

GEMs

Analyzing omics data in
the context of metabolism

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Information paradox



ACE2

Information paradox



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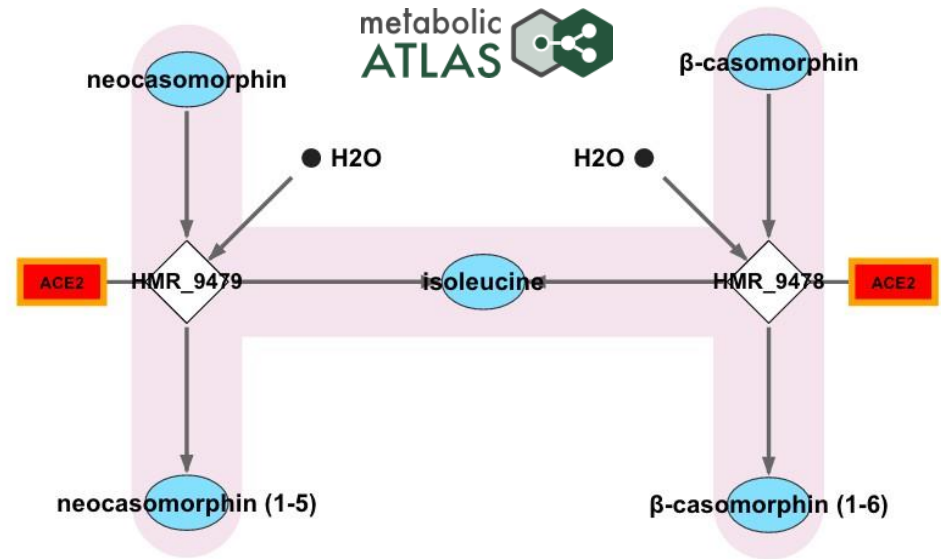
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Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"ACE2" redirects here. For other uses, see *Ace 2 (disambiguation)*.

Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2)^[5] is an **enzyme** attached to the **cell membrane** kidney, and intestines.^{[6][7]} ACE2 lowers blood pressure by catalyzing the **hydrolysis** of **angiotensin (1–7)** (a **vasodilator**).^{[8][9][10]} ACE2 counters the activity of the related **angiotensin** amount of angiotensin-II and increasing Ang(1-7),^[11] making it a promising drug target for tr



Circulating ACE2 in Cardiovascular and Kidney Diseases.



1 Anguiano L, Riera M, Pascual J, Soler MJ.
Cite *Curr Med Chem.* 2017;24(30):3231-3241. doi: 10.2174/0929867324666170414162841.
PMID: 28413960 [Review](#).

Share Given that **ACE2** counterbalances the effects of Ang II, it has been proposed as a biomarker in kidney disease patients. Circulating **ACE2** has been studied in human and experimental studies under physiological and pathological conditions and different techniques have b ...

Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) in disease pathogenesis.

2 Imai Y, Kuba K, Ohto-Nakanishi T, Penninger JM.
Cite *Circ J.* 2010 Mar;74(3):405-10. doi: 10.1253/circj.cj-10-0045. Epub 2010 Feb 4.
PMID: 20134095 [Free article](#). [Review](#).

Share Importantly, **ACE2** has been identified as a key SARS-coronavirus receptor and plays a protective role in SARS pathogenesis. Furthermore, the recent explosion of research into the **ACE2** homolog, collectrin, has revealed a new physiological function of **ACE2** as an ...

ACE2 - from the renin-angiotensin system to gut microbiota and malnutrition.

3 Perlot T, Penninger JM.
Cite *Microbes Infect.* 2013 Nov;15(13):866-73. doi: 10.1016/j.micinf.2013.08.003. Epub 2013 Aug 17.
PMID: 23962453 [Free PMC article](#). [Review](#).

Summary

Official Symbol ACE2 provided by HGNC

Official Full Name angiotensin I converting enzyme 2 provided by HGNC

Primary source [HGNC:HGNC:13557](#)

See related [Ensembl:ENSG00000130234](#) [MIM:300335](#)

Gene type protein coding

RefSeq status REVIEWED

Organism [Homo sapiens](#)

Lineage Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata; Euteleostomi; Mammalia; Eutheria; Euarchontoglires; Primates; Haplorrhini; Catarrhini; Hominidae; Homo

Also known as ACEH

Summary The protein encoded by this gene belongs to the angiotensin-converting enzyme family of dipeptidyl carboxypeptidases and has considerable homology to human angiotensin 1 converting enzyme. This secreted protein catalyzes the cleavage of angiotensin I into angiotensin 1-9, and angiotensin II into the vasodilator angiotensin 1-7. ACE2 is known to be expressed in various human organs, and its organ- and cell-specific expression suggests that it may play a role in the regulation of cardiovascular and renal function, as well as fertility. In addition, the encoded protein is a functional receptor for the spike glycoprotein of the human coronavirus HCoV-NL63 and the human severe acute respiratory syndrome coronaviruses, SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19). [provided by RefSeq, Aug 2020]

Annotation information Note: This gene has been reviewed for its involvement in coronavirus biology, and is involved in SARS-CoV-2 infection.

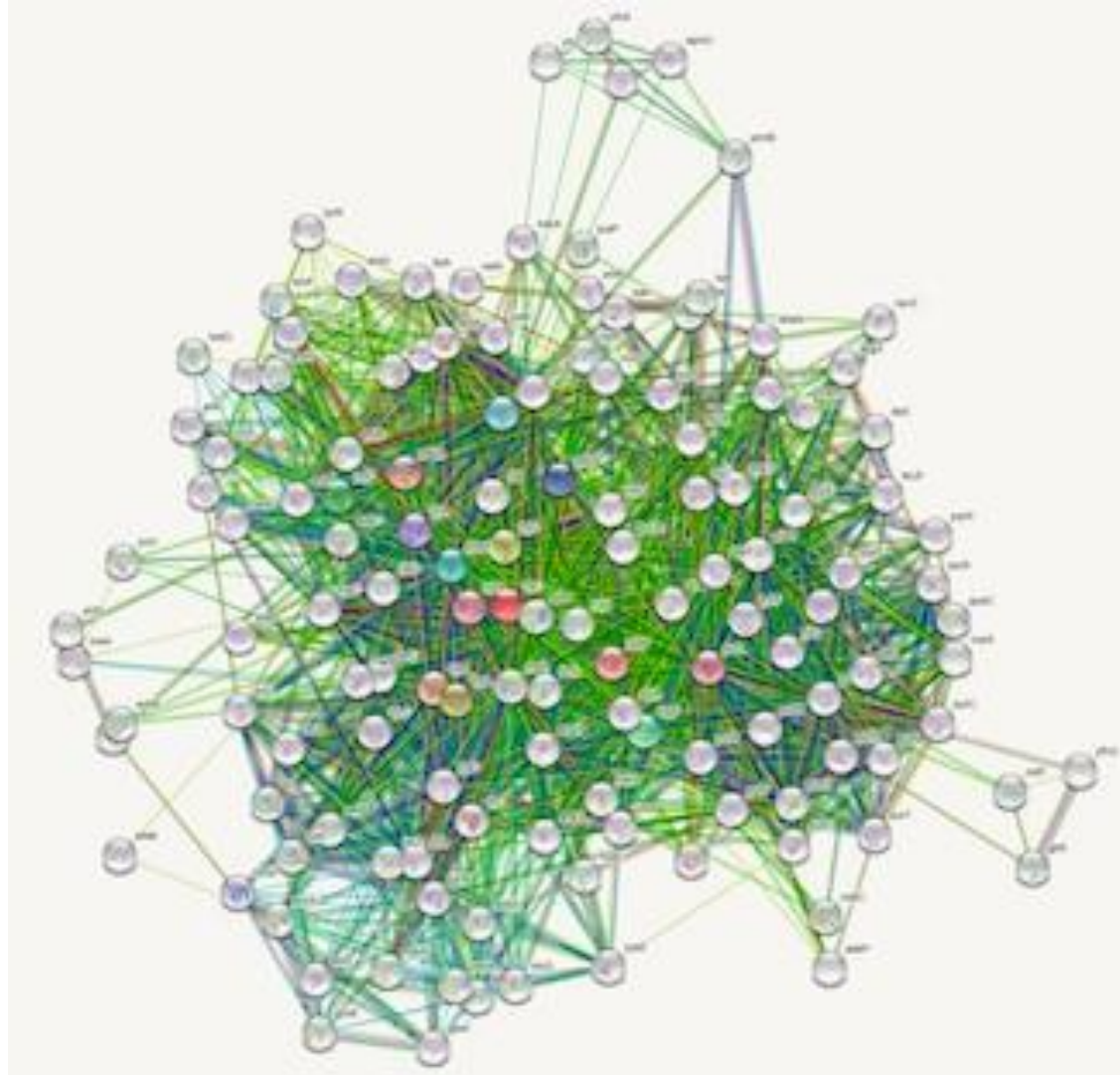
Expression Biased expression in small intestine (RPKM 93.7), duodenum (RPKM 69.0) and 5 other tissues [See more](#)





ENOPH1, SLC25A2, GMPPB, SLC1A4, EGFL8, HDC, DNMT1, RHCG, SLC24A4, FABP4, PDS1, ACSBG1, UGT3A1, TAOK1, CDY1B, PPIE, GCLM, GMPR2, USP9Y, DGKD, ATP2A2, FBP2, ZDHHC7, GLRX2, DPM3, NUP155, GPX1, SLC4A5, POLI, GCH1, APOE, PLPP7, RIPK3, HPSE, PLA2G1B, PYGL, CDK8, MGST1, DGAT2L6, PPP5C, TXNRD3, MACROD2, FBP4, DDR1, USP35, NARS, HERC1, WWP1, PIGF, MACROD1, SUOX, DGK, PGS1, AURKB, CDY1, TKFC, PIM1, SLC1A4, GLDC, AFMID, FAR1, PHYKPL, ATP2B1, PTPDC1, LCT, ASPG, ACOT1, POLR1C, HEMK1, CDA, UPP2, PARP10, SLC15A1, ASNS, TGFBR2, POLR2F, CARS, CBL, SLC4A9, INPP4A, SUCLG1, MTAP, PKMYT1, CBLL1, MAP2K2, MARS, TECRL, SLC26A3, METTL7B, ME1, AK2, PLA2G12A, DHRS9, EPHA5, GGACT, GGT5, ACYP2, PI4K2A, SLC25A42, USP17L25, TRMT11, DUSP15, PTGR1, PPP3R1, CA1, FN3K, UBE2F, EFL1, TYMS, PPWD1, GCNT4, PFKP, RNF126, PRKCI, TAF9, FDPS, SLC19A3, AGK, BCKDHB, CALM2, HK1, UPRT, SRD5A1, SYVN1, GLA, CTDSP1, CYP2J2, ACOT9, PDE8B, AP000812.4, IDH3B, SULT1B1, MAP3K21, HMGCs1, JMJD7-PLA2G4B, CA3, SLC25A3, ACAT1, NEK9, NEK6, PPA1, 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Information paradox



Information paradox



Often it seems that the more information we have, the less we can learn from it.

Using techniques such as clustering and enrichment analysis, we can package the information into bite-sized (human-friendly) pieces.

Gene set analysis (GSA)



- Identifies patterns associated with the genes of interest
- Gene sets are defined based on shared properties, functions, interactions, etc. of the genes



Gene Ontology

Biological Process

Actin crosslink formation
mRNA transport
Carbohydrate transport
Regulation of catabolic process
Erythrocyte development
...

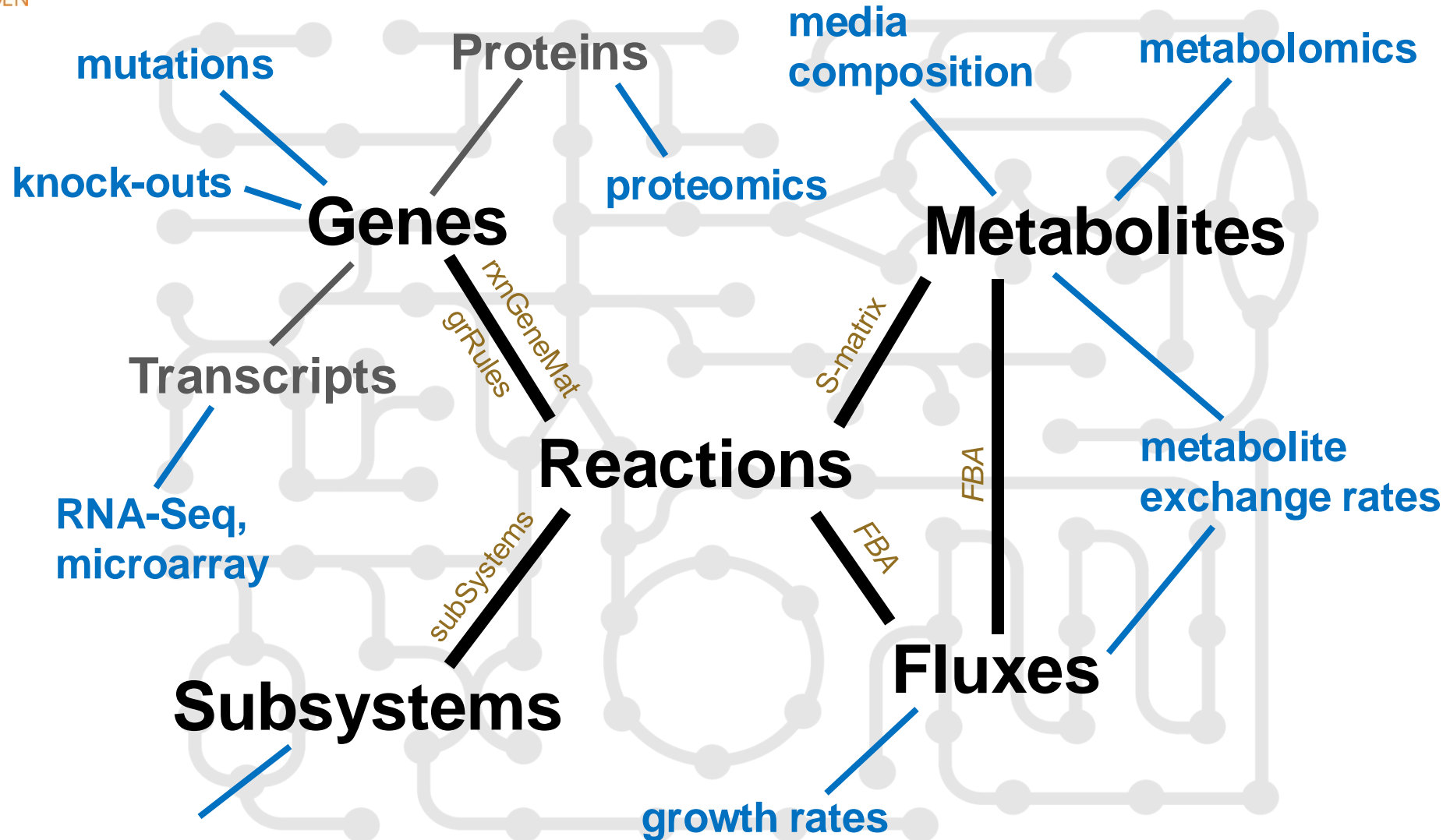
Molecular Function

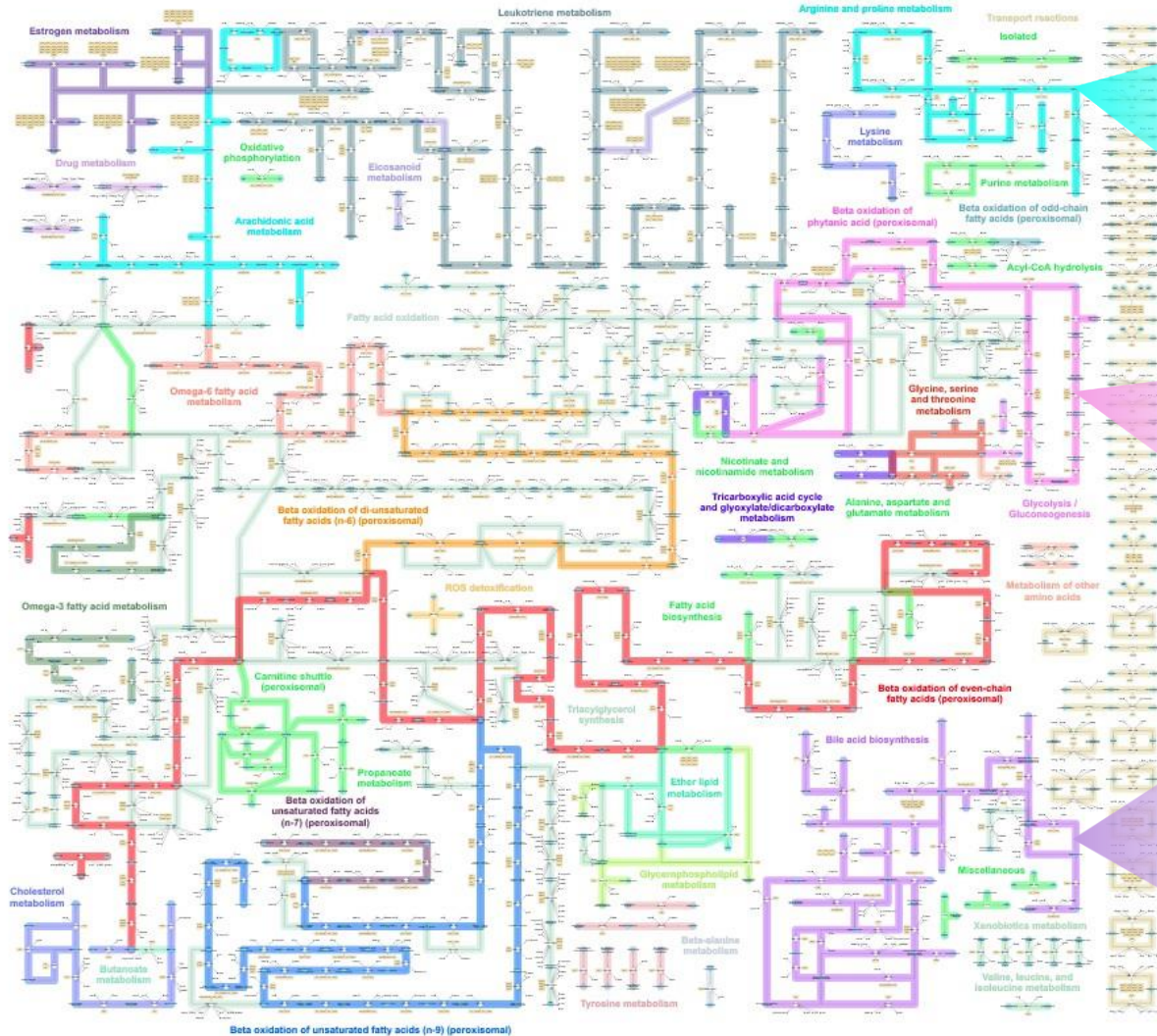
Glucosidase activity
Alpha actinin binding
Cytokine activity
Oxidized DNA binding
Iron ion binding
...

KEGG Pathways

- ▼ 09100 Metabolism
 - ▶ 09101 Carbohydrate metabolism
 - ▼ 09102 Energy metabolism
 - ▶ 00190 Oxidative phosphorylation [PATH:[hsa00190](#)]
 - 00195 Photosynthesis
 - 00196 Photosynthesis - antenna proteins
 - 00710 Carbon fixation in photosynthetic organisms
 - 00720 Carbon fixation pathways in prokaryotes
 - 00680 Methane metabolism
 - ▶ 00910 Nitrogen metabolism [PATH:[hsa00910](#)]
 - ▶ 00920 Sulfur metabolism [PATH:[hsa00920](#)]
 - ▶ 09103 Lipid metabolism
 - ▶ 09104 Nucleotide metabolism

GEM-derived gene sets





Arginine and proline metabolism

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| ABHD14A-ACY1 | ACY1 | AGMAT | ALDH18A1 | ALDH1B1 | ALDH2 | ALDH3A2 | ALDH4A1 | | | | |
| ALDH7A1 | ALDH8A1 | ALDH9A1 | AMD1 | AOC1 | AOC2 | AOC3 | ARG1 | ARG2 | AZIN2 | | |
| CA5A | CA5B | CARNS1 | CKB | CKM | CKMT1A | CKMT1B | CKMT2 | CNDP1 | CNDP2 | DAO | |
| DHPS | FAR1 | FAR2 | GAMT | GOT1 | GOT2 | HOGA1 | LEFTY1 | MAOA | MAOB | MTAP | ... |

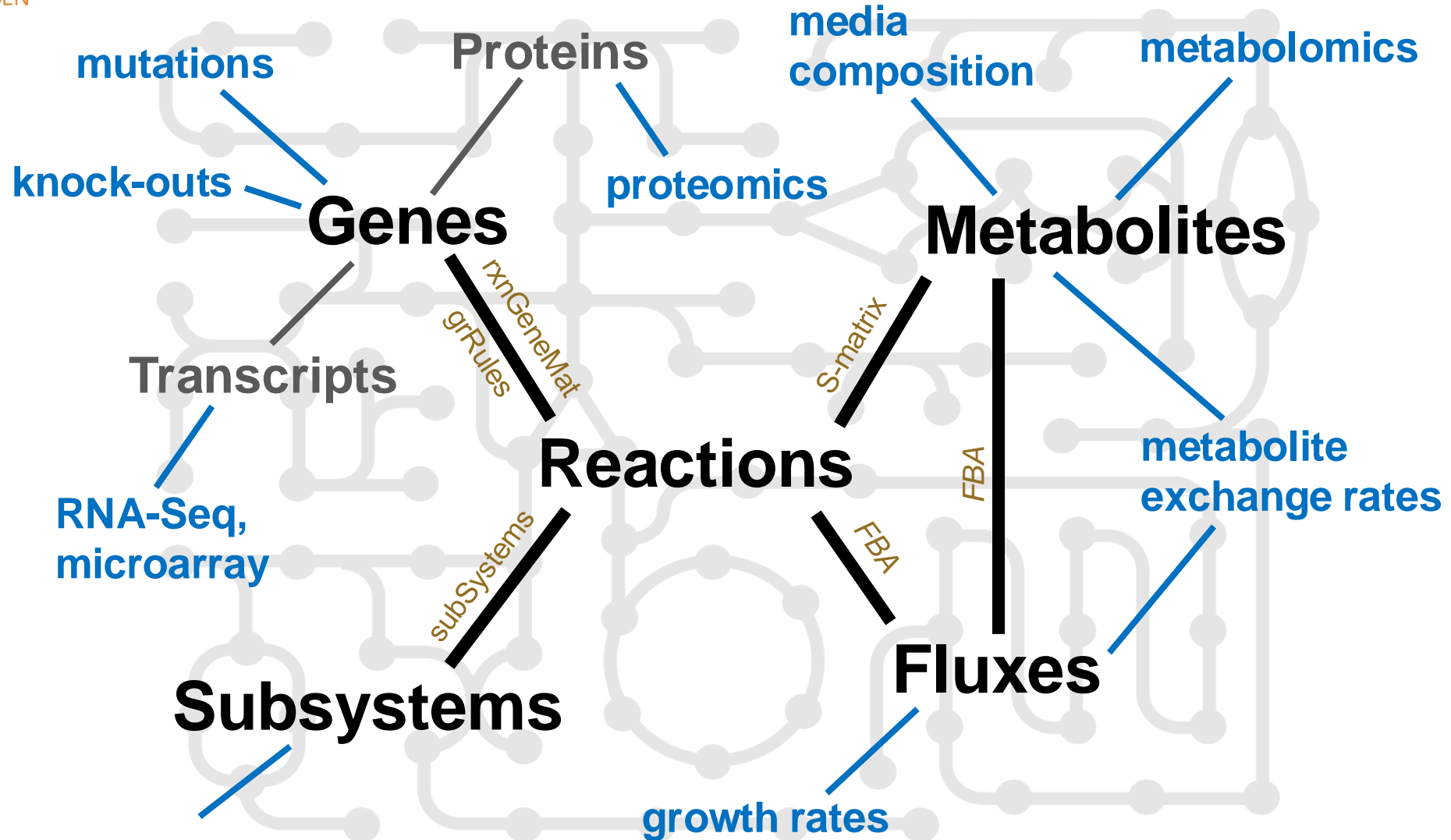
Beta oxidation of phytanic acid

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|--------|--------|-------|---------|-----------|
| ACAA1 | ACOT2 | ACOT4 | ACOX1 | ACOX3 | ACSBG1 | ACSBG2 | ACSL1 | ACSL3 | ACSL4 |
| ACSL5 | ACSL6 | AMACR | EC1 | EC12 | EHHADH | HACL1 | HADHA | HSD17B4 | KRTAP11-1 |
| MEIKN | MYO5B | PHYH | SLC27A2 | ... | | | | | |

Bile acid biosynthesis

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| ABCB11 | ABCC11 | ABCC3 | ABCD1 | ACAA1 | ACAA2 | ACOT1 | ACOT2 | ACOT4 | ACOT6 |
| ACOT7 | ACOT8 | ACOX1 | ACOX2 | ACOX3 | ADH1A | ADH1B | ADH1C | ADH4 | ADH5 |
| ADH6 | ADH7 | ADHFE1 | ADO | AKR1B10 | AKR1B15 | AKR1C1 | AKR1C2 | AKR1C3 | AKR1C4 |
| AKR1D1 | ALDH1B1 | ALDH2 | ALDH3A1 | ALDH3A2 | ALDH7A1 | ALDH9A1 | AMACR | BAAT | |
| BCAP31 | ... | | | | | | | | |

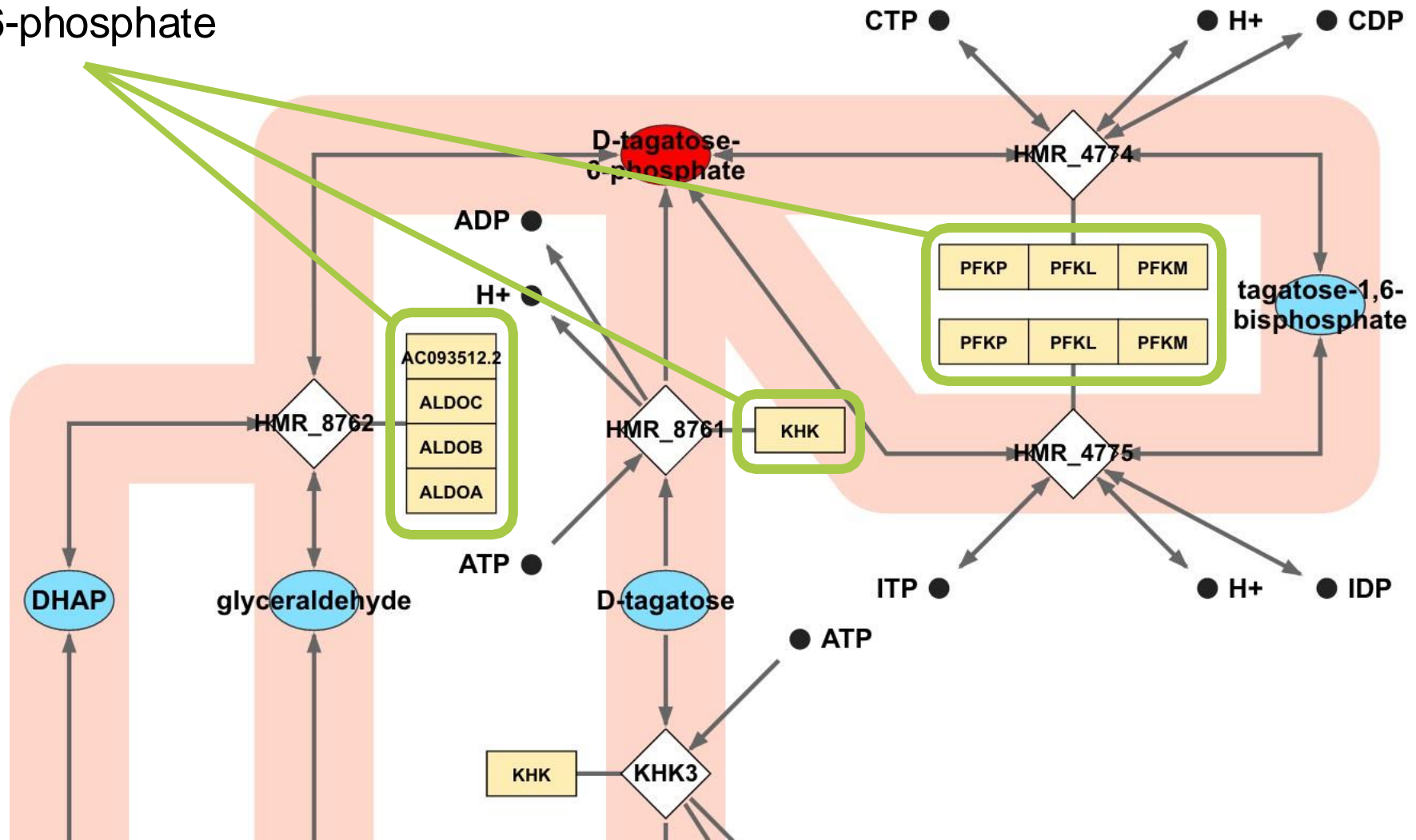
GEM-derived gene sets



Reporter metabolites



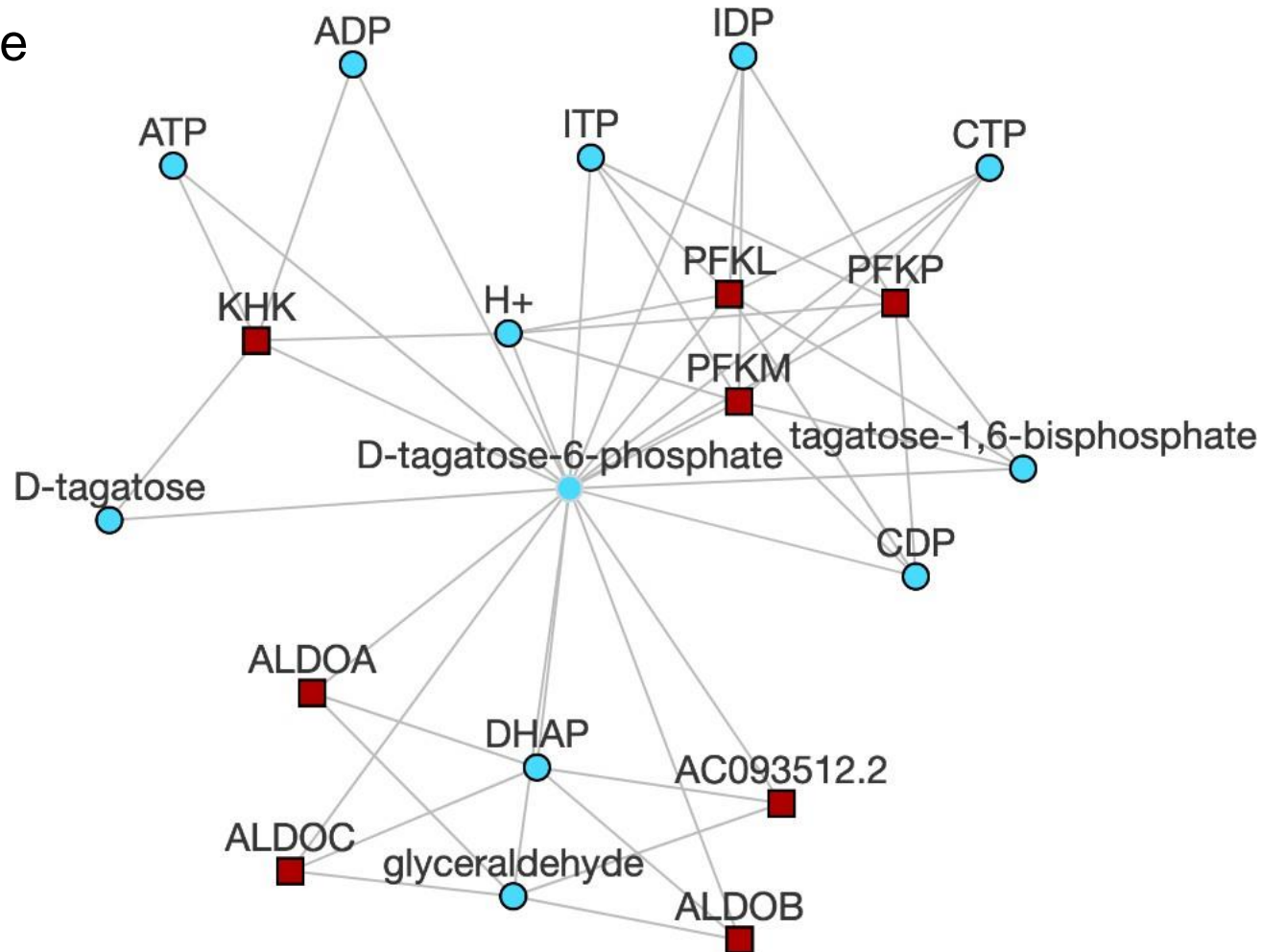
Genes associated with
 D-tagatose-6-phosphate



Reporter metabolites



D-tagatose-6-phosphate
 interaction partners



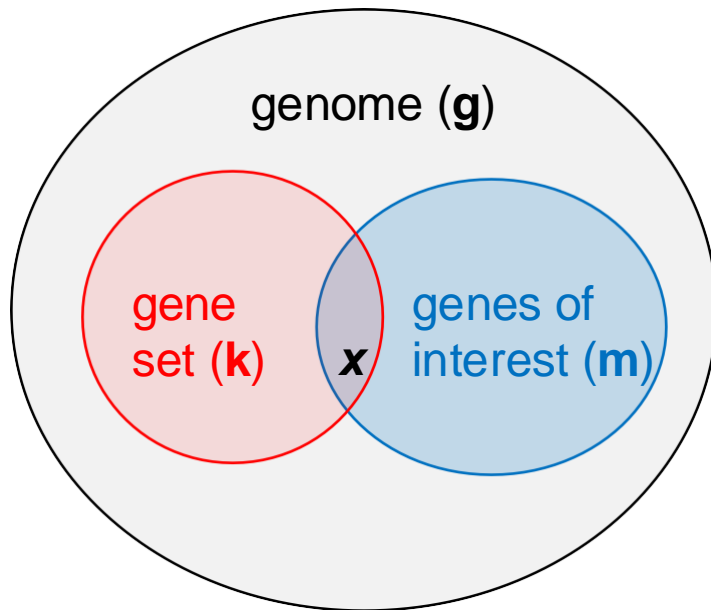
Gene list enrichment



Enrichment or over-representation analysis

Given a list of m genes of interest out of g in the genome and a gene-set of k genes, a statistical enrichment returns the probability that x out of the m genes of interest are in the gene-set.

This is calculated using Fisher's Exact Test (hypergeometric test):



$$p = \frac{\binom{k}{x} \binom{g-k}{m-x}}{\binom{g}{m}}$$

note: $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$

Gene list enrichment



Enrichr

[Login](#) | [Register](#)

28,099,440 lists analyzed

335,689 terms

168 libraries

Analyze

[What's new?](#)

[Libraries](#)

[Gene search](#)

[Term search](#)

[About](#)

[Help](#)

Input data

Choose an input file to upload. Either in BED format or a list of genes.

Try an example [BED file](#).

Browse...

No file selected.

Paste a list of valid Entrez gene symbols on each row in the text-box below. [Try a gene set example](#).

```
ALDH3B1
EEF1A1
METTL16
UCKL1
UGT1A4
BCAT2
UGT1A9
UCKL1
HYI
PRODH2
ASNS
GSTM1
```

100 gene(s) entered

In order to enable others to search your list please enter a brief description of it.

Contribute your list so it can be searched by others

Submit

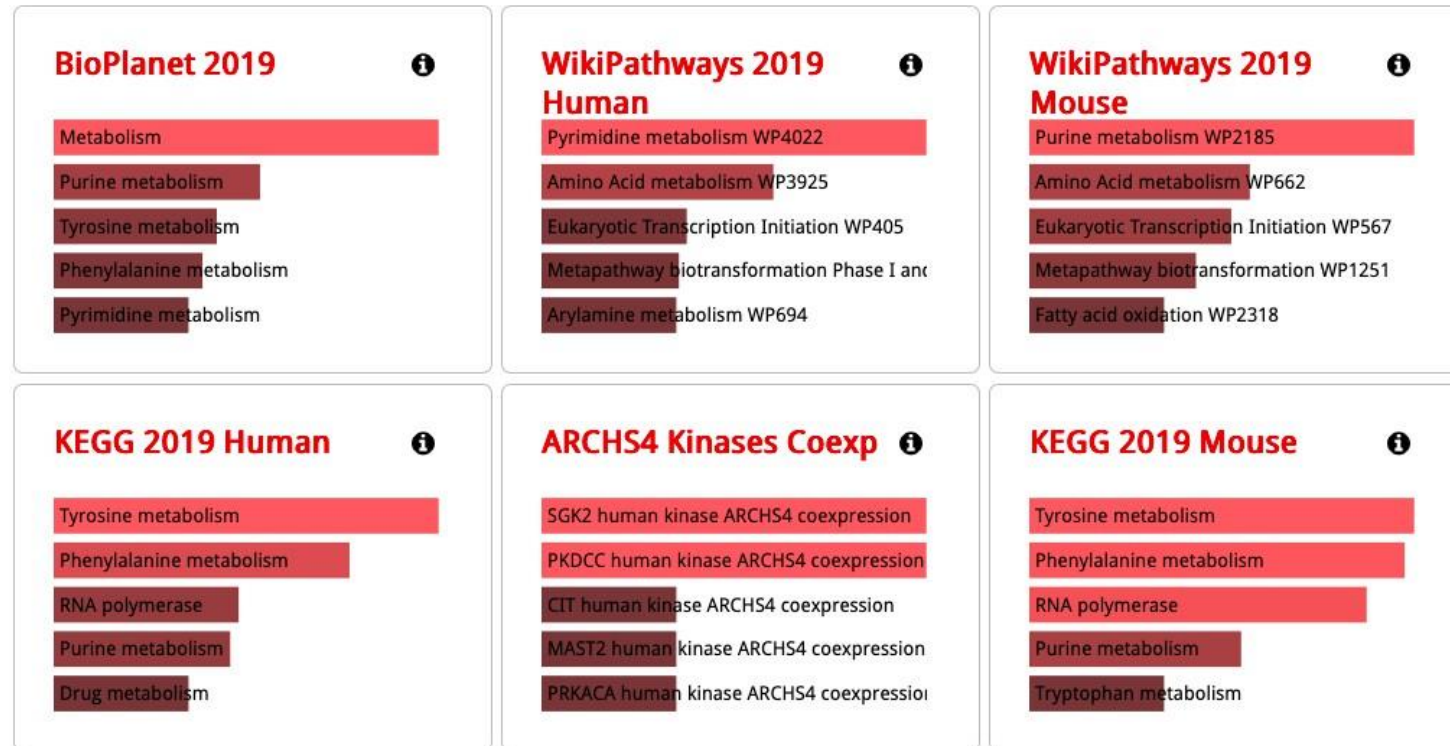
Gene list enrichment



[Login](#) | [Register](#)

Transcription **Pathways** Ontologies Diseases/Drugs Cell Types Misc Legacy Crowd

Description No description available (89 genes)



Gene list enrichment



Limitations

- Requires arbitrary cutoff to define gene list
- Does not correct for gene-gene correlations (false positives)
- No ranking or relative scoring of genes (gene at the top of the list is identical to bottom)



List of genes

ENOPH1
 SLC25A2
 GMPPB
 SLC1A4
 EGFL8
 HDC

Includes **only** the
 genes of interest

Gene-level statistics

0.01 A4GALT
 0.89 A4GNT
 0.51 AAAS
 0.02 AACCS
 0.33 AADAC
 0.08 AADAT
 ...

Includes **ALL** measured/
 detected genes

Types of statistics:

- Differential expression p-value
- Differential expression fold-change
- Coefficient or significance of correlation (with phenotype)
- Rank

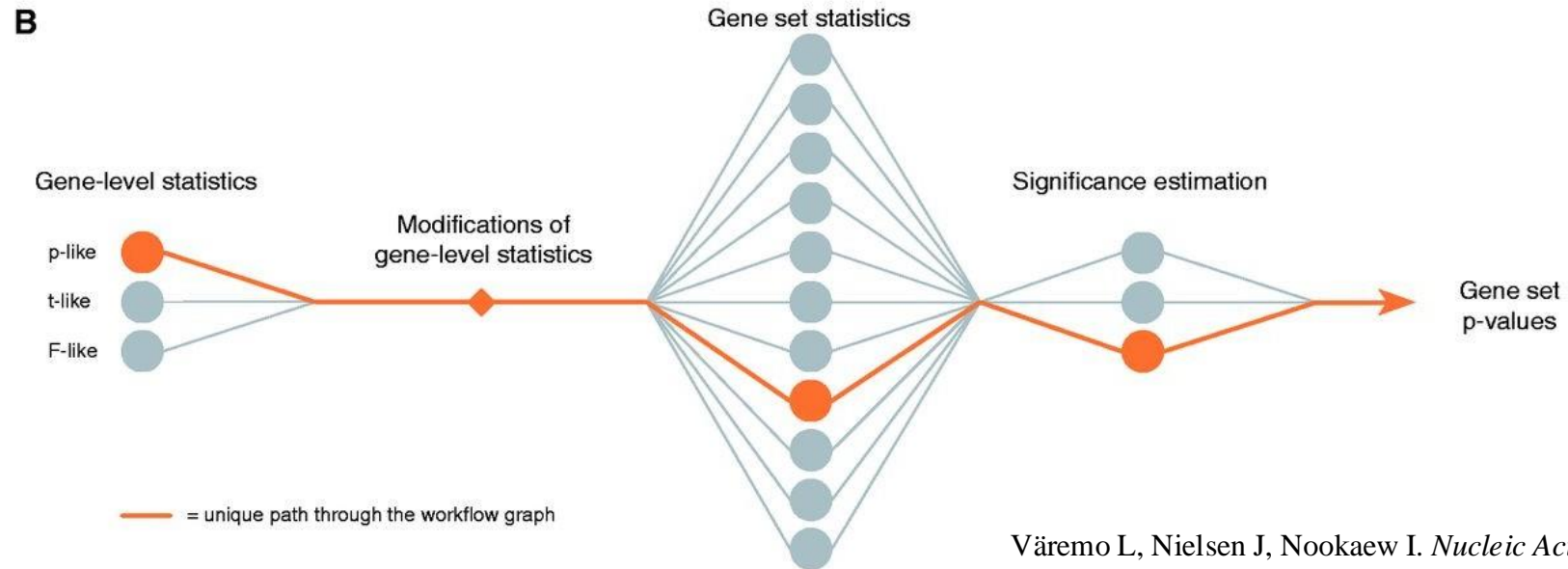
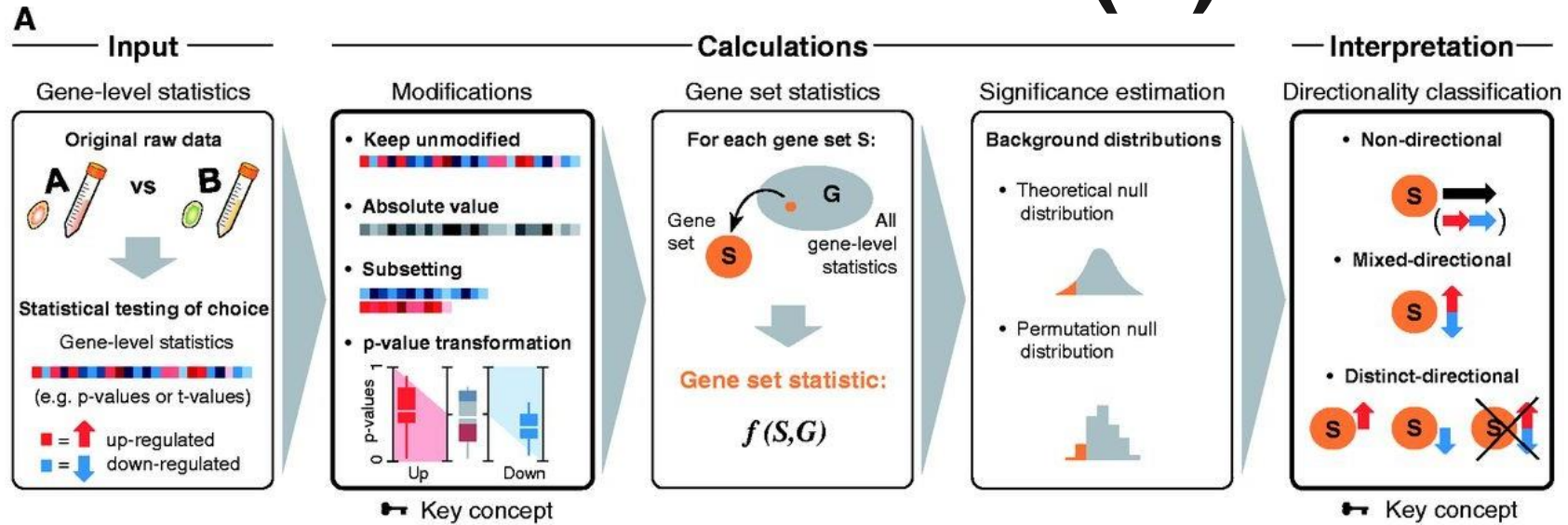


General GSA procedure

1. **Score each gene set** based on the statistics of the genes it contains
2. **Evaluate the significance** of each gene set score based on the score of the null or “background” score distribution

There are *many* methods for both steps 1 and 2

GSA Tools: Piano (R)



Väremo L, Nielsen J, Nookaew I. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2013;41(8):4378-4391.

GSA Tools: Piano (R)



Gene-level statistics (DE results)

Gene	log2FC	p-value
ENOPH1	-2.4	0.0003
SLC25A2	1.1	0.09
GMPPB	0.3	0.8
SLC1A4	-0.9	0.2
EGFL8	-1.8	0.04
HDC	-6.2	0.0001
A4GALT	3.1	0.0002
...

GSA Tools: Piano (R)



For each gene set, we can calculate 5 different p-values:

Non-directional:

Test for enrichment of significant (low p-value) genes, ignoring fold-change direction.

Gene set

Gene 1

Gene 2

Gene 3

Gene 4

Gene 5

Gene 6

Gene 7

Gene 8

Significantly
increased
expression



negligible
change

Significantly
decreased
expression

GSA Tools: Piano (R)



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negligible
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Significantly
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For each gene set, we can calculate 5 different p-values:

✔ **Non-directional:**

Test for enrichment of significant (low p-value) genes, ignoring fold-change direction.

✔ **Mixed-directional (down and up):**

Test if a *subset* of the gene set is enriched in significantly increased or decreased genes

Gene set

Gene 1

Gene 2

Gene 3

Gene 4

Gene 5

Gene 6

Gene 7

Gene 8

Significantly
increased
 expression



negligible
 change

Significantly
decreased
 expression

GSA Tools: Piano (R)



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✔ **Non-directional:**

Test for enrichment of significant (low p-value) genes, ignoring fold-change direction.

✔ ✔ **Mixed-directional (down and up):**

Test if a *subset* of the gene set is enriched in significantly increased or decreased genes

✘ ✘ **Distinct-directional (down and up):**

Test if the gene set is enriched in significantly increased or decreased genes

Gene set

Gene 1

Gene 2

Gene 3

Gene 4

Gene 5

Gene 6

Gene 7

Gene 8

Significantly
increased
expression



negligible
change

Significantly
decreased
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GSA Tools: Piano (R)



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GSA Tools: Piano (R)



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increased
expression



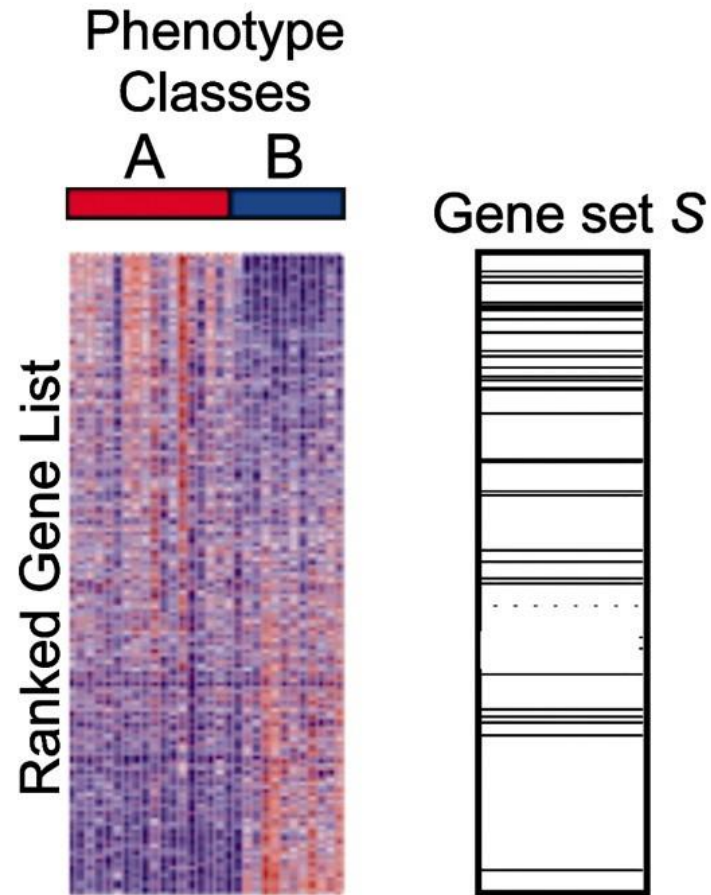
negligible
change

Significantly
decreased
expression

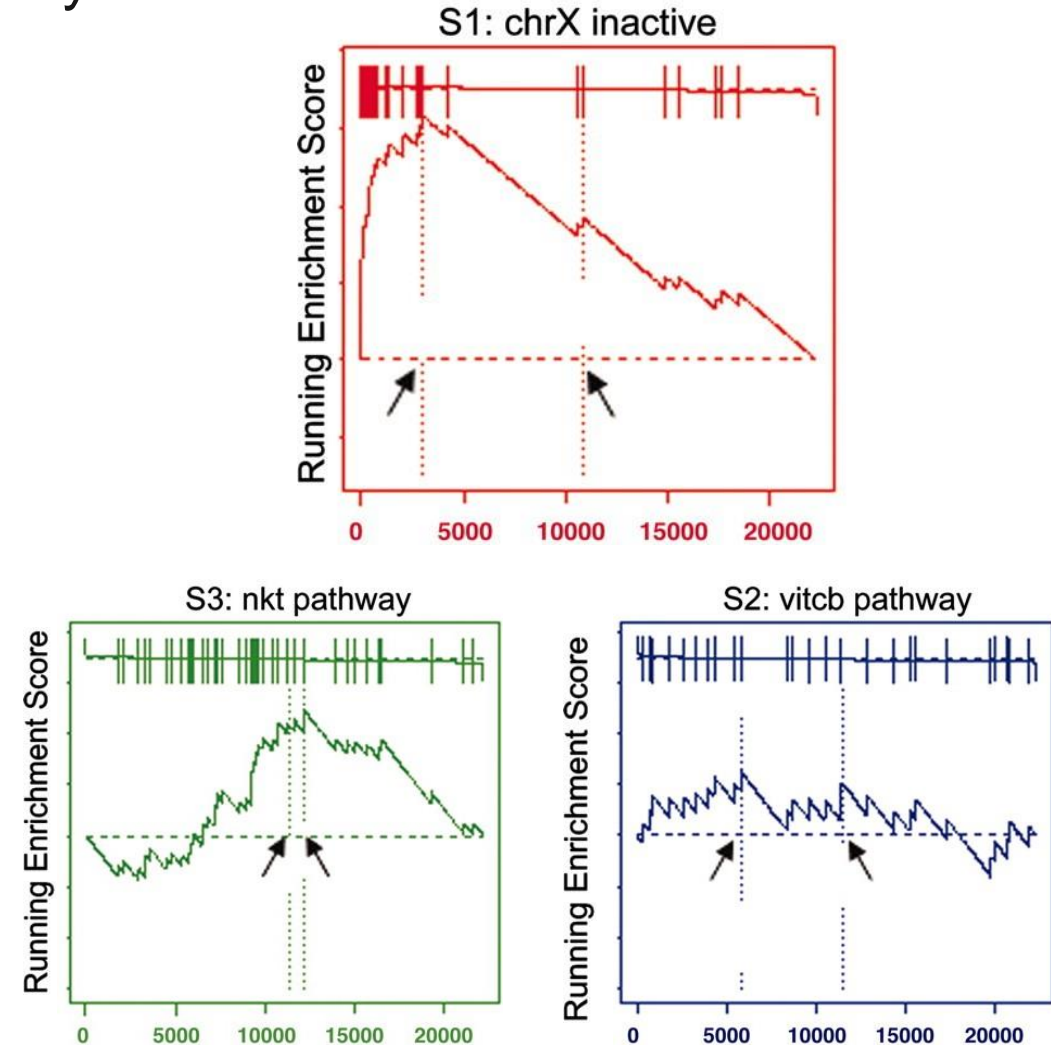
GSA Tools: GSEA (R, python)



Gene Set Enrichment Analysis



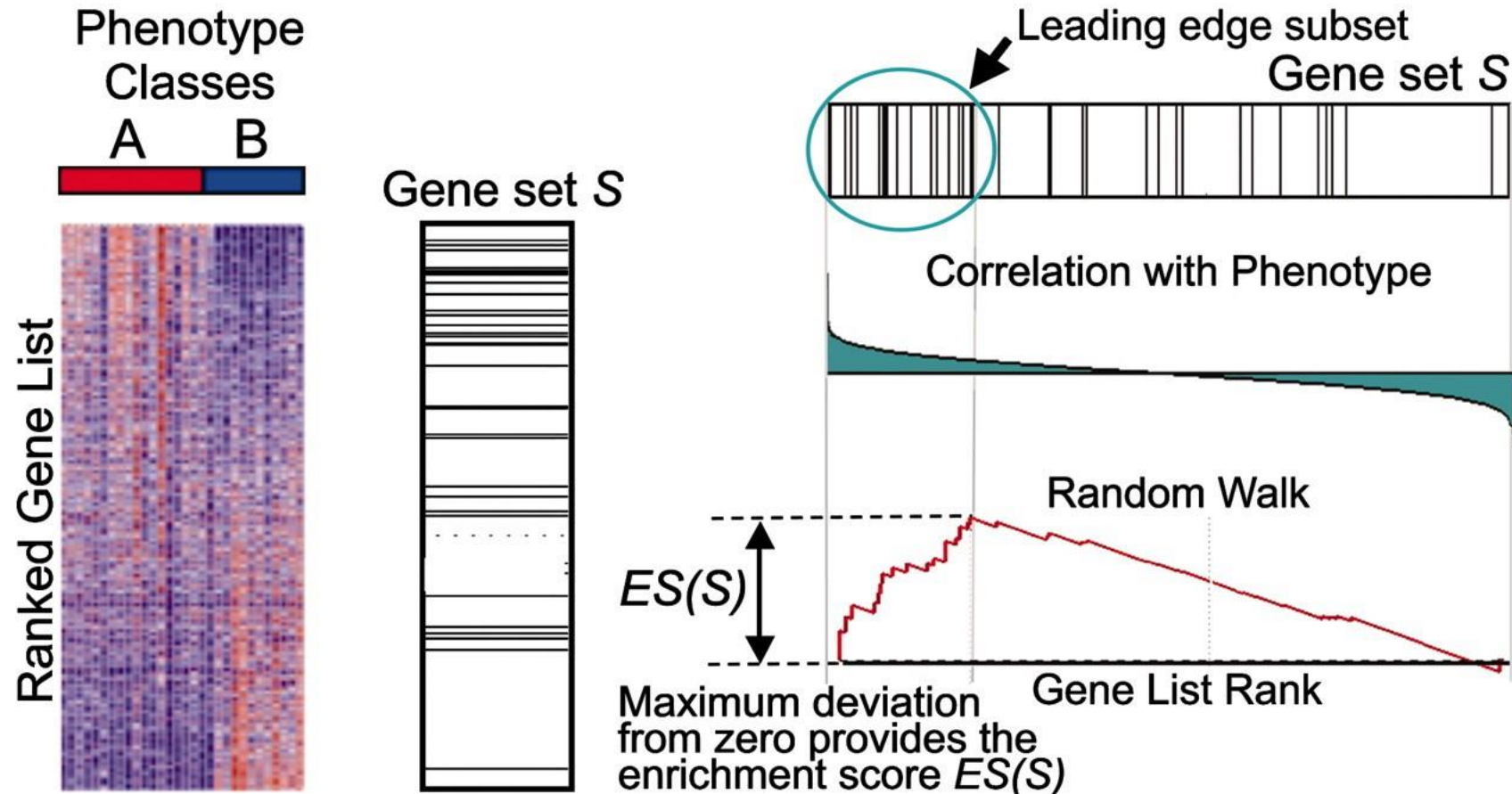
Subramanian, A, et al. *PNAS* 2005, 102 (43) 15545-15550



GSA Tools: GSEA (R, python)



Gene Set Enrichment Analysis



Subramanian, A, et al. *PNAS* 2005, 102 (43) 15545-15550

Context-specific GEMs



A GEM contains all metabolic reactions that are known to occur within an organism

When working with multicellular organisms (e.g., humans), the “**generic**” **GEM containing all reactions** is not representative of any real cell or tissue type

We can use omics data to **extract a subset** of the generic GEM that is active in our system of interest

This GEM is called an “**extracted**” or **context-specific** GEM

Context-specific GEMs



There are many methods to generate context-specific GEMs.

For example:

- **iMAT** (Integrative Metabolic Analysis Tool)
- **MBA** (Model Building Algorithm)
- **mCADRE** (metabolic Context-specificity Assessed by Deterministic Reaction Evaluation)
- **tINIT** (Task-driven Integrative Network Inference for Tissues)
- **FASTCORE**

Unfortunately, they were all implemented in MATLAB.

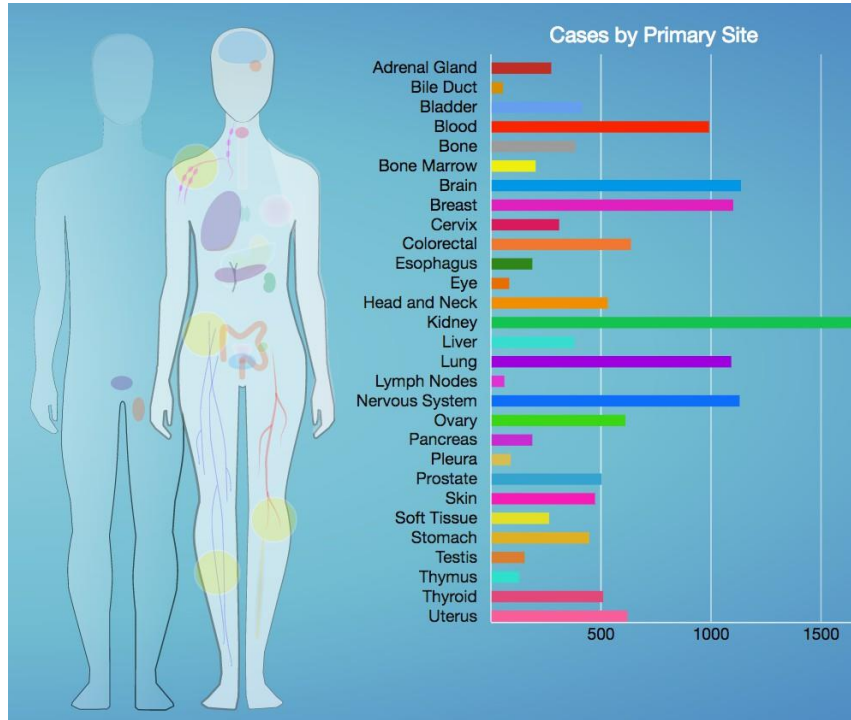
Here are some links to tutorials to using some of the methods:

tINIT: https://sysbiochalmers.github.io/Human-GEM-guide/gem_extraction/

iMAT: <https://opencobra.github.io/cobratoolbox/stable/tutorials/tutorialExtractionTranscriptomic.html>

GEM-based comparison of transcriptomes

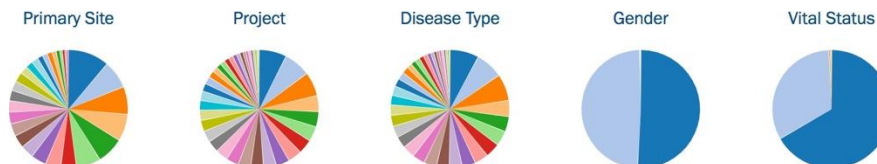
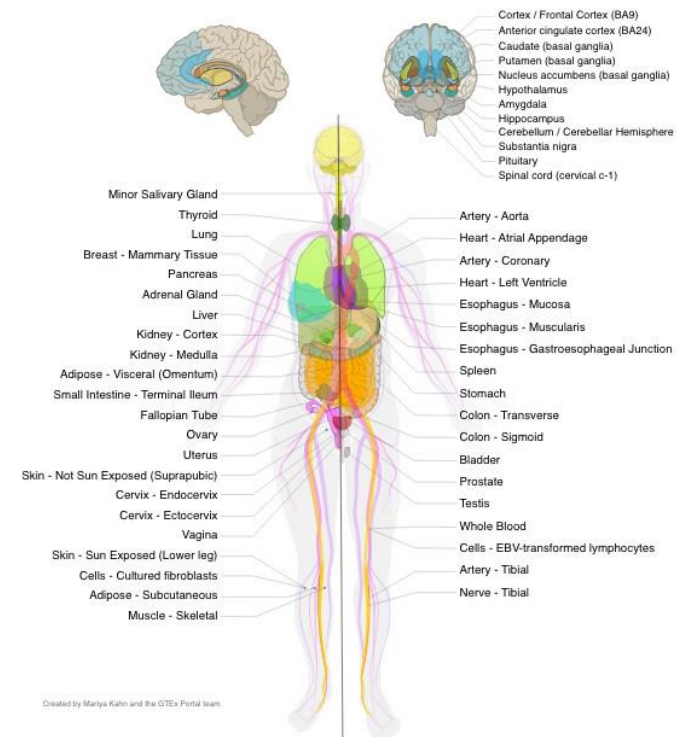
From the study Robinson, et al. An atlas of human metabolism. *Science Signaling* 2020



Tissue Sampling Sites

This page provides a visual representation of the biospecimen source sites (BSSs) for the collection of tissue from postmortem/organ procurement cases for the Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) project.

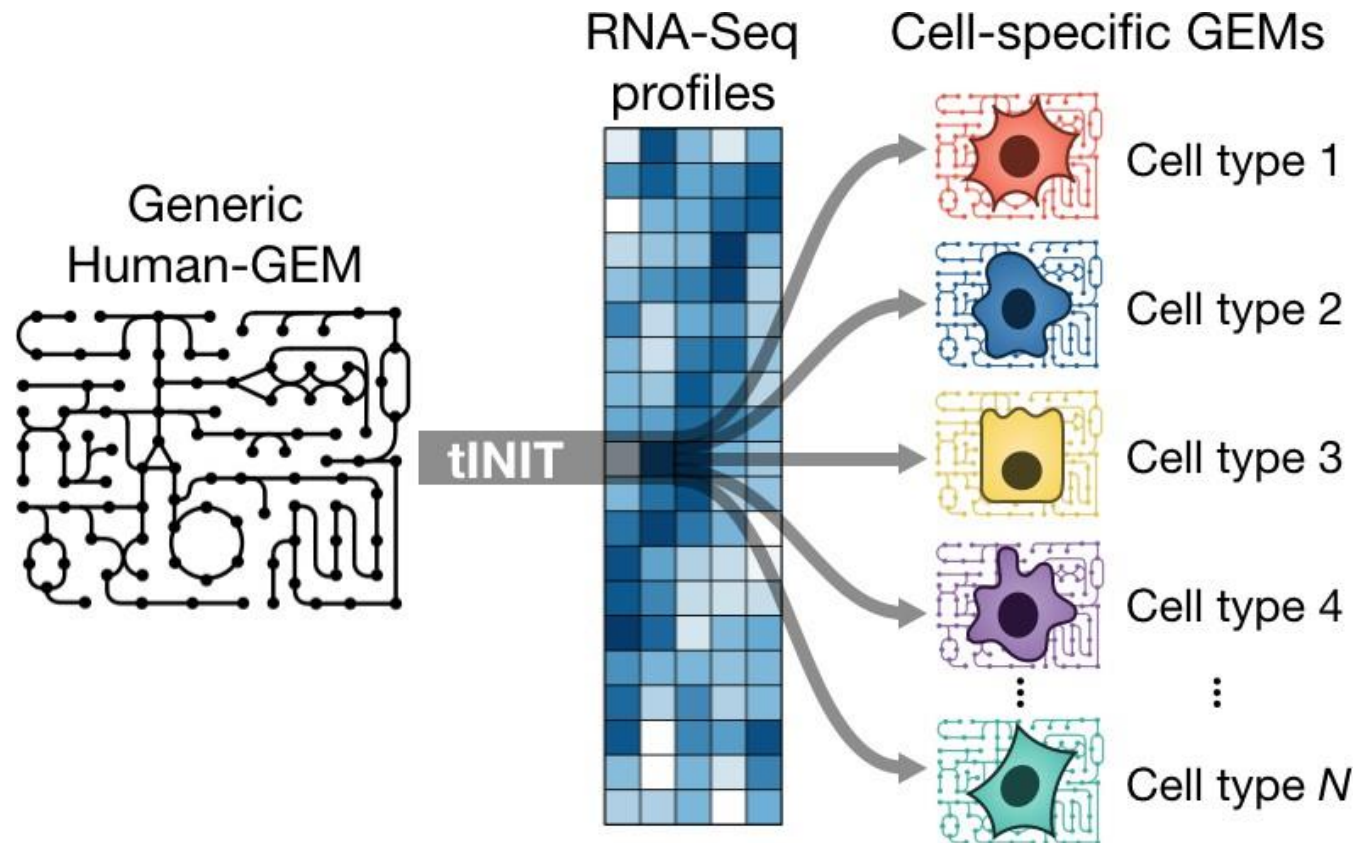
The full documentation on tissue collection procedures can be found on the [GTEx Tissue Harvesting Work Instruction](#).



GEM-based comparison of transcriptomes



Context-specific GEMs were extracted for each of the cancer types and healthy tissue types



GEM-based comparison of transcriptomes



GEM structure (reaction content) can be represented by a binary vector

Reaction	Lung Tumor	Lung Paired	Lung Healthy	Brain Tumor	Brain Paired	...
rxn1	1	0	1	1	1	Model contains reaction
rxn2	0	1	1	1	1	
rxn3	0	0	0	0	0	
rxn4	0	1	0	1	0	Model missing reaction
rxn5	1	1	0	1	1	
rxn6	1	0	0	1	0	
rxn7	0	0	1	1	0	

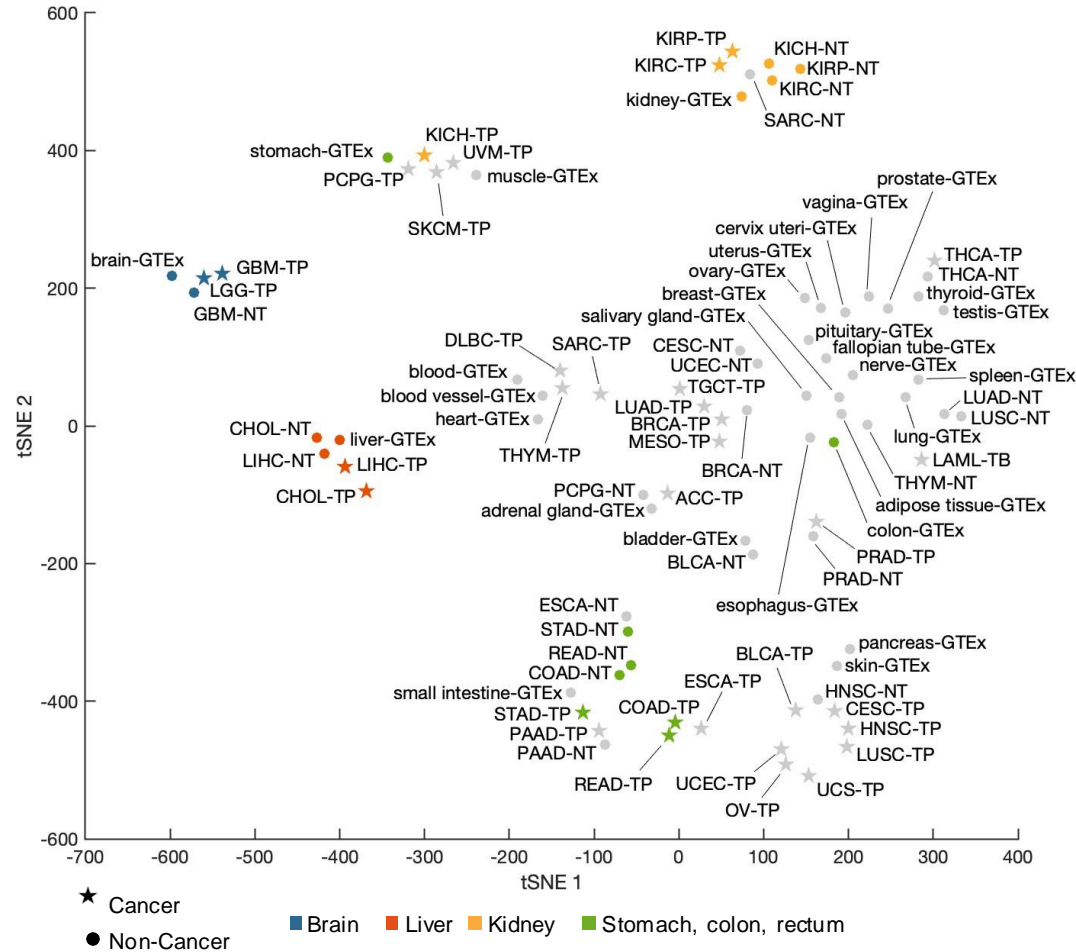
⋮

⋮

GEM-based comparison of transcriptomes



Distance (Hamming) between each GEM reaction content vector can be calculated and projected in a tSNE embedding



GEM-based comparison of transcriptomes



If reaction subsystem labels are included, we can look at subsystem-specific differences between GEMs

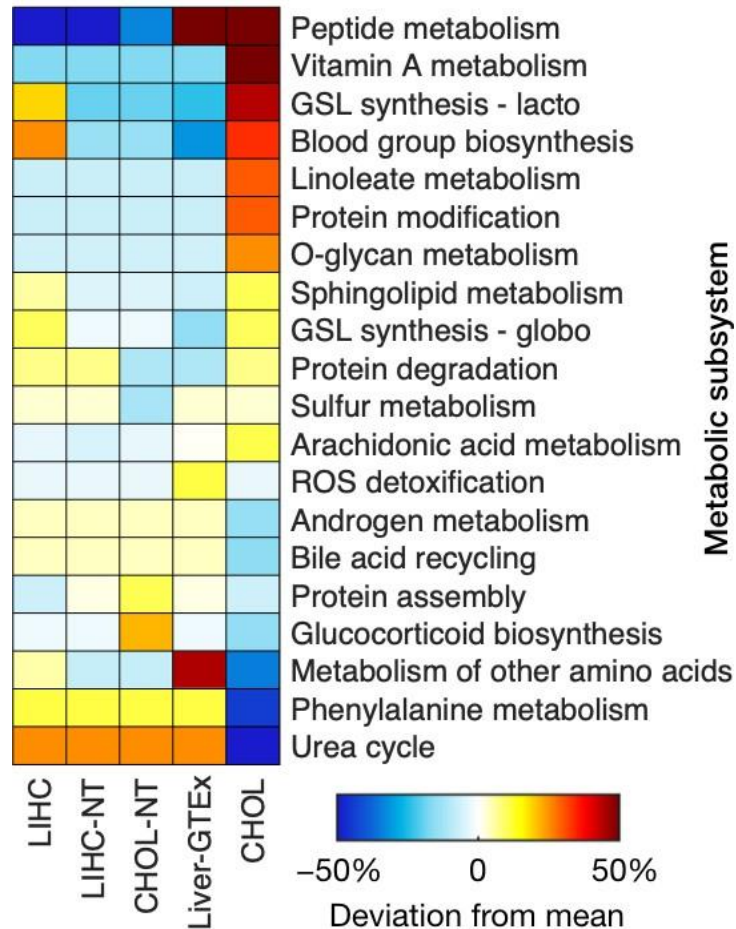
Subsystem	Reaction	Lung Tumor	Lung Paired	Lung Healthy	Brain Tumor	Brain Paired	...
TCA cycle	rxn1	1	0	1	1	1	
TCA cycle	rxn2	0	1	1	1	1	
Glycolysis	rxn3	0	0	0	0	0	
TCA cycle	rxn4	0	1	0	1	0	
Fatty acid oxidation	rxn5	1	1	0	1	1	
Carnitine shuttle	rxn6	1	0	0	1	0	
Glycolysis	rxn7	0	0	1	1	0	
	⋮						⋮

GEM-based comparison of transcriptomes



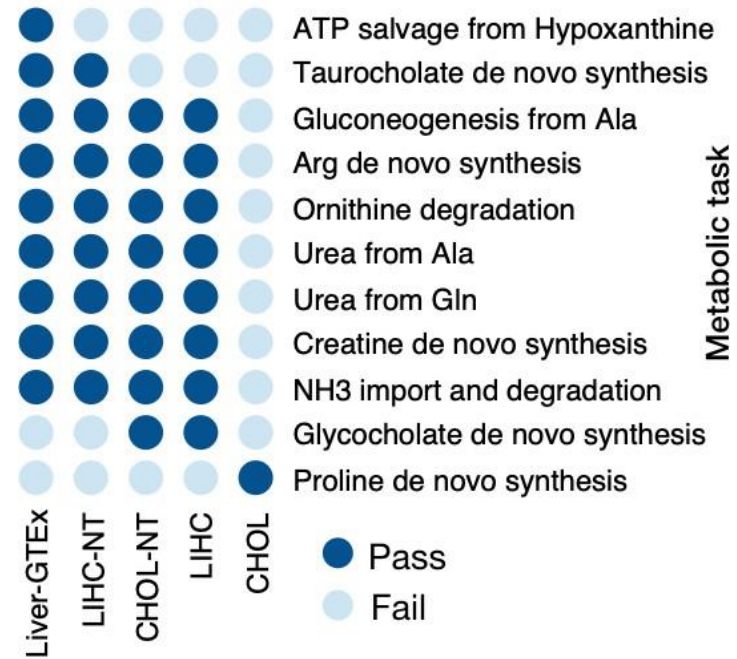
If reaction subsystem labels are included, we can look at subsystem-specific differences between GEMs

Subsystem coverage: Liver



Furthermore, FBA can be used to determine what metabolic functions the GEMs can or cannot perform

Functional comparison: Liver



Exercise: GEM-based GSA



Exercise: (Rstudio)

Use the GEM-derived gene set collections to evaluate enrichment of differentially expressed genes in different regions of the metabolic network.