

Introduction to viral genomes

Alt-text Figure 1 - Comparative genomics

Illustrative graph showing that RNA viruses genomes on average span from 3.5 to 32 Kb followed by DNA viruses (1.8 to 1.25 Mb), Bateria and Archea (average of 4.7 Mb), Yeast (average of 12.1 Mb), Plants (hundreds of Mb) and Mammals (thousands of Mb)

Alt-text Figure 2 - The Baltimore classification of viral genomes

Illustrative schematic of the Baltimore classification. Seven classes of the viral genome are known (I-VII). The genomes can be either DNA (a) or RNA (b), and either single-stranded (ss) or double-stranded (ds). DNA viruses: Class I and VII = dsDNA(+); Class II = ssDNA(+). RNA viruses: Class III = dsRNA(+); Class IV = ssRNA(+); Class V = ssRNA(-); Class VI = ssRNA(+). Details in the main text.

