Using Next Generation Sequencing to Analyze the Transcriptional Output of Cells

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Transcriptional Output of Eucaryotic Cells

- Ribosomal transcripts
- tRNA
- Messenger RNA (mRNAs for expressed genes), usually polyadenylated
- microRNA
- Piwi and Sno RNAs
- IncRNA (long non-coding RNAs)

Non-Coding DNA

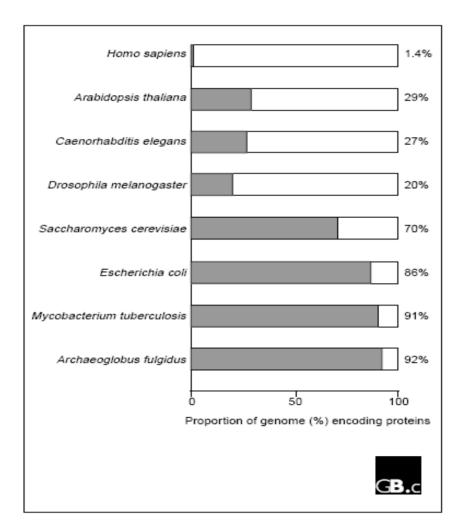
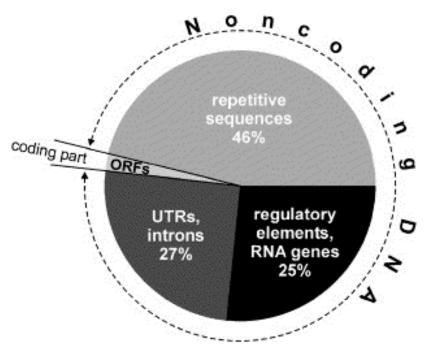


Figure 1
The percentage of protein-coding sequences (gray portions) in several eukaryotic and bacterial genomes.



2% Protein-coding DNA sequence

98% Non-protein coding DNA sequence

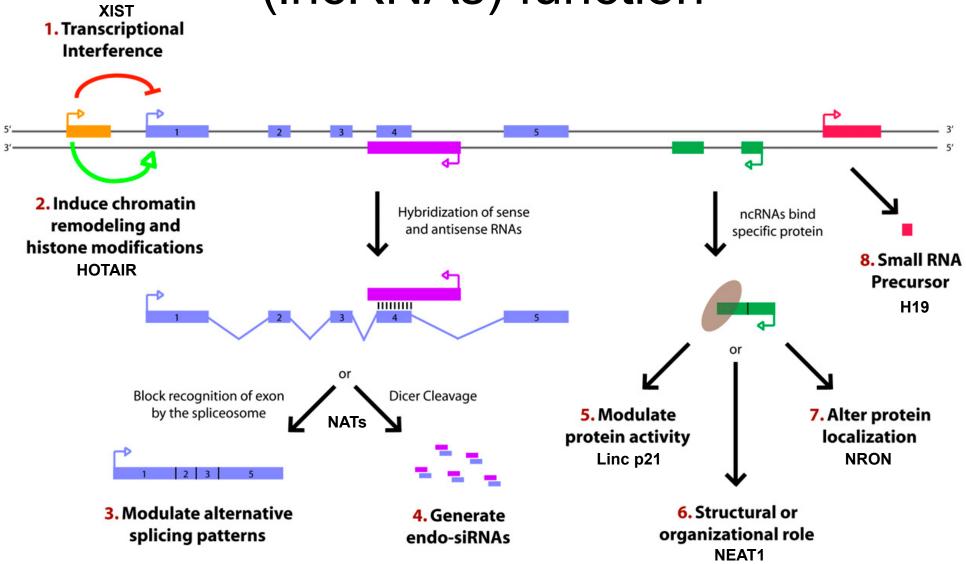
Symanski et al. *Beyond the Proteome:non-coding regulatory RNAs* 2002

Non-Coding Transcripts (NCTs)

- Transcripts that do not translate into functional protein
- Transcripts do not contain any open reading frames
- Transcripts found within intronic regions, intergenic regions, and transcribed from coding genes (within exons in antisense direction or overlapping exons and introns)
- Some found to be conserved and contain distinct functions
- Transcribed in sense and anti-sense
- NCTs include all Housekeeping RNAs and Regulatory RNAs

<u>Housekeeping</u>	<u>Regulatory</u>	
tRNAs	Long	Small
snoRNAs	XIST RNA	piwiRNAs
rRNAs	H19	miRNAs
	NEAT1	
	NEAT2	
	HOTAIR	

Paradigms for how long ncRNAs (IncRNAs) function



New Models for Transcription

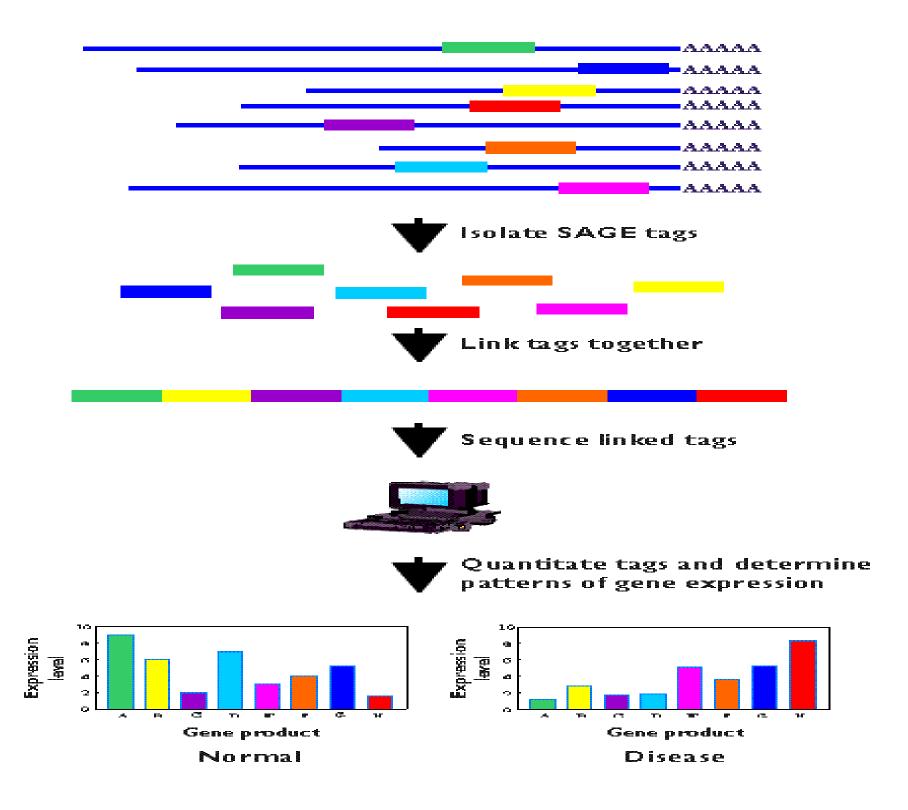
- Simple operon-based model totally invalid
- Average human gene is not just a single transcript
- Multiple isoforms
- Sense and anti-sense transcripts
- Regulated by transcription, miRNAs, chromatin remodeling and ????
- How to truly study?

Early attempts to characterize transcription

- All of the focus was on the mRNAs
- Assumption was that the protein coding genes were the entire story, hence if you could measure the amount of transcription of each gene you could infer how much of the encoded protein was produced in those cells
- Huge problem with message abundance (some messages are thousands of time more abundantly expressed than others). Most highly expressed transcripts swamp out your sampling when looking for less abundantly expressed transcripts

History of Transcriptional Profiling

- Make a poly A-primed cDNA library and Sanger sequence the clones- Expensive and only good for the most abundant transcripts
- SAGE- serial analysis of gene expressionsequence just the tags (less sequencing and can ID many more genes). Victor Velculescu et al. 1995

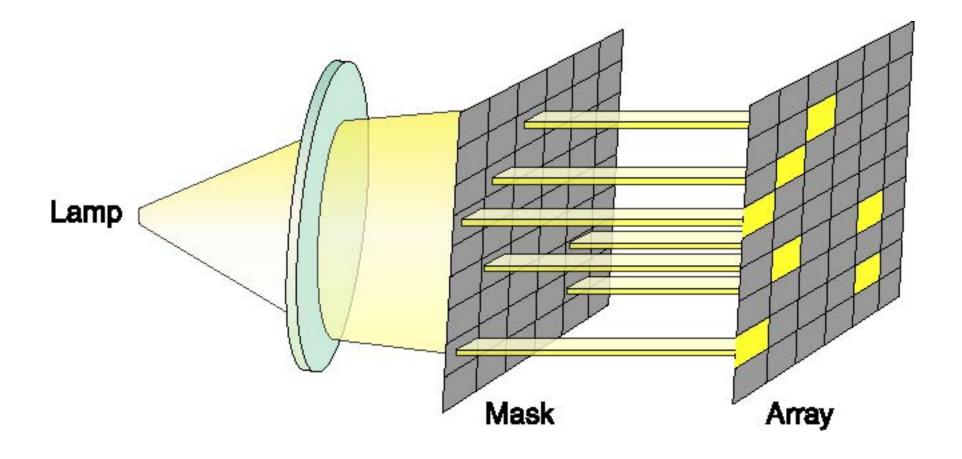


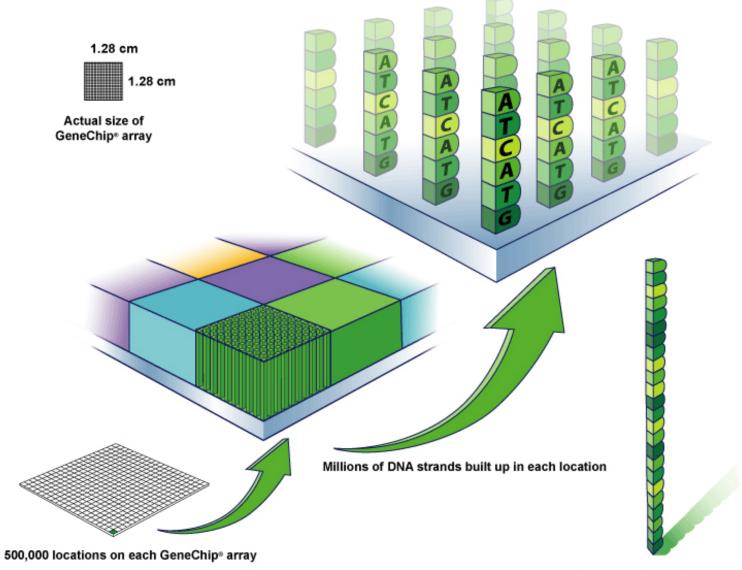
Microarrays

- Immobilize probes onto a microarray
- Originally done with entire cDNA inserts
- Oligonucleotides as probes- for example Affymetrix
- Must know about a specific transcript to make probes for it
- All early arrays were totally focused on protein coding genes

Computers and the human genome

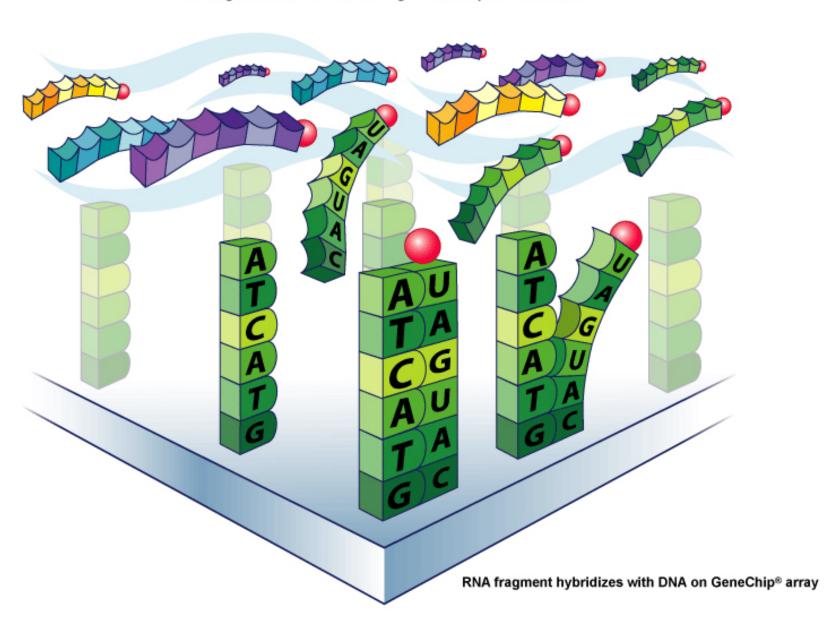
- Progress in the sequencing of genomes came from advances in computing technology (especially high density computer chips)
- As chips were designed with more "features" computers became faster
- Eventually we had computers that were fast enough to deal with and handle all 3 billion base pairs of the human genome sequence
- These technologies spawned all genome sequencing projects
- The semiconductor manufacturing platform can be tuned to biological problems!



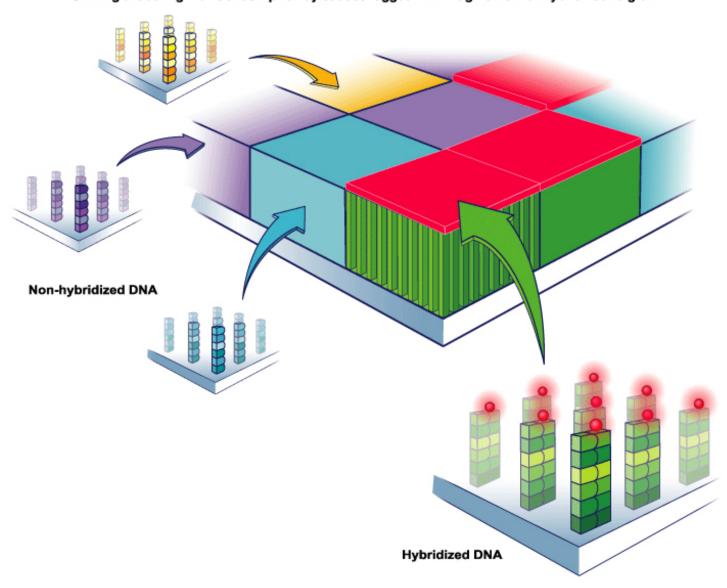


Actual strand = 25 base pairs

RNA fragments with fluorescent tags from sample to be tested



Shining a laser light at GeneChip® array causes tagged DNA fragments that hybridized to glow



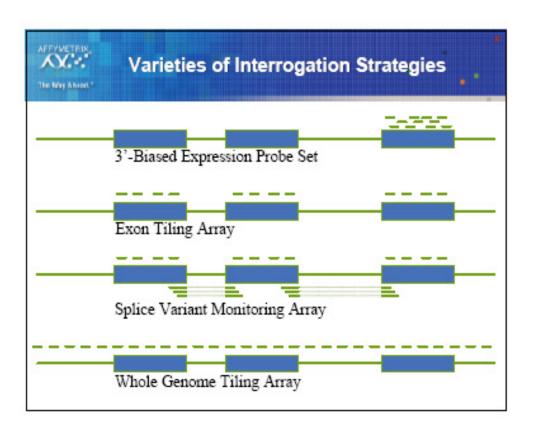
History of Affy arrays

- Several hundred genes
- 5,000 gene array
- U133 Plus 2 array- Multiple probes for each expressed coding transcript
- Probe design- 13 PM (perfect match) probes (25-mers) and 13 MM (mismatch at the 13th base) probes. All derived from the 3' UTR of each transcript



Number of features on an Affy array

- U133 Plus 2 arrays based upon 500,000 features/array
- Next generation had 6.5 million features/array
- With this many features can do much more than just probe the 5' end of genes





Design of a genome tiling array

Repeat

Repeat

Typical design strategy is to select PM,MM probe pairs across nonrepetitive regions at a target center-to-center separation which is referred to as the resolution of the array.

Factors considered in probe selection:

- Probe separation
- Probe quality (avoid probes with predicted non-linear intensity vs concentration relationship)
- Probe uniqueness (avoid probes with similarity to multiple genomic locations.

Typically will end up with more 'bad' probes than a conventional 3'biased array design

Tom Gingeras and Tiling Arrays

- Tom Gingeras worked at Affymetrix. Got the earliest access to genome-wide tiling arrays
- Started with 5-bp tiling arrays (5 bp from the center of one oligonucleotide to the center of the next adjacent oligo)
- Using these tiling arrays they found that non-polyadenylated transcripts were the majority of the transcriptional output of the genome
- Could these non-coding RNAs be important regulators of gene expression?
- All this work inspired the ENCODE (encyclopedia of DNA elements) project

Other Microarray Platforms

- Agilent- HP color printers
- Nimblegen- DLP-based synthesis
- Illumina- long oligonucleotides linked to beads
- All can synthesize much longer probes. Less probes/gene. Can wash at much higher stringencies
- Much greater flexibility to design specific custom arrays

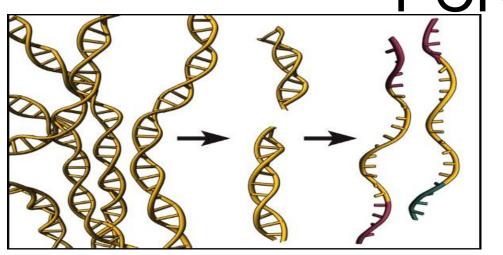
Problems with Microarrays

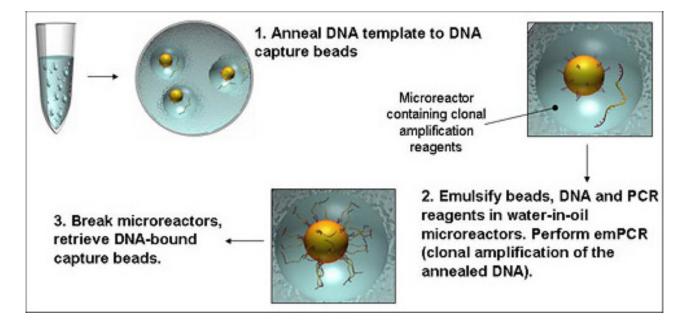
- Lack of sensitivity. Only can measure the expression of the top 50% of expressed genes
- Not really quantitative. More qualitative
- Cross hybridization a real problem
- Are the Gingeras results correct (i.e. that the entire genome is transcriptionally active)?
- What does the concentration of an mRNA species tell you about the proteins encoded by those transcripts?

Next Generation Sequencing

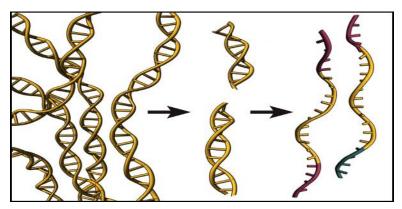
- Based upon massively parallel sequencing
- First commercially available from 454- The Genome Sequencer (GS series)

Clonal Amplification: Emulsion PCR

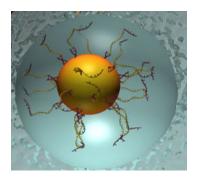




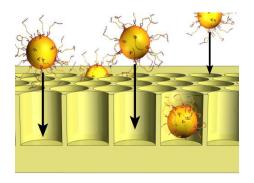
Process Overview - 454



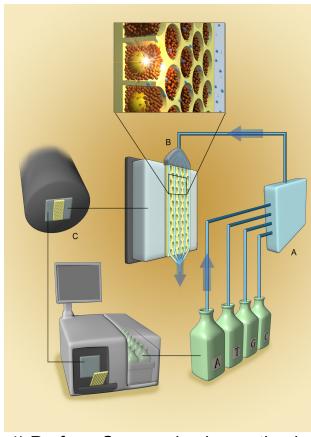
1) Prepare Adapter Ligated ssDNA Library



2) Clonal Amplification on 28 µ beads

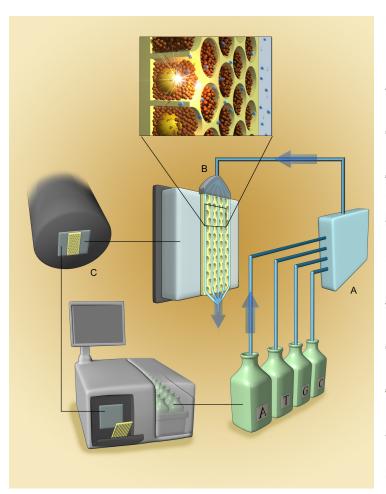


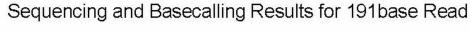
3) Load beads and enzymes in PicoTiter Plate™

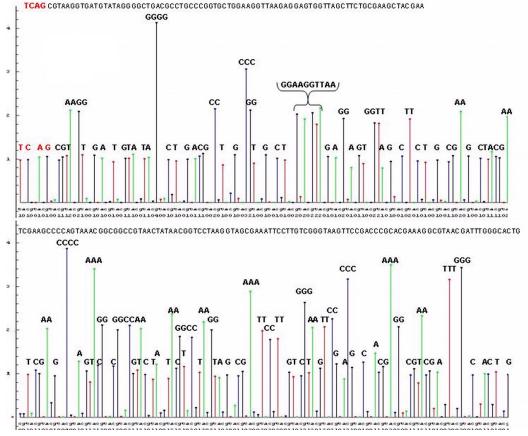


4) Perform Sequencing by synthesis on the 454 Instrument

454 Technology - Sequencing Instrument







Strengths and Weaknesses of the 454

- Long (400 bp+) reads
- Went from 20 Mbs to 500 Mbs output in two years!

- Emulsion PCR
- Homopolymers
- Limited headroom for further increases in sequence output

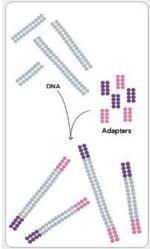
Illumina Genome Analyzer



From: Blow, N. et al. Nature: 2007: 449, 627-630.

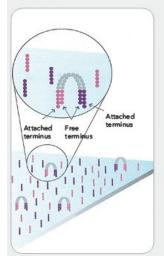
Bridge Amplification

1. PREPARE GENOMIC DNA SAMPLE



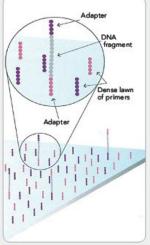
Randomly fragment genomic DNA and ligate adapters to both ends of the fragments.

4. FRAGMENTS BECOME DOUBLE STRANDED



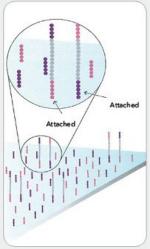
The enzyme incorporates nu deotides to build double-stranded bridges on the solidphase substrate.

2. ATTACH DNA TO SURFACE



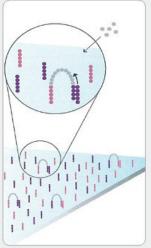
Bind single-stranded fragments randomly to the inside surface of the flow cell channels.

5. DENATURE THE DOUBLE-STRANDED MOLECULES



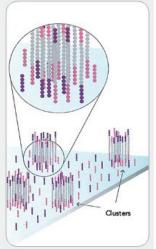
Denaturation leaves single-stranded templates anchored to the substrate.

3. BRIDGE AMPLIFICATION



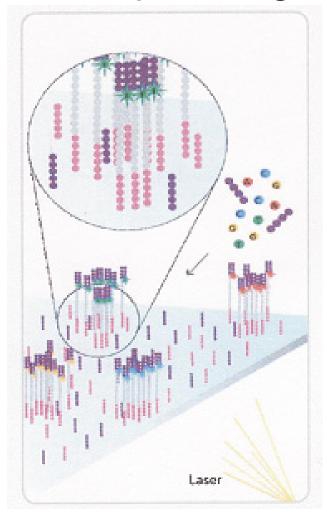
Add unlabeled nudeotides and enzyme to initiate solid-phase bridge amplification.

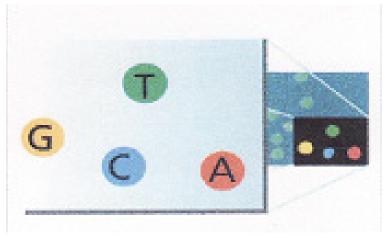
6. COMPLETE AMPLIFICATION

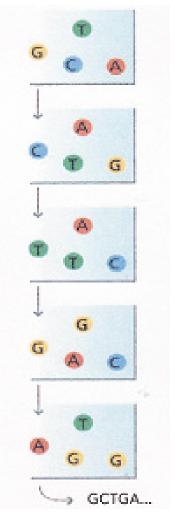


Several million dense dusters of doublestranded DNA are generated in each channel of the flow cell

Illumina GA: polymerase-based sequencing with reversible terminators









Raw Data is Images

- 8 channels per flow cell
- 300 tiles per channel: First generation
- 20,000 clusters/reads per tile (first generation)



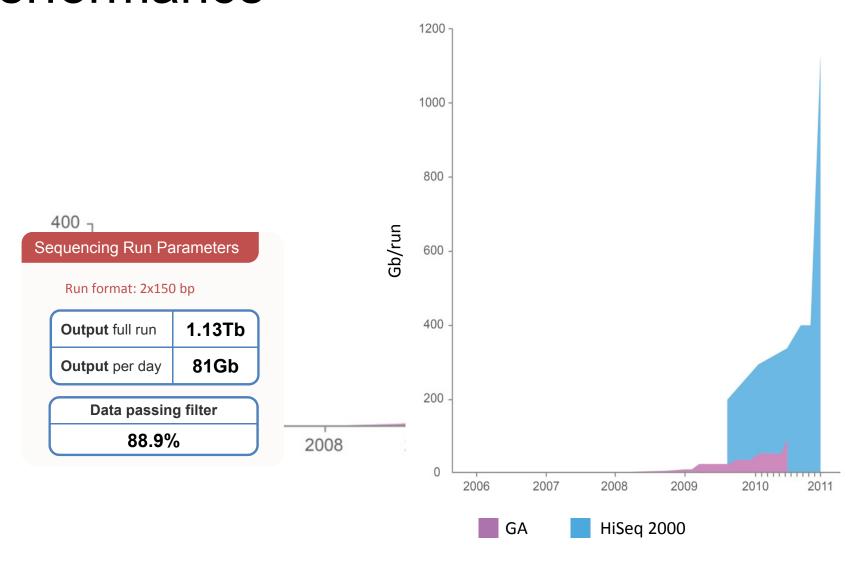
First Generation Next Generation RNAseq

- GA II capable of 6 million reads/lane
- Barely good up to 30 bps
- Do a modified SAGE
- Develop TAGs for transcripts and sequence 6 million/lane
- SAGE on steroids!!
- Not fully exploiting the power of Next Gen

HiSeq 2000



Evolution of Instrument Performance



Massively Parallel Sequencing as the Solution!

- Even with the first generation Genome
 Analyzer could look at 6 million
 sequences/lane. HiSeq 2000 is now up to 300 million reads/lane
- Orders of magnitude better than SAGE
- Much more sensitive than microarrays
- How many reads to characterize a transcriptome?

Source of the RNA

- Fresh frozen versus FFPE
- Advantage of FFPE- Many more samples.
 Clinical Follow-up
- Disadvantage- RNA is quite beat up
- Three solutions- (1) DNS protocol, (2) Genomic Health propriety protocol, or (3) Use fresh or fresh-frozen

What to Sequence?

- If you sequence a library made from total RNA more than 95% of the transcripts will be ribosomal
- Two solutions: (1) poly A+ selection; (2) selective removal of ribosomal sequences (RiboMinus or RiboZero)

Poly A+ Selection

- First strand synthesis done on oligo-dT attached to magnetic beads
- Strengths- Very effective at removing ribosomal sequences. Less overall sequencing required.
- Disadvantages- RNA quality an issue. Degraded RNA makes it difficult to sequence the 5' ends of transcripts. Only selects for polyadenylated transcripts (many non-coding transcripts are not polyadenylated). None of the miRNAs are polyadenylated

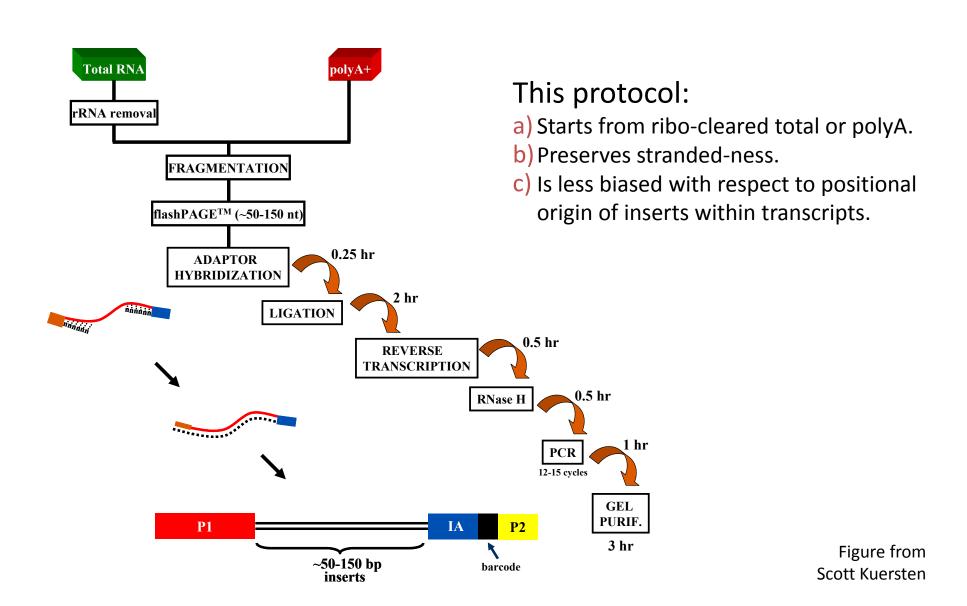
RiboMinus or RiboZero Ribosomal Removal

- Advantage- Can sequence all (not just polyadenylated) non-ribosomal transcripts
- Disadvantage- need to sequence more than poly A+ selection for the same coverage
- RNA degradation decreases the efficiency of either RiboZero of RiboMinus to remove ribosomal sequences

Directionality?

- Standard library construction does not preserve the strandedness of each sequenced transcript
- Is this important? Depends.
- Protocols are available to generate libraries that do preserve strandedness

The WT kit from Ambion



Setting up an RNAseq Experiment

- What is the source material?
- Tissue culture is probably the best source
- Clinical specimens pose a number of problems
- What are you trying to determine? Helps to define how many samples to run and how much transcriptome sequence to derive from each sample

RNAseq at its' best

- Take your favorite tissue culture cells.
- Stress them. Knock down your favorite gene.
 Add some chemical.
- Measure transcription before and after
- Sequence all important transcripts
- No need for prior knowledge of the transcriptional output of your cells of interest

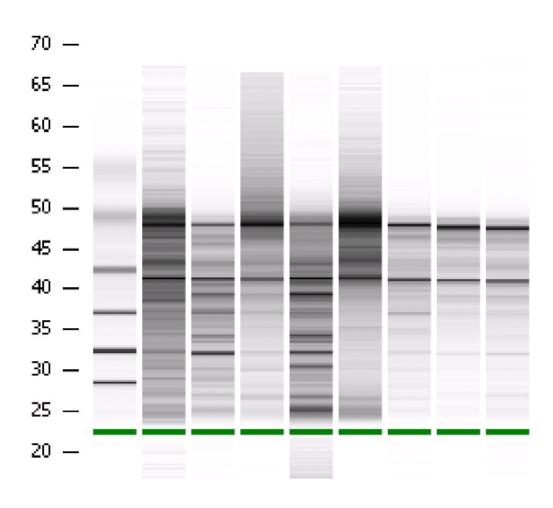
RNAseq and Cancer

- Compare gene expression in tumor as compared to matched normal tissue- essential for RNAseq!
- How many samples to run? How many do you have? How much money do you have?
- What are you going to compare? Normal to tumor? Good outcome to poor outcome?
 Different risk factors?
- Make sure tumor is >80% tumor! Otherwise think about using Laser Capture Microdissection

RNAseq and Cancer

- How many RNAseq reads are enough?
- Bare minimum 75-100 million, but you could also do 300 million plus (depends upon what you want to see). How much heterogeneity in your cancer?
- How many tumor-normal pairs to run?
- Why do this experiment at all if it will be soon available from CGAP?

RNA degradation



What to do with all the data?

- Current generation HiSeq 2000 can generate 300 million reads/lane
- How to handle this imaging data and convert it into sequence?
- How to align sequence to the transcriptome to figure out what you have?
- How to analyze the resulting transcriptome output and make sense out of it?

Commercial versus In-house Solutions

- Many different commercial vendors selling packages for dealing with Next Gen data-Geospiza, NextGene, and many others
- Possible in-house pipelines for data analysis
- What to do? Which is best?
- What was your original plan for how you were going to analyze this data?

So who is doing Next Gen sequencing and data analysis right?

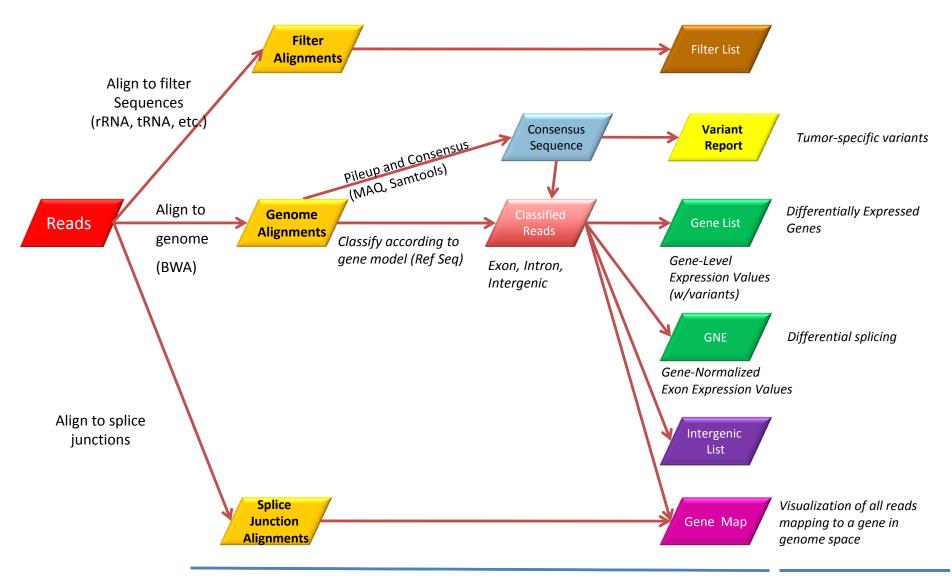
- Broad
- Wash U
- BGI
- Baylor

 The key is investing significantly in data analysis!

So what about me?

- Mayo Clinic Bioinformatics Core has been developing pipelines for different Next Gen datasets
- Active collaboration with Todd Smith/Eric Olson at Geospiza. Phase II SBIR grant to Geospiza
- Jian Ma- UIUC as part of the Mayo/UIUC Partnership

Data Analysis Workflow

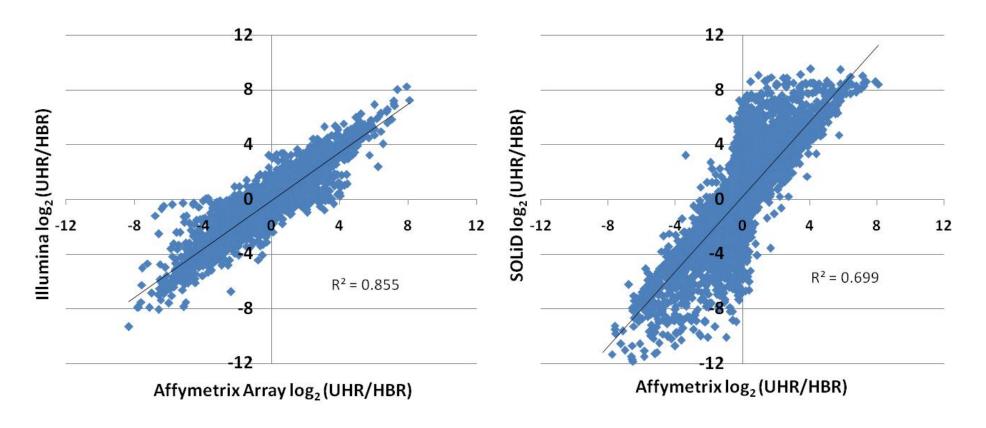


Secondary Analysis

Tertiary Analysis

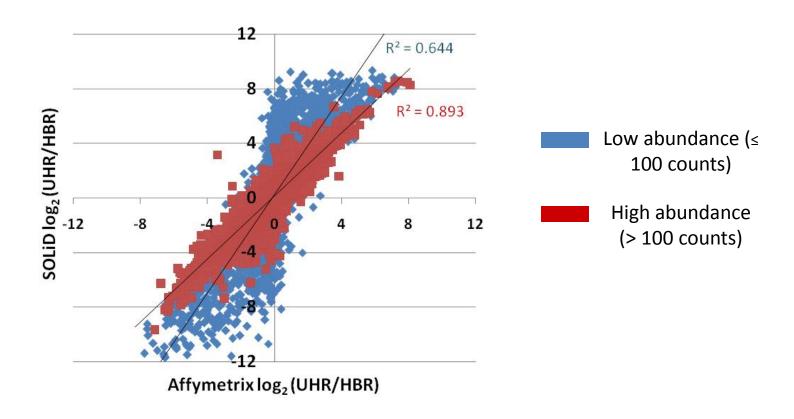
Patient number		i Otal Reads	Aligned to filter		omonos of pourily		Aligned to RefSeq Exon			
	T	N	Т	N	Т	N	Т	N		
1	53M	67M	8M	9M	42M	45M	29M	32M		
	22141	07 IVI	16%	14%	80%	68%	55%	48%		
2	71M	72M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
	7 1101	/ 2101	21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
3	58M	62M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
3	JOIVI	UZIVI	21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
4	67M	59M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
4		JEIVI	21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
5	61M	62M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
3	OTIVI	UZIVI	21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
6	75M	71M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
U	7 3101	7 1101	21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
7	61M	57M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
		37101	21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
8	61M	53M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
0	OTIVI		21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
9	64M	65M	15M	16M	52M	52M	33M	32M		
3			21%	22%	73%	72%	47%	45%		
10	651/	61M	3M	5M	53M	48M	35M	32M		
10	65M	OTIVI	5%	8%	82%	79%	59%	53%		

Comparison with microarrays: UHR/HBR

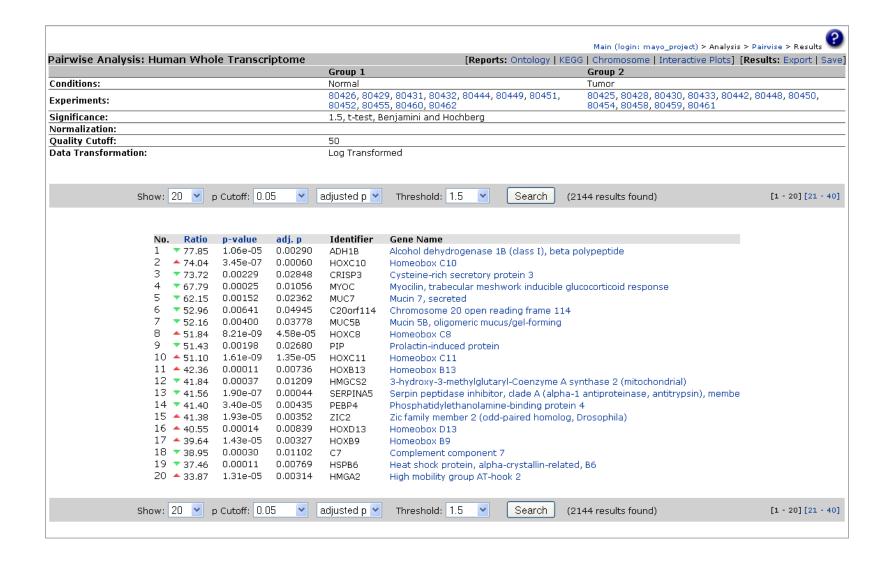


- SOLiD reports over a wider dynamic range.
- Correlation is good, but what do all the offdiagonal measurements represent?

Comparison with microarrays: UHR/HBR

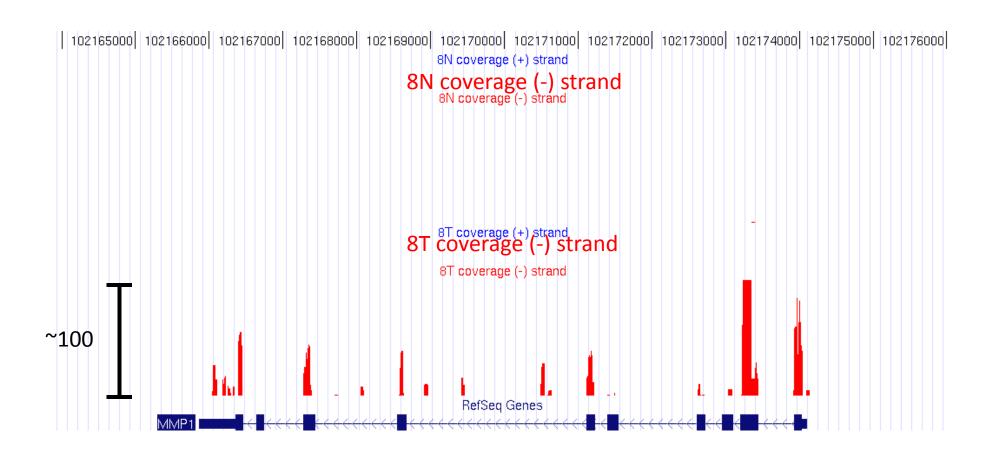


Many of the off-diagonal measurements are for low-abundance transcripts. Is this true dGEx detected only by SOLiD or a technical artifact?



Transcripts that are UP in tumors: MMP1

RefSeq Id	Gene	log ₂ (T8 / N8)	log ₂ (T12 / N12)	log ₂ (T33 / N33)	log ₂ (T51 / N51)
NM_002421	MMP1	4.91	7.38	4.59	1.13



	V	Main (login: mayo_project) > Analysis > Pairwise > Results
Pairwise Analysis: Human Whole Transcriptome	[Reports: Ontology KEGG	Chromosome Interactive Plots] [Results: Export Save]
	Group 1	Group 2
Conditions:	Normal	Tumor
Experiments:	80426, 80429, 80431, 80432, 80444, 80449, 80451, 80452, 80455, 80460, 80462	80425, 80428, 80430, 80433, 80442, 80448, 80450, 80454, 80458, 80459, 80461
Significance:	1.5, t-test, Benjamini and Hochberg	
Normalization:		
Quality Cutoff:	50	
Data Transformation:	Log Transformed	

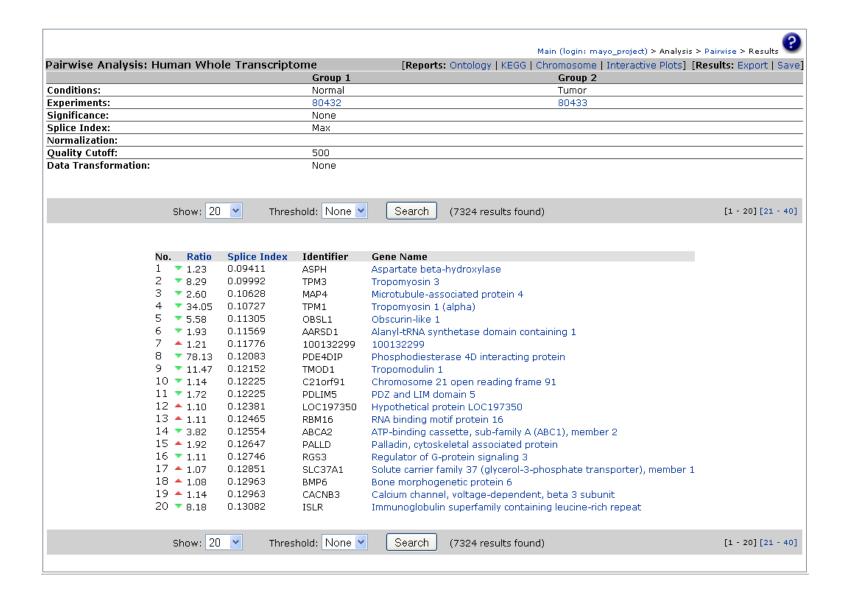
Group 1: Normal Export Report
Group 2: Tumor

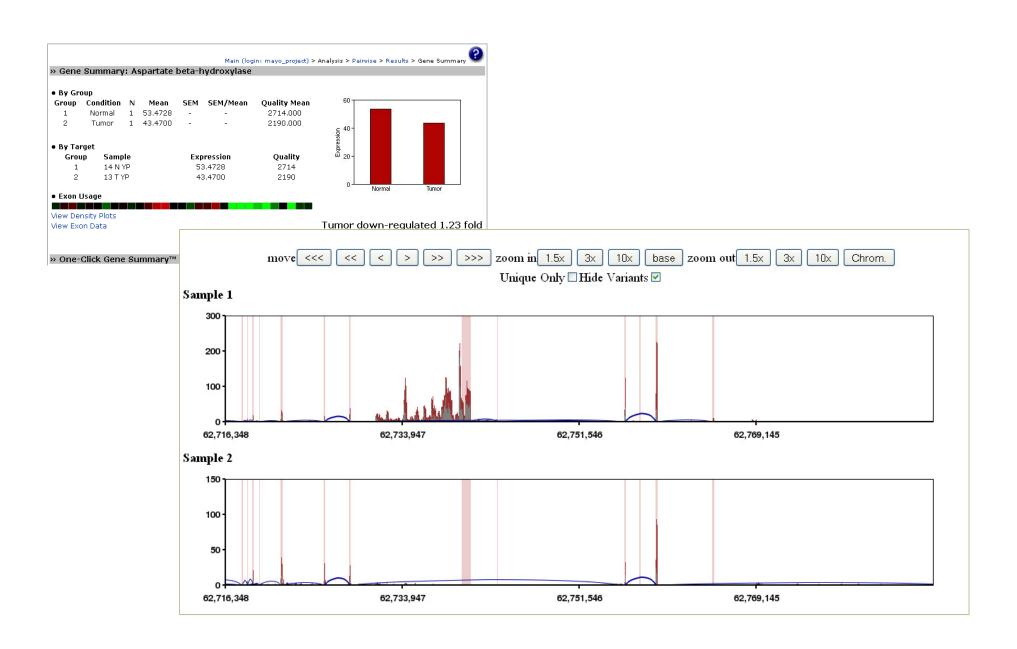
			Totals			z-score		
Pathway	Genes	KEGG	List		•	Gene Set		-
Cell cycle	E	æ	55	55	0	125	13.20	-1.91
DNA replication	E	æ	21	21	0	36	9.95	-1.02
Spliceosome	E	æ	39	39	0	127	8.16	-1.92
Pyrimidine metabolism	8=	蟲	27	26	1	98	5.73	-1.06
Mismatch repair	€	₽	10	10	0	23	5.52	-0.81
Proteasome	8=	蟲	15	15	0	47	5.21	-1.16
Homologous recombination	€		10	10	0	28	4.70	-0.90
Oocyte meiosis	€	<u>a</u>	28	25	3	113	4.56	-0.07
One carbon pool by folate	€		10	- 7	3	17	4.42	3.75
p53 signaling pathway	<u>=</u>	<u>a</u>	16	16	0	68	3.92	-1.40
Aminoacyl-tRNA biosynthesis			11	11	0	41	3.75	-1.08
Nucleotide excision repair	<u>=</u>		11	11	0	44	3.48	-1.12
Base excision repair			10	9	1	34	3.35	0.06
RNA degradation	E	<u></u>	13	13	0	59	3.25	-1.30
Pancreatic cancer		<u></u>	15	14	1	70	2.97	-0.69
Small cell lung cancer	<u>=</u>	<u> </u>	16	16	0	84	2.96	-1.56
Purine metabolism		<u></u>	31	26	5	159	2.93	0.29
Lysine degradation		<u> </u>	11	10	1	46	2.80	-0.25
RNA polymerase		<u></u>	7	- 7	0	29	2.66	-0.91
Non-homologous end-joining		<u></u>	4	4	0	13	2.59	-0.61
Basal transcription factors			8	8	0	36	2.58	-1.02
Systemic lupus erythematosus			24	22	2	138	2.56	-0.96
Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation			16	15	1	86	2.48	-0.91
Drug metabolism - cytochrome P450				1	6	72	-2.38	2.90
Malaria		ন্য eয় eয় eয় eয় eয় eয় eয় eয় eয় eয	5	0	5	51	-2.34	3.08
Metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450		<u>a</u>	6	1	5	70	-2.34	2.25
Retinol metabolism			6	1	5	64	-2.20	2.47
Bladder cancer	ē-	圔	8	8	0	42	2.08	-1.10

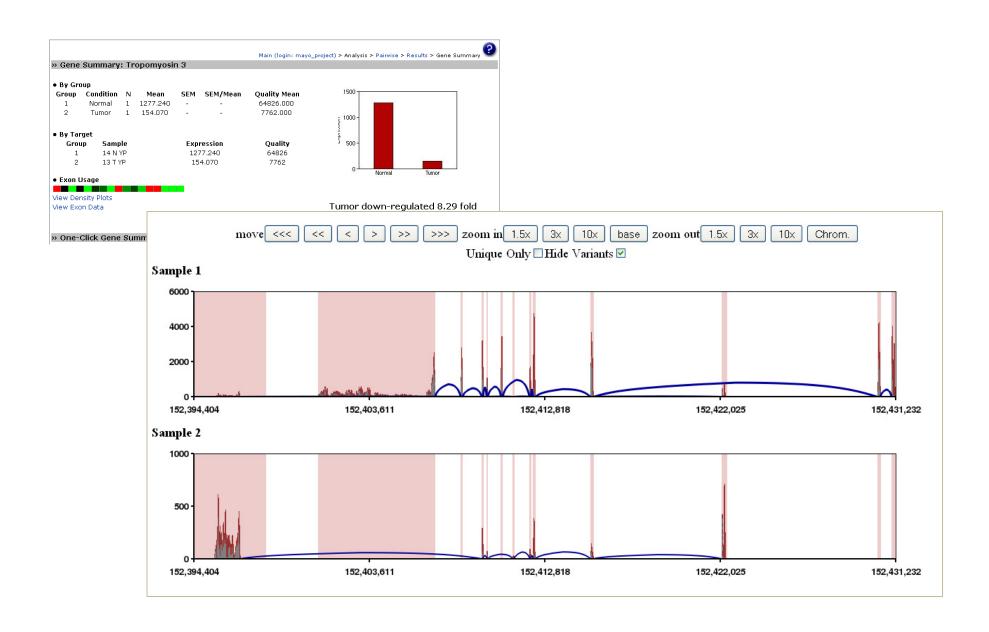
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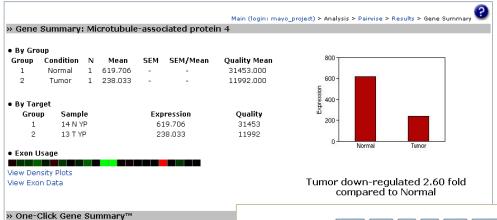
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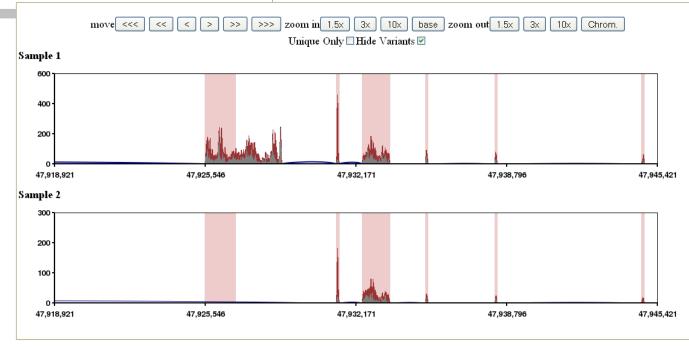
			Totals			z-score		
Pathway	Genes	KEGG	List	•	•	Gene Set		-
Proximal tubule bicarbonate reclamation	E	a	8	2	6	23	-0.15	6.83
Tyrosine metabolism	8 -	æ	9	2	- 7	41	-1.03	5.60
Fatty acid metabolism	€	a	9	3	6	42	-0.55	4.57
ABC transporters	<u>=</u>	조	7	1	6	44	-1.66	4.41
Starch and sucrose metabolism	€	<u>a</u>	7	1	6	52	-1.89	3.87
One carbon pool by folate	<u>=</u>	옯	10	7	3	17	4.42	3.75
Synthesis and degradation of ketone bodies	<u>=</u>	<u>a</u>	3	1	2	9	0.15	3.56
Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism	<u>=</u>	<u>a</u>	8	4	4	31	0.62	3.45
Propanoate metabolism	<u>=</u>	<u>a</u>	8	4	4	33	0.49	3.29
Malaria	<u>=</u>	<u>a</u>	5	0	5	51	-2.34	3.08
Drug metabolism - cytochrome P450			7	1	6	72	-2.38	2.90
Pyruvate metabolism	<u>=</u>	<u> </u>	8	4	4	40	0.08	2.80
Circadian rhythm - mammal			3	1	2	13	-0.24	2.78
Aldosterone-regulated sodium reabsorption	<u>=</u>	<u> </u>	10	6	4	42	1.03	2.68
Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation			7	3	4	44	-0.63	2.57
Terpenoid backbone biosynthesis	<u>=</u>	<u> </u>	4	2	2	15	0.49	2.50
Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis			11	6	5	64	-0.06	2.47
Retinol metabolism			6	1	5	64	-2.20	2.47
ECM-receptor interaction			13	- 7	6	84	-0.40	2.46
Complement and coagulation cascades	<u>=</u>	<u> </u>	8	3	5	68	-1.46	2.32
Renin-angiotensin system			3	1	2	17	-0.52	2.26
Metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450	<u>=</u>	<u> </u>	6	1	5	70	-2.34	2.25
Butanoate metabolism			5	2	3	35	-0.78	2.10
Fatty acid biosynthesis		생물에 되면 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼 돼	2	1	1	6	0.59	2.08
Vitamin B6 metabolism	<u>=</u>		2	1	1	6	0.59	2.08
Cardiac muscle contraction	<u>=</u>	<u></u>	9	4	5	76	-1.30	2.04



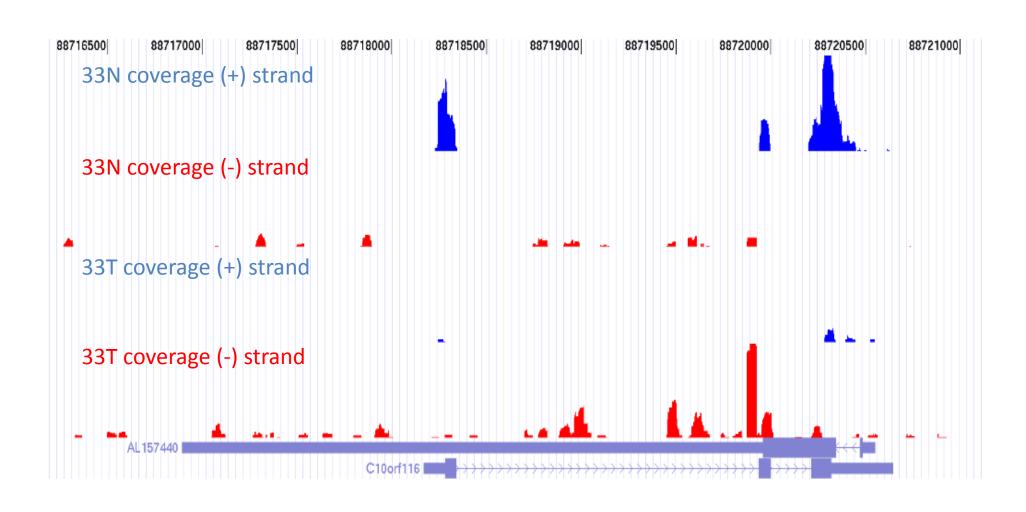




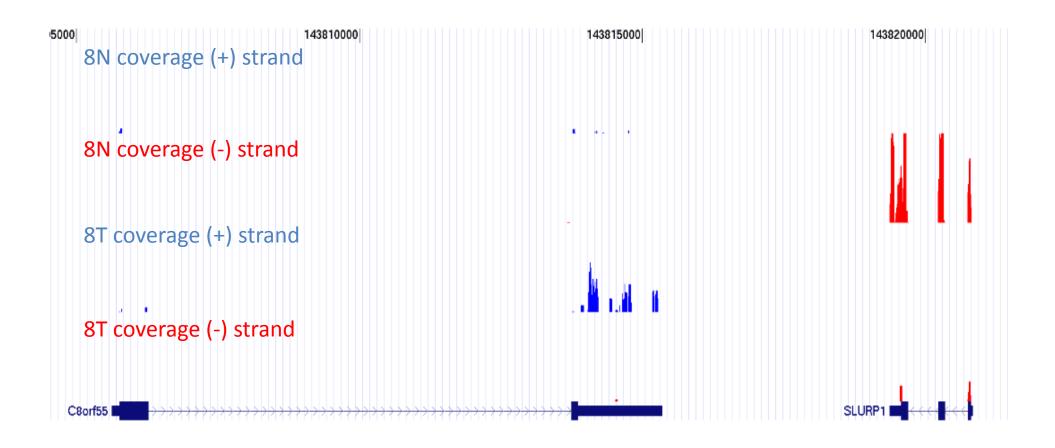




Antisense transcripts: AL157440 & C10orf116

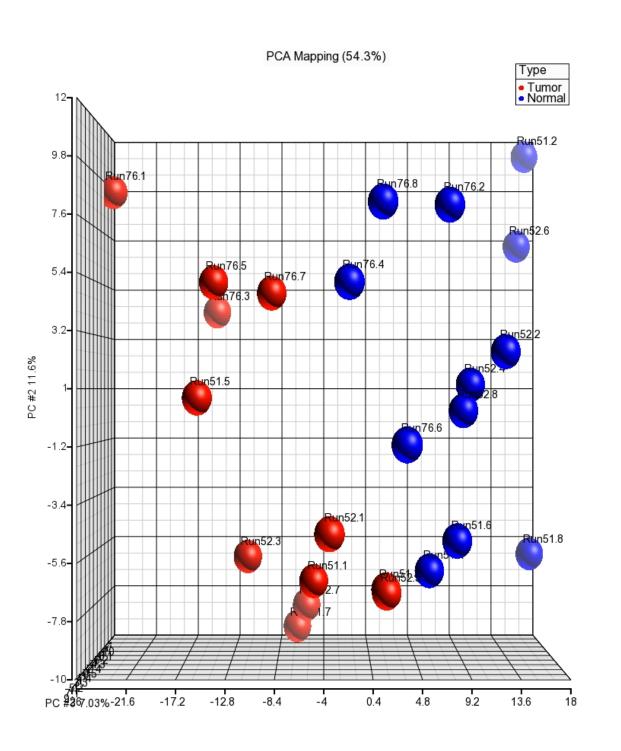


Antisense transcripts: C8orf55 & SLURP1



Long Non-coding Transcripts

- 2 databases of ncRNA were evaluated: one had 2,500 and the other had 400,000 ncRNAs
- Use the ncRNA sequences as a reference to map the fastq sequence reads
- Obtain read counts as a measure of expression of each ncRNA
- 2-19% of total reads maps to these ncRNAs
- Normalize the count per sample reads
- Differential expression analysis for tumor versus normal

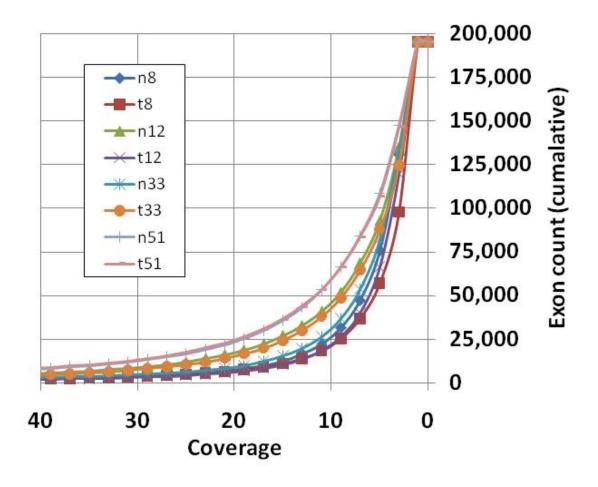


What other information is available from RNAseq?

- RNAseq is actually sequencing the transcripts
- For more abundantly expressed genes can determine if there are mutations in your transcribed sequences
- Allele-specific expression changes can also be detected

Coverage of exons

5K-25K exons may have sufficient coverage for mutation detection/allele-specific gene expression analysis.

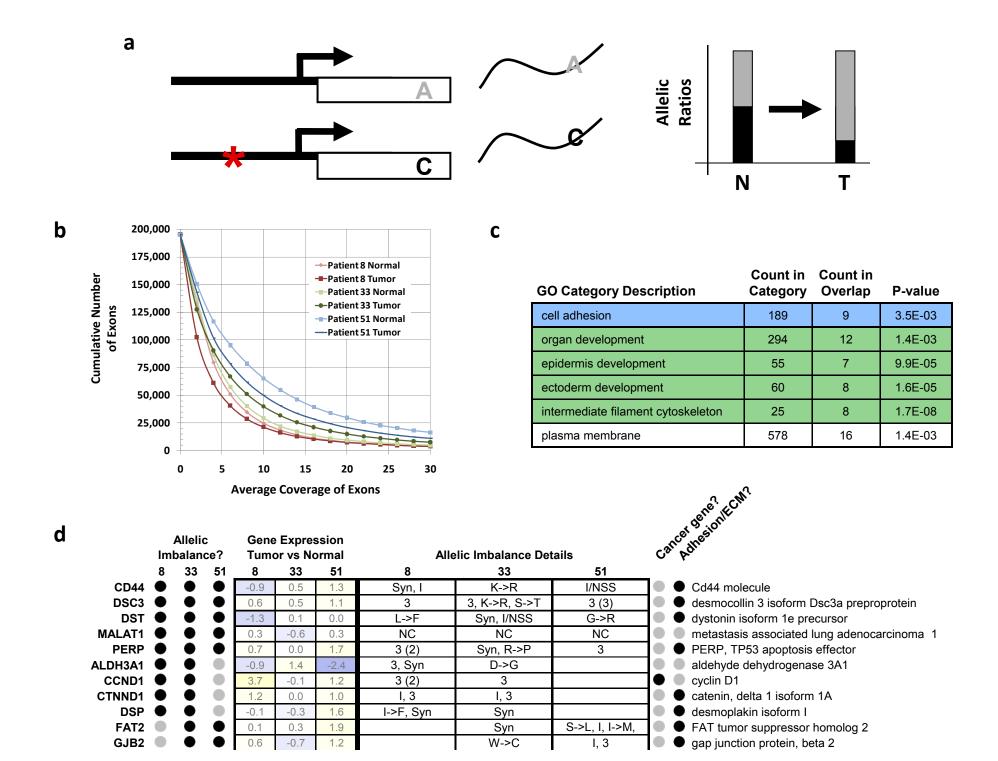


Searching for Cancer-Specific Mutations

- Examine the more abundantly expressed genes and compare sequence in tumor to matched normal tissue
- Gene must be expressed well in both tumor and normal
- Can still do this for the top 10% of expressed genes (more if you sequence deeper!)

Allele-Specific Expression

- An important mechanism in cancer development (deletions) is detected as loss of heterozygosity of polymorphic markers
- This can result in loss of expression of just one allele
- Can this have an effect beyond just a 50% reduction in expression?
- Yes- Allele-specific expression



RNAseq is complementary to other technologies

- Compare expression to methylation (which can either be done on arrays or with some form of methylation sequencing)
- Compare the exome sequence searching for mutations in genes to gene expression
- Attempt to integrate all of these into a cohesive model (for example of cancer development)

RNAseq is also becoming affordable!

- Current generation HiSeq 2000 can generate 300 million reads per lane of a flow cell.
- If 75 million reads is sufficient can bar code and run 4 samples/lane. Cost per sample (with library prep) is then \$500 per sample
- If you need 150 million reads the cost per sample is \$900 per sample
- As sequence output further increases the cost of RNAseq will further decrease

RNAseq as part of clinical practice

- Several institutions and companies are already exploring using RNAseq on cancer specimens to better inform clinical decisions (University of Michigan, Genomic Health)
- Can determine important changes in transcription with much greater granularity than microarrays.
- Can also determine non-human transcripts (such as viral transcripts)
- Information is very complementary to exome sequencing
- Will this become a standard part of cancer care very soon?

CONCLUSIONS

- RNAseq is a powerful tool to analyze the transcriptional output of cells
- Think carefully to design the proper RNAseq experiment before you waste your money and time
- Decide on the number of samples, which samples, what type of RNAseq library and how many sequences/sample
- Can determine message abundance, transcript isoforms produced, allele-specific expression and even mutations in more abundantly expressed transcripts
- Will quickly be replacing microarrays for measuring transcription