

# Medical Cytogenetics

---

**Jin Fan, [jinfan@zju.edu.cn](mailto:jinfan@zju.edu.cn)  
Zhejiang University School of Medicine**

# 1. Chromatin and chromosome

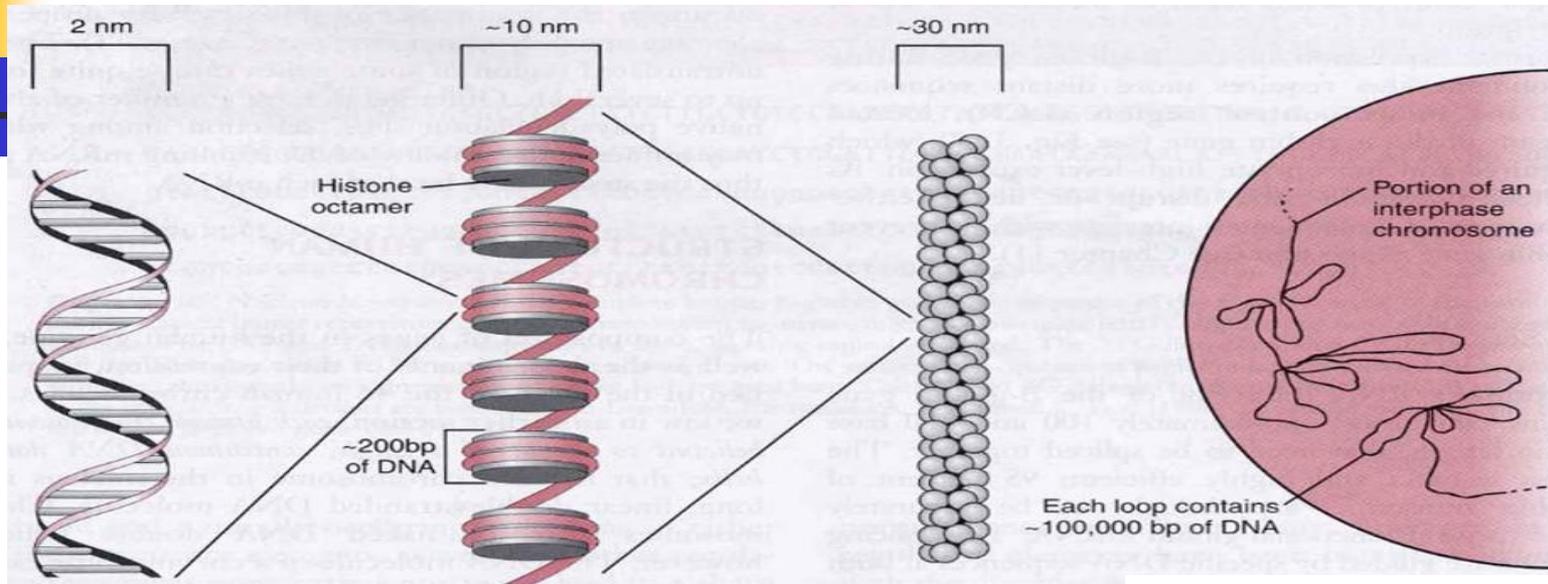


Chromatin in  
nucleus

**Euchromatin:** Slightly and evenly stained, non- or low-repetitive DNA regions

**Heterochromatin:** Darkly and unevenly stained, highly repetitive DNA regions

# Chromatin composition



**Double helix**

**Nucleosome fiber**

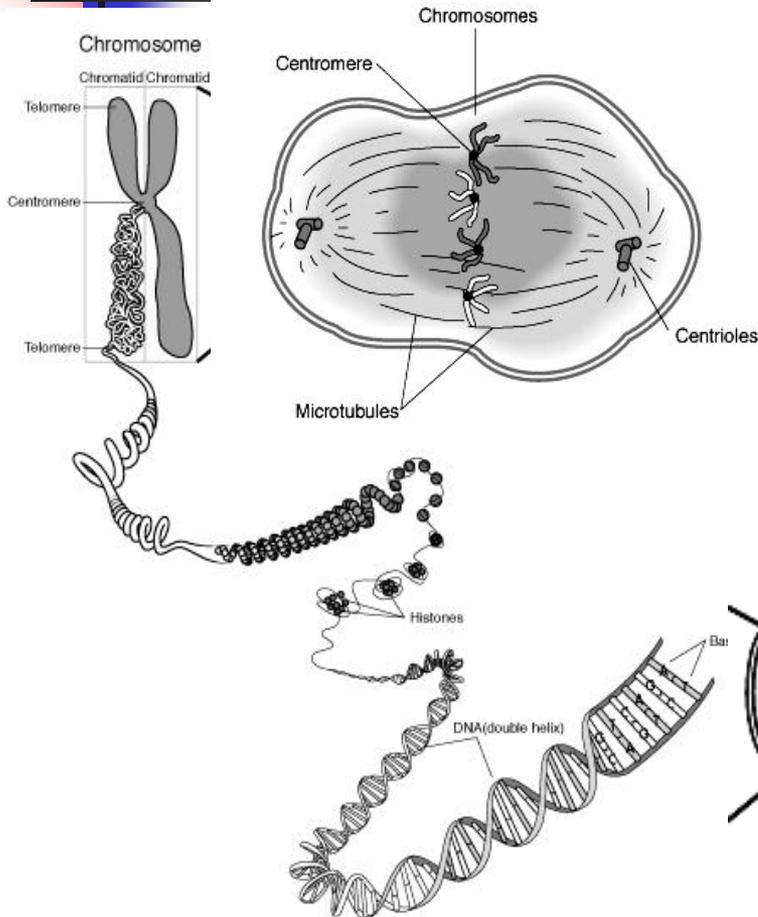
**Solenoid**

**Interphase nucleus**

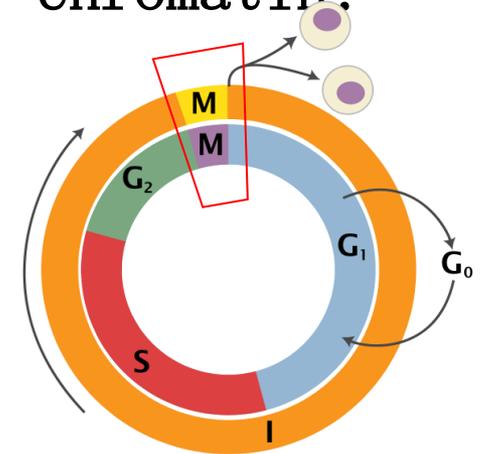
**Chromatin** is the basic components in the cell nucleus

Composed of **DNA**, **histones** and **non-histone proteins**

# From Chromatin to Chromosome



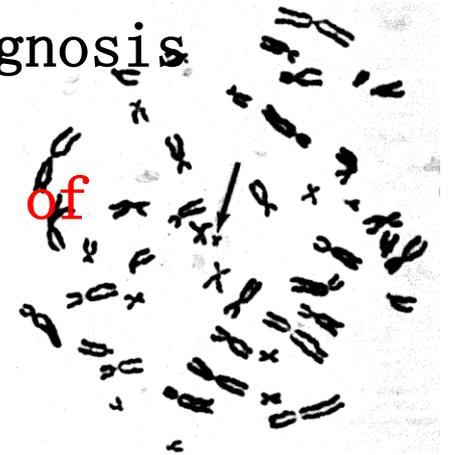
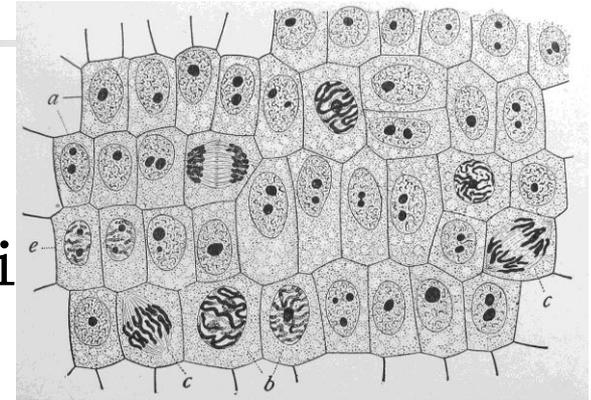
- Different mode of chromatin in metaphase
- Resulted from highly compaction of chromatin:



Cell Cycle

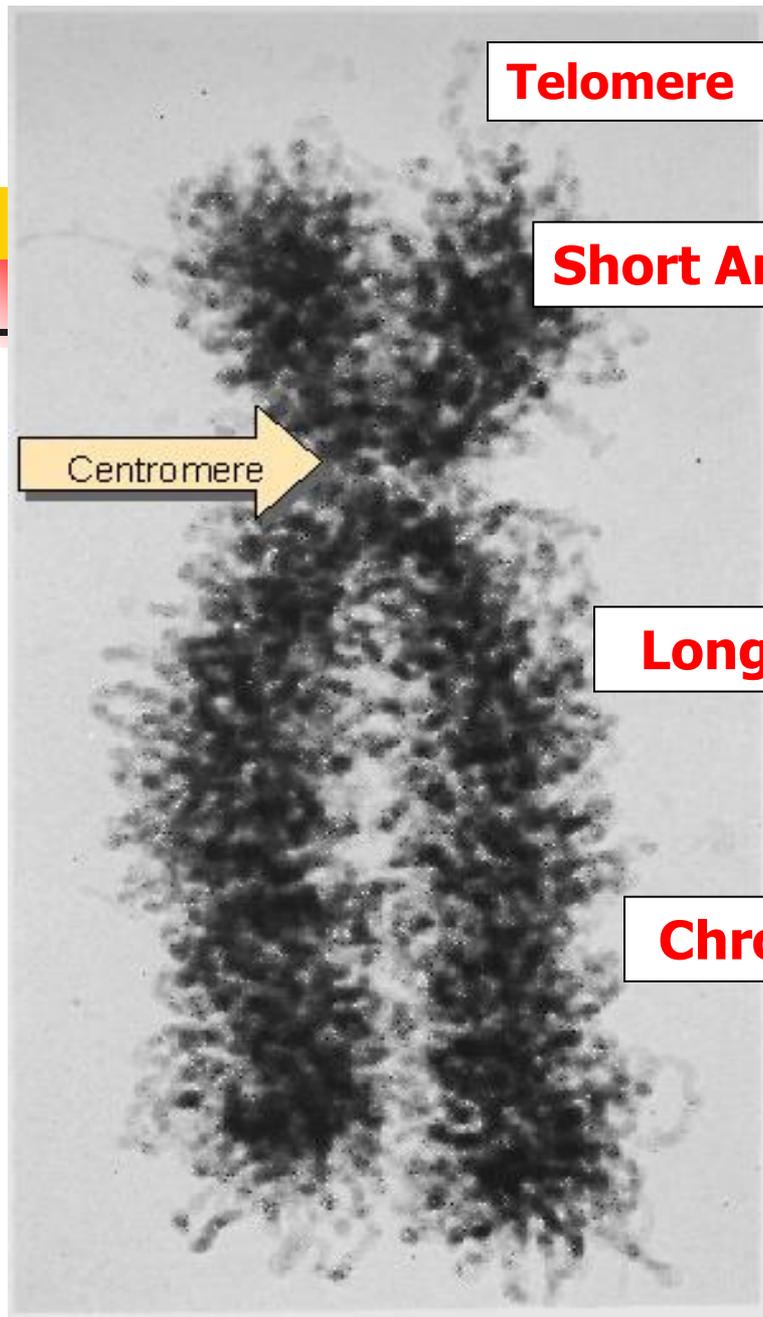
# Chromosome Preparation

- Cell culture:
    - Peripheral blood: PHA stimulation
    - Fibroblast from various cells
    - Bone marrow for leukemia
    - Amniotic fluid cell for fetal diagnosis
  - Colchicine arresting metaphase –
- Harvest a great number of metaphases
- Hypotonic treatment
  - Chromosome spread preparation



chromosome

Identify each



**Telomere**

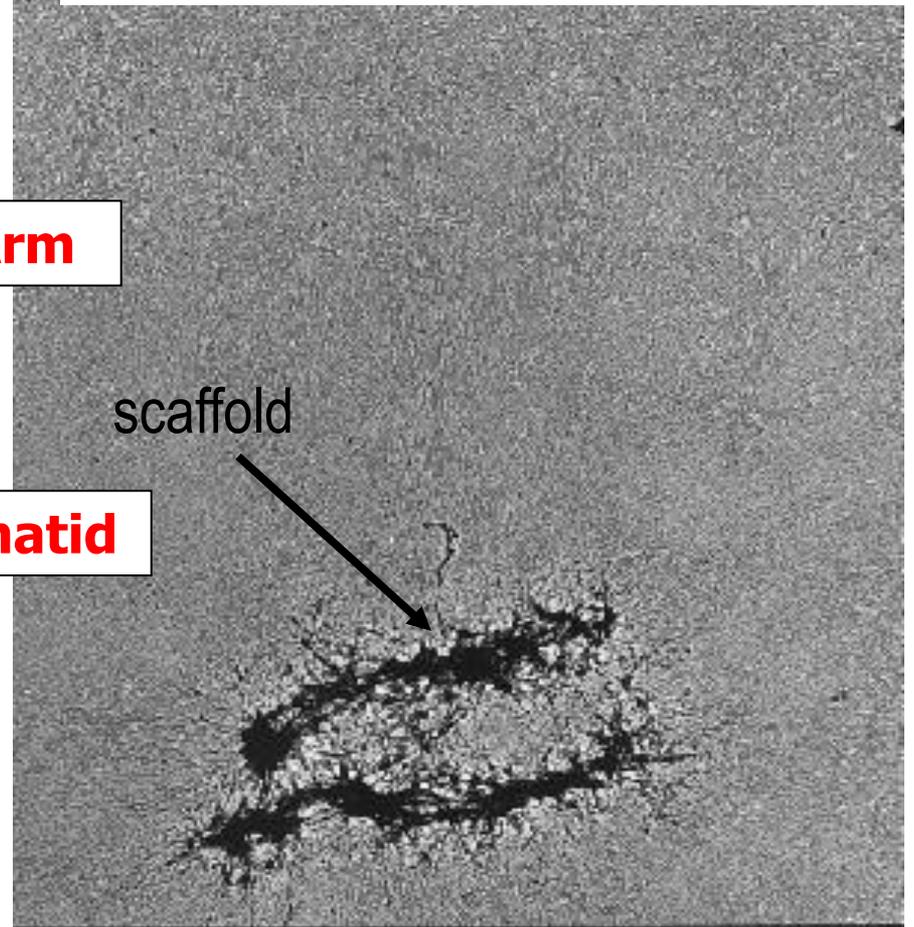
**Short Arm**

Centromere

**Long Arm**

**Chromatid**

- Chromatids, two after S-phase
- Centromere
- Long arm and short arm
- Telomere



scaffold



## 2. Chromosome identification

---

### 1. Morphology of chromosome

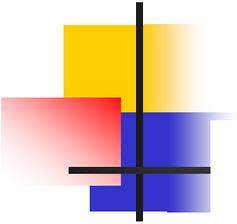
#### Length

RL: Relative length,  $\text{Ch } L / \text{total } L$  of a haploid set

#### Position of centromere

AI: Arm index,  $\text{Long arm } L(q) / \text{Short arm } L(p)$

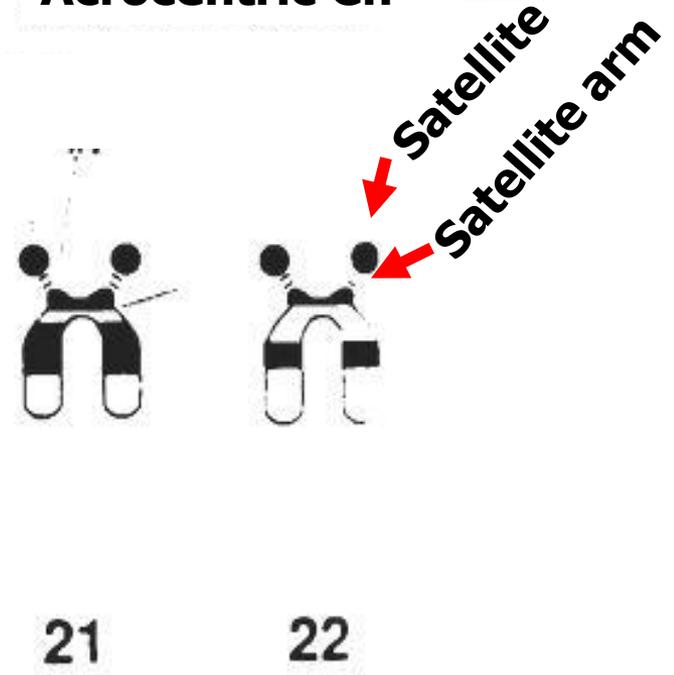
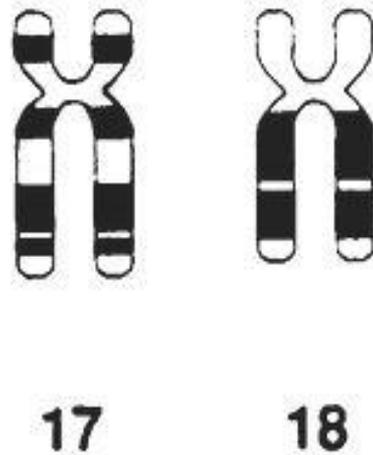
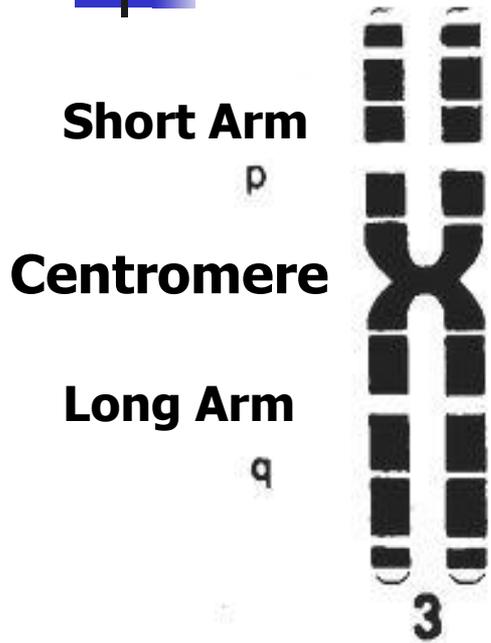
CI: Centromere index,  $q / \text{Ch } L$



### Metacentric Ch

### Submetacentric Ch

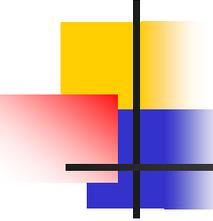
### Acrocentric Ch



**Metacentric Ch.**  
**CI: 1/2~5/8**

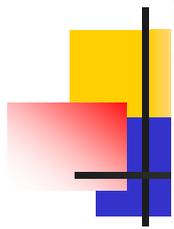
**Submetacentric Ch. CI: 5/8~7/8**

**Acrocentric Ch.**  
**CI: >7/8**



# International System for Human Cytogenetic Nomenclature ISCN, Denver

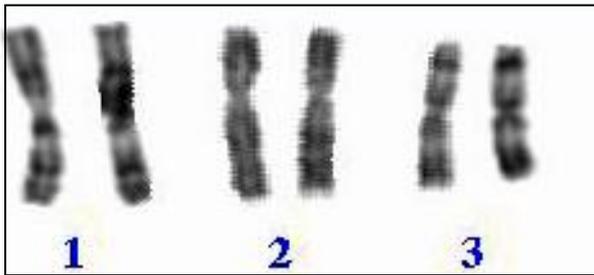
1. R1: from large to small  
Chromosome length: from long  
to short
2. CI: from small to large  
Centromere position: from low  
to high
3. Variable heterochromatic region:  
1qh, 9qh, 16qh, Yq  
Satellite and satellite arm of  
acrocentric chromosomes



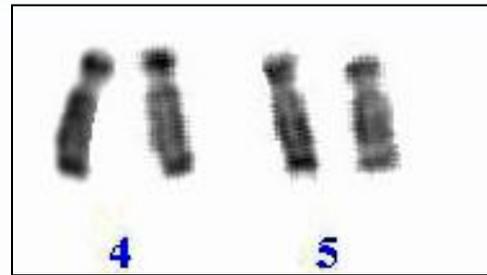
**M**

**Subm**

**M**

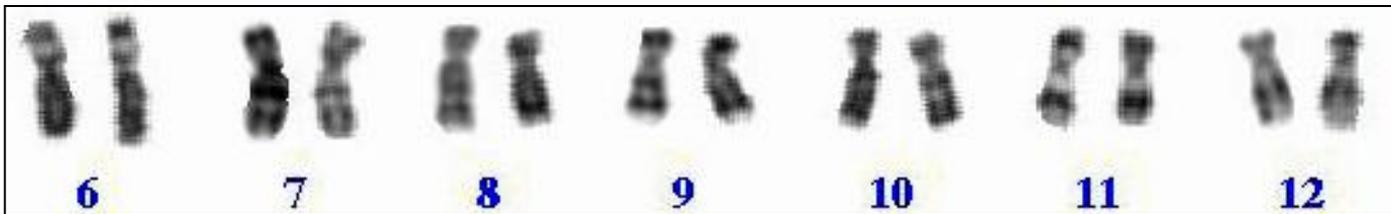


**A**



**Subm**

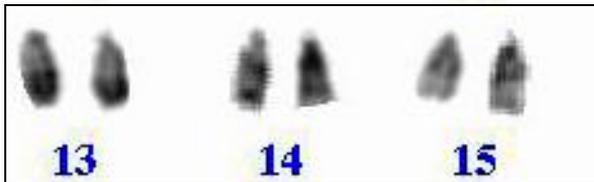
**B** group



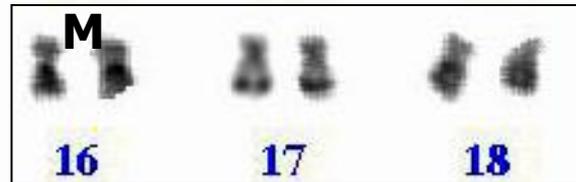
**Subm**

**C** group

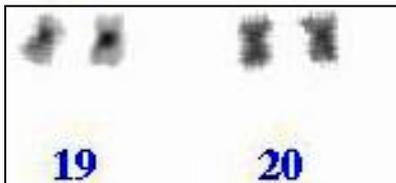
**acroc**



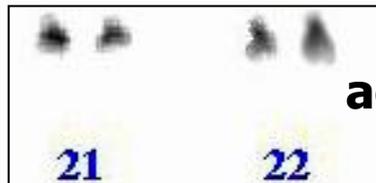
**D**



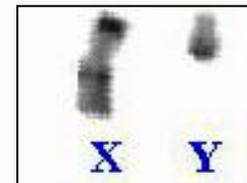
**E** group



**F**  
**M**



**G**  
**acroc**

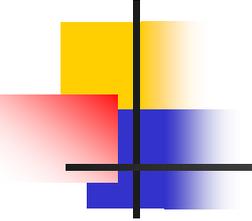


**Sex Ch.**

46, XY

Karyotyping, 7 Groups





# G Bands

---

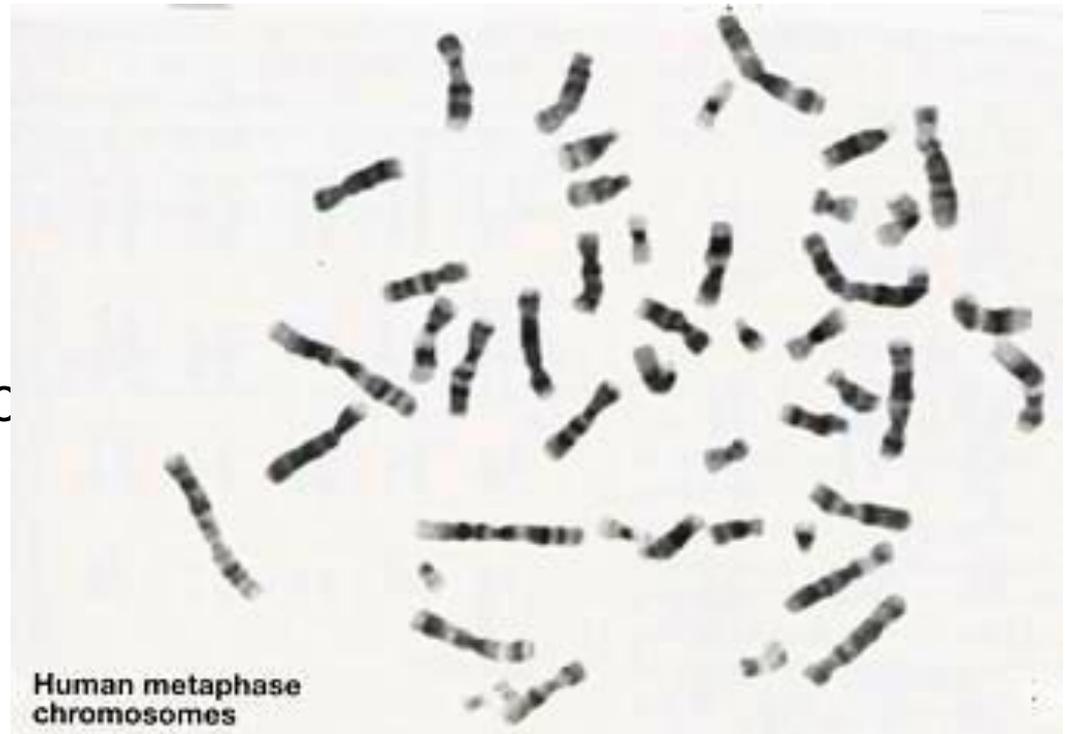
Giemsa bands:

Trypsin digestic

Giemsa staining

Permanent

Dark and light  
bands



# R Banding

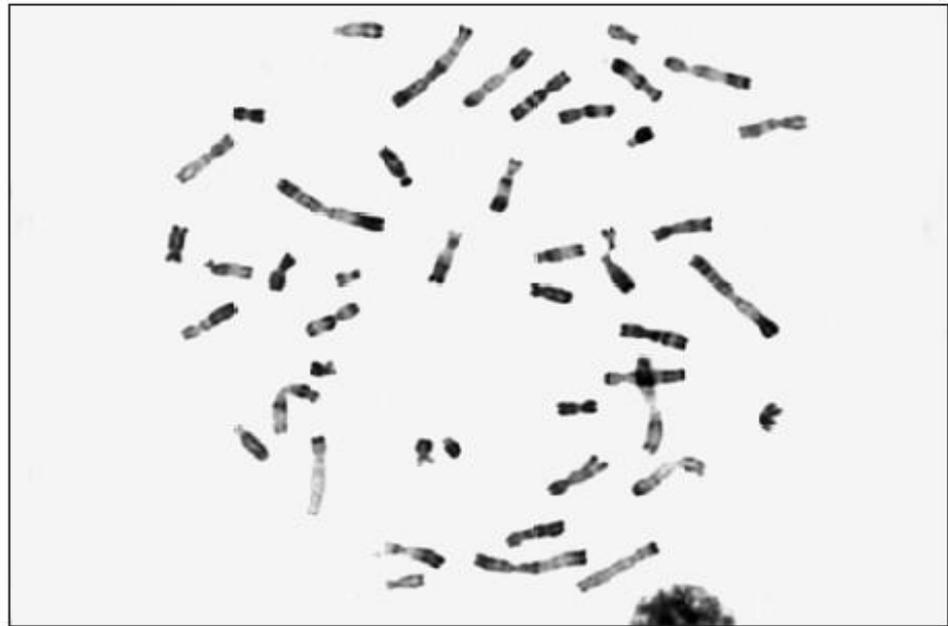
Reversed bands:

Heated, KOH

Giemsa staining

Permanent

Dark and light bands reversed to G bands



# C Bands

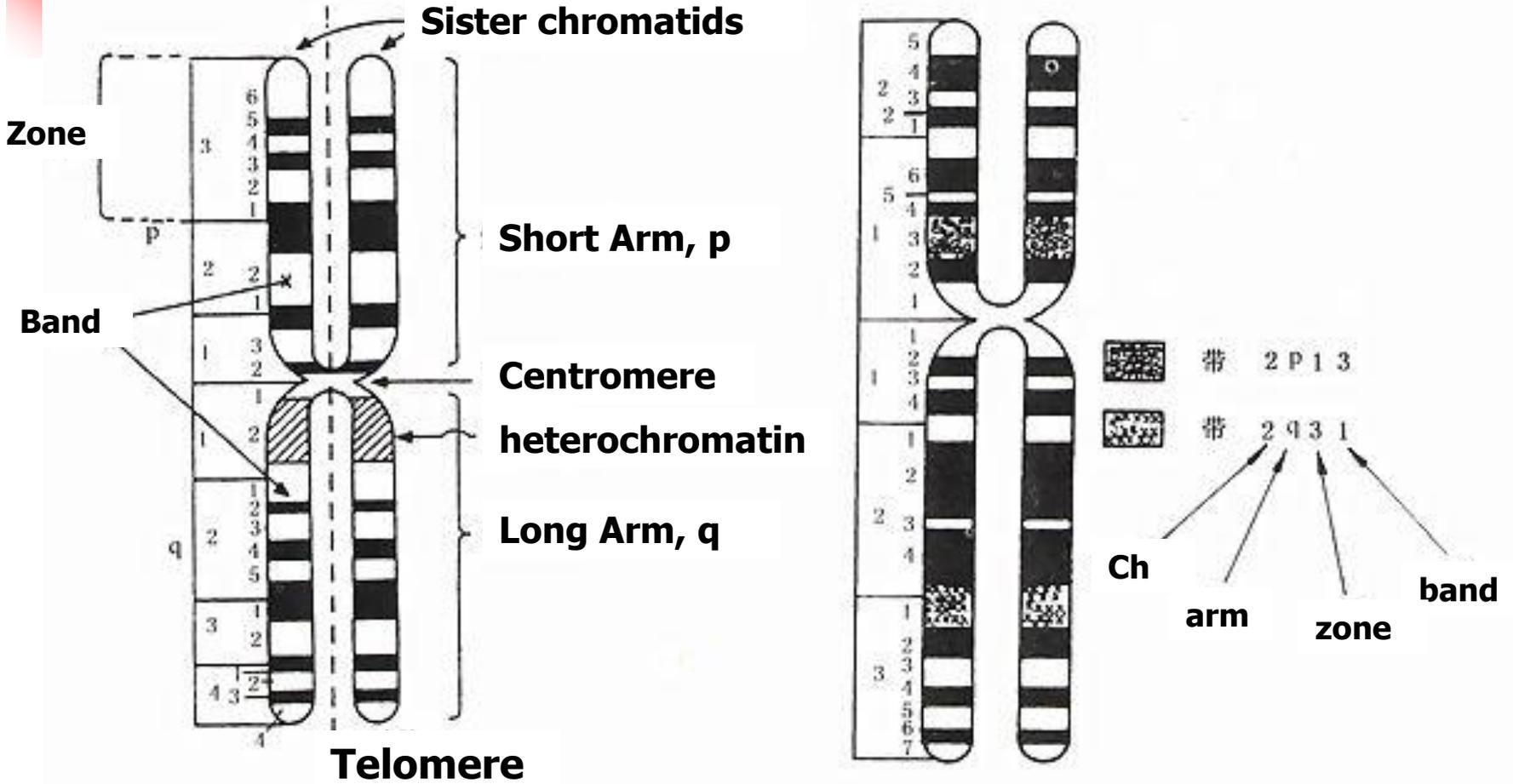
Heated, KOH

Giemsa staining

Heterochromatin in  
the centromeres, long arm of the Y  
and 1qh , 9qh and 16qh

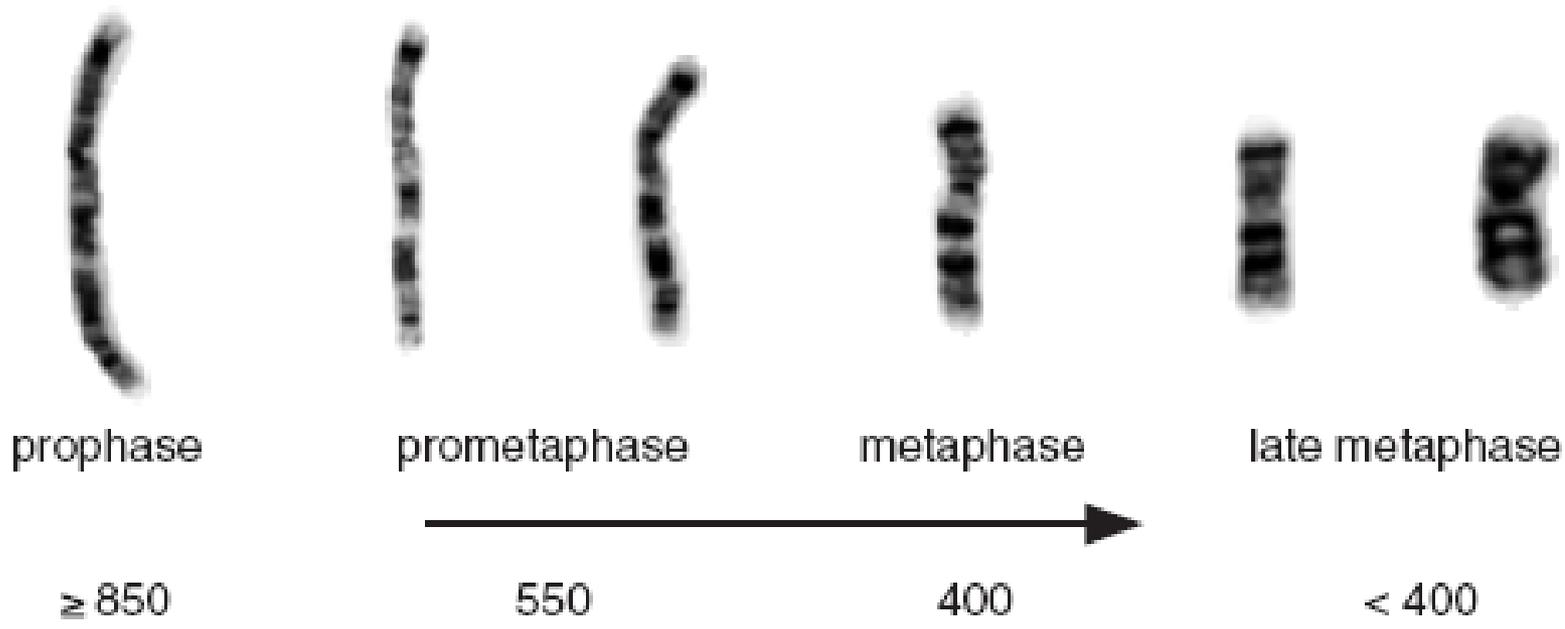
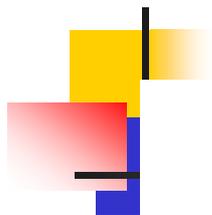


# Nomenclature of human chromosome



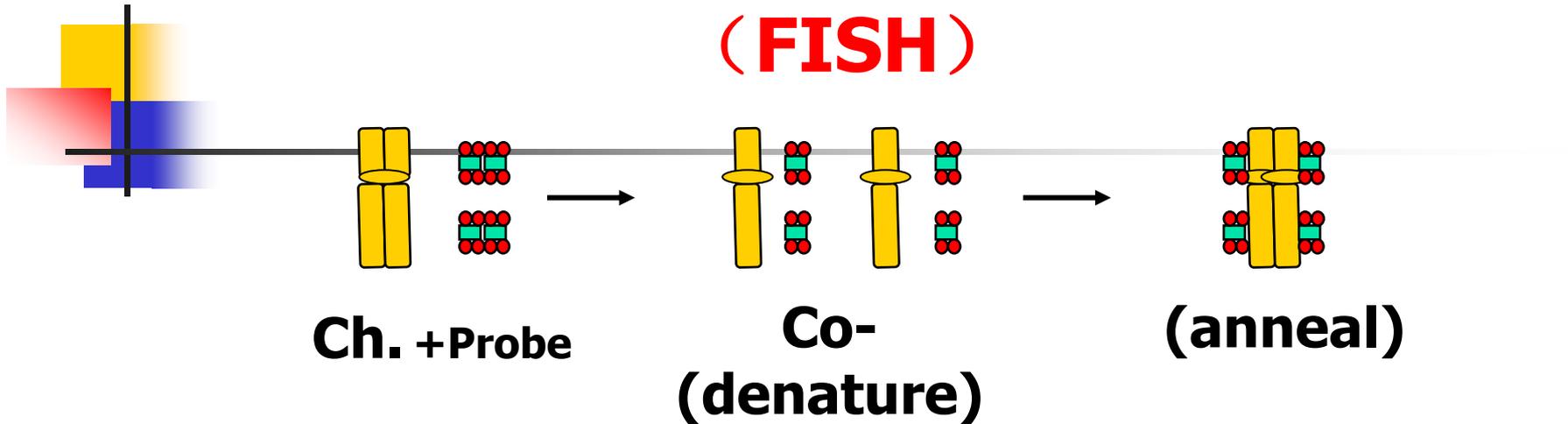
Zones and bands of the chromosome

# High-resolution bands

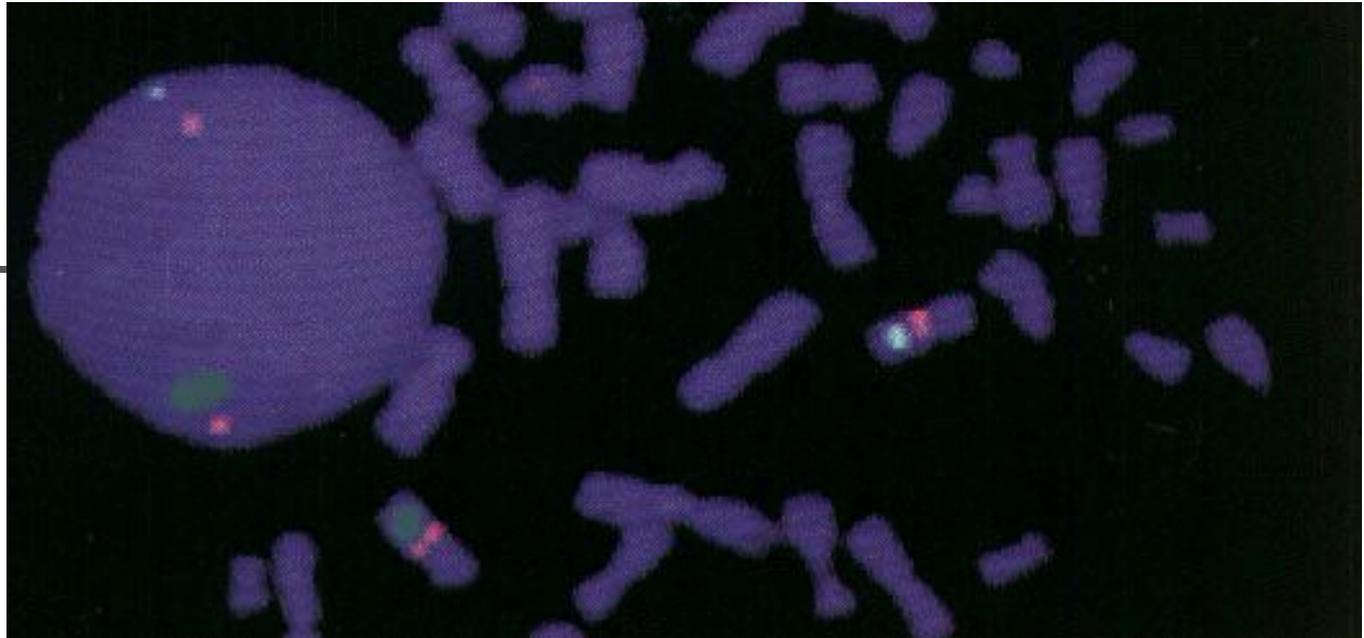


- Chromosomes in different stages of phases of cell cycle
- More detailed analysis

# Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH)



- Using DNA probe labeled with a certain marker
- Hybridizing with DNA in chromosomes and nuclei on slides
- Probes hybridized with the fragment in chromosome are detected by signals from the labeled markers



- Rapid mapping of genes and sequences in chromosome
- Detecting small fragment in interphase.
- Detecting cryptic rearrangements or small deletions – Banding could not be detected < 4Mb

# Fragile Sites

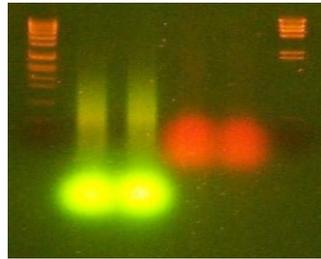


## **46, Y, fra(X)(q27-28)**

- Non-staining gaps that occasionally observed at characteristic sites on several chromosomes
- Depend on growth conditions
- Heritable variants

# Comparative Genomic Hybridization (CGH)

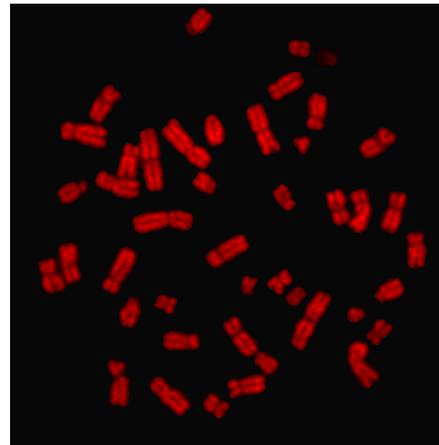
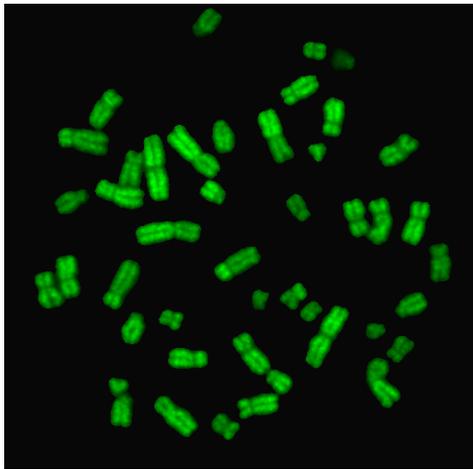
Lable test DNA  
with green



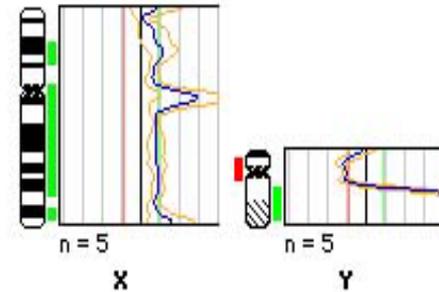
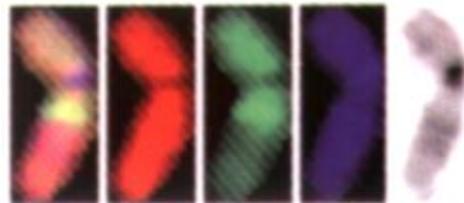
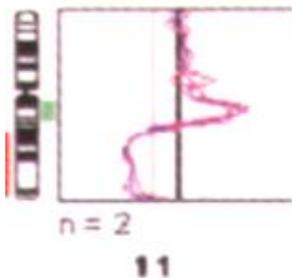
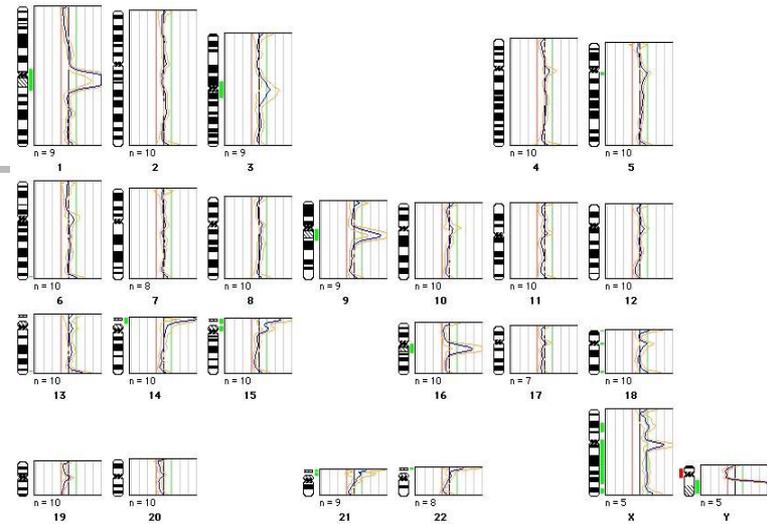
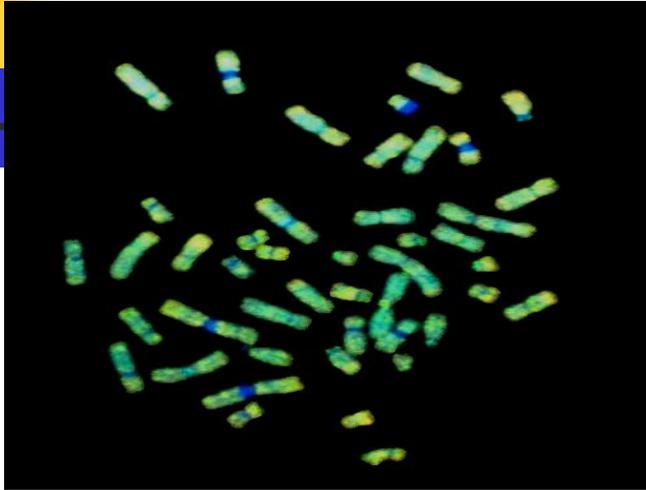
Lable normal DNA  
with red

1: 1 mixed

Hybrized onto male chromosomal preparation



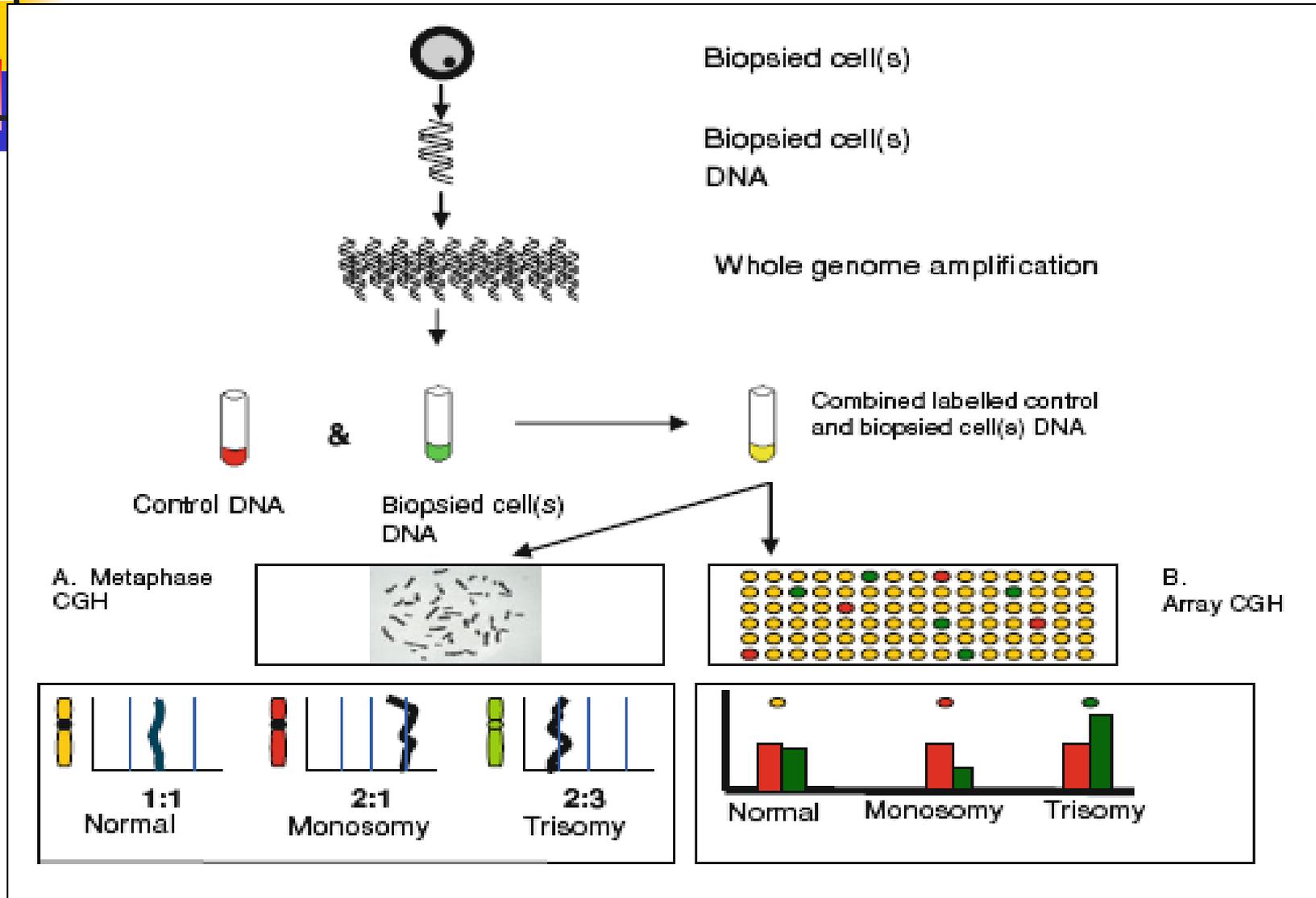
# CGH



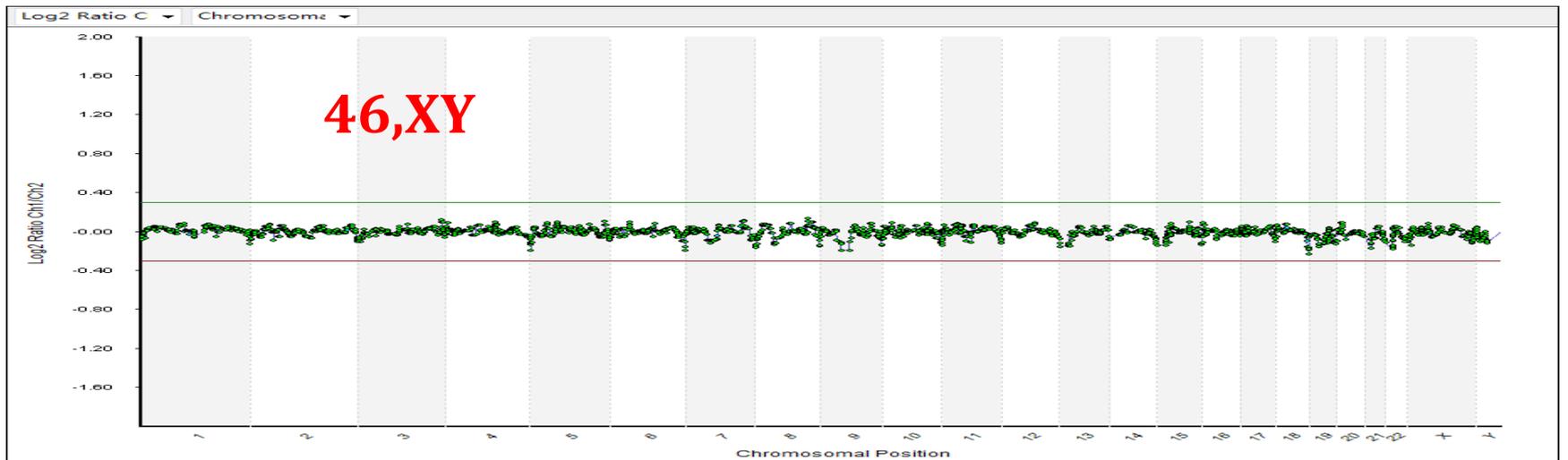
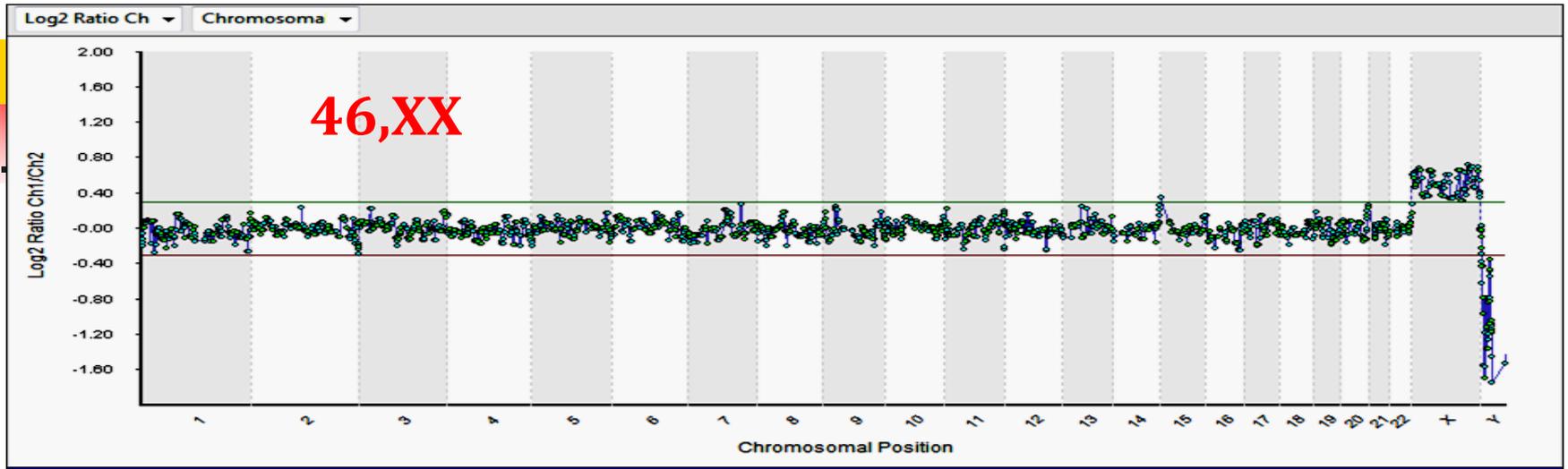
Compare the intensity of two fluorochromes along the chromosome set.

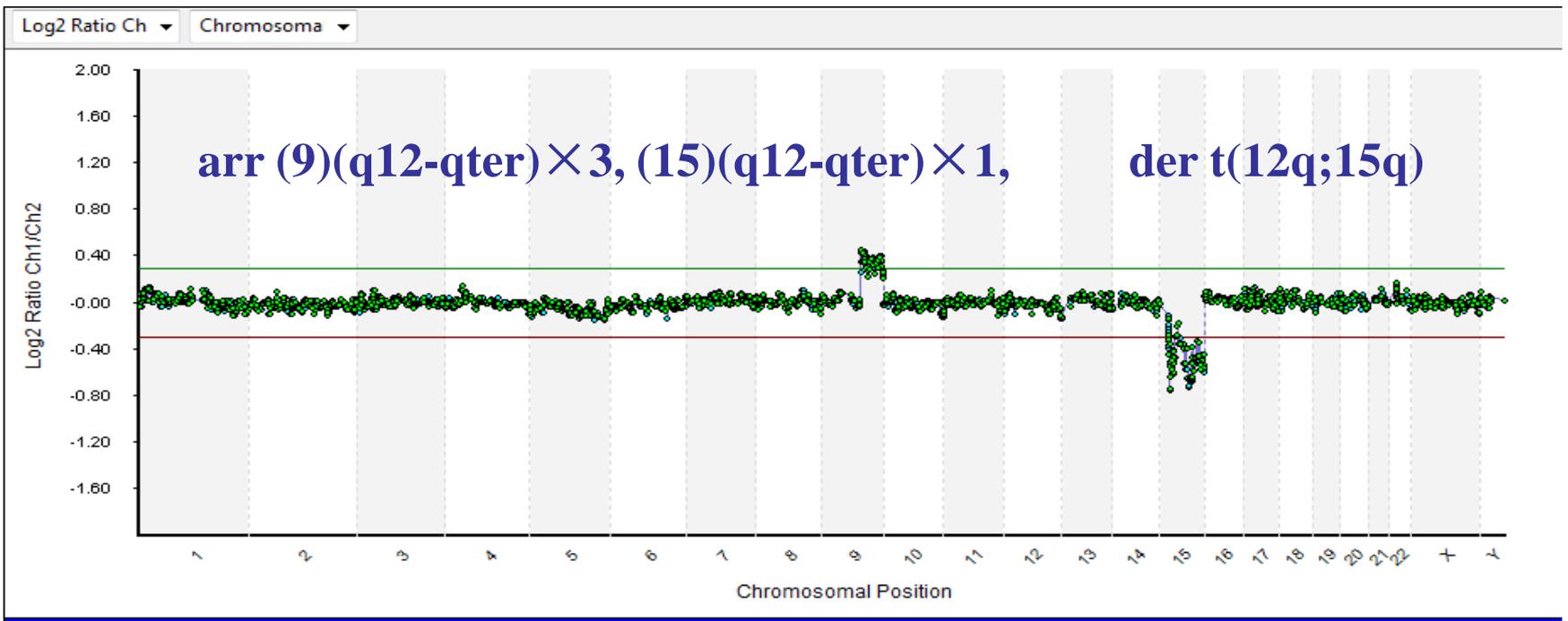
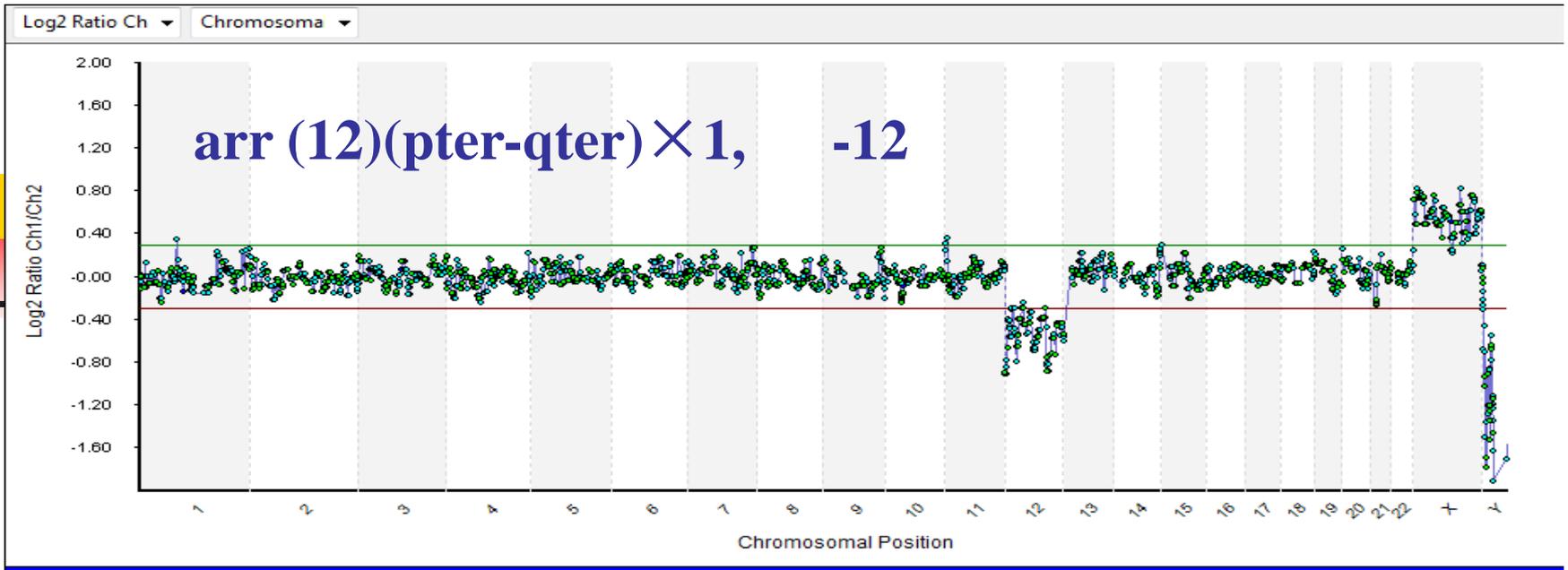
Detection of duplication or deletion of chromosomal segment.

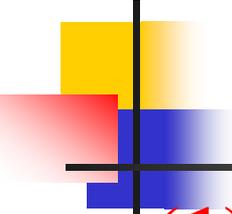
# Array CGH, aCGH



# Euploid







## 3. Chromosome abnormalities

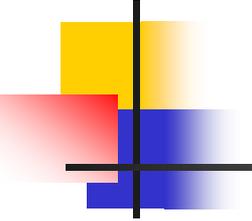
---

### (1). Numerical chromosomal abnormalities

**Heteroploidy:** A chromosome complement with chromosome number other than 46

**Euploidy:** A chromosome complement with an exact multiple of the haploid chromosome number

**Aneuploidy:** A chromosome complement with chromosome number other than an multiple of the haploid chromosome number



# A. Euploidy: Monoploidy and Polyploidy

---

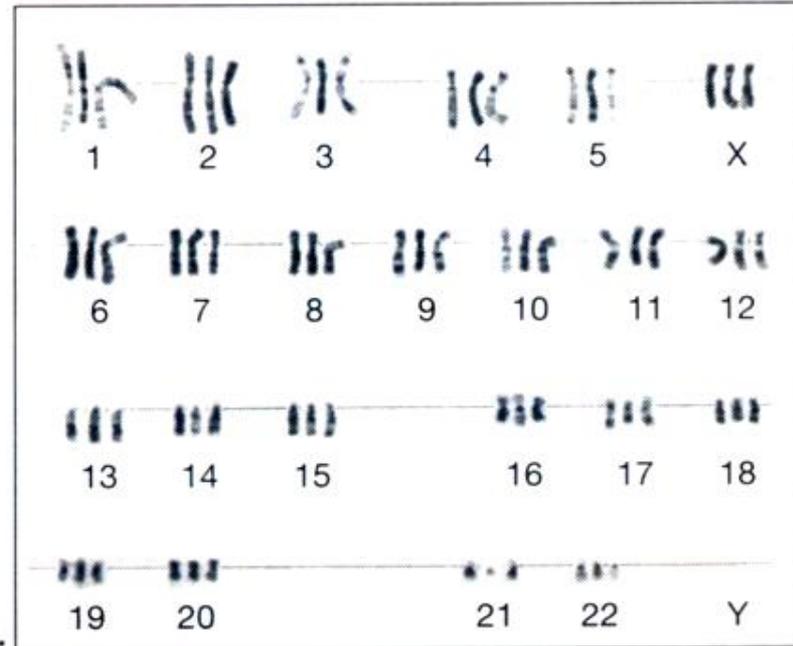
- 1N: Monoploidy 23X or 23Y:  
in parthenogenesis
- 3N: Triploidy 69, XXX or 69, XXY  
in partial mole, aborted fetus  
and liveborn who does not survive  
long
- 4N: Tetraploid 92, XXXX or 92, XXYY  
in aborted fetus

# Triploidy



## Triploidy

- Most frequent chromosomal aberration (15%) in fetuses following spontaneous abortion
- Severe growth retardation, early lethality
- Occasional liveborn infant with severe malformation
- Dispermy a frequent cause

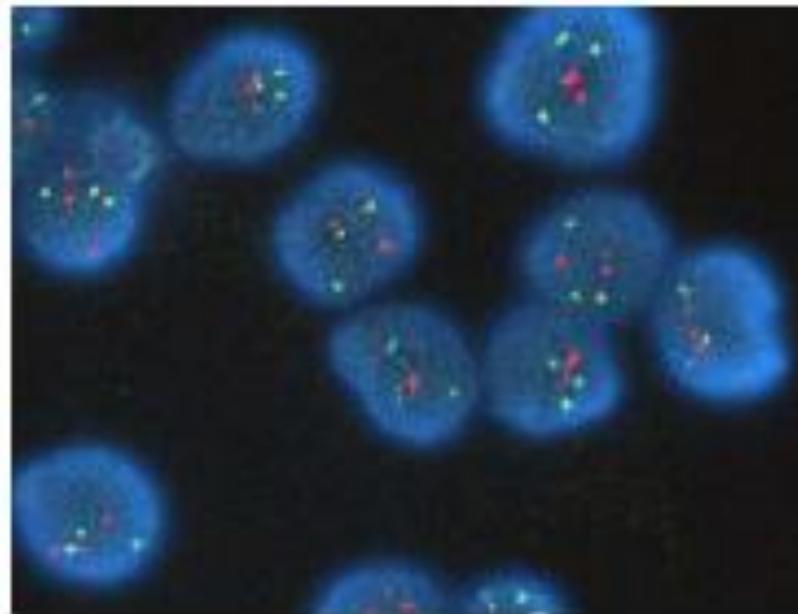
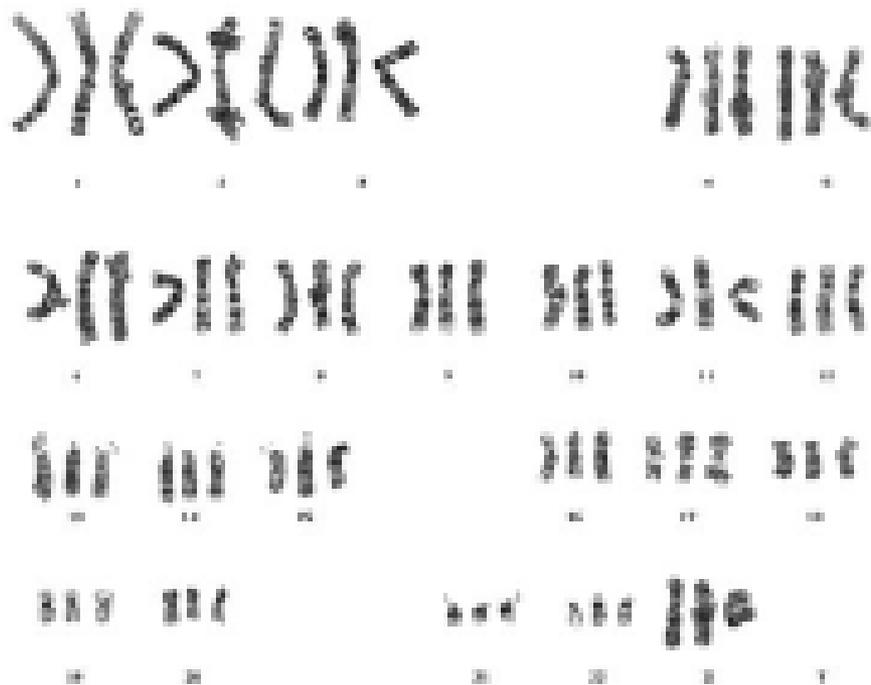


1.

2.

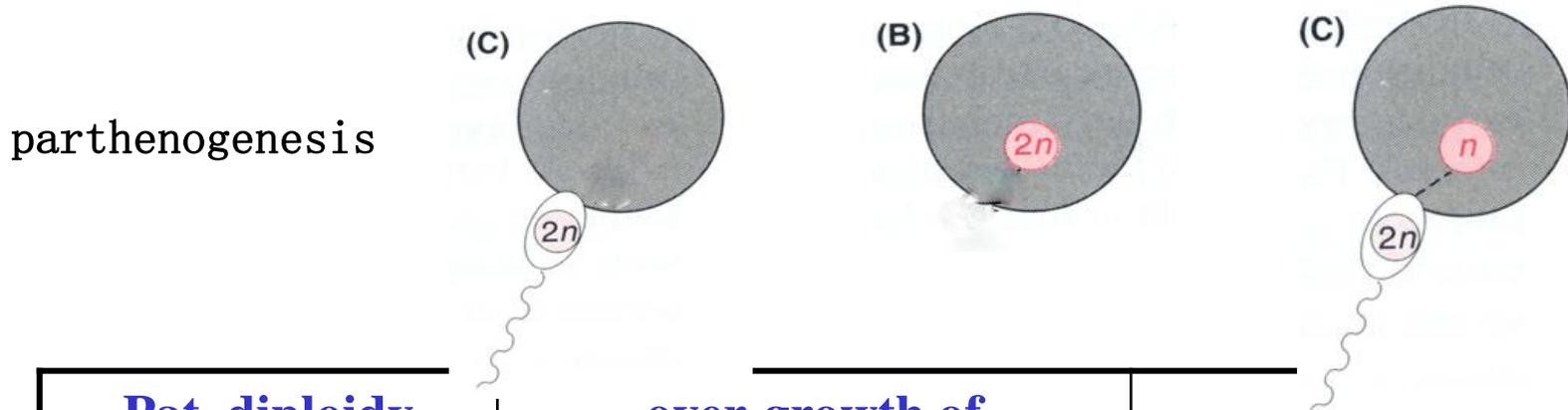
3.

# Triploidy

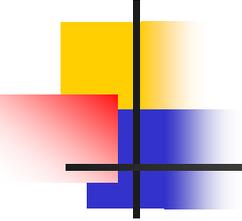


**13-green, 21-red**

**Imprinting:** The expression of the phenotype depends on whether the gene or genome inherited from the father or mother.



Pat. diploidy	over-growth of trophoblast	<b>Complete mole</b>
Mat. diploidy	over-growth of inner mass cell	<b>Teratomas</b>
Triploidy	Two sperm fertilized with a normal oocyte	<b>Partial mole</b>



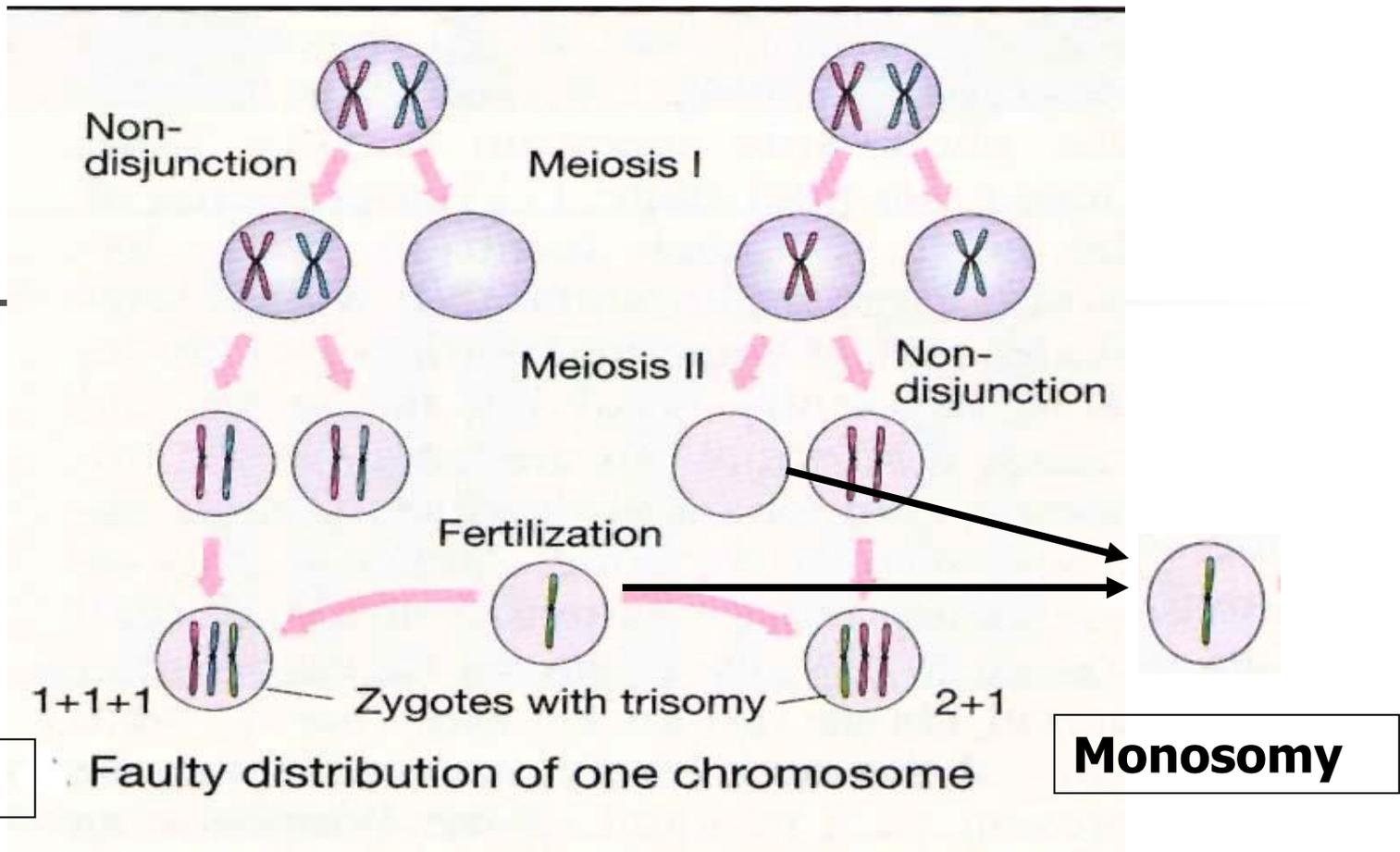
## (2). Aneuploidy

---

Loss or gain of chromosomes (not multiple of a haploidy)

Monosomy  $2n-1$ : one instead of a pair of homologous chromosomes

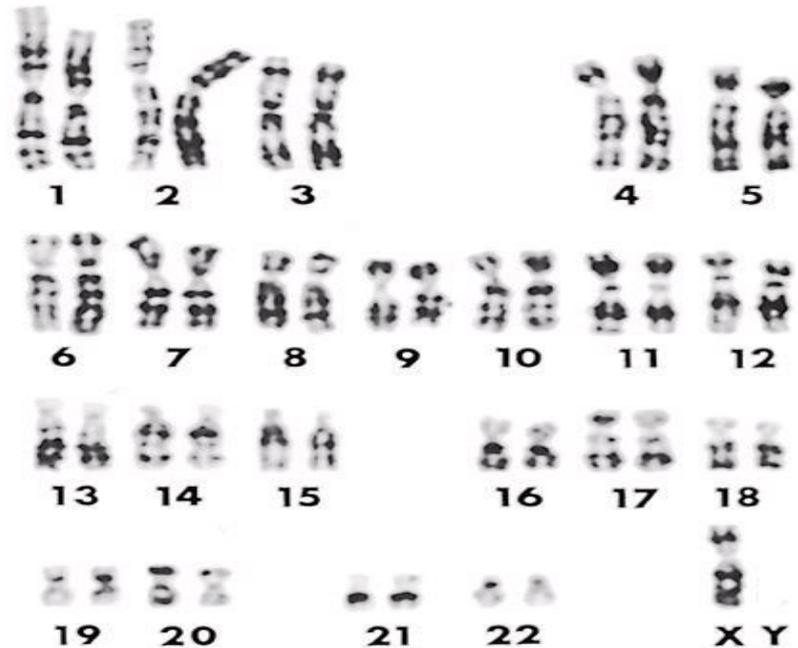
Trisomy  $2n+1$ : three instead of a pair of homologous chromosomes



Resulted from nondisjunction of the homologous chromosomes (meiosis I) or sister chromatids (mitosis or meiosis II).

# a. Monosomy

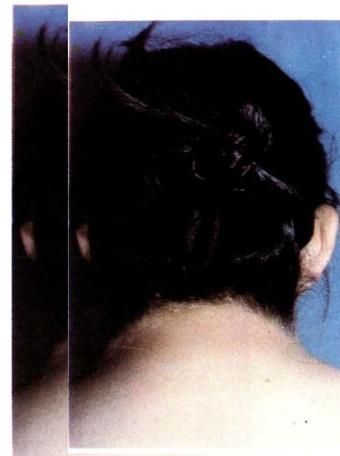
- Almost all monosomy for an entire chromosome is lethal
- Turner's syndrome: 45, X, the only monosomy can be born and survive



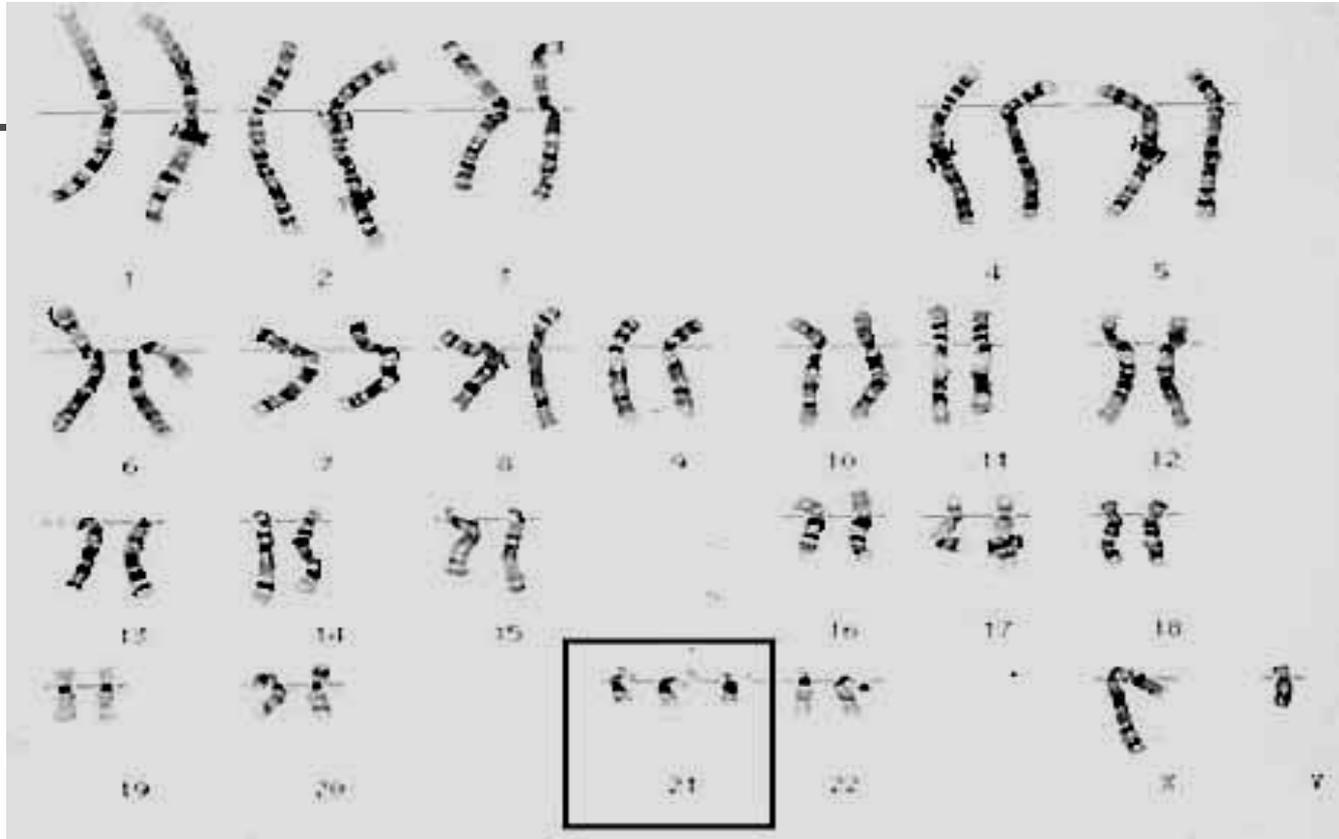
**45,X**

# Typical Turner's syndrome

- Short stature
- Gonadal dysgenesis: streak gonads
- Unusual faces, webbed neck, low posterior hairline, broad chest with widely spaced nipples



## b. Trisomy



**Trisomy 21, Down's syndrome**

**47, XY, +21**