



John Innes Centre

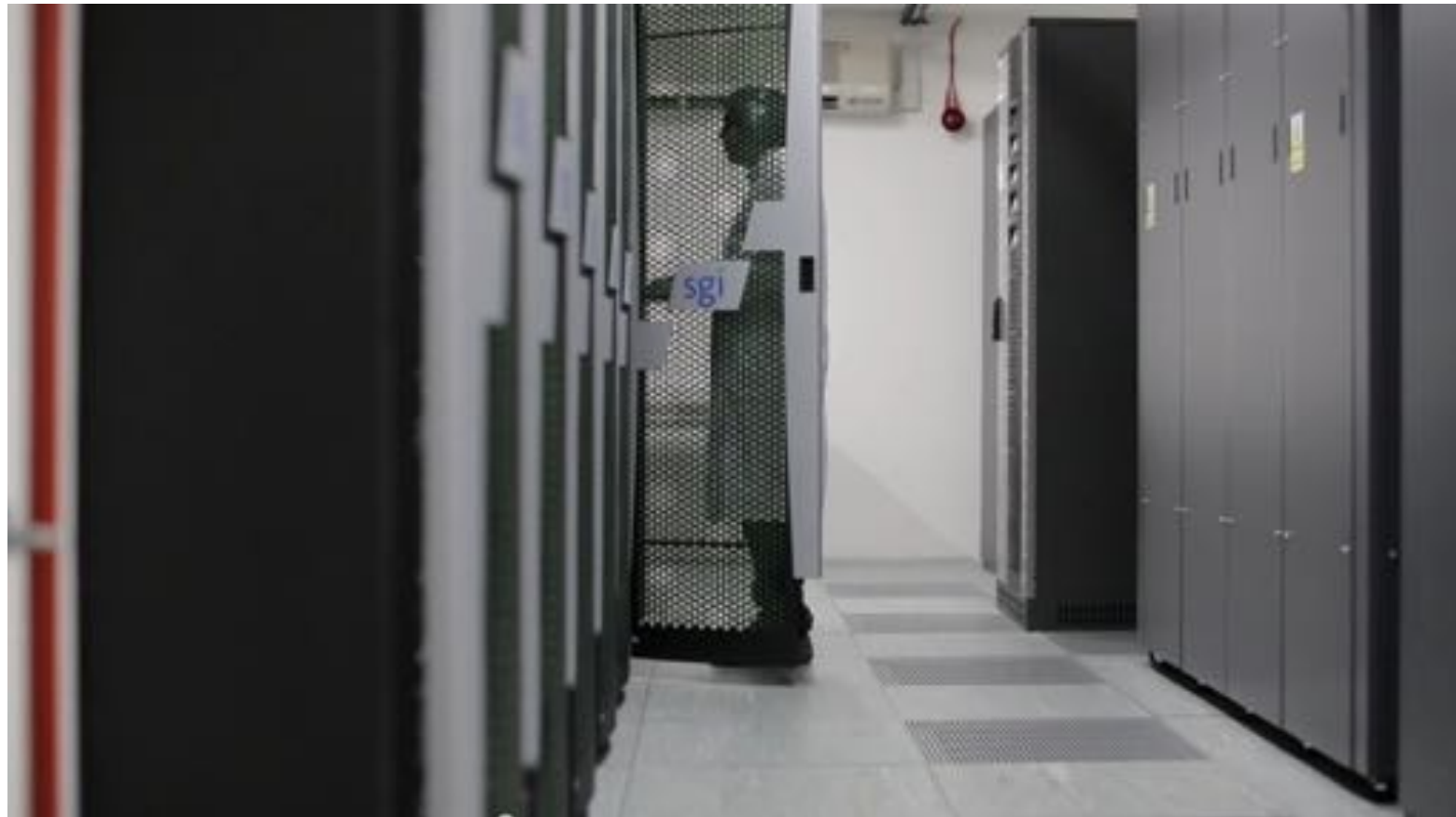
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# Genome-specific primer design with PolyMarker

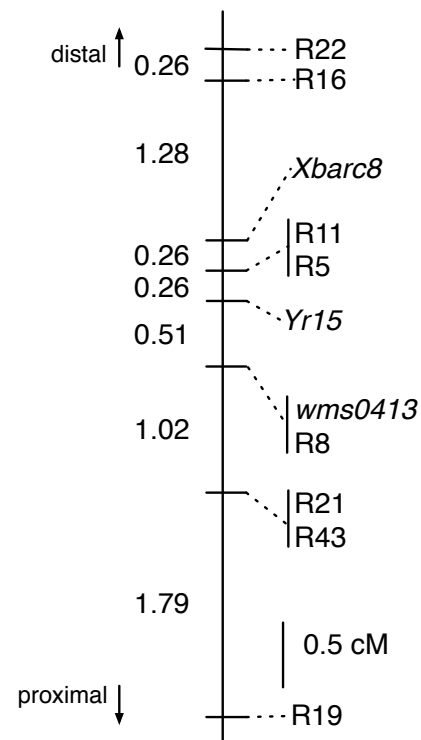
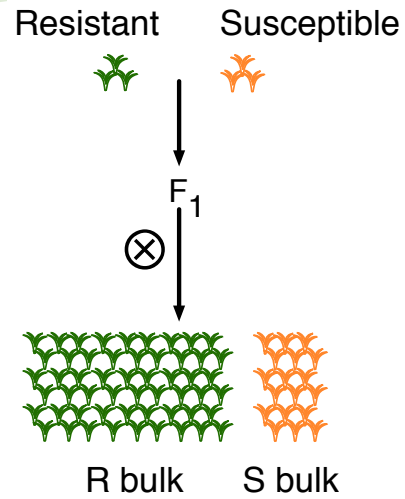
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RICARDO H. RAMIREZ GONZALEZ

# A computer scientist turned to biology

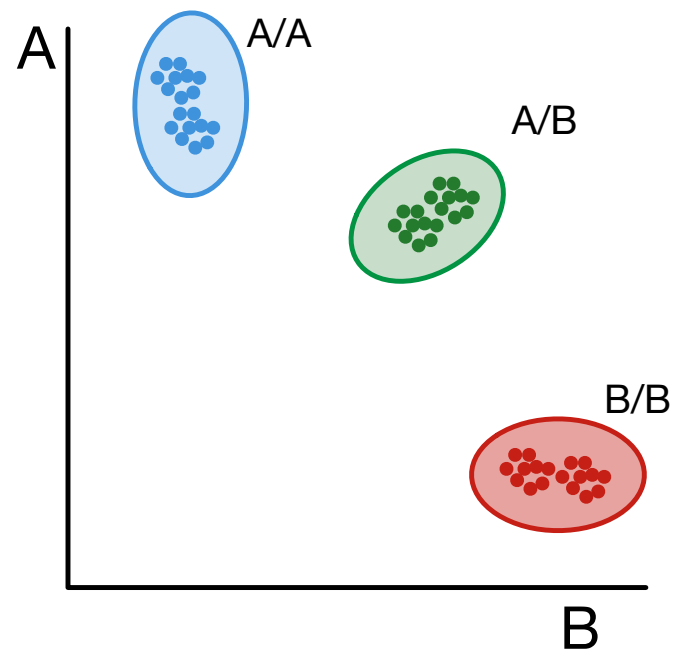
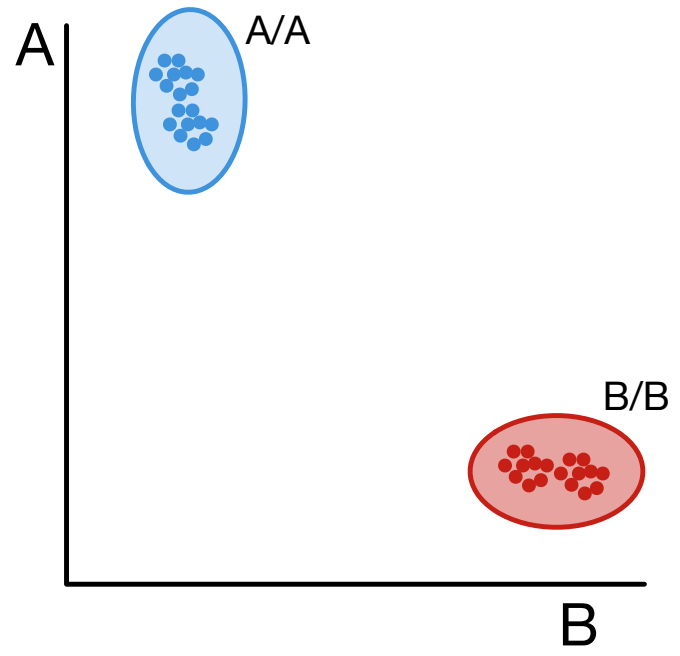
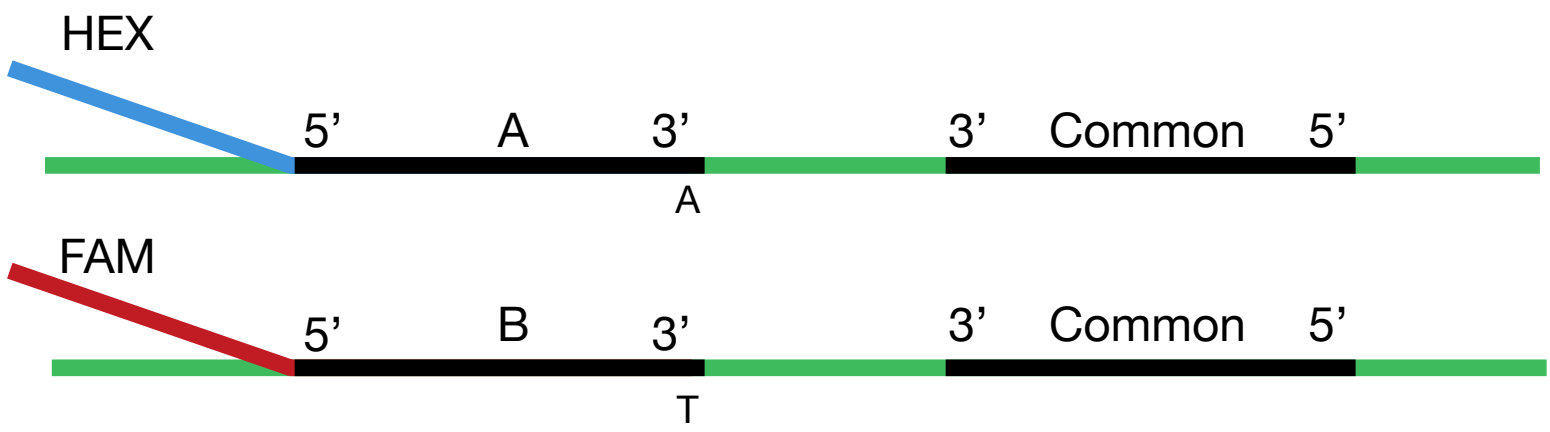


# Genotyping applications

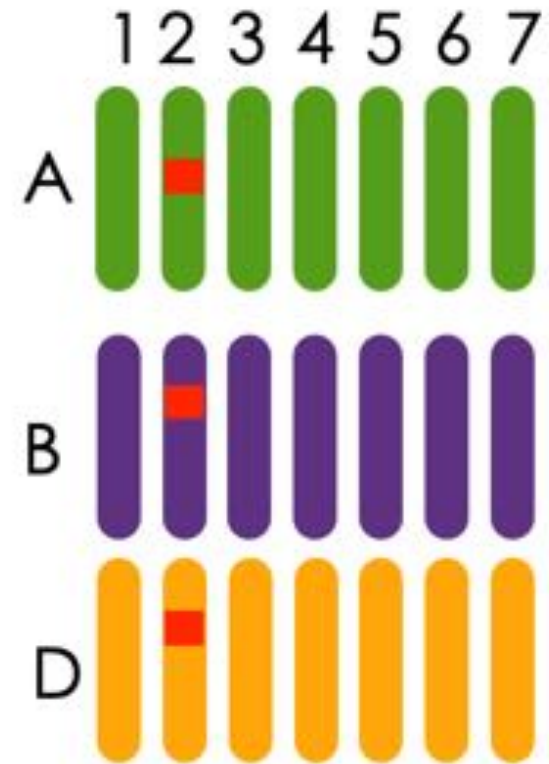
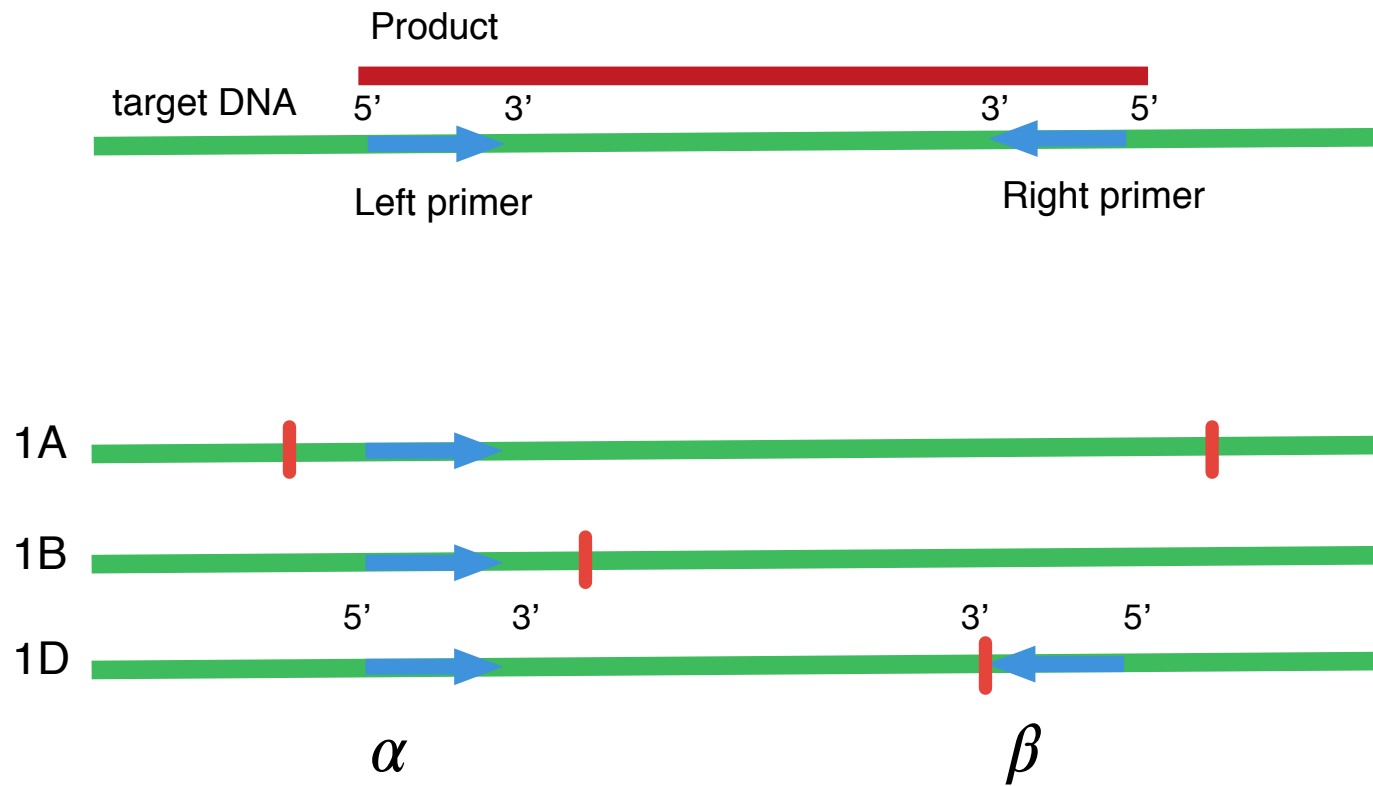


Ramirez-Gonzalez, R, *et al.* (2014). RNA-Seq bulked segregant analysis enables the identification of high-resolution genetic markers for breeding in hexaploid wheat. *Plant Biotech. J.*, 12(9), 1–12.

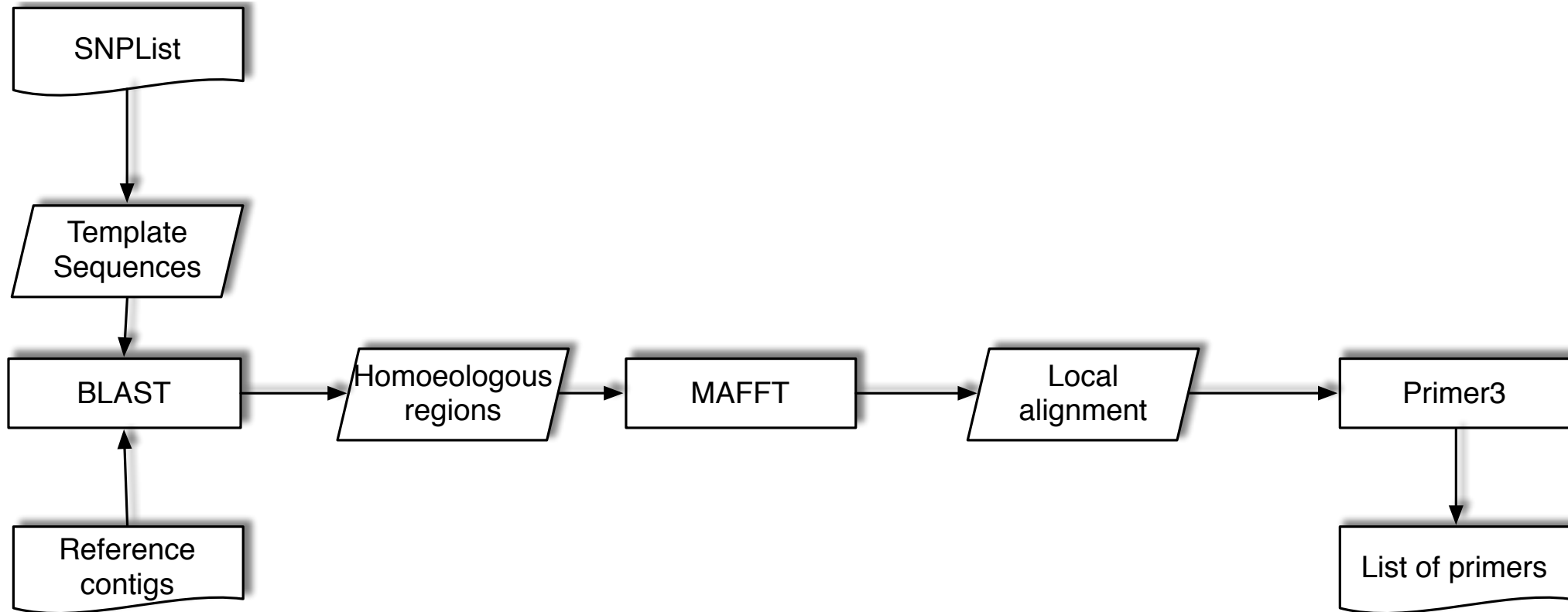
# KASP genotyping



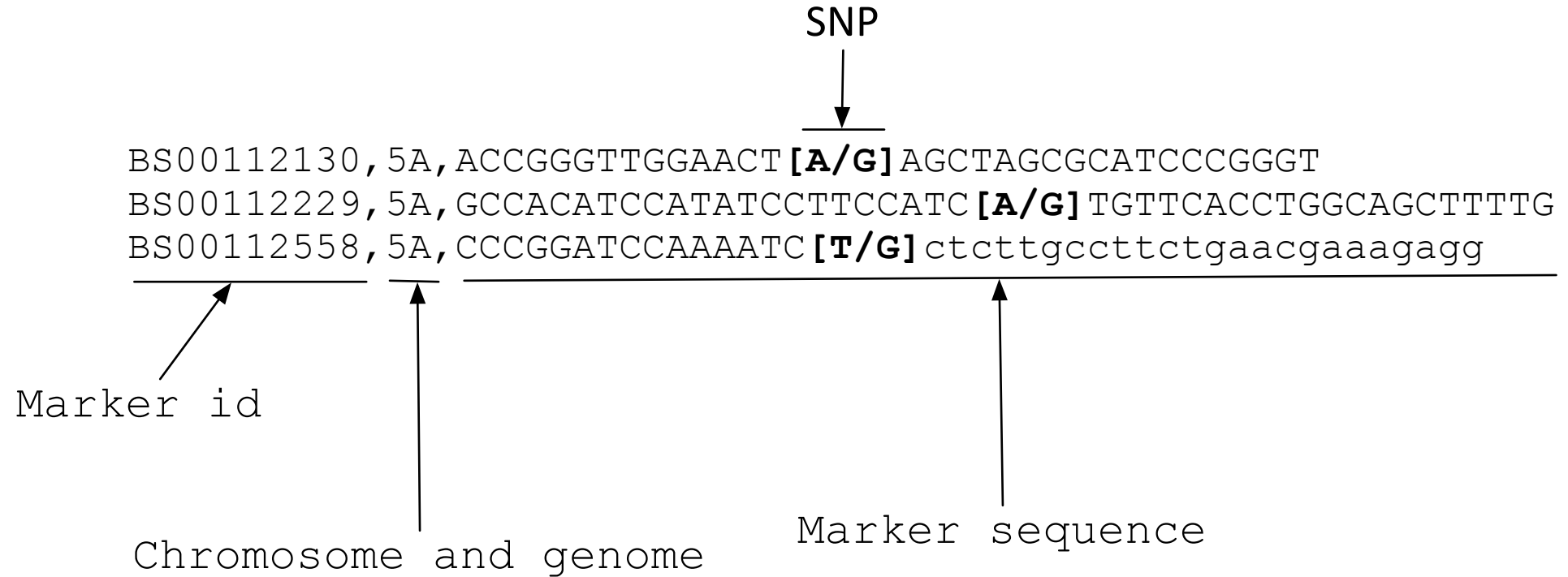
# The problem



# Pipeline overview



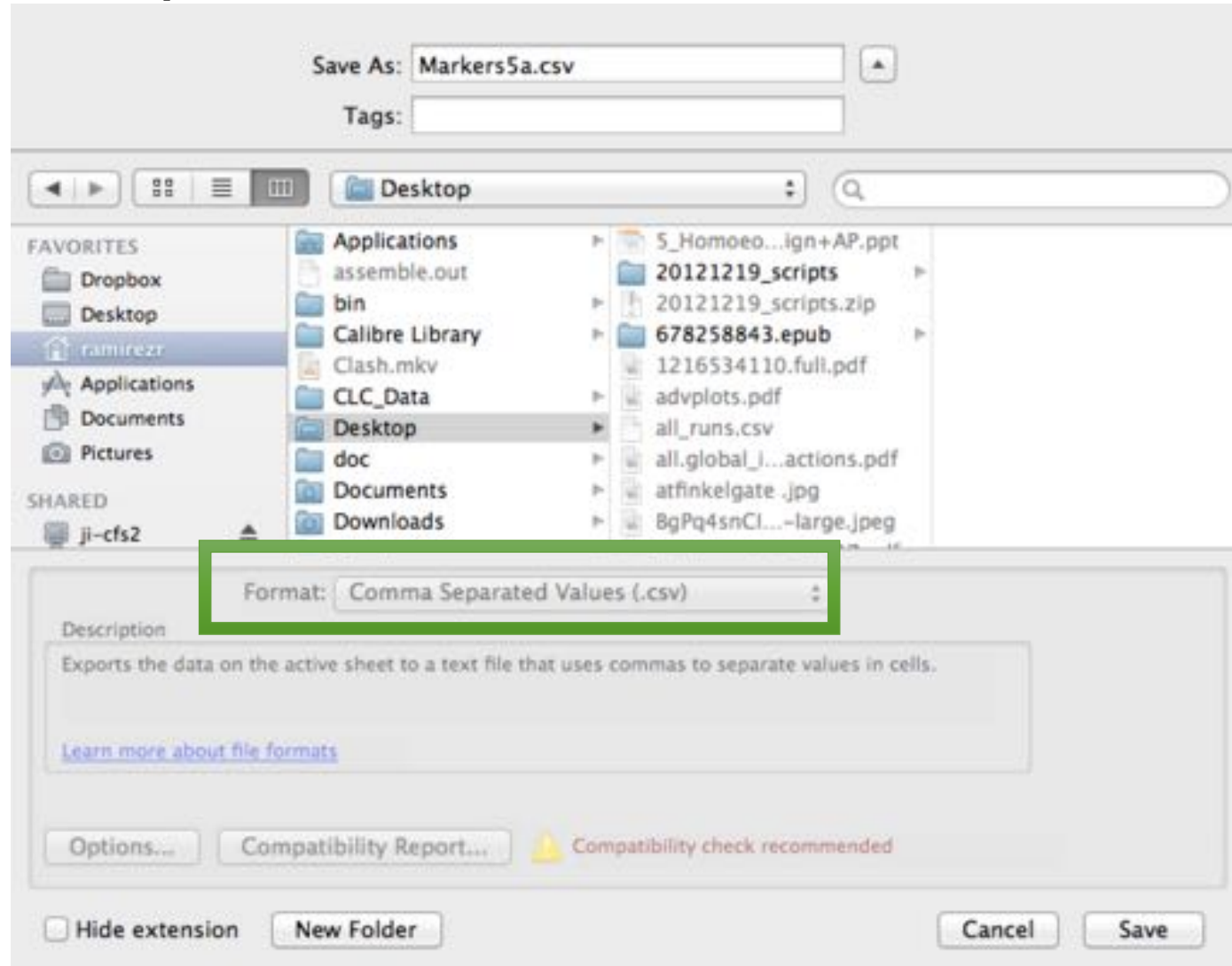
# Input example



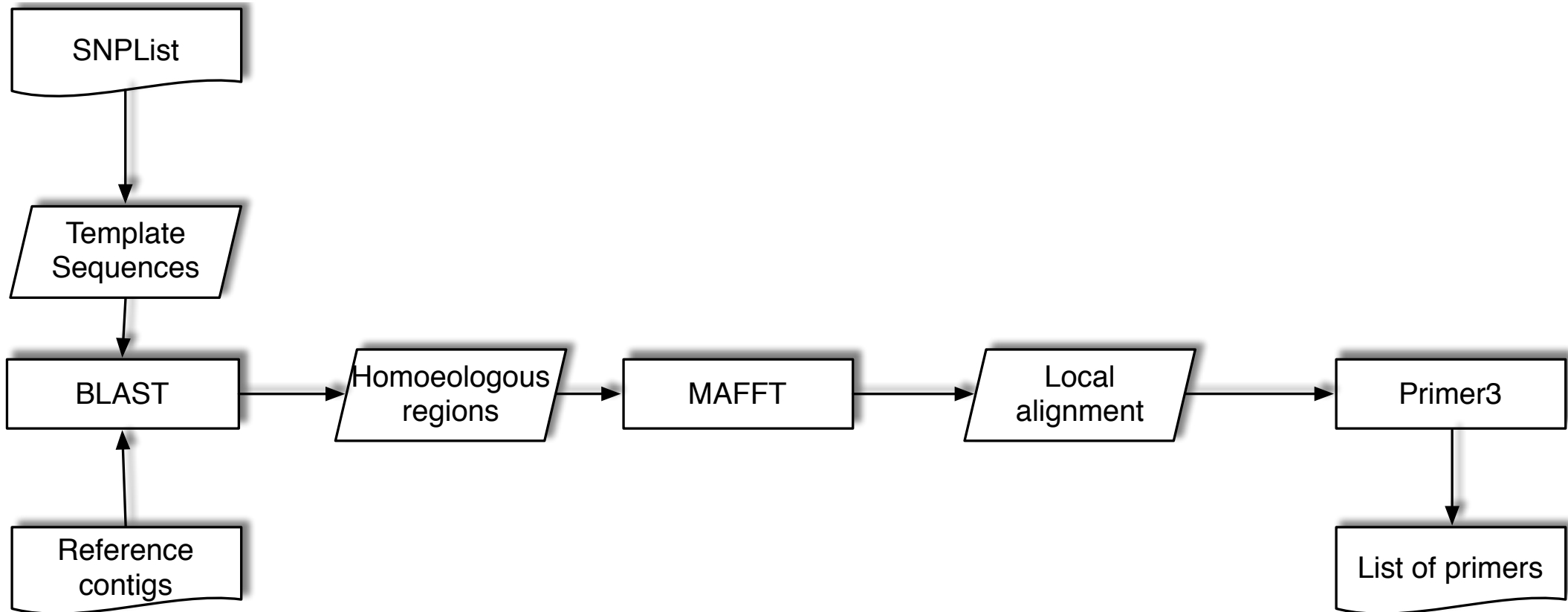




# Input example



# *In Silico* Primer Design

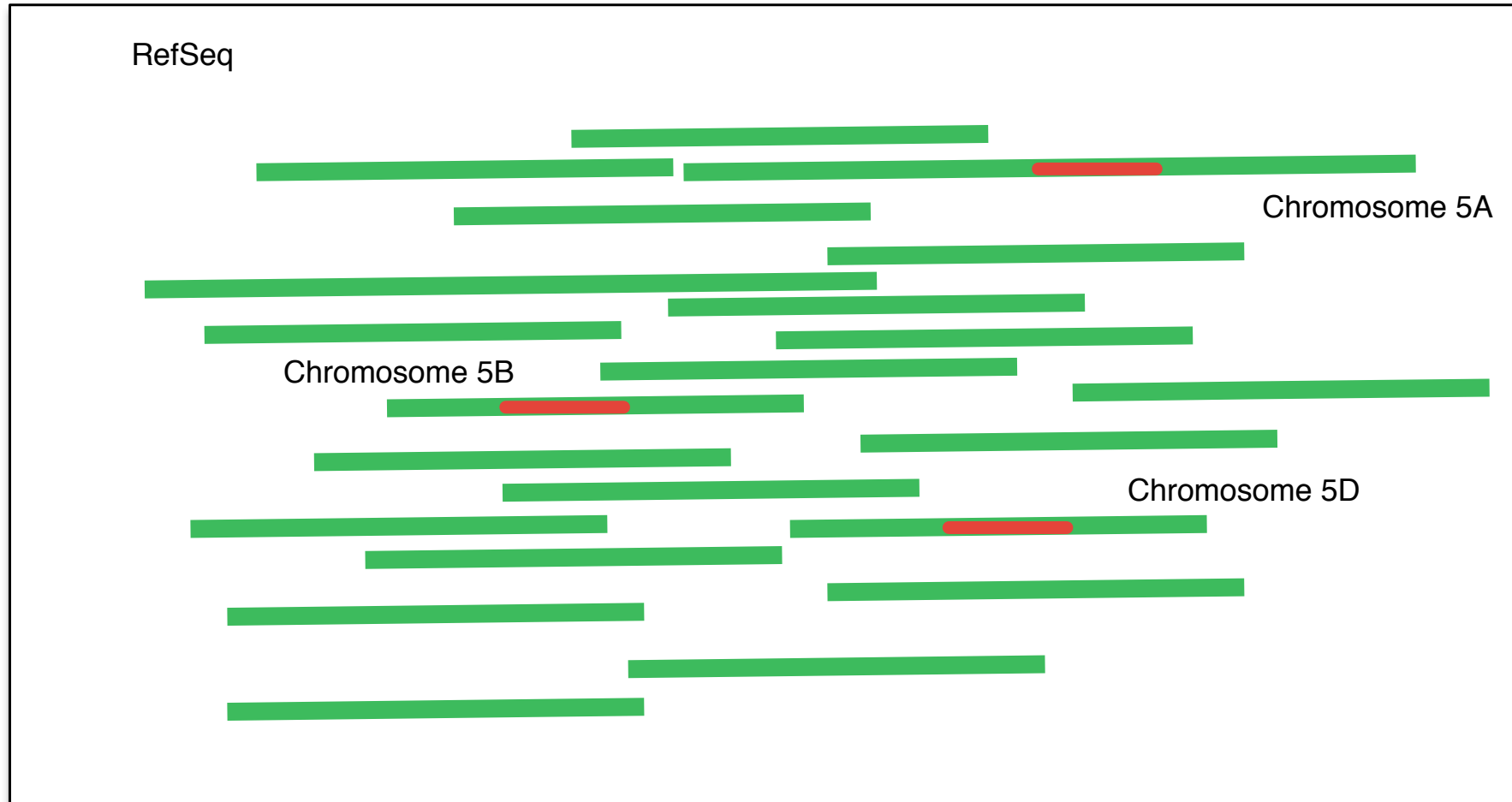


# Template sequence

SNP-1 A cgcattt**G**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccctKtg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

SNP-1 B cgcattt**A**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccctKtg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

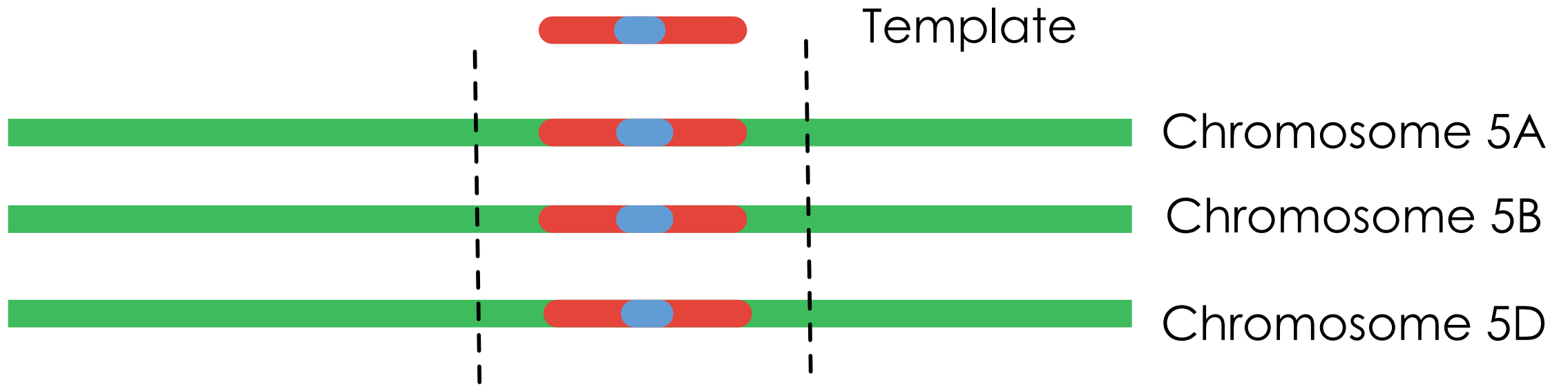
# Blast search



Template match 

Reference chromosome 

# Local Alignment



# Local Alignment

SNP-1 A cgcattt**G**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccctKtg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

SNP-1 B cgcattt**A**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccctKtg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5A cgcatttGcgcgcgcgataccggcgccctTtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5B cgcatttAcgcgcgcgataccggcgccctGtgGgaatatttgc---gaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5D c--atttGcgcgTgcgataccggcgccctGtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

# Selection of primer candidates

SNP-1 A cgcattt**G**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccTktg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

SNP-1 B cgcattt**A**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccTktg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5A cgcatttGcgcgcgcgataccggcgccTtg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5B cgcatttAcgcgcgcgataccggcgccGtg**G**gaatatttgc---gaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5D c--atttGcgcgTgcgataccggcgccGtg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

MASK -----&-----



SNP

non-homeologous

# Selection of primer candidates

SNP-1 A cgcattt**G**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccctKtg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

SNP-1 B cgcattt**A**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccctKtg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5A cgcattt**G**cgcgcgcgataccggcgccctTtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5B cgcattt**A**cgcgcgcgataccggcgccctGtgGgaatatttgc---gaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5D c--attt**G**cgcgTgcgataccggcgccctGtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

MASK -----:-----&-----

↑

SNP

homeologous



# Selection of primer candidates

SNP-1 A cgcattt**G**cgcgYgcgataccggcgcctKtg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

SNP-1 B cgcattt**A**cgcgYgcgataccggcgcctKtg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5A cgcatttGcgcg**c**gcgataccggcgcctTtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5B cgcatttAcgcg**c**gcgataccggcgcctGtgGgaatatttgc---gaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5D c--atttGcgcg**T**gcgataccggcgcctGtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

MASK -----:-----c-----&-----

↑  
semi-specific

# Selection of primer candidates

SNP-1 A cgcattt**G**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccTktg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

SNP-1 B cgcattt**A**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccTktg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5A cgcatttGcgcgcgcgataccggcgcc**T**tgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5B cgcatttAcgcgcgcgataccggcgcc**G**tgGgaatatttgc---gaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5D c--atttGcgcgTgcgataccggcgcc**G**tgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

MASK -----:-----c-----T-----&-----

↑  
specific

# Selection of primer candidates

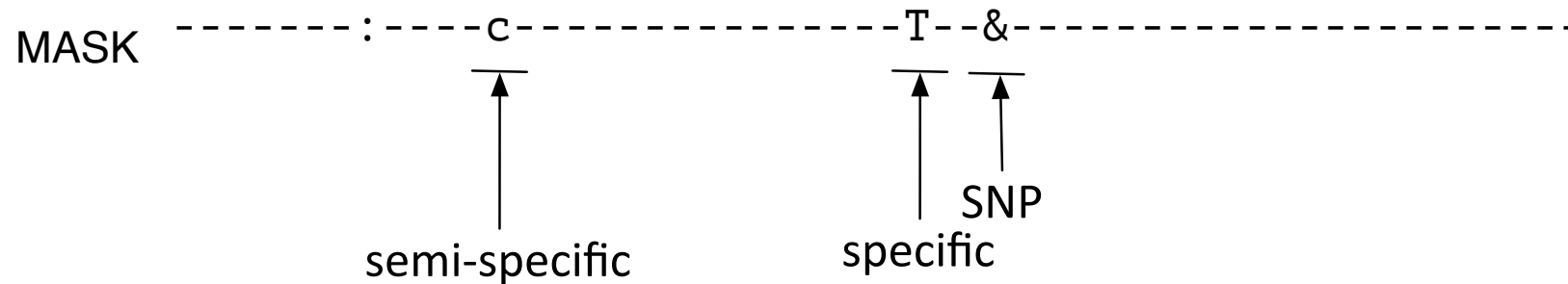
SNP-1 A cgcattt**G**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccTktg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

SNP-1 B cgcattt**A**cgcgYgcgataccggcgccTktg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5A cgcatttGcgcgcgcgataccggcgcc**T**tgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5B cgcatttAcgcgcgcgataccggcgcc**G**tgGgaatatttgc---gaaggcgtg

IWGSC-5D c--atttGcgcgTgcgataccggcgcc**G**tgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg



# Output

Marker	SNP	Region	Chromosome	Total	Contig	Region	SNP Type	A	B	C	Primer	Primer Type	Orientation	A_TM	B_TM	Common %	Selected	File	Product ID
1	M000112130	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	homologous	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	chromosome_specific	forward	62.876	61.621	59.231	second		50
2	M000112009	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	ccacccacacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	gggctctctctctctct	chromosome_specific	forward	54.398	57.354	59.325	first		54
3	M000112558	7510	80	SA	2	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	gggctctctctctctct	chromosome_specific	forward	61.625	61.289	59.209	second		50
4	M000113123	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	homologous	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	chromosome_specific	reverse	57.398	57.301	57.511	first		82
5	M000114740	4310	301	SA	1	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	chromosome_specific	forward	57.117	Na	57.71	first		71
6	M000113480	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	homologous	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	chromosome_specific	forward	59.193	58.228	57.366	second		75
7	M00000618	7510	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	chromosome_specific	reverse	60.151	58.763	58.017	first		90
8	M000004501	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	homologous	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	chromosome_specific	reverse	59.876	59.521	60.226	second		50
9	M000000031	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	chromosome_specific	forward	58.874	57.361	57.489	second		105
10	M000114603	7510	301	SA	8	WOSC_C30	homologous	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	chromosome_specific	reverse	59.184	57.751	58.417	first		83
11	M000011705	4310	120	SA	1	WOSC_C30	SAI_xref_28(9478-407) 404												
12	M000011509	4310	301	SA	2	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	chromosome_specific	reverse	59.186	57.151	57.791	first		71
13	M000020003	7510	120	SA	2	WOSC_C30	SAI_xref_41(8878-1098) 1098	WOSC_C30	SAI_xref_1088(282-447) 447										
14	M000011510	7510	301	SA	2	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	chromosome_specific	forward	59.361	58.501	60.179	second		74
15	M000011201	7510	44	SA	1	WOSC_C30	SAI_xref_108(1411) 1411-1719												
16	M000012506	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	homologous	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	chromosome_specific	reverse	59.255	57.727	58.751	first		65
17	M000012815	4310	301	SA	2	WOSC_C30	homologous	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	agpcaaggpaggaaac	chromosome_specific	reverse	60.189	59.469	57.311	first		73
18	M000013407	4310	301	SA	3	WOSC_C30	homologous	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	ccacccacacacacac	chromosome_specific	reverse	58.367	57.05	58.918	first		90
19	M000014602	7510	301	SA	1	WOSC_C30	non-homologous	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	gggctctctctctctct	chromosome_specific	forward	59.175	58.704	59.931	second		84

# Web interface

- Hexaploid wheat assemblies:
  - IWGSC RefSeq 1.0
  - UK assemblies (Paragon, Cadenza, Robigous, Claire)
- Tetraploid wheat
  - IWGSC RefSeq 1.0 (A&B genomes)
  - Durum wheat cv Svevo
  - UK assembly Kronos
- *Secale cereale* (Rye)
- *Hordeum vulgare* (Barley)
- *Brassica napus*
- *Brassica Rapa*

<http://polymarker.info>

The screenshot shows the PolyMarker web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the PolyMarker logo and links for 'Create Primers', 'Primers for wheat SNP-Chips', 'About', and 'Cite'. The main heading is 'Request primers'. Below this, there is a paragraph explaining that PolyMarker is an automated bioinformatics pipeline for SNP assay development. It then generates a mask with informative polymorphic positions between homoeologs which are highlighted with respect to the target genome. A link to 'About' is provided to know how to prepare input. For wheat, there are links to 'designed primers' for the iSelect 90K chip and the Axiom 820k chip. A note states that if a request is terminated due to a timeout, users should try with less markers and ensure SNPs are not in low complexity regions.

The interface includes a 'File' section with a 'Choose File' button and 'no file selected' text. Below this is an 'OR Manual Input' section with a text area for 'Enter your input manually'. There are 'Example' and 'Clear Input' buttons. An 'Email' field is present with '(optional)' text below it. A 'Create Primers' button is located below the email field, with a note: 'Your email will only be used to send you updates in the status of your job and will be deleted upon completion.'

The 'Reference' section shows a dropdown menu with 'Wheat cv Chinese Spring RefSeq v1.0' selected. Below this, there is a paragraph of text: 'A whole genome assembly has been carried out by the IWGSC in collaboration with the company NRGene. Using a proprietary algorithm DeNovoMAGIC with Illumina sequencing data a 14.5 Gb assembly was produced. Sequences have been ordered using POPSEQ data and Hi-C (chromosome conformation capture) to generate 21 pseudomolecules representing the majority of the wheat genome. Reference sequence available in URGI. The assembly is described in IWGSC (2018). Reference sequence available in ensembl plants (reference file). The repeats are masked to avoid multiple hits in repetitive regions.'

At the bottom, there are logos for the John Innes Centre, BBSRC, and CRF.

Ramirez-Gonzalez, R. H., Uauy, C., & Caccamo, M. (2015). *PolyMarker: A fast polyploid primer design pipeline*. *Bioinformatics*, 2–3. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btv069

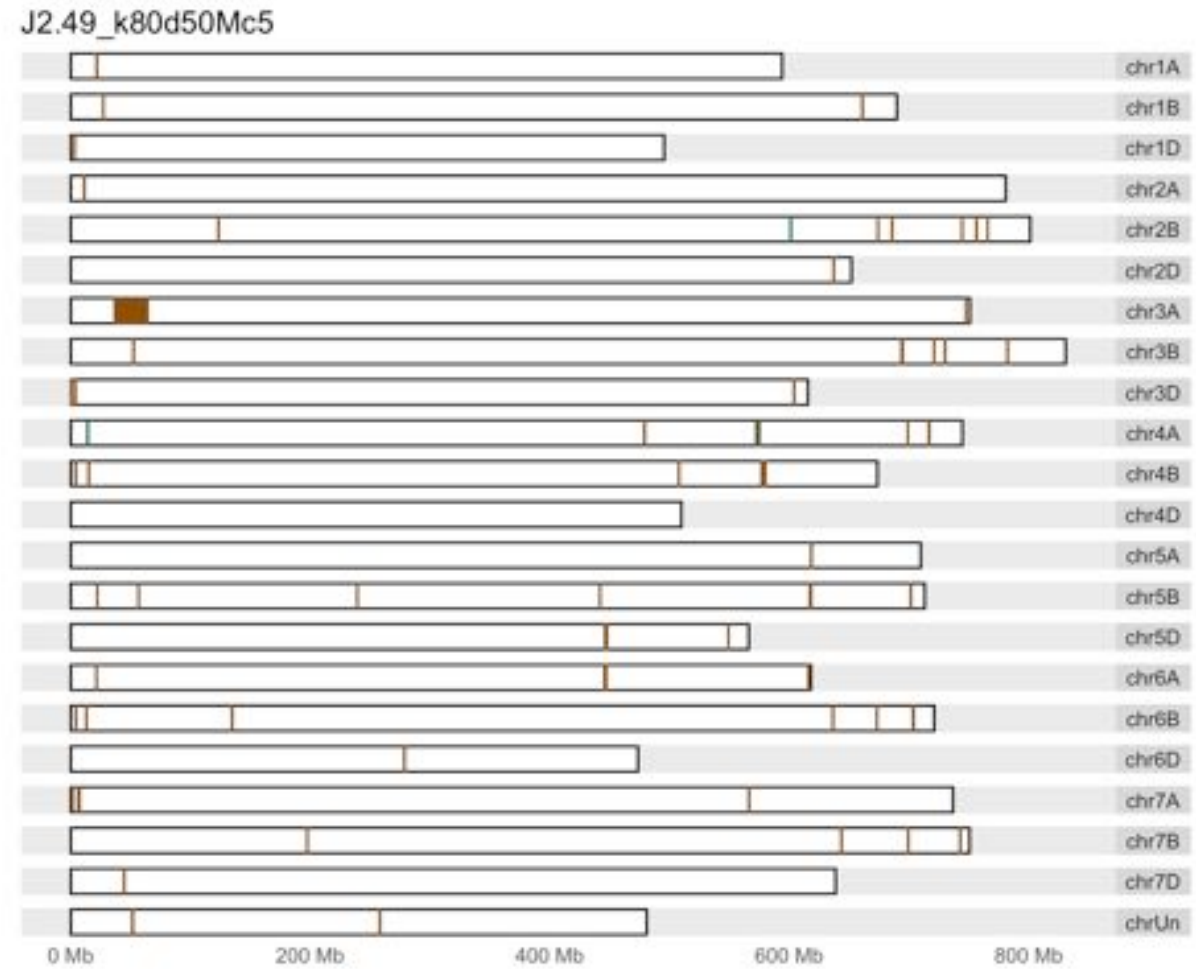
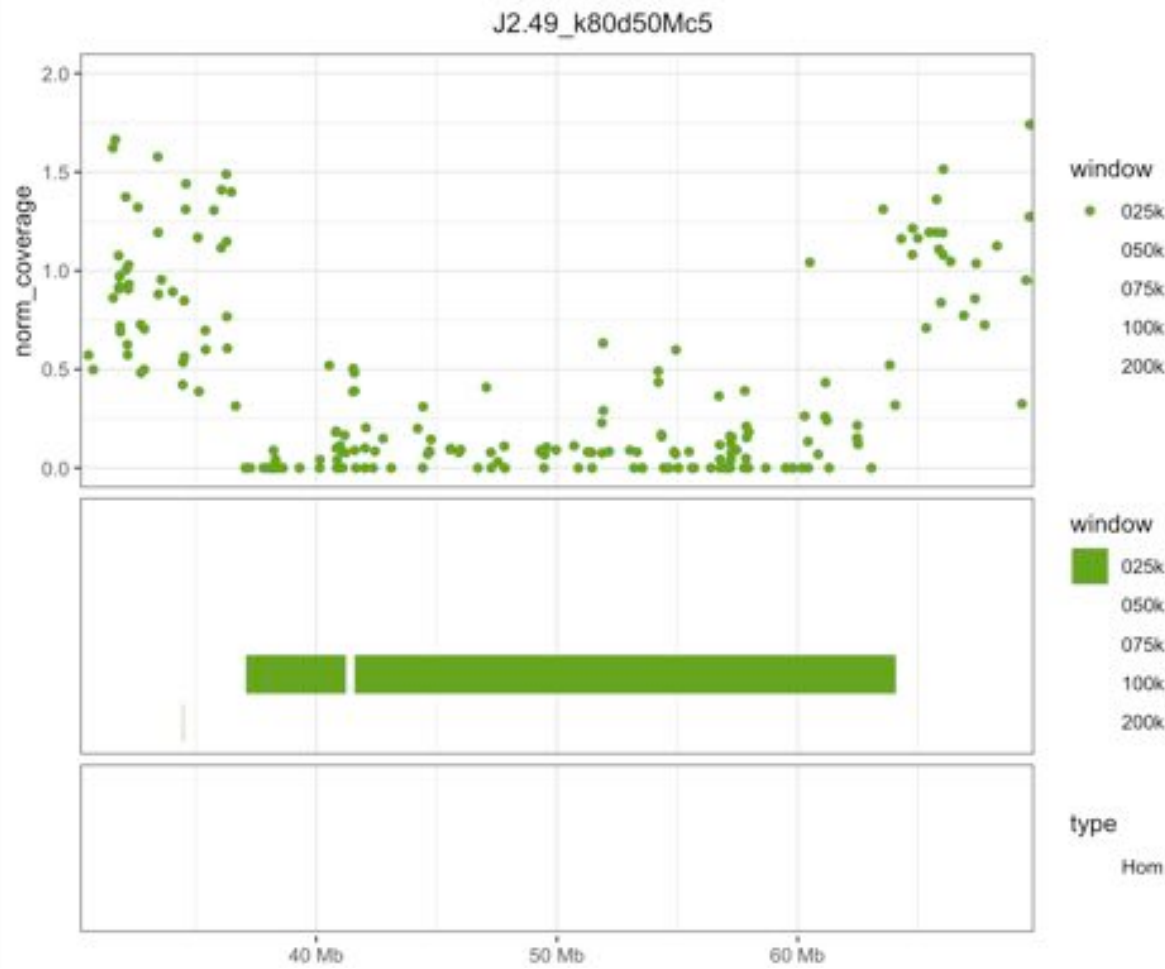


# Primer design for deletions

# DELETIONS $\gamma$ -RADIATION LINES

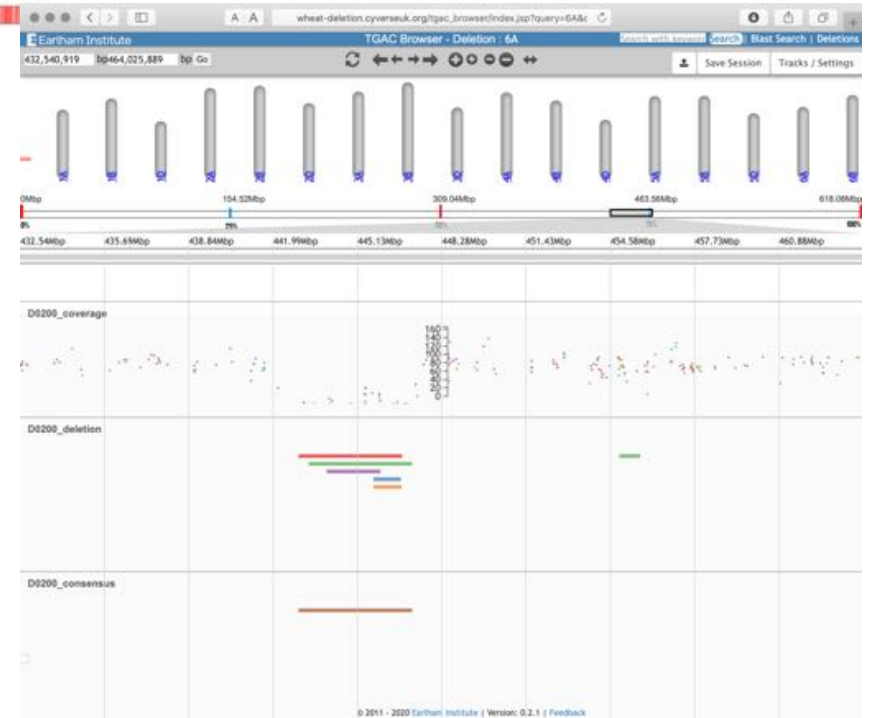
- ~600 Paragon lines with radiation induced deletions
- Identify lines with missing genes to test changes in phenotype
- Low sequencing coverage (0.3x)
- Large window sizes to make up for low coverage
- Collaboration with Paul Nicholson lab.

# DELETIONS $\gamma$ -RADIATION LINES



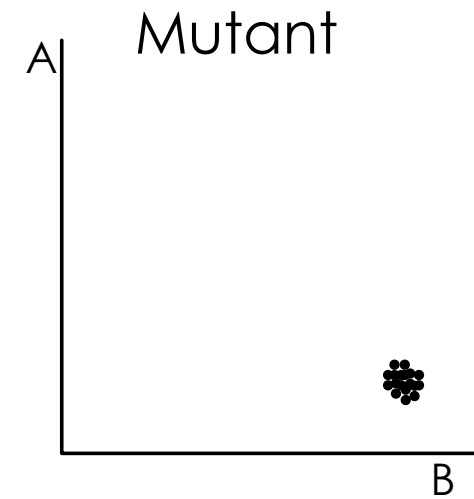
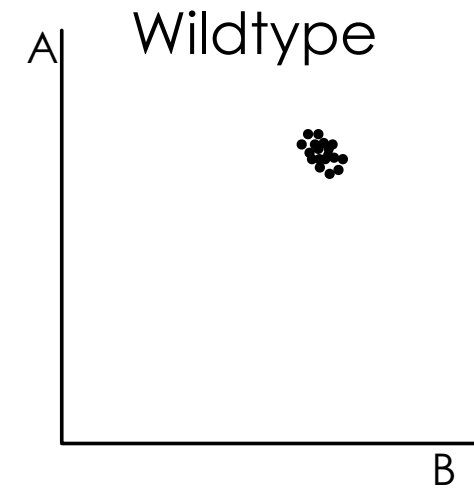
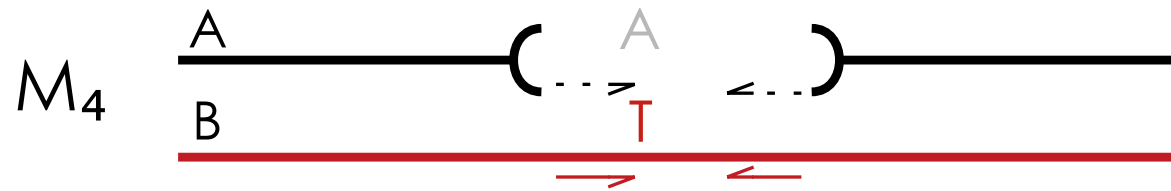
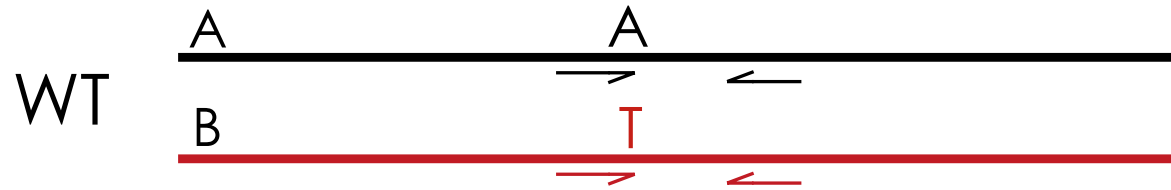


# Deletions Browser



<http://wheat-deletion.cyverseuk.org/>

# SNP markers to detect deletions



# Deletions primer design

SNP-1 B	cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccggcgcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg
<b>IWGSC-1A</b>	cgcattt <b>A</b> cgcgtgcgataccggcgcct <b>G</b> tg <b>A</b> gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg
IWGSC-1B	cgcatttAcgcggtgcgataccggcgcctTtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg
IWGSC-1D	c--atttGcgcggtgcgataccggcgcctGtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

# Deletions primer design

SNP-1 B cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccggcgcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

**IWGSC-1A** cgcattt**A**cgcgtgcgataccggcgcct**G**tg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1B cgcatttAcgcggtgcgataccggcgcctTtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1D c--atttGcgcgtgcgataccggcgcctGtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

-----a-----g--G-----

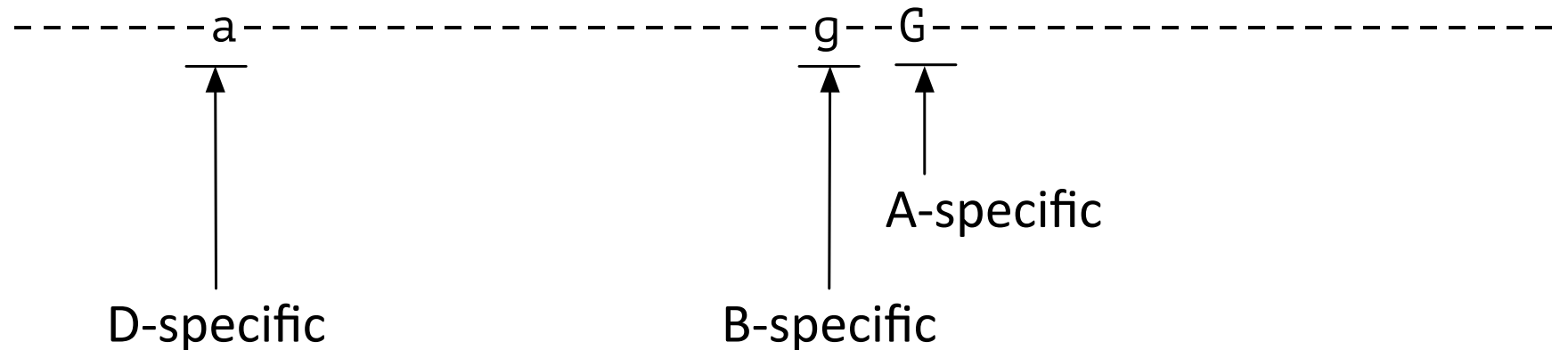
# Deletions primer design

SNP-1 B cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccggcgcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

**IWGSC-1A** cgcattt**A**cgcgtgcgataccggcgcct**G**tg**A**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1B cgcatttAcgcggtgcgataccggcgcctTtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1D c--atttGcgcggtgcgataccggcgcctGtgGgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg



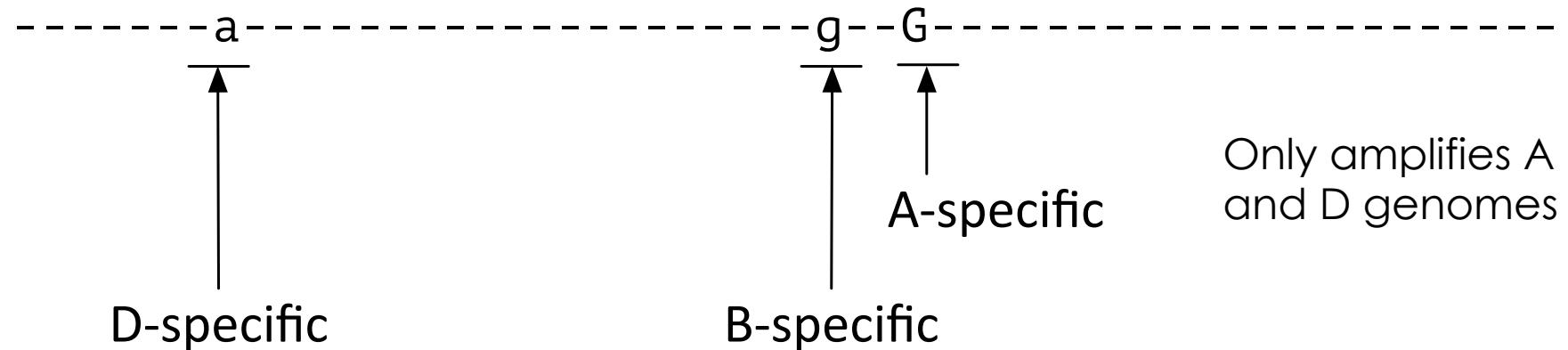
# Deletions primer design

SNP-1 B      cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccggcgccTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

**IWGSC-1A**      cgcattt**A**cgcg**tgcgataccggcgcc****G**t**gAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg**

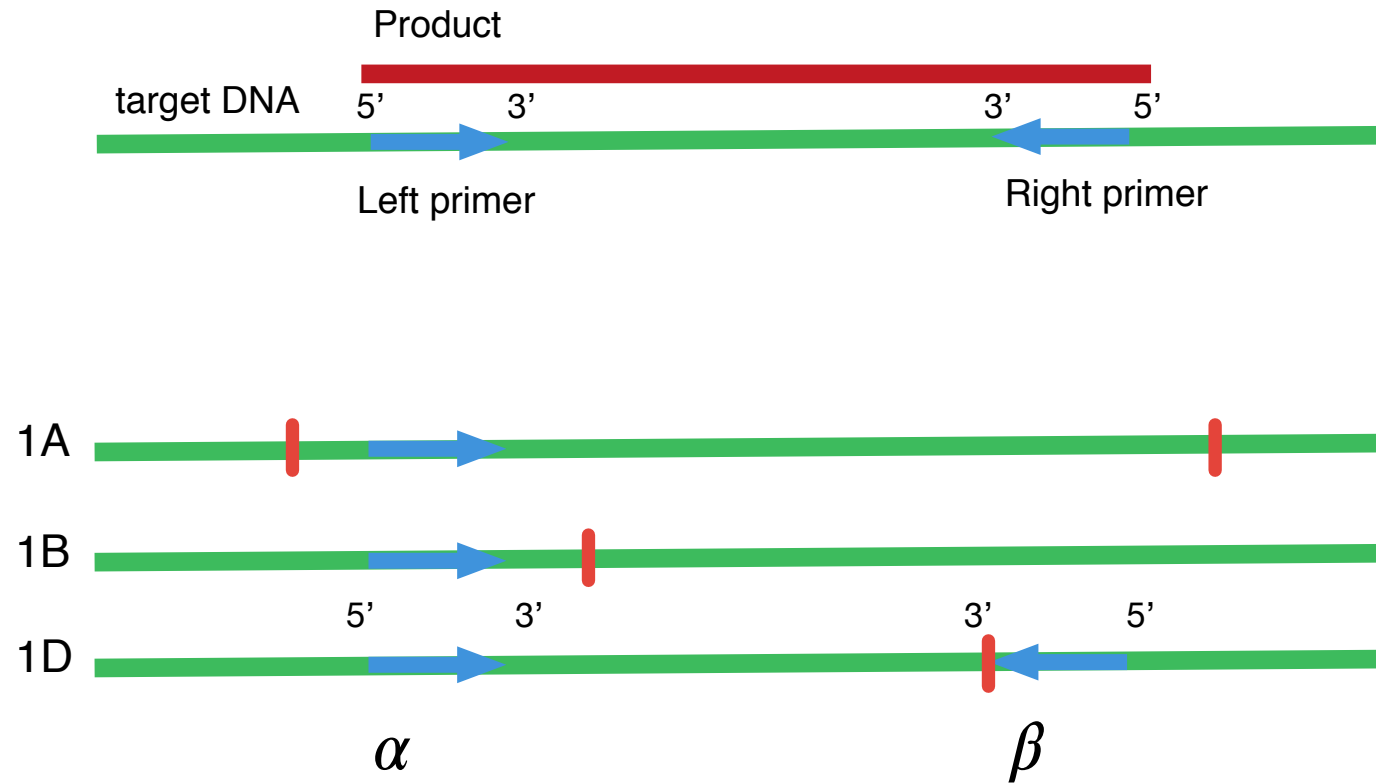
IWGSC-1B      cgcatttAcgcg**tgcgataccggcgcc**Ttg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1D      c--atttGcg**cgat**accggcgcc**G**t**Ggaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg**



*Amplicon primers  
and regular PCR  
primers*

# Amplicon primers





# Amplicon primers

Region 1B cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccggcgctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1A cgcatttAcgcggtgcgataccggcGcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

**IWGSC-1B** cgcattt**A**cgcggtgcgataccggc**A**cct**G**tg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1D c--atttGcgcggtgcgataccggcGcctGtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

# Amplicon primers

Region 1B cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccggcgcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1A cgcatttAcgcggtgcgataccggcGcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

**IWGSC-1B** cgcattt**A**cgcggtgcgataccggc**A**cct**G**tg**G**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1D c--atttGcgcggtgcgataccggcGcctGtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

-----a-----A---g--g-----

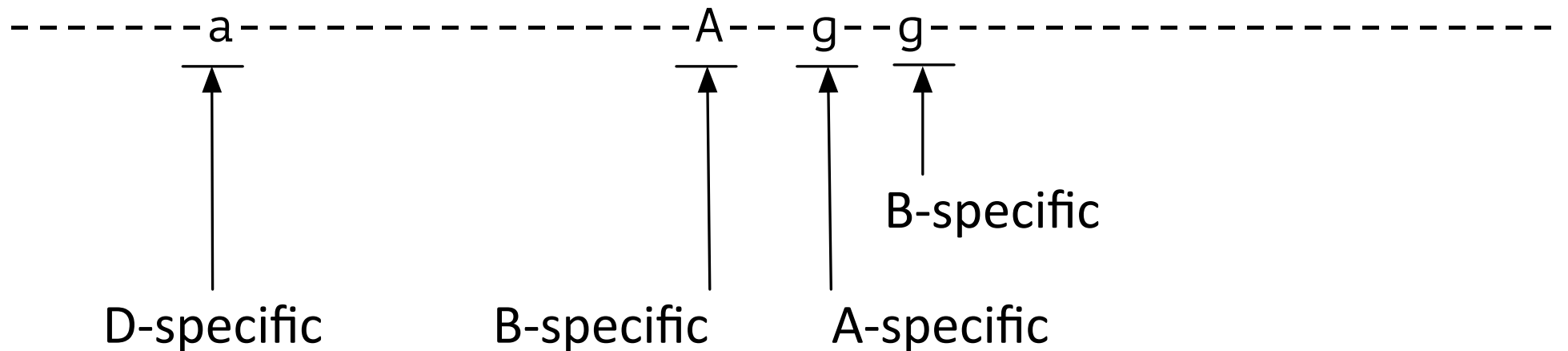
# Amplicon primers

Region 1B    cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccggcgcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1A    cgcatttAcgcgtgcgataccggcGcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

**IWGSC-1B**    cgcattt**A**cgcgtgcgataccggc**A**cct**G**tg**G**aatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1D    c--atttGcgcgtgcgataccggcGcctGtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg



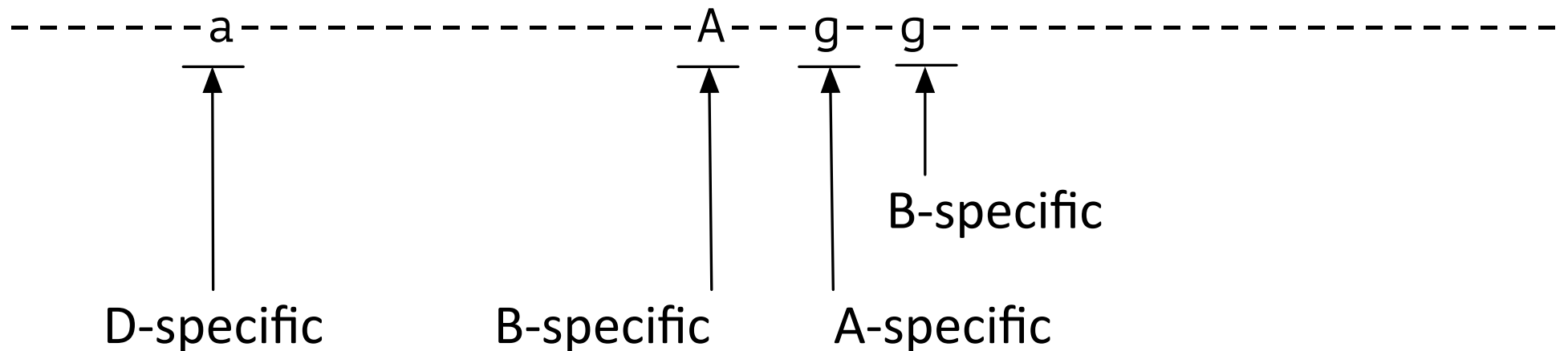
# Amplicon primers

Region 1B cgcatttAcgcgCgcgataccgggcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1A cgcatttAcgcggtgcgataccggcGcctTtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

**IWGSC-1B** cgcattt**Acgcggtg**cgataccggc**AcctGtgG**gaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg

IWGSC-1D c--atttGcgcggtgcgataccggcGcctGtgAgaatatttgcagcgaaggcgtg



A light green brushstroke background with a textured, hand-painted appearance. The stroke is roughly horizontal and spans most of the width of the image. The edges are irregular and feathered, giving it a soft, artistic feel. The color is a pale, muted green.

PolyMarker used for...

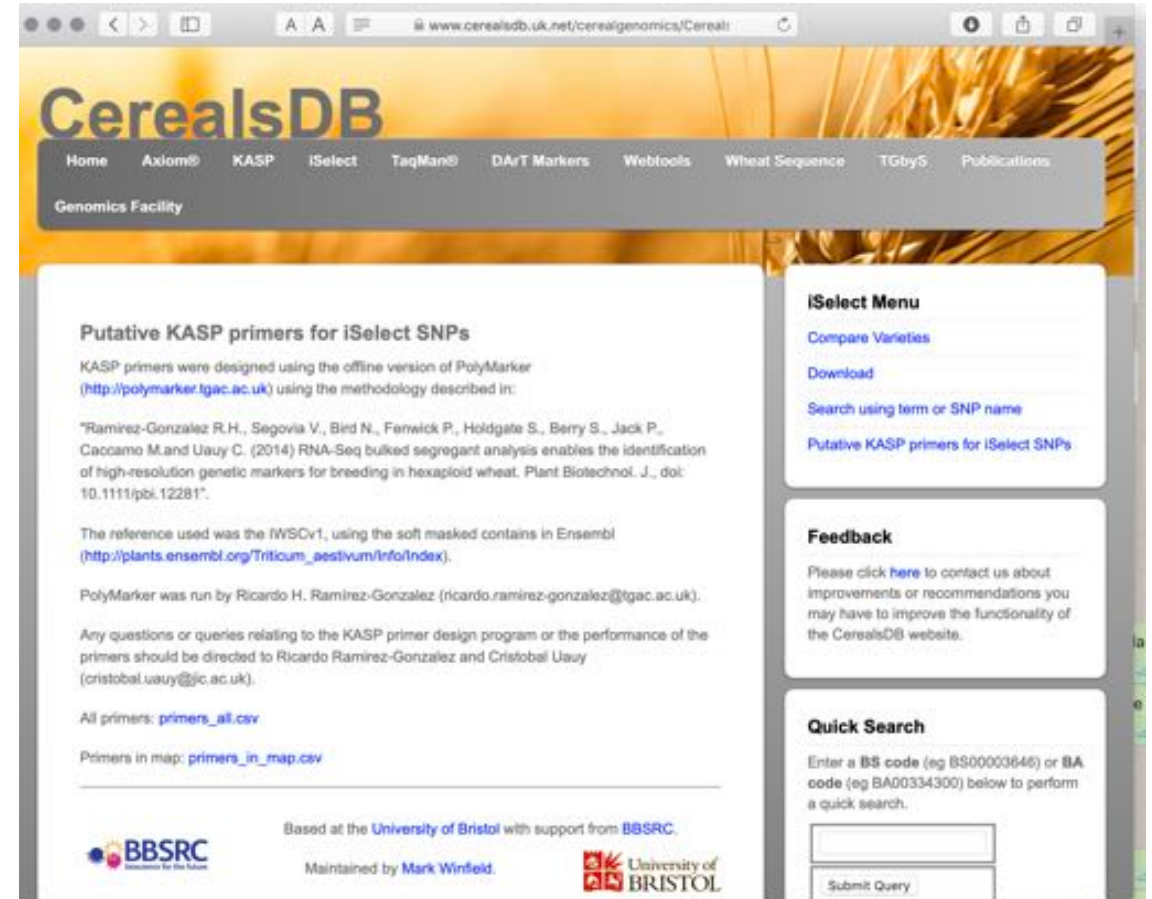
# Tilling mutants in ensembl plants

The image displays three screenshots of the Ensembl Plants website interface, illustrating the process of viewing variant details for a specific marker in *Triticum aestivum*.

- Left Screenshot:** Shows the variant details page for marker Cadenza0742.chr3D.379537985. It includes a gene legend, location (3D:379535906-379539827), and a variant display showing the variant in the context of the gene TraesCS3D02G273600.1. The variant is highlighted in red, indicating a stop gained mutation.
- Middle Screenshot:** Shows the variant details page for marker Cadenza0742.chr3D.379537985. It includes a gene legend, location (3D:379535906-379539827), and a variant display showing the variant in the context of the gene TraesCS3D02G273600.1. The variant is highlighted in red, indicating a stop gained mutation.
- Right Screenshot:** Shows the variant details page for marker Cadenza0742.chr3D.379537985. It includes a gene legend, location (3D:379535906-379539827), and a variant display showing the variant in the context of the gene TraesCS3D02G273600.1. The variant is highlighted in red, indicating a stop gained mutation.

# Markers in CerealsDB

- Primers for iSelect 80K chip
- Primers for Axiom 820K chip



The screenshot shows the CerealsDB website interface. The main content area is titled "Putative KASP primers for iSelect SNPs". It contains the following text:

KASP primers were designed using the offline version of PolyMarker (<http://polymarker.tgac.ac.uk>) using the methodology described in:

"Ramirez-Gonzalez R.H., Segovia V., Bied N., Fenwick P., Holdgate S., Berry S., Jack P., Caccamo M. and Uauy C. (2014) RNA-Seq bulked segregant analysis enables the identification of high-resolution genetic markers for breeding in hexaploid wheat. *Plant Biotechnol. J.*, doi: 10.1111/pbi.12281".

The reference used was the IWSCv1, using the soft masked contains in Ensembl ([http://plants.ensembl.org/Triticum\\_ aestivum/Info/Index](http://plants.ensembl.org/Triticum_ aestivum/Info/Index)).

PolyMarker was run by Ricardo H. Ramirez-Gonzalez ([ricardo.ramirez-gonzalez@tgac.ac.uk](mailto:ricardo.ramirez-gonzalez@tgac.ac.uk)).

Any questions or queries relating to the KASP primer design program or the performance of the primers should be directed to Ricardo Ramirez-Gonzalez and Cristobal Uauy ([cristobal.uauy@jc.ac.uk](mailto:cristobal.uauy@jc.ac.uk)).

All primers: [primers\\_all.csv](#)

Primers in map: [primers\\_in\\_map.csv](#)

At the bottom of the page, there are logos for BBSRC (Bioscience Research Support Centre), the University of Bristol, and a note that the site is maintained by Mark Winfield. A footer note states: "Based at the University of Bristol with support from BBSRC."

On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar with three sections:

- iSelect Menu**: Contains links for "Compare Varieties", "Download", "Search using term or SNP name", and "Putative KASP primers for iSelect SNPs".
- Feedback**: Contains a link to "here" to contact the site for improvements or recommendations.
- Quick Search**: Contains a text input field for entering a BS code (e.g., BS00003646) or a BA code (e.g., BA00334300) and a "Submit Query" button.

[https://www.cerealsdb.uk.net/cerealgenomics/CerealsDB/KASP\\_primers\\_for\\_iSelect.php](https://www.cerealsdb.uk.net/cerealgenomics/CerealsDB/KASP_primers_for_iSelect.php)

# Use your own reference

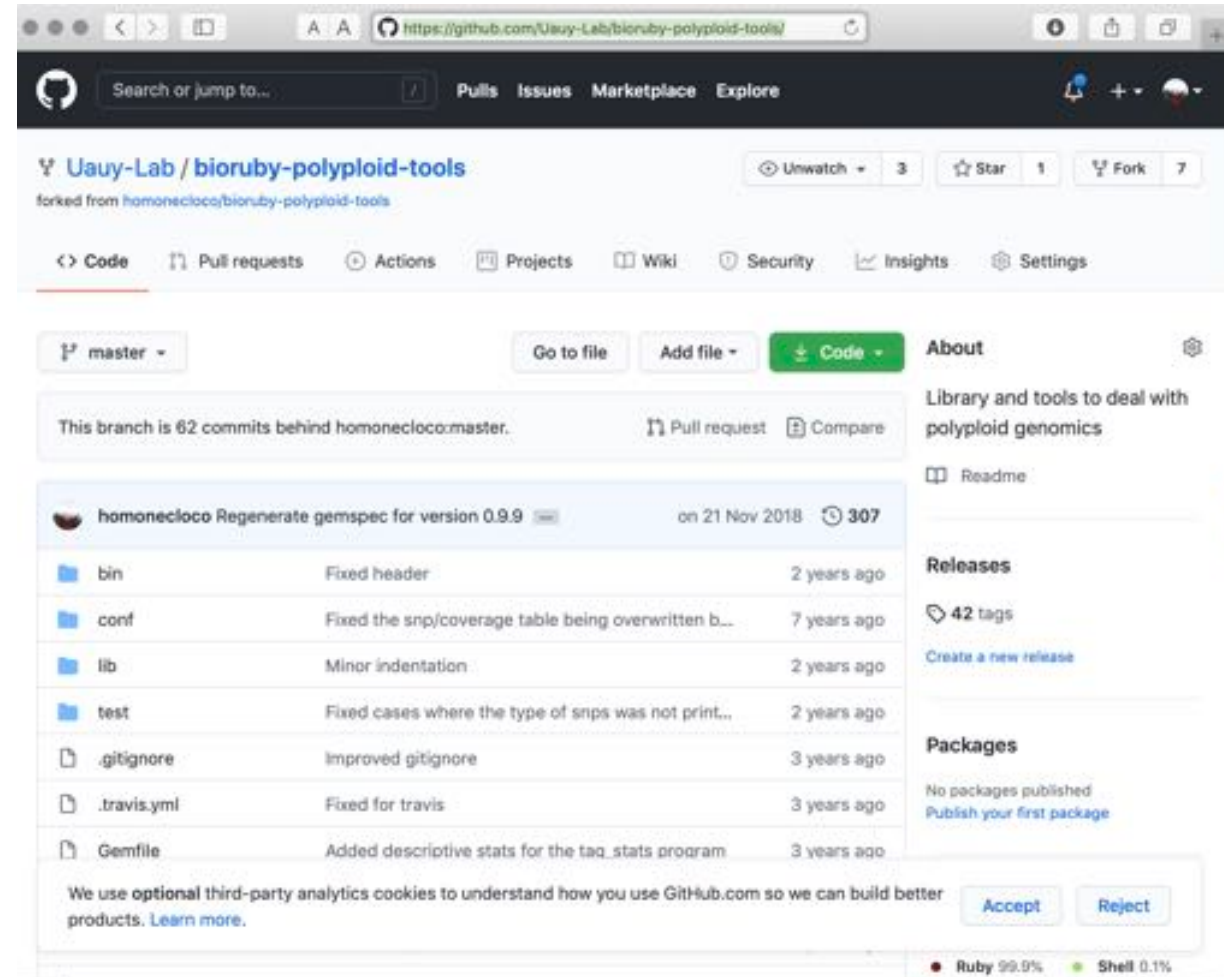
- PolyMarker is open source!

- Run from the command line:

<https://github.com/Uauy-Lab/bioruby-polyplloid-tools/>

- Install your own web service:

<https://github.com/Uauy-Lab/pangenome-web>



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `Uauy-Lab / bioruby-polyplloid-tools`. The repository is forked from `homonecloco/bioruby-polyplloid-tools`. The page displays the repository name, a search bar, and navigation links for Pulls, Issues, Marketplace, and Explore. The repository is currently on the `master` branch, which is 62 commits behind the upstream `master`. A pull request is visible, titled "homonecloco Regenerate gemspec for version 0.9.9" with 307 comments. The pull request table lists several files and their commit messages:

File	Commit Message	Time
bin	Fixed header	2 years ago
conf	Fixed the snp/coverage table being overwritten b...	7 years ago
lib	Minor indentation	2 years ago
test	Fixed cases where the type of snps was not print...	2 years ago
.gitignore	Improved gitignore	3 years ago
.travis.yml	Fixed for travis	3 years ago
Gemfile	Added descriptive stats for the taq_stats program	3 years ago

At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie consent notice: "We use optional third-party analytics cookies to understand how you use GitHub.com so we can build better products. [Learn more.](#)" with "Accept" and "Reject" buttons. The repository statistics show 99.9% Ruby and 0.1% Shell.



# Future developments

- Do further optimisations on the amplicon and deletion markers.
- Integration with the 10+ Wheat genome pangenome
- Make the amplicon and deletion versions of polymarkers
- Other applications that the community may need?

# Acknowledgments

- Deletions
  - Ben Hales, Paul Nicholson, Nikolai Adamski, Anil Thanki
- Ensembl plants
  - Guy Naamati
- CerealsDB
  - Mark Winfield.
- Uauy Lab



# Resources



- Website: <http://polymarker.info>
- Source code: <https://github.com/Uauy-Lab/bioruby-polyploid-tools/>
- Ensembl plants: [http://plants.ensembl.org/Triticum\\_aestivum](http://plants.ensembl.org/Triticum_aestivum)
- Gamma radiation deletions database: <http://wheat-deletion.cyverseuk.org/>

Ramirez-Gonzalez, R. H., Uauy, C., & Caccamo, M. (2015). *PolyMarker: A fast polyploid primer design pipeline*. *Bioinformatics*, 2–3. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btv069