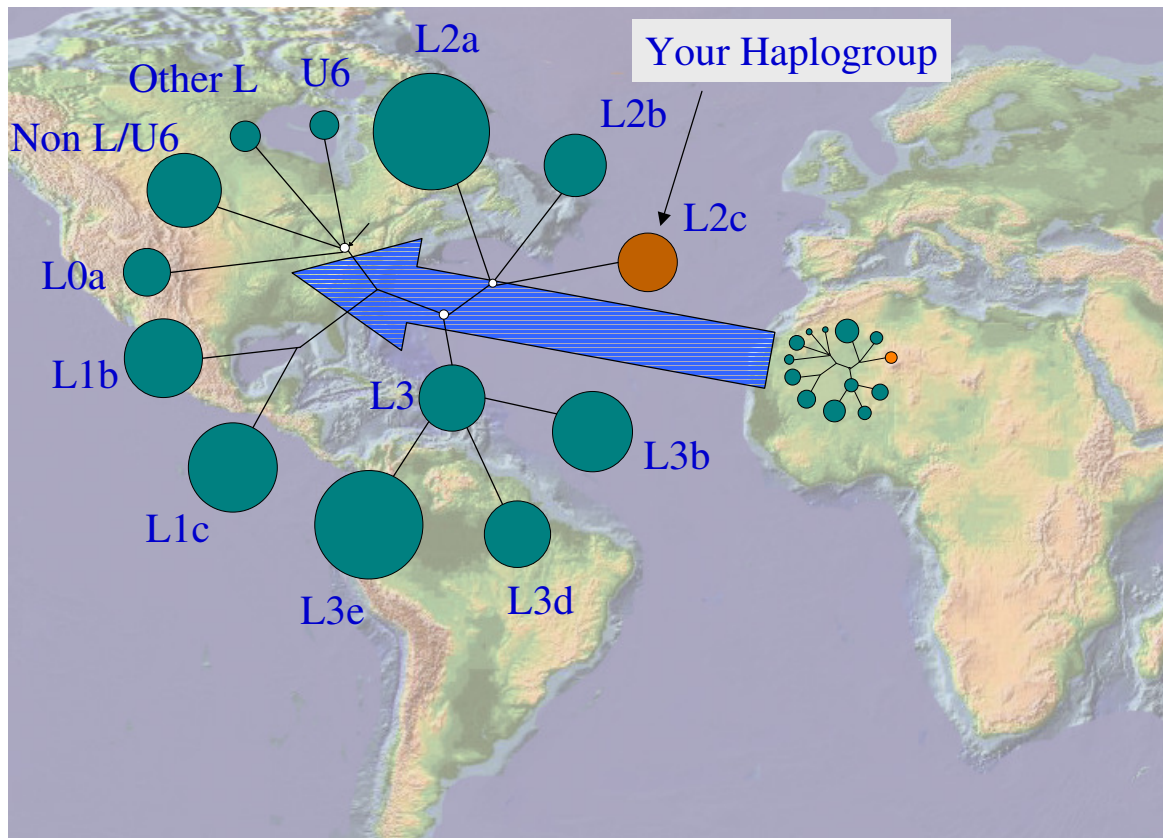


# African American mtDNA



- Between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries over 12 million Africans were taken from Africa to North and South America as part of the the Atlantic slave trade.
- The maternal ancestry of modern African Americans can be traced to broad geographic regions of Africa by comparing the relative frequencies of mitochondrial haplogroups of American blacks with African populations.
- The mitochondrial DNA of modern African Americans closely resembles the genetic make-up of people from West Africa, southwestern Africa and west-central Africa.
- Due to movements of large populations within Africa over the last three centuries it is problematic to identify a precise geographic locale as the ancestral home of African Americans.
- Salas, et al, 2005 ([www.ArgusBio.com/papers](http://www.ArgusBio.com/papers))