

Beacon v2

Onboarding Strategies & Feature Examples

Michael Baudis | GA4GH Connect | 2022-11-16



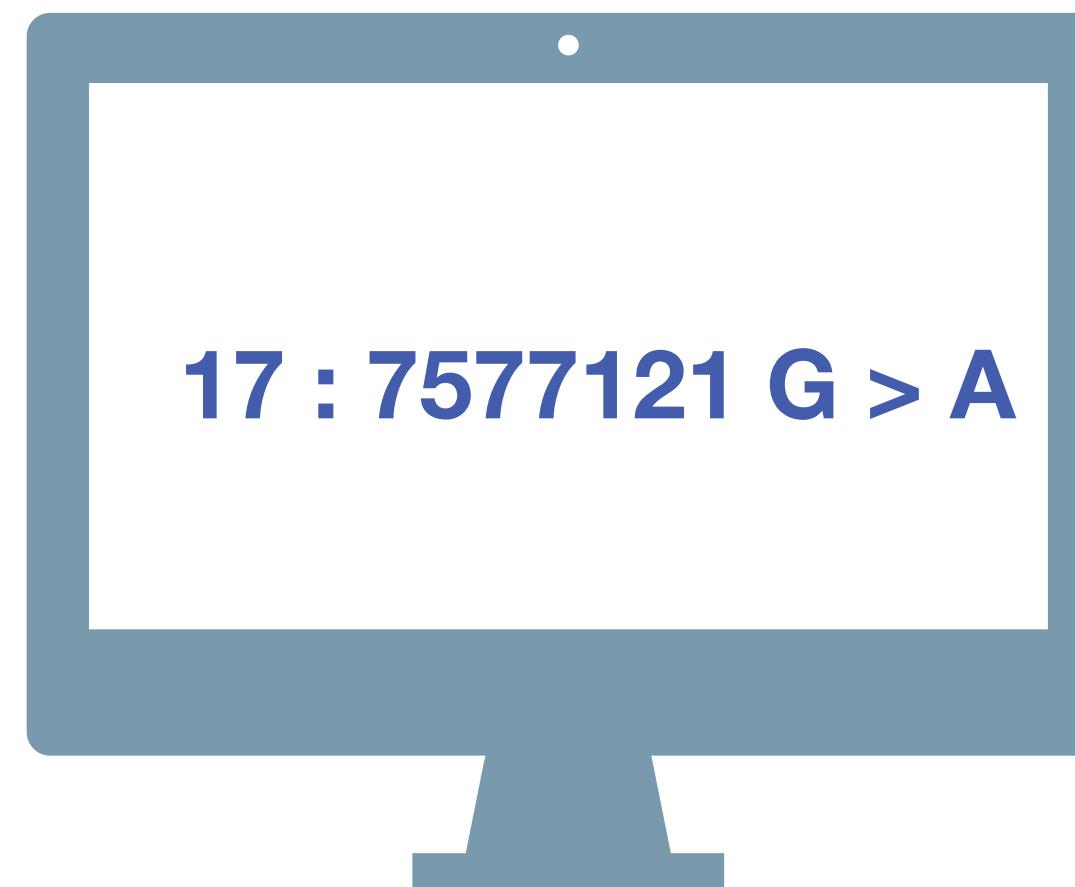
Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health

Beacon v2

Migration Workshop



Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health



Beacon

A **Beacon** answers a query for a specific genome variant against individual or aggregate genome collections

YES | NO | \0

Introduction

... I proposed a challenge application for all those wishing to seriously engage in *international* data sharing for human genomics. ...

1. Provide a public web service
2. Which accepts a query of the form “Do you have any genomes with an “A” at position 100,735 on chromosome 3?”
3. And responds with one of “Yes” or “No” ...

“Beacon” because ... people have been scanning the universe of human research for *signs of willing participants in far reaching data sharing*, but ... it has remained a dark and quiet place. The hope of this challenge is to 1) *trigger the issues* blocking groups ... in way that isn’t masked by the ... complexities of the science, fully functional interfaces, and real issues of privacy, and to 2) in *short order* ... see *real beacons of measurable signal* ... from *at least some sites* ... Once your “GABeacon” is shining, you can start to take the *next steps to add functionality* to it, and *finding the other groups* ... following their GABeacons.

Utility

Some have argued that this simple example is not “useful” so nobody would build it. Of course it is not the first priority for this application to be scientifically useful. ...intended to provide a *low bar for the first step of real ... engagement*. ... there is some utility in ...locating a rare allele in your data, ... not zero.

A number of more useful first versions have been suggested.

1. Provide *frequencies of all alleles* at that point
2. Ask for all alleles seen in a gene *region* (and more elaborate versions of this)
3. Other more complicated queries



"I would personally recommend all those be held for
version 2, when the beacon becomes a service."

Jim Ostell, 2014

Implementation

1. Specifying the chromosome ... The interface needs to specify the *accession.version* of a chromosome, or *build number*...
2. Return values ... right to *refuse* to answer without it being an error ... DOS *attack* ... or because ...especially *sensitive*...
3. Real time response ... Some sites suggest that it would be necessary to have a “*phone home*” response ...

ELIXIR - Making Beacons Biomedical



- Authentication to enable non-aggregate, patient derived datasets
 - ELIXIR AAI with compatibility to other providers (OAuth...)
 - Scoping queries through "biodata" parameters
 - Extending the queries towards clinically ubiquitous variant formats
 - cytogenetic annotations, named variants, variant effects
- Beacons as part of local, secure environments
 - local EGA ...
- Beacon queries as entry for **data delivery**
 - handover to stream and download using htsget, VCF, EHRs
- Interacting with EHR standards
 - FHIR translations for queries and handover ...

Beacon v1 Development

2014

GA4GH founding event; Jim Ostell proposes Beacon concept including "more features ... version 2"

2015

- beacon-network.org aggregator created by DNAstack

2016

- Beacon v0.3 release
- work on queries for structural variants (brackets for fuzzy start and end parameters...)

2017

- OpenAPI implementation
- integrating CNV parameters (e.g. "startMin, statMax")

2018

- Beacon v0.4 release in January; feature release for GA4GH approval process
- GA4GH Beacon v1 approved at Oct plenary

2019

- ELIXIR Beacon Network

2020

Beacon v2 Development

- Beacon⁺ concept implemented on progenetix.org
- concepts from GA4GH Metadata (ontologies...)
- entity-scoped query parameters ("individual.age")

- Beacon⁺ demos "handover" concept

- Beacon hackathon Stockholm; settling on "filters"
- Barcelona goes Zurich developers meeting
- Beacon API v2 Kick off
- adopting "handover" concept
- "Scouts" teams working on different aspects - filters, genomic variants, compliance ...
- discussions w/ clinical stakeholders

- framework + models concept implemented
- range and bracket queries, variant length parameters
- starting of GA4GH review process
- further changes esp. in default model, aligning with Phenopackets and VRS
- unified beacon-v2 code & docs repository
- Beacon v2 approved at Apr GA4GH Connect

2022

Related ...

- ELIXIR starts Beacon project support
- GA4GH re-structuring (workstreams...)
- Beacon part of Discovery WS
- new Beacon website (March)
- Beacon publication at Nature Biotechnology
- docs.genomebeacons.org

Beacon v1 Development

2014

GA4GH founding event; Jim Ostell proposes Beacon concept including "more features ... version 2"

2015

- beacon-network.org aggregator created by DNAstack

2016

- Beacon v0.3 release
 - work on queries for structural variants (brackets for fuzzy start and end parameters...)

2017

- OpenAPI implementation
- integrating CNV parameters (e.g. "startMin, statMax")

2018

- Beacon v0.4 release in January; feature release for GA4GH approval process
- GA4GH Beacon v1 approved at Oct plenary

2019

- ELIXIR Beacon Network

2020

2021

2022

Beacon v2 Development

Related ...

- ELIXIR starts Beacon project support

- GA4GH re-structuring (workstreams...)
- Beacon part of Discovery WS

- new Beacon website (March)

- Beacon publication at Nature Biotechnology

- Phenopackets v2 approved

- docs.genomebeacons.org

- Beacon+ concept implemented on progenetix.org
- concepts from GA4GH Metadata (ontologies...)
- entity-scoped query parameters ("individual.age")

- Beacon+ demos "handover" concept

- Beacon hackathon Stockholm; settling on "filters"
- Barcelona goes Zurich developers meeting
- Beacon API v2 Kick off
- adopting "handover" concept
- "Scouts" teams working on different aspects - filters, genomic variants, compliance ...
- discussions w/ clinical stakeholders

- framework + models concept implemented
- range and bracket queries, variant length parameters
- starting of GA4GH review process
- further changes esp. in default model, aligning with Phenopackets and VRS
- unified beacon-v2 code & docs repository
- Beacon v2 approved at Apr GA4GH Connect

Beacon v1 => v2

Genomic variation queries

- Beacon v2 defines query schemas through JSON Schema documents for POST requests and REST paths in OpenAPI documents
- Additional variant parameters:
 - variantType, mateName (existing in v1)
 - geneld
 - variantMinLength, variantMaxLength
 - aminoacidChange
 - genomicAlleleShortForm

```
{  
    "$schema": "beaconRequestBody.json",  
    "meta": {  
        "apiVersion": "2.0",  
        "requestedSchemas": [  
            {  
                "entityType": "genomicVariation",  
                "schema": "https://  
raw.githubusercontent.com/ga4gh-beacon/beacon-v2/  
main/models/json/beacon-v2-default-model/  
genomicVariations/defaultSchema.json"  
            }  
        ]  
    },  
    "query": {  
        "requestParameters": {  
            "g_variant": {  
                "referenceName": "NC_000017.11",  
                "start": [7577120],  
                "referenceBases": "G",  
                "alternateBases": "A"  
            }  
        }  
    },  
    "requestedGranularity": "record",  
    "pagination": {  
        "skip": 0,  
        "limit": 5  
    }  
}
```

Beacon v1 => v2

Keep it simple - modifying GET query strings

0.3 ?ref=GRCh38&chrom=17&pos=7577121&referenceAllele=G&allele=A

1.0 ?assemblyId=GRCh38&referenceName=17&start=7577120&referenceBases=G&alternateBases=A

2.0 ?referenceName=refseq:NC_000017.11&start=7577120&referenceBases=G&alternateBases=A

Beacon v1 => v2

Keep it simple - modifying GET query strings

0.3 ?ref=GRCh38&chrom=17&pos=7577121&referenceAllele=G&allele=A

v1 switched for the API to 0-based coordinates (with 1-based representation in user facing forms - compare to UCSC genome browser)

1.0 ?assemblyId=GRCh38&referenceName=17&start=7577120&referenceBases=G&alternateBases=A

v2 recommends using assembly-specific identifiers (refseq id) although assemblyId and alternative reference identifiers such as "chr17" are *in principle* permitted

2.0 ?referenceName=refseq:NC_000017.11&start=7577120&referenceBases=G&alternateBases=A

Beacon v2

Boolean response example

- Beacon v2 is "chatty" regarding returned metadata, to disambiguate responses
- the response payload for **Boolean** and **count** responses is provided in the **responseSummary** object

```
{  
  "meta": {  
    "apiVersion": "v2.0.0",  
    "beaconId": "org.progenetix.beacon",  
    "receivedRequestSummary": {  
      "apiVersion": "v2.0.0",  
      "requestedGranularity": "boolean",  
      "requestedSchemas": [  
        {  
          "entityType": "genomicVariant",  
          "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant/"  
        }  
      ],  
      "variantPars": {  
        "alternateBases": "A",  
        "referenceBases": "G",  
        "referenceName": "refseq:NC_000017.11",  
        "start": [ 7577120 ]  
      },  
      "pagination": {  
        "limit": 2000,  
        "skip": 0  
      },  
      "returnedGranularity": "boolean",  
      "returnedSchemas": [  
        {  
          "entityType": "genomicVariant",  
          "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant/"  
        }  
      ]  
    },  
    "responseSummary": {  
      "exists": true  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Beacon v2

Count response example

- Beacon v2 is "chatty" regarding returned metadata, to disambiguate responses
- the response payload for **Boolean** and **count** responses is provided in the **responseSummary** object

```
{  
  "meta": {  
    "apiVersion": "v2.0.0",  
    "beaconId": "org.progenetix.beacon",  
    "receivedRequestSummary": {  
      "apiVersion": "v2.0.0",  
      "requestedGranularity": "count",  
      "requestedSchemas": [  
        {  
          "entityType": "genomicVariant",  
          "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant/"  
        }  
      ],  
      "variantPars": {  
        "alternateBases": "A",  
        "referenceBases": "G",  
        "referenceName": "refseq:NC_000017.11",  
        "start": [ 7577120 ]  
      },  
      "pagination": {  
        "limit": 2000,  
        "skip": 0  
      },  
      "returnedGranularity": "count",  
      "returnedSchemas": [  
        {  
          "entityType": "genomicVariant",  
          "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant/"  
        }  
      ]  
    },  
    "responseSummary": {  
      "exists": true,  
      "numTotalResults": 2  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Beacon v2

So what would you need?

- Beacon v2 (as v1) for Boolean and count responses can be implemented w/o complex infrastructure
- compared to v1, some additional meta information is expected in the response (but this can be pretty static for individual instances)

```
{  
  "meta": {  
    "apiVersion": "v2.0.0",  
    "beaconId": "org.progenetix.beacon",  
    "receivedRequestSummary": {  
      "apiVersion": "v2.0.0",  
      "requestedGranularity": "count",  
      "requestedSchemas": [  
        {  
          "entityType": "genomicVariant",  
          "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant/"  
        }  
      ],  
      "variantPars": {  
        "alternateBases": "A",  
        "referenceBases": "G",  
        "referenceName": "refseq:NC_000017.11",  
        "start": [ 7577120 ]  
      },  
      "pagination": {  
        "limit": 2000,  
        "skip": 0  
      },  
      "returnedGranularity": "count",  
      "returnedSchemas": [  
        {  
          "entityType": "genomicVariant",  
          "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant/"  
        }  
      ]  
,  
      "responseSummary": {  
        "exists": true,  
        "numTotalResults": 2  
      }  

```

Beacon v2 - Migration Workshop

Reference Implementation (Manuel Rueda)



Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health

Progenetix & Beacon v2

A custom "full stack" implementation of a genomics resource
around Beacon data model & API



Progenetix in 2022

Cancer Genomics Reference Resource

- open resource for curated oncogenomic profiles
- >116'000 cancer CNV profiles, from >800 types
- majority of data from genomic arrays with ~50% overall from SNP platforms with original data re-processing
- standardized encodings (e.g. NCIt, ICD-O 3)
- identifier mapping for PMID, GEO, Cellosaurus, TCGA, cBioPortal where appropriate
- core biosample and technical metadata where accessible (TNM, sex, survival ...)
- publication database and code mapping services

Cancer CNV Profiles

- ICD-O Morphologies
- ICD-O Organ Sites
- Cancer Cell Lines
- Clinical Categories

Search Samples

arrayMap

- TCGA Samples
- 1000 Genomes Reference Samples
- DIPG Samples
- cBioPortal Studies
- Gao & Baudis, 2021

Publication DB

- Genome Profiling
- Progenetix Use

Services

- NCIt Mappings
- UBERON Mappings

Upload & Plot

Beacon⁺

Documentation

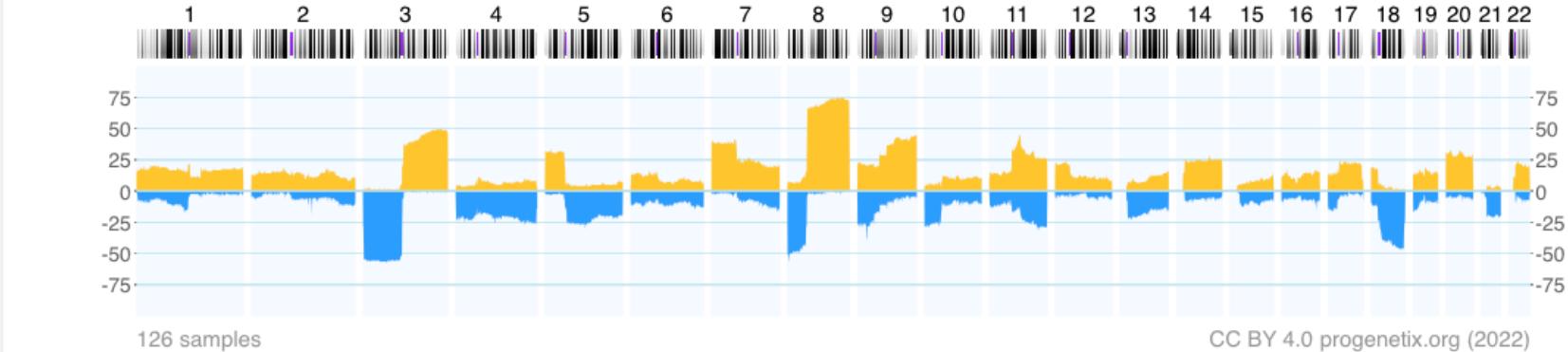
- News
- Downloads & Use Cases
- Sevices & API

Baudisgroup @ UZH

Cancer genome data @ progenetix.org

The Progenetix database provides an overview of mutation data in cancer, with a focus on copy number abnormalities (CNV / CNA), for all types of human malignancies. The data is based on *individual sample data* from currently **142063** samples.

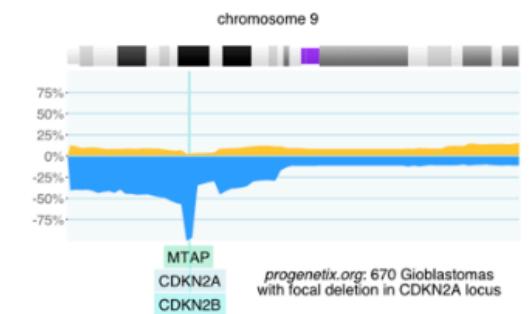
Floor of the Mouth Neoplasm (NCIT:C4401)



[Download SVG](#) | [Go to NCIT:C4401](#) | [Download CNV Frequencies](#)

Example for aggregated CNV data in 126 samples in Floor of the Mouth Neoplasm.
Here the frequency of regional **copy number gains** and **losses** are displayed for all 22 autosomes.

Progenetix Use Cases



Local CNV Frequencies

A typical use case on Progenetix is the search for local copy number aberrations - e.g. involving a gene - and the exploration of cancer types with these CNVs. The [\[Search Page \]](#) provides example use cases for designing queries. Results contain basic statistics as well as visualization and download options.

Cancer CNV Profiles

The progenetix resource contains data of **834** different cancer types (NCIt neoplasm classification), mapped to a variety of biological and technical categories. Frequency profiles of regional genomic gains and losses for all categories (diagnostic entity, publication, cohort ...) can be accessed through the [\[Cancer Types \]](#) page with direct visualization and options for sample retrieval and plotting options.

Cancer Genomics Publications

Through the [\[Publications \]](#) page Progenetix provides **4164** annotated references to research articles from cancer genome screening experiments (WGS, WES, aCGH, cCGH). The numbers of analyzed samples and possible availability in the Progenetix sample collection are indicated.

Progenetix

Genomic resource utilizing Beacon v2 calls

- Progenetix uses Beacon v2 queries to drive its UI
- all individuals, biosamples, variants, analyses matched by a given query are stored by their object ids
- handovers for variant purposes (e.g. to retrieve all matched variants) are returned in the original response and asynchronously retrieved by the front end app

The screenshot shows the Progenetix search interface titled "Search Samples". At the top, there are three tabs: "CDKN2A Deletion Example", "MYC Duplication", and "TP53 Del. in Cell Lines". Below these tabs is a dropdown menu set to "K-562 Cell Line". There are two buttons: "Gene Spans" and "Cytoband(s)". A blue callout box provides a detailed description of the "CDKN2A Deletion Example" tab. The main search form includes fields for "Gene Symbol" (with a dropdown placeholder "Select..."), "Chromosome" (set to 9), "(Structural) Variant Type" (set to "EFO:0030067 (copy number deletion)"), "Start or Position" (set to "21500001-21975098"), "End (Range or Structural Var.)" (set to "21967753-22500000"), "Minimum Variant Length" (empty), "Maximal Variant Length" (empty), "Reference ID(s)" (with a dropdown placeholder "Select..."), "Cohorts" (empty), "Cancer Classification(s)" (with a dropdown placeholder "Select..." containing "NCIT:C3058: Glioblastoma (...)", "AND", and "Select..."), "Clinical Classes" (empty), "Genotypic Sex" (empty), "Biosample Type" (empty), "Filters" (empty), "Filter Logic" (set to "AND"), "Include Child Terms" (empty), "Response Limit / Page Size" (set to "1000"), "Skip Pages" (set to "0"), and "City" (empty). Below the search form is a cytoband plot for chromosome 9, showing bands from 21500001 to 21975098. A red bar highlights the region from 21500001 to 21975098. At the bottom is a blue button labeled "Query Database". To the right of the search interface is a Network Performance Monitor (NPM) tool showing a timeline with various data series. The NPM interface includes tabs for "Elements", "Console", "Sources", "Network", and "Auto — Page". It displays metrics such as "Do...", "T Transf...", "T...", "100.00ms", and "200.00ms". The bottom of the slide shows a footer with performance metrics: CPU 0, Memory 0 B, Network 0 B, Disk 0 B, and a total time of 116ms.

Progenetix

Genomic resource utilizing Beacon v2 calls

- Progenetix uses Beacon v2 queries to drive its UI
- all individuals, biosamples, variants, analyses matched by a given query are stored by their object ids
- handovers for variant purposes (e.g. to retrieve all matched variants) are returned in the original response and asynchronously retrieved by the front end app

Edit Query

Assembly: GRCh38 Chro: 9 Start: 21500001-21975098 End: 21967753-22500000
Type: EFO:0030067 Filters: NCIT:C3058

progenetix

Matched Samples: 660 Retrieved Samples: 660 Variants: 279 Calls: 667

UCSC region [↗](#) Variants in UCSC [↗](#) Dataset Response (JSON) [↗](#) Visualization options

Results Biosamples Biosamples Map Variants Annotated Variants

Filter Full URL All Disable Caches Import Export

| Name | Do... | T Transf... | T... | 10.00s | 20.00s | 30.00s |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| biosamples | pro... | fr 5.14 KB | 2... | <div style="width: 100%;">█</div> | | |
| biosamples | lock p... | fr 52.60... | 1... | <div style="width: 100%;">█</div> | | |
| genomicVariations | lock p... | fr 25.99... | 1... | <div style="width: 100%;">█</div> | | |
| genomicVariations | lock p... | fr 3.98 KB | 8... | <div style="width: 100%;">█</div> | | |
| samplePlots.cgi | lock p... | fr 26.13 ... | 2... | <div style="width: 100%;">█</div> | | |
| collations | pro... | fr 199.4... | 1... | <div style="width: 100%;">█</div> | | |

1 6 7.04 MB 313.3 KB 0 116ms

Auto — Page ▾

Progenetix

Genomic resource utilizing Beacon v2 calls

- Progenetix uses Beacon v2 queries to drive its UI
- all individuals, biosamples, variants, analyses matched by a given query are stored by their object ids
- handovers for variant purposes (e.g. to retrieve all matched variants) are returned in the original response and asynchronously retrieved by the front end app

The screenshot shows the Progenetix UI with a search bar at the top. Below it, a summary box displays assembly information (GRCh38), chromosome (9), start (21500001-21975098), end (21967753-22500000), type (EFO:0030067), and filters (NCIT:C3058). A 'progenetix' logo is visible. The main area has tabs for Results, Biosamples, Biosamples Map, Variants, and Annotated Variants. A yellow callout highlights a 'Results' section with a histogram and a detailed API endpoint:

```
/beacon/biosamples/?  
requestedGranularity=record&limit=1000&skip=0  
&assemblyId=GRCh38&referenceName=9&variantType=EFO:0030067  
&start=21500000,21975098&end=21967753,22500000  
&filters=NCIT:C3058
```

A green callout highlights a 'Biosamples' section with a table and a detailed API endpoint:

```
/beacon/biosamples/?  
skip=0&limit=1000  
&accessid=fbffda57-0f41-4d6a-99fc-41d4cfdea9f6&requestedSchema=biosample
```

A pink callout highlights a 'Variants' section with a table and a detailed API endpoint:

```
/beacon/genomicVariations/?  
accessid=e2dadd91-9326-46de-97e4-6b88413b6bfe  
&requestedSchema=genomicVariant
```

At the bottom, download options are shown:

- Download Sample Data (JSON) 1-660
- Download Sample Variants (JSON) 1-660

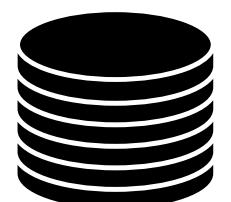
The Network tab in the browser's developer tools shows several requests:

| Name | Do... | T Transf... | T... | 10.00s | 20.00s | 30.00s |
|-------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| biosamples | pro... | fr | 5.14 KB | 2... | | |
| biosamples | lock | fr | 52.60... | 1... | | |
| genomicVariations | lock | fr | 25.99... | 1... | | |
| genomicVariations | lock | fr | 3.98 KB | 8... | | |
| samplePlots.cgi | lock | fr | 26.13 ... | 2... | | |
| collations | pro... | fr | 199.4... | 1... | | |

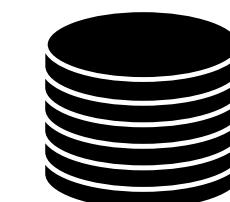
Progenetix Stack



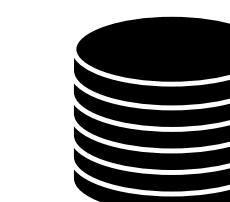
- JavaScript front-end is populated for query results using asynchronous access to multiple handover objects
 - ▶ biosamples and variants tables, CNV histogram, UCSC .bed loader, .pgxseg variant downloads...
- the complete middleware / CGI stack is provided through the *bycon* package 
 - ▶ schemas, query stack, data transformation (e.g. Phenopackets generation)...
- data collections mostly correspond to the main Beacon default model entities
 - ▶ no separate *runs* collection; integrated w/ analyses
 - ▶ *variants* are stored per observation instance



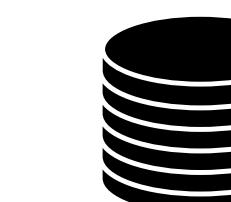
variants



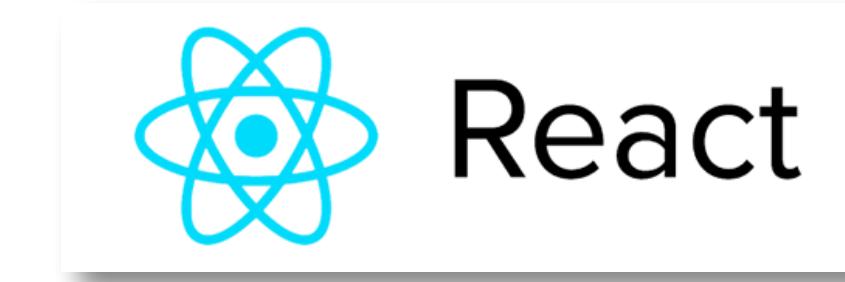
analyses



biosamples

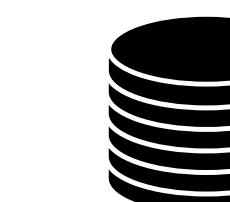


individuals

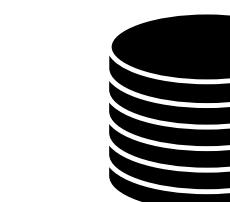


- *collations* contain pre-computed data (e.g. CNV frequencies, statistics) and information for all grouping entity instances and correspond to **filter values**
 - ▶ PMID:10027410, NCIT:C3222, pgx:cohort-TCGA, pgx:icdom-94703...
- *querybuffer* stores id values of all entities matched by a query and provides the corresponding access handle for **handover** generation

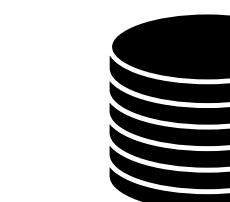
```
_id: ObjectId("6249bb654f8f8d67eb94953b"),
_id: '0765ee26-5029-4f28-b01d-9759abf5bf14',
source_collection: 'variants',
source_db: 'progenetix',
source_key: '_id',
target_collection: 'variants',
target_count: 667,
target_key: '_id',
target_values: [
  ObjectId("5bab578b727983b2e00ca99e"),
  ObjectId("5bab578d727983b2e00cb505")]
```



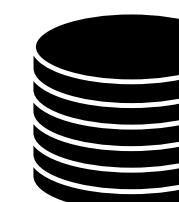
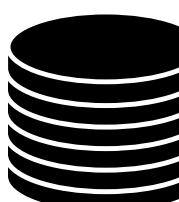
collations



geolocs



genespans publications



qBuffer

Entity collections

Utility collections

progenetix / bycon Public

Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

main 1 branch 0 tags Go to file Add file Code About

mbaudis datatable parameter refinements 1d808c1 2 days ago 649 commits

beaconServer some refactoring 16 days ago

config datatable parameter refinements 2 days ago

lib datatable parameter refinements 2 days ago

rsrc/genomes reshuffle & variantType fix 3 months ago

schemas cytoband now in intervals 2 months ago

services datatable parameter refinements 2 days ago

.gitignore lib to package root 11 months ago

LICENSE Create LICENSE 2 years ago

README.md reshuffling and some args are back 7 months ago

__init__.py mostly handover stub for UCSC... 6 months ago

requirements.txt annotatedvariants handover 7 days ago

tests.md ... 12 days ago

README.md License CC0 1.0

Bycon - a Python-based environment for the Beacon v2 genomics API

The `bycon` project - at least at its current stage - is a mix of *Progenetix* (i.e. GA4GH object model derived, *MongoDB* implemented) - data management, and the implementation of middleware & server for the Beacon API.

More information about the current status of the package can be found in the inline documentation which is also presented in an accessible format on the *Progenetix* website.

More Documentation

Services

The `bycon` environment - together with the *Progenetix* resource - provide a growing number of data services in (cancer) genomics and disease ontologies. `bycon`'s services are tools to enable the APIs.

Directory Structure

beaconServer

- web applications for data access
- Python modules for Beacon query and response functions in `lib`

services

Readme CC0-1.0 license 5 stars 4 watching 4 forks

No releases published Create a new release

No packages published Publish your first package

Contributors 4

mbaudis Michael Baudis

sofiapfund Sofia

qingyao

KyleGao Bo Gao

Languages

Python 99.5% Shell 0.5%

This screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'bycon'. The repository is public and has 1 branch and 0 tags. The main file listed is 'README.md'. The README contains a brief description of the project as a Python-based environment for the Beacon v2 genomics API, mentioning it's a mix of Progenetix and MongoDB. It links to the Progenetix website for more information. Below the README, there are sections for 'More Documentation', 'Services', and 'Directory Structure'. The 'Directory Structure' section lists 'beaconServer' and 'services'. The 'beaconServer' section includes a bulleted list of 'web applications for data access' and 'Python modules for Beacon query and response functions in lib'. The 'Contributors' section shows four contributors: mbaudis (Michael Baudis), sofiapfund (Sofia), qingyao, and KyleGao (Bo Gao). The 'Languages' section shows Python at 99.5% and Shell at 0.5%. The right sidebar provides links to 'About', 'Releases', 'Packages', and 'Contributors'.

bycon

Progenetix' Beacon Stack

- Python-based software stack
- developed for in-house use - not well documented etc.
- happy about adoption & contributions...

Beacon v2

Beaconise your Data



Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health

Beacon v1 => v2

Genomic variation queries

- Beacon v2 defines query schemas through JSON Schema documents for POST requests and REST paths in OpenAPI documents
- Additional variant parameters:
 - variantType, mateName (existing in v1)
 - geneld
 - variantMinLength, variantMaxLength
 - aminoacidChange
 - genomicAlleleShortForm

```
{  
    "$schema": "beaconRequestBody.json",  
    "meta": {  
        "apiVersion": "2.0",  
        "requestedSchemas": [  
            {  
                "entityType": "genomicVariation",  
                "schema": "https://  
raw.githubusercontent.com/ga4gh-beacon/beacon-v2/  
main/models/json/beacon-v2-default-model/  
genomicVariations/defaultSchema.json"  
            }  
        ]  
    },  
    "query": {  
        "requestParameters": {  
            "g_variant": {  
                "referenceName": "NC_000017.11",  
                "start": [7577120],  
                "referenceBases": "G",  
                "alternateBases": "A"  
            }  
        }  
    },  
    "requestedGranularity": "record",  
    "pagination": {  
        "skip": 0,  
        "limit": 5  
    }  
}
```

Beacon v1 => v2

Genomic variation queries

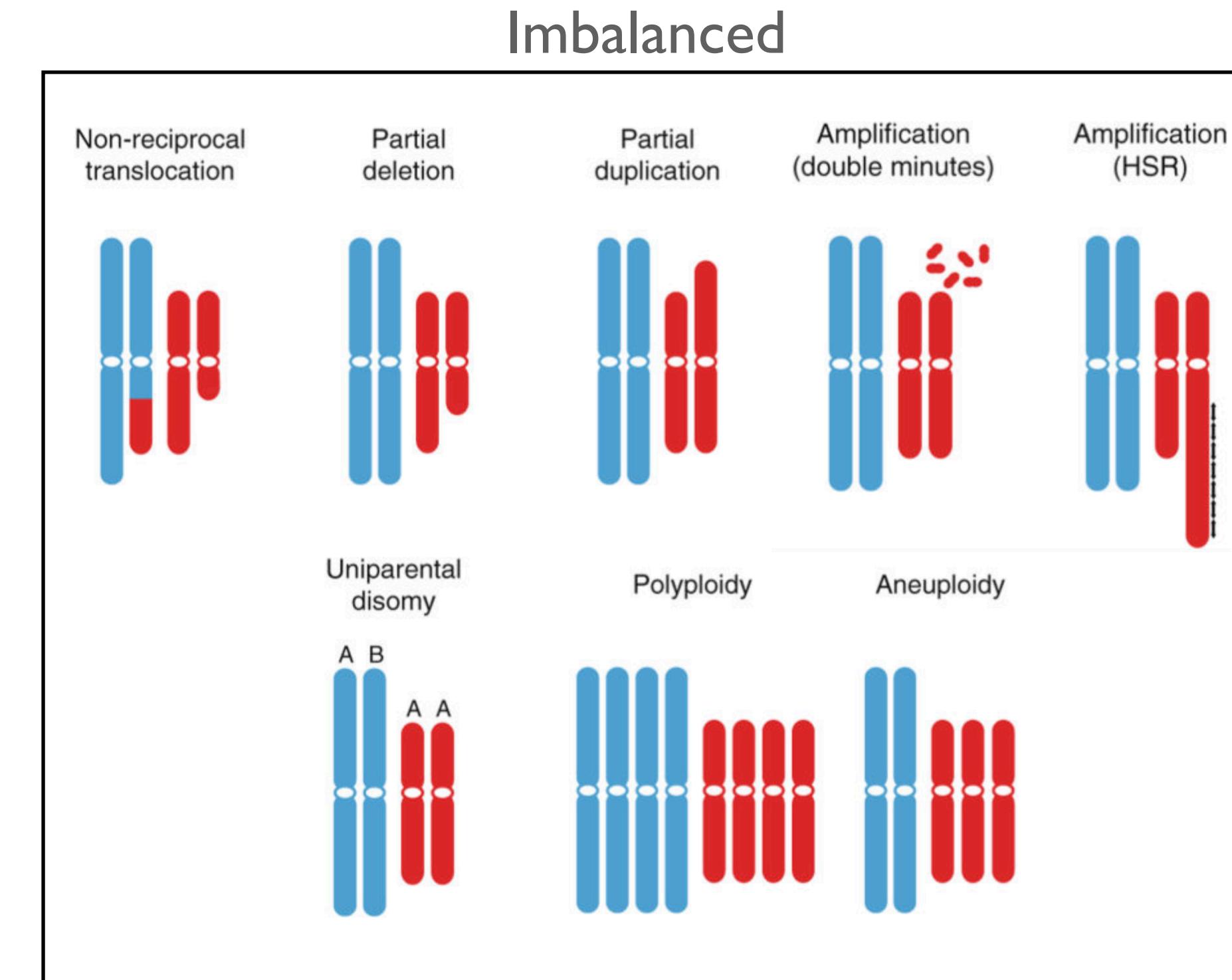
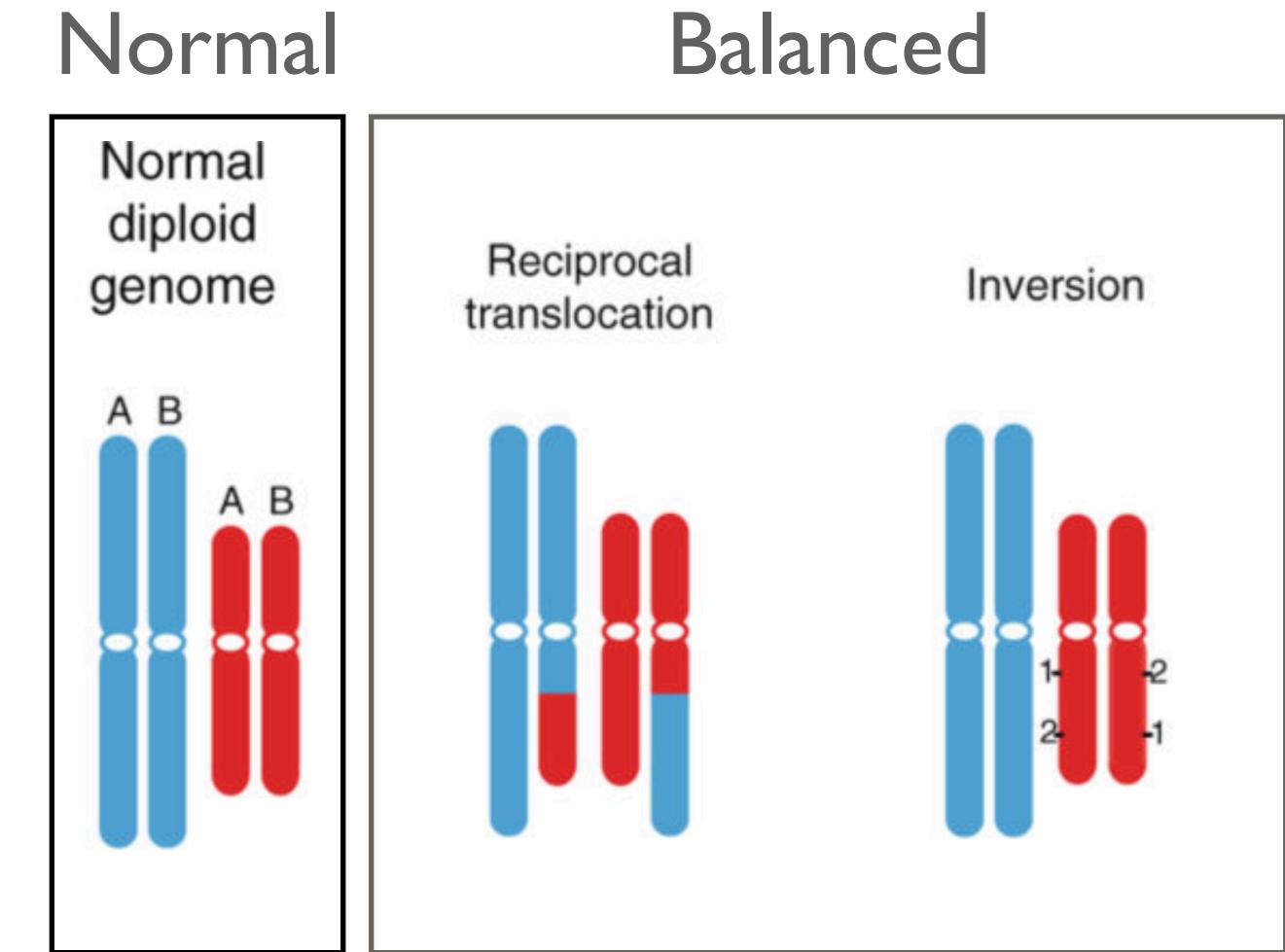
- Beacon v2 defines query schemas through JSON Schema documents for POST requests and REST paths in OpenAPI documents
- Additional variant parameters:
 - **variantType**, mateName (existing in v1)
 - geneld
 - variantMinLength, variantMaxLength
 - aminoacidChange
 - genomicAlleleShortForm

```
{  
    "$schema": "beaconRequestBody.json",  
    "meta": {  
        "apiVersion": "2.0",  
        "requestedSchemas": [  
            {  
                "entityType": "genomicVariation",  
                "schema": "https://  
raw.githubusercontent.com/ga4gh-beacon/beacon-v2/  
main/models/json/beacon-v2-default-model/  
genomicVariations/defaultSchema.json"  
            }  
        ],  
        "query": {  
            "requestParameters": {  
                "g_variant": {  
                    "referenceName": "NC_000017.11",  
                    "start": [7577120],  
                    "referenceBases": "G",  
                    "alternateBases": "A"  
                }  
            }  
        },  
        "requestedGranularity": "record",  
        "pagination": {  
            "skip": 0,  
            "limit": 5  
        }  
    }  
}
```

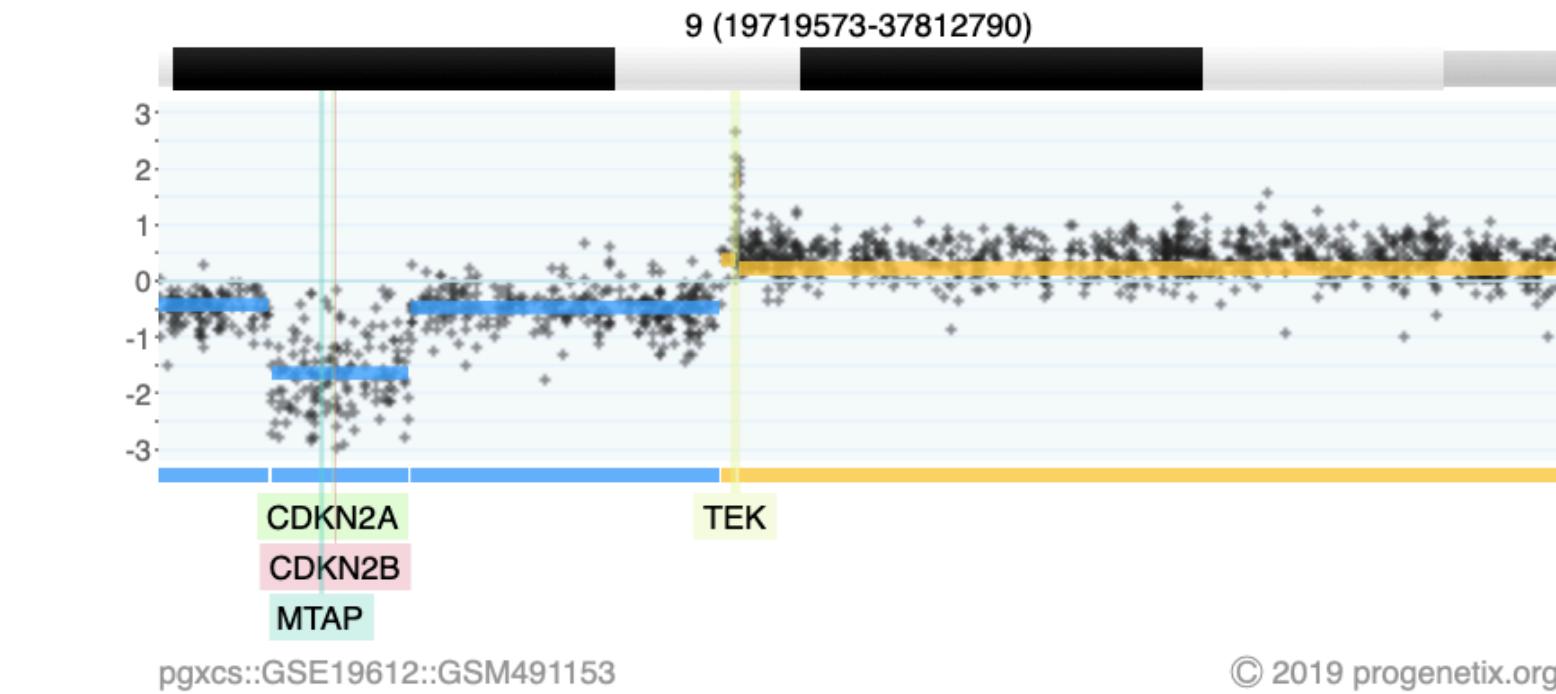
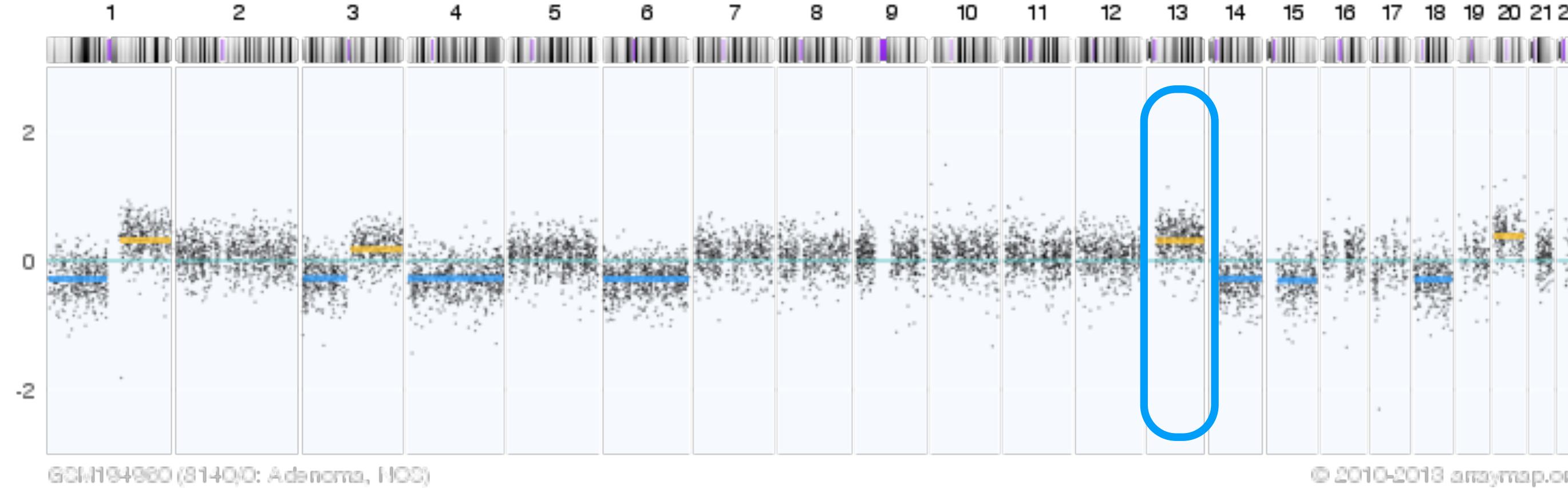
Types of genomic alterations in Cancer

Imbalanced Chromosomal Changes: CNV

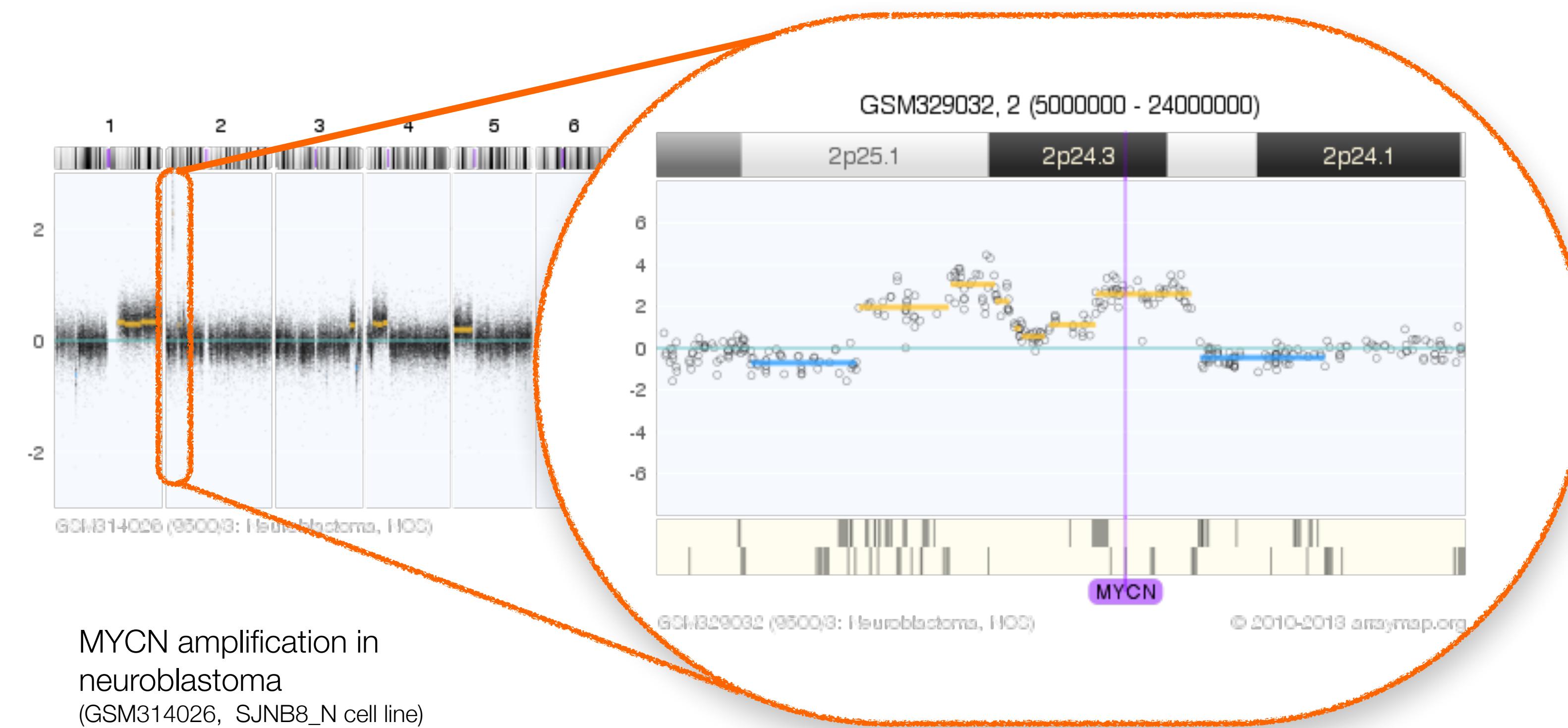
- Point mutations (insertions, deletions, substitutions)
- Chromosomal rearrangements
- Structural chromosomal Aberrations
- **Regional Copy Number Alterations**
(losses, gains)
- Epigenetic changes (e.g. DNA methylation abnormalities)



Somatic Copy Number Variations



2-event, homozygous deletion in a Glioblastoma



low level/high level copy number alterations (CNAs)

arrayMap



CNVs Come in a Variety of Formats

Text conversion from ISCN

- articles and supplements with **cytoband-based rev ish CGH** results are a great source of CNV data
- conversion by mapping cytoband locations (e.g. UCSC annotation files) to genome coordinates and assigning CNV types (enh, dim, amp are standard)

CGH AND FISH OF METASTATIC COLORECTAL CANCER

TABLE 3. Comparison of Primary Tumors and Metastases by CGH

| Case | Gain in common | Loss in common | Primary tumor only | Metastasis only |
|------|--|--|--|--|
| 108 | | 18 | | |
| 113 | 7, 8q24-qter, 13q11-qter, 20q11-qter, Xq11-Xter | 1p33-pter, 2p21-pter, 4q24-qter, 15q11-q15, 17p11-pter, 18 | | |
| LM | 12q22-qter, 15q23-qter, 17q11-ter, 20p11-p12, 20q11-ter, 22q11-ter | 1p11-p32, 1q24-31, 4, 13q11-pter, 17p11-pter, 18, 20p11-ter | 11p11-pter- | 12+ |
| 145 | 4q26-q28, 6p11-p13, 8p11-p12, 920q11-qter | 1p11-pter, 4q31-qter, 6q11-qter, 8p12-pter, 11, 15q11-qter, 16q11-qter, 17p11-pter, 18, 21q11-qter | 13q21-qter+, 20p11-pter- | 8q11-qter+, 10-, 6p21-pter- |
| 53 | 7, 8q11-qter, 9q33-qter, 13q11-qter, 20p11-p12, 20q11-qter | 4p13-pter, 4q21-qter, 8p12-pter, 15q14-qter, 18q11-qter, 20p12-pter | 5p11-pter-, 5q13-qter-, 14q11-qter- | 11+, 16p11-pter+, 17q11-qter+, 19+, 21q11-qter+, 22q11-qter+ |
| 147 | 7, 13q11-qter, 20q11-qter | 8p21-pter, 18 | 4p14-pter-, 4q28-qter+, 8p11-21-, 17q11-q2+, 21q11-qter- | 11q22-qter+, 16+, 1p11-33- |

TABLE 1. Clinical Data

| Case number | Age | Sex | Site | Stage ^a | Grade ^b | Diagnosis of metastatic disease ^c |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2 | 40 | M | Transverse colon | IV | 3 | Synchronous |
| 6 | 79 | M | Ascending colon | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 9 | 73 | M | Transverse colon | II | 2 | N/A |
| 11 | 56 | M | Rectosigmoid | IV | 2 | Metachronous |
| 12 | 70 | F | Sigmoid colon | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 13 | 65 | M | Descending colon | II | 9 | Synchronous |
| 14 | 60 | M | Rectum | III | 3 | Metachronous |
| 15 | 51 | F | Rectum | III | 2 | Metachronous |
| 19 | 63 | M | Rectosigmoid Junction | III | 2 | Synchronous |
| 20 | 63 | M | Rectum | IV | 9 | Metachronous |
| 21 | 64 | F | Sigmoid colon | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 35 | 71 | M | Rectum | III | 9 | Metachronous |
| 49 | 72 | M | Cecum | IV | 3 | Synchronous |
| 53 | 72 | F | Sigmoid colon | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 104 | 61 | M | Sigmoid colon | IV | 2 | Metachronous |
| 105 | 58 | M | Ascending colon | II | 2 | Metachronous |
| 107 | 77 | F | Cecum | IV | 2 | Metachronous |
| 108 | 53 | F | Splenic flexure | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 112 | 68 | M | Rectum | III | 3 | Synchronous |
| 113 | 41 | M | Splenic flexure | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 114 | 49 | M | Splenic flexure | IV | 3 | Synchronous |
| 116 | 73 | M | Rectosigmoid | III | 9 | Metachronous |
| 120 | 24 | F | Descending colon | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 123 | 62 | F | Rectum | III | 2 | Metachronous |
| 124 | 42 | M | Rectum | IV | 9 | Synchronous |
| 145 | 70 | M | Rectosigmoid | IV | 2 | Synchronous |
| 147 | 86 | F | Cecum | IV | 2 | Synchronous |

^aAJCC/UICC staging system (Hutter and Sabin, 1986).

^bGrade of primary tumor: 1–3, low, moderate, high grade; 9, grading unknown.

^cSynchronous, diagnosis of metastatic disease within 12 months following diagnosis of primary tumor; metachronous, diagnosis of metastatic disease after 12 months or later.

GENES, CHROMOSOMES & CANCER 25:82–90 (1999)
Chromosome Arm 20q Gains and Other Genomic Alterations in Colorectal Cancer Metastatic to Liver, as Analyzed by Comparative Genomic Hybridization and Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization

W. Michael Korn,¹* Toru Yasutake,² Wen-Lin Kuo,¹ Robert S. Warren,³ Colin Collins,¹ Masao Tomita,² Joe Gray,¹ and Frederic M. Waidman¹

CNVs Come in a Variety of Formats: VCF

Issue 1: There are two fields to specify SV/CNV

| #CHROM | POS | ID | REF | ALT | QUAL | FILTER | INFO |
|--------|----------|-----------|----------------|--------------|------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2827694 | rs2376870 | CGTGGATGCGGGAC | C | . | PASS | SVTYPE=DEL;END=282770 |
| 2 | 321682 | . | T | | 6 | PASS | SVTYPE=DEL;END=321887 |
| 2 | 14477084 | . | C | <DEL:ME:ALU> | 12 | PASS | SVTYPE=DEL;END=144773 |
| 3 | 9425916 | . | C | <INS:ME:L1> | 23 | PASS | SVTYPE=INS;END=942591 |
| 3 | 12665100 | . | A | <DUP> | 14 | PASS | SVTYPE=DUP;END=126862 |
| 4 | 18665128 | . | T | <DUP:TANDEM> | 11 | PASS | SVTYPE=DUP;END=186652 |

1) Symbolic allele (SA)

2) SVTYPE

- DEL Deletion relative to the reference
 - INS Insertion of novel sequence relative to the reference
 - DUP Region of elevated copy number relative to the reference
 - INV Inversion of reference sequence
 - CNV Copy number variable region (may be both deletion and duplication)
 - BND Breakend
- The CNV category should not be used when a more specific category can be applied. Reserved subtypes include:
- DUP:TANDEM Tandem duplication
 - DEL:ME Deletion of mobile element relative to the reference
 - INS:ME Insertion of a mobile element relative to the reference



- using genome positions (POS, INFO.END) for start, end mappings
- treatment of markers for imprecision during matching is left to the implementer
- DUP, DEL are interpreted as indicators for the type of copy number change

VCF v4.4 deprecate SVTYPE

| #CHROM | POS | ID | REF | ALT | QUAL | FILTER | INFO | FOR |
|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------------|------|--------|--|-----|
| chrA | 2 | . | TGC | T | . | . | EVENT=DEL_seq | |
| chrA | 2 | . | T | | . | . | SVLEN=2;SVCLAIM=DJ;EVENT=DEL_symbolic;END=4 | |
| chrA | 2 | delbp1 | T | T[chrA:5[. | . | . | MATEID=delbp2;EVENT=DEL_split_bp_cn | |
| chrA | 2 | delbp2 | A |]chrA:2]A | . | . | MATEID=delbp1;EVENT=DEL_split_bp_cn | |
| chrA | 2 | . | T | | . | . | SVLEN=2;SVCLAIM=D;EVENT=DEL_split_bp_cn;END=4 | |
| chrA | 5 | . | G | GAAA | . | . | EVENT=homology_seq | |
| chrA | 5 | . | G | <DUP> | . | . | SVLEN=3;CIPOS=0,5;EVENT=homology_dup | |
| chrA | 14 | . | T | <INS> | . | . | IMPRECISE;SVLEN=100;CILEN=-50,50;CIPOS=-10,10;END=14 | |
| chrA | 14 | . | G | .CCCCCG | . | . | EVENT=single_breakend | |

Symbolic allele (SA)

- DEL Region of lowered copy number relative to the reference, or a deletion breakpoint
 - INS Insertion of novel sequence relative to the reference
 - DUP Region of elevated copy number relative to the reference, or a tandem duplication breakpoint
 - INV Inversion of reference sequence
 - CNV Copy number variable region (may be both deletion and duplication)
- The CNV category should not be used when a more specific category can be applied.
Implementations are free to define their own subtypes. The presence of a subtype does not change either the copy number or breakpoint interpretation of a symbolic structural variant allele. The following subtypes are recommended:
- DUP:TANDEM Tandem duplication
 - DEL:ME Deletion of mobile element relative to the reference
 - INS:ME Insertion of a mobile element relative to the reference

Note that the position of symbolic structural variant alleles is the position of the base immediately preceding the variant.

Reserved specific subtypes

Use Subtype to define new structural variant

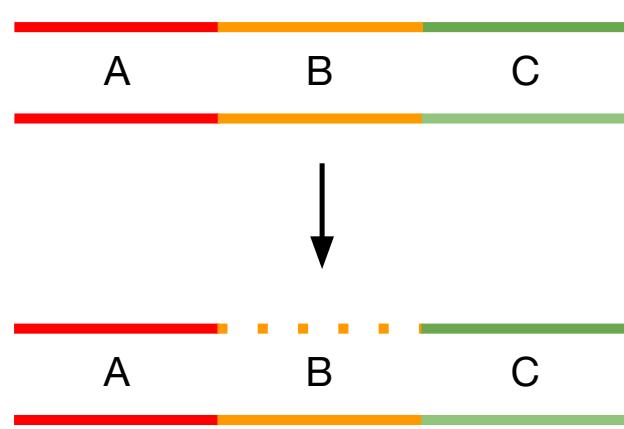
- <DUP:TANDEM> precise form of duplication
- <DEL:ME:LINE>

Subtypes do not change the meaning symbolic allele.



CNVs Come in a Variety of Formats: VCF

Issue 2: two meanings of DEL and DUP



Usual interpretation of “DEL” (a deletion)

1. Copy number of B decreases from 2 to 1, **and**
2. Adjacency structure changes from (ABC, ABC) to (AC, ABC)

Both effects are important, for example...

- Copy number change can affect gene dosage
- Adjacency structure change can affect expression or disrupt a CDS

...but they do not necessarily happen at the same time.

The SVCLAIM field

New **SVCLAIM** INFO field to capture what the caller could ascertain

- **D** (abundance / read depth) claim indicates that the call has been made based only on a measure of DNA abundance of the called region, with no evidence to support changes in breakpoint structure. This includes indirect claims of abundance made using SNV variant allele frequency.
- **J** (adjacency / break junction) claim indicates that the call has been made based on the detection of a non-reference DNA adjacency, with no evidence to support overall changes in DNA abundance.
- **DJ** indicates that there is evidence for both DNA abundance and adjacency changes, which are consistent with each other and suggest the structural variant of the type being reported.



- using genome positions (POS, INFO.END) for start, end mappings
- treatment of markers for imprecision during matching is left to the implementer
- DUP, DEL are interpreted as indicators for the type of copy number change ... unless there is an explicit INFO.SVCLAIM without a "D" label

Beacon & CNVs

Open types w/ some definitions

- Beacon supports structural variant queries through the ***variantType*** parameter
- The default model **does not prescribe** which types can be used (but documents VCF derived DUP & DEL)
- CNV values are not (yet) supported but EFO offers common classes
- Progenetix supports **EFO relative CN terms** (but accepts & interpolates DUP & DEL)

| Beacon | VCF | SO | EFO | VRS | Notes |
|--------|------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| DUP | DUP ¹ | SO:0001742 copy_number_gain | EFO:0030070 copy number gain | low-level gain (implicit) | a sequence alteration whereby the copy number of a given genomic region is greater than the reference sequence |
| DUP | DUP ¹ | SO:0001742 copy_number_gain | EFO:0030071 low-level copy number gain | low-level gain | |
| DUP | DUP ¹ | SO:0001742 copy_number_gain | EFO:0030072 high-level copy number gain | high-level gain | commonly but not consistently used for >=5 copies on a bi-allelic genome region |
| DUP | DUP ¹ | SO:0001742 copy_number_gain | EFO:0030073 focal genome amplification | high-level gain | commonly but not consistently used for >=5 copies on a bi-allelic genome region, of limited size (operationally max. 1-5Mb) |
| DEL | DEL ¹ | SO:0001743 copy_number_loss | EFO:0030067 copy number loss | partial loss (implicit) | a sequence alteration whereby the copy number of a given genomic region is smaller than the reference sequence |
| DEL | DEL ¹ | SO:0001743 copy_number_loss | EFO:0030068 low-level copy number loss | partial loss | |
| DEL | DEL ¹ | SO:0001743 copy_number_loss | EFO:0030069 complete genomic deletion | complete loss | complete genomic deletion (e.g. homozygous deletion on a bi-allelic genome region) |

¹ VCFv4.4 introduces an SVCLAIM field to disambiguate between *in situ* events (such as tandem duplications; known adjacency/ break junction: SVCLAIM=J) and events where e.g. only the change in abundance / read depth (SVCLAIM=D) has been determined. Both J and D flags can be combined.

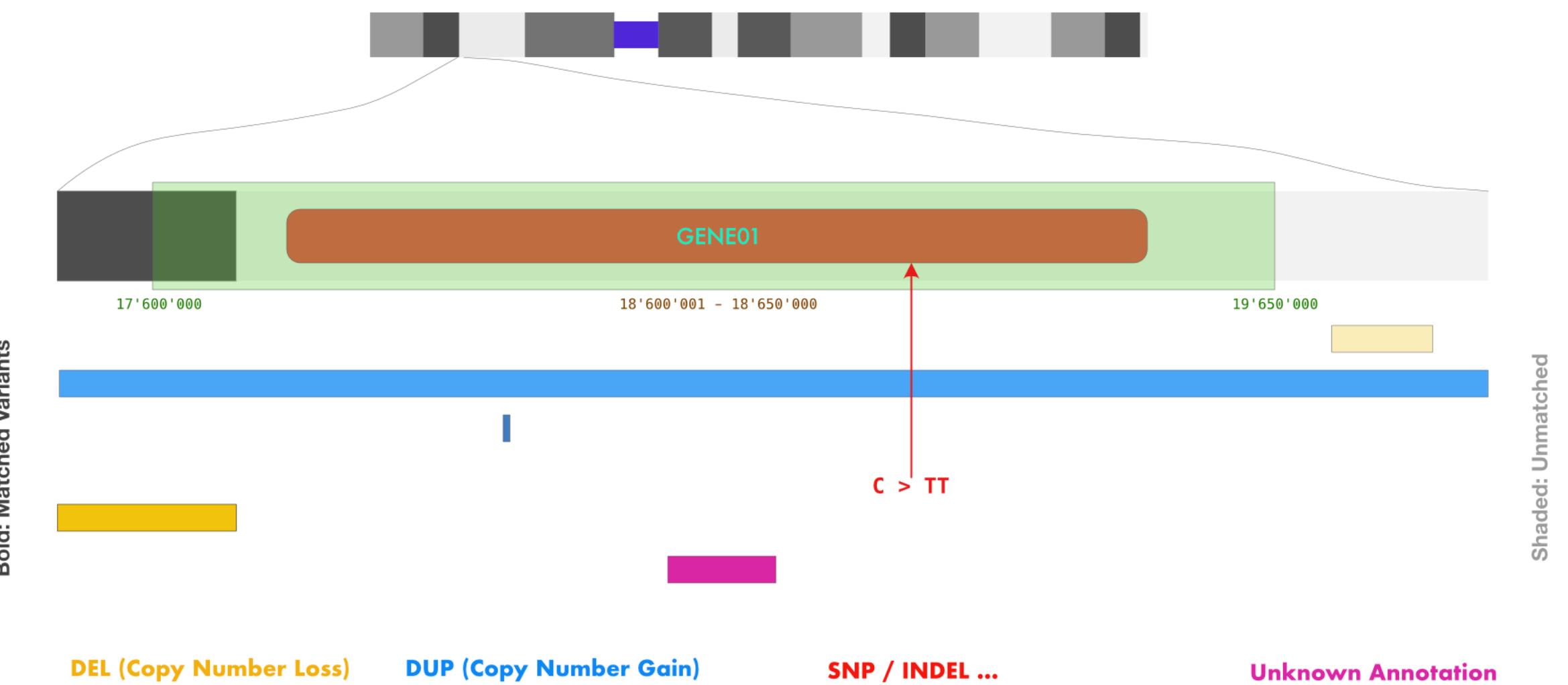
Positional Queries

Going beyond single positions...

- Beacon v1 already provided support for "bracket" queries, e.g. for CNV queries - v2 improves documentation
- Use cases w/ focus on structural variants were evaluated by a Beacon "scout" team
- new "range" option
 - anything w/ overlap
 - matched variants can optionally be filtered by type, size, sequence
- query options are not hard defined but derived from parameters
 - Strong wish for defined types?

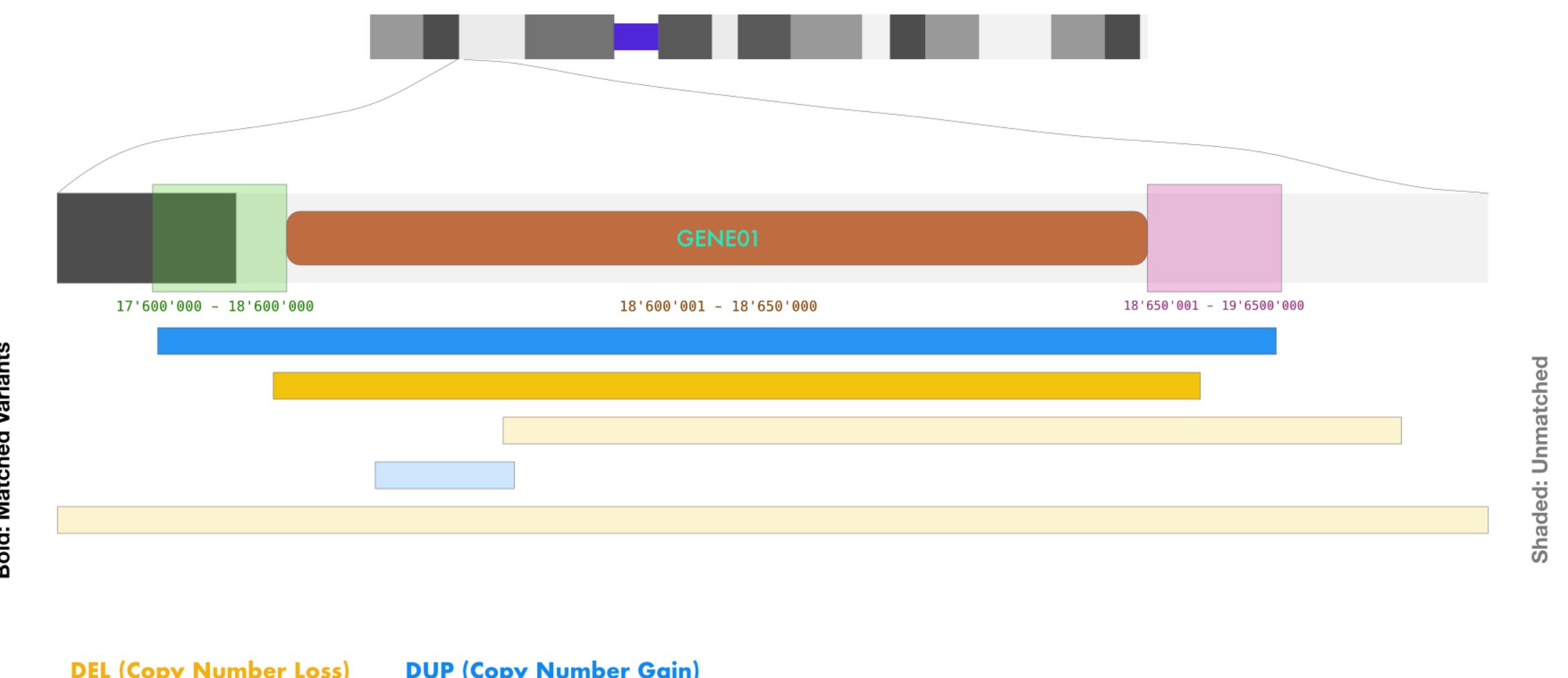
Beacon Range Query

Matching variants in a region



Beacon Bracket Query

Example for complete regional match



Beacon v2 - Beaconise your Data

BANCCO (David Salgado)



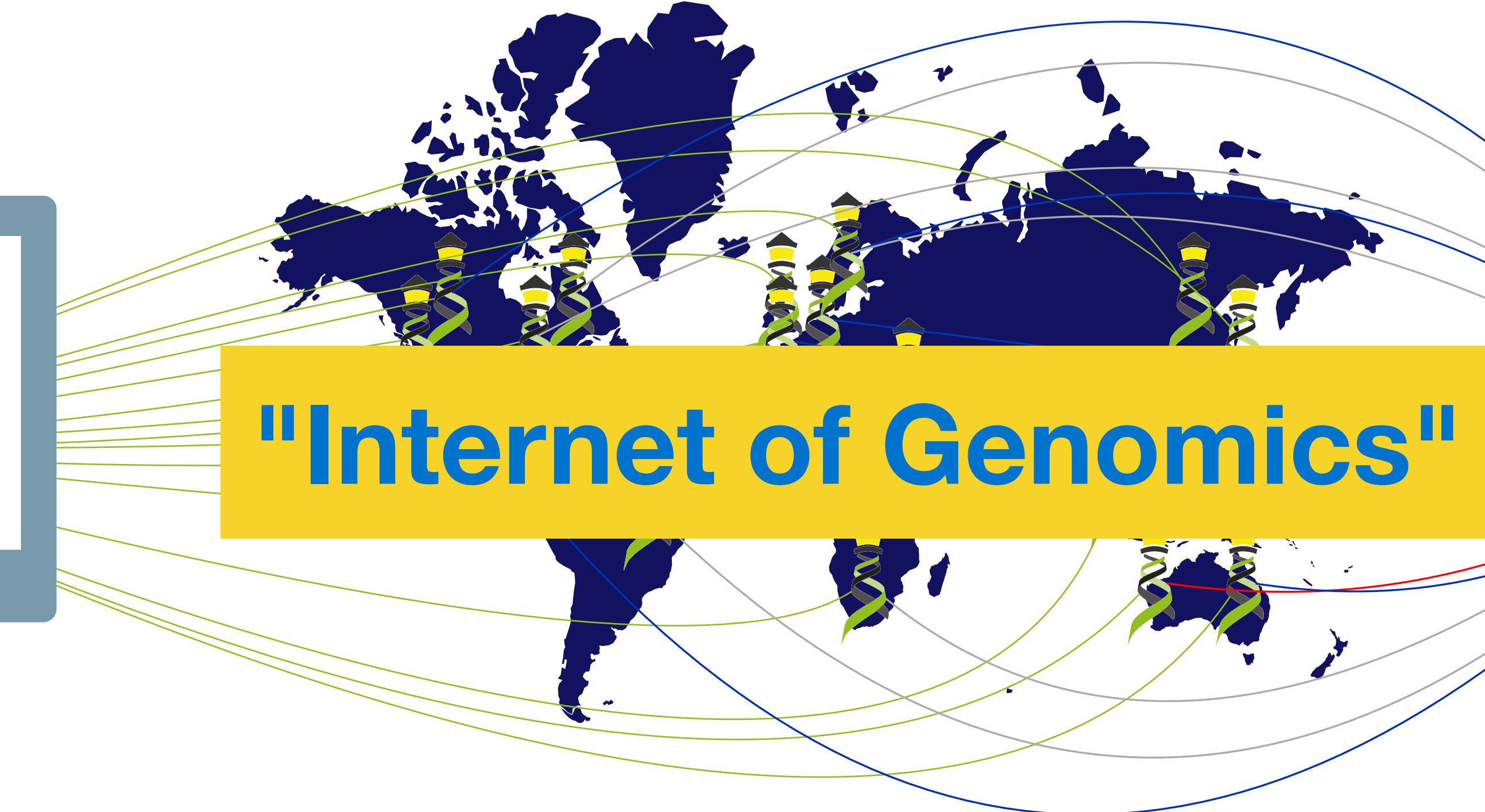
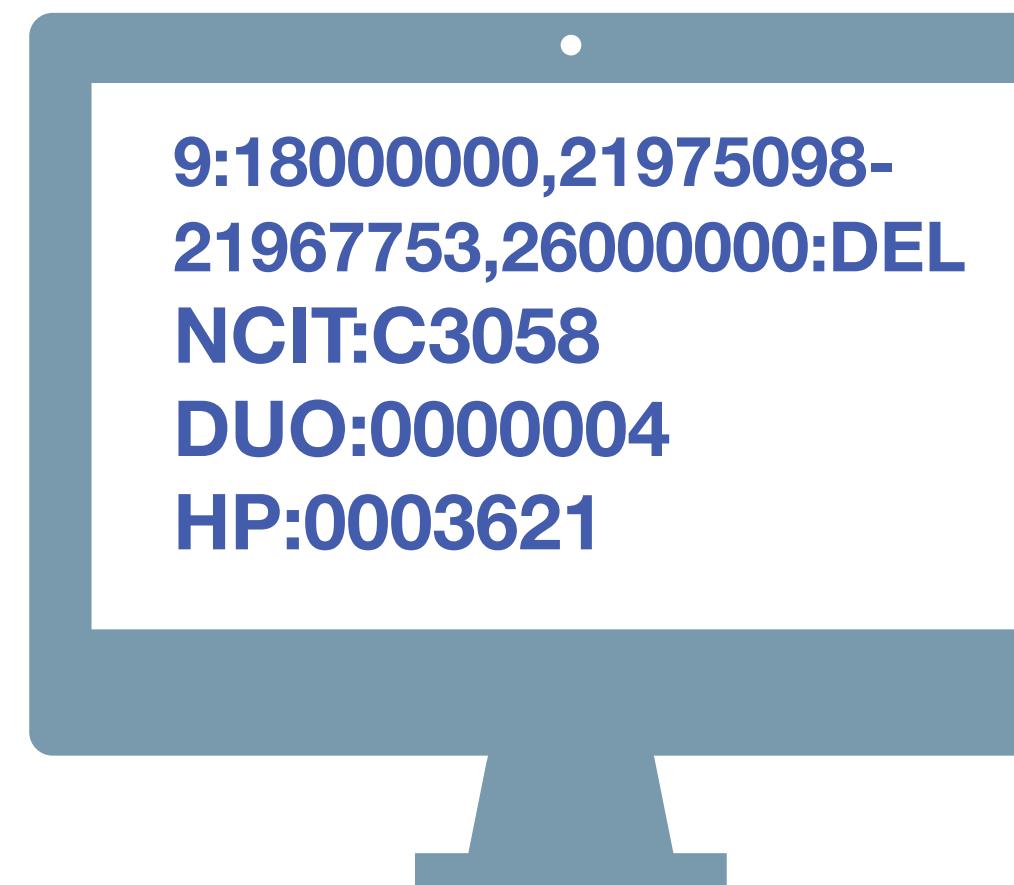
Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health

Beacon v2 - Beaconise your Data

Filters (Vatsalya Maddi)



Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health



Have you seen deletions in this region on chromosome 9 in Glioblastomas from a juvenile patient, in a dataset with unrestricted access?



Beacon v2 API

The Beacon API v2 proposal opens the way for the design of a simple but powerful "genomics API".

Progenetix Documentation

[Documentation Home](#)[Progenetix Source Code](#)[bycon](#)[progenetix-web](#)[PGX](#)[Additional Projects](#)[News & Changes](#)[Pages & Forms](#)[Services & API](#)[Use Case Examples](#)[Classifications, Ontologies & Standards](#)[Publication Collection](#)[Data Review](#)[Beacon+ & bycon](#)[Technical Notes](#)[Progenetix Data](#)[Baudisgroup @ UZH](#)

Rapidly evolving documentation of both the Beacon API itself and its use and technical implementation on [docs.genomebeacons.org](#) [docs.progenetix.org](#)

- for testing API responses

[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/G_VARIANTS](#)

- [/biosamples/pgxbs-kftva5c9/g_variants/](#)
- retrieval of all variants from a single biosample

[Base /individuals](#)[/INDIVIDUALS + QUERY](#)

- [/individuals?filters=NCIT:C7541](#)

Progenetix Source Code 

With exception of some utility scripts and external dependencies (e.g. [MongoDB](#)) the software (from database interaction to website) behind Progenetix and Beacon+ is implemented in Python.

bycon

- Python based service based on the [GA4GH Beacon protocol](#)
- software powering the Progenetix resource
- [Beacon+](#) implementation(s) use the same code base

progenetix-web

- website for Progenetix and its [Beacon+](#) implementations
- provides Beacon interfaces for the [bycon](#) server, as well as other Progenetix services (e.g. the [publications](#) service)
- implemented as [React / Next.js](#) project
- contains this documentation tree here as [mkdocs](#) project, with files in the [docs](#) directory

Org.progenetix

Search

beacon-v2
☆2 8**Base /biosamples**[/BIOSAMPLES + QUERY](#)

- [/biosamples?filters=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004](#)

• this example retrieves all biosamples having an annotation for the Cellosaurus CVCL_0004 identifier (K562)

[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true](#)[/BIOSAMPLES/{ID}/TEST_MODE=false?testMode=true&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004&size=10&random=true&mode=true&filter=cellosaurus:CVCL_0004](#)

Beacon API

Beacon-style JSON responses

The Progenetix resource's API utilizes the [bycon](#) framework for data query and delivery and represents a custom implementation of the Beacon v2 API.

The standard format for JSON responses corresponds to a generic Beacon v2 response, with the [meta](#) and [response](#) root elements. Depending on the endpoint, the main data will be a list of objects either inside [response.results](#) or (mostly) in [response.resultSets.results](#). Additionally, most API responses (e.g. for biosamples or variants) provide access to data using [handover](#) objects.

Beacon v2 Documentation

Search

beacon-v2
☆2 8

Org.progenetix

Progenetix & Beacon⁺

The Beacon+ implementation - developed in the Python & MongoDB based [bycon project](#) - implements an expanding set of Beacon v2 paths for the [Progenetix](#) resource [+](#).

Scoped responses from query object

In queries with a complete [beaconRequestBody](#) the type of the delivered data is independent of the path and determined in the [requestedSchemas](#). So far, Beacon+ will compare the first of those to its supported responses and provide the results accordingly; it doesn't matter if the endpoint was [/beacon/biosamples/](#) or [/beacon/variants/](#) etc.

Below is an example for the standard test "small deletion CNVs in the CDKN2A locus, in gliomas" Progenetix test query, here responding with the matched variants. Exchanging the [entityType](#) entry to

- { "entityType": "biosample", "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/Biosample/" }

would change this to a biosample response. The example can be tested by POSTing this as [application/json](#) to <http://progenetix.org/beacon/variants/> or <http://progenetix.org/beacon/biosamples/>.

```
{
  "$schema": "beaconRequestBody.json",
  "meta": {
    "apiVersion": "2.0",
    "requestedSchemas": [
      {
        "entityType": "genomicVariant",
        "schema": "https://progenetix.org/services/schemas/genomicVariant"
      }
    ],
    "query": {
      "requestParameters": {
        "filters": "NCIT:C7541"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Shoutout to Laure(e)n Fromont & Manuel Rueda for being instrumental in the Beacon v2 documentation!

Future?

Some proposals for a stepwise Beacon protocol extension

- Query language expansion, e.g. Boolean options for chaining filters
 - use of heterogeneous/alternative annotations within and across resources
- **Phenopackets** support as a (the?) default format for biodata export
- **Phenopackets** as **request** documents
- Focus on service & **resource discovery**
- **ELIXIR Beacon Network**, including translations for federated queries to Beacon and Beacon-like resources