# MEDICAL GENOMICS

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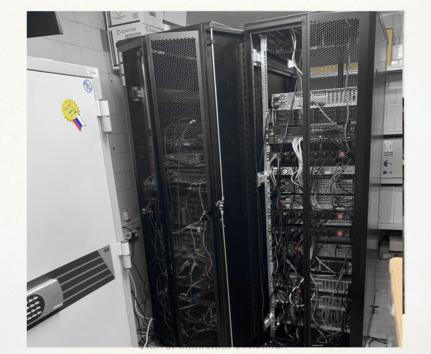
НМИЦ Терапии и профилактической медицины Факультет биоинженерии и биоинформатики МГУ

#### Medical genomics

- Big genomic data enable inference without intervention (aka reverse genetics)
- Data are just around the corner



ЕКАТЕРИНИНСКАЯ БОЛЬНИЦА у петровскихъ воротъ.



У ПЕТРОВСКИХЪ ВОРОТЪ

# Medical genomics

#### Part I. Кто виноват?

- 1. Mutations: origins and rates
- 2. Mutations: transmisson
- 3. Mutations in time: some basics of population genetics
- 4. Mutations in space: genes and consequences
- 5. Mutations in individuals and populations

#### Part II. Что делать?

- 6. Mendelian diseases: gene discovery and diagnostics
- 7. Some basics of quantitative genetics
- 8. Complex diseases: gene discovery and allelic architecture

# Remarks

- Important info: kodomo
- English
- Molecular genetics + population genetics + medical genetics + statistical genetics + genetic epidemiology + bioinformatics => no single textbook
- Many topics not covered: immunology, pathogens, microbiome, therapy, genome editing
- Definitions
- Questions and exercises
- Homework slides 🏠
- Summary, concepts, further reading

#### **Textbooks**

- 1. T.Strachan, A.Read. Human Molecular Genetics. 2011. ISBN 0815345895.
- 2. J. Gillespie. Population genetics. A concise guide 1998 ISBN 0-8018-5764-6
- 3. S. Szalai, et al. Medical genetics and genomics. 2016. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303309837\_M edical\_genetics\_and\_genomics\_2016
- 4. A.Griffiths et al. An Introduction to Genetic Analysis. Freeman/Worth, 11 ed. 2015 ISBN 1464109486
- Бочков Н.П., Пузырев В.П., Смирнихина С.А. Клиническая генетика. Учебник. Под ред. Н.П. Бочкова. ГЭОТАР-Медиа, 4-е издание, 2018. ISBN 978-5-9704-4628-7

MUTATIONS: ORIGINS AND RATES

## Lecture plan

- Human karyotype
- Mitosis and DNA replication
- Replication fidelity and mutation rate
- Exogenous and endogenous DNA damage
- DNA repair mechanisms
- De novo mutations: single nucleotide variants
- Structural variants and CNVs
- · Aneuploidy

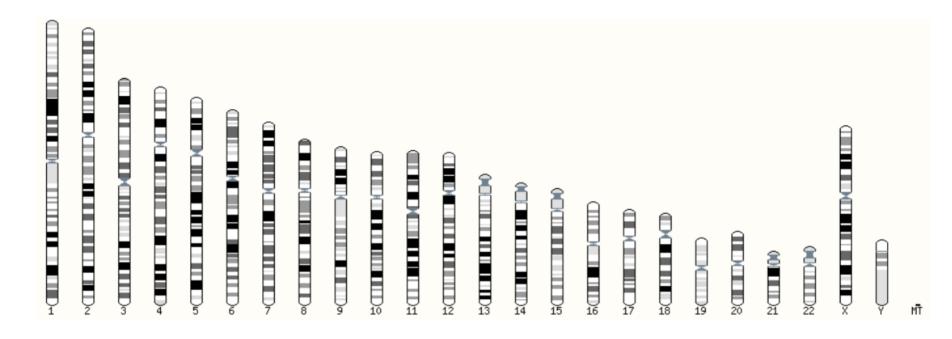
## Human karyotype

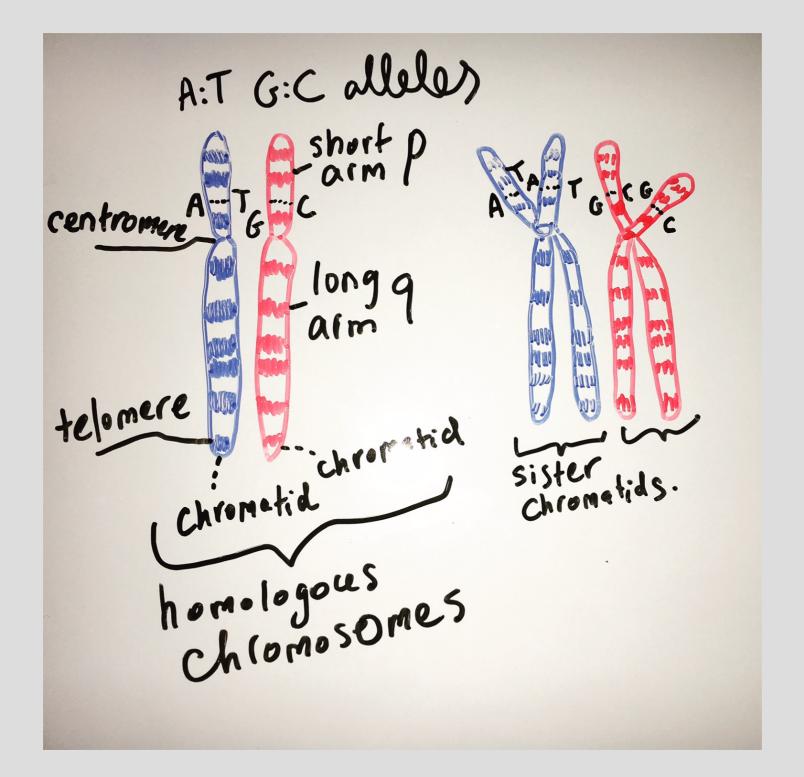


22 pairs of autosomal chromosomes + 2 sex chromosomes

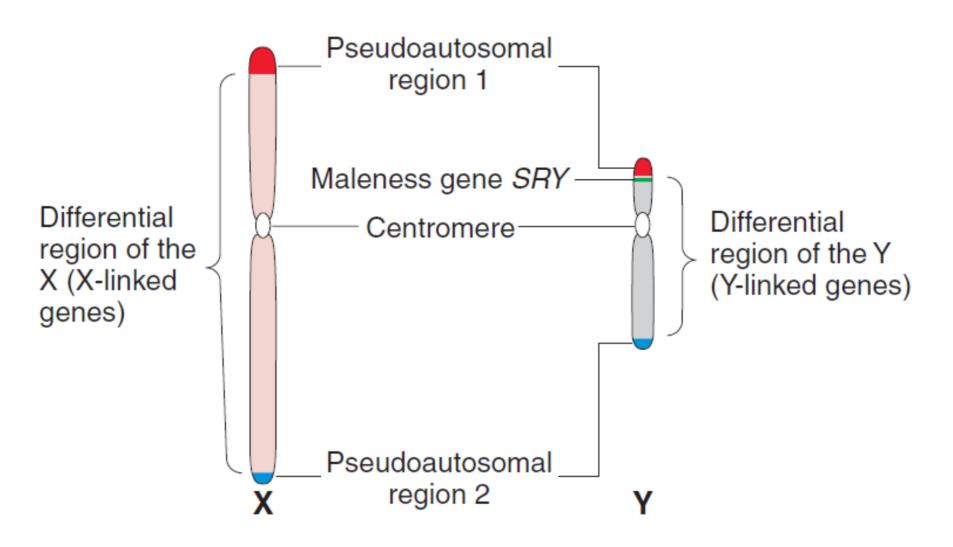
# Human karyotype

- **Euchromatin** (2.9 Gbp): the gene-rich, transcriptionally active regions of the nuclear genome
- Heterochromatin (0.2 Gbp): tightly packed (condensed), transcriptionally inactive, highly repetitive DNA. Location: centromeres, telomeres.
- Metacentric chromosomes have the centromere in the center, such that both arms are of nearly equal length.
- Acrocentric chromosomes (13, 15, 21, 22) have unequal arms.





#### Sex chromosomes



Women: XX, men: XY

Q: transmission of Y chromosome

Griffiths -- Introduction to Genetic Analysis

#### How to check sex of an NGS sample?

## How to check sex of an NGS sample?

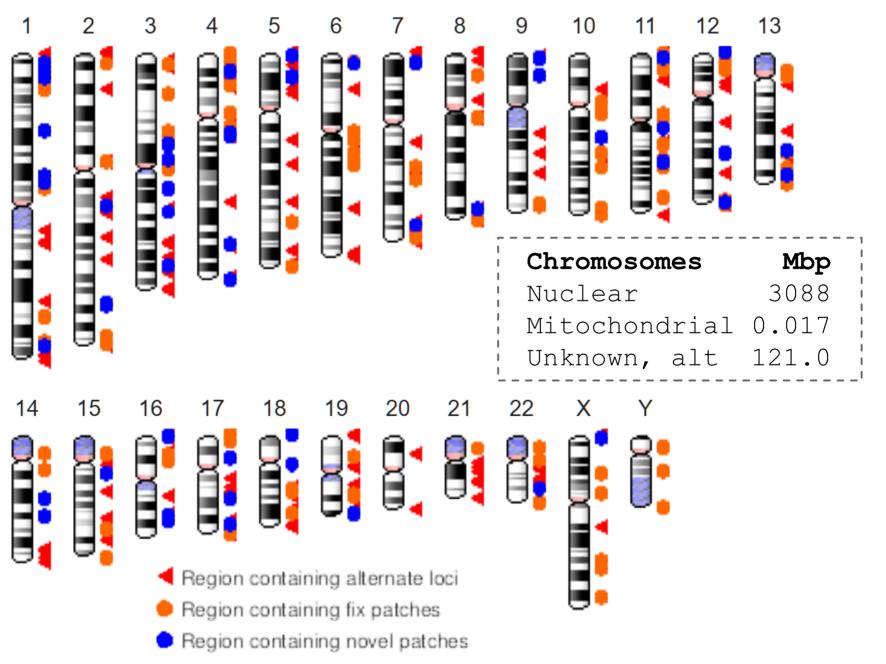
• Heterozygous / Homozygous ratio on chromosome X Het/Hom<0.8 => M, Het/Hom>0.8 => F; suspicious : 0.5-1.0

• *SRY* gene (Sex-determining Region Y): intronless sex-TF protein, responsible for the initiation of male sex determination in mammals



• The human amelogenin genes: *AMELX* and *AMELY* Short arms of X and Y sex chromosomes, share 84% sequence identity. A 6 bp insertion/deletion difference in the first intron of the *AMELY* and *AMELX* genes is typically targeted in forensic sex identification (Tzvetkov 2010 *Pharmacogenomics*)

# Genome Reference Consortium GRCh38.p13

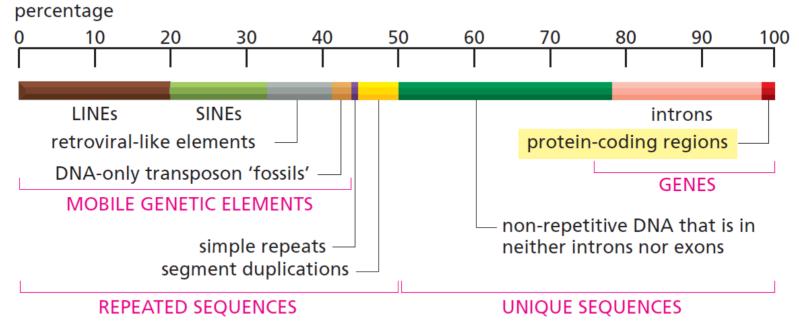


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/grc/human

#### Human genome contents

Regions	Length, Mbp	%	Description
Genes	1,200	37.5	Genomic locus where transcription occurs
Exons	48	1.5	Transcribed genomic region that remain in the RNA after splicing
Other (introns, UTRs)	1,152	36.0	Regions of a coding cDNA which are not translated
Unique and regulatory sequences	510	15.9	
Interspersed repeats	1,400	43.8	
LINEs	640	20.0	~850,000 Long Interspersed Elements (~7,000 bp). Retrotransposed elements containing open reading frames encoding (often inactive) reverse transcription machinery
SINEs, Alu repeats	420	13.1	~1,500,000 Short Interspersed Elements. Retrotransposed elements <500 bp that contain tRNA, snRNA and rRNA, which require other mobile elements to be transposed.
LTR retrotransposons	250	7.8	Transposable elements characterized by the presence of Long Terminal Repeats (LTRs) directly flanking an internal coding region
DNA transposons	90	2.8	Class II transposable elements that move through a DNA intermediate
Microsatellites	90	2.8	A region in the genomic sequence containing short tandem repeats of 2-10bp
Total	3,200	100.0	

#### Human genome contents



#### Alberts - Essential Cell Biology

Element	Transposition	Structure	Length	Copy number	Fraction of genome
LINEs	Autonomous	ORF1 ORF2 (pol )	1–5 kb	20,000-40,000	21%
SINEs	Nonautonomous	AAA	100-300 bp	1,500,000	13%
DNA transposons	Autonomous	← transposase →	2–3 kb	300,000	3%
	Nonautonomous	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	80–3000 bp		

#### Griffiths -- Introduction to Genetic Analysis

# ENSEMBL gene annotation GRCh38 v.99

Gene biotype	Genes (Transcripts)	%	Description
Proten coding	19,968 (153,197)	32.9	Genes that contain an open reading frame (ORF)
Pseudogenes	15,263	25.2	Genes that have homology to known protein- coding genes but contain a frameshift and/or stop codon(s) which disrupts the ORF
To be confirmed	1,060	1.7	Require experimental validation
T-cell receptors, immunoglobulins	408	0.7	Undergo somatic recombination before transcription
RNA genes	23,977	39.5	
lncRNA	16,880		A non-coding gene >200bp in length
snRNA	1,910		Processing of pre-messenger RNA
miRNA	1,879		A small RNA (~22bp) that silences the expression of target mRNA
snoRNA	942		Post-transcriptional modification of other RNAs
Other	2,366		rRNA, sRNA, scRNA, scaRNA, miscRNA
Total	60,676 (227,818)	100	

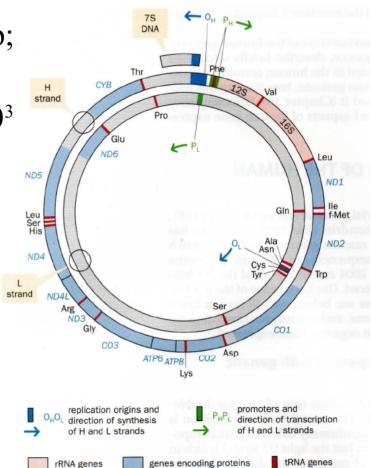
# ENSEMBL gene annotation GRCh38 v.99

Chromosome	Approximate length (bp)	Protein-coding genes	Non-protein coding gene	es Pseudogenes
1	248956422	2047	1964	1233
2	242193529	1303	1605	1033
3	198295559	1075	1160	768
4	190214555	753	984	732
5	181538259	881	1200	710
6	170805979	1041	989	803
7	159345973	989	977	893
8	145138636	670	1041	629
9	138394717	778	786	678
10	133797422	728	880	568
11	135086622	1312	1053	815
12	133275309	1036	1197	627
13	114364328	321	586	378
14	107043718	820	857	519
15	101991189	613	986	513
16	90338345	867	1033	467
17	83257441	1185	1198	531
18	80373285	269	608	246
19	58617616	1474	895	514
20	64444167	543	594	250
21	46709983	231	403	183
22	50818468	492	513	332
X	156040895	843	640	872
Υ	57227415	63	108	392
Mitochondrial	16569	13	24	

#### Jackson (2018) Essays Biochem

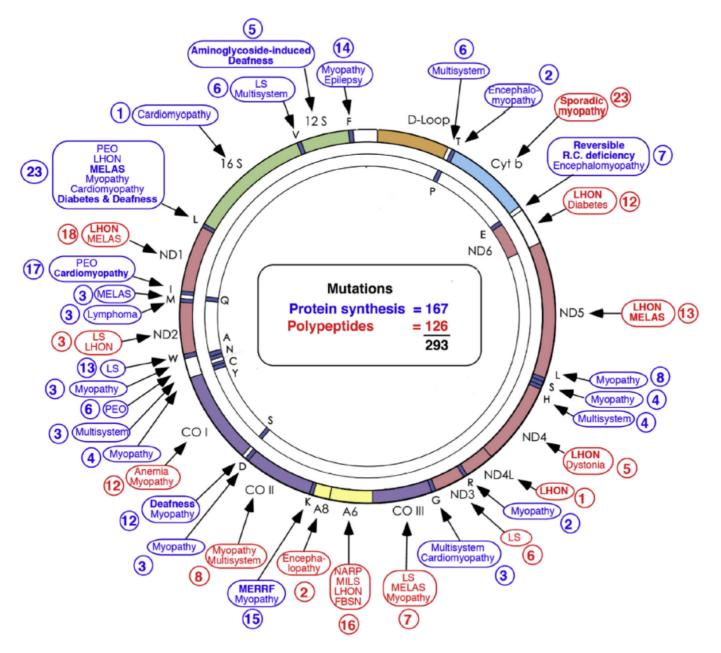
# Mitochondrial genome

- **mtDNA**: circular, double-stranded, 16,569 bp; H and L chains; similar to bacteria
- Egg only, maternally inherited; each cell: ~10<sup>3</sup> copies; highly heterogeneous
- 37 genes: 22 tRNA + 2 rRNA + 13 coding
- 13 polypeptides are part of **mitochondrial respiratory complex** (Sugars → ATP), together with multiple nuclear genes
- mtDNA is to some extent autonomous, with its own genetic code
- Stop codons: TAA, TAG, AGA, AGG

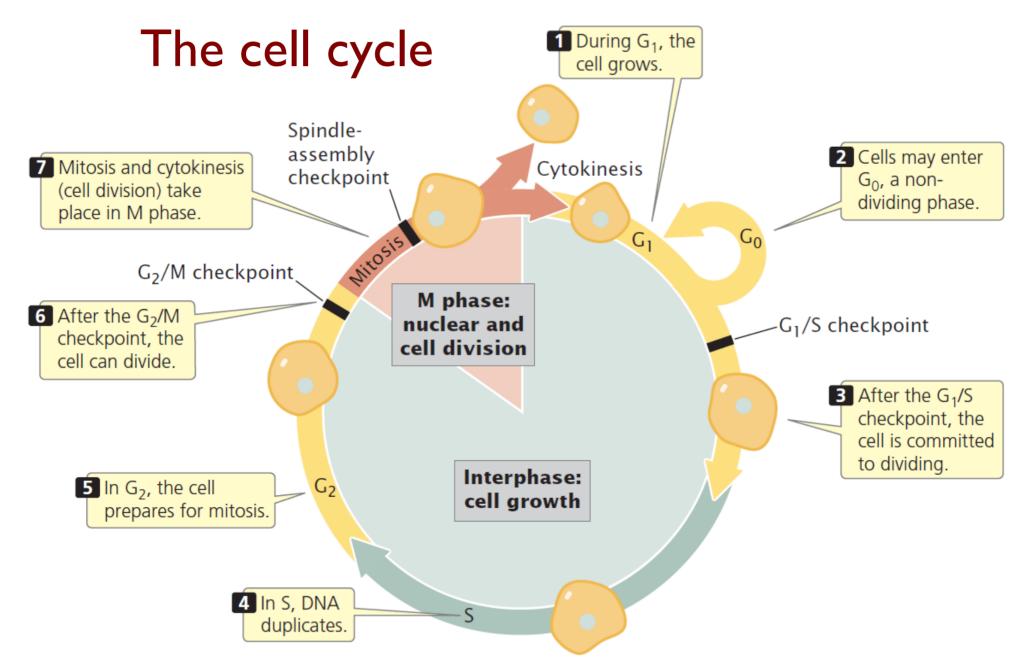


- **Mitochondrial diseases**: a heterogeneous group of inherited anomalies in oxidative phosphorylation due to mutations in the mitochondrial (70%) or nuclear DNA (30%)
- $\sim$  ~300 disease-causing point mutations known in mtDNA

# Pathogenic mutations in mtDNA

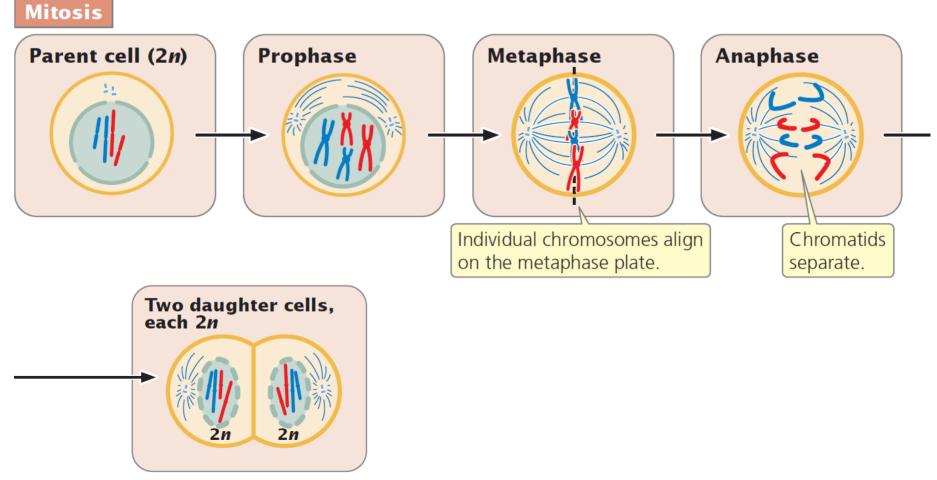


DiMauro (2017) Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathies



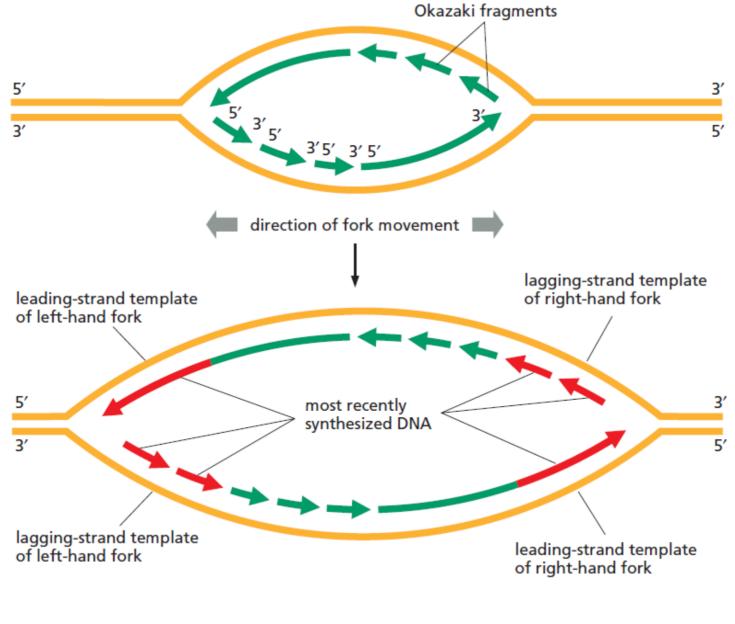
#### 2.7 The cell cycle consists of interphase and M phase.

#### Mitosis



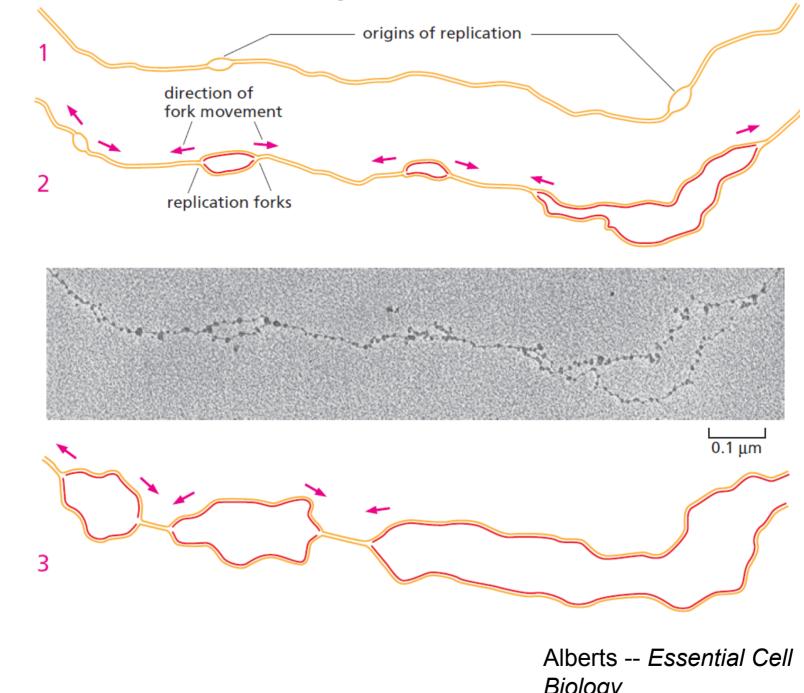
**Mitosis**: a type of cell division that results in two daughter cells with the set of chromosomes as the parent nucleus, typical of ordinary tissue growth

#### **DNA** replication forks

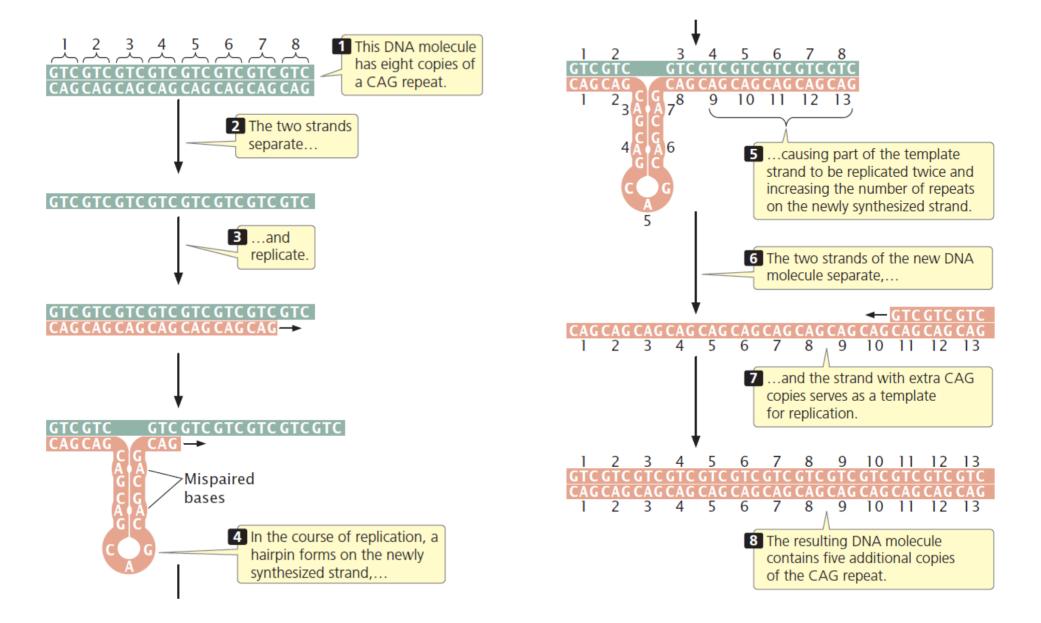


Alberts -- Essential Cell Biology

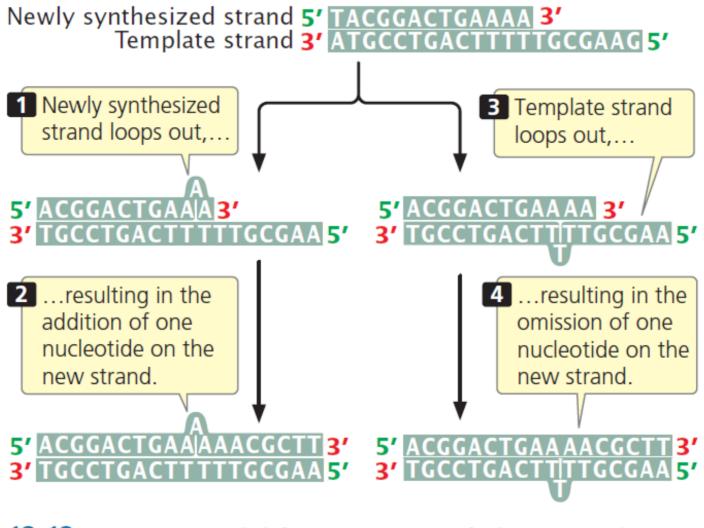
#### **DNA** replication forks



#### Repeat expansion during replication



#### Repeat expansion during replication



13.13 Insertions and deletions may result from strand slippage.

#### Repeat expansion and disease

Table 13.1         Examples of genetic diseases caused by expanding trinucleotide repeats				
		Number of Copies of Repeat		
Disease	Repeated Sequence	Normal Range	Disease Range	
Spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy	CAG	11–33	40–62	
Fragile-X syndrome	CGG	6–54	50–1500	
Jacobsen syndrome	CGG	11	100–1000	
Spinocerebellar ataxia (several types)	CAG	4–44	21–130	
Autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxia	CAG	7–19	37–220	
Myotonic dystrophy	CTG	5–37	44–3000	
Huntington disease	CAG	9–37	37–121	
Friedreich ataxia	GAA	6–29	200–900	
Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy	CAG	7–25	49–75	
Myoclonus epilepsy of the Unverricht–Lundborg type*	CCCCGCCCCGCG	2–3	12–13	

*Exercise:* find related genes in OMIM database



#### OMIM®

Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man®

An Online Catalog of Human Genes and Genetic Disorders

Updated February 12, 2021

Search OMIM for clinical features, phenotypes, genes, and m

Q

# Dissected OMIM Morbid Map Scorecard (Updated February 12th, 2021) :

Class of phenotype	Phenotype	Gene *
Single gene disorders and traits	5,740	4,006
Susceptibility to complex disease or infection	694	499
"Nondiseases"	151	119
Somatic cell genetic disease	231	130

\*Some genes may be counted more than once because mutations in a gene may cause more than one phenotype and the phenotypes may be of different classes (e.g., activating somatic BRAF mutation underlying cancer, 164757.0001. and germline BRAF mutation in Noonan syndrome, 164757.0022.)

#### **Mutations**

Mutations are random changes in DNA sequences

Mutations are the cause of all genetic variation and genetic disease.

Mechanisms of mutation:

- Spontaneous replication errors
- Endogenous (spontaneous) DNA damage: deamination, depurination
- Exogenous (induced) DNA damage: chemical agents, radiation

**Variants** = mutations (recent changes), polymorphisms (segregating in a population), engineered (non-random) changes

#### **Mutations**

**Single nucleotide variant**: change of the base of a single DNA nucleotide (90%)

- Transition (G>A, C>T)
- Transversion (C>G, etc)

Short deletion: removal of few (<50bp?) nucleotides (6%)

- Deletion of a unique sequence
- Contraction of a short repeat
- Short insertion: addition of few (<50bp?) nucleotides (2%),
- Insertion of a unique sequence
- Expansion of a short repeat

Structural variant (2%): sequence change ~1 kbp and larger in size

• Balanced

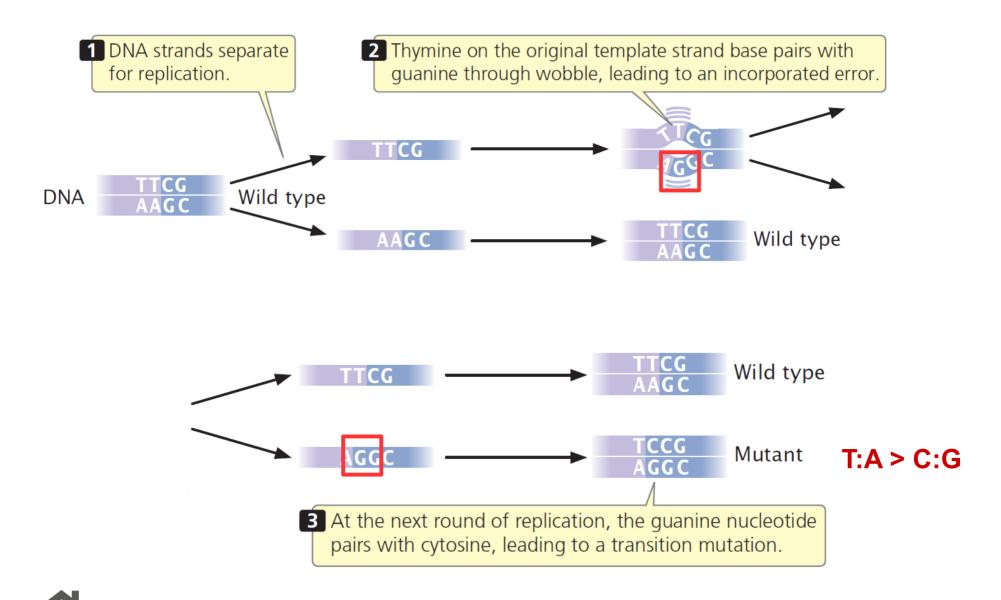
Inversion or translocation

• Unbalanced (aka CNV, copy number variant)

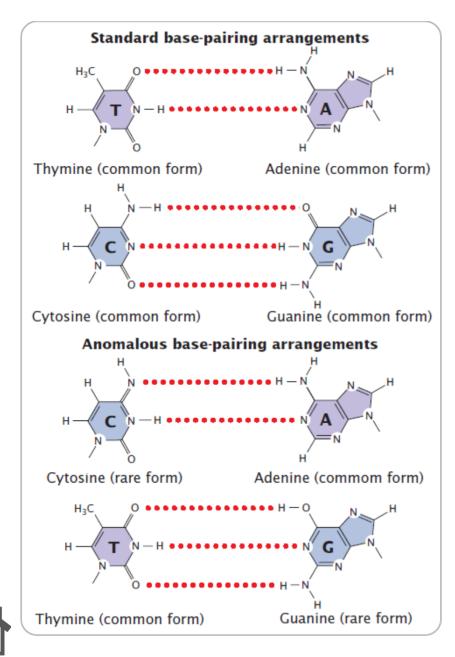
Tandem or dispersed duplication, deletion, insertion

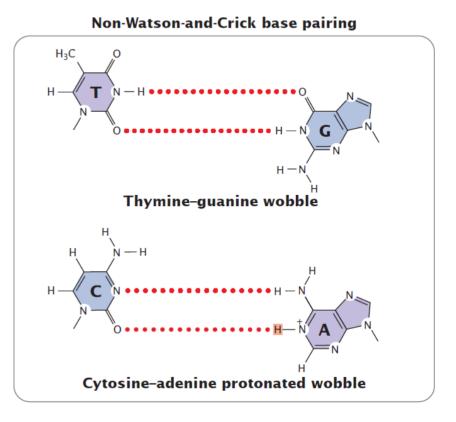
**Aneuploidy**: wrong number of whole chromosomes: nullisomy, monosomy, trisomy

# Replication errors become mutations



## Standard and non-standard base pairing

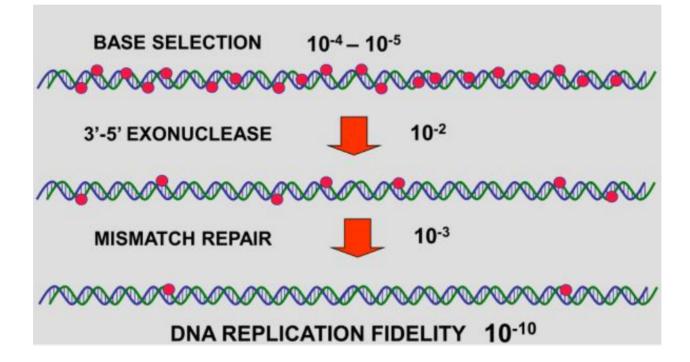




#### Mechanisms of replication fidelity

**Overall mutation rate:** 10<sup>-10</sup> per nucleotide per replication

- 1. DNA polymerase:  $\sim 10^{-5}$  error rate
- 2. Proof reading 3'>5' exonuclease removes 99% mispairings:  $\sim 10^{-2}$
- 3. Mismatch repair (MMR) machinery removes and restores DNA fragment around the mismatch:  $\sim 10^{-3}$



Fijalkowska (2012) FEMS Microbiology Rev

#### Mechanisms of replication fidelity

**Overall mutation rate:** 10<sup>-10</sup> per nucleotide per replication

TABLE 6–1 ERROR RATES	
US Postal Service on-time delivery of local first-class mail	13 late deliveries per 100 parcels
Airline luggage system	1 lost bag per 200
A professional typist typing at 120 words per minute	1 mistake per 250 characters
Driving a car in the United States	1 death per 10 <sup>4</sup> people per year
DNA replication (without mismatch repair)	1 mistake per 10 <sup>7</sup> nucleotides copied
DNA replication (including mismatch repair)	1 mistake per 10 <sup>9</sup> nucleotides copied

#### Mutation rate and its consequences

S: mutation rate per nucleotide per cell division

*K*: the average number of germline cell divisions per generation, from zygote to zygote ( $\sim$ 30 in females,  $\sim$ 60–500 in males)

*N*: genome size

#### Mutation rate per genome: $S \times K \times N$

 $\sim 10^{-10}$  per nucleotide per cell division (or  $\sim 10^{-8}$  per generation, because there are  $\sim 100$  cell divisions and rounds of DNA replication per human generation  $\Rightarrow \sim 100 \ de \ novo$  mutations in a newborn

1) ~1% of all newborns being affected by a serious disease due to a de novo mutation. If the mutation rate were 100 times higher,  $10^{-8}$  per cell division, we would immediately **go extinct**.

2)  $10^{14}$  cells in human body  $\Rightarrow$  total number of somatic mutations in each person ?



Crumbling Genome: The Impact of Deleterious Mutations on Humans, First Edition. Alexey S. Kondrashov. © 2017 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Published 2017 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

#### Mutation rate and its consequences

Genes Genet. Syst. (2019) 94, p. 13-22

### Spontaneous *de novo* germline mutations in humans and mice: rates, spectra, causes and consequences

Mizuki Ohno\*

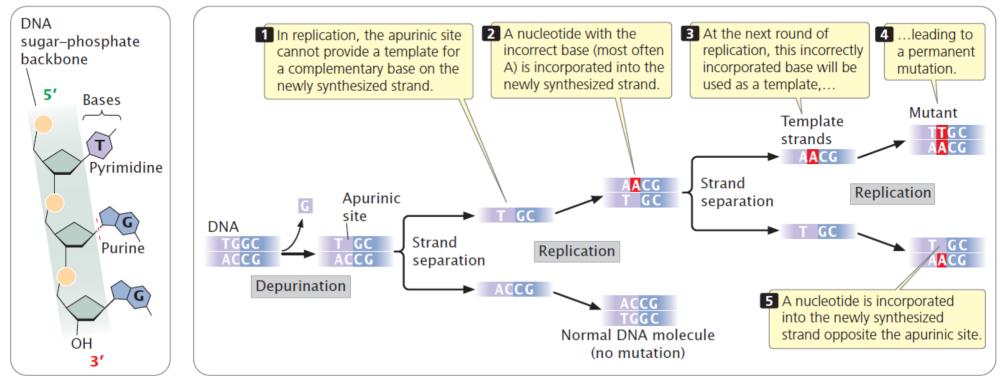
The human body consists of approximately 10<sup>14</sup> cells and undergoes approximately 10<sup>16</sup> cell divisions in a lifetime, resulting in **over 10<sup>15</sup> cumulative mutations per individual** (Frank, 2014).

If  $10^6$  stem cells in intestinal tissue generate transient daughter cells once a week with a mutation rate of approximately  $10^{-9}$  per nucleotide per cell division, the intestinal epithelium of a 60-year-old human would have accumulated more than  $10^9$  independent mutations. Thus, **nearly every genomic site is likely to be mutated in at least one cell in this organ** (Lynch, 2010a, 2010b).

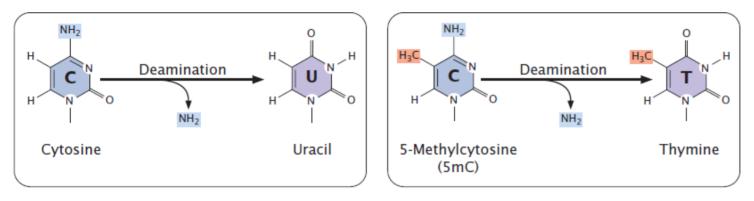


### Endogenous DNA damage

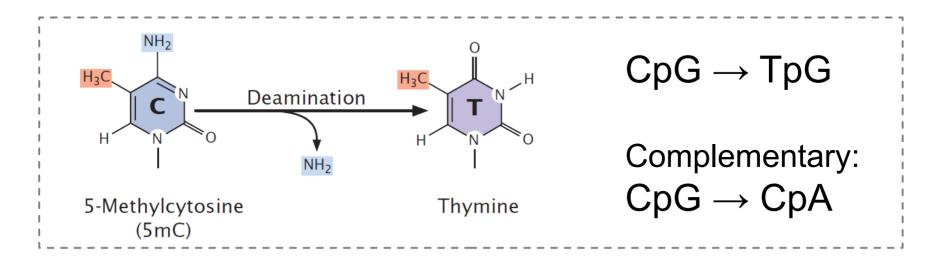
#### Depurination $G:C \rightarrow A:T$



Deamination C:G  $\rightarrow$  U:A  $\rightarrow$  T:A C:G  $\rightarrow$  5mC:G  $\rightarrow$  T:G  $\rightarrow$  T:A



### Deamination of 5'-methylcytosine



- Cannot be detected by DNA repair system, because it produces a normal base
- Most mutations occur in male germ cells (M/F = 7:1), because of heavy methylation of sperm DNA and high number of cell divisions
- Example: 46% of point mutations in coagulation factor VIII (*F8*) in unrelated hemophilia A patients
- 23% of all mutations in Human Gene Mutation Database (1998)



#### Exogenous DNA damage

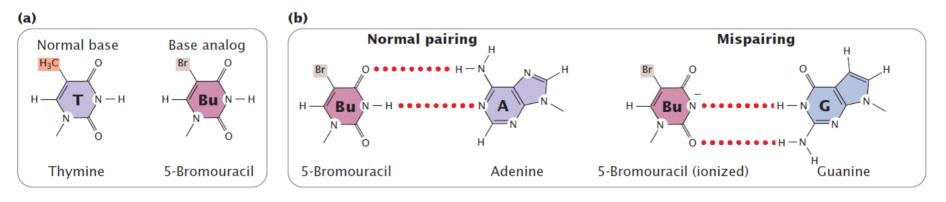
Chemical mutagens

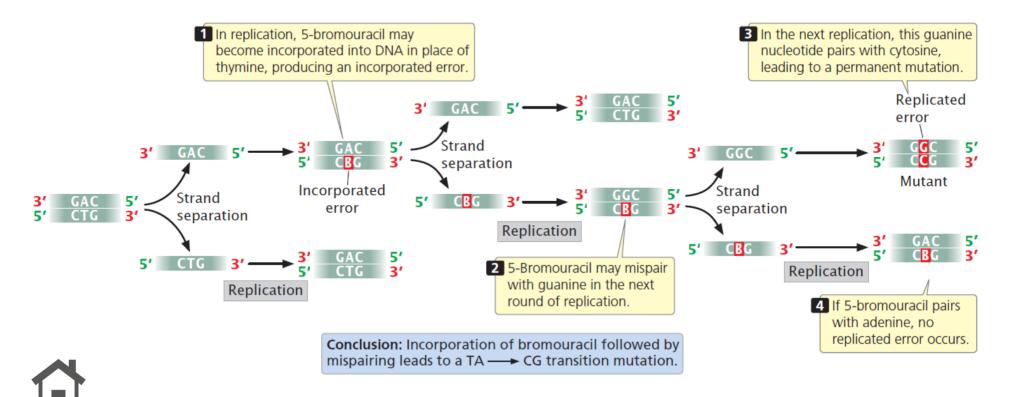
- Base analogs: 5-bromouracil, 2-aminopurine
- Alkylating agents: methyl  $(-CH_3)$  and ethyl  $(-CH_3-CH_2)$  groups added to nucleotide bases
- **Deamination**: nitrous acid deaminates cytosine, creating uracil
- Hydroxylamine: adds a hydroxyl group (–OH) to cytosine
- Intercalating agents: proflavin, acridine orange, ethidium bromide, dioxin

50 nm /ellow Green Radiation Gamma Cosmic UV Radio waves Microwaves Infrared X ravs rays rays • **Ionizing:**  $\sim 10^{-5} - 1 \text{ nm}$ 10<sup>9</sup> nm 10<sup>6</sup> nm 10<sup>3</sup> nm 10<sup>-3</sup> nm 10<sup>-5</sup> nm 10<sup>3</sup> m 1 nm (1m)lonizing radiation • Ultra-violet:  $\sim 1 - 380 \text{ nm}$ Lowest Energy level Highest

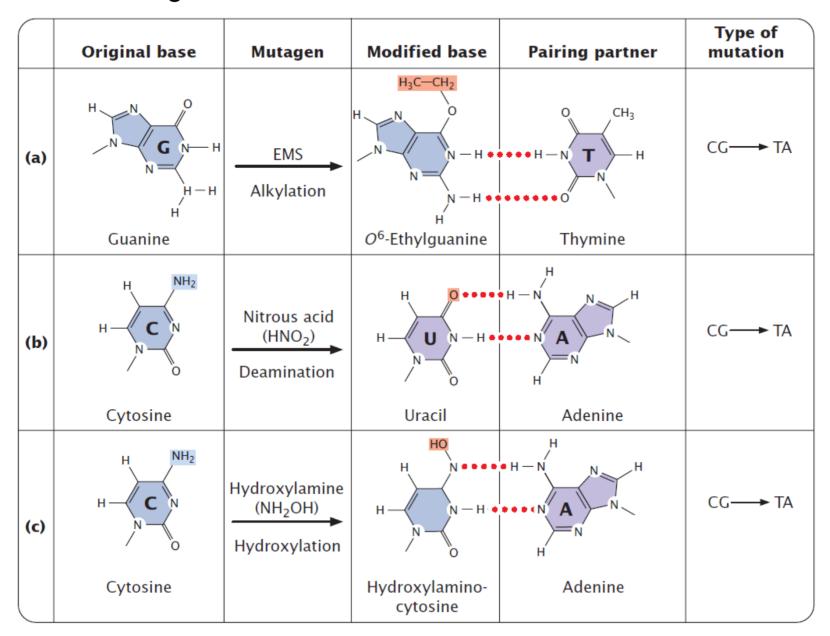
### Exogenous DNA damage

#### Chemical mutagens: 5-bromouracil

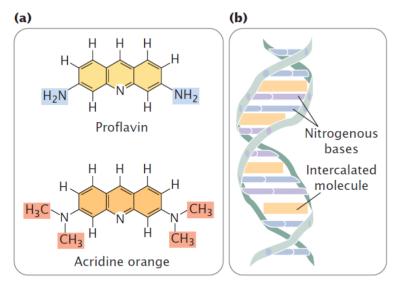




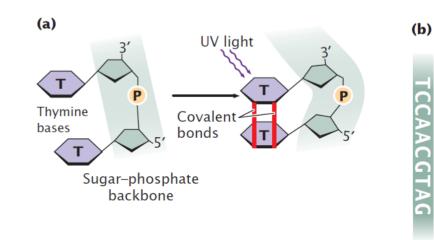
## Chemical mutagens

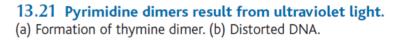


### Exogenous DNA damage



13.20 Intercalating agents such as proflavin and acridine orange insert themselves between adjacent bases in DNA, distorting the three-dimensional structure of the helix and causing single-nucleotide insertions and deletions in replication.





## **Intercalating agents:** distorted DNA ⇒ insertions and deletions **Ionizing radiation:**

- Free radicals, reactive ions  $\Rightarrow$  altered bases
- Double-strand breaks

**UV light:** Pyrimidune dimers (TpT, CpC, CpT)  $\Rightarrow$  distorted DNA  $\Rightarrow$  replication blocked  $\Rightarrow$  apoptosis or continued error-prone replication

## Endogenous DNA damage

**Depurination**: about 5000 adenine or guanine bases are lost every day from each nucleated human cell by spontaneous hydrolysis of the base-sugar link

**Deamination**: at least 100 cytosines each day in each nucleated human cell are spontaneously deaminated to produce uracil.

Attack by reactive oxygen species: highly reactive superoxide anions and related molecules are generated as a by-product of oxidative metabolism in mitochondria. They can also be produced by the impact of ionizing radiation on cellular constituents. These reactive oxygen species attack purine and pyrimidine rings.

**Nonenzymatic methylation**: accidental nonenzymatic DNA methylation by S-adenosyl methionine produces about 300 molecules per cell per day of the cytotoxic base 3-methyl adenine, plus a quantity of the less harmful 7-methyl guanine.

Strachan, Read. Human Molecular Genetics, Chapter 13



#### Exogenous DNA damage

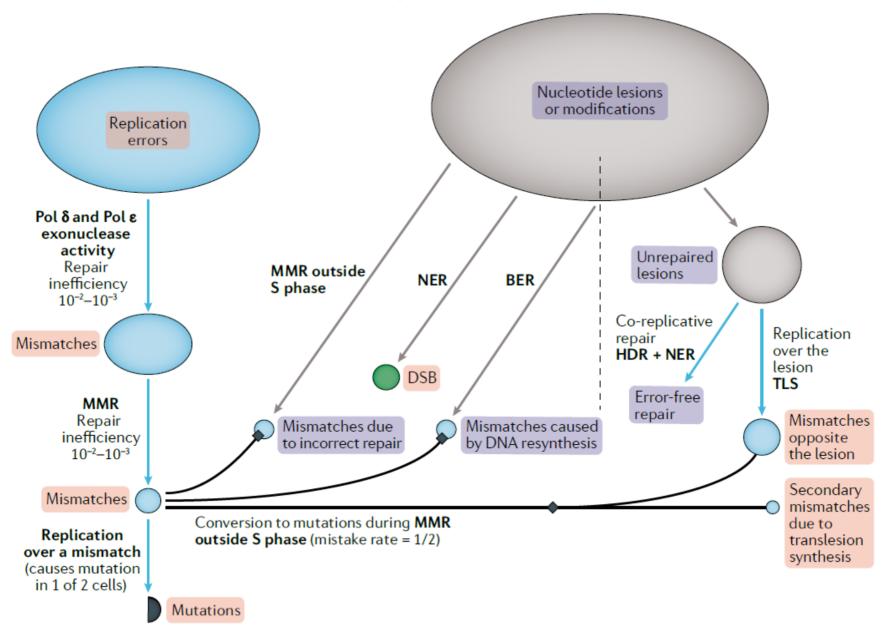
**Ionizing radiation**: gamma- and X-rays can cause single-strand or double-strand breaks in the sugar-phosphate backbone.

**Ultraviolet radiation**: UV-C rays (with a wavelength of about 260 nm) are especially damaging, but the major source of UV damage in humans is from the UV-B rays (260-315 nm) in sunlight that can penetrate the ozone layer. UV radiation causes cross-linking between adjacent pyrimidines on a DNA strand to form cyclobutane pyrimidine dimers and other abnormal photoproducts.

**Environmental chemicals**: these include hydrocarbons (for example, in cigaretre smoke), some plant and microbial products such as the aflatoxins found on moldy peanuts, and chemicals used in cancer chemotherapy. Alkylating agents can transfer a methyl or other alkyl group onto DNA bases and can cause cross-linking between bases within a strand or between different DNA strands.

Strachan, Read. Human Molecular Genetics, Chapter 13

#### Sources of point mutations



Seplyarskiy and Sunyaev (2021) Nat Rev Genet

## REVIEWS



# The origin of human mutation in light of genomic data

#### Vladimir B. Seplyarskiy<sup>1,2</sup> and Shamil Sunyaev<sup>1,2</sup>

Abstract | Despite years of active research into the role of DNA repair and replication in mutagenesis, surprisingly little is known about the origin of spontaneous human mutation in the germ line. With the advent of high-throughput sequencing, genome-scale data have revealed statistical properties of mutagenesis in humans. These properties include variation of the mutation rate and spectrum along the genome at different scales in relation to epigenomic features and dependency on parental age. Moreover, mutations originated in mothers are less frequent than mutations originated in fathers and have a distinct genomic distribution. Statistical analyses that interpret these patterns in the context of known biochemistry can provide mechanistic models of mutagenesis in humans.

Seplyarskiy and Sunyaev (2021) Nat Rev Genet

#### DNA repair mechanisms

One strand affected:

- Mismatch repair (MMR) during replication
- Direct reversal
- Base excision repair (BER) before replication
- Nucleotide excision repair (NER) before replication

Both strands affected:

- Non-homologous end joining (NHEJ): ionizing radiation; errors at the replication fork; strong oxidizing agents; metabolites produced in the cell
- Homologous recombination (HR): when a double-strand break occurs shortly after a stretch of DNA has been replicated; at that time, the duplicated helices are still in close proximity to one another

#### DNA mismatch repair mechanism (MMR) (1)

Incorrectly paired bases distort the three-dimensional structure of DNA, and mismatch repair enzymes detect these distortions. A complex of mismatch-repair enzymes cuts out the distorted section of the newly synthesized strand and fills the gap with new nucleotides, by using the original DNA strand as a template. The template strand **1**S recognized by the presence of methyl groups on special sequences 45 of the old strand.

(a)

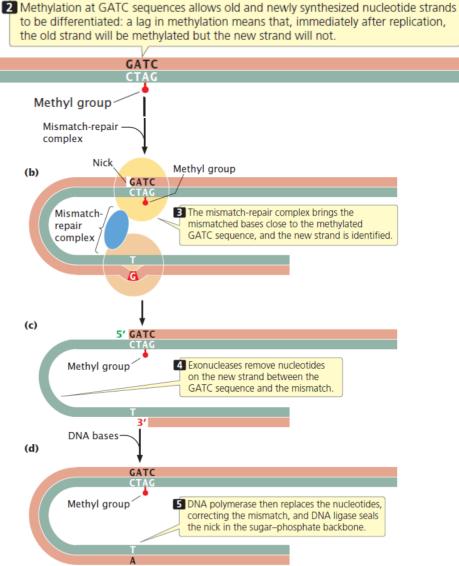
New DNA

Old (template) DNA

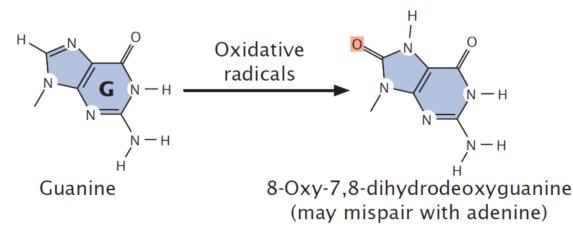
In DNA replication, a

mismatched base was

added to the new strand.



#### Repair by direct reversal (2)



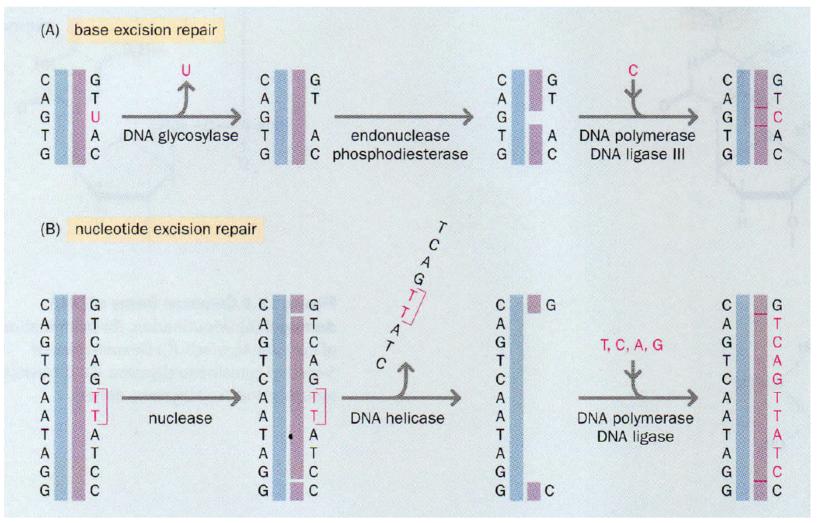
13.28 Direct repair changes nucleotides back into their original structures.

**Direct repair** does not replace altered nucleotides but, instead, changes them back into their original structures. For example, direct repair corrects O<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine, an alkylation product of guanine that pairs with adenine, producing G:C $\rightarrow$ T:A transversions. An enzyme called O<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase removes the methyl group from O<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine, restoring the base to guanine.

#### Base and nucleotide excision repair (3, 4)

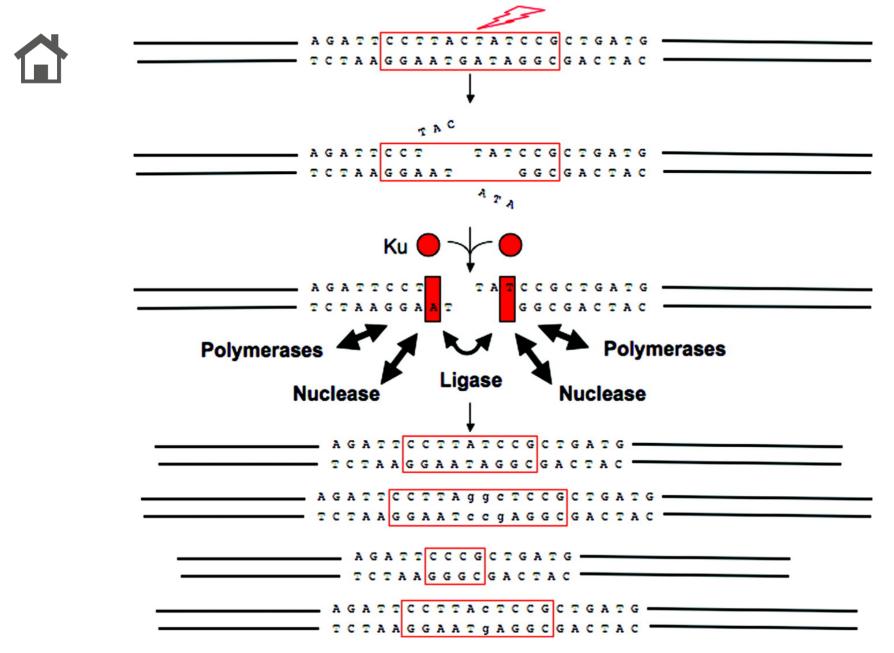


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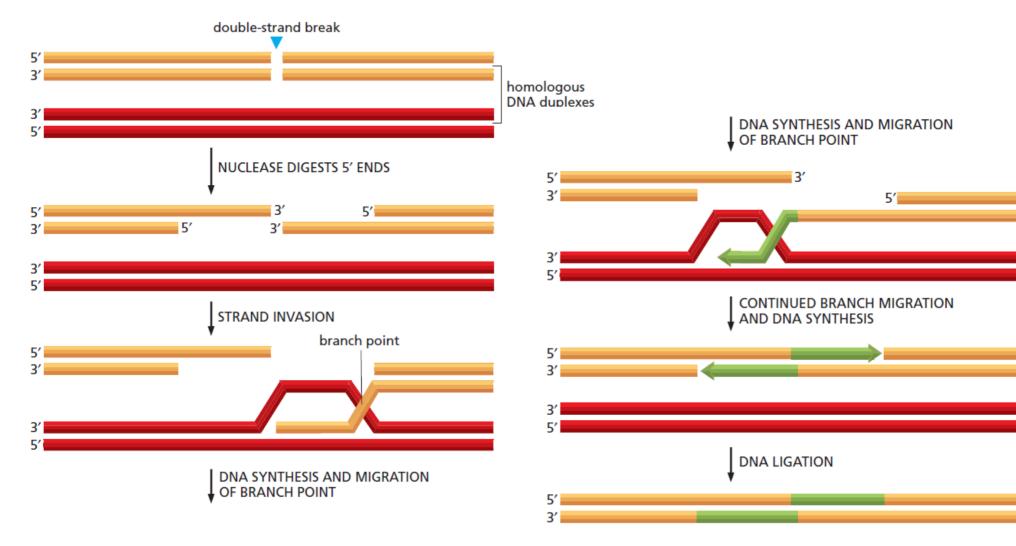
(A) Base excision repair (BER) corrects most common DNA damages: ~20,000 bases in each cell per day
(B) Nucleotide excision repair (NER) remove thymide dimers and large chemical alterations Strachan, Read. *Human Molecular Genetics*

#### Non-homologous end joining (NHEJ)



Michael R. Lieber (2008) J. Biol. Chem.

### Repair by homologous recombination (HR)



#### Homologous recombination:

exchange of genetic information between homologous DNA molecules

NET RESULT: DOUBLE-STRAND BREAK IS ACCURATELY REPAIRED

## Genetic diseases associated with defects in DNA-repair systems

Disease	Symptoms	Genetic Defect	
Xeroderma pigmentosum	Frecklelike spots on skin, sensitivity to sunlight, predisposition to skin cancer	Defects in nucleotide-excision repair	
Cockayne syndrome	Dwarfism, sensitivity to sunlight, premature aging, deafness, mental retardation	Defects in nucleotide-excision repair	
Trichothiodystrophy	Brittle hair, skin abnormalities, short stature, immature sexual development, characteristic facial features	Defects in nucleotide-excision repair	
Hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer	Predisposition to colon cancer	Defects in mismatch repair	
Fanconi anemia	Increased skin pigmentation, abnormalities of skeleton, heart, and kidneys, predisposition to leukemia	Possibly defects in the repair of interstrand cross-links	
Ataxia telangiectasia	Defective muscle coordination, dilation of blood vessels in skin and eyes, immune deficiencies, sensitivity to ionizing radiation, predisposition to cancer	Defects in DNA-damage detection and response	
Li–Fraumeni syndrome	Predisposition to cancer in many different tissues	Defects in DNA-damage response	

*Exercise:* find related genes in OMIM database

# Genetic diseases associated with defects in DNA-repair systems

Location	Phenotype	Phenotype MIM number	Inheritance	Phenotype mapping key	Gene/Locus	Gene/Locus MIM number
17p13.1	Li-Fraumeni syndrome	151623	AD	3	TP53	191170

- Li–Fraumeni syndrome is a rare, autosomal dominant, hereditary disorder that predisposes carriers to cancer development.
- The risk of developing any invasive cancer (excluding skin cancer) is about 50% by age 30 (1% in the general population) and is 90% by age 70.
- The syndrome is linked to germline mutations of the *TP53* tumor suppressor gene, which encodes a transcription factor P53 that normally assists in the control of cell division and growth. TP53 typically becomes expressed due to cellular stressors, such as DNA damage, and can halt the cell cycle to assist with either the repair of repairable DNA damage, or can induce apoptosis of a cell with irreparable damage.

## Genetic diseases associated with defects in DNA-repair systems

**Xeroderma pigmentosum**, a rare autosomal recessive condition that includes **abnormal skin pigmentation and acute sensitivity to sunlight**. Persons who have this disease also have a **strong predisposition to skin cancer**, with an incidence ranging from 1000 to 2000 times that found in unaffected people.

The cells of most people with xeroderma pigmentosum are defective in nucleotide excision repair, and many of their pyrimidine dimers (UV from sunlight) remain uncorrected and may lead to cancer.

