

# eQTL Tools

## a collaboration in progress

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eQTL Tools

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## experimental context

- B6 x BTBR obese mouse cross
  - model for diabetes and obesity
  - 500+ mice from intercross (F2)
  - collaboration with Rosetta/Merck
- genotypes
  - 5K SNP Affymetrix mouse chip
  - care in curating genotypes! (map version, errors, ...)
- phenotypes
  - clinical phenotypes (>100 / mouse)
  - gene expression traits (>40,000 / mouse / tissue)
  - other molecular phenotypes

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## how does one filter traits?

- want to reduce to “manageable” set
  - 10/100/1000: depends on needs/tools
  - How many can the biologist handle?
- how can we create such sets?
  - data-driven procedures
    - correlation-based modules
      - Zhang & Horvath 2005 *SAGMB*, Keller et al. 2008 *Genome Res*
      - Li et al. 2006 *Hum Mol Gen*
    - mapping-based focus on genome region
  - function-driven selection with database tools
    - GO, KEGG, etc
    - Incomplete knowledge leads to bias
  - random sample

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## why build Web eQTL tools?

- common storage/maintenance of data
  - one well-curated copy
  - central repository
  - reduce errors, ensure analysis on same data
- automate commonly used methods
  - biologist gets immediate feedback
  - statistician can focus on new methods
  - codify standard choices

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## how does one build tools?

- no one solution for all situations
- use existing tools wherever possible
  - new tools take time and care to build!
  - downloaded databases must be updated regularly
- human component is key
  - need informatics expertise
  - need continual dialog with biologists
- build bridges (interfaces) between tools
  - Web interface uses PHP
  - commands are created dynamically for R
- continually rethink & redesign organization

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The screenshot shows the Attie Lab website interface. The browser window title is "attie.wisc.edu - Mozilla Firefox" and the address bar shows "http://attie.wisc.edu/lab/index.php". The page is organized into several sections:

- Research Tools:** A list of tools including Time Course Experiment, Attie Lab Mouse Crosses, Mouse Genome Tools, miRNA Tools, Mouse-Human Comparative Mapping, and Tolerance Test for your data.
- Time Course Experiment:** A detailed section with sub-sections for "Power search tool for time course data" (listing features like power search, correlated transcripts, and correlation checks) and "Search Mice (F2, Parental, and Time course)" (listing resources like the Gene-gene network model and strain-specific expression patterns).
- Attie Lab Mouse Crosses:** A section for searching correlated transcripts against clinical tracks.
- Genome Scans:** A section for starting from selecting transcripts, starting by entering gene symbols, looking up transcripts by maxQ values, and genotype display by chromosome.
- F2-related Data:** A list of data resources including Attie Laboratory Mice, Mouse SNPs, SNP Calls, and CPL Rosetta Lipids File.
- General Tools:** A sidebar section with links to various databases and resources like MIPD, Mouse Phenome Database, Mouse SNPs, GeneNetwork, and various genome informatics tools.
- Diabetes Blogs - New Blog:** A small table with columns for No., Subject, and Comments, showing one entry for "Test Blog".
- Links:** A list of external links to various mouse genomics and informatics resources.

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date and time (Wed: 85° F, Thu: 70° F) and the time 4:01 PM.

## steps in using Web tools

- user enters data on Web page
  - PHP tool interprets user data
  - PHP builds R script
  - R run on script
    - creates plots, summaries, warnings
  - PHP grabs results & displays on page
  - user examines, saves
  - user modifies data and reruns
- 

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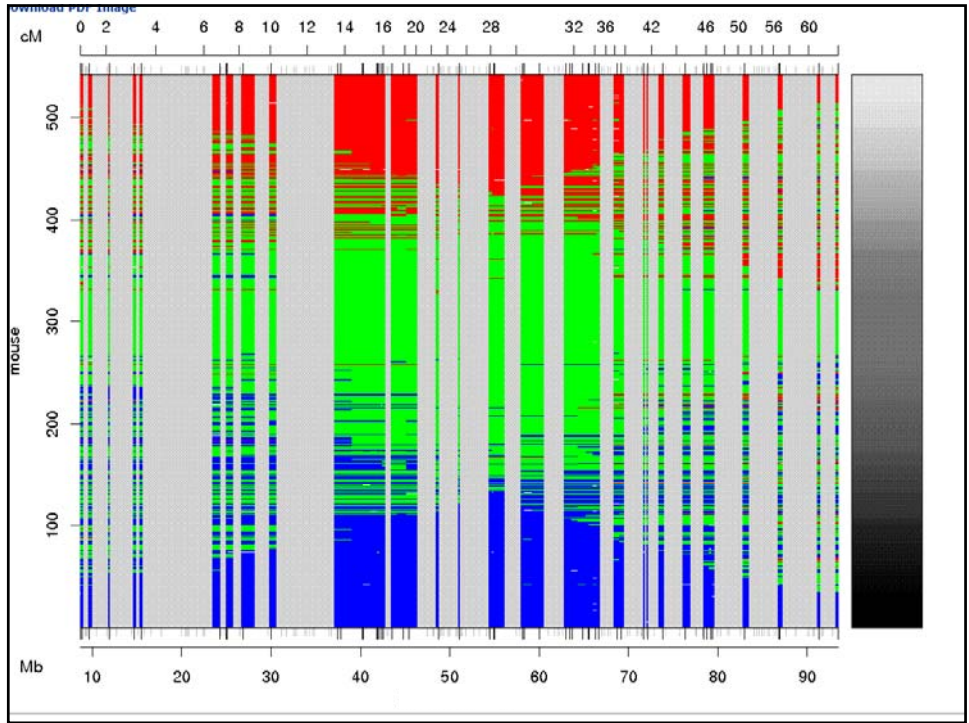
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## raw data or fancy results?

- raw data flexible but slow
  - LOD profiles for 100 (1000) traits?
- fancy results from sophisticated analysis
  - IM, MIM, BIM, MOM analysis
  - too complicated to put in biologists' hands?
    - methods are unrefined, state-of-art, research tools
    - use of methods involved many subtle choices
  - batch computation over weeks
    - compute once, save, display many times

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attie.wisc.edu - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://attie.wisc.edu/lab/tools/scanone\_op.php

You've logged in as Brian S. Yandell. Logout Now Update Profile

### Chromosomes 1-D Genome Scan of B6BTBR07 Clinical Phenotypes and Transcripts

**Data Source:**  F2 Raw Data  
 LOD  MOH  FAT (only islet and liver tissues are available)

**Sex:**  Both  Male  Female (ignored for LOD of clinical traits)

**Clinical Traits:**

**Genes:**  Symbols  a\_gene\_id  a\_substance\_id  accession\_code  Gene Name

Paste list here:  
(one per row)

**Tissues:**  islet  Liver  Hypo  Adipose

**Plot Type:**  heat map (  add position )  density histogram (For Raw Data only)  
 Profile scan

**Rescale LOD?**  Support  Peaks  none

**Clustering?**  Yes  No

**Threshold:** 0.05 Enter 0 - 1.0

**Unit:**  cM  Mb

**Y Label:**  Symbol  a\_gene\_id  symbol\_a\_gene\_id  none

**Image Size:** Width: 16 (inches) - height: 8 (inches), Font Size: 20, Resolution: 72

**Plot Title:**  Leave blank to use default title.

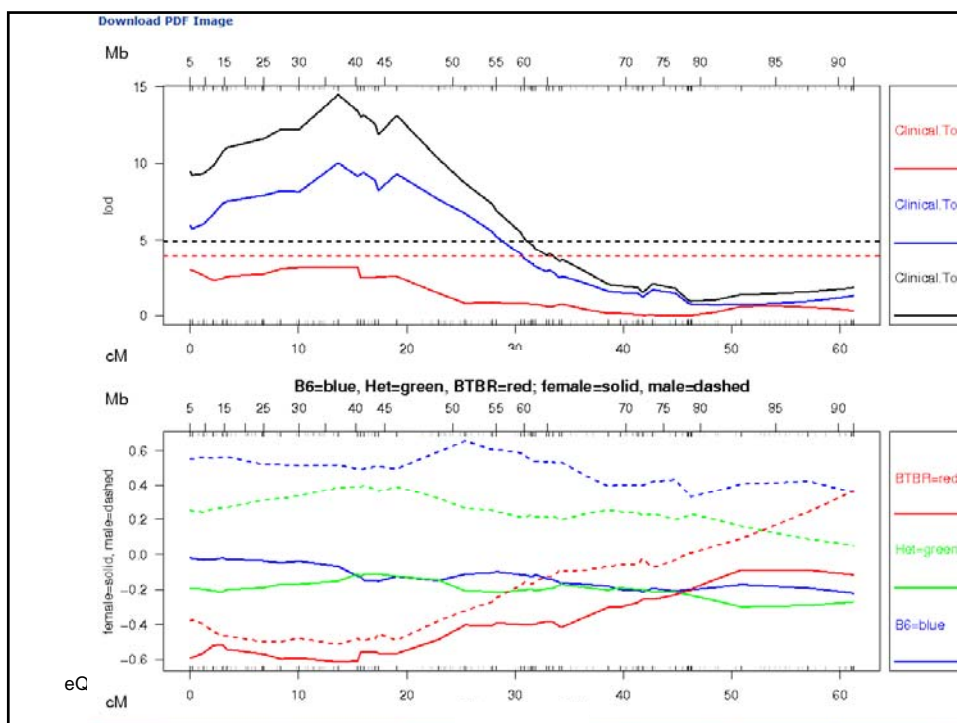
I just want to download extracted data and please do NOT perform analysis.

Downloads | MGL\_Coordinat... | vta.pdf | document\_1... | document\_1... | rgbzbtou.pdf | 001\_rgbzbtou... | 1.NIHOS.doc

Done

1.940s | Now: Sunny, 81° F | Wed: 85° F | Thu: 70° F

start | attie.wisc... | Microsoft... | xterm | 4:02 PM



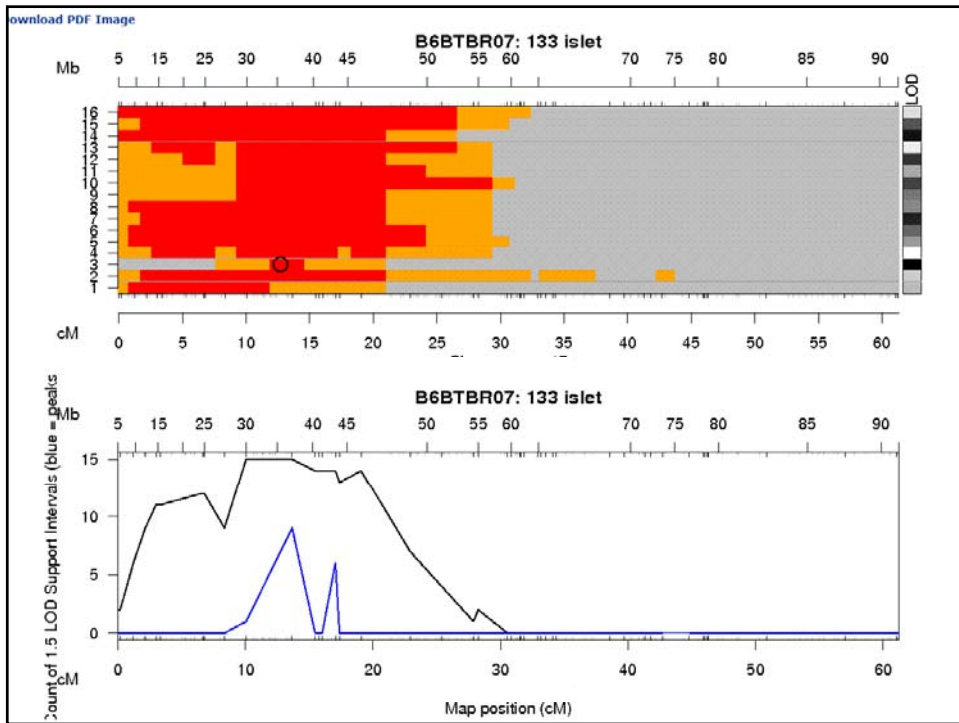
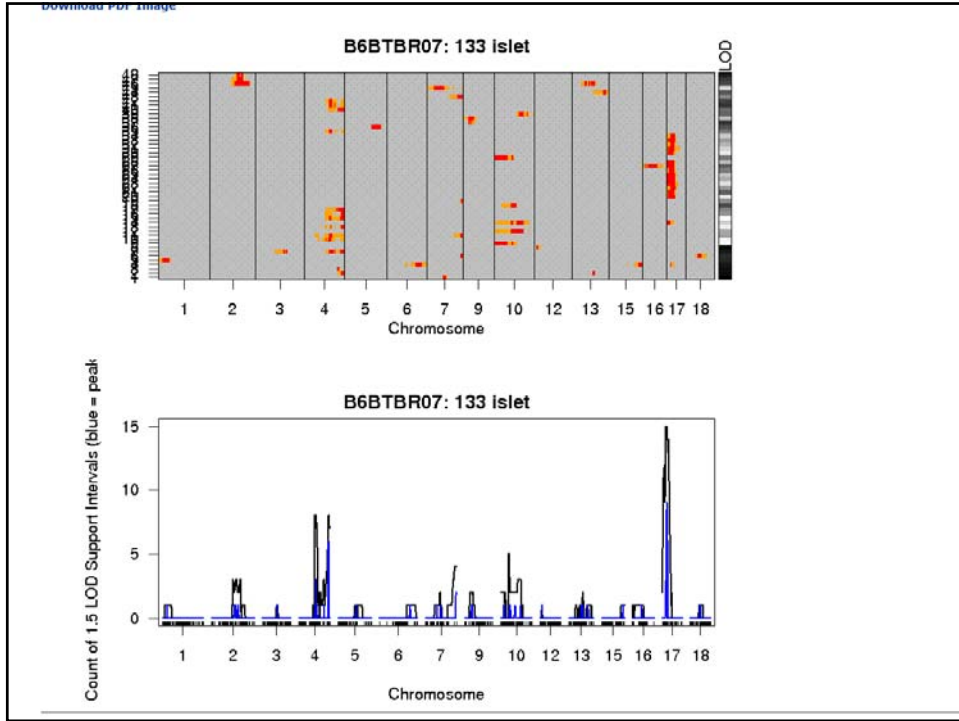
## automated R script

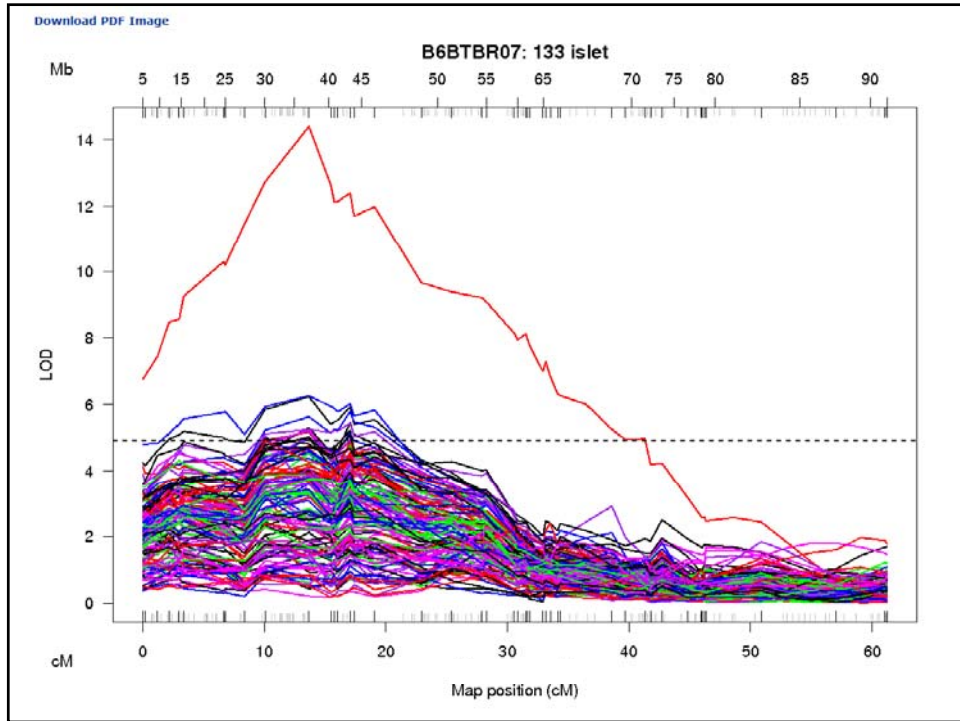
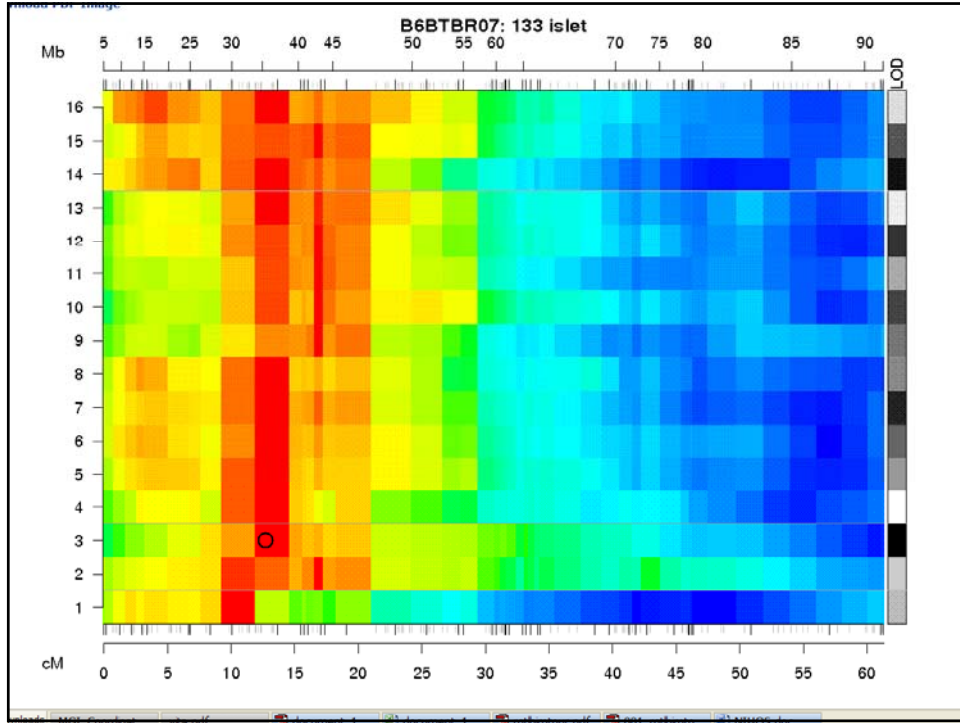
```
library('B6BTBR07')

out <- multtrait(cross.name='B6BTBR07',
  filename = 'scanone_1214952578.csv',
  category = 'islet', chr = c(17),
  threshold.level = 0.05, sex = 'both',)

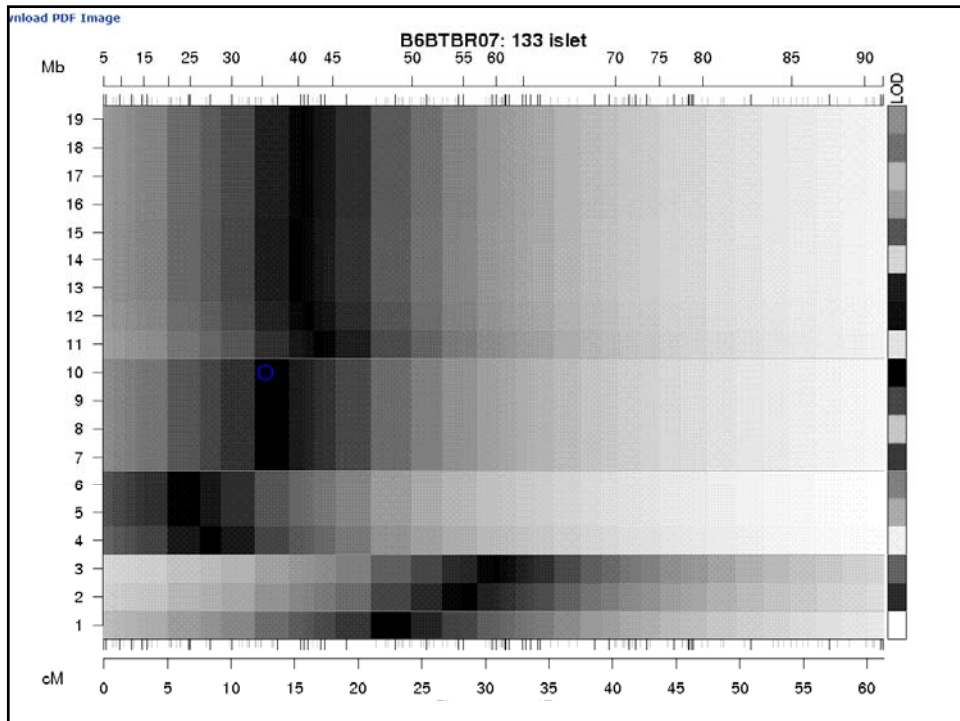
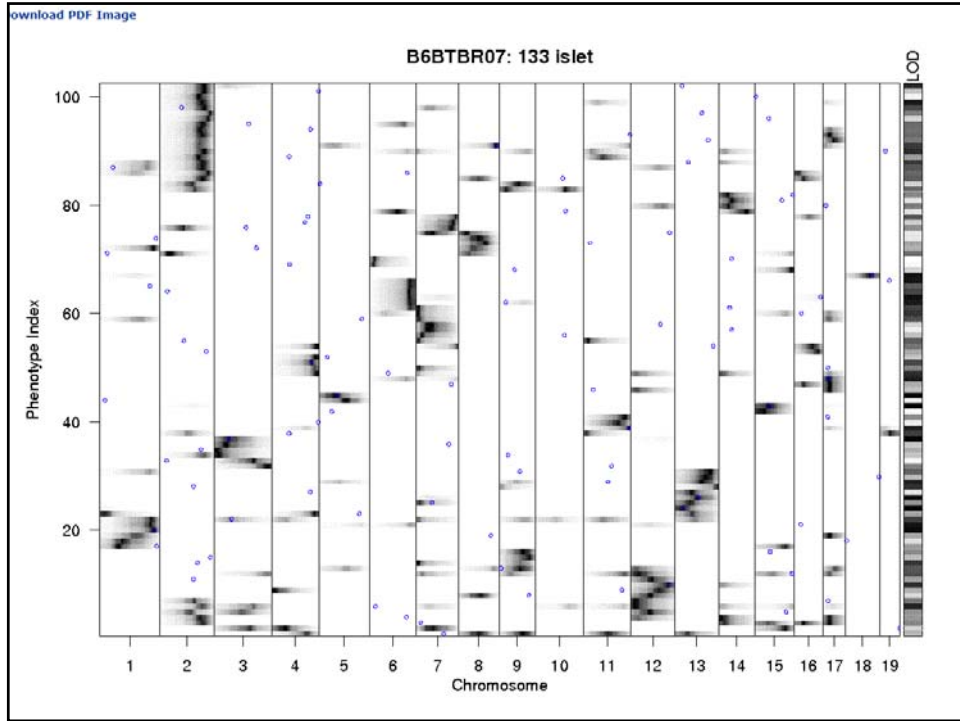
sink('scanone_1214952578.txt')
print(summary(out))
sink()

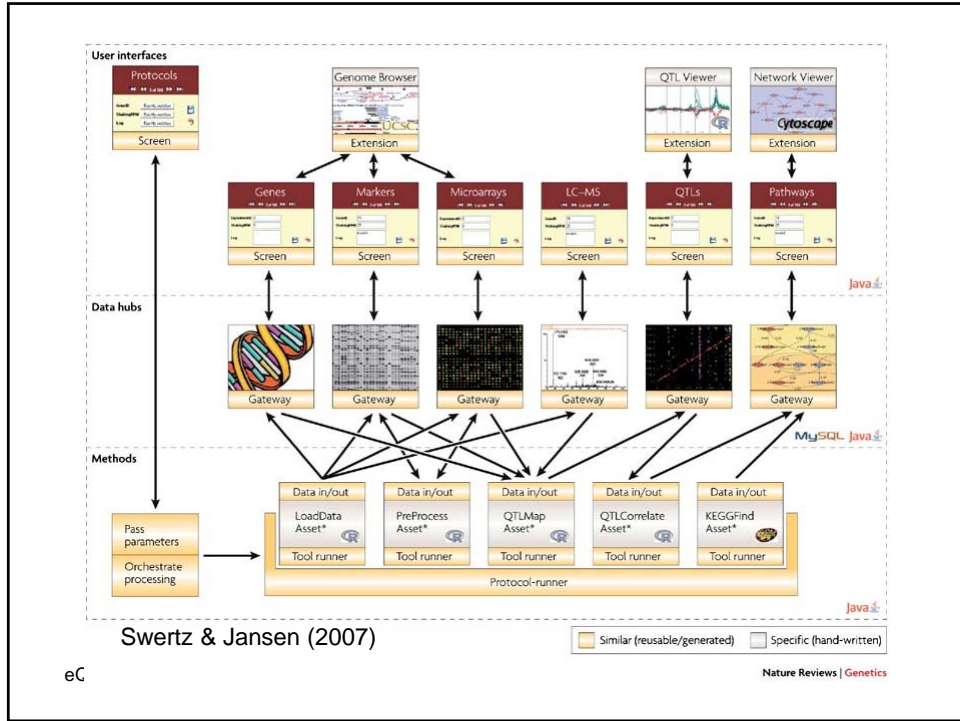
bitmap('scanone_1214952578%03d.bmp',
  height = 12, width = 16, res = 72, pointsize = 20)
plot(out, use.cM = TRUE)
dev.off()
```











eC