

# Variant Calling

Michael Schatz

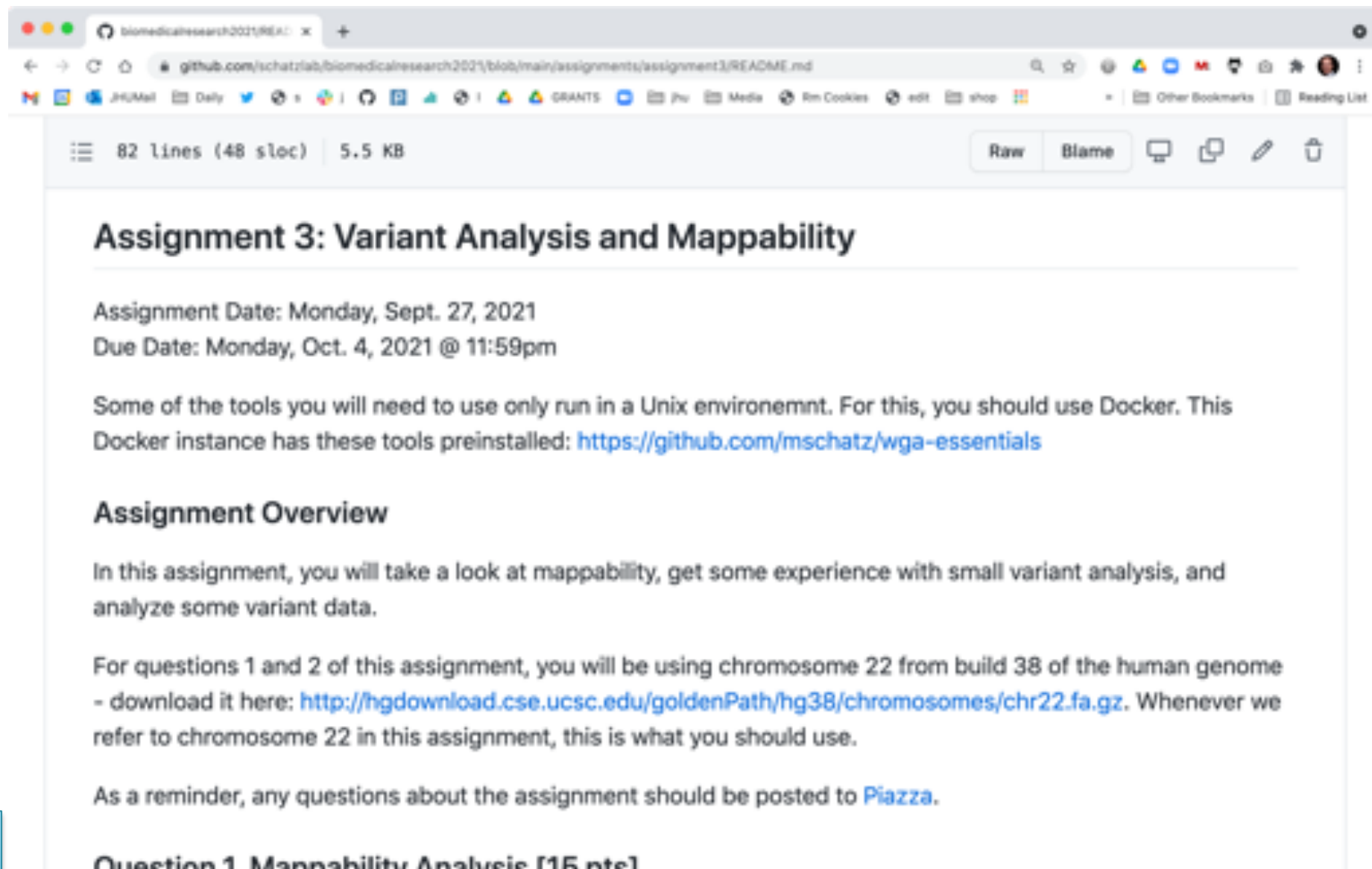
Sept 29, 2021

Lecture 9: Computational Biomedical Research



# Assignment 3: Variant Analysis & Mappability

## Due Oct 4 @ 11:59pm



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a GitHub README file. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [github.com/schatzlab/biomedicalresearch2021/blob/main/assignments/assignment3/README.md](https://github.com/schatzlab/biomedicalresearch2021/blob/main/assignments/assignment3/README.md). The page header indicates the file is 82 lines (48 sloc) and 5.5 KB. The main content of the README is as follows:

### Assignment 3: Variant Analysis and Mappability

Assignment Date: Monday, Sept. 27, 2021  
Due Date: Monday, Oct. 4, 2021 @ 11:59pm

Some of the tools you will need to use only run in a Unix environment. For this, you should use Docker. This Docker instance has these tools preinstalled: <https://github.com/mschatz/wga-essentials>

### Assignment Overview

In this assignment, you will take a look at mappability, get some experience with small variant analysis, and analyze some variant data.

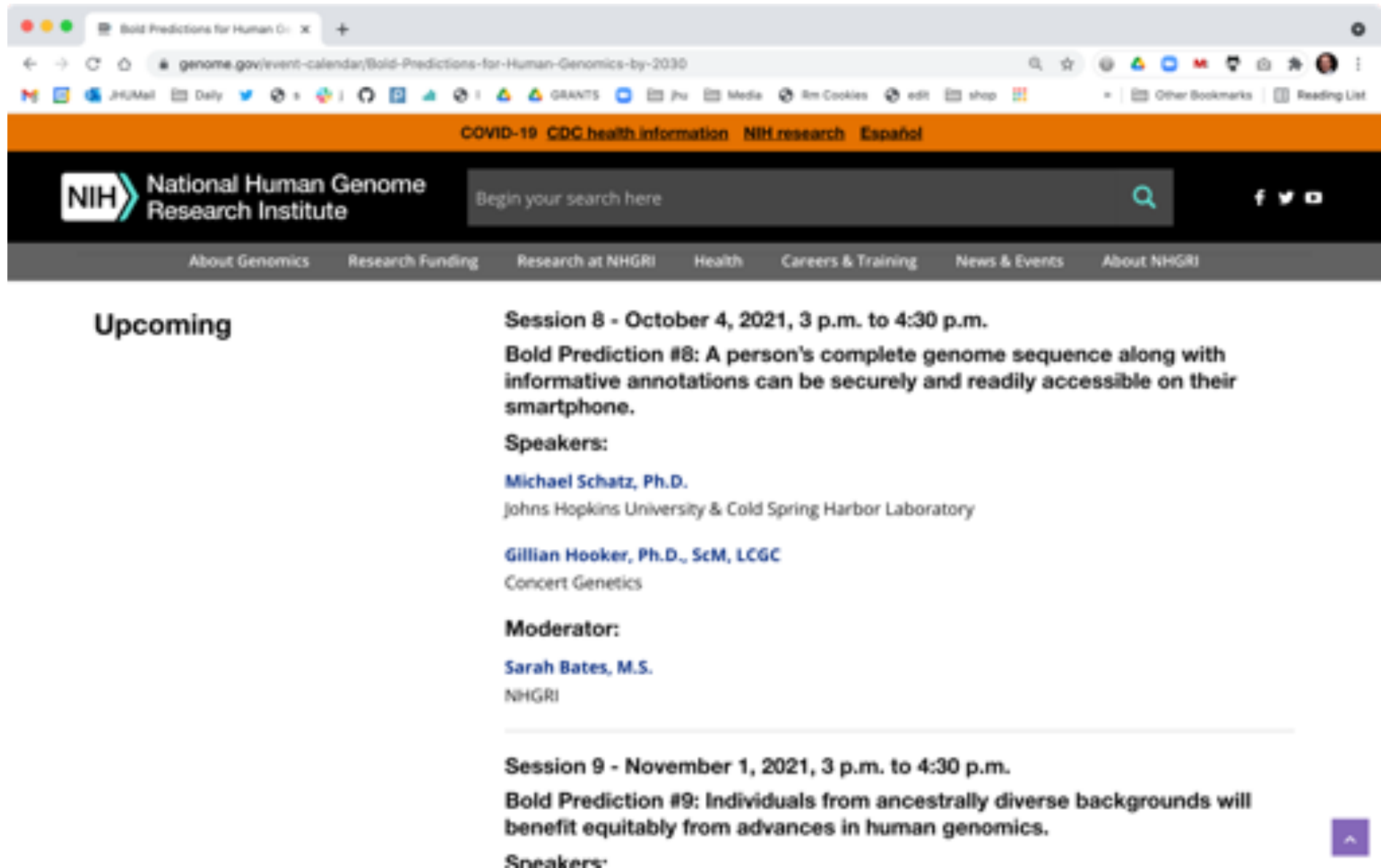
For questions 1 and 2 of this assignment, you will be using chromosome 22 from build 38 of the human genome - download it here: <http://hgdownload.cse.ucsc.edu/goldenPath/hg38/chromosomes/chr22.fa.gz>. Whenever we refer to chromosome 22 in this assignment, this is what you should use.

As a reminder, any questions about the assignment should be posted to [Piazza](#).

### Question 1: Mappability Analysis [15 pts]

<https://github.com/schatzlab/biomedicalresearch2021>

# Monday's class



**Upcoming**

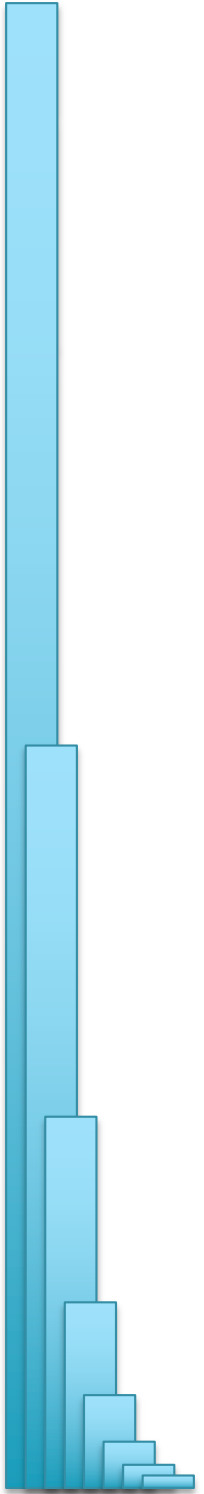
**Session 8 - October 4, 2021, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Bold Prediction #8:** A person's complete genome sequence along with informative annotations can be securely and readily accessible on their smartphone.  
**Speakers:**  
[Michael Schatz, Ph.D.](#)  
Johns Hopkins University & Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory  
[Gillian Hooker, Ph.D., ScM, LCGC](#)  
Concert Genetics  
**Moderator:**  
[Sarah Bates, M.S.](#)  
NHGRI

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**Session 9 - November 1, 2021, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Bold Prediction #9:** Individuals from ancestrally diverse backgrounds will benefit equitably from advances in human genomics.  
**Speakers:**

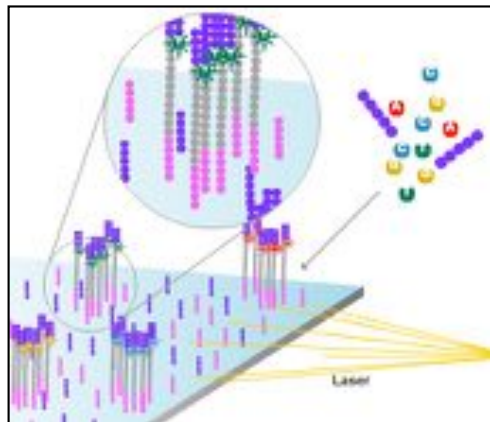
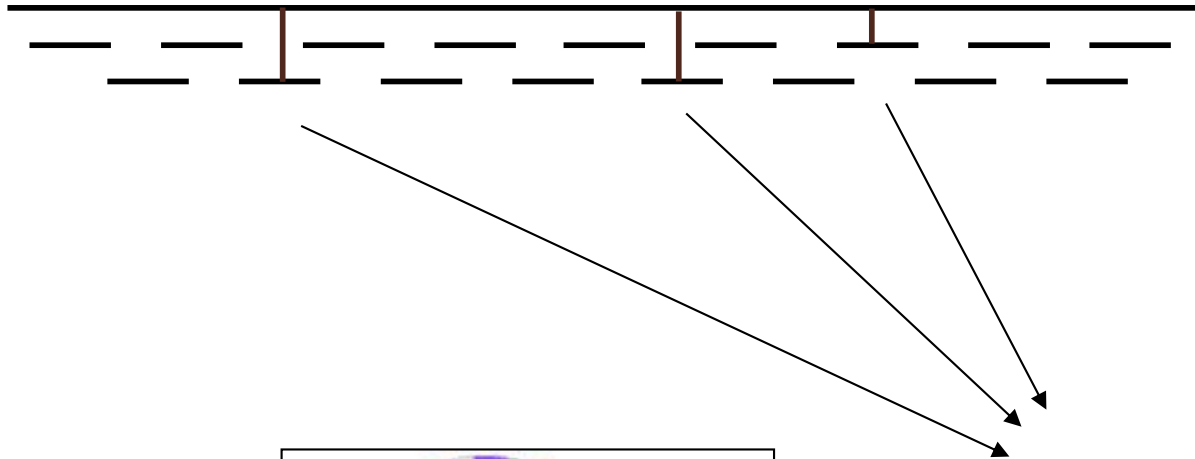
Registration: [bit.ly/2XXhLYJ](https://bit.ly/2XXhLYJ)

# Read Mapping



# Personal Genomics

How does your genome compare to the reference?



Heart Disease

Cancer

Presidential smile

# Similarity metrics

- Hamming distance

- Count the number of substitutions to transform one string into another

MIKESCHATZ

| | X | | XXXX |

MICESHATZZ

5

- Edit distance

- The minimum number of substitutions, insertions, or deletions to transform one string into another

MIKESCHAT-Z

| | X | | X | | | X |

MICES-HATZZ

3

# Reverse Engineering Edit Distance

$$D(\text{AGCACACA}, \text{ACACACTA}) = ?$$

Imagine we already have the optimal alignment of the strings, the last column can only be 1 of 3 options:

...M	...I	...D
...A	...-	...A
...A	...A	...-

The optimal alignment of last two columns is then 1 of 9 possibilities

...MM	...IM	...DM	...MI	...II	...DI	...MD	...ID	...DD
...CA	...-A	...CA	...A-	...--	...A-	...CA	...-A	...CA
...TA	...TA	...-A	...TA	...TA	...-A	...A-	...A-	...--

The optimal alignment of the last three columns is then 1 of 27 possibilities...

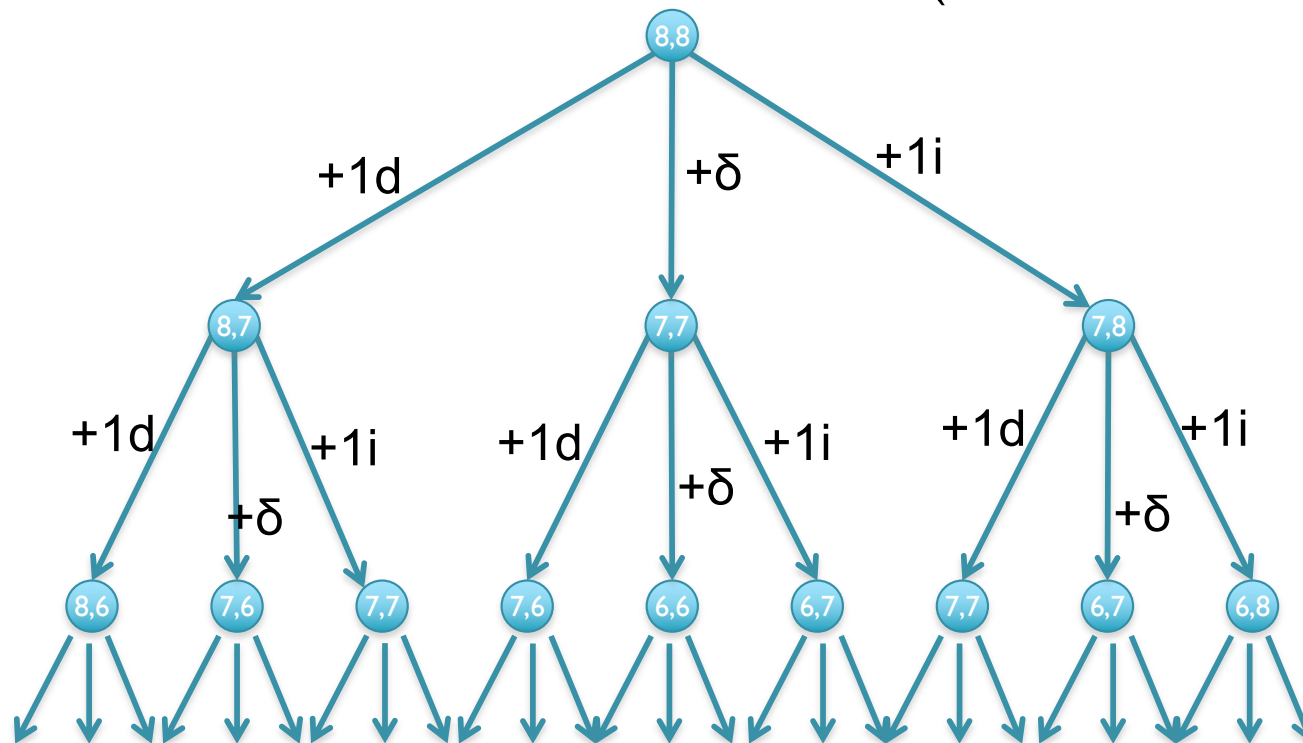
...M...	...I...	...D...
...X...	...-...	...X...
...Y...	...Y...	...-...

Eventually spell out every possible sequence of {I,M,D}

# Recursive solution

- Computation of  $D$  is a recursive process.
  - At each step, we only allow matches, substitutions, and indels
  - $D(i,j)$  in terms of  $D(i',j')$  for  $i' \leq i$  and  $j' \leq j$ .

$$D(\text{AGCACACA}, \text{ACACACTA}) = \min\{D(\text{AGCACACA}, \text{ACACACT}) + 1, \\ D(\text{AGCACAC}, \text{ACACACTA}) + 1, \\ D(\text{AGCACAC}, \text{ACACACT}) + \delta(\text{A}, \text{A})\}$$



[What is the running time?]



# Dynamic Programming

- We could code this as a recursive function call...  
...with an exponential number of function evaluations
- There are only  $(n+1) \times (m+1)$  pairs  $i$  and  $j$ 
  - We are evaluating  $D(i,j)$  multiple times
- Compute  $D(i,j)$  bottom up.
  - Start with smallest  $(i,j) = (1,1)$ .
  - Store the intermediate results in a table.
    - Compute  $D(i,j)$  *after*  $D(i-1,j)$ ,  $D(i,j-1)$ , and  $D(i-1,j-1)$

# Recurrence Relation for D

Find the edit distance (minimum number of operations to convert one string into another) in  $O(mn)$  time

- Base conditions:

- $D(i,0) = i$ , for all  $i = 0, \dots, n$
- $D(0,j) = j$ , for all  $j = 0, \dots, m$

- For  $i > 0, j > 0$ :

$$D(i,j) = \min \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} D(i-1,j) + 1, & // \text{align 0 chars from S, 1 from T} \\ D(i,j-1) + 1, & // \text{align 1 char from S, 0 from T} \\ D(i-1,j-1) + \delta(S(i),T(j)) & // \text{align 1+1 chars} \end{array} \right\}$$

[Why do we want the min?]

# Dynamic Programming Matrix

		<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>A</b>	1								
<b>G</b>	2								
<b>C</b>	3								
<b>A</b>	4								
<b>C</b>	5								
<b>A</b>	6								
<b>C</b>	7								
<b>A</b>	8								

[What does the initialization mean?]

# Dynamic Programming Matrix

		A	C	A	C	A	C	T	A
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	0							
G	2								
C	3								
A	4								
C	5								
A	6								
C	7								
A	8								

$$D[A,A] = \min\{D[A,]+1, D[,A]+1, D[,]+ \delta(A,A)\}$$

# Dynamic Programming Matrix

		A	C	A	C	A	C	T	A
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	0	1						
G	2								
C	3								
A	4								
C	5								
A	6								
C	7								
A	8								

$$D[A,AC] = \min\{D[A,A]+1, D[,AC]+1, D[,A]+\delta(A,C)\}$$

# Dynamic Programming Matrix

		A	C	A	C	A	C	T	A
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	0	1	2					
G	2								
C	3								
A	4								
C	5								
A	6								
C	7								
A	8								

$$D[A,ACA] = \min\{D[A,AC]+1, D[,ACA]+1, D[,AC]+\delta(A,A)\}$$

# Dynamic Programming Matrix

		<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<b>A</b>	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	<u>7</u>
<b>G</b>	2								
<b>C</b>	3								
<b>A</b>	4								
<b>C</b>	5								
<b>A</b>	6								
<b>C</b>	7								
<b>A</b>	8								

$$D[A, ACACACTA] = 7$$

-----A  
 \*\*\*\*\* |  
 ACACACTA

[What about the other A?]

# Dynamic Programming Matrix

		A	C	A	C	A	C	T	A
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	5	6	7	8
A	1	0	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	6	7
G	2	1	1	2	3	4	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
C	3								
A	4								
C	5								
A	6								
C	7								
A	8								

$$D[AG, ACACACTA] = 7$$

-----AG--

\*\*\*\*\* | \*\*\*

ACACACTA



# Dynamic Programming Matrix

		A	C	A	C	A	C	T	A
	<u>0</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	1	<u>0</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G	2	<u>1</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	3	2	<u>1</u>	2	2	3	4	5	6
A	4	3	2	<u>1</u>	2	2	3	4	5
C	5	4	3	2	<u>1</u>	2	2	3	4
A	6	5	4	3	2	<u>1</u>	2	3	3
C	7	6	5	4	3	2	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	3
A	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	2	<u>2</u>

$$D[\text{AGCACACA}, \text{ACACACTA}] = 2$$

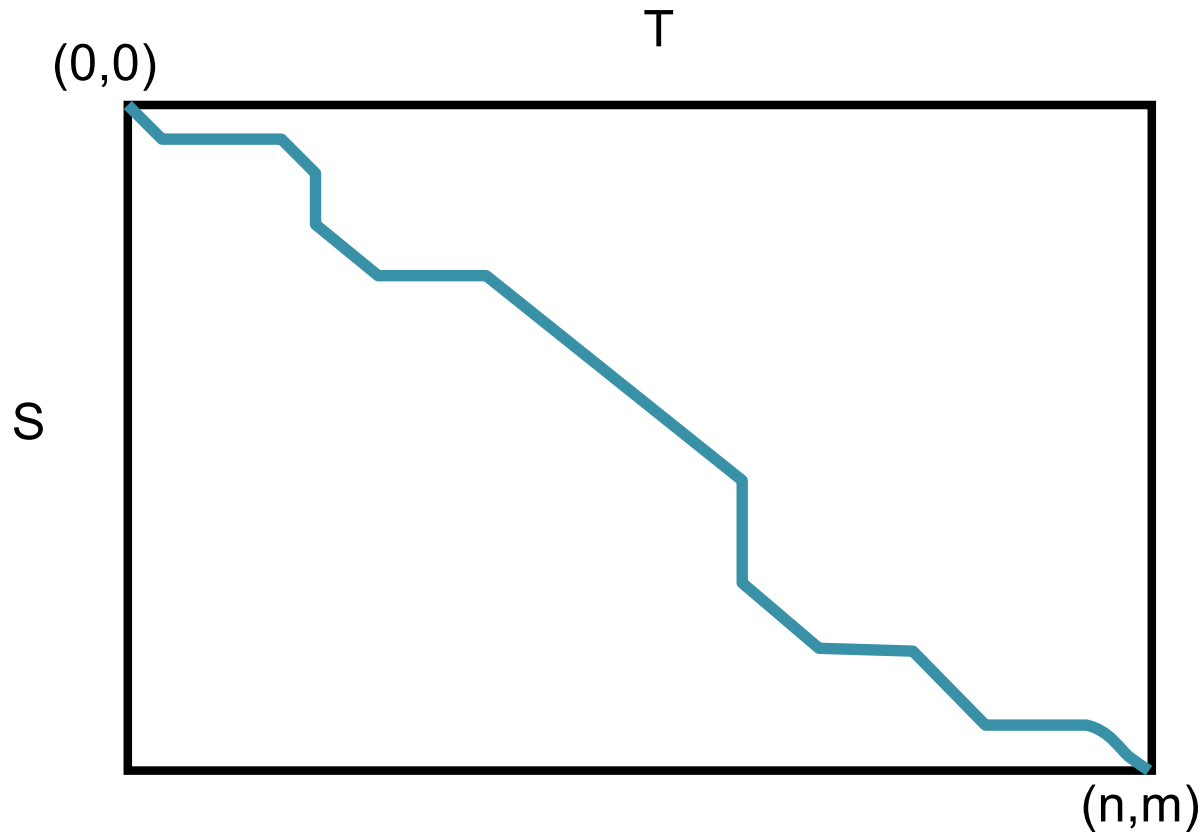
AGCACAC-A

| \* | | | | \* |

A-CACACTA

[Can we do it any better?]

# Global Alignment Schematic

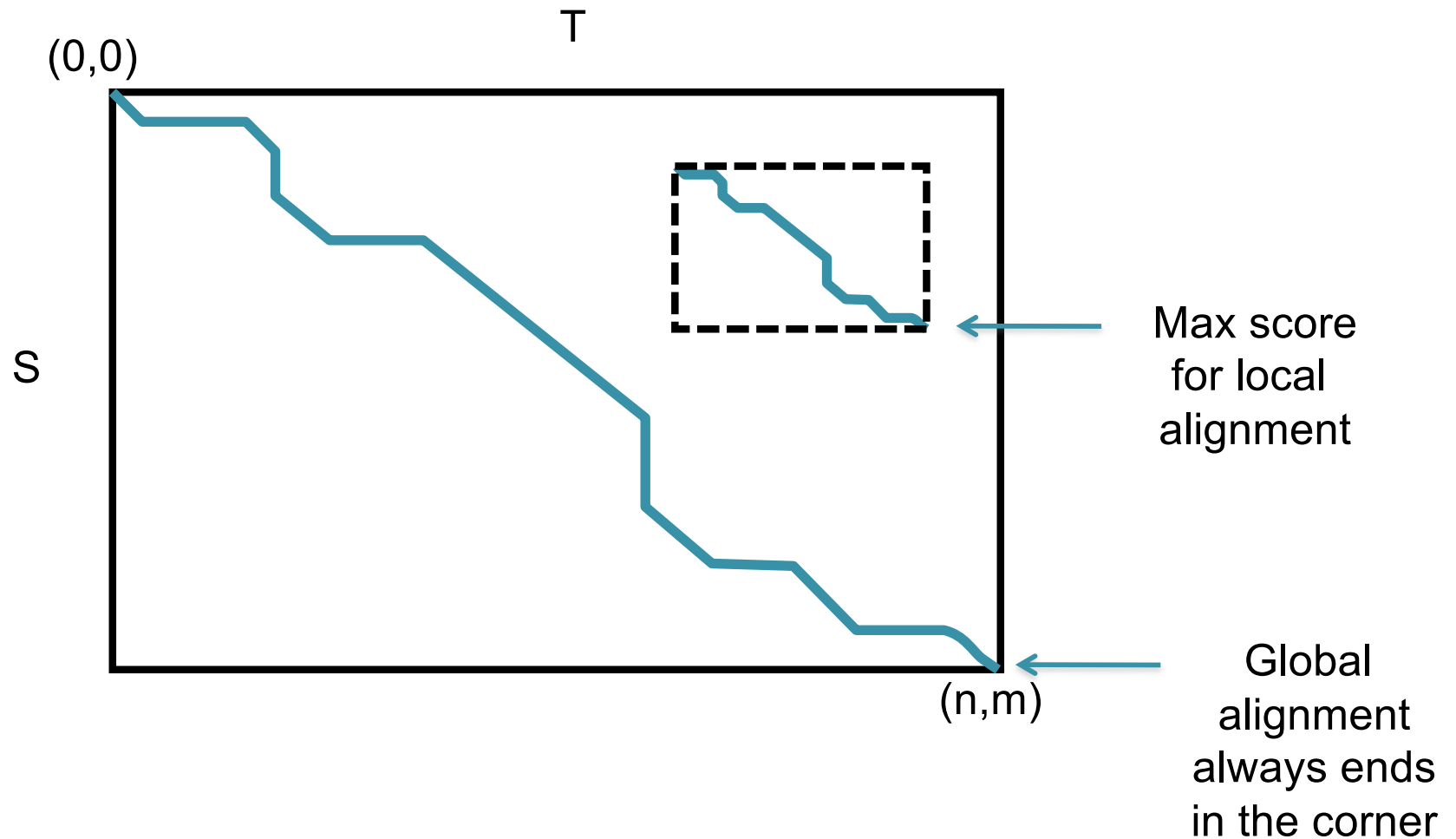


- A high quality alignment will stay close to the diagonal
  - If we are only interested in high quality alignments, we can skip filling in cells that can't possibly lead to a high quality alignment
  - Find the global alignment with at most edit distance  $d$ :  $O(2dn)$

# Local vs. Global Alignment

- The Global Alignment Problem tries to find the best end-to-end alignment between the two strings
  - Only applicable for very closely related sequences
- The Local Alignment Problem tries to find pairs of **substrings** with highest similarity.
  - Especially important if one string is substantially longer than the other
  - Especially important if there is only a distant evolutionary relationship

# Global vs Local Alignment Schematic



# Local vs. Global Alignment (cont' d)

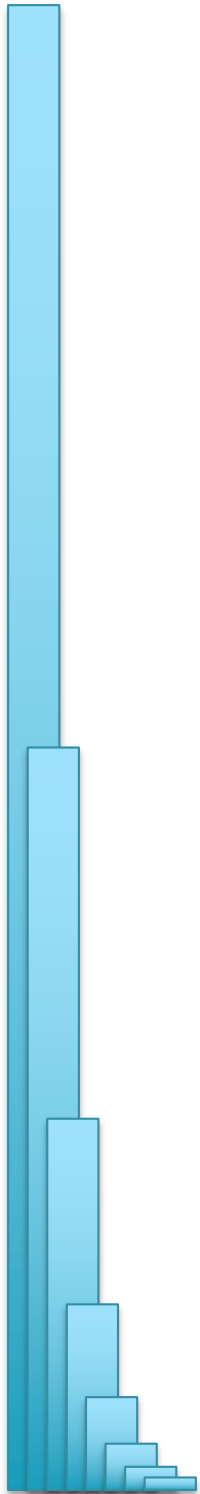
- Global Alignment

```
--T--CC-C-AGT--TATGT-CAGGGGACACG-A-GCATGCAGA-GAC
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
AATTGCCGCC-GTCGT-T-TTCAG-----CA-GTTATG-T-CAGAT--C
```

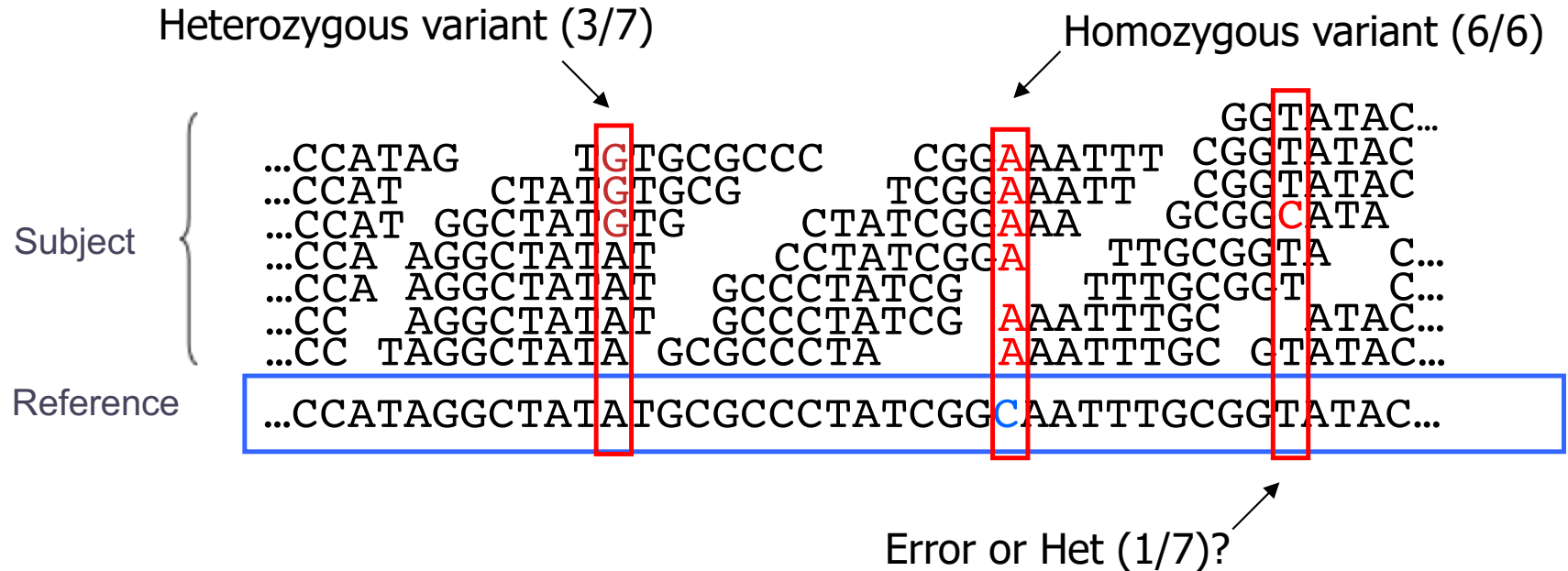
- Local Alignment—better alignment to find conserved segment

```
          tccCAGTTATGTCAGgggacacgagcatgcagagac
          |||||
aattgccgccgctcgtttttcagCAGTTATGTCAGatc
```

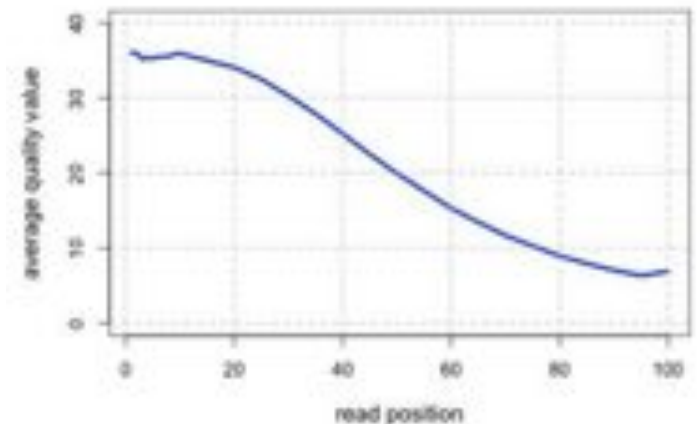
## Part 2: Variant Calling



# 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



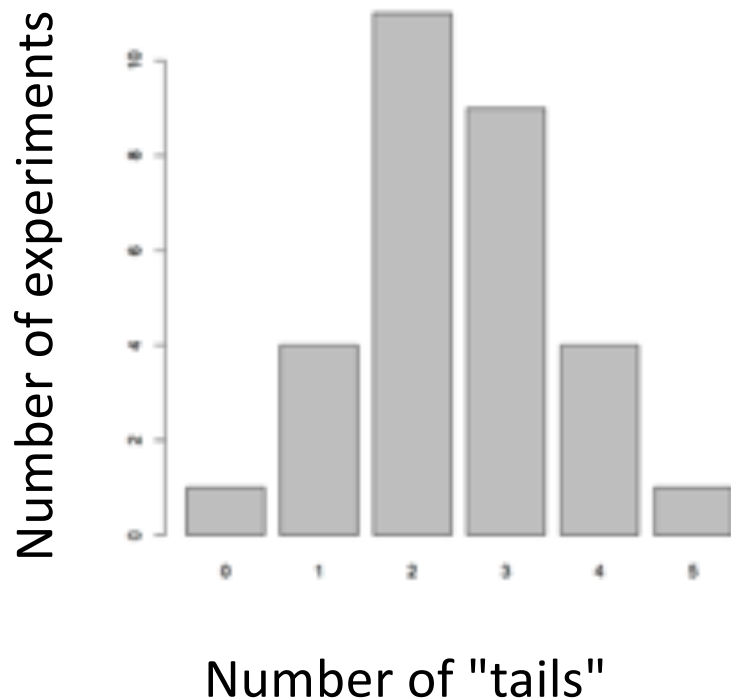
$P(\text{heads}) = 0.5$



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



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



R code:

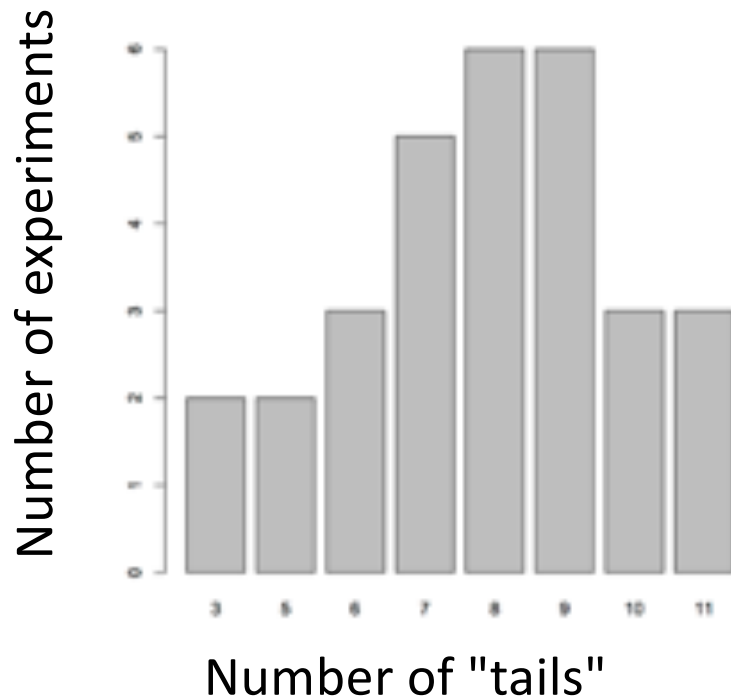
```
barplot(table(rbinom(30, 5, 0.5)))
```

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:

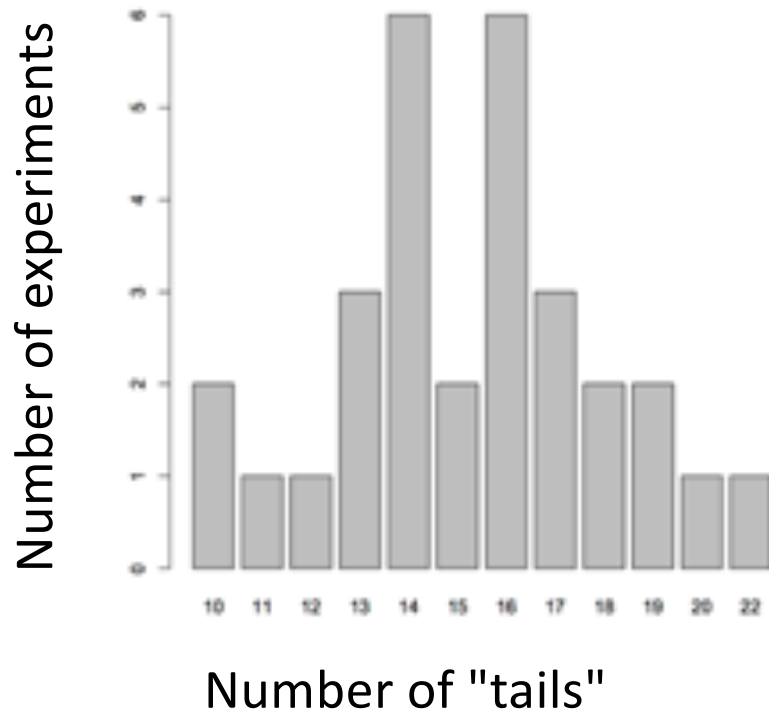
```
barplot(table(rbinom(30, 15, 0.5)))
```

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:

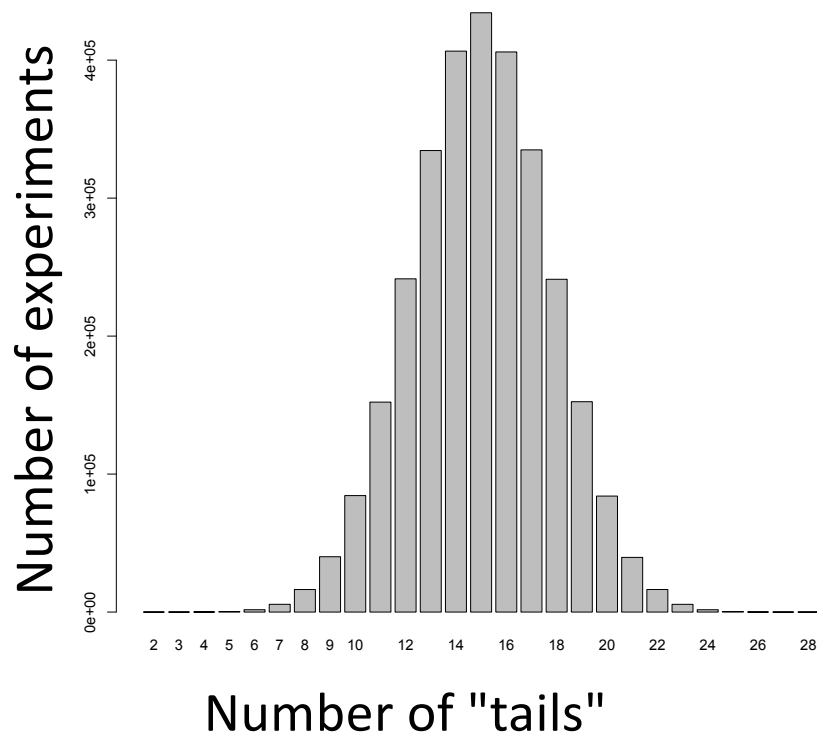
```
barplot(table(rbinom(30, 30, 0.5)))
```

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:

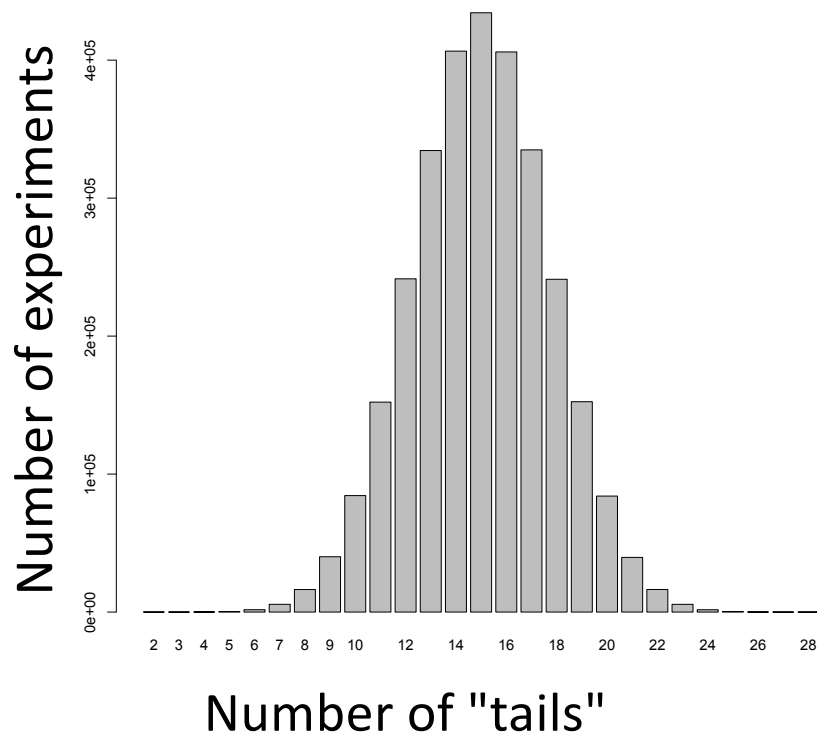
```
barplot(table(rbinom(3e6, 30, 0.5)))
```

3M experiments (students tossing coins)

30 tosses each

Probability of Tails

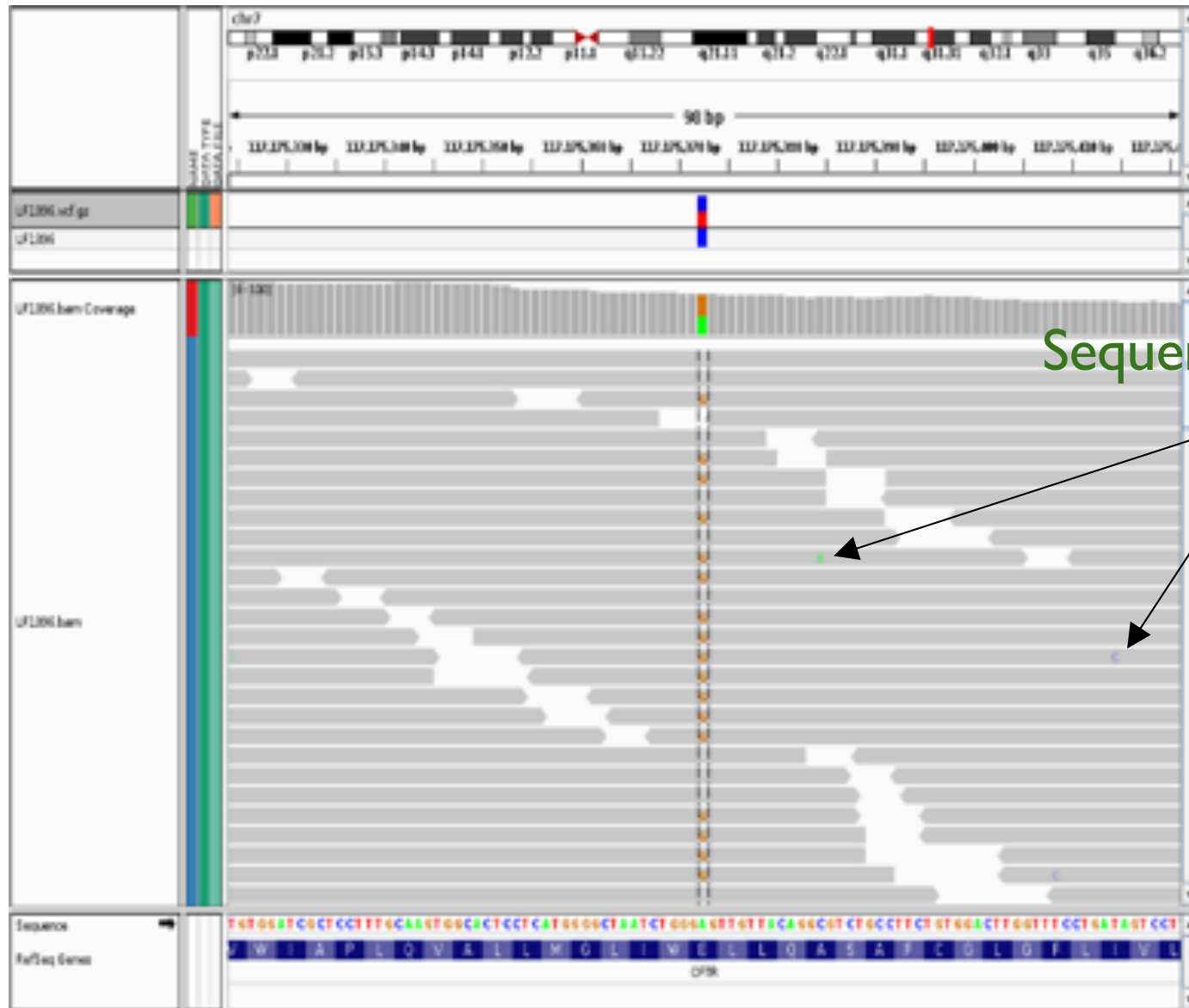
So, with 30 tosses (reads), we are much more likely to see an even mix of alternate and reference alleles at a heterozygous locus in a genome



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

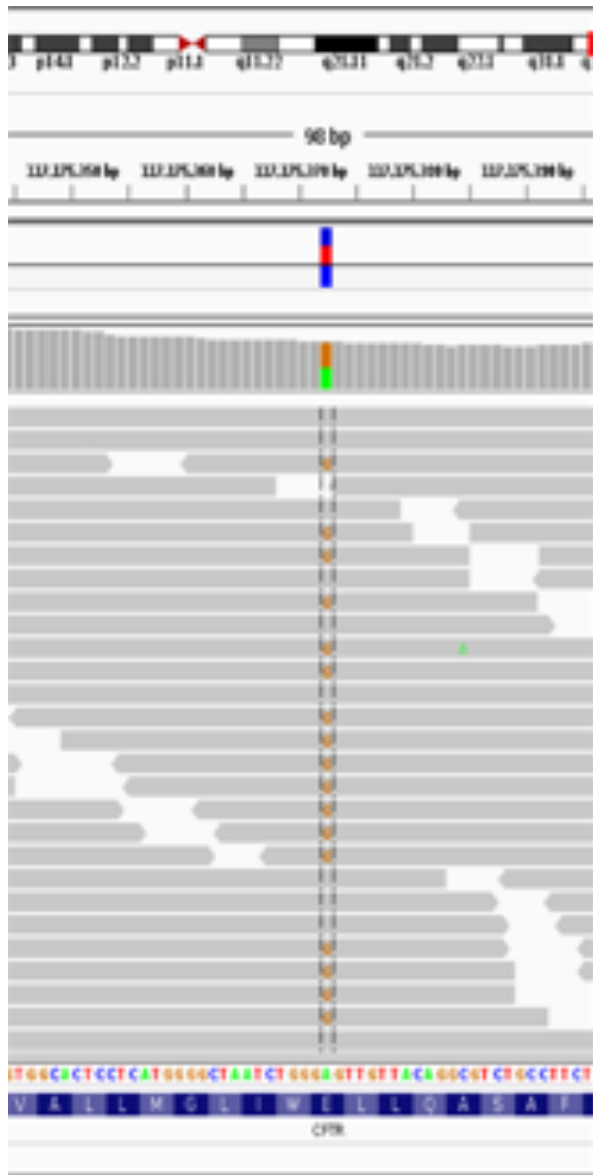
$$P(3/30 \text{ het}) <?> P(3/30 \text{ err})$$

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



## Sequencing errors

# 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

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## A general approach to single-nucleotide polymorphism discovery

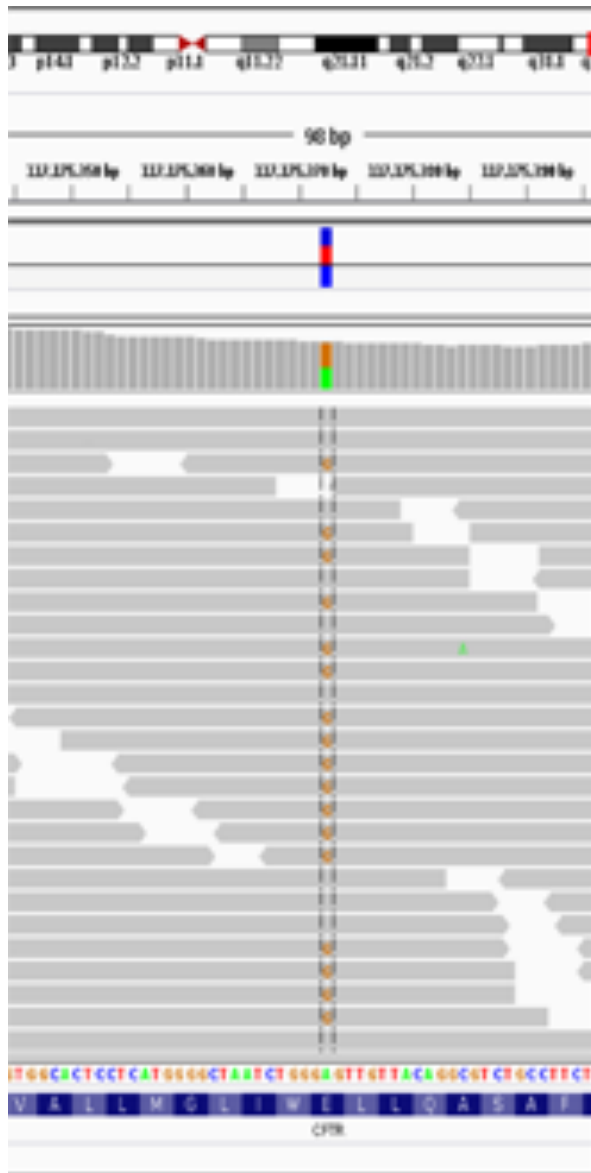
Gabor T. Marth<sup>1</sup>, Ian Korf<sup>1</sup>, Mark D. Yandell<sup>1</sup>, Raymond T. Yeh<sup>1</sup>, Zhijie Gu<sup>2</sup>, Hamideh Zakeri<sup>2</sup>, Nathan O. Stitzel<sup>1</sup>, LaDeana Hillier<sup>1</sup>, Pui-Yan Kwok<sup>2</sup> & Warren R. Gish<sup>1</sup>

Its main innovation was the use of Bayes's theorem





# Bayesian SNP calling



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

# PolyBayes: The first statistically rigorous variant detection tool.

letter

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## A general approach to single-nucleotide polymorphism discovery

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Bayesian  
posterior  
probability

Base call +  
Base quality

Expected (prior)  
polymorphism rate

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

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

# PolyBayes: The first statistically rigorous variant detection tool.

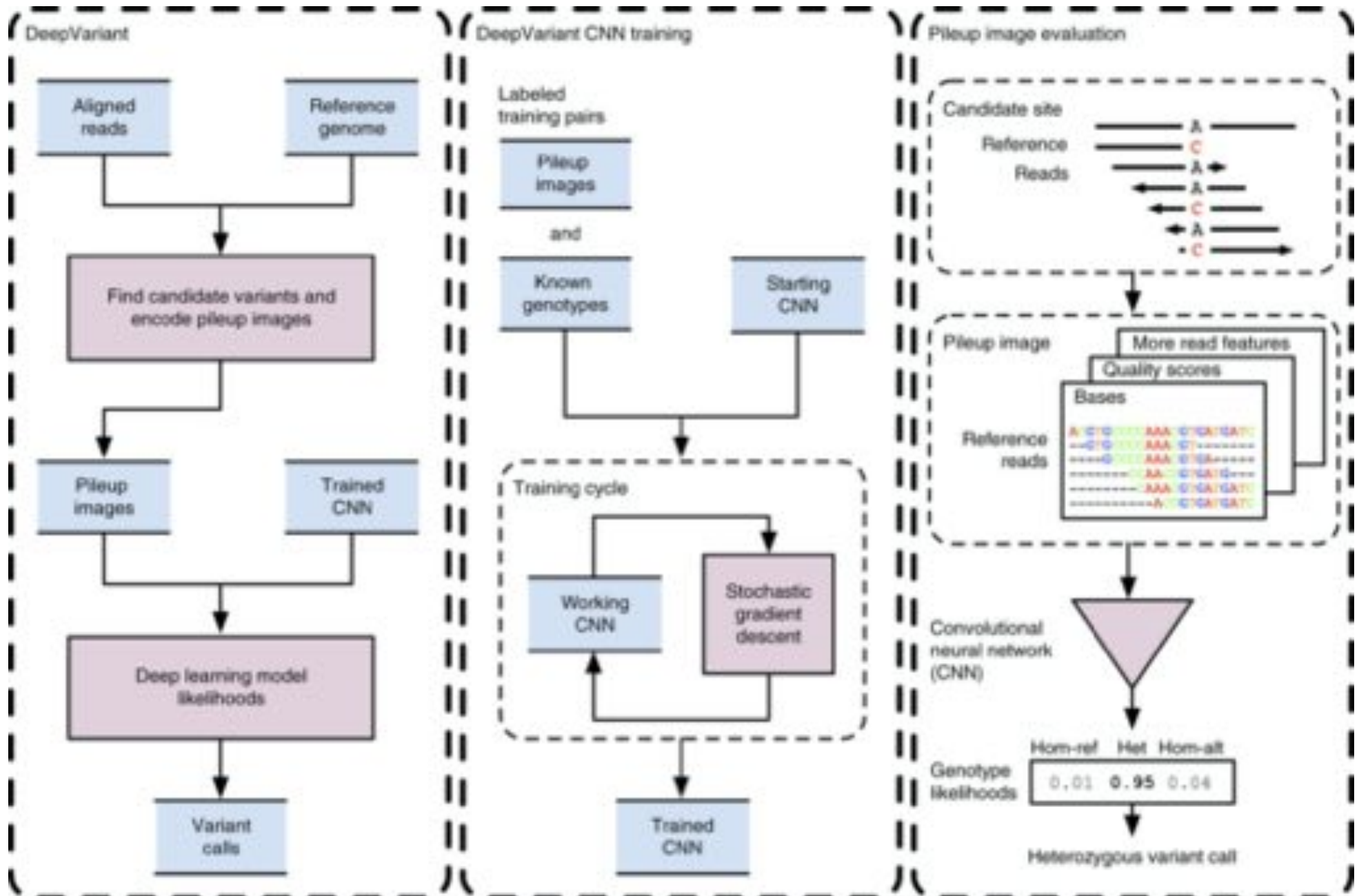
*letter*

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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



## A universal SNP and small-indel variant caller using deep neural networks

Poplin et al. (2018) *Nature Biotechnology*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt.4235>

# 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=8,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	1/1:93
1	100	.	T	<DEL>	.	PASS	SVTYPE=DEL;END=300	GT:GQ:DP	1/1:12:3	0/0:20

**Deletion**

**SNP**

**Large SV**

**Insertion**

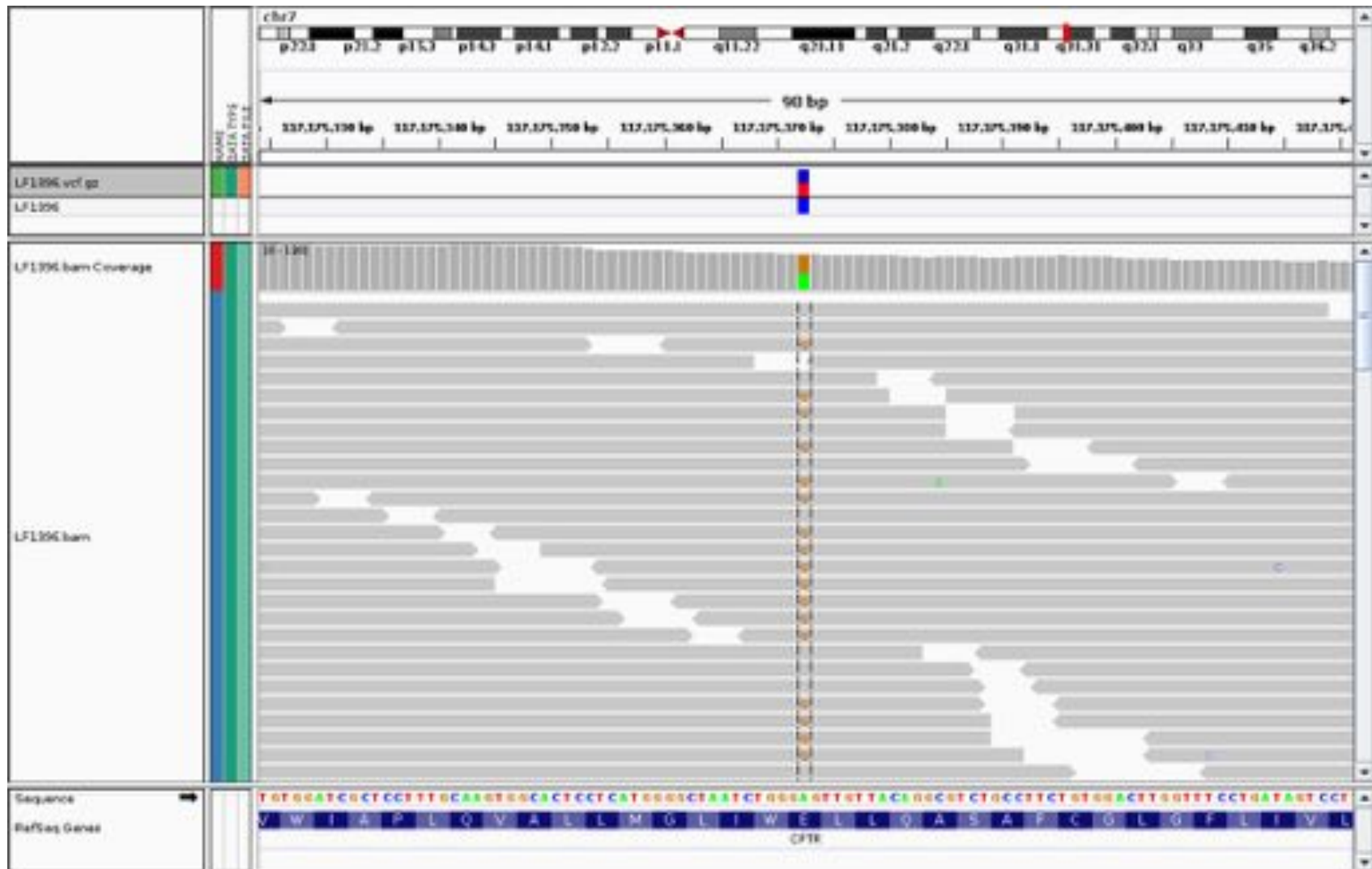
**Other event**

**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