

**Discovery of Mechanisms and  
Prognosis of Cancers from  
Matrix and Tensor Modeling of  
Large-Scale Molecular Biological Data**

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<http://alterlab.org/>**

## A groundbreaking look at the nature of quantum mechanics

With new technologies permitting the observation and manipulation of single quantum systems, the quantum theory of measurement is fast becoming a subject of experimental investigation in laboratories worldwide. This original new work addresses open fundamental questions in quantum mechanics in light of these experimental developments.

Using a novel analytical approach developed by the authors, *Quantum Measurement of a Single System* provides answers to three long-standing questions that have been debated by such thinkers as Bohr, Einstein, Heisenberg, and Schrödinger. It establishes the quantum theoretical limits to information obtained in the measurement of a single system on the quantum wavefunction of the system, the time evolution of the quantum observables associated with the system, and the classical potentials or forces which shape this time evolution. The technological relevance of the theory is also demonstrated through examples from atomic physics, quantum optics, and mesoscopic physics.

Suitable for professionals, students, or readers with a general interest in quantum mechanics, the book features recent formulations as well as humorous illustrations of the basic concepts of quantum measurement. Researchers in physics and engineering will find *Quantum Measurement of a Single System* a timely guide to one of the most stimulating fields of science today.

**ORLY ALTER, PhD**, is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Genetics at Stanford University. **YOSHIHISA YAMAMOTO, PhD**, is a professor in the Departments of Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. He is currently the director of the ICORP Quantum Entanglement Project of the Japanese Science and Technology (JST) Corporation. While they collaborated on the research presented in this book, Yamamoto was the director of the ERATO Quantum Fluctuation Project of JST, and Alter was a doctoral student at the Department of Applied Physics at Stanford. She was selected as a finalist for the American Physical Society Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Research in Atomic, Molecular or Optical Physics for 1998 for this work.

Cover Illustration: David B. Oberman

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ALTER  
YAMAMOTO

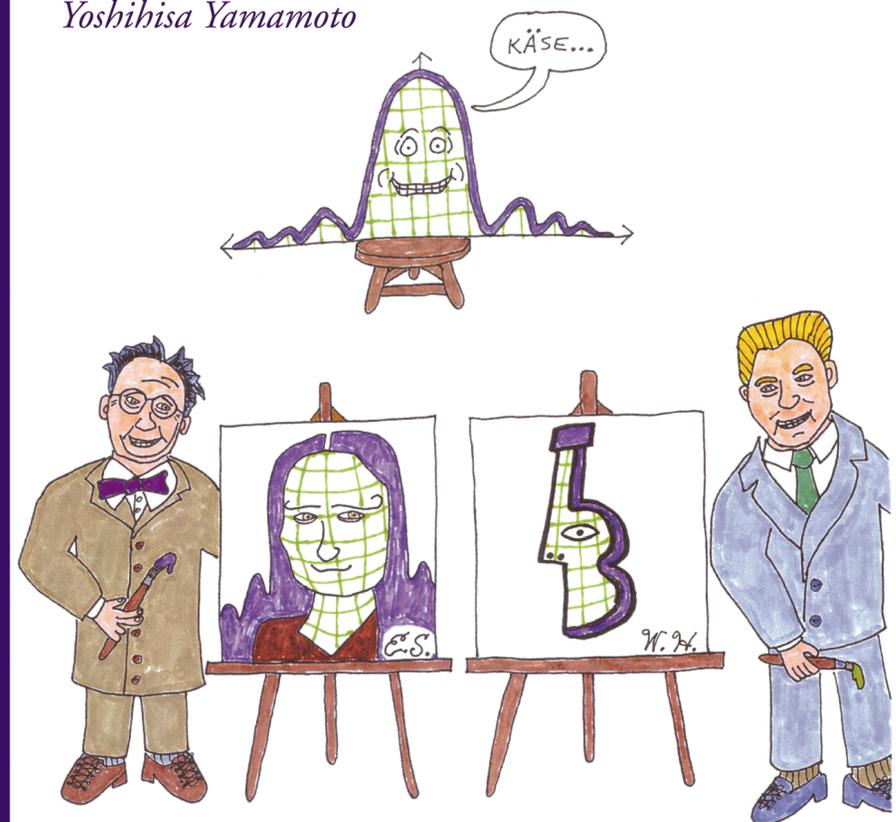
Quantum Measurement of a Single System



# Quantum Measurement of a Single System

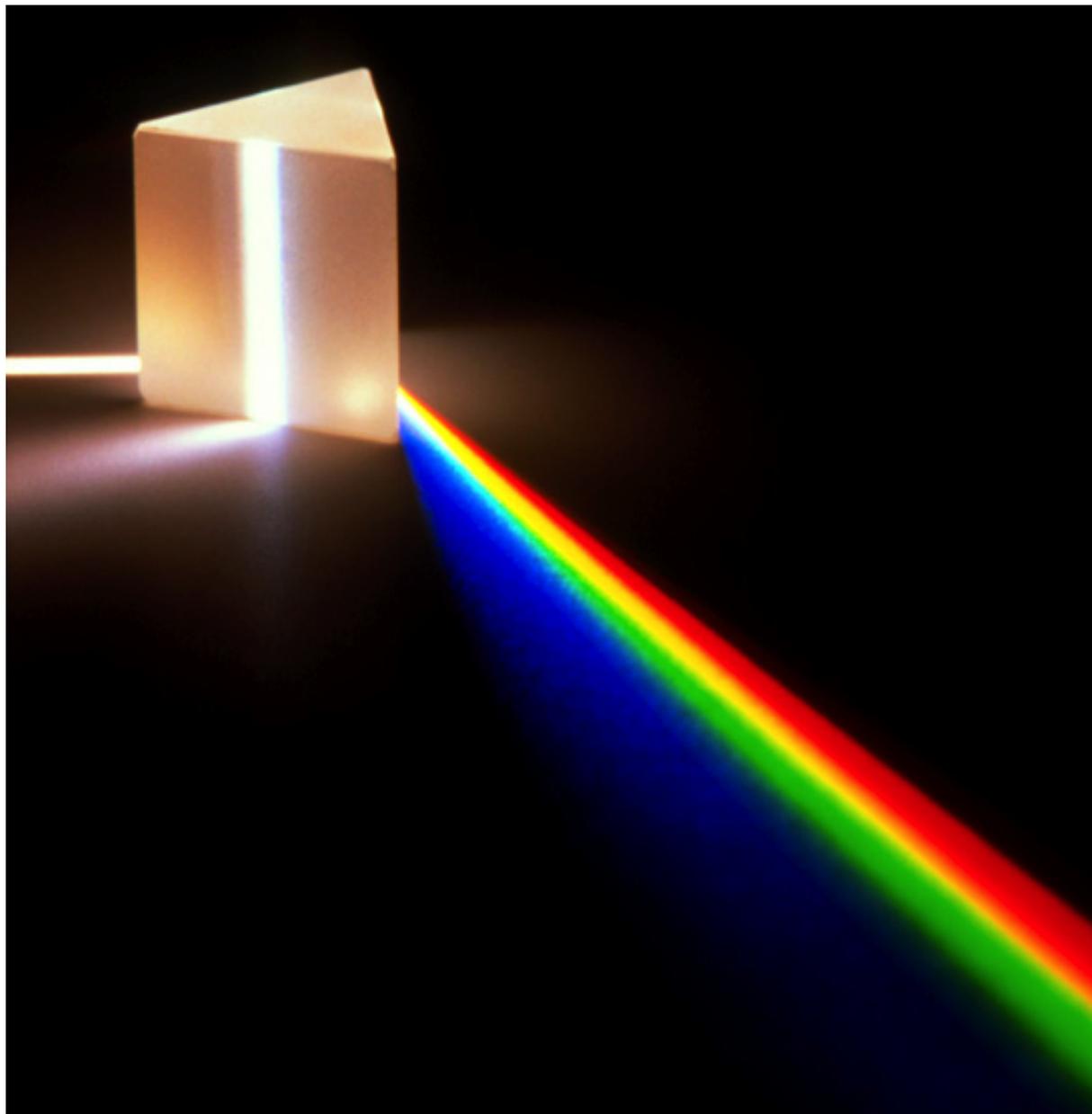
Orly Alter

Yoshihisa Yamamoto





# Global Mathematical Vocabulary for Molecular Biological Discovery



Develop generalizations of the matrix and tensor decompositions that underlie the theoretical description of the physical world;

Create models that compare and integrate different types of large-scale molecular biological data;

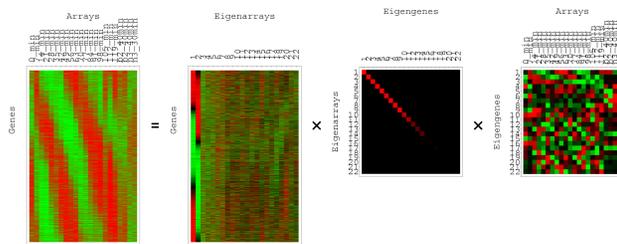
Predict global mechanisms that govern the activity of DNA and RNA.

# Physics-Inspired Matrix (and Tensor) Models

**Mathematical frameworks** for the description of the data, in which the mathematical variables and operations might represent **biological reality**.

## SVD

Alter, Brown & Botstein,  
*PNAS* 97, 10101 (2000).

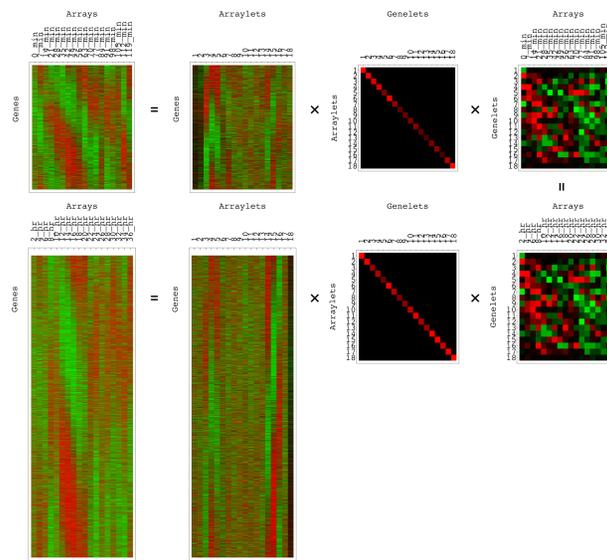


“Eigengenes” and  
“eigenarrays” → cellular  
processes and states  
in a single dataset.

Eigenvalue Decomposition

## Comparative GSVD

Alter, Brown & Botstein,  
*PNAS* 100, 3351 (2003).

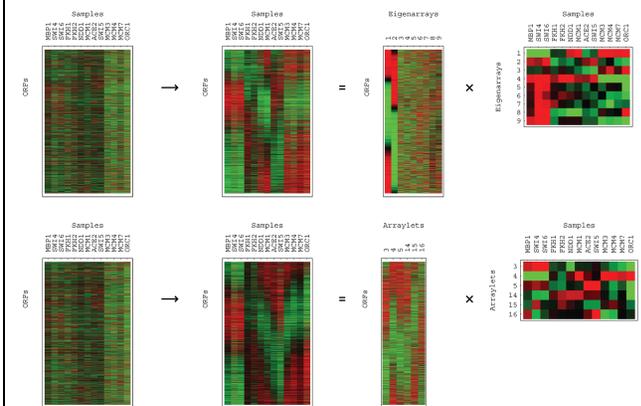


“Genelets” and  
“arraylets” → phenomena  
exclusive to one of, or  
common to two datasets.

Generalized Eigenvalue  
Decomposition

## Integrative Pseudoinverse

Alter & Golub,  
*PNAS* 101, 16577 (2004).



“Pseudoinverse  
correlation” →  
causal coordination  
between two datasets.

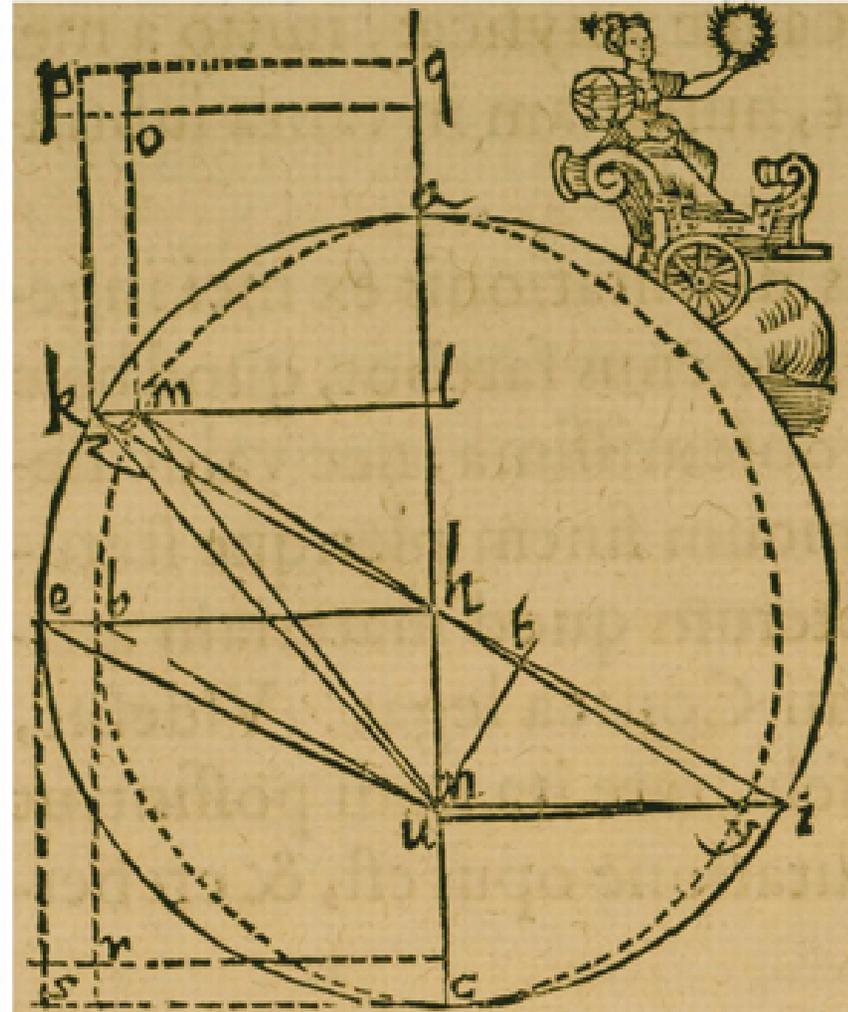
Inverse Projection

# Patterns Underlie Principles of Nature: Global Correlations to Causal Coordination

Alter, *PNAS* 103, 16063 (2006);

Alter, in *Microarray Data Analysis: Methods and Applications* (Humana Press, 2007), pp. 17–59.

	Tempus	Locus ☉	10 <sup>4</sup> x Temp distantia	Magni a Sole distantia
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	30 Dece.H. 8.10	19. 9 ♀	98252	162443
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	1584. 21 Dece.H.14. 0	10.16 ♀	98207	164907
	1585. 24 Janua.H. 9. 0	14.53 =	98595	166210
	4 Febr.H. 6.40	26.10 =	98830	166400
	12 Mart.H.10.30	2.16 ♀	99858	166170
	1587. 25 Janua.H.17. 0	16. 1 =	98611	166232
	4 Mart.H.13.24	24 0 X	99595	164737
	10 Mart.H.11.30	29.52 X	99780	164382
	21 April.H. 9.30	10.48 ♀	101010	161027
1589.	8 Mart.H.16.24	28.36 X	99736	161000
	13 April.H.11.15	3.38 ♀	100810	157141
	15 April.H.12. 5	5.36 ♀	100866	156900
	6 Maji.H.11.20	25.49 ♀	101366	154326
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	6 Junii H.12.20	24.59 II	101769	144981
	10 Junii H.11.50	28.47 II	101789	144526
	28 Junii H.10.24	15.51 =	101770	142608
1593.	21 Julii H.14. 0	8.26 II	101498	138376
	22 Aug.H.12.20	9.11 ♀	100761	138463
	29 Aug.H.10.20	11.54 ♀	100562	138682
	3 Octo.H. 8. 0	20.15 0	99500	140697
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	27 Octo.H.12.20	13.59 =	98851	147890
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	18 Dece.H. 8. 0	6.43 ♀	98200	154519



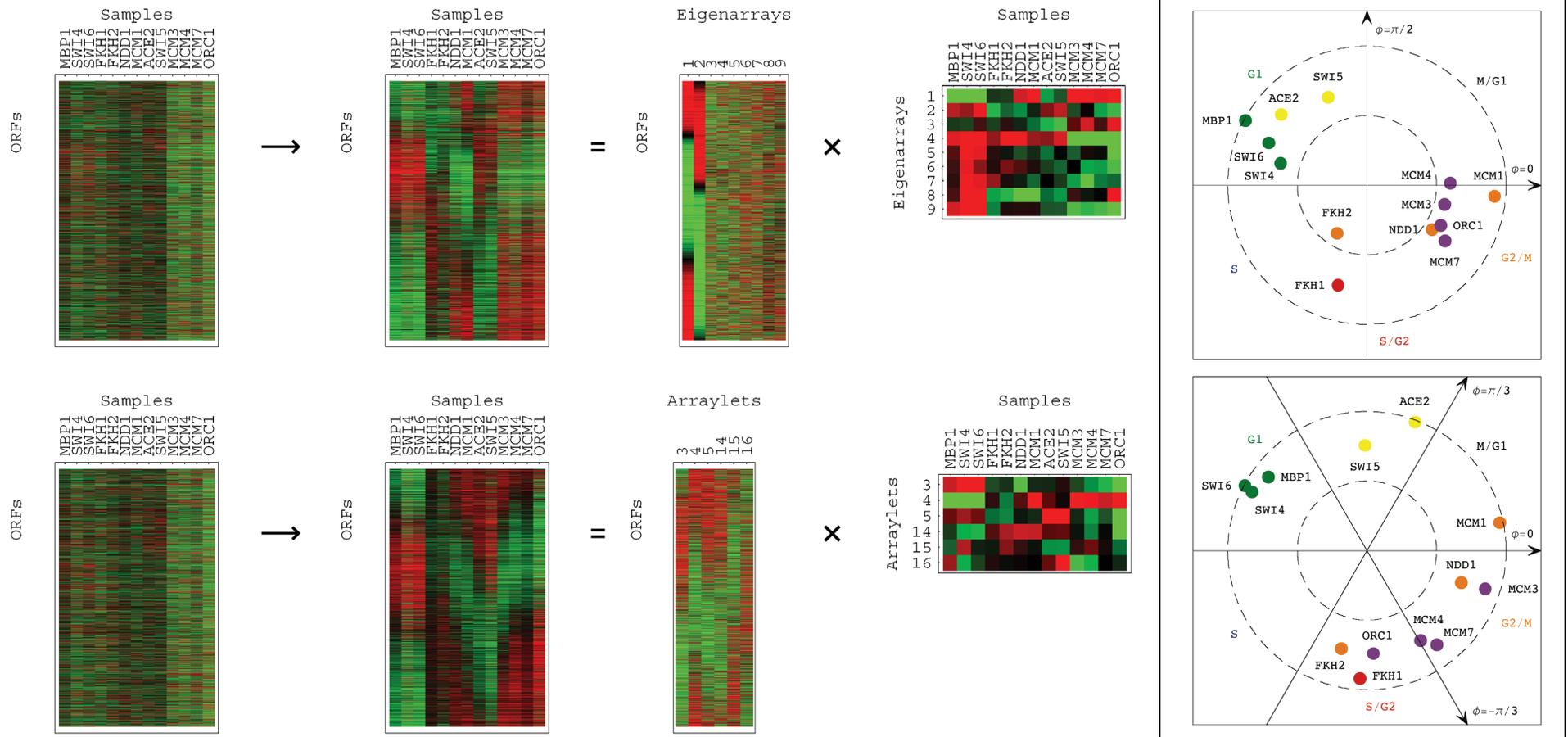
Kepler's discovery of his first law of planetary motion from mathematical modeling of Brahe's astronomical data.

Kepler, *Astronomia Nova* (Voegelinus, Heidelberg, 1609).

# Integrative Pseudoinverse Projection Predicts a Global Mode of Genetic Regulation

Alter & Golub, *PNAS* 101, 16577 (2004); <http://alterlab.org/pseudoinverse/>

Alter, Golub, Brown & Botstein, *Miami Nature Biotechnology Winter Symposium: Cell Cycle, Chromosomes and Cancer* (January 31 – February 4, 2004, Miami Beach, FL).

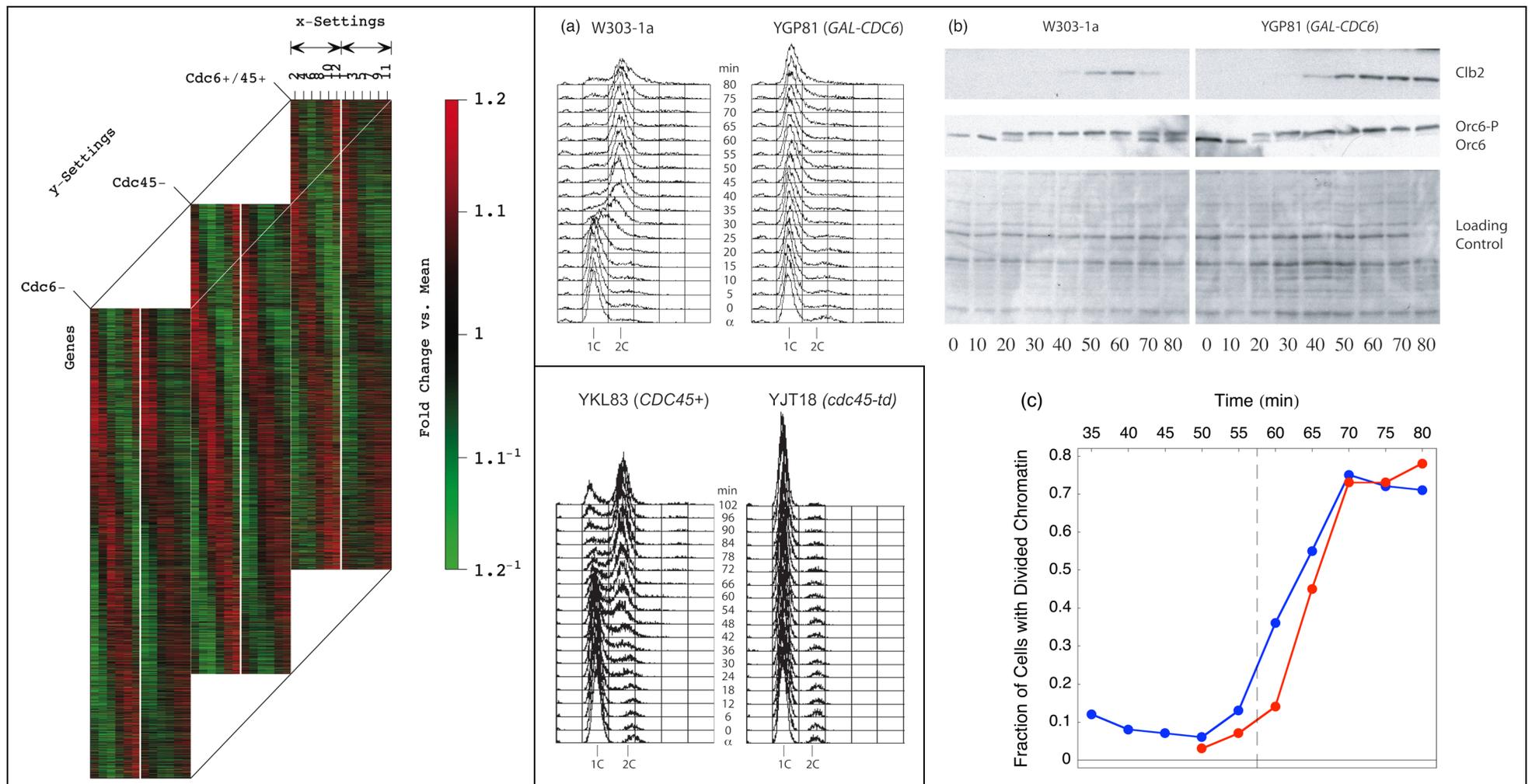


DNA binding of replication initiation proteins is correlated with minimum expression of adjacent genes during the cell cycle stage G1.

Simon et al., *Cell* 106, 697 (2001); Wyrick et al., *Science* 294, 2397 (2001).

# Effects of DNA Replication on RNA Expression: Experimental Verification of a Computationally Predicted Mode of Regulation

Omberg, Meyerson, Kobayashi, Drury, Diffley & Alter, *MSB* 5, 312 (2009);  
[http://alterlab.org/verification\\_of\\_prediction/](http://alterlab.org/verification_of_prediction/)



# HOSVD Identifies Combinations of Patterns of Variation across Genes, Time and Conditions

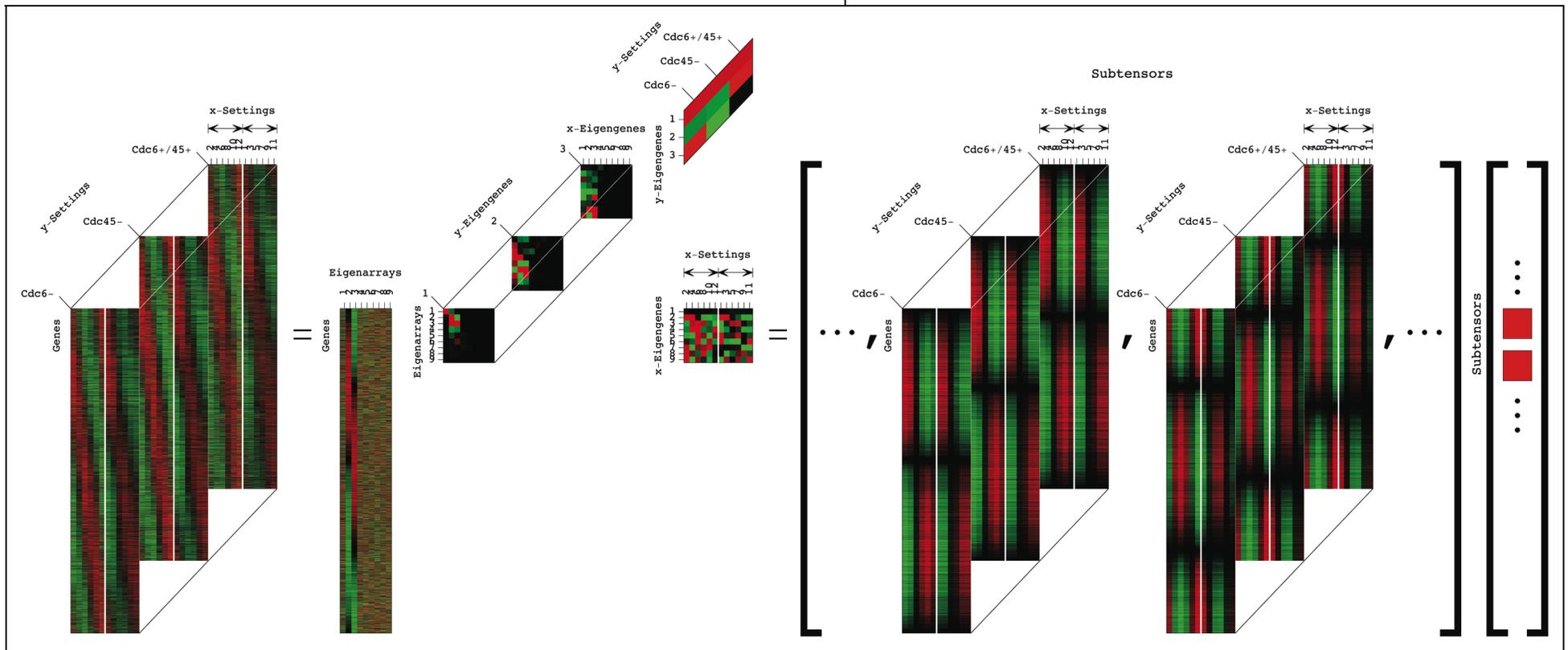
Omberg, Golub & Alter, *PNAS* 104, 18371 (2007); <http://alterlab.org/HOSVD/>

The data tensor is a **superposition** of all rank-1 “subtensors,” i.e., outer products of an **eigenarray**, an **x-** and a **y-eigengene**,

$$\mathcal{T} \equiv \sum_{a=1}^{LM} \sum_{b=1}^L \sum_{c=1}^M \mathcal{R}_{abc} \mathcal{S}(a,b,c) .$$

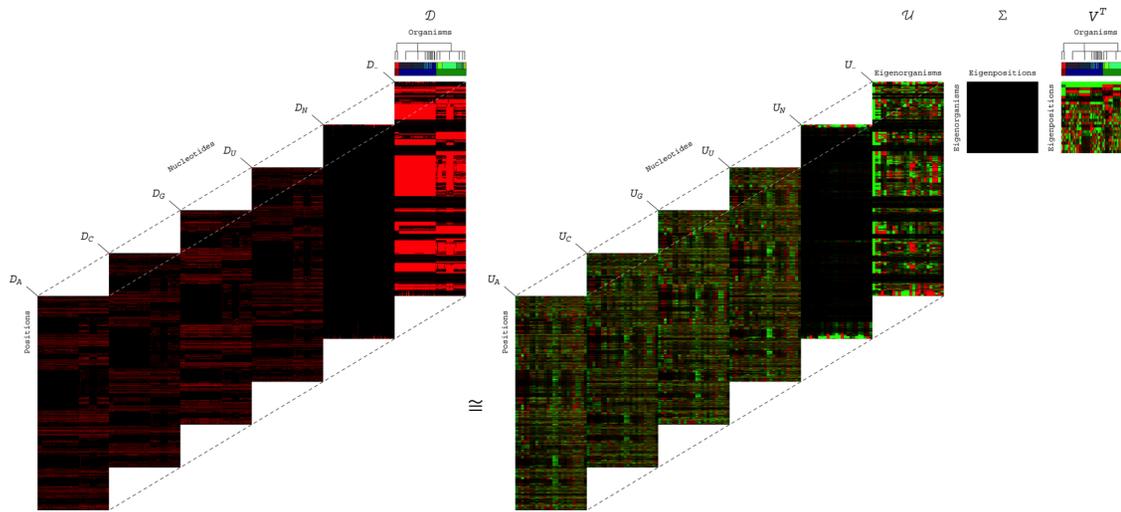
The significance of a subtensor is defined by the corresponding “**fraction**,” computed from the higher-order singular values,

$$\mathcal{P}_{abc} \equiv \mathcal{R}_{abc}^2 / \sum_{a=1}^{LM} \sum_{b=1}^L \sum_{c=1}^M \mathcal{R}_{abc}^2 .$$



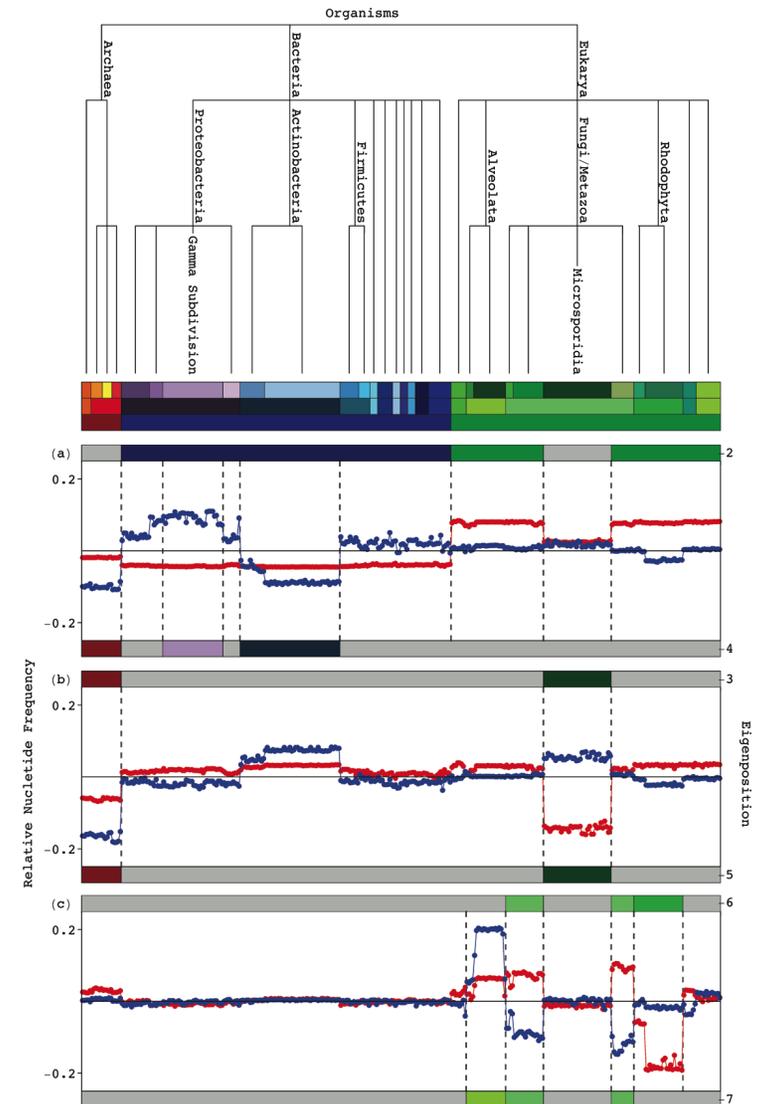
# Mode-1 HOSVD Predicts Evolutionary Convergence and Divergence Modes and Correlations with Structural Motifs in rRNA

Muralidhara, Gross, Gutell & Alter, *PLoS One* 6, e18768 (2011); <http://alterlab.org/rRNA/>



Even on the level of a single rRNA molecule, an organism's evolution is composed of multiple pathways due to concurrent forces that act independently upon different rRNA degrees of freedom.

Mode-1 HOSVD uncovers patterns of similar and dissimilar nucleotide frequency variation across the taxonomic groups, consistent between 16S and 23S rRNAs.



# Higher-Order GSVD for Comparison of mRNA Expression from Multiple Organisms

Ponnappalli, Saunders, Van Loan & Alter, *PLoS One* 6, e28072 (2011); [http://alterlab.org/HO\\_GSVD/](http://alterlab.org/HO_GSVD/)

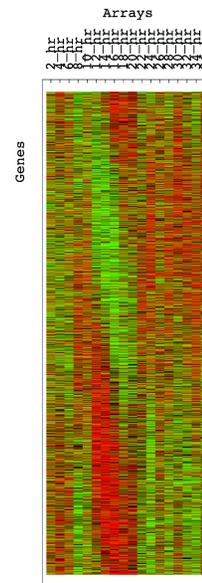
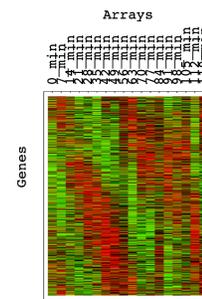
Ponnappalli, Golub & Alter, *Stanford University and Yahoo! Research Workshop on Algorithms for Modern Massive Datasets* (June 21–24, 2006, Stanford, CA).

The number of high-dimensional datasets recording multiple aspects of a single phenomenon is increasing in many areas of science.

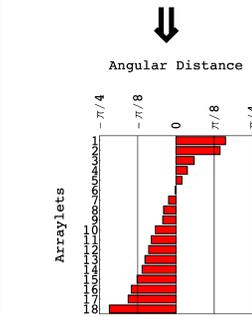
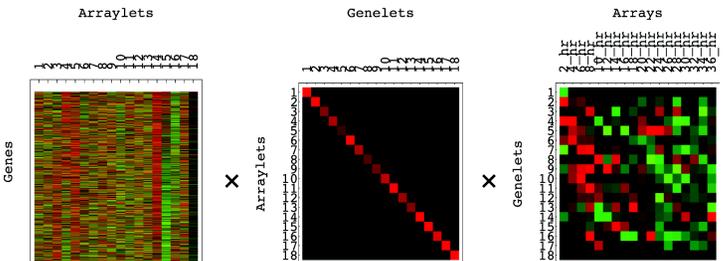
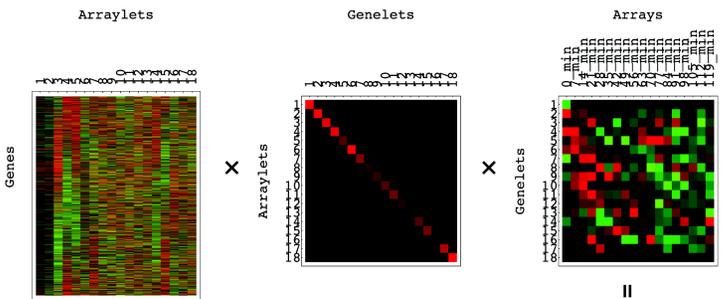
This is accompanied by a need for mathematical frameworks that can compare multiple large-scale matrices with different row dimensions.

The only such framework to date, the GSVD, is limited to two matrices.

Yeast



Spellman et al. *MBC* 9, 3273 (1998).



Human

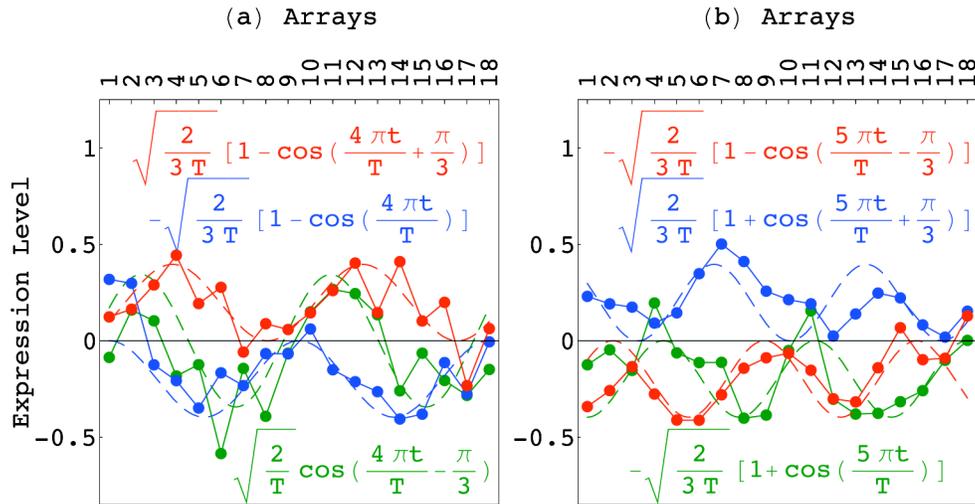
Whitfield et al. *MBC* 13, 1977 (2002).

Alter, Brown & Botstein, *PNAS* 100, 3351 (2003).

# Math Variables → Biology

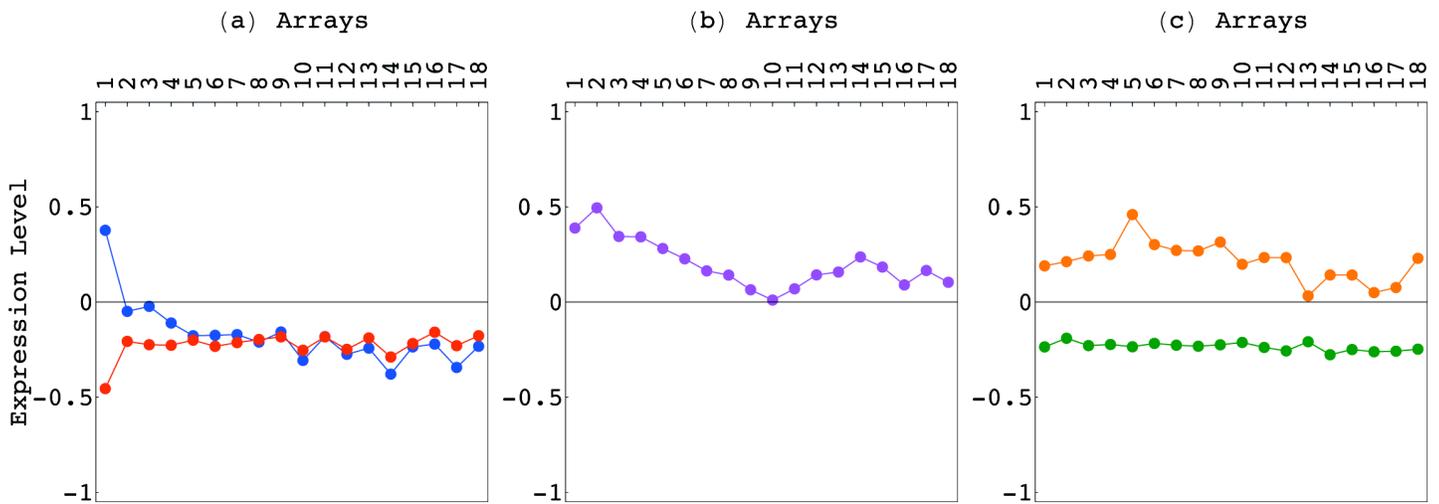
Genelets of almost equal significance in both datasets  
 → processes common to both genomes:

## Common Cell Cycle Subspace



Genelets of almost no significance in one dataset relative to the other → genome exclusive processes:

## Exclusive Synchronization Responses Subspaces



← *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

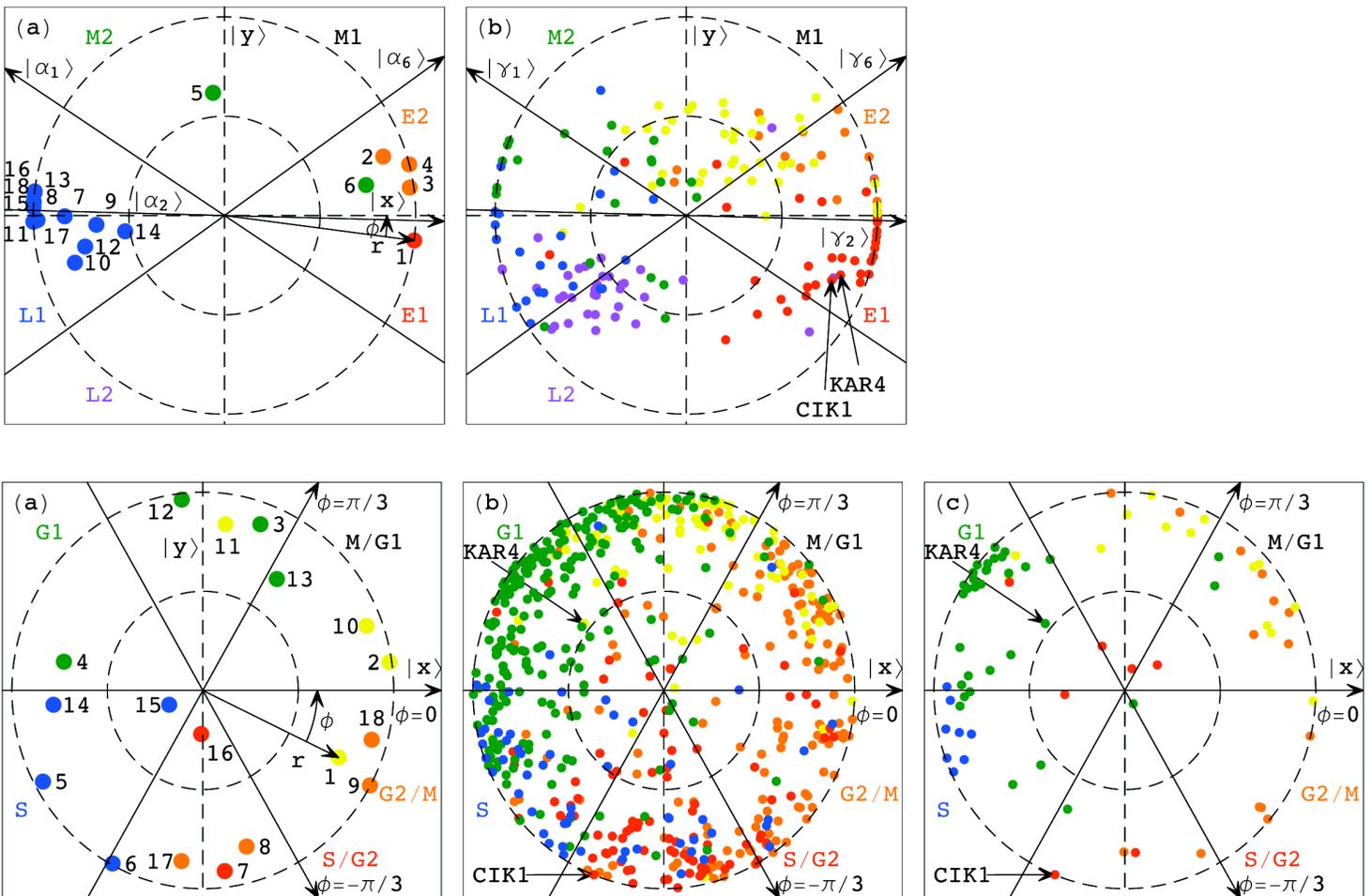
Human →

## Math Operations → Biology

Data reconstruction in two subspaces → experimental observation of differential expression of a genome in the two cellular programs these subspaces represent:

# Differential Expression in Yeast During Mating and Cell Cycle

Pheromone Synchronization Response Subspace:  
KAR4 is required for CIK1 induction during mating

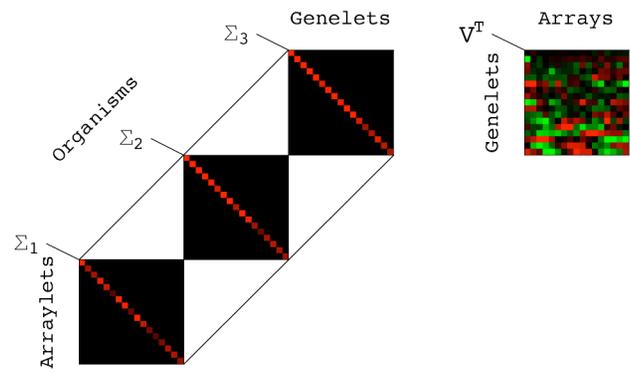
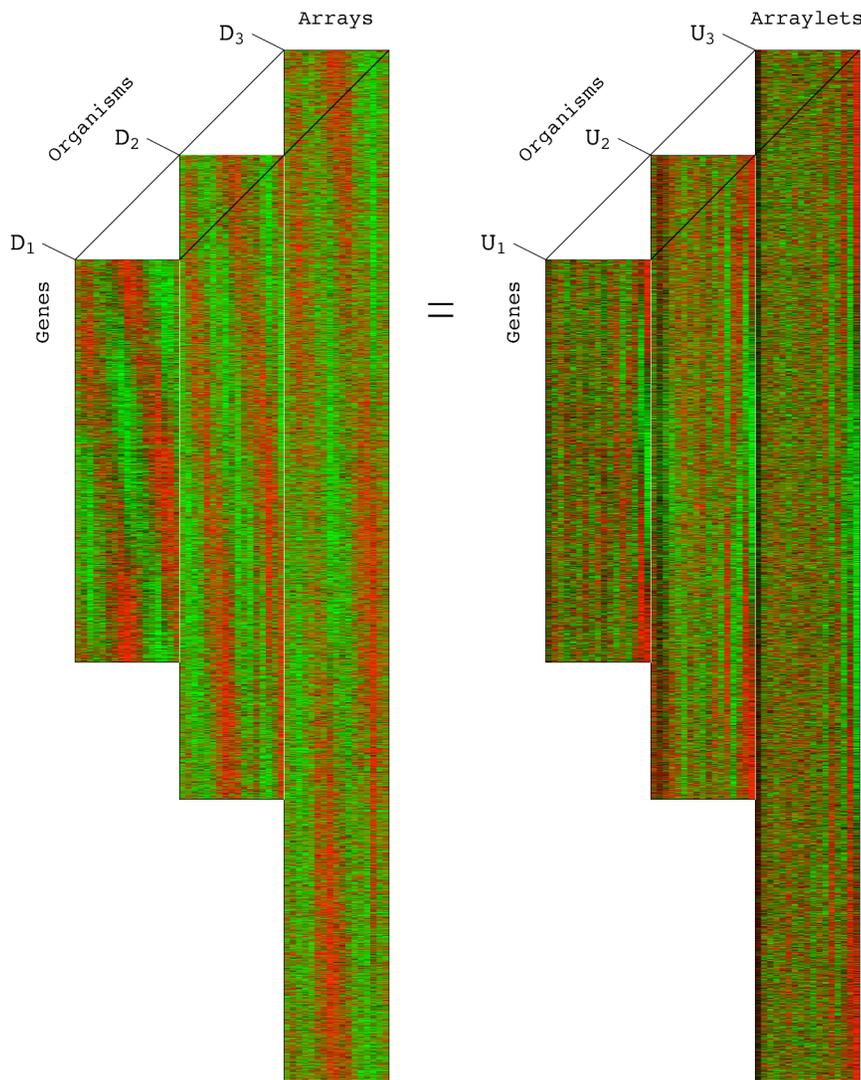


Common Cell Cycle Subspace: Mitotic expression of CIK1 during S/G2 is independent of KAR4

Kurihara, Stewart, Gammie & Rose, *MCB* 16, 3990 (1996).

# Mathematical Definition of a Novel HO GSVD

Ponnappalli, Golub & Alter, *Stanford University and Yahoo! Research Workshop on Algorithms for Modern Massive Datasets* (June 21–24, 2006, Stanford, CA).



**Definition:**

$$D_i = U_i \Sigma_i V^T, \quad \Sigma_i = \text{diag}(\sigma_{i,k})$$

$$SV = V\Lambda$$

$$S \equiv \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j>i}^N (A_i A_j^{-1} + A_j A_i^{-1})$$

$$= \frac{2}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j>i}^N S_{ij}$$

$$A_i = D_i^T D_i, \quad S_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (A_i A_j^{-1} + A_j A_i^{-1})$$

**Assumption:**  $D_i \in \mathcal{R}^{m_i \times n}$

The matrix  $V$ , identical in all factorizations, is obtained from the balanced eigensystem of  $S$ , which does not depend upon the ordering of  $D_i$ .

# Mathematical Properties of the HO GSVD

Ponnappalli, Saunders, Van Loan & Alter, *PLoS One* 6, e28072 (2011); [http://alterlab.org/HO\\_GSVD/](http://alterlab.org/HO_GSVD/)

This exact decomposition extends to higher orders all of the mathematical properties of the GSVD except for complete orthogonality of  $U_i$  for all  $i$ .

Supplementary Theorems 1–5:

For  $N=2$ , our HO GSVD leads algebraically to the GSVD.

Theorem 1:  $S$  has  $n$  independent eigenvectors, and the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of  $S$  are real.

Theorem 2: The eigenvalues of  $S$  satisfy  $\lambda_k \geq 1$ .

Theorem 3: **The common HO GSVD subspace.** An eigenvalue satisfies  $\lambda_k=1$  if and only if the corresponding right basis vector  $v_k$  is of equal significance in all matrices  $D_i$  and  $D_j$ , i.e.,  $\sigma_{i,k} / \sigma_{j,k} = 1$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ , and the corresponding left basis vector  $u_{i,k}$  is orthonormal to all other left basis vectors in  $U_i$  for all  $i$ .

Corollary 1: An eigenvalue satisfies  $\lambda_k=1$  if and only if the corresponding right basis vector  $v_k$  is a generalized singular vector of all pairwise GSVD factorizations of the matrices  $D_i$  and  $D_j$  with equal corresponding generalized singular values for all for all  $i$  and  $j$ .

Supplementary Theorem 6 and Conjecture 1:

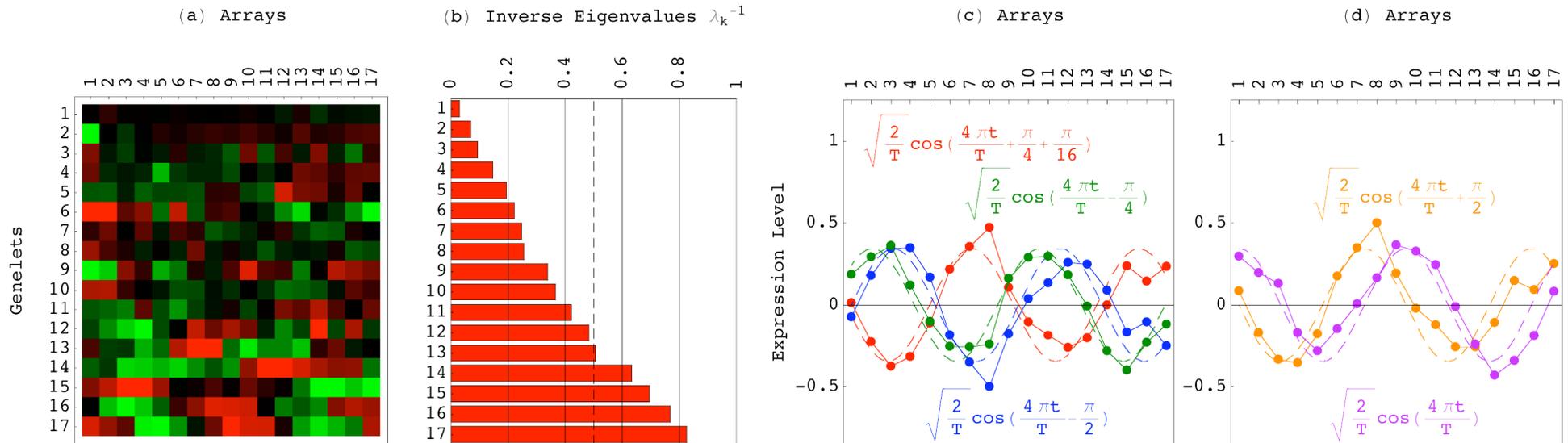
A role in iterative approximation algorithms.

# Math Variables → Biology

Genelets of almost equal significance in all datasets →

processes common to all genomes:

## Approximately Common HO GSVD Subspace



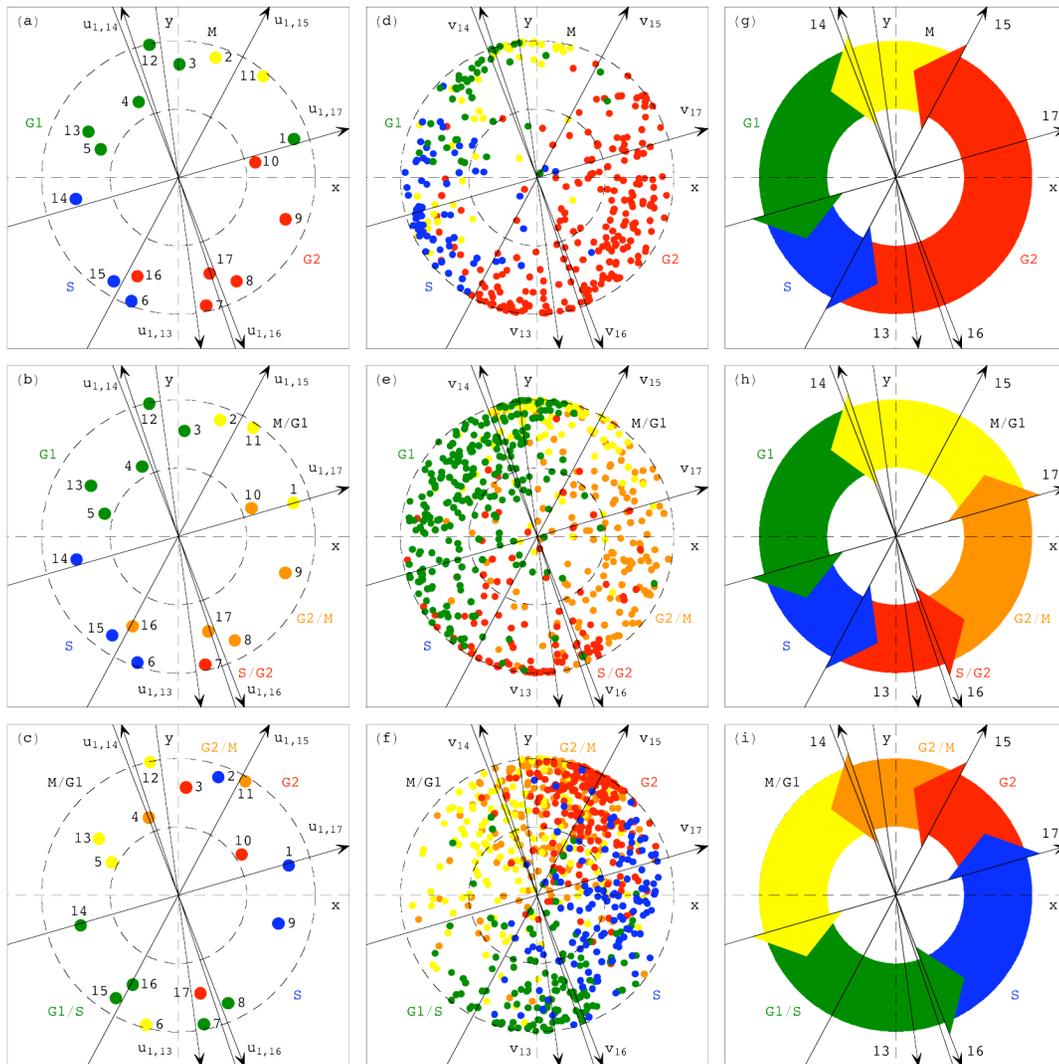
In a comparison of global cell cycle mRNA expression from *S. pombe*, *S. cerevisiae* and human, the approximately common HO GSVD subspace represents the cell cycle mRNA expression oscillations, which are similar among the datasets.

Simultaneous reconstruction in the common subspace, therefore, removes the experimental artifacts, which are dissimilar, from the datasets.

# Math Operations → Biology

Simultaneous classification in the common HO GSVD subspace → biological similarity in the regulation of the cellular programs that are conserved across the species:

## Common Cell Cycle Subspace



*Schizosaccharomyces pombe*  
Rustici et al. *Nat. Genet.* 36, 809 (2004).

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*  
Spellman et al. *MBC* 9, 3273 (1998).

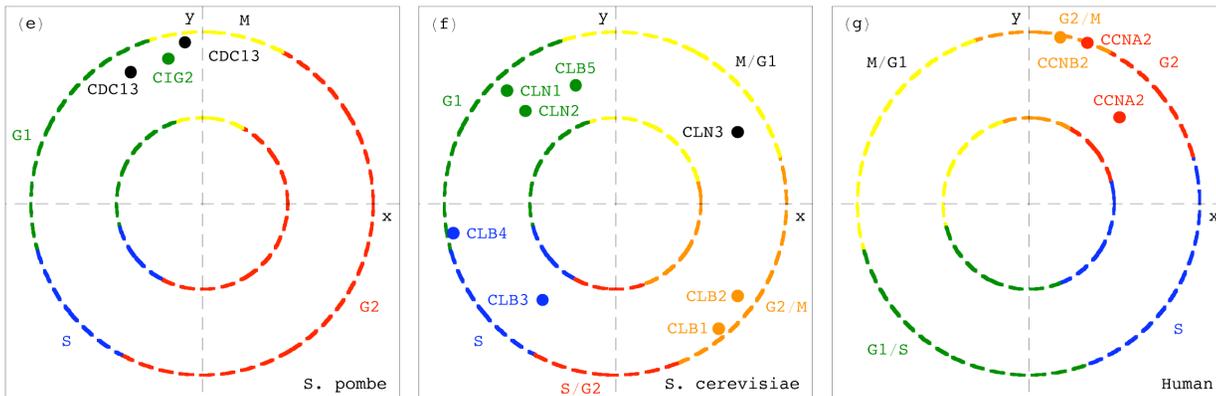
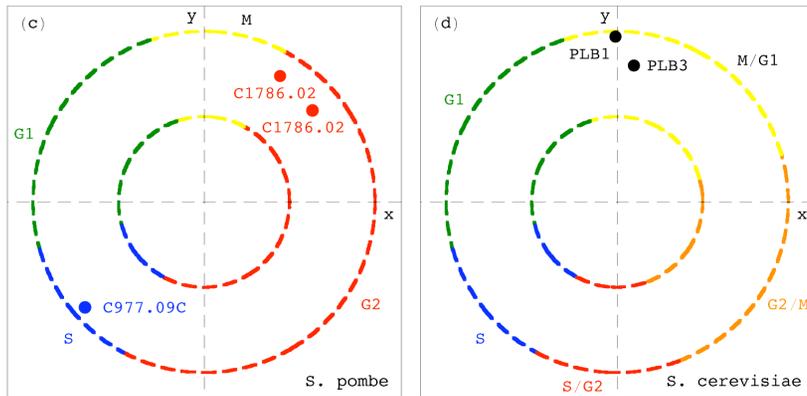
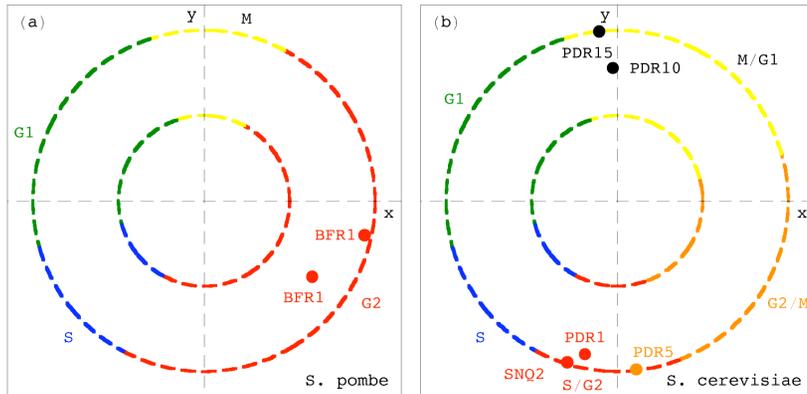
Human  
Whitfield et al. *MBC* 13, 1977 (2002).

# Simultaneous Classification Independent of Sequence Similarity

Genes of highly conserved sequences across the three organisms but significantly different cell cycle peak times are correctly classified.

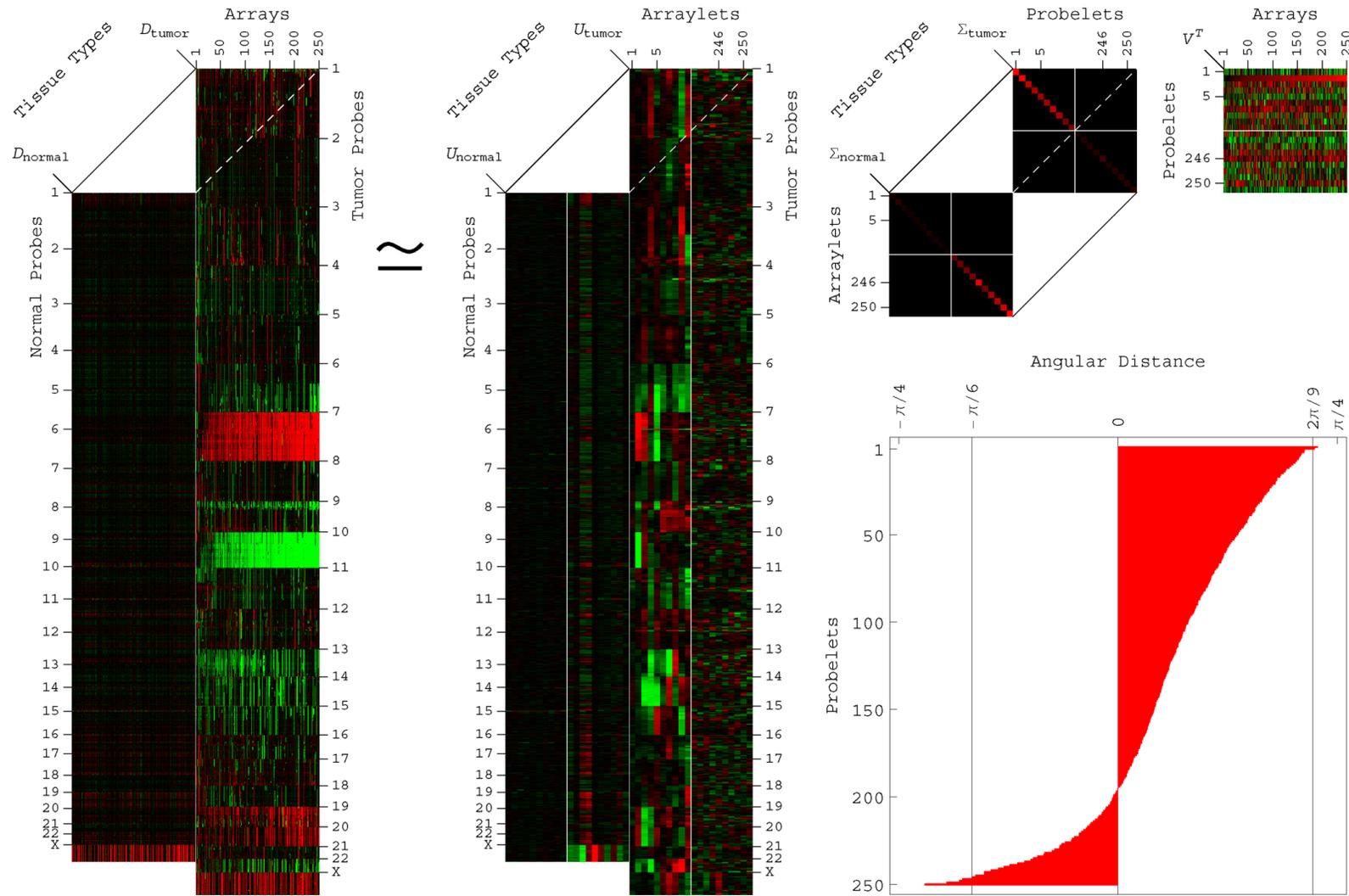
ABC Transporter Superfamily Genes

Phospholipase B-Encoding Genes and  
B Cyclin-Encoding Genes



# GSVD for Comparison of Patient-Matched Tumor and Normal Genomic Profiles

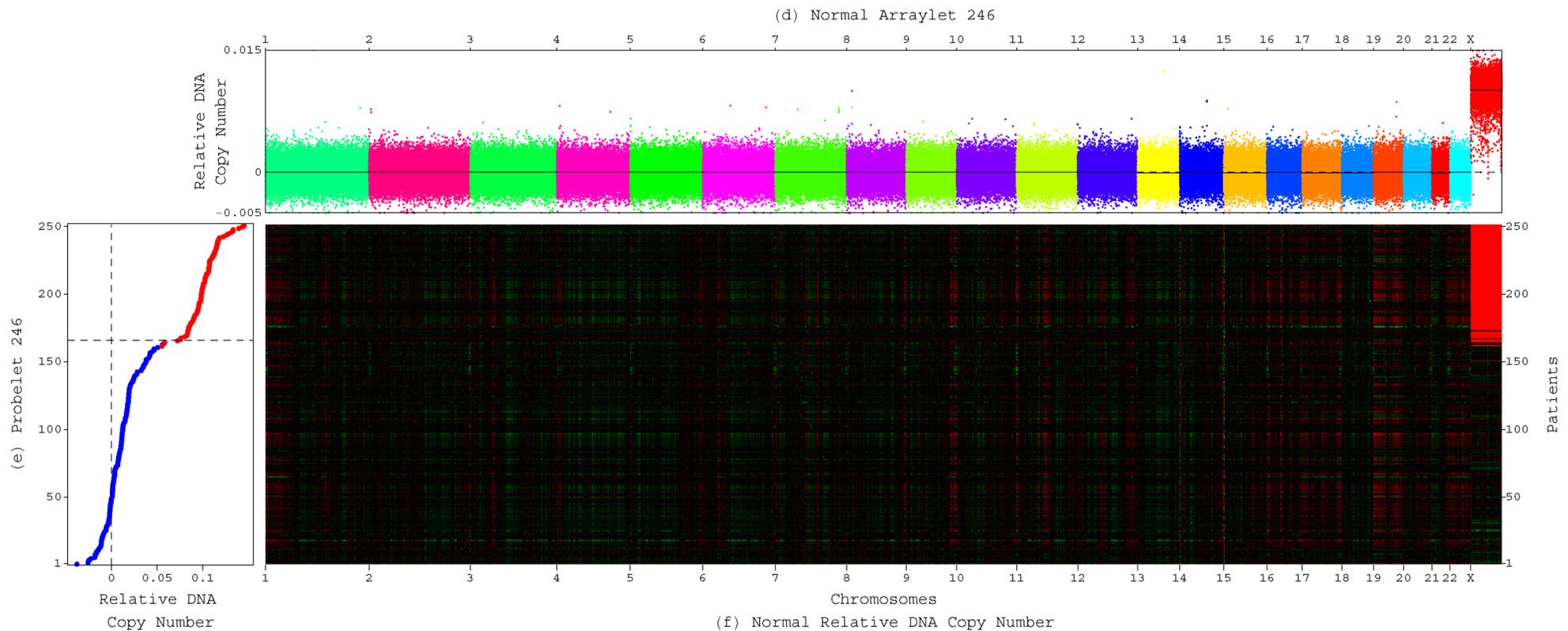
Lee,\* Alpert,\* Sankaranarayanan & Alter, *PLoS One* 7, e30098 (2012);  
[http://alterlab.org/GBM\\_prognosis/](http://alterlab.org/GBM_prognosis/)



The number of large-scale datasets recording multiple aspects of a single phenomenon is increasing in many areas, e.g., personalized medicine.

# Copy-Number Variations (CNVs) Common to the GBM Tumor and Normal Brain

GSVD identifies CNVs that occur in the normal human genome and are preserved in the GBM tumors, e.g., female-specific X chromosome amplification, without a-priori knowledge of these variations.

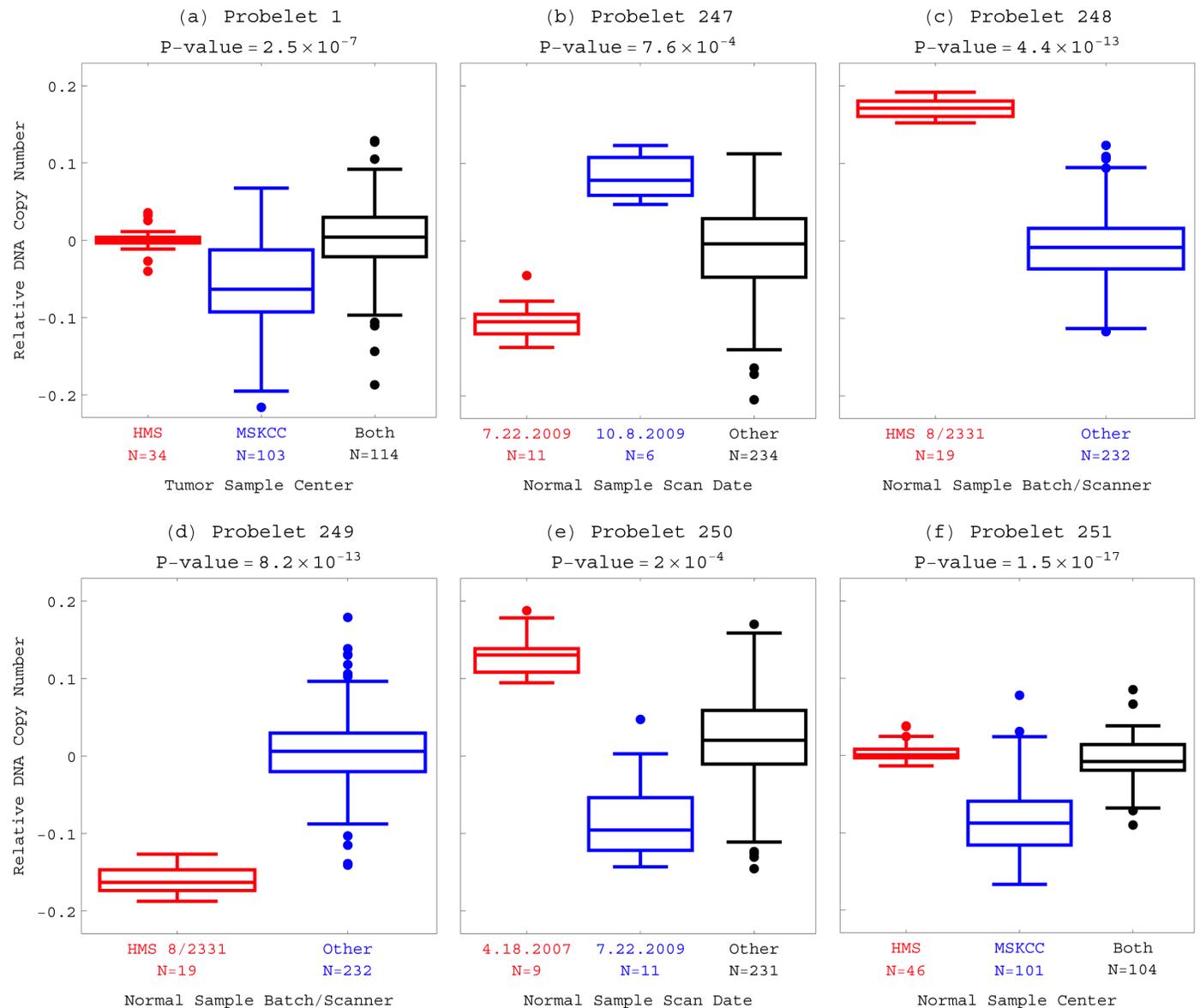


Notice of the National Human Genome Research Institute's Interest in Receiving Applications to Analyze and Develop Methods for X Chromosome Genome-wide Association (GWA) Data; <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HG-11-021.html>

# Experimental Variations

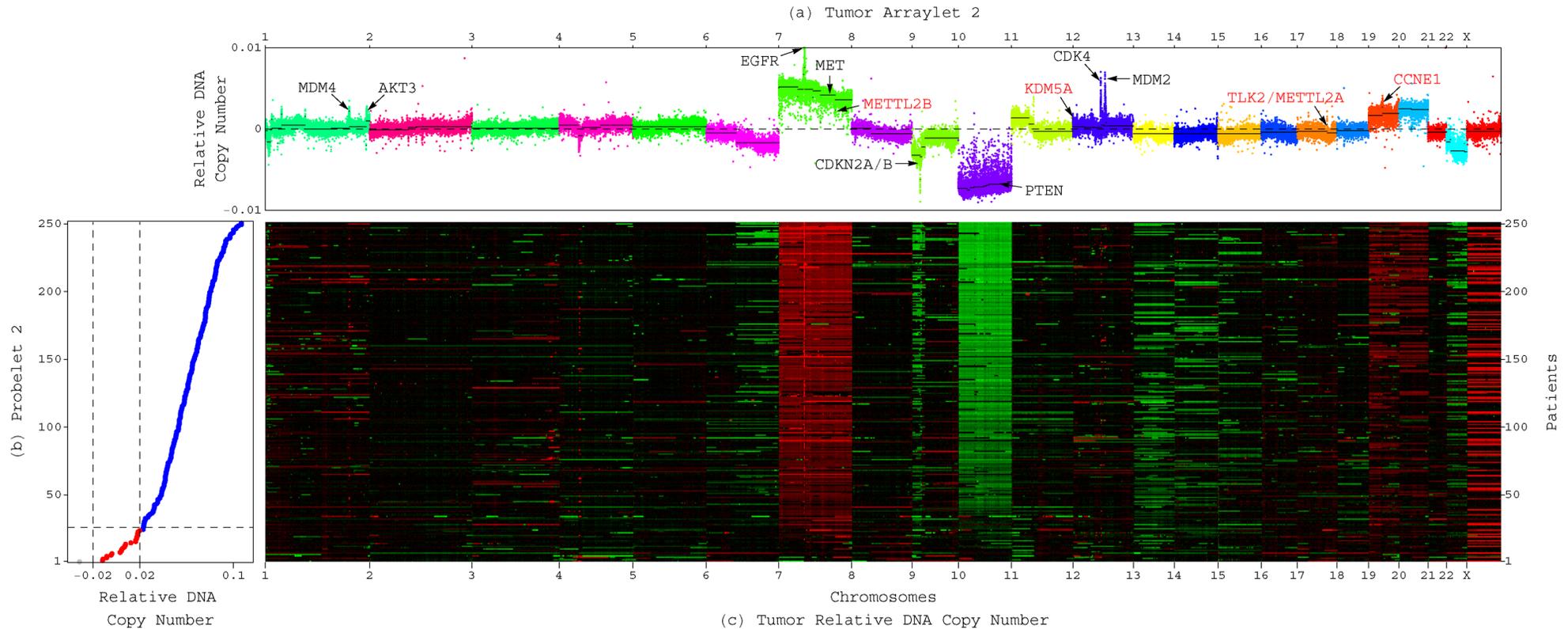
## Exclusive to the Tumor or Normal Profiles

GSVD identifies experimental variations, e.g., in tissue batch, genomic center, hybridization date and scanner.



# Global Pattern of Tumor-Exclusive Aberrations Predicts Drug Targets

Lee & Alter, *60th Annual Meeting of the ASHG* (Washington, DC, November 2–6, 2010).



The pattern includes most known GBM-associated changes in chromosome numbers and focal CNAs, as well as several previously unreported CNAs in >3% of the patients: the biochemically putative drug target, cell cycle-regulated serine/threonine kinase-encoding *TLK2*, the tRNA methyltransferase *METTL2A*, and the cyclin E1-encoding *CCNE1*.

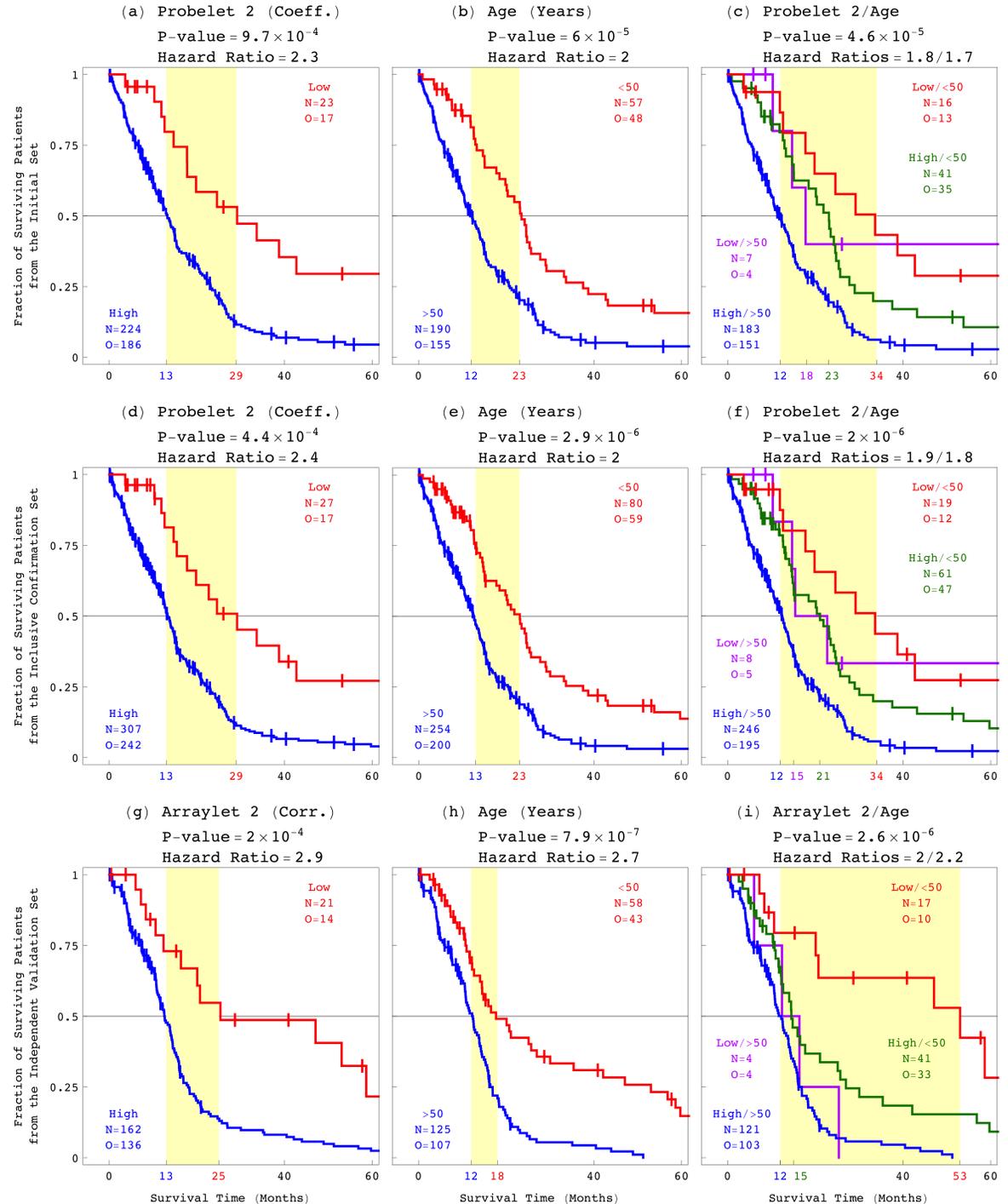
# Global Predictor of GBM Survival

The global pattern is correlated with, and possibly causally related to, brain cancer survival.

The GBM survival phenotype is the outcome of its global genotype.

Despite recent large-scale profiling efforts, the best prognostic predictor of GBM prior to the discovery of this pattern was the patient's age at diagnosis.

The pattern is independent of age, and combined with age, makes a predictor better than age alone.



# Patterns Underlie Principles of Nature: Statistics to Processes

→ Brownian motion.

Einstein, *Ann Phys* 17, 549 (1905).

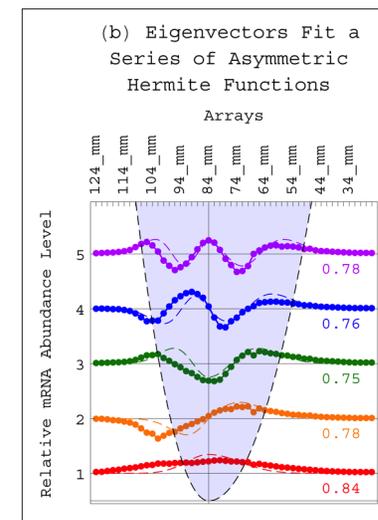
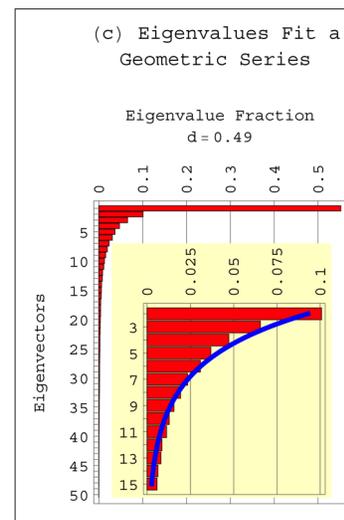
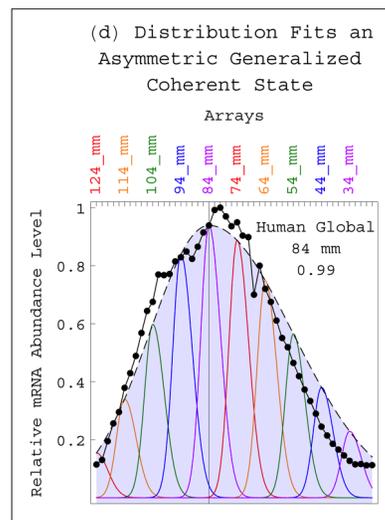
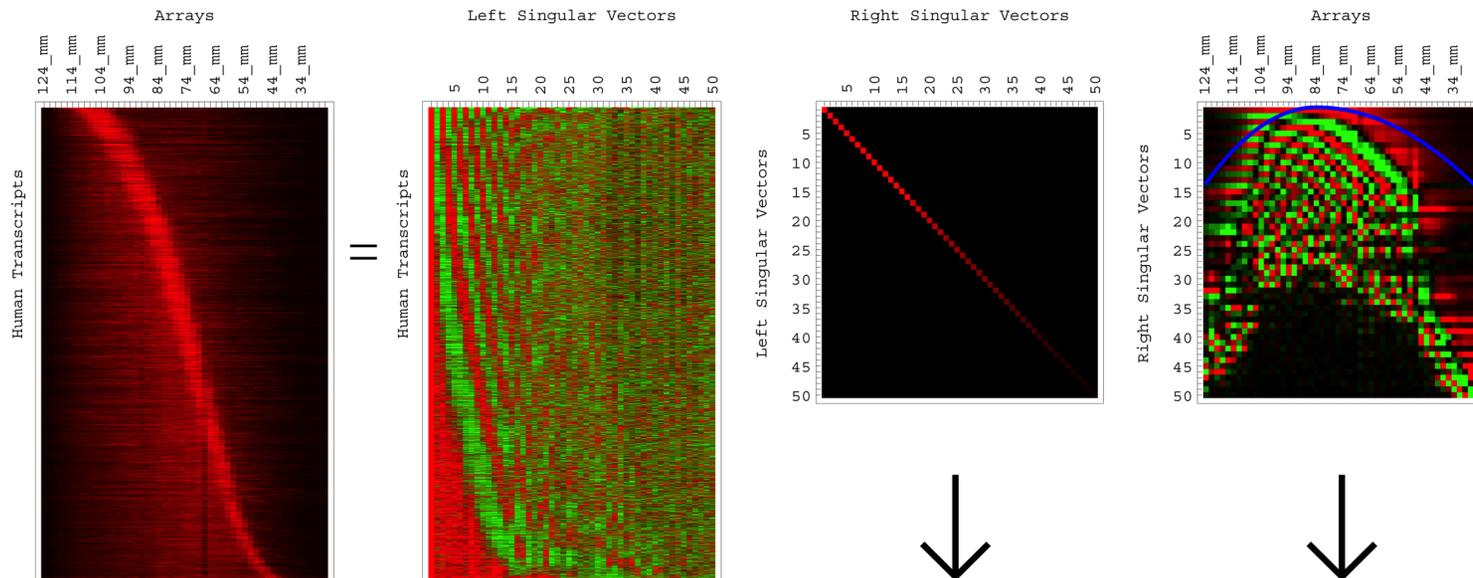
→ Bacterial sensitivity and resistance to viruses.

Luria & Delbrück, *Genetics* 28, 491 (1943).

# SVD Identifies Transcript Length Distribution Functions from DNA Microarray Data

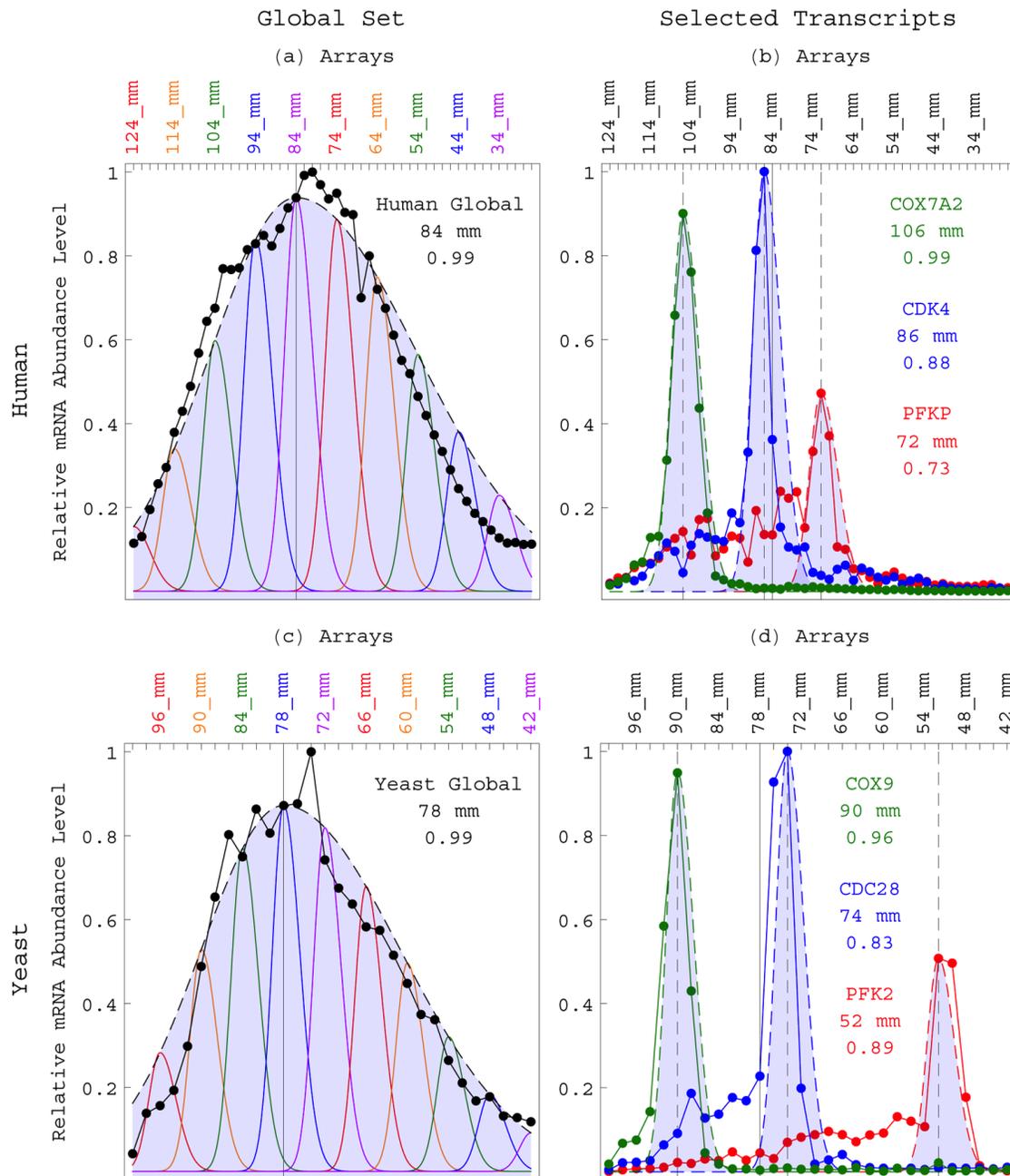
Alter & Golub, *PNAS* 103, 11828 (2006); [http://alterlab.org/harmonic\\_oscillator/](http://alterlab.org/harmonic_oscillator/)

(a) Singular Value Decomposition Uncovers Left Singular Vectors, Singular Values and Right Singular Vectors



Hurowitz et al., *PLoS One* 2, e460 (2007); Hurowitz & Brown, *Genome Biology* 5, R2 (2003).

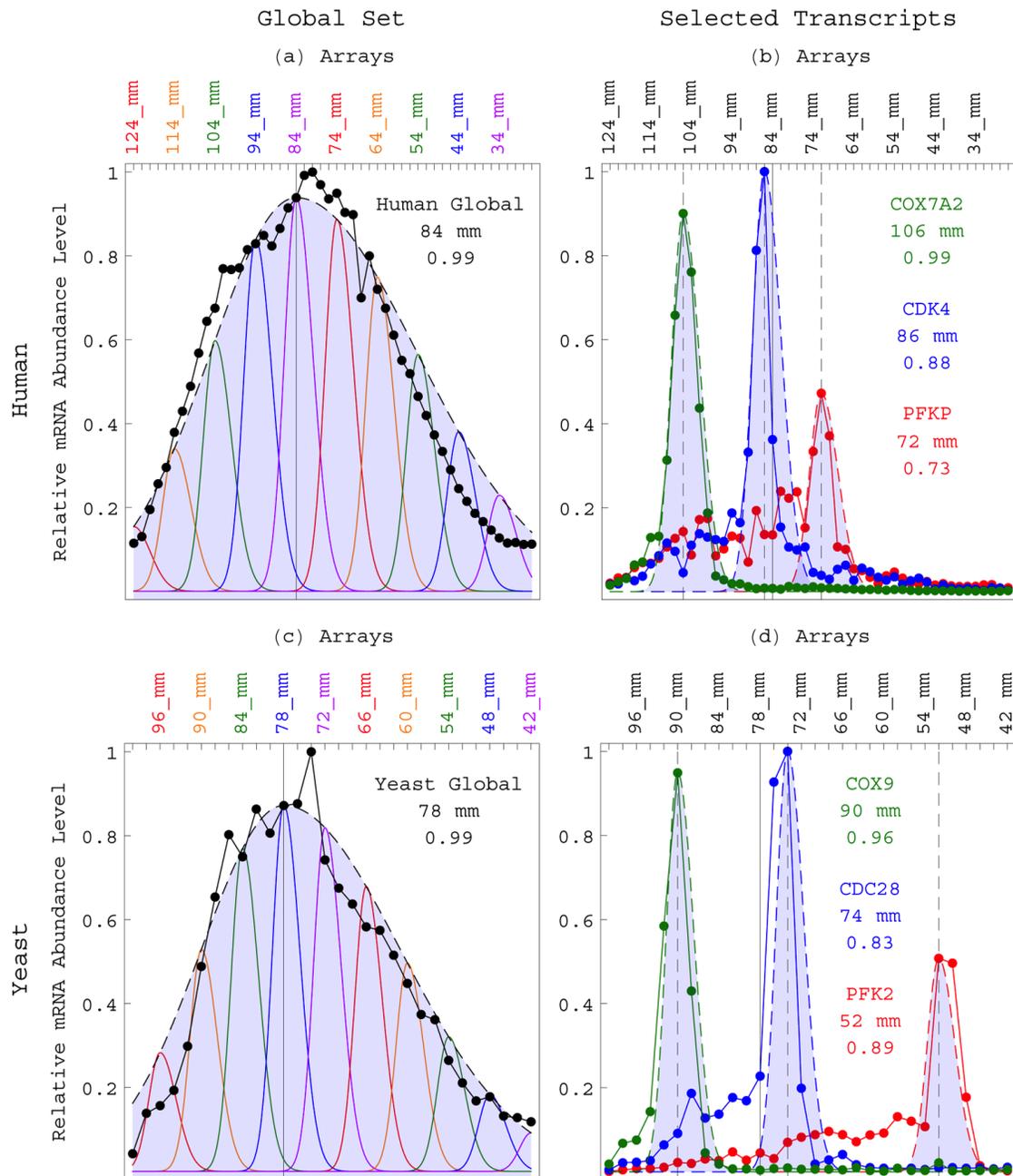
# Transcript Length Distribution Functions are “Asymmetric” Coherent States



→ The profile of a single transcript fits an asymmetric Gaussian.

→ The distribution of the peaks of the transcript profiles fits an asymmetric Gaussian.

# Transcript Length Distribution Functions are “Asymmetric” Coherent States



## Prediction:

The asymmetry of the profile of a single transcript might be due to an asymmetry in the Brownian motion or thermal broadening of a moving rather than a stationary band of identical transcripts.

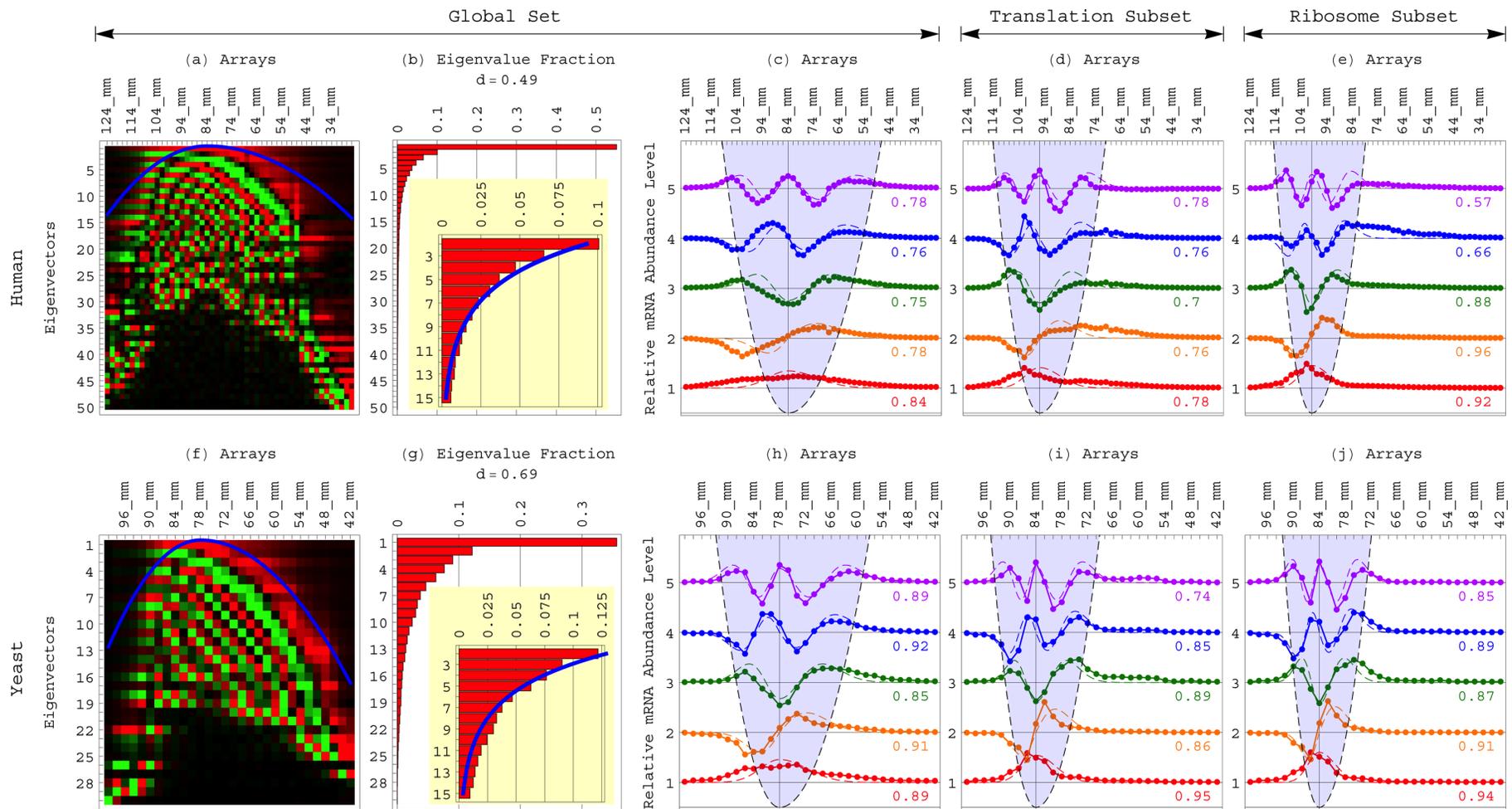
→ Modeling of genomic data can be used to predict physical principles.

## Hypothesis:

Two competing evolutionary forces determine transcript lengths in the manner of the restoring force of the harmonic oscillator.

# Conserved Relations between a Gene's Metabolic Ontology and its Transcript's Length

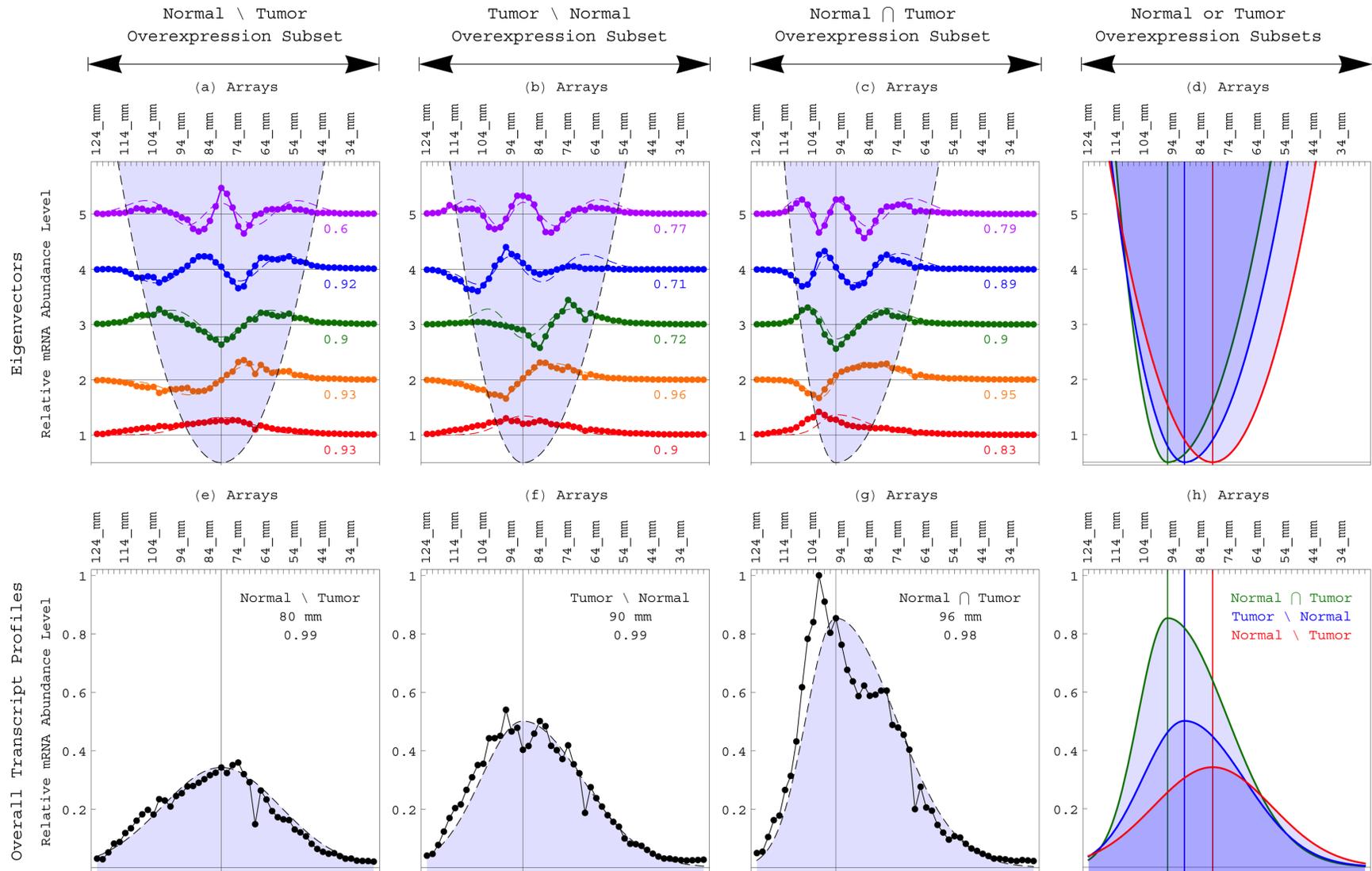
Drake & Alter, *Rao Conference at the Interface between Statistics and the Sciences* (December 30, 2009 – January 2, 2010, Hyderabad, India), Rao Best Poster Prize.



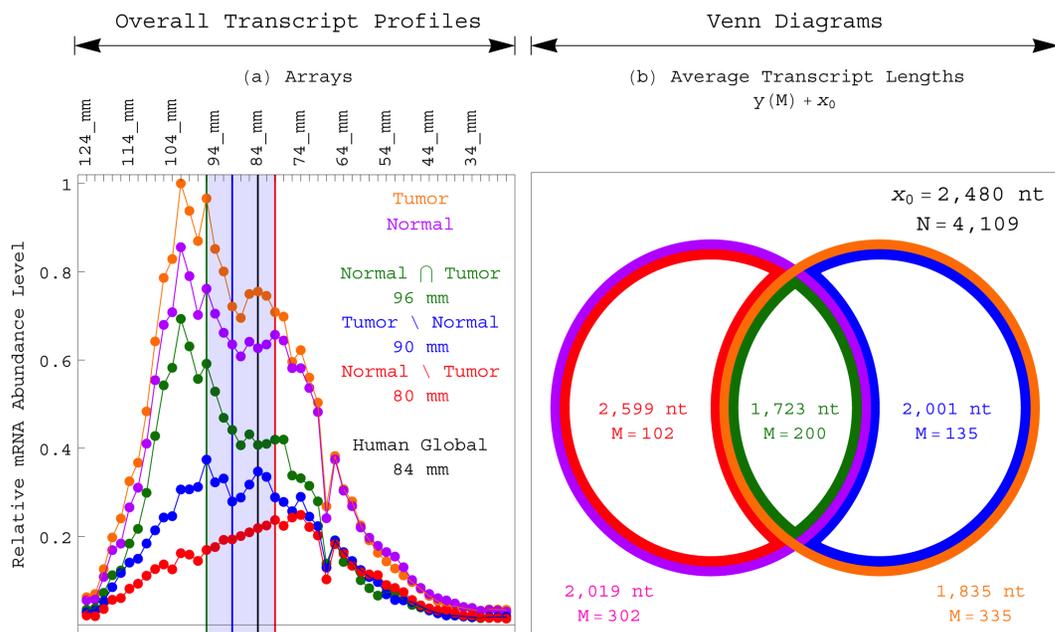
Transcripts involved in protein synthesis or mitochondrial metabolism are significantly shorter than typical, and in particular, significantly shorter than those involved in glucose metabolism.

# GBM Tumors Maintain Normal Brain Overexpression of Short Transcripts but Suppress Longer, Normally Overexpressed Ones

Bertagnoli, Drake, Tennessen & Alter, *PLoS One* 8, e78913 (2013);  
[http://alterlab.org/GBM\\_metabolism/](http://alterlab.org/GBM_metabolism/).



# Global Relations among Transcript Length, Cellular Metabolism and Tumor Development



GBM tumors maintain normal brain overexpression of short transcripts, involved in protein synthesis and mitochondrial metabolism, but suppress longer, normally overexpressed transcripts, involved in glucose metabolism and brain activity.

Overexpression Subset	Gene Ontology	Global Transcript Set				Global Gene Set			
		$a$	$B$	$b$	$P$ -value	$a$	$B$	$b$	$P$ -value
Normal $\cap$ Tumor	Translation	200	178	36	$4.4 \times 10^{-14}$	204	380	64	$6.0 \times 10^{-46}$
	Ribosome		78	28	$4.0 \times 10^{-18}$		155	52	$7.1 \times 10^{-54}$
	Respiratory ETC		55	21	$1.9 \times 10^{-14}$		89	22	$1.1 \times 10^{-19}$
	MRCC I		25	9	$1.3 \times 10^{-6}$		34	6	$2.4 \times 10^{-5}$
	COX Activity		14	9	$2.1 \times 10^{-9}$		20	8	$8.3 \times 10^{-10}$
Normal	Glucose Metabolic Process	302	100	17	$8.2 \times 10^{-4}$	309	187	14	$4.7 \times 10^{-4}$
	Glycolysis		29	9	$1.5 \times 10^{-4}$		59	6	$4.6 \times 10^{-3}$
Normal $\setminus$ Tumor	Neuron Projection	102	259	22	$2.0 \times 10^{-7}$	105	534	24	$4.3 \times 10^{-11}$
	Synaptic Transmission		238	19	$4.0 \times 10^{-6}$		535	26	$9.5 \times 10^{-13}$

# Global Mode for Tumor and Normal Cells to Differentially Regulate Metabolism in a Transcript Length-Dependent Manner

Hanahan & Weinberg, *Cell* 100, 57 (2000);

Shermoeen & O'Farrell, *Cell* 67, 303 (1991).

→ This shows that the functioning of a cell can be inferred from the lengths of over- and underexpressed genes, independent of the sequences of the genes.

→ A previous hypothesis from mathematical modeling of evolutionary forces that act upon transcript length in the manner of the restoring force of the harmonic oscillator is supported.

Alter & Golub, *PNAS* 103, 11828 (2006).

→ A previous prediction of asymmetry in the gel electrophoresis thermal broadening (or Brownian motion) of a moving, rather than a stationary, band of identical mRNA molecules is also supported.

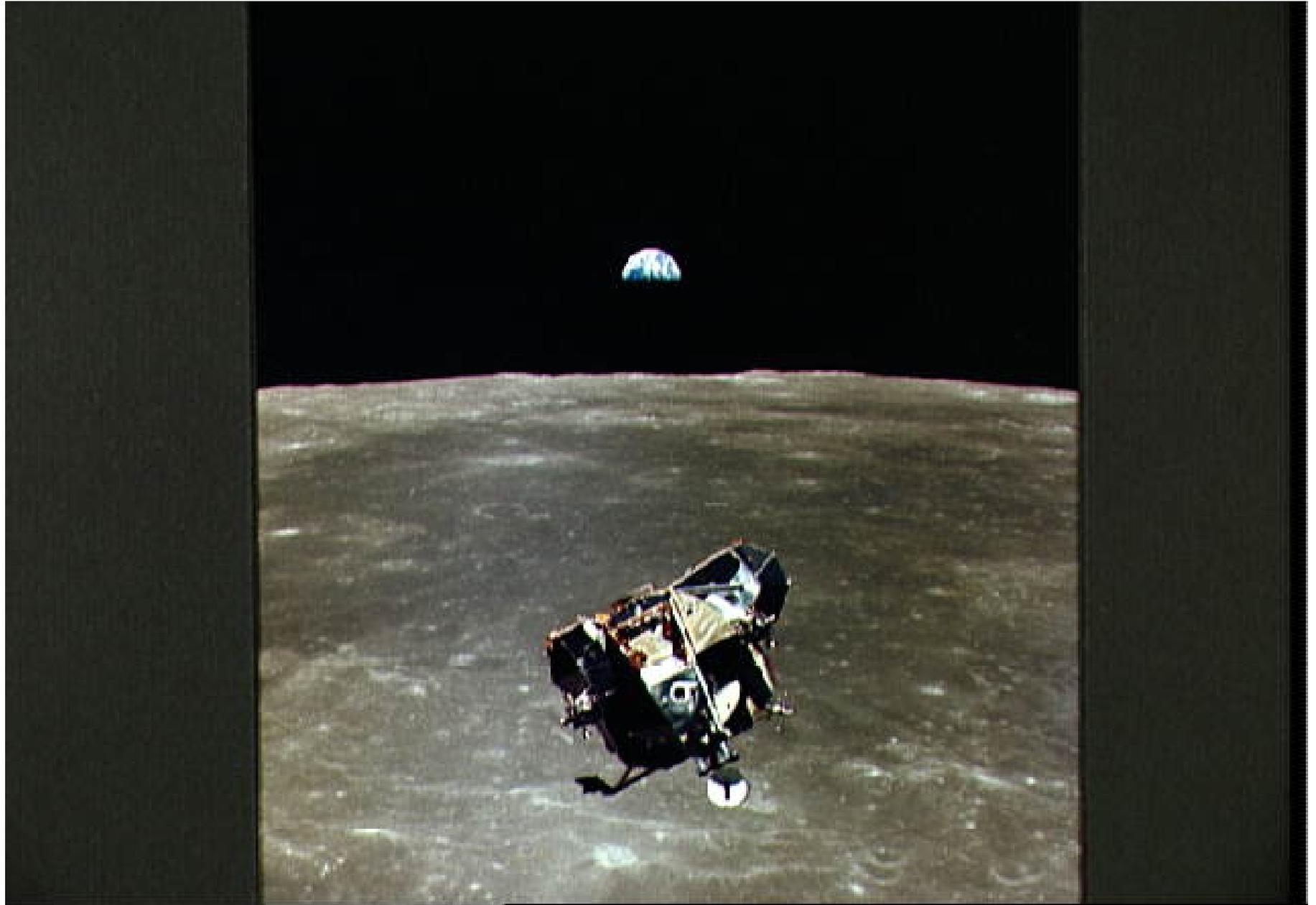
Duke & Viovy, *Phys Rev Lett* 68, 542 (1992);

Slater, *Electrophoresis* 14, 1 (1993);

Tinland, Pernodet & Pluen, *Biopolymers* 46, 201 (1998).

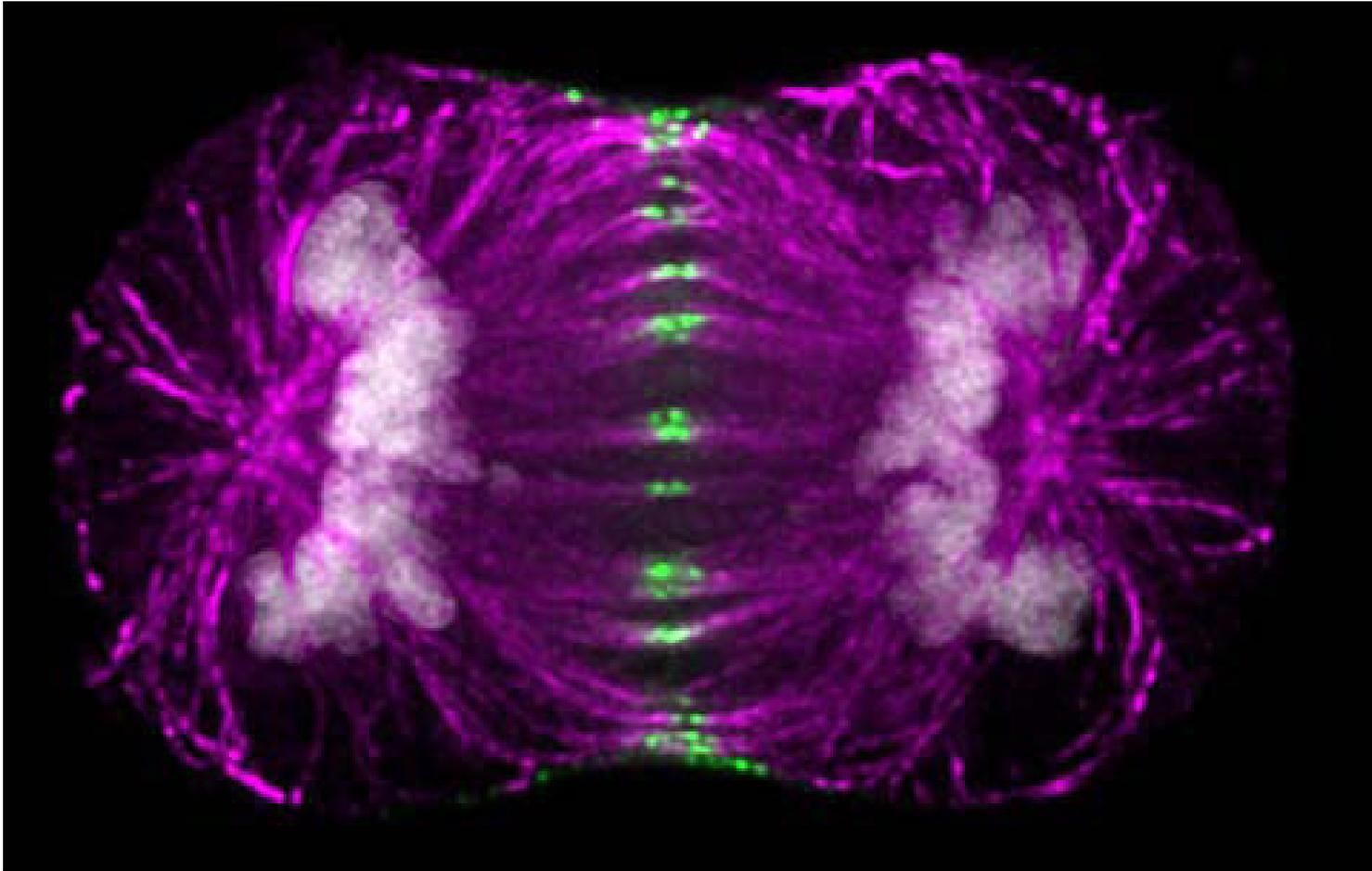
**The interplay between mathematical modeling and experimental measurement is at the basis of the “effectiveness of mathematics” in physics.**

Wigner, *Commun Pure Appl Math* 13, 1 (1960).



**Mathematical modeling of large-scale molecular biological data can lead beyond classification of genes and cellular samples to the discovery and ultimately also control of molecular biological mechanisms.**

Alter, *PNAS* 103, 16063 (2006).



Andrews & Swedlow, *Nikon Small World* (2002).

**Our models bring physicians a step closer to one day being able to predict and control the progression of cancers as readily as NASA engineers plot the trajectories of spacecraft today.**

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