

**Question/Chat Log: GEDMatch & Combining DNA and Non-DNA Evidence
Saturday, November 17, 2018**

GEDMatch

Thomas: Why are there different chips?

- The company may have a new and improved chip. Customers can be told “test with me – I have a better chip format” – it will cover more SNPs, mutations, etc. They could also some SNPs that better define ethnicity. Custom chips – as in Living DNA – they have certain things added that they want. A chip is similar to a glass slide used with microscopes. GEDMatch has GEDmatch Genesis to accommodate the new chips and uses a newer algorithm to improve accuracy.

Steve: If I already have submitted my data to GEDMatch, will I ever have to re-submit because of these new chips?

- Maybe – this process is still in development at GEDMatch.

Sheri: Is there a price or access difference between 'regular' and Genesis versions?

- **No price difference.** Paid version is “Tier 1 Tools” a subscription plan which is \$10 USD per month – and you can sign up for one month and then cancel.

Jerre: If I tested 3 years ago (Ancestry) & uploaded my raw data to GEDMatch at that time, based on what she's saying about 'chips' does that mean I need to re-load my raw data again? (In other words, does that chip affect me, the end user, or has my data from Ancestry changed in 3 years based on technology, w/o my having to [pay] re-test?)

- The data doesn't change at Ancestry – the raw data is constant. You can upload more than one kit and then see which one you like better.

Thomas: Can you submit to both regular and Genesis GEDmatch?

- Some do both. Benefit: you see who you match with the new companies and the people at 23andMe who tested after Fall 2017

Steve: Is there an “informed consent” form available online that can be downloaded?

- See the **Genetic Genealogy Tips and Techniques Group** on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogytipsandtechniques/>). The Informed Consent form is in the Files section (left hand sidebar)

Sandra: At Family Tree DNA, there is a choice of 6 different downloads available (Build 37 and Build 36 autosomal raw data; Build 37 x and Build 36 x chromosome raw data; Build 37 and Build 37 Raw Data Concatenated) as gzip and csv formats. How do we know which one to download? Should we download all of them to our computer so we have forever?

- Roberta Estes has some great posts at her site **DNAeXplained** (<https://dna-explained.com/category/23andme/>) which cover 23andMe and she explains the differences between the chip versions.

Kerry: Genesis is a separate upload then GEDMatch you get a different number when you do this but use the same DNA when you upload.

- Thank you for the clarification!

Kerry: Genesis is a separate section you need to sign on to so they are separate. You can get to Genesis from the GEDMatch logon. They are separate now, but will be consolidated at a later date

- Thank you for the clarification!

Linda: Regarding the difference between GEDMatch and Genesis kit numbers: GEDMatch kits have a single letter followed by 6 numbers. Genesis kits have 2 letters followed by 7 numbers.

- Thank you for the clarification!

Debra: What is significance of X DNA?

- Women have 2 X chromosomes and men have 1 from the mother and the Y chromosome is from the father. X DNA also has unique inheritance patterns.

Thomas: What's the color coding?

- Green means that the segment is good to pursue for research; red is no helpful.

Thomas: How are people connecting their trees?

- WikiTree is the only program with a direct connection to GEDMatch. For other trees (Ancestry, MyHeritage, etc.) you will need to export the tree to GEDcom format and then import to GEDMatch.

Thomas: How can you have a 1/2 generation?

- A 1/2 generation means either "once removed" or a "half" relationship such as sibling, cousin, etc.

Thomas: Admixture Tool – how often does GEDMatch update their algorithm

- Ethnicity calculators are used from scientific groups. You can see the link to the project and figure out which model is being used.

Kelly: How do you choose which admixture to use?

- Try different ones or do a Google search such as “What are the best European calculators.”

Kerry: Could you use the Admixture to separate paternal and maternal matches if they are distinctly different?

- Yes you could.

Kerry: Is there a document on GEDMatch that would explain how to use all of the tools?

- There is an extensive Learning section located on the GEDMatch site if you scroll down. It uses a wiki format to cover all the tools and functions.

Arthur: Ancestry has recently changed my ethnicity estimate from a significant percentage of British to an even greater (40%) estimate for Norwegian. Is this a result of the new algorithm?

- Yes – the new algorithm and an new enhanced reference panel. Also Ancestry decided to do a time shift. The results are now 500 to 1,000 years back; formerly it was using 1,000 to -2,000 years.

Thomas: When I used the Are My Parents Related tool it just gave me a no answer. Is there any way to get the MRCA?

- No.

Sandra: Is there any other place that provides these same type of analysis that is safer than GEDMatch?

- No.

Kelly: How do you know it's accurate (DNA testing an ancestor's artifact)? Did you have his actual DNA to compare it with?

- There is no way unless you can establish a sort of “evidence chain of custody” and document or prove that a specific person licked a stamp or envelope.

Steve: If you use the Lazarus tool and create a new kit, will you have access to it even you stop the paid subscription?

- The best test is to either unsubscribe from the paid tools OR send the kit number to a non-subscriber and see if they can access it on GEDMatch.

Janine: Would the Lazarus test work if you were comparing autosomal DNA and have a YDNA test for an individual but no autosomal test?

- No. You need to have autosomal DNA test results for all the people being uploaded to the Lazarus tool.

Steve: Wow! Wow! and Wow....just knowing I can create kits for both of my deceased parents is worth the price of admission! And about that, in creating a kit for a deceased parent, when choosing cousins to test, is there an advantage to have a cousin from the maternal side and a cousin from the paternal side? Or would that make no difference?

- Thank you! No difference and no advantage – it depends on the mystery you are trying to solve.

Combining DNA and Non-DNA Evidence

Linda: Is it ever possible to share 1857 cM with someone and NOT be related?

- No. Use the DNA Detectives Chart to see what type of relationship is in the 1800 cM range.

Lucinda: What if no one from 3rd great-grandparents did a DNA test?

- You could still solve the case but it would take a lot more work and time. Ethnicity also matters – European ancestry would be easier to work with.

Jacqueline: How long did it take you to solve the case?

- It took about 10 hours for her to solve this mystery.

Thomas: Couldn't you look at the family tree and ask descendants of M Grandfather to be tested.

- That could be done, but also consider the privacy and ethical issues. Did the Uncle consent to basically have his family tree blown apart?

Sherri: Have the three matches been helping with the research?

- Not sure.

Thomas: Were there more children born after the daughter?

- Not sure – could be. One could check the 1930 US Census.

Nancy: So the "wife" is the mother of the 7year old, and the "roomer" is the father?

- YES, that is the assumption due to the DNA proof.

Thomas: any evidence on how long the husband and wife had been married until the birth of the son

- Check the 1910 US Census. The 1920 US Census did not have a column listing number of years married.

Lucinda: Just checking -- Was the mother in the census household the grandmother of the uncle? And the 7-year old girl was the mother of the uncle? If not, please explain their relation with the uncle.

- Yes on both relationships.

Cheryl: On the Shared cM Tool, how do you tell which relationship is most probable? Does the color indicate that?

- Go by probability, don't rely on colors.

Resources

These resources were mentioned during the LIVE webinars and may or may not be included in the handouts.

- ***The Magician's Daughter***
<https://amzn.to/2ON0CGB>
- **DNAeXplained – 23andMe posts** – Roberta Estes
<https://dna-explained.com/category/23andme/>
- **WikiTree**
<https://www.wikitree.com>
- **Genetic Genealogy Tips and Techniques Facebook Group**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogytipsandtechniques/>
Informed Consent form is in the Files section (left hand sidebar)
- **GEDMatch on 60 Minutes – October 2018**
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/genetic-genealogy-tracing-family-trees-to-catch-killers-60-minutes/>
- **The DNA Geek – Privacy posts**
<https://thednageek.com/?s=privacy>
- **GEDMatch Generations Matrix** – Genetic Genealogy Australia
<https://gengenau.com/2017/03/25/gedmatch-generations/>
- **Science the Heck Out of Your DNA** – Leah Larkin
<https://thednageek.com/science-the-heck-out-of-your-dna-part-1/>
- **DNA Painter**
<https://dnapainter.com/>