Comparing RNA & Protein Abundance

M Gerstein
&
P Emani

Outline: Comparing Protein & RNA Abundance

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  - Quantifying the moderate **statistical correlation between protein & RNA**
  - PARE server
- **EMpire** (Current result)
  - Leveraging the correlation to **better assign peptides to isoforms**
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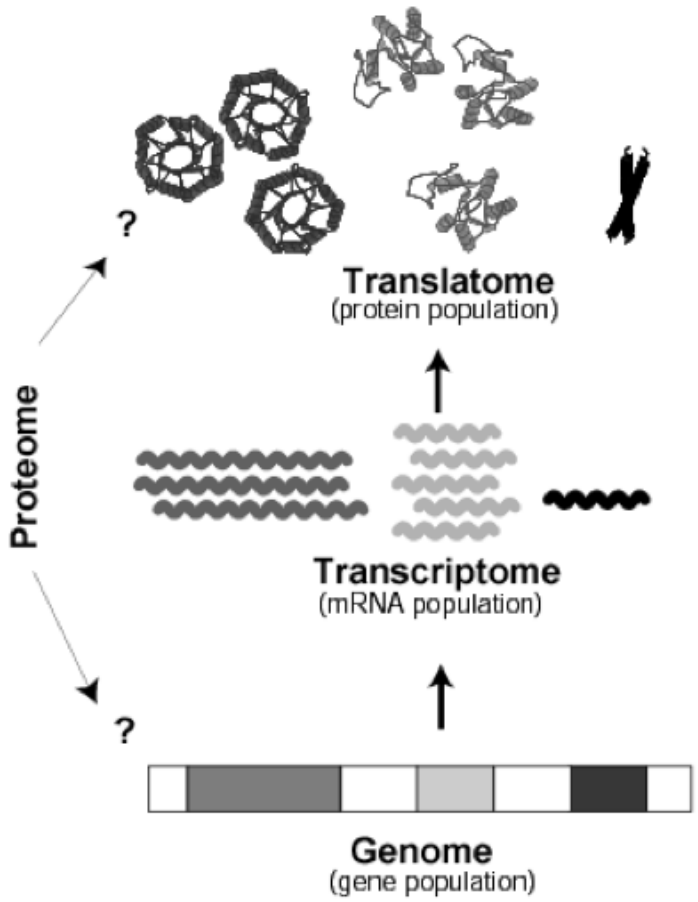
- **Future** Direction:
  Protein v RNA using matched samples in the Brainspan dataset + single-cell data

Why relate amounts of protein & mRNA?



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

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

vs.

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

Expectations from simple kinetic models:

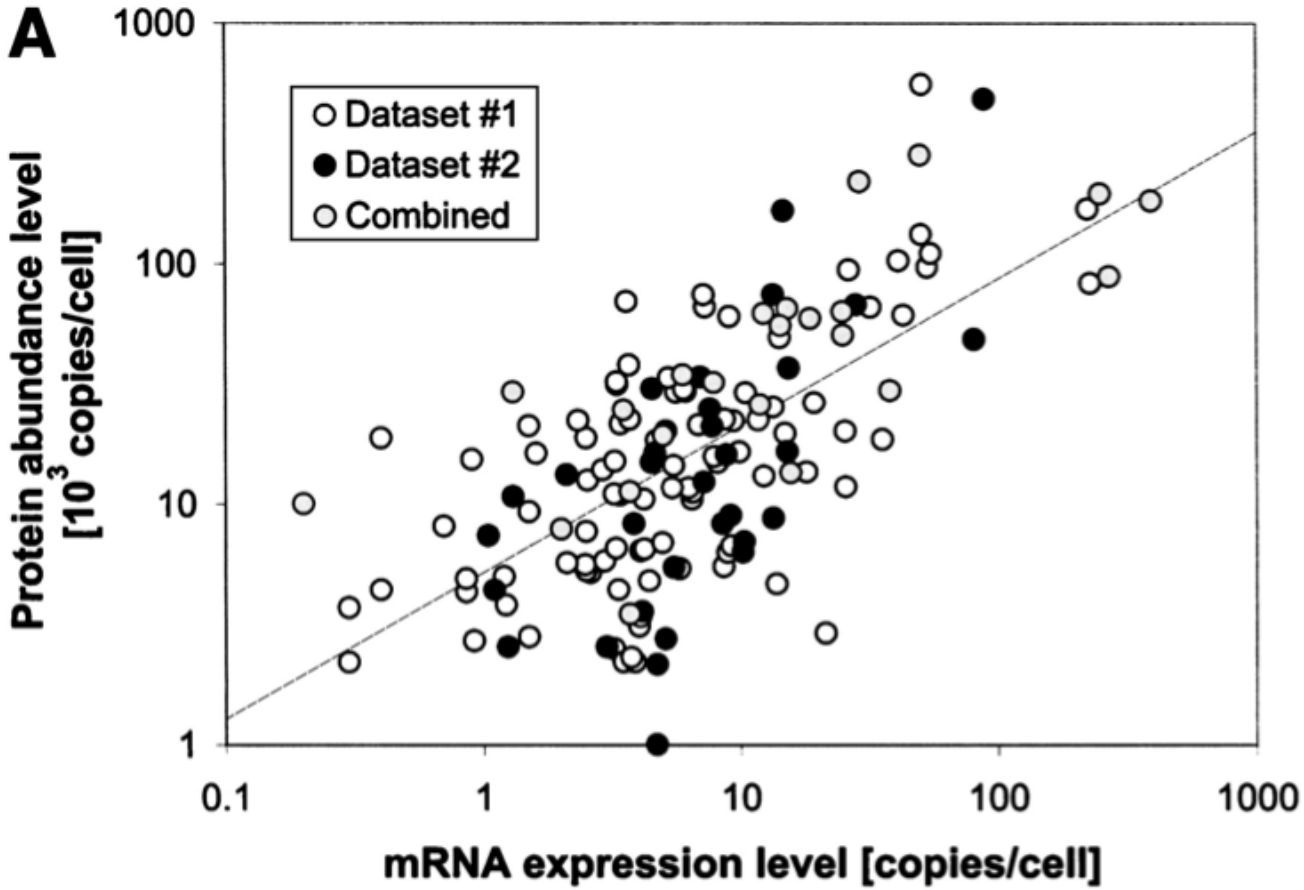
$$\frac{dP_i}{dt} = k_{s,i}[mRNA_i] - k_{d,i} P_i$$

At steady state: $P_i = \dfrac{k_{s;i}[mRNA_i]}{k_{d,i}}$

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

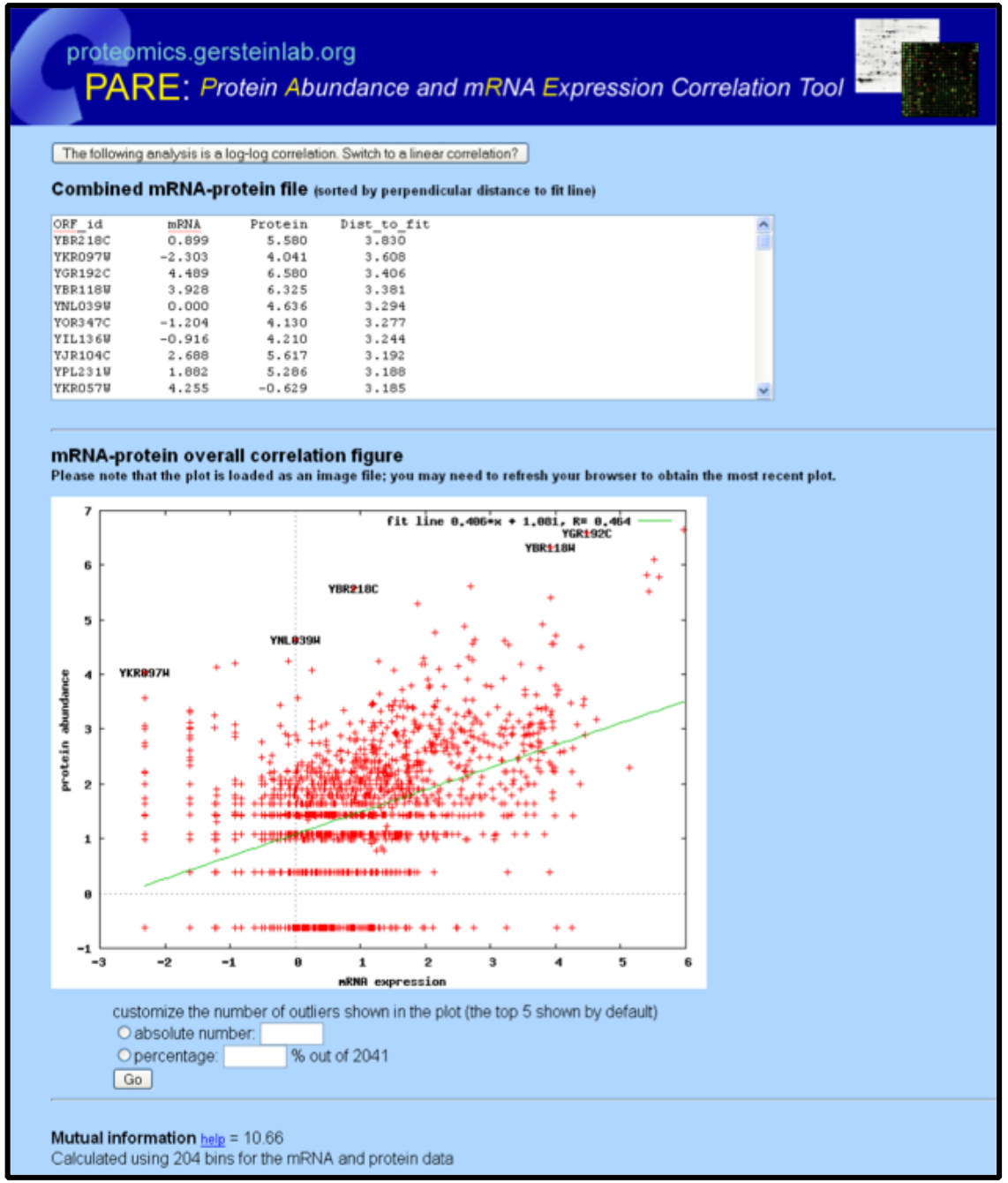


r =0.67

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

PARE

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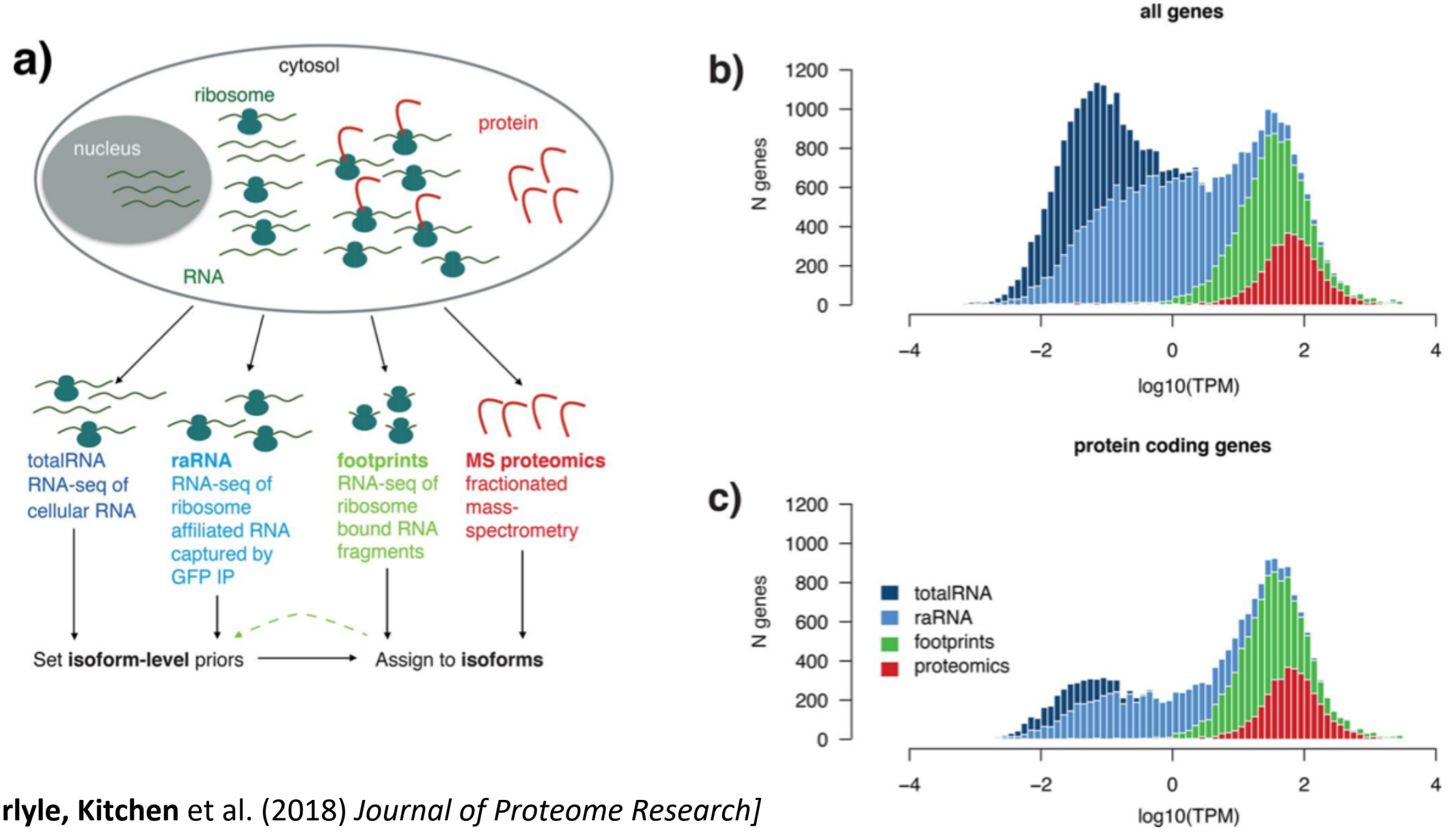
Integration of RNA-seq and Proteomic Data for Isoform Interpretation

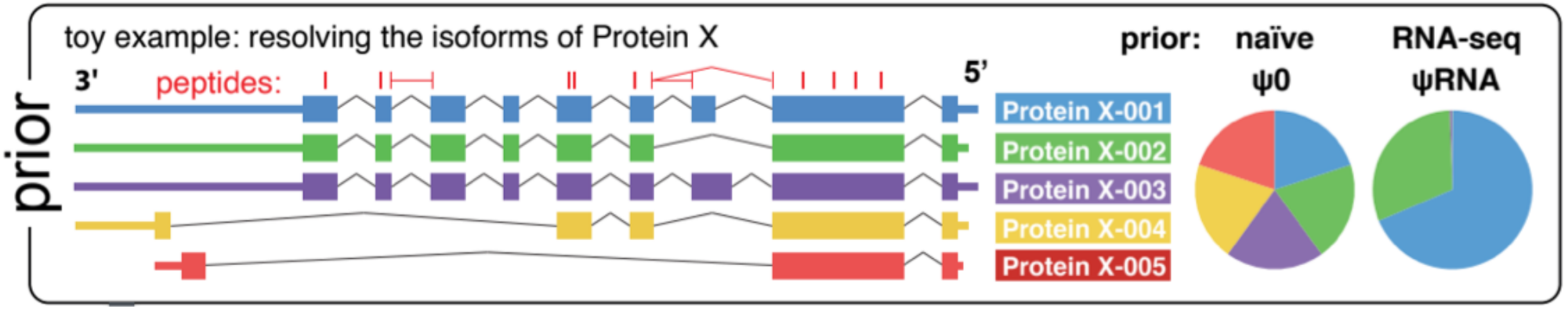


[Carlyle, Kitchen et al. (2018) *Journal of Proteome Research]*

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



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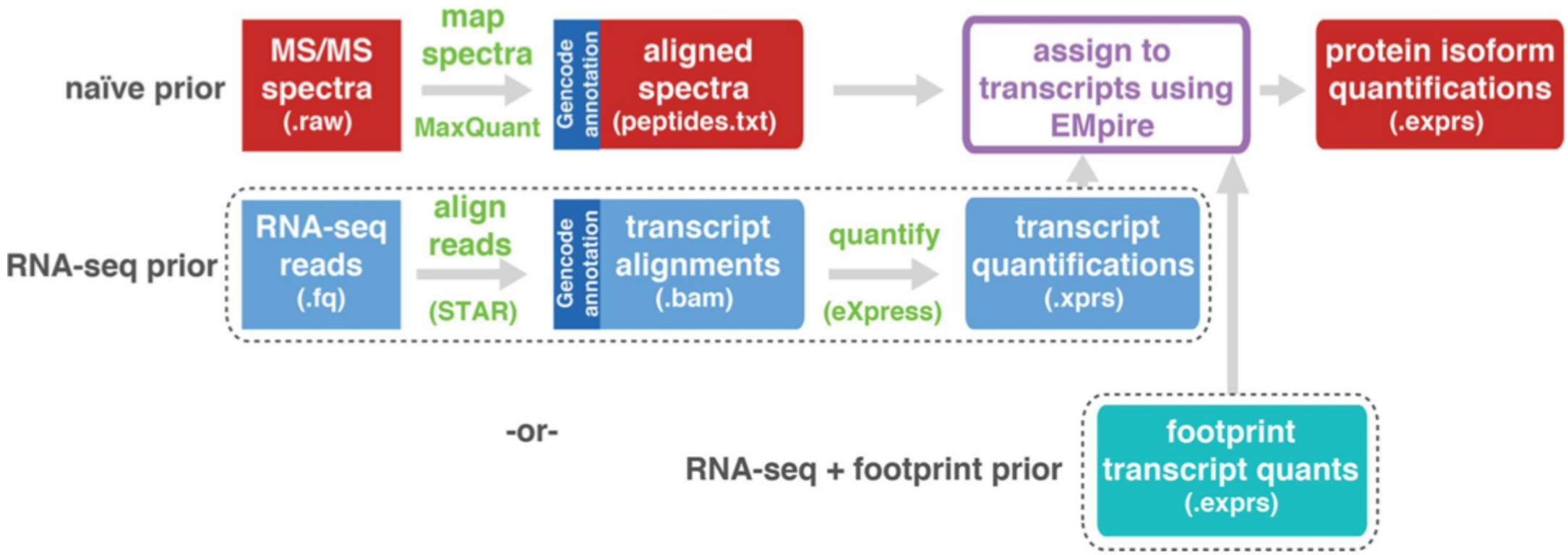
EMpire (Expectation Maximisation Propagation of Isoform abundance from RNA Expression)



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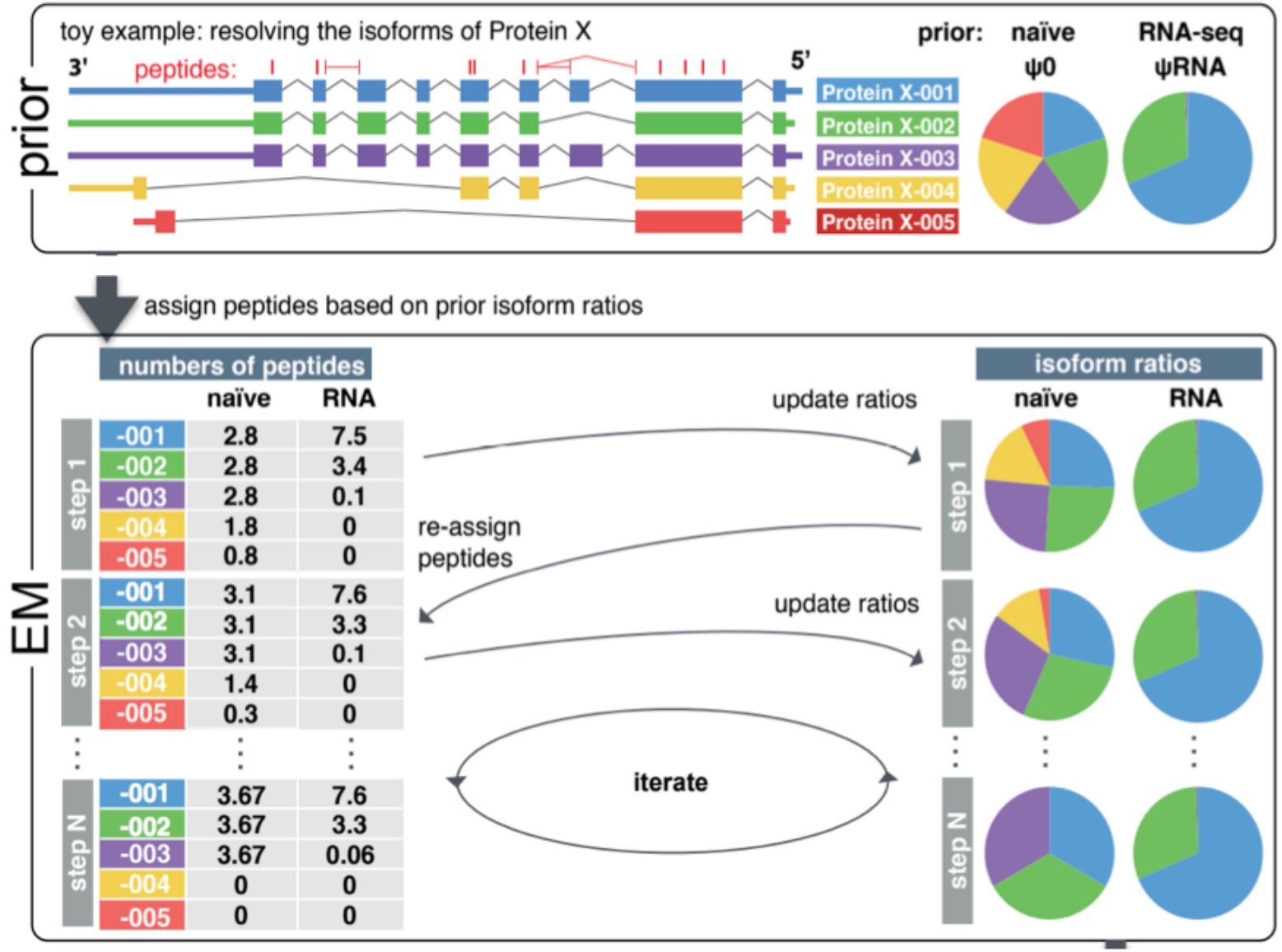

[Carlyle, Kitchen et al. (2018) *Journal of Proteome Research]*

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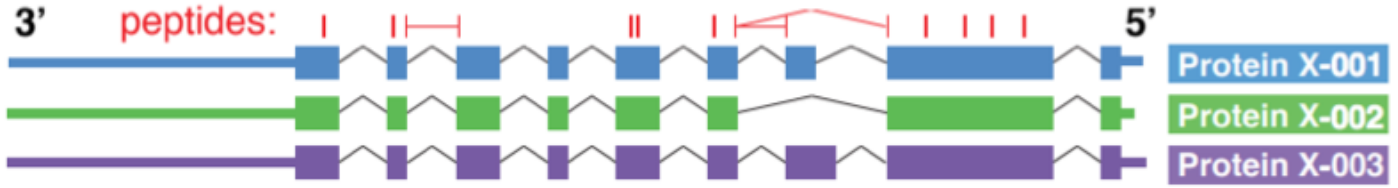
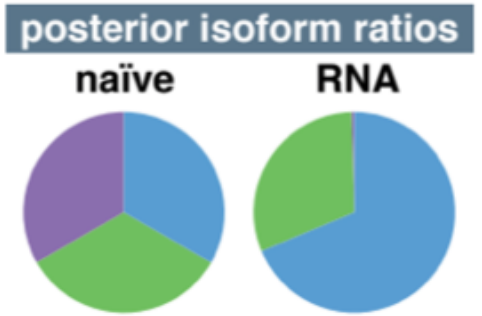
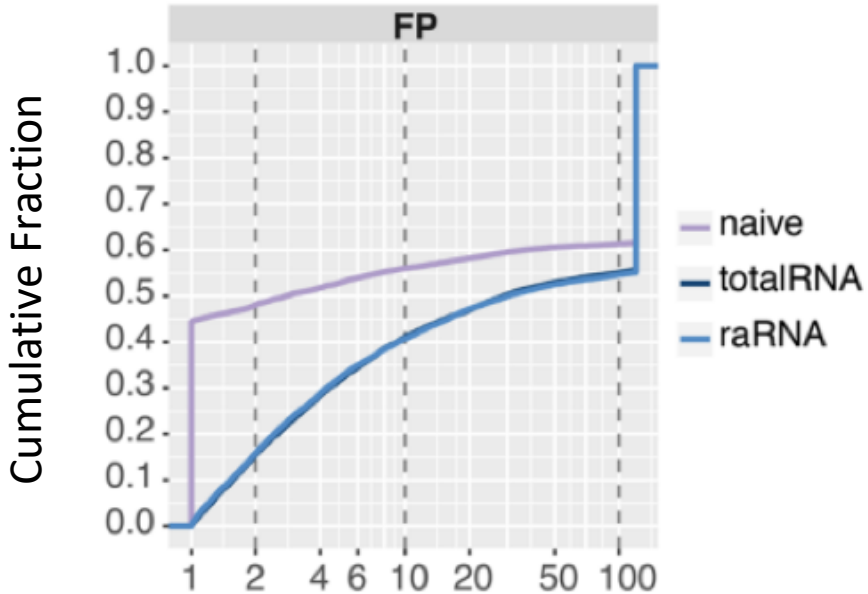
result

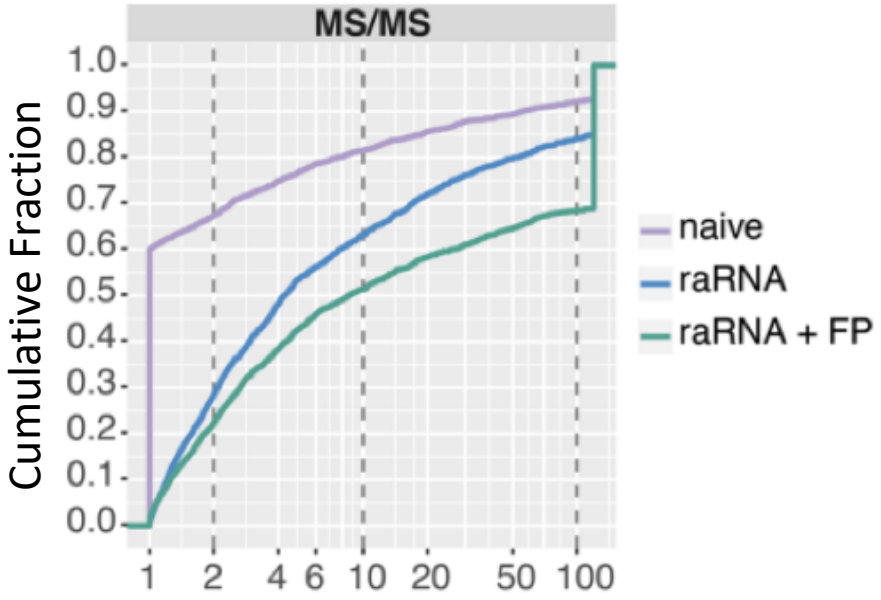
The RNA prior supports **Protein X-001** as the >2-fold dominant isoform, while the naïve prior gets stuck with three equally likely isoforms:







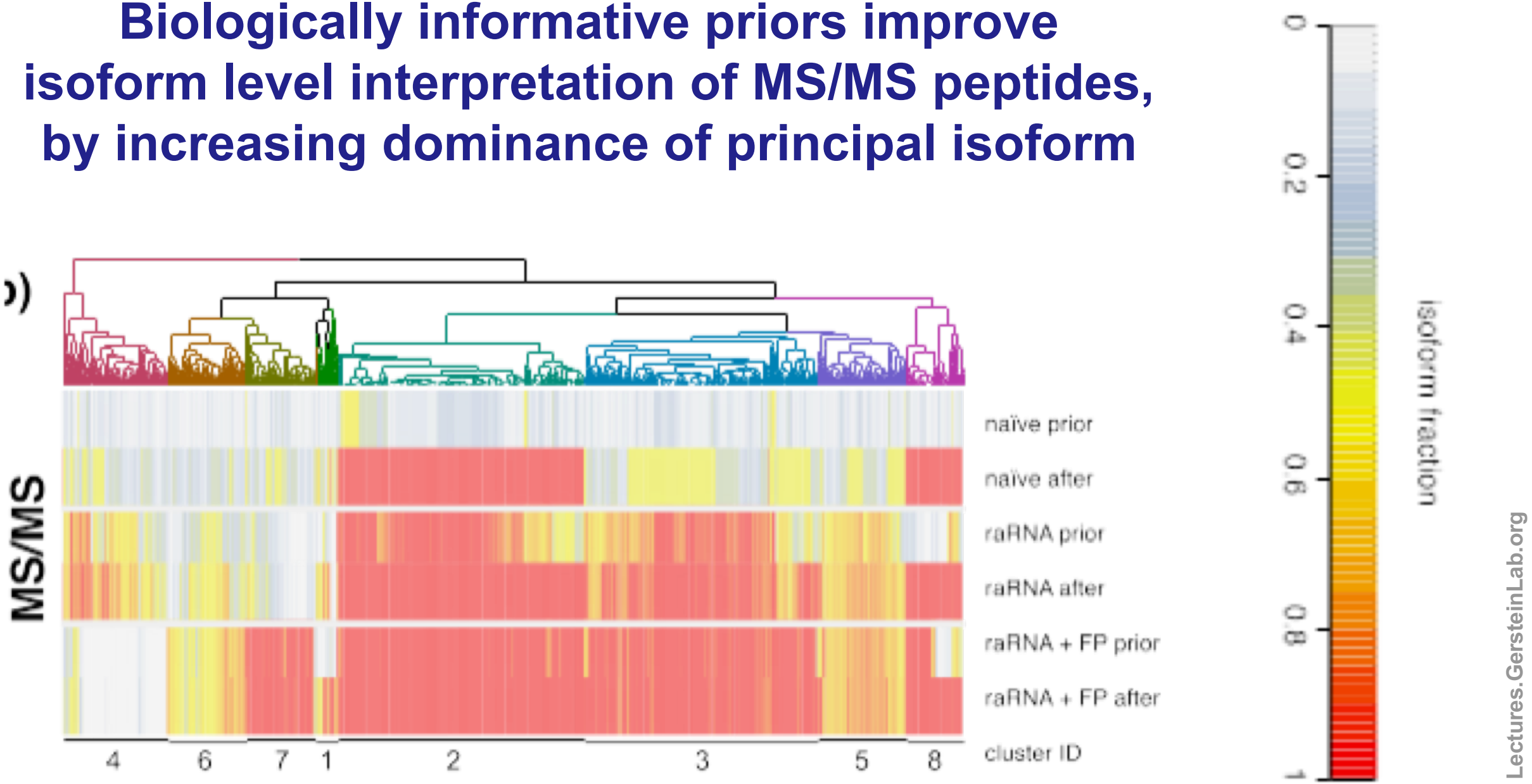
≤ principal isoform dominance
=principal isoform/second isoform



≤ 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



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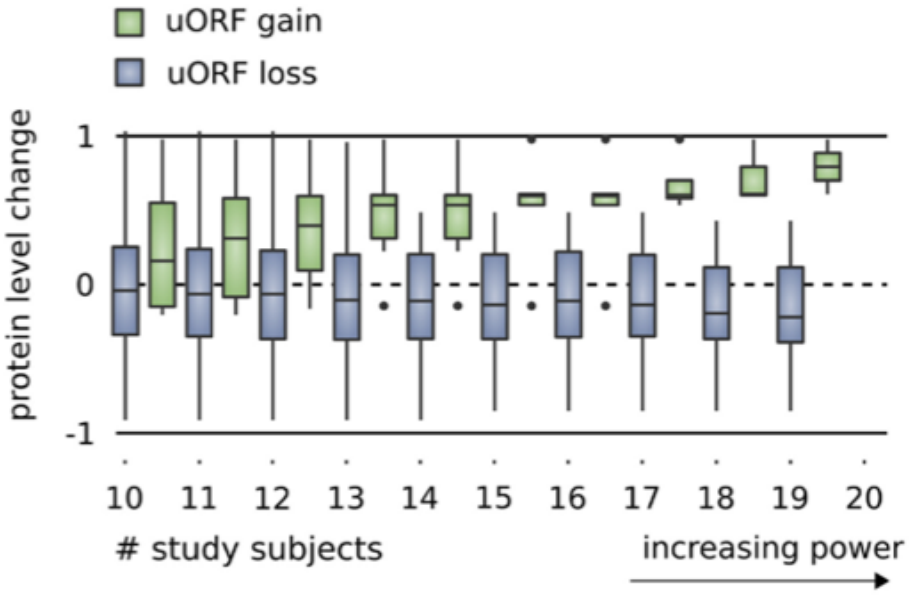
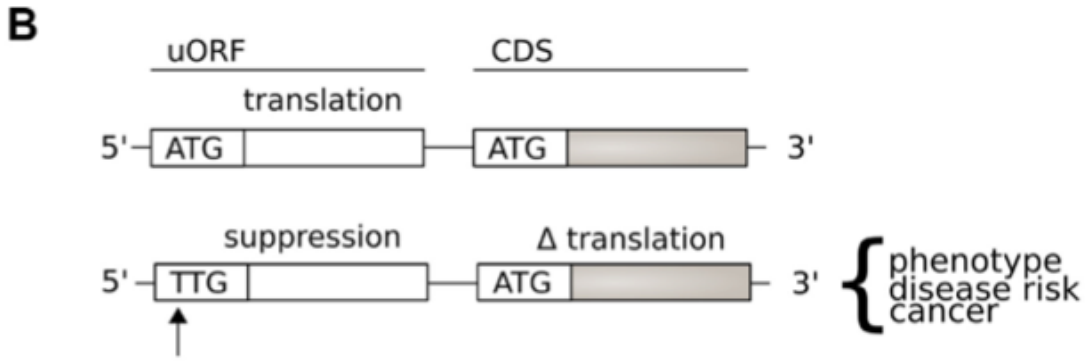
Upstream open reading frames (uORFs) may shift the expected balance between mRNA & protein

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

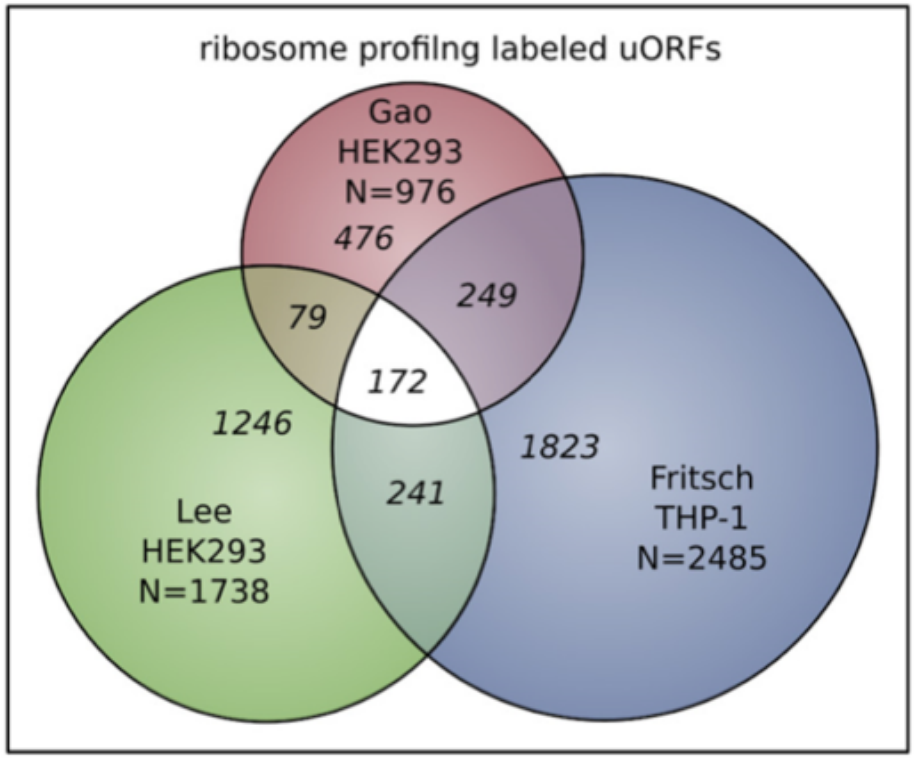


In Battle et al. 2014 data uORF gain & loss assoc. protein level change.



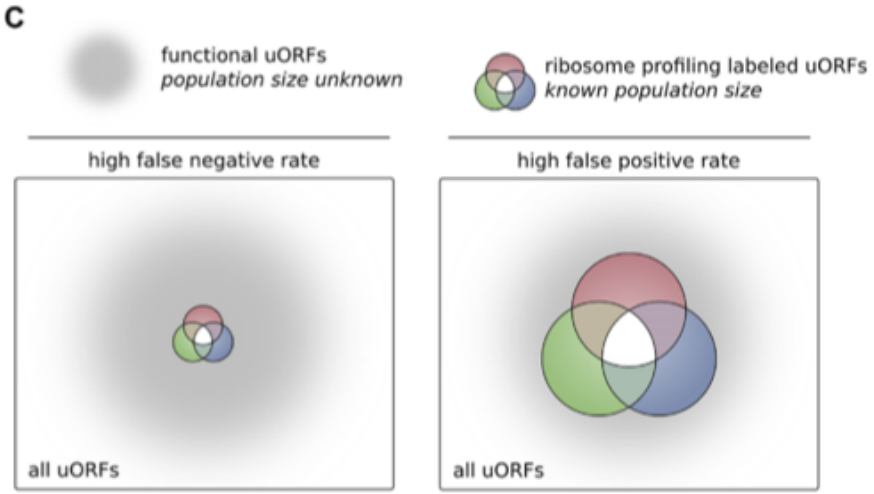
uORF regulation can be affected by mutation

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



From a “Universe” of 1.3 M pot. uORFs

The population of functional uORFs may be significant

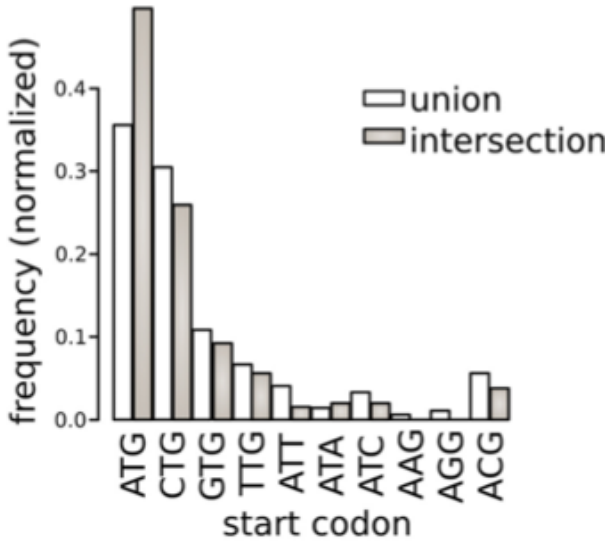


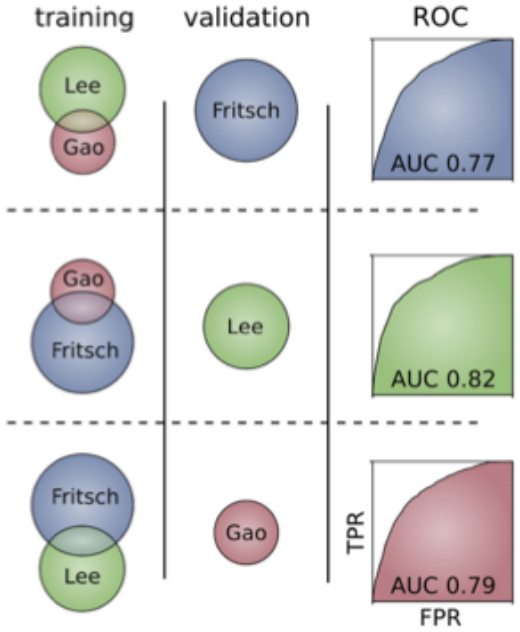
- Ribosome profiling experiments have low overlap in identified uORFs.
- This suggests high false-negative rate, and more functional uORFs than currently known.

[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).





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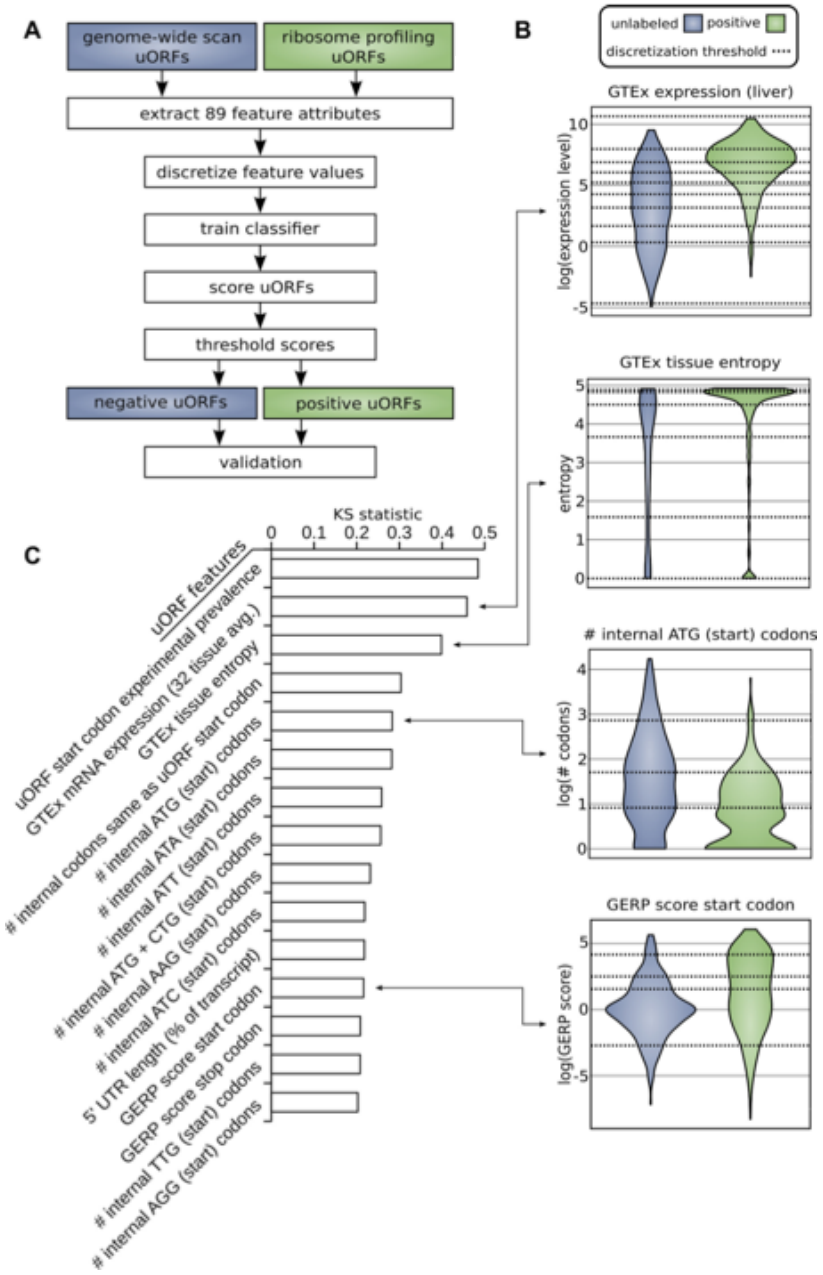


Expr. Level

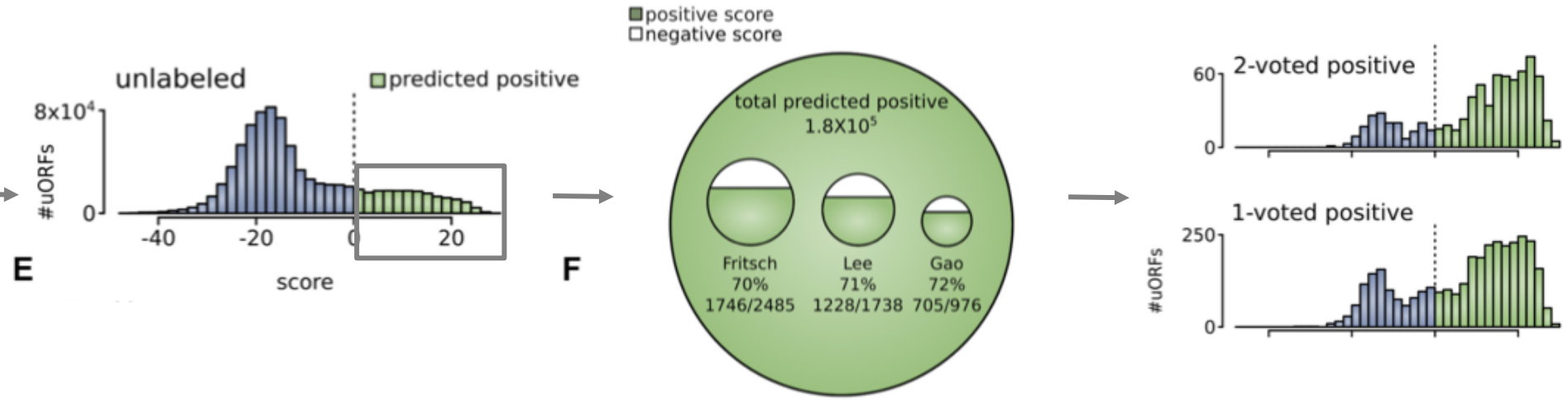
Tissue Dist.

Int. ATG Start

Cons-ervation

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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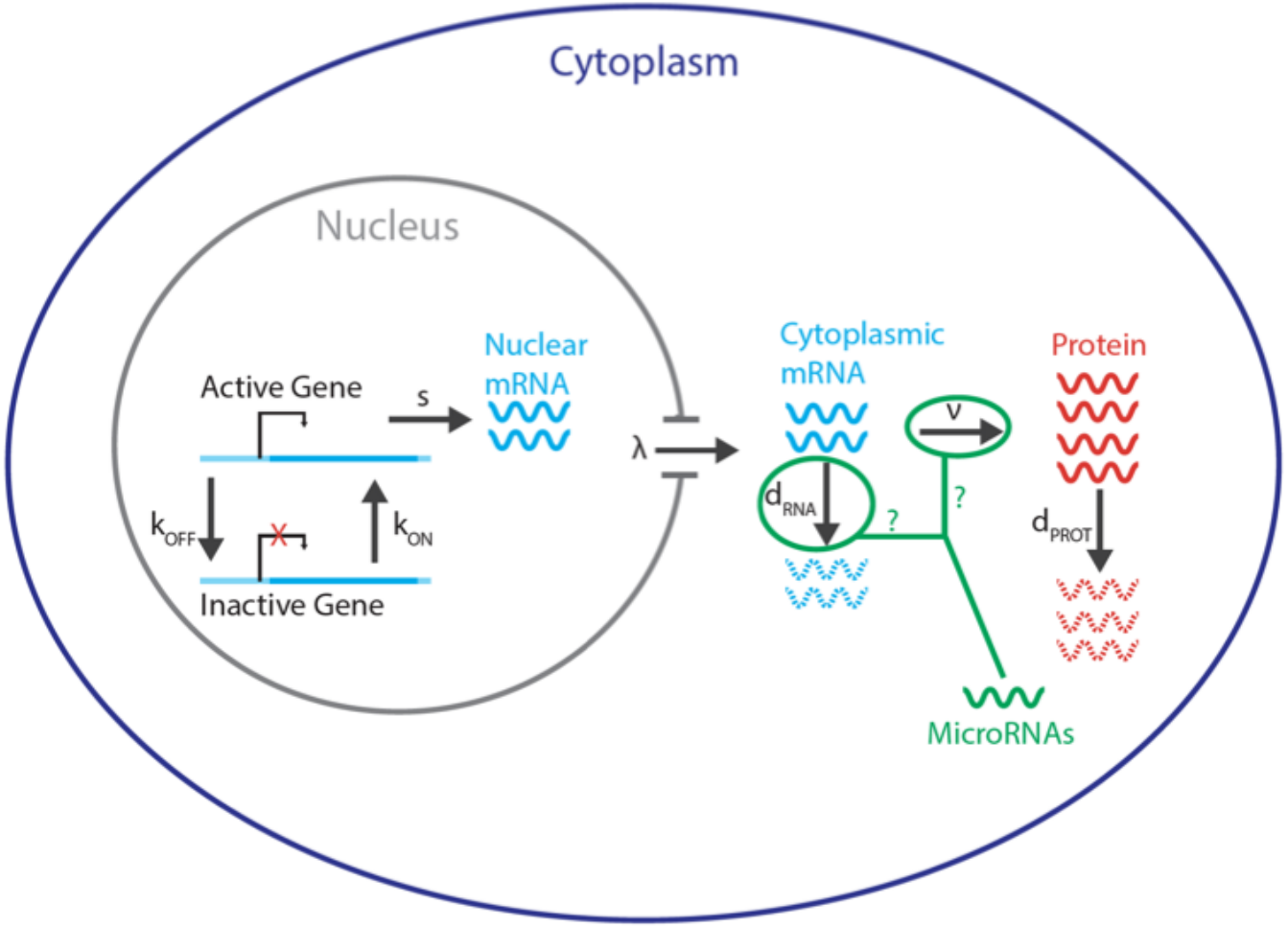
Leveraging New Datasets

Schematic workflow

MicroRNA intervention



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

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Acknowledgments!

genecensus.org/expression/translatome
D **Greenbaum**, R Jansen, M Gerstein

Proteomics.gersteinlab.org **(PARE)**
E **Yu**, A Burba, M Gerstein

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

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