



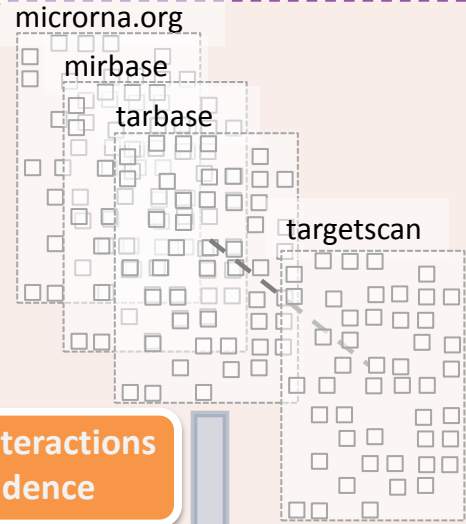
# Joint analysis of miRNA and mRNA expression data

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# Summary

## Introduction:

- 1) Exp. validation
- 2) Seq.-based predictions



## Combining DDBB

### 4) Meta-DB

- logistic regression
  - ROC curves
- ### 5) Conclusions and Future work

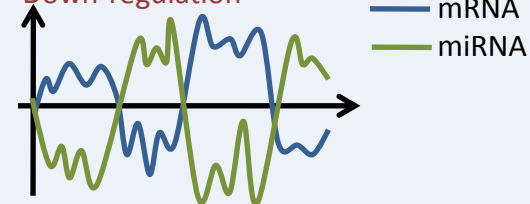
## Methods

### 3) Description of different methods

- Mathematical similarities
- Comparison of results

## Algorithms for data integration

### Down-regulation



DDBB that provide interactions with different evidence

mRNA expression

Genes  
 $j=1\dots J$

$X$

Samples  
 $t=1\dots T$

miRNA expression

Putative relationships

$C$

miRNAs  
 $k=1\dots K$

Samples  
 $t=1\dots T$

$Z^T$

Scored  $C$

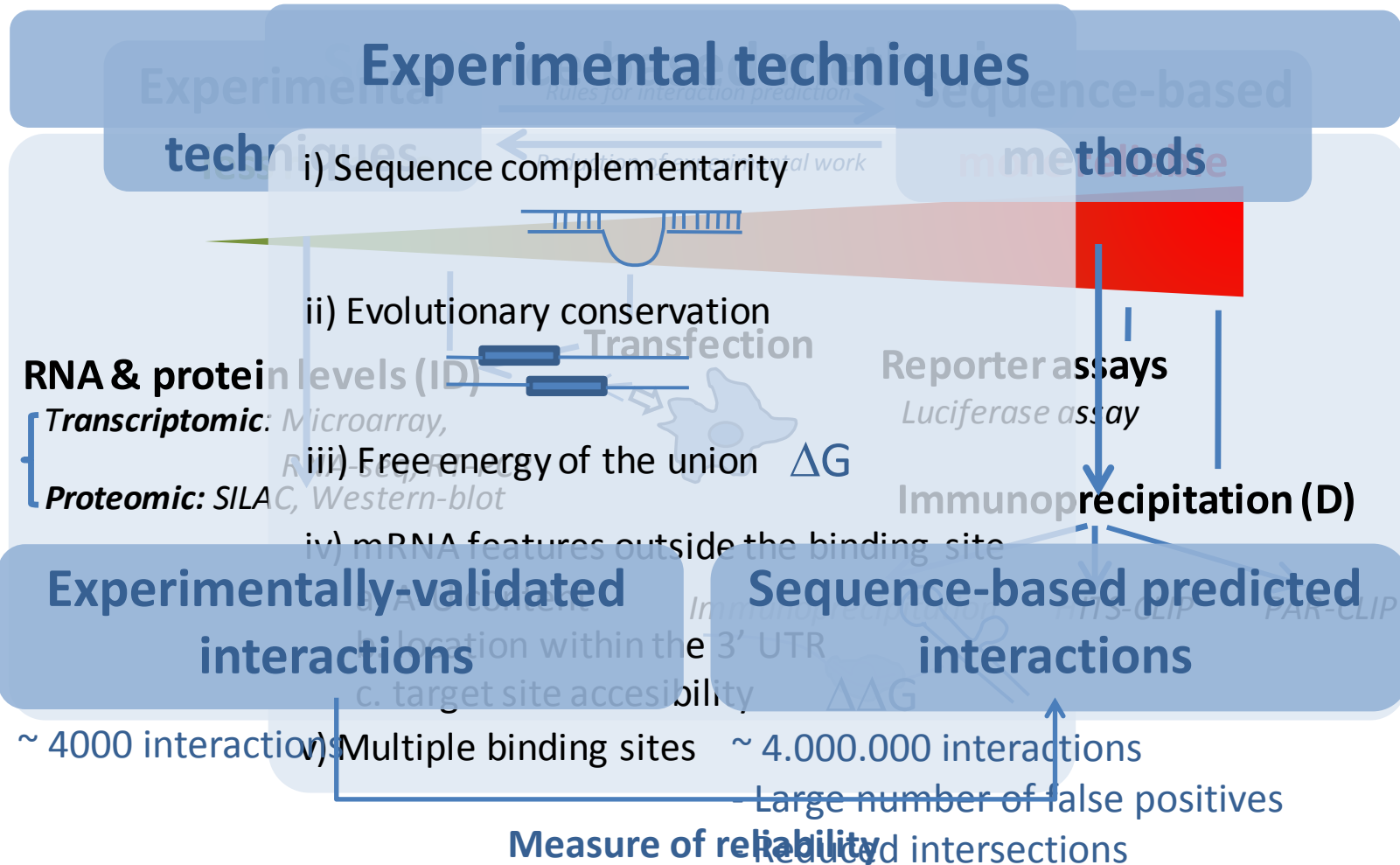
$C'$



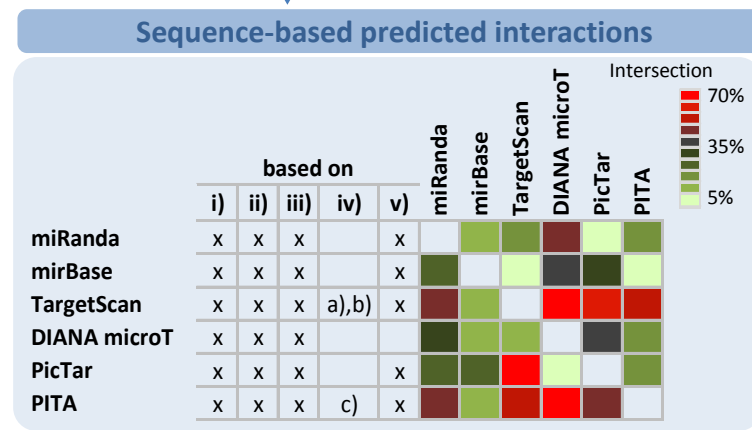
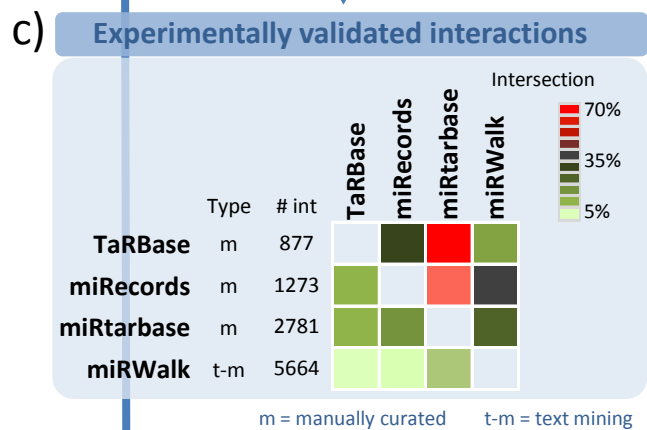
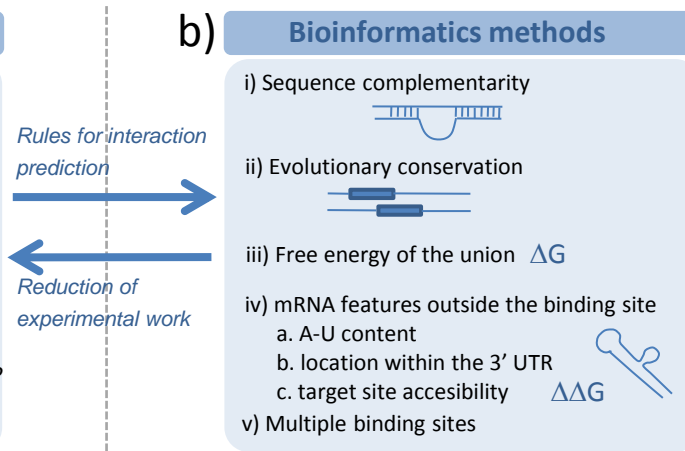
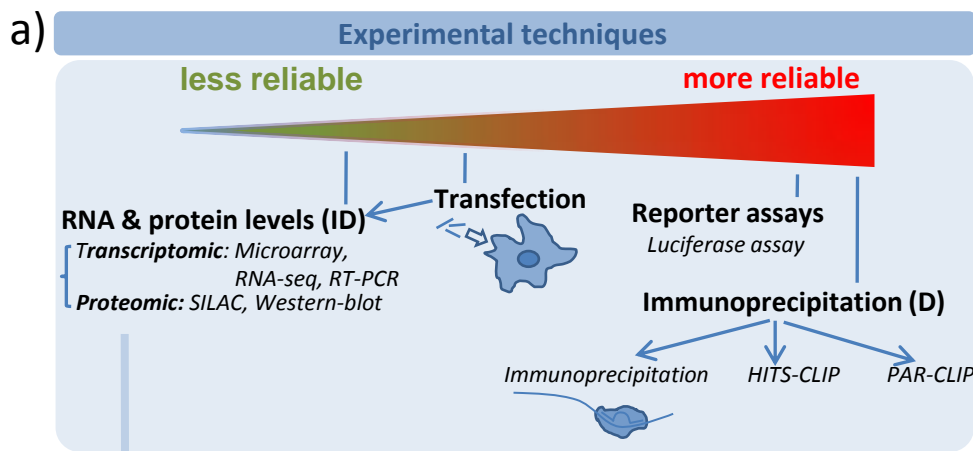
**Methods**

**Introduction**

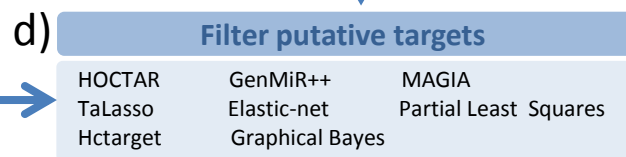
# Seeking miRNA-mRNA interactions



(Joint Analysis of miRNA-mRNA expression data; 2012; Briefings in Bioinformatics)



Joint analysis of miRNA and mRNA expression data, Briefings in Bioinformatics, 2012, Muniategui et al.



# Questions regarding these databases

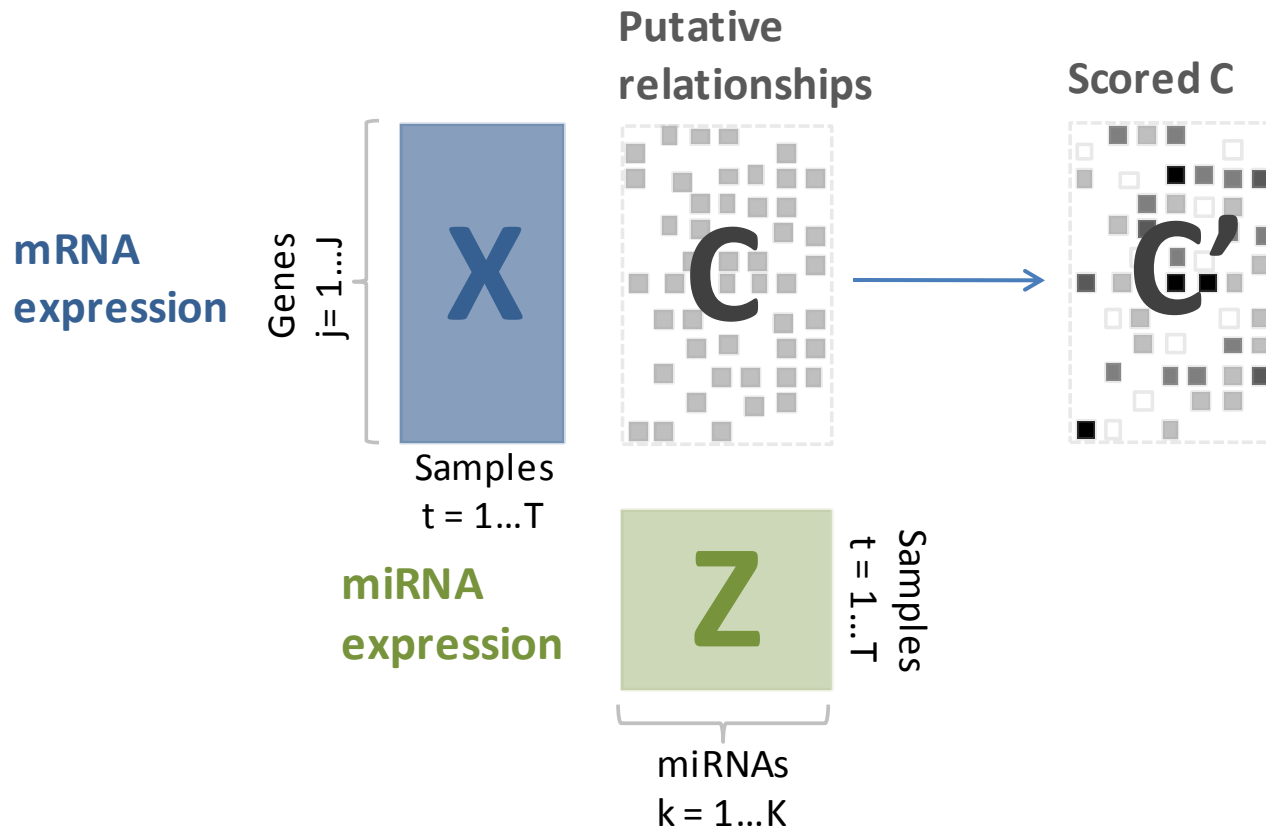
- They are VERY different when compared
  - Very different in sizes.
  - Different methodology
- Are they all equally reliable?
- How can we use the score that the DDBB provide?
- How do we combine them?
  - Union
  - Intersection
  - “At least in two of them” ...
  - Any other arbitrary rule???
- We will return to answer these questions later.



**Methods**

**Integration of expression data  
(miRNA and mRNA)**

# Methods to integrate expression



(Quantification of miRNA-mRNA interactions; 2012; PLoS ONE)



- **Pairwise analysis**

- Correlation (Pearson and Spearman)

- “Rank the annotated relationships according to the pairwise correlation: the more negative the correlation the higher the rank”
  - Absolute correlation? Are positive correlations significant?

- Mutual information (MAGIA)

- “Rank the annotated relationships according to the Mutual information”
  - Borrowed from information theory.
  - Ranking is similar to absolute correlation, i.e. the direction of the regulation is not taken into account.

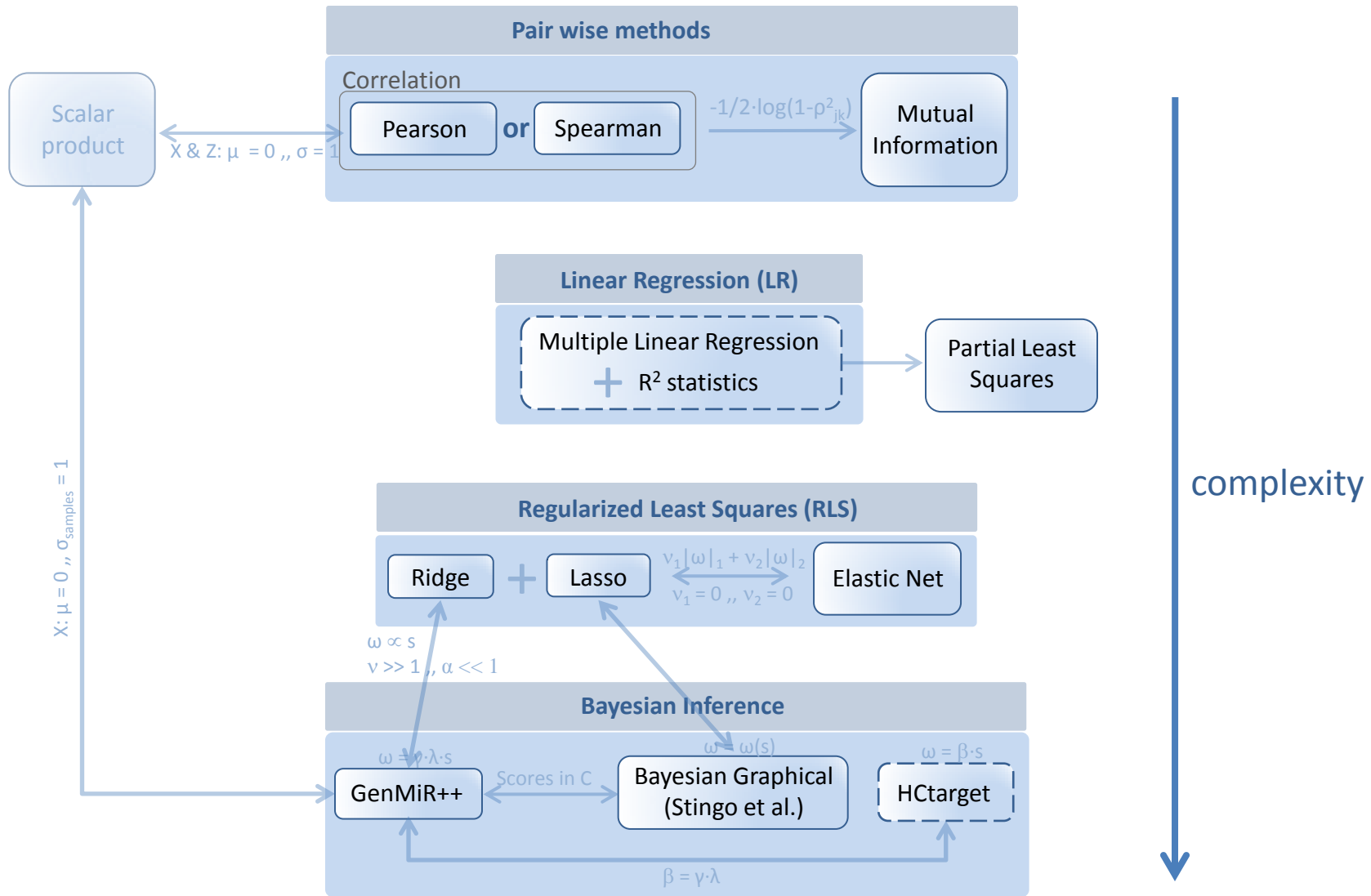
- **(Regularized) Linear models**

- “Rank the annotated relationships according to its weight in a (regularized) linear model”
  - The p.value of the coefficient can also be used to rank the interactions.
  - mRNA expression as a linear combination of the miRNAs that putatively bind to it.
  - Sometimes the problem is stated as an inverse problem, i.e. the expression of the miRNA is a linear combination of their putative targets.
  - Usually more miRNAs than samples → Regularization, i.e., take only the most prominent interactions (Lasso, Ridge)
    - Some implementations cannot be applied simply because of this.

- **Bayesian Methods**

- “Rank the annotated relationships according to their probabilities of being significant setting some sensible priors”
  - GenMir++, HCTarget, Graphical Bayesian

# Methods to integrate expression in



(Joint analysis of miRNA and mRNA expression data; Briefings in bioinformatics; June 2012)

## Assumptions

- 1) Neglect any other regulator of gene expression but **miRNAs**
- 2) Only **down-regulatory** effects are considered
- 3) The aim is to **filter** putative interactions
- 4) **Linear relationship** between logarithms of expressions is assumed

For each gene

$$\mathbf{x}_j = \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_{jk} \cdot c_{jk} \cdot \mathbf{z}_k + \mathbf{x}_k^0 + \epsilon_j$$

amount of down-regulation  
basal expression

LASSO with non-negative constraints

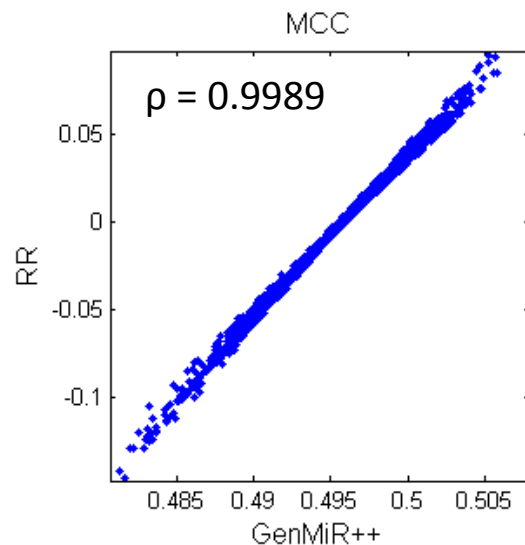
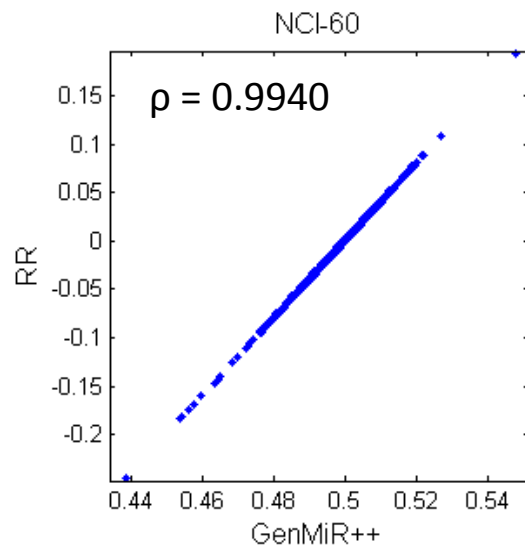
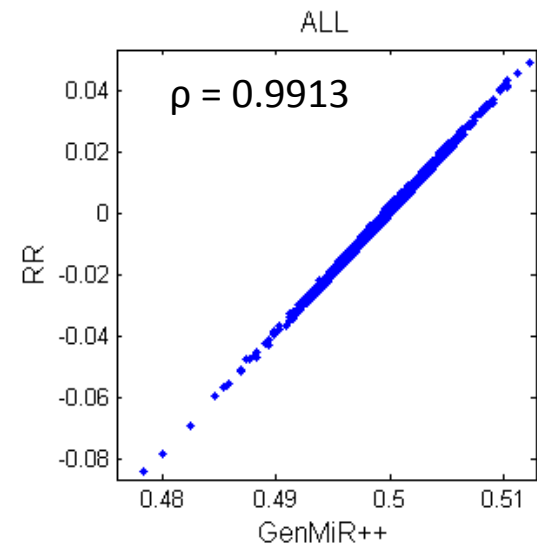
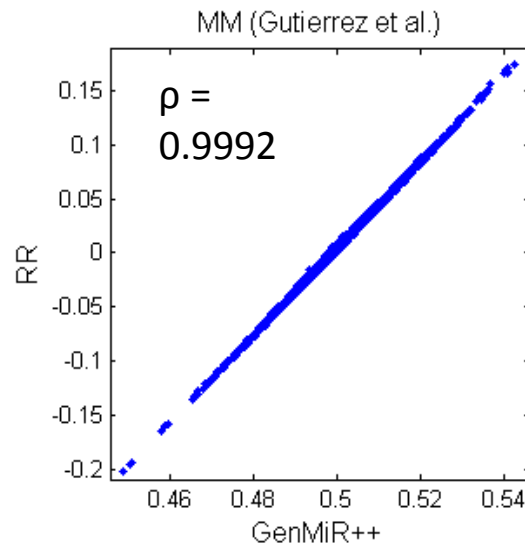
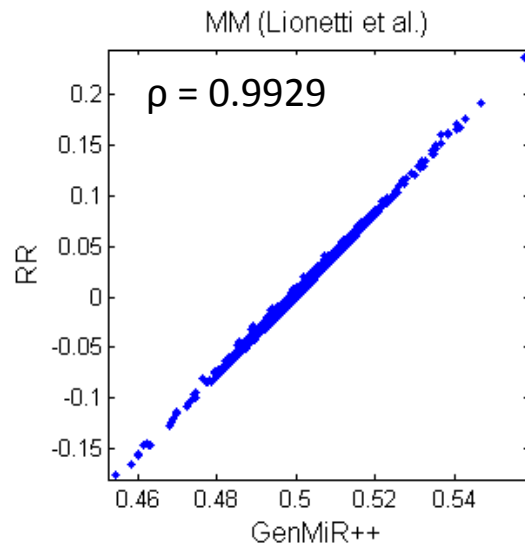
$$\min_{\beta_j, x_j^0} \left\{ \left\| \mathbf{x}_j - \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_{jk} \cdot c_j \cdot \mathbf{z}_k - \mathbf{x}_j^0 \right\|_2 + \lambda_j \cdot \sum_{k=1}^K |\beta_{jk} \cdot c_{jk}| \right\}$$

subject to  $\beta_{jk} \leq 0$ , for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ .

# Interesting relationships

- Genmir++ (with the values of the parameters of the authors) is equivalent to Ridge regression with a extremely large regularization parameter.
- In turn, both of them are equivalent to a scalar product.
  - Applying this shortcut, GenMir++ becomes 4 orders of magnitude faster.
- The only difference between correlation and GenMir++ is the normalization:
  - In correlation, both miRNA and mRNA are normalized.
  - In GenMir++, only mRNA are normalized
    - This subtle difference makes the results very different.

# Other methods: GenMiR++ and a scalar product





# Other methods: expression data used

## Multi Class Cancer (MCC)

miRNA ,, bead-based flow cytometry (Lu J. et al. *Nature* 2005)  
mRNA ,, Hu6800 and Hu35KsubA GeneChips (Affymetrix)  
(Ramaswamy S. et al. *Proc.Natl.Acad.Sci.U.S.A*)

### 88 samples (paired):

*normal and cancerous:* bladder, breast, colon, kidney,  
lung, pancreas, prostate and  
uterus

*cancerous without normal ref.:* ovary cancer, melanoma  
and mesothelioma

## NCI-60

miRNA ,, PCR (TaqMan) (Gaur A. et al *Cancer Res* 2007)

mRNA ,, HG-U95 A & HG-U133 (Affymetrix) (Shankavaram  
U.T. et al *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* 2007) ,,  
<http://discover.nci.nih.gov/cellmier/home.do>

### 59 samples (paired):

(9 cancer types)

breast, glioblastoma, colon, lung, leukemia,  
melanoma, ovarian, prostate and renal

## Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (LDS)

GEO (GSE14834) (Fulci V. et al *Genes Chromosomes Cancer* 2009)  
miRNA ,, miRHuman 9.0 array (LC Sciences)  
mRNA ,, Human Genome GeneChip U133 Plus 2.0 Array  
(Affymetrix)

### 19 samples (paired):

*B-ALL:* BCR/ABL ,, E2A/PBX1 ,, MLL/AF4 ,, no translocation

*T-ALL:* SIL/TAL ,, no translocation

## Multiple Myeloma (MM) (Lionetti et al.)

miRNA ,, Agilent Human miRNA V2 (Lionetti et al. *Blood* 2009)  
mRNA ,, Affymetrix GeneChip HG-U133A (Lionetti et al. *Blood* 2009)

### 40 samples (paired):

38 MM and 2 Plasma Cells divided into 5 groups  
attempting to translocations and gene expression values.

## Multiple Myeloma (MM) (Gutierrez et al.)

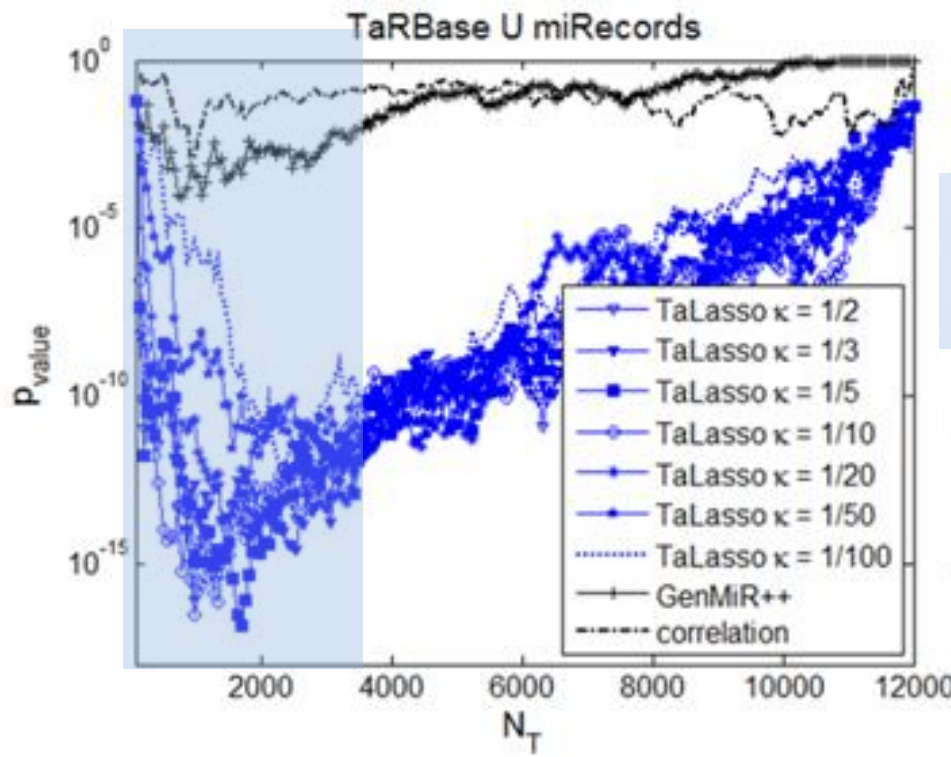
miRNA ,, TaqMan low-density arrays (Gutierrez et al. *Leukemia* 2010)  
mRNA ,, Affymetrix Human Gene 1.0 ST (Gutierrez et al. *Leukemia* 2010)

### 65 samples (paired):

60 MM and 5 normal. MM samples divided into 4 groups:  
RB deletions, t(11;14), t(14;16) and t(4;14) translocations.

## Enrichment in EV interactions

“Good algorithm: top-ranked interactions more enriched in EV interactions”



method	TaRBase U miRecords		miRWalk			
	$N_E/N_T$	p-value	$N_E^{500}$	$N_E/N_T$	p-value	$N_E^{500}$
TaLasso (1/2)	105/777	4.17E-17	67	1761/7978	2.70E-52	164
TaLasso (1/3)	208/2141	4.64E-16	70	1301/5591	2.20E-48	165
TaLasso (1/5)	<b>160/1413</b>	<b>3.81E-18</b>	65	1791/8269	1.70E-47	<b>172</b>
TaLasso (1/10)	113/858	1.62E-17	<b>74</b>	1441/6459	2.10E-43	170
TaLasso (1/20)	138/1207	6.60E-16	70	1226/5579	8.10E-33	149
TaLasso (1/50)	165/1689	1.16E-12	58	2420/12738	3.00E-23	106
TaLasso (1/100)	185/1942	3.05E-13	53	1348/6775	1.30E-17	97
GenMiR++	60/616	3.35E-05	46	1304/6614	1.30E-15	116
Correlation	63/729	6.78E-04	38	711/4004	7.90E-03	91

$N_E = \# \text{ EV}$

$N_T = \# \text{ drawn}$

$N_E^{500} = \# \text{ EV in top-500}$

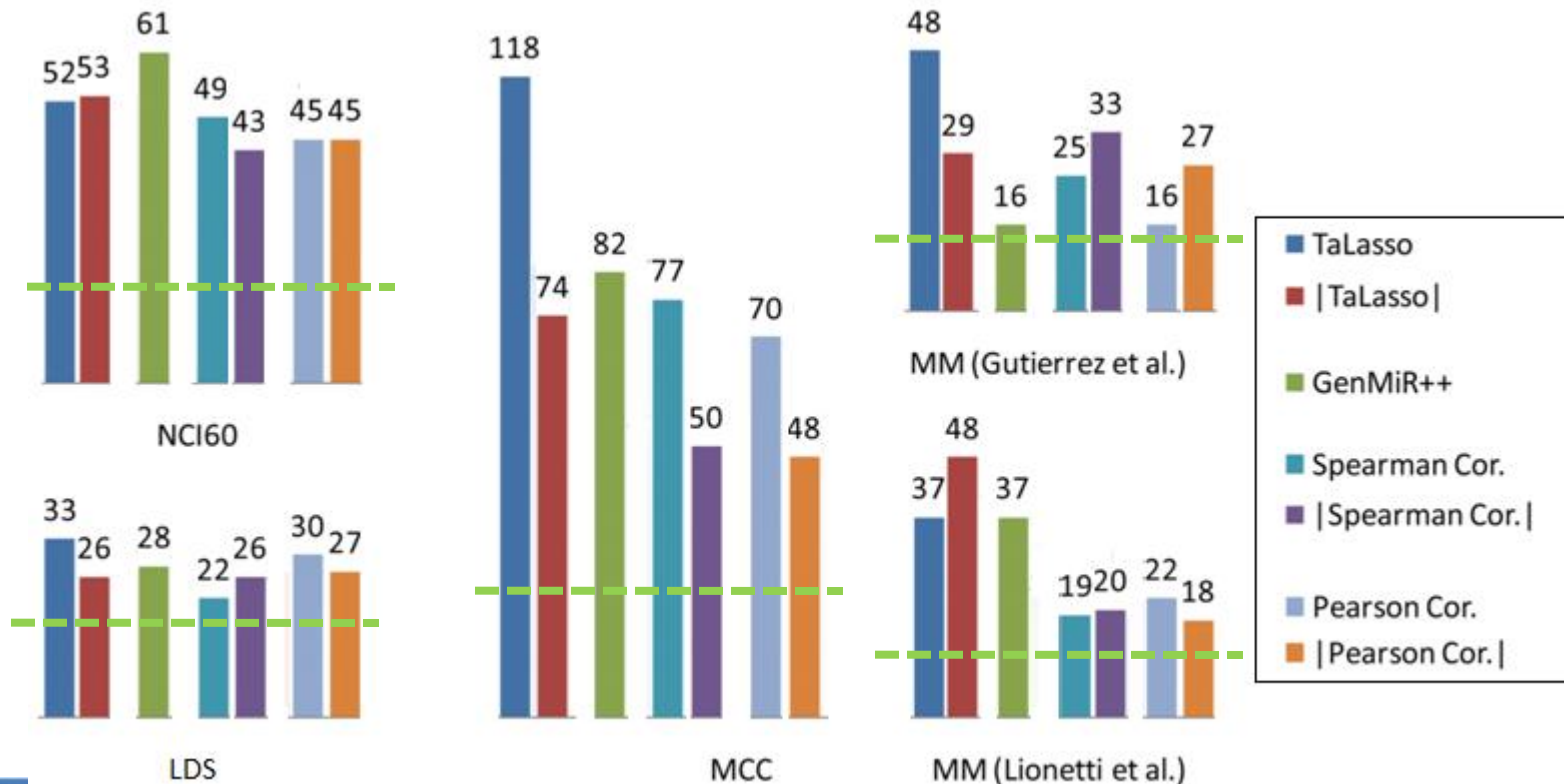
# Results

## The added value of using expression data

- Are results using expression data more enriched in EV interactions than the initial set of putative interactions?

$$E = \frac{\frac{\# \text{ drawn}}{n} \cdot \frac{\# \text{ EV}}{m}}{\frac{\# \text{ union}}{N}}$$

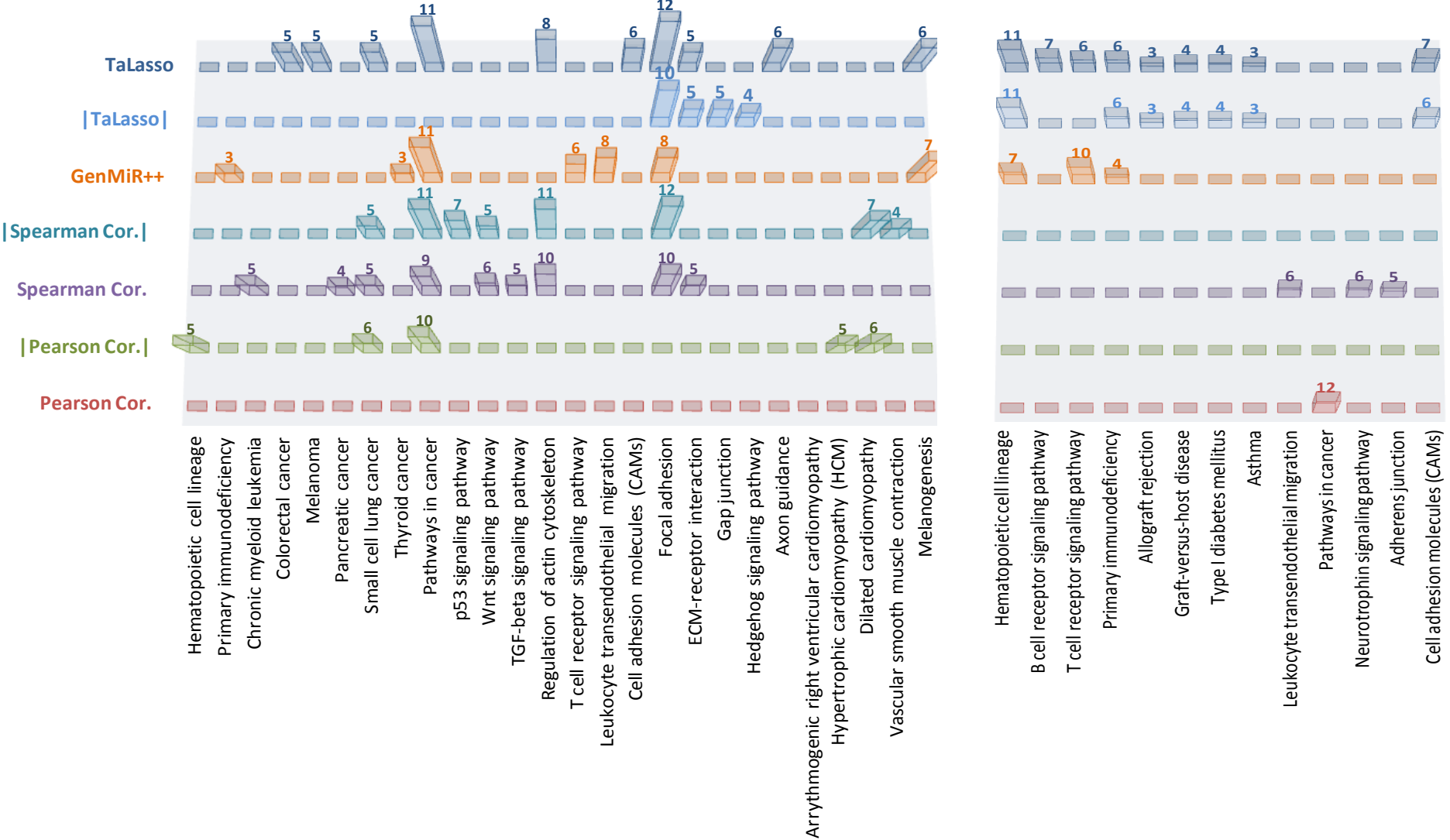
## Comparison of algorithms



# Comparisons: enrichment in KEGG pathways

NCI-60

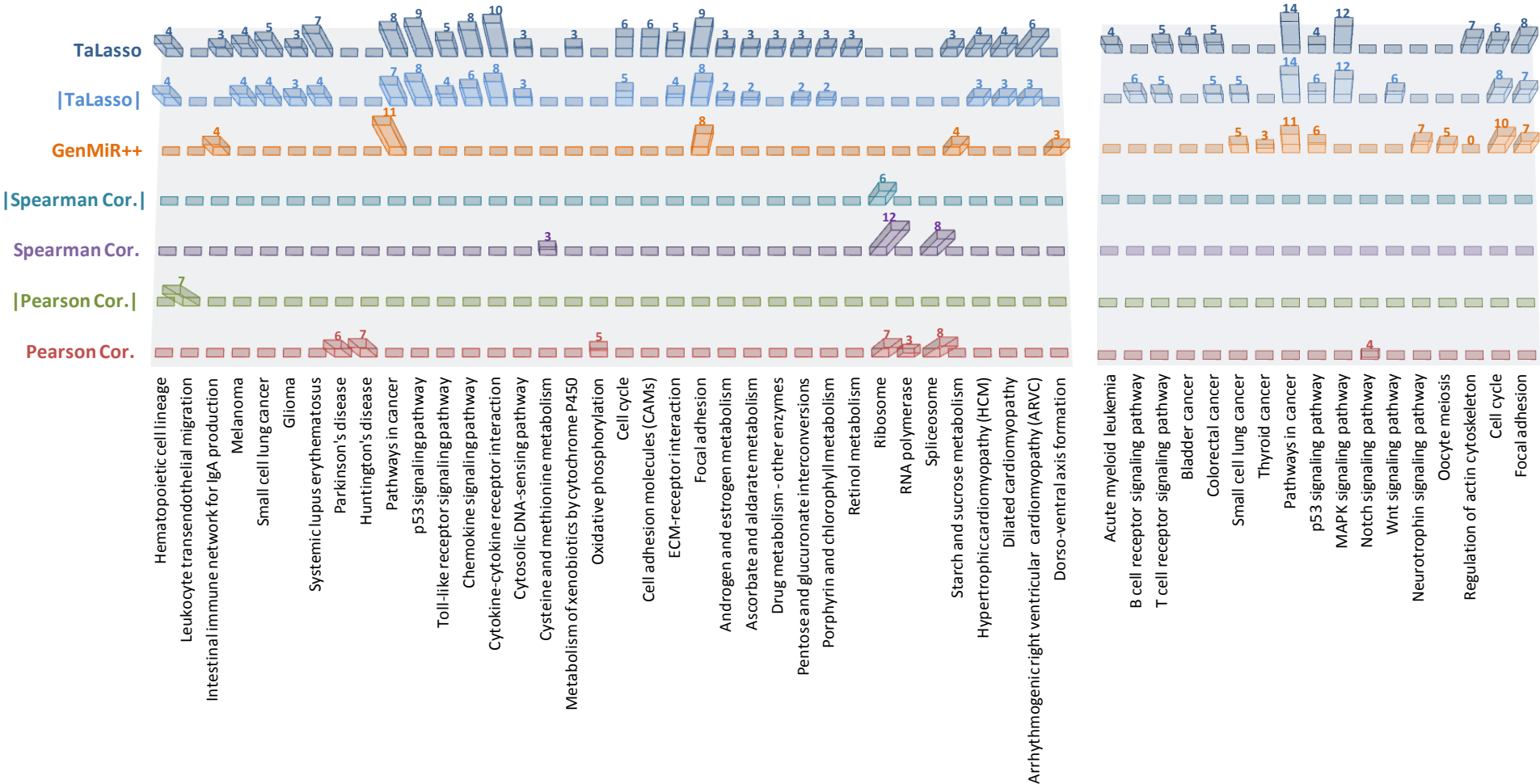
ALL



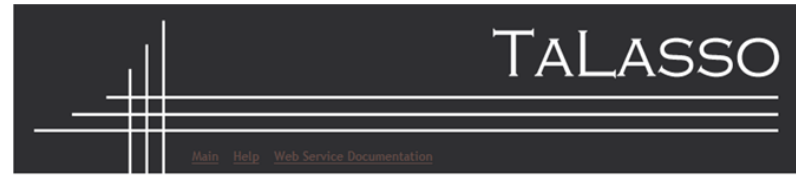
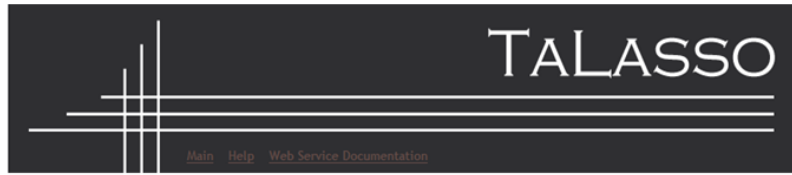
# Comparisons: enrichment in KEGG pathways

## MM (Gutierrez et al.)

## MM (Lionetti et al.)



# TaLasso: web application



## 1. Gene Expression matrix

## 2. MiRNAs Expression matrix

## 3. Data Type

## 4. Gene - MiRNAs putative targets

Union ▾

- micromi
- mirbase
- mirecords2007
- mirecords2010
- mirgen\_DIANAmicroT
- mirgen\_I\_mirandaXL\_pictar4way\_targetscans

- mirgen\_I\_pictar4way\_targetscans
- mirgen\_Union
- mirgen\_micromi
- mirgen\_mirbase
- mirgen\_pictar4way
- mirgen\_pictar5way
- mirgen\_targetscans
- mirwalk
- tarbase

## 5. Gene - MiRNAs putative targets for validation

 mirecords2010  mirwalk  tarbase

## 6. Algorithm

## 7. Tuning Factor (only for TaLasso algorithm)

## 8. Name your job (optional)

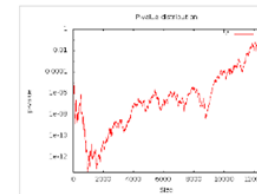
## 9. Provide an email (optional)



## Results for geneExpression-134

Download results files: [Targets] [Genes] [MiRNAs]

### Validation of results (tarbase)



### Hits distribution map (tarbase)

### Table of results

First [ 1 ] >> Last

Gene	miRNA	Score	pValue	Mirecords	Mirwalk	Tarbase
+ SLC7A7 [ ENSG00000155465 ]	+ hsa-miR-205	0.076312	0.0024005			
+ APOE [ ENSG00000130203 ]	+ hsa-miR-1	0.056631	0.00094027		✓	
+ FXD2 [ ENSG00000137731 ]	+ hsa-miR-205	0.025325	0.0011771			
+ ZCCHC7 [ ENSG00000147905 ]	+ hsa-miR-130a	0.02436	0.07315			
+ FAM83D [ ENSG00000101447 ]	+ hsa-miR-99a	0.021542	0.087336			
+ GPX2 [ ENSG00000176153 ]	+ hsa-miR-205	0.019674	0.0024048			
+ ACPP [ ENSG0000014257 ]	+ hsa-miR-10a	0.019504	0.00027084			
+ ALDH3B1 [ ENSG0000006534 ]	+ hsa-miR-205	0.015956	0.0018284			
+ CTSA [ ENSG00000064601 ]	+ hsa-miR-205	0.013761	0.0003944			
+ CARHSP1 [ ENSG00000153048 ]	+ hsa-miR-1	0.013555	7.5497e-05		✓	

(Quantification of miRNA-mRNA interactions; Plos One; Feb. 2012)

<http://talasso.cnb.csic.es/>

- Imposing only negative relationship provides more biologically enriched pathways and validated interactions
  - Nevertheless, using positive correlations, the results are biologically interesting and complementary to the previous ones.
- Talasso seems to perform well the shown datasets.
- GenMir++ works better than plain correlation.
  - The only difference is the normalization method.
  - Is it more enriched in experimentally validated interactions because more expressed miRNA are easier to be validated?
    - Also biological significance.



**Combination of DDBB**



**A meta-DB based on logistic regression**





- There are many databases of interactions of miRNA-mRNA
- Two main groups:
  - **Experimentally validated**
    - “Curated data”
    - High reliability...
    - **...but some experimental methods are more reliable than others.**
    - Very few interactions (1,000’s)
  - **Predicted** by sequence and other methods
    - Only computer predictions.
    - Low reliability...
    - **...but some of them are even less reliable**
    - Tons of interactions (100,000 to 1,000,000’s for each database)
    - Usually they provide a score for each interaction.

# Questions to address

- Different DDBB provide different scores to rank the quality of the interactions. These scores cannot be compared among them.
  - Is it possible to have a unified score to compare the evidence of an interaction in different DDBB?
  - As a side effect, can this score also be used measure of the quality of the DDBB?
- In some cases (less than expected), a interaction is predicted by different DDBB (of course, with different scores).
  - Is it possible to provide a overall score that combines all the sources of evidence?

(Improving miRNA-mRNA Interaction Prediction; 2013; Bioinformatics; Submitted)

# Reliability of the DDBB

- It is **difficult to compare the reliability** of DDBB due to:

- 1) Differences in sizes
- 2) Differences in qualities of the scores

- Compare DDBB using the **hypergeometric test**:

- 1) Sort interactions by their scores
- 2) Run hypergeometric test for each interaction
- 3) Determine the position of the minimum p-value (# of interactions drawn)

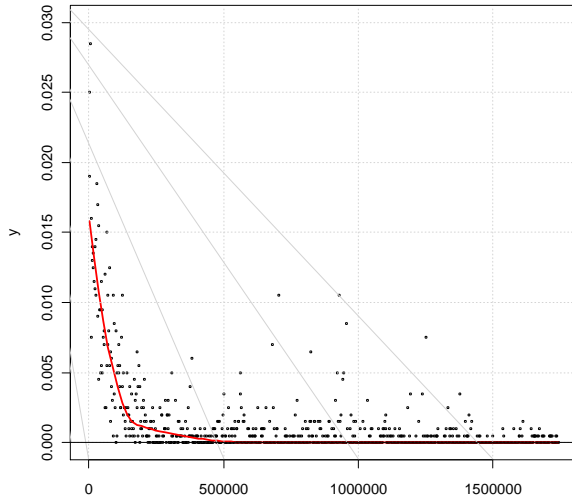
Method	$Z_{score}$	# int.	$Z_{score}$	# DDBB	# EV	#EV / # DDBB	% drawn
LRS	-89.27	163829		4669137	4286	9.18e-04	9.2
WSP	-84.52	123589		4669137	4286	9.18e-04	6.94
EiMMo	-61.87	191582		1781671	2949	1.66e-03	10.75
DIANA-microT	-54.51	269525		2289574	3010	1.31e-03	11.77
microrna.org	-21.2	134227		737379	2685	3.64e-03	18.2
microcosm	-17.99	6035		352016	784	2.23e-03	1.71
PITA	-15.2	75683		206722	1425	6.89e-03	36.61
TargetSpy	-14	178114		300000	653	2.18e-03	59.37
miRWalk	-9.92	422089		780000	1243	1.59e-03	54.11
TargetScan	-9.29	19491		132809	1832	1.38e-02	14.68
mirTarget	-5.08	149088		691265	234	3.39e-04	21.57

# New score of interactions for each database

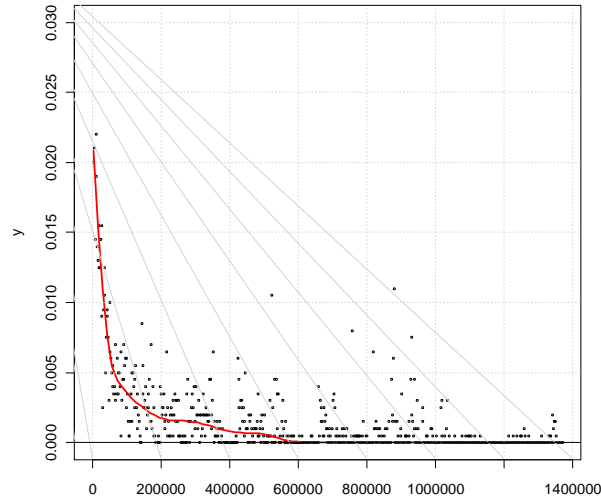
- **Important assumption:**
  - The **quality score** used in this presentation is the **probability of being experimentally validated  $P(\text{EV})$** .
  - Using the different scores, we can state  $P(\text{EV})$ .
  - $P(\text{EV})$  must be computed for every interaction in every database.
- **Recipe to get an estimate of  $P(\text{EV})$** 
  - Rank the interactions according to their score (better are first).
  - Group them in bins of interactions and compute the proportion of experimentally validated interactions within each group.
  - Join the estimated probabilities by a smoothing spline that is constrained to be in  $[0,1]$  (since it is a probability), and non-increasing
    - The reason of this restriction, is that we assume that a better score provides a more reliable interaction.

# Results of the ranking (identical y axis, different x axis for the DDBB)

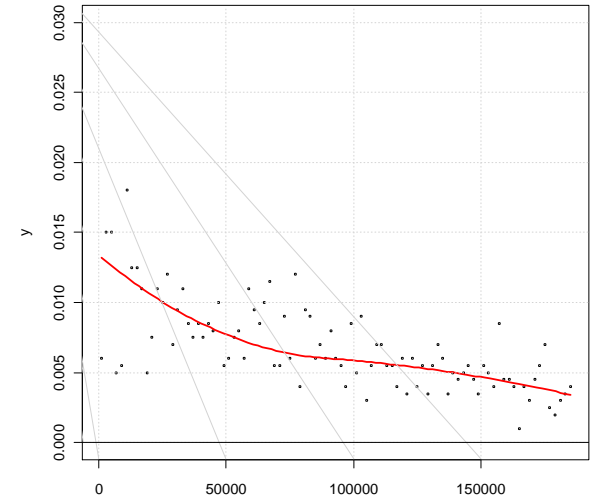
Estimates for eimmo



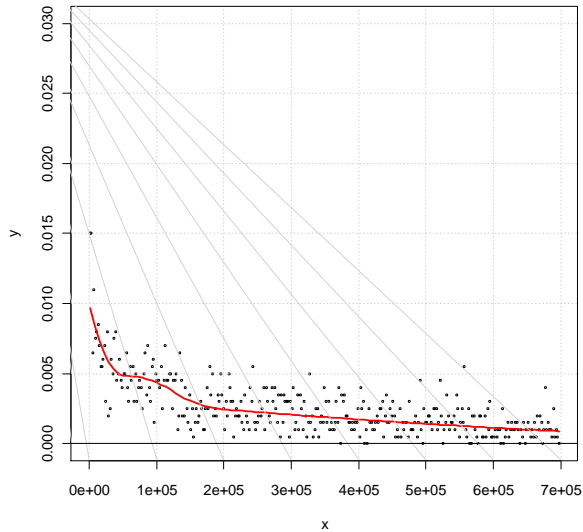
Estimates for microt



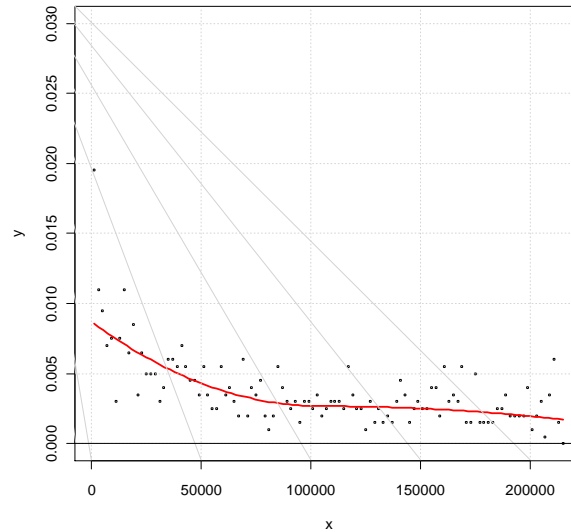
Estimates for targetscan



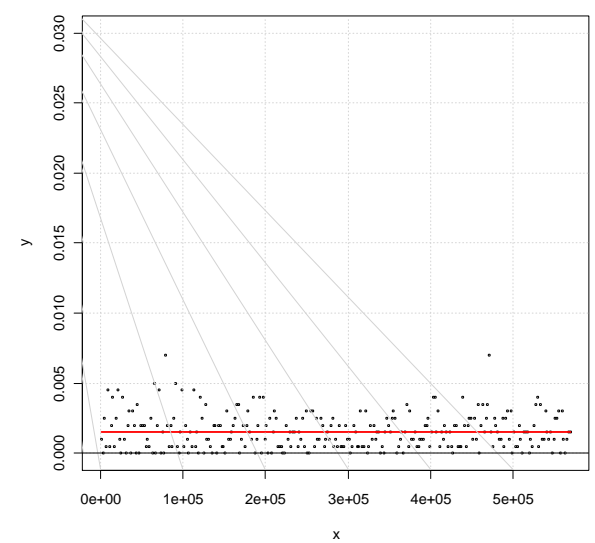
Estimates for microrna\_org



Estimates for mirtarget



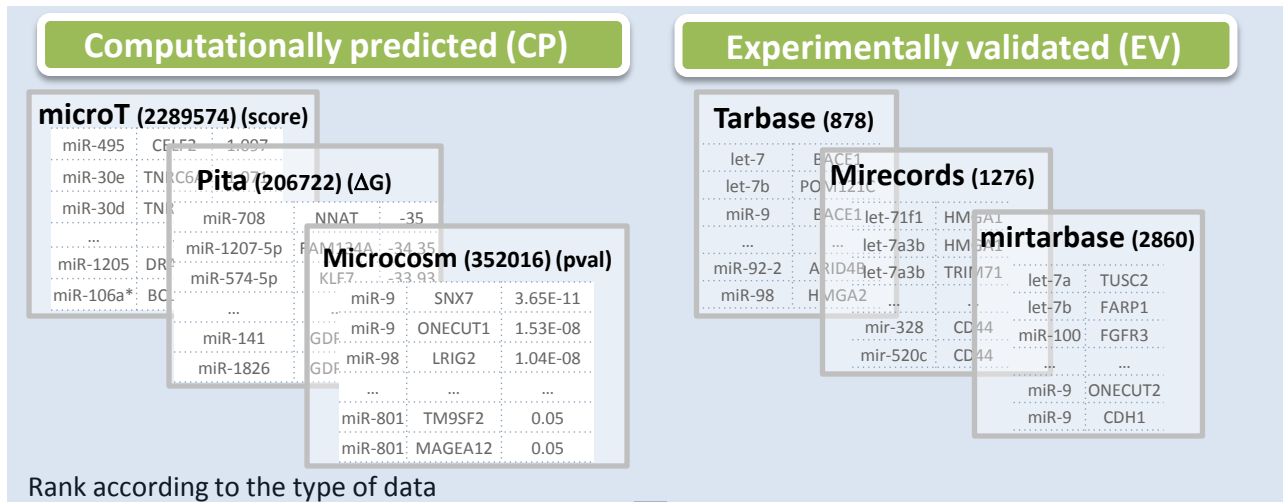
Estimates for targetspy



# Unified score

- Given that the score of each of the interactions are probabilities, it can be combined by applying a **logistic regression** to provide a unified probability.
  - We have run a logistic regression taking into account second order interactions
  - This approach helps to prevent the problem of the redundancy of the databases.
- After running the regression we have a **unified score** for each interaction that appear in all the databases
  - The number of interactions is the union of the interactions in all the databases.
  - The score is the probability of being experimentally validated.
- How good is this score? → ROC curves comparing the unified database with each of the DDBBs.

# Getting a global score



Re-score each interaction: probability of being experimentally-validated given its score in each database

Combine computationally predicted interactions based on their scores and experimentally-validated interactions

**Assumptions:** Determine the probability of each database for each score

- 1 splines**
- 2 logistic regression**

$$P(EV_j | S_{1j} \cap S_{2j} \cap \dots \cap S_{nj}) = \frac{e^{x_{ij}}}{1 + e^{x_{ij}}}$$

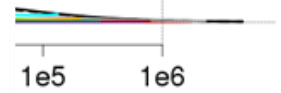
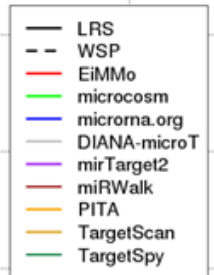
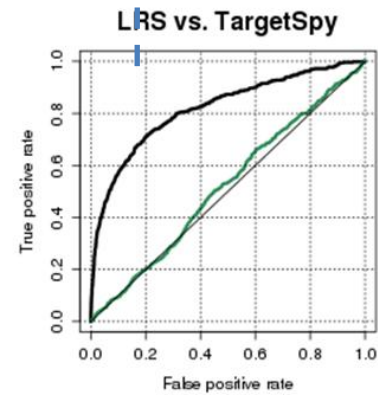
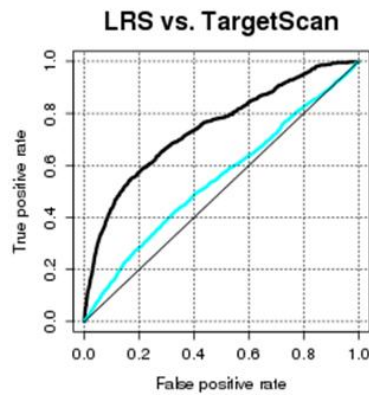
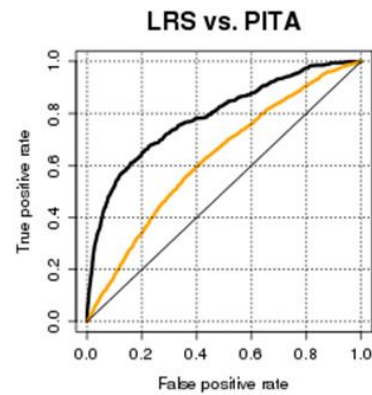
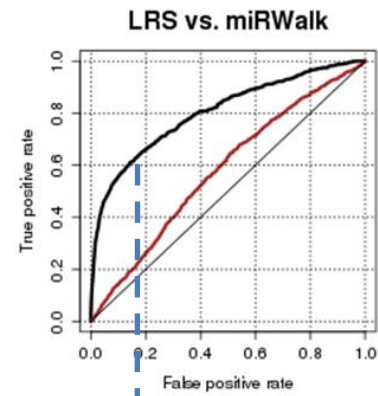
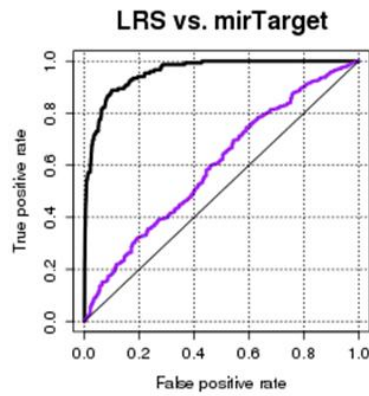
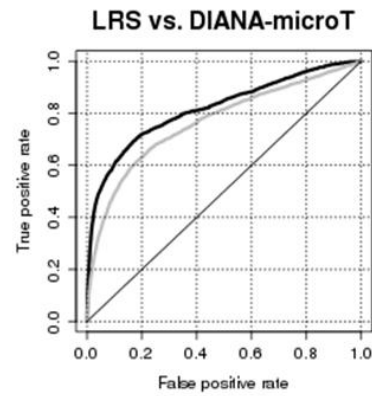
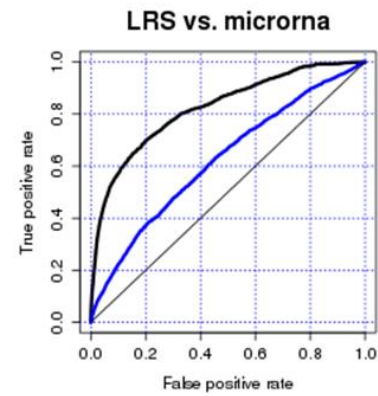
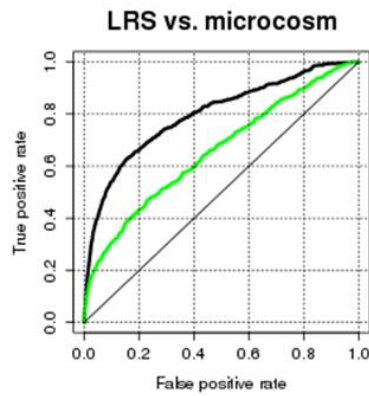
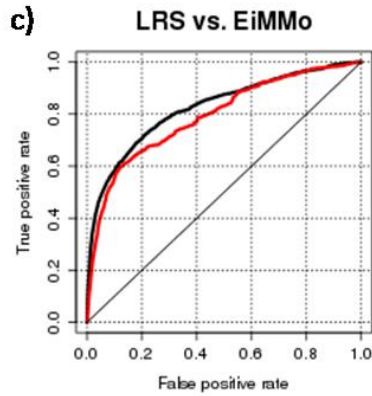
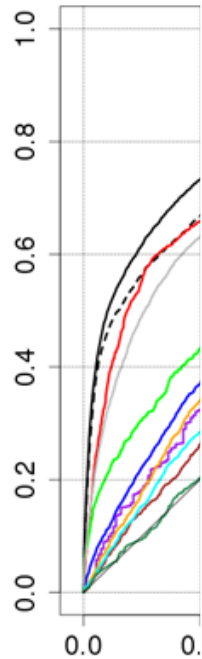
$$x_{ij} = \log\left(\frac{P(EV_j | S_{ij})}{P(EV_j)}\right)$$
- 3 Combined score**

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{\beta}_i \cdot x_{ij} + \sum_{ik}^{(n)} \tilde{\beta}_{ik} \cdot b_{ijk}$$

**combined DB**

# Results: ROC curves

a)

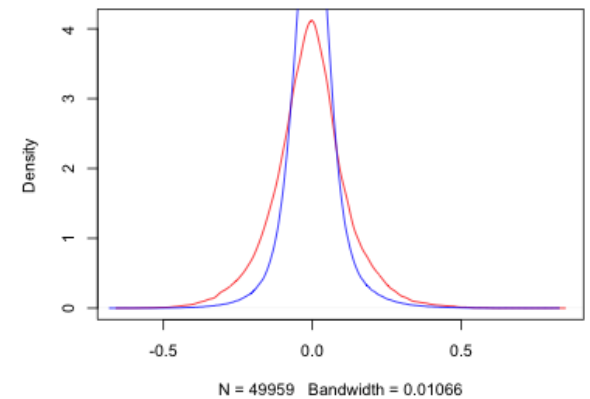
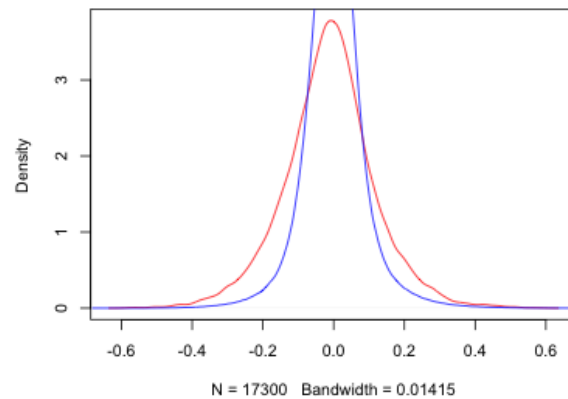
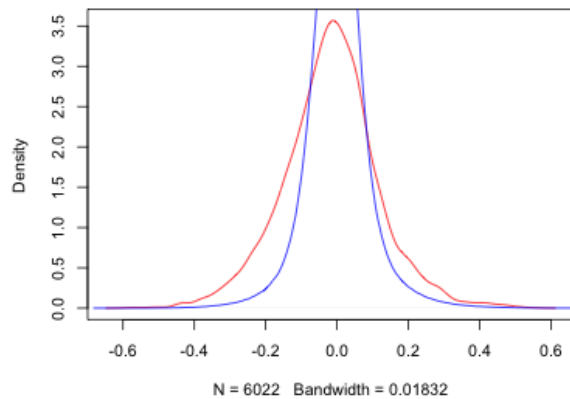
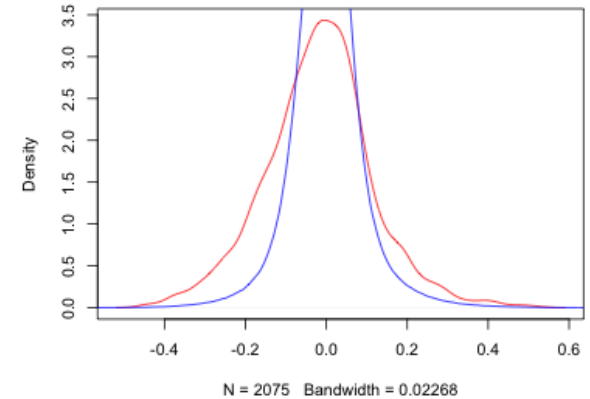
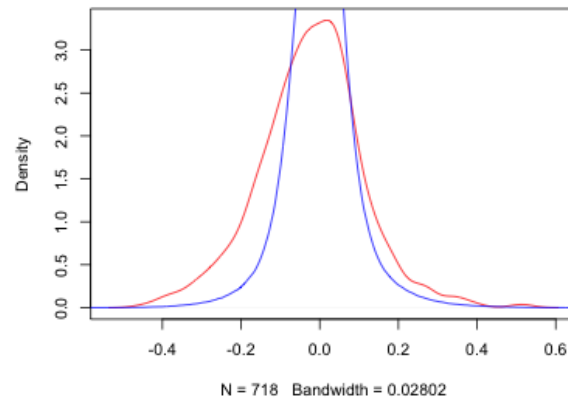
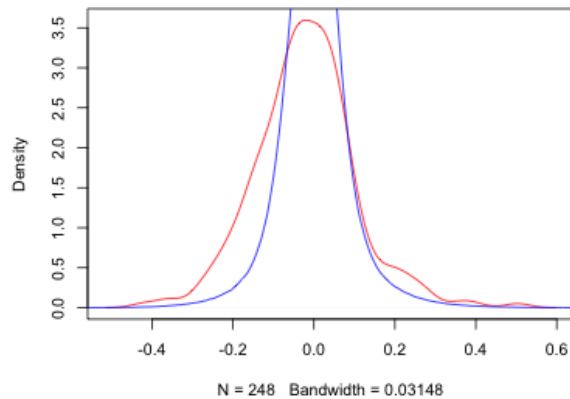




# Correlation using these scores in TCGA

— Validated Interactions  
— All Interactions

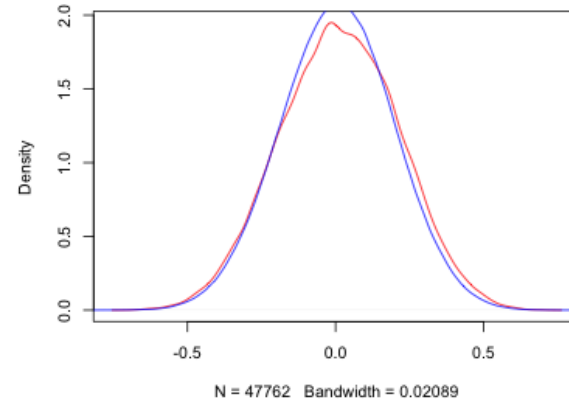
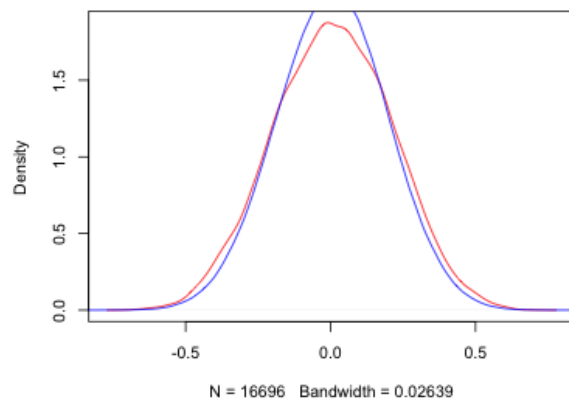
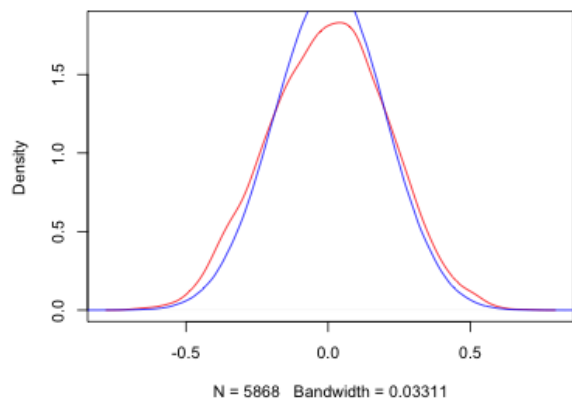
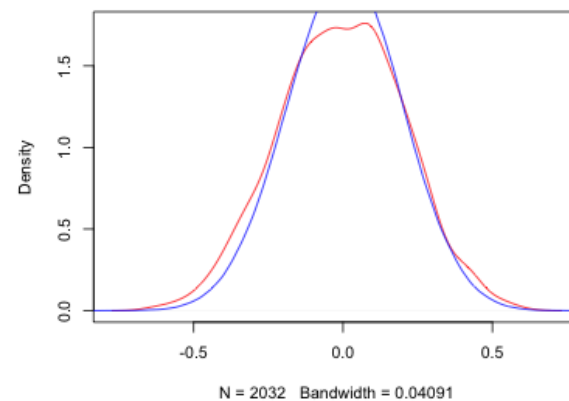
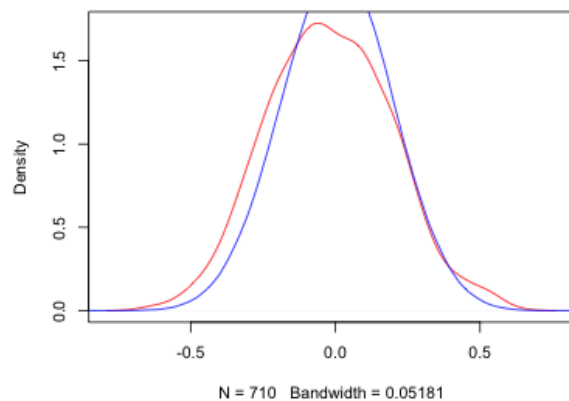
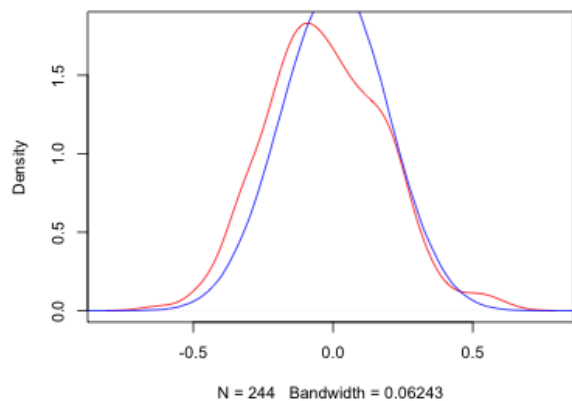
## Density Functions for Correlation between mRNA-miRNA in BRCA





— Validated Interactions  
— All Interactions

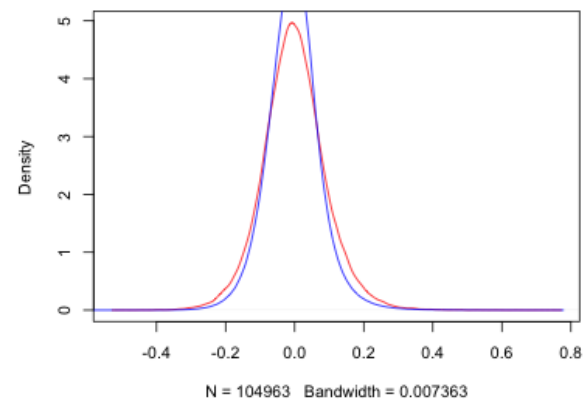
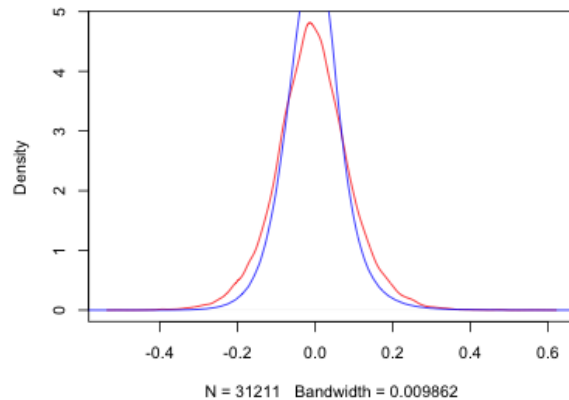
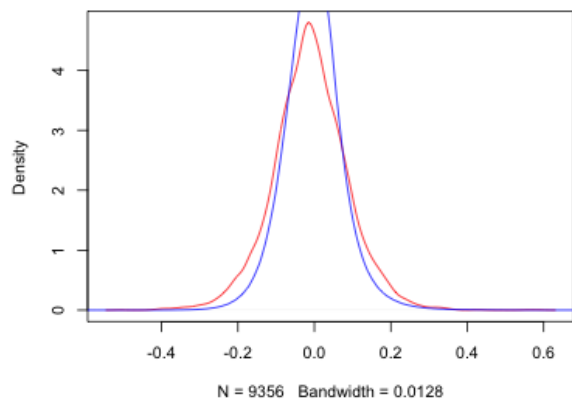
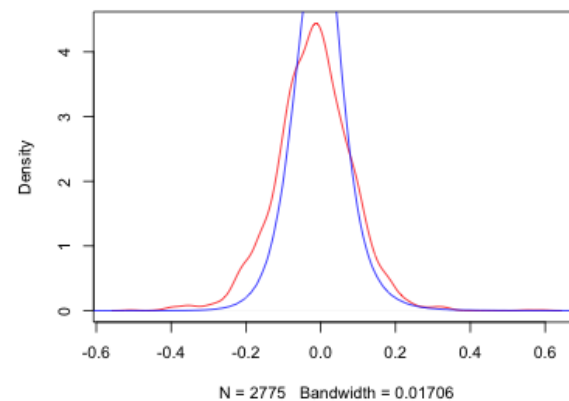
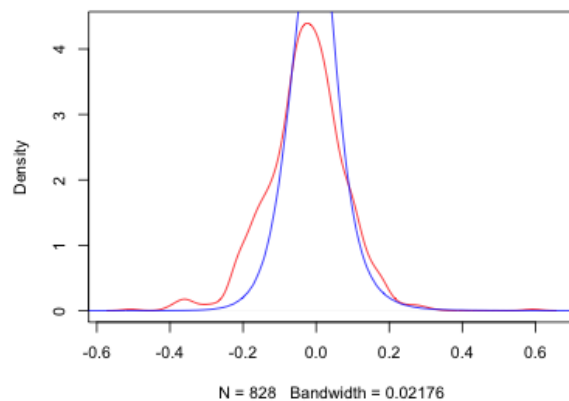
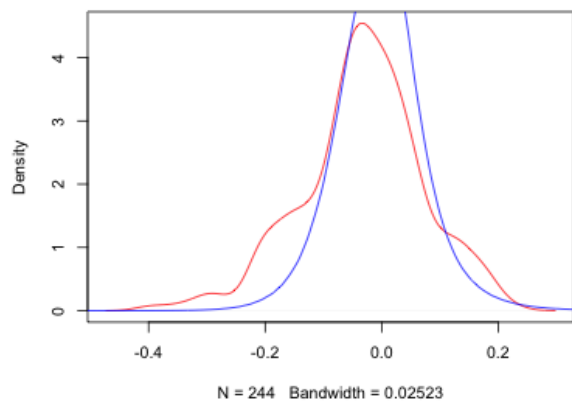
## Density Functions for Correlation between mRNA-miRNA in LUAD





— Validated Interactions  
— All Interactions

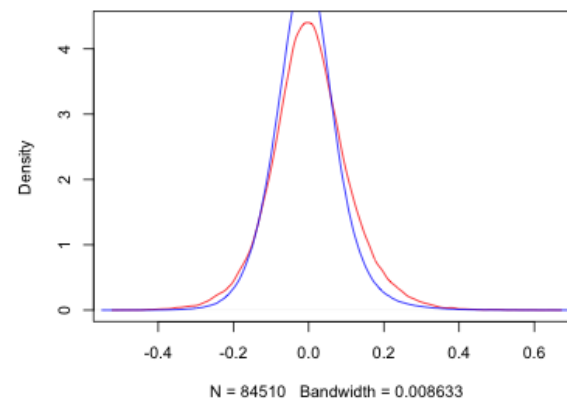
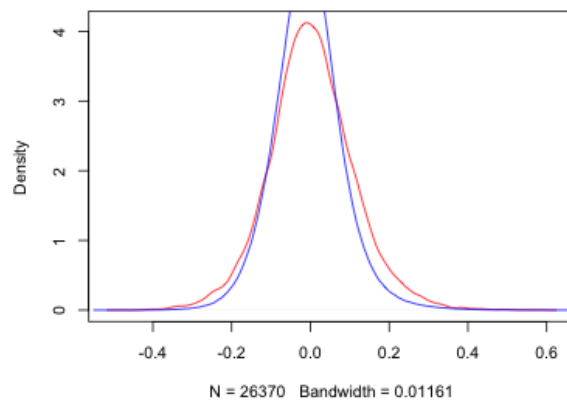
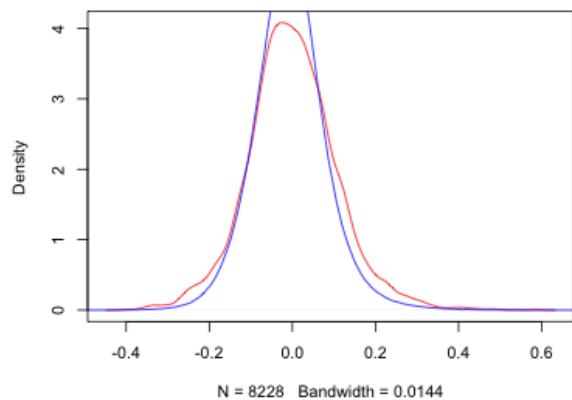
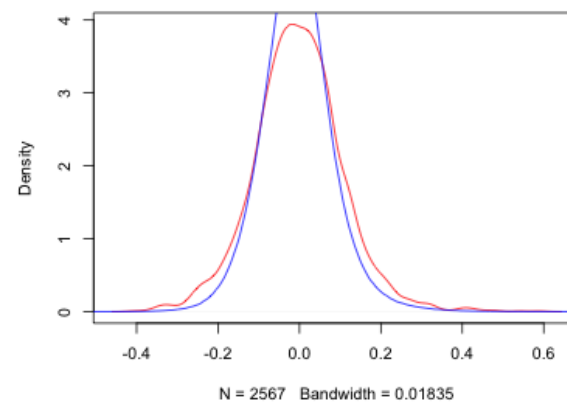
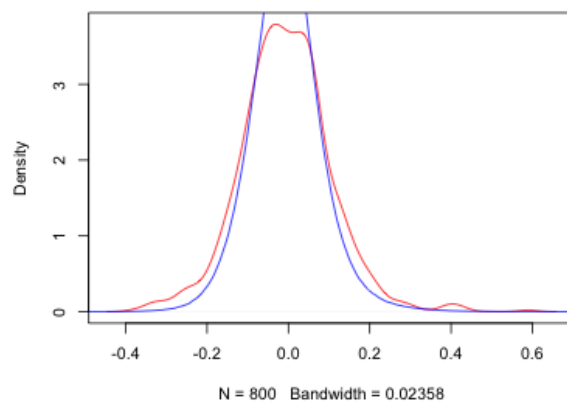
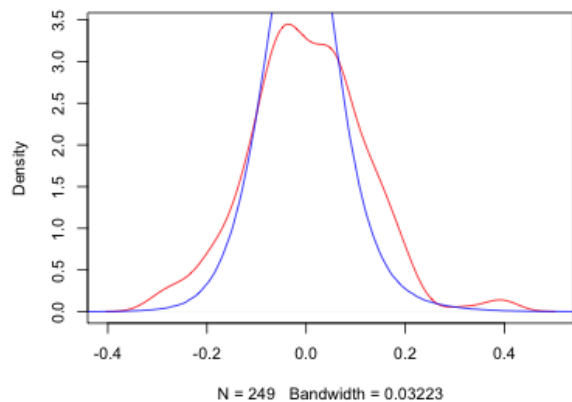
## Density Functions for Correlation between mRNA-miRNA in OV





— Validated Interactions  
— All Interactions

## Density Functions for Correlation between mRNA-miRNA in GBM



# Webpage for Join Database (m3RNA)

- <http://m3rna.cnb.csic.es/>



multiple  
miRNA-mRNA interactions database

Home | Search

## Results

### Query information

Organism: Homo sapiens

- genes provided information

genes: 4143

genes not recognized:

### Query results

Download results in tsv format

Show 20 entries

miRNA	Entrez gene	Gene Name	Ensembl Gene Id	experimental mirtarbase	experimental tarbase	experimental mirwalk	experimental mirecords	combined WSP score			
hsa-miR-29b	4143	MAT1A	ENSG00000151224	-	-	-	-	0.046431			
hsa-miR-29c	4143	MAT1A	ENSG00000151224	-	-	-	-	0.0464151			
hsa-miR-29a	4143	MAT1A	ENSG00000151224	-	-	-	-	0.0463976			
hsa-miR-631	4143	MAT1A	ENSG00000151224	-	-	-	-	0.0463976			
hsa-miR-103-2-star	41								combined WSP corrected precision	combined LRS score	
hsa-miR-671-5p	41								combined WSP corrected precision	combined LRS score	
hsa-miR-527	41	0.0115154	0.00975361	0.530114	0.0192453	0.0183274	0.745816	0.014426	0.0127708	0.113827	0.00276877
hsa-miR-518a-5p	41	0.0115123	0.00975051	0.529851	0.0192249	0.018307	0.745816	0.0144306	0.0127754	0.109597	0.00272745
hsa-miR-490-5p	41	0.0115019	0.00974011	0.52986	0.0192261	0.0183082	0.745816	0.0144214	0.0127662	0.109597	0.00272744
hsa-miR-548d-3p	41	0.00941494	0.00765315	0.307272	0.0050944	0.00417646	0.126569	0.00191791	0.00026272	0.0049752	0.00136461
hsa-miR-588	41	0.0086639	0.00690211	0.248132	0.00292236	0.00200442	-	-	-	0.466056	0.0159088
hsa-miR-125a-5p	41	0.0066743	0.00491251	0.334711	0.00684319	0.00592525	0.293933	0.00332814	0.00167295	0.111516	0.00275048
hsa-miR-873	41	0.00632836	0.00456657	0.291325	0.00421721	0.00329927	0.557531	0.00924255	0.00758736	0.0945032	0.0025849
hsa-miR-767-3p	41	0.00631048	0.00454869	0.262368	0.0032141	0.00229616	0.557531	0.00923093	0.00757574	0.0945032	0.0025849
hsa-miR-125b	41	0.00627439	0.0045126	0.257762	0.00311854	0.0022006	0.117155	0.00186686	0.00021167	-	-
hsa-miR-148a-star	41	0.00617785	0.00441606	0.26927	0.00334825	0.00243031	0.14749	0.0020314	0.00037621	-	-
hsa-miR-22-star	41	0.00587979	0.004118	0.262642	0.00321891	0.00230097	0.262552	0.00300819	0.001353	0.370547	0.0109704
hsa-miR-105	41	0.00562827	0.00386648	0.345479	0.00753004	0.0066121	0.229079	0.00266113	0.00100594	0.334839	0.00911686
hsa-miR-148b-star	41	0.0051244	0.00336261	0.372672	0.00962127	0.00870333	0.284519	0.00322655	0.00157136	0.137392	0.00312547
hsa-miR-940	41	0.00506045	0.00329866	0.323088	0.00612423	0.00520629	0.154812	0.00207447	0.00041928	0.0796099	0.00250983
		0.00483029	0.0030685	0.284898	0.00387921	0.00296127	0.229079	0.00265933	0.00100414	0.33211	0.00898683
		0.00457281	0.00281102	0.235143	0.00246284	0.0015449	-	-	-	0.337483	0.00923963
		0.0042113	0.00244951	0.232991	0.00241968	0.00150174	-	-	-	0.321646	0.0085615
		0.00416023	0.00239844	0.224496	0.00221349	0.00129555	0.456067	0.00664917	0.00499398	-	-
		0.00415102	0.00238923	0.232567	0.00241143	0.00149349	-	-	-	0.318609	0.00844625
		0.00414276	0.00238097	0.278228	0.00351234	0.0025944	0.293933	0.00332937	0.00167418	0.265988	0.00639538

Showing 1 to 20 of 317 entries

Previous Next



## Conclusions and Future work



# Conclusions

- **TaLasso** is a good alternative to find the outstanding miRNA – mRNA interactions using expression data and an initial set of putative interactions.
- **Normalization plays a major role:** the only difference between correlation and GenMir++ is whether the miRNAs are normalized or not.
- Focusing on **downregulation provides better results BUT...**
- ... **positive regulation seem to exist** and also provides sound biological results.
- A **proper combination of the scores** of the databases provides a meta database with better features than any of its constituents

- Integration of the scores of the meta-base in the prediction methods
  - Include a weight in the Lasso regression that is inversely proportional to the probability of being validated.
- Migrate the implementation from `RCplex` to `glmnet`
  - `Rcplex` installation is cumbersome.
  - The webpage will include several organisms
    - Now it only includes human.



# Acknowledgements



CEIT (Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones Técnicas de Guipúzcoa)



CNB (Centro Nacional de Biotecnología)



**Thanks for your attention. Questions?**

**21/03/2013**