QTL Mapping, MAS, and Genomic Selection

Dr. Ben Hayes

Department of Primary Industries Victoria, Australia

A short-course organized by

Animal Breeding & Genetics Department of Animal Science Iowa State University June 4-8, 2007



With financial support from Pioneer Hi-bred Int.



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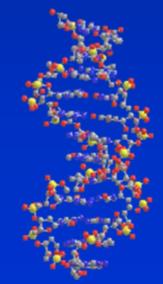






Linkage Disequilbrium to Genomic Selection







Course overview

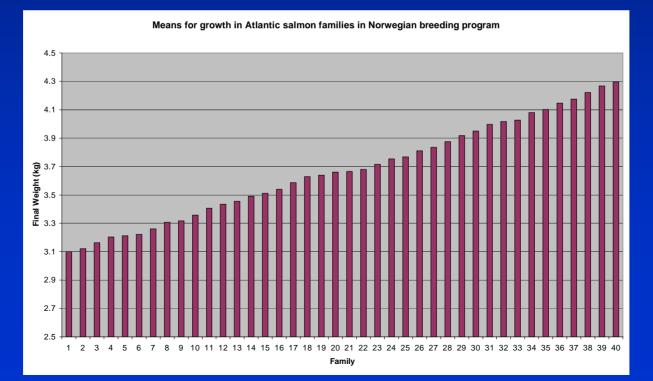
- Day 1
 - Linkage disequilibrium in animal and plant genomes
- Day 2
 - QTL mapping with LD
- Day 3
 - Marker assisted selection using LD
- Day 4
 - Genomic selection
- Day 5
 - Genomic selection continued

Linkage disequilibrium

- A brief history of QTL mapping
- Measuring linkage disequilibrium
- Causes of LD
- Extent of LD in animals and plants
- The extent of LD between breeds
- Strategies for haplotyping

A brief history of QTL mapping

 How to explain the genetic variation observed for many of the traits of economic importance in livestock and plant species



Two models.....

- Infinitesimal model:
 - assumes that traits are determined by an infinite number of unlinked and additive loci, each with an infinitesimally small effect
 - This model the foundation of animal breeding theory including breeding value estimation
 - Spectacularly successful in many cases!

Time to market weight for meat chickens has decreased from 16 to 5 weeks in 30 years



Two models.....

• vs the Finite loci model.....

- But while the infinitesimal model is very useful assumption,
- there is a finite amount of genetic material
- With a finite number of genes.....
- Define any gene that contributes to variation in a quantitative/economic trait as quantitative trait loci (QTL)
- A key question is what is the distribution of the effects of QTL for a typical quantitative trait ?



letter

Representation of the second s

Analysis of expressed sequence tags indicates 35,000 human genes

Brent Ewing & Phil Green

useful first measure of its molecular complexity. Single-celled sity Genome Sequencing Center7). These contigs do not ran been accompanied by a several-fold increase in gene number, the ever, random sampling is not required for our calculation. tive splicing than on a substantial increase in gene number.

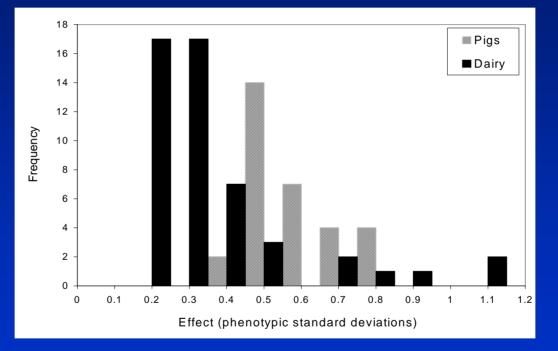
pletion of the human genome sequence will not immediately polyadenylation sites for the same gene, provide definitive gene counts because *de novo* identification of We compared the 3' EST contigs to chromo

The number of protein-coding genes in an organism provides a from 168 cDNA libraries (generated at the Washington Univer prokaryotes and eukaryotes typically have a few thousand genes; domly sample the set of all genes, because expression level and for example, Escherichta coll¹ has 4,300 and Saccharomyces cere-the spectrum of tissues from which the libraries were derived visiae² has 6,000. Evolution of multicellularity appears to have affect the probability that a particular gene is represented; how-

Invertebrates Caenorhabditts elegans³ and Drosophila To eliminate the artefactual and contaminant sequences in melanogaster⁴ having 19,000 and 13,600 genes, respectively. Here the ESTs (refs 7,8), we determined the high-quality part of each we estimate the number of human genes by comparing a set of read (using phred (refs 9,10) quality values) and used only human expressed sequence tag (EST) contigs with human chro- those parts of the contig sequences that were confirmed by the mosome 22 and with a non-redundant set of mRNA sequences. high-quality parts of reads from at least two independent The two comparisons give mutually consistent estimates of clones. There were 62,064 confirmed, high-quality contig approximately 35,000 genes, substantially lower than most previ-ous estimates. Evolution of the increased physiological complex-include the putative 3' end of a cDNA clone; there can be several Ity of vertebrates may therefore have depended more on the such contigs for a single gene due to internal priming during combinatorial diversification of regulatory networks or alterna-the construction of cDNA libraries (the normalization procedure used for some libraries in fact tends to enrich for such In contrast to the situation with more compact genomes, com- events¹¹), alternative splicing or the presence of multiple

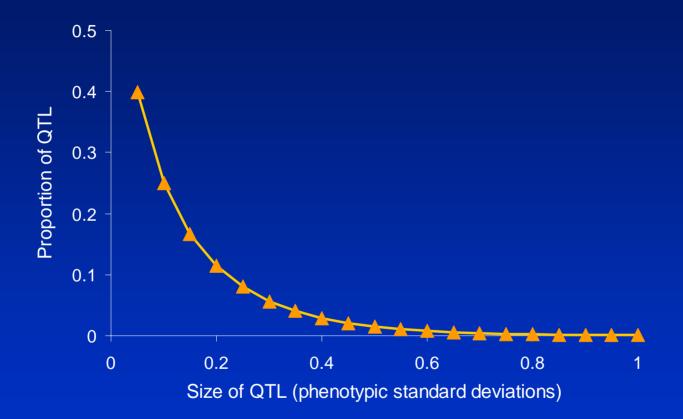
The distribution of QTL effects

• From results of QTL mapping experiments



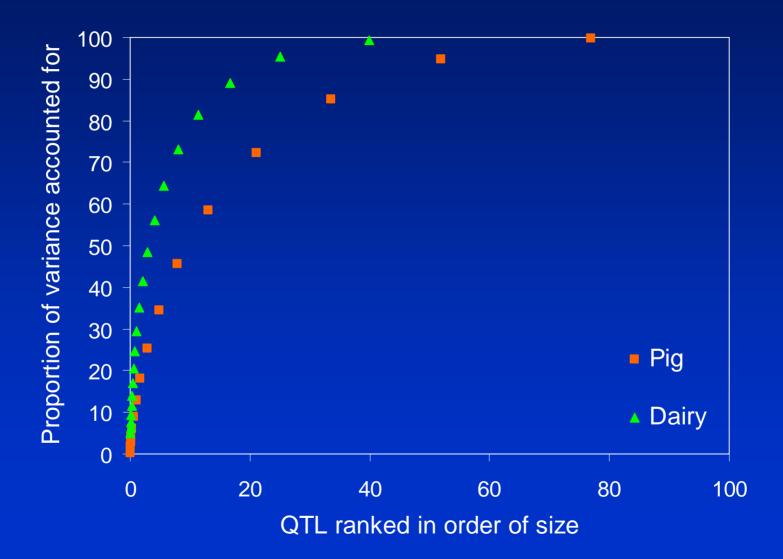
- Two problems
 - no small effects, effects estimated with error
 - Fit a truncated gamma distribution

The distribution of QTL effects



- Many small QTL, few QTL of large effect.
- 100 150 QTL sufficient to explain observed variation in quantitative traits in livestock

The distribution of QTL effects



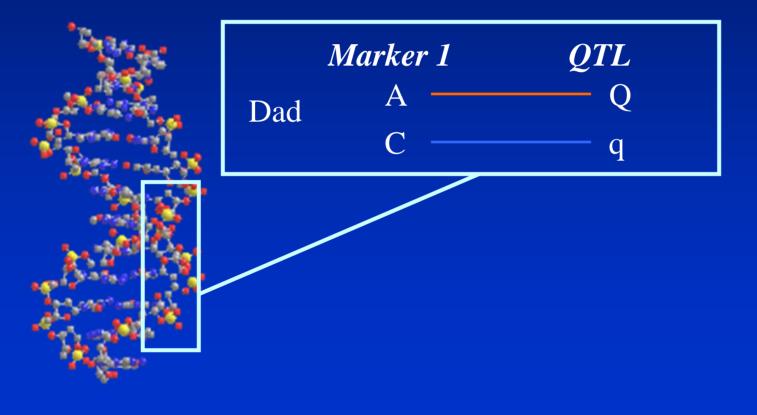
Quantitative trait loci (QTL) detection

- If we had information on the location in the genome of the QTL we could
 - increase the accuracy of breeding values
 - improve selection response
- How to find them?

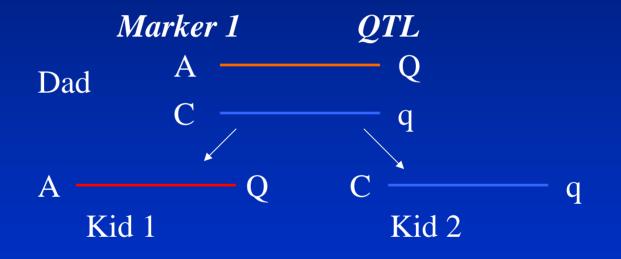
Approaches to QTL detection

- Candidate gene approach
 - assumes a gene involved in trait physiology could harbour a mutation causing variation in that trait
 - Look for mutations in this gene
 - Some success
 - Number of candidate genes is too large
 - Very difficult to pick candidates!
- Linkage mapping
 - So use neutral markers and exploit linkage
 - organisation of the genome into chromosomes inherited from parents

DNA markers: track chromosome segments from one generation to the next



 DNA markers: track chromosome segments from one generation to the next

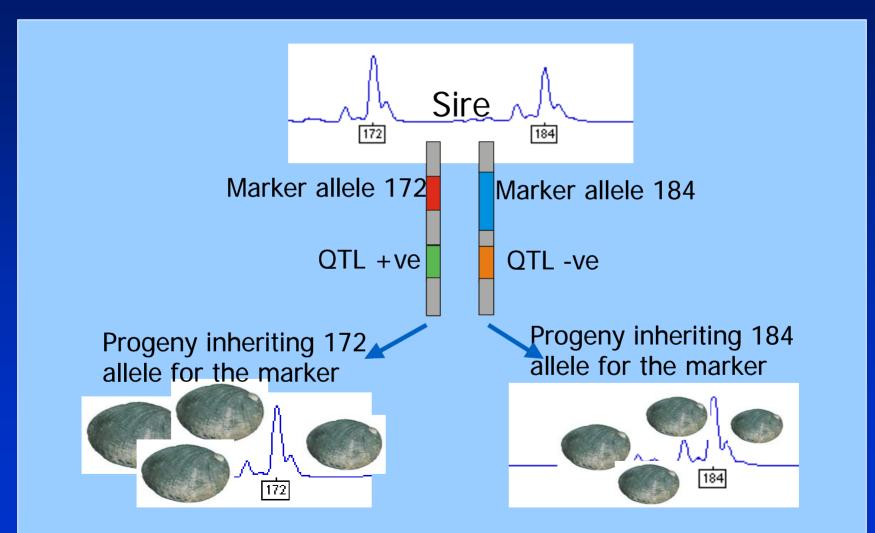


Detection of QTL with linkage

• Principle of QTL mapping

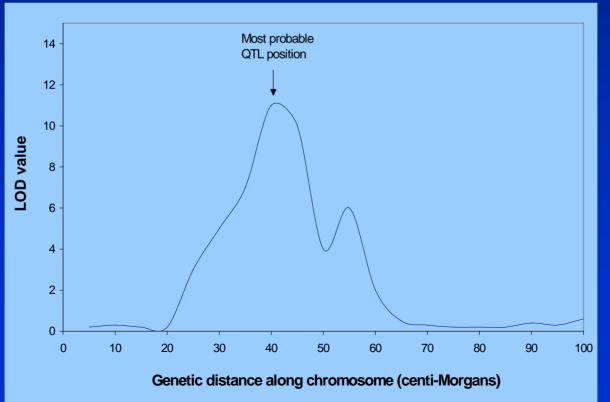
- Is variation at the molecular level (different marker alleles) linked to variation in the quantitative trait?.
- If so then the marker is linked to, or on the same chromosome as, a QTL

Detection of QTL

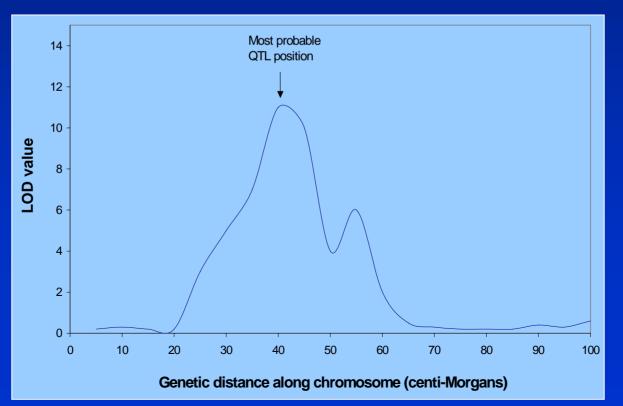


Detection of QTL with linkage Can use single marker associations

 More information with multiple markers ordered on linkage maps

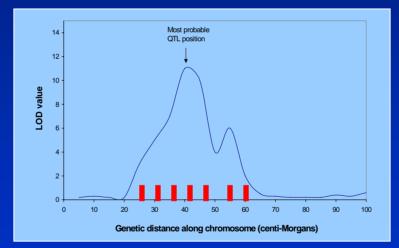


Problems with linkage mapping QTL are not mapped very precisely Confidence intervals of QTL location are very wide



- Difficult to use information in marker assisted selection (MAS)
- Most significant marker can be 10cM or more from QTL
- The association between the marker and QTL unlikely to persist across the population
 - Eg A____Q in one sire family
 - a____Q in another sire family
- The phase between the marker and QTL has to be re-estimated for each family
- Complicates use of the information in MAS
 - Reduces gains from MAS

- Shift to fine mapping
 - Saturate confidence interval with many markers



 Use Linkage disequilibrium mapping approaches within this small chromosome segment

Shift to fine mapping

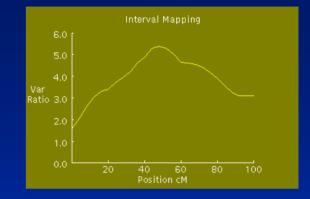
- Saturate confidence interval with many markers
- Use Linkage disequilibrium mapping approaches within this small chromosome segment
- Eventually find causative mutation

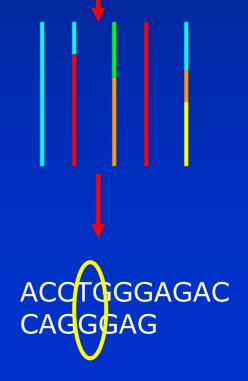
DGAT1 - A success story (Grisart et al. 2002)

1. Linkage mapping detects a QTL on bovine chromosome 14 with large effect on fat % (Georges et al 1995)

2. Linkage disequilibrium mapping refines position of QTL (Riquet et al. 1999)

3. Selection of candidate genes. Sequencing reveals point mutation in candidate (DGAT1). This mutation found to be functional - substitution of lysine for analine. Gene patented. (Grisart et al. 2002)

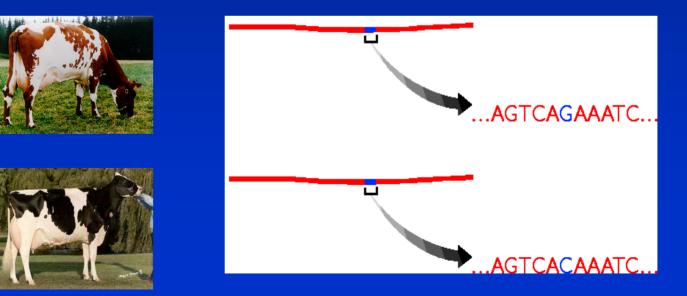




But process is very slow

- 10 years or more to find causative mutation
- One limitation has been the density of markers

- As a result of sequencing animal genomes, have a huge amount of information on variation in the genome
 - at the DNA level
- Most abundant form of variation are Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)





~10 mill SNPs

- > ~7 mill SNPs with minor allele >5%
- > ~100,000-300,000 cSNPs
- ~50,000 nonsynonymous cSNPs -> change protein structure

- 100 000s of SNPs reported for cattle, chicken, pig
- Sheep on the way
- Plants?

 Can we use SNP information to greatly accelerate the application of marker assisted selection in the livestock industries?

- Can we use SNP information to greatly accelerate the application of marker assisted selection in the livestock industries?
 - Omit linkage mapping
 - Straight to genome wide LD mapping
 - Breeding values directly from markers?
 - Genomic selection

Aim

 Provide you with the tools to use high density SNP genotypes in livestock and plant improvement

Linkage disequilibrium

- A brief history of QTL mapping
- Measuring linkage disequilibrium
- Causes of LD
- Extent of LD in animals and plants
- The extent of LD between breeds
- Strategies for haplotyping

- Why do we need to define and measure LD?
- Determine the number of markers required for LD mapping and/or genomic selection

- Classical definition:
 - Two markers A and B on the same chromosome
 - Alleles are
 - marker A A1, A2
 - marker B B1, B2
 - Possible haploptypes are A1_B1, A1_B2, A2_B1, A2_B2

Linkage equilibrium.....

	Marker A			
		A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1			0.5
	B2			0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

Linkage equilibrium.....

	Marker A			
		A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.25	0.25	0.5
	B2	0.25	0.25	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

Linkage disequilibrium.....

	Marker A			
		A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

Linkage disequilibrium......

		Marker A		
		A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

within a sire family sire haplotypes A1_B1, A2_B2 progeny A1_B1, A2_B2, A1_B1, A2_B2, A1_B2

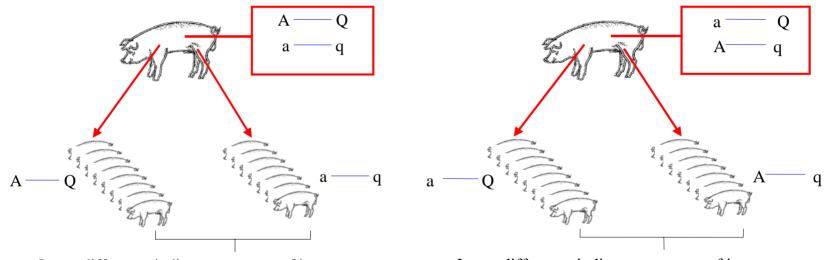
Linkage disequilibrium......

	Marker A			
		_A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

within a *population* unrelated animals selected at random: A1_B1, A2_B2, A1_B1, A2_B2, A1_B2

- In fact, LD required for both linkage and linkage disequilibrium mapping
- Difference is
 - linkage analysis mapping considers the LD that exists within families
 - extends for 10s of cM
 - broken down after only a few generations
 - LD mapping requires a marker allele to be in LD with a QTL allele across the whole population
 - association must have persisted across multiple generations to be a property of the population
 - so marker and QTL must be very closely linked

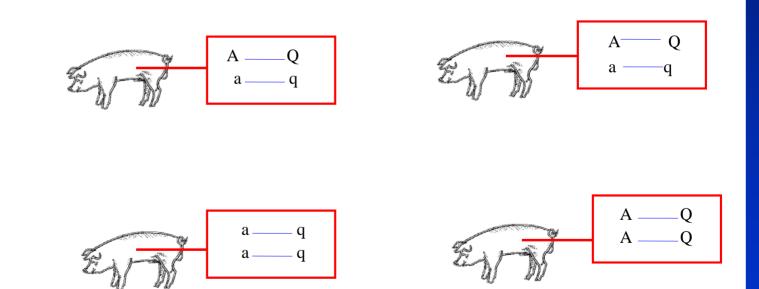
Linkage between marker and QTL



Large difference indicates presence of important gene

Large difference indicates presence of important gene

Linkage disequilibrium between marker and QTL



Linkage disequilibrium.....

	Marker A									
					A1		A2	Frequei	ncy	
	Mari	ker B	B1		0.4		0.1	0.5		
			B2		0.1		0.4	0.5		
			Freque	ncy	0.5		0.5			
$D = freq(A1_B1)*freq(A2_B2)-freq(A1_B2)*freq(A2_B1)$										
	=	0.	.4	*	0.4	-	0.1	*	0.1	
		0	15							
			.15							

- Measuring the extent of LD (determines how dense markers need to be for LD mapping)
 - $D = freq(A1_B1)*freq(A2_B2)$ $freq(A1_B2)*freq(A2_B1)$

highly dependent on allele frequencies
not suitable for comparing LD at different sites

 $r^2 = D^2/[freq(A1)*freq(A2)*freq(B1)*freq(B2)]$

Linkage disequilibrium.....

	Marker A			
		A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

D = 0.15

 $r^2 = D^2/[freq(A1)*freq(A2)*freq(B1)*freq(B2)]$

 $r^2 = 0.15^2 / [0.5*0.5*0.5*0.5]$

= 0.36

- Measuring the extent of LD (determines how dense markers need to be for LD mapping)
 - $D = freq(A1_B1)*freq(A2_B2)$ $freq(A1_B2)*freq(A2_B1)$
 - highly dependent on allele frequencies
 not suitable for comparing LD at different sites

 $r^2 = D^2/[freq(A1)*freq(A2)*freq(B1)*freq(B2)]$

Values between 0 and 1.

- If one loci is a marker and the other is QTL
- The r² between a marker and a QTL is the proportion of QTL variance which can be observed at the marker
 - eg if variance due to a QTL is 200kg², and r² between marker and QTL is 0.2, variation observed at the marker is 40kg².

- If one loci is a marker and the other is QTL
- The r² between a marker and a QTL is the proportion of QTL variance which can be observed at the marker
 - eg if variance due to a QTL is 200kg², and r² between marker and QTL is 0.2, variation observed at the marker is 40kg².
- Key parameter determining the power of LD mapping to detect QTL
 - Experiment sample size must be increased by $1/r^2$ to have the same power as an experiment observing the QTL directly

- If you are using microsatellites, need a multi-allele equivalent
- Use χ2' (Zhao et al. 2005)

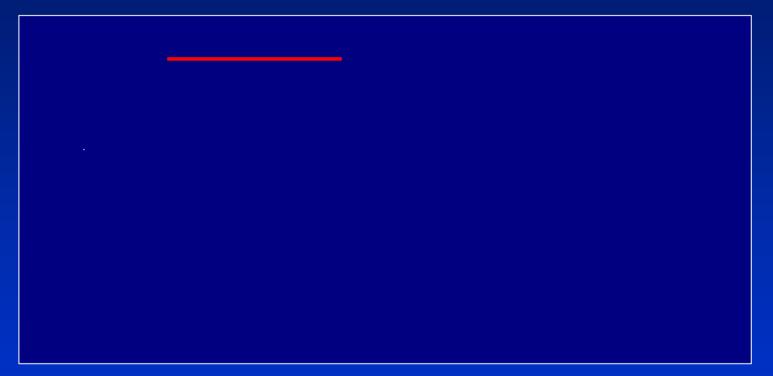
• Another LD statistic is D'

- |D|/Dmax
- Where
 - Dmax
 - $= \min[freq(A1)*freq(B2),(1-freq(A2))(1-freq(B1))]$
 - if D>0, else
 - $= \min[freq(A1)(1-freq(B1),(1-(freq(A2))*freq(B2))]$
 - if D<0.
- But what does it mean?
- Biased upward with low allele frequencies
- Overestimates r²

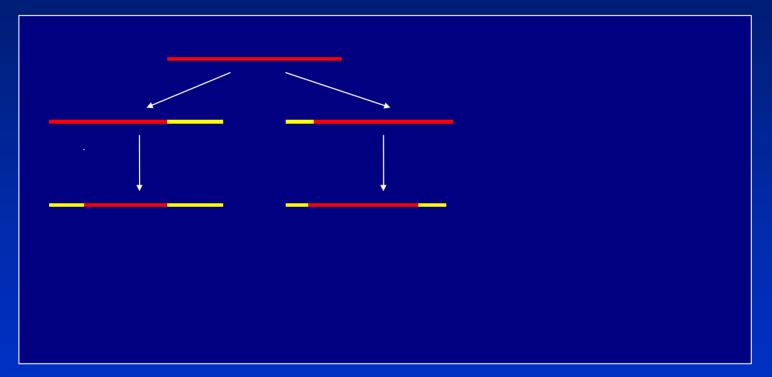
Another LD statistic is D'

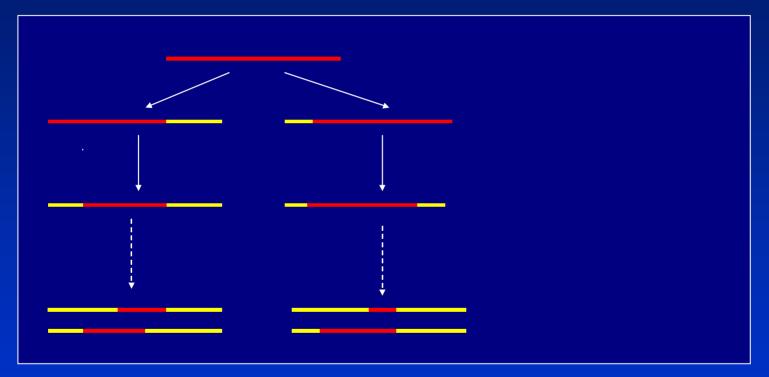
- |D|/Dmax
- Where
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- But what does it mean?
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- Multi-locus measures of LD
 - r² is useful, easy to calculate and very widely used
 - and equivalents for loci with multiple alleles exist
 - But, only considers two loci at a time
 - cannot extract LD information available from multiple loci
 - not particularly intuitive with regards to the causes of LD

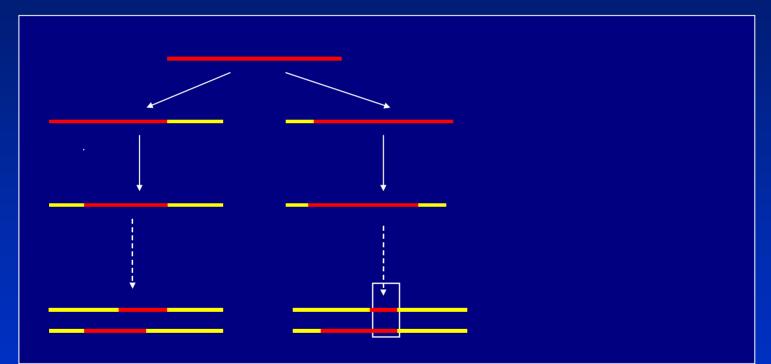






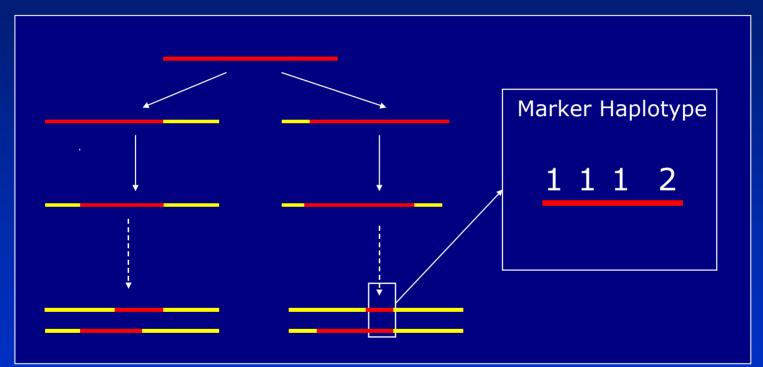


• A chunk of ancestral chromosome is conserved in the current population



 chromosome segment homozygosity (CSH) = Pr(Two chromosome segments randomly drawn from the population are derived from a common ancestor)

• A chunk of ancestral chromosome is conserved in the current population



 chromosome segment homozygosity (CSH) = Pr(Two chromosome segments randomly drawn from the population are derived from a common ancestor)

- Haplotype homozygosity = CSH + Identical chance (and not IBD)
- For two loci
 HH = CSH + (Hom_A-CSH)(Hom_B-CSH)/(1-CSH)
- Derivation for multiple loci similar, but more complex

Linkage disequilibrium

- A brief history of QTL mapping
- Measuring linkage disequilibrium
 Causes of LD
- Extent of LD in animals and plants
- The extent of LD between breeds
- Strategies for haplotyping

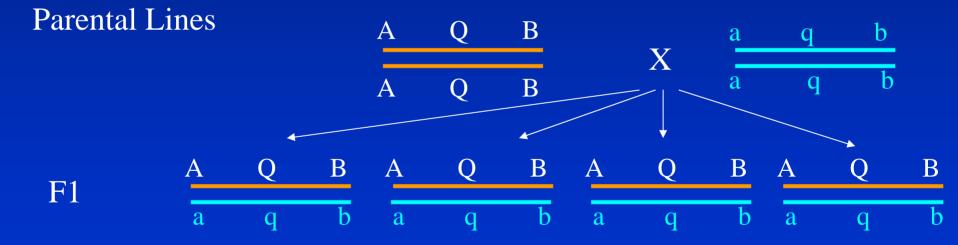
Migration

- LD artificially created in crosses
 - large when crossing inbred lines
 - but small when crossing breeds that do not differ markedly in gene frequencies
 - disappears after only a limited number of generations

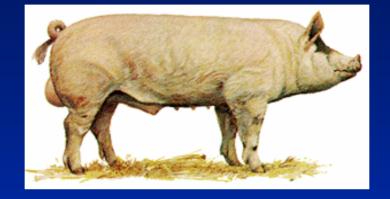
• F2 design



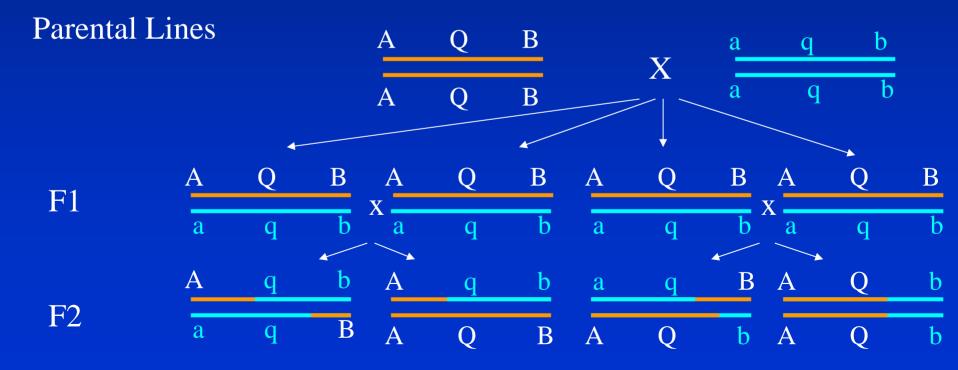




• F2 design



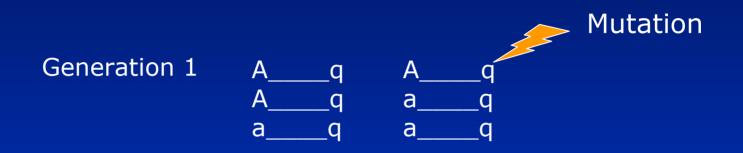


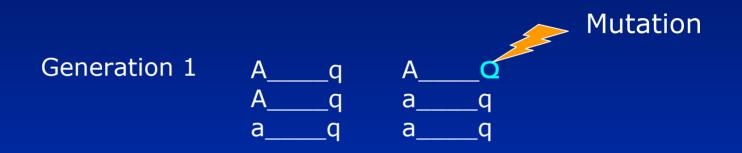


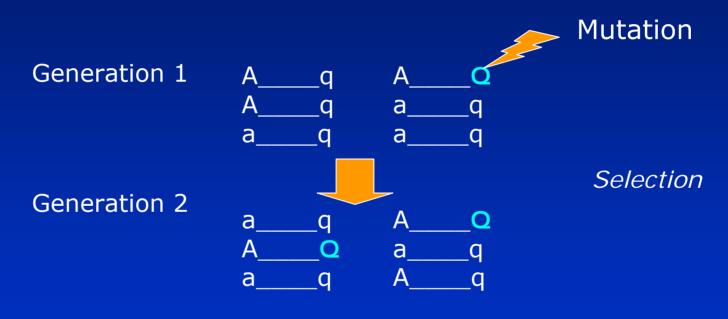
Migration

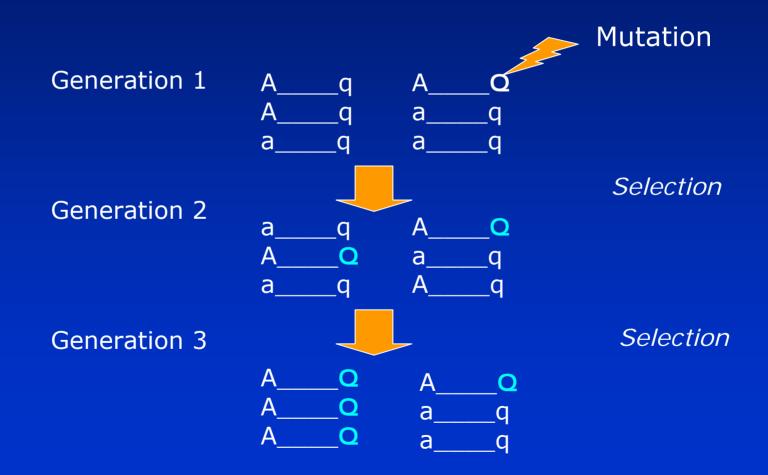
- LD artificially created in crosses designs
 - large when crossing inbred lines
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- Selection
 - Selective sweeps











Migration

LD artificially created in crosses designs

- large when crossing inbred lines
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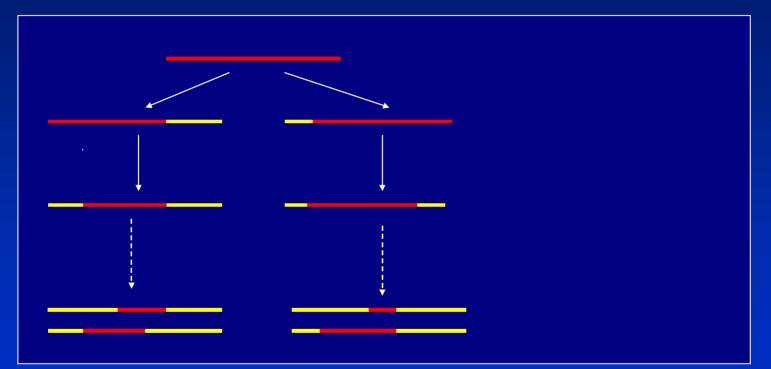
Selection

- Selective sweeps

- Small finite population size
 - generally implicated as the key cause of LD in livestock populations, where effective population size is small

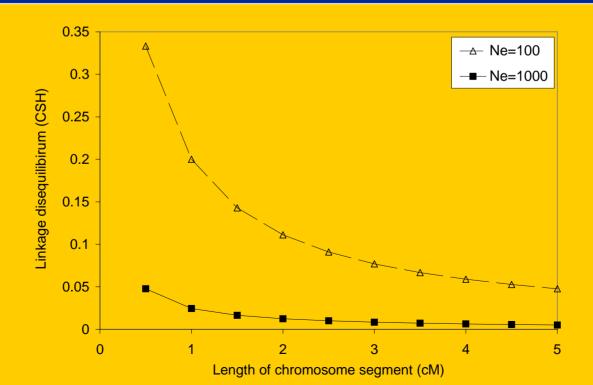


• A chunk of ancestral chromosome is conserved in the current population



 Size of conserved chunks depends on effective population size

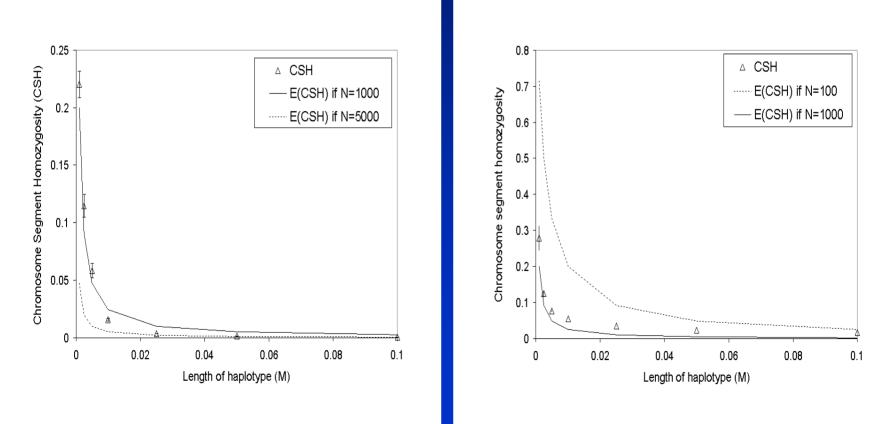
- Predicting LD with finite population size
- $E(r^2)$ and E(CSH) = 1/(4Nc+1)
 - -N = effective population size
 - -c = length of chromosome segment



- But this assumes constant effective population size over generations
- In livestock, effective population size has changed as a result of domestication
- 100 000 -> 1500 -> 100 ?
- In humans, has greatly increased
- 2000 -> 100 000 ?

1000 to 5000

1000 to 100



Α

B

Causes of LD

- $E(r^2) = 1/(4N_tc+1)$
- Where t = 1/(2c) generations ago
 - eg markers 0.1M (10cM) apart reflect population size 5 generations ago
 - Markers 0.001 (0.1cM) apart reflect effective pop size 500 generations ago
- LD at short distances reflects historical effective population size
- LD at longer distances reflects more recent population history

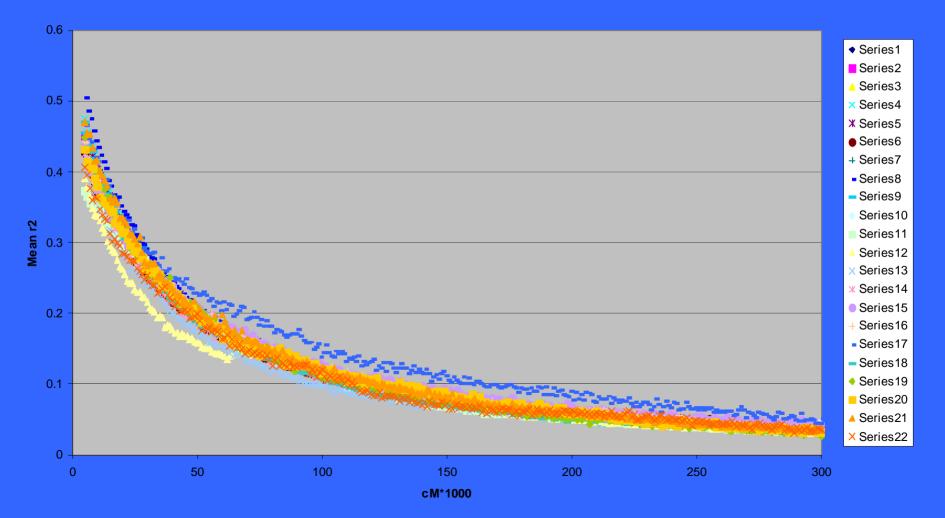
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Extent of LD in humans and livestock

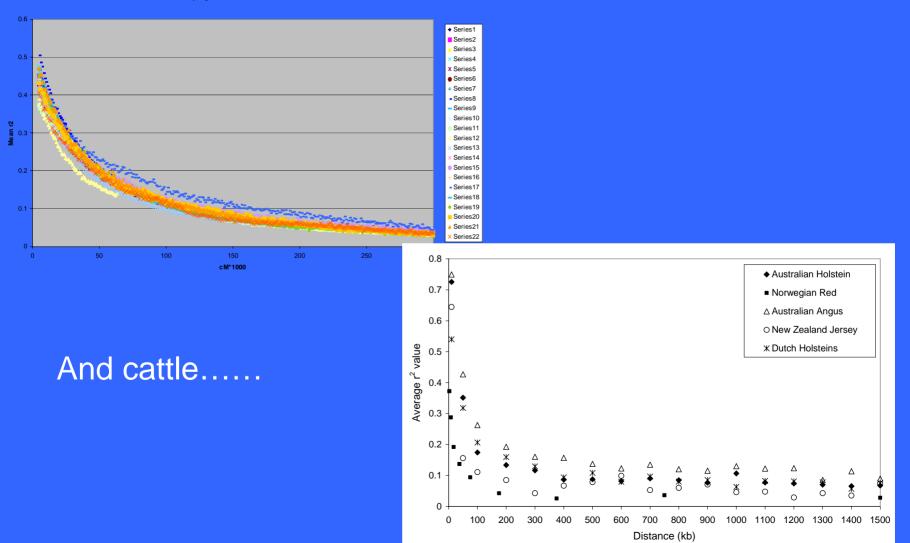
Humans.....(Tenesa et al. 2007)

r2 decay against recombination distance

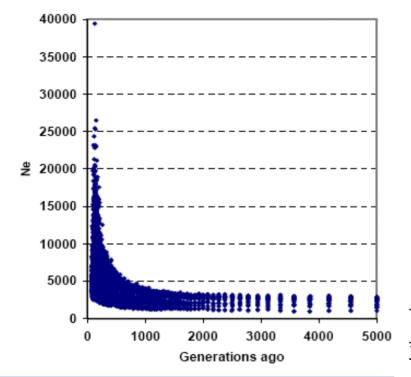


Extent of LD in humans and livestock

r2 decay against recombination distance

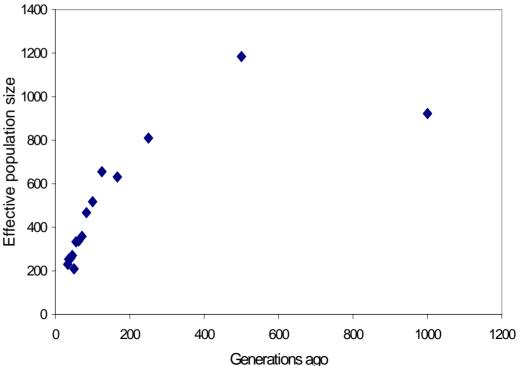


Extent of LD in humans and livestock



And Holstein cattle..

Population size humans (Tenesa et al. 2007)



Implications?

 In Holsteins, need a marker approximately every 200kb to get average r² of 0.2 between marker and QTL (eg. 100kb marker-QTL).

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- This level of marker-QTL LD would allow a genome wide association study of reasonable size to detect QTL of moderate effect.

Implications?

- In Holsteins, need a marker approximately every 200kb to get average r² of 0.2 between marker and QTL (eg. 100kb marker-QTL).
- This level of marker-QTL LD would allow a genome wide association study of reasonable size to detect QTL of moderate effect.
- Bovine genome is approximately 3,000,000kb
 - 15,000 evenly spaced markers to capture every QTL in a genome scan
 - Markers not evenly spaced ~ 30 000 markers required

Extent of LD in other species

- Pigs
 - Du et al. (2007) assessed extent of LD in pigs using 4500 SNP markers in six lines of commercial pigs.
 - Their results indicate there may be considerably more LD in pigs than in cattle.
 - r² of 0.2 at 1000kb.
 - LD of this magnitude only extends 100kb in cattle.
 - In pigs at a 100kb average r^2 was 0.371.

Extent of LD in other species

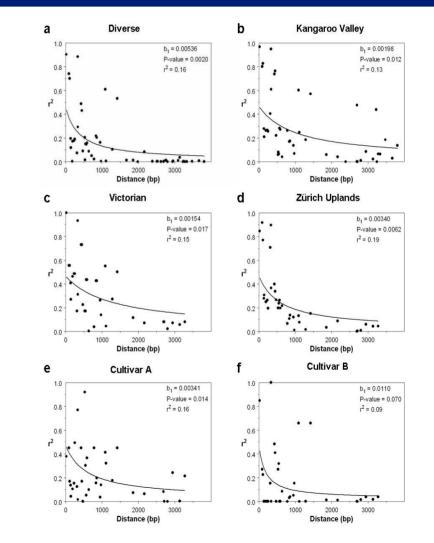
• Chickens

- Heifetz et al. (2005) evaluated the extent of LD in a number of populations of breeding chickens.
- In their populations, they found significant LD extended long distances.
- − For example 57% of marker pairs separated by 5-10cM had $\chi 2' \ge 0.2$ in one line of chickens and 28% in the other.
- Heifetz et al. (2005) pointed out that the lines they investigated had relatively small effective population sizes and were partly inbred

Extent of LD in other species

• Plants?

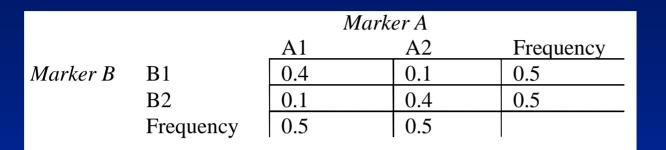
- Perennial ryegrass (Ponting et al. 2007), an outbreeder
- very little LD
- Extremely large effective population size?



Linkage disequilibrium

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- The extent of LD between breeds
- Strategies for haplotyping

- Can the same marker be used across breeds?
 - Genome wide LD mapping expensive, can we get away with one experiment?
- The r² statistic between two SNP markers at same distance in different breeds can be same value even if phases of haplotypes are reversed
- However they will only have same value and sign for r statistic if the phase is same in both breeds or populations.



$$r = \frac{\left(freq(A1_B1)*freq(A2_B2) - freq(A1_B2)*freq(A2_B1)\right)}{\sqrt{freq(A1)*freq(B2)*freq(B1)*freq(B2)}}$$

		Mar	ker A	
		_A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

$$r = \frac{(0.4 * 0.4 - 0.1 * 0.1)}{\sqrt{0.5 * 0.5 * 0.5 * 0.5}}$$

		Ма	rker A	
		A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

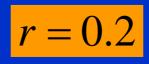


		Mar	ker A	
		A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

r = 0.6

		Mark	ter A	
		<u>A1</u>	A2	<u>Frequency</u>
Marker B	B1	0.3	0.2	0.5
	B2	0.2	0.3	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	





		Mark	xer A	
		_A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

r = 0.6

Breed 1

		Mari	ker A	
		<u>A1</u>	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.2	0.3	0.5
	B2	0.3	0.2	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

		Mark	er A	
		_A1	A2	Frequency
Marker B	B1	0.4	0.1	0.5
	B2	0.1	0.4	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

r = 0.6

r = -0.2

Breed 1

		Mari	ker A	
		A1	A2	<u>Frequency</u>
Marker B	B1	0.2	0.3	0.5
	B2	0.3	0.2	0.5
	Frequency	0.5	0.5	

- For marker pairs at a given distance, the correlation between their r in two populations, corr(r1,r2), is equal to correlation of effects of the marker between both populations
 - If this correlation is 1, marker effects are equal in both populations.
 - If this correlation is zero, a marker in population 1 is useless in population 2.
 - A high correlation between r values means that the marker effect persists across the populations.

• Example

Marker 1	Marker 2	Distance kb	r Breed 1	r Breed 2
А	В	20	0.8	0.7
С	D	50	-0.4	-0.6
E	F	30	0.5	0.6
	Average kb	33	corr(r1,r2)	0.98

• Example

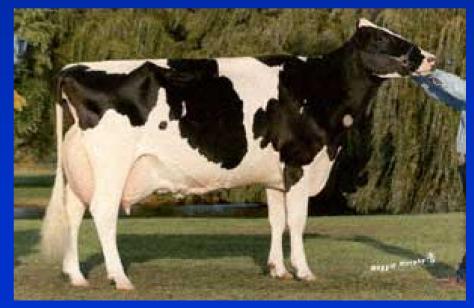
Marker 1	Marker 2	Distance kb	r Breed 1	r Breed 2
А	В	20	0.8	0.7
С	D	50	-0.4	-0.6
E	F	30	0.5	0.6
	Average kb	33	corr(r1,r2)	0.98

Marker 1	Marker 2	Distance kb	r Breed 1	r Breed 2
А	В	500	0.4	0.2
С	D	550	-0.4	-0.2
E	F	450	0.2	-0.3
	Average kb	500	corr(r1,r2)	0.54

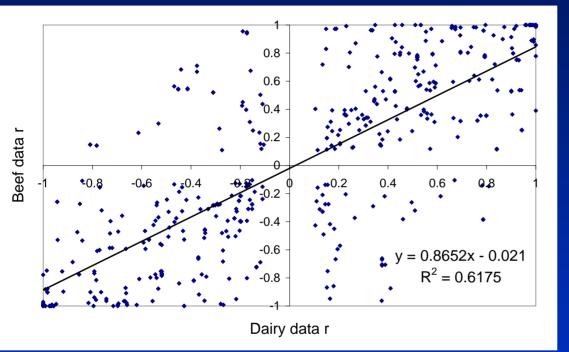
Experiment

- Beef cattle
 - 384 Angus animals chosen for genotyping from Trangie net feed intake selection lines
 - genotyped for 10 000 SNPs
- Dairy Cattle
 - 384 Holstein-Friesian dairy bulls selected from Australian dairy bull population
 - genotyped for 10 000 SNPs

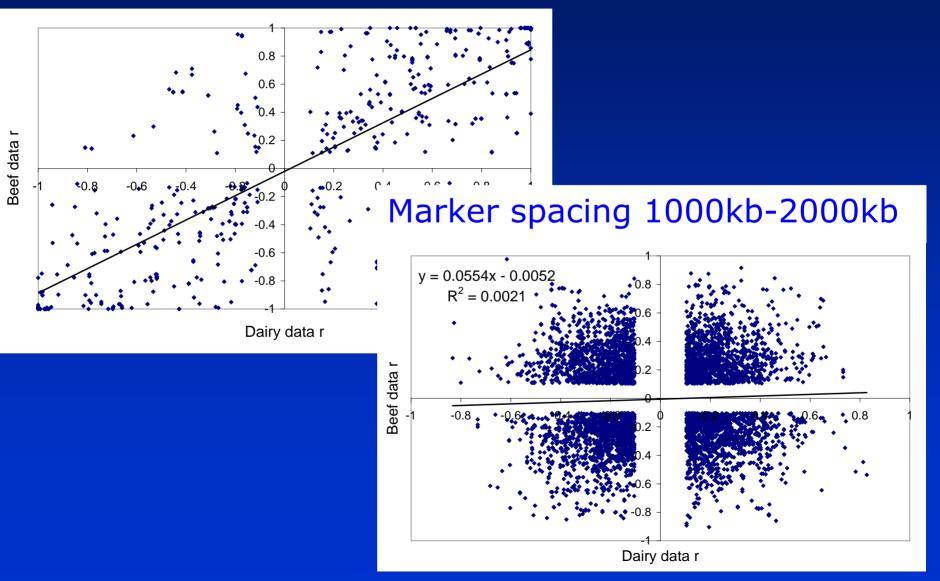




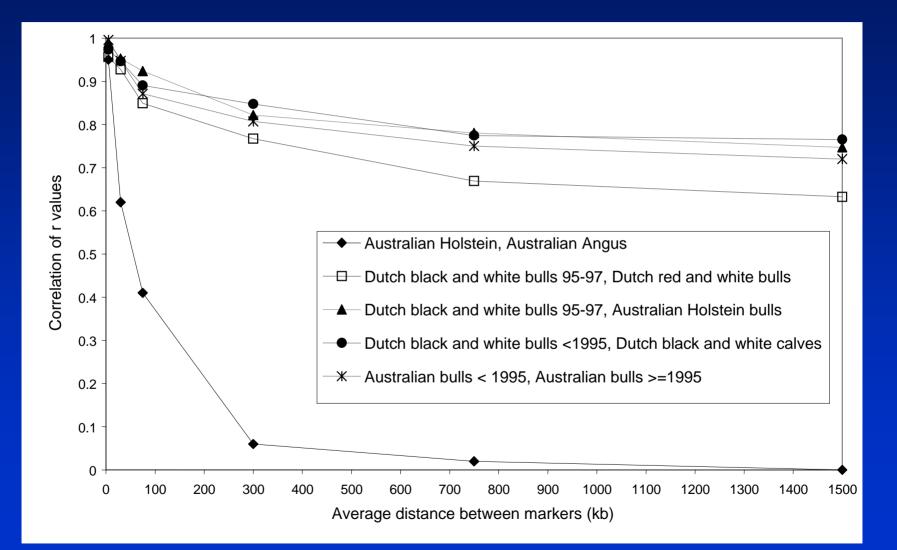
Holstein-Angus example Marker spacing 10kb-50kb



Holstein-Angus example Marker spacing 10kb-50kb



LD across breeds

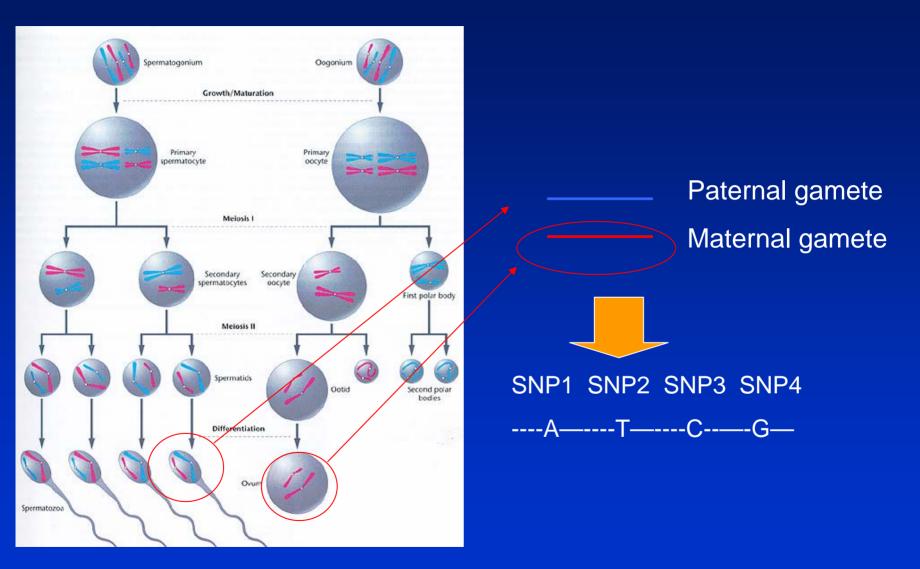


- Recently diverged breeds/lines, good prospects of using a marker found in one line in the other line
- More distantly related breeds, will need very dense marker maps to find markers which can be used across breeds
- Important in multi breed populations
 eg. beef, sheep, pigs

Linkage disequilibrium

- A brief history of QTL mapping
- Measuring linkage disequilibrium
- Causes of LD
- Extent of LD in animals and plants
- The extent of LD between breeds
- Strategies for haplotyping

Definition of Haplotype



 LD statistics such as r² use haplotype frequencies

 $D = freq(A1_B1)*freq(A2_B2)$ $freq(A1_B2)*freq(A2_B1)$

 $r^2 = D^2/[freq(A1)*freq(A2)*freq(B1)*freq(B2)]$

Need to infer haplotypes

- In large half sib families
 - which of the sire alleles co-occur in progeny most often
 - Dam haplotypes by subtracting sire haplotype from progeny genotype
- Complex pedigrees
 - Much more difficult, less information per parent, account for missing markers, inbreeding
 - SimWalk
- Randomly sampled individuals from population
 - Infer haplotypes from LD information!
 - PHASE

• PHASE program:

– Start with group of unphased individuals Genotypes

- PHASE program:
 - Sort haplotypes for unambiguous animals

121122	121122
121122	121122
122122	122122
121122	` 121122
122222	
121122	
121222	
122122	

- PHASE program:
 - Add to list of haplotypes in population

121122	121122	Haplotype list
121122	121122	121122
122122 121122		122122
122222 121122		
121222 122122		

- PHASE program:
 - For an ambiguous individual, can haplotypes be same as those in list (most likely=most freq)?

121122	121122	Haplotype list
121122	121122	121122
122122	122122	122122
121122	Yes 121122	
122222 _	121122	
121122	No	
121222		
122122		

- PHASE program:
 - If no, can we produce haplotype by recombination or mutation (likelihood on basis of length of segment and num markers)

121122	121122	Haplotype list
121122	121122	121122
122122	122122	122122
121122	Yes 121122	
122222	121122	
121122	Mutation 122222	
121222		
122122		

PHASE program:
 – Update list

121122	121122	Haplotype lis
121122	121122	121122
122122	122122	122122
121122	Yes 121122	
122222 _	121122	122222
121122	Mutation 122222	
121222		
122122		

st

• PHASE program:

 If we randomly choose individual each time, produces Markov Chain

121122	121122	Haplotype list
121122	121122	121122
122122	122122	122122
121122	Yes 121122	100000
122222 _	→ 121122	122222
121122	Mutation 122222	
121222		
122122		

• PHASE program:

 If we randomly choose individual each time, produces Markov Chain

121122	121122	Haplotype list
121122	121122	121122
122122	122122	122122
121122	` 121122	100000
122222		122222
121122		
121222	<i>Mutation</i> 121222	
122122	Yes 122122	

• PHASE program:

 If we randomly choose individual each time, produces Markov Chain

121122	121122	Haplotype list
121122	121122	121122
122122 121122	<u> </u>	122122
122222		122222
121122		121222
121222	<i>Mutation</i> 121222	
122122	Yes 122122	

PHASE program

- After running chain for large number of iterations,
 - End up with most likely haplotypes in the population, haplotype pairs for each animal (with probability attached)
- Only useful for very short intervals, dense markers!
- But very accurate in this situation
- Used to construct human hap map

Linkage disequilibrium

- Extent of LD in a species determines marker density necessary for LD mapping
- Extent of LD determined by population history
- In cattle, r²~0.2 at 100kb ~ 30 000 markers necessary for genome scan
- Extent of across breed/line LD indicates how close a marker must be to QTL to work across breeds/lines