

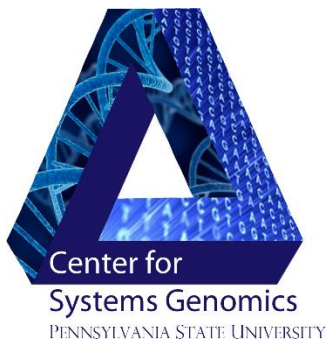
Beyond single genes or proteins

Marylyn D Ritchie, PhD

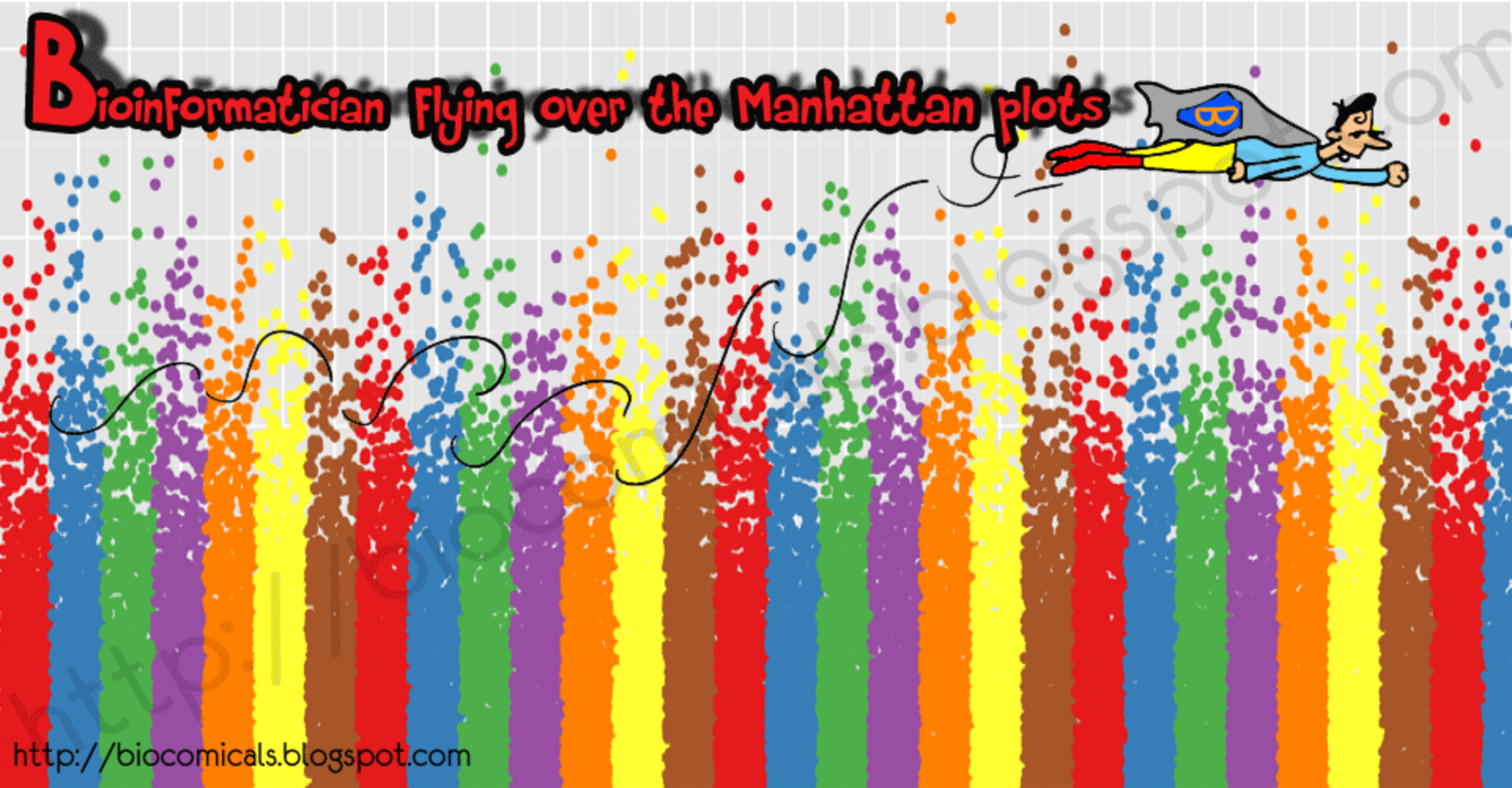
Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Director, Center for Systems Genomics

The Pennsylvania State University



Traditional Approach







Genome-wide Association Studies (GWAS)

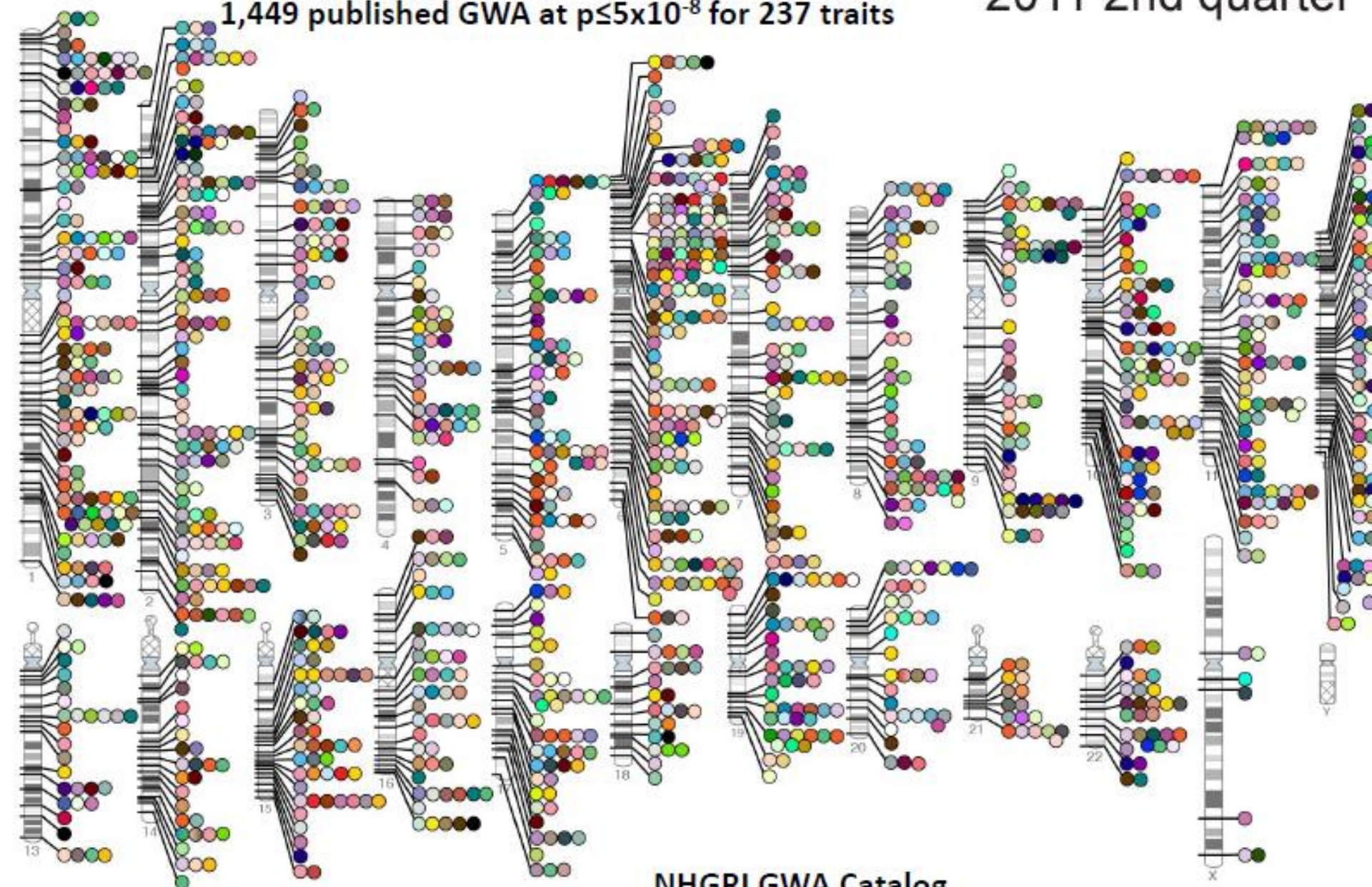
- Technology has advanced rapidly creating many molecular genetic tools for data generation
- Hundreds of thousands to millions of markers
- Hundreds to thousands of individuals
 - Population based
 - Family based
- Whole genome sequencing is the new frontier of data generation
 - Increasing data at all levels of biological variation



Published Genome-Wide Associations through 06/2011,

1,449 published GWA at $p \leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$ for 237 traits

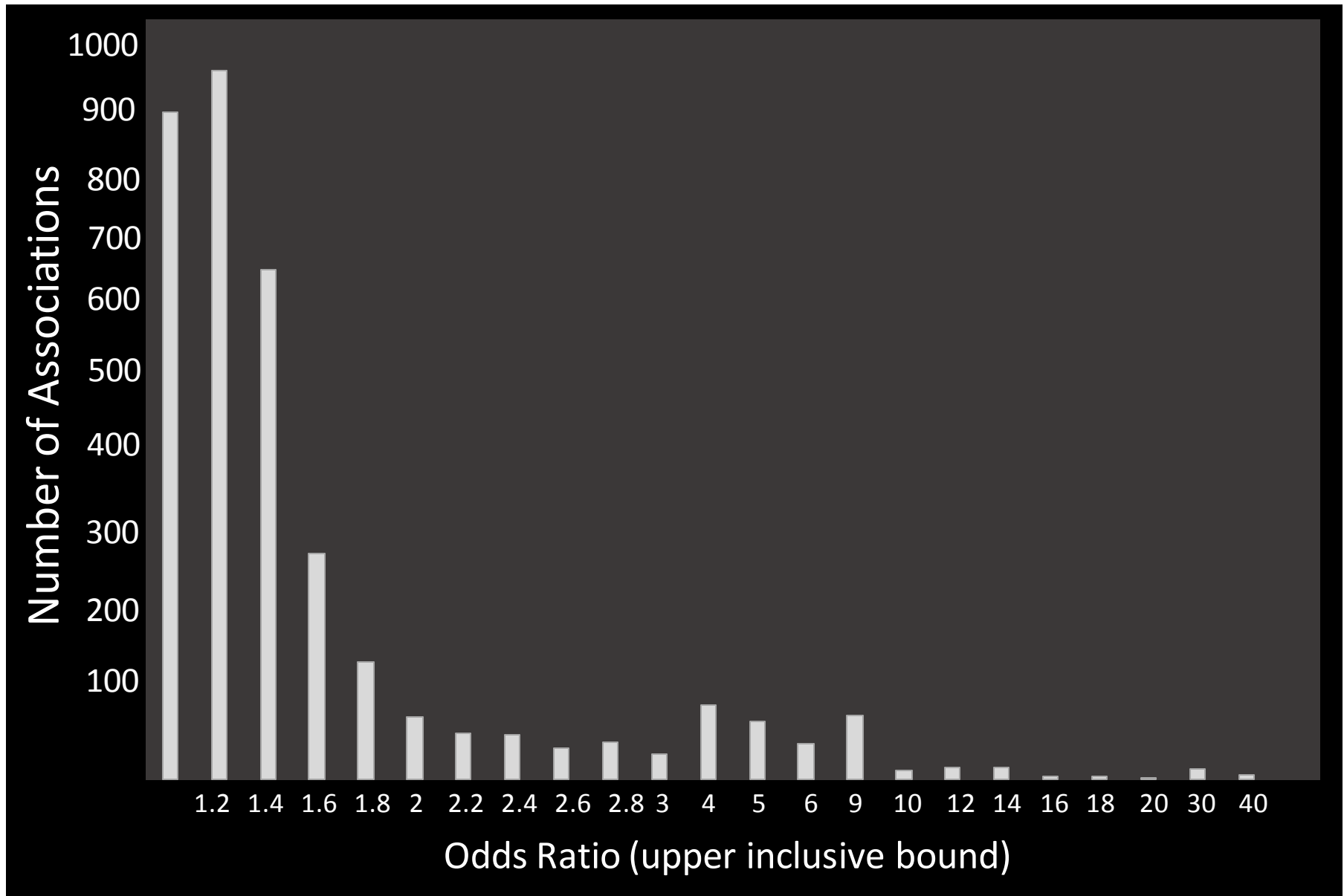
2011 2nd quarter

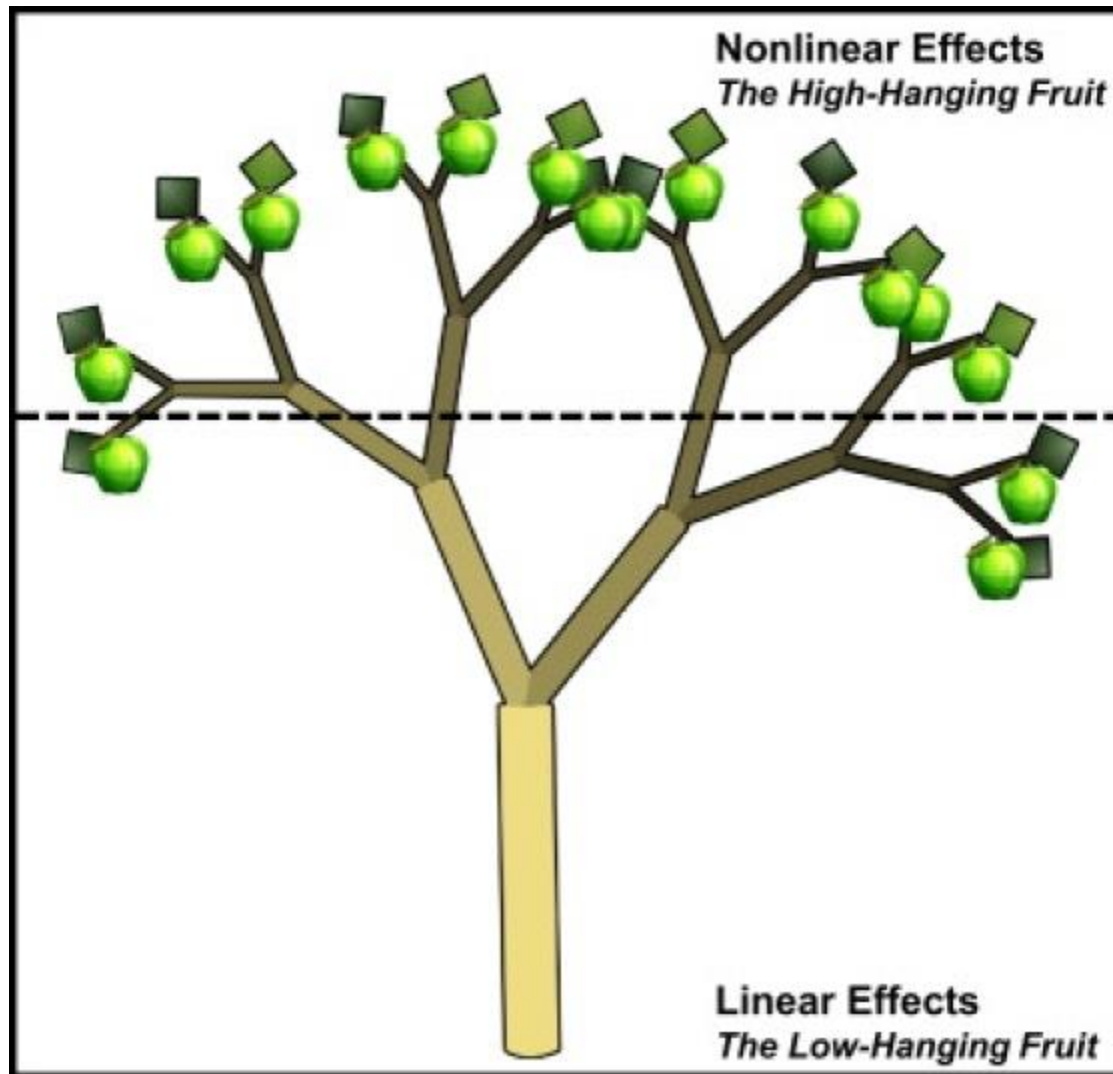


NHGRI GWA Catalog

www.genome.gov/GWAStudies

Distribution of Effects







The case of the missing heritability

When scientists opened up the human genome, they expected to find the genetic components of common traits and diseases. But they were nowhere to be seen. **Brendan Maher** shines a light on six places where the missing loot could be stashed away.



Missing Heritability

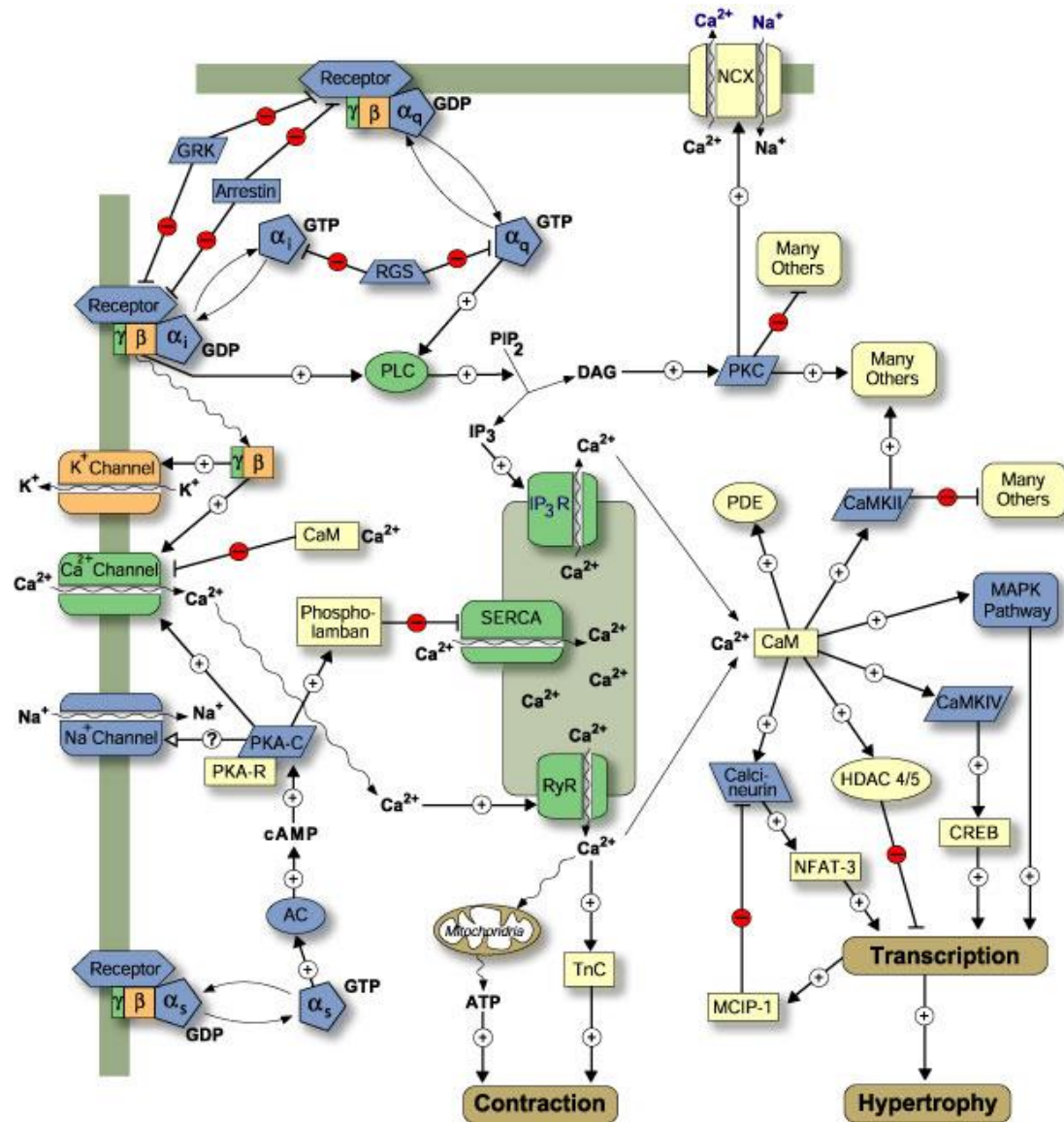


The case of the missing heritability

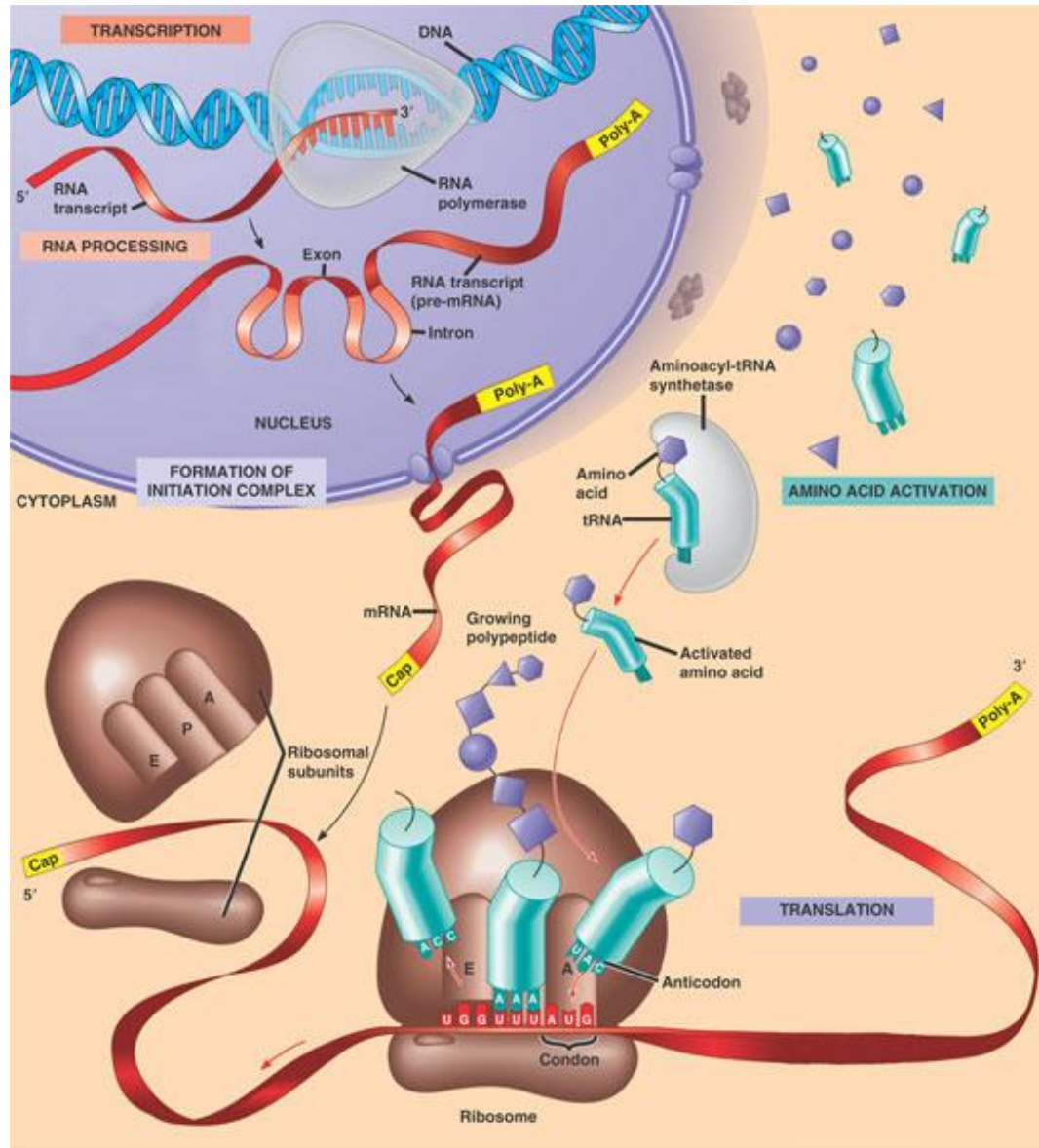
When scientists opened up the human genome, they expected to find the genetic components of common traits and diseases. But they were nowhere to be seen. **Brendan Maher** shines a light on six places where the missing loot could be stashed away.

- Under our nose
- Out of sight
- In the architecture
- Underground networks
- Lost in diagnosis
- The great beyond

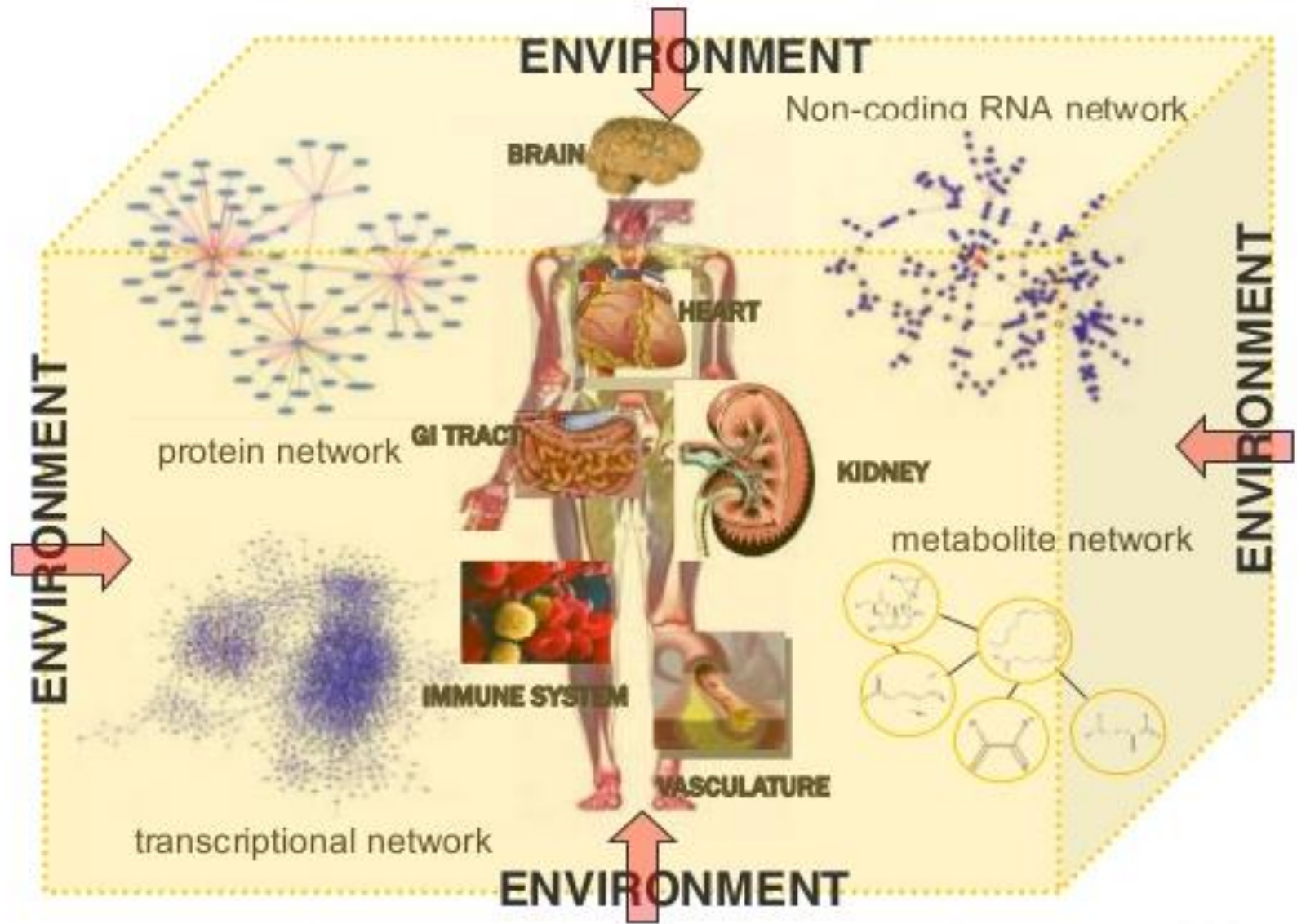
Biology is complex



Molecular biology is complex



Biology is complex

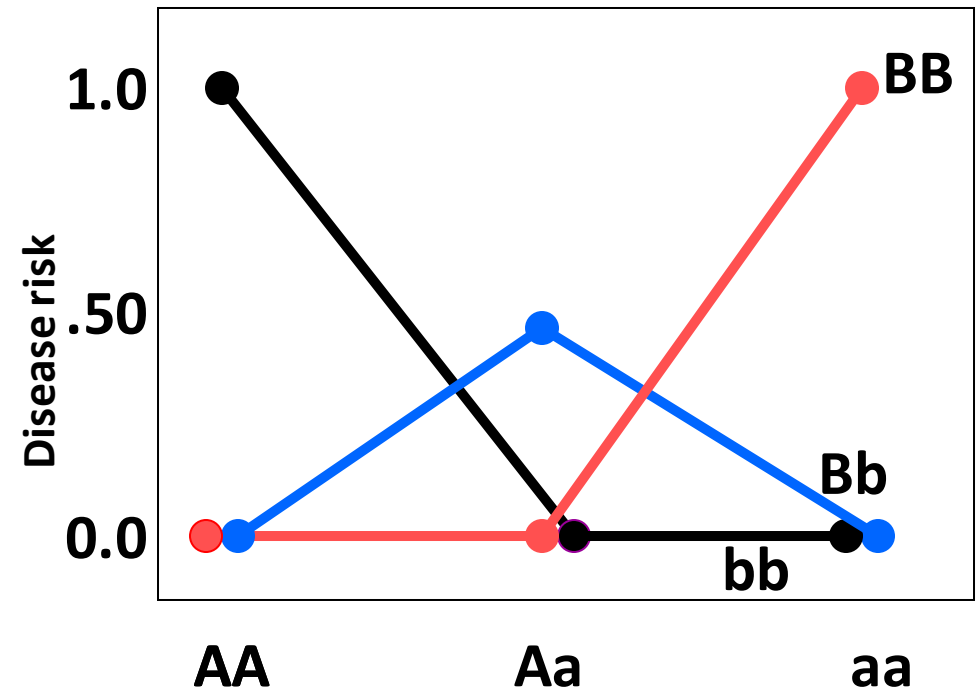


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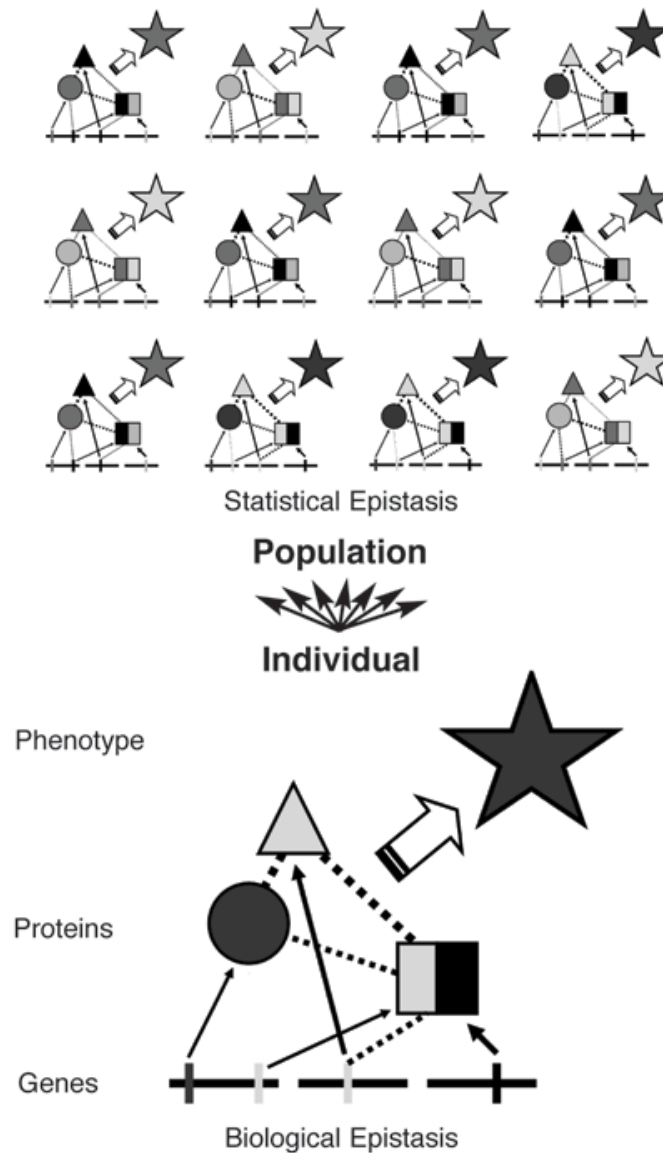
Epistasis

- Epistasis – two or more genes interacting in a non-additive manner to confer disease risk; gene-gene interactions

Genotype	p(D)
AABB	0.0
AABb	0.0
AAbb	1.0
AaBB	0.0
AaBb	.50
Aabb	0.0
aaBB	1.0
aaBb	0.0
aabb	0.0



Statistical Epistasis vs. Biological Epistasis



Epistasis is important because...

- Biologists believe bio-molecular interactions are very common
- Identifying “the gene” associated with common disease has not been as successful like it has for Mendelian disease
- Epistasis is detected when properly investigated
- Mendelian single-gene disorders are now being considered complex traits with gene-gene interactions (modifier genes)
- Most people agree epistasis exists but the degree of independent main effect with epistasis versus interaction effects in the absence of statistically detectable main effects are a topic of controversy

Traditional Statistical Approaches

Genetic Epidemiology - Association Analysis

- Typically one marker or SNP at a time to detect loci exhibiting main effects
- Follow-up with an analysis to detect interactions between the main effect loci
- Some studies attempt to detect pair-wise interactions even without main effects
- Higher dimensions are usually not possible with traditional methods

Traditional Statistical Approaches

Genetic Epidemiology - Association Analysis

■ Logistic Regression

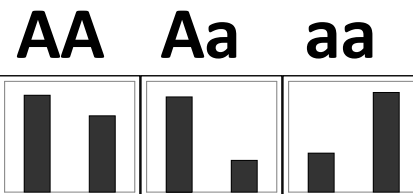
- ◆ Small sample size can result in biased estimates of regression coefficients and can result in spurious associations (Concato et al. 1993)**
- ◆ Need at least 10 cases or controls per independent variable to have enough statistical power (Peduzzi et al. 1996)**
- ◆ Curse of dimensionality is the problem (Bellman 1961)**

Curse of Dimensionality

N = 100

50 Cases, 50 Controls

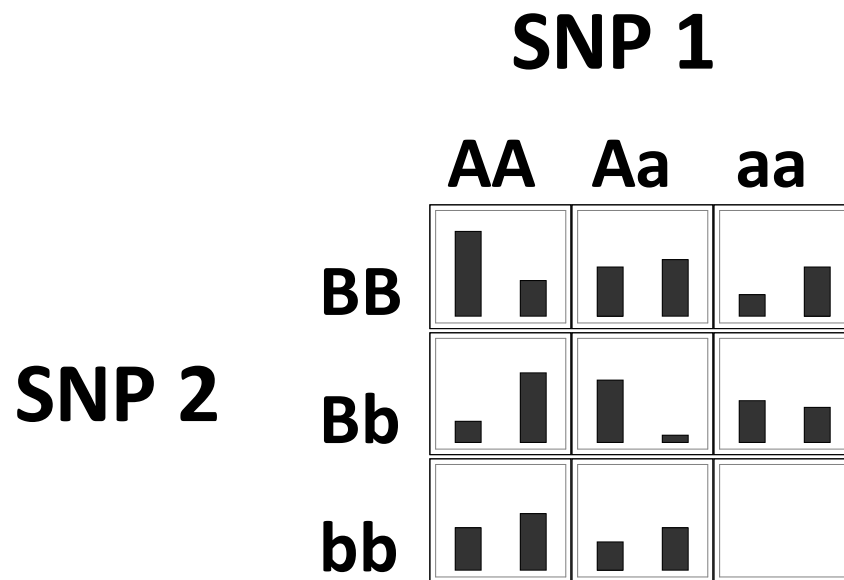
SNP 1



Curse of Dimensionality

N = 100

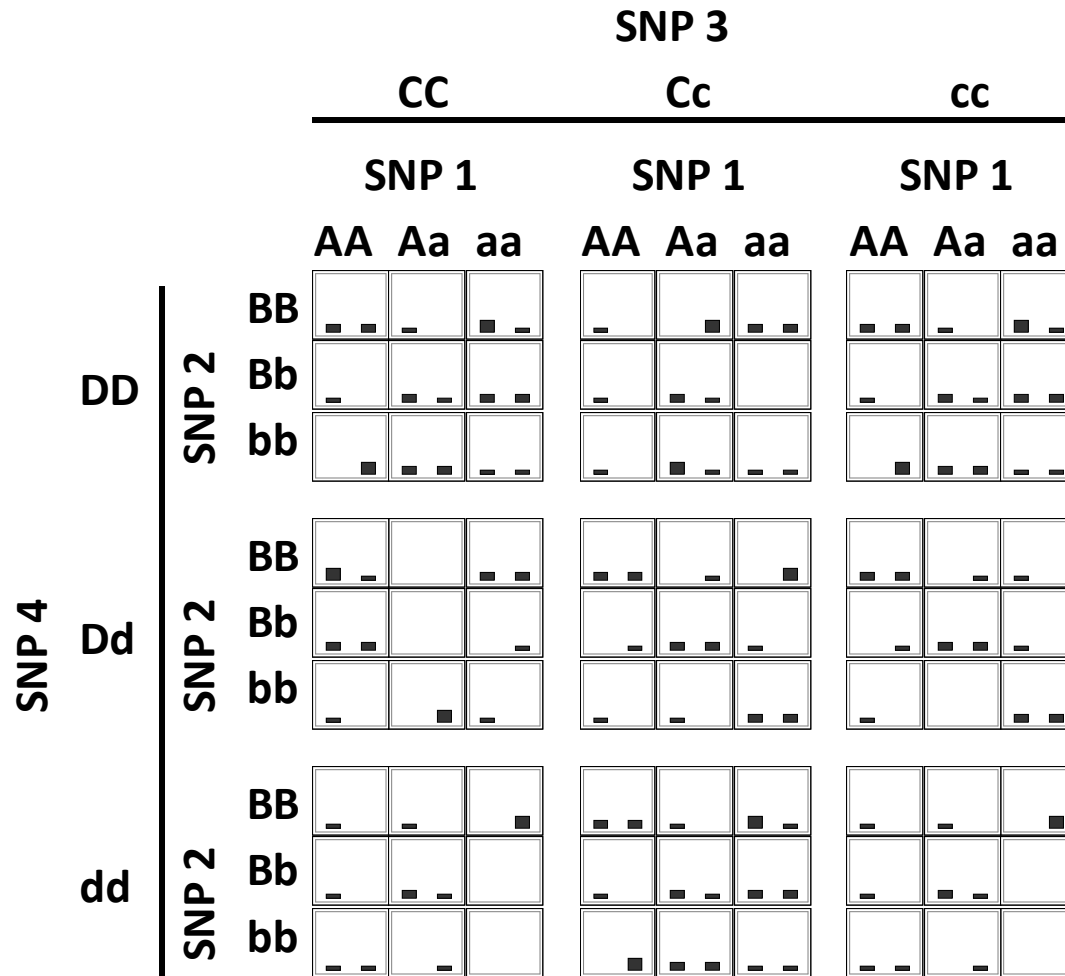
50 Cases, 50 Controls



Curse of Dimensionality

N = 100

50 Cases, 50 Controls

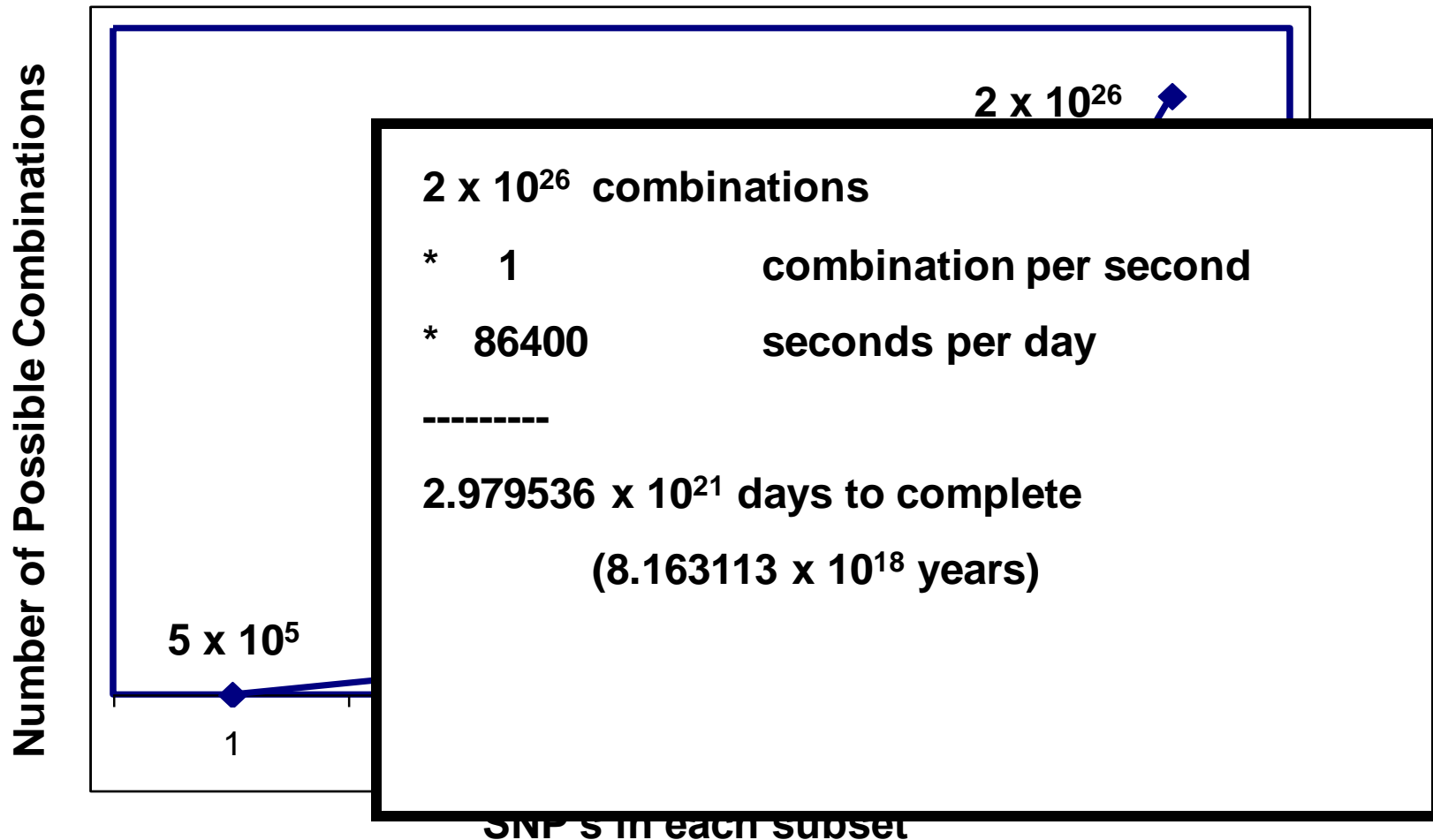


If interactions with minimal main effects are the norm rather than the exception, can we analyze all possible combinations of loci with traditional approaches to detect purely interaction effects ?

NO

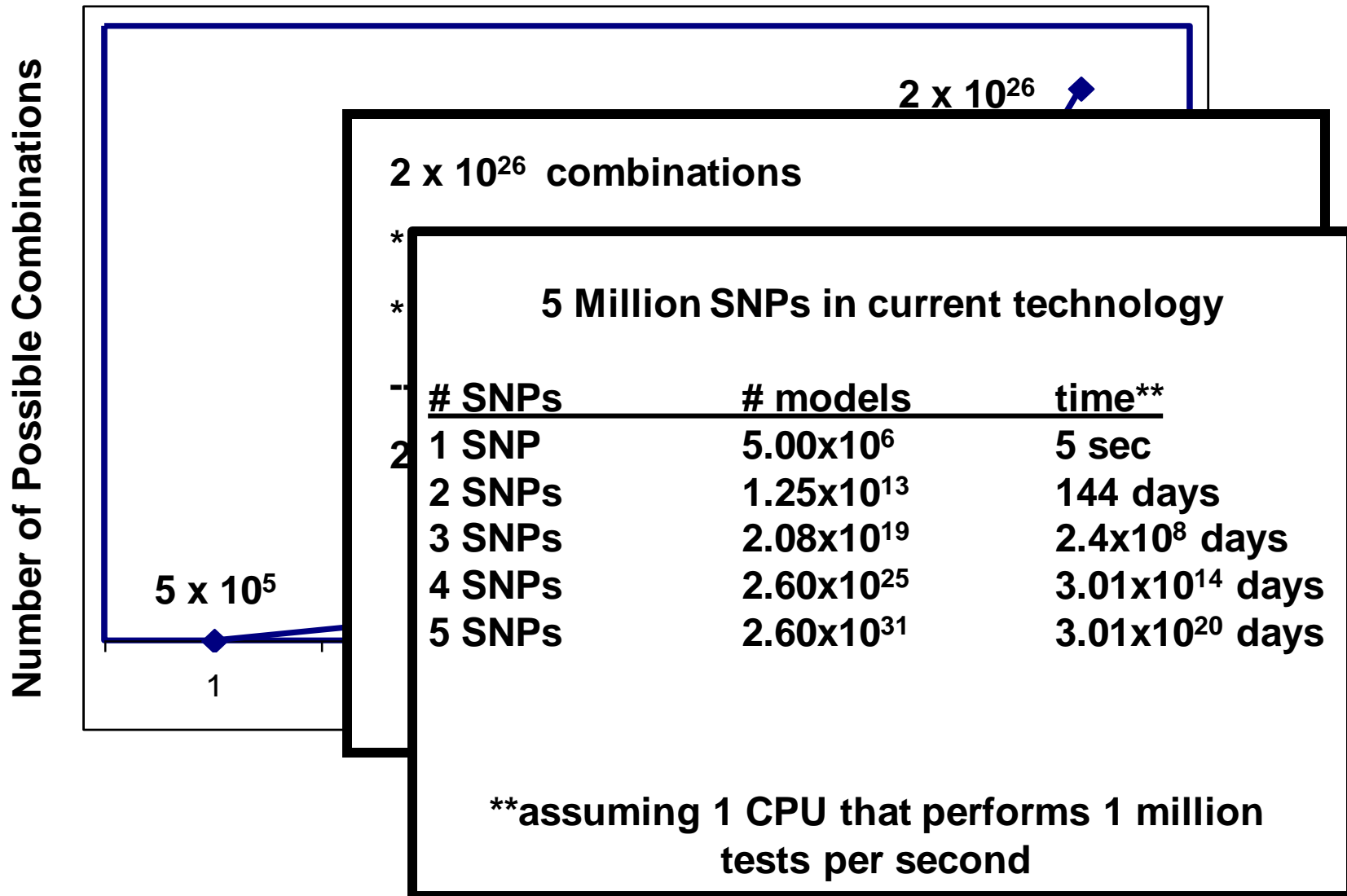
How many combinations are there?

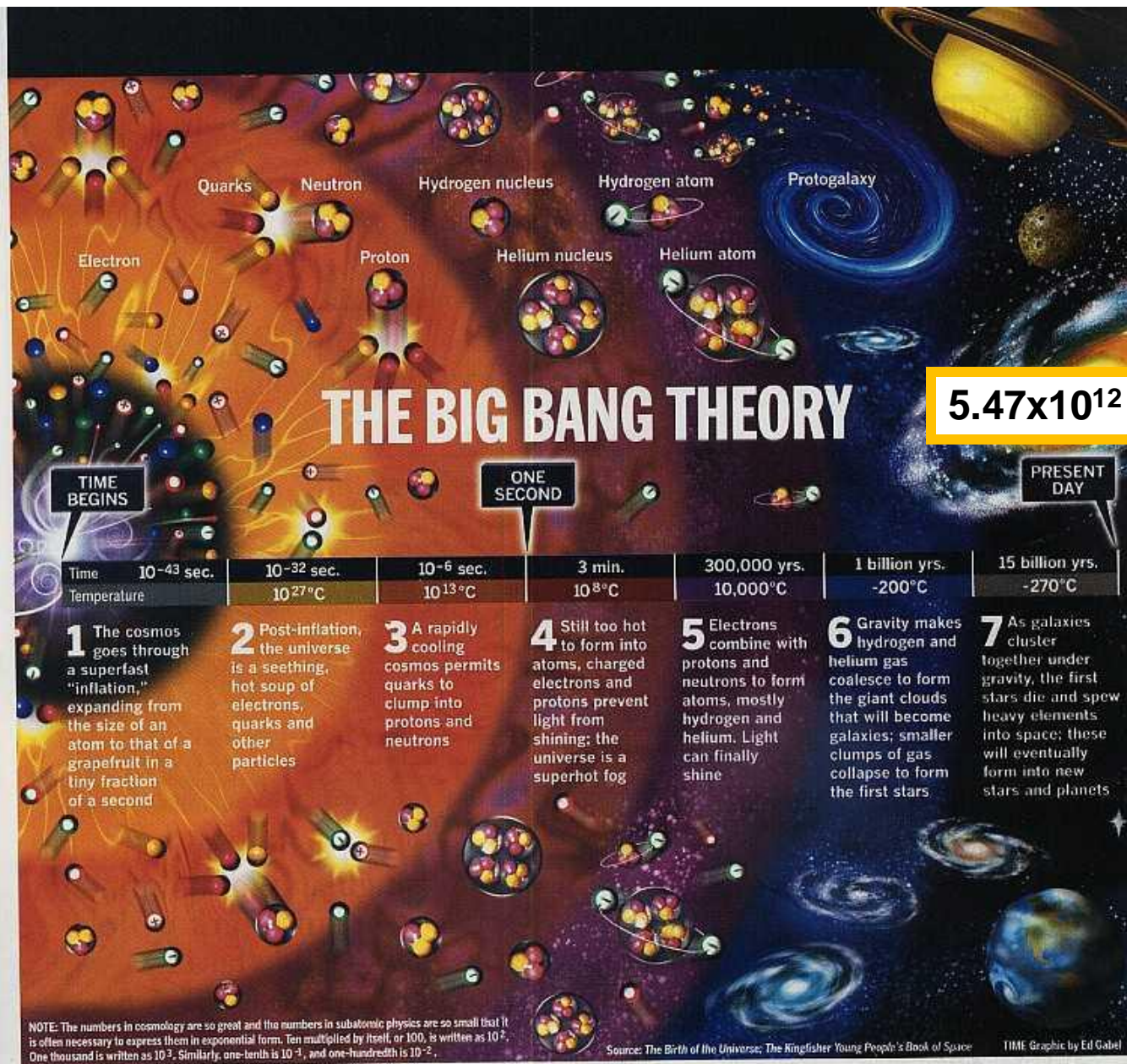
- ~500,000 SNPs to span the genome (HapMap)



How many combinations are there?

- ~500,000 SNPs to span the genome (HapMap)





ent technology

time**

5 sec

144 days

2.4×10^8 days

3.01×10^{14} days

3.01×10^{20} days

**assuming 1 CPU that performs 1 million tests per second

Traditional Approach

■ Advantages

- ◆ Computationally feasible
- ◆ Easy to interpret

■ Disadvantages

- ◆ Genes must have large main effects
- ◆ Difficult to detect genes if interactions with other genetic and environmental factors are important
- ◆ CANNOT do an exhaustive search

New Statistical Approaches

- Review paper

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Novel methods for detecting epistasis in pharmacogenomics studies

Alison A Motsinger¹,
Marylyn D Ritchie² &
David M Reif[†]

[†]Author for correspondence

¹North Carolina State
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Bioinformatics Research
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Department of Statistics,
Raleigh,

NC 27695, USA

²Vanderbilt University,
Center for Human Genetics
Research,

Department of Molecular

The importance of gene–gene and gene–environment interactions in the underlying genetic architecture of common, complex phenotypes is gaining wide recognition in the field of pharmacogenomics. In epidemiological approaches to mapping genetic variants that predict drug response, it is important that researchers investigate potential epistatic interactions. In the current review, we discuss data-mining tools available in genetic epidemiology to detect such interactions and appropriate applications. We survey several classes of novel methods available and present an organized collection of successful applications in the literature. Finally, we provide guidance as to how to incorporate these novel methods into a genetic analysis. The overall goal of this paper is to aid researchers in developing an analysis plan that accounts for gene–gene and gene–environment in their own work.



- Pharmacogenomics. 2007 8(9) :1229-41.
- Reviews approximately 40 methods developed to detect gene–gene and gene–environment interactions

New Statistical Approaches

Chen *et al. BMC Genomics* 2011, **12**:344
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2164/12/344>



METHODOLOGY ARTICLE

Open Access

Comparative analysis of methods for detecting interacting loci

Li Chen¹, Guoqiang Yu¹, Carl D Langefeld², David J Miller³, Richard T Guy², Jayaram Raghuram³, Xiguo Yuan¹, David M Herrington⁴ and Yue Wang^{1*}

Abstract

Background: Interactions among genetic loci are believed to play an important role in disease risk. While many methods have been proposed for detecting such interactions, their relative performance remains largely unclear, mainly because different data sources, detection performance criteria, and experimental protocols were used in the papers introducing these methods and in subsequent studies. Moreover, there have been very few studies strictly focused on comparison of existing methods. Given the importance of detecting gene-gene and gene-environment interactions, a rigorous, comprehensive comparison of performance and limitations of available interaction detection methods is warranted.

New Statistical Approaches

Shang et al. *BMC Bioinformatics* 2011, **12**:475
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2105/12/475>



METHODOLOGY ARTICLE

Open Access

Performance analysis of novel methods for detecting epistasis

Junliang Shang^{1*}, Junying Zhang^{1*}, Yan Sun², Dan Liu¹, Daojun Ye¹ and Yaling Yin^{1,3}

Abstract

Background: Epistasis is recognized fundamentally important for understanding the mechanism of disease-causing genetic variation. Though many novel methods for detecting epistasis have been proposed, few studies focus on their comparison. Undertaking a comprehensive comparison study is an urgent task and a pathway of the methods to real applications.

Results: This paper aims at a comparison study of epistasis detection methods through applying related software packages on datasets. For this purpose, we categorize methods according to their search strategies, and select five representative methods (TEAM, BOOST, SNPRuler, AntEpiSeeker and epiMODE) originating from different underlying techniques for comparison. The methods are tested on simulated datasets with different size, various epistasis

Simple Fitness Landscape

Fitness



Mt. Fuji

Model

Complex Fitness Landscape

Fitness



Waimea Canyon

Model

Epistasis in GWAS Data

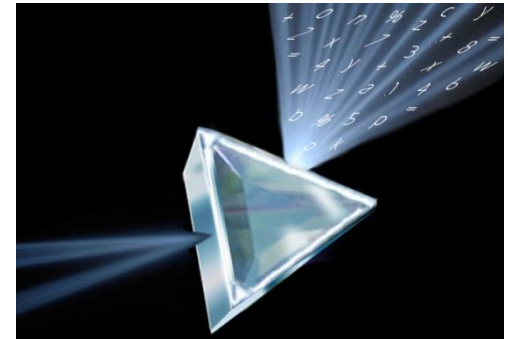
- ~~Exhaustive evaluation~~

- Evaluate interactions in top hits from single-SNP analysis
- Use prior biological knowledge to evaluate specific combinations – “Candidate Epistasis”

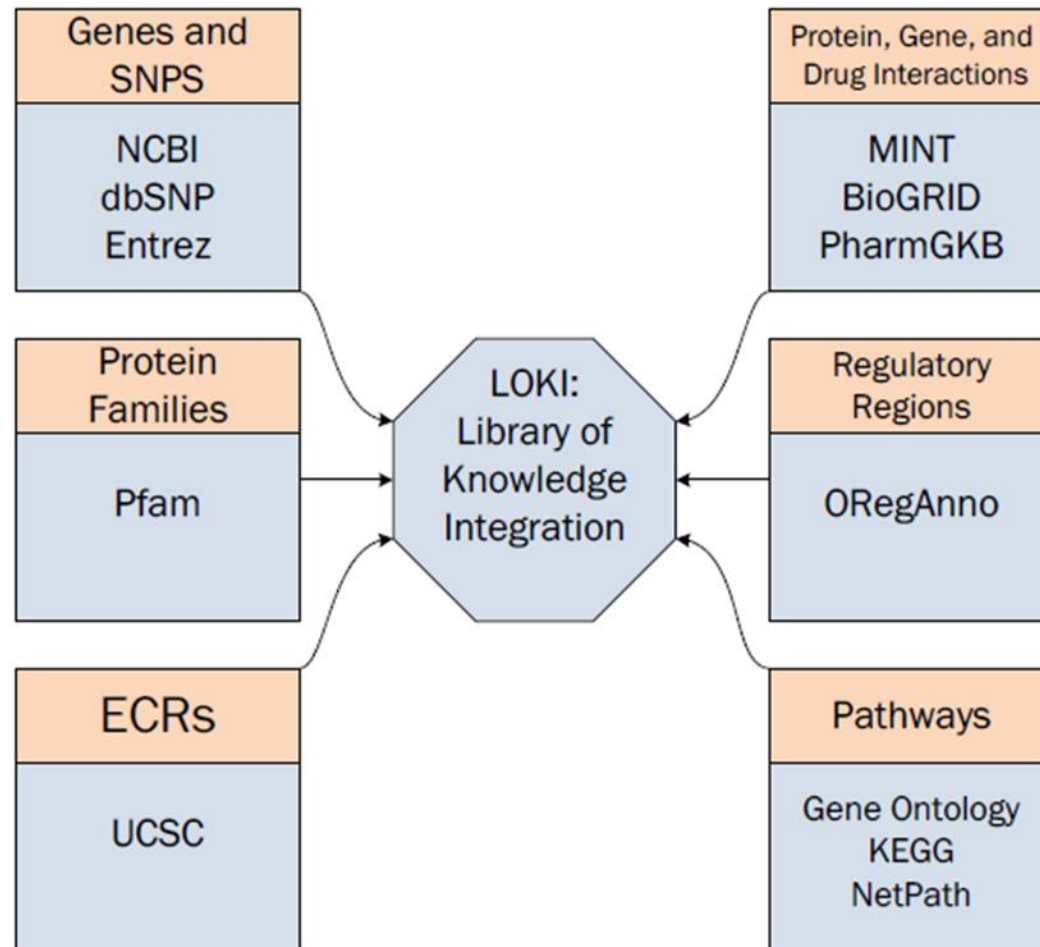
Goal: to build biologically plausible models of gene-gene interactions to test for association using an automated bioinformatics tool based on biological features

The Biofilter

- Use publicly available databases to establish relationships between gene-products
- Suggestions of biological epistasis between genes
- Integrating information from the genome, transcriptome, and proteome into analysis



LOKI: Library of Knowledge Integration

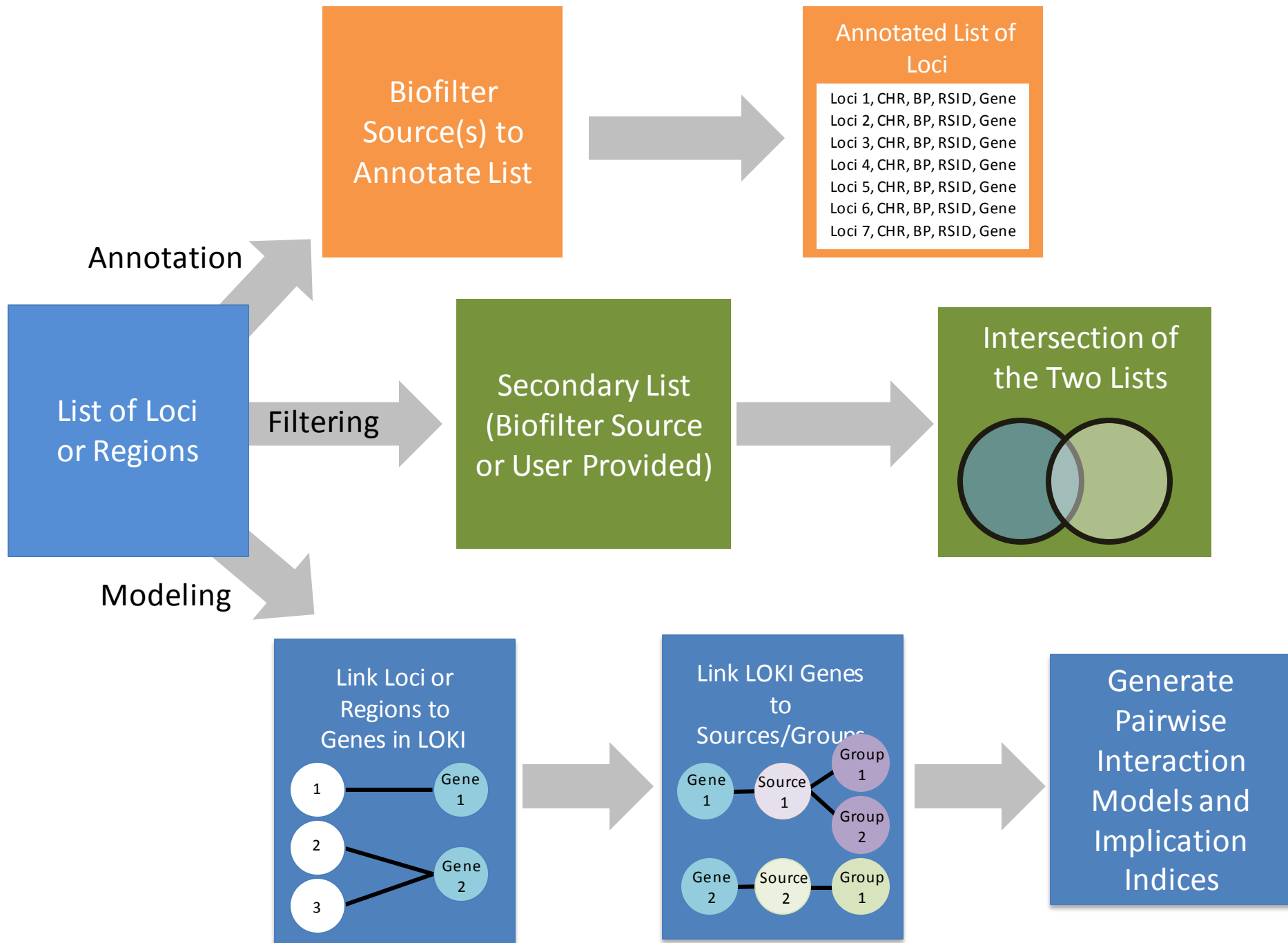


Bush WS, Dudek SM, Ritchie MD. Biofilter: a knowledge-integration system for the multi-locus analysis of genome-wide association studies. *Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing*, 368-79 (2009).

The Biofilter

- Method described: Bush et al. 2009 *Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing*, Pendergrass et al, *BioData Mining*, 2013 Applications

- Multiple Sclerosis
 - Bush et al. 2009 *ASHG* talk, 2011 *Genes & Immunity*
- HDL
 - Turner et al. 2010 *ASHG* Talk, 2011 *PLoS ONE*
- HIV Pharmacogenomics
 - Grady et al. 2010 *ASHG* poster, 2011 *Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing*
- Lipid traits
 - Holzinger et al. in preparation

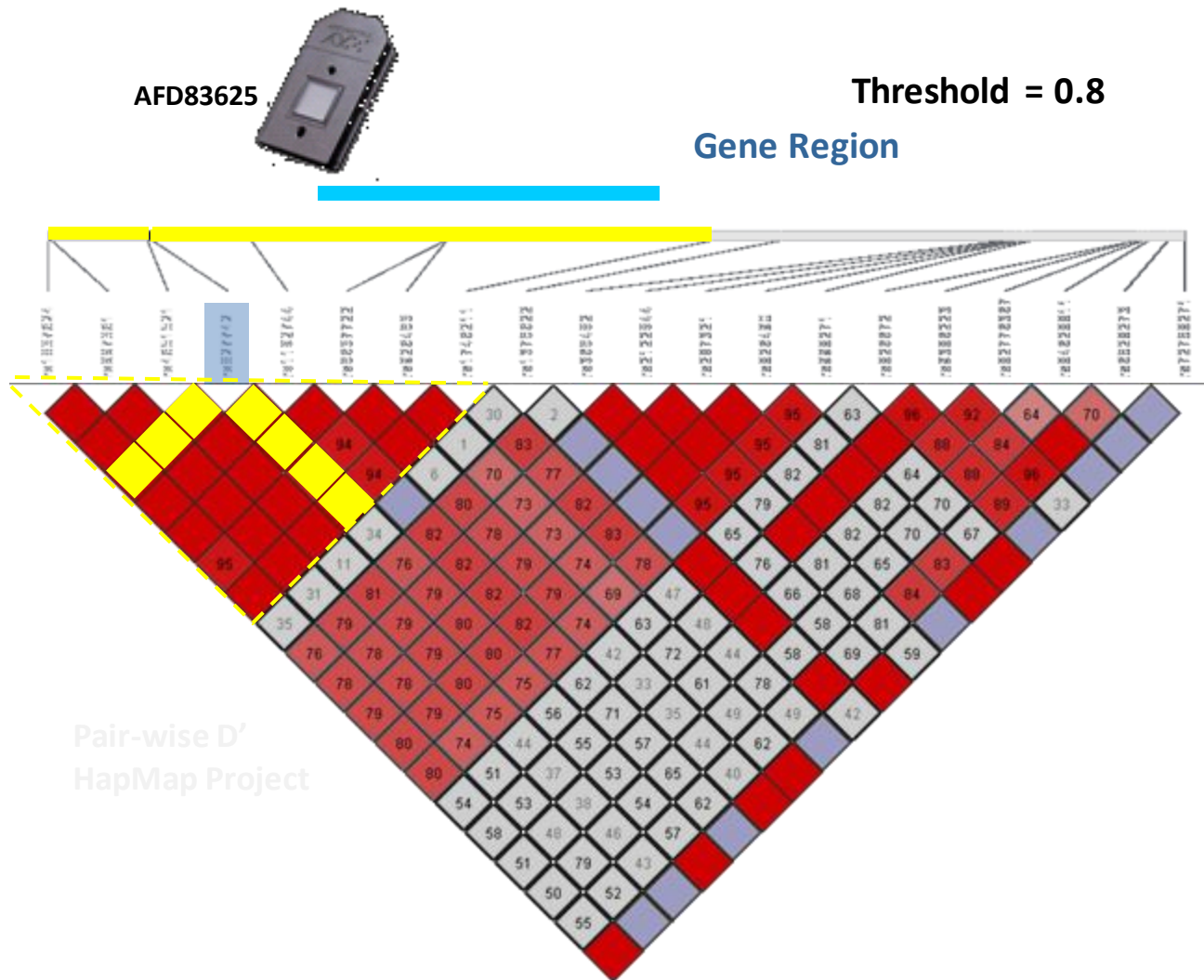


Candidate Epistasis Analysis of GWAS

Four Step Process

- 1. Relate SNPs to Genes**
- 2. Relate genes to one another**
- 3. Generate multi-SNP models using this information**
- 4. Evaluate the multi-SNP models using statistical technique**

Relate SNPs to Genes



LD-Spline: Mapping SNPs on genotyping platforms to genomic regions using patterns of linkage disequilibrium. [Bush WS](#), [Chen G](#), [Torstenson ES](#), [Ritchie MD](#). BioData Min. 2009 Dec 3;2(1):7

Using Biofilter: Prioritizing Analysis

Candidate Gene/Regions

- Previous Linkage Regions
- Differential Gene Expression
- Candidate Pathways
- Known biology
- ...

Candidate Epistasis

- KEGG (Pathways)
- DIP (Protein-protein interactions)
- PFAM (Protein families)
- GO (Gene Ontology)
- Reactome (Pathways)
- Netpath (Signal transduction)
- ...

Candidate Approaches

Pros

- Smaller set of genes to explore
- Fewer statistical tests
- Results will have solid interpretations

Cons

- Limited by current state of knowledge
- Limitations of learning completely novel biology

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A knowledge-driven interaction analysis reveals potential neurodegenerative mechanism of multiple sclerosis susceptibility

WS Bush¹, JL McCauley², PL DeJager³, SM Dudek¹, DA Hafler³, RA Gibson⁴, PM Matthews⁴, L Kappos⁵, Y Naegelin⁵, CH Polman⁶, SL Hauser⁷, J Oksenberg⁷, JL Haines¹ and MD Ritchie¹, the International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium

¹Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, Center for Human Genetics Research, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA; ²Miami Institute for Human Genomics, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA; ³Division of Molecular Immunology, Center for Neurologic Diseases, Department of Neurology, Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA; ⁴GlaxoSmithKline, Research & Development, Middlesex, UK; ⁵Department of Neurology, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland; ⁶Department of Neurology, Vrije Universiteit Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and ⁷Department of

- **930 trio families from US and UK (IMSGC)**
- **Genotyped on Affymetrix 500K array**
 - **Post QC ~300,000 SNPs**

- Reduction of search space from 53 billion models to 20 million models but this could be reduced further

Full Model $\beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_1 x_2$

Reduced Model $\beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2$

Table 1. Significant models from screen and validation Set I localized to calcium signaling and cytoskeleton regulation

[↑ Figures and tables index](#)
[Next table ▶](#)

No.	Locus 1			Locus 2			Screen trio conditional LR		Screen proband/control LR		Validation set I	
	Chr	Gene	SNP	Chr	Gene	SNP	Model fit	Interaction	Model fit	Interaction	Model fit	Interaction
1	7	SCIN	rs2240571	15	CYFIP1	rs8025779	3.75E-04	1.51E-04	0.0001	0.0001	0.0049	0.3565
2	14	ACTN1	rs17106421	22	MYH9	rs1009150	8.93E-04	6.38E-05	0.0001	0.0001	0.0082	0.0952
3	1	CHRM3	rs528011	3	MYLK	rs4677905	5.57E-04	3.74E-05	0.0005	0.0001	0.0235	0.0025
4	20	PLCB4	rs4816129	20	PLCB1	rs6516415	9.23E-04	8.50E-05	0.0008	0.0009	0.0443	0.0095

Abbreviations: Chr, chromosome; LR, likelihood ratio test statistic; SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism

'Bold' indicates that these two models had significant model fit and interaction in all data sets.

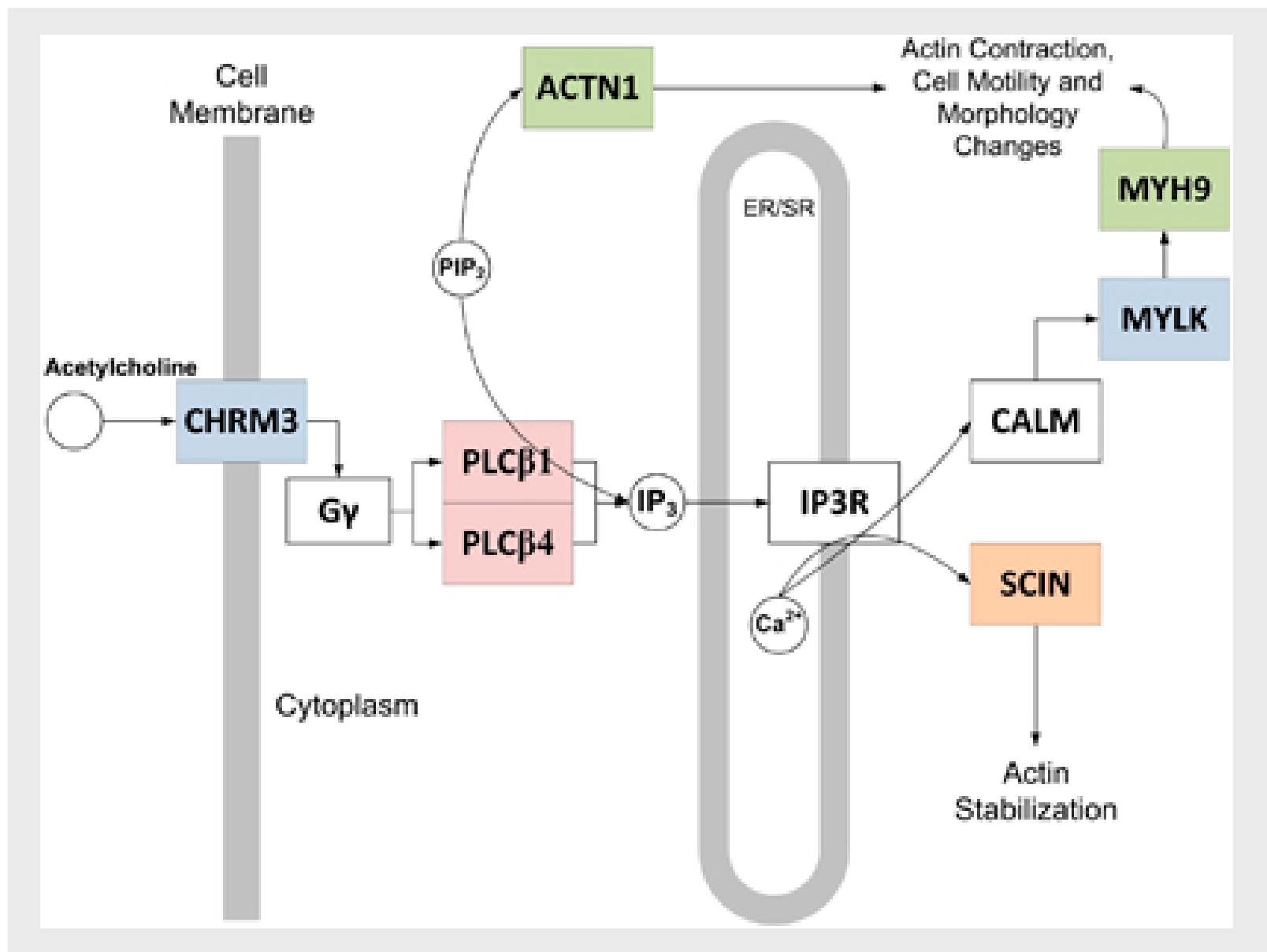


Figure 1

Knowledge-Driven Multi-Locus Analysis Reveals Gene-Gene Interactions Influencing HDL Cholesterol Level in Two Independent EMR-Linked Biobanks

Stephen D. Turner¹, Richard L. Berg², James G. Linneman², Peggy L. Peissig², Dana C. Crawford¹, Joshua C. Denny³, Dan M. Roden^{4,5}, Catherine A. McCarty⁶, Marylyn D. Ritchie¹, Russell A. Wilke^{4*}

1 Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, Center for Human Genetics Research, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America, **2** Biomedical Informatics Research Center, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield, Wisconsin, United States of America, **3** Department of Biomedical Informatics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America, **4** Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America, **5** Department of Pharmacology, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America, **6** Center for Human Genetics, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield, Wisconsin, United States of America

- eMERGE Genome-wide association study (Illumina 660)
- Phenotype: median HDL for anyone having 2+ HDL measurements in their EMR
- Marshfield PMRP n=3903
- Vanderbilt BioVU n=1858

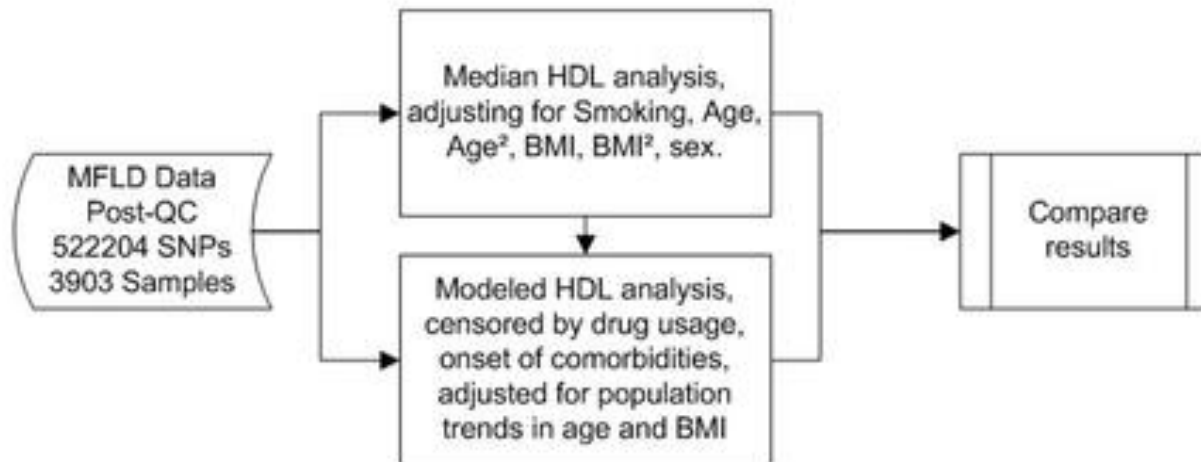


Marshfield
Clinic®



Vanderbilt BioVU

Single Locus Analysis



Knowledge-Driven Multilocus Analysis

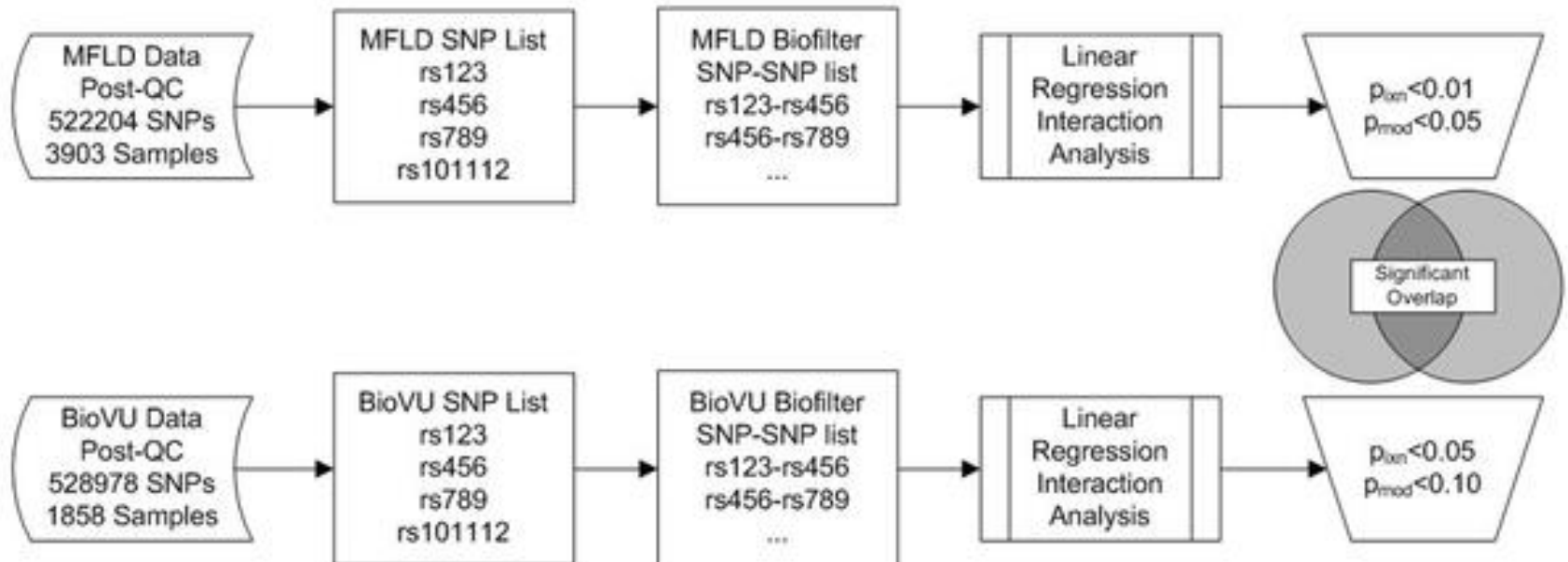


Figure 1

Table 3. Gene-gene interaction models.

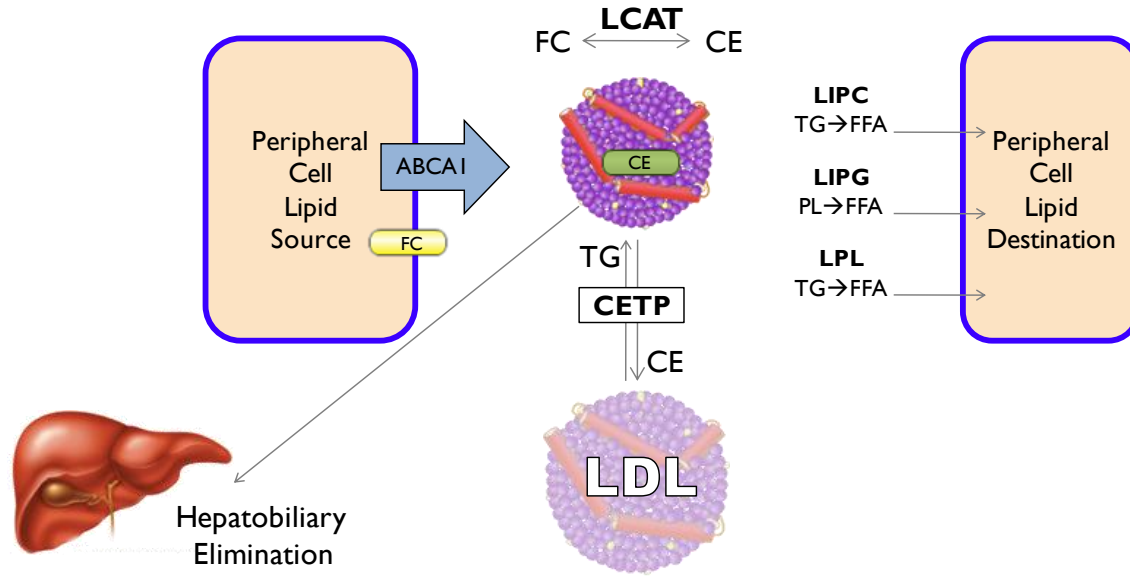
REP	SNP 1	Gene 1	SNP 2	Gene 2	M β_1	M β_2	M β_3	M P_{ixn}	M P_{mod}	M R^2	V β_1	V β_2	V β_3	V P_{ixn}	V P_{mod}	V R^2
*	rs3927911	<i>BCL2</i>	rs4645900	<i>BAX</i>	0.213	3.901	-3.890	0.004	0.018	0.003	0.805	5.397	-5.808	0.042	0.154	0.003
*	rs2271709	<i>C7</i>	rs6699859	<i>C8A</i>	1.203	1.068	-1.776	0.005	0.028	0.002	-1.173	-1.176	2.433	0.020	0.138	0.003
*	rs910497	<i>GALNT2</i>	rs4621175	<i>GALNT3</i>	-0.727	-1.250	2.347	0.003	0.013	0.003	-0.890	-1.976	2.148	0.024	0.129	0.003
*	rs4621175	<i>GALNT3</i>	rs4846930	<i>GALNT2</i>	-1.213	-0.726	2.291	0.004	0.014	0.003	-1.750	-0.955	2.261	0.017	0.100	0.003
*	rs4621175	<i>GALNT3</i>	rs10864732	<i>GALNT2</i>	-1.179	-0.726	2.243	0.004	0.017	0.003	-1.641	-0.985	2.245	0.019	0.106	0.003
**	rs886724	<i>RPA3</i>	rs7536088	<i>RPA2</i>	1.493	1.713	-1.818	0.000	0.002	0.004	-2.064	-1.266	1.995	0.019	0.099	0.003
**	rs886724	<i>RPA3</i>	rs17257252	<i>RPA2</i>	0.890	1.182	-1.703	0.003	0.029	0.002	-2.035	-1.938	2.795	0.007	0.046	0.004
**	rs901675	<i>GALNT2</i>	rs4621175	<i>GALNT3</i>	1.216	2.109	-2.521	0.004	0.004	0.004	-2.114	-1.512	2.535	0.037	0.077	0.004
**	rs1471915	<i>GALNT2</i>	rs12963790	<i>GALNT1</i>	-0.410	-0.447	2.778	0.004	0.020	0.003	-2.114	0.098	-3.487	0.037	0.002	0.008
***	rs253	<i>LPL</i>	rs2515614	<i>ABCA1</i>	-0.340	-1.098	1.441	0.006	0.011	0.003	-0.618	-2.797	2.790	0.001	0.006	0.007
***	rs253	<i>LPL</i>	rs2472509	<i>ABCA1</i>	-0.338	-1.113	1.438	0.006	0.011	0.003	-0.399	-2.797	2.790	0.001	0.006	0.007

- Tested 22,769 two-SNP models in Marshfield (discovery).
 - 11 significant ($p_{\text{int}} < 0.01$, $p_{\text{anova}} < 0.05$)
- Tested 11 two-SNP models in BioVU (replication).
 - 6 marginally significant ($p_{\text{int}} < 0.05$, $p_{\text{anova}} < 0.10$).
 - 2 had consistent direction for all three β s.

Application of the Biofilter: HDL - eMERGE

- Main effects of each SNP in each dataset reduce HDL.
- Interaction effect coefficient is positive
 - Joint effect is nonlinear
 - Epistasis – heterogeneity, antagonism, negative epistasis
 - This kind of effect also seen in 4/5 sig. GxG interactions in IDDM (Barrett et al. 2009 *Nature Genetics*)

SNP 1	Gene 1	SNP 2	Gene 2	MF β_1	MF β_2	MF β_3	MF P	BioVU β_1	BioVU β_2	BioVU β_3	BioVU P
rs253	LPL	rs2515614	ABCA1	-	-	+	0.006	-	-	+	0.001
rs253	LPL	rs2472509	ABCA1	-	-	+	0.006	-	-	+	0.001



- LPL mediates the release of FFA and TG from HDL particles.
- ABCA1 shuttles free cholesterol into HDL particles during intravascular remodeling.

SNP 1	Gene 1	SNP 2	Gene 2	MF β_1	MF β_2	MF β_3	MF P	BioVU β_1	BioVU β_2	BioVU β_3	BioVU P
rs253	LPL	rs2515614	ABCA1	-	-	+	0.006	-	-	+	0.001
rs253	LPL	rs2472509	ABCA1	-	-	+	0.006	-	-	+	0.001

Turner et al, PLoS ONE 2011.



Beyond simple epistasis models....



Six degrees of epistasis: statistical network models for GWAS

B. A. McKinney^{1*} and Nicholas M. Pajewski²

¹ Department of Mathematics, Tandy School of Computer Sciences, Queen's University Belfast, UK

² Department of Biostatistical Sciences, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

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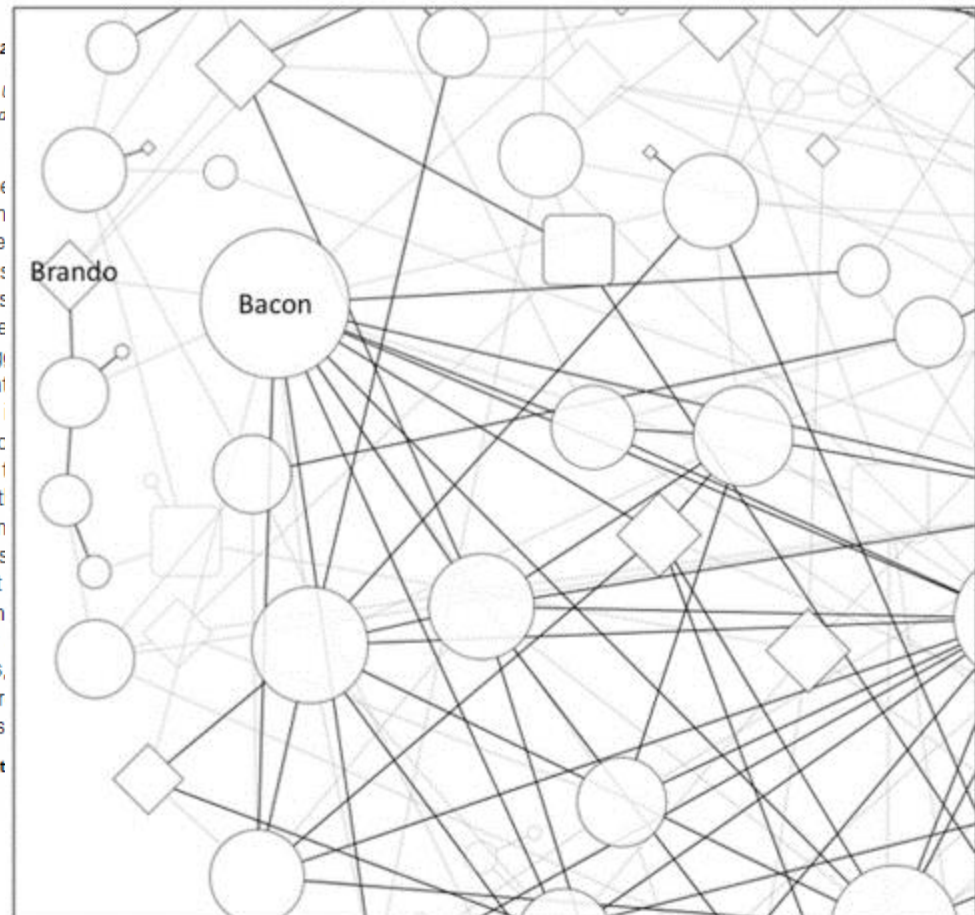
Marylyn D. Ritchie, The Pennsylvania State University, USA

***Correspondence:**

B. A. McKinney, Department of Mathematics, Tandy School of Computer Science, University of Tulsa, Rayzor Hall, 800 South Tucker Drive, Tulsa, OK 74104, USA.
e-mail: brett.mckinney@gmail.com

There is growing evidence that simple models are required to explain the complex patterns of genetic variability, suggesting heritability. This is often stated in terms of pathway and gene regulatory networks. These findings suggest that the gene regulatory networks in these networks are additive contributors to phenotypic variation. In these networks, the effects of common locus contributions are a small effect, but the structures in the network methods for of hubs and motifs. Such network approaches mechanisms of dis

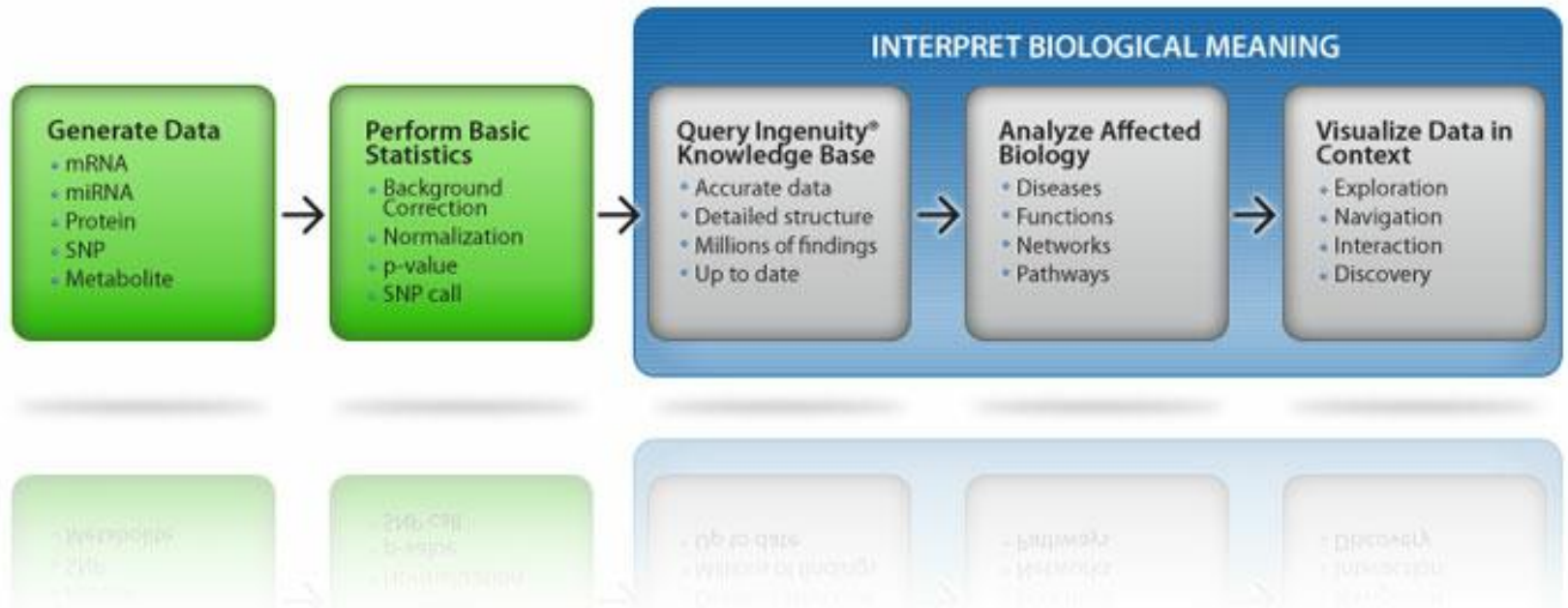
Keywords: epistasis network



Pathway Analysis Approaches

- Ingenuity systems pathway analysis
 - IPA www.ingenuity.com (free trial)

BIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION WORKFLOW



Pathway Analysis Approaches

- Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery (DAVID)
 - provides a comprehensive set of functional annotation tools for investigators to understand biological meaning behind large list of genes

Systematic and integrative analysis of large gene lists using DAVID bioinformatics resources

Da Wei Huang^{1,2}, Brad T Sherman^{1,2} & Richard A Lempicki¹

¹Laboratory of Immunopathogenesis and Bioinformatics, Clinical Services Program, SAIC-Frederick Inc., National Cancer Institute at Frederick, Frederick, Maryland 21702, USA. ²These authors contributed equally to this work. Correspondence should be addressed to R.A.L. (rlempicki@mail.nih.gov) or D.W.H. (huangdawei@mail.nih.gov)

Published online 18 December 2008; doi:10.1038/nprot.2008.211

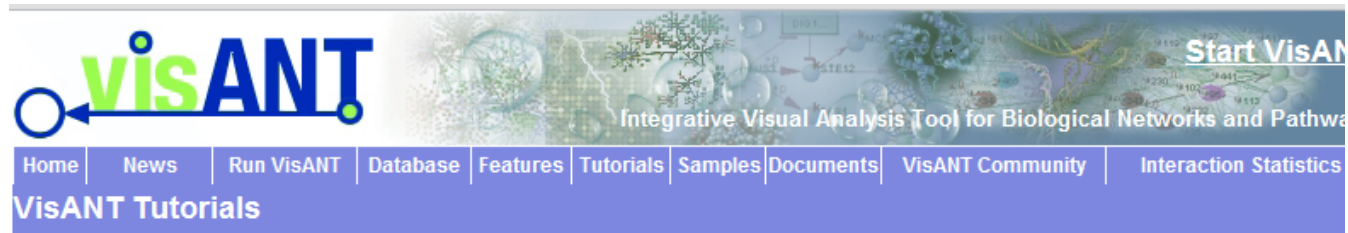
DAVID bioinformatics resources consists of an integrated biological knowledgebase and analytic tools aimed at systematically extracting biological meaning from large gene/protein lists. This protocol explains how to use **DAVID**, a high-throughput and integrated data-mining environment, to analyze gene lists derived from high-throughput genomic experiments. The procedure first requires uploading a gene list containing any number of common gene identifiers followed by analysis using one or more text and pathway-mining tools such as gene functional classification, functional annotation chart or clustering and functional annotation table. By following this protocol, investigators are able to gain an in-depth understanding of the biological themes in lists of genes that are enriched in genome-scale studies.

- **Step-by-step instructions for using DAVID**

DAVID tools are able to...

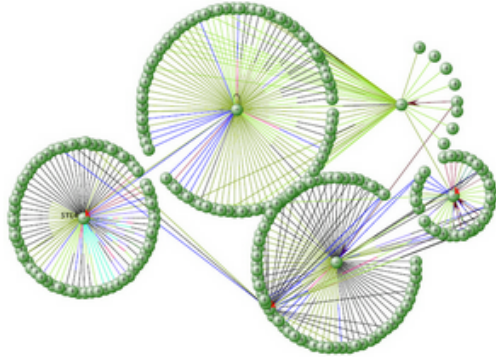

1. Identify enriched biological themes, particularly GO terms
2. Discover enriched functional-related gene groups
3. Cluster redundant annotation terms
4. Visualize genes on BioCarta & KEGG pathway maps
5. Display related many-genes-to-many-terms on 2-D view
6. Search for other functionally related genes not in the list
7. List interacting proteins
8. Explore gene names in batch
9. Link gene-disease associations
10. Highlight protein functional domains and motifs
11. Redirect to related literatures
12. Convert gene identifiers from one type to another
13. And more

Pathway Analysis Approaches



[Plugin Tutorials](#) is listed as part of [Plugin documents](#)

[Video Tutorial](#) [New](#)

Query/Create interaction networks	Screen Short
<p>What you will learn from this tutorial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploratory navigation of interaction networks starting with any specified protein/gene • Find the different level of neighbors (1st level neighbors are the directly interacted genes/proteins ...) for a given list of genes/proteins, and how to check whether the genes/proteins are connected • Find the connections between a given set of genes/proteins • Create your own network using a list of pairwise correlations (edge-list format) <p>Start the Tutorial</p>	
Use VisANT to visualize networks in your own web site	Screen Short
<p>What you will learn from this tutorial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a simple HTTP link to visualize your data in VisANT • Embedding VisANT applet in your web page with 	

Pathway Analysis Approaches

REVIEW

Prioritizing GWAS Results: A Review of Statistical Methods and Recommendations for Their Application

Rita M. Cantor,^{1,*} Kenneth Lange,^{1,2} and Janet S. Sinsheimer^{1,2}

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have rapidly become a standard method for disease gene discovery. A substantial number of recent GWAS indicate that for most disorders, only a few common variants are implicated and the associated SNPs explain only a small fraction of the genetic risk. This review is written from the viewpoint that findings from the GWAS provide preliminary genetic information that is available for additional analysis by statistical procedures that accumulate evidence, and that these secondary analyses are very likely to provide valuable information that will help prioritize the strongest constellations

explain much of the risk for each disorder if the “common disease, common gene” hypothesis were the rule. Thus, in addition to their focus on revealing the biological contributions to complex traits and disorders, the results of GWAS also provide substantive information regarding the extent of the contributions made by common variants to complex traits and disorders.

GWAS require three essential elements: (1) sufficiently large study samples from populations that effectively

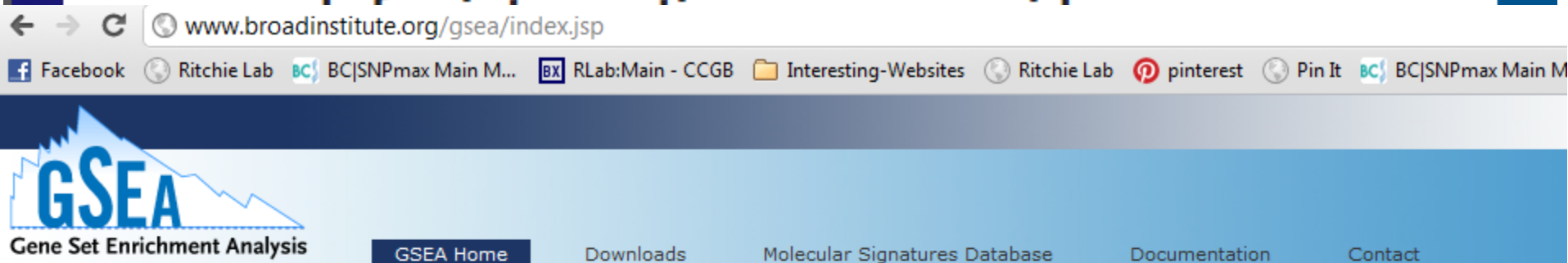
Alternative pathway approaches

- Multiple pathway approaches in development
 - Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA)
 - INTERSNP
 - PATH
 - Prioritizer
 - and many more.....
- Many use overlapping sources of data
- All have strengths and weaknesses

Alternative pathway approaches

Gene set enrichment analysis: A knowledge-based

SEE COMMENTARY

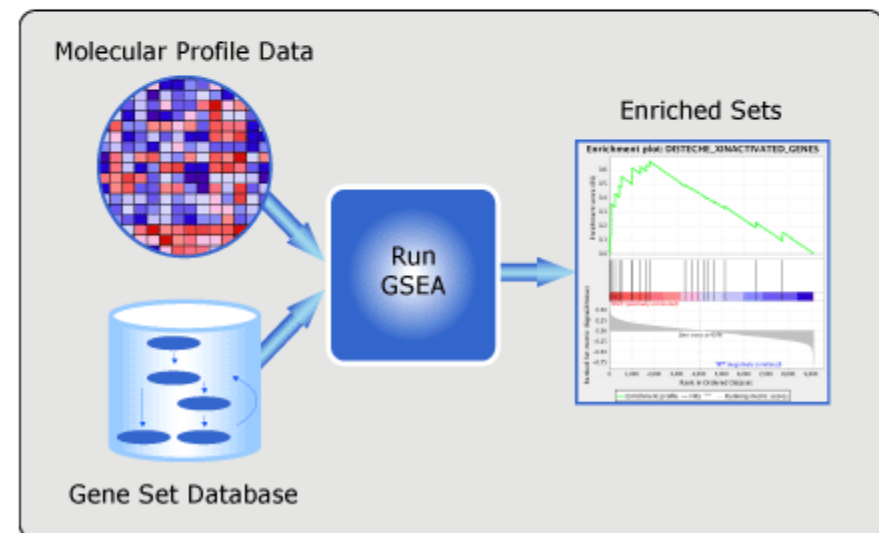


Overview

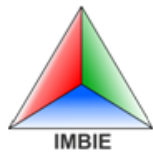
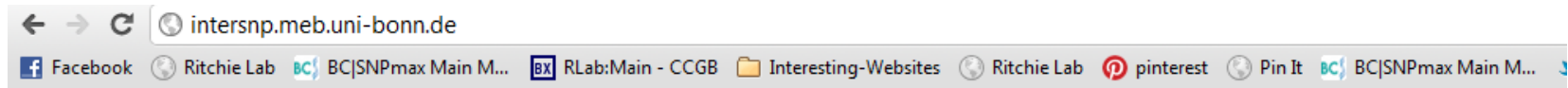
Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) is a computational method that determines whether an a priori defined set of genes shows statistically significant, concordant differences between two biological states (e.g. phenotypes).

From this web site, you can:

- ▶ **Download** the GSEA software and additional resources to analyze, annotate and interpret enrichment results.
- ▶ **Explore the Molecular Signatures Database (MSigDB)**, a collection of annotated gene sets for use with GSEA software.
- ▶ **View documentation** describing GSEA and MSigDB.



Alternative pathway approaches



INTERSNP
Genome-wide Interaction Analysis



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INTERSNP is a software for genome-wide interaction analysis (GWIA) of case-control SNP data and quantitative traits. SNPs are selected for joint analysis using a priori information. Sources of information to define meaningful strategies can be *statistical evidence* (single marker association at a moderate level, computed from the own data) and *genetic/biologic relevance* (genomic location, function class or pathway information). Our software product implements

- A logistic regression framework as well as log-linear models for joint analysis of multiple SNPs.
- Automatic handling of SNP annotation and pathway information
- Methods to account for multiple testing, in particular, Monte-Carlo simulations to judge genome-wide significance.
- A linear regression framework for analysis of quantitative traits
- Pathway Association Analysis (SNP ratio, Fisher score, Gene ratio, Fisher Max, Fisher MaxPlus)
- Genome-wide Haplotype Analysis

Alternative pathway approaches

Genetics and population analysis

Path: a tool to facilitate pathway-based genetic association analysis

David Zamar, Ben Tripp, George Ellis and Denise Daley*

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Received on March 9, 2009; revised on July 11, 2009; accepted on July 13, 2009

Advance Access publication July 23, 2009

Associate Editor: Jeffrey Barrett

ABSTRACT

Summary: Traditional methods of genetic study design and analysis work well under the scenario that a handful of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) independently contribute to the risk of disease. For complex diseases, susceptibility may be determined not by a single SNP, but rather a complex interplay between SNPs. For large studies involving hundreds of thousands of SNPs, a brute force search of all possible combinations of SNPs associated with disease is not only inefficient, but also results in a multiple testing paradigm, whereby larger and larger sample sizes are needed to maintain statistical power. Pathway-based methods are an example of one of the many approaches in identifying a subset of SNPs to test for interaction. To help determine which SNP–SNP interactions to test, we developed Path, a software application designed to help researchers interface their data with biological information from several bioinformatics resources. To this end, our application brings together currently available

For these kinds of large studies, the simple task of storing, retrieving and visualizing results of an analysis has become surprisingly challenging. Although several software applications, such as PLINK (Purcell *et al.*, 2007), were designed to help analyze genetic association data and subsequently help to store and visualize results, none was designed to retrieve information from several bioinformatics resources and to conveniently integrate this knowledge with the results from a genetic association study.

We were, therefore, motivated to develop Path, a software application designed to help researchers interface their data with biological information from several bioinformatics resources. This information may be used to help generate biologically plausible hypotheses for testing gene–gene interactions. The Path software is a first-step bioinformatics approach to investigate gene–gene interactions in genetic association studies. Examples of the type of information retrieved and the bioinformatics resources accessed by Path are shown in Table 1.

Alternative pathway approaches

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genetics department | lude franke | prioritizer

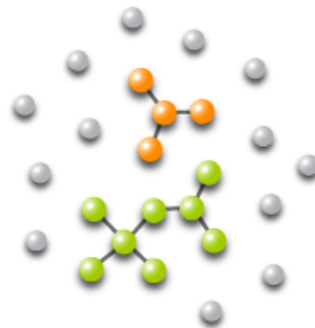


prioritizer

positional candidate gene prioritization

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Whole Genome Association **NEW!**



Progress has been made on a new version of Prioritizer: [Prioritizer WGA](#). This new software tool and method combines both basic (statistical) functionality for performing preprocessing, quality control and single marker association analysis on raw genotype files from Illumina and Affymetrix WGA chips, but also includes a comprehensive genome viewer, for the joint exploration of the called genotypes and raw data, linkage disequilibrium patterns and genes underlying strong hits. Additionally it includes new functionality to help improve the reliability of detecting real disease SNPs by utilizing our functional human gene network.

Introduction

Although the majority of common diseases are complex, resulting from many different genes with weak effects, it can be assumed there are often only a limiting number of molecular pathways that contribute to disease etiology. Linkage studies have led to the identification of a considerable number of susceptibility loci, but lag behind in pinpointing genes contributing to disease because these regions usually span 10s of Mb's. To aid in the identification of causative genes we propose a prioritization method for positional candidate genes, by assuming that the majority of causative genes are functionally closely related.

Methods

We used a Bayesian approach to generate a [gene network](#), based upon data from Gene Ontology (GO), KEGG, BIND, HPRD, Reactome, a dataset which contained approximately 70,000 predicted protein-protein interactions (Lehner and Fraser, 2004), 3,000 predicted human protein-protein interactions (Stelzl et al,

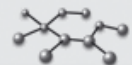
Available Networks

You can [download](#) four different gene networks from this website. Currently we are finalizing our pipeline, which will allow us to bi-monthly publish a current gene network, combining data available from HPRD, BIND, DIP, REACTOME, KEGG, GO, GEO, SMD and various other sources.



Use your own network

Prioritizer can also use other gene networks. We have provided [documentation](#) how to use your own network within Prioritizer.



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department of biomedical genetics,
university medical centre utrecht

Alternative knowledge base approaches

- Protein-protein interaction databases
- Gene ontology
- Function-based GWAS
 - Using eQTL information
- Text mining applications
 - Textspresso
 - GRAIL

Gene based

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS GENETICS

Proteins Encoded in Genomic Regions Associated with Immune Suggest

Elizabeth J. Ro
Diana Tatar⁶,
Chris Cotsapa

www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/dapple/dapple.php

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Home > Medical & Population Genetics > DAPPLE

DAPPLE

What is DAPPLE?

DAPPLE stands for Disease Association Protein-Protein Link Evaluator. DAPPLE looks for significant physical connectivity among proteins encoded for by genes in loci associated to disease according to protein-protein interactions reported in the literature. The hypothesis behind DAPPLE is that causal genetic variation affects a limited set of underlying mechanisms that are detectable by protein-protein interactions. Please refer to the [DAPPLE publication](#) for full details.

Gene based analysis

ARTICLE

Gene Ontology Analysis of GWA Study Data Sets Provides Insights into the Biology of Bipolar Disorder

Peter Holmans,^{1,*} Elaine K. Green,¹ Jaspreet Singh Pahwa,¹ Manuel A.R. Ferreira,^{2,3,4,6,7,8} Shaun M. Purcell,^{2,3,4,6,7} Pamela Sklar,^{2,3,4,5,6,7} The Wellcome Trust Case-Control Consortium,⁹ Michael J. Owen,¹ Michael C. O'Donovan,¹ and Nick Craddock¹

We present a method for testing overrepresentation of biological pathways, indexed by gene-ontology terms, in lists of significant SNPs from genome-wide association studies. This method corrects for linkage disequilibrium between SNPs, variable gene size, and multiple testing of nonindependent pathways. The method was applied to the Wellcome Trust Case-Control Consortium Crohn disease (CD) data set. At a general level, the biological basis of CD is relatively well known for a complex genetic trait, and it thus acted as a test of the method. The method, known as ALIGATOR (Association List Go AnnoTatOR), successfully detected biological pathways implicated in CD. The method was also applied to a meta-analysis of bipolar disorder, and it implicated the modulation of transcription and cellular activity, including that which occurs via hormonal action, as an important player in pathogenesis.

<http://x004.psychm.uwcm.ac.uk/~peter/>

Gene based analysis

OPEN ACCESS Freely available

Identifying Implicated Regions: Pre-Association Analysis

Soumya Raychaudhuri, International Schizophrenia Consortium^{2,8,10}, Ramnik

www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/grail/

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GRAIL: Gene Relationships Across Implicated Loci

GRAIL is a tool to examine relationships between genes in different disease associated loci. Given several genomic regions or SNPs associated with a particular phenotype or disease, GRAIL looks for similarities in the published scientific text among the associated genes.

As input, users can upload either (1) **SNPs** that have emerged from a genome-wide association study or (2) **genomic regions** that have emerged from a linkage scan or are associated common or rare copy number variants. SNPs should be listed according to their rs#'s and must be listed in HapMap. Genomic Regions are specified by a user-defined identifier, the chromosome that it is located on, and the start and end base-pair positions for the region.

- Interpretation
 - Easy to create a story
- Size of gene/pathway
 - More likely to have significant results by chance if they are bigger
 - Use methods that perform permutation testing to account for gene/pathway size





Polygenic modeling (En Masse)

REPORT

GCTA: A Tool for Genome-wide Complex Trait Analysis

Jian Yang,^{1,*} S. Hong Lee,¹ Michael E. Goddard,^{2,3} and Peter M. Visscher¹

For most human complex diseases and traits, SNPs identified by genome-wide association studies (GWAS) explain only a small fraction of the heritability. Here we report a user-friendly software tool called genome-wide complex trait analysis (GCTA), which was developed based on a method we recently developed to address the “missing heritability” problem. GCTA estimates the variance explained by all the SNPs on a chromosome or on the whole genome for a complex trait rather than testing the association of any particular SNP to the trait. We introduce GCTA's five main functions: data management, estimation of the genetic relationships from SNPs, mixed linear model analysis of variance explained by the SNPs, estimation of the linkage disequilibrium structure, and GWAS simulation. We focus on the function of estimating the variance explained by all the SNPs on the X chromosome and testing the hypotheses of dosage compensation. The GCTA software is a versatile tool to estimate and partition complex trait variation with large GWAS data sets.

Common polygenic variation contributes to risk of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder

Schizophrenia is a severe mental disorder with a lifetime risk of about 1%, characterized by hallucinations, delusions and cognitive deficits, with heritability estimated at up to 80%¹⁻². We performed a genome-wide association study of 3,322 European individuals with schizophrenia and 3,587 controls. Here we show, using two analytic approaches, the extent to which common genetic variation underlies the risk of schizophrenia. First, we implicate the major histocompatibility complex. Second, we provide molecular genetic evidence for a substantial polygenic component to the risk of schizophrenia involving thousands of common alleles of very small effect. We show that this component also contributes to the risk of bipolar disorder, but not to several non-psychiatric diseases.

Table 2, Supplementary Fig. 2 and section 5 and 6 in Supplementary Information).

The best imputed SNP, which reached genome-wide significance (r^2 0.310297, $P = 4.79 \times 10^{-8}$, T allele odds ratio = 0.747, minor allele frequency (MAF) = 0.114, 32.3 megabases (Mb)), was also in the MHC, 7 kilobases (kb) from *NOTCH4*, a gene with previously reported associations with schizophrenia⁴. We imputed classical human leukocyte antigen (HLA) alleles; six were significant at $P < 10^{-3}$, found on the ancestral European haplotype⁵ (Table 1, Supplementary Table 3 and section 3 in Supplementary Information). However, it was not possible to ascribe the association to a specific HLA allele, haplotype or region (Supplementary Table 3 and Supplementary Fig. 4).

We exchanged GWAS summary results with the Molecular Genetics of Schizophrenia (MGS) and SGENE consortia for genotyped SNPs with $P < 10^{-5}$. There were 8,008 cases and 19,077 controls of European descent in the combined sample (see refs 6, 7 and section 7 in Supplementary Information). Our top genotyped MHC SNP (rs13130375) had $P = 0.086$ and $P = 0.14$ in MGS and SGENE, respectively. Considering the combined results for genotyped and imputed SNPs across the MHC region more broadly, rs13194053 had a genome-wide significant combined $P = 9.5 \times 10^{-9}$ (ISC, MGS and SGENE: $P = 3 \times 10^{-4}$, 1×10^{-2} and 1×10^{-4} , respectively; C allele

a MHC association for rs3130375 by sample

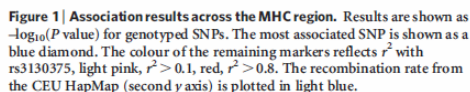
Sample	Ancestry	Frequency (rs3130375, A allele)		
		Cases	Controls	P value
University of Aberdeen	Scottish	0.132	0.168	0.0060
University of Edinburgh	Scottish	0.137	0.135	0.8930
University College London*	British	0.132	0.143	0.4836
Trinity College Dublin	Irish	0.110	0.170	0.0012
Cardiff University	Bulgarian	0.077	0.084	0.5602
Portuguese Island Collection	Portuguese	0.048	0.061	0.3510
Karolinska Institutet (5.0)	Swedish	0.043	0.119	0.0004
Karolinska Institutet (6.0)	Swedish	0.089	0.142	0.0040

HLA allele	Frequency†	Odds ratio	P value
HLA-A*0101	0.103	0.785	4 × 10 ⁻⁵
HLA-C*0701	0.113	0.778	5 × 10 ⁻⁵
HLA-B*0801	0.068	0.757	3 × 10 ⁻⁵
HLA-DRB*0301	0.121	0.768	3 × 10 ⁻⁶
HLA-DQB*0201	0.210	0.857	4 × 10 ⁻⁶
HLA-DQA*0501	0.205	0.798	6 × 10 ⁻⁷

Total sample Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel $P = 4 \times 10^{-7}$; Breslow-Day heterogeneity test $P = 0.012$ (d.f. = 6).

* SNP failed genotyping quality control in UCL. Allele frequency for UCL based on imputed genotypes.

† Frequency is estimated population frequency.



*Lists of authors and their affiliations appear at the end of the paper.

Evidence for Polygenic Susceptibility to Multiple Sclerosis—The Shape of Things to Come

The International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium (IMSGC)^{1,*}

It is well established that the risk of developing multiple sclerosis is substantially increased in the relatives of affected individuals and that most of this increase is genetically determined. The observed pattern of familial recurrence risk has long suggested that multiple variants are involved, but it has proven difficult to identify individual risk variants and little has been established about the genetic architecture underlying susceptibility. By using data from two independent genome-wide association studies (GWAS), we demonstrate that a substantial proportion of the thousands of variants that individually fail to show statistically significant evidence of association have allele frequencies in cases that are skewed away from the null distribution through the effects of multiple as-yet-unidentified risk loci. The collective effect of 12,627 SNPs with Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test ($p < 0.2$) in our discovery GWAS set optimally explains ~3% of the variance in MS risk in our independent target GWAS set, estimated by Nagelkerke's pseudo- R^2 . This model has a highly significant fit ($p = 9.90\text{E-}19$). These results statistically demonstrate a polygenic component to MS susceptibility and suggest that the risk alleles identified to date represent just the tip of an iceberg of risk variants likely to include hundreds of modest effects and possibly thousands of very small effects.

Polygenic Modeling of Genome-Wide Association Studies: An Application to Prostate and Breast Cancer

John S. Witte and Thomas J. Hoffmann

Abstract

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have successfully detected and replicated associations with numerous diseases, including cancers of the prostate and breast. These findings are helping clarify the genomic basis of such diseases, but appear to explain little of disease heritability. This limitation might reflect the focus of conventional GWAS on a small set of the most statistically significant associations with disease. More information might be obtained by analyzing GWAS using a polygenic model, which allows for the possibility that thousands of genetic variants could impact disease. Furthermore, there may exist common polygenic effects between potentially related phenotypes (e.g., prostate and breast cancer). Here we present and apply a polygenic model to GWAS of prostate and breast cancer. Our results indicate that the polygenic model can explain an increasing—albeit low—amount of heritability for both of these cancers, even when excluding the most statistically significant associations. In addition, nonaggressive prostate cancer and breast cancer appear to share a common polygenic model, potentially reflecting a similar underlying biology. This supports the further development and application of polygenic models to genomic data.

Bayesian inference analyses of the polygenic architecture of rheumatoid arthritis

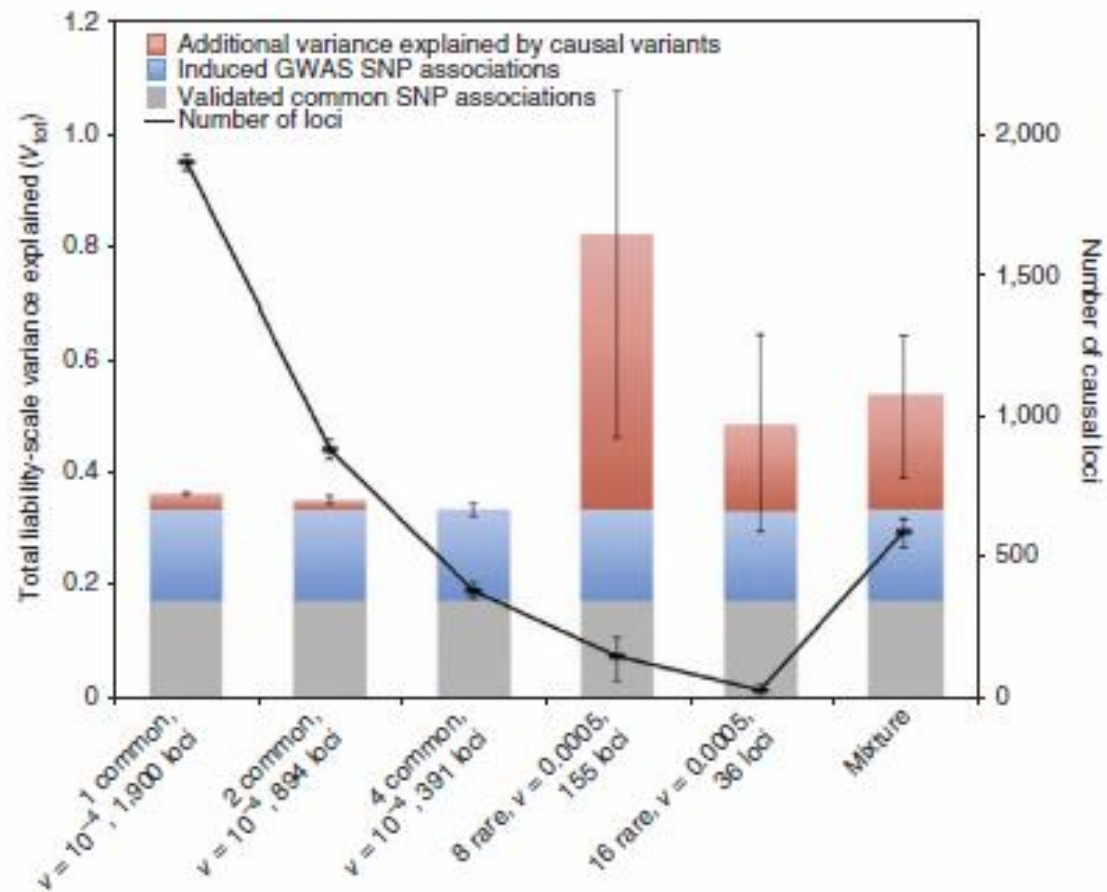
Eli A Stahl^{1-3*}, Daniel Wegmann⁴, Gosia Trynka⁵, Javier Gutierrez-Achury⁵, Ron Do^{2,6}, Benjamin F Voight⁷, Peter Kraft⁸, Robert Chen¹⁻³, Henrik J Kallberg⁹, Fina A S Kurreeman¹⁻³, Diabetes Genetics Replication and Meta-analysis Consortium¹⁰, Myocardial Infarction Genetics Consortium¹⁰, Sekar Kathiresan^{2,6}, Cisca Wijmenga⁵, Peter K Gregersen¹¹, Lars Alfredsson⁹, Katherine A Siminovitch¹², Jane Worthington¹³, Paul I W de Bakker^{2,3,14,15}, Soumya Raychaudhuri^{1-3,16} & Robert M Plenge^{1-3,16}

ANALYSIS

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genetics

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Eli A Stahl¹⁻³,
Peter Kraft⁸,
Meta-analysis
Peter K Grege
Soumya Raycha



Common SNPs explain a large proportion of the heritability for human height

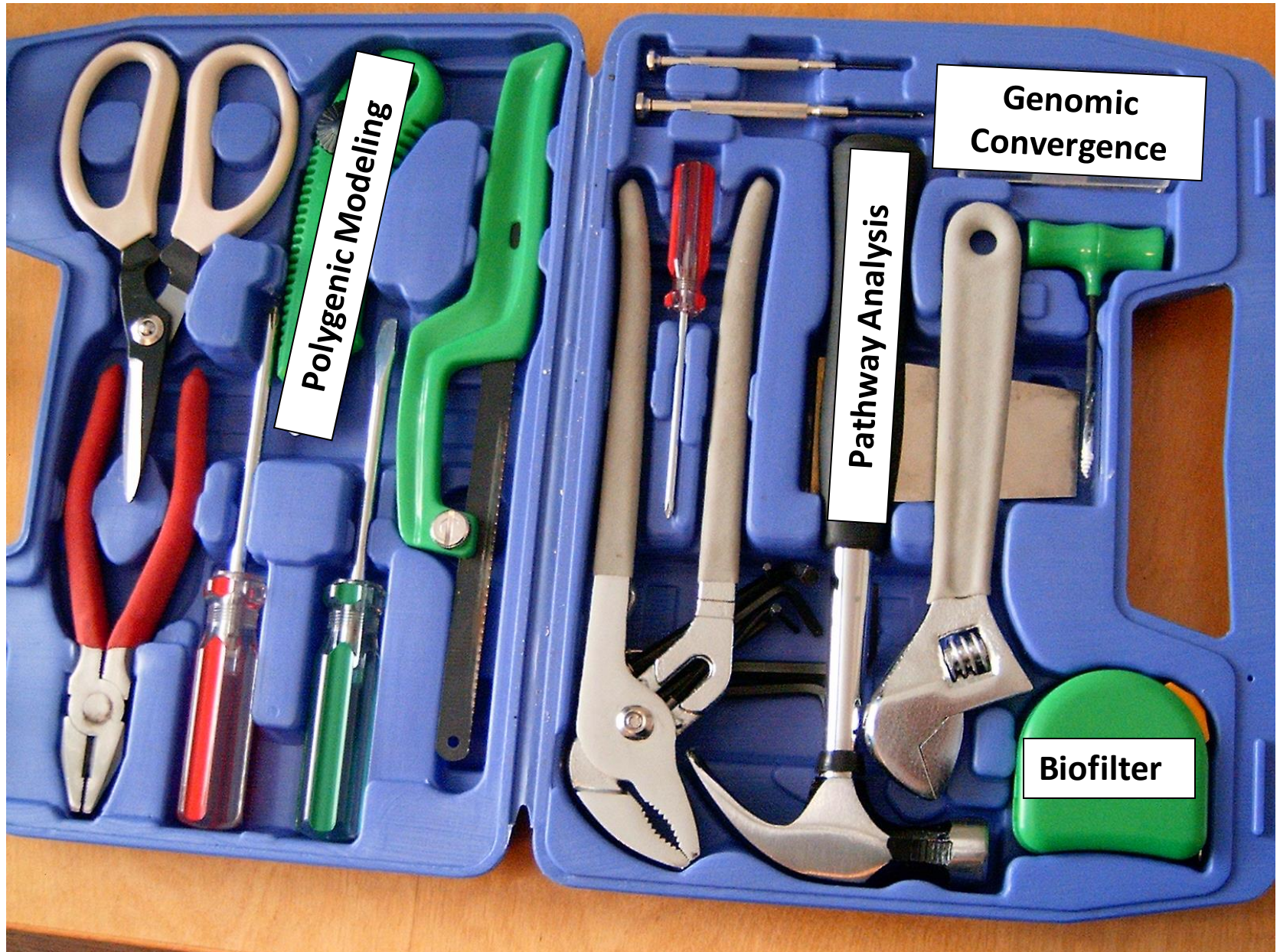
Jian Yang¹, Beben Benyamin¹, Brian P McEvoy¹, Scott Gordon¹, Anjali K Henders¹, Dale R Nyholt¹, Pamela A Madden², Andrew C Heath², Nicholas G Martin¹, Grant W Montgomery¹, Michael E Goddard³ & Peter M Visscher¹

SNPs discovered by genome-wide association studies (GWASs) account for only a small fraction of the genetic variation of complex traits in human populations. Where is the remaining heritability? We estimated the proportion of variance for human height explained by 294,831 SNPs genotyped on 3,925 unrelated individuals using a linear model analysis, and validated the estimation method with simulations based on the observed genotype data. We show that 45% of variance can be explained by considering all SNPs simultaneously. Thus, most of the heritability is not missing but has not previously been detected because the individual effects are too small to pass stringent significance tests. We provide evidence that the remaining heritability is due to incomplete linkage disequilibrium between causal variants and genotyped SNPs, exacerbated by causal variants having lower minor allele frequency than the SNPs explored to date.

of variation that their effects do not reach stringent significance thresholds and/or the causal variants are not in complete linkage disequilibrium (LD) with the SNPs that have been genotyped. Lack of complete LD might, for instance, occur if causal variants have lower minor allele frequency (MAF) than genotyped SNPs. Here we test these two hypotheses and estimate the contribution of each to the heritability of height in humans as a model complex trait.

Height in humans is a classical quantitative trait, easy to measure and studied for well over a century as a model for investigating the genetic basis of complex traits^{9,10}. The heritability of height has been estimated to be ~0.8 (refs. 9,11–13). Rare mutations that cause extreme short or tall stature have been found^{14,15}, but these do not explain much of the variation in the general population. Recent GWASs on tens of thousands of individuals have detected ~50 variants that are associated with height in the population, but these in total account for only ~5% of phenotypic variance^{16–19}.

Data from a GWAS that are collected to detect statistical associations



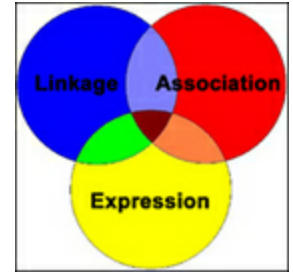
Polygenic Modeling

Pathway Analysis

Genomic Convergence

Biofilter

Genomic Convergence



- Multifactor approach that combines different kinds of genetic data
- Identify and prioritize susceptibility genes for complex traits
- Assumption
 - Regions of the genome that harbor susceptibility genes will show evidence of linkage, association, and/or differential gene expression

Genomic Convergence

Human Molecular Genetics, 2003, Vol. 12, No. 6 671–676
DOI: 10.1093/hmg/ddg070

Genomic convergence: identifying candidate genes for Parkinson's disease by combining serial analysis of gene expression and genetic linkage

Michael A. Hauser^{1,*}, Yi-Ju Li¹, Satoshi Takeuchi¹, Robert Walters¹, Maher Nouredine¹, Melinda Maready¹, Tiffany Darden¹, Christine Hulette³, Eden Martin¹, Elizabeth Hauser¹, Hong Xu¹, Don Schmechel⁴, Judith E. Stenger¹, Fred Dietrich² and Jeffery Vance¹

¹Center for Human Genetics, ²Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, ³Department of Pathology, and

⁴Department of Medicine, Duke University, Durham, NC 27710, USA

Genomic Convergence

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Human Mutation



Genomic Convergence to Identify Candidate Genes for Alzheimer Disease on Chromosome 10

Xueying Liang,¹ Michael Slifer,² Eden R. Martin,² Nathalie Schnetz-Boutaud,¹ Jackie Bartlett,¹ Brent Anderson,¹ Stephan Züchner,² Harry Gwirtsman,³ John R. Gilbert,² Margaret A. Pericak-Vance,² and Jonathan L. Haines^{1*}

¹*Center for Human Genetics Research and Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

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³*Department of Psychiatry, VA Hospital Medical Center, Memphis, Tennessee*

Communicated by Michael Dean

Received 12 August 2008; accepted revised manuscript 6 November 2008.

Published online 20 February 2009 in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com). DOI 10.1002/humu.20953

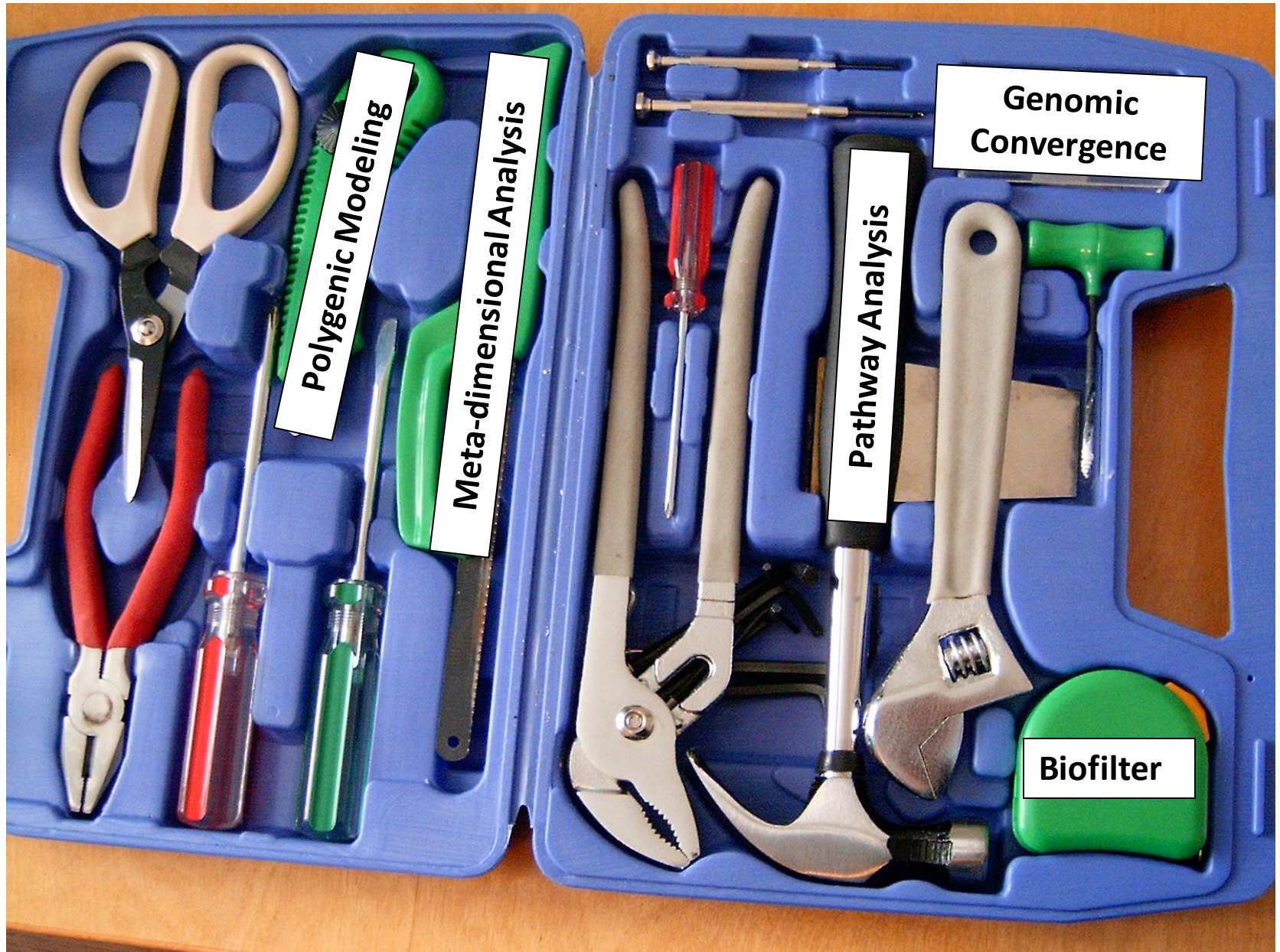
Genomic Convergence

OPEN  ACCESS Freely available online

 PLoS one

Genomic Convergence Analysis of Schizophrenia: mRNA Sequencing Reveals Altered Synaptic Vesicular Transport in Post-Mortem Cerebellum

Joann Mudge¹, Neil A. Miller¹, Irina Khrebtukova², Ingrid E. Lindquist¹, Gregory D. May¹, Jim J. Huntley¹, Shujun Luo², Lu Zhang², Jennifer C. van Velkinburgh¹, Andrew D. Farmer¹, Sharon Lewis¹, William D. Beavis¹, Faye D. Schilkey¹, Selene M. Virk¹, C. Forrest Black¹, M. Kathy Myers¹, Lar C. Mader¹, Ray J. Langley¹, John P. Utsey¹, Ryan W. Kim¹, Rosalinda C. Roberts⁵, Sat Kirpal Khalsa⁴, Meredith Garcia⁴, Victoria Ambriz-Griffith⁴, Richard Harlan⁴, Wendy Czika⁶, Stanton Martin⁶, Russell D. Wolfinger⁶, Nora I. Perrone-Bizzozero³, Gary P. Schroth², Stephen F. Kingsmore^{1*}



Polygenic Modeling

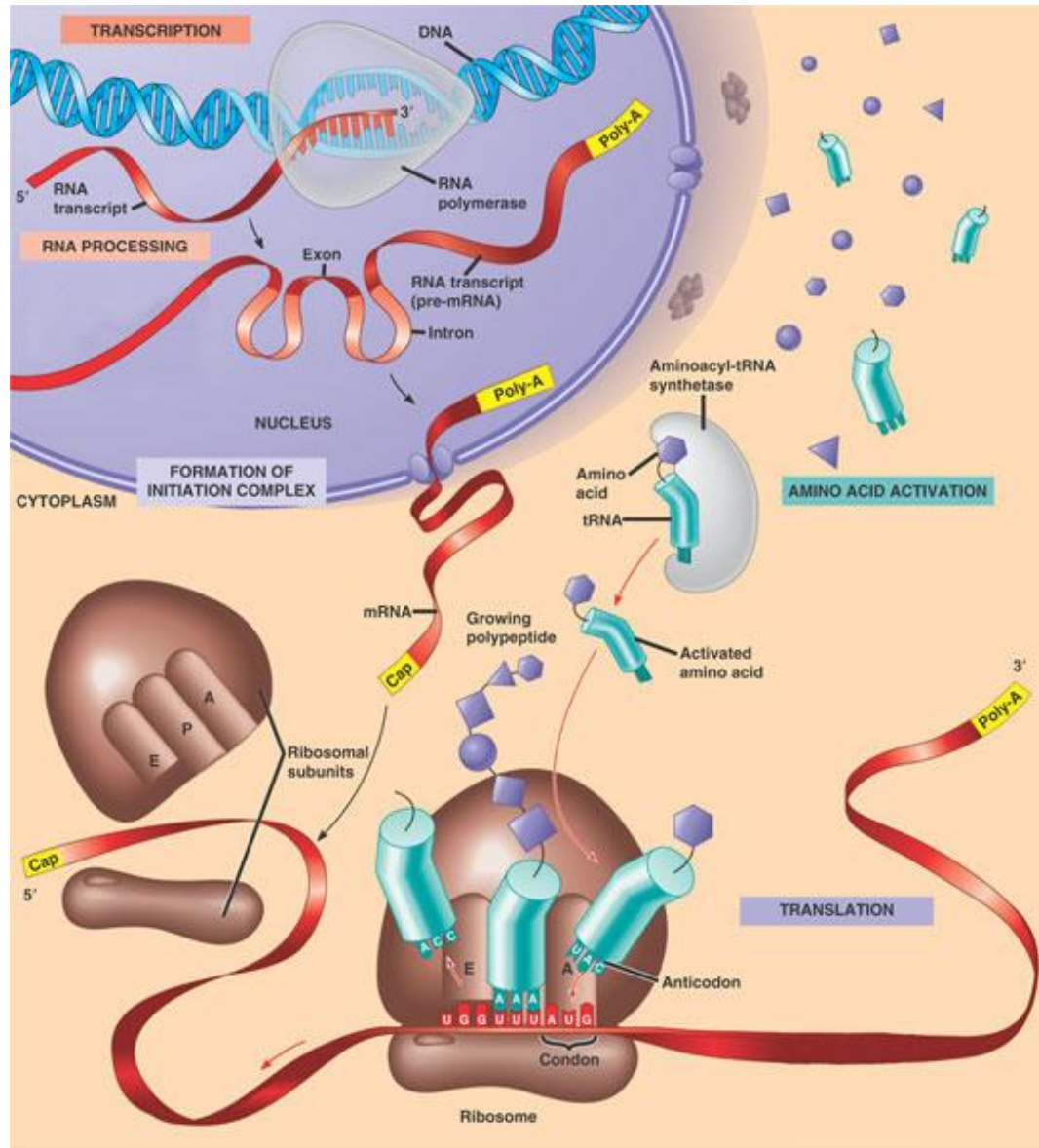
Meta-dimensional Analysis

Pathway Analysis

Genomic Convergence

Biofilter

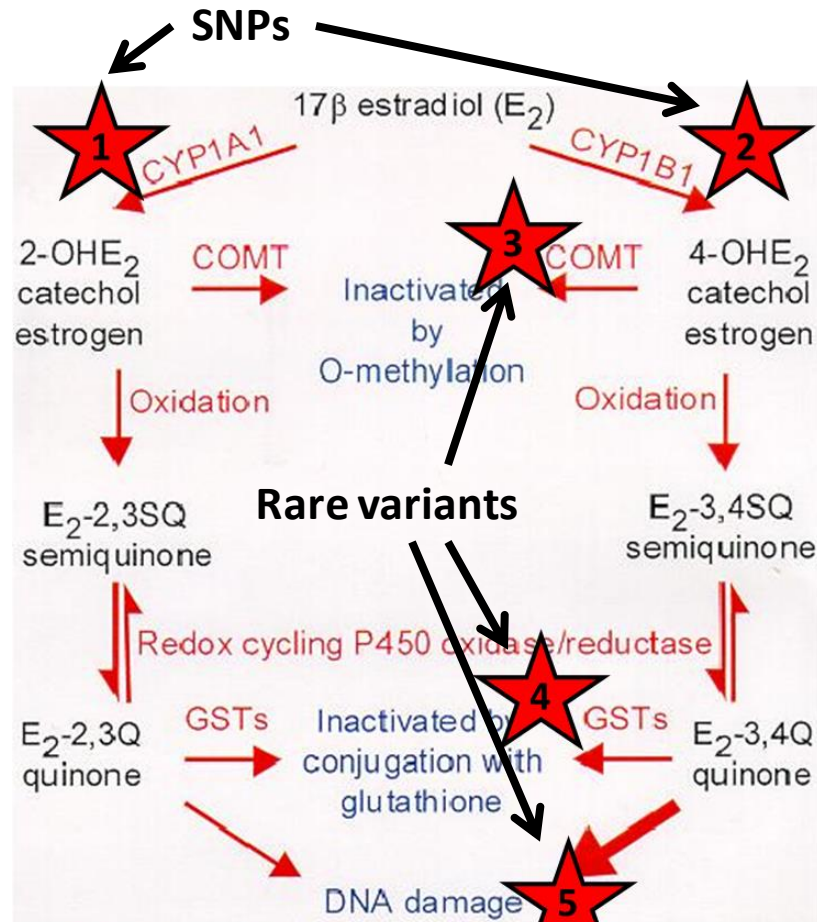
Molecular biology is complex



Meta-dimensional

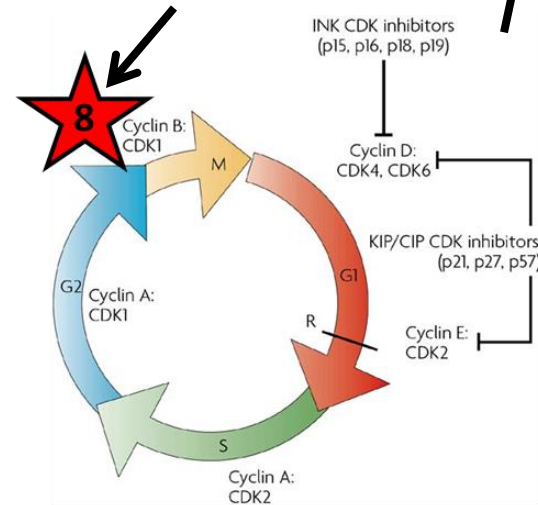
- Meta- (from Greek: μετά = "after", "beyond", "with", "adjacent", "self") to indicate a concept which is an abstraction from another concept
- Meta-dimensional analysis of phenotypes
 - Abstracting from multiple data source
 - Abstracting from multiple data types
 - Abstracting from multiple data sets

Meta-Dimensional Example



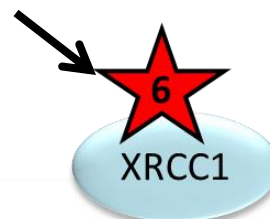
More DNA damage

protein expression



increased replication of damaged cells

methylation

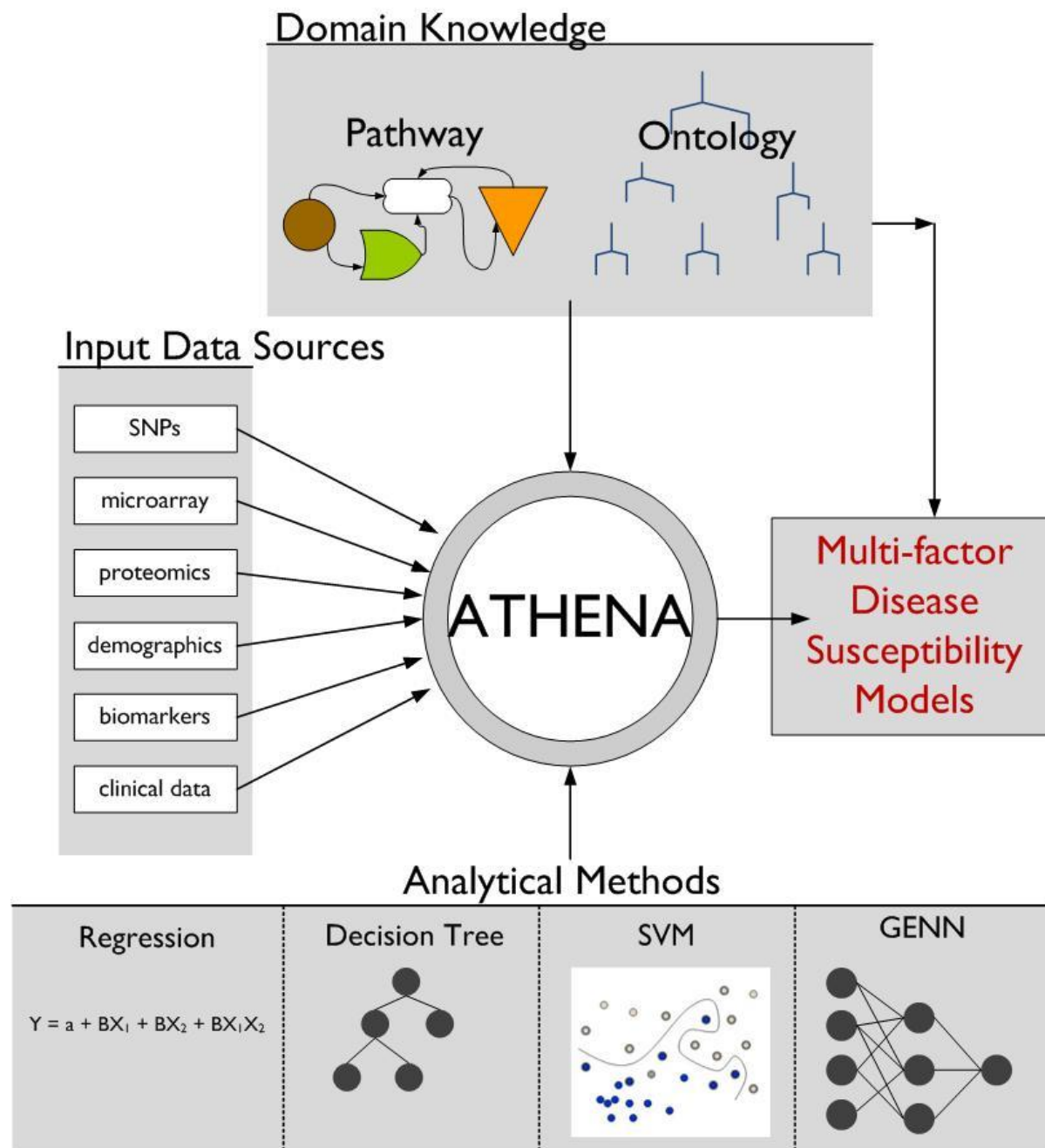


gene expression



ATHENA

- Analysis Tool for Heritable and Environmental Network Associations
 - Integrate genetic, environmental, and prior biological knowledge
 - Thorough data analysis
 - Combination of categorical and continuous independent and dependent variables





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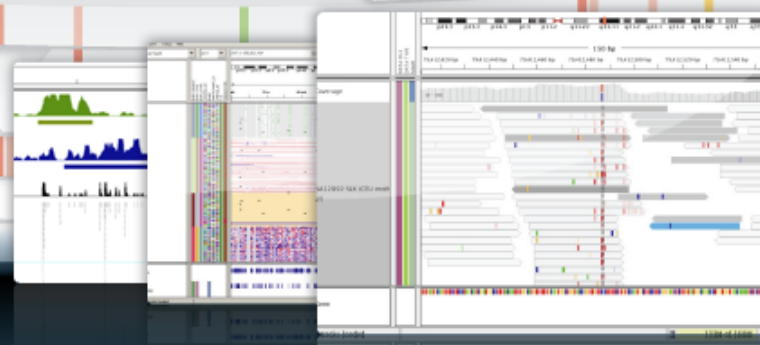
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Integrative Genomics Viewer



What's New



May 15, 2012 The IGV source code repository has moved to GitHub, at <https://github.com/broadinstitute/IGV>.

April 20, 2012. IGV 2.1 has been released. See the [release notes](#) for more details.

April 19, 2012. See our new [IGV paper](#) in Briefings in Bioinformatics.

Citing IGV

To cite your use of IGV in your publication:

James T. Robinson, Helga Thorvaldsdóttir, Wendy Winckler, Mitchell Guttman, Eric S. Lander, Gad Getz, Jill P. Mesirov. [Integrative Genomics Viewer](#). *Nature Biotechnology* 29, 24–26 (2011), or

Helga Thorvaldsdottir, James T. Robinson, Jill P. Mesirov. [Integrative Genomics Viewer \(IGV\): high-performance](#)



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Integrating heterogeneous high-throughput data for meta-dimensional pharmacogenomics and disease-related studies

The current paradigm of human genetics research is to analyze variation of a single data type (i.e., DNA sequence or RNA levels) to detect genes and pathways that underlie complex traits such as disease state or drug response. While these studies have detected thousands of variations that associate with hundreds of complex phenotypes, much of the estimated heritability, or trait variability due to genetic factors, remain unexplained. We may be able to account for a portion of the missing heritability if we incorporate a systems biology approach into these analyses. Rapid technological advances will make it possible for scientists to explore this hypothesis via the generation of high-throughput omics data – transcriptomic, proteomic and methylomic to name a few. Analyzing this ‘meta-dimensional’ data will require clever statistical techniques that allow for the integration of qualitative and quantitative predictor variables. For this article, we examine two major categories of approaches for integrated data analysis, give examples of their use in experimental and *in silico* datasets, and assess the limitations of each method.

KEYWORDS: computational methods ■ data integration ■ pharmacogenomics
■ systems biology

Emily R Holzinger^{1,2}
& Marylyn D Ritchie^{*2}

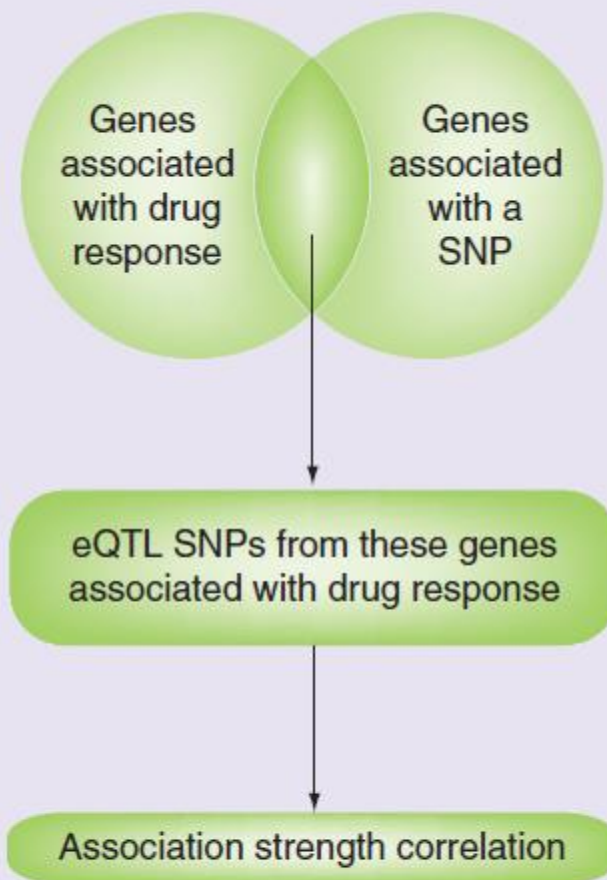
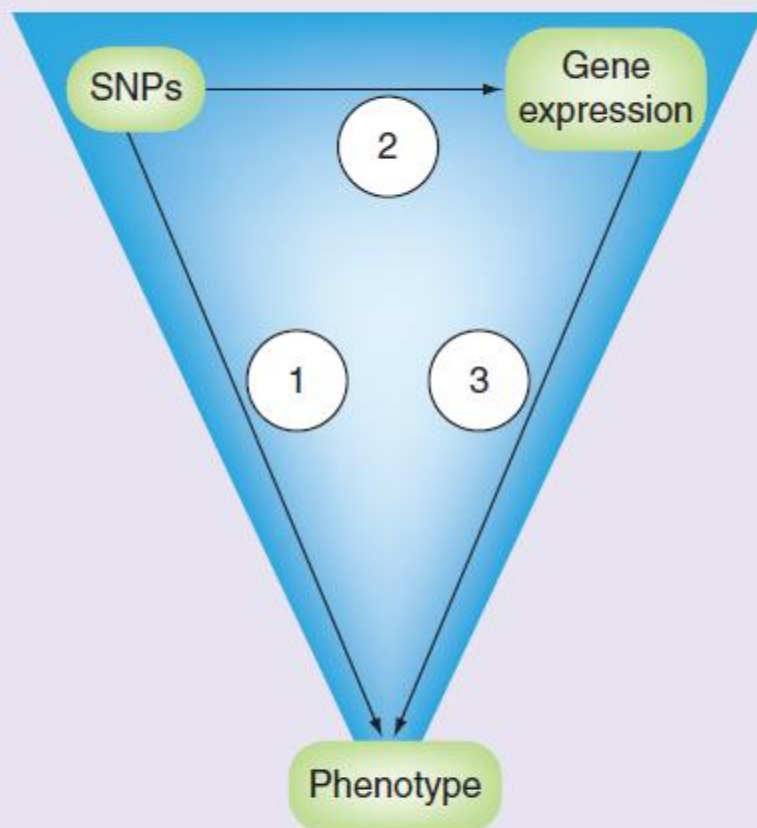


Figure 1. Variations of the triangle method.
eQTL: Expression quantitative trait loci.

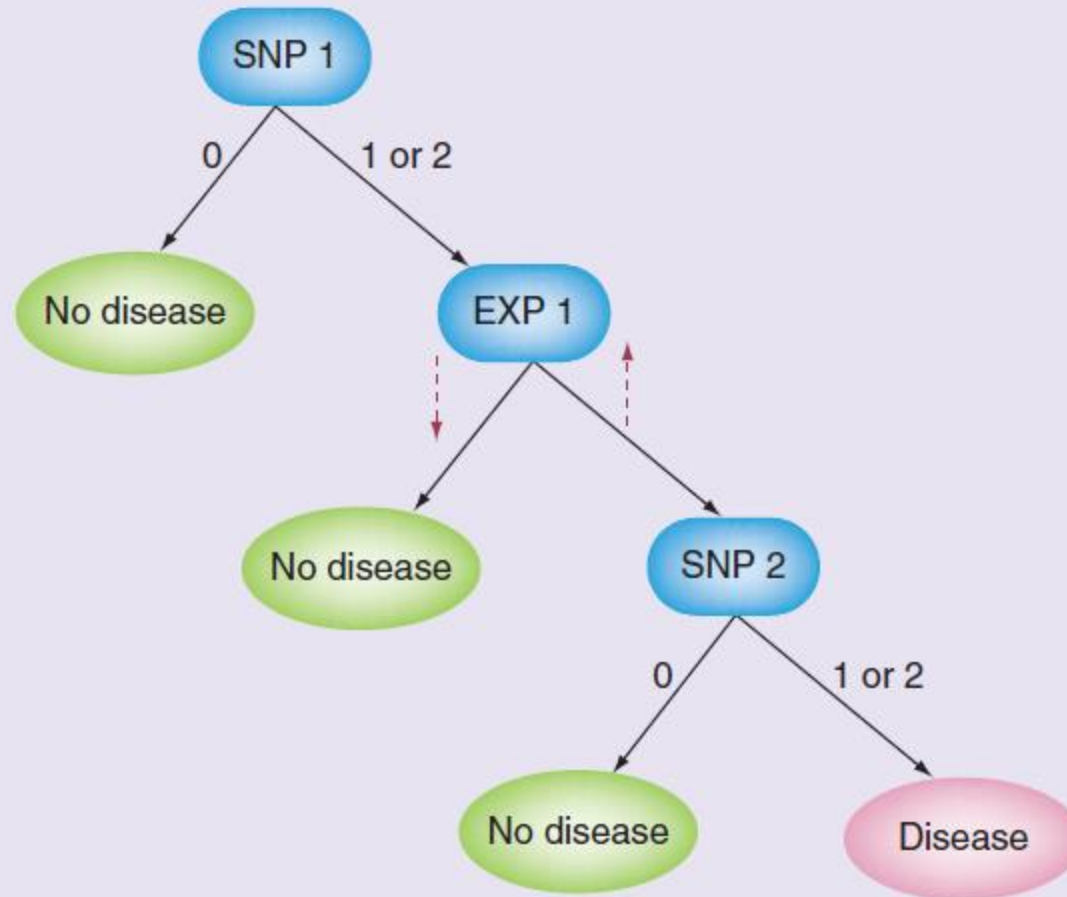


Figure 2. Decision tree example. For the SNP variables, the genotypes are represented as: 0: no minor alleles; 1: one minor allele; and 2: two minor alleles. The up and down dashed arrows indicate increased and decreased gene expression, respectively. EXP: Gene expression.

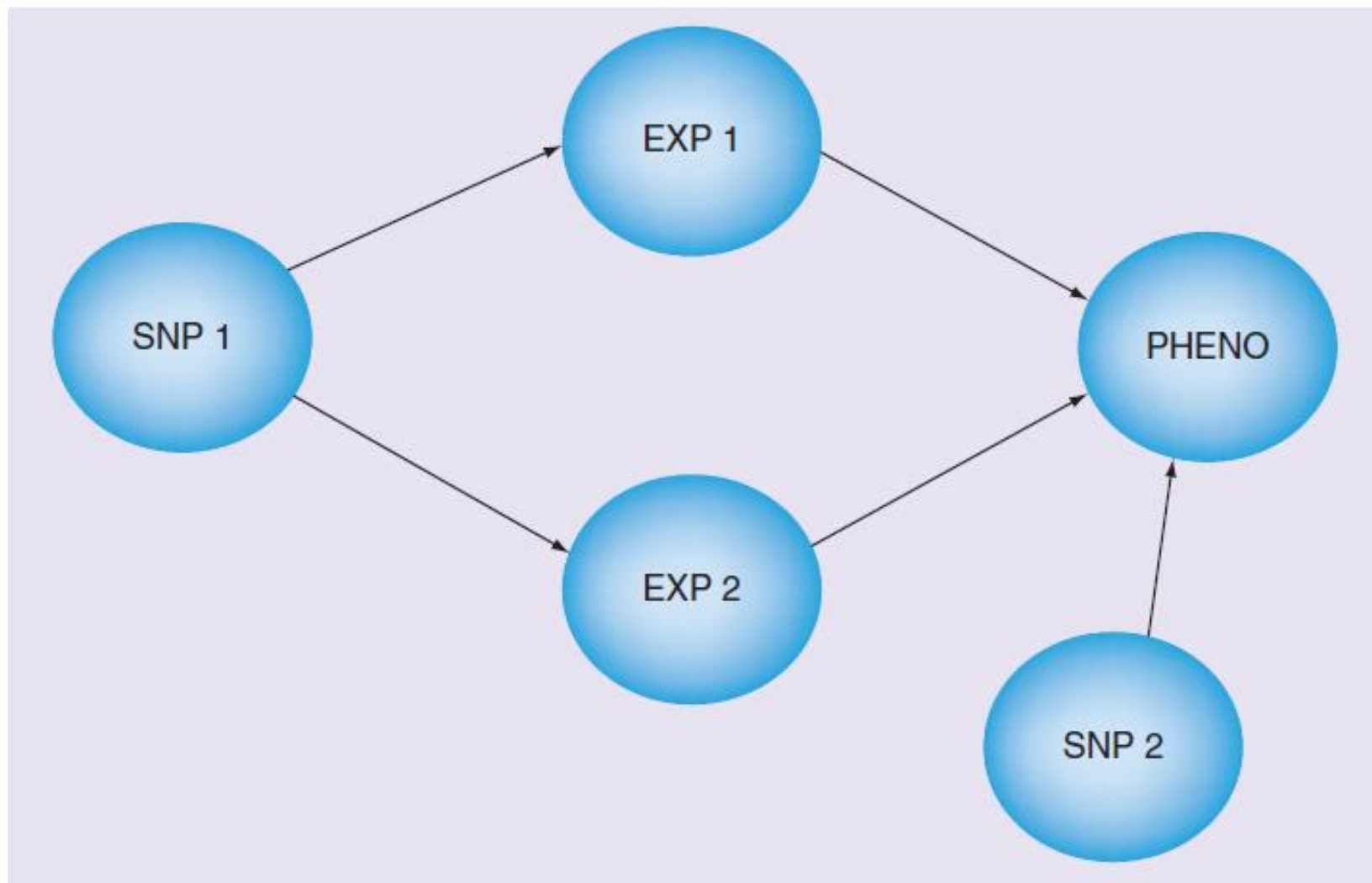


Figure 3. Bayesian network example with direct and indirect effects.

EXP: Gene expression; PHENO: Phenotype.

NEW: Network-Enabled Wisdom in Biology, Medicine, and Health Care

Eric E. Schadt¹ and Johan L. M. Björkegren^{2,3,4*}

Complete repertoires of molecular activity in and between tissues provided by new high-dimensional “omics” technologies hold great promise for characterizing human physiology at all levels of biological hierarchies. The combined effects of genetic and environmental perturbations at any level of these hierarchies can lead to vicious cycles of pathology and complex systemic diseases. The challenge lies in extracting all relevant information from the rapidly increasing volumes of omics data and translating this information first into knowledge and ultimately into wisdom that can yield clinically actionable results. Here, we discuss how molecular networks are central to the implementation of this new biology in medicine and translation to preventive and personalized health care.

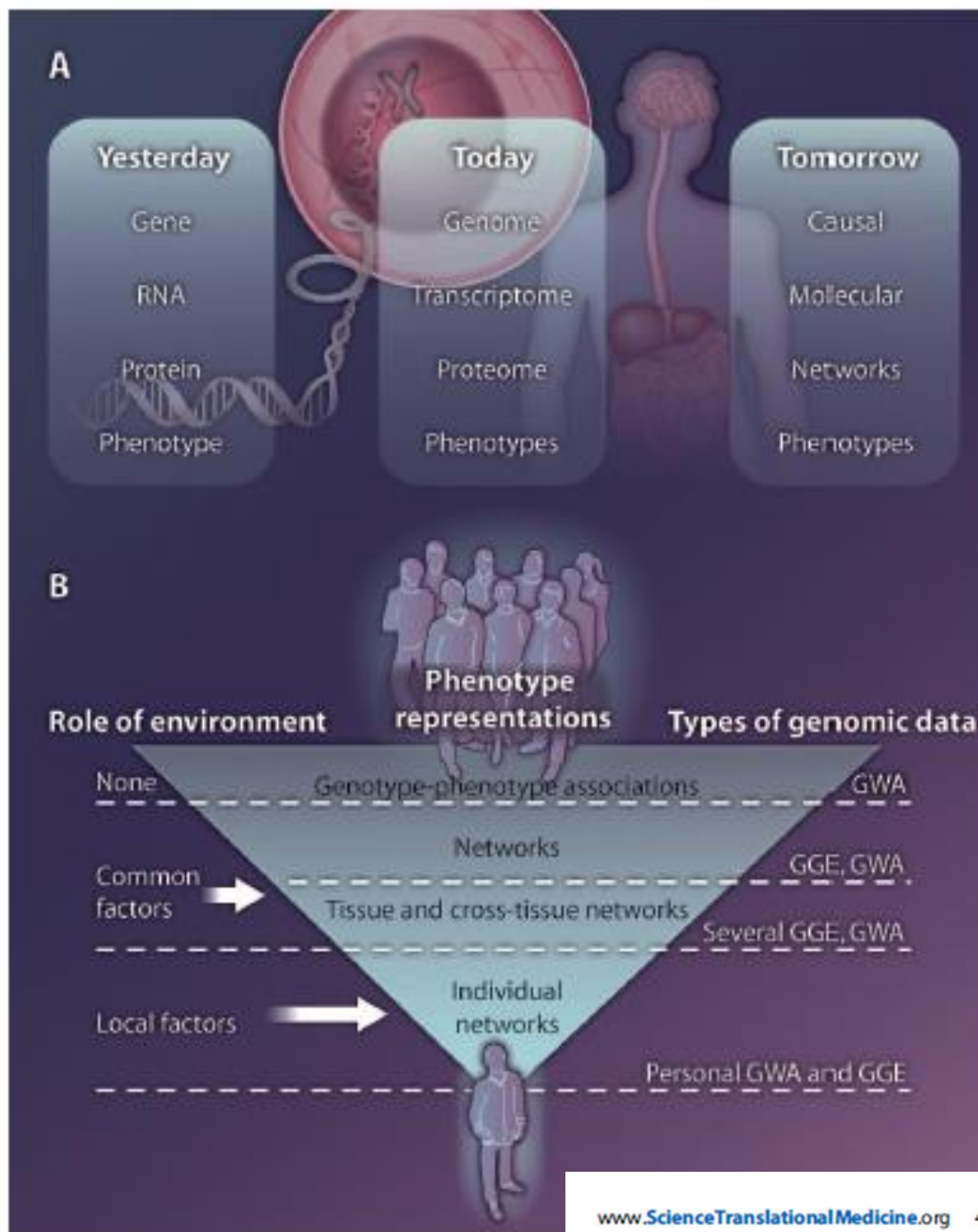
INTRODUCTION

Next-generation technologies that routinely measure biological parameters on a genome-wide scale (“omics” data)—such as DNA variations and epigenetic modifications, RNA and protein concentrations, and a variety of metabolites—are continuously being refined and offered at ever-decreasing costs. The resulting oceans of molecular data (moving quickly from the petabyte to exabyte scale or, even more scary, zetabyte—that’s 21 zeros) cannot be deciphered with traditional mathematical analyses carried out on isolated computers. Nor is the traditional representation of biological processes as linear pathways sufficient to represent the hierarchy of levels of molecular and higher-order regulation, and the interplay that defines human physiology and

individuals and their environment in ways that affect disease [questions remain as to the meaning of the disease associations observed in social networks (1)]. The architecture of biological networks shares similarities with well-studied ones in other disciplines, such as social and transportation networks. Like these large-scale information networks, molecular networks in biology are sparse and follow a power-law distribution in which most nodes have few interactions (say, one to three), whereas a smaller number, referred to as hub nodes, have many interactions (tens to hundreds or even thousands) (2) (Fig. 1).

Mapping the connectivity structure of networks (that is, the topology) is crucial for understanding how biological processes are defined at the molecular level, how they can be disrupted to cause disease, and how we

ncemag.org on May 22, 2012




Summary



Summary





**Party with your
Data**



Just because we have not found it yet, doesn't mean it's not there.....



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