

# Variant Calling

Michael Schatz

Feb 12, 2020

Lecture 6: Applied Comparative Genomics



# Assignment 2: Genome Assembly

Due Wednesday Feb 12 @ 11:59pm

- 1. Setup Docker/Ubuntu**
- 2. Initialize Tools**
- 3. Download Reference Genome & Reads**
- 4. Decode the secret message**
  1. Estimate coverage, check read quality
  2. Check kmer distribution
  3. Assemble the reads with spades
  4. Align to reference with MUMmer
  5. Extract foreign sequence
  6. `dna-encode.pl -d`

<https://github.com/schatzlab/appliedgenomics2020/blob/master/assignments/assignment2/README.md>



# Genomic Coordinates

What are coordinates of “TAC”  
in GATTACA?

## ***1-based coordinates***

- Base 4 through 6: [4,6] “closed”
- Base 4 through 7: [4,7) “half-open”
- 3 bases starting at base 4: [4, +3]

GATTACA  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

## ***0-based coordinates***

- Position 3 through 5: [3,5] “closed”
- Position 3 through 6: [3,6) “half-open”
- 3 bases starting at position 3: [3, +3]

GATTACA  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

# Genomic Conventions

## ***1-based coordinates***

- BLAST/MUMmer alignments
- Ensembl Genome Browser
- SAM, VCF, GFF and Wiggle

GAT**T**ACA  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

## ***0-based coordinates***

- BAM, BCFv2, BED, and PSL
- UCSC Genome Browser
- C/C++, Perl, Python, Java

GAT**T**ACA  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Always double check the manual!  
You will get this wrong someday ☹️

# Assignment 3: Due Monday Feb 25

## Assignment 3: Coverage, Genome Assembly, and Variant Calling

Assignment Date: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020

Due Date: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020 @ 11:59pm

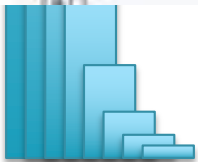
### Question 1. Coverage simulator [10 pts]

- Q1a. How many 100bp reads are needed to sequence a 1Mbp genome to 5x coverage?
- Q1b. In the language of your choice, simulate sequencing 5x coverage of a 1Mbp genome and plot the histogram of coverage. Note you do not need to actually output the sequences of the reads, you can just randomly sample positions in the genome and record the coverage. You do not need to consider the strand of each read. The start position of each read should have a uniform random probability at each possible starting position (1 through 999,900). You can record the coverage in an array of 1M positions. Overlay the histogram with a Poisson distribution with  $\lambda=5$
- Q1c. Using the histogram from 1b, how much of the genome has not been sequenced (has 0x coverage). How well does this match Poisson expectations?
- Q1d. Now repeat the analysis with 15x coverage: 1. simulate the appropriate number of reads, 2. make a histogram, 3. overlay a Poisson distribution with  $\lambda=15$ , 4. compute the number of bases with 0x coverage, and 5. evaluate how well it matches the Poisson expectation.

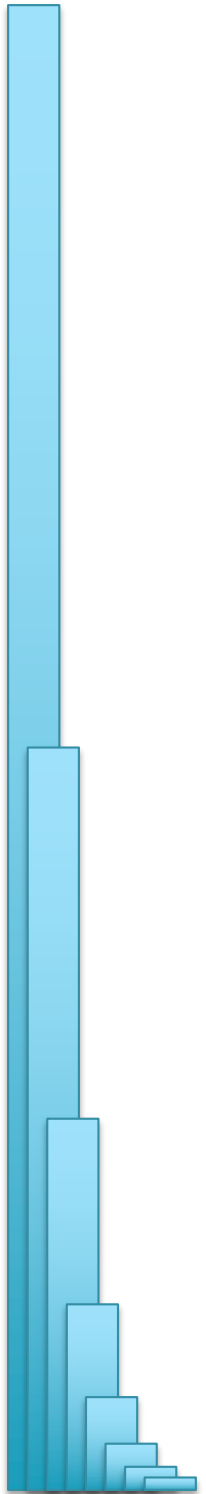
### Question 2. de Bruijn Graph construction [10 pts]

- Q2a. Draw (by hand or by code) the de Bruijn graph for the following reads using  $k=3$  (assume all reads are from the forward strand, no sequencing errors, complete coverage of the genome)

ATTG  
ATTG  
CATT  
CTTA  
GATT  
TATT



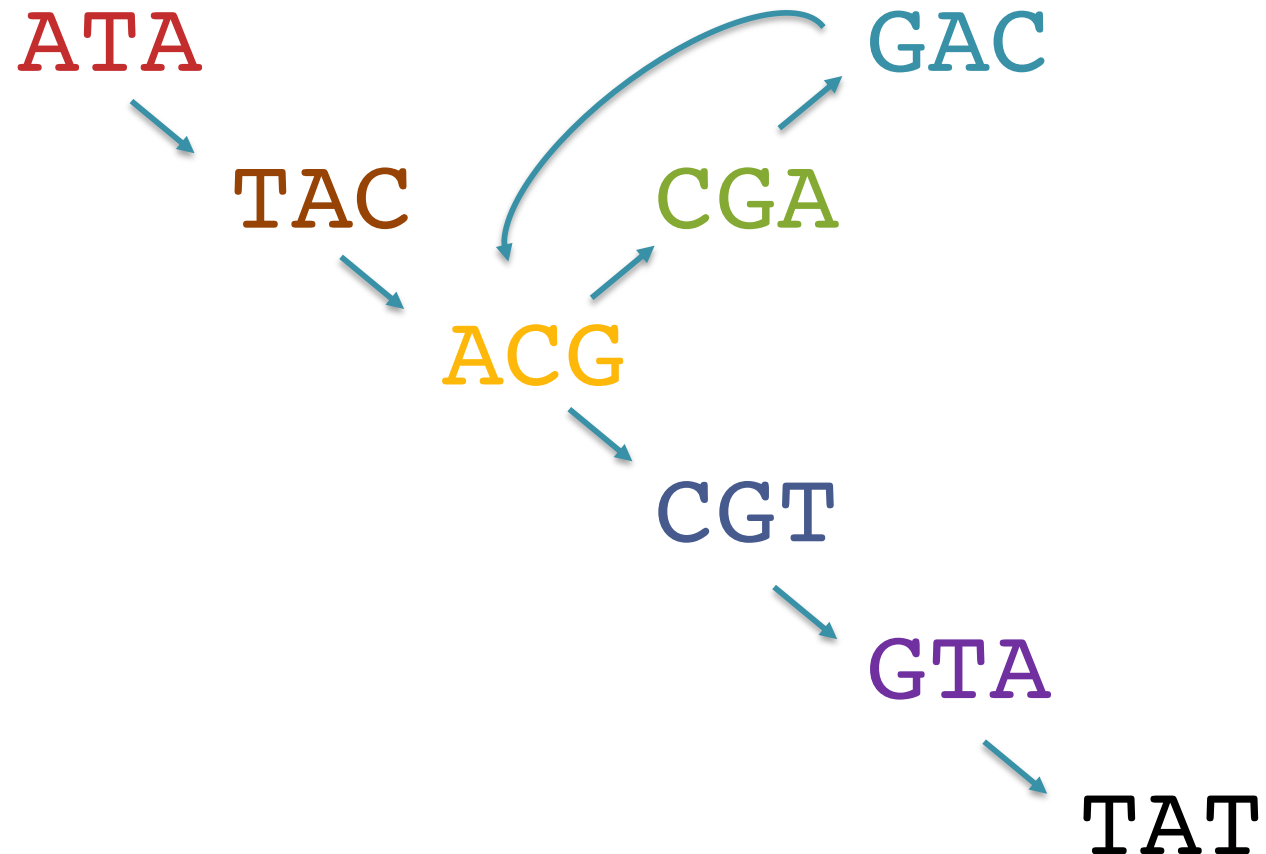
# Part I: Recap



# Pop Quiz 2

Assemble these reads using a de Bruijn graph approach (k=3):

~~ACGA~~  
~~ACGT~~  
~~ATAC~~  
~~CGAC~~  
~~CGTA~~  
~~GACG~~  
~~GTAT~~  
~~TACG~~



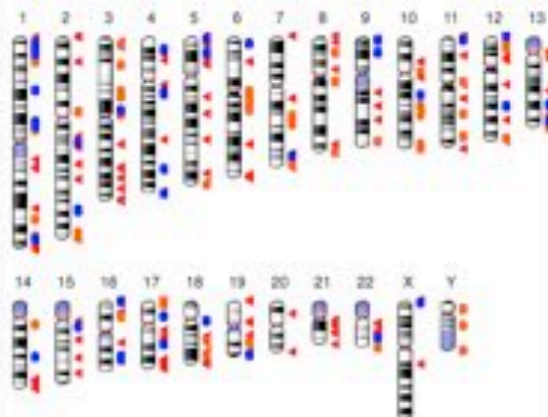
Note: there is no edge from ATA to TAT

ATACGACGTAT



## Human Genome Overview

Information about the continuing improvement of the human genome



- ◀ Region containing alternate loci
- ◀ Region containing fix patches
- ◀ Region containing novel patches

Ideogram of the latest human assembly, GRCh38.p11

The GRC is working hard to provide the best possible representation of the human genome by both generating multiple representations (alternates) and by representing a single path. Additionally, we are releasing genomic regions under review that allows users who are interested in a specific locus to access the latest data while not affecting users who need chromosome coordinate stability.

### Download data:

- [GRCh38.p11 \(latest minor release\) FTP](#)
- [GRCh38 \(latest major release\) FTP](#)
- [Genomic regions under review FTP](#)
- [Current Tiling Path Files \(TPFs\)](#)

Transitioning to GRCh38? Try the NCBI Remapping tool for assembly alignments used by the GRC.

### Next assembly update

The next assembly update (GRCh38.p12) will be released in the near future.

[GRCh38.p11](#)

[GRCh37.p13](#)

[GRCh37](#)

## GRCh38.p11

Release date: June 14, 2017

Release type: minor

Release notes: GRCh38.p11 is the eleventh patch release for the GRCh38 reference assembly. No chromosome coordinate change is now: 64 FIX and 59 NOVEL.

Assembly accessions: GenBank: [GCA\\_000001405.26](#), RefSeq: [GCF\\_000001405.37](#)

Pseudoautosomal regions

Name	Chr	Start	Stop
PAR#1	X	10,001	2,781,479
PAR#2	X	155,701,383	156,030,695
PAR#1	Y	10,001	2,781,479
PAR#2	Y	56,887,903	57,217,415





# Genomics Arsenal in the Year 2020

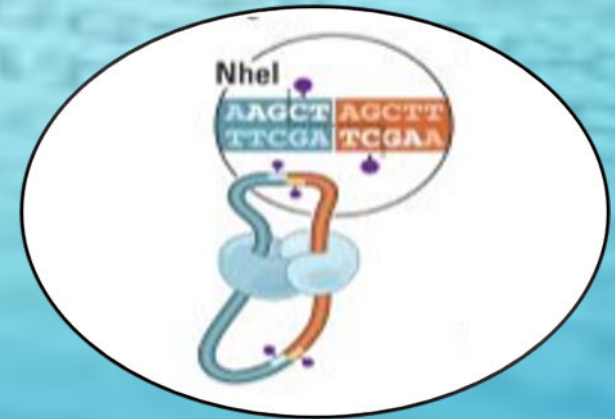
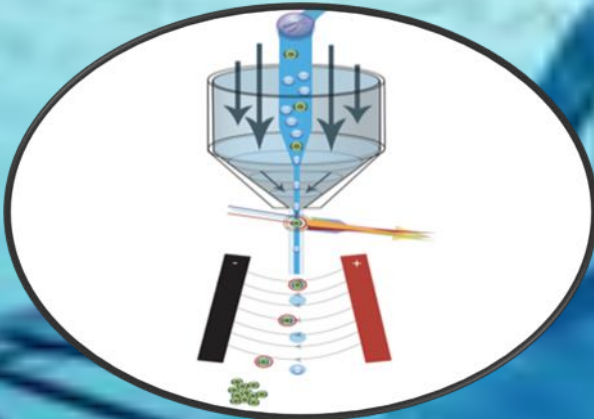
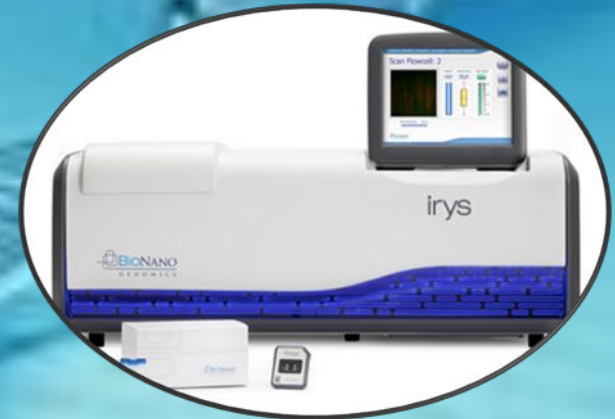
## Sample Preparation



## Sequencing

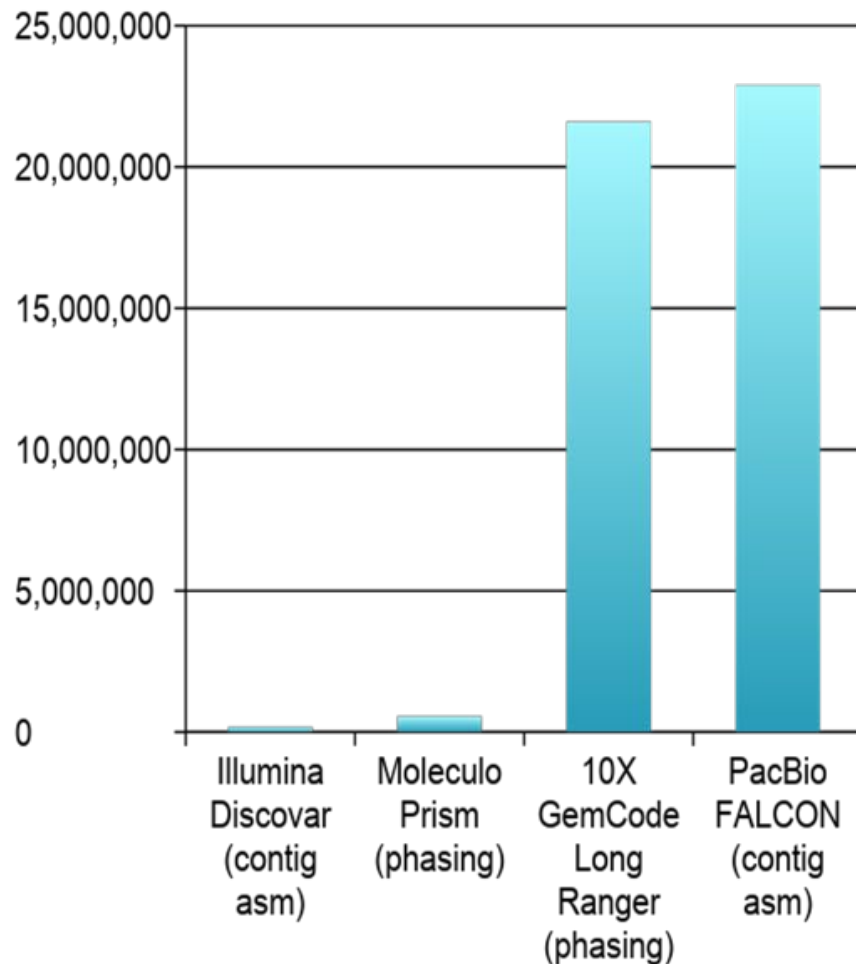


## Chromosome Mapping



# Recent Long Read Assemblies

## Human Analysis N50 Sizes

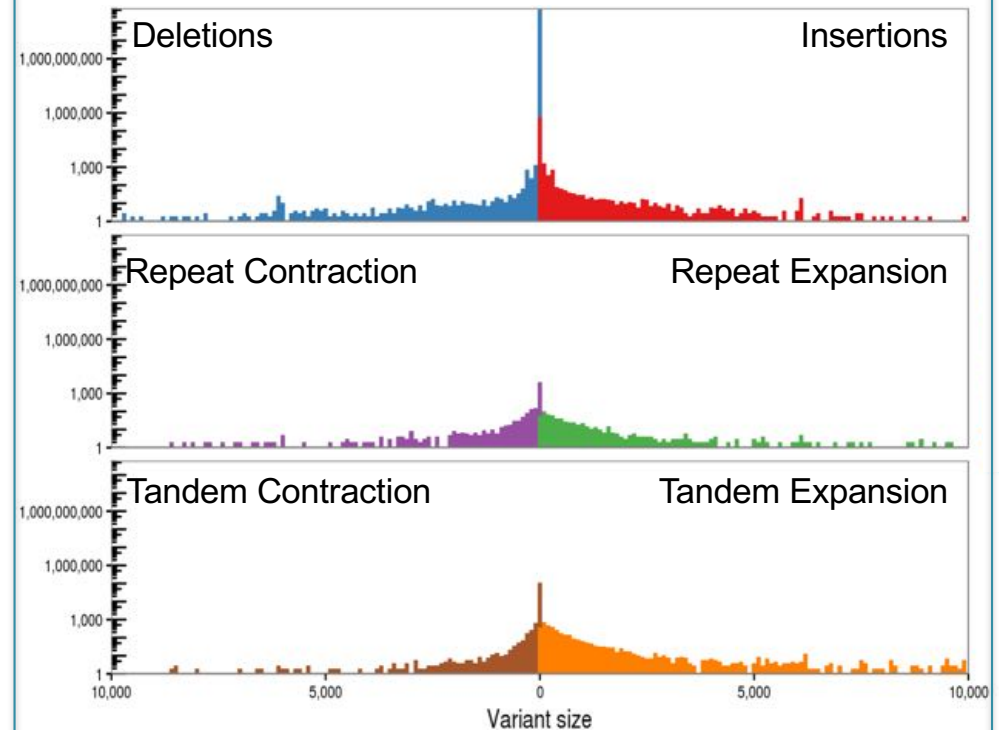


**Third-generation sequencing and the future of genomics**

Lee et al (2016) *bioRxiv*

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/048603>

## Structural Variants in CHM1

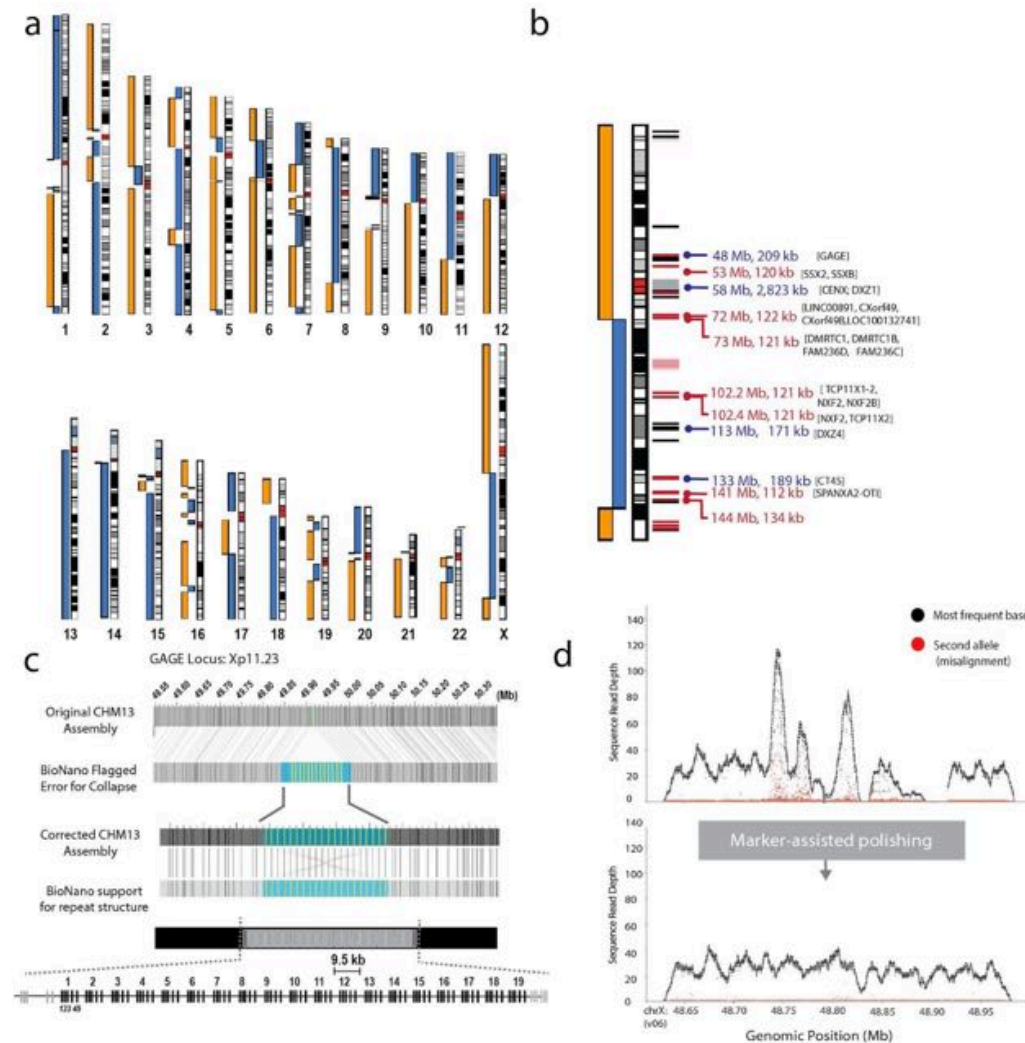


**Assemblytics: a web analytics tool for the detection of variants from an assembly**

Nattestad & Schatz (2016) *Bioinformatics*.

doi: [10.1093/bioinformatics/btw369](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btw369)

# First Telomere-to-Telomere Human Chromosome



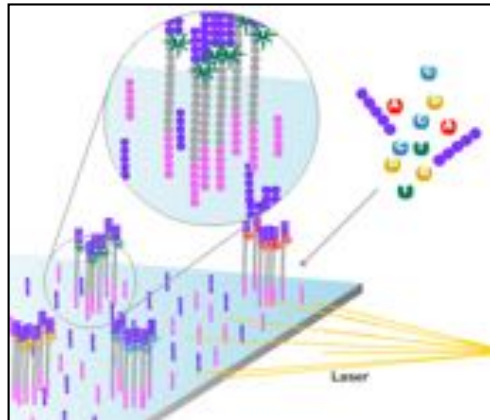
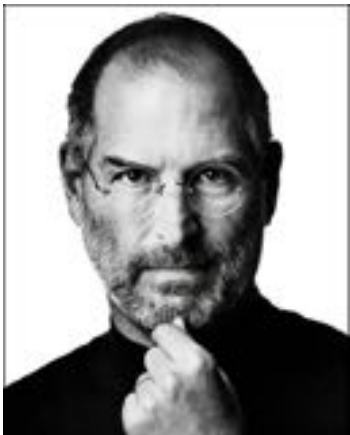
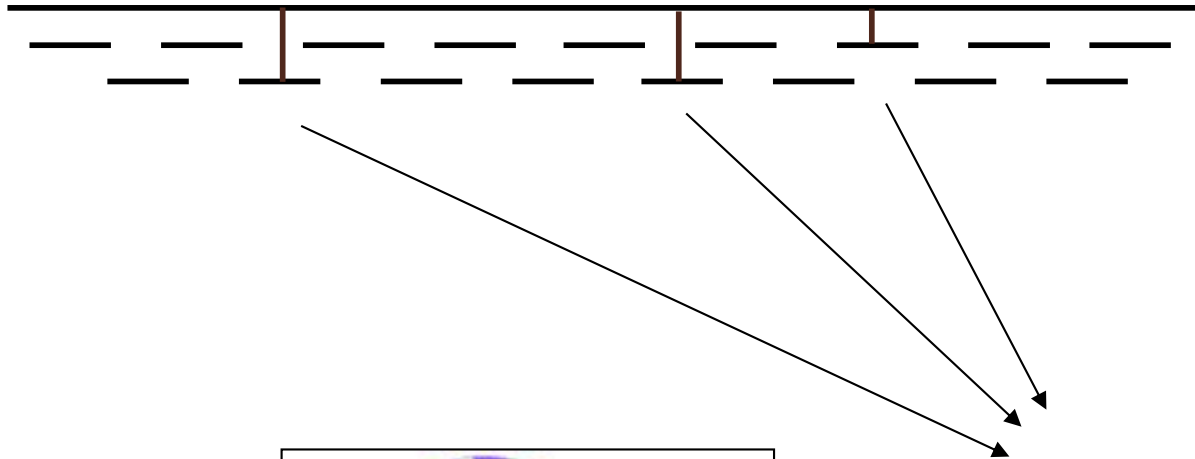
**Telomere-to-telomere assembly of a complete human X chromosome**  
Miga et al. (2019) bioRxiv. <https://doi.org/10.1101/735928>



## Part 2. Variant Calling

# Personal Genomics

How does your genome compare to the reference?



Heart Disease

Cancer

Creates magical  
technology



# Personal Genomics

How does your genome compare to the reference?

Argh! Autocorrect!

NOW ☐ NOT

I'm now gonna give you a million dollars!

Sorry! I'm NOT gonna give you a million dollars!

### SNP Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

A	T
G	C
A	T
C	G
T	A
G	C

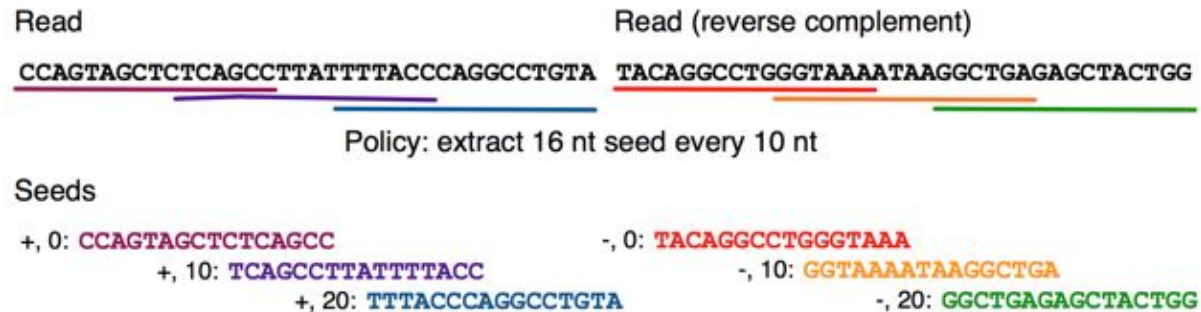
A	T
T	A
A	T
C	G
T	A
G	C

Sometimes even one letter can completely change the meaning.  
Same for DNA. And both versions will have different results.

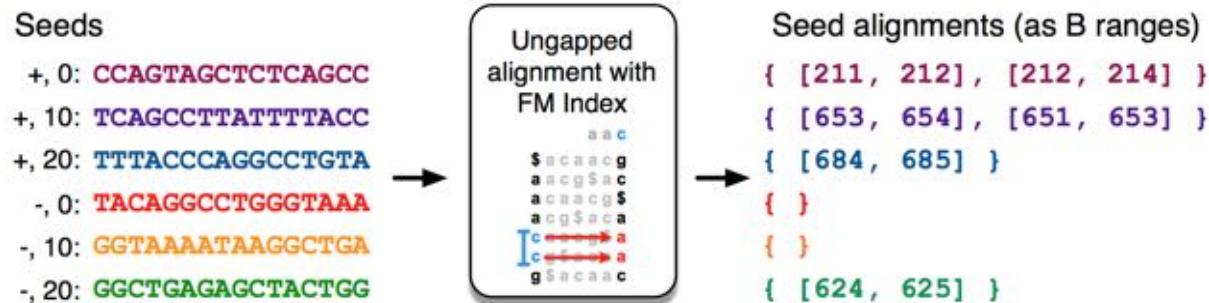


# Algorithm Overview

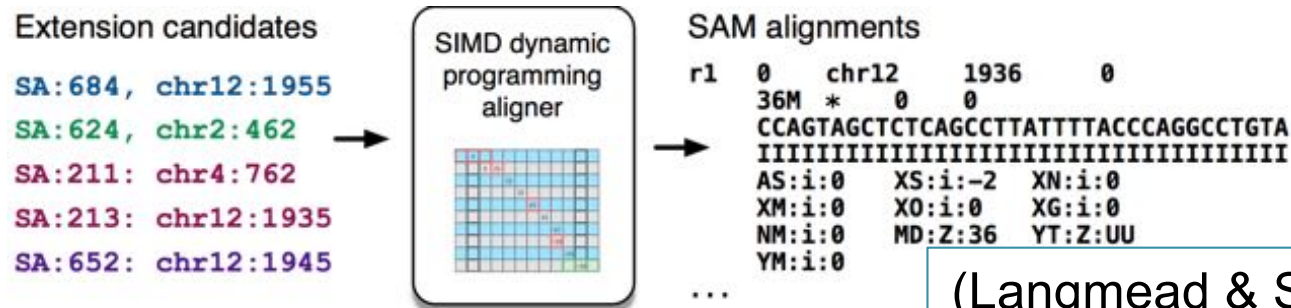
## 1. Split read into segments



## 2. Lookup each segment and prioritize

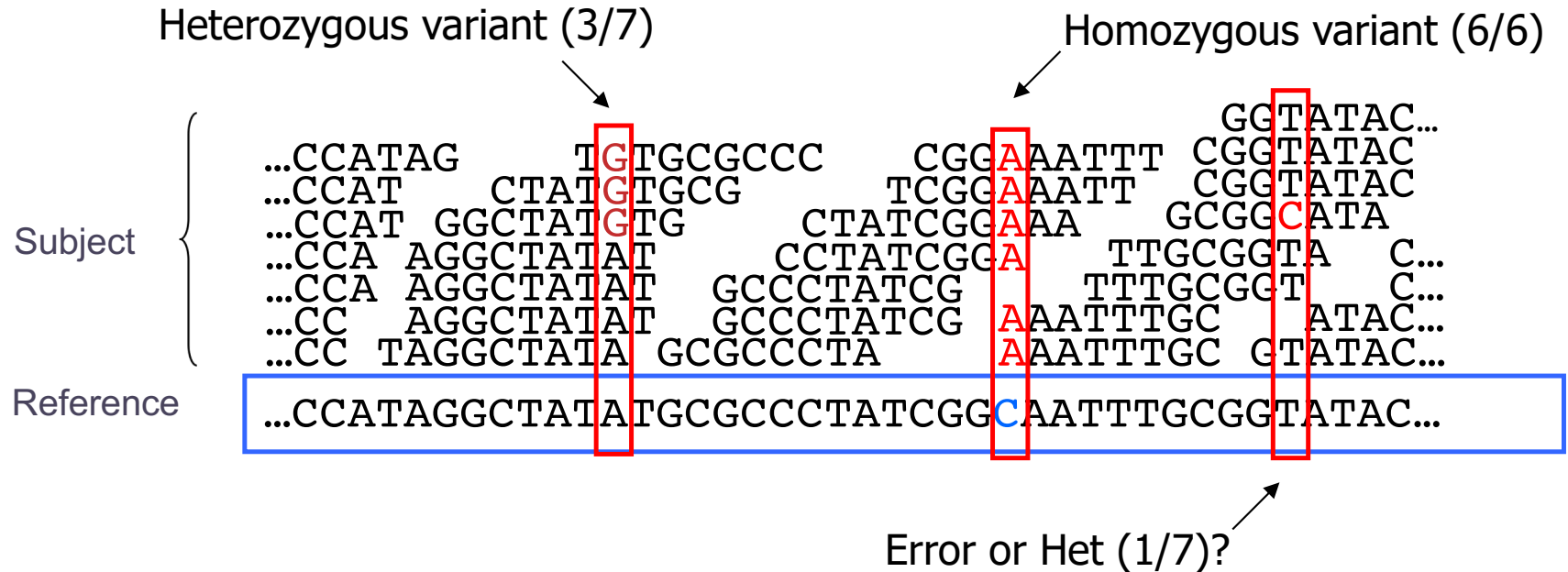


### 3. Evaluate end-to-end match

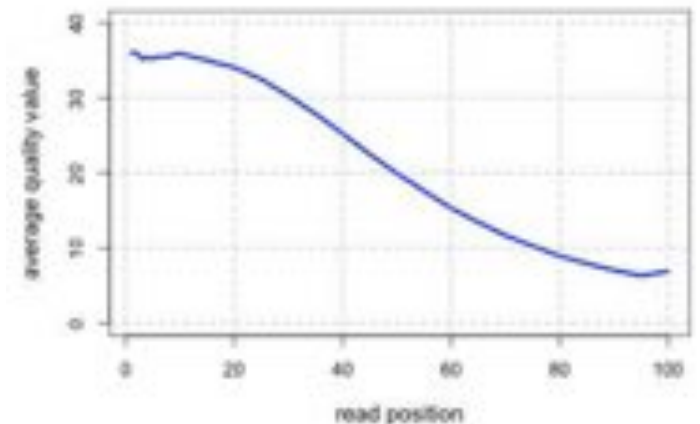


(Langmead & Salzberg, 2012)

# Genotyping Theory



- If there were no sequencing errors, identifying SNPs would be very easy: any time a read disagrees with the reference, it must be a variant!
- Sequencing instruments make mistakes
  - Quality of read decreases over the read length
- A single read differing from the reference is probably just an error, but it becomes more likely to be real as we see it multiple times



# The Binomial Distribution: Adventures in Coin Flipping

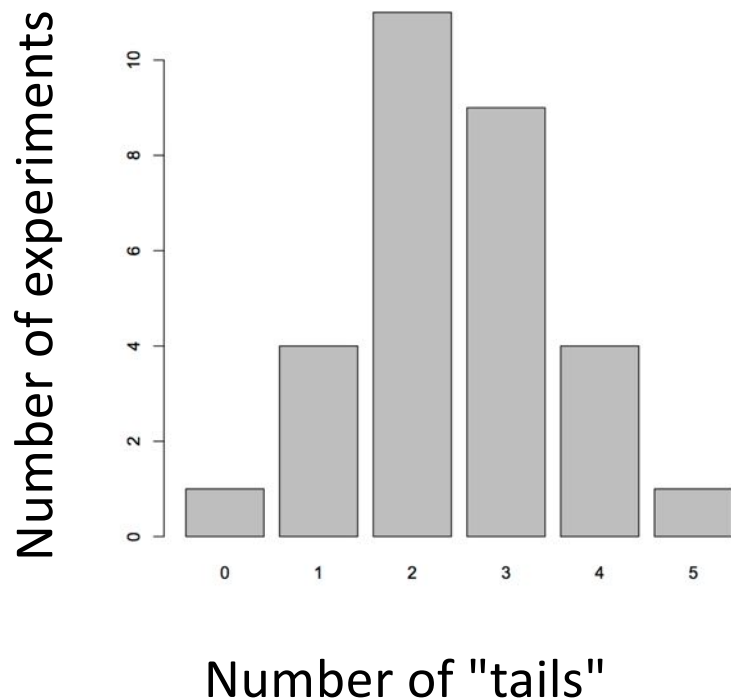


$P(\text{heads}) = 0.5$



$P(\text{tails}) = 0.5$

What is the distribution of tails  
(alternate alleles) do we expect to see  
after 5 tosses (sequence reads)?



R code:

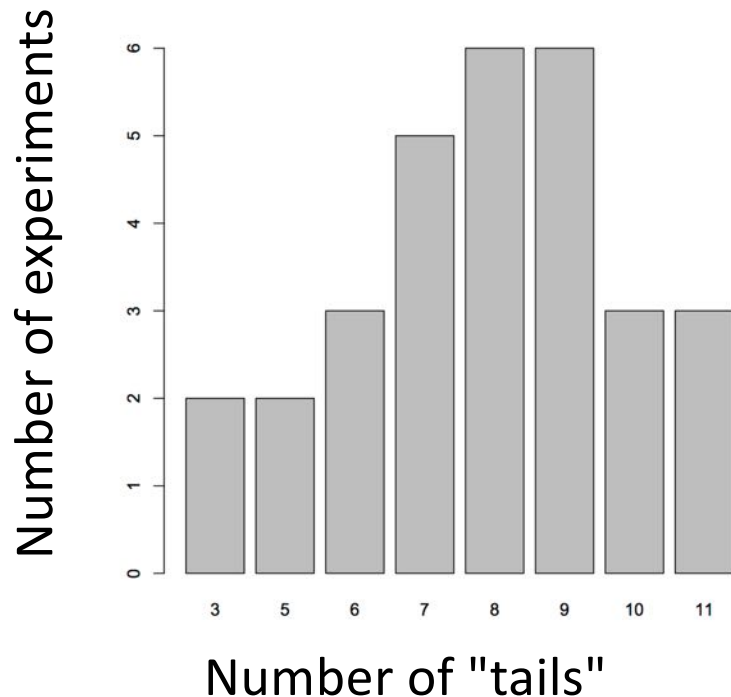
```
barplot(table(rbinom(30, 5, 0.5)))
```

30 experiments (students tossing coins)

5 tosses each

Probability of Tails

What is the distribution of tails  
(alternate alleles) do we expect to see  
after **15** tosses (sequence reads)?



R code:

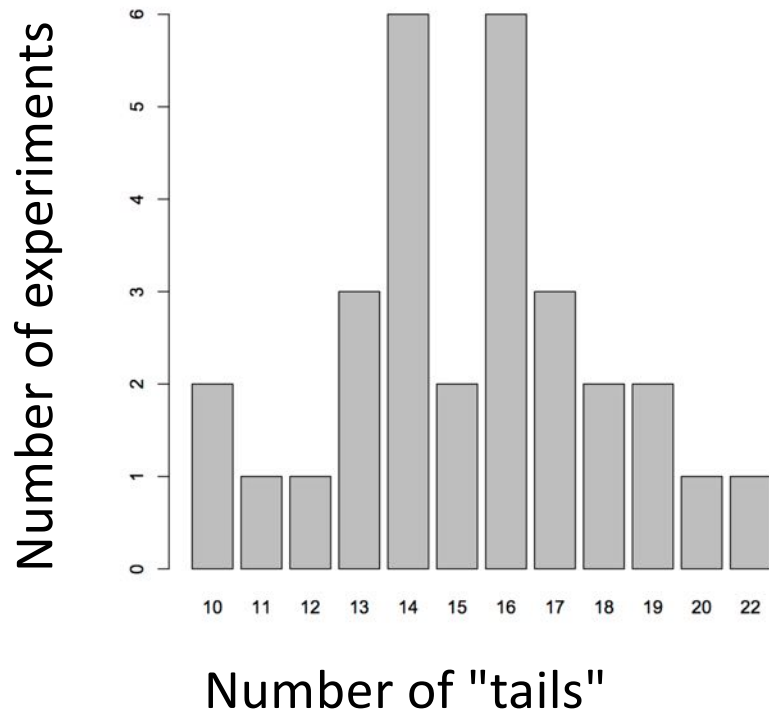
```
barplot(table(rbinom(30, 15, 0.5)))
```

30 experiments (students tossing coins)

15 tosses each

Probability of Tails

What is the distribution of tails  
(alternate alleles) do we expect to see  
after 30 tosses (sequence reads)?



R code:

```
barplot(table(rbinom(30, 30, 0.5)))
```

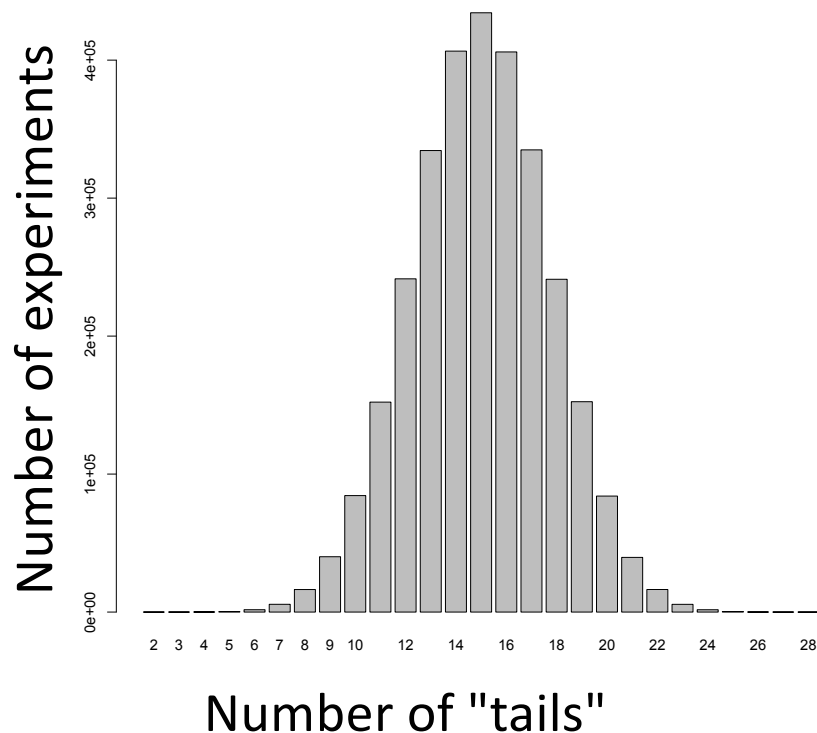
30 experiments (students tossing coins)

30 tosses each

Probability of Tails



What is the distribution of tails  
(alternate alleles) do we expect to see  
after 30 tosses (sequence reads)?



R code:

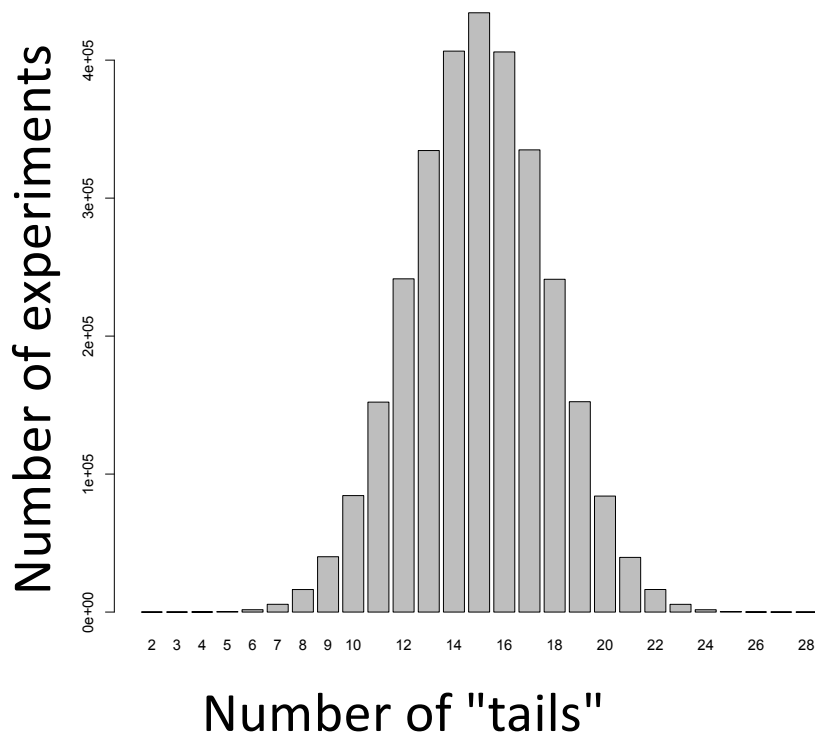
```
barplot(table(rbinom(3e6, 30, 0.5)))
```

3M experiments (students tossing coins)

30 tosses each

Probability of Tails

So, with 30 tosses (reads), we are much more likely to see an even mix of alternate and reference alleles at a heterozygous locus in a genome



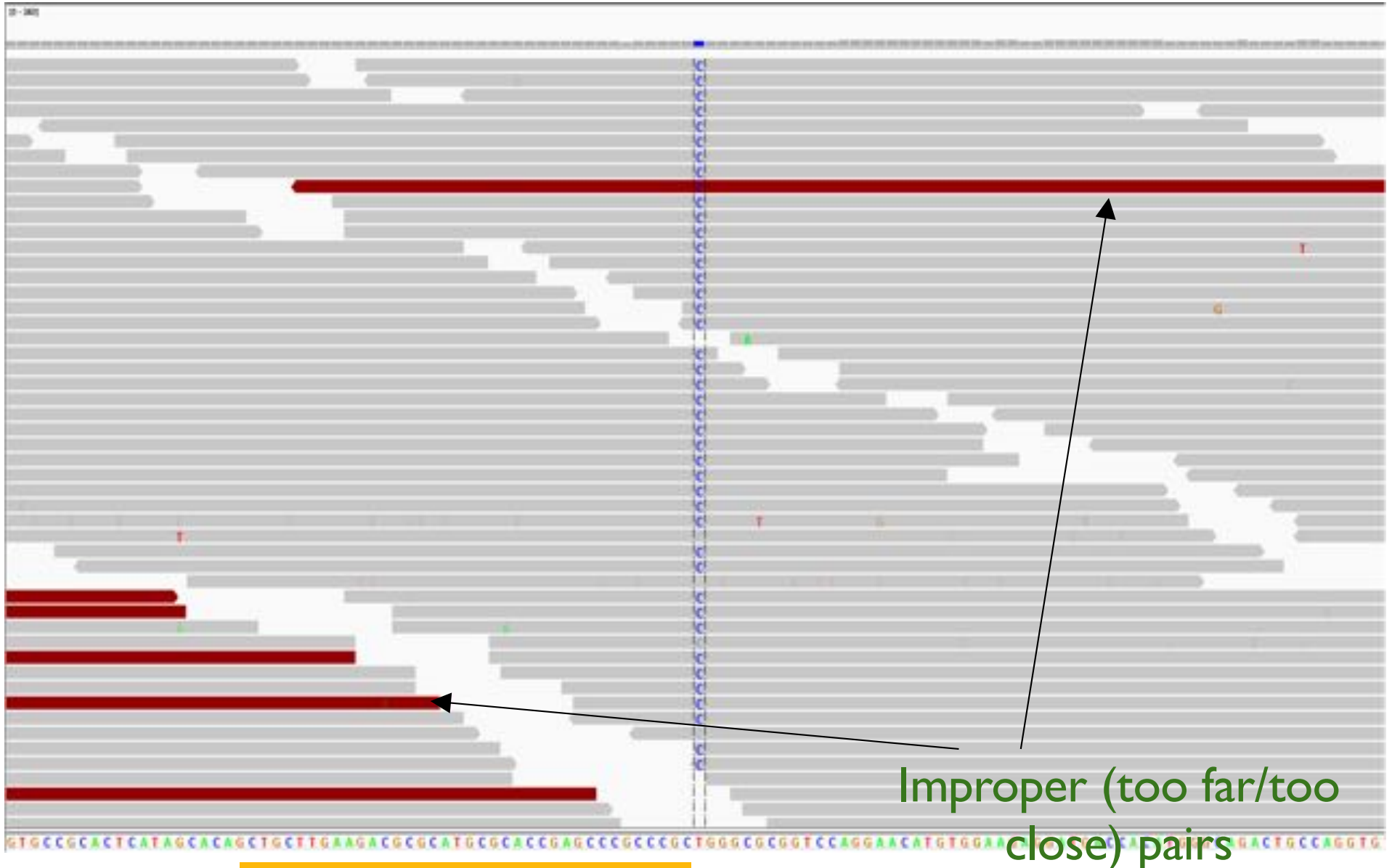
This is why at least a "30X" (30 fold sequence coverage) genome is recommended: it confers sufficient power to distinguish heterozygous alleles and from mere sequencing errors

$$P(3/30 \text{ het}) <?> P(3/30 \text{ err})$$

# Some real examples of SNPs in IGV

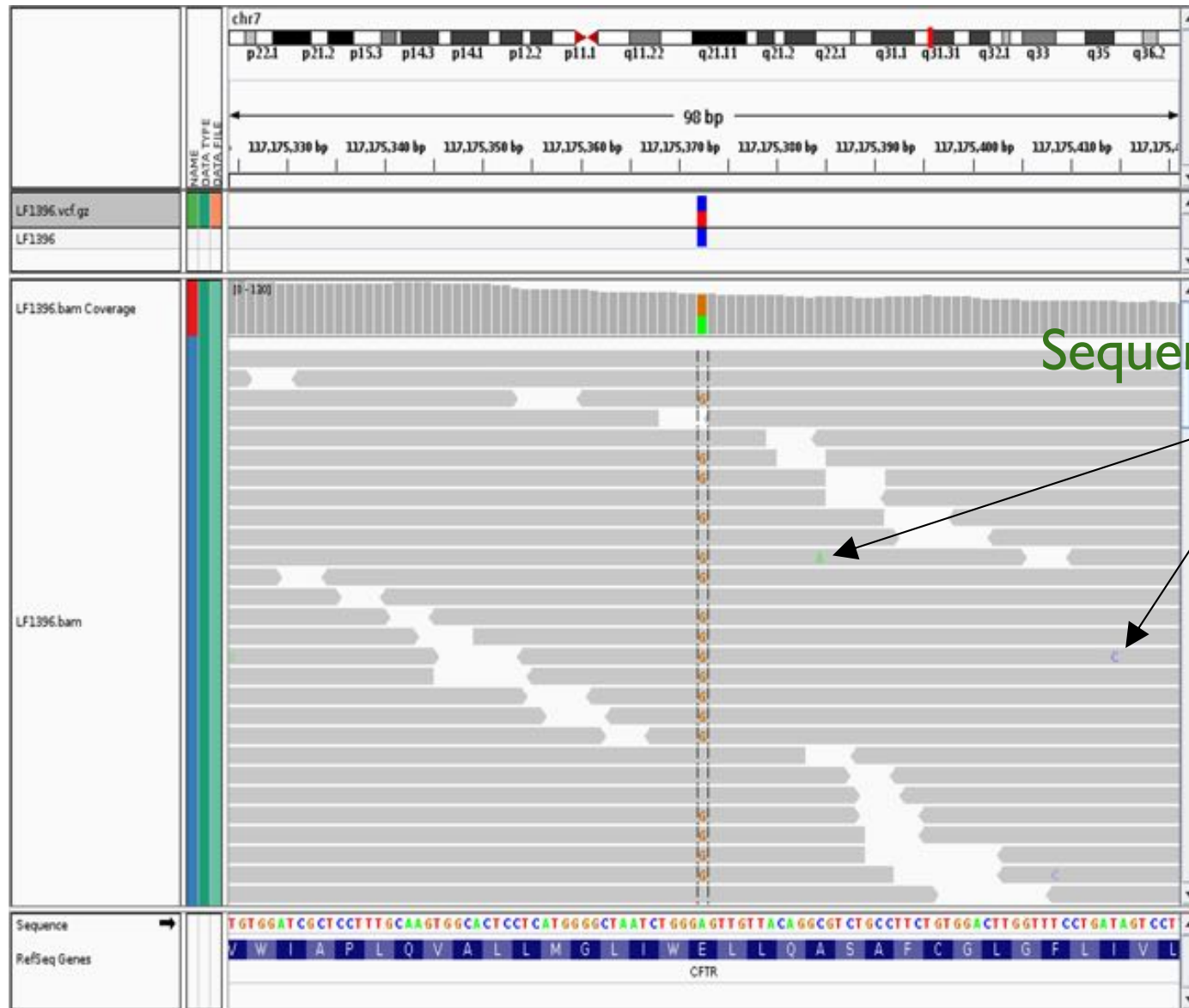


# Homozygous for the "C" allele



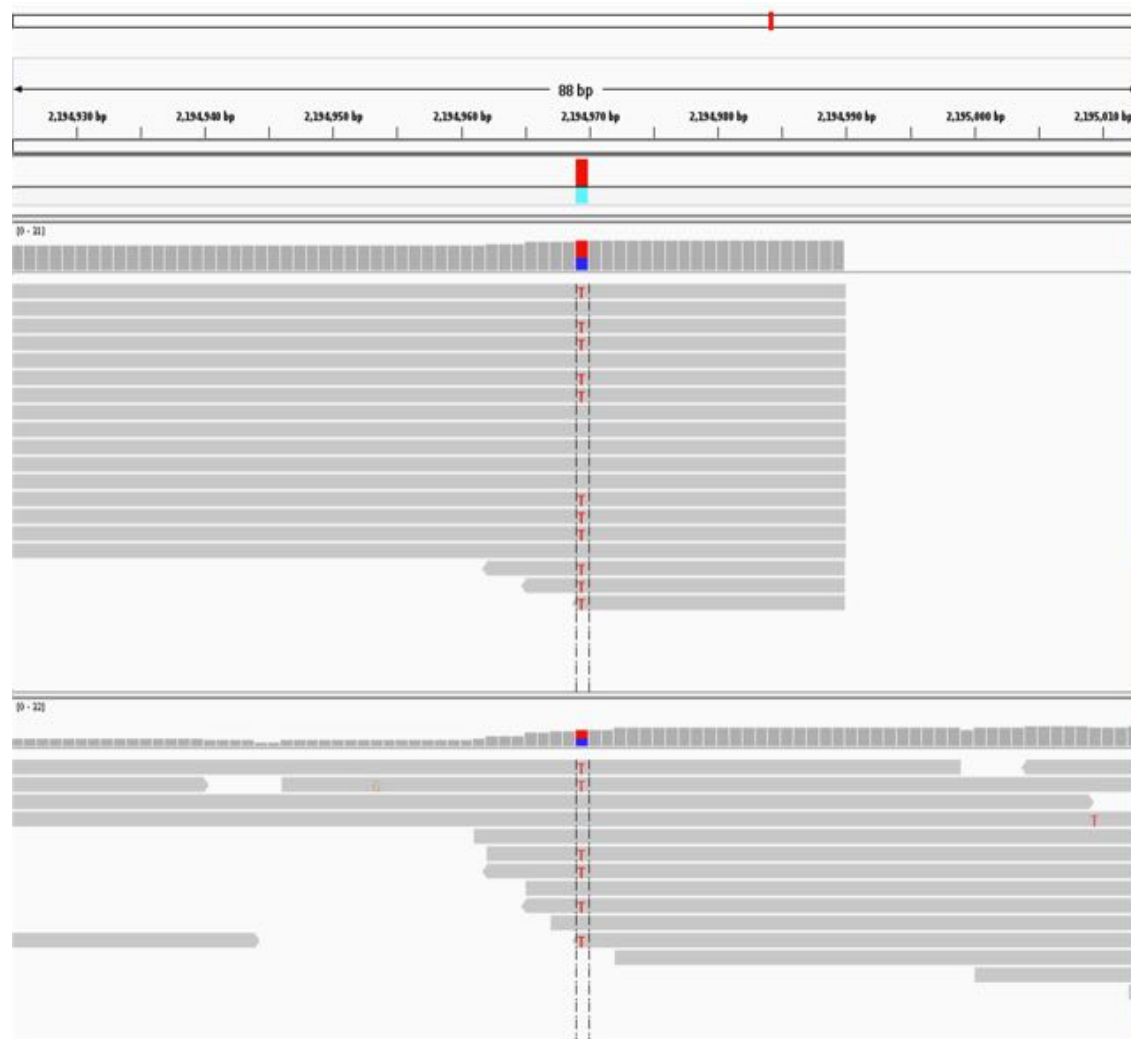
What else do you notice?

# Sequencing errors fall out as noise (most of the time)



# Heterozygous for the alternate allele

Individual  
1

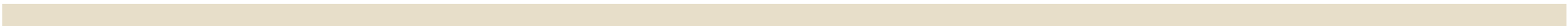


Individual  
2

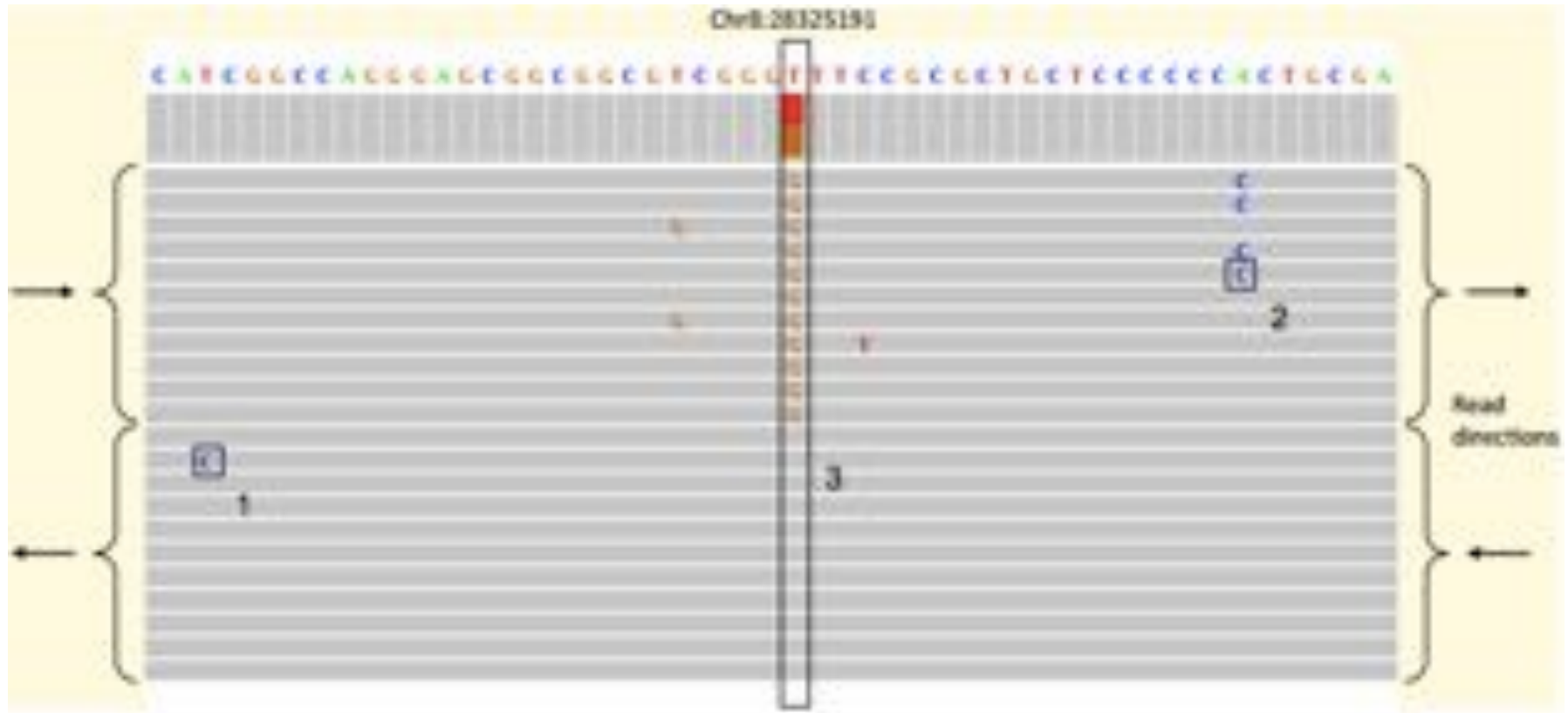
Which genotype prediction do you have more confidence in?



It is not always so easy 😞



# Beware of Systematic Errors



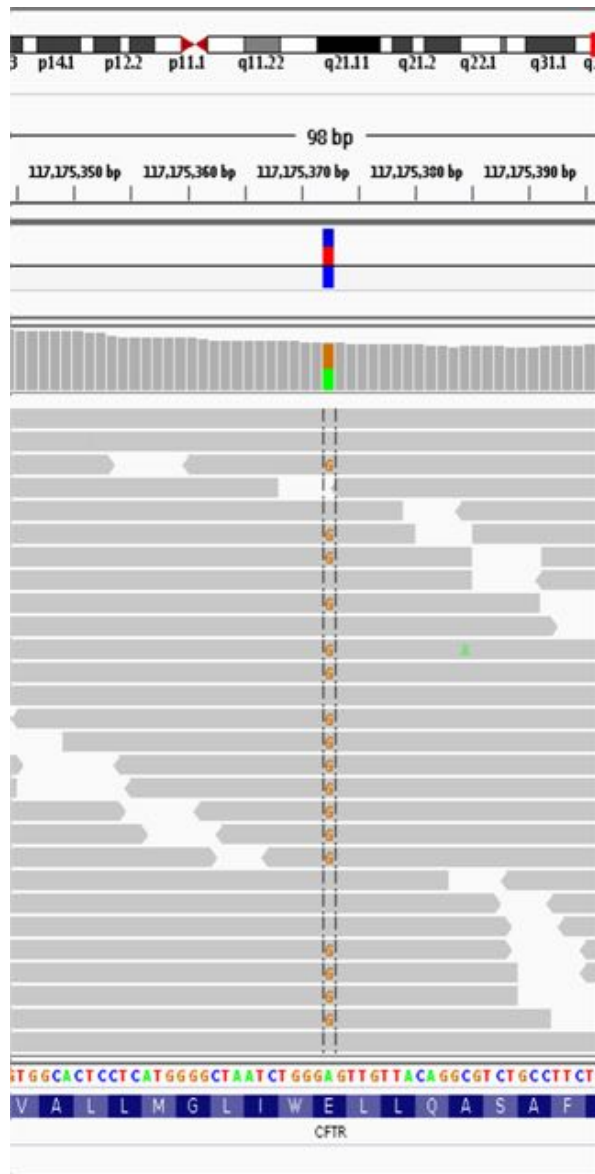
## Identification and correction of systematic error in high-throughput sequence data

Meacham et al. (2011) *BMC Bioinformatics*. 12:451

## A closer look at RNA editing.

Lior Pachter (2012) *Nature Biotechnology*. 30:246-247

# What information is needed to decide if a variant exists?



- Depth of coverage at the locus
- Bases observed at the locus
- The base qualities of each allele
- The strand composition
- Mapping qualities
- Proper pairs?
- Expected polymorphism rate

# PolyBayes: The first statistically rigorous variant detection tool.

letter

© 1999 Nature America Inc. • <http://genetics.nature.com>

## A general approach to single-nucleotide polymorphism discovery

Gabor T. Marth<sup>1</sup>, Ian Korf<sup>1</sup>, Mark D. Yandell<sup>1</sup>, Raymond T. Yeh<sup>1</sup>, Zhijie Gu<sup>2</sup>, Hamideh Zakeri<sup>2</sup>, Nathan O. Stitzel<sup>1</sup>, LaDeana Hillier<sup>1</sup>, Pui-Yan Kwok<sup>2</sup> & Warren R. Gish<sup>1</sup>

Its main innovation was the use of Bayes's theorem

Netscape: PolyBayes Web site


File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Stop

Bookmarks Location: <http://genome.wustl.edu/gsc/Informatics/polybayes/> What's Related

WebMail Radio People Yellow Pages Download Calendar Channels

Site map

 **PolyBayes**

[Home](#) [About](#) [Software](#) [Availability](#) [Publication](#) [SNP mining](#)  
[Authors](#) [Slide show](#) [Documentation](#) [Demo](#) [Links](#) [Contact](#)

14	-	30
15	-	30
16	-	30
17	-	30
18	-	30
19	A	40
20	G	38

**Results**

Description	Symbol	Value
Probability of SNP	P(SNP)	0.853076589574195
Most likely variation	VAR	A/G
Probability of variation	P(VAR)	0.853003076184499
Alignment depth	D	2

Comments to: Gabor Marth, [gmart@wustl.wustl.edu](mailto:gmart@wustl.wustl.edu), Washington University Genome Sequencing Center  
Last modified: Mon Feb 12 17:06:10 2001

100%

# Bayes' theorem

$$\Pr(\text{spam}|\text{words}) = \frac{\Pr(\text{words}|\text{spam}) \Pr(\text{spam})}{\Pr(\text{words})}$$

Thomas Bayes



Portrait used of Bayes in a 1936 book,<sup>[1]</sup> but it is doubtful whether the portrait is actually of him.<sup>[2]</sup> No earlier portrait or claimed portrait survives.

**Born** c. 1701  
London, England

**Died** 7 April 1761 (aged 59)  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England

**Residence** Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England

**Nationality** English

**Known for** Bayes' theorem

Signature

*T. Bayes.*

## Statement of theorem [ edit ]

Bayes' theorem is stated mathematically as the following equation:<sup>[3]</sup>

$$P(A \mid B) = \frac{P(B \mid A) P(A)}{P(B)},$$

where *A* and *B* are events and  $P(B) \neq 0$ .

- $P(A)$  and  $P(B)$  are the probabilities of observing *A* and *B* without regard to each other.
- $P(A \mid B)$ , a *conditional probability*, is the probability of observing event *A* given that *B* is true.
- $P(B \mid A)$  is the probability of observing event *B* given that *A* is true.

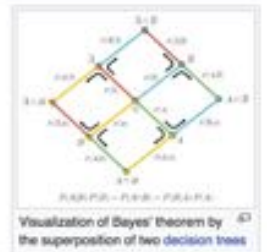
## History [ edit ]

Bayes' theorem was named after the Reverend Thomas Bayes (1701–1761), who studied how to compute a distribution for the probability parameter of a binomial distribution (in modern terminology). Bayes' unpublished manuscript was significantly edited by Richard Price before it was posthumously read at the Royal Society. Price edited<sup>[4]</sup> Bayes' major work "An Essay towards solving a Problem in the Doctrine of Chances" (1763), which appeared in "Philosophical Transactions,"<sup>[4]</sup> and contains Bayes' Theorem. Price wrote an introduction to the paper which provides some of the philosophical basis of Bayesian statistics. In 1765 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in recognition of his work on the legacy of Bayes.<sup>[5][6]</sup>


The French mathematician Pierre-Simon Laplace reproduced and extended Bayes' results in 1774, apparently quite unaware of Bayes' work.<sup>[7][8]</sup> The Bayesian interpretation of probability was developed mainly by Laplace.<sup>[9]</sup>

Stephen Stigler suggested in 1983 that Bayes' theorem was discovered by Nicholas Saunderson, a blind English mathematician, some time before Bayes.<sup>[10][11]</sup> That interpretation, however, has been disputed.<sup>[12]</sup> Martyn Hooper<sup>[13]</sup> and Sharon McGrawne<sup>[14]</sup> have argued that Richard Price's contribution was substantial:

By modern standards, we should refer to the Bayes–Price rule. Price discovered Bayes' work, recognized its importance, corrected it, contributed to the article, and found a use for it. The modern convention of employing Bayes' name alone is unfair but so entrenched that anything else makes little sense.<sup>[14]</sup>



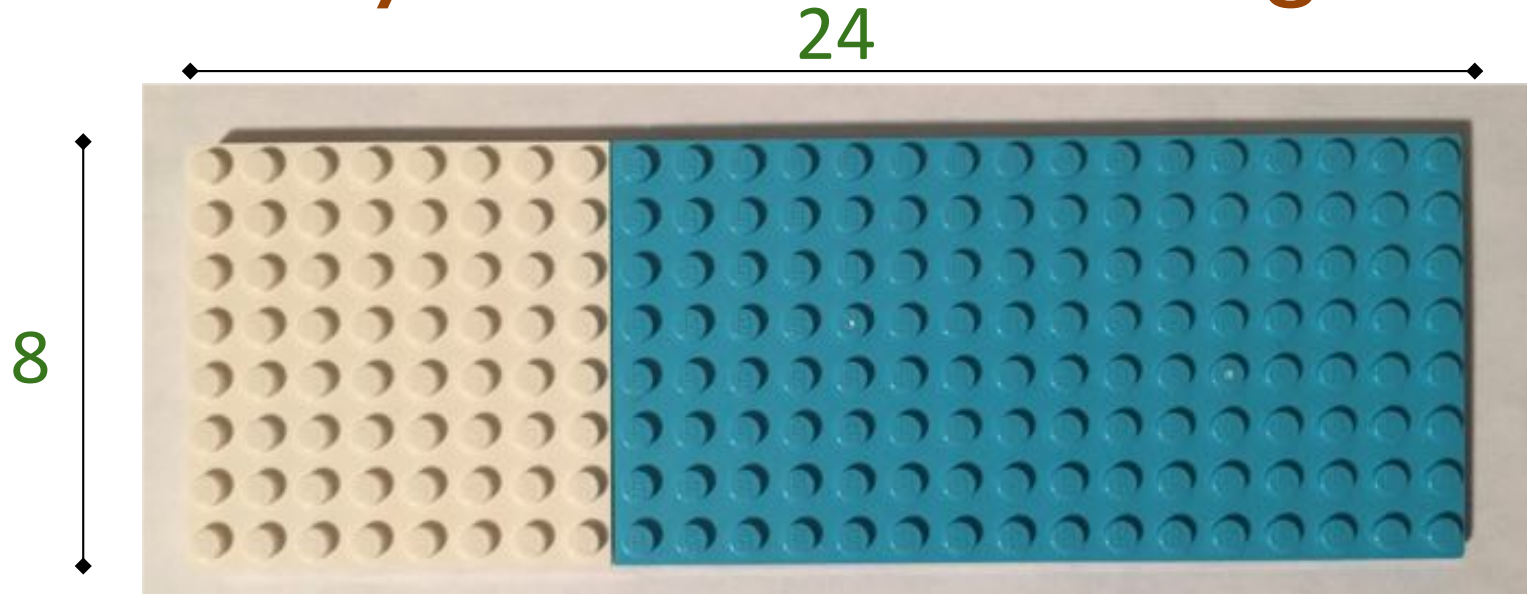
## Bayes theorem

$$P(A | B) = \frac{P(B | A) * P(A)}{P(B)}$$


Conditional probability. That is, the probability of A occurring, given that B has occurred.



# Bayes' theorem with legos

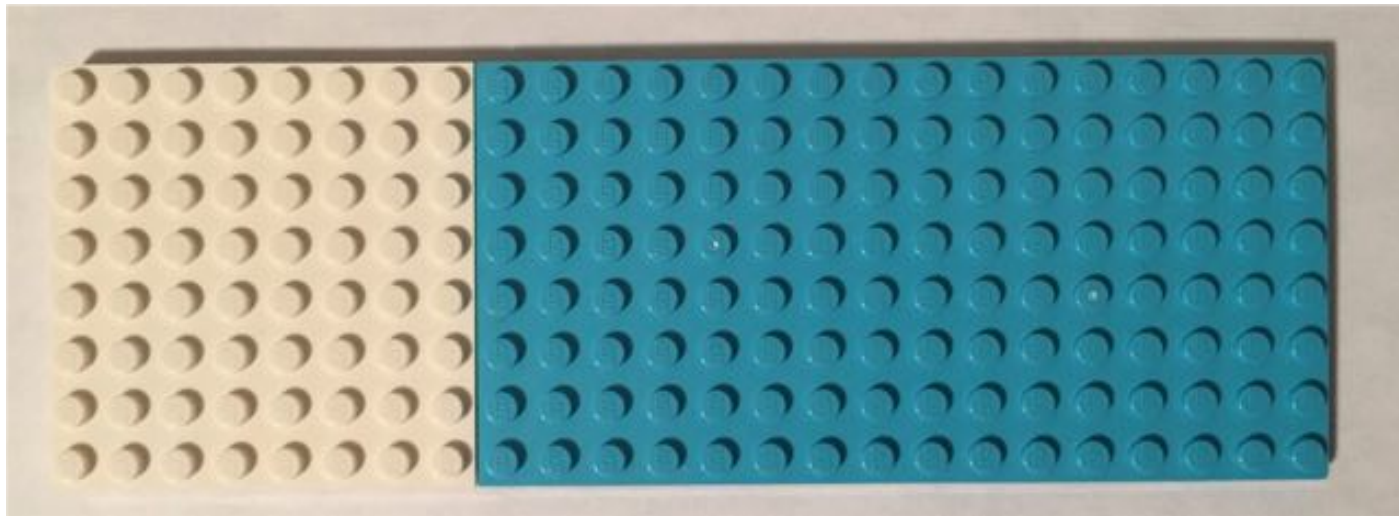


$8 \times 24 = 192$  pegs, 64 are white, 128 are blue.

$$P(\text{White}) = 64 / 192 = \mathbf{0.33}$$

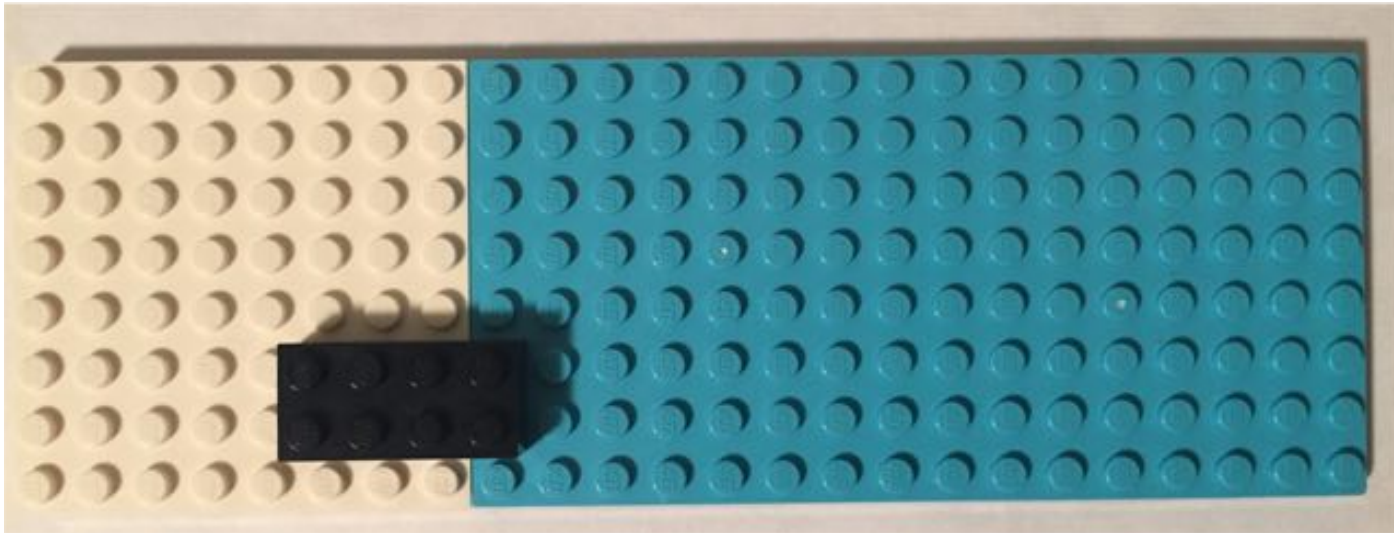
$$P(\text{Blue}) = 128 / 192 = \mathbf{0.67}$$

Our entire probability "space" must add up to 1.



$$P(\text{White}) + P(\text{Blue}) = 1$$

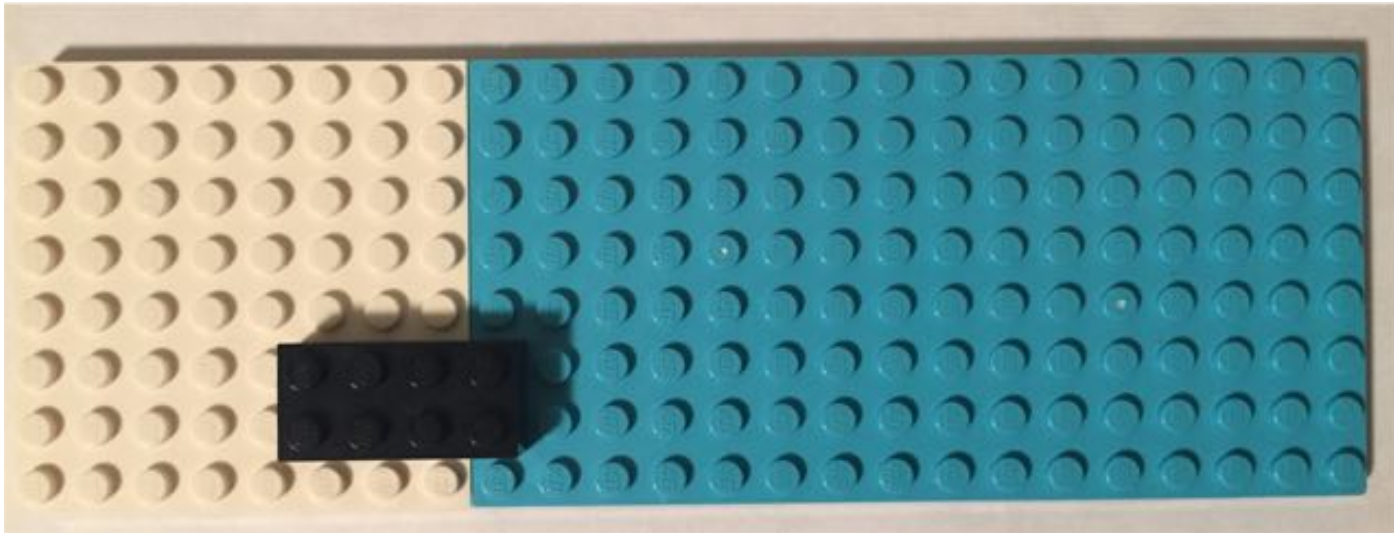
# What is the probability of black?



$$P(\text{Black}) = 8 / 192 = 0.042$$

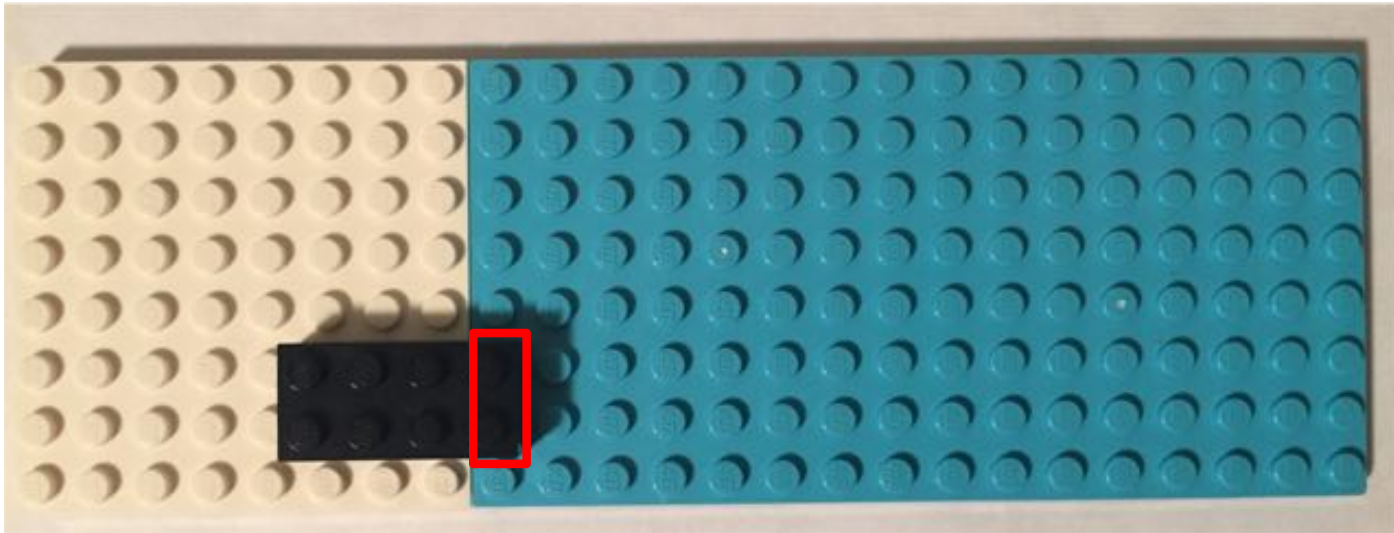
Inspired by  
<https://www.countbayesie.com/blog/2015/2/18/bayes-theorem-with-lego>

No, probability space is  $> 1$ .  
 $P(\text{Black})$  is conditional on  $P(\text{White})$  and  $P(\text{Blue})$ .



$$P(\text{White}) + P(\text{Blue}) + P(\text{Black}) = 1.042$$

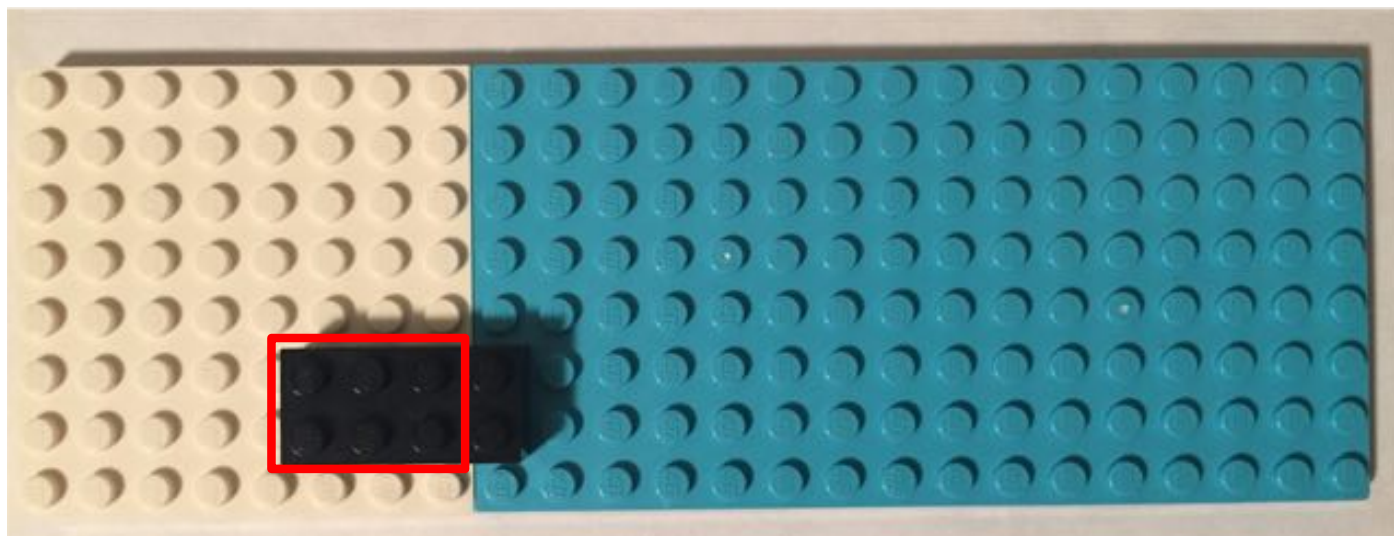
$P(\text{black} \mid \text{blue})$ : "probability of black given that we are on a blue peg"



$$P(\text{black} \mid \text{blue}) = 2 / 128 = 0.015625$$

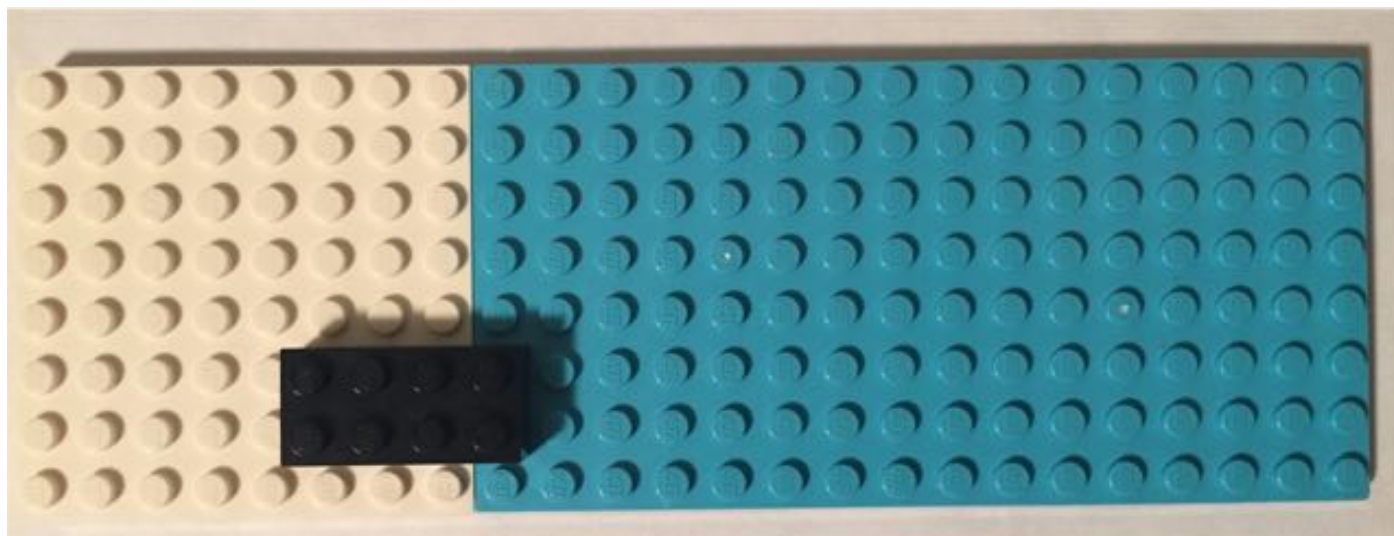


$P(\text{black} \mid \text{white})$ : "probability of black given that we are on a white peg"



$$P(\text{black} \mid \text{white}) = 6 / 64 = 0.09375$$

But what about the  $P(\text{blue} \mid \text{black})$ ?



$$P(\text{blue} \mid \text{black}) = 2 / 8 = 0.25$$

This intuition is formalized with Bayes' theorem.

Bayes theorem

Prior  
Probability  
Of A

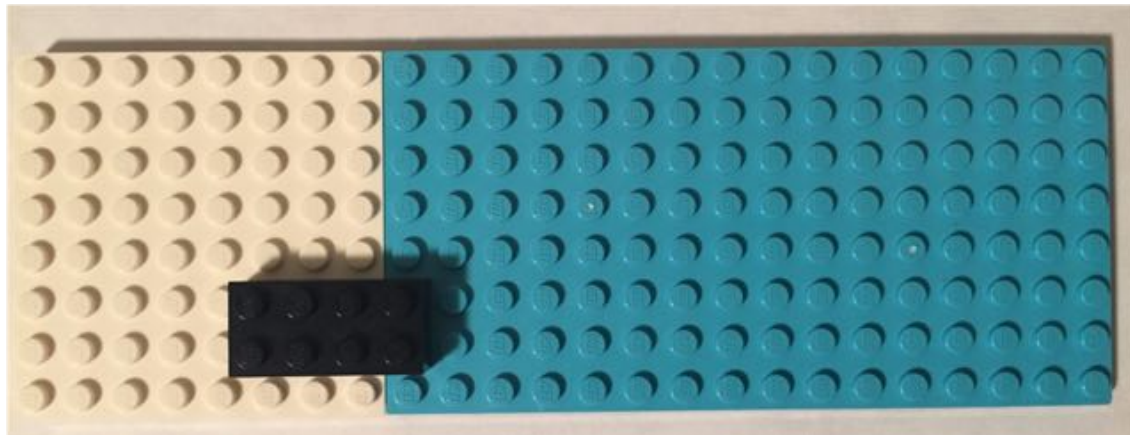
$$P(A | B) = \frac{P(B | A) * P(A)}{P(B)}$$

Posterior  
probability



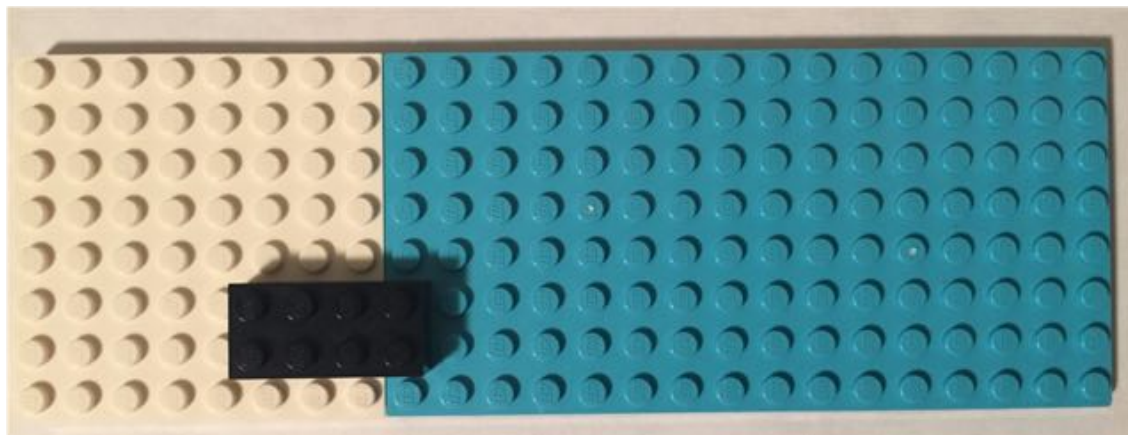
# Bayes theorem

$$P(\text{black} | \text{white}) = \frac{P(\text{white} | \text{black}) * P(\text{black})}{P(\text{white})}$$



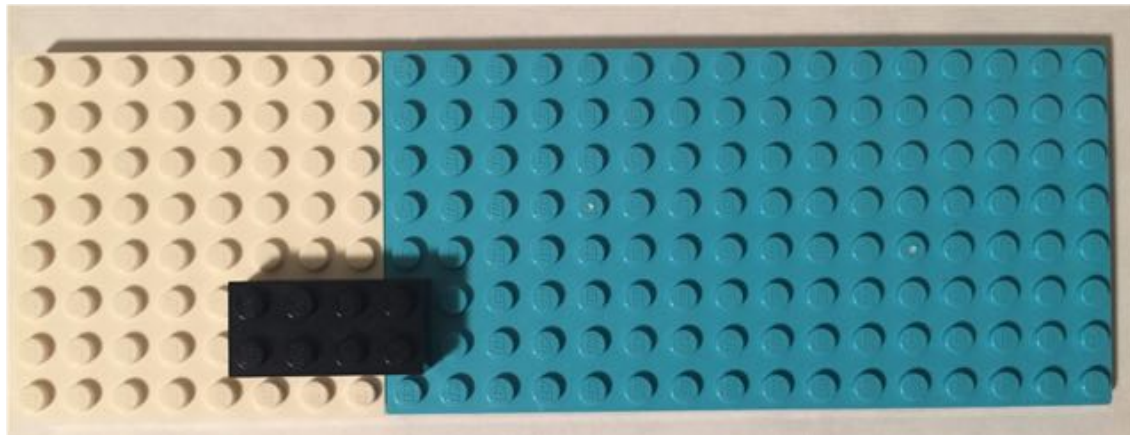
## Bayes theorem

$$P(\text{black} | \text{white}) = \frac{0.75 * 0.0408}{0.33}$$



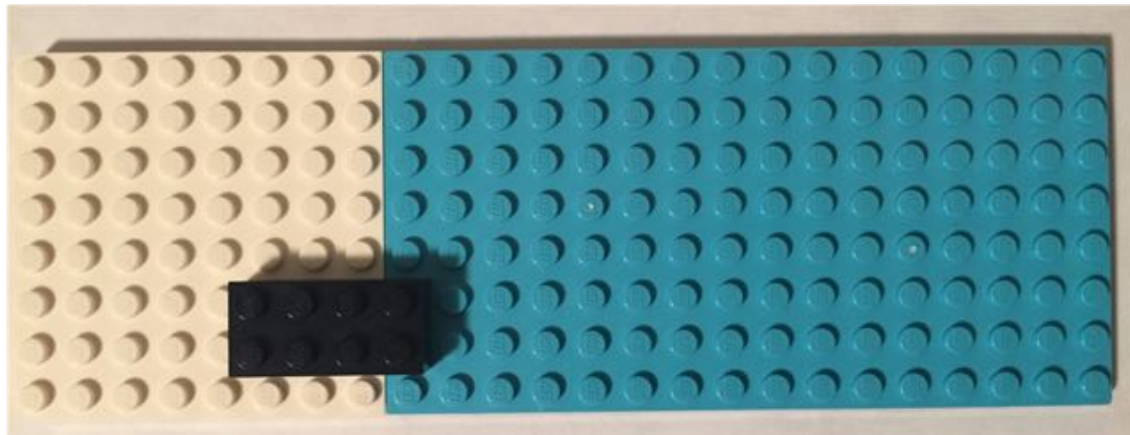
# Bayes theorem

$$P(\text{black} \mid \text{white}) = 0.09375$$



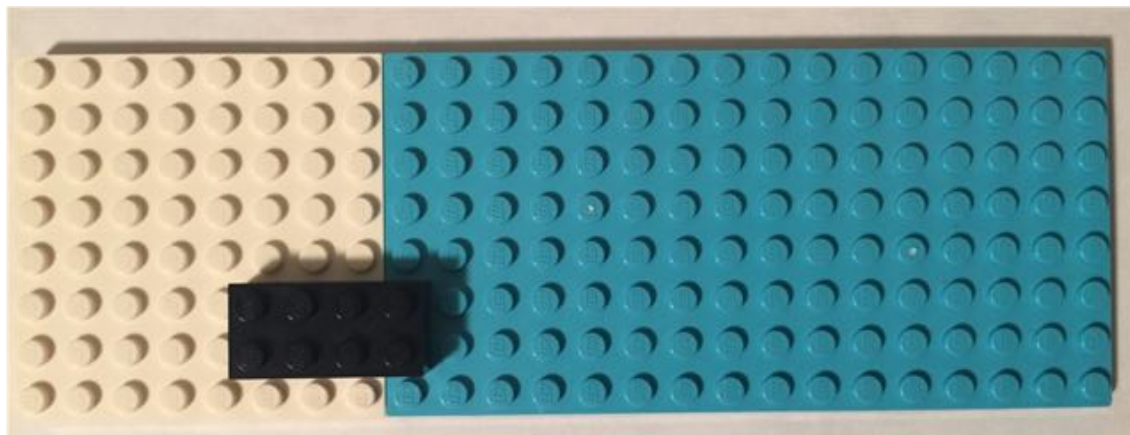
# Bayes theorem

$$P(\text{white} | \text{black}) = \frac{P(\text{black} | \text{white}) * P(\text{white})}{P(\text{black})}$$



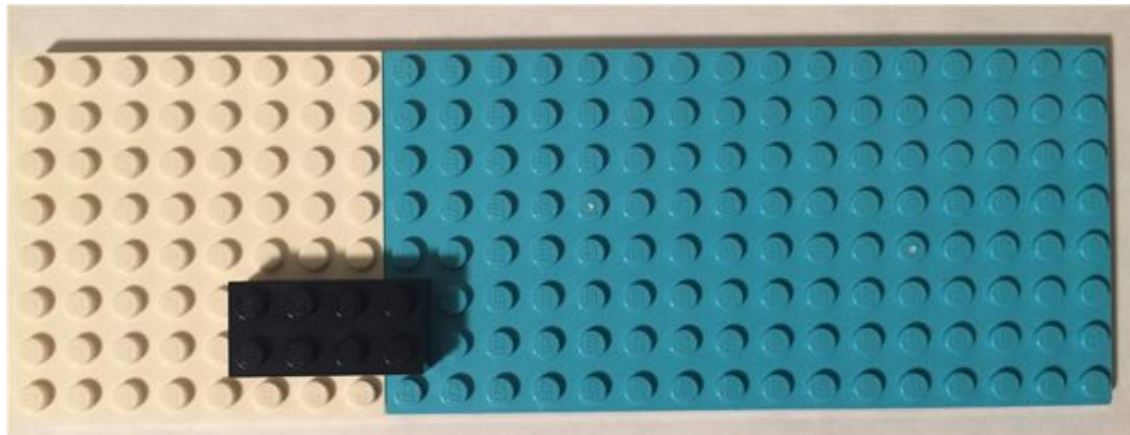
# Bayes theorem

$$P(\text{white} | \text{black}) = \frac{0.09375 * 0.33}{0.0408}$$



# Bayes theorem

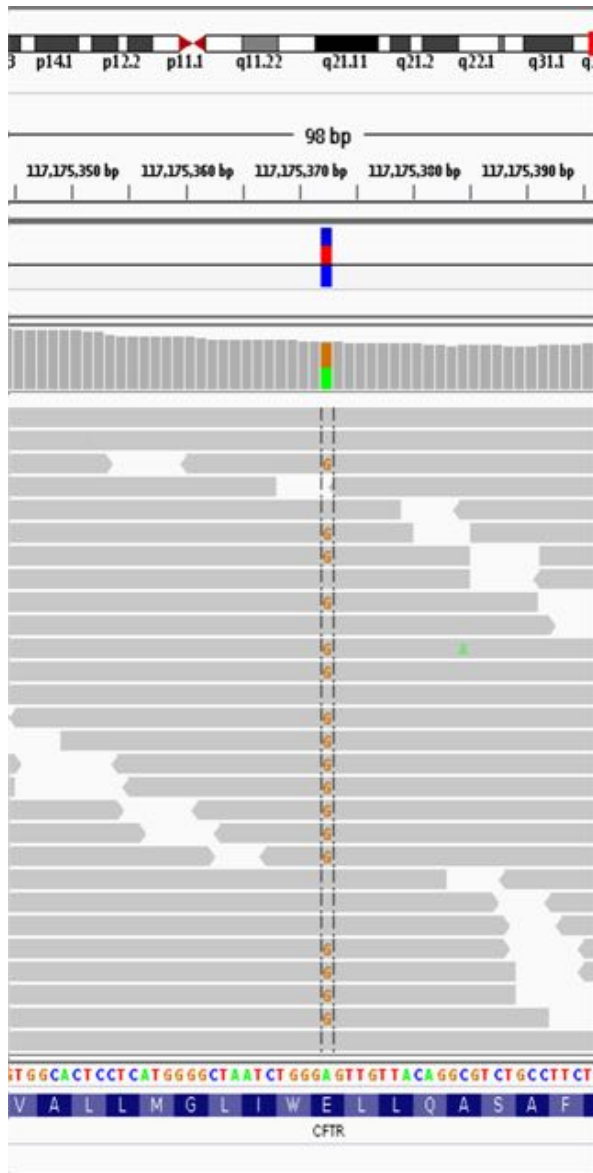
$$P(\text{white} \mid \text{black}) = 0.75$$



While we can intuit these probabilities spatially with legos, the beauty of Bayes' theorem is that it can be generalized to situations that we cannot easily intuit.

---

# Bayesian SNP calling



$$P(\text{SNP} | \text{Data}) = \frac{P(\text{Data} | \text{SNP}) * P(\text{SNP})}{P(\text{Data})}$$

- Depth of coverage at the locus
- Bases observed at the locus
- The base qualities of each allele
- Transition or Transversion? Which type?
- The strand composition
- Mapping qualities
- Proper pairs?
- Expected polymorphism rate



# PolyBayes: The first statistically rigorous variant detection tool.

letter

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## A general approach to single-nucleotide polymorphism discovery

Gabor T. Marth<sup>1</sup>, Ian Korf<sup>1</sup>, Mark D. Yandell<sup>1</sup>, Raymond T. Yeh<sup>1</sup>, Zhijie Gu<sup>2</sup>, Hamideh Zakeri<sup>2</sup>, Nathan O. Stitzel<sup>1</sup>, LaDeana Hillier<sup>1</sup>, Pui-Yan Kwok<sup>2</sup> & Warren R. Gish<sup>1</sup>

Bayesian  
posterior  
probability

Base call +  
Base quality

Expected (prior)  
polymorphism rate

$$P(SNP) = \sum_{\text{all variable } S} \frac{\frac{P(S_1 | R_1) \cdots P(S_N | R_N)}{P_{Prior}(S_1) \cdots P_{Prior}(S_N)} \cdot P_{Prior}(S_1, \dots, S_N)}{\sum_{S_{i_1} \in [A,C,G,T]} \cdots \sum_{S_{i_N} \in [A,C,G,T]} \frac{P(S_{i_1} | R_1)}{P_{Prior}(S_{i_1})} \cdots \frac{P(S_{i_N} | R_1)}{P_{Prior}(S_{i_N})} \cdot P_{Prior}(S_{i_1}, \dots, S_{i_N})}$$

Probability of observed base composition  
(should model sequencing error rate)

# PolyBayes: The first statistically rigorous variant detection tool.

*letter*

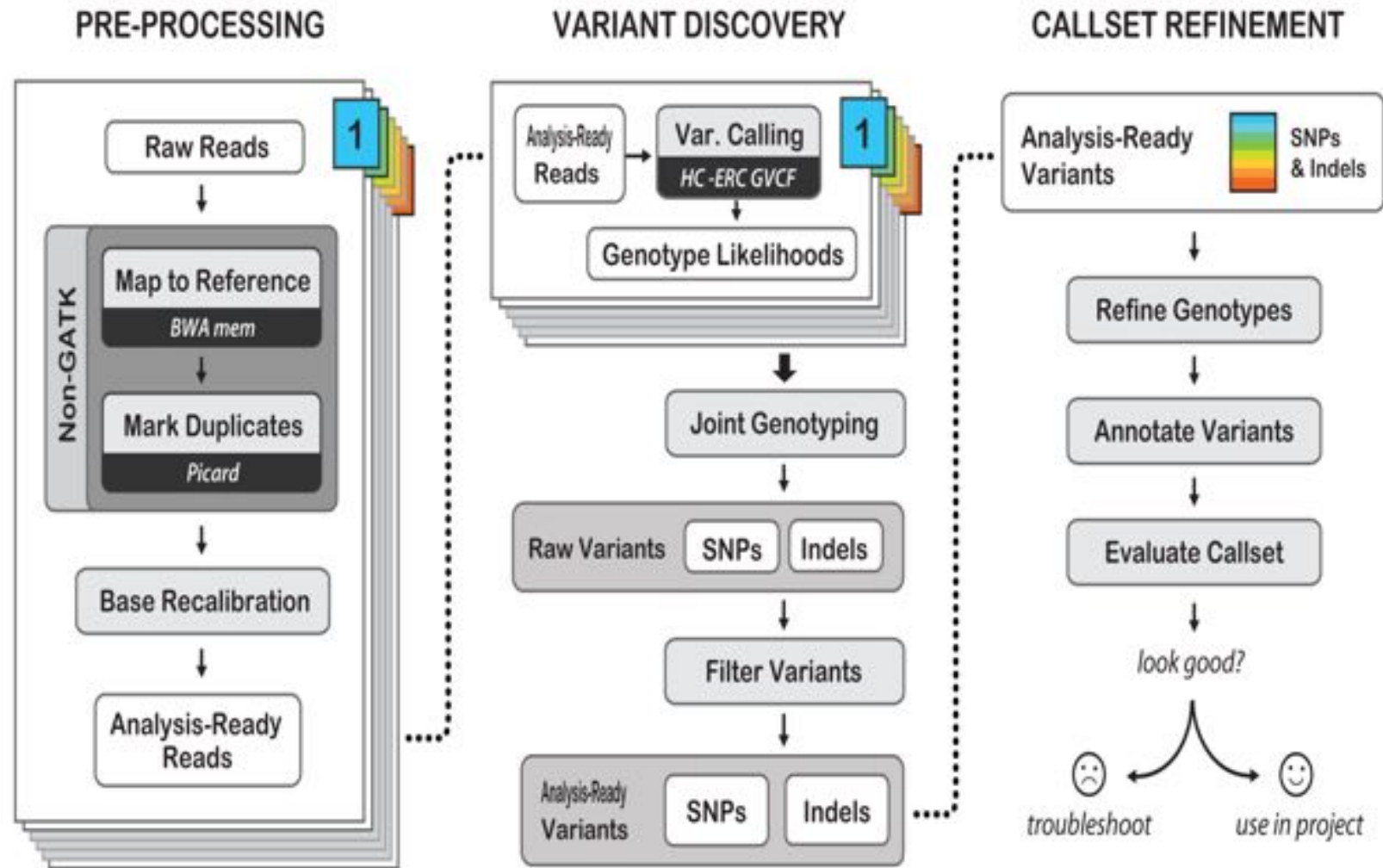
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## **A general approach to single-nucleotide polymorphism discovery**

Gabor T. Marth<sup>1</sup>, Ian Korf<sup>1</sup>, Mark D. Yandell<sup>1</sup>, Raymond T. Yeh<sup>1</sup>, Zhijie Gu<sup>2</sup>, Hamideh Zakeri<sup>2</sup>,  
Nathan O. Stitzel<sup>1</sup>, LaDeana Hillier<sup>1</sup>, Pui-Yan Kwok<sup>2</sup> & Warren R. Gish<sup>1</sup>

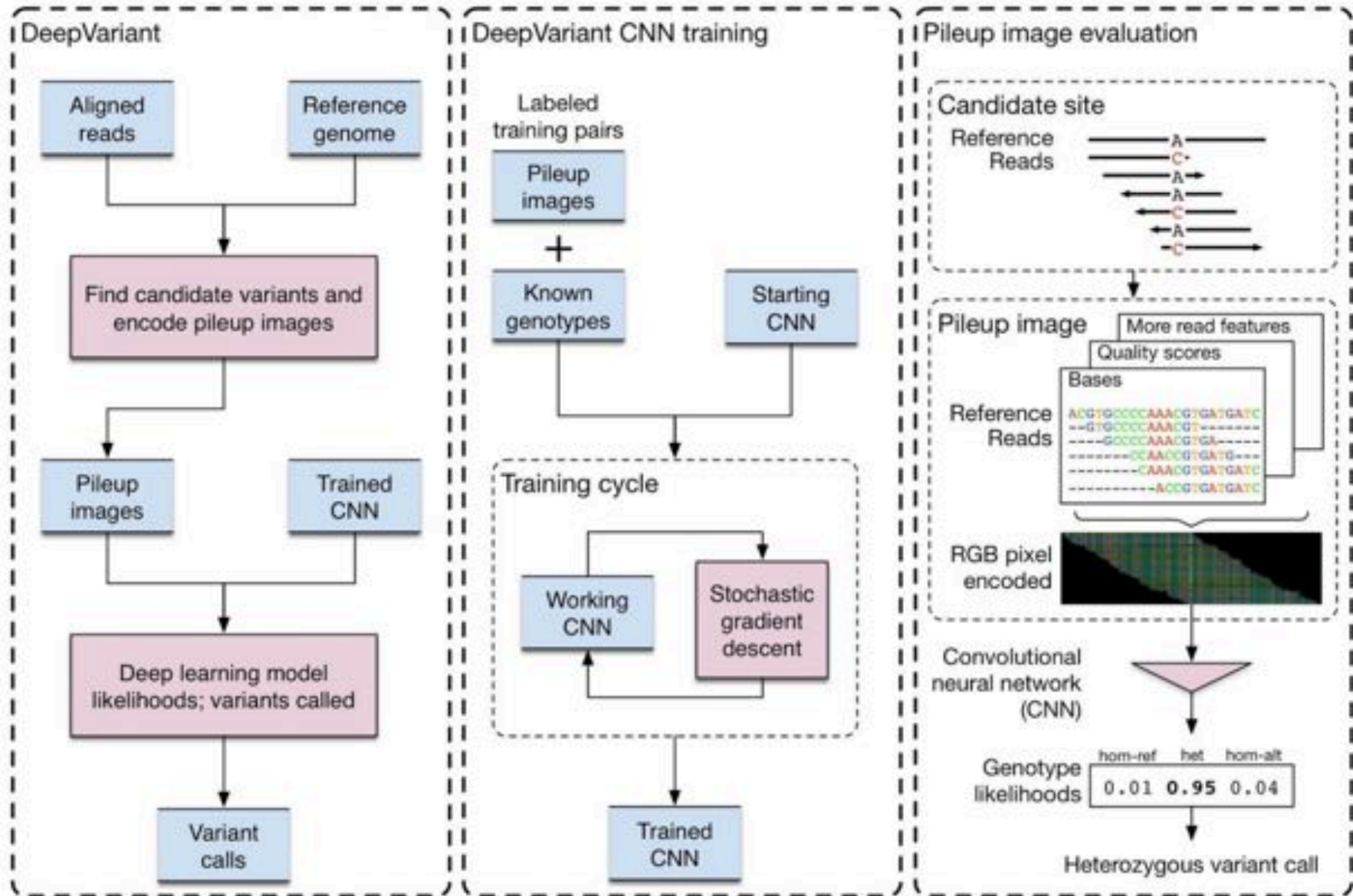
This Bayesian statistical framework  
has been adopted by other modern  
SNP/INDEL callers such as FreeBayes,  
GATK, and samtools

# GATK workflow



Best Practices for Germline SNPs and Indels in Whole Genomes and Exomes - June 2016

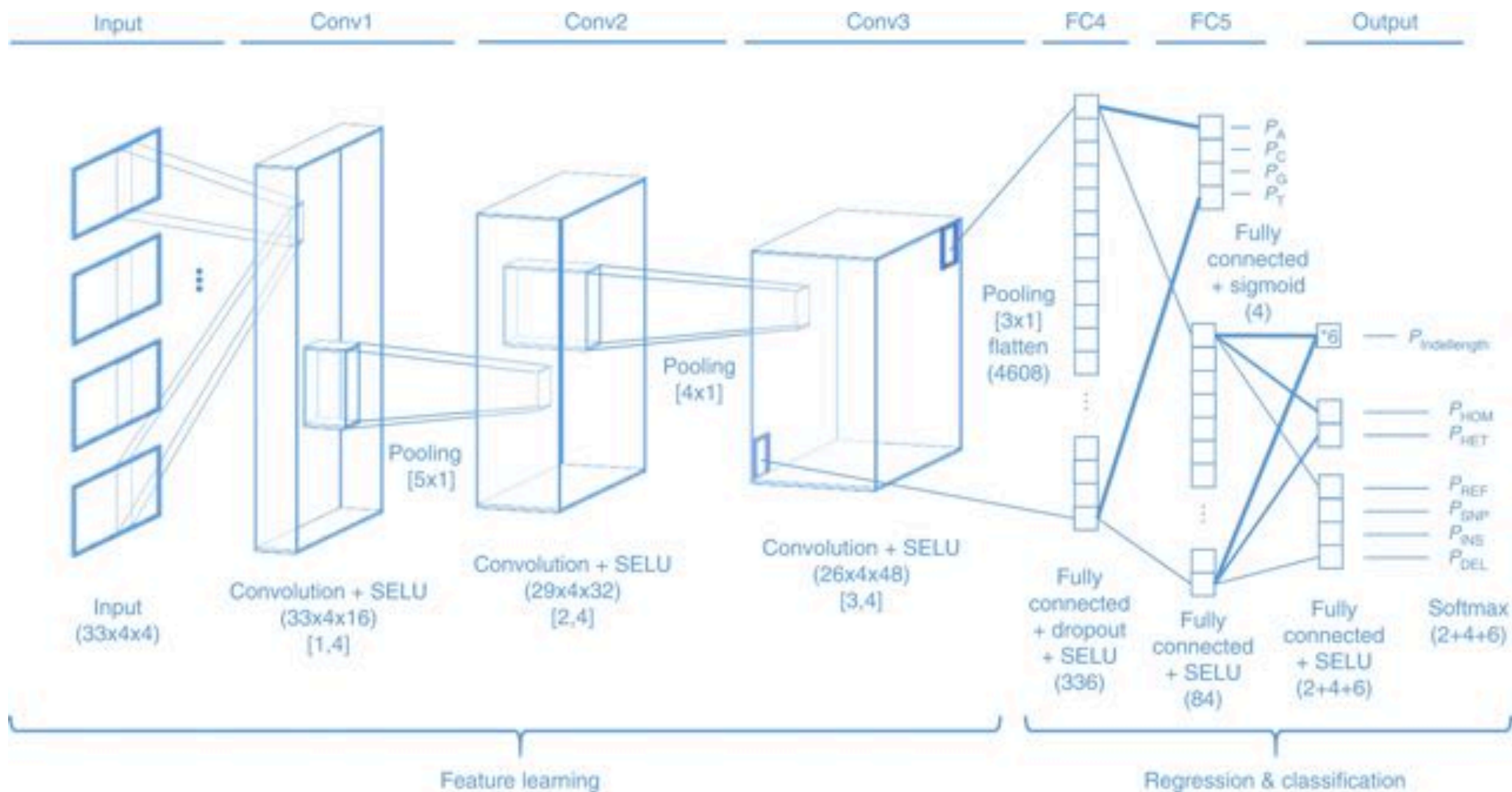
# Deep Variant



Creating a universal SNP and small indel variant caller with deep neural networks

Poplin et al. (2018) Nature Biotechnology. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nbt.4235>

# Clairvoyant



**A multi-task convolutional deep neural network for variant calling in single molecule sequencing**

Luo et al. (2019) Nature Communication. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-09025-z>



# VCF Format

## Example

**VCF header**

```
##fileformat=VCFv4.0
##fileDate=20100707
##source=VCFtools
##reference=NCBI36
##INFO=<ID=AA,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Ancestral Allele">
##INFO=<ID=H2,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="HapMap2 membership">
##FORMAT=<ID=GT,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Genotype">
##FORMAT=<ID=GQ,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Genotype Quality (phred score)">
##FORMAT=<ID=GL,Number=3,Type=Float,Description="Likelihoods for RR,RA,AA genotypes (R=ref,A=alt)">
##FORMAT=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Read Depth">
##ALT=<ID=DEL,Description="Deletion">
##INFO=<ID=SVTYPE,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Type of structural variant">
##INFO=<ID=END,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="End position of the variant">
```

**Mandatory header lines**

**Optional header lines (meta-data about the annotations in the VCF body)**

**Body**

#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT	SAMPLE1	SAMPLE2
1	1	.	ACG	A,AT	.	PASS	.	GT:DP	1/2:13	0/0:29
1	2	rs1	C	T,CT	.	PASS	H2;AA=T	GT:GQ	0/1:100	2/2:70
1	5	.	A	G	.	PASS	.	GT:GQ	1/0:77	1/1:95
1	100	.	T	<DEL>	.	PASS	SVTYPE=DEL;END=300	GT:GQ:DP	1/1:12:3	0/0:20

**Deletion**

**SNP**

**Large SV**

**Insertion**

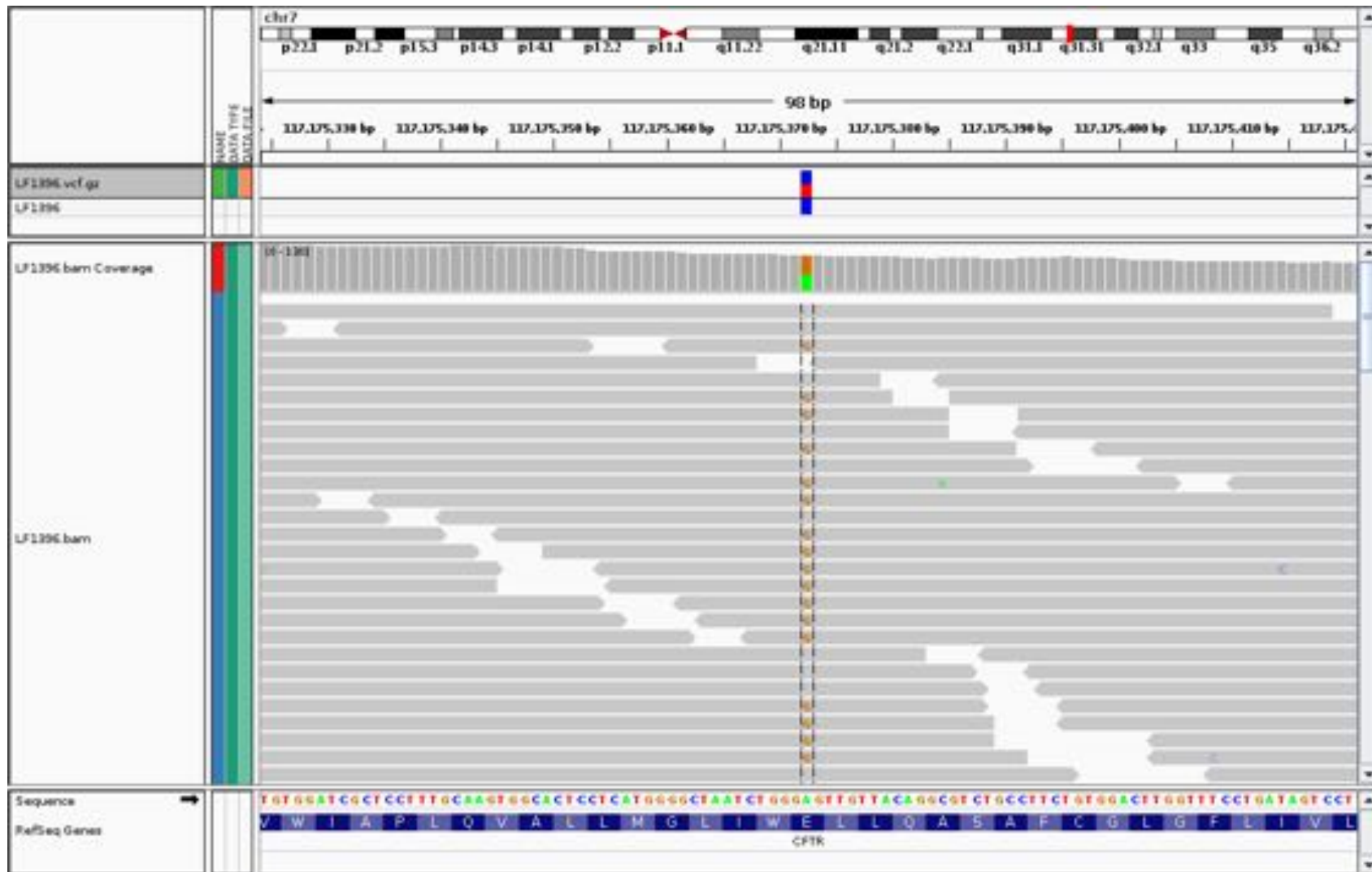
**Other event**

**Reference alleles (GT=0)**

**Alternate alleles (GT>0 is an index to the ALT column)**

**Phased data** (G and C above are on the same chromosome)

# VCF Format



#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT	LF1396
chr7	117175373	.	A	G	90	PASS	AF=0.5	GT	0/1