

# Variant Calling and Annotation

# Variant Calling and Annotation

1. Bam postprocessing
2. Variant calling
3. Variant calling format
4. Variant normalization
5. Variant filtering
6. Variant annotation and prioritization

# Variant Calling and annotation

1. Bam postprocessing
2. Variant calling
3. Variant calling format
4. Variant normalization
5. Variant filtering
6. Variant annotation and prioritization

# BAM postprocessing

-- Preliminary steps for variant calling --

- BAM sorting
- PCR duplicates bias
- Indel problems

# BAM postprocessing

You already did these steps :

- Fastq demultiplexing
- Fastq trimming (Adapters and quality)
- Quality checking of the reads
- Reads alignment in BAM format
- Quality checking of the alignment

# BAM postprocessing - Sorting

- Sorting by read name
  - Default read order from the sequencer
  - Keep the same order as raw fastq file for particular post processing
    - UMI (molecular barcodes)
    - Compare fastq reads with aligned reads
- Sorting by alignment position
  - To accelerate bam processing and variant calling
  - To allow efficient visualisation
  - To have better compression ratio
    - Read order sorted (150x exome) : 11 Go
    - Position sorted (150x exome) : 7.3 Go
  - Sorting by position means you also have an index file (bam+bai)
- Many tools need a position sorted bam file !
- Bam format has a specific tag (SO)

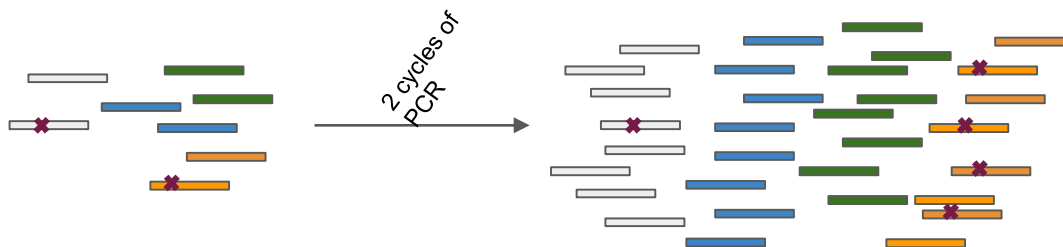
# BAM postprocessing - Sorting

Software:

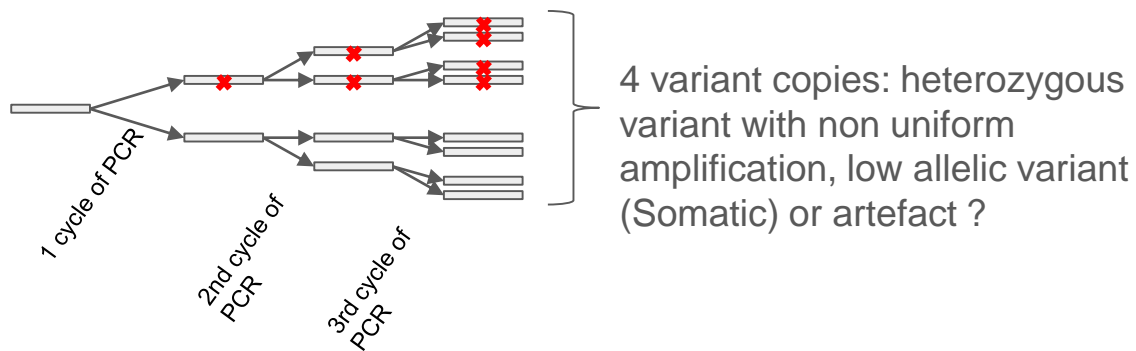
- Samtools 'sort'
- Picard tools 'sort sam'
- Sambamba 'sort'

# BAM postprocessing - PCR duplicates

Non uniform amplification: some allele can be preferentially amplified

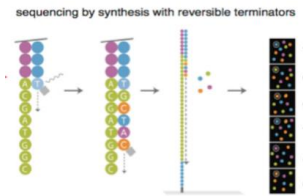
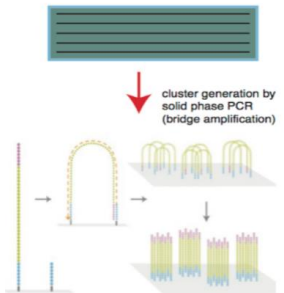


PCR error: an error in first PCR cycle is propagated and amplified





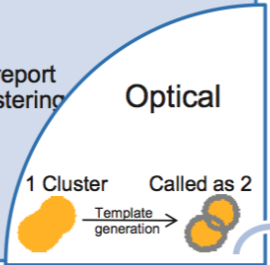
# BAM postprocessing - Optical PCR duplicates



Bitesizebio.com

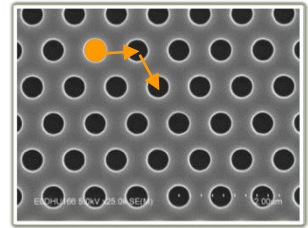
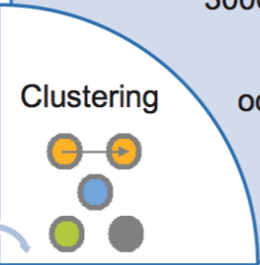
- A single cluster that has falsely been called as two by RTA
- Third party tools may report patterned flow cell clustering duplicates as optical duplicates

**Not on Patterned Flow Cells**



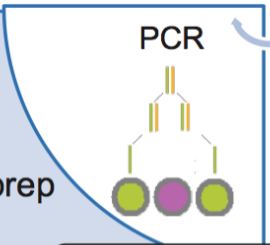
- Duplicates in nearby wells on HiSeq 3000/4000
- During cluster generation a library occupies two adjacent wells

**Unique to Patterned Flow Cells**

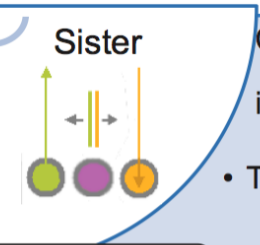


- Duplicate molecules that arise from amplification
- during sample prep

**Present on all Illumina platforms**



- Complement strands of same library form independent clusters
- Treated as duplicates by some informatic pipelines



# BAM postprocessing - PCR Duplicates software

## Tool : Picard Tools / MarkDuplicate

- Mark duplicate / Do not remove duplicated reads !
- Keep a representative read (best base quality scores, maximum length or random)
- All reads starting at the same oriented position are duplicates
  - Same start of both reads for paired-end
- Optical duplicates (based on distance of the clusters) are flagged as DT:SQ\*, others are flagged as DT:LD (Library duplicates)

## Tool : Picard Tools / MarkDuplicateWithMateCigar

- Mark duplicate / Do not remove duplicated reads !
- Keep a representative fragment (maximum length, best base quality scores or random)
- All reads starting at the same oriented position with identical CIGAR are duplicates

## Tool : Samtools / Rmdup

- Removes duplicate reads only

\* SQ stand for sequencing platform artifactual duplicate

# BAM postprocessing - PCR Duplicates software

GATK  
Best  
Practices

## Tool : Picard Tools / MarkDuplicate

- Mark duplicate / Do not remove duplicated reads !
- Keep a representative read (best base quality scores, maximum length or random)
- All reads starting at the same oriented position are duplicates
  - Same start of both reads for paired-end
- Optical duplicates (based on distance of the clusters) are flagged as DT:SQ\*, others are flagged as DT:LD (Library duplicates)

## Tool : Picard Tools / MarkDuplicateWithMateCigar

- Mark duplicate / Do not remove duplicated reads !
- Keep a representative fragment (maximum length, best base quality scores or random)
- All reads starting at the same oriented position with identical CIGAR are duplicates

## Tool : Samtools / Rmdup

- Removes duplicate reads only

\* SQ stand for sequencing platform artifactual duplicate

# BAM postprocessing - Duplicates management

Always MarkDuplicate

... or almost always ...

- Not for Amplicon or Amplicon-like Sequencing (All read starts are of course the same !)
- Not for RNA-sequencing (depending on application)

# BAM postprocessing - Indels problem

- The alignment of indels depends on the score of each base-alignment
  - Match, Mismatch, Gap open, Gap extension penalty, alignment clipping
- The aligner align read independently (we do not know if the alignment is consistent)

This is due to indels at the end of the reads

## Exemple

Ref	T	A	C	C	C	A	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	A	A	A	A	G	C	T
Read1					C	C	A	T	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	A	A	A	A	A	C	T

The best scored pairwise alignment

Ref	T	A	C	C	C	A	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	A	A	A	A	G	C	T
ReadN	A	C	C	C	A	-	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	A	A	A				

Another best scored pairwise alignment

(Example from GATK Best Practice for Variant Discovery)

# BAM postprocessing - Indels problem

- The alignment of indels depends on the score of each base-alignment
  - Match, Mismatch, Gap open, Gap extension penalty, alignment clipping
- The aligner align read independently (we do not know if the alignment is consistent)

This is due to indels at the end of the reads

## Exemple

```
Ref    T A C C C A T T T T T T T C T A A A A G C T
Read1          C C A T T T T T T C T A A A A A C T
```

The best scored pairwise alignment

```
Ref    T A C C C A T T T T T T T C T A A A A G C T
ReadN  A C C C A - T T T T T T C T A A A
Read1          C C A T T T T T T C T A A A A A C T
```

Inconsistency of pairwise alignment

(Example from GATK Best Practice for Variant Discovery)

# BAM postprocessing - Indels problem

- The alignment of indels depends on the score of each base-alignment
  - Match, Mismatch, Gap open, Gap extension penalty, alignment clipping
- The aligner align read independently (we do not know if the alignment is consistent)

This is due to indels at the end of the reads

## Exemple

```
Ref    T A C C C A T T T T T T T C T A A A A G C T
Read1          C C A T T T T T T C T A A A A A C T
```

The best scored pairwise alignment

```
Ref    T A C C C A T T T T T T T C T A A A A G C T
ReadN  A C C C A - T T T T T T C T A A A
Read1          C C A T T T T T T C T A A A A A C T
```

Inconsistency of pairwise alignment

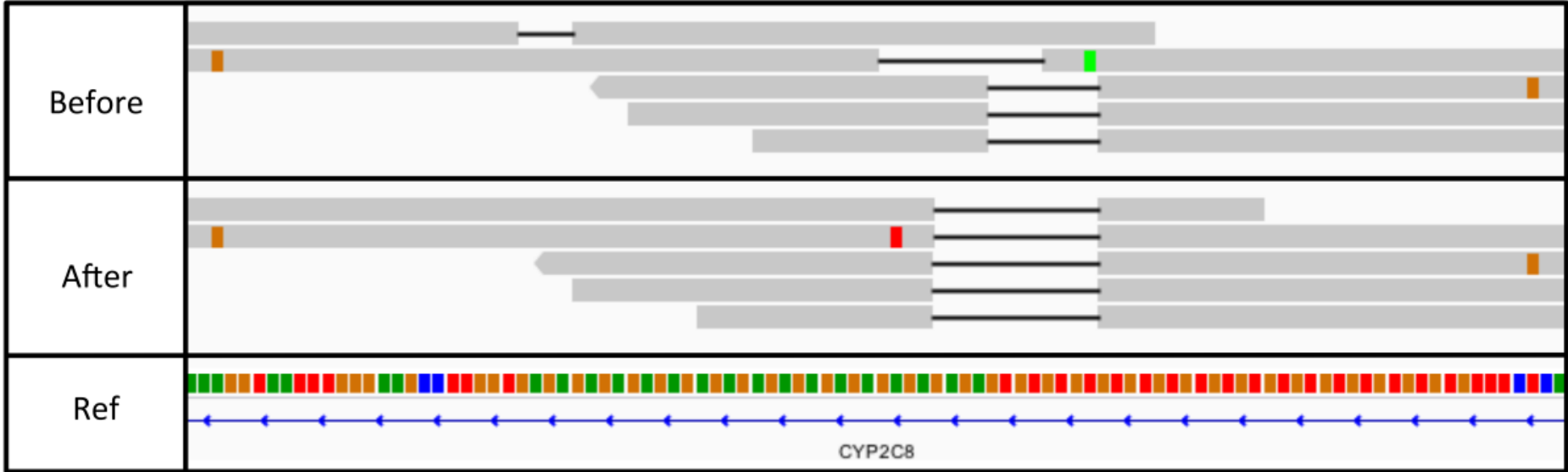
```
Ref    T A C C C A T T T T T T T C T A A A A G C T
ReadN  A C C C A - T T T T T T C T A A A
Read1          C C A - T T T T T T C T A A A A A C T
```

Consistent alignment

# BAM postprocessing - Indels problem

Realigning indels taking into account other reads allows:

- More precise evaluation of the allelic ratio
- To compare indels between samples (same nomenclature)
- Eliminate artefactual variant due to misalignment !



Reads are subset for only those that undergo realignment.

From GATK Best Practices for Variant Discovery Presentation, <https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/download/workshops>





# Bam postprocessing - Indels problem

- Not always mandatory since modern callers perform that step internally :
  - Freebayes
  - Genome Analysis ToolKit (GATK, HaplotypeCaller)
  - Platypus
  - MuTect2
  - ...
- But still useful for legacy tools :
  - Samtools mpileup
  - Genome Analysis ToolKit (GATK, UnifiedGenotyper)
  - MuTect1
  - ...

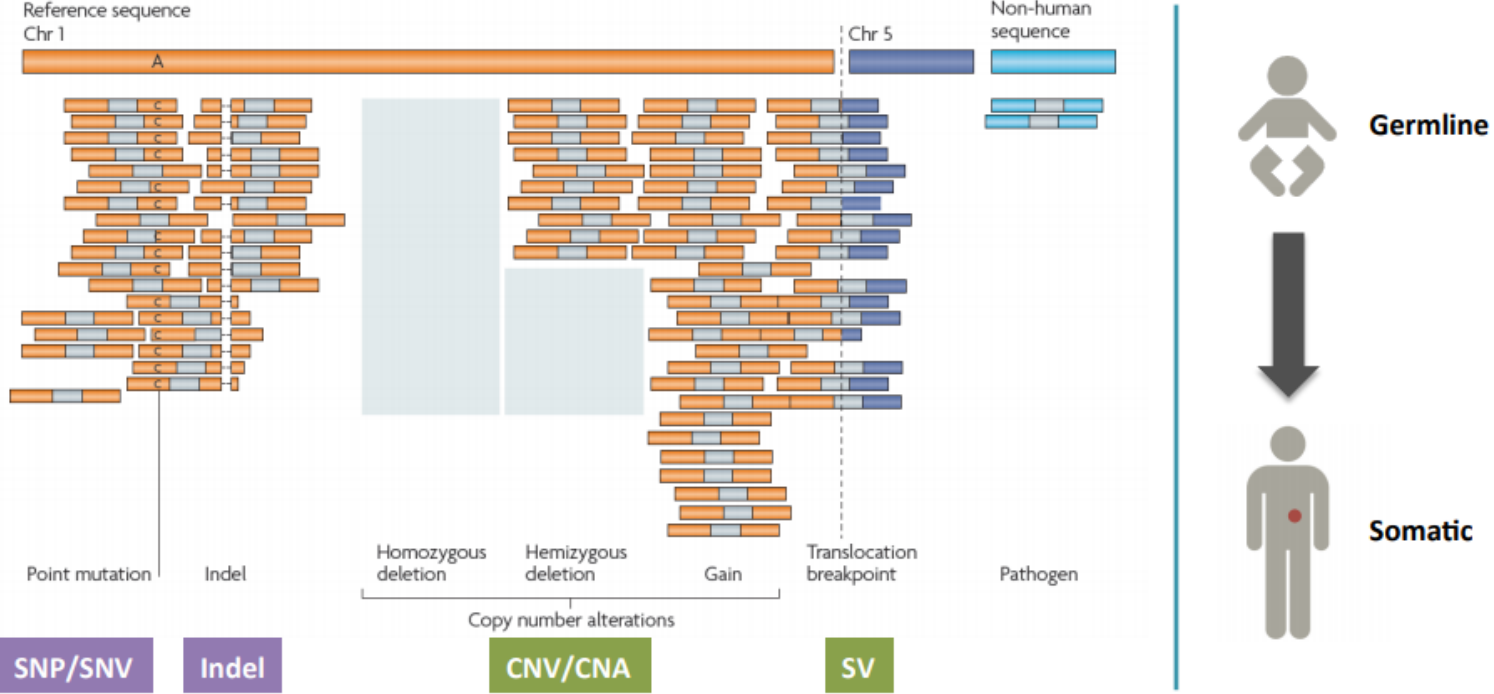
# Variant Calling and Annotation

1. Bam postprocessing
2. Variant calling
3. Variant calling format
4. Variant normalization
5. Variant filtering
6. Variant annotation and prioritization

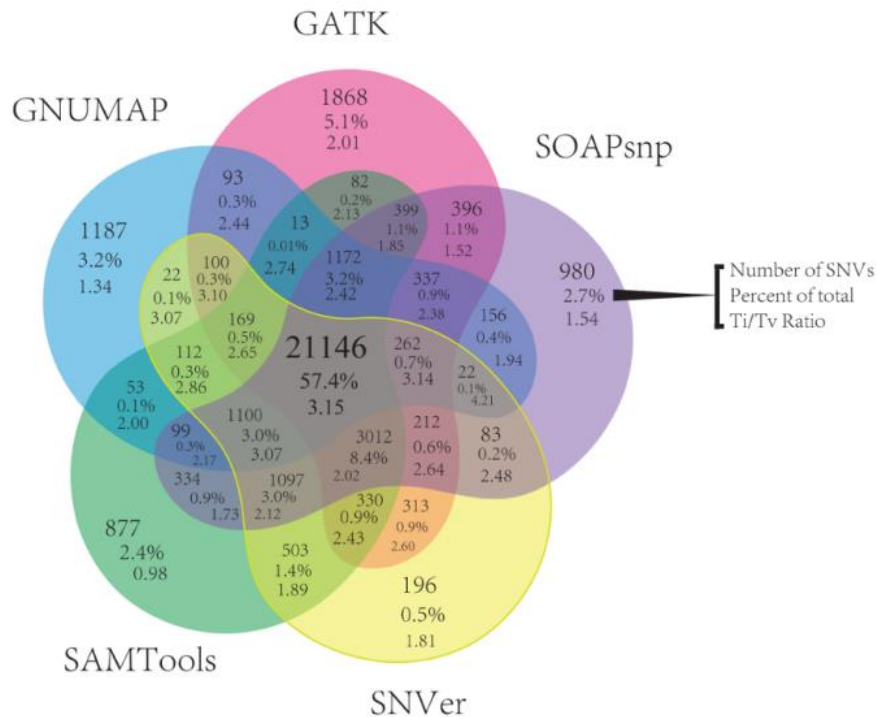
# Variant calling in a diploid organism

- Genetic changes relative to a **reference genome**
  - Germline (inherited)
  - Somatic (cancer)
- **Reference Genome** = a standardized genomic sequence
- Human reference sequence :
  - hg19/GRCh37/b37 (still broadly used)
  - hg38/GRCh38/b38 (current reference)
- Other organisms :
  - Many have a fully assembled reference sequence (mouse, rat, etc.)
  - Many still do not (plants, etc.)

# Different types of variants

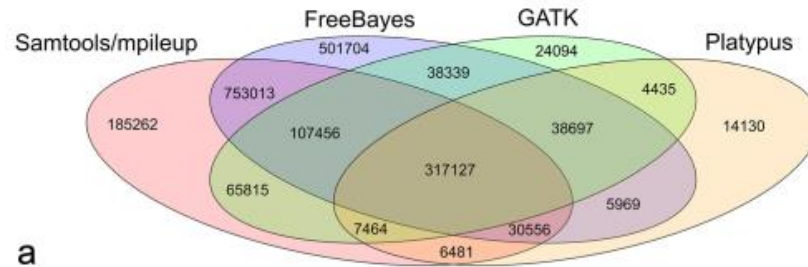


# Variants callers are not concordant



Mean single-nucleotide variants (SNV) concordance over 15 exomes between five alignment and variant-calling pipelines

# Variant callers are not concordant



Callers comparison in large plant re-sequencing (wheat)

# Variant callers - How do they work

Example :

REFERENCE: atcatgacggcaGtagcatat

-----

READ1: atcatgacggcaGtagcatat

READ2: tgacggcaGtagcatat

READ3: atcatgacggcaAtagca

READ4: cggcaGtagcatat

READ5: atcatgacggcaGtagc



# Variant callers - How do they work

Example :

REFERENCE: atcatgacggcaGtagcatat

-----

READ1: atcatgacggcaGtagcatat

READ2: tgacggcaGtagcatat

READ3: atcatgacggcaAtagca

READ4: cggcaGtagcatat

READ5: atcatgacggcaGtagc

Naïve procedure :

- 20% A (1 read), 80% G (4 reads)
- Call site as heterozygous

**BUT only one single read**

Possibilities :

- A true variant
- An experimental artifact (library preparation error)
- A base calling error
- An analysis error (misalignment, etc.)

# Variant callers - How do they work

Example :

REFERENCE: atcatgacggcaGtagcatat

-----

READ1: atcatgacggcaGtagcatat

READ2: tgacggcaGtagcatat

READ3: atcatgacggcaAtagca

READ4: cggcaGtagcatat

READ5: atcatgacggcaGtagc

Naïve procedure :

- 20% A (1 read), 80% G (4 reads)
- Call site as heterozygous

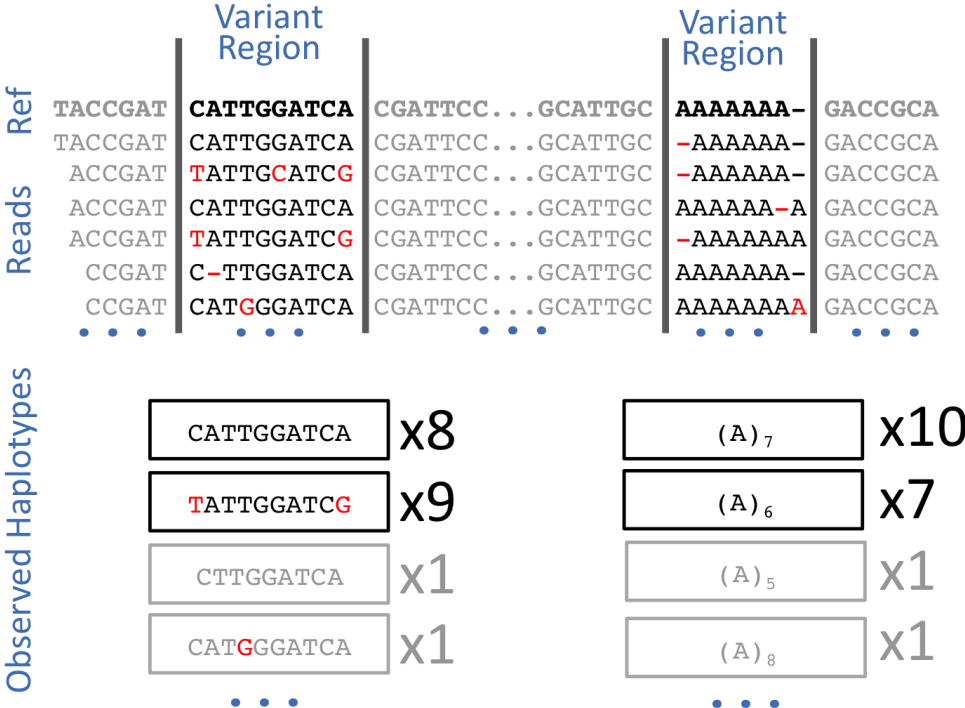
**BUT only one single read**

Possibilities :

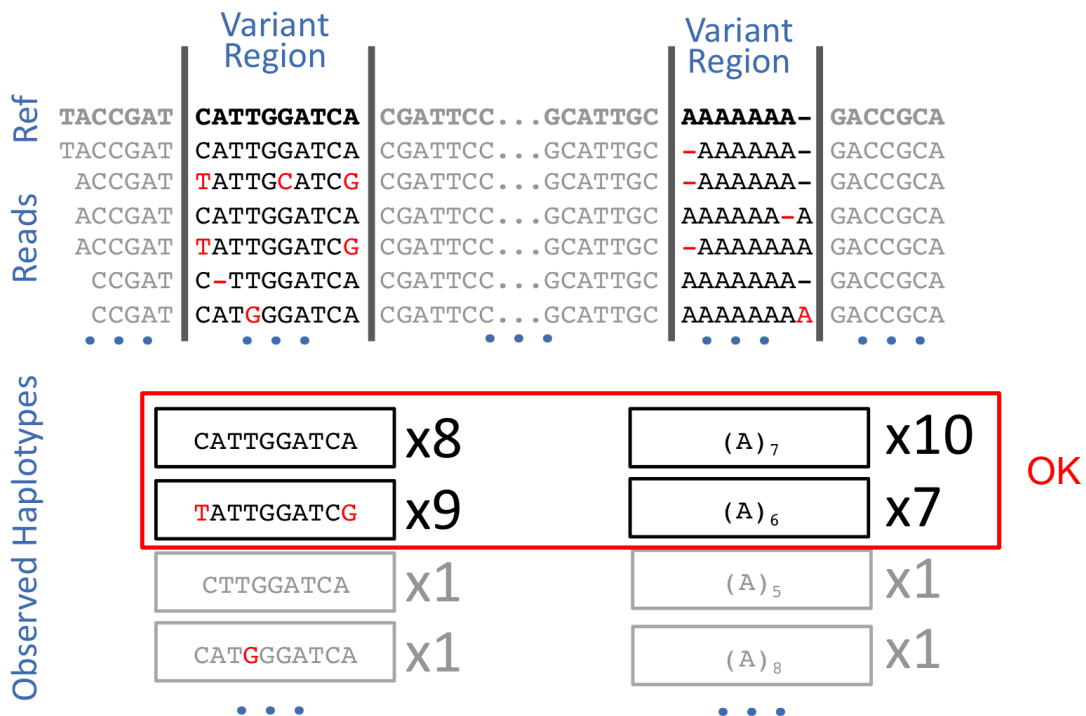
- A true variant
- An experimental artifact (library preparation error)
- A base calling error
- An analysis error (misalignment, etc.)

**Assign reliability estimate for genotype calls (modern callers)**

# Variant callers : Haplotype based callers



# Variant callers : Haplotype based callers



# Variant callers : Haplotype based callers

- Genome Analysis ToolKit, GATK HaplotypeCaller
- Platypus
- Freebayes
  - Indel realignment accomplished internally
  - Base recalibration is avoided
  - Variant quality recalibration is avoided
  - Ability to incorporate non-diploid case

Freebayes will be used for the variant calling in the tutorial

<https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us>  
<https://github.com/andyrimmer/Platypus>  
<https://github.com/freebayes/freebayes>

# Variant Calling and Annotation

1. Bam postprocessing
2. Variant calling
3. Variant calling format
4. Variant normalization
5. Variant filtering
6. Variant annotation and prioritization

# VCF : Variant Call Format

Standardised format for storing the most prevalent types of sequence variations

Text file format in 2 parts : header and body.

**VCF header**

```
##fileformat=VCFv4.2
##fileDate=20090805
##source=myImputationProgramV3.1
##reference=file:///seq/references/1000GenomesPilot-NCBI36.fasta
##contig=<ID=20, length=62435964, assembly=B36, md5=f126cdf8a6e0c7f379d618ff66bef2da, 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">
##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">
```

**Mandatory Header Lines**

**Optional header lines (meta-data about the annotations in the VCF body)**

**Reference alleles (GT=0)**

**Alternate alleles (GT>0 is an index to the ALT column)**

**Body**

#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO	FORMAT	NA00001	NA00002
20	14370	rs6054257	ACG	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
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
20	1110696	rs6040355	A	G,GT	67	PASS	NS=2;DP=10;AF=0.333,0.667;DB	GT:GQ:DP:HQ	1 2:21:6:23,27	2 1:2:0:18,2
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
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		

Deletion    SNP    Other event    Insertion

Phased data (G and C above are on the same chromosome)

# VCF : Variant Call Format

Types of variants :

## SNPs

<i>Alignment</i>	<i>VCF representation</i>		
ACGT	POS	REF	ALT
A <b>T</b> GT	2	C	T

## Insertions

<i>Alignment</i>	<i>VCF representation</i>		
AC-GT	POS	REF	ALT
AC <b>T</b> GT	2	C	CT

## Deletions

<i>Alignment</i>	<i>VCF representation</i>		
ACGT	POS	REF	ALT
A <b>-</b> T	1	ACG	A

## Complex events

<i>Alignment</i>	<i>VCF representation</i>		
ACGT	POS	REF	ALT
A <b>-TT</b>	1	ACG	AT

## Large structural variants

*VCF representation*

POS	REF	ALT	INFO
100	T	<DEL>	SVTYPE=DEL;END=300



# VCF : header

Lines that start with #

Some mandatory lines : file format, column header

Optional header lines contain meta-data about annotations in the vcf body



Meta-data may vary a lot from a variant caller to another one!

INFO vs FORMAT :

INFO = annotations on variant as a whole

FORMAT = annotations that apply to each genotype

# VCF representation of genotypes

Zygoty	VCF representation
Heterozygous	0/1, 1/2, 0/2, ...
Homozygous Reference Alternate	0/0 1/1, 2/2, 3/3, ...
Missing	. / 0, . / 1, . / ., ...

0 = Ref    1 = Alt1    2 = Alt2    3 = Alt3    ...



# VCF specification versions

## VCF specifications evolve through versions!

### Changes between VCFv4.1 and VCFv4.2:

- Information field format: adding source and version as recommended fields.
- INFO field can have one value for each possible allele (code R).
- For all of the ##INFO, ##FORMAT, ##FILTER, and ##ALT metainformation, extra fields can be included after the default fields.
- Alternate base (ALT) can include \*: missing due to a upstream deletion.
- Quality scores, a sentence removed: *High QUAL scores indicate high confidence calls. Although traditionally people use integer phred scores, this field is permitted to be a floating point to enable higher resolution for low confidence calls if desired.*
- Examples changed a bit.

### Changes between VCFv4.2 and VCFv4.3 :

- VCF compliant implementations must support both LF and CR+LF newline conventions
- INFO and FORMAT tag names must match the regular expression `^[A-Za-z][[0-9A-Za-z .]*$`
- Spaces are allowed in INFO field values
- Characters with special meaning (such as ';' in INFO, ':' in FORMAT, and '%' in both) can be encoded using the percent encoding (see Section 1.2) • The character encoding of VCF files is UTF-8. 35
- The SAMPLE field can contain optional DOI URL for the source data file
- Introduced ##META header lines for defining phenotype metadata
- New reserved tag "CNP" analogous to "GP" was added. Both CNP and GP use 0 to 1 encoding, which is a change from previous phred-scaled GP.
- In order for VCF and BCF to have the same expressive power, we state explicitly that Integers and Floats are 32-bit numbers. Integers are signed.
- We state explicitly that zero length strings are not allowed, this includes the CHROM and ID column, INFO IDs, FILTER IDs and FORMAT IDs. Meta-information lines can be in any order, with the exception of ##fileformat which must come first.
- All header lines of the form ##key= must have an ID value that is unique for a given value of "key". All header lines whose value starts with "<" must have an ID field. Therefore, also ##PEDIGREE newly requires a unique ID.
- We state explicitly that duplicate IDs, FILTER, INFO or FORMAT keys are not valid.
- A section about gVCF was added, introduced the <\*> symbolic allele.

# Variant Calling and Annotation

1. Bam postprocessing
2. Variant calling
3. Variant calling format
4. Variant normalization
5. Variant filtering
6. Variant annotation and prioritization

# Variant normalization - Principles

- Every variant in the human genome has various representations !
- When merging variants from multiple variant callers for the same sample

⇒ which variants are common between callers ?

- When comparing variant from the same variant caller but from different samples

⇒ which variants are shared between samples ?

**A normalized variant is parsimonious and left-aligned**

# Variant normalization - Parsimony

1. Variant represented in as few nucleotides as possible without an allele of length 0 (e.i : '.')
1. If the leftmost nucleotide of each variant is of the same type and the removal of the allele will not result in an empty allele (e.i : point 1.), remove superfluous nucleotide of his left side
1. The concept is symmetric (left parsimony, right parsimony)

# Variant normalization - Parsimony

Reference and alternative alleles of a multi nucleotide polymorphism (MNP)

REF GGGCATGGG  
ALT GGG**TGC**GGG

Genome Reference

GGGGCATGGGG

Variant Call Format

POS REF ALT

Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.

Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.

# Variant normalization - Parsimony

Reference and alternative alleles of a multi nucleotide polymorphism (MNP)

REF GGGCATGGG  
ALT GGG**TGC**GGG

Genome Reference		Variant Call Format		
	GGGGCATGGGG	POS	REF	ALT
REF	GCAT	4	GCAT	GTGC
ALT	GTGC			

Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.

Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.

Not left trimmed



# Variant normalization - Parsimony

Reference and alternative alleles of a multi nucleotide polymorphism (MNP)

REF GGGCATGGG  
ALT GGG**TGCGGG**

Genome Reference		Variant Call Format		
	GGGGCATGGGG	POS	REF	ALT
REF	GCAT	4	GCAT	GTGC
ALT	GTGC			
REF	CATG	5	CATG	TGCG
ALT	TGCG			
Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.		Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.		

Not left trimmed

Not right trimmed

# Variant normalization - Parsimony

Reference and alternative alleles of a multi nucleotide polymorphism (MNP)

REF GGGCATGGG  
ALT GGG**TG**CGGG

Genome Reference		Variant Call Format			
GGGGCATGGGG		POS	REF	ALT	
REF	GCAT	4	GCAT	GTGC	Not left trimmed
ALT	GTGC				
REF	CATG	5	CATG	TGCG	Not right trimmed
ALT	TGCG				
REF	GCATG	4	GCATG	GTGCG	Not left and right trimmed
ALT	GTGCG				
Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.		Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.			

# Variant normalization - Parsimony

Reference and alternative alleles of a multi nucleotide polymorphism (MNP)

REF GGGCATGGG  
ALT GGG**TGC**GGG

Genome Reference		Variant Call Format			
	GGGGCATGGGG	POS	REF	ALT	
REF	GCAT	4	GCAT	GTGC	Not left trimmed
ALT	GTGC				
REF	CATG	5	CATG	TGCG	Not right trimmed
ALT	TGCG				
REF	GCATG	4	GCATG	GTGCG	Not left and right trimmed
ALT	GTGCG				
REF	CAT	5	CAT	TGC	Normalized
ALT	TGC				

Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.

Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.

# Variant normalization - Left alignment

A variant is left-aligned if and only if it is no longer possible to shift its position to the left while keeping the length of all its alleles constant



# Variant normalization - Left alignment

Reference and alternative alleles of a CA short tandem repeat (STR)

REF GGGCACACACAGGG  
ALT GGGCACACAGGG

← CA deletion from the reference

Genome Reference		Variant Call Format		
	GGGCACACACAGGG	POS	REF	ALT
REF	CA	8	CA	.
ALT	.			

Not left aligned and alternate allele is empty

Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.

Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.

# Variant normalization - Left alignment

Reference and alternative alleles of a CA short tandem repeat (STR)

REF	GGGCACACACAGGG
ALT	GGGCACACAGGG

← CA deletion from the reference

	Genome Reference	Variant Call Format			
	GGGCACACACAGGG	POS	REF	ALT	
REF	CA	8	CA	.	Not left aligned and alternate allele is empty
ALT	.				
REF	CAC	6	CAC	C	Not left aligned but parsimonious
ALT	C				
Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.		Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.			

# Variant normalization - Left alignment

Reference and alternative alleles of a CA short tandem repeat (STR)

<b>REF</b>	GGGCACACACAGGG
<b>ALT</b>	GGGCACACAGGG

← CA deletion from the reference

	Genome Reference		Variant Call Format	
	GGGCACACACAGGG		POS REF ALT	
<b>REF</b>	CA		8 CA .	Not left aligned and alternate allele is empty
<b>REF</b>	CAC		6 CAC C	Not left aligned but parsimonious
<b>REF</b>	GCACA		3 GCACA GCA	Not right trimmed
<b>ALT</b>	.			
<b>ALT</b>	C			
<b>ALT</b>	GCA			
Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.			Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.	





# Variant normalization - Left alignment

Reference and alternative alleles of a CA short tandem repeat (STR)

REF GGGCACACACAGGG  
ALT GGGCACACAGGG

← CA deletion from the reference

	Genome Reference		Variant Call Format			
	GGGCACACACAGGG		POS	REF	ALT	
REF	CA		8	CA	.	Not left aligned and alternate allele is empty
ALT	.					
REF	CAC		6	CAC	C	Not left aligned but parsimonious
ALT	C					
REF	GCACA		3	GCACA	GCA	Not right trimmed
ALT	GCA					
REF	GGCA		2	GGCA	GG	Not left trimmed
ALT	GG					
REF	GCA		3	GCA	G	Normalized (left aligned & parsimonious)
ALT	G					

Alleles represented against the human genome reference. Allele pairs are colored the same, all are representations of the same variant.

Alleles represented in Variant Call Format, all are representations of the same variant.

# Variant Calling and Annotation

1. Bam postprocessing
2. Variant calling
3. Variant calling format
4. Variant normalization
5. Variant filtering
6. Variant annotation and prioritization

# Variant filtering - Principles

- Calling algorithms are very permissive
- Calling sets can contain many false positives
- Callers give multiple annotations per variant (INFO field)
- Two filtering approaches :
  - Hard filtering : using thresholds on annotations
  - Variant recalibration using machine learning
- Sensitivity vs Specificity

# Variant filtering - Principles

Callers' annotations represent properties/statistics describing each variant :

- Sequence context
- Depth of coverage
- Number of reads covering each allele
- Proportion of reads in forward/reverse orientation
- ...

# Variant filtering - Hard filtering

- Suitable for all experiments (targeted gene, WES, small sample size, etc.)
- Goal : define annotations and thresholds to filter bad variants
- Pros :
  - Easy to perform
- Cons :
  - Different callers = different annotations
  - Hard to define annotations to use
  - Hard to define thresholds
  - May filter good variants, may keep bad variants

# Variant filtering - Machine learning methods

- Some callers have integrated methods to 'score' variants based on annotations
- Example : GATK3, Variant Quality Score Recalibration, VQSR (based on machine learning)
  - Pros :
    - Easy to perform (if integrated in software)
    - Works well in practice
  - Cons :
    - Requires DNA-seq data (not working on RNA-seq data)
    - Requires well curated training/truth resources (usually not available for non human organisms)
    - Large amount of variants (no targeted gene panels, etc.)
    - > 30 samples for WES data
- Example : GATK4, CNN (base on deep learning, still beta version)

# Variant Calling and Annotation

1. Bam postprocessing
2. Variant calling
3. Variant calling format
4. Variant normalization
5. Variant filtering
6. Variant annotation and prioritization



# Variant annotation and prioritization

**Basic idea** : for each variant, add annotations to help the prioritization for further analyses (biological/bioinformatics) :

- Frequency (reference panels)
- Genomic context (gene, regulatory region, etc.)
- Impact (missense, stop codon, splice event, etc.)
- Clinical context (known disease/phenotype association, etc.)
- Conservation across species
- Pathogenicity prediction
- ...

# Annotation Databases

Eilbeck, Karen & Quinlan, Aaron & Yandell, Mark. (2017). Settling the score: variant prioritization and Mendelian disease. Nature Reviews Genetics. . 10.1038/nrg.2017.52.

## Genomic data repositories

- **1000 Genomes**

The 1000 Genomes Project (abbreviated as 1KGP), launched in January 2008, was an international research effort to establish by far the most detailed catalogue of human genetic variation.



- **ESP** (NHLBI Exome Sequencing Project)

Exists in 3 flavours : evs annotation data was generated from approximately 2500 exomes, evs\_5400 from approximately 5400 exomes and the last one, evs\_6500 from approximately 6500 exomes



- **ExAC** (Exome Aggregation Consortium)

Coalition of investigators seeking to aggregate and harmonize exome sequencing data from a variety of large-scale sequencing projects, and to make summary data available for the wider scientific community.



- **gnomAD** (Genome Aggregation Database)

Developed by an international coalition of investigators, with the goal of aggregating and harmonizing both exome and genome sequencing data from a wide variety of large-scale sequencing projects.



- **FREX** (The French Exome Project Database)

A reference panel of exomes from French regions



# Annotation Databases

Eilbeck, Karen & Quinlan, Aaron & Yandell, Mark. (2017). Settling the score: variant prioritization and Mendelian disease. Nature Reviews Genetics. . 10.1038/nrg.2017.52.

## Databases of variant-disease and gene-disease associations

### ● ClinVar

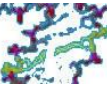
- ClinVar is a freely accessible, public archive of reports of the relationships among human variations and phenotypes hosted by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and funded by intramural National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding.



### ● dbSNP

- The Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Database (dbSNP) is a free public archive for genetic variation within and across different species developed and hosted by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in collaboration with the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI).
- Despite the name, not only SNP
- The quality of the data found on dbSNP has been questioned by many research groups

**dbSNP**  
Short Genetic Variations



### ● Gencode

- set of annotations including all protein-coding **loci** with alternatively transcribed variants, non-coding loci with transcript evidence, and pseudogenes.



# Annotation Databases

Eilbeck, Karen & Quinlan, Aaron & Yandell, Mark. (2017). Settling the score: variant prioritization and Mendelian disease. Nature Reviews Genetics. . 10.1038/nrg.2017.52.

## Databases of variant-disease and gene-disease associations

- **HGMD Public**
  - The Human Gene Mutation Database (HGMD®) represents an attempt to collate known (published) gene lesions responsible for human inherited disease.
- **COSMIC**
  - COSMIC (Catalogue of Somatic Mutations in Cancer) is a data resource that is designed to store and display somatic mutation information and related details and contains information relating to human cancers.
  - Data in COSMIC is curated from known Cancer Genes Literature and Systematic Screens.
- **dbNSFP**
  - Annotation database for non-synonymous SNPs assembled by Xiaoming Liu from the University of Texas School of Public Health (see citation below). 2 flavours : the **dbNSFP** database or **dbNSFP-light** (a version with fewer features)



dbNSFP

# Genotype-Phenotype Databases

Eilbeck, Karen & Quinlan, Aaron & Yandell, Mark. (2017). Settling the score: variant prioritization and Mendelian disease. Nature Reviews Genetics. . 10.1038/nrg.2017.52.

## Databases of variant-disease and gene-disease associations

- **GA4GH Beacon Project**
  - The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) Beacon Project 108 allows researchers to search for a particular variant across a host of individual hospital and research facilities using the same interface.
- **Geno<sub>2</sub>MP**
  - Genotype to Mendelian Phenotype is a service that houses anonymized and aggregated data that enable phenotypic querying
- **MyGene<sub>2</sub>**
  - Allows researchers and clinicians to identify and contact other researchers, clinicians or families who have shared both raw data and summary information about the same rare condition or candidate.
- **OMIM**
  - Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man. OMIM is a comprehensive, authoritative compendium of human genes and genetic phenotypes that is freely available and updated daily. The full-text, referenced overviews in OMIM contain information on all known mendelian disorders and over 15,000 genes.



Geno<sub>2</sub>MP



# Variant prioritization tools

Eilbeck, Karen & Quinlan, Aaron & Yandell, Mark. (2017). Settling the score: variant prioritization and Mendelian disease. Nature Reviews Genetics. . 10.1038/nrg.2017.52.

## Conservation and pathogenicity prediction

- **SIFT**
  - Sorts Intolerant From Tolerant. The degree of protein sequence conservation is used to predict the impact of a missense variant
- **PolyPhen2**
  - Polymorphism phenotyping version 2 uses protein sequence and structure to predict the impact of a missense variant
- **CADD**
  - Integration of conservation metrics, functional data and scores such as SIFT and PolyPhen2 to predict the deleteriousness of nucleotide or short indel change in the genome
- **GERP++**
  - Measures sequence conservation in the human genome through alignments to 43 other vertebrate genome
- **REVEL**
  - Combination of 13 prediction tools into a single score



**Just because a variant is predicted to be damaging by tools does not mean that it is pathogenic !**

# Variant prioritization tools

Eilbeck, Karen & Quinlan, Aaron & Yandell, Mark. (2017). Settling the score: variant prioritization and Mendelian disease. Nature Reviews Genetics. . 10.1038/nrg.2017.52.

## Software/Frameworks

- **Variant Effect Predictor (VEP)**
  - Efficient tool from ensembl which incorporates many databases and plugins for different genomes. Provides a web interface.
- **SnEff / ANNOVAR**
  - efficient software tool to utilize update-to-date information to functionally annotate genetic variants detected from diverse genomes
- **seqr**
  - an open source web interface for rare disease genomics to make research productive, accessible, and user-friendly while leveraging resources and infrastructure at the Broad Institute.
- **VAAST/VAAST2/pVAAST**
  - combines variant frequency data with AAS (Amino Acid Substitution) information on a feature-by-feature basis. Uses the likelihood ratio to search for damaged genes by comparing the variants in a set of disease genomes (cases) to those in a set of healthy genomes (controls).
- **GEMINI**
  - flexible framework for exploring genetic variation in the context of the wealth of genome annotations available for the human genome. Provides a simple, flexible, and powerful system for exploring genetic variation for disease and population genetics.



An open source software platform for rare disease genomics

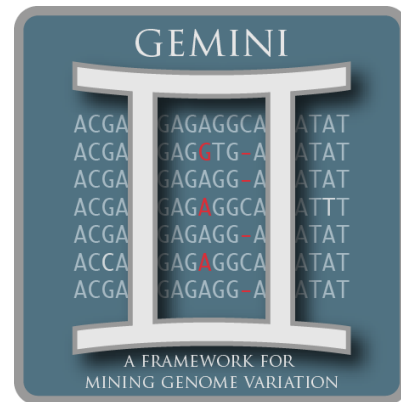


# GEMINI presentation

## GEnome MINing

- Software package for exploring genetic variation
- Integrates annotations from many different sources (ClinVar, dbSNP, ENCODE, UCSC, 1000 Genomes, ESP, KEGG, etc.)
- Load a VCF into an “easy to use” database
- Query (fetch data) from database based on annotations or subject genotypes
- Analyze simple genetic models
- More advanced pathway, protein-protein interaction analyses

Paila U, Chapman BA, Kirchner R, Quinlan AR (2013)  
GEMINI: Integrative Exploration of Genetic Variation and Genome Annotations.  
PLoS Comput Biol 9(7): e1003153. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003153



### GEMINI: Integrative Exploration of Genetic Variation and Genome Annotations

Umadevi Paila<sup>1</sup>, Brad A. Chapman<sup>2</sup>, Rory Kirchner<sup>2</sup>, Aaron R. Quinlan<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Health Sciences and Center for Public Health Genomics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, United States of America, <sup>2</sup> Bioinformatics Core, School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

#### Abstract

Modern DNA sequencing technologies enable geneticists to rapidly identify genetic variation among many human genomes. However, isolating the minority of variants underlying disease remains an important, yet formidable challenge for medical genetics. We have developed GEMINI (GEnome MINing), a flexible software package for exploring all forms of human genetic variation. Unlike existing tools, GEMINI 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. Whereas other methods provide an inflexible set of variant filters or prioritization methods, GEMINI allows researchers to compose complex queries based on sample genotypes, inheritance patterns, and both pre-installed and custom genome annotations. GEMINI also provides methods for ad hoc queries and data exploration, a simple programming interface for custom analyses that leverage the underlying database, and both command line and graphical tools for common analyses. We demonstrate GEMINI's utility for exploring variation in personal genomes and family based genetic studies, and illustrate its ability to scale to studies involving thousands of human samples. GEMINI is designed for reproducibility and flexibility and our goal is to provide researchers with a standard framework for medical genomics.

**Citation:** Paila U, Chapman BA, Kirchner R, Quinlan AR (2013) GEMINI: Integrative Exploration of Genetic Variation and Genome Annotations. *PLoS Comput Biol* 9(7): e1003153. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003153

**Editor:** Paul P. Gardner, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

**Received:** April 25, 2013; **Accepted:** June 11, 2013; **Published:** July 18, 2013

**Copyright:** © 2013 Paila et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

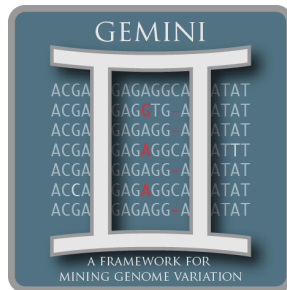
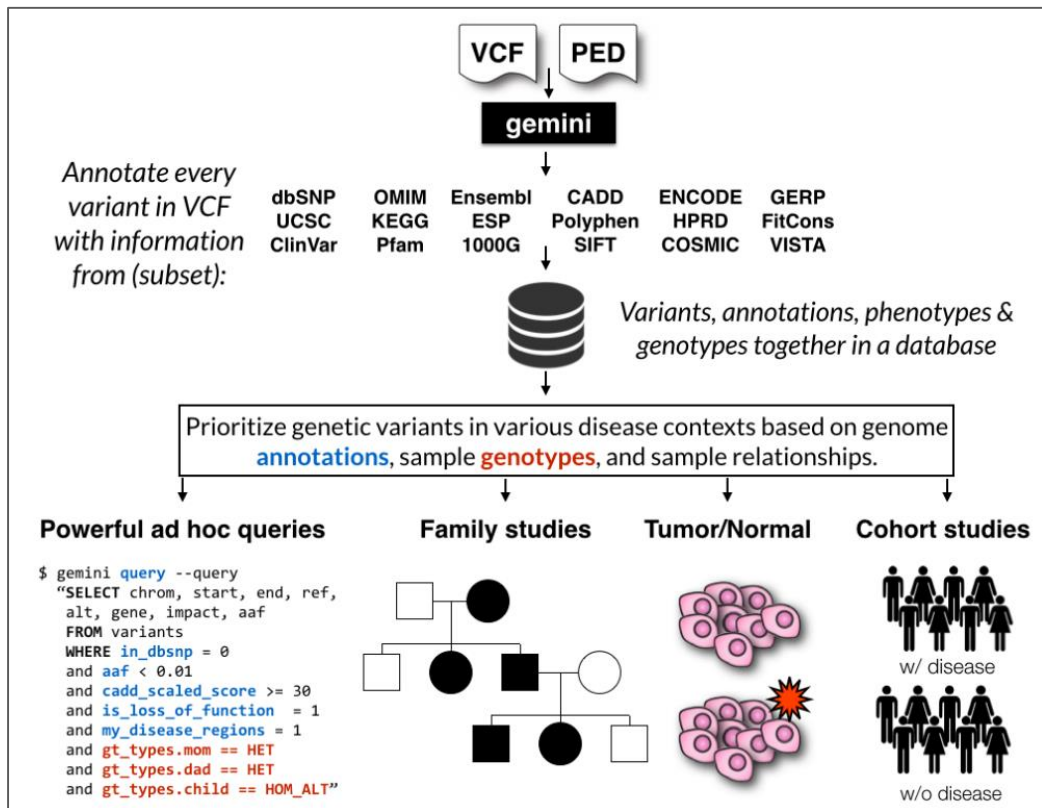
**Funding:** This work was supported by an NIH award to ARQ (NGHR: 1R01HG006693-01). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

**Competing Interests:** The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

\* E-mail: arq5@virginia.edu



# GEMINI presentation



## Documentation :

<http://gemini.readthedocs.io>

## Tutorials :

<https://speakerdeck.com/arq5x/>

**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.

Using the GEMINI framework begins by loading a VCF file (and an optional PED file) into a database. Each variant is automatically annotated by comparing it to several genome annotations from source such as ENCODE tracks, UCSC tracks, OMIM, dbSNP, KEGG, and HPRD. All of this information is stored in portable SQLite database that allows one to explore and interpret both coding and non-coding variation using "off-the-shelf" tools or an enhanced SQL engine.

Please also see the original manuscript.

**GEMINI links**

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

**Sources**

Browse source @ GitHub .

**This Page**

Show Source

**Quick search**

Go

**Tutorials**

In addition to the documentation, please review the following tutorials if you are new to GEMINI. We recommend that you follow these tutorials in order, as they introduce concepts that build upon one another.

- Introduction to GEMINI, basic variant querying and data exploration. [html pdf](#)
- Identifying de novo mutations underlying Mendelian disease. [html pdf](#)
- Identifying autosomal recessive variants underlying Mendelian disease. [html pdf](#)
- Identifying autosomal dominant variants underlying Mendelian disease. [html pdf](#)
- Other GEMINI tools. [html pdf](#)

# GEMINI database overview



## The variants table

Gene information		Genotype information		Variant and PopGen info		Core VCF fields		Population information	
gene	transcript	gts	gt_types	type	chrom	start	end	in_dbsnp	rs_ids
is_exonic	is_coding	is_lof	is_splicing	gt_phases	sub_type	vcf_id	variant_id	in_hm2	in_hm3
exon	codon_change	aa_change	aa_length	gt_depths	call_rate	num_hom_ref	num_het	in_esp	in_1kg
biotype	impact	impact_so	impact_severity	gt_ref_depths	num_unknown	aaf	hwe	aaf_esp_ea	aaf_esp_aa
polyphen_pred	polyphen_score	sift_pred	sift_score	gt_alt_depths	aaf	qual	filter	aaf_esp_all	aaf_1kg_amr
pfam_domain				gt_alt_freqs	inbreeding_coef	pi		aaf_1kg_eas	aaf_1kg_sas
				gt_qual	BLOB	A compressed binary vector of the genotype - Extracted from the VCF GQ genotype		aaf_1kg_afr	aaf_1kg_eur
								aaf_1kg_all	in_exac
								aaf_exac_all	aaf_adj_exac_all
								aaf_adj_exac_afr	aaf_adj_exac_amr
								aaf_adj_exac_eas	



## The variant\_impacts table

variant_id	INTEGER	PRIMARY_KEY (Foreign key to <i>variants</i> table)
anno_id	INTEGER	PRIMARY_KEY (Based on variant transcripts)
gene	STRING	The gene affected by the variant.
transcript	STRING	The transcript affected by the variant.
is_exonic	BOOL	Does the variant affect an exon for this transcript?
is_coding	BOOL	Does the variant fall in a coding region (excludes 3' & 5' UTR's of exons)?
is_lof	BOOL	Based on the value of the impact col, is the variant LOF?
exon	STRING	Exon information for the variants that are exonic
codon_change	STRING	What is the codon change?
aa_change	STRING	What is the amino acid change?
aa_length	STRING	The length of CDS in terms of number of amino acids (SnpEff only)
biotype	STRING	The type of transcript (e.g., protein-coding, pseudogene, rRNA etc.) (SnpEff only)
impact	STRING	Impacts due to variation (ref.impact category)
impact_so	STRING	The sequence ontology term for the impact
impact_severity	STRING	Severity of the impact based on the impact column value (ref.impact category)
polyphen_pred	STRING	Impact of the SNP as given by PolyPhen (VEP only) benign, possibly_damaging, probably_damaging, unknown
polyphen_scores	FLOAT	Polyphen score reflecting severity (higher the impact, higher the score) (VEP only)
sift_pred	STRING	Impact of the SNP as given by SIFT (VEP only) neutral, deleterious
sift_scores	FLOAT	SIFT prob. scores reflecting severity (Higher the impact, lower the score) (VEP only)



## Etc.

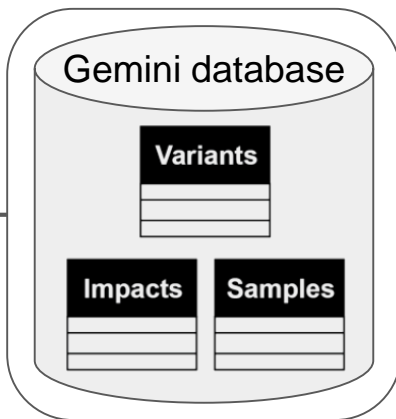
Tables/fields descriptions :

[http://gemini.readthedocs.io/en/latest/content/database\\_schema.html](http://gemini.readthedocs.io/en/latest/content/database_schema.html)

# How to use GEMINI

## ad hoc data exploration

```
gemini query
--query
“select chrom, start, end,
    ref, alt, gene,
    impact, aaf, gts.proband
from variants
where in_dbsnp = 0
and aaf < 0.01
and is_lof = 1
and my_disease_regions = 1”
--gt-filter
“gt_types.mom == HET
and
gt_types.dad == HET
and
gt_types.proband == HOM_ALT”
```



## Built-in tools and analyses

	Tool	Description
gemini	region	extract variants from specific genomic intervals or genes
	stats	compute variant statistics (SFS, Ts/Tv, counts, etc.)
	annotate	add new columns based on custom annotations
	windower	compute variant statistics across genome “windows”
	comp_hets	identify candidate compound heterozygotes
	pathways	maps genes and variants to KEGG pathways
	lof_sieve	prioritize candidate loss-of-function variants
	interact	find protein interactions for genes/variants/samples
	auto_rec	identify variants meeting an autosomal recessive model
	auto_dom	identify variants meeting an autosomal dominant model
de_novo	identify candidate de novo mutations	
browser	launch the interactive gemini web browser interface	

# GEMINI usages

## Built-in tools and analyses

- Built-in analysis tools
  - `common_args`: common arguments
  - `comp_hets`: Identifying potential compound heterozygotes
  - `mendelian_error`: Identify non-mendelian transmission.
  - `de_novo`: Identifying potential de novo mutations.
  - `autosomal_recessive`: Find variants meeting an autosomal recessive model.
  - `autosomal_dominant`: Find variants meeting an autosomal dominant model.
  - `x_linked_recessive`: x-linked recessive inheritance
  - `x_linked_dominant`: x-linked dominant inheritance
  - `x_linked_de_novo`: x-linked de novo
  - `gene_wise`: Custom genotype filtering by gene.
  - `pathways`: Map genes and variants to KEGG pathways.
  - `interactions`: Find genes among variants that are interacting partners.
  - `lof_sieve`: Filter LoF variants by transcript position and type
  - `amend`: updating / changing the sample information
  - `annotate`: adding your own custom annotations
  - `region`: Extracting variants from specific regions or genes
  - `windower`: Conducting analyses on genome "windows".
  - `stats`: Compute useful variant statistics.
  - `burden`: perform sample-wise gene-level burden calculations
  - `ROH`: Identifying runs of homozygosity
  - `set_somatic`: Flag somatic variants
  - `actionable_mutations`: Report actionable somatic mutations and drug-gene interactions
  - `fusions`: Report putative gene fusions
  - `db_info`: List the gemini database tables and columns

<http://gemini.readthedocs.io>

gemini `comp_hets`  
gemini `mendelian_error`  
gemini `denovo`  
gemini `autosomal_recessive`  
gemini `autosomal_dominant`  
gemini `ROH`

inheritance tools