Predicting microbial transcriptome using genome sequence

Guohao Fu[1, 5], Yujing Yan[2, 5], Ye Chen[3 *], Bin Shao[4, 5 *]

[1] Xuteli School, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, P. R. China

[2] Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University Herbaria, Harvard University,

Cambridge MA 02138, USA

[3] Key Laboratory of Quantitative Synthetic Biology, Shenzhen Institute of Synthetic Biology, Shenzhen

Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenzhen, 518055, China

[4] Advanced Research Institute of Multidisciplinary Sciences, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing

100081, P. R. China

[5] These authors contribute equally to this work.

*Correspondence should be addressed to Ye Chen (chenye.h.ai@gmail.com), Bin Shao

(shaobinlx@gmail.com)

Abstract: We present TXpredict, a transformer-based framework for predicting microbial transcriptomes

using annotated genome sequences. By leveraging information learned from a large protein language

model, TXpredict achieves an average Spearman correlation of 0.53 and 0.62 in predicting gene

expression for new bacterial and fungal genomes. We further extend this framework to predict

transcriptomes for 2,685 additional microbial genomes spanning 1,744 genera, 82% of which remain

uncharacterized at the transcriptional level. Our analysis highlights conserved and divergent

transcriptional programs across understudied genera, providing a powerful resource for uncovering

microbial adaptation strategies and metabolic potential across the tree of life.

Introduction

For a genome-sequenced microbe, transcriptome profiling provides critical insights into its adaptation, survival, and pathogenicity, and bridges the gap between raw genomic data and functional biology[1–6]. Despite its importance, only a small fraction of sequenced microbes has been characterized at the transcriptional level. A major challenge is that most microbes remain uncultivated due to the limited knowledge of their growth requirements or their inhabitation of extreme environments[7]. Recent advances in predicting physicochemical requirements have begun to address these challenges, representing an important first step[8–10]. Moreover, even when cultivation is successful, RNA-seq protocols often require organism-specific optimizations, such as cell lysis and rRNA depletion, which can involve extensive trial and error for novel organisms. These technical issues hinder large-scale, cross-species studies of microbial gene expression across the tree of life.

Current machine learning approaches for predicting gene expression have primarily focused on analyzing untranslated regions (UTRs)[11–16] or large genomic windows surrounding the gene of interest [17,18]. While these methods show promise, their application to non-model organisms remains limited, as trained models often fail to generalize across species or even within the same species[19,20]. Additionally, previous studies have demonstrated evolutionary constraints on protein synthesis, such as conserved enzyme stoichiometry in metabolic pathways[21–23]. Yet these constraints have not been translated into predictive models that are broadly applicable to diverse microbial species.

Here we introduce TXpredict, a novel framework for predicting microbial transcriptomes using only annotated genome sequences. Our approach assumes that gene expression is shaped by evolutionary constraints on protein sequences, and it leverages a protein language model, ESM2[24], to extract predictive features. Using transcriptome data from 22 bacterial, 9 archaeal and 9 fungal species obtained from the NCBI GEO database[25], we trained a transformer-based model that achieves a Spearman correlation up to 0.70 in leave-one-genome-out evaluations. We validated the model's performance in the non-model organism *Pseudomonas sp.* WBC-3 by conducting a series of RNA-seq experiments. By leveraging large-scale measurements from Deep Mutational Scanning (DMS) assays, we found that TXpredict's predictions of mutant sequence expression correlate with experimentally measured protein stability for specific proteins. Lastly, we applied the trained TXpredict models to predict transcriptomes for 2,685 additional genomes, the majority of them have never been transcriptionally characterized. This resulted in the creation of TXpredictDB, a database containing

expression profiles for 9.8 million genes. The models developed in this study are publicly available:

https://github.com/lingxusb/TXpredict

Results

Prediction of transcriptome based on the genome sequence

We first collected microbial RNA-seq datasets from the NCBI GEO datasets and selected the dataset with

the highest number of samples for each microbial species. Read counts were normalized with the same

pipeline (Methods). Taken together, our dataset includes 22 bacterial, 9 archaeal and 9 fungal species

and a total of 24.8M gene expression measurements (Supplementary Table 1). For each microbial

species, gene expression was averaged across all samples to construct a standard expression profile.

Protein embeddings for each gene were computed using the ESM2-650M model and combined with

basic protein statistics to serve as the input features for TXpredict (Fig. 1a, Methods). For model

evaluation, we employed a leave-one-genome-out cross-validation strategy. For bacterial species, the

model was trained on genes from 21 species and tested on the held-out species (Fig. 1b). We followed

the same approach for archaeal and fungal species.

We found our model achieved a mean Spearman correlation coefficient of 0.53 for the bacterial species

(Fig. 1c), and performed well for non-model organisms, with correlation coefficients of 0.64, 0.62 and

0.62 for *B. hinzii, B. thetaiotaomicron*, and *C. beijerinckii*. It is worth noting that transcriptome

predictions for these bacteria were based solely on the annotated genome sequences. The model's

performance in predicting gene expression variation decreased modestly as the variation calculations

depend on the diversity of experimental conditions (Supplementary Fig. 1). Despite having a limited

training set for fungal species, our TXpredict model obtained a mean correlation of 0.62 and reached a

Spearman correlation coefficient up to 0.70 for non-model organisms such as *O. oligospora* (Fig. 1c). For

archaea, TXpredict showed a mean Spearman correlation of 0.44 (Fig. 1c) and demonstrated broad

applicability to extremophiles from distinct natural niches (ranging from Dead Sea to volcanic springs),

further highlighting the robustness of our method.

In our initial evaluation, TXpredict performed poorly on the archaeon *N. maritimus*, with a Spearman

correlation of 0.23 in the leave-one-genome-out evaluation (Supplementary Fig. 2). Upon closer

examination of this dataset, we found that fewer than 40% of the reads were successfully mapped to

reference genome, demonstrating the potential of our model to detect potential problems in RNA-seq

data. In addition, we examined whether protein sequence similarity affects model performance. For

bacterium *B. hinzii*, we used BLASTP[26] to compute sequence similarity between its proteins and those in

the other bacterial strains. The model was trained on other species and tested on rare proteins from *B.*

hinzii that were not present in the training data, showing a correlation of 0.46 for them (Supplementary

Fig. 3). While this is lower than the correlation for all proteins (Fig. 1c), it suggests that the model

captures expression-related features beyond sequence similarity.

We next explored TXpredict's cross-taxa performance by training separate models on bacterial,

archaeal, or fungal species and then testing them on other domains (Fig. 1d). Our model still showed

moderate performance on cross-taxa predictions, indicating that they encoded general principles of

gene expression regulation. Interestingly, the archaeal model achieved a higher correlation for

eukaryotic species than on archaea. At the species level, models trained on other taxa generally

performed worse than those trained on the same taxon (Fig. 1e and Supplementary Fig. 4).

To validate the prediction of the TXpredict model, we conducted new RNA-seq experiments on

Pseudomonas sp. WBC-3 and compared the predicted expression levels with the measured values. The

Spearman correlation between measured and predicted expression was 0.40 for all proteins and 0.50

for proteins with GO annotations (Fig. 1f). Notably, our model showed high correlations (0.55) for

certain GO categories including catalytic activity, and also for operons like the flagellar genes (Fig. 1g and

Supplementary Fig. 5).

Modeling context-dependent gene expression

We next extended our framework to model condition-dependent gene expression (Supplementary Fig.

6). We collected RNA-seq profiles from 13 bacterial strains across 4.6k unique conditions from

iModulonDB, resulting in a total of 12.0M measurements (Supplementary Table 2). The model

integrated one-hot encoded 5'UTR sequences with protein embeddings as input features. For each gene,

we calculated the correlation between measured and predicted expression values across all conditions.

Our TXpredict model achieved an average correlation coefficient of 0.52 across all bacterial strains. For

E. coli, the distributions of Pearson's and Spearman's correlation coefficients show similar patterns, with

41% and 38% of genes having correlation coefficients above 0.5.

To further interpret the model's predictions, we calculated input gradients[17] to identify sequence motifs

contributing to gene expression variation across conditions (Supplementary Fig. 6). In *E. coli*, we

observed a peak in the input × gradient overlap with the -10 box of the sigmaS-dependent promoter of

the *yadV* gene[27]. Also input gradients increased after the transcriptional start site, suggesting potential

contributions from transcribed sequences. In a non-model organism *P. putida*, we identified a peak

overlapping with a Zur binding motif for the *PP_0120* gene, consistent with its role as a Zur iModulon

gene[1]. These findings illustrate our model's ability to capture condition-specific gene expression changes

in an interpretable manner.

TXpredict captures protein mutation effects

Deep Mutational Scanning (DMS) assays have been widely used to map protein fitness landscapes by

large-scale measurement of phenotypic effects of protein mutants[28,29]. We leveraged the

comprehensive benchmarks provided by ProteinGym[30] to investigate the gene expression effects

associated with these mutants (Fig. 2a). We selected yeast protein datasets, as our fungal model

achieved the highest accuracy in leave-one-genome-out evaluations. We observed strong correlations

between predicted gene expression and experimentally measured mutant effects for specific proteins,

such as THO1 and MYO3 (Fig. 2b and c), suggesting a potential link between their expression levels and

the functional outcomes. We then compared TXpredict predictions against zero-shot predictions from

several machine learning-based protein models[31–38] (Fig. 2d). TXpredict's performance was only

moderately lower than two inverse-folding models (ESM-IF1[36] and ProteinMPNN[34]) and outperformed

the ESM2 model, despite the fact that TXpredict utilizes ESM2 embeddings as input. TXpredict also

showed weaker correlations with predictions from MSA transformer[32] and TranceptEVE[35]. A detailed

residue-level analysis for THO1 revealed that TXpredict successfully captures the negative impact of an

arginine substitution at residue 19 within the SAP domain (Fig. 2e). We found lower correlations

between TXpredict predictions and mutation effects for bacterial datasets, possibly due to our model's

reduced accuracy for these genomes (Supplementary Fig. 7). Interestingly, for the yeast protein GAL4,

predictions derived from partial mutant sequences correlated more strongly with experimental

measurements than predictions from the full-length sequences (Fig. 2f).

Application of TXpredict to new genomes

We applied the trained TXpredict model to predict transcriptomes for new genomes including 2,169

bacterial, 423 archaeal and 93 fungal species (Fig. 3a and b). Collectively, these new genomes span 1,744

genera, of which 82% have no prior RNA-seq data according to publicly available data in the NCBI GEO

database (Fig. 3 c and d). To explore the relationship between predicted gene expression and protein

function, we used DeepFRI[39] to predict Gene Ontology (GO) terms for the new genes. Among the GO

terms with the highest predicted expression levels were structural constituents of ribosome

(GO:0003735) (Fig. 3e, Supplementary Fig. 8). In contrast, GO terms with the lowest predicted

expression included proteins with DNA-binding activity (GO:0003677), consistent with their function as

transcriptional regulators. Collectively, our model predicted the expression of up to 9.8M genes across

these genomes, which were compiled into a database named TXpredictDB. The predicted gene

expressions in different domains followed similar distributions (Fig. 3f). When visualizing protein

embeddings of all proteins, we observed a clear separation of bacterial, archaeal and fungal genes (Fig.

3g, Supplementary Fig. 9). Small clusters of ribosomal genes located at the periphery of the plot and

showed high predicted expression, while transmembrane transporter proteins formed distinct low-

expression clusters.

To explore the transcriptional landscape of understudied species, we focused on genera without prior

RNA-seq data and grouped genes based on their annotated Gene Ontology (GO) terms (Supplementary

Fig. 10). There was a positive correlation between the predicted expression levels of tRNA ligases and

ribosomal proteins across genera (Fig. 3h, Spearman correlation 0.52). *Actinoplanes* had the lowest

predicted expression for ribosomal proteins, in accord with their known slow growth rate[40]. The genus

Candidatus includes a symbiotic bacterium found in carpenter ants (*Blochmanniella*) and showed low

expression of both tRNA ligases and ribosomal proteins. This pattern likely reflects its reduced need for

protein turnover and genome stasis[41], in contrast to free-living bacteria. We further visualized the

embeddings of tRNA ligases to examine their sequence variations (Fig. 3i). tRNA ligases from *Candidatus*

formed distinct low-expression clusters, whereas those from *Acidiferrobacter* were distributed across

multiple clusters despite similarly low expression levels, suggesting divergent evolutionary constraints

associated with their ecological niche.

We also clustered protein sequences using MMseqs2[42] and predicted gene expression within each high-

similarity cluster using the TXpredict model. Interestingly, several clusters displayed non-unimodal

expression distributions, with conserved amino acid differences separating low- and high-expression

variants (Fig. 3j). For example, in cluster of the PTS IIA component homologs, low-expression variants

shared a V116K substitution (Supplementary Fig. 11), which could reduce translation efficiency and

mRNA stability due to the presence of constitutive lysine residues[43,44].

We further analyzed the predicted gene expression profiles of biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs) across

bacterial species in TXpredictDB, which were identified using antiSMASH[45] (n = 11,400). Although BGCs

are typically lowly expressed, distinct patterns were observed across different cluster types. For

example, the proteusin BGC showed high expression of core biosynthetic genes, whereas the ectoine

BGC exhibited elevated expression of regulatory genes (Supplementary Fig. 12). These reference

expression profiles in non-model organisms may offer valuable insights into the functional organization

of BGCs.

Discussion

We present TXpredict, a transcriptome prediction model that can generalize to a wide range of

microbes. For a microbial genome with 4.6k genes, transcriptome prediction can be completed in

approximately 22 minutes using a Google Colab notebook (Methods), demonstrating the model's

efficiency and accessibility. Our approach is not without limitations: while it effectively leverages protein

embeddings for expression prediction, it does not account for the effects of cis-regulatory elements.

Moreover, our model's performance is constrained by the limited training profiles, especially for

archaeal species. Lastly, we provide a single reference transcriptome per genome in TXpredictDB, which

does not capture gene expression dynamics. Despite these limitations, TXpredict has the potential to

complement experimental approaches and advance the study of the vast number of sequenced yet

poorly characterized microbes. For example, identifying conserved expressed genes in pathogens may

enable the discovery of novel drug targets[46]. Furthermore, predicting gene expression across genomes

can provide insight into how genome plasticity contributes to bacterial pathogenicity[47]. Our model may

also suggest biologically plausible mRNA expression levels as starting points for heterologous gene

expression in synthetic biology applications. These efforts could further benefit from integrating single-

cell RNA-seq data [5,48,49] and computational tools for mRNA synthesis and stability prediction[50–52], paving

the way for a deeper understanding of microbial transcriptional landscapes.

  Figures

Figure 1. Prediction of transcriptome based on the genome sequence

a) Schematic of TXpredict for transcriptome prediction. **b)** Scatter plots showing predicted and

measured gene expression in leave-one-genome-out evaluations for one species from bacteria, archaea,

and fungi. Spearman correlation coefficients are reported in the top-left corner of each plot. **c)**

Spearman correlation coefficients between predicted and measured gene expression in leave-one-

genome-out evaluations. TXpredict models were separately trained for bacterial, archaeal, and fungal

species. Results from five rounds of model training and testing are reported (n = 5). Dashed lines

indicate the mean correlations for each domain. **d)** Cross-domain prediction performance of TXpredict

models. Models were trained on all species from one domain and tested on species from the other

domains. Mean Spearman correlations across all test species are shown. Diagonal values represent

leave-one-genome-out performance within each domain. **e)** Predictions of archaeal and fungal models

on all bacterial species. Blue dots indicate leave-one-genome-out evaluations for bacteria. Predictions

for the same species were connected. **f)** Model predictions versus measured gene expression in new

RNA-seq experiment for *Pseudomonas sp.* WBC-3. Each dot represents one functional gene and the

Spearman correlation is shown. **g)** Predicted and measured gene expression for genes with different GO

annotations in *Pseudomonas sp.* WBC-3.

Figure 2. TXpredict captures protein mutation effects

a) Schematic showing relationships among TXpredict predictions, experimentally measured deep

mutational scanning (DMS) scores, and zero-shot predictions from ProteinGym[30]. **b)** Spearman

correlation between TXpredict predictions and experimental DMS scores in yeast datasets. **c)** Scattering

plot showing predicted expression versus DMS scores for the THO1 protein mutants (n = 1,279).

Spearman correlation coefficient is reported in the bottom-right corner. **d)** Cross-correlations of

TXpredict, zero-shot model predictions, and DMS scores for THO1 mutants. **e)** Detailed comparison of

DMS scores, TXpredict predictions, and ESM2 predictions across residue positions for single amino acid

mutations in THO1. The alpha-helical domains are indicated by dark gray boxes. **f)** Correlation of

TXpredict predictions for either a partial region or the full-length GAL4 protein with experimentally

measured mutation effects. The mutated part of GAL4 is colored in dark gray.

Figure 3. Application of TXpredict to new genomes

a) Transcriptome prediction for new genomes. **b)** Genome sizes and gene counts for the new genomes (n = 2,685). **c)** Number of genera in the new genomes (light colors) compared to training genomes (dark

colors). **d)** Polygenetic tree of newly added genomes. Each dot represents a phylum. The dot size is

proportional to the number of genera it contains and color indicates the proportion of genera with

existing RNA-seq data based on the NCBI GEO database. **e)** Top 20 GO terms of the genes in the new

genomes calculated by the DeepFRI model[39] (left) and their predicted gene expression levels (right). **f)**

Distributions of predicted gene expression levels across new bacterial (blue), archaeal (orange) and

fungal (green) genomes. **g)** t-SNE plots of protein embeddings generated by the ESM2 model[24] (n =

9.8M). Each dot represents a gene in the new genomes, colored by taxa (left), predicted gene expression

(middle), and GO terms (right). GO terms are colored as in panel (e). **h)** Predicted expression of tRNA

ligases and ribosomal proteins across understudied genera (n = 40), colored by phylum. **i)** t-SNE plots of

tRNA ligase embeddings across understudied genera, colored by phylum (left) and predicted expression

level (right). **j)** Histogram of predicted expression levels for proteins in a high-similarity cluster. Inset

shows the t-SNE plot of embeddings for these proteins, colored by predicted expression.

Methods

Training dataset

We collected RNA-seq data from the NCBI GEO database (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/). For each

microbe species, we selected the dataset with the highest number of samples and used either raw count

data or RPKM (Reads Per Kilobase of transcript per Million mapped reads) values when available. For

raw count data, we calculated the RPKM for each gene, followed by log (1 + p) and z-score

normalization. Then we applied log (1 + p) transformation and z-score normalization. In total, we

gathered data from 22 bacterial species (2,649 samples), 9 archaeal species (169 samples) and 9 fungal

species (2,078 samples, Supplementary Table 1). For each species, we constructed a standard gene

expression profile by averaging the normalized expression values across all available samples.

To model gene expression across conditions, we also collected RNA-seq data from iModulonDB

(https://imodulondb.org/index.html). We downloaded the processed datasets for each microbial

species, resulting in a dataset that includes 13 bacterial species and a total of 4,619 conditions. For each

microbial species, we only kept the genes with mean normalized gene expressions greater than -3 and a

standard deviation less than 1 across conditions.

Protein embeddings for all annotated genes were calculated using the ESM2-650M model

(*esm.pretrained.esm2_t33_650M_UR50D()*), following the instructions provided at

https://github.com/facebookresearch/esm. Proteins longer than 1,500 amino acids (AAs) were excluded

from this analysis. In addition to the protein embeddings, we also included basic protein sequence

statistics in the model input: the normalized protein length (calculated by dividing each protein length

by the longest protein length within each organism) and the amino acid composition (the proportion of

each of the 20 amino acids). The final input dimension of the model is 1301.

Transcriptome prediction model

We developed a Transformer-based model to predict gene expression levels from sequence features.

The transformer encoder utilizes a multi-head self-attention mechanism (num_heads=4) with a single

encoder layer. The encoder processes input features through a linear transformation into a hidden

dimension of 128, followed by positional encoding. We implemented sinusoidal positional encoding to

capture sequential information. The output of the transformer layer was then fed into two fully

connected layers (dimension 512 and 128) with ReLU activations. The final linear layer produces a single

output value representing the predicted gene expression level.

Model training and evaluation

We performed cross-species evaluations for bacteria, archaea and fungi separately to account for

potential domain-specific expression patterns. For each domain, we employed a cross-validation

strategy where models were trained on data from all but one microbial species and tested on the held-

out species. This approach was repeated for each species in our dataset to assess our model's

generalization capability. The models were trained using the Adam optimizer with a learning rate of

0.0002 for 5 epoch with a batch size of 32. To ensure robust evaluation, we performed 5 independent

training runs with different random seeds (42, 123, 456, 789, 1011). The mean squared error (MSE) loss

function was used for optimization. Model performance was evaluated using both Spearman and

Pearson correlation coefficients between predicted and measured expression levels.

New bacterial, archaeal and fungal genomes were downloaded from NCBI Genbank

(https://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/genbank/). To maximize genus-level representation for

transcriptome prediction, we selected 2,169 bacterial, 423 archaeal, and 93 fungal genomes spanning a

total of 1,744 genera. Gene expression for these genomes was predicted using TXpredict models,

forming the basis of the TXpredictDB. To determine whether a genus has been transcriptional

characterized, we searched the GEO database using the following query: "*genus_name [Organism] AND*

("Expression profiling by array"[Filter])". We annotated taxonomy of these genomes by querying the

GTDB database[53]. For model training and inference, we used 3090 Ti GPU (24GB) and the software

packages PyTorch (version 2.1.1) and transformer (version 4.28.1).

Conditional gene expression model

The conditional gene expression model shares the same transformer encoder architecture with the

transcriptome prediction model, and was trained separately for each species. The UTR branch processes

one-hot encoded sequences from -100 to +100 bp relative to the transcription start site. The

transformer layer has 2 attention heads and a feedforward dimension of 128. The protein embedding

branch utilizes 8 attention heads with a hidden dimension of 256. The outputs from both branches are

concatenated together and processed through a fully connected layer (dimension: 4096) with ReLU

activation. The output dimension of the model is the number of conditions for each bacterial species.

For each bacterial species, we trained the model for 10 epochs using the Adam optimizer with a learning

rate of 0.0002 and a batch size of 32. Model performance was evaluated using 5-fold cross-validation.

Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated between predicted and measured expression levels

across all conditions for genes in the test set.

Analysis of protein sequences

To visualize the high-dimensional embeddings in a two-dimensional space, we implemented t-SNE (t-

Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding) using the *opentsne* package. We initialized the embedding

using PCA and constructed a uniform affinity matrix with 10 nearest neighbors. The optimization process

consisted of three phases: an early exaggeration phase of 125 iterations with an exaggeration factor of

12 and momentum of 0.5, followed by a gradual exaggeration annealing phase where the exaggeration

factor was linearly decreased from 12 to 1 over 125 iterations with momentum of 0.8. The final

optimization phase ran for 2000 iterations without exaggeration. Function prediction for these proteins

was carried out using the default deepFRI model[39], as available on GitHub

(https://github.com/flatironinstitute/DeepFRI). We used a score cutoff of 0.5 which was reported to be

significant in the original publication. To cluster the protein sequences in TXpredictDB, we used the

MMseqs2[42] package with default settings and a minimum sequence identity threshold of 0.9.

Calculation of input gradient

To investigate the contribution of individual nucleotides in the UTR sequence to gene expression

prediction across conditions, we implemented a gradient-based analysis. Using a sequence-only model

variant where the protein embedding branch was masked, we calculated the gradient of the model

output with respect to the input DNA sequence. For each target gene and condition, we performed a

forward pass with the one-hot encoded UTR sequence while setting all other inputs to zero. We then

computed the gradients through backpropagation and multiplied them element-wise with the input

sequence (Gradient × Input method)[17]. The absolute values of these products were summed across the

four nucleotide channels (A, T, C, G) to obtain single-base resolution importance scores. For visualization

purposes, we aggregated these scores into 5-bp bins by summing the scores within each bin.

RNA-seq experiment of the *Pseudomonas* sp. WBC-3 strain

For the RNA-seq experiment, *Pseudomonas* sp. WBC-3 was cultured under three different conditions:

PNP1 (minimal medium with 0.01% glycerol), PNP2 (minimal medium with 0.04% PNP), and PNP3

(minimal medium with 0.01% glycerol and 0.04% PNP). Each condition was prepared by diluting a 2×

stock of yeast extract minimal medium supplemented with either 0.02% glycerol, 0.08% PNP, or both,

resulting in the desired final concentrations. WBC-3 strain was first grown overnight in LB medium, then

diluted 1:100 into 4 mL of each experimental medium and incubated overnight at 30°C with shaking at

200 rpm. Cultures were harvested at OD600 between 0.5 and 1.0 by centrifugation for 2 minutes,

ensuring that the total collected biomass did not exceed $1×10^9$ cells. Total RNA was extracted using the

RNAprep Pure Bacteria Kit (TIANGEN, DP430), followed by DNase I treatment (TIANGEN, RT411) to

remove genomic DNA contamination. RNA quality and concentration were confirmed to meet

sequencing requirements. Raw sequencing reads were aligned and processed using standard RNA-seq

pipelines. Read counts were quantified using StringTie with the following command: stringtie -p 8 -G

GCF_035758525.1_ASM3575852v1_genomic.gtf -l sample_id -o sample.gtf sample.bam, using the

Pseudomonas sp. WBC-3 reference genome (GCF_035758525.1).

Code availability

Our trained model and inference codes are available from GitHub:

https://github.com/lingxusb/TXpredict

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Supplementary Table

Supplementary Table S1. Datasets used in the transcriptome prediction model

Bacteria				
Species	**GSE number**	**Reference genome**	**Gene#**	**Condition#**
Bacillus subtilis	GSE224332[54]	NZ_CP020102.1	4220	317
Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron	GSE251676[55]	GCF_000011065.1	4618	64
Bordetella hinzii	GSE181542	CP052845.1	4531	228
Caulobacter vibrioides	GSE246782[56]	NC_011916.1	3882	34
Cereibacter sphaeroides	GSE186600[57]	GCA_000012905.2	4232	17
Chlamydia trachomatis	GSE262652	GCA_000068585.1	857	30
Clostridioides difficile	GSE249810[58]	GCA_000009205.5	3560	24
Clostridium acetobutylicum	GSE107804[59]	GCA_000008765.1	3755	48
Clostridium beijerinckii	GSE150480[60]	GCF_000833105.2	5316	16
Clostridium butyricum	GSE150480[60]	GCF_001456065.2	3848	16
Clostridium tetani	GSE182408[61]	NC_004557.1	2562	39
Escherichia coli	GSE152664[62]	NC_010473.1	3260	9
Erythrobacter litoralis	GSE126532	GCA_001719165.1	3003	49
Methylotuvimicrobium buryatense	GSE162089[63]	NZ_CP035467.1	3927	56
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	GSE110508[64,65]	GCA_000195955.2	3957	87
Mycolicibacterium smegmatis	GSE69983[66]	GCA_000015005.1	6700	30
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	GSE251671	GCA_000014625.1	5659	858
Pseudomonas syringae	GSE103441[67]	GCA_000007805.1	5586	114
Streptococcus dysgalactiae	GSE272047[68]	GCA_029234115.1	1939	114
Streptococcus pyogenes	GSE113055[69]	CP000056.2	1608	442
Xanthomonas citri	GSE252662[70]	AE008923.1	4294	38
Zymomonas mobilis	GSE139939[71]	CP023715.1	1759	19
Summary			83,073	2,649

 Supplementary Table S1 - continue. Datasets used in the transcriptome prediction model

Archaea				
Species	**GSE number**	**Reference genome**	**Gene#**	**Condition#**
Haloarcula hispanica	GSE227031	GCF_000223905.1	3776	32
Halobacterium salinarum	GSE182493[72]	GCF_000006805.1	2325	24
Haloferax volcanii	GSE248564[73]	GCF_000025685.1	3873	39
Methanocaldococcus jannaschii	GSE112986[74]	GCF_000091665.1	1724	13
Methanococcus maripaludis	GSE261517[75]	GCF_000011585.1	1730	12
Methanosarcina barkeri	GSE168895[76]	GCF_000970025.1	3338	12
Sulfolobus islandicus	GSE220819[77]	GCF_000189555.1	2682	18
Thermococcus kodakarensis	GSE186817	NC_006624.1	2214	4
Thermococcus paralvinellae	GSE101078[78]	GCF_000517445.1	1995	15
Summary			25,448	169

567 **Supplementary Table S1 - continue. Datasets used in the transcriptome prediction model**

Fungi				
Species	**GSE number**	**Reference genome**	**Gene#**	**Condition#**
Clavispora lusitaniae	GSE162151[79]	ATCC42720_w_CBS_6936_MT	5851	54
Cryptococcus neoformans	GSE226255[80]	CP022321.1	6718	720
Saccharomyces cerevisiae	GSE234431	GCA_000146045.2	5498	897
Coccidioides posadasii	GSE279406	NC_089407.1	8103	144
Blumeria graminis	GSE69215[81]	GCA_000151065.3	6329	48
Lipomyces starkeyi	GSE276000	GCA_001661325.1	7928	36
Neurospora crassa	GSE181566	GCF_000182925.2	9532	80
Candida albicans	GSE159545[82]	GCF_000182965.3	5918	75
Orbilia oligospora	GSE245014	GCF_000225545.1	11195	24
Summary			67,072	2,078

568 **Supplementary Table S2. Datasets used in the conditional gene expression model**

569 **(https://imodulondb.org/)**

Species	Reference	Reference genome	Gene#	Condition#
Acinetobacter baumannii	Menon, et al.[83]	CP008706.1	1788	139
Bacillus subtilis	Sastry, et al.	NC_000964.3	1969	265
Escherichia coli	Lamoureux, et al.[84]	U00096.3	2490	1035
Limosilactobacillus reuteri	Josephs-Spaulding, et al.[85]	GCA_020785475.1	1159	117
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	Yoo, et al.[86]	AL123456.3	3214	647
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Rajput, et al.[87]	NC_002516.2	3981	411
Pseudomonas putida	Lim, et al.[1]	AE015451.2	4379	321
Pseudomonas syringae	Bajpe, et al.[88]	AE016853.1	4296	202
Staphylococcus aureus	Poudel, et al.[89]	NC_010079.1	1736	385
Synechococcus elongatus	Yuan, et al.[90]	NC_007604.1	1522	300
Salmonella enterica	Yuan, et al.[90]	AE006468.2	1808	533
Streptococcus pyogenes	Hirose, et al.[91]	CP008776.1	1173	116
Vibrio natriegens	Shin, et al.[4]	GCA_001456255.1	1981	148
Summary			31,496	4,619

Supplementary Figures

 Supplementary Figure 1: **Prediction of gene expression variation.** Spearman correlations between

 predicted and measured gene expression variations in leave-one-genome-out experiments for bacterial

 (a), archaeal **(b)**, and fungal **(c)** species. Results from five rounds of model training and evaluation are

 shown (n = 5). **d)** Number of conditions and corresponding Spearman correlations for expression

 variation prediction in bacterial species (n = 22).

578 **Supplementary Figure 2:  Detection of issues related to RNA-seq dataset. a)** Spearman correlation

579 coefficients between predicted and measured gene expression for all archaeal species in the initial

580 evaluation. Results from five rounds of model training and testing are shown (n = 5). **b)** Proportion of

581 mapped/unmapped reads in the *N. maritimus* dataset (GSE103699).

Supplementary Figure 3: Expression prediction for rare proteins. a) Histogram showing the distribution

of overlap ratios between *B. hinzii* proteins and proteins in the training dataset. Overlap ratios were

calculated as the aligned sequence length divided by the query length. **b)** Predicted versus measured

gene expression for proteins with low homology to the training set (overlap ratio < 0.01). **c)** Predicted

and measured gene expressions for proteins with close homologs in the training dataset (overlap >

0.99).

<u>Supplementary Figure 4:</u> Cross-domain prediction performance of TXpredict. TXpredict was trained on

all species from a single domain and evaluated on species from the two other domains. Results from

three domain-specific models are shown: bacteria (blue), archaea (orange), and fungi (green).

Supplementary Figure 5: **Performance of TXpredict on *Pseudomonas sp.* WBC-3. a)** Correlation of measured gene expression values of *Pseudomonas sp. WBC-3* across three experimental conditions. **b)** Predicted versus measured gene expression under each condition. **c)** Scatter plot comparing predicted and mean measured gene expression across three conditions for all genes. **d)** Predicted and measured gene expression levels for genes in the *fli* operon.

Supplementary Figure 6: Prediction of context-dependent gene expression. a) Schematic of TXpredict for condition-specific gene expression prediction. **b)** Mean correlations for models trained separately on different bacterial species. Correlations from 5-fold cross-validation tests are shown on the left (n = 5). Gene and condition counts for each species are shown on the right. **c)** Distribution of Spearman and Pearson correlation coefficients for gene expression across conditions in *E. coli* (n = 498). **d)** Calculation of input gradients for identifying sequence determinants of condition-dependent gene expression. **e)** Two examples of input × gradients and their correlations with known sequence motifs.

Supplementary Figure 7: Prediction of mutation effects in bacterial datasets. a**)** Correlation between TXpredict predictions and experimental DMS scores in bacterial datasets. **b)** Cross-correlations of TXpredict, zero-shot model predictions, and DMS scores for RPC1 mutants.

Supplementary Figure 8: Top GO terms and the predicted gene expressions in TXpredictDB. Top 20

Gene Ontology (GO) terms for genes from newly added bacterial, archaeal, and fungal genomes, as

annotated by the DeepFRI model[39]. Predicted gene expression levels for these genes are shown

alongside their associated GO terms.

Supplementary Figure 9: Prediction of gene expression variation in newly added genomes. a)

Predicted gene expression variation for genes associated with the top 20 GO terms in the newly added

genomes. **b)** Predicted gene expression variation visualized in the t-SNE plot of protein embeddings (n =

9.8M).

Supplementary Figure 10: **Prediction of gene expression for understudied genera.** Gene expression

values for the top 40 GO terms and 40 genera are shown. Only genus–GO term combinations with more

than 10 associated genes are included, with mean gene expression levels presented. Genera are colored

by phylum.

Supplementary Figure 11: **Amino acid frequency differences between low and high expression genes**

within a protein cluster. TXpredict was used to predict gene expression for proteins in cluster

ERS451416_00727, identified using MMseqs2[42] at a 90% sequence identity threshold. Differences in

amino acid frequencies between lowly and highly expressed genes within the cluster are shown.

Supplementary Figure 12: **Predicted gene expression across biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs). a)**

Predicted gene expression levels for core biosynthetic, additional biosynthetic, regulatory, and transport

genes across different BGC types. **b)** Number of regions and predicted expression levels for the top 20

BGC types. **c)** Histogram of mean expression levels of BGCs (n = 11,400).