

Linking Genetic Variation to Phenotypes

BMI/CS 776

www.biostat.wisc.edu/bmi776/

Spring 2020

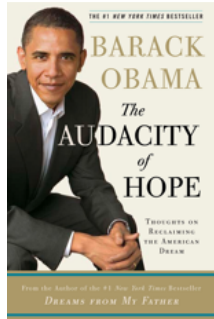
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Outline

- How does the genome vary between individuals?
- How do we identify associations between genetic variations and simple phenotypes/diseases?
- How do we identify associations between genetic variations and complex phenotypes/diseases?

How to read sentences/genes for understanding book/genome?



Chapter One Republicans and Democrats



Book	Genome
Chapters	Chromosomes
Sentences	Genes
Words	Elements
Letters	Bases

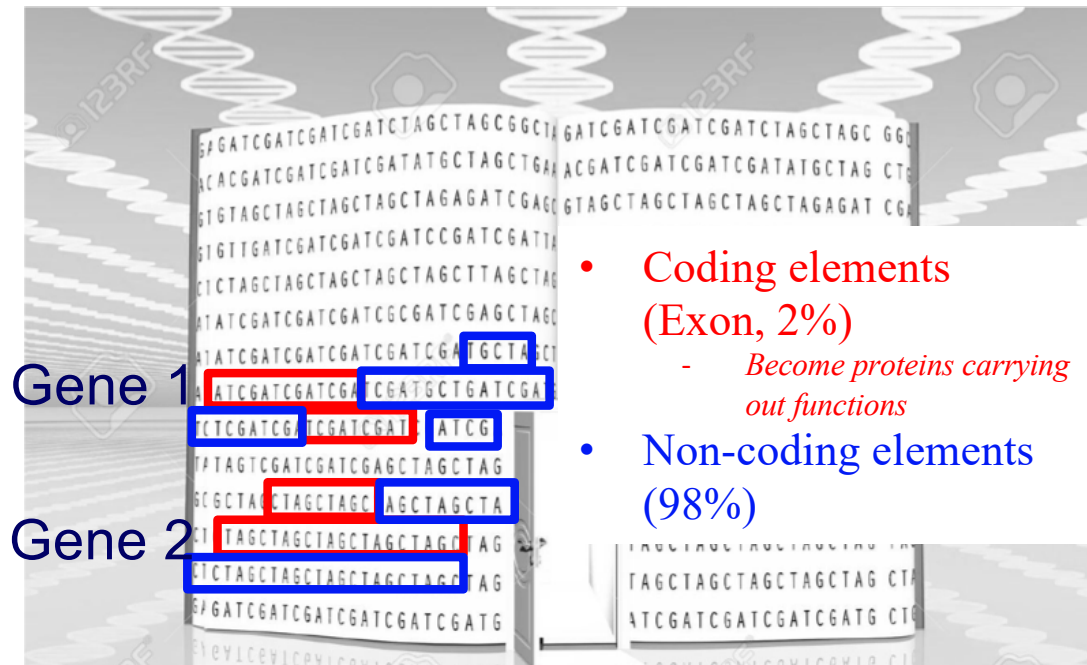


“On most days, I enter the Capitol through the basement. A small subway train carries me from the Hart Building, where ...”

- Key words
- Non-key words

Overhead, the ceiling forms a creamy white oval, with an American eagle etched in its center. Above the visitors' gallery, the busts of the nation's first twenty vice presidents sit in solemn repose.

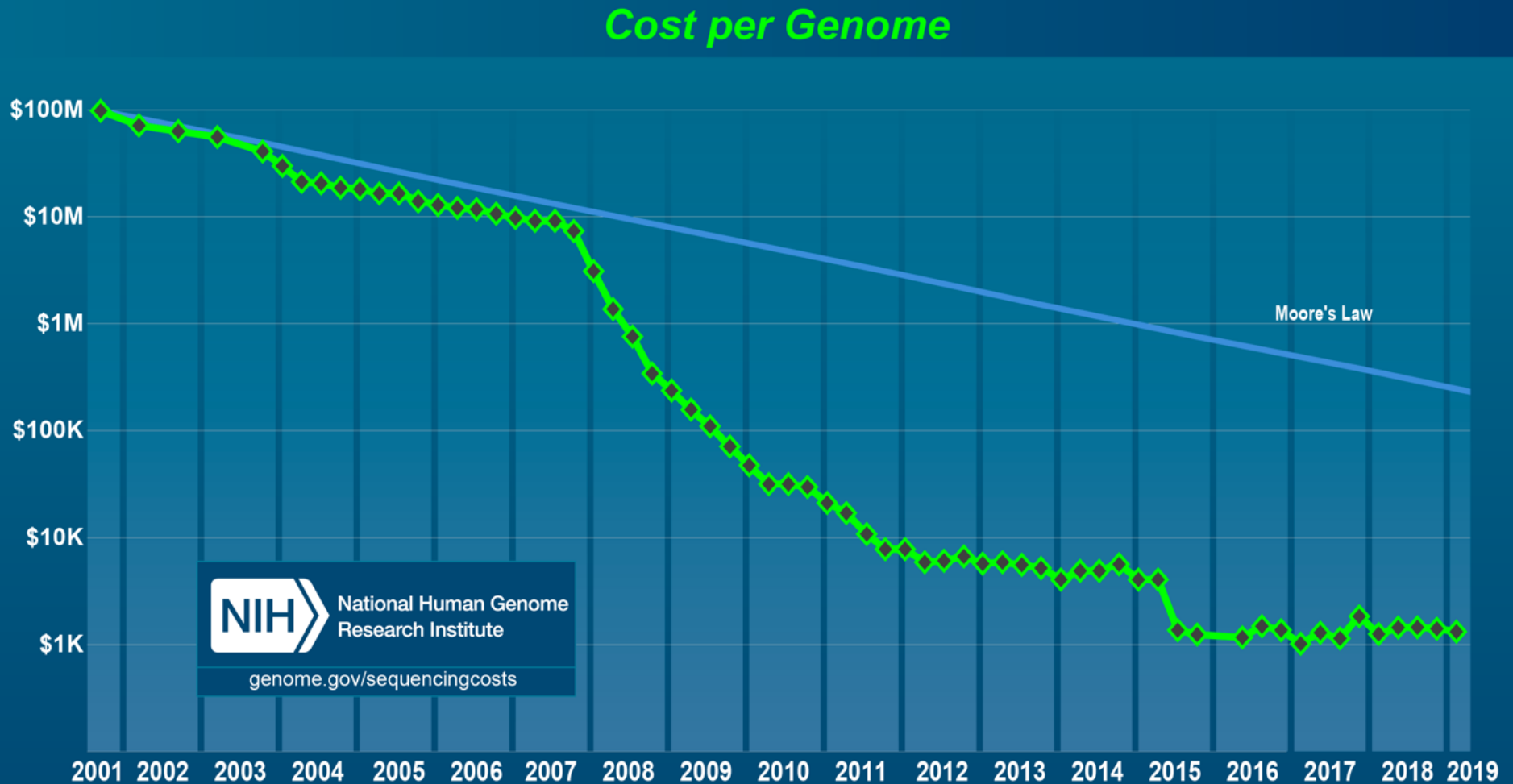
And in gentle steps, one hundred mahogany desks rise from the well of the Senate in four horseshoe-shaped rows. Some of these desks date back to 1819, and atop each desk is a tidy receptacle for inkwells and quills. Open the drawer of any desk, and you will find within the names of the senators who once used it—Taft and Long, Stennis and Kennedy—scratched or penned in the senator's own hand. Sometimes, standing there in



- Coding elements (Exon, 2%)
 - Become proteins carrying out functions
- Non-coding elements (98%)

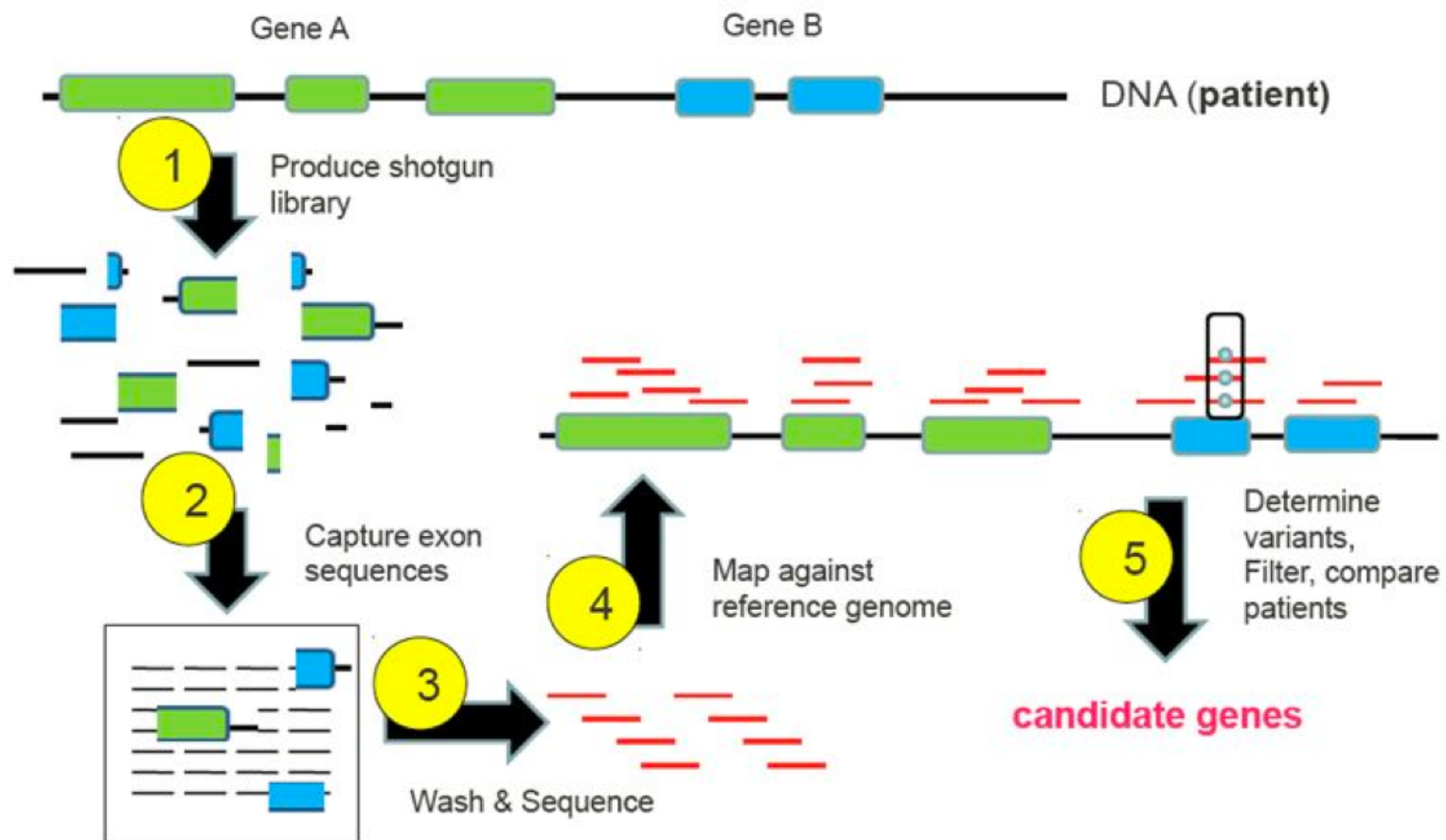
<https://goo.gl/images/vMaz4T>

Low sequencing cost enables reading our whole genome

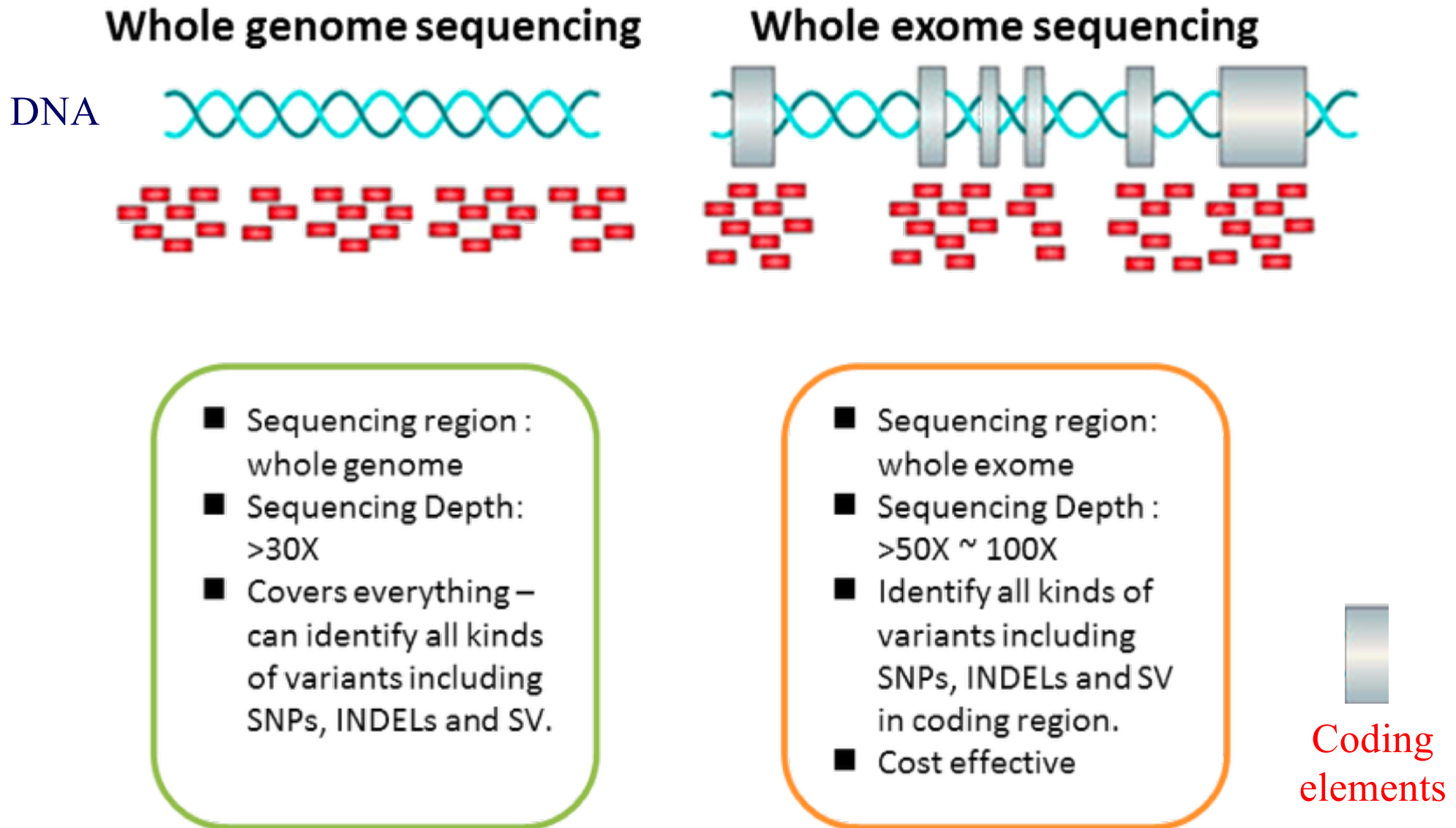


Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) reads
2% coding elements of human genome

Exome sequencing procedure



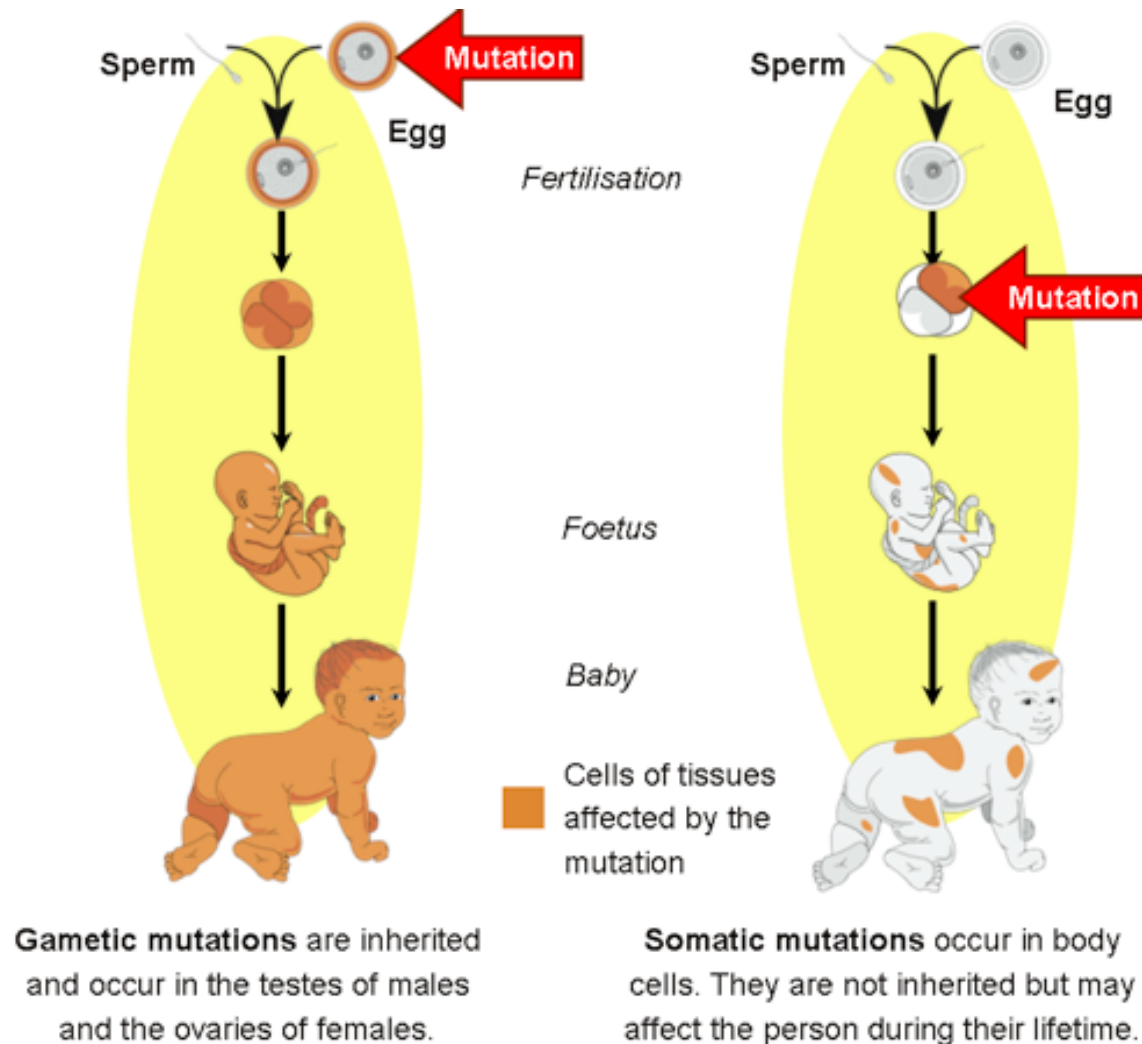
Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) reads 100%!



Understanding Human Genetic Variation

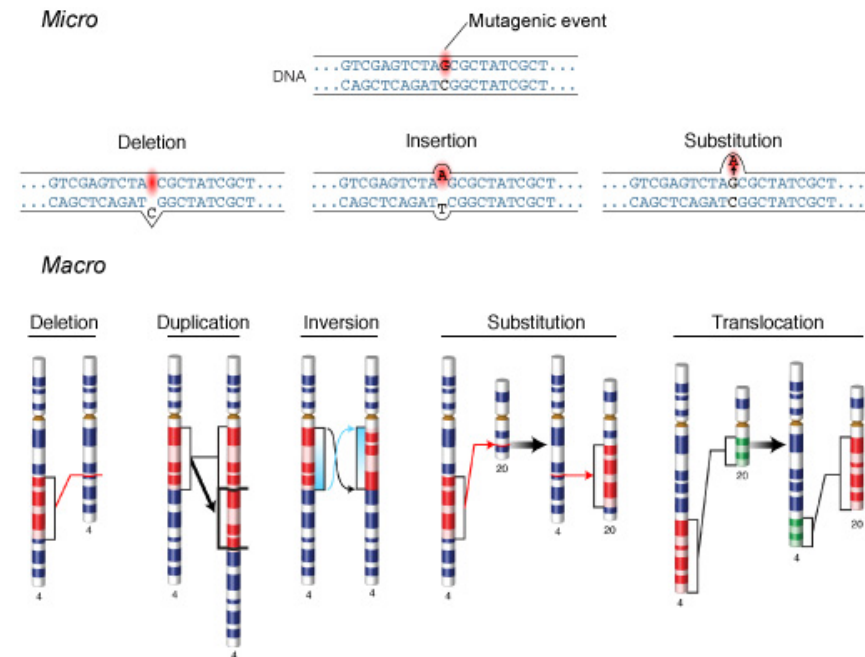
- The “human genome” was determined by sequencing DNA from a small number of individuals (2001)
- The HapMap project (initiated in 2002) looked at polymorphisms in 270 individuals (Affymetrix GeneChip)
- The 1000 Genomes project (initiated in 2008) sequenced the genomes of 2500 individuals from diverse populations
- 23andMe genotyped its 1 millionth customer in 2015
- Genomics England sequenced 100k whole genomes and linked with medical records (Dec 2018)

Gametic vs. Somatic Mutations



Classes of Variants

- Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)
- Indels (insertions/deletions)
- Structural variants



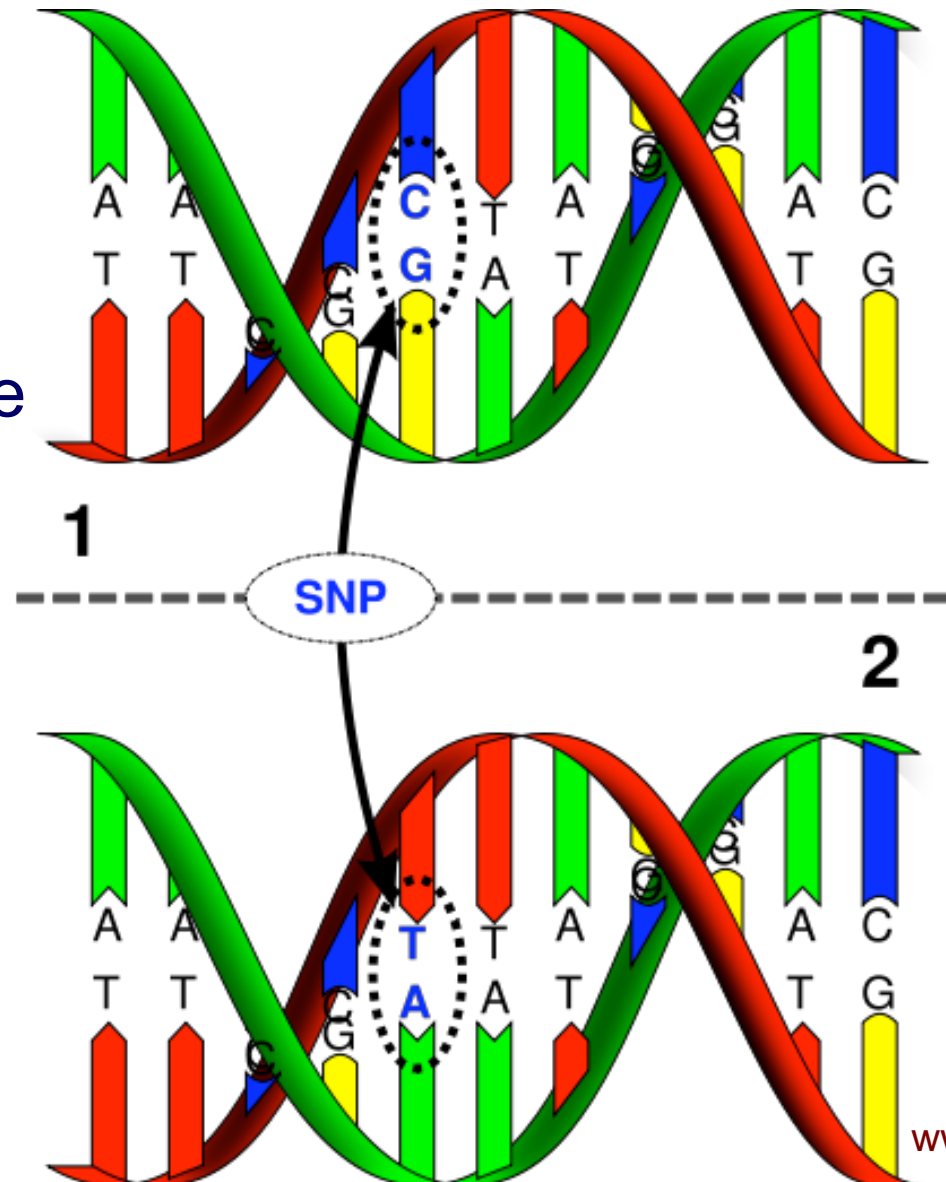
Formal definitions: <https://www.snpedia.com/index.php/Glossary>

Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)

One nucleotide changes

Variation occurs with some minimal frequency in a population

Pronounced “snip”



Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) normally happen ~1% on individual human genome.

Individual 1
Chr 2
copy1 ...CGATA
copy2 ...GCTAT

Individual 2
Chr 2
copy1 ...CGATATTCCCATCGAATG
copy2 ...GCTATAAGGGTAGCTTAC

Individual 3
Chr 2
copy1 ...CGATATTCCCATCGAATG
copy2 ...GCTATAAGGGTAGCTTAC

Most SNPs are harmless but some matter



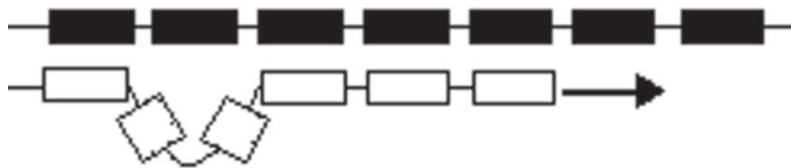
Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNPs)



Insertions and Deletions



Black box: DNA template strand
White box: newly replicated DNA



Insertion: slippage inserts extra nucleotides



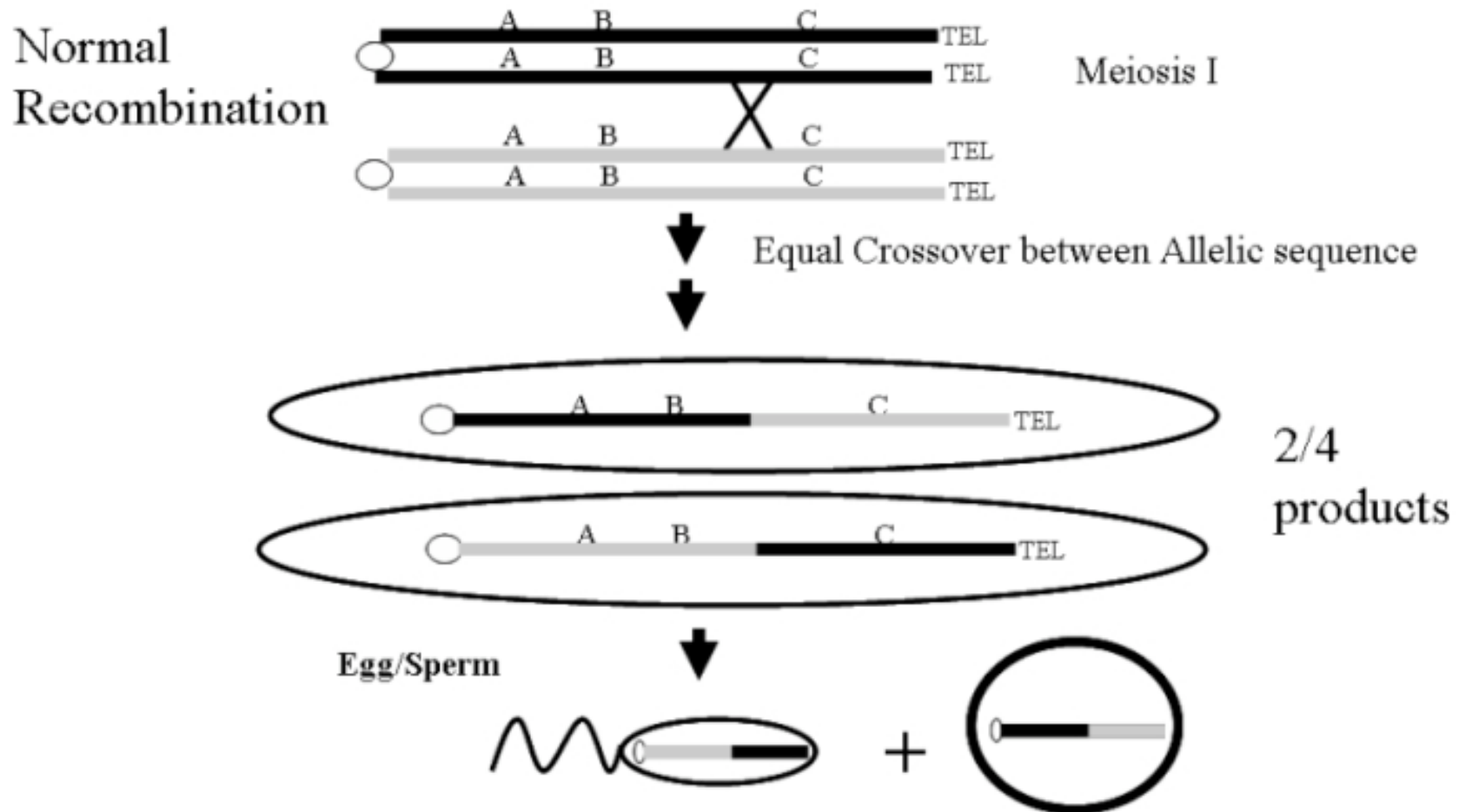
Deletion: slippage excludes template nucleotides

Forster et al. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 2015

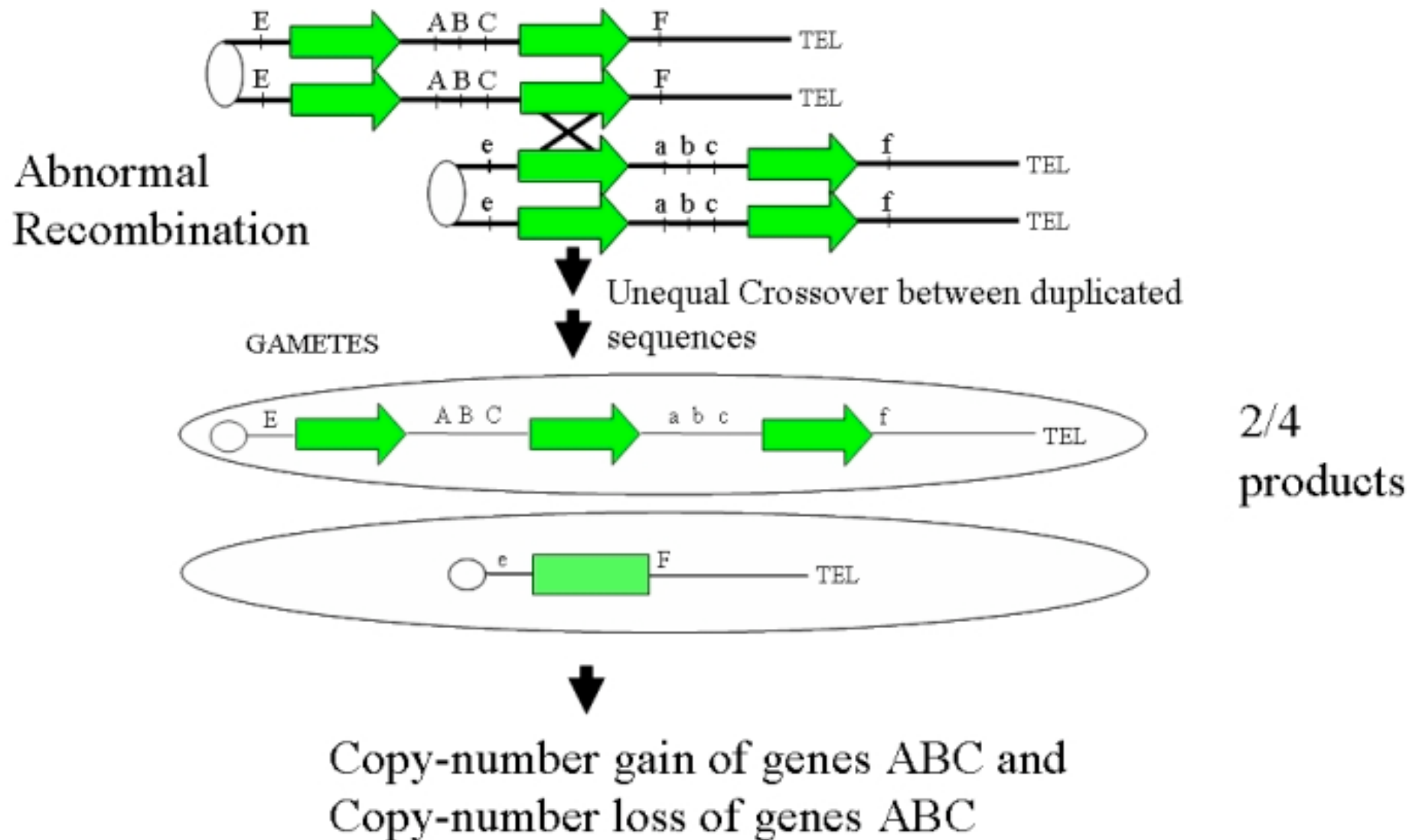
Structural Variants

- Copy number variants (CNVs)
 - Gain or loss of large genomic regions, even entire chromosomes
- Inversions
 - DNA subsequence is reversed
- Translocations
 - DNA subsequence is moved to a different chromosome

Genetic Recombination

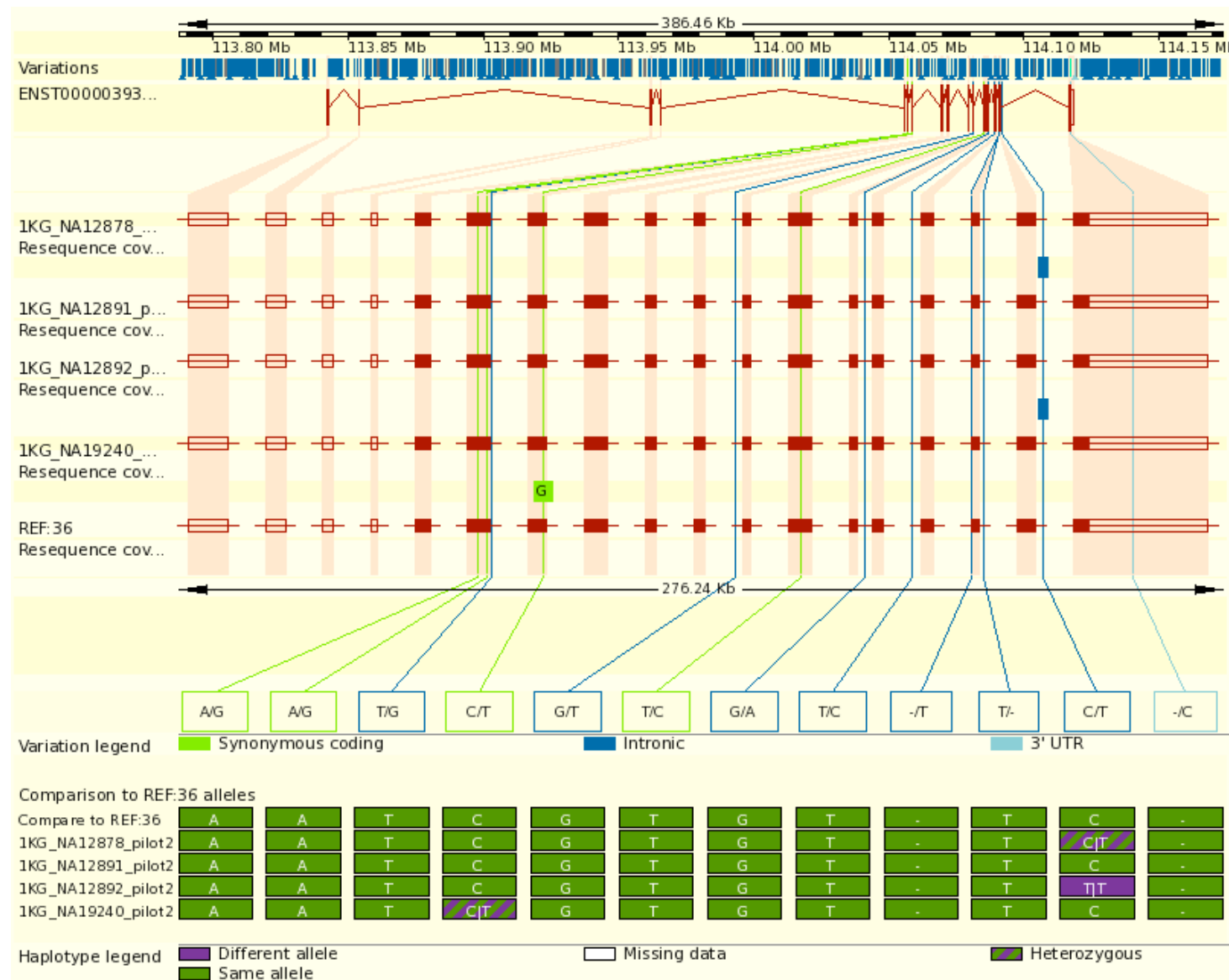


Recombination Errors Lead to Copy Number Variants (CNVs)

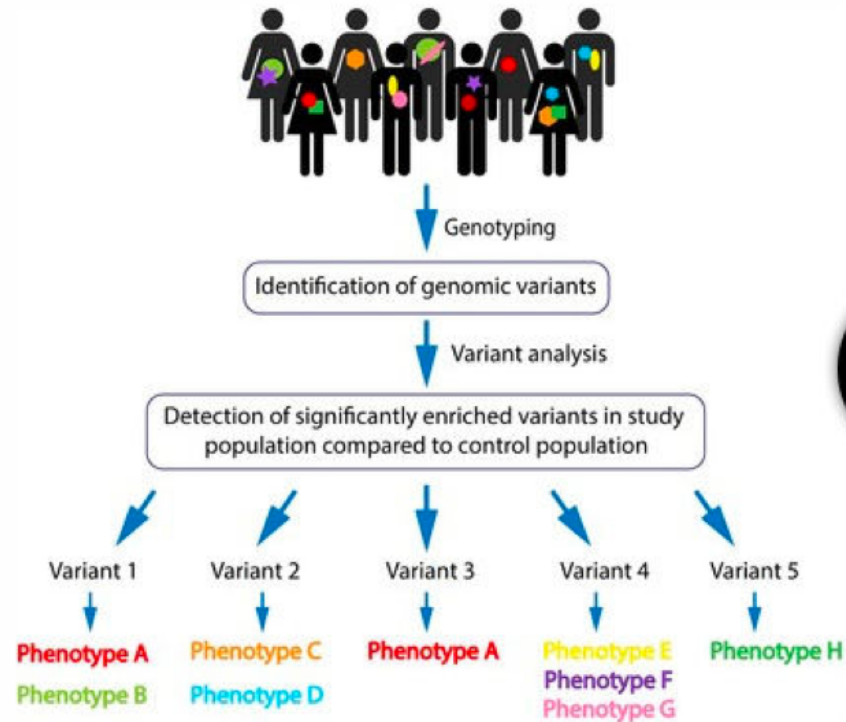


1000 Genomes Project

Project goal: produce a catalog of human variation down to variants that occur at $\geq 1\%$ frequency over the genome



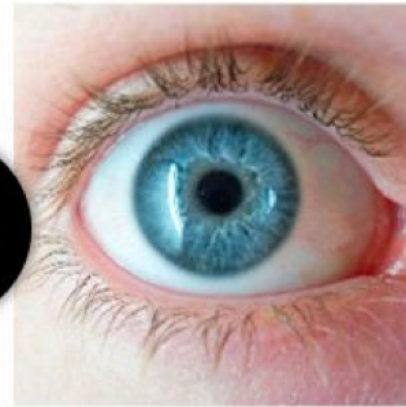
Genotype to Phenotype



VS

Phenotype= Blue Eyes

Phenotype=Brown Eyes



Genotype= bb
Recessive= b

Genotype = Bb or BB
Dominant = B



Genotype vs. Phenotype

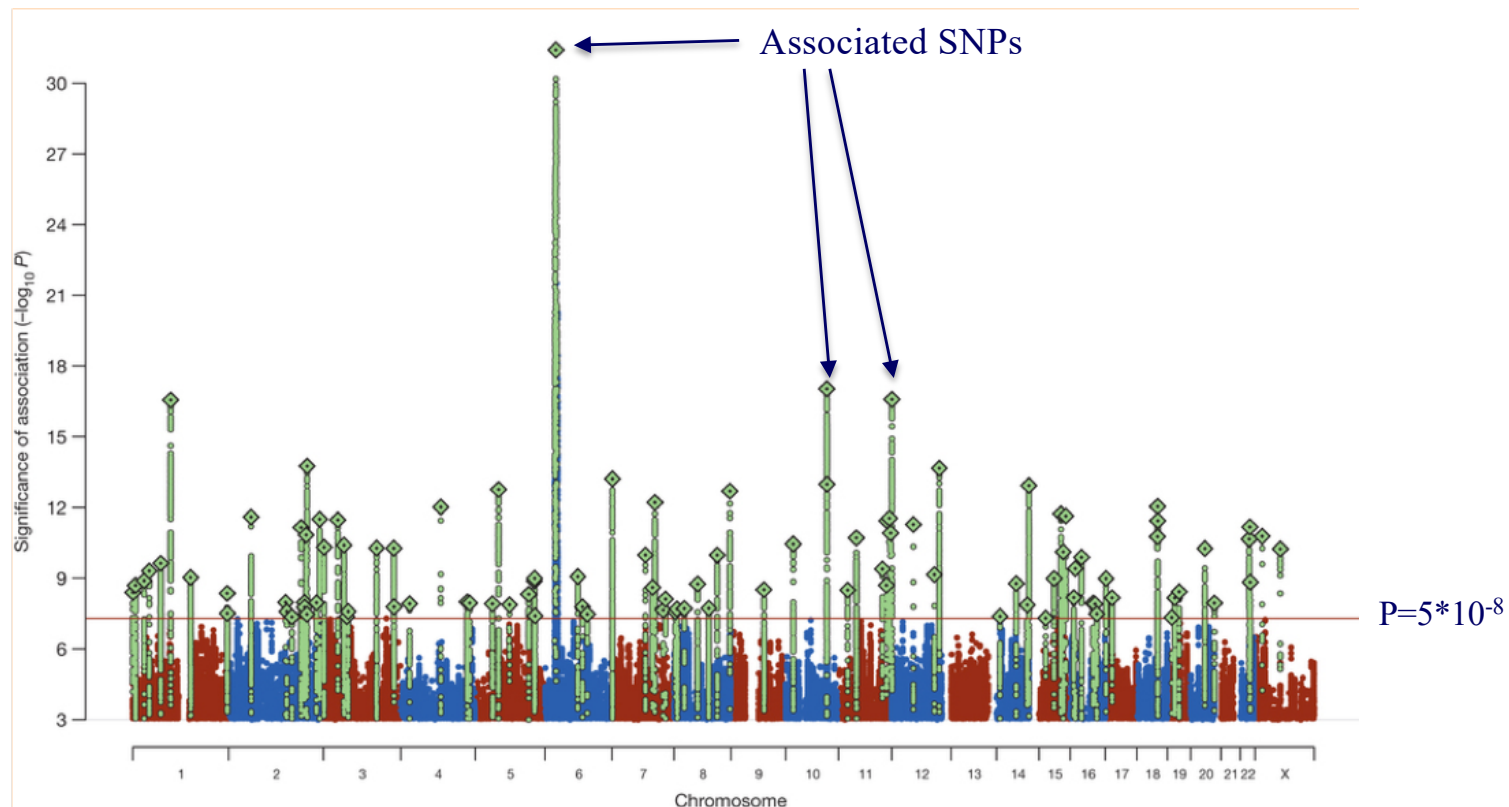
Understanding Associations Between Genetic Variation and Disease

Genome-wide association study (GWAS)

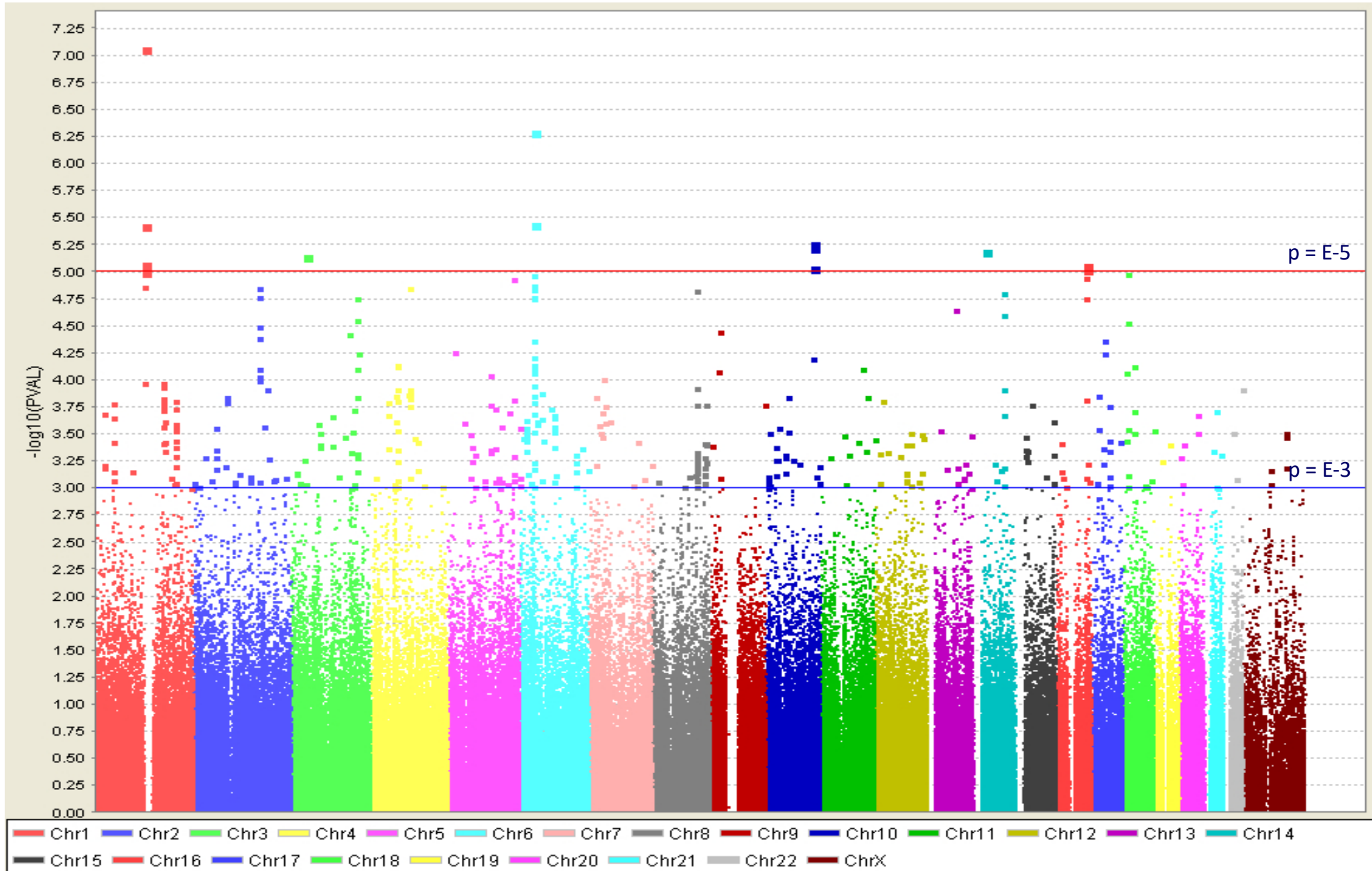
- Gather some population of individuals
- Genotype each individual at polymorphic markers (usually SNPs)
- Test association between *state* at marker and some variable of interest (say disease)
- Adjust for multiple comparisons
- Phenotypes: observable traits

Example: Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS) identifies disease associated genetic variants

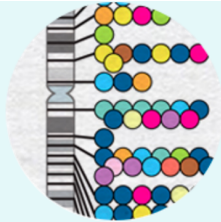
36,989 schizophrenia cases and 113,075 controls
in Psychiatric Genomics Consortium



Type 2 Diabetes Results: 386,731 markers



Type 2 diabetes association P values by chromosome (386,731 markers). The x-axis is the genomic position by chromosome 1-22 and X (by color), and the y-axis is the negative base 10 logarithm of the P value.



GWAS Catalog

The NHGRI-EBI Catalog of published genome-wide association studies



Examples: breast cancer, rs7329174, Yang, 2q37.1, HBS1L, 6:16000000-25000000

GWAS / Search / lung cancer / Associations

Refine search results

Show results for

Studies

59

Associations

707

Catalog traits

44

Filter results by

p-value $\leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$

Odds ratio from to

Beta coefficient from to

Study date from to

Genomic range chr: from to

Search results for *lung cancer*

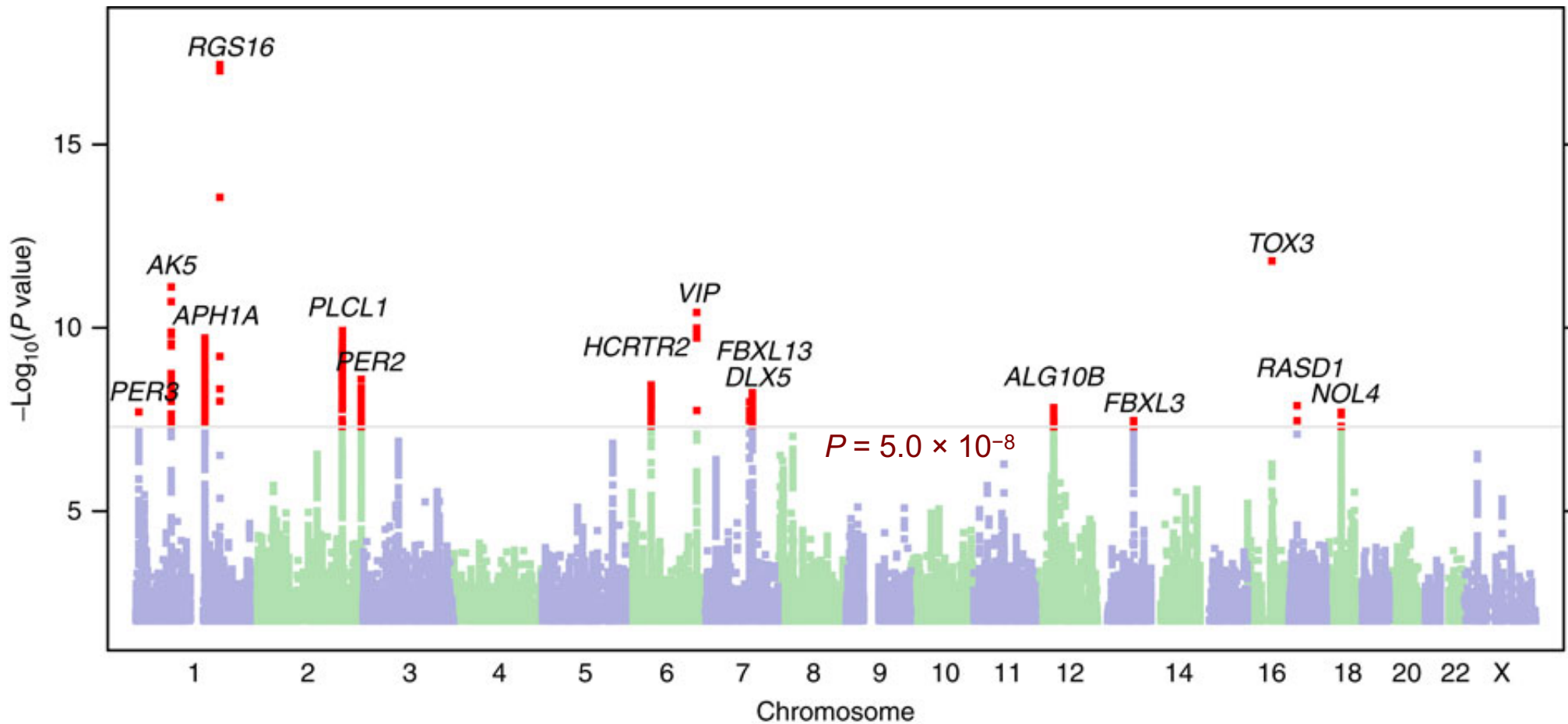
[Download association results](#)

Associations

SNP	RAF	p-value	OR	Beta	CI	Region	Location	Functional class
rs1051730-T	0.35	2×10^{-51}	1.31		[1.27-1.36]	15q25.1	15:78601997	synonymous_variant
rs56113850-T	NR	1×10^{-50}		0.3644 unit decrease	[0.32-0.41]	19q13.2	19:40847202	intron_variant
rs113029345-C	NR	1×10^{-41}		0.3592 unit increase	[0.31-0.41]	19q13.2	19:40864271	intron_variant

- <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/>

Morning Person GWAS



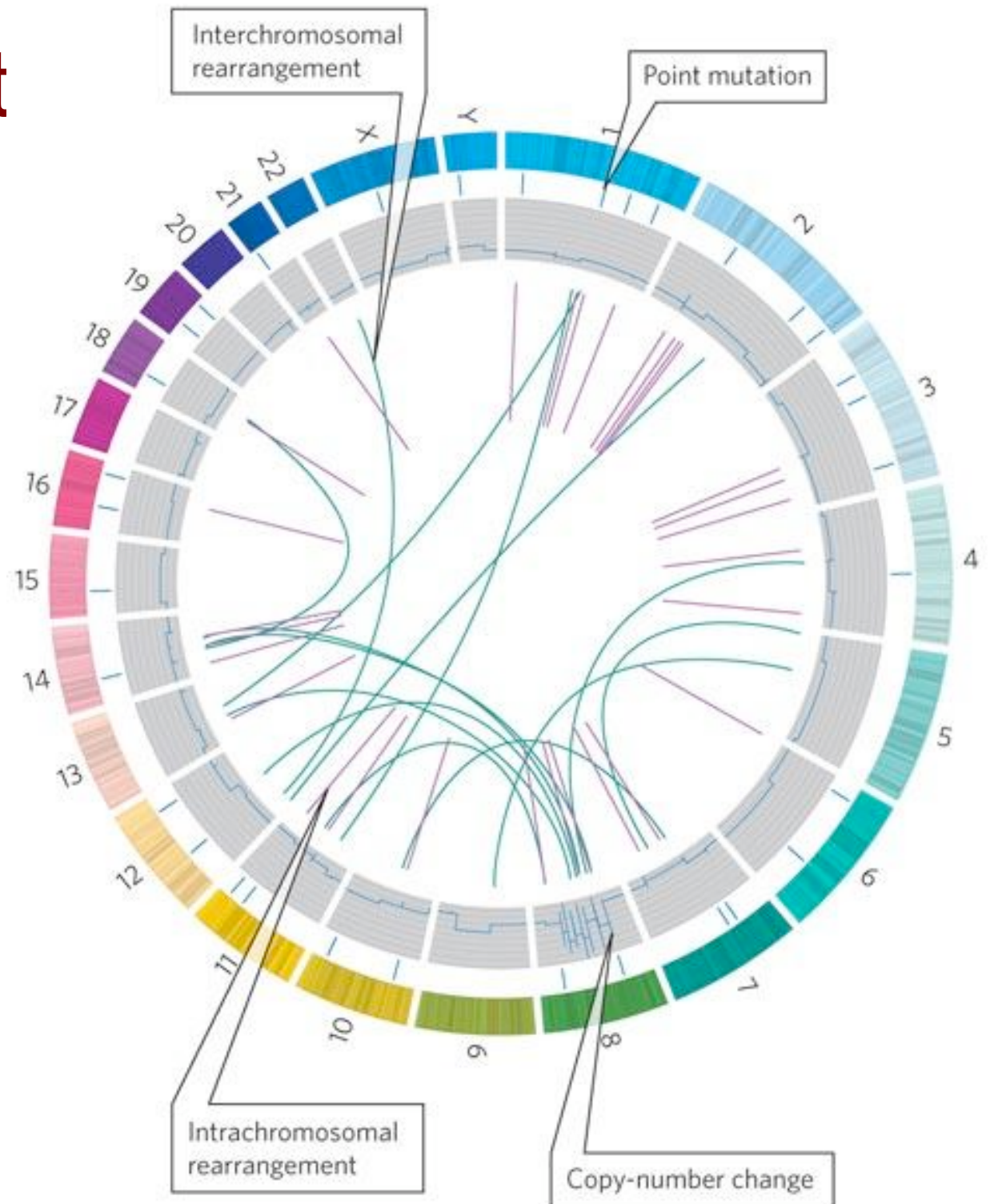
Hu et al. *Nature Communications* 2016

Understanding Associations Between Genetic Variation and Disease

International Cancer Genome Consortium

- Includes NIH's *The Cancer Genome Atlas*
- Sequencing DNA from 500 tumor samples for each of 50 different cancers
- Goal is to distinguish *drivers* (mutations that cause and accelerate cancers) from *passengers* (mutations that are byproducts of cancer's growth)

A Circos Plot



Some Cancer Genomes

LUNG CANCER

Cancer: small-cell lung carcinoma

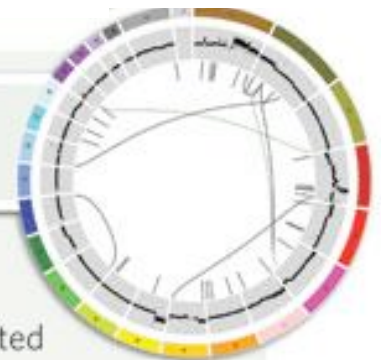
- Sequenced: full genome
- Source: NCI-H209 cell line
- Point mutations: 22,910
- Point mutations in gene regions: 134
- Genomic rearrangements: 58
- Copy-number changes: 334



BREAST CANCER

Cancer: basal-like breast cancer

- Sequenced: full genome
- Source: primary tumour, brain metastasis, and tumours transplanted into mice
- Point mutations: 27,173 in primary, 51,710 in metastasis and 109,078 in transplant
- Point mutations in gene regions: 200 in primary, 225 in metastasis, 328 in transplant
- Genomic rearrangements: 34
- Copy-number changes: 155 in primary, 101 in metastasis, 97 in transplant



SKIN CANCER

Cancer: metastatic melanoma

- Sequenced: full genome
- Source: COLO-829 cell line
- Point mutations: 33,345
- Point mutations in gene regions: 292
- Genomic rearrangements: 51
- Copy-number changes: 41

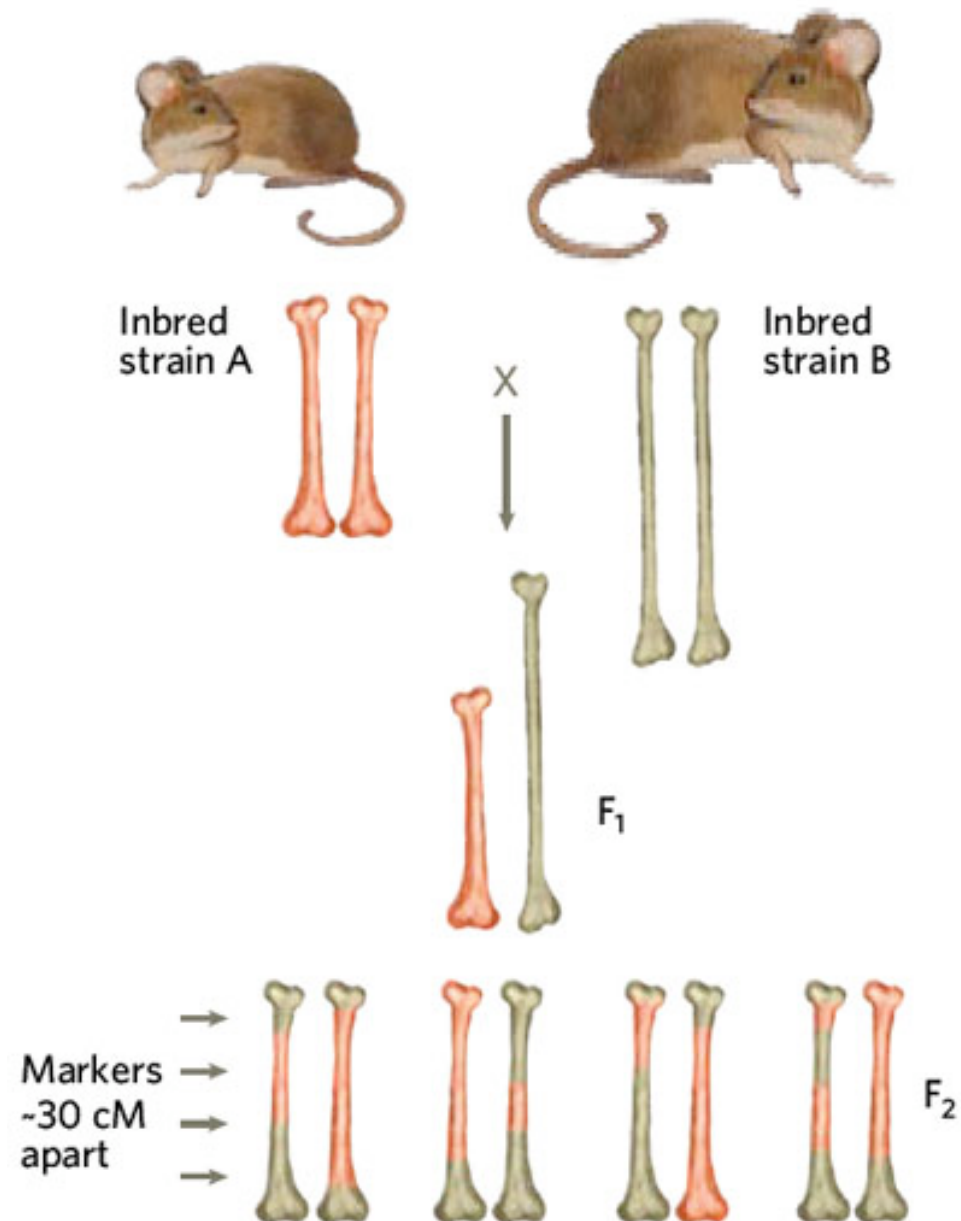


Understanding Associations Between Genetic Variation and Complex Phenotypes

Quantitative trait loci (QTL) mapping

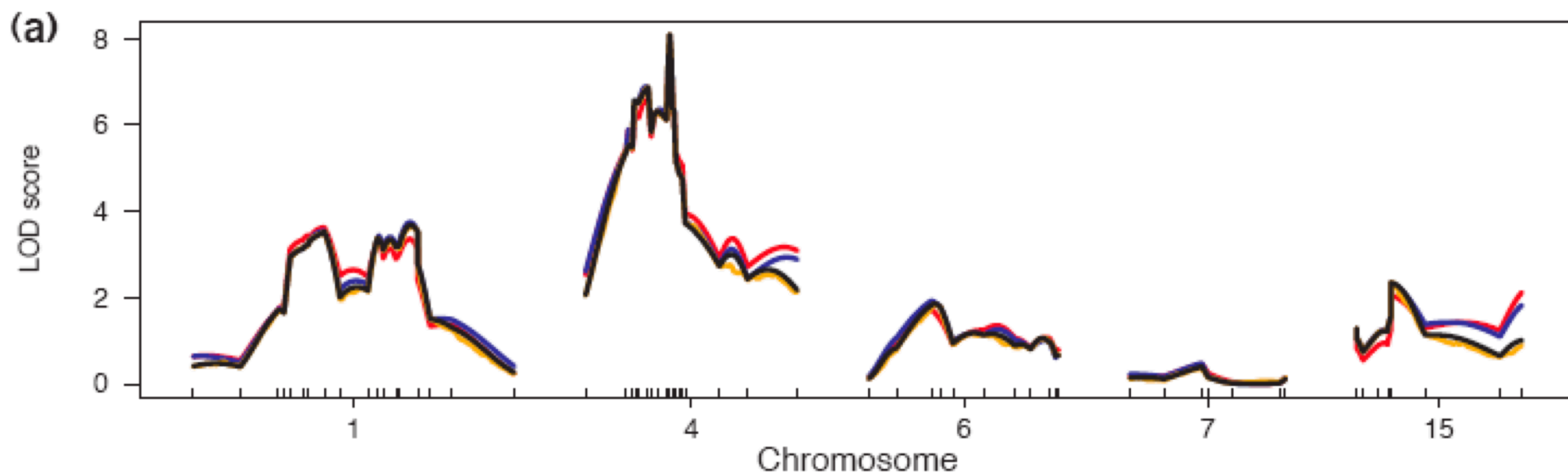
- Gather some population of individuals
- Genotype each individual at polymorphic markers
- Map quantitative trait(s) of interest to chromosomal locations that seem to explain variation in trait

QTL Mapping Example



QTL Mapping Example

QTL mapping of mouse blood pressure, heart rate
[Sugiyama et al., Broman et al.]



Logarithm of Odds

$$\text{LOD}(q) = \log_{10} \frac{P(q \mid \text{QTL at } m)}{P(q \mid \text{no QTL at } m)}$$

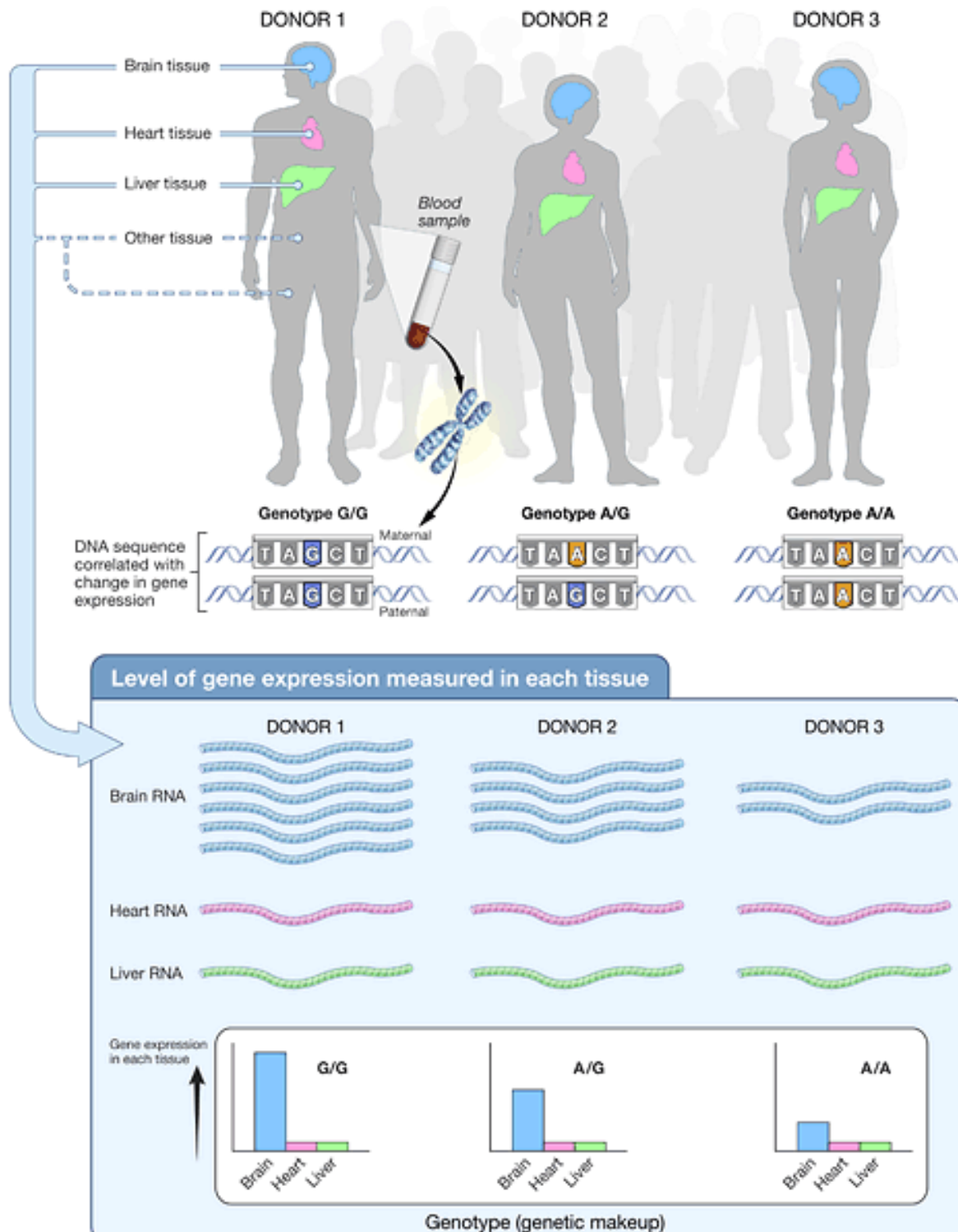
quantitative trait

position in the genome

QTL Example: Genotype-Tissue Expression Project (GTEx)

- Expression QTL (eQTL): traits are expression levels of various genes
- Map genotype to gene expression in different human tissues

QTL Example: GTEx

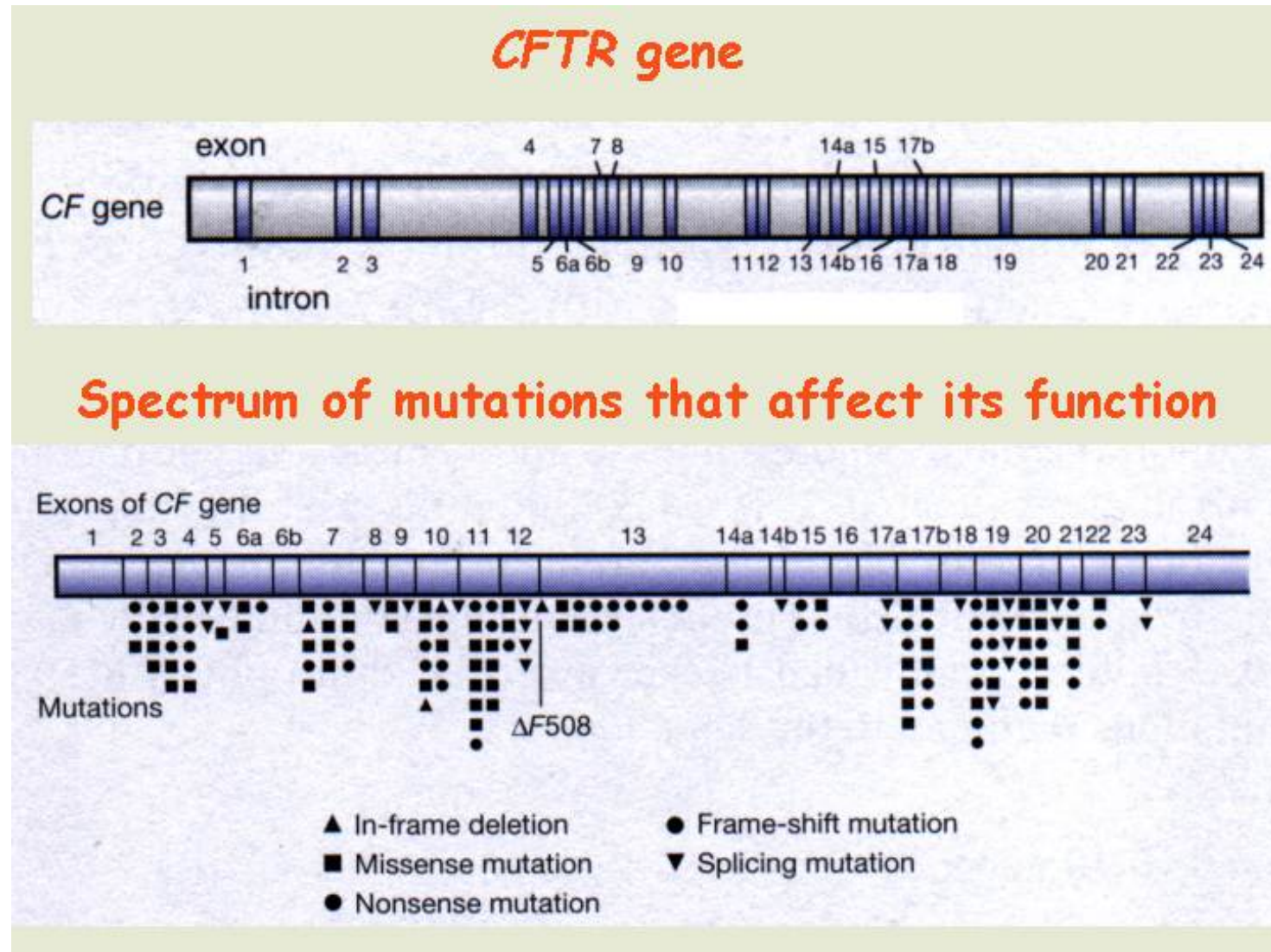


GWAS Versus QTL

- Both associate genotype with phenotype
- GWAS pertains to discrete phenotypes
 - For example, disease status is binary
- QTL pertains to quantitative (continuous) phenotypes
 - Height
 - Gene expression
 - Splicing events
 - Metabolite abundance

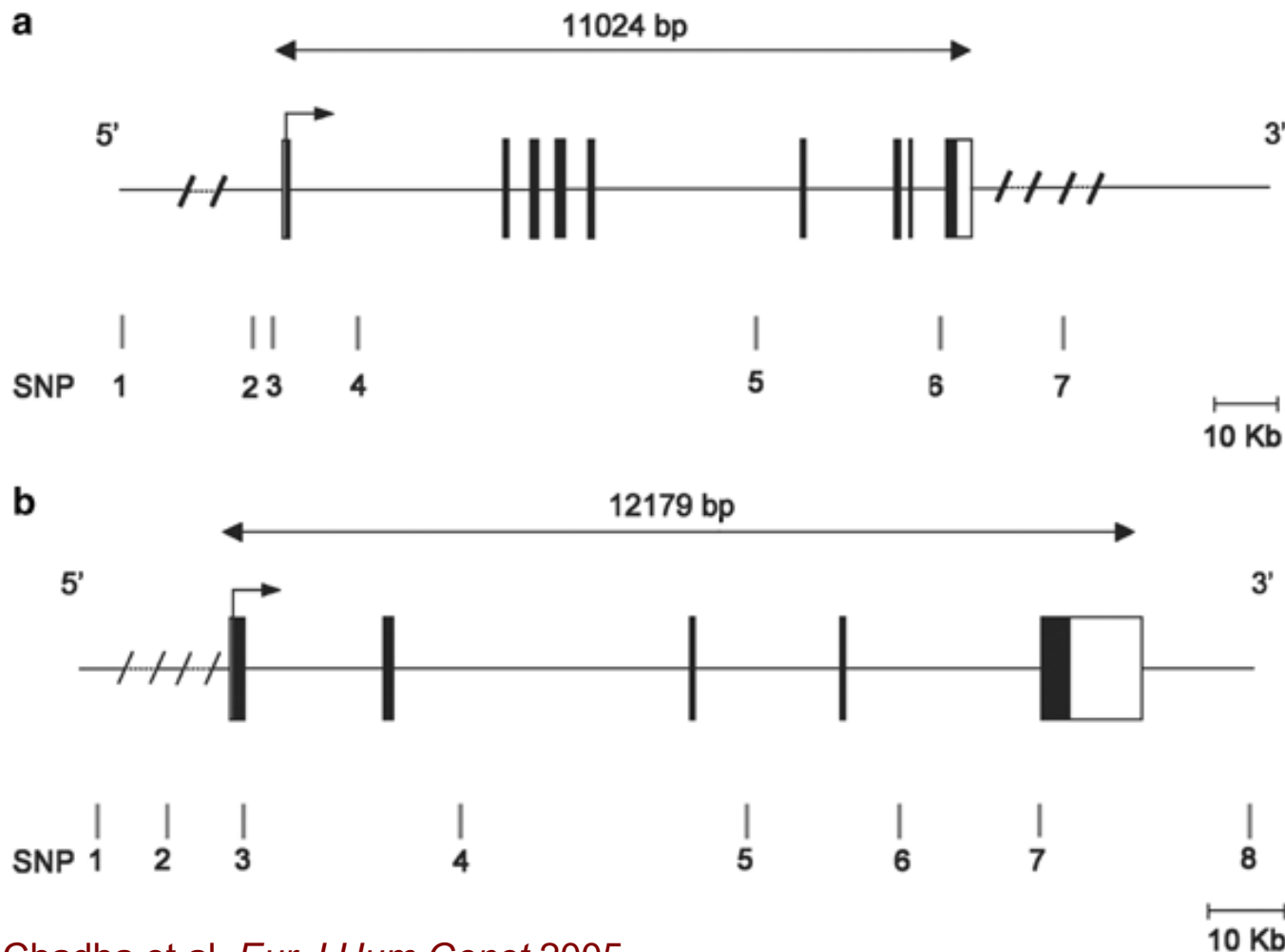
Determining Association is Not Enough

A simple case: CFTR (Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator)

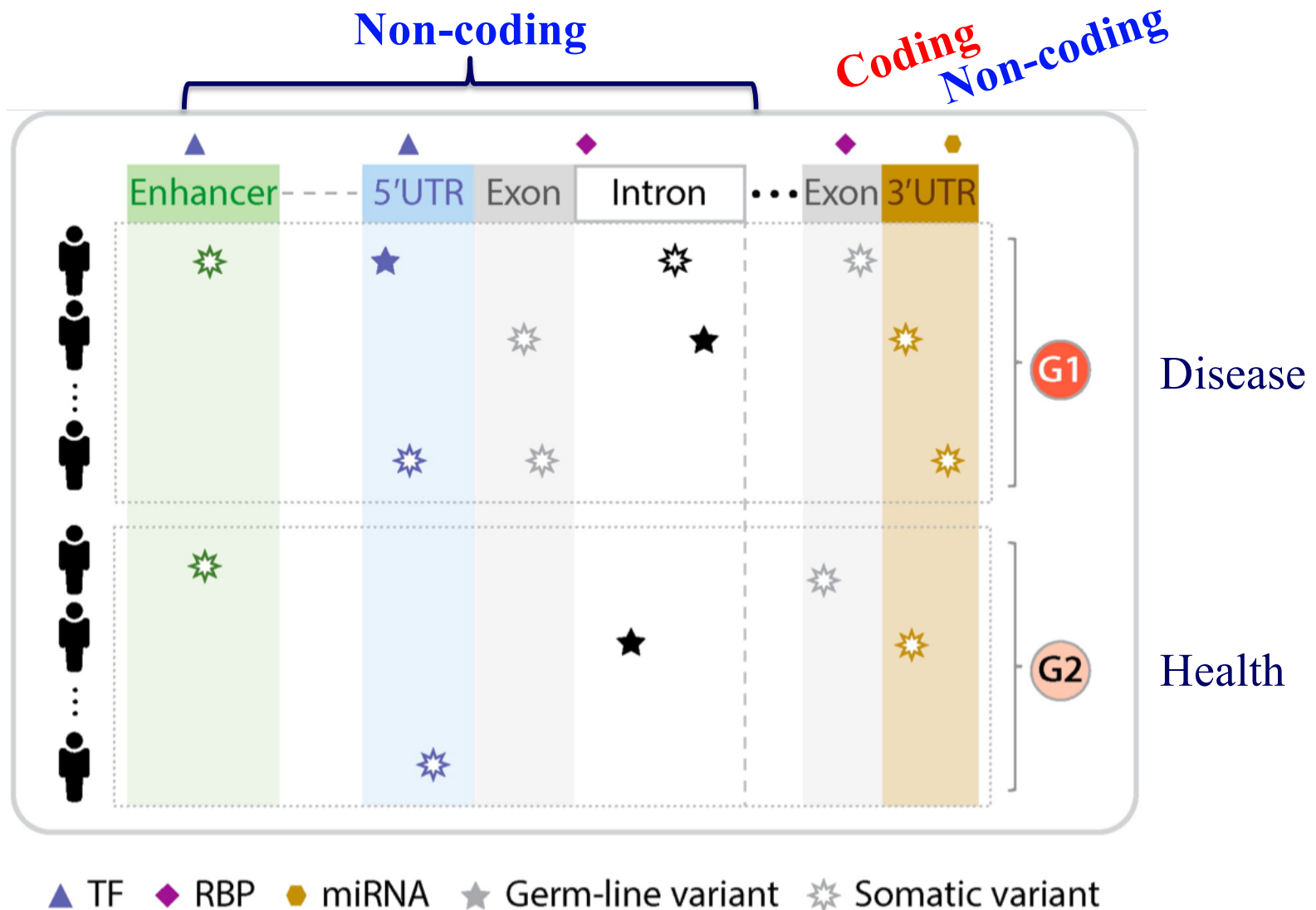


Many Measured SNPs Not in Coding Regions

- Genes encoding CD40 and CD40L with relative positions of the SNPs studied



Non-coding variants



Computational Problems

- Assembly and alignment of thousands of genomes
- Detecting large structural variants
- Data structures to capture extensive variation
- Identifying functional roles of markers of interest (which genes/pathways does a mutation affect and how?)
- Identifying interactions in multi-allelic diseases (which combinations of mutations lead to a disease state?)
- Identifying genetic/environmental interactions that lead to disease
- Inferring network models that exploit all sources of evidence: genotype, expression, metabolic, etc.