

# Quantitative Genomics

29 May 2015

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## Shared haplotype estimation using rare variants to identify tracts of common ancestry

Supervised by

Gil McVean



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## Estimating the age of a rare mutation

(the time in generations since mutation gave rise to the allele)

This is attempted by inferring the  
**haplotype region that is identical by descent  
surrounding the focal rare allele**

It is necessary to establish  
**correct phasing around the focal rare allele**

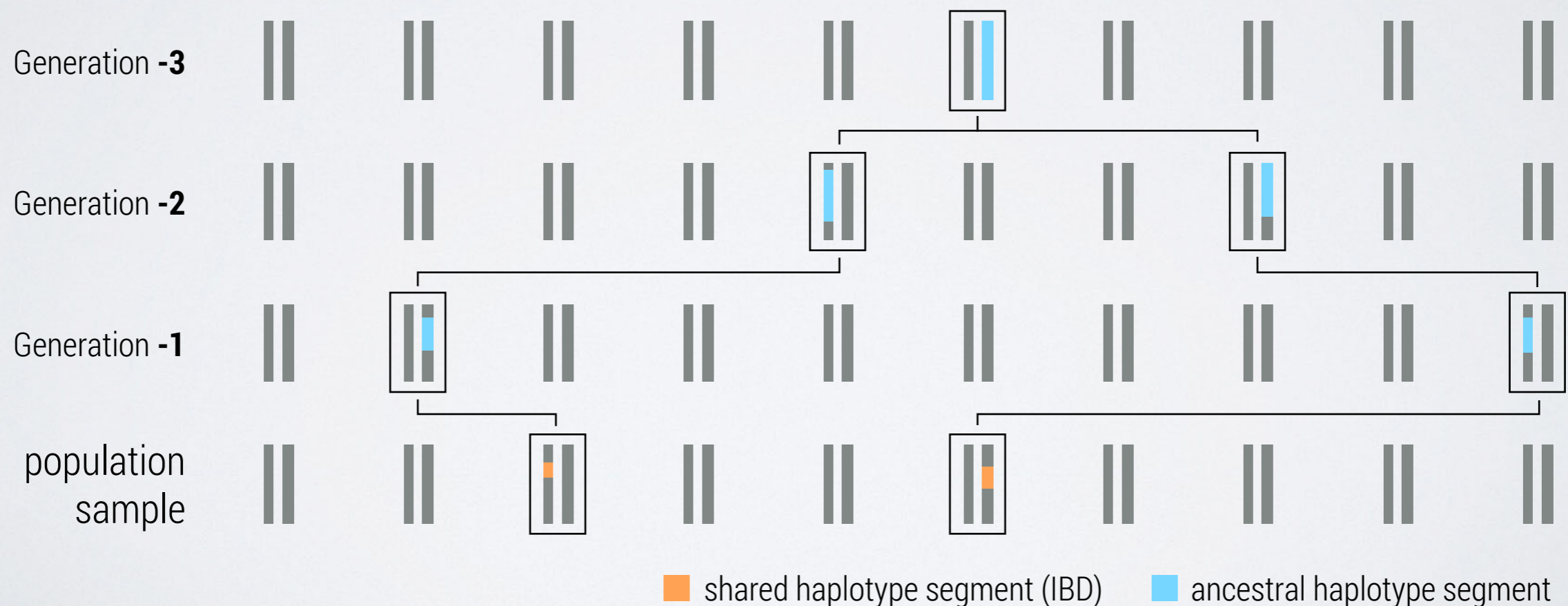


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# Identity by descent (IBD)

- Individuals sharing a mutation are likely to have inherited this mutation from a **common ancestor**
- They must have also inherited the chromosomal **region surrounding the focal mutation**
- These individuals share a haplotype region **identical by descent (IBD)**
- The length of a IBD segment is **broken down by recombination**
- Breakpoints are **not directly observable** from genotype or haplotype data
- Identification of IBD regions is difficult because each chromosome represents a **mosaic of haplotypes** with different ancestry backgrounds
- Correct identification is confounded by regions that are **identical by state (IBS)**





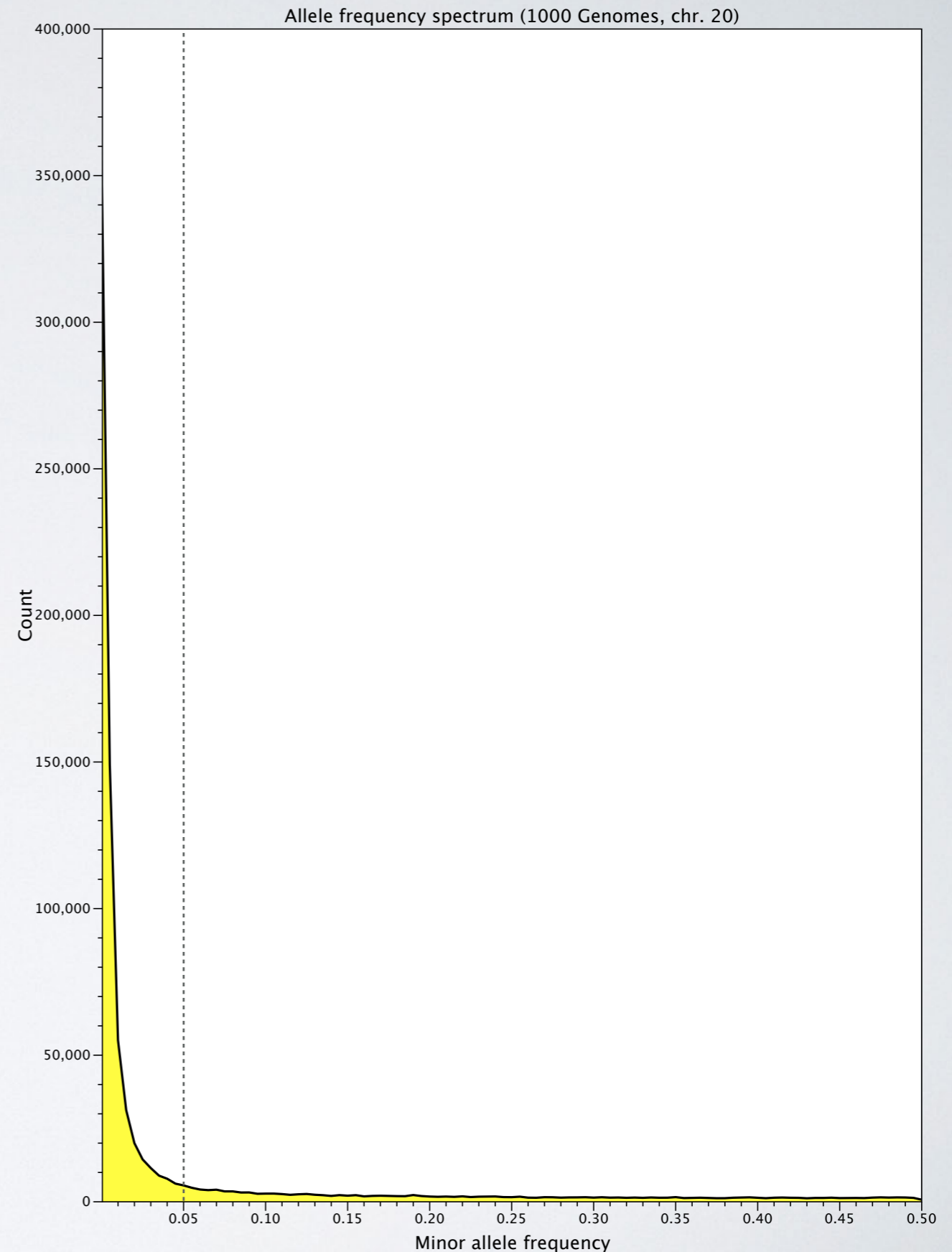
# Rare or low-frequency variants

(e.g. frequency < 0.05)

- represent the **majority of variation** in the human genome
- are typically **young in age** likely to have arisen recently through mutation
- are likely to be **population-specific** due to likely recent origin
- are informative for **relatedness** due to a likely common ancestor
- they are likely to sit in **long shared haplotype segments** because recombination had **less time to break down** the ancestral full length of IBD

Rare variants are useful to

- identify individuals that are likely to share a recent common ancestor
- tag haplotypes of shared ancestry
- resolve recent demographic history





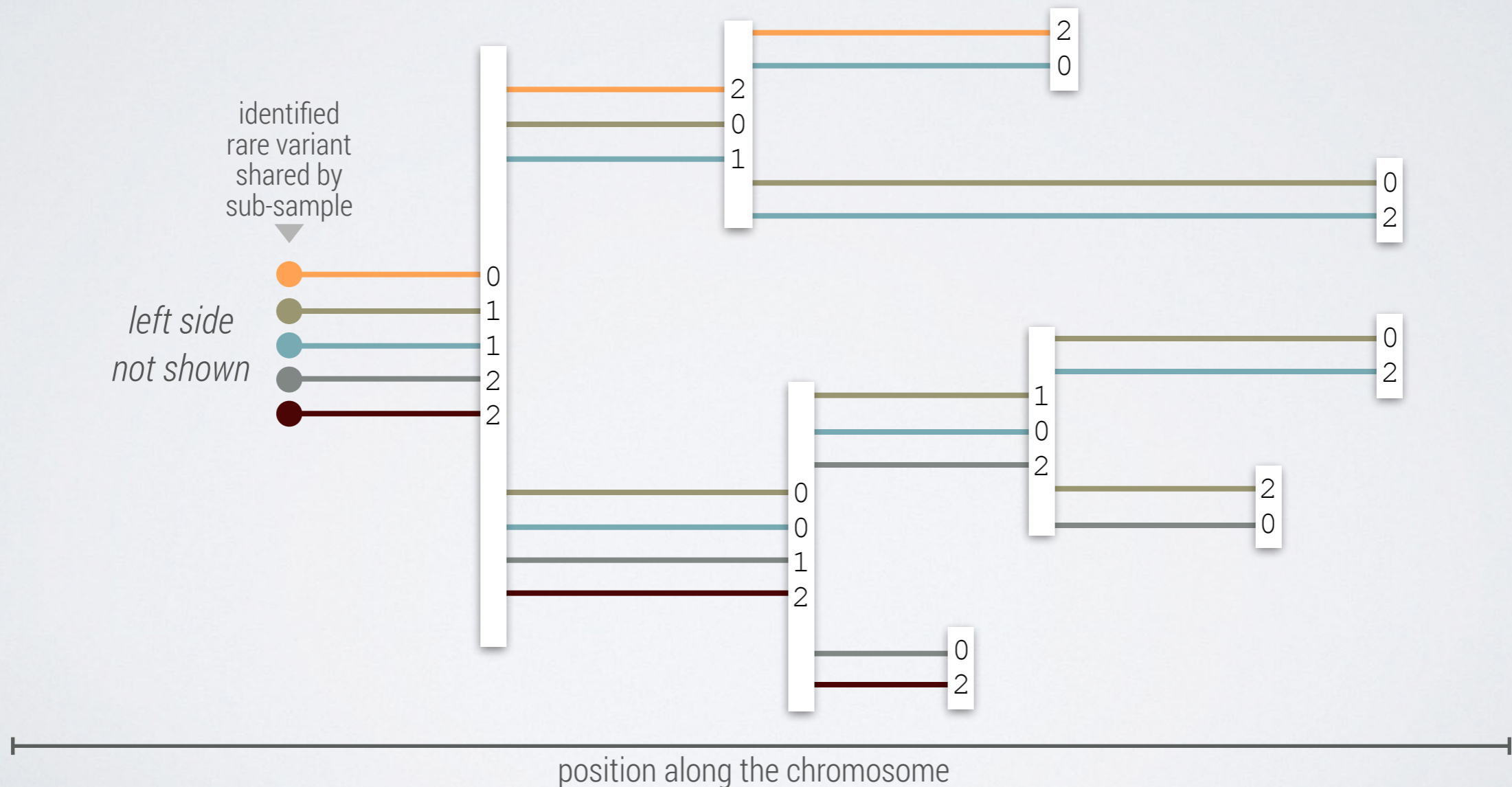




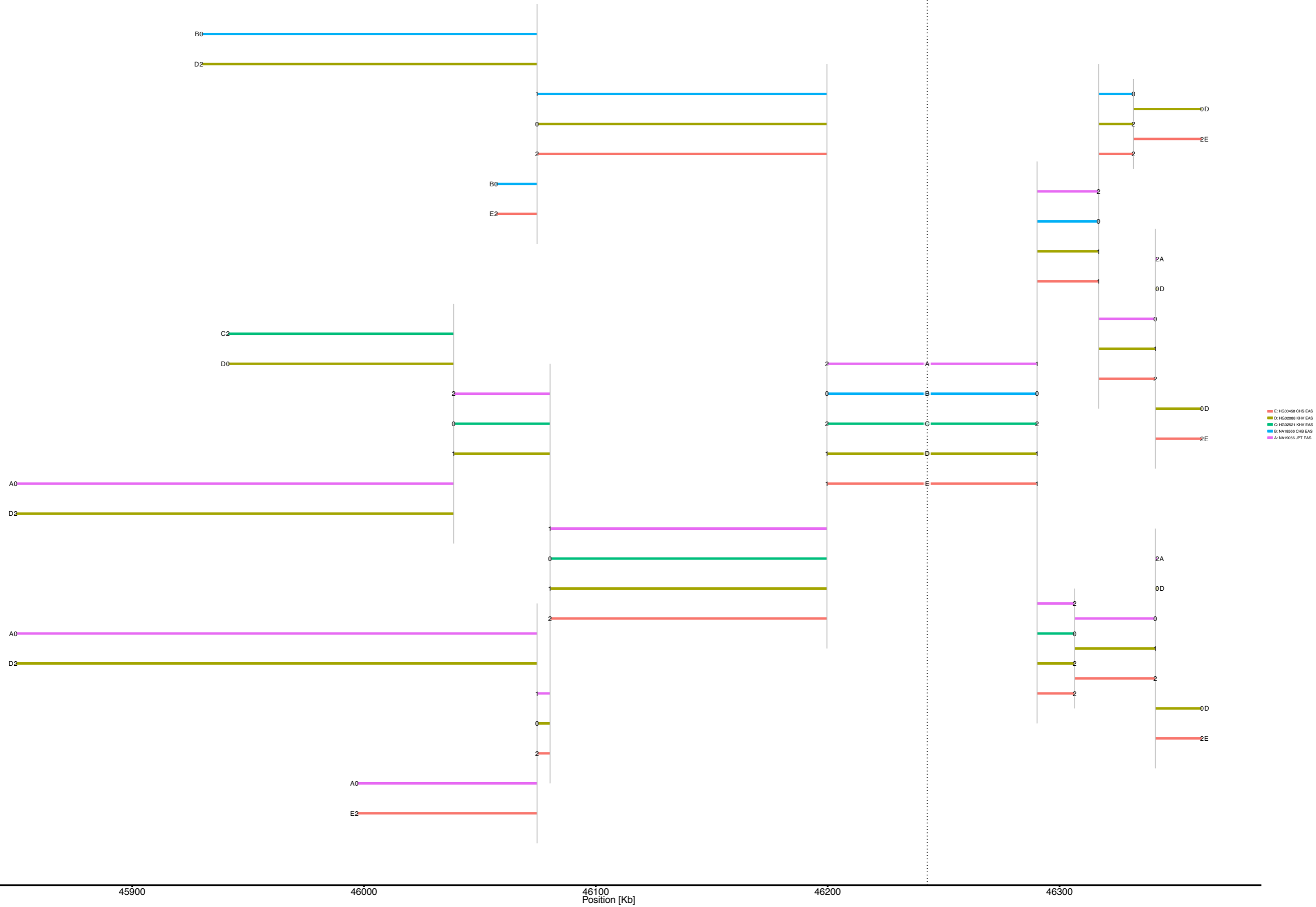
# Shared haplotype structures

Generalising the method by **Mathieson & McVean (2014)**  
for variants shared by **k** individuals, i.e.  **$f_k$  variants**

A **shared haplotype structure** is constructed by  
searching **for all paths** in the subsample sharing a focal mutation  
that are **sharing any haplotype** along the chromosome



f5





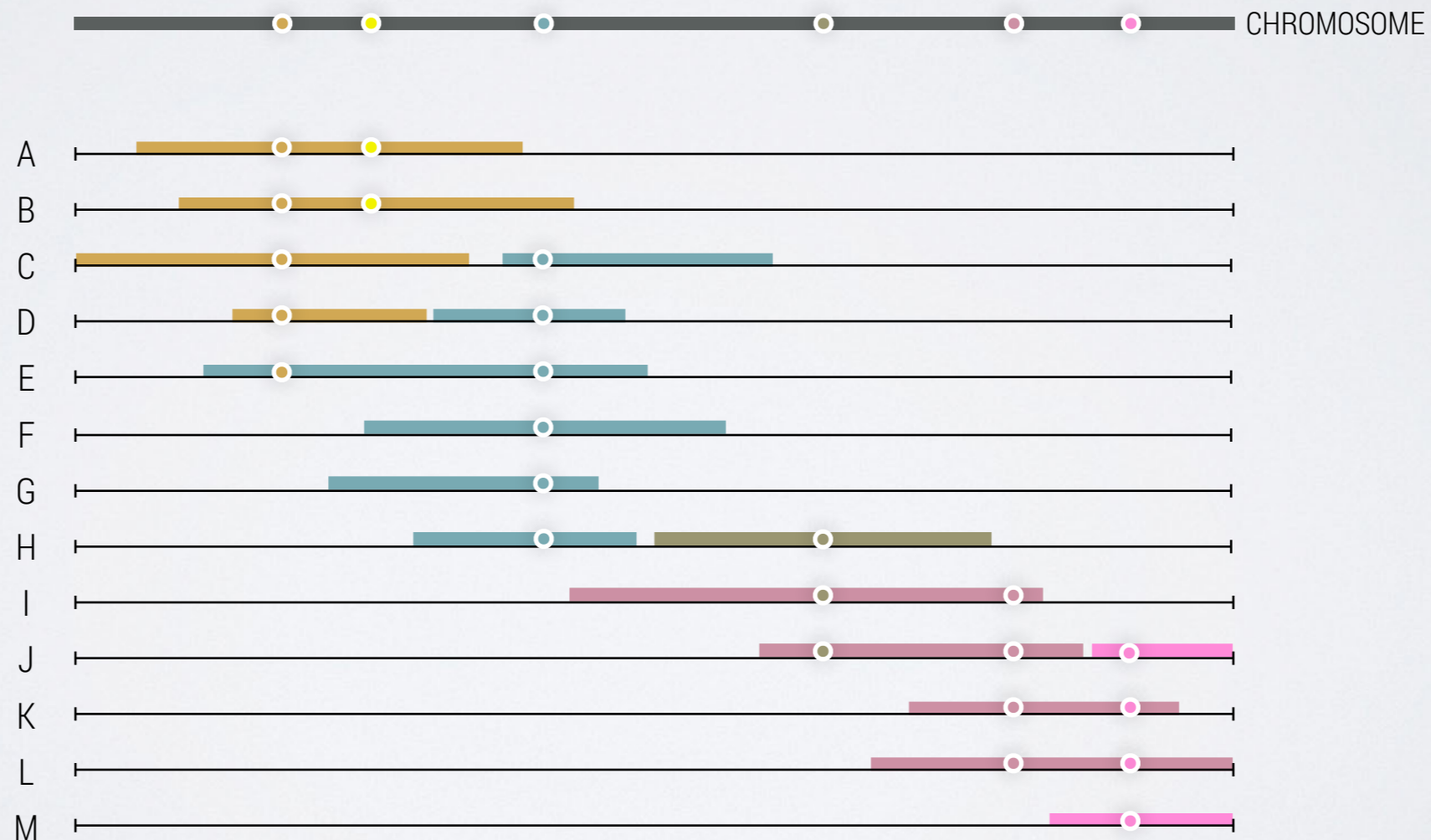
# Shared haplotype phasing

More information about shared haplotypes is available from  **$f_k$  variants nearby** that sit on the **same haplotype**

- Overlapping ranges of other segments inform *shared haplotype estimation*
- Rare variants nested within another shared variant subsample inform *mutational timing*
- Sharing patterns across different shared variant subsamples inform *estimation of demographic history*

SAMPLE X

sharing  **$f_k$  variants**  
with any of the  
other samples





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## Conclusion

A **new phasing algorithm** around rare mutations is a necessary step for detecting shared haplotype segments, which ...

- + becomes more accurate for phasing of and around rare variants
- + becomes more accurate for densely typed samples and larger sample sizes
- but may not stretch the whole chromosome

The **age of a particular rare variant** can be estimated through ...

- its allele frequency (insufficient by itself)
- + length of its shared haplotype segment (*recombination clock*)
- + diversity along the segment in samples sharing the allele (*mutation clock*)
- + local relatedness structures (*genealogical tree*)
- but estimates may have very large confidence intervals



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Thank you for your attention

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