



Swiss Institute of
Bioinformatics

INTRODUCTION TO SEQUENCING DATA ANALYSIS

File types

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Adapted from previous year
courses

Frequently used file types

fasta	sequences
fastq	reads
sam/bam	alignments
bed	regions
gff	annotations
vcf	variants

Broad overview of file types:

<https://genome-euro.ucsc.edu/FAQ/FAQformat.html>

fasta

- Plain sequence: *.fasta or *.fa
- Nucleotides or amino acids (proteins)
- Useful command:

```
grep -c "^>" sequence.fasta
```

sequence.fasta

```
>sequence title1  
ATCGTATCTATCGTATCT  
GGTTTATCGTATCT  
>sequence title2  
ATGATGACGT
```

fastq files

reads.fastq

```
@D00283R:66:CC611ANXX:4:2311:2596:2330 1:N:0:TCCGGAG  
ACTCTACGCTCAATAAAGATTCTGATACGGCTCCTGAAATGCAGAATGAGT  
+  
B/<<<B<FFFFFFBBBBFFFFBFFFFBFFFF/FFFFFF/BFFFFFFF
```

title, starts with @

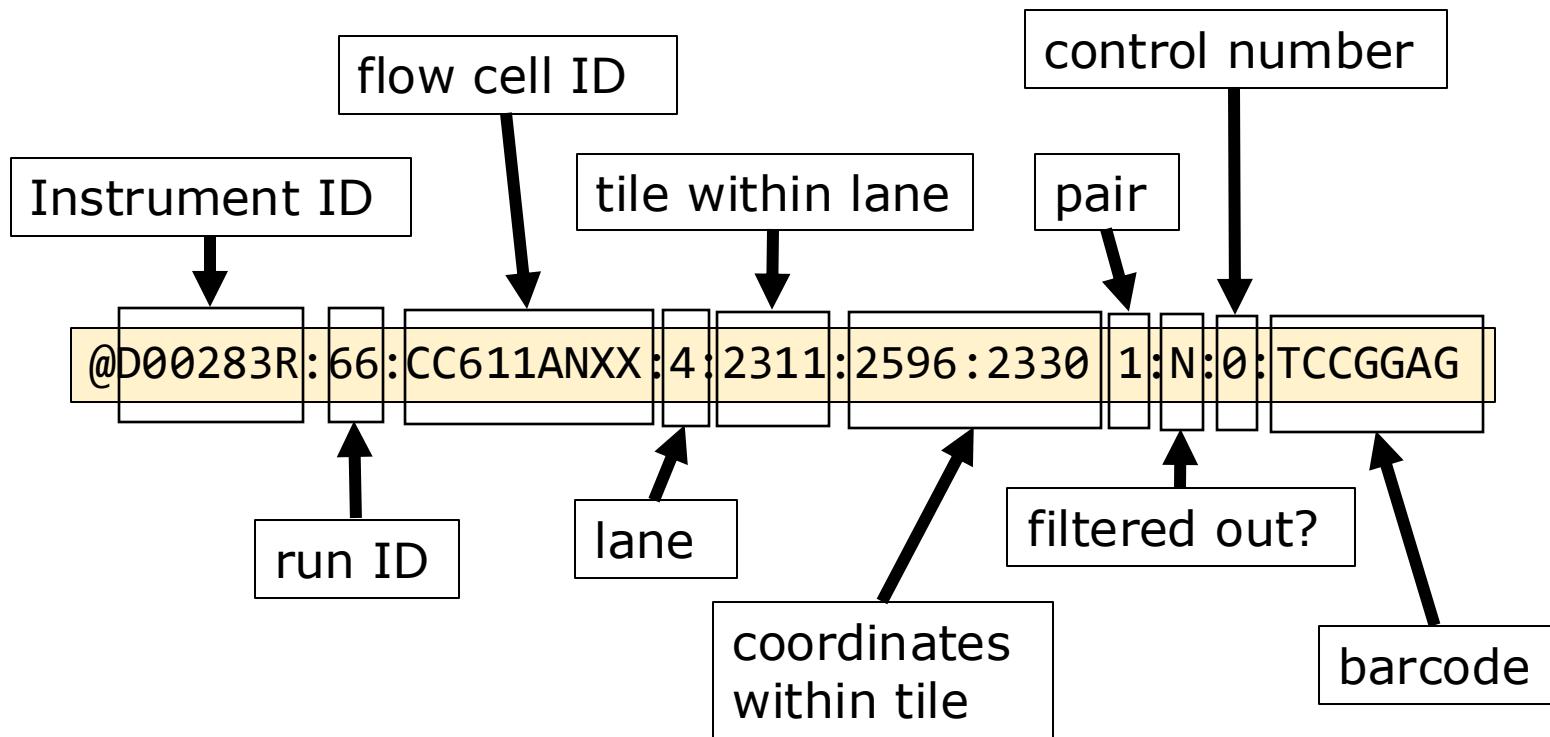
nucleotide sequence

optional description

base quality

! "#\$%&' ()*+, - ./0123456789: ;<=>?@ABCDEFGHI
| | |
0.2.....26...31.....41

fastq header



Quiz Question 9

sam

sequence alignment format

Aim: alignments

sam header

```
@HD      VN:1.5  SO:coordinate
@SQ      SN:U00096.3    LN:4641652
@PG      ID:bowtie2    PN:bowtie2    VN:2.4.1
CL:  "/opt/miniconda3/envs/ngs/bin/bowtie2-align-s \
--wrapper basic-0 \
-x /home/ubuntu/ecoli/ref_genome//ecoli-strK12-MG1655.fasta \
-1 /home/ubuntu/ecoli/trimmed_data/paired_trimmed_SRR519926_1.fastq \
-2 /home/ubuntu/ecoli/trimmed_data/paired_trimmed_SRR519926_2.fastq"
```

@SQ fields human data

@SQ	SN:chr1	LN:248956422
@SQ	SN:chr2	LN:242193529
@SQ	SN:chr3	LN:198295559
@SQ	SN:chr4	LN:190214555
@SQ	SN:chr5	LN:181538259
@SQ	SN:chr6	LN:170805979
@SQ	SN:chr7	LN:159345973
@SQ	SN:chr8	LN:145138636
@SQ	SN:chr9	LN:138394717
@SQ	SN:chr10	LN:133797422
@SQ	SN:chr11	LN:135086622
@SQ	SN:chr12	LN:133275309
@SQ	SN:chr13	LN:114364328
@SQ	SN:chr14	LN:107043718
@SQ	SN:chr15	LN:101991189
@SQ	SN:chr16	LN:90338345
@SQ	SN:chr17	LN:83257441
@SQ	SN:chr18	LN:80373285
@SQ	SN:chr19	LN:58617616
@SQ	SN:chr20	LN:64444167
@SQ	SN:chr21	LN:46709983
@SQ	SN:chr22	LN:50818468
@SQ	SN:chrX	LN:156040895
@SQ	SN:chrY	LN:57227415
@SQ	SN:chrM	LN:16569

One aligned read from the E. coli dataset

```
@D00283R:66:CC611ANXX... 81 U00096.3 107 24 6M2I2M2I239M = 116 261
GCTCTTCCGATCTTAGGTCACTAAATACTTTAACCAATATAGGCATAGCGCACAGACAGATAAAAATTACAGAGTCCA
CAACATCCATGAAACGCATTAGCACCACCATTACCCCCACCATTACCCATTACACAGGTAACGGTGCGGGCTGCCGC
GTACAGGAAACACAGAAAAAAAGCCCGCACCTGACAGTGCAGGCTTTTCGACCAAAGGTAACGAGGTAACA
ACCATGCGAGTGTGAAGTT
###@<0>?4(A>:(4:>>:@>CB@>:>4@:@>>8+@CCC:@4(>:3<0.7DCC>C>:>>@8DCACC@::CCA::((A@4::4C>:>><<2@AACCA@><9?:+AC@>)&50&?:3CC>:>4C@:@::9?@:@CDBBB?BDDDDDDDDDBDDDDDCCC
DDDDCACCDDDDDDDDDDDDDDCC>DDDDDDDDDDDEDDFHJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJHFFFFFF
CCC
AS:i:-44 XN:i:0 XM:i:7 XO:i:2 XG:i:4 NM:i:11 MD:Z:0T0T1A4C63A37A37A98 YS:i:-57 YT:Z:DP
```

SAM column	example
read name	@D00283R:66:CC61...
flag	81
reference	U00096.3
start position	107
mapping quality	24
CIGAR string	6M2I2M2I239M
reference name mate is mapped	=
start position mate	116
fragment length	261
sequence	GCTCTTCCGA
base quality	###@<0>?4(
optional	AS:i:-44
optional	XN:i:0

Tags explanation

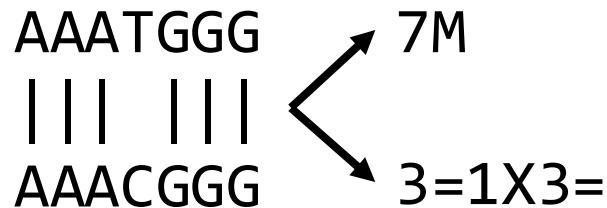
Tag	Meaning	Value	Notes
AS	Alignment score	-44	Lower = worse
XN	Ambiguous bases in ref (e.g. Ns)	0	None
XM	Mismatches	7	Align-specific
XO	Gap opens	2	2 insertions
XG	Gap bases total	4	2 insertions of 2
NM	Edit distance	11	7 mismatches + 4 indel bases
MD	Reference mismatches	0T0T1A4...	Ref-level
YS	Mate's alignment score	-57	Worse than this read
YT	Alignment type	DP	Duplicate Pair

CIGAR strings

Concise Idiosyncratic Gapped Alignment Report

Op	BAM	Description
M	0	alignment match (can be a sequence match or mismatch)
I	1	insertion to the reference
D	2	deletion from the reference
N	3	skipped region from the reference
S	4	soft clipping (clipped sequences present in SEQ)
H	5	hard clipping (clipped sequences NOT present in SEQ)
P	6	padding (silent deletion from padded reference)
=	7	sequence match
X	8	sequence mismatch

Almost never used



<https://www.biostars.org/p/17043/>

<https://www.biostars.org/p/354942/>

<https://samtools.github.io/hts-specs/SAMv1.pdf>

Quiz Question 10

Sam flags

Bit	Description
1	0x1 template having multiple segments in sequencing
2	0x2 each segment properly aligned according to the aligner
4	0x4 segment unmapped
8	0x8 next segment in the template unmapped
16	0x10 SEQ being reverse complemented
32	0x20 SEQ of the next segment in the template being reverse complemented
64	0x40 the first segment in the template
128	0x80 the last segment in the template
256	0x100 secondary alignment
512	0x200 not passing filters, such as platform/vendor quality controls
1024	0x400 PCR or optical duplicate
2048	0x800 supplementary alignment

	read paired?	properly aligned?	unmapped?	mate unmapped?	flag
read1	1	1	0	0	3
read2	1	0	0	1	9
read3	1	0	1	1	13

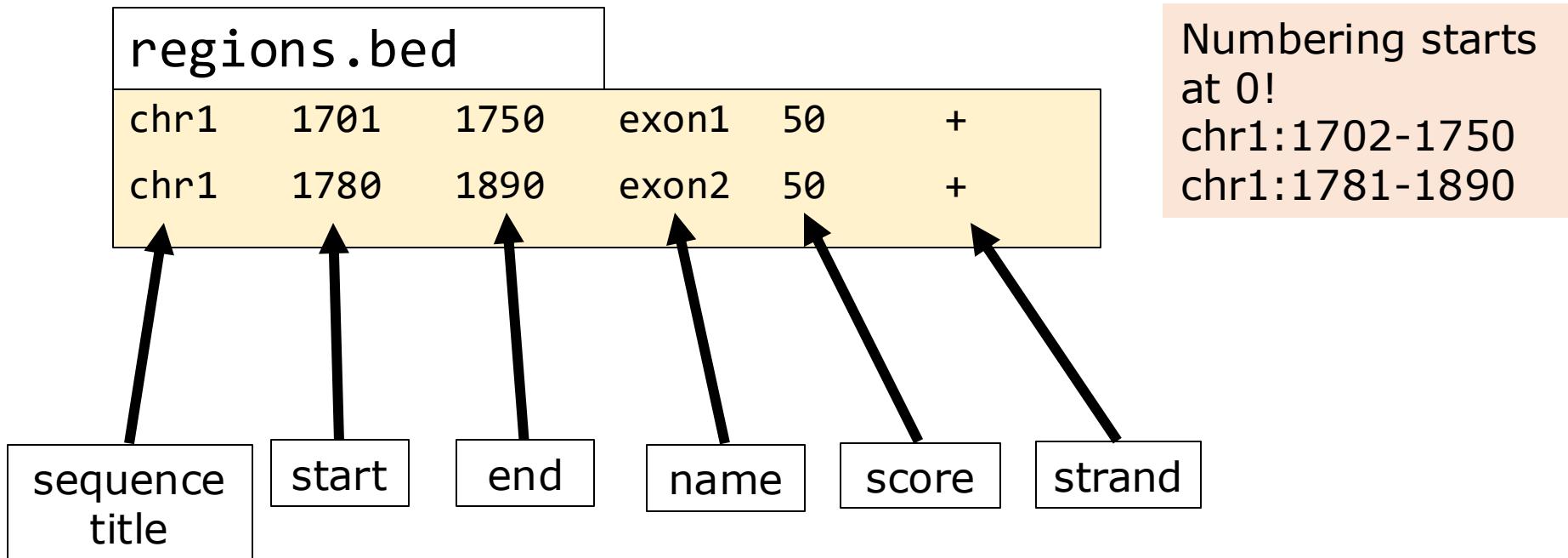
1	2	4	8
---	---	---	---

Quiz Question 11

bed

Browser Extensible Data

Aim: specify regions



Simple DNA Sequence Example

- Sequence: ACTGAT

- 0-based Position: 0 1 2 3 4 5
- 1-based Position: 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Base: A **C** T **G** A T

The 0-based System

- Used by: BED, BigBed, Python, C, etc.
- The first nucleotide (A) is at position 0
- Intervals are defined as [start, end) → start included, **end excluded**
- Example:
- A BED interval with start = 1, end = 4 → positions
1, 2, 3 → C, T, G

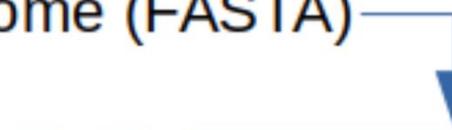
The 1-based System

- Used by: GTF/GFF, VCF, SAM/BAM
- The first nucleotide (A) is at position 1
- Intervals are defined as [start, end] → start and **end included**
- Example:
- A GTF interval with start = 2, end = 4 → positions
2, 3, 4 → C, T, G

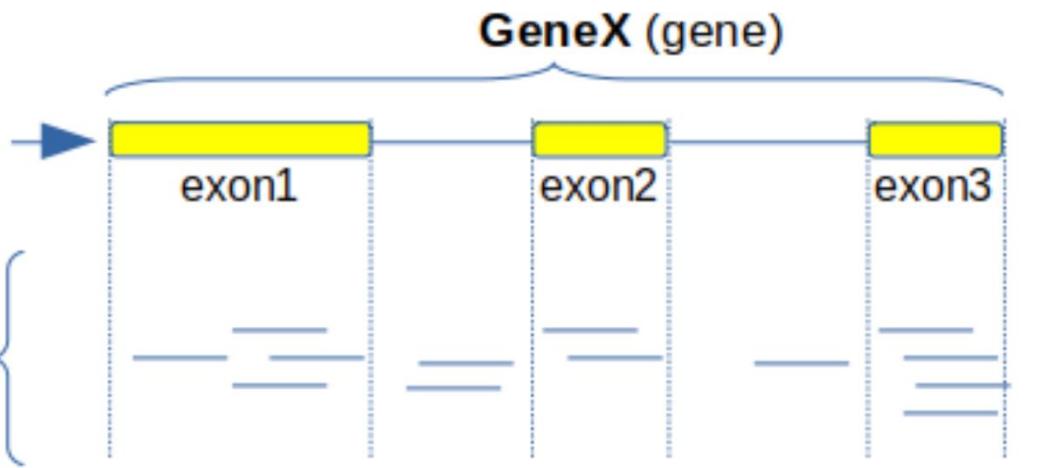
Question

gff

Reference genome (FASTA)



Gene Features File (GFF)



From <https://bioinfogp.cnb.csic.es/tools/seqnjoy/help/>

gff

General Feature Format

Aim: annotation

seq name	source	feature	start	end	score	strand	frame	attributes
1	ensembl	mRNA	339070	346959	.	-	.	ID=...;
1	ensembl	exon	339070	339312	.	-	.	Parent=; ...
1	ensembl	CDS	339070	339312	.	-	0	ID=...;

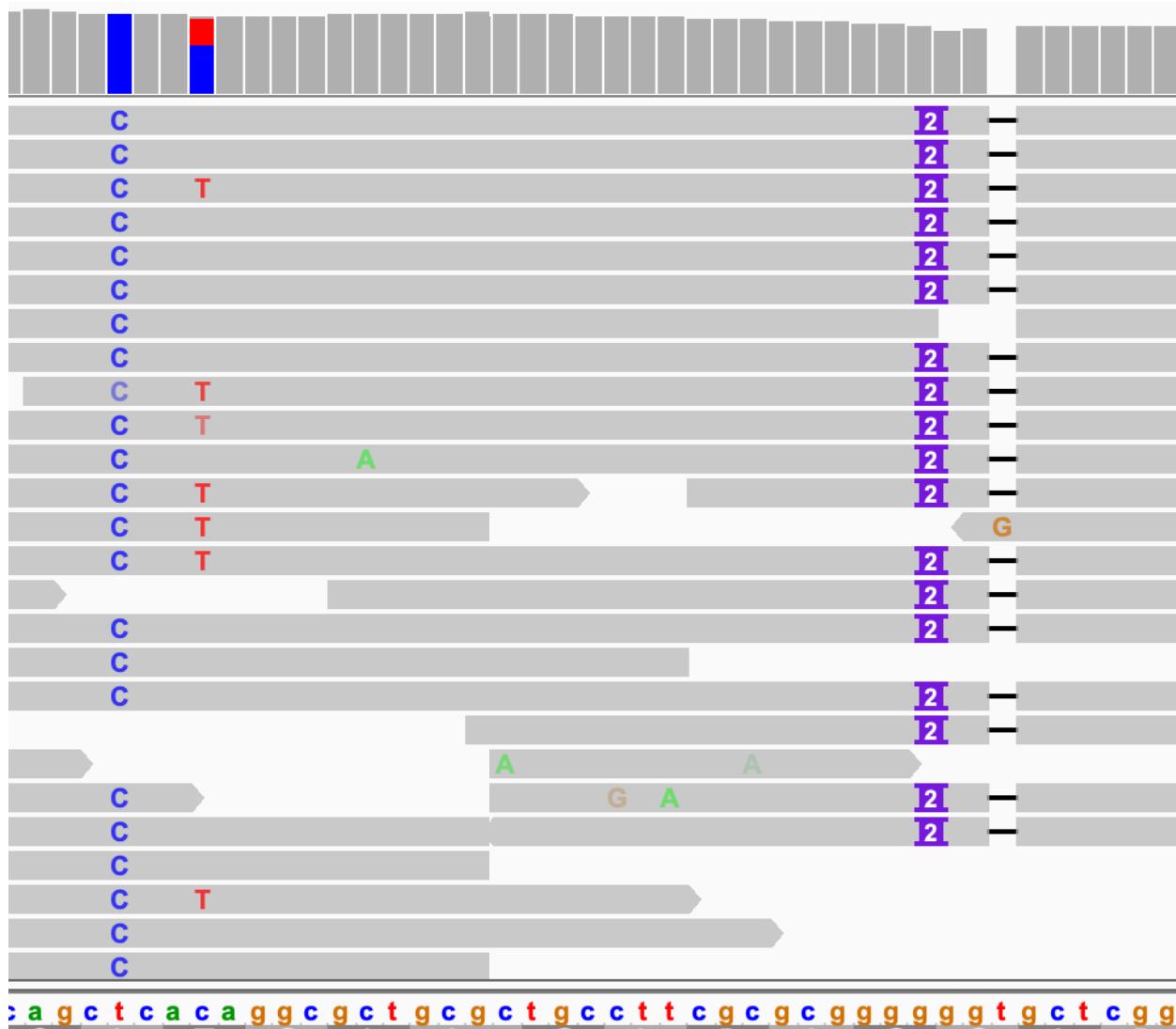
```
##gff-version 3
#description: evidence-based annotation of the human genome (GRCh38), version 45 (Ensembl 111)
#provider: GENCODE
#contact: gencode-help@ebi.ac.uk
#format: gff3
#date: 2023-09-19
##sequence-region chr1 1 248956422
chr1 HAVANA gene 11869 14409 . + . ID=ENSG00000290825.1;gene_id=ENSG00000290825.1;gene_type=IncRNA
;gene_name=DDX11L2;level=2;tag=overlaps_pseudogene
chr1 HAVANA transcript 11869 14409 . + . ID=ENST00000456328.2;Parent=ENSG00000290825.1;gene_id=ENSG
00000290825.1;transcript_id=ENST00000456328.2;gene_type=IncRNA;gene_name=DDX11L2;transcript_type=IncRNA;transcript_
name=DDX11L2-
202;level=2;transcript_support_level=1;tag=basic,Ensembl_canonical;havana_transcript=OTTHUMT00000362751.1
chr1 HAVANA exon 11869 12227 . + . ID=exon:ENST00000456328.2:1;Parent=ENST00000456328.2;gene_id=ENS
G00000290825.1;transcript_id=ENST00000456328.2;gene_type=IncRNA;gene_name=DDX11L2;transcript_type=IncRNA;transcrip
t_name=DDX11L2-
202;exon_number=1;exon_id=ENSE00002234944.1;level=2;transcript_support_level=1;tag=basic,Ensembl_canonical;havana_tr
anscript=OTTHUMT00000362751.1
chr1 HAVANA exon 12613 12721 . + . ID=exon:ENST00000456328.2:2;Parent=ENST00000456328.2;gene_id=ENS
G00000290825.1;transcript_id=ENST00000456328.2;gene_type=IncRNA;gene_name=DDX11L2;transcript_type=IncRNA;transcrip
t_name=DDX11L2-
202;exon_number=2;exon_id=ENSE00003582793.1;level=2;transcript_support_level=1;tag=basic,Ensembl_canonical;havana_tr
anscript=OTTHUMT00000362751.1
chr1 HAVANA exon 13221 14409 . + . ID=exon:ENST00000456328.2:3;Parent=ENST00000456328.2;gene_id=ENS
G00000290825.1;transcript_id=ENST00000456328.2;gene_type=IncRNA;gene_name=DDX11L2;transcript_type=IncRNA;transcrip
t_name=DDX11L2-
202;exon_number=3;exon_id=ENSE00002312635.1;level=2;transcript_support_level=1;tag=basic,Ensembl_canonical;havana_tr
anscript=OTTHUMT00000362751.1
```

vcf

Variant Call Format

Aim: variants

```
##fileformat=VCFv4.2
##fileDate=20090805
##source=myImputationProgramV3.1
##reference=file:///seq/references/1000GenomesPilot-NCBI36.fasta
##contig=<ID=20,length=62435964,assembly=B36,md5=f126cdf8a6e0c7f379d618ff66beb2da,species="Homo sapiens",taxonomy=x>
##phasing=partial
##INFO=<ID=NS,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Number of Samples With Data">
##INFO=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Total Depth">
##INFO=<ID=AF,Number=A,Type=Float,Description="Allele Frequency">
##INFO=<ID=AA,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Ancestral Allele">
##INFO=<ID=DB,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="dbSNP membership, build 129">
##INFO=<ID=H2,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="HapMap2 membership">
##FILTER=<ID=q10,Description="Quality below 10">
##FILTER=<ID=s50,Description="Less than 50% of samples have data">
##FORMAT=<ID=GT,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Genotype">
##FORMAT=<ID=GQ,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Genotype Quality">
##FORMAT=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Read Depth">
##FORMAT=<ID=HQ,Number=2,Type=Integer,Description="Haplotype Quality">
#CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO FORMAT NA00001 NA00002 NA00003
20 14370 rs6054257 G A 29 PASS NS=3;DP=14;AF=0.5;DB;H2 GT:GQ:DP:HQ 0|0:48:1:51,51 1|0:48:8:51,51 1/1:43:5:...
20 17330 . T A 3 q10 NS=3;DP=11;AF=0.017 GT:GQ:DP:HQ 0|0:49:3:58,50 0|1:3:5:65,3 0/0:41:3
20 1110696 rs6040355 A G,T 67 PASS NS=2;DP=10;AF=0.333,0.667;AA=T;DB GT:GQ:DP:HQ 1|2:21:6:23,27 2|1:2:0:18,2 2/2:35:4
20 1230237 . T . 47 PASS NS=3;DP=13;AA=T GT:GQ:DP:HQ 0|0:54:7:56,60 0|0:48:4:51,51 0/0:61:2
20 1234567 microsat1 GTC G,GTCT 50 PASS NS=3;DP=9;AA=G GT:GQ:DP 0/1:35:4 0/2:17:2 1/1:40:3
```



vcf

```

##fileformat=VCFv4.3
##fileDate=20090805
##source=myImputationProgramV3.1
##reference=file:///seq/references/1000GenomesPilot-NCBI36.fasta
##contig=<ID=20,length=62435964,assembly=B36,md5=f126cdf8a6e0c7f379d618ff66beb2da,species="Homo sapiens",taxonomy=x>
##phasing=partial
##INFO=<ID=NS,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Number of Samples With Data">
##INFO=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Total Depth">
##INFO=<ID=AF,Number=A,Type=Float,Description="Allele Frequency">
##INFO=<ID=AA,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Ancestral Allele">
##INFO=<ID=DB,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="dbSNP membership, build 129">
##INFO=<ID=H2,Number=0,Type=Flag,Description="HapMap2 membership">
##FILTER=<ID=q10,Description="Quality below 10">
##FILTER=<ID=s50,Description="Less than 50% of samples have data">
##FORMAT=<ID=GT,Number=1,Type=String,Description="Genotype">
##FORMAT=<ID=GQ,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Genotype Quality">
##FORMAT=<ID=DP,Number=1,Type=Integer,Description="Read Depth">
##FORMAT=<ID=HQ,Number=2,Type=Integer,Description="Haplotype Quality">

```

#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT		
20	14370	rs6054257	G	A	29	PASS	NS=3;DP=14;AF=0.5;DB;H2	GT:GQ:DP:HQ	NA00001	NA00002
20	17330	.	T	A	3	q10	NS=3;DP=11;AF=0.017	GT:GQ:DP:HQ	0 0:48:1:51,51	1 0:48:8:51,51
20	1110696	rs6040355	A	G,T	67	PASS	NS=2;DP=10;AF=0.333,0.667;AA=T;DB	GT:GQ:DP:HQ	0 0:49:3:58,50	0 1:3:5:65,3
20	1230237	.	T	.	47	PASS	NS=3;DP=13;AA=T	GT:GQ:DP:HQ	1 2:21:6:23,27	2 1:2:0:18,2
20	1234567	microsat1	GTC	G,GTCT	50	PASS	NS=3;DP=9;AA=G	GT:GQ:DP	0 0:54:7:56,60	0 0:48:4:51,51
									0/1:35:4	0/2:17:2

samples