

# Comparing RNA & Protein Abundance

M Gerstein  
&  
P Emani

# Outline: Comparing Protein & RNA Abundance

- **Past Context:**  
to work in the Center
  - Quantifying the moderate **statistical correlation between protein & RNA**
  - PARE server
- **EMpire** (Current result)
  - Leveraging the correlation to **better assign peptides to isoforms**
  - EM algorithm better assigns **dominant isoforms**, with greater interpretability
- **uORFs** (Current result)
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# Why relate amounts of protein & mRNA?

Gene expression -  
major place for **regulation**  
(easy to measure)

vs.

Concentration of protein -  
major determinant of **activity**

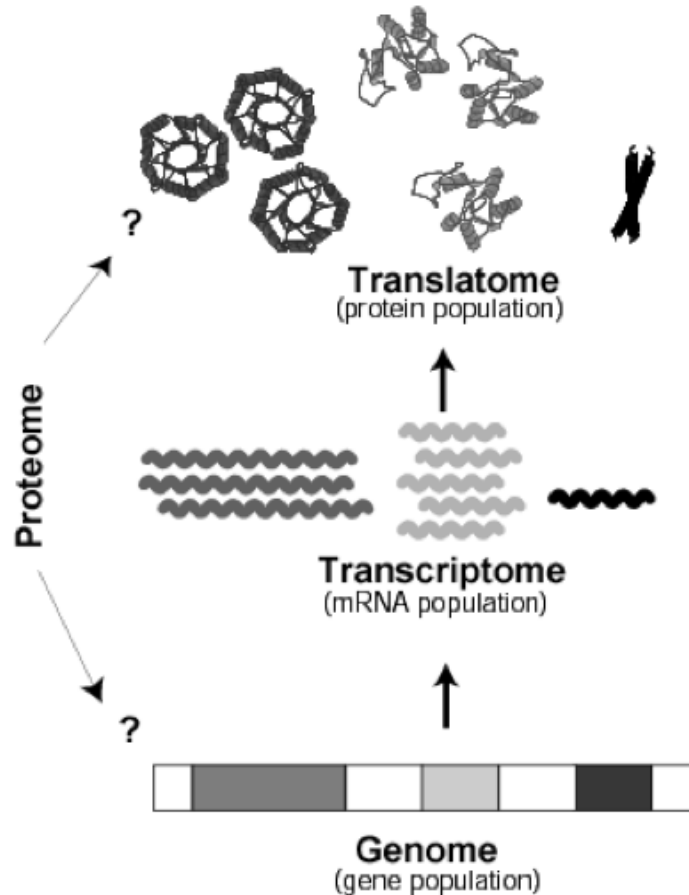
**Expectations** from simple kinetic models:

$$\frac{dP_i}{dt} = k_{s,i} [\text{mRNA}_i] - k_{d,i} P_i$$

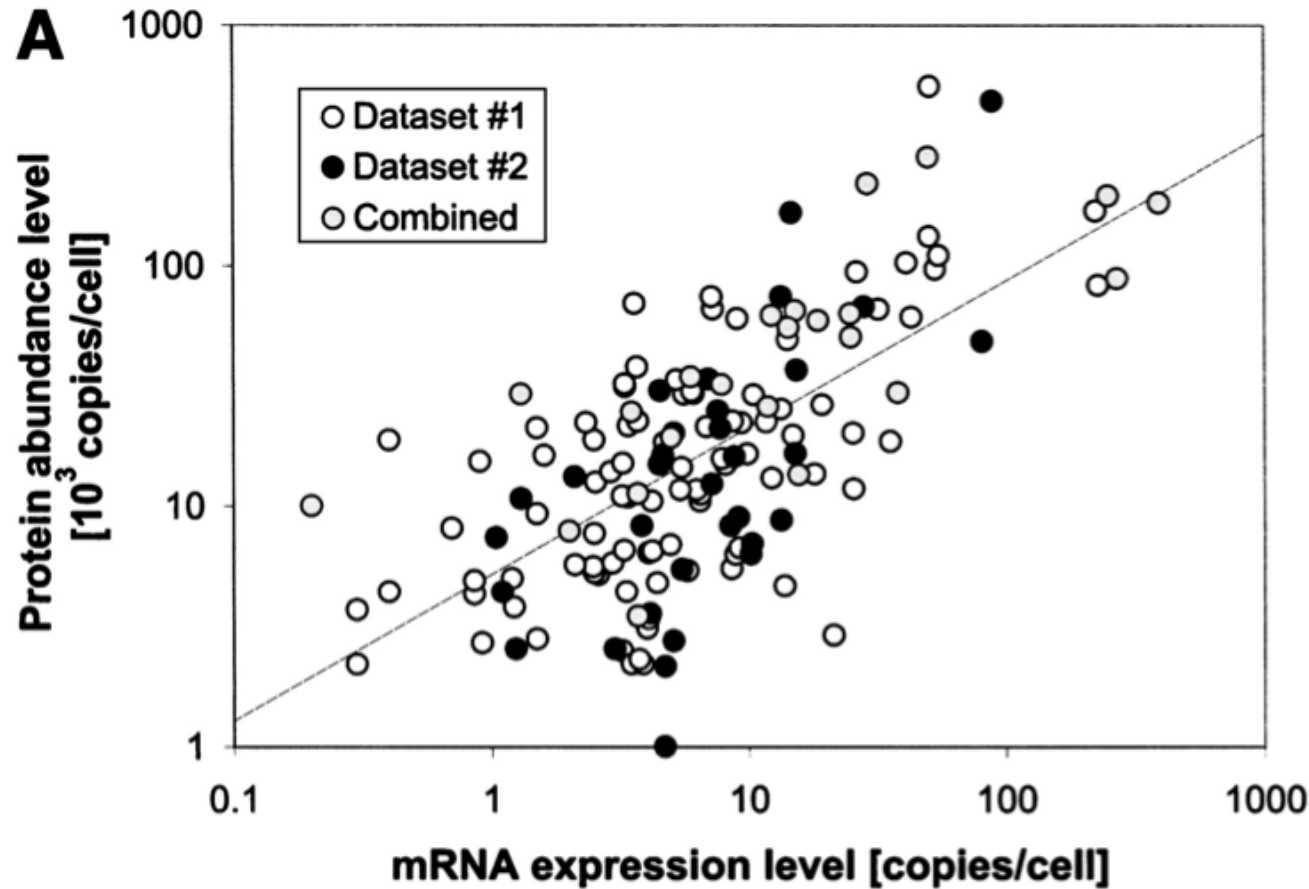
At steady state:  $P_i = \frac{k_{s,i} [\text{mRNA}_i]}{k_{d,i}}$

where  $k_{s,i}$  and  $k_{d,i}$  are the protein synthesis and degradation rate constants

**Outliers** from trend interesting



# Early result on mRNA vs Protein, using 2D gels



[Greenbaum et al. *Bioinformatics* 2002, 18, 587]

# PARE

proteomics.gersteinlab.org  
**PARE: Protein Abundance and mRNA Expression Correlation Tool**

**Choose datasets** [help](#)

1. **Select organism:** Yeast  
[required if selecting datasets from menus in (2) and (3) below]

2. **mRNA expression**  
Select [complete citations](#) or upload [example file](#)  
[REL Mosker et al. (2001)]

3. **Protein abundance**  
Select [complete citations](#) or upload [example file](#)  
[REL Mosker et al. (2001)]

Please see [external mRNA expression and protein abundance databases](#) to retrieve additional datasets for analysis.

**Analyze** [help](#) [download PARE](#)

**Correlate everything**  
Perform correlation for selected categories (subsets for selection appear on next page)

- pick a MIPS complex of proteins for the analysis
- pick a GO biological process subset
- pick a GO molecular function subset
- pick a GO cellular component subset
- upload your own subset [example file](#)

**Other tools**  
[Sequence variation \(SNP\) substitution generator](#)

proteomics.gersteinlab.org  
**PARE: Protein Abundance and mRNA Expression Correlation Tool**

The following analysis is a log-log correlation. Switch to a linear correlation?

**Combined mRNA-protein file** (sorted by perpendicular distance to fit line)

ORF_id	mRNA	Protein	Dist_to_fit
YBR218C	0.899	5.580	3.830
YKR097W	-2.303	4.041	3.608
YGR192C	4.489	6.580	3.406
YBR118W	3.928	6.325	3.381
YNL039W	0.000	4.636	3.294
YOR347C	-1.204	4.130	3.277
YIL136W	-0.916	4.210	3.244
YJR104C	2.688	5.617	3.192
YPL231W	1.882	5.286	3.188
YKR057W	4.255	-0.629	3.185

**mRNA-protein overall correlation figure**  
Please note that the plot is loaded as an image file; you may need to refresh your browser to obtain the most recent plot.

fit line  $0.406 * x + 1.081$ ,  $R = 0.464$

customize the number of outliers shown in the plot (the top 5 shown by default)

- absolute number:
- percentage:  % out of 2041

**Mutual information** [help](#) = 10.66  
Calculated using 204 bins for the mRNA and protein data

[Yu et al., BMC Bioinfo. '07]

Open-source code  
Downloadable

Analyze all or GO  
subset

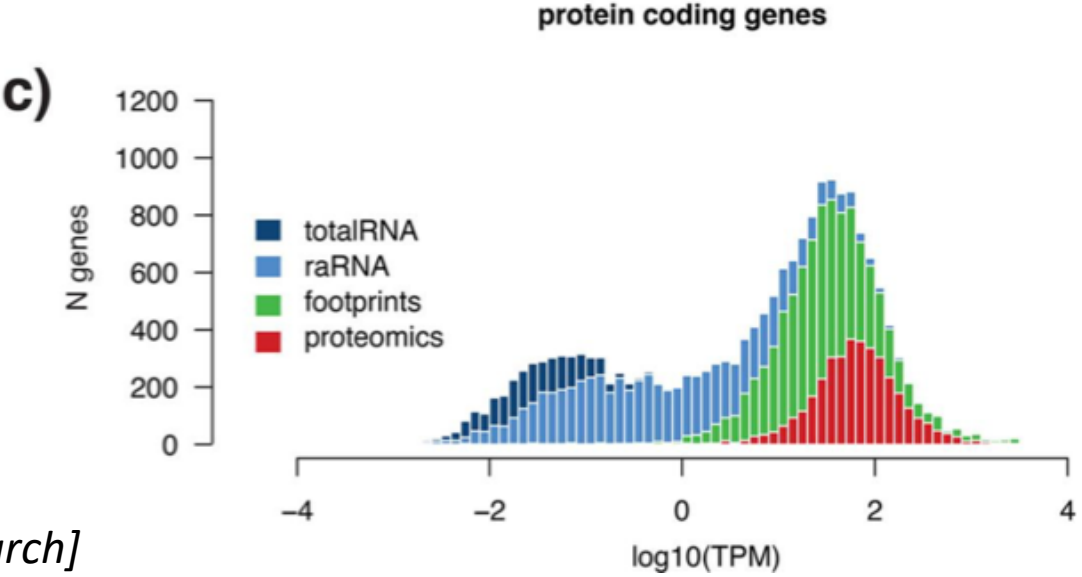
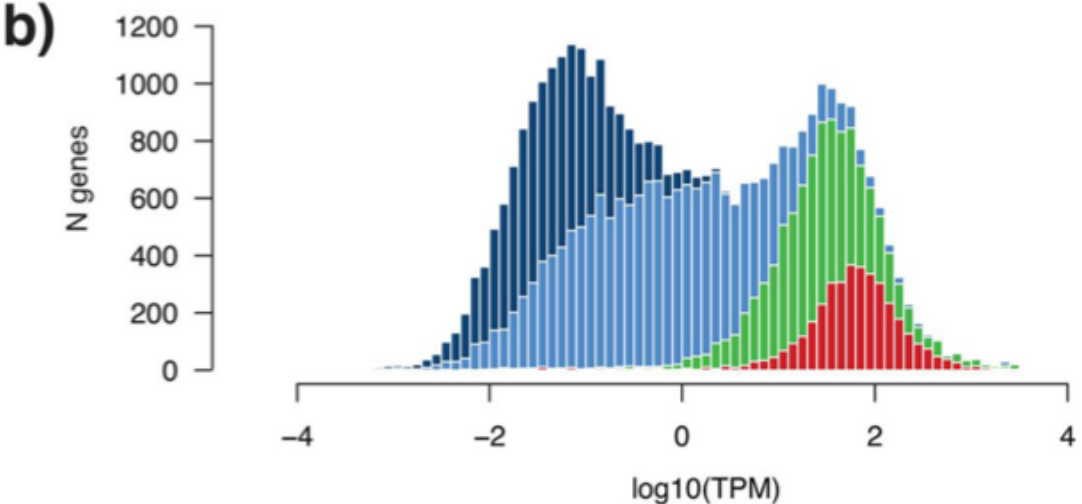
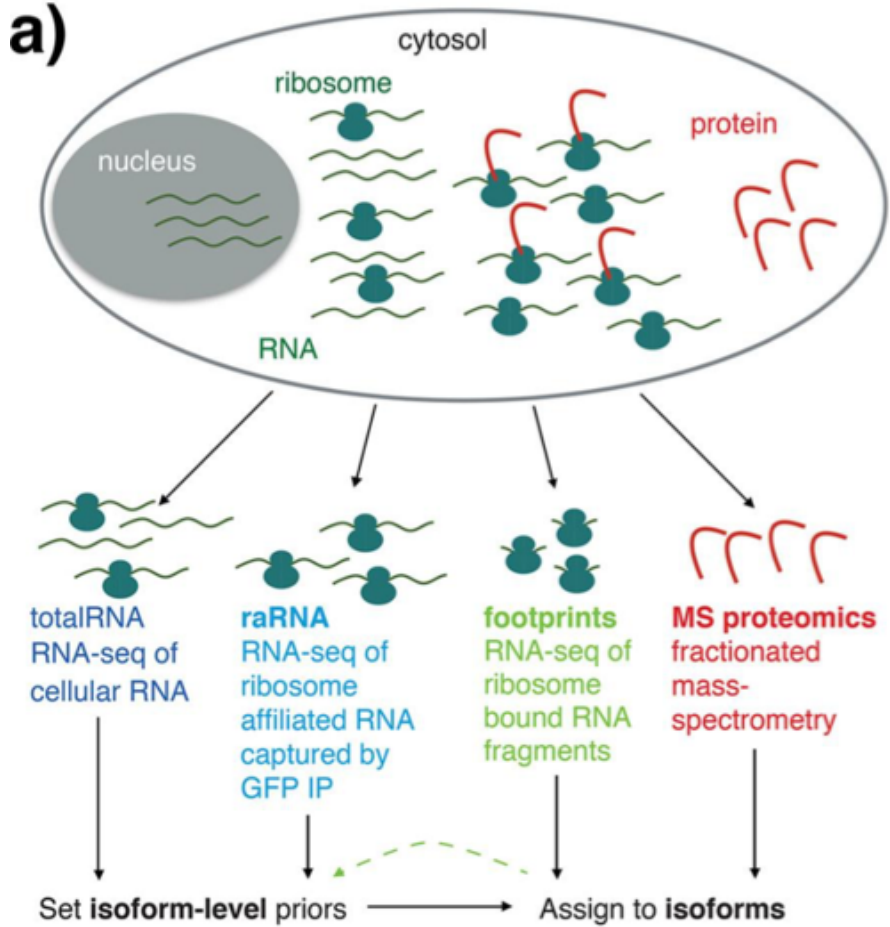
Log-log plot of  
correlation  
-linear fit  
-outliers labeled

Calculation of  
mutual information

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# Integration of RNA-seq and Proteomic Data for Isoform Interpretation

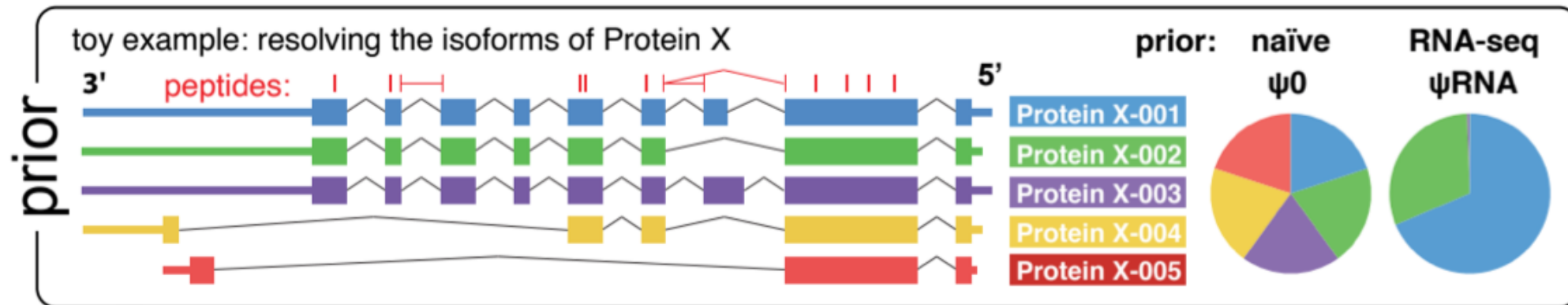


[Carlyle, Kitchen et al. (2018) *Journal of Proteome Research*]

# Challenge for Isoform-Level Interpretation of Proteomics Data

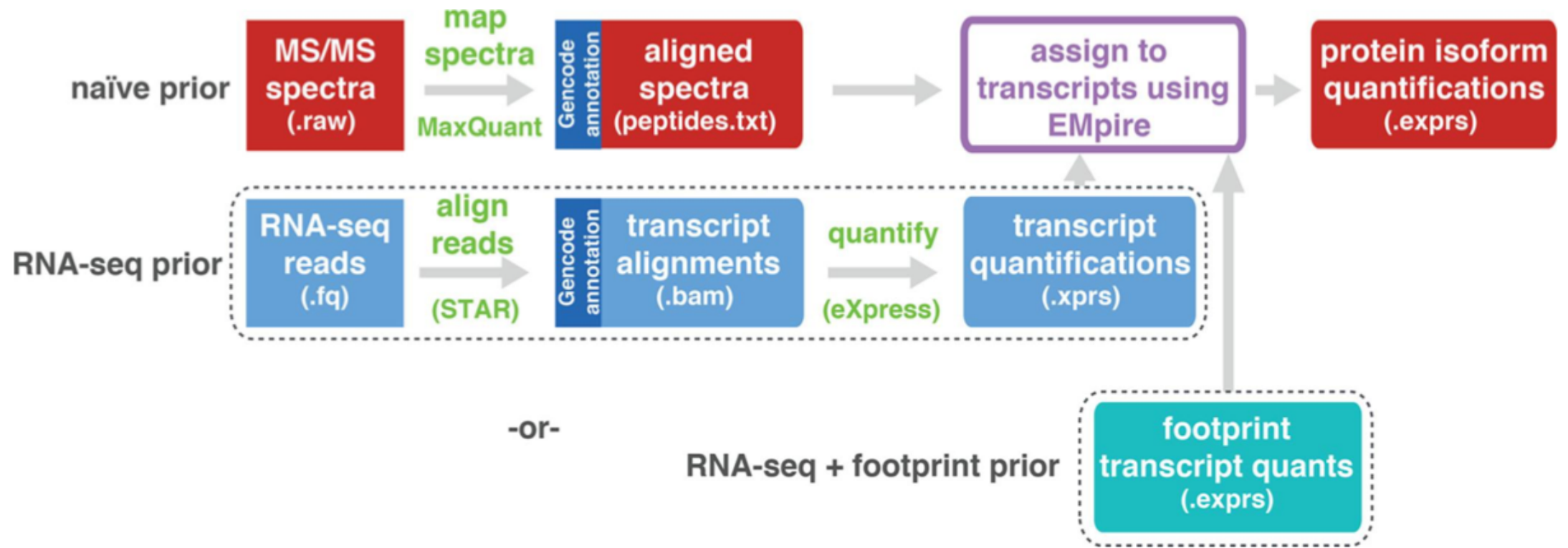
## Multimapping

- Different assays reflecting expression at various levels
- More reads at earlier stage assay (RNA-Seq > FP > MS)
- Leverage other assays for better estimation

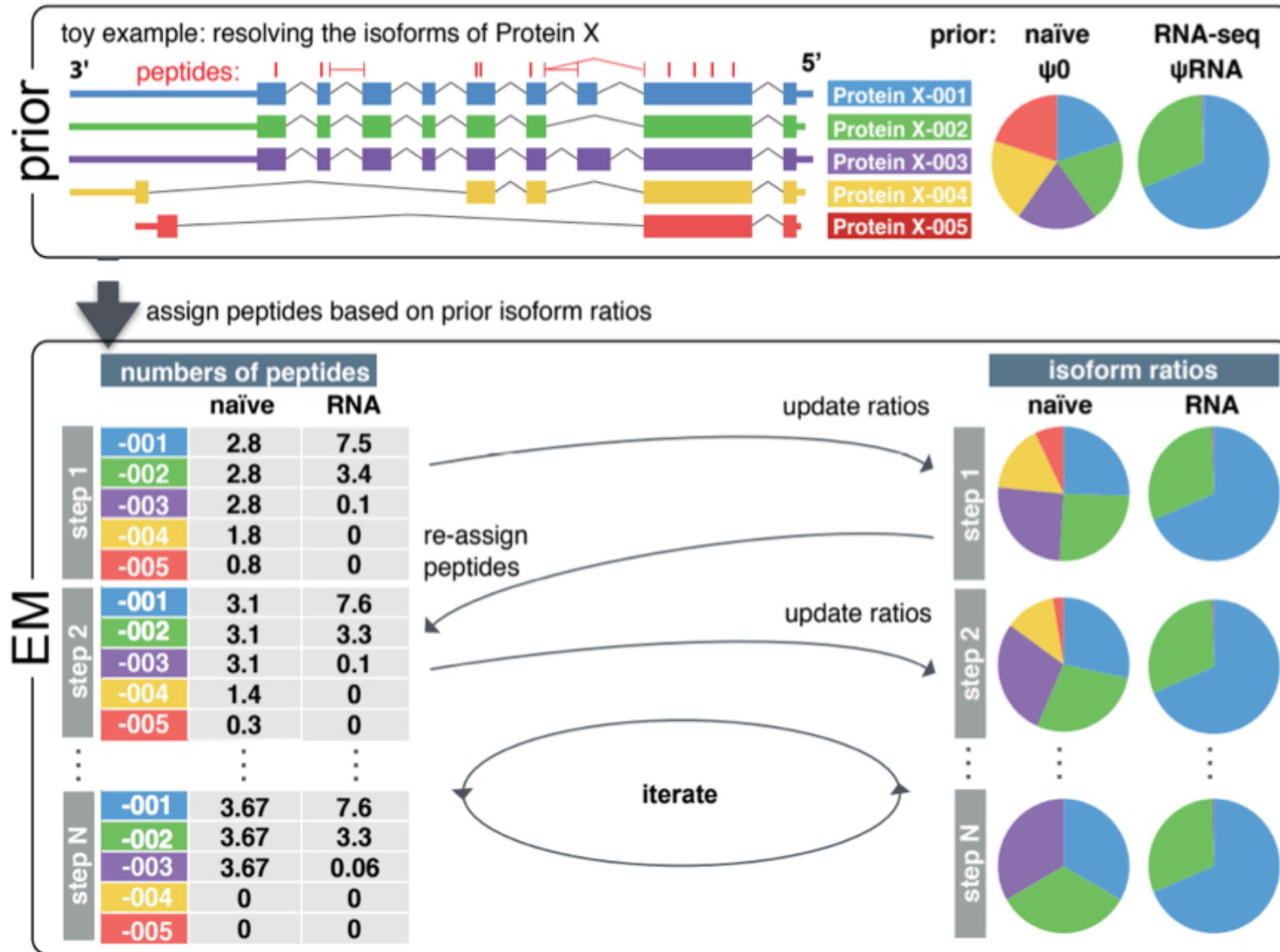




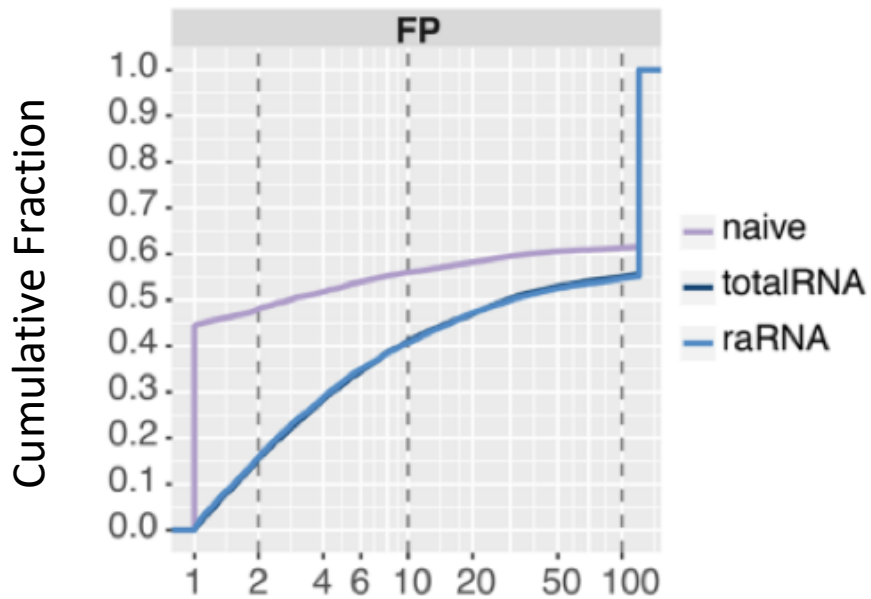
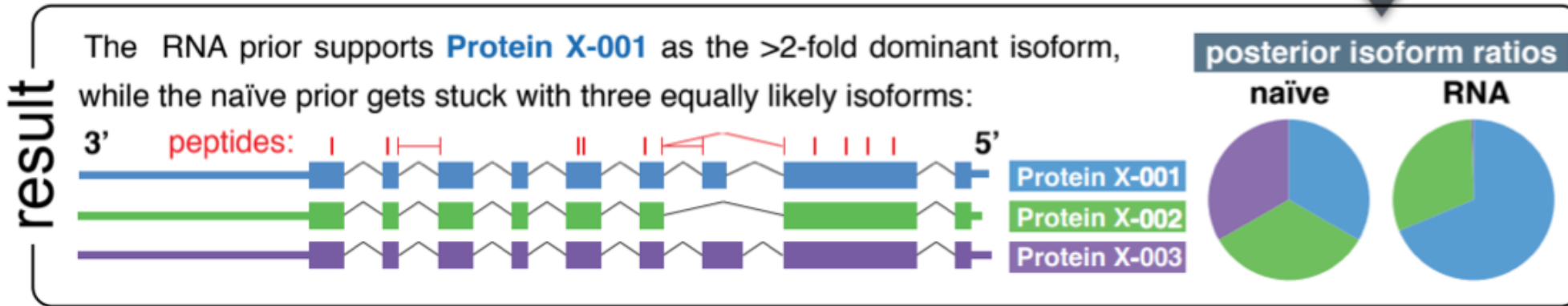
# EMpire (Expectation Maximisation Propagation of Isoform abundance from RNA Expression)



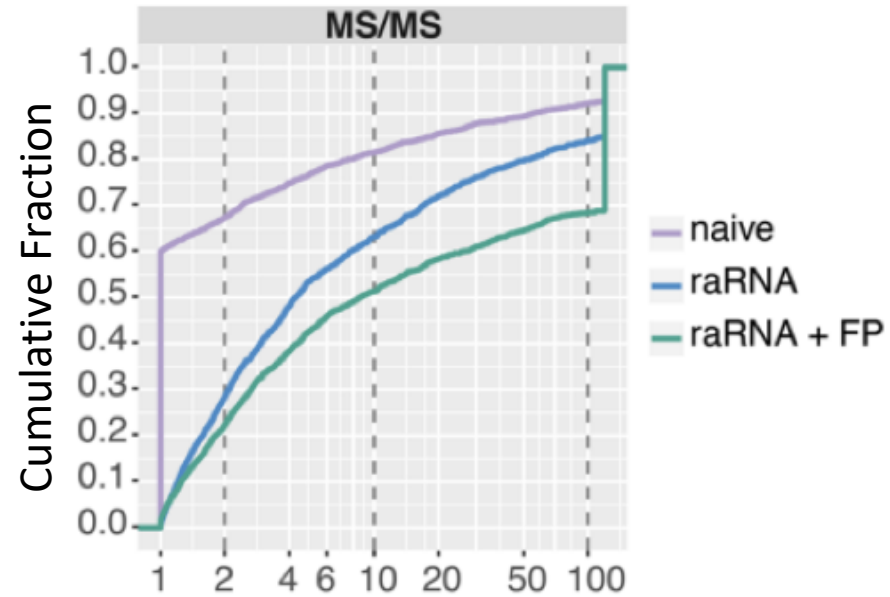
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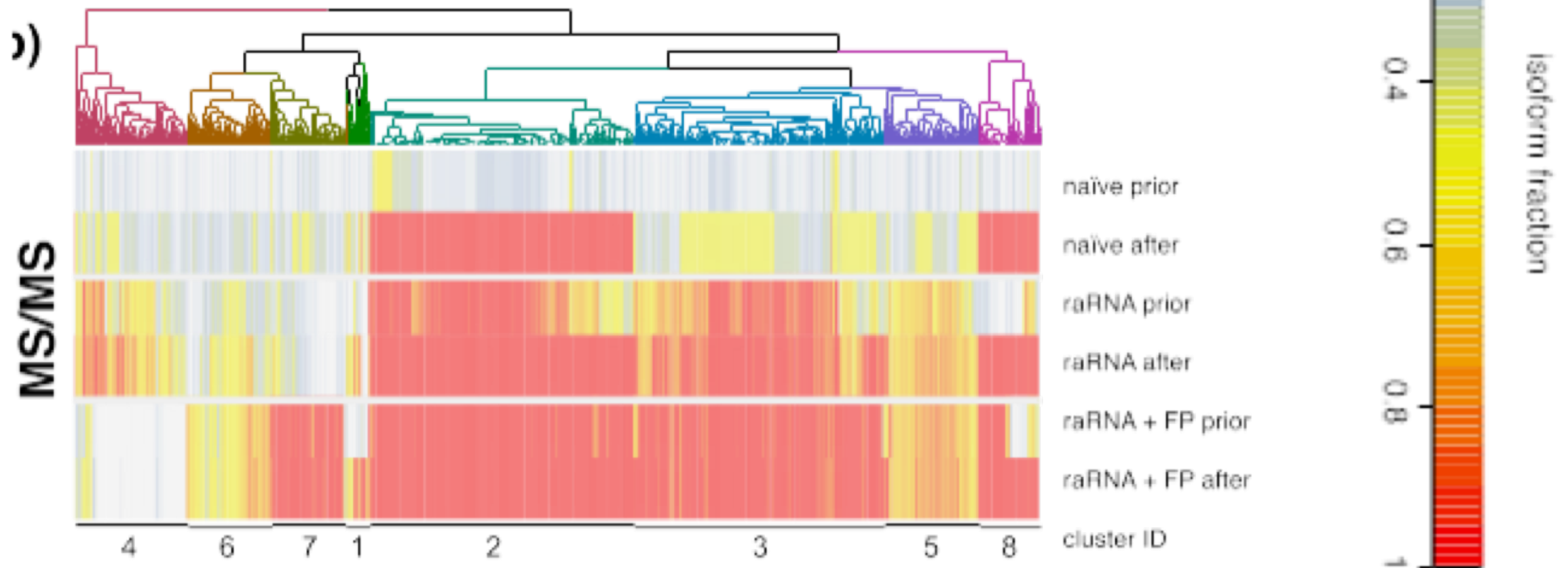
$\leq$  principal isoform dominance  
= principal isoform/second isoform



$\leq$  principal isoform dominance  
= principal isoform/second isoform

**Larger** principal isoform dominance = **Less** ambiguity in major isoform identification

# Biologically informative priors improve isoform level interpretation of MS/MS peptides, by increasing dominance of principal isoform

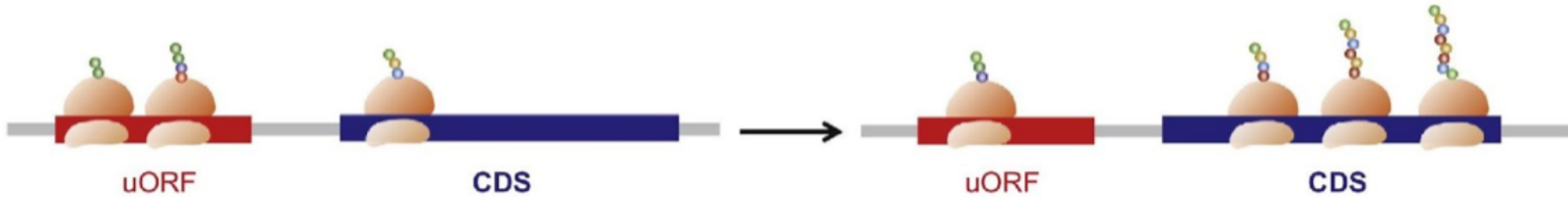


[Carlyle, Kitchen et al. (2018) *Journal of Proteome Research*]

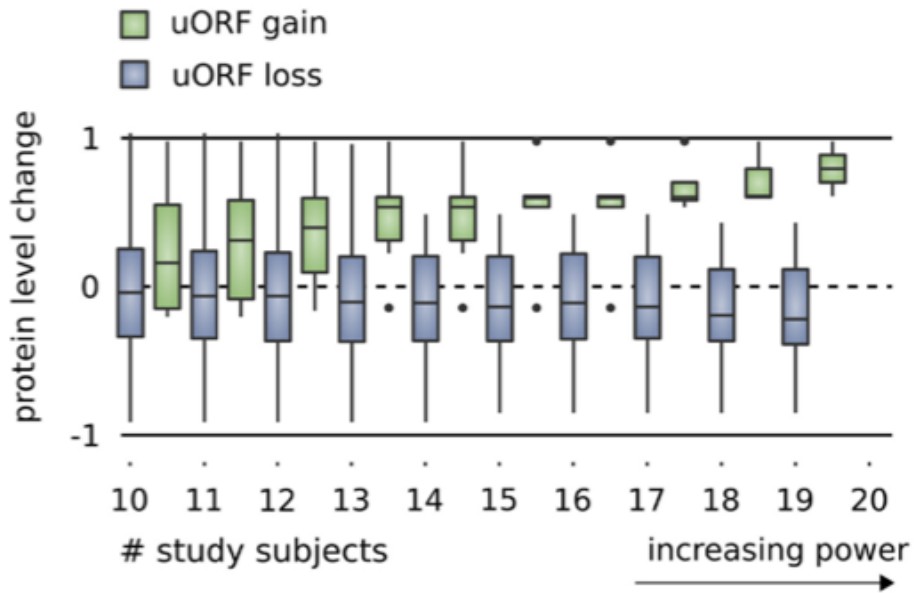
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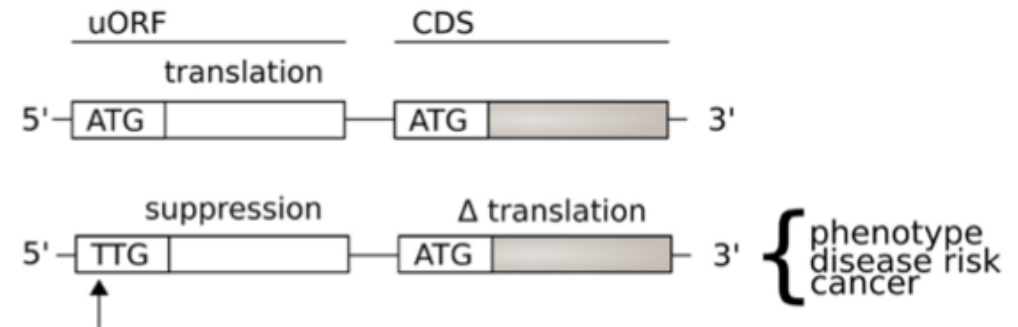
# Upstream open reading frames (uORFs) may shift the expected balance between mRNA & protein



[Zhang et al., Trends in Biochemical Sciences ('19)]



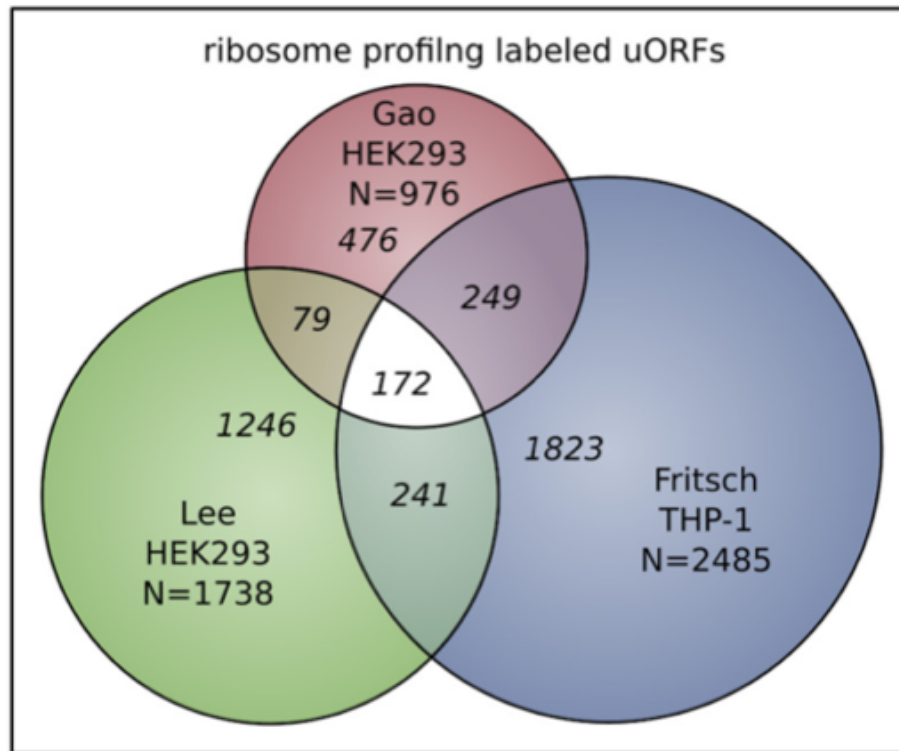
**B**



uORF regulation can be affected by mutation

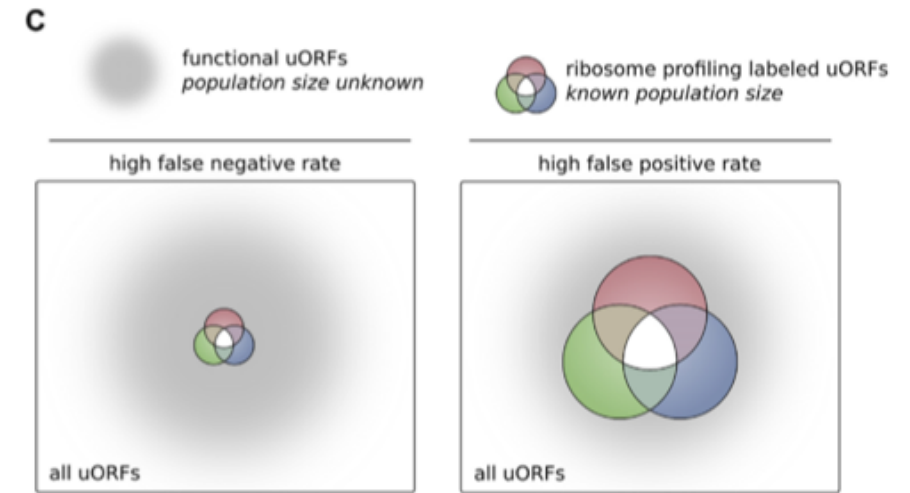
[McGillivray et al., NAR ('18)]

In Battle et al. 2014 data uORF gain & loss assoc. protein level change.



genome-wide uORFs  
N = 1.3 million

## The population of functional uORFs may be significant



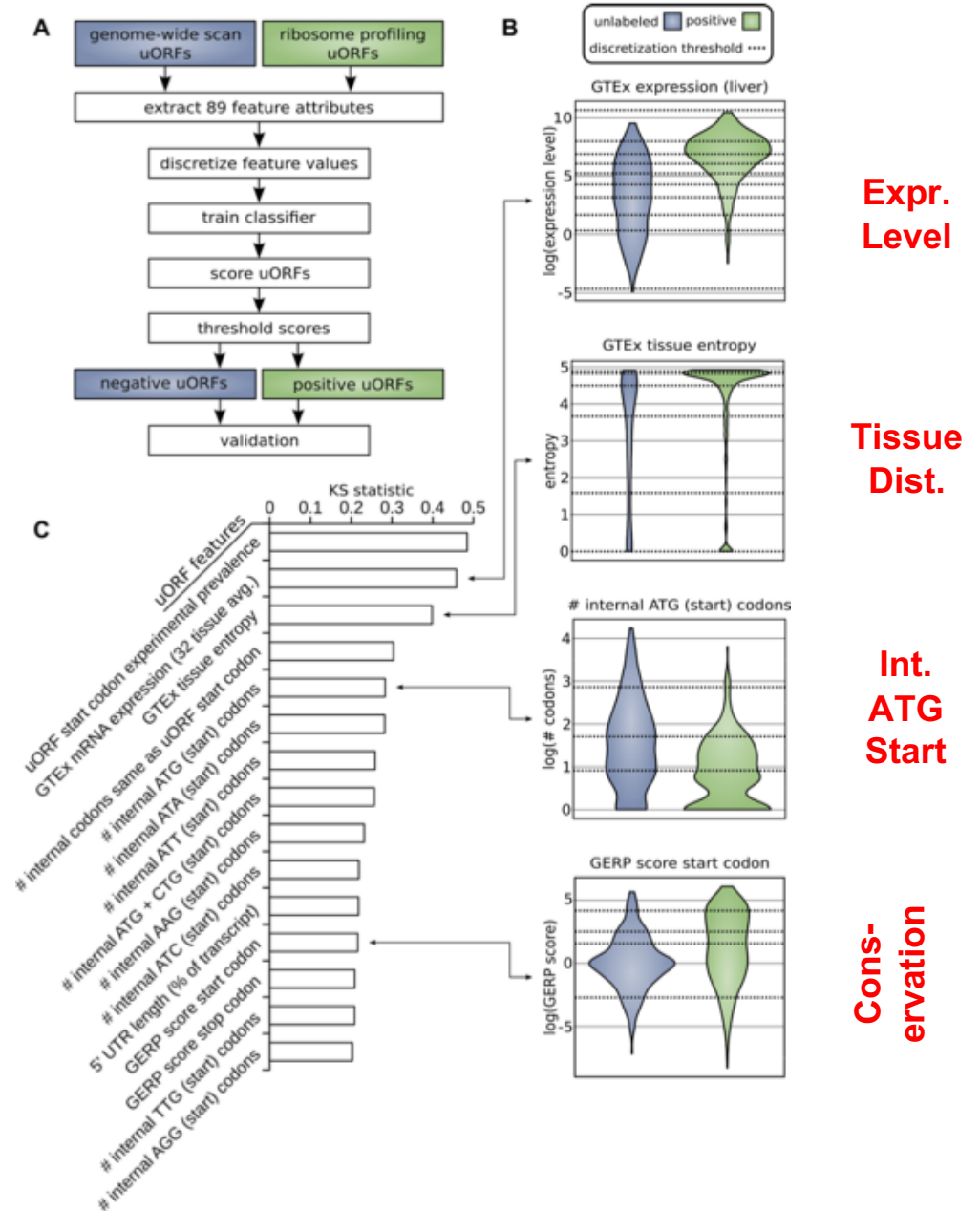
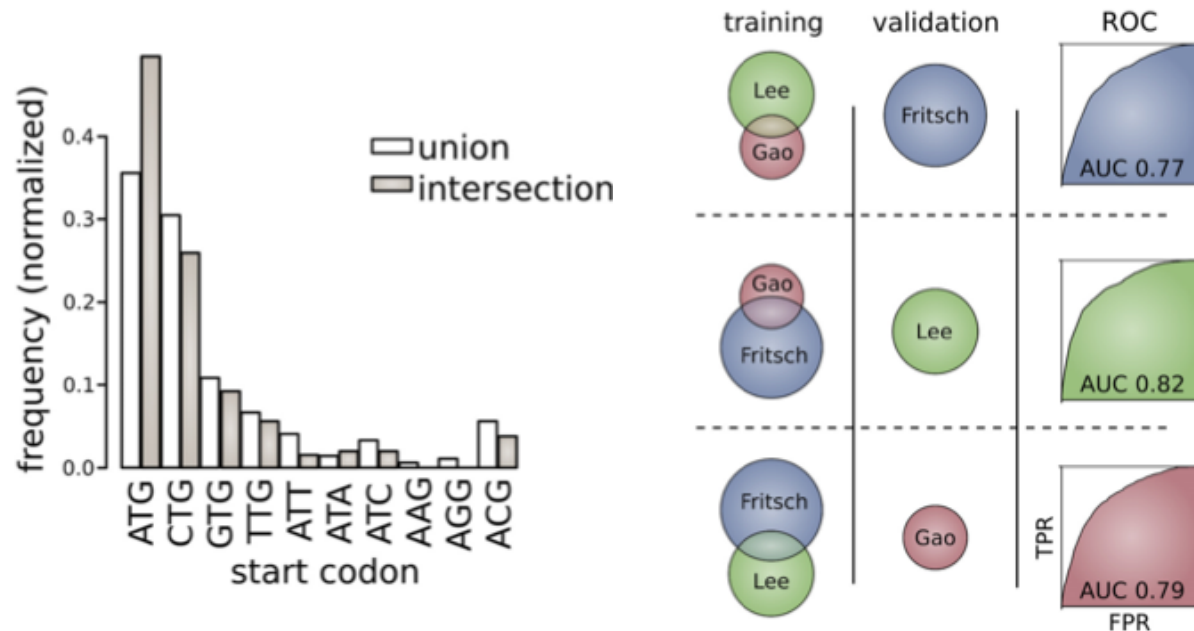
- ☒ Ribosome profiling experiments have low overlap in identified uORFs.
- ☒ This suggests high false-negative rate, and more functional uORFs than currently known.

From a “Universe” of 1.3 M  
pot. uORFs

[McGillivray et al., *NAR* ('18)]

# Prediction & validation of functional uORFs using 89 features

- ☑ All near-cognate start codons predicted.
- ☑ Cross-validation on independent ribosome profiling datasets and validation using in vivo protein levels and ribosome occupancy in humans (Battle et al. 2014).

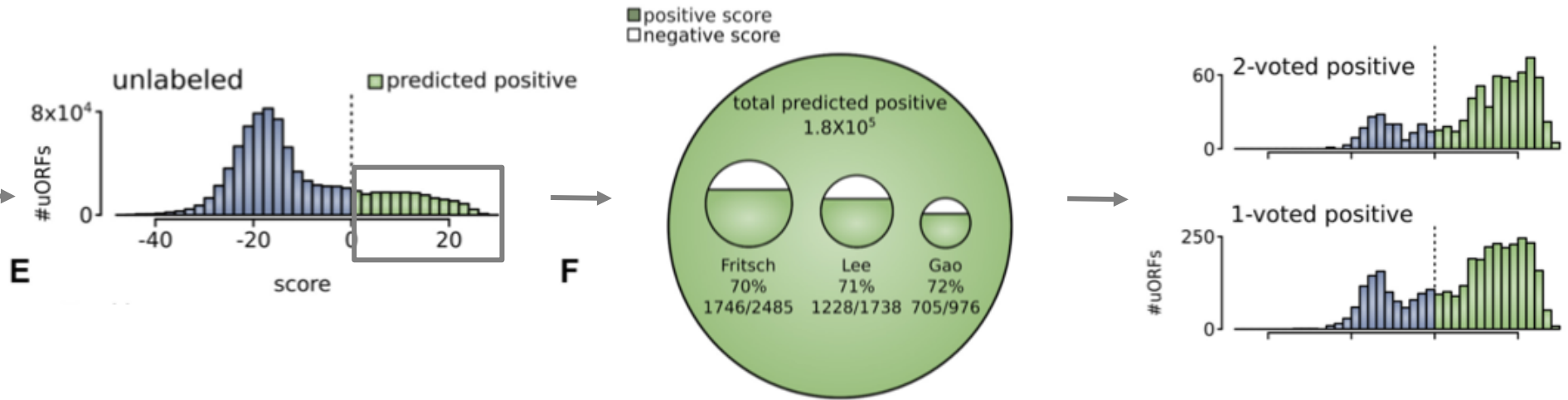


[McGillivray et al., NAR ('18)]



## A comprehensive catalog of functional uORFs

Universe of **1.3M** uORFs  
scored via Simple Bayes algo.



❓ Predicted functional uORFs may be intersected with disease associated variants.

[McGillivray et al., *NAR* ('18)]

❓ **180K**: Large predicted positive set likely to affect translation

❓ Calibration on gold standards, suggests getting **~70%** of known

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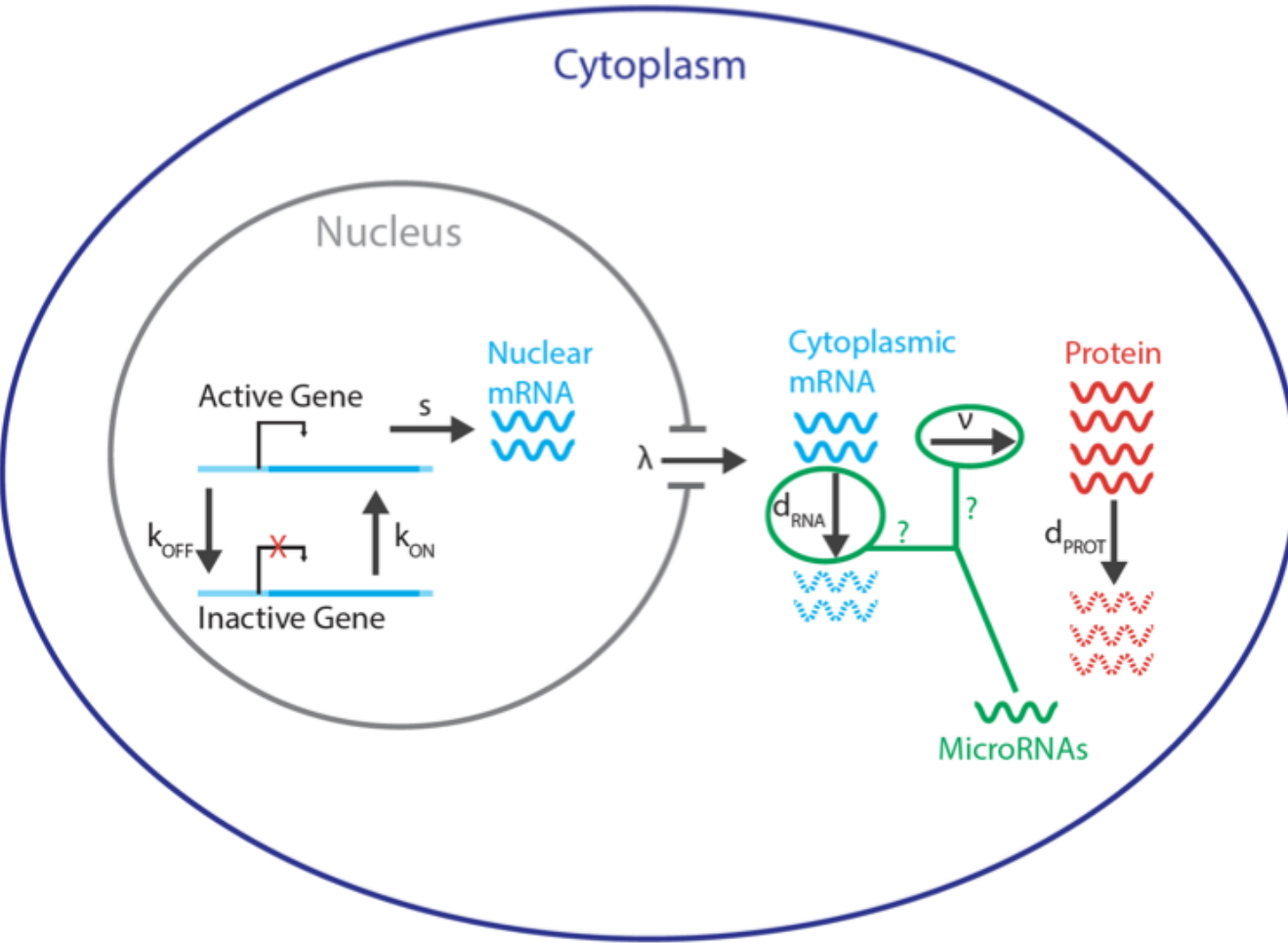
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# Leveraging New Datasets

# Schematic workflow



# MicroRNA intervention



Sousa et al., *Science* **2017**, 358, Pgs. 1027–1032.

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# Acknowledgments!

[genecensus.org/expression/translatome](https://genecensus.org/expression/translatome)

D **Greenbaum**, R Jansen, M Gerstein

**Proteomics**.[gersteinlab.org](https://gersteinlab.org) (**PARE**)

E **Yu**, A Burba, M Gerstein

[github.com/rkitchen/EMpire](https://github.com/rkitchen/EMpire)

B **Carlyle**, R **Kitchen**, J Zhang, R Wilson, T Lam, J Rozowsky,  
K Williams, N Sestan, M Gerstein, A Nairn

[github.gersteinlab.org/uORFs](https://github.com/gersteinlab.org/uORFs)

P **McGillivray**, R Ault, M Pawashe, R Kitchen,  
S Balasubramanian, M Gerstein

Brainspan data

P **Emani**, T Galeev, N Sestan, A Nairn