Quantitative Genetics





Where are we and where do we want to go?

- Conventional breeding
- Marker Assisted Selection
- Genomic Selection



Mascher et al 2019

Conventional Plant Breeding

Marker Assisted Selection



What are quantitative traits?





Chen et al 2017



Important concepts

CENTRAL DOGMA



Alleles

- An allele is one of two or more versions of a gene.
- If two alleles are the same, the individual is homozygous for that gene.
- If the alleles are different, the individual is heterozygous.
- The use of the allele also refers to variation among non-coding DNA sequences.



Meiosis

During meiosis, diploid cells undergo DNA replication, followed by two rounds of cell division in germ cells, producing four haploid sex cells.

Meiosis maintains genetic continuity from generation to generation and gives rise to genetic variation in gametes through:

- Crossing over of homologous chromosomes.
- Unique combinations of maternal/paternal chromosomes.



Population genetics

Allele Frequencies

• Consider a locus with two possible alleles (A and a)

A = p, a = q

• We can estimate the frequency of AA genotype by dividing the number of AA individuals by total number of individuals in the population.

+ q = 1

• Allele Frequencies:

$$p = f(AA) + \frac{1}{2}f(Aa) = \text{frequency of } A$$

$$q = f(aa) + \frac{1}{2}f(Aa) = 1 - p \text{ frequency of } a$$

HWE law, states that allele and genotype frequencies in a population will remain constant from generation to generation in the absence of other evolutionary influences.

Meiosis:

- Aa produces gametes A and a (in equal frequency)
- The homozygous AA only produce one gamete: A
- Likewise aa only produce one gamete: a



Hardy-Weinberg assumptions

- Random mating
- Genotypes have same viability
- Population must not be divided into subpopulations
- Apply only to large populations
- No migration
- No mutation
- No selection
- No drift

If any of these assumptions is not true, the population could departure from HWE.

These departures in most cases manifest as an excess of homozygosity relative to HWE.



Random sampling of gametes (random sampling of parents + no mutation)

p(A)=p p(a) = q = (1-p)

Expected genotype frequencies (random mating)

 $AA=p^2$, $aa=q^2$, Aa=2pq



$$N = 14$$

$$AA = 3$$

$$Aa = 8$$

$$aa = 3$$

$$Aa = 3$$

$$Aa = 3$$

$$Aa = 4a$$

q = 1 - 0.5 = 0.5

p(A)=p p(a) = q = (1-p)

 $p = (3/14) + \frac{1}{2}(8/14) = 0.5$

p= f(AA) +
$$\frac{1}{2}$$
 f (Aa) = frequency of A q = (1-p)

N = 14, AA = 3 , Aa = 8, aa = 3

p = 0.5 q = 0.5

Expected genotype frequencies :

 $p(AA)=p^2$, p(Aa)=2pq, $p(aa)=q^2$

$$p^2$$
 + 2pq + q^2
0.5² + 2(0.5*0.5) + 0.5² = 0.25, 0.5, 0.25



Review

- Central dogma
- Meiosis
- Allele frequencies
- genotype frequencies
- HWE



Quantitative Genetics



The inheritance of complex traits

- Quantitative variation: Mean, variance, standard deviation
- Genetic model
- Genetic and environmental variances



Quantitative variation

Traits that show a continuous range of variation and don't behave in simple Mendelian fashion are known as quantitative or complex traits



Quantitative genetics!

Mean

$$\overline{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i$$

$$\bar{X} = \frac{X_1 + X_1 + X_{1\dots}X_n}{n}$$

- Where
- $\overline{X} = mean$
- $X_1 =$ first value
- X₂ = second value
- X_3 = third value
- X_n = last value
- n = number of samples

Mean



W	Where		
Ī	=	mean	
k	=	classes	

f = frequency

Height (cm)	Count	Frequency x Height
156	1	1.56
157	2	3.14
158	1	1.58
184	2	3.68
sum	100	170

Griffiths et al 2012

 $\overline{X} = (X_1 * f_1) + (X_2 * f_2) + (X_3 * f_3)$

 $\overline{\mathbf{X}} = (0.01 \times 156) + (0.02 \times 157) + \dots + (0.02 \times 184) = 170$

Variance:

Measure of dispersion around the mean.

$$s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

Standard deviation:

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} (X_i - \bar{X})}$$
$$= \sqrt{s^2}$$



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$$= \sqrt{s^2}$$



Simple genetic model

•
$$X = \overline{X} + g + e$$





Djande et al 2020

Simple genetic model

$$X = \overline{X} + g + e$$

• x = g + e

x is the individual's phenotypic deviation.



Djande et al 2020

Genetic and environmental variances

$$x = g + e$$
$$V_x = Vg + Ve + 2cov_{ge}$$
$$V_x = Vg + Ve$$



Djande et al 2020

Review

•
$$\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} f_i X_i$$

•
$$s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

•
$$S = \sqrt{s^2}$$

• x = g + e

• $V_x = Vg + Ve + 2cov_{ge}$



The degree of variation in a phenotypic trait in a population that is due to genetic variation between individuals in that population.

$$V_x = Vg + Ve$$

Broad-sense heritability (H²)

$$H^2 = \frac{Vg}{Vx}$$

 $V_{g} = V_{A} + V_{D} + V_{I}$



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Broad-sense heritability (H²)

 $H^2 = \frac{Vg}{Vx}$

 $V_g = V_a + V_d + V_i$

H² is not transmissible to the next generation in a predictive way!

Parents transmit their genes **but not** their genotypes!



Narrow-sense heritability (h²)

 $h^2 = \frac{Va}{Vx} = \frac{Va}{Va + Vd + Vi + Ve}$





Griffiths et al 2012

h² is transmissible to the next generation in a predictive way!

Genotype	Frequency	Trait value (no. of flowers)	Contribution to the mean (frequency × value)
B_{1}/B_{1}	0.25	1	0.25
B_1/B_2	0.50	2	1.0
B_2/B_2	0.25	3	0.75
2-2	0.110		Mean $= 2.0$

Narrow-sense heritability (h²)

 $h^2 = \frac{Va}{Vx} = \frac{Va}{Va + Vd + Vi + Ve}$



Offspring < 3 (2.78) The phenotype is not fully heritable!

The difference between additive and dominant gene action





Genotype	Frequency	Phenotype	Contribution to the mean (frequency × value)
D /D	0.25	1	0.25
B_1/B_1	0.23	3	1.5
D_1/D_2 P/P_2	0.30	3	0.75
D_{2}/D_{2}	0.20		Mean $= 2.5$

Narrow-sense heritability (h²)

$$\beta_{O \sim Mp} = \frac{Cov(u_{ih}, u_i)}{Var(y_i)} = \frac{\sigma_a^2}{\sigma_p^2} = h^2$$





 B_1/B_2

 B_2/B_2

 B_1/B_1

Genotype	Frequency	Trait value (no. of flowers)	Contribution to the mean (frequency × value)
B_{1}/B_{1}	0.25	1	0.25
B_1/B_2	0.50	2	1.0
B_2/B_2	0.25	3	0.75
-2-22	0.20		Mean $= 2.0$

Review

• $V_g = V_a + V_d + V_i$

• $H^2 = \frac{Vg}{Vx}$

•
$$h^2 = \frac{Va}{Vx}$$



Values and means in a single locus
Values and means in a single locus

- Genetic values
- Population mean
- Average allele effect
- Average allele substitution effect





Values and means in a single locus

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Genetic values

aa



Aa simmental.org

AA

Values and means in a single locus

- Genetic values
- Population mean
- Average allele effect
- Average allele substitution effect





Genotype	Freq	Value	Freq × Value
A1A1	p ²	а	p²a
A1A2	A1A2 2pq d		2pqd
A2A2	q ²	-a	-q²a
Sum	1		a(p-q)+2pqd



$$E[u] = a(p-q) + 2pqd$$
$$E[u] = a(p-q)$$

Genotype	Freq	Value	Freq × Value
A1A1	p²	а	p²a
A1A2	2pq	d	2p <mark>q</mark> d
A2A2	q ²	-a	-q²a
Sum	1		a(p-q)+2pqd







Genotype	Freq	I Value Freq × V	
A1A1	p²	а	p²a
A1A2	2pq	d 2pqd	
A2A2	q ²	-a	-q²a
Sum	1		a(p-q)+2pqd

$$p = \sqrt{0.25} = 0.5$$

 $q = 1 - p = 0.5$







Griffiths et al 2012

Genotype	Freq	Value	Freq × Value
A1A1	0.5 ²	1	0.25*1
A1A2	2*0.5 <mark>*0.5</mark>	0	2*0.5*0.5*0
A2A2	0.5 ²	-1	-0.25*1
Sum	1		1(0.5-0.5)+2*0.5*0.5*0

a(p-q)+2pqd = 0

$$p = \sqrt{0.25} = 0.5$$

 $q = 1 - p = 0.5$







Genotype	Freq	Value	Freq × Value
A1A1	0.5 ²	1	0.25*1
A1A2	2*0.5 <mark>*0.5</mark>	0	2*0.5*0.5*0
A2A2	0.5 ²	-1	-0.25*1
Sum	1		1(0.5-0.5)+2*0.5*0.5*0

a(p-q)+2pqd = 0





This value of mean is measure from the mid-homozygote point, which is 2 flowers

	Frequency	Trait value (no. of flowers)	Contribution to the mean (frequency × value)
2A2	0.25	1	0.25
1	0.50	2	1.0
AZ	0.25	3	0.75
.A1	0.23		Mean $= 2.0$

Genotype	Freq	Value	Freq × Value
A1A1	0.9 ²	1	0.81*1
A1A2	2*0.9 <mark>*0.1</mark>	0	0.18*0
A2A2	0.1 ²	-1	-0.01*1
Sum	1		1(0.8)+2*0.09*0

a(p-q)+2pqd = 0.8

$$p = 0.9$$

 $q = 0.1$





Genotype	notype Freq		notype Freq Value		Freq × Value
A1A1	p ²	а	p²a		
A1A2	2pq	d	2p <mark>q</mark> d		
A2A2	q ²	-a	-q²a		
Sum	1		a(p-q)+2pqd		

$$E[u] = a(p-q) + 2pqd$$

Single locus

The population mean resulting from joint effects of several loci is the sum of the contributions of each of separate loci

$$E[u] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a(p-q) + 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} dpq$$

Values and means in a single locus

- Genetic values
- Population mean
- Average allele effect
- Average allele substitution effect



Average allele effect

Deviation from the population mean of individuals which received an allele (A1 or A2) from one parent when the other allele come at random from the population



Average allele effect

Type of gamete	Values of gen	and frequent	uencies oduced	Mean valuePopulation meanof genotypesto be deducted		Average effect of gene
	A1A1	A1A2	A2A2			
	а	d	-a		a(<mark>p-</mark> q) + 2 <mark>p</mark> qd	
A1	р	q		pa + qd	-[a(<mark>p</mark> -q) + 2d <mark>p</mark> q]	q[a+d(q- <mark>p</mark>)]
A2		р	q	-qa + <mark>p</mark> d	-[a(p-q) + 2d <mark>p</mark> q]	-p[a+d(q- <mark>p</mark>)]



Average effects of the alleles: $\alpha_1 = q[a + d(q - p)]$ $\alpha_2 = -p[a + d(q - p)]$

Falconer & Mackay 1996

Average effects of the gene substitution: $\alpha = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = a + d(q - p)$

Values and means in a single locus

- Genetic values
- Population mean
- Average allele effect
- Average allele substitution effect



Average effects of gene substitution $a = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = a + d(q-p)$



 $\alpha = a + d(q - p)$

Population s	р	q
Pop 1	0.9	0.1
Pop 2	0.6	0.4

$$\alpha = 4 + 2(0.1 - 0.9) = 2.4$$

$$\alpha = 4 + 2(0.4 - 0.6) = 3.6$$

Average effects of gene substitution

Type of gamete	Values of gen	and frequet	uencies oduced	Mean value of genotypes	Population mean to be deducted	Average effect of gene
	A1A1	A1A2	A2A2			
	а	d	-a			
A1	р	q		pa + qd	-[a(<mark>p</mark> -q) + 2dpq]	q[a+d(q- <mark>p</mark>)]
A2		р	q	-qa + <mark>p</mark> d	-[a(p-q) + 2d <mark>p</mark> q]	-p[a+d(q <mark>-p</mark>)]

Falconer & Mackay 1996



$$\alpha = a + d(q - p)$$

$$\alpha_1 = q[a + d(q - p)] = q\alpha$$

$$\alpha_2 = -p[a + d(q - p)] = -p\alpha$$

Populations	р	q
Pop 1	0.5	0.5

$$\alpha = 4 + 0 (0.5 - 0.5) = 4$$

 $\alpha_1 = 0.5 * 4 = 2$
 $\alpha_2 = -0.5 * 4 = -2$

 $\alpha = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = 2 - (-2) = 4$

Average effects of gene substitution



Review:

Genotypic values:



Average effects of the gene substitution:

$$\alpha = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = a + d(q - p)$$

Average effects of alleles:



Super review!!!

- Central dogma
- Mexiosis
- Allele frequencies
- genotype frequencies
- HWE



 $V_g = V_a + V_d + V_i$



 $V_{x} = Vg + Ve + 2cov_{ge}$







Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL)

Quantitative trait loci



1 – 2. Parents and Population

Select parents



bi-parental populations



Miles & Wayne 2008



Quantitative trait loci



3. Markers and linkage maps

• In genetics, a molecular marker is a fragment of DNA that is associated with a certain location within the genome.

Molecular markers





3. Markers and linkage maps

- Linkage maps indicate the position and relative genetic distances between markers along chromosomes.
- QTL mapping is based on the principle that genes and markers segregate via chromosome recombination during meiosis.



Quantitative trait loci



4. QTL detection

The statistical methods used for single-marker analysis include t-tests, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and linear regression.

$$t = \frac{\overline{MM} - \overline{mm}}{\sqrt{\frac{\hat{V}(MM)}{N} + \frac{\hat{V}(mm)}{N} + }}$$

T-test: compare the mean of 2 groups. To compare 3 or more groups, one must use an ANOVA.



4. QTL detection

Interval mapping

• Simple Interval Mapping (SIM)

SIM uses adjacent markers to estimate a QTL location.

• Composite Interval Mapping (CIM)

CIM uses interval mapping and includes genetic markers in the statistical model in addition to an adjacent pair of linked markers for interval mapping.





Association mapping

Association mapping

Mapping

- Association analysis uses historical recombination events over many generations within a short interval surrounding a trait locus
- Association analysis is advantageous for the identification of relatively small genomic regions, in which only few genes may reside.



Mapping population vs Association mapping



Mapping population vs Association mapping

Association mapping offers three advantages over linkage analysis:

- Higher mapping resolution
- Greater allele number
- Less research time in establishing an association



Yu & Buckler 2005

Statistical approaches



Genomic selection


Approach in marker-based selection



GS uses all molecular markers to predict genomic estimated breeding values (GEBV).

Genotype	Breeding value
A1A1	$2\alpha_1 = 2q\alpha$
A1A2	$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = (q - p) \alpha$
A2A2	$2\alpha_2 = -2p\alpha$





Falconer & Mackay p 115,117



Average effects of the all

$$\alpha_1 = q[a + d(q - p)] \qquad \alpha_2 = -p[a + d(q - p)]$$

Average effects of gene supstiti $\alpha = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = a + d(q - p)$

$$GEBV = \sum_{i}^{p} Z_{i} \alpha_{i}$$



Bernardo 2020

- GS uses all molecular markers to predict genomic estimated breeding values (GEBV).
- GS combines molecular and phenotypic data in a training population to obtain the GEBV of individuals in a testing population that have been genotyped but not phenotyped.



• Are interested in go deeper in GS basic model?

University of Minnesota



REX BERNARDO

Breeding for Quantitative Traits in Plants

Third Editio

$$GEBV = \sum_{i}^{p} Z_{i} \alpha_{i}$$

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7KYISOZhZo&t=1939s

MAS vs GS

Schemes of GS and traditional MAS for the selection of quantitative traits (right).



Framework for GS



GS is not the solution of all our problems ...but it is helpful

- Reduce breeding cycle
- Increase selection intensity
- Increase genetic variance
- Reduce costs

$$\Delta G_{\text{year}} = \frac{i r_{AI} \sigma_A}{L}$$

$$r_{AI} = Accuracy$$

- σ_A = Genetic standard deviation
- L = Generation interval