

What's new in RNACentral and Rfam

Anton Petrov
apetrov@ebi.ac.uk

Benasque - July 20, 2018



What is

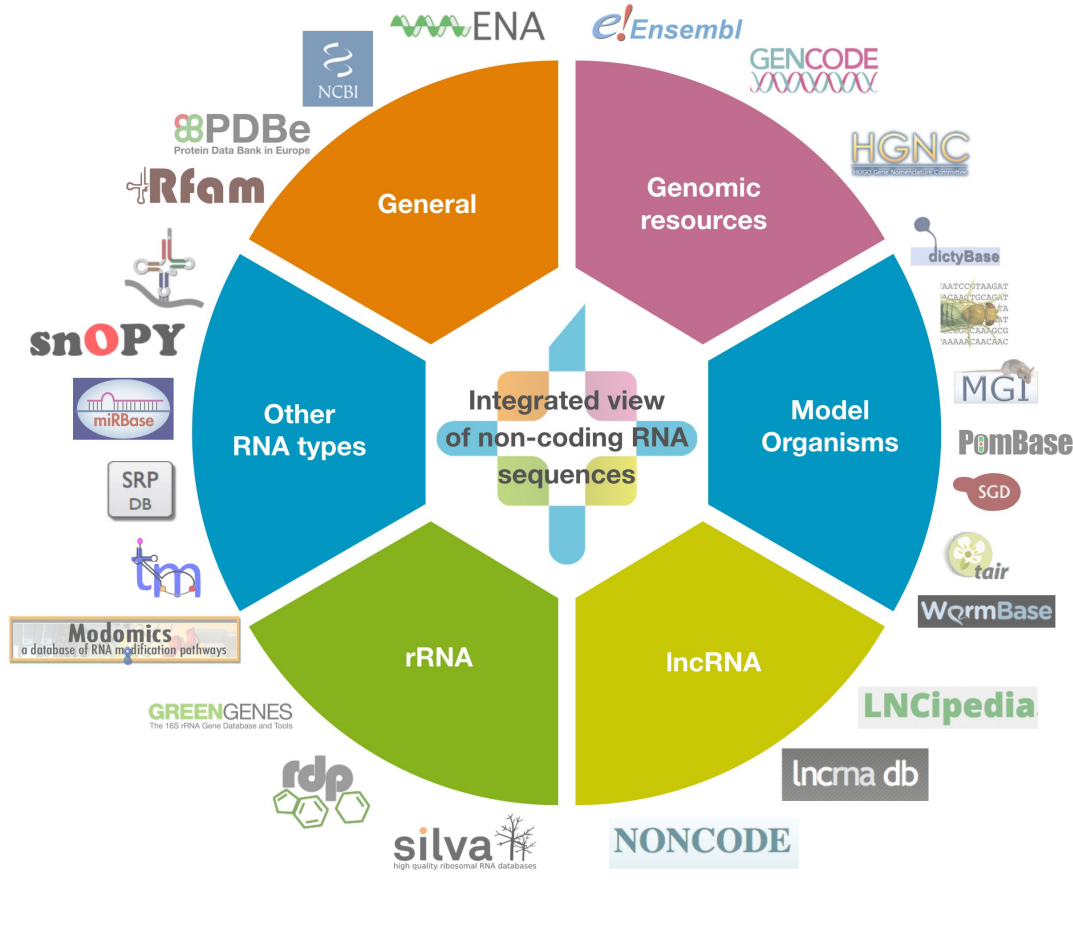
RNAcentral

<https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/92726-question-mark-background-vector>

The non-coding RNA sequence database

rnacentral.org

- >10 million sequences
- 27 databases
- 800,000 species



RNAcentral has lots of useful data

- Sequence
- Description
- RNA type
- Links to other databases
- Genome locations
- Publications
- RNA modifications from MODOMICS and PDB

Sequence URS00005A4DCF

Homo sapiens (human) microRNA hsa-miR-125a-5p

24 nucleotides 3 databases (ENA, miRBase, RefSeq) Found in 6 species **miRNA**

Overview Taxonomy Download

Annotations 4 total

Database	Description
RefSeq	Homo sapiens (human) hsa-miR-125a-5p. > RefSeq: NR_029693.1 - mature miRNA (precursor URS000075D168) > NCBI GeneID: 406910
miRBase	Homo sapiens (human) microRNA hsa-miR-125a-5p > miRBase: MI0000469 - mature miRNA (precursor URS000075D168)
miRBase	Homo sapiens (human) microRNA hsa-miR-125a-5p > miRBase: MIMAT0000443
ENA	Homo sapiens (human) miscellaneous RNA > ENA: HB859642.1:1..24:misc_RNA

<http://rnacentral.org/rna/URS00005A4DCF/9606>

RNAcentral: The non-coding RNA sequence database

[More about RNAcentral →](#)

Getting started

🔍 Text search

Search by *gene*, *species*, *ncRNA type* or any other keyword

[Browse sequences](#)

🧩 Sequence search

Search for similar sequences or look up your sequence in RNAcentral

[Search by sequence](#)

📍 Genome browser

Explore RNAcentral sequences in your favorite genome locations

[Browse genomes](#)

ncRNA data provided by 26 databases:



47,753 sequences

Example

[Updated](#)



12,011 sequences

Example



1.0 million sequences

Example



956 sequences

Example



16,719 sequences

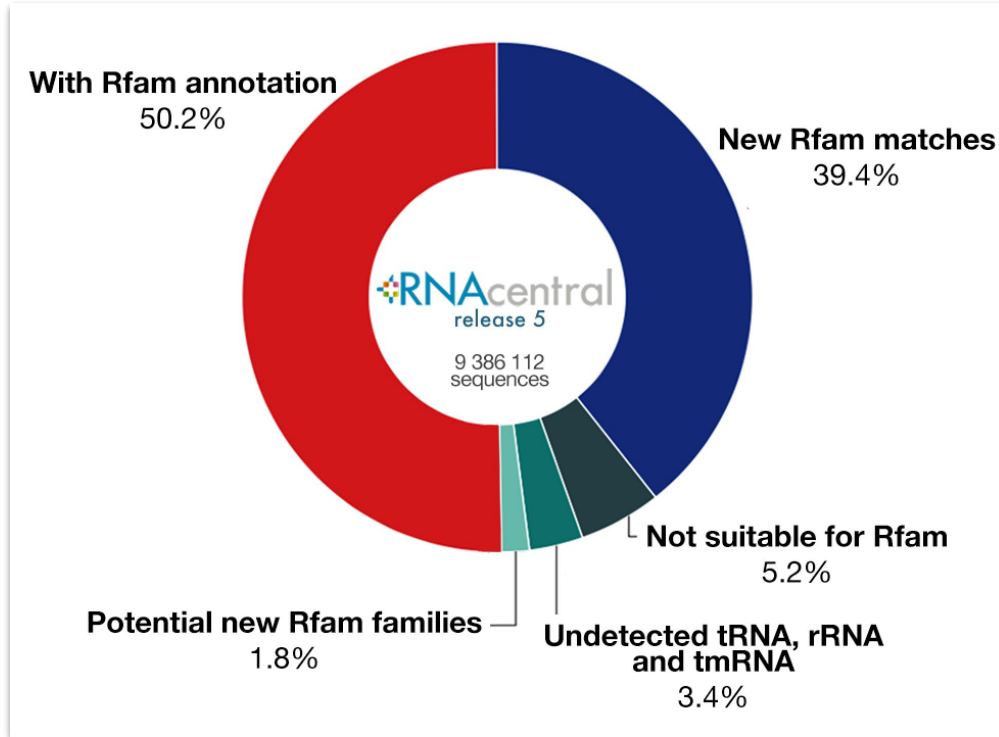
Example

Until recently
just data aggregation,
now additional analysis

Two important new features

1. **Quality control** using Rfam models
2. Comprehensive **genome mapping**

1. Rfam models are used to annotate RNAcentral



- ~**90%** of RNAcentral sequences match Rfam models
- about **2%** of RNAcentral sequences can be used to build new Rfam models




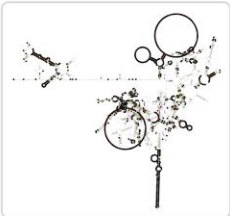
Natalia Quiñones Olvera

Rfam annotations help detect:

- **truncated** sequences
- potential **contamination**
- **missing** annotations



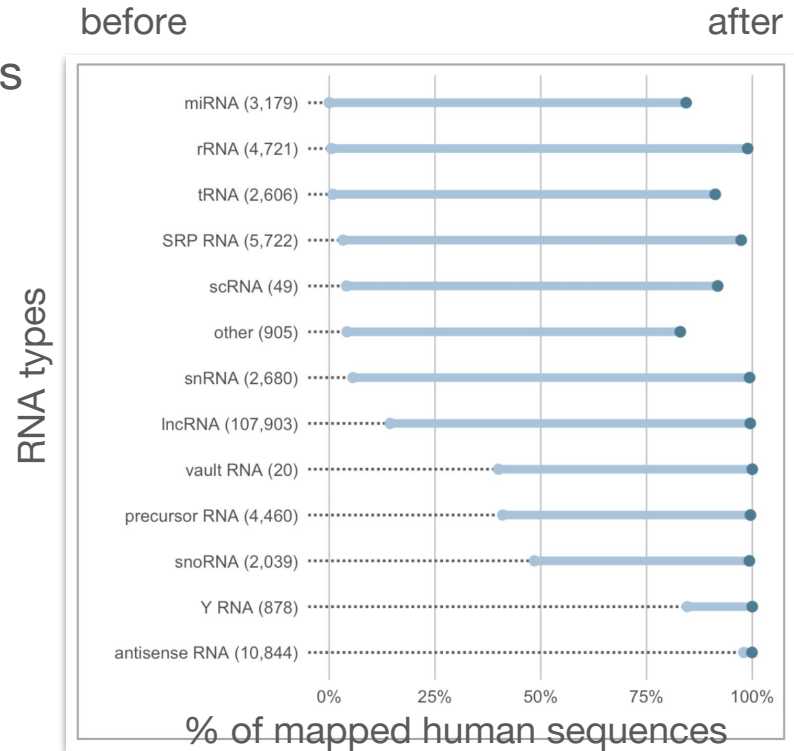
 Potential [Eukaryotic large subunit ribosomal RNA](#) **fragment**



[Eukaryotic large subunit ribosomal RNA](#)
RF02543 | Gene; rRNA | Eukaryota | **rRNA**
[GO:0003735](#) structural constituent of ribosome
[GO:0005840](#) ribosome
Matches at: 1-1,768 (41% of the model)

2. Comprehensive genome mapping for >250 species

- genome mapping Ensembl genomes and **blat**
- **>95% of sequences mapped** for human, mouse, and other key species
- one of the **largest collections** of ncRNA genome annotations



Example of Rfam quality control and genome mapping

Here is an Ensembl miRNA

Transcript: n-TSaga9-201 ENSMUST00000197675.1

Description

nuclear encoded tRNA serine 9 (anticodon AGA) [Source:MGI Symbol;Acc:[MGI:4414029](#)]

Location

[Chromosome 4: 10,874,064-10,874,170](#) forward strand.

About this transcript

This transcript has [1 exon](#), is associated with [308 variations](#) and maps to [64 oligo probes](#).

Gene

This transcript is a product of gene [ENSMUSG00000106355](#)

Hide transcript table

Show/hide columns (1 hidden)		Filter				
Name	Transcript ID	bp	Protein	Biotype	CCDS	Flags
n-TSaga9-201	ENSMUST00000197675.1	107	No protein	miRNA	-	TSL:NA GENCODE basic

http://www.ensembl.org/Mus_musculus/Transcript/Summary?g=ENSMUSG00000106355;r=4:10874064-10874170;t=ENSMUST00000197675

But is it a miRNA or a tRNA?

Transcript: n-TSaga9-201 ENSMUST00000197675.1

Description

nuclear encoded tRNA serine 9 (anticodon AGA) [Source:MGI Symbol;Acc:[MGI:4414029](#)]

Location

[Chromosome 4: 10,874,064-10,874,170](#) forward strand.

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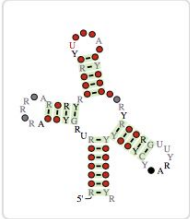
Hide transcript table

Show/hide columns (1 hidden)		Filter				
Name	Transcript ID	bp	Protein	Biotype	CCDS	Flags
n-TSaga9-201	ENSMUST00000197675.1	107	No protein	miRNA	-	TSL:NA GENCODE basic

http://www.ensembl.org/Mus_musculus/Transcript/Summary?g=ENSMUSG00000106355;r=4:10874064-10874170;t=ENSMUST00000197675

RNAcentral shows a match to a tRNA Rfam model

Rfam classification ?



tRNA [↗](#)

RF00005 | Gene; tRNA | **tRNA**

[GO:0030533](#) [↗](#) triplet codon-amino acid adaptor activity

Matches at: **1-82** (100% of the model)

Sequence

GUAGUCGUGGCCGAGUGGUUAAGGCCAUGGACUAGAAAUCCAUGGGGUCUCCCGCGCAGGUUCGAAUCCUGCCGACUACGGAAGGGAAUGUUUUUGCCACCGAA

Rfam models

> RF00005 tRNA



<http://rnacentral.org/rna/URS0000A85A32/10090>

... and other annotation in this genomic location



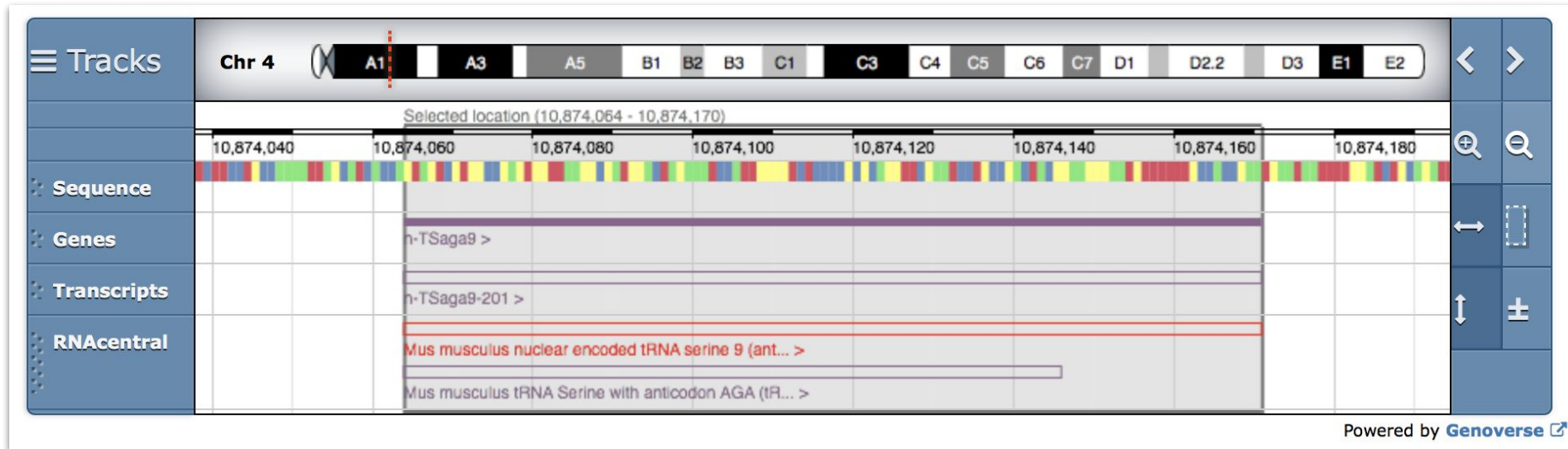
The other sequence is a well-annotated tRNA from GtRNAdb:
<http://rnacentral.org/rna/URS000038D8D3/10090>

RNAcentral makes data consistent across databases

- **Automatically reconcile** annotations for all sequences
- **Report** problems to member databases
- **Prioritise** sequences without inconsistencies

Overcoming important limitation of RNAcentral

- Can we **group** related sequences into “**genes**” using genomic location, Rfam annotations and sequence metadata?



Adding new types of data to RNAcentral

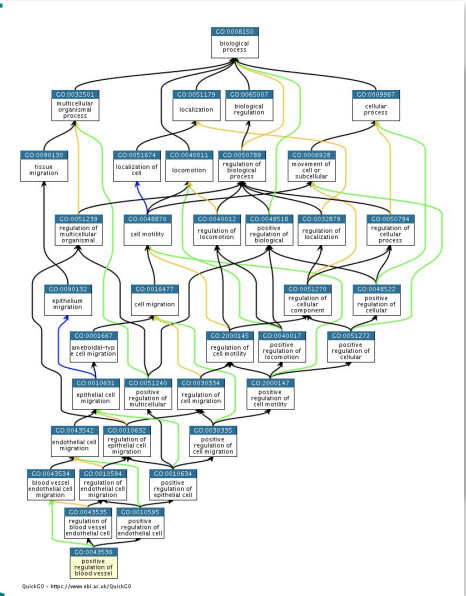
Manually assigned Gene Ontology terms

[hsa-mir-126](#) involved in heart development:

Gene Ontology annotations ?

Qualifier	GO Term	Evidence Code
involved_in	positive regulation of blood vessel endothelial cell migration	direct assay evidence used in r
involved_in	positive regulation of MAPK cascade	mutant phenotype evidence us
involved_in	negative regulation of vascular endothelial cell proliferation	mutant phenotype evidence us
involved_in	negative regulation of endothelial cell apoptotic process	mutant phenotype evidence us

View in [QuickGO](#)



Huntley et al., 2018 <http://rnajournal.cshlp.org/content/24/8/1005.long>

Secondary structures from GtRNAdb

Sequence URS000043457D

Bacillus subtilis subsp. subtilis str. 168 tRNA-Ser

93 nucleotides 2 databases (ENA, GtRNAdb) Found in 120 species **tRNA**

Overview Taxonomy Publications **2D** Download

Annotations 6 total

Database	Description
gtRNAdb	Bacillus subtilis subsp. subtilis str. 168 tRNA-Ser (TGA) > gtRNAdb: tRNA-Ser-TGA-1-1:AL009126.3:3172694-3172786
gtRNAdb	Bacillus subtilis subsp. subtilis str. 168 tRNA-Ser (TGA) > gtRNAdb: tRNA-Ser-TGA-1-1:CP010052.1:3172706-3172798
ENA	Bacillus subtilis subsp. subtilis str. 168 tRNA-Ser > ENA: AL009126.3:3172694..3172786:tRNA
ENA	Bacillus subtilis subsp. subtilis str. 168 tRNA-Ser > ENA: CP010052.1:3172706..3172798:tRNA
ENA	Bacillus subtilis subsp. subtilis str. 168 tRNA-Ser > ENA: CP019662.1:3172485..3172577:tRNA

1 2 5 records per page

Rfam classification

tRNA

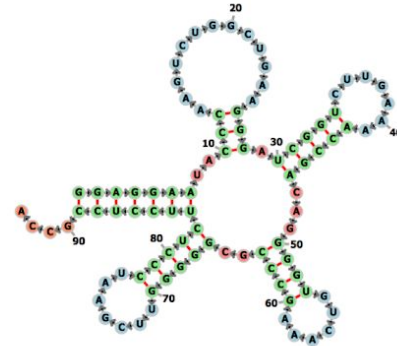
RF00005 | Gene; tRNA | **tRNA**

GO:0030533 triplet codon-amino acid adaptor activity

Matches at: 1-90 (100% of the model)

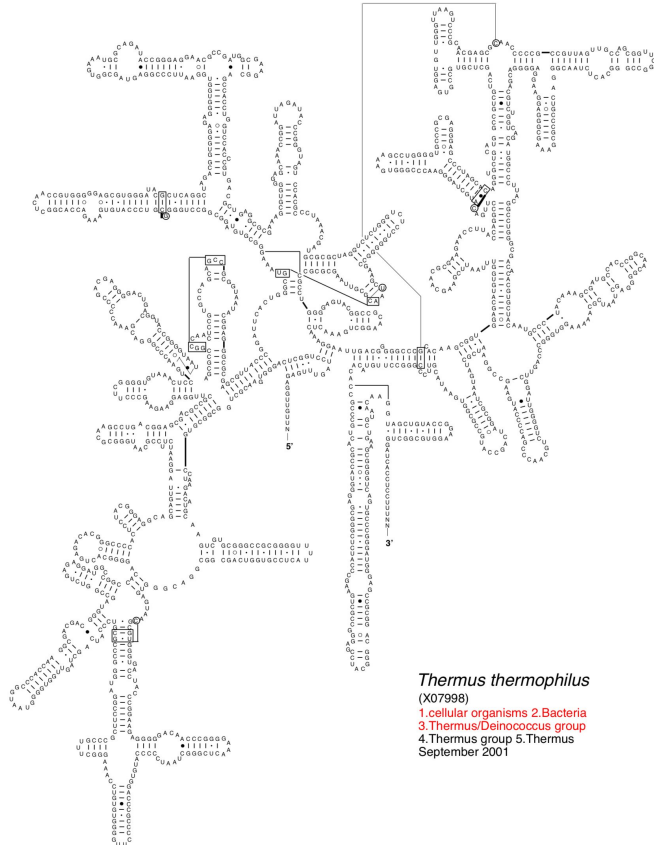
Secondary structure

Predicted using tRNAScan-SE (source: GtRNAdb).



Benasque 2018
top-secret project:
display 2Ds for **all rRNAs**
in RNACentral
using **standard layouts**

Secondary Structure: small subunit ribosomal RNA

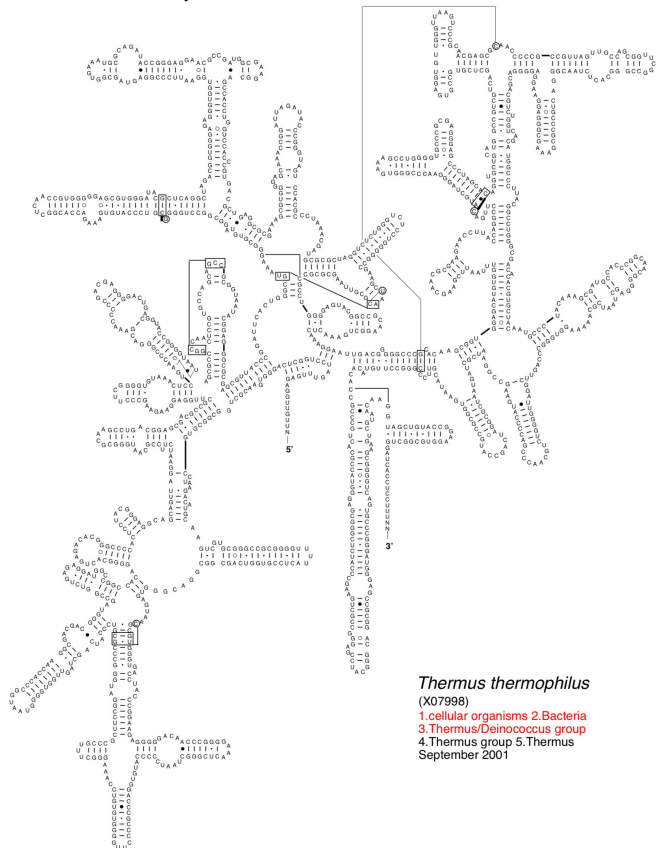


Thermus thermophilus
(X07998)
1. cellular organisms 2. Bacteria
3. Thermus/Deinococcus group
4. Thermus group 5. Thermus
September 2001

Citation and related information available at <http://www.rna.icmb.utexas.edu>

This is how RNA biologists want to see rRNA 2D

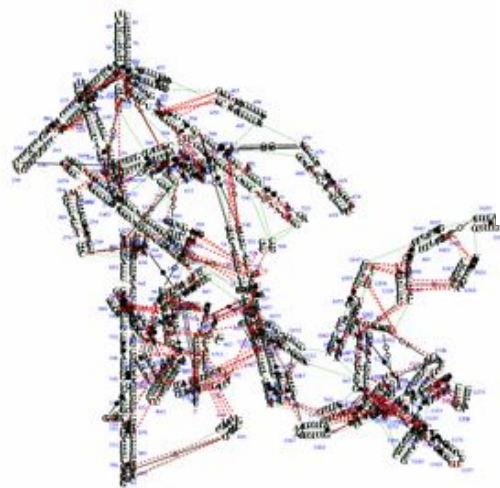
Secondary Structure: small subunit ribosomal RNA



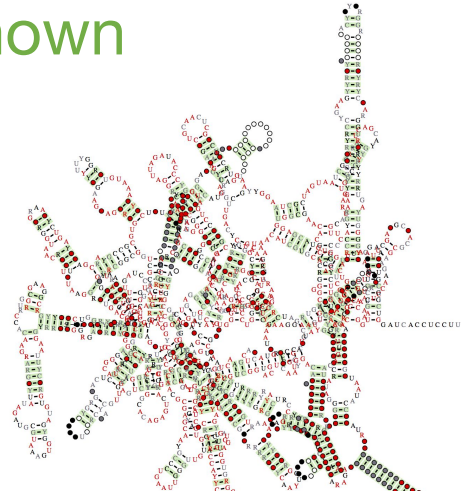
Thermus thermophilus
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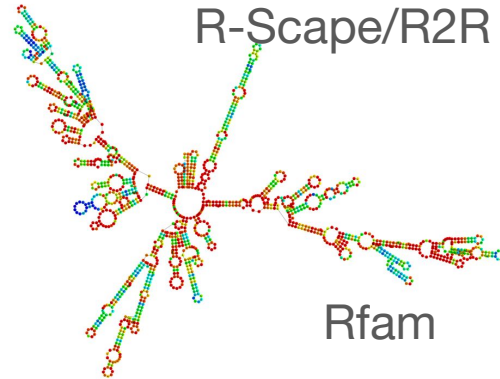
This is how it is shown
in RNA databases



NDB



R-Scape/R2R



Rfam

1. Comparative RNA Website (Robin Gutell's lab)

- Contains ~1,000 of RNA secondary structures in standard layouts
- Authoritative source of rRNA data

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Comparative RNA Web Site and Project, hosted by The University of Texas at Austin and The Gutell Lab. The page features a navigation menu with dropdown menus for categories: 1. CAR, 2. SAE, 3. DAT, 4. SIM, 5. FAM, and 0. AI. Below the menu is a social media sharing bar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Email, Print, and Share, along with a 'Like 132' button. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the Comparative RNA Web (CRW) Site.' and is divided into two columns. The left column, 'Recent CRW Site Publications (Complete List >>)', lists several recent publications with their titles, journal names, and links to PM, PMC, and DOI. The right column, 'Table of Contents', features a decorative header with RNA secondary structure diagrams and a list of six main sections: 1. Comparative Analysis of RNA (CAR), 2. Structure and Evolution (SAE), 3. RNA Data (DAT), 4. Supplementary Information for Manuscripts (SIM), 5. RNA Families (FAM), and 0. Ancillary Information (AI). Each section is color-coded and includes a brief description of its content. At the bottom right of the page, there are links for 'Contact Information | Guidelines for Data Usage | Acknowledgements'.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
COMPARATIVE RNA WEB SITE AND PROJECT THE GUTELL LAB

1. CAR 2. SAE 3. DAT 4. SIM 5. FAM 0. AI

This Page: | Facebook Twitter Google+ Email Print Share 27 Like 132 the Comparative RNA Web (CRW) Site

Welcome to the Comparative RNA Web (CRW) Site.

Recent CRW Site Publications (Complete List >>)

2017: (Pub #133) RNAcentral: a comprehensive database of non-coding RNA sequences. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 45(D1):D128-D134. [[PM](#) | [PMC](#) | [DOI](#)]

2015: (Pub #132) R3D-2-MSA: the RNA 3D Structure-to-Multiple Sequence Alignment Server. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 43(W1):W15-W23. [[PM](#) | [PMC](#) | [DOI](#)]

2015: (Pub #131) rRNA -- the evolution of that magic molecule. *RNA*, 21:627-629. [[PM](#) | [PMC](#) | [DOI](#)]

2015: (Pub #130) RNAcentral: an international database of ncRNA sequences. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 43(D1):D123-D129. [[PM](#) | [PMC](#) | [DOI](#)]

2014: (Pub #129) Multiple entries in: *Concise Encyclopaedia of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology*, 2nd Edition, Hancock J.M. and Zvelebil M.J. (eds.). Wiley, Hoboken, New Jersey.

2014: (Pub #128) Ten Lessons with Carl Woese about RNA and Comparative Analysis. *RNA Biology*, 11(3):254-272. [[PM](#) | [PMC](#) | [DOI](#)]

2014: (Pub #127) Introduction to Special Carl Woese Issue in *RNA Biology*. *RNA Biology*, 11(3):170-171. [[PM](#) | [PMC](#) | [DOI](#)]

2014: (Pub #126) Helix Capping in RNA

Table of Contents

1. Comparative Analysis of RNA (CAR) >>
General discussion about Comparative Analysis of RNA, Structure models for reference RNA molecules.

2. Structure and Evolution (SAE) >>
Analysis of the Structure and Evolution of Comparative RNA Data.

3. RNA Data (DAT) >>
Comparative RNA Data: alignments, structure model diagrams, information about structures, metadata, and other less analyzed data.

4. Supplementary Information for Manuscripts (SIM) >>
Online appendices to published papers. Currently the Gutell Lab research focuses on five major categories: RNA Structure, Motifs, Folding, rRNA-based Phylogeny, and Lateral Gene Transfer.

5. RNA Families (FAM) >>
Data organized by RNA Families (under development).

0. Ancillary Information (AI) >>
Information related to the Gutell Lab and the Comparative RNA Web Site.

Contact Information | Guidelines for Data Usage | Acknowledgements

2. Traveler software

Elias and Hoksza *BMC Bioinformatics* (2017) 18:487
DOI 10.1186/s12859-017-1885-4

BMC Bioinformatics

SOFTWARE

Open Access

TRAVeLer: a tool for template-based RNA secondary structure visualization



Richard Elias and David Hoksza* 

Abstract

Background: Visualization of RNA secondary structures is a complex task, and, especially in the case of large RNA structures where the expected layout is largely habitual, the existing visualization tools often fail to produce suitable visualizations. This led us to the idea to use existing layouts as templates for the visualization of new RNAs similarly to how templates are used in homology-based structure prediction.

Results: This article introduces Traveler, a software tool enabling visualization of a target RNA secondary structure using an existing layout of a sufficiently similar RNA structure as a template. Traveler is based on an algorithm which converts the target and template structures into corresponding tree representations and utilizes tree edit distance coupled with layout modification operations to transform the template layout into the target one. Traveler thus accepts a pair of secondary structures and a template layout and outputs a layout for the target structure.

Conclusions: Traveler is a command-line open source tool able to quickly generate layouts for even the largest RNA structures in the presence of a sufficiently similar layout. It is available at <http://github.com/davidhoksza/traveler>.

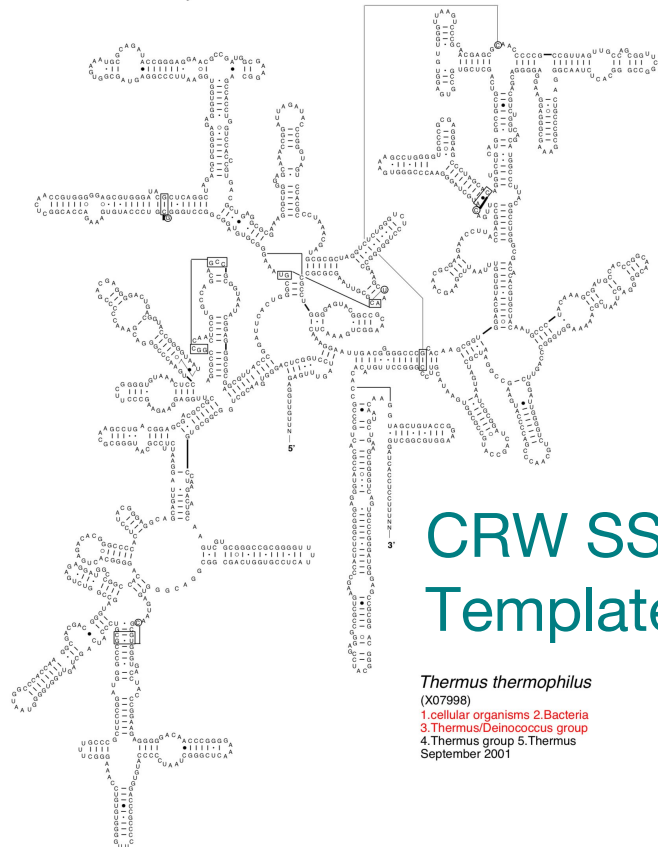
Keywords: Visualization, RNA secondary structure, Template-based modeling, Software tool



David Hoksza

Assistant Professor
Charles University, Prague

Secondary Structure: small subunit ribosomal RNA

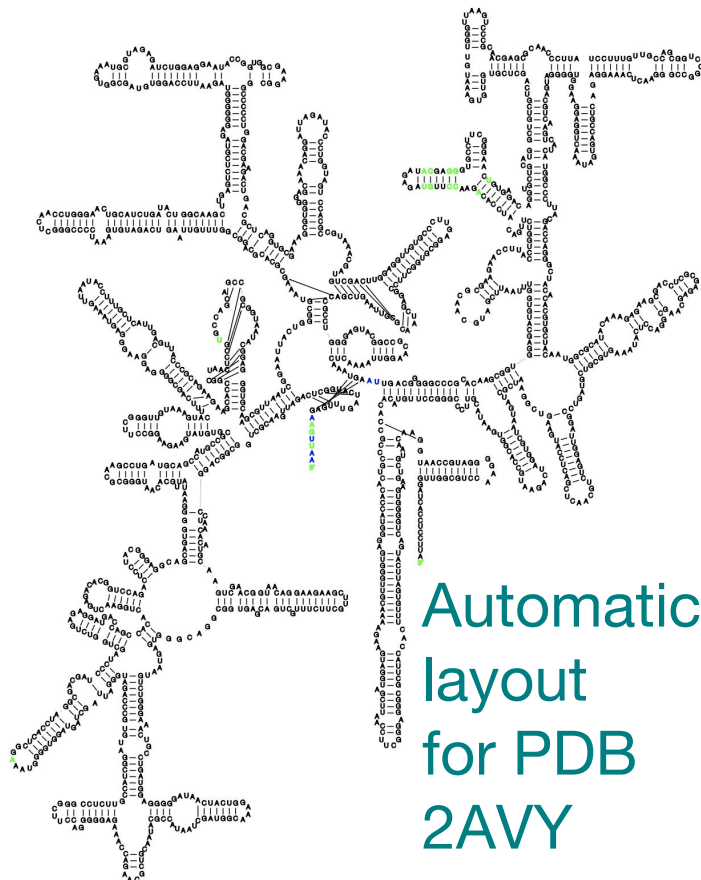


CRW SSU Template

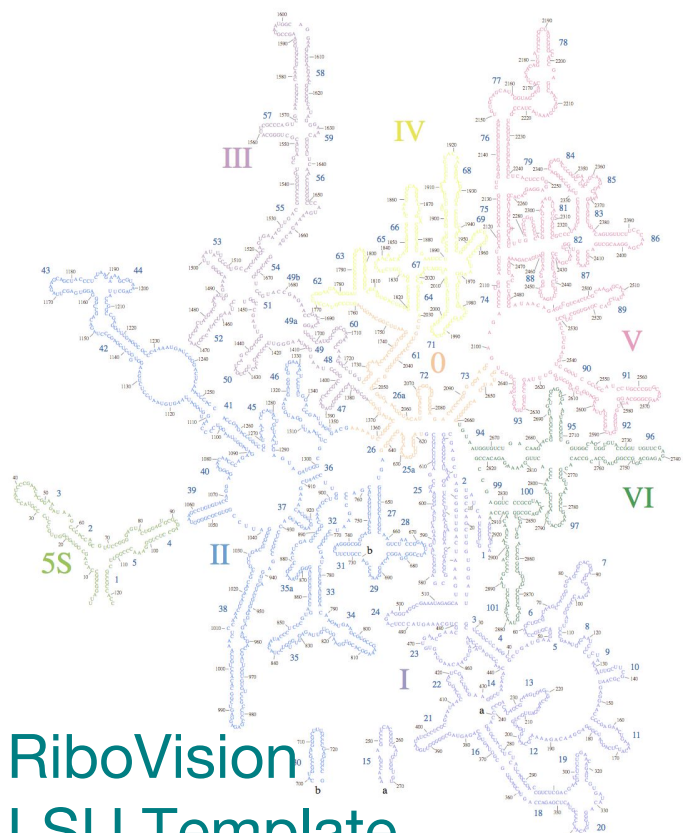
Thermus thermophilus
(X07998)

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 5. Thermus
- September 2001

Citation and related information available at <http://www.rna.icmb.utexas.edu>



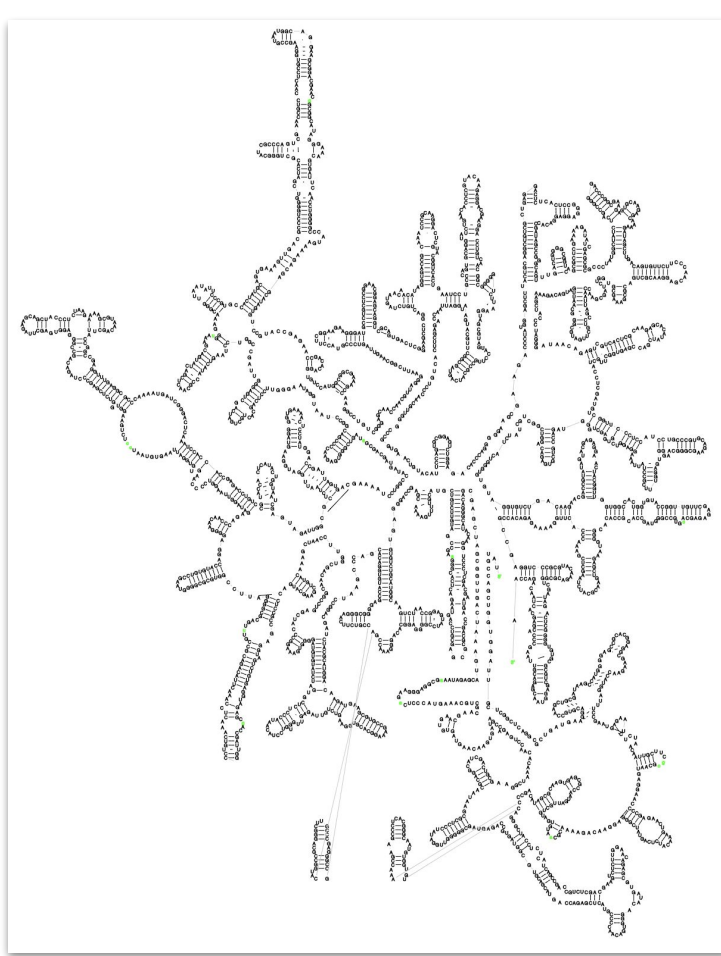
Automatic layout for PDB 2AVY



RiboVision LSU Template

Haloarcula marismortui
large subunit ribosomal RNA

A 3D-based secondary structure, generated by RiboVision.
Saved on 6/25/2018, 1:51:48



Automatic
layout
for PDB
1S72

RNAcentral keeps evolving

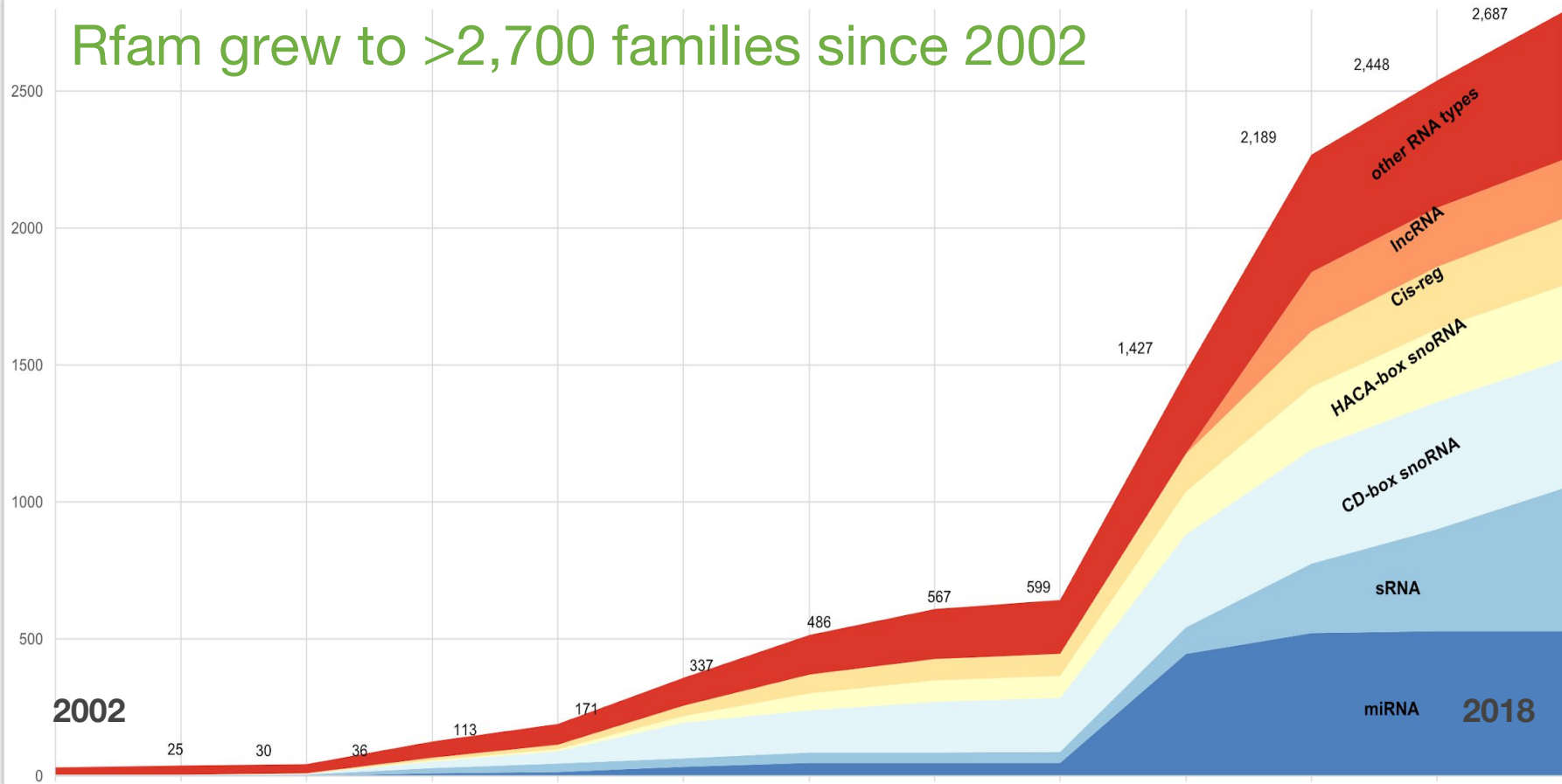
- Try it and send us your **feedback**
- Help us **improve**



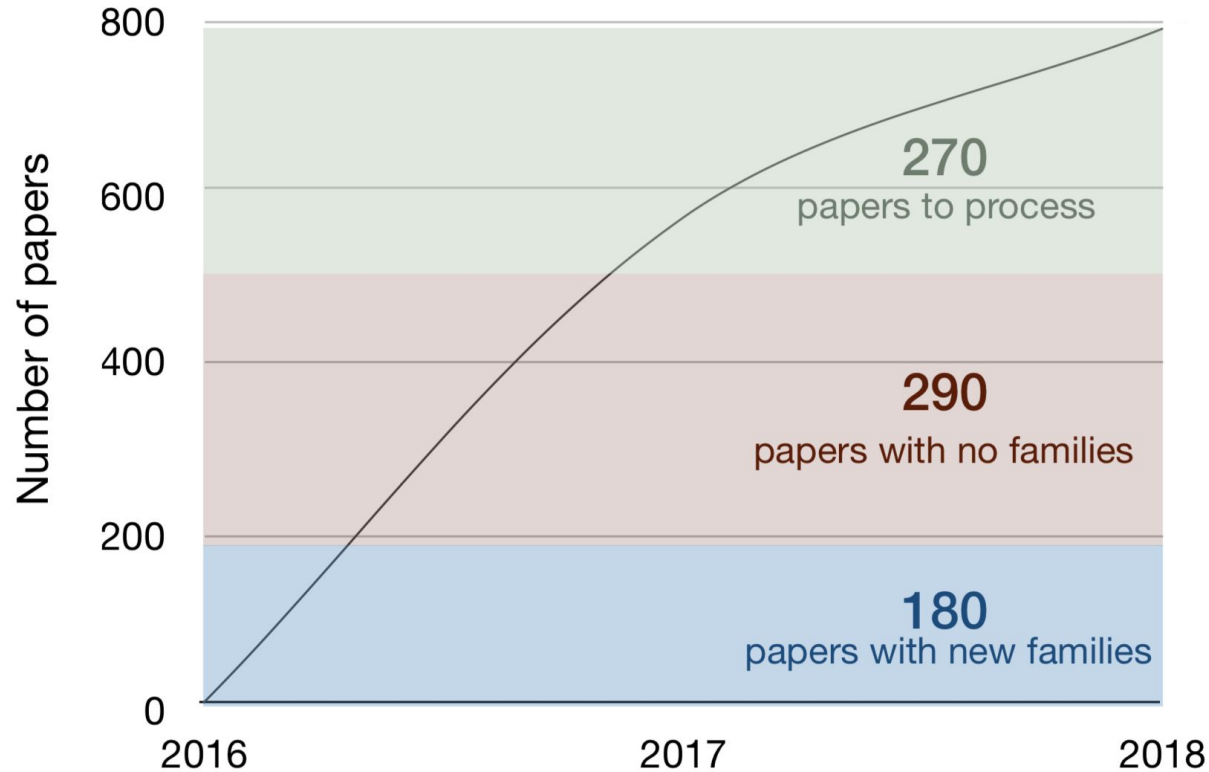
The transition
to a genome-centric
database of ncRNA families



Rfam grew to >2,700 families since 2002



There are still more RNA families to be added

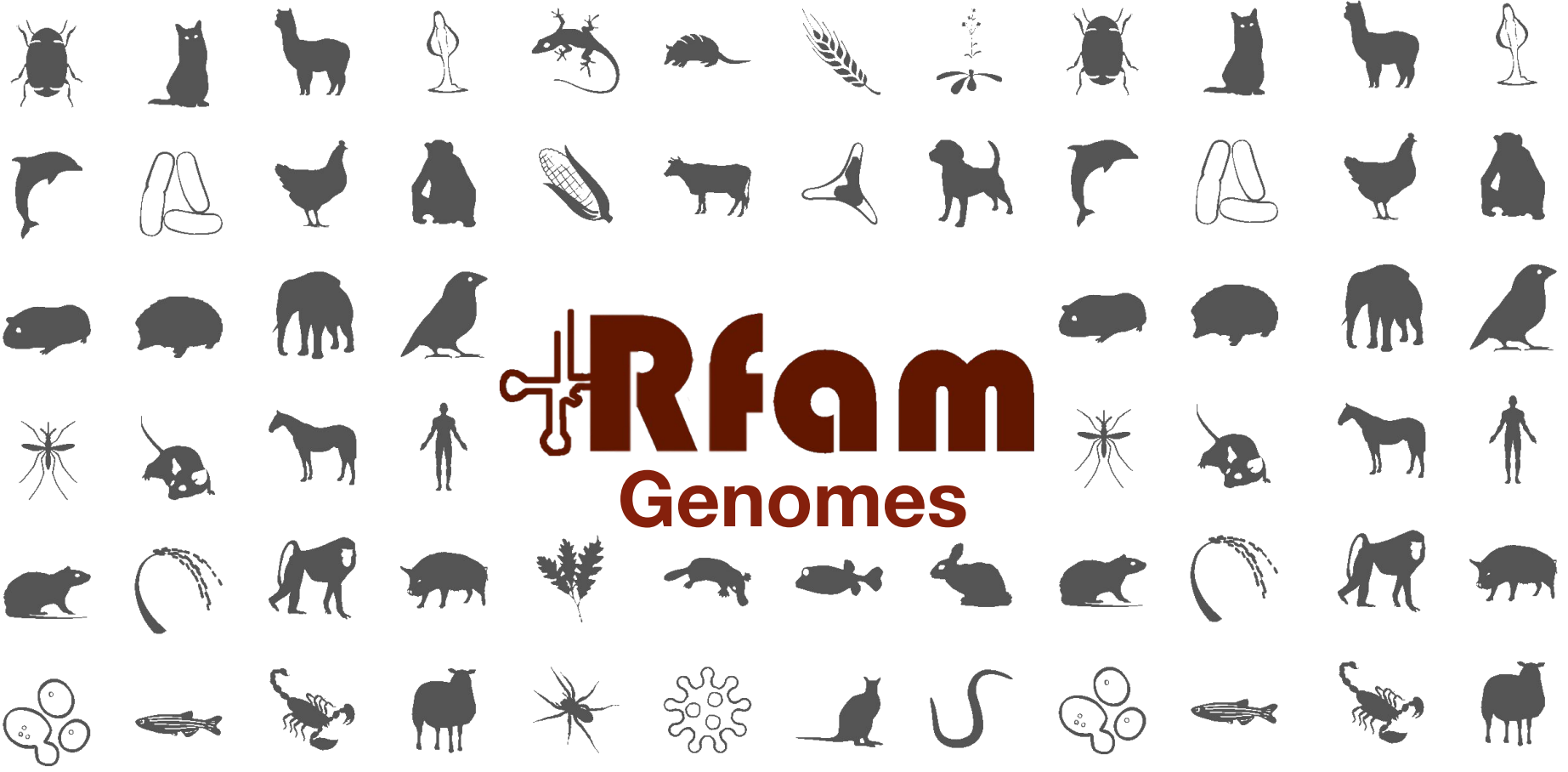


- **350** new families created since 2016
- **30%** of papers still waiting to be curated

What's new in Rfam



Can you guess
the most common user request
in Rfam 12.*?



Rfam Genomes

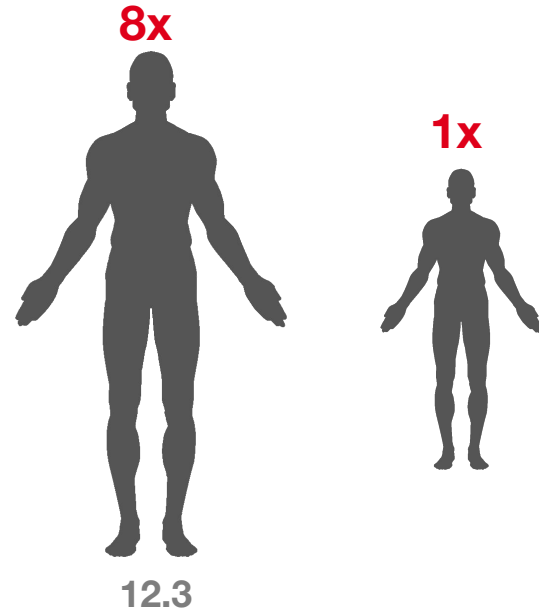
Previously Rfam analysed WGS and STD sequences from ENA and GenBank

- The data were **redundant**
- Taxonomic comparisons were **difficult**

Redundant strains

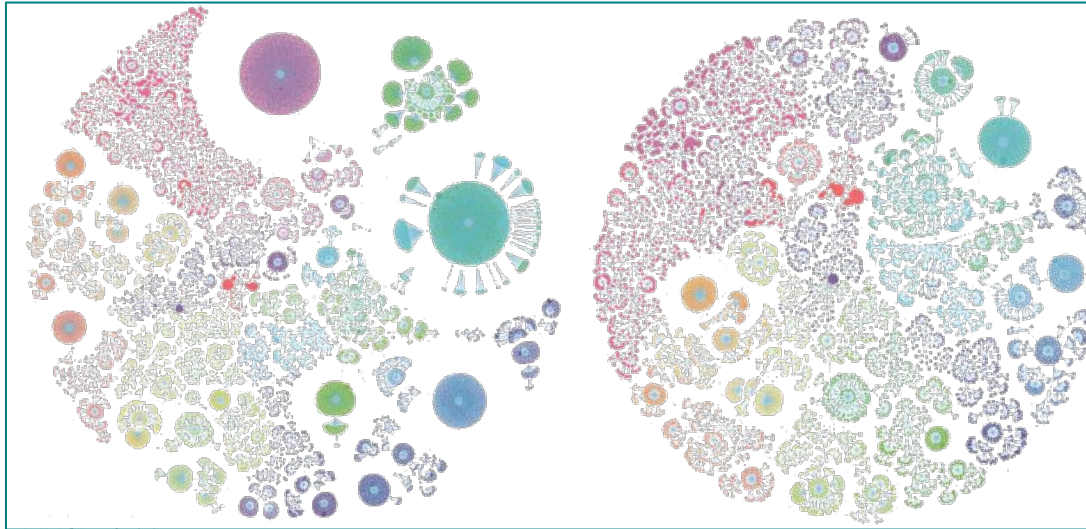
	Strains
<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	77
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	348

Over-represented genomes



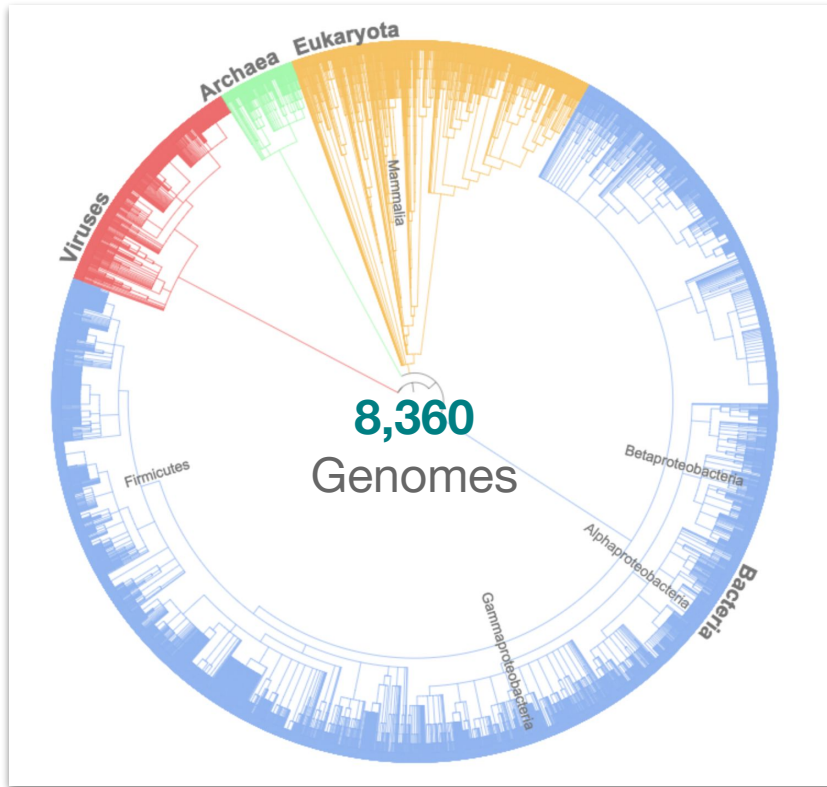
Rfam now annotates **complete, representative, and non-redundant** genomes

Based on the **UniProt** Reference Proteome collection



<https://doi.org/10.1093/database/baw139>

Rfam 13.0 is based on 8,360 genomes



Need to further expand Rfam sequence database

- Viruses
- Metagenomes
- 3D structures
- RNACentral sequences that do not match Rfam families

Find out more about genome-centric Rfam

Nucleic Acids Research, 2017 **1**
doi: 10.1093/nar/gkx1038

Rfam 13.0: shifting to a genome-centric resource for non-coding RNA families

Ioanna Kalvari¹, Joanna Argasinska¹, Natalia Quinones-Olvera², Eric P. Nawrocki³, Elena Rivas⁴, Sean R. Eddy⁵, Alex Bateman¹, Robert D. Finn¹ and Anton I. Petrov^{1,*}

¹European Molecular Biology Laboratory, European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SD, UK, ²Systems Biology Graduate Program, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA, ³National Center for Biotechnology Information; National Institutes of Health; Department of Health and Human Services; Bethesda, MD 20894, USA, ⁴Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA and ⁵Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Harvard University, 16 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

Received September 15, 2017; Revised October 12, 2017; Editorial Decision October 13, 2017; Accepted October 19, 2017

<https://academic.oup.com/nar/article/4588106>

New website functionality

New faceted text search and search API

Examples: *SAM, Homo sapiens, snoRNA, PUBMED:20230605, SO:0000370 (small regulatory ncRNA), GO:0005685 (U1 snRNP), author:\"Weinberg\"*

Browse [Families](#), [Clans](#), [Motifs](#), [Genomes](#), [Sequences](#), or [Families with 3D structures](#)

Q Results 15 out of 666

Sort by:

Entry type

Family (666)


RNA type

- Gene (621)
- snRNA (226)
- snoRNA (216)
- miRNA (215)
- lncRNA (157)
- CD-box (121)
- HACA-box (77)
- Cis-reg (45)
- scaRNA (18)
- IRES (16)
- splicing (9)
- rRNA (7)
- ribozyme (5)
- frameshift_element (3)
- tRNA (2)
- sRNA (1)

Organisms

- Canis lupus familiaris (666)
- Gorilla gorilla gorilla (661)
- Chlorocebus sabaeus (661)
- Pan troglodytes (660)
- Homo sapiens (660)
- Papio anubis (660)

tRNA RF00005




Family tRNA Gene; tRNA

≡ **954 seed alignment sequences**

≡ **1,761,368 full alignment sequences** **6,457 species** **3D 480 structures**

5S ribosomal RNA RF00001




Family 5S_rRNA Gene; rRNA

≡ **712 seed alignment sequences**

≡ **183,439 full alignment sequences** **5,673 species** **3D 523 structures**

U2 spliceosomal RNA RF00004



Family U2 Gene; snRNA; splicing

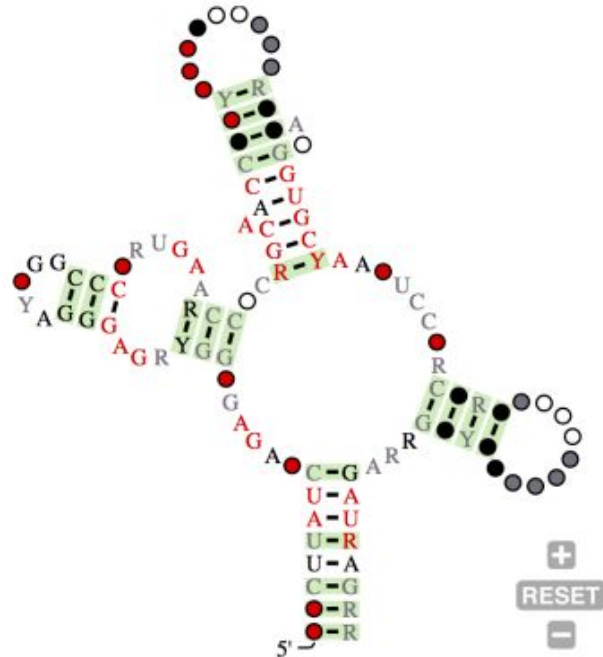
≡ **208 seed alignment sequences**

≡ **15,960 full alignment sequences** **942 species** **3D 13 structures**

R-Scape visualisations

Current Rfam structure

19 out of 27 basepairs are significant at E-value=0.05



R-scape optimised structure

27 out of 36 basepairs are significant at E-value=0.05



Find how to search Rfam, query public MySQL database,
and more



in Bioinformatics

UNIT

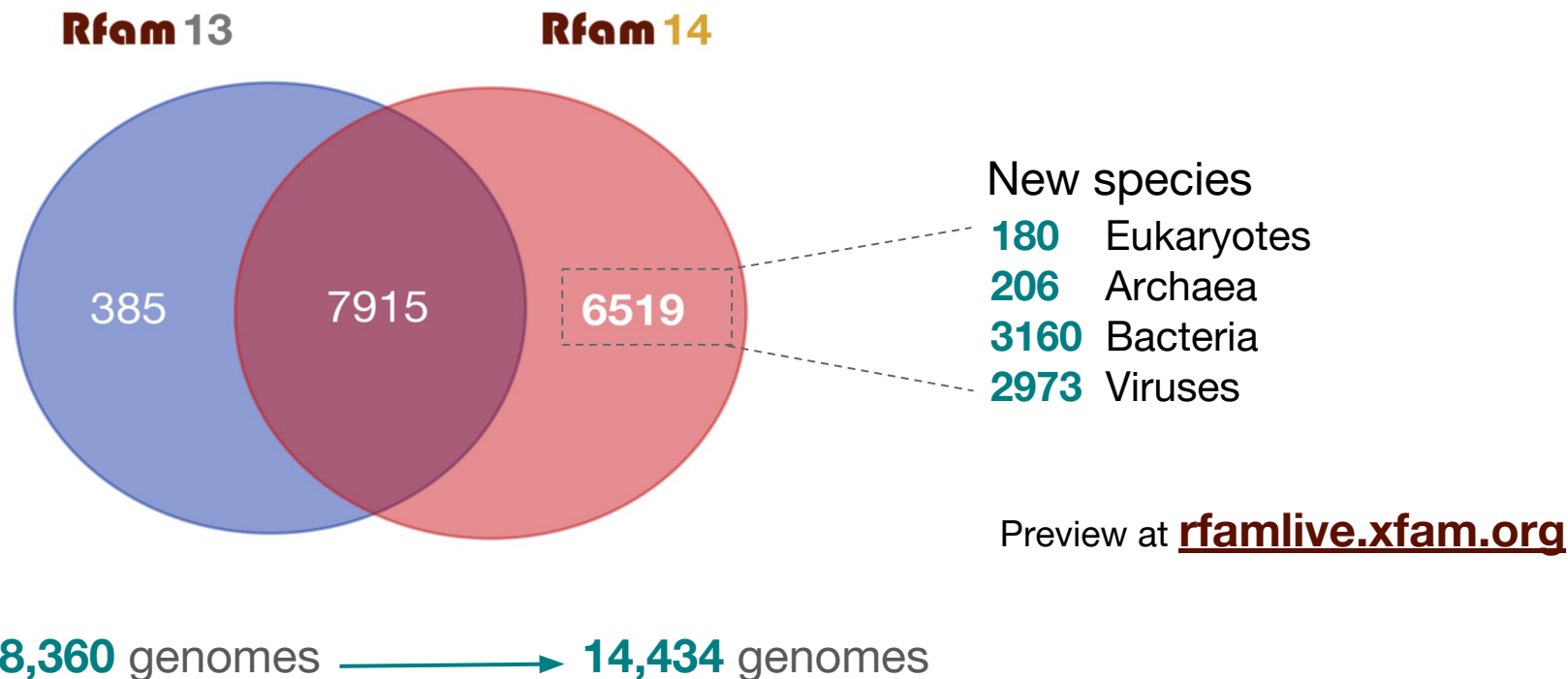
Non-Coding RNA Analysis Using the Rfam Database

Ioanna Kalvari, Eric P. Nawrocki, Joanna Argasinska, Natalia Quinones-Olvera, Robert D. Finn,
Alex Bateman, Anton I. Petrov

First published: 05 June 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/cpbi.51>

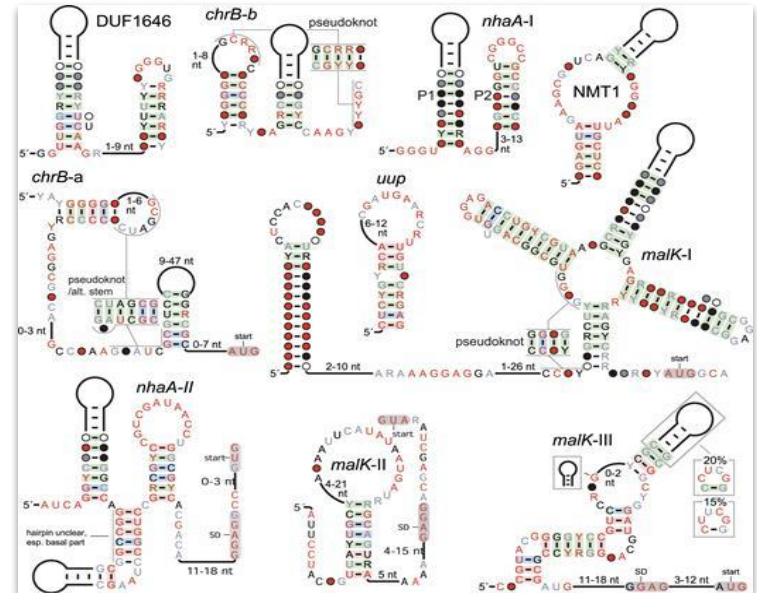
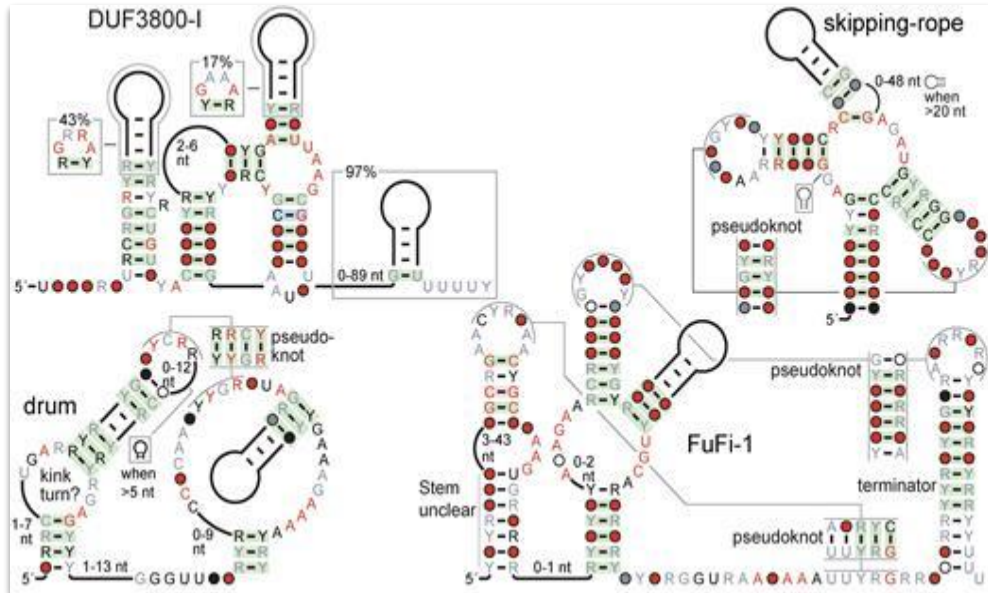
<https://doi.org/10.1002/cpbi.51>

Upcoming Rfam 14.0 annotates **60% more genomes**



Expect Rfam 14.1 later this year

No new genomes but lots of new families from Zasha Weinberg



<https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkx699>

Do you want to build Rfam families?

- Family curation by approved **experts**
- **Cloud-based** Rfam pipeline
- Command line or **Galaxy** access



Special session

Wednesday 3pm

Acknowledgements



EMBL-EBI

Alex Bateman
Robert Finn
Ioanna Kalvari
Joanna Argasinska
Blake Sweeney
Boris Burkov



NCBI

Eric Nawrocki



Harvard University

Sean Eddy
Elena Rivas
Natalia Quinones-Olvera

