

## Introduction and Motivation

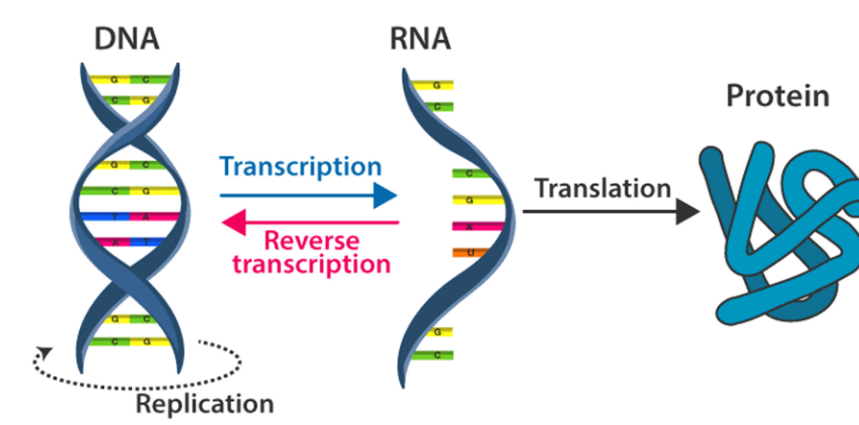
NASA GeneLab Data Repository



### Why Gene Data?

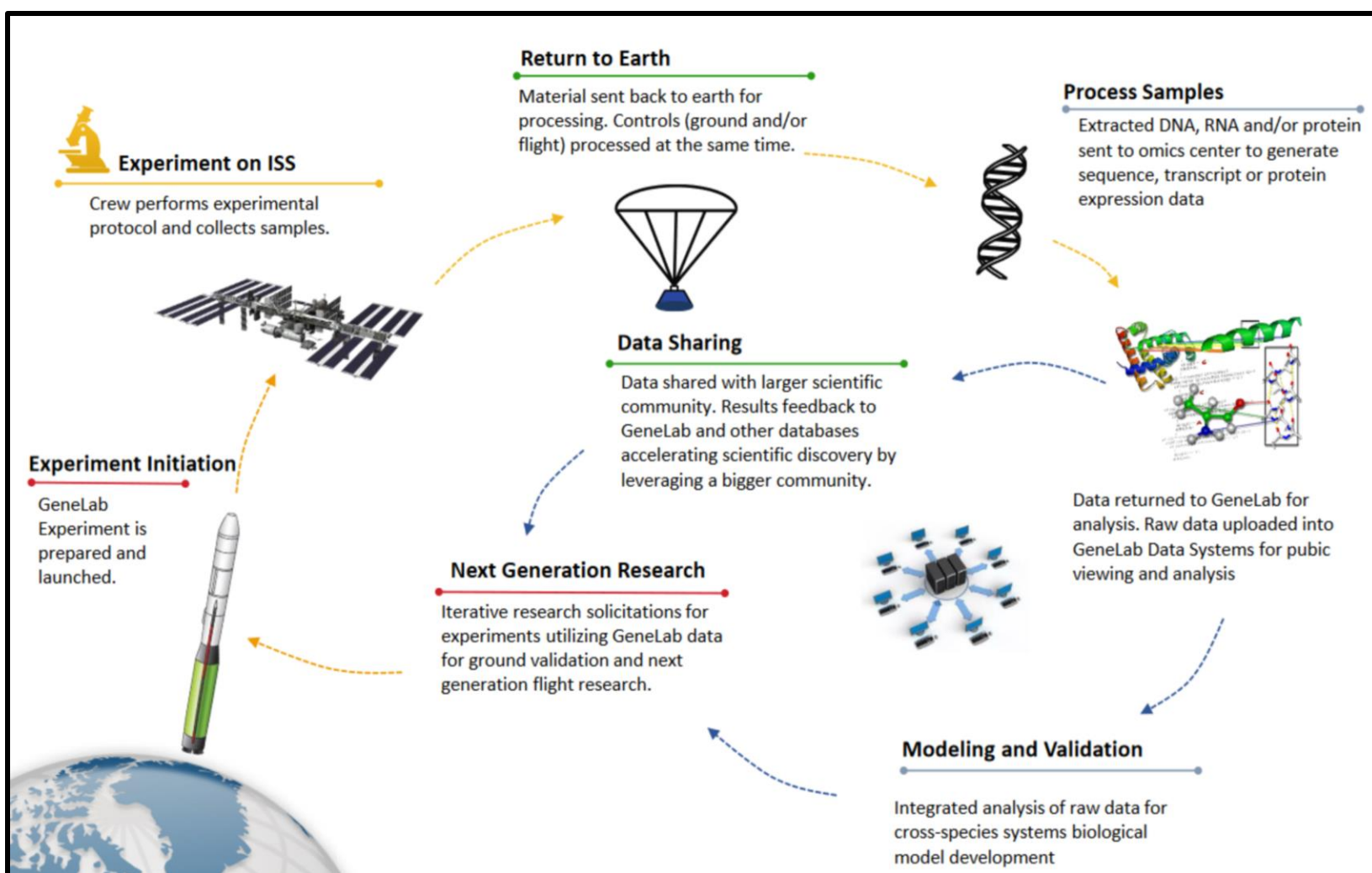
- Genes are the fundamental building blocks of life.
- Genes -> mRNA -> Proteins

CENTRAL DOGMA: DNA TO RNA TO PROTEIN



### Why experiments in space matter?

- Long-term space exploration and Habitation
- Diseases are accelerated in space. Studying their molecular underpinnings improves life on earth.
- Innovation on Earth: Challenging fundamental assumptions opens a new perspective.



Microgravity Radiation Genetics Analytics

## Research Methodology



Pre-Processing (Spring 2023)  
Fastq -> Normalized counts

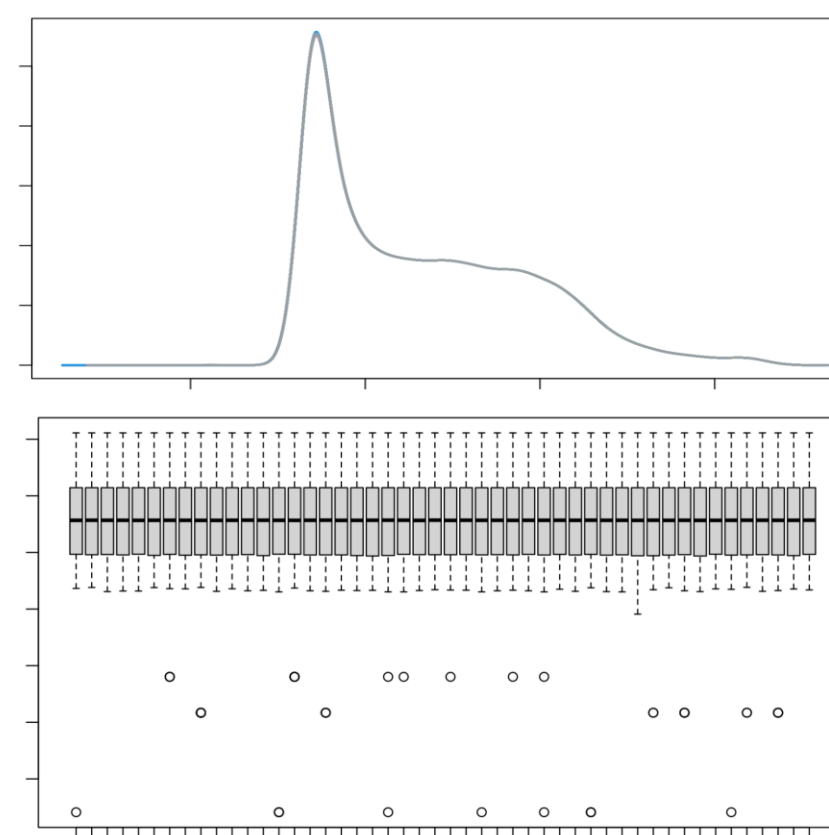
Pathway Analysis (Fall 2022)

Data Processing (Fall 2022)

Meta Analysis & Network Analysis (Spring 2023)

- Relevant datasets of samples in space and those in ground control, 1G or vivarium control are compared.
- Gene expression counts are then processed and normalized. The statistically significant differences are visualized.
- The differences are then mapped to relevant biological pathways in the organism and it confirms or disproves the hypothesis
- Finally, multiple differences clubbed together present the overall picture for conclusion

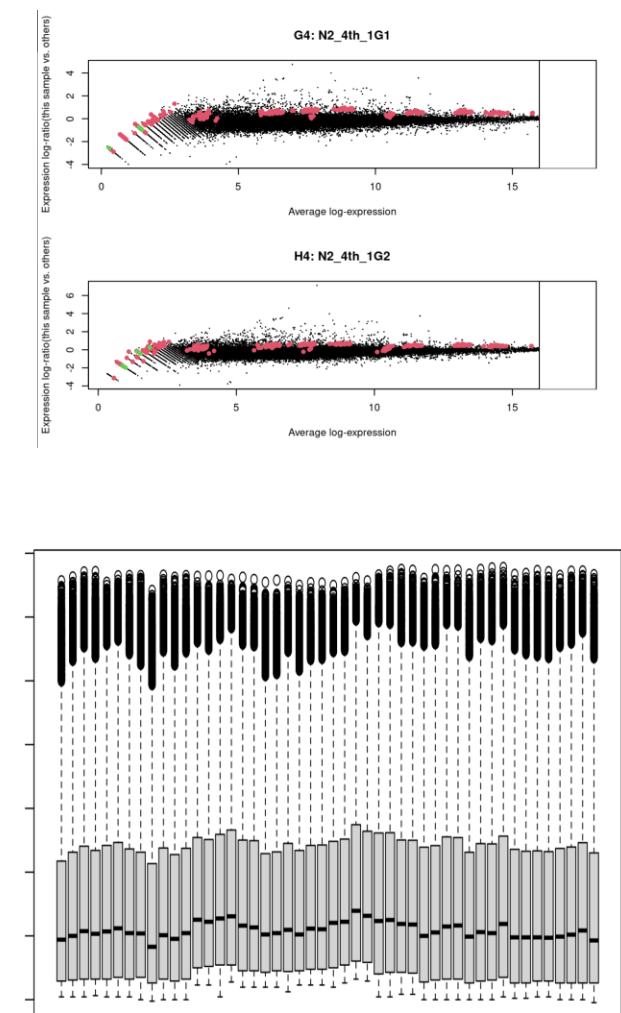
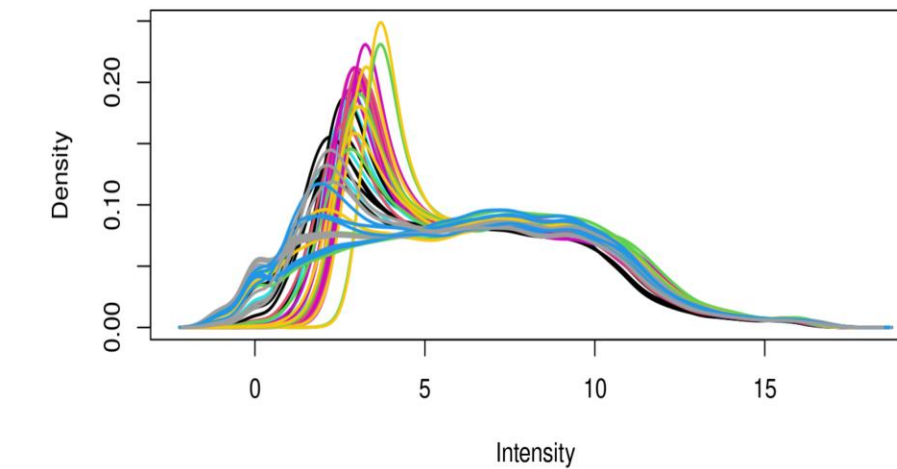
## Normalized Data



## Data Visualization

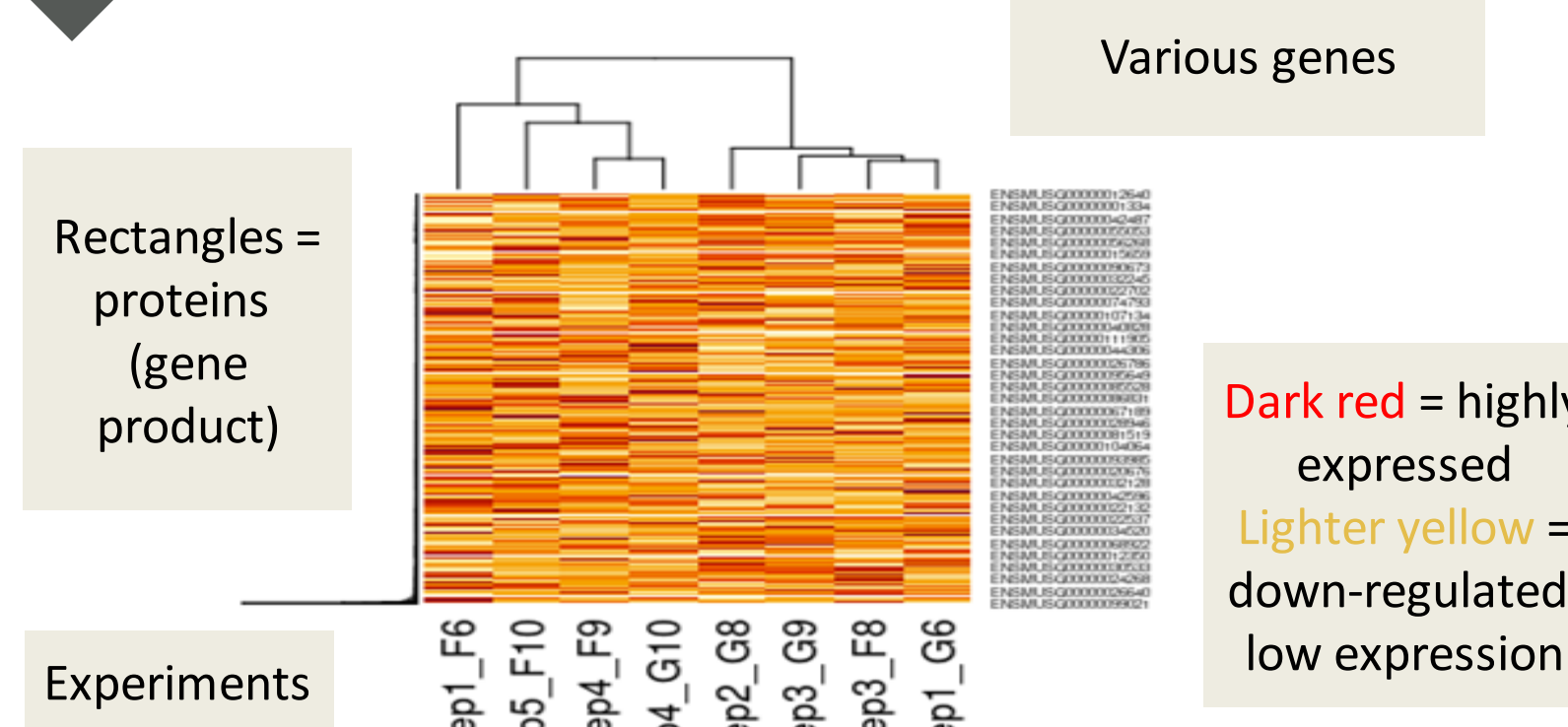


## Raw Data



## Differential Gene Expression

### Heatmap

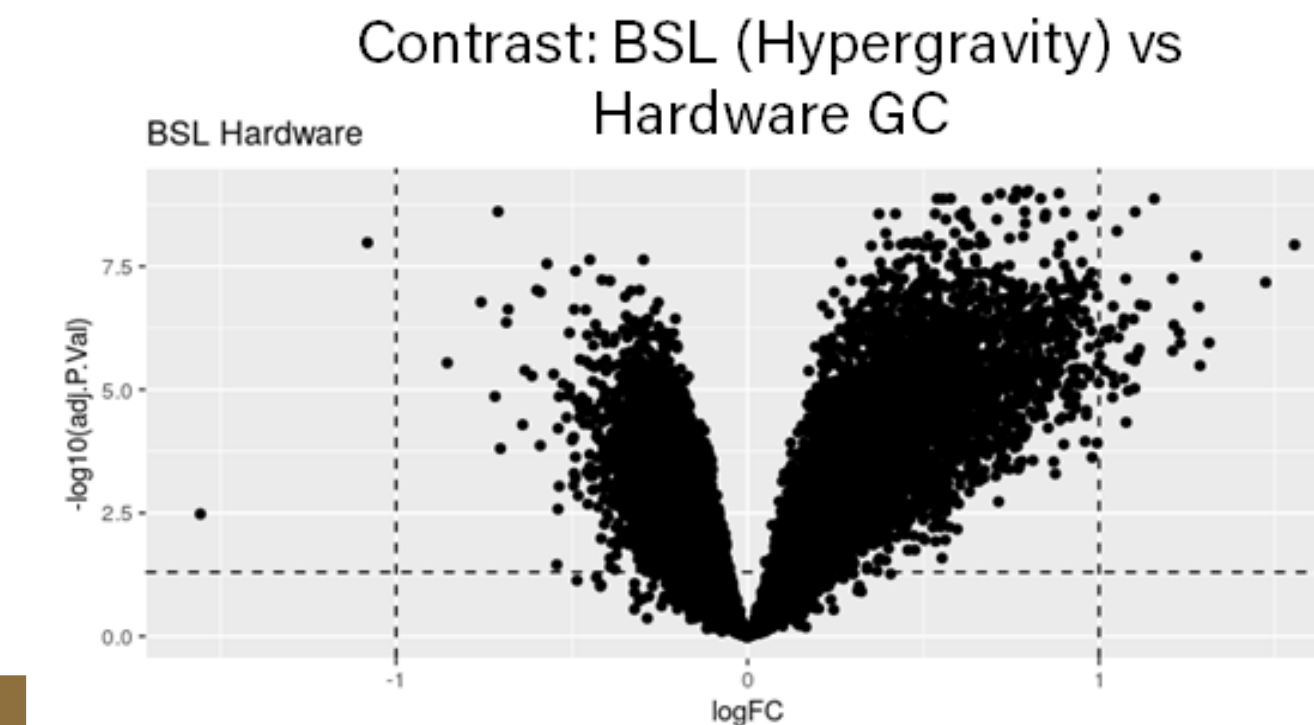


Various genes

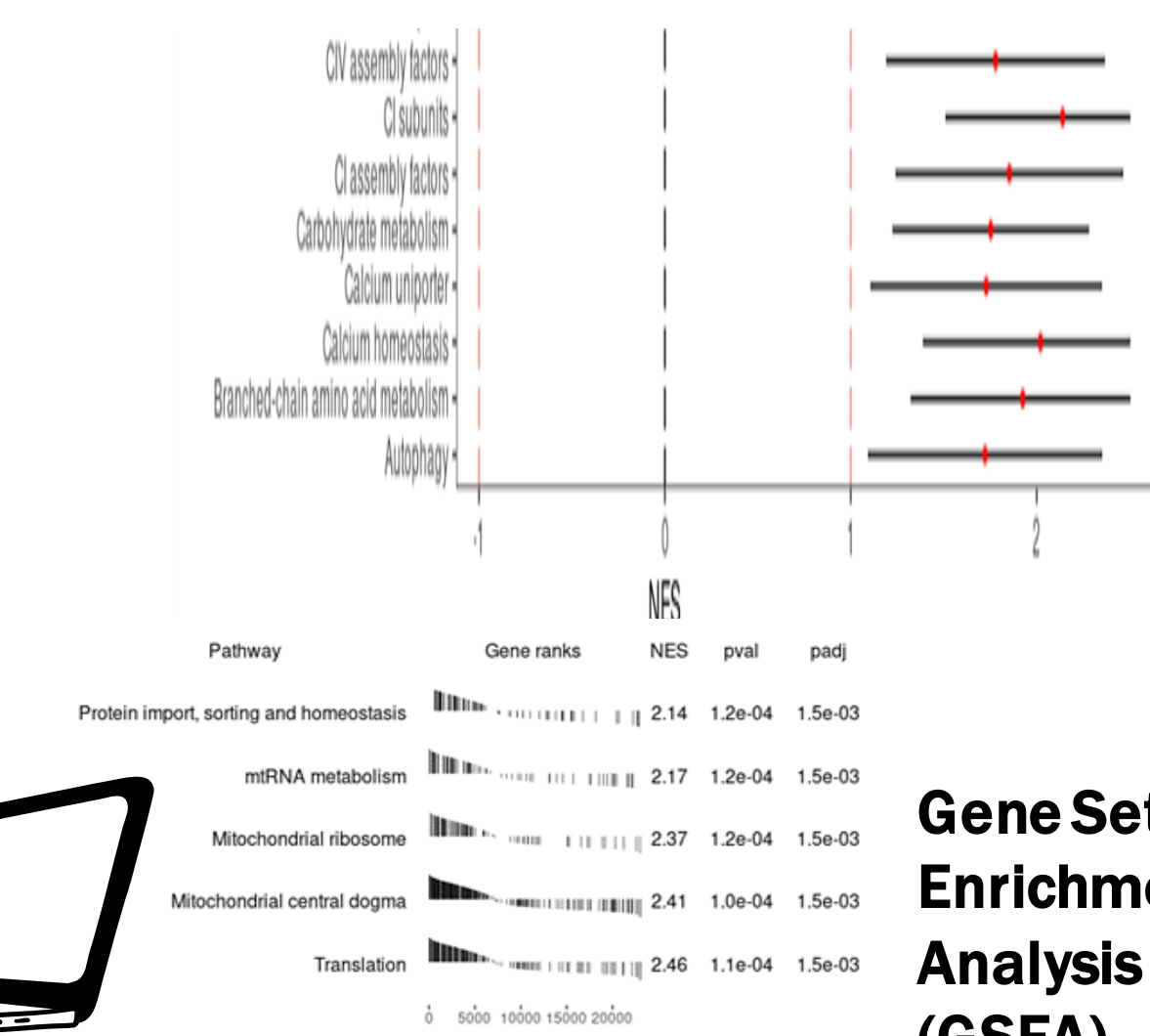
Rectangles = proteins (gene product)

Dark red = highly expressed  
Lighter yellow = down-regulated, low expression

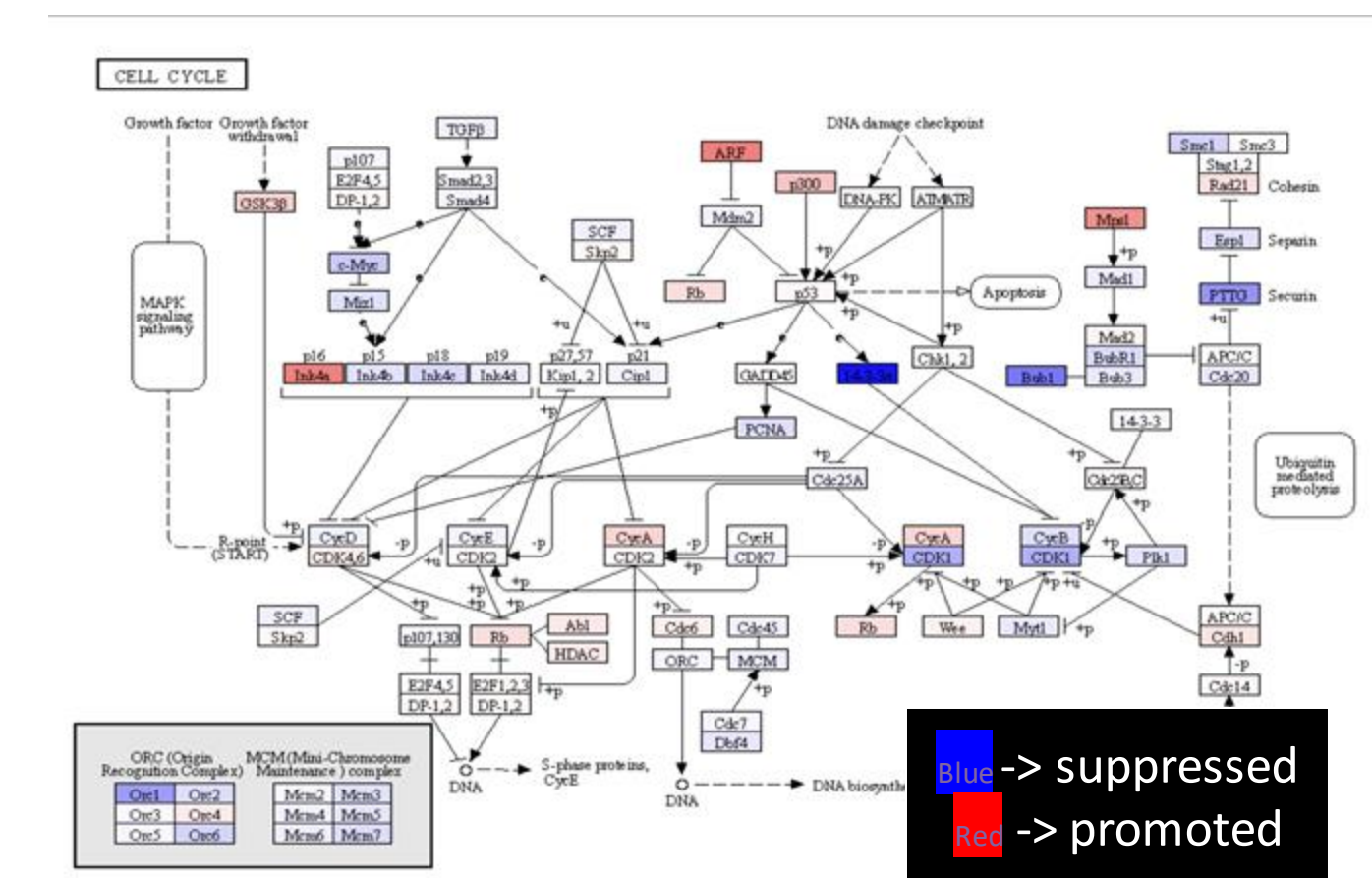
## Volcano Plots



## Pathway Analysis



Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA)



KEGG Pathway Analysis

## References and Acknowledgement

We'd like to thank our partners at the Bioinformatics Lab (University of Nevada, Reno); Dr. Marshall Porterfield and Dr. Marshall Tabetah (Purdue University) and the Purdue Data Mine team for their inputs during the project

1. Overbey, E. G., Saravia-Butler, A. M., Zhang, Z., Rathi, K. S., Fogle, H., da Silveira, W. A., ... & Galazka, J. M. (2021). NASA GeneLab RNA-seq consensus pipeline: standardized processing of short-read RNA-seq data. *Science*, 24(4), 102361.
2. Thompson, T., Gibbs, K., Rask, J., Coughlan, J., & Smith, J. (2014). *NASA GeneLab Concept of Operations* (No. ARC-E-DAA-TN18494).
3. <https://genelab.nasa.gov/about>

## Project Recap

### What Did We Learn?

- ✓ Relevant tools to draw relevant conclusions from unprocessed data
- ✓ Different methods of visualizing differential gene expression data
- ✓ Statistical and pathway analysis for differential gene expression in R
- ✓ Understanding of the mechanism of obtaining gene expression data from biological samples

### Future Goals

- Continue to process new data being added to the GeneLab repository
- Formulate new hypotheses with the relevant data for deeper understanding
- Development of professional relationships with GeneLab project groups