



The Elizabeth H.
and James S. McDonnell III

**McDONNELL
GENOME INSTITUTE**
at Washington University

Genomic data visualization and interpretation

Malachi Griffith, Obi Griffith, Zachary Skidmore
Evomics, Workshop on Genomics
Jan 10, 2020
Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

Why do we create visualizations of genomic data?

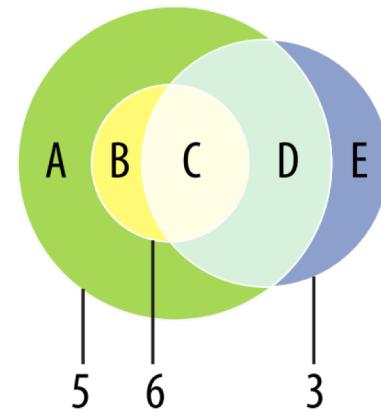
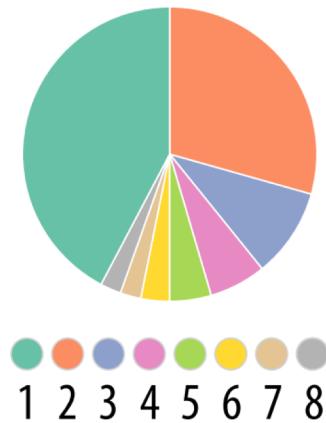
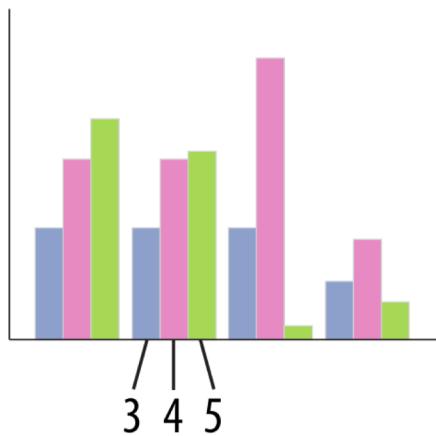
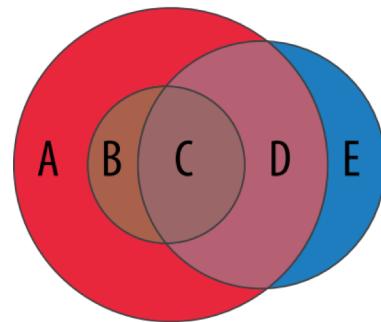
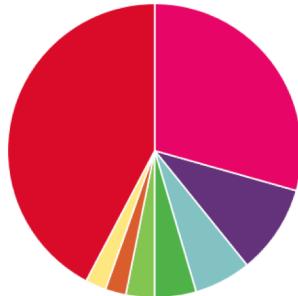
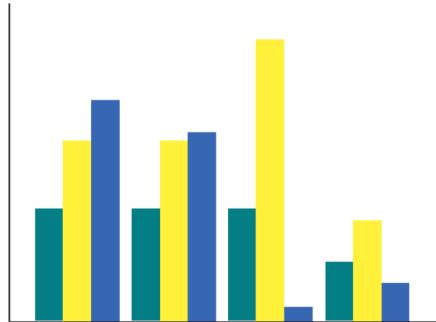
- Data exploration and interpretation of results
 - QC analysis
 - Understanding whether/how an experiment worked
 - Discovery
- Communication
 - Slides for presentations
 - e.g. Keynote, Powerpoint, etc.
 - Figures for publications
 - e.g. PDFs, PNGs, etc.
 - Illustrator, Gimp, Inkscape, etc.
 - R and R Studio

Fundamentals of data visualization

Fundamentals of data visualization

- Where to learn more about the art and science of visualization:
 - Collection of 40 Nature Methods articles on data visualization:
[“Points of View” Articles](#)
 - [Visual design principles lecture](#)

Which series is more effective (top or bottom)?

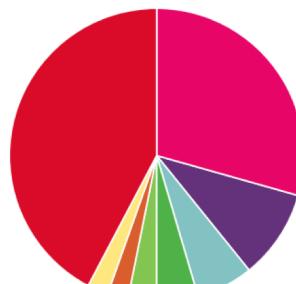


Which series is more effective (top or bottom)?

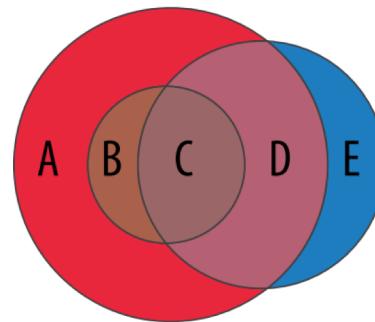
one color dominates



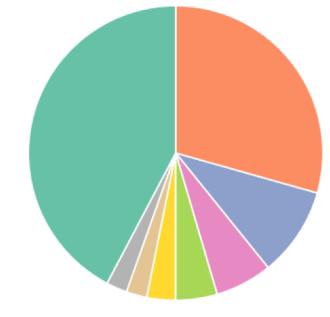
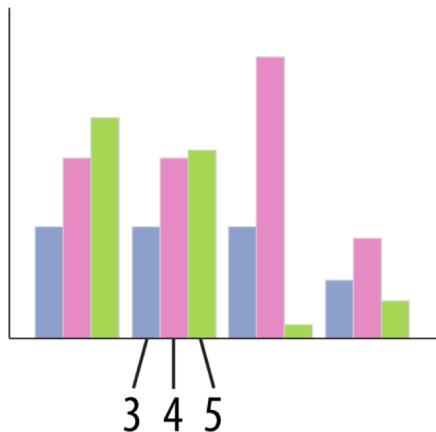
difficult to distinguish



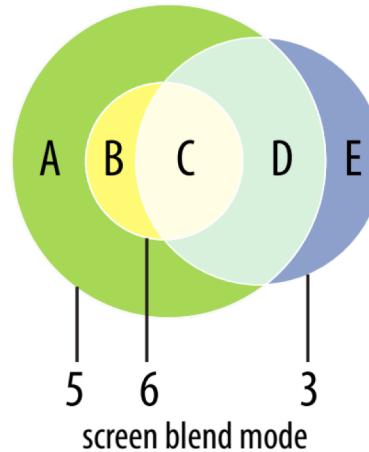
murky



recolored with Brewer palettes

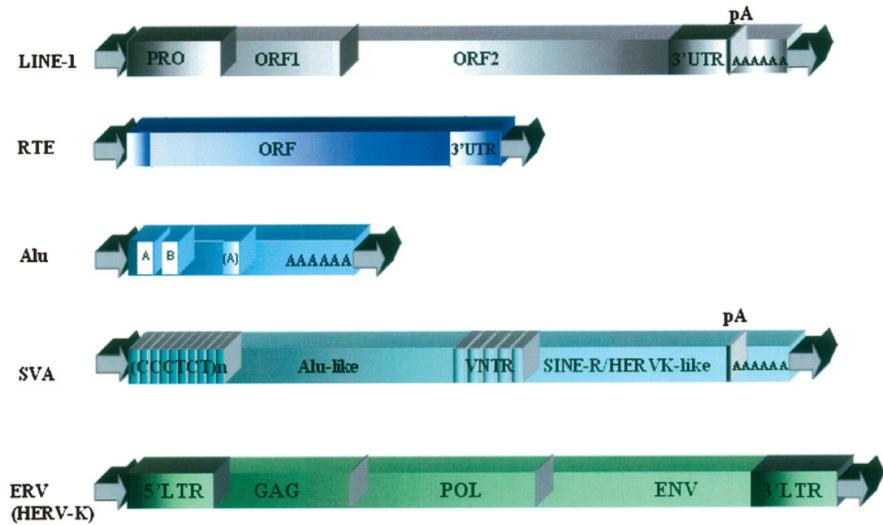
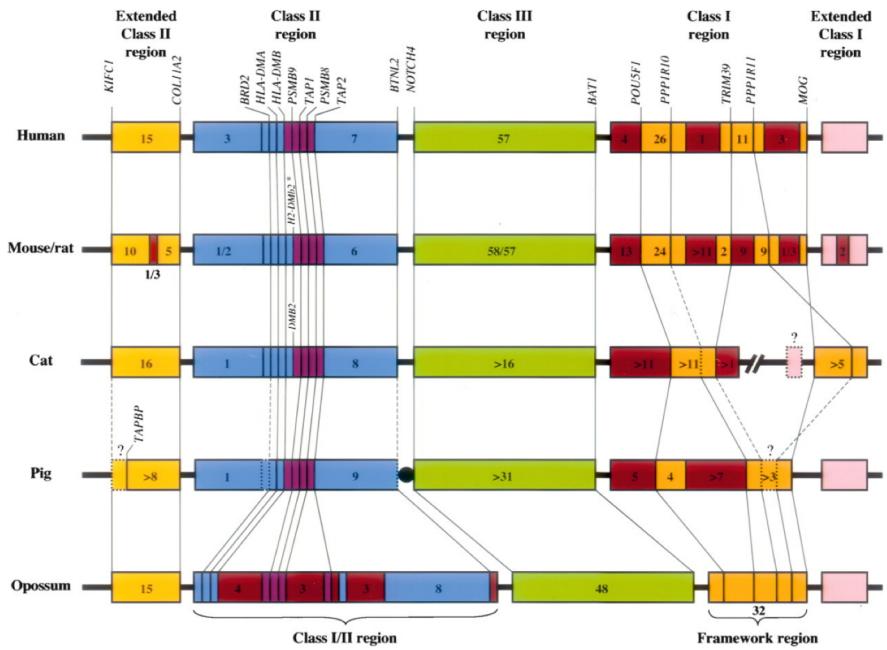


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
set2

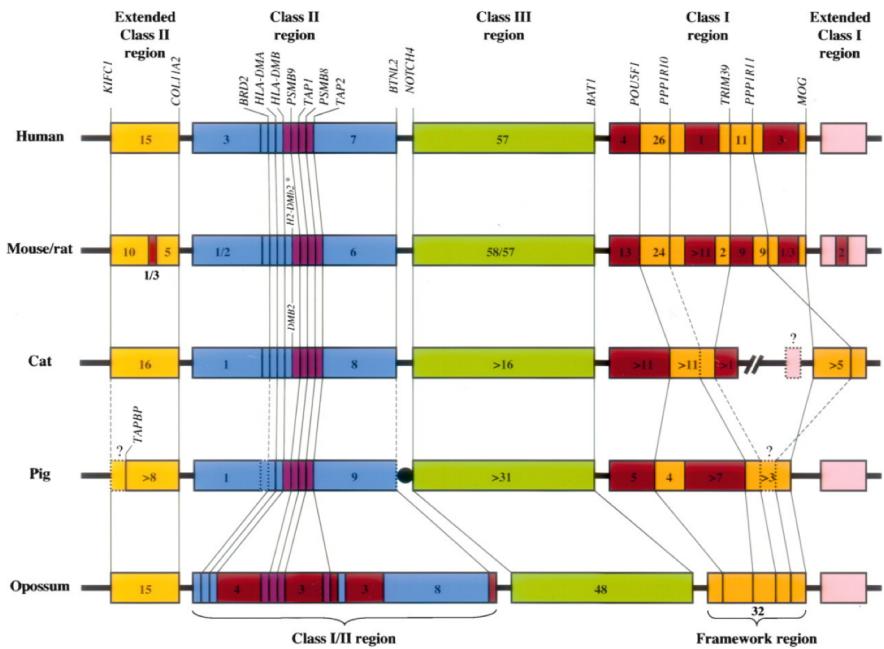


5 6 3
screen blend mode

Which is more effective (left or right?)

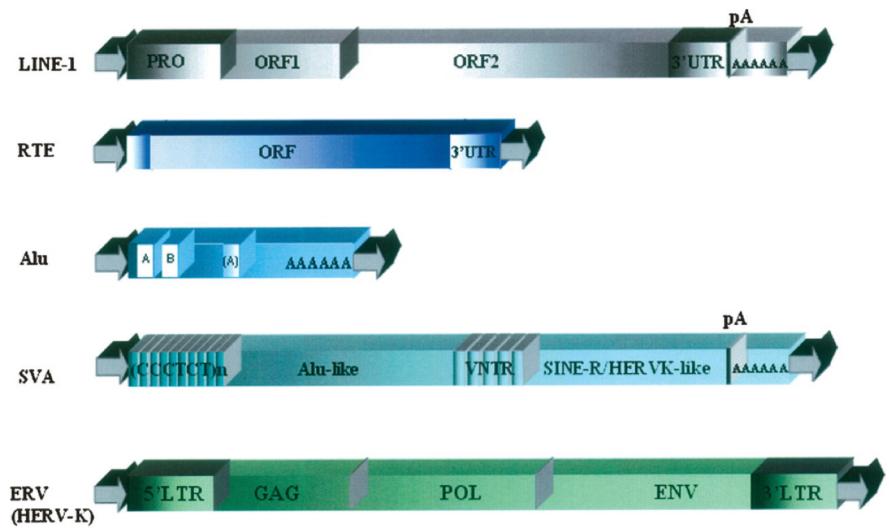


Which is more effective (left or right?)



Excellent organization and consistency. Vertical lines cue continuity. Good use of color.

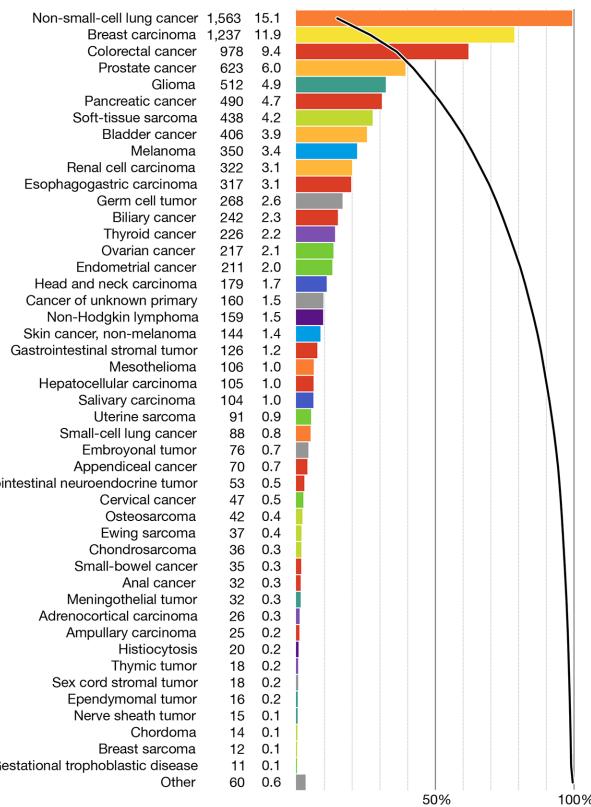
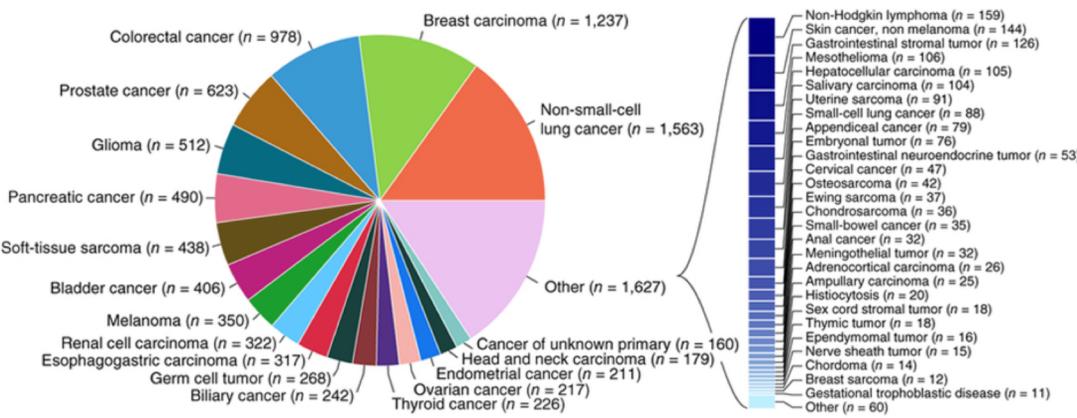
Samollow, P.B., The opossum genome: insights and opportunities from an alternative mammal. *Genome Res.*, 2008. 18(8): p. 1199-215.



Chartjunk plentiful. Screaming ornamental and redundant elements. Text inconsistent and illegible.

Gentles, A.J., et al., Evolutionary dynamics of transposable elements in the short-tailed opossum *Monodelphis domestica*. *Genome Res.*, 2007. 17(7): p. 992-1004.

Which is more effective (left or right?)



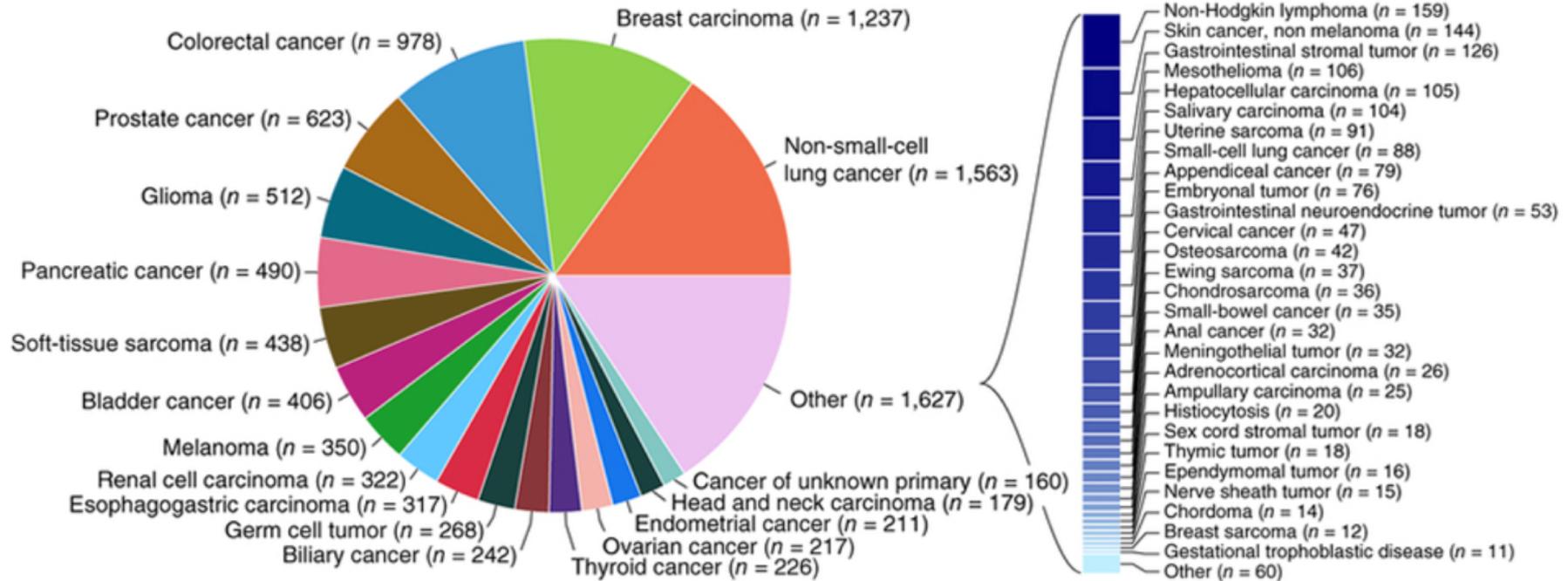
When to use a pie chart



Pie charts are good at precisely showing 1:3 proportions

...but not if the slice is rotated

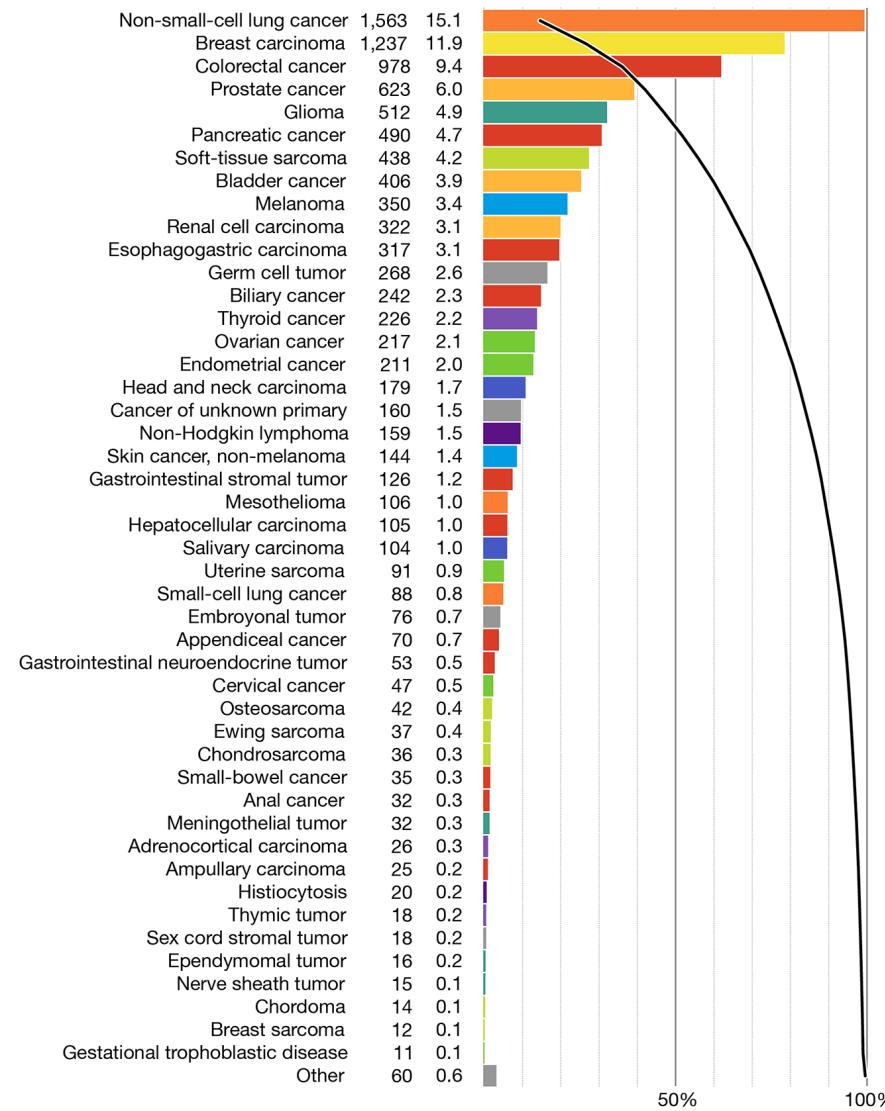
When to not use a pie chart



- Hard to judge proportions
- Poor use of color
- Hard to read labels
- Over ½ of the categories had to be broken out of the pie chart

Ahmet Zehir et al. (2017) Nature Medicine doi:10.1038/nm.4333

Same data with a redesigned approach



Selected articles on fundamentals of data viz

- Visualizing samples with box plots
- Circos plots
- When to use (and not use) pie charts
- Resources for choosing colors
 - <http://colorbrewer2.org/>
 - <http://mkweb.bcgsc.ca/color/>
 - Understanding and using Color Palettes
 - Color palettes for color blindness
 - Names for >9000 colors
 - Including 40 beer colors
- Credit to Martin Krzywinski for his extensive work in this area and many of the above resources

Best practices in visualization

Best practices from this workshop

- *Always* label axes
- Consider readability of font size
- Avoid vertical or angled text if possible
- Avoid unnecessary use of color, point shapes, etc.
- Choose colors wisely
- If individual data points are being plotted and have started to really pile up on top of each other consider using a density function
- Always be transparent about what data manipulation is taking place (e.g. log scale, filtering of outliers, etc.)

Best practices from the experts

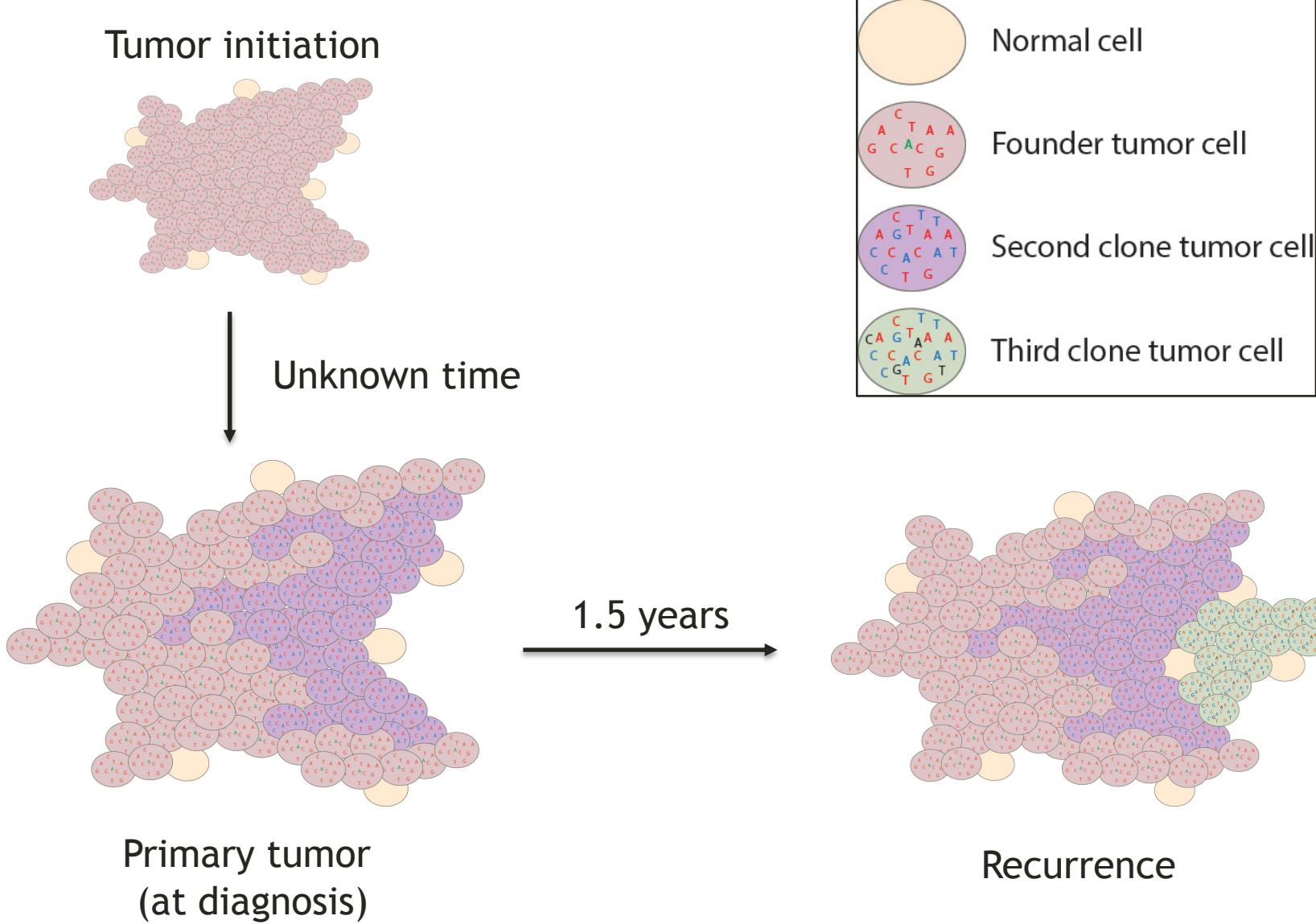
Ten Simple Rules for Better Figures (Rougier et al. 2014):

Scientific visualizations should act as a “a graphical interface between people and data”. Try to follow these rules.

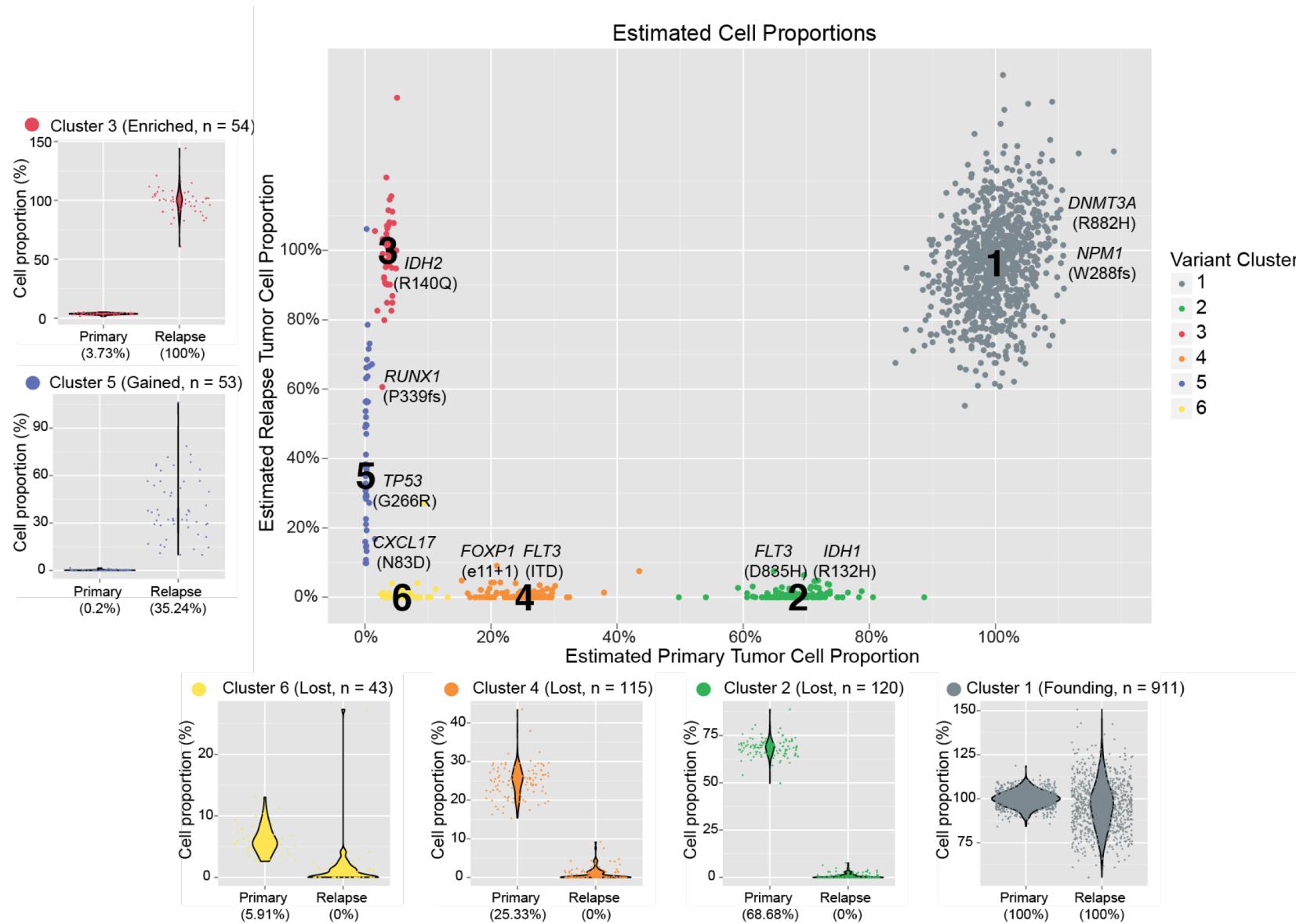
1. Know Your Audience
2. Identify Your Message
3. Adapt the Figure to the Support Medium
4. Captions Are Not Optional
5. Do Not Trust the Defaults
6. Use Color Effectively
7. Do Not Mislead the Reader
8. Avoid “Chartjunk”
9. Message Trumps Beauty
10. Get the Right Tool

Example visualizations using R

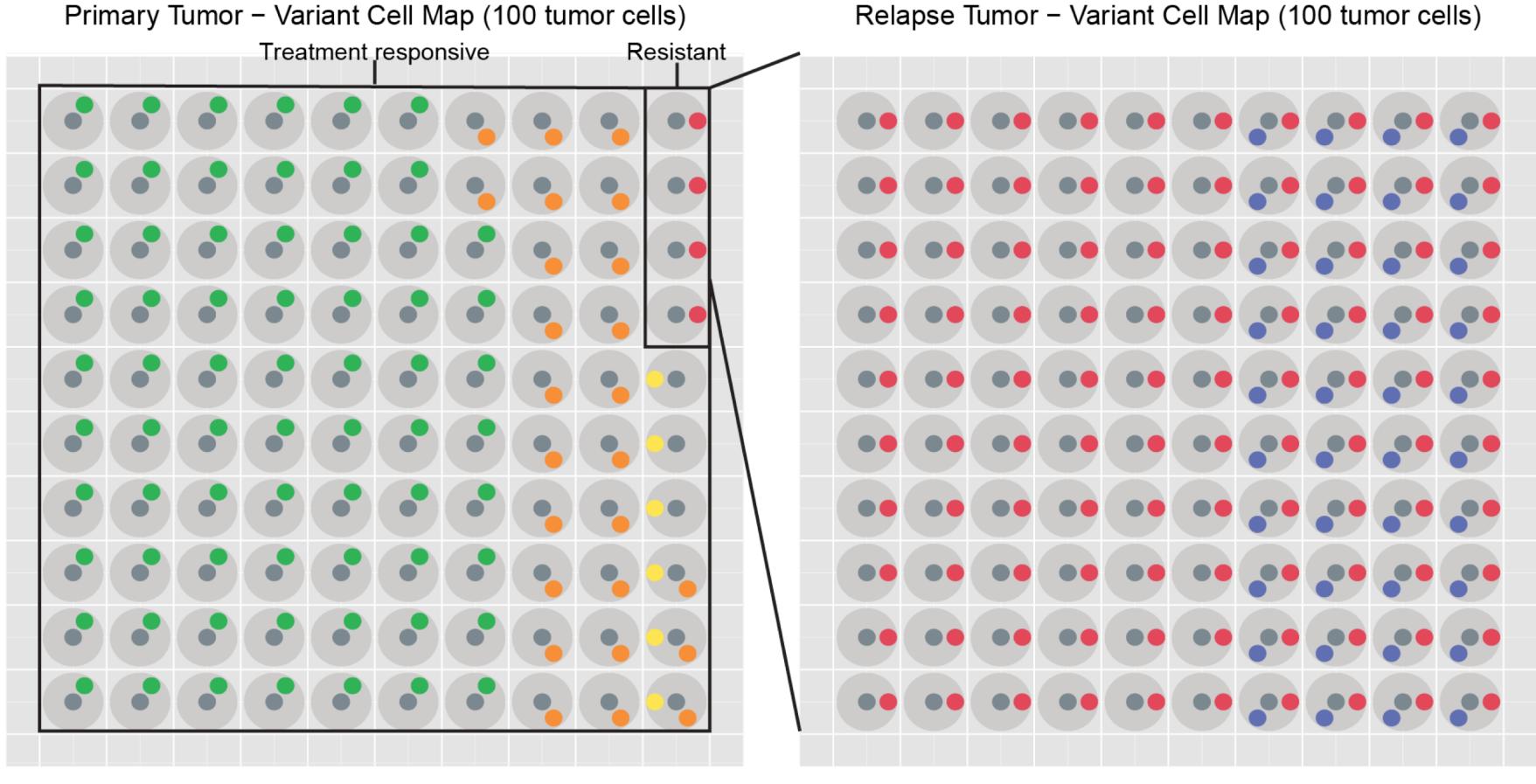
Visualizing tumor evolution



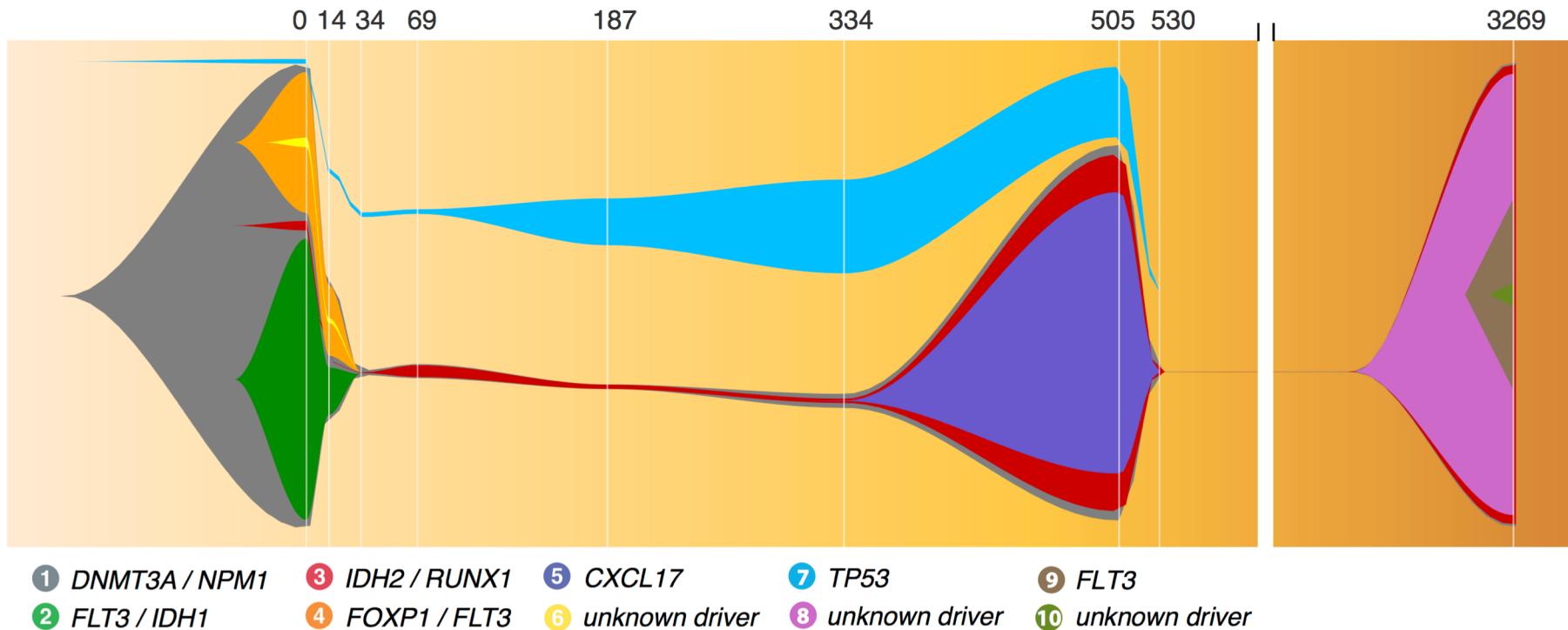
Clustering VAFs to define distinct cell populations



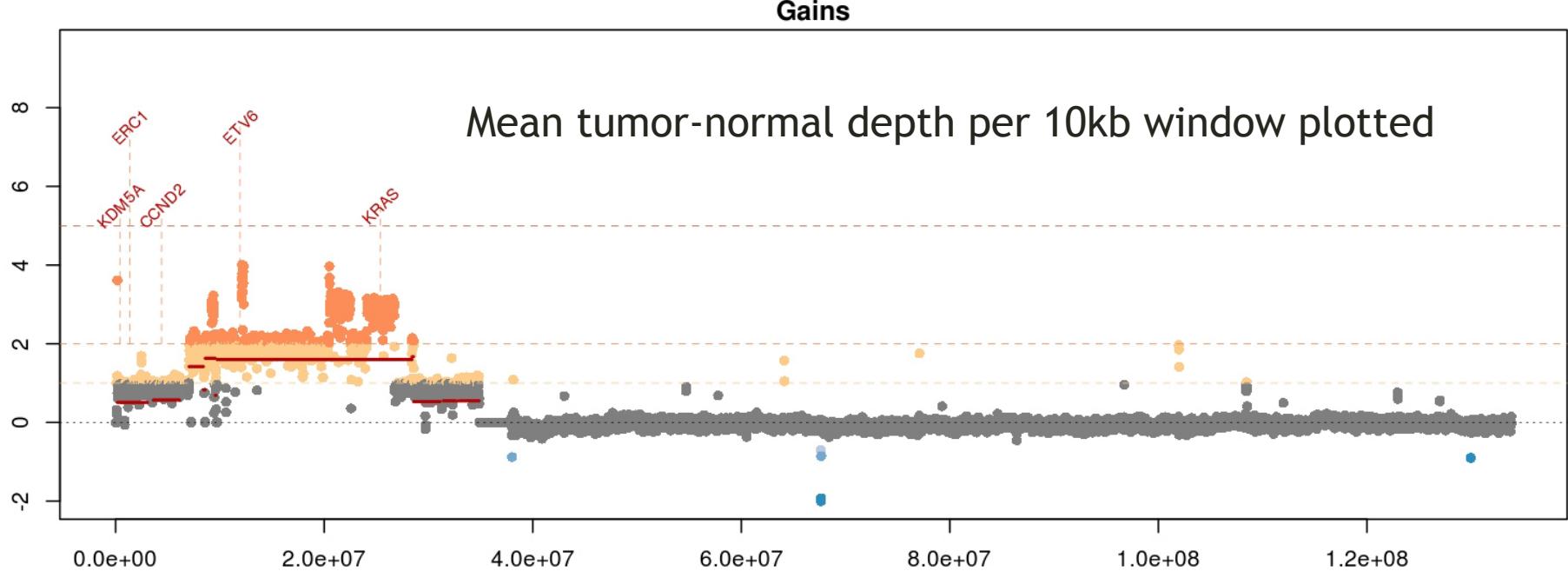
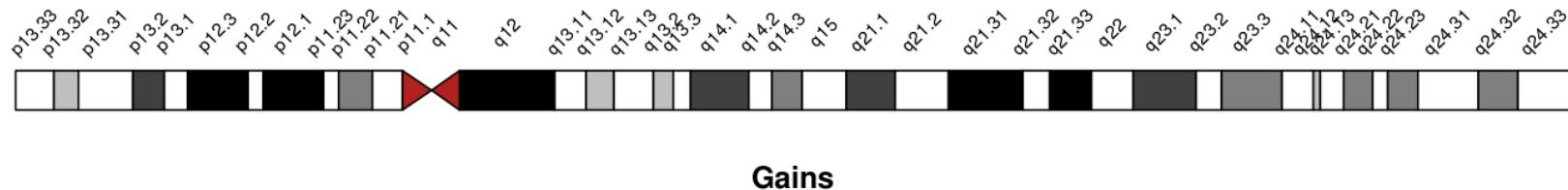
Using a “cell map” to represent the variant clusters in 100 hypothetical cells of a tissue



A ‘fish’ plot is used to represent sub-clones lost and gained over time

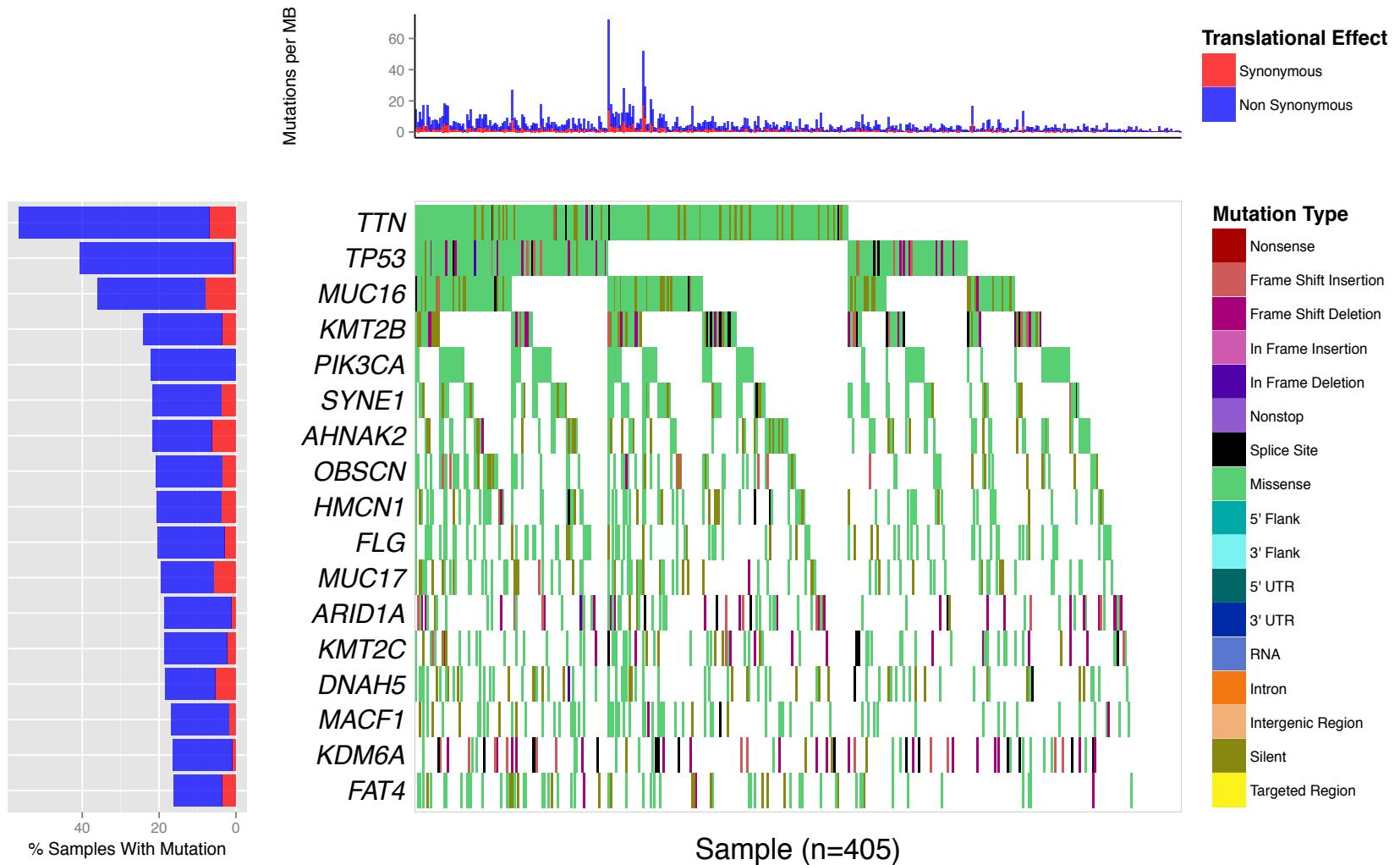


Visualizing copy number variation



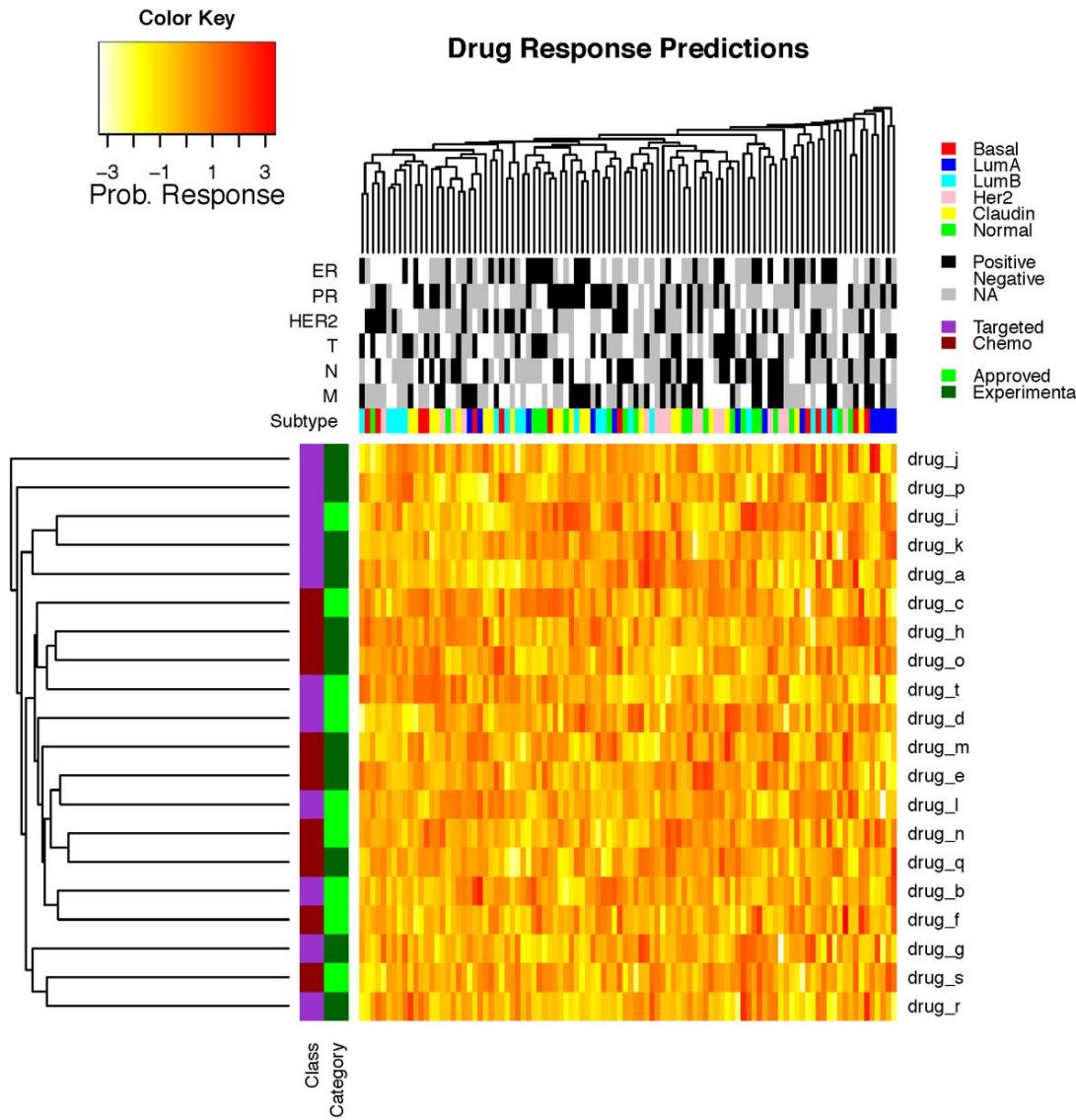
KRAS amplification in a metastatic breast cancer

A ‘waterfall’ plot is one way to visualize the pattern of variant recurrence in a cohort of samples



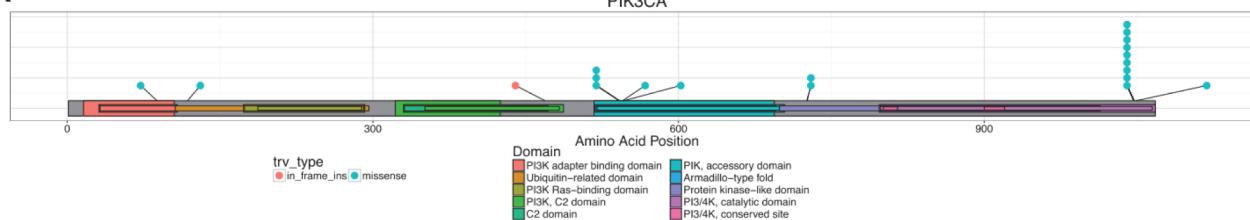
<https://github.com/griffithlab/GenVisR>

Heatmaps are a common way to simultaneously visualize multiple features of a dataset

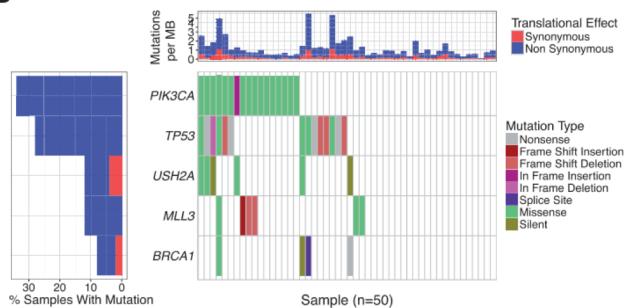


GenVisR was created to help others make common genomic visualizations

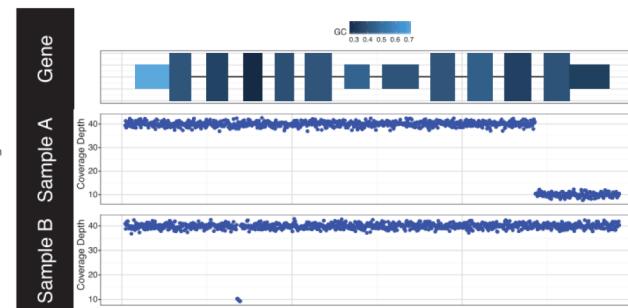
A



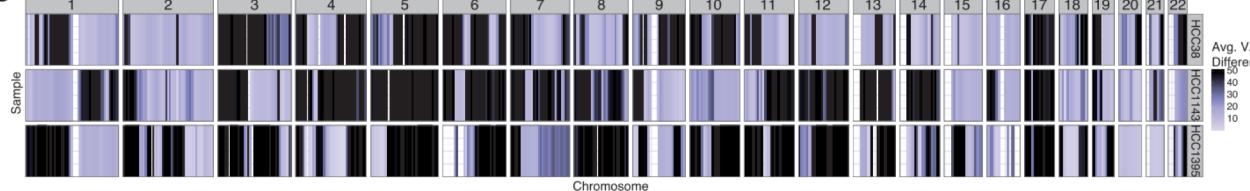
B



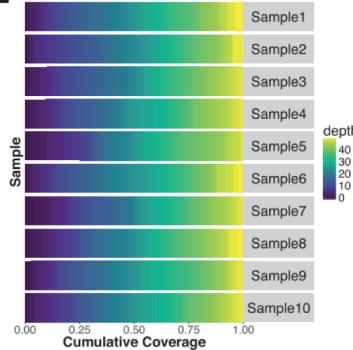
C



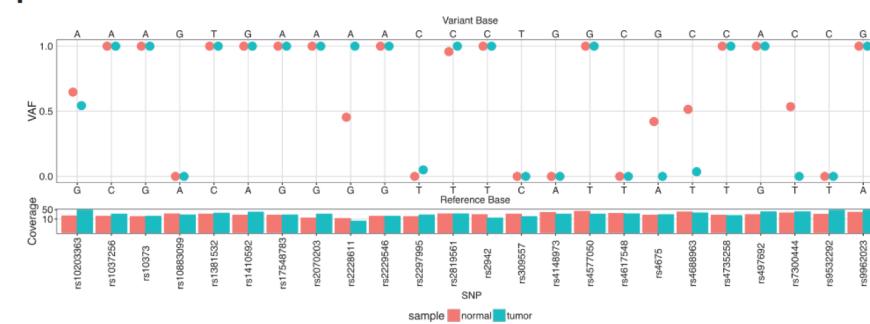
D



E



F



Introduction to GenViz course site

www.genviz.org