

Outline

- What other biases do we suffer from?
- Here come the genomes
- Assembly errors and where they come from
- Annotation concerns
- RNAseq, reality and you

What other biases might we suffer from?

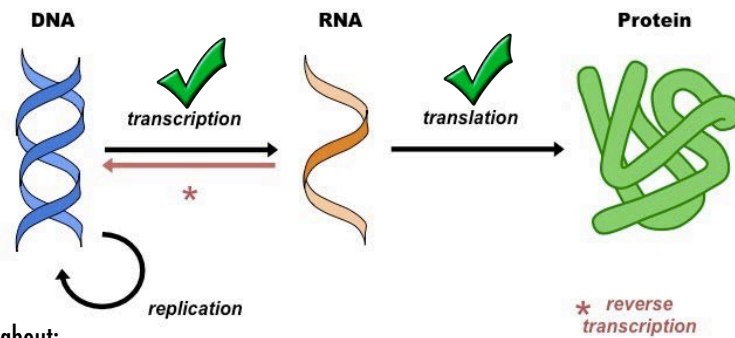


We're basically a rather lost, self domesticated chimp







We're very likely to :

- see patterns when none exist
- think we can predict the future, cause we think we know how things work ... like:
 - gravity, your car, sunsets
 - weather, the stock market, Trump ...
 - the central dogma

The central dogma



What about:

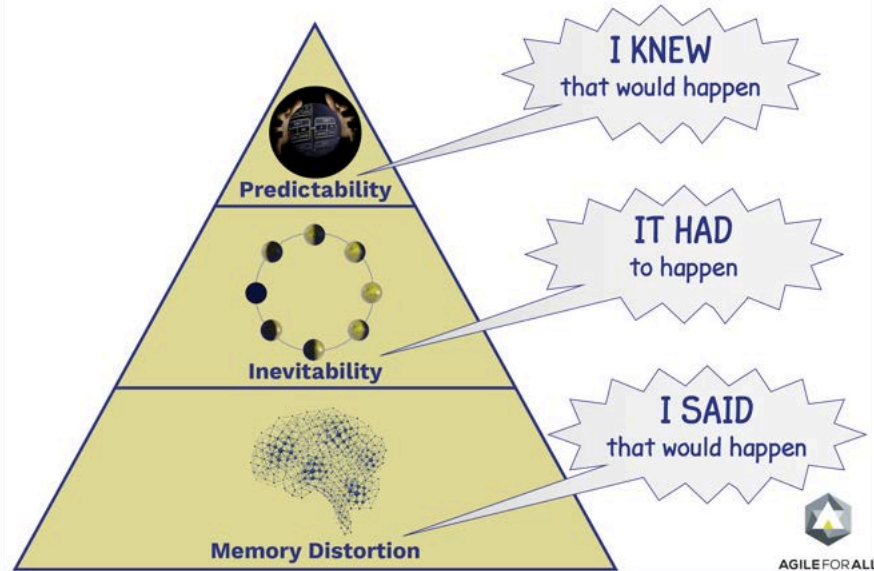
- Gene expression level based upon enhancer region? 
- When and where a gene will be expressed from enhancer region? 
- How will RNA sequence will fold into a 2° structure? 
- How will a protein sequence will fold into a 3° structure? 
- Function of an enzyme based upon its structure? 
- Write a protein that will fold and do a specific enzymatic task? 

Hindsight bias

the knew-it-all-along effect

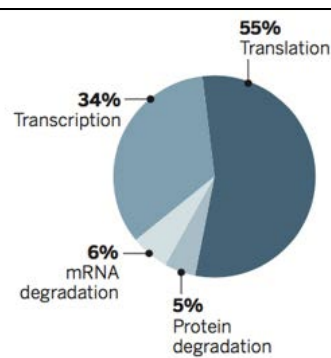
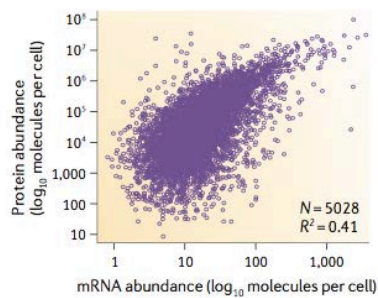
the inclination, after an event has occurred, to see the event as having been predictable, despite there having been little or no objective basis for predicting it.

Three Levels of Hindsight Bias

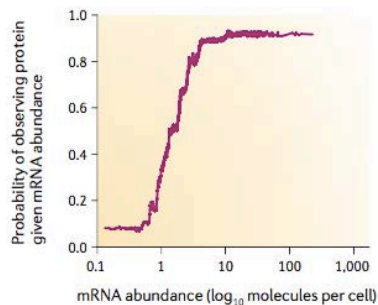


<https://agileforall.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Hindsight-Bias-Three-Levels.png>

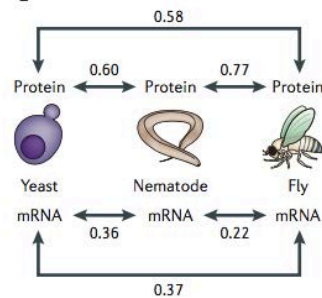
a Mouse



c Yeast

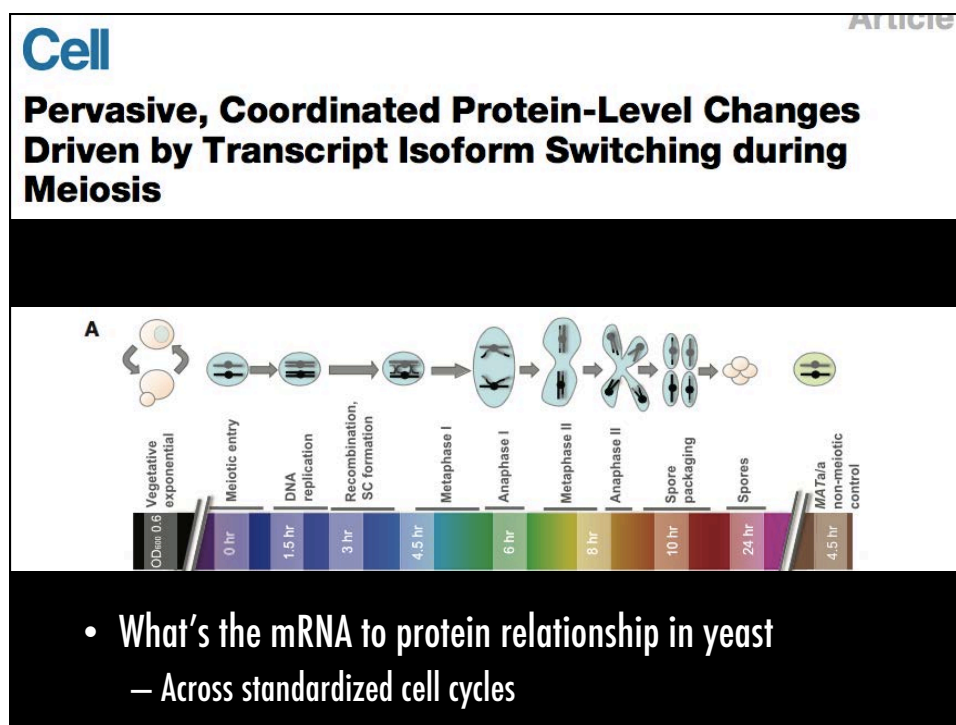
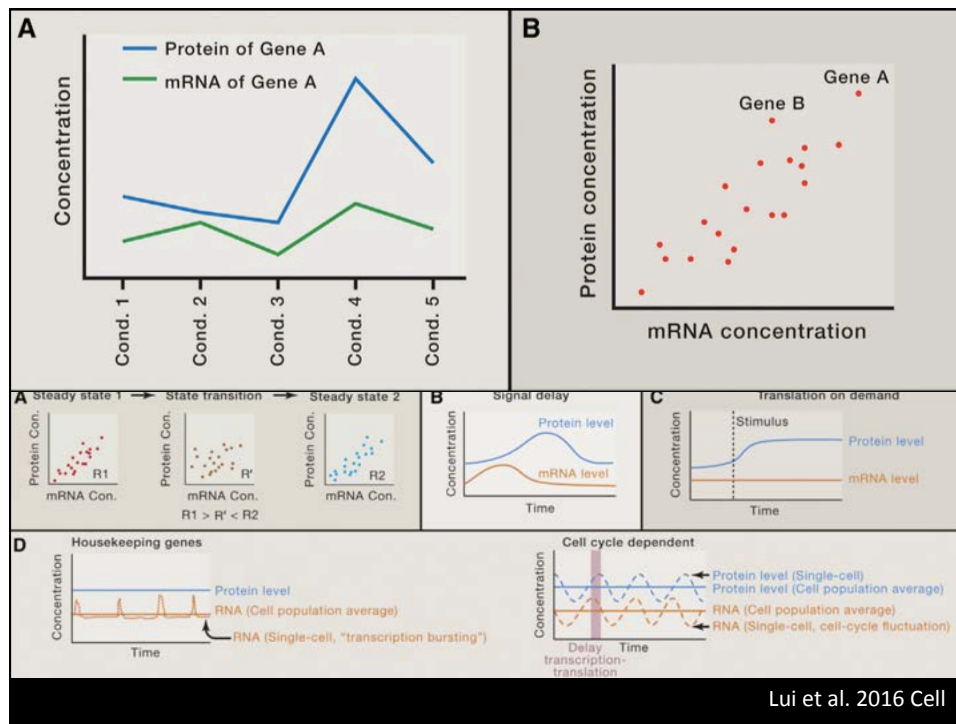


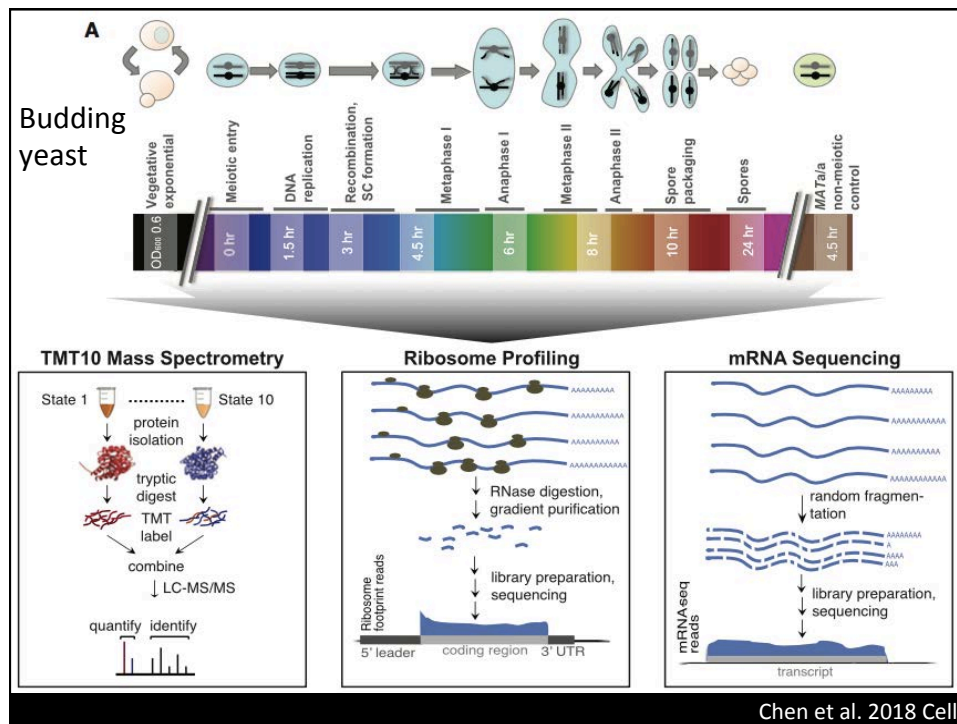
d



Li and Biggin 2015

Vogel and Marcotte 2012 NRG

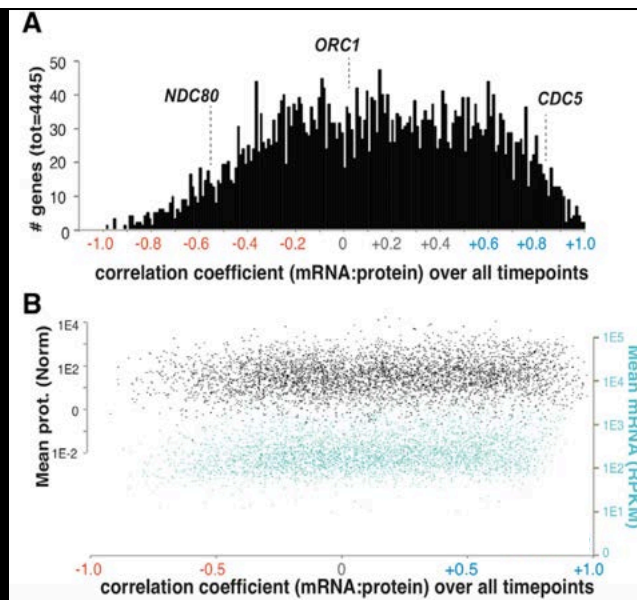




Simultaneous measurements of:

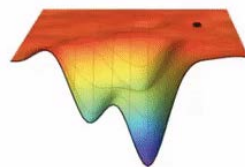
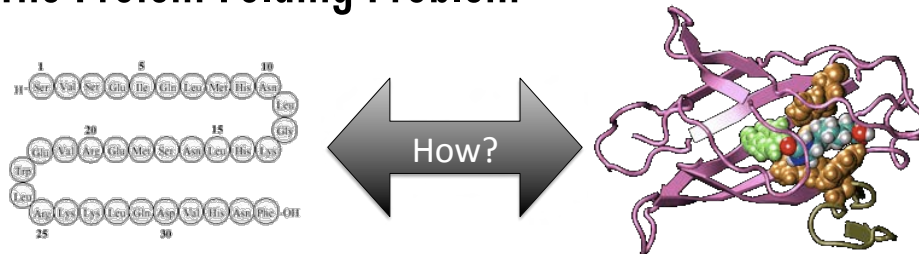
- mRNA
- translation
- Protein abundance

through meiotic differentiation in budding yeast



Chen et al. 2018 Cell

The Protein Folding Problem



<https://gfycat.com/greenpertinentkomododragon>

https://zhanglab.ccmb.med.umich.edu/image/Protein_design.gif

Google's DeepMind predicts 3D shapes of proteins

The Guardian

AI program's understanding of proteins could usher in new era of medical progress



Complex of bacteria-infecting viral proteins modeled in CASP 13. The complex contains proteins that were modeled individually. PROTEIN DATA BANK

Google's DeepMind aces protein folding

By Robert F. Service | Dec. 6, 2018, 12:05 PM

Science

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/12/google-s-deepmind-aces-protein-folding>

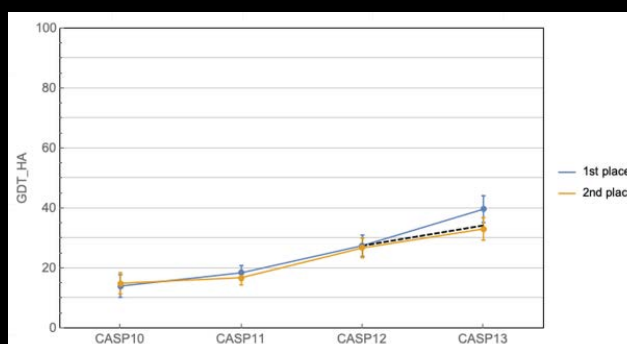
Critical Assessment of Structure Prediction (CASP)

- Important for solving many 21st-century problems:
 - basically fixing anything that involves living systems
- Competition provides multiple sequence alignments, allowing methods to use co-evolutionary inference
 - does not just a single sequence, as that's too hard
- "DeepMind's latest AI program, AlphaFold, had beaten all-comers at a particularly fiendish task: predicting the 3D shapes of proteins, the fundamental molecules of life." Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/dec/02/google-deepminds-ai-program-alphafold-predicts-3d-shapes-of-proteins>

Critical Assessment of Structure Prediction (CASP)

- AlphaFold topped a table of 98 entrants, predicting the most accurate structure for 25 out of 43 proteins



<https://moalquraishi.wordpress.com/2018/12/09/alphafold-casp13-what-just-happened/>

peptide sequence to catalytic function ...



Beethoven's hand written sheet music

Quote in Nobel Prize lecture, 2018
<https://youtu.be/6hOZ5e0g9Uo>

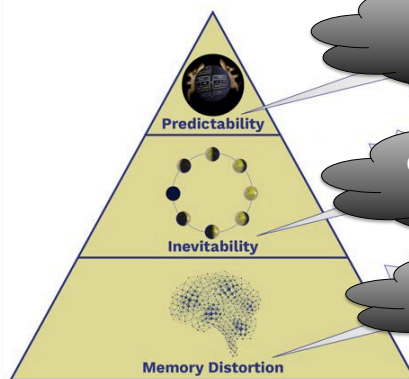


Francis Arnold
Nobel Prize winner (2018)

We're biased, so be careful ...

... cause we all make mistakes

Three Levels of Hindsight Bias



I knew that correlation had to exist, it just makes sense

Of course this gene works the way its annotation says

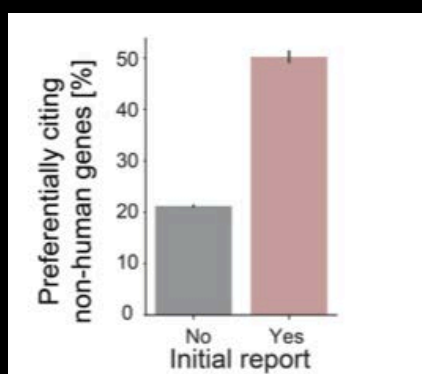
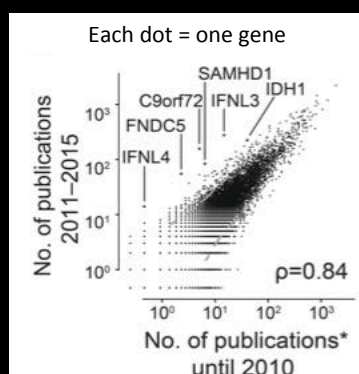
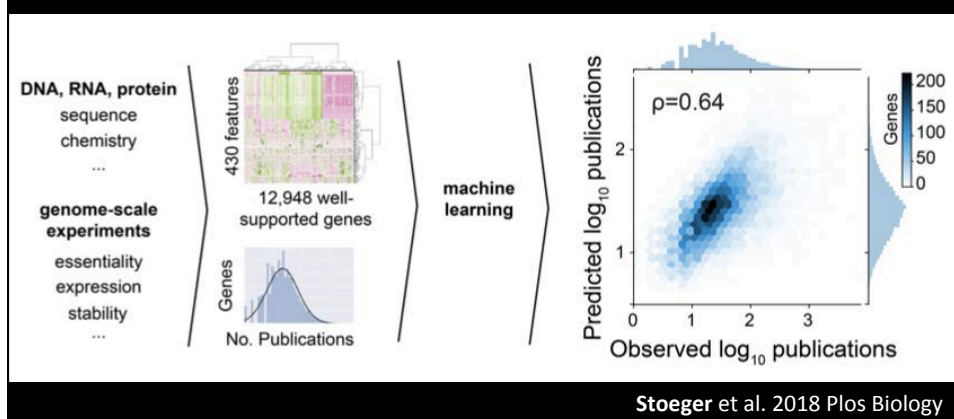
There was something strange about these outliers from the start, lets remove them

AGILEFORALL

Do researchers distribute their attention equally across all genes?

Do we ever conduct “unbiased” investigations?

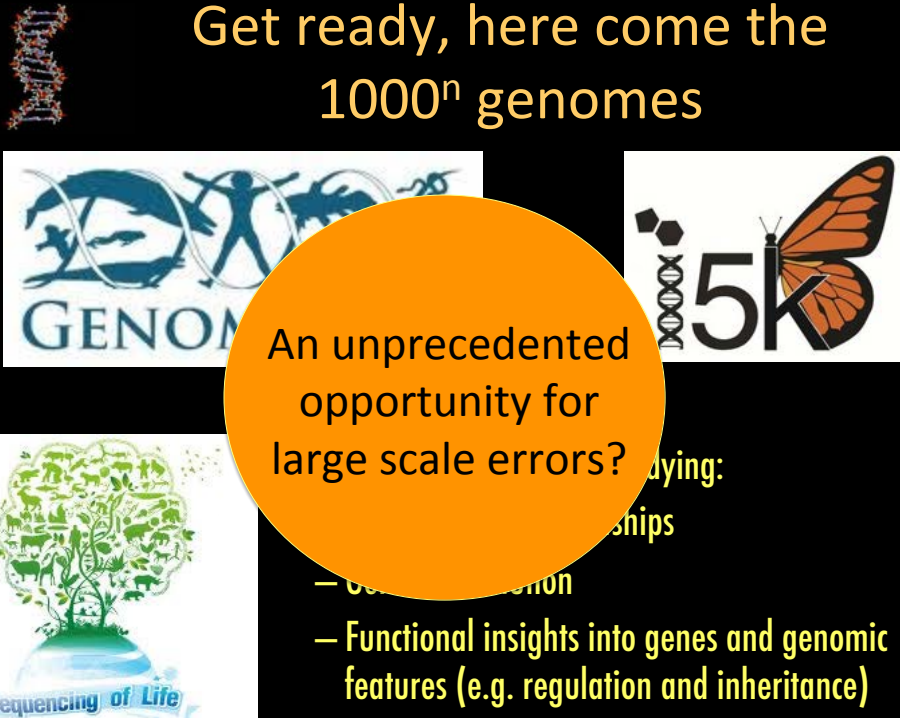
What if we looked at investigations by gene, over time



- 30 percent of all genes have never been the focus of a scientific study
- less than 10 percent of genes are the subject of more than 90 percent of published papers
- historical and biological reasons rather than relevance drive study

Stoeger et al. 2018 Plos Biology

Get ready, here come the 1000ⁿ genomes



An unprecedented opportunity for large scale errors?

— Functional insights into genes and genomic features (e.g. regulation and inheritance)

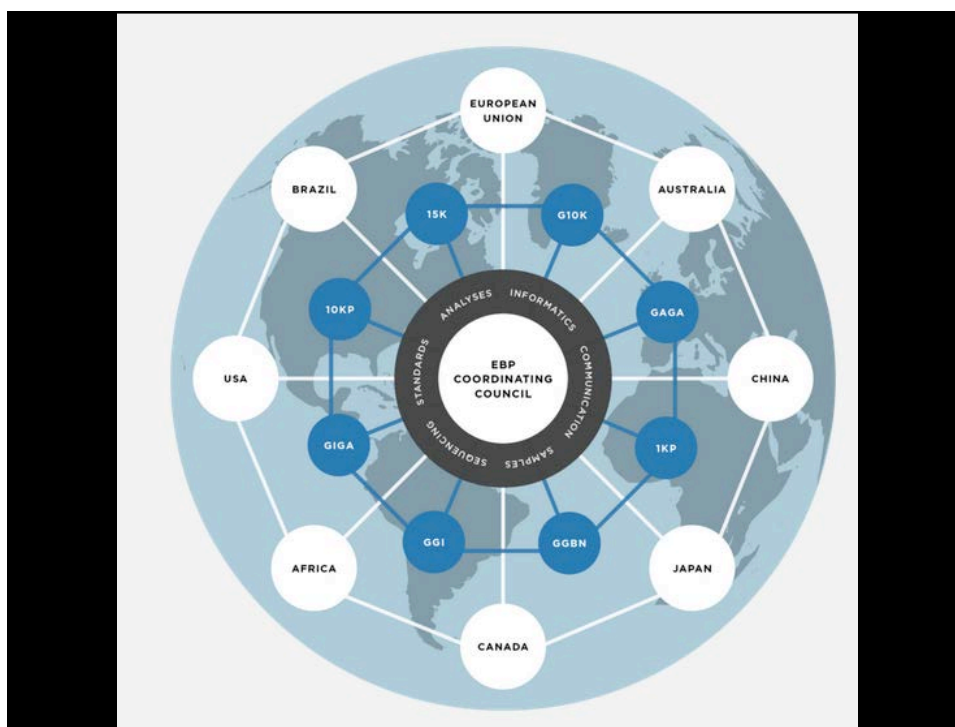
EARTH BIOGENOME PROJECT




Darwin Tree of Life Project (UK)


EBG is divided in several phases

Sequencing-wise	Logistics-wise
Phase I: Kingdoms – Phyla – Classes	Phase I: fundraising, legislation, standards
Phase II: Orders – Families	Phase II: collection, sequencing, analysis
Phase III: Genera - Species	Phase III: continue seq & analysis, data mining











**EARTH
BIOGENOME
PROJECT**



VGP

					
54	58	32	30	90	4
BIRDS	MAMMALS	REPTILES	AMPHIBIANS	FISH	INVERTEBRATES

OVER 260 SPECIES

Standard: 3.4.2.QV40 PHASED

3: Contig N50 ≥ 1 Mb
 4: Scaffold N50 ≥ 10 Mb
 2: >90% of scaffolds are assigned to chromosomes, confirmed by two independent sources
QV40: Phred-score of average base quality is 1 error per 10 kb of sequence
Phased: Individual haplotypes should be resolved

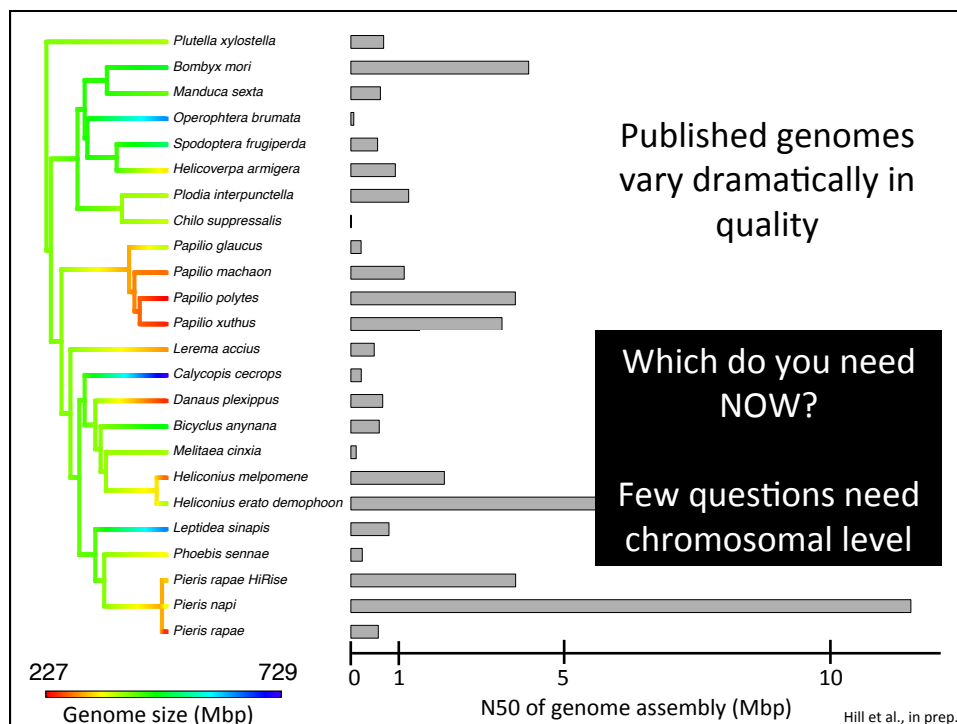
Sequencing & assembly:
 PacBio (min 60x) + 10x Genomics + BioNano + HiC
 (+ *ultralong* Nanopore reads)

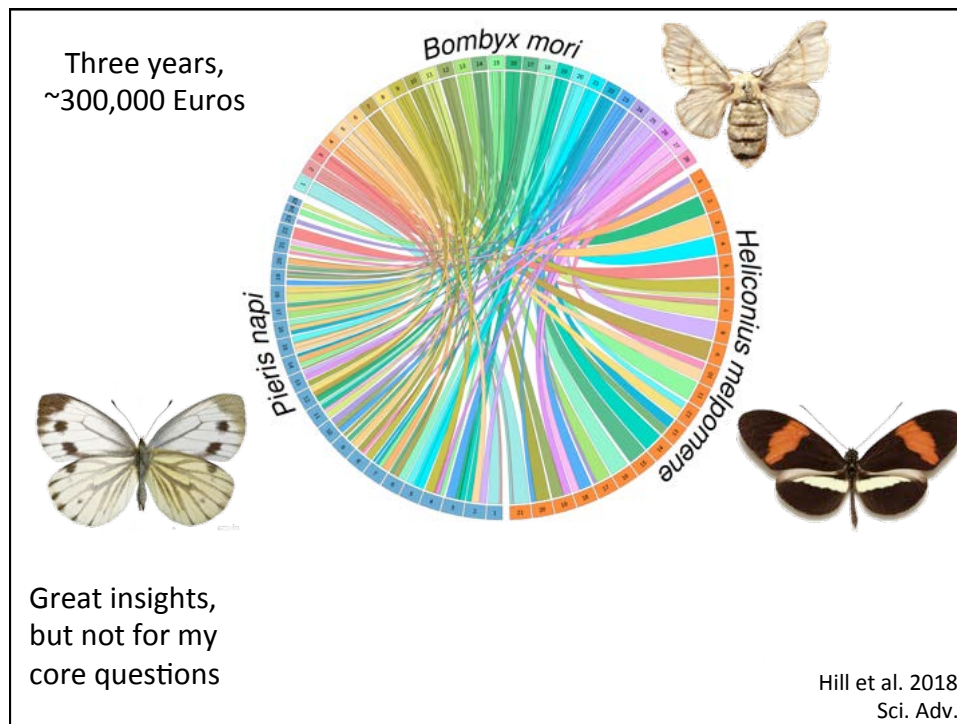
Annotation (NCBI):
 mRNA from at least 3 tissues (preferred: *brain*, spleen, testis/ovaries), Illumina + Iso-Seq
 miRNA
 lncRNA

Slides from : Olga Pettersson, SciLifeLab, Sweden

So ... how many of you are sequencing a genome?

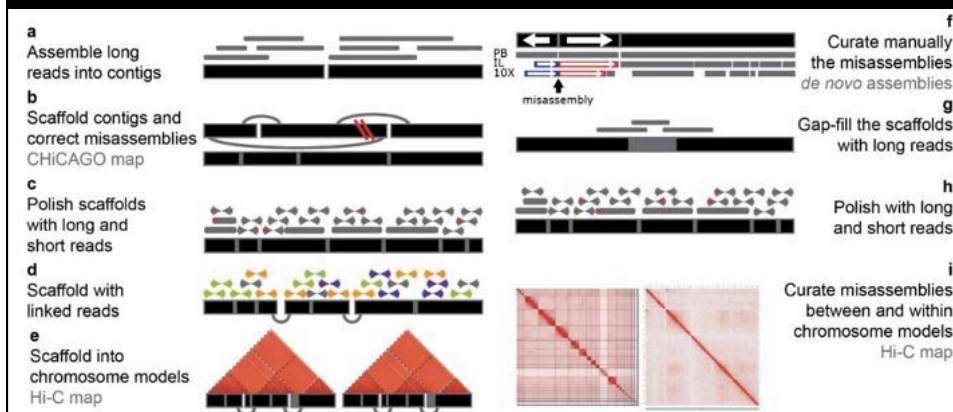
- What does that mean? Have you told your mom?
- What kind of genome are you generating?
- What do you need, what is your question?
 - Short term vs. long term goals?
 - Are these in conflict?





What determines genome quality?

Identifying the causes and consequences of assembly gaps using a multiplatform genome assembly of a bird-of-paradise

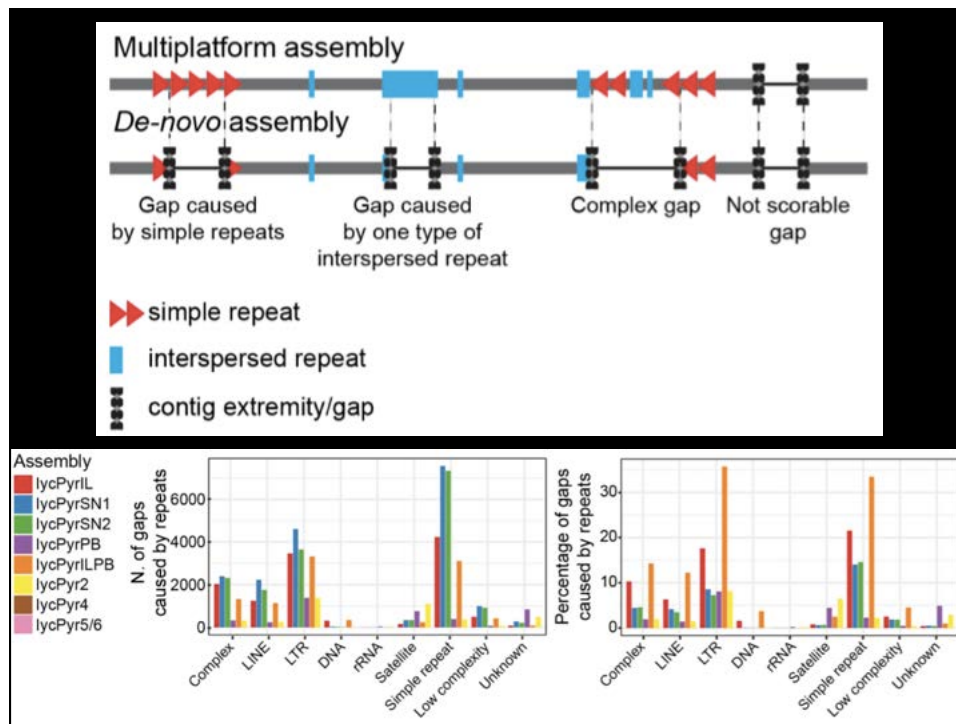


Peona, et al. (2019). . BioRxiv 2019.12.19.882399.

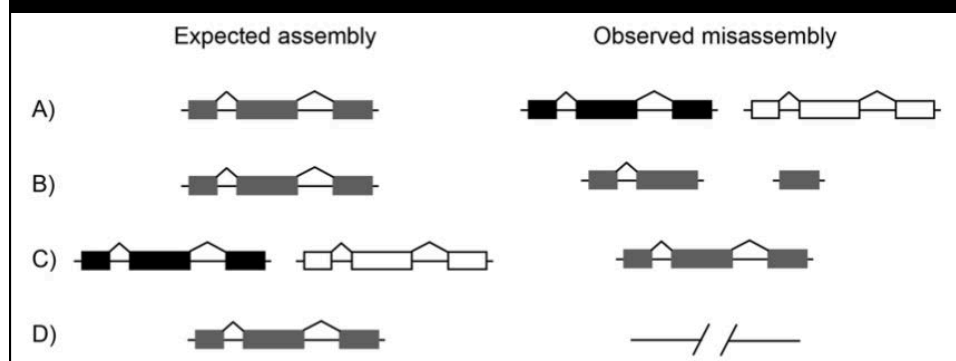
They made lots of assemblies along the way

Assembly	Technology	Software	Contig N50 (bp)	N contigs	Scaffold N50 (bp)	N scaffolds
lycPyrIL	Illumina HiSeq2500 (PE + MP) ^c	ALLPATHS-LG	620,719	10,766	4,227,710	3,216
lycPyrPB	PacBio RSII C6-P4	Falcon	6,644,420	3,422	-	-
lycPyrSN1	10X Genomics Chromium HiSeqX	Supernova2	144,856	29,791	4,360,585	13,934
lycPyrSN2	10X Genomics Chromium HiSeqX	Supernova2	149,640	27,366	4,748,626	14,217
lycPyrHiC	PacBio + Phase Genomics Hi-C	Proximo	6,644,420	3,422	70,588,898	2,927
lycPyrILPB	lycPyrIL + gap-filling with PacBio	PBJelly	1,982,606	6,895	4,229,628	3,216
lycPyr2	PacBio + Dovetail CHiCAGO	HiRise	6,294,665	3,463	6,644,037	3,227
lycPyr3	lycPyr2 + 10X Genomics	ARCS + LINKS	6,294,665	3,463	8,009,555	3,121
lycPyr4	lycPyr3 + Phase Genomics Hi-C	Proximo	6,294,665	3,463	69,071,023	1,713
lycPyr5	lycPyr4 + manual curation with alignments + gap filling	PBJelly	7,540,011	3,269	74,173,823	1,700
lycPyr6	lycPyr5 + manual curation with Hi-C	Juicer	7,540,011	3,271	74,173,823	1,700

Peona, et al. (2019). . BioRxiv 2019.12.19.882399.

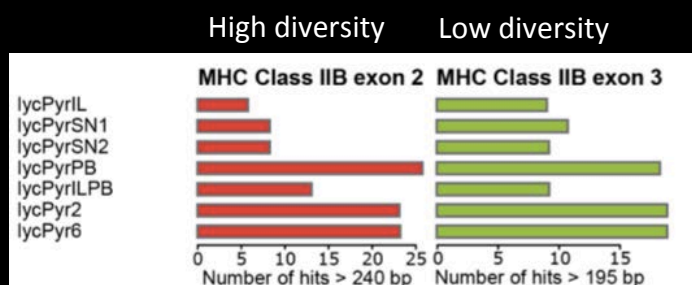


Errors that can happen in assemblies

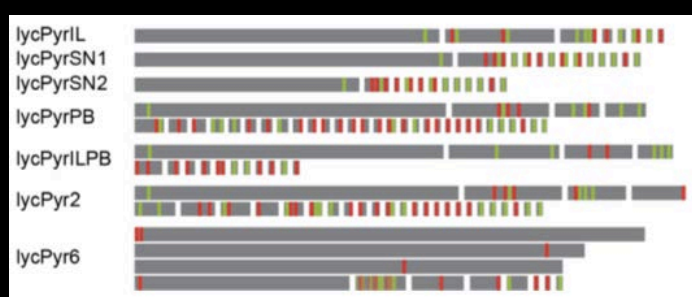


Denton et al. 2014 PLoS Comp Bio.

MHC IIB: complex tandem repeats as a case study



Highly diverse copies are very difficult to assemble



All loci are from same chromosome

Very challenging to place them accurately

Post-genomics challenge

"What we can measure is by definition uninteresting and what we are interested in is by definition immeasurable"

- Lewontin 1974

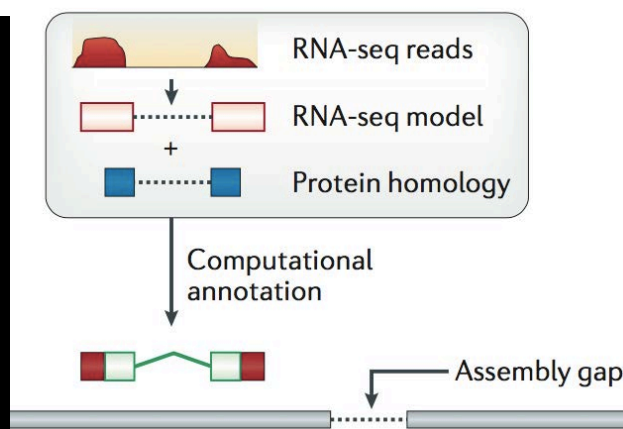
"What we understand of the genome is by definition uninteresting and what we are interested in is by definition very damn difficult to sequence and assemble and annotate and analyze at the genomic scale"

- Wheat 2015

For example:

- indels & inversions & repeats
- gene family dynamics
- evolutionary divergence

Genome annotation



- Using RNAseq and protein alignments to identify gene regions and exon boundaries

Salzberg *Genome Biology* (2019) 20:92
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-019-1715-2>

Genome Biology

EDITORIAL

Open Access

Next-generation genome annotation: we still struggle to get it right

Steven L. Salzberg



- Bacterial genomes, ~90% of genome is genic content
- Eukaryotes, << 2% is genic
 - Gene prediction is very difficult, low accuracy

“even after 18 years of effort, the precise exon–intron structure of many human protein-coding genes is not settled”

How well does annotation work?

- Hard to say, no recent comparisons among methods
- Primarily depends upon the training dataset you use

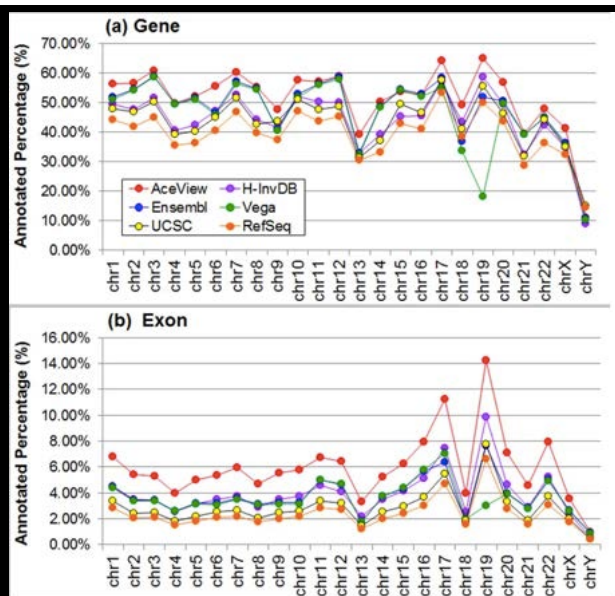
Table 2 Gene model accuracy using unmatched species parameters

Reference Organism	Performance Category	MAKER Annotations		
		Augustus	GeneMark	SNAP
<i>A. thaliana</i>	Nucleotide Accuracy	68.56%	57.96%	73.77%
	Exon Accuracy	53.31%	28.87%	60.11%
<i>D. melanogaster</i>	Nucleotide Accuracy	73.78%	72.83%	74.44%
	Exon Accuracy	43.10%	39.74%	53.69%

Holt and Yandell (2011). MAKER2: BMC Bioinf.

Variation among annotation datasets

Annotated % per chromosome by annotation

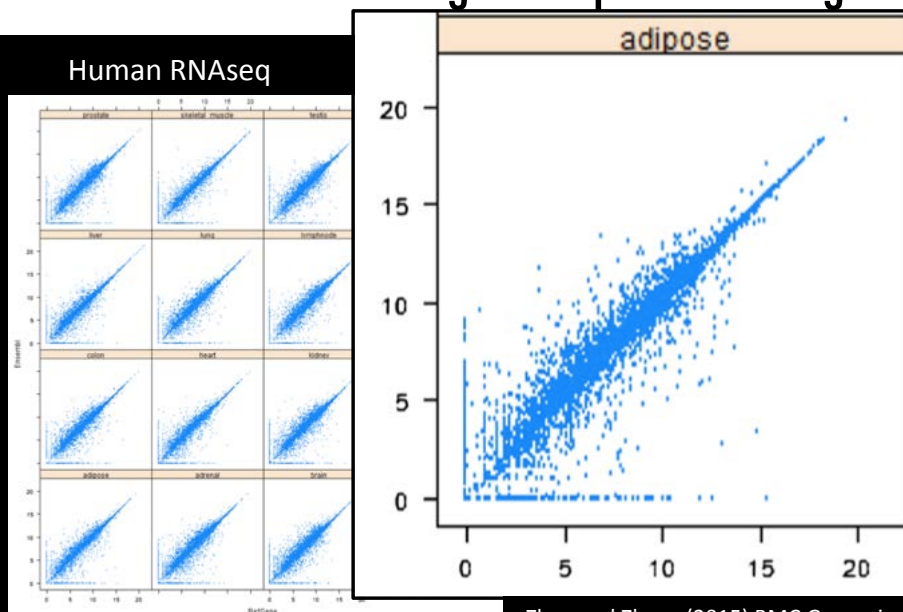


Wu et al.(2013). BMC Bioinformatics

Annotation choice affects gene expression insights

- Is mapping to the genome better than the assembled transcriptome?
- Biases
 - Genome assembly
 - might lack your gene of interest
 - Annotation for your genes might be bad
 - Transcriptome assembly
 - Will have all expressed genes
 - Assembly might have problems (fragments, duplicates, isoforms)

Annotation choice affects gene expression insights



Zhao and Zhang (2015) BMC Genomics

So, annotations matter ... how do we get a good annotation?

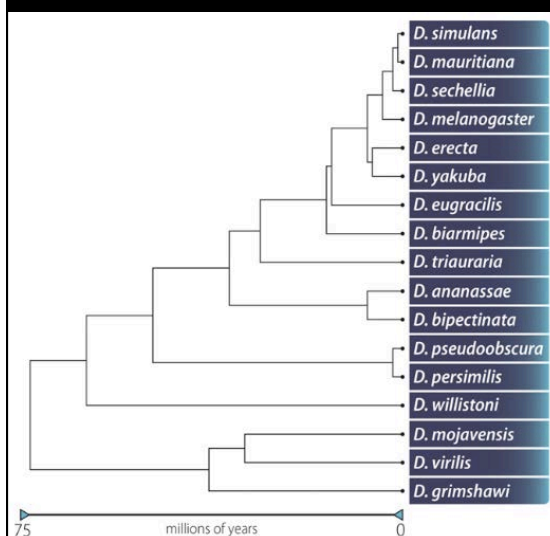
Table 3 | Remaining indel errors in single-molecule assemblies after removal of transcripts that show evidence of indels in the short-read assembly

Single-molecule assembly	Short-read control	Number of transcripts with indel errors	Number of genes with indel errors
NA12878.nano Jain et al. ³	NA12878.ilum Gnerre et al. ²⁰	5,929	2,746
NA12878.pacb Pendleton et al. ¹	NA12878.ilum Gnerre et al. ²⁰	20,816	8,983
CHM1.pacb Koren et al. ²	CHM1.ilum Steinberg et al. ²¹	845	413

the group generated 142-fold coverage and used two rounds of Quiver polishing

Watson and Warr 2019 Nat. Biotech.

15 Drosophila genomes via Oxford Nanopore



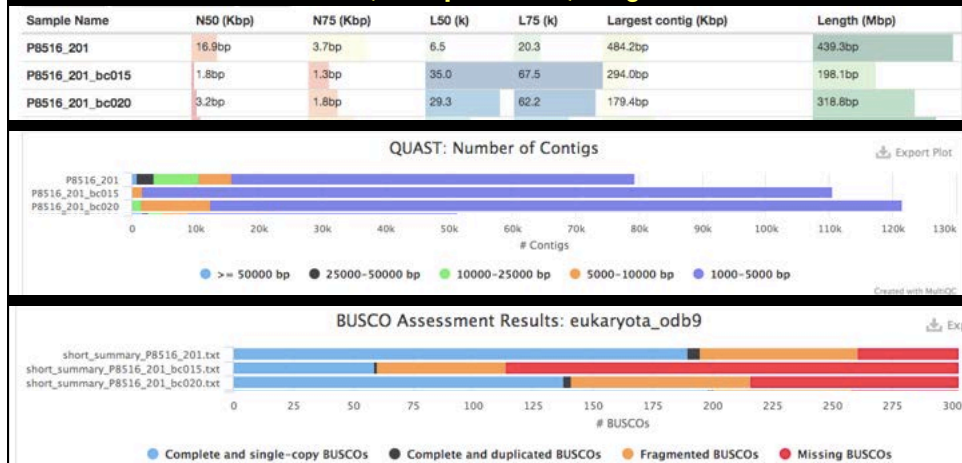
average of 29x coverage

average contig N50 of 4.4 Mb

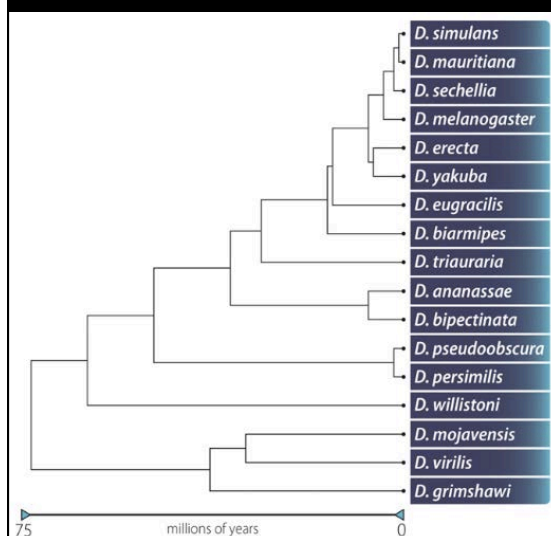
Miller et al. 2018 G3

Genome assembly assessment: metrics vs. biometrics

- Length and contiguity
- Gene content: number, completeness, fragmentation

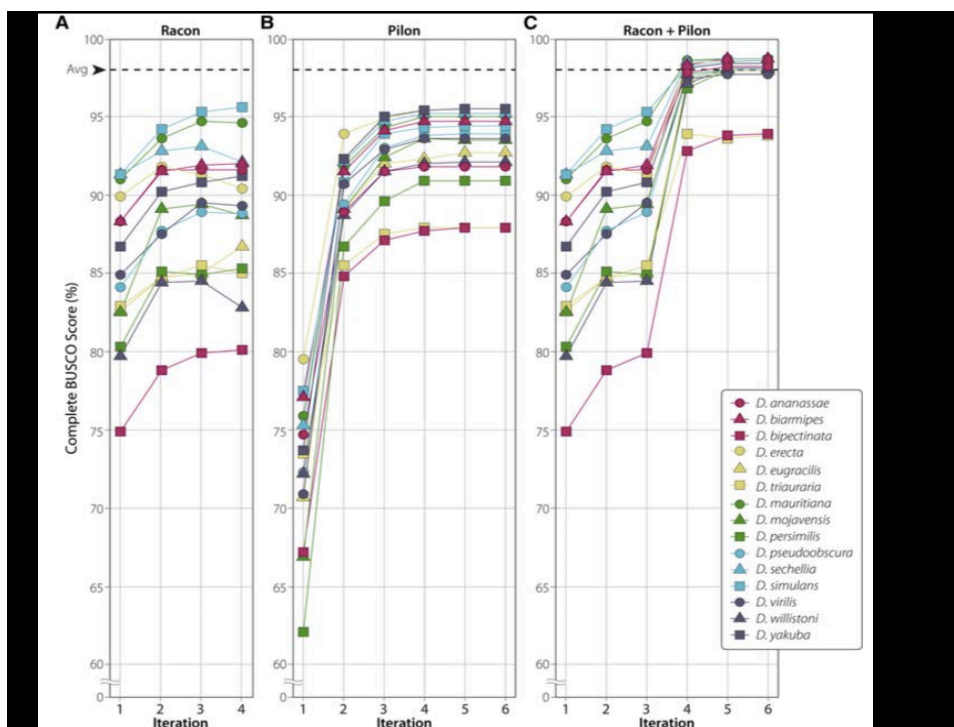


15 *Drosophila* genomes via Oxford Nanopore



So what did their
BUSCO look like?

Miller et al. 2018 G3



Want a nice genome? polish it ... a lot

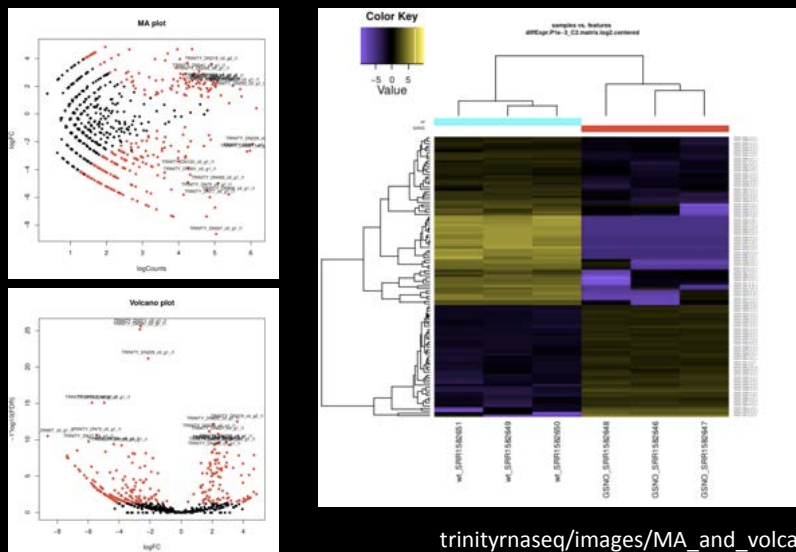


RNAseq:

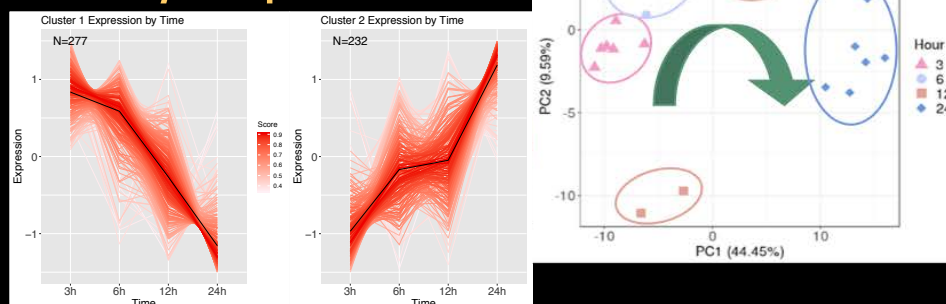
Are you measuring what you think you are measuring?

Why type of conclusions are you drawing?

What does a significant DE gene mean?



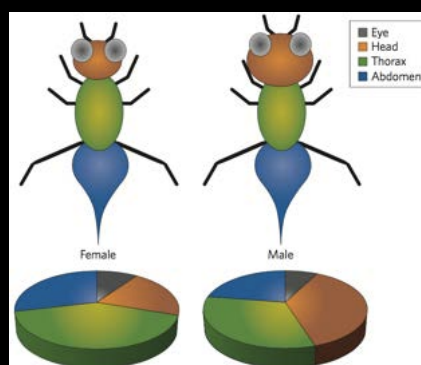
What is your question?



- Physiological differences between samples?
 - Can see differences in the regulation of different pathways
- What genes cause all these genes to change expression?
 - Might be very difficult to identify the causal basis of expression

Size bias: a persistent challenging in RNA-seq

- Relative volume:
 - Only head changes
 - But in total, everything shifts
- RNAseq is a relative measure
 - Causing males to have higher expression in head, but other parts would look lower
- Are DE genes are causal here?
 - Or is it developmental genes affecting head size, expressed in larval stage?
- Size bias can persist at all levels



Mank 2017 Nat. Eco. Evo.

Temporal changes in cell types over time

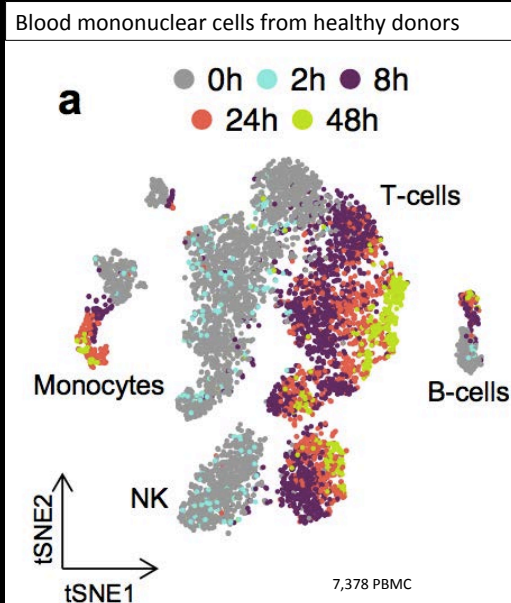
Thus, if we observed DE in a tissue between time points, is this due to:

- Regulation of the DE genes in the same cells
- Differences in abundance of cell types due to proliferation

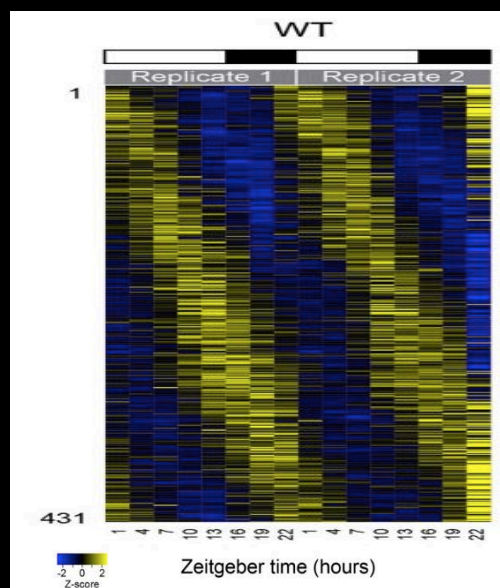
These can give the same results

- But have different causes

Massoni-Badosa et al. (2020) BioRxiv



When are you sampling?



Butterfly brains collected every 3 hours

Time of day affects transcriptome

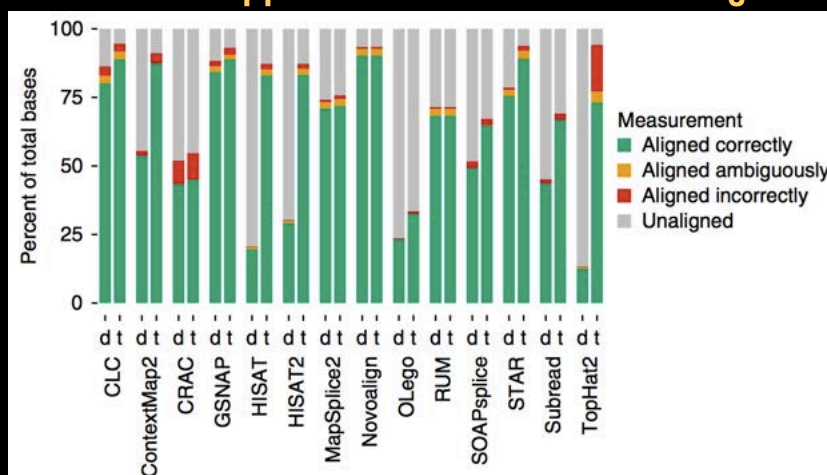
Standardize your time sampling

Lugena et al. 2019 PLOS Gen.

Differential Expression

- What are the causes?
 - Simple differences in the expression of your DE genes?
 - Or
 - Tissue sizes?
 - Organ sizes?
 - Cell types in your samples?
 - Cell states in your samples?
- Causes matter, as the basis driving DE will differ
 - The actual DE genes, or the direct regulation of those genes
 - Genes altering cell state (cycle, stress, etc)
 - Genes altering cell proliferation (as cell types express different genes)

Which mapper? Default or tuned settings?

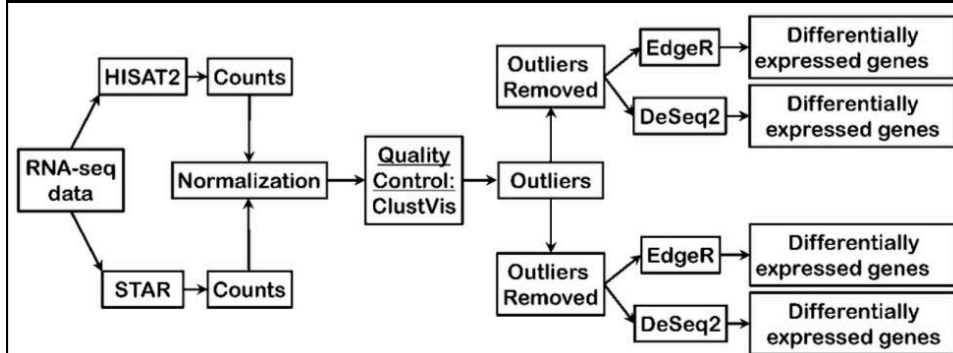


Baruzzo et al. 2016 Nat. Method.

The tools you use, and how you use them, matters
 Here they optimized parameters through optimization
 Ideally, the best method would work best on default

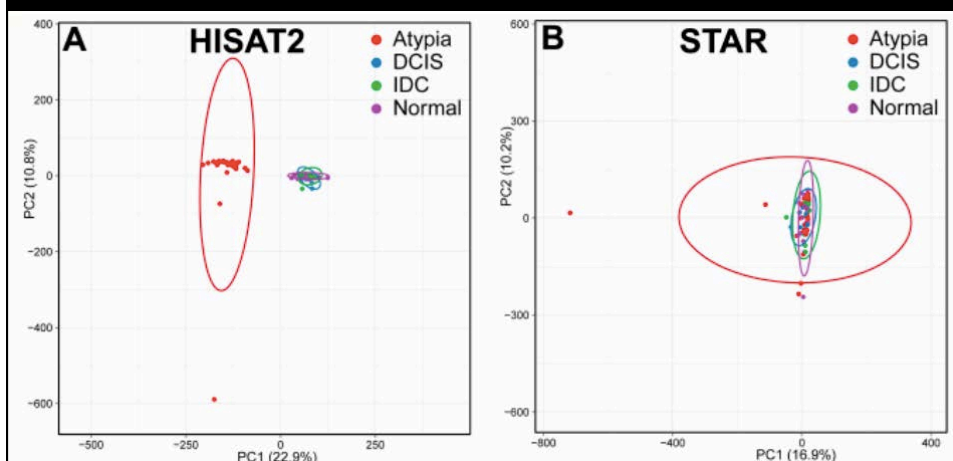
Clinical breast cancer datasets

Pipeline for bioinformatic comparisons



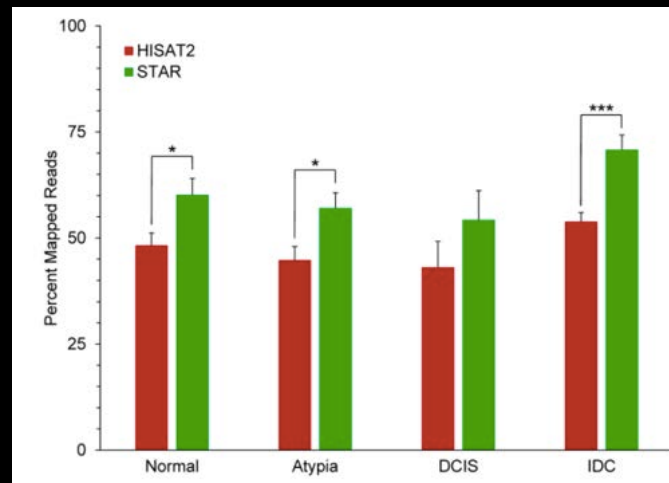
Raplee 2019 J. of Personalized Medicine

Mapper effects are real



Raplee et al. 2019 J. Per. Med.

Mapping biases never die



Raplee et al. 2019 J. Per. Med.

DE detection varies by mapper & stat software

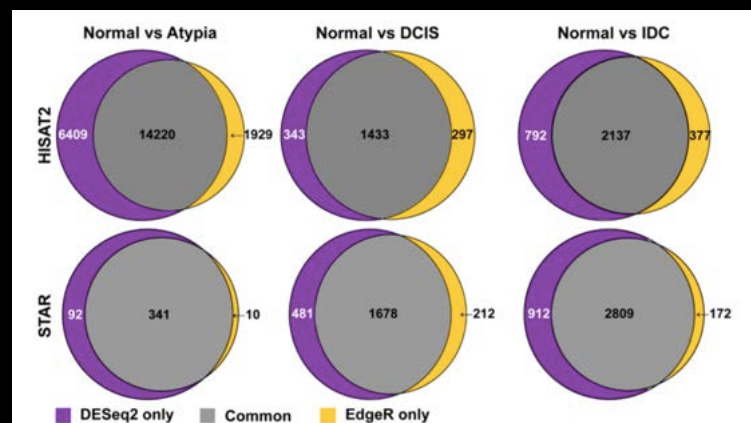
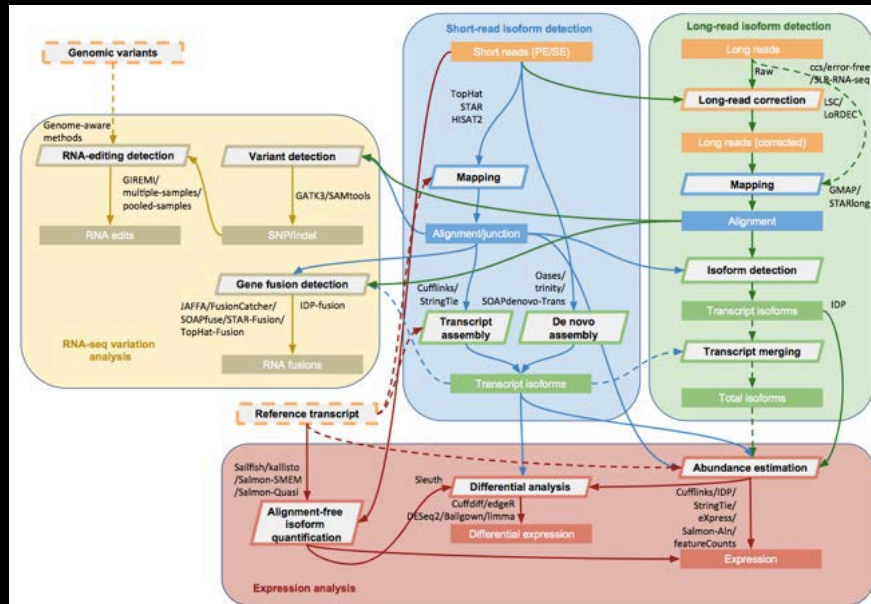


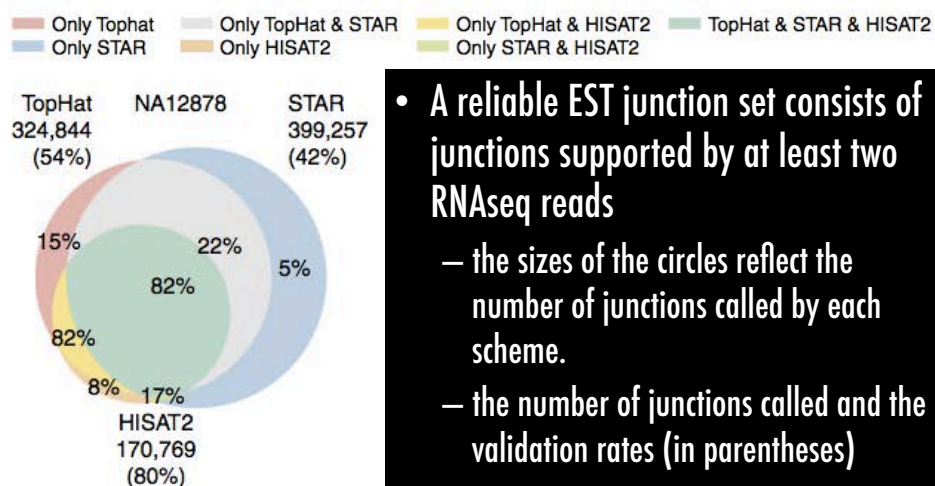
Figure 9. Overlap among genes identified as differentially expressed by either DESeq2 or edgeR in HISAT2 or STAR-aligned RNA-seq data.

Raplee et al. 2019 J. Per. Med.



Sahraeian et al. 2017 Nat. Com.

Detected exon splice junctions by different schemes



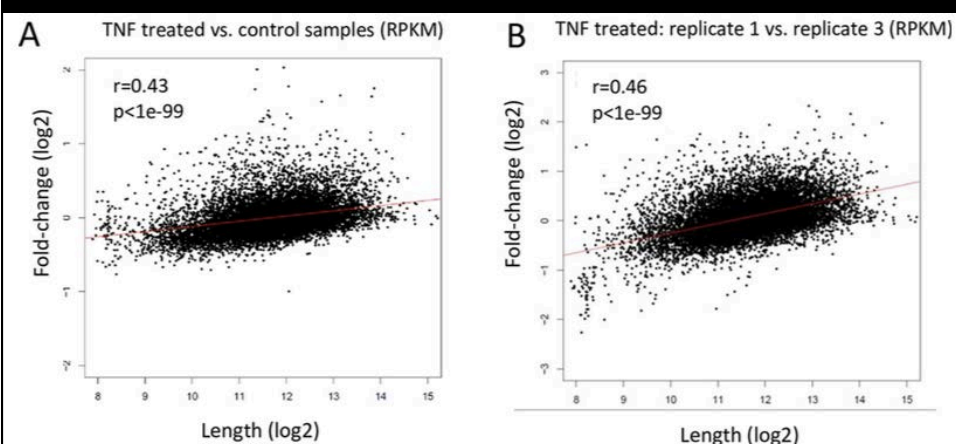
Sahraeian et al. 2017 Nat. Com.

Persistence of bias in RNAseq studies: length

- Brian Haas already talked about how we standardize expression for gene length
 - FPKM

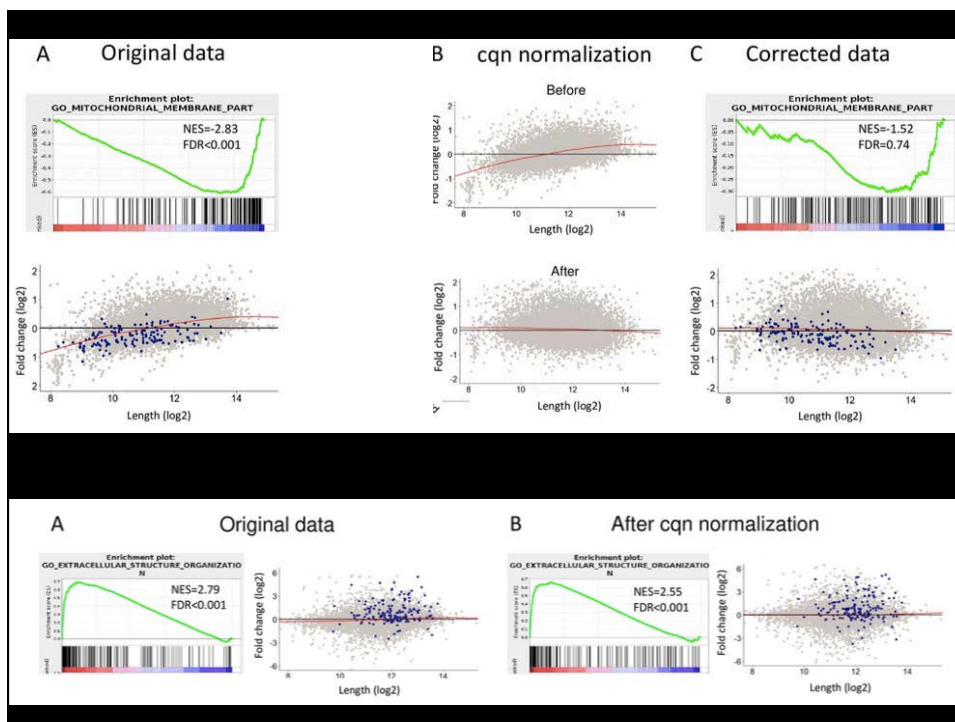
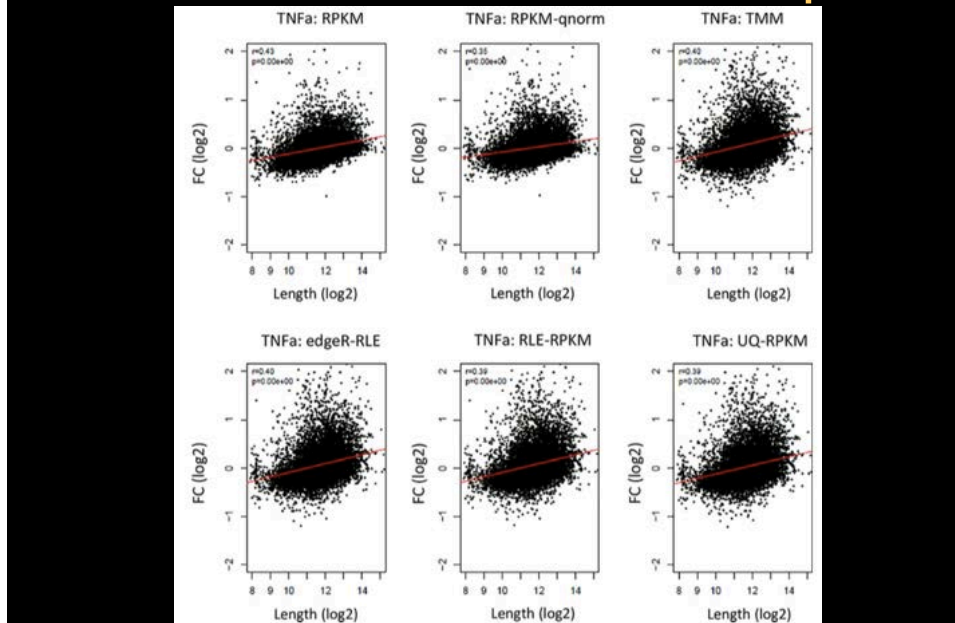
Reported as: Number of RNA-Seq **F**ragments
Per **K**ilobase of transcript
 per total **M**illion fragments mapped
FPKM

Persistence of bias in RNAseq studies: length



Mandelbourn et al. 2019 PLOS Biology

Standard normalization doesn't help



Finding the gene

Example from my lab:

- How different approaches give very different candidate genes
- CRISPR validation helped me sleep at night



Colias croceus, the Clouded Yellow



Male



Female



Alba Female

Female limited alternative life history strategy (and/or reproductive strategy?)

Life History differences:

Development time

Fat body

Fecundity

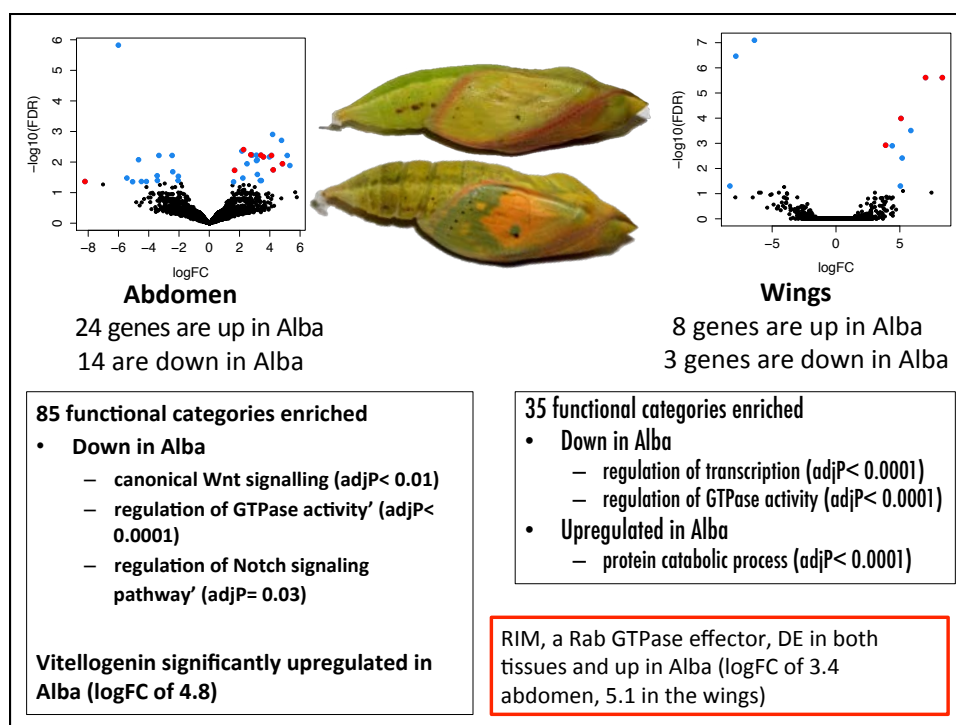
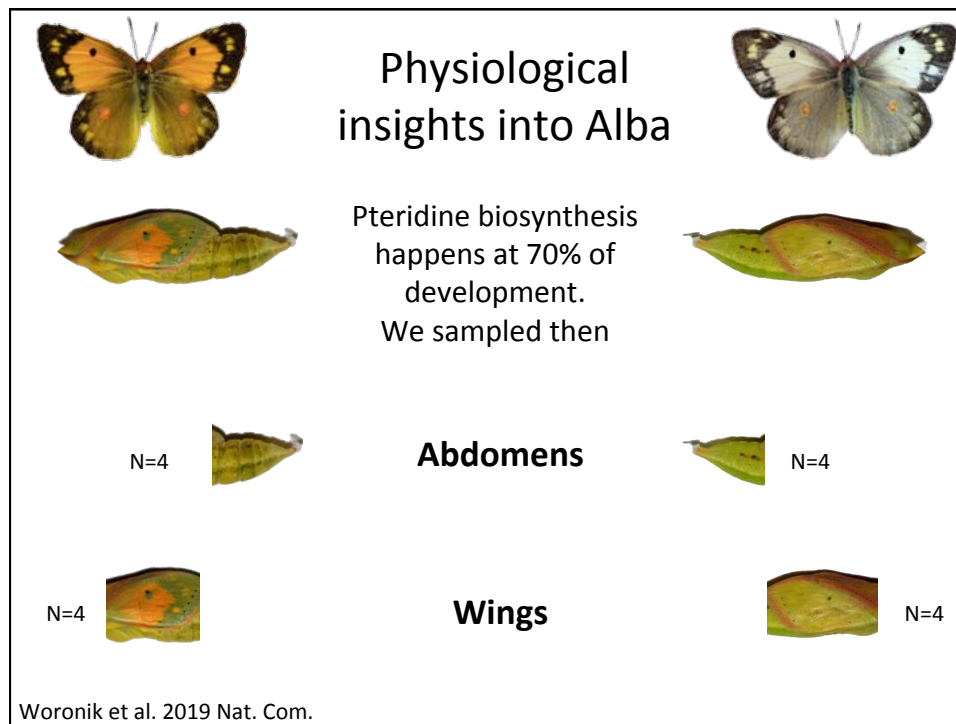
Longevity

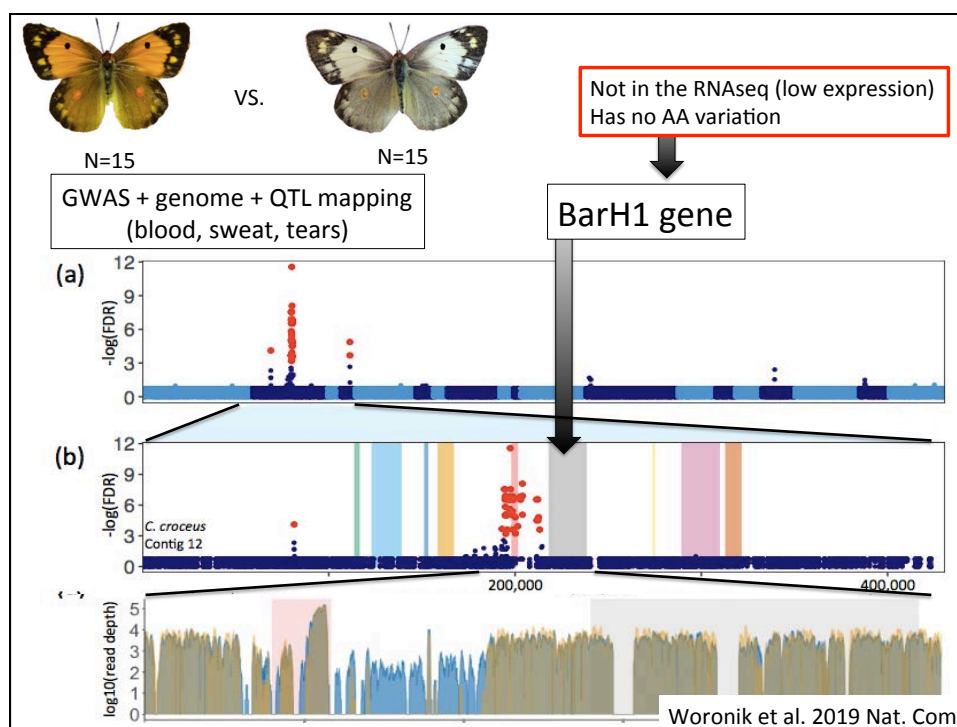
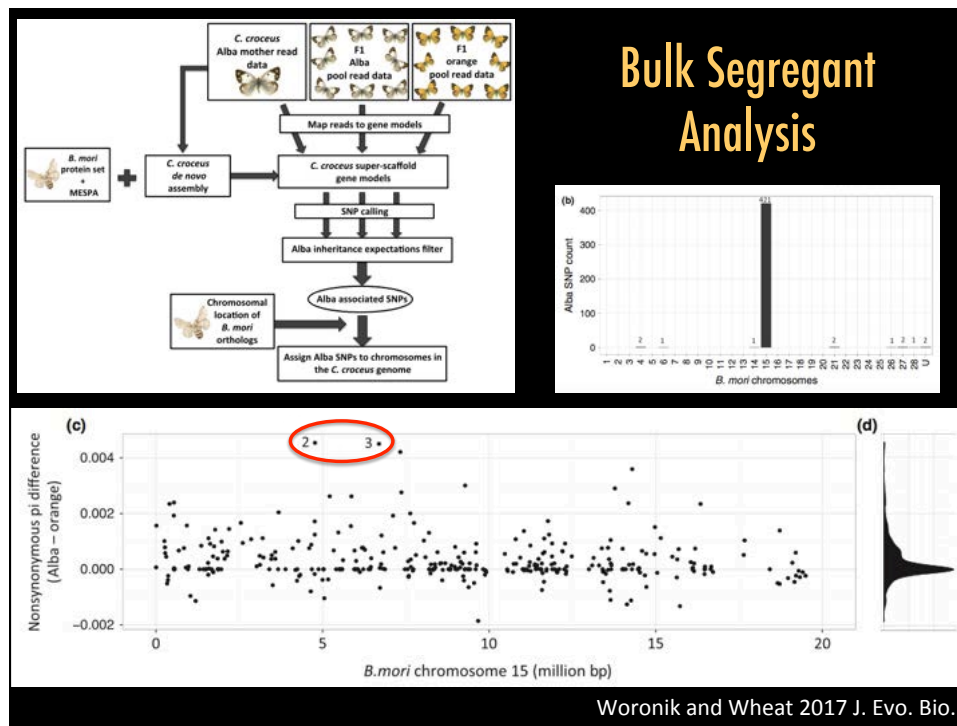
faster

larger

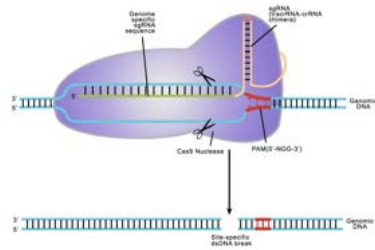
more

longer





BarH1 hypothesis: CRISPR/Cas9 KO of Bar



Allows us to cut within BarH1
gene

Knocks out function of gene
through failed repair



But, BarH1 knockout in Alba
females ...



Genomic architecture of phenotype matters

- Divergence in coding region of well annotated gene
 - Very easy to detect
- Divergence in enhancer region of gene
 - Detectable, but need good assembly for these regions
- Structural variant, TE insertion
 - If not in your reference, will never see this
 - If recent insertion, TE reads will map randomly across genome, these get filtered out
- RNAseq will almost never get you there
 - Unless lucky enough to get perfect tissue samples (time, location)
- Validation tests your hypothesis about reality

RNA-Seq





Real world example

2 factor analysis with family effects

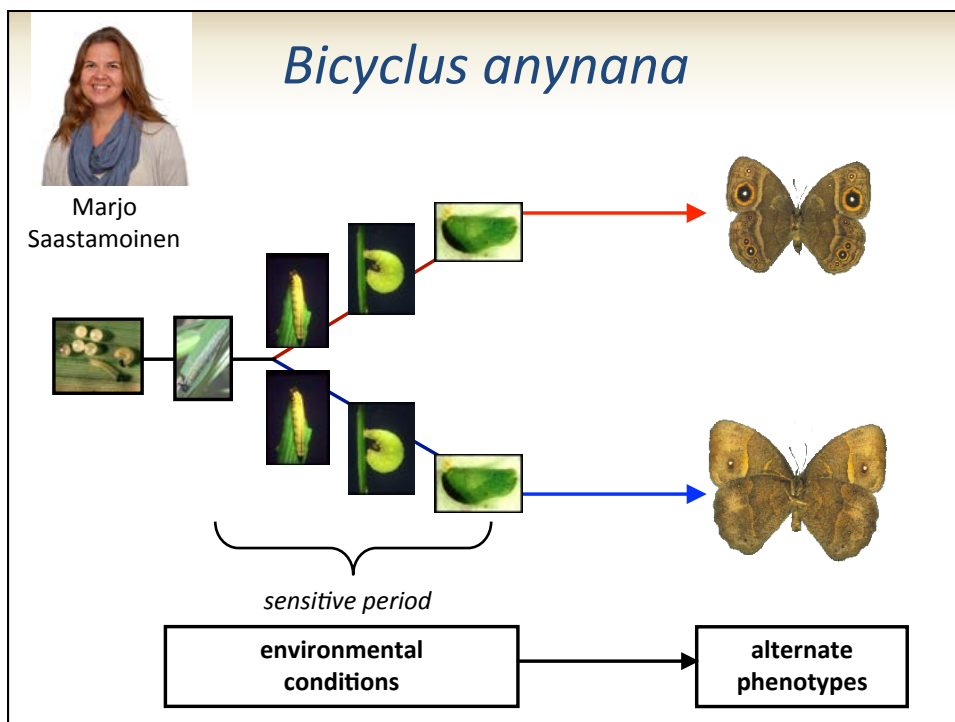
Bicyclus anynana

Save
energy,
live long

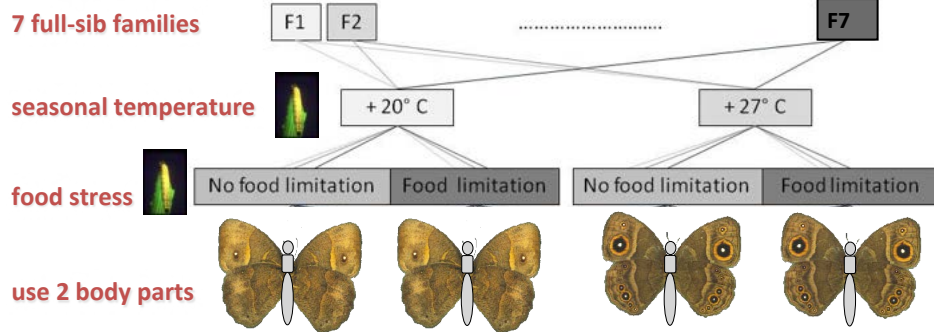
Live
fast,
die
young

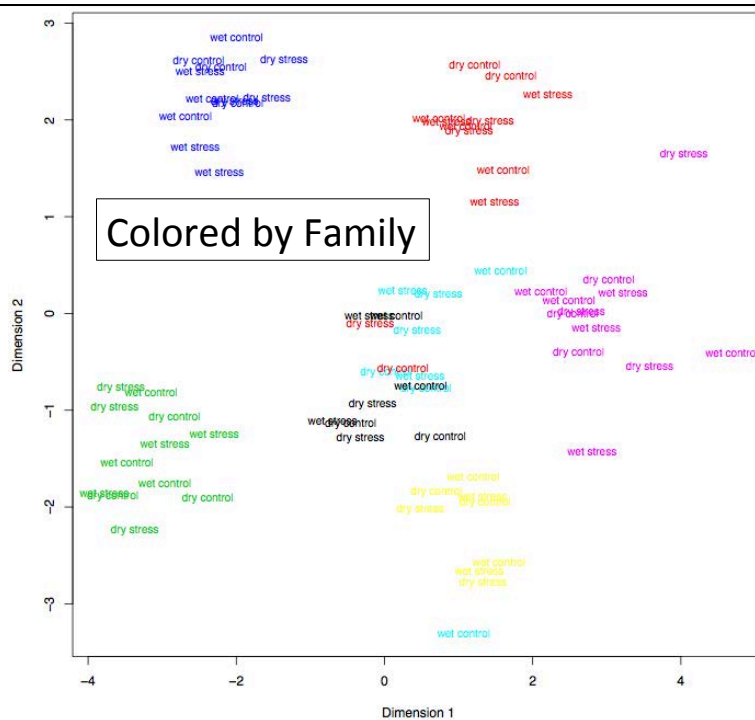
long	lifespan	short
delayed	reproduction	fast
inactive	behaviour	active
high	fat reserves	low
cryptic	wing pattern	conspicuous



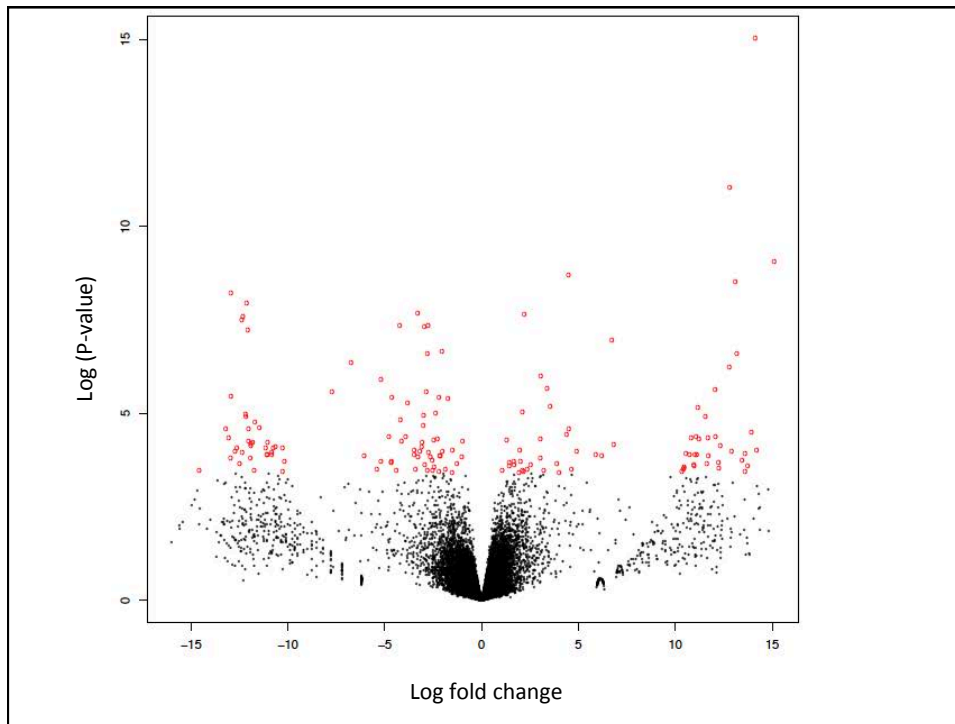
Experimental design

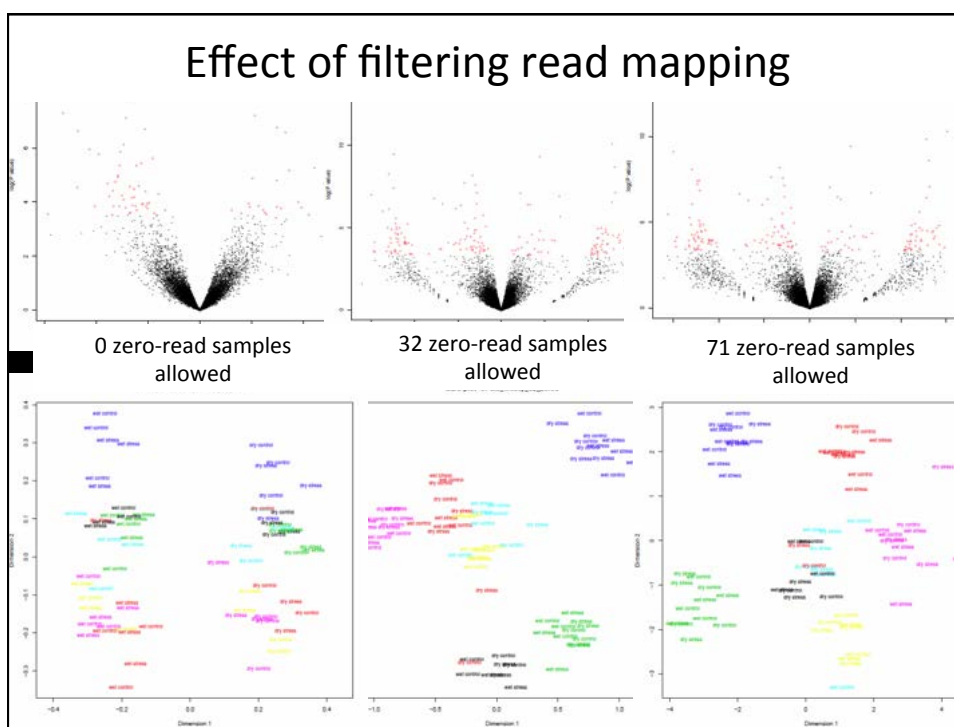


- 2 seasonal x 2 food stress x 2 body parts = **8 conditions**
- 7 families with $n = 2 - 3$ per condition → **144 RNA libraries**
- 10 million reads / library



78



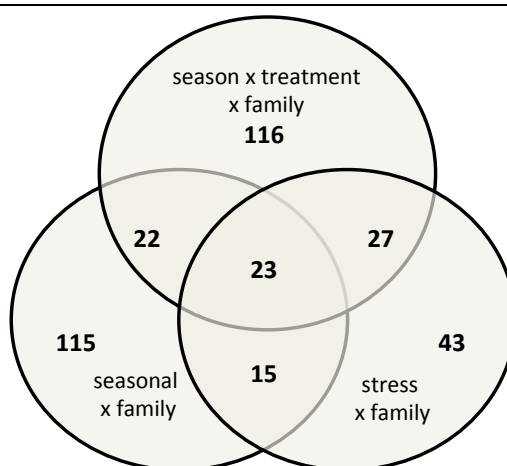


GLM results

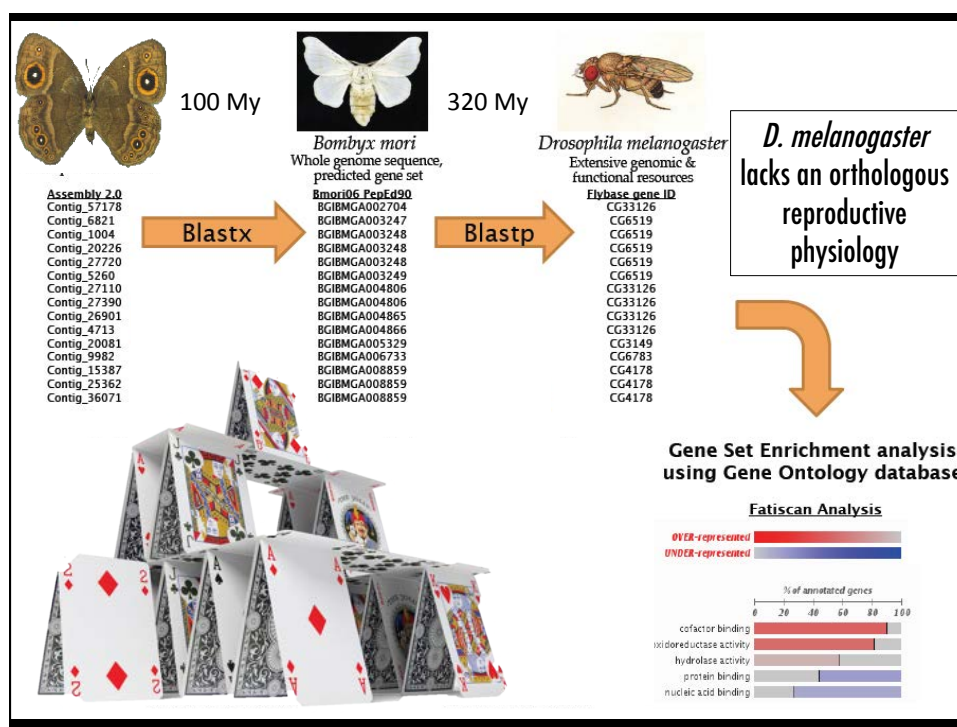
- **Plastic responses:**
 - Effects without any interaction with Family

- **Genetic response:**
 - Effects that have an interaction with family
 - Potential targets of natural selection

reads ~ season + stress + family + season*stress +
season*family + stress*family + season*stress*family



Oostra et al. 2018 Nat. Com



Most studies are annotation limited

- What is the biological meaning of the top P-value genes?
- Low P-value or expression genes are certainly important
- Gene set enrichments are key to insights
 - Thus, annotation is very important

Description	Uniprot	-log10P
Oxidoreductase.	Q9VMH9	7.087008
Hypothetical protein.		6.993626
SD27140p.		6.315473
	Q8SXX2	6.300667
SD01790p.	Q95TI3	5.316371
Electron-transfer-flavoprotein	Q0KHZ6	5.1425
Pseudouridylate synthase.	Q9W282	4.784378
Hypothetical protein.	Q9VGX0	4.750469
CG14686-PA (RE68889p).	Q9VGX0	4.650051
Chromosome 11 SCAF14979, w	Q8T058	4.506043
		4.470413
, complete genome. (EC 1.6.5.5)		4.445501
RNA-binding protein.		4.374033
Hypothetical protein.	Q9VPL4	4.369727
Peptidoglycan recognition-like		4.206247
Angiotensin-converting-related	Q8SXX2	4.172776
Lachesin, putative.	Q9I7H7	4.056174
Secretory component.	Q9VVK5	3.981175
Putative adenosine deaminase	Q9VVK5	3.980728
		3.95787

7 of 20 (35%) no Uniprot ID

Put the BIO in your informatics!!

Use independent analyses as 'controls'

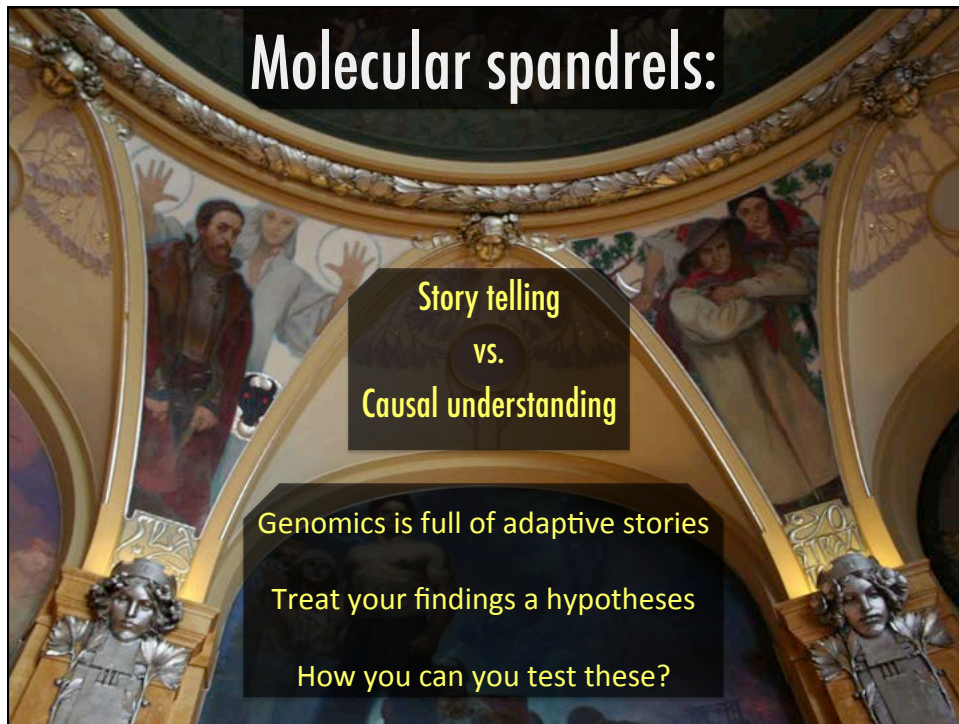
— What are your + and – controls?

	Analysis # 1	Analysis # 2	Analysis # 3
Mapper	HiSat2	HiSat2	STAR
Normalization	none	TMM	TMM
Analysis	PCA	RSEM	EDGER

Should independent methods converge?

Interrogate your results

- “you need to be in charge of the analysis” – B. Cresko
- This will give you confidence
 - Bring freedom to your findings (no waterboarding)
- Graph your results – visualize the patterns, assess 1st principals
 - PCA or MDS plot
 - Compare results between methods
- Can you test your favorite gene hypothesis
 - At a higher level of biological organization?
 - In some functional way?



Never forget your origins and biases



**Find ways to test your genomic hypotheses,
cause they are easy to get and believe**

