

# Module 2 : RNAseq bioinformatic from sequence to expression level **smallRNA & isoform (eukaryote)**

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I2BC - Institut de Biologie Intégrative de la Cellule, Orsay

# RNAseq analyses

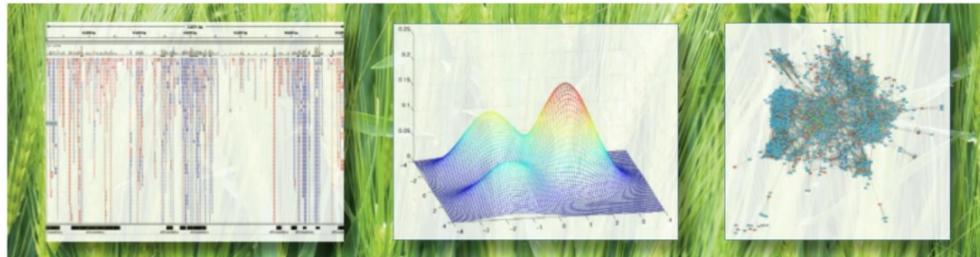
RNAseq: From sequence data (reads) to expression level (count)

Classical analyses of RNA-Seq:

- Check quality, Trimming
- Mapping / counts
- Assembly

Others usages of RNA-Seq:

- smallRNA study
- expression at isoform level



# RNAseq analyses

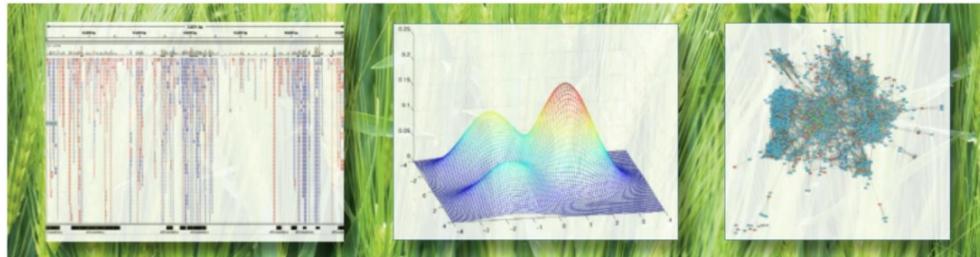
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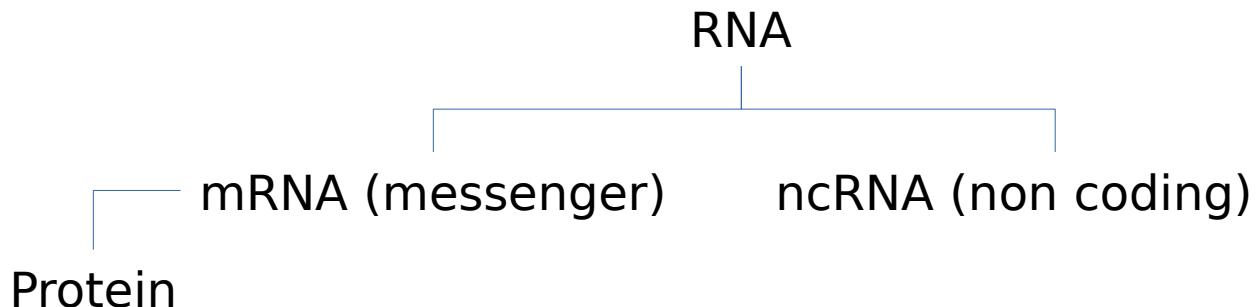
- Check quality, Trimming
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Others usages of RNA-Seq:

- **smallRNA study**
- expression at isoform level



# RNA world



Not predicted by gene prediction tools

- No specific signal (start, stop, splicing sites...)
- Multiple location (intergenic, intronic, coding, antisense)
- Variable size
- No strong sequence conservation in general

Function related to structure : ncRNA of the same family have a conserved structure

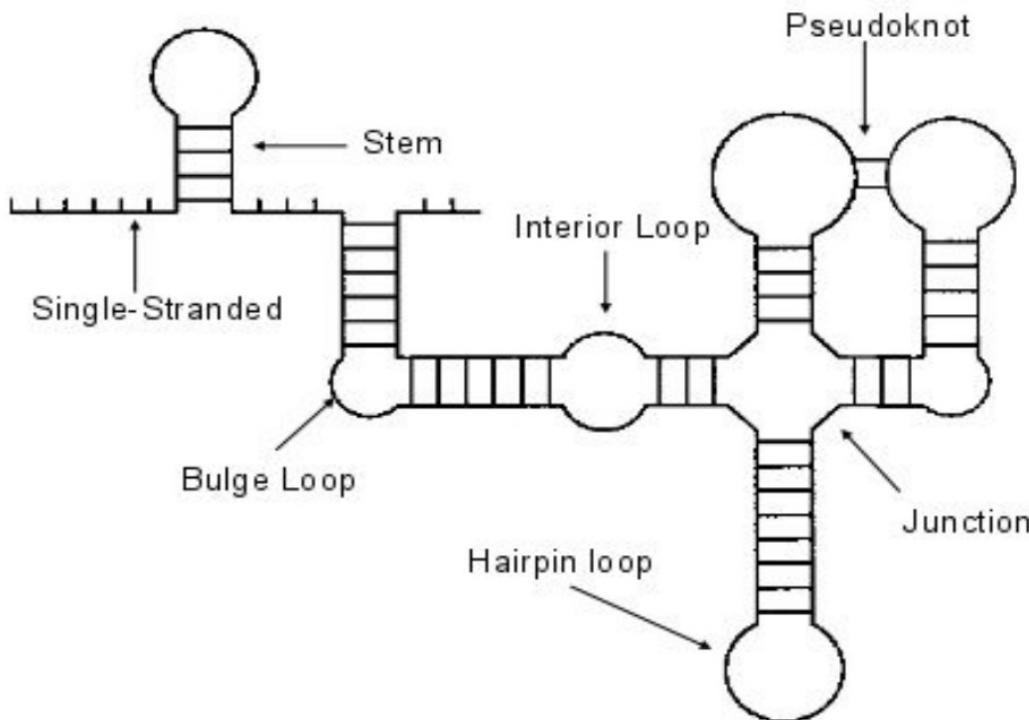
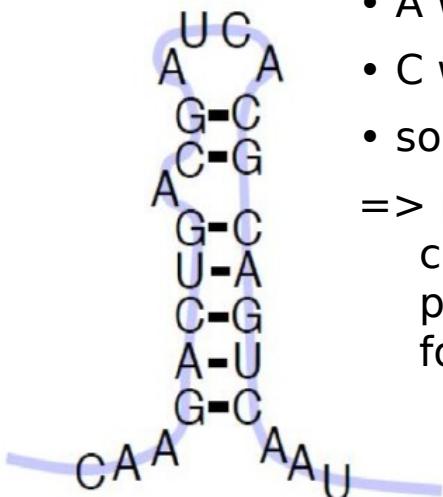
# RNA folding

Folding = Secondary structure

RNA folds on itself by base pairing :

- A with U
- C with G
- sometimes G with U

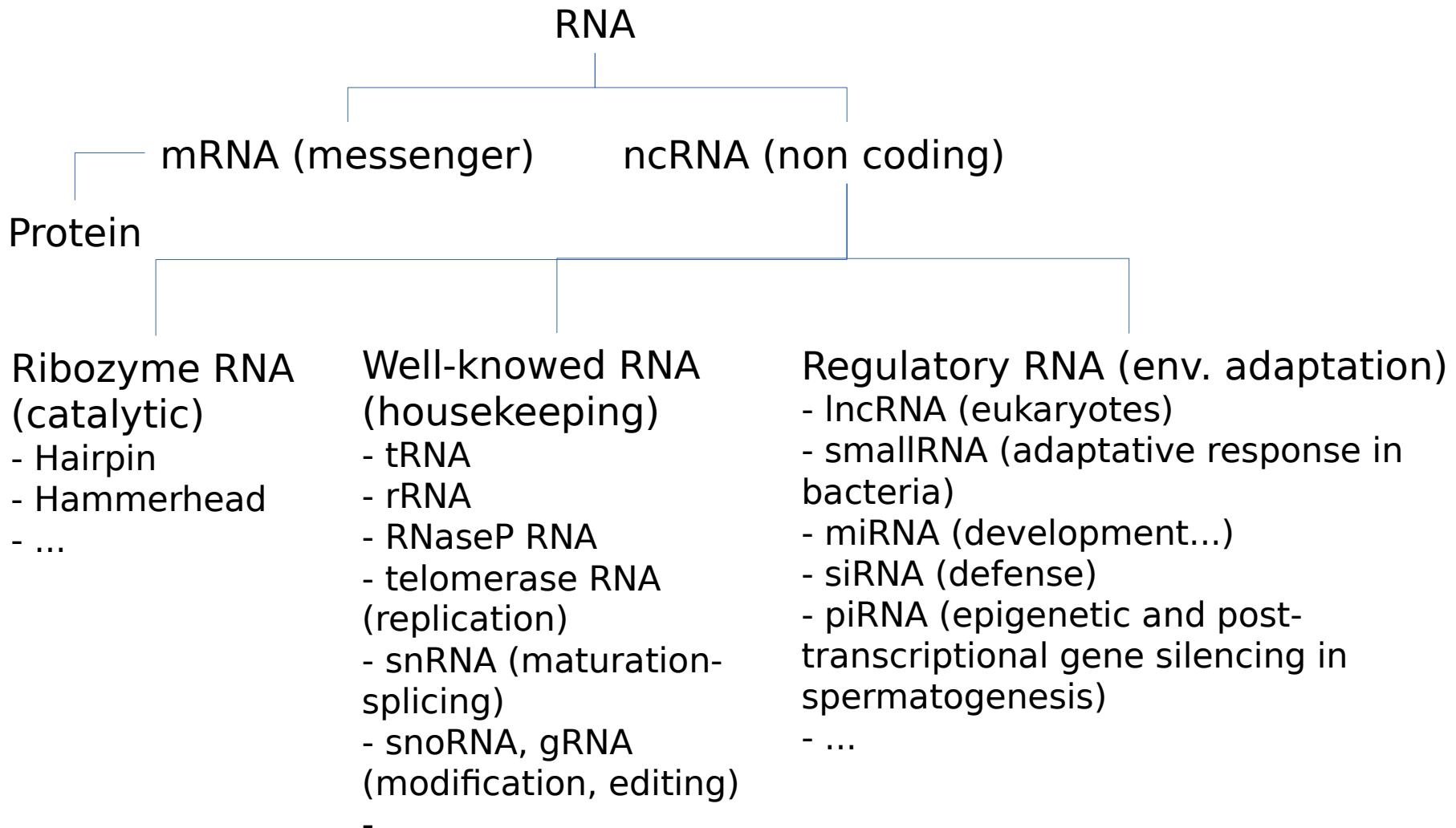
=> more combinatorial possibilities of folding than DNA



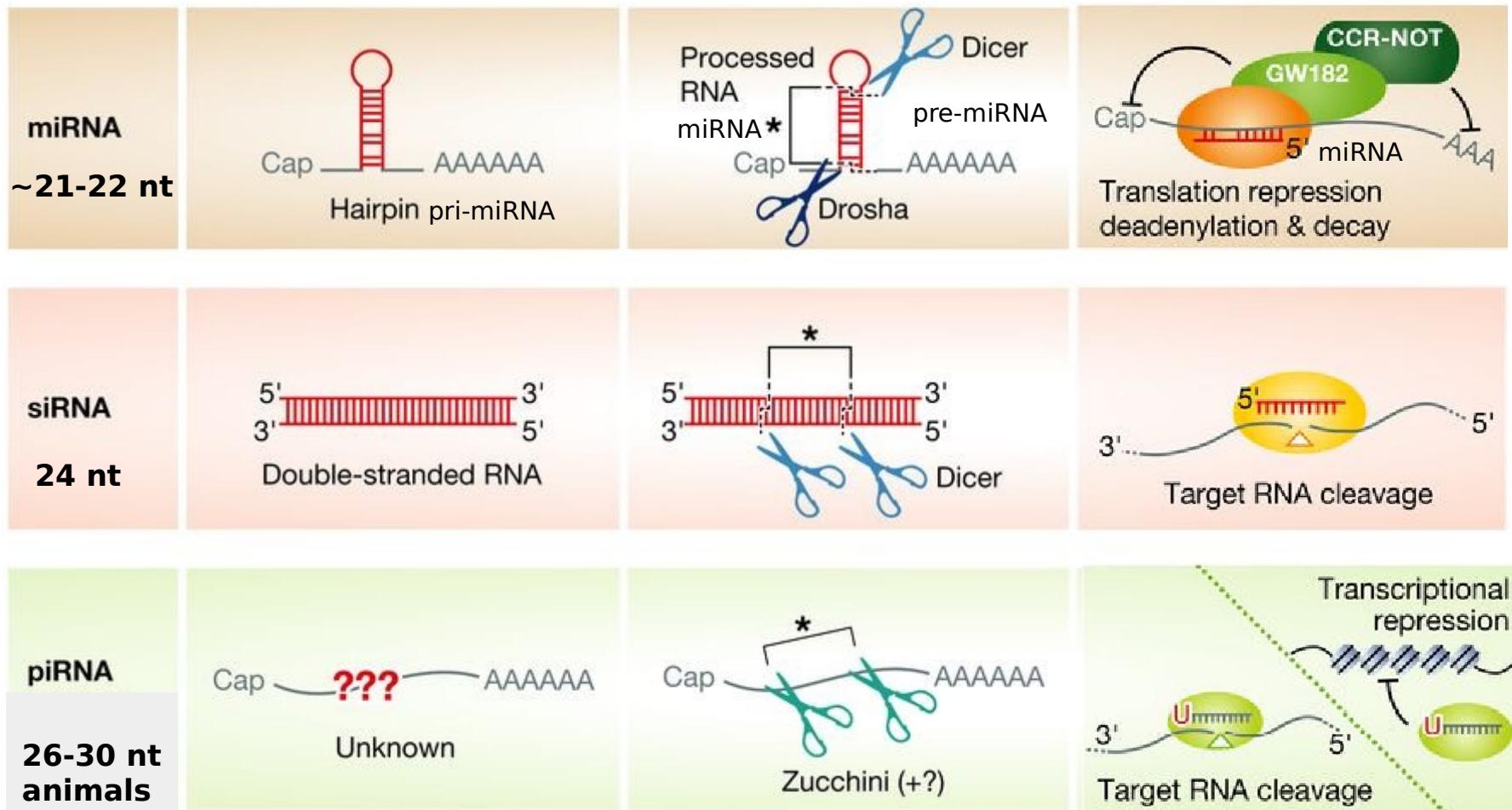
RNA folds:

- on itself
- with another: RNA duplex

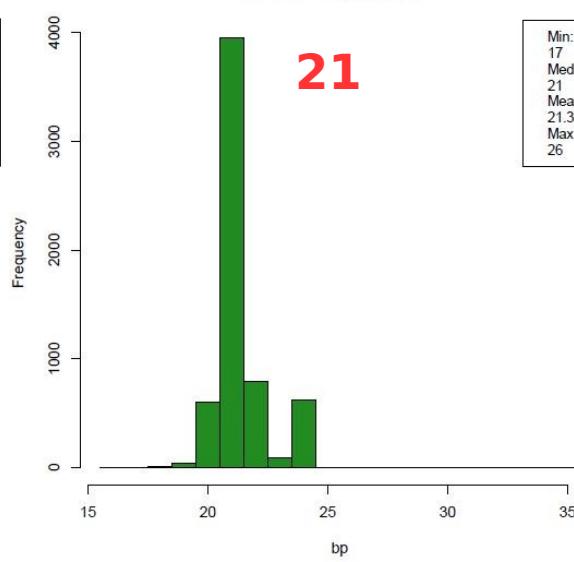
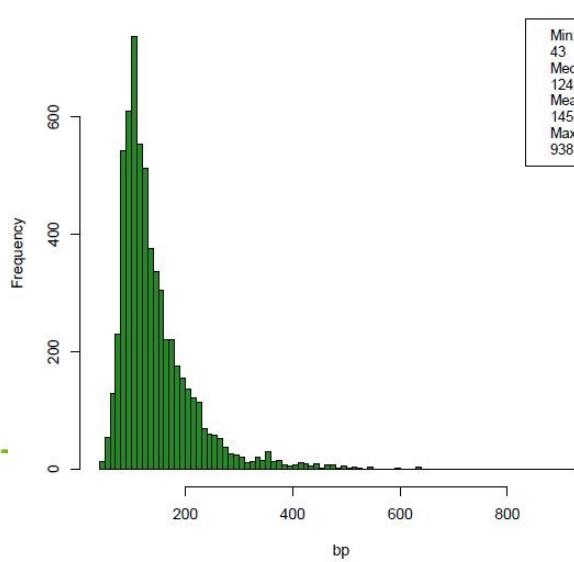
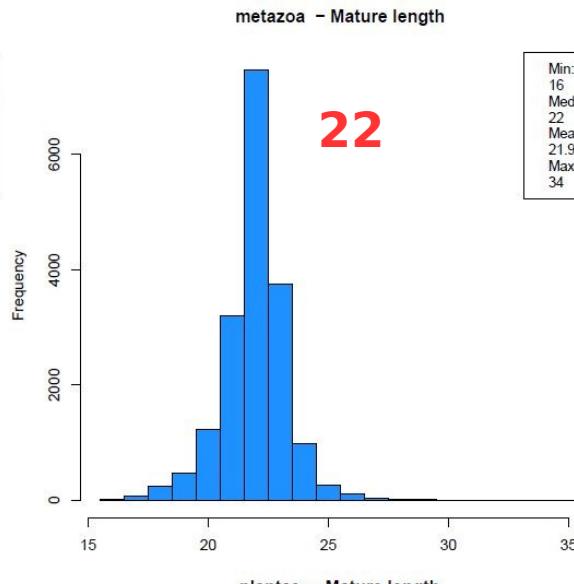
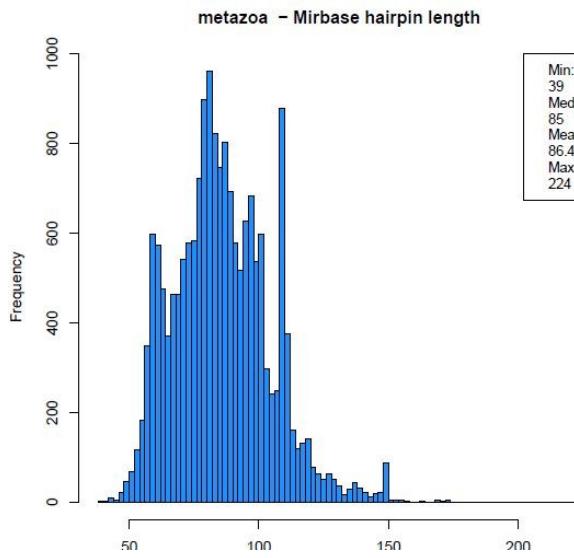
# RNA world



# Eukaryotic regRNA



# Size matters



Griffiths-Jones S, Saini HK, van Dongen S, Enright AJ. miRBase: tools for microRNA genomics. Nucleic Acids Res. 2008 Jan;36(Database issue):D154-8

# smallRNA & NGS

Classical RNAseq not suited for smallRNA (protocol and size)

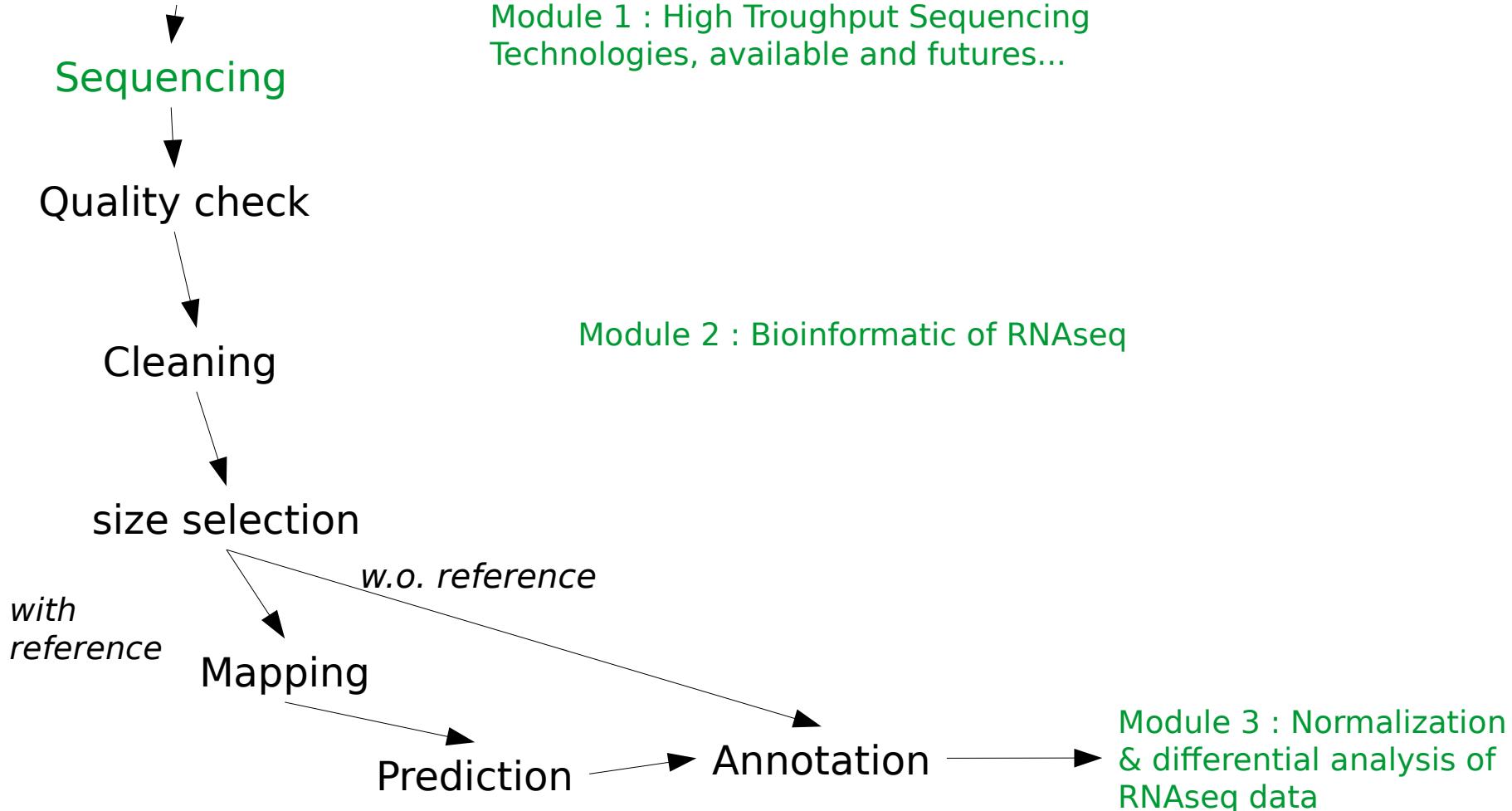
smallRNAs lack a common sequence (e.g. a poly(A) tail) that can be used for selective enrichment or as a universal primer-binding site for reverse transcription

Strategies to enrich RNA sample in smallRNA (\*):

- smallRNA cloning, deep sequencing : significant biases are introduced during small RNA cDNA library preparation (often more than 3 orders of magnitude for individual miRNAs ; one major source: RNA ligation)
- RNA Immuno-Precipitation (RIP-seq)
- Total RNA extraction + size selection

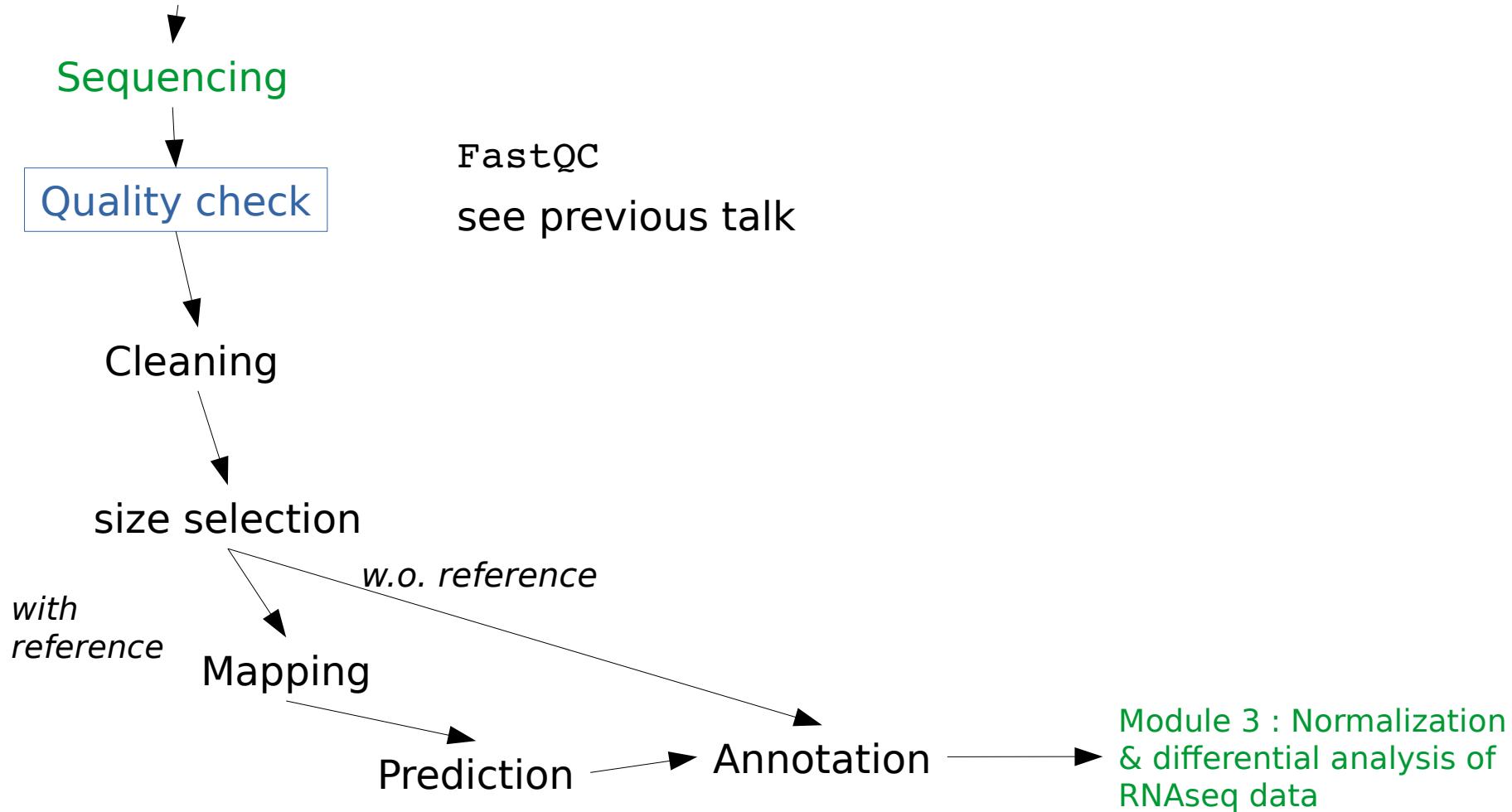
# smallRNAseq pipeline

## Experimental design



# smallRNAseq pipeline

Experimental design



# smallRNAseq pipeline

Experimental design

Sequencing

Quality check

Cleaning

size selection

with  
reference

Mapping

w.o. reference

Prediction

Read size > regRNA size

PCR primer sequences & adapter are included in read

## ✖ Overrepresented sequences

Sequence	Count	Percentage	Possible Source
GGGGATGTAGCTCAGAAGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCAGACTCCAGTCAC	3865	1.546	Illumina Multiplexing PCR Primer 2.01 (100% over 34bp)
GCGTCTGTAGTCCAACCGTTAGGATAATTGAGATCGGAAGAGCACACGT	3021	1.2084	No Hit
GGGGATGTAGCTCAAGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCAGTCAGTCACCA	2205	0.882	TruSeq Adapter, Index 7 (100% over 35bp)
AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCAGTCAGTCACCATCTCGTATG	2047	0.8188000000000001	TruSeq Adapter, Index 7 (100% over 49bp)
AGGGCTATAGCTAGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCAGTCAGTCACCA	1478	0.5912	TruSeq Adapter, Index 7 (100% over 37bp)
CTAACAGACCGGTAGACTTGAAGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCAGTCAC	1222	0.4888	Illumina Multiplexing PCR Primer 2.01 (100% over 27bp)
CTTGAAAGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCAGTCAGTCACCATCTCGTATC	1155	0.462	TruSeq Adapter, Index 7 (100% over 42bp)

=> trimming step : remove adapter in 3', no quality trimming, remove rRNA, tRNA

trimgalore, cutadapt, trimomatic, ...

Module 3 : Normalization & differential analysis of RNAseq data

# smallRNAseq pipeline

Experimental design

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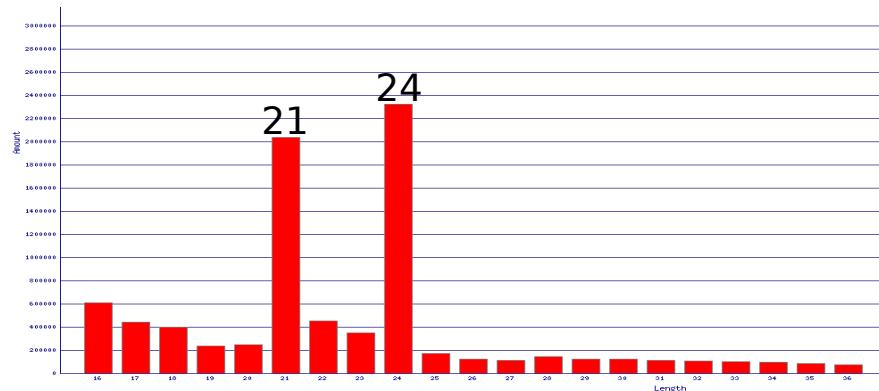
with  
reference

Mapping

w.o. reference

Prediction

Check the distribution of length reads  
Plant: miRNA=21nt, siRNA=24nt



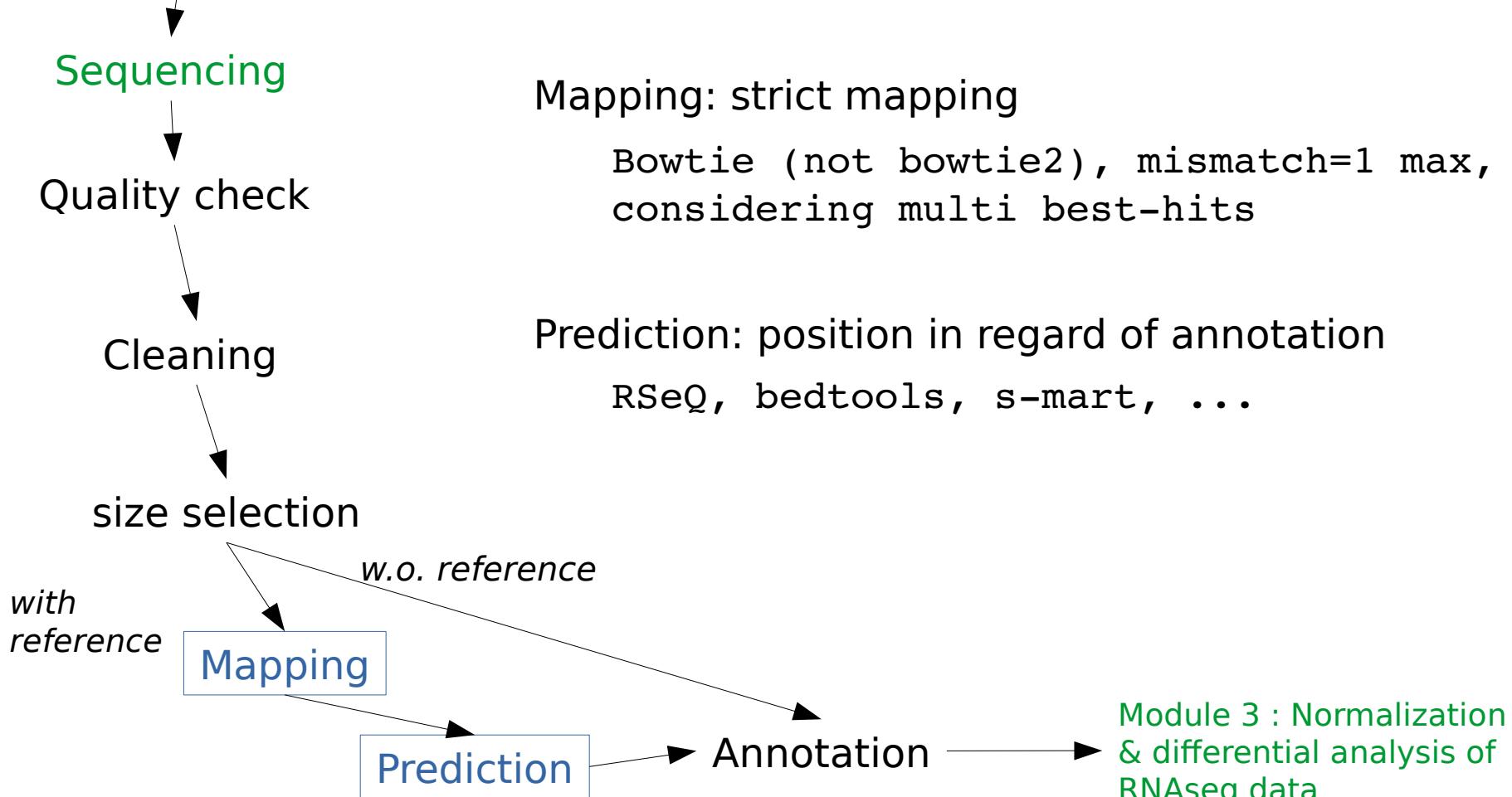
detect redundancy

`fasta_clipping_histogram`,  
`duplicate fastx_collapse`  
from `fastx-toolkit`

Module 3 : Normalization  
& differential analysis of  
RNAseq data

# smallRNAseq pipeline

## Experimental design



# smallRNAsseq pipeline

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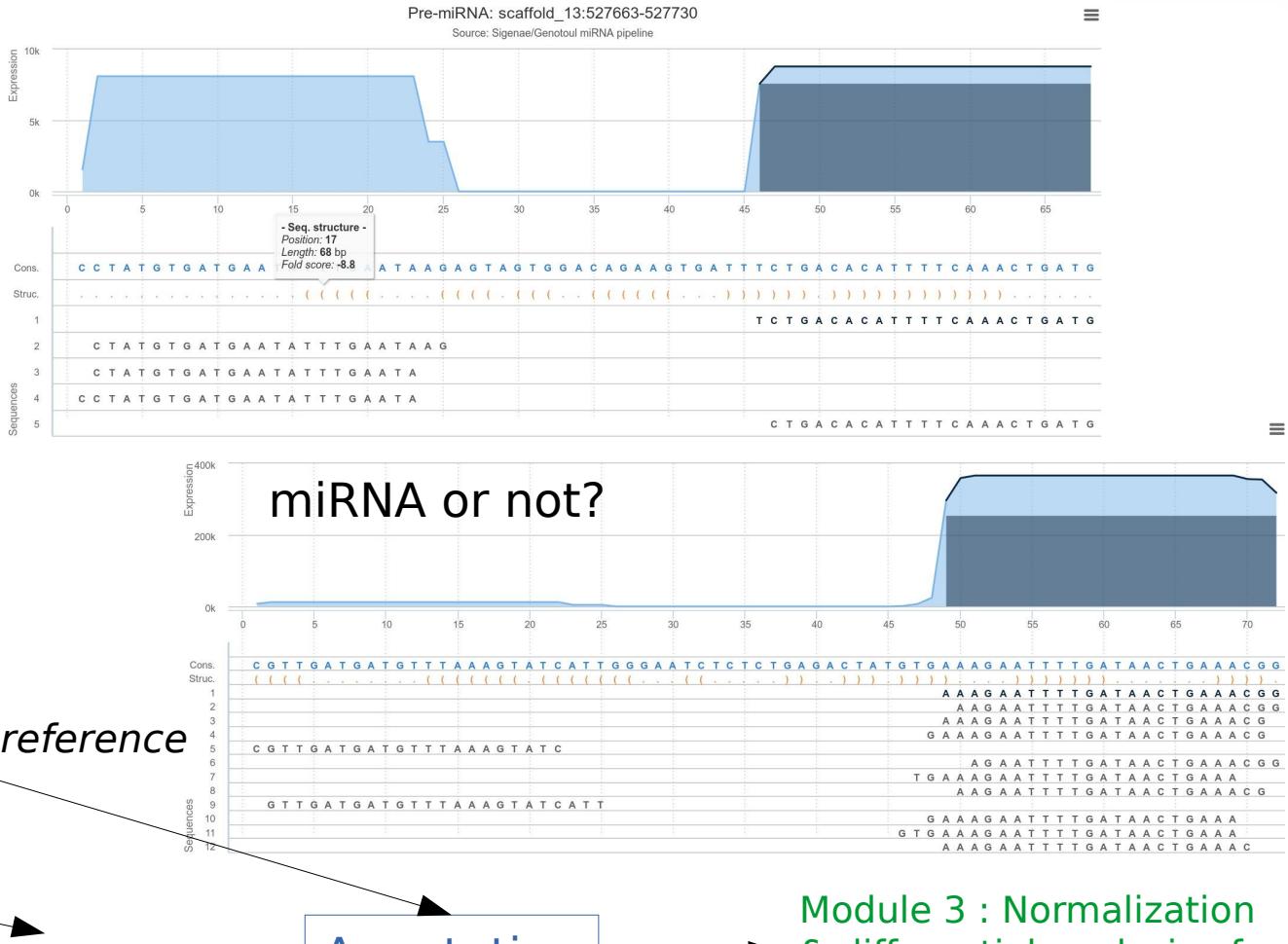
Mapping

w.o. reference

Prediction

Annotation

Module 3 : Normalization  
& differential analysis of  
RNAsseq data



# smallRNAseq pipeline

## Experimental design

Sequencing

Quality check

Cleaning

size selection

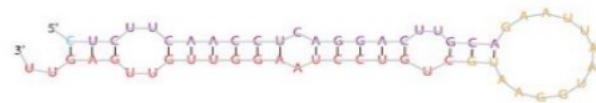
with  
reference

Mapping

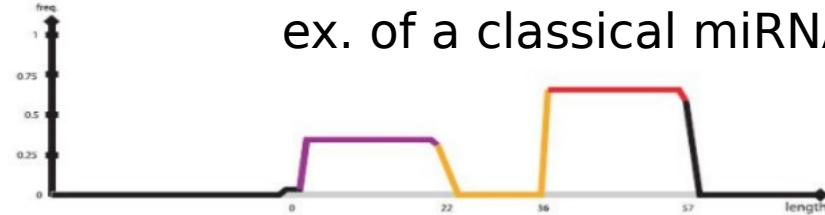
w.o. reference

Prediction

Provisional ID	:	gi_89059864_ref_NT_011669.16_HsX_11826_19172
Score total	:	15.2
Score for star read(s)	:	3.9
Score for read counts	:	8.8
Score for rnfold	:	1.6
Score for cons. seed	:	-0.6
Total read count	:	29
Mature read count	:	19
Loop read count	:	0
Star read count	:	10



ex. of a classical miRNA



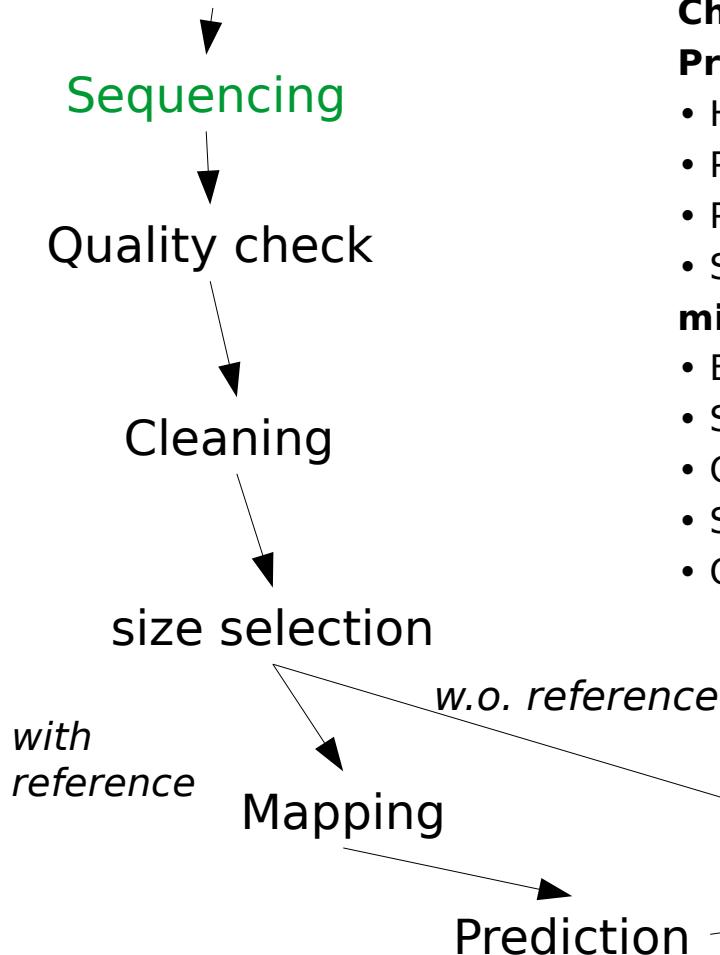
5'	Star	Mature	3'	obs	exp	sample
.....	.....	.....	-3'	0	0	NL2
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0	NL2
.....	.....	.....	.....	2	0	NL2
.....	.....	.....	.....	4	0	NL2
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	NL2
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	NL2
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0	NL2
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0	NL3
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0	NL3
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	NL3
.....	.....	.....	.....	2	0	NL3
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0	NL3
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	NL3
.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	NL3
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0	NL1
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0	NL1
.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	NL1
.....	.....	.....	.....	2	0	NL1
.....	.....	.....	.....	2	0	NL1

Annotation

Module 3 : Normalization & differential analysis of RNAseq data

# smallRNAseq pipeline

## Experimental design



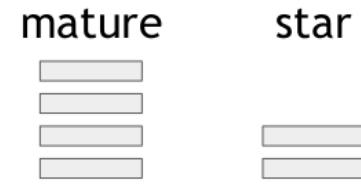
### Characteristics for identification

#### Pre-miRNA information

- Hairpin structure of the pre-miRNA
- Pre-miRNA localisation (coding/non coding TU intronic/exonic)
- Presence of cluster
- Size of the pre-miRNA

#### miRNA-5p and miRNA-3p information

- Existence of both miRNA-5p and miRNA-3p
- Sequence conservation
- Overhang (around 2 nt) related to Drosha and Dicer cuts
- Size of miRNA-5p and miRNA-3p
- Overexpression of one of the miRNA-5p and miRNA-3p



### Annotation

Module 3 : Normalization & differential analysis of RNAseq data

# smallRNAseq pipeline

## Experimental design

Sequencing

Quality check

Cleaning

size selection

with  
reference

Mapping

w.o. reference  
with reference  
Prediction

Annotation

Module 3 : Normalization & differential analysis of RNAseq data

## Software:

### Database:

- Rfam
- miRbase
- Silva
- GtRNAdb
- piRNA databank

...

W168-W76 Nucleic Acids Research, 2009, Vol. 37, Web Server issue  
doi:10.1093/nar/gkp347

Published online 11 May 2009

### miRanalyzer: a microRNA detection and analysis tool for next-generation sequencing experiments

Michael Hackenberg<sup>1</sup>, Martin Sturm<sup>2</sup>, David Langenberger<sup>2,4</sup>, Juan Manuel Falcon-Pérez<sup>2</sup> and Ana M. Aransay<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Functional Genomics Unit, CIBER-BBN, CIBERehd, Technology Park of Bizkaia, 48160 Derio, Bizkaia, Spain,  
<sup>2</sup>Institute for Bioinformatics and Systems Biology, German Research Center for Environmental Health, Ingolstadt, Germany, 85764 Neuherberg, <sup>3</sup>Department of Genome-Oriented Bioinformatics, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Berlin, Germany, 10178 Berlin, Germany, <sup>4</sup>Department of Biochemistry, University of Regensburg, 93040 Regensburg, Germany

Published online 16 May 2010

Nucleic Acids Research, 2010, Vol. 38, Web Se

### DSAP: deep-sequencing small RNA analysis

Published online 12 September 2011

Nucleic Acids Research, 2012, Vol. 40, No. 1 37-52  
doi:10.1093/nar/gkr688

### miRDeep2 accurately identifies known and hundreds of novel microRNA genes in seven animal clades

Marc R. Friedländer<sup>1</sup>, Sebastian D. Mackow

#### BIOINFORMATICS APPLICATIONS NO

##### Sequence analysis

### CPSS: a computational platform for the analysis of deep sequencing data

Yuanwei Zhang<sup>1,†</sup>, Bo Xu<sup>1,†</sup>, Yifan Yang<sup>2</sup>, Rongjun Ban<sup>3</sup>, H Howard J. Cooke<sup>1,4</sup>, Yu Xue<sup>5,\*</sup> and Qinghua Shi<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale and School of Mathematics and Technology of China, Hefei 230027, China, <sup>2</sup>Department of Statistics, UIUC, Urbana, IL 61701, USA, <sup>3</sup>Department of Computer Science & Technology, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210096, China, <sup>4</sup>School of Biological Sciences, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, UK, and <sup>5</sup>Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430074, China

Associate Editor: Ivo Hofacker

### Discovering microRNAs from deep sequencing data using miRDeep

Marc R Friedländer<sup>1</sup>, Wei Chen<sup>2</sup>, Catherine Adamidi<sup>1</sup>, Jonas Maaskola<sup>1</sup>, Ralf Einspanier<sup>1</sup>, Signe Knespel<sup>1</sup> & Nikolas Rajewsky<sup>1</sup>

The capacity of highly parallel sequencing technologies to detect small RNAs at unprecedented depth suggests their use in systematic identification of microRNAs in complex samples. However, the identification of miRNAs from the large pool of sequenced transcripts from a single deep sequencing run remains a major challenge. Here, we present an algorithm, miRDeep, which uses a probabilistic model of miRNA

and 454 Life Sciences/Roche, can sequence DNA orders of magnitude faster and at lower cost than Sanger sequencing and are evolving so rapidly that it is likely that they will be adopted by most of the sequencing centers very soon. Although the Solexa Illumina system can produce ~32 million sequencing reads in one run, read length is currently limited to 35 bp. In contrast, the current 454 platform reads can be up to 200 bases each, although the number of reads

DOI:10.1093/bioinformatics/btp492

### shortran: A pipeline for small RNA-seq data analysis

Vikas Gupta<sup>1,2</sup>, Katharina Markmann<sup>1</sup>, Christian N. S. Pedersen<sup>2</sup>, Jens Stougaard<sup>1</sup> & Andersen<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Carbohydrate Recognition and Signalling, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Aarhus University, Gustav Wieds Vej 10, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark and <sup>2</sup>Bioinformatics Research Centre, Aarhus University, C 8, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark

### miRDeepFinder: a miRNA analysis tool for deep sequencing of plant small RNAs

Fuliang Xie · Peng Xiao · Dongling Chen · Lei Xu · Baohong Zhang

BioMed Central

Open Access

## BMC Bioinformatics

### Software

### miRExpress: Analyzing high-throughput sequencing data for profiling microRNA expression

Wei-Chi Wang<sup>1</sup>, Feng-Mao Lin<sup>1</sup>, Wen-Chi Chang<sup>1,5</sup>, Kuan-Yu Lin<sup>2,3</sup>, Hsien-Da Huang<sup>1,4</sup> and Na-Sheng Lin<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Address: Institute of Biostatistics and Medical Information, Chinese Medicine, Nanjing, Taiwan 11252, 1 Hospital, 100 Chung Shan South, Taiwan, Republic of China  
Email: Wei-Chi Wang - [camerlin@ntu.edu.tw](mailto:camerlin@ntu.edu.tw)

Hsieh et al. *Genome Biology* 2010, 11:R89  
<http://genomebiology.com/2010/11/4/R89>



Open Access

### METHOD

### miTRAP, a computational method for the systematic identification of miRNAs from high throughput sequencing data

W.-A.

NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY VOLUME 26 NUMBER 4 APRIL 2008

NOTE

Vol. 26 no. 20 2010, pages 2615-2619  
doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btg493

Advance Access publication August 27, 2010

ep sequencing analysis

x<sup>2</sup>, Gideon Dror<sup>2</sup>, Eran Halperin<sup>3,4</sup>

ice, Tel Aviv University, <sup>2</sup>The Academic

ice Institute, Berkeley, CA, USA and <sup>3</sup>School

3Technology, George Wise Faculty of Life

# smallRNAseq conclusion

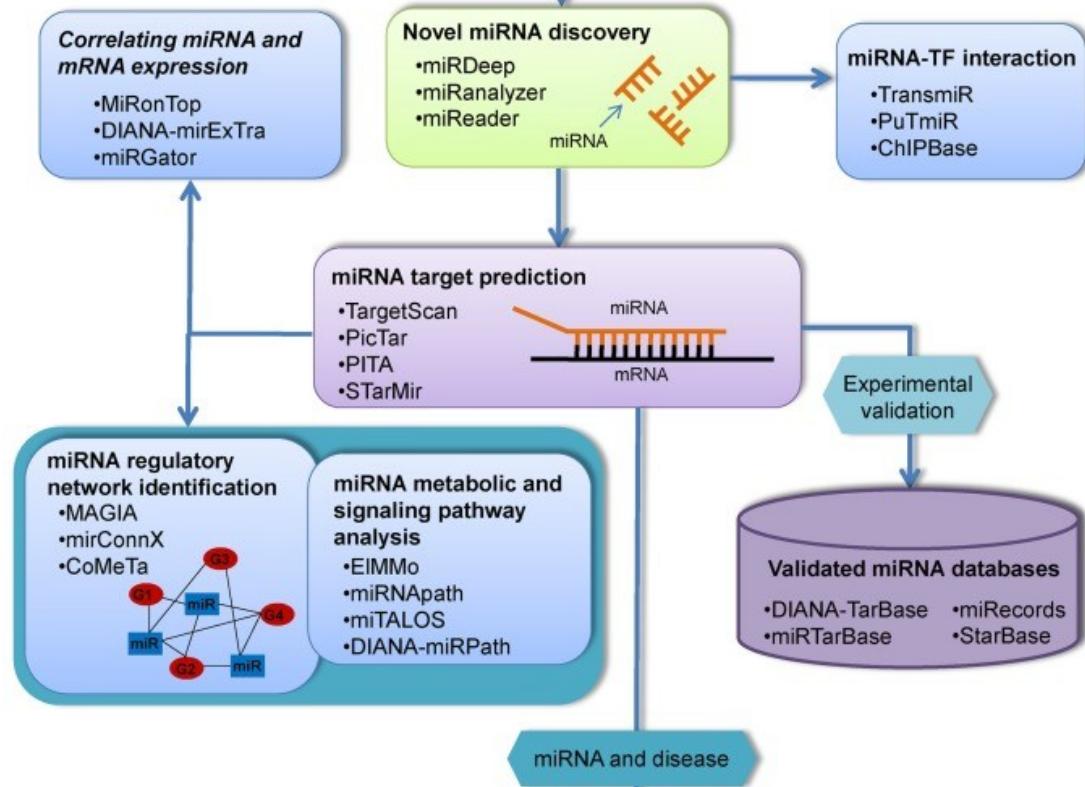
Presented example:  
miRNA

Experimental design

Sequence characteristics  
to select the expected  
smallRNA

Annotation: first step of  
the biological analysis

RNAseq or high-  
throughput qPCR?



# RNAseq analyses

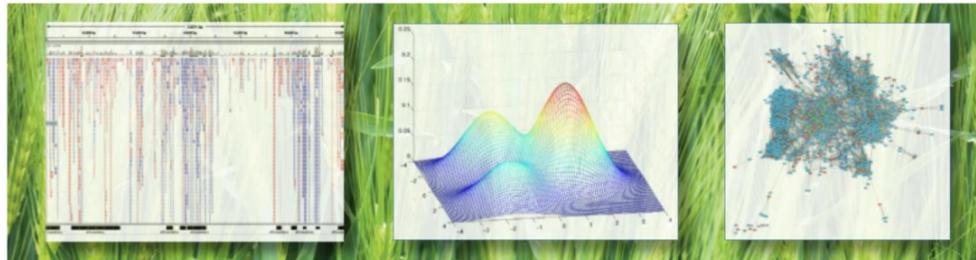
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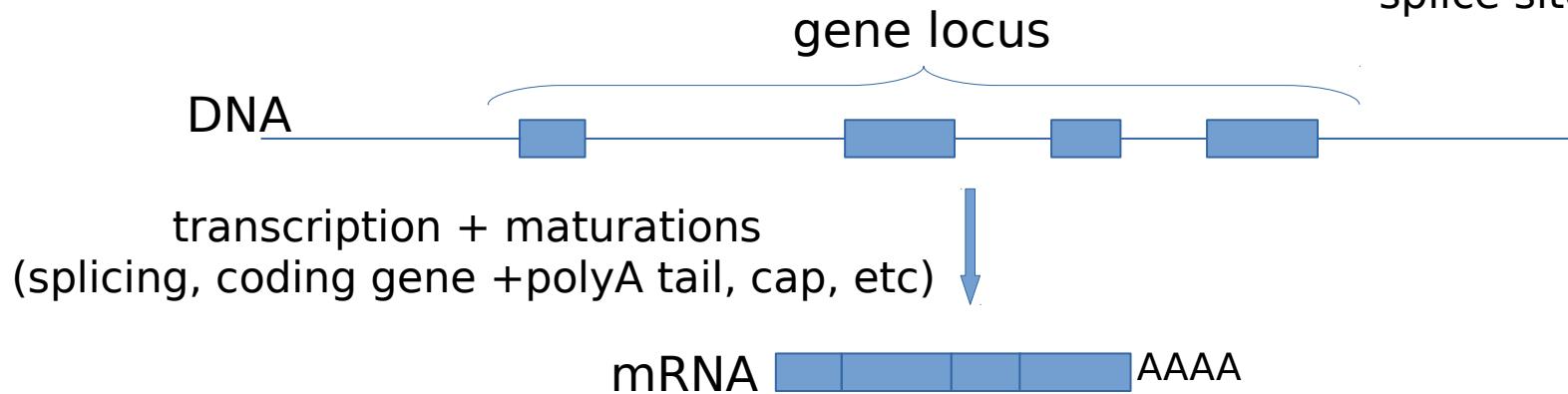
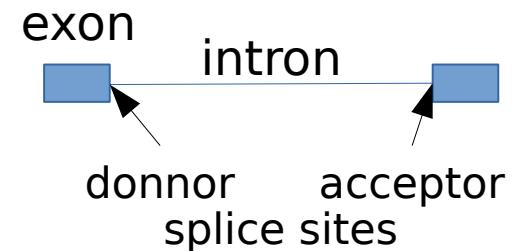
Others usages of RNA-Seq:

- smallRNA study
- **expression at isoform level**



# Isoform

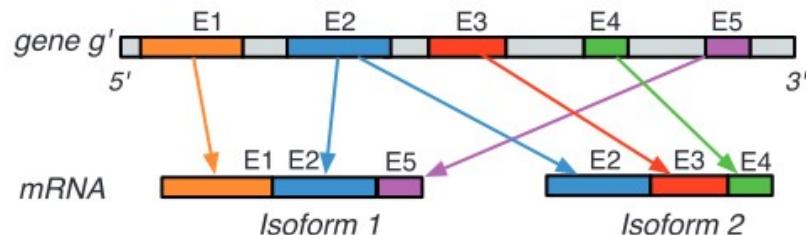
Eukaryotic gene includes introns:



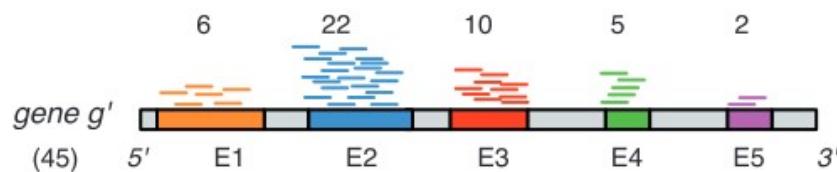
One gene locus may rise diverse transcripts with different usages of exons

Alternative Splicing Event => isoforms

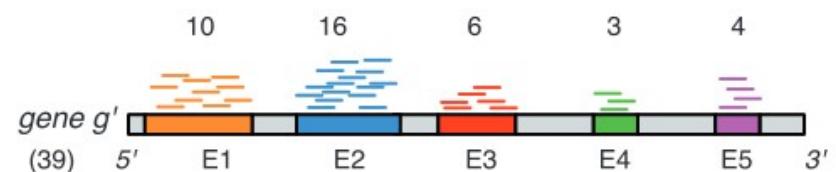
# Gene level



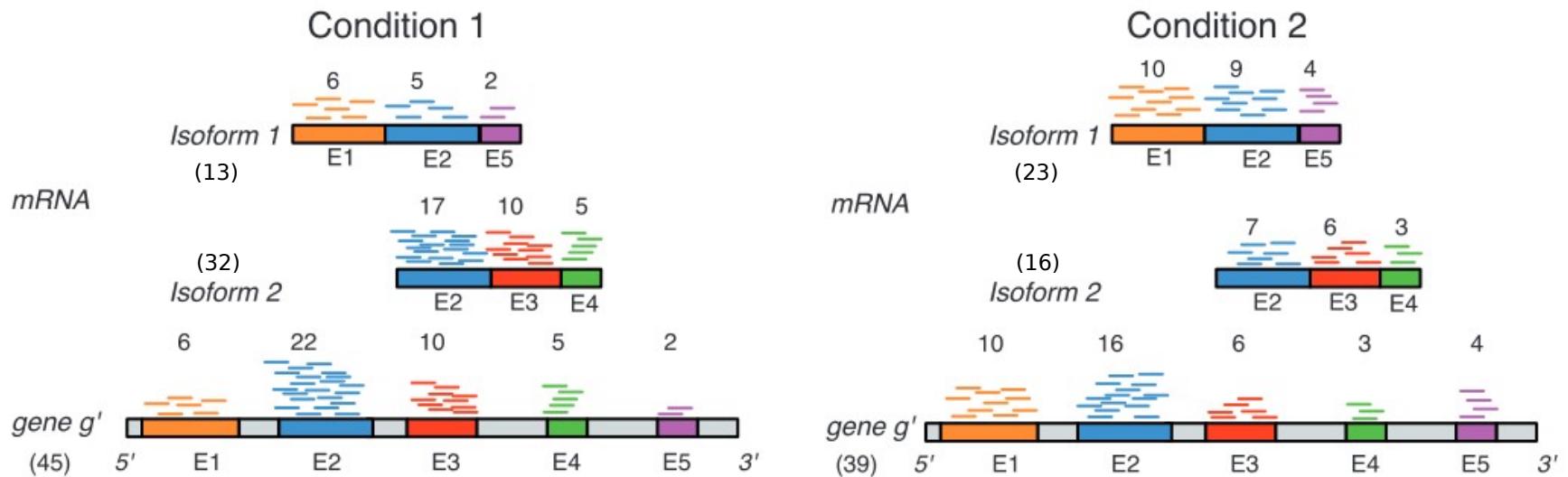
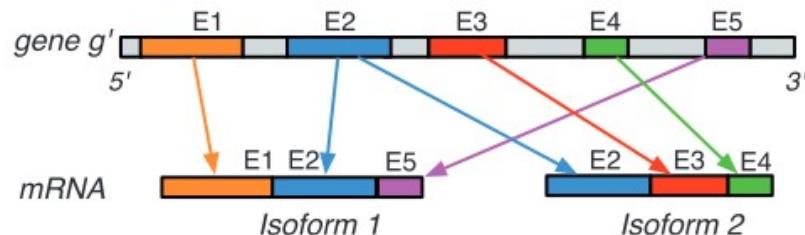
Condition 1



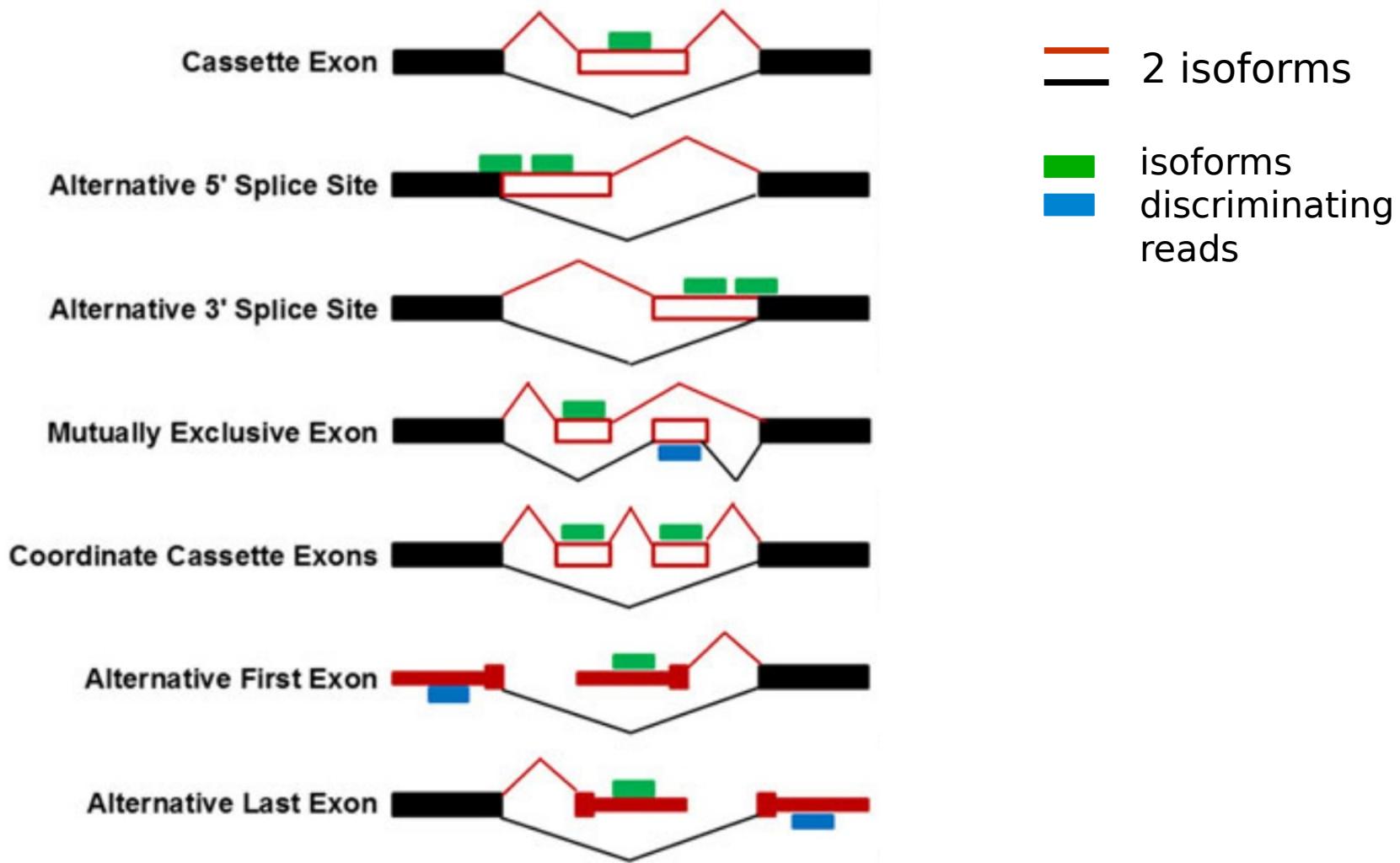
Condition 2



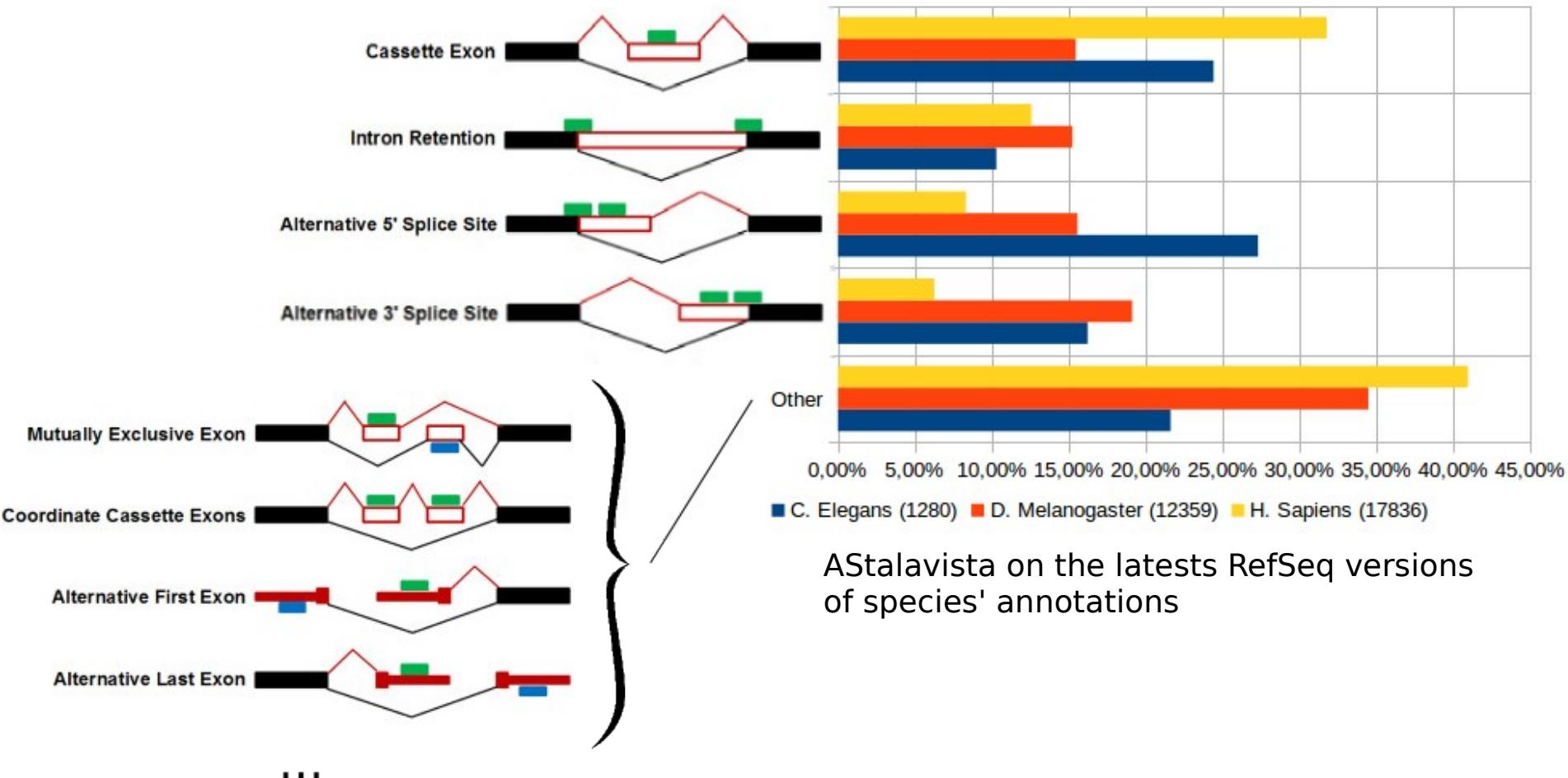
# Transcript level



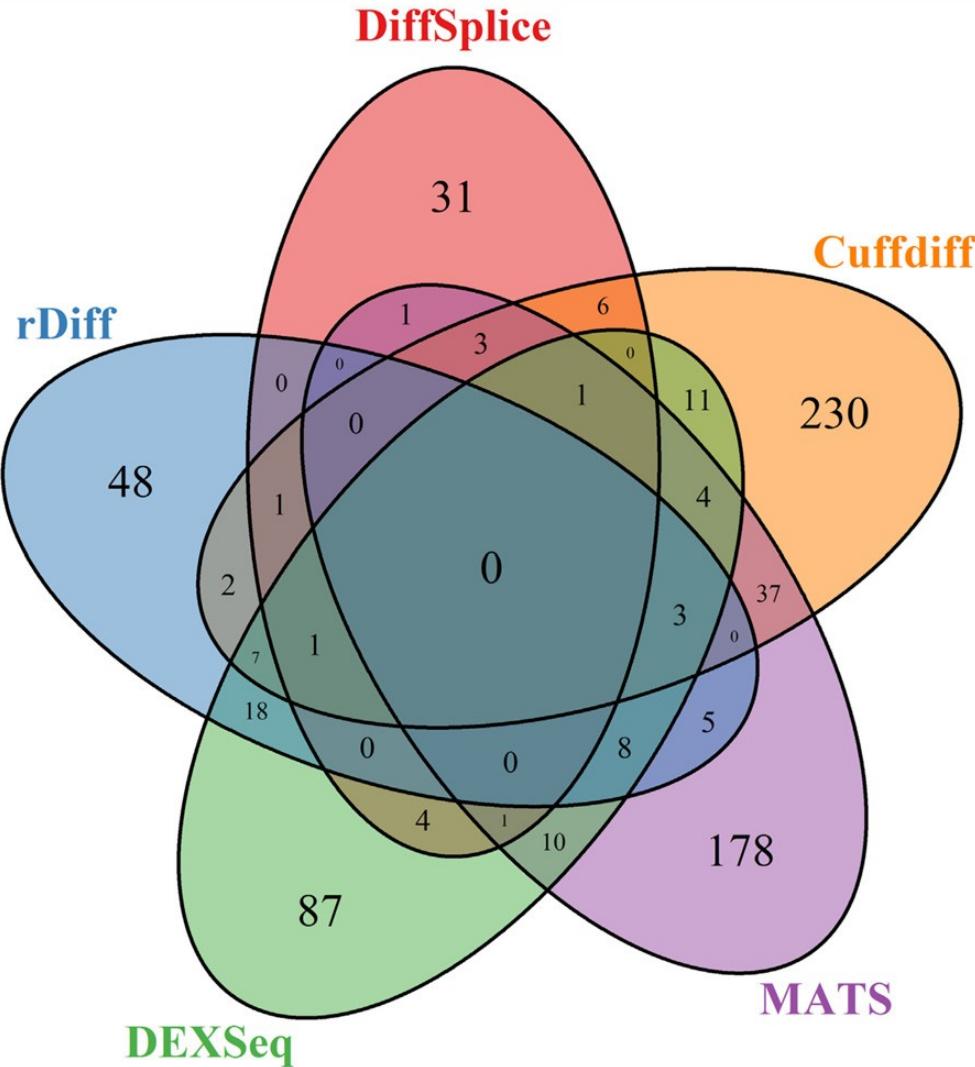
# ASE-Alternative Splicing Events



# Organism specificity

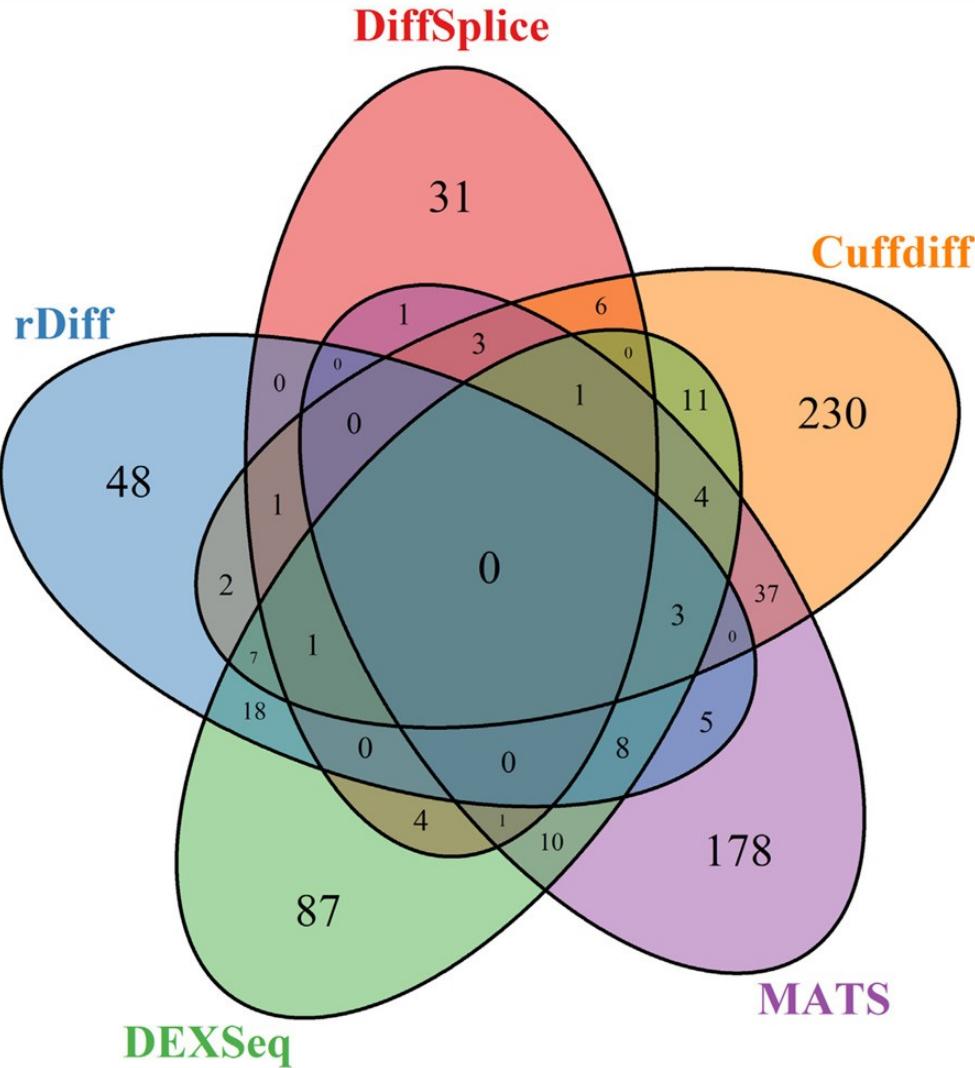


# Comparing DE tools



- 5 common tools for DE
- RNAseq data:  
simulated data, *A.thaliana*
- number of common DE genes

# Comparing DE tools



- 5 common tools
- RNAseq data:  
simulated data, *A.thaliana*
- number of common DE genes

Hypotheses :

- level of analysis:  
transcript ≠ exon ≠ region
- organism specificity
- different methods/algorithms:  
mapping, counting, and DE

# Transcript level tools

Tools for DE : >> 100, Tools for ASE : ~ 60, (2016)

## How to choose one ?

# Benchmarking them !

28

# Benchmarking

Softwares?

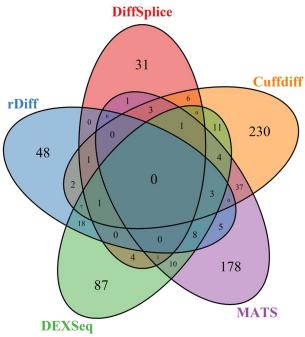
- the number of tested methods is limited

Data?

- RNAseq => how to know the truth?
  - qPCR studies? Only small set of genes & cross-hybridization between isoforms
  - RNA spikes? exogene sequences in controled quantity
- Simulated data => how to be as close as possible to the variability of the real data?

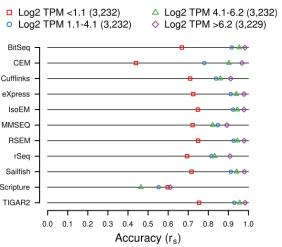
Task?

# Some benchmarking tasks



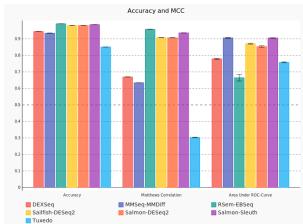
DE tools

How many common DE genes?



Isoform quantification

Expression rate, Exon number/transcript  
Number of isoform/gene, ASE type



ASE detection

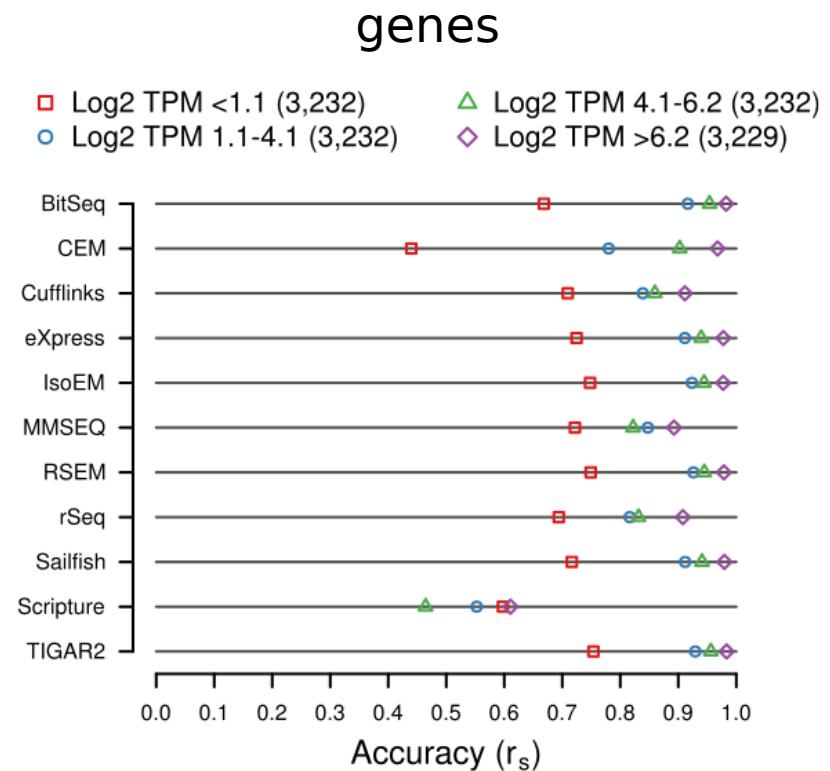
# Quantification: expression rate

Simulation:  
Flux simulator  
Human data set  
RNAseq single-end  
sequencing depth: 30 million reads

restricted on expressed transcripts  
(10% of human transcripts)

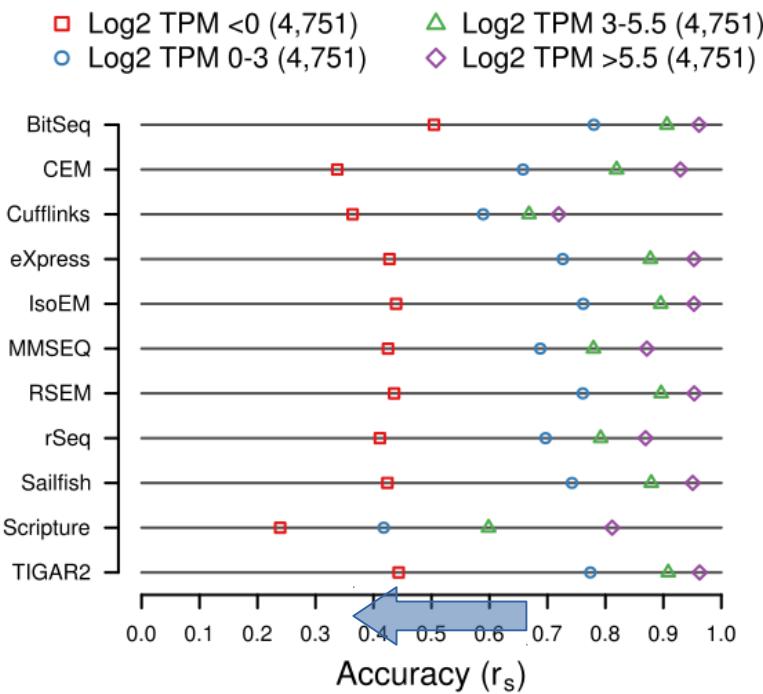
Spearman correlation coefficient ( $r_s$ )  
between the estimates and the  
known input levels

4 bins of expression levels  
(Log2 TPM)

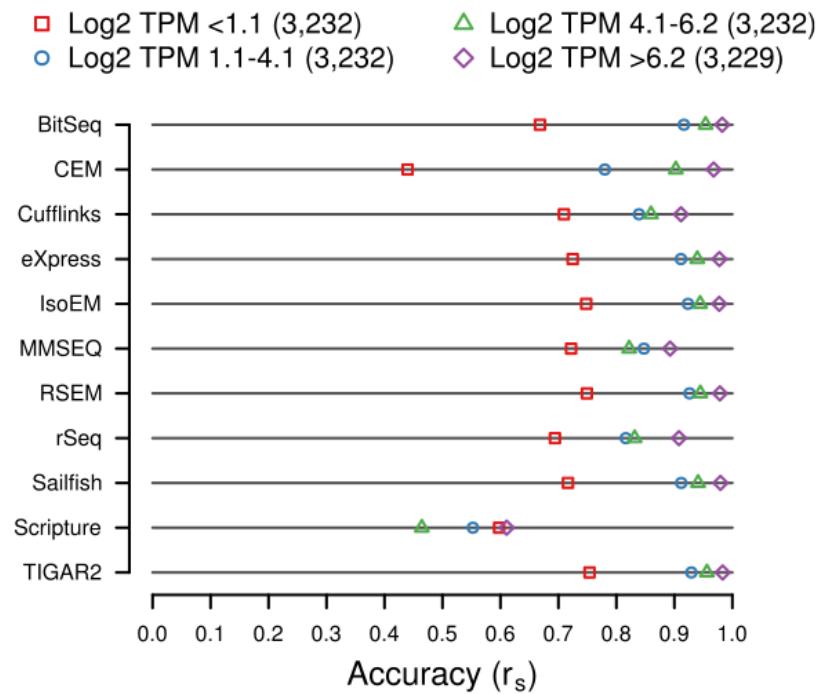


# Quantification: expression rate

transcripts

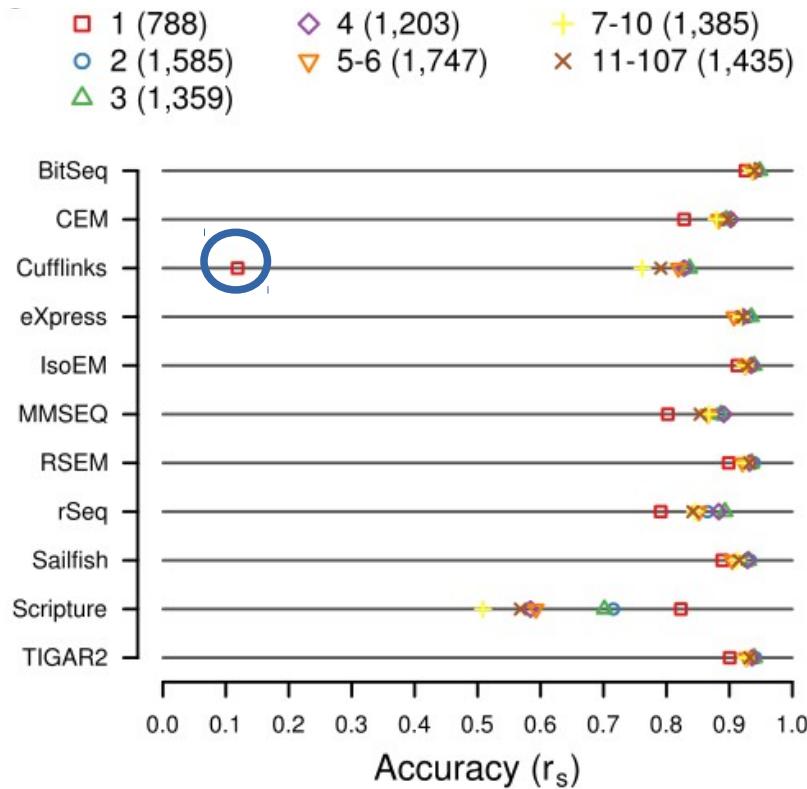


genes



# Quantification: exon number

#exons / transcript



Median expression levels:  
 $0 < \text{Log2 TPM} < 5.5$

Cufflinks uses read-overlapping junction

# Quantification: isoform number

Simulation:

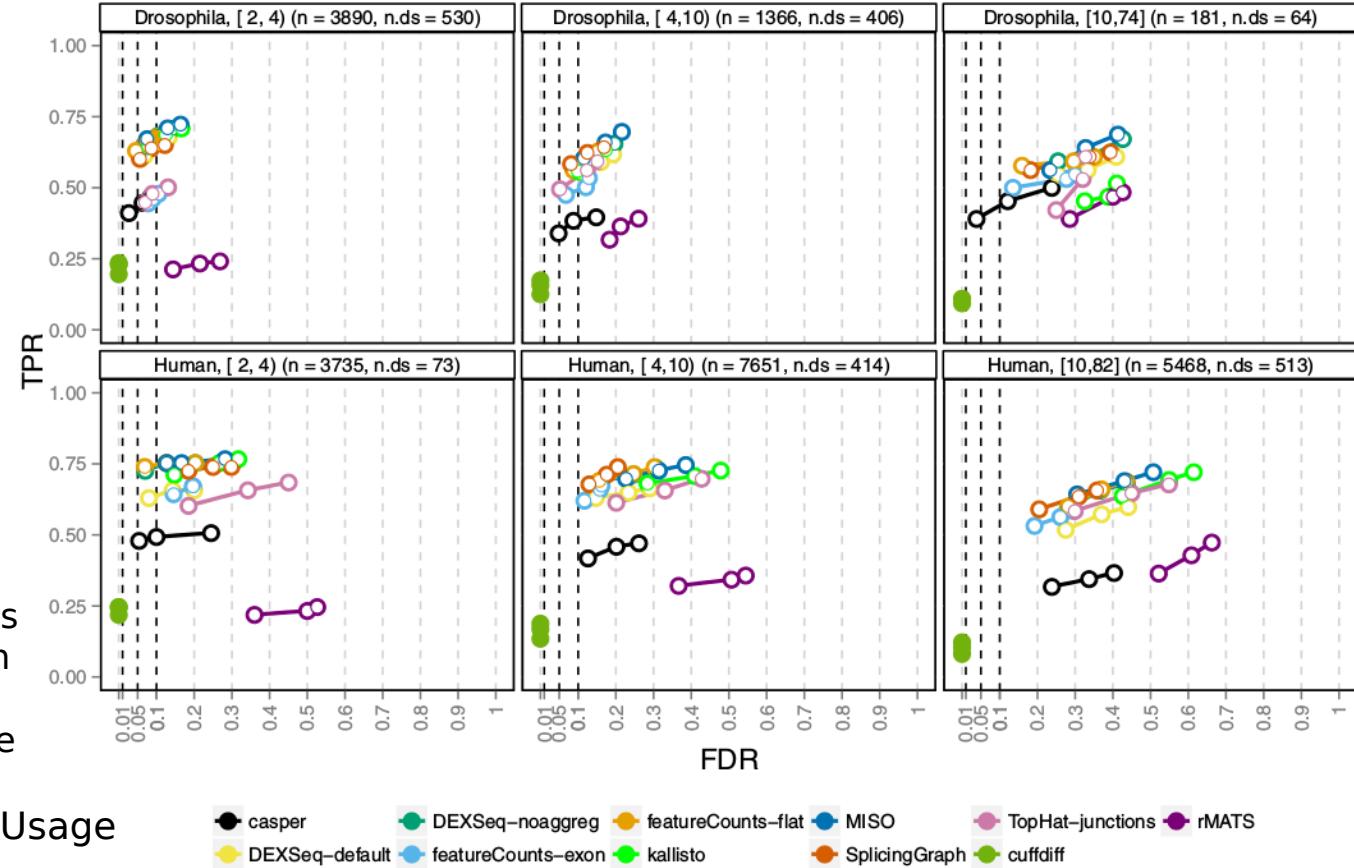
RSEM model from real data set + DTU for 1000 genes (switch of the relative abundances for the 2 most abundant isoforms between the conditions)

[i,j] i to j isoforms

n: gene number

n.ds: with DTU

3 circles, usual FDR thresholds (0.01, 0.05, 0.1): ideally, each circle should fall to the left of the corresponding vertical line

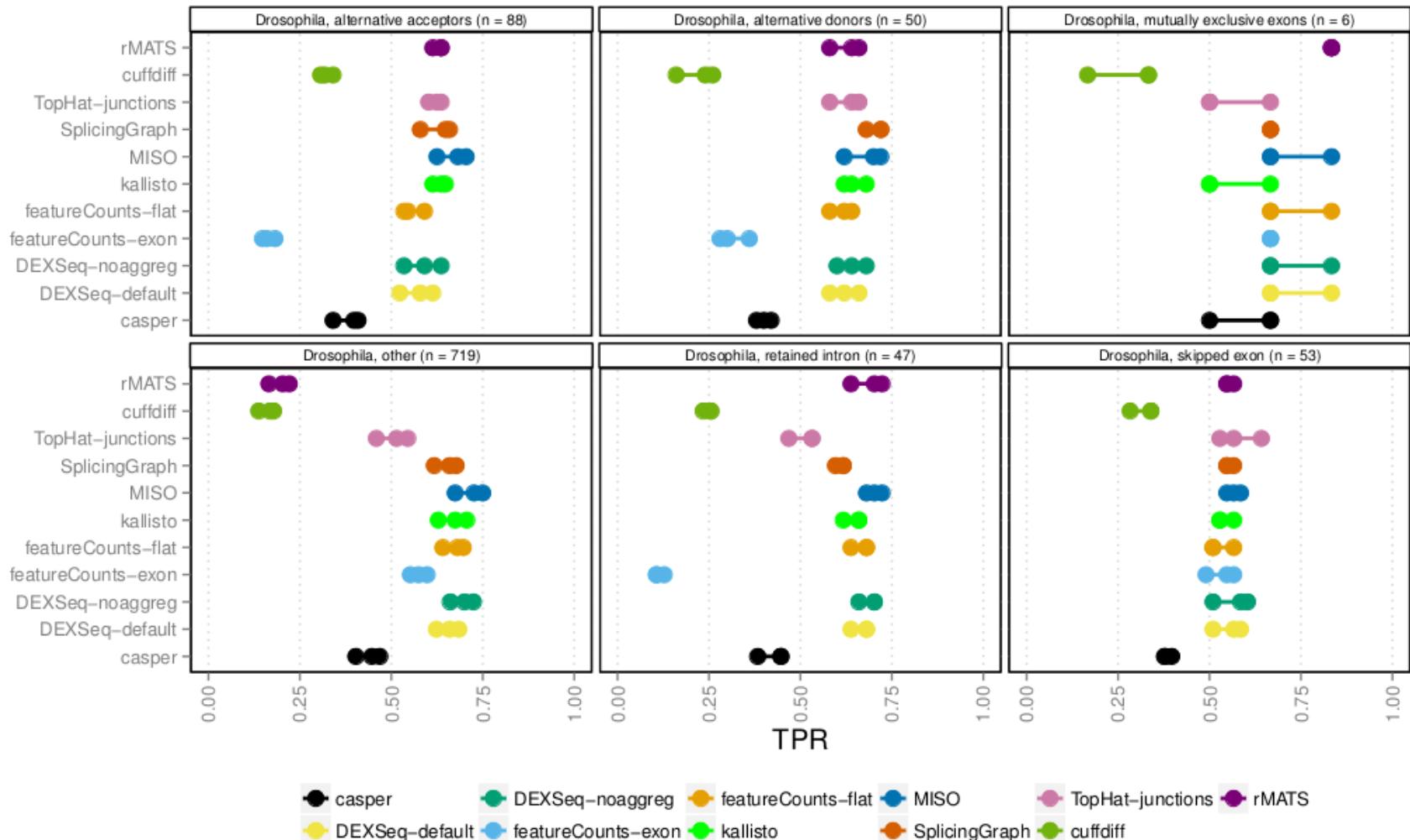


DTU: Differential Transcript Usage

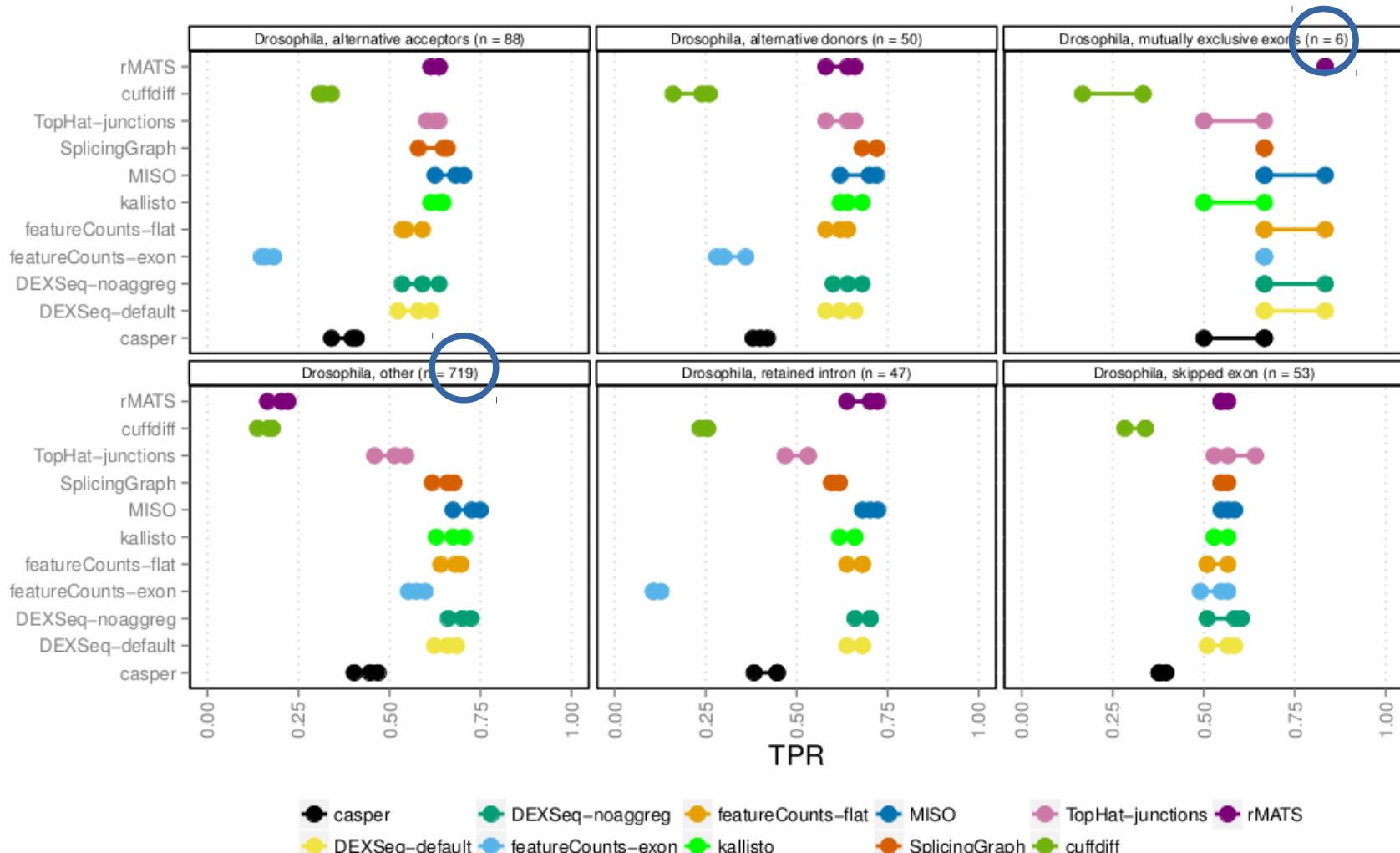
FDR: False Discovery Rate

TPR: True Positive Rate

# Quantification: ASE ?



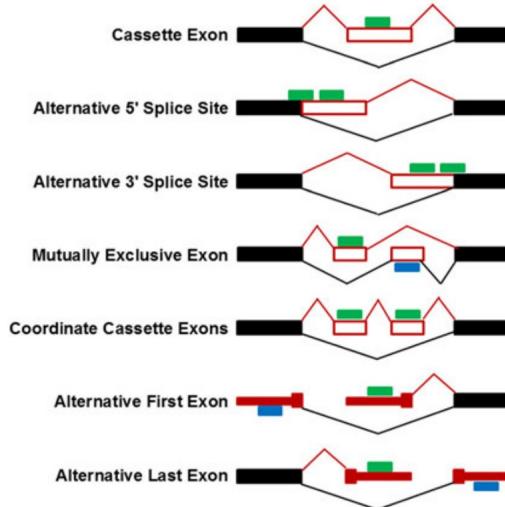
# Quantification: ASE ?



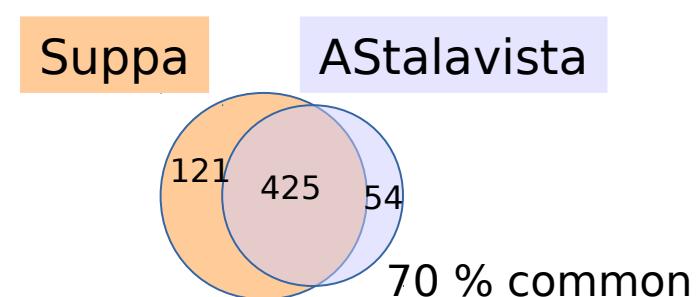
# ASE analysis

Annotation file  
(gtf, gff, gbk)  
gene  
exon  
transcript  
CDS

→ ASE list  
Suppa  
AStalavista



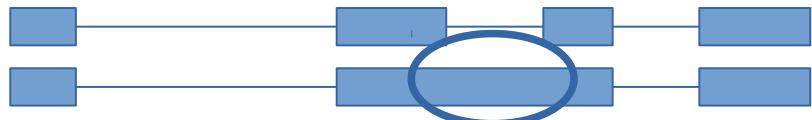
chr22 hum.	Suppa	AStalavista
with ASE	539	479
without ASE	733	793
total	1272	1272



# ASE analysis need reference

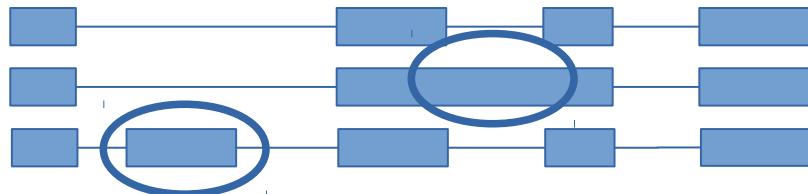


# ASE analysis need reference



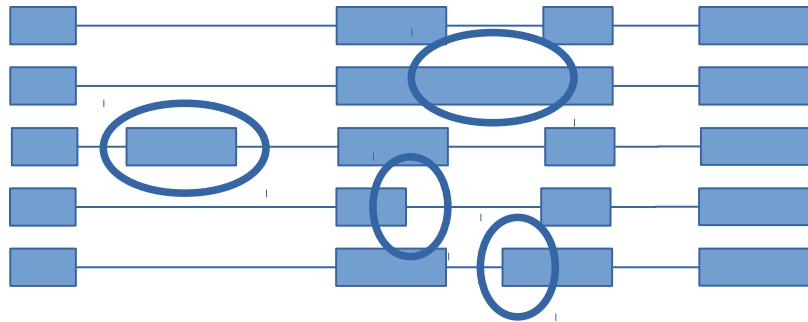
Retained Intron

# ASE analysis need reference



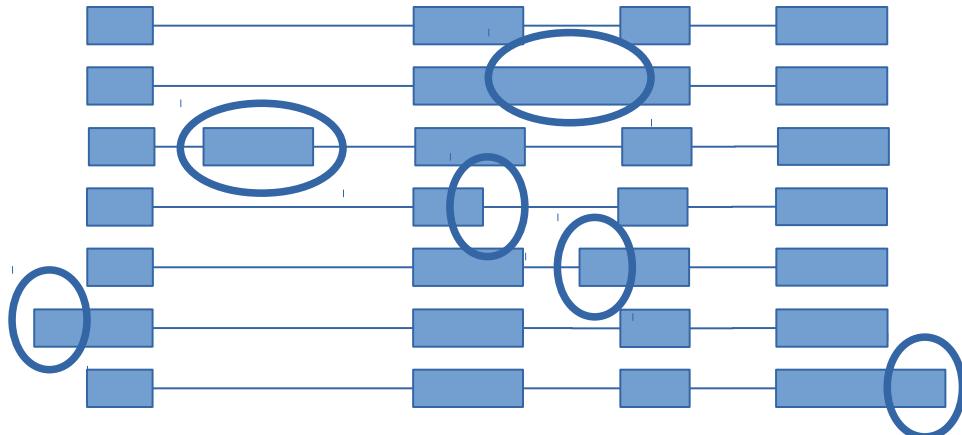
Retained Intron  
Skipped Exon

# ASE analysis need reference



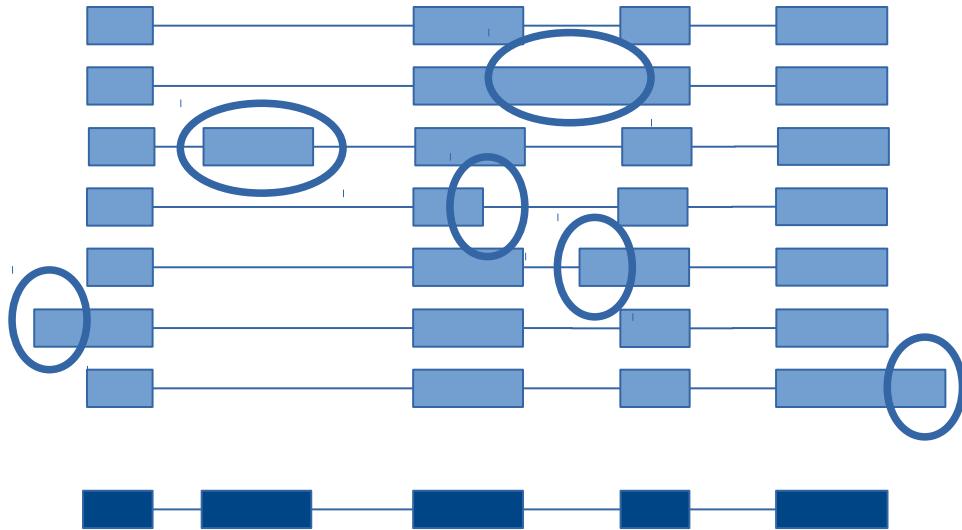
Retained Intron  
Skipped Exon  
Alternative Donnor/Acceptor  
Splicing Site

# ASE analysis need reference



Retained Intron  
Skipped Exon  
Alternative Donnor/Acceptor  
Splicing Site  
Alternative First/Last Exon

# ASE analysis need reference



Retained Intron  
Skipped Exon  
Alternative Donnor/Acceptor  
Splicing Site  
Alternative First/Last Exon

## Define a Reference Transcript :

- 1 - **largest set of non-overlapping** exons
- 2 - that appends the **most frequently** among isoforms
- 3 - that covers the **widest area** over the gene region

=> may be a non “real” transcript  
=> specific for each project

# Benchmark: ASE detection

Evaluate tools in their capacity to detect ASE from RNAseq data (neither the « right » rate of transcript expression, nor discovery of new expressed loci)

Simulated data: controlled expression rate of each isoform & the presence of each type of ASE :

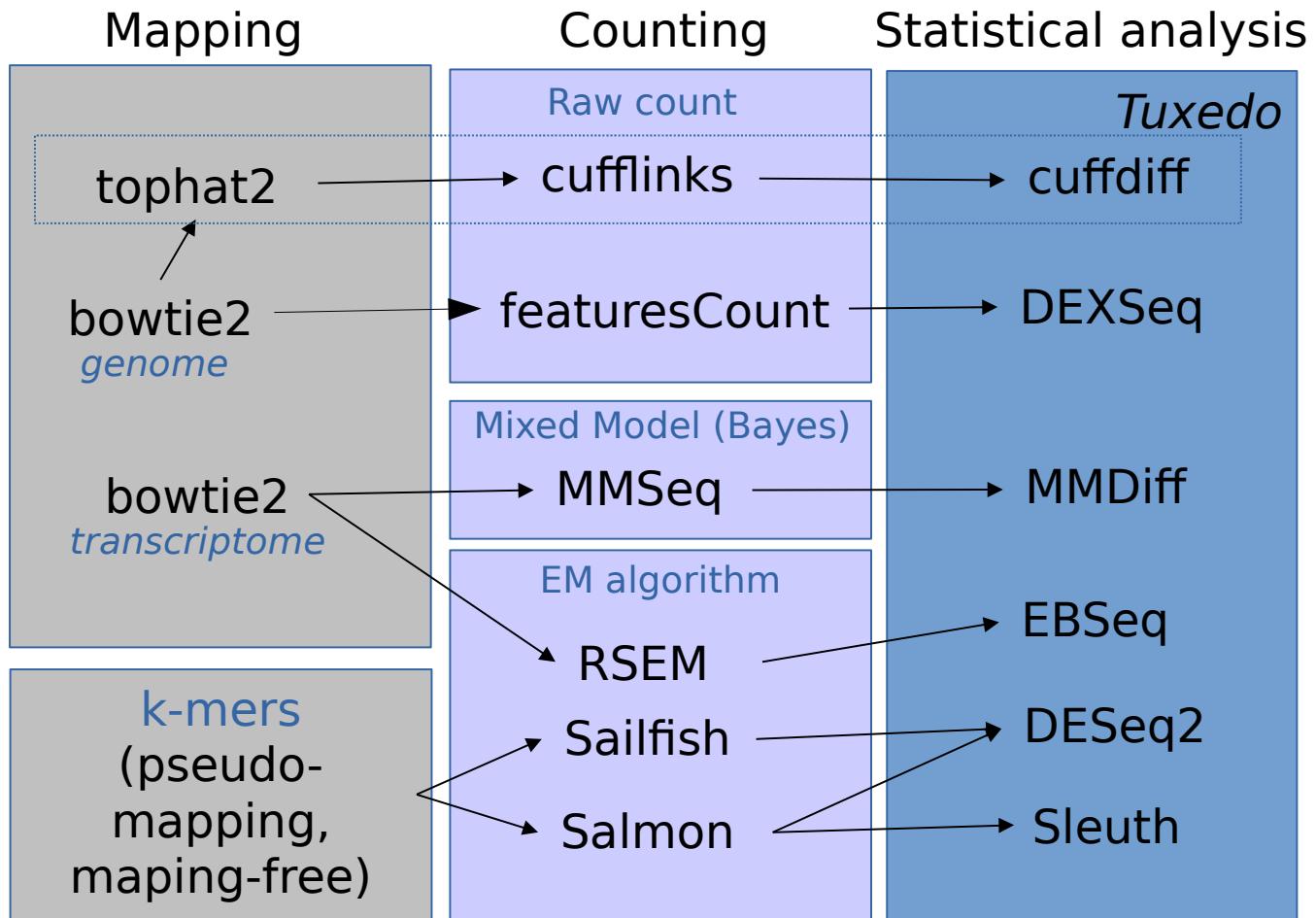
- human chromosome 22, 744 genes
- 2 conditions x 3 replicates
- reads : paired-end, 2 x 100 bp
- expression : 100 reads / transcript (no DE variation)
- For each type of ASE :
  - 10% of the transcript in one condition
  - Only reference transcripts in the other condition
  - 1 ASE/transcript/gene

Condition 1  
100% references

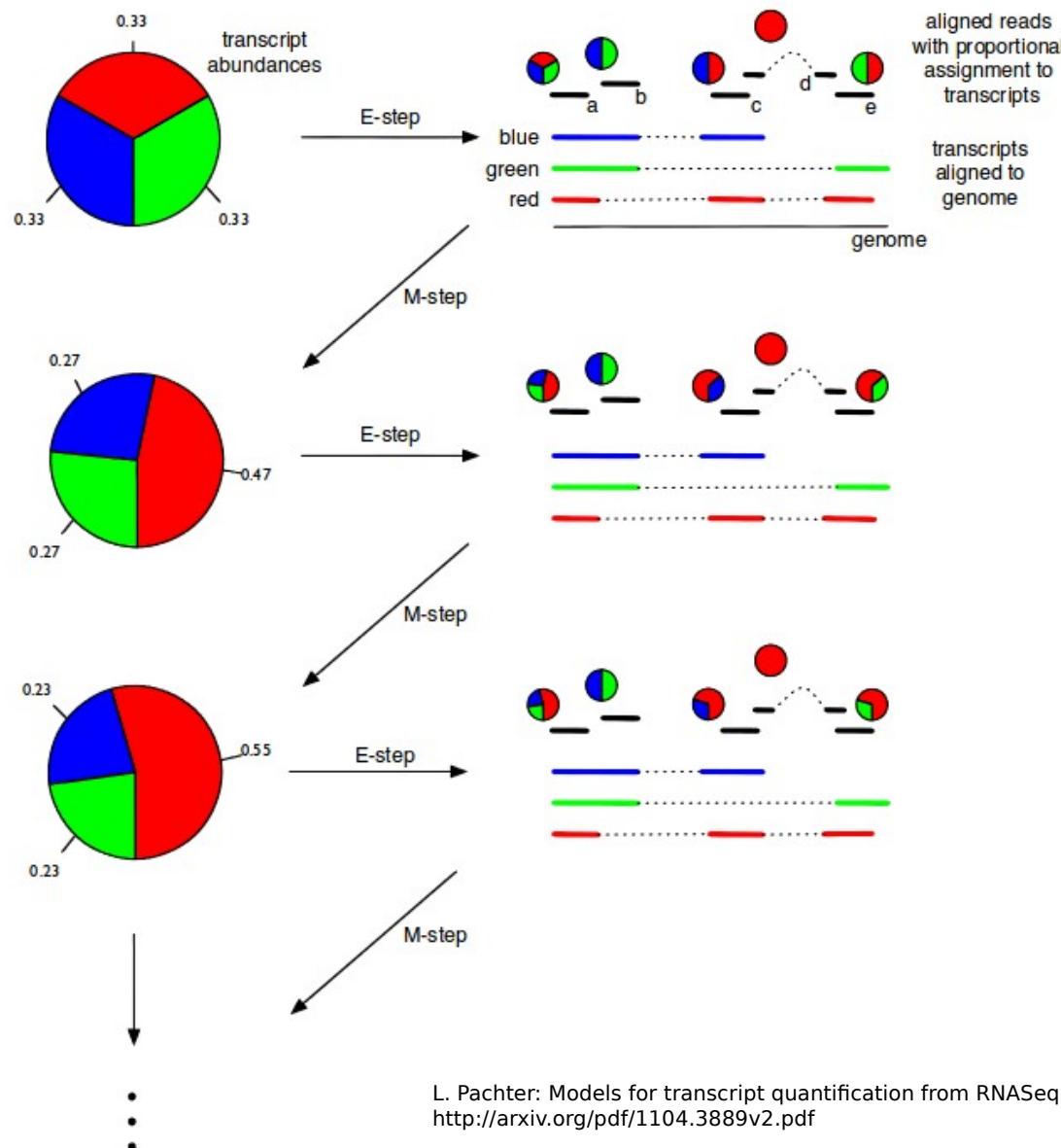
Condition 2  
90% references  
10% with 1 ASE

Identification of a DE transcript => the method detects the ASE type

# Methods & tools benchmark



# Count estimation with EM



Based-on the Expected-Maximisation algorithm

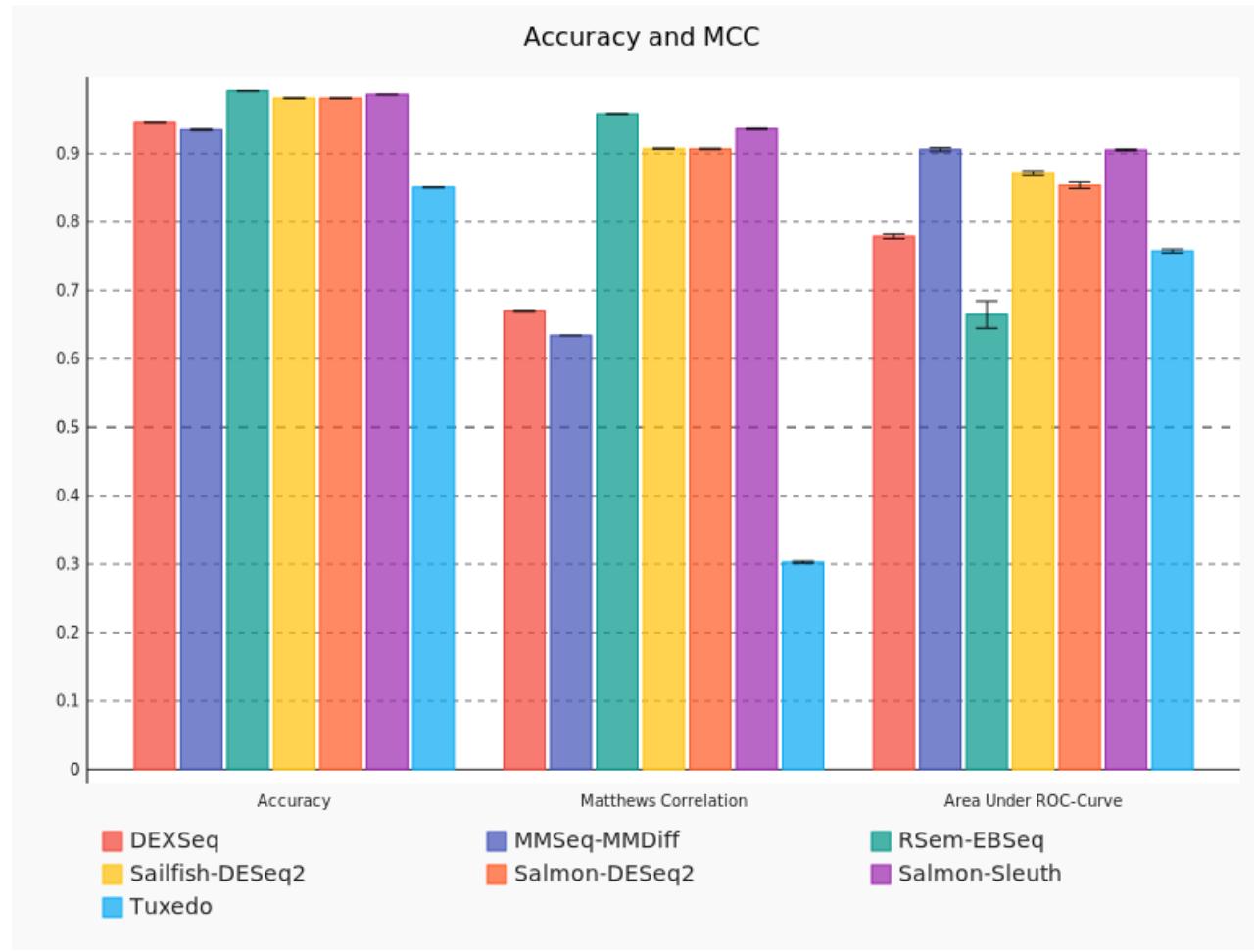
First 3 cycles of EM algorithm :

ex. : abundance of **red** transcript estimated after the 1srt M-step:  
 $(1/3 \text{ read a} + 1/2 \text{ read b} + 1 \text{ read d} + 1/2 \text{ read e}) / (\text{total read number})$

or  $(0.33+0.5+1+0.5)/5 = 0.47$

- proved to converge
- stop criterion implementation: when all probabilities that a fragment is derived from a transcript  $\geq 10^7$  have a relative change of  $\leq 10^3$

# Results, alternative donor site



Accuracy: are tool predictions correct?

RSEM/EBSeq, Sailfish, Salmon

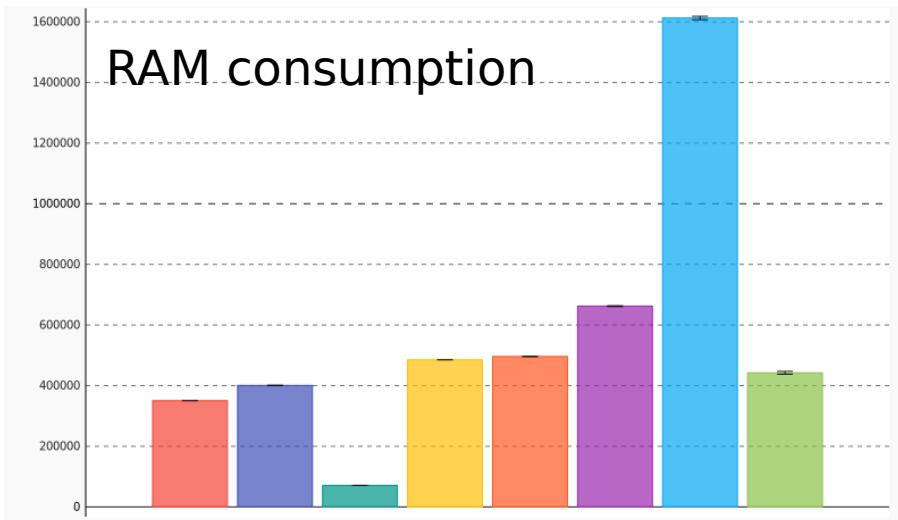
MCC: if  $>0.5$  then using tool is better than random

RSEM/EBSeq, Salmon-Sleuth  
Tuxedo

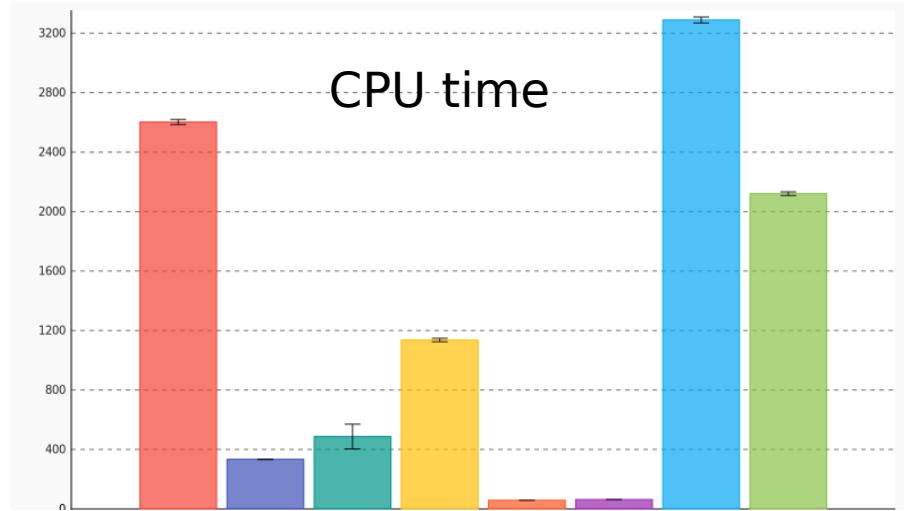
AUC of ROC curve: confidence in the results of the tool  
Salmon-Sleuth

# Performances (ADss)

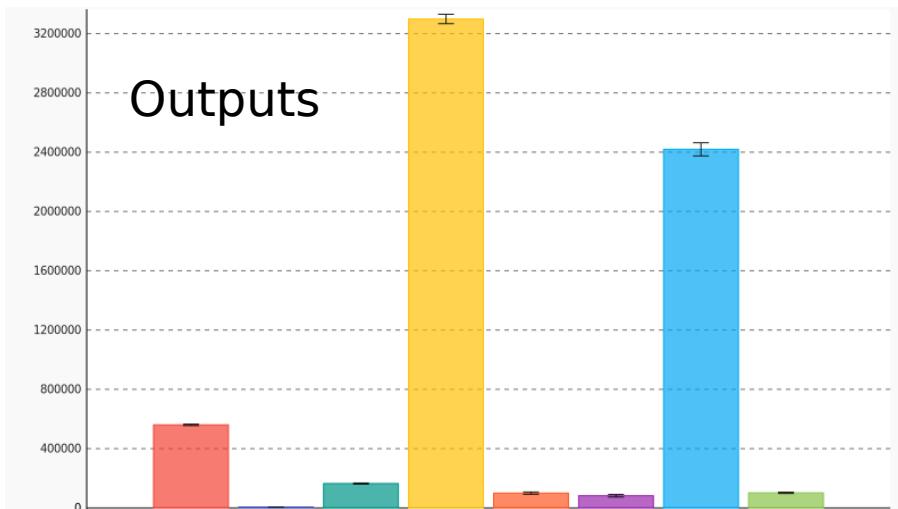
Max RAM usage (Ko)



CPU time (seconds)



Number of outputs



- Bowtie2
- DEXseq
- MMSeq/MMDiff
- RSEM/EBseq
- Sailfish/DESeq2
- Salmon/Sleuth
- TopHat2
- Cufflinks/CuffDiff

Tuxedo : bowtie2+Tophat2+cufflinks/cuffdiff

# Choice of the method

For our benchmark

human chr22, 10 % of ON/OFF transcripts with 1 ASE  
between 2 conditions, 3 replicates, 100 reads/genes

## Salmon/Sleuth

(RSEM/EBSeq, Sailfish)

developped pipeline: fastq ⇒ DE transcripts

appliance for IFB cloud, <https://cloud.france-bioinformatique.fr>

IFB BIOINFORMATICS CLOUD



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# ASE Benchmarking conclusions

A benchmark is always limited:

- Software
- Simulation (**human**, **plant**, ...)
  - Skipped exon, Retained Intron, Alternative First/Last Exon, Alternative 3'/5' Splicing Site
  - **100 reads** / gene (3-4 days, 6 cores, 13 G RAM)
    - **1000 reads** / gene (to check if the wrong predictions result from the coverage deepness or from the algorithm)
  - **On/off** condition : 1 ASE / transcript / gene :
    - **more than 1** ASE / transcript
    - **combination of** ASE in the same transcript

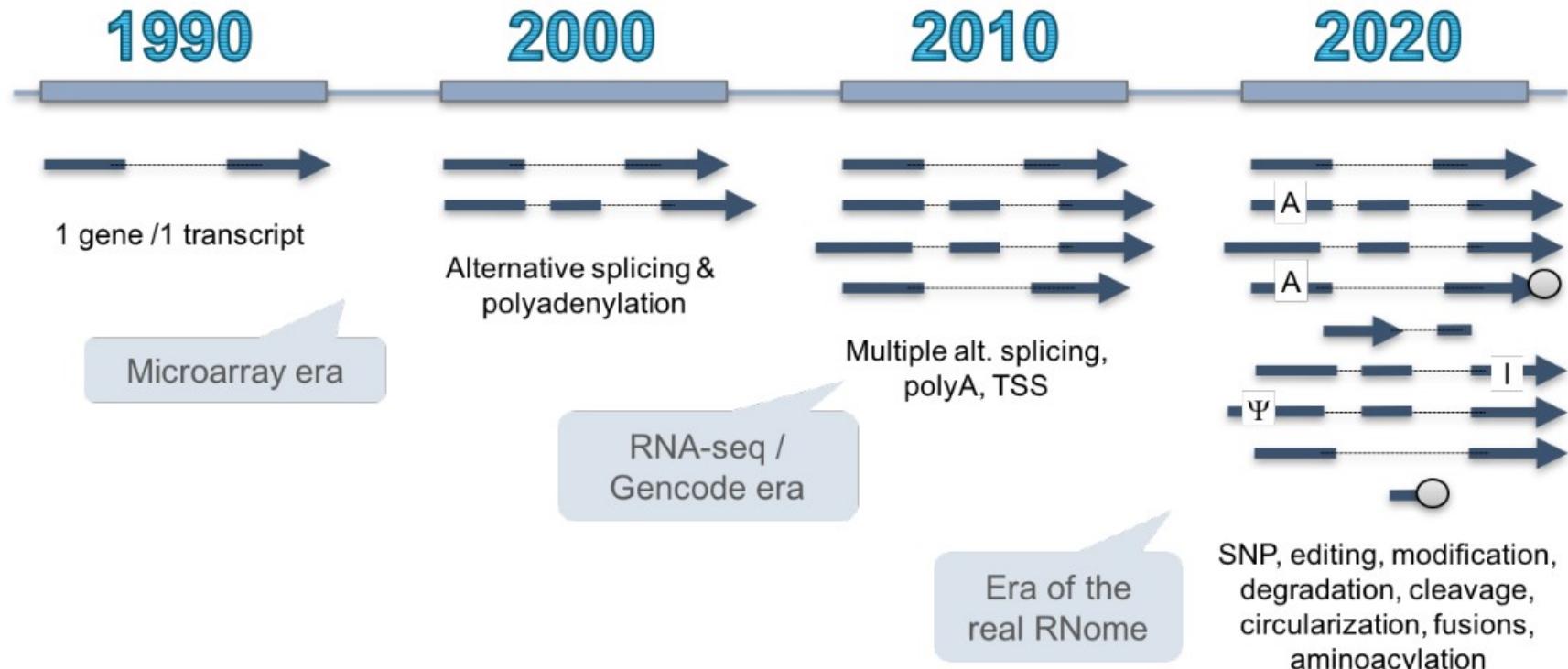
Several benchmark studies should be conducted to have a global overview

The conclusions should be regularly update

# RNomics evolution

Part1-smallRNA: search for the method corresponding to the smallRNA

Part2-isoform level: will be easier with full length RNAseq technology



The more there is technical advances, the more we are going towards the unknown biology

# Thanks



Marie-Laure Martin-Magniette  
Etienne Delannoy  
Véronique Brunaud

Eukaryotic small RNA

P. Bardou, C. Gaspin, S. Maman, J. Mariette, O. Rué, M. Zytnicki  
<http://www.france-bioinformatique.fr/sites/default/files/sRNA-Seq.pdf>



AVIESAN-IFB



Isoforms



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Marc Gabriel



dépasser les frontières