## Identification of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Markers in Tumor Invasion using Logic-based Modeling

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- The systems biology approach to complex diseases
- Biological question
- Workflow for identification diagnostic and therapeutic markers
  - Construction and analysis of E2F1 map
  - Identifcation of tumor specific core-regulatory network(s)
  - Dynamical analysis of core-regulatory network(s)
    - Stimulus response behavior
    - Perturbation analysis
  - Experimental and patient data validation of model predictions

## **The Systems Biology Approach**





Khan et al. Systems Biology, Methods Molecular Biology, 1702 (2017); ISBN: 978-1-4939-7455-9





- Malignant tumors and metastasis are frequently resistant to chemotherapy.
- Therapy-induced resistance will result in recurrence and further disease progression.
- The transcription factor E2F1 has recently been identified as a key regulator in tumor invasiveness and metastasis by switching duties during carcinogenesis.

## Hallmarks of cancer: Deregulation of the RB/E2F pathway















**Breast Cancer** 





#### **E2F1 promotes tumor progression**



#### Cell migration and invasion



#### Tumor angiogenesis and metastasis





Engelmann et al., J. Mol. Cell Biol. 2014



- Which gene signatures promote the malignant phenotype?
- What the possible therapeutic candidates that can render invasive phenotype to non-invasive
- What are the mechanisms underlying E2F1 mediated drug resistance?

Workflow





#### **Construction of modularized map of E2F1 in tumor progression**



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- Network characterization therough topological properties (e.g., node degree (ND) and betweenness centrality (BC)) which provide useful information regading the network archetecture<sup>1</sup>.
- Node degree is the number of edges connected to a node, and
- Betweennecess centrality is the number of shortest paths from all nodes to all others that pass through that node.



- 1. Barabasi et al., Nature reviews genetics. 2004 Feb;5(2):101.
- 2. He et al., PLoS genetics. 2006 Jun 2;2(6):e88.
- 3. Jeong et al., Nature. 2001 May;411(6833):41.

Tool used: Cytoscape plugin NetworkAnalyzer



- Biological networks are enriched in recurring structural patterns called network motifs including feedback/feedforward loops<sup>1</sup>.
- They induce non-intuitive behavior and play a crucial role in system dynamics<sup>1,2</sup>.



Tool used: Cytoscape plugin NetDS

- 1. Alon U. Nature Reviews Genetics. 2007 Jun;8(6):450.
- 2. Yeger-Lotem et al., PNAS genetics. 2004 Apr 20;101(16):5934-9.

## **Integrative workflow**



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#### Identification of the regulatory core: Motifs ranking



### Identification of a regulatory core from the large network









#### Breast cancer





- Stimulus response behavior
- Perturbation analysis



- Large logic-based models are easier to analyze, compared to large systems of differential equations.
- Best choice when detailed quantitative information is not available
- Boolean models are simplest logical modeling approach



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## Logic-based model of bladder cancer

**Bladder** cancer



#### CXCR1 EGFR TGFBR1 E2F1 FGFR1 RARA EGFR THRB IL1R1 E2F1 TGFBR2 RARA HMMR + \* SMAD2 SMAD4 TRAF1 \* \* MYC SP1 BIRC2 FN1 ZEB1 ►SMAD3 **\*\*** ++ \*\* \*\*\* CDKN2A RB1 AKT1 BIRC3 FLT4 KPNA2 SNAI1 ➤ SP1 The models are calibrated with data to recapitulate SNAI2 **TP53** the biological process as good as possible. mir\_17\_5p mir 200b 3p → AXIN2 NCOA3 FOXA1 mir\_205\_5p MDM2 BCL2 SIRT1 SFN CDH1 AKT1 < FOXO3 mir\_205\_5p BCL2 GSK3B SIRT1 + mir\_25\_3p CTNNB1 NFKB1 CTNNB1 NFKBIA LEF1 ++ SRC TWIST1 \*\* \*\* ↓ ↓ FOXO3 AXIN2 SRC SNAI2 TWIST1 LEF1 SNAI1 CHUK EMT EMT

#### Breast cancer

#### Tool used:

- ProMoT for model development; S.Mirschel et al. 2009
- yEd for graphical visualization
- CellNetAnalyzer for model simulation ; Klamt et al. 2007

BLADDER CANCER											
E2F1	TGI	BR1		FGFR1	EGFR	R CX		CR1		RARA	EMT
0		0		0	0/1		0/1		0/1		0
0	0		1		0/1		0/1		0/1		1
0	1		0		0/1		0/1		0/1		1
0	1			1	0/1		0/1		0/1		2
1		0	0		0/1		0	0/1		0/1	1
1		0		1	0/1		0/1		0/1		2
1		1	0		0/1		0/1		0/1		2
1	1 1		1		0/1		0/1		0/1		3
BREAST	BREAST CANCER										
E2F1	TGFBR	EGF	R	HMMR	VEGF	Т	HRB	IL1R	81	RARA	EMT
0	0	0		0/1	0/1		0/1	0/1		0/1	0
0	0	1		0/1	0/1		0/1	0/1		0/1	1
0	1	0		0/1	0/1		0/1	0/1		0/1	1
0	1	1		0/1	0/1	0/1		0/1		0/1	2
1	0	0		0/1	0/1		0/1	0/1		0/1	1
1	0	1		0/1	0/1	0/1		0/1		0/1	2
1	1	0		0/1	0/1		0/1	0/1		0/1	2
1	1	1		0/1	0/1		0/1 0/1			0/1	3

Khan et al., 2017, Nature comm. doi:10.1038/s41467-017-00268-2

#### **EMT Phenotype**

0	Non invasive
1	Less invasive
2	Moderately invasive
3	Highly invasive





- Our simulation results suggest that
- When E2F1, TGFBR1 and FGFR1 are simultaneously active bladder cancer cells become highly invasive (*EMT = 3*).
- 2. A similar effect was observed in breast cancer when E2F1, TGFBR2 and EGFR are simultaneously active.

## **Model Validation**



#### bladder cancer patients



#### breast cancer patients



# **Classification of patients based on proposed vs. random signatures**



Random signatures

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## Invasive cell lines



## In silico perturbation for drug targets

(a) Bladder cancer											
Sigature			Double <i>in silico</i> perturbations in regulatory layer								
E2F1	TGFBR1	FGFR1	ZEB1	TWIST1	SNAI1	NFKB1	SMAD2,3,4	CDH1	EMT		
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3		
1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1		
1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1		
1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1		
1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1		
1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1		
1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1		
(b) Breast cancer											
Sigature Double <i>in silico</i> perturbations in regulato						regulatory	layer		Output		
E2F1	TGFBR2	EGFR	SRC	FN1	SNAI1	SNAI2	CDH1		ЕМТ		
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		3		
1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		1		
1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0		1		
1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1		1		
1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1		1		
1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1		1		
1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1		1		
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1		1		
1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0		1		
1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0		1		

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## **Model driven experimentation**







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