Gene Profiling, Clustering, and Networking

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1. Genomics, transcriptomics and gene microarrays
2. Preprocessing of gene microarray data
3. Screening differentially expressed genes
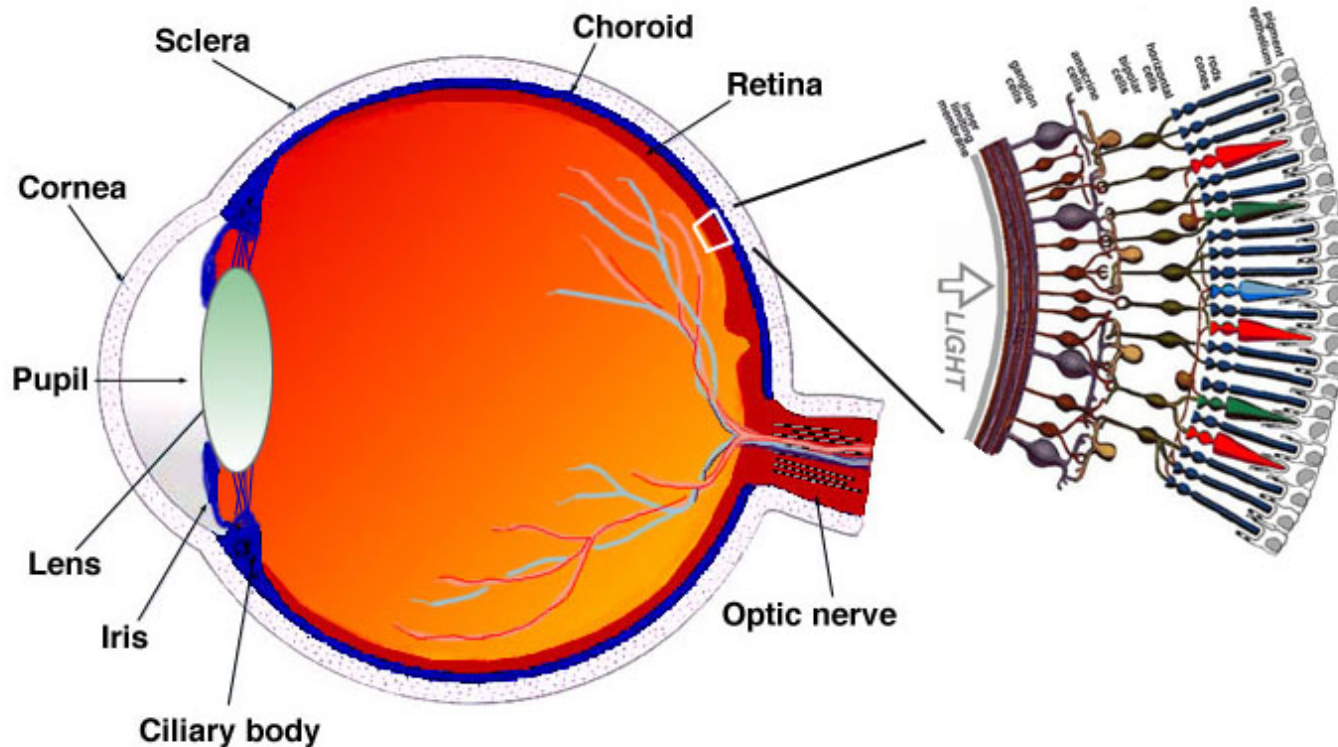4. Clustering gene co-regulation patterns
5. Conclusions

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- Dongxiao Zhu, Bioinformatics, UM
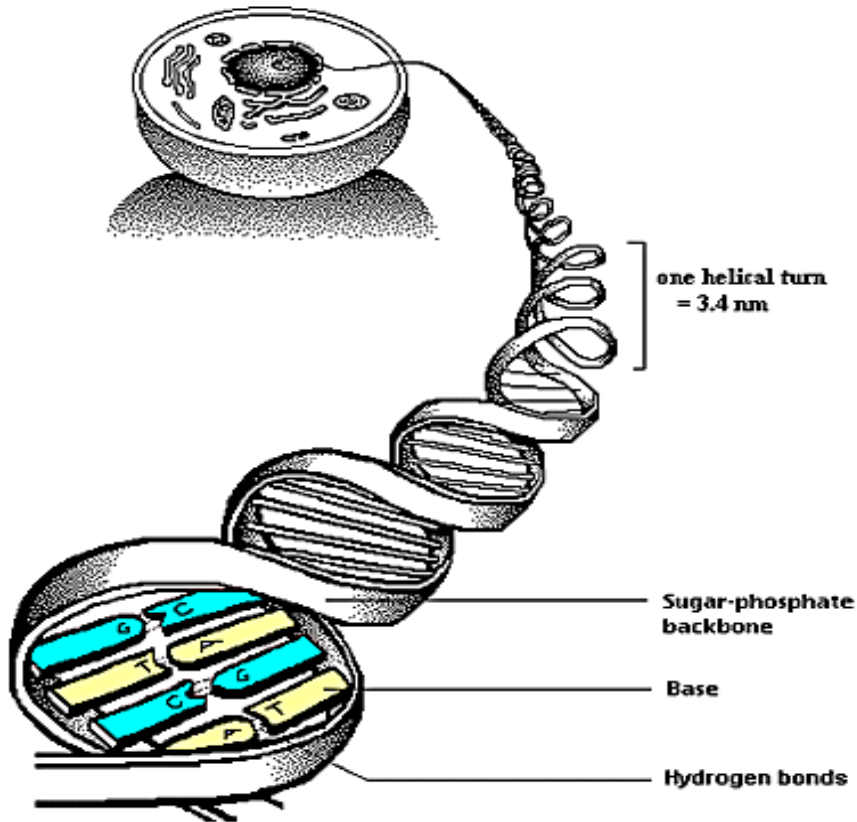- Yuezhou Jing, Dept. Statistics, UM

Some Biological Questions

- What is genetic basis for photoreceptor development, aging, and degeneration?

- What are patterns of gene expression in the retina over time?
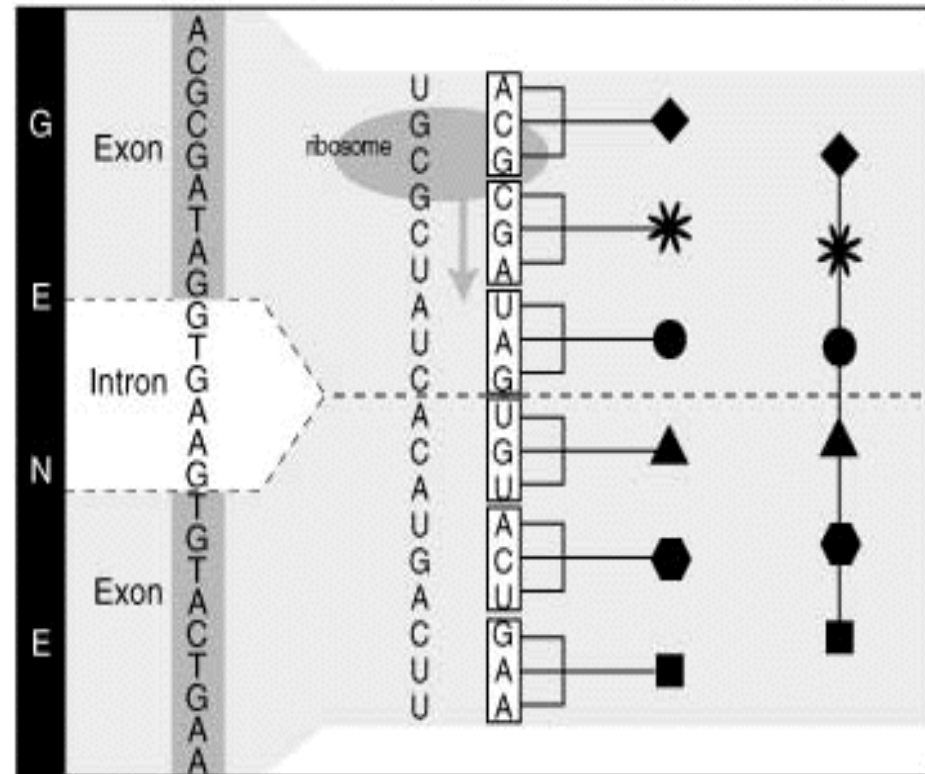
- What genes mediate development of rods and cones?

1. Genomics, Transcriptomics and Gene Microarrays

THE STRUCTURE OF DNA

one helical turn = 3.4 nm

Sugar-phosphate backbone

Base

Hydrogen bonds

Transcription → Translation
DNA → mRNA → tRNA → Amino Acid → Polypeptide chain

http://www-stat.stanford.edu/~susan/courses/s166/node2.html
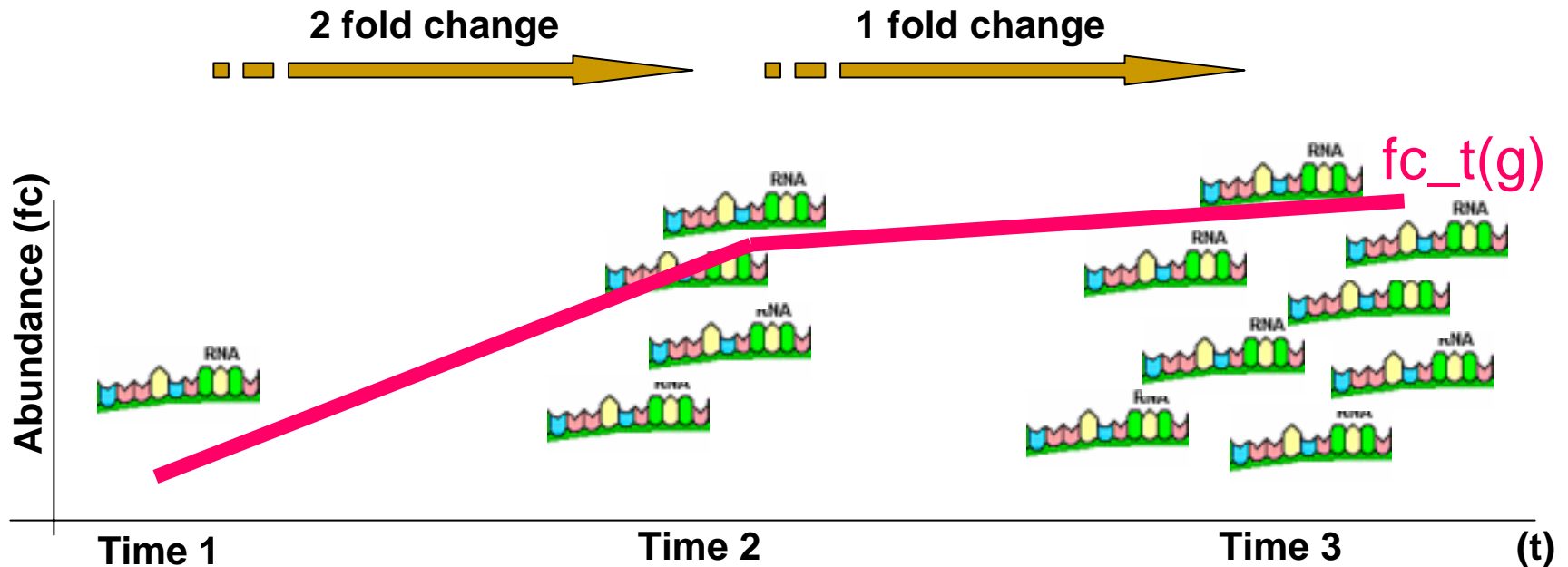
http://www.genome.gov/

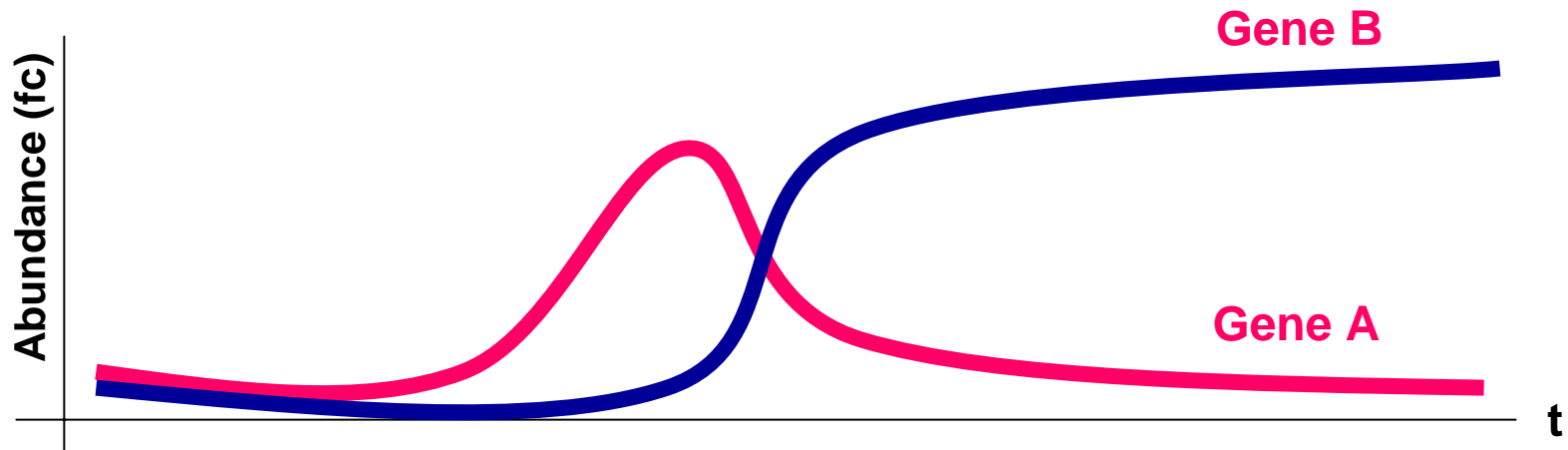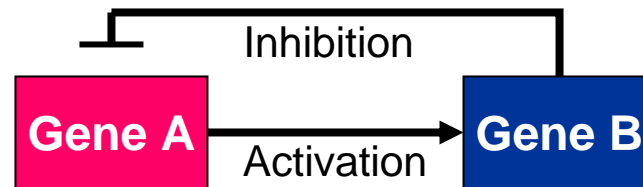# Transcriptomics: Gene expression profiling

What is pattern of gene activation/inactivation over time, tissue, therapy, etc?

2 fold change

1 fold change

Abundance (fc)

fc_t(g)

Time 1   Time 2   Time 3   (t)
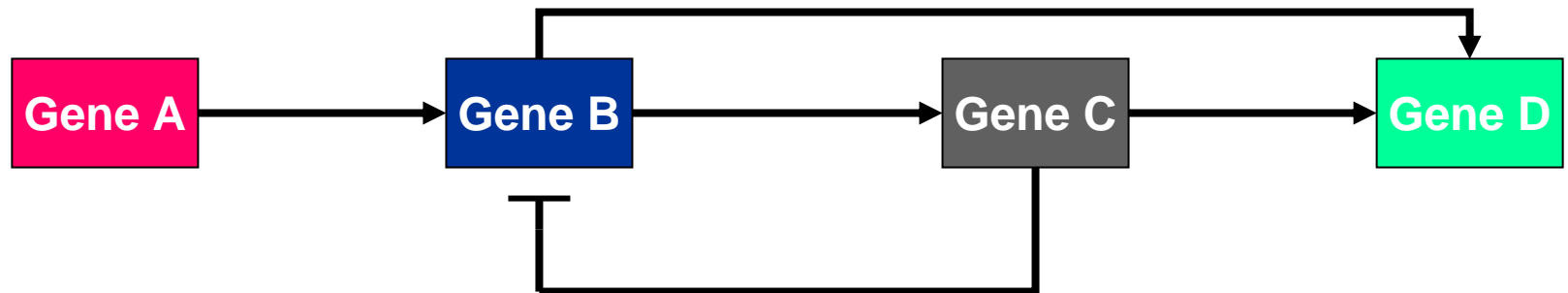
Discovery of Genetic Circuits

How do genes regulate (activate/inhibit)

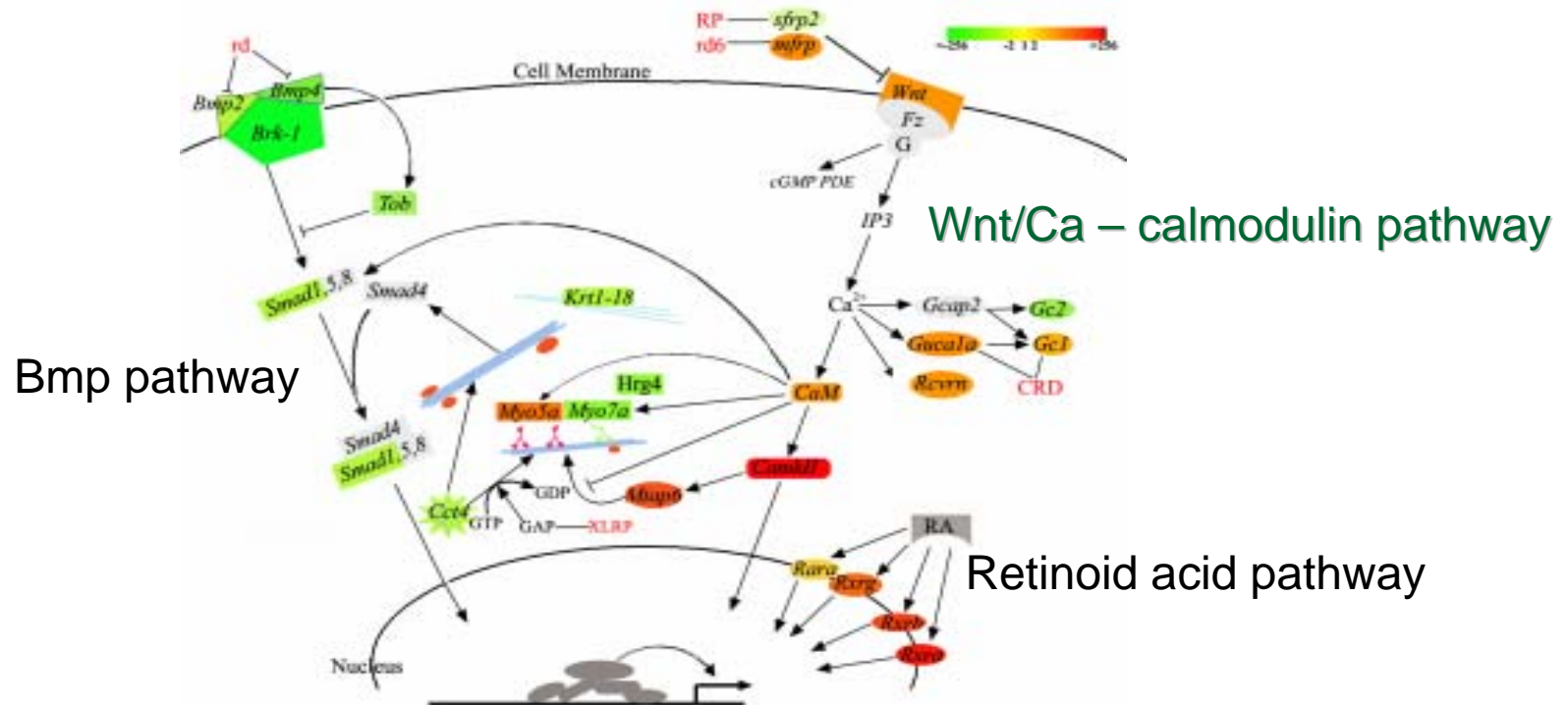*each other's expression levels over time?*

Discovery of Genetic Pathways

What sequence of gene interactions lead to a specific metabolic/structural (dys)function

Discovery of Gene Regulation Networks

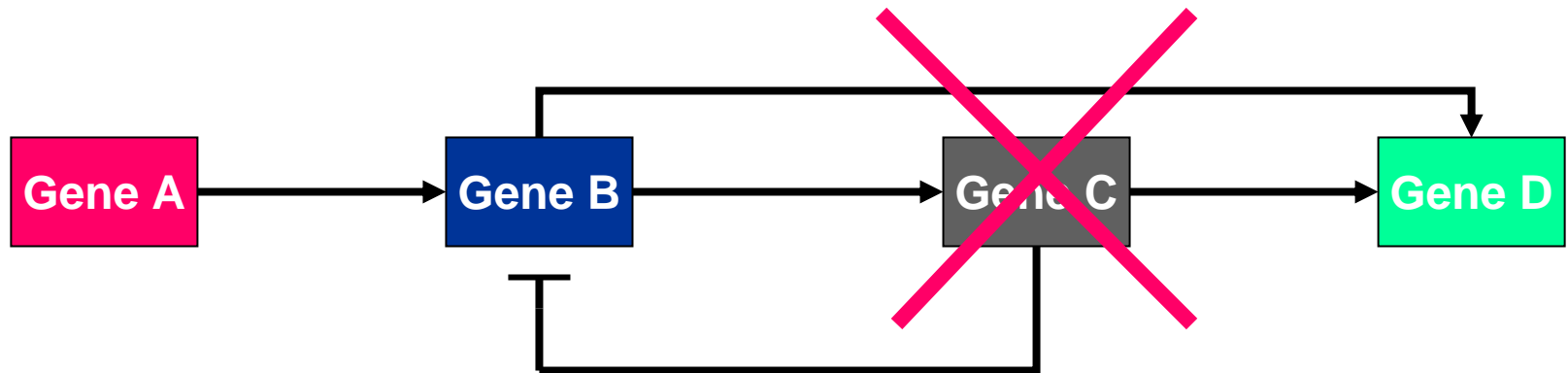*What are the networks of gene pathways that co-regulate gene expression of an organism?*

Wnt/Ca – calmodulin pathway

Bmp pathway

Retinoid acid pathway

Draft Pathways for Photoreceptor Function

Source: J. Yu, UM BioMedEng Thesis Proposal (2002)
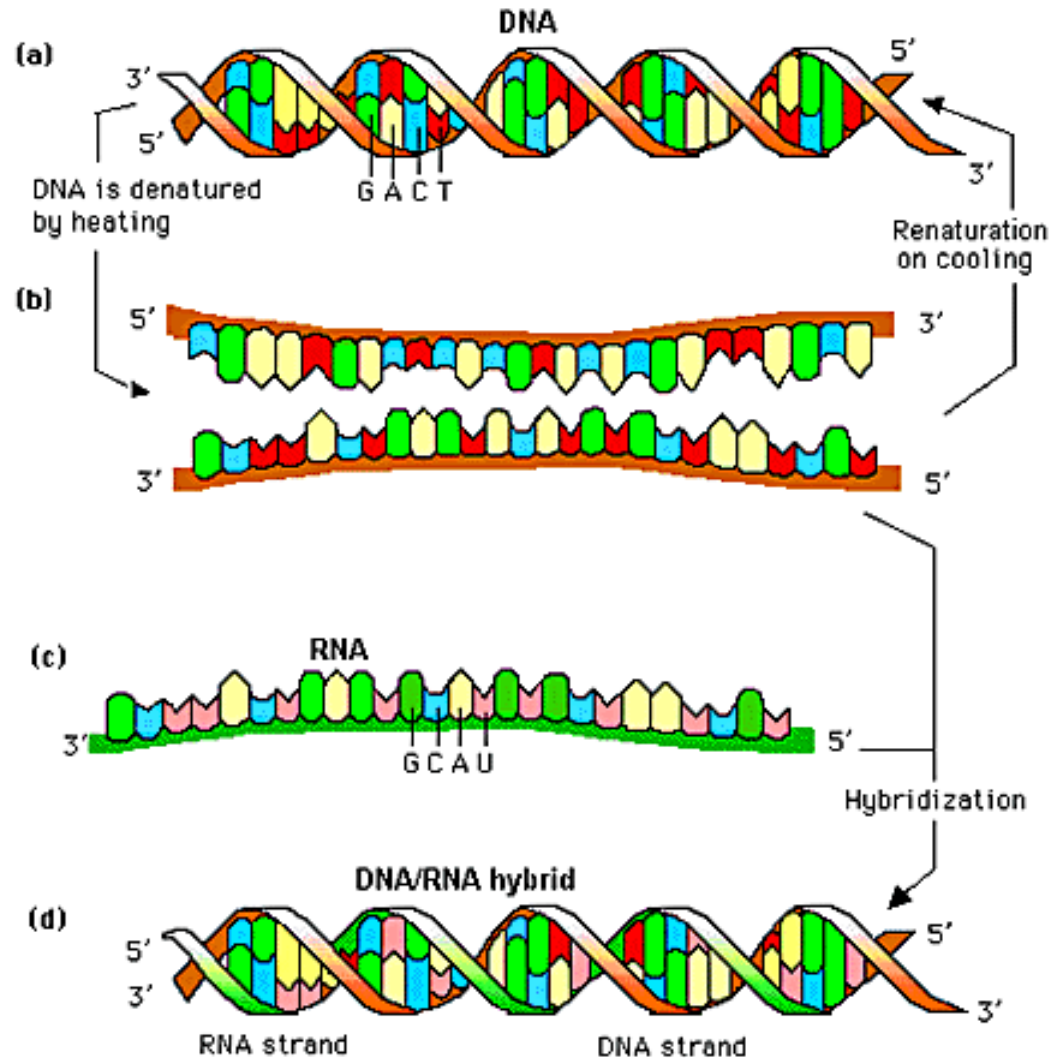
Experimental Design for Structure Discovery

- Treatment level experiments: aging, starvation, drugs
- Gene knockout experiments: create a mutant organism

- Issues:
  - For a network of G genes require 2^G knockouts per time point to explore full co-regulation network.
  - Experimental replication is necessary ("large p small n")
  - There are other factors affecting gene expression: co-expression level,environment, protein-protein interactions…
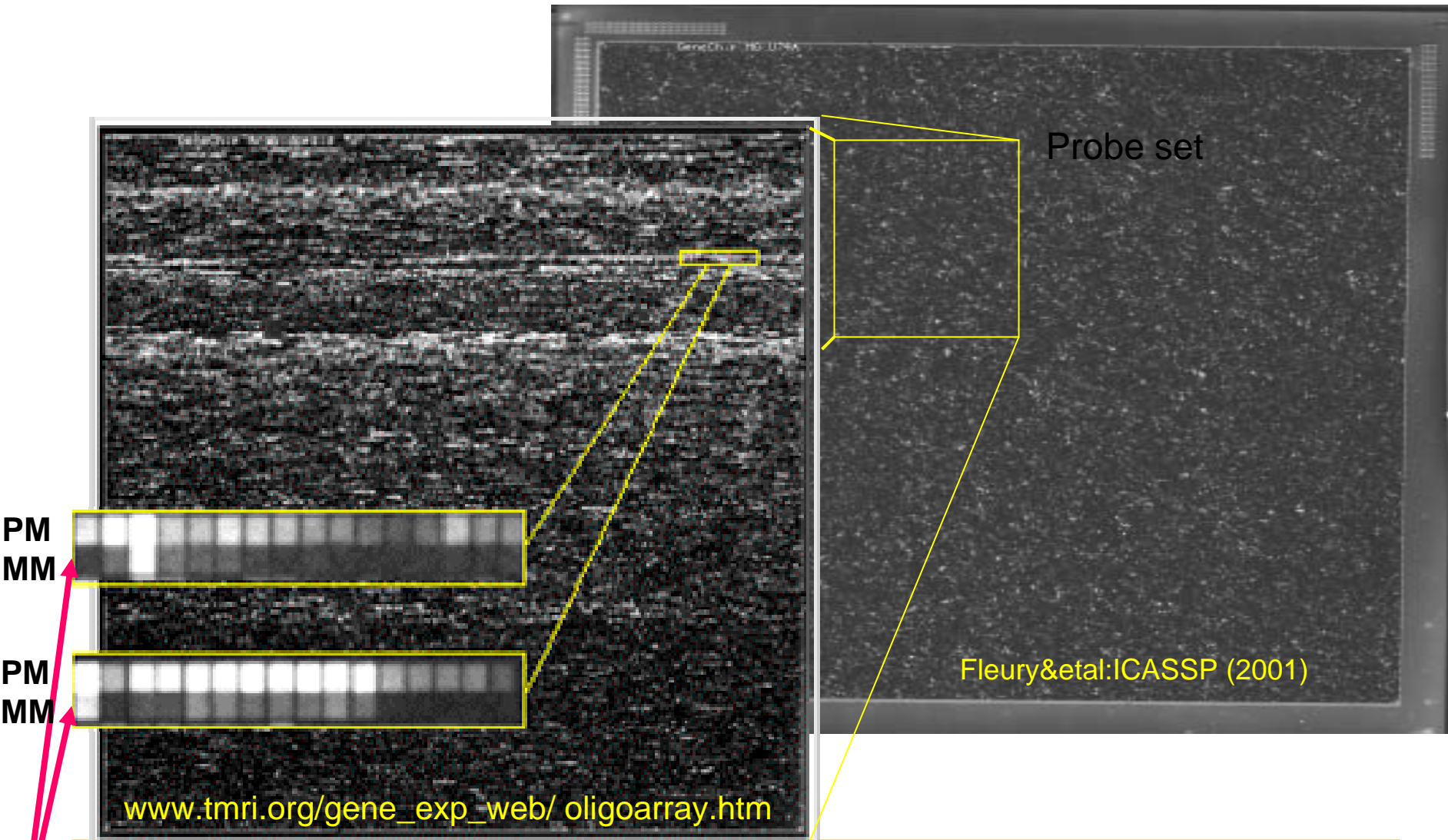
Fundamental probing tool: hybridization

Nucleic Acid Hybridization

Plenary 2005

Gene Microarrays

- Two principal gene microarray technologies:
  - Oligonucleotide arrays: (Affymetrix GeneChips)
    - Matched and mismatched oligonucleotide probe sequences photoetched on a chip
    - Dye-labeled RNA from sample is hybridized to chip
    - Abundance of RNA bound to each probe is laser-scanned
  - cDNA spotted arrays: (Brown/Botstein)
    - Specific complementary DNA sequences arrayed on slide
    - Dye-labeled sample mRNA is hybridized to slide
    - Presence of bound mRNA-cDNA pairs is read out by laser scanner

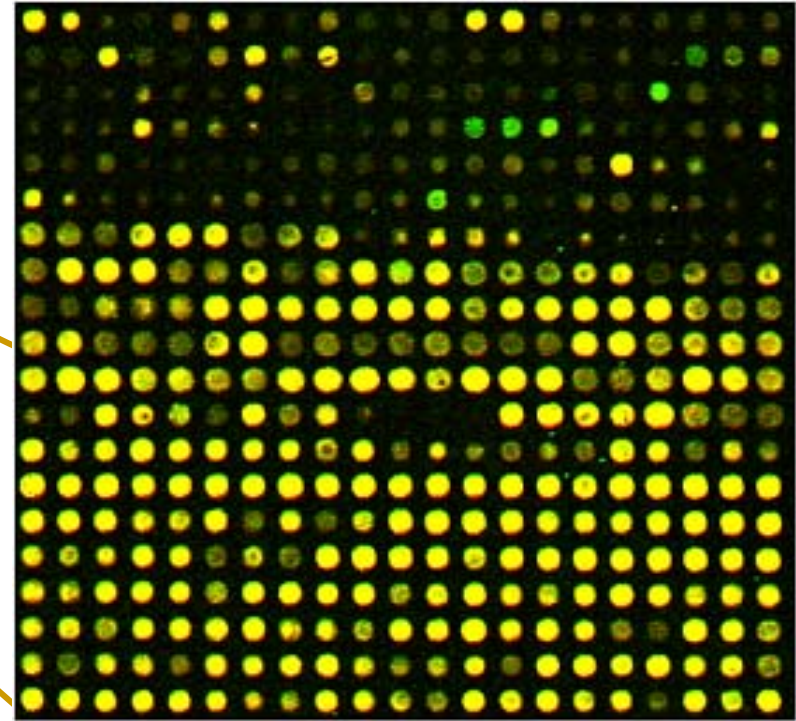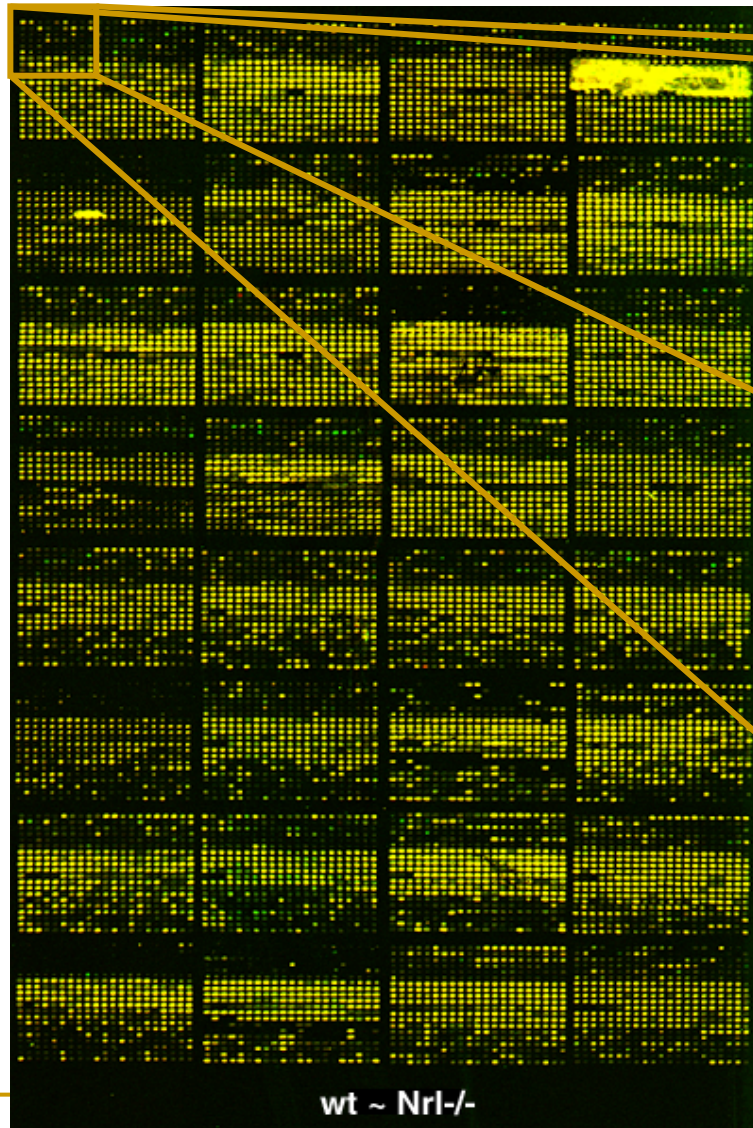- **10,000-50,000 genes can be probed simultaneously**
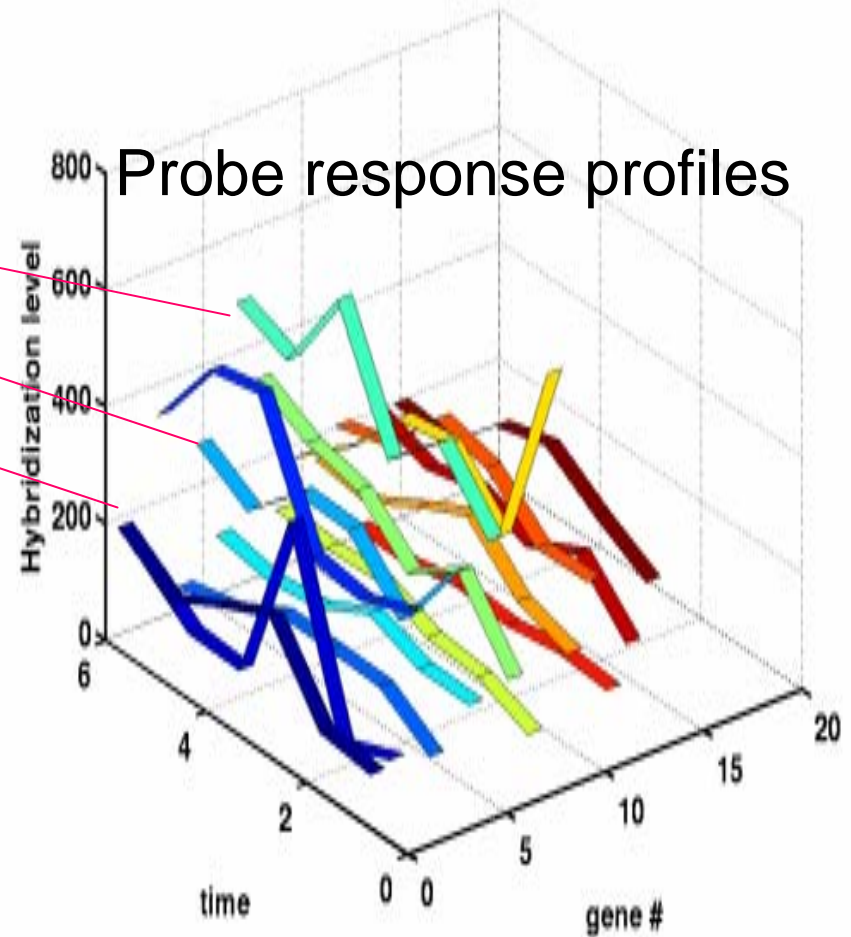
Oligonucleotide GeneChip (Affymetrix)

Probe set

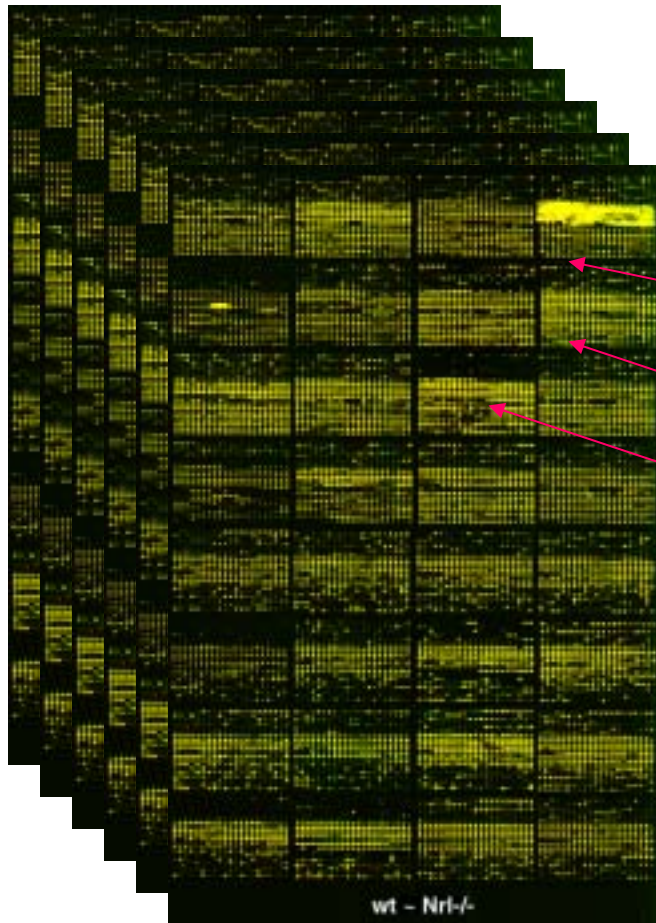GeneChip HG U74A

Fleury&etal:ICASSP (2001)

PM
MM

PM
MM

www.tmri.org/gene_exp_web/ oligoarray.htm

Two PM/MM Probe sets

cDNA spotted array

wt ~ Nrl-/-

- **Treated sample (ko) labeled red (Cy5)**
- **Control (wt) labeled green (Cy3)**

Add Treatment Dimension: Expression Profiles
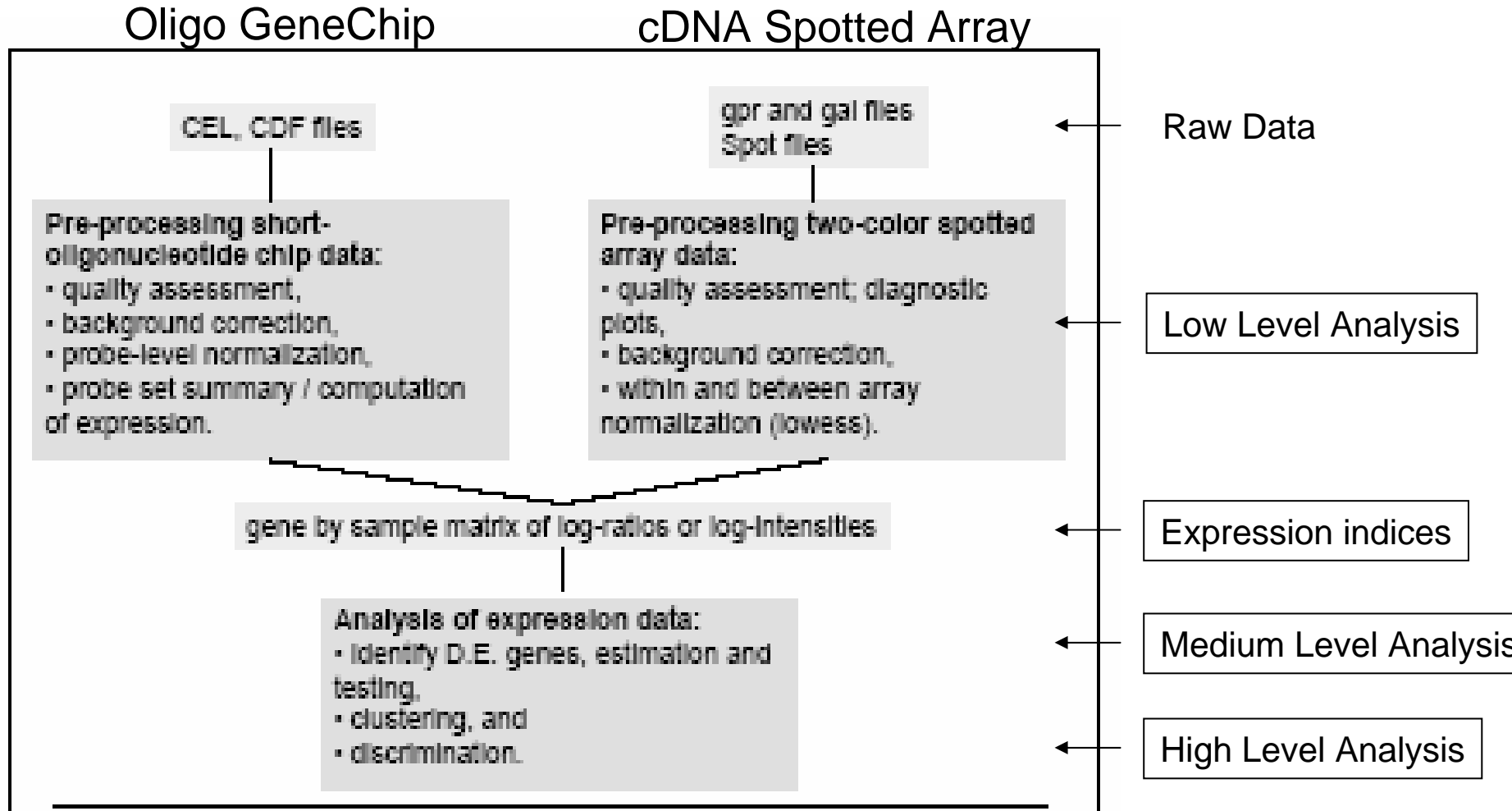

Probe response profiles

Sources of Experimental Variability

- **Population** – wide genetic diversity
- **Cell lines** - poor sample preparation
- **Slide Manufacture** – slide surface quality, dust deposition
- **Hybridization** – sample concentration, wash conditions
- **Cross hybridization** – similar but different genes bind to same probe
- **Image Formation** – scanner saturation, lens aberrations, gain settings
- **Imaging and Extraction** – misaligned spot grid, segmentation

Microarray data is intrinsically statistical and replication is necessary
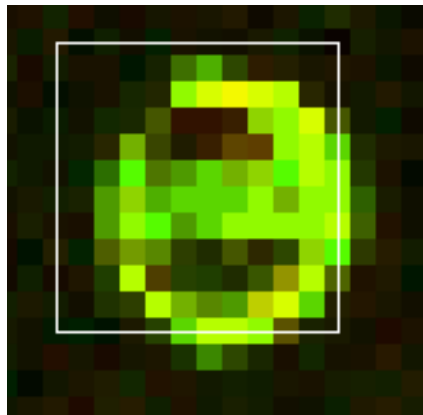
15

Churchill (2002)

2. Preprocessing of Gene Microarray Data

Oligo GeneChip   cDNA Spotted Array

CEL, CDF files

gpr and gal files
Spot files   Raw Data

Pre-processing short-
oligonucleotide chip data:
· quality assessment,
· background correction,
· probe-level normalization,
· probe set summary / computation
of expression.

Pre-processing two-color spotted
array data:
· quality assessment; diagnostic
plots,
· background correction,
· within and between array
normalization (lowess).   Low Level Analysis

gene by sample matrix of log-ratios or log-intensities   Expression indices

Analysis of expression data:
· Identify D.E. genes, estimation and
testing,
· clustering, and
· discrimination.

Medium Level Analysis

High Level Analysis

Source: Jean Yee Hwa Yang Statistical issues in design and analysis microarray experiment. (2003)

Image Processing: cDNA Spot Extraction

- **Addressing** – Locate "center of description" for each spot
- **Spot Segmentation** – Classification of pixels either as signal or background.
- **Spot Quantification** – Estimation of hybridization level/ratio of spot

Grid misalignment

Laser Misalignment

Source: C. Ball, Stanford Microarray Database

Refs: Spotfire, ScanAnalyze, GenePix, Quantarray, Spot

Spot Segmentation

- Threshold based
- Boundary based
  - Fixed circle
  - Adaptive circle (*used in QuantArray*)
  - Fixed Spot Mask (*used in ScanAlyze*)
- Region based
  - Seeded Region Growing (*used in Spot*)
- Active contours: level set algorithms
- Morphological operators: watershed segmentation

Segmentation via Morphological Operators

Original Image

Alternate-Sequential Filtered

Watershed Transformed

Final Segmented Image

A vs B Microarray Normalization

Exp A

Inverse

Unif Tran

Mean

Normalized A

Housekeeping Gene Selector

Normalized B

Unif Tran

Mean

Exp B

Inverse

Pooled Microarray Normalization

Graphs are generated using R plot function hist() and boxplot()

Data: Lemon WJ et al. 2002

Post-Normalization Histogram

Graphs are generated using <u>R</u> plot function hist() and boxplot()

Data: Lemon WL et al. 2002

Extracting Expression Indices

- Each probe response level in microarray can be modeled via general mixed model

$$y_{gtr} = f_{gt}(\beta) + \rho_{gt}(\beta)Z_r + \sigma_{gt}(\beta)\epsilon_{gtr}$$

- g=gene probe index, t=timepoint, r=replicate
- $f_{gt}(\beta)$ is fixed effect
- $\sigma_{gt}(\beta)Z_r$ is random effect that may correlate t,g
- $\sigma_{gt}(\beta)\epsilon_{gtr}$ is noise component
- Special cases: MAS5, DChip, RMA. SMA, GEE
- Model similar to those used in array signal processing, statistical imaging, and other SP applications.

3. Screening Differentially Expressed Genes

12 knockout/wildtype mice in 3 groups of 4 subjects (24 GeneChips)

Knockout   Wildtype

$$\max_t\{\overline{K_t}(g) - \overline{W_t}(g)\} > \text{fcmin}$$

Biological vs Statistical Significance

- **Biological significance** refers to foldchange being sufficiently large to be biologically meaningful or testable, e.g. testable by RT-PCR

$$|\text{fc}(g)| > \text{fcmin}$$

- **Statistical significance** refers to foldchange being different from zero

$$\text{fc}(g) \neq 0$$

Hero,Fleury,Mears,Swaroop:JASP2003

Single Comparison Test

- Let $fc_t(g)$ = foldchange of gene 'g' at time point 't'.
- We wish to test the hypotheses:

$$H_0(g,t) \quad : \quad |\mathsf{fc}_t(g)| \leq |d|$$
$$H_1(g,t) \quad : \quad |\mathsf{fc}_t(g)| > |d|$$

- d = minimum acceptable difference (MAD)
- Method: confidence interval test

Confidence Interval Test: Single Comparison

- Biologically&statistically **significant** differential response at 10% level of significance

$$f_{T_t(g)}(x|H_0)$$

$$T_t(g) = \frac{\overline{W}_t(g) - \overline{K}_t(g)}{\widehat{\sigma}_t(g)}$$

$-\mathcal{T}_{0.95}^{-1}$ **0** $\mathcal{T}_{0.95}^{-1}$ **d** x

Conf. Interval on $\text{fc}_t(g)$ **of level 1-alpha**

Confidence Interval Test: Single Comparison

- Statistically significant but biologically **insignificant** fc

$$f_{T_t(g)}(x|H_0)$$

$-\mathcal{T}_{0.95}^{-1}$ **0** $\mathcal{T}_{0.95}^{-1}$ **d**

Conf. Interval on $\mathrm{fc}_t(g)$ **of level 1-alpha**

Multiple Comparisons: FWER, FDR

- **Pvalue, CI** apply to single comparison:

False positive

$$\mathcal{T}_{0.95}^{-1}$$

$$-\mathcal{T}_{0.95}^{-1}$$

g

- **FWER, FDR** and **FDRCI** depend on $\{T(g), g=1, \dots G\}$.

  - FWER: familywise error rate
    - Avg number of experiments yielding at least one false positive
  - FDR: false discovery rate (Benjamini&Hochburg:1996)
    - Avg proportion of false positives in experiments
  - FDRCI: $(1-\alpha)$ CI on discovered fc (Benjamini&Yekutieli:2002)
    - Avg. proportion of CIs that cover true fc in a given experiment

Sorted FDRCI pvalues for ko/wt study

Sorted FDRCI p-values for various min fold changes

Legend:
- 0.32
- 0.58
- 0.85
- 1.00

$$T(g) = \max_t \frac{|\overline{W}_t(g) - \overline{K}_t(g)|}{\hat{\sigma}_t(g)}$$

$\alpha=0.2$

FDRCI p-value

Filtered genes at level (FDR=0.2, fc=0.32)

Ref:

Screening Gene Expression Profiles

- Max foldchange is only one possible criterion of interest
- Objective: find the 250-300 genes having the most significant foldchanges wrt multiple criteria
- Example: Retinal aging study

Multi-objective Optimization Approach

- Rarely does a linear order exist with respect to more than one ranking criterion, as in

$$|\mathsf{fc}_1(g_1)| > |\mathsf{fc}_1(g_2)| > \ldots > |\mathsf{fc}_1(g_p)|$$

- However, a partial order is usually possible

$$\{\mathsf{fc}_1(g), \ldots, \mathsf{fc}_6(g)\}_{g \in \mathcal{G}_1} > \ldots > \{\mathsf{fc}_1(g), \ldots, \mathsf{fc}_6(g)\}_{g \in \mathcal{G}_q}$$

Illustration: two extreme cases

$$\xi_1(g) = fc_6(g) - fc_1(g) \text{ - end-to-end criterion}$$
$$\xi_2(g) = \min_t\{fc_t(g) - fc_{t-1}(g)\} \text{ -increasing criterion}$$

- A linear ordering exists
- No linear ordering exists

Optimum

Pareto Front Analysis (PFA)

- Rank genes by peeling of successive Pareto Fronts

Hero&Fleury:VLSI04

4. Clustering Gene Expression Patterns

- Gene expression levels over multiple conditions are required for pathway studies
- Requires symmetric similarity metric, e.g pairwise profile correlation

Source: Wing Wong Lab, Stanford (left)   Swaroop Lab, Michigan (right)

Drawback of Traditional Clustering

- Clustering using pairwise correlation fails to account for transitive co-expression (Zhou etal 2002)

Extraction of Co-Regulation Circuits

Gene A

Gene C

Gene D

Gene B

$$p(\mathcal{X}) = \prod_{gt} p(x_{gt} | \mathcal{X}_{gt}^-)$$

| Gene A | Gene B | Gene C | Gene D |

Modeling co-Regulation Networks

- ❏ Relevance networks
  - Edge = strong correlation
- ❏ Dependency networks
  - Directed edge = strong partial correlation
- ❏ Dynamical dependency networks
  - Directed edge = strong partial correlation
- ❏ Bayesian networks
  - Profiles are quantized to small number of bits
  - One bit quantization = boolean networks

Network Constrained Clustering

- If topology were known could use to improve clustering
- Otherwise suffer from combinatorial explosion:

$$p = 2^{\binom{G}{2}}$$

- Soln: FDRCI edge screening

FDRCI Edge Screen Procedure

- Fix FDR level and MAS level on discovered edges

- Construct FDRCI's of desired FDR level on edge strengths

- Accept edge if FDRCI exceeds MAS

Pearson correlation coefficient

Dongxiao Zhu, A. Hero, S. Qi, JCB, 2004.

Yeast Galactose Metabolism Experiment

- 10 different yeast strains (9 gene knock-outs and 1 wild type) incubated in either GAL-inducing or non-inducing media (Ideker et al. 2001).

- 9 gene knock-outs are GAL1, GAL2, GAL3, GAL4, GAL5, GAL6, GAL7, GAL10, GAL80.

- 5935 gene 2-channel cDNA array. Reference channel is dilution "wild-type + galactose"

Dongxiao Zhu, A. Hero, S. Qi, JCB, 2004.

Relevance Network Visualization
(FDR $<= 0.05$, MAS $= 0.9$)

Dongxiao Zhu, A. Hero, S. Qi, JCB, 2004.

Network Constrained Clustering

Clustering with prior distance matrix

Clustering with posterior (shortest-path) distance matrix

Horizons: Transcriptomics/Proteomics Technology

- Higher throughput cDNA/GeneChip microarrays

- Suspension microarrays

- Microscale "Lab on a chip"

- Protein-protein arrays

- Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy

- In vivos molecular imaging: reporter genes

Where does SP fit?

Experiments

Biology

SP

Math Modeling

Statistics

CS

Processing

Signal Processing Opportunites

- **There is room for new SP approaches**
    - Non-modularized analysis: task-driven and top-down?
    - Active waveform design: sequential design of experiments?
    - Internet Tomography: gene network topology discovery?
    - MIMO: spatio-temporal wideband array processing?
    - Channel optimization: optimal gene layout on microarray?
- **New technology is appearing that offers opportunities for SP'ers to develop models/algorithms**
- **There is still some low lying fruit!**
- **Collaboration with a biological scientist is essential in order to have impact**

Where to learn more?

Genetics, the painless way, 1991

Historical overview by one of the pioneers, 2003

Basic undergraduate texbook, 1992

Where to learn more?

Overview of microarray technology and analysis, 2003

Edited volume on principal statistical techniques of microarray analysis, 2003

Textbook aimed at biostatisticians, 2004

Where to learn more?

Edited monograph on
random graphs
In nature, 2005

To appear soon!

To appear soon!

Future venues

GENSIPS 2005 – Newport:

- Ray Liu, Jaako Astola
- Workshop dates: May 22 - 24, 2005
- Early registration ends March 30

IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing Special Issue on Genomic Signal Processing

- Submission deadline: May 1, 2005
- Publication date: Sept. 2006

5. Conclusions

- Gene filtering: accounting for biological and statistical significance

- Gene ranking: can involve optimization over multiple criteria

- Gene co-regulation networks: discover co-dependent gene profiles that can aid in clustering

- Statistical signal and image processing approaches can have impact

- References to UM work and software presented here: http://www.eecs.umich.edu/~hero/bioinfo.html