

Discrete Probability Distributions
Geometric and Negative Binomial
illustrated by
Mitochondrial Eve
and
Cancer Driver/Passenger Genes

Binomial Distribution

- Number of successes in n independent Bernoulli trials
- The probability mass function is:

$$P(X = x) = C_x^n p^x (1 - p)^{n-x} \text{ for } x = 0, 1, \dots, n \quad (3-7)$$

Geometric Distribution

- A series of **Bernoulli trials** with **probability of success = p** . continued **until the first success**. X is the number of trials.
- Compare to: Binomial distribution has:
 - Fixed number of trials = n . $P(X = x) = C_x^n p^x (1 - p)^{n-x}$
 - Random number of successes = x .
- Geometric distribution has reversed roles:
 - Random number of trials, x
 - Fixed number of successes, in this case 1.
 - Success always comes in the end: so no combinatorial factor C_x^n
 - $P(X=x) = p(1-p)^{x-1}$ where:
 $x-1 = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, the number of failures until the 1st success.
- **NOTE OF CAUTION:** Matlab, Mathematica, and many other sources use x to denote the **number of failures until the first success**. We stick with **Montgomery-Runger notation**

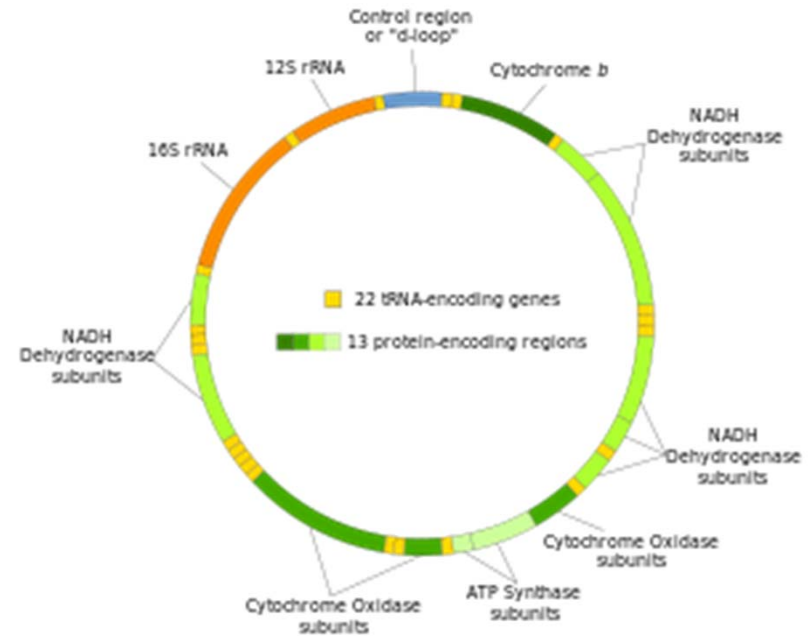
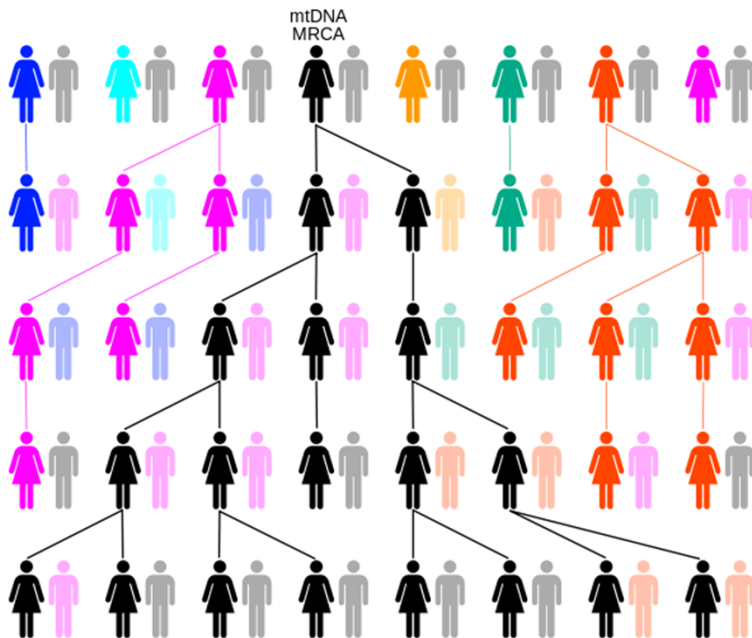
Geometric Mean & Variance

- If X is a geometric random variable ([according to Montgomery-Bulmer](#)) with parameter p ,

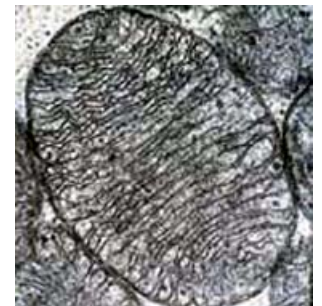
$$\mu = E(X) = \frac{1}{p} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^2 = V(X) = \frac{(1-p)}{p^2} \quad (3-10)$$

- For small p the **standard deviation** \approx **mean**
- Very different from Poisson, where it is **variance** = **mean** and **standard deviation** = **mean**^{1/2}

Geometric distribution in biology

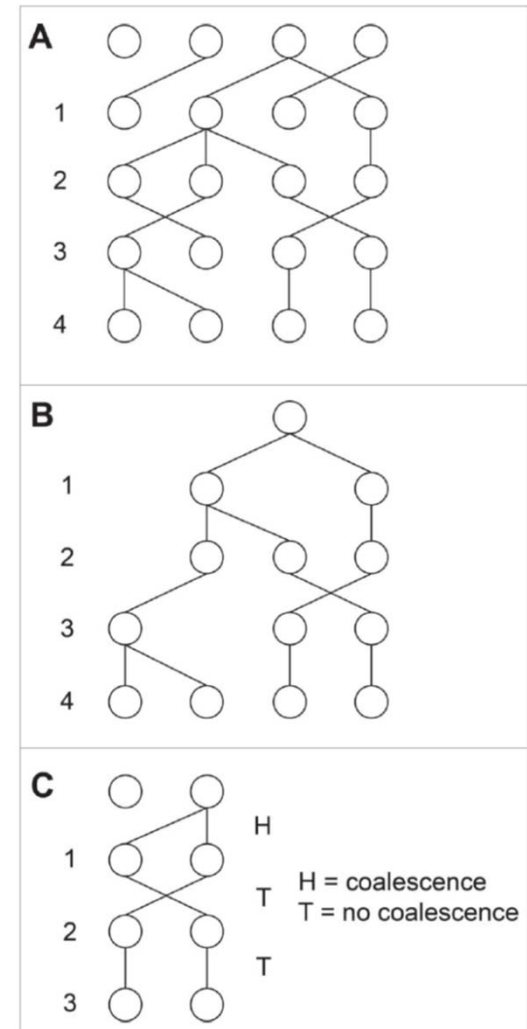


- Each of our cells has mitochondria with 16.5kb of mtDNA **inherited only from our mother**
- Human mtDNA has 37 genes encoding 13 proteins, 22+2 tRNA & rRNA
- Mitochondria appeared 1.5-2 billion years ago as a symbiosis between an alpha-proteobacterium (1000s of genes) and an archaeaon (of UIUC's Carl R. Woese fame)
- Since then most mitochondrial genes were transferred to the nucleus
- Plants also have plastids with genomes related to cyanobacteria



Time to the last common (maternal) ancestor follows geometric distribution

- **Constant population** of N women
- **Random number** of (female) **offsprings**.
Average is 1 (but can be 0 or 2)
- **Randomly** pick **two women**.
Question: how many **generations** T since their **last maternal ancestor**?
- T is a random variable What is its PMF: $P(T=t)$?
Answer: $P(T=t)$ follows a **geometric distribution**
- Do these two women have **the same mother**?
Yes: **“success”** in finding their last common ancestor ($p=1/N$). $P(T=1)=1/N$.
- No? **“failure”** ($1-p=1-1/N$). Go to their mothers and repeat the same question.
- $P(T=t)=(1-1/N)^{t-1}(1/N) \approx (1/N) \exp(-T/N)$
- T can be inferred from **the density of differences on mtDNA** $=2\mu T$



- There are about $N=3.5 \times 10^9$ women living today
- For a random pair of women the average number of generations to the last common maternal ancestor is:

$$E(T) = \sum_{T=1}^{\infty} T \cdot \exp(-T/N) = 1/p = N$$

- Most Recent maternal Common Ancestor (MRCA) of all people living today lived $T_{MRCA} = 2N$ generations ago
- $T_{MRCA} = 2 \cdot 3.5 \times 10^9$ generations
- If the generation time 20 years it is 140 billion years > 10 times the time since the Big Bang.
- Something is wrong here!

- Population is **not constant** and for a long time was very low
- Change N to “effective” size N_e
- Current thinking is that for all of us including people of African ancestry $N_e \sim 7500$ people
- For humans of **European + Asian ancestry** $N_e \sim 3100$ people

• **Mito Eve lived** \sim
 $2 * N_e * 20 \text{ years} =$
 $= 2 * 7500 * 20 \text{ years} =$
300,000 years ago

Recent human effective population size estimated from linkage disequilibrium

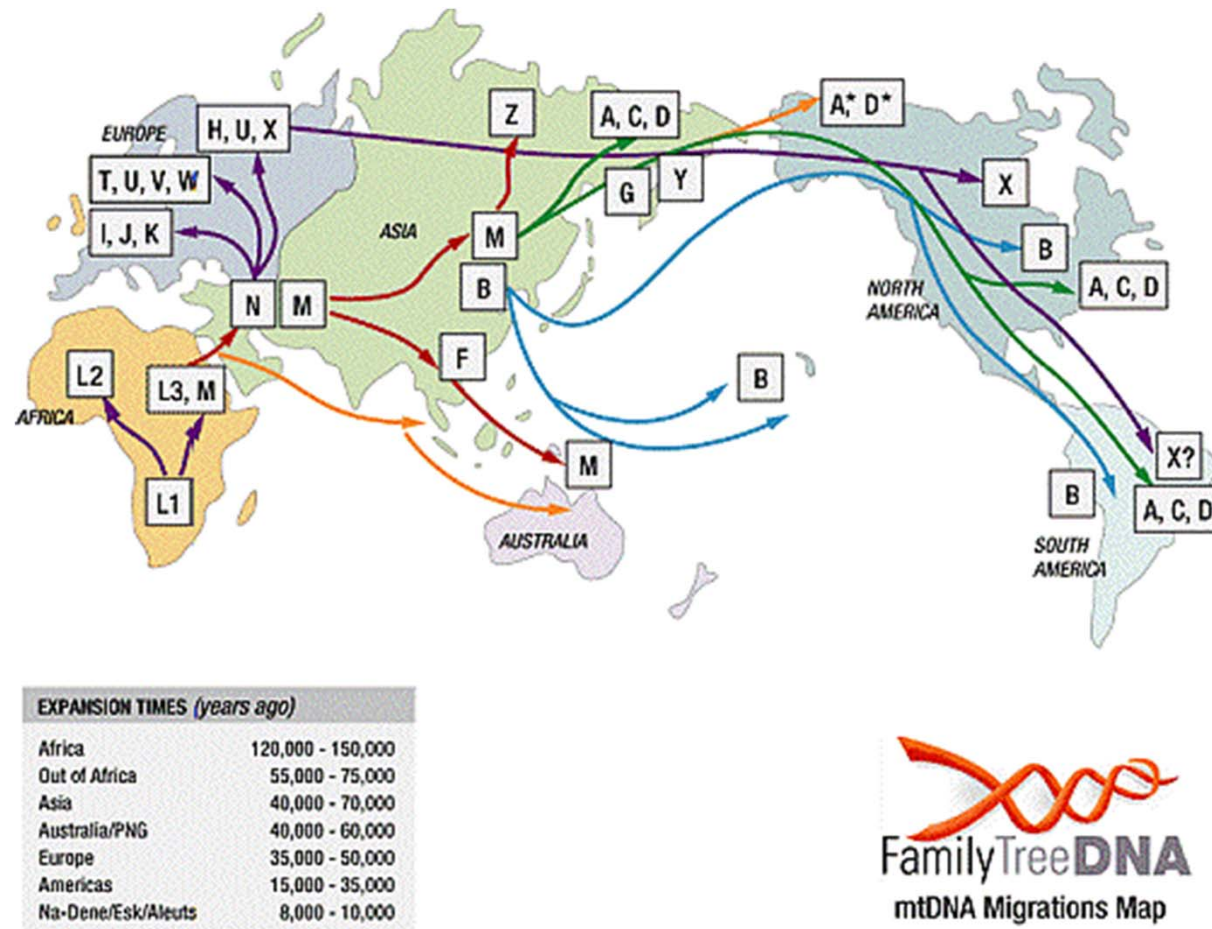
Albert Tenesa,^{1,2,3} Pau Navarro,³ Ben J. Hayes,⁴ David L. Duffy,⁵ Geraldine M. Clarke,⁶ Mike E. Goddard,^{4,7} and Peter M. Visscher^{3,5,8}

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Effective population size (N_e) determines the amount of genetic variation, genetic drift, and linkage disequilibrium (LD) in populations. Here, we present the first genome-wide estimates of human effective population size from LD data. Chromosome-specific effective population size was estimated for all autosomes and the X chromosome from estimated LD between SNP pairs <100 kb apart. We account for variation in recombination rate by using coalescent-based estimates of fine-scale recombination rate from one sample and correlating these with LD in an independent sample. Phase I of the HapMap project produced between 18 and 22 million SNP pairs in samples from four populations: Yoruba from Ibadan (YRI), Nigeria; Japanese from Tokyo (JPT); Han Chinese from Beijing (HCB); and residents from Utah with ancestry from northern and western Europe (CEU). For CEU, JPT, and HCB, the estimate of effective population size, adjusted for SNP ascertainment bias, was ~ 3100 , whereas the estimate for the YRI was ~ 7500 , consistent with the out-of-Africa theory of ancestral human population expansion and concurrent bottlenecks. We show that the decay in LD over distance between SNPs is consistent with recent population growth. The estimates of N_e are lower than previously published estimates based on heterozygosity, possibly because they represent one or more bottlenecks in human population size that occurred $\sim 10,000$ to $200,000$ years ago.

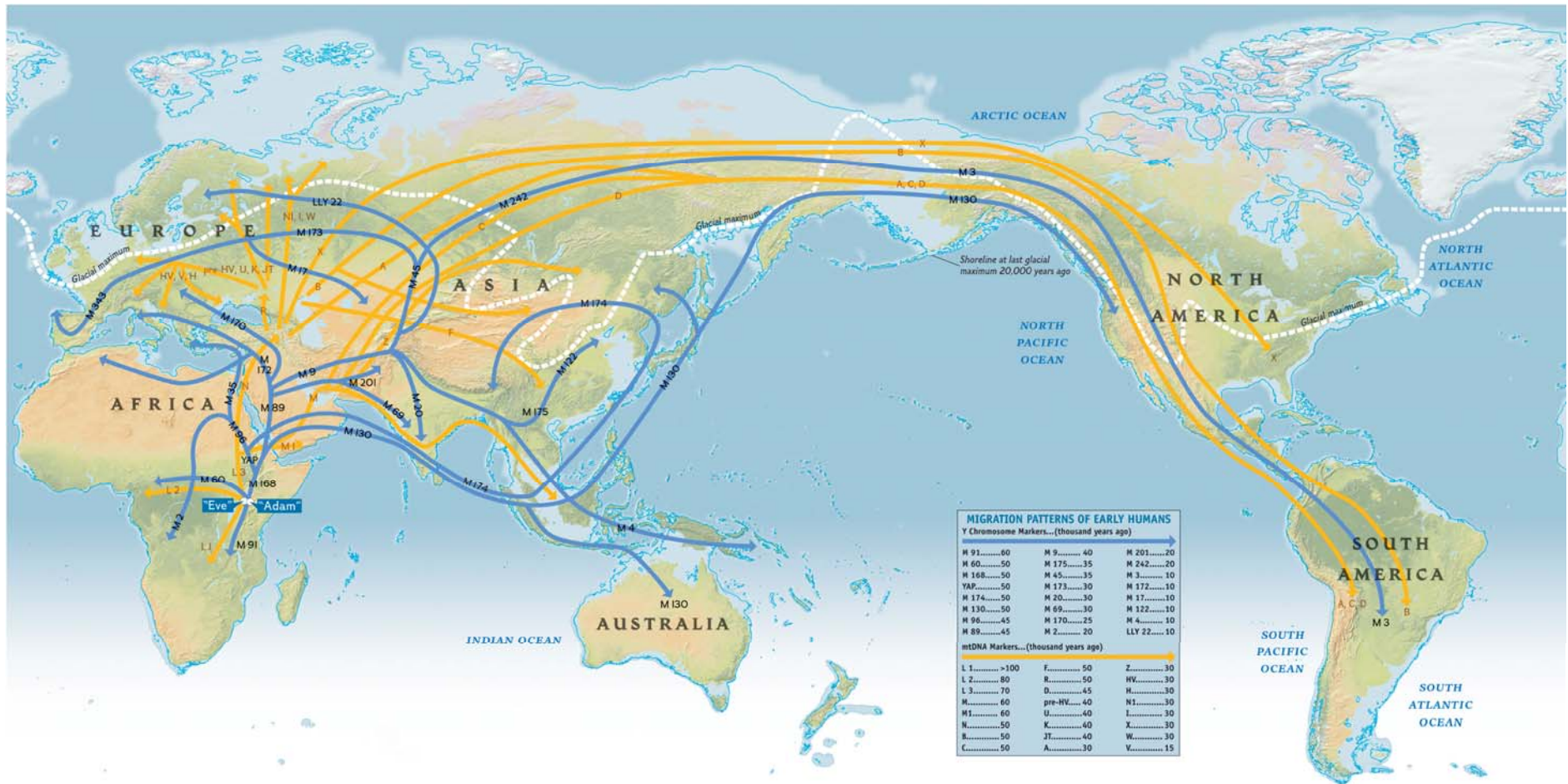
Tenesa, Albert, et al. *Genome research* 17.4 (2007): 520-526.

“Mitochondrial Eve” lived in Africa



- “Mitochondrial Eve” lived in Africa between 100,000 and 150,000 years ago (or 240,000?)
- *Poznik GD, et al (Carlos Bustamante lab in Stanford), Science 341: 562 (August 2013).*

“Adam” and “Eve” are both out of Africa



- “Mitochondrial Eve” lived in Africa between 100,000 and 150,000 years ago (or 240,000?)
- “Y-chromosome Adam” also lived in Africa between 120,000 and 160,000 years ago
- Poznik GD, et al (Carlos Bustamante lab in Stanford), *Science* **341**: 562 (August 2013).

Mitochondrial Eve (maternally transmitted ancestry)
Y-chromosome Adam (paternally transmitted ancestry)
lived ~200,000 years ago.

**When lived the latest common ancestor
shared by all of us based on nuclear DNA?**

- A. 1 million years ago
- B. 200,000 years ago
- C. 3400 years ago
- D. 660 years ago
- E. Yesterday, I really have no clue

Get your i-clickers

Last common ancestor in nuclear (non Y-chr) DNA is another matter

- Nuclear DNA gets mixed with every generation
 - Each of us gets 50% of nuclear DNA from father & 50% from mother
 - Each has 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great-grand parents
- If one assumes:
 - Well-mixed marriages (not true: mostly local until recently)
 - Constant size population (not true: much smaller)
 - In 33 generations the number of ancestors:
 $2^{33} = 8 \text{ billion} > 7 \text{ billion people living today}$
- Every pair of us living today should have at least one shared ancestor who lived
 - 33 generations * 20 years/generation=660 years ago ~1300 AD

Corrected for mostly local marriages

562

NATURE | VOL 431 | 30 SEPTEMBER 2004 |

Modelling the recent common ancestry of all living humans

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With 5% of individuals migrating out of their home town, 0.05% migrating out of their home country, and 95% of port users born in the country from which the port emanates, the simulations produce a mean MRCA date of 1,415 BC and a mean IA date of 5,353 BC.

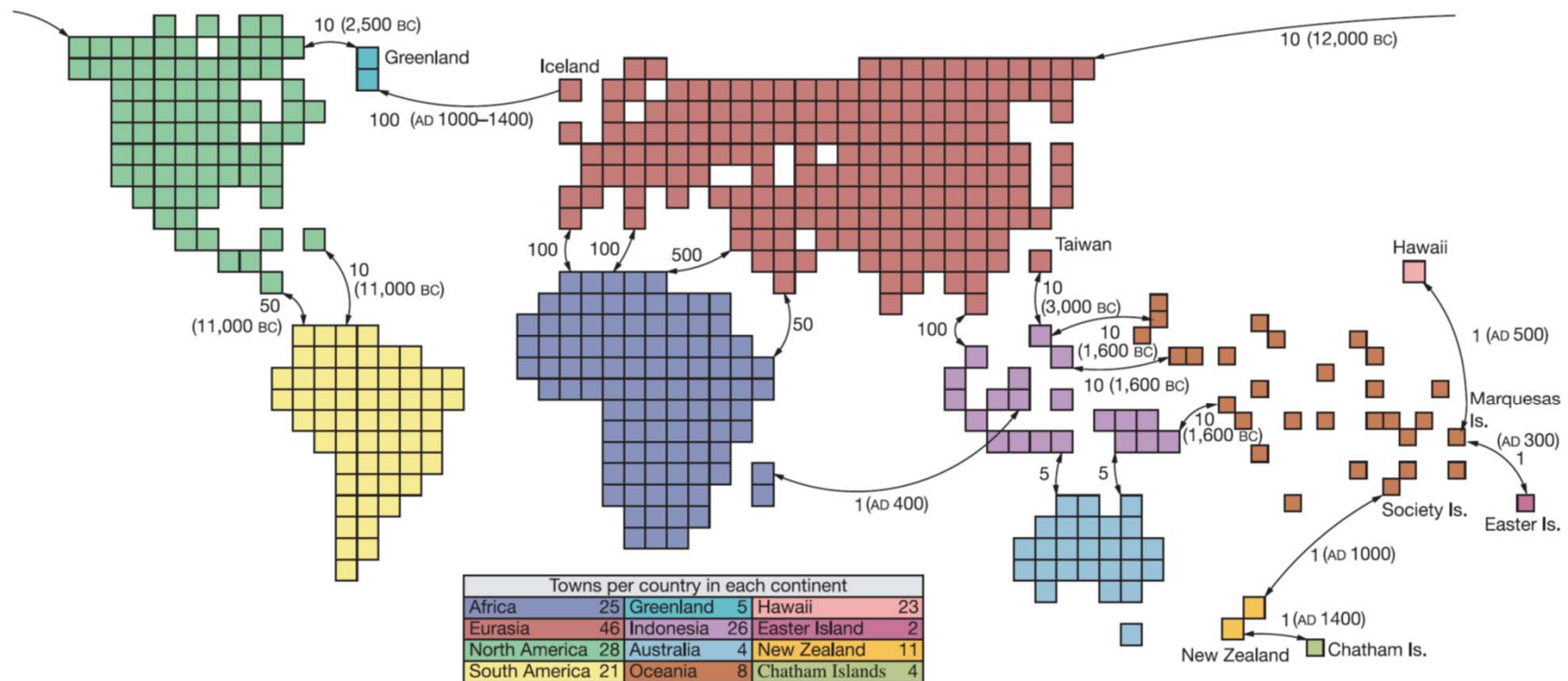


Figure 2 Geography and migration routes of the simulated model. Arrows denote ports and the adjacent numbers are their steady migration rates, in individuals per generation. If

given, the date in parentheses indicates when the port opens. Upon opening, there is usually a first-wave migration burst at a higher rate, lasting one generation.

Mitochondrial Eve (maternally transmitted ancestry)
Y-chromosome Adam (paternally transmitted ancestry)
lived ~200,000 years ago.

When lived the latest common ancestor
shared by all of us based on nuclear DNA?

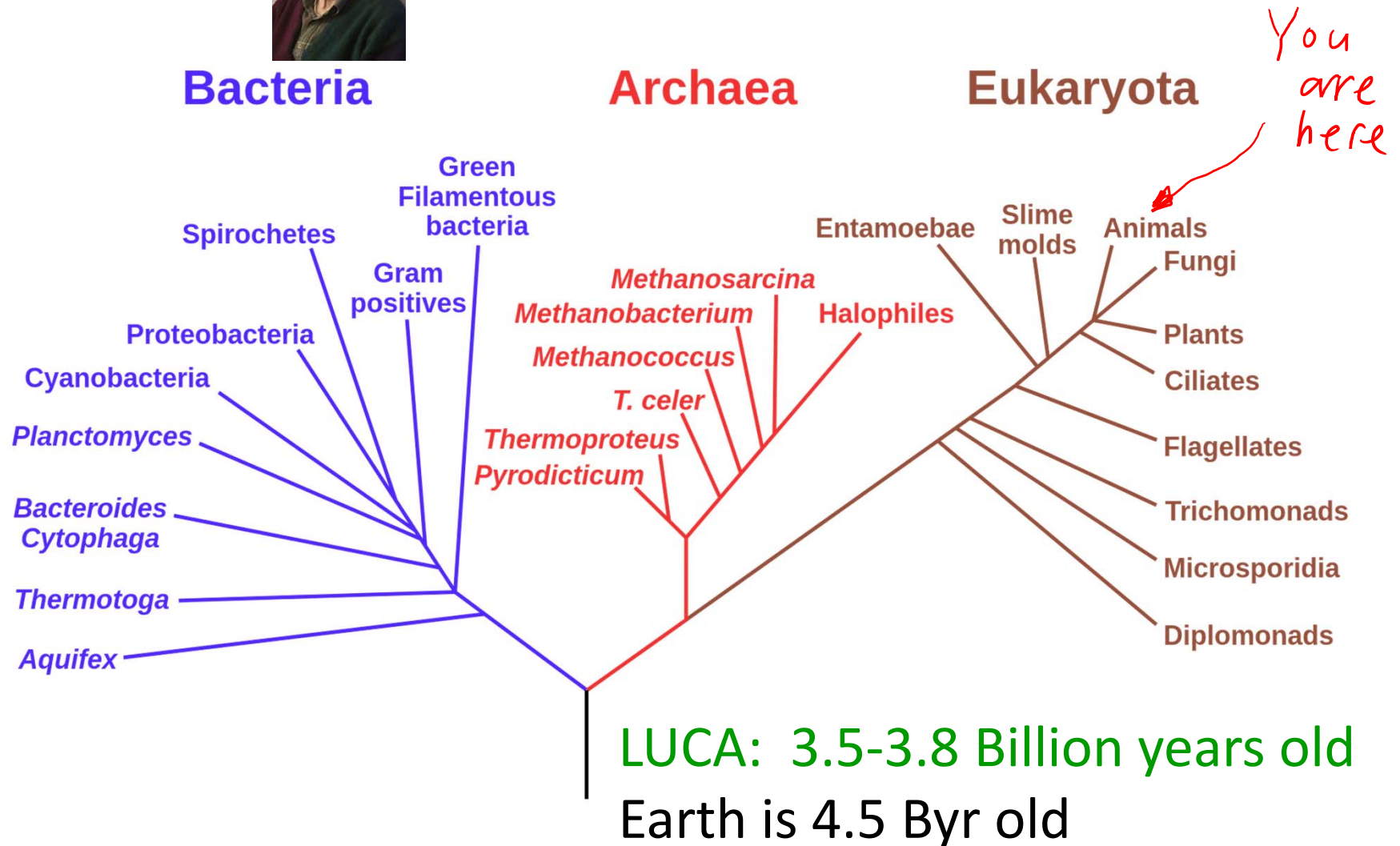
- A. 1 million years ago
- B. 200,000 years ago
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- D. 660 years ago
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Get your i-clickers

Last Universal Common Ancestor (LUCA)



Archaea were discovered here at **UIUC** in 1977
by **Carl R. Woese (1928-2012)** and **George E. Fox**



Negative Binomial Definition

- In a series of independent trials with **constant probability of success, p** , let the random variable X denote the **number of trials until r successes occur**. Then X is a **negative binomial** random variable with parameters:

$$0 < p < 1 \text{ and } r = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- The probability mass function is:

$$f(x) = C_{r-1}^{x-1} p^r (1-p)^{x-r} \text{ for } x = r, r+1, r+2, \dots \quad (3-11)$$

- Compare it to binomial

$$f(x) = C_x^n p^x (1-p)^{n-x} \text{ for } x = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

NOTE OF CAUTION: Matlab, Mathematica, and many other sources use x to denote the **number of failures until one gets r successes**.

We stick with **Montgomery-Runger**.

Negative Binomial Mean & Variance

- If X is a **negative binomial** random variable with parameters p and r ,

$$\mu = E(X) = \frac{r}{p} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^2 = V(X) = \frac{r(1-p)}{p^2} \quad (3-12)$$

- Compare to **geometric** distribution:

$$\mu = E(X) = \frac{1}{p} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^2 = V(X) = \frac{(1-p)}{p^2} \quad (3-10)$$

Cancer is scary!

- It hit my family twice last year
- Approximately 39.6 percent of men and women will be diagnosed with cancer at some point during their lifetimes (source: NCI website)

TABLE 21.2 Leading causes of death in United States in 2010. Cause of death is based on the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, 1992.

Rank	Cause of death	Number	Percent of all deaths
–	All causes	2,468,435	100.0
1	Diseases of heart	597,689	24.2
2	Malignant neoplasms	574,743	23.3
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	138,080	5.6
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	129,476	5.2
5	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	120,859	4.9
6	Alzheimer's disease	83,494	3.4
7	Diabetes mellitus	69,071	2.8
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	50,476	2.0
9	Influenza and pneumonia	50,097	2.0
10	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	38,364	1.6

Table from J. Pevsner
3rd edition

Source: National Vital Statistics Reports, 62(6) (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_06.pdf)

- “War on Cancer” – president Nixon 1971.
“Moonshot to Cure Cancer” – vice-president Joe Biden 2016

“War on Cancer” progress report

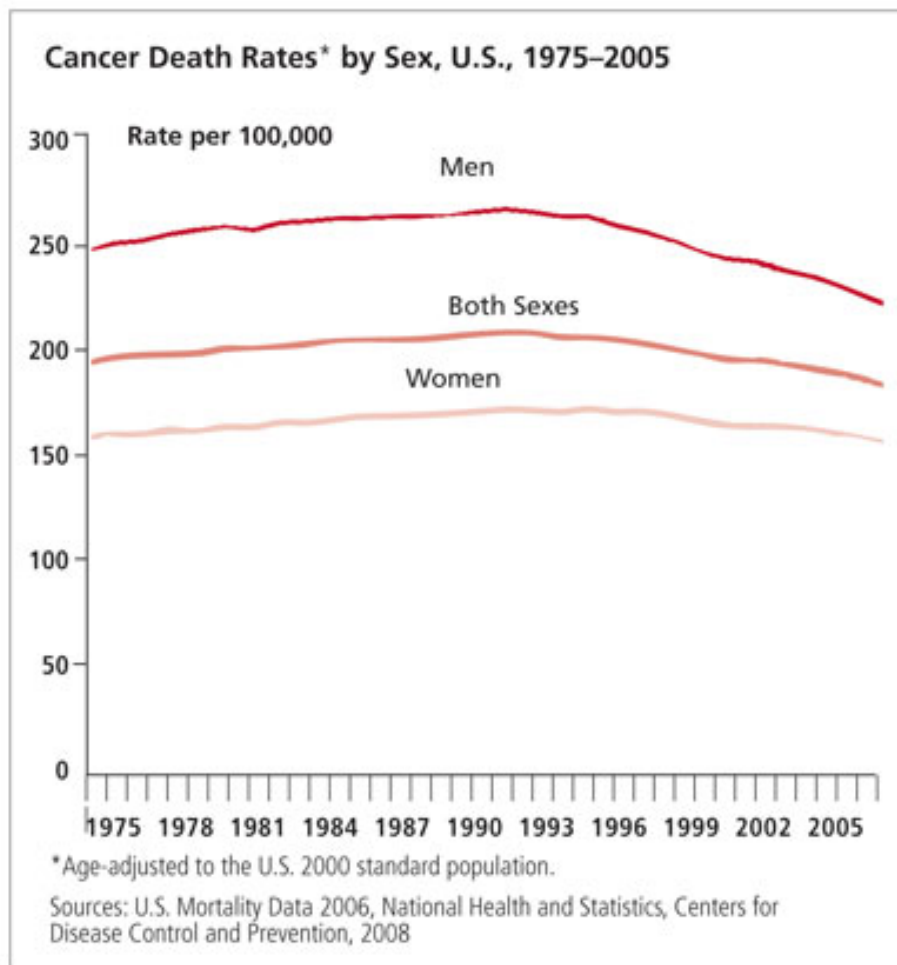


Figure 2

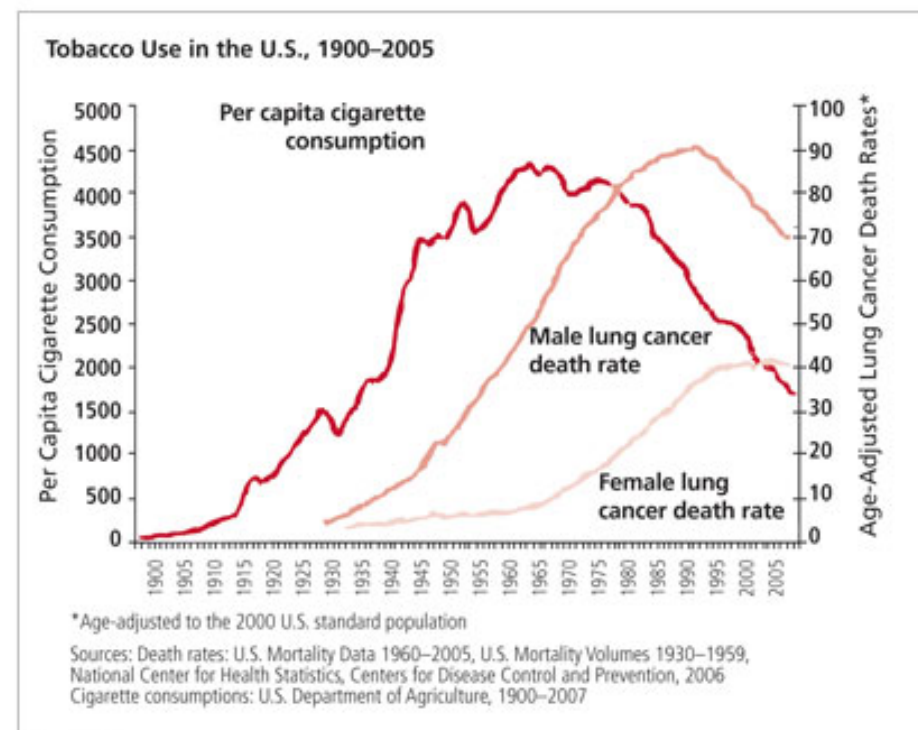


Figure 3

Statistics of Cancer

- Bert Vogelstein et al: Cancer is caused by accumulation of “driver” gene mutations

- Oncogenes: ↑
- Tumor suppressors: ↓
(may need 2 mutations)
- 7 strikes and you are out

Multi-mutation theory of cancer:
Carl O. Nordling (British J. of
Cancer, March 1953):

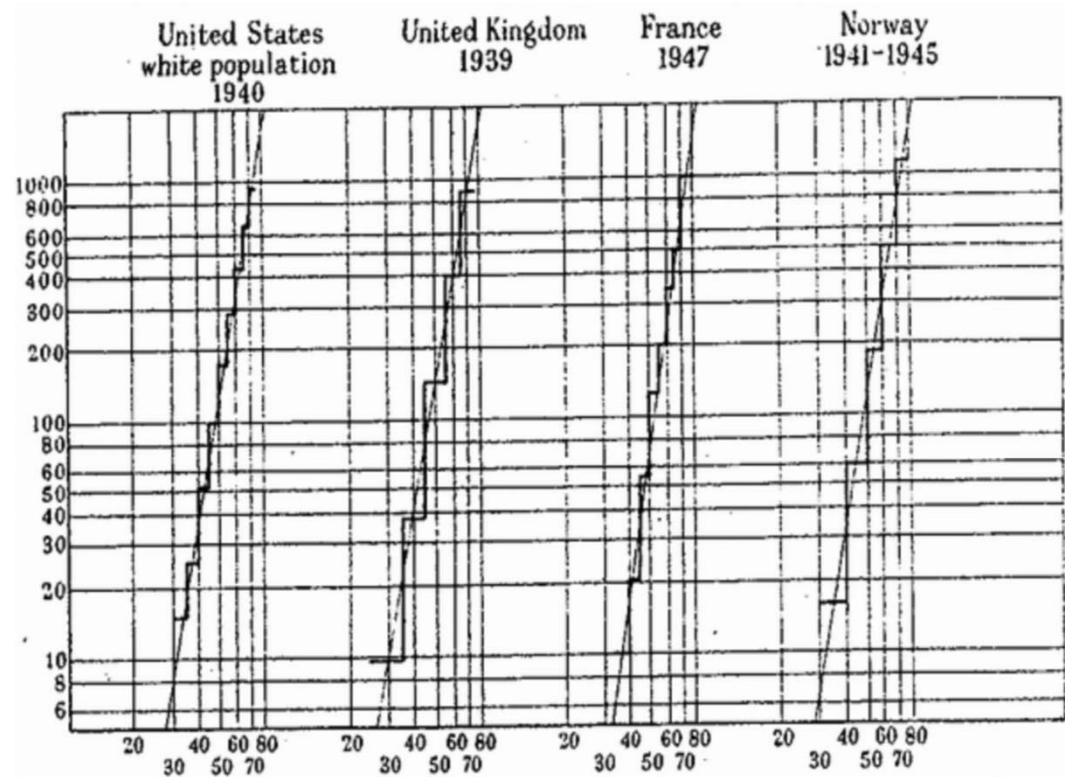


FIG. 1.—Diagram drawn to double logarithmic (log/log) scale showing the cancer death-rate (in the case of the United Kingdom, the carcinoma death-rate) in males at different ages. Deaths per 100,000 males are shown on the vertical scale, age figures on the horizontal scale.

Cancer death rate \sim (patient age)⁶

Ongoing discussion: **how many strikes?**



Only three driver gene mutations are required for the development of lung and colorectal cancers

Cristian Tomasetti^{a,b,1}, Luigi Marchionni^c, Martin A. Nowak^d, Giovanni Parmigiani^e, and Bert Vogelstein^{f,g,1}

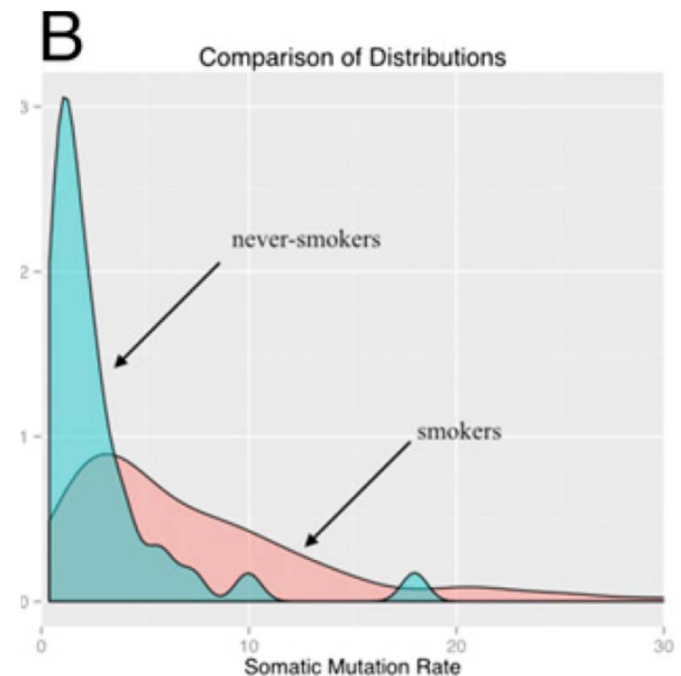
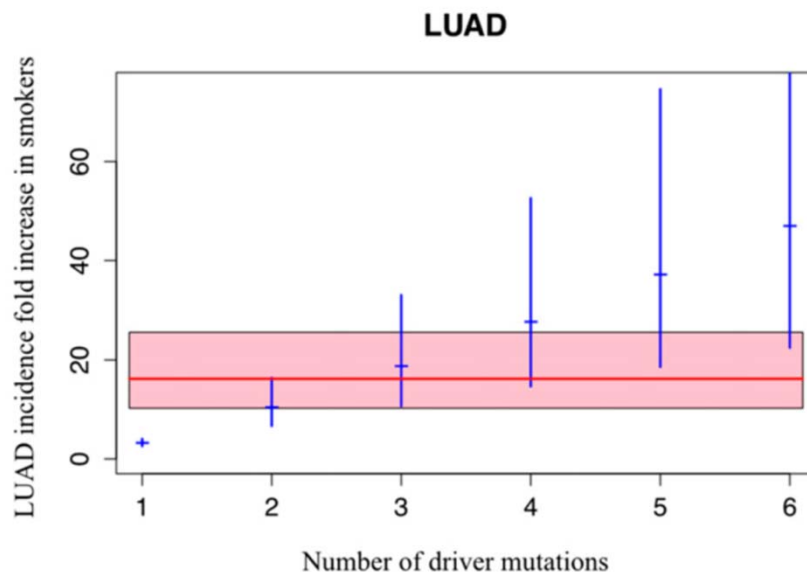
^aDivision of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Department of Oncology, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and ^bDepartment of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD 21205; ^cCancer Biology Program, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205; ^dProgram for Evolutionary Dynamics, Department of Mathematics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; ^eDepartment of Biostatistics and Computational Biology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA 02215; and ^fLudwig Center for Cancer Genetics and Therapeutics and ^gHoward Hughes Medical Institute, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205

Contributed by Bert Vogelstein, November 21, 2014 (sent for review July 31, 2014; reviewed by Zvia Agur)

$$P(T_{\text{cancer}} \leq t) \sim (u_1 t)(u_2 t) \dots (u_n t) = \sim u_1 u_2 \dots u_n t^n$$

$$P(T_{\text{cancer}} = t) \sim (u_1 t)(u_2 t) \dots (u_n t) = \sim u_1 u_2 \dots u_n t^{n-1}$$

Smokers have 3.23 times more mutations



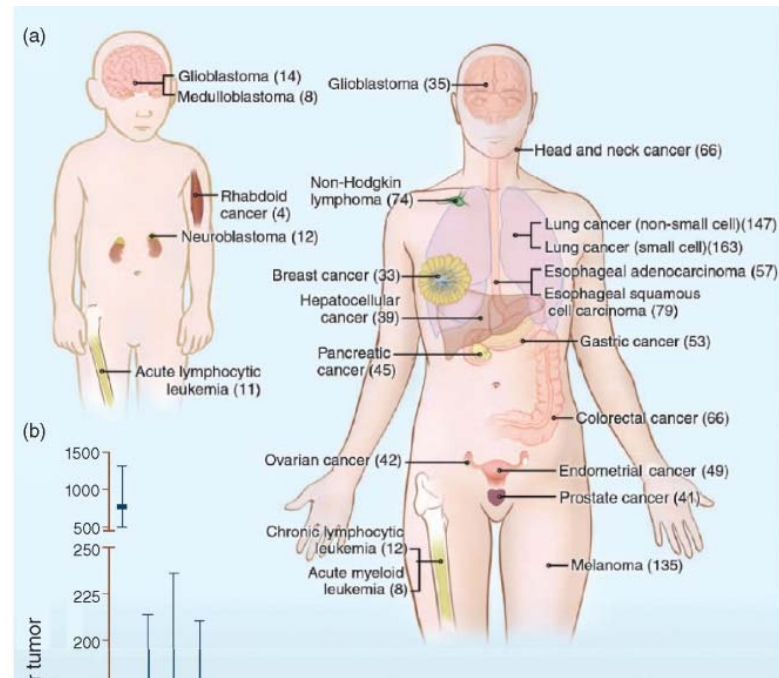
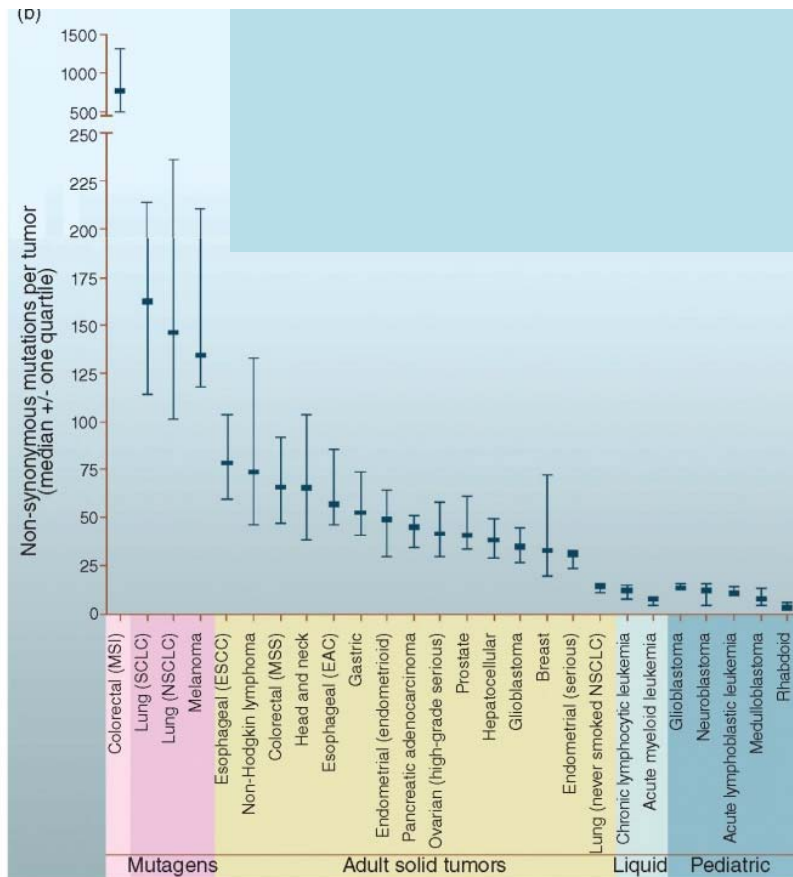


FIGURE 21.10 Somatic mutations in representative human cancers, based on genome-wide sequencing studies. (a) The genomes of adult (right) and pediatric (left) cancers are represented. Numbers in parentheses are the median number of nonsynonymous mutations per tumor. Redrawn from Vogelstein *et al.* (2013). Reproduced with permission from AAAS. (b) Median number of nonsynonymous substitutions per tumor. Horizontal bars indicate the 25% and 75% quartiles. MSI: microsatellite instability; SCLC: small cell lung cancers; NSCLC: non-small cell lung cancers; ESCC: esophageal squamous cell carcinomas; MSS: microsatellite stable; EAC: esophageal adenocarcinomas.

Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics, Third Edition, Jonathan Pevsner.
© 2015 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Published 2015 by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
Companion Website: www.wiley.com/go/pevsnerbioinformatics

- “Drivers” carry “Passengers”
- “Passenger” mutations cause little to no harm
- “Passengers” are common as cancers elevate mutation rate

Passenger mutations: negative binomial distribution

Tug-of-war between driver and passenger mutations in cancer and other adaptive processes

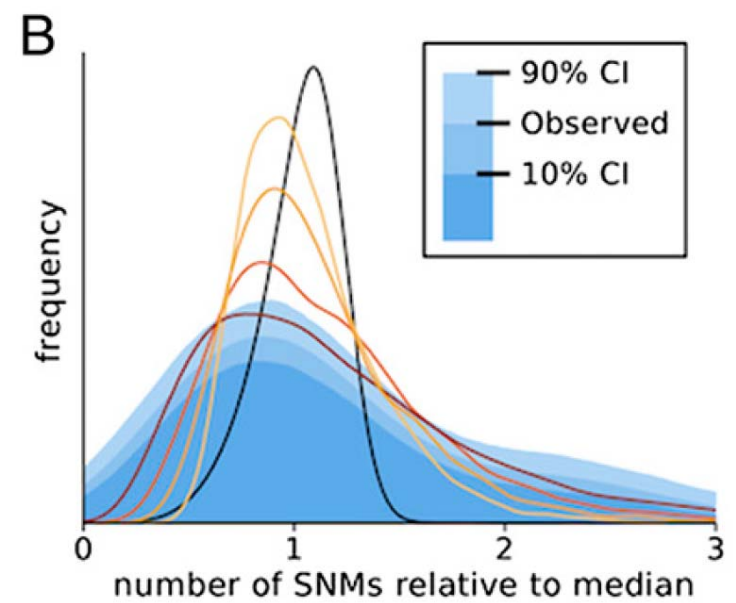
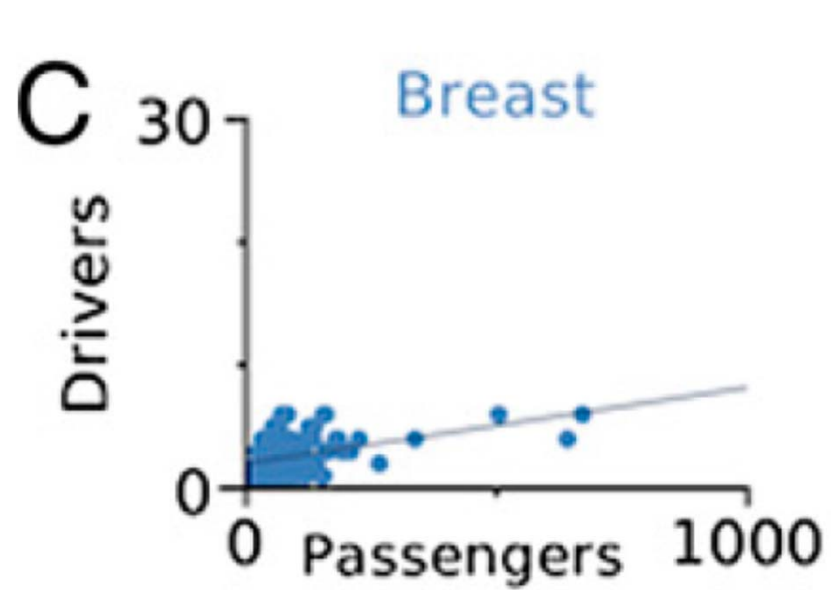
Christopher D. McFarland^a, Leonid A. Mirny^{a,b,c,1}, and Kirill S. Korolev^{b,d,1}

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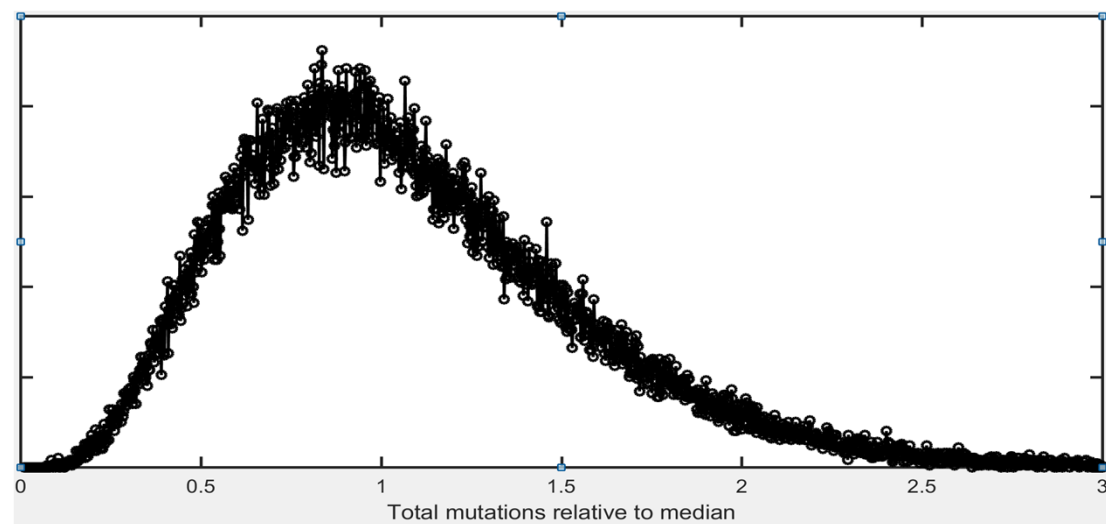
Edited* by Herbert Levine, Rice University, Houston, TX, and approved August 7, 2014 (received for review March 7, 2014)

- What is the **probability** to have n_p **passenger mutations** or (n_p+k) **total mutations** by the time you are diagnosed with cancer requiring k **driver mutations**?
- Let p is the probability that a mutation is a **driver** $(1-p)$ – it is a **passenger**

$$P(n_p + k \mid p, k) = \binom{n_p + k - 1}{n_p} (1-p)^{n_p} p^k$$



McFarland CD, Mirny L, Korolev KS, PNAS 2014



Matlab exercise

- Find mean, variance, and histogram of 100,000 geometrically-distributed numbers with $p=0.1$
- Hint: Use help page for random command on how to generate geometrically-distributed random numbers

Matlab: Geometric distributions

- **Stats=100000;**
- **p=0.1;**
- **r2=random('Geometric',p,Stats,1);**
- **r2=r2+1;**
- **disp(mean(r2));**
- **disp(var(r2));**
- **disp(std(r2));**
- **[a,b]=hist(r2, 1:max(r2));**
- **p_g=a./sum(a);**
- **figure; semilogy(b,p_g,'ko-');**

Matlab: Negative binomial distributions

- **Stats=100000;**
- **r=3; p=0.1;**
- **r2=random('Negative Binomial',r,p,Stats,1);**
- **r2=r2+r;**
- **disp(mean(r2));**
- **disp(var(r2));**
- **disp(std(r2));**
- **[a,b]=hist(r2, 1:max(r2));**
- **p_nb=a./sum(a);**
- **figure; semilogy(b,p_nb,'ko-');**