



# Tutorial

Version 2016\_04\_17

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# Introduction



A simple and elegant way to explore cancer data.

Backed by a powerful computational infrastructure, application programming interface (API), graphical tools and online reports.

Sitting above one of the deepest and most integratively-characterized **open** cancer datasets in the world.

With over 80K sample aliquots from 11,000+ cancer patients, spanning 38 unique disease cohorts.



Data and analyses utilized at numerous academic, research, and commercial sites around the world.

Example: The logo for cBio@MSKCC features the text "cBio@MSKCC" in a blue sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a graphic element consisting of four blue dots arranged in a square pattern.

TCGA data & analyses in cBioPortal—expression, mutation, copy number, significance analyses, and more—are loaded directly from Firehose.



# FIREBROWSE

Search analysis results

HOME BROAD GDAC WEB API TUTORIAL RELEASE NOTES ANALYSES GRAPH FAQ CONTACT

[View Expression Profile](#)

Enter gene name

Enter cohort abbrev

[View Analysis Profile](#)

SELECT COHORT

Clinical Analyses

CopyNumber Analyses

Correlations Analyses

miR Analyses

miRseq Analyses

mRNA Analyses

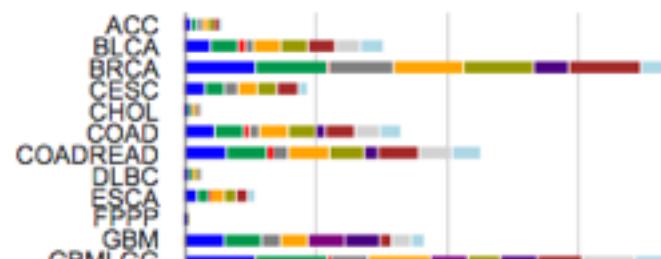
mRNaseq Analyses

Mutation Analyses

Pathway Analyses

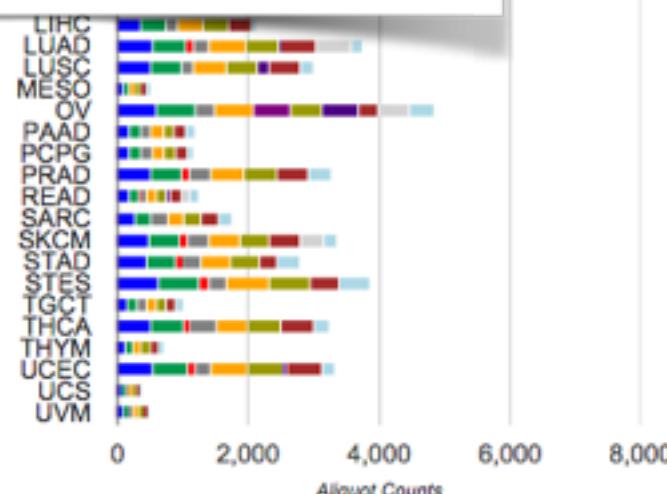
RPPA Analyses

TCGA data version 2015\_06\_01



- █ Clinical
- █ SNP6 CopyNum
- █ LowPass DNaseq CopyNum
- █ Mutation Annotation File
- █ methylation
- █ miR
- █ miRSeq
- █ mRNA
- █ mRNaseq
- █ raw Mutation Annotation File
- █ Reverse Phase Protein Array

<http://firebrowse.org>



~1500 Analyses (reports) per run  
Find your favorite in 2 clicks

## Choose Cohort



Breast invasive carcinoma (BRCA)

Clinical Analyses

CopyNumber Analyses

Then  
Data Type

CopyNumber Clustering CNMF

CopyNumber Clustering CNMF thresholded

CopyNumber Gistic2

CopyNumberLowPass Gistic2

Correlate Clinical vs CopyNumber Arm

Correlate Clinical vs CopyNumber Focal

Correlate CopyNumber vs mRNA

Correlate CopyNumber vs mRNAseq

Correlate molecularSubtype vs CopyNumber Arm

Correlate molecularSubtype vs CopyNumber Focal

Pathway Paradigm mRNA And Copy Number

Pathway Paradigm RNASeq And Copy Number

Inspect

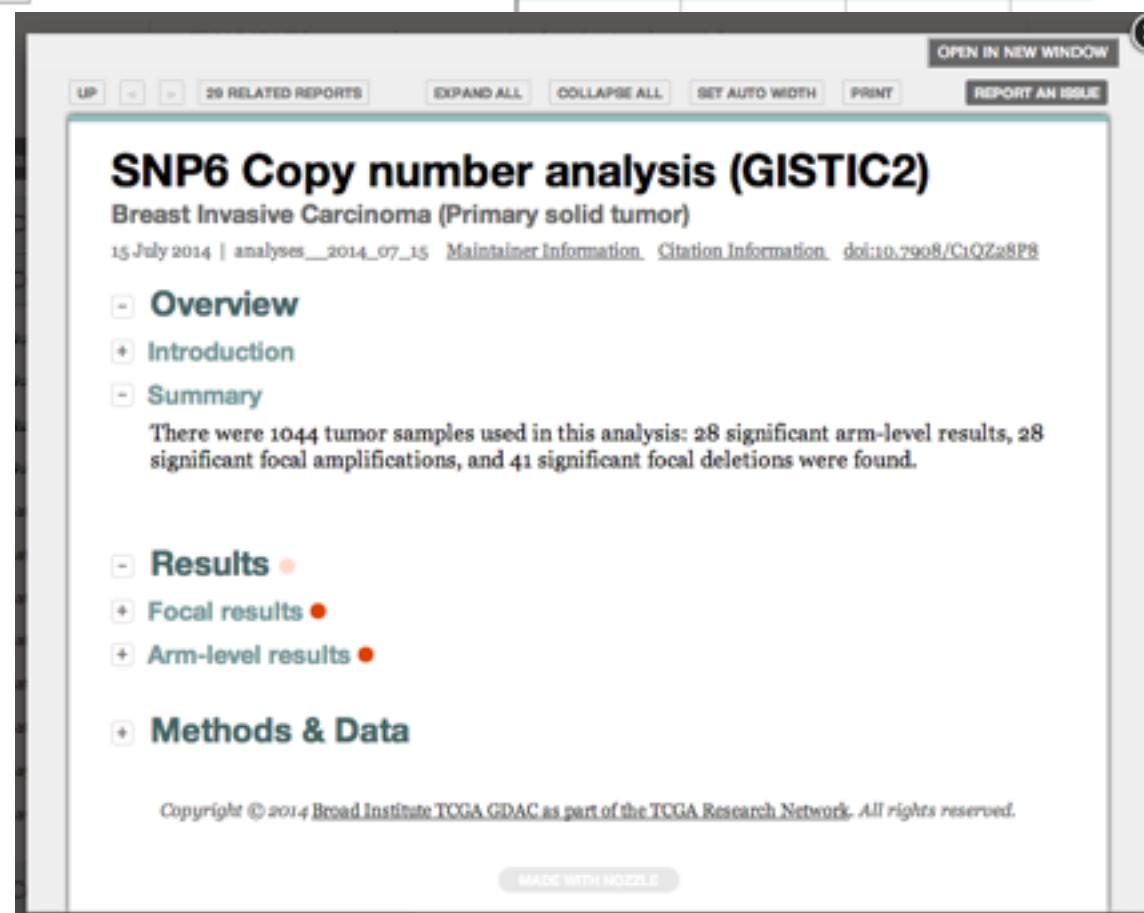
TCGA data version 2014\_07\_15 for BRCA

Clinical

1017

SNP6 CopyNum

1053



# Many 1000s of datasets per run

## Find your favorite in 2 clicks

Choose Cohort

Thyroid carcinoma (THCA)

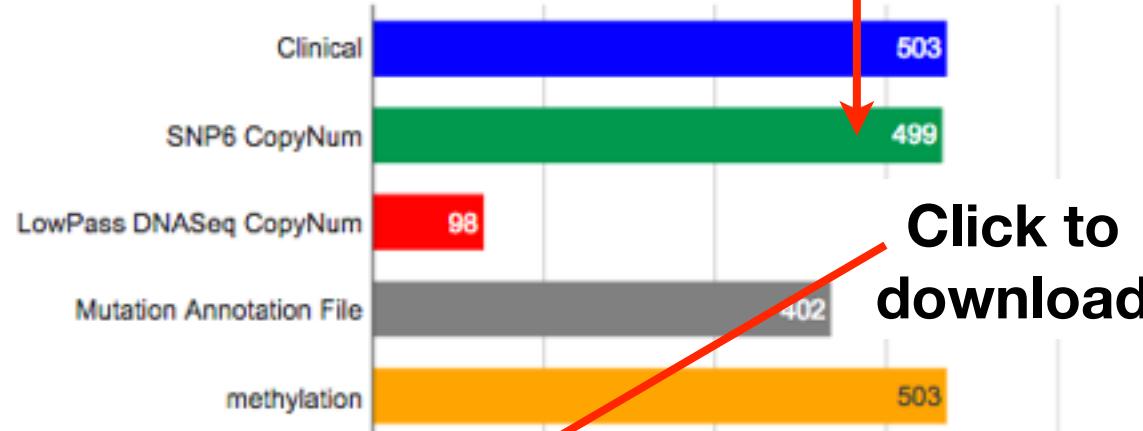
Clinical Analyses  
CopyNumber Analyses

Correlations Analyses  
Methylation Analyses  
miRseq Analyses

mRNA Analyses  
mRNase Analyses  
Mutation Analyses  
Pathway Analyses  
RPPA Analyses

Then DataType

TCGA data version 2016\_01\_28 for THCA



Click to download

### THCA CopyNumber Archives

Primary   Auxiliary   SDRF/Mage   Send To

Files may also be downloaded [here](#), or with `firehose_get`, or exported to [GenomeSpace](#) with the [SendTo](#) tab.

[genome\\_wide\\_snp\\_6-segmented\\_scna\\_minus\\_germline\\_cnv\\_hg19 \(MD5\)](#)  
[genome\\_wide\\_snp\\_6-segmented\\_scna\\_hg19 \(MD5\)](#)  
[genome\\_wide\\_snp\\_6-segmented\\_scna\\_minus\\_germline\\_cnv\\_hg18 \(MD5\)](#)  
[genome\\_wide\\_snp\\_6-segmented\\_scna\\_hg18 \(MD5\)](#)

Downloading data constitutes agreement to [TCGA data usage policy](#)

Or easily send to GenomeSpace for more analysis

THCA CopyNumber Archives

Primary    Auxiliary    SDRF/Mage    Send To

Files may also be downloaded [here](#), or with `firehose_get`, or exported to **GenomeSpace** with the SendTo tab.

genome\_wide\_snp\_6-segmented\_scna\_minus\_germline\_cnv\_hg19 [851.18 KB]  
 genome\_wide\_snp\_6-segmented\_scna\_minus\_germline\_cnv\_hg18 [852.54 KB]  
 genome\_wide\_snp\_6-segmented\_scna\_hg19 [6.46 MB]  
 genome\_wide\_snp\_6-segmented\_scna\_hg18 [6.47 MB]

Cumulative file size for current selections: 851.18 KB

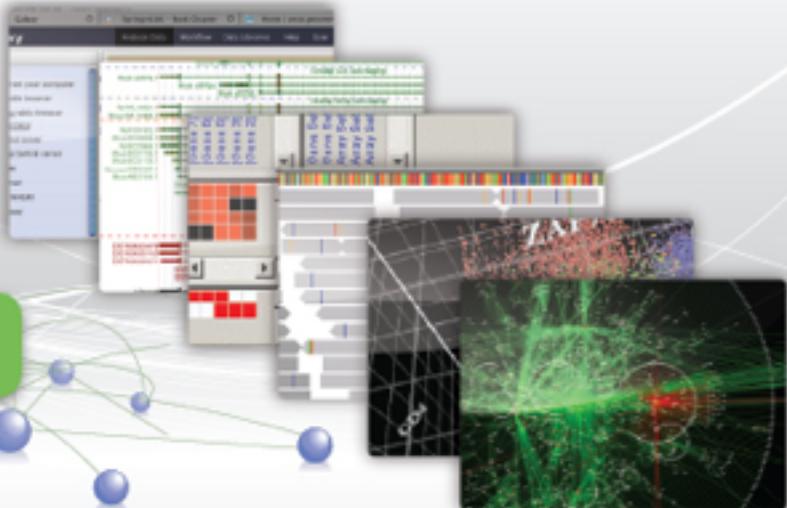
 [Clear Selections](#)

Downloading data constitutes agreement to [TCGA data usage policy](#)

# GENOME SPACE

Frictionless connection of bioinformatics tools

[Register](#)    [User Login](#)



Or download everything with 1 command

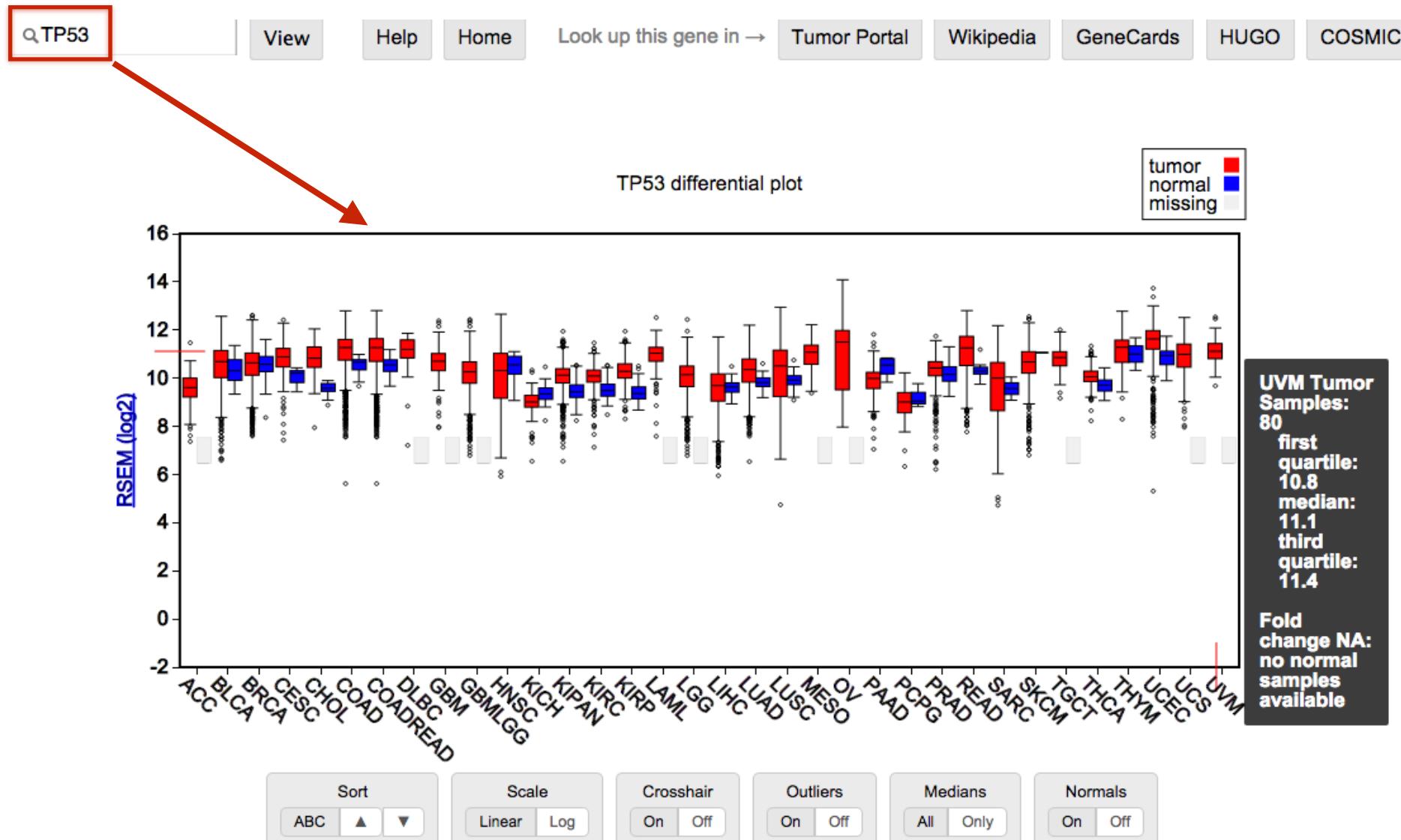
```
linux% firehose_get analyses latest
```

**Simple 20K bash script, just 1 moving part**

[Download Here](#)

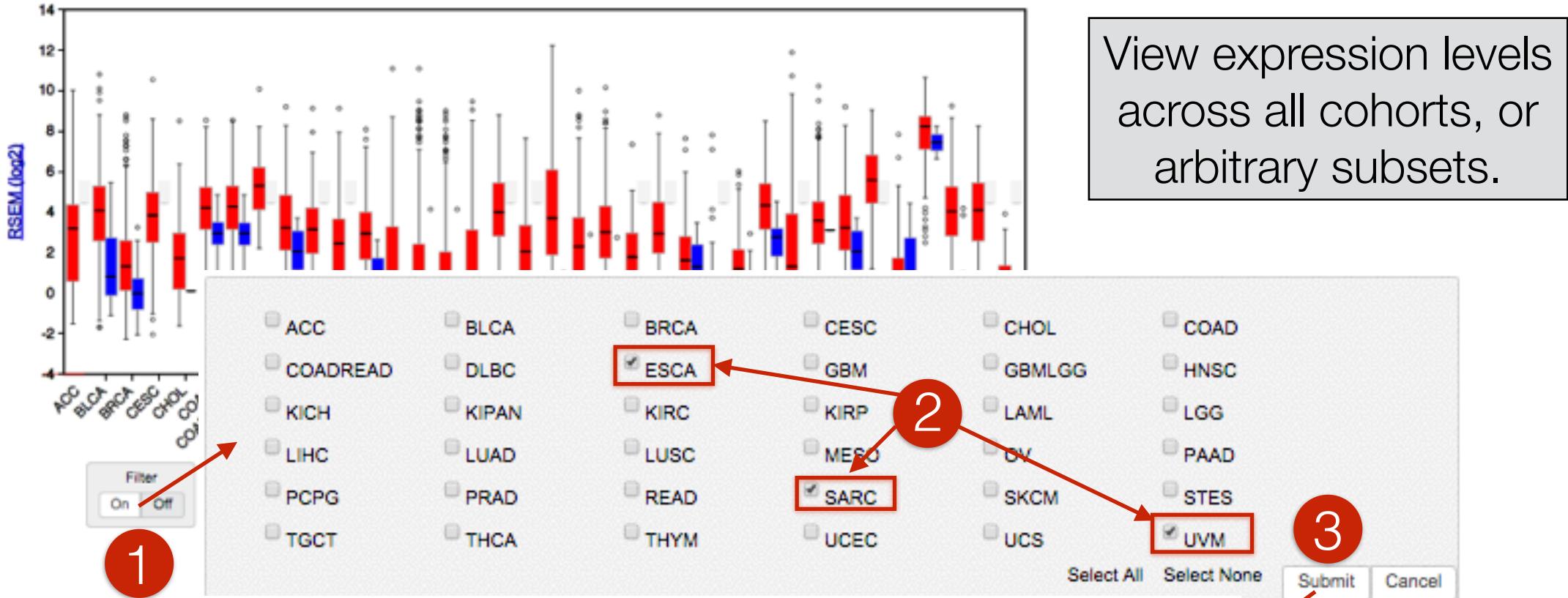
# Graphical Tools

# viewGene: expression level browser

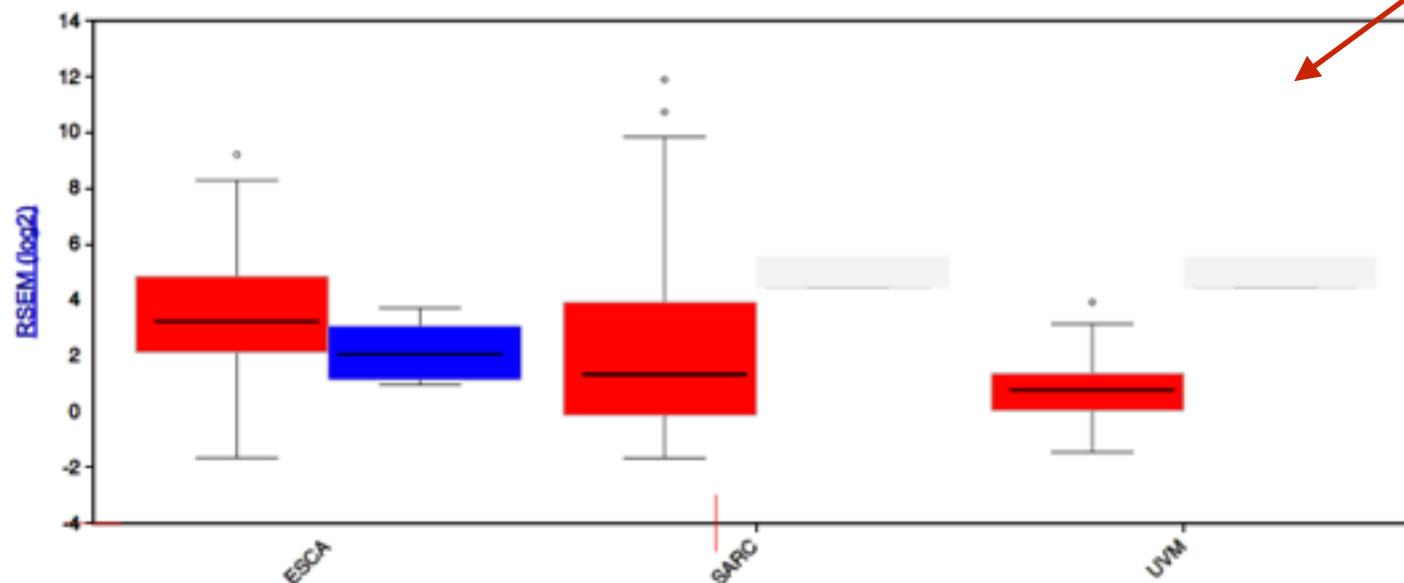


Quickly inspect mRNASeq expression levels for a selected gene

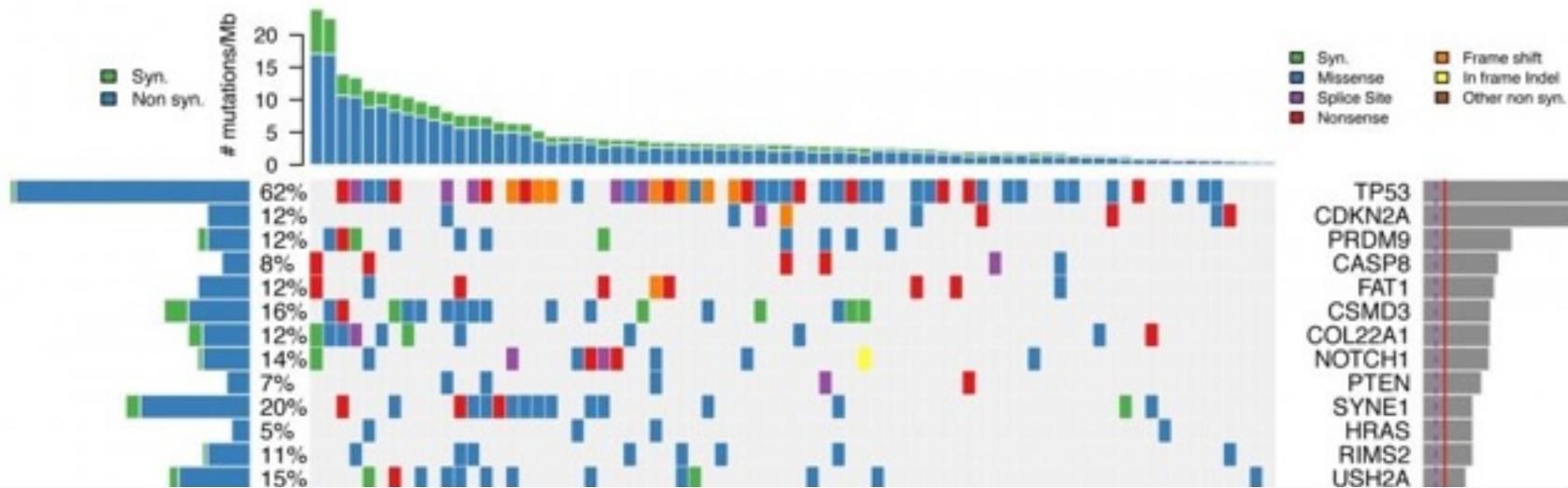
TERT differential plot



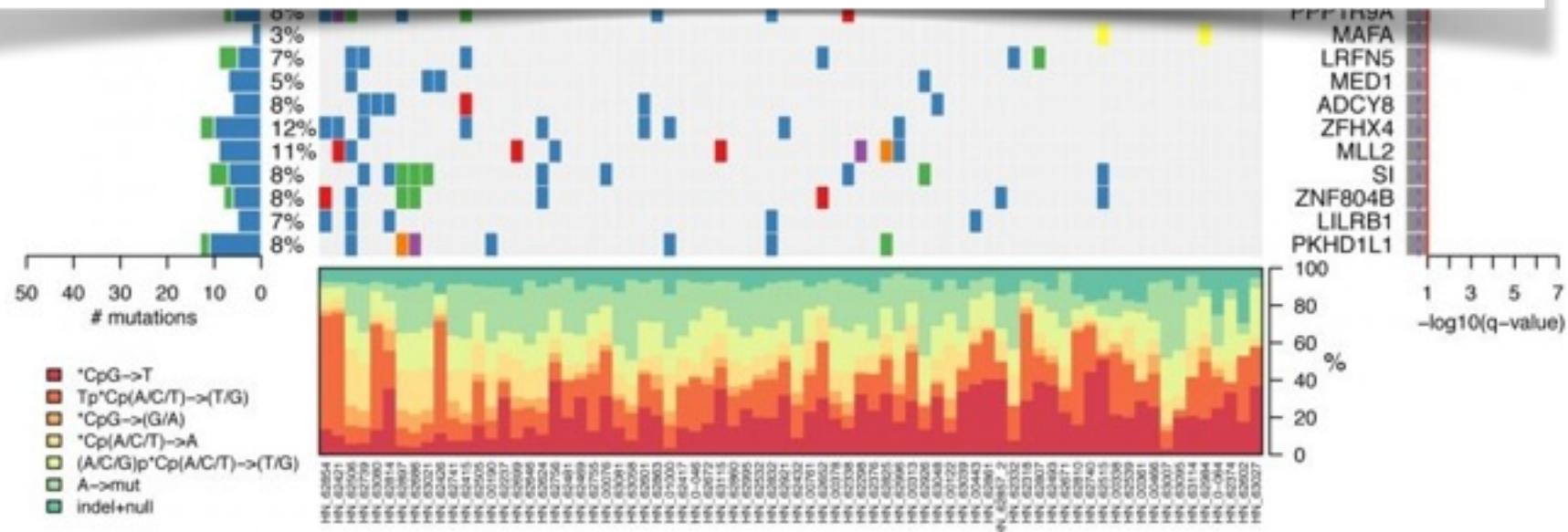
View expression levels across all cohorts, or arbitrary subsets.



# CoMut: mutation co-occurrence plots



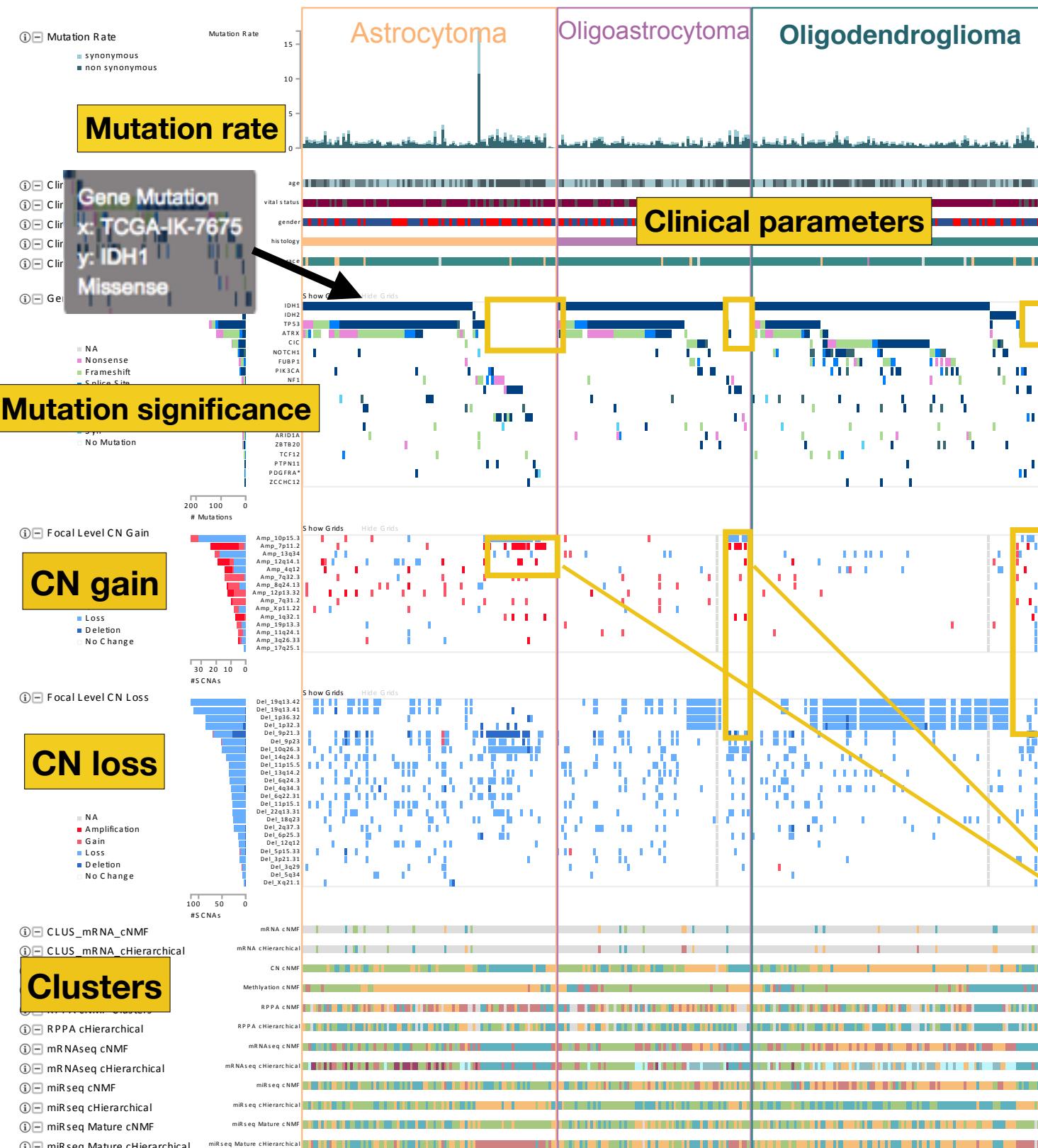
Introduced in 2011 (Stransky et al, Science, 2011), CoMut figures have become common in TCGA research. Within a single graphic they provide a *comprehensive analysis profile*, enabling the reader to quickly infer relationships between co-occurring results across multiple data modalities, across common X axis of sample IDs.



But in journals, figures are static and can be small and hard to read

And cannot be explored in real time

And reproducing them or investigating their implications can require substantial time for data retrieval, preparation and analysis



By making such figures interactive, allowing panels to be moved, sorted and searched, iCoMut dramatically enhances that process.

Example: hovering over pixels tells you about the underlying biology.

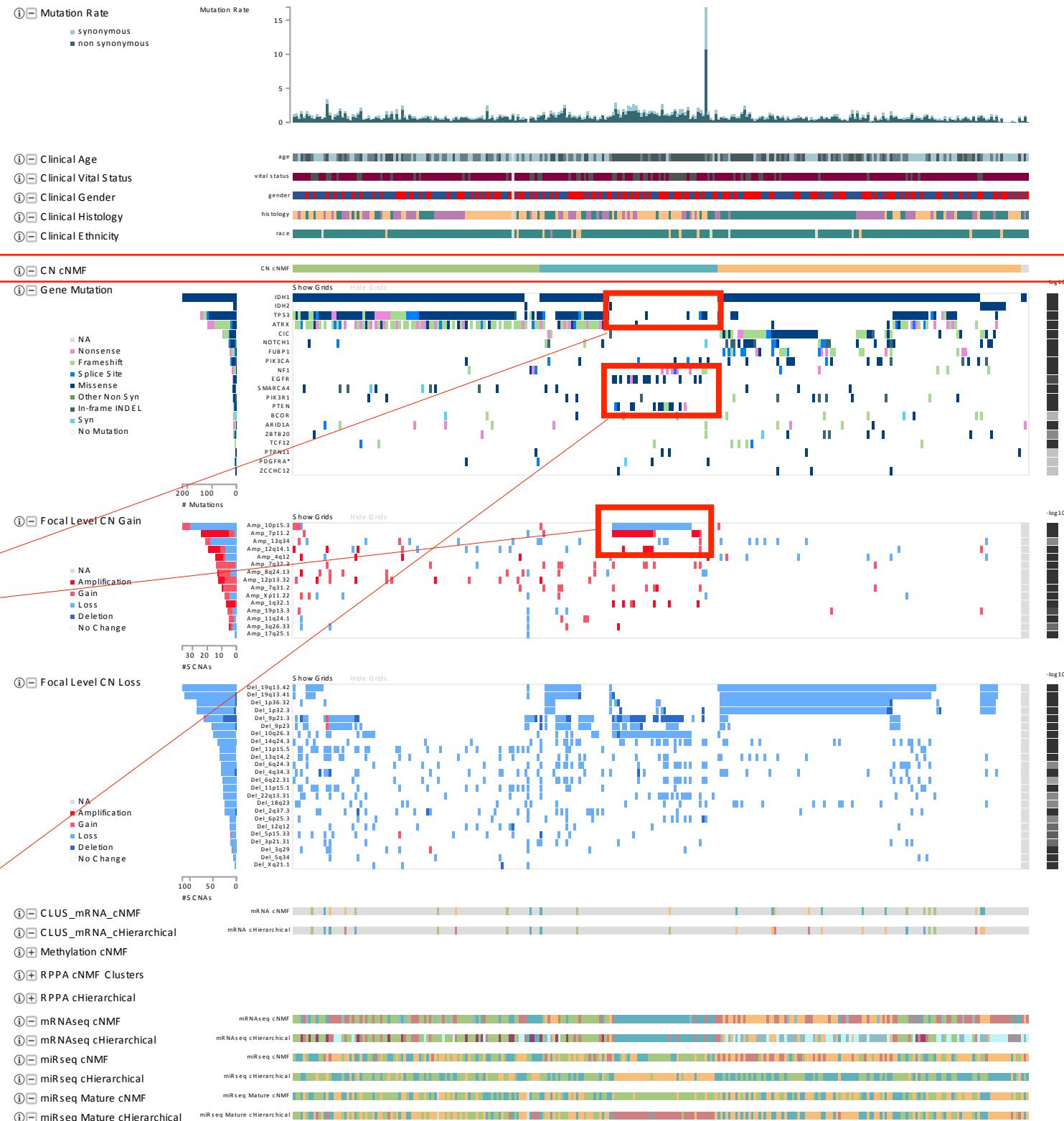
Here we show the TCGA LGG cohort: sorted first by clinical histology, then gene (descending order of mutation count). The clinical subtypes leap off the page at you.

As does the fact that the copy-number landscape differs when IDH1/2, TP53, and ATRX mutations drop off.

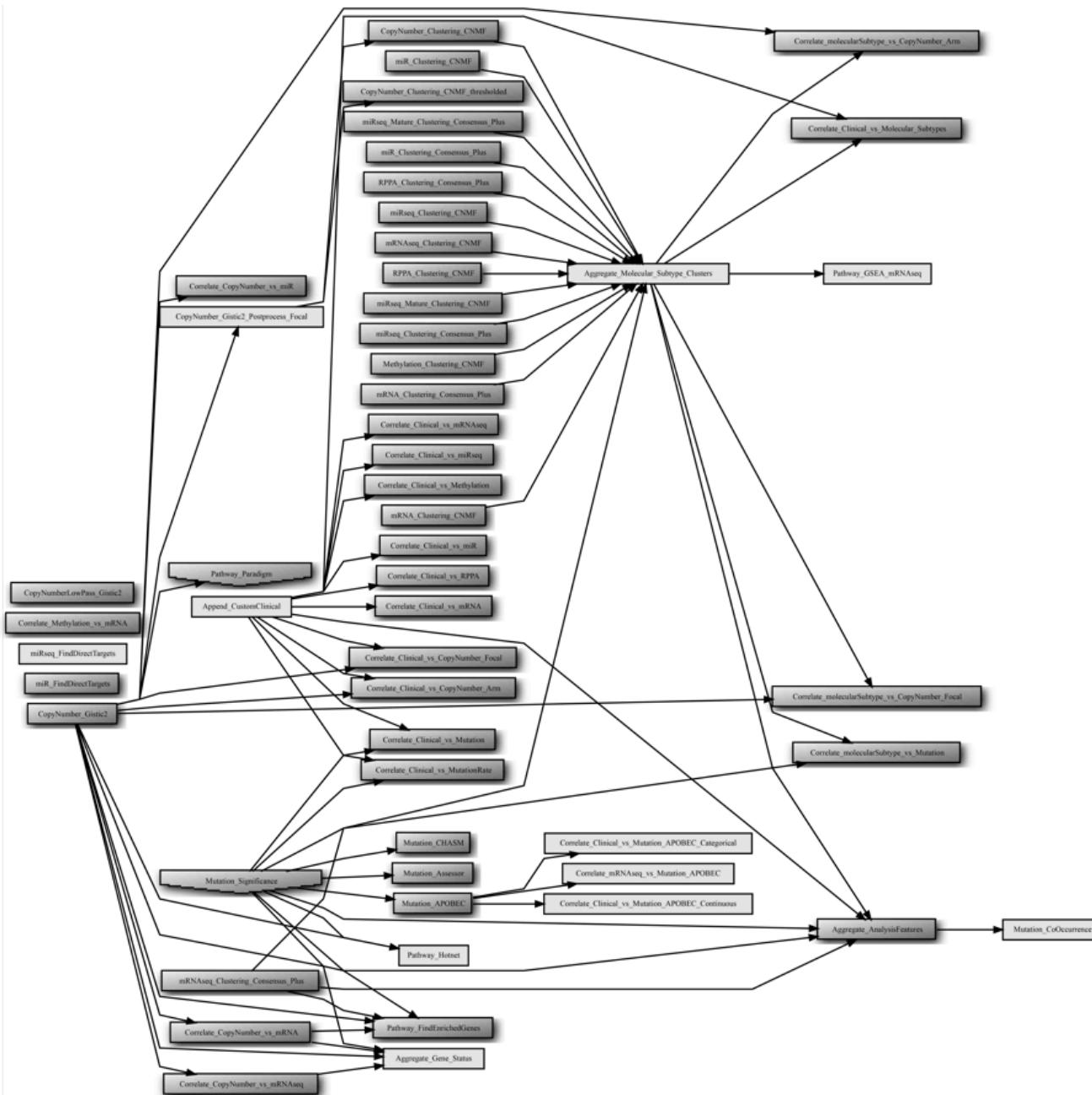
Now we've re-sorted by CNMF copy-number clustering, **and dragged it from bottom of figure to top**, just above mutation panel

Making it further apparent that the copy-number landscape differs as IDH1/2, TP53, and ATRX mutations diminish

Also shows apparent involvement with EGFR and PTEN.



# iCoMut compresses an entire Firehose run into a single, interactive & reproducible figure



Turning this ...

Firehose analysis workflow

Run on 38 TCGA cohorts  
> 100 tasks per run  
~10 datatypes

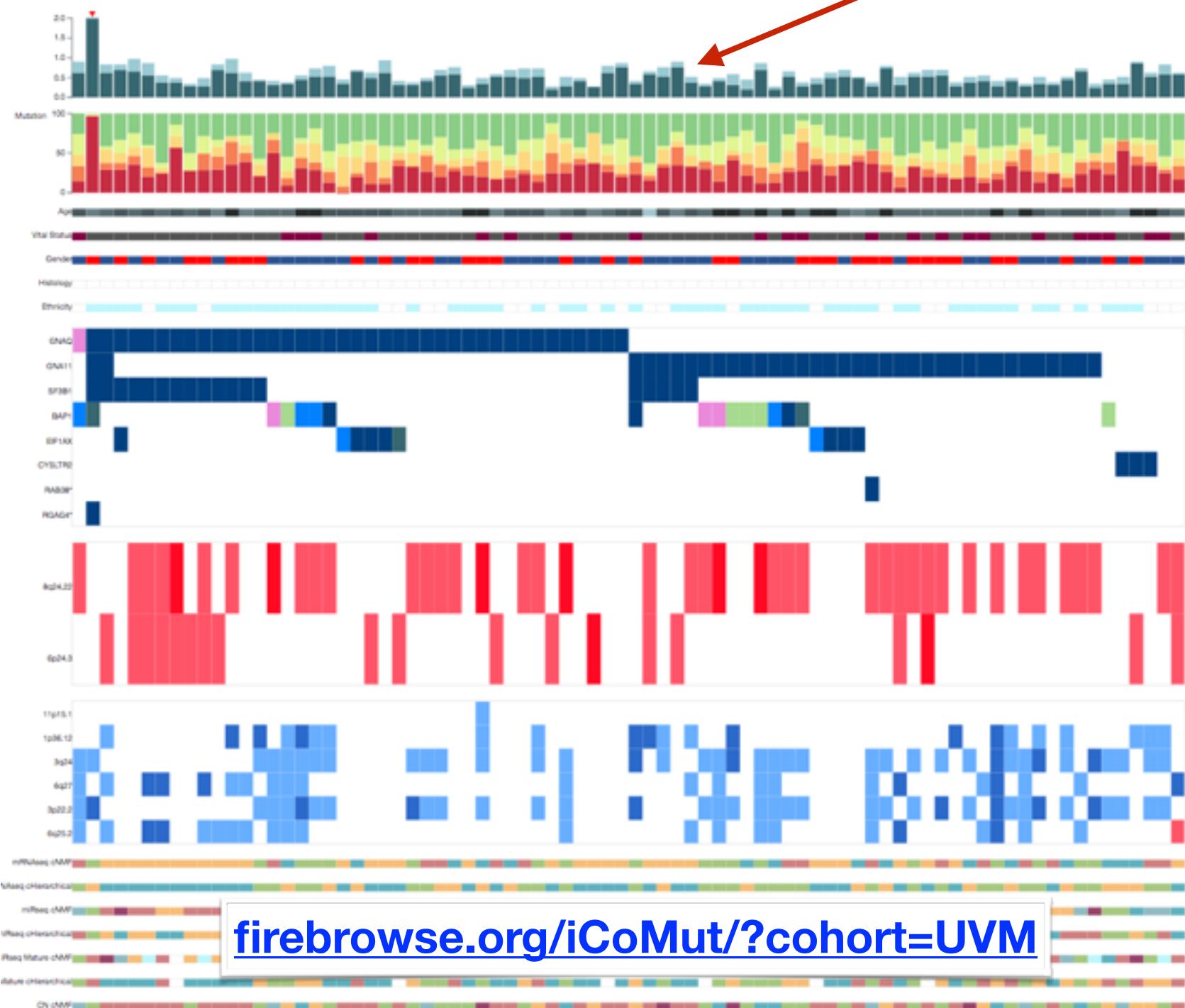
Distills 50 TB of input data  
into 10GB of results (5000x)

[View Expression Profile](#)

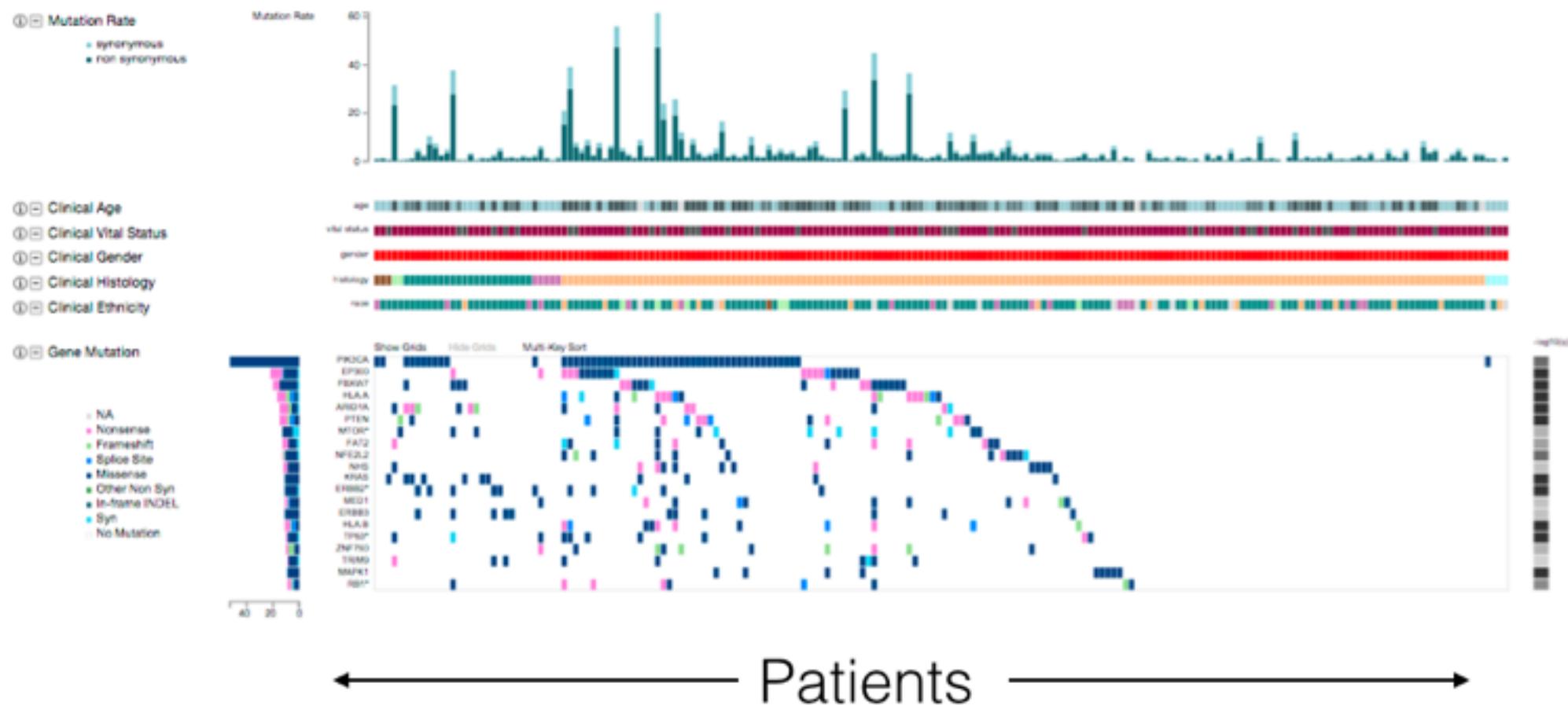
Enter gene name

**UVM**[View Analysis Profile](#)

... into this



By default, patients are sorted by histology and gene mutation

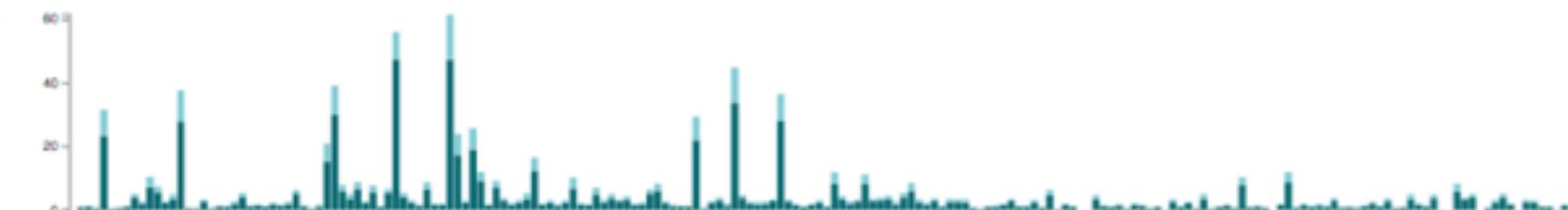


Click on the text labels to change sorting.

① Mutation Rate

- synonymous
- non-synonymous

Mutation Rate



① Clinical Age

① Clinical Vital Status

① Clinical Gender

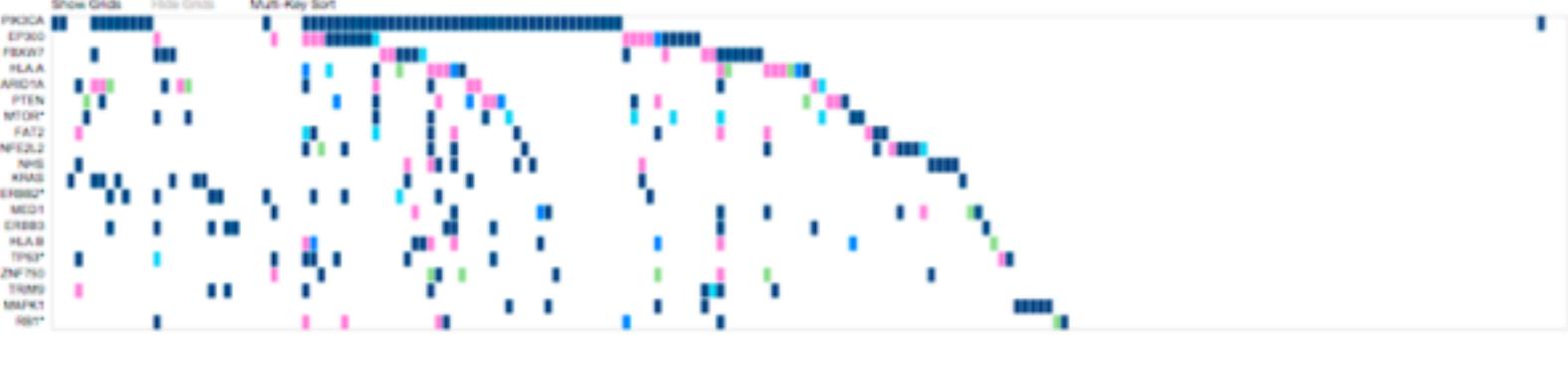
① Clinical Histology

① Clinical Ethnicity

① Gene Mutation

- NA
- Nonsense
- FrameShift
- Splice Site
- Misense
- Other Non Syn
- In-frame INDEL
- Syn
- No Mutation

Show Grids Hide Grids Multi-Key Sort



← Patients →

# Sort status of samples is reported in the info box

CESC

# Samples: 194 patients

Samples are sorted by ...

histology, PIK3CA, EP300, FBXW7, HLA.A,  
ARID1A, PTEN, MTOR\*, FAT2, NFE2L2, NHS,  
KRAS, ERBB2\*, MED1, ERBB3, HLA.B, TP53\*,  
ZNF750, TRIM9, MAPK1, RB1\*

[Close](#)

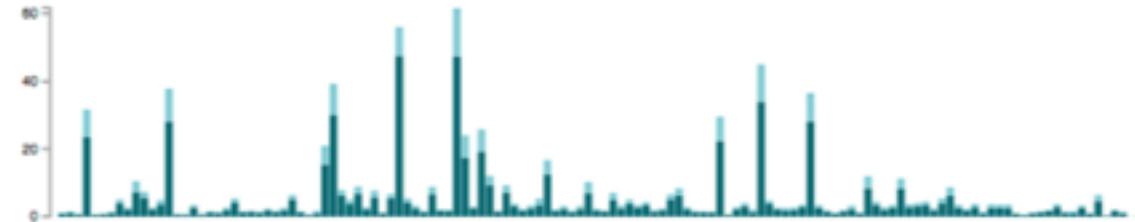
## iCoMut Beta for FireBrowse

CESC - Cervical squamous cell carcinoma and endocervical adenocarcinoma -

① Mutation Rate

- synonymous
- non synonymous

Mutation Rate



① Clinical Age

① Clinical Vital Status

① Clinical Gender

② Clinical Histology

① Clinical Ethnicity

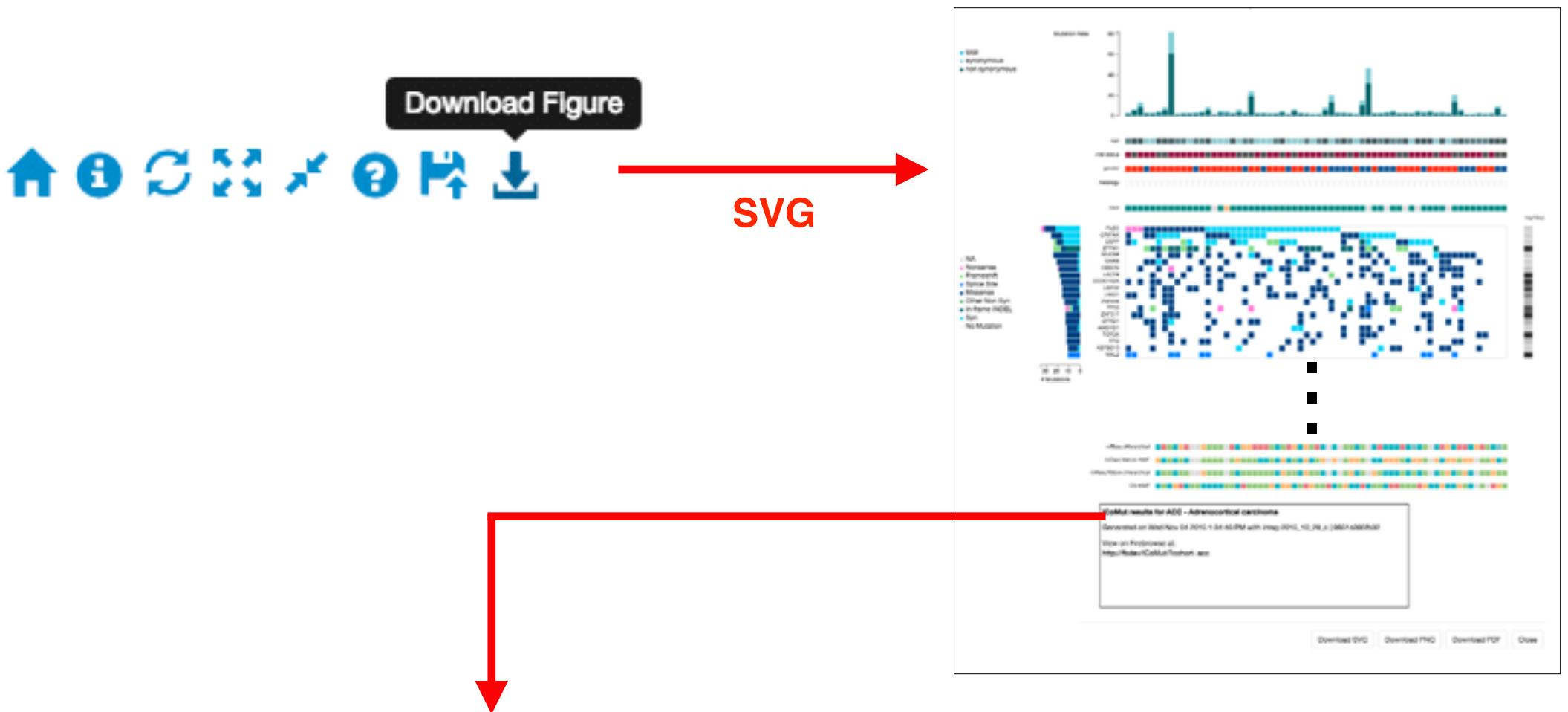
② Gene Mutation

- NA
- Nonsense
- Frameshift
- Splice Site
- Missense
- Other Non Syn
- In-frame INDEL
- Syn
- No Mutation



General Help

# Push-Button Publication Figure Reproducibility



iCoMut results for ACC - Adrenocortical carcinoma *Disease Type*

Generated on Wed Nov 04 2015 1:34:46 PM with integ-2015\_10\_29\_c | 9851a395fb32

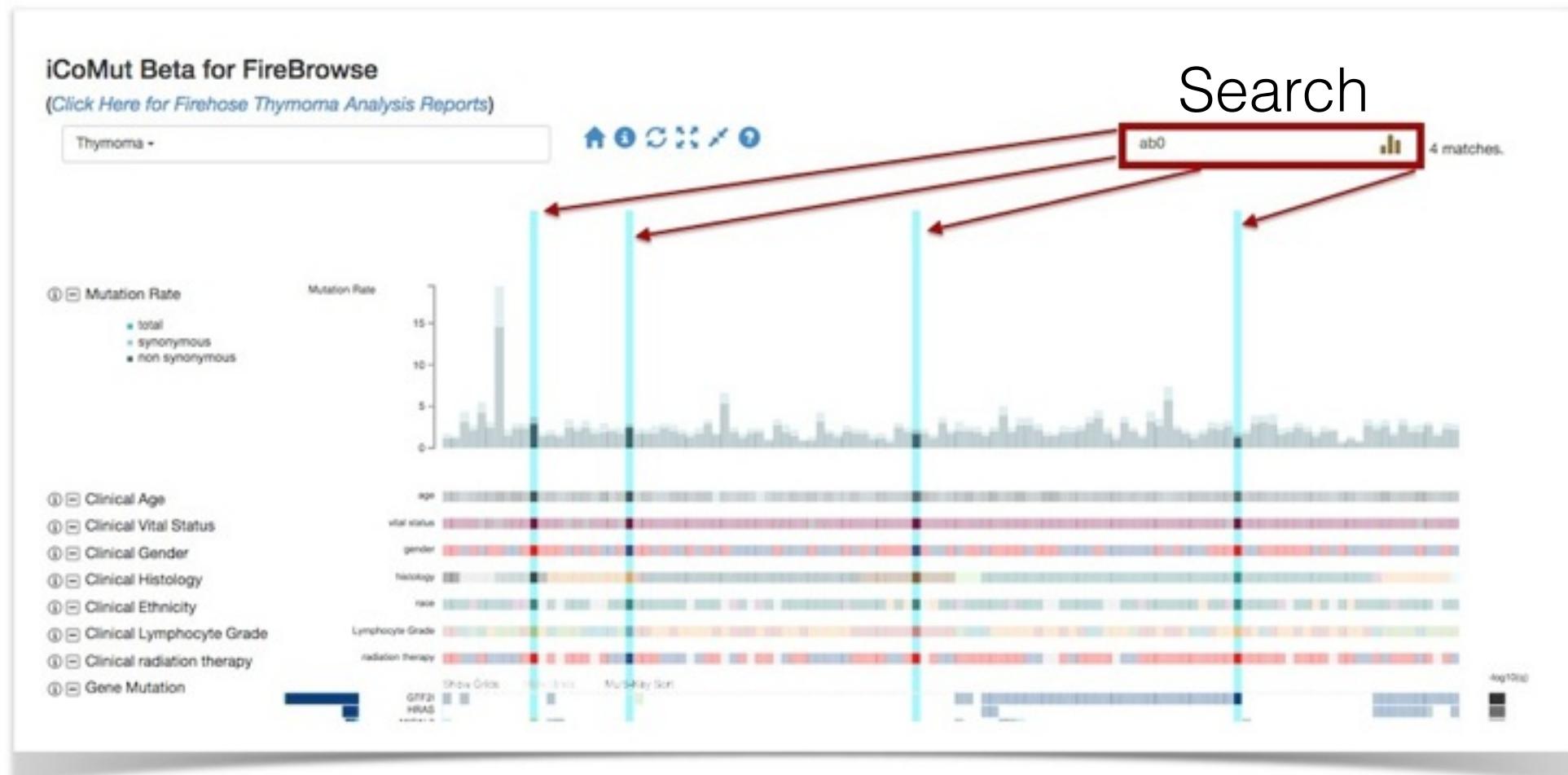
View on Firebrowse at:

<http://fbdev/iCoMut/?cohort=acc>

*Date & Software Version*

**URL to regenerate (will reflect all interactive manipulations to figure)**

# Many more graphical controls ...



**Example: locate patient/sample of interest**

**Collaboratively explore questions in realtime on telecons:  
in what expression cluster does patient X fall?**

**Without database lookup or scripting, etc**

# Advanced Search

Include these samples:

OR-A5K5

Exclude these samples:

C5-A0TN

## Panel Functions

-- Select a Panel --

- mutation\_rate
- clinical\_age
- clinical\_vital\_status
- clinical\_gender
- clinical\_histology
- clinical\_ethnicity
- gene\_mutation
- focal\_level\_cn\_gain
- focal\_level\_cn\_loss
- mrnaseq\_cnmf
- mrnaseq\_chierarchical
- mirseq\_cnmf
- mirseq\_chierarchical
- mirseq\_mature\_cnmf
- mirseq\_mature\_chierarchical
- cn\_cnmf
- clus\_methylation\_cnmf
- rppa\_cnmf\_clusters
- rppa\_chierarchical

Row	OP	Value
✓ non_synonymous	✓ >	
synonymous	>=	
total	<	
	<=	
	=	
	!=	

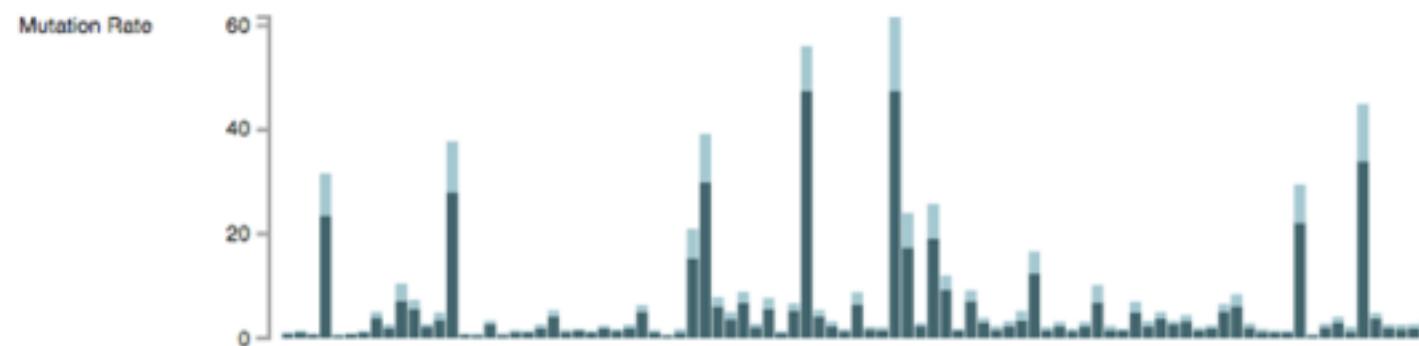
AND     OR

Search

Click on to collapse a panel

Mutation Rate

synonymous  
non synonymous



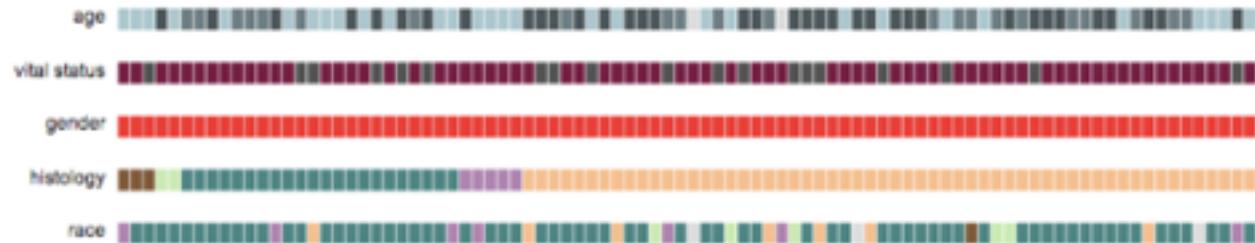
Clinical Age

Clinical Vital Status

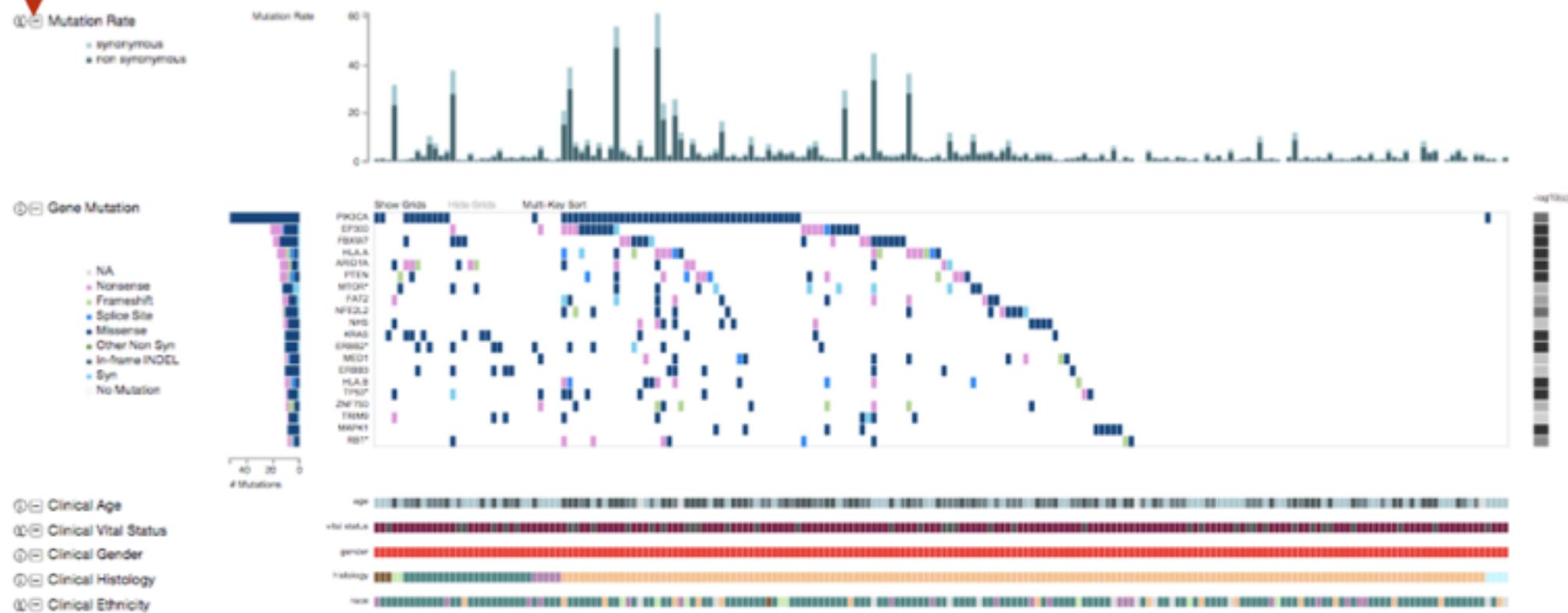
Clinical Gender

Clinical Histology

Clinical Ethnicity



Drag and drop the or icon to rearrange the panels



Rearranged panels

# iCoMut Beta for FireBrowse

ACC - Adrenocortical carcinoma ▾

- ① + Mutation Rate
- ① + Clinical Age
- ① + Clinical Vital Status
- ① + Clinical Gender
- ① + Clinical Histology
- ① + Clinical Ethnicity
- ① + Gene Mutation
- ① + Focal Level CN Gain
- ① + Focal Level CN Loss
- ① + mRNASeq cNMF
- ① + mRNASeq cHierarchical
- ① + miRseq cNMF
- ① + miRseq cHierarchical
- ① + miRseq Mature cNMF
- ① + miRseq Mature cHierarchical
- ① + CN cNMF
- ① + Methylation cNMF
- ① + RPPA cNMF Clusters
- ① + RPPA cHierarchical



Collapse all panels

Expand them again

More features described in online help

<http://firebrowse.org/iCoMut/#icomutHelp>

# Programmatic Tools

# API-Powered : 25+ RESTful apis in 4 categories

[HOME](#)[BROAD GDAC](#)[WEB API](#)[ANALYSES GRAPH](#)[FAQ](#)[CONTACT](#)

## Analyses : Fine grained retrieval of analysis pipeline results

[Show/Hide](#) | [List Operations](#) | [Expand Operations](#) | [Raw](#)[GET /Analyses/Mutation/MAF](#)

Retrieve MutSig final analysis MAF.

[GET /Analyses/Mutation/SMG](#)

Retrieve Significantly Mutated Genes (SMG).

[GET /Analyses/CopyNumber/Genes/All](#)

## Samples : Fine grained retrieval of sample-level data

[Show/Hide](#) | [List Operations](#)[GET /Analyses/CopyNumber/Genes/Focal](#)[GET /Samples/mRNASeq](#)[GET /Analyses/CopyNumber/Genes/Thresholded](#)[GET /Samples/miRSeq](#)[GET /Analyses/CopyNumber/Genes/Amplified](#)[GET /Samples/ClinicalTier1](#)

Retrieve GISTIC2 significantly amplified genes results.

[GET /Analyses/CopyNumber/Genes/Deleted](#)

## Archives : Bulk retrieval of data or analysis pipeline results, as compressed archives

[Show/Hide](#) | [List Operations](#)[GET /Analyses/Reports](#)[GET /Archives/StandardData](#)[GET /Analyses/Summary](#)

## Metadata : Retrieve disease, sample, and datatype descriptions, sample counts, and more

[Show/Hide](#) | [List Operations](#) | [Expand](#)[GET /Metadata/Counts](#)[GET /Metadata/Cohorts](#)

Retrieve map of cohort abbreviation

[GET /Metadata/Cohort/{cohort}](#)[GET /Metadata/Platforms](#)

Retrieve map of platform code(s)

# Interactive Docs

*learn APIs and explore data  
by playing in real time  
instead of cut/paste from static HTML or PDF*

GET

/Samples/mRNASeq

## Implementation Notes

This service returns sample-level log2 mRNASeq expression values. Results may be filtered by gene, cohort, barcode, sample type or characterization protocol, but at least one gene OR barcode must be supplied.

## Parameters

Parameter	Value	Description	Parameter Type	Data Type
format	<input type="button" value="json (default) ▾"/>	Format of result.	query	string
gene	<input type="text" value="egfr"/>	Comma separated list of gene name(s).	query	string
cohort	<input type="button" value="ACC&lt;br/&gt;BLCA&lt;br/&gt;BRCA&lt;br/&gt;CESC"/>	Narrow search to one or more TCGA disease cohorts from the scrollable list.	query	string
tcga_participant_barcode	<input type="text"/>	Comma separated list of TCGA participant barcodes (e.g. TCGA-GF-A4EO).	query	string
sample_type	<input type="button" value="NB&lt;br/&gt;NT&lt;br/&gt;TAM&lt;br/&gt;TAP"/>	Narrow search to one or more TCGA sample types from the scrollable list.	query	string
protocol	<input type="button" value="RPKM&lt;br/&gt;RSEM"/>	Narrow search to one or more sample characterization protocols from the scrollable list.	query	string

*choices clearly  
enumerated*

[Perform Query](#)[Hide Response](#)

## Proper RESTful call is ASSEMBLED FOR YOU

Request URL

[http://firebrowse.org:8000/api/v1/Samples/mRNASeq?format=json&gene=egfr&page=1&page\\_size=250&sort\\_by=gene](http://firebrowse.org:8000/api/v1/Samples/mRNASeq?format=json&gene=egfr&page=1&page_size=250&sort_by=gene)

```
{  
    "cohort": "ACC",  
    "expression_log2": 7.59666610237019,  
    "gene": "EGFR",  
    "geneID": 1956,  
    "protocol": "RSEM",  
    "sample_type": "TP",  
    "tcga_participant_barcode": "TCGA-OR-A5J1",  
    "z-score": -0.40056053472322  
},  
{  
    "cohort": "ACC",  
    "expression_log2": 6.98214823852598,  
    "gene": "EGFR",  
    "geneID": 1956,  
    "protocol": "RSEM",  
    "sample_type": "TP",  
    "tcga_participant_barcode": "TCGA-OR-A5J2",  
    "z-score": -0.572210443678677  
},
```

*JSON for computers/programmers*

*Results returned in multiple formats*

tcga_participant_barcode	gene	expression_log2	z-score	cohort	sample_type
TCGA-OR-A5J1	EGFR	7.59666610237	-0.400560534723	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5J2	EGFR	6.98214823853	-0.572210443679	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5J3	EGFR	9.31231960446	0.729969055244	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5J5	EGFR	8.50495520815	0.0333590221281	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5J6	EGFR	8.5592941021	0.0690092698339	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5J7	EGFR	8.64932911891	0.131115969294	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5J8	EGFR	8.06454015357	-0.210987070006	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5J9	EGFR	6.63334692474	-0.641628460792	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JA	EGFR	9.05879837786	0.468028706825	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JB	EGFR	8.50794128032	0.0352834298625	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JC	EGFR	7.55685241318	-0.414030877529	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JD	EGFR	6.25656347946	-0.699966368647	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JE	EGFR	6.16656683008	-0.711787657396	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JF	EGFR	8.56235233966	0.0710558865356	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JG	EGFR	8.96827107766	0.385101741143	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JI	EGFR	7.05755857856	-0.554865718674	ACC	TP RSEM
TCGA-OR-A5JJ	EGFR	6.64321260426	-0.639886855174	ACC	TP RSEM

*TSV, CSV for scientists, algorithms*

# Even Easier in Python, R, and UNIX

## fbget

- Low-level Python bindings: 1-1 with RESTful api
- Higher-level interface, for easy/common bioinformatics
- UNIX command line interface, too
- Automatically generated, easily synched with RESTful API
- Flexible, copiously documented and tested
- BSD-style open source license

[Download](#)

## FireBrowseR : bindings for R

<https://github.com/mariodeng/FirebrowseR>

# fbget : low level interface

```
python> import firebrowse
python> print firebrowse.Samples().mRNASeq(gene="egfr", cohort="ucs")
{
  "mRNASeq": [
    {
      "cohort": "UCS",
      "expression_log2": 7.06162500904694,
      "gene": "EGFR",
      "geneID": 1956,
      "protocol": "RSEM",
      "sample_type": "TP",
      "tcga_participant_barcode": "TCGA-QN-A5NN",
      "z-score": -0.598993525060403
    },
    ...
  ]
}
```

4 classes, one per API category:  
*Samples, Analyses,  
Archives, Metadata*

N methods per class, matching  
RESTful API; each defaults  
to returning 1 page, in JSON

# fbget : high level interface

```
python> import fbget  
python> print fbget.mrnaseq("egfr", cohort="ucs")
```

tcga_participant_barcode	gene	expression_log2	z-score	cohort	
TCGA-QN-A5NN	EGFR	7.06162500905	-0.59899352506	UCS	TP
TCGA-QM-A5NM	EGFR	8.16734387649	-0.298443593752	UCS	TP
TCGA-NG-A4VW	EGFR	8.93092623547	0.0932667888031	UCS	TP

- Simpler, e.g. objects do not need to be instantiated
- Intuitive defaults for common bioinformatic use cases
- Transparently iterates:
  - ✓ To retrieve all pages of results in 1 call
  - ✓ In TSV format

# **fbget : UNIX CLI interface**

```
linux% fbget mrnaseq egfr cohort=ucs
```

tcga_participant_barcode	gene	expression_log2	z-score	cohort
TCGA-QN-A5NN	EGFR	7.06162500905	-0.59899352506	UCS
TCGA-QM-A5NM	EGFR	8.16734387649	-0.298443593752	UCS
TCGA-NG-A4VW	EGFR	8.93092623547	0.0932667888031	UCS

Because sometimes even writing just a couple of lines of Python takes too long

**All of  
TCGA**

# Example: quickly list patients

```
linux% fbget patients
```

	tcga_participant_barcode	date	cohort
TCGA-PK-A5H9	2015-04-02 00:00:00	ACC	
TCGA-PA-A5YG	2015-04-02 00:00:00	ACC	
TCGA-OR-A5JD	2015-04-02 00:00:00	ACC	
TCGA-P6-A5OF	2015-04-02 00:00:00	ACC	
TCGA-P6-A5OG	2015-04-02 00:00:00	ACC	

**Or just  
GBM**

```
linux% fbget patients cohort=gbm
```

	tcga_participant_barcode	date	cohort
TCGA-19-4065	2015-04-02 00:00:00	GBM	
TCGA-81-5911	2015-04-02 00:00:00	GBM	
TCGA-81-5910	2015-04-02 00:00:00	GBM	
TCGA-12-1089	2015-04-02 00:00:00	GBM	

**This can be enhanced to yield platform  
data matrix, like AWG freeze list**

# fbget Documentation

- Website
- fbget – examples
- Python help

Docs for almost all class methods and functions can also be obtained by invoking the function with zero arguments.

```
python> fbget.mrnaseq()

mrnaseq() call has missing/None arg value(s), need at least one of: gene OR barcode
Help on function mrnaseq in module fbget:

mrnaseq(gene=None, barcode=None, **kwargs)

    High level wrapper for the FireBrowse Samples.mRNASeq method.
    By default it returns ALL pages of data, in TSV format . . .
```

Better than an inscrutable stack trace, don't you think?

# Same is true on UNIX command line

```
linux% fbget mrnaseq

mrnaseq() call has missing/None arg value(s), need at least one of: gene OR barcode
Help on function mrnaseq in module firebrowse.fbget:

mrnaseq(gene=None, barcode=None, **kwargs)
    High level wrapper for the FireBrowse Samples.mRNASeq method.
    By default it returns ALL pages of data, in TSV format.

    This service returns sample-level log2 mRNASeq expression
    values. Results may be filtered by gene, cohort, barcode,
    sample type or characterization protocol, but at least one
    gene OR barcode must be supplied.

    For more details consult the interactive documentation at
        http://firebrowse.org/api-docs/#!/Samples
    OR use help(param_values) to see the range of values accepted
    for each parameter, the defaults for each (if any), and the
    degrees of optionality/requiredness offered by the API.

Parameters:
    format (str) Format of result.
    gene (str) Comma separated list of gene name(s).
    cohort (str) Narrow search to one or more TCGA disease cohorts.
    barcode (str) Comma separated list of TCGA participant barcodes (e.g. TCGA-GF-A4E0).
    sample_type (str) Narrow search to one or more TCGA sample types.
    protocol (str) Narrow search to one or more sample characterization protocols.
    page (int) Which page (slice) of entire results set should be returned.
    page_size (int) Number of records per page of results. Maximum is 2000.
    sort_by (str) Which column in the results should be used for sorting paginated results?
```

Docs obtained by invoking functions with zero arguments

# Examples Embedded Directly in Tool

```
linux% fbget --examples

# Every line of these examples can be cut and directly pasted to your
# UNIX-like command line. Comments will be ignored, while everything
# not beginning with the # comment character will be executed, as long
# as fbget is in your $PATH

# Get the RNASeq expression level of the POLE gene, for all TCGA samples
# (both tumors and normals, in RSEM form, saved to file)
fbget --outfile=fbget-test-pole.tsv mrnaseq pole

# Similar query, but constrained to just the DLBC disease cohort
fbget mrnaseq pole cohort=dlbc

# Now constrained to single patient, and showing case insensitivity
fbget mrnaseq p01E baRc0dE=TCGA-RQ-A6JB

# What is the DLBC cohort, anyway?
fbget cohort dlbc
# DLBC      Lymphoid Neoplasm Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma

# List all the disease cohorts offered by FireBrowse (note that aggregate
# cohorts like COADREAD,KIPAN,GBMLGG,STES are not available at the TCGA DCC)
fbget cohorts

# Display help (docstring) for the function which retrieves clinical data
fbget help clinical
```

**Fin**