

# *Characterizing the role of miRNAs within gene regulatory networks using integrative genomics techniques*



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# Background:

## ◆ miRNAs: 内源性的单链小分子RNA片段 (~22nt)

- ◆ 在多物种间参与多种途径的调节途径;
- ◆ 据预测, 人类约1/3基因受miRNAs调控;
- ◆ miRNAs的调控机理复杂;

当前认为的调控机制:

组装由RNA诱导的沉默复合体, 通过碱基互补配对的方式识别靶mRNA, 并根据互补程度的不同指导沉默复合体降解靶mRNA或者阻遏靶mRNA的翻译。

预测miRNA潜在的靶标: 假阳性 (~22-39%) ; 假阴性 (~35-52%)



# **Purpose:**

*Explore the association between  
miRNAs and their target mRNAs using  
an integrative genomics approach.*



## Methods:

- Integrative genomics and genetic approaches
- eQTL:expression QTL

作者Schadt在03年于鼠的肝组织中检测23574个基因的表达情况，并采用区间作图法进行e QTL定位，发现在第2、6、7、9、10、16和17号染色体上存在e QTL热点区域，并找到了一个与小鼠肥胖有关的候选基因Mup I.



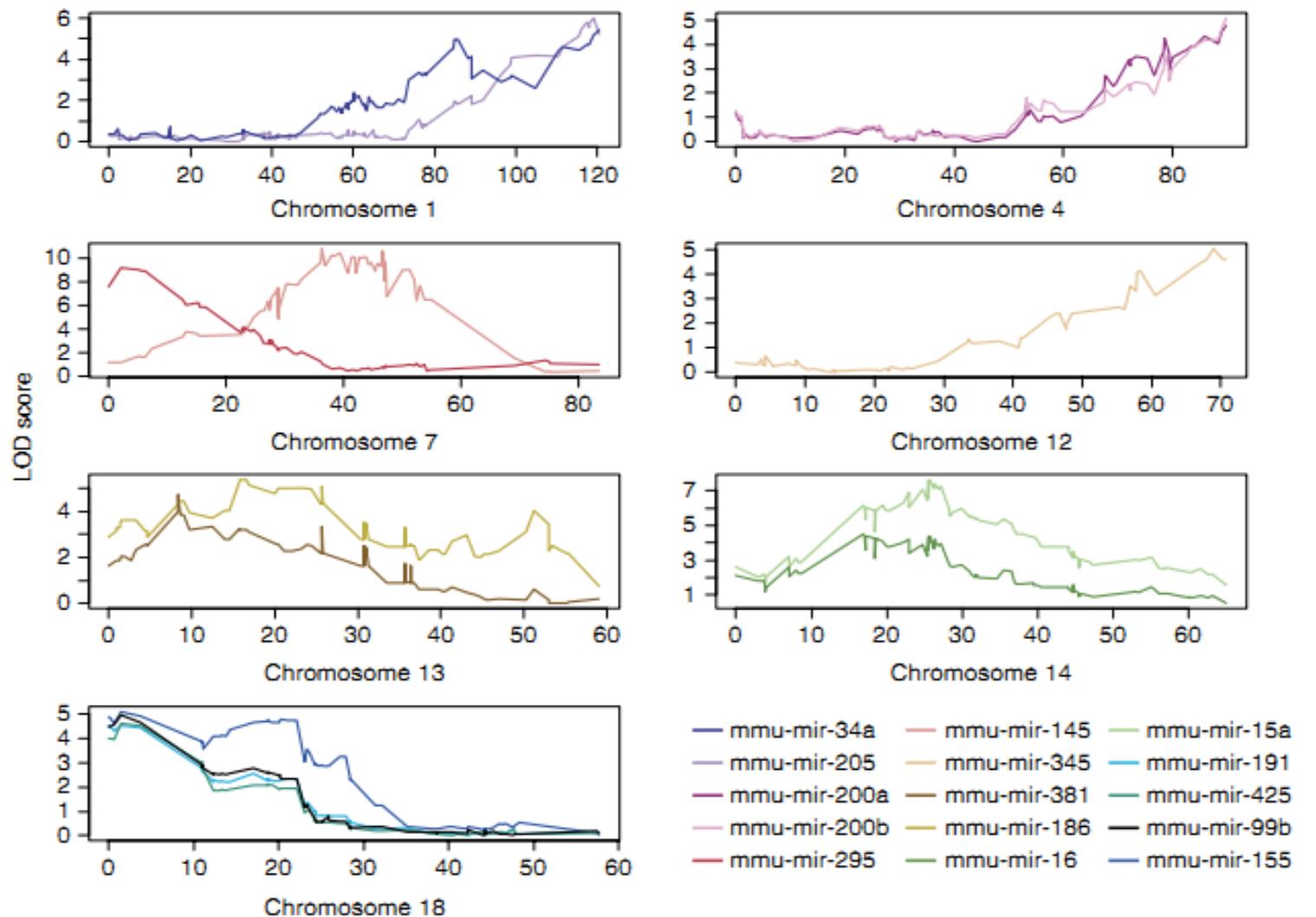
# Materials:

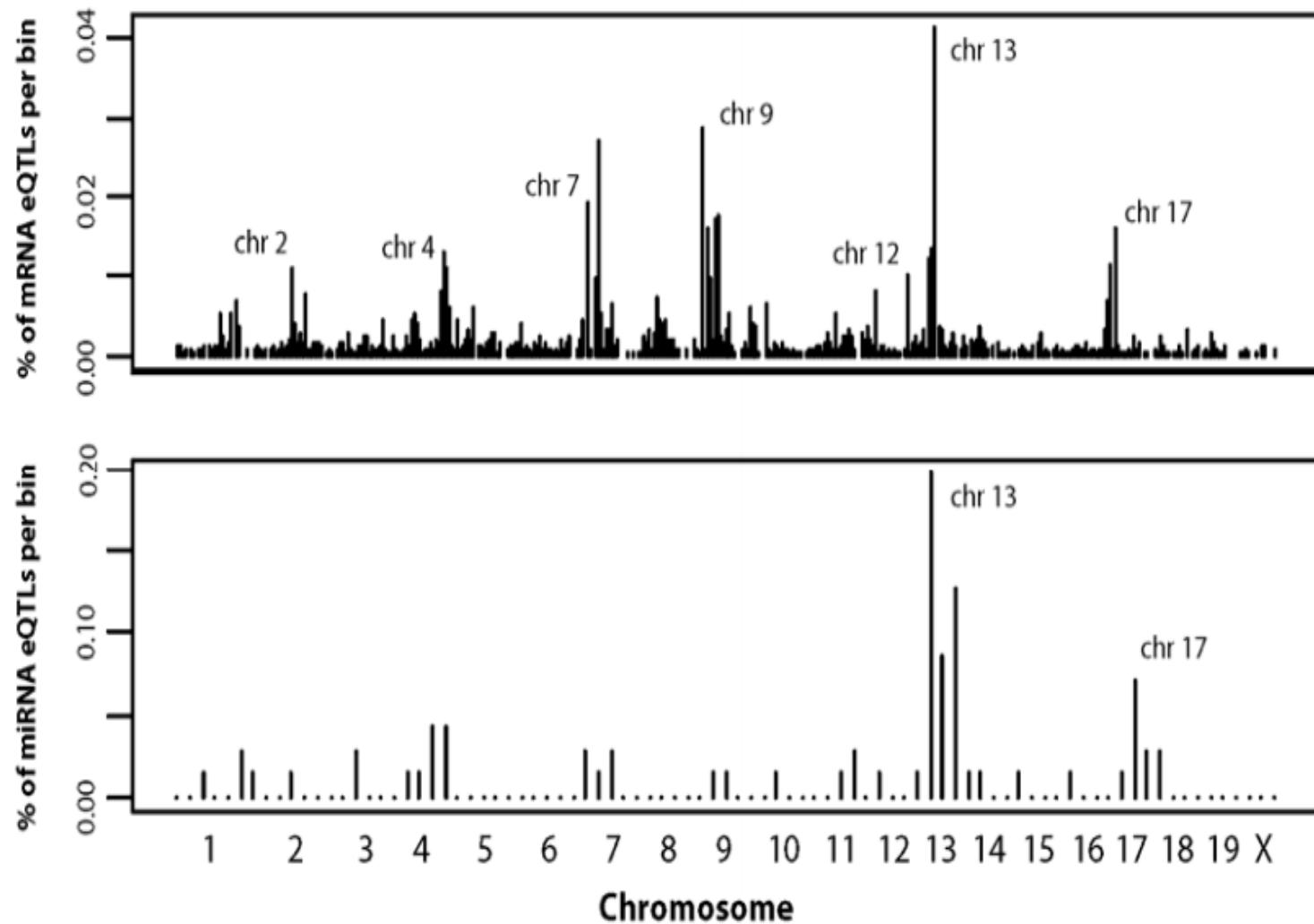
- C57BL/6J and DBA/2J
- 127 male mice for miRNA and mRNA expression profiling
- Collect both mRNA expression and genotype information from mice liver(From miRBase 187 miRNAs ~31% in release 15).



# Results:

1. eQTL *mapping study*;
2. *Correlation analysis between miRNA and mRNA expression level in mice*
3. *Causal associations between miRNA and mRNA*







—:

Offset 6mer ..... TTGACG..

6mer ..... TGACGA..

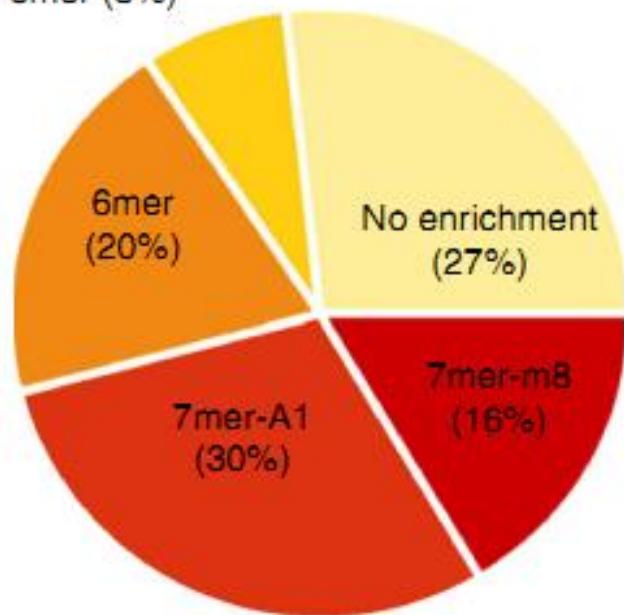
7mer-A1 ..... TGACGGAT

7mer-m8 ..... TTGACGA..

miRNA 3'-NNNNNAACTGCTA-5'

All correlated transcripts

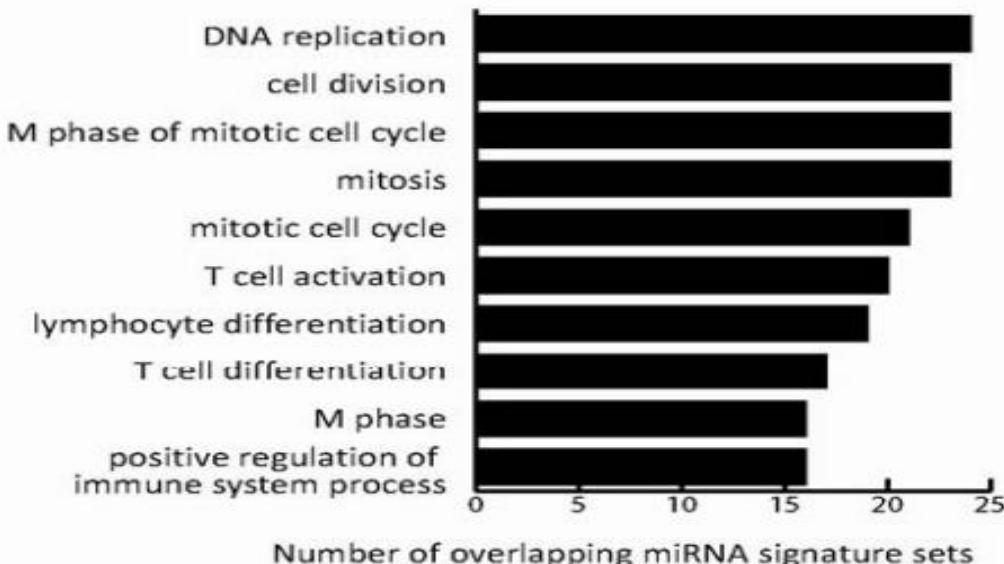
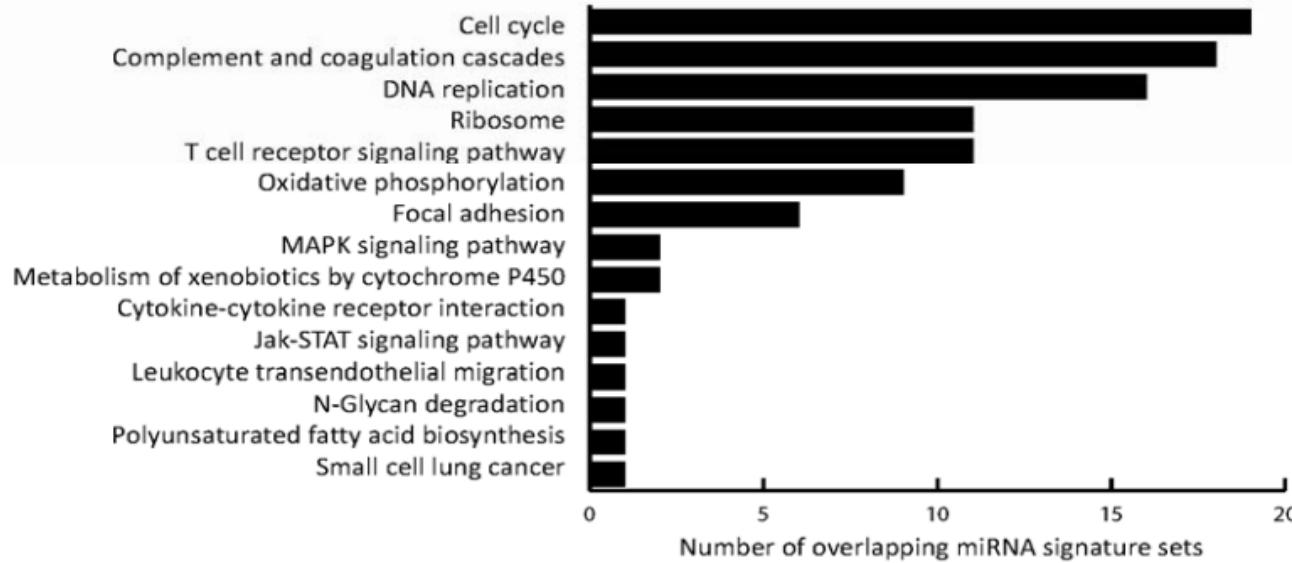
Offset 6mer (8%)



And...

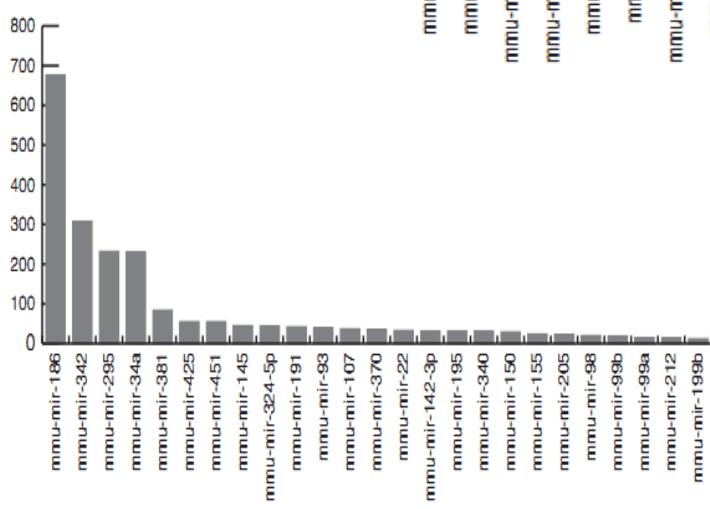
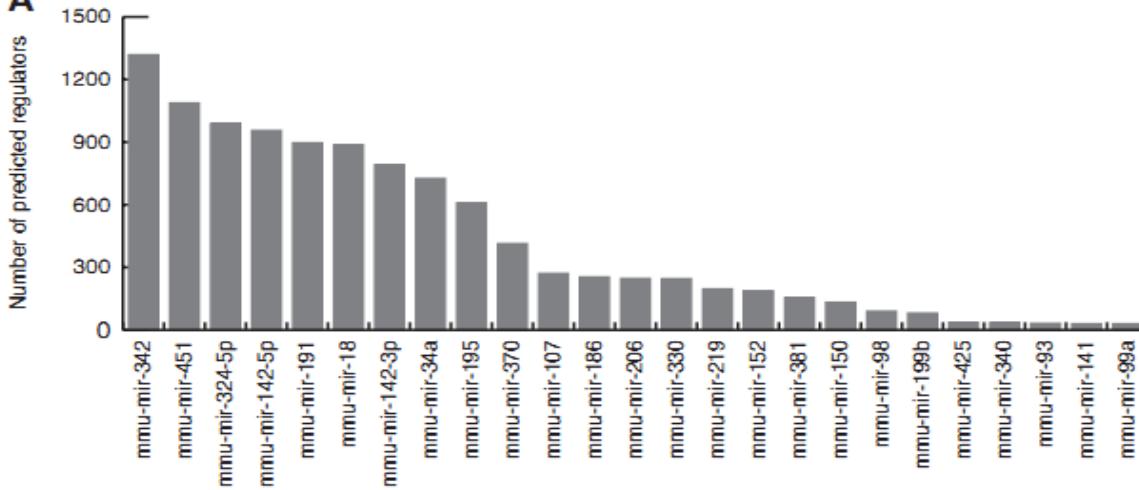
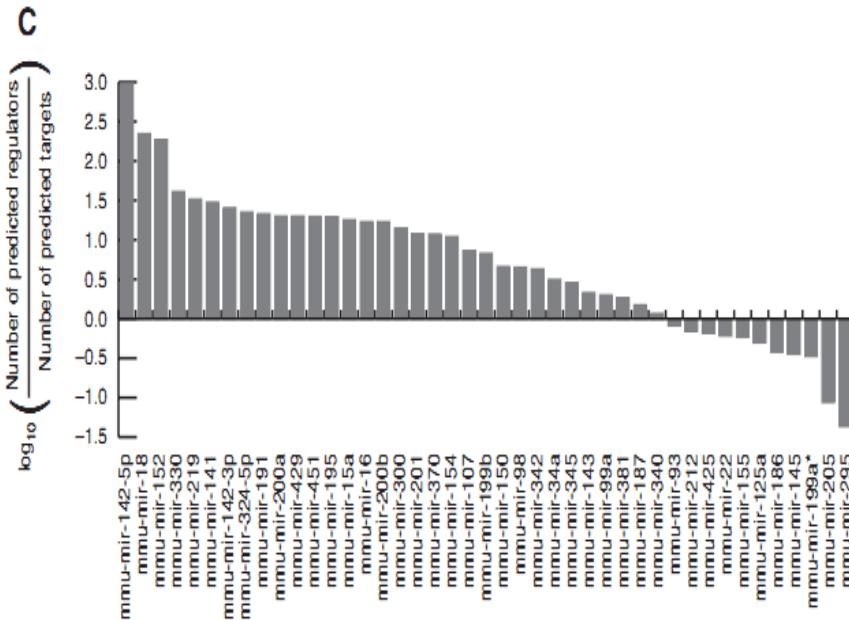


- 1.A number of miRNAs were very broadly connected to thousands of mRNA.
  - a.表明miRNA在肝组织的基因调控网络中相当于中心节点;
  - b.平均每个miRNA与2545mRNA有重要关联;
  - c.有8个miRNA与超过10000mRNA有重要关联。
- 2.mRNA →miRNA
  - 平均每个mRNA转录与19个miRNA相关联;
  - 63%的转录本至少与1个miRNA相关联。

**B****C**



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**B****A****C**



## 剧情回顾：

- ✓ *Examined expression level of 187 within the context of a mouse liver gene regulatory network;*
- ✓ *The results suggest that the transcript abundances of these miRNA are under more complex regulation than those previously observed for mRNA abundances.*
- ✓ *The data further suggest that many of the surveyed miRNAs are co-expressed with mRNAs involved in DNA replication and the cell cycle in liver tissue.*



- ✓ Demonstrate that a number of miRNAs detected typically exist as highly connected hub-nodes within the liver transcriptional network that respond to perturbations in mRNA transcript levels and drive changes in mRNA expression profiles.
  
- ✓ For the majority of surveyed miRNAs, the number of mRNA statistically supported as causal for regulating miRNA transcript exceeds the number of downstream mRNA transcripts predicted to respond to changes in miRNA levels, illustrating the complexity of miRNA-mediated regulation.



*The End* ~