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ANALYSIS OF TGF- β SIGNALIZATION PATHWAYS THANKS TO TOPOLOGICAL AND SEMANTIC WEB METHOD

Jean COQUET ^{1,2}, Geoffroy ANDRIEUX ³, Jacques NICOLAS ¹, Olivier DAMERON ¹ and Nathalie THERET ²

¹ Université de Rennes 1 - IRISA/INRIA, UMR6074, 263 avenue du Général Leclerc, 35042 Rennes, Cedex, France

² Université de Rennes 1 - ISET EA 4427 SeRAIC, IFR140, 2 avenue Pr Léon Bernard, Rennes, Cedex, France

³ German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Im Neuenheimer Feld 280, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany

CONTEXT

- TGF- β = Transforming Growth Factor β
 - necessary in healthy situation
 - deleterious role in fibrosis and cancer
 - Pleiotropic effects of TGF- β are linked to the complex nature of its activation and signaling networks

BIOLOGICAL QUESTIONS:

Which pathways are cancer-specific?

Which mechanism is involved in the healthy \rightarrow pathological transition?

SIGNALIZATION MODEL

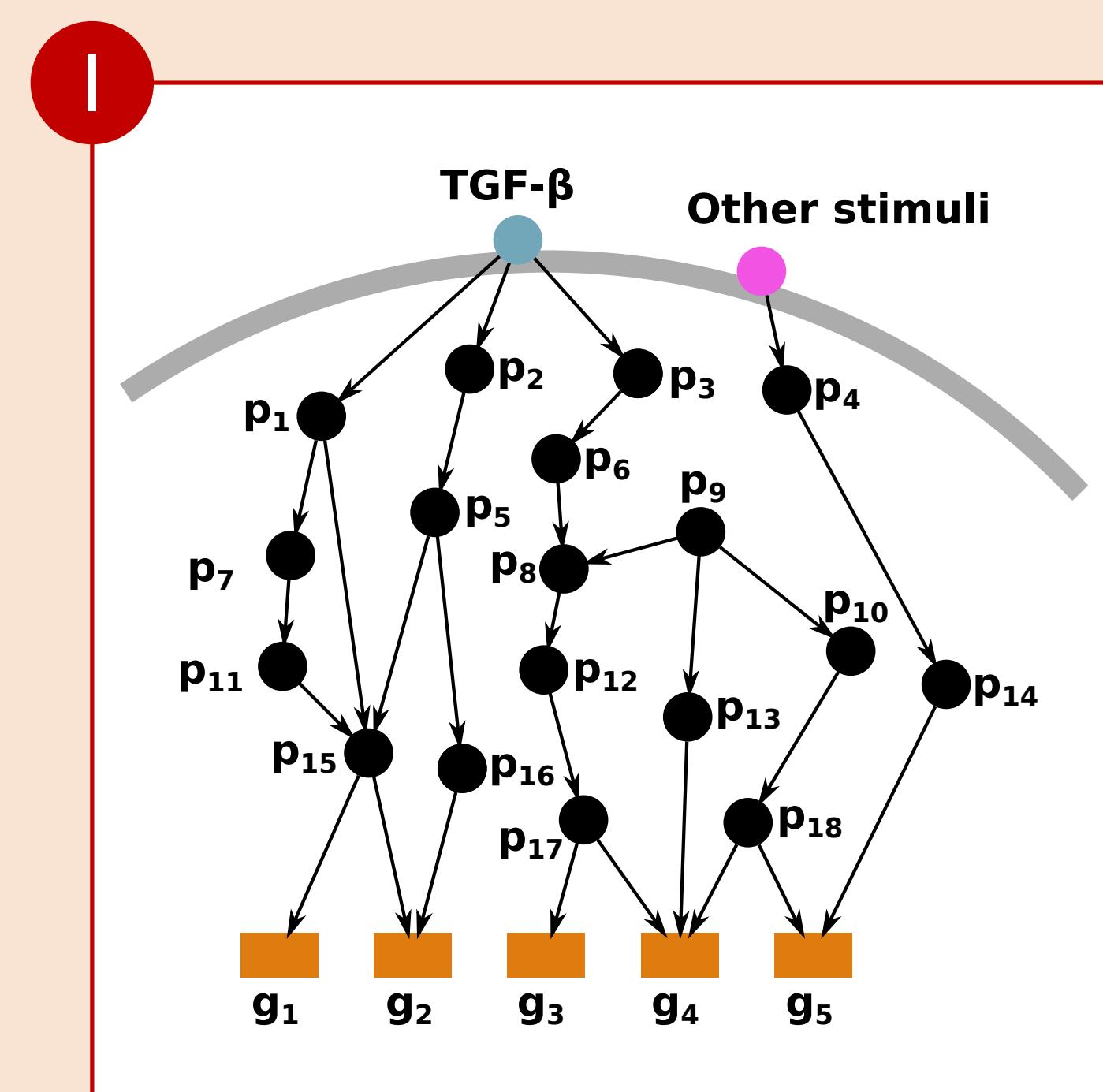
- Model of TGF- β signal propagation based on guarded transitions [Andrieux et al, 2014] represented in CADBIOM.
- Pathway Interaction Database (PID) transform into a single unified model of signal transduction

DATA ANALYSIS PROBLEM:

16,000 chains of reactions linking TGF- β to at least one of 159 target genes.

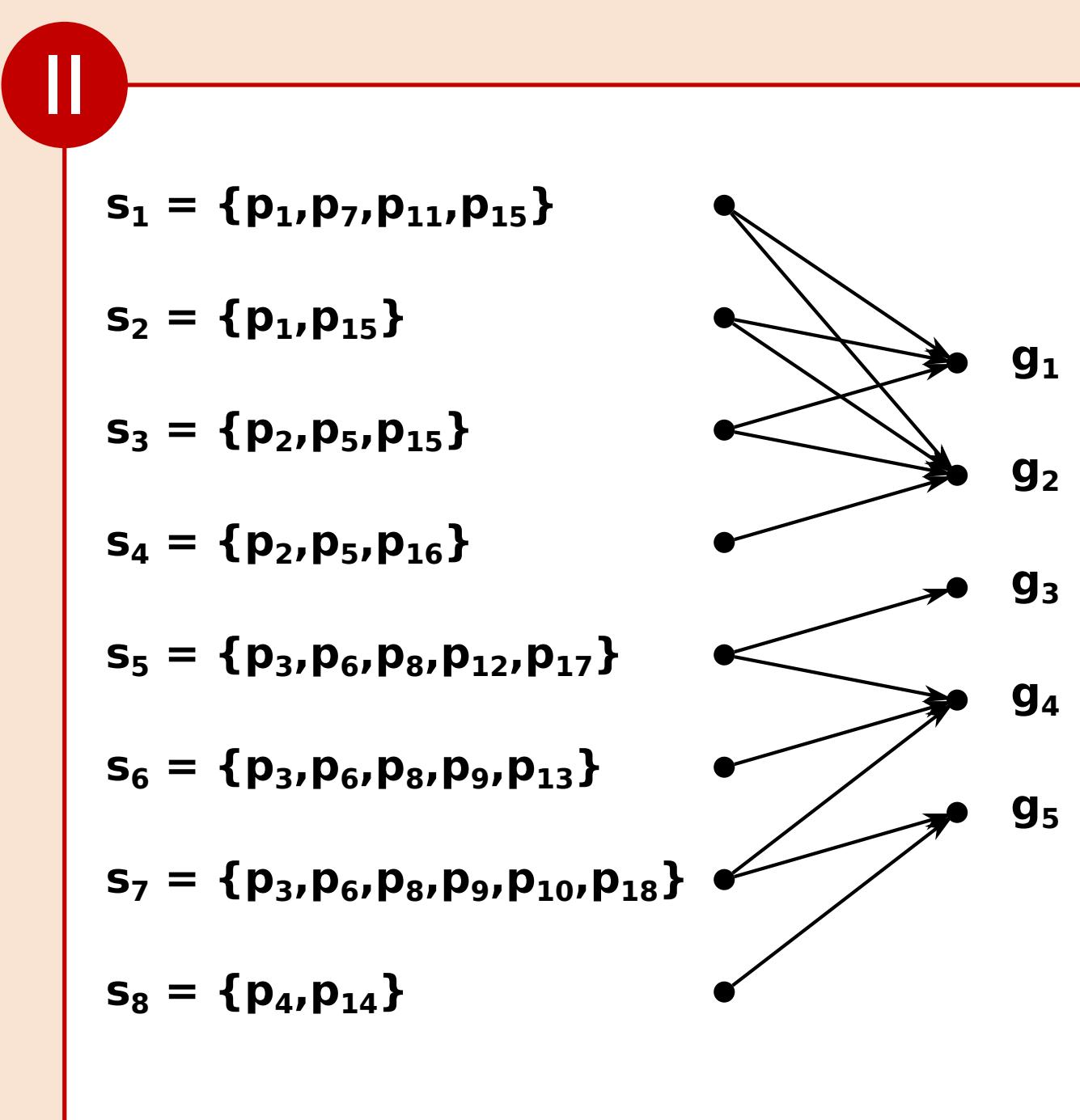
How to explore the combinatorial complexity of cell signaling?

ANALYSIS OF SIGNALING PATHWAYS : STEPS METHOD



RAW DATA

- TGF- β signalizations influence some genes
- Other stimuli in addition to TGF- β



GENES INFLUENCED BY PROTEIN SETS

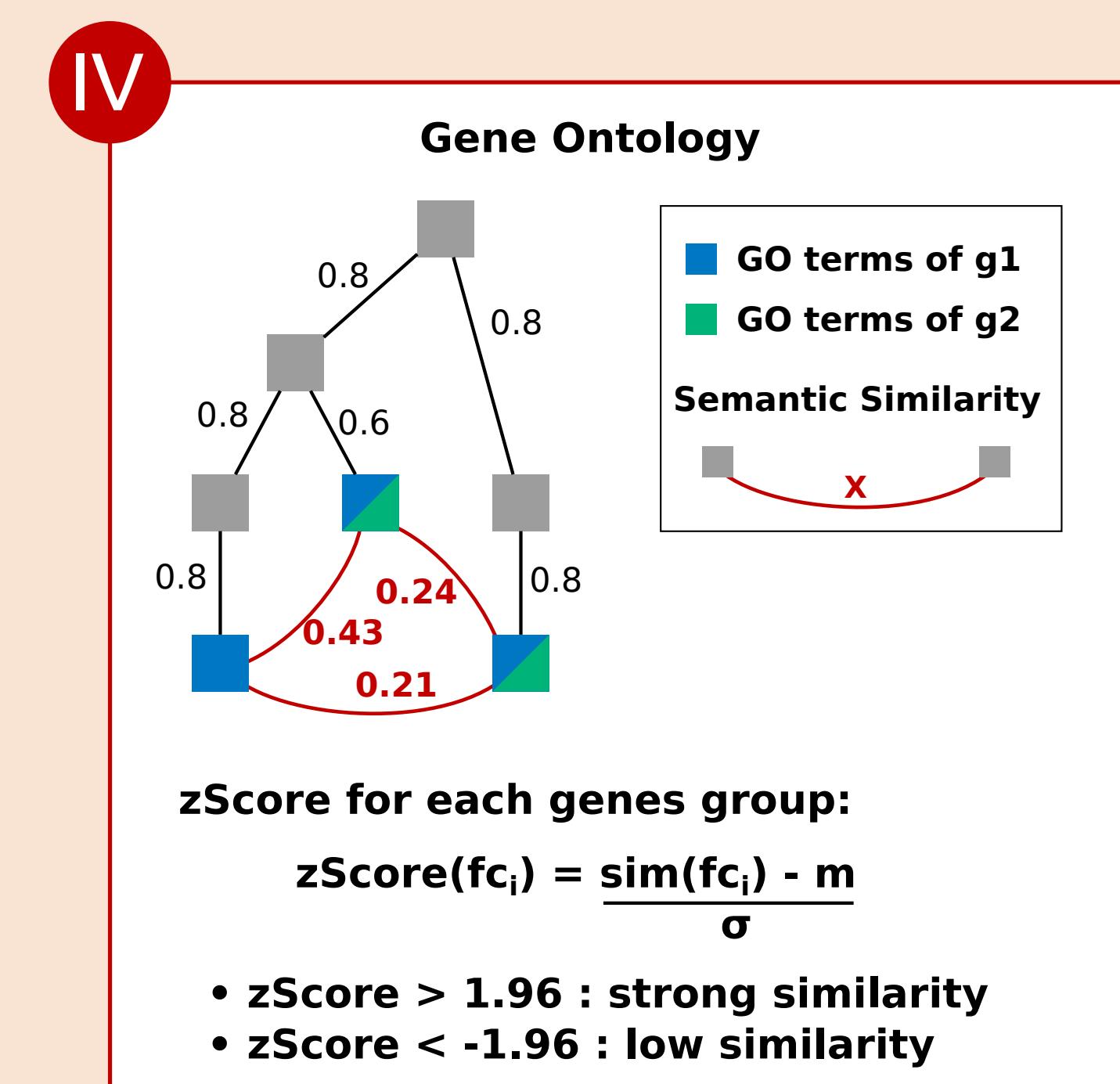
- Signaling pathway = proteins set
- Proteins set influence at least one gene

Protein sets								
	S_1	S_2	S_3	S_4	S_5	S_6	S_7	S_8
g_1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
g_2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
g_3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
g_4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
g_5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Formal Concepts $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (1) \{g_1, g_2\} \times \{s_1, s_2, s_3\} \\ (2) \{g_2\} \times \{s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4\} \\ (3) \{g_3, g_4\} \times \{s_5\} \\ (4) \{g_4\} \times \{s_5, s_6, s_7\} \\ (5) \{g_4, g_5\} \times \{s_7\} \\ (6) \{g_5\} \times \{s_7, s_8\} \end{array} \right\}$

CLUSTERS OF SIMILAR GENES AND PROTEIN SETS

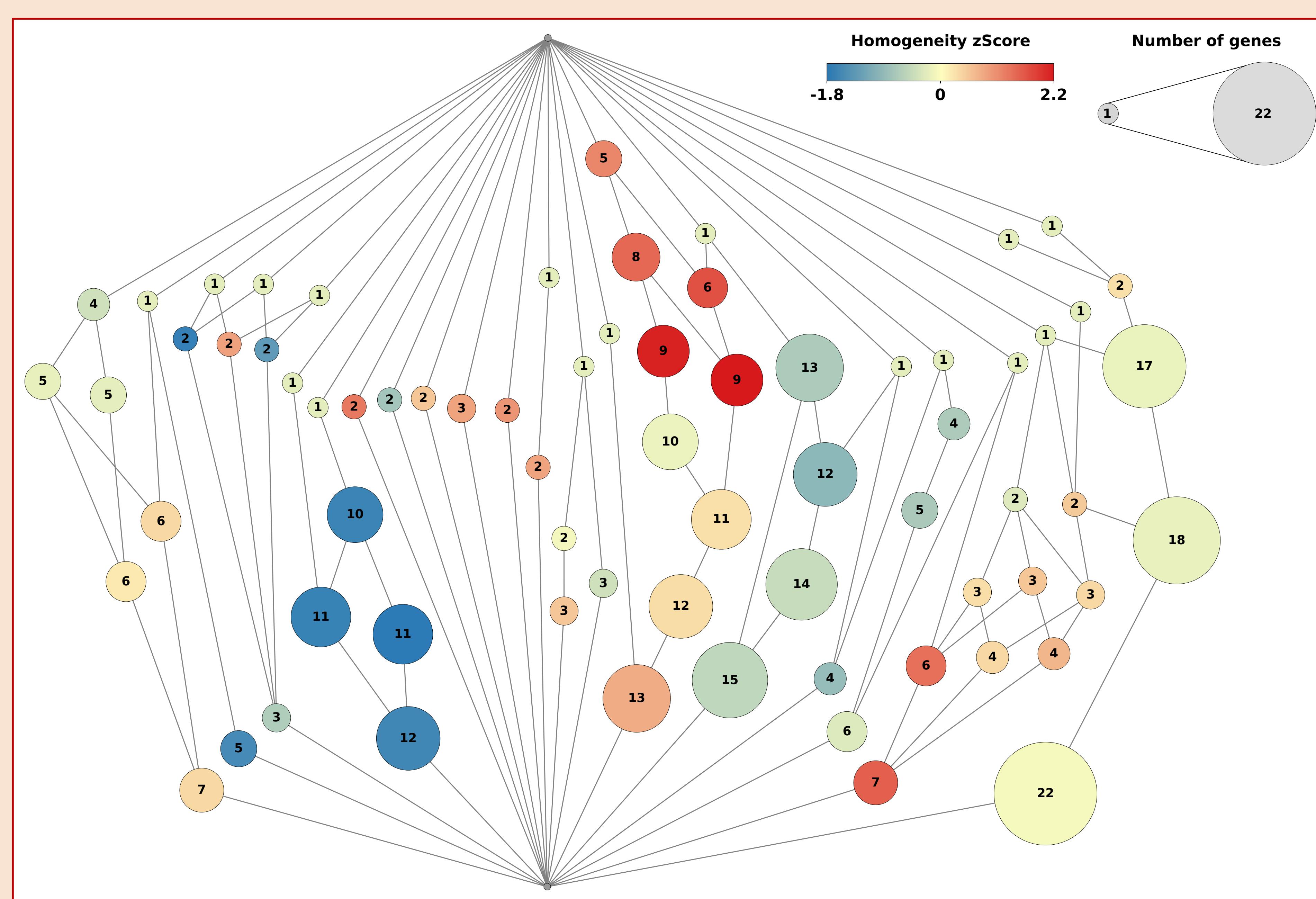
- Identify clusters of similar genes and protein sets with formal concept analysis
- Binary matrix
- Formal concepts = maximal bi-cliques



ASSESS CLUSTERS' BIOLOGICAL RELEVANCE WITH SEMANTIC HOMOGENEITY

- Formal concept homogeneity = zScore of similarity gene group
- Semantic similarity based on Wang measure [Wang et al, 2007]

RESULTS



Concept lattice. Nodes are formal concepts, two nodes are linked if one is included into the other.

DISCUSSION

- Some formal concepts are highly connected
- Gene clusters can have:
 - High homogeneity = genes similar influenced by same pathways
 - Low homogeneity = genes dissimilar influenced by same pathways
- Chains of gene clusters included into one-another indicates that some influence sets are specific to some gene subsets

IN PROGRESS

- Validate the method on small synthetic models
 - Improve the method to find better gene clusters
 - Integrate the overlap between protein sets
 - Try different methods of clustering
- Compute the semantic homogeneity of protein sets
- Take into account the structure underlying gene sets
- Compute the stability of formal concepts

References:

- [Andrieux et al, 2014] Andrieux, G., Le Borgne, M., & Théret, N. (2014). An integrative modeling framework reveals plasticity of TGF-beta signaling. *BMC systems biology*, 8(1), 30.
- [Wang et al, 2007] Wang, J. Z., Du, Z., Payattakool, R., Philip, S. Y., & Chen, C. F. (2007). A new method to measure the semantic similarity of GO terms. *Bioinformatics*, 23(10), 1274-1281.

CONCLUSION

Model of TGF- β signal propagation

New method to analyze pathways:
 1) Topological analysis
 2) Clustering
 3) Biological relevance

Gene clusters influenced by same pathways with a biological relevance