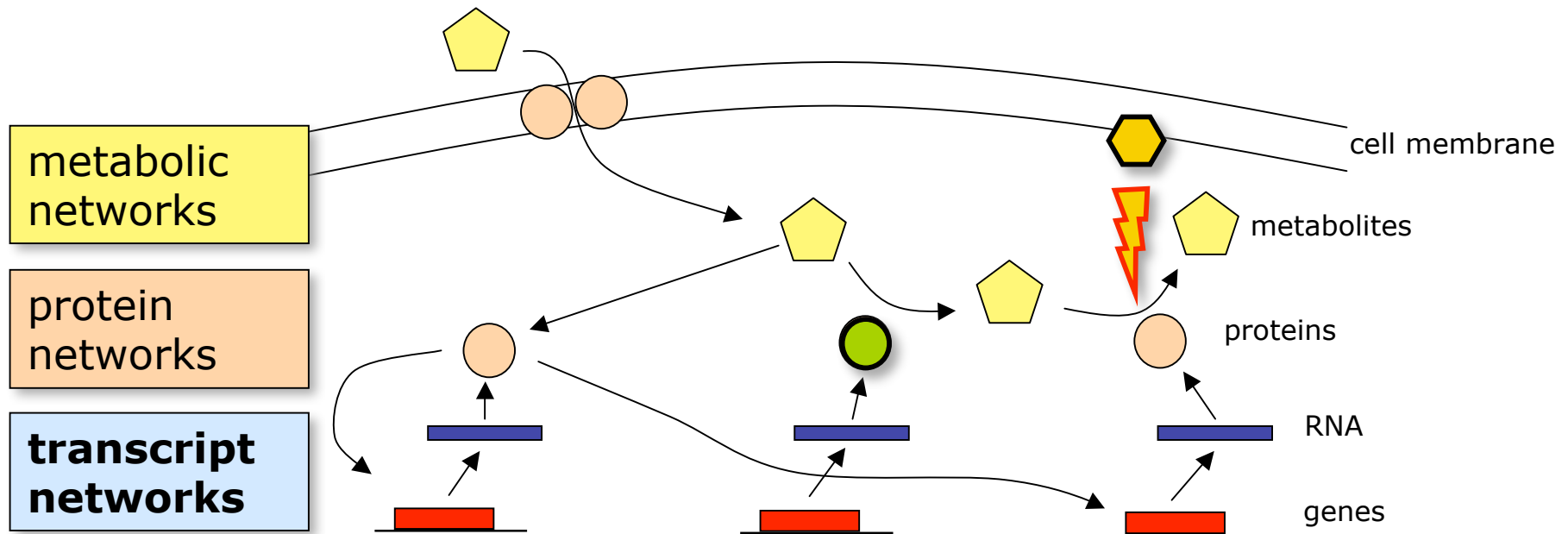
TA TG TAGT GG GTT G TTAA G TGTATT



Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine



The problems we (and everybody else) are tackling:



What is the role of my gene?

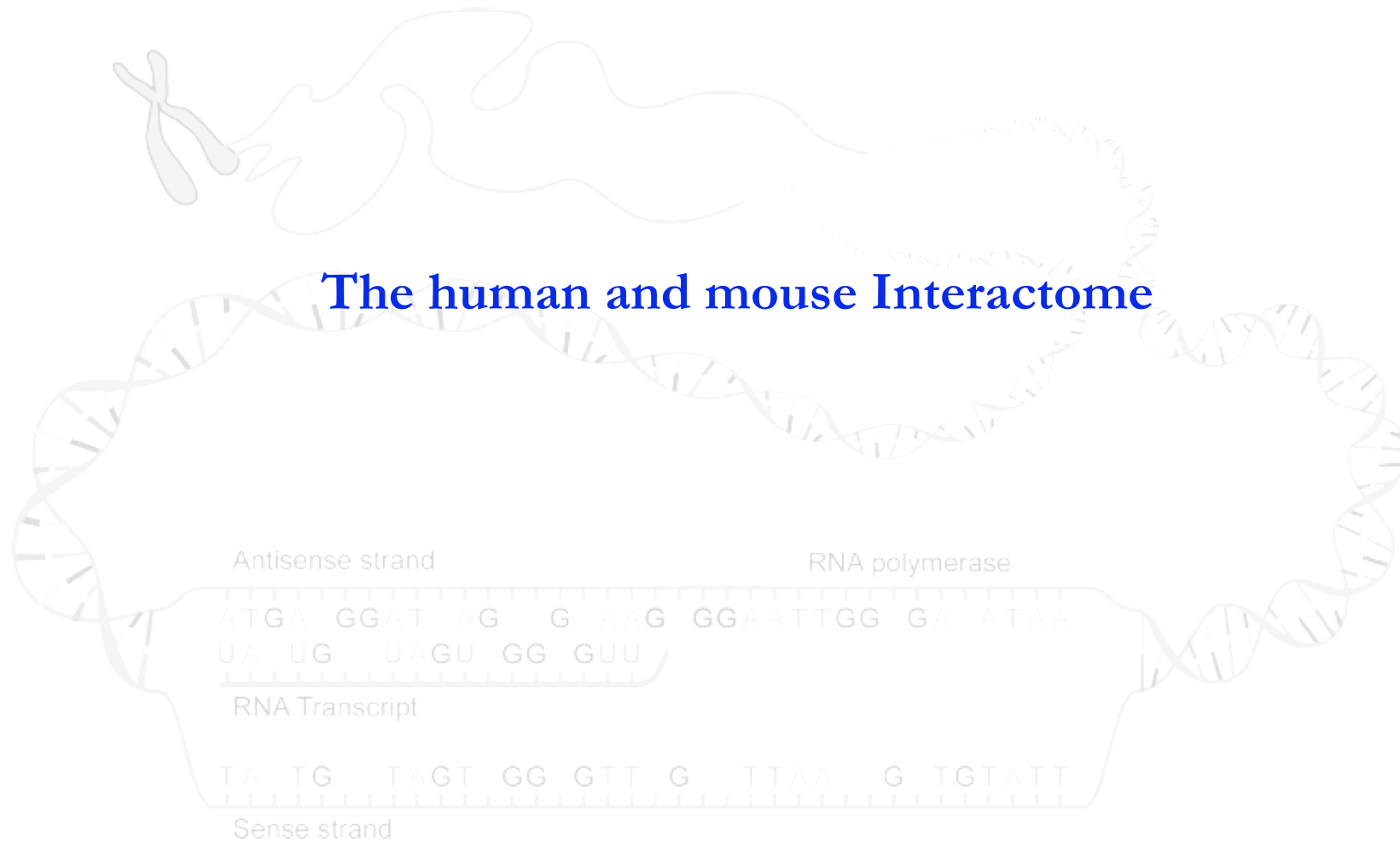


Which small molecule (drug) can modify the pathway of interest?

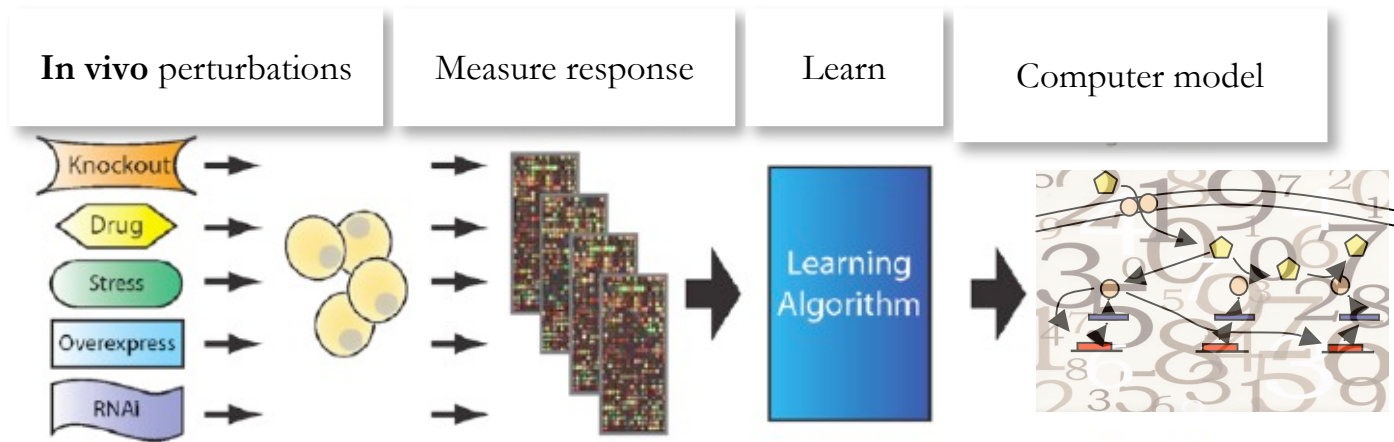
A 'simple' protein-protein interaction network (yeast *S. cerevisiae*)



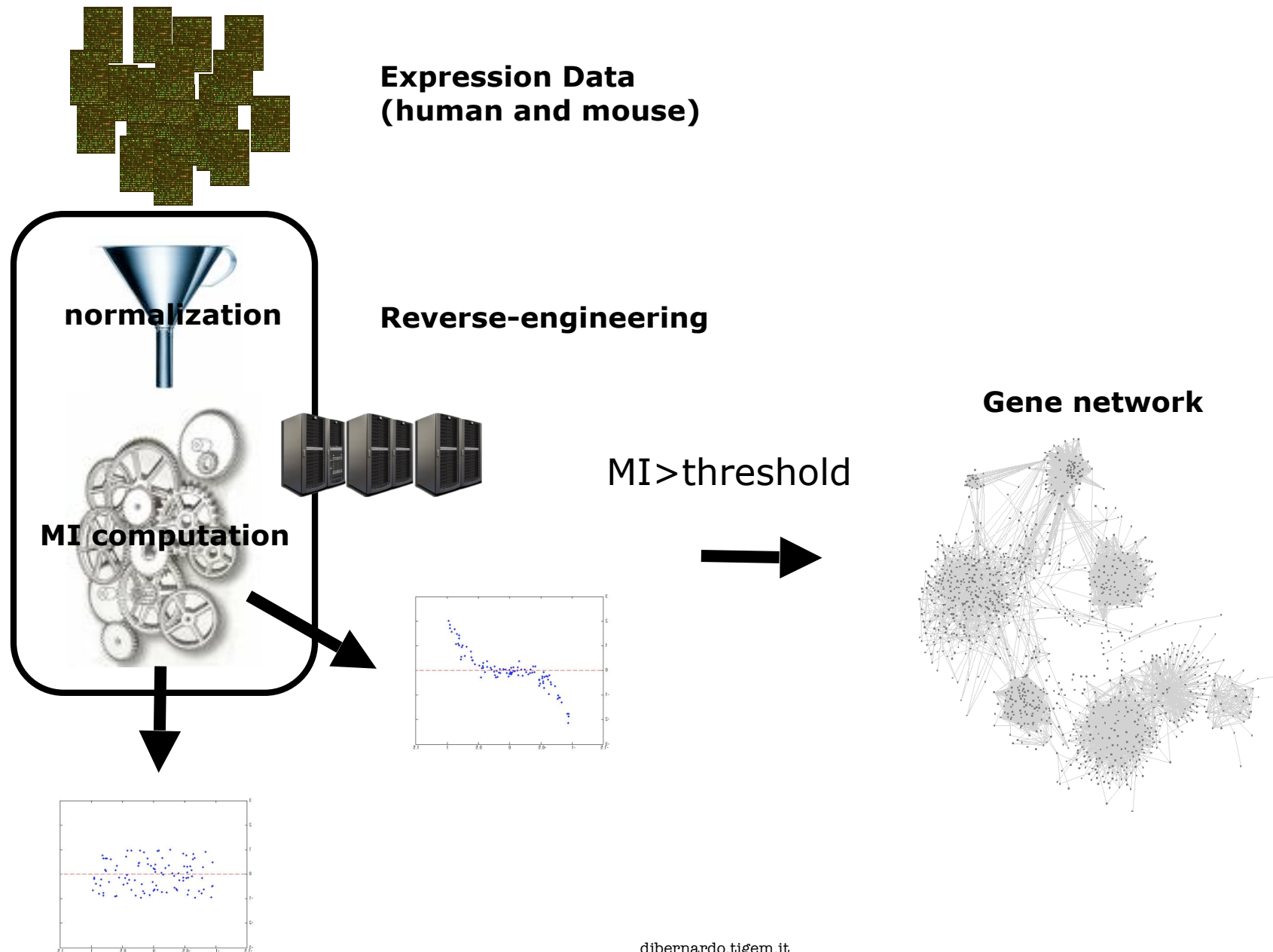
Part I: Understanding Gene Function



Reverse-engineering: from data to model



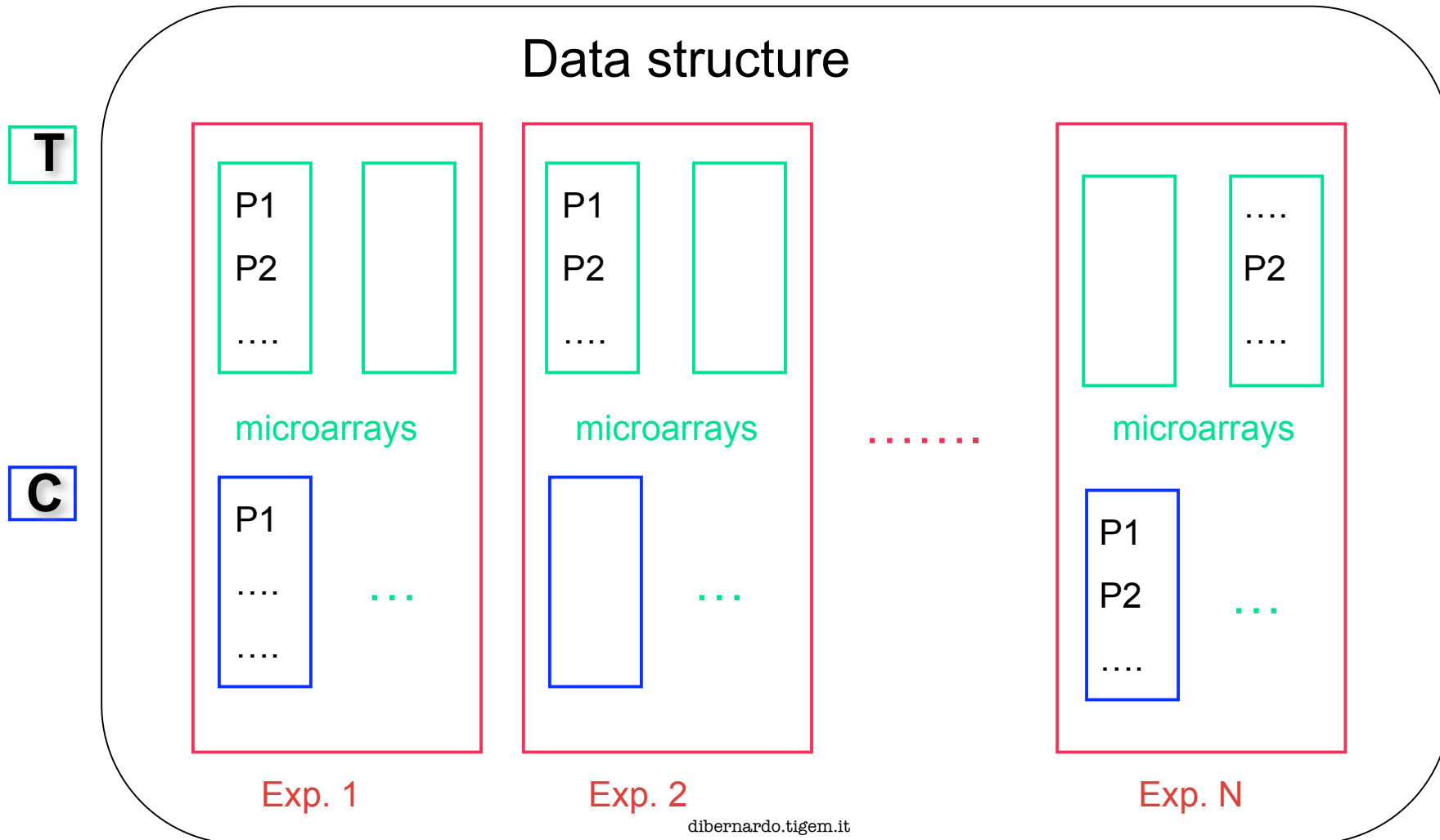
Reverse engineering human and mouse gene networks:



Expression Data:

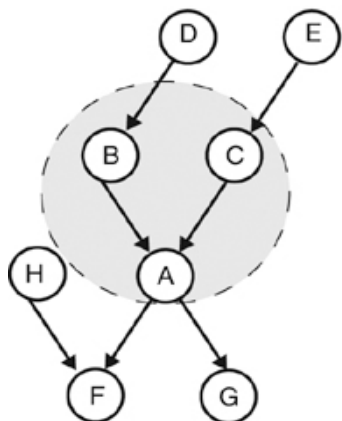
HUMAN (HG-U133A)
702 experiments (**20255** hyb.)
22283 probesets (P)
14340 genes

MOUSE (Mouse430_2)
797 experiments (**8895** hyb.)
45101 probesets (P)
28219 genes



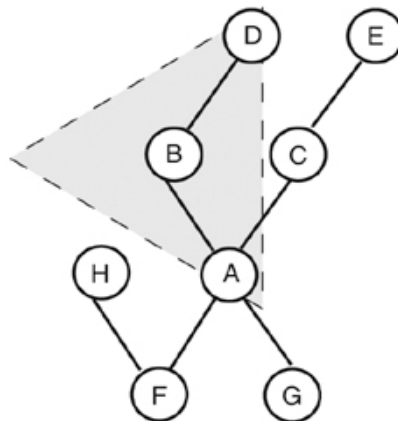
Reverse-engineering:

Bayesian Networks



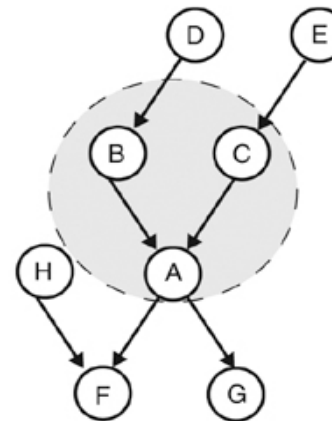
$$P(A/B,C,D,E)=P(A/B,C)$$

Information-theoretic



$$\begin{aligned} MI(A,H) &= 0 \\ MI(A,B) &> 0 \\ 0 < MI(A,D) &\leq \min\{MI(A,B), MI(B,D)\} \end{aligned}$$

Ordinary differential equations



$$\begin{aligned} dA/dt &= \theta_1 A + \theta_2 B + \theta_3 C \\ \text{or more generally:} \\ dA/dt &= f(A,B,C,\theta) \end{aligned}$$

BANJO

(Hartemink, A. *Nature Biotechnology*, 2005.)

ARACNE

(Basso et al., *Nature Genetics*, 2006)

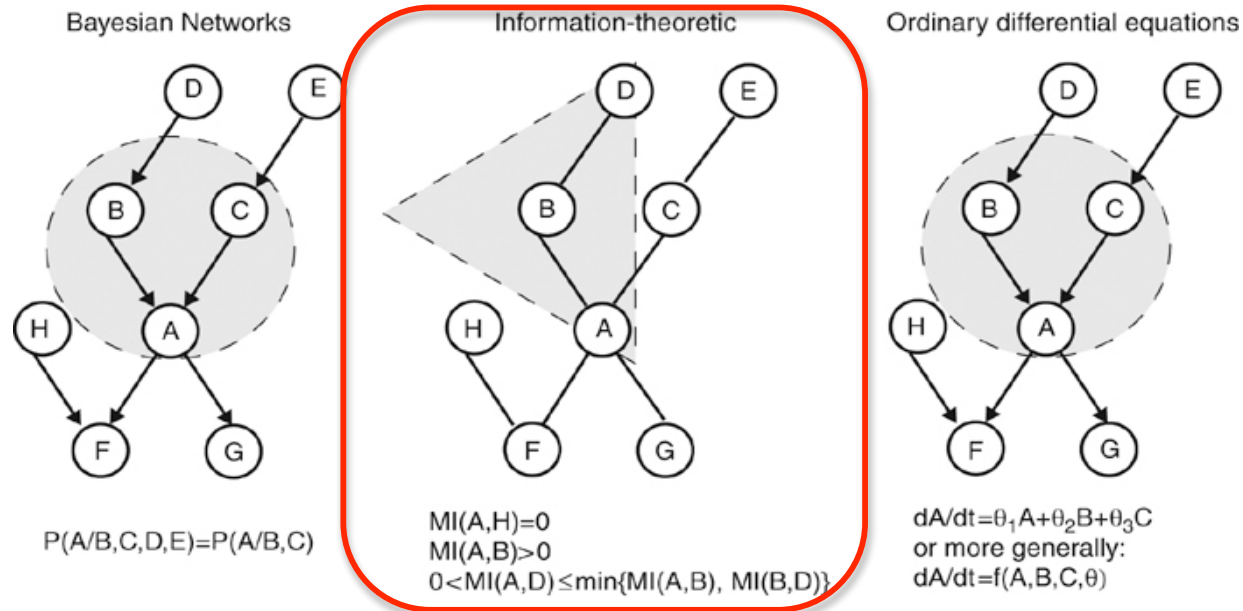
NIR and TSNI (Gardner, et al, *Science*, 2003; Bansal et al, *Bioinformatics*, 2006; Della Gatta et al, *Genome Research*, 2008)

DYNAMIC AND
STEADY-STATE (n-way)

STEADY-STATE
(2-way)

DYNAMIC AND
STEADY-STATE (n-way)

Reverse-engineering:



BANJO

(Hartemink, A. *Nature Biotechnology*, 2005.)

DYNAMIC AND
STEADY-STATE (n-way)

ARACNE

(Basso et al., *Nature Genetics*, 2006)

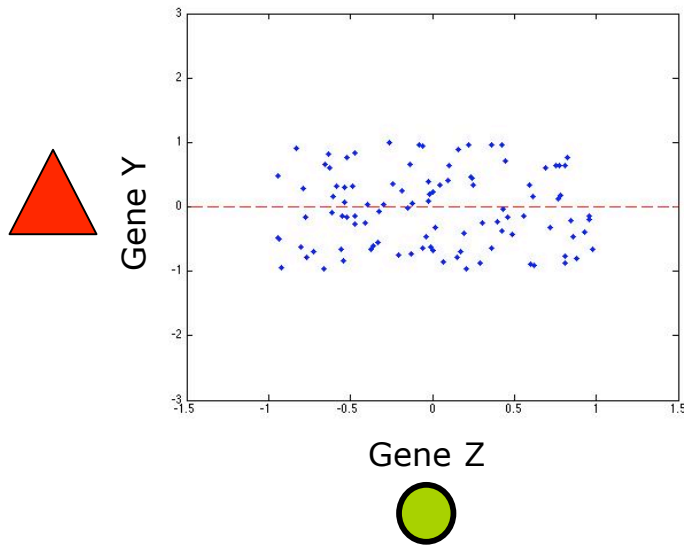
STEADY-STATE
(2-way)

NIR and TSNI (Gardner, et al, *Science*, 2003; Bansal et al, *Bioinformatics*, 2006; Della Gatta et al, *Genome Research*, 2008)

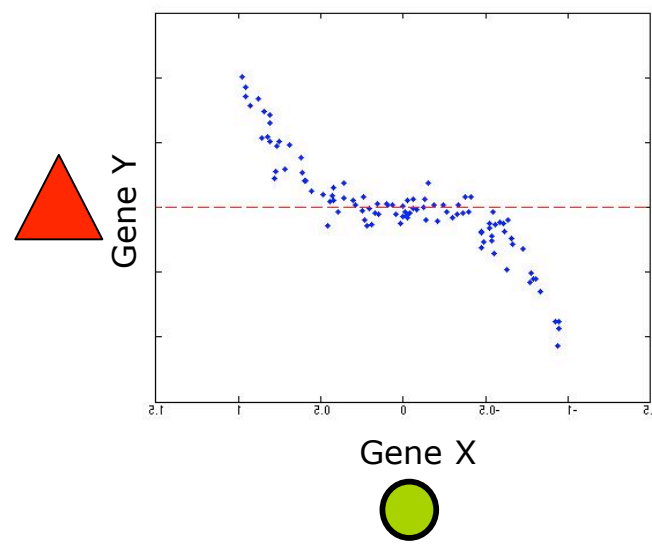
DYNAMIC AND
STEADY-STATE (n-way)

Mutual Information:

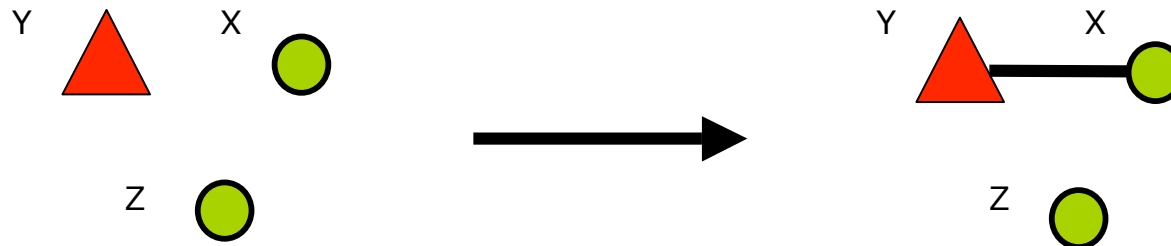
Independent genes



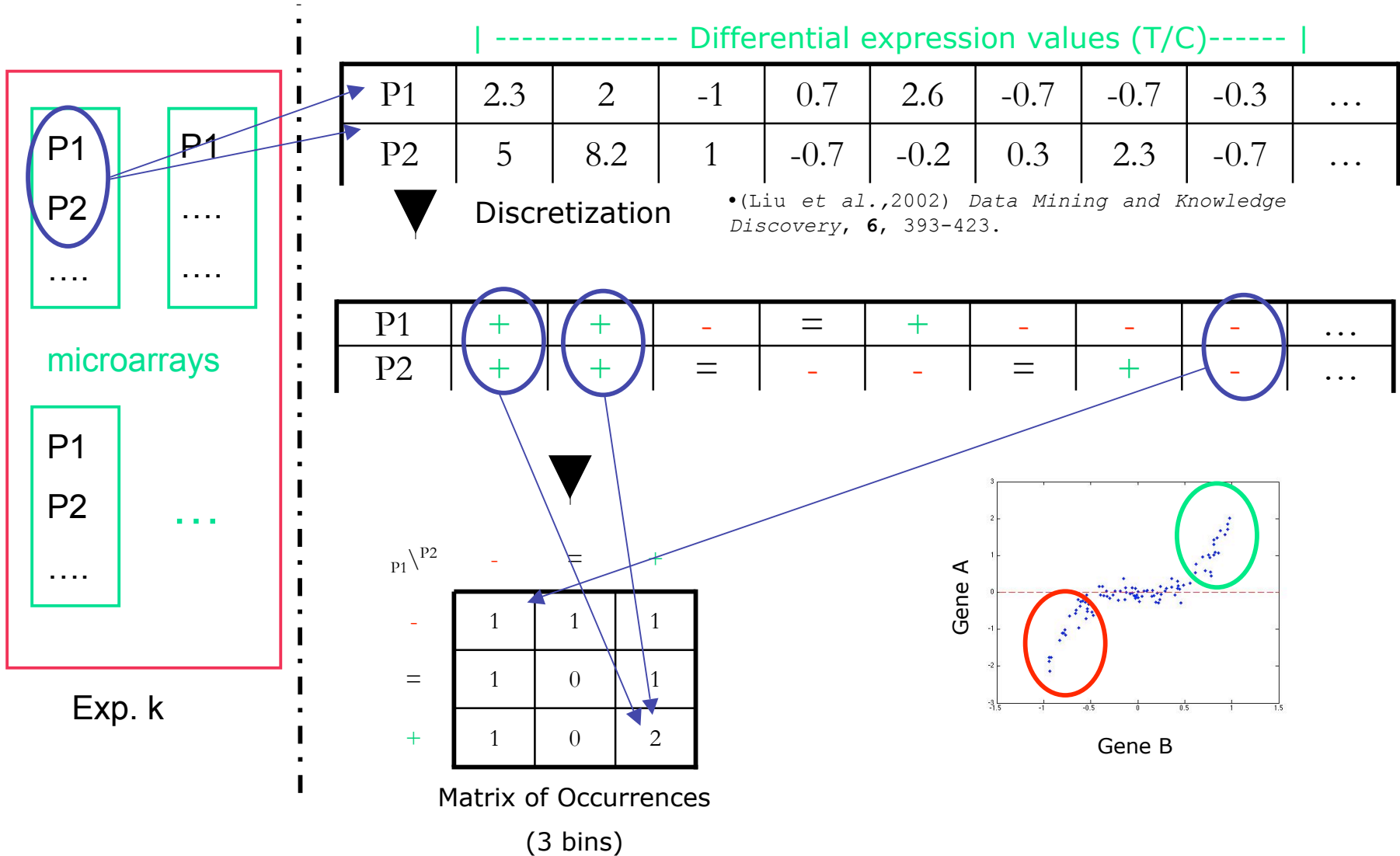
Genes that regulate each other



$$I(X, Y) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \{1 \dots r\} \\ y \in \{1 \dots s\}}} p(x, y) \log \frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)}$$



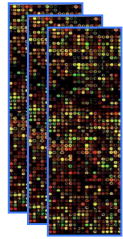
Computation of Mutual Information:



•(Liu et al.,2002) *Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*, **6**, 393-423.

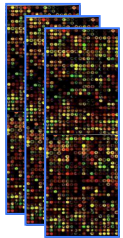
How to obtain one huge datasets? (Dataset merging)

Exp. #1



$P_1 \setminus P_2$	-	=	+
-	1	2	1
=	1	0	1
+	1	0	1

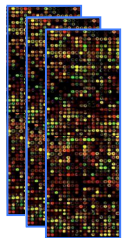
Exp. #2



$P_1 \setminus P_2$	-	=	+
-	1	2	0
=	2	3	1
+	1	1	0

...

Exp. #N



$P_1 \setminus P_2$	-	=	+
-	0	2	1
=	1	0	3
+	1	2	1



$P_1 \setminus P_2$	-	=	+
-	10	12	10
=	8	10	11
+	6	16	7



/ #common microarrays



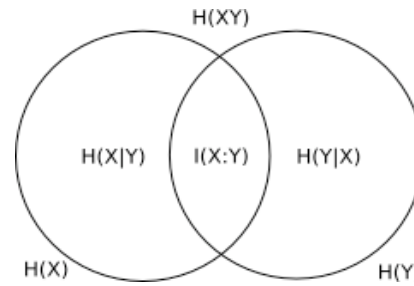
$P_1 \setminus P_2$	-	=	+
-	10/90	12/90	14/90
=	8/90	20/90	21/90
+	6/90	18/90	7/90

frequencies

Frequentist approach to MI:

$p_1 \setminus p_2$	-	=	+
-	10/90	12/90	14/90
=	8/90	20/90	21/90
+	6/90	18/90	7/90

Mutual Information (MI) is the amount of information two random variables share.



MI can be used to measure how dependent two probes are.

$$I(X, Y) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \{1..r\} \\ y \in \{1..s\}}} p(x, y) \log \frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)}$$

$$\hat{I}(X, Y) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \{1..r\} \\ y \in \{1..s\}}} f(x, y) \log \frac{f(x, y)}{f(x)f(y)} \quad \text{where} \quad f(z) = \frac{n_z}{n}$$

$$f(x, y) = \frac{n_{xy}}{n}$$

Network statistics and properties



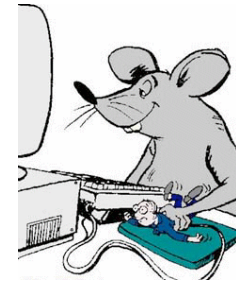
HUMAN
20255 experiments
22283 probes

Threshold **0.04**
4.817.629 edges



MOUSE (Mouse430_2)
8895 experiments
45101 probes

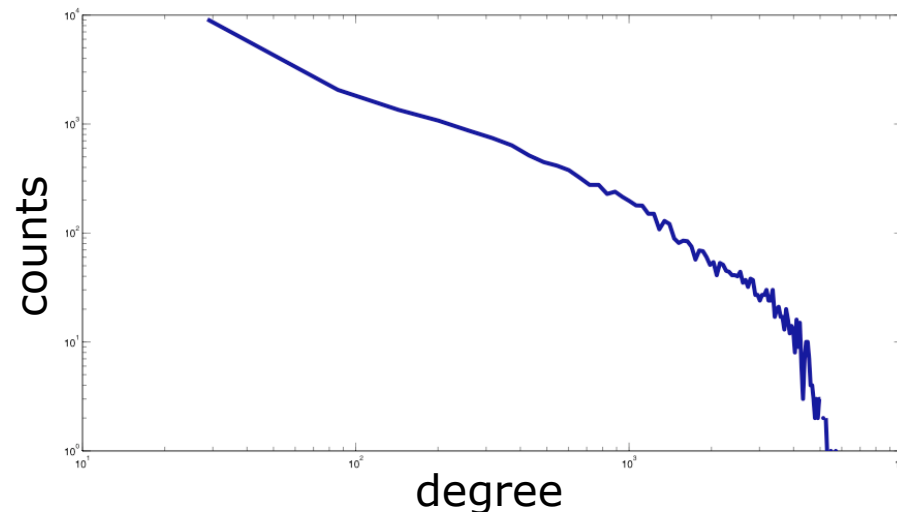
Threshold **0.025**
14.461.095 edges



Mouse+Human
10415 genes

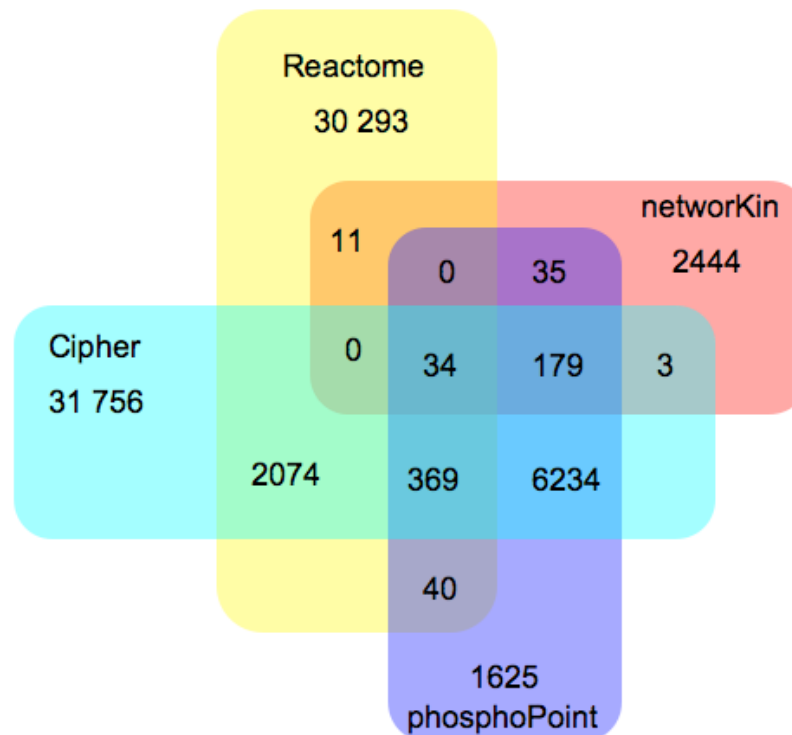
Threshold **H 0.04, M 0.025**
3.283.347 edges

- 20123 of the human genes belong to the same component.

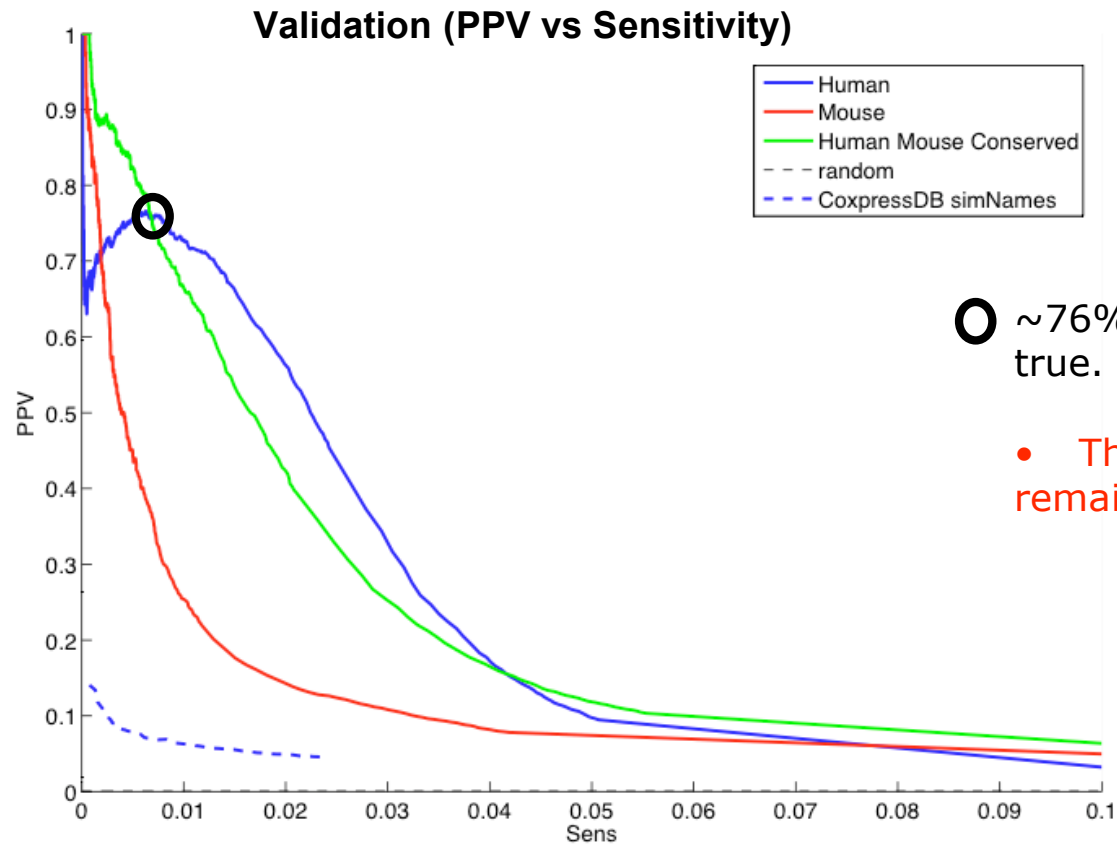


Interactome validation on experimentally verified interactions

- The Golden standard is a collection of experimentally validate edges for a total of **105.688** edges from a wide range of publicly available databases:



Results --> Validation of gene-to-gene interactions

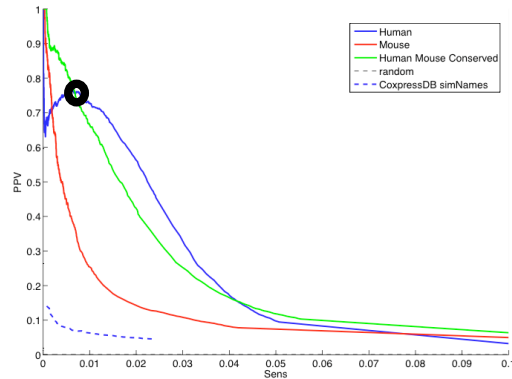


○ ~76% of the predicted edges were true.

- This doesn't mean that the remaining ~24% are not correct.

• **COXPRESdb**: a database of coexpressed gene networks in mammals
Nucleic Acids Research, 2008, Vol. 36, Database issue D77-82

Results --> Validation of gene-to-gene interactions

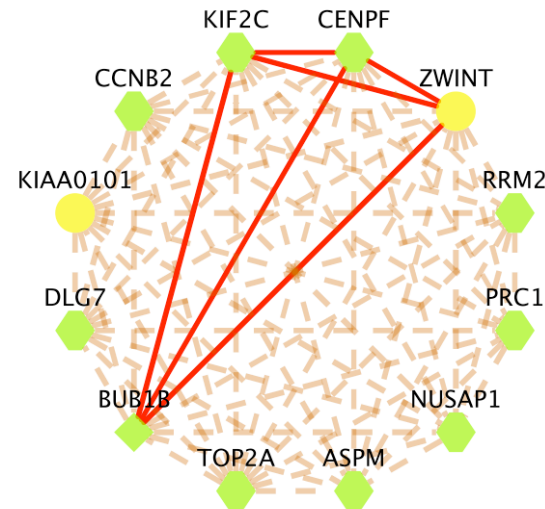
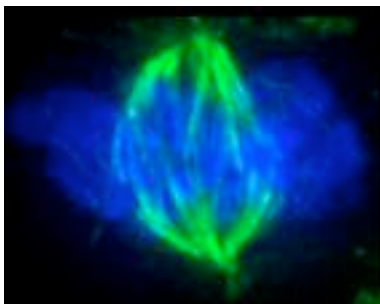


~76% of the edges predicted are true,

- This doesn't mean that the remaining ~24% are not correct.

Genes involved into the spindle check point. We are currently experimentally validating these interactions via Y2H:

Cell division



Netview: Online visualization tool

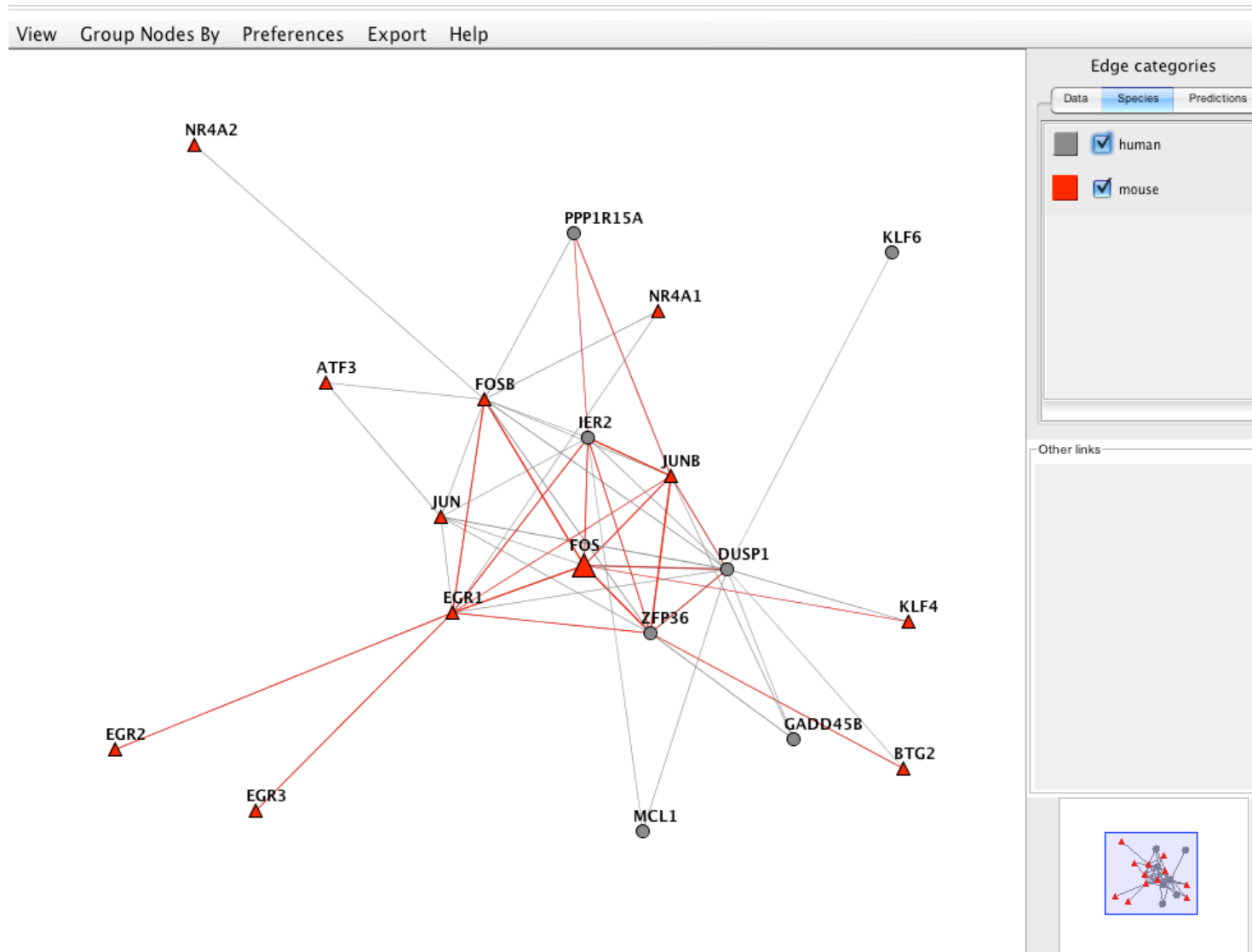


Query the database with a Gene Symbol

Specie	Human ▾
Identifier	Gene_Symbol ▾
Gene Symbol	FOS
Tissue	ALL ▾
Neighbors	10 ▾
Depth	2 ▾
<input type="button" value="Show Predictions"/>	
Visitor Number 1195	

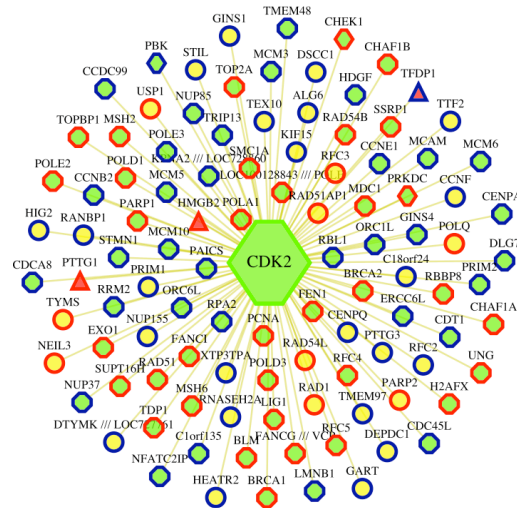
Neighbors: # of nodes directly connected to the queried node.
Depth: # of network levels to explore (root is the queried node).

Netview: Online visualization tool



• **jSquid**: a Java applet for graphical on-line network exploration
Bioinformatics 2008 24(12):1467-1468.

Using the network to understand gene function

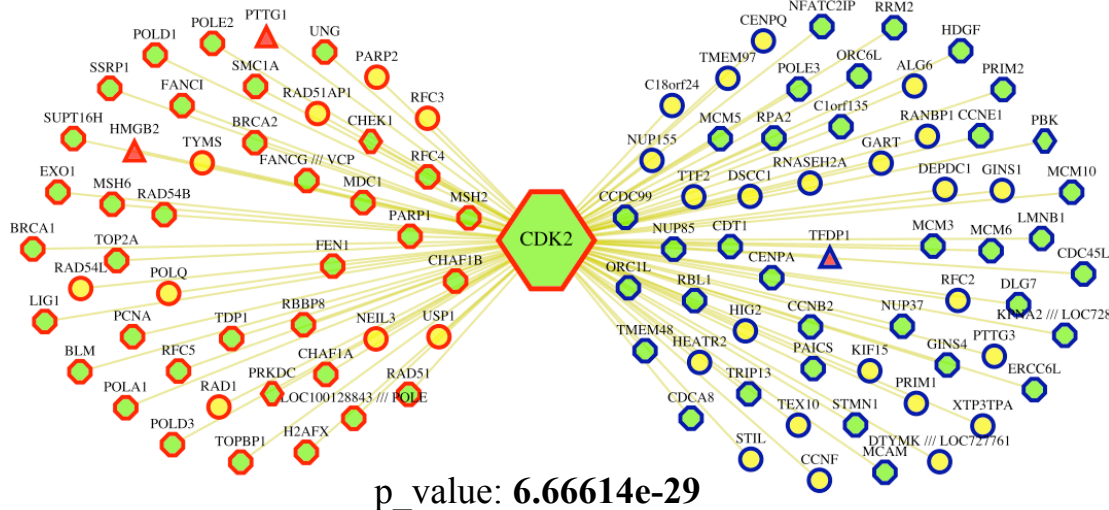


1. Neighbors selection.

2. Neighbors Enrichment analysis via hypergeometric distribution.

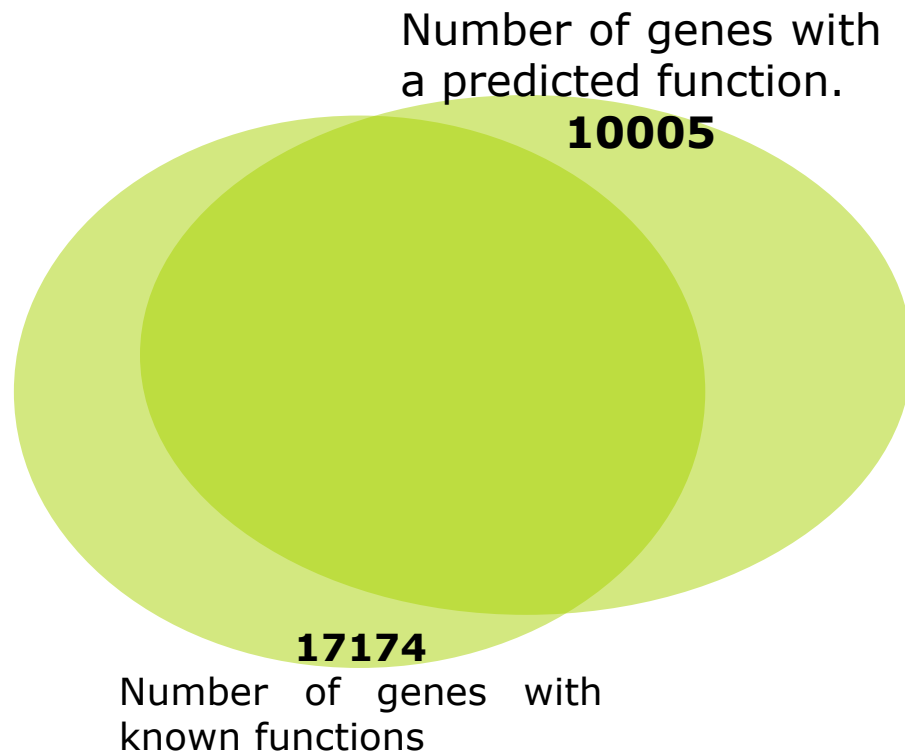
Cell Cycle gene ontology

other gene ontology

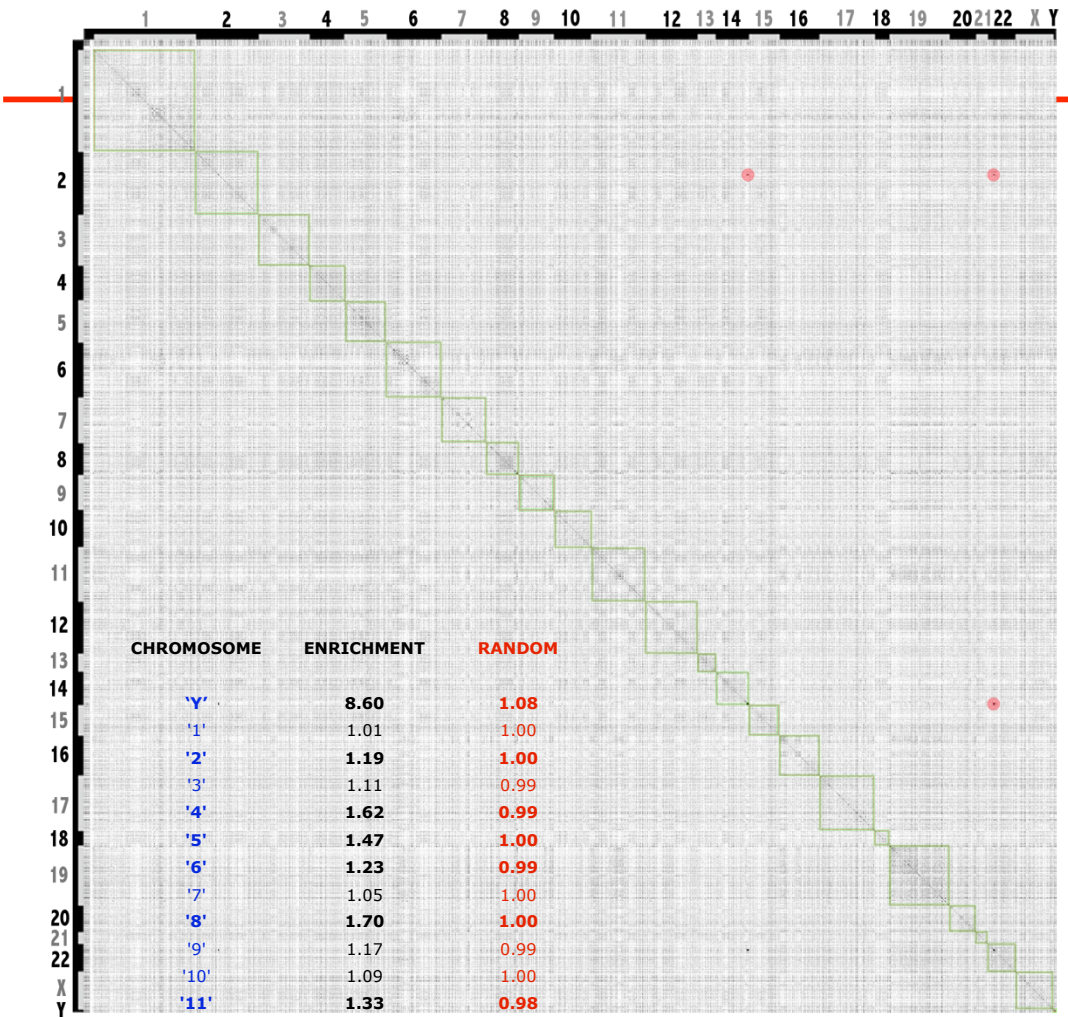


3. Gene function prediction.

Using the network to understand gene function: validation



- 58% of the genes were correctly assigned to a gene function.
- This doesn't mean that the remaining 42% are not properly assigned to a gene function.
- We are now validating experimentally gene function for 8 genes predicted to be localised in mitochondria



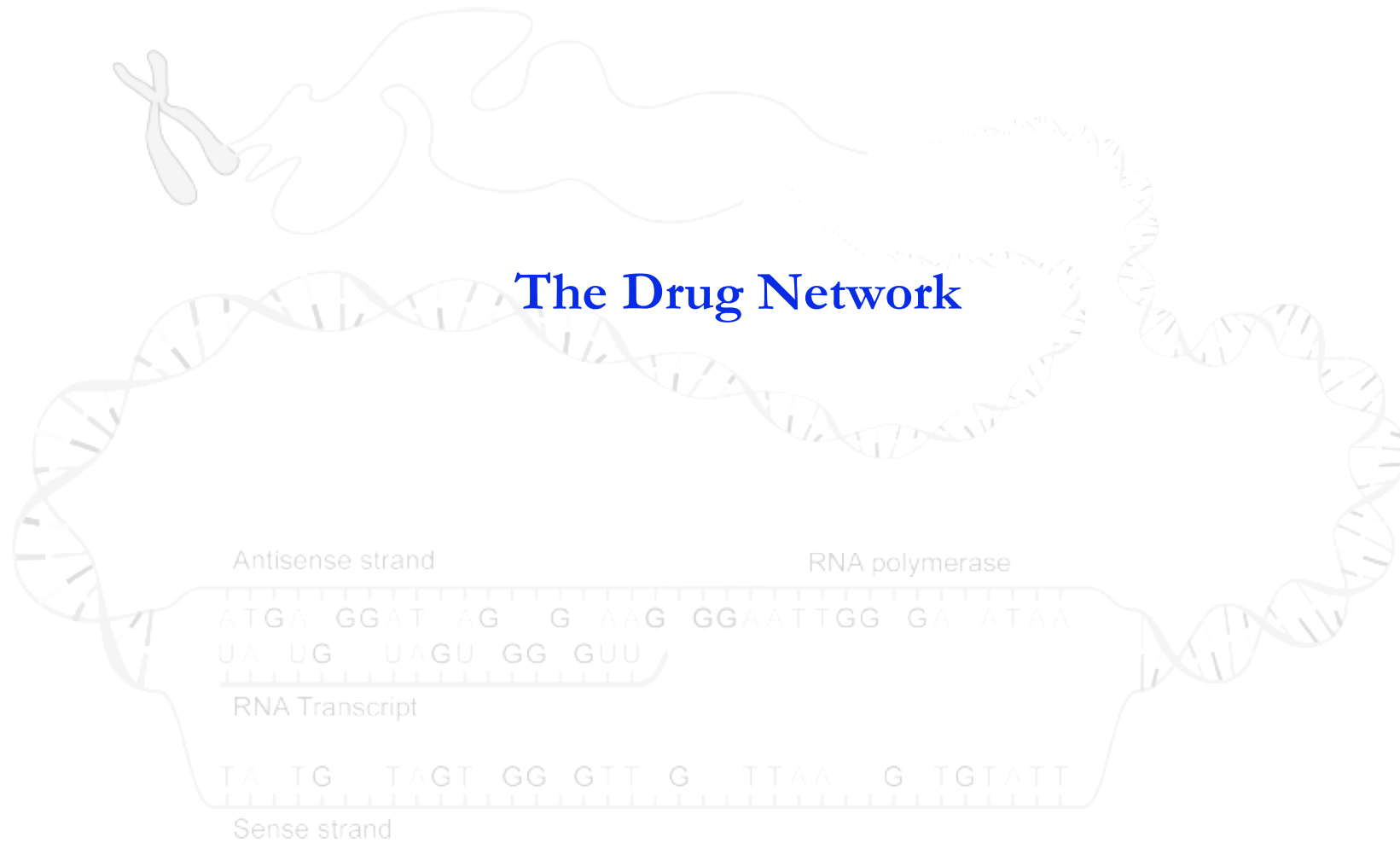
CHROMOSOME	ENRICHMENT	RANDOM
'1'	1.01	1.00
'2'	1.19	1.00
'3'	1.11	0.99
'4'	1.62	0.99
'5'	1.47	1.00
'6'	1.23	0.99
'7'	1.05	1.00
'8'	1.70	1.00
'9'	1.17	0.99
'10'	1.09	1.00
'11'	1.33	0.98
'12'	1.08	1.01
'13'	1.69	1.03
'14'	1.25	1.02
'15'	1.35	0.98
'16'	1.04	1.00
'17'	1.18	1.00
'18'	1.15	0.97
'19'	1.76	0.99
'20'	1.26	1.01
'21'	1.07	0.96
'22'	1.59	1.01
'X'	1.38	0.99

14	217217_at	IGH@	22	217407_x_at	PP1L2
14	211430_s_at	IGH@	22	213996_at	YPEL1
14	222285_at	IGHD	22	212271_at	MAPK1
14	213674_x_at	IGHD	22	208351_s_at	MAPK1
14	215621_s_at	IGHD	22	203063_at	PPM1F
14	212827_at	IGHM	22	37384_at	PPM1F
14	209374_s_at	IGHM	22	207758_at	FLJ23185
14	214916_x_at	IGH@	22	215781_s_at	TOP3B
14	211878_at	IGHG1	22	213660_s_at	TOP3B
14	211634_x_at	IGHM	22	215777_at	IGLV4-60
14	211637_x_at	IGH@	22	216301_at	---
14	216706_x_at	IGHA1	22	215035_at	IGLV6-57
14	217260_x_at	IGHG1	22	215036_at	---
14	217281_x_at	IGH@	22	221349_at	VPREB1
14	211633_x_at	IGHG1	22	217179_x_at	---
14	211635_x_at	IGH@	22	217180_at	---
14	211639_x_at	IGH@	22	211655_at	IGL@
14	211641_x_at	IGH@	22	215121_x_at	IGL@
14	211908_x_at	IGHG1	22	216573_at	IGL@
14	211638_at	IGH@	22	217172_at	---
14	211646_at	IGH@	22	217193_x_at	IL8
14	211649_x_at	IGH@	22	217227_x_at	IGL@
14	211835_at	IGH@	22	216412_x_at	IGL@
14	211650_x_at	IGHA1	22	216495_x_at	IVD
14	211868_x_at	IGHA1	22	216394_x_at	---
14	220377_at	FAM30A	22	216430_x_at	IGL@
14	206478_at	KIAA01	22	217251_x_at	IVD
14	216491_x_at	IGHM	22	217258_x_at	IGL@
14	217222_at	LOC64	22	215048_at	ZNF280B
14	217236_x_at	IGH@	22	216034_at	ZNF280A
14	214973_x_at	IGHD	22	204086_at	PRAME
14	217369_at	IGHG1	22	215214_at	IGL@
14	216542_x_at	IGHA1	22	209138_x_at	IGL@
14	216557_x_at	IGHA1	22	211798_x_at	IGLJ3
14	216510_x_at	IGHA1	22	211881_x_at	IGLJ3
14	217083_at	IGHG1	22	216846_at	IGL@
14	217084_at	IGHA1	22	216851_at	IGL@
14	215949_x_at	IGHM	22	216852_x_at	IGL@
14	216558_x_at	IGHA1	22	216853_x_at	IGLV3-19
14	217198_x_at	IGH@	22	216365_x_at	IGL@
14	217360_x_at	IGHA1	22	216366_x_at	---
14	211632_at	IGHD	22	215379_x_at	IGL@
14	217169_at	IGHA1	22	216708_x_at	CKAP2
14	211636_at	IGH@	22	216984_x_at	IGLV2-11
14	217239_x_at	---	22	217138_x_at	IGL@
14	215721_at	IGHG1	22	217148_x_at	IGL@
14	216363_at	---	22	216566_at	RPL14
14	211647_x_at	IGHA1	22	217235_x_at	IGL@
14	211648_at	IGHA1	22	216560_x_at	IGL@
14	216541_x_at	IGHA1	22	214677_x_at	IGL@
2	214768_x_at	FAM20B	22	220105_at	RTDR1
2	216829_at	IGK@	22	204993_at	GNAZ
2	215217_at	---	22	211471_s_at	RAB36
2	215176_x_at	LOC10013	22	202315_s_at	BCR
2	211644_x_at	IGK@	22	217223_s_at	BCR
2	217036_at	---	22	214623_at	SHFM3P1
2	217157_x_at	IGK@	22	222274_at	ZDHHC8
2	217145_at	IGK@	22	221108_at	LOC9133
2	217151_at	---	22	213502_x_at	LOC9133
2	216401_x_at	LOC65249	22	215816_at	LOC9133
2	211645_x_at	---	22	215196_at	---
2	214777_at	IGKV4-1	22	215202_at	LOC9133
2	211643_x_at	IGK@	22	220068_at	VPREB3
2	214836_x_at	IGKC	22	203876_s_at	MMP11
2	217034_at	NTN2L	22	203877_at	MMP11
2	216576_x_at	IGKC	22	203878_s_at	MMP11
2	216207_x_at	IGKC	22	213602_s_at	MMP11
2	216517_at	HLA-C	22	212167_s_at	SMARCB1
2	214110_s_at	LOC65434	22	206532_at	---
2	204777_s_at	MAL	22	221262_s_at	SLC2A11

Conclusion of Part I:

- Using expression data from a wide variety of tissues and cell lines enables the identification of functional modules within the cell regulatory network
- It is possible to predict functional and physical interactors of a gene using co-expression networks
- It is possible to predict the function of a gene from its interactors (i.e. co-expressed genes)
- We are now looking at how this global interactome network can be useful in interpreting gene expression data and to understand the global organisation of the cell regulatory network

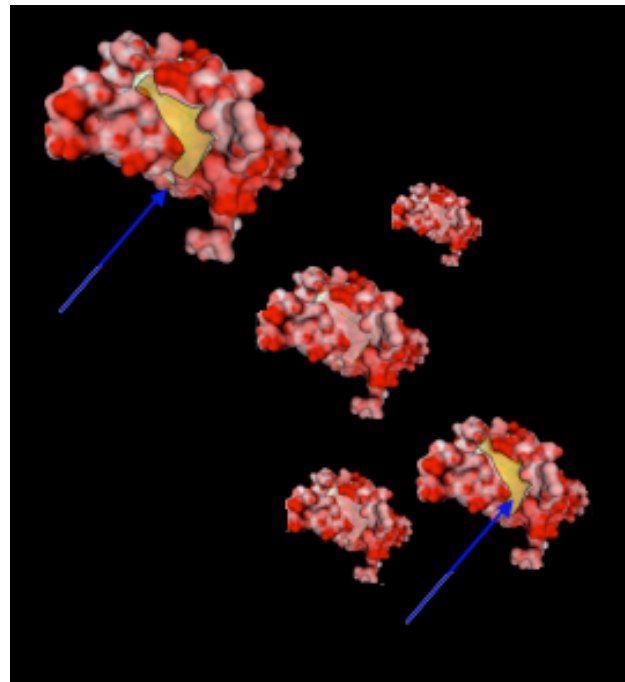
Part II: Understanding Drug Mode of Action



Drug Discovery Problem

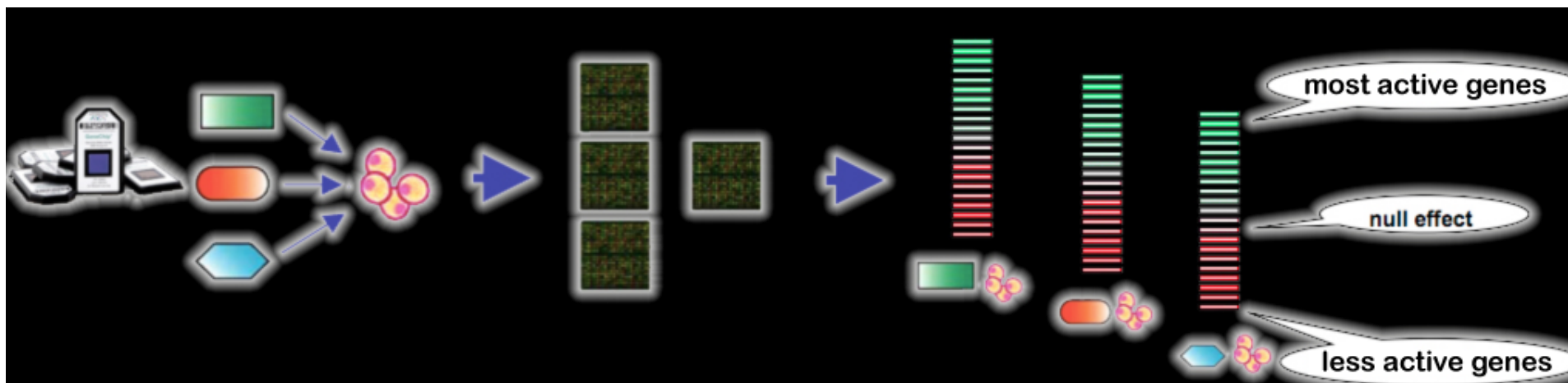
We want to investigate the mode of action of a novel drug...

**Therapeutic
Target**



**Off
Target**

The Connectivity Map DataSet (microarrays):



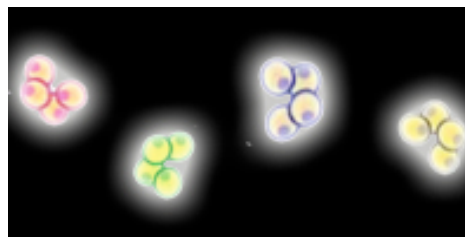
Differential Expression Profiles
as Ranked Lists of Genes

small molecules: 1309 perturbagens tested
(FDA approved and nondrug bioactive compounds)



cell lines:

- MCF7 (human epithelial breast cancer)
- PC3 (human epithelial prostate cancer)
- HL60 (human leukemia)
- SKMEL5 (human melanoma)
- ssMCF7 (MCF7 grown in a different vehicle)



Concentration and treatment

10mM (when the optimal concentration is unknown) x 6h

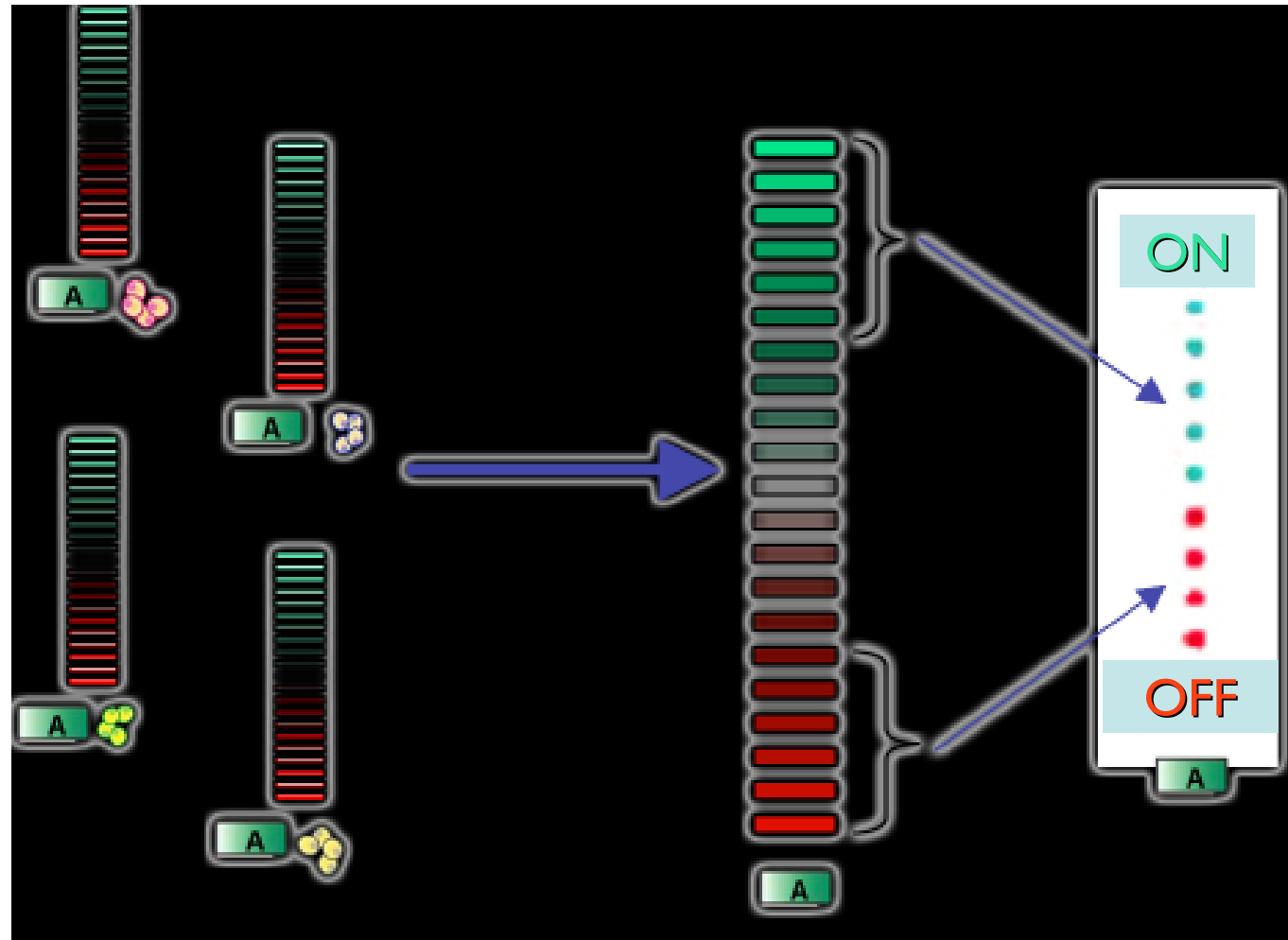
Negative Control

cells in the same plate and treated with vehicle alone (medium, DMSO...)

[Lamb et Al, Science 2006]

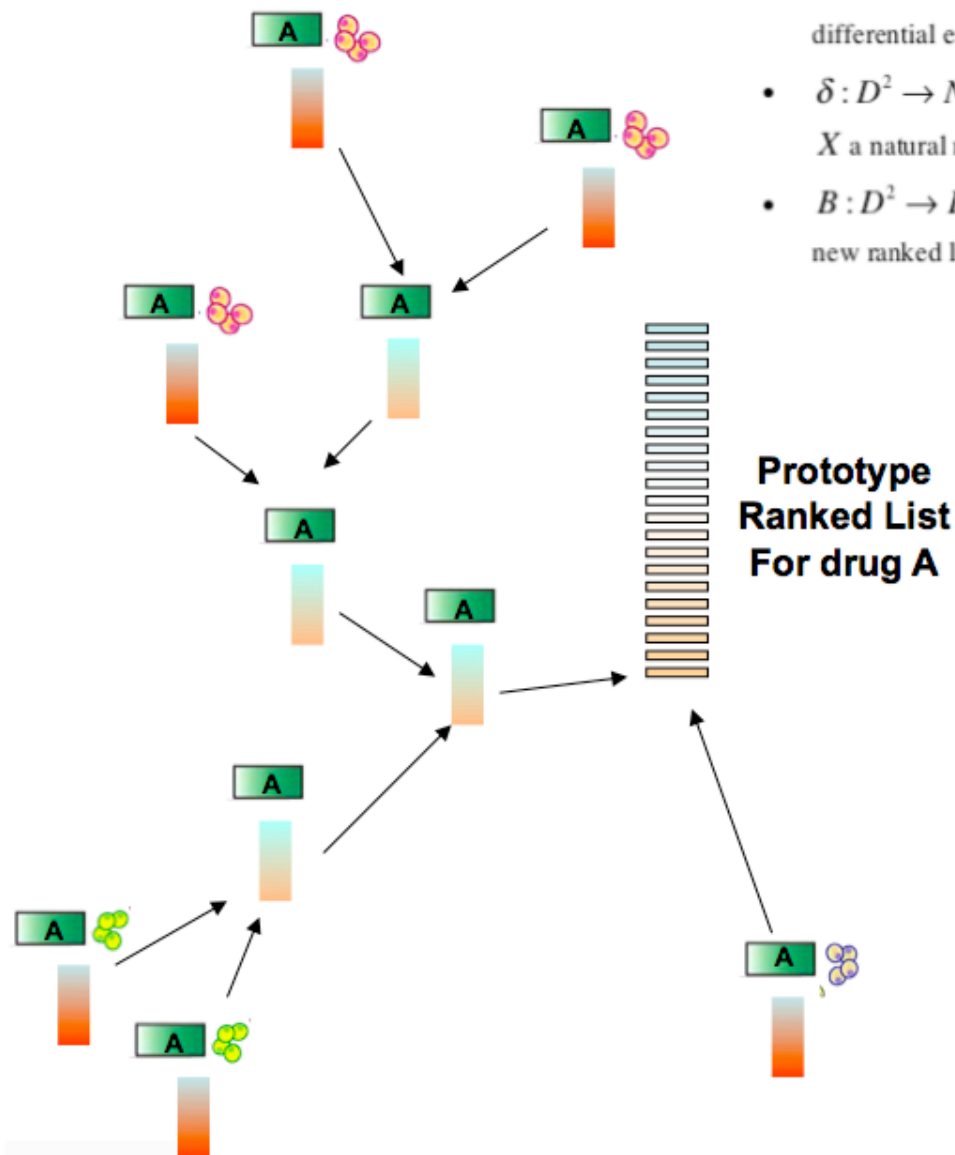
General Cellular Response to a Drug:

Using a novel rank aggregation method
(next slide)



Prototype
Ranked List (PRL)
for Drug A

The Kru-Bor Merging Method



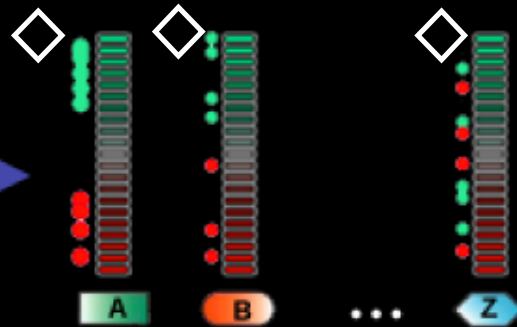
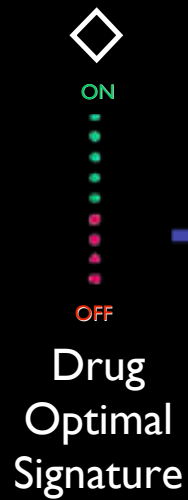
- D : The set of all the possible permutations of microarray probes;
- X : A set of ranked lists of probes computed by sorting, in decreasing order, the genome-wide differential expression profiles (GEP) obtained by treating cell lines with the same drug;
- $\delta : D^2 \rightarrow N$: The *Spearman's Foot-Rule* distance associating to each pair of ranked lists in X a natural number quantifying the similarity between them;
- $B : D^2 \rightarrow D$: The *Borda Merging Function*, associating to each pair of ranked lists in X , a new ranked lists obtained by merging them with the *Borda Merging Method*;

1. $n = |X|$
2. while $n > 1$
3. find $i, j : \delta(x_i, x_j) = \min_{p, q=1, \dots, n; p \neq q} \delta(x_p, x_q)$
4. $y = B(x_i, x_j)$
5. $X = (X / \{x_i, x_j\}) \cup \{y\}$
6. $n = |X|$
7. end

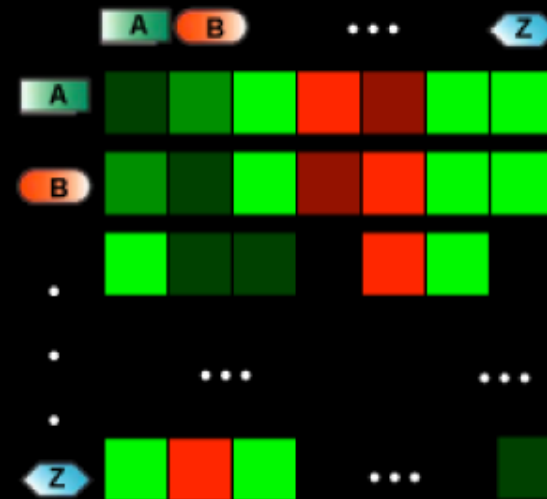


The Drug Distance Matrix

For each drug \diamond



Check how many changed genes are in common



Compute similarity by using Enrichment Scores

Computation of the drug distance:

- Given a set of N_H probes in S and a ranked list of N probes:
- The Enrichment Score of S on the list is defined as:
 - $\max_i |P_{\text{hit}} - P_{\text{miss}}|$
 - where:

$$P_{\text{hit}}(S, i) = \sum_{\substack{g_j \in S \\ j \leq i}} \frac{1}{N_H}$$
$$P_{\text{miss}}(S, i) = \sum_{\substack{g_j \notin S \\ j \leq i}} \frac{1}{(N - N_H)}.$$

Computation of the distance:

Total Enrichment Score

Given two set of probe identifiers $p = \{p_1, \dots, p_h\}$ and $q = \{q_1, \dots, q_w\}$ we define the Total Enrichment Score, TES, of the *signature* $\{p, q\}$ respect to the GEP x_i , as follows:

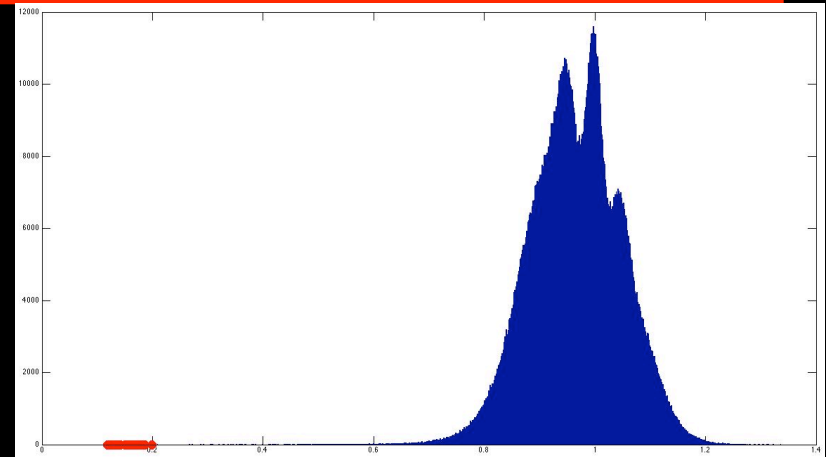
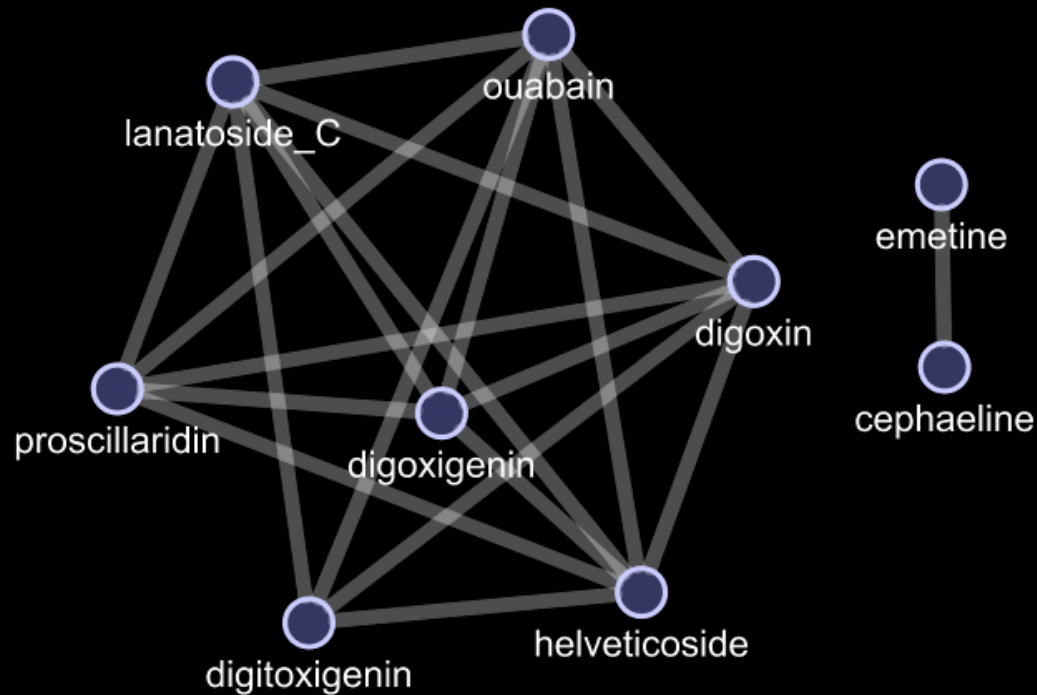
$$TES_i^{\{p,q\}} = \frac{(ES_i^p - ES_i^q)}{2}. \quad (1)$$

We then define as a distance between two compounds **i** and **j** the following quantity:

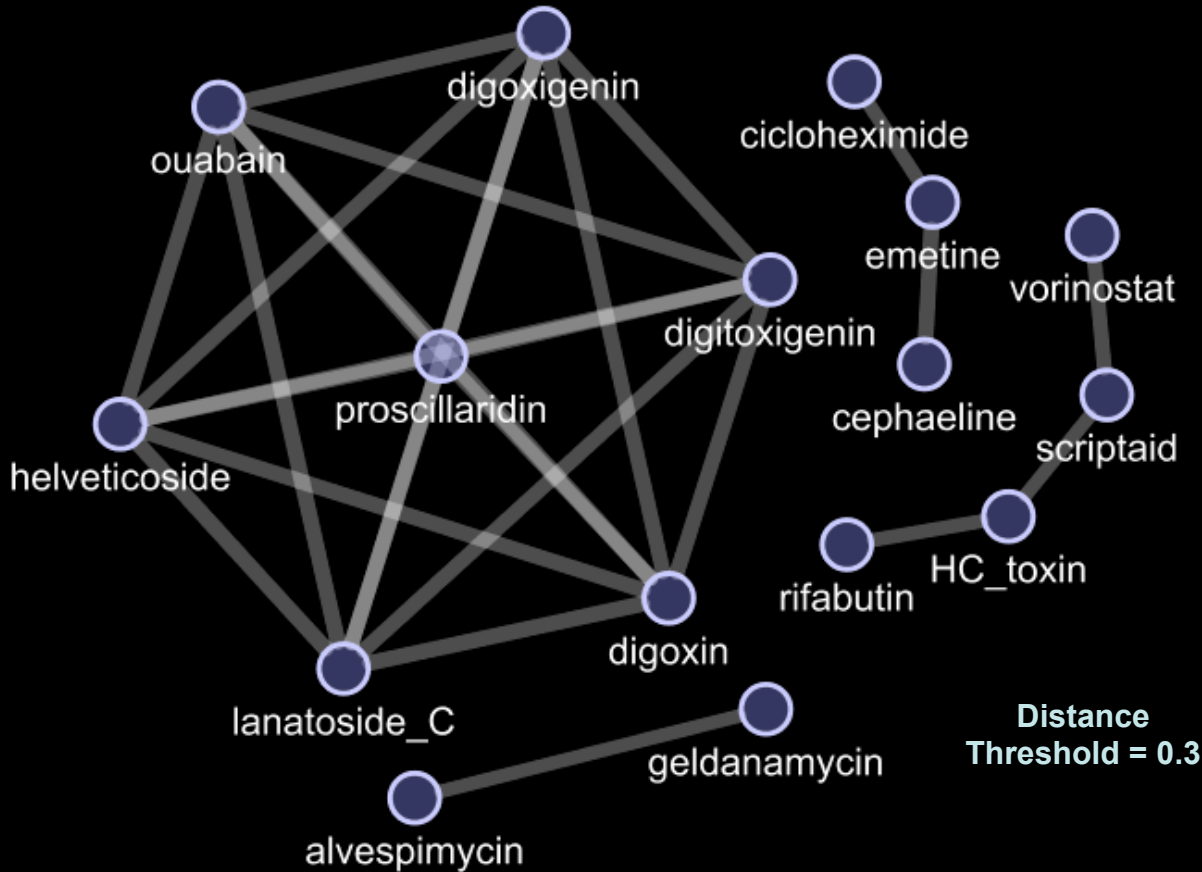
$$\frac{1}{2} (TES_i^{\{p_j, q_j\}} + TES_j^{\{p_i, q_i\}})$$

The Drug Network is obtained by setting a threshold:

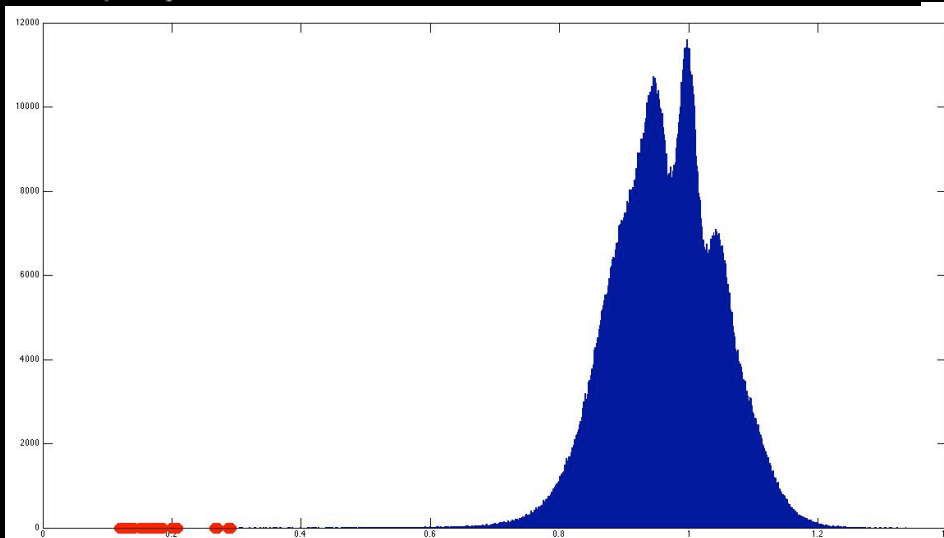
Distance
Threshold = 0.2

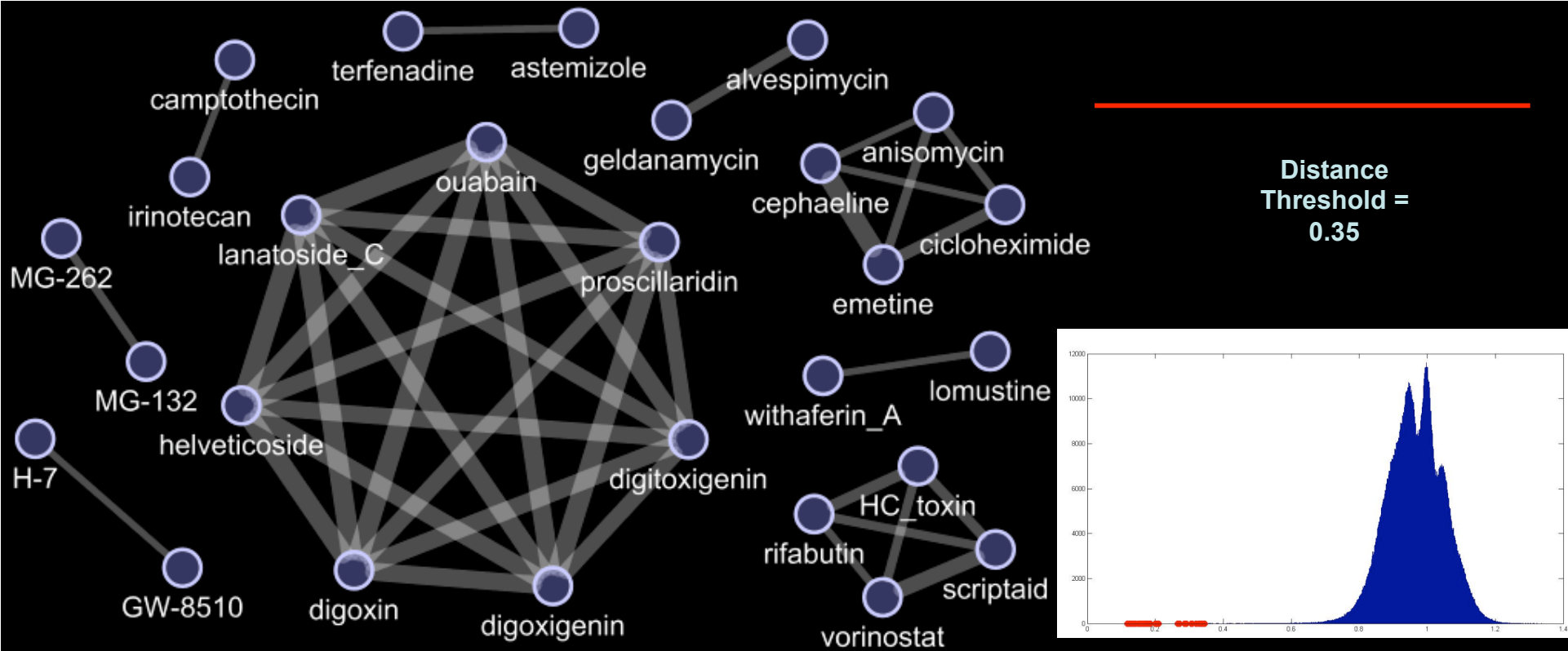


Compound	Informations
Cephaeline	Ipecac (a plant) Alkaoids - Protein Synthesis inhibition
Emetine	
Digoxigenin	Steroids found in some species of digitalis (purpurea or lanata), a plants. Used to treat Cardiac Diseases.
Digoxin	
Digitoxigenin	
Helveticoside	Cardiac Glycoside
Ouabain	Endogenous hormone found in the ripe seeds of the african plant Strophanthus. It blocks the sodium pump and it is used to cure human heart failure, angina pectoris and Myocardial infarction.
Proscillaridin	Cardiotonic Glycoside isolated from Scilla maritima var. Alba (a plant)
Lanatoside C	Cardiac Glycoside

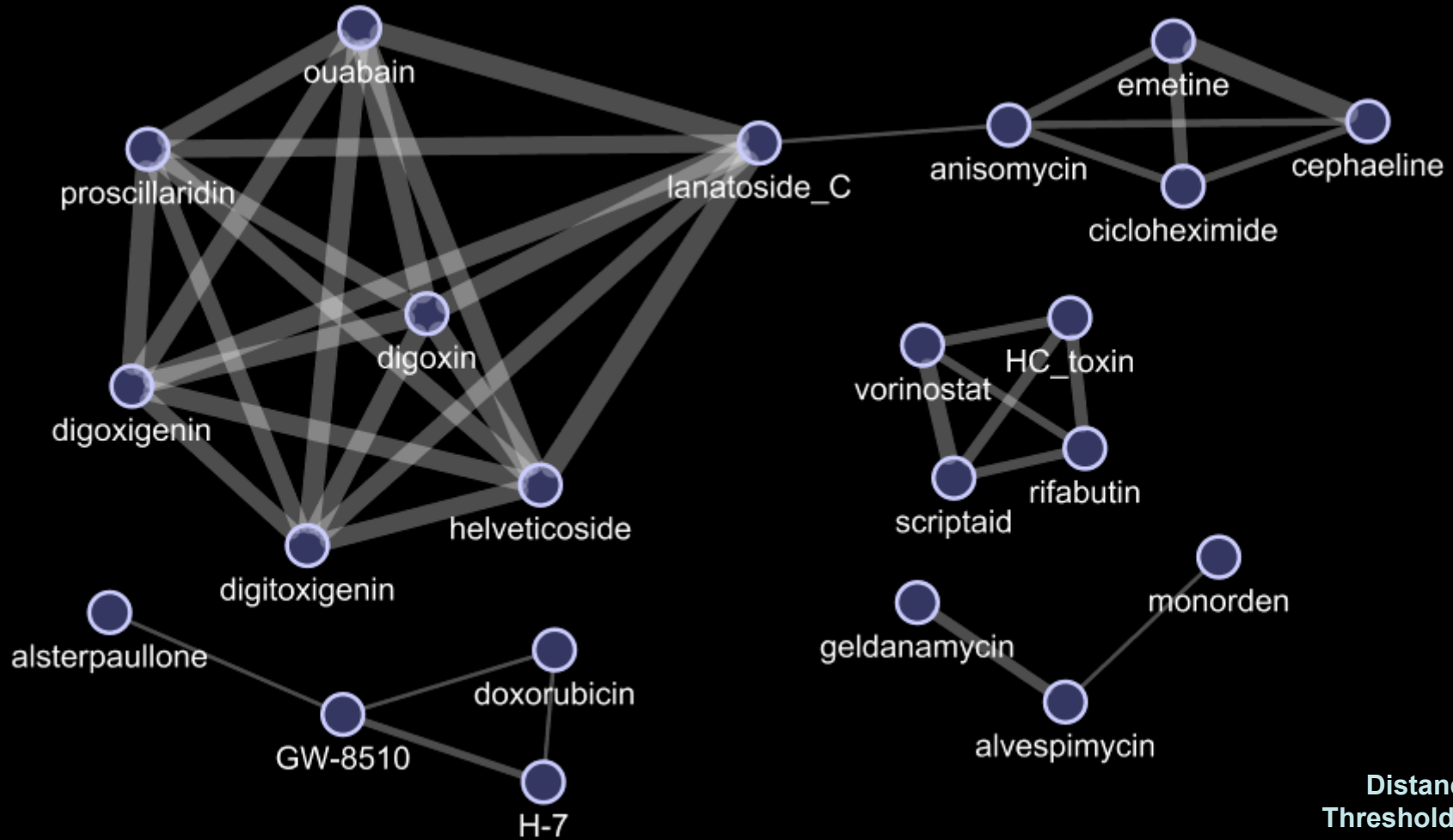


Compound	Informations
Cicloheximide	Antibiotic substance isolated from streptomycin-producing strains of <i>Streptomyces griseus</i> . It acts by inhibiting elongation during protein synthesis.
Geldanamycin	a benzoquinone ansamycin antibiotic that binds to Hsp90 (Heat Shock Protein 90) and alters its function.
Alvespimycin	Hsp90 inhibitor that has demonstrated the potential to disrupt the activity of multiple oncogenes and cell signaling pathways implicated in tumor growth, including HER2, a key signaling pathway in breast cancer.
vorinostat	or suberoylanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA) is a member of a larger class of compounds that inhibit histone deacetylases (HDAC).
scriptaid	A novel histone deacetylase inhibitor
HC Toxin	Inhibition of Maize Histone Deacetylases by HC Toxin, the Host-Selective Toxin of <i>Cochliobolus carbonum</i>
Rifabutin	Rifabutin is a bactericidal antibiotic drug primarily used in the treatment of tuberculosis. The drug is a semi-synthetic derivative of rifamycin S. Its effect is based on blocking the DNA-dependent RNA-polymerase of the bacteria.





Compound	Informations	Compound	Informations
anisomycin	also known as flagecidin is an antibiotic produced by Streptomyces griseolus which inhibits protein synthesis.	MG-262	a proteasome inhibitor
captothecin	a cytotoxic quinoline alkaloid which inhibits the DNA enzyme topoisomerase I (topo I).	MG-132	a proteasome inhibitor
irinotecan	a chemotherapy agent that is a topoisomerase 1 inhibitor. Chemically, it is a semisynthetic analogue of the natural alkaloid camptothecin.	Lomustine	is an alkylating nitrosourea compound used in chemotherapy. It is in the same family as streptozotocin
astemizole	a second generation antihistamine drug which has a long duration of action.	Withaferin A	an anticancer
terfenadine	an antihistamine formerly used for the treatment of allergic conditions.	H-7	Protein Kinase C Inhibitor
		GW-8510	Cyclin Dependant Kinase (CDK) inhibitor . (CDK2 in.)



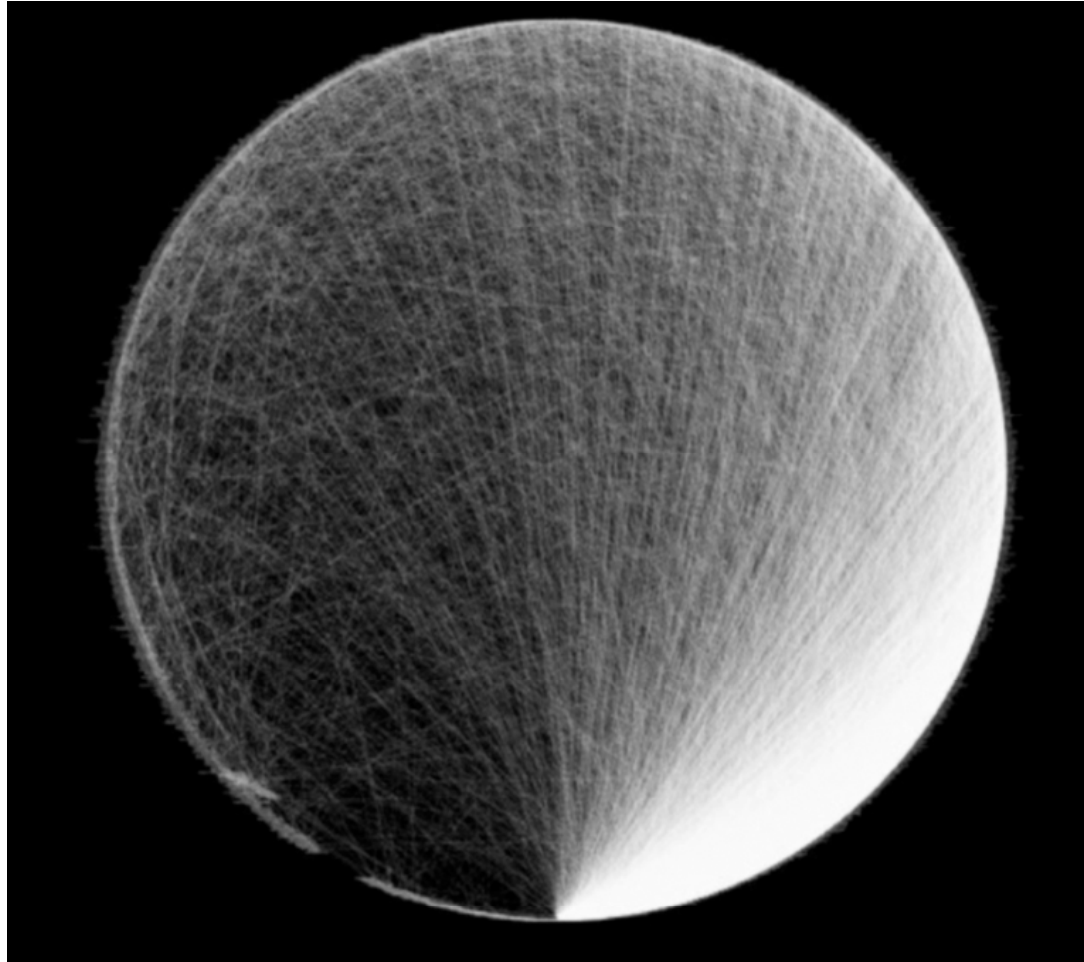
Distance
Threshold = 0.4

Secondary Similarity	Informations
Lanatoside C, anisomycin	Caspase-3 inhibitors

Compound	Informations
monorden	(radicol) antifugal metabolites. It inhibits the Hsp90 Chaperone
alsterpaullone	CDKs inhibitor
doxorubicin	a drug widely used in cancer chemotherapy. It is an anthracycline antibiotic and structurally closely related to daunomycin. Used in combination with CDKs inhibitors

The Drug network

There is an edge connecting two drugs if their distance is below a fixed threshold



Distance Threshold = 0.8049

Statistics

number of connected vertices = 1302

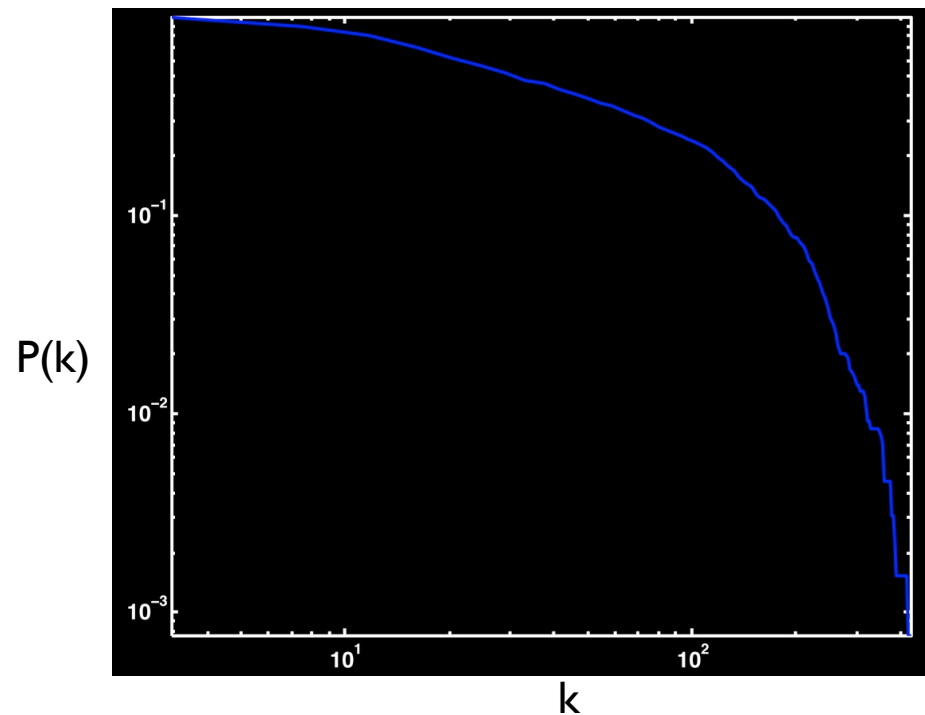
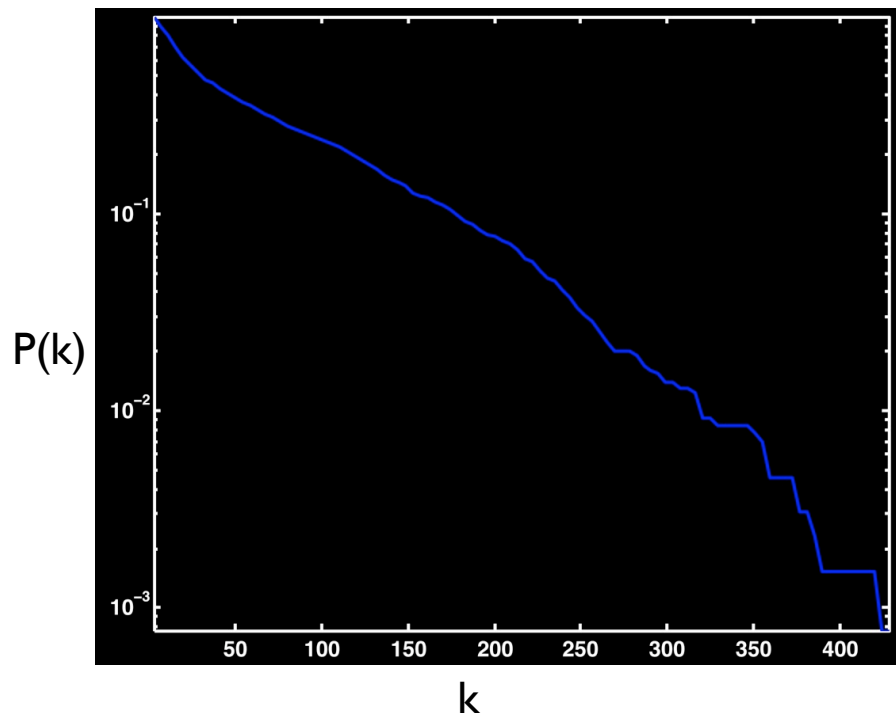
number of edges = 41047 (~ 5% of a fully connected network with the same number of nodes)

Avg. Shortest Path length = 2.5

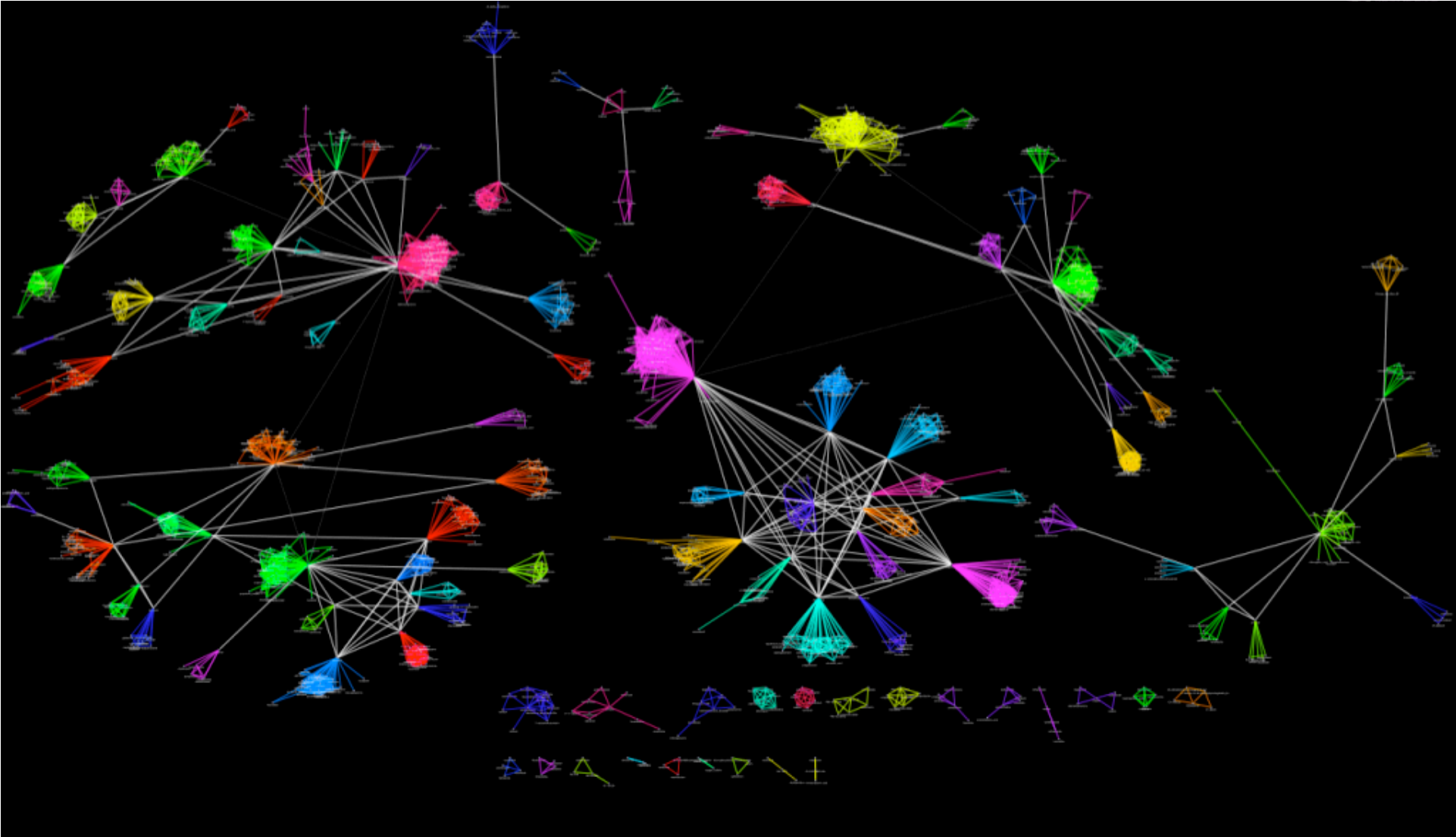
Avg. Local Clustering Coefficient = 0.44

Maximum Shortest Path = 7

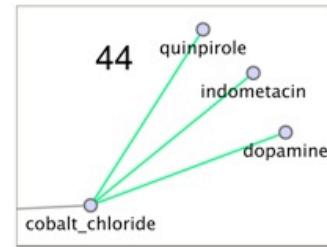
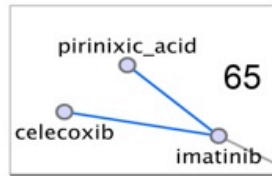
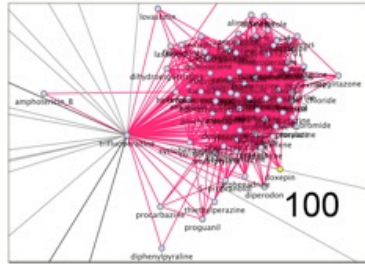
Node Degree Empirical cdf



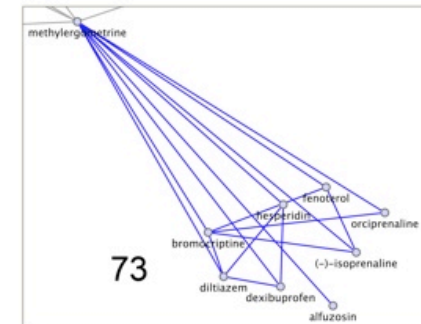
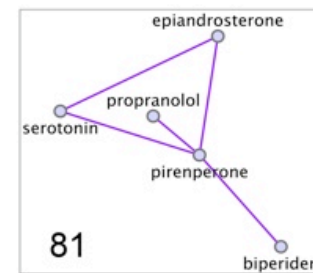
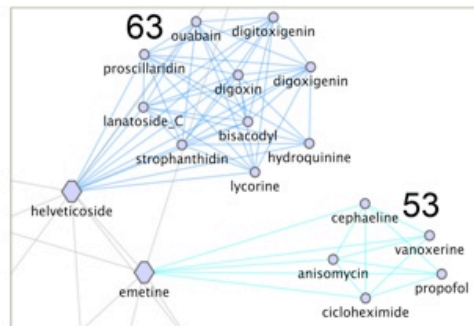
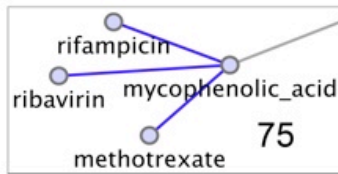
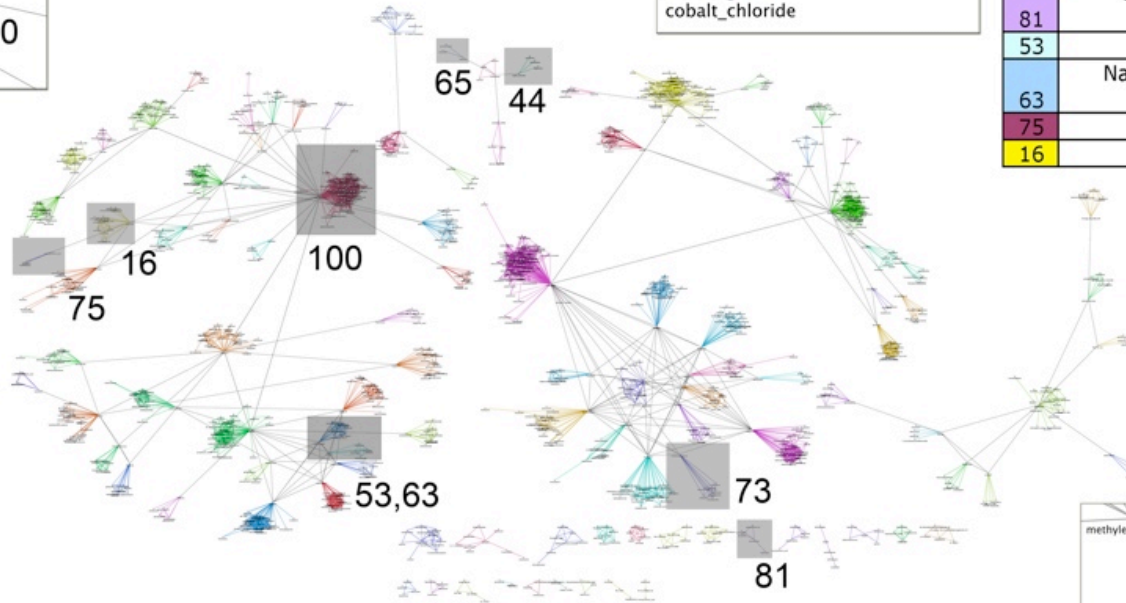
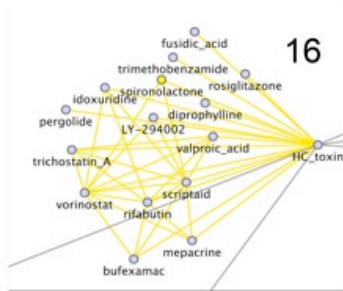
Community Identification by Hierarchical Clustering by Message Passing



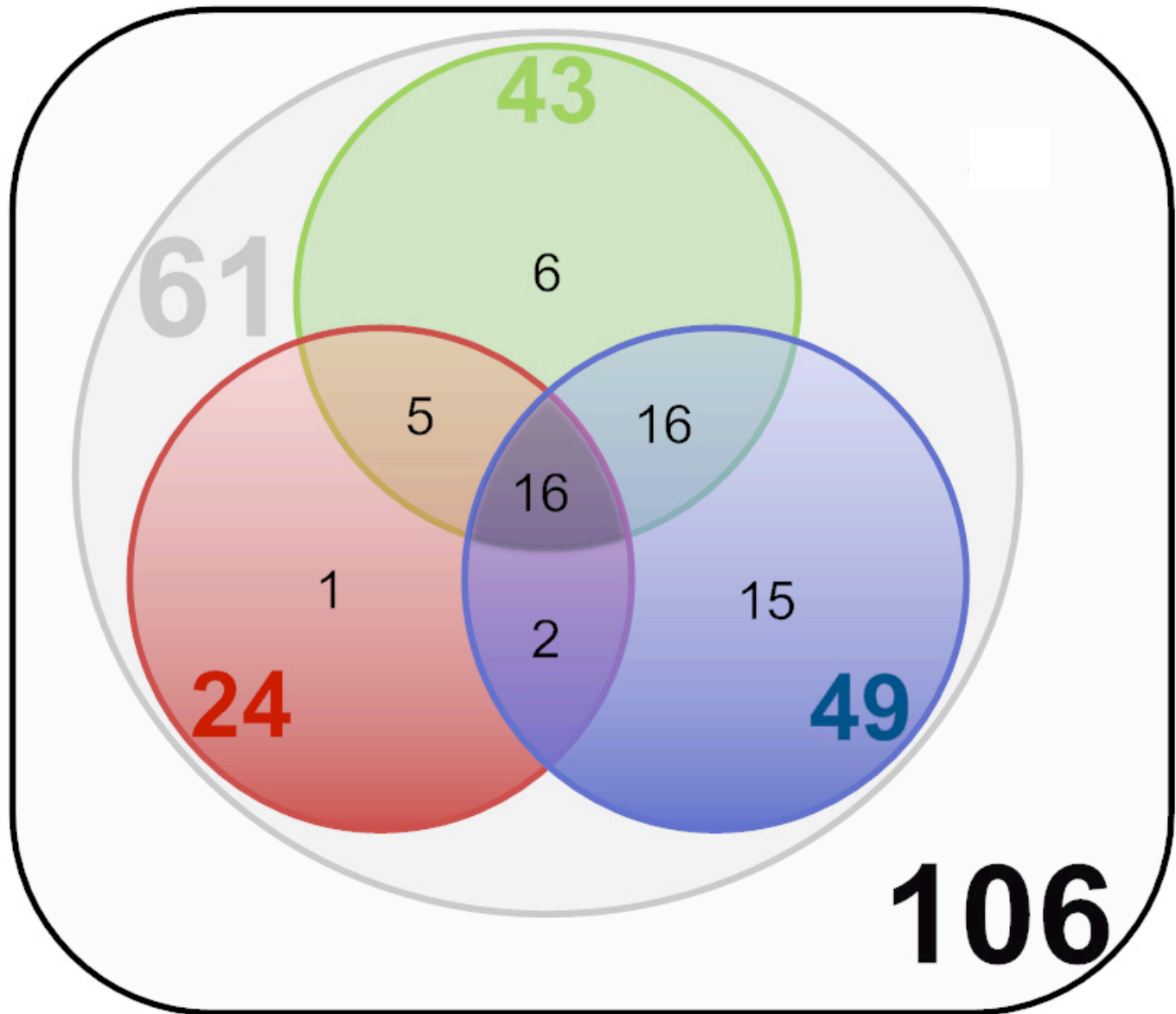
Community Validation



Id.	Most Enriched Function
100	Antipsychotics
65	COX2 Modulators
44	Dopaminergic Agents
73	Alpha and Beta Adrenergic Modulators
81	Serotonin Receptor Modulators, Antiparkinsonians
53	Protein Synthesis Inhibitors
63	Na ⁺ /K ⁺ - ATPase membrane pump inhibitors
75	Hepatic Henzymes Inducers
16	Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors



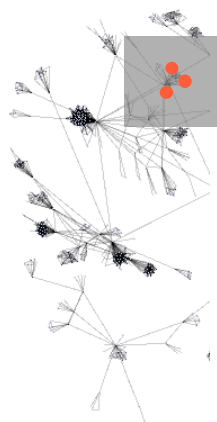
Community
Enrichment
Analysis



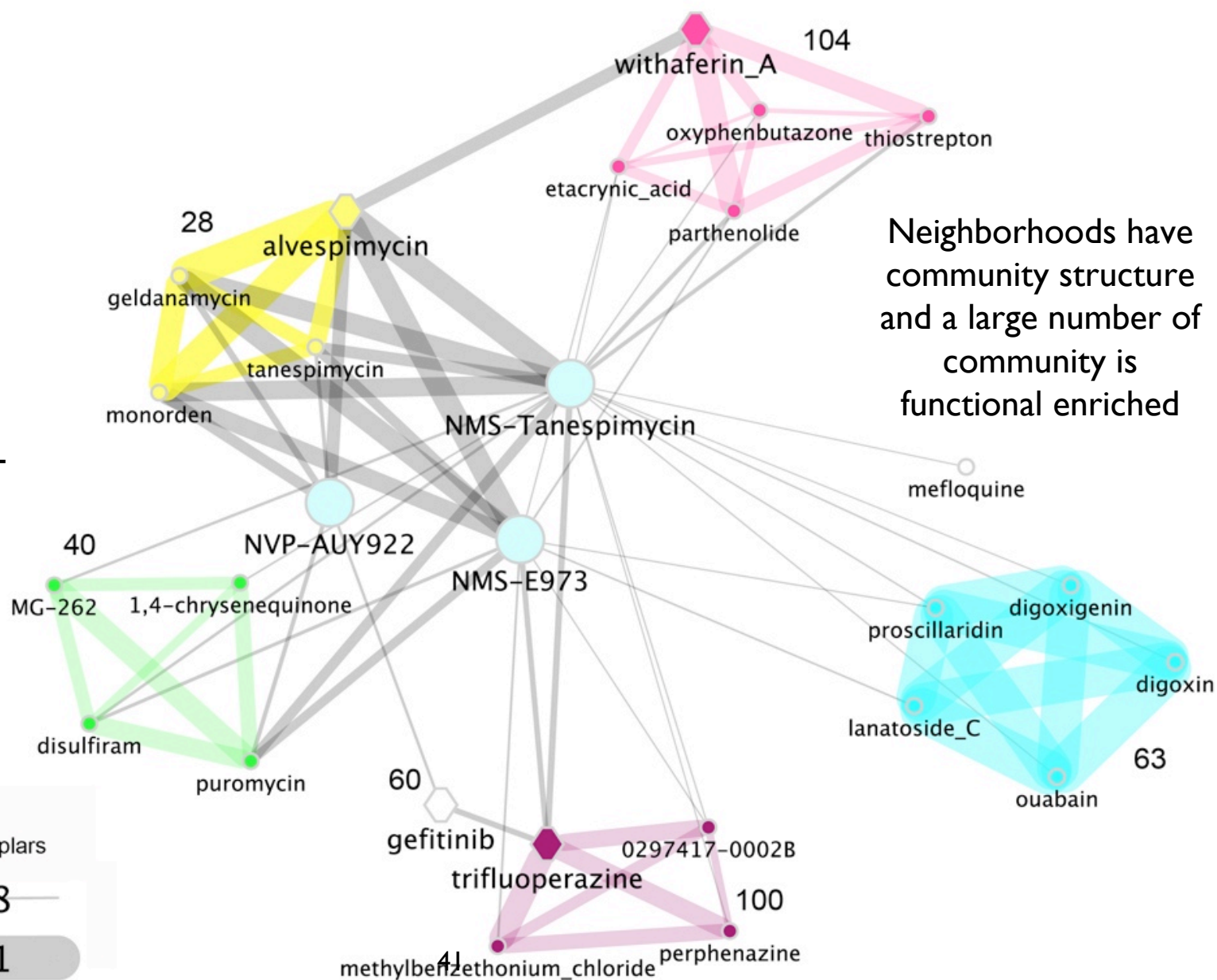
Identified Communities
Enriched Communities

ATC-Code Enriched
Direct Target Enriched
Functional Enriched

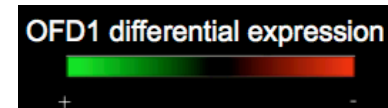
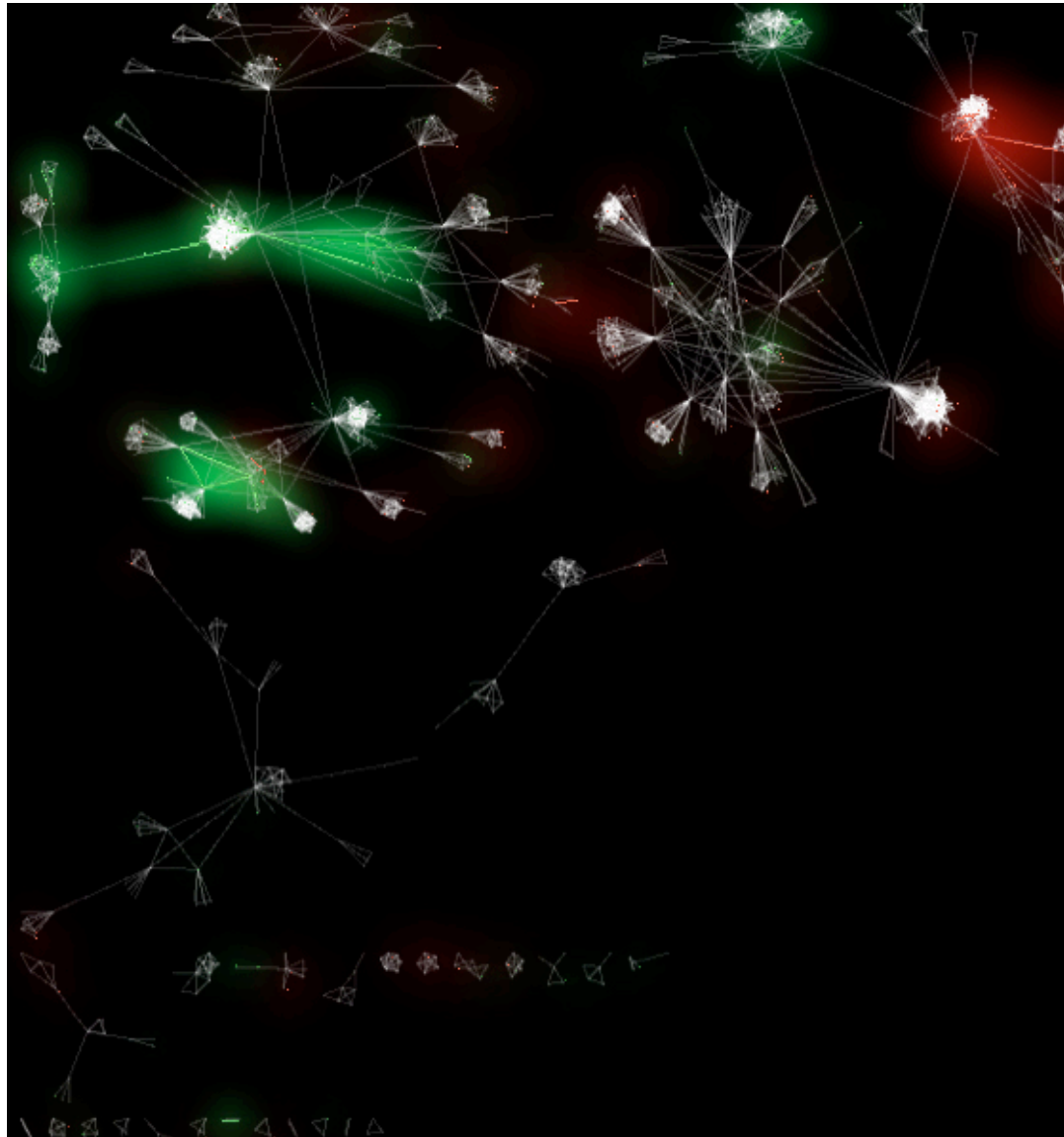
Experimental validation with three compounds:



This is helpful to “recover” the mode-of-action of a novel drugs



Mapping gene changes due to drug treatment:



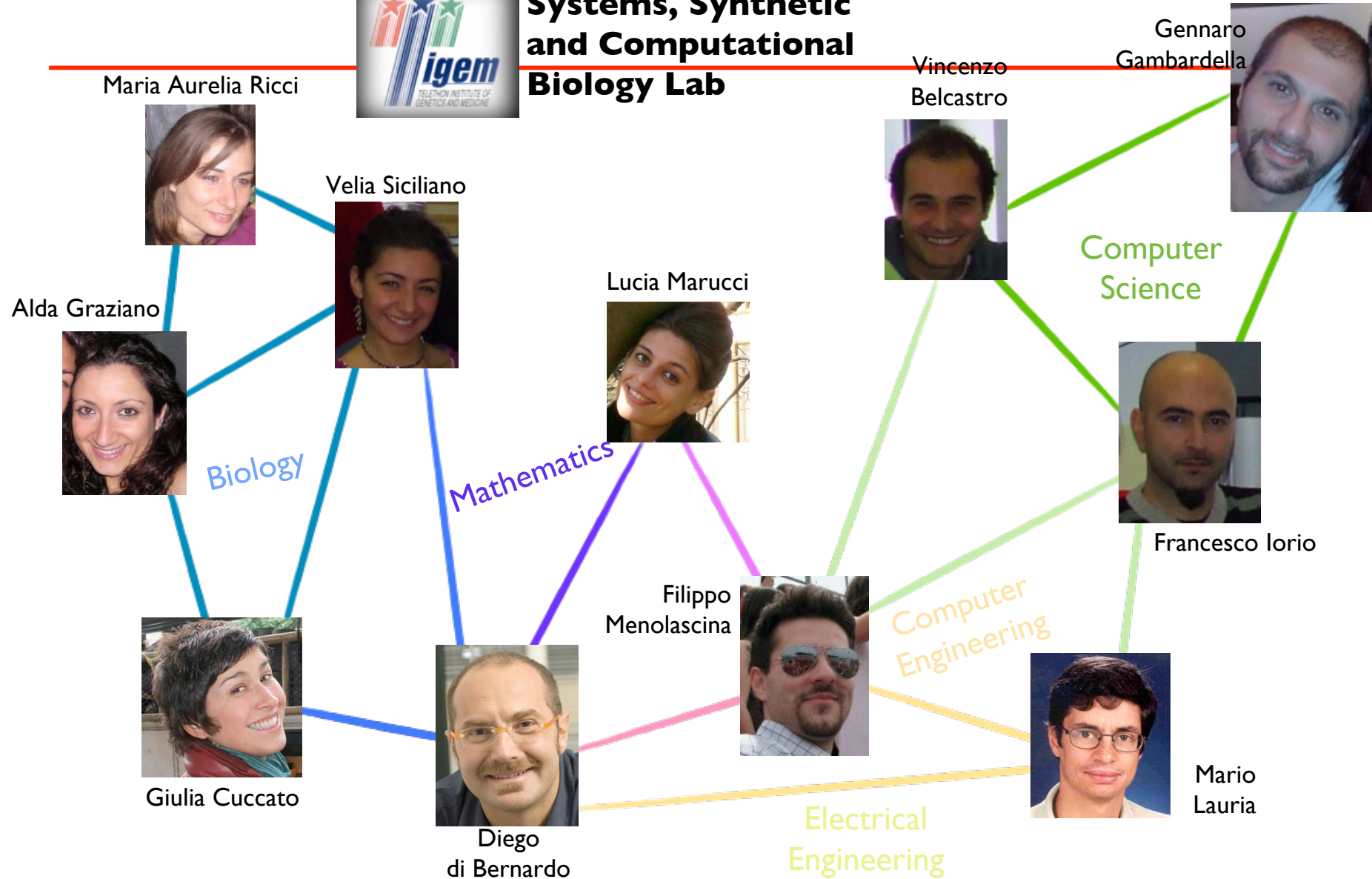
Part II: Conclusions

Drug Network = A novel, efficient tool to study drugs and their mode of action by gene expression profiling

- Performance assessment showed that 91% of tested compounds were correctly classified
- The modular structure of the sub-network that surrounds a new drug elucidates the MOA of the drug



Systems, Synthetic and Computational Biology Lab



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Nerviano Medical Sciences (Milano) - Italy