

# Chapter 4

## Common Network Pharmacology Software



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**Abstract** As a growing trend in current pharmacology research and an important medical application in network science research, network pharmacology has become an indispensable complement to traditional pharmacology research with the immense accumulation and integration of large-scale pharmacology and disease molecular network data. In addition to emerging new methods and technologies, a large number of analytical techniques and methods, such as network analysis and molecular functional analysis have matured into related software or programs and are available for researchers to use for free or available as open source, which is an important factor and condition that has helped network pharmacology's robust and rapid development. From the perspective of information processing and computer systems, this chapter classifies and introduces commonly used network pharmacology software by refining the overall functional flow of network pharmacology-related software or programs and illustrates demonstrative application examples by combining actual data processing, analysis, and visualization operations. The practical steps and contents in this chapter, combined with the theoretical analysis, analysis methods, and research cases of network pharmacology in other chapters, can provide researchers or students with relevant software tools and practical operation methods that can be used for reference, as well as provide rapid and convenient software tool selection and practical guidance for actual research on network pharmacology.

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## 4.1 Software Functional Framework and Classification of Network Pharmacology

### 4.1.1 Overall Software Functional Requirements

Network pharmacology [1] uses network relationship data such as drug-target relationships, interaction group networks, and phenotype-genotype associations, with the goal of analyzing the regulatory role of drug intervention in molecular networks and using corresponding data analysis models and methods such as complex network, machine learning, and molecular functional analysis, to determine the research direction for the interpretation and discovery of drug molecular mechanisms. The focus of pharmacological research is to find the target of drugs and how to regulate the corresponding targets to achieve the effect of disease treatment. Network pharmacology research focuses on discovering and confirming the multi-target effect of drugs and their network pharmacodynamic mechanisms and analyzing and discovering the systemic therapeutic effect of drugs and their combination on diseases, by analyzing the overall effect of network regulation.

In general, classic network pharmacology research cases involve main links such as network data collection and integration, network structure analysis and prediction, molecular and network function analysis, drug-target (target) relationship analysis, drug interaction or combination analysis, and drug indication analysis. The first three links are the common steps and methods in classic network pharmacology research, while the last three links are typical tasks for specific applications. The core data involved in relevant links are described in detail in other chapters of this book, including the clinical efficacy information of drugs, drug composition structure and its interaction, drug-target relationship, interaction group network, phenotypic genotype association, drug side effects, and drug indications.

Network data collection and integration: Targeting research problems of specific drugs' action mechanism, the lack or limitation of main target relationship data, such as drug-target relationship, is relatively common. In addition to generating the corresponding target data through wet tests, network pharmacology research often uses automatic data extraction or generation methods to collect the target relationship data. At the same time, the integration of network data from different sources (medical literature, structured database, etc.) and different types (drug-target relationship, drug side effect relationship, disease gene relationship, etc.) is often used to integrate network data resources for specific research objectives. For example, as the core research task of network pharmacology, the prediction of drug-target relationship usually adopts relatively single data types in the initial stage, such as drug chemical structure information, drug-target relationship information, etc. However, due to the incompleteness and complementary characteristics of various types of information, in recent years, use of multi-source network data integration to construct the basic network pharmacology data resources has become a guiding research direction. In the following foreseeable future, network data integration will become

the basic research method and foundation. Therefore, network data integration is one of the basic functional requirements of network pharmacology methods or software.

Network structure analysis and prediction: From the perspective of network science or complex network [2, 3], network pharmacology is a classic application of complex network in the pharmacology field, and its wider medical applications can be considered as network medicine [4]. Therefore, analysis methods and models based on complex networks such as node or edge centrality measure, shortest path, link prediction, and community analysis [5, 6] (community detection), and various statistical graph generation models (such as random graph [7], small world network [8], and scale-free network [9]) are the main supporting analysis methods in network pharmacology. For example, the problem of edge prediction using the adjacent structure of the network, the path connection mode of the network, or the attribute information of the node is called link prediction. Its most direct application is drug-target prediction (to determine whether the relationship between a specific drug node and a target node exists). The direct application of community analysis with relatively dense internal connections and relatively sparse external sub-network structures obtained from the overall network is the discovery and confirmation of the disease module [10] or drug-target module. Therefore, the above two methods naturally become the core complex network analysis methods in network pharmacology. In addition, due to the above two kinds of network analysis problems, we can also directly model typical machine learning problems [11], such as the drug-target relationship problem can be regarded as an information recommendation problem [12], a binary classification problem of edge judgment, or a corresponding sorting learning problem [13], and the analysis of disease module can be regarded as a clustering problem of network data. Therefore, supervised learning methods [11] such as regression analysis, support vector machine, Bayesian network, and deep neural network in machine learning can be used in drug-target prediction. However, unsupervised learning methods, such as k-means, spectral clustering, and hierarchical clustering, can be applied to the discovery of disease modules. Moreover, all kinds of community analysis methods, such as graph partition-based method and modularity evaluation-based optimization method, can be considered as clustering methods based on network data. Common complex network analysis and even some machine learning software based on network data are tools and methods that can be used in network pharmacology research.

Molecular and network function analysis: Determining the specific biological functions of drug-targets and their molecular networks is an important task for analyzing drug molecular mechanisms and their pharmacodynamic effects. Therefore, systematic molecular function analysis methods have become an important technical means in network pharmacology to further explain the drug effects and pharmacokinetic mechanisms from the multi-tiered levels of molecules, cells, tissues, organs, and systems, as well as adverse drug reactions and side effects. Among them, gene ontology (GO) analysis is the main functional analysis at the gene or protein level, while molecular pathway analysis can be combined with corresponding pathway databases such as KEGG and Reactome for molecular

function analysis of metabolic pathways, signal transduction pathways, and protein complexes.

**Analysis and prediction of drug-target relationship:** Drug-target analysis is network pharmacology's core analysis task and goal. Judging from the types of drugs involved and the scope of research, it can be divided into two main research approaches. The first category focuses on drug-target discovery of specific drugs (or TCM compound prescriptions) or diseases. The purpose of this task is to identify novel binding relationship between drugs (corresponding small-molecule chemical components) and targets by means of virtual screening, manual compilation, and review of literature and information extraction or wet tests, using clinical efficacy or phenotype information of specific drugs, to form relatively reliable research results through the interaction information between the target in the molecular network and disease-related genes or biomarkers. The second category focuses on the R&D of large-scale drug-target relationship prediction methods using integrated network pharmacology data or drug association attributes. The first type of research is actually a case-based drug-target relationship study based on network pharmacology, which aims to analyze the mechanism of clinically effective drugs and prescriptions, provide an understanding and interpretation of pharmacological mechanisms, and provide a new record for drug-target relationship data resources. This kind of research is extensively practiced and has varied applications in the field of TCM network pharmacology. Especially in the research of the target of Chinese medicine compound prescriptions and their molecular network, this research type has generated practical results and research value. The second type of research aims at the development of new analytical methods and models, which is one of the core research tasks of network pharmacology. This method mainly includes two kinds of models: complex network analysis and machine learning. So far, researchers have implemented a variety of related drug-target prediction algorithms and models that promote the progress of network pharmacology research. Various algorithms and models for related drug-target prediction implemented by researchers have also promoted network pharmacology research development. In view of the significant performance advantages of deep representation learning and deep neural network models where there is sufficient data volume, the current algorithm and its software research and development has formed a tide and trend that is focused on the deep learning model.

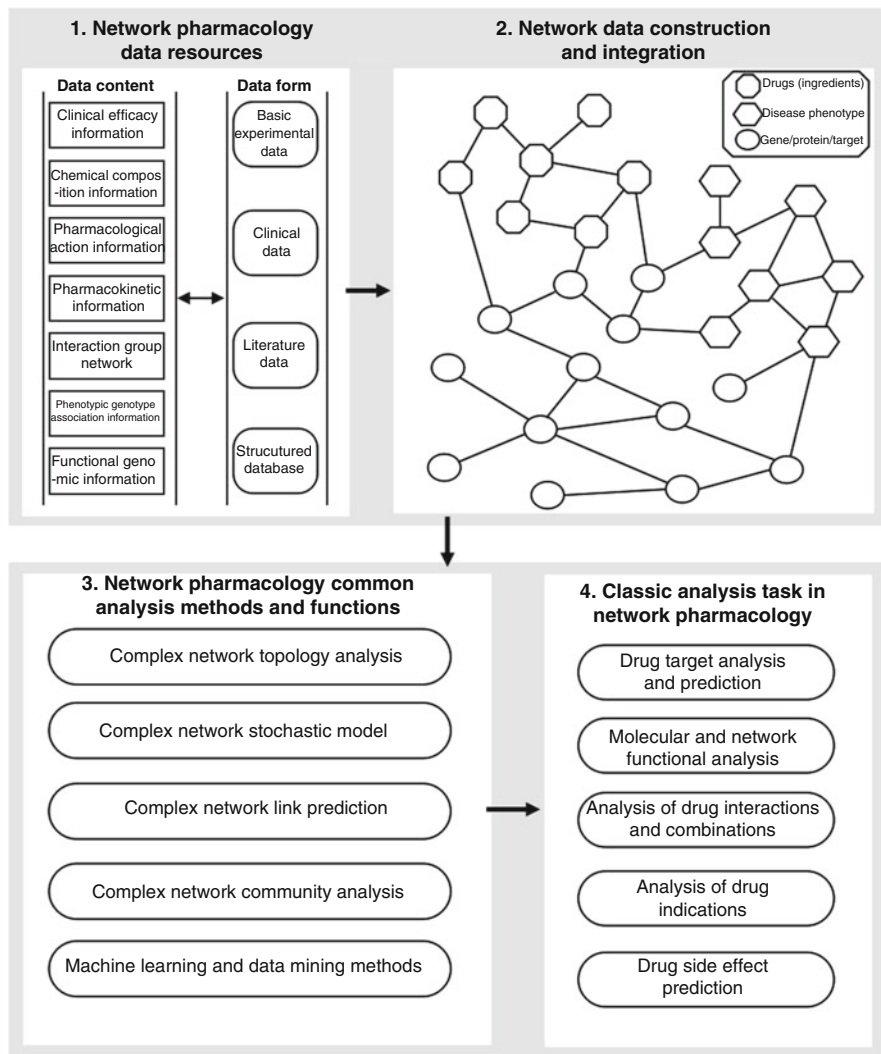
**Analysis of drug interactions and combinations:** Drug interactions (drug-drug interaction) refer to the mutual influence and action between ingredients caused by simultaneous use of food, beverages, food supplements, and other drugs in the process of drug use. These interactions often lead to side effects and adverse reactions, but may also lead to beneficial medicinal effects [14]. Drug combination analysis refers to the analysis and study of the clinical situation of complex diseases such as co-diseases and concomitant diseases, as well as complex chronic diseases such as cancer and complex infectious diseases such as HIV. It is necessary to analyze and study the simultaneous listing and administration of multiple drugs for the same patient (especially the elderly), so as to find the best combination of drugs and identify the combination of drugs that cause serious side effects. Therefore,

given the widespread use of combination drugs (or even compound drugs), drug interaction analysis has become an important research direction, and drug interaction analysis is also an important cross-sectional research area in the R&D of combination drugs within the network pharmacology framework. The above two research tasks complement each other. As network pharmacology focuses on the multi-target and molecular network effects of drugs, drug interaction and combinatorial analysis have become important applications of network pharmacology methods, as they can help discover and confirm more systematic drug interactions and effective combination drugs. At the same time, network pharmacology research of TCM itself is a compound-oriented pharmacological research. The diversity of compound medicine ingredients makes the systematic research of drug interactions and combined drug mechanisms a research task and scientific problem that is both important and promising for breakthroughs. The discovery and conformation network effect index of optimal combination drugs [15] and even a compound network drug efficacy index that reflects the compatibility of TCM formulation is an important basic research task in TCM network pharmacology.

Analysis and prediction of drug indications: Drug indication analysis is the final goal of network pharmacology research, that is, determining the disease or clinical phenotype that can eventually be effectively treated by drugs. From the perspective of analysis methods, the analysis and prediction of drug indications and the very important drug repositioning (or drug repurposing) [16] issue in the context of new drug research and development are the same issue. For a given drug, to predict its total pharmacophore spectrum (disease or phenotype treated or acted upon), the novel pharmacodynamic phenotype is the target of drug redirection analysis [16]. In addition, in this sense, the side effects and adverse reactions of a drug can also be considered as an effector phenotype in the broad sense of the drug, but the side effects and adverse reactions of the drug are only an unexpected effector phenotype. In view of the concept of drug action based on extensive systematic data integration and network regulation, network pharmacology has natural advantages and characteristics in the overall analysis of drug indications. Therefore, drug redirection research based on network method and network pharmacology has become a widely recognized new idea and method in the research and development of new drugs.

### ***4.1.2 Software Functional Framework and Classification of Network Pharmacology***

In the previous section, the data processing and analysis requirements of network pharmacology research were briefly summarized. Network pharmacology research involves data resource collection and integration, network construction and analysis, drug-target relationship prediction, and other diverse methods and software functional requirements. From its functional framework and classification, it basically includes the data processing and analysis function module, as shown in Fig. 4.1. In



**Fig. 4.1** Software functional module framework of network pharmacology

fact, the current research and development of network pharmacology methods and software research and development mainly focus on the following four aspects of functional requirements. For example, in terms of the formation and integration of network pharmacology data resources, a large number of network pharmacology databases have been constructed, such as DrugBank [17], STITCH [18], SIDER [19], PubChem, etc., as well as a large number of high-quality databases of functional genomics and interaction groups. Specifically, in the field of TCM network pharmacology, a database resource platform, including the relationship of TCM-chemical ingredients-targets has also been constructed, which is of immense

help in the research and development of TCM network pharmacology. In addition, drug-target prediction methods and online software for specific diseases such as rare diseases, psychiatric diseases, and cancer, drug interaction prediction, drug combination analysis, drug redirection, and drug side effect analysis software are seeing rapid growth and development. At the same time, as complex networks, machine learning software, and programming language for big data analysis (such as Python) mature further, the applications in the biological field can provide strong technical support for network pharmacology research. The subsequent chapters illustrate and introduce typical methods, software, and practical programming operations related to the above aspects.

## **4.2 Online Software Commonly Used in Network Pharmacology**

Based on the requirements of network pharmacology analysis introduced in the previous section, it can be seen that drug-target and drug indications are important applications. The research and development of convenient and fast online software is an important means to promote drug-target analysis, indication analysis, and other pharmacology research, especially for researchers who are new to network pharmacology technologies and methods. At present, several excellent online analysis tools have been developed for researchers. This section introduces the analysis tools from the perspective of established online software.

### ***4.2.1 Online Software for Drug-Target Prediction***

The design and development of new drugs has always been a complex, expensive, and time-consuming process. Moreover, the success rate of new drug research and development is quite low. Usually, only a few drugs can finally pass the FDA evaluation every year and be commercially available for treatment. Therefore, drug research faces problems of low drug development efficiency, rising demand for treatment, and serious shortage of existing therapeutic drugs. The determination of drug-target relationship is an important link in the development of new drugs; however, the screening method based on wet tests is still extremely challenging and difficult, therefore, drug-target prediction analysis is a hot research topic. Teams from research institutions and scientific research institutes around the world have made extensive research and contributions in this respect and have developed various computational models to predict potential drug-target relationships on a large scale. The prediction analysis methods introduced in previous chapters are mainly based on algorithms. In addition, there are also convenient and practical

web-based service tools that can provide online drug-target prediction services, such as DINIES [20], SuperPred [21], and SwissTargetPrediction [22].

DINIES (Drug-Target Interaction Network Inference Engine based on Supervised Analysis) is an online platform that is used to infer potential drug-target interaction networks. DINIES can accept a variety of input data, such as chemical structures, side effects, amino acids, or protein domains. In addition, each dataset is converted into a nuclear similarity, and multiple state-of-the-art machine learning methods are used to predict the drug-target interactions.

SuperPred is an online platform used to predict the structure of small molecular targets. In SuperPred, drug-target prediction is based on similarity distribution through four input options (including the name of the compound searched in the PubChem database, the structure of the compound created through Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry Specification (SMILES), the structure diagram drawn with ChemDoodle, and the uploaded molecular file) to estimate individual threshold value and probability of a specific target.

SwissTargetPrediction is an online platform that is used to infer bioactive small molecular targets based on the two-dimensional and three-dimensional similarity values of known ligands. In addition, it can provide prediction results for five different biological tissues (human, house mouse, rat, cattle, and horse).

We use SwissTargetPrediction as an example to demonstrate the specific operation. First, the user can customize the species to be analyzed (in the case of humans, select homo sapiens) (as shown in Fig. 4.2); then, the user can enter the molecular structure of the compound and search for the specific SMILES string of the compound as the input on the ChEMBL website. Here, we take GINSENOSE RGl as an example (as shown in Fig. 4.3); finally, the user can click the “Predict targets” button; the platform runs the calculations and finally the corresponding target prediction analysis results are displayed on the prediction interface (as shown in Fig. 4.4).

## 4.2.2 Online Software for Drug Indication Analysis

Indication is the phenotypic spectrum of the disease treated by drugs. The main goal of drug indication prediction is to establish the relationship between drugs and the indication spectrum, that is, to determine what is the complete spectrum of disease phenotypes that a specific drug can treat. In view of the different granularity of disease classification, there are two problems in the analysis of drug indications: Optimization of the classification of diseases that have been treated and prediction of new diseases. The view that predicted disease phenotype spectrum contains new major diseases is a widely studied drug repurposing or drug repositioning problem. The drug repositioning method has been successfully applied to the R&D of a variety of disease treatment drugs [23], which can shorten the time of drug R&D and reduce the cost and risk of drug R&D. Drug repositioning can not only expand the application scope of drugs and extend their service life, but also enable the reuse



Fig. 4.2 SwissTargetPrediction front-page interface

Fig. 4.3 ChEMBL search page

of withdrawn drugs. For example, the original intention of developing sildenafil was to treat cardiovascular diseases such as angina pectoris and hypertension, but it was unexpectedly found in clinical tests that it can be used to treat male erectile dysfunction [24]. Subsequent studies have shown that low doses of sildenafil can

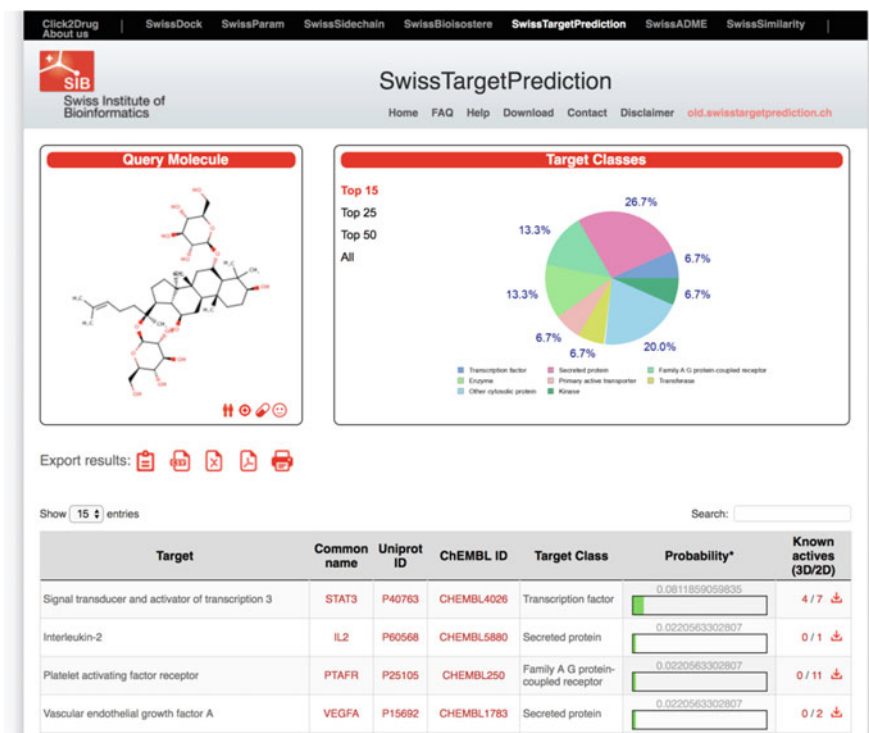


Fig. 4.4 Prediction result page

also be used for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension in rare cases [24]. The discovery of new uses for the above mentioned known drugs is mostly accidental, and not the result of rational design. Due to the large number of types of diseases and the number of known drugs, the cost of screening new uses of known drugs through experiments is still quite high. With the accumulation of omics data and the rapid development of various drug-related databases, such as DrugBank [17] and SIDER [19], drug repositioning prediction by computational methods has become a hot topic in computational biology and systems biology research in recent years [23]. The rational design of the clinical research scheme of drug repositioning assisted by computational methods can provide clues for large-scale experimental screening, further reduce the cost, and make drug repositioning enter the stage of combining rational design and experimental screening.

In recent years, there has been a growing trend in software R&D related to drug indication analysis, such as MeSHDD [25] and RE: fine Drugs [26]. Using the above software, researchers can analyze the properties of existing drugs through online methods to determine whether related drugs can be safely and effectively applied to specific diseases. The next section introduces a typical online tool: MeSHDD [25].

MeSHDD clusters drugs based on the drug–drug similarity of the Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) and then predicts new indications of the drug. Specifically,



**Fig. 4.5** Homepage of MeSHDD's official website

MeSHDD uses hypergeometric distribution to calculate the degree of co-occurrence of drug terms in MeSH and performs Bonferroni correction. Then, the drug–drug similarity is calculated by converting the above calculation result (represented by the P value) to the bit-by-bit distance obtained by the binary representation. Finally, pairing distance and clustering method are used to cluster the drugs, and the enrichment of disease indications is evaluated across multiple categories by comparing with data from TTD. In the verification experiment conducted by the author, it can be seen that MeSHDD can infer the indications for cystic fibrosis of antidiabetic drugs. The specific operation is as follows. First, navigate to the homepage of the official website (as shown in Fig. 4.5) and select the drug to be redirected from the drop-down list on the drug-centered page. Take quinine as an example, the indications corresponding to the drug can be obtained (as shown in Fig. 4.6), and related similar drugs can also be obtained (as shown in Fig. 4.7).

### **4.2.3 Online Software for Gene Function Enrichment Analysis**

Several related gene expressions and interaction group data generated by high-throughput sequencing can provide abundant functional data resources for phenotypic genotype association research, however, they also put forward new requirements for efficient molecular function analysis. Enrichment analysis [27] is the main method to determine the common biological mechanism and medical phenotype association of batch differences or related genes by leveraging existing databases of gene function attributes, phenotypic genotype association data, and interaction group databases (such as molecular pathway database). According to the different related molecular function data used, enrichment analysis is mainly divided into GO enrichment analysis, pathway analysis, and differential gene enrichment analysis. Through gene function enrichment analysis, it is possible to discover the key biological pathways in the biological process in which gene sets are involved, which is an important analysis link in exploring the common rules from the complex omics data.

In short, gene enrichment analysis involves finding gene sets with certain gene functional characteristics and biological processes in a group of genes, which are often used in the follow-up analysis of differentially expressed genes and screened

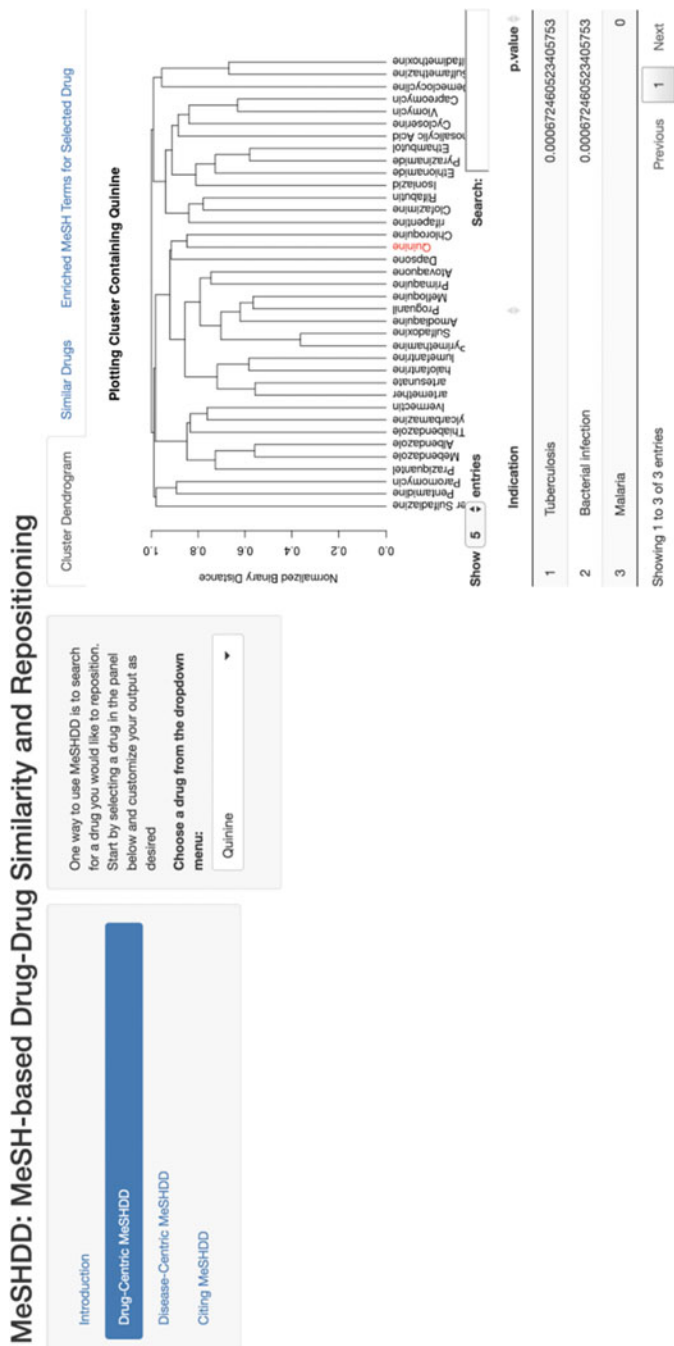


Fig. 4.6 MeSHDD prediction drug indications page

## MeSHDD: MeSH-based Drug-Drug Similarity and Repositioning

**Introduction**

**Drug-Centric MeSHDD**

Disease-Centric MeSHDD

Citing MeSHDD

One way to use MeSHDD is to search for a drug you would like to reposition. Start by selecting a drug in the panel below and customize your output as desired.

**Choose a drug from the dropdown menu:**

Quinine

**Cluster Dendrogram**

Show 10 entries

**Similar Drugs**

Enriched MeSH Terms for Selected Drug

Search:

Drug	Distance	Distance	Distance	Distance	Percentile
2	Mefloquine	0.779661016949153			0.35
3	Proguanil	0.8098823529411765			0.46
4	Sulfadoxine	0.813106796116505			0.48
5	Amodiaquine	0.814925373134328			0.49
6	Pyrimethamine	0.81875			0.52
7	artesunate	0.821727019498607			0.53
8	Primaquine	0.839779005524862			0.65
9	Chloroquine	0.848656294200849			0.72
10	halofantrine	0.858520900321543			0.81
11	Atovaquone	0.870206488675516			0.94

Showing 1 to 10 of 100 entries

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 ... 10 Next

Fig. 4.7 MeSHDD prediction-related drug page

genes. At present, there are nearly 100 kinds of enrichment analysis tools developed by different research institutes. At present, many open source websites have integrated GO enrichment and KEGG pathway analysis functions, such as DAVID [28], KOBAS [29], and STRING [30]. In this section, we introduce DAVID, a well-known and commonly used enrichment analysis tool.

DAVID is taken as an example to conduct GO enrichment and pathway analysis for a given gene set. The homepage of the website is shown in Fig. 4.8. Step 1: Navigate to the Start Analysis page and input the gene set to be analyzed under Enter Gene List. Select Affy\_ID under Select Identifier, then select the Gene List in List Type, and click the Submit List button, as shown in Fig. 4.9. Step 2: Select homo sapiens corresponding to the gene set under Select Species, then press the Use button under Select List and then click Functional Annotation Chart to initiate the analysis, as shown in Fig. 4.10; Step 3: Select the content to be analyzed, as shown in Fig. 4.11; select Gene\_Ontology and Pathways, and click Functional Annotation Chart to display the analysis result, as shown in Fig. 4.12. The corresponding GO enrichment analysis and KEGG path analysis results can be obtained at the bottom of the analysis page, and the above analysis results can be downloaded by clicking the appropriate button.

#### ***4.2.4 Online Software for Constructing Protein Interaction Network***

Proteins and their interactions are the pillars of cellular mechanism. Proteins are important macromolecules that constitute organisms and regulate a large number of basic life activities and biological behavior of organisms [31]. The protein interaction network is composed of individual proteins and their interactions, which can participate in all aspects of life processes such as biological signal transmission, gene expression regulation, energy and substance metabolism, and cell cycle regulation [32]. In network pharmacology correlation analysis, the protein interaction network is often used in drug-target and gene enrichment analysis and other studies and is of great significance for understanding the working principle of proteins in biological systems, the reaction mechanism of biological signals, the energy substance metabolism, as well as the functional connection between proteins. At present, there are many databases that provide protein interaction relationships, such as STRING, MINT [33], and BioGRID [34]. In this section, we introduce the STRING database that is well known and commonly used in research.

Currently, the STRING database has been updated to version 11, which includes known and predicted protein interaction relationships. The database contains 5090 species, 24.58 million proteins, and 3123.05 million protein interactions. The interaction relationships are derived from high-throughput experiments, text mining, other database data, and bioinformatics prediction data.

**DAVID Bioinformatics Resources 6.8**  
Laboratory of Human Retrovirology and Immunoinformatics (LHRI)

Home Start Analysis Shortcut to DAVID Tools Technical Center Downloads & APIs Term of Service Why DAVID? About Us

**Shortcut to DAVID Tools**

- Functional Annotation**  
Gene-annotation enrichment analysis, functional annotation clustering, BioCarta & KEGG pathway mapping, gene-disease association, homologue match, ID translation, literature match and [more](#)
- Gene Functional Classification**  
Provide a rapid means to reduce large lists of genes into functionally related groups of genes to help unravel the biological content captured by high throughput technologies. [More](#)
- Gene ID Conversion**  
Convert list of gene ID/accessions to others of your choice with the most comprehensive gene ID mapping repository. The ambiguous accessions in the list can also be determined semi-

**\*\*\* Welcome to DAVID 6.8 \*\*\***  
**\*\*\* If you are looking for DAVID 6.7, please visit our [development site](#). \*\*\***

Recommending: A [paper](#) published in *Nature Protocols* describes step-by-step procedure to use DAVID!

**Welcome to DAVID 6.8**

2003 – 2019

The Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery (DAVID ) v6.8 [comprises a full Knowledgebase update to the sixth version of our original web-accessible programs](#). DAVID now provides a comprehensive set of functional annotation tools for investigators to understand biological meaning behind large list of genes. For any given gene list, DAVID tools are able to:

**What's Important in DAVID?**

- [Cite DAVID](#)
- [IDs of Affy Exon and Gene arrays supported](#)
- [Novel Classification Algorithms](#)
- [Pre-built Affymetrix and Illumina backgrounds](#)
- [User's customized gene background](#)
- [Enhanced calculating\\_speed](#)

[Statistics of DAVID](#)

Fig. 4.8 Homepage of DAVID



Fig. 4.9 Input data interface display

Users can query a single protein or a collection of multiple proteins. A sample operation for querying a single protein is as follows: Navigate to the website's homepage; the default page has the query tool for a single protein. Enter the gene to be analyzed (CASP3 as an example) into the Protein Name text box, select Homo sapiens under Organism, and then click the Search button, as shown in Fig. 4.13. Click the Continue button in the next page (as shown in Fig. 4.14) to display the analysis results; the protein interaction relationship related to the input gene can be obtained, as shown in Fig. 4.15. You can also click the Exports button to download the corresponding analysis results, as shown in Fig. 4.16.

A sample operation for querying a collection of multiple proteins is as follows: Navigate to the website's homepage and click the Multiple Proteins button. Then, enter the gene set or gene list to be analyzed into the List Of Names text box, select Homo sapiens under Organism, and click the Search button, as shown in Fig. 4.17. Click the Continue button in the next page (as shown in Fig. 4.18) to display the analysis results; the protein interaction relationship related to the input gene set is displayed, as shown in Fig. 4.19. Similarly, you can also click the Exports button to download the corresponding analysis results, as shown in Fig. 4.20.



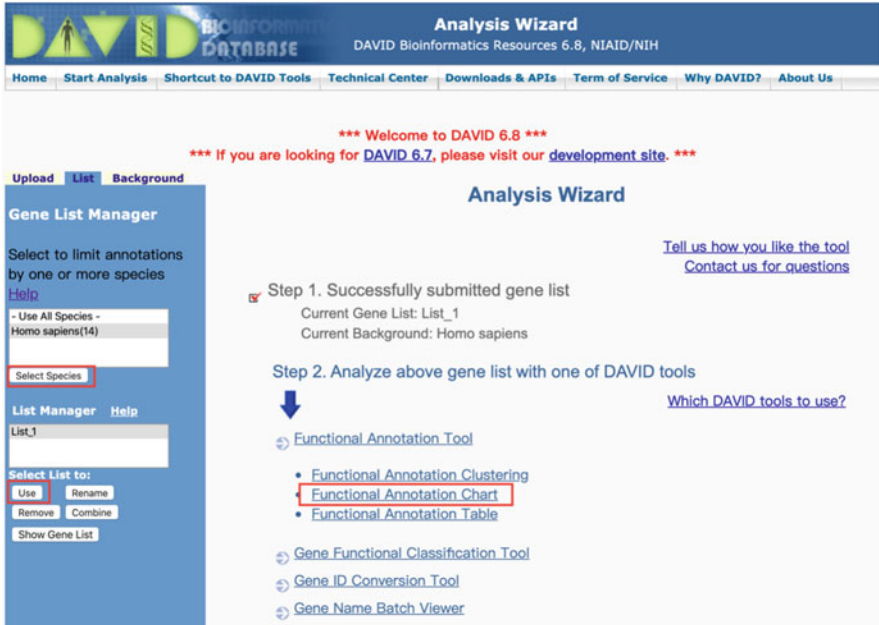


Fig. 4.10 Interface display for selecting and analyzing species

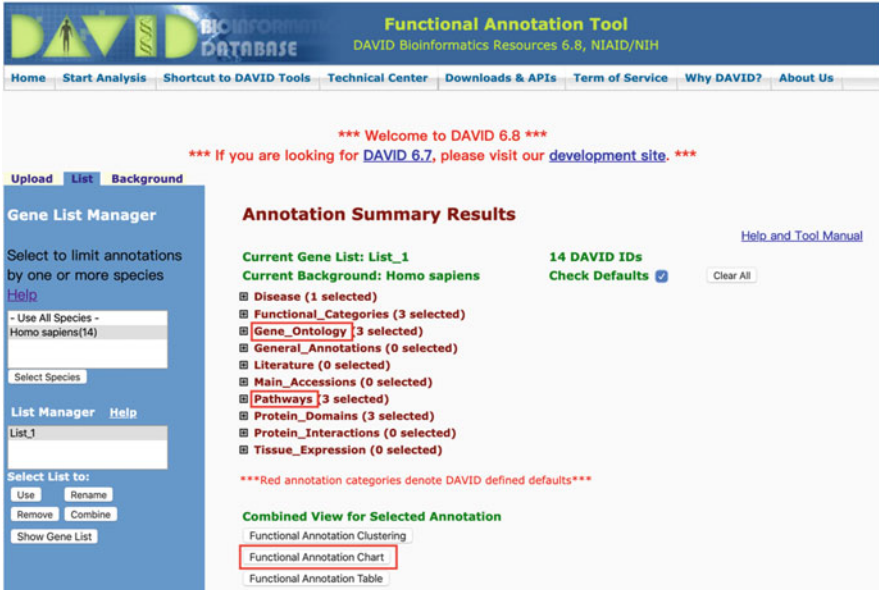


Fig. 4.11 Interface display for selecting and analyzing contents

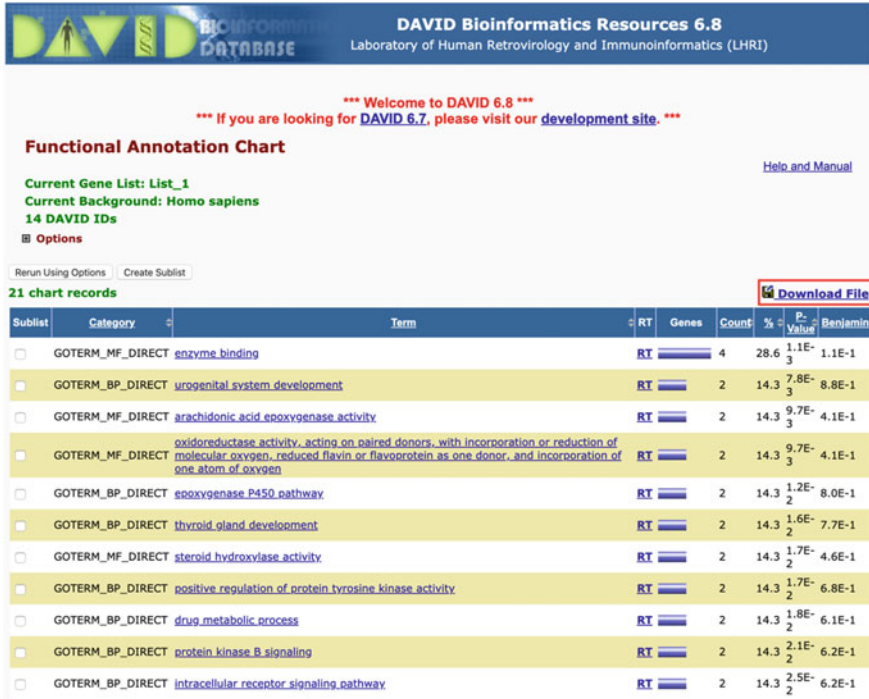


Fig. 4.12 Analysis results interface display

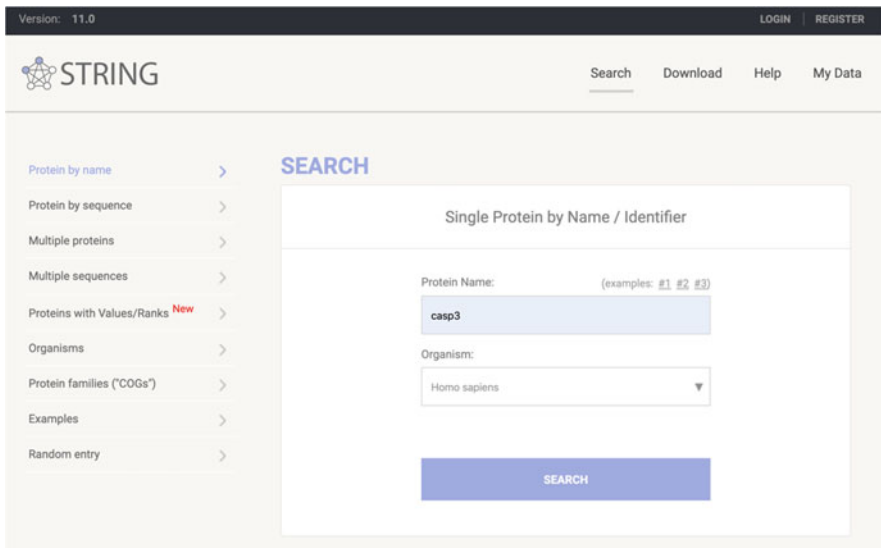


Fig. 4.13 Single gene query homepage

Version: 11.0 LOGIN REGISTER

Search
Download
Help
My Data

There are several matches for 'casp3'.  
Please select one from the list below and press Continue to proceed.

organism	protein
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens	<b>CASP3</b> - Caspase-3; Involved in the activation cascade of caspases responsible for apoptosis execution. At the onset of apoptosis it proteolytically cleaves poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) at a '216-Asp1-Gly217' bond. Cleaves and activates sterol regulatory element binding proteins (SREBPs) between the basic helix-loop- helix leucine zipper domain and the membrane attachment domain. Cleaves and activates caspase-6, -7 and -9. Involved in the cleavage of huntingtin. Triggers cell adhesion in sympathetic neurons through RET cleavage
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens	DEDD - Death effector domain-containing protein; A scaffold protein that directs <b>CASP3</b> to certain substrates and facilitates their ordered degradation during apoptosis. May also play a role in mediating <b>CASP3</b> cleavage of KRT18. Regulates degradation of intermediate filaments during apoptosis. May play a role in the general transcription machinery in the nucleus and might be an important regulator of the activity of GTF3C3. Inhibits DNA transcription in vitro (By similarity); Death effector domain containing [a.k.a. <i>KE05</i> ; <i>DEDPRO1</i> ; <i>DEFT</i> ]
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens	NAIP - Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing protein 1; Anti-apoptotic protein which acts by inhibiting the activities of <b>CASP3</b> , <b>CASP7</b> and <b>CASP9</b> . Can inhibit the autocleavage of pro-CASP9 and cleavage of pro- <b>CASP3</b> by <b>CASP9</b> . Capable of inhibiting <b>CASP9</b> autoproteolysis at 'Asp-315' and decreasing the rate of auto proteolysis at 'Asp-330'. Acts as a mediator of neuronal survival in pathological conditions. Prevents motor-neuron apoptosis induced by a variety of signals. Possible role in the prevention of spinal muscular atrophy that seems to be caused by inappropriate persistence of motor-neuron ap [...] [a.k.a. <i>BIRC1</i> ; <i>UP1000020C371</i> ; <i>XP_006714693</i> ]
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens	<b>BIRC7</b> - Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing protein 7; Apoptotic regulator capable of exerting proapoptotic and anti-apoptotic activities and plays crucial roles in apoptosis, cell proliferation, and cell cycle control. Its anti-apoptotic activity is mediated through the inhibition of <b>CASP3</b> , <b>CASP7</b> and <b>CASP9</b> , as well as by its E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase activity. As it is a weak caspase inhibitor, its anti-apoptotic activity is thought to be due to its ability to ubiquitinate DIABLO/SMAC targeting it for degradation thereby promoting cell survival. May contribute to caspase inhibition, by block [...] [a.k.a. <i>KIAP</i> ; <i>UNQ5800</i> ; <i>PRO19607</i> ; <i>PRO21344</i> ; <i>RNF50</i> ]
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens	<b>BAX</b> - Apoptosis regulator BAX; Accelerates programmed cell death by binding to, and antagonizing the apoptosis repressor <b>BCL2</b> or its adenovirus homolog <b>E1B 19k</b> protein. Under stress conditions, undergoes a conformation change that causes translocation to the mitochondrial membrane, leading to the release of cytochrome c that then triggers apoptosis. Promotes activation of <b>CASP3</b> , and thereby apoptosis; Belongs to the Bcl-2 family [a.k.a. <i>BCL2L4</i> ; <i>NP_620116.1</i> ; <i>Q9NR76</i> ]
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens	<b>WDR35</b> - WD repeat-containing protein 35; Component of the IFT complex A (IFT-A), a complex required for retrograde ciliary transport. Required for cillogenesis. May promote <b>CASP3</b> activation and TNF-stimulated apoptosis; Intraflagellar transport proteins [a.k.a. <i>IFT121</i> ; <i>KIAA1336</i> ; <i>WDR35-004</i> ]
<input type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens	<b>HAX1</b> - HCLST-associated protein X1; Recruits the Arp2/3 complex to the cell cortex and regulates reorganization of the cortical actin cytoskeleton via its interaction with <b>KCNK3</b> and the <i>Arp2/3</i> complex. Slows down the rate of inactivation of <b>KCNK3</b> channels. Promotes <b>GNA13</b> -mediated cell migration. Involved in the clathrin-mediated endocytosis pathway. May be involved in internalization of ABC transporters such as <b>ABCB11</b> . May inhibit <b>CASP9</b> and <b>CASP3</b> . Promotes cell survival. May regulate intracellular calcium pools; Belongs to the <b>HAX1</b> family [a.k.a. <i>HS1BP1</i> ; <i>OTTHUMP00000034191</i> ; <i>OTTHUMT00000087650</i> ]

Fig. 4.14 Single gene query information confirmation page

### 4.3 Software Based on Graphical Interface Operation

Based on the network pharmacology analysis requirements introduced in the first section, we know that a complex network is one of the important methods. A complex network is not only a formal tool but also a scientific research method. Due to its universality for solving problems in various fields, it has been widely used in the fields of medicine, sociology, physics, information science, and ecology. At present, the accumulation of network data in various fields, such as protein interaction network [35], disease relation network [36], social network [37], power network, aviation network, and transportation network, has further promoted research on complex network methods. For example, in social network research, we study the law of group behavior [38] and the law of information dissemination [39] by constructing a social network, whereas in the biomedical field, we study drug interaction [40] and drug-target relationship [41] by using complex network methods. At present, a large amount of network data has a large scale and many network nodes and edges. Therefore, it is necessary to rely on visual network analysis methods to obtain effective results. In view of this, researchers have developed several excellent visual network analysis tools, including visual software based on graphical interfaces and software that can be programmed to call the package (For example: Python package, R language package, Java package, etc.),

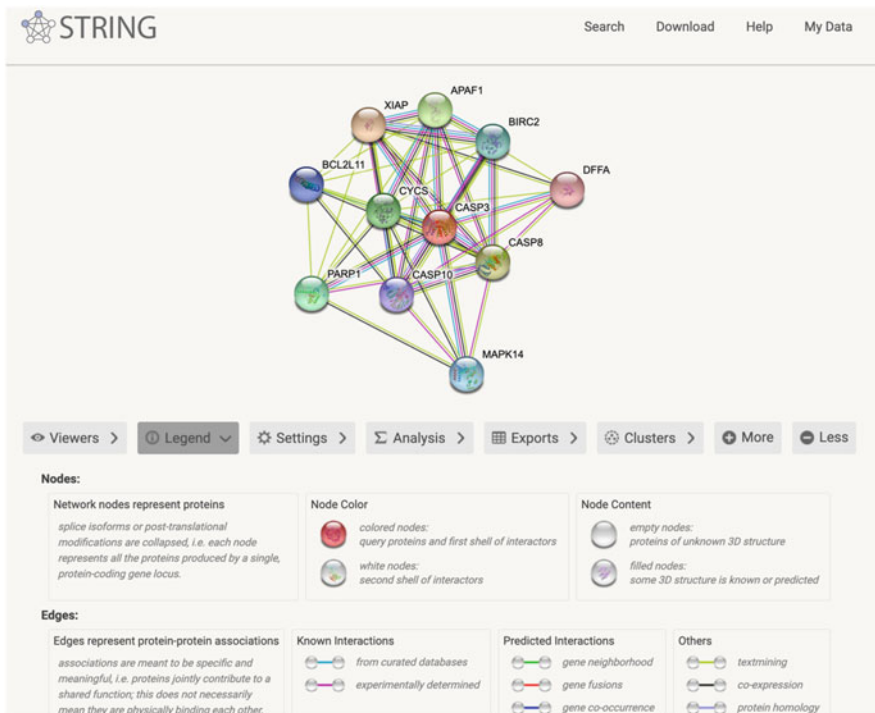


Fig. 4.15 Single gene query result page

among them, a visualization tool based on a graphical interface is easy to install and operate and is more intuitive to operate than a programming language package. Next, this section briefly introduces and demonstrates an independent system software from two aspects: differential gene enrichment analysis and network analysis.

### 4.3.1 Differential Gene Enrichment Analysis Software

The GO function and KEGG pathway enrichment analysis introduced in the previous section aims to discover the characteristic molecular function and pathway information of the identified gene set. In addition, another type of enrichment analysis is mainly used to identify differential genes for specific conditions such as phenotypes. For example: Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) [42] is a widely used method that can be used to assess the distribution trend of genes in a gene set in phenotypic correlation ranking and determine their association with a specific phenotype. Different from KEGG pathway analysis, GSEA considers the influence of genes with little expression difference but important functions, on the pathway, and compared with KEGG pathway analysis, it can retain more relevant information.

**Export your current network:**

- ... as a bitmap image: [download](#) file format is PNG: portable network graphic
- ... as a high-resolution bitmap: [download](#) same PNG format, but resolution at 400 dpi
- ... as a vector graphic: [download](#) SVG: scalable vector graphic - can be opened and edited in Illustrator, CorelDraw, Dia, etc
- ... as simple tabular text output: [download](#) TSV: tab separated values - can be opened in Excel
- ... as an XML summary: [download](#) structured XML interaction data, according to the PPSI-M<sup>2</sup> data standard
- ... network coordinates: [download](#) a flat-file format describing the coordinates and colors of nodes in the network
- ... protein sequences: [download](#) MFA: multi-fasta format - containing the aminoacid sequences in the network
- ... protein annotations: [download](#) a tab-delimited file describing the names, domains and annotated functions of the network proteins

**Browse interactions in tabular form:**

* node1	node2	node1 accession	node2 accession	node1 annotation	node2 annotation	score
APAF1	BCL2L11	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000376943	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	0.708
APAF1	BIRC2	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000477613	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing protei...	0.975
APAF1	CASP10	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000286186	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	Caspase-10; Involved in the activation c...	0.925
APAF1	CASP3	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000311032	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	Caspase-3; Involved in the activation ca...	0.998
APAF1	CASP8	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000351273	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	Caspase-8; Most upstream protease of I...	0.973
APAF1	CYCS	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000307786	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	Cytochrome c; Electron carrier protein. T...	0.998
APAF1	DFFA	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000366237	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	DNA fragmentation factor subunit alpha...	0.594
APAF1	PARP1	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000355759	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	Poly [ADP-ribose] polymerase 1; Involv...	0.435
APAF1	XIAP	ENSP00000448165	ENSP00000360242	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase XIAP; Multi-f...	0.989
BCL2L11	APAF1	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000448165	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	0.708
BCL2L11	BIRC2	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000477613	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing protei...	0.529
BCL2L11	CASP10	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000286186	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	Caspase-10; Involved in the activation c...	0.501
BCL2L11	CASP3	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000311032	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	Caspase-3; Involved in the activation ca...	0.988
BCL2L11	CASP8	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000351273	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	Caspase-8; Most upstream protease of I...	0.767
BCL2L11	CYCS	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000307786	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	Cytochrome c; Electron carrier protein. T...	0.809
BCL2L11	PARP1	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000355759	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	Poly [ADP-ribose] polymerase 1; Involv...	0.501
BCL2L11	XIAP	ENSP00000376943	ENSP00000360242	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase XIAP; Multi-f...	0.975
BIRC2	APAF1	ENSP00000477613	ENSP00000448165	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing protei...	Apoptotic protease-activating factor 1; ...	0.975
BIRC2	BCL2L11	ENSP00000477613	ENSP00000376943	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing protei...	Bcl-2-like protein 11; Induces apoptosis ...	0.529
BIRC2	CASP10	ENSP00000477613	ENSP00000286186	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing protei...	Caspase-10; Involved in the activation c...	0.656

page 1 of 5

Fig. 4.16 Single gene query download page

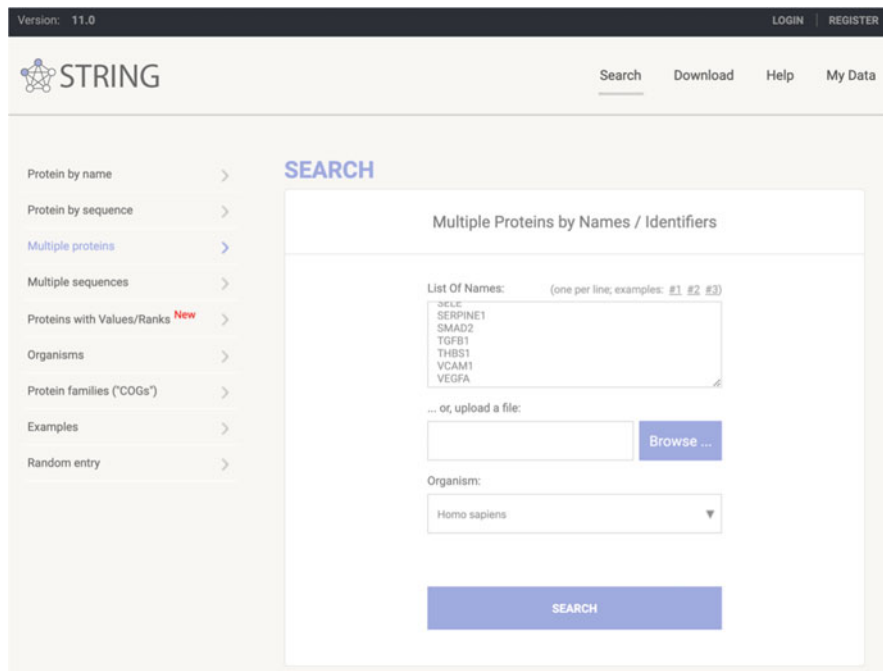
The GSEA algorithm and software were developed by the Broad Institute in the USA. The installation and analysis process of GSEA software is introduced below.

### 4.3.1.1 Software Installation

Two methods are officially recommended. The first is the Java-based GSEA desktop application. Navigate to the GSEA official download page and click the Launch icon on the right to download (as shown in Fig. 4.21), however, the installation requires an internet connection. The second type is the Java-based GSEA application package. Click download on the right to download. The installation does not require an internet connection and starts quickly. The software startup interface is shown in Fig. 4.22. We use the second method as an example in the following analysis and introduction.

### 4.3.1.2 Data Preparation and Import

GSEA provides the sample dataset on its official website, as shown in Fig. 4.23. Users can download a selected gene expression matrix file and sample grouping information file for analysis.



**Fig. 4.17** Multiple gene query homepage

The gene expression matrix `Diabetes_collapsed_symbols.gct`, sample grouping information `Diabetes.cls`, and gene function classification data `c5.all.v6.2.symbols.gmt` provided by the GSEA website are selected here as an example. According to the steps shown in Fig. 4.24, click Load data—> Browse for File—> find the file to be imported in the pop-up box, select and click open to import data.

### 4.3.1.3 Setting Parameters and Running the Software

Click Run GSEA on the left panel of the interface; the parameter selection bar pops up. Parameter settings are divided into three parts: Mandatory parameter settings, basic parameter settings, and advanced parameter setting. Generally, the latter two parameters do not need to be modified, and the default value can be used. The following is a brief description of the fields in the mandatory parameter settings (as shown in Fig. 4.25).

Select the expression dataset file `Diabetes_collapsed_symbols.gct` in the Expression dataset field. Select the gene function set database `c5.all.v6.2.symbols.gmt` in the Gene sets database field. Number of permutations indicates the number of permutation tests, and the default value is 1000. Select the comparison method in the Phenotype labels field. GSEA automatically extracts the corresponding data from the expression dataset file for comparison based on the group information during the

Version: 11.0 LOGIN | REGISTER

**STRING** Search Download Help My Data

The following proteins in *Homo sapiens* appear to match your input. Please review the list, then click 'Continue' to proceed.

'ACTA2':

**ACTA2** - Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are highly conserved proteins that are involved in various types of cell motility and are ubiquitously expressed in all eukaryotic cells; Belongs to the actin family

'AHR':

**AHR** - Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activated transcriptional activator. Binds to the XRE promoter region of genes it activates. Activates the expression of multiple phase I and II xenobiotic chemical metabolizing enzyme genes (such as the CYP1A1 gene). Mediates biochemical and toxic effects of halogenated aromatic hydrocarbons. Involved in cell-cycle regulation. Likely to play an important role in the development and maturation of many tissues. Regulates the circadian clock by inhibiting the basal and circadian expression of the core circadian component PER1. Inhibits PER1 by repressing [...]

**CLCA1** - Calcium-activated chloride channel regulator 1; May be involved in mediating calcium-activated chloride conductance. May play critical roles in goblet cell metaplasia, mucus hypersecretion, cystic fibrosis and **AHR**. May be involved in the regulation of mucus production and/or secretion by goblet cells. Involved in the regulation of tissue inflammation in the innate immune response. May play a role as a tumor suppressor. Induces MUC5AC, Chloride channel accessory [a.k.a. *CACCT1*, *NX\_ABK714*, *hCaCC-1*]

**AIP** - AH receptor-interacting protein; May play a positive role in **AHR** mediated (aromatic hydrocarbon receptor) signaling, possibly by influencing its receptivity for ligand and/or its nuclear targeting; FKBP prolyl isomerases [a.k.a. *XAP2*, *AAB39923.1*, *EF553639*]

**AHRR** - Aryl hydrocarbon receptor repressor; Mediates dioxin toxicity and is involved in regulation of cell growth and differentiation. Represses the transcription activity of **AHR** by competing with this transcription factor for heterodimer formation with the ARNT and subsequently binding to the xenobiotic response element (XRE) sequence present in the promoter regulatory region of variety of genes. Represses CYP1A1 by binding the XRE sequence and recruiting ANKRA2, HDAC4 and/or HDAC5. Autoregulates its expression by associating with its own XRE site; Basic helix-loop-helix proteins [a.k.a. *BHLHE77*, *KIAA1234*, *NM\_020731*]

'AHSA1':

**AHSA1** - Activator of 90 kDa heat shock protein ATPase homolog 1; Acts as a co-chaperone of HSP90AA1. Activates the ATPase activity of HSP90AA1 leading to increase in its chaperone activity. Competes with the inhibitory co-chaperone FNIP1 for binding to HSP90AA1, thereby providing a reciprocal regulatory mechanism for chaperoning of client proteins

**Fig. 4.18** Multiple gene query information confirmation page

analysis process. Select true in the Collapse dataset to gene symbols field. As the number of samples in each group is greater than 7, select phenotype in the Permutation type field. The Chip platform option is for the annotation conversion of the ID, which is not required in this example.

After the above parameters are set, click the Run button under the parameter settings column; the running status is displayed in the GSEA reports at the bottom left of the interface. If it displays Running, it means the operation is successful, and if it displays Error, it means the operation failed, as shown in Fig. 4.26. In case of an error, click Error to view the Error report.

### 4.3.1.4 View Results

The results of data analysis are saved to the set path. Click index.html to view the web version of the analysis report, as shown in Fig. 4.27.





The screenshot shows a software interface with a top navigation bar containing 'Viewers', 'Legend', 'Settings', 'Analysis', 'Exports', 'Clusters', 'More', and 'Less'. Below this is a section titled 'Export your current network:' with several options, each with a 'download' link and a brief description of the file format. Below that is a section titled 'Browse interactions in tabular form:' followed by a table of interactions.

*node1	node2	node1_accession	node2_accession	node1_annotation	node2_annotation	score
ACTA2	CASP3	ENSP00000402373	ENSP00000311032	Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are ...	Caspase-3; Involved in the activation cas...	0.447
ACTA2	CDH1	ENSP00000402373	ENSP00000261769	Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are ...	Cadherin-1; Cadherins are calcium-depe...	0.482
ACTA2	COL1A1	ENSP00000402373	ENSP00000225964	Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are ...	Collagen alpha-1(I) chain; Type I collage...	0.790
ACTA2	FN1	ENSP00000402373	ENSP00000346839	Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are ...	Fibronectin type III domain containing; E...	0.623
ACTA2	SERPINE1	ENSP00000402373	ENSP00000223095	Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are ...	Plasminogen activator inhibitor 1, Serine...	0.419
ACTA2	SMAD2	ENSP00000402373	ENSP00000262160	Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are ...	Mothers against decapentaplegic homol...	0.524
ACTA2	TGFB1	ENSP00000402373	ENSP00000221930	Actin, aortic smooth muscle; Actins are ...	Transforming growth factor beta-1; Multi...	0.718
AHR	CYP1A1	ENSP00000242057	ENSP00000369050	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activa...	Cytochrome P450 1A1; Cytochromes P4...	0.997
AHR	ESR2	ENSP00000242057	ENSP00000343925	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activa...	Estrogen receptor beta; Nuclear hormon...	0.519
AHR	IL1B	ENSP00000242057	ENSP00000263341	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activa...	Interleukin-1 beta; Potent proinflammato...	0.663
AHR	IL2	ENSP00000242057	ENSP00000226730	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activa...	Interleukin-2; Produced by T-cells in resp...	0.480
AHR	IL4	ENSP00000242057	ENSP00000231449	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activa...	Interleukin-4; Participates in at least sev...	0.477
AHR	MAPK8	ENSP00000242057	ENSP00000378974	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activa...	Mitogen-activated protein kinase 8; Serin...	0.400
AHR	VEGFA	ENSP00000242057	ENSP00000478570	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor; Ligand-activa...	Vascular endothelial growth factor A; Gr...	0.744
BAX	BCL2	ENSP00000293288	ENSP00000381185	Apoptosis regulator BAX; Accelerates pr...	Apoptosis regulator Bcl-2; Suppresses a...	0.967
BAX	CASP3	ENSP00000293288	ENSP00000311032	Apoptosis regulator BAX; Accelerates pr...	Caspase-3; Involved in the activation cas...	0.874
BAX	MAPK8	ENSP00000293288	ENSP00000378974	Apoptosis regulator BAX; Accelerates pr...	Mitogen-activated protein kinase 8; Serin...	0.951
BAX	VEGFA	ENSP00000293288	ENSP00000478570	Apoptosis regulator BAX; Accelerates pr...	Vascular endothelial growth factor A; Gr...	0.429
BCL2	BAX	ENSP00000381185	ENSP00000293288	Apoptosis regulator Bcl-2; Suppresses a...	Apoptosis regulator BAX; Accelerates pr...	0.967
BCL2	CASP3	ENSP00000381185	ENSP00000311032	Apoptosis regulator Bcl-2; Suppresses a...	Caspase-3; Involved in the activation cas...	0.763

Fig. 4.20 Multiple gene query download page

combination with the functions of the corresponding software and generate relatively intuitive analysis results.

### 4.3.2.1 Cytoscape

Cytoscape is an open source software platform (latest version is 3.7.1) for visualizing molecular interaction networks and biological pathways, and integrating these networks with annotations, gene expression profiles, and other status data. Although Cytoscape was originally designed for biological research, it has become a universal platform for complex network analysis and visualization. Its dominant function is to analyze the relationships among large-scale protein interactions, protein–DNA, and genetic interactions. Cytoscape’s core functions provide the basic components for data integration, analysis, and visualization. Additional extended functions are provided in the form of small programs (apps, formerly called plug-ins). Various apps can be used for molecular network analysis, new layouts, additional file format support, script writing, and connection with databases. The system also supports the development of open APIs based on Java, which can be published to the Cytoscape application store for free download or installation by users. As the software is developed and run on Java, the corresponding Java runtime library needs to be

**Downloads**

**Software**

There are several options for GSEA software. All options implement exactly the same algorithm. Usage recommendations and installation instructions are listed below. Current Java implementations of GSEA require Java 8.

See the [license terms page](#) for details about the license for the GSEA software and source code. Please note that the license terms vary for different versions of the software.

<p><b>JavaGSEA Desktop Application</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy-to-use graphical user interface.</li> <li>Runs on any desktop computer (Windows, macOS, Linux etc.) that supports Java 8. <b>Oracle Java is recommended as there are known issues when running with OpenJDK. Java 9 and higher are not supported at this time.</b></li> <li>Produces richly annotated reports of enrichment results.</li> <li>This release is open source under a BSD-style license. The source is available on our <a href="#">GitHub repository</a>. The changes are noted in the <a href="#">Release Notes</a>.</li> <li><b>We recommend using a memory configuration smaller than your computer's total memory.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Launch with 1GB (for 32 or 64-bit Java) memory:</p> <p><a href="#">Launch</a></p>
<p><b>JavaGSEA Java Jar file</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Command line or offline usage. See our <a href="#">User Guide</a> for details.</li> <li>Runs on any platform that supports Java 8. <b>Oracle Java is recommended as there are known issues when running with OpenJDK. Java 9 and higher are not supported at this time.</b></li> <li>We recommend using the 'Launch' buttons above instead of this mode for most users.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">download gsea-3.0.jar</a></p>
<p><b>BETA MSigDB XML Browser Java Jar file</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current Beta version of the MSigDB XML Browser (formerly part of the GSEA Desktop).</li> <li>Please <a href="#">contact us</a> with bugs or other feedback. We will aim to address problems as soon as possible in future Beta releases.</li> <li>Download and launch from the command line with <code>java -jar MSigDB_XML_Browser-1.0_beta_4.jar</code>, or double-click to launch.</li> <li>Runs on any platform that supports Java 8. <b>Oracle Java is recommended as there are known issues when running with OpenJDK. Java 9 and higher are not supported at this time.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>BETA</b></p> <p><a href="#">download MSigDB_XML_Browser-1.0_beta_4.jar</a></p>

Fig. 4.21 GSEA official download page

installed beforehand. Cytoscape's main interface after an operation is shown in Fig. 4.28.

## Basic Use

Launch the software, you can see the upper menu bar, select import under File to import the network; the imported data format for Cytoscape is as shown in Table 4.3. Interaction represents the relationship between nodes; this option can be defined according to actual data. Network layout can be selected as the Layout and includes grid layout, hierarchical layout, and circular layout. In addition to some basic software functions you can also search and install corresponding app plug-ins based on your needs. Cytoscape's core functions are also provided in the form of plug-ins. After importing the network diagram, you can select the layout mode and set the color, size, and shape of the nodes. The operation process is shown in Fig. 4.29.

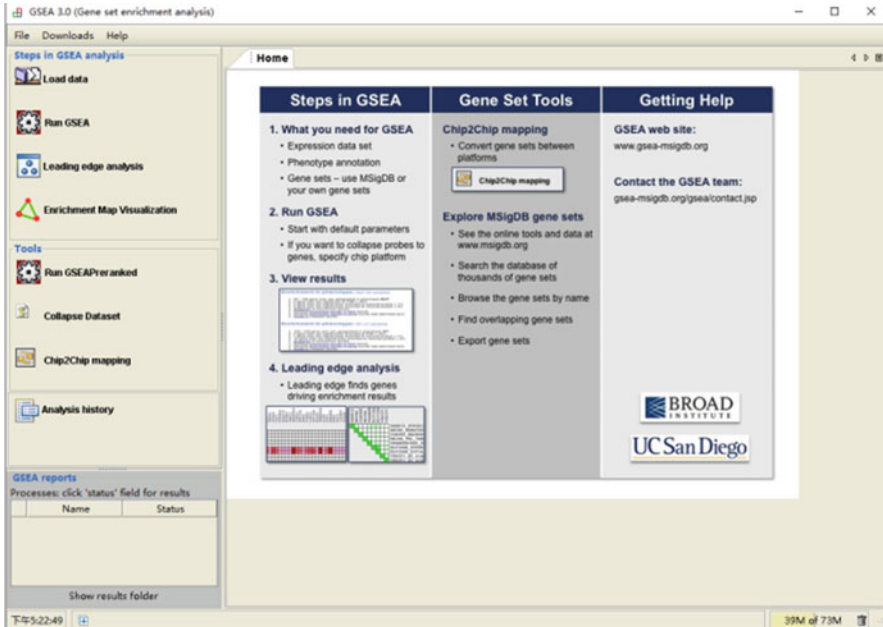


Fig. 4.22 GSEA software startup interface

## Exemplary Functional Components

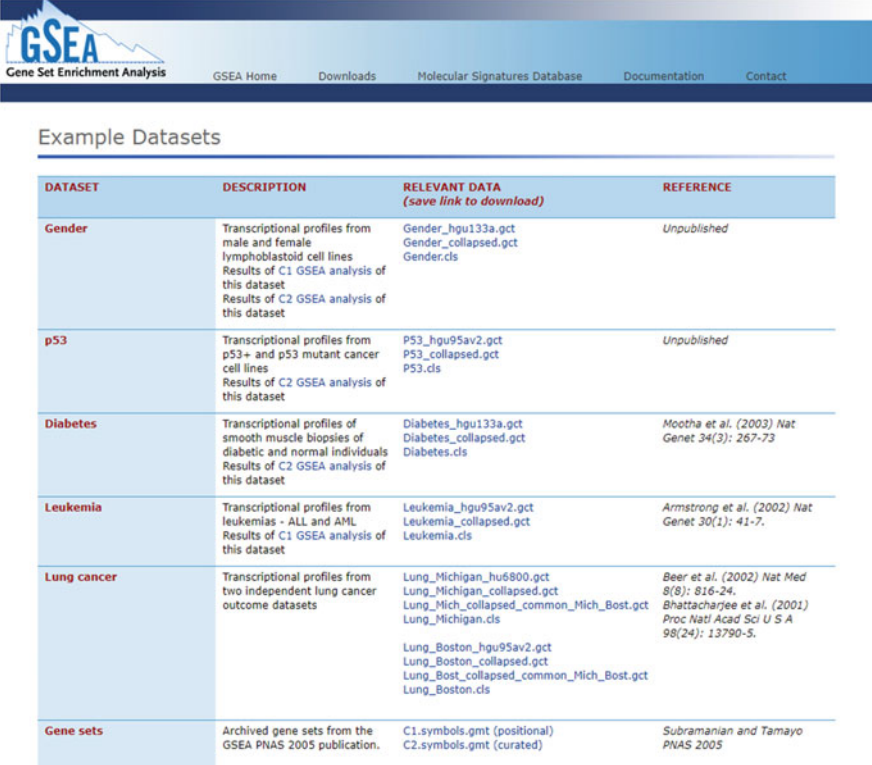
Common requirements in biological network analysis are analysis of network topology characteristics, community analysis, etc. To introduce the functions of Cytoscape more clearly, this chapter demonstrates the practical operation of apps such as CentiScaPe [49] and MCODE [50]. The data used in this section is the PPI network data, as shown in Table 4.3. The following is the actual operation of the above two components combined with PPI data:

Analysis of centrality measurement using CentiScaPe:

CentiScaPe is an app for network centrality measurement calculation, which can be used for analyzing undirected and directed networks. The supported centrality metrics can be divided into three aspects: network, node, and edge and include Network Diameter, Degree, Strength, Betweenness, Closeness, Eccentricity, etc. A simple operation demonstration of CentiScaPe is shown in Fig. 4.30.

Launch the Cytoscape software, select CentiScaPe from the Apps menu bar, the CentiScaPe menu is displayed. In this menu, select the network characteristics that need to be calculated, such as network diameter, node degree, etc. Then select undirected graph or directed graph and press the start button to start the calculation. Each indicator has a corresponding meaning and function. Click the button to the right of the indicator to view the details of that indicator.

Using MCODE for community analysis:



The screenshot shows the GSEA website header with the logo and navigation links: GSEA Home, Downloads, Molecular Signatures Database, Documentation, and Contact. Below the header is a section titled 'Example Datasets' containing a table with four columns: DATASET, DESCRIPTION, RELEVANT DATA (with a sub-link 'save link to download'), and REFERENCE.

DATASET	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT DATA ( <a href="#">save link to download</a> )	REFERENCE
<b>Gender</b>	Transcriptional profiles from male and female lymphoblastoid cell lines Results of C1 GSEA analysis of this dataset Results of C2 GSEA analysis of this dataset	Gender_hgu133a.gct Gender_collapsed.gct Gender.cls	Unpublished
<b>p53</b>	Transcriptional profiles from p53+ and p53 mutant cancer cell lines Results of C2 GSEA analysis of this dataset	P53_hgu95av2.gct P53_collapsed.gct P53.cls	Unpublished
<b>Diabetes</b>	Transcriptional profiles of smooth muscle biopsies of diabetic and normal individuals Results of C2 GSEA analysis of this dataset	Diabetes_hgu133a.gct Diabetes_collapsed.gct Diabetes.cls	Mootha et al. (2003) <i>Nat Genet</i> 34(3): 267-73
<b>Leukemia</b>	Transcriptional profiles from leukemias - ALL and AML Results of C1 GSEA analysis of this dataset	Leukemia_hgu95av2.gct Leukemia_collapsed.gct Leukemia.cls	Armstrong et al. (2002) <i>Nat Genet</i> 30(1): 41-7.
<b>Lung cancer</b>	Transcriptional profiles from two independent lung cancer outcome datasets	Lung_Michigan_hu6800.gct Lung_Michigan_collapsed.gct Lung_Mich_collapsed_common_Mich_Bost.gct Lung_Michigan.cls  Lung_Boston_hgu95av2.gct Lung_Boston_collapsed.gct Lung_Bost_collapsed_common_Mich_Bost.gct Lung_Boston.cls	Beer et al. (2002) <i>Nat Med</i> 8(8): 816-24. Bhattacharjee et al. (2001) <i>Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A</i> 98(24): 13790-5.
<b>Gene sets</b>	Archived gene sets from the GSEA PNAS 2005 publication.	C1.symbols.gmt (positional) C2.symbols.gmt (curated)	Subramanian and Tamayo PNAS 2005

Fig. 4.23 GSEA sample data download page

The MCODE plug-in adopts a Molecular Complex Detection algorithm, which is used to detect the closely connected subnet structure (highly inter-connected local network structures) in the network. This closely connected subnet is also known as community. Communities usually have different practical meanings in different networks. The communities in protein interaction networks are usually part of protein complexes and molecular pathways, whereas the communities in similar networks of protein structures usually represent the protein family. With respect to community extraction, MCODE also supports visualization analysis of the community structure. A simple operation demonstration of MCODE is shown in Fig. 4.31.

Launch the Cytoscape software and import the network. Select the MCODE plug-in from the Apps menu bar. Then select and set the relevant parameters, such as degree coefficient, etc. Click clustering; the corresponding clustering results are displayed in the right panel. Click the appropriate category to display the specific community analysis results in the graph.

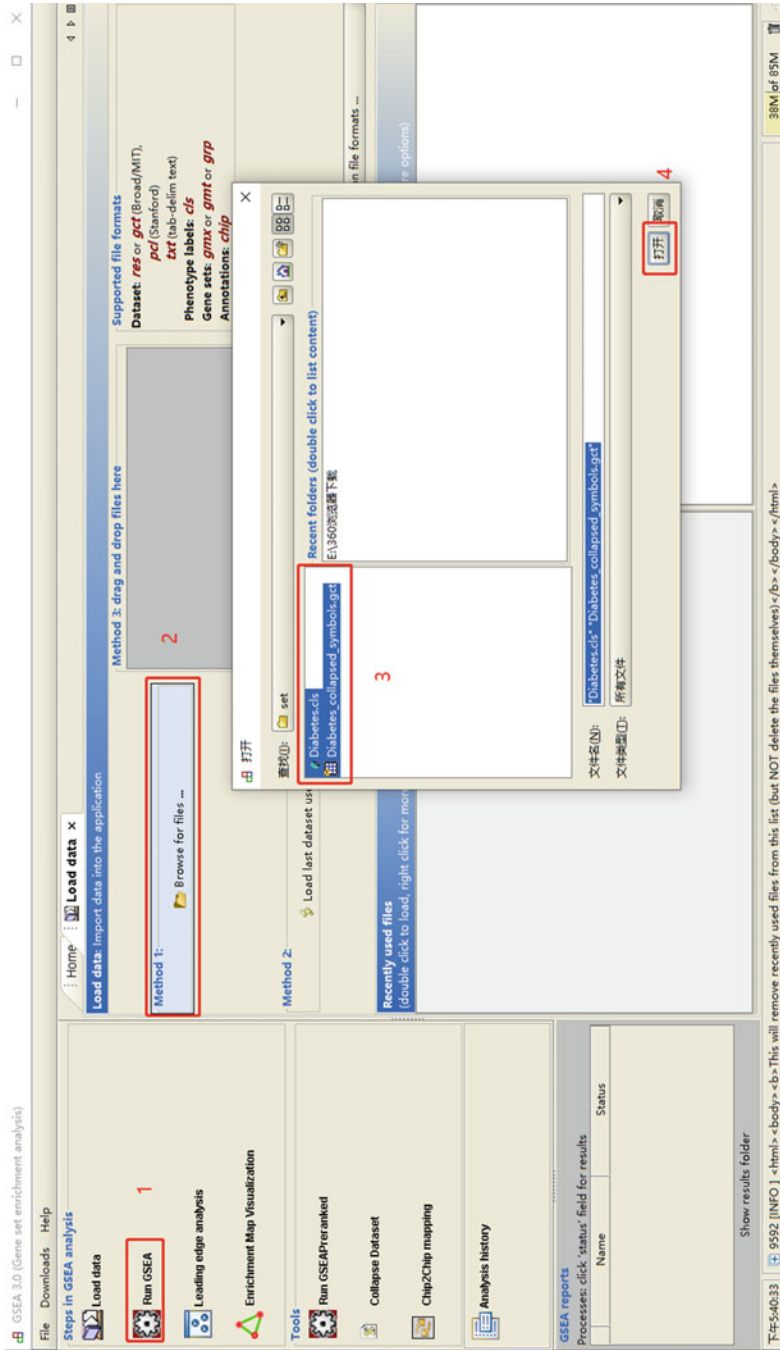


Fig. 4.24 Import data interface

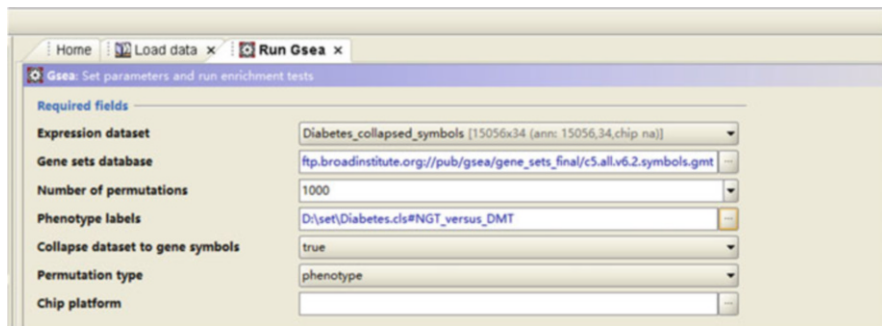


Fig. 4.25 Mandatory parameter setting interface



Fig. 4.26 Running status interface

### 4.3.2.2 Gephi Visualization Software

Gephi is a free and open source network analysis and visualization software developed on Java. It supports three different operating systems, Mac OS, Windows, and Linux, and supports interfaces in different languages such as English, Simplified Chinese, and French. Gephi was first released in 2006, and the latest version is V0.92. Gephi can visualize any network data represented by nodes and edges, such as social networks, power networks, disease transmission networks, protein interaction networks, etc. At the same time, Gephi supports dozens of algorithms in the form of an extended library, which can be used to calculate the average degree, graph density, and average clustering coefficient of a network and to screen the network according to various criteria, such as edge weight, node degree, etc. Gephi can also be used for community division and visualization of networks. The division algorithms include Fast Unfolding of Communities in Large Networks (BGLL) [51], etc. Table 4.4 shows the data format of the data imported in Gephi. The naming of the node name field should strictly include the Source and Target. Select the appropriate value in the Type field; the available options are undirected graph and directed graph.

Next, we take PPI network data import and analysis in Table 4.4 as an example to demonstrate the corresponding functions of Gephi software. Network data import is the first step in the analysis. Network data can be imported using the main function interfaces by selecting the file menu in the Gephi interface based on different file formats (the data format is shown in Table 4.4 and Fig. 4.32). After the data is

## GSEA Report for Dataset Diabetes\_collapsed\_symbols

### Enrichment in phenotype: NGT (17 samples)

- 1697 / 3953 gene sets are upregulated in phenotype NGT
- 51 gene sets are significant at FDR < 25%
- 26 gene sets are significantly enriched at nominal pvalue < 1%
- 117 gene sets are significantly enriched at nominal pvalue < 5%
- [Snapshot](#) of enrichment results
- Detailed [enrichment results in html](#) format
- Detailed [enrichment results in excel](#) format (tab delimited text)
- [Guide to](#) interpret results

### Enrichment in phenotype: DMT (17 samples)

- 2256 / 3953 gene sets are upregulated in phenotype DMT
- 0 gene sets are significantly enriched at FDR < 25%
- 13 gene sets are significantly enriched at nominal pvalue < 1%
- 106 gene sets are significantly enriched at nominal pvalue < 5%
- [Snapshot](#) of enrichment results
- Detailed [enrichment results in html](#) format
- Detailed [enrichment results in excel](#) format (tab delimited text)
- [Guide to](#) interpret results

### Dataset details

- The dataset has 15056 features (genes)
- No probe set => gene symbol collapsing was requested, so all 15056 features were used

### Gene set details

- Gene set size filters (min=15, max=500) resulted in filtering out 1964 / 5917 gene sets
- The remaining 3953 gene sets were used in the analysis
- List of [gene sets used and their sizes](#) (restricted to features in the specified dataset)

### Gene markers for the NGT versus DMT comparison

- The dataset has 15056 features (genes)
- # of markers for phenotype NGT: 7993 (53.1% ) with correlation area 53.4%
- # of markers for phenotype DMT: 7063 (46.9% ) with correlation area 46.6%
- Detailed [rank ordered gene list](#) for all features in the dataset
- [Heat map and gene list correlation](#) profile for all features in the dataset
- [Buttefly plot](#) of significant genes

### Global statistics and plots

Fig. 4.27 Analysis result page

imported, the main interface can be selected through the corresponding properties to flexibly view the network diagram. For example, multiple network layouts and styles can be selected (such as Fruchterman Reingold), and then the corresponding visualization effect can be obtained by running the operation. In addition, the color and size of nodes in the network and the color and size of edges can be adjusted and processed accordingly (as shown in Fig. 4.33). Various topological statistical

**Table 4.1** Network analysis software

Three commonly used visualization software			
Directory	Cytoscape	Gephi	Pajek [48]
Developer	UCSD	Mathieu Jacomy, Sebastien Heymann	eytanAdar
Development language	Java	Java	Java
Supported Platforms	Mac OS, Windows, Linux	Mac OS, Windows, Linux	Mac OS, Windows, Linux
Supported languages	English	English, Simplified Chinese, etc.	English
Open source and free	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Table 4.2** Examples of PPI network data

Source	Target	Weight
FKBP4	HSP90AA1	1
CFTR	HSPA8	1
CFTR	SLC9A3R1	1
CFTR	UBC	1
CYP51A1	LSS	1
USH1C	CDH23	1
RALA	RALBP1	1
RALA	EXOC2	1
RALA	EXOC8	1
CX3CL1	CX3CR1	1

features of the network, such as average degree, network diameter, and betweenness, can be conveniently calculated and displayed (as shown in Fig. 4.34). Community analysis is an important algorithm for complex network analysis and is also one of the basic functions. Gephi integrates the classic community analysis method into a toolbar called “statistics.” After clicking and running, the results of the community structure analysis in the network are displayed. The visualization of specific community structure can be classified and displayed (as shown in Fig. 4.35) through the color rendering mode (the selection is based on modules) of nodes in the menu on the left side of the main interface. It is worth noting that several other Gephi analysis functions are integrated in the form of plug-ins; users can load the corresponding plug-ins through the menu to obtain new analysis functions.

#### 4.3.2.3 Pajek Complex Network Visualization Software

Among the more complex network analysis software, Pajek is a free large-scale complex network analysis tool with a more than two decade-long research and development history (since 1996). Compared with other software, most network



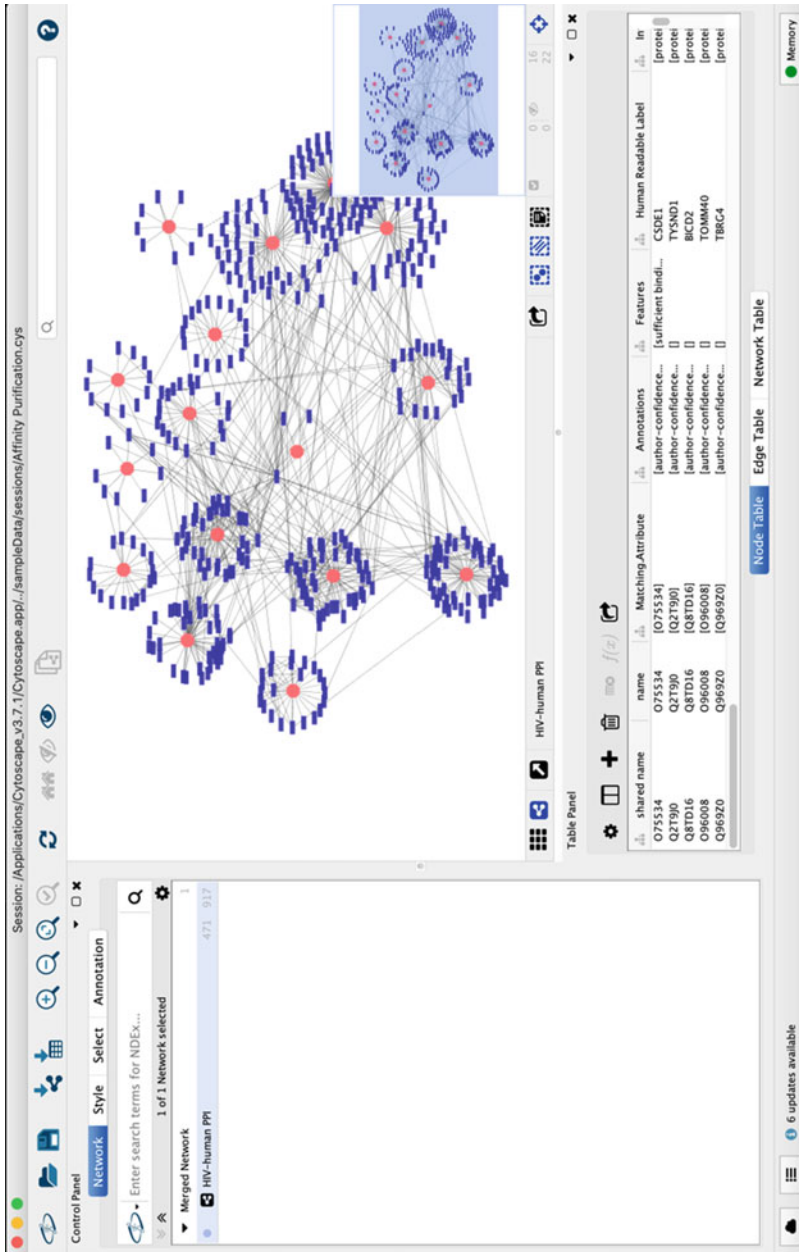


Fig. 4.28 Cytoscape software homepage

**Table 4.3** Import data format of cytoscape

source	interaction	target
FKBP4	Pp	HSP90AA1
CFTR	pp	HSPA8
CFTR	pp	SLC9A3R1
CFTR	pp	UBC
CYP51A1	pp	LSS
USH1C	pp	CDH23
RALA	pp	RALBP1
RALA	pp	EXOC2
RALA	pp	EXOC8
CX3CL1	pp	CX3CR1
TRAPPC6A	pp	TRAPPC3
NDUFAB1	pp	NDUFB7

analysis algorithms implemented in Pajek have a low computational time complexity. Therefore, an ultra-large-scale network that can handle hundreds of millions of nodes is a powerful analysis tool for developing various large-scale complex nonlinear networks. The latest version of Pajek is V5.08 (supports 32-bit and 64-bit operating systems), with Windows, Linux, and Mac versions. Pajek is updated on a regular basis. It uses network exploratory analysis methods such as centrality measurement and community analysis; however, it has poor visualization effect. In addition, through the recent development (2019) of the R language interface package, the statistical analysis function of the R language can be used to create powerful network structure statistical analysis capability.

## 4.4 Toolkit Based on Programming Languages

Current visualization toolkits based on programming language calls basically use the network topology statistical measurement, classic graph algorithms, community division, and link prediction analysis methods. They are more flexible in terms of network operations, can accurately control nodes and edges, and can easily adjust the corresponding calculation functions as required. However, in general, programming language-call-based tools are suitable for backend batch computing and system integration. Based on the programming language, we have selected a representative common network visualization package for C++, Java, Python, and R programming language. Some common visualization toolkits are listed in Table 4.5.

C++ and Java toolkits are briefly introduced below:

### 1. Boost Graph Library: A C++ Network Visualization Toolkit

The Boost Graph Library (BGL) is a C++ visualization toolkit that provides generic interfaces that can access the internal structure of a graph while hiding implementation details. It has an open interface and the graph library that

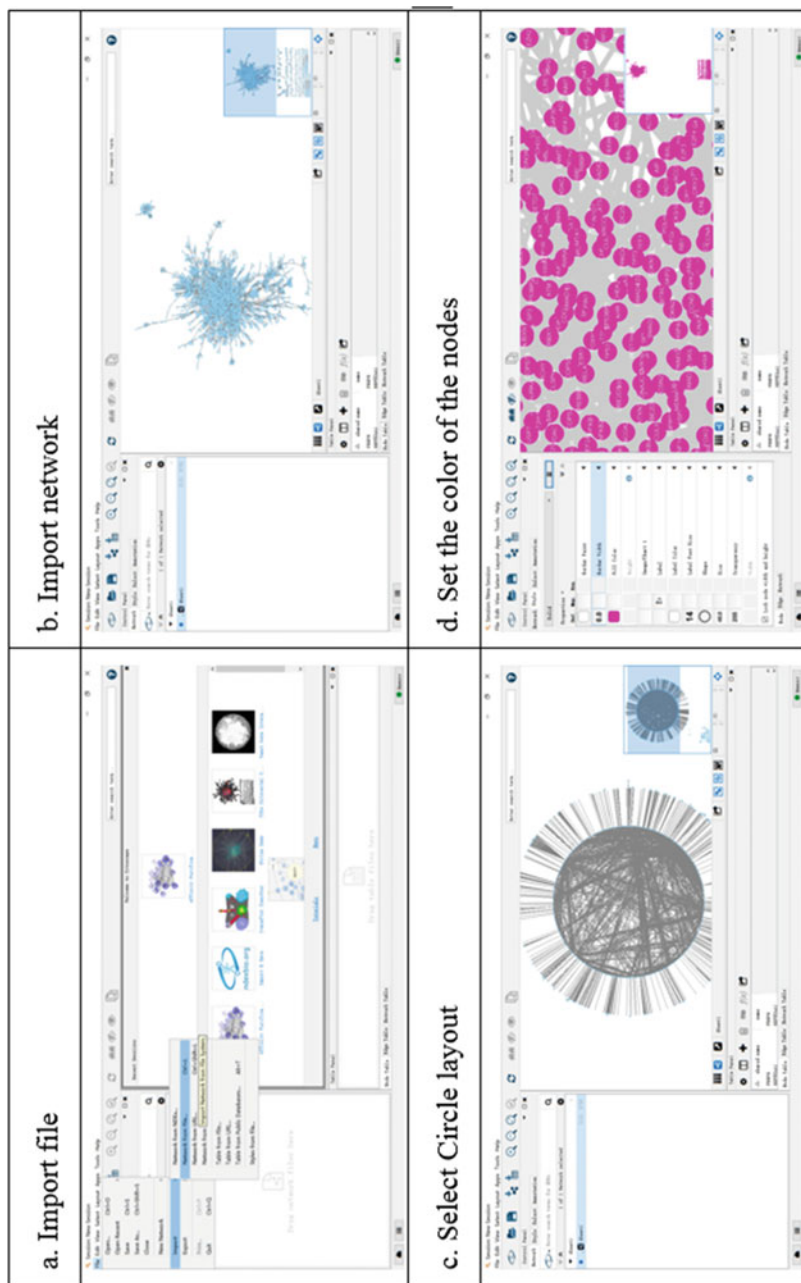
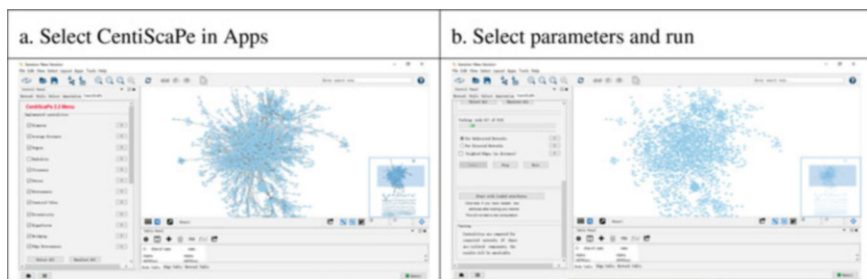


Fig. 4.29 Cytoscape visualization network



**Fig. 4.30** Use of Centiscape plug-in

implements this interface can interoperate with the BGL algorithm and other algorithms that implement this structure. It supports three kinds of data format—adjacency list, adjacency matrix, and edge list. BGL can be used for visualization and provides many graph-related algorithms, such as Dijkstra algorithm for the shortest path, Kruskal algorithm for the minimum spanning tree, topological sorting, etc.

## 2. GraphStream: A Java Network Visualization Toolkit

GraphStream is a graph library for processing Java which focuses on the dynamic representation of graphs. The main research object of this library is the modeling of dynamic interactive networks of various scales. The goal of this library is to provide a method to represent graphs and process them. To this end, GraphStream provides several graph classes that allow directed and undirected, 1-graph, or P-graph (that is, multiple graphs, graphs that can have multiple edges between two nodes) modeling. GraphStream allows any type of data attributes to be stored on graph elements: numbers, strings, or any objects. In addition, the graphic flow also provides a method to process graph evolution over time, which can be used to display the way in which nodes and edges are added and removed, and the possible way data attributes can appear, disappear, and evolve.

The following is a brief introduction and operation demonstration of Python and R toolkit combined with some cases.

### 4.4.1 *NetworkX*

The first version of NetworkX was released in May 2002, and the current number of citations has reached 2149. It is a graph theory and complex network modeling tool developed in Python language. It has built-in commonly used graphs and complex network analysis algorithms that can easily carry out complex network data analysis, simulation modeling, and other work. NetworkX makes it easy to generate both classical and random graphs, such as scale-free networks (where a few nodes have several), which is convenient for carrying out some network analysis without data. NetworkX supports the creation of simple undirected graphs, directed graphs, and

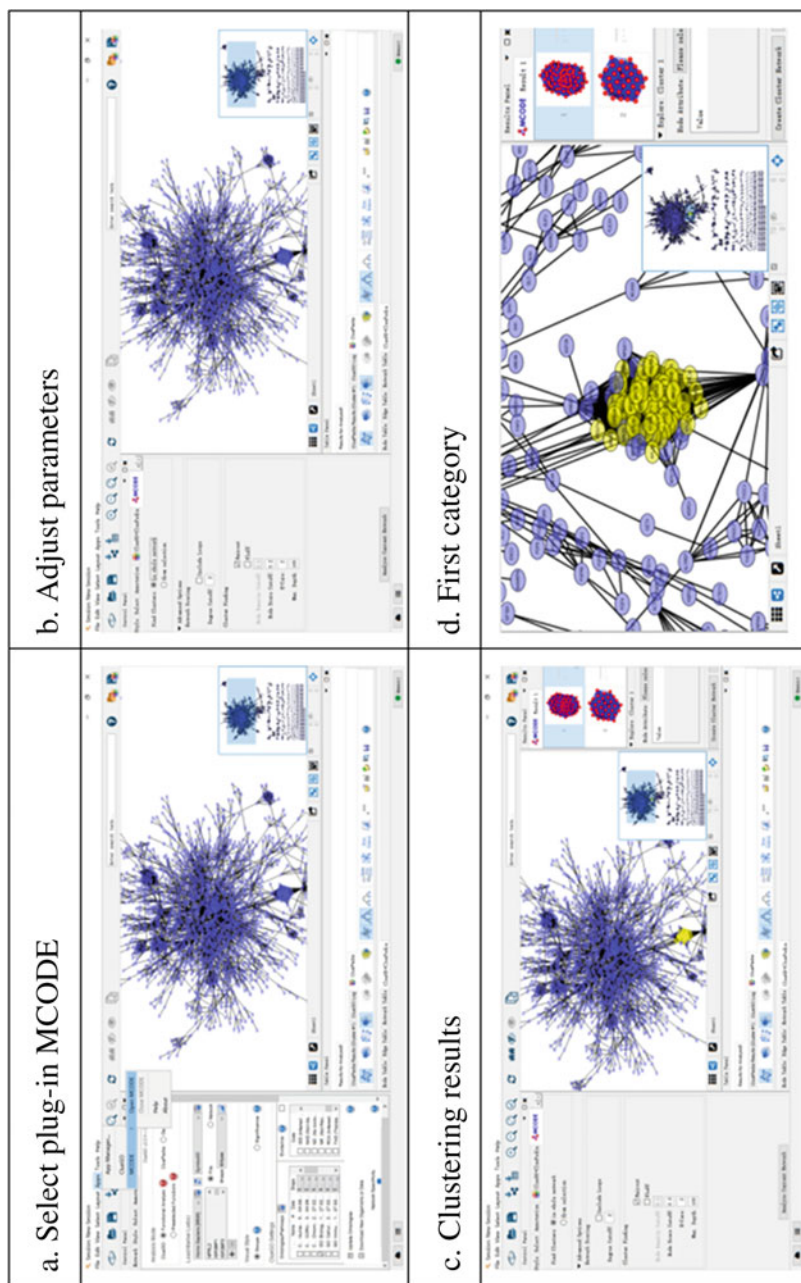
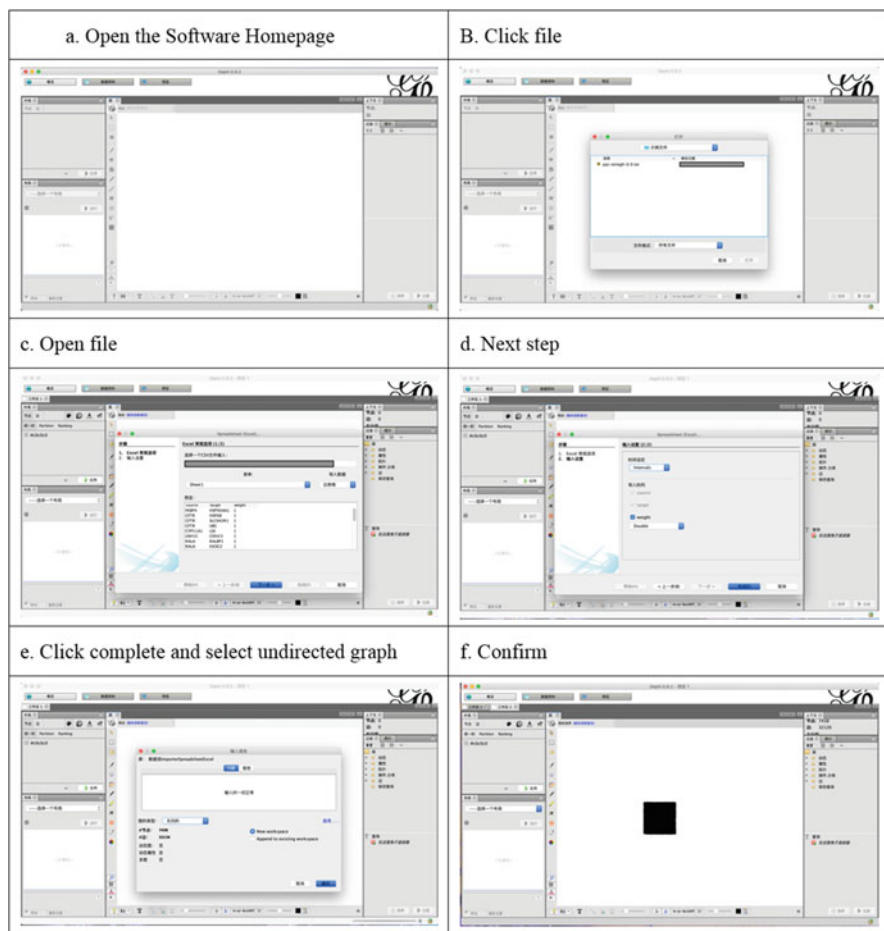


Fig. 4.31 MCODE plug-in use

**Table 4.4** Gephi data format

Source	Target	Weight
FKBP4	HSP90AA1	1
CFTR	HSPA8	1
CFTR	SLC9A3R1	1
CFTR	UBC	1
CYP51A1	LSS	1
USH1C	CDH23	1
RALA	RALBP1	1
RALA	EXOC2	1
RALA	EXOC8	1
CX3CL1	CX3CR1	1



**Fig. 4.32** Gephi import network

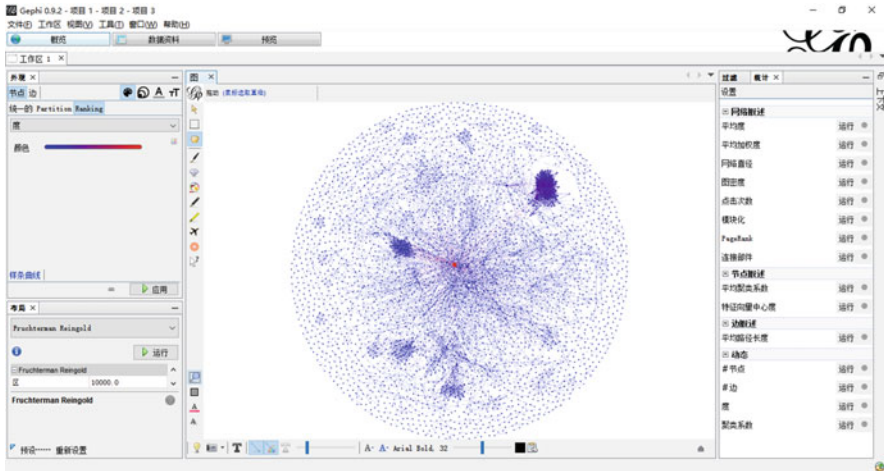


Fig. 4.33 Network layout and node edge settings

multiple graphs. It has many standard graph theory algorithms built-in, and the nodes can be any data. It has rich functions and is easy to use. For programmers who are familiar with Python, the NetworkX visualization Python package is a very convenient tool with simple and efficient operation. Table 4.6 shows some basic functions of NetworkX in the Python environment. For detailed functions, please check the documents on the official website.

To more vividly demonstrate the visualization effect of NetworkX, this chapter uses an exemplary small amount of clinical disease merger relational data and uses Python code to generate a visualized network diagram. The disease merger relational network data contains 51 disease nodes and 150 disease merger relational edges (as shown in Table 4.7). The core codes are shown in Table 4.8. The visualization result is shown in Fig. 4.36. The case diagram uses a circular layout. The larger the node degree in the network, the larger the node. The color is also set according to the node degree. The larger the node degree, the closer the node color is to blue. The greater the weight of the edge between the two nodes, the wider the line of the edge; the width of the edge between hypertension and renal insufficiency in the merger disease network is the widest, as hypertension and renal insufficiency are more likely to occur as co-morbidity.

#### 4.4.2 *igraph*

igraph is a simple and easy-to-use network analysis tool. Several of its functions are developed using C language. It has high computing efficiency and is highly suitable for solving large and complex network problems. R, Python, and C/C++ can be used to call the corresponding packages for visualization. The latest version is V1.0.0. In

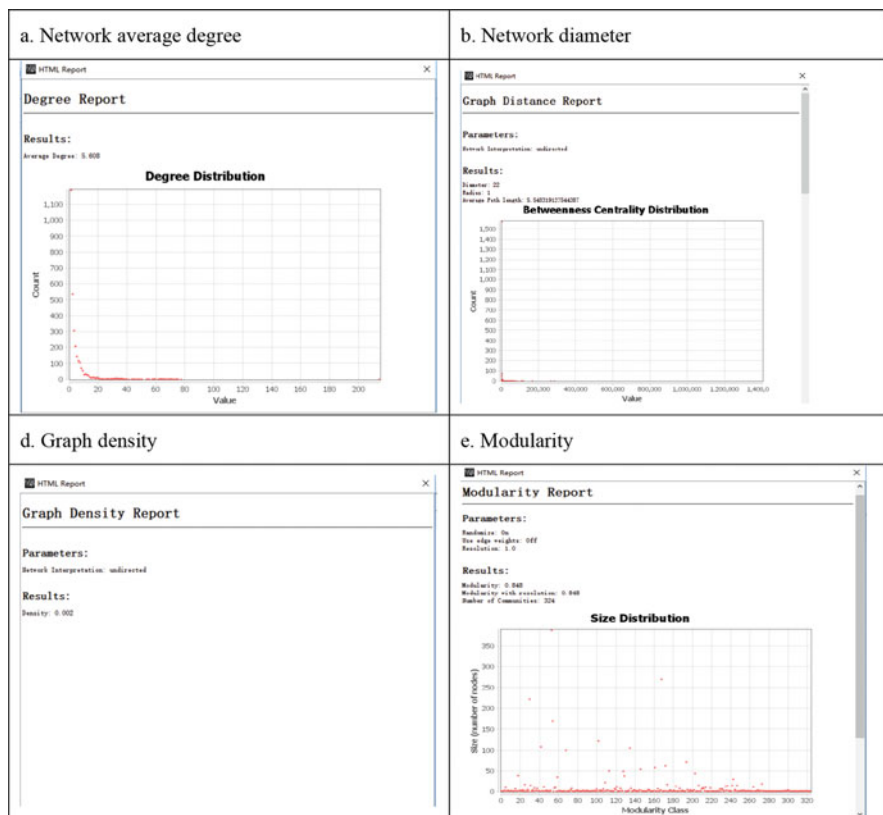


Fig. 4.34 Statistical index of the Gephi diagram

the igraph network graph we can set the node color and calculate node degree, edge density, clustering coefficient, and other statistics and their distribution and can also cluster the network and visualize each category. In this section, we first call the igraph R language package with the R language to create a visualization example. Table 4.9 lists the basic functions of the igraph R package.

To show the visualization effect of igraph, we perform a simple operation demonstration using the disease network dataset. First, install RStudio, and then install the igraph R package. Table 4.10 shows the core codes of the case (based on R language), and Fig. 4.37 shows the visualization effect of the case. Different colors in the figure represent different communities, and each community represents a set of closely related diseases.

Taking into account the wide range of network pharmacology applications, this chapter only provides a high-level introduction to the main network pharmacology methods and software. It focuses on introducing common software and methods such as common complex network analysis and visualization, molecular and network function analysis, drug-target prediction, and drug indication prediction that



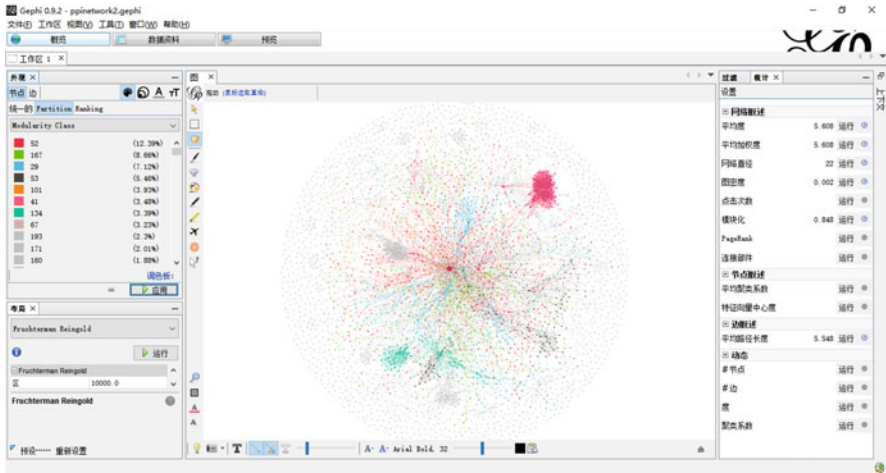


Fig. 4.35 Gephi module rendering

Table 4.5 Common web visualization toolkits

Name	NetworkX [52]	igraph [53]	Boost Graph Library [54]	GraphStream [55]
Developers	Aric Hagberg, Pieter J. Swart	Szabolcs Horvát	Douglas Gregor Andrew Lumsdaine	Julien Baudry Antoine Dutot
Programming languages	Python	R, Python, C/C++	C++	Java
Open source and free	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Latest versions	2.3	1.0.0	1.70.0	1.3

Table 4.6 NetworkX functions

Functions	Description
add_node(node)	Add node to graph
get_node_attributes(G, name)	Get node attributes from graph
all_neighbors(G, node)	Return to neighboring node of the node
common_neighbors(G, u, v)	Return to common neighbor of the two nodes
is_directed(G)	Judge whether graph is a directed graph
nodes(G)	Return to nodes of the graph
number_of_nodes(G)	Find the number of graph nodes of the graph
add_edge(node1, node2)	Add edge
get_edge_attributes(G, name)	Get edge attributes
number_of_edges(G)	Return to number of edges
clear()	Delete nodes and edges in the graph

**Table 4.7** Dataset of diabetes with combination of diseases

Disease 1 (node 1)	Disease 2(node 2)	Weight (Weight)
Hypertension	Renal insufficiency	1
Lipid metabolism disorder	Hypertension	0.995283019
Hypertension	Heart disease	0.872641509
Cerebral infarction	Hypertension	0.613207547
Hypertension	Hepatic disease	0.514150943
Lipid metabolism disorder	Hepatic disease	0.504716981
Lipid metabolism disorder	Renal insufficiency	0.367924528
Gastrointestinal lesions	Hypertension	0.29245283
Lipid metabolism disorder	Cerebral infarction	0.245283019
Retinopathy	Renal insufficiency	0.240566038
Hypertension	Cervical spondylosis	0.240566038
Heart disease	Renal insufficiency	0.231132075
Neuropathy	Hypertension	0.202830189
Cerebral infarction	Heart disease	0.202830189

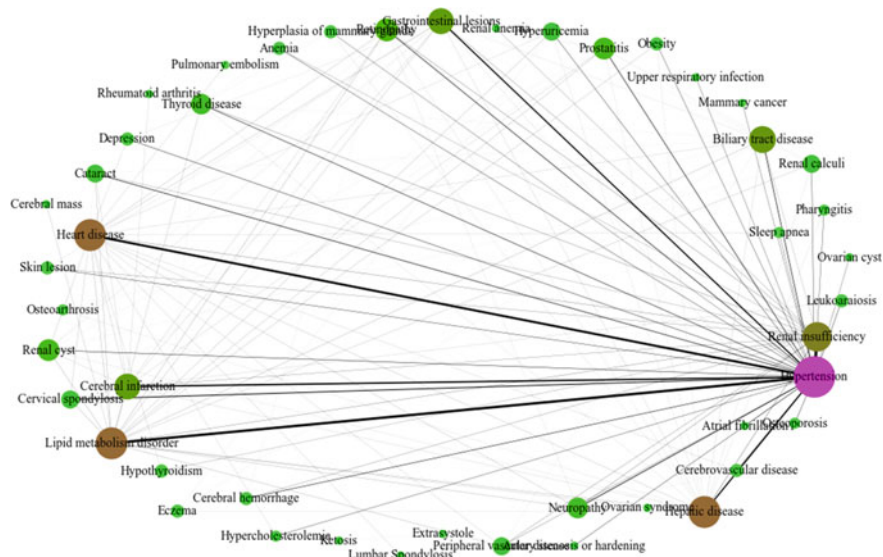
**Table 4.8** NetworkX drawing core codes

```

Core Codes of NetworkX Drawing Network Diagram
import networkx as nx # Import networkx package
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt # Import drawing kit
G = nx.Graph() # Create a graph
G.add_nodes_from(nodes) #Add nodes to graph, nodes are edge list of the graph
G.add_weighted_edges_from(edges)# Add edges to graph, edges are edge list of the graph
de = G.degree() # Calculate degree of graph
node_color = [convert_to_hex(de[i]) for i in nodes]#Set node color according to degree
node_size = [de[i]*30 for i in nodes]#Set node size according to degree
widths = [int(line[2])/50 for line in data]#Set width of edge according to weight of edge
nx.draw(G,pos=nx.spring_layout(nodes), with_labels = True,font_size=10,
node_size=node_size,width=widths,node_color=node_color)
plt.rcParams['font.sans-serif'] = ['SimHei'] #Display Chinese tag
plt.savefig("ba.png") #Save figure
plt.show() #Display

```

are unique to network pharmacology. Traditional computational pharmacology software such as virtual screening (Docking) software is not involved [56]. At the same time, this chapter provides some further details from the perspective of network pharmacology technology and application scope including the construction methods of network pharmacology-related resources, such as the information extraction method of drug-target and drug side effect relationship [57], the transformation network pharmacology method combining clinical and basic medicine [58], the network pharmacology prediction method based on deep learning, etc., which have become new and key research topics [59]. This chapter does not elaborate much on the above aspects. Particularly, there are several important studies in the



**Fig. 4.36** NetworkX graph visualization display

**Table 4.9** igraph basic functions

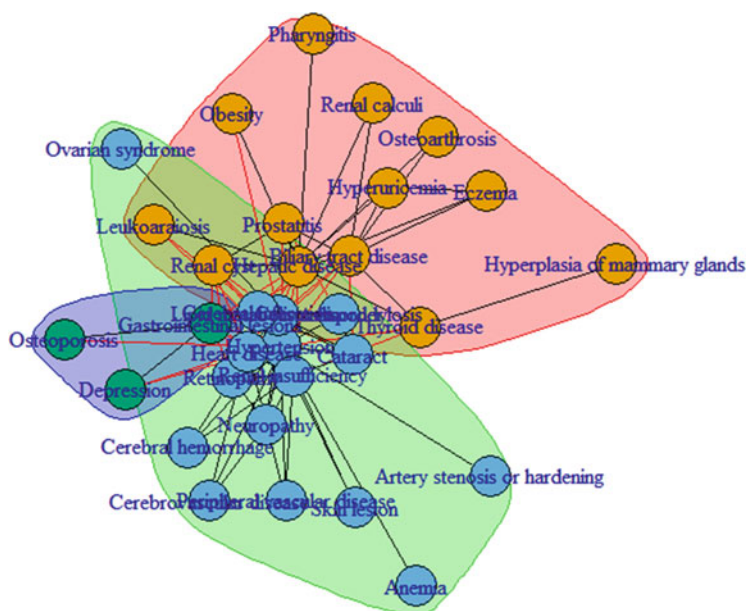
Functions	Description
<code>nodes&lt;-read.table("nodes.txt")</code>	Read information of the node
<code>links&lt;-read.table("links.txt")</code>	Read information of the edge
<code>net&lt;-graph_from_data_frame(d = links, vertices = nodes, directed = F)</code>	Create network
<code>E(net)\$color&lt;- "red"</code>	Designate node color
<code>plot(net,vertex.color="gray50",edge.color = E(net) \$color)</code>	Graph visualization
<code>plot(net, layout = layout_in_circle)</code>	Layout
<code>degree(g, mode="all")</code>	Compute all node degrees in the graph
<code>edge_density(net)</code>	Calculate edge density
<code>transitivity(g, type="global")</code>	Calculate clustering coefficient
<code>cfg &lt;- cluster_fast_greedy(net)</code>	Clustering, mining community in the network

prediction and analysis of adverse drug reactions and drug side effects, as well as the prediction method of drug interaction relationship. The related research plays a vital role in network pharmacology research. However, this chapter does not cover the methods and software information from this aspect. Readers who are interested can refer to other research works [60, 61].

Conversely, current network pharmacology software and analysis processing algorithms are focused on the functions of independent technical links, such as

**Table 4.10** igraph visualization core codes

Core codes: igraph visualization
library(igraph)#load igraph package
net <- graph_from_data_frame(relation, directed=FALSE)#Create graph
cfg <- cluster_fast_greedy(net)#Community division algorithm
plot(cfg, net)#visualization
Degree(net)#Add up node degree
edge_density(net)#Calculate edge density
transitivity(net, type="global")#Calculate clustering coefficient

**Fig. 4.37** igraph disease network visualization

network analysis and visualization, drug-target relationship prediction, etc. However, as network pharmacology research involves many upstream and downstream technologies and functional links, researchers need to combine and apply different software and algorithms to generate corresponding research results. To this end, in order to improve the effectiveness of network pharmacology research, there is an urgent need to develop an integrated, high-performance, and service-oriented network pharmacology software platform. The platform needs to include network data integration, network analysis and prediction, visualization processing, functional enrichment analysis, and related literature validation, to support the integrated network pharmacology research process.

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