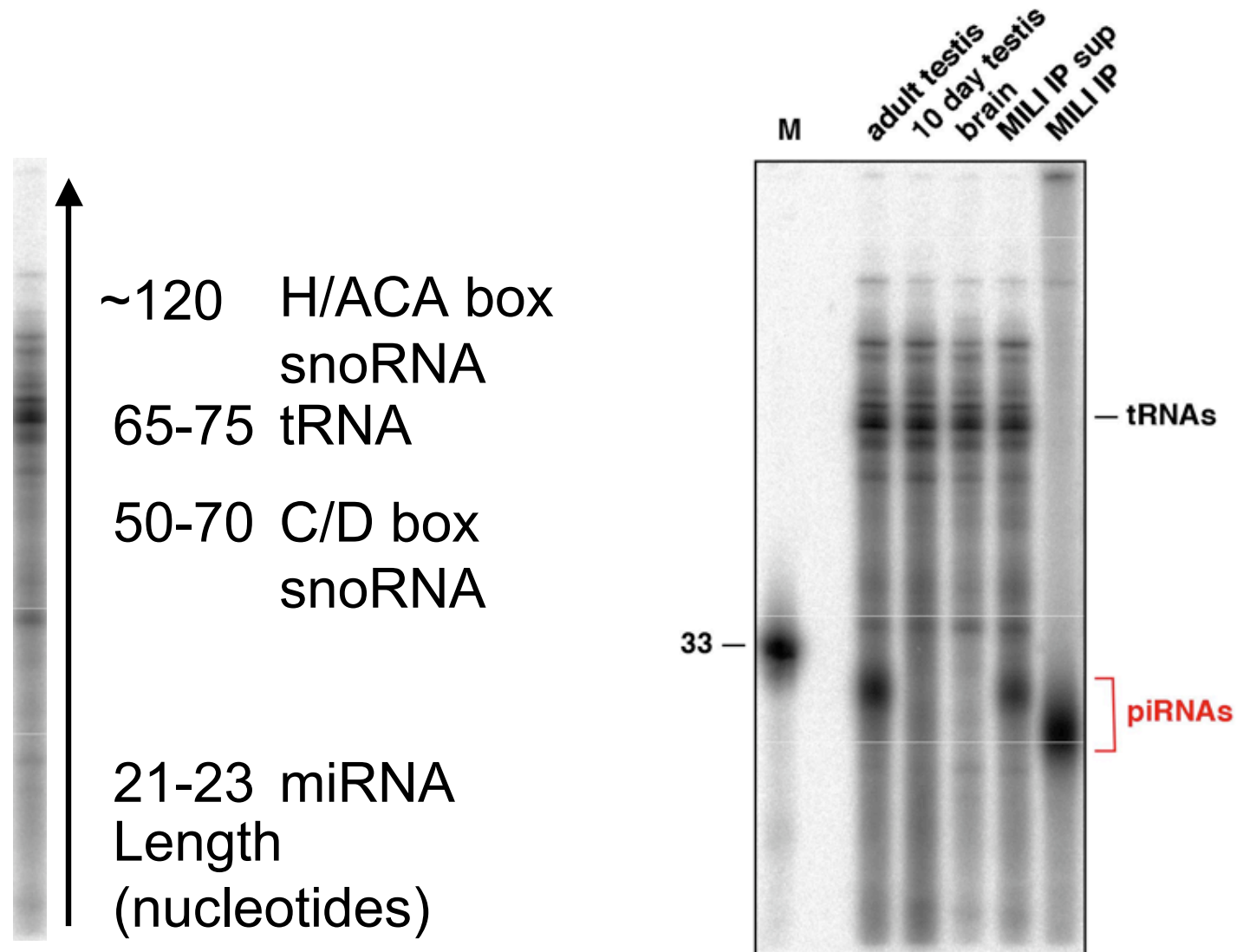


"(micro)RNomics: Identification and expression analysis of small regulatory RNAs

Mihaela Zavolan
Biozentrum, Basel
Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics

RNomics: an experimental approach that identifies 201 candidates for novel, small, non-messenger RNAs in mouse.

[Huttenhofer A](#), [Kiefmann M](#), [Meier-Ewert S](#), [O'Brien J](#), [Lehrach H](#), [Bachelier JP](#), [Brosius J](#).



1: [EMBO J.](#) 2001 Jun 1;20(11):2943-53.

snoRNA

RNomics: an experimental approach that identifies 201 candidates for novel, small, non-messenger RNAs in mouse.

[Huttenhofer A](#), [Kiefmann M](#), [Meier-Ewert S](#), [O'Brien J](#), [Lehrach H](#), [Bachellerie JP](#), [Brosius J](#).

1: [Science.](#) 2001 Oct 26;294(5543):862-4. miRNA

An extensive class of small RNAs in *Caenorhabditis elegans*.

[Lee RC](#), [Ambros V](#).

1: [Science.](#) 2002 Sep 13;297(5588):1831. Epub 2002 Aug 22. rasiRNA

Small RNAs correspond to centromere heterochromatic repeats.

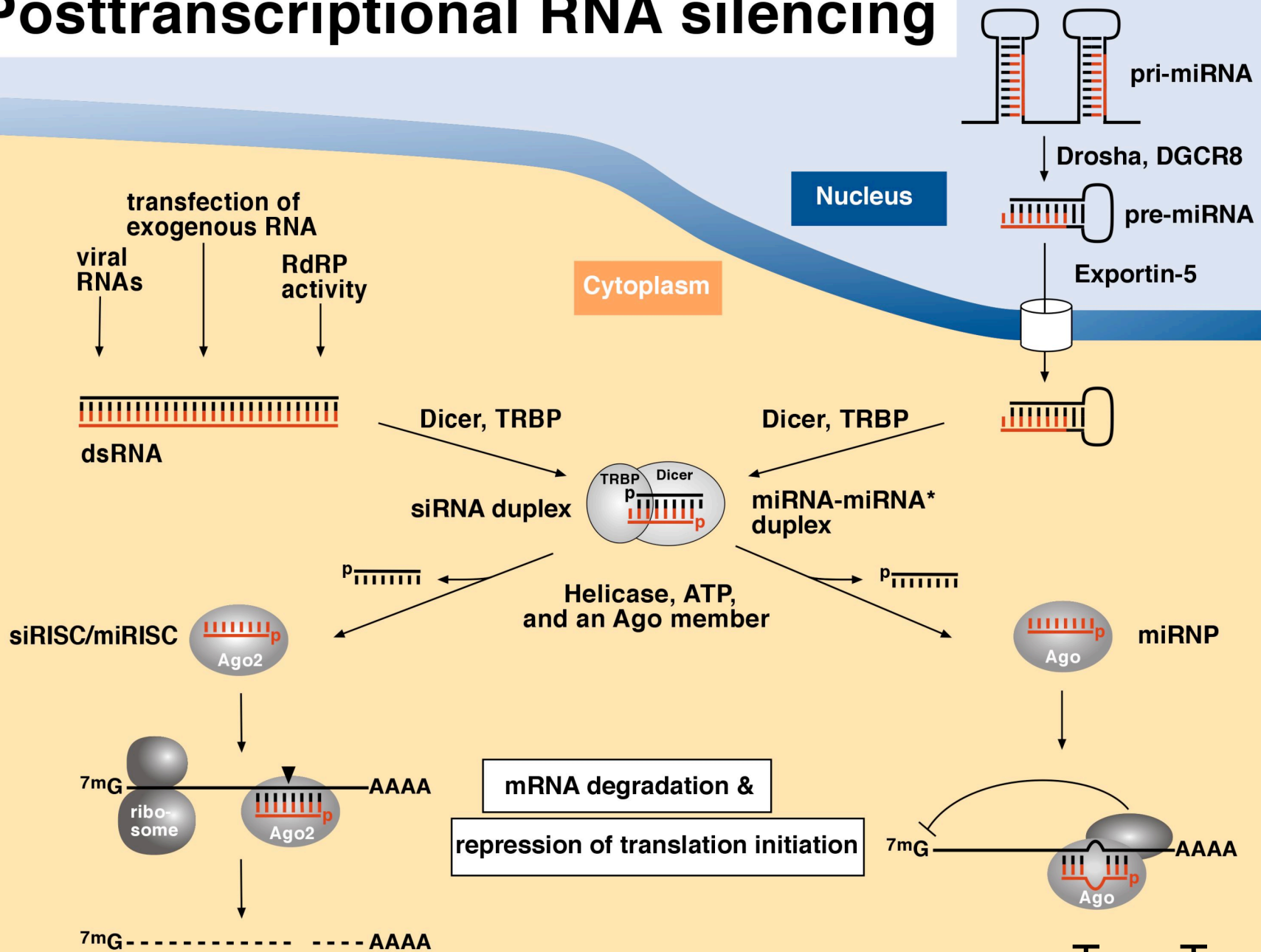
[Reinhart BJ](#), [Bartel DP](#).

1: [Nature.](#) 2006 Jul 13;442(7099):203-7. Epub 2006 Jun 4. piRNA

A novel class of small RNAs bind to MILI protein in mouse testes.

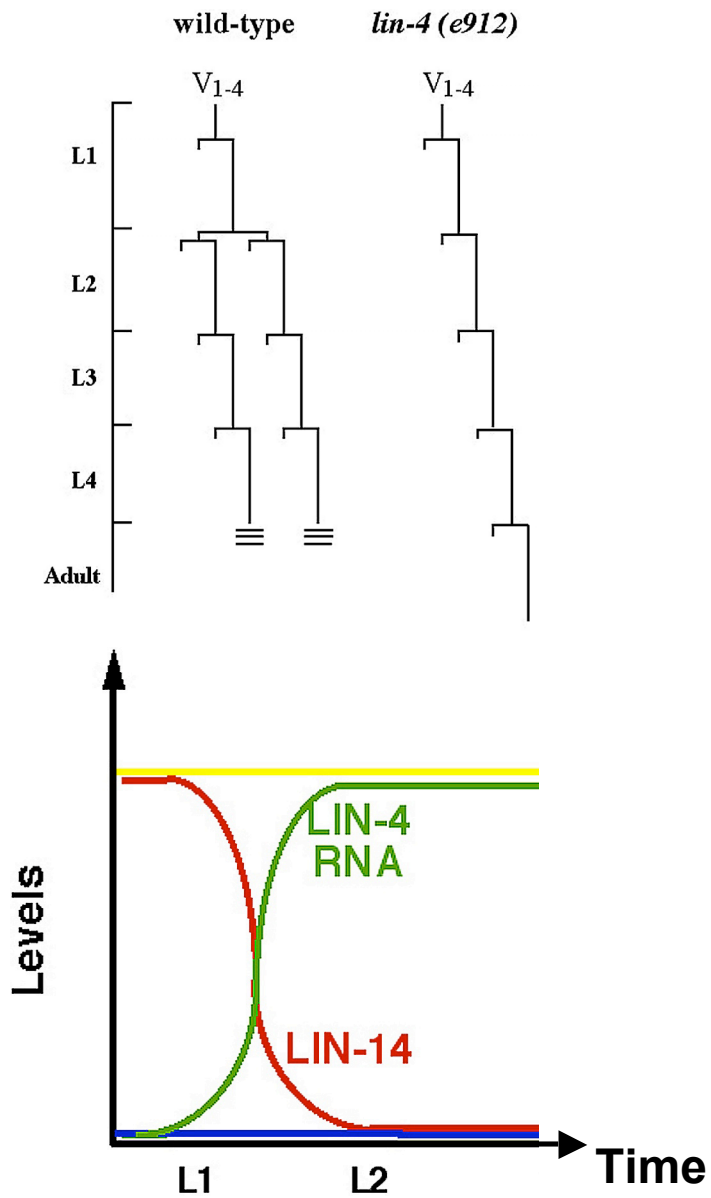
[Aravin A](#), [Gaidatzis D](#), [Pfeffer S](#), [Lagos-Quintana M](#), [Landgraf P](#), [Iovino N](#), [Morris P](#), [Brownstein MJ](#), [Kuramochi-Miyagawa S](#), [Nakano T](#), [Chien M](#), [Russo JJ](#), [Ju J](#), [Sheridan R](#), [Sander C](#), [Zavolan M](#), [Tuschl T](#).

Posttranscriptional RNA silencing

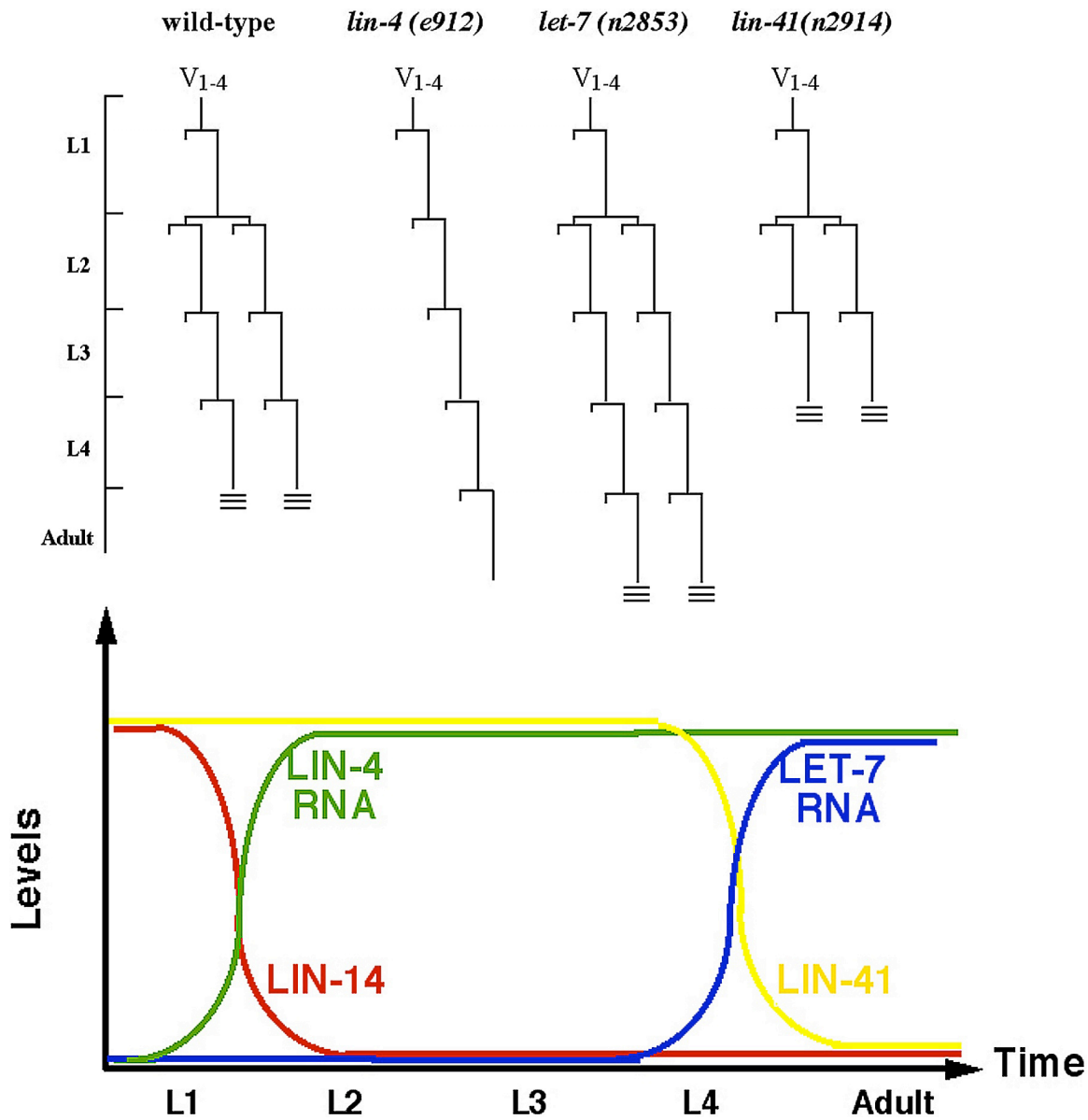


Tom Tuschl

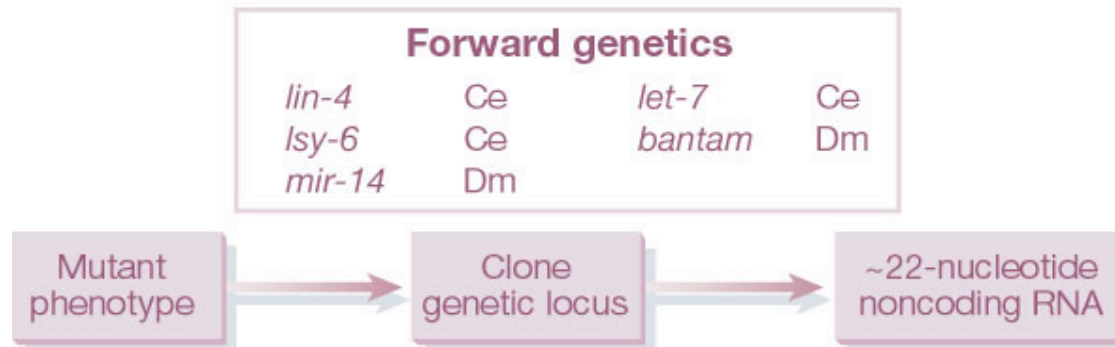
miRNA gene discovery



miRNA gene discovery



miRNA gene discovery



The functions of animal microRNAs
Victor Ambros Nature 341:350 (2004)

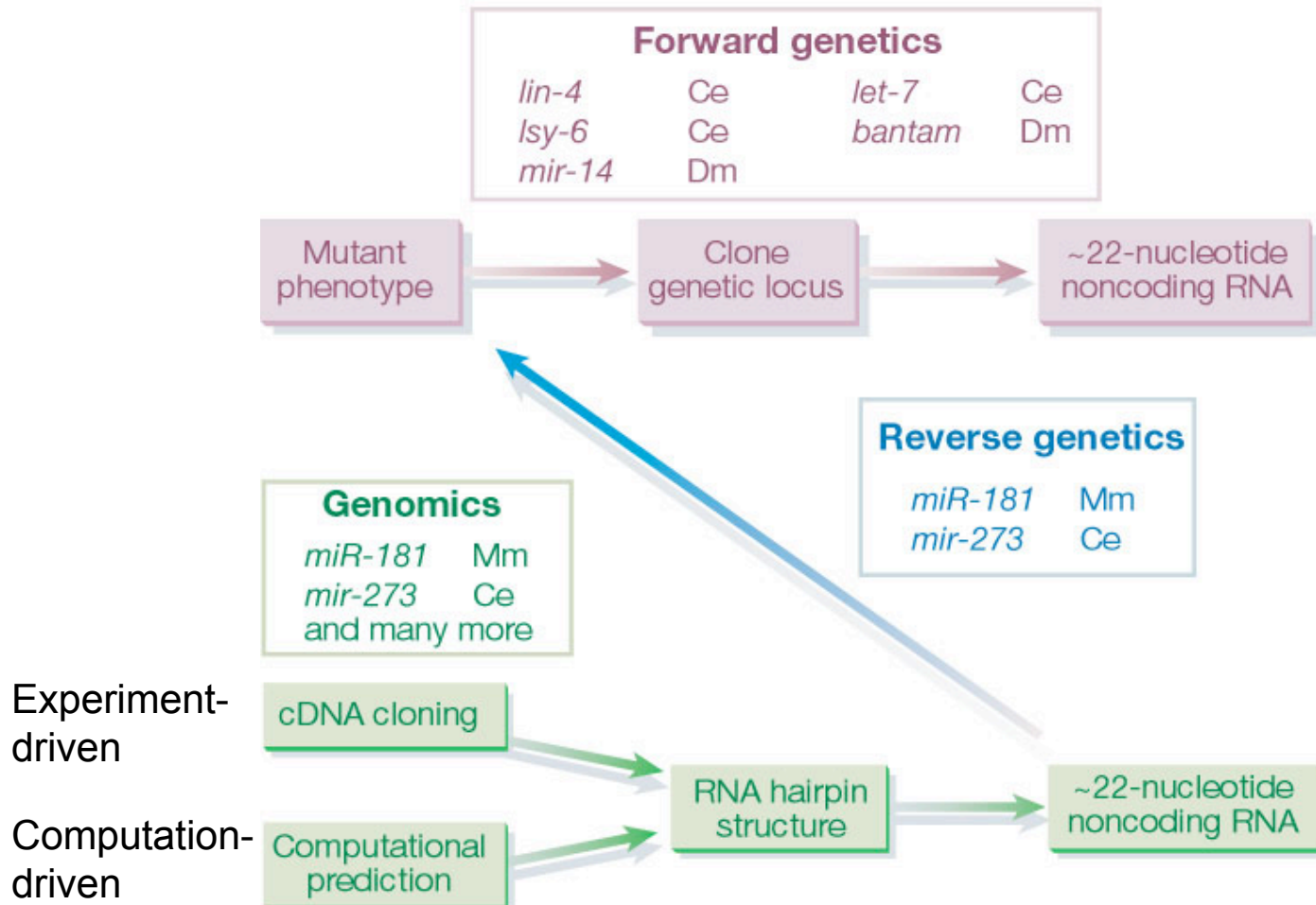
Let-7 is a strongly conserved miRNA

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

TGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTATAGT

human	CAGGT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AAT-T-ACATCAAGGGAGATAACTGTACAGCCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGGGTCTT-GCACT
chimp	CAGGT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AAT-T-ACATCAAGGGAGATAACTGTACAGCCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGGGTCTT-GCACT
dog	CAGGT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AAT-T-ACATCAAGGGAGATAACTGTACAGCCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGGGTCTT-GCAC-
mouse	CAGGT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AGT-T-ACATCAAGGGAGATAACTGTACAGCCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGGGACTT-GCAC-
rat	CAGGC TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AGT-T-ACAACAAGGGAGATAACTGTACAGCCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGGGACTT-GCAC-
chicken	CAGGT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AAT-T-ACACCAAGGGAGATAACTGTACAACCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGGGTCTT-GCAC-
zebrafish	CAGGC TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AAT-A-ACATCACTGGAGATAACTGTACAACCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGAG-----
fugu	CAGGT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AGT-G-ACACCACAGGAGATGACTGTACAGCCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGAG-----
pufferfish	-AGGT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AGT-T-ACACCCCCAGAGATAACTGTACAGCCTCCTAGCTTTCCCTGAG-CTACGCAC-
frog	CAGGC TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-GAT-A-ACACCAAAGGAGATAACTGTACAGCCTCCTATCTTTCCCTGGGGCTT-----
D.mel	CAAAT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T --AGTAAT-T-ACA-CATC----ATA-CTATACAATGTGCTAGCTTTCTTTG-----
D.pse	CAAAT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T --AG----T-ACTTCA-GATCG-TA-CTATACAATGTGCTAGCTTTCTTTG-----
D.vir	CAAAT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T --AG-TAT-T-T-AT-A-GAGC-ATA-CTATACAGCGTGCTAGCTTTCTTTG-----
D.moj	CAAAT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T --AG-TAC-T-T-AT--AGACC-ATA-CTATACAGCGTGCTAGCTTTCTTTG-----
D.ana	CAAAT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T --AG-CA---AC-T-AAGAATCGTA-CTATACAATGTGCTAGCTTTCTTTG-----
D.yak	CAAAT TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T --AGTAAT-T-ACA-CATC----ATA-CTATACAATGTGCTAGCTTTCTTTG-----
C.ele	---GG TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTGG-AAT-A-TTACCACCGGTGA-A-CTATGCAATTTTCTACCTTACC-----
C.bri	-ACGG TGAGG TAGTAGGTTGTATAGT T TTAG-AATATTAC-TCTCGGT-GA-A-CTATGCAAGTTTCTACCTCACC-----

miRNA gene discovery



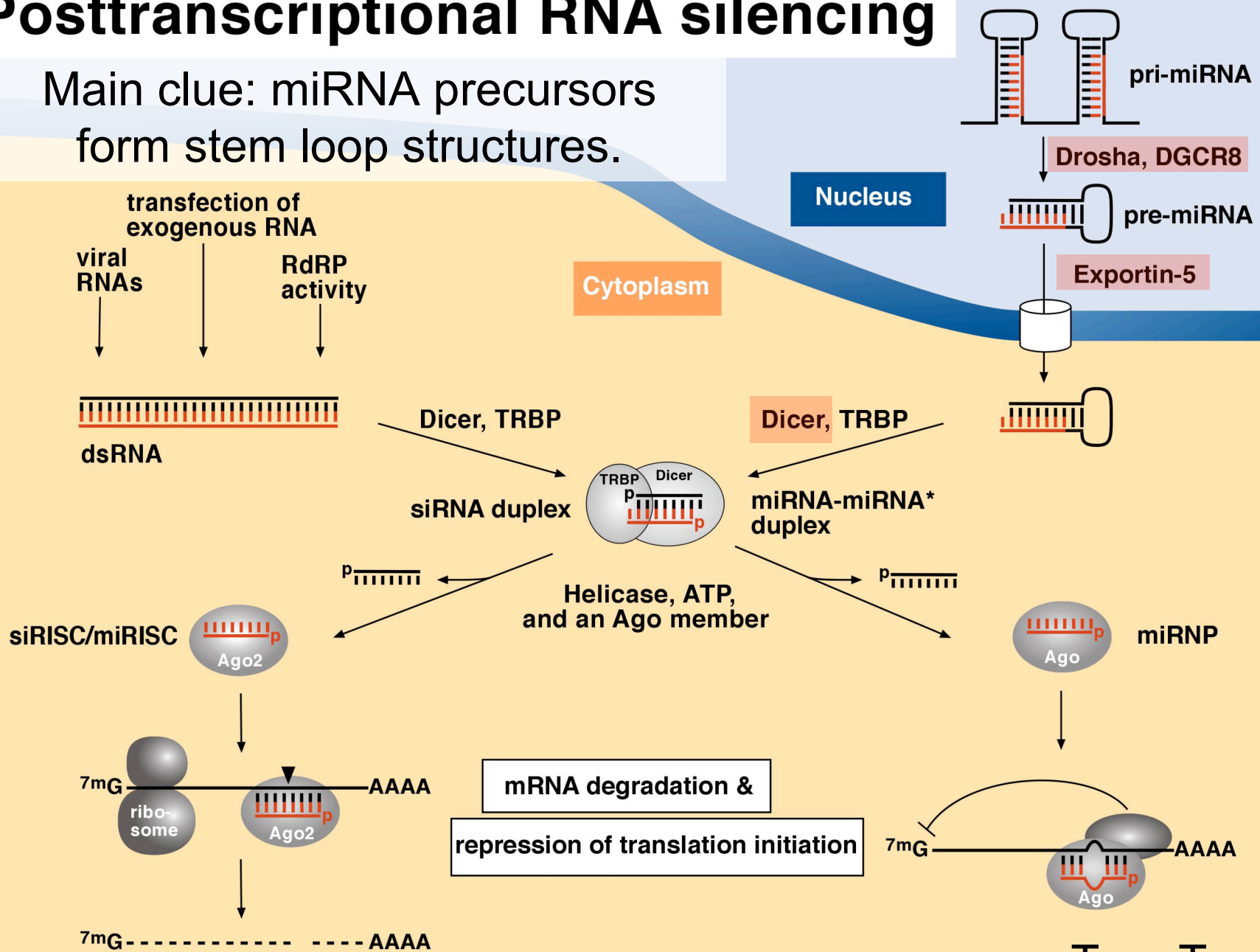
PubMed: miRNA & 2001 [dp] - 4
2006 - 598

The functions of animal microRNAs
Victor Ambros Nature 341:350 (2004)

Computation-driven miRNA discovery

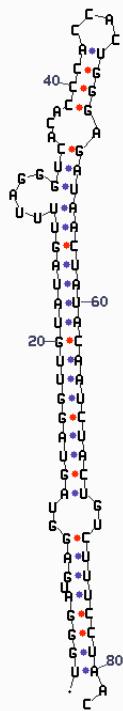
Posttranscriptional RNA silencing

Main clue: miRNA precursors form stem loop structures.

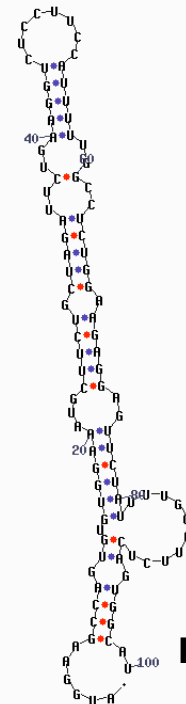
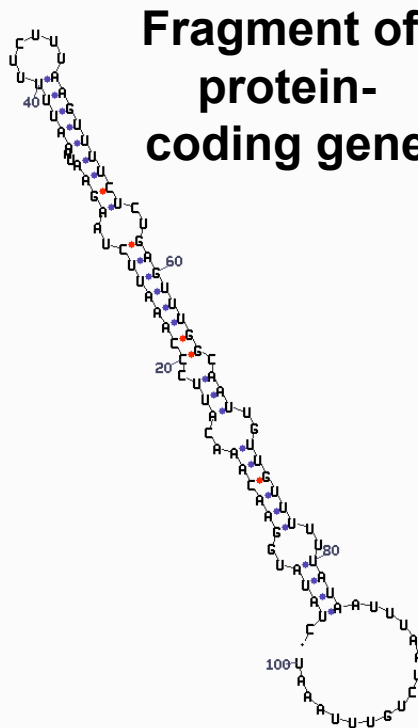


Tom Tuschl

... so do many other genomic regions



let-7a



mir-147

RNA secondary structures predicted using Mfold
<http://www.bioinfo.rpi.edu/applications/mfold>

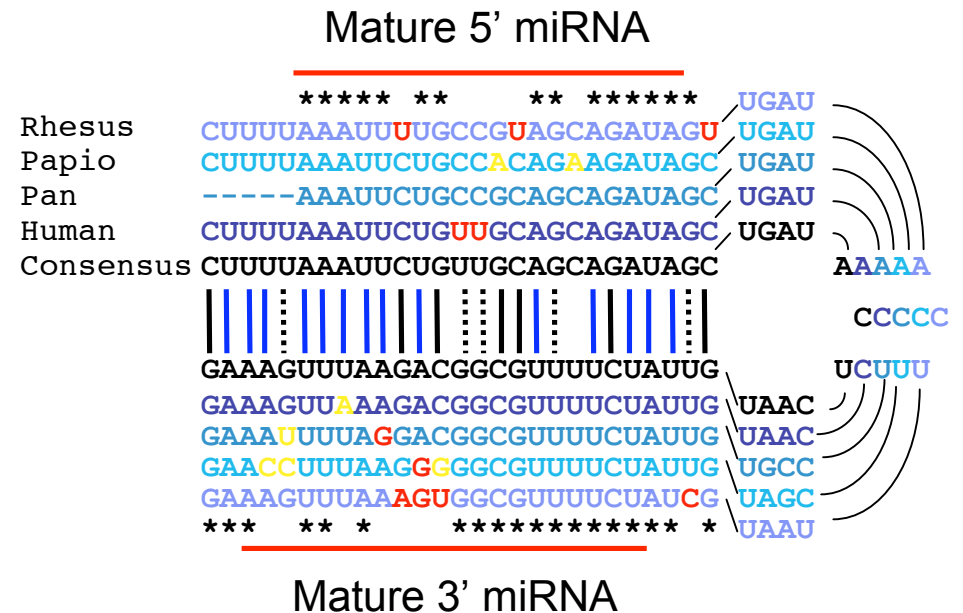
miRNA gene prediction

Need for a prediction method that does not require the miRNA to be conserved across species.

⇐ Viral miRNAs are poorly conserved.

1. Identify robust stems in viral genomes.
2. Build a model from positive and negative examples.
3. Classify the stems using the model.

ebv-mir-BHRF1-2

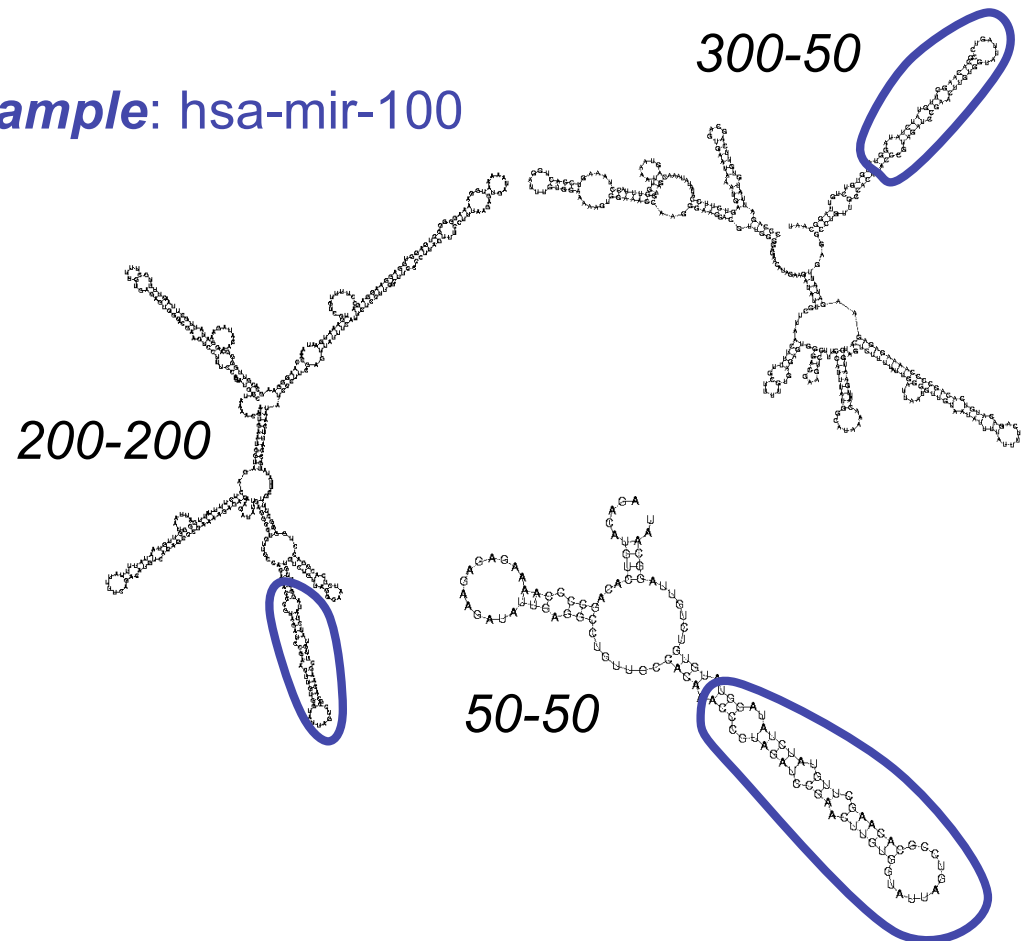
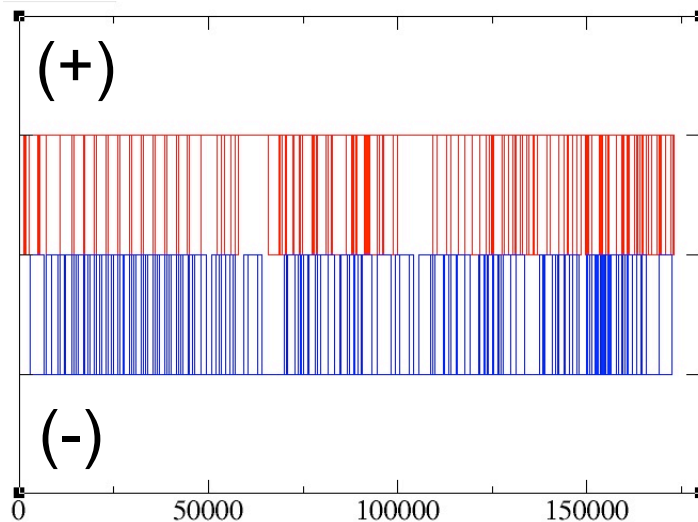


Detection of robust stems in whole genome sequences

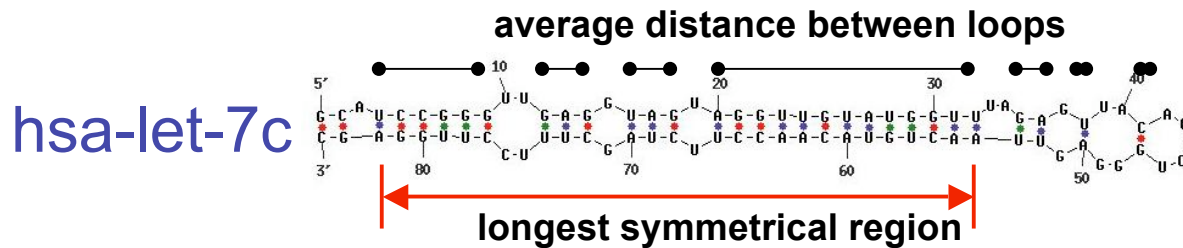
Search for stems whose secondary structure remains
the same irrespective of their flanking sequences.

example: hsa-mir-100

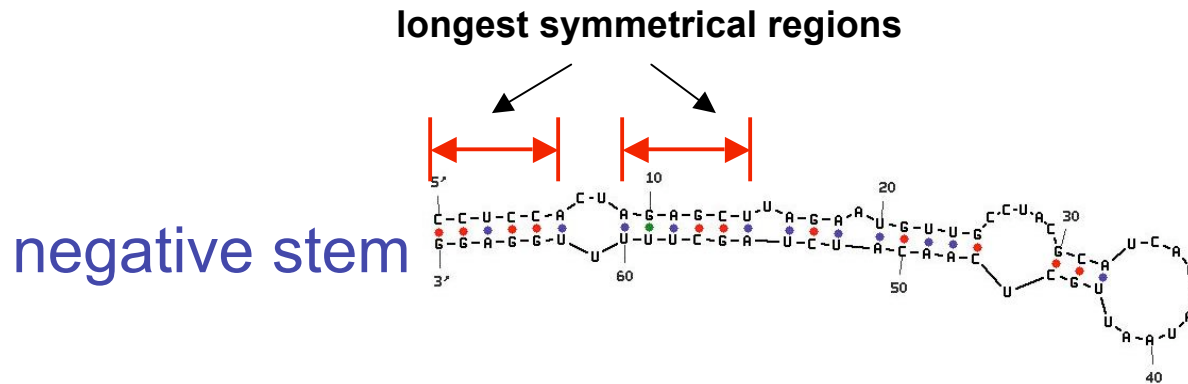
Location of robust stems
in the EBV genome



SVM model for ab initio miRNA gene prediction



Positives:
 human genomic regions containing known miRNAs



Negatives:
 mRNAs, rRNAs, tRNAs, viral stem loops

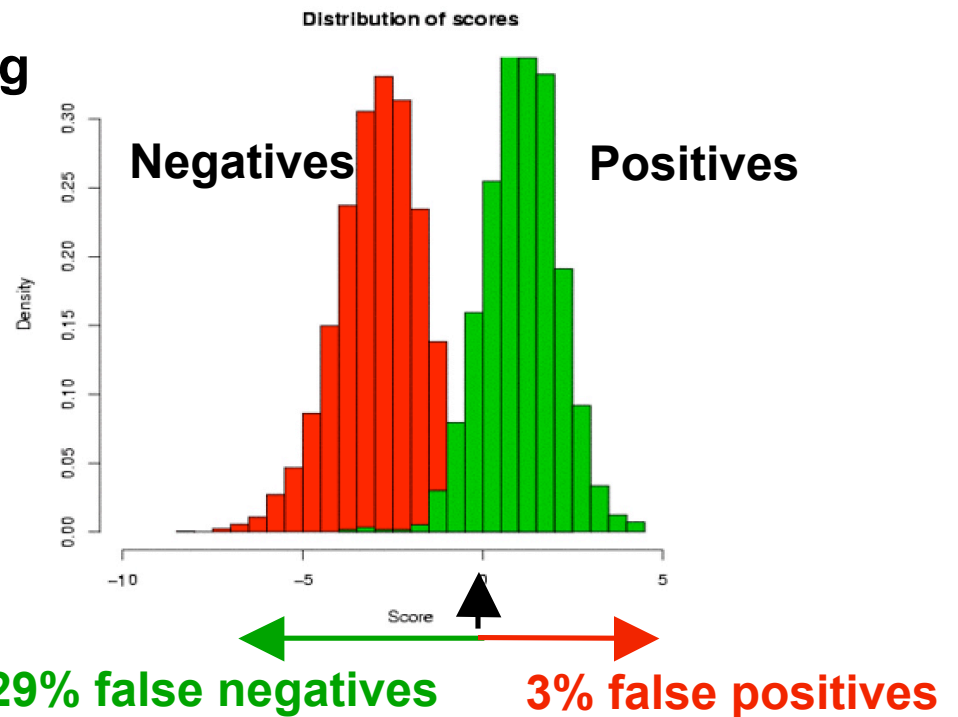
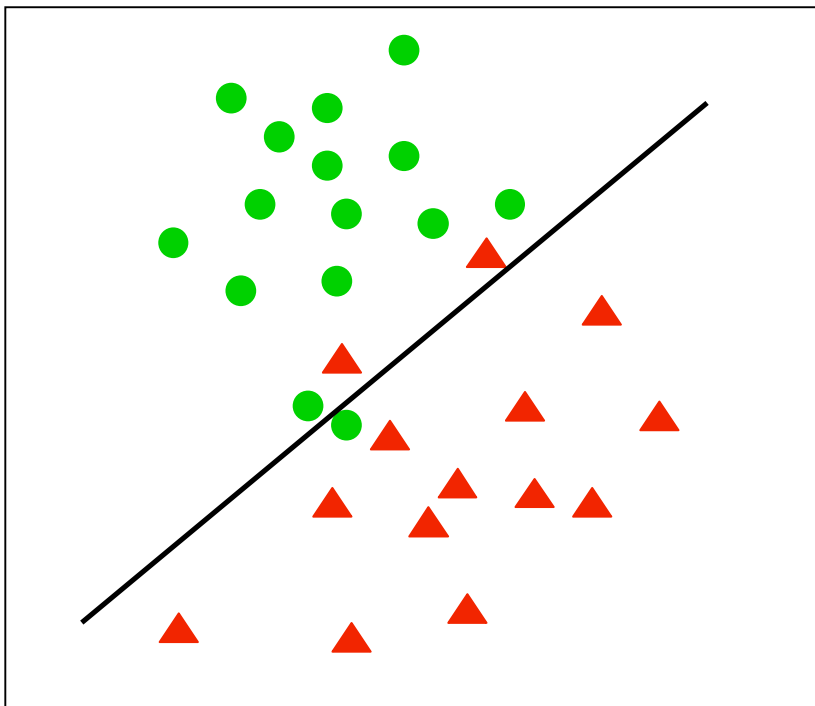
SVM model for miRNA gene prediction

Negatives:

mRNAs, rRNAs,
tRNAs,
viral stem loops

Positives:

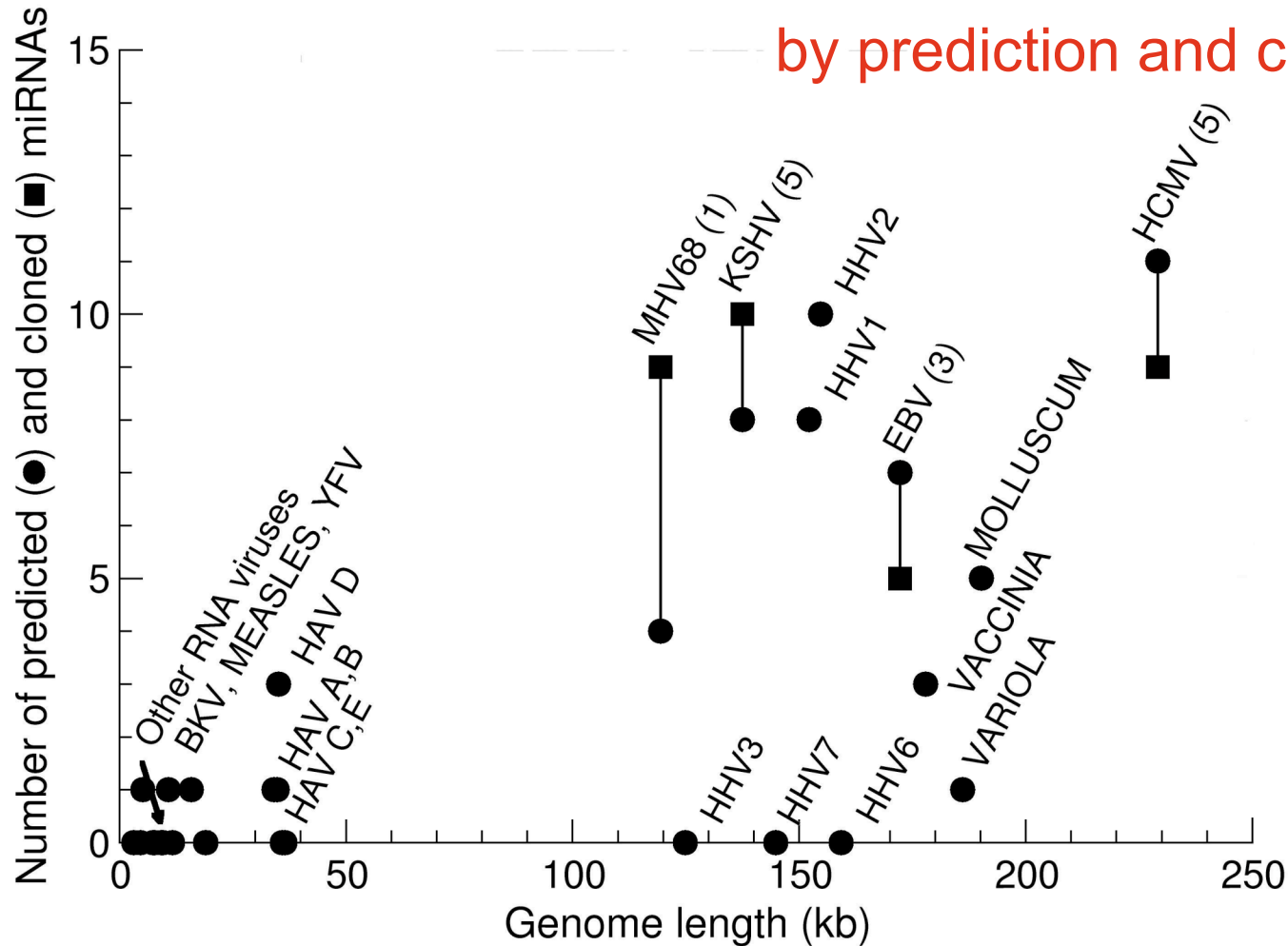
human genomic
regions containing
known miRNAs



Used SVMlight <http://svmlight.joachims.org/>

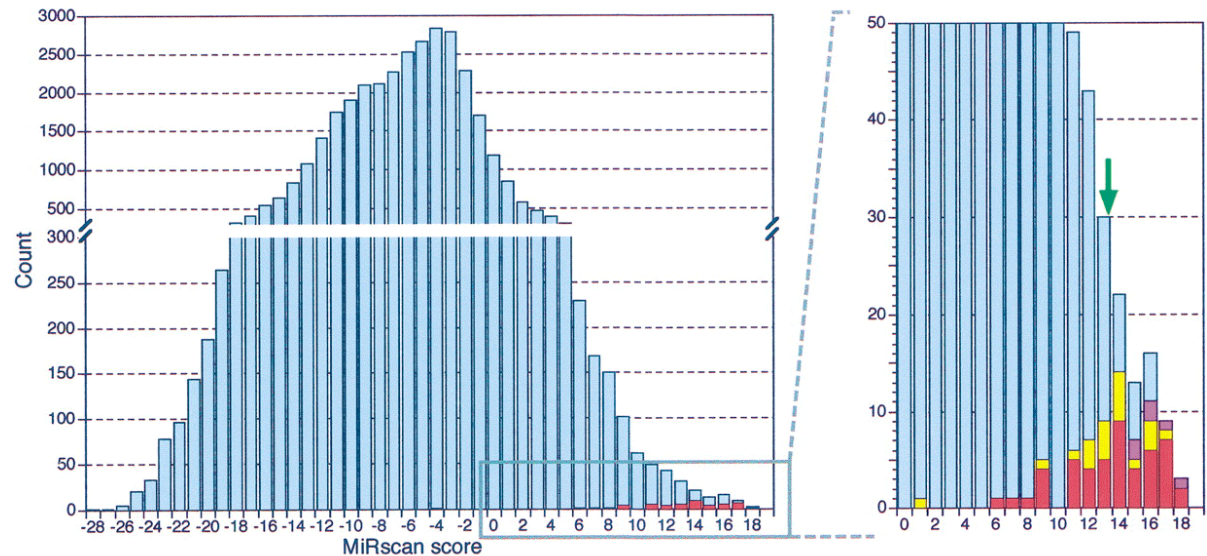
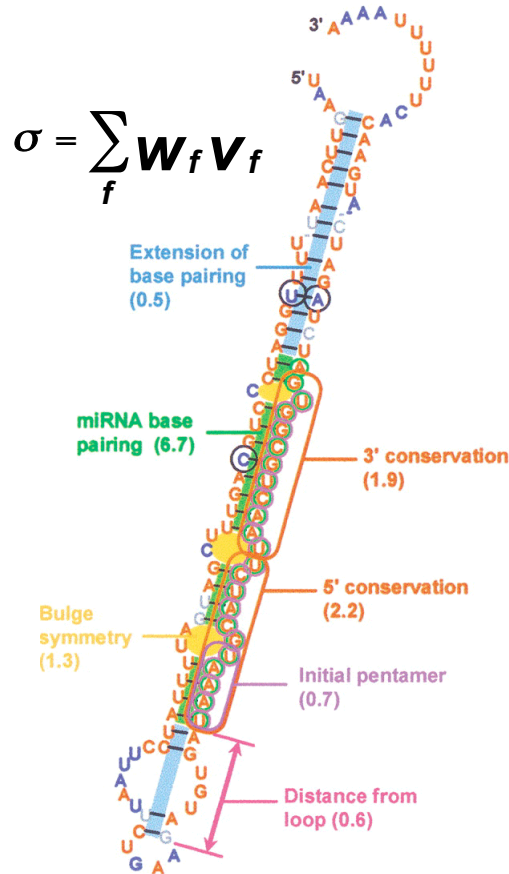
Application: miRNA gene prediction in viruses

33 viral miRNAs identified by prediction and cloning

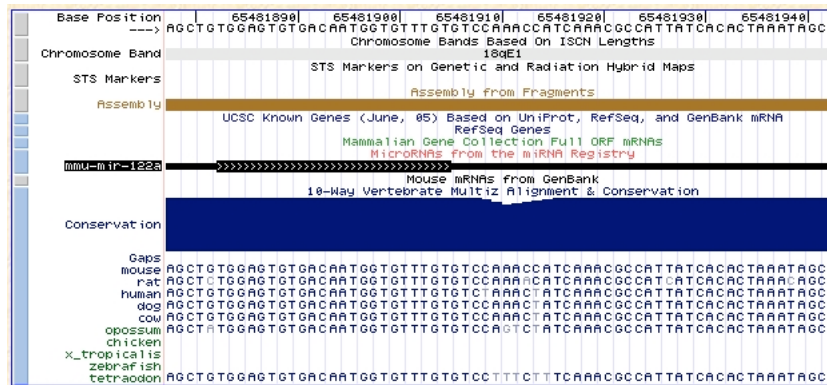


Pfeffer, Sewer et al. Nature Methods (2005)

Variations on miRNA gene prediction

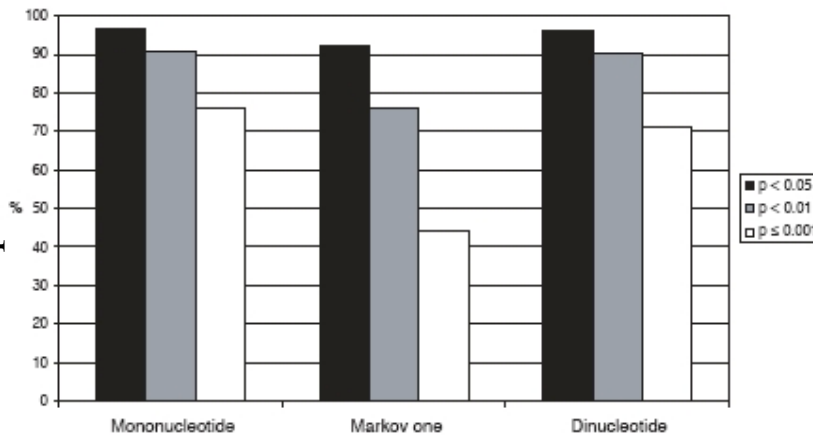


Variations on miRNA gene prediction



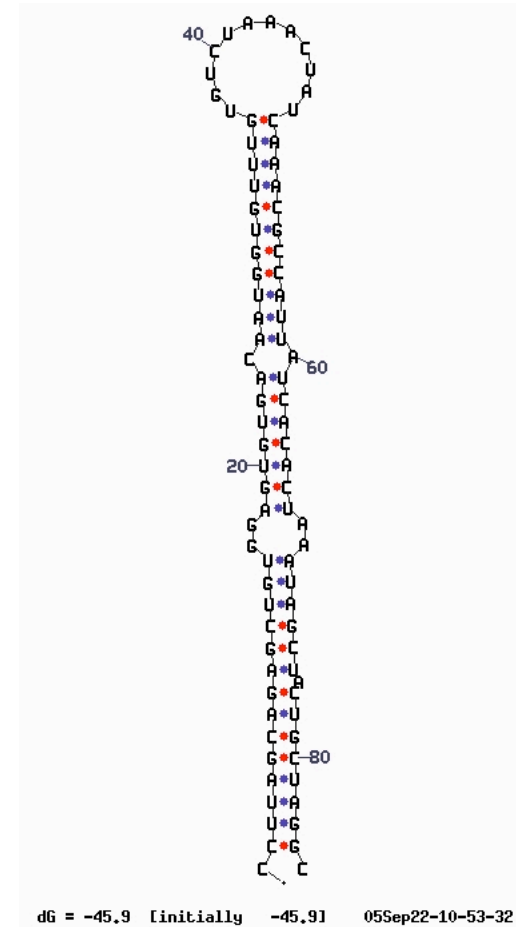
Berezikov, E. et al. (2005) *Cell* 120:21

Proportion of miRNAs with
P-value < specified threshold



miRNA stems are significantly more stable than randomized counterparts.

Bonnet et al. (2004) *Bioinformatics* 20:2911



Variations on miRNA gene prediction

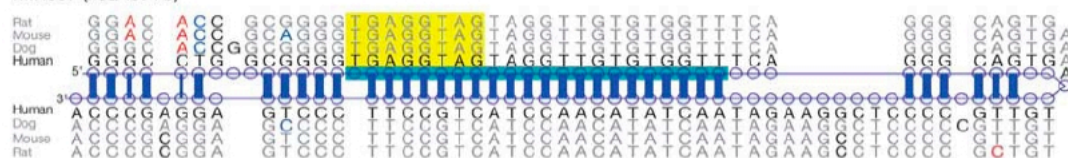
C. Elegans

COG-1A 5' C CA A 3'
 GU CUUUAACAAA
 CG GAGUAUGUUU
 lsy-6 3' GCUUUA CA 5'

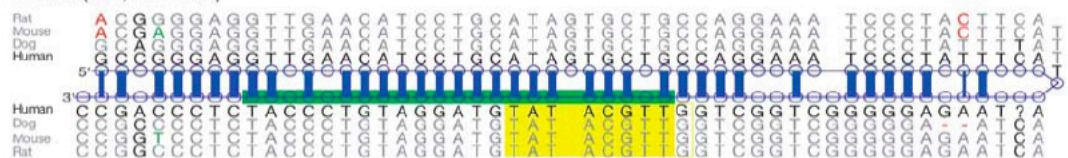
mRNA	Expected Position in 3UTR	Conservation
hsa-let-7b	0.653	2058
	0.653	1991
	0.653	4921

mRNA	Expected Position in 3UTR	Conservation
hg17chr12	0.653	2058
panTro1chr10	0.653	2058
mm5chr6	0.653	2058
rn3chr4	0.653	2058
canFam1chr27	0.653	2058
galGal2chr1	0.653	2058
hg17chr12	0.653	1991
panTro1chr10	0.653	1991
mm5chr6	0.653	1991
rn3chr4	0.653	1991
canFam1chr27	0.653	1991
galGal2chr1	0.653	1991
hg17chr12	0.653	4921
panTro1chr10	0.653	4921
mm5chr6	0.653	4921
rn3chr4	0.653	4921
canFam1chr27	0.653	4921
galGal2chr1	0.653	4921

MIR007 (hsa-let-7b)



MIR041 (new, confirmed)



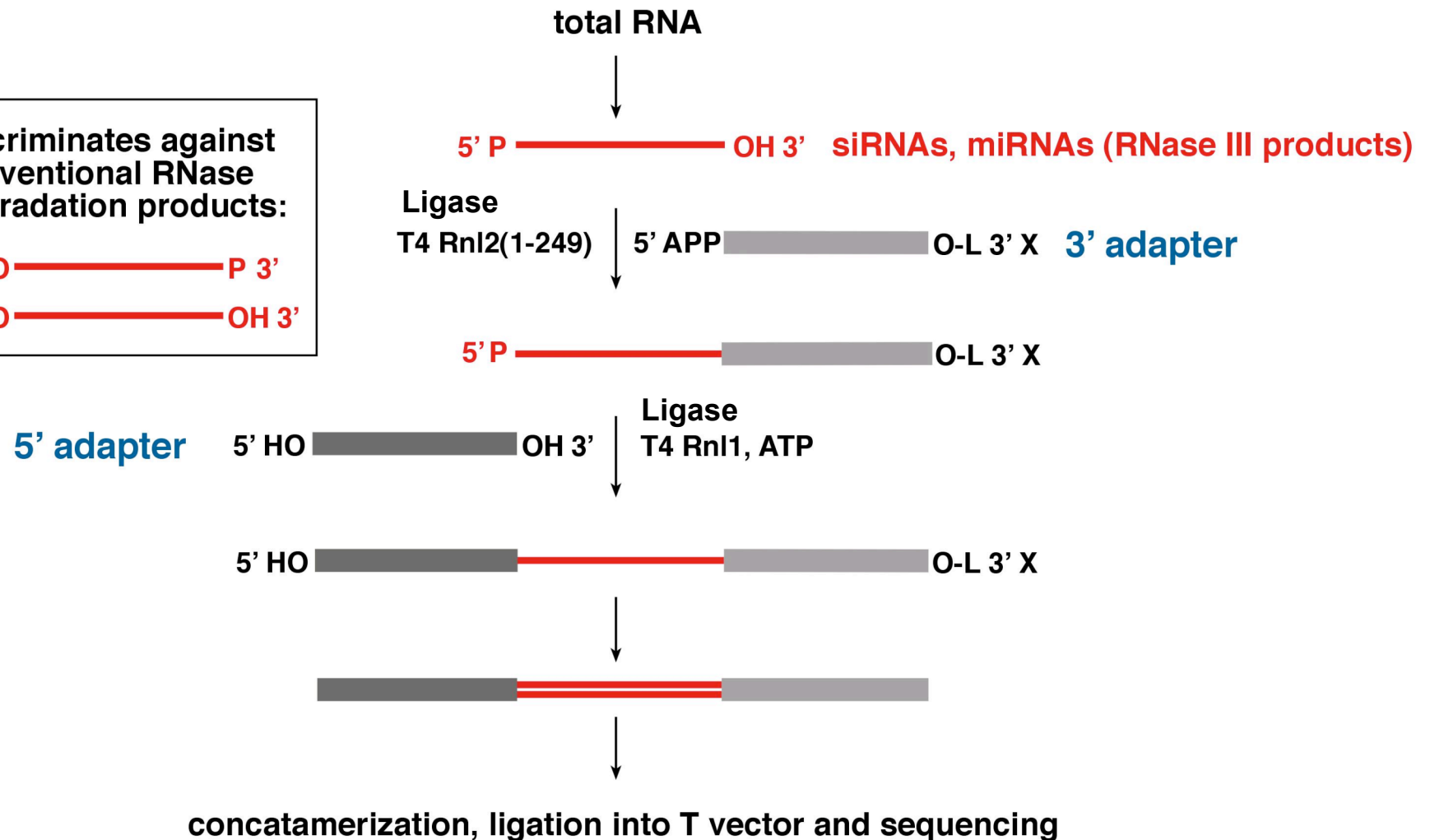
 Discovered 8-mer motif ACGT Conserved nucleotide ACGT Mutation disrupting base pair
 Discovered, validated miRNA 22-mer ACGT Silent mutation in unpaired position ACGT Compensatory mutations preserving base pairing
 Previously known miRNA 22-mer ACGT Silent mutation preserving base pair

... and many more, particularly SVMs.

Experiment-driven miRNA discovery

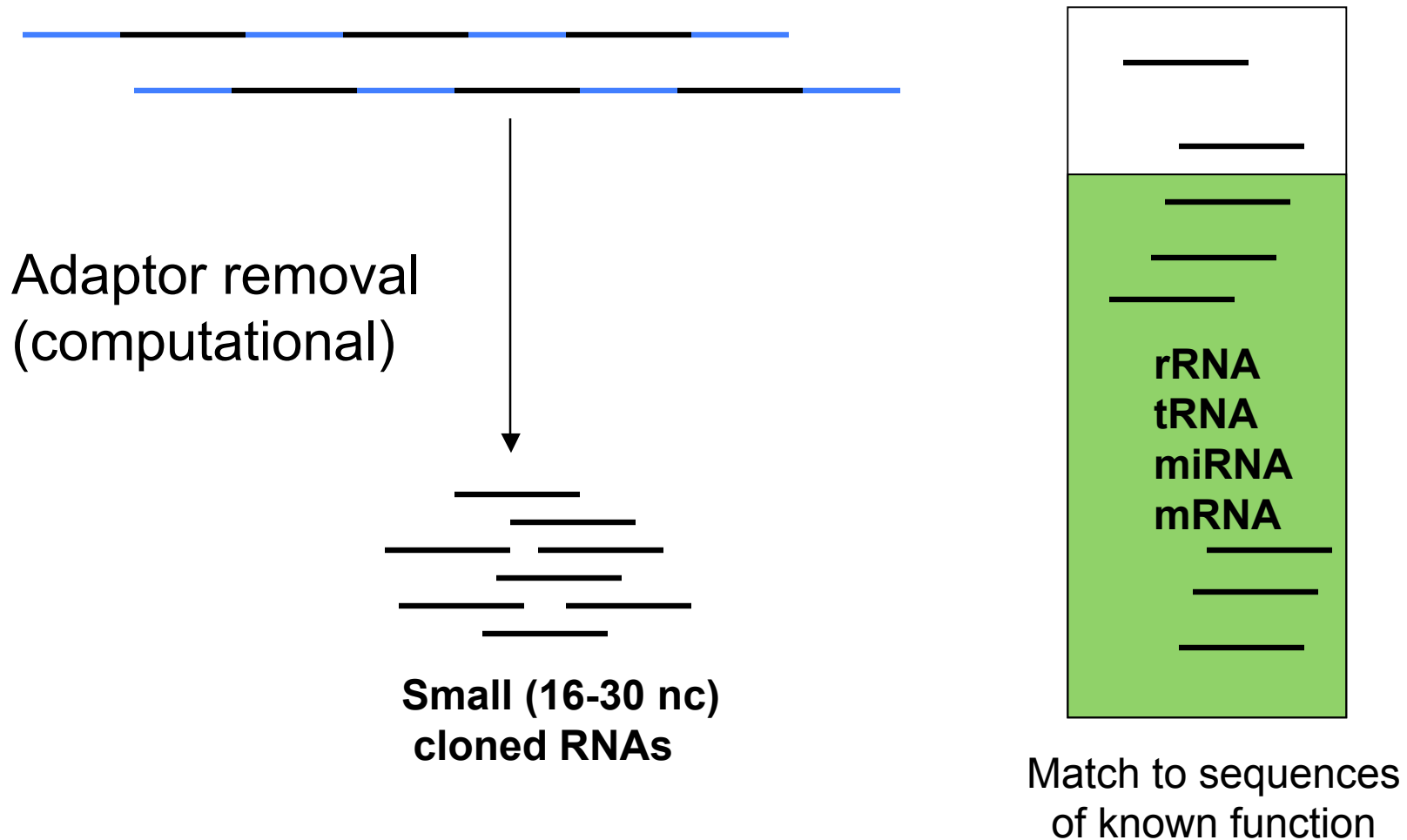
Cloning protocol for small RNAs

discriminates against conventional RNase degradation products:
5' HO ————— P 3'
5' HO ————— OH 3'



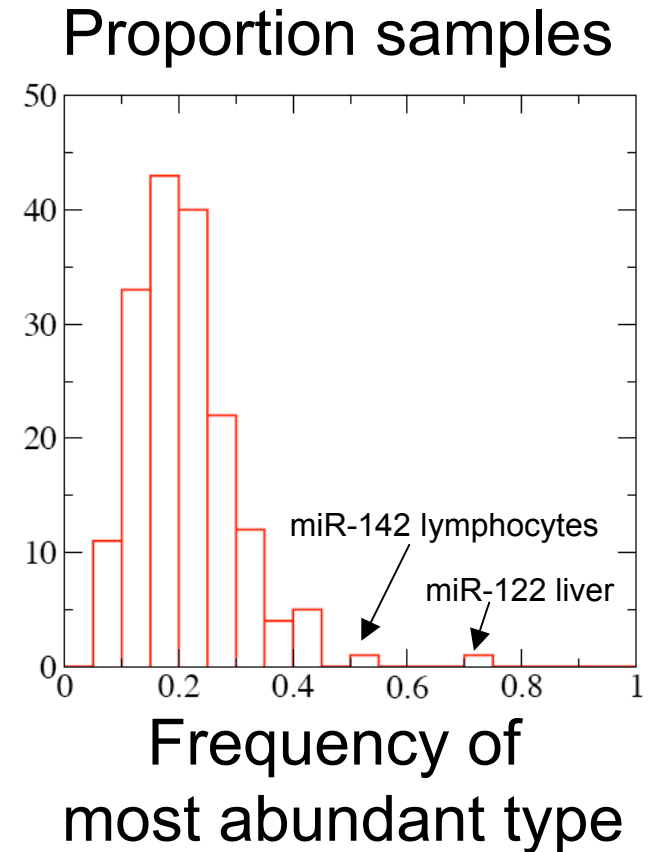
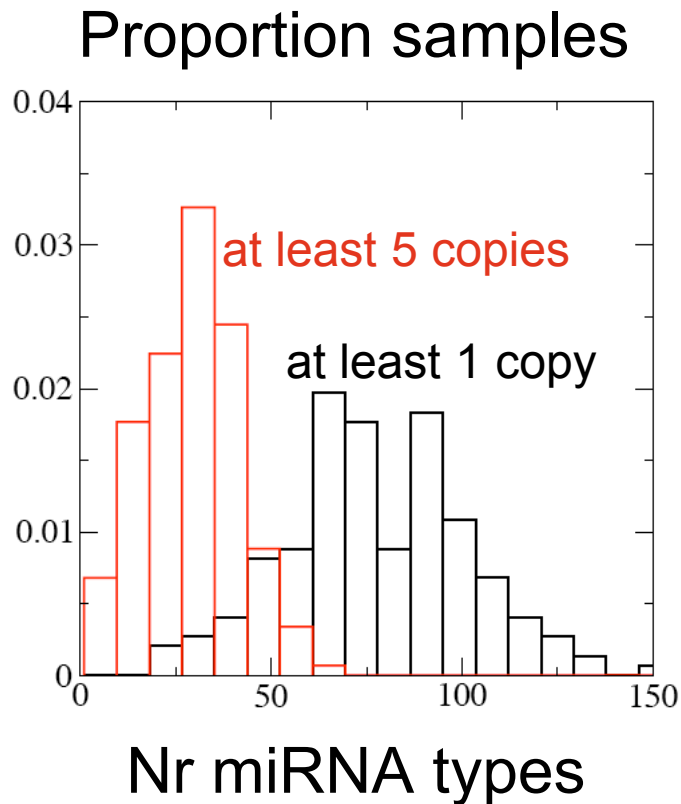
Tom Tuschl

Functional annotation of small RNAs



Characterization of mature miRNA sequences

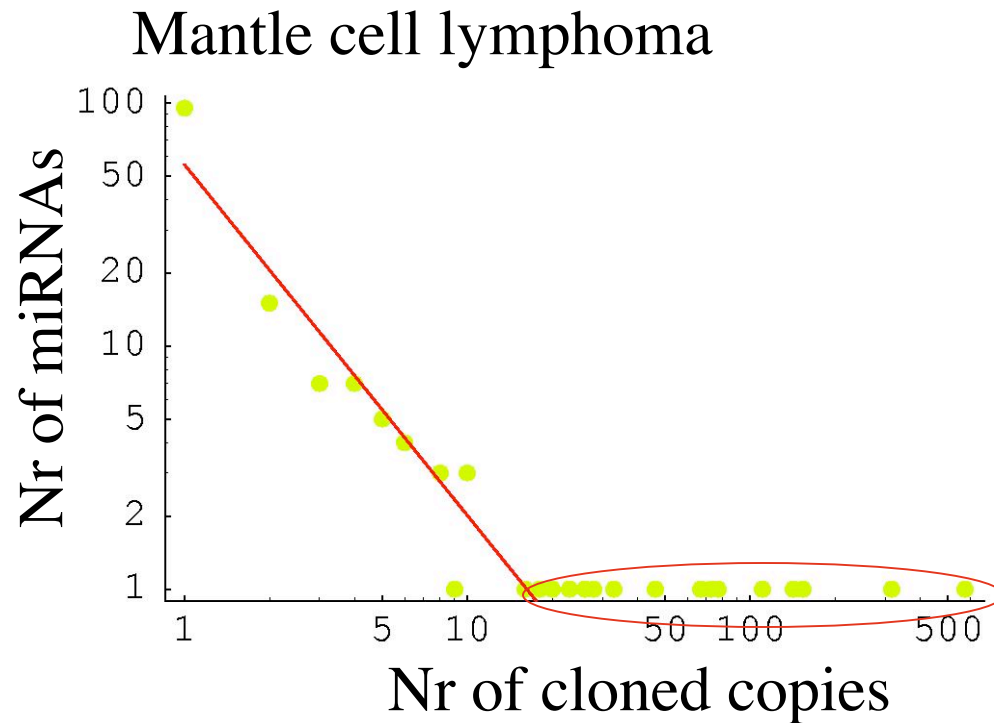
How many miRNA types in a cell/tissue?



No corrections for

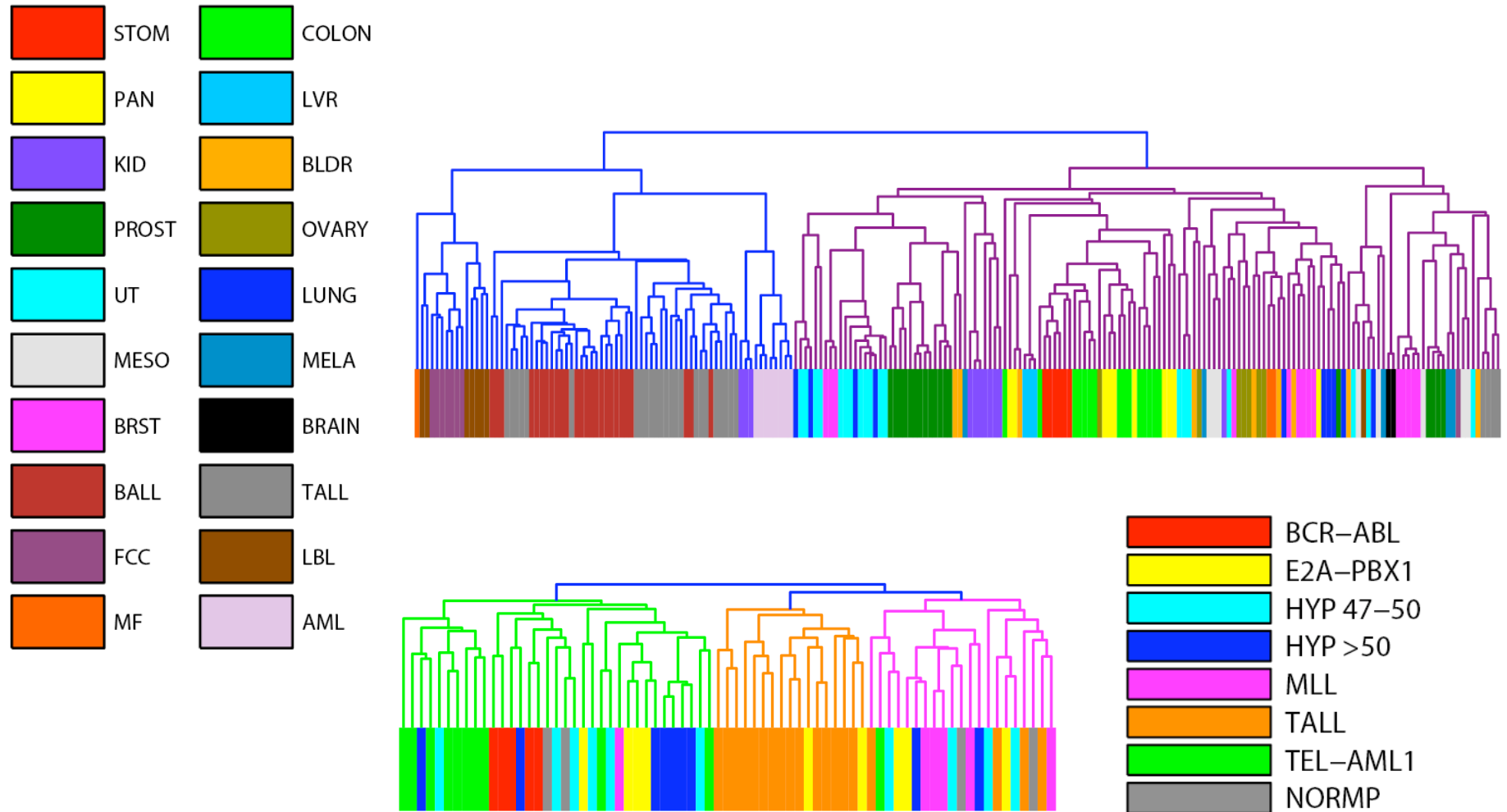
- Non-uniform sampling of tissues
- Polycistronic precursors

Relative frequency of miRNA types in a cell/tissue?



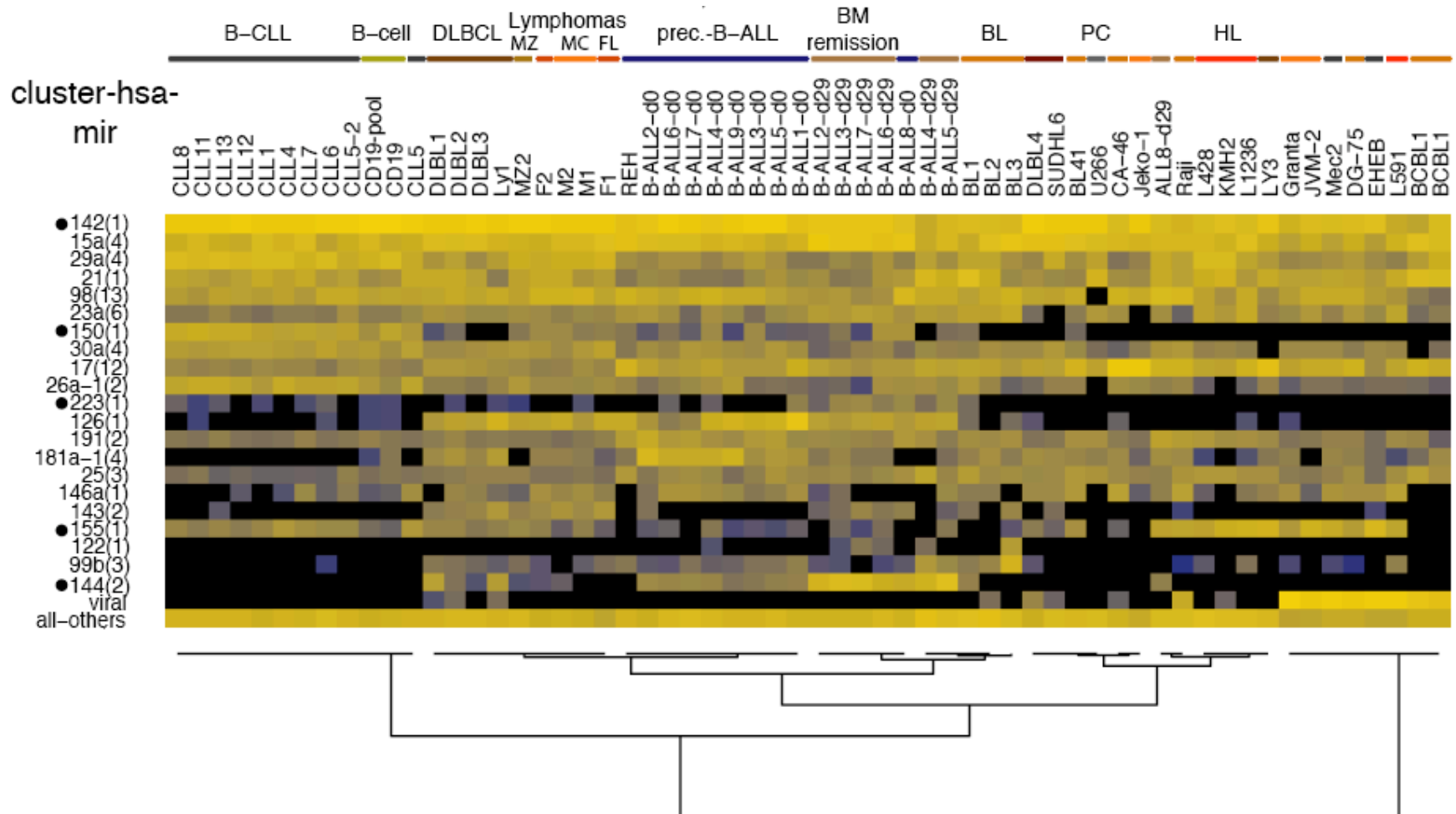
Perhaps not all “detectable” miRNAs are functionally relevant.

Cancer classification using miRNAs

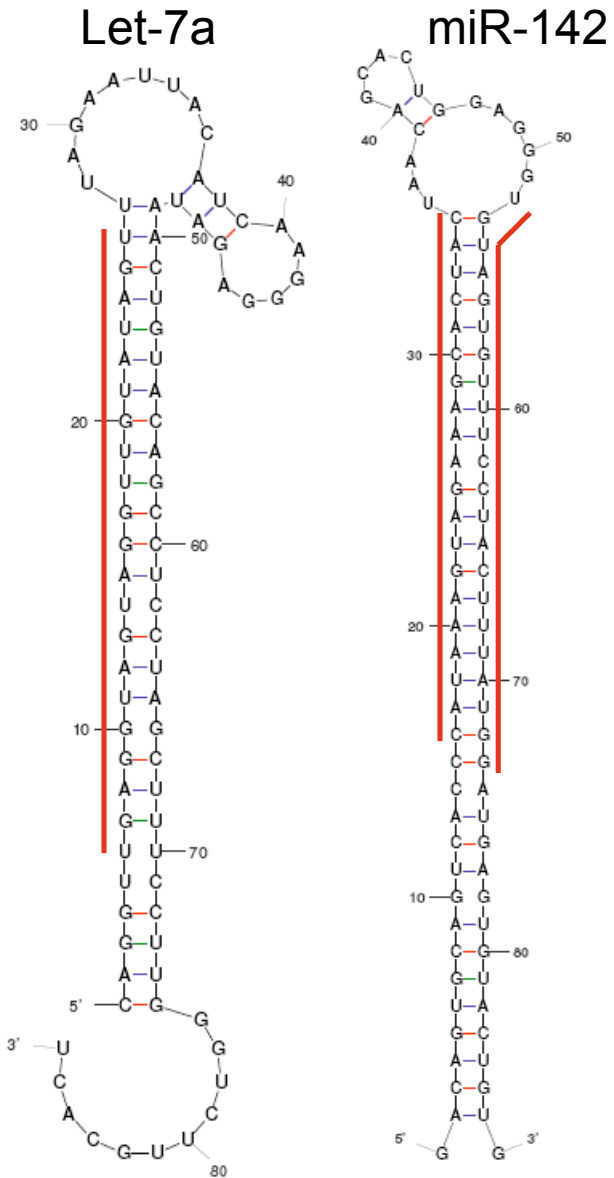


Lu et al. Nature 435:834 (2005)

miRNA profiling of related cells

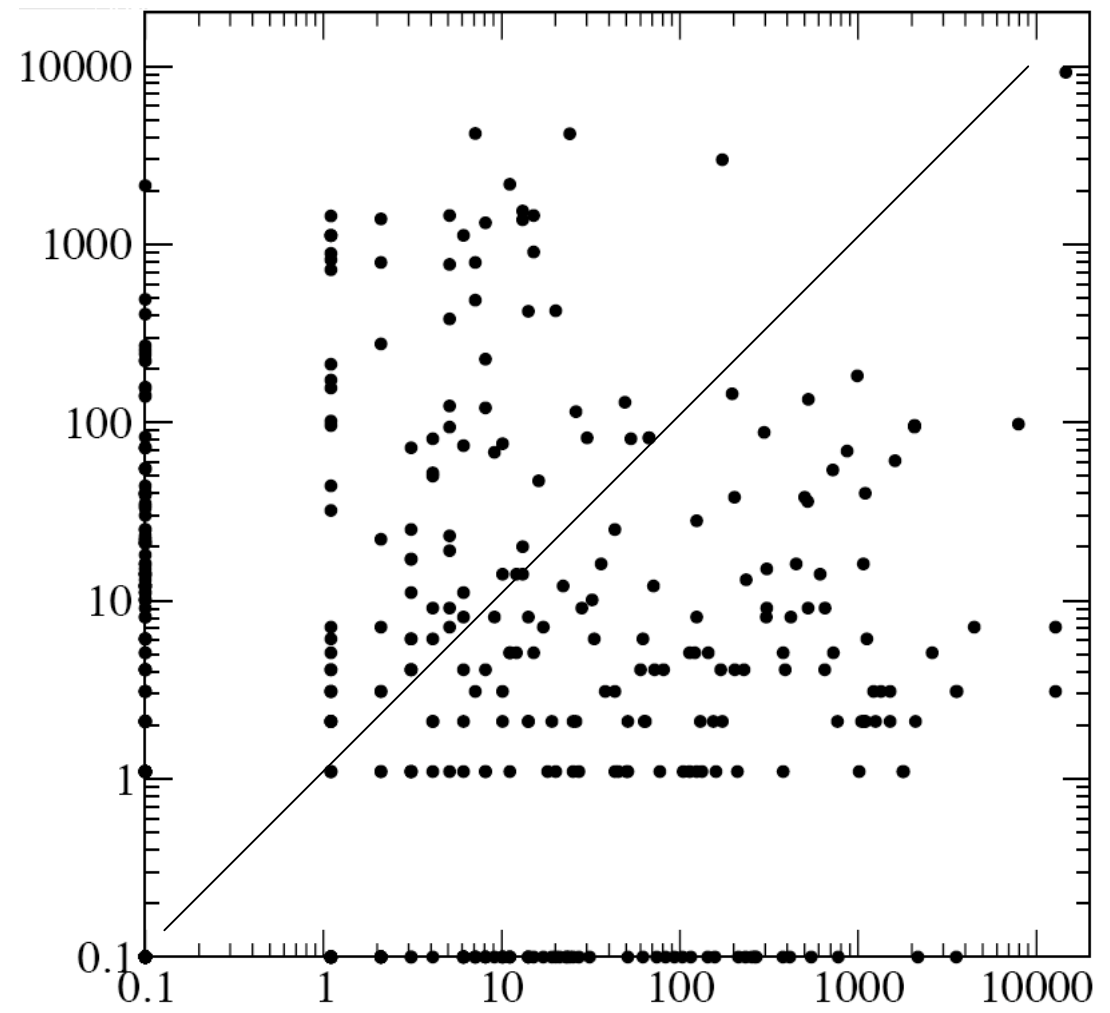


5'/3' asymmetry



Mfold (M. Zuker)

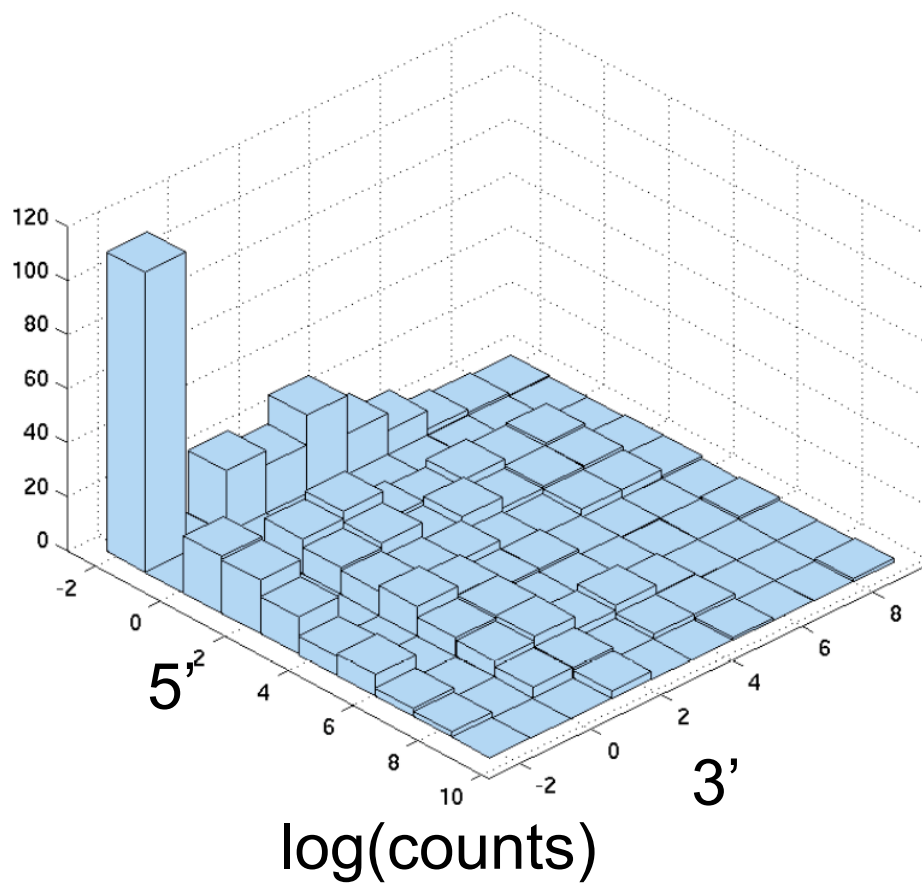
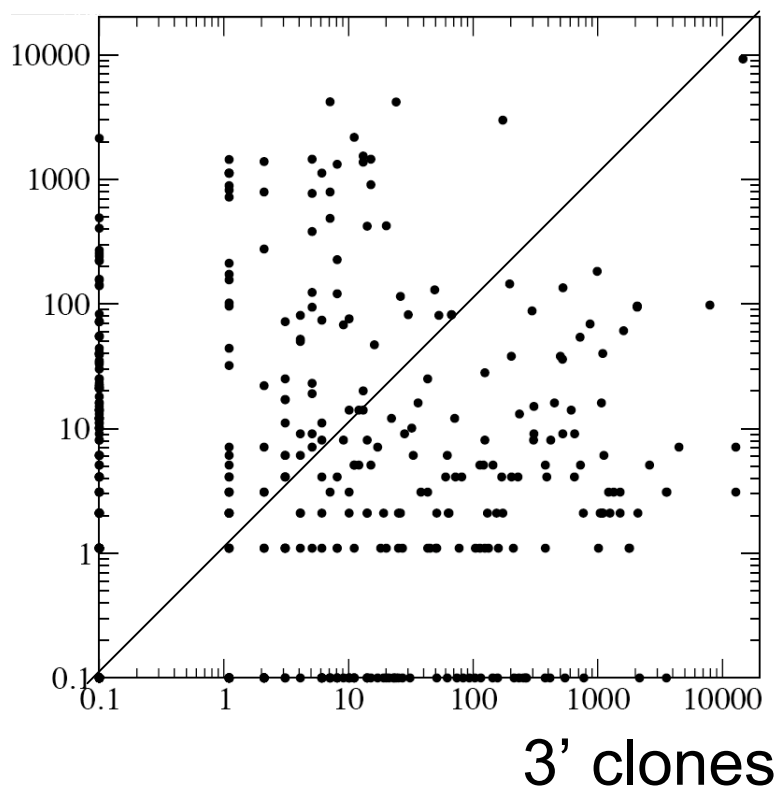
5' clones



3' clones

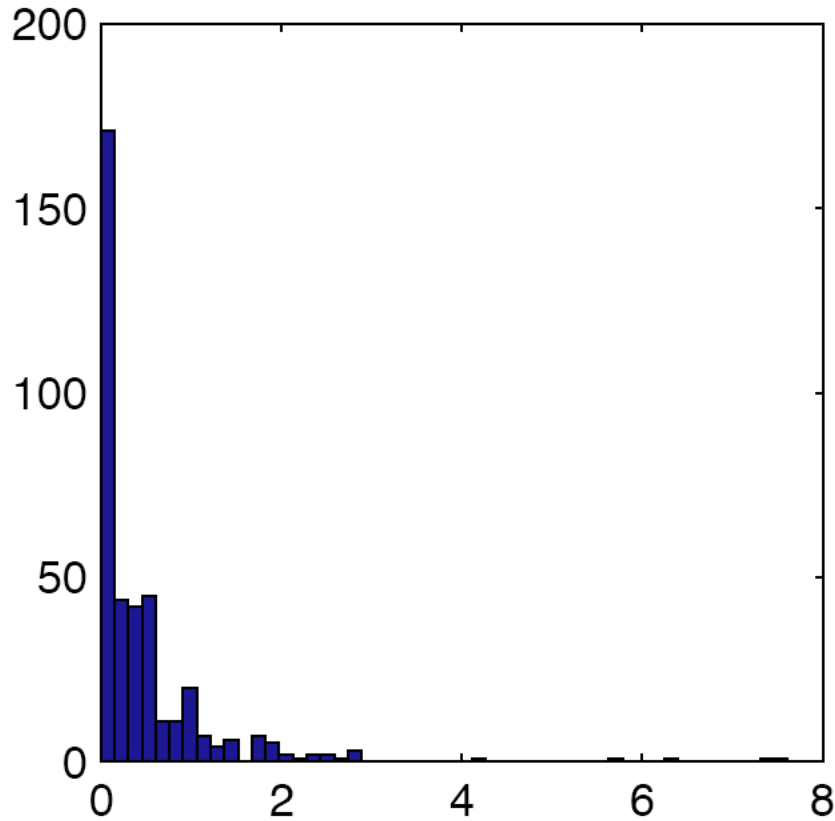
5'/3' asymmetry

5' clones



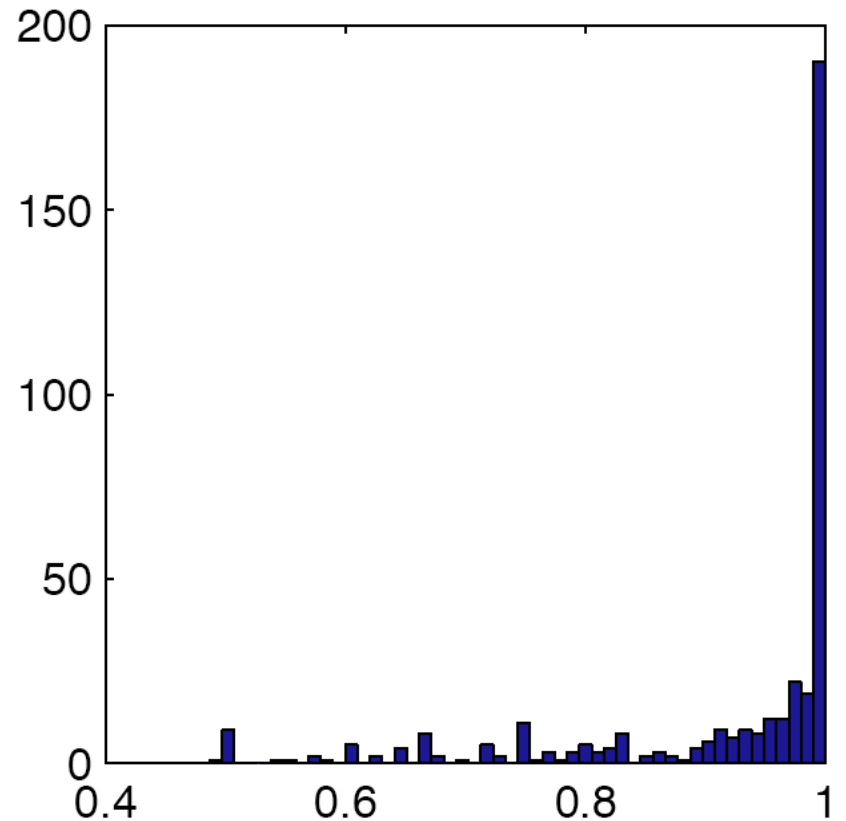
Processing precision

Nr miRNAs



St.dev. processing site location

Nr miRNAs



Prop. clones using main processing site

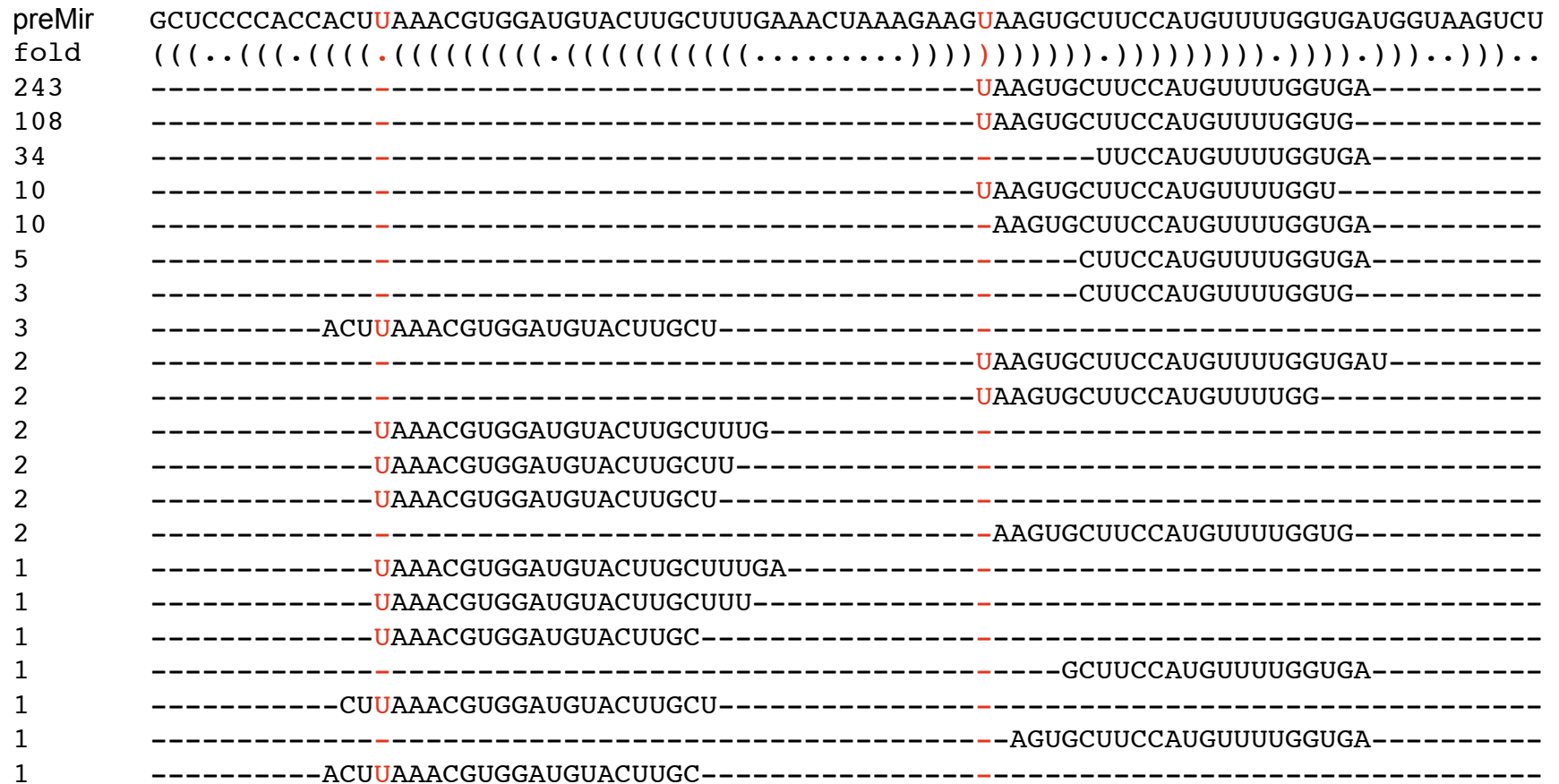
Processing precision

Precise processing of hsa-let-7a-2

```
preMir  GCUCCAGGUUGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUUAGAAUACAUCAAGGGAGAUAAACUGUACAGCCUCCUAGCUUCCUUGGGUCUUG
fold    ...(((((((. . (((. (((. (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
1958    -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
1054    -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGU-----
389     -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAG-----
73      -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
33      -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUA-----
10      -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUA-----
5       -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUUUA-----
5       -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGU-----
4       -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAU-----
4       -----GAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
4       -----GAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGU-----
3       -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
3       -----UAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
1       -----UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGU-----
1       -----GUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
1       -----GUAGUAGGUUGUAUAG-----
1       -----GGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
1       -----GGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGU-----
1       -----GAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAG-----
1       -----AGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU-----
```

Processing precision

Less precise processing of hsa-mir-302a



Post-processing modifications

Total of 3-4% of cloned sequences have mutations relative to genome sequence.

A additions



U additions



A-to-I editing



Rob Sheridan, Nick Socci

How many miRNAs are there?

“Our analysis can be used to calculate an upper bound on the number of human miRNA genes. If all 188 candidates were authentic miRNA genes and these represented 74% of the total miRNA genes, then there are **no more than 255** miRNA genes in the genome.” Lim et al. Science 299:1540 (2003). Conservation up to zebrafish.

“Here we report the use of this approach to clone and sequence 89 new human microRNAs (nearly doubling the current number of sequenced human microRNAs), 53 of which are not conserved beyond primates. These findings suggest that the total number of human microRNAs is **at least 800**”. Bentwich et al. Nat Genet. 37:766 (2005). Conservation in primates.

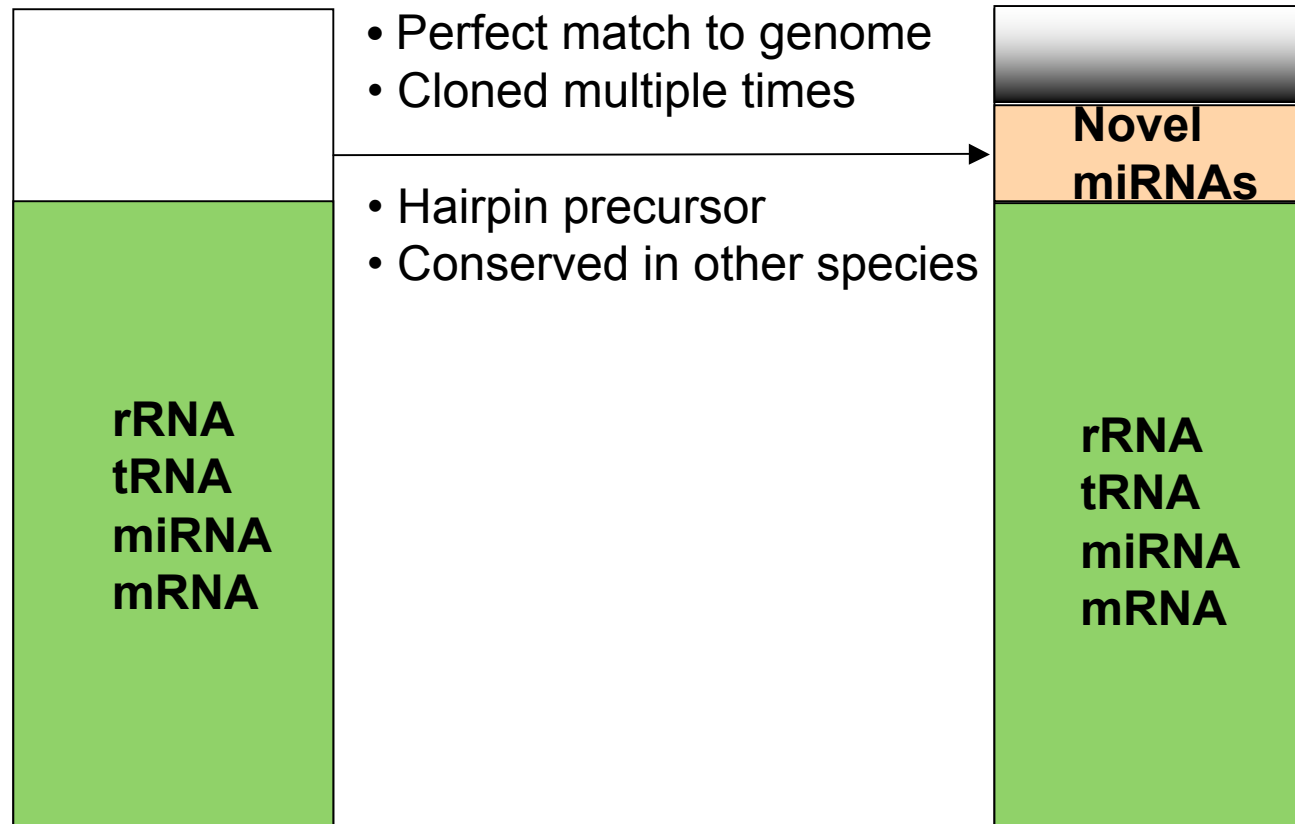
“Our studies suggest that the number of microRNA precursors in mammalian genomes likely ranges **in the tens of thousands**.” Miranda et al. 126:1203 (2006).

In our data, more than 97% clones originate from less than 300 prototypical miRNA precursors.

What else can we find in small RNA
cloning data?

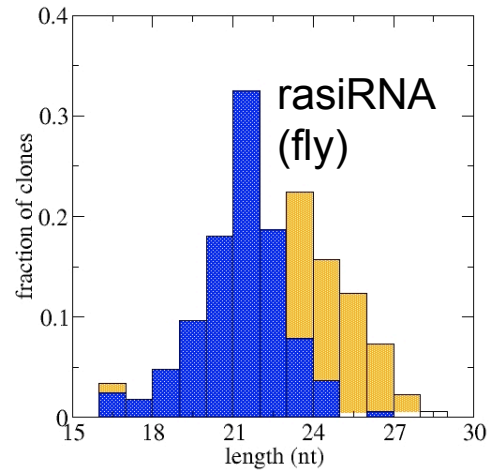
Functional annotation of small RNAs

Small (16-30 nc)
cloned RNAs



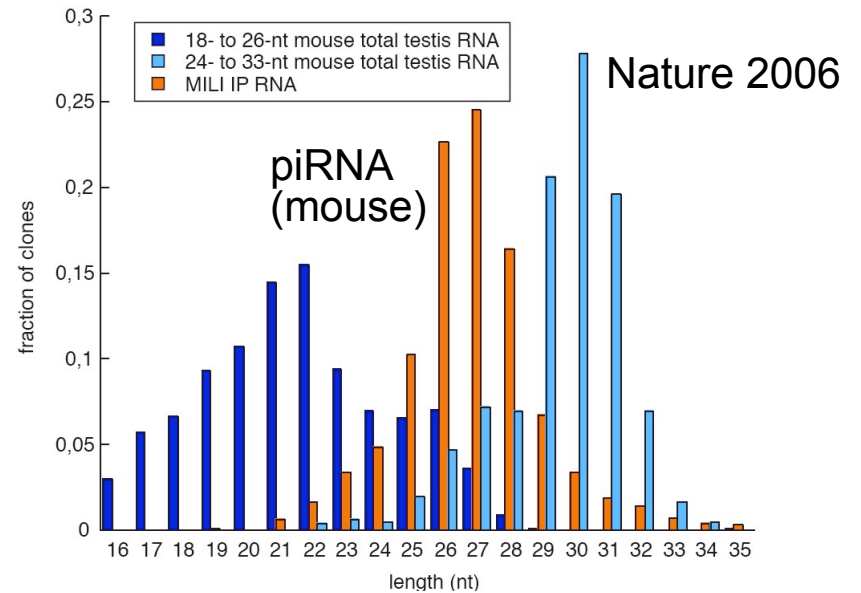
Ambros V, Bartel B, Bartel DP, Burge CB, Carrington JC, Chen X, Dreyfuss G, Eddy SR, Griffiths-Jones S, Marshall M, Matzke M, Ruvkun G, Tuschl T. A uniform system for microRNA annotation. *RNA*. 2003 Mar;9(3):277-9.

Functional annotation of small RNAs

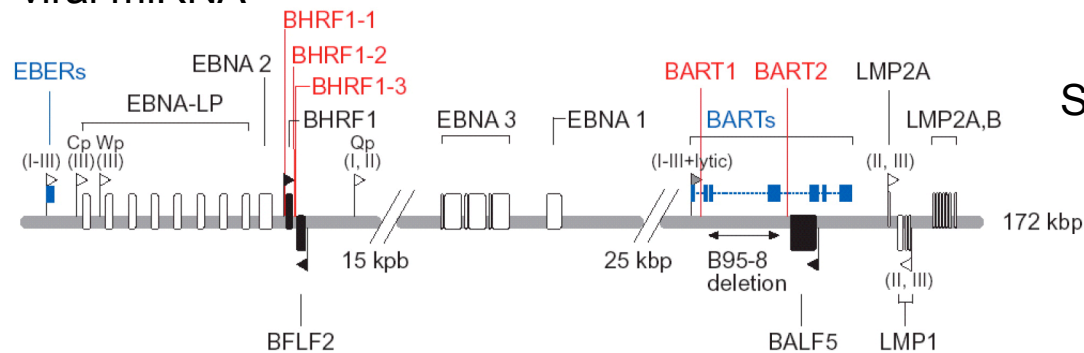


Dev. Cell 2003

Collaborations with Tuschl Lab



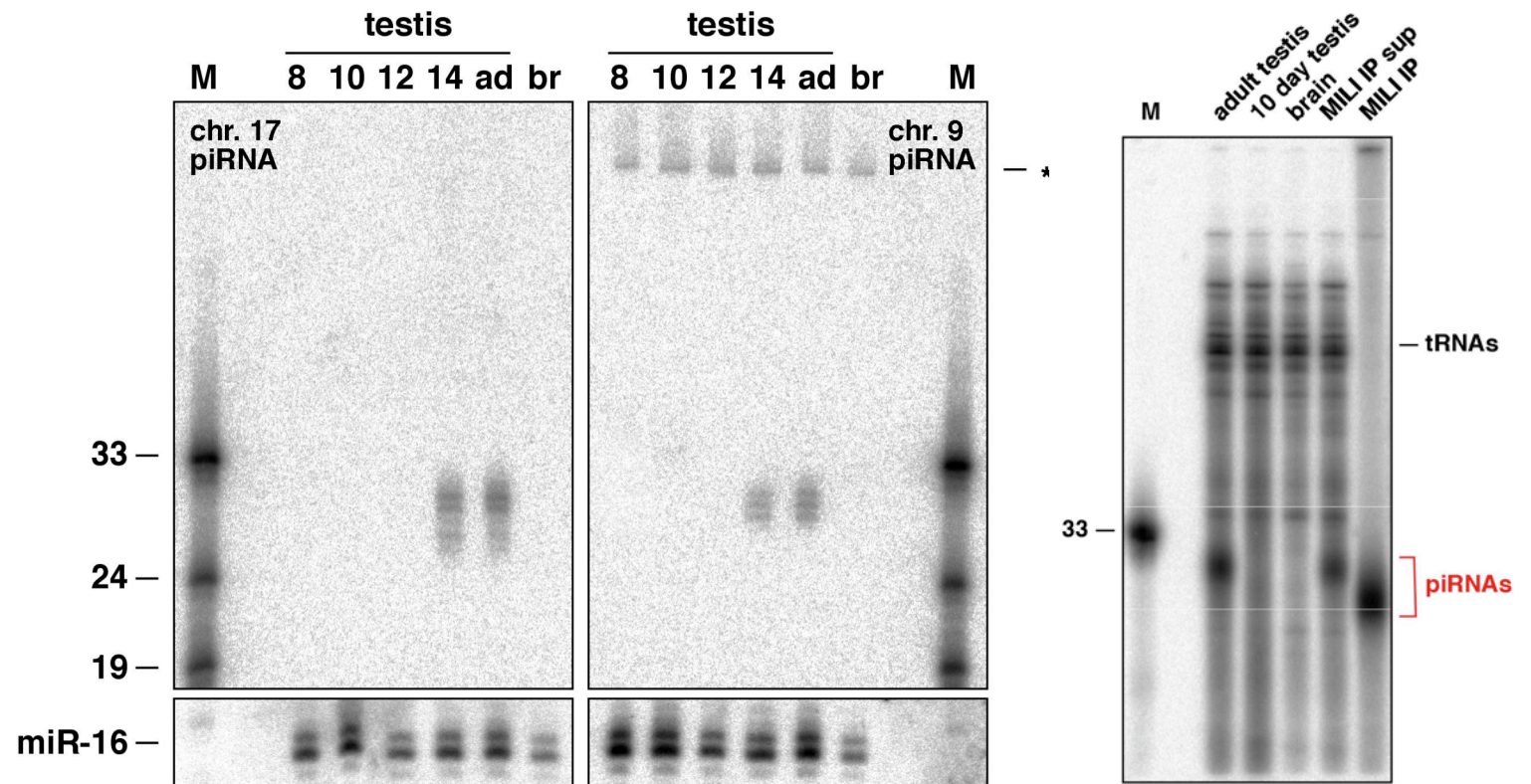
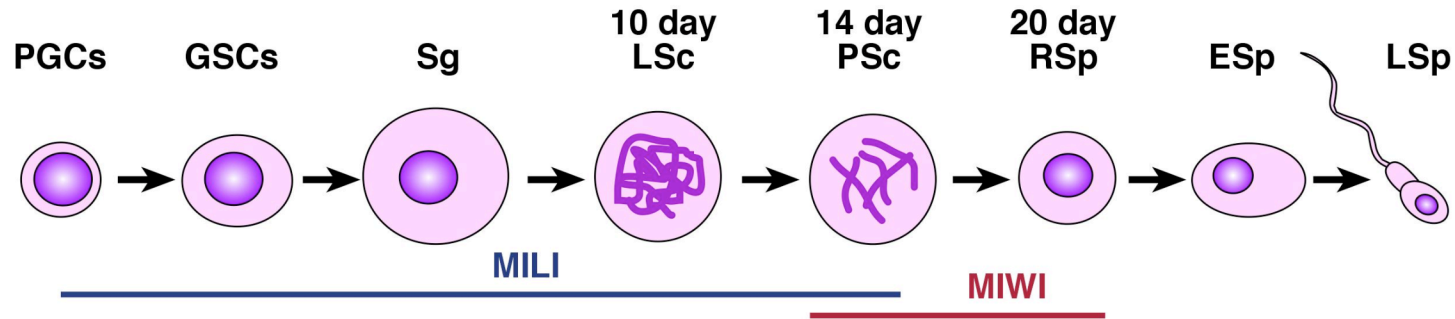
viral miRNA



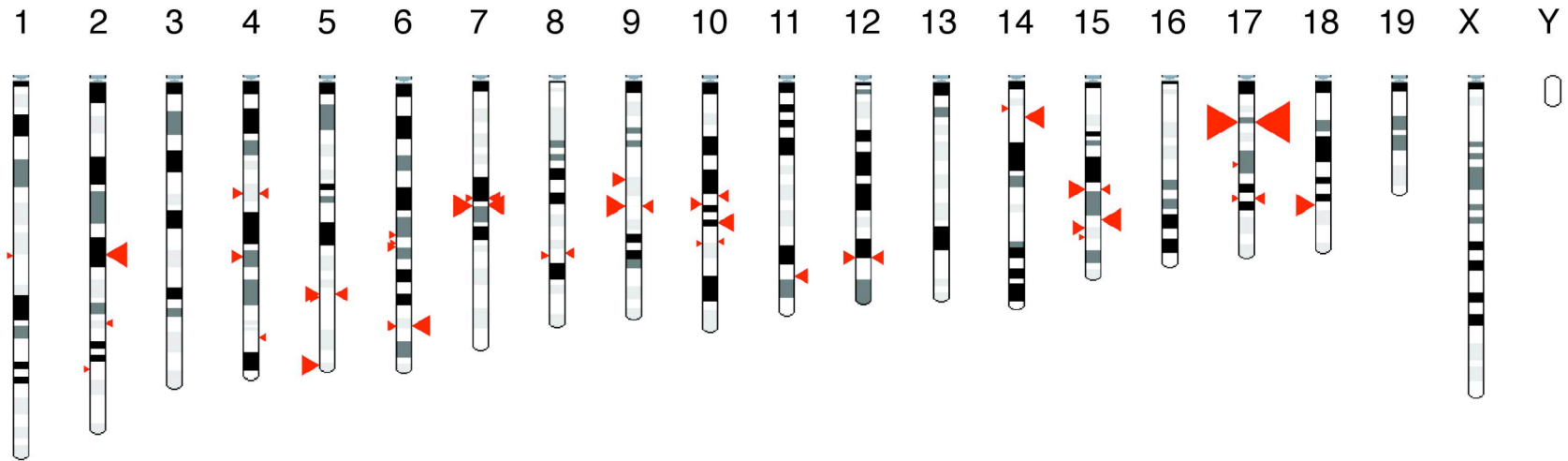
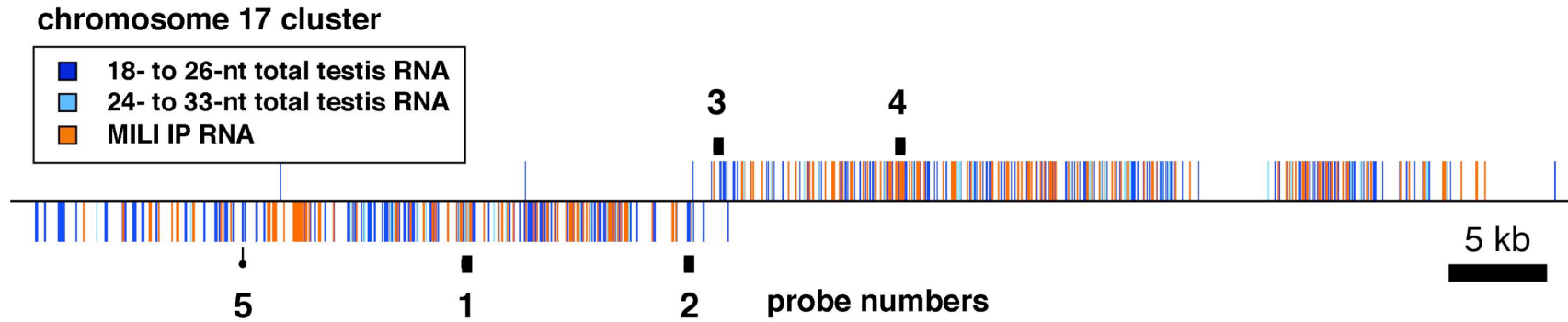
Science 2004

A few words about piRNAs

piRNAs appear at the onset of mitosis in maturing mice



piRNAs are clustered and processed from longer transcripts



piRNA primary transcript processing

chr17 | + | 25131742 | 25131774

25131742	25131767	n=1
25131742	25131764	n=1
25131748	25131773	n=1
25131748	25131772	n=1
25131748	25131772	n=3
25131748	25131774	n=2
25131748	25131773	n=4
25131748	25131770	n=1
25131749	25131773	n=1

UGAAUCUGGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAAUGAUGGGG
UGAAUCUGGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAAU-----
UGAAUCUGGAGUGGUCUUUCUGG-----
-----UGGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAAUGAUGGGU
-----UGGAAUGGCCUUUCUGGAAUGAUGG--
-----UGGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAAUGAUGG--
-----UGGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAGUGAUGGGG
-----UGGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAAUGAUGGG-
-----UGGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAAUGAU----
-----GGAAUGGUCUUUCUGGAAUGAUGGGU

chr17 | + | 25159577 | 25159606

25159577	25159601	n=2
25159577	25159600	n=5
25159577	25159606	n=1
25159577	25159602	n=1
25159577	25159602	n=4

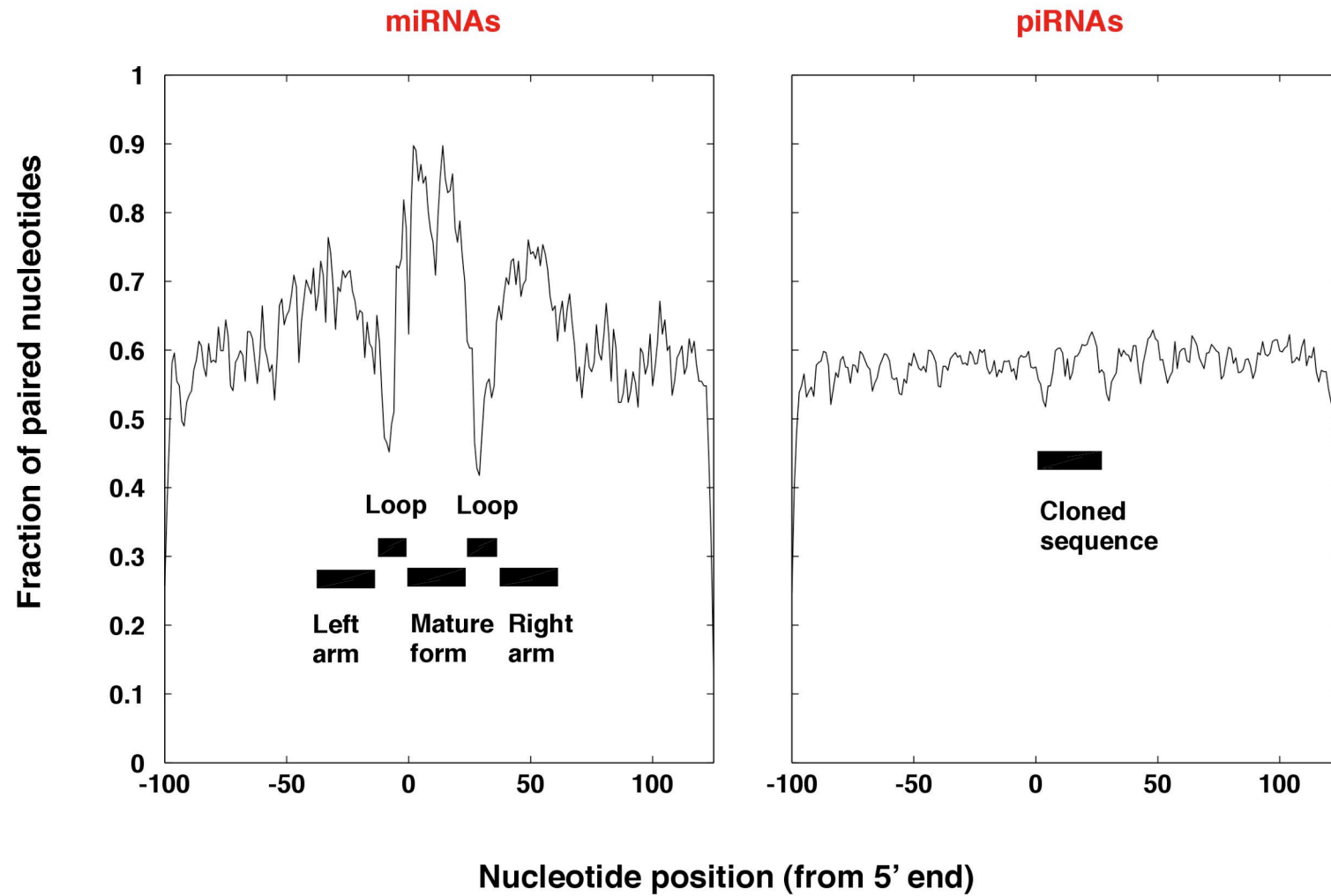
UGUGUUAAAAUGCUGUCCAGCUUGCCU
UGUGUUAAAAUGCUGUCCAGCU-----
UGUGUUAAAAUGCUGUCCAGC-----
UGUGUUAAAAUGCUGUCCAGCUUGCCU
UGUGUUAAAAUGCUGUCCAGCU----
UGUGUUAAAAUGCUGUCCAGCU----

chr17 | - | 25100375 | 25100430

25100375	25100401	n=1
25100376	25100401	n=1
25100377	25100404	n=1
25100377	25100401	n=1
25100392	25100419	n=1
25100402	25100430	n=1
25100402	25100425	n=1
25100404	25100430	n=1
25100406	25100430	n=1
25100407	25100430	n=1

UAGAGUGGUUUUGCGUUUAUCUGAUGCCCUGAGAGCGUCAACCUGUUCAUCAGCUC
-----UAGAGGCGUCAACCUGUUCAUCAGCUC
-----UAGAGGCGUCAACCUGUUCAUCAGCUU
-----CCCUGAGAGGCGUCAACCUGUUCAUCAGC--
-----UAGAGGCGUCAACCUGUUCAUCAGC--
-----UGCUGUUUAUCUGAUGCCCUGAGAGGCGUC-----
UAGAGUGGUUUUGCGUUUAUCUGAUGCCC-----
-----UGGUUUUGCGUUUAUCUGAUGCCC-----
UAGAGUGGUUUUGCGUUUAUCUGAUGC-----
UAGAGUGGUUUUGCGUUUAUCUGAU-----
UAGAGUGGUUUUGCGUUUAUCUGA-----

Analysis of base-pairing around piRNAs and miRNAs



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