

Comparative identification of novel human structural RNA families

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Benasque 2012

Structural RNA



Definition: Any RNA sequence that folds into a structure of functional importance

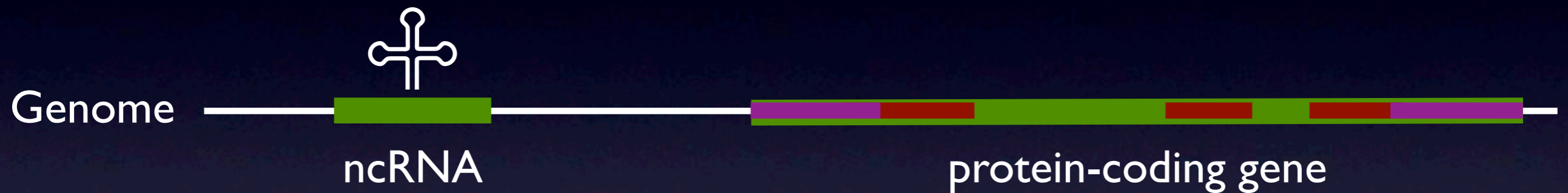
Structural RNA



Definition: Any RNA sequence that folds into a structure of functional importance

Such as:

Structural RNA

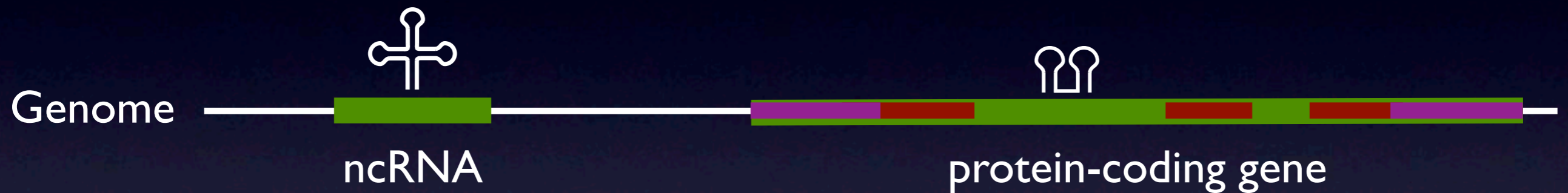


Definition: Any RNA sequence that folds into a structure of functional importance

Such as:

- independently transcribed ncRNAs

Structural RNA

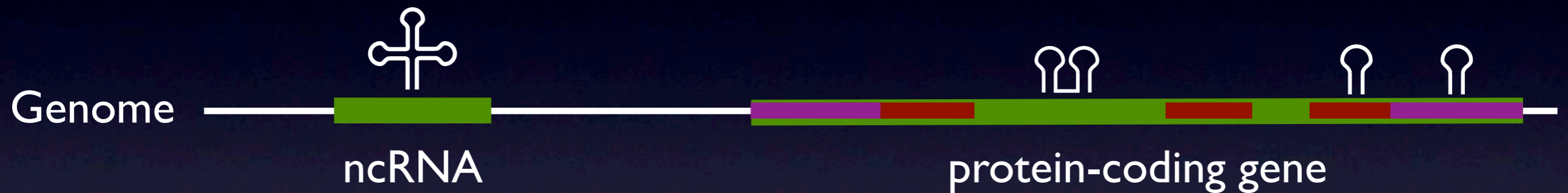


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Such as:

- independently transcribed ncRNAs
- ncRNAs excised from longer transcripts

Structural RNA



Definition: Any RNA sequence that folds into a structure of functional importance

Such as:

- independently transcribed ncRNAs
- ncRNAs excised from longer transcripts
- cis-regulatory elements within protein-coding genes and ncRNAs

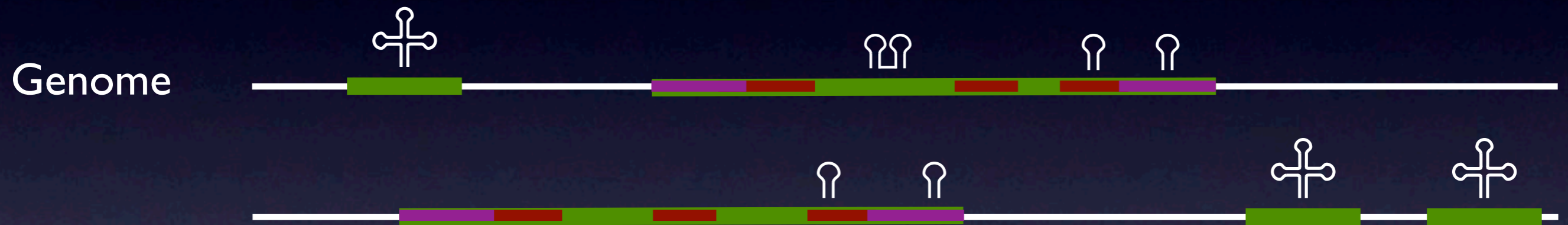
Families of structural RNA



Family members share ancestry

- Duplications may be local or far apart

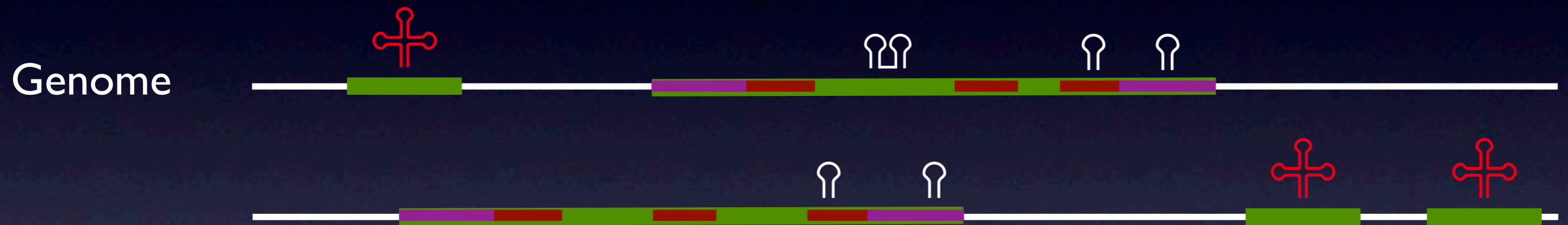
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Families of structural RNA



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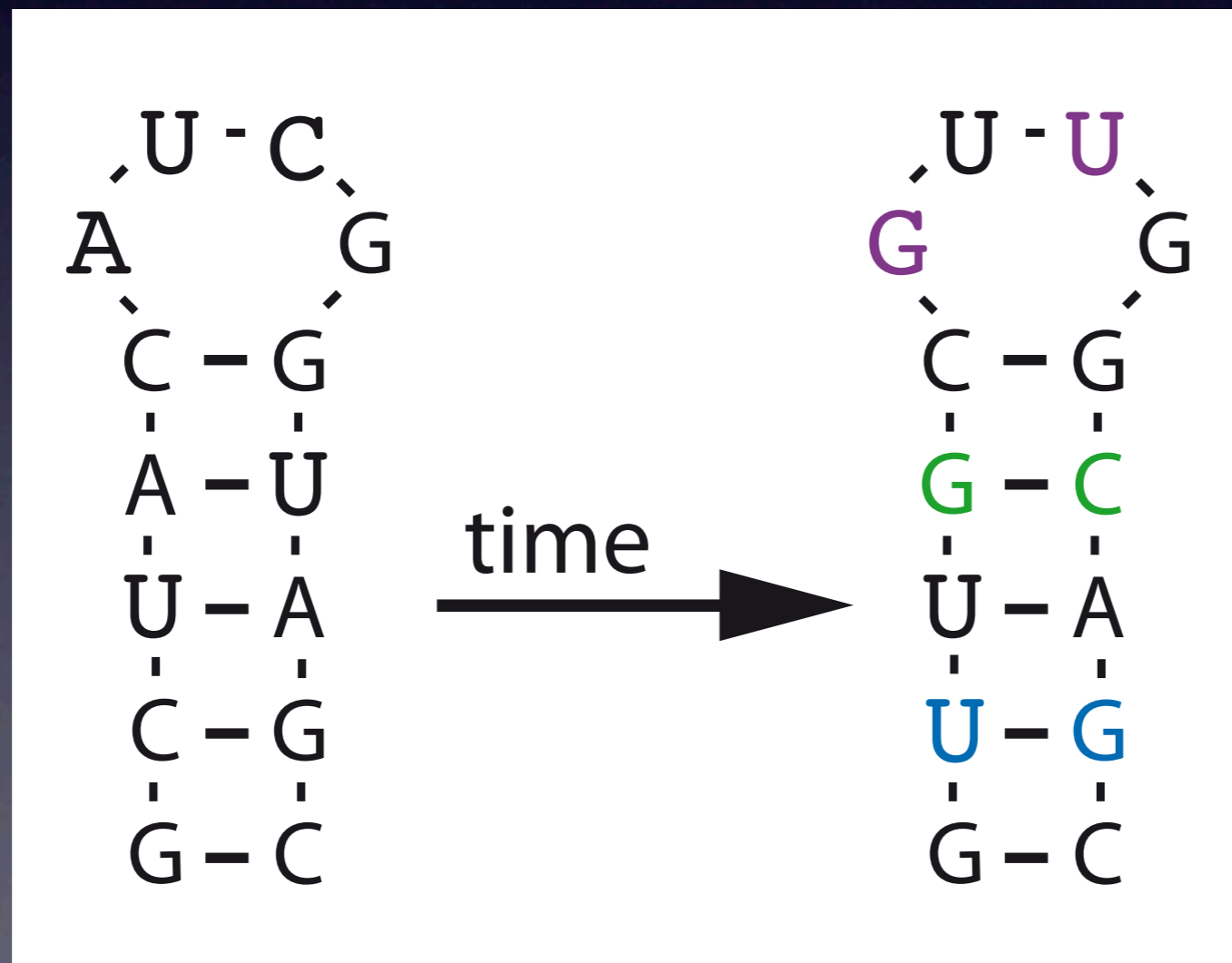
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For simple structures convergent evolution may be possible

Genomic structure screen

Evolution constrained by structure

Characteristic substitution pattern



EvoFold structure prediction

a) Human genome:

Conserved elements:



EvoFold structure prediction

a) Human genome:
Conserved elements:



b) Genomic alignment
segment:

human	GAGCUUGC	UUUGGC	CAGCUACC
chimp.	GAGCUUGC	UUUGGC	CAGCUACC
mouse	GAGUUU	ACUUUC	GUAGCUAUC
rat	AAGCUU	ACUUAG	GUAGCUAUC
dog	GAGCAU	ACUAAG	GUGGCUACC
opossum	CGGCUU	ACGCUG	GUGGCCAGC
chicken	GGGCUU	ACACUUG	UGGGCCGGC
p. fish	GGGCUU	ACACAUG	UGGGCCGGA

EvoFold structure prediction

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Conserved elements:



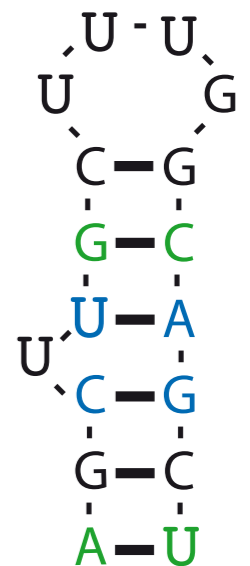
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chicken	GGGCUU	ACACUUG	UGGCCGGC
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c) SCFG generated
secondary structure:

. (((. (((. . .)))))) . . .

d) fold:



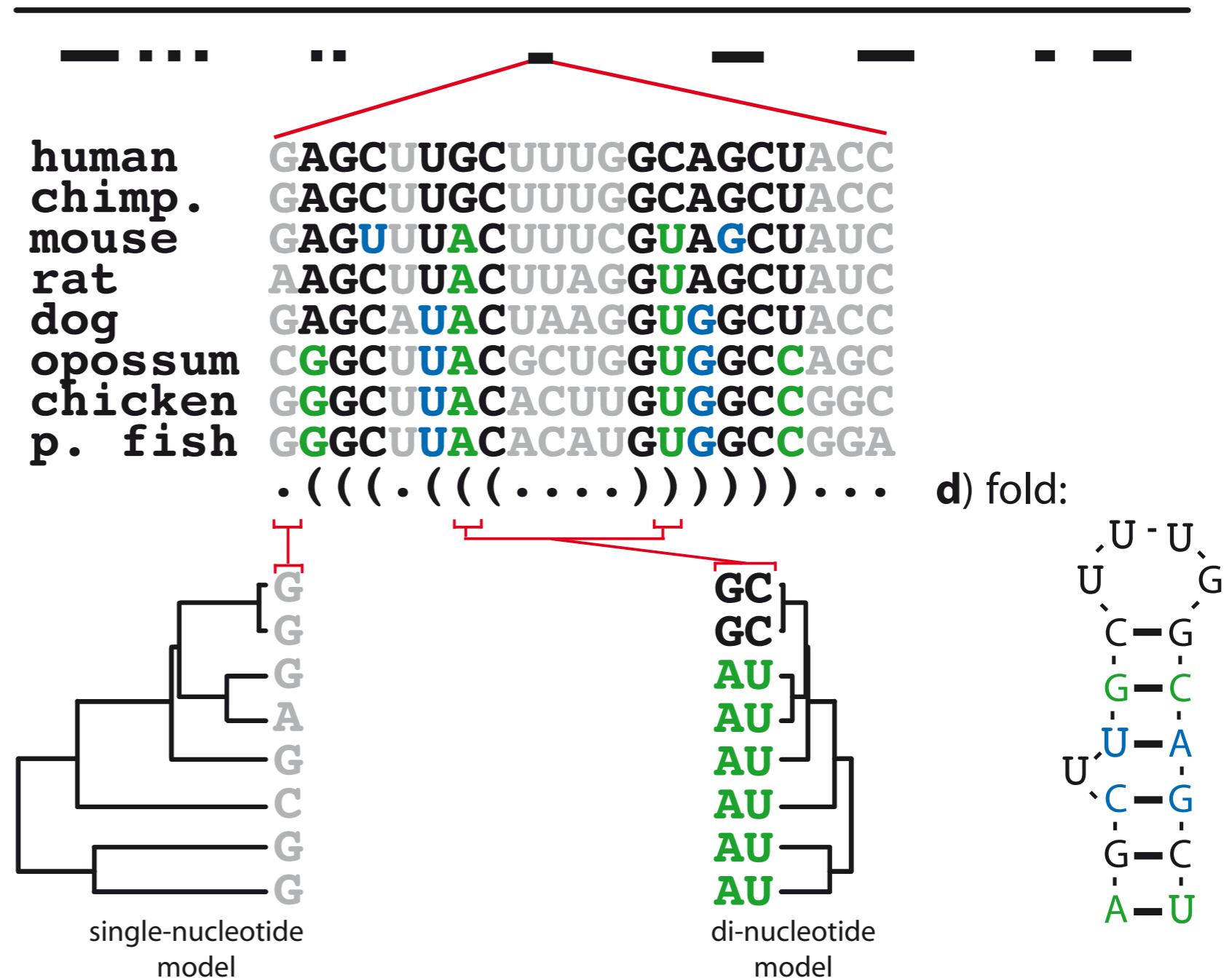
EvoFold structure prediction

a) Human genome:
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e) Phylogenetic evaluation:



EvoFold structure prediction

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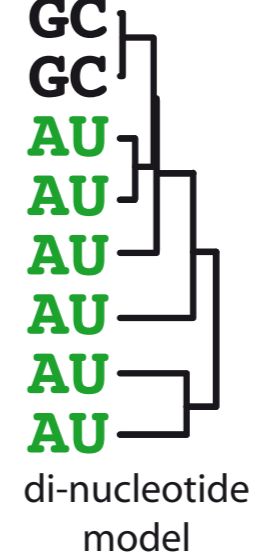
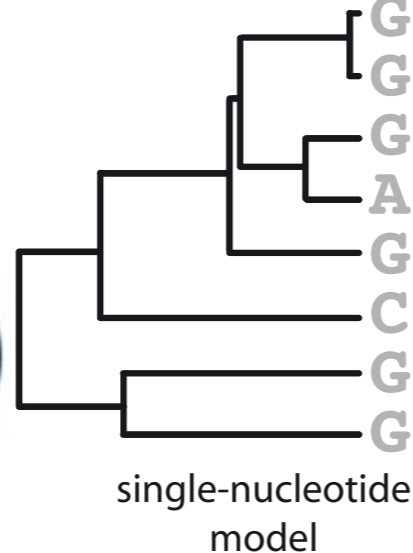
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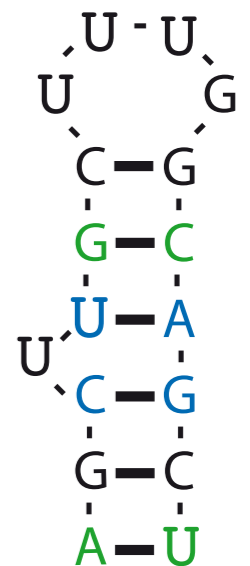
.(((.((((.....))))))....

e) Phylogenetic evaluation:

$$\text{score} = \log \left(\frac{P(x|\phi_{str})}{P(x|\phi_{null})} \right)$$



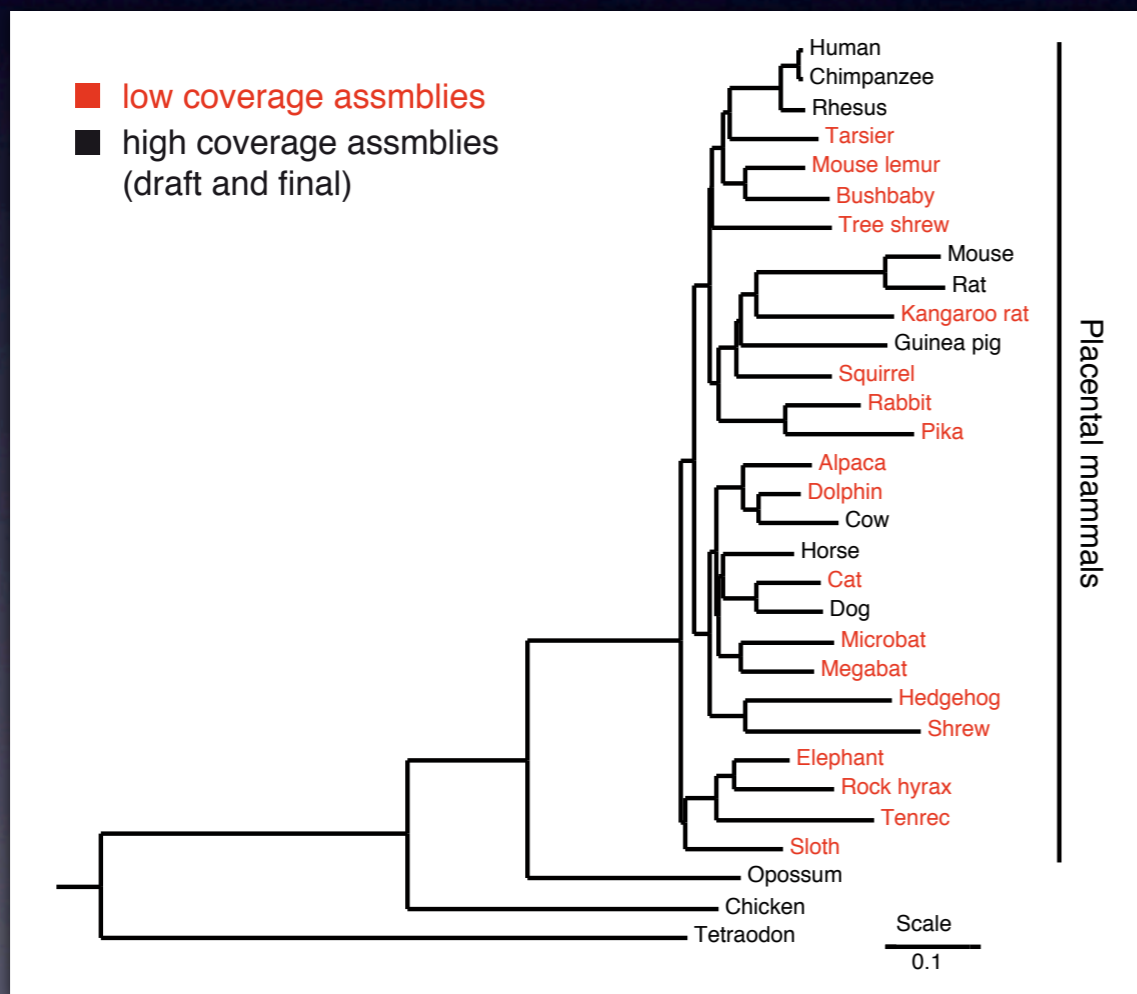
d) fold:



Screen of 31-way vertebrate alignments

Input: conserved alignment segments (5.6% of genome)

Phylogenetic tree of input species



Data from 29 mammals sequencing and analysis consortium: Kerstin Lindblad-Toh. A high-resolution map of human evolutionary constraint using 29 mammals. Nature (2011).

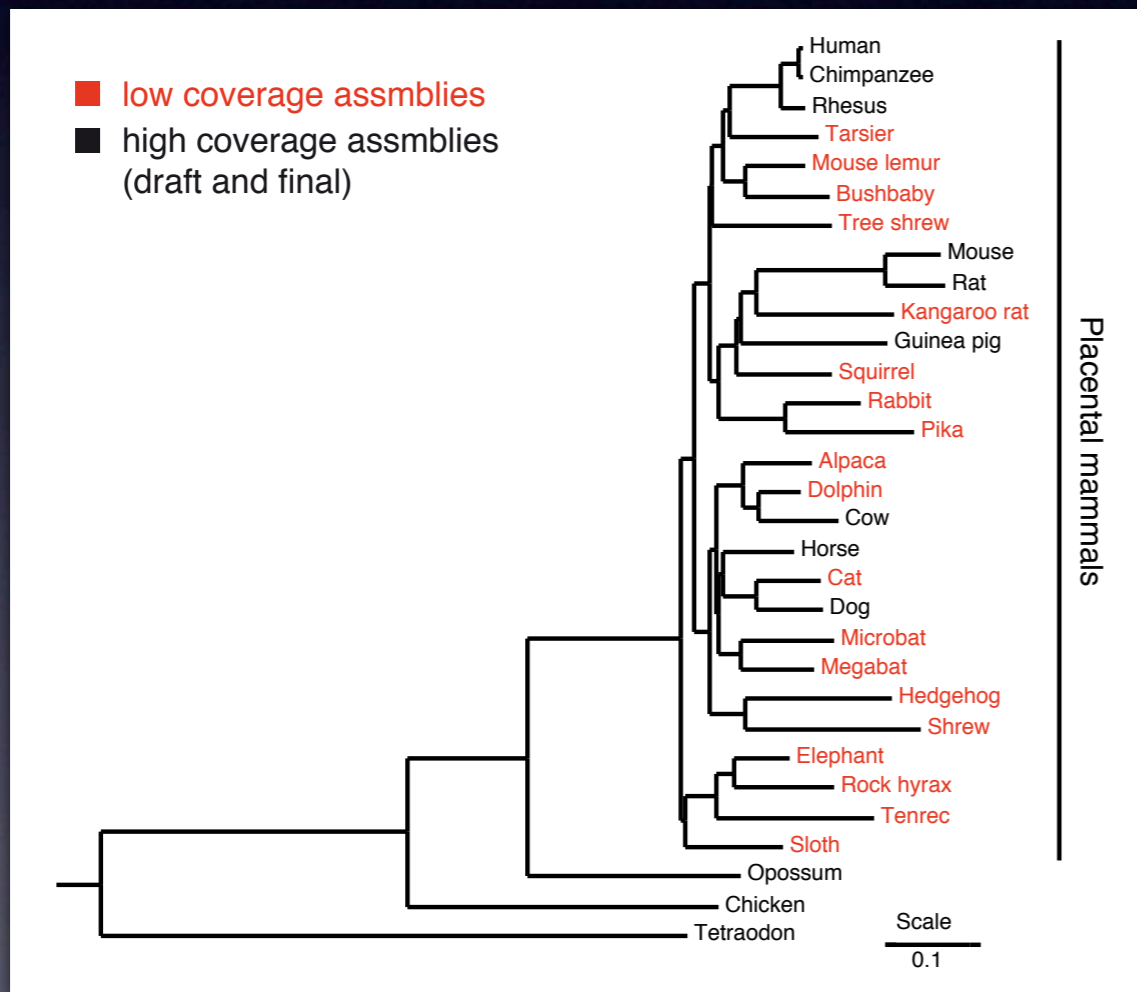
Brian J. Parker, et al. New families of human regulatory RNA structures identified by comparative analysis of vertebrate genomes. Genome Research (2011).

Screen of 31-way vertebrate alignments

Input: conserved alignment segments (5.6% of genome)

Output: 37,381 predictions (0.05% of genome)

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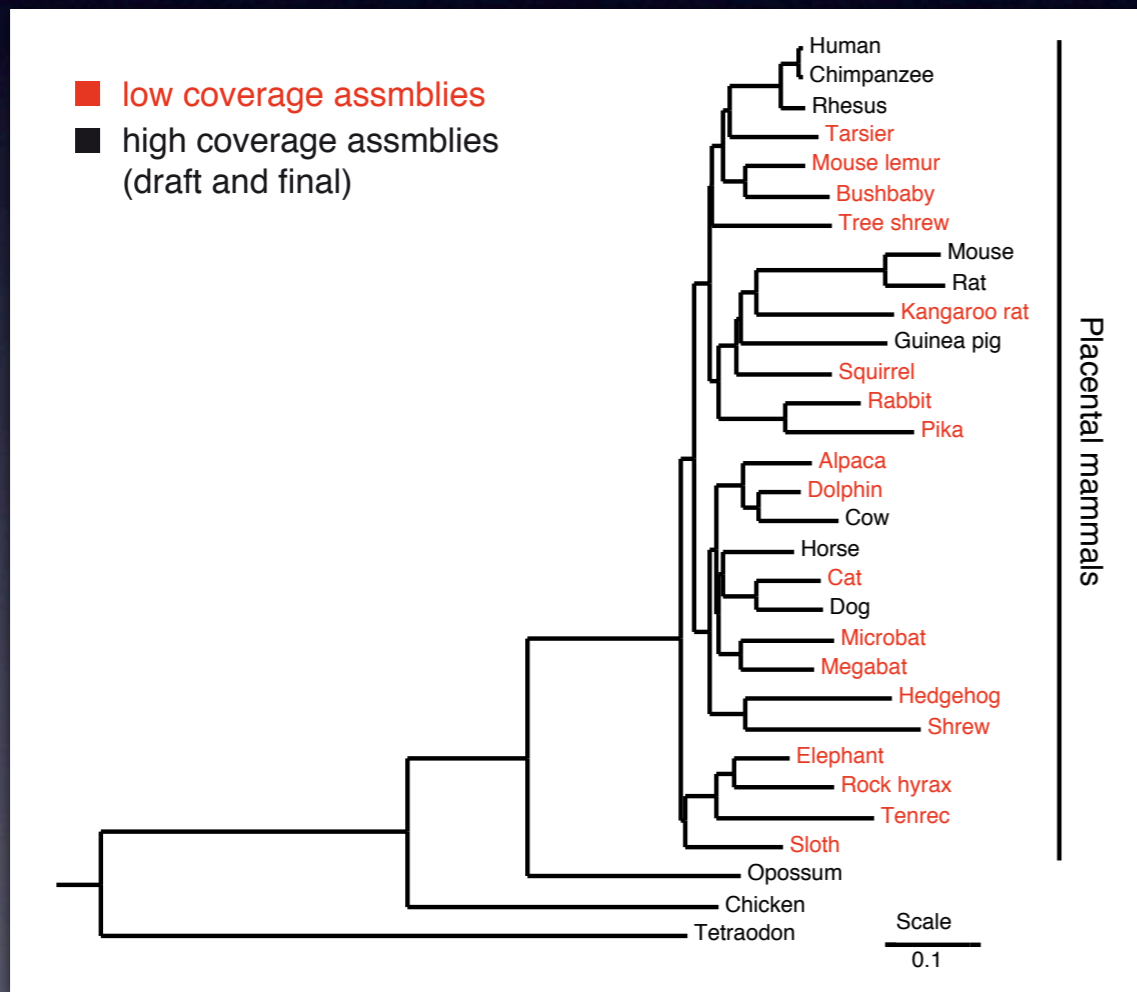


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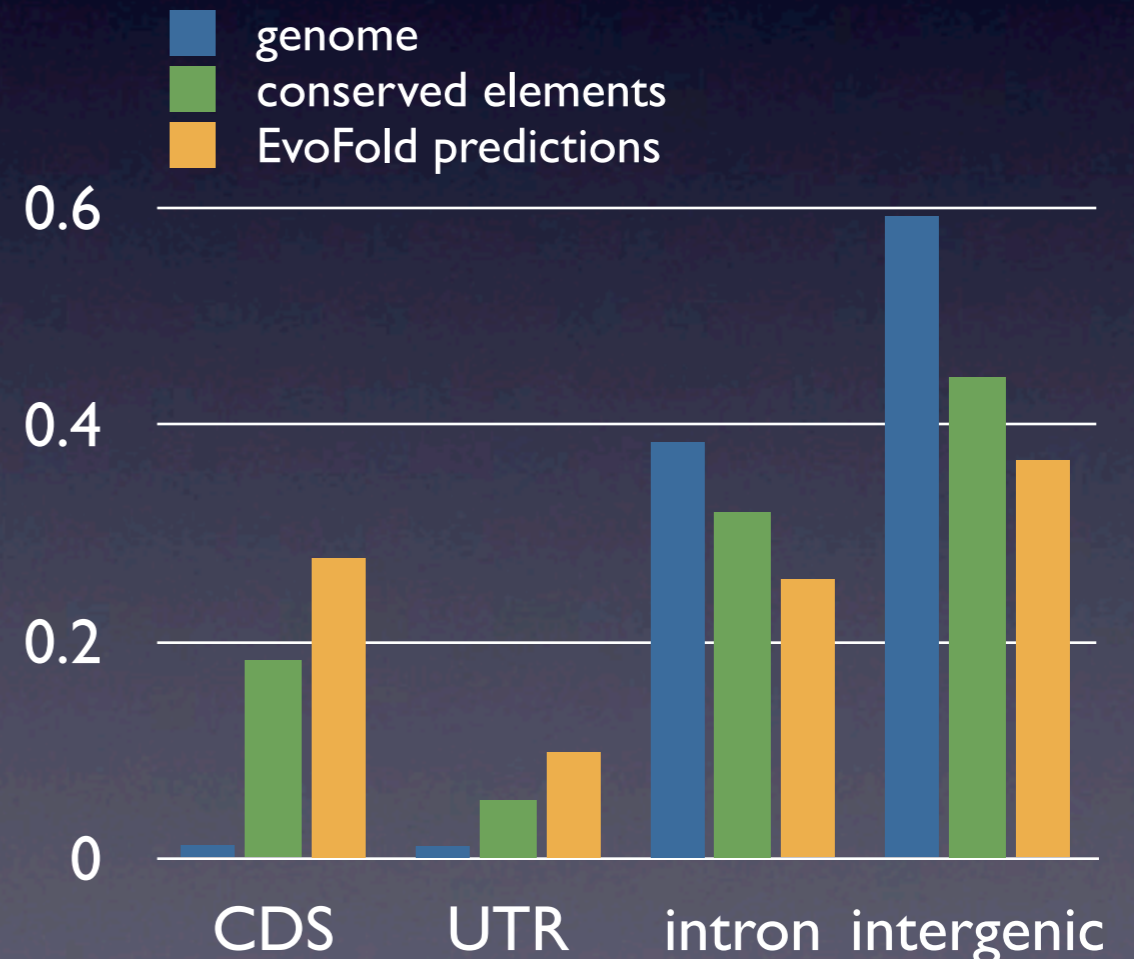
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Genomic distribution



Significance evaluation using additional vertebrate genomes

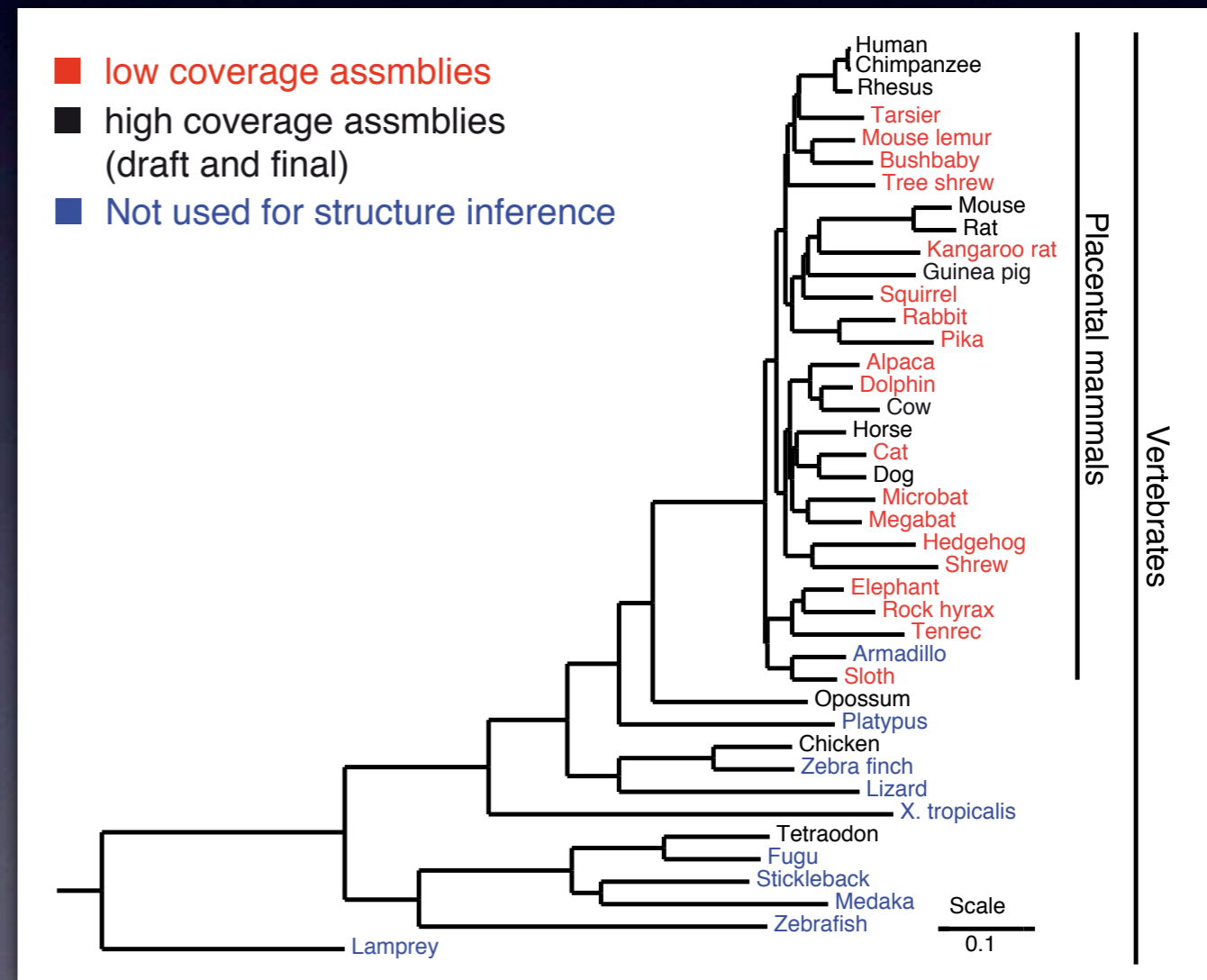
EvoP method

Question: how surprising is the observed number of double substitutions?

- Monte Carlo approach:

- Simulate iid substitutions across columns on phylogeny.
- Count double substitutions given structure.
- Estimate P-value as fraction simulations with at least as many double substitutions.

Ten vertebrates genomes not used for structure inference



Significance evaluation using additional vertebrate genomes

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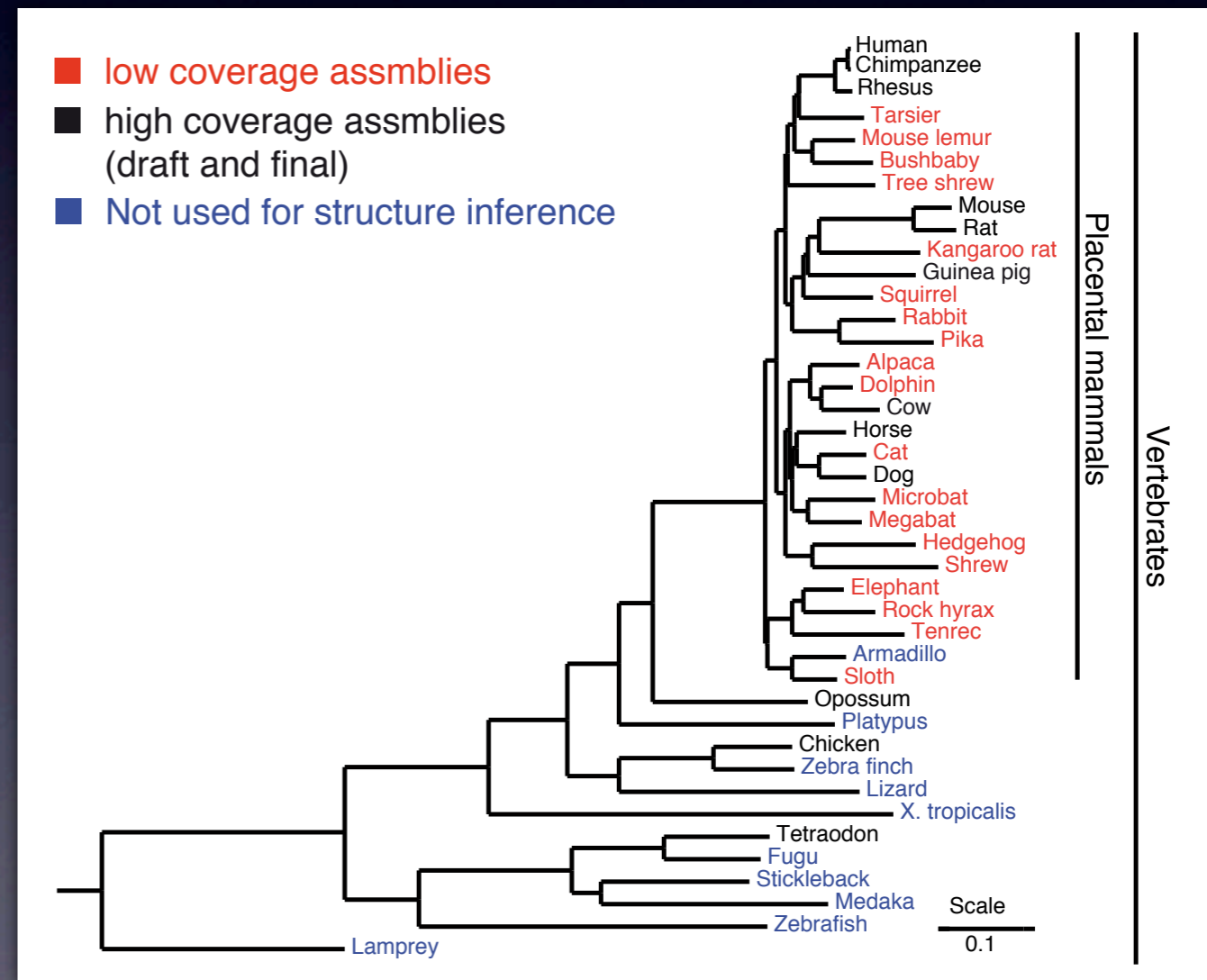
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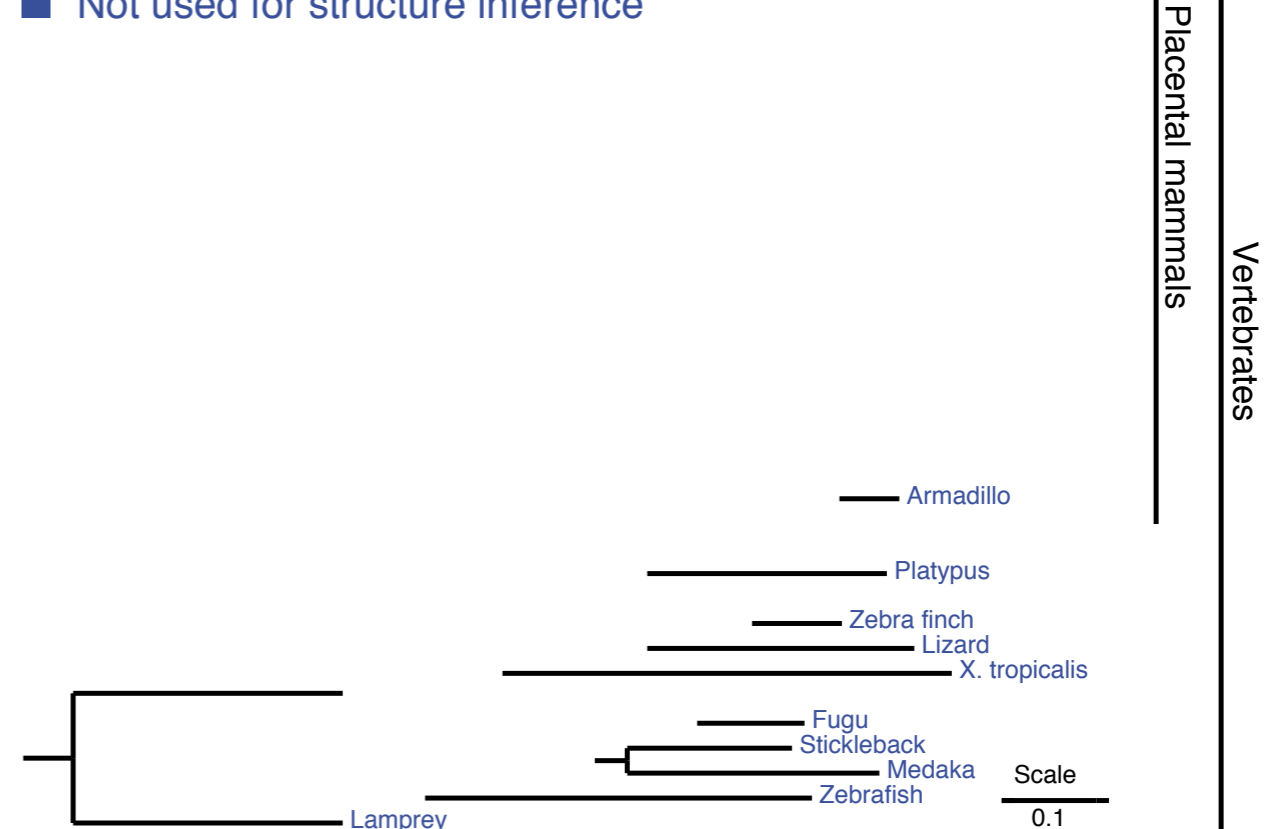
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- high coverage assemblies (draft and final)
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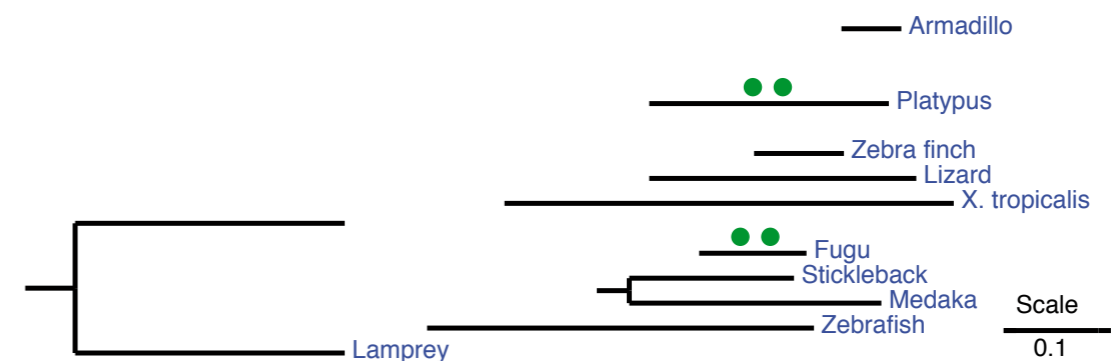
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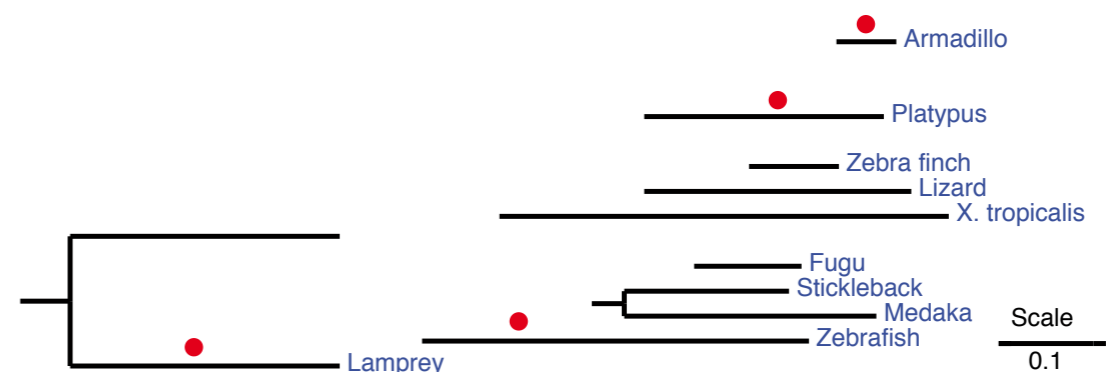
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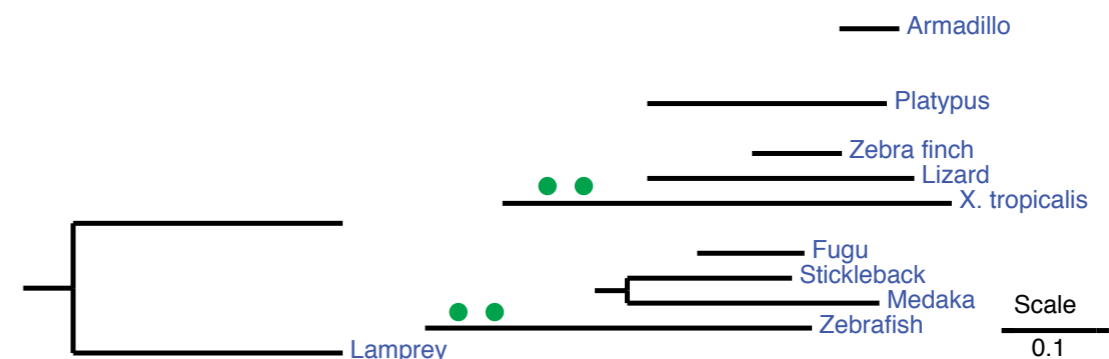
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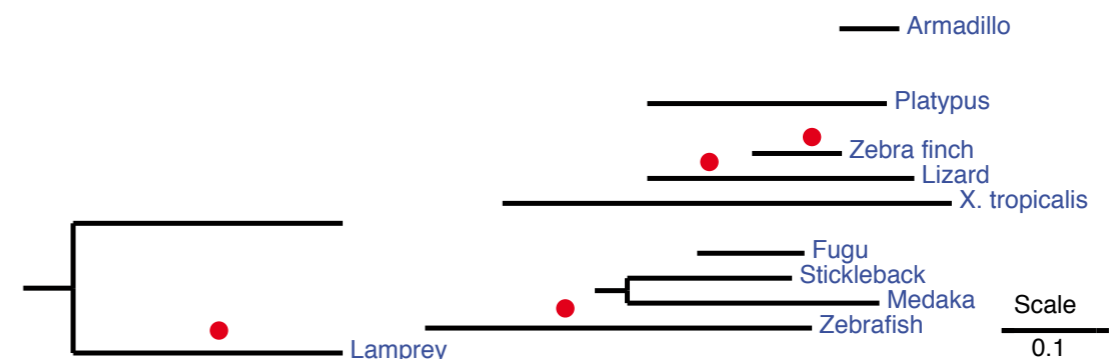
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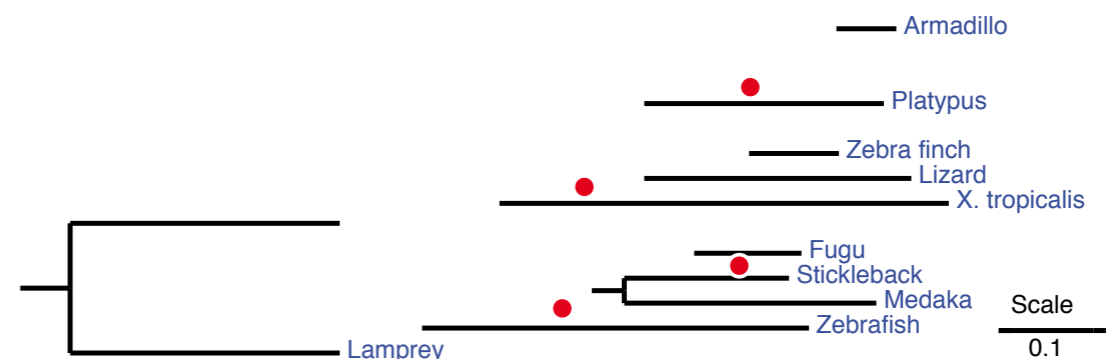
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Placental mammals
Vertebrates

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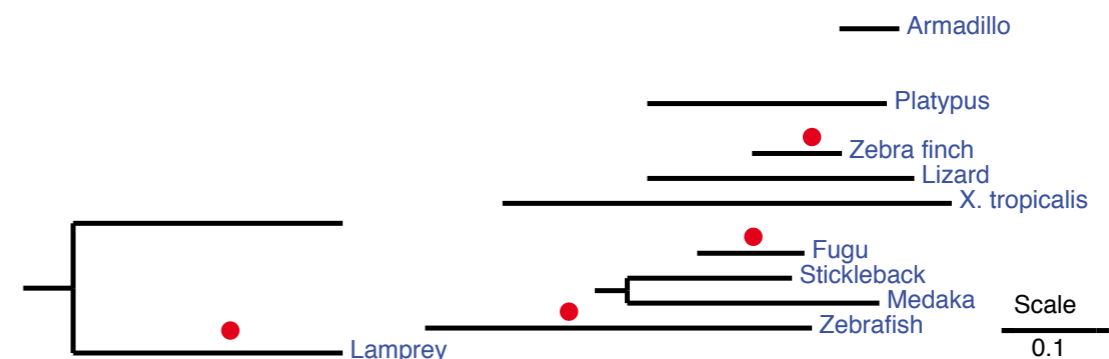
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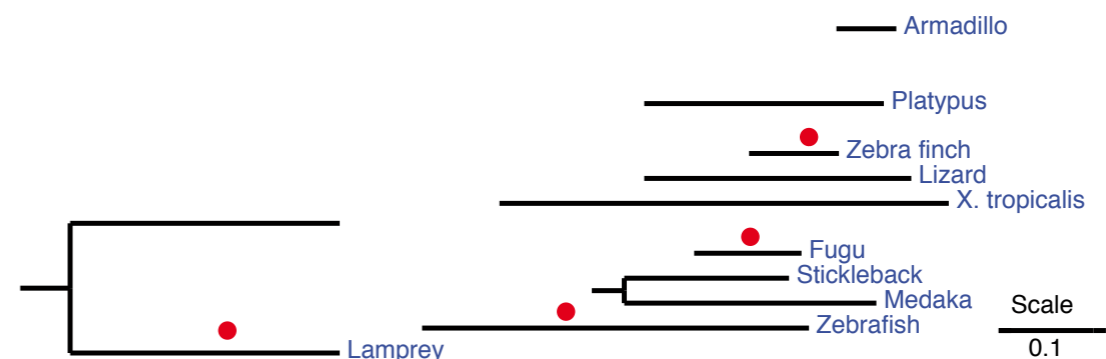
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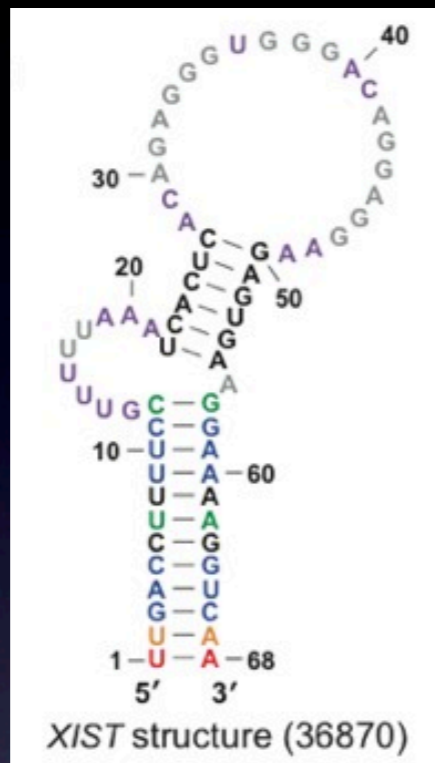
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P-value = 1/5 = 20%

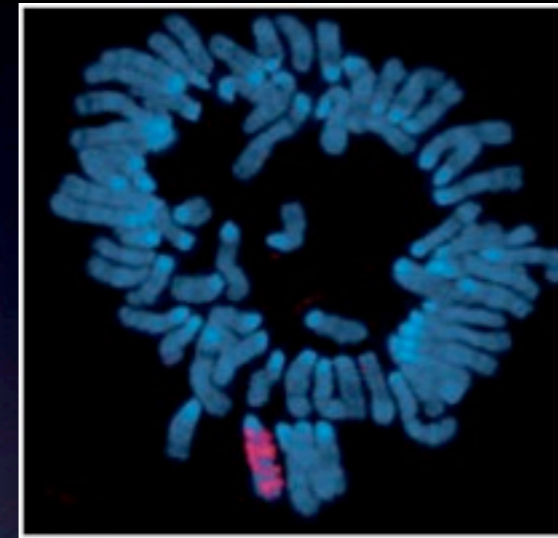


Placental mammals
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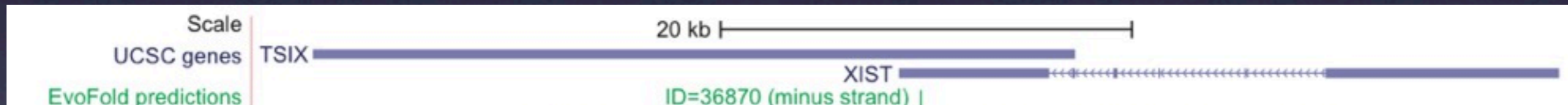
New structure in XIST



XIST Chromatin regulation



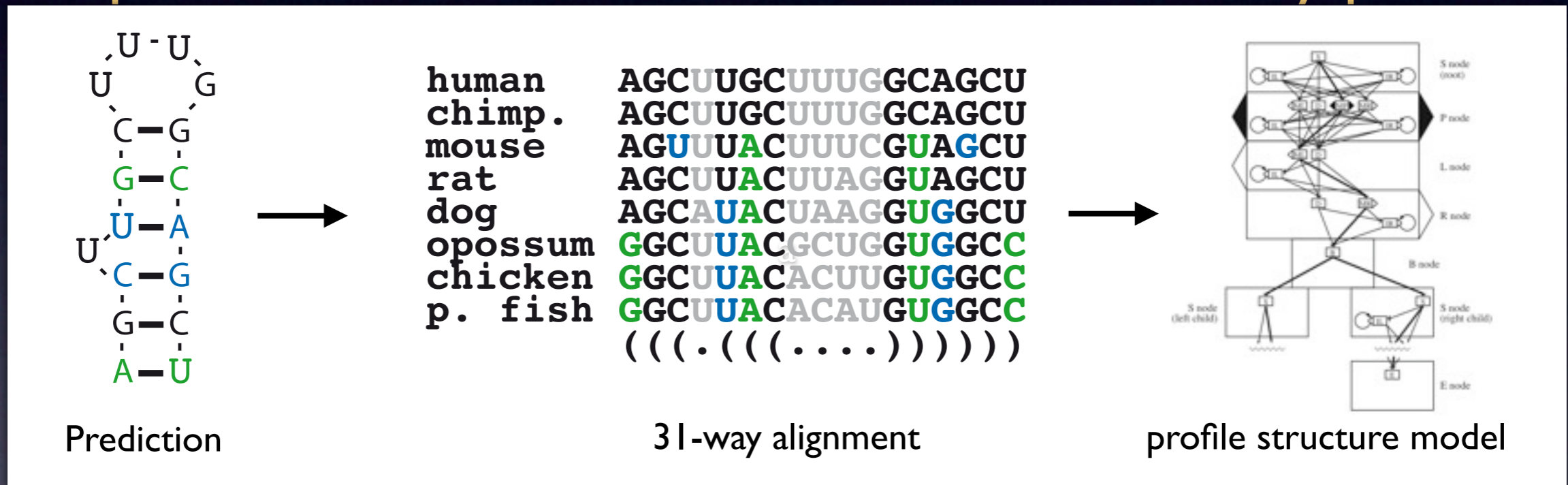
Ng et al. EMBO reports 8, 1, 34–39 (2007).



Family classification

Similarity measure

Build profile -SCFGs / co-variance models for every prediction



Models made with Infernal tools from Sean Eddy's group.

(Dis)similarity measure

Initially, we wanted to use **Kullback-Liebler divergence (KL)**:

$$D_{KL}(M_1 \parallel M_2) = \sum_i P_{M_1}(i) \log \frac{P_{M_1}(i)}{P_{M_2}(i)}$$

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We **couldn't compute** and resorted to **sampling**:

$$\tilde{D}_{KL}(M_1 \parallel M_2) = 1/n \sum_{i=1}^n 1/l(s_{1,i}) \cdot (\log(P_{M_1}(s_{1,i})) - \log(P_{M_2}(s_{1,i})))$$

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Still slow. Approximated by **one sample only** - human sequence from training alignment.
Also replaced probabilities with (Infernal) normalized scores:

$$\tilde{D}_{KL, human}(M_1 \parallel M_2) = 1/l(s_{1, human}) \cdot (S(s_{1, human}, M_1) - S(s_{1, human}, M_2))$$

$$S(s, M) = \log_2 \frac{P_M(s)}{P_{null}(s)}$$

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Problem: **Models of different complexities have different false positive rates.**
Hence replace score with **E-score**.

$$\tilde{D}(M_1 \parallel M_2) = E(S(seq_1^{human}, M_2)) - E(S(seq_1^{human}, M_1))$$

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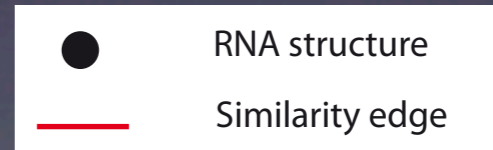
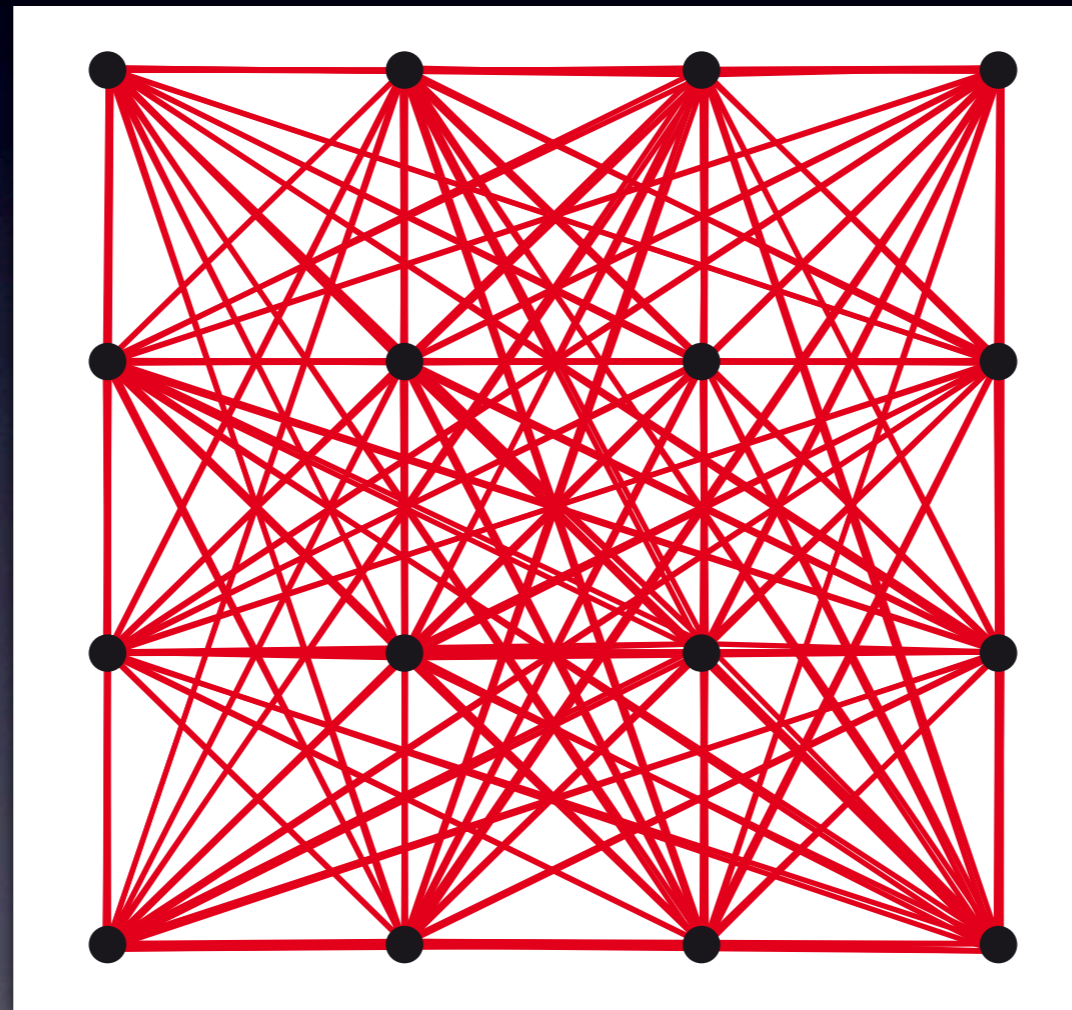
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Finally, be conservative and **symmetrize** by max:

$$D(M_1 \parallel M_2) = \max(\tilde{D}_{E, human}(M_1 \parallel M_2), \tilde{D}_{E, human}(M_2 \parallel M_1))$$

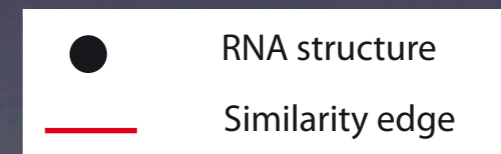
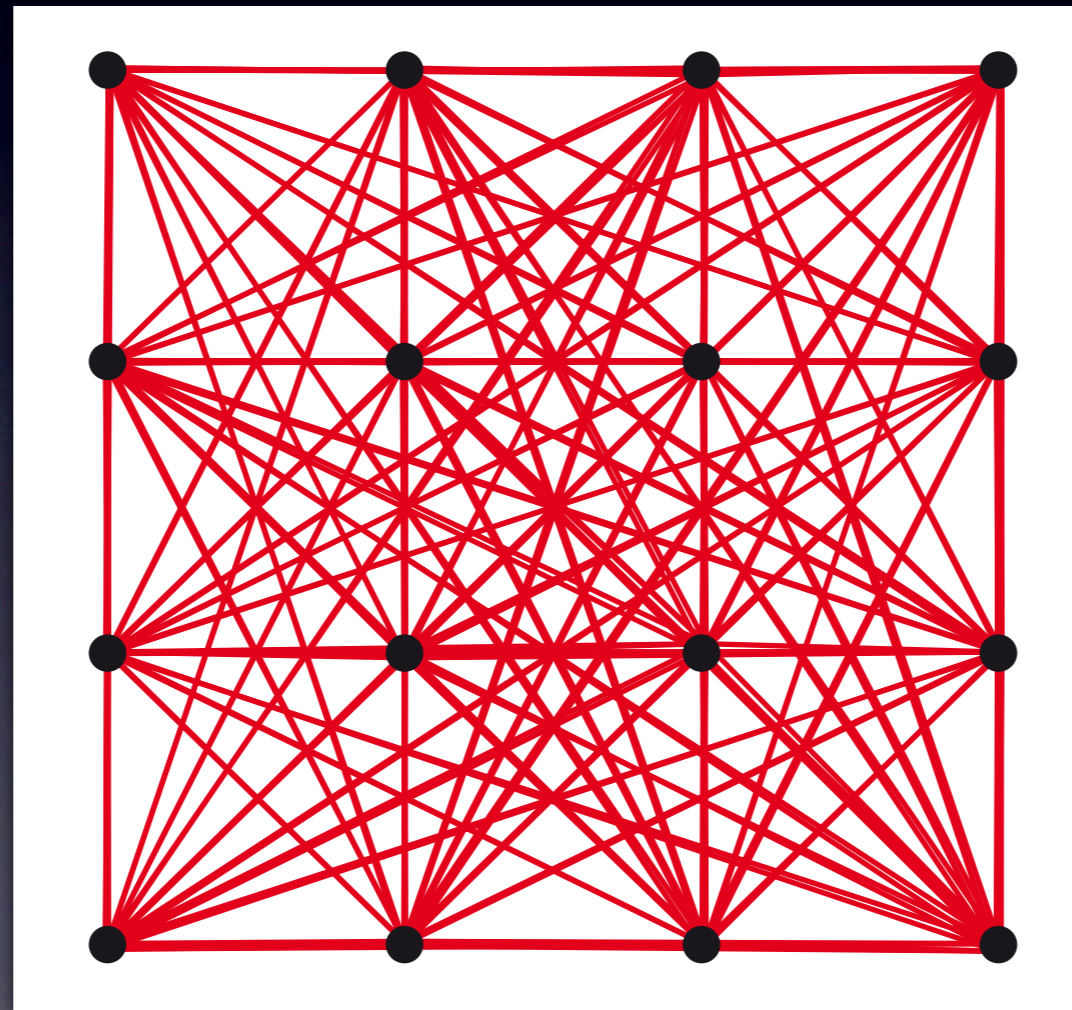
Graph-based clustering into families

All pairwise comparisons



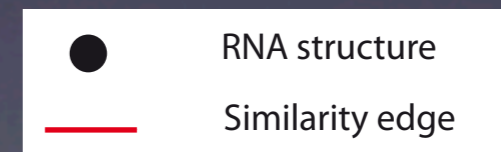
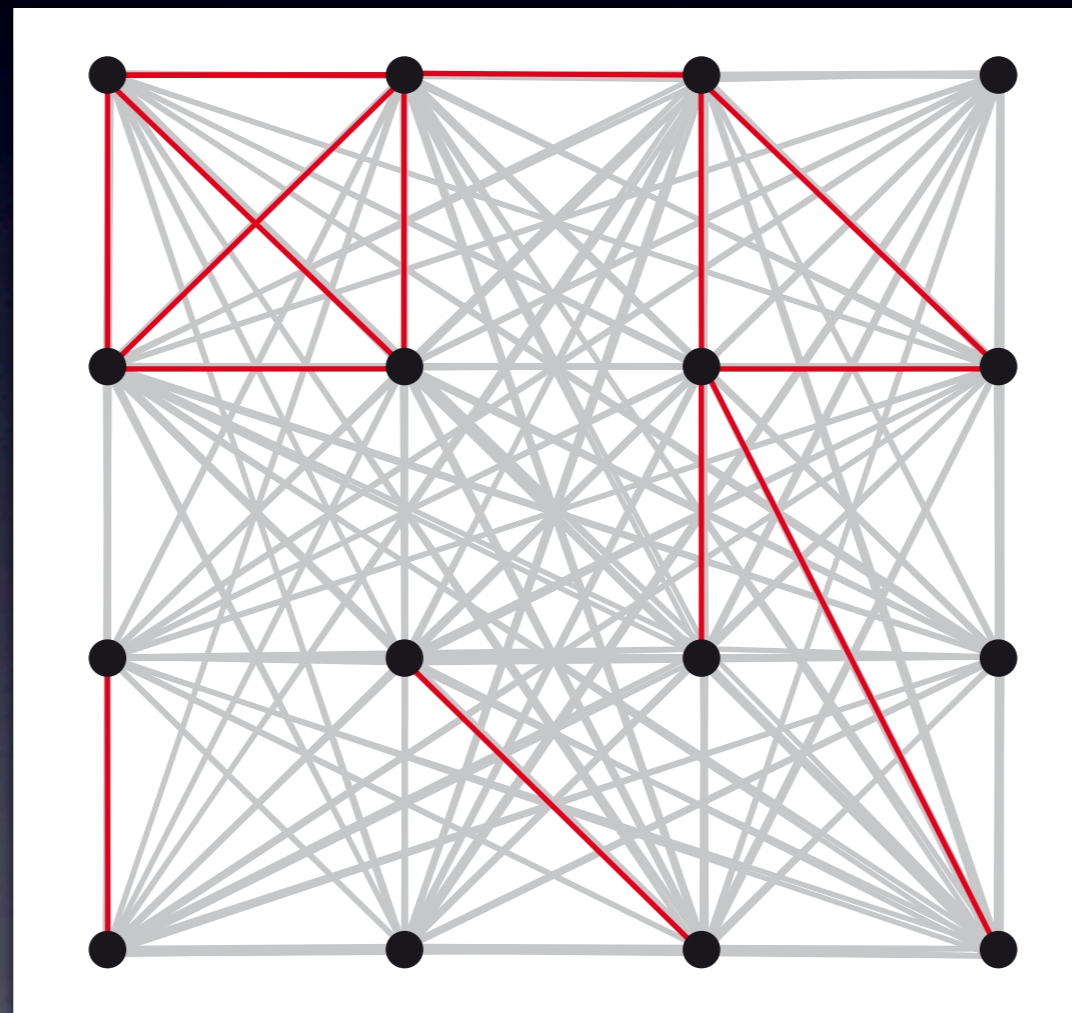
Graph-based clustering into families

Threshold on similarity significance



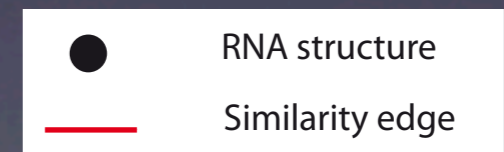
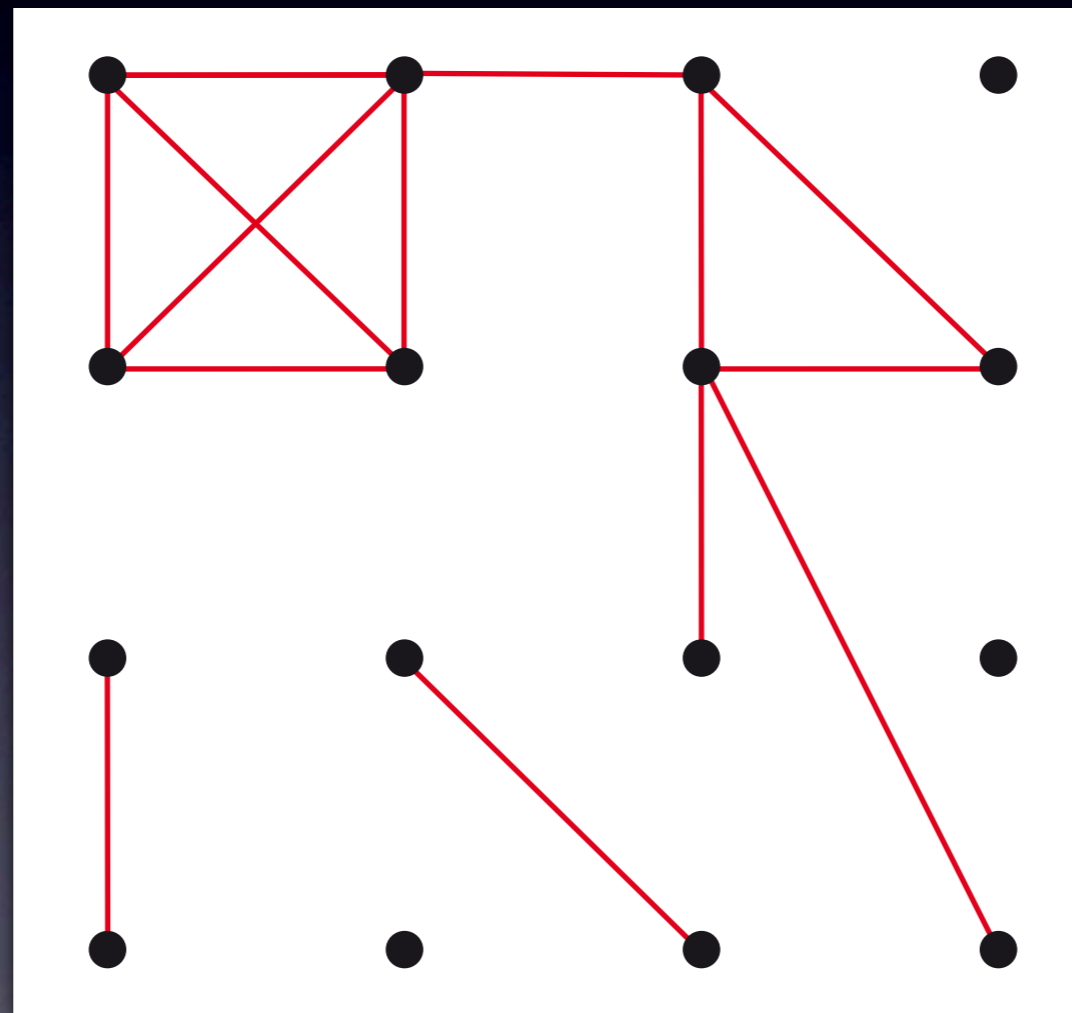
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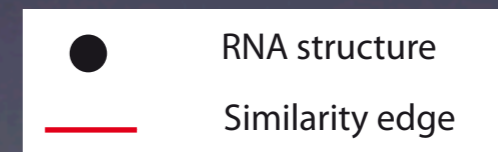
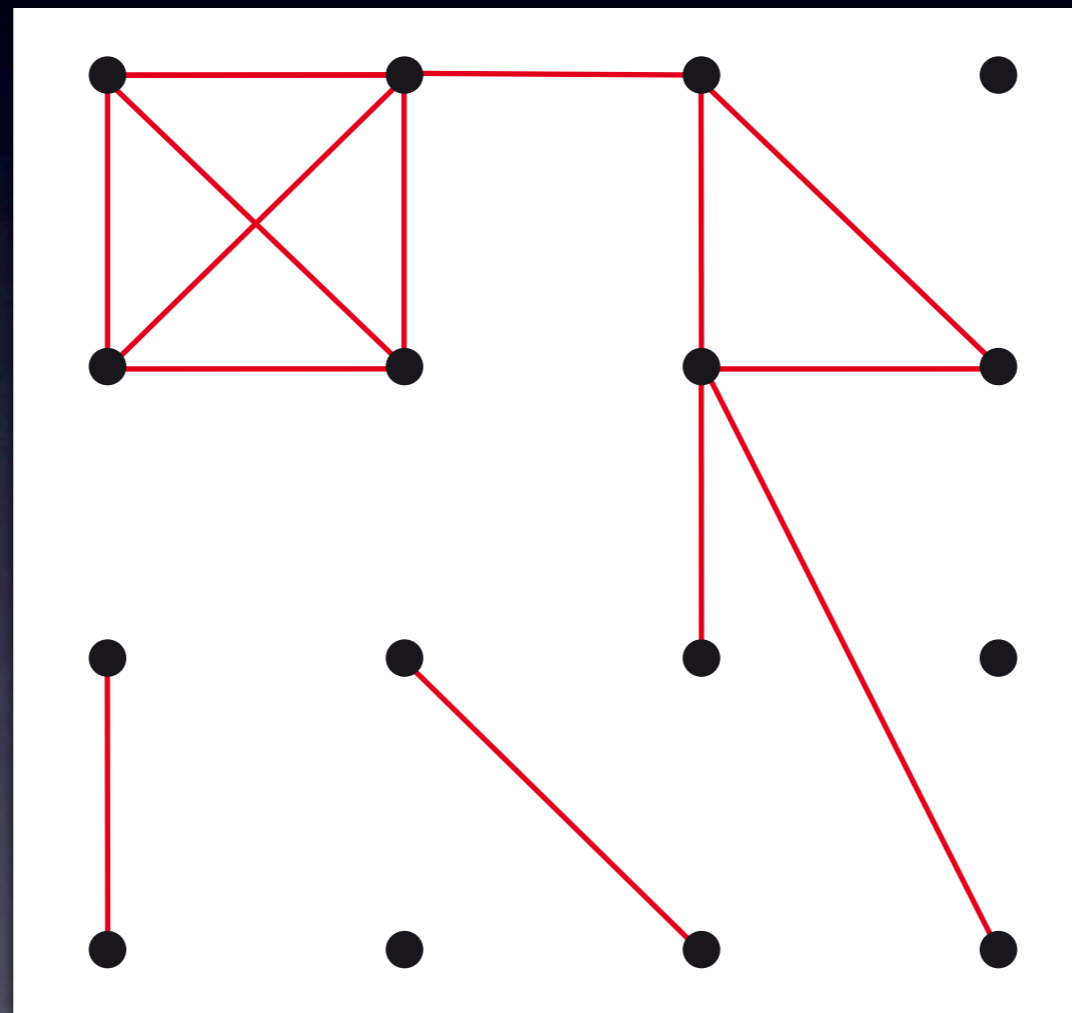
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Threshold on similarity significance



Graph-based clustering into families

Identify highly connected subgraph (HCS)

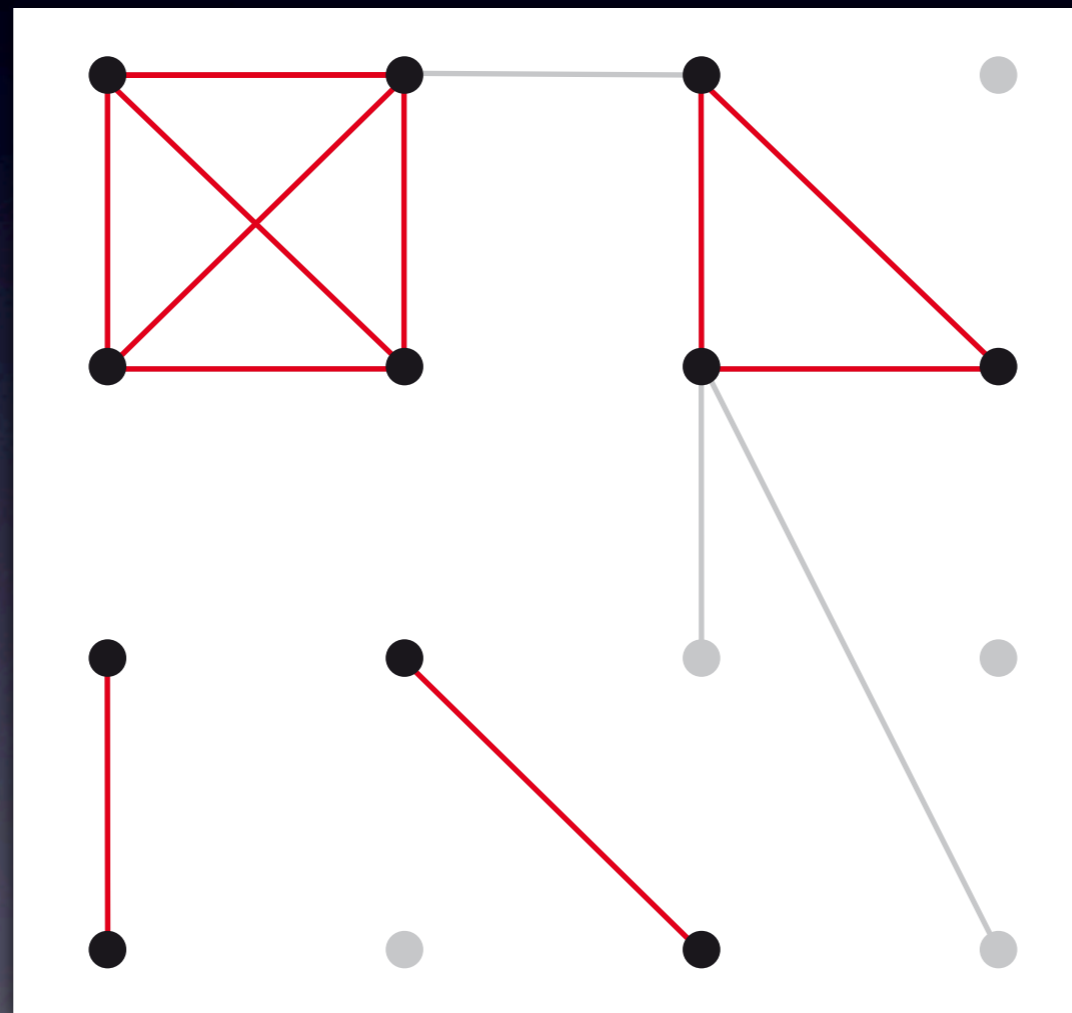


Highly connected subgraph:

- edge connectivity $<$ half number of vertices
- subgraph size two

Graph-based clustering into families

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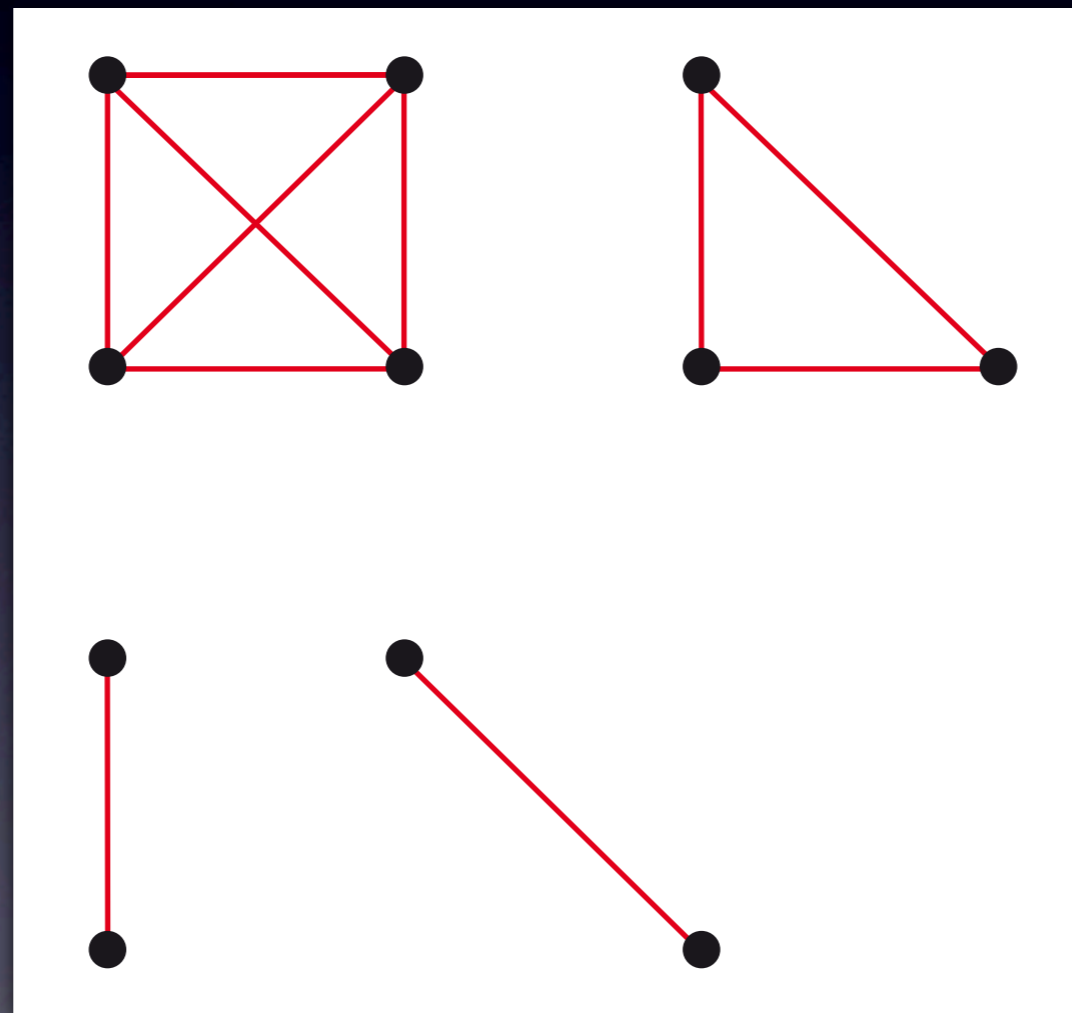


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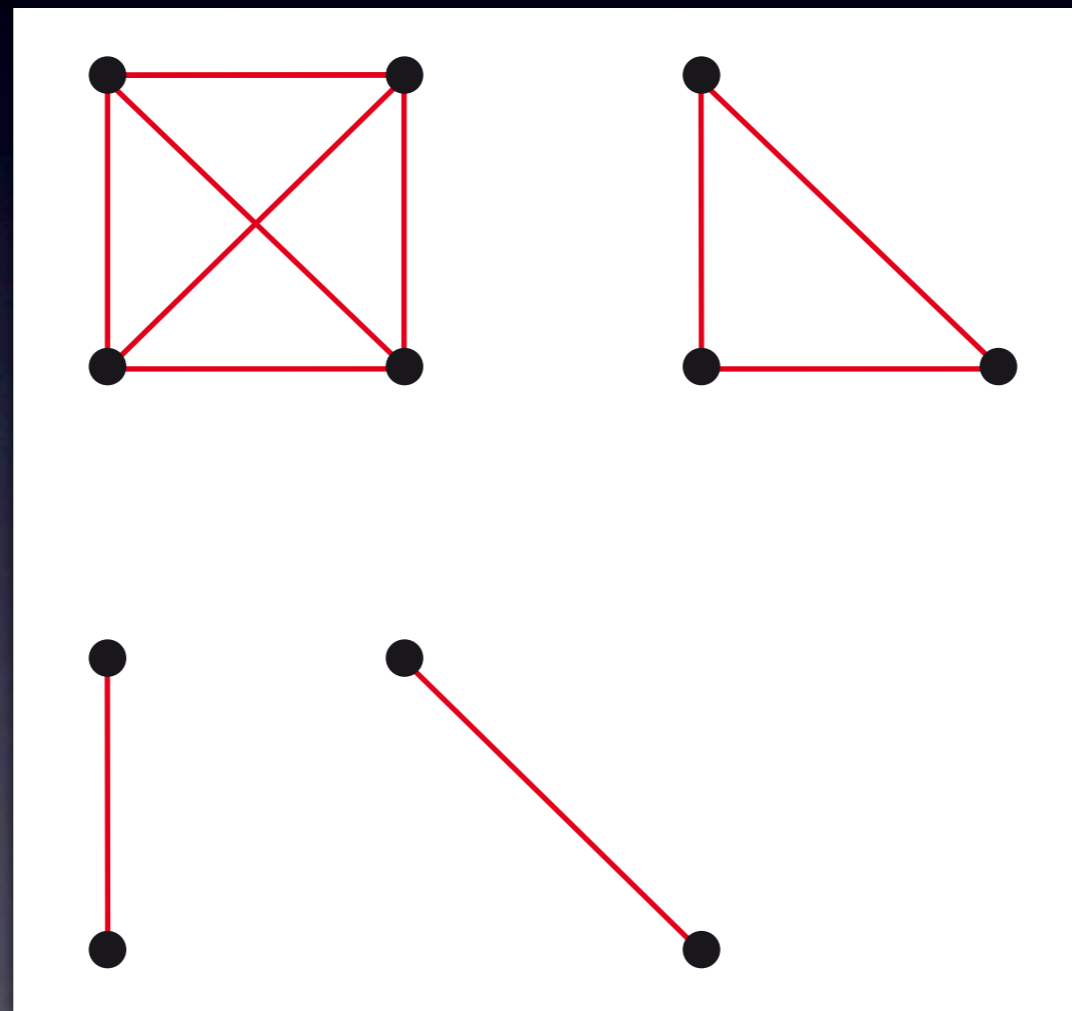
Graph-based clustering into families

Identify highly connected subsets (HCS)



Graph-based clustering into families

Final family candidates



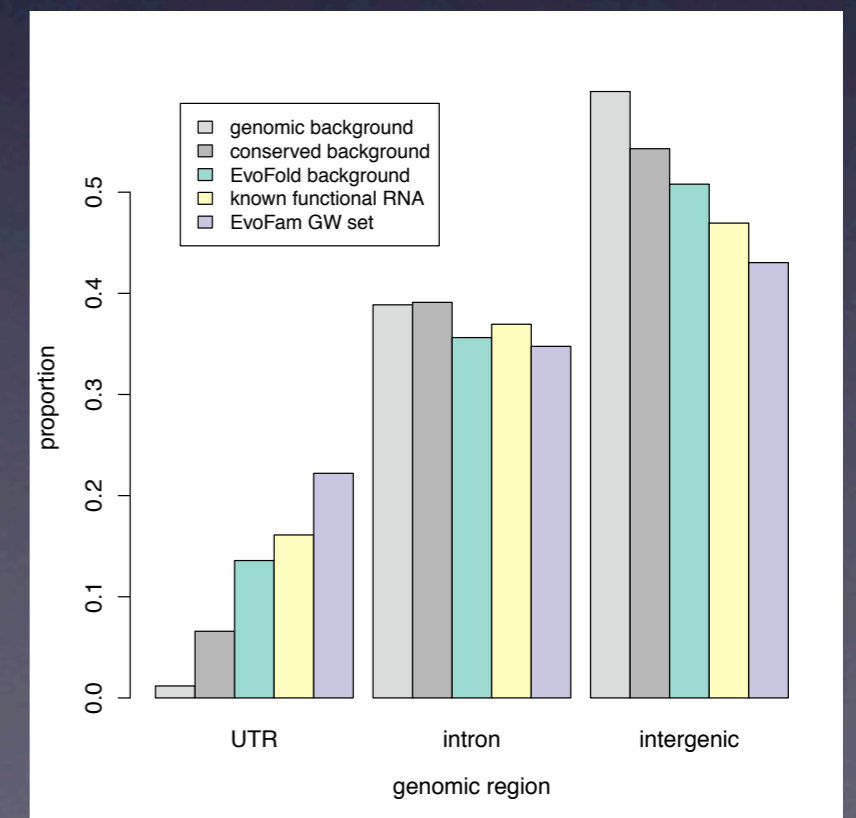
Family prediction overview

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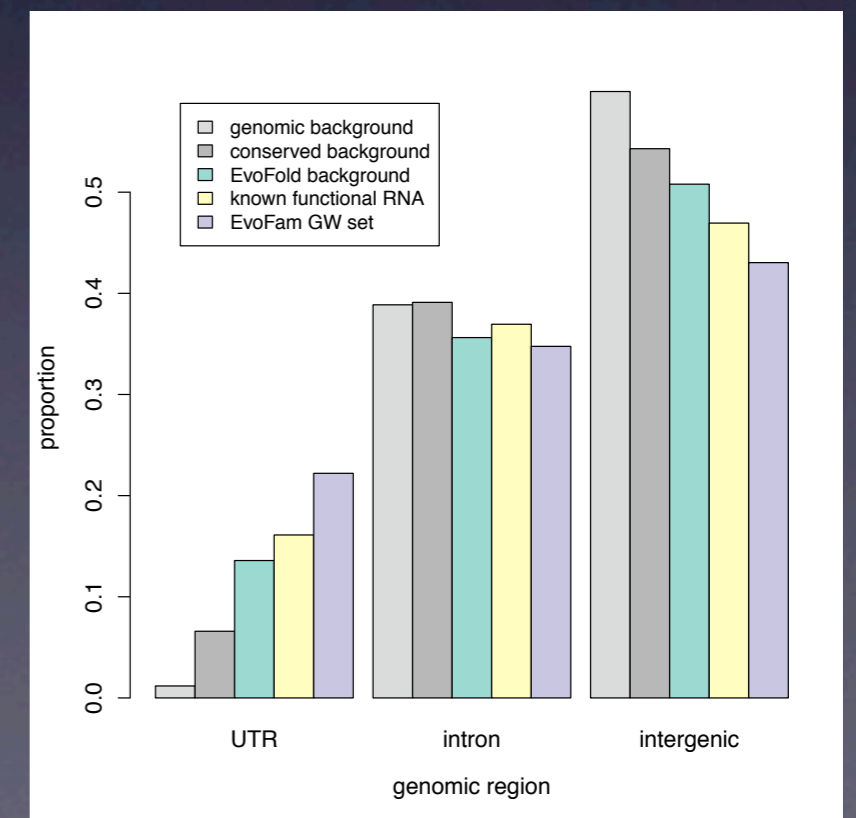
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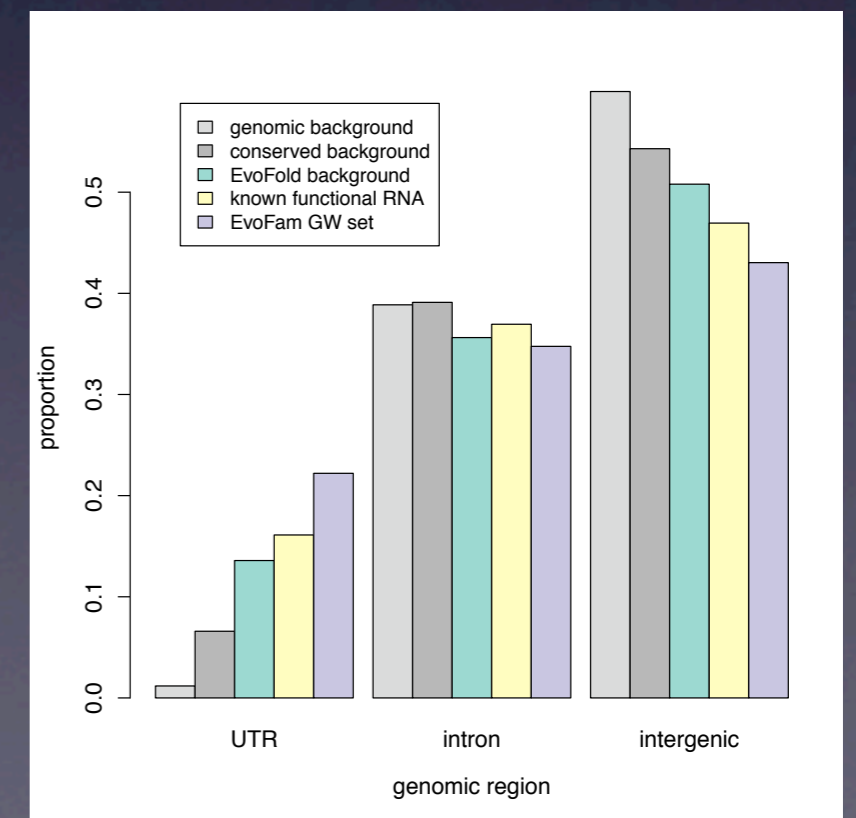
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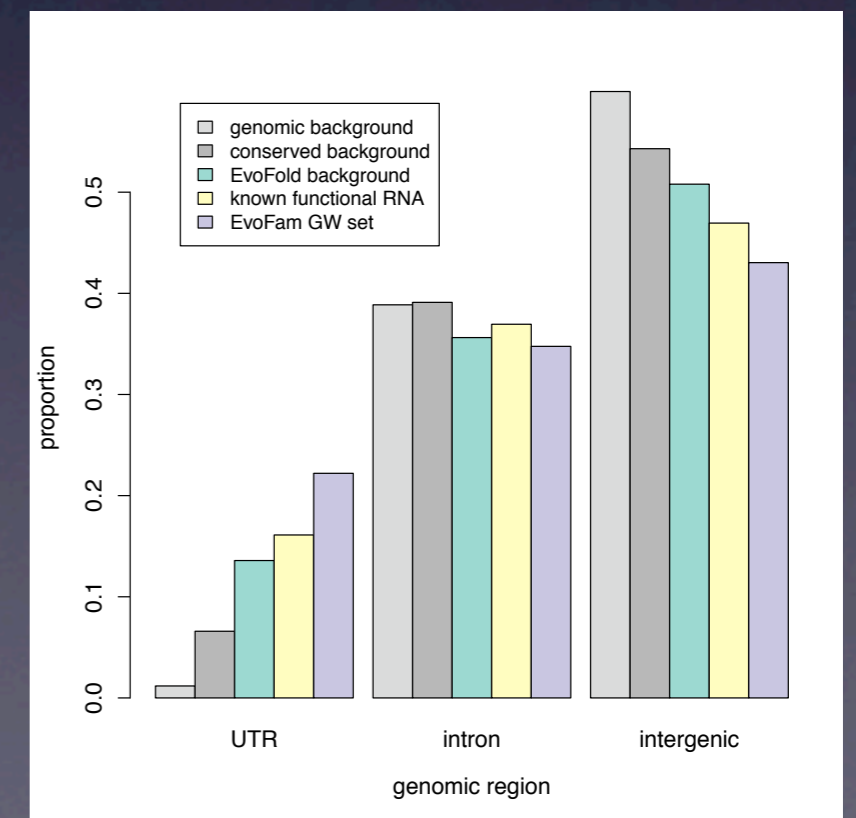
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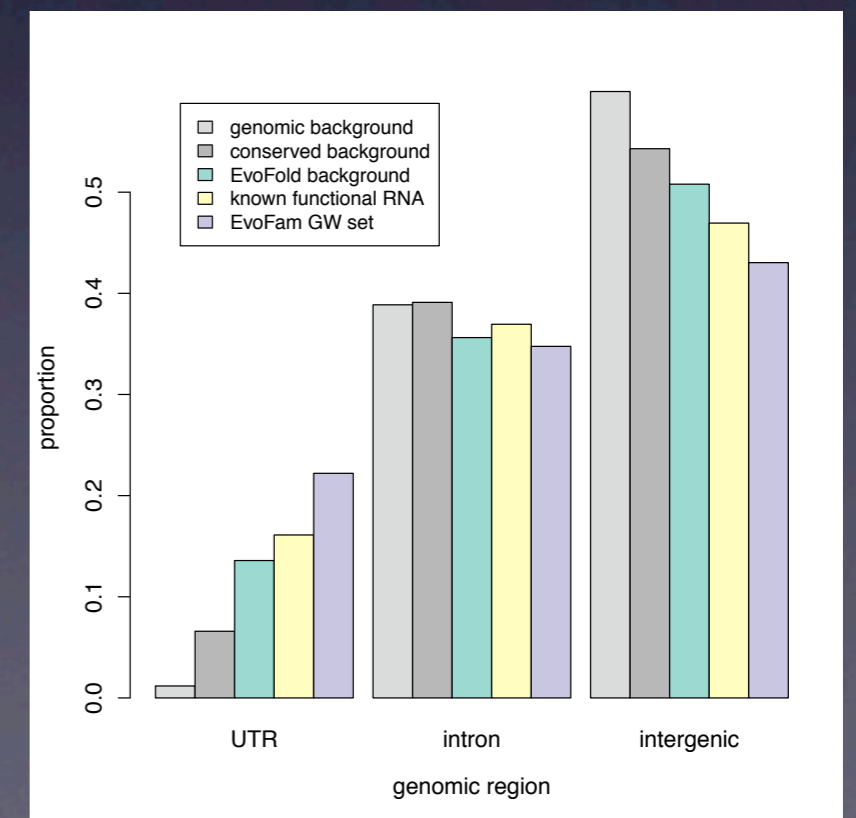
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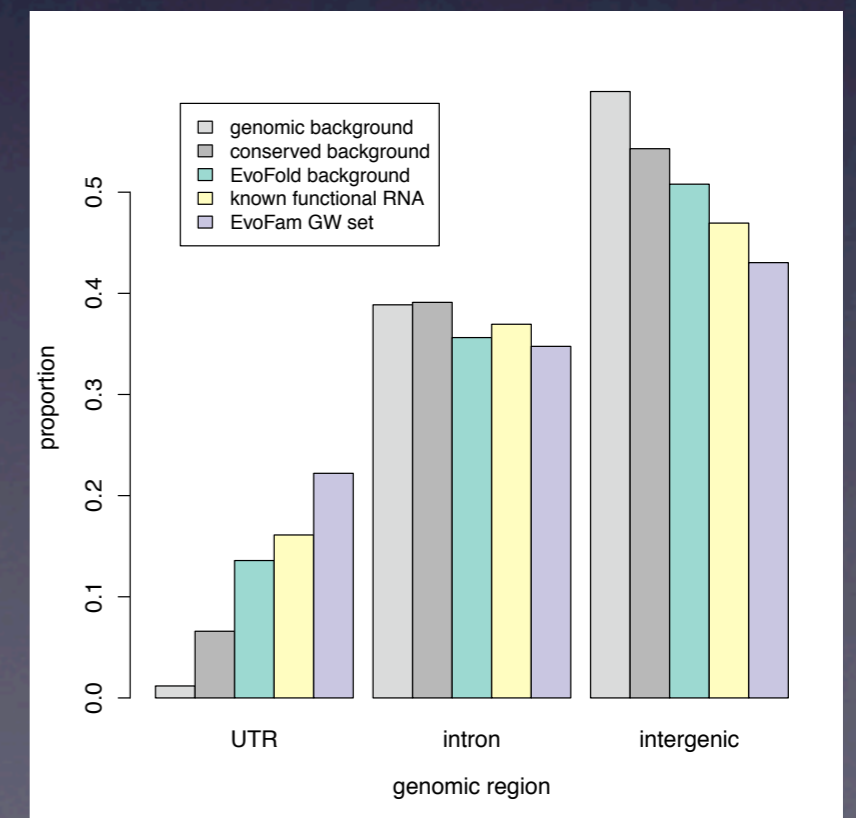
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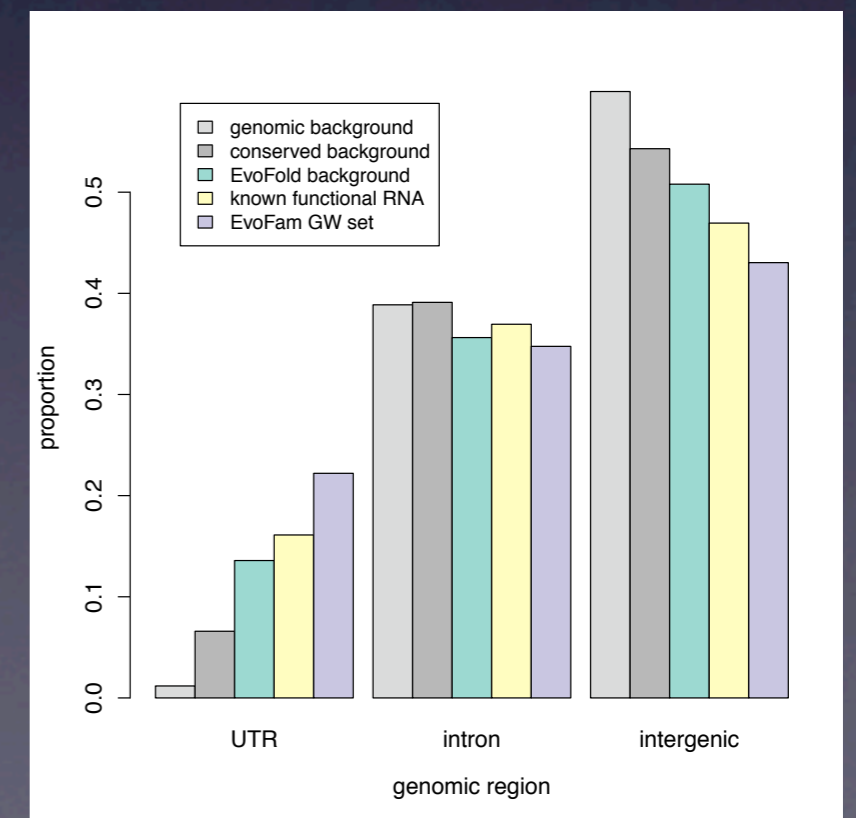
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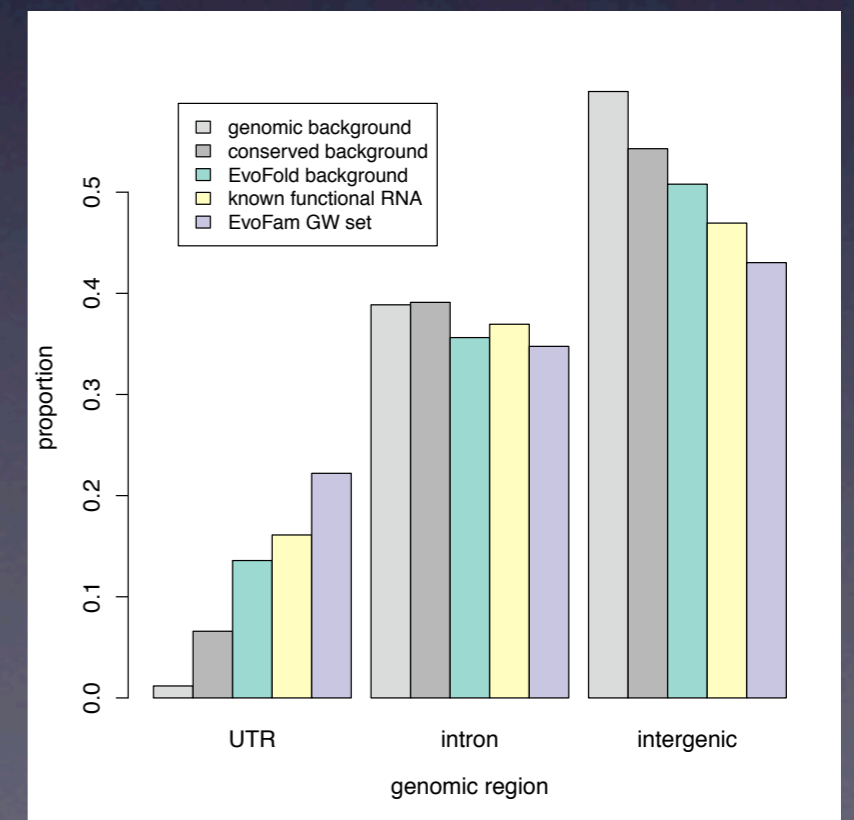
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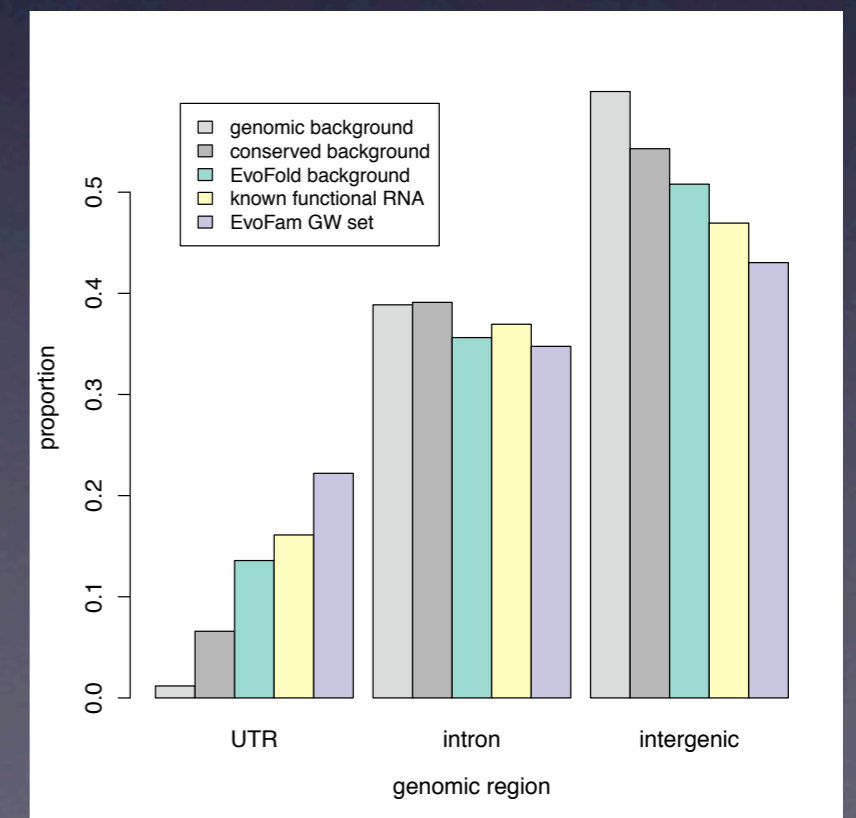
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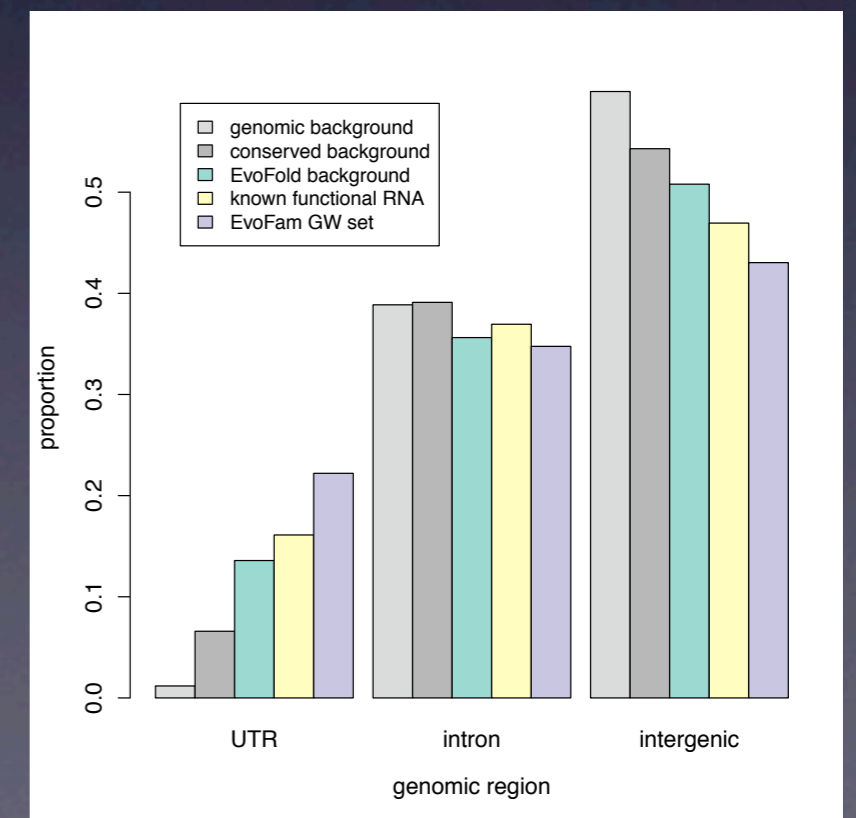
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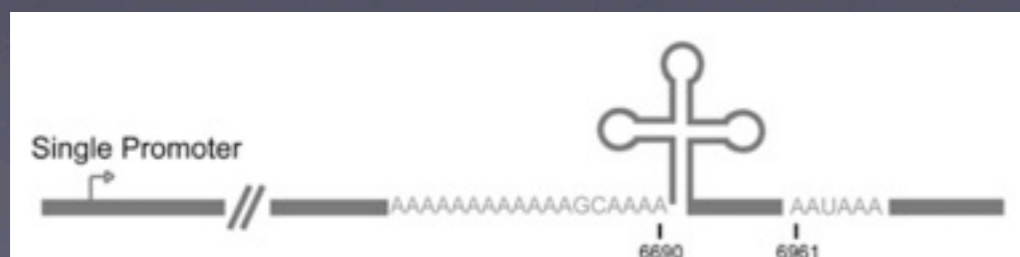
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mascRNA family in MALAT 1 and Men β

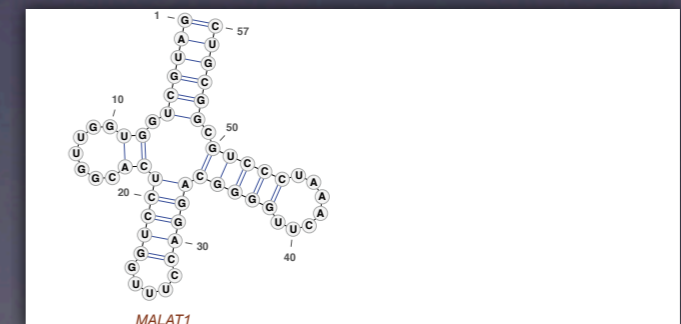
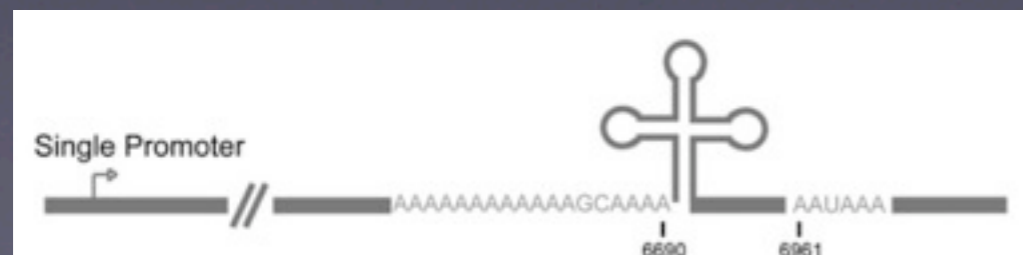


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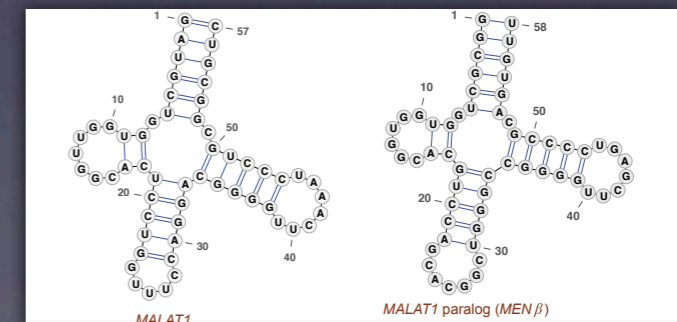
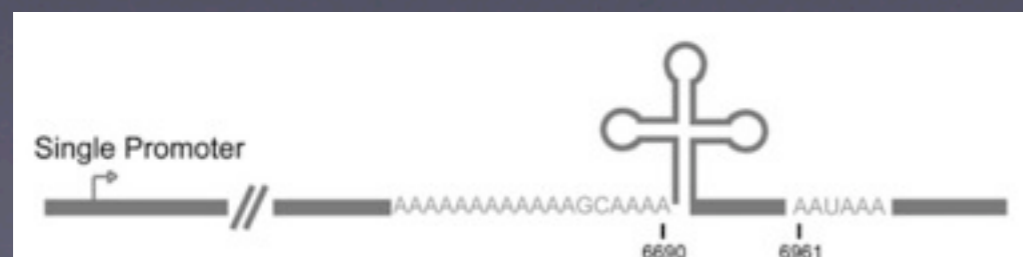


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mascRNA family in MALAT I and Men β



MALAT1
MALAT1 paralog (Men β)
fold

GAUGCUGGUGGUUGGCACUCCUGGUUU--CCAGGACGGGGUUCAAAUCCUGCGGCGUC
GGCGCUGGUGGU-GGCACGUCAGCACGGCUGGCGCGGGGUUCGAGUCCCGAGUGUU
(((((((.....)))))((((.....))))((((.....))))(((((.....))))))

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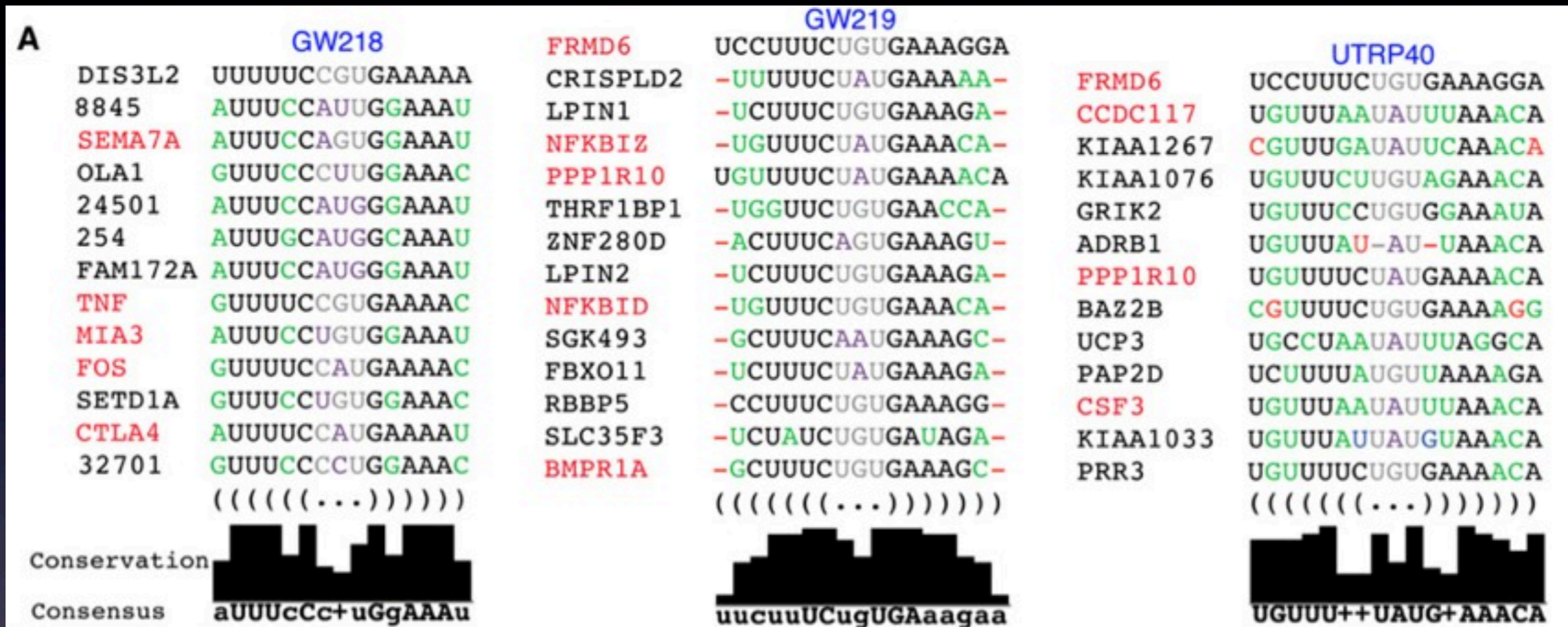
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Estimated false positive rate:

- 27 % for similarity edges
- 34 % for families of size three or larger

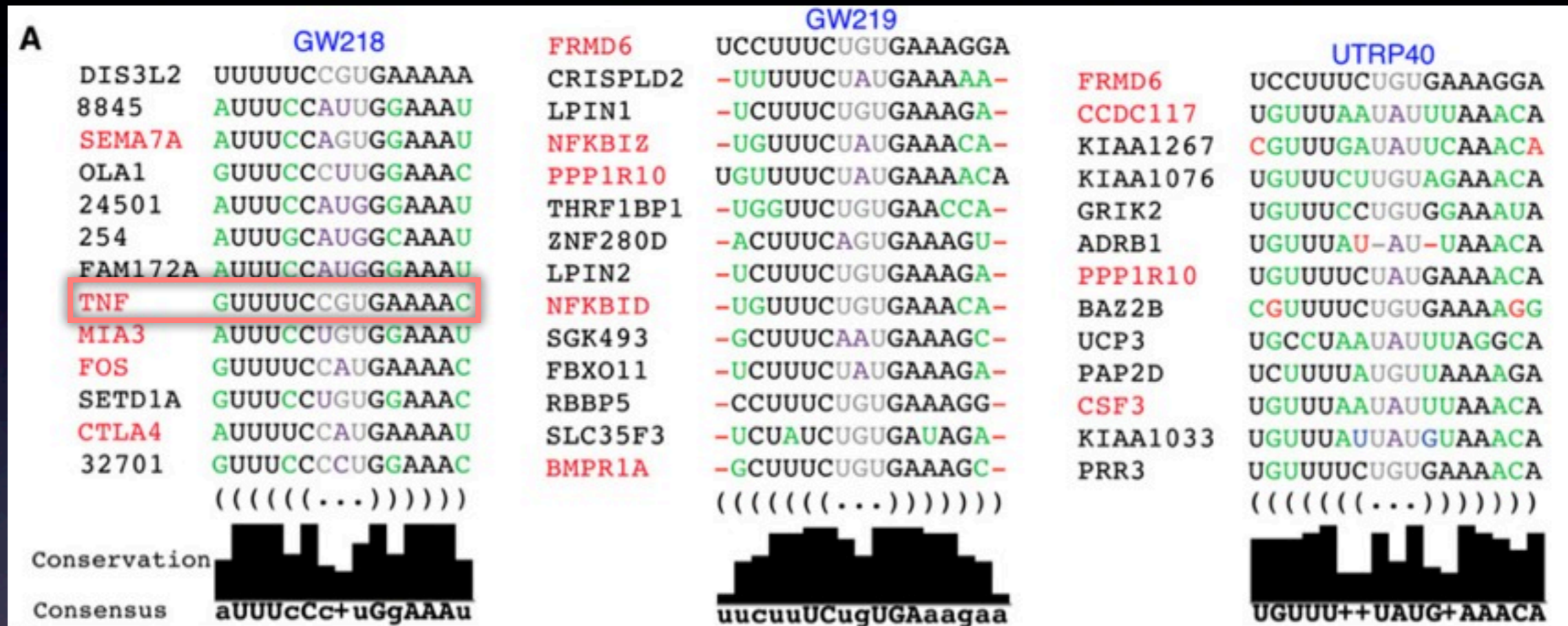
Immune related regulatory networks?

Families of short hairpins enriched in 3'UTRs of immunity related genes



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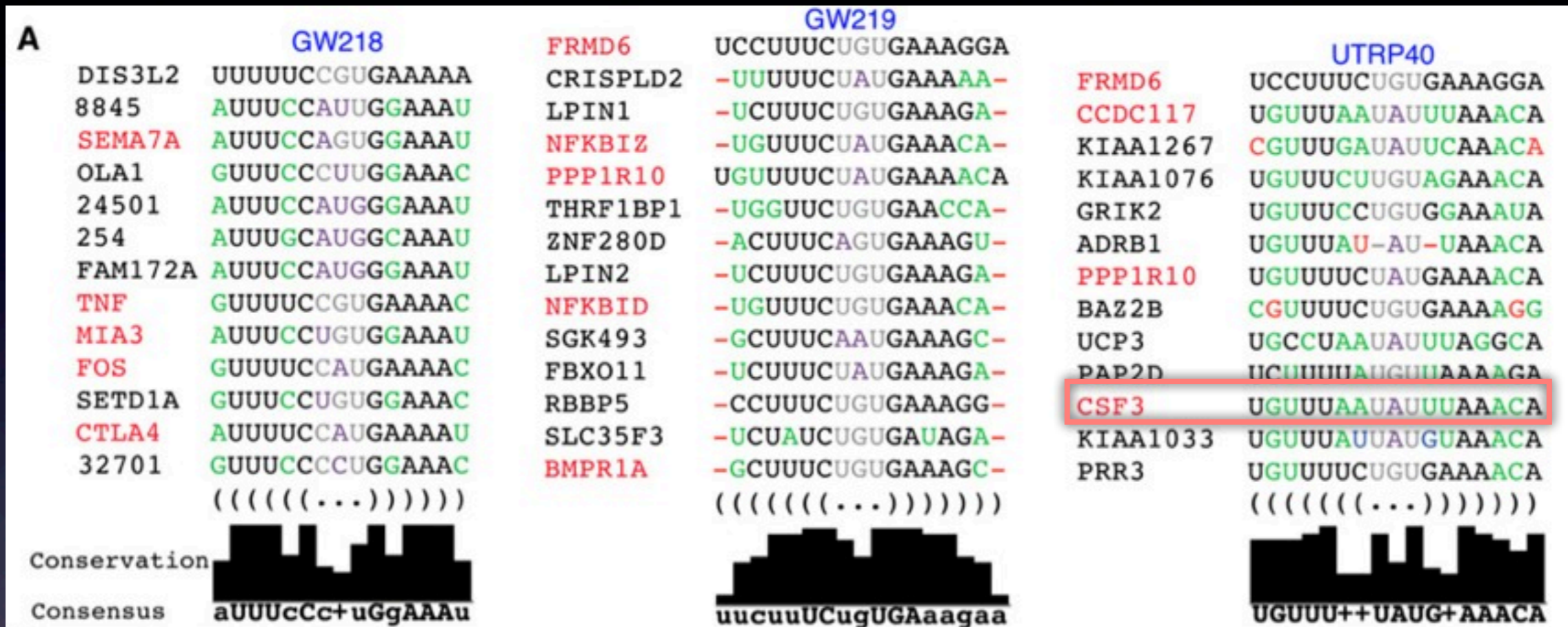


Includes known destabilization hairpins



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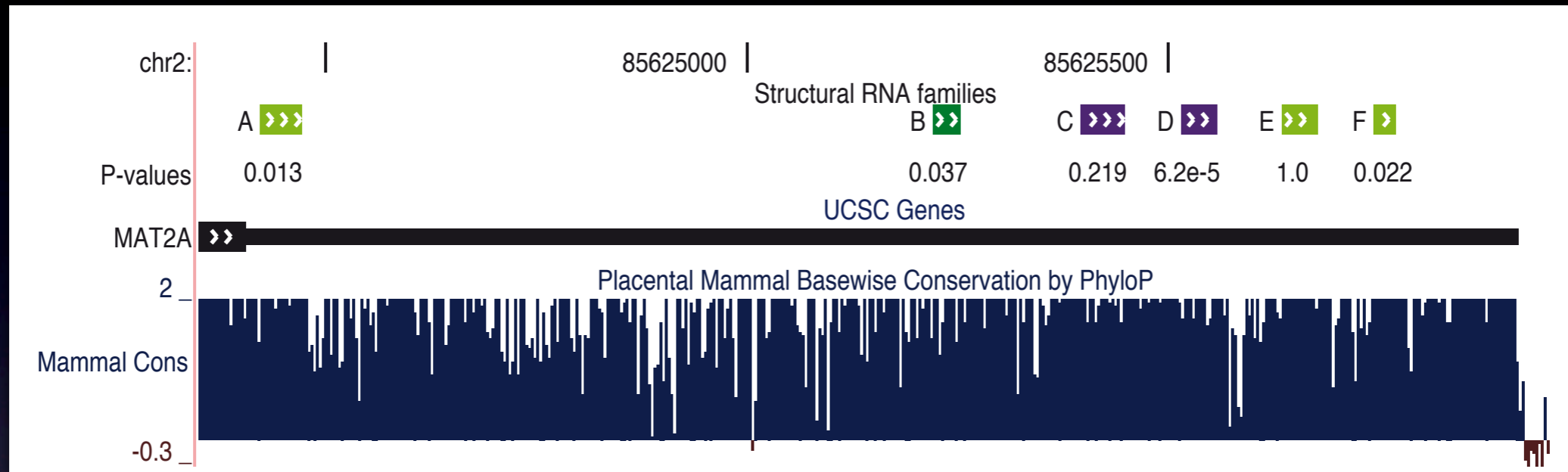
Constitutive Decay Element



Stem-Loop Destabilizing Element



Family of six hairpins all within 3'UTR MAT2A

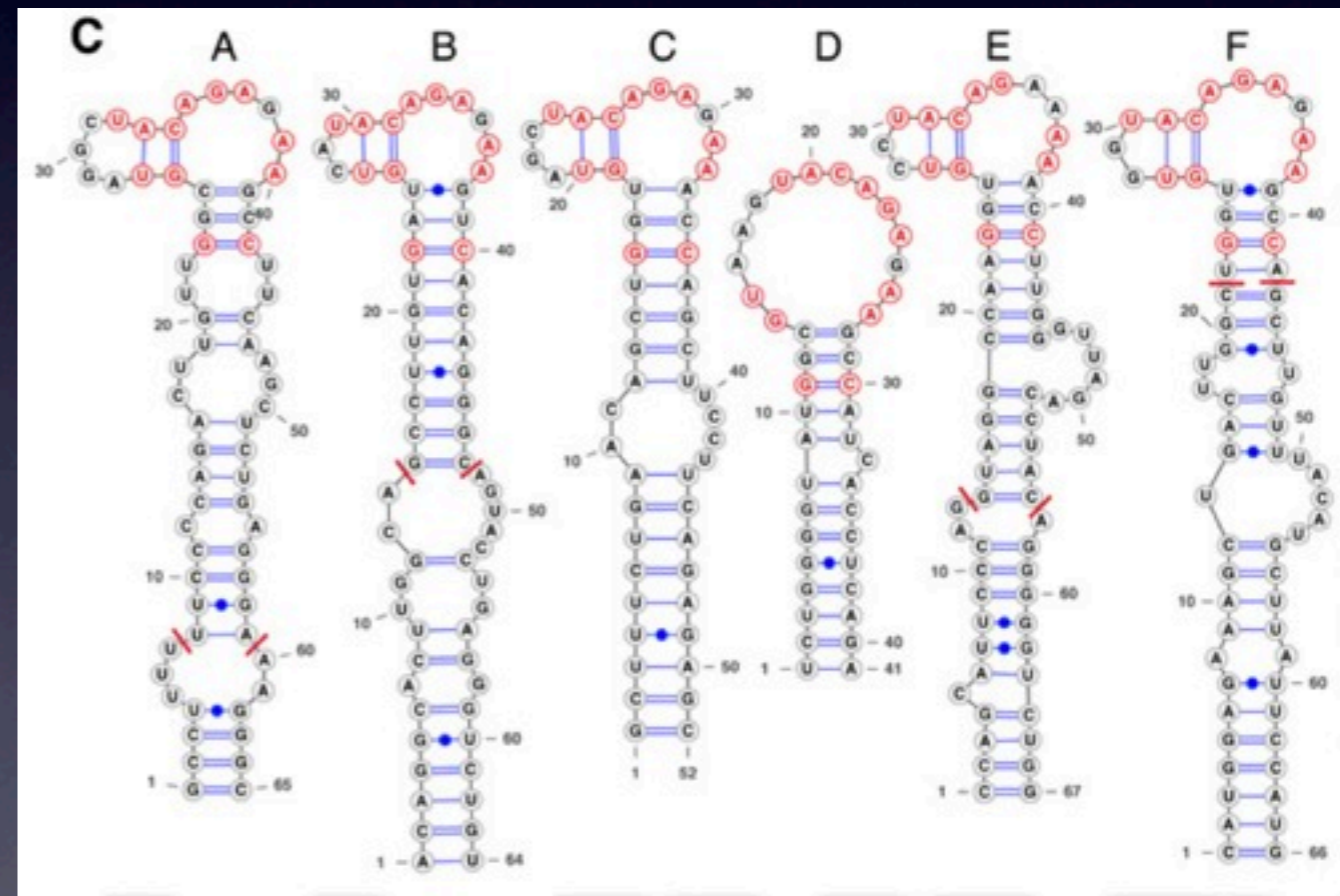


Shared loop motif

Loop motif shared between human members and down through vertebrates

Human	D	UCUGGGGUAUGGC	GUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCAUCACCUCAGA
Human	A	UCCAGACUUGGC	GUAGGUACAGAGAAG	GCCAAGCUCUGAGA
Human	B	...GCCUUGUGAU	GUCA-UACAGAGAAG	UACAC-AGGGC...
Human	C	UCUGAAAGCUGGU	GUAGCUACAGAGAAG	CCAGCUUUUCAGA
Human	E	...GGCCAAGGUGUCC	-UACAGAAAA	ACCUUGGGUU...
Human	FUGGUGUG	-GUACAGAGAAG	GCCA.....
		* ** ***** ** *		
		abcdefghijklm	mlkji hgfedcba	
		((((((((.....)))))))))		
Human		UCUGGGGUAUGGC	GUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCAUCACCUCAGA
Guinea Pig		UCUGGGGUAUGGC	GUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCAUCGCCUCAGA
Squirrel		UCUGAGGUAUGGU	GUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCAUCACCUCAGA
Rabbit		UCUGGGGUAUGGC	GUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCAUCUCCUCAGA
Hedgehog		UCUGAGGUAUGGC	GUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCAUCACCUCAGA
Tenrec		U-GGGGGUAUGGC	UUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCUCACCUCAGA
Sloth		UCUGGGGUAUGGU	GUAAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCGUCACCUCAGA
Opossum		UCUGGGGUGUGGC	GUGAGUACAGAGAAG	GCUAUCACCUCAGA
Lizard		U-UGGGACCGGU	GUGAGUACAGAGAAG	GCCCUUGUCUCAAA
X. tropicalis		UCUAGGCUUGGC	GUAAGUACAGAGUA	GCCUUUGCCUU---
Tetraodon		UCUGAGGCCCGGC	GUGGAUACAGAGAAG	GUCGGGCUUUCAGG
Fugu		UCUGAGGCCCGGC	GUGGAUACAGAGAAG	GUCGGGCUUGUCAGG
Stickleback		UCUGAGACGCAGC	GUGGAUACAGAGAAG	GCUGUGGUUUCAGA
Medaka		UCUGGAACUCGGC	GUGGAUACAGAGAAG	GCCGAUGUUUCAGA
Zebrafish		CUUGAGCCUUGGC	GUCGGUACAGAAA	GCCGGGAUCUCAAG
		* ***** **		

Human structures with conserved motif



Post-transcriptional regulation of MAT2A

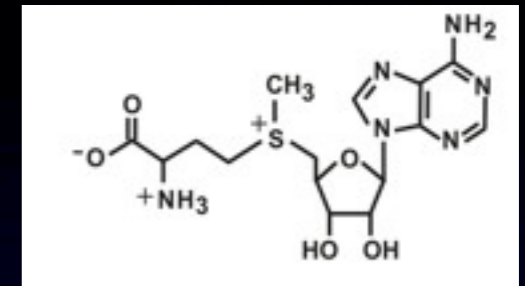
MAT2A: methionine adenosyltransferase II, alpha

MAT catalyzes the synthesis of SAM (adoMet)

Half-life of MAT2A transcript depends on SAM concentration

(Martínez-Chantar et al. J Biol Chem (2003))

SAM



Post-transcriptional regulation of MAT2A

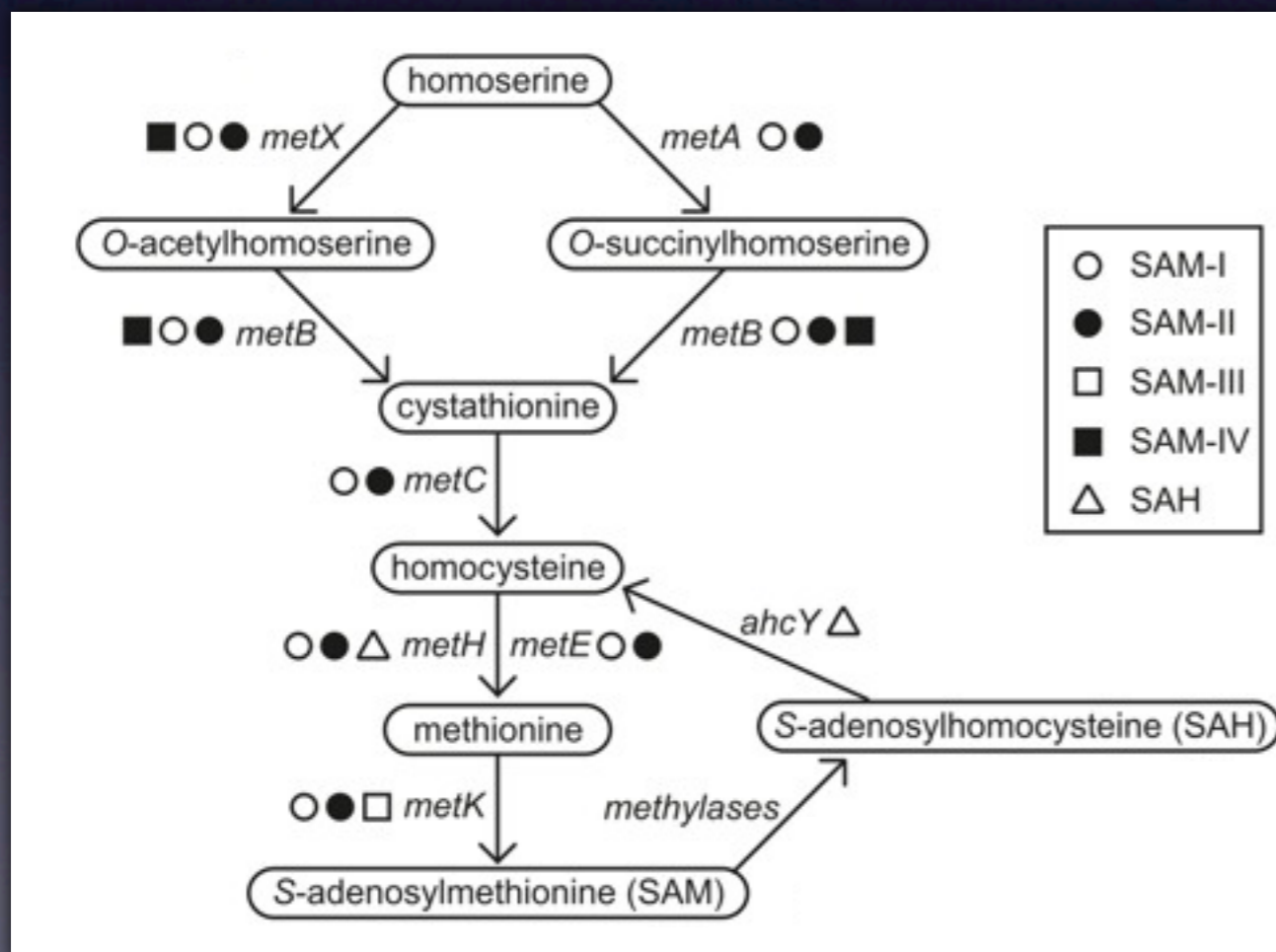
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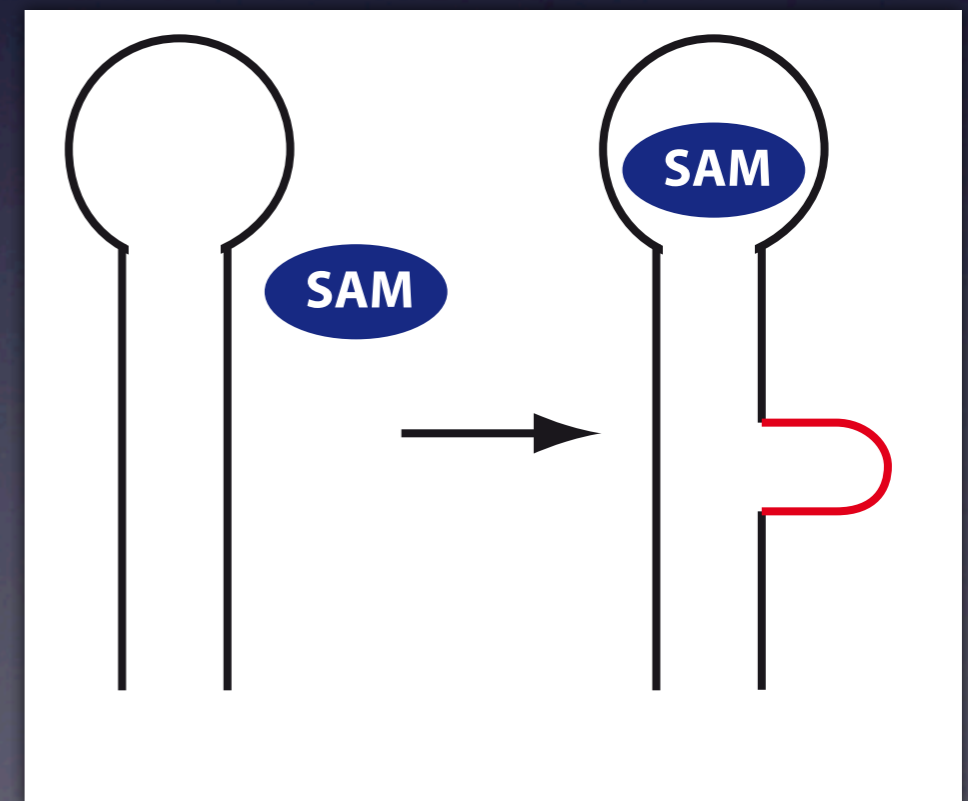
SAM



SAM riboswitches in bacteria

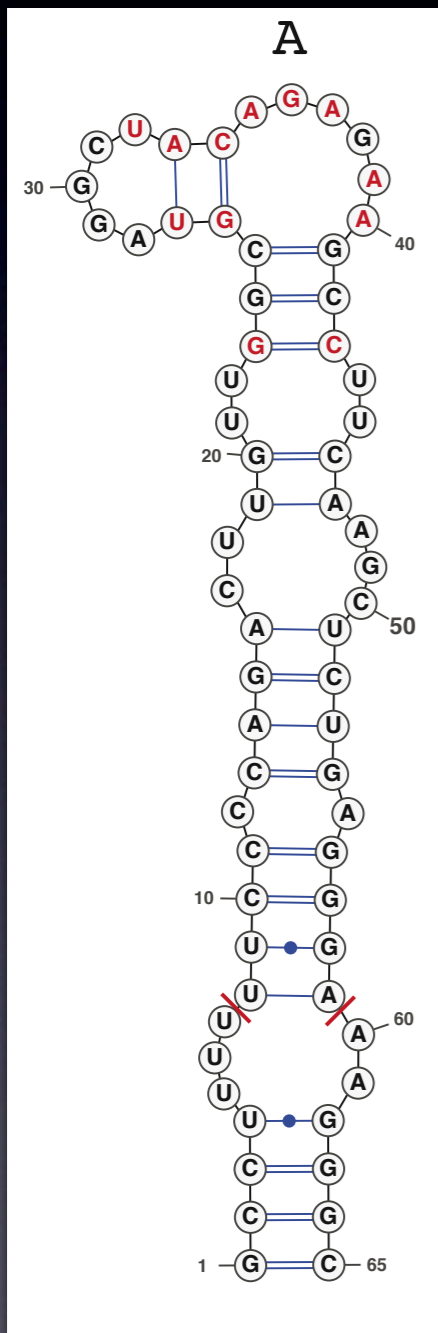


Riboswitches

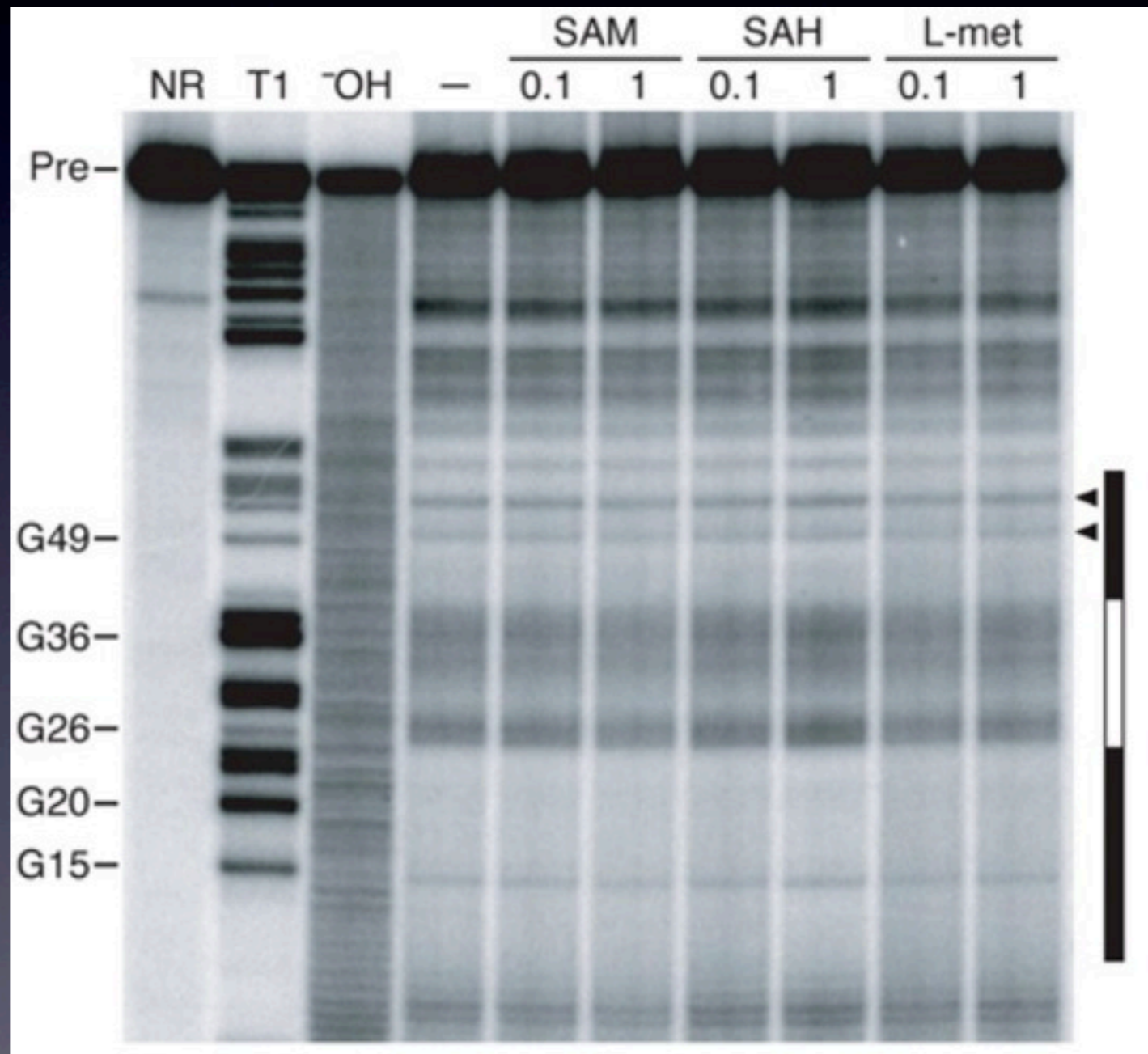


Human riboswitches?

Hairpin A



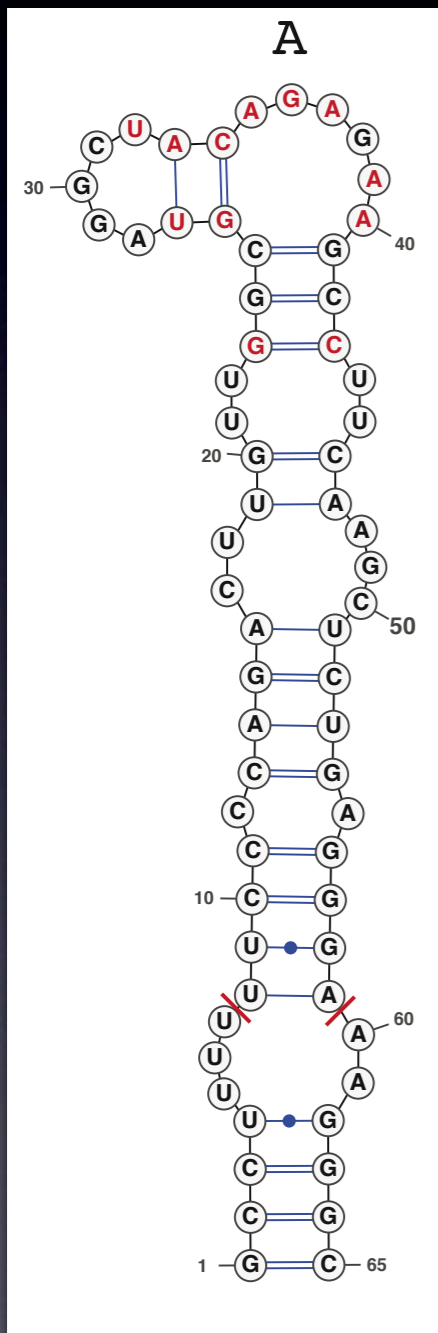
No structure change shown by in-line probing



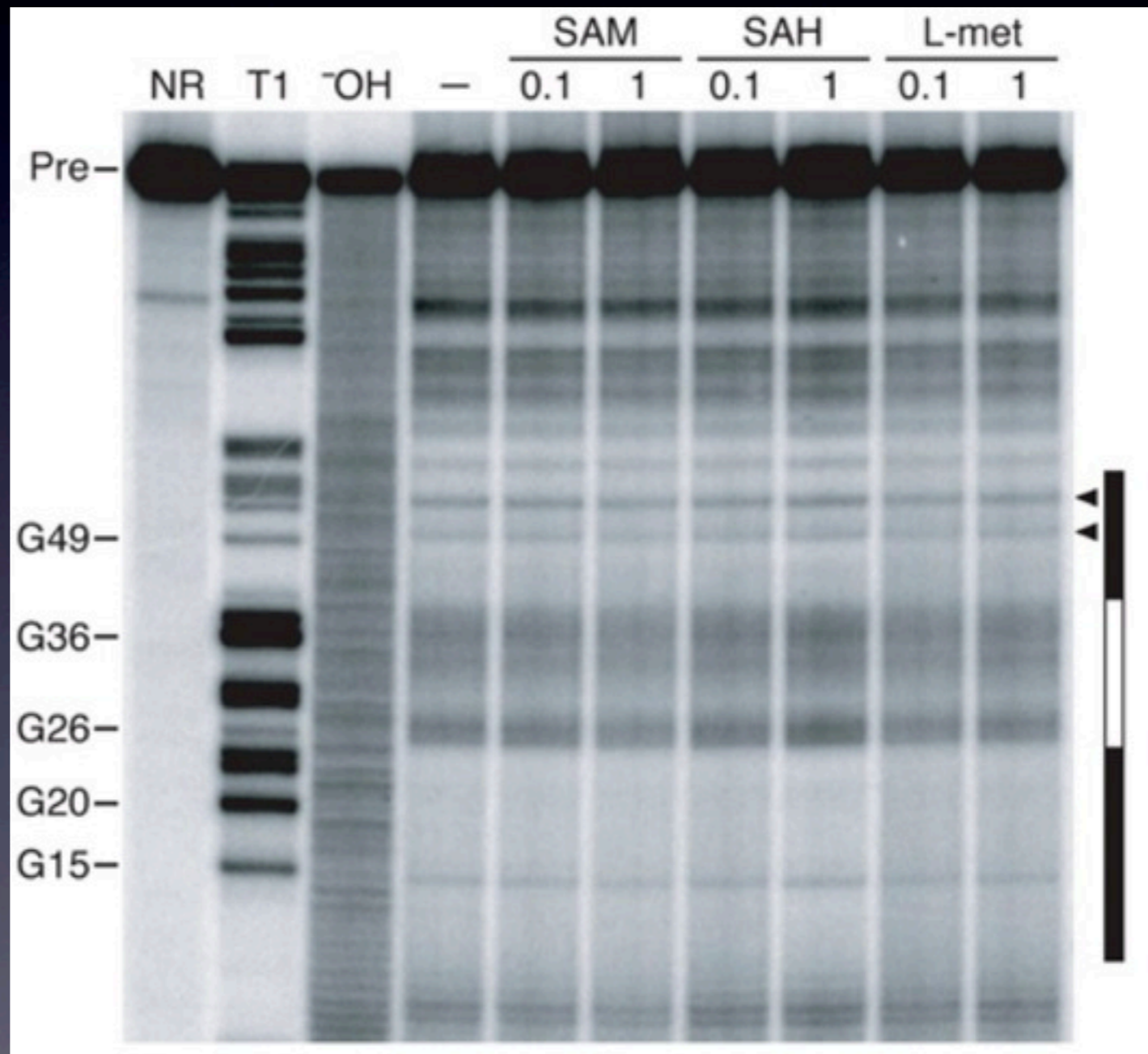
Experiments done by Adam Roth & Ronald Breaker (Yale).

Human riboswitches? Apparently not...

Hairpin A



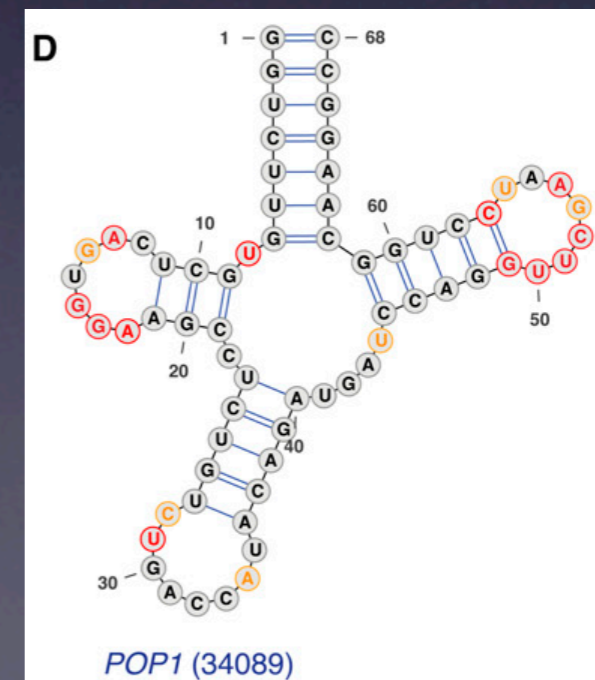
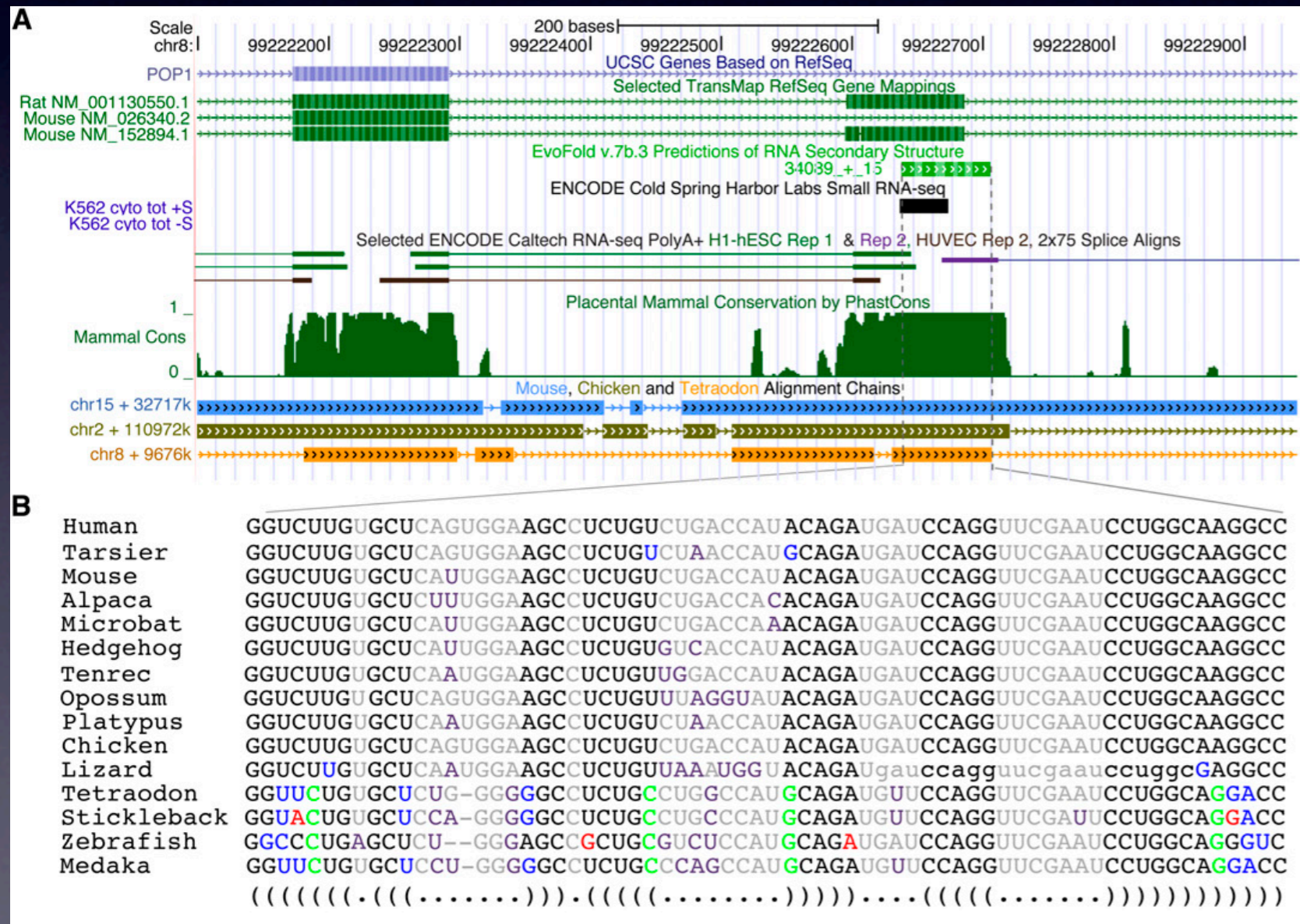
No structure change shown by in-line probing



Example of auto-regulation?

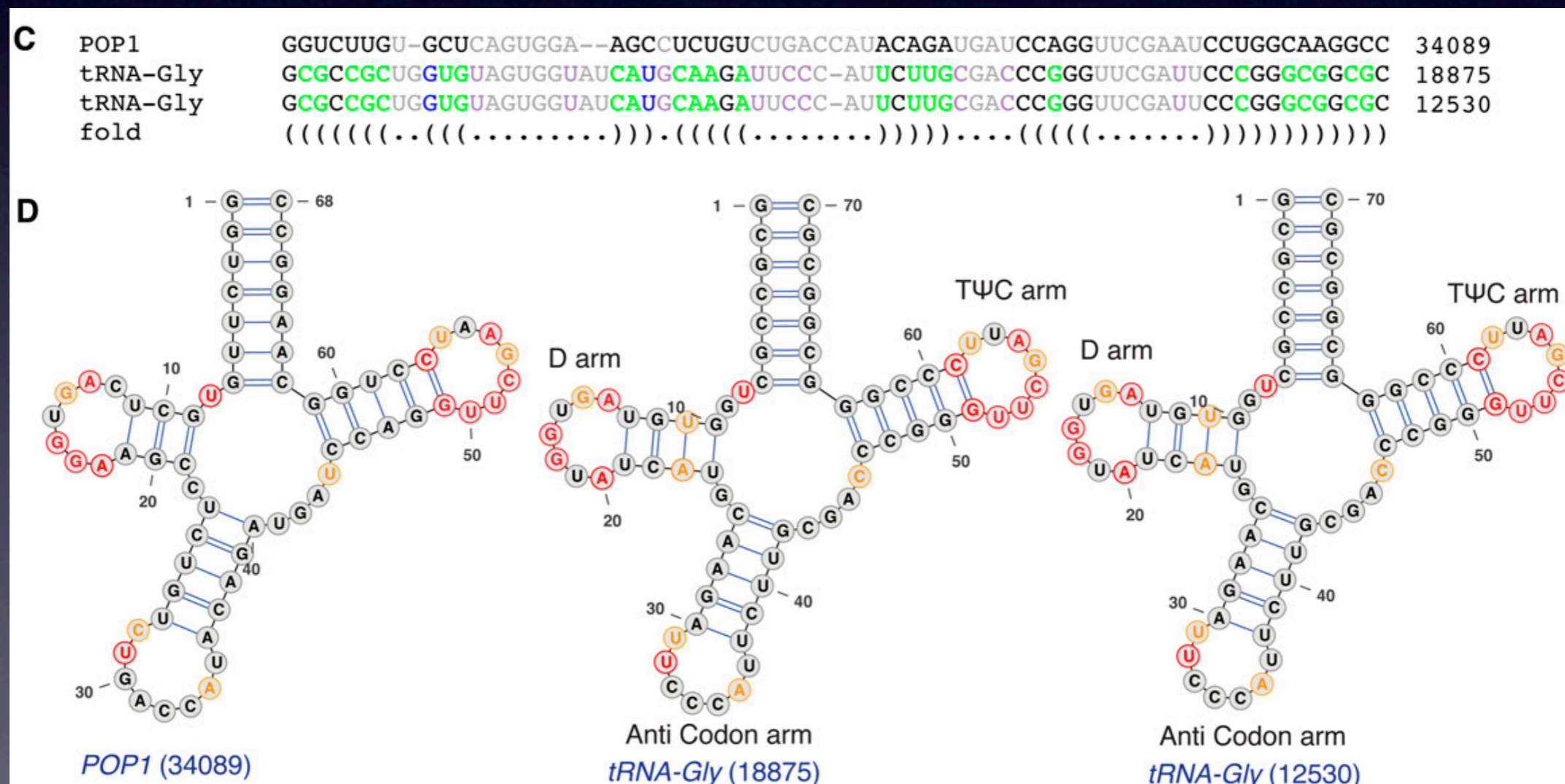
POP1 is a ribonuclease, which is part of RNaseP that processes tRNAs.

tRNA-like structure in POP1 intron



Structure resembles tRNAs

POP1 structure groups together with tRNAs



Future directions

- Make extensive use of deep genomic alignments (10K vertebrates project, etc)
- Exploit structure genome-wide structure probing data
- Integrate with expression data in cancer genomics settings
- Integrate with experimental evidence of binding sites of RNA binding proteins (HITS-CLIP, etc)

Acknowledgements

Structure families

Brian Parker (University of Copenhagen)
Ida Moltke (University of Copenhagen)
Jiayu Wen (University of Copenhagen)
Adam Roth (Yale)
Ronald Breaker (Yale)
Stefan Washietl (Broad)
Manolis Kellis (Broad)
Jakob Skou Pedersen (Aarhus University)



Holger Danske (left) & Brian Parker (right)

29 Mammals Sequencing and Analysis Consortium

Kerstin Lindblad-Toh
Manuel Garber
Or Zuk
Michael F. Lin
Brian J. Parker
Stefan Washietl
Pouya Kheradpour
Jason Ernst
Gregory Jordan
Evan Mauceli
Lucas D. Ward
Craig B. Lowe
Alisha K. Holloway
Michele Clamp
Sante Gnerre
Jessica Alfoldi
Kathryn Beal
Jean Chang
Hiram Clawson
James Cuff
Federica Di Palma
Stephen Fitzgerald
Paul Flicek

Mitchell Guttman
Melissa J. Hubisz
David B. Jaffe
Irwin Jungreis
W. James Kent
Dennis Kostka
Marcia Lara
Andre L. Martins
Tim Massingham
Ida Moltke
Brian J. Raney
Matthew D. Rasmussen
Jim Robinson
Alexander Stark
Albert J. Vilella
Jiayu Wen
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Genome Institute at Washington
University
Ewan Birney
Elliott H. Margulies
Javier Herrero
Eric D. Green
David Haussler
Adam Siepel
Nick Goldman
Katherine S. Pollard
Jakob S. Pedersen
Eric S. Lander
Manolis Kellis

Benasque 2009

Eric Westhof
Zasha Weinberg

Support

Novo Nordisk Foundation (BJP)
The Danish Council for Independent Research | Medical Sciences (JSP)
Lundbeckfonden (JSP)