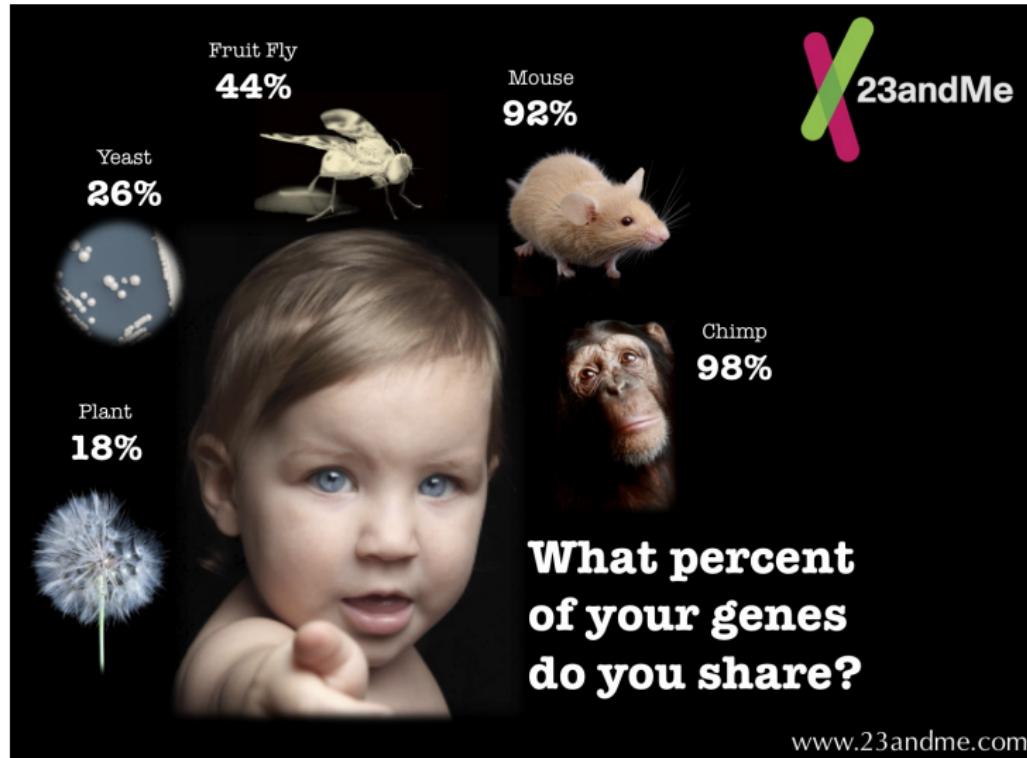


# Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms

Mikhail Dozmorov

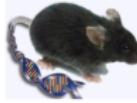
2021-04-28

# What is genetic variation?



<https://blog.23andme.com/23andme-and-you/genetics-101/genetic-similarities-of-mice-and-men/>

# How much do we differ? (number of aligned DNA base differences)

- Identical twins  0
- Unrelated humans  1/1,000
- Human vs. chimp  1/100
- Human vs. mouse  1/6 - 1/3
- 3 billion DNA bases → 3 million differences (single nucleotide variants [SNVs]) between each pair of haploid human DNA sequences

Human mutation rate is  $1.0 - 1.5 \times 10^{-8}$  per bp per generation: we transmit ~30 new DNA variants with each gamete (J. Roach et al., 2010, Science; D. Conrad et al., 2011, Nature Genetics)

# Studying variation – why?

- Determine disease risk
- Individualised medicine (pharmacogenomics)
- Forensic studies
- Biological markers
- Hybridisation studies, marker-assisted breeding
- Understanding evolution

# Genome diversity

- **SNPs** (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms) - base substitutions
- In humans, occur approx. once per 1,000 bases ( $\sim 3 \times 10^6$  per genome)
- Most polymorphisms (~90%) take the form of SNPs: variations that involve just one nucleotide
- **InDels** (insertion/deletion, frameshifts) - occur in 1 in every 300 bp
- **Structural variants** (SVs) - larger genomic variations (insertions, deletions, inversions, duplications)



Average number of SNVs per individual

Orangutans  
9.3 million > Gorillas  
6.5 million > Chimpanzees  
5.7 million > Humans  
3-4 million

As a species, humans have relatively low diversity

## Repeats as a source of genetic variation

SNP short tandem repeat (STR)



Man 1 GTACTAGACTACTACTACTACTACTACTGGT...  
5 repeats

**Man 3** GTACAAGACTACTACTACTACTACTACTACTACTGGTG...  
7 repeats

# Functional Consequences

- SNPs can cause disease
  - SNP in clotting factor IX codes for a stop codon: haemophilia
- SNPs can increase disease risk
  - SNP in LDL receptor reduces efficiency: high cholesterol
- SNPs can affect drug response
  - SNP in CYP2D8, a gene in the drug breakdown pathway in the liver, disrupts breakdown of debrisoquine, a treatment for high blood pressure

# Functional Consequences

Type	Consequence
SNPs in coding area that alter aa sequence	Cause of most monogenic disorders, e.g: Cystic fibrosis (CFTR) Hemophilia (F8)
SNPs in coding areas that don't alter amino acid sequence	May affect splicing
SNPs in promoter or regulatory regions	May affect the level, location or timing of gene expression
SNPs in other regions	No direct known impact on phenotype Useful as markers

# A typical human genome variation

- "We find that a typical [human] genome differs from the reference human genome at **4.1 million to 5.0 million sites**.
- Although **>99.9% of variants consist of SNPs and short indels**, structural variants affect more bases: the typical genome contains an estimated **2,100 to 2,500 structural variants** (~1,000 large deletions, ~160 copy-number variants, ~915 Alu insertions, ~128 L1 insertions, ~51 SVA insertions, ~4 NUMTs, and ~10 inversions), **affecting ~20 million bases of sequence**.

<https://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v526/n7571/full/nature15393.html>

# Whole genome vs. Exome-Capture Sequencing

Exome-capture reduces the costs of sequencing

- Currently targets around 50Mbp of sequence: all exons plus flanking regions
- WGS currently costs ~\$1500 per sample, while WES currently costs ~\$300 per sample
- Coverage is highly localized around genes, although will get sparse coverage throughout rest of genome

Bamshad et al. Exome sequencing as a tool for Mendelian disease gene discovery (2011) Nature Reviews Genetics. 12, 745-755  
<https://www.nature.com/nrg/journal/v12/n11/full/nrg3031.html>

# Defining the exome

- **Exome** - The subset of a genome that is protein coding. In addition to the exome, commercially available capture probes target non-coding exons, sequences flanking exons and microRNAs.
- Initial efforts at exome sequencing erred on the conservative side (for example, by targeting the high-confidence subset of genes identified by the Consensus Coding Sequence (CCDS) Project).
- Commercial kits now target, at a minimum, all of the RefSeq collection and an increasingly large number of hypothetical proteins.

# Exome limitations

## Limitations

- Knowledge of all truly protein-coding exons is incomplete.
- Efficiency of capture probes varies
- Not all regions sequenced efficiently
- Should other transcripts (e.g., miRNAs) be targeted?
- On average, 82% of genes have at least 90% bases called.

# Reference Sequence

- The Human Genome Project gave the “average” DNA sequence of a small number of people.
- This helps us find out how a human develops and works
- Does not show us the DNA differences between different humans
- Does not reflect the major alleles

# 1000 genomes

Pilot	Purpose	Coverage	Strategy	Status
1 - low coverage	Assess strategy of sharing data across samples	2- 4X	Whole-genome sequencing of 180 samples	Sequencing completed October 2008
2 - trios	Assess coverage and platforms and centres	20- 60X	Whole-genome sequencing of 2 mother-father-adult child trios	Sequencing completed October 2008
3 - gene regions	Assess methods for gene-region-capture	50X	1000 gene regions in 900 samples	Sequencing completed June 2009

<https://www.internationalgenome.org/about/>

# Haplotypes

- Adjacent SNPs are often highly correlated, occurring together in individuals of similar ancestry
- These combinations of adjacent SNPs are termed **haplotypes**
- A **haplotype** is a set of SNPs (on average ~25 kb) found to be statistically associated on a single chromatid and which therefore tend to be inherited together over time.
- The International HapMap (haplotype mapping) project was launched in 2002 and provided critical insight regarding differences in the SNP frequencies and genome-wide haplotypes of different ethnic groups worldwide
- Used for grouping subjects by haplotypes.

<https://www.genome.gov/10001688/international-hapmap-project>

## HapMap (phase I & II)

Samples from populations with African, Asian and European ancestry.

- 270 DNA samples from 4 populations:
- 30 trios (two parents and an adult child) from the Yoruba people of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 45 unrelated Japanese from the Tokyo area
- 45 unrelated Han Chinese from Beijing
- 30 trios from Utah with Northern and Western European ancestry (CEPH)

## HapMap (phase III)

Genotypes from 1115 individual from 11 populations:

- ASW African ancestry in Southwest USA (71)
- CEU Utah residents with Northern and Western European ancestry from the CEPH collection (162)
- CHB Han Chinese in Beijing, China (70)
- CHD Chinese in Metropolitan Denver, Colorado (70)
- GIH Gujarati Indians in Houston, Texas (83)
- JPT Japanese in Tokyo, Japan (82)
- LWK Luhya in Webuye, Kenya (83)
- MEX Mexican ancestry in Los Angeles, California (71)
- MKK Maasai in Kinyawa, Kenya (171)
- TSI Toscani in Italia (77)
- YRI Yoruba in Ibadan, Nigeria (163)

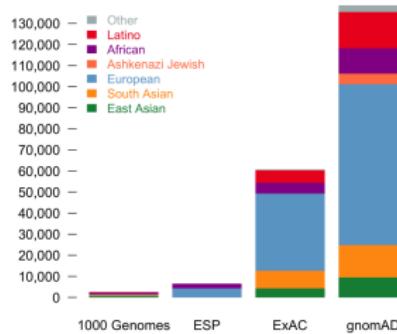
Central repository for simple genetic polymorphisms:

- single-base nucleotide substitutions
- small-scale multi-base deletions or insertions
- retroposable element insertions and microsatellite repeat variations
- For human (dbSNP build 151)
  - 907.2 Million submissions (submitter SNPs, ss#'s)
  - 325.7 Million unique submitted SNPs (reference SNPs, rs#'s)
- rsID - A **reference SNP ID** number, or “rs” ID, is an identification tag assigned by NCBI to a group (or cluster) of SNPs that map to an identical location (e.g., rs17216163)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP/>

## Other SNP resources

- **ExAC** - the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC), a coalition of investigators seeking to aggregate and harmonize exome sequencing data from a wide variety of large-scale sequencing projects, and to make summary data available for the wider scientific community
- **gnomAD** - the Genome Aggregation Database (gnomAD), adds whole genome variants



<http://exac.broadinstitute.org/>, <http://gnomad.broadinstitute.org/>,  
<https://macarthurlab.org/2017/02/27/the-genome-aggregation-database-gnomad/>

# SNP types

- **Non-synonymous** - In coding sequence, resulting in an aa change
- **Synonymous** - In coding sequence, not resulting in an aa change
- **Frameshift** - In coding sequence, resulting in a frameshift
- **Stop lost** - In coding sequence, resulting in the loss of a stop codon
- **Stop gained** - In coding sequence, resulting in the gain of a stop codon

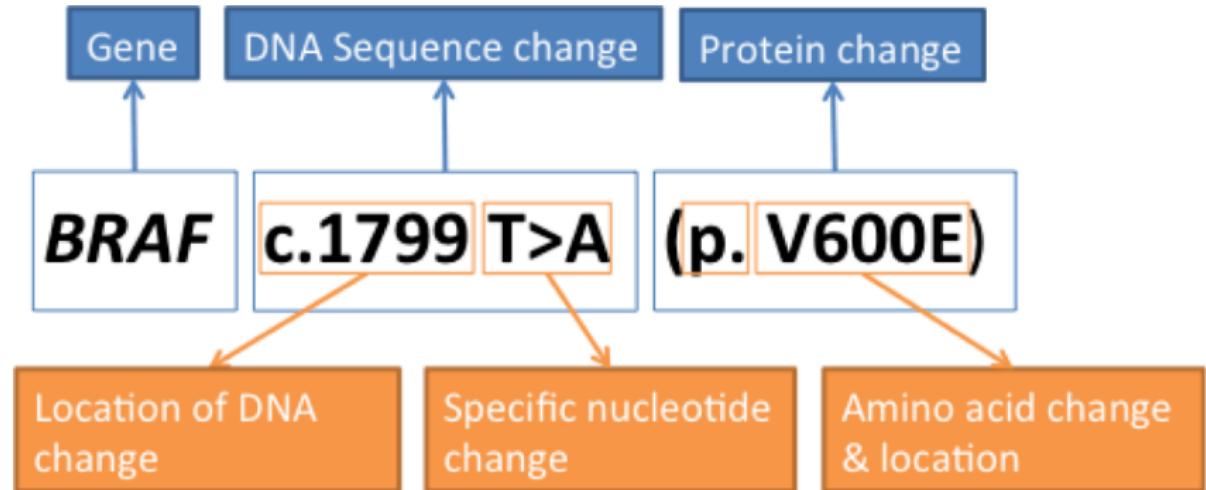
How ClinVar defines its clinical significance values. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar/docs/clinsig/>

# SNP types

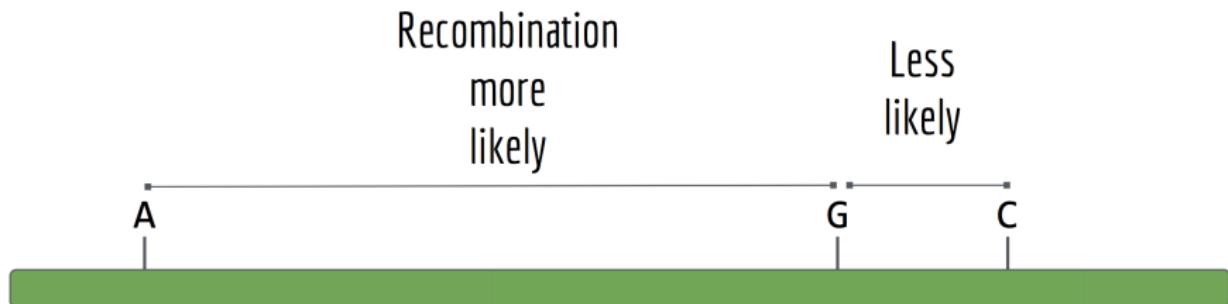
- **Essential splice site** - In the first 2 or the last 2 basepairs of an intron
- **Splice site** - 1-3 bps into an exon or 3-8 bps into an intron
- **Upstream** - Within 5 kb upstream of the 5'-end of a transcript
- **Regulatory region** - In regulatory region annotated by Ensembl
- **5' UTR** - In 5' UTR
- **Intronic** - In intron
- **3' UTR** - In 3' UTR
- **Downstream** - Within 5 kb downstream of the 3'-end of a transcript
- **Intergenic** - More than 5 kb away from a transcript

# Sequence Variant Nomenclature

- Human Genome Variation Society nomenclature.
  - Example: NM\_004006.1:c.[145C>T;147C>G] - two substitutions replacing codon CGC (position c.145 to c.147) by TGG



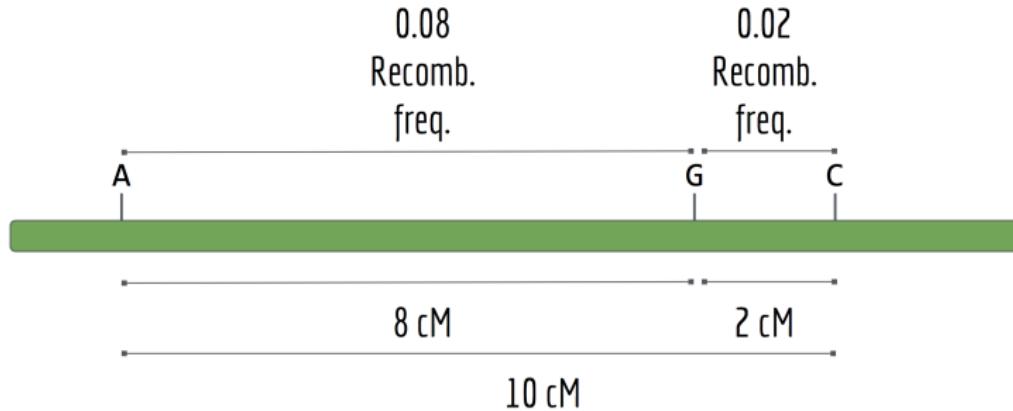
# Genetic linkage



- The greater the frequency of recombination (segregation) between two genetic markers, the further apart they are assumed to be.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic\\_linkage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_linkage)

One centimorgan (cM) is the equivalent to a recombination frequency of 0.01 (1%)

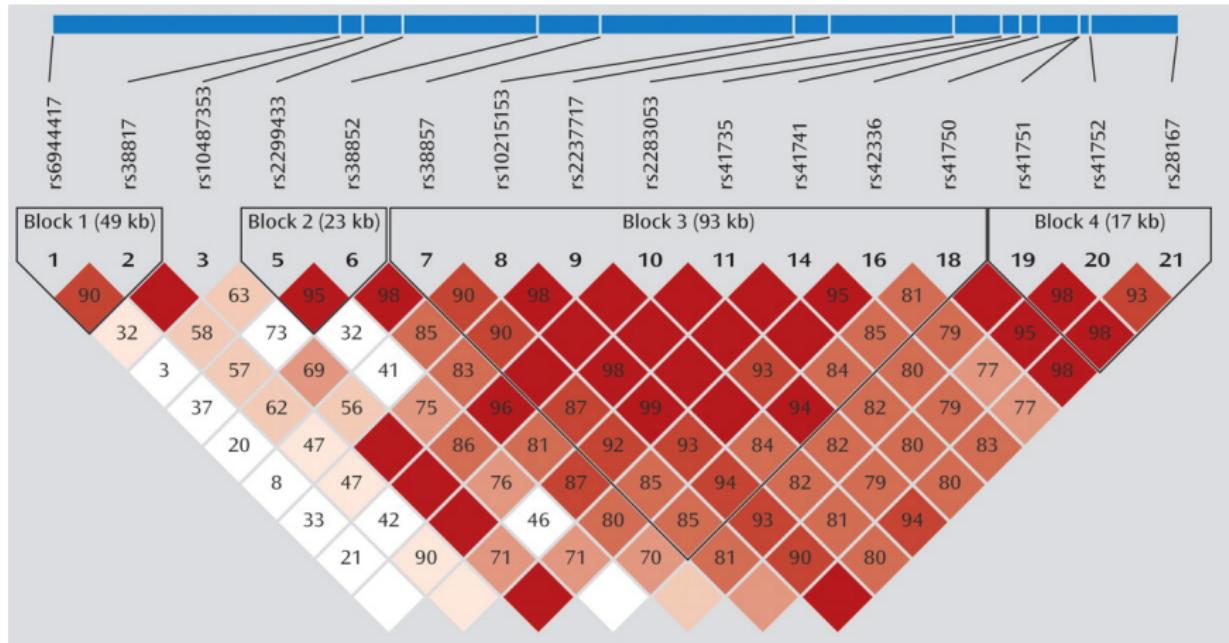


In humans, 1 cM corresponds to approximately 1 million bp on average

# Linkage Disequilibrium

- **LINKAGE DISEQUILIBRIUM** - Correlation between nearby variants such that the alleles at neighbouring markers (observed on the same chromosome) are associated within a population more often than if they were unlinked.
- LD is the deviation from equilibrium, or random association. (i.e. in a population, two alleles are always inherited together, though they should undergo recombination some of the time.)

# Linkage disequilibrium



LD values between two variants are displayed by means of inverted coloured triangles going from white (low LD) to red (high LD)

# Measures of LD

$$D = P(AB) - P(A)P(B)$$

- $D$  ranges from  $-0.25$  to  $+0.25$
- $D = 0$  indicates linkage equilibrium
- dependent on allele frequencies, therefore of little use

$$D' = D / \text{maximum possible value}$$

- $D' = 1$  indicates perfect LD
- estimates of  $D'$  strongly inflated in small samples

$$r^2 = D^2 / P(A)P(B)P(a)P(b)$$

- $r^2 = 1$  indicates perfect LD
- measure of choice

# Tag SNPs

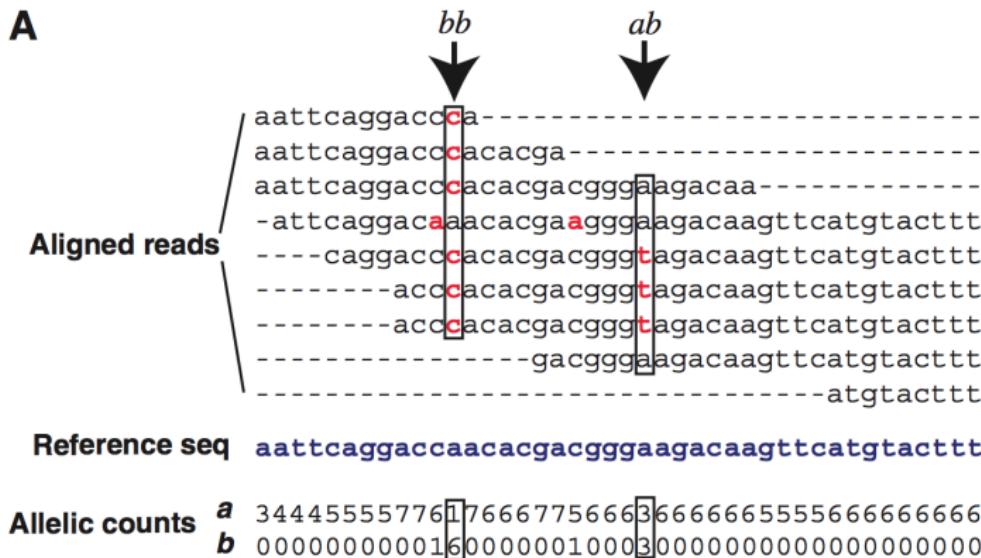
- **HAPLOTYPE** - A sequential set of genetic markers that are present on the same chromosome.
- **TAG SNPs** - Single nucleotide polymorphisms that are correlated with, and therefore can serve as a proxy for, much of the known remaining common variation in a region.
  - Tag SNPs define the minimum SNP set to identify a haplotype

$r^2 = 1$  between two SNPs means one would be 'redundant' in the haplotype.

[https://estrip.org/articles/read/tinypliny/44920/Linkage\\_Disequilibrium\\_Blocks\\_Triangles.html](https://estrip.org/articles/read/tinypliny/44920/Linkage_Disequilibrium_Blocks_Triangles.html)

# Genotypes

- **Homozygote** - a SNP having **two identical alleles** of a particular gene or genes
  - **Heterozygote** - a SNP having **two different alleles** of a particular gene or genes



# VCF annotation

#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO
20	14370	rs6054257	G	A	29	PASS	NS=3;DP=14
20	17330	.	T	A	3	q10	NS=3;DP=11
20	1110696	rs6040355	A	G,T	67	PASS	NS=2;DP=10
20	1234567	microsat1	GTC	G,GTCT	50	PASS	NS=3;DP=9;

# INFO fields – important for filtering

- QD: variant quality score over depth
  - Confidence in the site being variant should increase with increasing depth
- MQ: Root Mean Square of MAPQ of all reads at locus
  - Regions of excessively low mapping quality are ambiguously mapped and variants called within are suspicious
- MQ0: number of MAPQ 0 reads at locus
- MQRankSum: Mapping quality rank sum test
  - If the alternate bases are more likely to be found on reads with lower MAPQ than reference bases then the site is likely mismapped
- Haplotype score: Probability that the reads in a window around the variant can be explained by at most two haplotypes
- FS: fisher exact test of read strand
  - If the reference-carrying reads are balanced between forward and reverse strands then the alternate-carrying reads should be as well
- ReadPosRankSum: Read position rank sum test
  - If the alternate bases are biased towards the beginning or end of the reads then the site is likely a mapping artifact

# Homo

#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT	
1	801943	rs7516866	C	T	9787.34	PASS			
					AC=2;AF=1.00;AN=2;BaseQRankSum=1.009;DB;DP=556;DS;Dels=0.00; FS=18.302;HRun=1;HaplotypeScore=4.6410;MQ=44.04;MQ0=38;MQRankSum=5.122;QD=17.60;ReadPosRankSum=3.375				
					<b>GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL</b>	<b>1/1:37,518:556:99:9787,685,0</b>			

# Hetero

#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT	
1	1918488	rs4350140	A	G	233.10	PASS			
					AC=1;AF=0.50;AN=2;BaseQRankSum=1.349;DB;DP=33;DS;Dels=0.00; FS=0.000;HRun=0;HaplotypeScore=0.0000;MQ=68.18;MQ0=1;MQRankSum=0.436;QD=7.06;ReadPosRankSum=1.547				
					<b>GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL</b>	<b>0/1:21,12:33:99:263,0,620</b>			

# HomDel

#CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO FORMAT

1 1289367 rs35062587 CTG C 3139.27 PASS

AC=2;AF=1.00;AN=2;DB;DP=66;DS;FS=0.000;HRun=0;HaplotypeScore=223.1329;MQ=68.34;MQ0=1;QD=47.56

GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL 1/1:0,66:65:99:3181,196,0

# HetetroIns

#CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO FORMAT

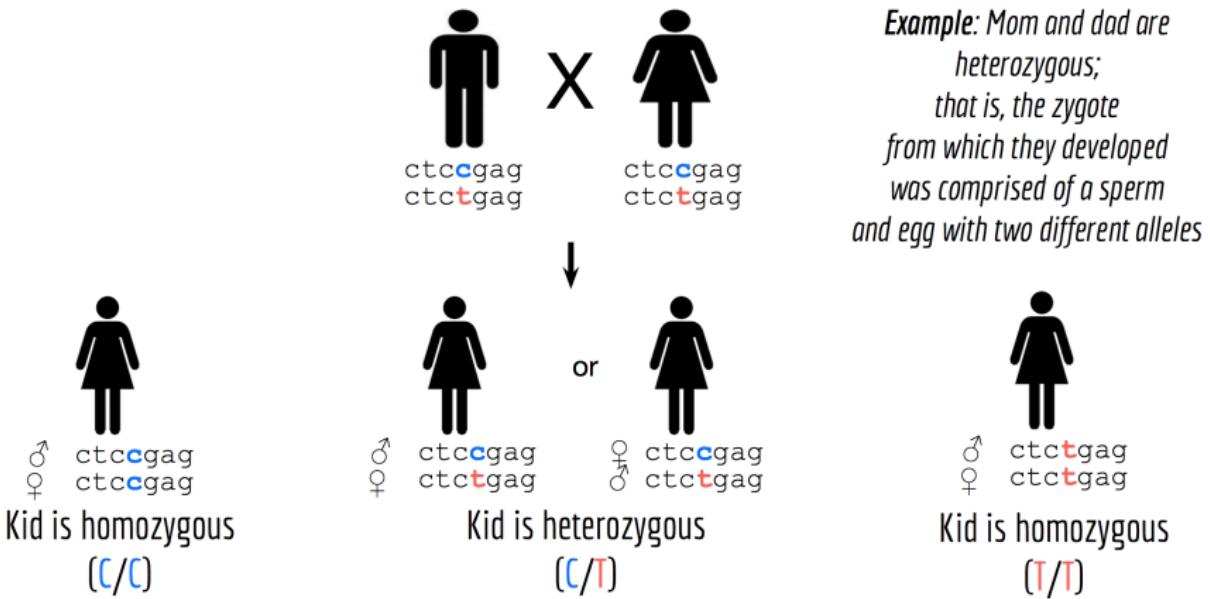
1 17948305 . G **GGGCCACAGCAG** 3581.32 PASS

AC=1;AF=0.50;AN=2;BaseQRankSum=-2.638;DP=54;DS;FS=0.000;HR  
un=0;HaplotypeScore=552.8152;MQ=70.65;MQ0=2;MQRankSum=3.  
258;QD=66.32;ReadPosRankSum=0.320

## Genotypes summary

#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT	LF1396	
chr7	117175373	.	A	G	90	PASS	AF=0.0	GT	0/0	Hom. Ref.
chr7	117175373	.	A	G	90	PASS	AF=0.5	GT	0/1	Het.
chr7	117175373	.	A	G	90	PASS	AF=1.0	GT	1/1	Hom. Alt.
chr7	117175373	.	A	G	90	PASS	AF=0.0	GT	./.	Unknown

# Existing (germline) variants are inherited



# Somatic mutations are acquired over the lifetime



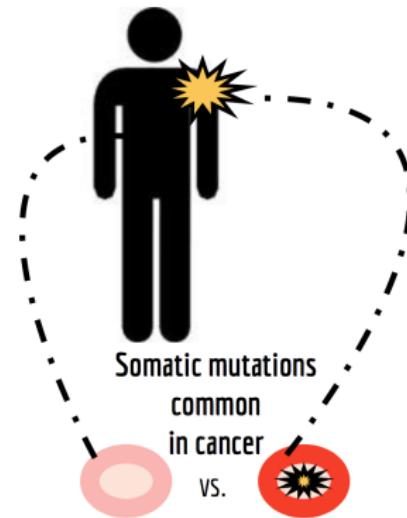
## Germline mutation

- occur in sperm or egg.
- are heritable



## Somatic mutation

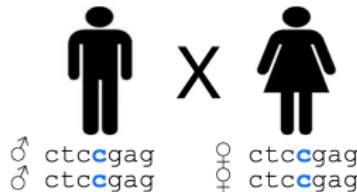
- non-germline tissues.
- are not heritable



compare DNA from cancer cells to healthy cells from same individual

# New (*de novo*) mutations

- May be the cause of many developmental disorders

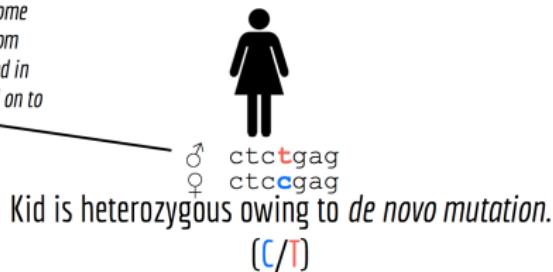


Example: Mom and dad are homozygous for the same alleles.

New mutation occurs in  
father's or mother's germ cell

♂ ctcc~~c~~gag → ♂ ctct~~T~~gag

Note: This is a derivative chromosome of the one the father inherited from His parents. The mutation occurred in his gamete (sperm) and was passed on to the child.



<http://massgenomics.org/2015/07/insights-human-de-novo-mutations.html>

# Frequency of *de novo* mutations

- Human mutation rate:  $\sim 1.1 \times 10^{-8}$  / bp / generation
- Other estimations:  $\sim 2.5 \times 10^{-8}$
- Size of the haploid genome:  $\sim 3.1 \times 10^9$  nucleotides
- So,  $\sim 30 - 40$  *de novo* mutations per haploid genome or twice as many per diploid genome

Roach et al. (2010) Science, <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/328/5978/636>

Nachman et al. (2000) Genetics, <http://www.genetics.org/content/156/1/297>

# SNPs are not created equal

- Cytosine is the least stable DNA base. Its half-life is approx. 19 days compared to a year or longer for other bases
- The spontaneous deamination of cytosine to uracil can cause polymerases to read the former C as T, making C-G to T-A an unusually common mutation in genomes

# Distinguishing genomic variants from sequencing errors

Distinguishing SNPs from sequencing error typically a likelihood test of the coverage

- Hardest to distinguish between errors and heterozygous SNP.
- Coverage is the most important factor!
  - Target at least 10x, 30x more reliable

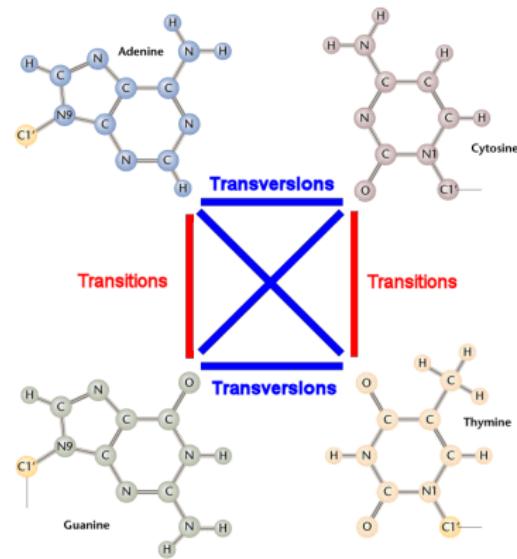
Heterozygous variant?

Homozygous variant

...CCATAG	TGTGCGGCC	CGGAATT	GGTATAAC...
...CCAT	CTATGTGCG	TCGGAAATT	CGGTATAAC
...CCAT	GGCTATGT	CTATCGGAAA	GCGGTATA
...CCA	AGGCTATA	CCTATCGGA	TTGCGGTA C...
...CCA	AGGCTATA	GCCCTATCG	TTTGC GG GT C...
...CC	AGGCTATA	GCCCTATCG	AAATT TG C ATAC...
...CC	TAGGCTATA	GCGCCCTA	AAATT TG C GTATAC...
...CCATAGGCTATA TGC GCCCTATCGGCA ATT TG CGGTATAAC...			

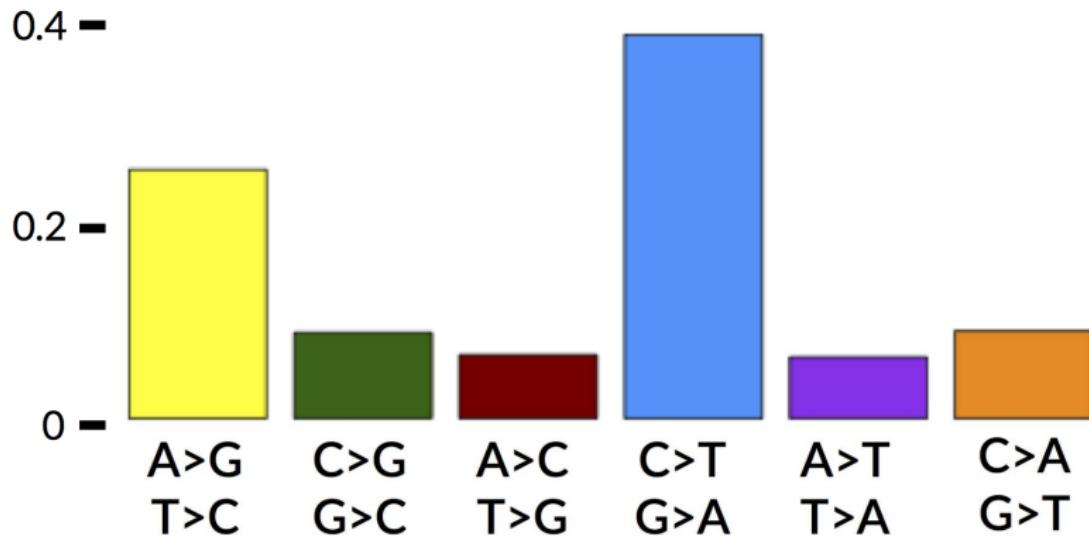
# SNPs are not created equal

- Transitions are interchanges of two-ring purines ( $A <> G$ ) or of one-ring pyrimidines ( $C <> T$ ): they therefore involve bases of similar shape.
- Transversions are interchanges of purine for pyrimidine bases, which therefore involve exchange of one-ring and two-ring structures.



[https://www.mun.ca/biology/scarr/Transitions\\_vs\\_Transversions.html](https://www.mun.ca/biology/scarr/Transitions_vs_Transversions.html)

## SNPs are not created equal



- Due to spontaneous deamination of methylated cytosines, C>T transitions predominate in DNMs

## SNP calling pipeline

# SNP calling

- Algorithms should have high power to detect a wide range of variation, including single- and multiple-nucleotide variants (SNVs and MNVs) and structural variation including indels, sequence replacements and mobile element insertions
- Must have low false discovery rates (FDRs) to minimize costly validation experiments
- Should be able to cope with challenging loci, including highly repetitive sequence and reference errors, and be robust to high levels of local diversity to access clinically interesting regions such as the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) loci
- Should have low resource requirements and run on commodity hardware while achieving fast turnaround times

# SNP calling

- The most common approach is to map reads to a reference genome and either scan for systematic differences with the reference or identify haplotypes that are well supported by the data
  - **Strengths:** Highly sensitive, use common reference, use paired-end information, low on computations
  - **Weaknesses:** Focus on single-base variants, fail in highly divergent regions, e.g., Human Leukocyte Antigen region, require realignment around known indels, computationally high

# SNP calling

- A complementary approach is reference-free sequence assembly - de Bruijn or overlap graphs
- Search this data structure for evidence of polymorphisms
  - **Strengths:** By not relying on a reference genome, this approach is variant agnostic, copes well with highly divergent regions, naturally works on the local haplotype level rather than on the level of individual variants and avoids the need for an initial mapping and alignment step
  - **Weaknesses:** high computational requirements, lower sensitivity than mapping-based approaches, limited by repetitive sequence, as contiguity information is lost when the reads are broken up into their consecutive k-mers during graph construction

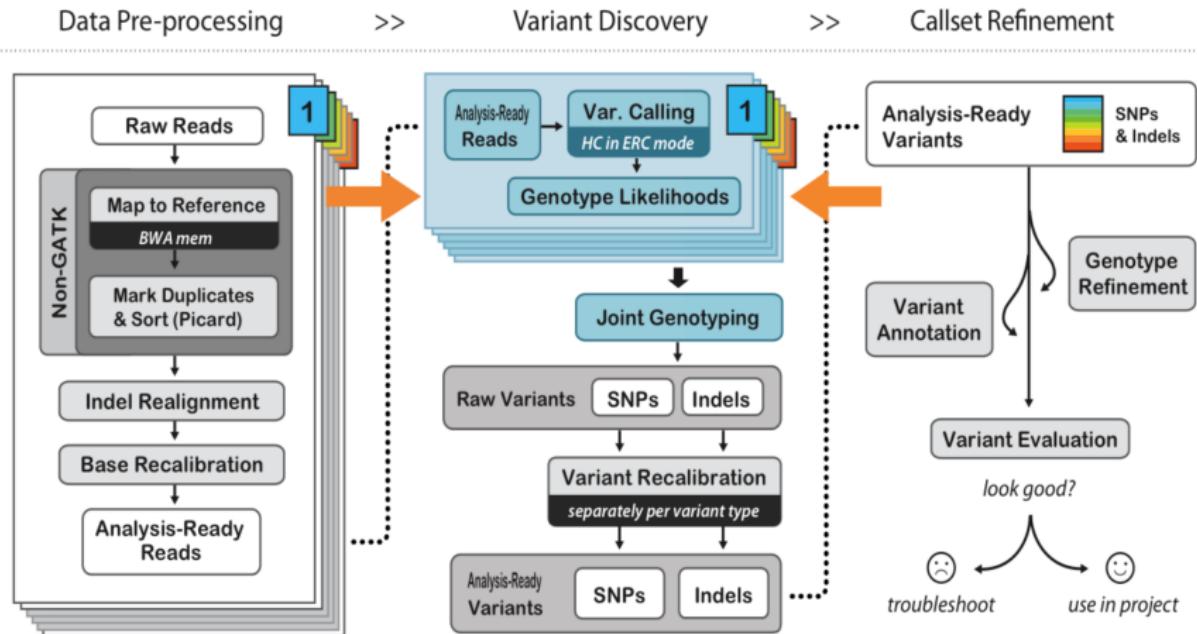
# GATK - Genome Analysis Toolkit

- A single framework and the associated tools capable of discovering high-quality variation and genotyping individual samples using diverse sequencing machines and experimental designs
  - Initial read mapping;
  - Local realignment around indels;
  - Base quality score recalibration;
  - SNP discovery and genotyping to find all potential variants;
  - Machine learning to separate true segregating variation from machine artifacts common to next-generation sequencing technologies.

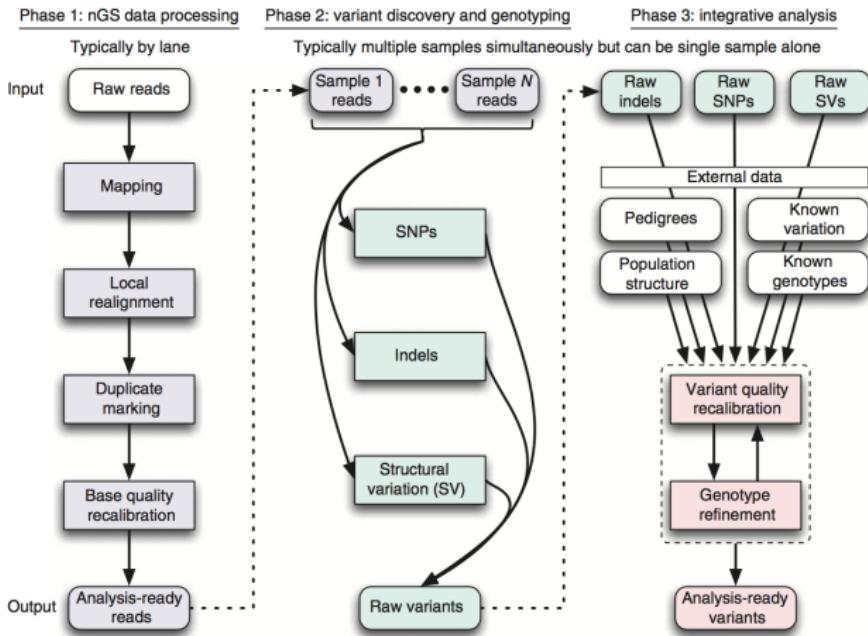
<https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/>

DePristo, Mark A., Eric Banks, Ryan Poplin, Kiran V. Garimella, Jared R. Maguire, Christopher Hartl, Anthony A. Philippakis, et al. "A Framework for Variation Discovery and Genotyping Using Next-Generation DNA Sequencing Data." *Nature Genetics* 43, no. 5 (May 2011): 491–98. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ng.806>.

# GATK Variant Calling Best Practices



# Genome Analysis Toolkit



<https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/>

DePristo, Mark A., Eric Banks, Ryan Poplin, Kiran V. Garimella, Jared R. Maguire, Christopher Hartl, Anthony A. Philippakis, et al. "A Framework for Variation Discovery and Genotyping Using Next-Generation DNA Sequencing Data." *Nature Genetics* 43, no. 5 (May 2011): 491–98. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ng.806>.

# Genome Analysis Toolkit

- Excellent documentation, tutorials, best practices guidelines
- Cloud-ready and parallelizable
- Current version - GATK4
  - Uses Mutect2 algorithm
  - Adapted for better CNV/SV detection
  - Neural network for variant filtering

<https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/gatk4>

# GATK HaplotypeCaller

- Jointly calling variants on multiple samples
- Better detects insertions and deletions
- Produces square matrix with samples vs. variants calls
- Algorithm:
  - defining “Active regions” with high coverage
  - local reassembly using de Bruijn graph
  - hidden Markov Model to identify match, insertion, or deletion
  - haplotype calling based on CIGAR information using Bayesian model

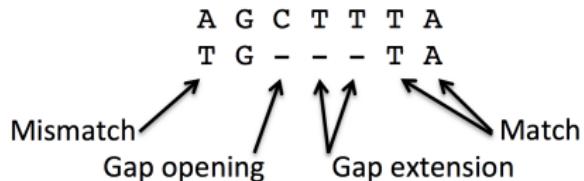
Poplin, Ryan, Valentin Ruano-Rubio, Mark A. DePristo, Tim J. Fennell, Mauricio O. Carneiro, Geraldine A. Van der Auwera, David E. Kling, et al. "Scaling Accurate Genetic Variant Discovery to Tens of Thousands of Samples." *BioRxiv*, January 1, 2017.  
<https://doi.org/10.1101/201178>.

## Alignment errors during mapping require fix

		coor	12345678901234	5678901234567890123456
9	t	ttt	ref	aggttttataaaac----aattaagtctacagagcaacta
10	a	aaaC	sample	aggttttataaaacAAATaattaagtctacagagcaacta
11	a	aaaaa	read1	aggttttataaaac aaAtaa
12	a	aaaaaa	read2	ggttttataaaac aaAtaaT
13	a	aaaaaa	read3	ttataaaacAAATaattaagtctaca
14	c	cccTTT	read4	CaaaT aattaagtctacagagcaac
15	a	aaaaaa	read5	aaT aattaagtctacagagcaact
16	a	aaaaaa	read6	T aattaagtctacagagcaacta
17	t	AAAtttt	read1	aggttttataaaacaaataa
18	t	tttttt	read2	ggttttataaaacaaataatt
19	a	aaaaaa	read3	ttataaaacaaataattaagtctaca
20	a	aaaaaa	read4	caaataattaagtctacagagcaac
21	g	Tgggg	read5	aataaaattaagtctacagagcaact
			read6	taattaagtctacagagcaacta

# Alignment

- Key component of alignment algorithm is the scoring
  - negative contribution to score
    - opening a gap
    - extending a gap
    - mismatches
  - positive contribution to score
    - matches
- When aligning two sequences there is **only one set of differences** to consider
- In a multiple sequence alignment, **one has to consider all pairs of differences** in the scoring algorithm



## Few mismatches when considering one-to-one

### Base stacks

		coor	12345678901234	5678901234567890123456
9	t	ref	aggttttataaaaac	---aattaagtctacagagcaacta
10	a	sample	aggttttataaaaac	<u>AAAT</u> aattaagtctacagagcaacta
11	a	read1	aggttttataaaaac	<u>aaAt</u> aa
12	a	read2	ggttttataaaaac	<u>aaAt</u> aaT
13	a	read3	ttataaaaac	<u>AAAT</u> aattaagtctaca
14	c	read4		<u>CaaAT</u> aattaagtctacagagcaac
15	a	read5		<u>aaT</u> aattaagtctacagagcaact
16	a	read6		Taattaagtctacagagcaacta
17	t	read1	aggttttataaaaac	<u>aaat</u> aa
18	t	read2	ggttttataaaaac	<u>aaat</u> aatt
19	a	read3	ttataaaaac	<u>aaat</u> aattaagtctaca
20	a	read4		<u>caaata</u> aattaagtctacagagcaac
21	g	read5		<u>aat</u> aattaagtctacagagcaact
		read6		<u>taat</u> aagtctacagagcaacta



# Mapping vs. alignment

## Mapping

- A mapping is the region where a read sequence is placed.
- A mapping is regarded to be correct if it overlaps the true region.

## Alignment

- An alignment is the detailed placement of each base in a read.
- An alignment is regarded to be correct only if each base is placed correctly.

## The problem

- A read mapper is fairly good at mapping, may not be good at alignment.
- This is because the true alignment minimizes differences between reads, but the read mapper only sees the reference.

## Local realignment around indels

Sequence aligners are often unable to perfectly map reads containing insertions or deletions (indels)

- Indel-containing reads can be either left unmapped or arranged in gapless alignments
- Mismatches in a particular read can interfere with the gap, esp. in low-complexity regions
- Single-read alignments are “correct” in a sense that they do provide the best guess given the (limited!) information and constraints.

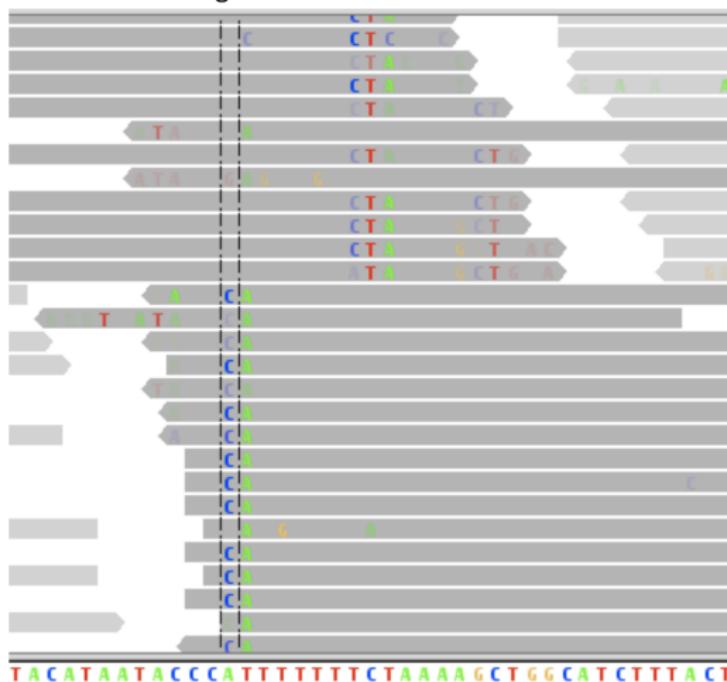
Major issues:

- Indel detection becomes difficult with so many missing reads
- Indels can be overlooked or misplaced in individual reads
- Artifacts introduced by the gapless alignments cause the appearance of false positive SNPs (usually in clusters)

[https://www.broadinstitute.org/files/shared/mpg/nextgen2010/nextgen\\_sivachenko.pdf](https://www.broadinstitute.org/files/shared/mpg/nextgen2010/nextgen_sivachenko.pdf)

# Example: SNP clusters are really a hidden indel

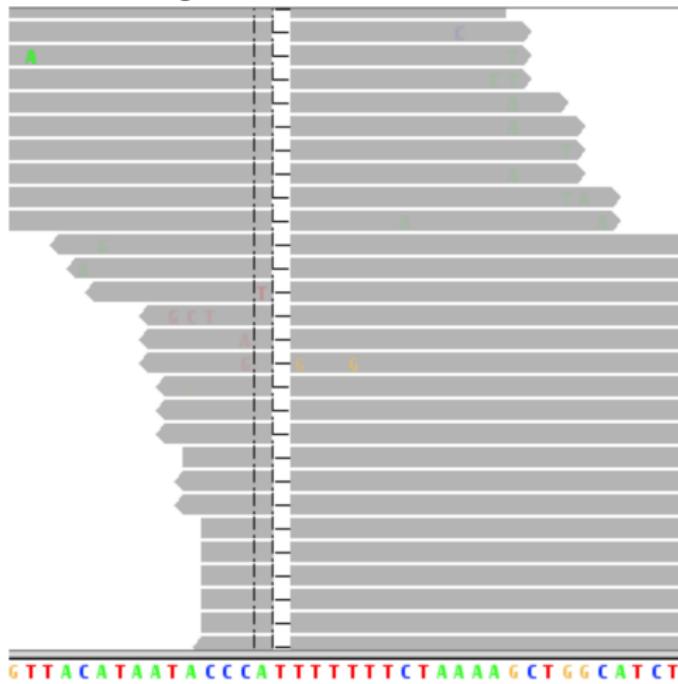
Before MSA realignment:



- Notice that the “SNP”s are all found in clusters
- Notice that the “SNP”s change depending on which end of the read span them
- Most likely what you’re looking at is a 1bp deletion (see next slide); the aligner is unable to accurately align the reads here

**Example: SNP clusters are really a hidden indel**

### After MSA realignment:



- SNP clusters disappear when it is run through our MSA realigner...

# Example : Indel “scatter”

```
TAATAATGAAATTTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTG+****AGGGT+****GCAC TCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCTTGGCGCAAAAAAATCTGTTGCTCCAGATTCAAA  
<- TGAAATTTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTG+****AGG  
<- TGAAATTTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTG+****AGG  
<- GGAATTTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTG+****AGG  
<- GGAATTTCAGACTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGTTCTAAGTCTGCTG+****AGG  
<- CAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTG+****AGGTAGGGGCAC TCTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCTCTTG  
<- ATTTCTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTG+****AGGT+****AGGOTOC  
<- GTACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTGAGGGTAGGGT+****GCAC TCTCTGCT  
<- ATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTGAGGGTAGGGT+****GCAC TCTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCT  
<- GTCTGGTAGGGTAGGGT+****GCAC TCTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCTTGGCGCAAAAAAATCTGTTGCTCCAG  
<-  
  
TAATAATGAAATTTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTG+****AGGGTCACTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCTTGGCGCAAAAAAATCTGTTGCTCCAGATTCAAA  
<- TGAAATTTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTGAGG  
<- TGAAATTTCAGACTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTGAGG  
<- GGAATTTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTGAGG  
<- GGAATTTCAGACTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTGAGG  
<- CAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTAGGGTAGGGCGCACTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCTCTTG  
<- ATTTCTCAGACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTAGGGTAGGGT+****GCAC TCTCTGCT  
<- GTACTGGAAAGCTGGAAATCCAAGATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTAGGGTAGGGTCACTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCT  
<- ATCAAATGCCAGCAGATTCTAAGTCTGGTAGGGTAGGGTAGGGTCACTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCTTGGCGCA  
<- GTCTGGTAGGGTAGGGTAGGGTCACTCTGCTTCATAAATGGGTCTTGGCGCAAAAAAATCTGTTGCTCCAG  
<-
```

- A (heterogeneous) insertion + adjacent insertion may be clean homogeneous (?) insertion
- Even when aligner detects indels in individual reads successfully, they can be scattered around (e.g. due to additional mismatches in the read)

# Filtering

The rationale for filtering

- To eliminate False Positive variants from variant list
- What causes errors in variant calling?
  - **Sequencing errors** - should be accounted for by base quality + recalibration + marking of duplicates
  - **Incorrect alignment** - Re-alignment step should have reduced this problem but not eliminated it
- Thus although QUAL (which depends on Mapping Quality of reads and Base qualities) is a useful measure, there will still be FP with high QUAL

## Hard vs. soft filtering

- Can set thresholds for the relevant INFO fields and request that all thresholds are passed for a variant to be considered valid
- Which fields do you use and where do you set the thresholds? – use datasets of known SNPs and compare their INFO fields to those likely FP variants
- Disadvantage of hard filtering – loosely justified hard cut-offs
- Variant Quality Score Recalibration (GATK) or soft filtering

# VCF files: normalization

- The VCF format is quite precise but still leaves room for representing one variant in multiple ways - normalization (harmonization) of variant representation is needed
- **Parsimony**
  - Pos: 5, Ref: ATC, Alt: AT
  - **Or** Pos: 6, Ref: TC, Alt: T » most parsimonious
- Left alignment, suppose context: pos 8, ref: ATTTT, T deletion
  - Pos: 10, Ref: TT, Alt: T
  - **Or** Pos: 8, Ref: AT, Alt: A » left aligned
- **MNP on separate lines**
  - 150 TCT CCC - Can be decomposed into two records: 150 T C AND 152 T C
- One should also ensure that the same reference naming is used in both comparison files and that both files have the same sort order

<https://github.com/chapmanb/bcbio.variation/wiki/Normalized-variant-representation>

[http://genome.sph.umich.edu/wiki/Variant\\_Normalization](http://genome.sph.umich.edu/wiki/Variant_Normalization)

<http://annovar.openbioinformatics.org/en/latest/articles/VCF/>

# Complex variants

- Illustration of a complex variant at position 101: TACA > TAATGTCTATCAGA being represented in two combinations of simple SNV and indels.
  - Representation one: insertion at 101: T > TAATGTCTATC and SNV at 103: G > C.
  - Representation two: insertions at 102: A > AATGT and 103: C > CTATCAG.

complex\_variant.png

Xu, Chang. "A Review of Somatic Single Nucleotide Variant Calling Algorithms for Next-Generation Sequencing Data." Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal 16 (2018): 15–24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csbj.2018.01.003>.

## Other VCF issues

- Chromosome labeling: chr1, chr2 ... vs. 1, 2, X, Y, M
- Chromosome ordering: 1, 2, 3, 4 ... vs. 1, 10, 11, ...
- GATK enforcement of “X, Y, MT” sorting vs. “MT, X, Y”

# vcflib - a simple C++ library for parsing and manipulating VCF files, + many command-line utilities

- Comparison: intersection, overlay-merge, combine, validate
- Format conversion: to tab-separated, BED formats
- Filtering: using the INFO and sample fields, random sampling, select by criteria
- Annotation: one VCF with INFO fields from another VCF, from BED, annotate by distance
- Samples: extract sample names, remove samples
- Ordering: sort, remove duplicates
- Variant representation: complex variants harmonization
- Statistics and EDA: summary stats, entropy, heterozygosity rate, classify variants

<https://github.com/vcflib/vcflib>

# bcftools — utilities for variant calling and manipulating VCFs and BCFs

## LIST OF COMMANDS

---

For a full list of available commands, run **bcftools** without arguments. For a full list of available options, run **bcftools COMMAND** without arguments.

- [\*\*annotate\*\*](#) .. edit VCF files, add or remove annotations
- [\*\*call\*\*](#) .. SNP/indel calling (former "view")
- [\*\*cny\*\*](#) .. Copy Number Variation caller
- [\*\*concat\*\*](#) .. concatenate VCF/BCF files from the same set of samples
- [\*\*consensus\*\*](#) .. create consensus sequence by applying VCF variants
- [\*\*convert\*\*](#) .. convert VCF/BCF to other formats and back
- [\*\*csg\*\*](#) .. haplotype aware consequence caller
- [\*\*filter\*\*](#) .. filter VCF/BCF files using fixed thresholds
- [\*\*gtcheck\*\*](#) .. check sample concordance, detect sample swaps and contamination
- [\*\*index\*\*](#) .. index VCF/BCF
- [\*\*iseq\*\*](#) .. intersections of VCF/BCF files
- [\*\*merge\*\*](#) .. merge VCF/BCF files from non-overlapping sample sets
- [\*\*mpileup\*\*](#) .. multi-way pileup producing genotype likelihoods
- [\*\*norm\*\*](#) .. normalize indels
- [\*\*plugin\*\*](#) .. run user-defined plugin
- [\*\*polysomy\*\*](#) .. detect contaminations and whole-chromosome aberrations
- [\*\*query\*\*](#) .. transform VCF/BCF into user-defined formats
- [\*\*reheader\*\*](#) .. modify VCF/BCF header, change sample names
- [\*\*roh\*\*](#) .. identify runs of homo/auto-zygosity
- [\*\*stats\*\*](#) .. produce VCF/BCF stats (former vcfccheck)
- [\*\*view\*\*](#) .. subset, filter and convert VCF and BCF files

<http://www.htslib.org/doc/bcftools.html>

Li, Heng. "A Statistical Framework for SNP Calling, Mutation Discovery, Association Mapping and Population Genetical Parameter Estimation from Sequencing Data." *Bioinformatics* (Oxford, England) 27, no. 21 (November 1, 2011): 2987–93.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btr509>.

# bcftools examples

## General

- [Main page](#)
- [Manual page](#)
- [Installation](#)

## Calling

- CNV calling
- Consequence calling
- Consensus calling
- ROH calling
- Variant calling

## Tips and Tricks

- Converting formats
- Extracting information
- Filtering
- Plugins

## Extracting information from VCFs

The versatile `bcftools query` command can be used to extract any VCF field. Combined with standard UNIX commands, this gives a powerful way to analyze VCFs.

Below is a list of some of the most common tasks with explanation how it works. For a full list of options, see the [manual page](#).

### List of samples

```
bcftools query -l file.bcf
```

### Number of samples

```
bcftools query -l file.bcf | wc -l
```

### List of positions

```
bcftools query -f '%POS\n' file.bcf
```

In this example, the `-f` option defines the output format. The `%POS` string indicates that for each VCF line we want the POS column printed character, a notation commonly used in the world of computer programming. Any characters without a special meaning will be passed as is,

<https://samtools.github.io/bcftools/howtos/index.html>

# bcftools examples

## General

- [Main page](#)
- [Manual page](#)
- [Installation](#)

## Calling

- [CNV calling](#)
- [Consequence calling](#)
- [Consensus calling](#)
- [ROH calling](#)
- [Variant calling](#)

## Tips and Tricks

- [Converting formats](#)
- [Extracting information](#)
- [Filtering](#)
- [Plugins](#)

## Filtering

Most BCFTools commands accept the `-i`, `--include` and `-e`, `--exclude` options which allow advanced filtering. In the `query` command because it allows us to show the output in a very compact form using the `-f` formatting option. (For details page.)

### Simple example: filtering by fixed columns

Fixed columns such as QUAL, FILTER, INFO are straightforward to filter. In this example, we use the `-e 'FILTER="."` ex-

```
$ bcftools query -e'FILTER="."' -f'%CHROM %POS %FILTER\n' file.bcf | head -2
1 3000150 PASS
1 3000151 LowQual
```

In this example, we use the `-i 'QUAL>20 && DP>10'` expression to include only sites with big enough quality and depth:

```
$ bcftools query -i'QUAL>20 && DP>10' -f'%CHROM %POS %QUAL %DP\n' file.bcf | head -2
1 14930 31.2757 13
1 17538 37.9458 12
```

## Genome analysis

# cyvcf2: fast, flexible variant analysis with Python

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## Abstract

**Motivation:** Variant call format (VCF) files document the genetic variation observed after DNA sequencing, alignment and variant calling of a sample cohort. Given the complexity of the VCF format as well as the diverse variant annotations and genotype metadata, there is a need for fast, flexible methods enabling intuitive analysis of the variant data within VCF and BCF files.

**Results:** We introduce *cyvcf2*, a Python library and software package for fast parsing and querying of VCF and BCF files and illustrate its speed, simplicity and utility.

<https://academic.oup.com/bioinformatics/article/2971439/>

<https://brentp.github.io/cyvcf2/>

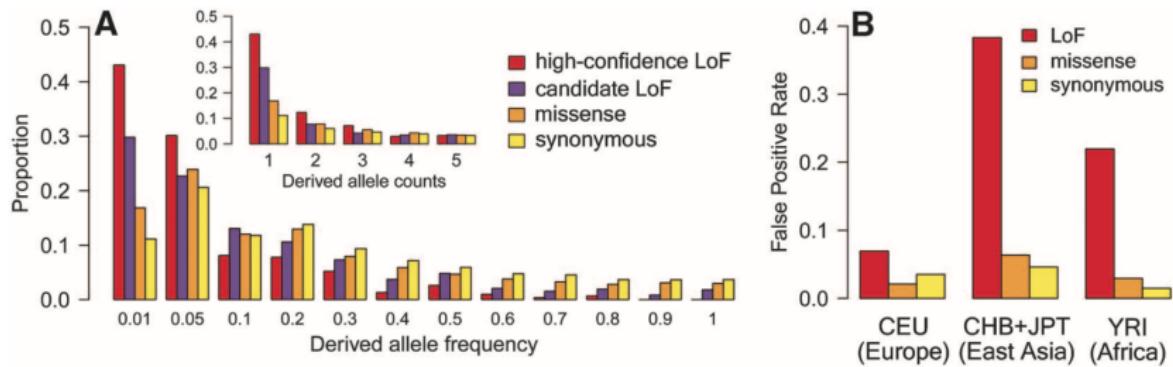
# What is annotation?

- Adding information about the variants
- Two broad categories of annotations
  - annotations that depend on gene models
    - coding/non-coding
    - if coding: synonymous / non-synonymous
    - if non-synonymous - what is the impact on protein structure (Polyphen, SIFT, etc)
  - annotations that do not depend on gene models
    - variant frequency in different databases / different populations
    - degree of conservation across species
- Considerable complications caused by different gene models
- Two approaches to problem
  - decide ex-ante what which transcript to use for each gene
  - annotate with all transcript for a given gene and pick the highest impact effect

# Loss of function (LoF) SNPs

- Genetic variants predicted to severely disrupt protein-coding genes, collectively known as loss-of-function (LoF) variants
- Typically rare
- Human genomes typically contain ~100 genuine LoF variants with ~20 genes completely inactivated

# Frequency of loss of function SNPs



<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/335/6070/823>

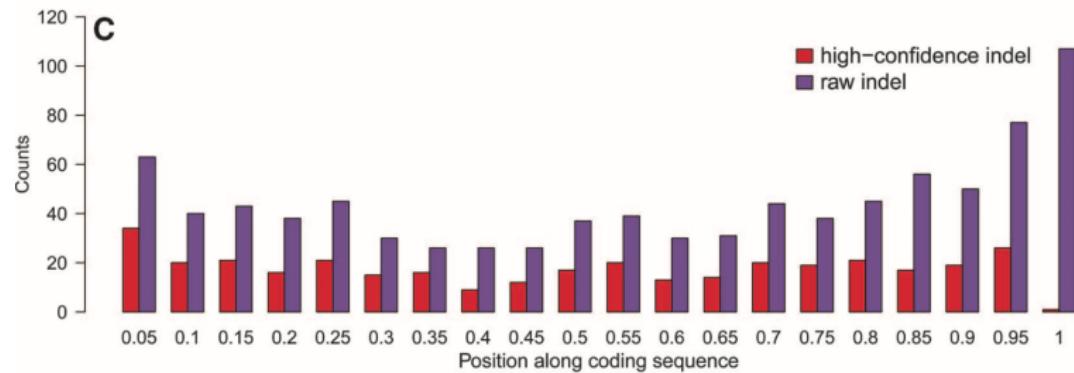
# Types of LoF SNPs

- Stop codon-introducing (nonsense) or splice site-disrupting single-nucleotide variants (SNVs)
- Insertion/deletion (indel) variants predicted to disrupt a transcript's reading frame
- Larger deletions removing either the first exon or more than 50% of the protein-coding sequence of the affected transcript

Variant type	Before filtering						After filtering			
	Total	1000G low-coverage average per individual			NA12878	Total	1000G low-coverage average per individual			NA12878
		CEU	CHB+JPT	YRI			CEU	CHB+JPT	YRI	
Stop	1111	85.7 (21.8)	113.4 (26.7)	109.1 (23.7)	115 (25)	565	26.2 (5.2)	27.4 (6.9)	37.2 (6.3)	23 (2)
Splice	658	80.5 (29.5)	98.1 (35.6)	89.0 (30.4)	95 (32)	267	11.2 (1.9)	13.2 (2.5)	13.7 (1.9)	12 (1)
Frameshift										
indel	1040	217.8 (112.1)	225.5 (121.7)	247.2 (118.7)	348 (159)	337	38.2 (9.2)	36.2 (9.0)	44.0 (8.0)	38 (11)
Large deletion	142	32.4 (12.2)	31.2 (11.8)	31.4 (9.7)	31 (5)	116	28.3 (6.2)	26.7 (5.9)	26.6 (5.5)	24 (4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2951</b>	<b>416.4 (175.6)</b>	<b>468.2 (195.8)</b>	<b>476.7 (316.0)</b>	<b>654 (286)</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>103.9 (22.5)</b>	<b>103.5 (24.3)</b>	<b>121.5 (21.7)</b>	<b>97 (18)</b>

## Location of LoF SNPs

Both nonsense SNVs and frameshift indels are enriched toward the 3' end of the affected gene, consistent with a greater tolerance to truncation close to the end of the coding sequence



Distribution of frameshift indels along the coding region of affected genes, before and after filtering

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/335/6070/823>

## False positives LoF SNPs

- Predicted functional effect of a nonsense or frameshift variant can be altered by other nearby variants on the same chromosome
- Predicted splice-disrupting SNVs and indels can be rescued by nearby alternative splice sites

Many tools + many transcript annotations = many answers



Transcripts



UCSC Genome Bioinformatics



Tools



ANNOVAR™

SnpEff

Genetic variant annotation and effect prediction toolbox.

**Variant Annotation Tool**

A computational framework to functionally annotate variants in personal genomes using a cloud-computing environment.



VAT (Yandell; part of VAAST)

# Annotation software

Two sets of software

- Annovar
  - provides a wide range of annotations that can be applied with one tool
- SNPEff and dbNSFP (non-synonymous functional prediction)
- GATK recommends snpEff, but with strict requirements
  - snpEff version 2.0.5 (not 2.0.5d)
  - db should be GRCh37.64 (which is the ensembl database version 64)
  - should use the option -onlyCoding true (using false can cause erroneous annotation)
- GATKs VariantAnnotator to pick the highest impact.
- Finally, also annotate with dbNSFP, which contains:
  - variant frequencies
  - conservation scores
  - protein function effect

# snpEff annotation get placed into INFO field

SNPEFF

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[SnpEff description](#)

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[SnpSift](#)

[Paper & Citing](#)

[Who uses SnpEff?](#)

[Integration](#)

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# SnpEff

Genetic variant annotation and effect prediction toolbox.

[Download SnpEff](#)

**Important:** This version implements the [new VCF annotation standard 'ANN' field](#).

Latest version 4.3p (2017-06-06)

Requires Java 1.8

<http://snpeff.sourceforge.net/>

# snpEff annotation get placed into INFO field

31942920 . G T 683.93 PASS

AC=1;AF=0.50;AN=2;BaseQRankSum=4.358;DP=73;DS;Dels=0.00;FS=0.000;HRun=0;  
HaplotypeScore=1.7876;MQ=69.76;MQ0=0;MQRankSum=0.977;QD=9.37;ReadPosR  
ankSum=0.508;VQSLOD=1.6292;culprit=QD

SNPEFF\_AMINO\_ACID\_CHANGE=E114\*;  
SNPEFF\_CODON\_CHANGE=Gag/Tag;  
SNPEFF\_EFFECT=STOP\_GAINED;  
SNPEFF\_EXON\_ID=exon\_22\_31942847\_31942957;  
SNPEFF\_FUNCTIONAL\_CLASS=NONSENSE;  
SNPEFF\_GENE\_BIOTYPE=processed\_transcript;  
SNPEFF\_GENE\_NAME=SFI1;  
SNPEFF\_IMPACT=HIGH;  
SNPEFF\_TRANSCRIPT\_ID=ENST00000421060;

GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL 0/1:42,31:73:99:714,0,981

<http://snpeff.sourceforge.net/>

## ANNOVAR

[ANNOVAR Documentation](#)

Reference

User Guide

[Download ANNOVAR](#)

Quick Start-Up Guide

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## ANNOVAR Documentation

ANNOVAR is an efficient software tool to utilize update-to-date information to functionally annotate genetic variants detected from diverse genomes (including human genome hg18, hg19, hg38, as well as mouse, worm, fly, yeast and many others). Given a list of variants with chromosome, start position, end position, reference nucleotide and observed nucleotides, ANNOVAR can perform:

- **Gene-based annotation:** identify whether SNPs or CNVs cause protein coding changes and the amino acids that are affected. Users can flexibly use RefSeq genes, UCSC genes, ENSEMBL genes, GENCODE genes, AceView genes, or many other gene definition systems.
- **Region-based annotation:** identify variants in specific genomic regions, for example, conserved regions among 44 species, predicted transcription factor binding sites, segmental duplication regions, GWAS hits, database of genomic variants, DNase I hypersensitivity sites, ENCODE H3K4Me1/H3K4Me3/H3K27Ac/CTCF sites, ChIP-Seq peaks, RNA-Seq peaks, or many other annotations on genomic intervals.
- **Filter-based annotation:** Identify variants that are documented in specific databases, for example, whether a variant is reported in dbSNP, what is the allele frequency in the 1000 Genome Project, NHLBI-ESP 6500 exomes or Exome Aggregation Consortium, calculate the SIFT/PolyPhen/LRT/MutationTaster/MutationAssessor/FATHMM/MetaSVM/MetaLR scores, find intergenic variants with GERP++ score < 2, or many other annotations on specific mutations.
- **Other functionalities:** Retrieve the nucleotide sequence in any user-specific genomic positions in batch, identify a candidate gene list for Mendelian diseases from exome data, and other utilities.

# VEP - Variant Effect Predictor

- Web Interface
  - Input form
  - Results
- VEP script
  - Tutorial
  - Download and install
  - Running VEP
  - Annotation sources
  - Filtering results
  - Custom annotations
  - Plugins
  - Examples and use cases
  - Other information
- Data formats
- FAQ

Search documentation... 

## Variant Effect Predictor

VEP determines the effect of your variants (SNPs, insertions, deletions, CNVs or structural variants) on genes, transcripts, and protein sequence, as well as regulatory regions. Simply input the coordinates of your variants and the nucleotide changes to find out the:

- \* genes and transcripts affected by the variants
- \* location of the variants (e.g. upstream of a transcript, in coding sequence, in non-coding RNA, in regulatory regions)
- \* consequence of your variants on the protein sequence (e.g. stop gained, missense, stop lost, frameshift)
- \* known variants that match yours, and associated minor allele frequencies from the 1000 Genomes Project
- \* SIFT and PolyPhen scores for changes to protein sequence
- \* ... And more! See [data types](#), [versions](#).



### Web interface

- \* Point-and-click interface
- \* Suits smaller volumes of data



[Documentation](#)

 [Launch the web interface](#)



### Standalone perl script

- \* More options, more flexibility
- \* For large volumes of data



[Documentation](#)



### REST API



- \* Language-independent API
- \* Simple URL-based queries
- \* GET single variants, POST many



[Documentation](#)

<http://www.ensembl.org/info/docs/tools/vep/index.html>

# VEP script

Variant Effect Predictor • VEP script



## ★ Important notice to VEP users

- VEP is now available as the ensembl-vep package from GitHub
- The [old version](#) available as part of ensembl-tools will no longer be updated

Use VEP to analyse your variation data locally. No limits, powerful, fast and extendable, the VEP script is the best way to get the most out of [VEP](#) and Ensembl.

VEP is a powerful and highly configurable tool - have a browse through the [documentation](#). You might also like to read up on the [data formats](#) that VEP uses, and the different ways you can access [genome data](#). The VEP script can annotate your variants with [custom data](#), be extended with [plugins](#), and use powerful [filtering](#) to find biologically interesting results.

Beginners should have a run through the [tutorial](#), or try the [web interface](#) first.

If you use VEP in your work, please cite our latest publication [McLaren et. al. 2016](#) ([doi:10.1186/s13059-016-0974-4](#))

## ★ Quick start

### 1. Download

```
git clone https://github.com/Ensembl/ensembl-vep.git
```

### 2. Install

```
cd ensembl-vep  
perl INSTALL.pl
```

### 3. Test

```
./vep -i examples/homo_sapiens_GRCh38.vcf --cache
```

<http://uswest.ensembl.org/info/docs/tools/vep/script/index.html>

# VEP script

The screenshot shows the Ensembl website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for BLAST/BLAT, BioMart, Tools, Downloads, Help & Documentation, Blog, and Mirrors. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Using this website, Annotation and prediction, Data access, API & software (which is highlighted in yellow), and About us. On the left, a sidebar titled "In this section" contains a tree view of the VEP script documentation. The tree includes nodes for Web interface (Input form, Results), VEP script (Tutorial, Download and install, Running VEP, Annotation sources, Filtering results, Custom annotations, Plugins, Examples and use cases, Other information), Data formats, and FAQ. A "Search documentation..." input field and a "Go" button are located at the bottom of the sidebar. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Home > Help & Documentation > API & Software > Ensembl Tools > Variant Effect Predictor. The main title is "Variant Effect Predictor". The text explains that VEP determines the effect of variants on genes, transcripts, and protein sequence. It lists several bullet points about what VEP can predict, including genes and transcripts affected by variants, the location of variants, their consequence on protein sequence, known variants from the 1000 Genomes Project, SIFT and PolyPhen scores, and more.

Help & Documentation > API & Software > Ensembl Tools > Variant Effect Predictor

## Variant Effect Predictor

VEP determines the effect of your variants (SNPs, insertions, deletions, CNVs or structural variants) on genes, transcripts and protein sequence, as well as regulatory regions. Simply input the coordinates of your variants and the nucleotide changes to find out the:

- genes and transcripts affected by the variants
- location of the variants (e.g. upstream of a transcript, in coding sequence, in non-coding RNA, in regulatory regions)
- consequence of your variants on the protein sequence (e.g. stop gained, missense, stop lost, frameshift)
- known variants that match yours, and associated minor allele frequencies from the **1000 Genomes Project**
- SIFT and PolyPhen scores for changes to protein sequence
- ... And [more!](#)

<http://uswest.ensembl.org/info/docs/tools/vep/script/index.html>

## A second source of functional annotation: dbNSFP

- NSFP = Non-synonymous functional prediction
- Limited to non-synonymous variants
- Has many data fields. We use only:
  - dbnsfpSIFT\_score
  - dbnsfpPolyphen2\_HVAR\_pred
  - dbnsfp29way\_logOdds
  - dbnsfp1000Gp1\_AF

# Example of annotation with dbNSFP

766910 rs1809933 C T 556.42 PASS

AC=1;AF=0.50;AN=2;BaseQRankSum=1.366;DB;DP=30;Dels=0.00;FS=0.000;HRun=0;HaplotypeScore=1.8675;MQ=47.46;MQ0=0;MQRankSum=-0.651;QD=18.55;ReadPosRankSum=-1.757;SB=-109.24;

SNPEFF\_AMINO\_ACID\_CHANGE=R42Q;SNPEFF\_CODON\_CHANGE=cGg/  
cAg;SNPEFF\_EFFECT=NON\_SYNONYMOUS\_CODING;SNPEFF\_EXON\_ID=exon\_5\_766813\_767034;SNPEFF\_FUNCTIONAL\_CLASS=MISSENSE;SNPEFF\_GENE\_BIOTYPE=processed\_transcript;SNPEFF\_GENE\_NAME=ZDHHC11B;SNPEFF\_IMPACT=MODERATE;SNPEFF\_TRANSCRIPT\_ID=ENST00000382776;

**dbnsfp29way\_logOdds=3.0289;** SiPhy score based on 29 mammals genomes. The larger the score, the more conserved the site.

**dbnsfp1000Gp1\_AF=0.76;** Alt. allele frequency in the whole 1000Gp1 data.

**dbNSFP\_Polyphen2\_HVAR\_pred=B;** Polyphen2 prediction based on HumVar, "D" ("probably damaging"), "P" ("possibly damaging") and "B" ("benign"). Multiple entries separated by ";".

**dbNSFP\_SIFT\_score=0.560000;** SIFT score, If a score is smaller than 0.05 the corresponding NS is predicted as "D(amaging)"; otherwise it is predicted as "T(olerated)". SIFT predicts whether an amino acid substitution affects protein function.

GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL 0/1:5,25:30:98:586,0,98

# vcfanno

annotate a VCF with other VCFs/BEDs/tabixed files

A

Unannotated VCF

```
#CHROM POS REF ALT INFO
chr1 100 G A AC=10;AF=0.05
chr1 200 C T AC=40;AF=0.20
chr1 300 G T AC=20;AF=0.10
...
...
```

C

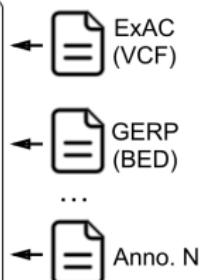
Annotated VCF

```
##INFO=<ID=exac_aaf,Number=1,Type=Float>
##INFO=<ID=exac_num_het,Number=1,Type=Integer>
##INFO=<ID=gerp_mean,Number=1,Type=Float>
#CHROM POS REF ALT INFO
chr1 100 G A AC=10;AF=0.05;exac_aaf=0.0012;exac_num_het=34;gerp_mean=7.25e-07
chr1 200 C T AC=40;AF=0.20;exac_aaf=0.005;exac_num_het=128;gerp_mean=1.77e-05
chr1 300 G T AC=20;AF=0.10;exac_aaf=0.0022;exac_num_het=77;gerp_mean=3.56e-03
```

B

**vcfanno**  
vcfanno configuration file

```
[[annotation]]
file="ExAC.v3.vcf.gz"
fields=["AF", "AC_Het"]
names=[“exac_aaf”, “exac_num_het”]
ops=[“self”, “self”]
[[annotation]]
file="gerp.elements.bed.gz"
columns=[4]
names=[“gerp_mean”]
ops=[“mean”]
```



# Cancer Genome Interpreter (CGI)

Designed to support the identification of tumor alterations that drive the disease and detect those that may be therapeutically actionable. CGI relies on existing knowledge collected from several resources and on computational methods that annotate the alterations in a tumor according to distinct levels of evidence.

The screenshot shows the main interface of the CGI website. At the top, there is a logo consisting of a stylized circular arrangement of colored dots (yellow, orange, red, purple) and the text "CANCER GENOME INTERPRETER". Below the logo, a navigation bar features links for "HOME" (highlighted in orange), "RESULTS", "DATASETS", and "FAQ", along with a "Login" button. The main content area has two sections. On the left, a sidebar contains a small icon of a person surrounded by stick figures and the text: "Cancer Genome Interpreter is designed to support the identification of tumor alterations that drive the disease and detect those that may be therapeutically actionable. CGI relies on existing knowledge collected from several resources and on computational methods that annotate the alterations in a tumor according to distinct levels of evidence." On the right, a larger section is titled "Alterations" with a help icon. It includes a "View CGI example results" link and a "Add file +" button. A text input field is present with the placeholder: "Insert one mutation per line, use the same format for all the mutations." Below this, three mutations are listed in a table-like format:

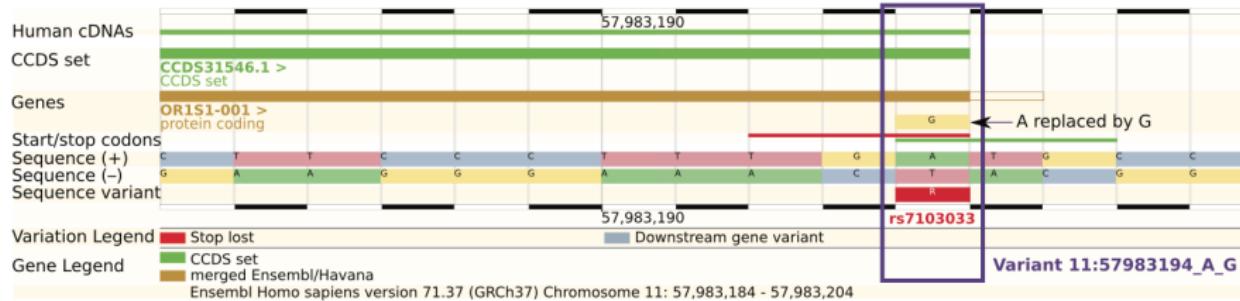
Mutation	Description
BRAF:V600E	(protein change format, gene symbol)
NM_005157:p.T315I	(protein change format, RefSeq/Ensembl transcript)
chr3:g.178936091G>A	(nucleotide change format, HGVS)

# Annotation problems

Ambiguity - one variant may be annotated differently depending on the choice of transcripts and software

	REF+ENS	REF	ENS	Match	REF match rate (%)	ENS match rate (%)	Overall match rate (%)
stopgain_SNV	15,835	14,183	14,960	13,308	93.83	88.96	84.04
frameshift_insertion	6,980	5,298	6,495	4,813	90.85	74.10	68.95
frameshift_deletion	7,491	4,547	7,380	4,436	97.56	60.11	59.22
stoploss_SNV	946	503	906	463	92.05	51.10	48.94
splicing	47,878	14,154	45,839	12,115	85.59	26.43	25.30
frameshift_substitution	1,960	195	1,947	182	93.33	9.35	9.29
non synonymous_SNV	321,669	291,898	315,592	285,821	97.92	90.57	88.86
nonframeshift_insertion	3,506	2,888	2,844	2,226	77.08	78.27	63.49
nonframeshift_deletion	5,136	3,321	4,963	3,148	94.79	63.43	61.29
nonframeshift_substitution	933	226	843	136	60.18	16.13	14.58
synonymous_SNV	178,559	167,561	172,463	161,465	96.36	93.62	90.43
UTR3	724,802	574,255	622,441	471,894	82.17	75.81	65.11
UTR5	177,832	94,545	162,684	79,397	83.98	48.80	44.65
UTR5_UTR3	2,183	292	2,092	201	68.84	9.61	9.21
ncRNA_intronic	8,992,009	2,113,428	8,244,441	1,365,860	64.63	16.57	15.19
ncRNA_exonic	654,098	140,303	597,947	84,152	59.98	14.07	12.87
ncRNA_UTR3	53,379	10,712	47,133	4,466	41.69	9.48	8.37
ncRNA_UTR5	10,683	1,989	9,444	750	37.71	7.94	7.02
ncRNA_splicing	13,931	1,051	13,562	682	64.89	5.03	4.90
ncRNA_UTR5_ncRNA_UTR3	107	1	106	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
intronic	29,289,037	26,805,864	27,743,749	25,260,576	94.24	91.05	86.25
intergenic	50,305,202	49,797,113	41,307,708	40,799,619	81.93	98.77	81.10
downstream	991,811	474,684	840,376	323,249	68.10	38.46	32.59
upstream	910,818	440,728	762,664	292,574	66.38	38.36	32.12
upstream_downstream	53,608	15,621	47,293	9,306	59.57	19.68	17.36
unknown	11,205	6,215	5,703	713	11.47	12.50	6.36
ALL LOF	81,090	38,880	77,527	35,317	90.84	45.55	43.55
ALL LOF and MISSENSE	412,334	337,213	401,769	326,648	96.87	81.30	79.22
ALL EXONIC	590,893	504,774	574,232	488,113	96.70	85.00	82.61
ALL	80,981,575	80,981,575	80,981,575	69,181,552	85.43	85.43	85.43

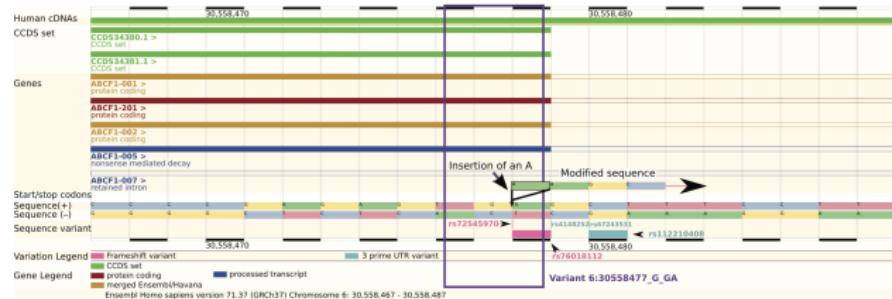
# Straightforward annotation



The variant NC\_000011.9:g.57983194A>G (rs7103033) is relatively straightforward to annotate. It is the final base of the final exon in both transcripts at this position (a CCDS transcript (green) and a 'merged' ENSEMBL/Havana (GENCODE) transcript (gold)). The final codon has changed from TGA (stop codon) to TGG (tryptophan), so this is unambiguously a stop-loss variant. Using the ENSEMBL transcript set, both ANNOVAR and VEP correctly annotate this variant as stop-loss.

<https://genomemedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/gm543>

# Ambigious annotation



The variant NC\_000006.11:g.30558477\_30558478insA (rs72545970) is more difficult to annotate. It is the penultimate base of the exon for all but one of the transcripts shown. It is a single-base insertion, so could be annotated as a frameshift variant. Then again, it is an insertion in a stop codon, so could be a stop-loss variant. In fact, the final codon, TGA (stop codon), remains TGA with this variant (insertion of a single base A), so it is actually a synonymous variant.

<https://genomemedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/gm543>

# Allele frequencies differ in different populations

exac.broadinstitute.org gnomad.broadinstitute.org

- Always filter by frequency separately in every available population
  - do not filter for frequency in only one population
  - do not filter on average worldwide frequency
- If variant causes severe phenotype, should *always* be rare in every population

ExAC reports the allele frequency from diverse ancestries

# SNP exploration



GEMINI is a flexible framework for exploring genome variation.

## GEMINI links

- Issue Tracker
- Source @ GitHub
- Mailing list @ Google Groups
- Quinlan lab @ UVA

## Sources

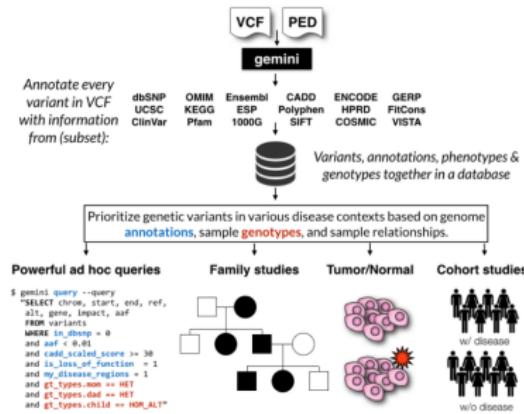
- Browse source @ GitHub .

## This Page

- Show Source

## Quick search

## GEMINI: a flexible framework for exploring genome variation



## Overview

GEMINI (GEnome MINing) is a flexible framework for exploring genetic variation in the context of the wealth of genome annotations available for the human genome. By placing genetic variants, sample phenotypes and genotypes, as well as genome annotations into an integrated database framework, GEMINI provides a simple, flexible, and powerful system for exploring genetic variation for disease and population genetics.

<https://gemini.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

<https://github.com/arq5x/gemini>

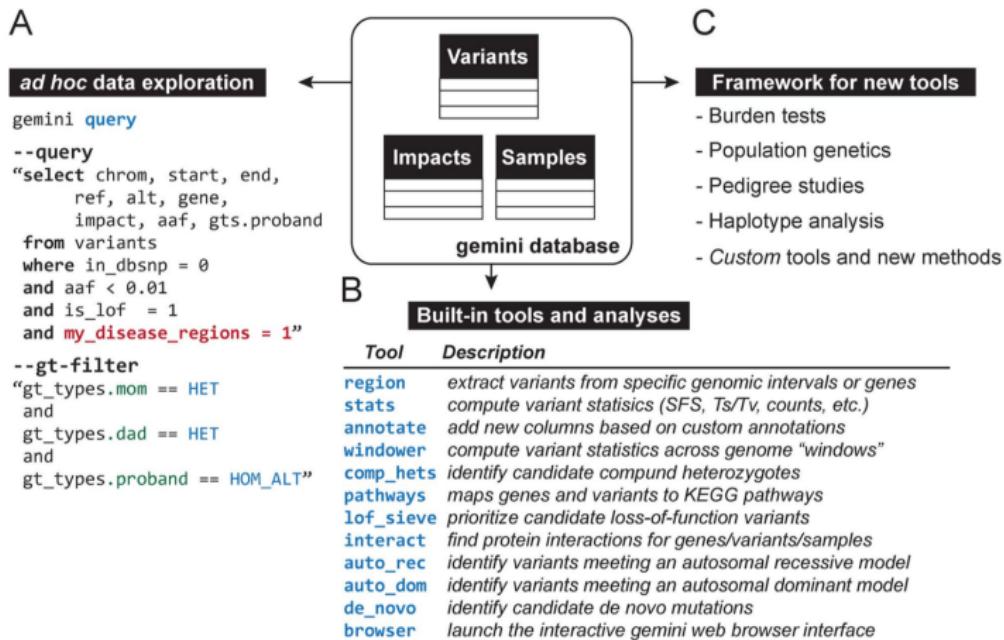
# GEMINI annotations

- GEMINI (GEnome MINIng), a flexible software package for exploring all forms of human genetic variation.
- Integrates genetic variation with a diverse and adaptable set of genome annotations (e.g., dbSNP, ENCODE, UCSC, ClinVar, KEGG) into a unified database to facilitate interpretation and data exploration.

<u>Annotation source</u>	<b>Variants Table</b>
From VCF	<u>Core</u> : chrom, ref. allele, alt. allele, id, qual, filter, ...
From VCF	<u>Variant info</u> : depth, strand bias, allele balance, ...
Computed	<u>Statistics</u> : type, call rate, Pi, allele freq., HWE, ...
snpEff, VEP, Pfam, KEGG*, HPRD*	<u>Gene</u> : gene, transcript, Pfam, LoF, pathway, ...
1000G, dbSNP, ESP, HapMap	<u>Population</u> : rsID, ESP and 1000G allele freq., recomb.
ClinVar	<u>Disease</u> : OMIM, clinical significance, disease, ID
UCSC	<u>Genome</u> : Conservation, RptMasker, CpG, SegDup...
UCSC	<u>Mappability</u> : Gaps; Illumina, SOLiD, Ion mappability
ENCODE	<u>Regulation</u> : TF binding, DNase1, chrom. segment.

# GEMINI variant mining framework

- Structured Query Language (SQL), SQLite database with SNP annotations.



# Gemini howto

- Getting started with GEMINI
- Summary plots from GEMINI
- Incidental findings using GEMINI

<https://davetang.org/muse/2016/01/13/getting-started-with-gemini/>

<https://davetang.org/muse/2017/06/18/summary-plots-gemini/>

<https://davetang.org/muse/2017/06/21/incidental-findings-using-gemini/>

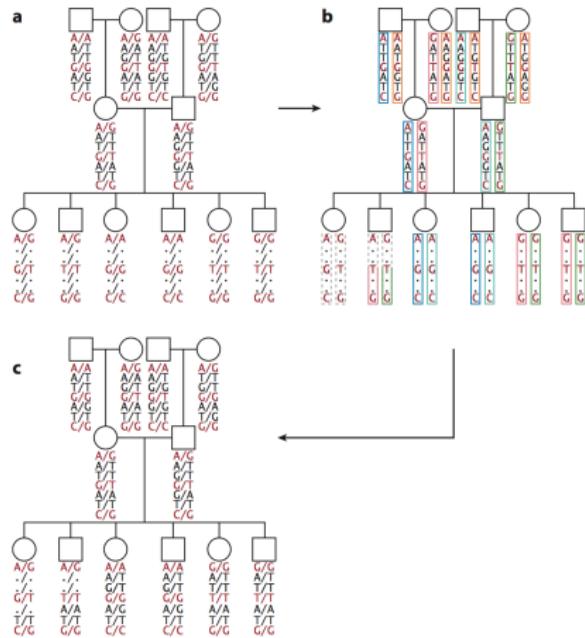
Paila, Umadevi, Brad A. Chapman, Rory Kirchner, and Aaron R. Quinlan. "GEMINI: Integrative Exploration of Genetic Variation and Genome Annotations." PLoS Computational Biology 9, no. 7 (2013): e1003153.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003153. <http://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003153>

# Genotype imputation

- Generally, a subset of all genetic markers in the genome can be directly genotyped (SNP arrays, exome sequencing)
- Imputation allows evaluating genetic markers that are not directly genotyped for association with a phenotype
- Particularly useful in GWAS meta-analysis

# Genotype imputation in related individuals

Family samples are the most intuitive and simple to genotype - using stretches of shared haplotypes - “identity-by-descent” (IBD) blocks



# Genotype imputation in unrelated individuals

Using haploblocks from haplotype reference panels, e.g., HapMap, 1000 genomes

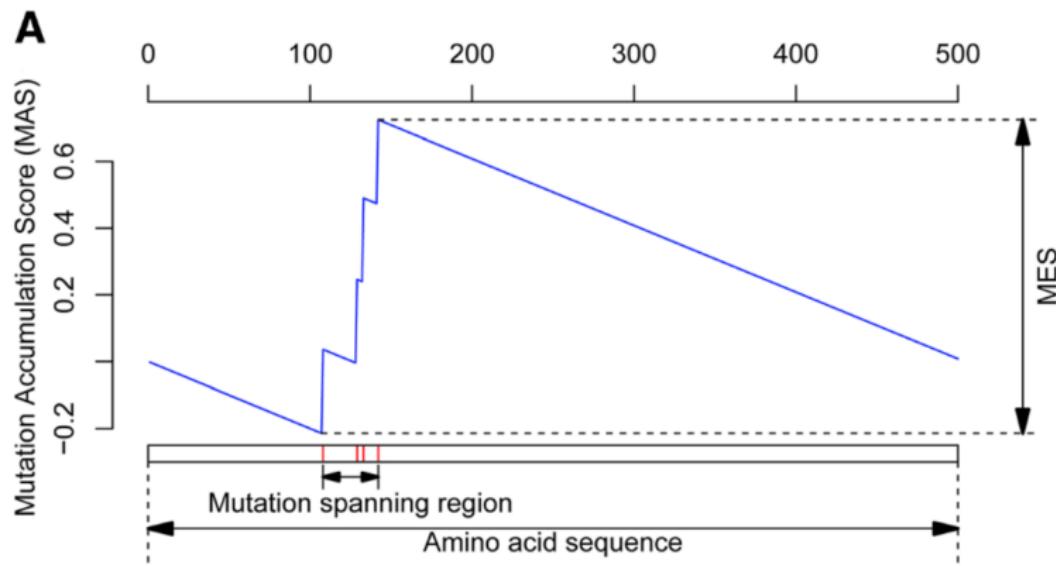
These reference panel haplotypes...	...are best for imputing genotypes in these Human Genome Diversity Panel samples
CEU	<b>Europe:</b> Orcadian, Basque, French, Italian, Sardinian <b>Middle East:</b> Druze
CHB + JPT	<b>East Asia:</b> Han, Han-Nchina, Dai, Lahu, Miao, Oroqen, She, Tujia, Tu, Xibo, Yi, Mongola, <sup>a</sup> Naxi, Japanese
YRI	<b>Africa:</b> Bantu, Yoruba, San, Mandenka, MbutiPygmy, BiakaPygmy
Combined (CEU, CHB, JPT, YRI)	<b>Europe:</b> Adygei, Russian, Tuscan <b>Middle East:</b> Mozabite, Bedouin, Palestinian <b>Asian:</b> Balochi, Brahui, Makrani, Sindhi, Pathan, Burusho, Hazara, Uygur, Kalash <b>East Asia:</b> Daur, Hezhen, Mongola,* Cambodian, Yakut <b>Oceania:</b> Melanesian, Papuan <b>Americas:</b> Colombian, Karitiana, Surui, Maya, Pima

# Genotype imputation software

- Genotype imputation tools typically fall into two categories:
  - computationally intensive tools such as IMPUTE, MACH and fastPHASE/BIMBAM that take into account all observed genotypes when imputing each missing genotype
  - computationally more efficient tools such as PLINK, TUNA, WHAP and BEAGLE that typically focus on genotypes for a small number of nearby markers when imputing each missing genotype

# SNP clustering

- MSEA-clust - Kolmogorov-Smirnov adaptation to test whether the distribution of mutations along the genes is significantly different from a random distribution.



- Mutational Significance in Cancer (MuSiC) Mutation analysis pipeline:
  - ① significantly mutated genes,
  - ② significantly mutated pathways,
  - ③ mutation correlation test (pairwise gene test for mutation correlation/exclusion),
  - ④ clinical correlation test,
  - ⑤ proximity analysis (clustering of mutations),
  - ⑥ COSMIC/OMIM matching,
  - ⑦ Pfam protein domain mutation analysis.

<http://gmt.genome.wustl.edu/>

<https://github.com/ding-lab/MuSiC2>

Dees, Nathan D., Qunyuan Zhang, Cyriac Kandoth, Michael C. Wendl, William Schierding, Daniel C. Koboldt, Thomas B. Mooney, et al. "MuSiC: Identifying Mutational Significance in Cancer Genomes." *Genome Research* 22, no. 8 (August 2012): 1589–98. <https://doi.org/10.1101/gr.134635.111>.

# OncodriveCLUST

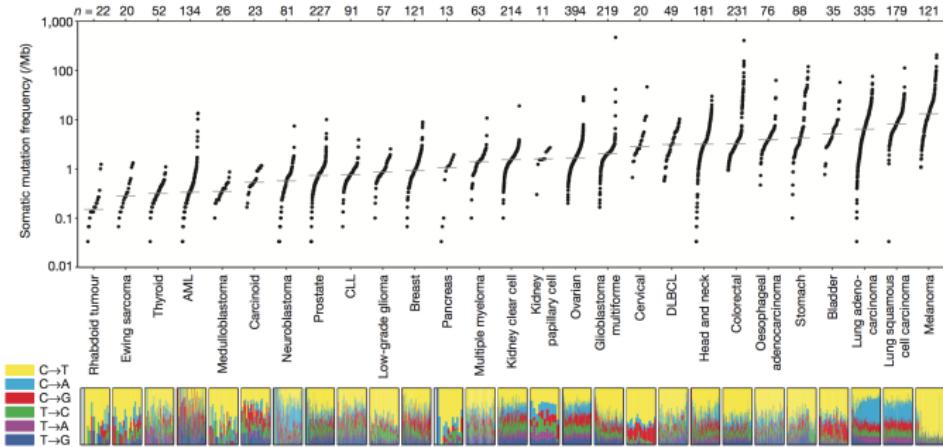
- Gene-centric protein-affecting mutation clustering.
- Significant mutations defined vs. background rate accounting for gene length and the overall number of gene' mutations (binomial test)
- Clusters within 5 amino-acid residues.

<http://bg.upf.edu/group/projects/oncodrive-clust.php>

Tamborero, David, Abel Gonzalez-Perez, and Nuria Lopez-Bigas. "OncodriveCLUST: Exploiting the Positional Clustering of Somatic Mutations to Identify Cancer Genes." *Bioinformatics* (Oxford, England) 29, no. 18 (September 15, 2013): 2238–44.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btt395>.

# MutSigCV

- Mutational heterogeneity (among patients and cancers) leads to many false positive detection. Need to account for:
  - ① regional heterogeneity (among patients, considering mutation spectrum),
  - ② gene expression (highly expressed genes mutate more frequently),
  - ③ replication timing (higher at later replicating regions)



## More info

[https://github.com/mdozmorov/SNP\\_notes](https://github.com/mdozmorov/SNP_notes)