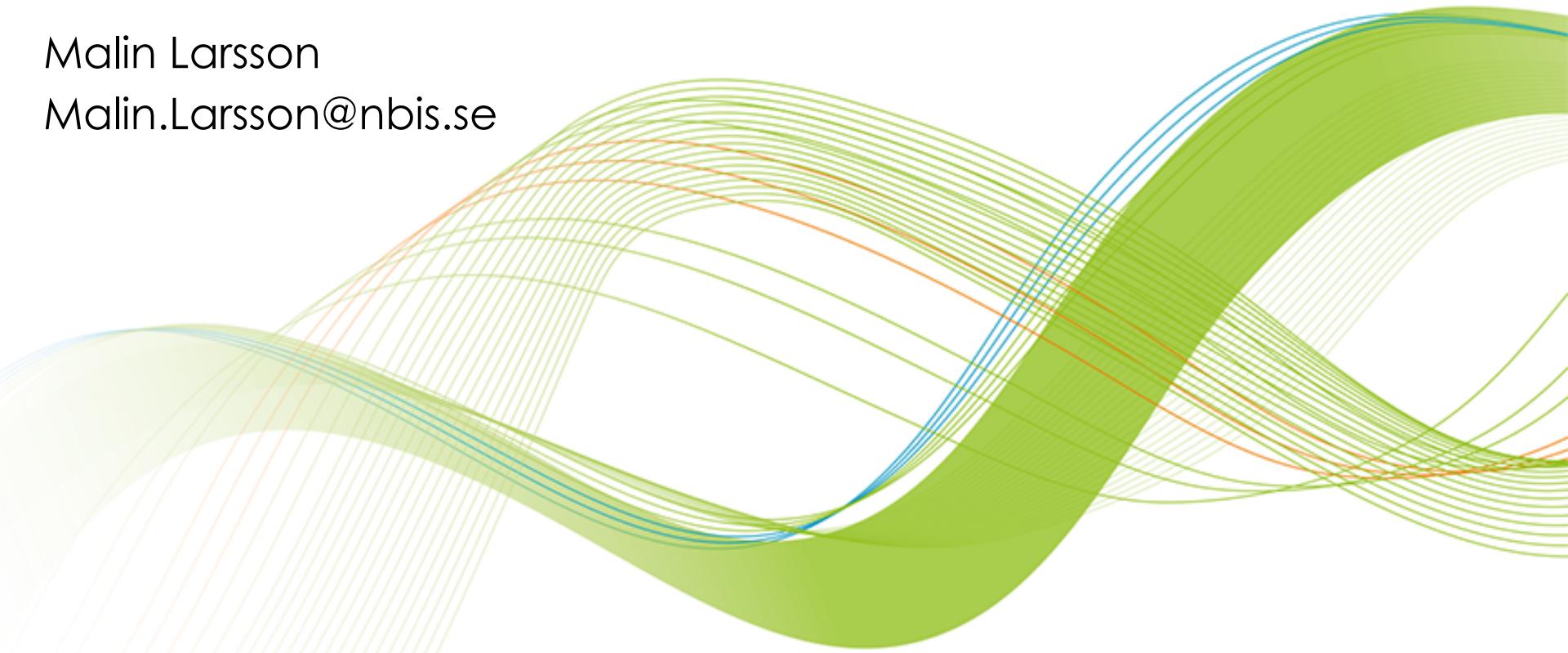


---

# Variant Calling Workflows

Malin Larsson

Malin.Larsson@nbis.se



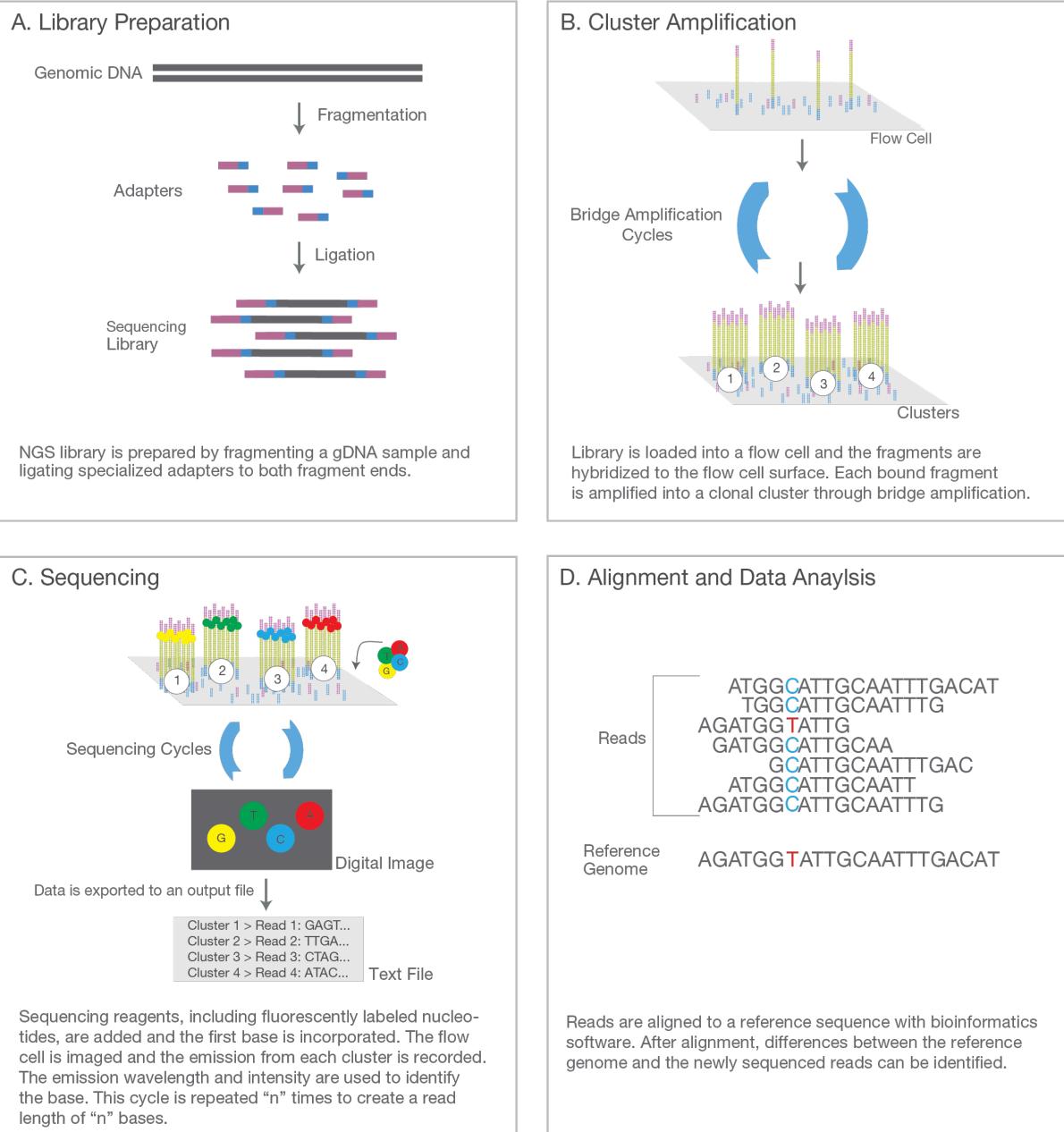
# Overview

- Workflows
- Basic variant calling in one sample
- Basic variant calling in cohort
- Introduction to exercise

In separate talk Thursday at 9:

- GATK's Best practices

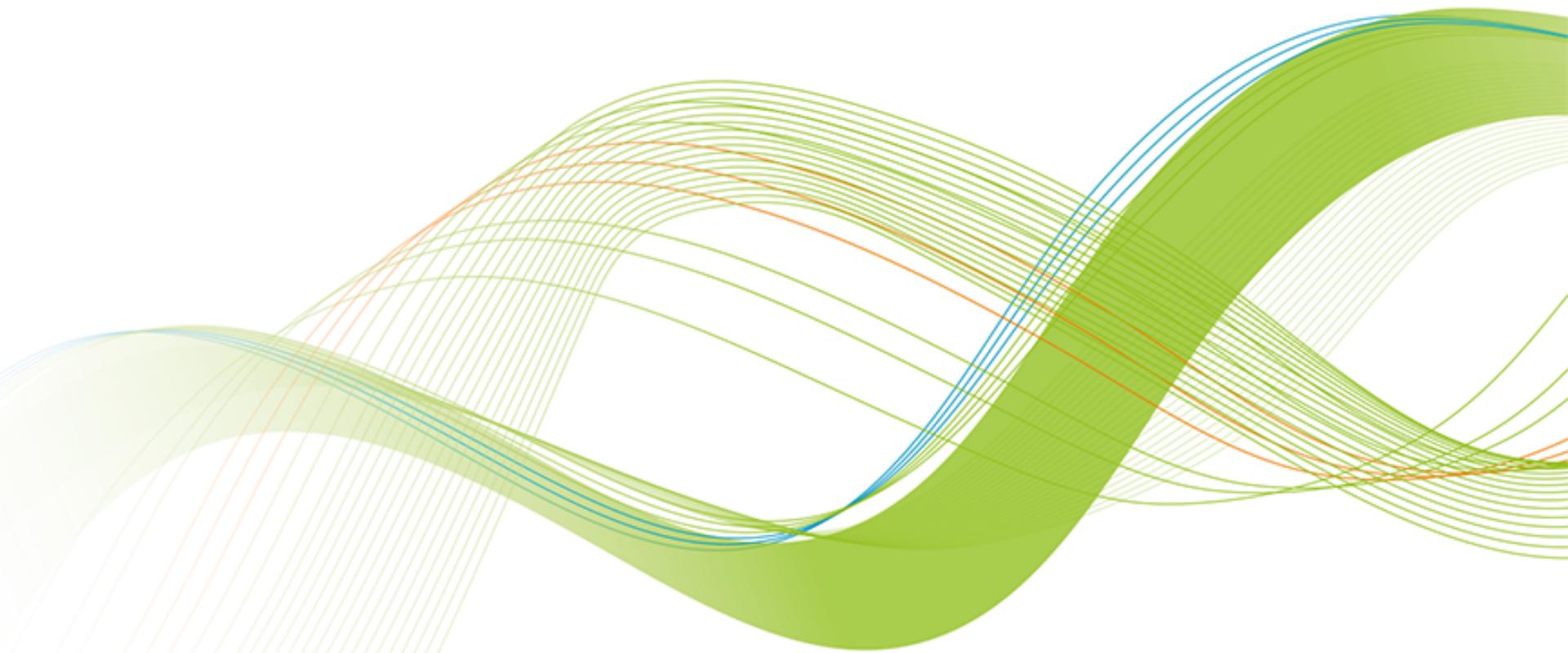
# Illumina Sequencing



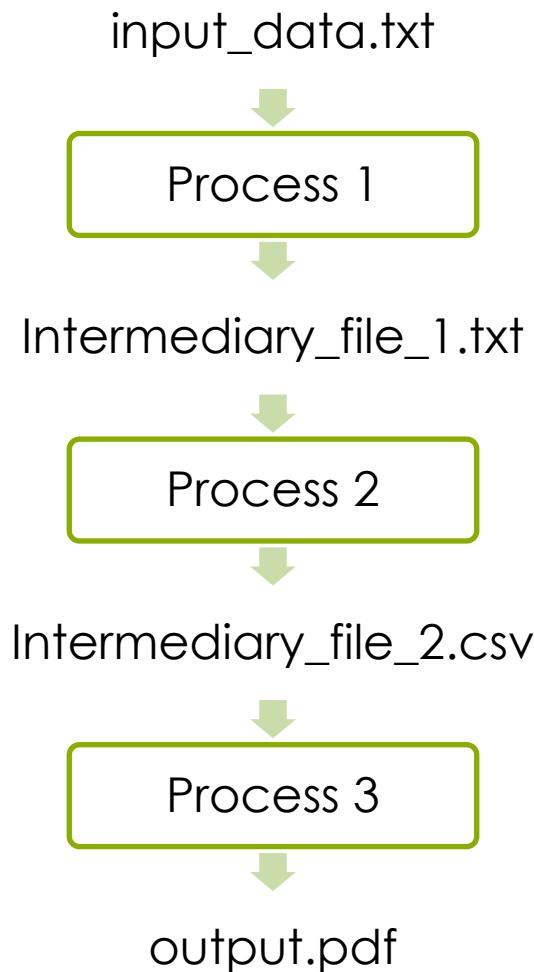
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCd6B5HRaZ8>

---

# Workflows



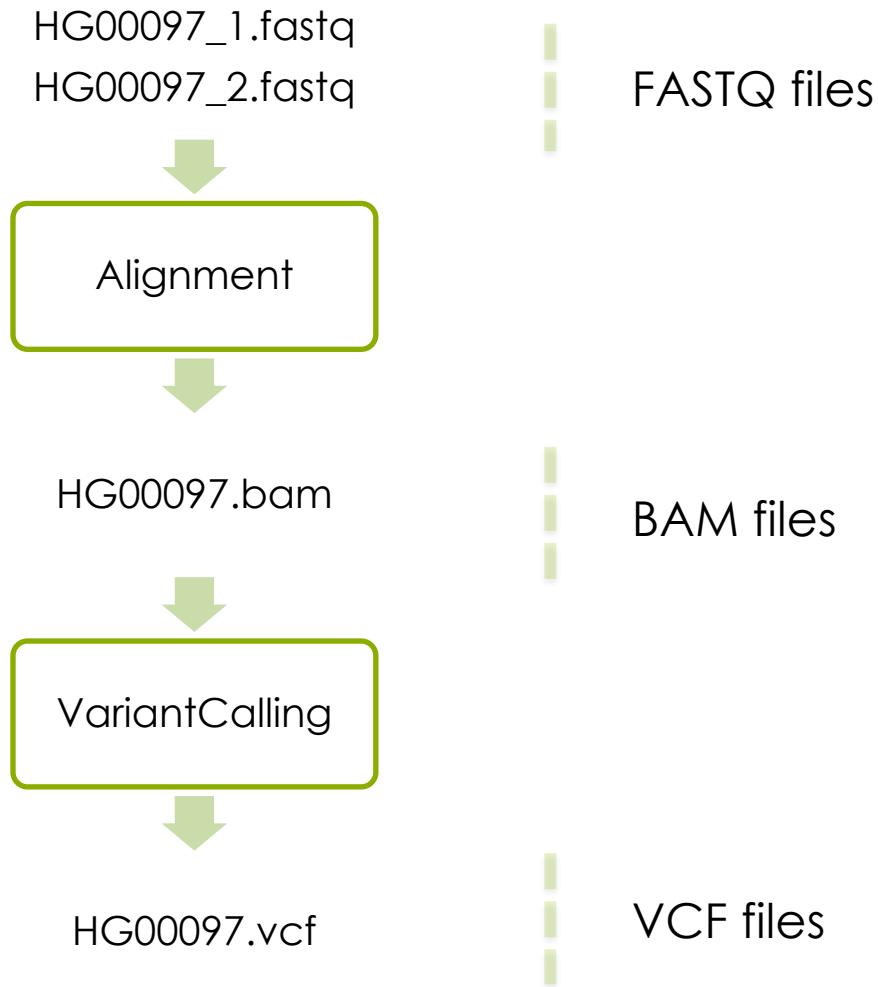
# What is a workflow



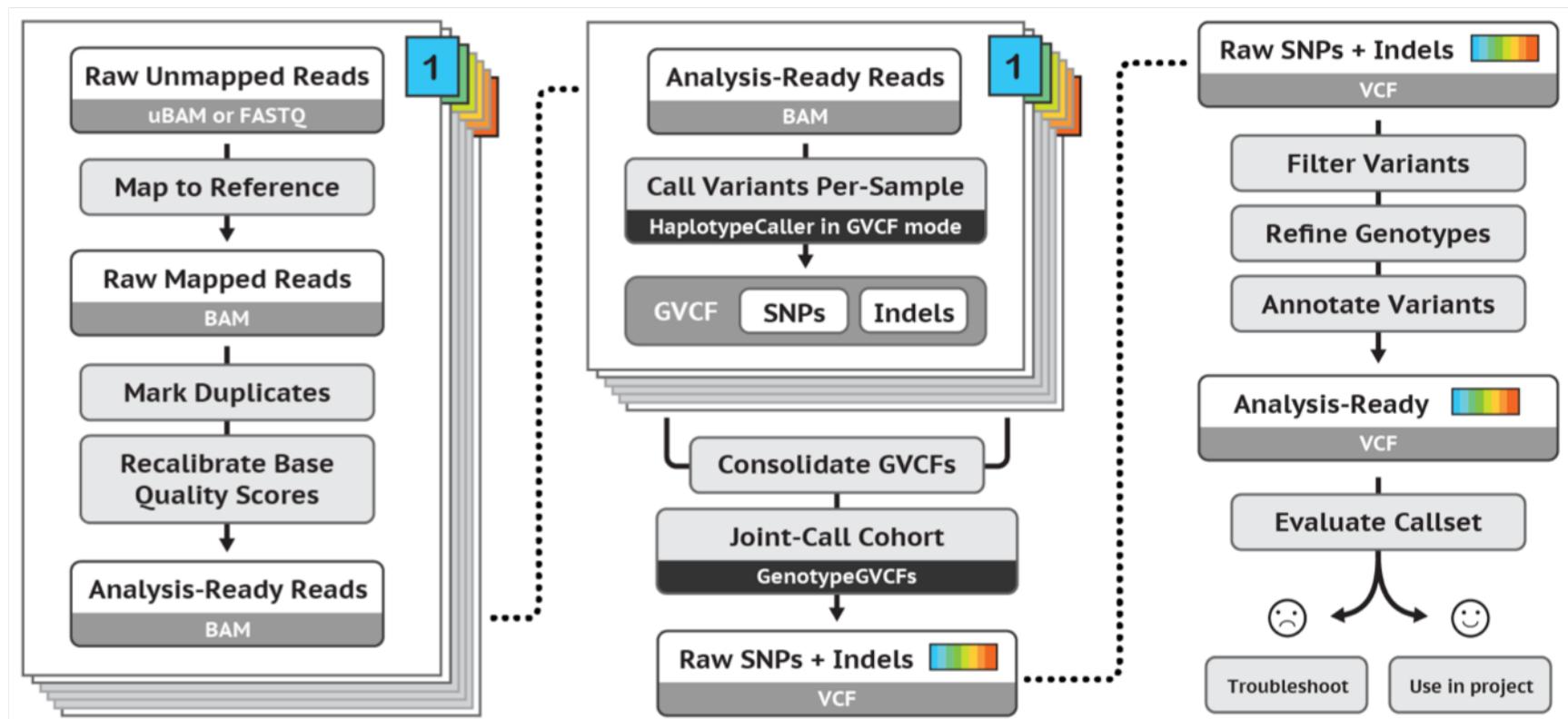
# Workflow conventions

- Create a new output file in each process – don't overwrite the input file
- Use informative file names
- Include information of the process in output file name

# Example: Basic variant calling in one sample



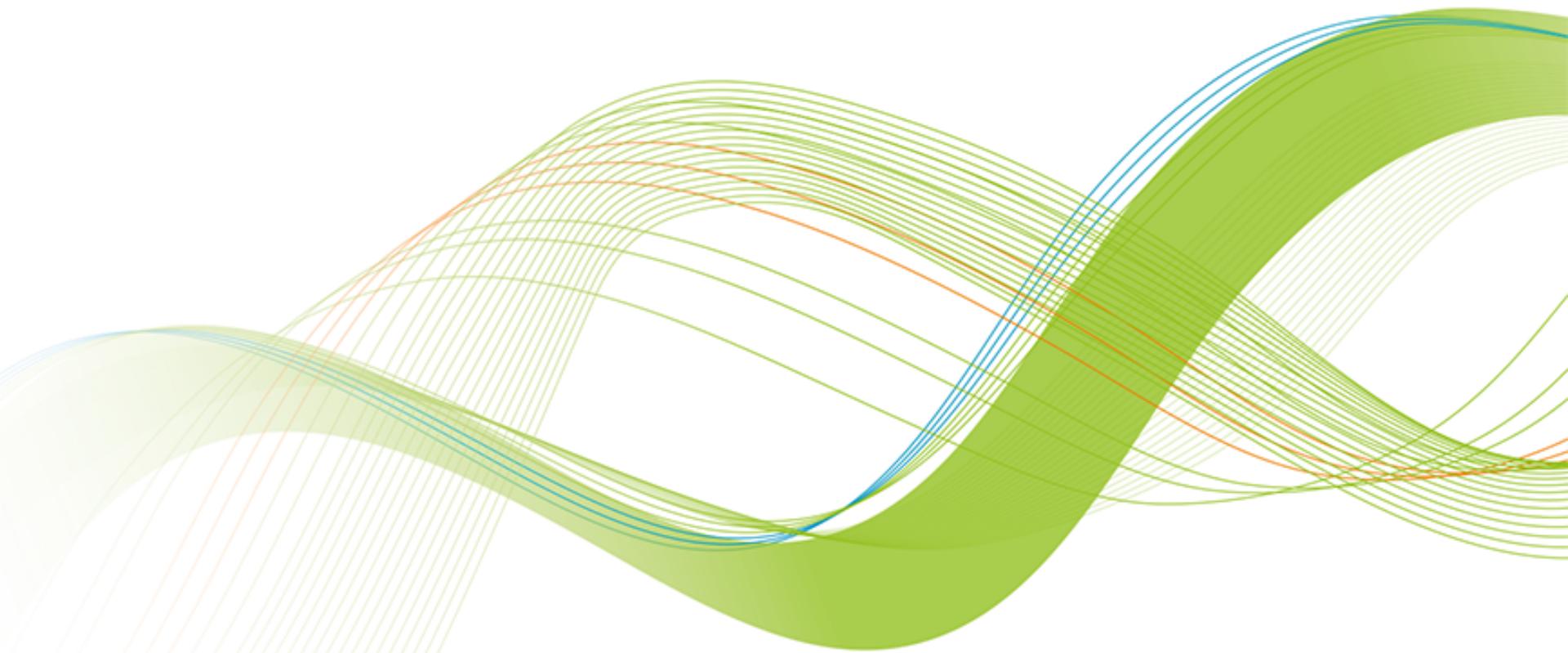
# GATK's best practices workflow for germline short variant discovery



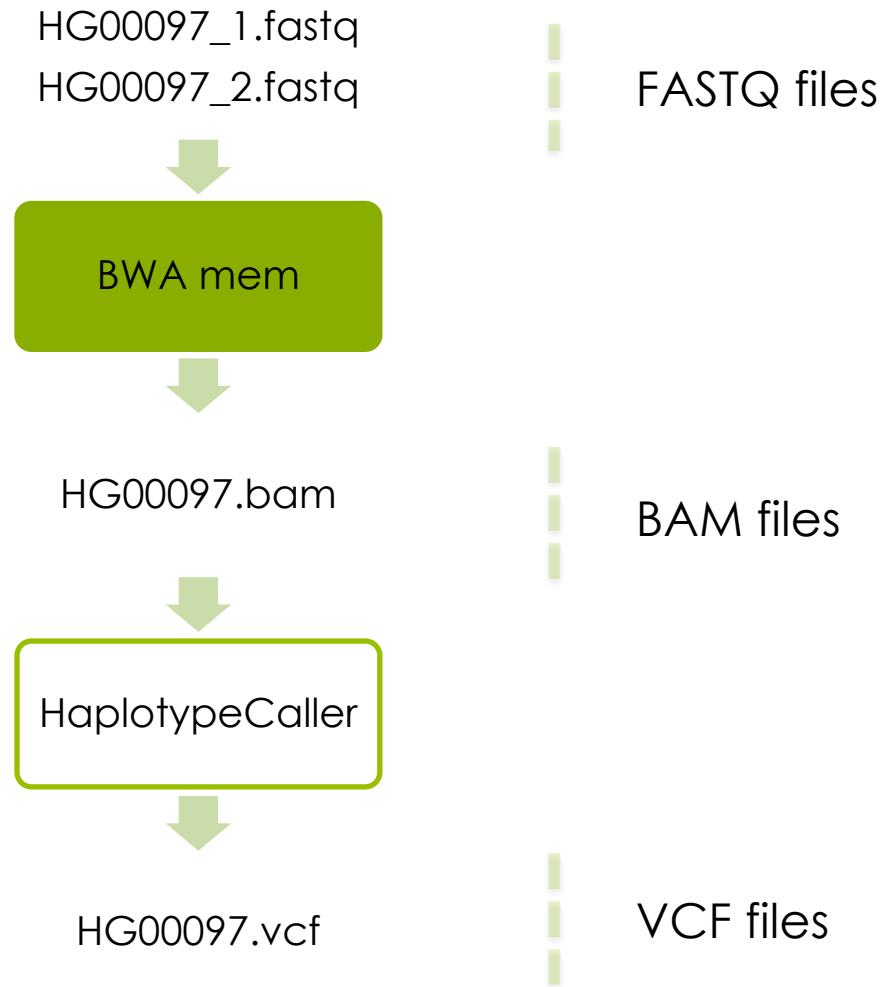
<https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/best-practices/>

---

# Basic Variant Calling in one sample



# Alignment



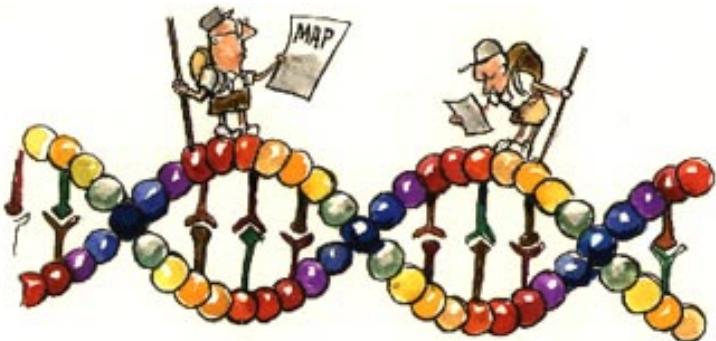
# The reference genome

A reference genome is a haploid nucleic acid sequence which represents a species genome.

The first draft of the human genome contained 150,000 gaps.

HG19: 250 gaps

HG38 is the latest version of the human reference genome, but we will work with HG19.



# Keep track of the Reference version

The reference genome sequence is used as input in many bioinformatics applications for NGS data:

- mapping
- variant calling
- annotation

You must keep track of which version of the reference genome your data was mapped to.

The same version must be used in all downstream analyses.

# File Indices

- Most large files we work with, such as the reference genome, need an index
- Allows efficient random access
- Different indices for different file-types
- Bwa index = Burrows-Wheeler transform of reference genome (several files)
- Needs index: fasta, bam vcf files

# Alignment

```
module load bwa
```

# Burrows-Wheeler Aligner

<http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net>

## Burrows-Wheeler Aligner

### Introduction

BWA is a software package for mapping low-divergent sequences against a large reference genome, such as the human genome. It consists of three algorithms: BWA-backtrack, BWA-SW and BWA-MEM. The first algorithm is designed for Illumina sequence reads up to 100bp, while the rest two for longer sequences ranged from 70bp to 1Mbp. BWA-MEM and BWA-SW share similar features such as long-read support and split alignment, but BWA-MEM, which is the latest, is generally recommended for high-quality queries as it is faster and more accurate. BWA-MEM also has better performance than BWA-backtrack for 70–100bp Illumina reads.

### FAQ

#### How can I cite BWA?

The short read alignment component (bwa-short) has been published:

Li H. and Durbin R. (2009) Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler Transform. Bioinformatics, 25:1754–60. [PMID: [19451168](#)]

If you use BWA-SW, please cite:

Li H. and Durbin R. (2010) Fast and accurate long-read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler Transform. Bioinformatics, Epub. [PMID: [20080505](#)]

### BWA:

[SF project page](#)  
[SF download page](#)  
[Mailing list](#)  
[BWA manual page](#)  
[Repository](#)

### Links:

[SAMtools](#)  
[MAQ](#)

## Burrows-Wheeler transform of reference genome

0	googol\$	0	\$googo l
1	oogol\$g	1	gol\$go o
2	ogol\$go	2	0 googol \$
3	gol\$goo	3	l\$goog o
4	ol\$goog	4	2 ogol\$g o
5	l\$googo	5	4 ol\$goo g
6	\$googol	6	1 oogol\$ g

String Sorting

Pos

X = googol\$

i S(i) B[i]  
 ↓ ↓  
 (6,3,0,5,2,4,1)  
 lo\$oogg

# Alignment

module load bwa



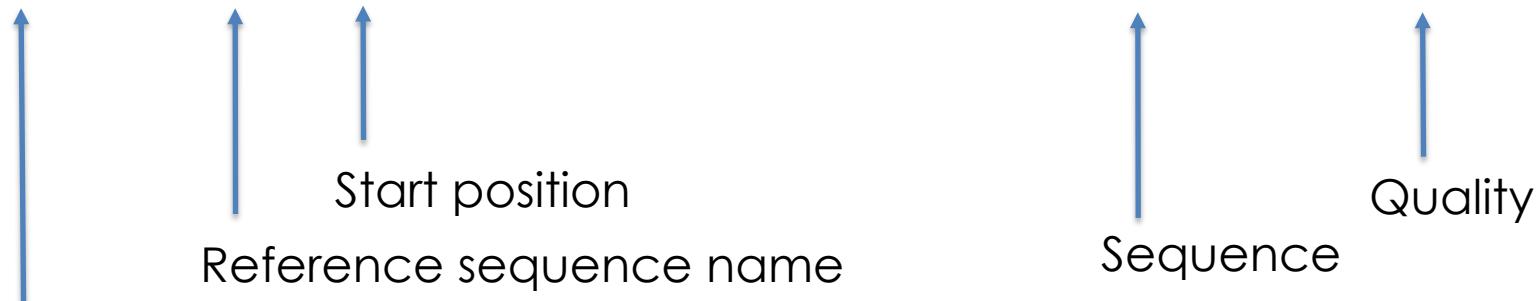
# Output from mapping - Sam format

## HEADER SECTION

```
@HD VN:1.6SO:coordinate
@SQ SN:2 LN:243199373
@PG ID:bwaPN:bwaVN:0.7.17-r1188 CL:bwa mem -t 1 human_g1k_v37_chr2.fasta HG00097_1.fq HG00097_2.fq
@PG ID:samtools PN:samtools PP:bwaVN:1.10 CL:samtools sort
@PG ID:samtools.1 PN:samtools PP:samtools VN:1.10 CL:samtools view -H HG00097.bam
```

## ALIGNMENT SECTION

Read_001	99	2	3843448	0	101M	=	3843625	278	TTTGGTTCCATATGAAC	TTT
Read_001	147	2	3843625	0	101M	=	3843448	-278	TTATTCATTGAGCAGTGG	TG
Read_002	163	2	4210055	0	101M	=	4210377	423	TGGTACCAAAACAGAGA	TA
Read_003	99	2	4210066	0	101M	=	4210317	352	CAGAGATATAGATCAATG	GA



Read name  
(usually more  
complicated)

# Convert to Bam

Bam file is a binary representation of the Sam file

# Read groups

- Link *sample id, library prep, flowcell* and sequencing run to the reads.
- Good for error tracking!
- Often needed for variant calling
- Detailed description in tutorial or  
<https://gatkforums.broadinstitute.org/gatk/discussion/6472/read-groups>

**RGID** = combination of the sample id and run id

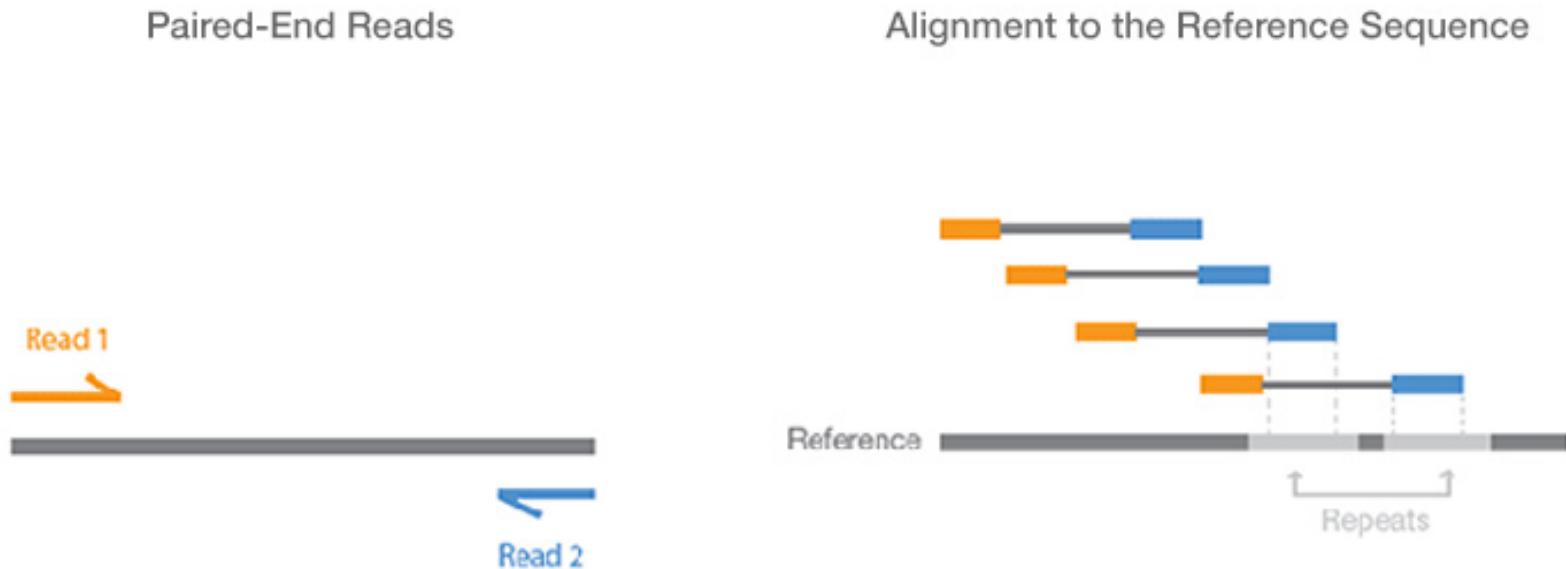
**RGLB** = Library prep

**RGPL** = Platform (for us ILLUMINA)

**RGPU** = Run identifier usually barcode of flowcell

**RGSM** = Sample name

# Paired-End data



---

Paired-end sequencing enables both ends of the DNA fragment to be sequenced. Because the distance between each paired read is known, alignment algorithms can use this information to map the reads over repetitive regions more precisely. This results in much better alignment of the reads, especially across difficult-to-sequence, repetitive regions of the genome.

# Paired-end data

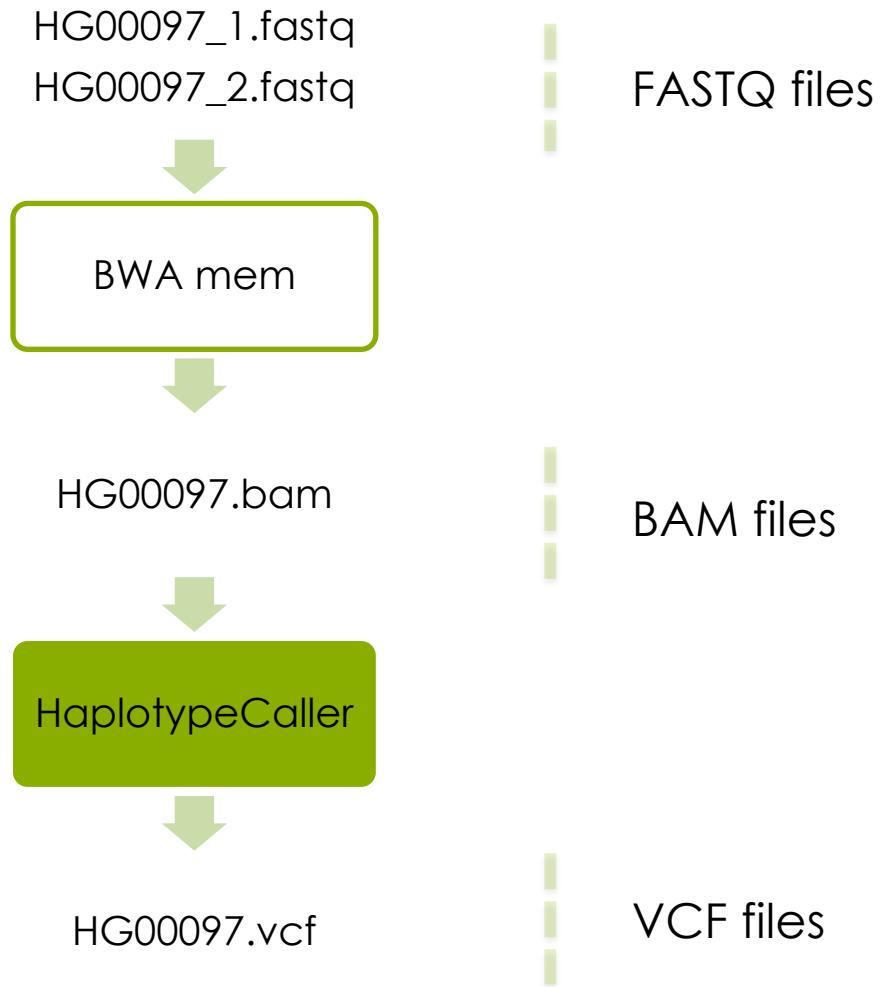
ID\_R1\_001.fastq

```
@HISEQ:100:C3MG8ACXX:5:1101:1160:2  
197 1:N:0:ATCACG  
CAGTTGCGATGAGAGCGTTGAGAAGTATAATAGG  
AGTTAAACTGAGTAACAGGATAAGAAATAGTGAG  
ATATGGAACGTTGTGGTCTGAAAGAAGATGT  
+  
B@CFFFFFHGGJJJJJJJFHHIIIIJJ  
JIHGIIJJJJIJIJIJJJJJJJIEIHHIJ  
GHHHHHDFFFEDDDDCDDDCDDDDDDCDC
```

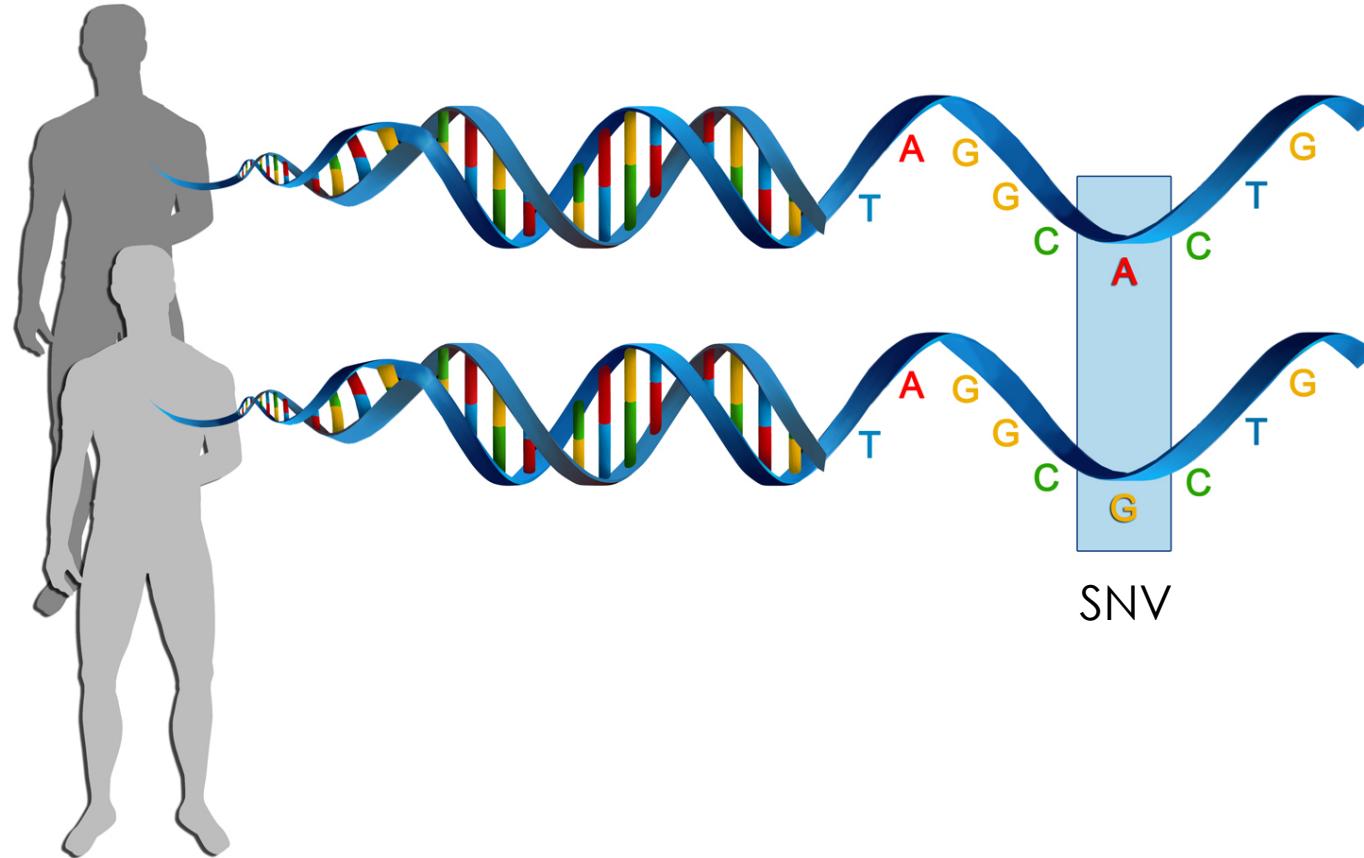
ID\_R2\_001.fastq

```
@HISEQ:100:C3MG8ACXX:5:1101:1160:  
2197 2:N:0:ATCACG  
CTTCGTCCACTTCATTATTCCCTTCATACATG  
CTCTCCGGTTAGGGTACTCTGACCTGGCCTT  
TTTCAAGACGTCCCTGACTTGATCTGAAACG  
+  
CCCFFFFFHGGJJJJJIJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJ  
JJJJJJJJIJIJGIJHBGHIIIJJJJJJJJJ  
JJJHFFFFFFDDDDDDDDDDDDDEDCCDDDD
```

# Variant calling



# Genetic variation



Genetic variation = differences in DNA among individuals of the same species

# Detecting variants in reads

# Reference- and Alternative Alleles

GGCTTTCCAACAGGTATATCTTCCCCGCTAGCTA~~A~~GCTAGCTACTTCAAAT

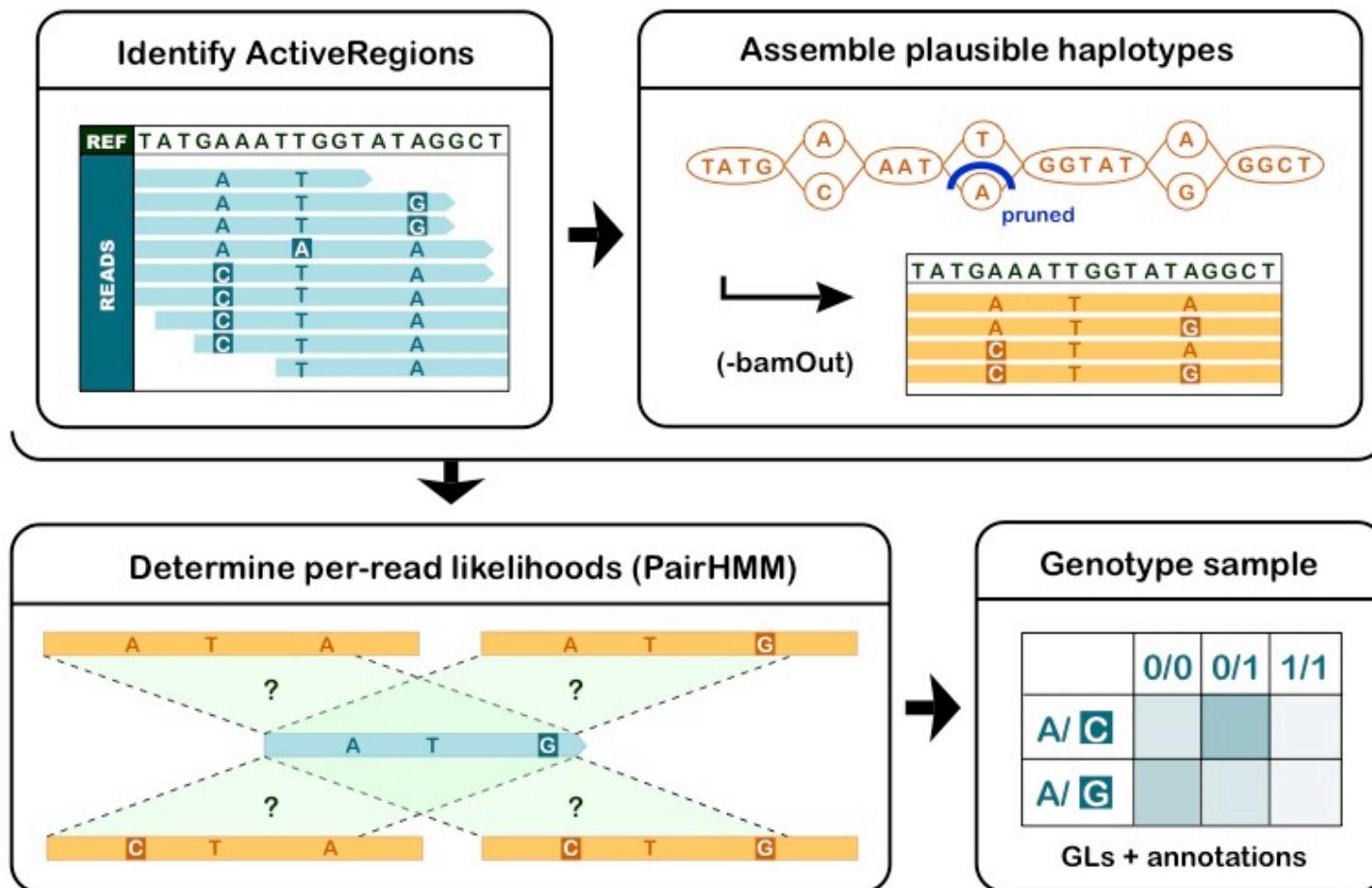
**Reference allele** AGCT~~A~~GCTA

**Alternative allele** AGCT~~G~~GCTA

**Reference allele** = the allele in the reference genome

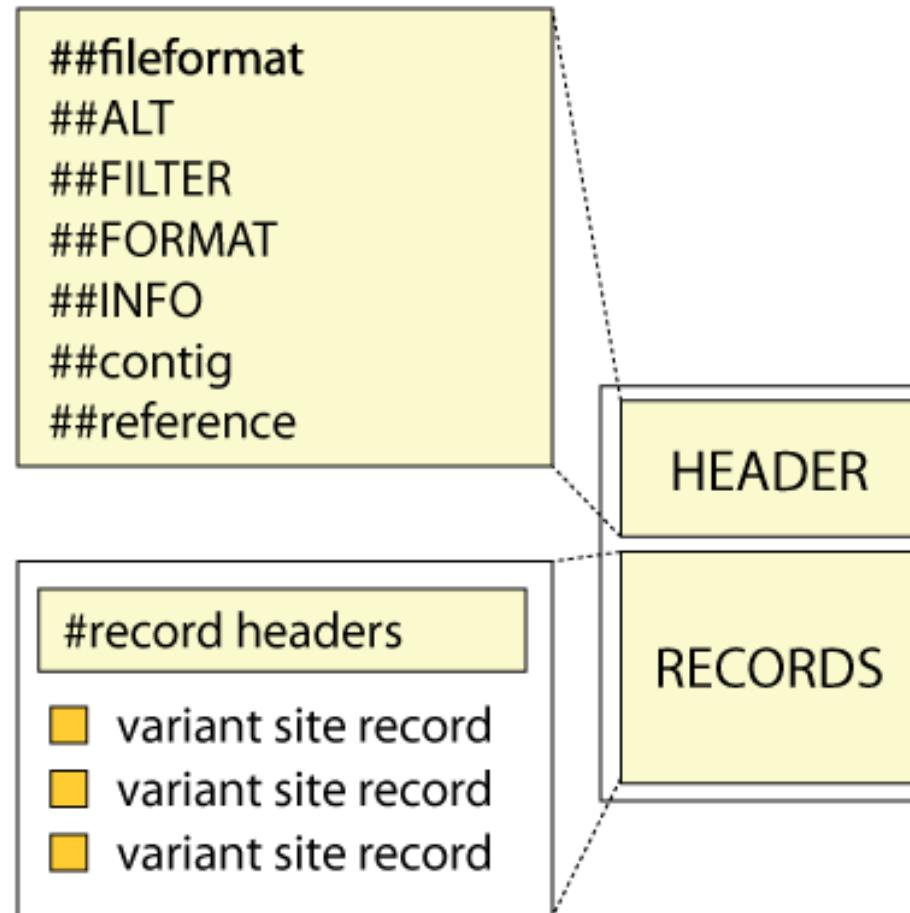
**Alternative allele** = the allele NOT in the reference genome

# Variant Calling HaplotypeCaller



For more info: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQHGkVGICpY>

# Variant Call Format (VCF)

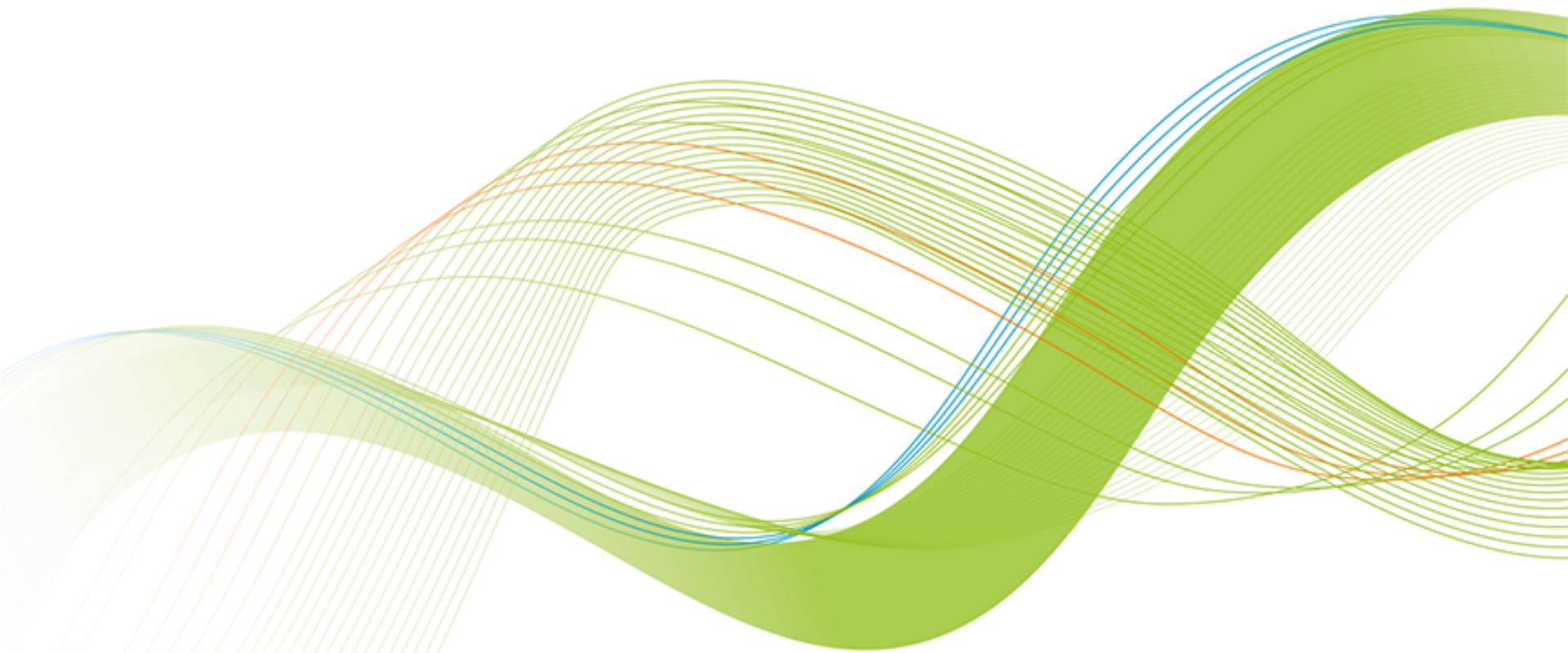


# Variant Call Format (VCF)

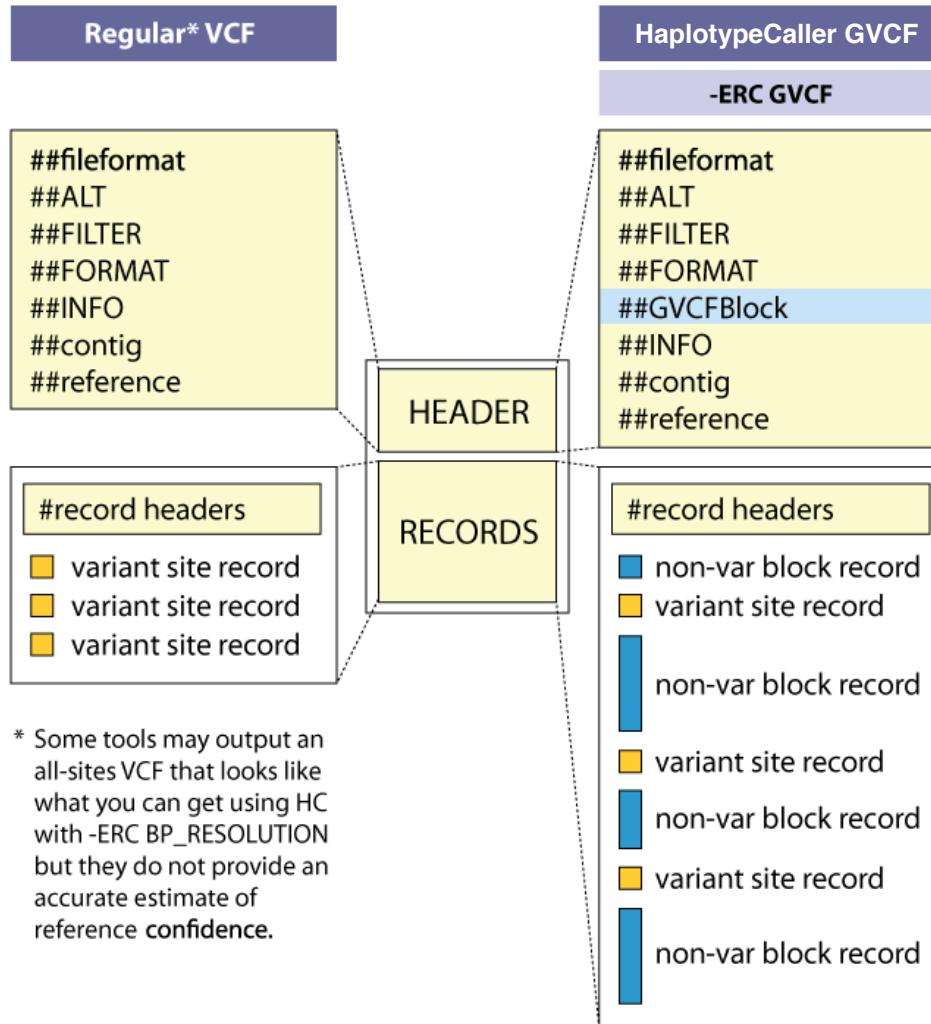
```
##fileformat=VCFv4.3
##fileDate=20090805
##source=myImputationProgramV3.1
##reference=file:///seq/references/1000GenomesPilot-NCBI36.fasta
##contig=<ID=20,length=62435964,assembly=B36,md5=f126cdf8a6e0c7f379d618ff66beb2da,species="Homo sapiens"...
##phasing=partial
##INFO=<ID=NS,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Number of Samples With Data">
##INFO=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Total Depth">
##INFO=<ID=AF,Number=A,Type=Float,Description="Allele Frequency">
##INFO=<ID=AA,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Ancestral Allele">
##INFO=<ID=DB,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="dbSNP membership, build 129">
##INFO=<ID=H2,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="HapMap2 membership">
##FILTER=<ID=q10,Description="Quality below 10">
##FILTER=<ID=s50,Description="Less than 50% of samples have data">
##FORMAT=<ID=GT,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Genotype">
##FORMAT=<ID=GQ,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Genotype Quality">
##FORMAT=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Read Depth">
#CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO FORMAT NA00001
20 14370 rs6054257 G A 29 PASS NS=3;DP=14;AF=0.5;DB;H2 GT:GQ:DP 0|0:48:1
20 17330 . T A 3 q10 NS=3;DP=11;AF=0.017 GT:GQ:DP 0|0:49:3
20 1230237 . T . 47 PASS NS=3;DP=13;AA=T GT:GQ:DP 0|0:54:7
20 1234567 microsat1 GTC G,GTCT 50 PASS NS=3;DP=9;AA=G GT:GQ:DP 0|1:35:4
```

---

# Variant calling in cohort

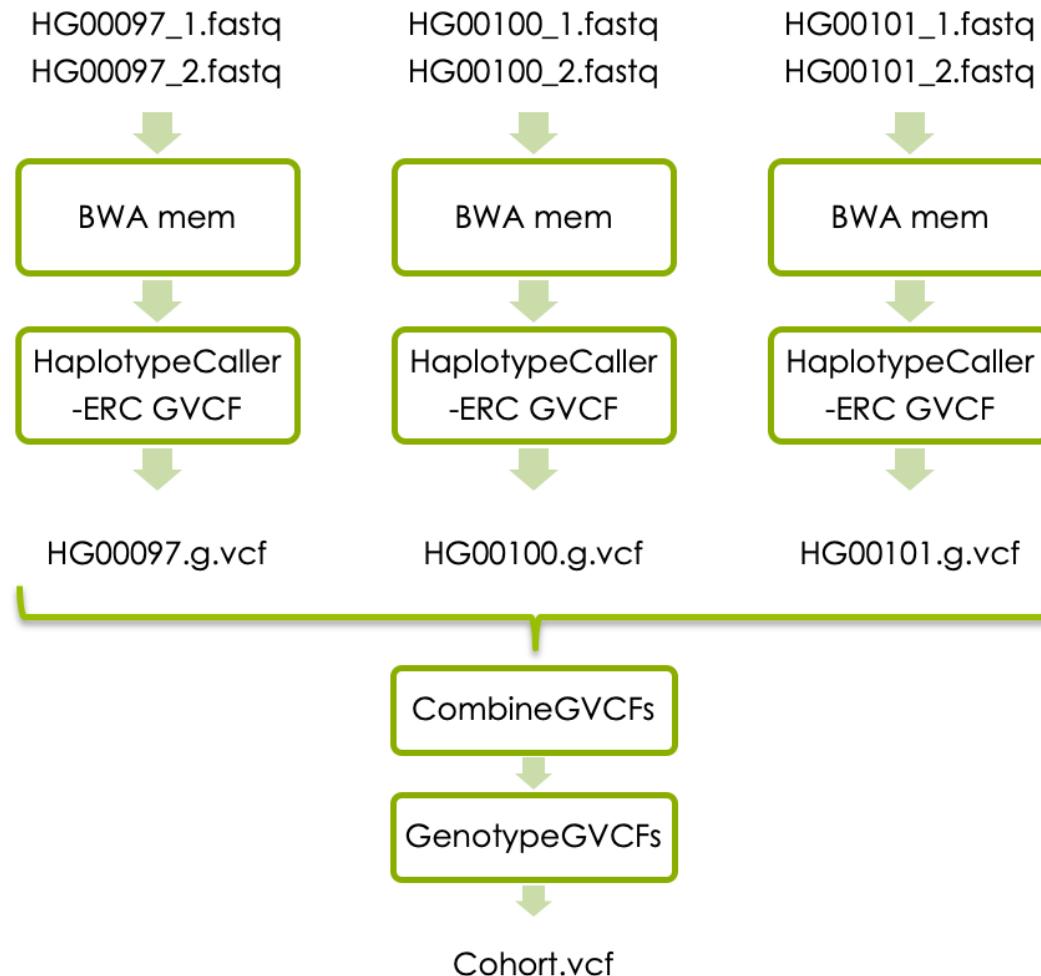


# GVCF Files are valid VCFs with extra information



- GVCF has records for all sites, whether there is a variant call there or not.
- The records include an accurate estimation of how confident we are in the determination that the sites are homozygous-reference or not.
- Adjacent non-variant sites merged into blocks

# Basic variant calling in cohort



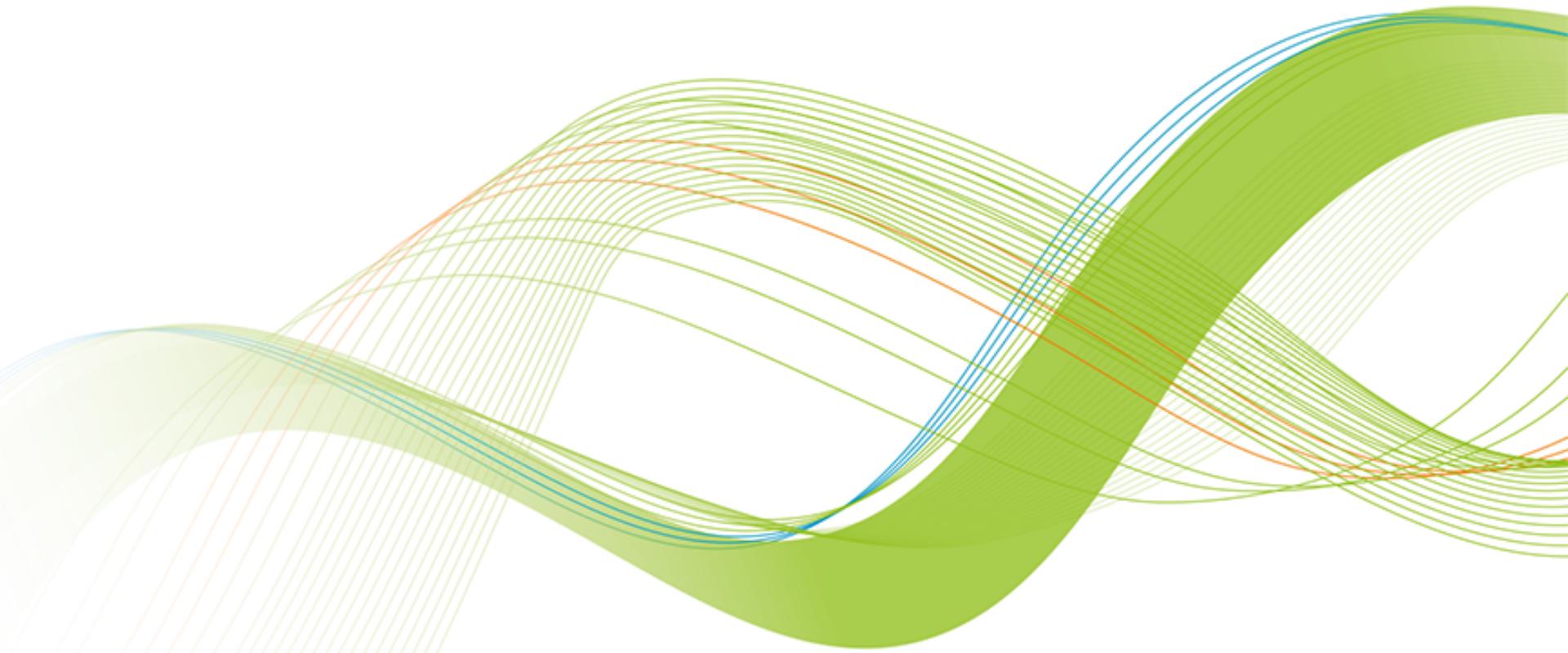
# Variant Call Format (VCF)

```
##fileformat=VCFv4.3
##fileDate=20090805
##source=myImputationProgramV3.1
##reference=file:///seq/references/1000GenomesPilot-NCBI36.fasta
##contig=<ID=20,length=62435964,assembly=B36,md5=f126cdf8a6e0c7f379d618ff66beb2da,species="Homo sapiens"...
##phasing=partial
##INFO=<ID=NS,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Number of Samples With Data">
##INFO=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Total Depth">
##INFO=<ID=AF,Number=A,Type=Float,Description="Allele Frequency">
##INFO=<ID=AA,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Ancestral Allele">
##INFO=<ID=DB,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="dbSNP membership, build 129">
##INFO=<ID=H2,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="HapMap2 membership">
##FILTER=<ID=q10,Description="Quality below 10">
##FILTER=<ID=s50,Description="Less than 50% of samples have data">
##FORMAT=<ID=GT,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Genotype">
##FORMAT=<ID=GQ,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Genotype Quality">
##FORMAT=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Read Depth">
#CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO FORMAT NA00001 NA00002 NA00003
20 14370 rs6054257 G A 29 PASS NS=3;DP=14;AF=0.5;DB;H2 GT:GQ:DP 0|0:48:1 1|0:48:8 1|1:43:5
20 17330 . T A 3 q10 NS=3;DP=11;AF=0.017 GT:GQ:DP 0|0:49:3 0|1:3:5 0|0:41:3
20 1230237 . T . 47 PASS NS=3;DP=13;AA=T GT:GQ:DP 0|0:54:7 0|0:48:4 0|0:61:2
20 1234567 microsat1 GTC G,GTCT 50 PASS NS=3;DP=9;AA=G GT:GQ:DP 0|1:35:4 0|2:17:2 1|1:40:3
```



---

# GATK's best practices for germline short variant discovery



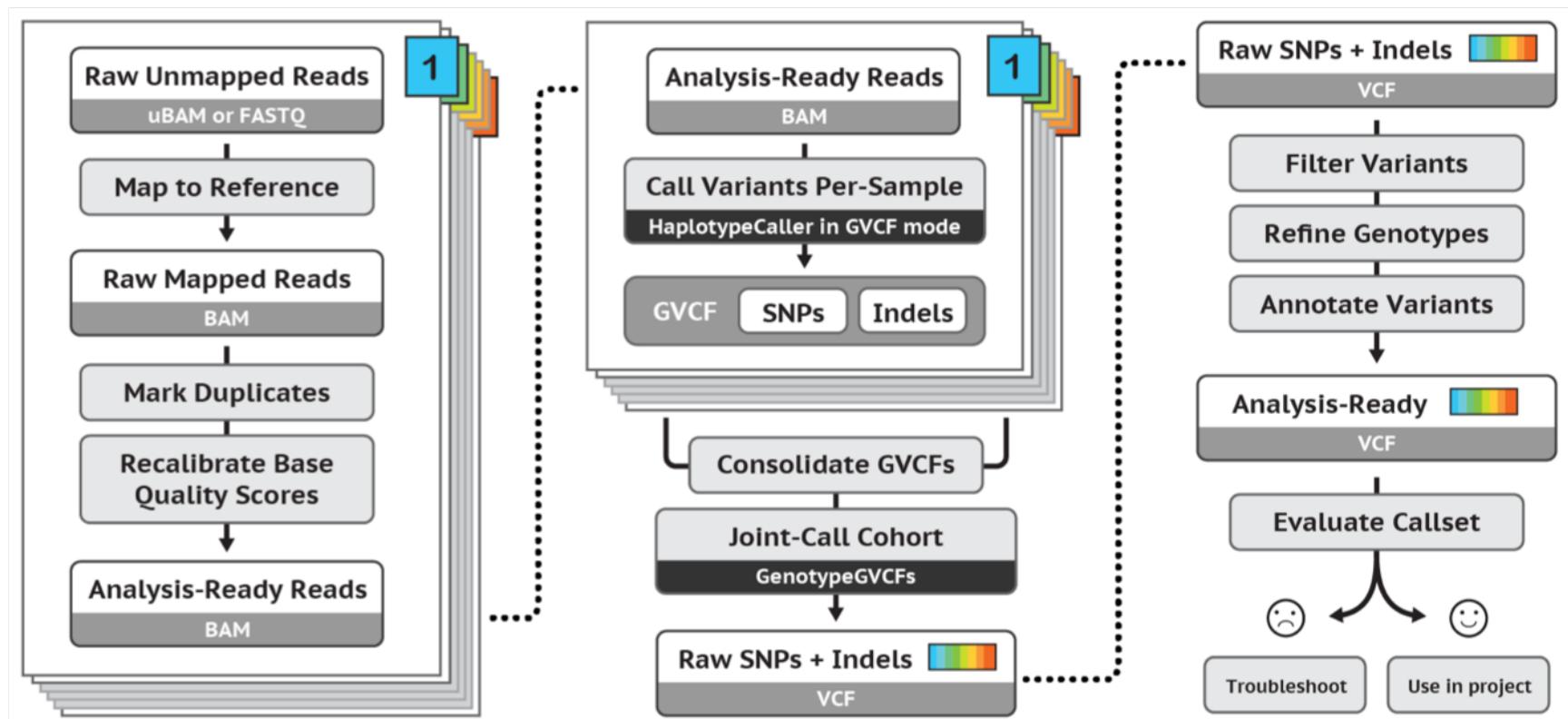
<https://gatk.broadinstitute.org>

The screenshot shows the official website for the Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK). At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to "User Guide", "Tool Index", "Blog", "Forum", "DRAGEN-GATK", "Events", "Download GATK4", and "Sign in". The main header features the "gatk" logo and the title "Genome Analysis Toolkit" with the subtitle "Variant Discovery in High-Throughput Sequencing Data". Below the header is a central diagram illustrating the workflow: "Sequencing" leads to "READS", which then connects to the "gatk best practices™" logo, and finally results in "VARIANTS". A descriptive text block below the diagram states: "Developed in the Data Sciences Platform at the [Broad Institute](#), the toolkit offers a wide variety of tools with a primary focus on variant discovery and genotyping. Its powerful processing engine and high-performance computing features make it capable of taking on projects of any size. [Learn more](#)".

**Find answers to your questions. Stay up to date on the latest topics. Ask questions and help others.**

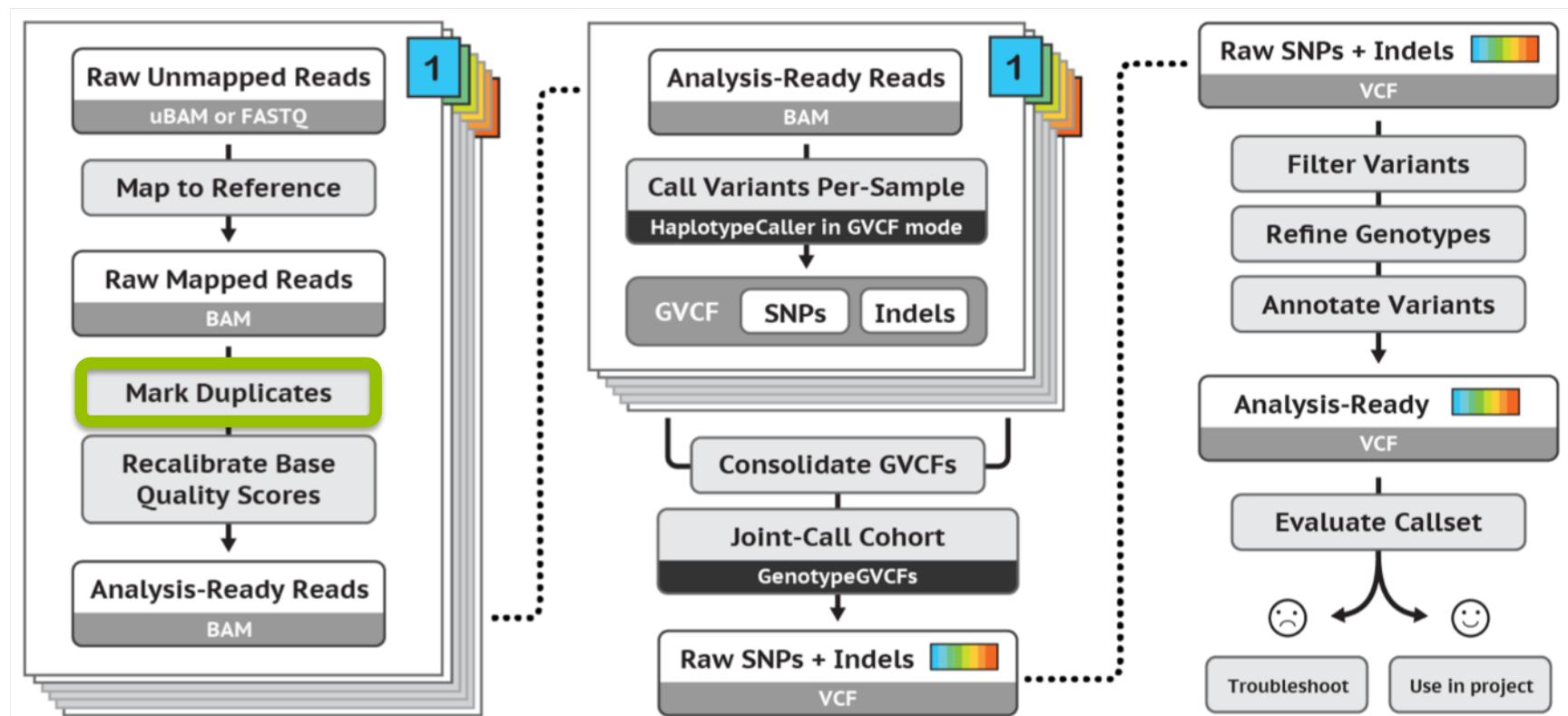
 <b>Getting Started</b> Best practices, tutorials, and other info to get you started	 <b>Technical Documentation</b> Algorithms, glossary, and other detailed resources	 <b>Announcements</b> Blog and events
 <b>Tool Index</b> Purpose, usage and options for each tool	 <b>Forum</b> Ask our team for help and report issues	 <b>GATK Showcase on Terra</b> Check out these fully configured workspaces
 <b>DRAGEN-GATK</b> Learn more about DRAGEN-GATK	 <b>Download latest version of GATK</b> The GATK package download includes all released GATK tools	 <b>Run on Cloud</b>
		 <b>Run on HPC</b>

# GATK's best practices workflow for germline short variant discovery



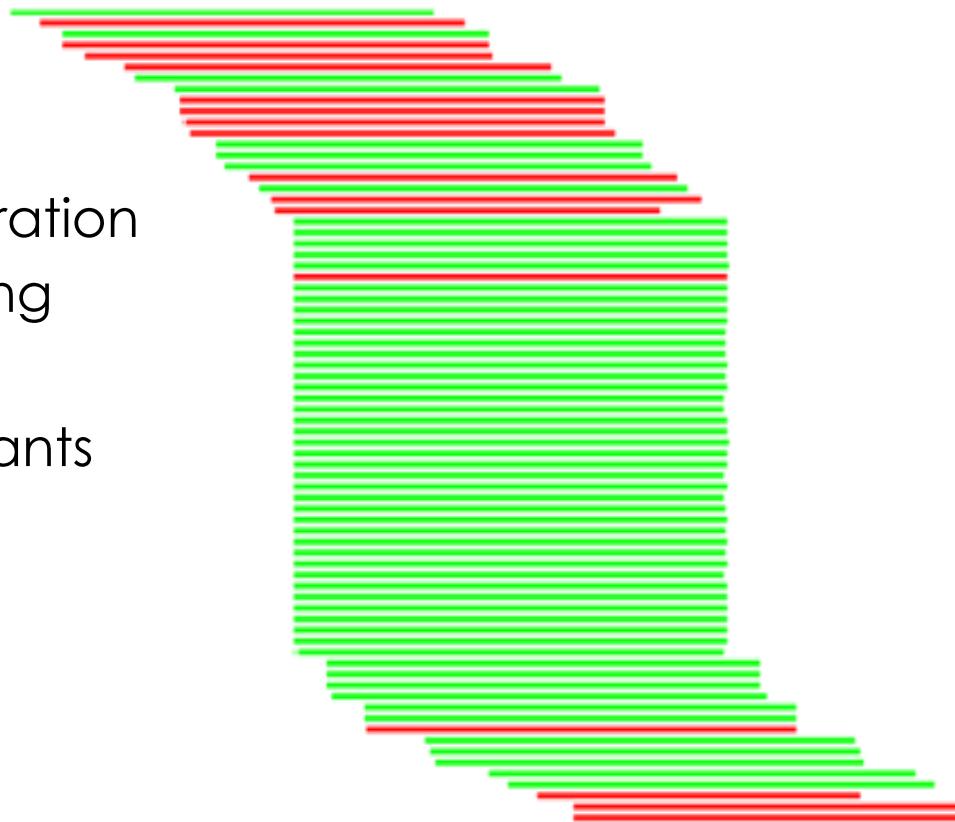
<https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/best-practices/>

# Mark Duplicates



# Duplicate reads

- PCR duplicates - library preparation
- Optical duplicates - sequencing
- Don't add unique information
- Gives false allelic ratios of variants
- Should be removed/marked



[User Guide](#)[Tool Index](#)[Blog](#)[Forum](#)[DRAGEN-GATK](#)

# Need Help?

Search our documentation



[GATK](#) / [Tool Index](#) / [4.0.1.1](#)

## MarkDuplicates (Picard)

[Follow](#)

GATK Team

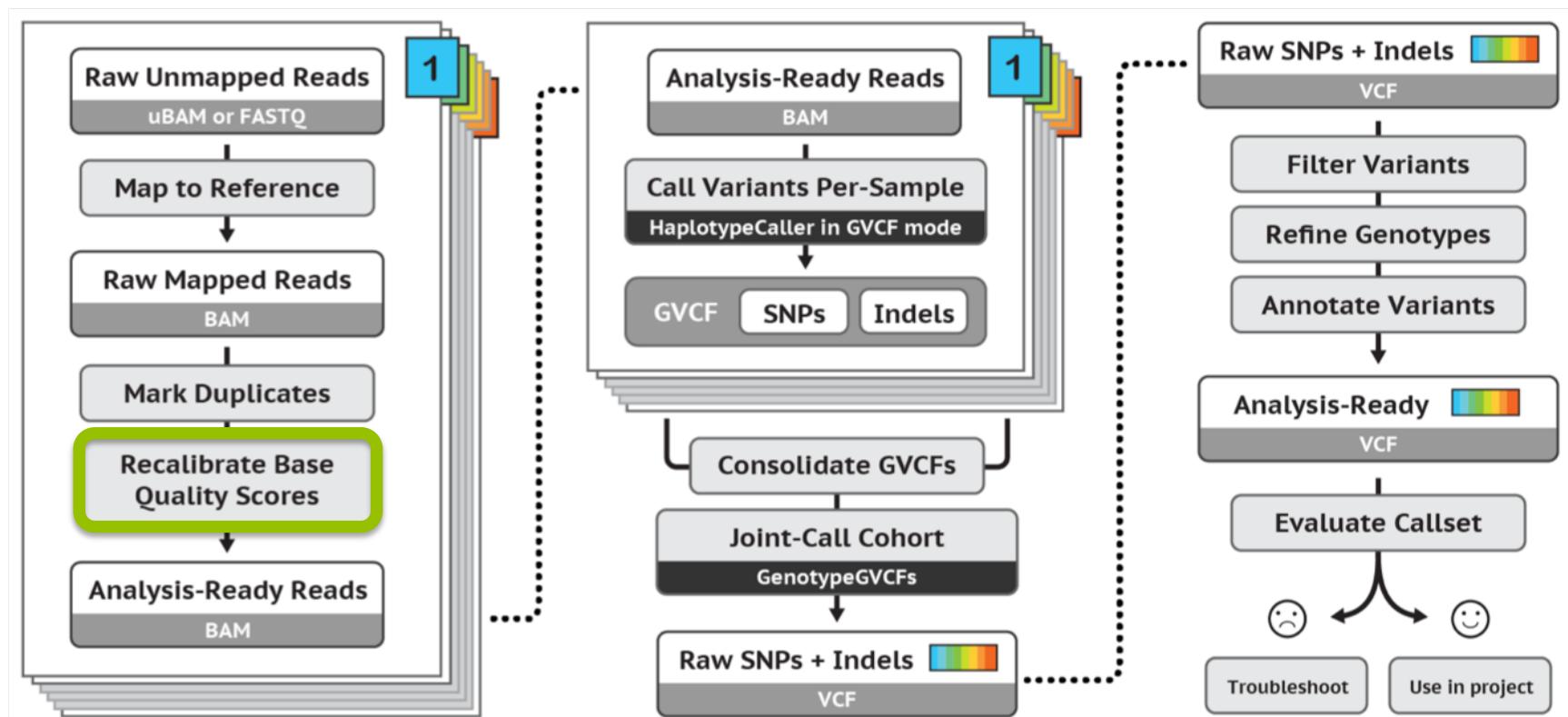
10 months ago · Updated

Identifies duplicate reads.

This tool locates and tags duplicate reads in a BAM or SAM file, where duplicate reads are defined as originating from a single fragment of DNA. Duplicates can arise during sample preparation e.g. library construction using PCR. See also [EstimateLibraryComplexity](#) for additional notes on PCR duplication artifacts. Duplicate reads can also result from a single amplification cluster, incorrectly detected as multiple clusters by the optical sensor of the sequencing instrument. These duplication artifacts are referred to as optical duplicates.

```
gatk --java-options -Xmx7g MarkDuplicates \
    -I input.bam \
    -O marked_duplicates.bam \
    -M marked_dup_metrics.txt
```

# Base Quality Score Recalibration (BQSR)



# Base Quality Score Recalibration (BQSR)

- During base calling, the sequencer estimates a quality score for each base. This is the quality scores present in the fastq files.
- Systematic (non-random) errors in the base quality score estimation can occur.
  - due to the physics or chemistry of the sequencing reaction
  - manufacturing flaws in the equipment
  - etc
- Can cause bias in variant calling
- **Base Qualtiy Score Recalibration** helps to calibrate the scores so that they correspond to the real per-base sequencing error rate (phred scores)

# Need Help?

Search our documentation

Base Quality Score Recalibration (BQSR)



[GATK](#) / [Technical Documentation](#) / [Algorithms](#)

## Base Quality Score Recalibration (BQSR) [Follow](#)



GATK Team

5 days ago · Updated

BQSR stands for Base Quality Score Recalibration. In a nutshell, it is a data pre-processing step that detects systematic errors made by the sequencing machine when it estimates the accuracy of each base call.

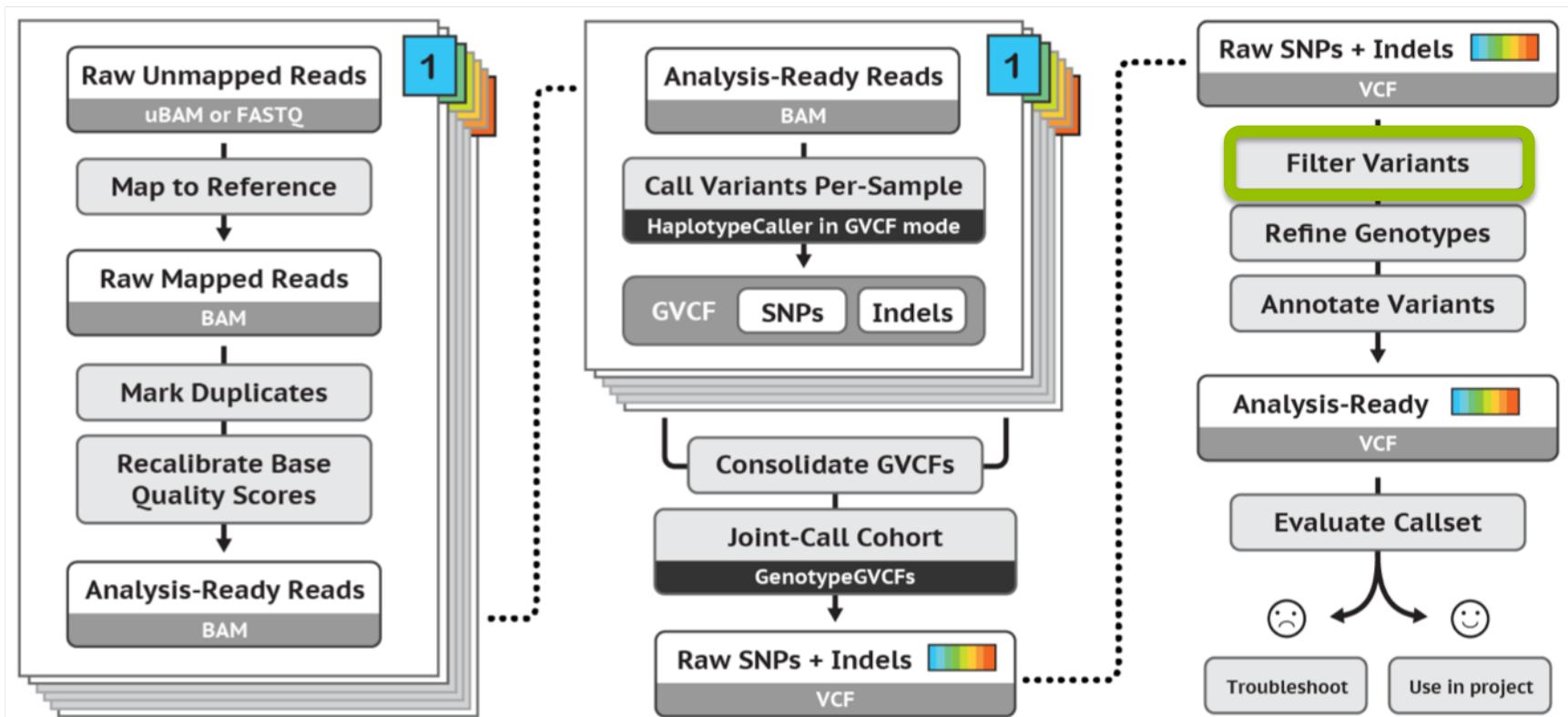
*Note that this **base** recalibration process (BQSR) should not be confused with **variant** recalibration (VQSR), which is a sophisticated filtering technique applied on the variant callset produced in a later step. The developers who named these methods wish to apologize sincerely to anyone, especially Spanish-speaking users, who get tripped up by the similarity of these names.*

---

### Contents

1. Overview
  2. Base recalibration procedure details
  3. Important factors for successful recalibration
  4. Examples of pre- and post-recalibration metrics
  5. Recalibration report
-

# Filter variants

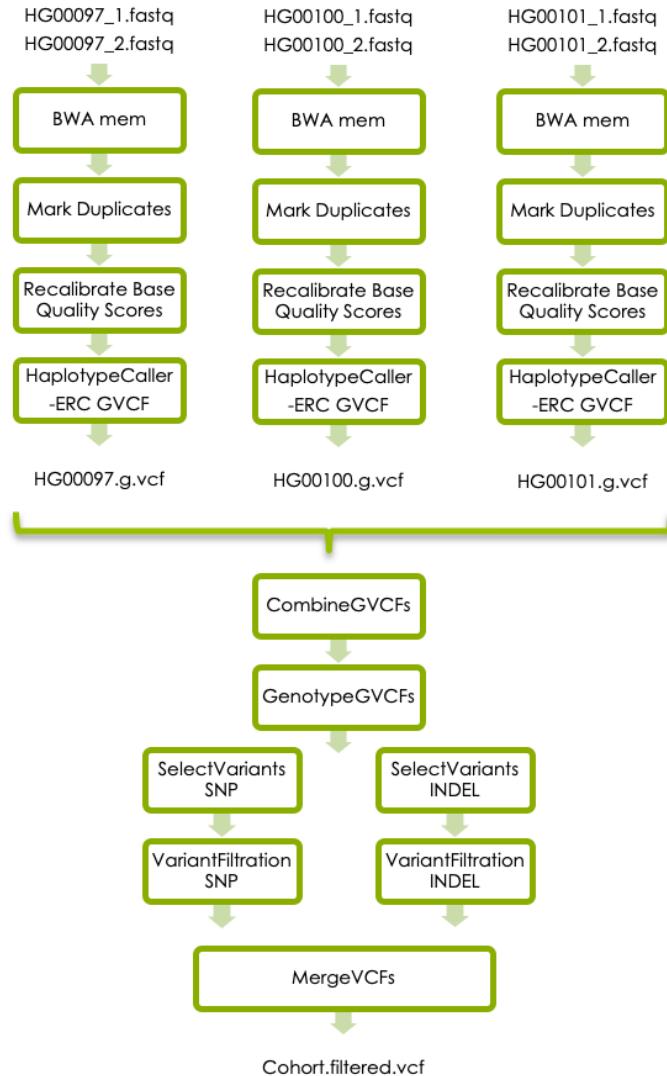


<https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/best-practices/>  
Germline short variant discovery (SNPs + Indels)

# Filtering

- Remove low quality variants
- Variant quality score recalibration (VQSR):
  - For large data sets ( >1 WGS or >30WES samples)
  - GATK has a machine learning algorithm that can be trained to recognise "likely false" variants
  - **We do recommend to use VQSR when possible!**
- Hard filters:
  - For smaller data sets
  - Hard filters on information in the VCF file
  - For example: Flag variants with "QD < 2" and "MQ< 40.0"
  - GATK recommendations on hard filters:  
<https://gatkforums.broadinstitute.org/gatk/discussion/2806/how-to-apply-hard-filters-to-a-call-set>

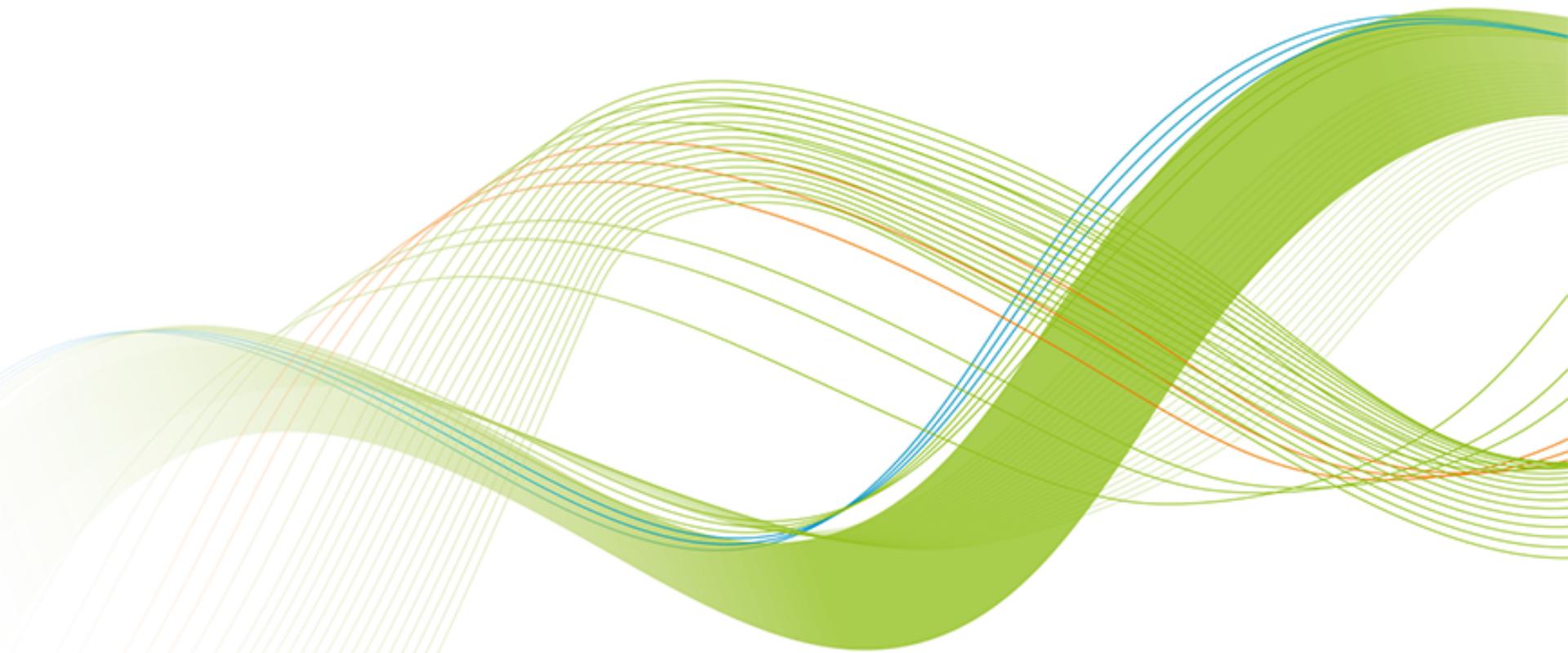
# GATK's best practices workflow



More details and links to GATK for each step is found in the lab instructions.

---

# Today's lab



# 1000 Genomes data



- Low coverage WGS data
- 3 samples
- Small region on chromosome 2

About the samples:

[https://www.internationalgenome.org  
/data-portal/sample](https://www.internationalgenome.org/data-portal/sample)

# The Lactase enzyme

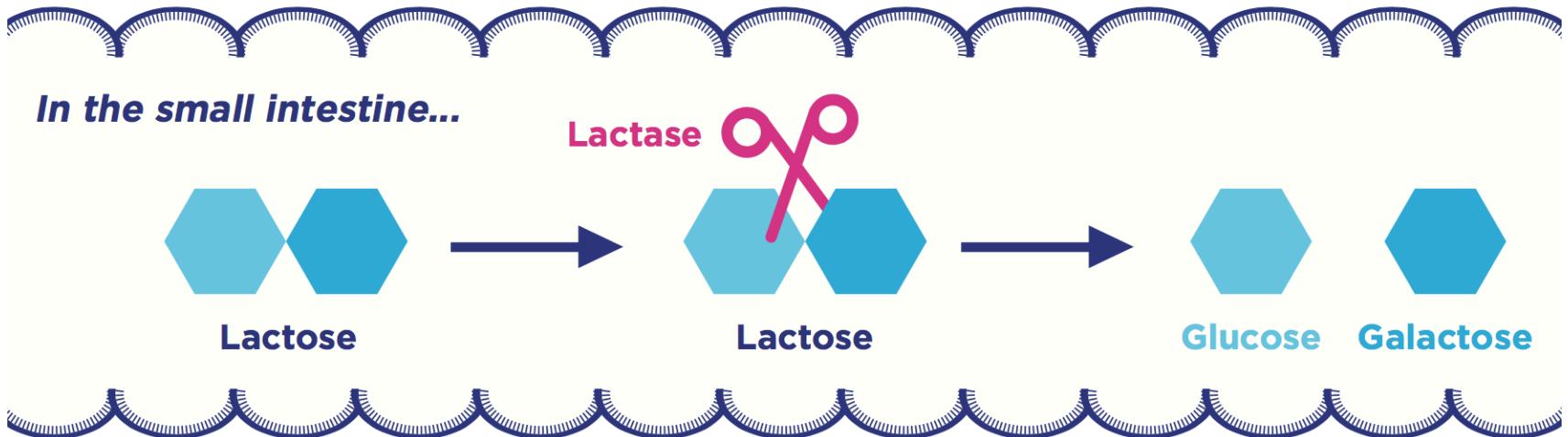


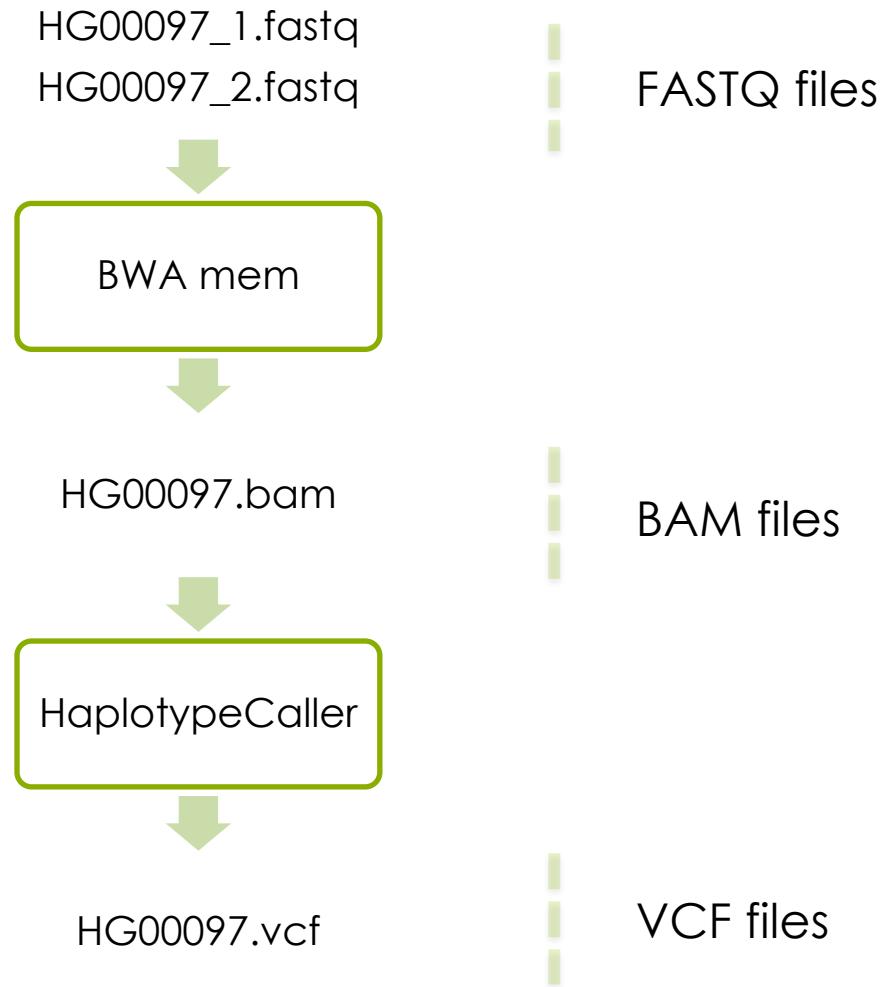
Figure 2. Lactose digestion in the intestine.

- All mammals produce lactase as infants
- Some humans produce lactase in adulthood
- Genetic variation upstream of the *LCT* gene causes the lactase persistent phenotype (lactose tolerance)

**part one:**

**variant calling in one sample**

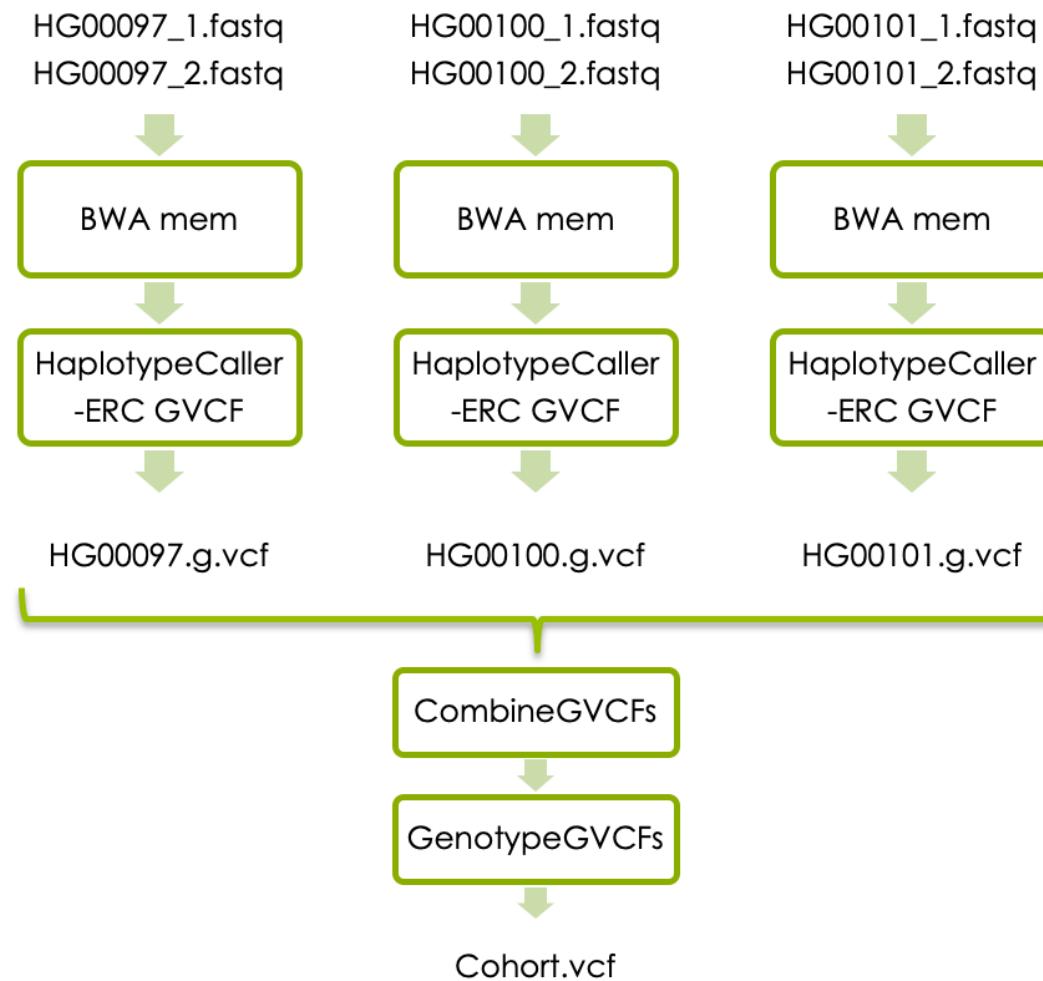
# Basic variant calling in one sample



**Part two (if you have time):**

**variant calling in cohort**

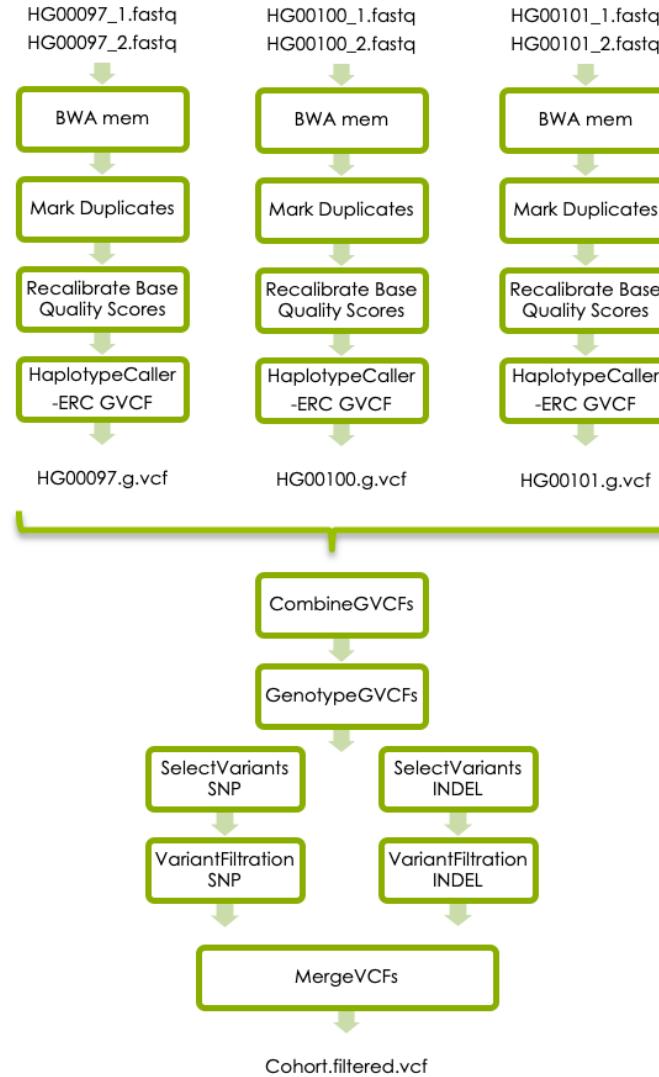
# Joint variant calling workflow



**Part three (if you have time):**

**Follow GATK best practices for  
short variant discovery**

# GATK's best practises



First look at video  
about this linked  
from schedule!

<https://gatk.broadinstitute.org>



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## Genome Analysis Toolkit

Variant Discovery in High-Throughput Sequencing Data



Developed in the Data Sciences Platform at the [Broad Institute](#), the toolkit offers a wide variety of tools with a primary focus on variant discovery and genotyping. Its powerful processing engine and high-performance computing features make it capable of taking on projects of any size. [Learn more](#)

Find answers to your questions. Stay up to date on the latest topics. Ask questions and help others.



### Getting Started

Best practices, tutorials, and other info to get you started



### Technical Documentation

Algorithms, glossary, and other detailed resources



### Announcements

Blog and events



### Tool Index

Purpose, usage and options for each tool



### Forum

Ask our team for help and report issues



### GATK Showcase on Terra

Check out these fully configured workspaces



### DRAGEN-GATK

Learn more about DRAGEN-GATK



### Download latest version of GATK

The GATK package download includes all released GATK tools



### Run on Cloud



### Run on HPC

# Questions?