

Chapter 8:

DNA: The eukaryotic chromosome

Learning objectives

Upon completing this chapter you should be able to:

- define features of eukaryotic genomes such as the C value;
- define five major types of repetitive DNA and bioinformatics resources to study them;
- describe eukaryotic genes;
- explain several categories of regulatory regions;
- use bioinformatics tools to compare eukaryotic DNA;
- define single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and analyze SNP data; and
- compare and contrast methods to measure chromosomal change.

Outline

Introduction

- General features of eukaryotic genomes and chromosomes

 - C value paradox; organization; genome browsers

 - Analysis of chromosomes using BioMart and biomaRt

 - ENCODE Project; critiques of ENCODE

- Repetitive DNA content of eukaryotic genomes

 - Noncoding and repetitive DNA sequences

- Gene content of eukaryotic chromosomes

 - Definition of gene; finding genes; EGASP; RefSeq, UCSC

 - genes, and GENCODE

- Regulatory regions of eukaryotic chromosomes

 - Databases of regulatory factors; ultraconserved elements;

 - nonconserved elements

- Comparison of eukaryotic DNA

- Variation in chromosomal DNA

 - Dynamic nature of chromosomes; variation in individual

 - genomes; six types of structural variation

- Techniques to measure chromosomal change

- Perspective

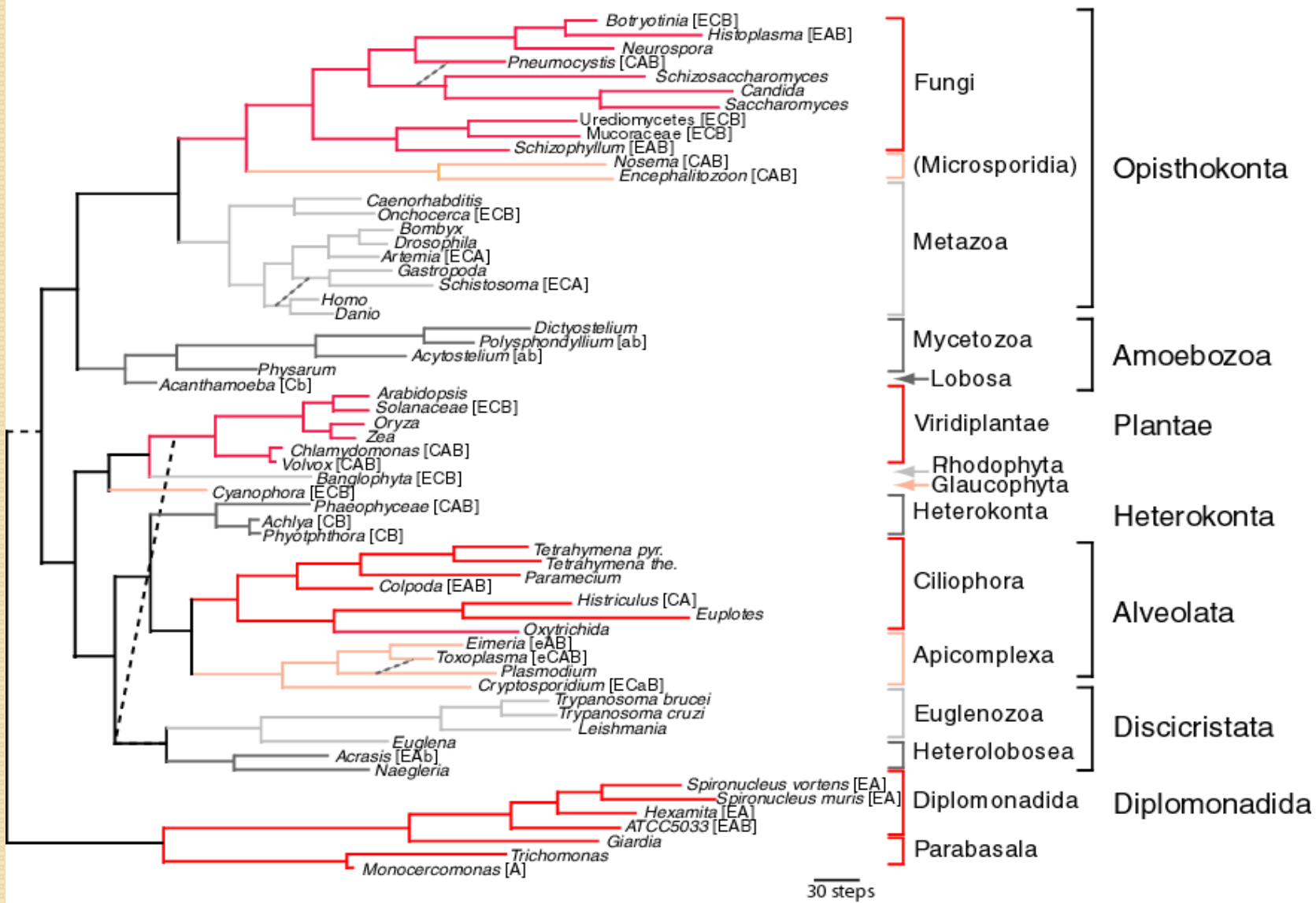
Introduction to the eukaryotes

Eukaryotes are single-celled or multicellular organisms that are distinguished from prokaryotes by the presence of a membrane-bound nucleus, an extensive system of intracellular organelles, and a cytoskeleton.

We will explore the eukaryotes using a phylogenetic tree by Baldauf et al. (Science, 2000). This tree was made by concatenating four protein sequences: elongation factor 1a, actin, α -tubulin, and β -tubulin.

Eukaryotes

(after Baldauf et al., 2000)



General features of the eukaryotes

Some of the general features of eukaryotes that distinguish them from prokaryotes (bacteria and archaea) are:

- Eukaryotes include many multicellular organisms, in addition to unicellular organisms.
- Eukaryotes have [1] a membrane-bound nucleus, [2] intracellular organelles, and [3] a cytoskeleton
- Most eukaryotes undergo sexual reproduction
- The genome size of eukaryotes spans a wider range than that of most prokaryotes
- Eukaryotic genomes have a lower density of genes
- Prokaryotes are haploid; eukaryotes have varying ploidy
- Eukaryotic genomes tend to be organized into linear chromosomes with a centromere and telomeres.

Questions about eukaryotic chromosomes

What are the sizes of eukaryotic genomes, and how are they organized into chromosomes?

What are the types of repetitive DNA elements? What are their properties and amounts?

What are the types of genes? How can they be identified?

What is the mutation rate across the genome; what are the selective forces affecting genome evolution?

What is the spectrum of variation between species (comparative genomics) and within species?

Features of bacterial and eukaryotic genomes

TABLE 8.1 Features of several sequenced bacterial and eukaryotic genomes. Adapted from Gardner *et al.* (2002), Blattner *et al.* (1997), International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium (2001, 2004), and <http://www.ensembl.org/>.

Feature	<i>E. coli</i> K-12	Parasite ^a	Yeast ^b	Slime Mold ^c	Plant ^d	Human ^e
Genome size (Mb)	4.64	22.8	12.5	8.1	115	3324
GC content (%)	50.8	19.4	38.3	22.2	34.9	41
Number of coding genes	4288	5268	5770	2799	25,498	20,774
Gene density (kb per gene)	0.95	4.34	2.09	2.60	4.53	27
Percent coding	87.8	52.6	70.5	56.3	28.8	1.3
Number of introns	0	7406	272	3578	107,784	53,295
Repeat (%)	<1	<1	2.4	<1	14	46

^a*Plasmodium falciparum*; ^b*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; ^c*Dictyostelium discoideum*; ^d*Arabidopsis thaliana*;

^e*Homo sapiens*.

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C value paradox: why eukaryotic genome sizes vary

The haploid genome size of eukaryotes, called the C value, varies enormously.

Small genomes include:

Encephalitozoon cuniculi (2.9 Mb)

A variety of fungi (10-40 Mb)

Takifugu rubripes (pufferfish)(365 Mb)(same number of genes as other fish or as the human genome, but 1/8th the size)

Large genomes include:

Pinus resinosa (Canadian red pine)(68 Gb)

Protopterus aethiopicus (Marbled lungfish)(140 Gb)

Amoeba dubia (amoeba)(690 Gb)

C value paradox: why eukaryotic genome sizes vary

The range in C values does not correlate well with the complexity of the organism. This phenomenon is called the C value paradox.

The solution to this “paradox” is that genomes are filled with variable amounts of large tracts of noncoding, often repetitive DNA sequences.

Genome size (C value) for various eukaryotic species

Species	Common name	C value (Gb)
<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	Yeast	0.012
<i>Neurospora crassa</i>	Fungus	0.043
<i>Dysidea crawshagi</i>	Sponge	0.054
<i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	Nematode	0.097
<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	Fruit fly	0.12
<i>Paramecium aurelia</i>	Ciliate	0.19
<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Rice	0.47
<i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus</i>	Sea urchin	0.80
<i>Gallus domesticus</i>	Chicken	1.23
<i>Erysiphe cichoracearum</i>	Powdery mildew	1.5
<i>Boa constrictor</i>	Snake	2.1
<i>Parascaris equorum</i>	Roundworm	2.5
<i>Carcharias obscurus</i>	Sand-tiger shark	2.7
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	Dog	2.9
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Rat	2.9
<i>Xenopus laevis</i>	African clawed frog	3.1
<i>Homo sapiens</i>	Human	3.3
<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	Tobacco plant	3.8
<i>Locusta migratoria</i>	Migratory locust	6.6
<i>Paramecium caudatum</i>	Ciliate	8.6
<i>Allium cepa</i>	Onion	15
<i>Truturus cristatus</i>	Warty newt	19
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Western giant cedar	19

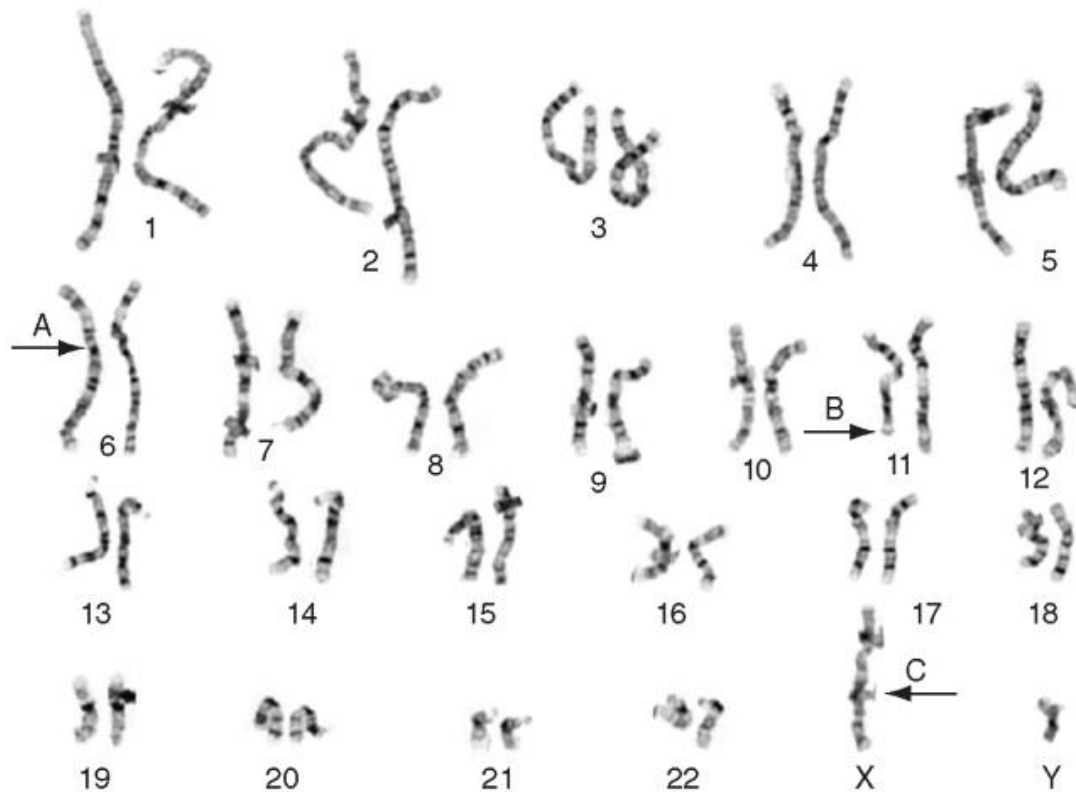
Eukaryotic genomes are organized into chromosomes

Genomic DNA is organized in chromosomes. The diploid number of chromosomes is constant in each species (e.g. 46 in human). Chromosomes are distinguished by a centromere and telomeres.

The chromosomes are routinely visualized by karyotyping (imaging the chromosomes during metaphase, when each chromosome is a pair of sister chromatids).

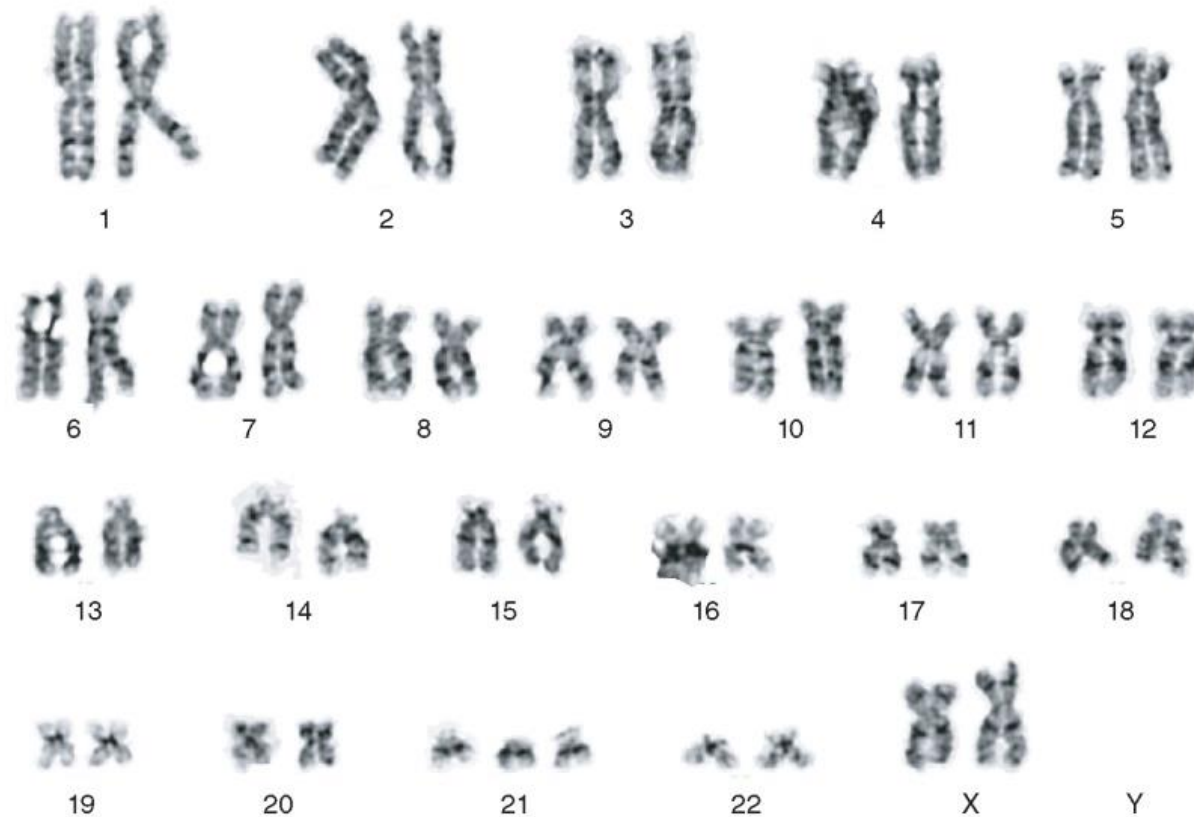
Human karyotypes: boy with deletion on 11q

(a)

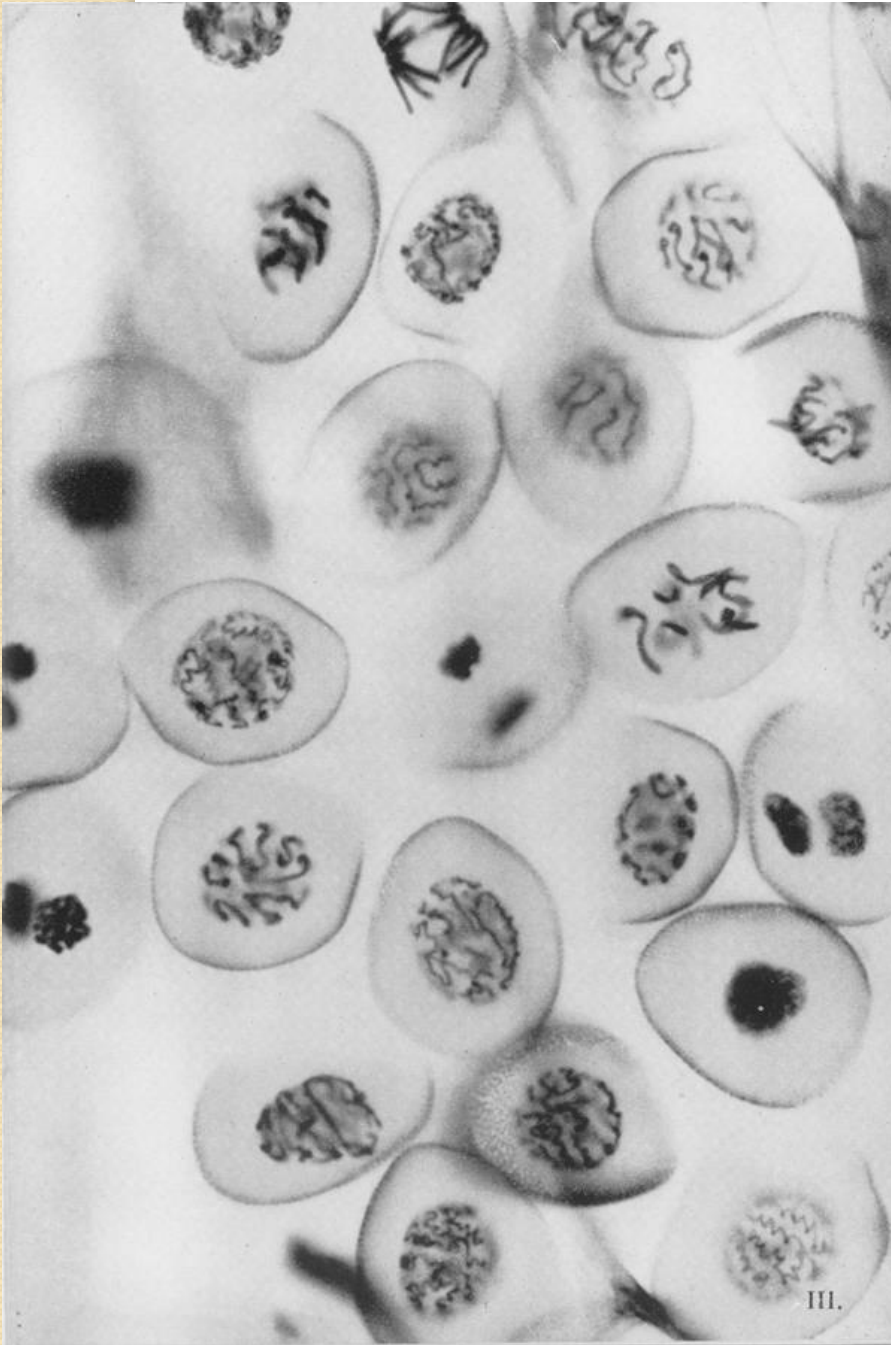


Arrows A, C mark examples of centromeres
p = short arm (“petit”)
q = long arm (letter after p)

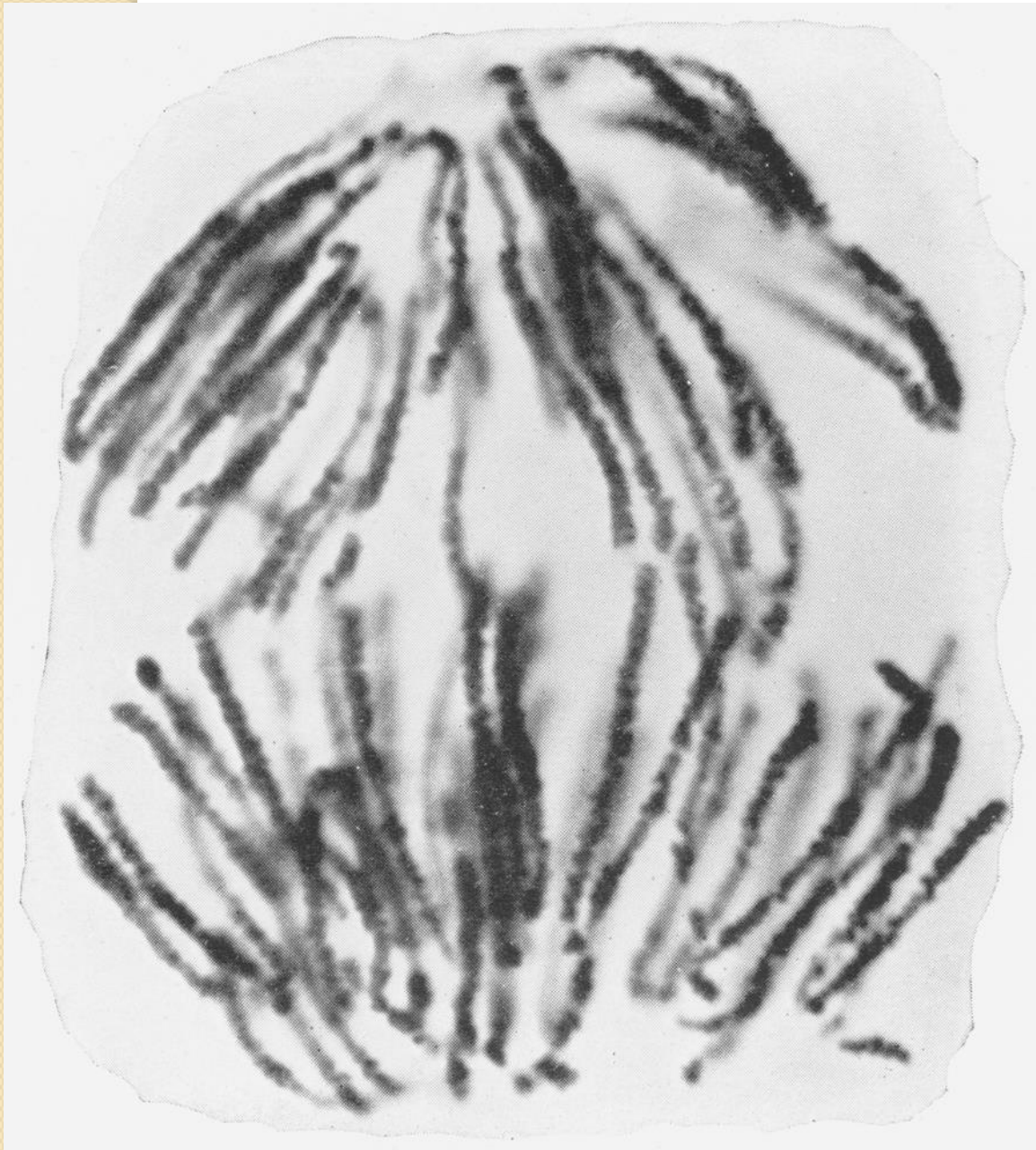
Human karyotypes: girl with trisomy 21



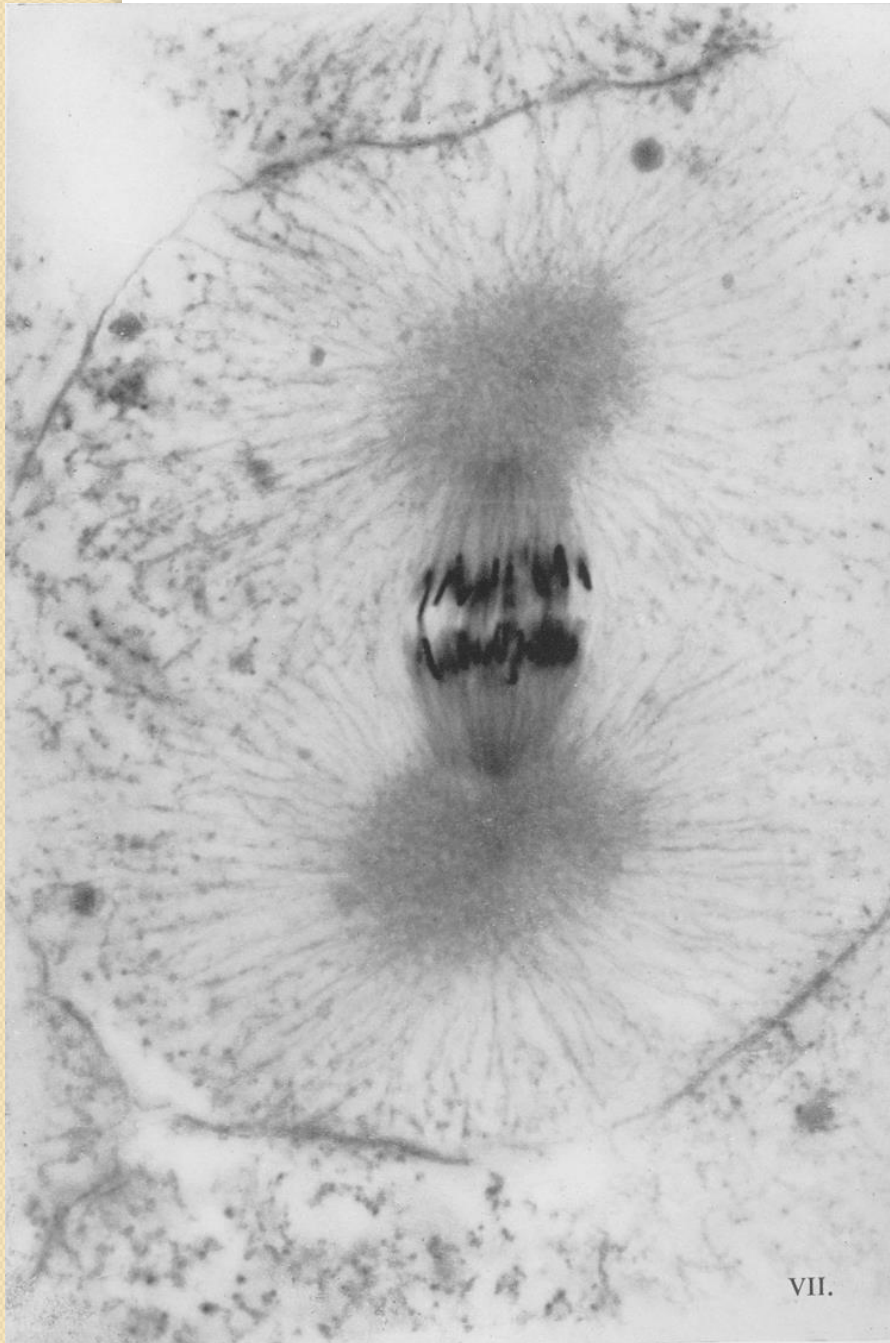
Note three copies of chromosome 21.



Mitosis in *Paris quadrifolia*,
Liliaceae, showing all stages
from prophase to telophase.
 $n = 10$ (Darlington).



Root tip squashes showing anaphase separation. *Fritillaria pudica*, $3x = 39$, spiral structure of chromatids revealed by pressure after cold treatment. Darlington.



Cleavage mitosis in the teleostean fish, *Coregonus clupeioides*, in the middle of anaphase. Spindle structure revealed by slow fixation. Darlington.

The eukaryotic chromosome: the centromere

The centromere is a primary constriction where the chromosome attaches to the spindle fibers; here the boundary between sister chromatids is not clear. It may be in the middle (metacentric) or the end (acrocentric).

If a chromosome has two centromeres spaced apart (dicentric) then at anaphase there is a 50% chance that a single chromatid would be pulled to opposite poles of the mitotic spindle. This would result in a bridge formation and chromosome breakage.

The eukaryotic chromosome: the centromere

The short arm of the acrocentric autosomes has a secondary constriction usually containing a nucleolar organizer. This contains the genes for 18S and 28S ribosomal RNA.

The eukaryotic chromosome: the telomere

The telomere is a region of highly repetitive DNA at either end of a linear chromosome. Telomeres include nucleoprotein complexes that function in the protection, replication, and stabilization of chromosome ends. Telomeres of many eukaryotes have tandemly repeated DNA sequences.

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Three main genome browsers

There are three principal genome browsers for eukaryotes:

(1) NCBI offers Map Viewer

(2) Ensembl (www.ensembl.org) offers browsers for dozens of genomes

(3) UCSC (<http://genome.ucsc.edu>) offers genome and table browsers for dozens of organisms. We will focus on this browser.

Ensembl browser: view of human chromosome 11

(a) Ensembl: chromosome summary



Chromosome summary view includes many configuration options.

Ensembl browser: view of human chromosome 11

(b) Ensembl: Region overview

The screenshot displays the Ensembl browser interface for the HBB gene region on chromosome 11. The top navigation bar includes the Ensembl logo, user information (pevsner@kennedykrieger.org), and various utility links like BLAST/BLAT, BioMart, and Downloads. The main header shows the current location (11:5,246,694-5,250,625) and the gene (HBB). A left-hand menu lists various genomic displays, with 'Region overview' selected. The main content area features a chromosome ideogram with a red bar highlighting the HBB gene location. Below this is a 'Region overview' section with a search box for location and gene, and a zoomable track view. The track view shows the HBB gene structure with exons and introns, and a legend at the bottom identifies protein coding regions (red) and processed transcripts (blue).

Chromosome 11: 5,246,694-5,250,625

Region overview

Location: 11:5246694-5250625

Gene: HBB

Gene Legend

- protein coding
- merged Ensembl/Havana
- processed transcript

Region overview includes an ideogram (representation of a chromosome) with a red bar including the location of *HBB*. Hundreds of tracks may be added (gear-shaped link).

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Biomart service (Ensembl): query many databases

(a) BioMart at Ensembl: specify filters (input for which you want to apply queries)

The screenshot shows the Ensembl BioMart interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ensembl logo, links for BLAST/BLAT, BioMart, and More, and a search bar for species. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with buttons for New, Count, Results, URL, XML, Perl, and Help. The main content area is titled "Please restrict your query using criteria below" and contains several sections:

- Dataset:** Homo sapiens genes (GRCh37.p12)
- Filters:** HGNC symbol(s) [e.g. ZFY]: [ID-list specified]
- Attributes:** Ensembl Gene ID, Ensembl Transcript ID
- Region:** A dropdown menu for selecting a genomic region.
- Gene:** A section with a checkbox for "Limit to genes ..." and radio buttons for "Only" and "Excluded".
- ID list limit:** A checkbox for "ID list limit [Max 500 advised]" and a text input field for "HGNC symbol(s) [e.g. ZFY]" containing a list of gene symbols: HBB, HBD, HBE1, HBG1, MB.
- File selection:** A "Browse..." button and a "No file selected." message.

Select a dataset (e.g. human genes), filters (e.g. chromosomal regions), and attributes (thousands are available). Click results. Here we ask for information (attributes) about a set of genes (given by a list of gene symbols in the box to the right).

Biomart service (Ensembl)

(b) BioMart output

The screenshot shows the Ensembl BioMart interface. The top navigation bar includes the Ensembl logo, a search bar with the text "Search all species...", and the email address "pevsner@kennedykrieger.org". Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for "New", "Count", "Results", "URL", "XML", "Perl", and "Help". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Dataset 5 / 63605 Genes**: Homo sapiens genes (GRCh37.p12)
- Filters**: HGNC symbol(s) [e.g. ZFY]: [ID-list specified]
- Attributes**: Ensembl Gene ID, % GC content, HGNC symbol, PDB ID
- Dataset**: [None Selected]

Export options: "Export all results to" (File), "CSV", and "Unique results only" (checkbox). A "Go" button is present.

View options: "View" (10 rows as), "HTML", and "Unique results only" (checkbox).

Ensembl Gene ID	% GC content	HGNC symbol	PDB ID
ENSG00000198125	50.32	MB	
ENSG00000198125	50.32	MB	3RGK
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	3W4U
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	1A00
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	1A01
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	1A0U
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	1A0Z
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	1A3N
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	1A3O
ENSG00000244734	37.64	HBB	1ABW

Output options include CSV or other text files. In this example we get the Ensembl Gene ID, GC content, official HGNC symbol, and Protein Data Bank (PDB) links for a group of globin genes.

biomaRt R package

getBM function:
--used to perform a query
--has four main arguments
(attributes, filters, values, mart)
--returns a data.frame

Attributes: a vector specifying the output you request

```
> ens_att <- listAttributes(ensembl)
> ens_att[1:10,]
      name
1   ensembl_gene_id
2   ensembl_transcript_id
3   ensembl_peptide_id
4   ensembl_exon_id
5   description
6   chromosome_name
7   start_position
8   end_position
9   strand
10  band
# currently the full list has 1,720
# attributes you can choose from!
```

```
> mydata = getBM(attributes=c("entrezgene", "hgnc_symbol",
  "percentage_gc_content"), filters="entrezgene",
  values=myentrez, mart=ensembl)
```

Type this command
in R or RStudio (first
define `myentrez`
as shown below)...

```
> mydata
  entrezgene hgnc_symbol percentage_gc_content
1         3043         HBB             37.64
2         3045         HBD             37.91
3         3046         HBE1            38.96
4         3047         HBG1            45.86
5         4151          MB             50.32
```

...then type `mydata` to see the
result. `mydata` is the
data.frame returned by the
`getBM` query, giving the
requested results

Values refers to vector of values for the filters

```
> myentrez = c("3043", "3045", "
  3046", "3047", "4151")
> myentrez
[1] "3043" "3045" "3046" "3047" "4151"
```

mart
--object of the class Mart
--to invoke (e.g. for mouse):

```
> UseMart
> mouse=useMart("ensembl",
dataset="mmusculus_gene_ensembl")
```

Filters: a vector that defines a restriction
on your query. To see your options:

```
> filters = listFilters(ensembl)
> filters[1:10,]
      chromosome_name
2          start
3          end
4          band_start
5          band_end
6          marker_start
7          marker_end
8          type
9          encode_region
10         strand
# Currently ~350 filters!
```

biomaRt R package example I:

Given NCBI gene identifiers for five globins, what are the official (HGNC) gene symbols and the GC content?

```
> source("http://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
> biocLite("biomaRt")
> library("biomaRt")
# We need to choose a BioMart database.
> listMarts()
# Choices include ensembl, vega, unimart, or many others.
> ensembl <- useMart("ensembl")
> listDatasets(ensembl)
# We can browse the datasets and select human
> ensembl = useDataset("hsapiens_gene_ensembl", mart=ensembl)
```

First obtain R and RStudio (both are freely available for PC or Mac).

Type these commands (in blue) to install biomaRt, load it, list the available “marts” (databases) and data sets.

Comments are given in green.

biomaRt R package example I:

Given NCBI gene identifiers for five globins, what are the official (HGNC) gene symbols and the GC content?

```
> filters = listFilters(ensembl)
# Look at the first seven rows of filters,
# then at the last few rows with the tail function.
> filters[1:7,]
  name                description
1  chromosome_name    Chromosome name
2  start              Gene Start (bp)
3  end                Gene End (bp)
4  band_start         Band Start
5  band_end           Band End
6  marker_start       Marker Start
7  marker_end         Marker End
> tail(filters)
  name                description
296 with_transmembrane_domain Transmembrane domains
297 with_signal_domain  Signal domains
298 germ_line_variation_source limit to genes with germline variation
    data sources
299 somatic_variation_source limit to genes with somatic variation
    data sources
300 with_validated_snp    Associated with validated SNPs
301 so_parent_name       Parent term name
```

Choose filters (vectors that restrict your query to features of interest).

biomaRt R package example I:

Given NCBI gene identifiers for five globins, what are the official (HGNC) gene symbols and the GC content?

```
> attributes = listAttributes(ensembl)
> attributes[1:5,]
      name                description
1  ensembl_gene_id      Ensembl Gene ID
2  ensembl_transcript_id Ensembl Transcript ID
3  ensembl_peptide_id   Ensembl Protein ID
4  ensembl_exon_id      Ensembl Exon ID
5  description          Description
> tail(attributes)
      name                description
1144 phase                phase
1145 cdna_coding_start    cDNA coding start
1146 cdna_coding_end      cDNA coding end
1147 genomic_coding_start Genomic coding start
1148 genomic_coding_end   Genomic coding end
1149 is_constitutive      Constitutive Exon
```

List attributes: specify the output you would like to obtain.

biomaRt R package example I:

Given NCBI gene identifiers for five globins, what are the official (HGNC) gene symbols and the GC content?

```
> mydata = getBM(attributes=c("entrezgene", "hgnc_symbol",  
"percentage_gc_content"), filters="entrezgene", values=myentrez,  
mart=ensembl)
```

```
> mydata  
  entrezgene hgnc_symbol percentage_gc_content  
1      3043      HBB      37.64  
2      3045      HBD      37.91  
3      3046      HBE1     38.96  
4      3047      HBG1     45.86  
5      4151      MB       50.32
```

biomaRt R package example 2:

What are the HGNC gene symbols for genes on human chromosome 21?

```
> chrom=21
# You could use chrom=c(21,22) to specify two chromosomes
> getBM(attributes="hgnc_symbol", filters="chromosome_name",
values=chrom, mart=ensembl)
  hgnc_symbol
1  MIR548X
2  PPIAP22
3  SLC6A6P1
# We truncate this output of HGNC symbols from chromosome 21.
```

biomaRt R package example 3:

What Ensembl genes are in a 100,000 base pair region of chromosome 11 surrounding *HBB*? What chromosome band are they on, what strand, and what type of genes are they?

```
> getBM(c("hgnc_symbol", "band", "strand", "gene_biotype"),
filters=c("chromosome_name", "start", "end"),
values=list(11, 5200000, 5300000), mart=ensembl)
```

	hgnc_symbol	band	strand	gene_biotype
1		p15.4	1	antisense
2		p15.4	-1	misc_RNA
3	HBBP1	p15.4	-1	pseudogene
4		p15.4	-1	sense_overlapping
5	OR52A1	p15.4	-1	protein_coding
6	OR51V1	p15.4	-1	protein_coding
7	HBB	p15.4	-1	protein_coding
8	HBD	p15.4	-1	protein_coding
9	HBG1	p15.4	-1	protein_coding
10	HBG2	p15.4	-1	protein_coding
11	HBE1	p15.4	-1	protein_coding

Note that we can expand the attributes (e.g., adding “start_position”, “end_position” after “band”) for more information.

biomaRt R package example 4:

What are the rat homologs of the genes in a 100 kilobase region of human chromosome 11?

```
> getBM(c("rnorvegicus_homolog_ensembl_gene"),
filters=c("chromosome_name","start","end"),
values=list(11,5200000,5300000), mart=ensembl)
[1] "ENSRNOG000000029978" "ENSRNOG000000015940"
"ENSRNOG000000049424" "ENSRNOG000000047098"
[5] "ENSRNOG000000048955" "ENSRNOG000000031230"
"ENSRNOG000000048992" "ENSRNOG000000030879"
[9] "ENSRNOG000000030784" "ENSRNOG000000029286"
```

biomaRt R package example 5:

What are the paralogs of the genes in a 50 kb region of human chromosome 11?

```
> getBM(attributes=c("hsapiens_paralog_chromosome",
+ "hsapiens_paralog_chrom_start", "hsapiens_paralog_chrom_end"),
filters=c("chromosome_name", "start", "end"),
values=list(11, 5250000, 5300000), mart=ensembl)
  hs_paralog_chromosome hs_paralog_chrom_start hs_paralog_chrom_end
1          NA          NA          NA
2          16          202686          204502
3          16          222846          223709
4          16          230452          231180
5          16          226679          227521
6          16          203891          216767
7          11          5253908          5256600
8          11          5289582          5526847
9          11          5274420          5667019
10         11          5269313          5271122
11         11          5246694          5250625
# The + sign indicates a line break in the R code
# For clarity the column titles hsapiens... are truncated to hs...
```

Since this region includes beta globin genes, we expect the result to include alpha globin gene loci on chromosome 16.

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The ENCODE project

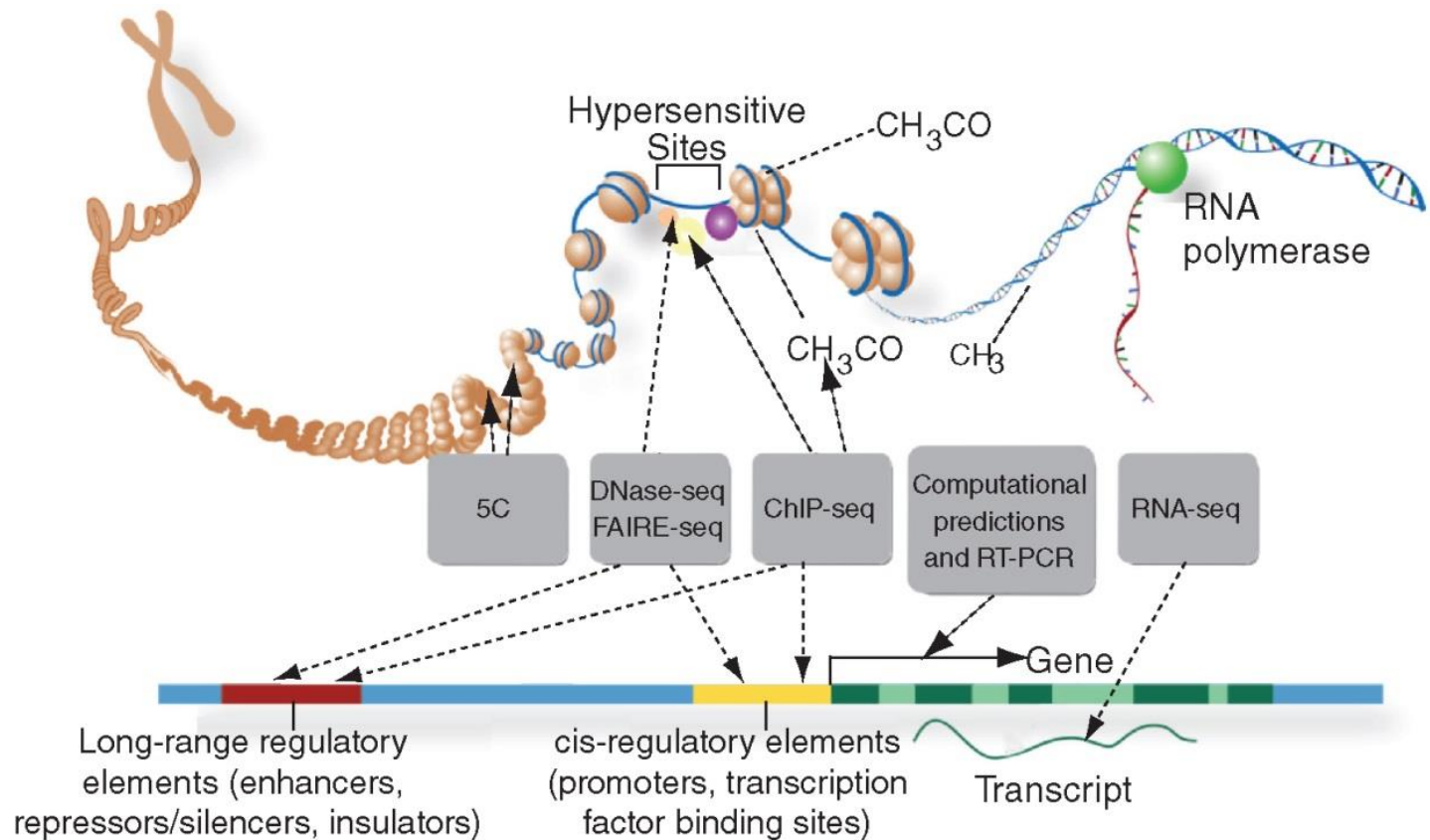
- ▶ The ENCyclopedia Of DNA Elements (ENCODE) project was launched in 2003
- ▶ Pilot phase (completed): devise and test high-throughput approaches to identify functional elements.
- ▶ Second phase: technology development.
- ▶ Third phase: production. Expand the ENCODE project to analyze the remaining 99 percent of the human genome.

The ENCODE project

Scope of ENCODE: build a list of all sequence-based functional elements in human DNA. This includes:

- ▶ protein-coding genes
- ▶ non-protein-coding genes
- ▶ regulatory elements involved in the control of gene transcription
- ▶ DNA sequences that mediate chromosomal structure and dynamics.

The ENCODE Project catalog of functional elements



ENCODE has catalogued functional elements in human, mouse, *Drosophila*, and a nematode.

Conclusions of the ENCODE project

- The human genome is pervasively transcribed.
- 80.4% of the human genome is functionally active.
- Many noncoding transcripts were identified.
- Novel transcriptional start sites were identified and characterized in detail.
- Histone modification and chromatin accessibility predict the presence and activity of transcription start sites.
- Of the 80.4% of the genome spanned by elements defined by ENCODE as functional, if we exclude RNA elements and histone elements, 44.2% of the genome is covered.

Critiques of the ENCODE project

(1) DNA may have biochemical activity (as described by the ENCODE project) without having function in an evolutionary sense.

(2) Suppose the ENCODE project were extended to a set of compact genomes (e.g., *Takifugu rubripes*; 400 Mb) and large genomes (e.g., a lungfish). There are two possible outcomes. First, functional elements could be constant in number, regardless of C value. The density of functional elements per kilobase would be dramatically smaller in such large genomes. A second outcome is that functional elements as defined by ENCODE increase in proportion to C value (independent of organismal complexity). Would lungfish having 300-fold larger genome size and 300-fold more functional elements then be expected to display more organismal complexity than related *Takifugu* having compact genomes?

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Noncoding and repetitive DNA sequences

Gene content of eukaryotic chromosomes

Definition of gene; finding genes; EGASP; RefSeq, UCSC genes, and GENCODE

Regulatory regions of eukaryotic chromosomes

Databases of regulatory factors; ultraconserved elements; nonconserved elements

Comparison of eukaryotic DNA

Variation in chromosomal DNA

Dynamic nature of chromosomes; variation in individual genomes; six types of structural variation

Techniques to measure chromosomal change

Perspective

Repetitive DNA in eukaryotes

Bacterial genomes are usually compact, with ~1 gene per kilobase and relatively small intergenic regions.

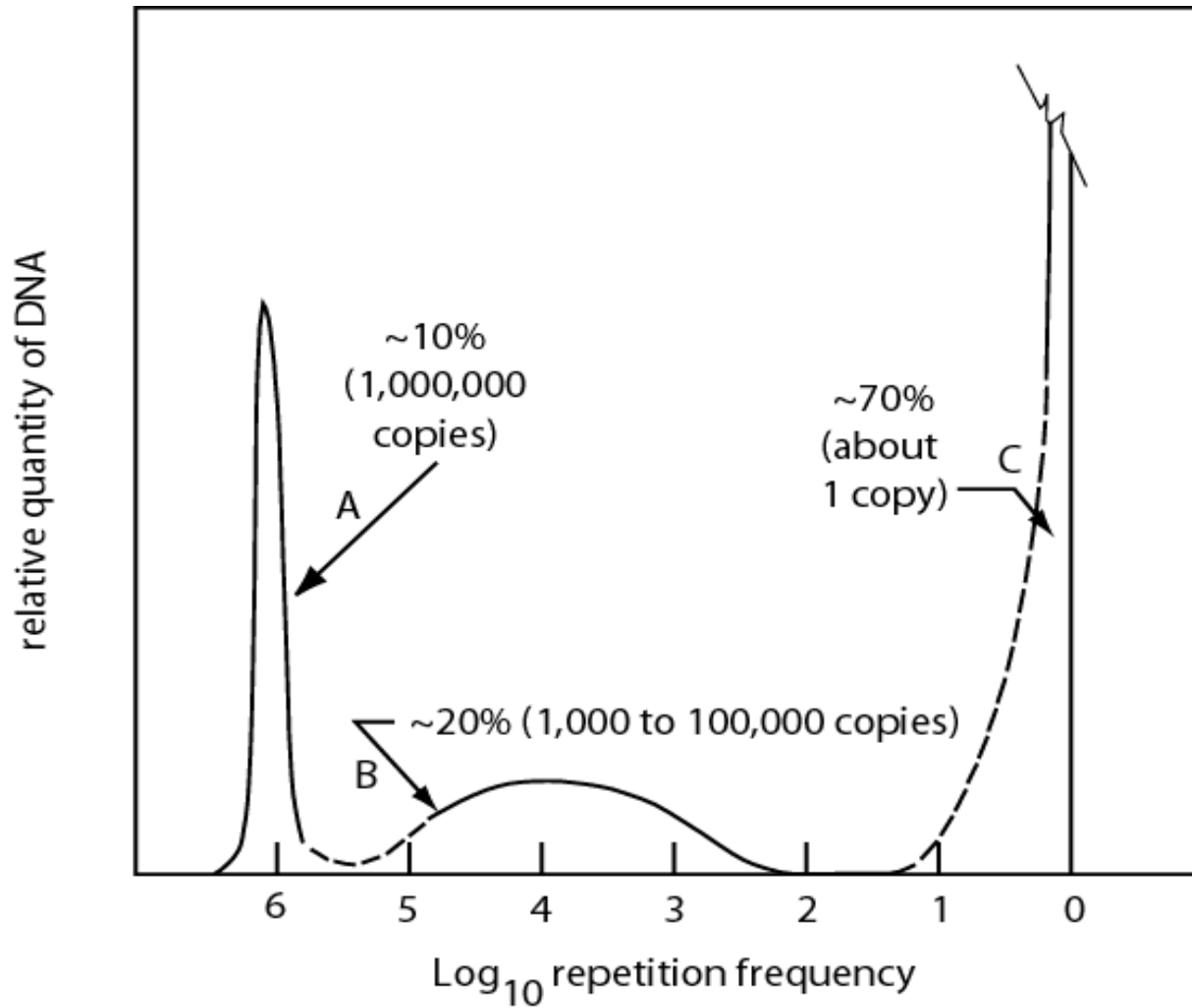
Eukaryotic genes have large intergenic and intronic regions.

Britten & Kohne's analysis of repetitive DNA

In the 1960s, Britten and Kohne defined the repetitive nature of genomic DNA in a variety of organisms. They isolated genomic DNA, sheared it, dissociated the DNA strands, and measured the rates of DNA reassociation.

For dozens of eukaryotes—but not bacteria or viruses—large amount of DNA reassociates extremely rapidly. This represents repetitive DNA.

Britten and Kohne (1968) identified repetitive DNA classes



Software to detect repetitive DNA

It is essential to identify repetitive DNA in eukaryotic genomes. RepBase Update is a database of known repeats and low-complexity regions.

RepeatMasker is a program that searches DNA queries against RepBase. There are many RepeatMasker sites available on-line.

Services

- [RepeatMasking](#)
- [Protein-based RepeatMasking](#)
- [Pre-Masked Genomes](#)
- [Server Queue Status](#)
- [FEAST - Gene Prediction](#)

Documentation

- [FAQ](#)
- [RepeatMasker](#)
- [Server Configuration](#)

Community

- [Tools and Scripts](#)
- [Related Papers](#)

Software

- [Download RepeatMasker](#)
- [Download RepeatModeler](#)
- [Download COSEG](#)
- [Download DupMasker](#)

Contact

- [Mailing List](#)
- [Submit Feedback](#)
- [People](#)

Stats

- Sequence Processed:
24261718257 bp

Welcome!

RepeatMasker is a program that screens DNA sequences for interspersed repeats and low complexity DNA sequences. The output of the program is a detailed annotation of the repeats that are present in the query sequence as well as a modified version of the query sequence in which all the annotated repeats have been masked (default: replaced by Ns). On average, almost 50% of a human genomic DNA sequence currently will be masked by the program. Sequence comparisons in RepeatMasker are performed by the program `cross_match`, an efficient implementation of the Smith-Waterman-Gotoh algorithm developed by Phil Green.

Latest News

If you would like to keep up with news and announcements relating to RepeatMasker, you can subscribe to the new [RepeatMasker Announcements List](#).

ABBlast Has Been Released

Friday Oct 16, 2009

We have tested RepeatMasker with the newly released ABBlast (commercial replacement for WUBlast). If you have been having problems obtaining WUBlast for use with RepeatModeler or RepeatMasker, please go to <http://blast.advbiocomp.com/licensing/> for details on how to obtain this new version.

Pre-Masked Genomes Update - Human, Mouse, Cow, Zebrafish, and Opossum

Tuesday Jul 14, 2009

Today we updated the [Pre-Masked Genomes](#) page with the latest runs of RepeatMasker (RM-3.2.8 and db-20090604) on the genome assemblies hg19 (Human), bosTau4 (Cow), danRer6 (Zebrafish), and monDom5 (Opossum). The complete annotation sets are also available for these genomes as compressed files by following a link from the above page.

New RepeatMasker and Libraries Released

Thursday Jun 4, 2009

RepeatMasker open-3.2.8 was [released](#) along with an updated set of repeat libraries (RM-20090604, including most sequences up to RepBase 14.04). The library has been submitted to GIRI and will be available shortly.

Notably this release includes support for the ABBlast search engine from Advanced Biocomputing. This is the commercial version of the academic program WUBlast (which is no longer available) and will hopefully be released sometime later this month to the general

[RepeatMasker](#) screens DNA sequences in FASTA format against a library of repetitive elements and returns a masked query sequence ready for database searches. RepeatMasker also generates a table annotating the masked regions.

Reference: A.F.A. Smit, R. Hubley & P. Green, unpublished data. Current Version: open-3.2.8 (RMLib: 20090604)

[Check Current Queue Status](#)

Basic Options

or

Sequence:

```

ACGTGCGCGATCGCCTGCTAGGGGTACGTGCGAGGCGATCGATGTGCTAGATCAGATGAC
AACGTGCGCGATCGCCTGCTAGGGGTACGTGCGAGGCGATCGATGTGCTAGATCAGATGA
CAACGTGCGCGATCGCCTGCTAGGGGTACGTGCGAGGCGATCGATGTGCTAGATCAGATG
ACAAAGTGCAGATCGCCTGCTAGGGGTACGTGCGAGGCGATCGATGTGCTAGATCAGAT
GACAAAGTGCAGATCGCCTGCTAGGGGTACGTGCGAGGCGATCGATGTGCTAGATCAGA
TGACAAAGTGCAGATCGCCTGCTAGGGGTACGTGCGAGGCGATCGATGTGCTAGATCAG
ATGACAAAGTGCAGATCGCCTGCTAGGGGTACGTGCGAGGCGATCGATGTGCTAGATCA
    
```

Select a sequence file to process or paste the sequence(s) in [FASTA format](#). [Large sequences](#) will be queued, and may take a while to process.

Search Engine: abblast [wublast] cross_match

Select the search engine to use when searching the sequence. [Cross_match](#) is slower but often more sensitive than [ABblast/WUBlast](#).

Speed/Sensitivity: rush quick default slow

Select the sensitivity of your search. The more sensitive the longer the processing time.

DNA source:

Select a species from the drop down box or select "Other.." and enter a species name in the text box. Try the [protein based repeatmasker](#) if the repeat database for your species is small.

Repeat sequence:

SW score	perc div.	perc del.	perc ins.	position begin	position end	in query (left)	matching repeat	repeat class/family	position begin	position end	repeat (left)	ID
1446	13.8	2.8	10.4	19	223	(99287)	C AluJo	SINE/Alu	(1)	311	137	1
2438	7.3	0.3	0.3	224	525	(98985)	C AluYa5	SINE/Alu	(9)	302	1	2
1446	13.8	2.8	10.4	526	637	(98873)	C AluJo	SINE/Alu	(175)	137	18	1
823	14.8	0.0	2.3	1025	1152	(98358)	C FLAM_C	SINE/Alu	(18)	125	1	3
251	32.5	3.6	8.3	1201	1361	(98149)	+ MIR	SINE/MIR	9	173	(89)	4
2180	13.5	0.7	0.0	1362	1665	(97845)	+ AluSq	SINE/Alu	1	306	(7)	6
251	32.5	3.6	8.3	1666	1749	(97761)	+ MIR	SINE/MIR	173	259	(3)	4 *
684	30.3	5.2	0.9	1690	1920	(97590)	C MIR	SINE/MIR	(16)	246	6	7
392	22.2	0.0	1.3	2514	2612	(96898)	C MLT1I	LTR/MaLR	(0)	450	319	8
2335	10.1	0.0	2.8	2705	3022	(96488)	C AluSq	SINE/Alu	(4)	309	1	10
380	19.4	14.7	2.3	3033	3161	(96349)	C MLT1J2	LTR/MaLR	(272)	178	34	11
314	26.1	9.2	2.5	3354	3472	(96038)	+ MER34B	LTR/ERV1	5	131	(434)	12
186	27.0	0.0	0.0	3474	3536	(95974)	+ (TGGG)n	Simple_repeat	2	64	(0)	13 *
588	24.4	0.0	0.0	3530	3709	(95801)	+ (TGGA)n	Simple_repeat	1	180	(0)	14
215	26.5	0.0	0.0	3710	3758	(95752)	+ (TGGG)n	Simple_repeat	4	52	(0)	15
363	20.2	5.0	8.5	3871	3956	(95554)	+ MER34C	LTR/ERV1	320	407	(168)	12
2026	14.8	2.1	0.0	3957	4246	(95264)	C AluJb	SINE/Alu	(14)	298	3	17
363	20.2	5.0	8.5	4247	4384	(95126)	+ MER34C	LTR/ERV1	407	544	(31)	12
2161	10.3	1.0	0.3	4896	5186	(94324)	+ AluSp	SINE/Alu	1	293	(20)	20
337	10.6	0.0	0.0	5355	5428	(94082)	C Alu	SINE/Alu	(0)	296	223	22
248	6.8	11.4	0.0	5423	5466	(94044)	+ MADE1	DNA/Mariner	31	79	(1)	23 *
386	24.1	7.5	1.5	5474	5606	(93904)	C MLT1F	LTR/MaLR	(0)	542	402	24
231	16.7	0.0	6.2	5624	5671	(93839)	C MLT1F2	LTR/MaLR	(389)	206	162	24
2134	9.7	0.0	4.4	5674	6002	(93508)	C AluSp	SINE/Alu	(0)	316	1	27
2046	10.7	0.0	0.0	6003	6272	(93238)	C AluSq	SINE/Alu	(13)	300	31	28
320	29.3	4.1	1.6	6281	6403	(93107)	C MLT1F2	LTR/MaLR	(436)	126	1	24
221	36.2	9.6	0.0	6555	6692	(92818)	C MIR	SINE/MIR	(66)	188	38	30
233	21.9	12.5	0.0	6912	6975	(92535)	+ L1ME4a	LINE/L1	5530	5601	(520)	34
213	21.1	0.0	0.0	7187	7224	(92286)	+ (CA)n	Simple_repeat	1	38	(0)	33
459	25.1	7.2	6.0	7335	7566	(91944)	+ L1ME4a	LINE/L1	5791	6030	(91)	34
2413	9.2	0.0	0.3	7567	7872	(91638)	C AluSg	SINE/Alu	(5)	305	1	35
459	25.1	7.2	6.0	7873	7958	(91552)	+ L1ME4a	LINE/L1	6030	6113	(8)	34
215	29.7	1.8	4.4	8068	8240	(91270)	C MIR	SINE/MIR	(27)	235	41	36
443	26.9	4.9	5.8	8496	8718	(90792)	+ MLT1K	LTR/MaLR	310	530	(61)	38

RepeatMasker identifies *Alu* repeats

2046 10.74 0.00 0.00 gi|20548282:6973644-7073644 6003 6272 (93238)

C AluSq#SINE/Alu (13) 300 31 1

```
gi|20548282:6      6003 TTTATTTACTTATTTTTGAGACGGAGTTTCACTTTTGTTCCTCCAGACTGG 6052
                   v  vi v                               i  i  v  i
C AluSq#SINE/Alu   300 TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTGGAGACGGAGTTTCGCTCTTGTGCCCAGGCTGG 251

gi|20548282:6      6053 AGTGCAATGGCGCCATCTTGGCTCAGTGCAACCTCTGCCTCCCAGGTTCA 6102
                   i  v  i  v                               i  i
C AluSq#SINE/Alu   250 AGTGCAGTGGCGGATCTCGGCTCACTGCAACCTCCGCCTCCCGGGTTCA 201

gi|20548282:6      6103 AGCGATTCTCCTGCTTCAGCCTCCCGAGTAGCTGGGATTACAGGCGCGTG 6152
                   i                                     vi
C AluSq#SINE/Alu   200 AGCGATTCTCCTGCCTCAGCCTCCCGAGTAGCTGGGATTACAGGCGCCCG 151

gi|20548282:6      6153 CCATCATGCCTGGCTAATTTTTGTATTTTTTGTAGAGACGGGGTTTCACC 6202
                   i  i  i                                     v
C AluSq#SINE/Alu   150 CCACCACGCCCGGCTAATTTTTGTATTTTTTAGTAGAGACGGGGTTTCACC 101

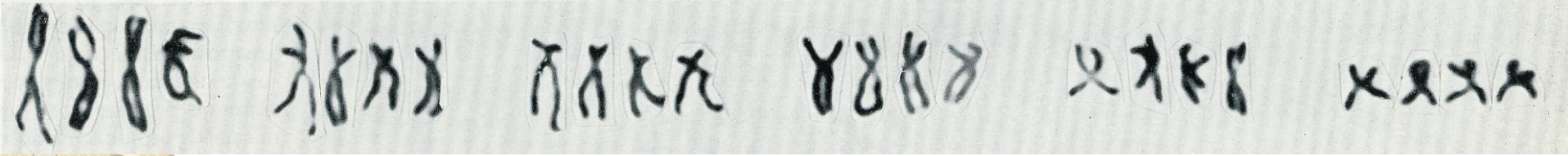
gi|20548282:6      6203 ATATCGGCCAGGCTTATCTTGAACACTGACCTGAGGTGATCCGCCCGCC 6252
                   i  i                               vi  i  v  v
C AluSq#SINE/Alu   100 ATGTTGGCCAGGCTGGTCTCGAACTCCTGACCTCAGGTGATCCGCCCGCC 51

gi|20548282:6      6253 TCAGCCTCCCAAAGTGCTGG 6272
                   i
C AluSq#SINE/Alu   50 TCGGCCTCCCAAAGTGCTGG 31
```

Transitions / transversions = 1.64 (18 / 11)

Gap_init rate = 0.00 (0 / 270), avg. gap size = 0.00 (0 / 0)

Repetitive DNA content of eukaryotic genomes



1. Interspersed repeats
2. Processed pseudogenes
3. Simple sequence repeats
4. Segmental duplications
5. Blocks of tandem repeats

Five main classes of repetitive DNA

I. Interspersed repeats (transposon-derived repeats) constitute ~45% of the human genome. They involve RNA intermediates (retroelements) or DNA intermediates (DNA transposons).

- Long-terminal repeat transposons (RNA-mediated)
- Long interspersed elements (LINEs); these encode a reverse transcriptase
- Short interspersed elements (SINEs)(RNA-mediated); these include *Alu* repeats
- DNA transposons (3% of human genome)

Examples of repeat classes and transposable elements

Class	Subclass	Superfamily	Examples of family	Approximate size range (bp)
Retroelements (RNA-mediated elements)	LTR retrotransposons	Ty1-copia	Opie-1 (maize)	3000–12,000
	Non-LTR retrotransposons	LINEs	<i>LINE-1</i> (human)	1000–7000
		SINEs	<i>Alu</i> (human)	100–500
DNA transposons	Cut-and-paste transposition	Mariner-Tc1	<i>Tc1</i> in <i>C. elegans</i>	1000–2000
		<i>P</i>	<i>P</i> in <i>Drosophila</i>	500–4600
	Rolling circle transposition	<i>Helitrons</i>	<i>Helitrons</i> in <i>A. thaliana</i> , <i>O. sativa</i> , and <i>C. elegans</i>	5500–17,500

Examples of mammalian genes generated by retrotransposition

Retrotransposed gene			Original gene			Distribution	Age (Ma)
Name	RefSeq	Chr	Name	RefSeq	Chr		
<i>ADAM20</i>	NM_003814	14q	<i>ADAM9</i>	NM_003816	8p	Human, not macaque	<20
<i>Cetn1</i>	NM_004066	18p	<i>Cetn2</i>	NM_004344	Xq28	Mammals	>75
<i>Glud2</i>	NM_012084	Xq	<i>Glud1</i>	NM_005271	10q	Human, not mouse	<70
<i>Pdha2</i>	NM_005390	4q	<i>Pdha1</i>	NM_000284	Xp	Placentals	~70
<i>SRP46</i>	NM_032102	11q	<i>PR264/SC35</i>	NM_003016	17q	Human, simians	~89
<i>Supt4h2</i>	NM_011509	10	<i>Supt4h</i>	NM_009296	11	Mouse	<70

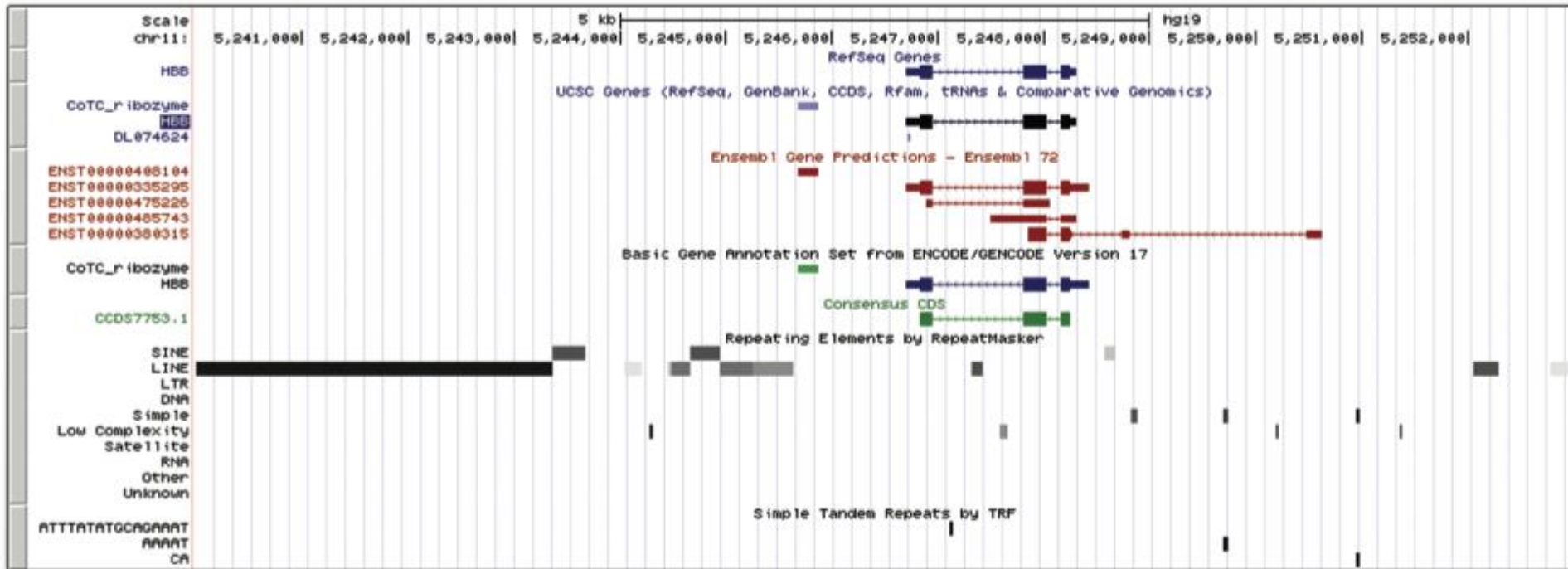
Interspersed repeats via the UCSC Genome and Table Browser

UCSC Genome Browser on Human Feb. 2009 (GRCh37/hg19) Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

chr11:5,240,001-5,253,000 13,000 bp. enter position, gene symbol or search terms go

chr11 (p15.4) p15.4 15.1 p13 11p12 11.2 11.1 11.2 13.4 11q14.1 14.3 q21 22.1 q22.3 q23.3 q25



Go to chr11:5,240,001-5,253,000 (13,000 bases) in the beta globin region. Set the RepeatMasker track to “full” to see repetitive DNA elements such as SINE, LINE, LTR, and DNA transposon.

Interspersed repeats via the UCSC Genome and Table Browser

(b) Access to tabular data on repeat elements using the UCSC Table Browser

Table Browser

Use this program to retrieve the data associated with a track in text format, to calculate intersections between tracks, and to retrieve DNA sequence covered by a track. For help in using this application see [Using the Table Browser](#) for a description of the controls in this form, the [User's Guide](#) for general information and sample queries, and the OpenHelix Table Browser [tutorial](#) for a narrated presentation of the software features and usage. For more complex queries, you may want to use [Galaxy](#) or our [public MySQL server](#). To examine the biological function of your set through annotation enrichments, send the data to [GREAT](#). Refer to the [Credits](#) page for the list of contributors and usage restrictions associated with these data. All tables can be downloaded in their entirety from the [Sequence and Annotation Downloads](#) page.

clade: Mammal **genome:** Human **assembly:** Feb. 2009 (GRCh37/hg19)

group: Variation and Repeats **track:** RepeatMasker

table: rnsk

region: genome ENCODE Pilot regions position chr11:5240001-5253000

Identifiers (names/accessions):

filter:

intersection:

output format: BED - browser extensible data Send output to [Galaxy](#) [GREAT](#)

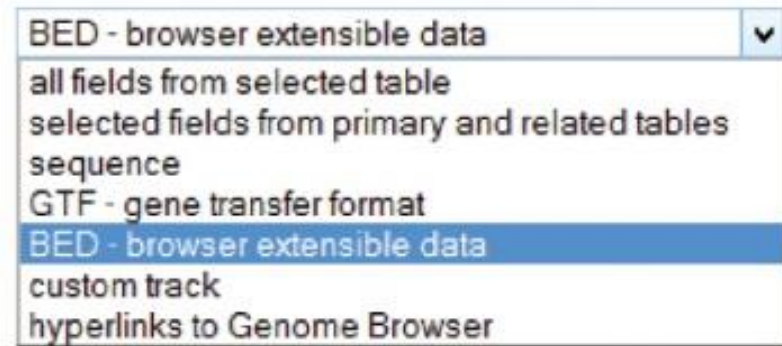
output file: (leave blank to keep output in browser)

file type returned: plain text gzip compressed

The UCSC Table Browser is complementary to the Genome Browser. Information is presented in a tabular output.

Interspersed repeats via the UCSC Genome and Table Browser

(c) Options for Table Browser output formats



UCSC Table Browser output formats include browser extensible data (BED) files (see UCSC site for details).

Repeatmasker output (at UCSC Table Browser)

RepeatMasker Genomic Sequence

Sequence Retrieval Region Options:

Add extra bases upstream (5') and extra downstream (3')

Note: if a feature is close to the beginning or end of a chromosome and upstream/downstream bases are added, they may be truncated in order to avoid extending past the edge of the chromosome.

Sequence Formatting Options:

- All upper case.
- All lower case.
- Mask repeats: to lower case to N

You can select different output options.

Five main classes of repetitive DNA

I. Interspersed repeats (transposon-derived repeats)

Examples include retrotransposed genes that lack introns, such as:

ADAM20	NM_003814	14q (original gene on 8p)
Cetn1	NM_004066	18p (original gene on Xq)
Glud2	NM_012084	Xq (original gene on 10q)
Pdha2	NM_005390	4q (original gene on Xp)

Interspersed repeats in the UCSC genome browser

Variation and Repeats

[SNPs](#)

hide ▼

[SNP Arrays](#)

hide ▼

[HapMap LD](#)

hide ▼

[Tajima's D SNPs](#)

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[Tajima's D](#)

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[SNP Recomb Rates](#)

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[SNP Recomb Hots](#)

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[Segmental Dups](#)

hide ▼

[Structural Var](#)

hide ▼

[RepeatMasker](#)

hide ▼

[Simple Repeats](#)

hide ▼

[Microsatellite](#)

hide ▼

[RIPs](#)

hide ▼

[Self Chain](#)

hide ▼

Retrotransposon Insertion Polymorphisms

“Retrotransposons constitute over 40% of the human genome and consist of several millions of family members. They play important roles in shaping the structure and evolution of the genome and in participating in gene functioning and regulation. Since LI, Alu, and SVA retrotransposons are currently active in the human genome, their recent and ongoing retrotranspositional insertions generate a unique and important class of genetic polymorphisms (for the presence or absence of an insertion) among and within human populations. As such, they are useful genetic markers in population genetics studies due to their identical-by-descent and essentially homoplasy-free nature. Additionally, some polymorphic insertions are known to be responsible for a variety of human genetic diseases. dbRIP is a database of human Retrotransposon Insertion Polymorphisms (RIPs). dbRIP contains all currently known Alu, LI, and SVA polymorphic insertion loci in the human genome.”

--dbRIP

Homoplasy: having some states arise more than once on a tree.

Wang J et al. (2006) dbRIP: a highly integrated database of retrotransposon insertion polymorphisms in humans. *Hum Mutat.* 27:323-329.

Retrotransposons constitute over 40% of the human genome and play important roles in the evolution of the genome. Since certain types of retrotransposons, particularly members of the Alu, L1, and SVA families, are still active, their recent and ongoing propagation generates a unique and important class of human genomic diversity/polymorphism (for the presence and absence of an insertion) with some elements known to cause genetic diseases. So far, over 2,300, 500, and 80 Alu, L1, and SVA insertions, respectively, have been reported to be polymorphic and many more are yet to be discovered. We present here the Database of Retrotransposon Insertion Polymorphisms (dbRIP; <http://falcon.roswellpark.org:9090>), a highly integrated and interactive database of human retrotransposon insertion polymorphisms (RIPs). dbRIP currently contains a nonredundant list of 1,625, 407, and 63 polymorphic Alu, L1, and SVA elements, respectively, or a total of 2,095 RIPs. In dbRIP, we deploy the utilities and annotated data of the genome browser developed at the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) for user-friendly queries and integrative browsing of RIPs along with all other genome annotation information. Users can query the database by a variety of means and have access to the detailed information related to a RIP, including detailed insertion sequences and genotype data. dbRIP represents the first database providing comprehensive, integrative, and interactive compilation of RIP data, and it will be a useful resource for researchers working in the area of human genetics.

Release Notes

2/1/09: major data update; available for hg18

1/1/09: dbRIP relocates to Brock

8/1/06: dbRIP available at UCSC hg17

6/22/06: dbRIP Release 2

7/25/05: dbRIP Release 1

5/12/05: Test Release

Other Human Variation DB

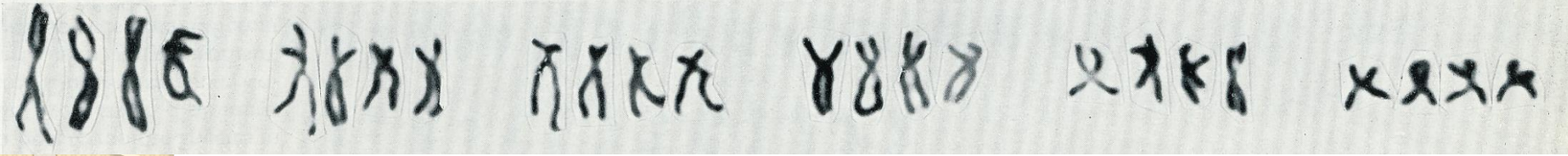
[HGMD](#)
[HGVS](#)
[dbSNP](#)
[HGVbase](#)
[ALFRED](#)

Retrotransposons constitute over 40% of the human genome and consist of several millions of family members. They play important roles in shaping the structure and evolution of the genome and in participating in gene functioning and regulation. Since L1, *Alu*, and SVA retrotransposons are currently active in the human genome, their recent and ongoing retrotranspositional insertions generate a unique and important class of genetic polymorphisms (for the presence or absence of an insertion) among and within human populations. As such, they are useful genetic markers in population genetics studies due to their identical-by-descent and essentially homoplasmy-free nature. Additionally, some polymorphic insertions are known to be responsible for a variety of human genetic diseases. **dbRIP** is a database of human **Retrotransposon Insertion Polymorphisms (RIPs)**, in which RIPs are highly integrated into the human genome annotation data provided by [UCSC Genome Browser](#). dbRIP contains all currently known *Alu*, L1, and SVA polymorphic insertion loci in the human genome.

Uses of dbRIP (a few examples):

- *Querying Retrotransposon Insertion Polymorphisms (RIPs)*: Using [SearchdbRIP](#), you may query RIPs by RIP IDs, RIP subfamily, gene context, ethnic group name, allele frequency, disease association, etc. Using [Genome Gateway](#), you may query RIPs by genetic IDs (gene IDs, accessions, STS, etc), and chromosome locations; Using [BLAT](#) you may search RIP by DNA or protein sequences.
- *Identifying RIPs associated with particular genes*: to do this, you identify the gene of your interest as you normally do with the UCSC browser and then check the polymorphic RIP tracks for the presence of polymorphic insertions. By clicking on the individual RIP, you can obtain detailed information for each polymorphic locus with regard to sequences (flanking, TSDs, elements), classification, primers, disease association, location in gene context, and publications describing the polymorphism (click when RIP subfamily ID is displayed by mouse over the RIP tick) ([example](#)).
- *Genome-wide browsing of RIPs*: you can pick a chromosome or a particular genomic region and browse all available RIPs in this region along with other genome information provided in the UCSC genome browser.
- *Verifying newly identified retrontransposon insertions*: check to see whether a putatively new insertion represents a previously known polymorphic locus or is a novel polymorphic locus.
- *Genome-wide view of all RIPs from one selected class or all classes (Genome plots)*.
- *Downloading the entire set of RIP data*. The downloadable files include the sequences of the elements and/or flanking regions for large scale analyses, such as studying the trend of new insertions and identifying insertions specific to a particular ethnic group, etc.

Repetitive DNA content of eukaryotic genomes



1. Interspersed repeats
2. Processed pseudogenes
3. Simple sequence repeats
4. Segmental duplications
5. Blocks of tandem repeats

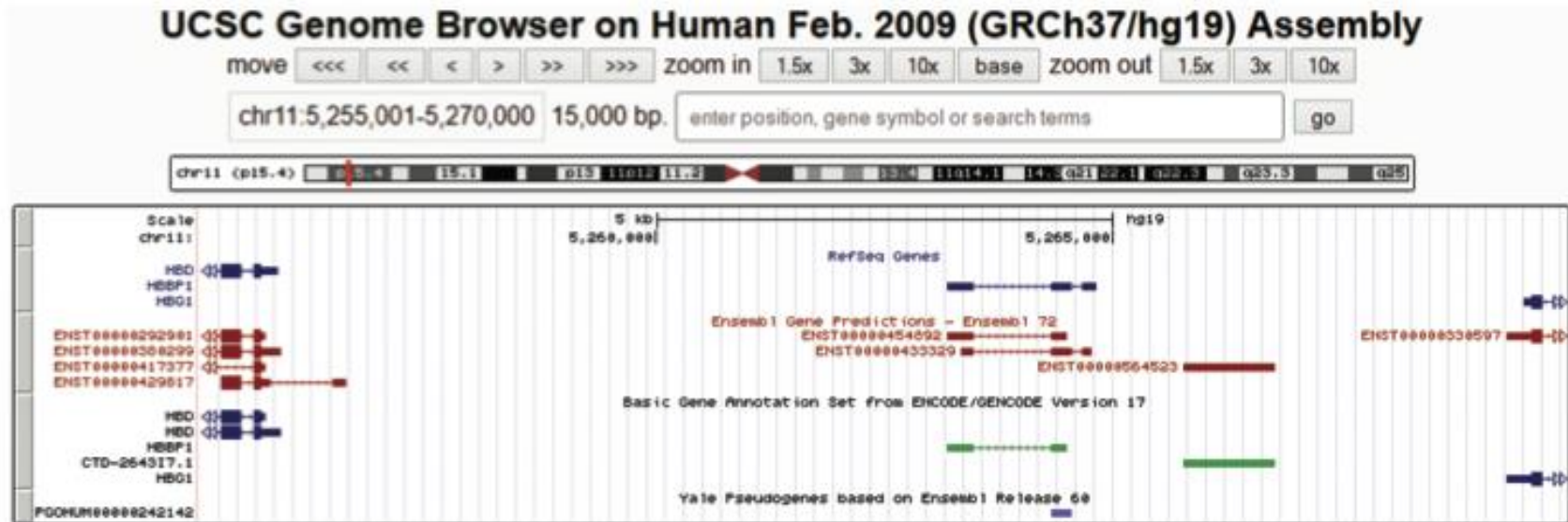
Five main classes of repetitive DNA

2. Processed pseudogenes

These genes have a stop codon or frameshift mutation and do not encode a functional protein. They commonly arise from retrotransposition, or following gene duplication and subsequent gene loss.

For a superb on-line resource, visit <http://www.pseudogene.org>. Gerstein and colleagues (2006) suggest that there are ~19,000 pseudogenes in the human genome, slightly fewer than the number of functional protein-coding genes. (11,000 non-processed, 8,000 processed [lack introns].)

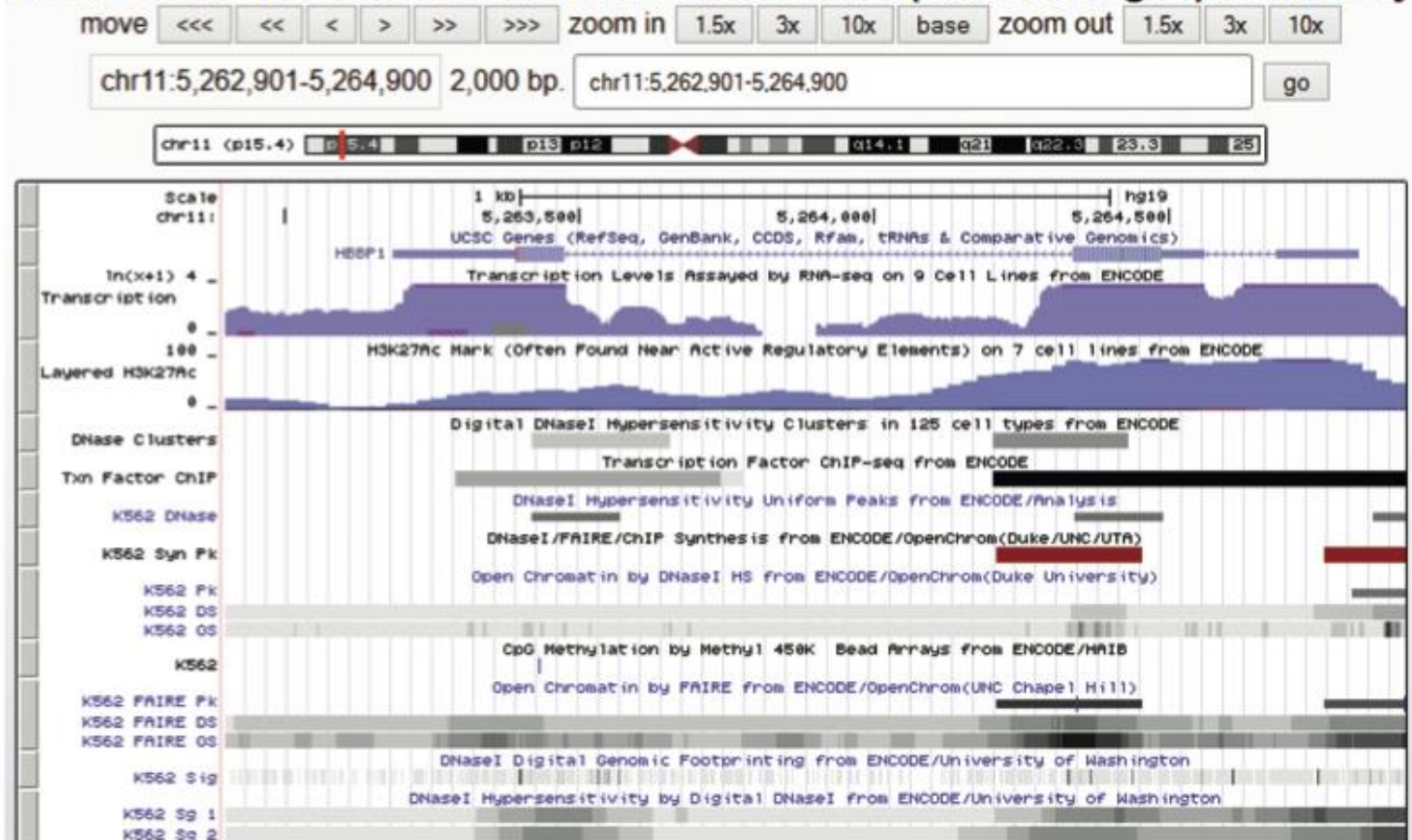
Pseudogenes: view of *HBBP1* pseudogene (15,000 bp view)



View of a globin pseudogene and its neighboring genes.

Pseudogenes: view of *HBBP1* pseudogene (2,000 bp view)

UCSC Genome Browser on Human Feb. 2009 (GRCh37/hg19) Assembly



ENCODE annotation tracks are included, suggesting transcription of RNA of the pseudogene.

Pseudogenes in the UCSC genome browser

VEGA pseudogenes

Genes and Gene Prediction Tracks

[Known Genes](#)

hide ▾

[Vega Genes](#)

hide ▾

[N-SCAN](#)

hide ▾

[Augustus Genes](#)

hide ▾

[sno/miRNA](#)

hide ▾

[CCDS](#)

hide ▾

[Vega Pseudogenes](#)

full ▾

[SGP Genes](#)

hide ▾

[Retroposed Genes](#)

full ▾

[ExonWalk](#)

hide ▾

[RefSeq Genes](#)

pack ▾

[Ensembl Genes](#)

hide ▾

[Geneid Genes](#)

hide ▾

[Superfamily](#)

hide ▾

[Other RefSeq](#)

hide ▾

[AceView Genes](#)

hide ▾

[Genscan Genes](#)

hide ▾

[Yale Pseudo](#)

full ▾

[MGC Genes](#)

hide ▾

[ECgene Genes](#)

hide ▾

[Exoniphy](#)

hide ▾

[EvoFold](#)

hide ▾

Yale pseudogenes

Pseudogenes in the beta globin region

UCSC Genome Browser on Human May 2004 Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

position/search chr11:4,730,996-5,732,587 jump clear size 1,001,592 bp. configure



chr11:

5000000

5500000

ORF		RefSeq Genes	
OR51F1		OR51T1 MMP26	OR52A4 HBB OR51B2 OR51Q1 OR52H1 TRIM5 ++
OR52R1		OR51A7 OR52J3 OR52A1	HBD OR51B5 OR51I1 OR52B6 TRIM22 ++
OR51F2		OR51G1 OR52E2 OR51V1 OR51B4	OR51I2 TRIM6 + OR56B1
		OR51S1 OR51A4 OR52A5	HBB1 OR51B6 OR52D1 TRIM6 + OR52N4
		OR51G2	HBB2 OR51M1 UBQLNS + TRIM34 ++
		OR51A2	HBE1 UBQLNL TRIM34 ++
		OR51L1	TRIM6-TRIM34 +++ TRIM34 ++
			TRIM34 +
			TRIM5 ++
			TRIM5 ++

Yale Pseudogenes.

PGO.9606.4459
PGO.9606.4460

Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) Regions

ENM009

Vertebrate Genome Annotation (VEGA) database

◦ From the VEGA home page (<http://vega.sanger.ac.uk>):

"The Vertebrate Genome Annotation (VEGA) database build 30 is designed to be a central repository for manual annotation of different vertebrate finished genome sequence. In collaboration with the genome sequencing centres Vega attempts to present consistent high-quality curation of the published chromosome sequences."

"Finished genomic sequence is analysed on a clone by clone basis using a combination of similarity searches against DNA and protein databases as well as a series of ab initio gene predictions (GENSCAN, Fgenes)."

"In addition, comparative analysis using vertebrate datasets such as the Riken mouse cDNAs and Genoscope *Tetraodon nigroviridis* Ecores (Evolutionary Conserved Regions) are used for novel gene discovery."

Vertebrate Genome Annotation (VEGA) database

◦ VEGA definition of pseudogenes (<http://vega.sanger.ac.uk>):

Pseudogene [Pseudogene]: Sequence similar to known proteins but contains a frameshift and/or stop codon(s) which disrupts the ORF. These can be classified into one of two groups:

- ▶ Processed pseudogene [Processed pseudogene]: Pseudogenes that lack introns and are thought to arise from reverse transcription of mRNA followed by reinsertion of DNA into the genome.
- ▶ Unprocessed pseudogene [Unprocessed pseudogene]: Pseudogenes that can contain introns as they are produced by gene duplication.

Yale pseudogene database

<http://www.pseudogene.org>



Welcome to Pseudogene.org. The site is developed and maintained by [Yale Gerstein Group](#). This site contains a comprehensive database of identified pseudogenes, utilities used to find pseudogenes, various publication data sets and a pseudogene knowledgebase.

Pseudogenes are genomic DNA sequences similar to normal genes but non-functional; they are regarded as defunct relatives of functional genes.

Quick Links

- [Human Pseudogene Sets](#)
- [Scientific American Article](#)
- [Gerstein Lab](#)

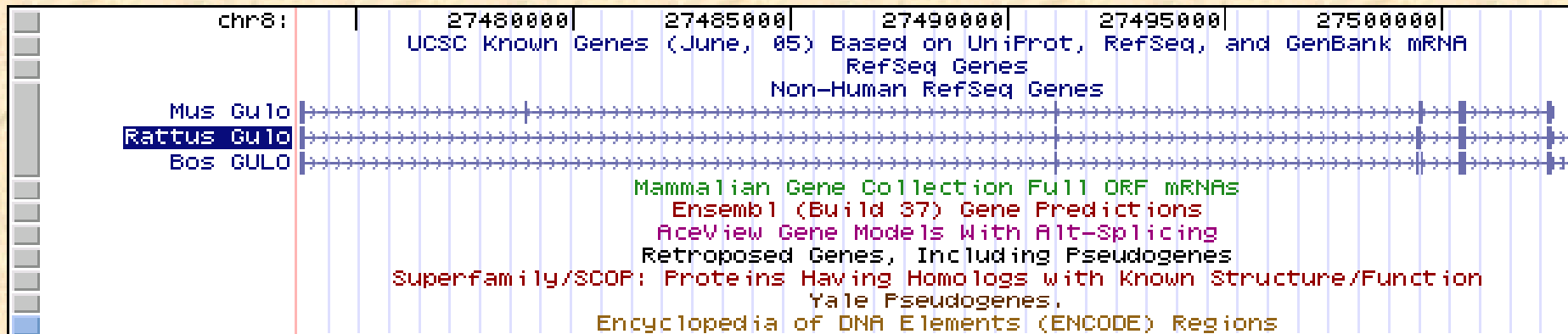
Pseudogenes: example

Mouse GULO, required for vitamin C biosynthesis, has become a pseudogene in the primate lineage (yGULO). Here is an output for GULO on the human genome:

UCSC Genome Browser on Human May 2004 Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

position/search chr8:27,473,708-27,502,981 jump clear size 29,274 bp. configure



Pseudogenes: example

GULO pseudogene in NCBI nucleotide:

NCBI Nucleotide

PubMed Nucleotide Protein Genome Structure PMC Taxonomy OM

Search Nucleotide for [] Go Clear

Limits Preview/Index History Clipboard Details

Display GenBank Show 5 Send to Hide: Sequence Lesser features

Range: from 528 to 634 Show whole sequence Reverse complemented strand

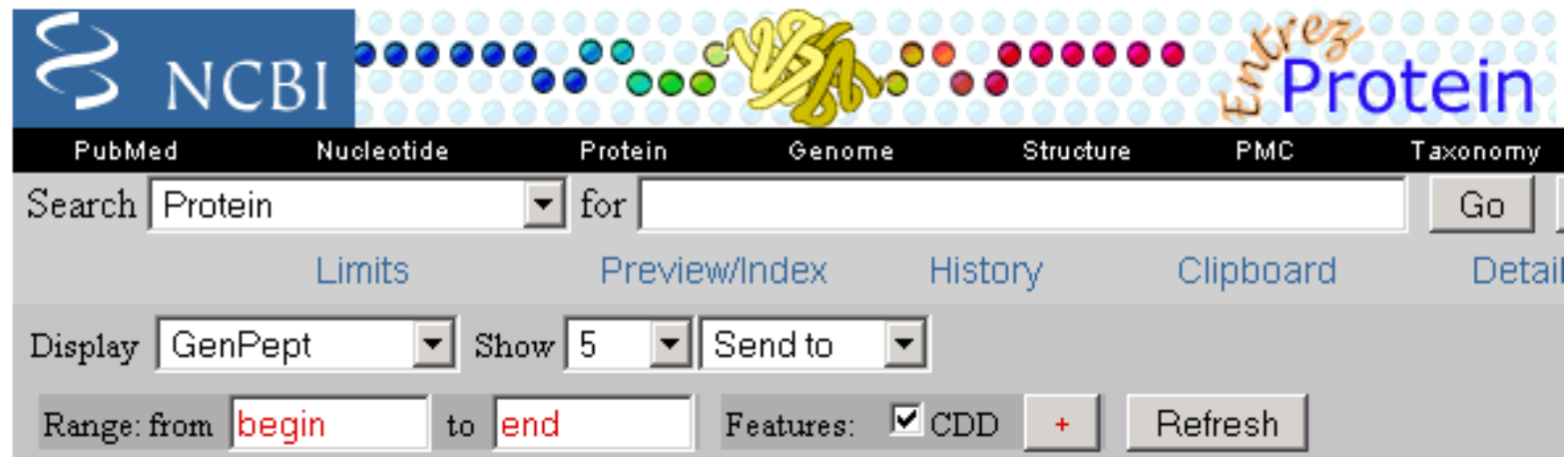
1: [NG_001136](#). Reports Homo sapiens gulo...[gi:20270500]

[Comment](#) [Features](#) [Sequence](#)

LOCUS NG_001136 107 bp DNA linear CON 17-NOV-2006
DEFINITION Homo sapiens gulonolactone (L-) oxidase pseudogene (GULOP) on chromosome 8.
ACCESSION [NG_001136](#) REGION: 528..634
VERSION NG_001136.1 GI:20270500
KEYWORDS .
SOURCE Homo sapiens (human)

Pseudogenes: example

Mouse GULO in NCBI Protein:



NCBI Entrez Protein

PubMed Nucleotide Protein Genome Structure PMC Taxonomy

Search Protein for [] Go

Limits Preview/Index History Clipboard Detail

Display GenPept Show 5 Send to

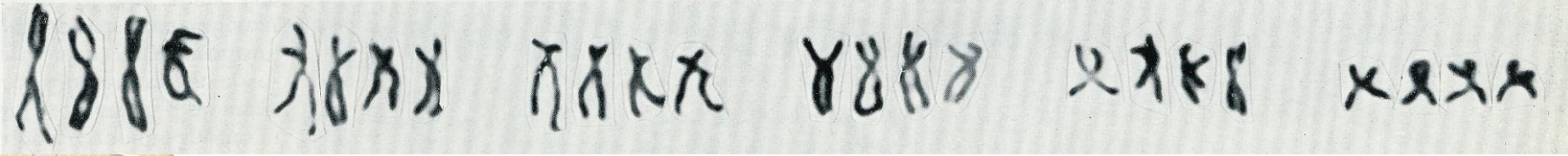
Range: from begin to end Features: CDD + Refresh

1: [NP_848862](#). Reports gulonolactone (L-...[gi:30520195]

[Comment](#) [Features](#) [Sequence](#)

LOCUS NP_848862 440 aa linear ROD 17-NOV
DEFINITION gulonolactone (L-) oxidase [Mus musculus].
ACCESSION NP_848862 XP_918299
VERSION NP_848862.1 GI:30520195
DBSOURCE REFSEQ: accession [NM_178747.2](#)
KEYWORDS .
SOURCE Mus musculus (house mouse)
ORGANISM [Mus musculus](#)
Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata; Euteleostei

Repetitive DNA content of eukaryotic genomes



1. Interspersed repeats
2. Processed pseudogenes
3. Simple sequence repeats
4. Segmental duplications
5. Blocks of tandem repeats

Five main classes of repetitive DNA

3. Simple sequence repeats

Microsatellites: from one to a dozen base pairs

Examples: $(A)_n$, $(CA)_n$, $(CGG)_n$

These may be formed by replication slippage.

Minisatellites: a dozen to 500 base pairs

Simple sequence repeats of a particular length and composition occur preferentially in different species. In humans, an expansion of triplet repeats such as CAG is associated with at least 14 disorders (including Huntington's disease).

Example of a simple sequence repeat (CCCA or GGGT) in human genomic DNA

```
186 26.98 0.00 0.00 gi|20548282:6973644-7073644 3474 3536 (95974)
```

```
C (CCCA)n#Simple_repeat (116) 64 2 * 5
```

```
gi|20548282:6      3474 TGGATGTGTGGGTGAATGGGCAGCTGGATGGATGAGTGGGCAGGTAGATA 3523  
                i v      ii      ii v   i   i   i      ii   i i i
```

```
C (CCCA)n#Simple_      64 TGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTGGGTG 15
```

```
gi|20548282:6      3524 AGTGGGTGGATGG 3536  
                i      i
```

```
C (CCCA)n#Simple_      14 GGTGGGTGGGTGG 2
```

```
Transitions / transversions = 7.50 (15 / 2)
```

```
Gap_init rate = 0.00 (0 / 63), avg. gap size = 0.00 (0 / 0)
```

RepeatMasker identifies simple sequence repeats

```
213 21.05 0.00 0.00 gi|20548282:6973644-7073644 7187 7224 (92286)
(CA)n#Simple_repeat 1 38 (142) 5

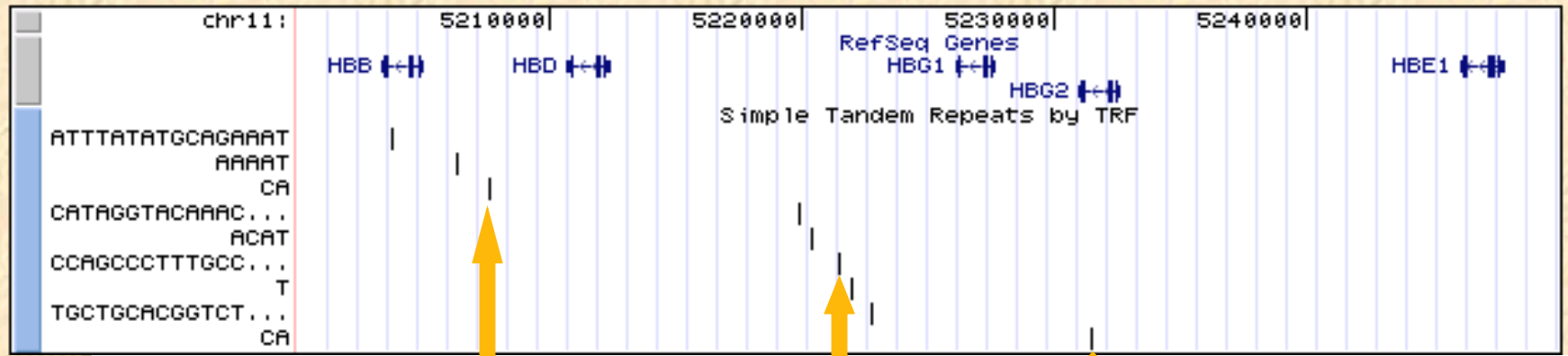
gi|20548282:6      7187 CACACACACACACTCATGCATGCACACACATATGCACA 7224
                               v  ii  ii          i  ii
(CA)n#Simple_re    1 CACACACACACACACACACACACACACACACACACACA 38

Transitions / transversions = 7.00 (7 / 1)
Gap_init rate = 0.00 (0 / 38), avg. gap size = 0.00 (0 / 0)
```

UCSC Genome Browser on Human May 2004 Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

position/search chr11:5,200,001-5,250,000 jump clear size 50,000 bp. configure



20 copies of CA

T48

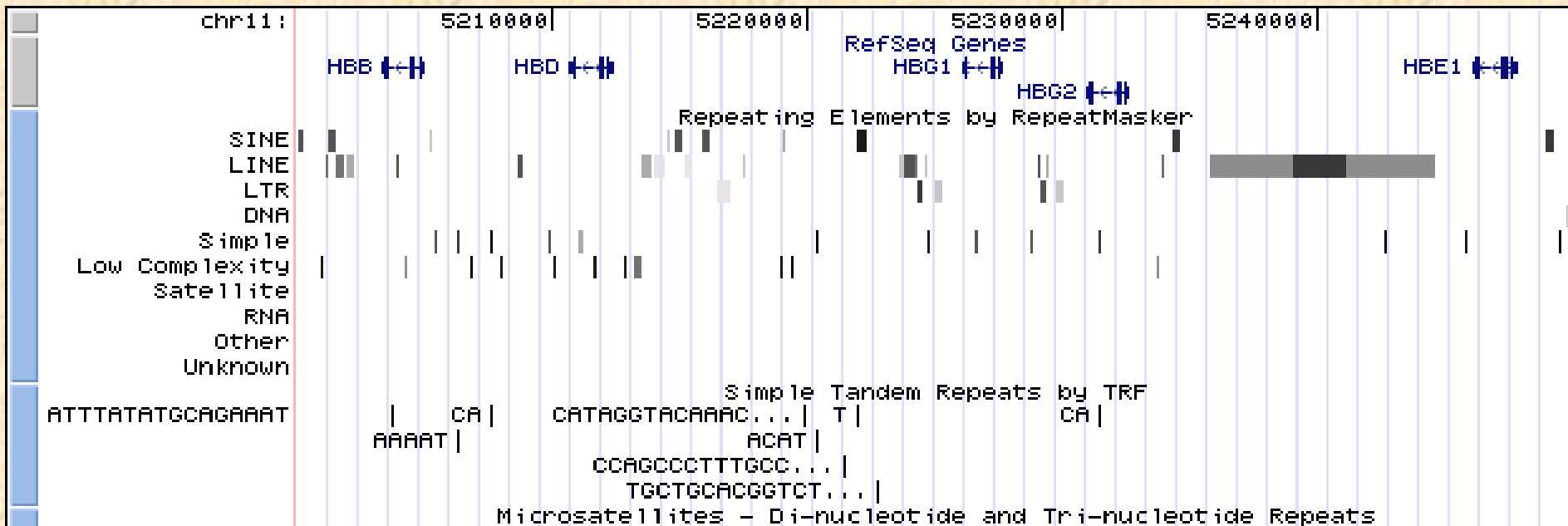
23 copies of CA

Beta globin locus: tandem repeats, microsatellites, and RepeatMasker

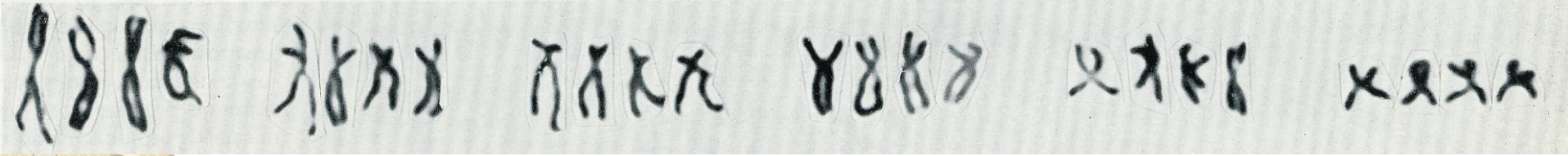
UCSC Genome Browser on Human May 2004 Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

position/search chr11:5,200,001-5,250,000 jump clear size 50,000 bp. configure



Repetitive DNA content of eukaryotic genomes



1. Interspersed repeats
2. Processed pseudogenes
3. Simple sequence repeats
4. Segmental duplications
5. Blocks of tandem repeats

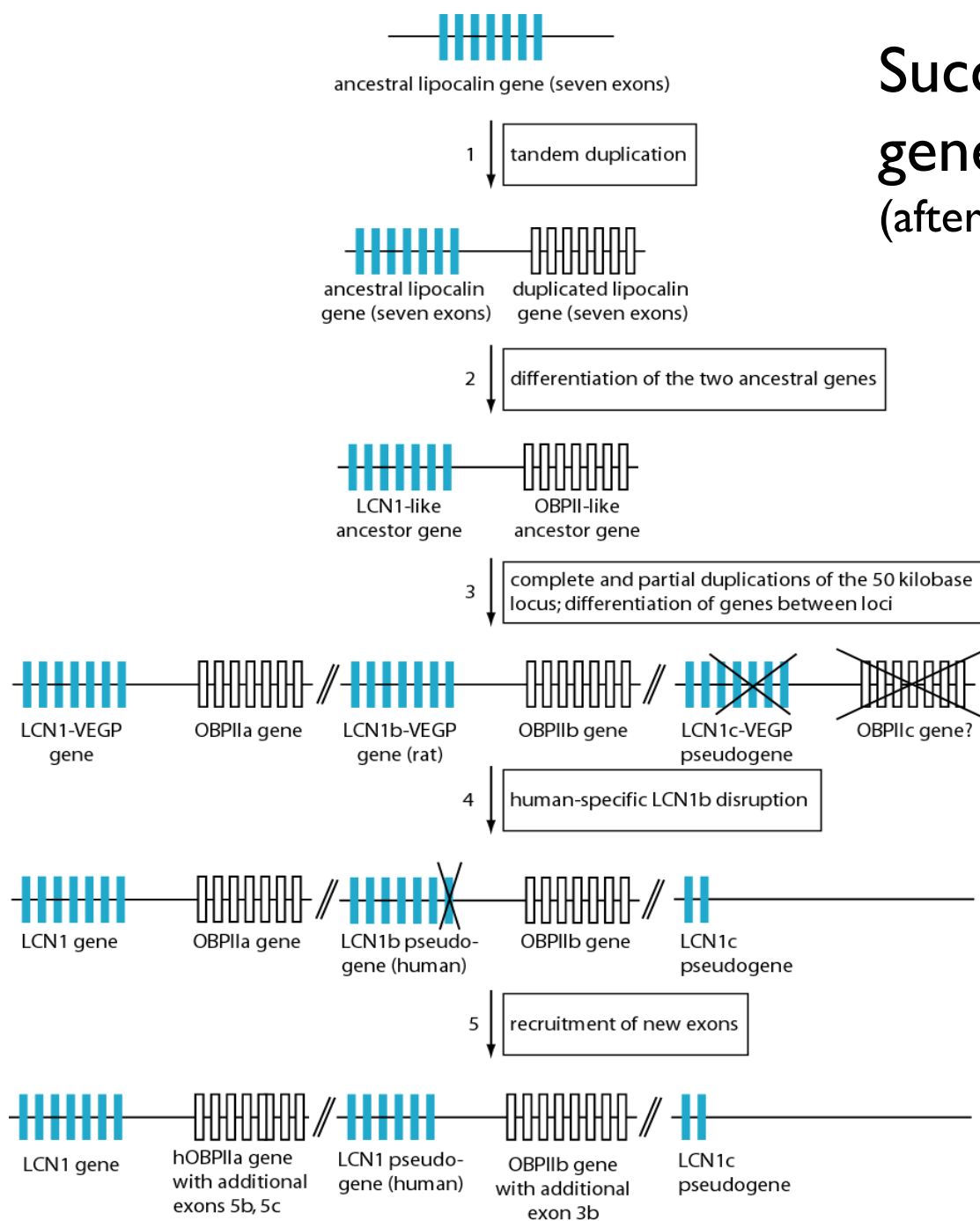
Five main classes of repetitive DNA

4. Segmental duplications

These are blocks of about 1 kilobase to 300 kb that are copied intra- or interchromosomally. Evan Eichler and colleagues estimate that about 5% of the human genome consists of segmental duplications. Duplicated regions often share very high (99%) sequence identity.

As an example, consider a group of lipocalin genes on human chromosome 9.

Successive tandem gene duplications (after Lacazette et al., 2000)

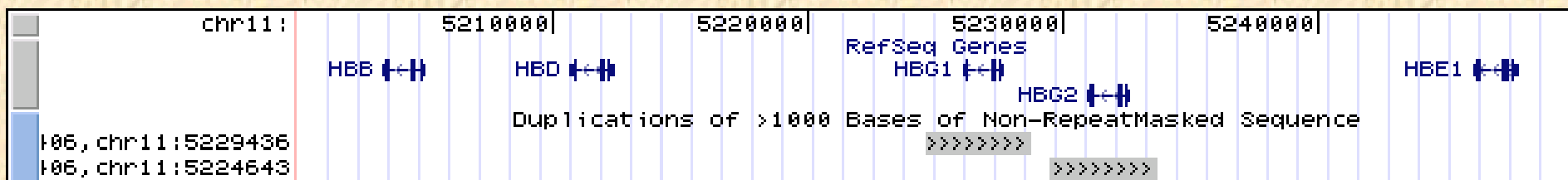


Beta globin locus: segmental duplications

UCSC Genome Browser on Human May 2004 Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

position/search chr11:5,200,001-5,250,000 jump clear size 50,000 bp. configure



- Light to dark gray: 90 - 98% similarity
- Light to dark yellow: 98 - 99% similarity
- Light to dark orange: greater than 99% similarity
- Red: duplications of greater than 98% similarity that lack sufficient Segmental Duplication Database evidence (most likely missed overlaps)

Beta globin locus: segmental duplications

FAST ALIGN chr11 (5224643 to 5228787) vs chr11 (5229436 to 5233717)
Global alignment with 4308 spaces. -f -40 -g -1

```
          5224650    5224660    5224670    5224680    5224690    5224700
chr11    AGAAGTTCCTGAAAGAAGGAAGGGCATGTGCCAAATTCTGAGGCTGAGGAGAAAAAAGAA
1        | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | |
chr11    AGAAGTTCCTGAAAGTAGGAAGGGCATGTGGAAAACCTCTGAGGCTGAGGAAAAAAAAGAA
5229440    5229450    5229460    5229470    5229480    5229490
```

```
          5224710    5224720    5224730    5224740    5224750    5224760
chr11    AGAAAGAAAAAAGAATAAAGAACCTTACATTTCACTGTATGTAAAGACATTACAAGGCT
61       | | | | | | | | * | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | |
chr11    AGAAAGAAATATA-AAGAAAGAACCTTGACATTTCACTGTATATAAACACATTACAAGCCT
5229500    5229510    5229520    5229530    5229540    5229550
```

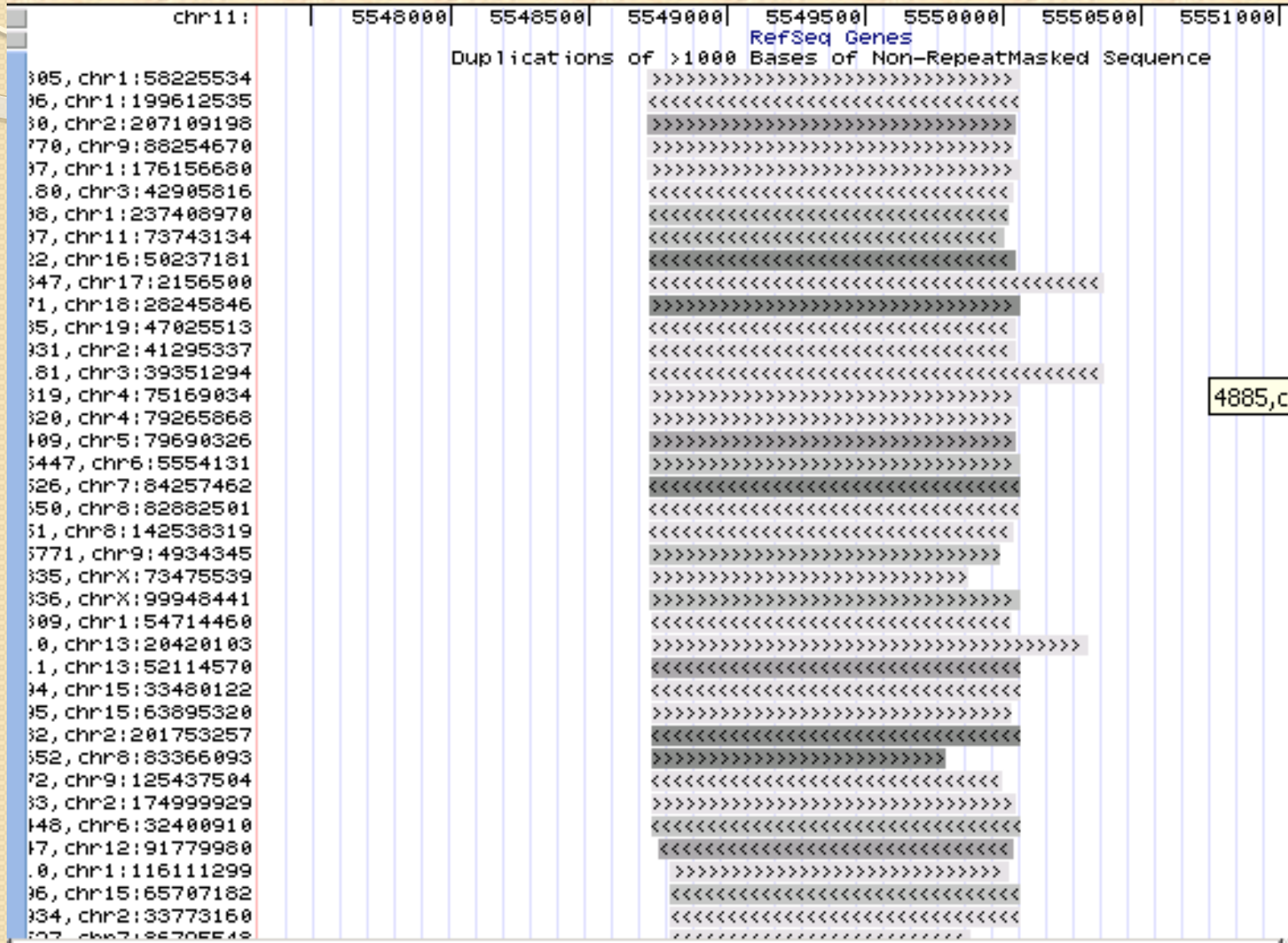
```
          5224770    5224780    5224790    5224800    5224810    5224820
chr11    AGAGTAAAGCATGTTGAAGTAAAAATAGGAGAAATCAAAGTTAGAGAGAAGGGCGCAGGC
121      |   | | | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | |   | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | |
chr11    A-----AAGTACGTTGAAGAAAAAAT---AGAATTCAAAGTTAGACAGAAGGGCTCAGGC
          5229560    5229570          5229580    5229590    5229600
```

```
          5224830    5224840    5224850    5224860    5224870    5224880
chr11    TTATTATTTGGGTCTTATAGATGAGAGTAGTAGAGTAGGTATTTTATACTGAAACATAGG
181      | | | * | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | |
chr11    TTA CTATTTGCATCTTACAGATGAGAGTAGTAGAGTTGGTATTTTATTCTGAAACACAGA
5229610    5229620    5229630    5229640    5229650    5229660
```

Beta globin locus: segmental duplications

position/search

size 4,121 bp.



4885, chr1

Beta globin locus: segmental duplications

FAST ALIGN chr11 (5548806 to 5550041) vs chr19 (11637637 to 11638888)
Global alignment with 1257 spaces. -f -40 -g -1

```
      5548810   5548820   5548830   5548840   5548850   5548860
chr11   AACCCTTTGTGGAAATGCTTTACACTTTCCGCAGAACAGAACTAAAATAACCTGTTATA
1       |
chr19   AACCCTTTGTGGAAATGCTTTACACTTTCCACAGAACAGAACTAAAATAACCTGTTATA
11637640 11637650 11637660 11637670 11637680 11637690
```

```
      5548870   5548880   5548890   5548900   5548910   5548920
chr11   CAATTAGTCACAAATACAGTCCTCGAGTTTTTTGCCCATAAACATGAGTATTTGCTCTAAA
61      |
chr19   CAATTAGTCACAAATACAGTCCTCGAGTTTTTTGCCCATACACATGAGTATTTGCTCTAAA
11637700 11637710 11637720 11637730 11637740 11637750
```

```
      5548930   5548940   5548950   5548960   5548970   5548980
chr11   ACATGTCTTCTTTGTAGCAGCTAGGCCCTGCCACCACTGTGCTTGGCTGAGTTCACAAAT
121     |
chr19   ACATGTCTTCTTTGTAGCAGCTAGGCCCTGCCACCACTGTGCTTGGCTGAGTTCACAAAT
11637760 11637770 11637780 11637790 11637800 11637810
```

```
      5548990   5549000   5549010   5549020   5549030   5549040
chr11   CTATTGTAACCTGTAGCTTCCCTGTCACTTCTCTTGCTCTCTTCTCCTGATAAGCTTTGT
181     |
chr19   CTATTGTAACCTGTAGCTTCCCTGTCACTTCTCTGGCTCTCCTCTCCTGCTAAGCTTTGT
11637820 11637830 11637840 11637850 11637860 11637870
```

```
      5549050   5549060   5549070   5549080   5549090   5549100
chr11   TTCCTAATTA AAAATCTTCTGCCACTGCCATAGCTACTGCTACTACTAGAACCCATAGC
241     |
chr19   TTCCTAATTA AAAATCTTCTGCCACTGCCATAGCTACTGCTGCTGCTGGAACCGCCATAGC
11637880 11637890 11637900 11637910 11637920 11637930
```

Segmental duplications

UCSC Genome Browser on Human Feb. 2009 (GRCh37/hg19) Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

chr11:5,267,001-5,280,000 13,000 bp.

enter position, gene symbol or search terms

go



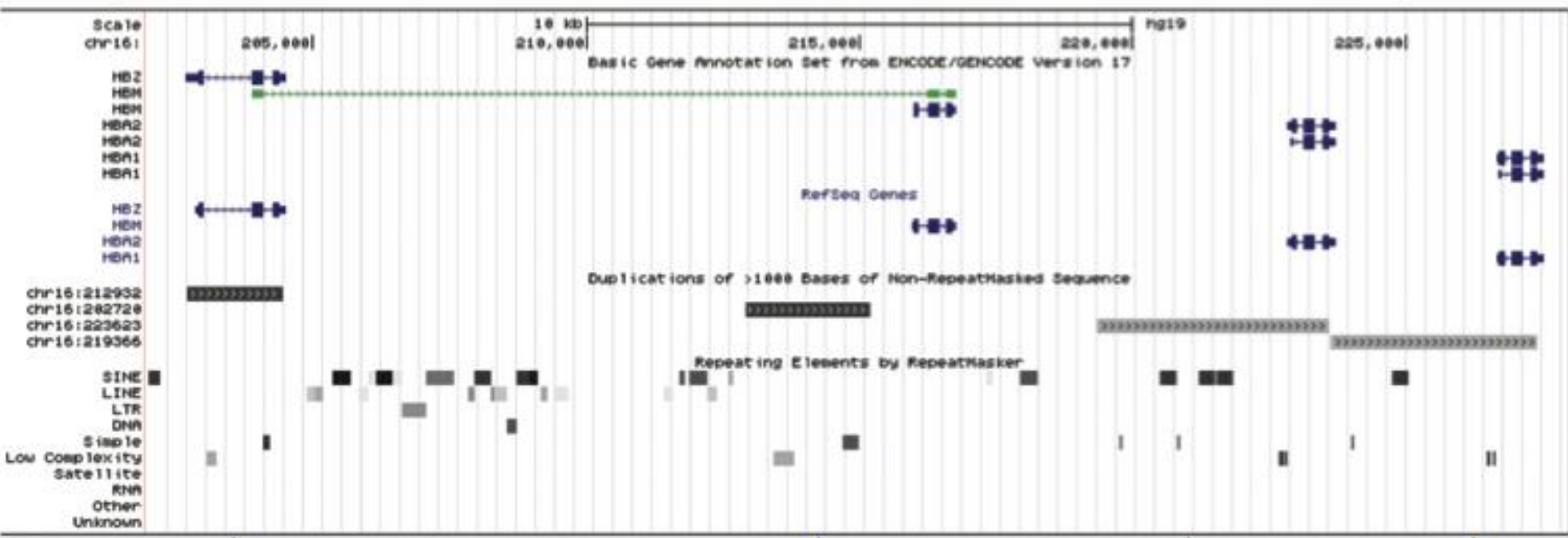
Segmental duplication at the beta globin locus on chromosome 11.

Segmental duplications

UCSC Genome Browser on Human Feb. 2009 (GRCh37/hg19) Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

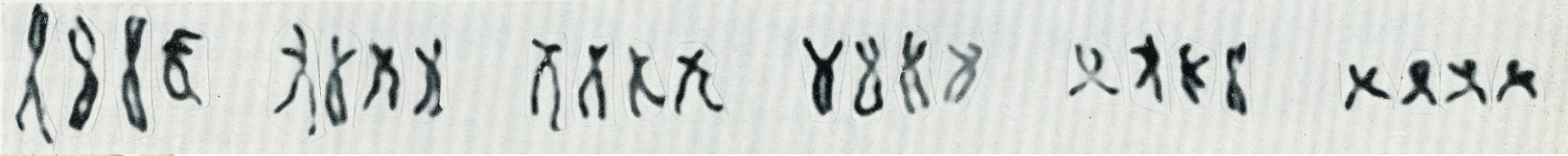
chr16:202,001-228,000 26,000 bp. enter position, gene symbol or search terms go



1 duplicated segment
2 duplicated segment
3 duplicated segments
4 duplicated segments

Segmental duplications at the alpha globin locus on chromosome 16.

Repetitive DNA content of eukaryotic genomes



1. Interspersed repeats
2. Processed pseudogenes
3. Simple sequence repeats
4. Segmental duplications
5. Blocks of tandem repeats

Five main classes of repetitive DNA

5. Blocks of tandem repeats

These include telomeric repeats (e.g. TTAGGG in humans) and centromeric repeats (e.g. a 171 base pair repeat of a satellite DNA in humans).

Such repetitive DNA can span millions of base pairs, and it is often species-specific.

Five main classes of repetitive DNA

5. Blocks of tandem repeats

In two exceptional cases, chromosomes lack satellite DNA:

- *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (very small centromeres)
- Neocentromeres (an ectopic centromere; 60 have been described in human, often associated with disease)

Tandem repeats: telomeric repeats in eukaryotes

TABLE 8.7 Telomeric repeat sequences from several eukaryotic organisms.

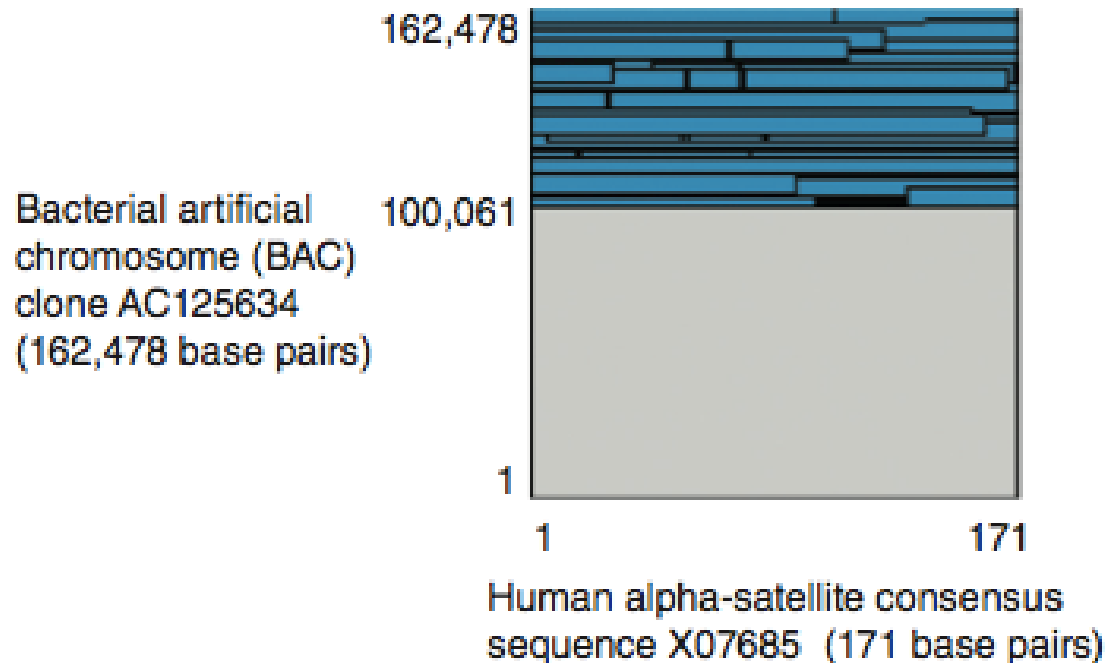
Organism	Telomeric repeat	Reference
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> , other plants	TTAGGG	McKnight et al., 1997
<i>Ascaris suum</i> (nematode)	TTAGGC	Jentsch et al., 2002
<i>Euplotes aediculatus</i> , <i>Euplotes crassus</i> , <i>Oxytricha nova</i> (ciliates)	TTTTGGGG	Jarstfer and Cech, 2002; Shippen-Lentz and Blackburn, 1989; Melek et al., 1994
<i>Giardia duodenalis</i> , <i>Giardia lamblia</i>	TAGGG	Upcroft et al., 1997; Hou et al., 1995
<i>Guillardia theta</i> (cryptomonad nucleomorph)	[AG] ₇ AAG ₆ A	Douglas et al., 2001
<i>Homo sapiens</i> , other vertebrates	TTAGGG	Nanda et al., 2002
Hymenoptera, Formicidae (ants)	TTAGG	Lorite et al., 2002
<i>Paramecium</i> , <i>Tetrahymena</i>	TTGGGG, TTTGGG	McCormick-Graham and Romero, 1996
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>	AACCCTA	Gardner et al., 2002
<i>Plasmodium yoelii yoelii</i>	AACCCTG	Carlton et al., 2002

Tandem repeats:TTAGGG in subtelomeric regions

```
>gi|224514922|ref|NT_024477.14| Homo sapiens chromosome 12 genomic  
contig, GRCh37.p13 Primary Assembly (displaying 3' end)  
CGGGAAATCAAAAGCCCCTCTGAATCCTGCGCACCGAGATTCTCCCCAGCCAAGGTGAGGCGGCAGCAGT  
GGGAGATCCACACCGTAGCATTGGAACACAAATGCAGCATTACAAATGCAGACATGACACCGAAAATATA  
ACACACCCCATTGCTCATGTAACAAGCACCTGTAATGCTAATGCACTGCCTCAAAACAAAATATTAATAT  
AAGATCGGCAATCCGCACACTGCCGTGCAGTGCTAAGACAGCAATGAAAATAGTCAACATAATAACCCTA  
ATAGTGTTAGGGTTAGGGTCAGGGTCCCGGTCCGGGTCCGGGTCCGGGTCCGGGTCCGGGTCCGGGTCCGGGT  
GGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGT  
TAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGG  
GTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTA  
GGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGT  
TAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGG  
GTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGGTTAG
```

A BLASTN search of the human genome database was performed at the NCBI website using TTAGGGTTAGGGTTAGGG as query (i.e., three TTAGGG repeats). There were matches to hundreds of genomic scaffolds. This figure shows an example (NT_024477.14) assigned to the telomere of chromosome 12q.

Repetitive α -satellite DNA in centromeres



A consensus sequence for human α -satellite DNA (X07685) was compared to a BAC clone (AC125634) assigned to a pericentromeric region of chromosome 9q. BLASTN at NCBI was used, and a dotplot is shown.

Outline

Introduction

General features of eukaryotic genomes and chromosomes

C value paradox; organization; genome browsers

Analysis of chromosomes using BioMart and biomaRt

ENCODE Project; critiques of ENCODE

Repetitive DNA content of eukaryotic genomes

Noncoding and repetitive DNA sequences

Gene content of eukaryotic chromosomes

Definition of gene; finding genes; EGASP; RefSeq, UCSC genes, and GENCODE

Regulatory regions of eukaryotic chromosomes

Databases of regulatory factors; ultraconserved elements; nonconserved elements

Comparison of eukaryotic DNA

Variation in chromosomal DNA

Dynamic nature of chromosomes; variation in individual genomes; six types of structural variation

Techniques to measure chromosomal change

Perspective

Finding genes in eukaryotic DNA

Two of the biggest challenges in understanding any eukaryotic genome are

- defining what a gene is, and
- identifying genes within genomic DNA

Finding genes in eukaryotic DNA

Types of genes include

- protein-coding genes
- pseudogenes
- functional RNA genes

--tRNA	transfer RNA
--rRNA	ribosomal RNA
--snoRNA	small nucleolar RNA
--snRNA	small nuclear RNA
--miRNA	microRNA

Finding genes in eukaryotic DNA

RNA genes have diverse and important functions. However, they can be difficult to identify in genomic DNA, because they can be very small, and lack open reading frames that are characteristic of protein-coding genes.

tRNAscan-SE identifies 99 to 100% of tRNA molecules, with a rate of 1 false positive per 15 gigabases.

Visit **<http://lowelab.ucsc.edu/tRNAscan-SE/>**

Lowe Lab

tRNAscan-SE Search Server

Search for tRNA genes in genomic sequence



tRNAscan-SE 1.21

The principles underlying the tRNAscan-SE program are described in:

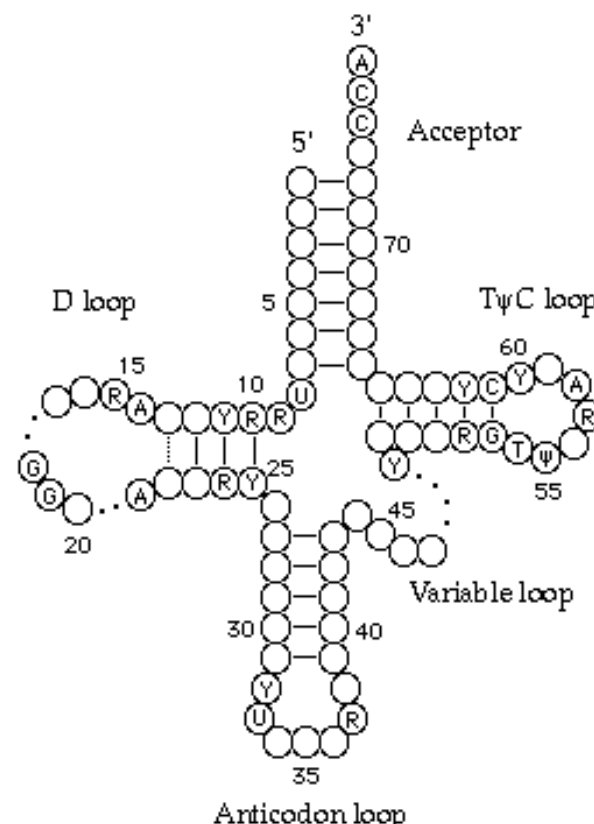
Lowe, T.M. and Eddy, S.R. (1997)

tRNAscan-SE: a program for improved detection of transfer RNA genes in genomic sequence.

Nucleic Acids Res, 25, 955-964.

Instructions for using the tRNAscan-SE server and interpreting the output can be found in the [tRNAscan-SE README file](#).

If you would like to run tRNAscan-SE locally, you can get the UNIX [source code](#) (gzip'd tar file).



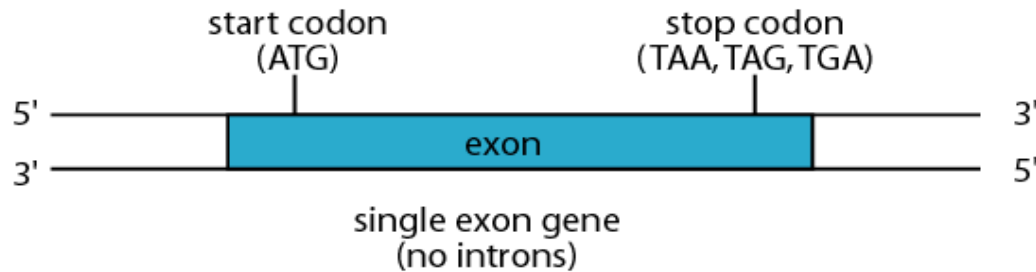
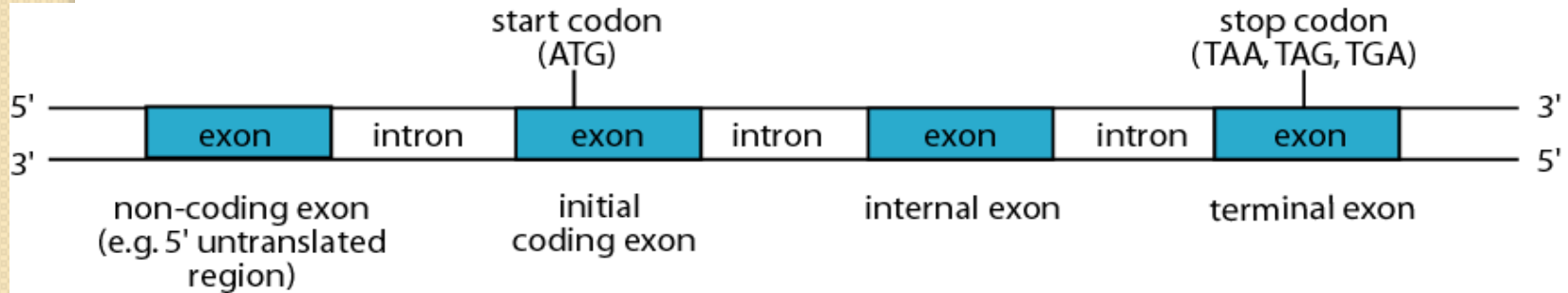
Finding genes in eukaryotic DNA

Protein-coding genes are relatively easy to find in prokaryotes, because the gene density is high (about one gene per kilobase). In eukaryotes, gene density is lower, and exons are interrupted by introns.

There are several kinds of exons:

- noncoding
- initial coding exons
- internal exons
- terminal exons
- some single-exon genes are intronless

Eukaryotic gene prediction algorithms distinguish several kinds of exons



Gene-finding algorithms

Homology-based searches (“extrinsic”)

Rely on previously identified genes

Algorithm-based searches (“intrinsic”)

Investigate nucleotide composition, open-reading frames, and other intrinsic properties of genomic DNA



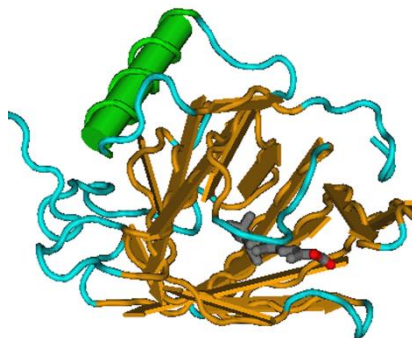
DNA



RNA



Mature RNA



protein

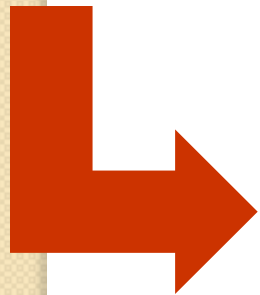
Extrinsic, homology-based searching: compare genomic DNA to expressed genes (ESTs)



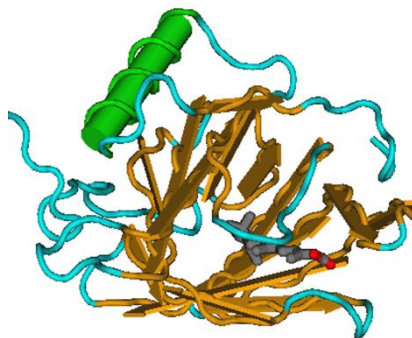
DNA



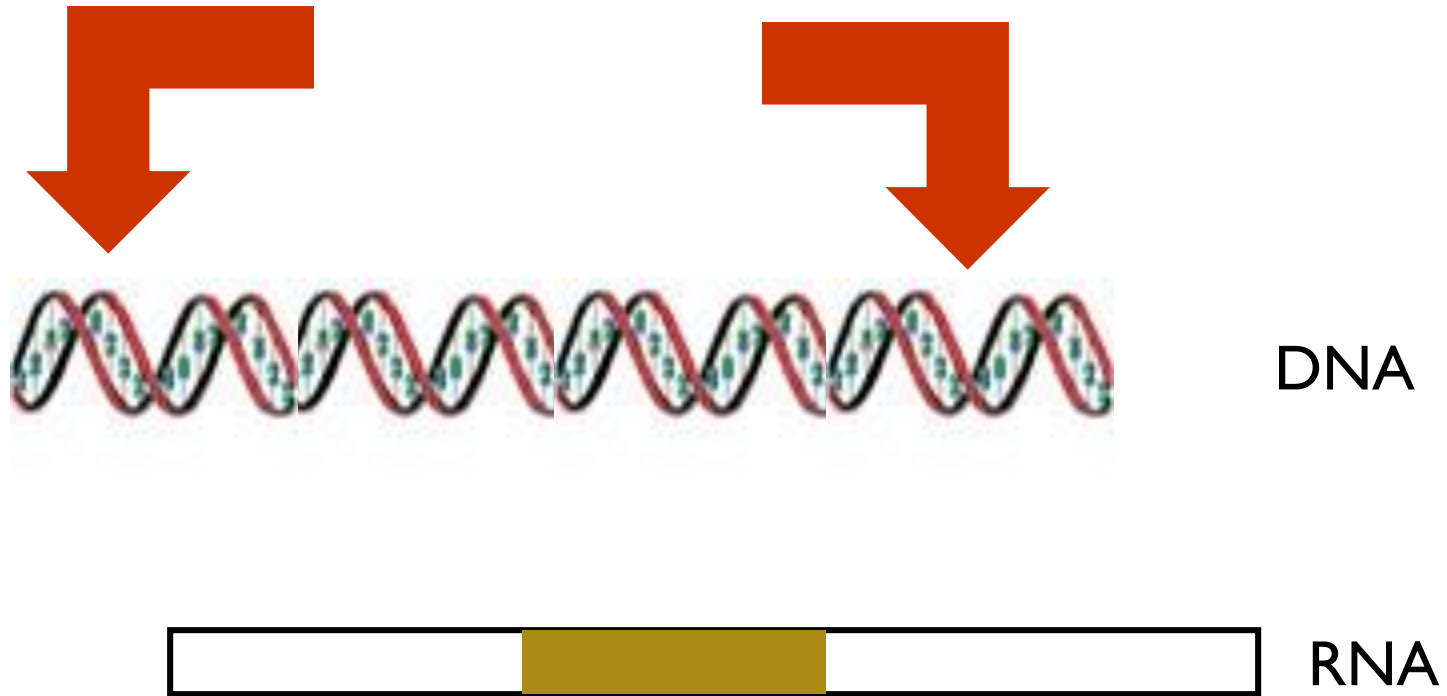
RNA



RNA



protein



Intrinsic, algorithm-based searching:
Identify open reading frames (ORFs).
Compare DNA in exons (unique codon usage)
to DNA in introns (unique splices sites)
and to noncoding DNA.



human DNA



chimpanzee
DNA

Comparative genomics: Compare gene models between species. (For annotation of the chimpanzee genome reported in 2005, BLAT and BLASTZ searches were used to align the two genomes.)

The ORF Finder (Open Reading Frame Finder) is a graphical analysis tool which finds all open reading frames of a selectable minimum size in a user's sequence or in a sequence already in the database.

This tool identifies all open reading frames using the standard or alternative genetic codes. The deduced amino acid sequence can be saved in various formats and searched against the sequence database using the WWW BLAST server. The ORF Finder should be helpful in preparing complete and accurate sequence submissions. It is also packaged with the Sequin sequence submission software.

Enter GI or ACCESSION

or sequence in FASTA format

```
>gi|9629357|ref|NC_001802.1| Human immunodeficiency virus type 1,
GGTCTCTCTGGTTAGACCAGATCTGAGCCTGGGAGCTCTCTGGCTA
TCAATAAAGCTTGCCTTGAGTGCTTCAAGTAGTGTGTGCCCGTCTGT
TCCCTCAGACCCTTTTAGTCAGTGTGGAAAATCTCTAGCAGTGGCG(
AGGGAAACCAGAGGAGCTCTCTCGACGCAGGACTCGGCTTGCTGA
CGGCGACTGGTGAGTACGCCAAAAATTTTACTAGCGGAGGCTAGA
TCAGTATTAAGCGGGGGAGAATTAGATCGATGGGAAAAAATTCGGT
ATAAATTAACATATAGTATGGGCAAGCAGGGAGCTAGAACGATTC
```

FROM:

TO:

[Genetic codes](#)

1 Standard



Finding genes in eukaryotic DNA

While ESTs are very helpful in finding genes, beware of several caveats.

- The quality of EST sequence is sometimes low
- Highly expressed genes are disproportionately represented in many cDNA libraries
- ESTs provide no information on genomic location

EGASP: the human ENCODE Genome Annotation Assessment Project

EGASP goals:

[1] Assess of the accuracy of computational methods to predict protein coding genes. 18 groups competed to make gene predictions, blind; these were evaluated relative to reference annotations generated by the GENCODE project.

[2] Assess of the completeness of the current human genome annotations as represented in the ENCODE regions.

UCSC: tracks for Gencode and for various gene prediction algorithms (focus on 50 kb encompassing five globin genes)

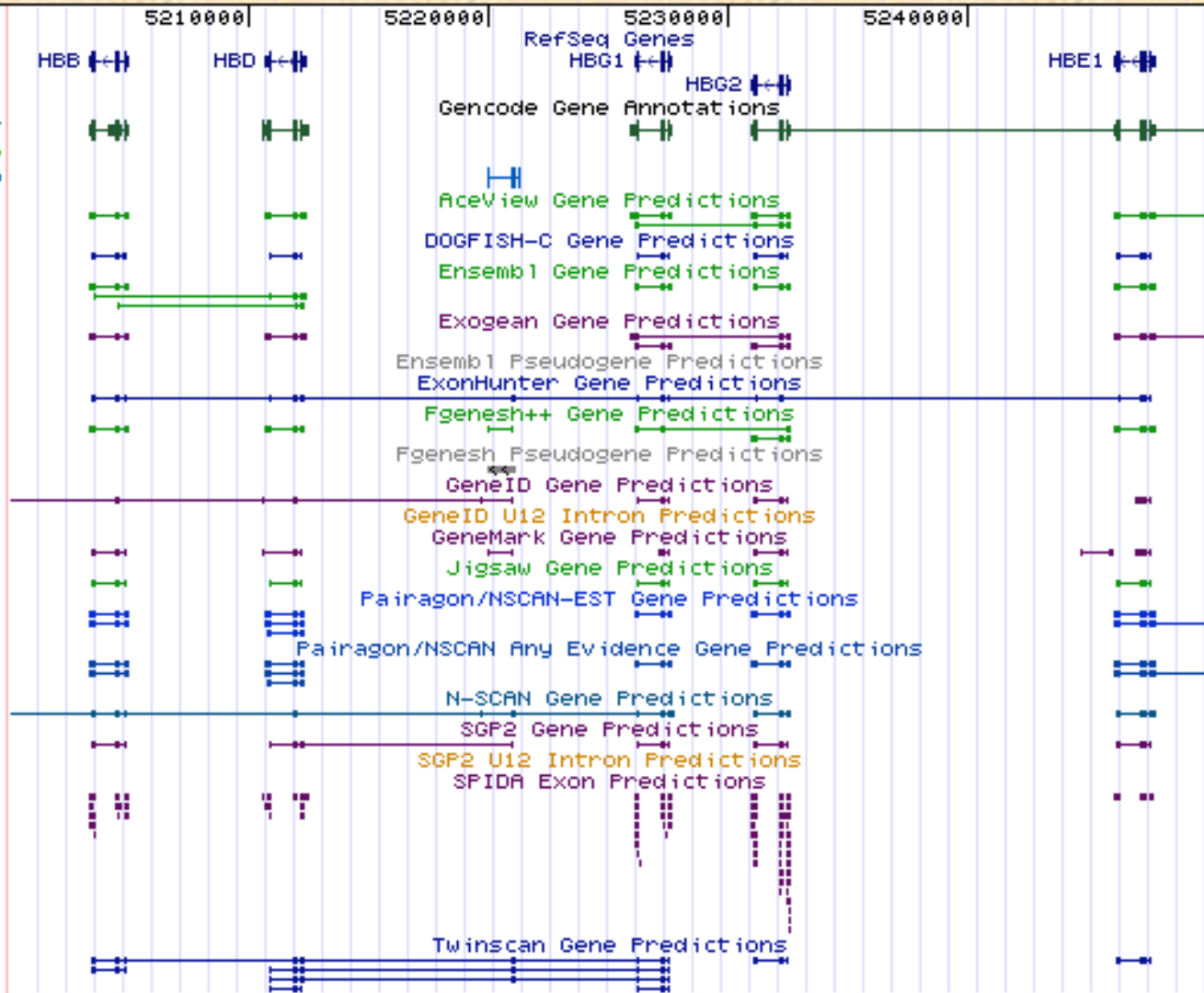
position/search chr11:5,200,001-5,250,000 jump clear size 50,000 bp. configure

chr11 (p15.4) 1 1.4 13 p12 14.1 21 25

Gencode

Gencode Ref
Gencode Putative
Gencode Pseudo

JIGSAW



EGASP: the human ENCODE Genome Annotation Assessment Project

“RESULTS: The best methods had at least one gene transcript correctly predicted for close to 70% of the annotated genes. Nevertheless, the multiple transcript accuracy, taking into account alternative splicing, reached only approximately 40% to 50% accuracy. At the coding nucleotide level, the best programs reached an accuracy of 90% in both sensitivity and specificity. Programs relying on mRNA and protein sequences were the most accurate in reproducing the manually curated annotations. Experimental validation shows that only a very small percentage (3.2%) of the selected 221 computationally predicted exons outside of the existing annotation could be verified.”

Guigo R et al., *Genome Biology* (2006) 7 Suppl 1: S2.1-31

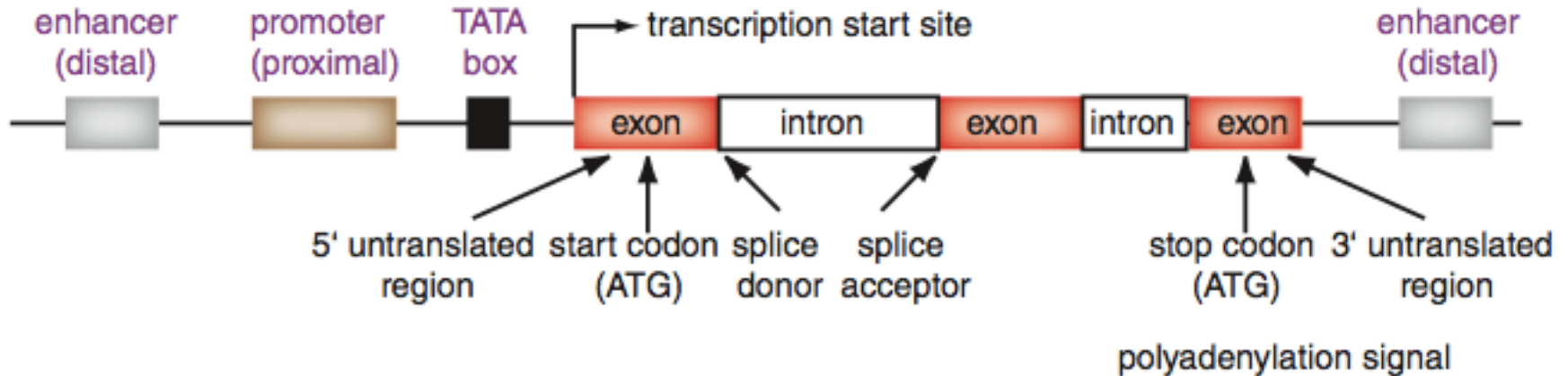
Protein-coding genes in eukaryotic DNA: a new paradox

The C value paradox is answered by the presence of noncoding DNA.

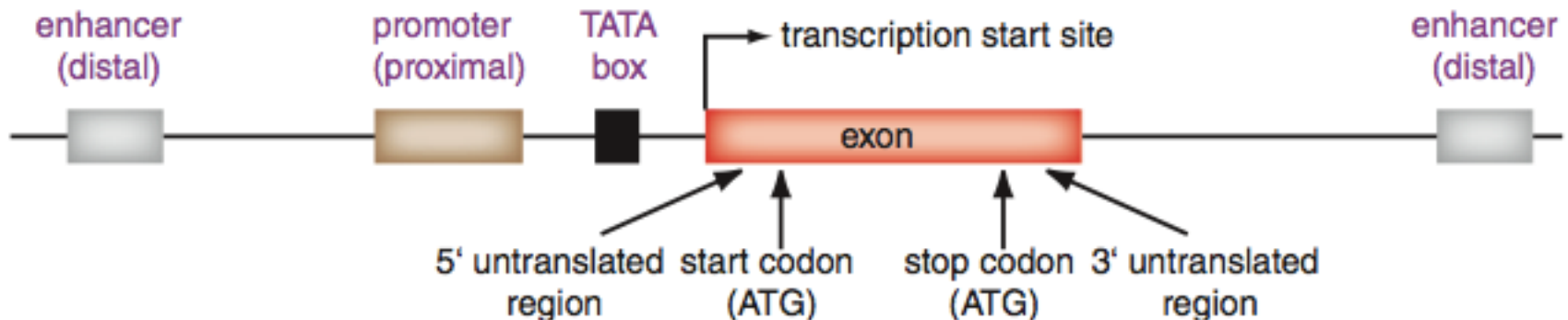
Why are the number of protein-coding genes about the same for worms, flies, plants, and humans?

Eukaryotic gene prediction algorithms

(a) Gene with multiple exons



(b) Single exon gene



Algorithms for finding genes in eukaryotic DNA

Program	Description	URL
AAT	Analysis and Automation Tool	http://aatpackage.sourceforge.net/
ASPIC	Extrinsic. Web server	http://srv00.ibbe.cnr.it/ASPicDB/index.php
AUGUSTUS	Extrinsic. University of Göttingen	http://bioinf.uni-greifswald.de/augustus/
Eugène	Extrinsic	http://eugene.toulouse.inra.fr/
Exogean	Extrinsic	http://www.biologie.ens.fr/dyogen/spip.php?rubrique4&lang=fr
FgeneSH	Intrinsic. Ab initio gene finder	http://www.softberry.com/berry.phtml
GAZE	Combiner: extrinsic, intrinsic	http://www.sanger.ac.uk/resources/software/gaze/
geneid	Intrinsic. Web server from Roderic Guigó	http://genome.crg.es/geneid.html
GeneMark	Intrinsic. Georgia Institute of Technology	http://exon.gatech.edu/GeneMark/
GenomeScan	Extrinsic	http://genes.mit.edu/genomescan.html
Genscan	Intrinsic. Based on HMMs	http://genes.mit.edu/GENSCANinfo.html
GlimmerHMM	Intrinsic. Generalized HMM-based. From TIGR and the University of Maryland	http://cbcb.umd.edu/software/glimmerhmm/
GRAILEXP	Extrinsic	http://compbio.ornl.gov/grailexp/
JIGSAW	Combiner: extrinsic, intrinsic	http://www.cbcb.umd.edu/software/jigsaw/
Xpound	Intrinsic. A probabilistic model for detecting coding regions	http://mobyale.pasteur.fr/cgi-bin/portal.py?#forms::xpound

EGASP: prediction and validation of genes



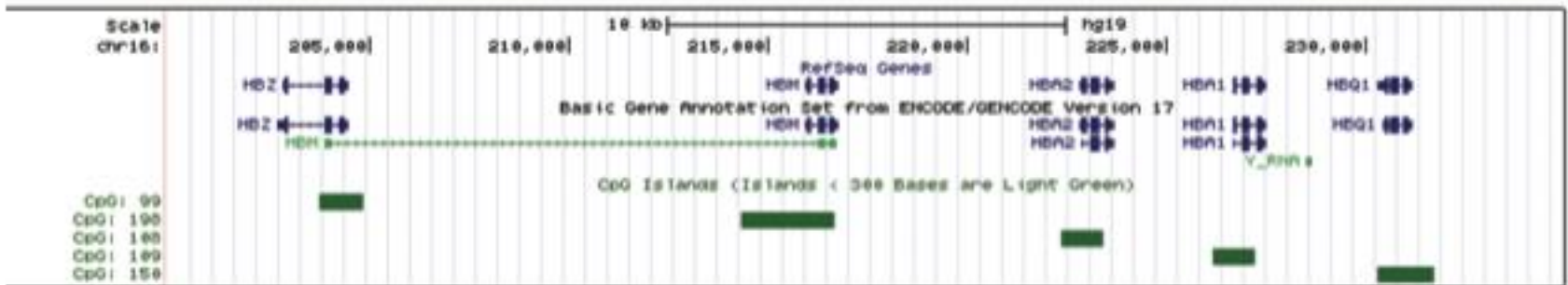
CpG islands are associated with the regulation of expression of many eukaryotic genes

UCSC Genome Browser on Human Feb. 2009 (GRCh37/hg19) Assembly

move <<< << < > >> >>> zoom in 1.5x 3x 10x base zoom out 1.5x 3x 10x

chr16:200,001-235,000 35,000 bp. enter position, gene symbol or search terms go

chr16 (p13.3) 16p13.3 16p12.3 12.1 16p11.2 16q11.2 12.1 12.2 16q21 22.1 22.1



CpG islands (green bars) in the human alpha globin gene cluster

CpG islands are associated with the regulation of expression of many eukaryotic genes

>chr16:226174-227254

CGTCCGGGTGCGCGCATTCTCTCCGCCCCAGGATTGGGCGAAGCCTCCCGGCTCGCACT
CGCTCGCCCGTGTGTTCCCAGATCCCGCTGGAGTCGATGCGCGTCCAGCGCGTGCCAGGC
CGGGGCGGGGGTGC GGCTGACTTTCTCCCTCGCTAGGGACGCTCCGGCGCCCGAAAGGA
AAGGGTGGCGCTGCGCTCCGGGGTGCAAGAGCGACAGCGCCCGACCCCAAAGGGCCGGC
CCCGCCAGCGCCGCTACCGCCCTGCCCCCGGGCGAGCGGGATGGGCGGGAGTGGAGTGGC
GGGTGGAGGGTGGAGACGTCCTGGCCCCCGCCC CGCGTGCACCCCCAGGGGAGGCAGAGC
CCGCGCCCGGCCCGCGCAGGCCCGCCCGGGACTCCCCTGCGGTCCAGGC CGCGCCCC
GGGCTCCGCGCCAGCCAATGAGCGCCCGCCCGGC CGGGCGTGCCCCCGCGCCCCAAGCATA
AACCTGGCGCGCTCGCGGCCCGGCACTCTTCTGGTCCCCACAGACTCAGAGAGAACCCA
CCATGGTGCTGTCTCCTGCCGACAAGACCAACGTC AAGGCCCGCCTGGGGTAAGGT CGGCG
CGCACGCTGGCGAGTATGGTGCGGAGGCCCTGGAGAGGTGAGGCTCCCTCCCCTGCTCCG
ACC CGGGCTCCTCGCCCGCCCGGACCCACAGGCCACCCTCAACCGTCCTGGCCC CGGACC
CAAACCCACCCCTCACTCTGCTTCTCCC CGCAGGATGTTCTGTCTTCCCACCACCA
AGACCTACTTCCCGCACTTCGACCTGAGCCA CGGCTCTGCCCAGGTTAAGGGCCA CGGCA
AGAAGGTGGC CGACCGCGCTGACCAA CGCCGTGGCGCACGTGGA CGACATGCCCAACGCGC
TGTC CGCCCTGAGCGACCTGCACCGCGCACAAGCTT CGGGTGGACC CGGTCAACTTCAAGG
TGAGCGGCGGGC CGGGAGCGATCTGGGT CGAGGGGCGAGATGGCGCCTTCTCTCGCAGGGC
AGAGGATCA CGCGGGTTG CGGGAGGTGTAGCGCAGGCGGCGGCTGCGGGCCTGGGCCCTC
G

CpG island associated with *HBA1*

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Transcription factor databases

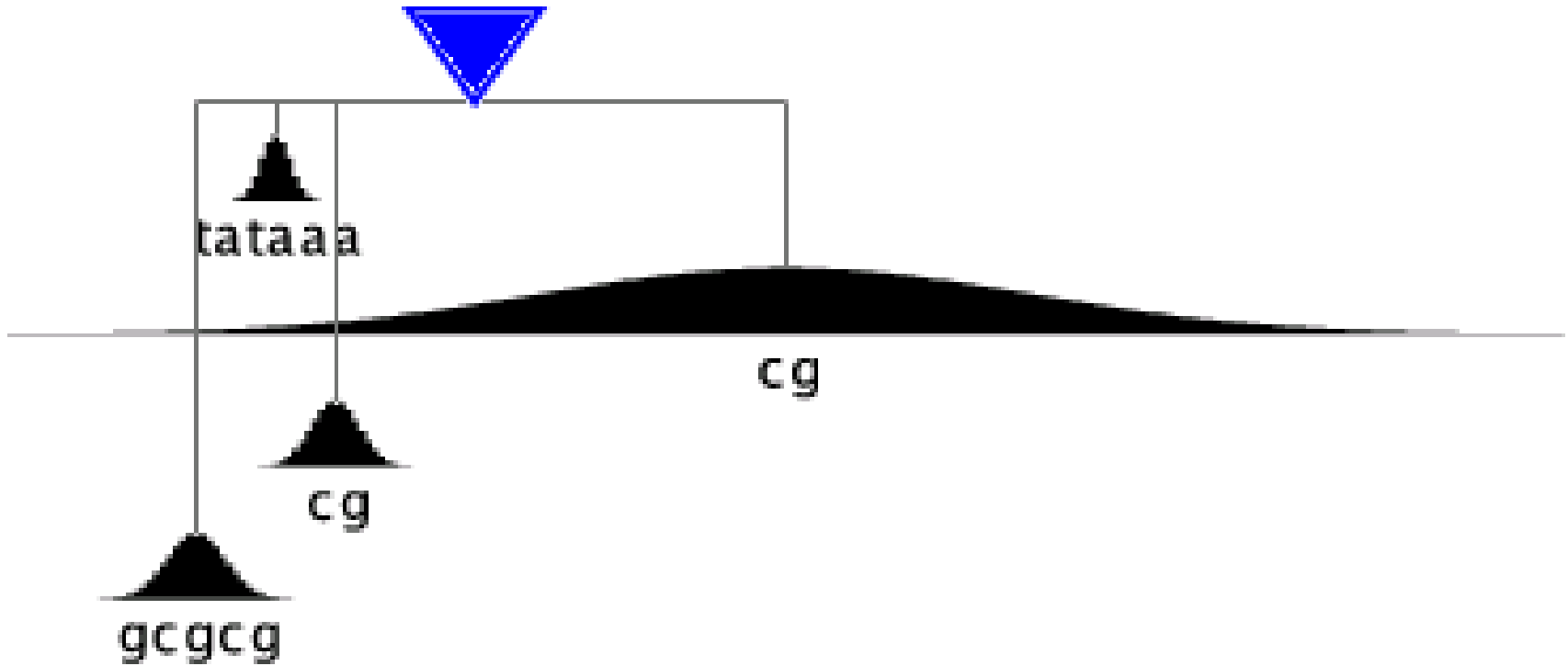
In addition to identifying repetitive elements and genes, it is also of interest to predict the presence of genomic DNA features such as promoter elements and GC content.

Many websites list predictions of transcription factor binding sites and related sequences.

Software for identifying features of promoter regions

Program	Description	URL
AliBaba2	Predicts binding sites of transcription factor binding sites in an unknown DNA sequence	http://www.gene-regulation.com/pub/programs.html
ENCODE software: ENCODE-motifs	Database of transcription factors	http://www.broadinstitute.org/~pouyak/motif-disc/human/
ENCODE software: Factorbook	Wiki-style resource for ChIP-Seq data on transcription factors	http://www.factorbook.org/mediawiki/index.php/Welcome_to_factorbook
ENCODE software: HaploReg	Tool to analyze haplotype blocks	http://www.broadinstitute.org/mammals/haploreg/haploreg.php
ENCODE software: RegulomeDB	Identifies DNA features and regulatory elements in noncoding regions	http://regulome.stanford.edu/
ENCODE software: Spark	For epigenomic data	http://sparkinsight.org/
Eukaryotic Promoter Database (EPD)	Annotated nonredundant collection of eukaryotic POL II promoters, for which the transcription start site has been determined experimentally	http://epd.vital-it.ch/
Open REGulatory ANNOtation database (ORegAnno)	Comprehensive, open access, community-based resource	http://www.oreganno.org
Promoter 2.0 Prediction Server	Technical University of Denmark	http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/promoter/
Regulatory Sequence Analysis Tools (RSAT)	Université Libre de Bruxelles	http://rsat.ulb.ac.be/rsat/
Transcriptional Regulatory Element Database (TRED)	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	http://rulai.cshl.edu/cgi-bin/TRED/tred.cgi?process=home
TRANSFAC	Database of transcription factors, their genomic binding sites, and DNA-binding profiles	http://www.gene-regulation.com/index2

Eponine predicts transcription start sites in promoter regions. The algorithm uses a set of **DNA weight matrices** recognizing sequence **motifs** that are associated with a position distribution relative to the transcription start site. The model is as follows:



The specificity is good (~70%), and the positional accuracy is excellent. The program identifies ~50% of TSSs—although it does not always know the direction of transcription.

Regulatory regions in genomic DNA

The image shows a screenshot of the UCSC Genome Browser interface, specifically the 'Regulation' track category. The title bar reads 'Regulation' and includes a 'refresh' button. The tracks are arranged in a grid and each has a 'hide' dropdown menu. The tracks are:

- ENCORE Regulation...
- ENC CD34 DnaseI
- CpG Islands
- ENC Chromatin...
- ENC DNA Methyl...
- ENC DNase/FAIRE...
- ENC Histone...
- ENC RNA Binding...
- ENC TF Binding...
- FSU Repli-chip
- ORegAnno
- Stanf Nucleosome
- SUNY SwitchGear
- SwitchGear TSS
- TFBS Conserved
- TS miRNA sites
- UMMS Brain Hist
- UW Repli-seq
- Vista Enhancers
- NKI Nuc Lamina...
- UCSF Brain Methyl

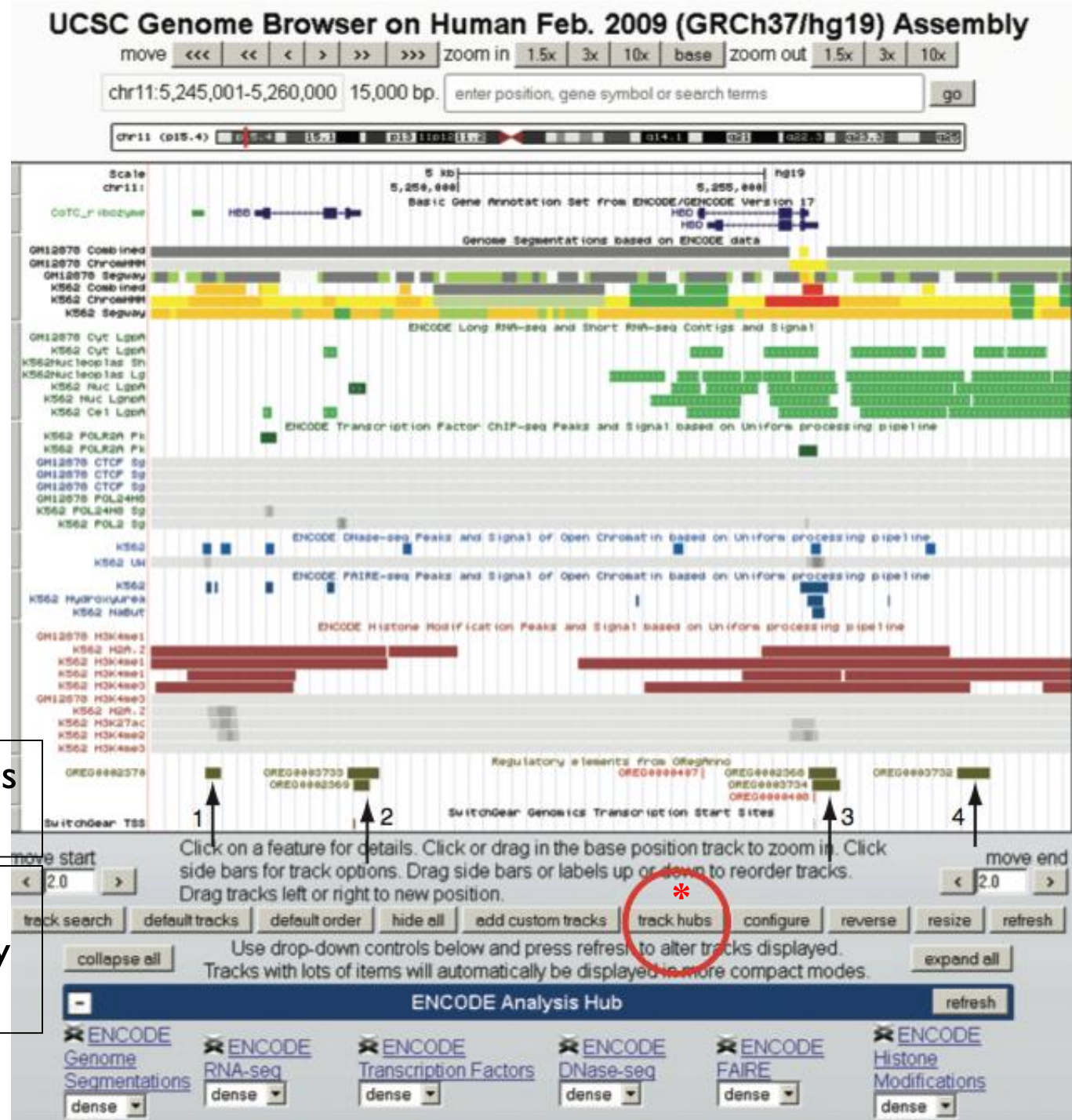
The UCSC Genome (and Table) Browser includes two dozen annotation tracks in the “regulation” category. Explore these!

Regulatory regions in genomic DNA

Beta globin, delta globin region (15 kb at chr11:5,245,001-5,260,000)

Four regulatory features from ORegAnno

Track hub offers access to ENCODE regulatory data (*)



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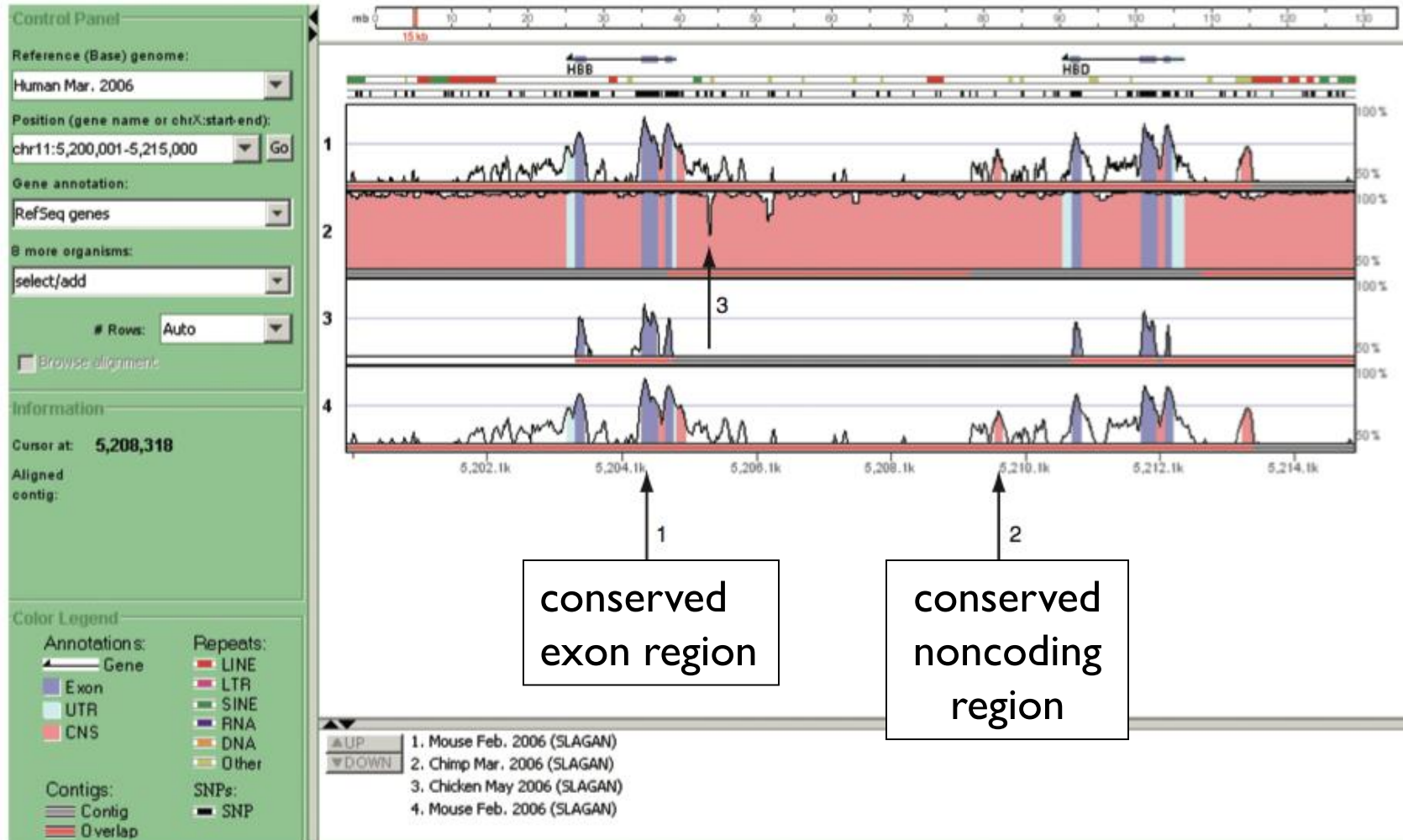
Comparison of eukaryotic DNA: PipMaker and VISTA

In studying genomes, it is important to align large segments of DNA.

PipMaker and VISTA are two tools for sequence alignment and visualization. They show conserved segments, including the order and orientation of conserved elements. They also display large-scale genomic changes (inversions, rearrangements, duplications).

Try VISTA (<http://www-gsd.lbl.gov/vista>) or PipMaker (<http://bio.cse.psu.edu/pipmaker>) with genomic DNA from Hs10 and Mm19 (containing RBP4).

VISTA for aligning genomic sequences



VISTA output for an alignment of human and mouse genomic DNA (including RBP4)

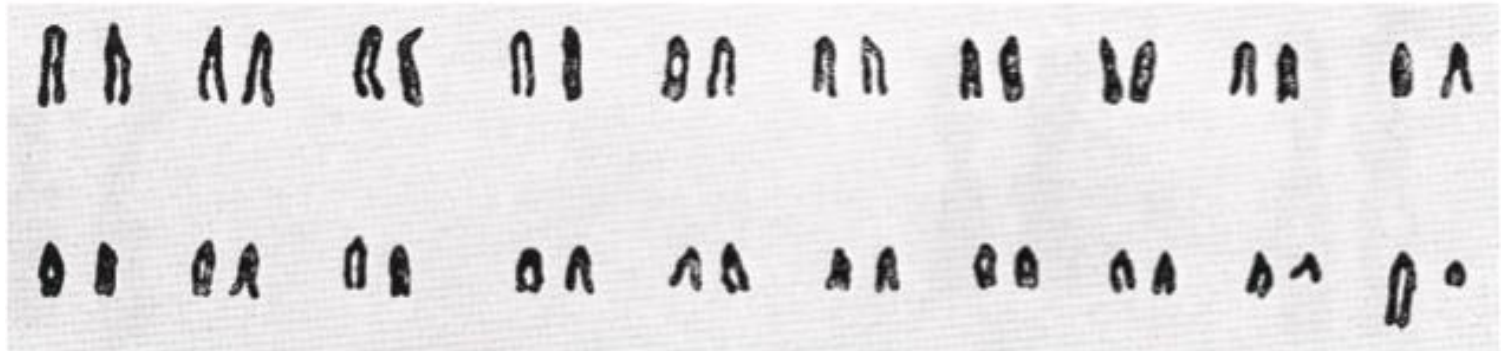
Criteria: 70% identity over 100 bp

***** Conserved Regions *****

94585364	to	94585486	=	129bp	at	69.80%	UTR
94594441	to	94594458	=	18bp	at	72.20%	UTR
94594583	to	94594652	=	70bp	at	81.40%	UTR
94587237	to	94587445	=	209bp	at	83.30%	exon
94593805	to	94593910	=	106bp	at	91.50%	exon
94594080	to	94594215	=	136bp	at	86.80%	exon
94594331	to	94594440	=	110bp	at	90.90%	exon
94589637	to	94589864	=	229bp	at	72.50%	noncoding
94589940	to	94590050	=	112bp	at	69.60%	noncoding
94590435	to	94590544	=	111bp	at	73.00%	noncoding
94591250	to	94591381	=	133bp	at	73.70%	noncoding
94593365	to	94593457	=	93bp	at	72.00%	noncoding

Robertsonian fusion: creation of one metacentric chromosome by fusion of two acrocentrics

Ordinary male house mouse (*Mus musculus*, $2n = 40$)



Male tobacco mouse (*Mus poschiavinus*, $2n = 26$)



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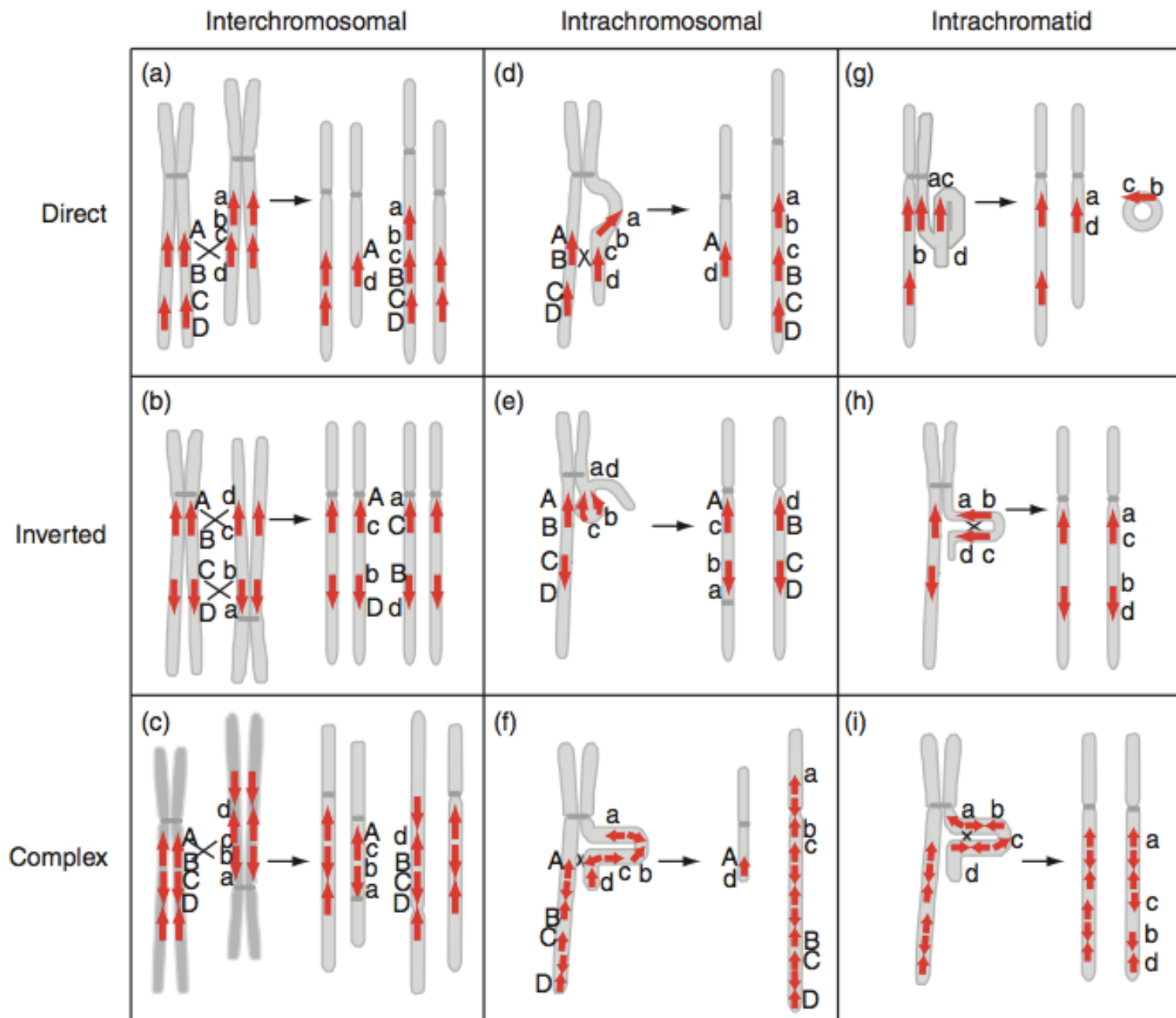
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Mechanisms of creating genomic rearrangements

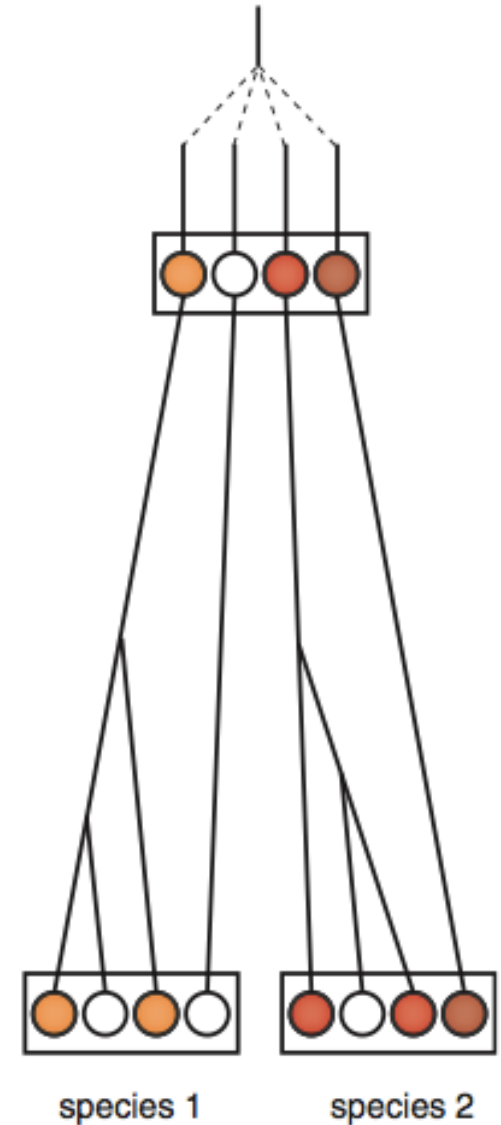
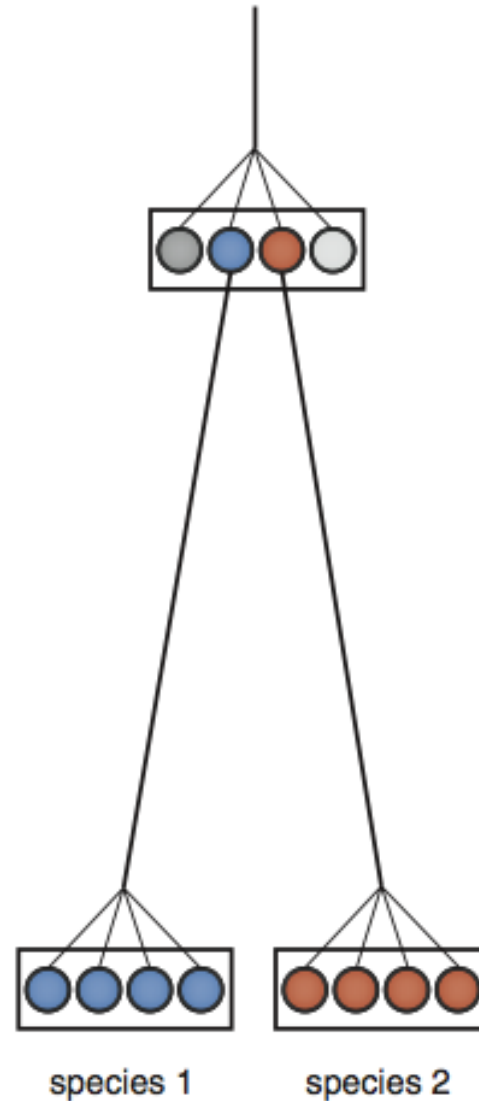
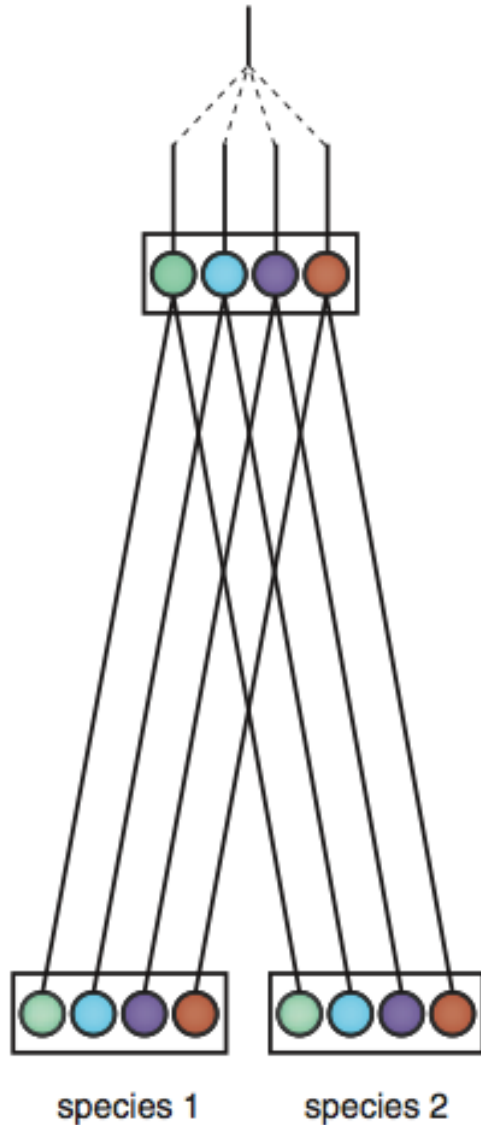


Models for creation of duplicate genes

divergent evolution

concerted evolution

birth-and-death
evolution



Eukaryotic chromosomes can be dynamic

- Whole genome duplication (autopolyploidy) can occur, as in yeast and some plants.
- The genomes of two distinct species can merge, as in the mule (male donkey, $2n = 62$ and female horse, $2n = 64$)
- An individual can acquire an extra copy of a chromosome (e.g. Down syndrome, TSI3, TSI8)
- Chromosomes can fuse; e.g. human chromosome 2 derives from a fusion of two ancestral primate chromosomes
- Chromosomal regions can be inverted (hemophilia A)
- Portions of chromosomes can be deleted (e.g. del 11q syndrome)
- Segmental and other duplications occur
- Chromatin diminution can occur (*Ascaris*)

Inversions in chromosome evolution

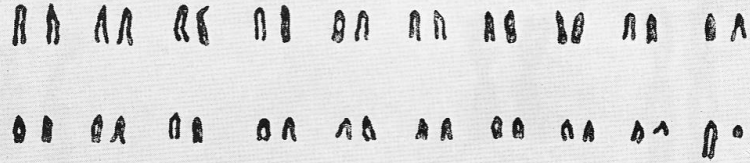
Chromosomal inversions occur when a fragment of a chromosome breaks at two places, inverts, and is reinserted. This is a useful mechanism for producing a sterility barrier during speciation. An example is in **deer mice**; another example is in ***Anopheles gambiae***.

The eukaryotic chromosome: Robertsonian fusion creates one metacentric by fusion of two acrocentrics

Translocations occur when chromosomal material is exchanged between two non-homologous chromosomes. Robertsonian fusion, which often accompanies speciation, is the creation of one metacentric chromosome by the centric fusion of two acrocentrics.

Robertsonian fusions are often tolerated and may sometimes be considered selectively neutral. An example is the house mouse (*Mus musculus*, $2n = 40$) and a small group of tobacco mice in Switzerland (*Mus poschiavinus*, $2n = 26$). *Mus poschiavinus* is homozygous for seven Robertsonian fusions.

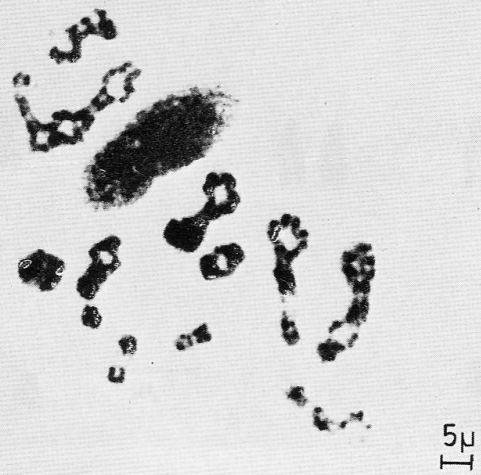
The eukaryotic chromosome: Robertsonian fusion creates one metacentric by fusion of two acrocentrics



ordinary male house mouse (*Mus musculus*, $2n = 40$)



male tobacco mouse (*Mus poschiavinus*, $2n = 26$)



Male first meiotic metaphase from an interspecific F1-hybrid. Note seven trivalents (each from one *poschiavinus* (Tobacco mouse) metacentric and two *musculus* acrocentrics)

Diploidization of the tetraploid

- A species can become tetraploid. All loci are duplicated, and what was formerly the diploid chromosome complement is now the haploid set of the genome.

Polyploid evolution occurs commonly in plants. For example, in the cereal plant *Sorghum*

S. versicolor (diploid) $2n = 2 \times 5$; 10 chromosomes

S. sudanense (tetraploid) $4n = 4 \times 5$; 20 chromosomes

S. halepense (octoploid) $8n = 8 \times 5$; 40 chromosomes

In plants, the male sex organ (stamen) and female organ (pistil or carpel) is present in the same flower; they are hermaphroditic.

Trisomy and polysomy

Nondisjunction results in two chromatids of one chromosome moving to the same division pole. In diploid species, one daughter cell receives three homologous chromosomes (trisomy). If this occurs in germ cells, the progeny may be trisomic.

In the Jimson weed (*Datura stramonium*) trisomy for each of the 12 chromosomes was observed by Blakeslee (1930). A mating between trisomic individuals may produce tetrasomic progeny having two homologous chromosomes (thus duplicating an entire chromosome).

Trisomy and polysomy

For vertebrates, this mechanism is too severe. Generally, only trisomy of chromosomes 13, 18, or 21 are compatible with postnatal survival in humans.

In rainbow trout that have become tetraploid, trisomy (i.e. from four to five copies) and monosomy (i.e. from four to three copies) may be tolerated.

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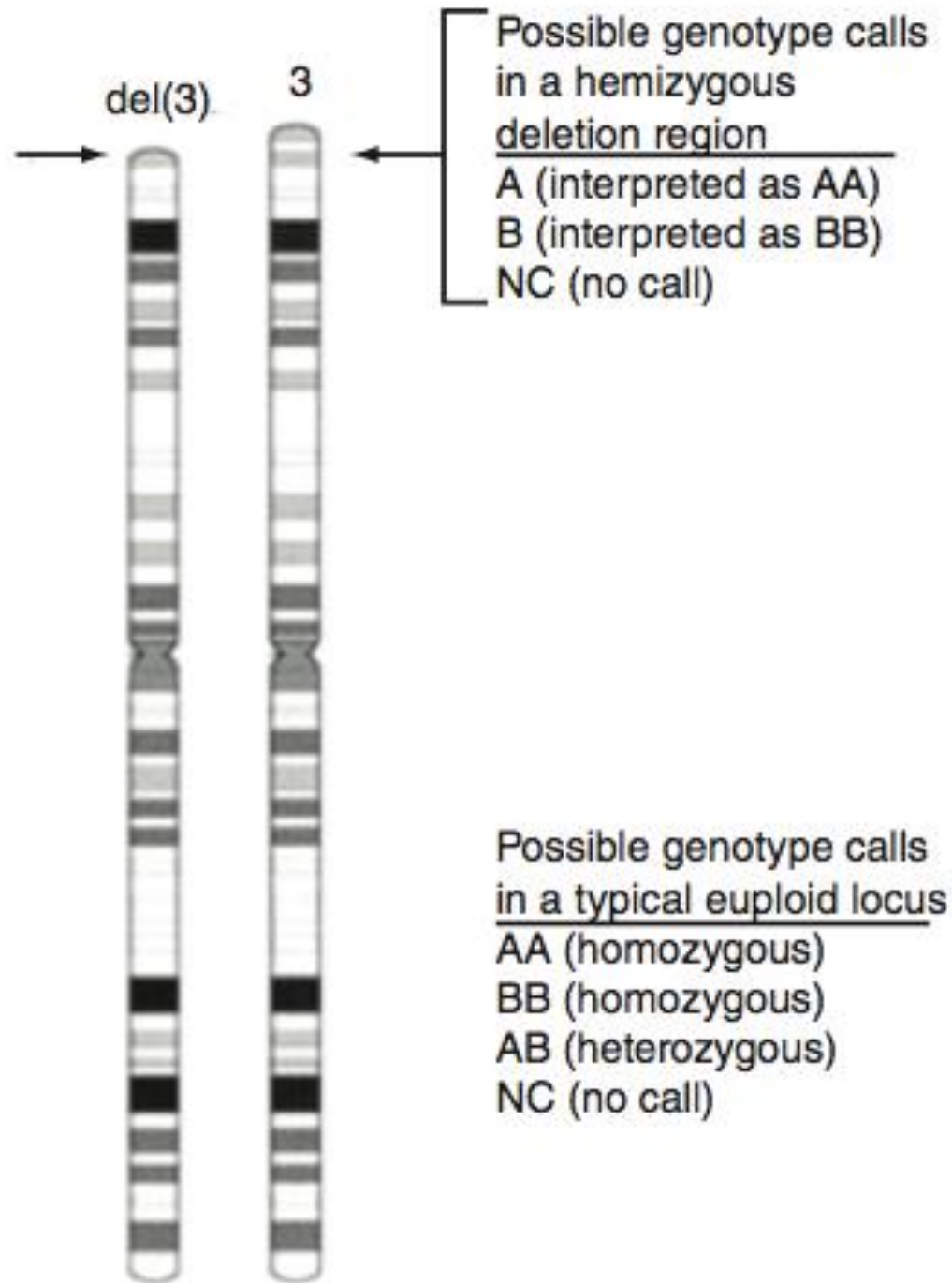
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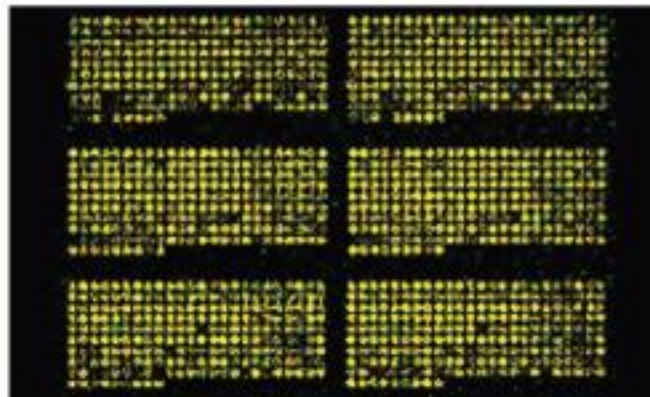
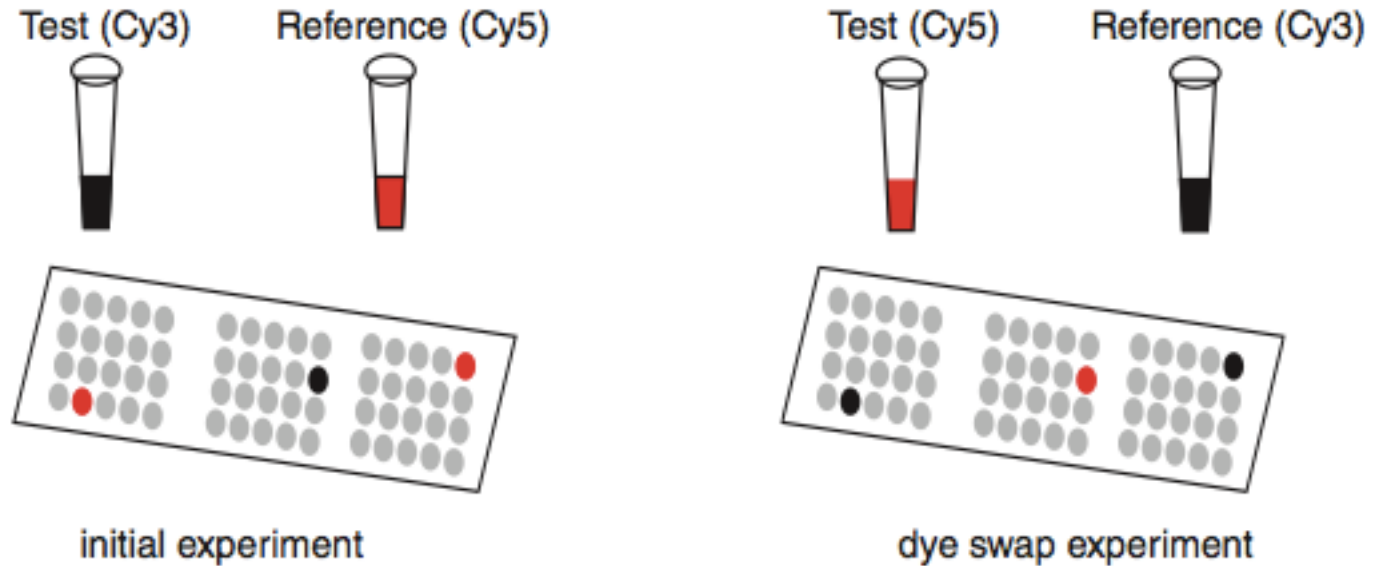
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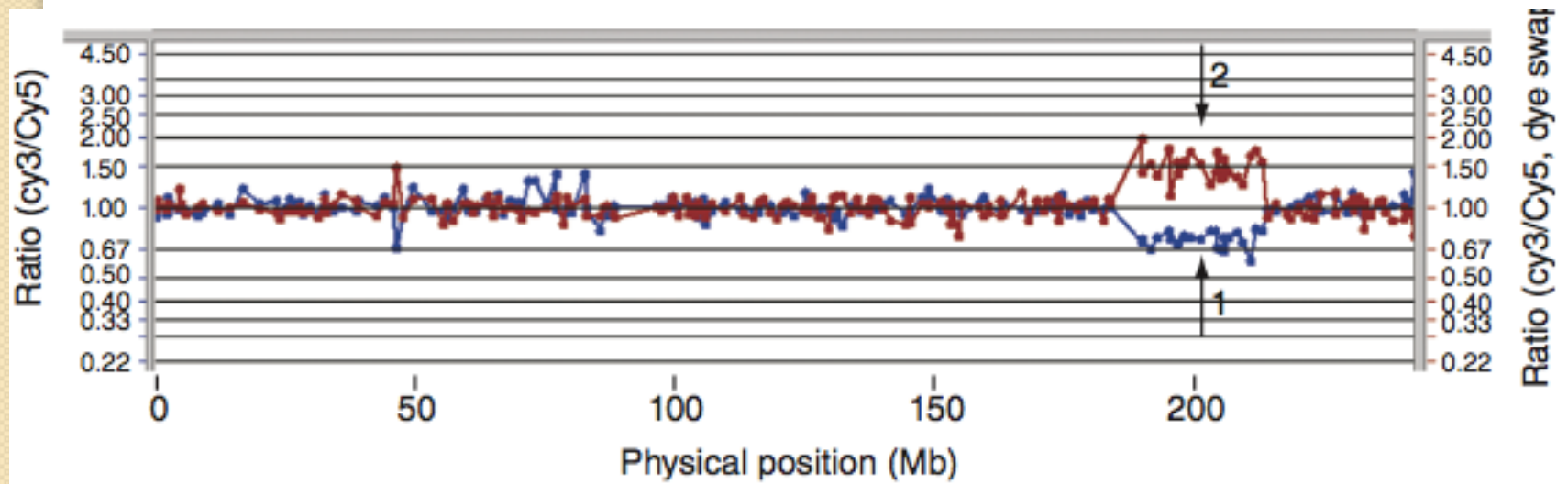
SNP microarrays provide information about chromosomal copy number (e.g. a deletion on 3p) and genotype (e.g. occurrence of homozygous calls).



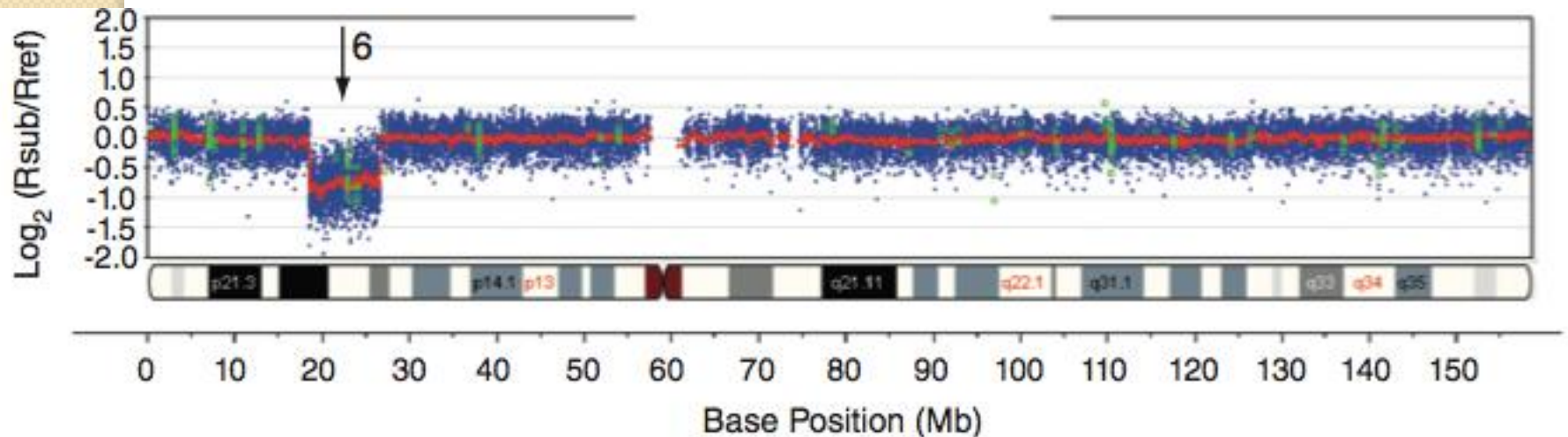
Array comparative genome hybridization



Array comparative genome hybridization

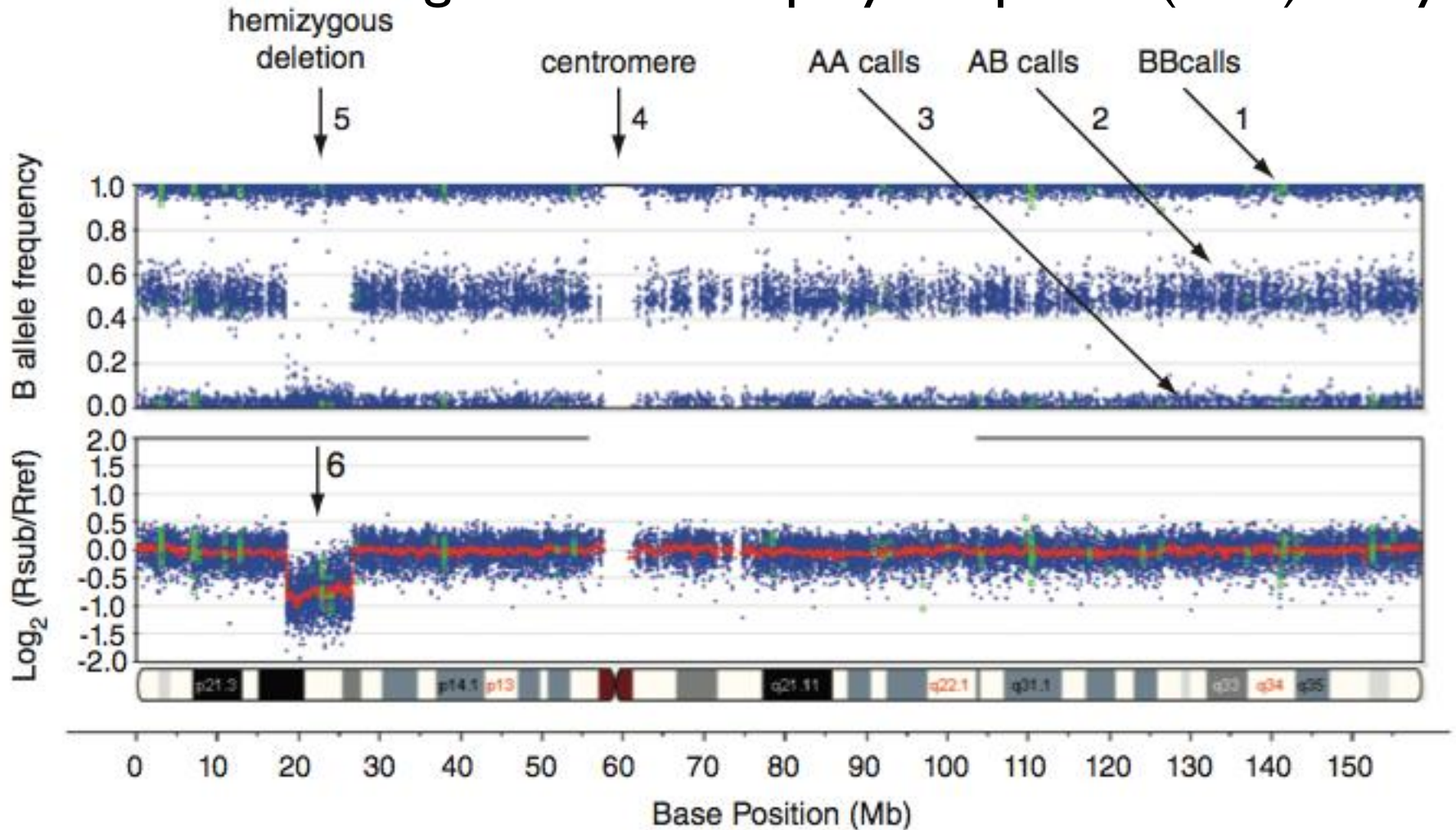


Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays



A SNP array provides information on copy number, based on signal intensity. The x-axis is genomic position (in megabases) along a chromosome. The y-axis shows the \log_2 ratio of signal from a subject relative to a reference, and ordinarily has a value of zero. Here in a deletion region (arrow 6) there is 1 chromosomal copy instead of 2. Each dot is a data point from a SNP array. There is an absence of signal in the region of the centromere (~60 Mb).

Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays



SNP arrays also provide genotype information (upper panel): calls are AA (0% B allele), heterozygous (AB; 50% B allele), or BB (100% B allele). Note the loss of heterozygous calls in a hemizygous deletion region (arrow 5).

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- One of the broadest goals of biology is to understand the nature of each species of life: what are the mechanisms of development, metabolism, homeostasis, reproduction, and behavior? Sequencing of a genome does not answer these questions directly. Instead, we must first try to annotate the genome sequence in order to estimate its contents, and then we try to interpret the function of these parts in a variety of physiological and evolutionary processes.
- As complete genomes are sequenced, we are becoming aware of the nature of non-coding and coding DNA, and repetitive DNA. Genome browsers and various bioinformatics tools are useful to explore and tabulate chromosomal features, we also appreciate the dynamic, complex nature of chromosomes as exquisite biological objects.