Estimating dS and dN

Consider two aligned homologous sequences

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6
DNA	ACA	ATA	A T C		AAT	CAA
AA	T			F	Ν	Q
DNA	ACA	ATA	A C C	TTT	AAC	CAA
AA	T		T	F	Ν	Q

Can one claim that dN/dS = 1, because there is one synonymous and

one non-synonymous substitution?

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Universal genetic code

This genetic code has 61 sense (non-termination) codons

Substitution types

	Synonymous			Non-synonymous			To a stop codon	
	Transitions	Transversions	Total	Transitions	Transversions	Total	l Total	
1st position:	8	0	8	140	26	166	9	
2nd position:	0	0	0	148	28	176	7	
3rd position:	58	68	126	2	48	50	7	
Total	66	 68	 134	290	102	392	23	

- Approximately 3:1(392 N : 134 S) ratio when mutations are generated and fixed completely at random
- Non-random distribution over codon positions
 - All second position mutations are non-synonymous
 - Most (but not all) synonymous mutations are confined to the third position