

Exploring Transcriptomic data

1. Exploring RNA sequence data in *Plasmodium falciparum*.

Note: For this exercise use <http://www.plasmodb.org>

- a. Find all genes in *P. falciparum* that are up-regulated during the later stages of the intraerythrocytic cycle.
 - Hint: Use the fold change search for the data set “Transcriptome during intraerythrocytic development (Bartfai *et al.*)”. For this data set, synchronized Pf3D7 parasites were assayed by RNA-seq at 8 time-points during the iRBC cycle. We want to find genes that are up-regulated in the later time points (30, 35, 40 hours) using the early time points (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 hours) as reference.

The image shows a screenshot of the Plasmodb.org website interface. On the left, there is a sidebar titled "Identify Genes by:" with a list of categories including Text, IDs, Organism, Genomic Position, Gene Attributes, Protein Attributes, Protein Features, Similarity/Pattern, Transcript Expression, EST Evidence, SAGE Tag Evidence, Microarray Evidence, RNA Seq Evidence, and others. A red arrow points from the "RNA Seq Evidence" category in the sidebar to the main content area.

The main content area is titled "Identify Genes based on RNA Seq Evidence". It features a search bar, a legend for "FC Fold Change", "FCpV Fold Change...", and "P Percentile", and a table of data sets. The table lists several *P. falciparum* 3D7 data sets, with the first one, "Transcriptome during intraerythrocytic development (Bartfai et al.)", highlighted. A red circle highlights the "FC" button for this data set, and a red arrow points from this circle to the "Identify Genes based on P.f. post infection (RBC) RNA-seq time series (fold change)" section below.

The lower section, titled "Identify Genes based on P.f. post infection (RBC) RNA-seq time series (fold change)", contains a form for configuring the search. It includes a dropdown for the experiment ("Post-Infection (RBC) RNA-Seq time Series"), a dropdown for the gene type ("protein coding"), and a dropdown for the regulation type ("up or down regulated"). A "Fold change" field is set to "2". There are two sections for selecting time points: "Reference Samples" and "Comparison Samples", both with checkboxes for hours 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30. A "Get Answer" button is at the bottom.

On the right side of the lower section, there is a "Tutorial" link and an "Example showing one gene that would meet search criteria". Below this is a graph titled "Up or down regulated" showing "Expression" on the y-axis. The graph shows a horizontal line at a low expression level, indicating that the gene's expression is not changing significantly over time.

- Hint: there are a number of parameters to manipulate in this search. As you modify parameters on the left side note the dynamic help on the right side. See screenshots.
- **Direction:** the direction of change in expression. **Choose up-regulated.**
- **Fold Change >=:** the intensity of difference in expression needed before a gene is returned by the search. **Choose 12** but feel free to modify this.
- **Between each gene's AVERAGE expression value:** This parameter sets the operation applied to reference samples. Fold change is calculated as the ratio of two values (expression in reference)/(expression in comparison). When you choose multiple samples to serve as reference, we generate one number for the fold change calculation by using the minimum, maximum, or average. **Choose average**
- **Reference Sample:** the samples that will serve as the reference when comparing expression between samples. **choose 5, 10, 15, 20, 25**
- **And it's AVERAGE expression value:** This is the operation applied to comparison samples. see explanation above. **Choose average**
- **Comparison Sample:** the sample that you are comparing to the reference. In this case you are interested in genes that are up-regulated in later time points **choose 30, 35,**

Fold Change
Fold Change with pValue
Percentile

Identify Genes based on P.f. post infection (RBC) RNA-seq time series (fold change)

Tutorial

For the Experiment Post-Infection (RBC) RNA-Seq time Series ?

return protein coding Genes

that are up-regulated ?

with a Fold change >= 12 ?

between each gene's average expression value ?

in the following Reference Samples ?

Hour 5
 Hour 10
 Hour 15
 Hour 20
 Hour 25
 Hour 30
 Hour 35
 Hour 40
select all | clear all

and its average expression value ?

in the following Comparison Samples ?

Hour 15
 Hour 20
 Hour 25
 Hour 30
 Hour 35
 Hour 40
select all | clear all

Example showing one gene that would meet search criteria

(Dots represent this gene's expression values for selected samples)

A maximum of four samples are shown when more than four are selected.

You are searching for genes that are up-regulated between at least two reference samples and at least two comparison samples.

For each gene, the search calculates:

fold change = $\frac{\text{average expression value in comparison samples}}{\text{average expression value in reference samples}}$

and returns genes when fold change >= 12. To narrow the window, use the maximum reference value, or minimum comparison value. To broaden the window, use the minimum reference value, or maximum comparison value.

See the detailed help for this search.

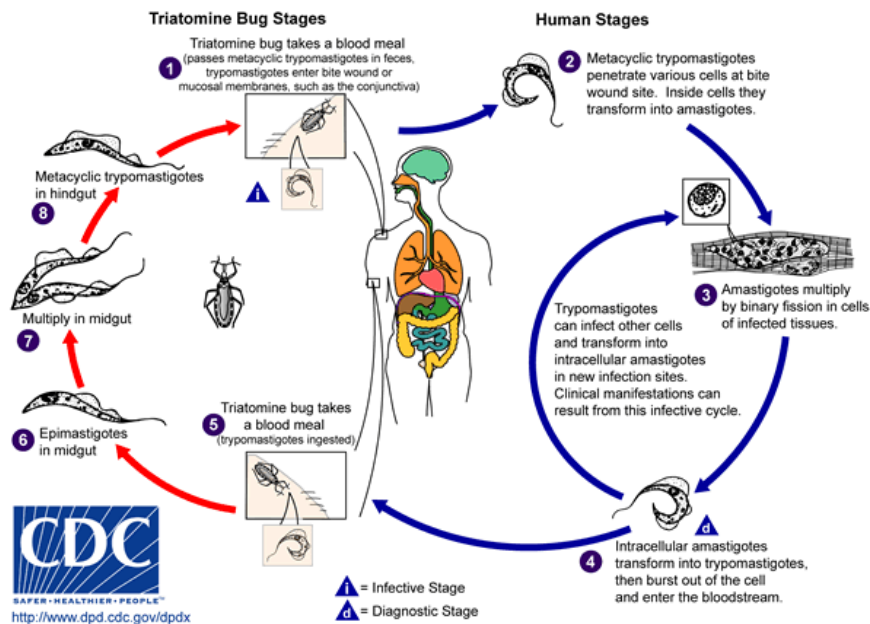
Get Answer

- b. For the genes returned by the search, how does the RNA-sequence data compare to microarray data?
- Hint: PlasmoDB contains data from a similar experiment that was analyzed by microarray instead of RNA sequencing. This experiment is called: Erythrocytic expression time series (3D7, DD2, HB3) (Bozdech et al. and Linas et al.). To directly compare the data for genes returned by the RNA seq search that you just ran, add the column called “Pf-iRBC 48hr - Graph”.

The screenshot displays the PlasmoDB interface for a search strategy named "P.f. RBC". The main results area shows 79 genes from Step 1. A "Select Columns" dialog box is open, allowing the user to choose data columns for the selected genes. The "Microarray" section is expanded, and the "Pf-iRBC 48hr - Graph" option is checked. Below the dialog, two graphs are shown for the gene PF3D7_0207600. The first graph, "Pf-RBC Infected RNASeq - Graph", shows the log2 expression of the gene over time (0 to 40 hours). The second graph, "Pf-iRBC 48hr - Graph", shows the log2 expression of the gene over time (0 to 50 hours) and also includes a fold change axis on the right y-axis. Red arrows indicate the flow of information from the search results to the column selection and then to the resulting graphs.

2. Exploring microarray data in TriTrypDB.

Note: For this exercise use <http://www.tritrypdb.org>



- a. Find *T. cruzi* protein coding genes that are upregulated in amastigotes compared to trypomastigotes. Go to the transcript expression section then select microarray. The experiment is called: Transcriptomes of Four Life-Cycle Stages (Minning et al.).

Fold Change | Percentile

Identify Genes based on *T. cruzi* CL Brener Esmeraldo-like Transcriptomes of Four Life-Cycle Stages Microarray (fold change)

Tutorial

For the Experiment
 Transcriptomes of Four Life-Cycle Stages tcrCLBrenerEsmeraldo-lik

return Genes
 that are
 with a Fold change ≥ 2.0

between each gene's expression value
 in the following **Reference Samples**

- amastigotes
- trypomastigotes
- epimastigotes
- metacyclics

select all | clear all

and its expression value
 in the following **Comparison Samples**

- amastigotes
- trypomastigotes
- epimastigotes
- metacyclics

select all | clear all

Advanced Parameters

Get Answer

Example showing one gene that would meet search criteria
 (Dots represent this gene's expression values for selected samples)

Up-regulated

Expression

Reference Samples | Comparison Samples

Comparison
2.0 fold
Reference

You are searching for genes that are up-regulated between one reference sample and one comparison sample.

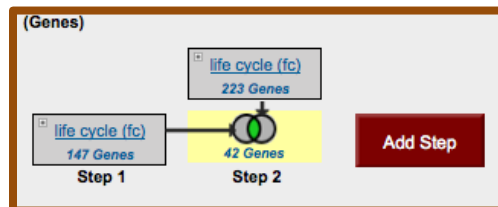
For each gene, the search calculates:

$$\text{fold change} = \frac{\text{comparison expression value}}{\text{reference expression value}}$$

and returns genes when fold change ≥ 2.0 .

See the detailed help for this search.

- Select the direction of regulation, your reference sample and your comparison sample. For the fold change keep the default value 2.
- How many genes did you find? Do the results seem plausible?
- Are any of these genes also up-regulated in the replicative insect stage (epimastigotes)? How can you find this out? (*Hint*: add a step and run a microarray search comparing expression of epimastigotes to metacyclics).
- Do these genes have orthologs in other kinetoplastids? (*Hint*: add a step and run an ortholog transform on your results).
- How many orthologs exist in *L. braziliensis*? (*Hint*: look at the filter table between the strategy panel and your result list. Click on the number in of gene to view results from a specific species). Explore your results. Did you find anything interesting?



My Strategies: [New](#) [Opened \(1\)](#) [All \(212\)](#) [Basket](#) [Public Strategies \(9\)](#) [Help](#)

(Genes) Strategy: Tc LifeCyc Marray (fc) *

Tc LifeCyc Marray 223 Genes
Tc LifeCyc Marray 147 Genes Step 1 → 42 Genes Step 2 → Orthologs 57 Genes Step 3

[Add Step](#) [Rename](#) [Duplicate](#) [Save As](#) [Share](#) [Delete](#)

57 Genes from Step 3
Strategy: Tc LifeCyc Marray (fc) [Add 57 Genes to Basket](#) | [Download 57 Genes](#)

Click on a number in this table to limit/filter your results

All Results	Ortholog Groups	Leishmania																
		Crithidia		Leishmania													T.congolense	
		C.fasciculata	L.braziliensis (nr Genes: 58)	L.donovani	L.infantum	L.major	L.mexicana	L.tarentolae	T.brucei (nr Genes: 39)	T.congolense								
1760	37	85	46	57	52	57	59	57	59	36	39	36	34	330				

Gene Results [Genome View](#) [Analyze Results](#) **BETA**

First 1 2 3 Next Last [Advanced Paging](#) [Add Columns](#)

Gene ID	Organism	Genomic Location	Product Description	Input Ortholog(s)	Ortholog Group	Paralog count	Ortholog count
LbrM.02.0350	<i>L. braziliensis</i> MHOM/BR/75/M2904	LbrM.02: 147,781 - 154,645 (-)	ABC1 transporter, putative	TcCLB.510149.80	OG5_126568	8	112
LbrM.11.0960	<i>L. braziliensis</i> MHOM/BR/75/M2904	LbrM.11: 438,107 - 444,425 (+)	ABC transporter, putative	TcCLB.510149.80	OG5_126568	8	112

3. Finding genes based on RNAseq evidence and inferring function of hypothetical genes.

Note: Use <http://plasmodb.org> for this exercise.

- a. Find all genes in *P. falciparum* that are up-regulated at least 50-fold in ookinetes compared to other stages: “Transcriptomes of 7 sexual and asexual life stages (Lopez-Barragan et al.)”. For this search select “average” for the operation applied on the reference samples.

Revise Step 1 : P falciparum 3D7 Transcriptomes of 7 sexual and asexual life stages RNASeq (fold change)

For the Experiment
 Transcriptomes of 7 sexual and asexual life stages P. falciparum Su Seven Sta

return protein coding Genes
 that are up-regulated
 with a Fold change >= 50
 between each gene's average expression value
 in the following Reference Samples

- Ring
- Early Trophozoite
- Late Trophozoite
- Schizont
- Gametocyte II
- Gametocyte III
- Gametocyte IV
- Ookinete

and its expression value
 in the following Comparison Samples

- Late Trophozoite
- Schizont
- Gametocyte II
- Gametocyte V
- Ookinete

Global min / max in selected time points Don't care

Advanced Parameters

Example showing one gene that would meet search criteria
 (Dots represent this gene's expression values for selected samples)

A maximum of four samples are shown when more than four are selected.
 You are searching for genes that are up-regulated between at least two reference samples and one comparison sample.

For each gene, the search calculates:

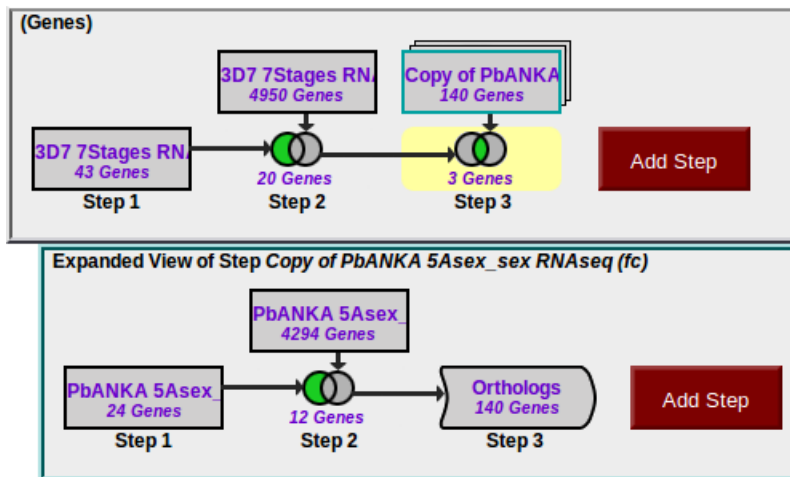
$$\text{fold change} = \frac{\text{comparison expression value}}{\text{average expression value in reference samples}}$$
 and returns genes when fold change >= 50. To narrow the window, use the maximum reference value. To broaden the window, use the minimum reference value.
 See the detailed help for this search.

- b. The above search will give you all genes that are up-regulated by 50 fold in ookinetes compared to the other stages. However, this does not mean that these genes are not expressed well in the other stages. How can you remove genes from the list that are likely not expressed in the other stages?
- Hint: run a search for genes based on RNAseq evidence from the same experiment, but this time select the percentile search: P.f. seven stages - RNA Seq (percentile)). What minimal percentile values should you choose? Try different values - for example, 40 (minimum) and 100(maximum).

- c. Which metabolic pathways are represented in this gene list? (*Hint: add a step and transform results to pathways*).

Pathway Id	Pathway	Source	No. of Enzymes	Total Pathway Enzymes	Total Pathway Compounds	Map - Painted With Transformed Genes (new window)
ec00230	Purine metabolism	ec00230	1	177	100	Pathway Map
ec00231	Puromycin biosynthesis	ec00231	1	7	10	Pathway Map
ec00240	Pyrimidine metabolism	ec00240	1	114	73	Pathway Map
ec00563	Glycosylphosphatidylinositol(GPI)-anchor biosynthesis	ec00563	1	9	15	Pathway Map
ec00983	Drug metabolism - other enzymes	ec00983	1	31	32	Pathway Map

- d. What happens if you revise the first step and modify the fold difference to a lower value - 10 for example?
- e. PlasmoDB also has an experiment examining gene expression during sexual development in *Plasmodium berghei* (rodent malaria). Can you determine if there are genes that are up-regulated in both human and rodent ookinetes (compared to all other stages)? *Hint: start by deleting the last step you added in this exercise (transform to pathways)*. To do this click on edit then delete in the popup. Next add steps for the *P. berghei* experiments "P berghei ANKA 5 asexual and sexual stage transcriptomes RNASeq". Note that you will have to use a nested strategy or by running a separate strategy then combining both strategies.



4. Find genes that are essential in procyclics but not in blood form *T. brucei*. Note: for this exercise use <http://TriTrypDB.org>.

- Find the query for High Throughput Phenotyping. Think about how to set up this query (*Hint*: you will have to set up a two-step strategy). Remember you can play around with the parameters but there is no one correct way of setting them up – try the default parameters first and select the “induced procyclics” as the comparison sample.

- Next add a step and run the same search except this time select the “induced bloodstream form” samples.
- How did you combine the results? Remember you want to find genes that are essential in procyclics and not in blood form.

(Genes)

T.b. RNAi fc
1612 Genes
Step 1

Add Step

(Genes)

T.b. RNAi fc
1612 Genes
Step 1

T.b. RNAi fc
2619 Genes
Step 2

Add Step

Add Step

Add Step 2 : High-Throughput Phenotyping

Experiment Quantitated from the CDS Sequence
 Quantitated from gene model (5 prime UTR + CDS)

Direction

Reference Sample(s) Uninduced sample

Comparison Sample(s) Induced bloodstream form (day 3)
 Induced bloodstream form (day 6)
 Induced procyclics
 DIF (induced throughout growth) form¹
[select all](#) | [clear all](#)

fold difference

P value less than or equal to

Apply to Any or All Selected Samples?

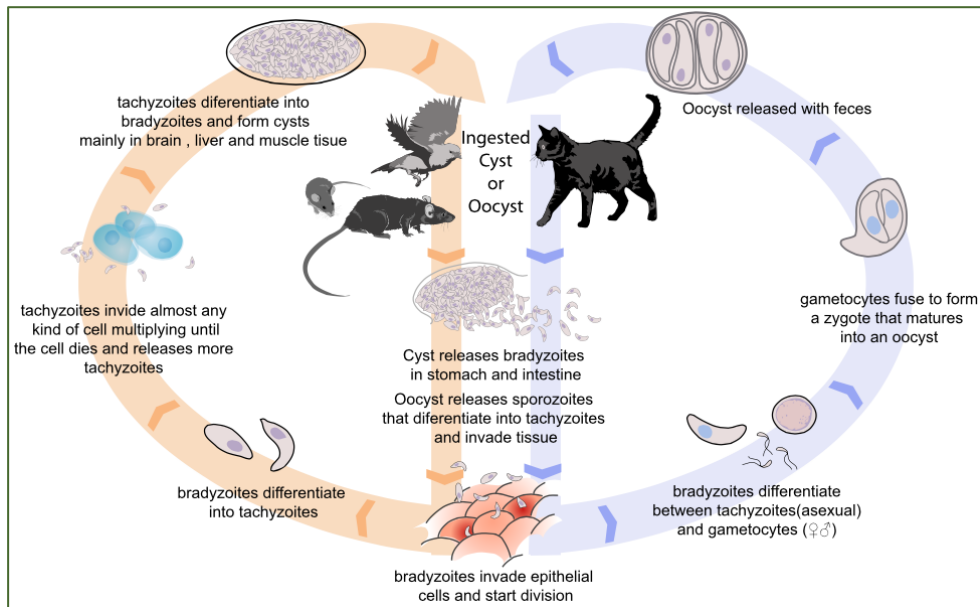
Protein Coding Only:

Combine Genes in Step 1 with Genes in Step 2:

1 Intersect 2 1 Minus 2
 1 Union 2 2 Minus 1
 1 Relative to 2, using genomic colocation

Run Step

5. Finding oocyst expressed genes in *T. gondii* based on microarray evidence.
Note: For this exercise use <http://toxodb.org>



- a. Find genes that are expressed at 10 fold higher levels in one of the oocyst stages than in any other stage in the "Oocyst, tachyzoite, and bradyzoite developmental expression profiles (M4) (John Boothroyd)" microarray experiment.

Identify Genes by:

Expand All | Collapse All

- Text, IDs, Organism
- Genomic Position
- Gene Attributes
- Protein Attributes
- Protein Features
- Similarity/Pattern
- Transcript Expression
- EST Evidence
- SAGE Tag Evidence
- Microarray Evidence
- RNA Seq Evidence
- ChIP ChIP Evidence
- Protein Expression
- Cellular Location
- Putative Function

Identify Genes based on Microarray Evidence

Filter Data Sets: Legend: FC Fold Chan... FCC Fold Chan... P Percentile S Similarity

Organism	Data Set	Choose a search
T. gondii ME49	Differential Expression Profiling GCN5-A mutant (William Sullivan)	FC FCC P
T. gondii ME49	Bradyzoite Differentiation (Multiple 6-hr time points and Extended time series) (Paul H. Davis)	FC P
T. gondii ME49	Expression profiling of the 3 archetypal lineages (David S. Roos)	FCC P
T. gondii ME49	Transcript Profiling infection (Vern B. Carruthers)	FC FCC P
T. gondii ME49	Mutants and wild-type during bradyzoite differentiation in vitro (Mariana Matrajt)	FC FCC P
T. gondii ME49	Bradyzoite Differentiation (Single Time-Point) (Michael W White)	P
T. gondii ME49	Cell Cycle Expression Profiles (Michael W White)	FC P S
T. gondii ME49	Expression Profiling of oocyst, tachyzoite, and bradyzoite development in strain M4 (John Boothroyd)	FC P

Identify Genes based on T.g. Life Cycle Stages (fold change) Tutorial

For the Experiment Oocyst, Tachyzoite and Bradyzoite Development

return protein coding Genes

that are up-regulated

with a Fold change \geq 10

between each gene's maximum expression value

in the following Reference Samples

unsporulated
 4 days sporulated
 10 days sporulated
 2 days in vitro
 4 days in vitro
 8 days in vitro
 21 days in vivo
select all | clear all

and its maximum expression value

in the following Comparison Samples

unsporulated
 4 days sporulated
 10 days sporulated
 2 days in vitro
 4 days in vitro
 8 days in vitro
 21 days in vivo
select all | clear all

Example showing one gene that would meet search criteria
(Dots represent this gene's expression values for selected samples)

You are searching for genes that are up-regulated between at least two reference samples and at least two comparison samples.

For each gene, the search calculates:

$$\text{fold change} = \frac{\text{maximum expression value in comparison samples}}{\text{maximum expression value in reference samples}}$$

and returns genes when fold change \geq 10. To narrow the window, use the average or minimum comparison value. To broaden the window, use the average or minimum reference value.

See the detailed help for this search.

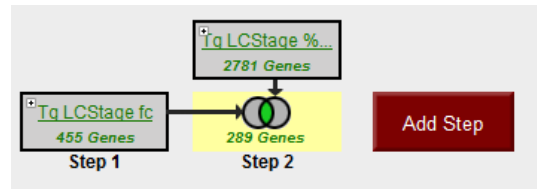
Advanced Parameters

Get Answer

In this example the maximum expression value between genes in the reference and comparison groups was used to determine the fold difference.

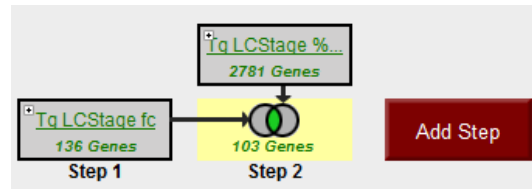
- b. Add a step to limit this set of genes to only those for which all the non-oocyst stages are expressed below 50th percentile ... ie likely not expressed at those stages. (*Hint: after you click on add step find the same experiment under microarray expression and chose the percentile search*).
- Select the 4 **non-oocyst** samples.
 - We want all to have less than 50th percentile so set *minimum percentile* to 0 and *maximum percentile* to 50.

- Since we want all of them to be in this range, choose **ALL** in the “*Matches Any or All Selected Samples*”.
- Note: you can turn on the columns called “Tg-M4 Life Cycle Stages – graph” and “Tg-M4 Life Cycle Stage %ile- graph” (inside the “Tg-Life Cycle” Microarray) to view the graphs in the final result table.



c. Revise the first step of this strategy and compare the maximum expression of the reference samples to the minimum of the comparison samples.

- Does this result look cleaner/more convincing? Why?
- Would you consider these genes to be oocyst specific?



Save this strategy so that you can use it for an exercise we are doing later during the course.

d. Revise the first step of this strategy to find genes that are 3 fold higher in day 4 oocysts than any other life cycle stage in this experiment.

- Do all these genes have day 4 oocysts as the global maximum time point?
- Note that we still have the step to limit the percentile of non-oocyst samples to $\leq 50^{\text{th}}$ percentile. What happens if you revise this step to also include the unsporulated and day 10 oocyst samples in this percentile range? Do you get more of fewer results back? Why?

My Strategies: Now | Opened (1) | All (1) | Basket | Examples | Help

Strategy: *Tg LCStage fc**

Step 1: Tg LCStage fc (67 Genes) → Step 2: Tg LCStage %ile (4 Genes) [Add Step]

4 Genes from Step 2 Strategy: *Tg LCStage fc* [Add 4 Genes to Basket | Download 4 Genes]

Filter by organism or strain (results removed by the filter will not be combined into the next step.)
 Filter by strains (advanced) (results removed by the filter will not be combined into the next step.)

Gene ID	Gene Group (representative gene)	Genomic Location	Product Description	Tg-M4 Life Cycle Stages - graph	Tg-M4 Life Cycle Stage %ile- graph
TGME49_258800	TGGT1_258800	TGME49_chrVIIb: 3,177,133 - 3,178,728 (+)	rhoptyr kinase family protein ROP31 (ROP31)	[Bar chart showing expression levels across stages]	[Bar chart showing percentile expression across stages]
TGME49_233300	TGGT1_233300	TGME49_chrVIII: 2,569,523 - 2,577,098 (-)	RhoGAP domain-containing protein	[Bar chart showing expression levels across stages]	[Bar chart showing percentile expression across stages]

6. Comparing RNA abundance and Protein abundance data.

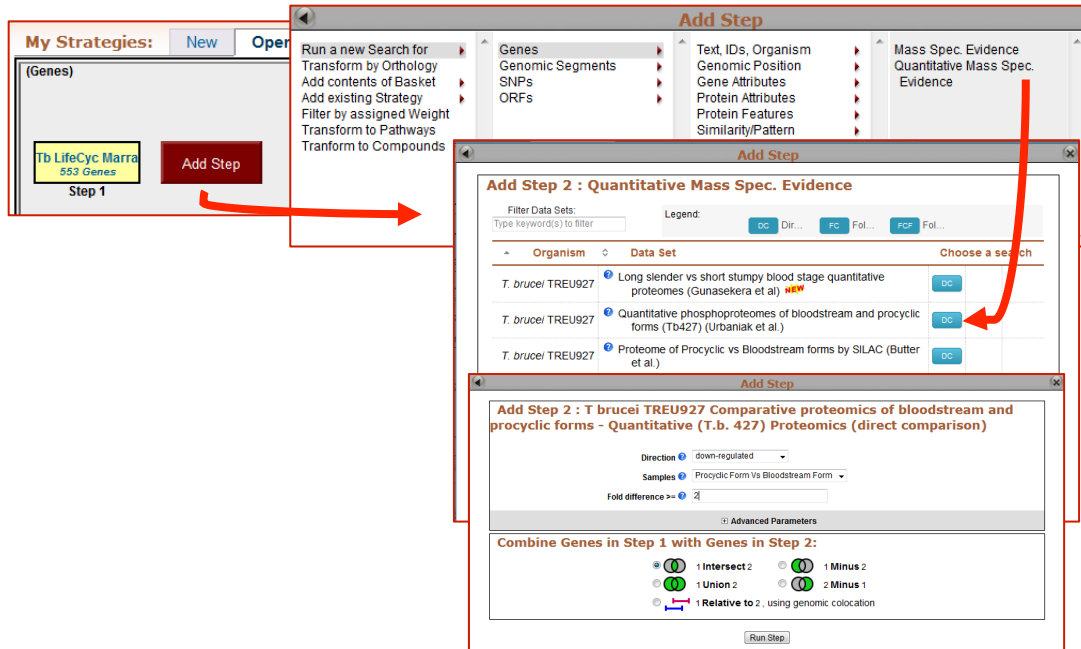
Note: for this exercise use <http://TriTrypDB.org>.

In this exercise we will compare the list of genes that show differential RNA abundance levels between procyclic and blood form stages in *T. brucei* with the list of genes that show differential protein abundance in these same stages.

- a. Find genes that are down-regulated 2-fold in procyclic form cells. Go to the search page for Genes by Microarray Evidence and select the fold change search for the “Expression profiling of five life cycle stages (Marilyn Parsons)” experiment and configure the search to return protein-coding genes that are down-regulated 2 fold in procyclic form (PCF) relative to the Blood Form reference sample. Since there are two PCF samples, it is reasonable to choose both and average them.

The screenshot shows the 'Identify Genes based on Microarray Evidence' search page. On the left, a sidebar titled 'Identify Genes by:' lists various evidence types, with 'Microarray Evidence' highlighted in a red box. An arrow points from this box to the main search area. The main area is titled 'Identify Genes based on Microarray Evidence' and includes a legend for 'Direct Comparison', 'Fold Change', and 'Percentile'. Below the legend, there is a table of data sets with columns for 'Organism', 'Data Set', and 'Choose a search'. The 'T. brucei TREU927' data set is selected. The search criteria are configured as follows: 'For the Experiment' is 'Expression profiling of five life cycle stages', 'with a fold change >= 2', 'between each gene's [Average] expression value in the following [Reference Samples]', and 'and in [Average] expression value in the following [Comparison Samples]'. The 'Reference Samples' list includes 'Blood Form', 'Bender', 'Blumpy', 'PCF Log', and 'PCF Stat'. The 'Comparison Samples' list includes 'Blood Form', 'Bender', 'Blumpy', 'PCF Log', and 'PCF Stat'. A graph on the right shows a scatter plot of 'Expression' vs. 'Reference Samples' and 'Comparison Samples', with a vertical line at 'Average Reference' and a horizontal line at 'Average Comparison'. A red dot indicates a gene that is down-regulated 2-fold. Below the graph, text explains the search criteria: 'You are searching for genes that are down-regulated between at least two reference samples and at least two comparison samples. For each gene, the search calculates: fold change = (average expression value in reference samples) / (average expression value in comparison samples) and returns genes when fold change >= 2. To narrow the window, use the average reference value, minimum comparison value, maximum reference value, or minimum comparison value. See the obtained help for this search.' At the bottom, there are options for 'Protein Coding Only' and 'Advanced Parameters'.

- b. Add a step to compare with quantitative protein expression. Select protein expression then “Quantitative Mass Spec Evidence” and the "Quantitative phosphoproteomes of bloodstream and procyclic forms (Tb427) (Urbaniak et al.)" experiment. Configure this search to return genes that are down-regulated in procyclic form relative to blood form.



- c. How many genes are in the intersection? Does this make sense? Make certain that you set the directions correctly.
- d. Try changing directions and compare up-regulated genes/proteins. (*Hint*: revise the existing strategy ... you might want to duplicate it so you can keep both). When you change one of the steps but not the other do you have any genes in the intersection? Why might this be?
- e. Can you think of ways to provide more confidence (or cast a broader net) in the microarray step? (*Hint*: you could insert steps to restrict based on percentile or add a RNA Sequencing step that has the same samples).