

THE NUMBER OF THE HUMAN GENES

The story of the number of human genes is amusing. The starting point was self-conceit and the idea that a great distance separates us from other animals. The reasoning was: if a worm (*Caenorhabditis elegans*) has about 20,000 genes, what about humans? So, we started confidently from ~100,000 (see article by Pertea and Salzberg, 2010¹).

Now a paper in Nature takes stock².

1. <https://genomebiology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/gb-2010-11-5-206>

2. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06490-x>