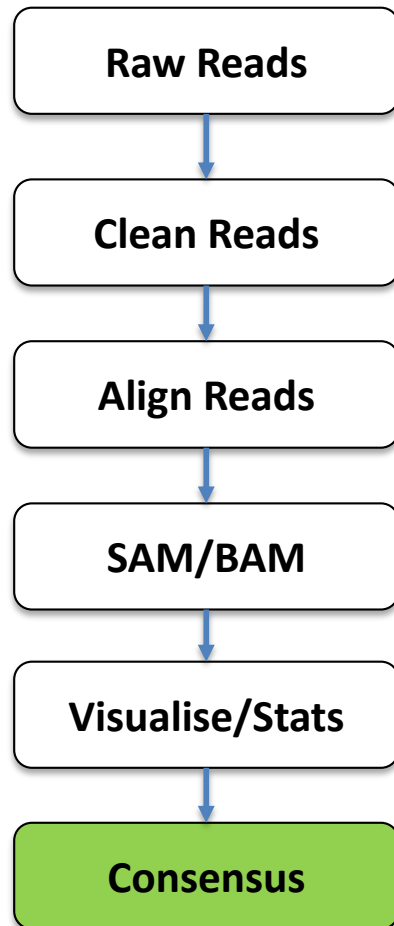


Practical session



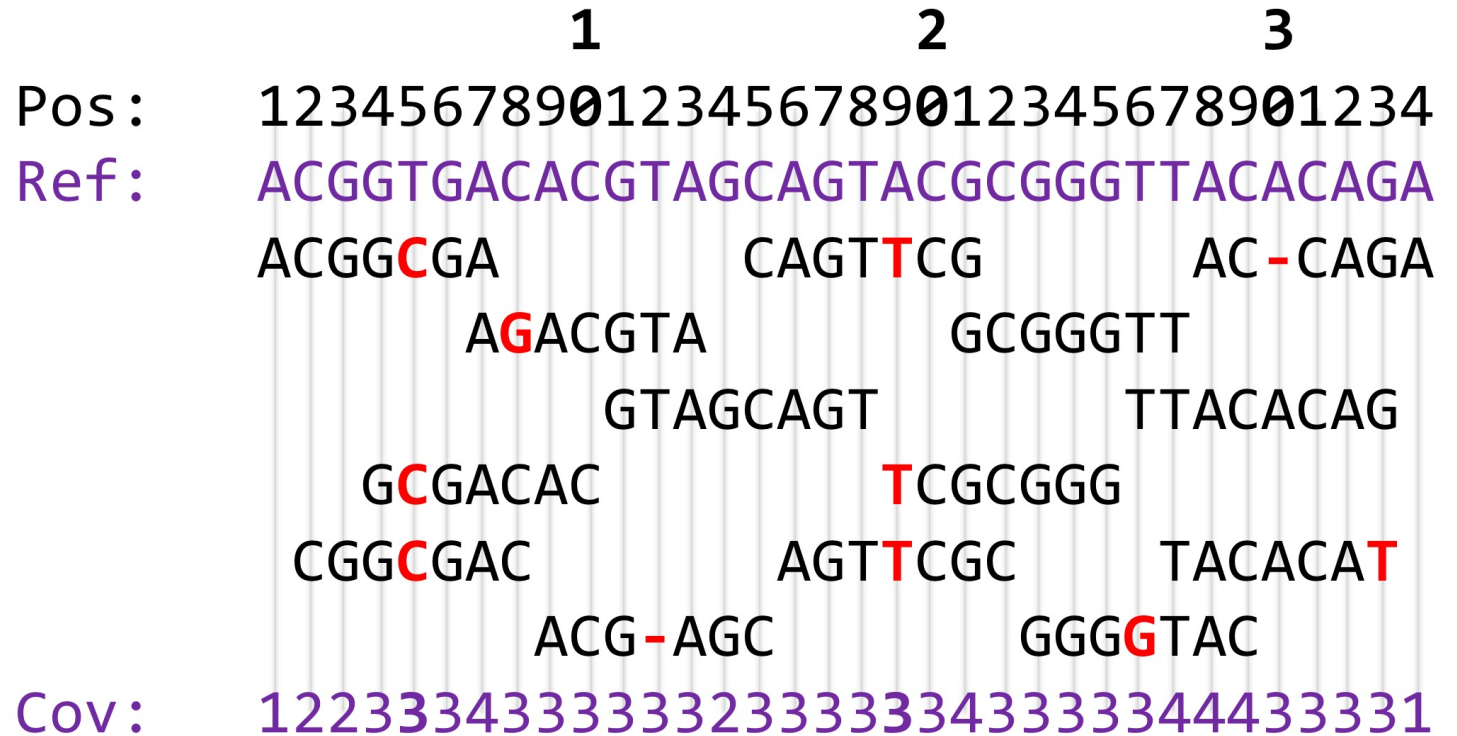
- **Plan of Action**
- 15:00 – 16:00 – Consensus/Variant talk + same tutorial on GitHub
- 16:00 – 16:30 Break
- 16:30 – 18:00 Group practical
- Dengue-S
- Dengue-B

Consensus and Variant Calling

Richard Orton

MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research

May 2024



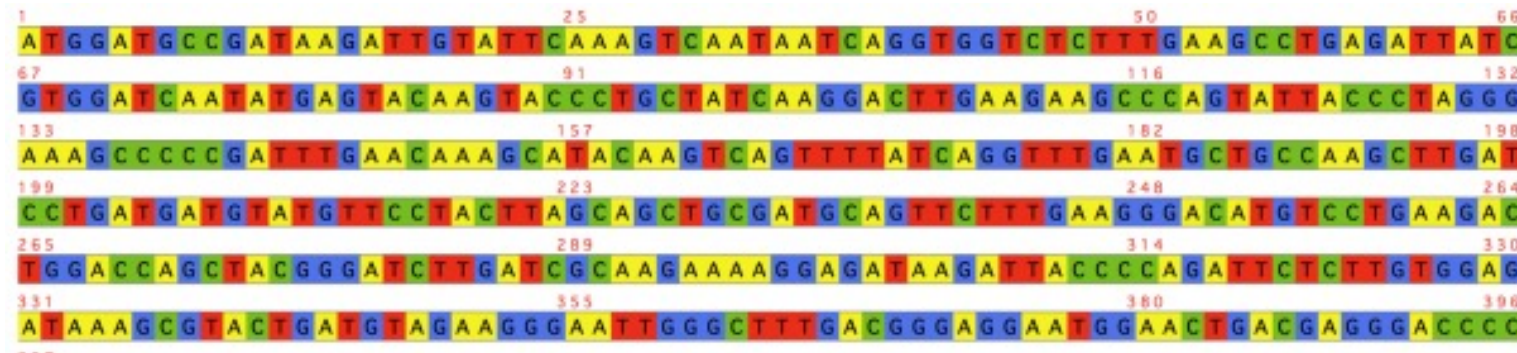
Consensus Sequence

- What is a consensus sequence?
 - At each genome position call the most frequent nucleotide observed

	1									2									3															
Pos:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4
Ref:	A	C	G	G	T	G	A	C	A	C	G	T	A	G	C	A	G	T	A	C	G	C	G	G	G	T	T	A	C	A	C	A	G	A
	A	C	G	G	C	G	A												C	A	G	T	T	C	G									
				</																														

Consensus Sequence

- What is a consensus sequence?
 - At each genome position call the most frequent nucleotide observed



- Genome Position 253, Reference = C

A: 1000	A: 1	A: 750	A: 501	A: 700	A: 1
C: 0	C: 0	C: 0	C: 0	C: 300	C: 1
G: 0	G: 0	G: 250	G: 0	G: 0	G: 0
T: 0	T: 0	T: 0	T: 499	T: 0	T: 0
				Del: 750	

Sequence characters – IUPAC Codes

- The nucleic acid notation currently in use was first formalized by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) in 1970.

Symbol	Description	Bases Represented				Num
A	Adenine	A				1
C	Cytosine		C			1
G	Guanine			G		1
T	Thymine				T	1
U	Uracil				U	1
W	Weak	A			T	2
S	Strong		C	G		2
M	aMino	A	C			2
K	Keto			G	T	2
R	puRine	A		G		2
Y	pYrimidine		C		T	2
B	not A (B comes after A)		C	G	T	3
D	not C (D comes after C)	A		G	T	4
H	not G (H comes after G)	A	C		T	4
V	not T (V comes after T & U)	A	C	G		4
N	Any Nucleotide	A	C	G	T	4
-	Gap					0

A: 750

C: 0

G: 250

T: 0

A: 501

C: 0

G: 0

T: 499

A: 700

C: 300

G: 0

T: 0

Del: 750

What do you need

- **BAM file**
 - Reads aligned to a reference
- **Reference file**
 - The reference file used in the BAM

	1	2	3
Pos :	1234567890123456789012345678901234		
Ref :	ACGGTGACACGTAGCAGTACGCGGGTTACACAGA		
	ACGG C GA	CAGT T CG	AC - CAGA
	AG G ACGTA	GCGGGTT	
		GTAGCAGT	TTACACAG
	G C GACAC	T CGCGGG	
	CGG C GAC	AGT T CGC	TACACAT T
	ACG - AGC	GGG G TAC	
Cov :	1223334333333233333343333344433331		

Pileup the data – samtools mpileup

```

          1          2          3
Pos:      1234567890123456789012345678901234
Ref:      ACGGTGACACGTAGCAGTACGCGGGTTACACAGA
          ACGGCGA          CAGTTCG          AC-CAGA
          AGACGTA          GCGGGTT
          GTAGCAGT          TTACACAG
          GCGACAC          TCGCGGG
          CGGCGAC          AGTTCGC          TACACATT
          ACG-AGC          GGGGTAC
Cov:      122333433333233333343333344433331
```

Ref	Pos	Cov	RefBase	Bases	Qualities
HQ156345.1	1	1	A	A	I
HQ156345.1	2	2	C	CC	IH
HQ156345.1	3	2	G	GG	IB
HQ156345.1	4	3	G	GGG	CCB
HQ156345.1	5	3	T	CCC	CID
HQ156345.1	6	3	G	GGG	FFF
HQ156345.1	7	4	A	AAAA	IIEE
HQ156345.1	8	3	C	GCC	III

Pileup the data – samtools mpileup

Ref	Pos	Reads	RefBase	Bases	Qualities
HQ156345.1	1	1	A	A	I
HQ156345.1	2	2	C	CC	IH
HQ156345.1	3	2	G	GG	IB
HQ156345.1	4	3	G	GGG	CCB
HQ156345.1	5	3	T	CCC	CID
HQ156345.1	6	3	G	GGG	FFF
HQ156345.1	7	4	A	AAAA	IIEE
HQ156345.1	8	3	C	GCC	III

. = match to the reference base in forward direction

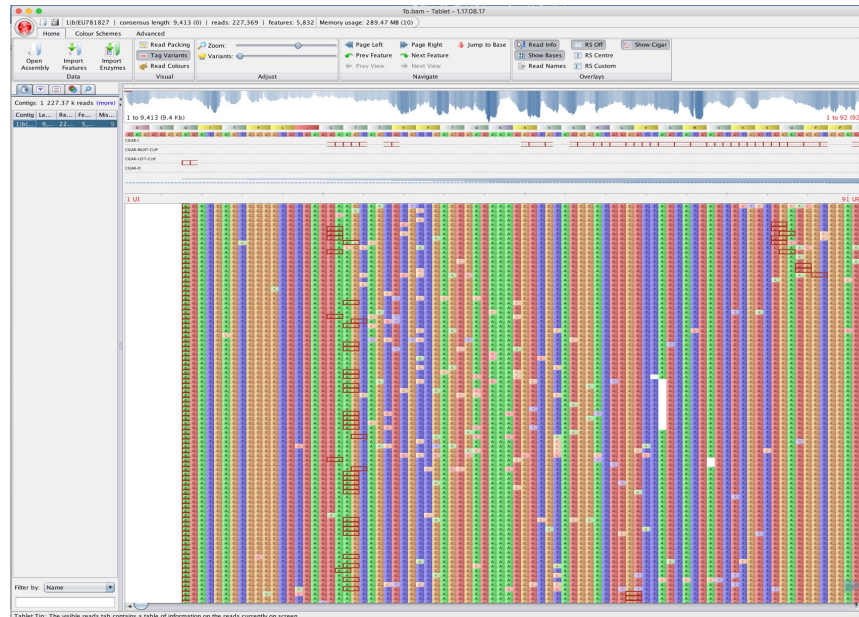
, = match to the reference base in reverse direction

ACGTN = mismatch to ref in forward direction

acgtn = mismatch to ref in reverse direction

Ref	Pos	Reads	RefBase	Bases	Qualities
HQ156345.1	1	1	A	.	I
HQ156345.1	2	2	C	.,	IH
HQ156345.1	3	2	G	.,	IB
HQ156345.1	4	3	G	.,.	CCB
HQ156345.1	5	3	T	CcC	CID
HQ156345.1	6	3	G	.,.	FFF
HQ156345.1	7	4	A	.,..	IIEE
HQ156345.1	8	3	C	G.,	III

samtools mpileup command



```
samtools mpileup -aa -d 0 -Q 0 -B -A my.bam > my_mpileup.txt
```

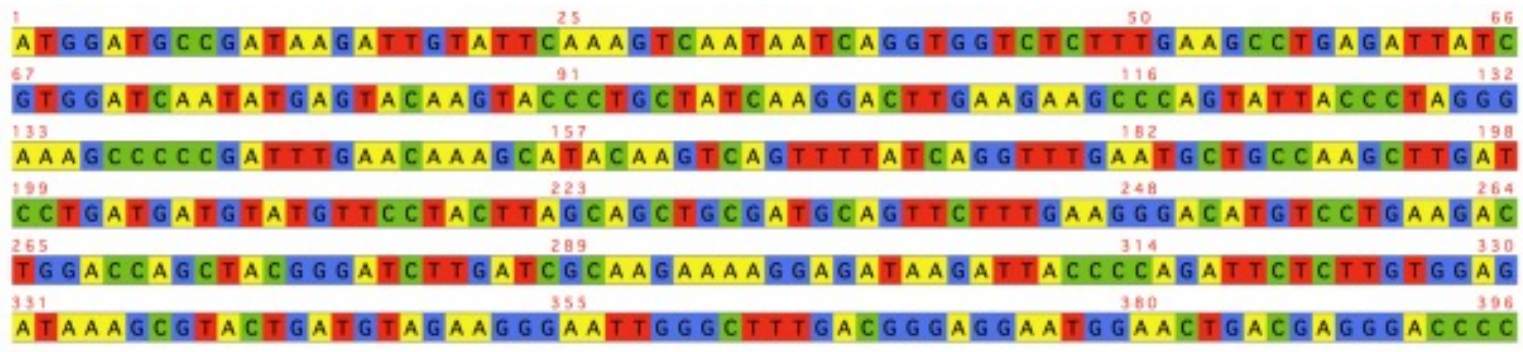
Ref	Pos	Reads	RefBase	Bases	Qualities
HQ156345.1	1	1	A	.	I
HQ156345.1	2	2	C	.,	IH
HQ156345.1	3	2	G	.,	IB
HQ156345.1	4	3	G	.,.	CCB
HQ156345.1	5	3	T	CcC	CID
HQ156345.1	6	3	G	.,.	FFF
HQ156345.1	7	4	A	.,..	IIEE

iVar: <https://github.com/andersen-lab/ivar>

- We will be using the iVar consensus caller in this practical
 - Used alot for SARS-CoV-2 data
 - Can also be used for trimming amplicon primers based on BAM alignment co-ordinates
- iVar uses samtools mpileup to feed data in
 - `samtools mpileup -aa -A -d 0 -Q 0 my.bam | ivar consensus -p myseq`
- **-aa**: output data for **all** positions (even positions with zero coverage)
- **-A**: don't discount orphan reads (not in a pair)
- **-d 0**: disable the maximum depth to report [default is 8000]
- **-Q 0**: minimum base quality 0
- **my.bam**: the name of the bam file
- **|**: pipe/pass the data/results/output into the next command
- **ivar**: the name of the program we are using
- **consensus**: the name of the function within ivar we are using
- **-p myseq**: the prefix of the output file that ivar will create -> **myseq.fasta**

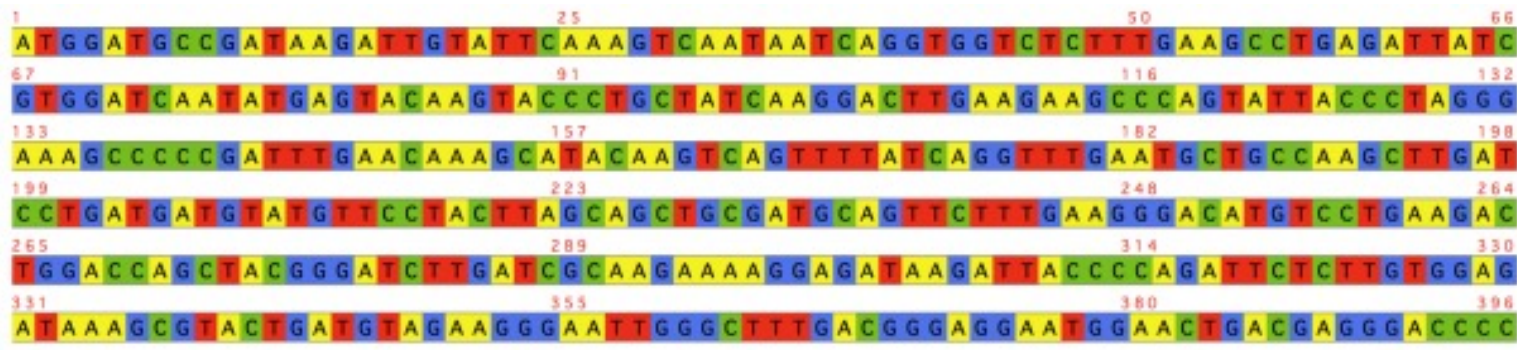
Consensus sequences - alternatives

- bcftools (with bedtools to mask low coverage regions)
- **samtools** consensus
- VirusConsensus
- <https://github.com/niemasd/ViralConsensus>
- ConsensusFixer
- <https://github.com/cbg-ethz/ConsensusFixer>
- Kindel
- <https://github.com/bede/kindel>
- VarScan2
- <http://varscan.sourceforge.net>



Consensus sequences – minimum coverage?

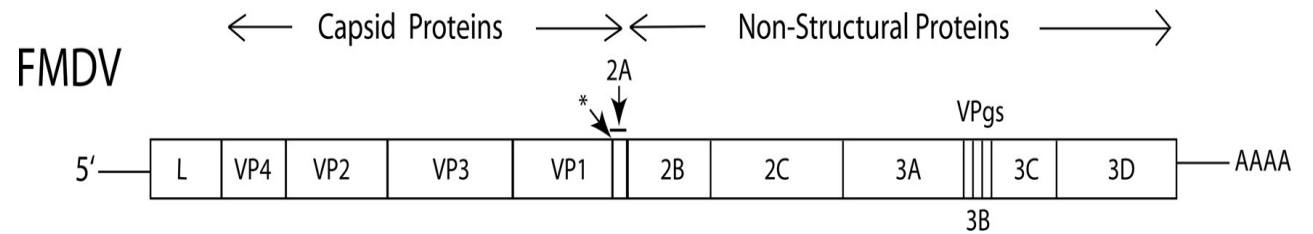
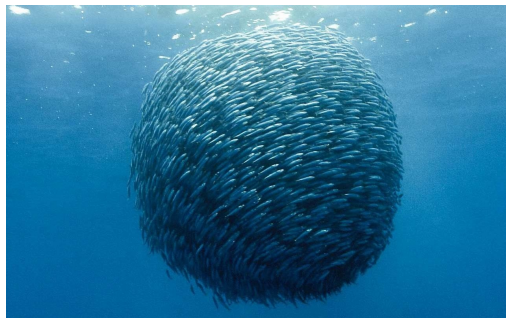
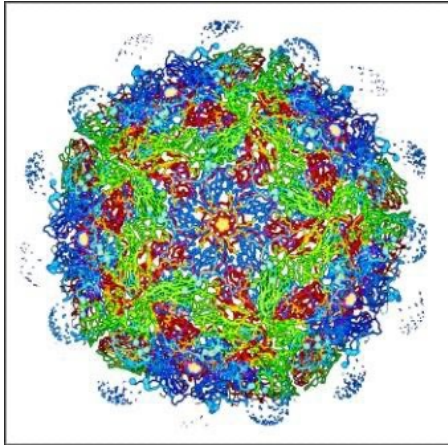
- iVar default is 10 – illumina - has been used a lot for ARTIC SARS-CoV-2 samples
- How much data do you have?
- How desperate are you to get (any) sequence?
- 100 is a strong threshold
- 20 is a good threshold
- 10 is a decent threshold
- 5 is a weak threshold [high quality, low ambiguity]
- 2 & 1 are desperate thresholds
- Low coverage = potential for many ambiguities: coverage 5, 3As 2 Ts -> consensus = A, but very high probability the consensus could have been T
- The 5'/3' ends of genomes/segments are typically poorly covered – RACE
 - RACE: Rapid amplification of cDNA ends



Variant calling

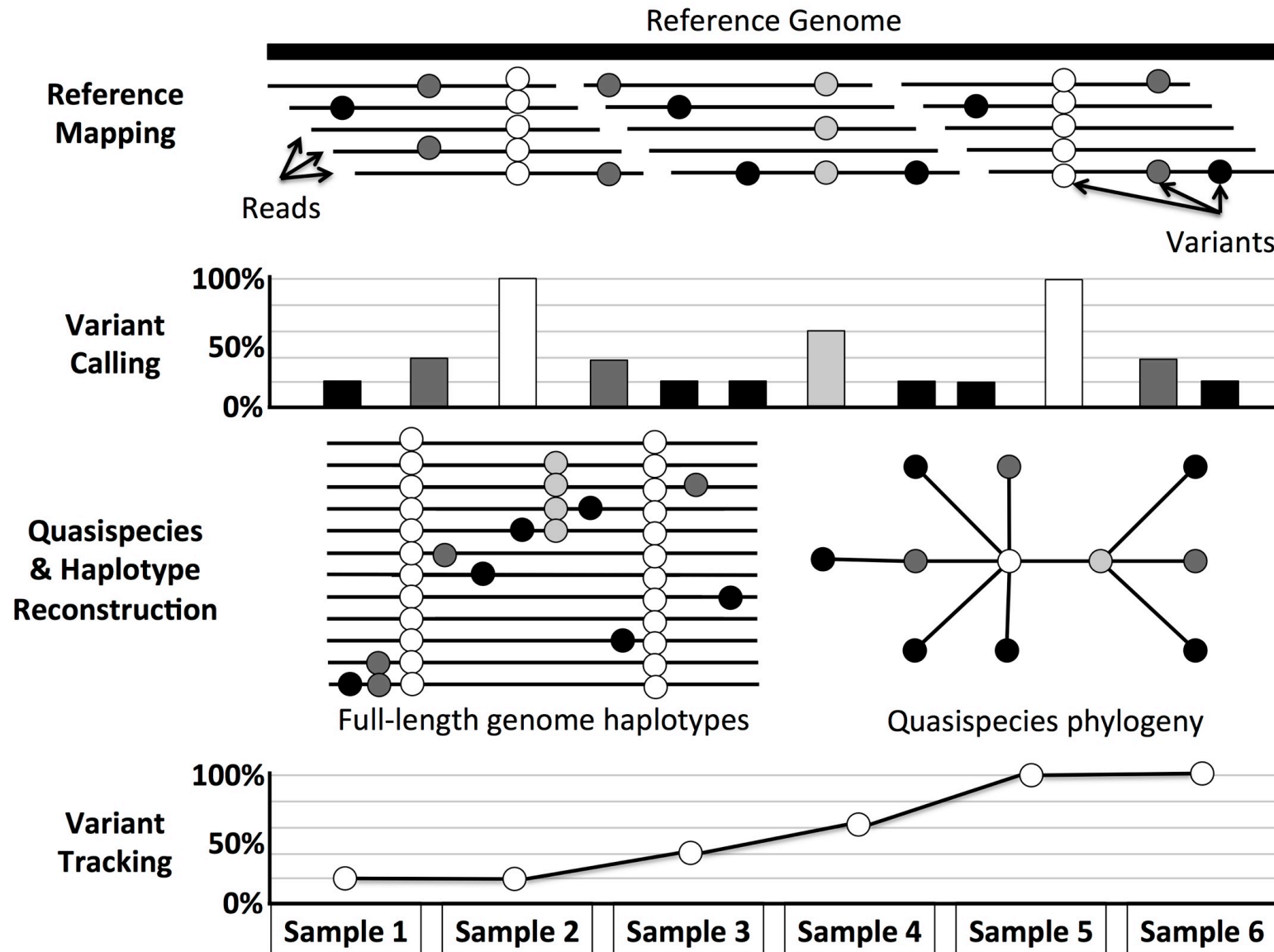
- Consensus level (e.g. >50%)
- Low frequency variants (25%, 10%, 1%, 0.1%)

Viral Populations

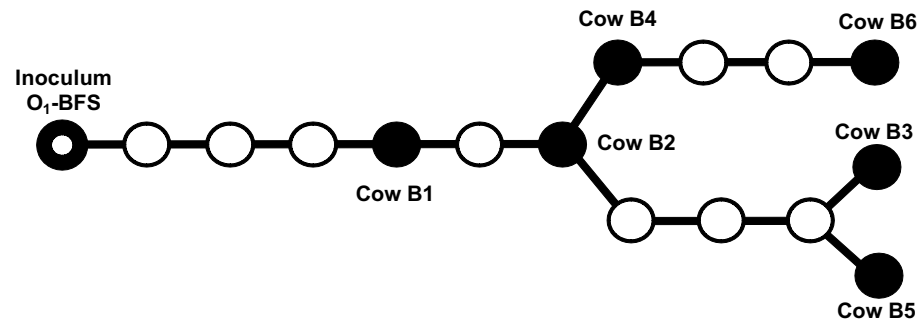
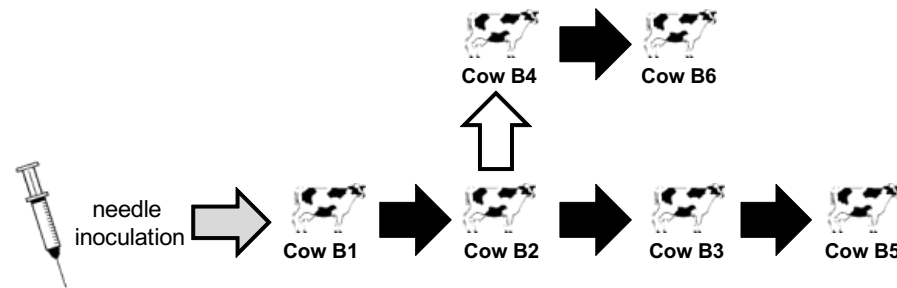
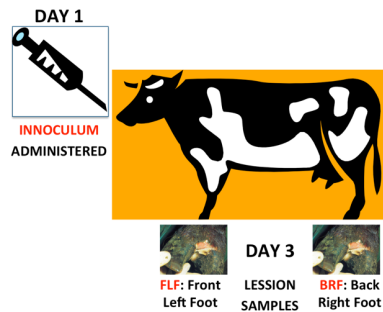


- Small, compact genomes – gives high depth with HTS
- Mutation rate $\sim 10^{-4}$ mutations per nucleotide per transcription cycle – every genome replication introduces new mutations
- **Evolve rapidly:** Large population size, high replication rate, error prone RNA polymerase
- Enables them to rapidly adapt to new (host) environments and selective pressures such as drug treatments
- Exist within their hosts as large, complex and heterogeneous populations
- Comprising a spectrum of related but non-identical genome sequences termed the **quasispecies**.

HTS Applications



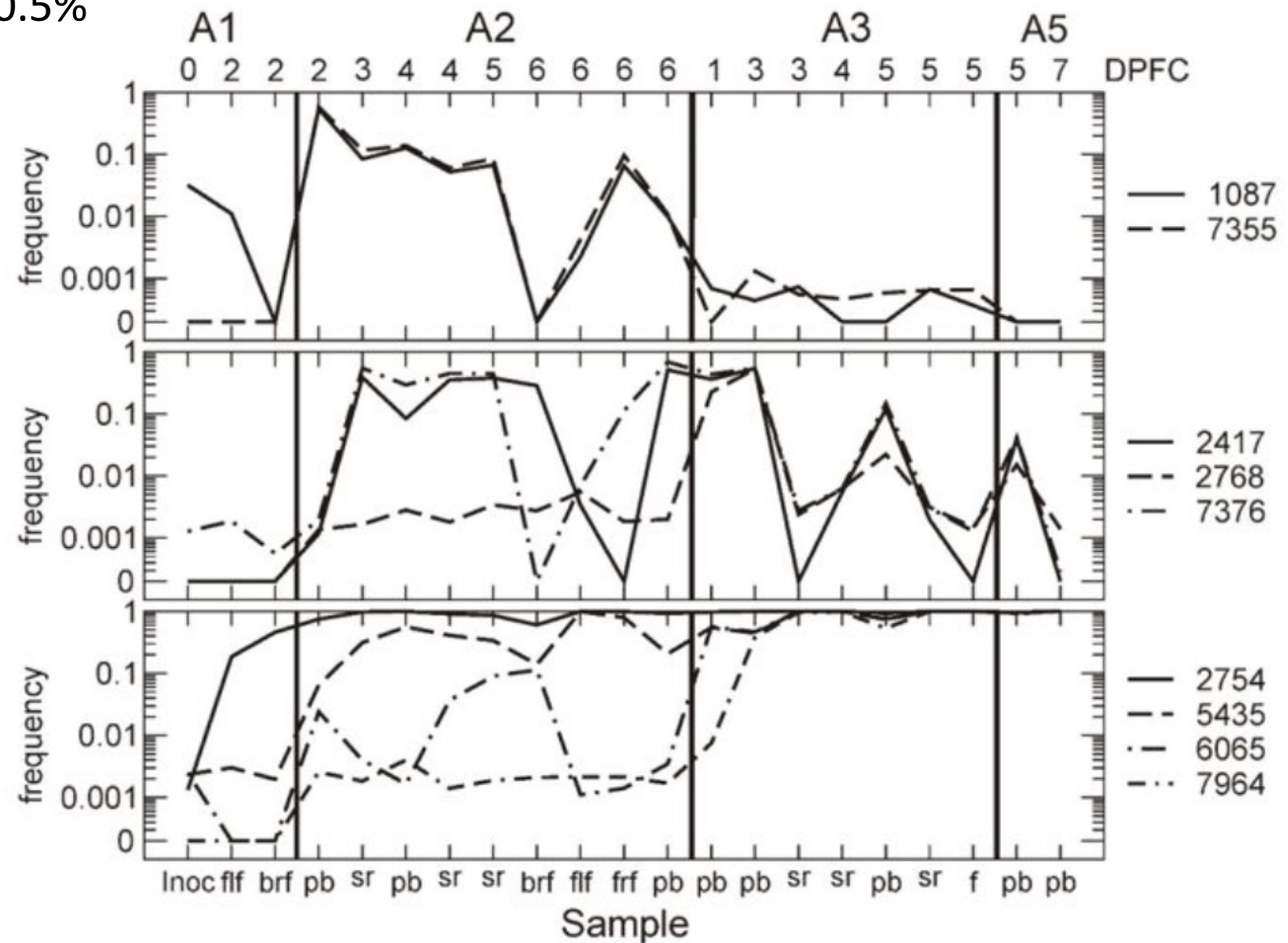
Viral mutation tracking



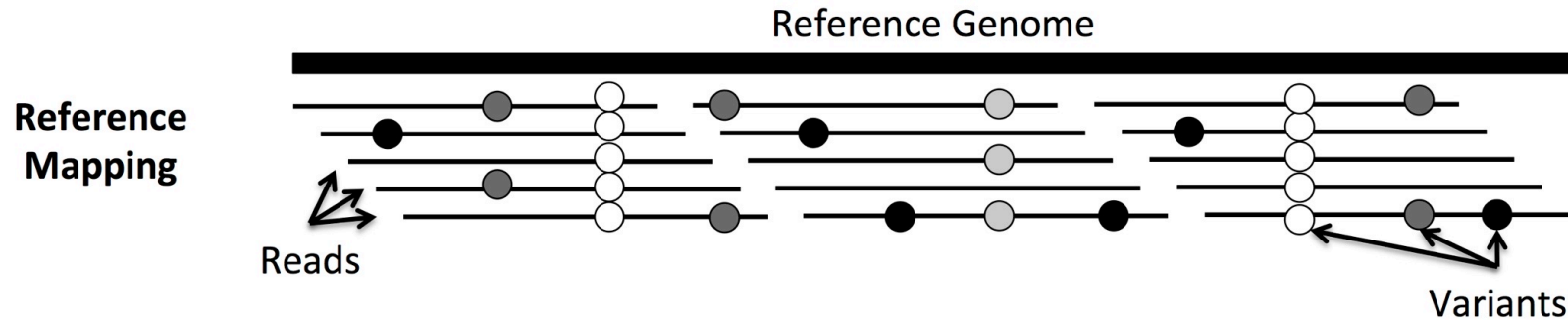
Wright et al. (2011): **Beyond the consensus:** dissecting within-host viral population diversity of FMDV by using NGS

Viral mutation tracking

- Morelli et al 2013. BMC Veterinary Medicine; 44: 12
- Min coverage of 1000, quality 30 filtering
- Sequenced in duplicate
- PCR control data 0.5%



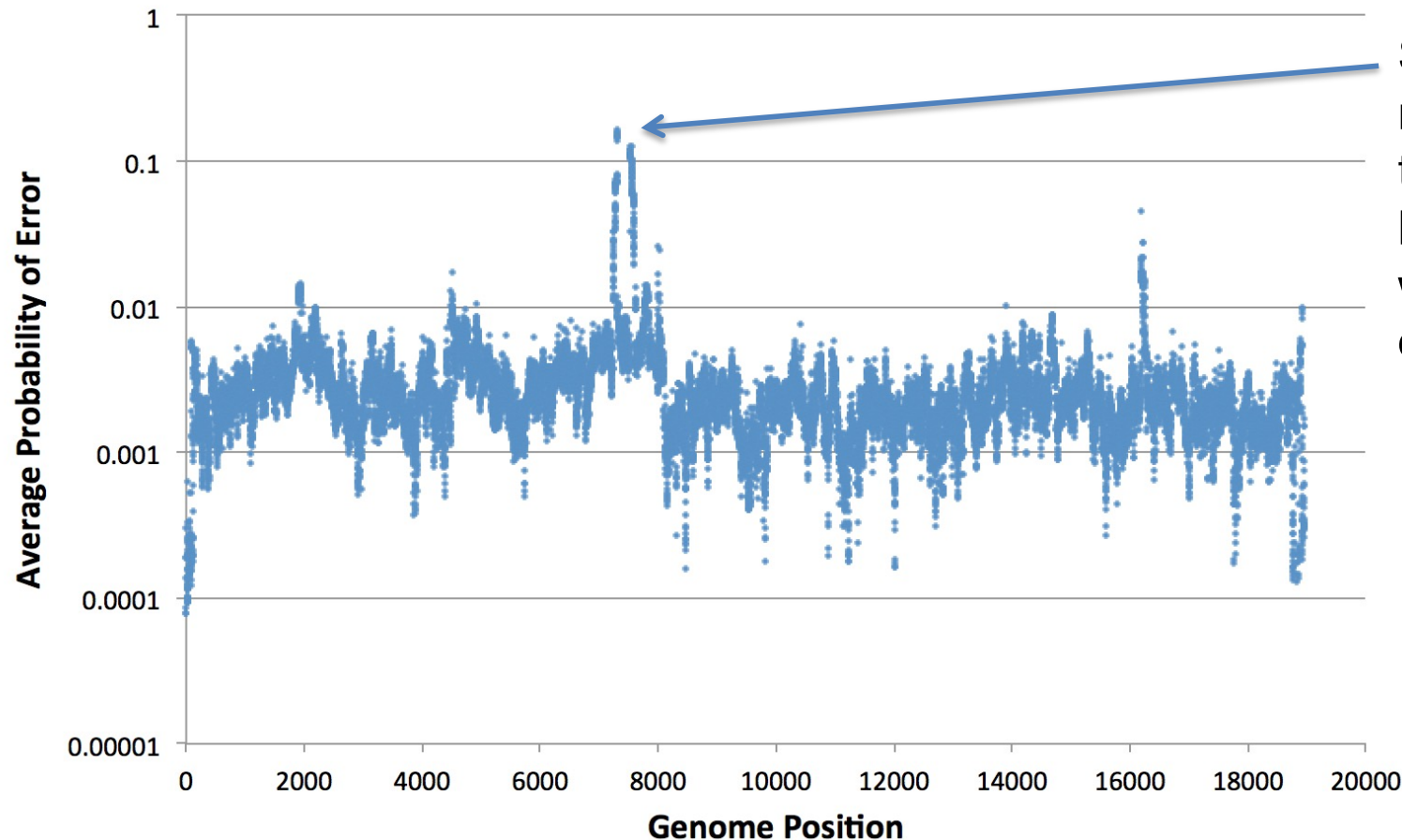
Sequence Errors



- Sequencing errors make it hard to identify low frequency variants in the population
- Coverage of 20,000
- All at Q40 ($P=0.0001$, 0.01%)
- Expect 2 errors (variant frequency 0.01%)
- Coverage of 20,000
- All at Q30 ($P=0.001$, 0.1%)
- Expect 20 errors (variant frequency 0.1%)

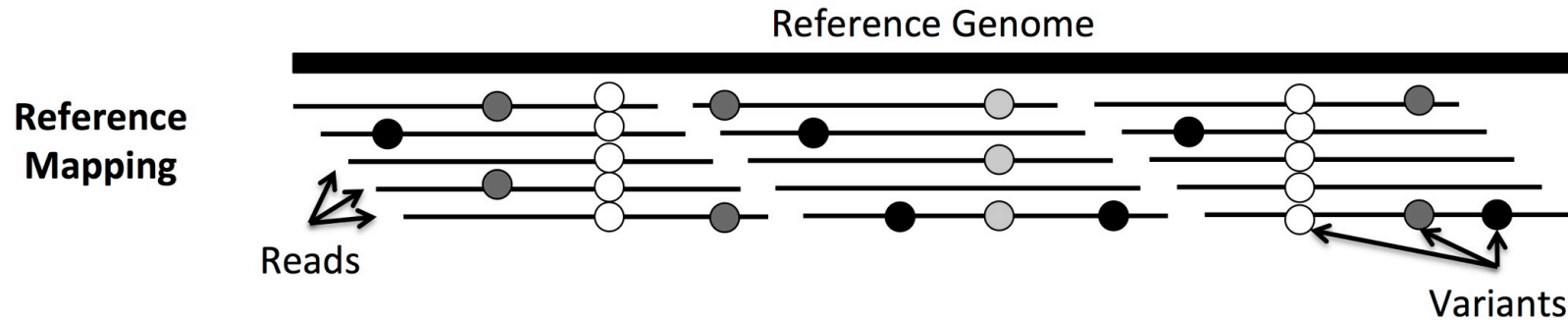
Genome Position Specific

- At each genome position, sum all the Q score probabilities of every base aligned there, calculate average probability of error

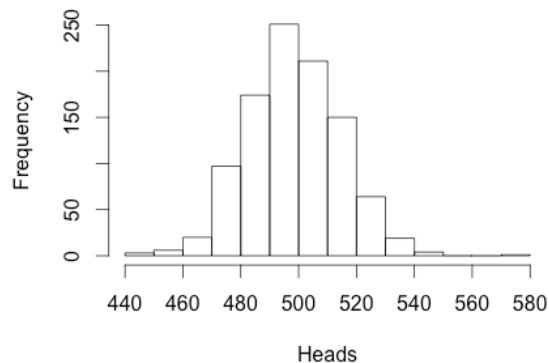


Some positions-
regions more prone
to **poor quality**
bases and therefore
will have more
errors

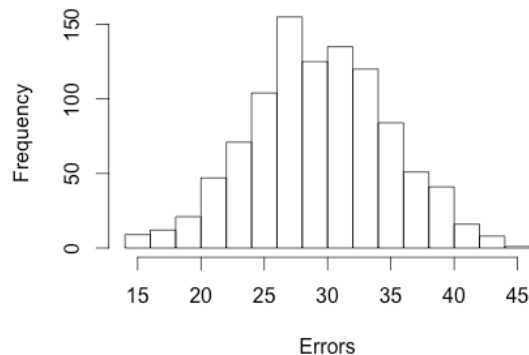
Basic Modelling of Sequence Errors



Coin toss $p=0.5$



HTS $p=0.001$



- Binomial probability distribution- number of successes in a sequence of n independent yes/no experiments, each of which yields success with probability p .
- Coin toss
 - n = number of throws (1000)
 - p = probability of getting a head (0.5, 50%)
 - 1000 replicates
 - On **average** you will observe 500 heads (50%) - **variation**
- HTS
 - n = coverage at genome position (30,000)
 - p = average error probability at genome position (0.001 = 0.1%)
 - 1000 replicates
 - On **average** you will observe 30 errors (0.1%) – **variation**

Systematic Errors

- Defined as an error associated with a flaw in the equipment or experiment
- 454 has well known problems with homopolymers – MinION deletions as well
- Illumina errors more likely at some sequence motifs than others – typically independent of Q scores
 - Meacham et al 2011 – BMC Bioinformatics
 - Nakamura et al 2011 – Nucl Acids Res
 - Li et al 2012 – Genome Biology
 - MIRA manual
- Inverted Repeats
- At or downstream of GGC, GGT, GGX – **not fully understood**
- Compounds variant identification – especially at lower frequencies

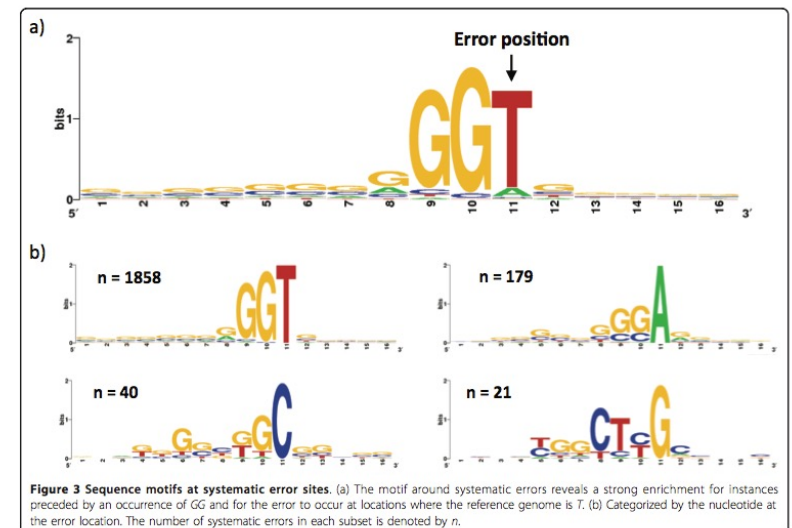
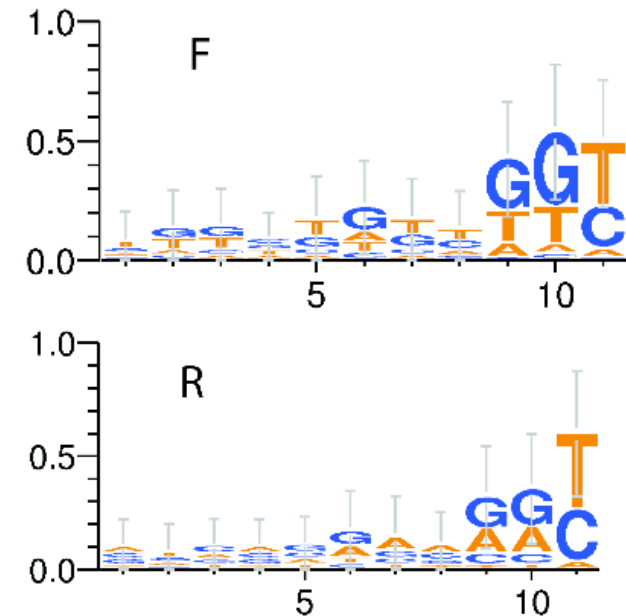




Figure 3 Sequence motifs at systematic error sites. (a) The motif around systematic errors reveals a strong enrichment for instances preceded by an occurrence of GG and for the error to occur at locations where the reference genome is T. (b) Categorized by the nucleotide at the error location. The number of systematic errors in each subset is denoted by *n*.

Strand Bias Examples

- A true variant should appear equally on reads going in both directions - can be used to identify systematic errors


- Ref Seq
- ACCGTAGCCTGGTATGTACGTAG

- Fwd Reads 
- ACCGTAGCCT**GG**gATGTACGTAG
- ACCGTAGCCT**GG**gATGTACGTAG
- ACCGTAGCCT**GG**gATGTACGTAG
- ACCGTAGCCT**GG**gATGTACGTAG
- ACCGTAGCCT**GG**gATGTACGTAG

- Rev Reads 
- TGGCATCGGACCA**T**ACATGCATC
- TGGCATCGGACCA**T**ACATGCATC
- TGGCATCGGACCA**T**ACATGCATC
- TGGCATCGGACCA**T**ACATGCATC

- Ref Seq
- ACGTACGTACGTTTTTTTACGTACGT

- Fwd Reads 
- ACGTACGTACG**TTTTTTT**tCGTACGT
- ACGTACGTACG**TTTTTTT**tCGTACGT
- ACGTACGTACG**TTTTTTT**tCGTACGT
- ACGTACGTACG**TTTTTTT**tCGTACGT
- ACGTACGTACG**TTTTTTT**tCGTACGT

- Rev Reads 
- TGCATGCATGCAAAAAAAT**GCATGCA**
- TGCATGCATGCAAAAAAAT**GCATGCA**
- TGCATGCATGCAAAAAAAT**GCATGCA**
- TGCATGCATGCAAAAAAAT**GCATGCA**

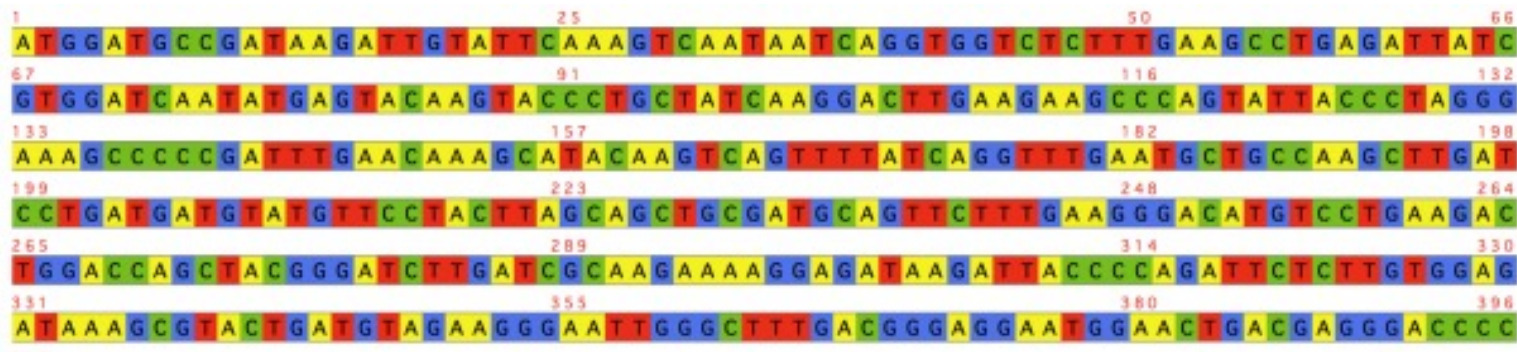
- Statistical tests for strand bias such as Fisher's exact test
- Does the variant show the same/similar bias to the reference

Variant Calling - LoFreq

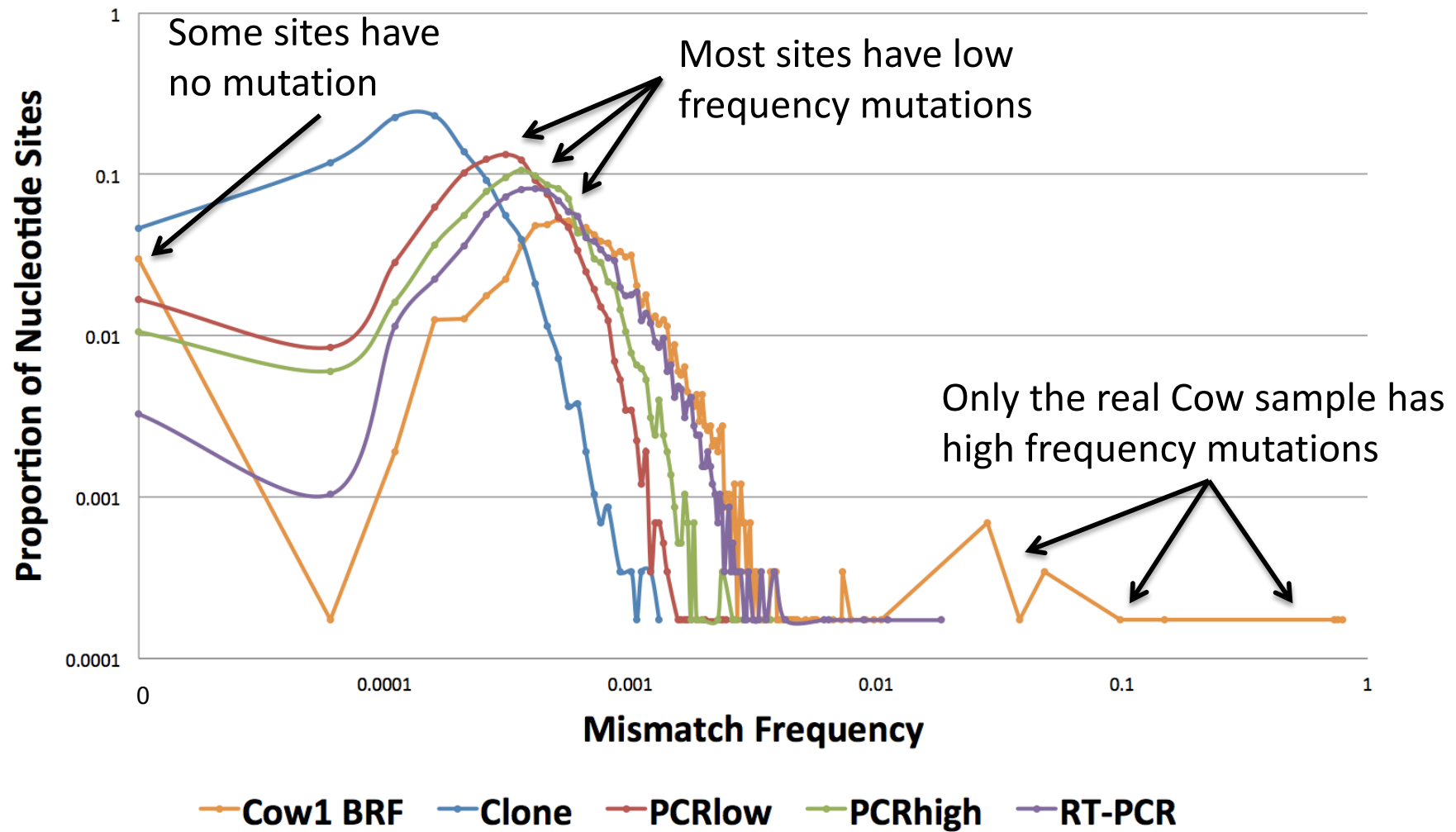
- LoFreq
 - Fast and sensitive variant calling from next-gen sequencing data
 - <https://csb5.github.io/lofreq/>
 - Wilm et al. 2012
- LoFreq is an advanced variant caller that use a range of data to call variants
 - Quality Scores
 - Transition/Transversion mutation matrix
 - Strand Bias test
- Python
 - BAM file
 - Reference file
 - Output VCF file
- `lofreq call -f ref.fasta -o var.vcf my.bam`
- `more/less/cat var.vcf`

Variant calling– minimum coverage & frequency

- A good first step is to use LoFreq or another variant caller and trust the results
- You can further filter the results
 - Depth (DP) of the site > 1000
 - Only trust variants above 0.5% or 1%
 - Some tools allow base quality filtering e.g. Q30
- LoFreq does not account for RT-PCR errors



Clone Results



Variant Call Format - .vcf files

- Many tools output this data in the VCF (Variant Call Format)
- Text file – tab delimited: more/less/cat/head/tail

```
lofreq_vcf.tzt.txt ~
##fileformat=VCFv4.0
##fileDate=20160403
##source=./lofreq_star-2.1.2/bin/lofreq call -f ebov_ref.fasta -o ebov_var.txt ebov1.bam
##reference=ebov_ref.fasta
##INFO=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Raw Depth">
##INFO=<ID=AF,Number=1,Type=Float,Description="Allele Frequency">
##INFO=<ID=SB,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Phred-scaled strand bias at this position">
##INFO=<ID=DP4,Number=4,Type=Integer,Description="Counts for ref-forward bases, ref-reverse, alt-forward and alt-reverse bases">
##INFO=<ID=INDEL,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="Indicates that the variant is an INDEL.">
##INFO=<ID=CONSVAR,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="Indicates that the variant is a consensus variant (as opposed to a low frequency variant).">
##INFO=<ID=HRUN,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Homopolymer length to the right of report indel position">
##FILTER=<ID=min_dp_10,Description="Minimum Coverage 10">
##FILTER=<ID=sb_fdr,Description="Strand-Bias Multiple Testing Correction: fdr corr. pvalue > 0.001000">
##FILTER=<ID=min_snvqual_64,Description="Minimum SNV Quality (Phred) 64">
##FILTER=<ID=min_indelqual_20,Description="Minimum Indel Quality (Phred) 20">
#CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO
KM034562.G3686.1 170 . C A 86 PASS DP=807;AF=0.013631;SB=0;DP4=728,65,11,0
KM034562.G3686.1 172 . T C 104 PASS DP=806;AF=0.013648;SB=2;DP4=724,68,11,0
KM034562.G3686.1 578 . C T 80 PASS DP=2249;AF=0.004446;SB=30;DP4=1124,1110,0,10
KM034562.G3686.1 743 . G A 64 PASS DP=2181;AF=0.004585;SB=4;DP4=1318,852,8,2
KM034562.G3686.1 800 . C T 64 PASS DP=2278;AF=0.004390;SB=0;DP4=1076,1187,5,5
```

Variant Call Format

Ref	Pos	Reads	RefBase	Bases	Qualities
HQ156345.1	1	1	A	.	I
HQ156345.1	2	2	C	.,	IH
HQ156345.1	3	2	G	.,	IB
HQ156345.1	4	3	G	.,.	CCB
HQ156345.1	5	3	T	CcC	CID
HQ156345.1	6	3	G	.,.	FFF
HQ156345.1	7	4	A	.,..	IIEE
HQ156345.1	8	3	C	G.,	III

CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO
HQ156345.1	5	.	T	C	60	PASS	DP=3;AF=1;SB=0;DP4=0,0,2,1
HQ156345.1	8	.	C	G	58	PASS	DP=3,AF=0.333;SB=0;DP4=1,1,1,0

CHROM: Chromosome Name (i.e. viral genome name)

POS: Position the viral genome

ID: Name of the known variant from DB

REF: The reference allele (i.e. the reference base)

ALT: The alternate allele (i.e. the variant/mutation observed)

QUAL: The quality of the variant on a Phred scale

FILTER: Did the variant pass the tools filters

INFO: Information

DP = Depth

AF = Alternate Allele Frequency

SB = Strand Bias P-value

DP4=Extra Depth Information (forward ref; reverse ref; forward non-ref; reverse non-ref)

Variant Calling – alternatives

- LoFreq
- iVar
- VPhaser2 - old
- <https://www.broadinstitute.org/viral-genomics/v-phaser-2>
- SegminatorII - old
- <http://www.bioinf.manchester.ac.uk/segminator/>
- VarScan2
- <http://varscan.sourceforge.net>
- **Freebayes**
- <https://github.com/freebayes/freebayes>
- SNVer
- <http://snver.sourceforge.net>

SNPeff

- SNPeff
 - Takes variants in VCF format
 - Uses information of gene start/stop co-ordinates
 - Adds synonymous/missense annotations to the vcf
- **snpEff -ud 0 NC_045512.2 sars2.vcf > sars2_snpeff.vcf**
- **-ud 0:** Set upstream downstream interval length to 0
- **NC_045512.2:** the reference name – not filename
- **sars2.vcf:** the input vcf file name
- **sars2_snpeff.vcf:** the annotated output vcf file name

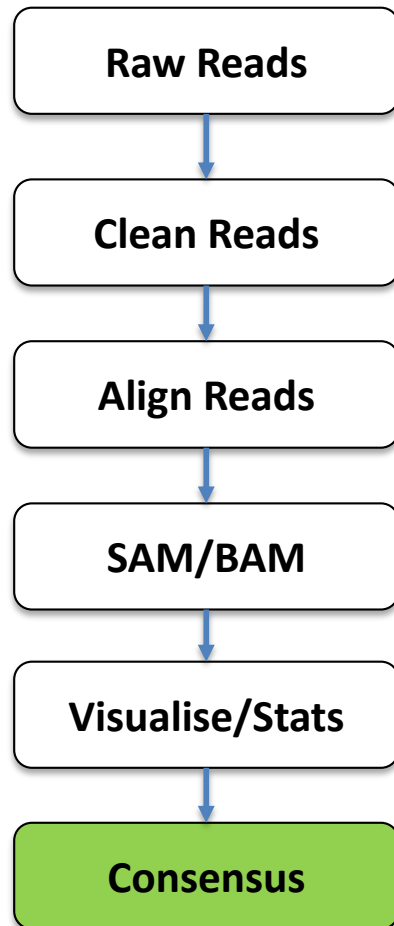
SNPeff

- CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAK FILTER INFO
- NC_045512.2 **23403**. A G 44968.0 PASS DP=1286;AF=0.995334;SB=0;DP4=1,1,628,652
- DP=1286;AF=0.995334;SB=0;DP4=1,1,628,652;ANN=G|**missense_variant**|MODERATE|**S**|GU280_gp02|transcript|GU280_gp02|protein_coding|1/1|c.1841A>G|**p.Asp614Gly**|1841/3822|1841/3822|614/1273||
- ;ANN=G|
- **missense_variant**| **Annotation**
- MODERATE| **Annotation Impact**
- **S**| **Gene Name**
- GU280_gp02| **GeneID**
- transcript| **Feature Type**
- GU280_gp02| **FeatureID**
- protein_coding| **Transcript BioType**
- 1/1| **Rank**
- c.1841A>G| **HGVS.coding [Human Genome Variation Society]**
- **p.Asp614Gly**| **HGVS.protein**
- 1841/3822| **cDNA.pos / cDNA.length**
- **1841/3822** **CDS.pos / CDS.length**
- **|614/1273|** **AA.pos / AA.length**
- |
- The A to G mutation at genome position **23403** corresponds to position **1841** (out of **3822**) within the Spike (**S**) gene which corresponds to codon **614** (out of **1273**) within Spike(S)

SNPeff alternatives

- SNPeff alternatives
 - vcf-annotator: <https://github.com/rpetit3/vcf-annotator>

Practical session



- DENV3 sample
- `denv3.bam`
- **ivar** -> consensus
- **lofreq** -> variants
- **conda** activate `snpeff`
- **snpeff** to add characterisation to SNPs
- Extra things:
 - Check the `ivar` manual – call variants on the `denv3.bam` – how do they compare to `lofreq`
- **Plan of Action**
- 15:00 – 16:00 – Same tutorial on GitHub
- 16:00 – 16:30
- 16:30 – 18:00 Group practical

The end
