

# *Host genetic* determinants of the microbiome



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Microbiome Center

Penn State University

<https://davenport-lab.github.io>



@emo\_davenport

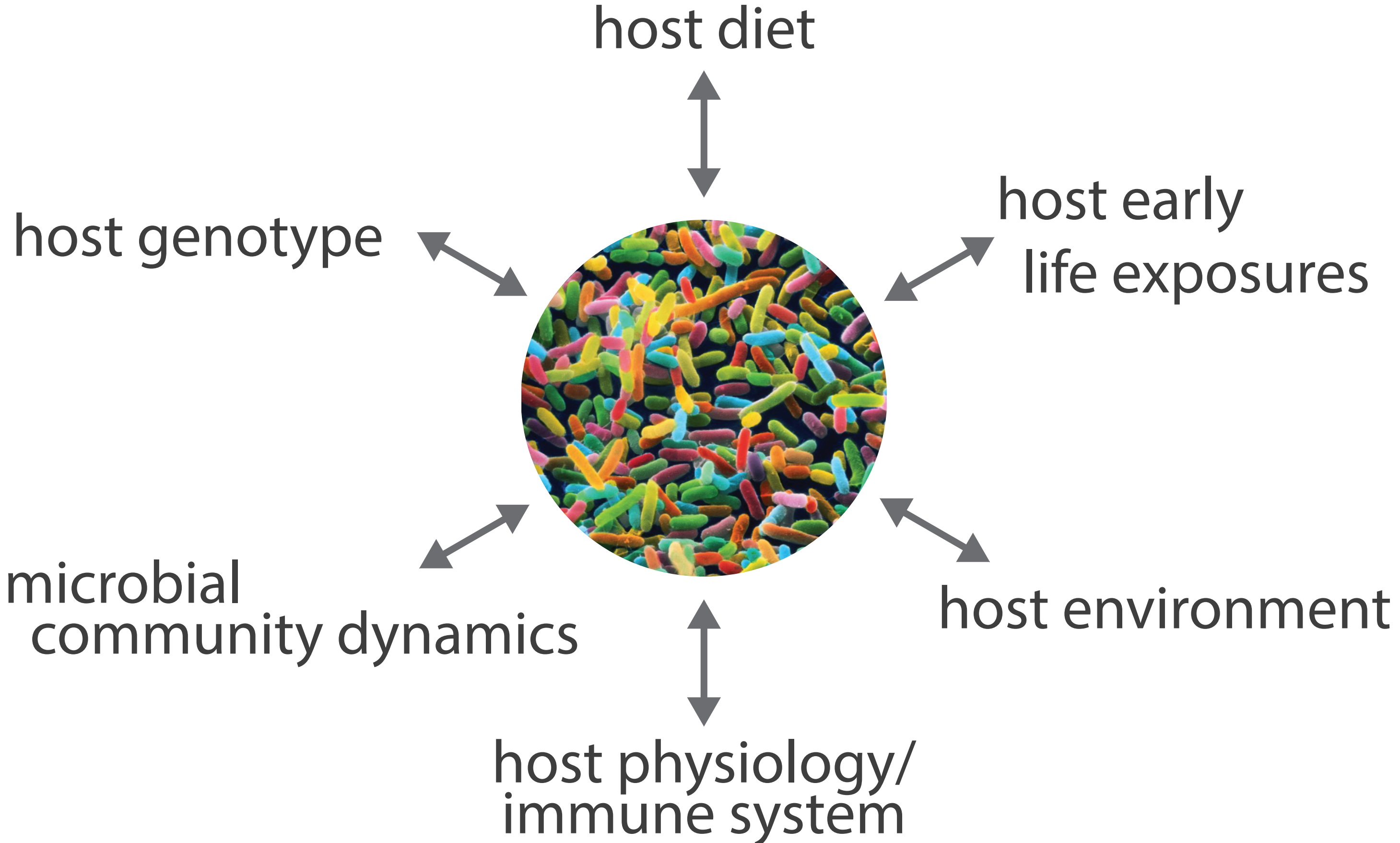




image: Paul Rogers

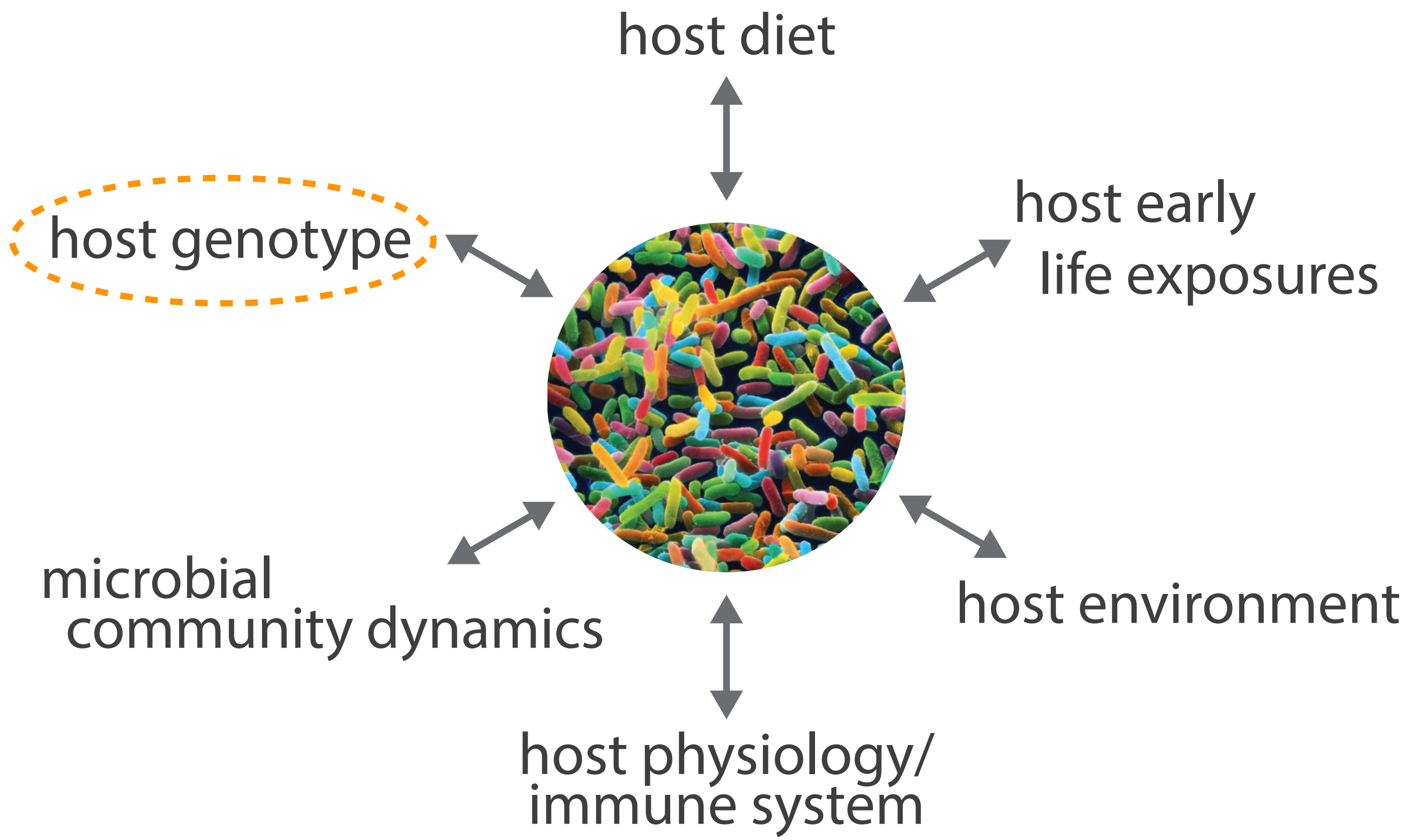


# What determines microbiome *composition*?





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*Host genetics* plays a role in determining gut microbiome composition



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# *Host genetics* plays a role in determining gut microbiome composition

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2. We can identify *variants* in the human genome associated with bacterial abundance.



# *Host genetics* plays a role in determining gut microbiome composition

1. The relative abundances of certain bacteria in the gut are *heritable*.
2. We can identify *variants* in the human genome associated with bacterial abundance.
3. We can identify candidate *host tissues* where this genetic variation acts.



Populations:



# Populations:



## Hutterites

Davenport ER, Cusanovich DA, Michelini K, Barreiro LB, Ober C, and Gilad Y. *Genome-wide association studies of the human gut microbiota*. PLoS ONE. 2015



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## Hutterites

Davenport ER, Cusanovich DA, Michelini K, Barreiro LB, Ober C, and Gilad Y. *Genome-wide association studies of the human gut microbiota*. PLoS ONE. 2015

twinsUK FOR TWINS [↗](#)

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Twin research for a healthy future

Researching the link between our genes, the environment, and common diseases

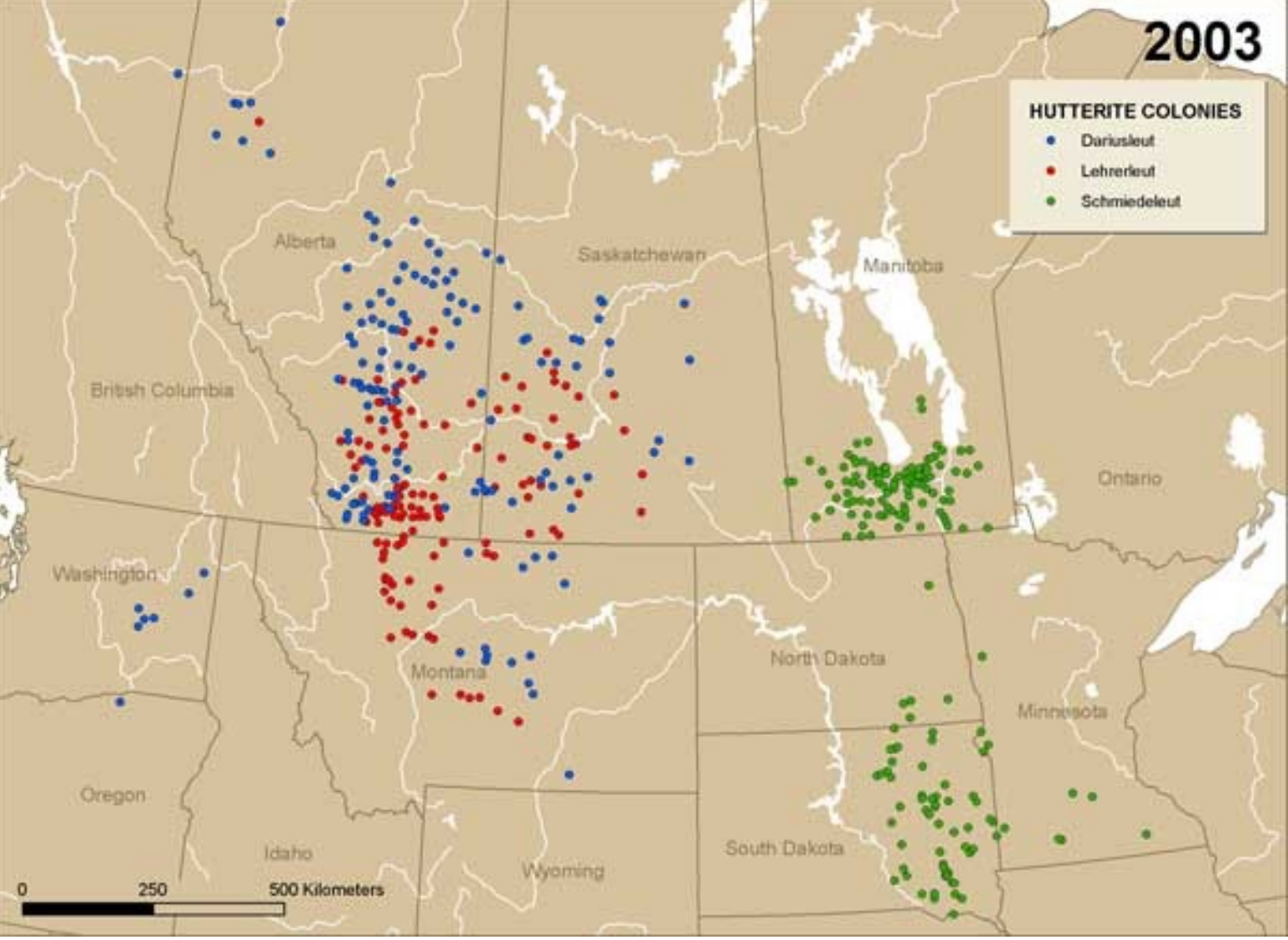
## TwinsUK

Goodrich JK, Davenport ER, Beaumont M, Jackson MA, Knight R, Ober C, Spector T, Bell JT, Clark AC, and Ley RE. *Genetic Determinants of the Gut Microbiome in UK Twins*. Cell Host and Microbe. 2016





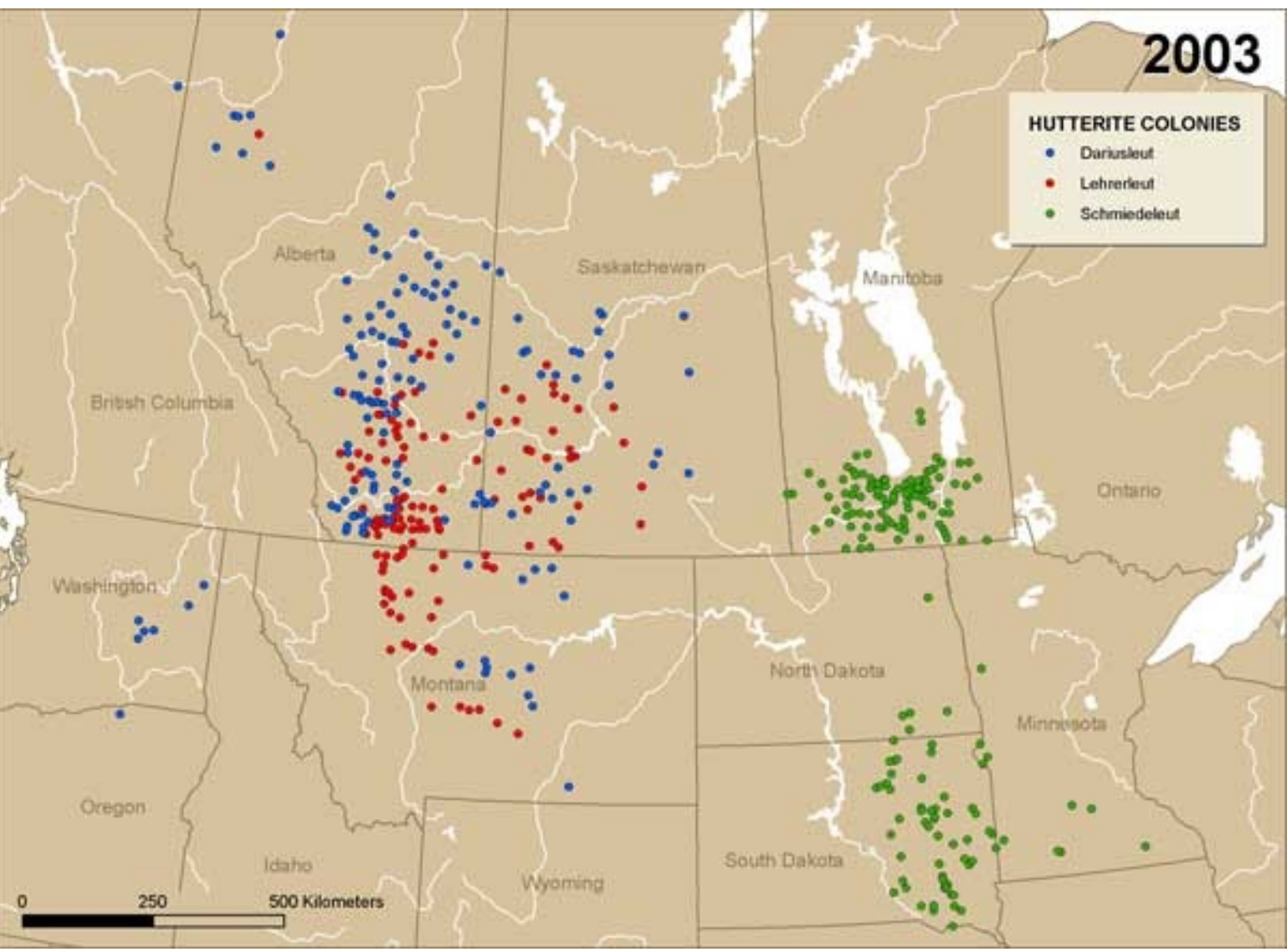
# Study design: *The Hutterites*





# Study design: *The Hutterites*

Hutterites eat *communally*.





# Study design: *Sample collection*



127 individuals



# Study design: *Sample collection*



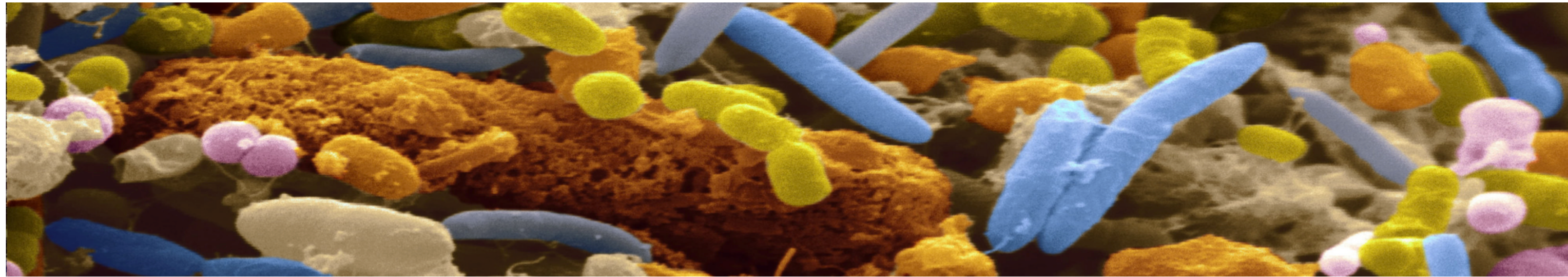
127 individuals

← microbiome data



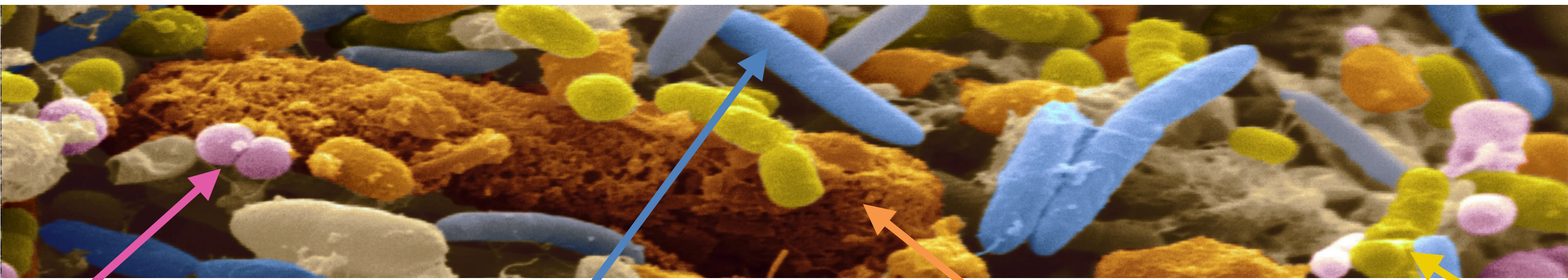


# Microbiome data: Deep sequencing of *16S rRNA* gene fragments





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genus: *Bacteroides*



*Prevotella*



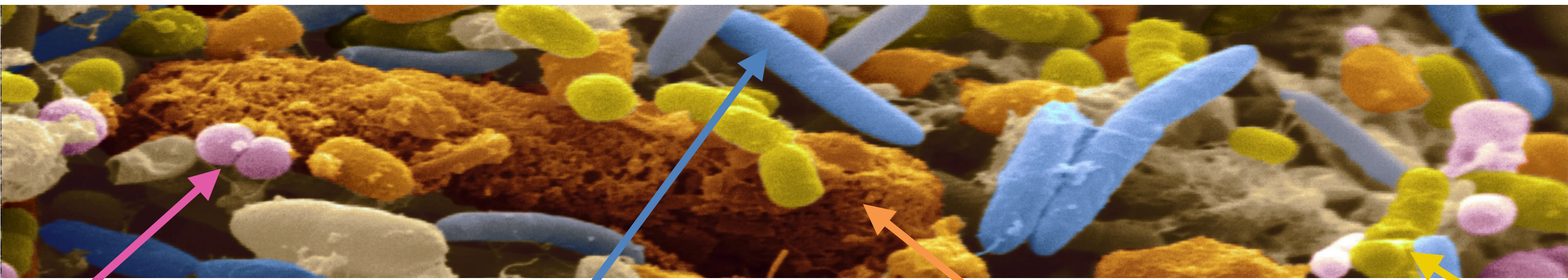
*Butyricimonas*



*Akkermansia*



# Microbiome data: Deep sequencing of 16S rRNA gene fragments



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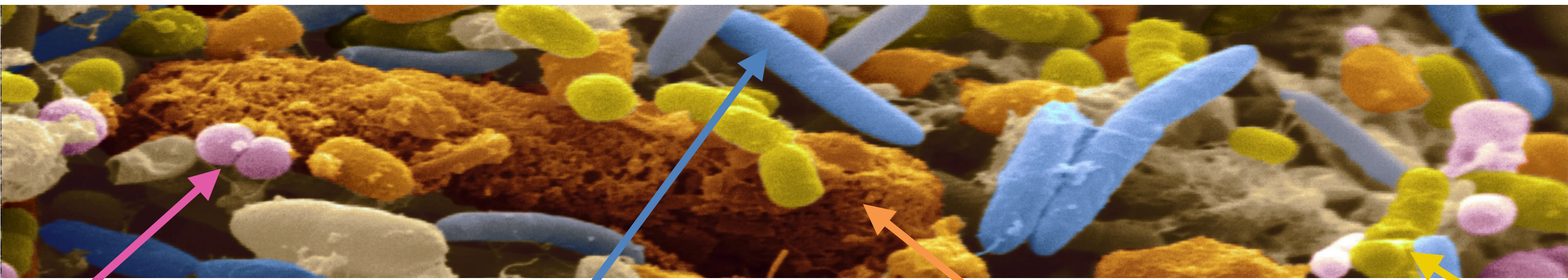
*Akkermansia*



extract DNA



# Microbiome data: Deep sequencing of 16S rRNA gene fragments



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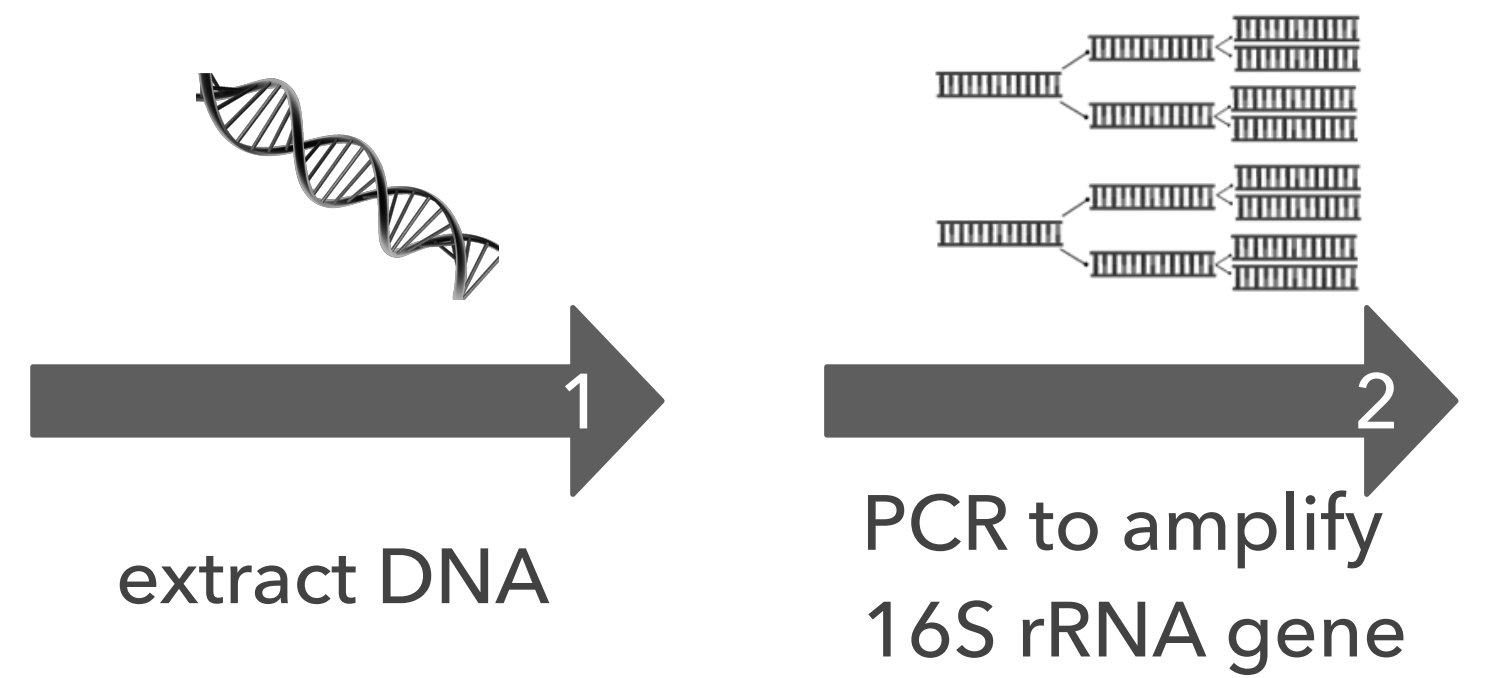
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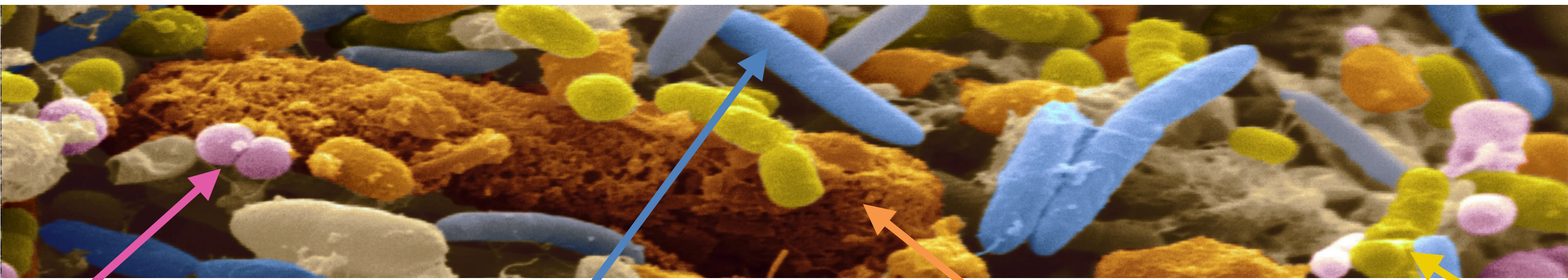


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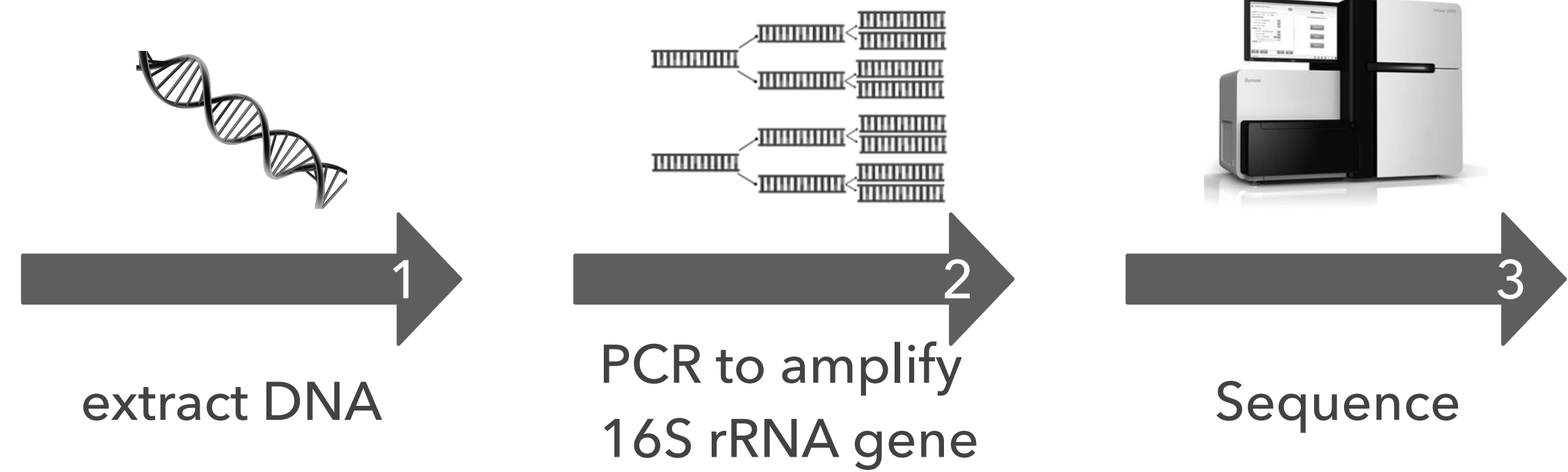
*Prevotella*



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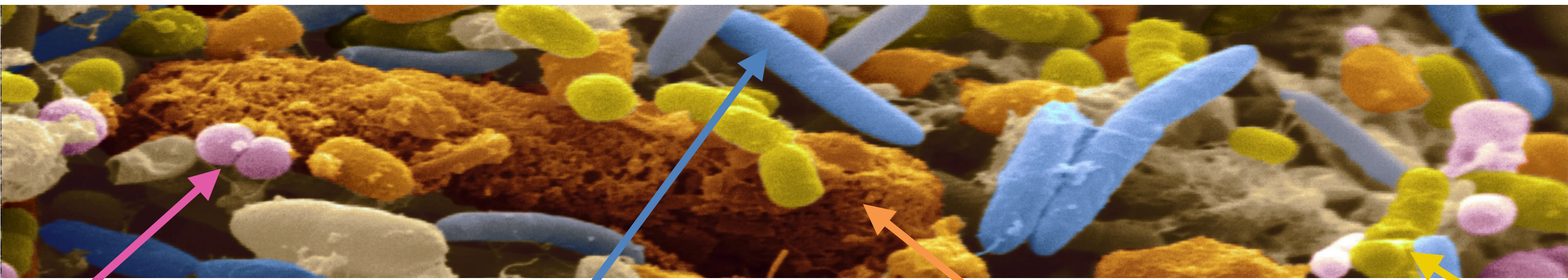


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genus: *Bacteroides*



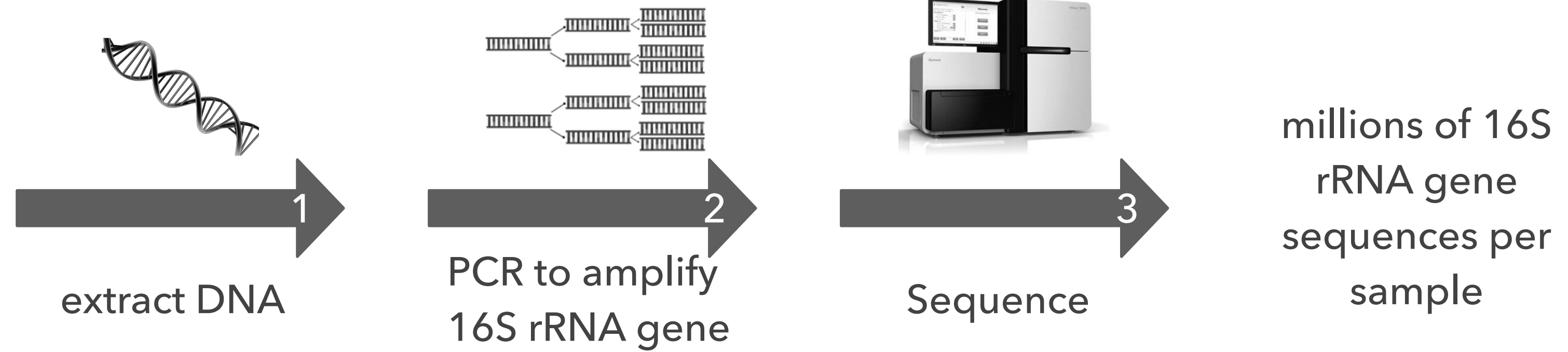
*Prevotella*



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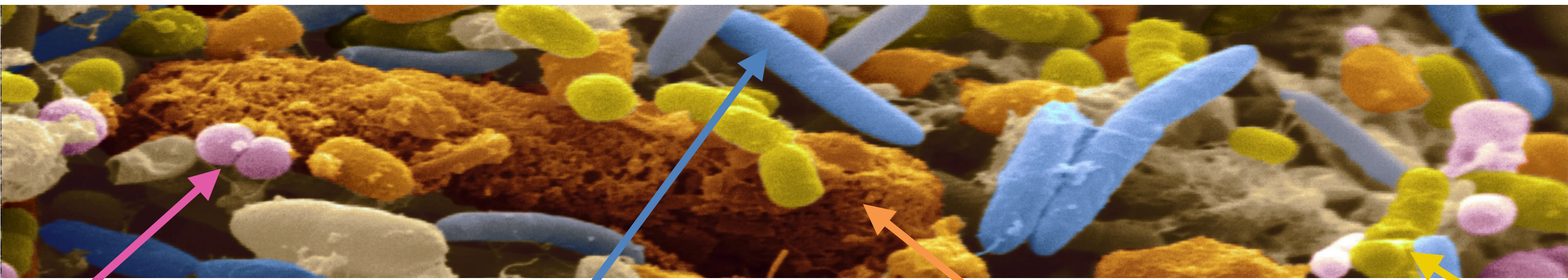


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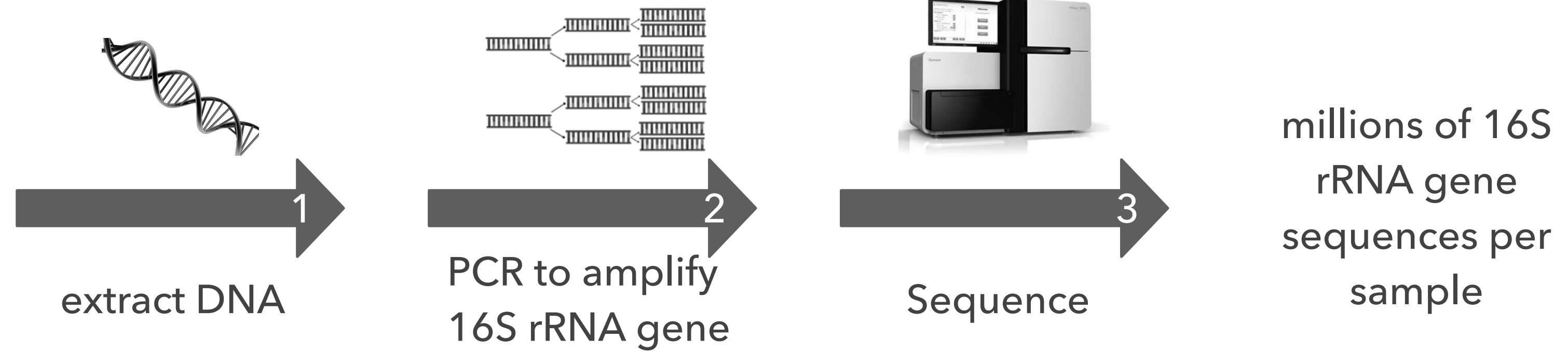


 \* 102  
ACAGTAA  
genus: *Bacteroides*

 \* 36  
ATCGACG  
*Prevotella*

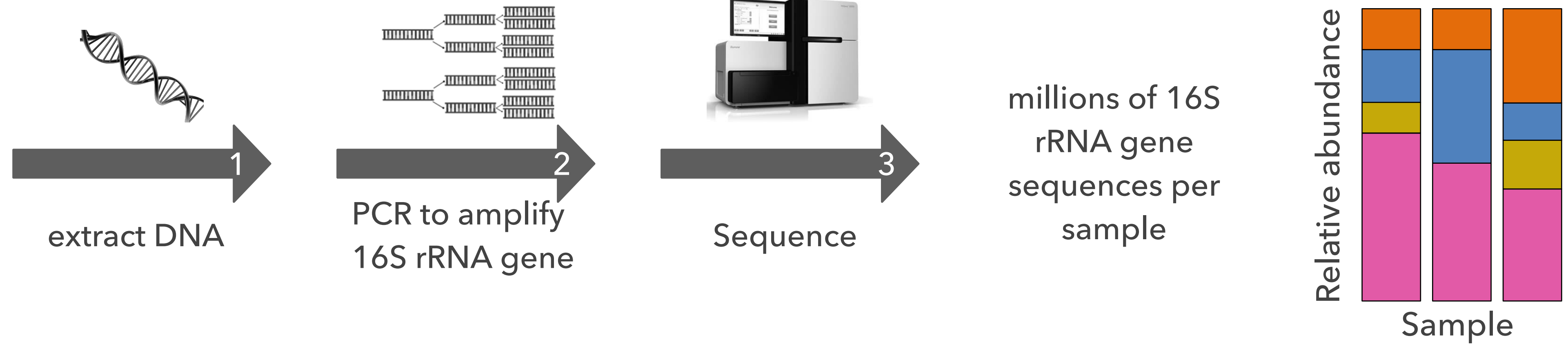
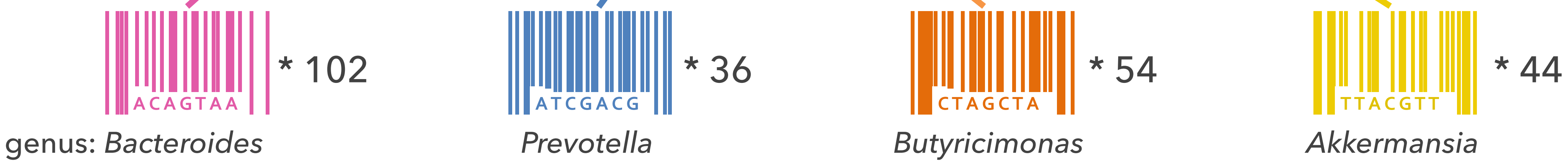
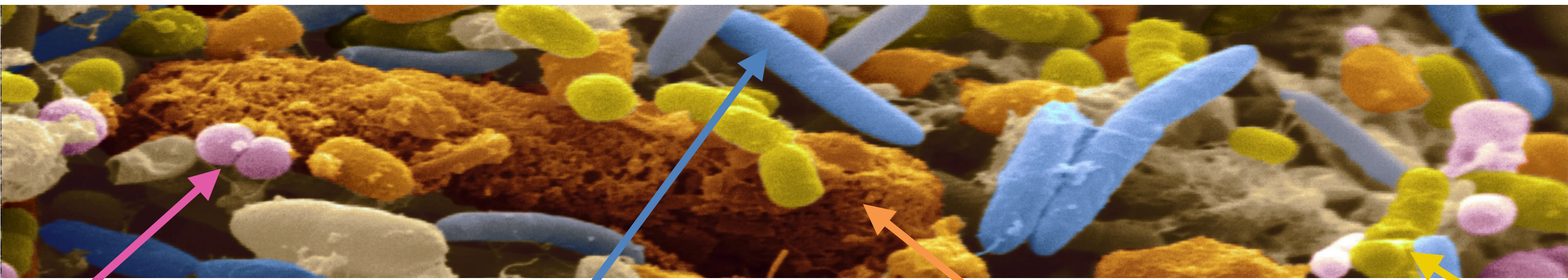
 \* 54  
CTAGCTA  
*Butyricimonas*

 \* 44  
TTACGTT  
*Akkermansia*





# Microbiome data: Deep sequencing of 16S rRNA gene fragments





# Study design: *Sample collection*



127 individuals

microbiome data





# Study design: *Sample collection*



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microbiome data

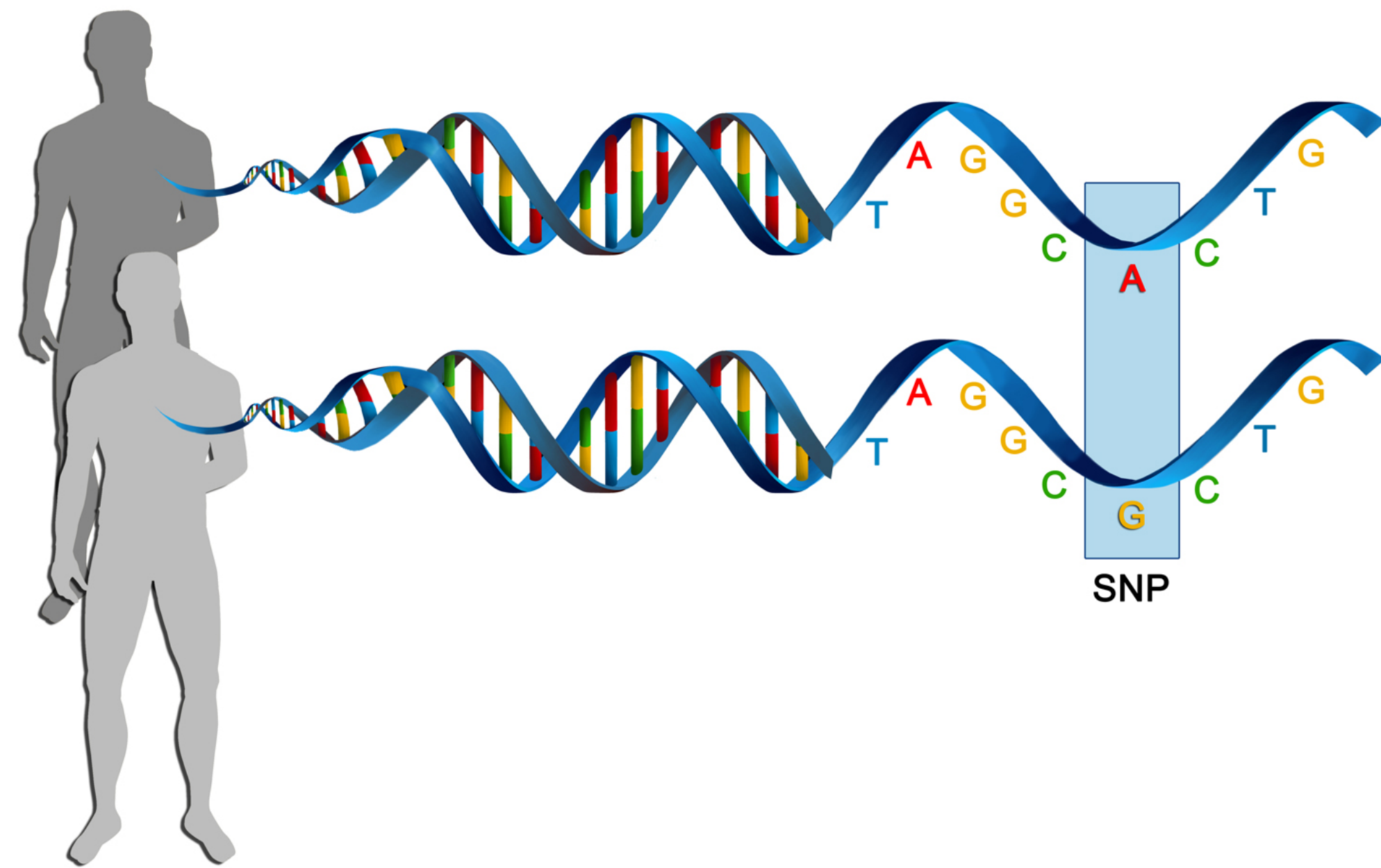


genetic data



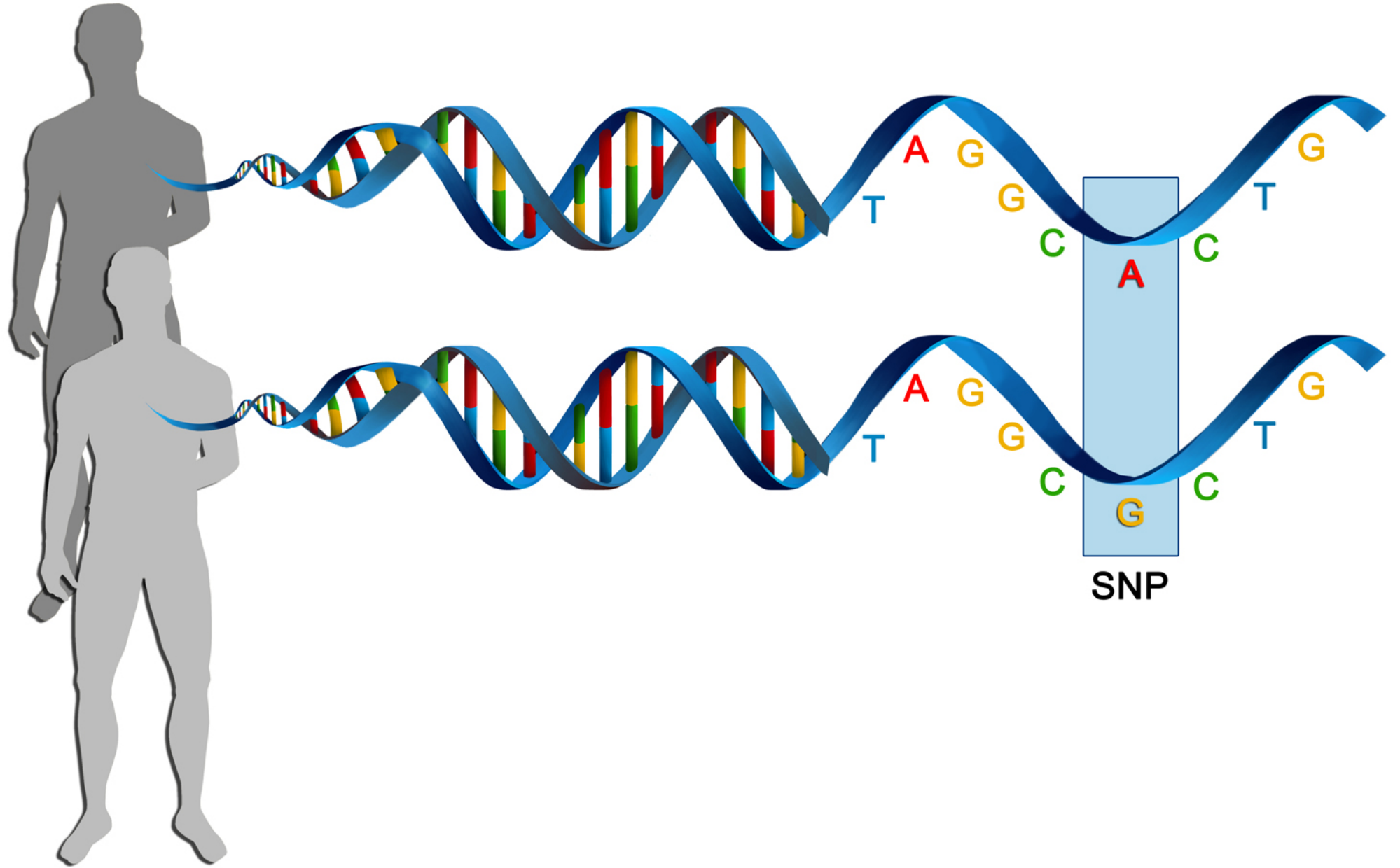


# Human *genetic* data: single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)





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~200,000 genetic variants



Open questions:

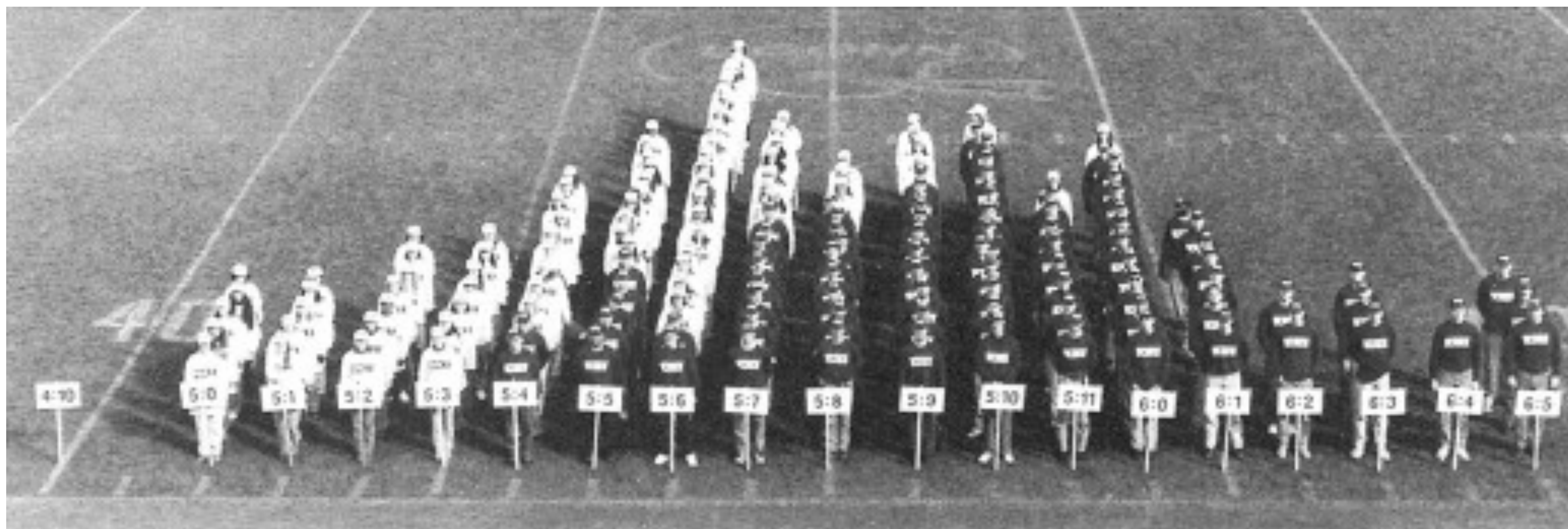


## Open questions:

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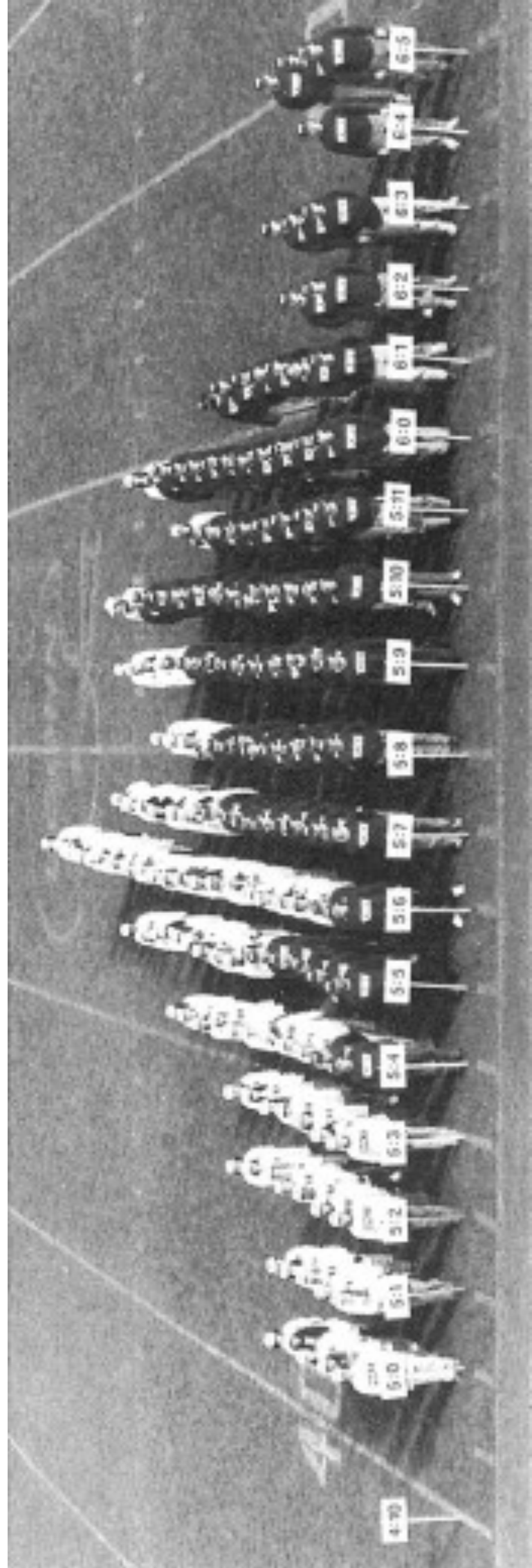


*Chip heritability* = proportion of variance explained by SNPs



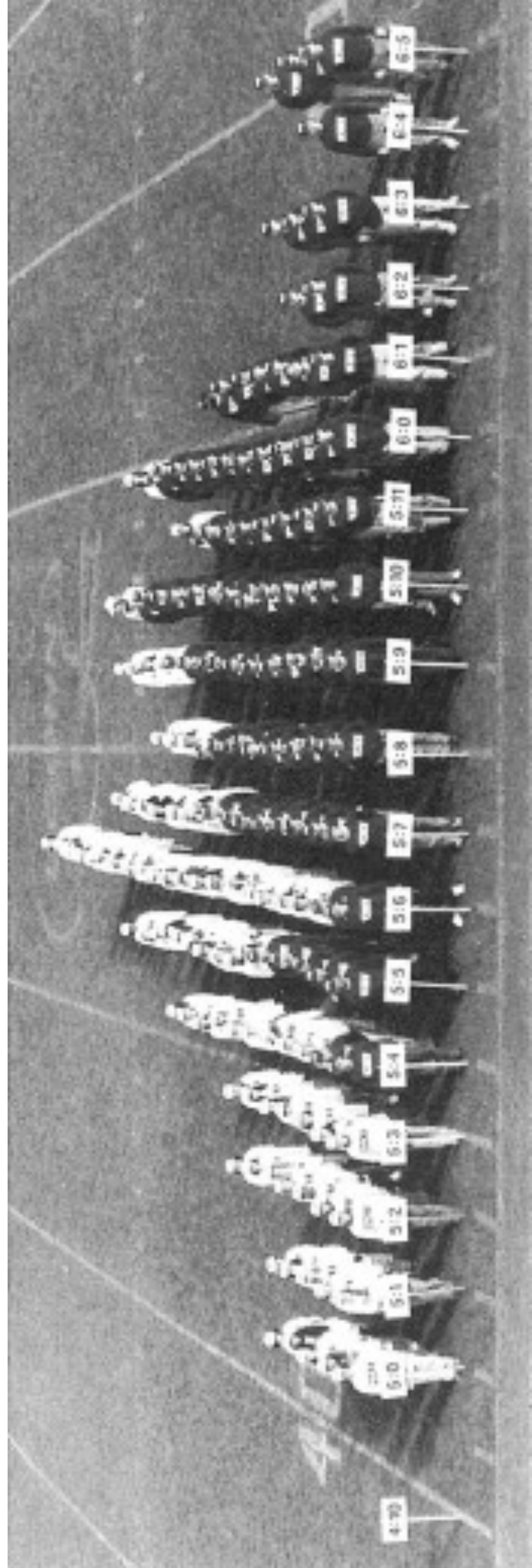


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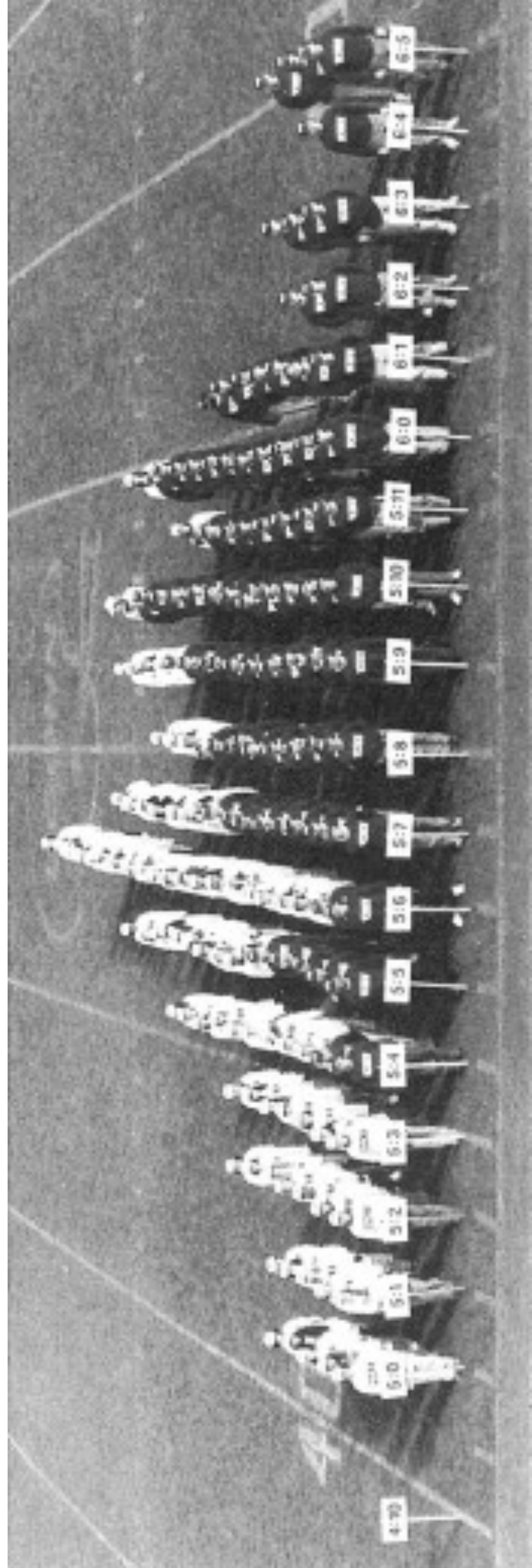


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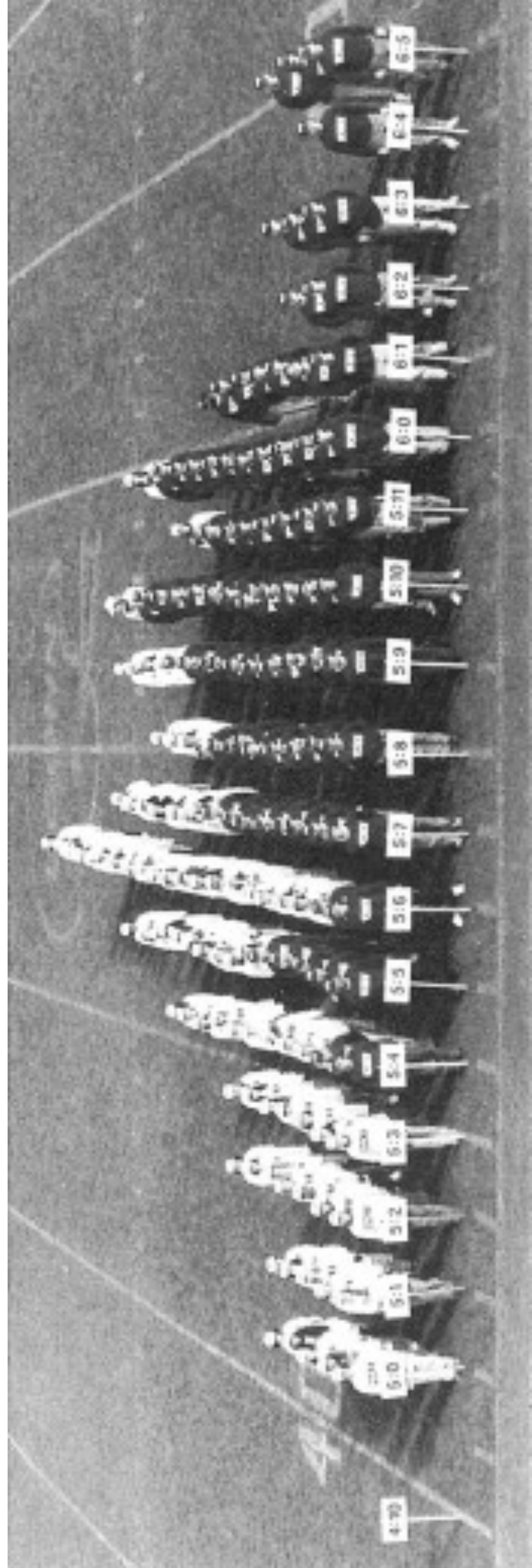
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variance in phenotype



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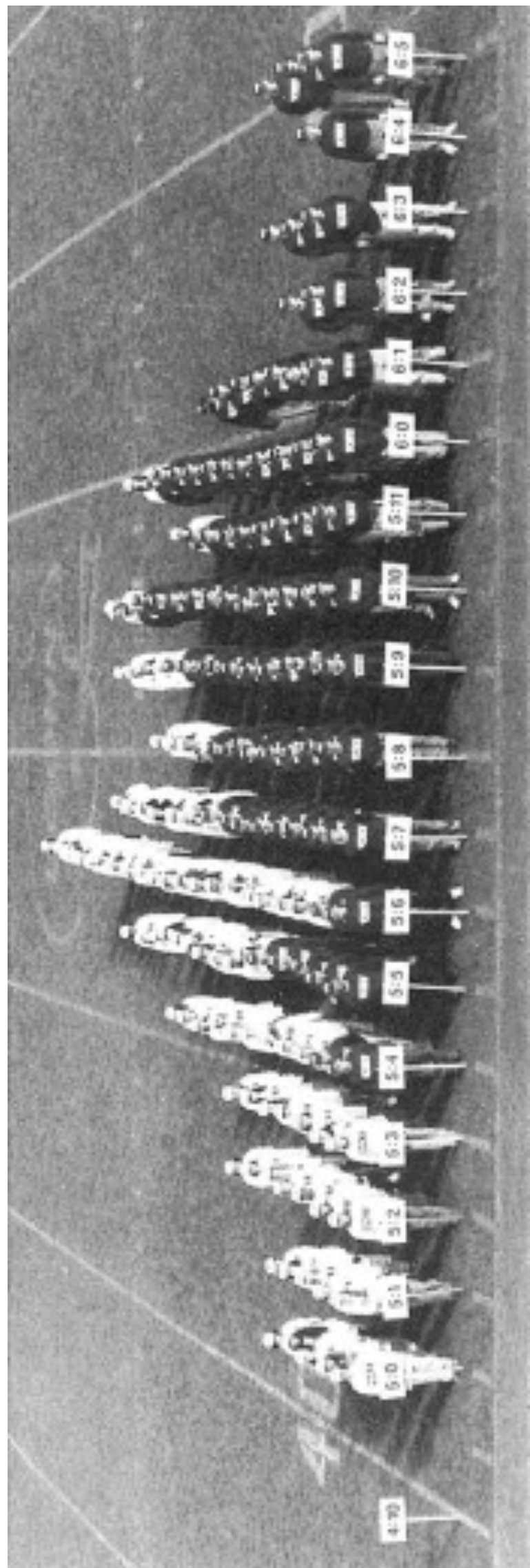


variance in phenotype

genetics

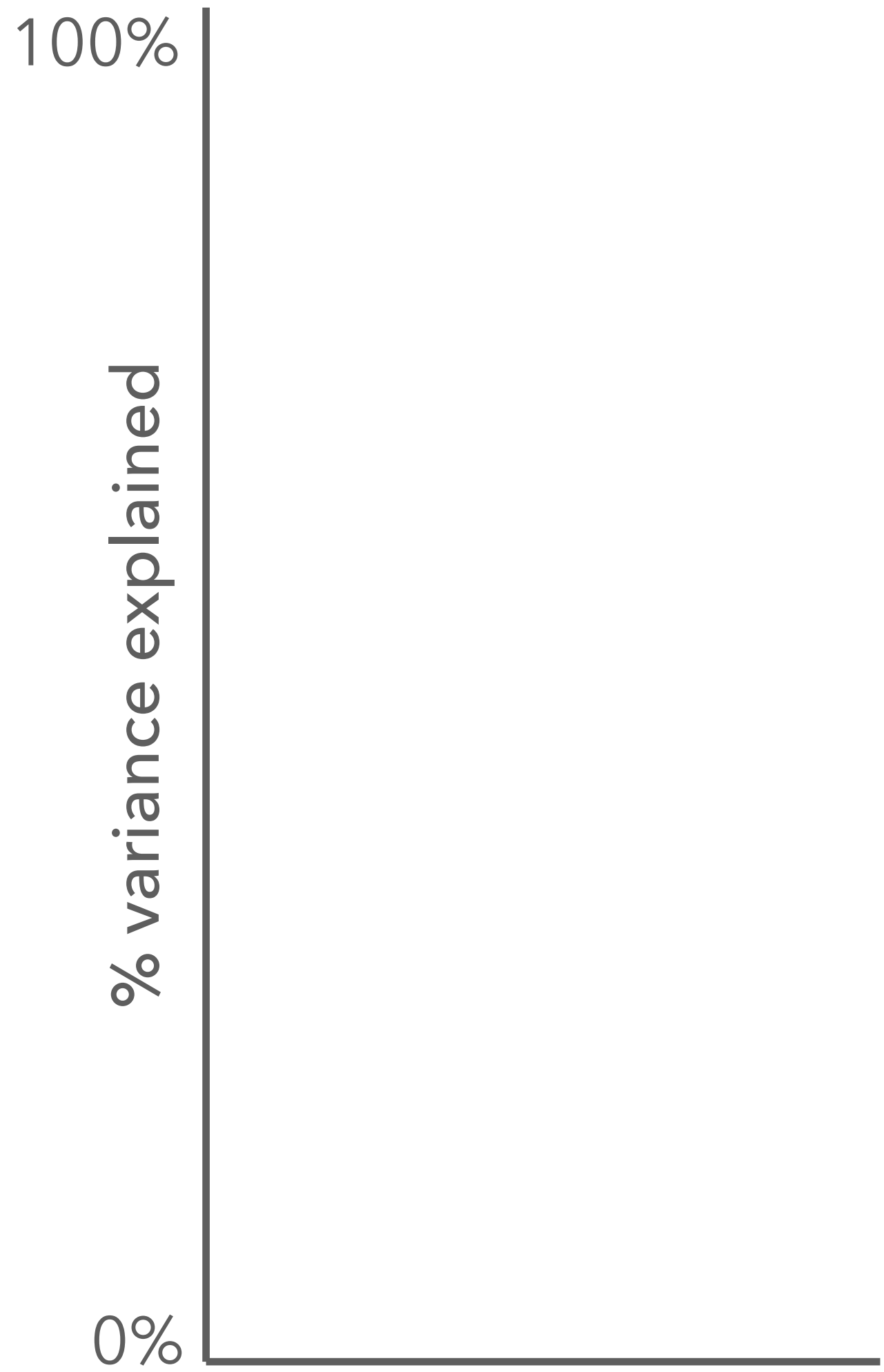
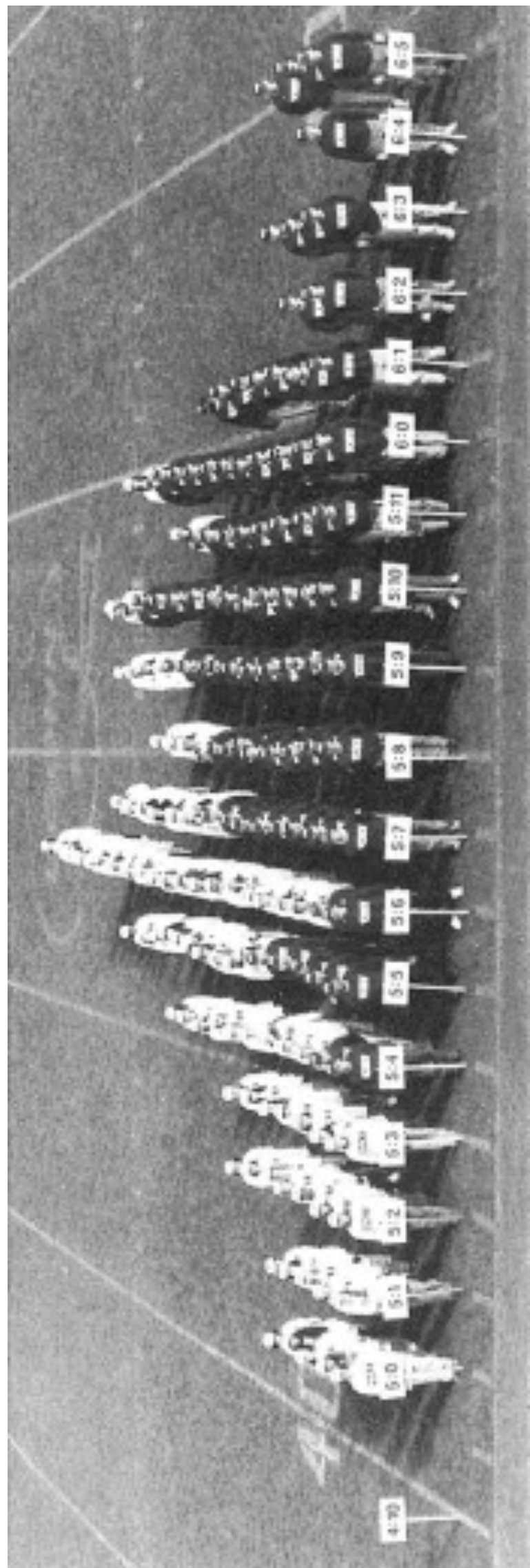


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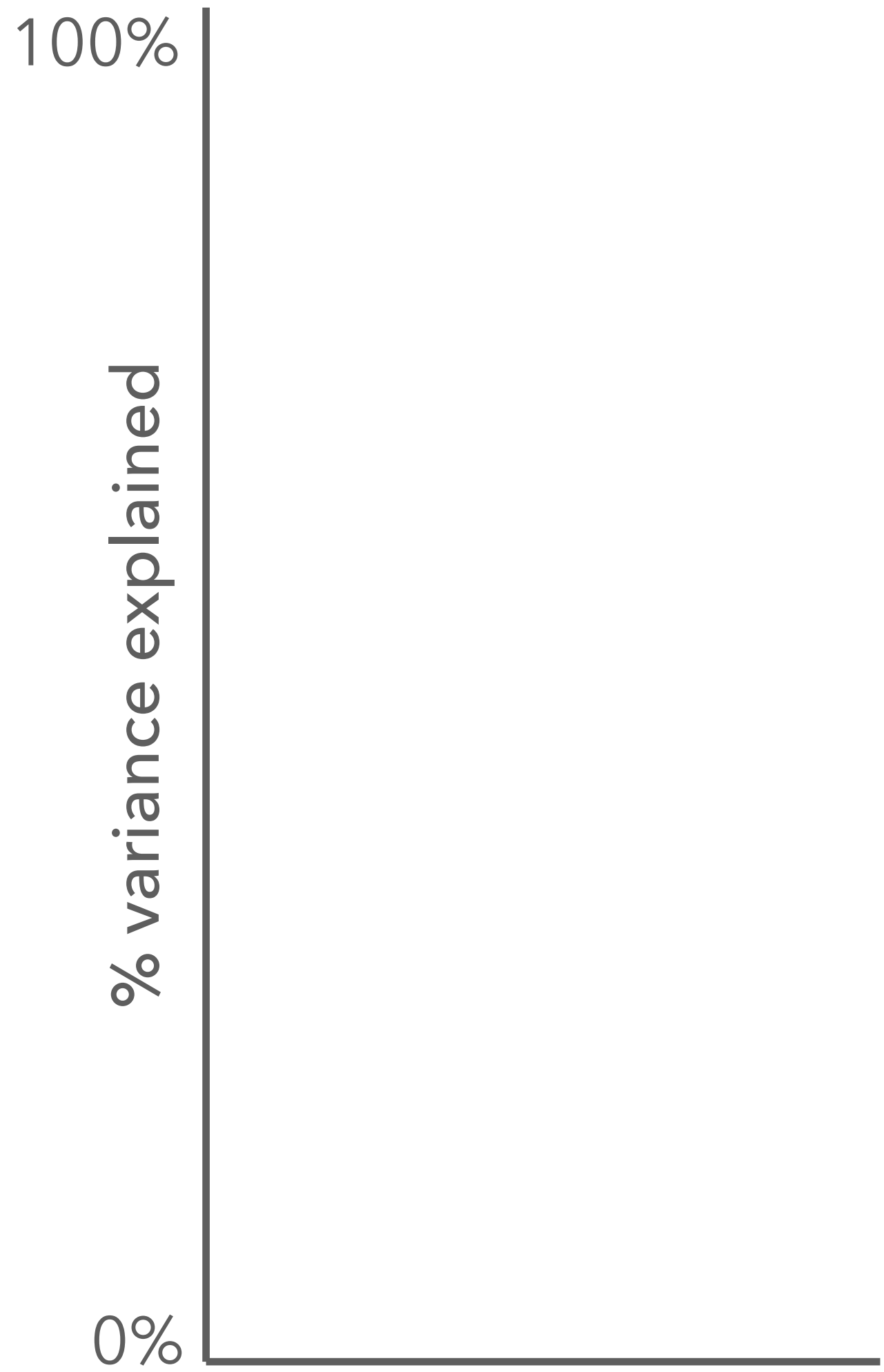
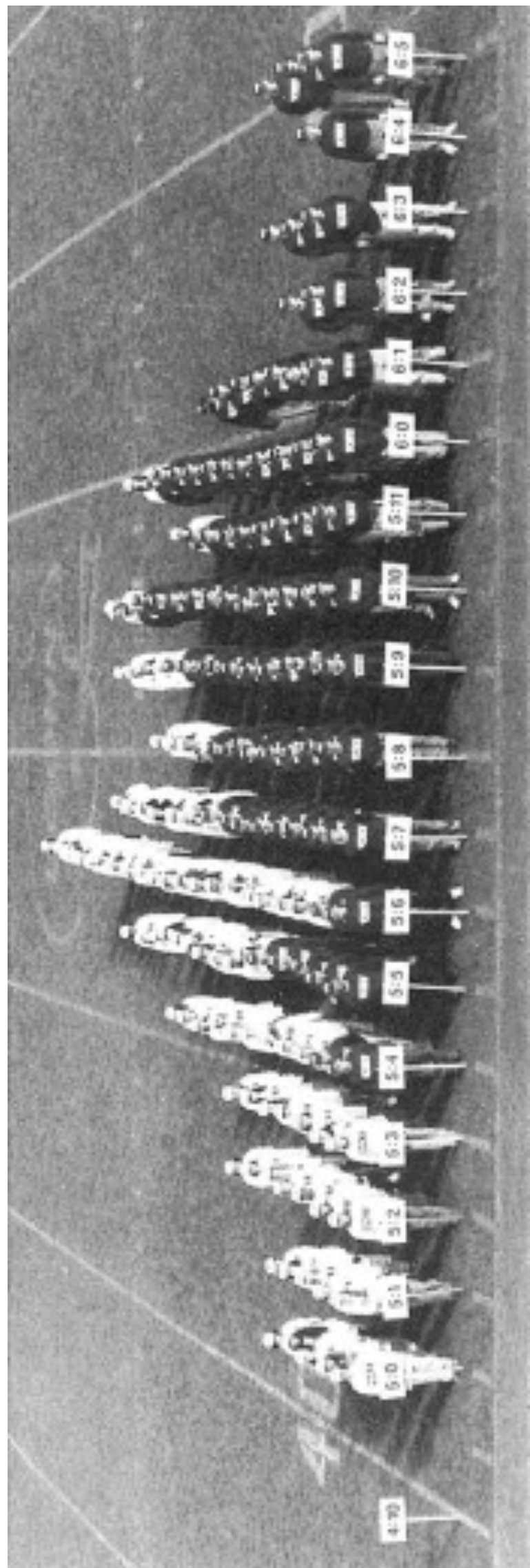


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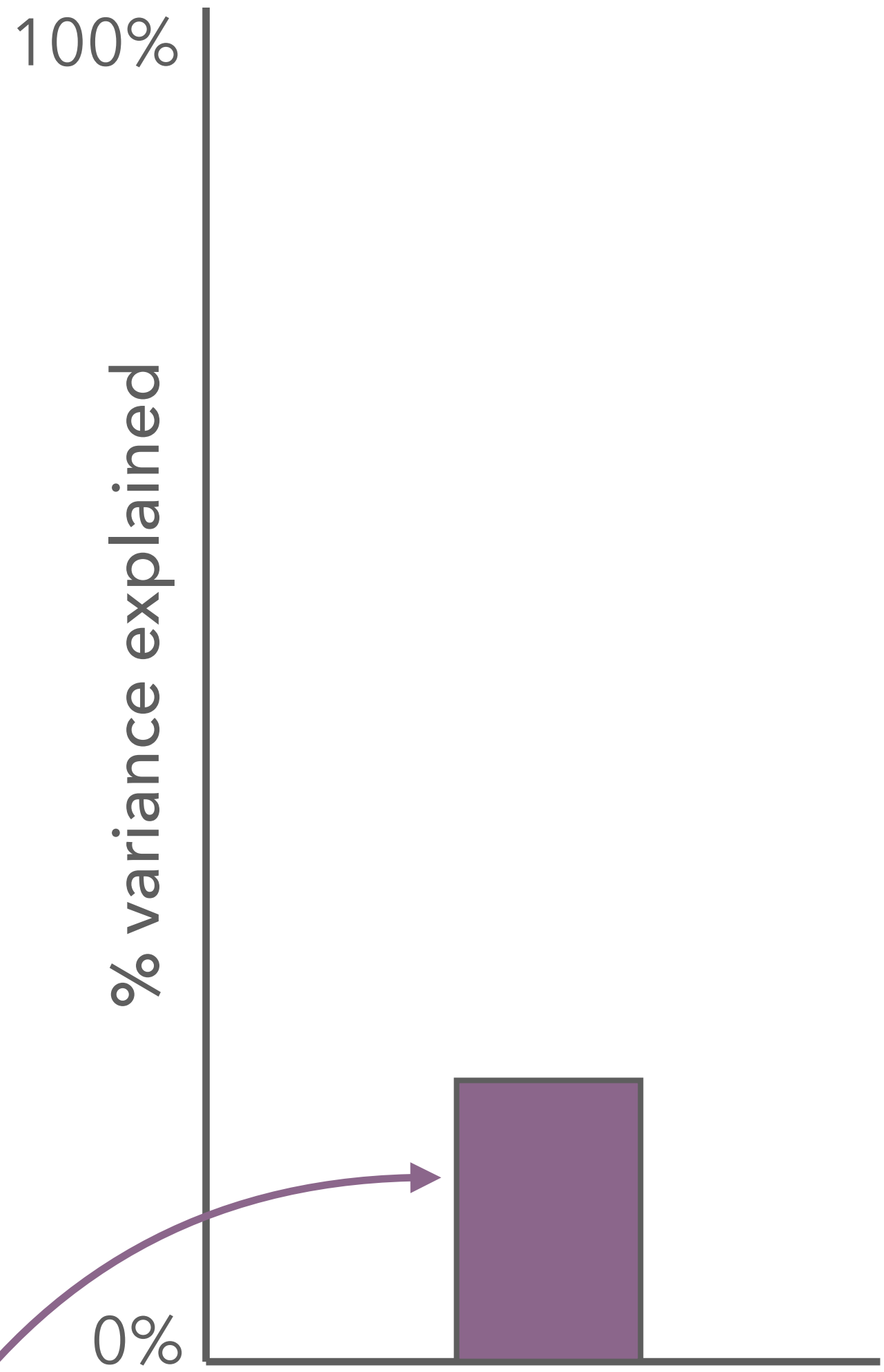
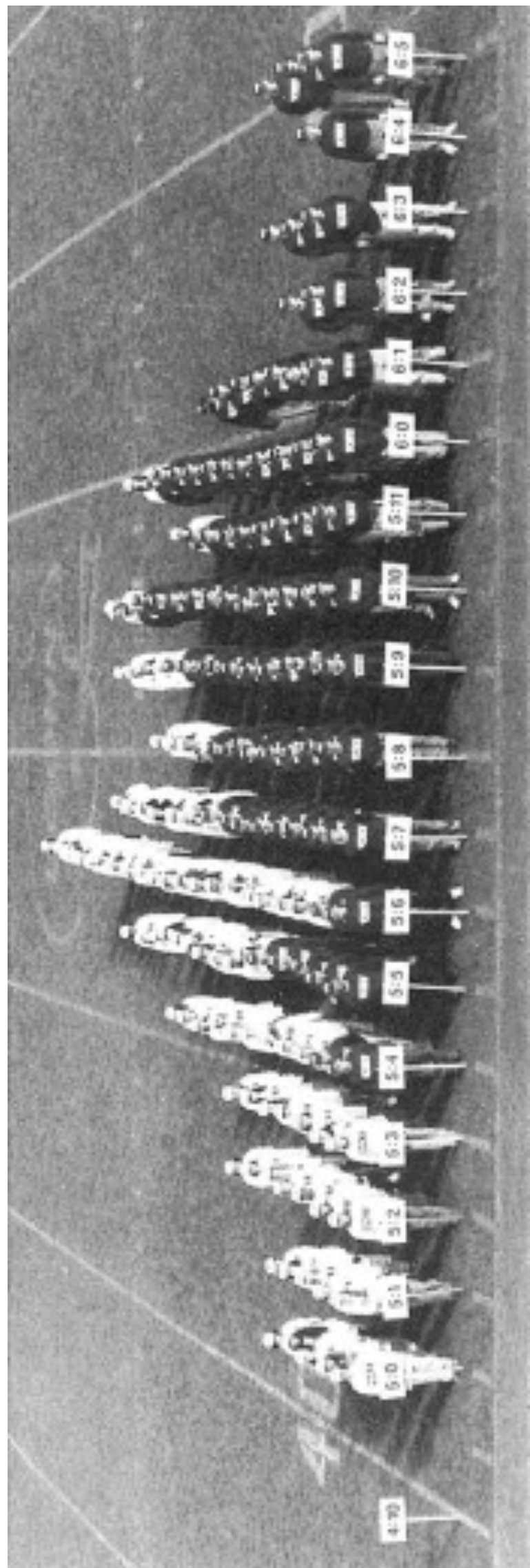
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...ATCAGGTACATCCGGTATC<sup>C</sup><sub>G</sub>CACT<sup>A</sup><sub>T</sub>ACTCGCC<sup>C</sup><sub>T</sub>GATATCGA<sup>A</sup><sub>G</sub>A<sup>G</sup><sub>A</sub>GTCATGAC<sup>G</sup><sub>T</sub>GGATCA...



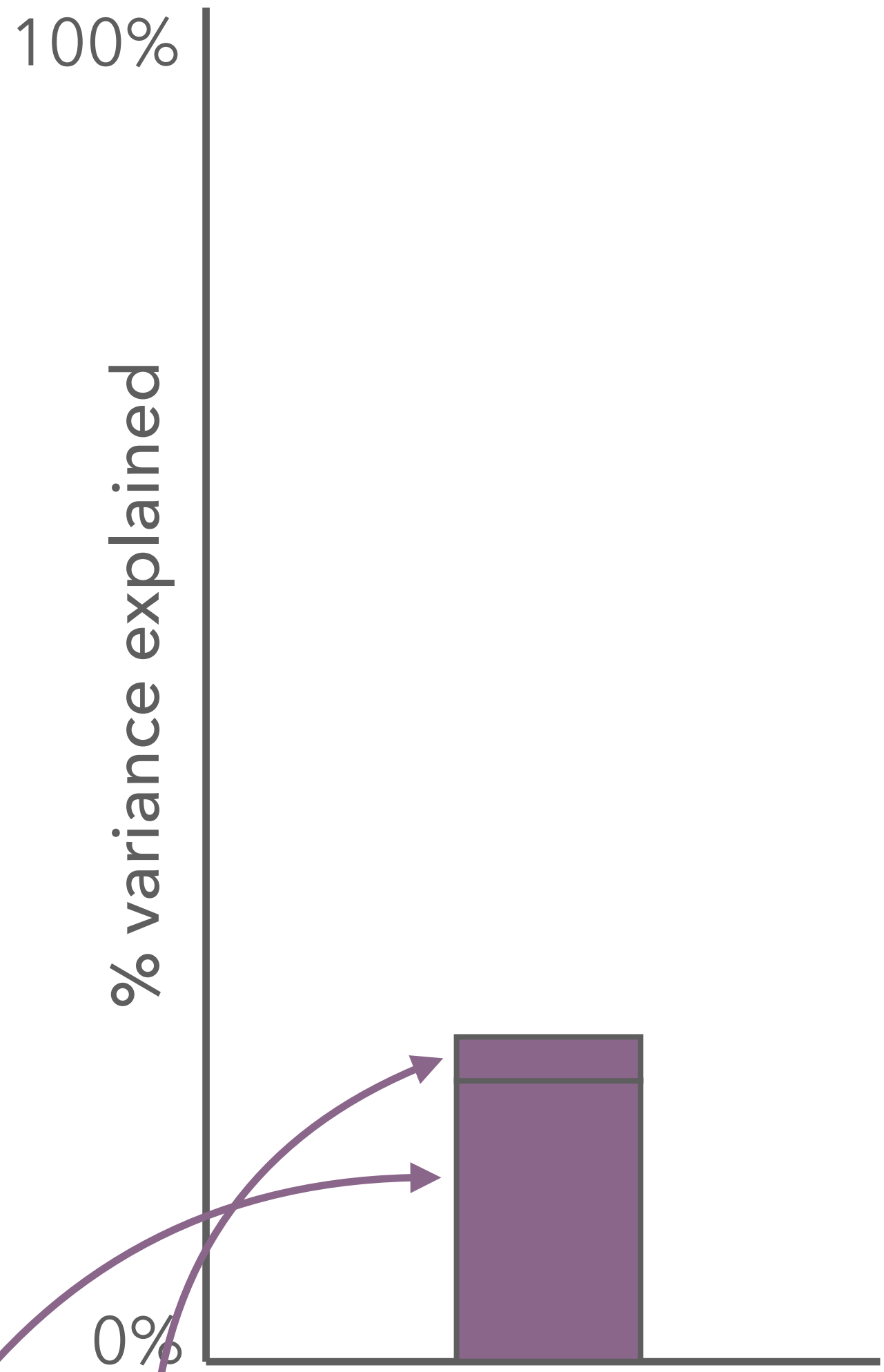
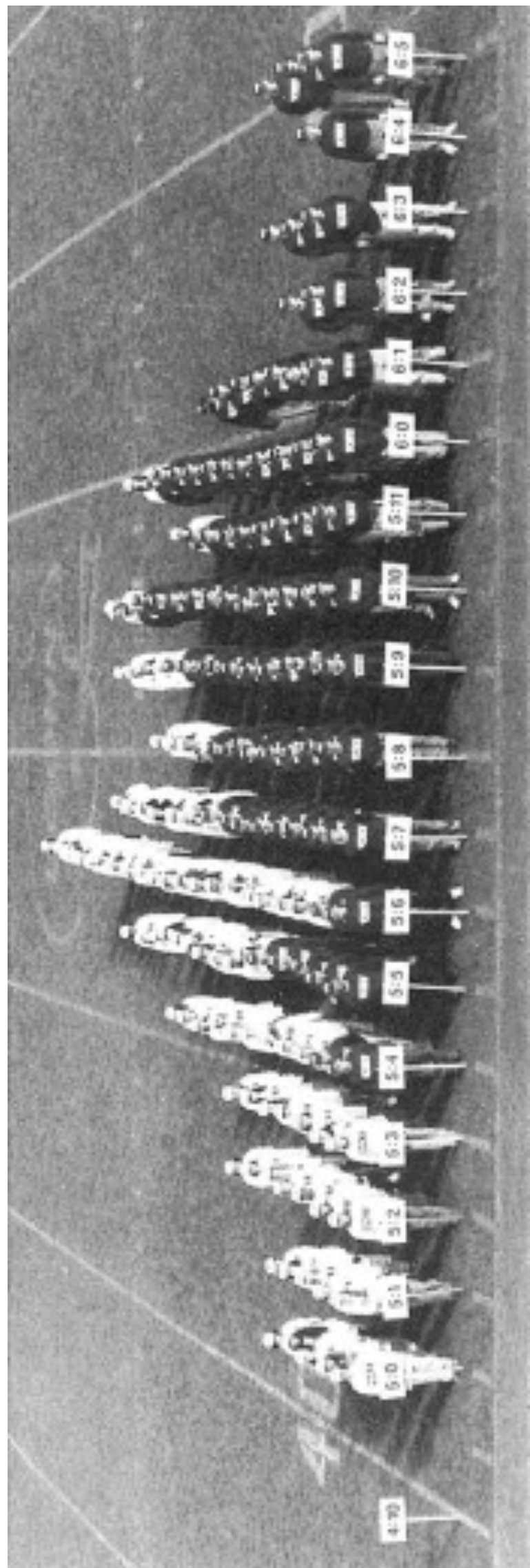
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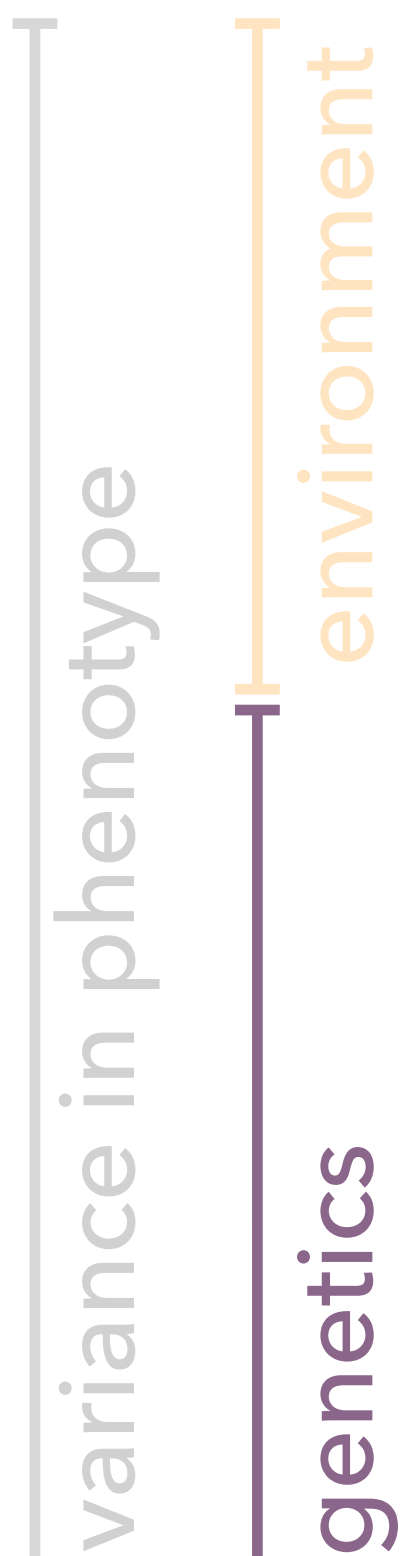
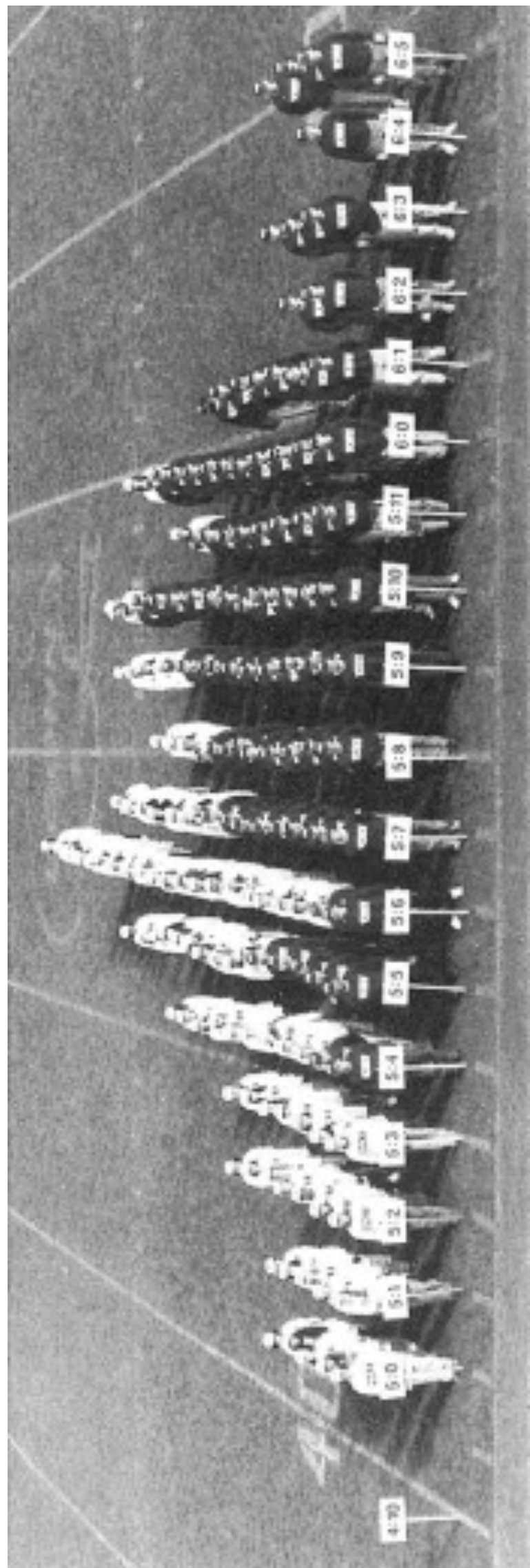
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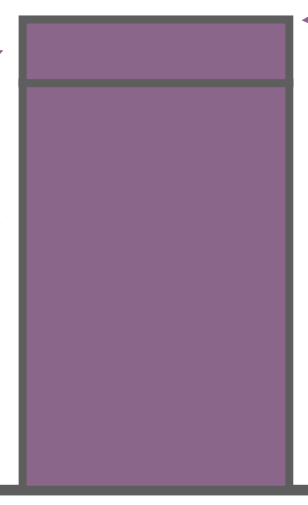
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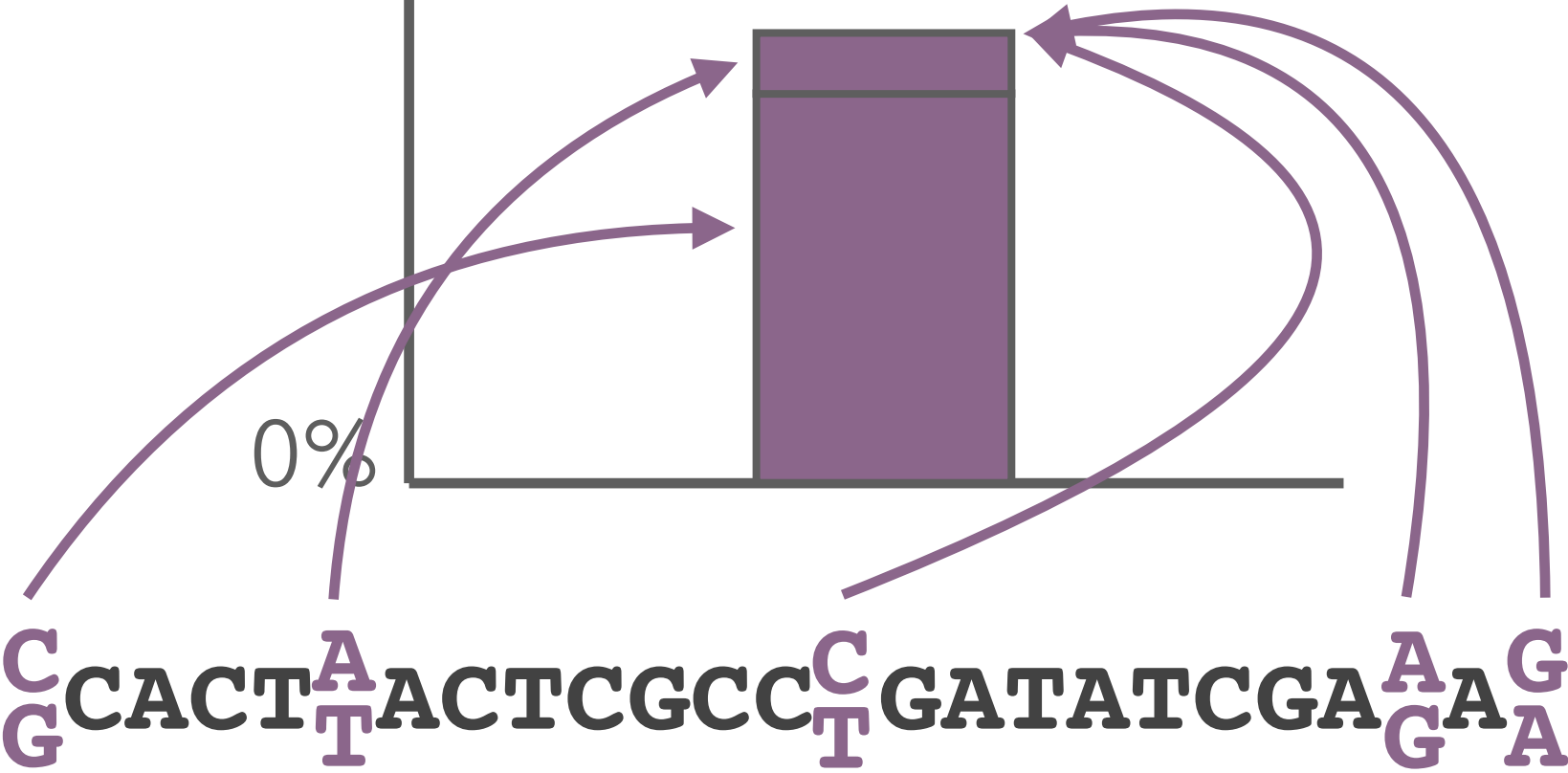
100%

% variance explained

0%

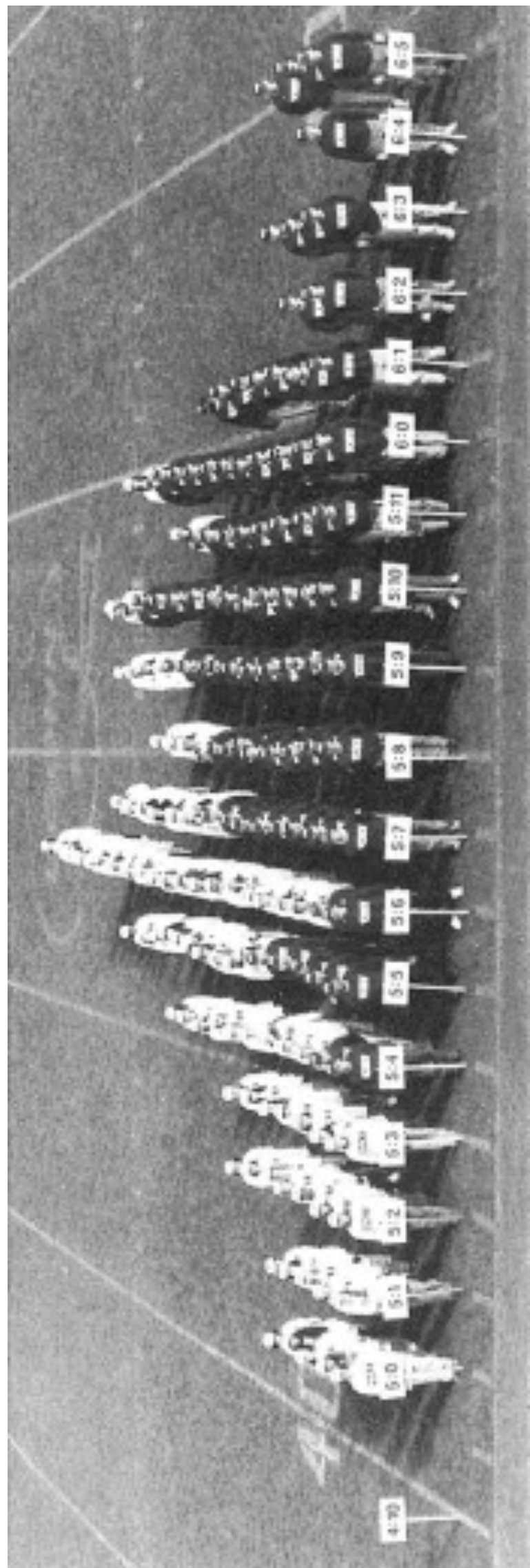


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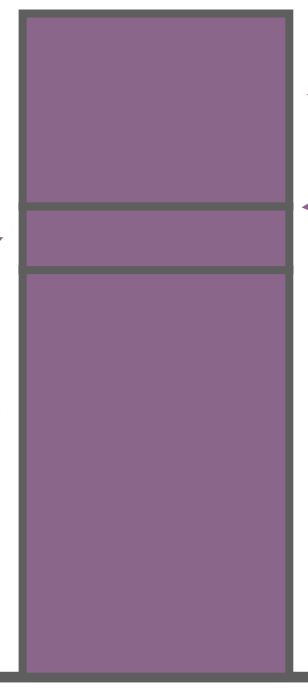
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% variance explained

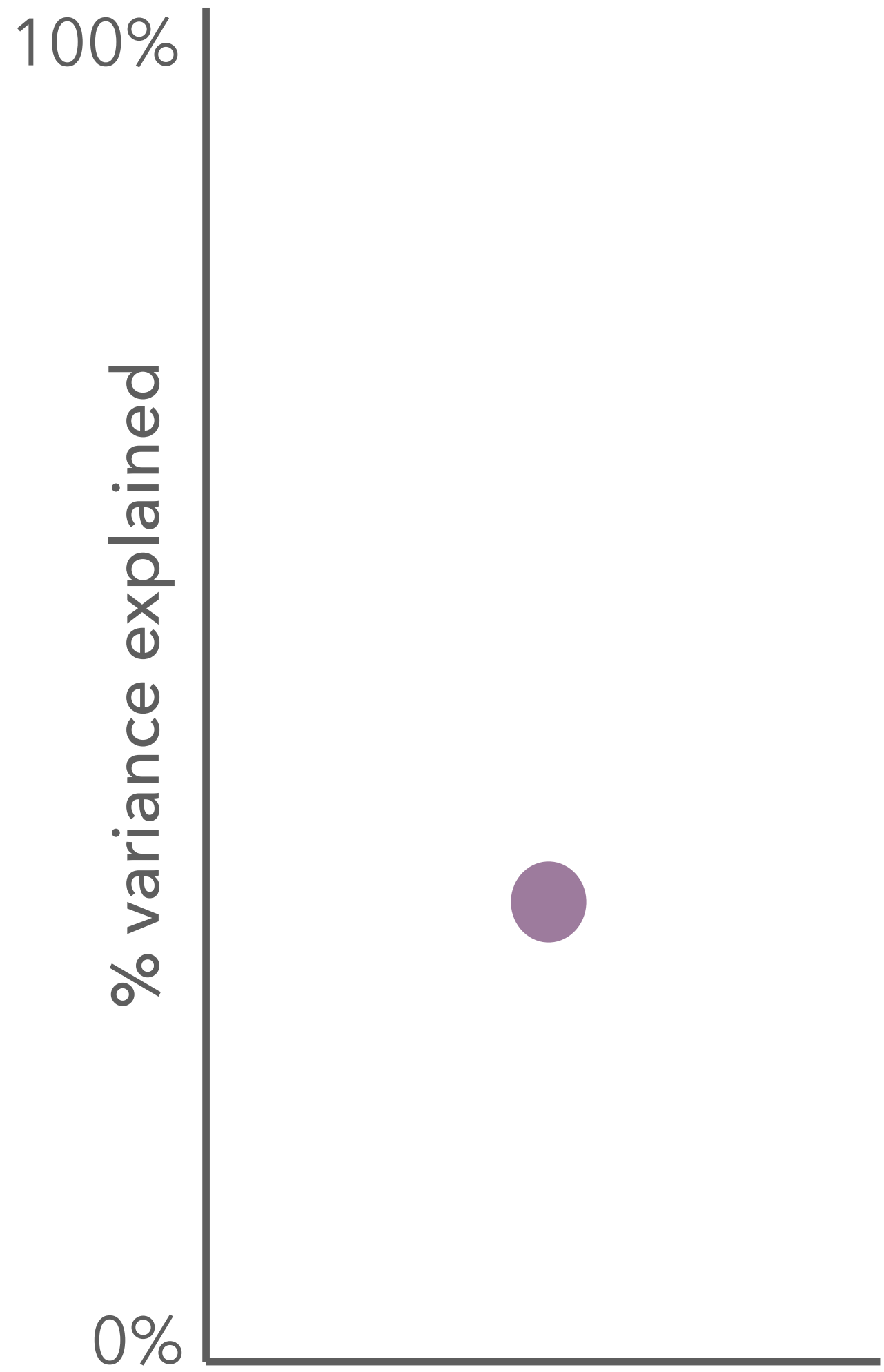
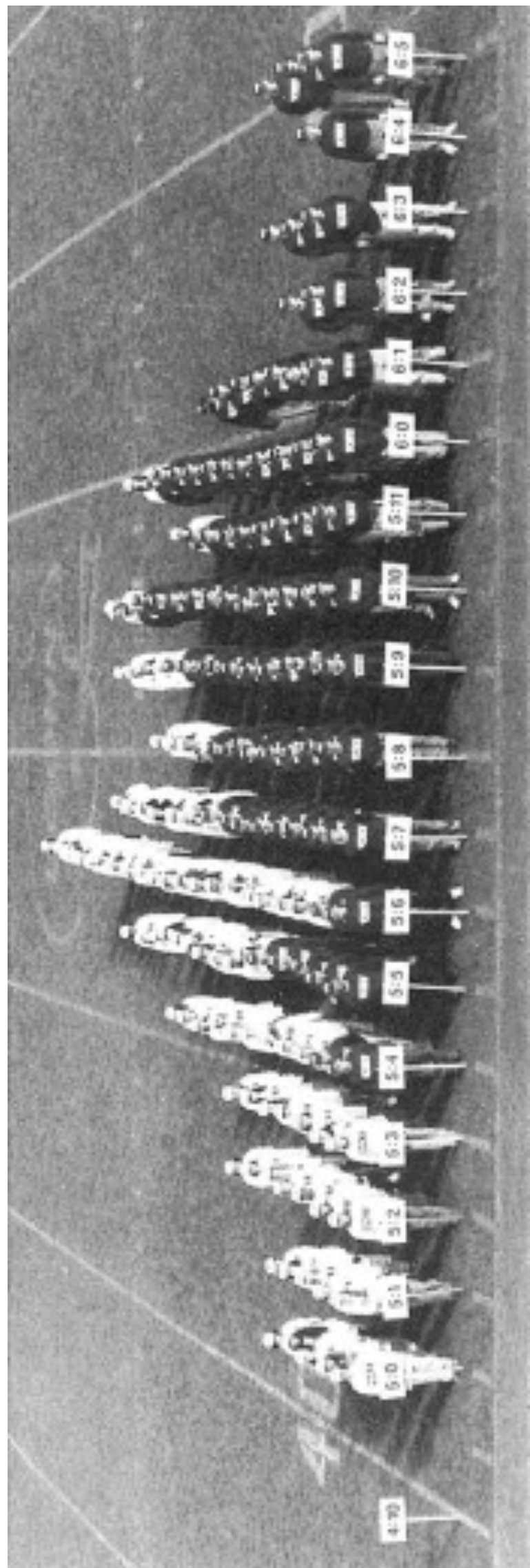
0%



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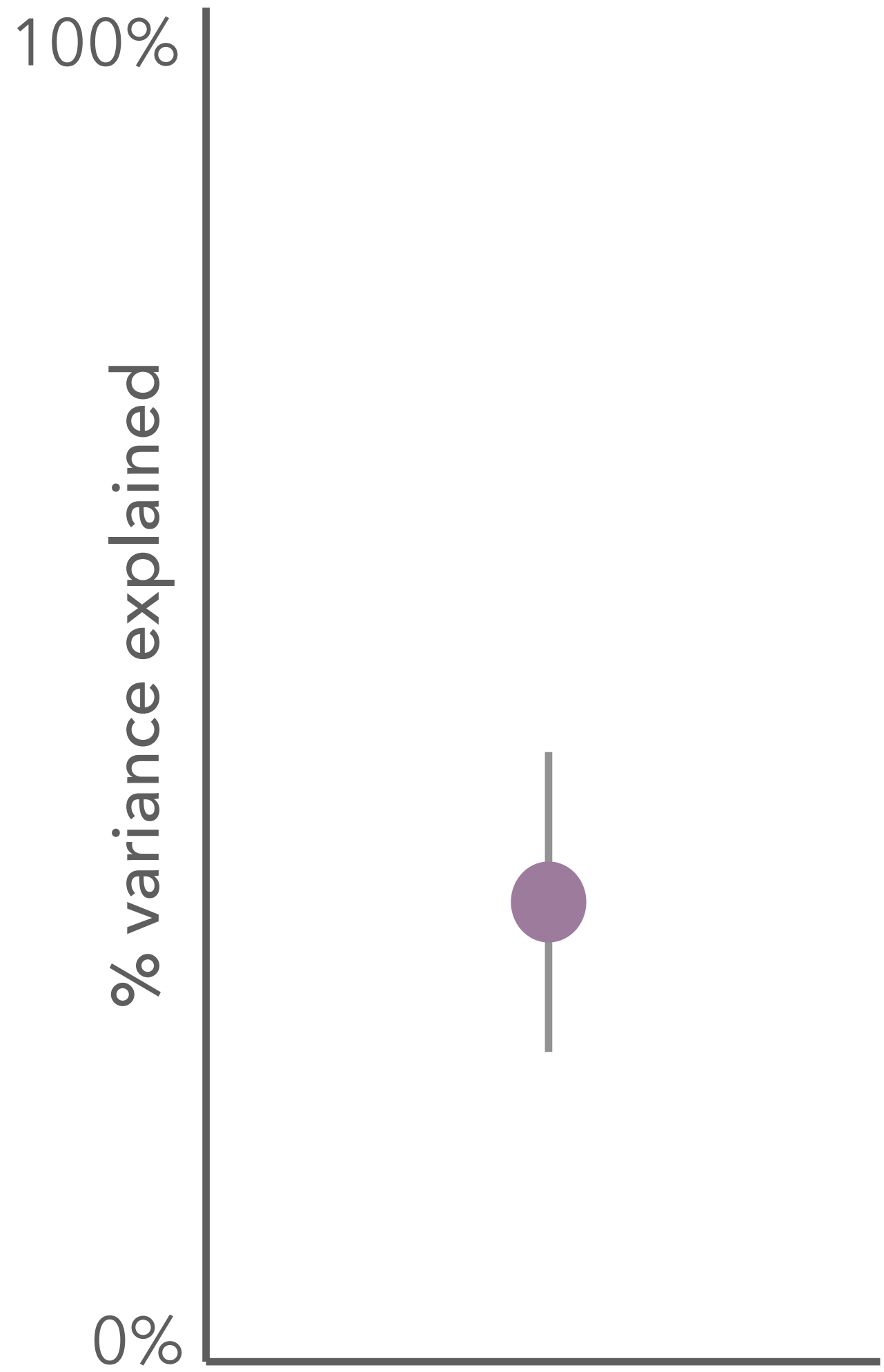
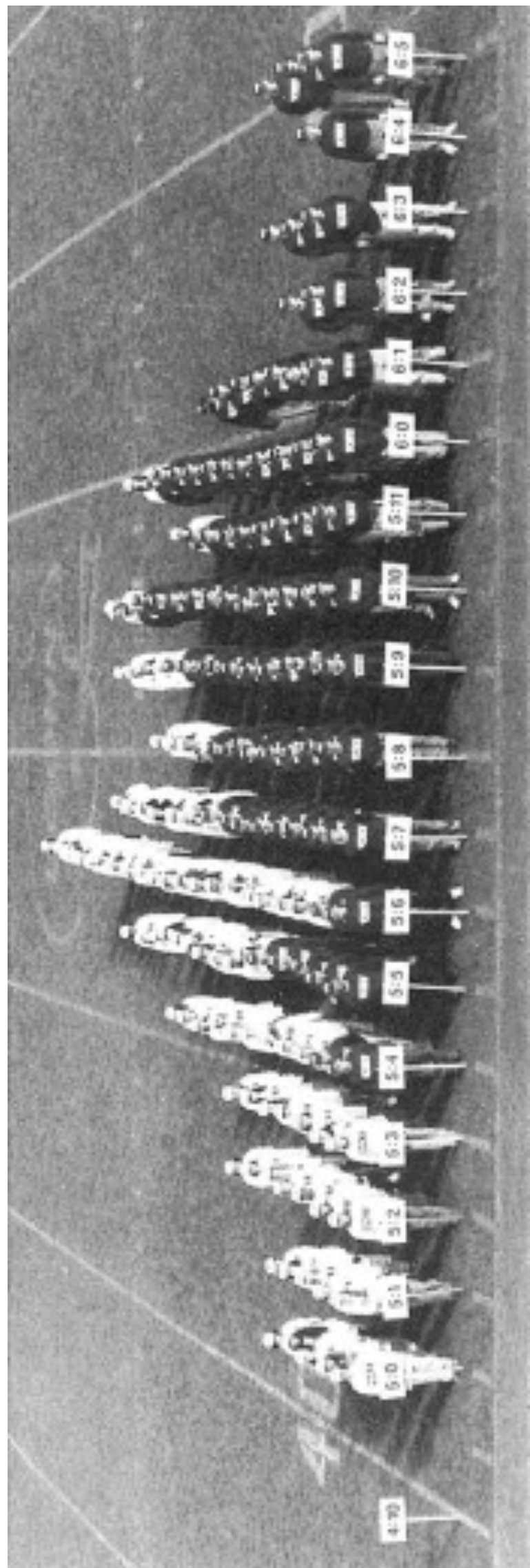


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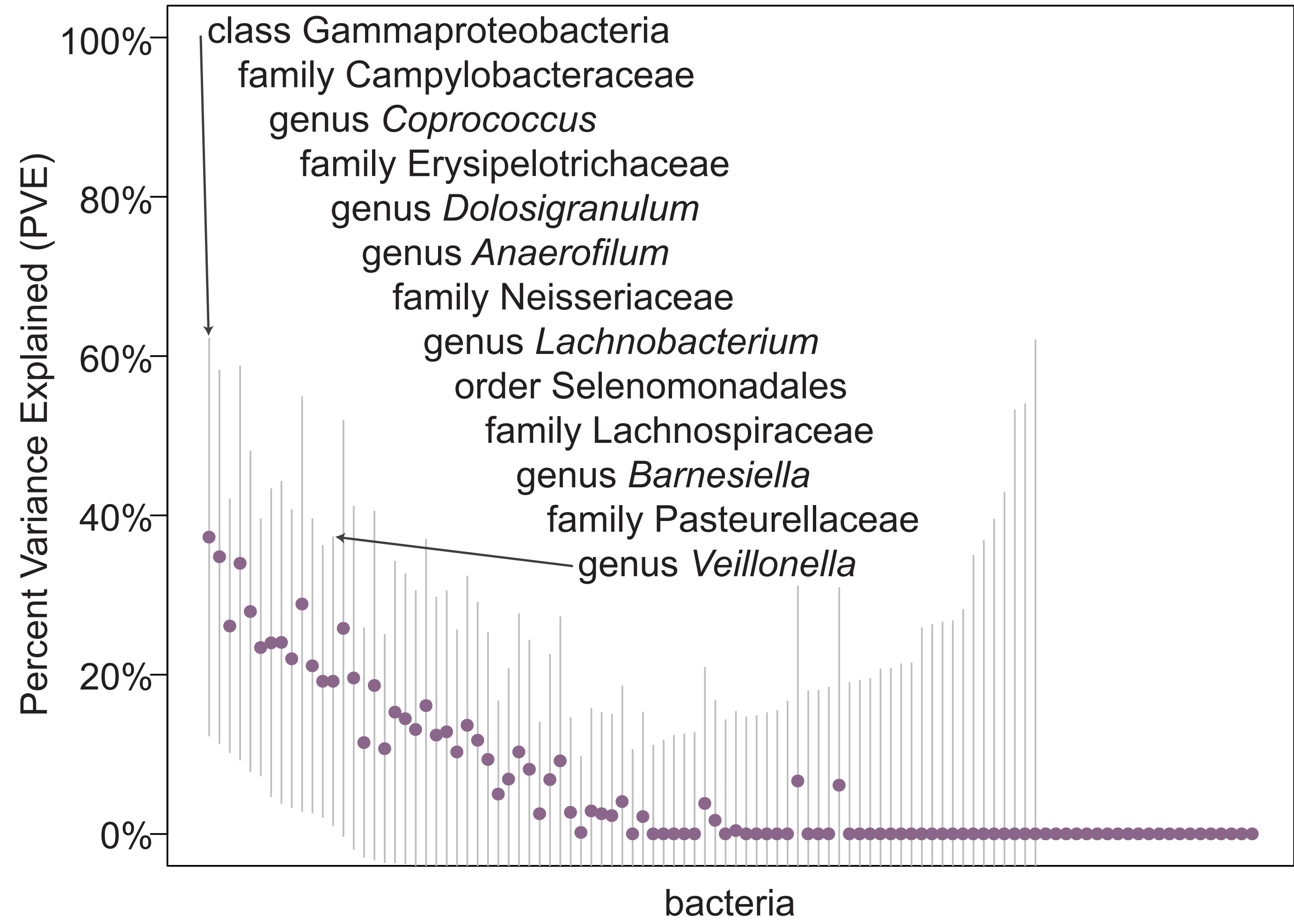


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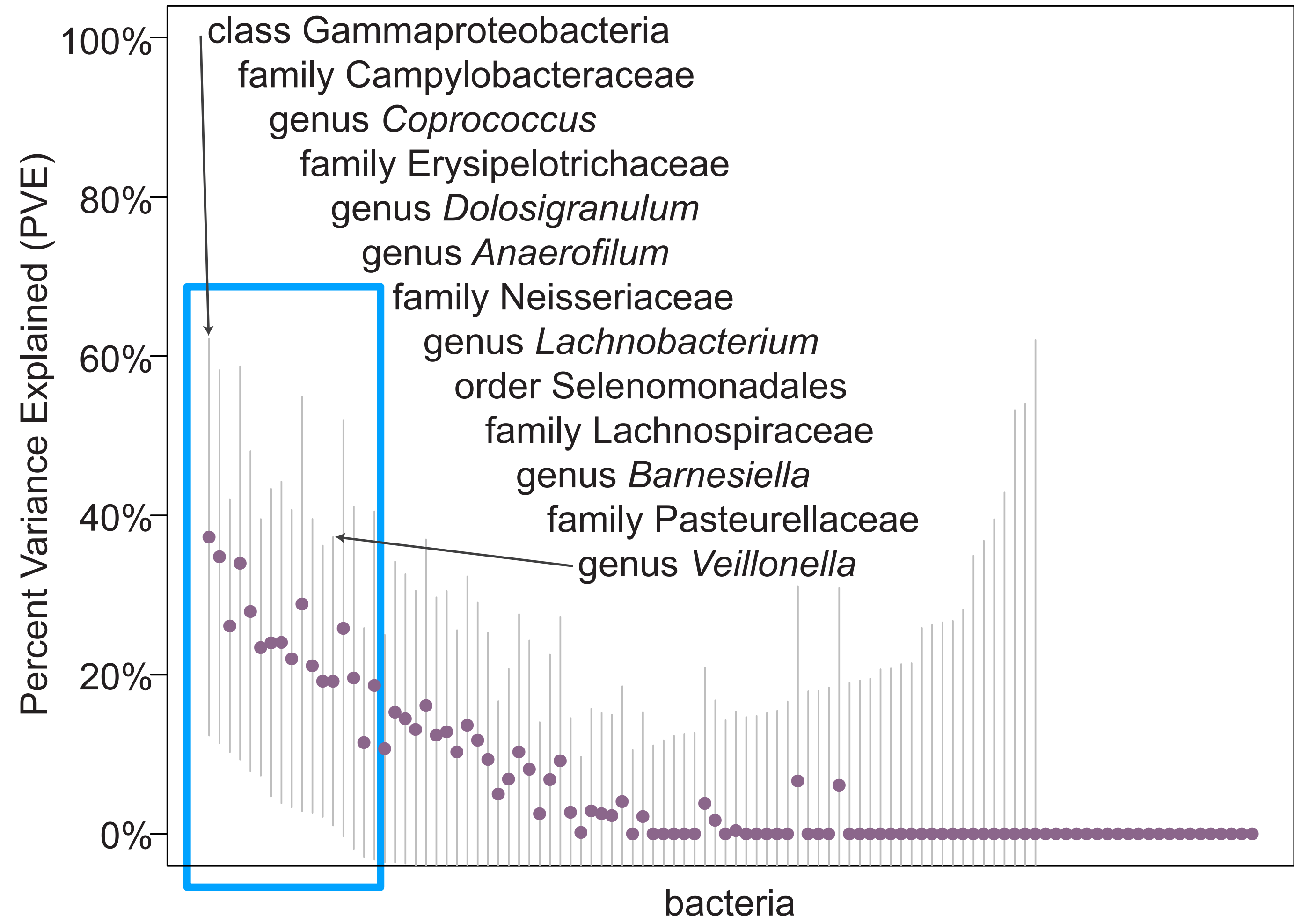


# Abundances of select bacteria are *heritable*





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## Open questions:

1. Are relative abundances of specific bacteria *heritable*?



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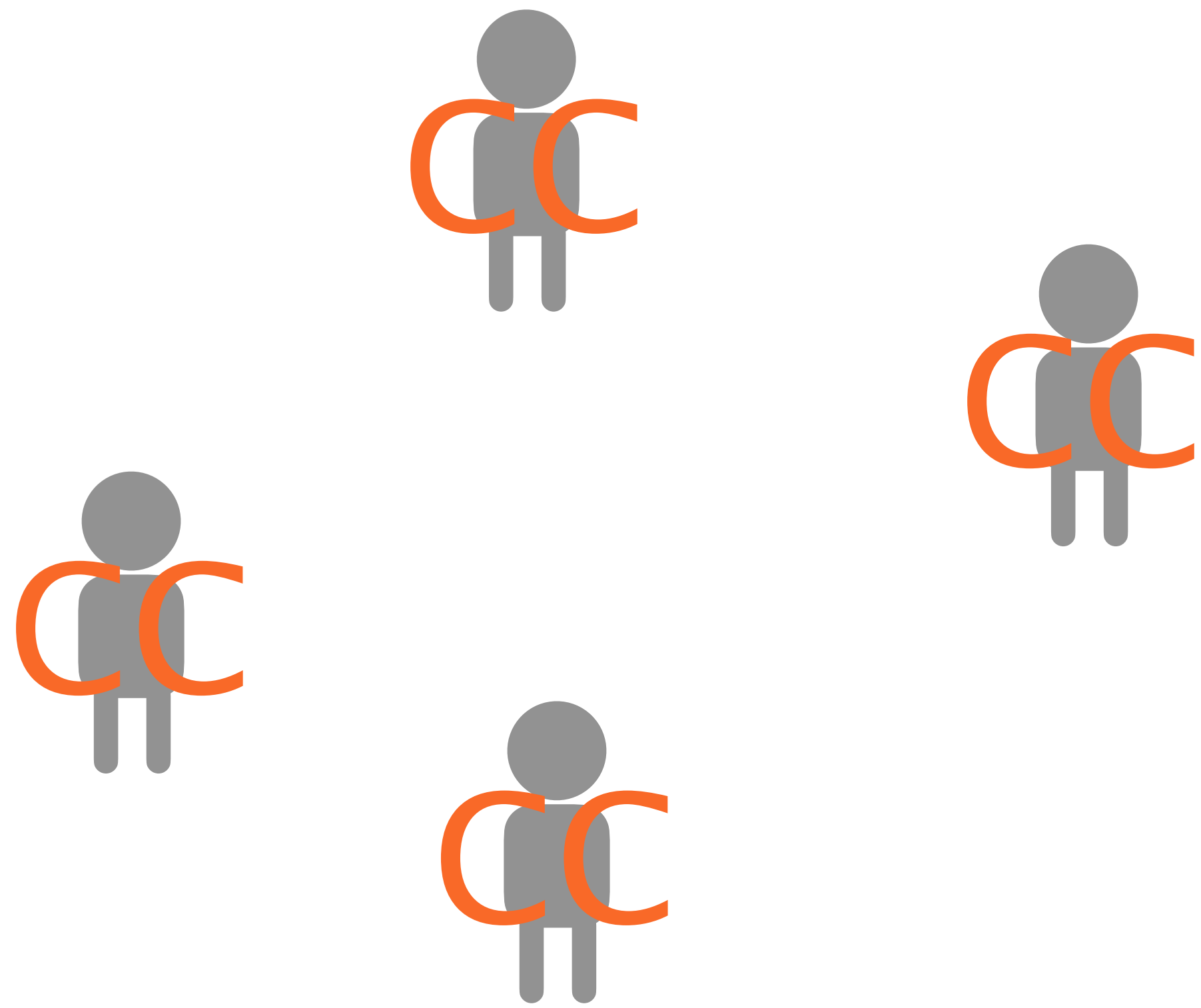
## Open questions:

1. Are relative abundances of specific bacteria *heritable*? ✓

2. Which *variants* in the human genome are associated with bacterial relative abundance?

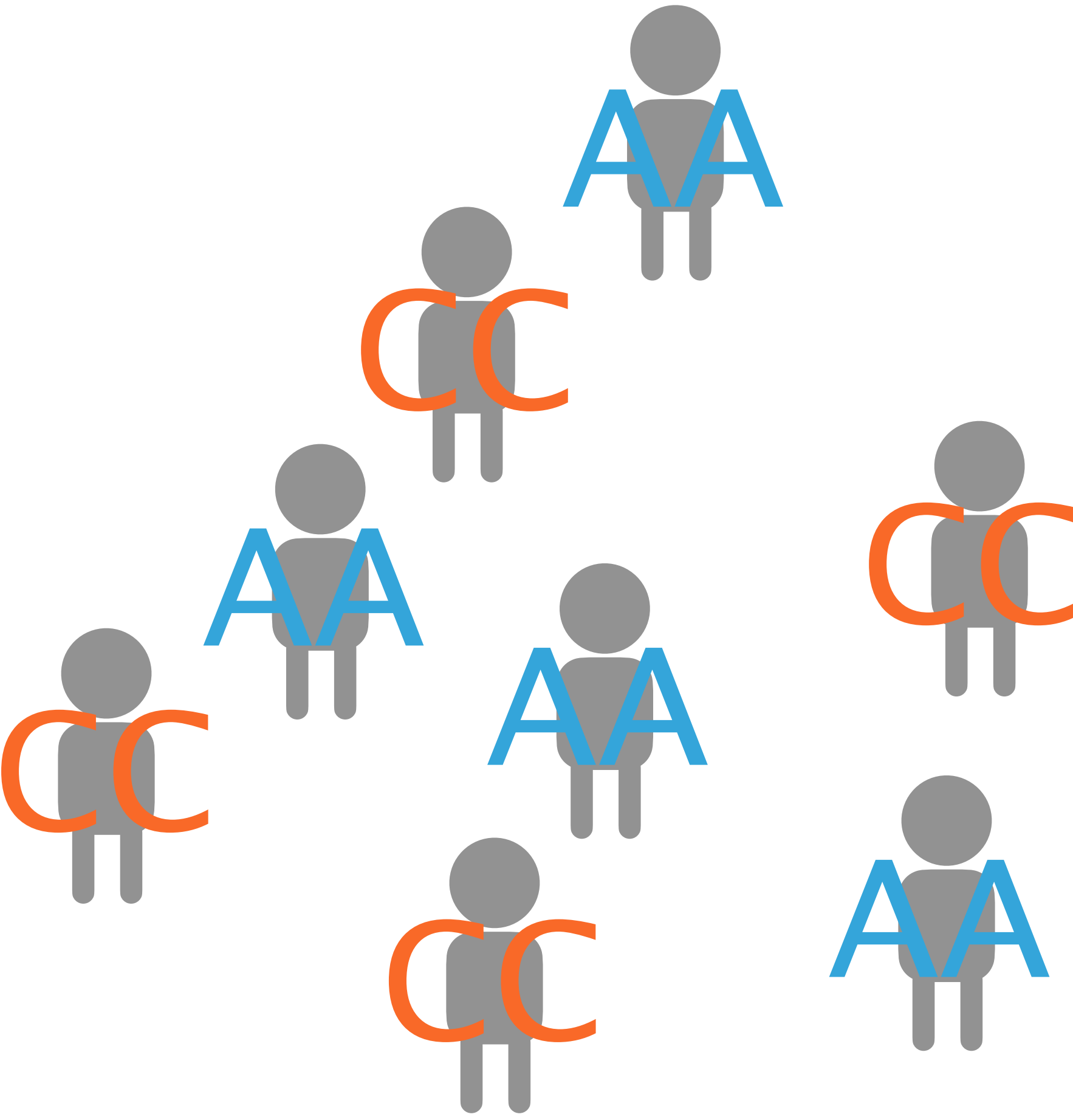


# GWAS identifies *variants associated with phenotypes*



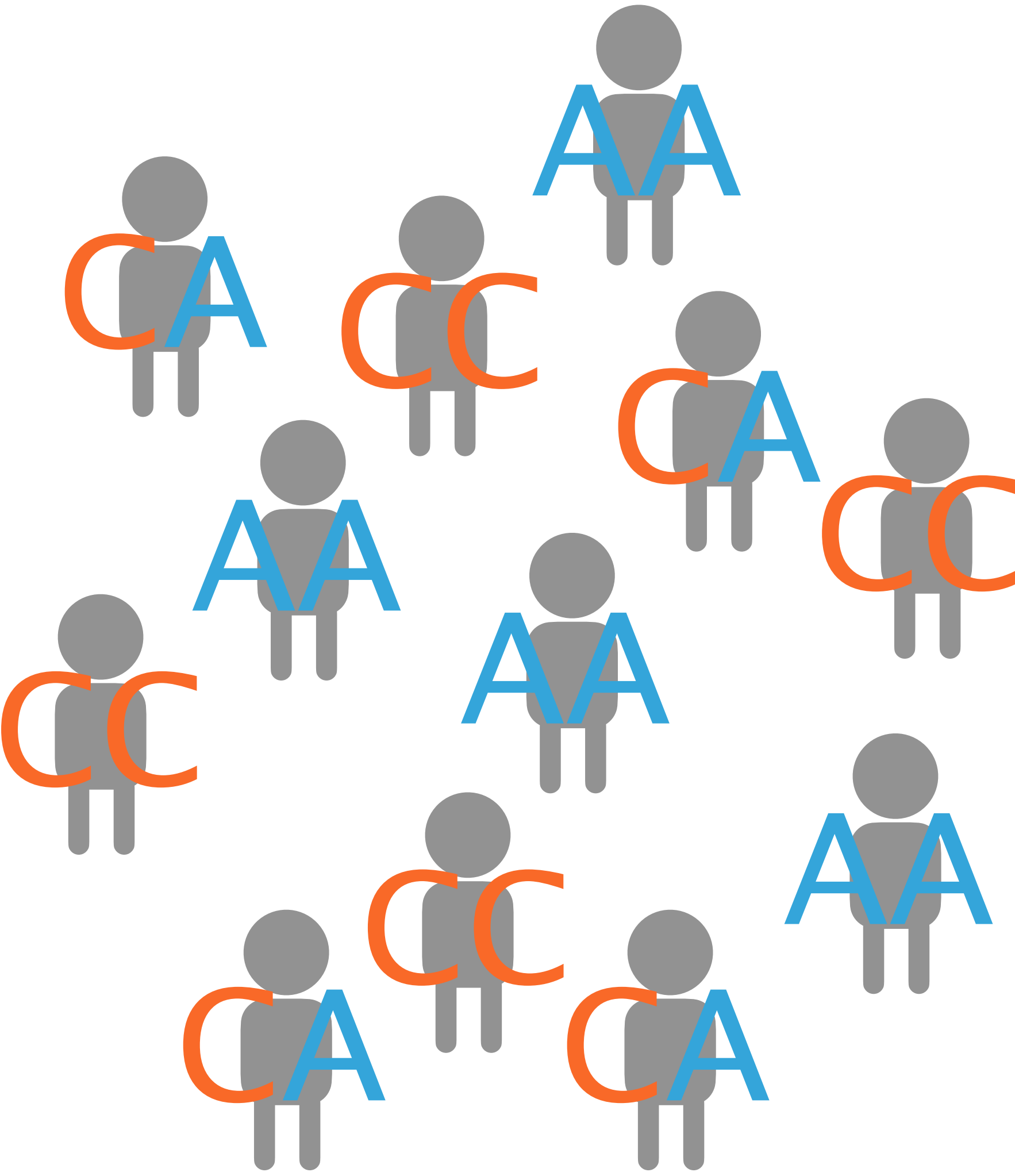


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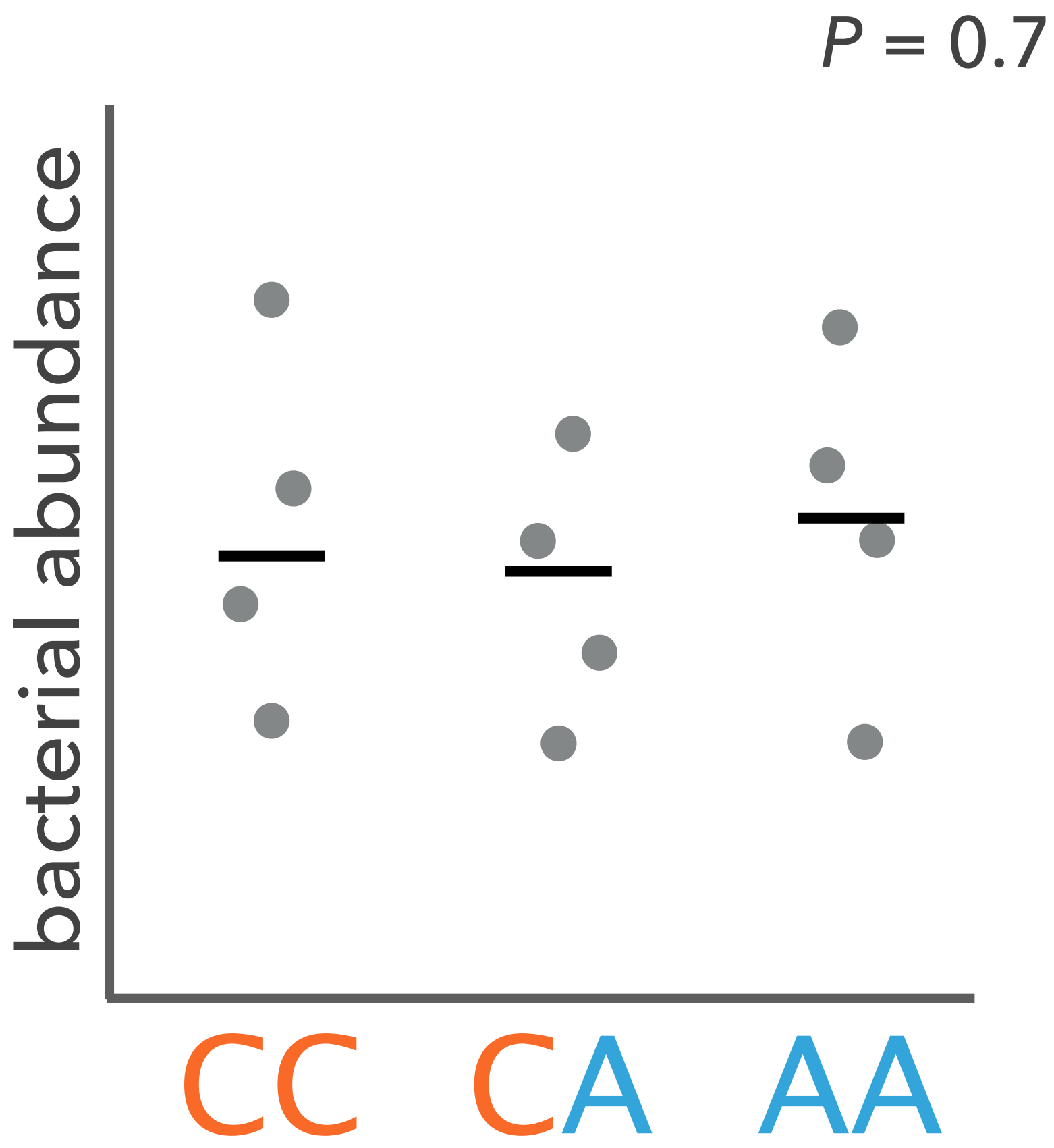
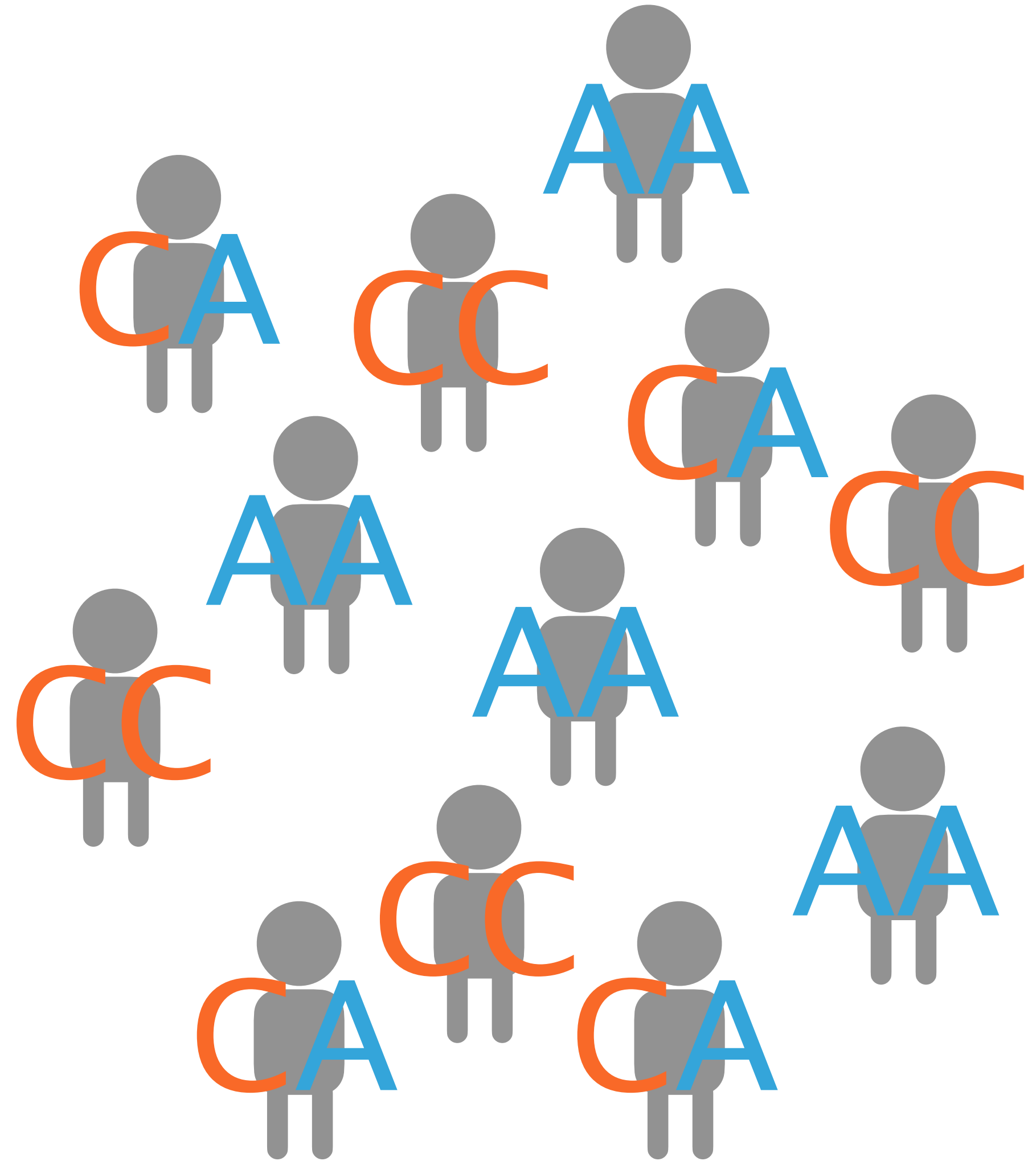


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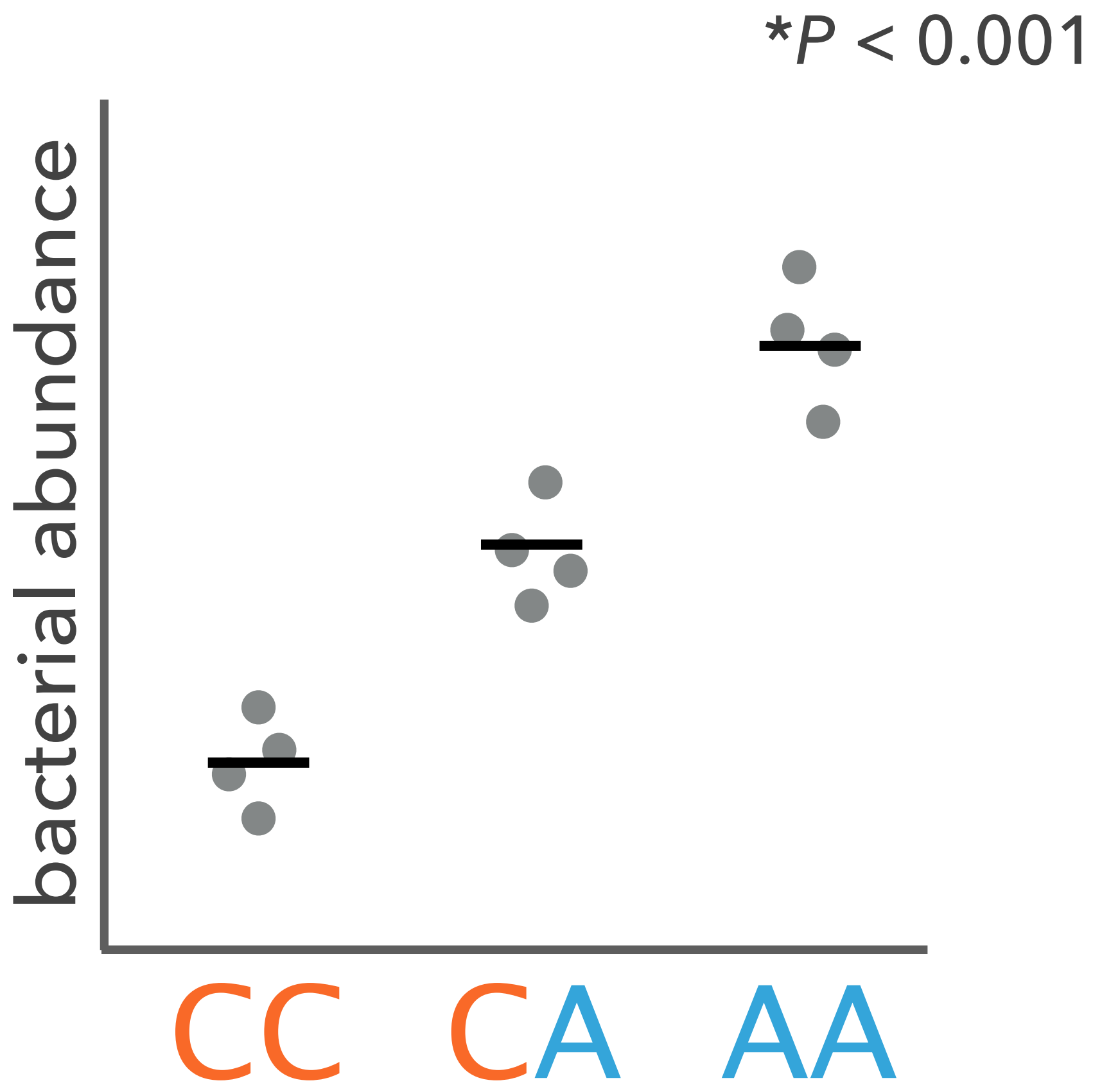
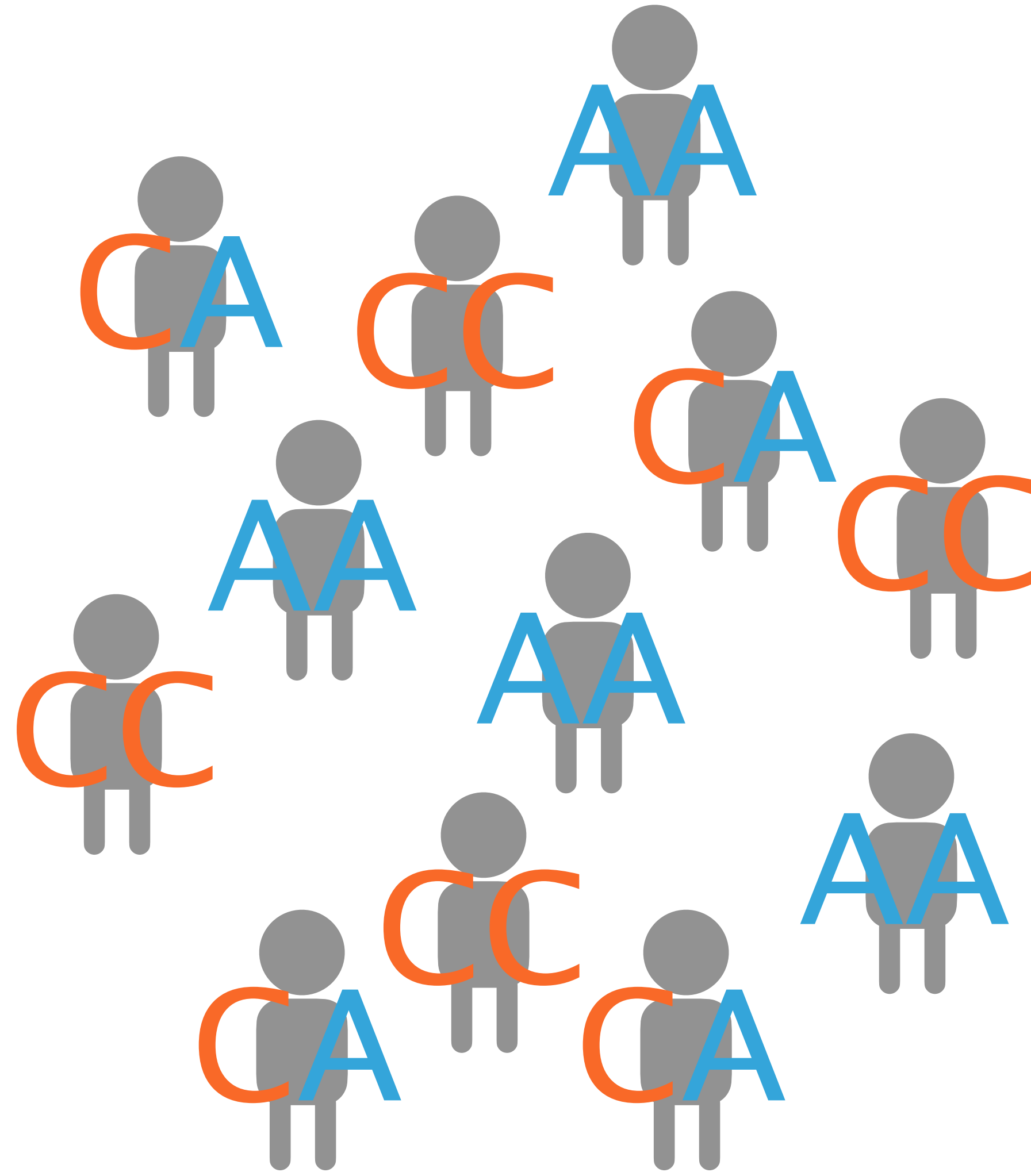




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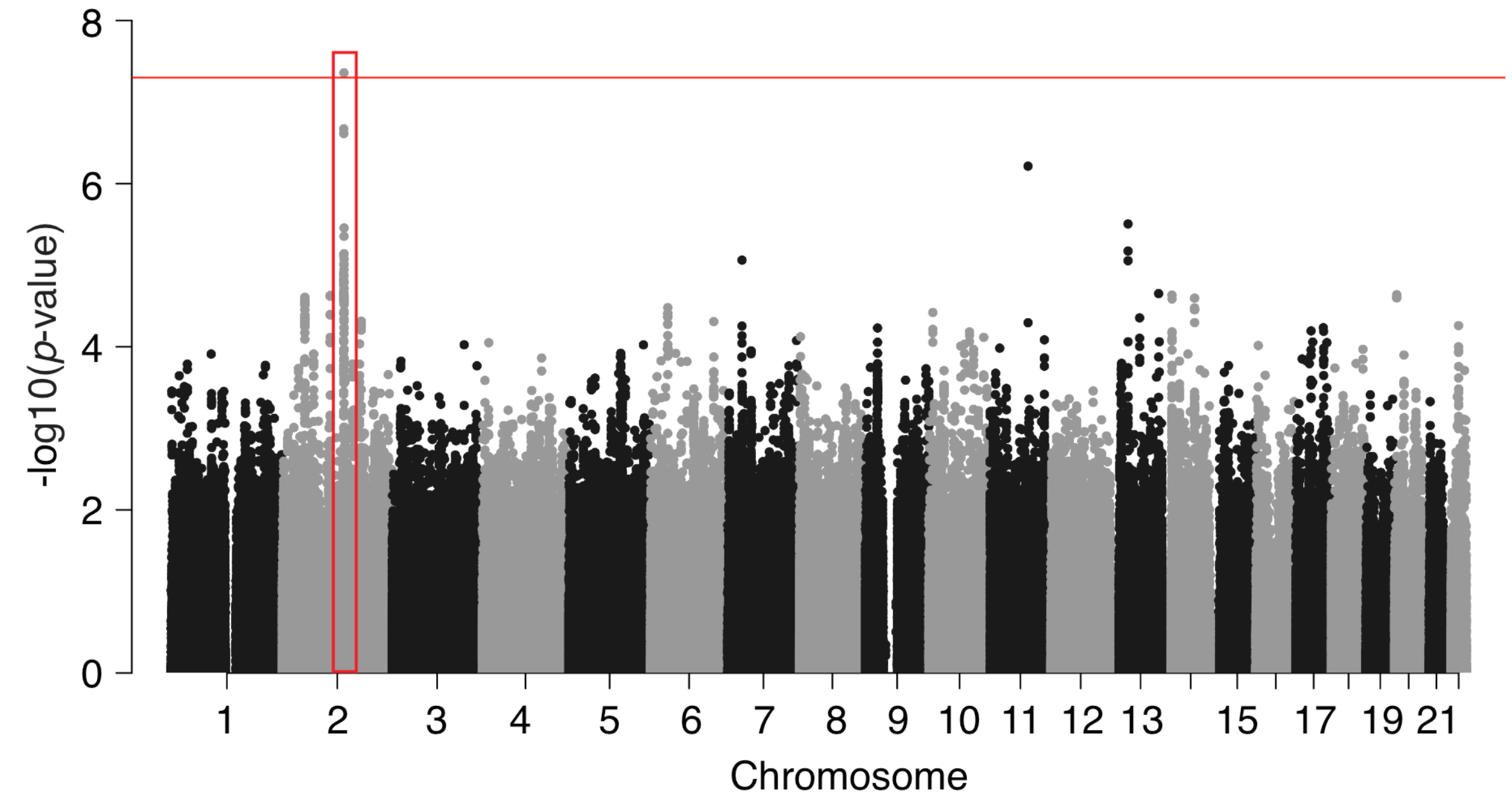
# Lactase persistence variant associates with *Bifidobacteria*



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GWAS for *Bifidobacterium*



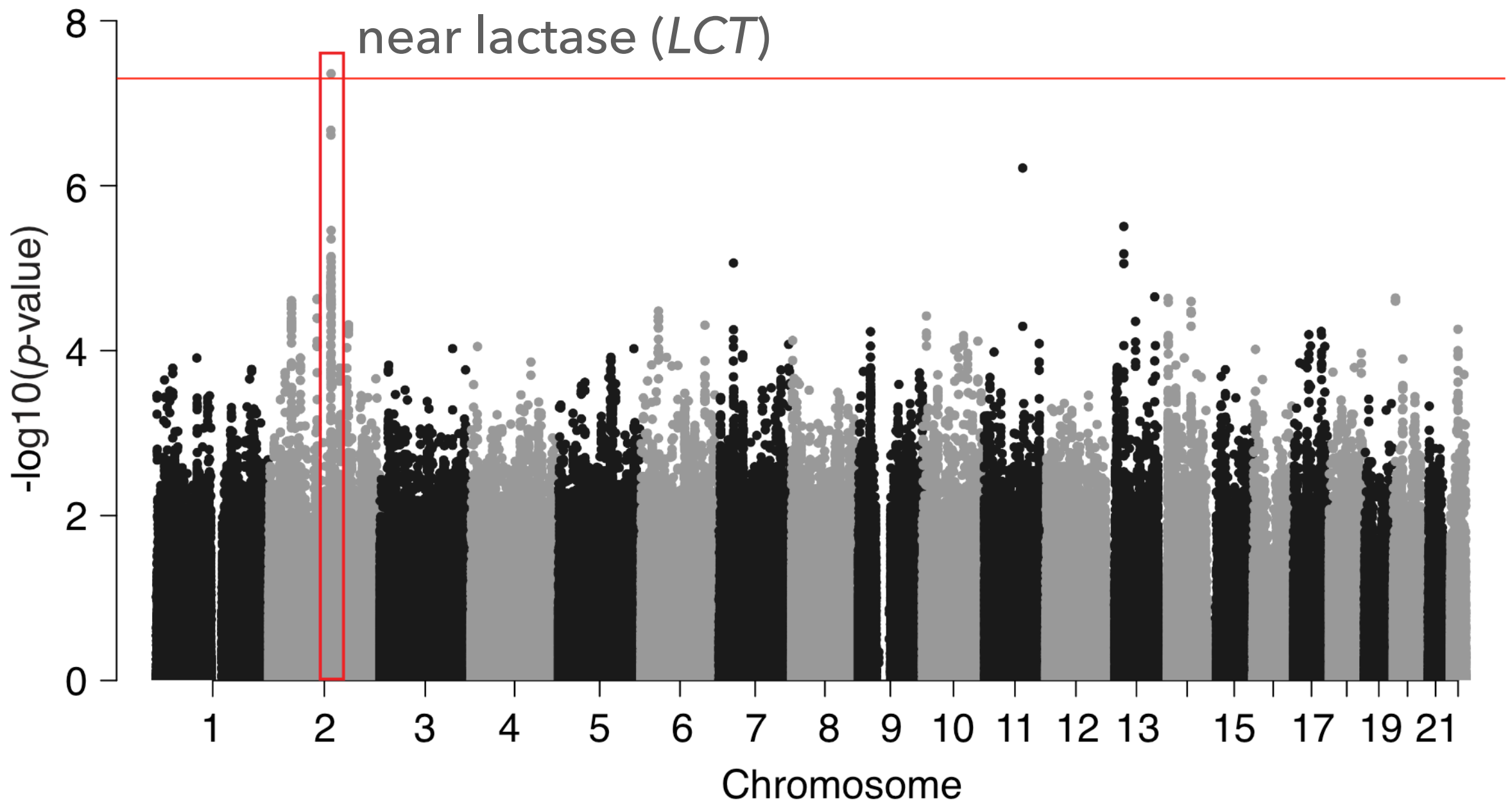
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# Lactase persistence variant associates with *Bifidobacteria*



GWAS for *Bifidobacterium*

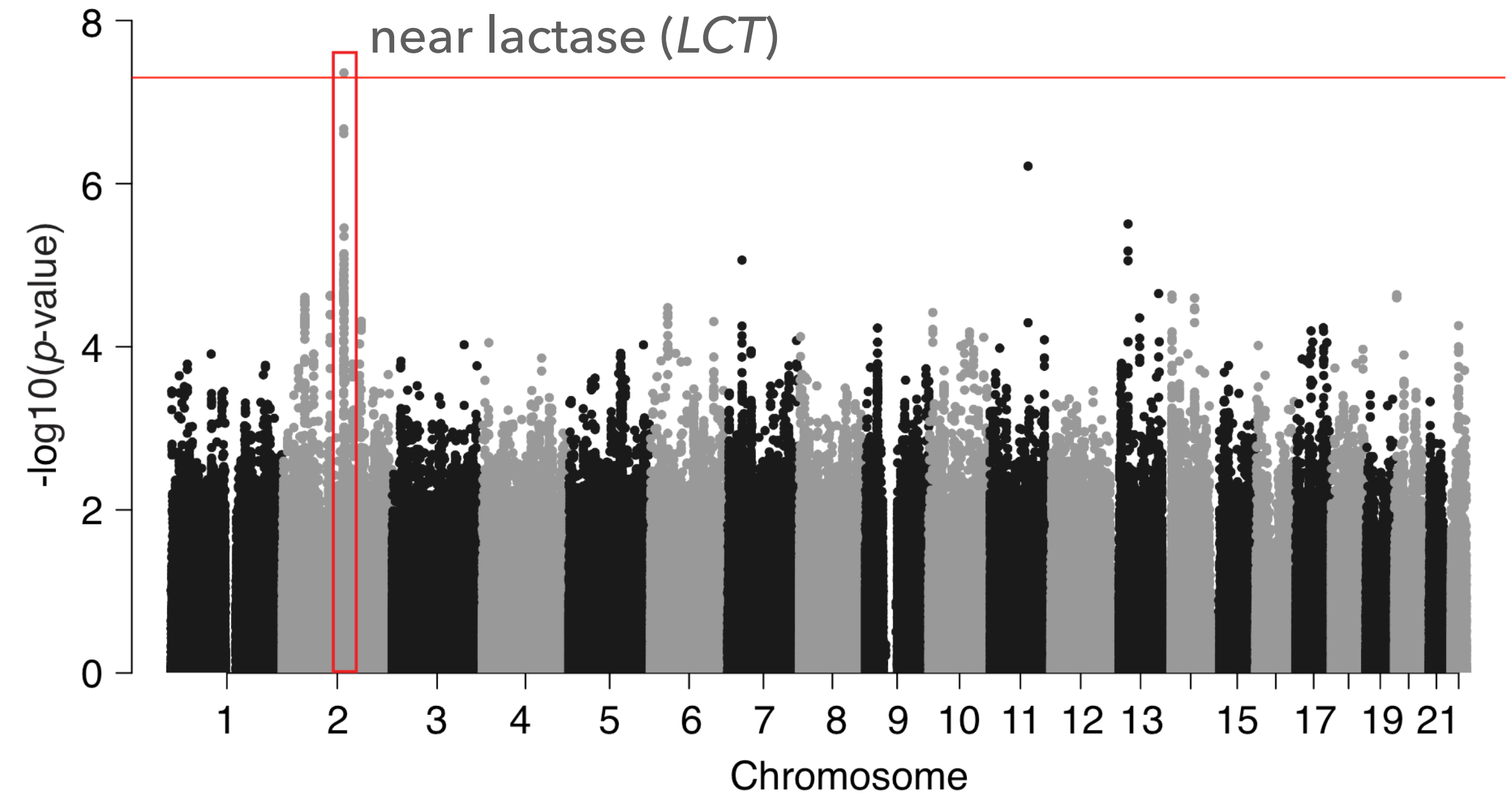


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# Lactase persistence variant associates with *Bifidobacteria*



GWAS for *Bifidobacterium*



most mammals (including humans)

youth

The diagram shows a blue arrow labeled 'LCT' with a green 'on' next to it, indicating gene expression. An arrow points to the right, labeled 'youth'. Below this are two images: the top one shows a pig and its piglet on a beach, and the bottom one shows a young girl smiling and holding a glass of milk.

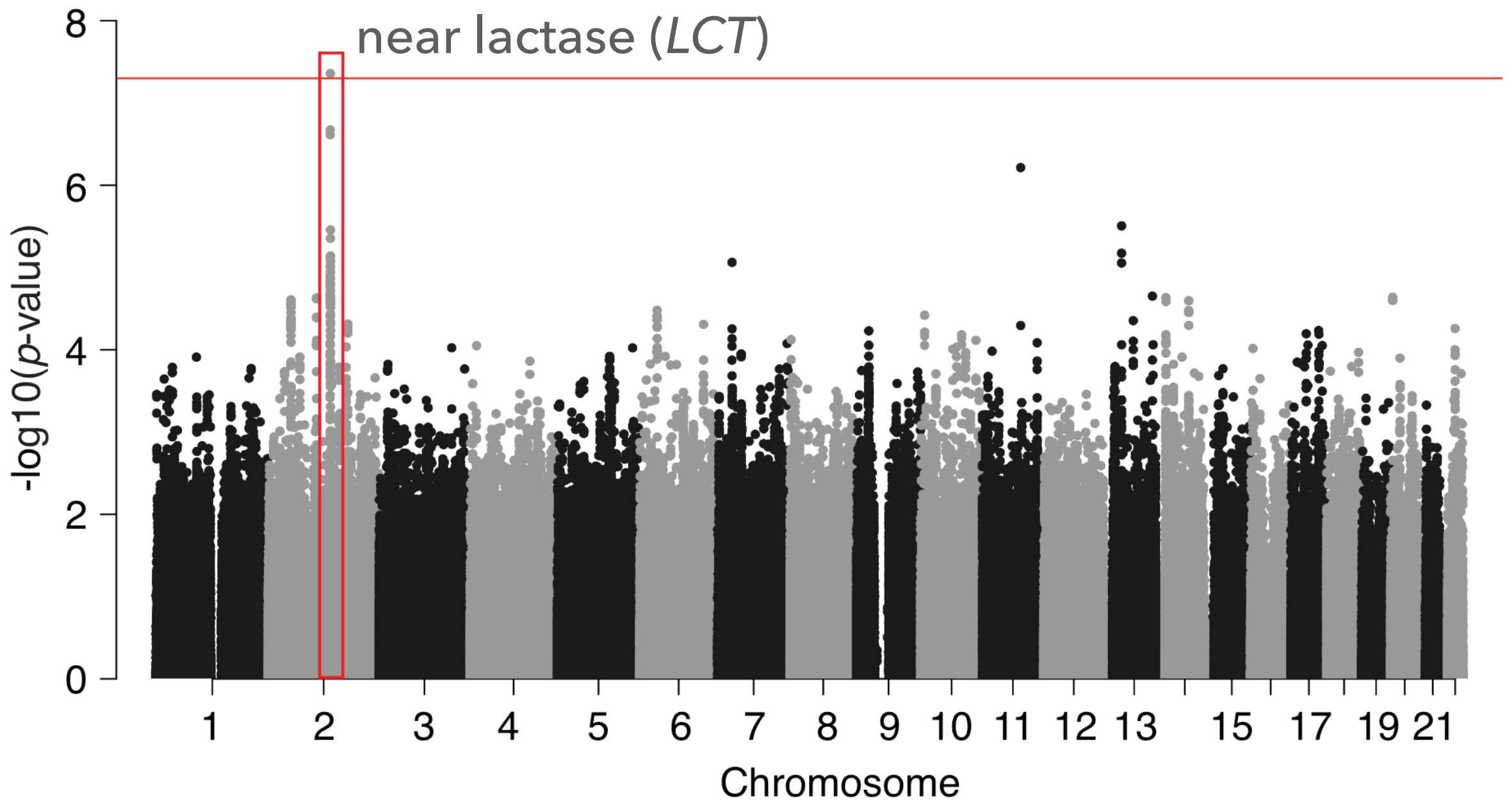
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# Lactase persistence variant associates with *Bifidobacteria*



GWAS for *Bifidobacterium*



most mammals (including humans)

youth  $\xrightarrow{\text{LCT on}}$

adulthood  $\xrightarrow{\text{LCT off}}$

The complex block illustrates the concept of lactase persistence in mammals. It features a 2x2 grid of images. The top row shows pigs: a pig with a piglet (top-left) and a man petting a pig (top-right). The bottom row shows humans: a young girl drinking milk (bottom-left) and a man holding his stomach in pain (bottom-right). Above the top-left image is the text "youth" with a blue arrow labeled "LCT on". Above the top-right image is the text "adulthood" with a red "X" over a blue arrow labeled "LCT off".

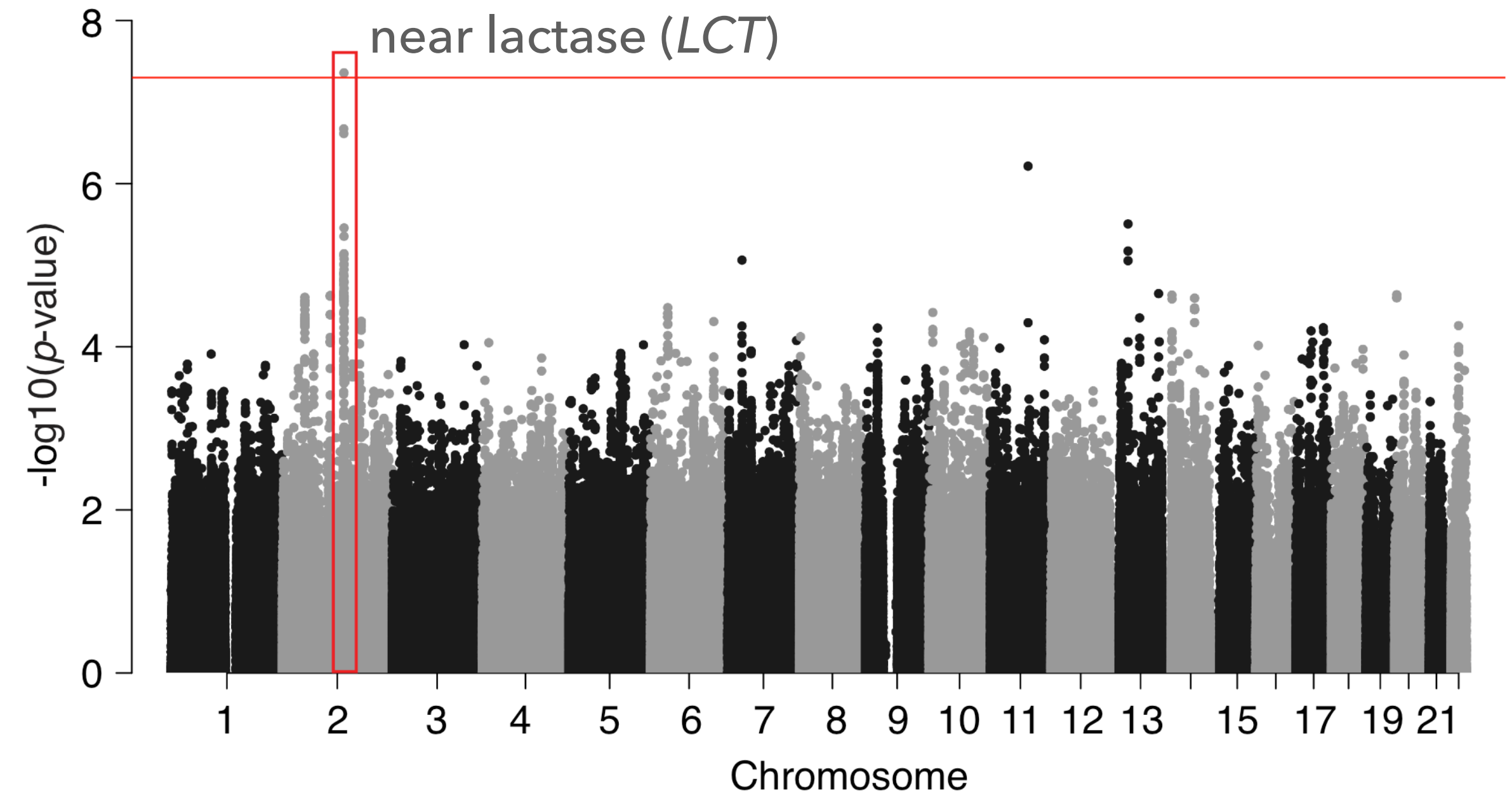
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# Lactase persistence variant associates with *Bifidobacteria*



GWAS for *Bifidobacterium*



most mammals (including humans)

Diagram illustrating lactase activity in most mammals (including humans) during youth and adulthood.

**youth**: LCT on (represented by a blue arrow pointing right)

**adulthood**: LCT off (represented by a red 'X' over a blue arrow pointing right)

some humans

Diagram illustrating lactase activity in some humans during youth and adulthood.

**youth**: LCT on (represented by a blue arrow pointing right)

**adulthood**: LCT on (represented by a blue arrow pointing right)

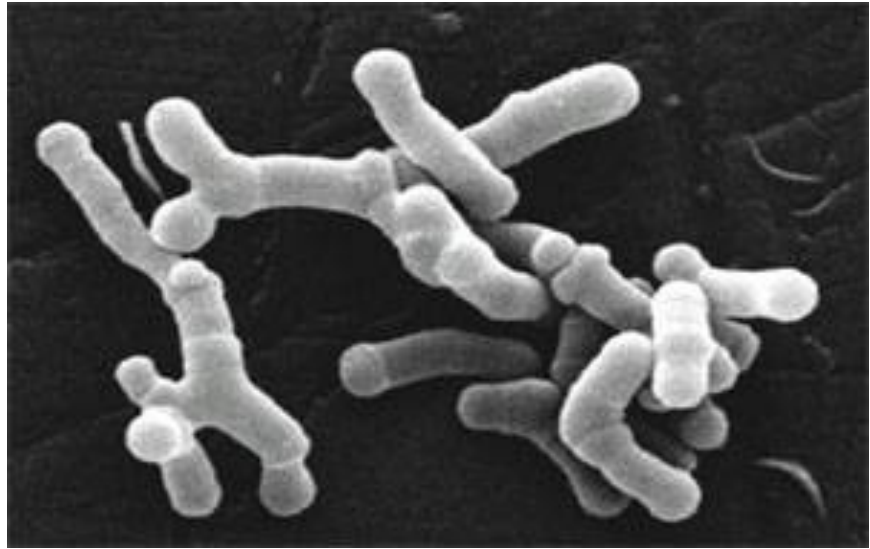
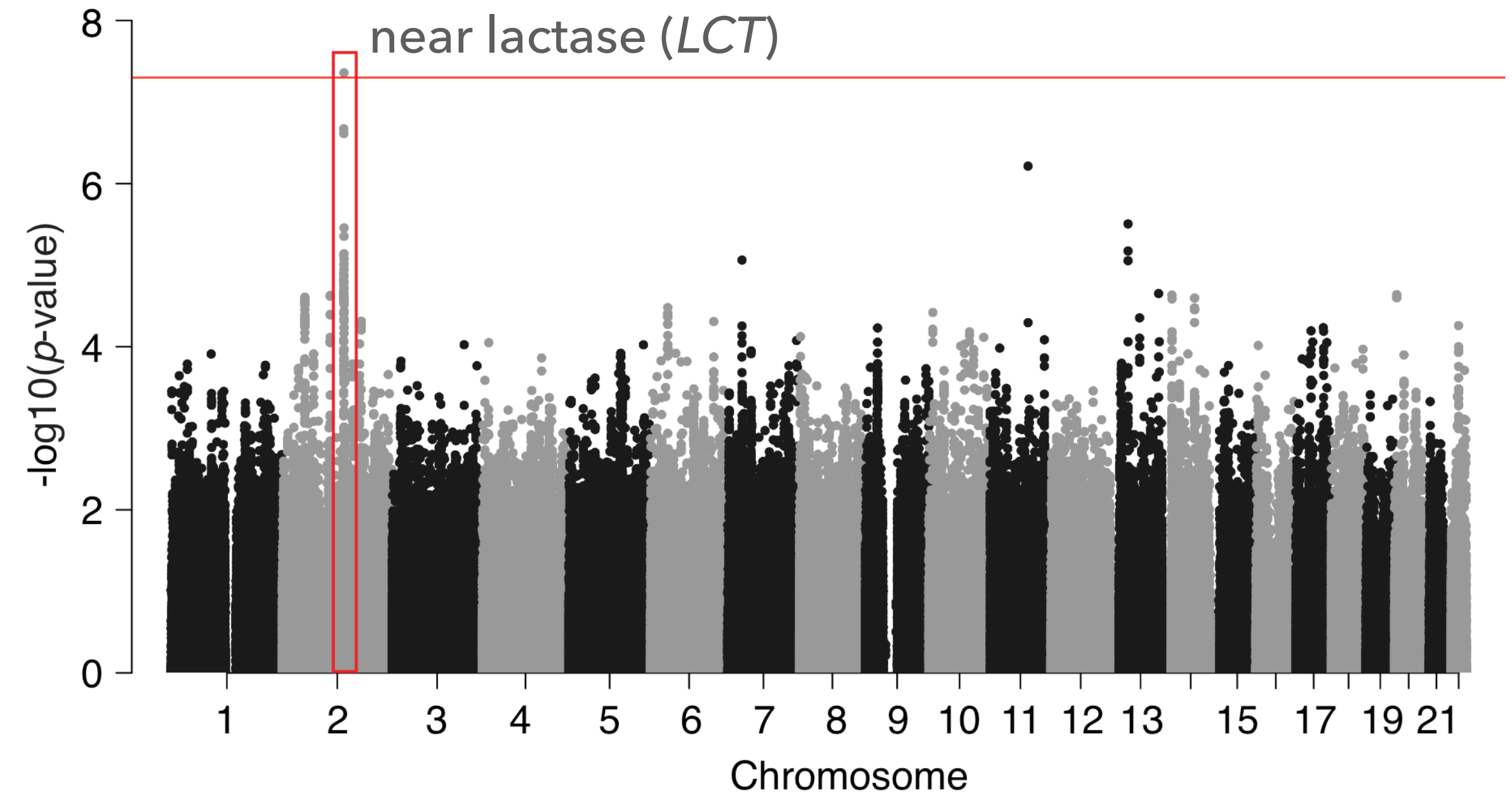
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GWAS for *Bifidobacterium*



most mammals (including humans)

	youth	adulthood

some humans

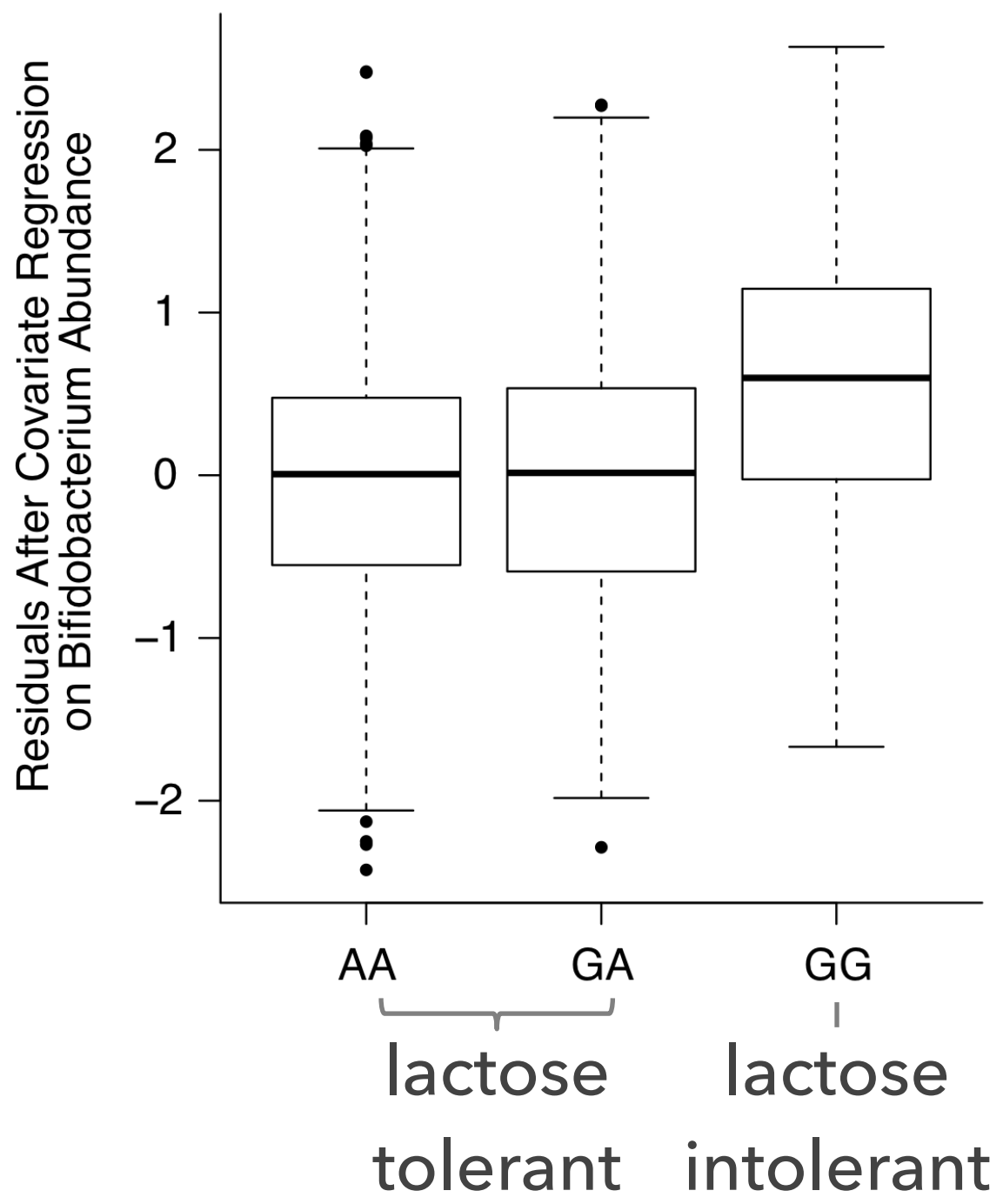

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TwinsUK

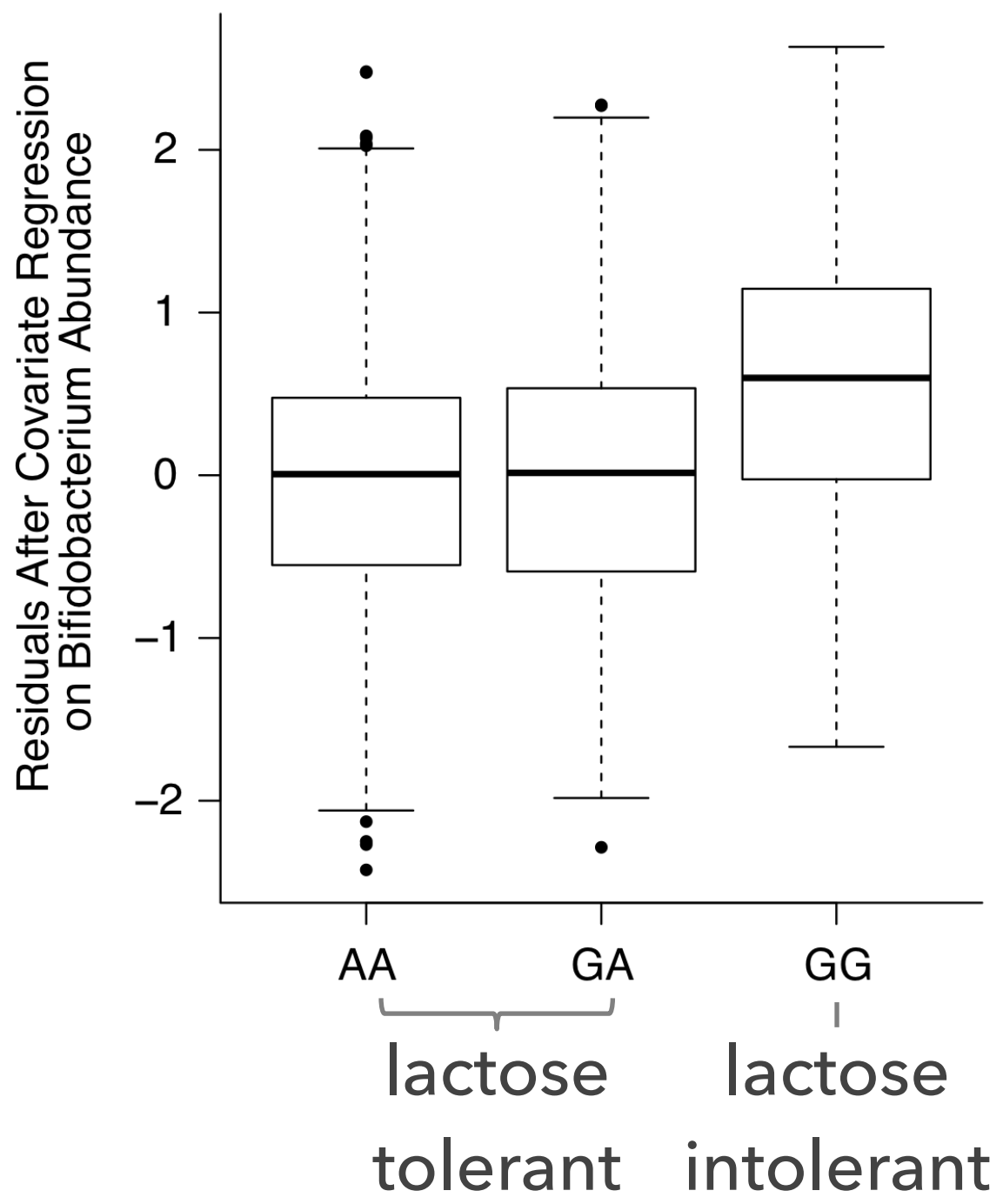




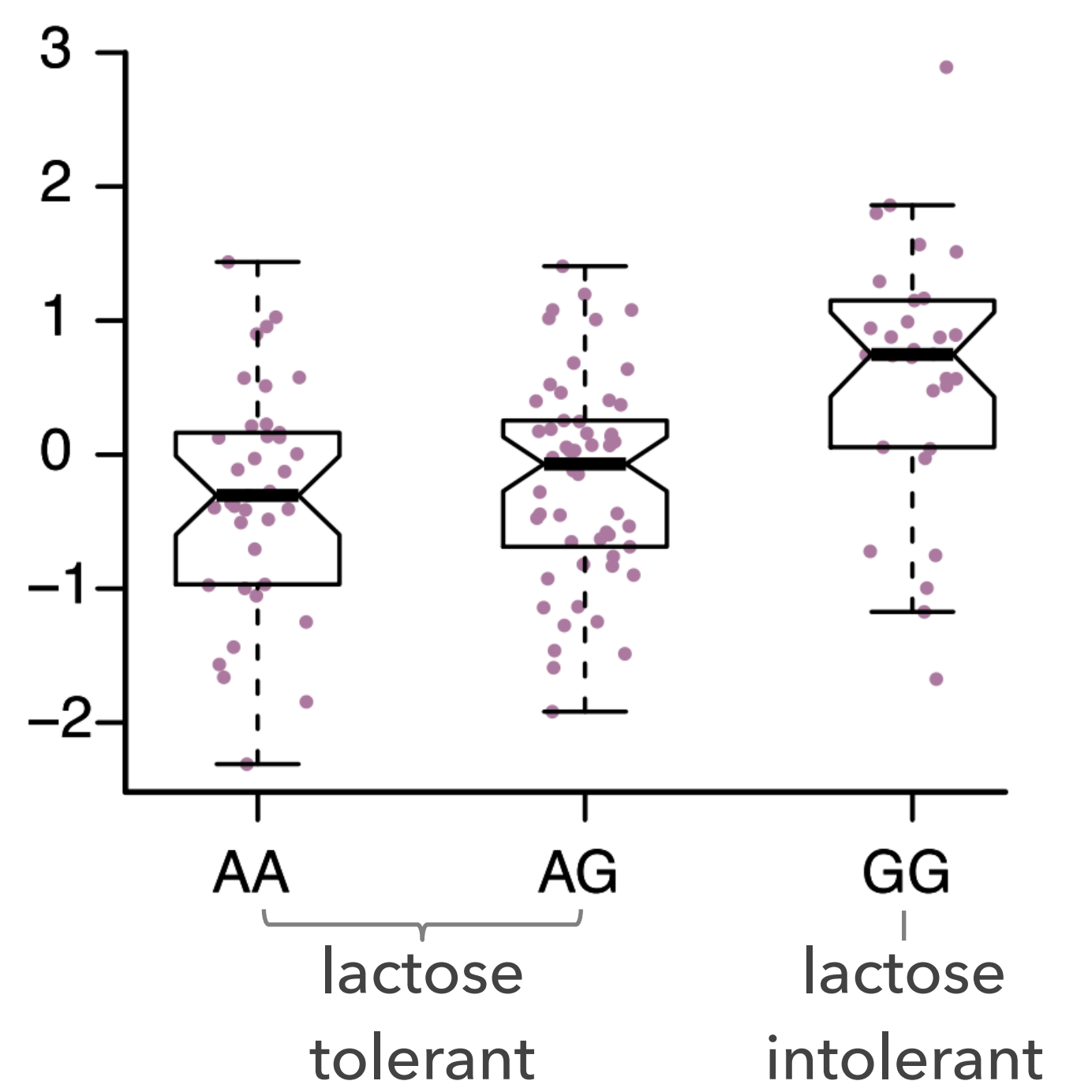
# Lactase persistence variant associates with *Bifidobacteria*



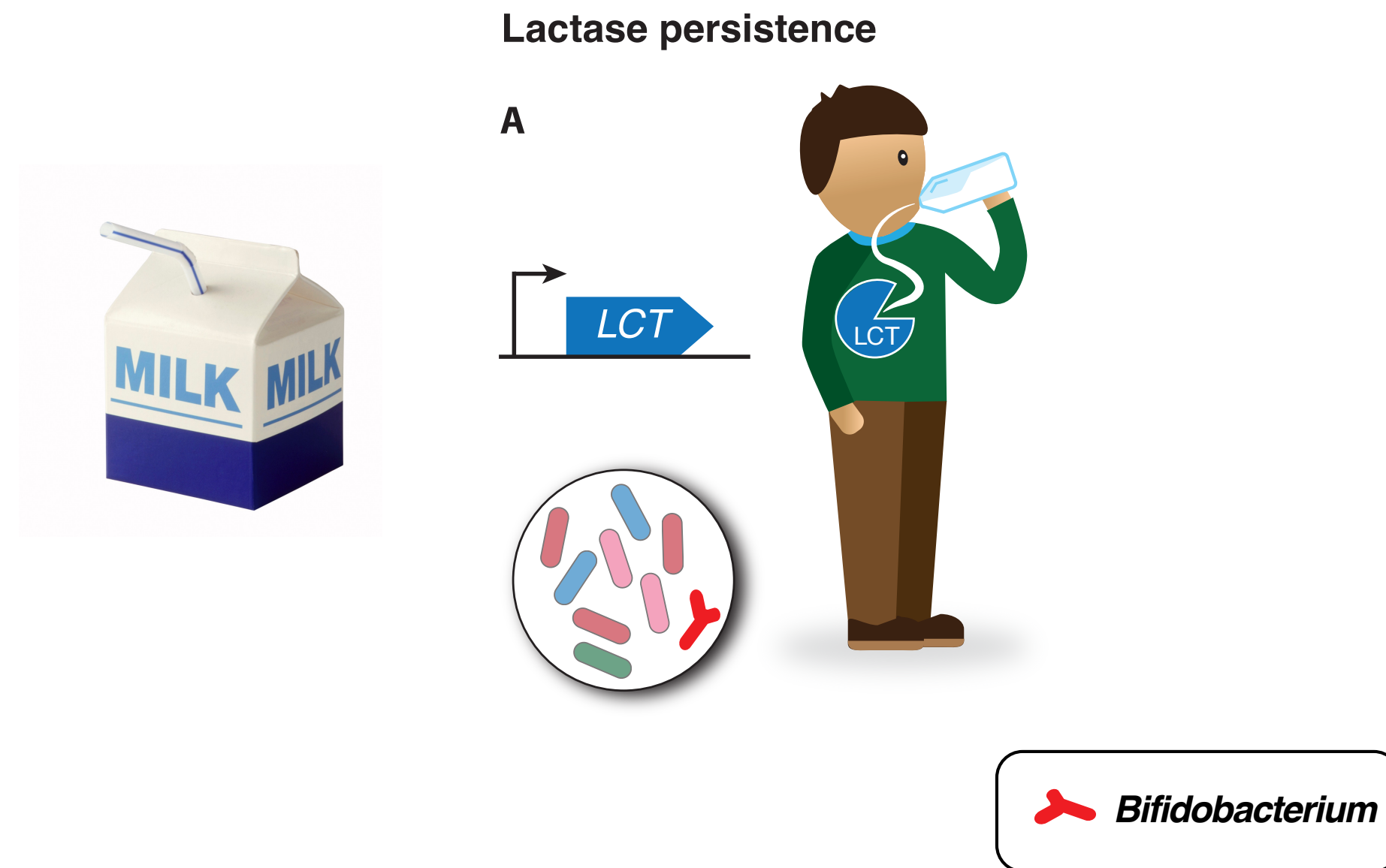
### TwinsUK



### Hutterites

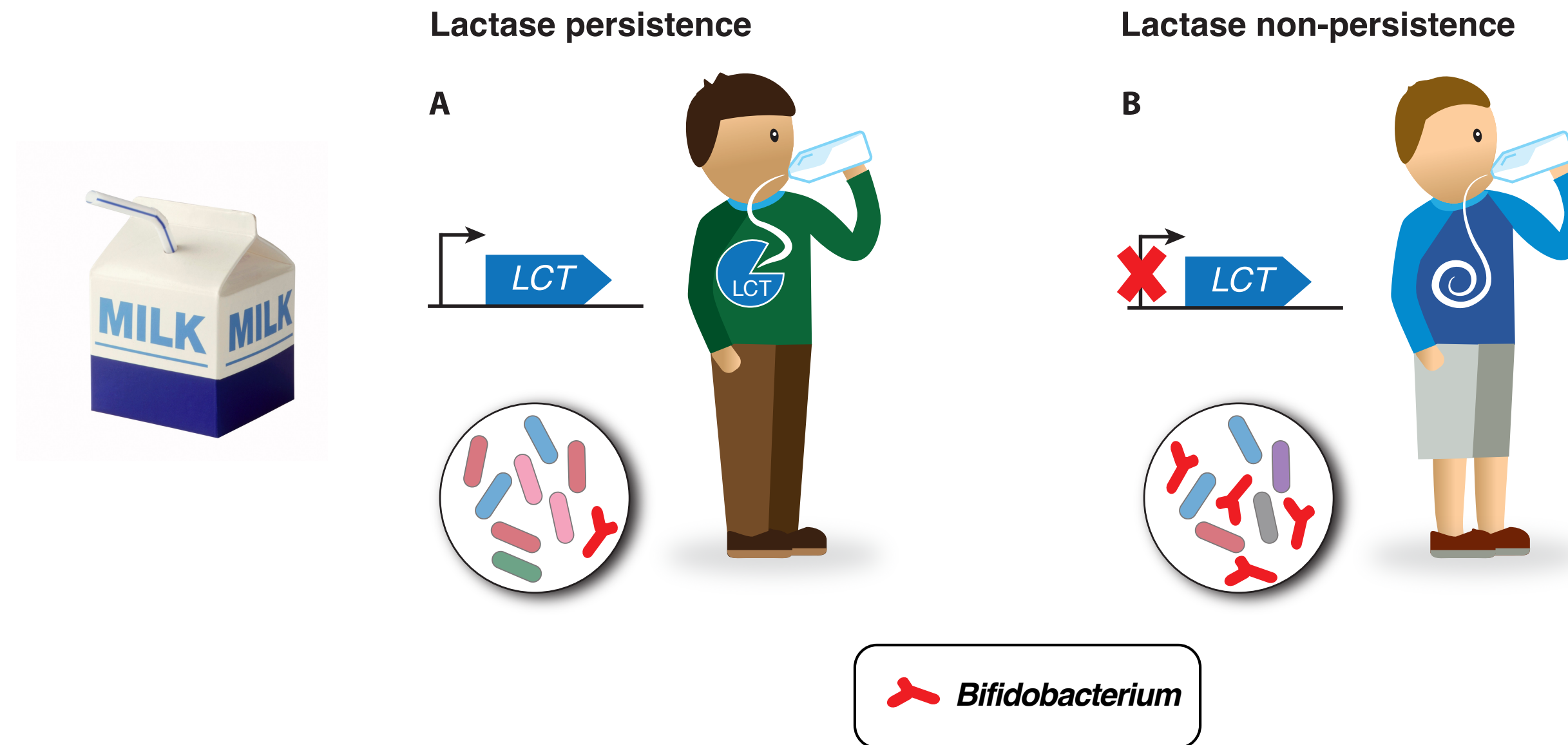


# How are *Bifidobacteria*, lactase persistence, and milk consumption related?

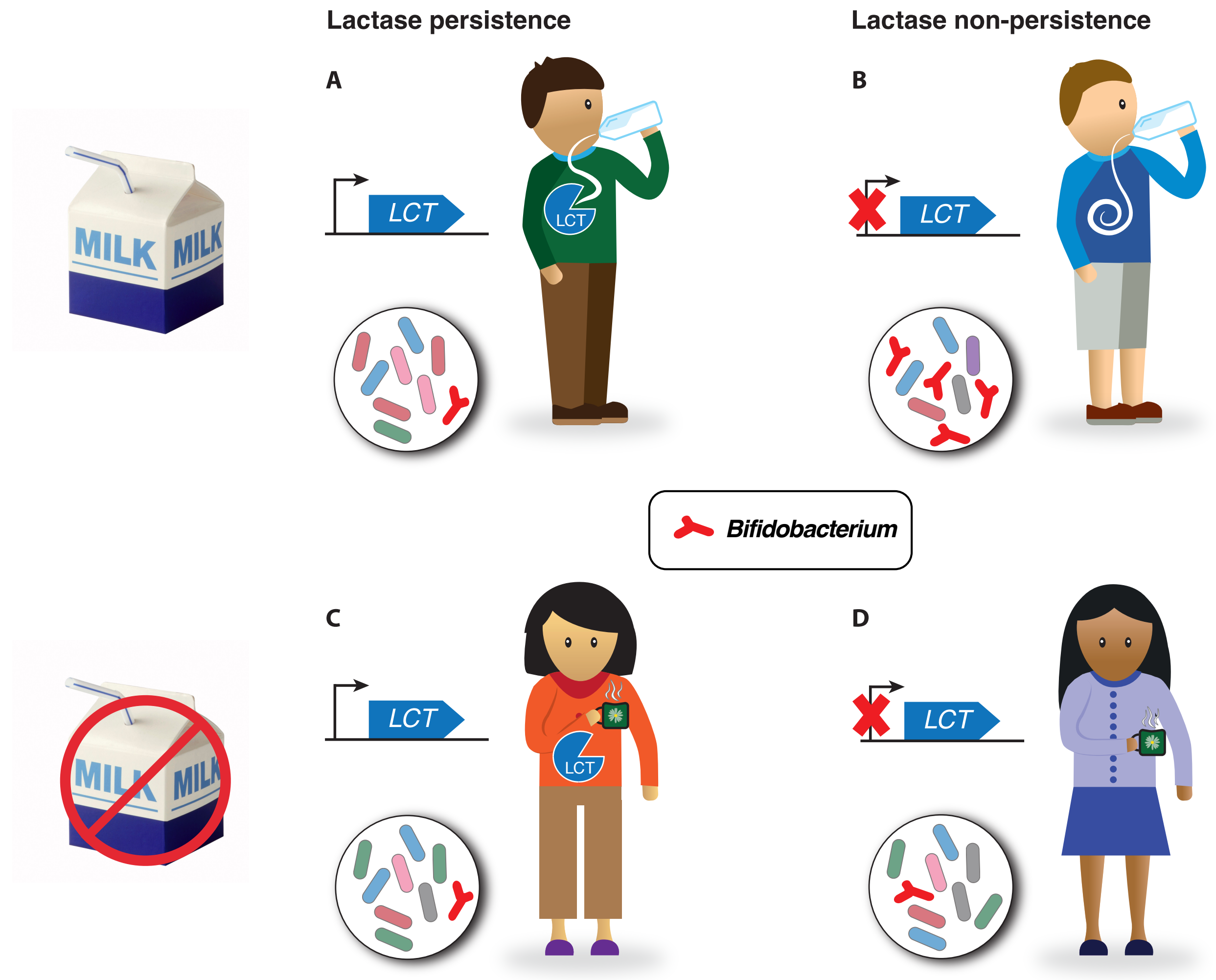




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Goodrich JK\*, Davenport ER\*, Waters JL\*, Clark AG, Ley RE. *Cross-species comparisons of host genetic associations with the microbiome*. Science. 2016



# The *Bifidobacteria* - LCT association replicates across populations

LETTERS

nature  
genetics

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## The effect of host genetics on the gut microbiome

Marc Jan Bonder<sup>1,19</sup>, Alexander Kurilshikov<sup>1-3,19</sup>, Ettje F Tigchelaar<sup>1,4</sup>, Zlatan Mujagic<sup>4,5</sup>, Floris Imhann<sup>6</sup>, Arnau Vich Vila<sup>6</sup>, Patrick Deelen<sup>1,7</sup>, Tommi Vatanen<sup>8,9</sup>, Melanie Schirmer<sup>8,10</sup>, Sanne P Smeekens<sup>11,12</sup>, Daria V Zhernakova<sup>1</sup>, Soesma A Jankipersadsing<sup>1,13</sup>, Martin Jaeger<sup>11,12</sup>, Marije Oosting<sup>11,12</sup>, Maria Carmen Ceuca<sup>1,18</sup>, Ad A M Masclee<sup>5</sup>, Morris A Swertz<sup>1,7</sup>, Yang Li<sup>1</sup>, Vinod Kumar<sup>1</sup>, Leo Joosten<sup>11,12</sup>, Hermie Harmsen<sup>14</sup>, Rinse K Weersma<sup>6</sup>, Lude Franke<sup>1</sup>, Marten H Hofker<sup>13</sup>, Ramnik J Xavier<sup>8,15-17</sup>, Daisy Jonkers<sup>5</sup>, Mihai G Netea<sup>11,12</sup>, Cisca Wijmenga<sup>1</sup>, Jingyuan Fu<sup>1,13,20</sup> & Alexandra Zhernakova<sup>1,4,20</sup>

(Dutch)

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nature  
genetics

LETTERS

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(Dutch)

Blekhman *et al. Genome Biology* (2015) 16:191  
DOI 10.1186/s13059-015-0759-1



ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature25973

## Environment dominates over host genetics in shaping human gut microbiota

Daphna Rothschild<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Omer Weissbrod<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Elad Barkan<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Alexander Kurilshikov<sup>3</sup>, Tal Korem<sup>1,2</sup>, David Zeevi<sup>1,2</sup>, Paul I. Costea<sup>1,2</sup>, Anastasia Godneva<sup>1,2</sup>, Iris N. Kalka<sup>1,2</sup>, Noam Bar<sup>1,2</sup>, Smadar Shilo<sup>1,2</sup>, Dar Lador<sup>1,2</sup>, Arnau Vich Vila<sup>3,4</sup>, Niv Zmora<sup>5,6,7</sup>, Meirav Pevsner-Fischer<sup>5</sup>, David Israeli<sup>8</sup>, Noa Kosower<sup>1,2</sup>, Gal Malka<sup>1,2</sup>, Bat Chen Wolf<sup>1,2</sup>, Tali Avnit-Sagi<sup>1,2</sup>, Maya Lotan-Pompan<sup>1,2</sup>, Adina Weinberger<sup>1,2</sup>, Zamir Halpern<sup>7,9</sup>, Shai Carmi<sup>10</sup>, Jingyuan Fu<sup>3,11</sup>, Cisca Wijmenga<sup>3,12</sup>, Alexandra Zhernakova<sup>3</sup>, Eran Elinav<sup>5,8</sup> & Eran Segal<sup>1,2,8</sup>

(Israeli)

Cell Host & Microbe  
Resource

## Genetic Determinants of the Gut Microbiome in UK Twins

Julia K. Goodrich,<sup>1</sup> Emily R. Davenport,<sup>1</sup> Michelle Beaumont,<sup>2</sup> Matthew A. Jackson,<sup>2</sup> Rob Knight,<sup>3</sup> Carole Ober,<sup>4</sup> Tim D. Spector,<sup>2</sup> Jordana T. Bell,<sup>2</sup> Andrew G. Clark,<sup>1</sup> and Ruth E. Ley<sup>1,5,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Twin Research & Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London, London SE1 7EH, UK

<sup>3</sup>Departments of Pediatrics and Computer Science and Engineering, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Human Genetics, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

<sup>5</sup>Department of Microbiome Science, Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology, 72076 Tübingen, Germany

\*Correspondence: [rel222@cornell.edu](mailto:rel222@cornell.edu)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2016.04.017>

(British and Hutterites)

RESEARCH

Open Access

## Host genetic variation impacts microbiome composition across human body sites



Ran Blekhman<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Julia K. Goodrich<sup>3,4</sup>, Katherine Huang<sup>5</sup>, Qi Sun<sup>6</sup>, Robert Bukowski<sup>6</sup>, Jordana T. Bell<sup>7</sup>, Timothy D. Spector<sup>7</sup>, Alon Keinan<sup>8</sup>, Ruth E. Ley<sup>3,4</sup>, Dirk Gevers<sup>5,9</sup> and Andrew G. Clark<sup>3</sup>

(American)



## Open questions:

1. Are relative abundances of specific bacteria *heritable*? ✓

2. Which *variants* in the human genome are associated with bacterial relative abundance?

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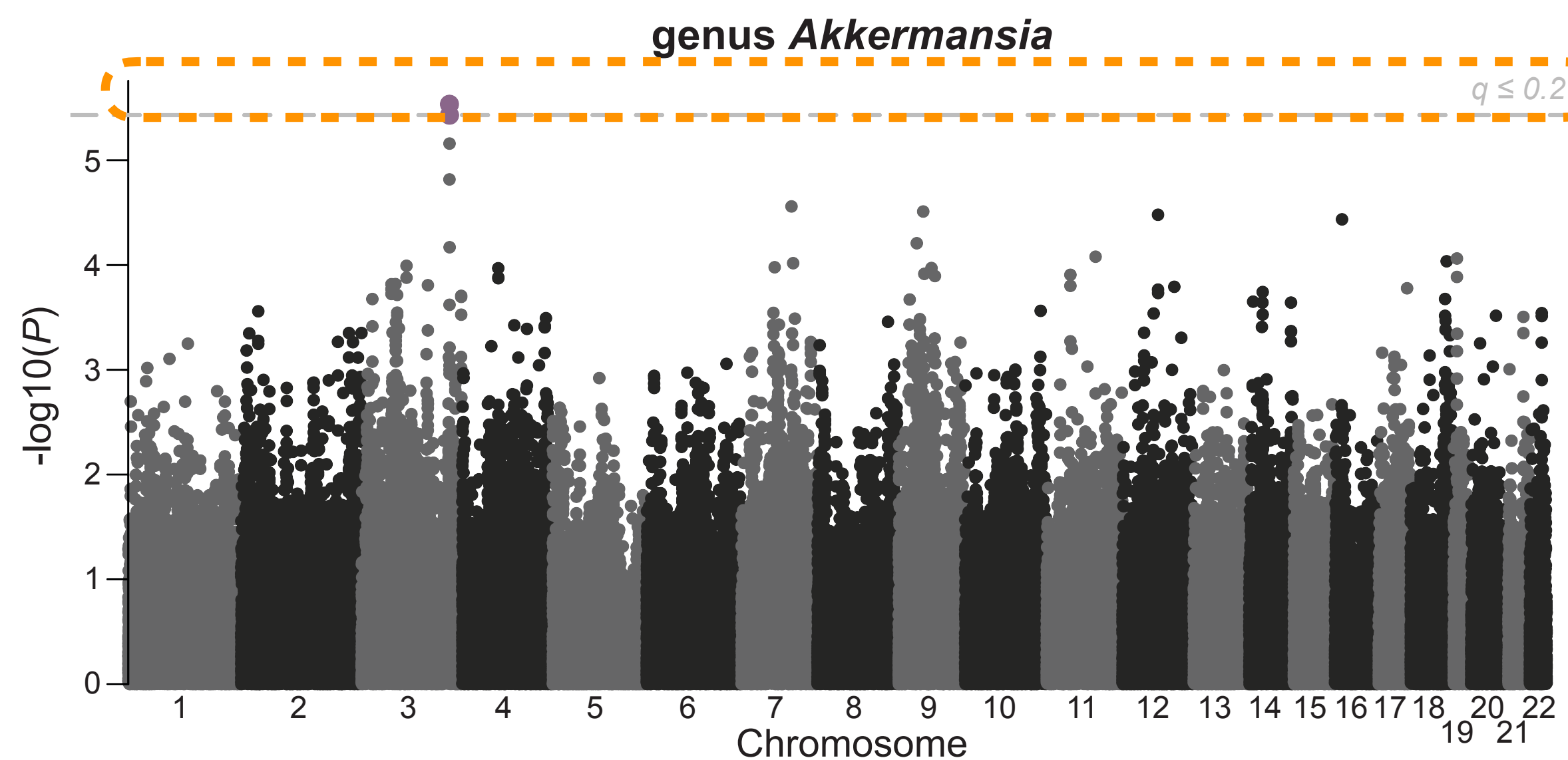
2. Which *variants* in the human genome are associated with bacterial relative abundance?



3. In which *host tissues* do genetic variants act to influence microbiome composition?

# What are the relevant *cell types* host genetic variants may act in to influence microbiome composition in the gut?

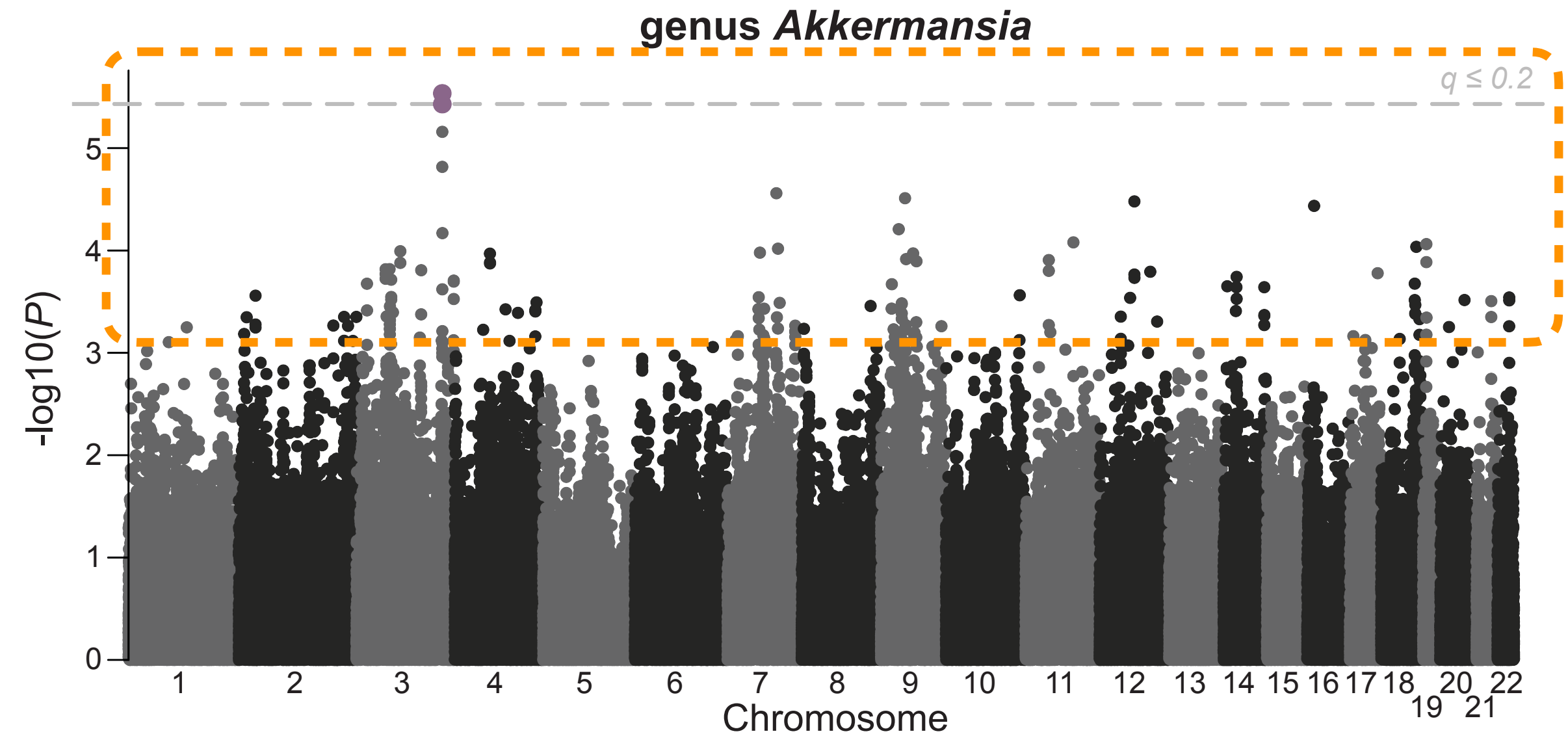
## 1. GWAS *underpowered*





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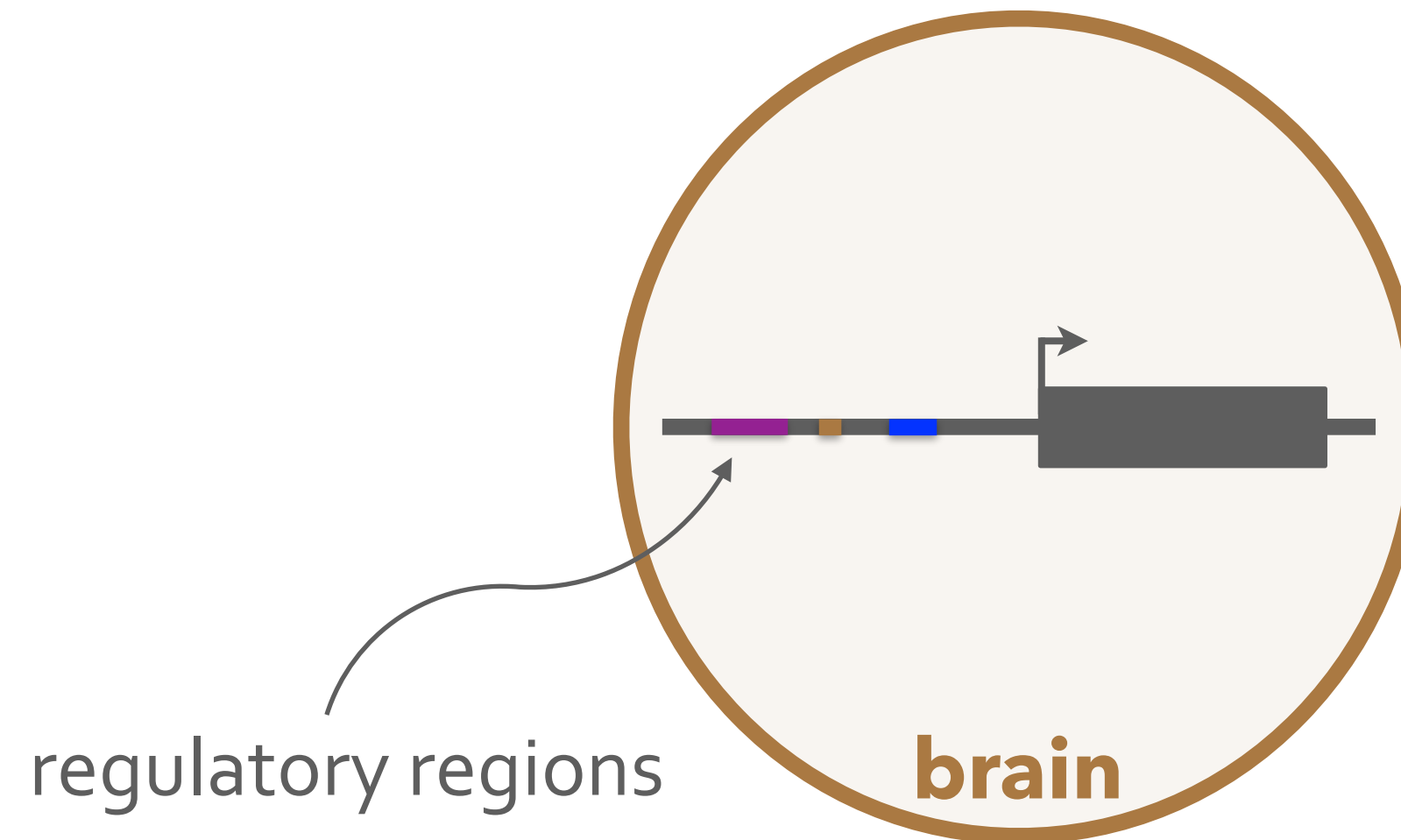
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2. GWAS hits in genes or *regulatory regions*



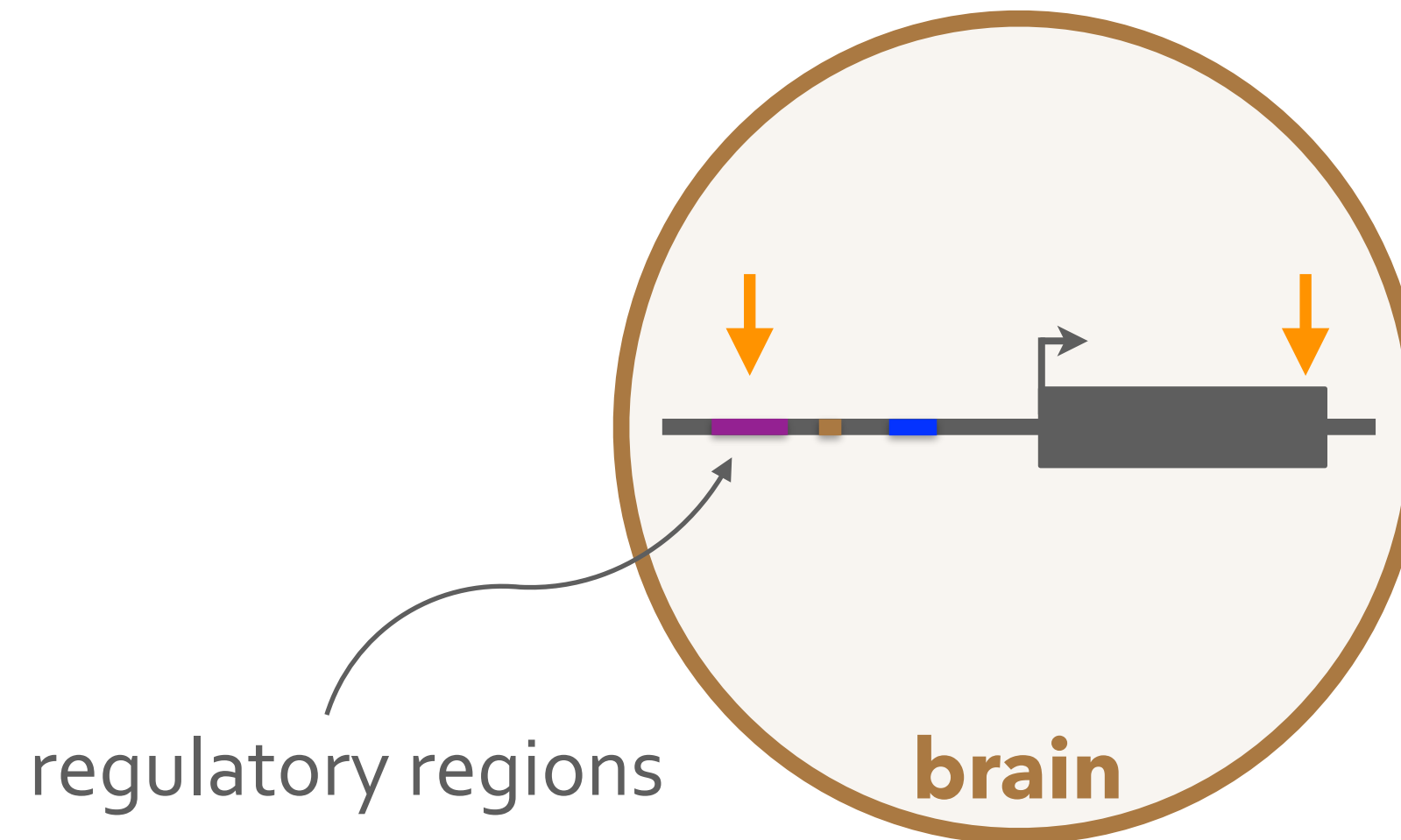


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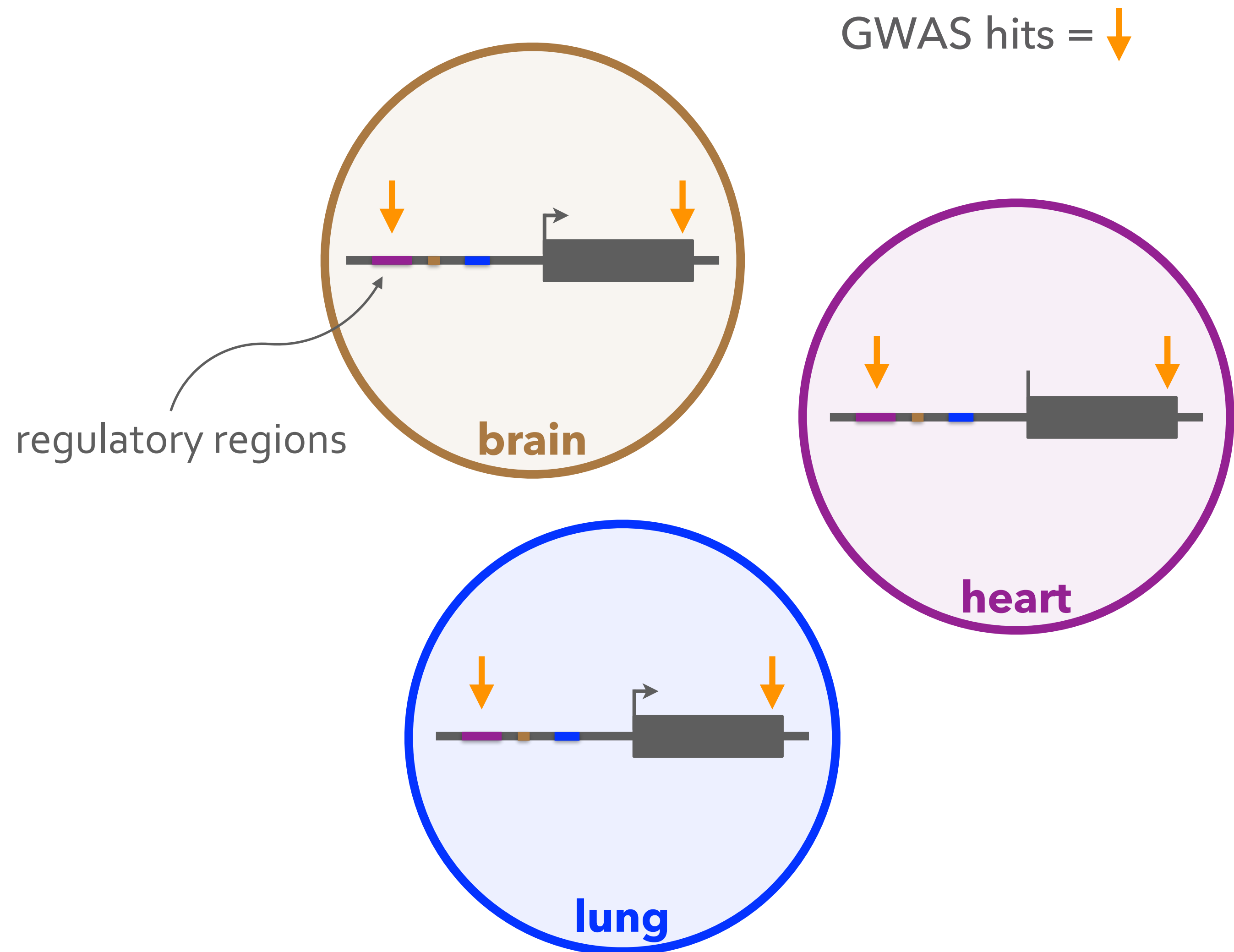


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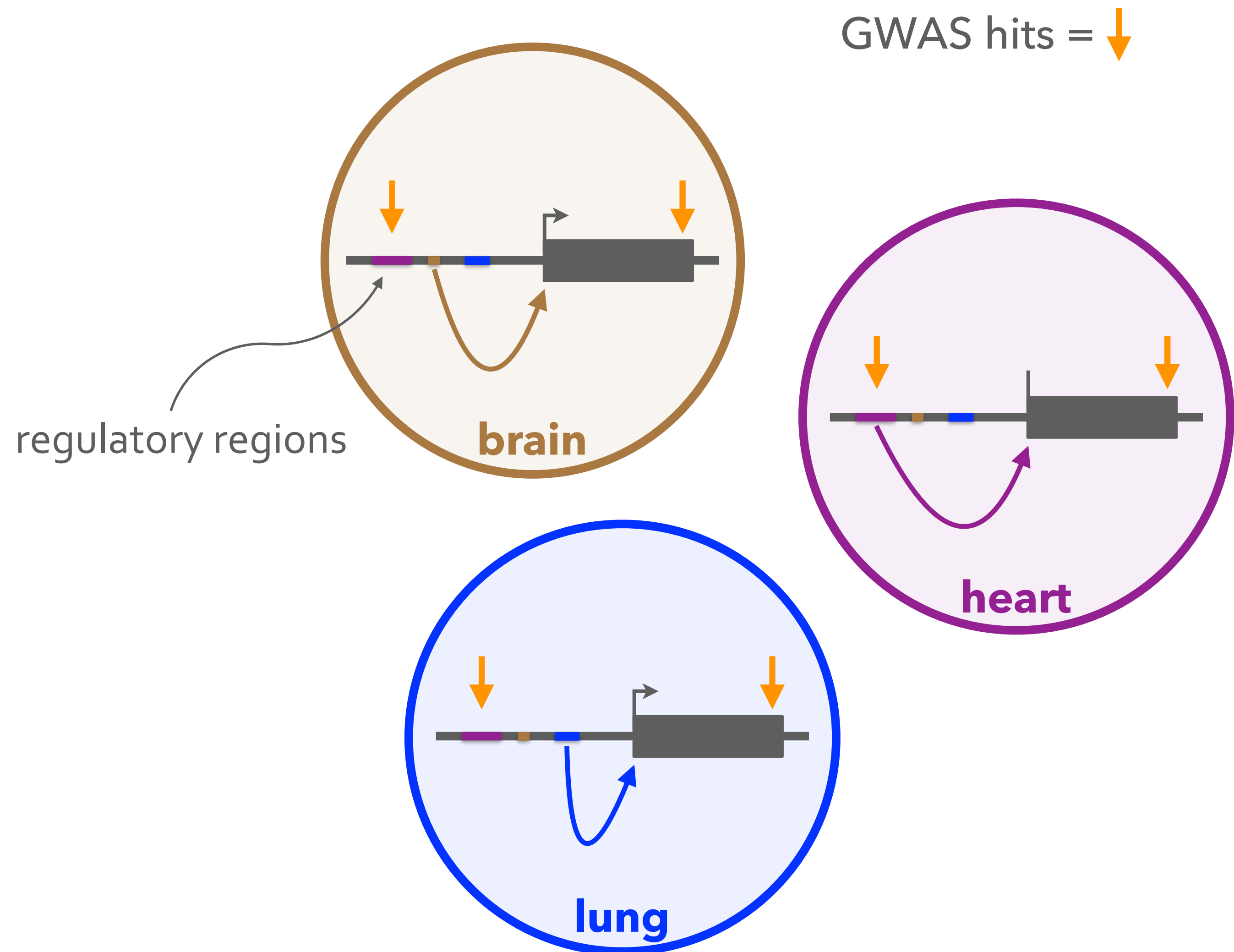


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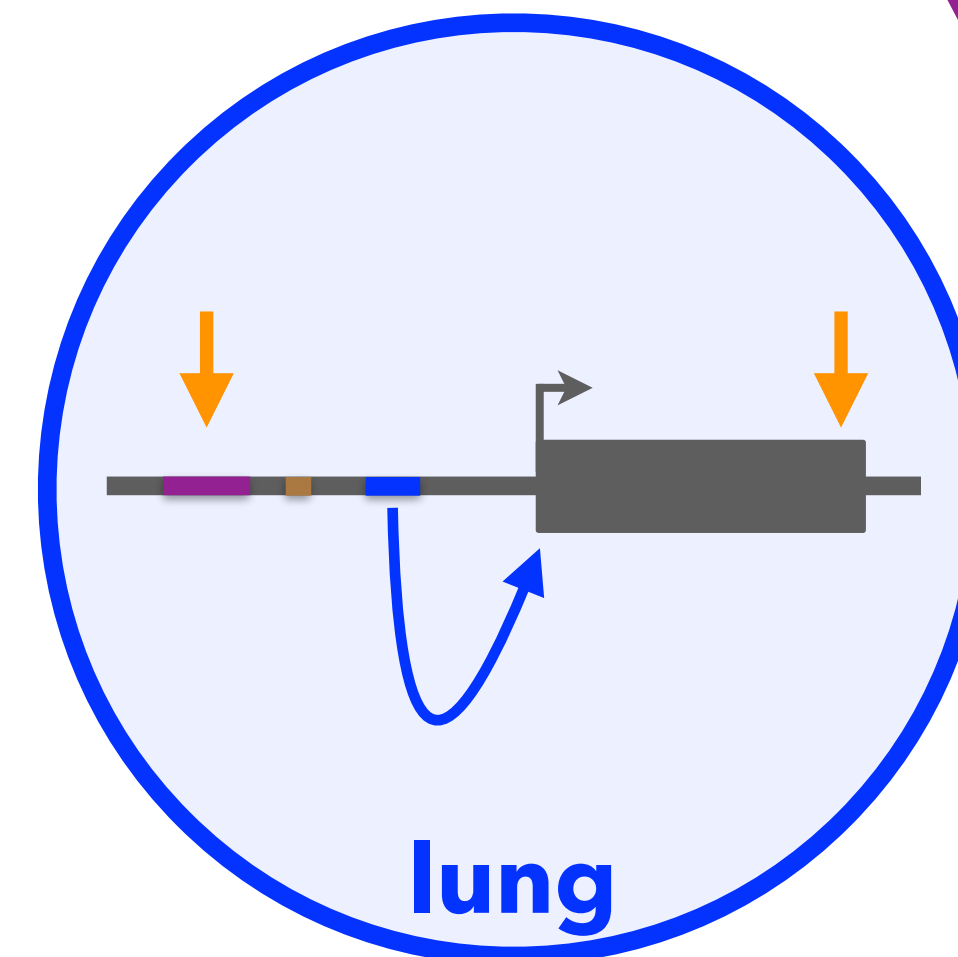
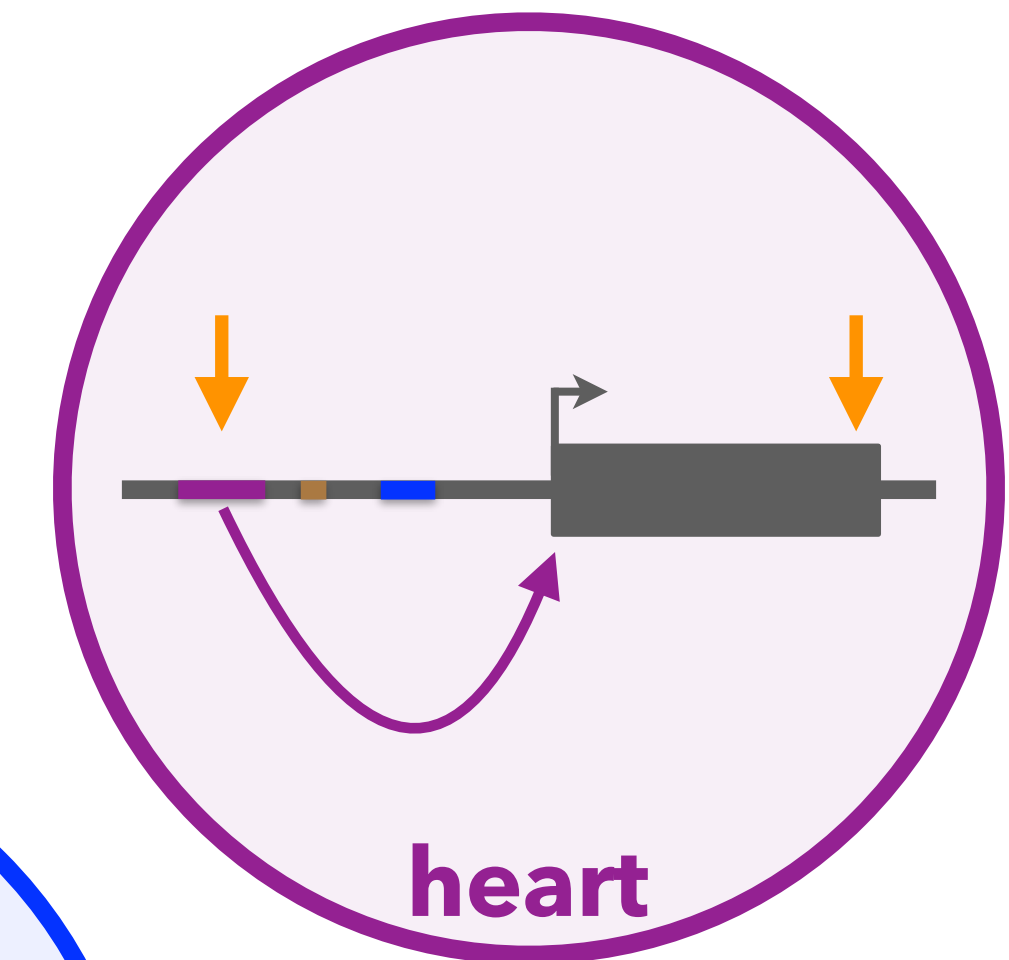
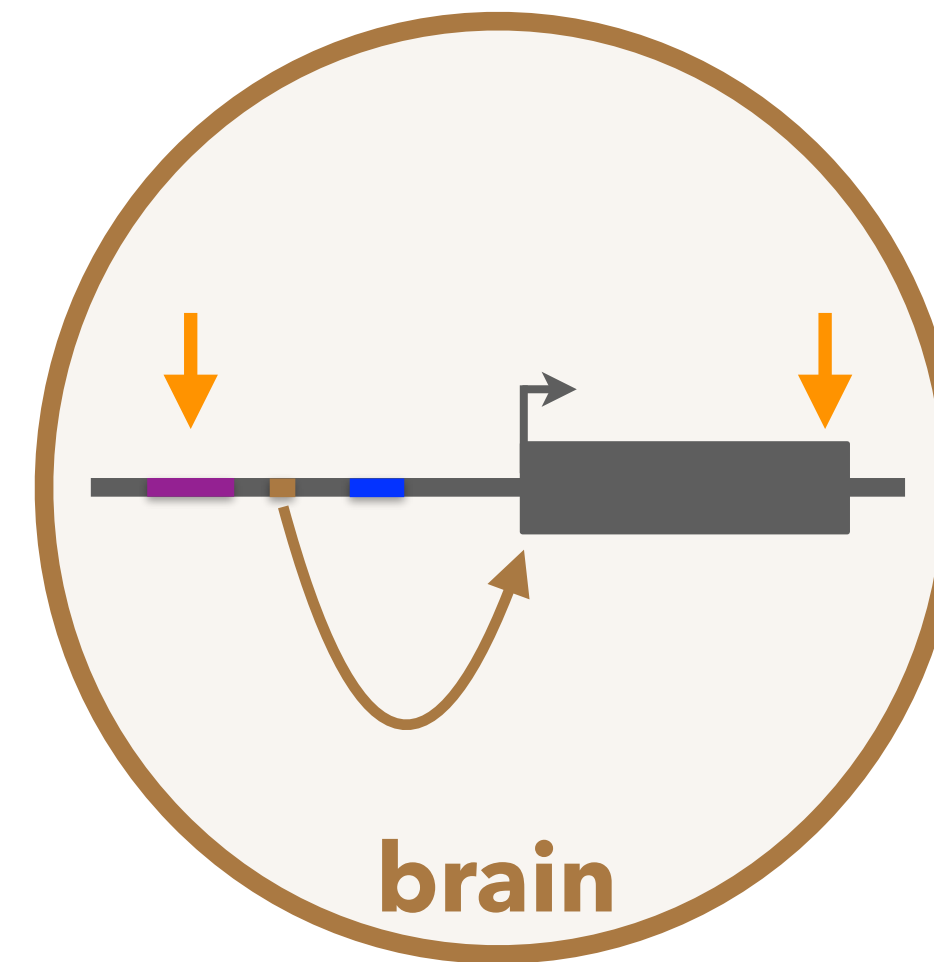
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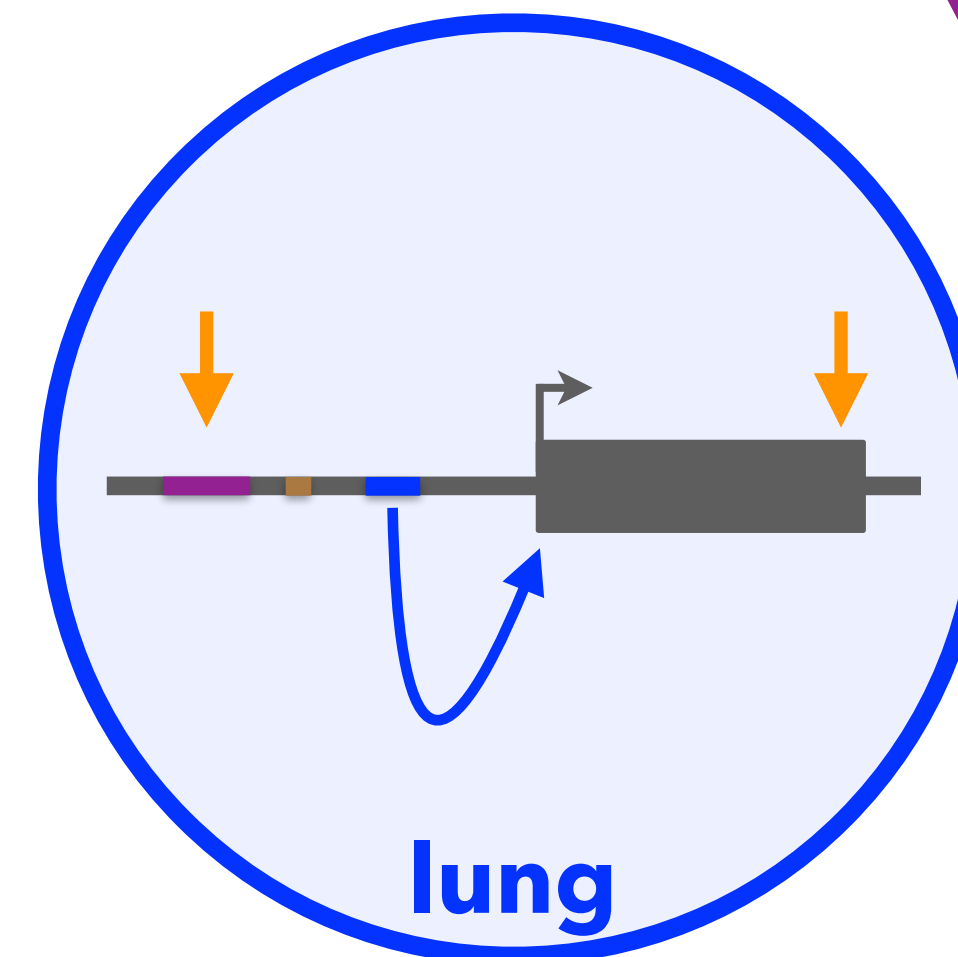
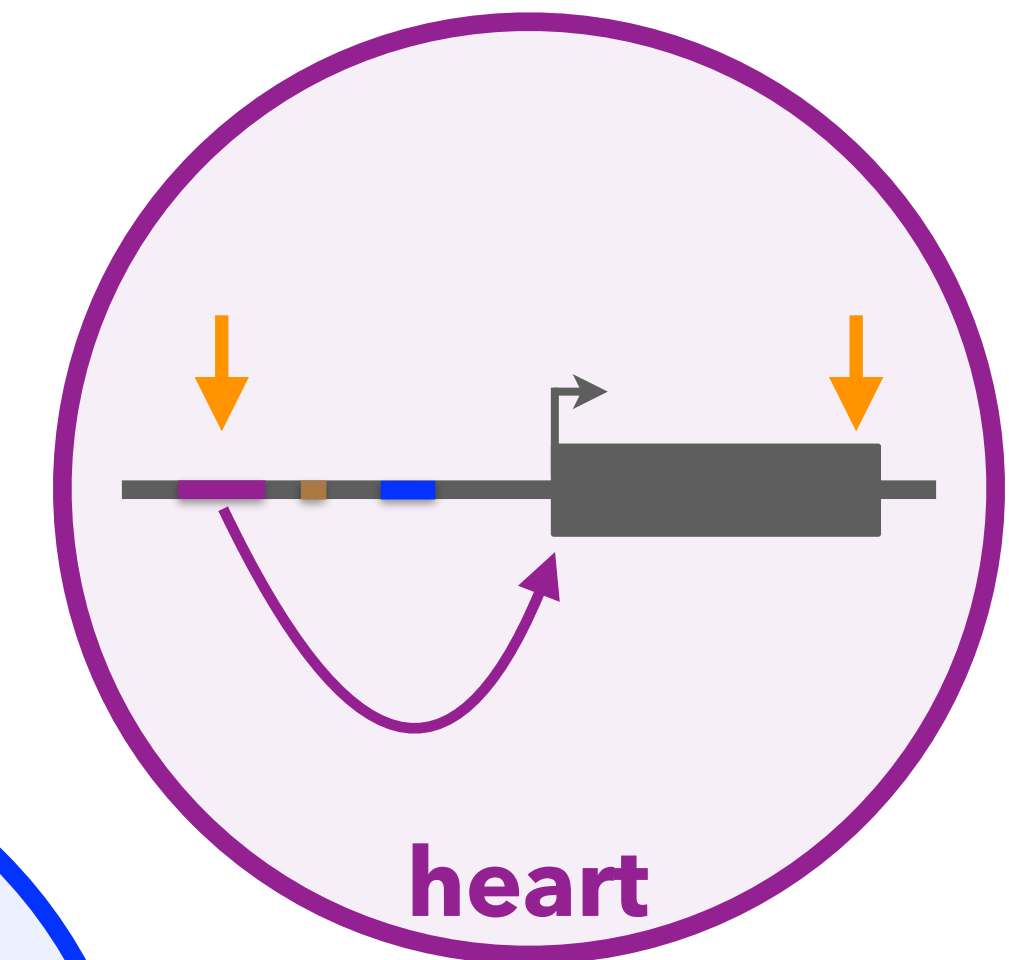
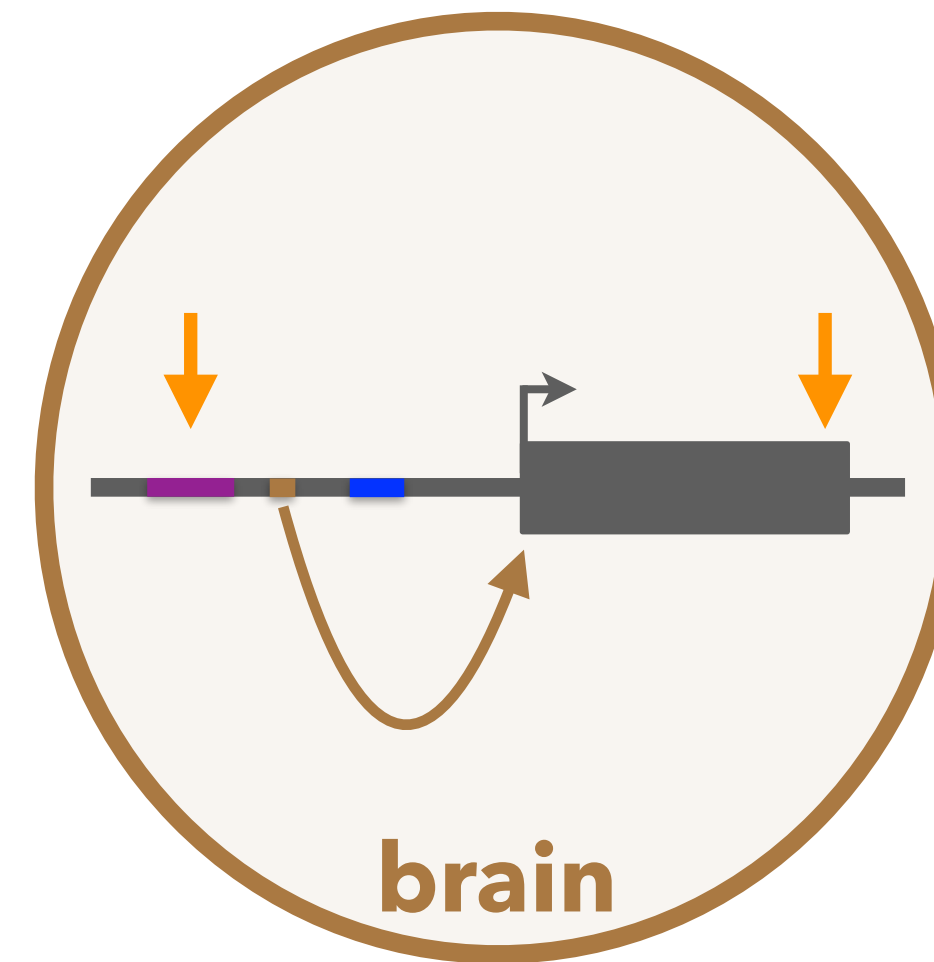
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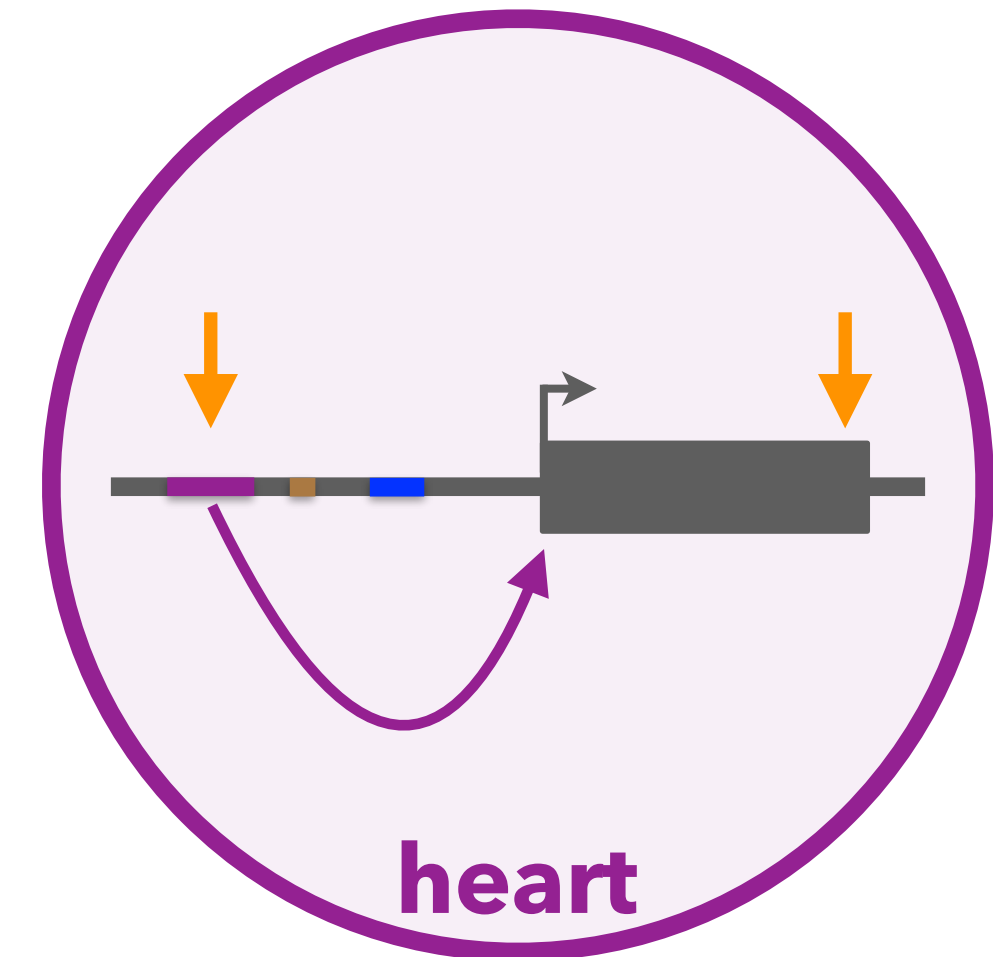
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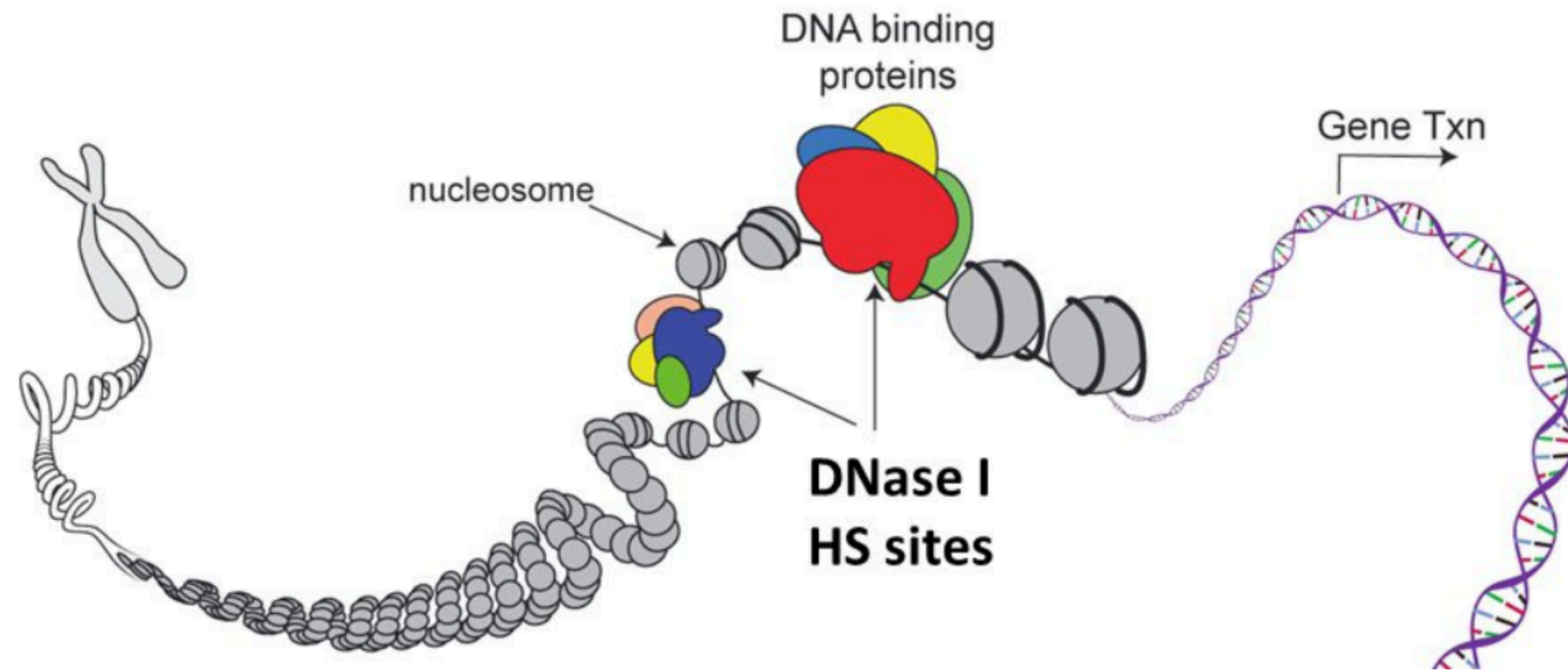
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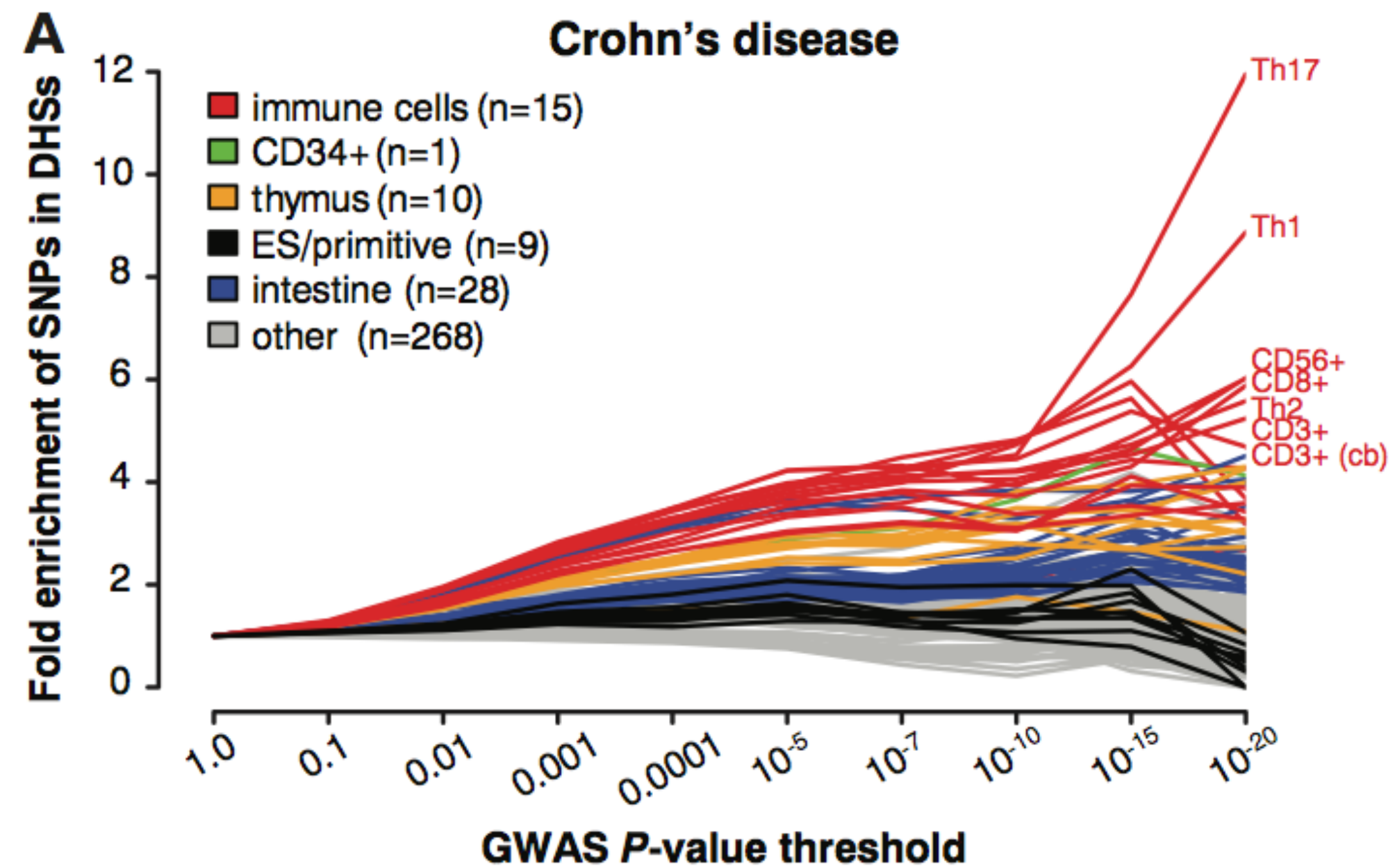




# DNase hypersensitivity sites (DHS) identify *active gene regulatory elements*

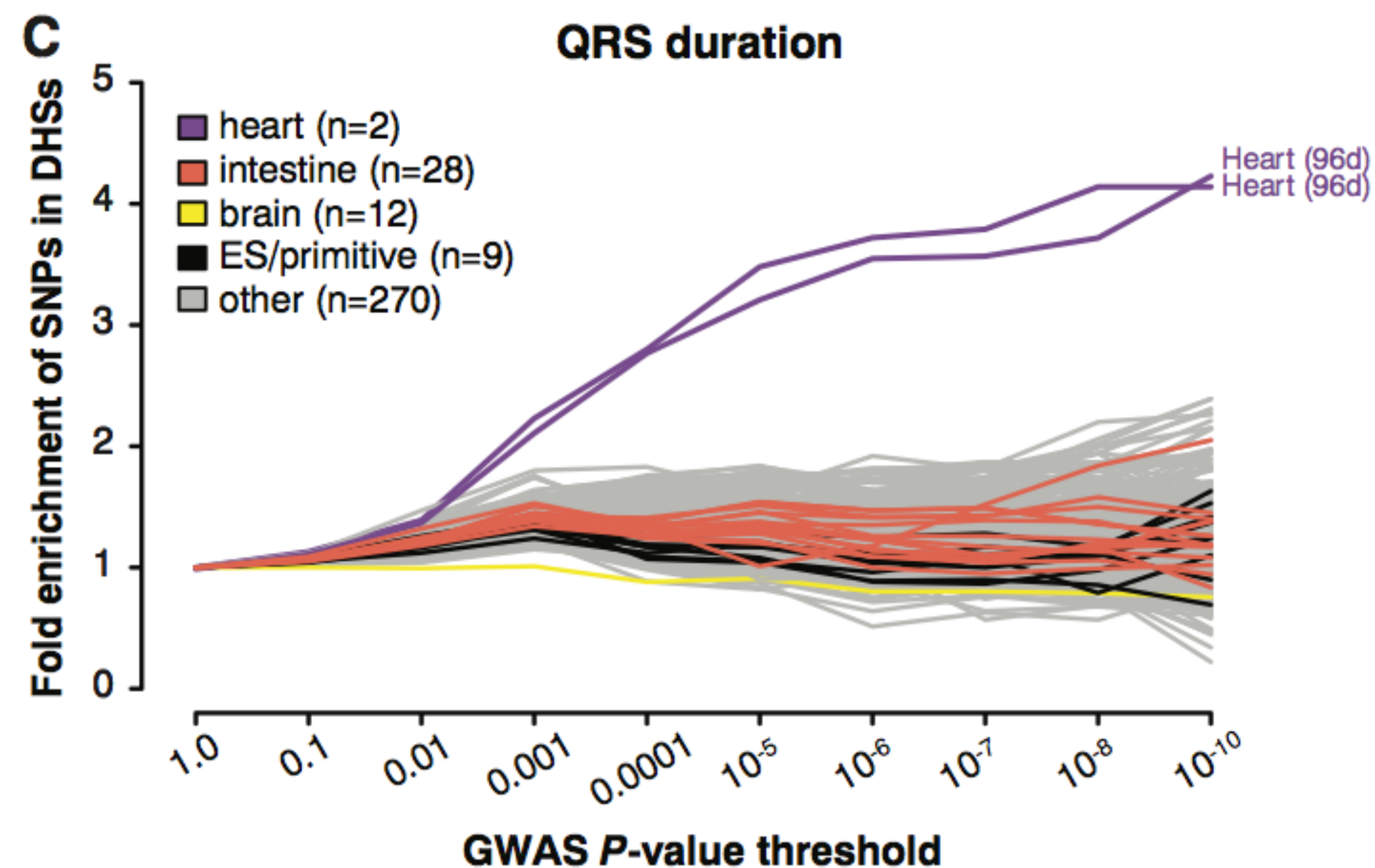
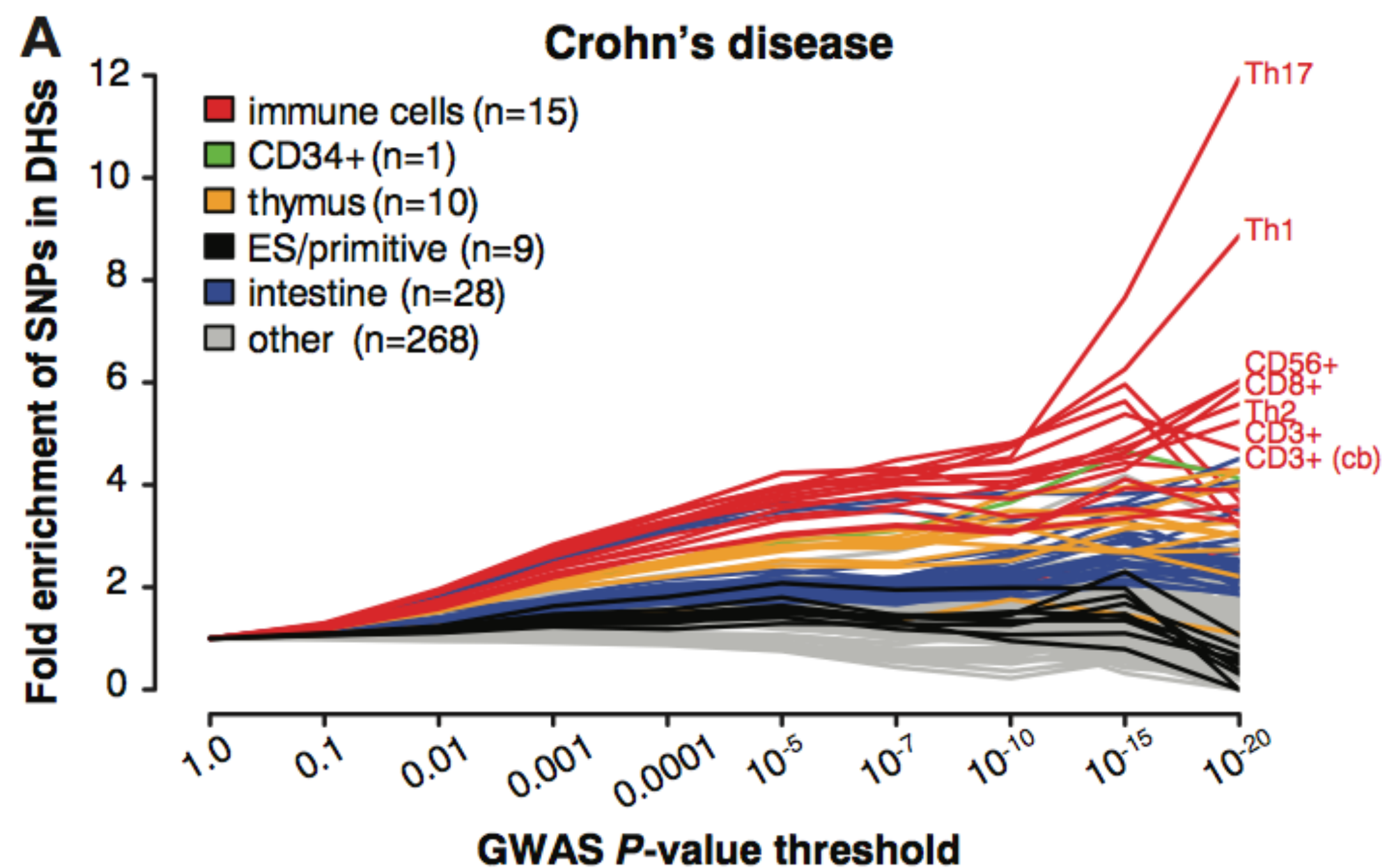


# Using DNase hypersensitivity sites (DHS) to identify *pathogenic cell types*





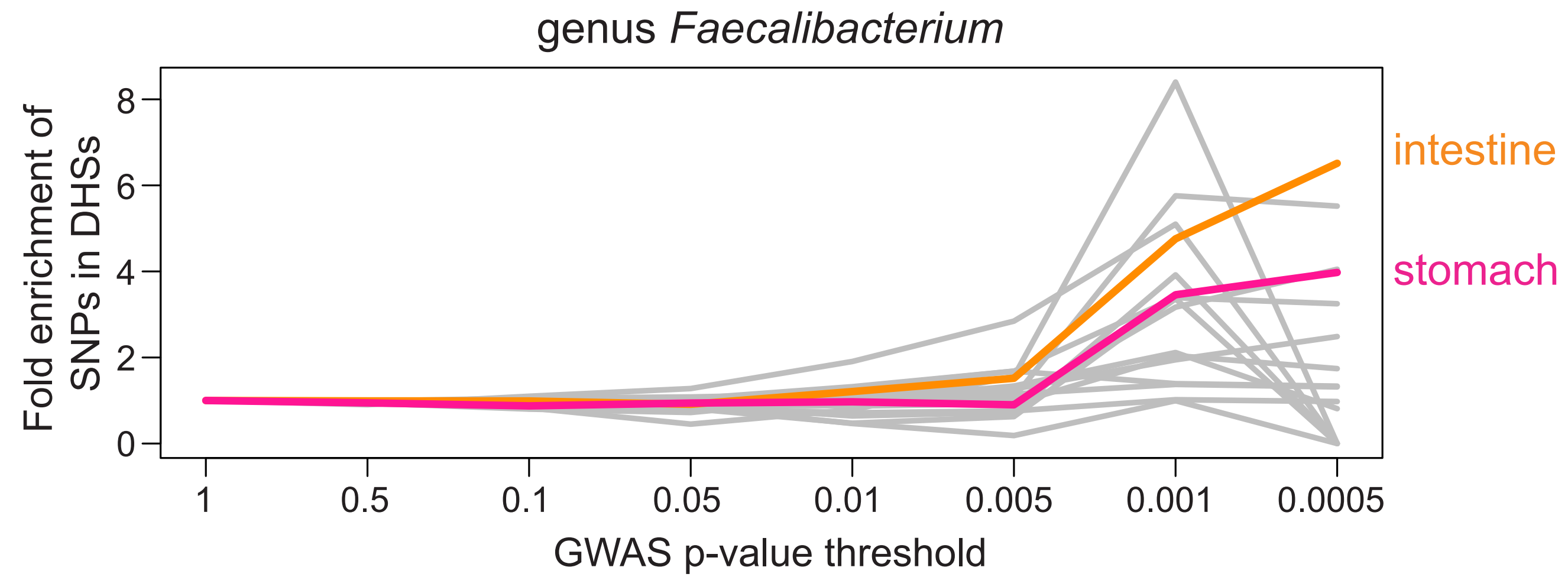
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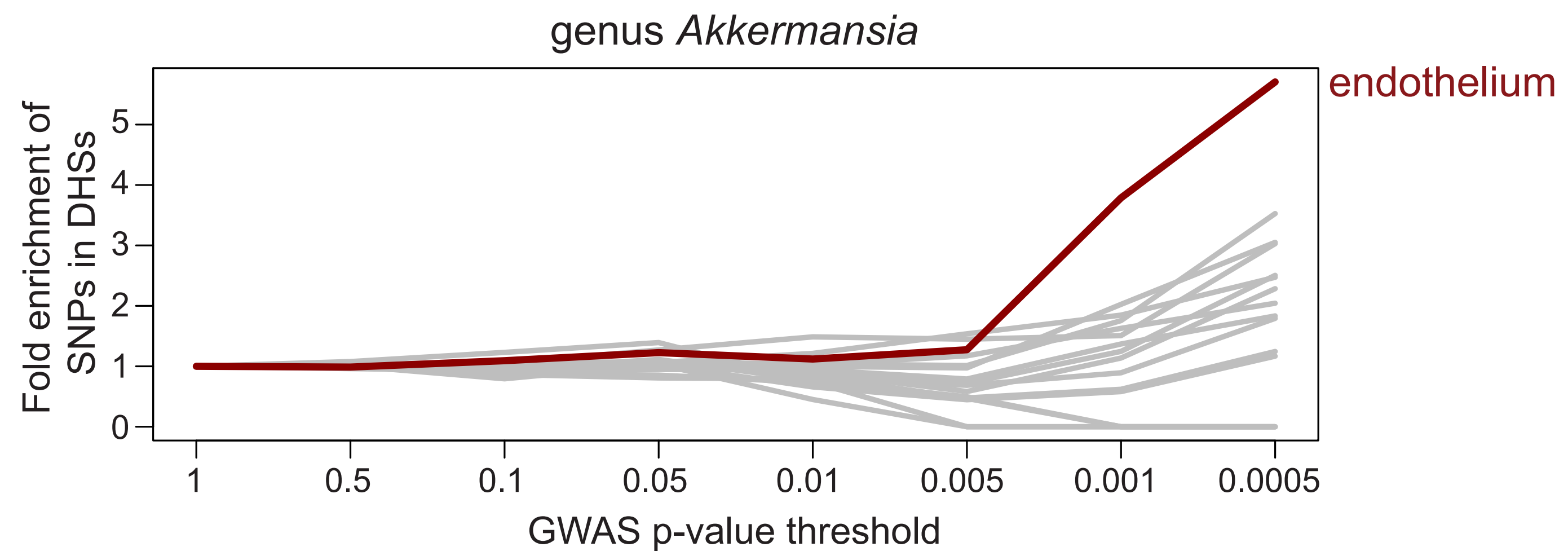
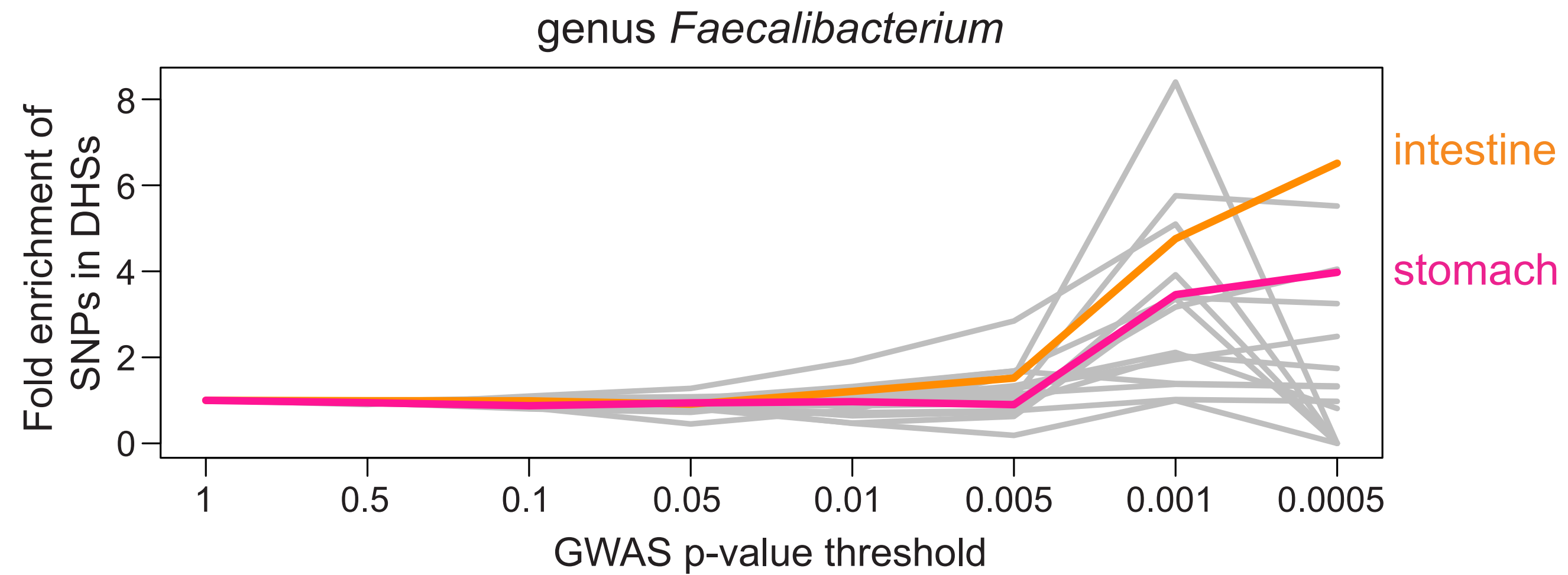
Using DNase hypersensitivity sites (DHS) to identify *“pathogenic”*  
*cell types*



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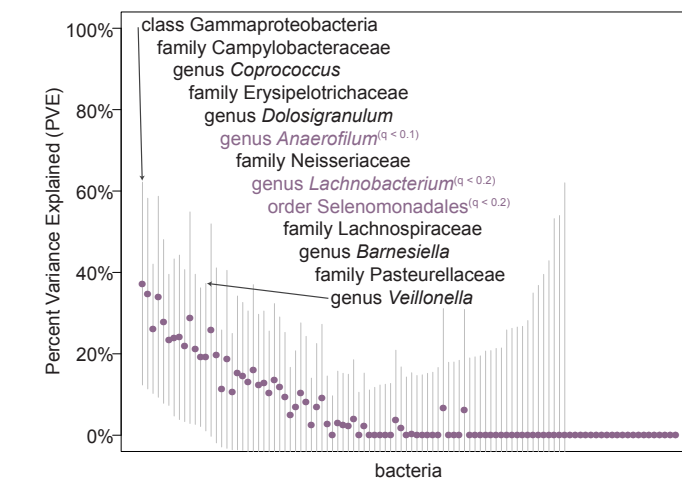




***Conclusions:***

# Conclusions:

1. The relative abundances of certain bacteria in the gut are *heritable*.

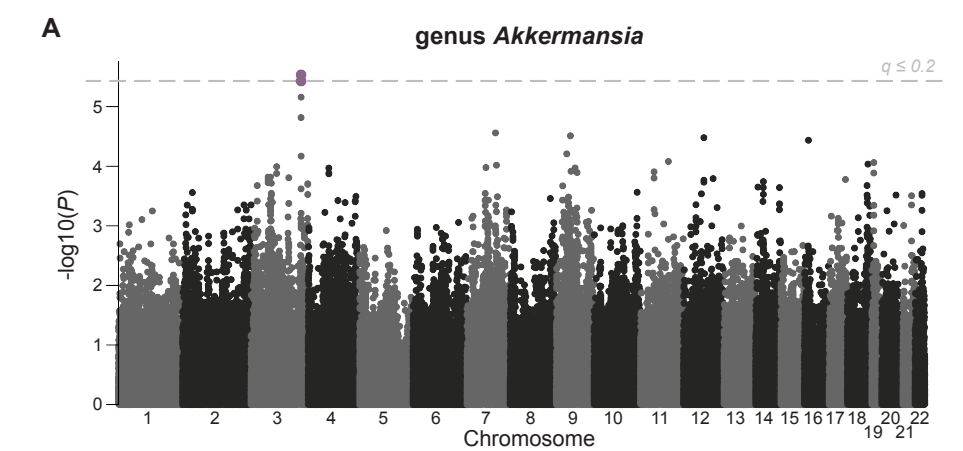
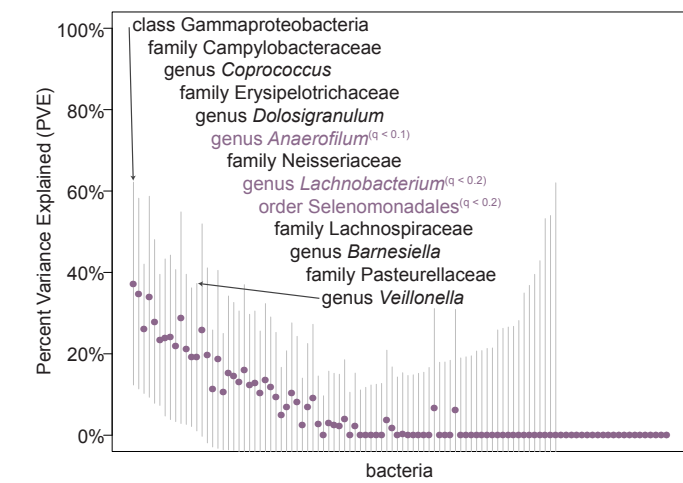




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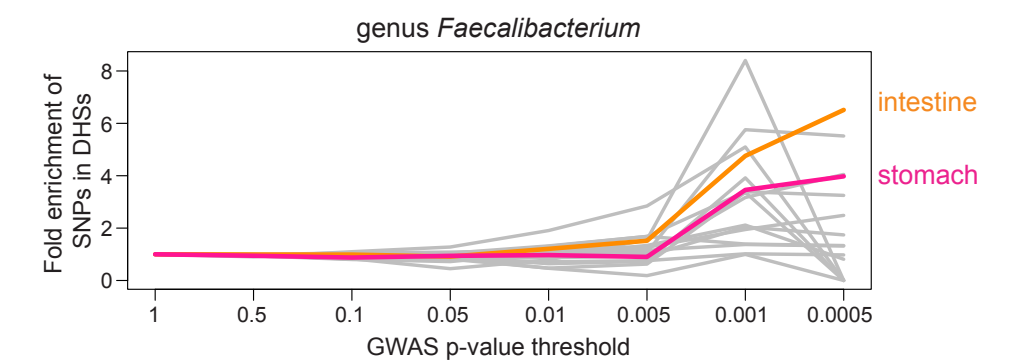
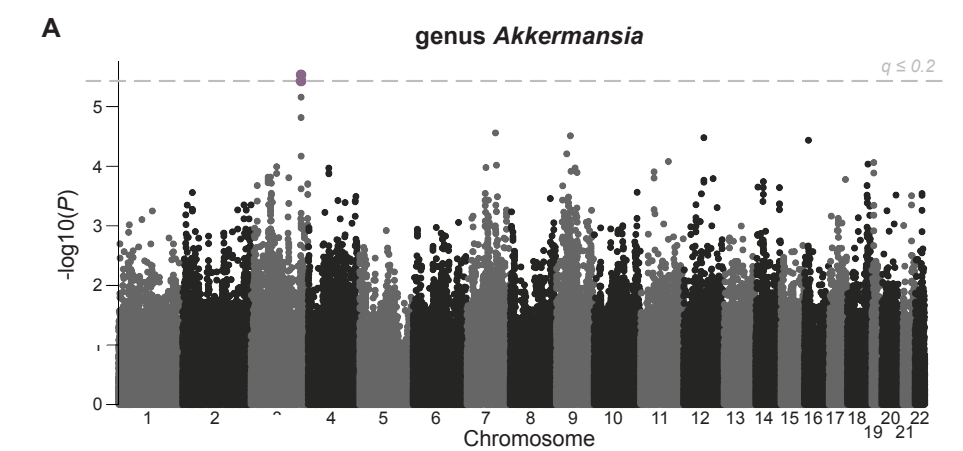
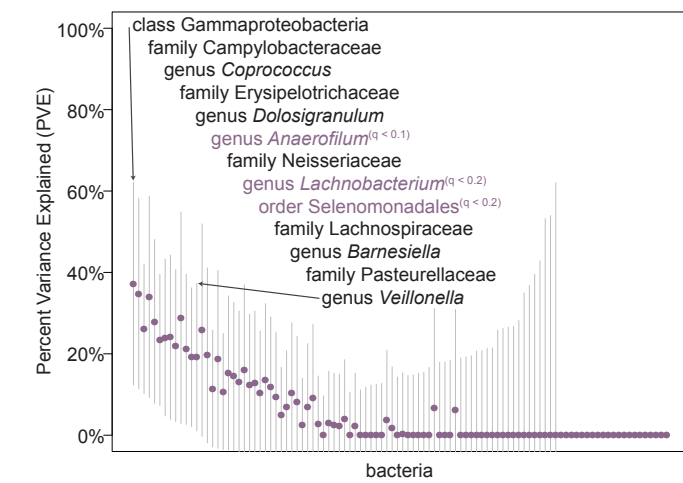
1. The relative abundances of certain bacteria in the gut are *heritable*.

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# Conclusions:

1. The relative abundances of certain bacteria in the gut are *heritable*.
2. We can identify *variants* in the human genome associated with bacterial abundance.
3. We can identify candidate *host tissues* where this genetic variation acts.





# Acknowledgements

## Hutterite projects:

The University of Chicago

Yoav Gilad

Carole Ober

Luis Barreiro

Orna Mizrahi Man

Katelyn Michelini

Darren Cusanovich

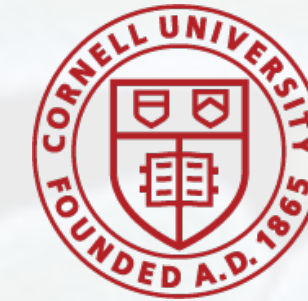


## TwinsUK projects:

Cornell University

Andrew Clark

Julia Goodrich



King's College London

Tim Spector

Jordana Bell



Max Planck

Ruth Ley



Cornell Center for  
Comparative and Population Genomics





**Davenport lab at Penn State is recruiting  
*grad students, postdocs, and research associates!***



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