Modeling Relatedness in Genetic Association Studies

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Human genetics is fascinating!



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Genetic Association Studies confounded by relatedness



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Genetic Association Studies confounded by relatedness



Heritability of complex traits



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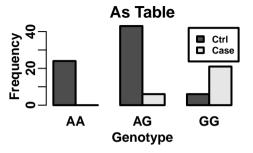
Genetic Association Studies confounded by relatedness

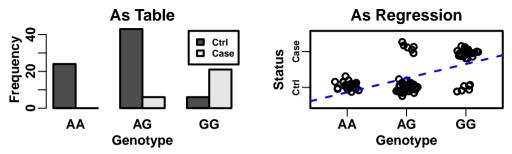


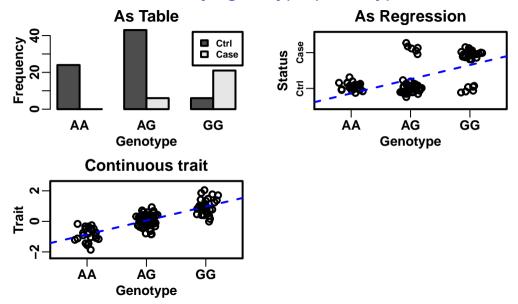
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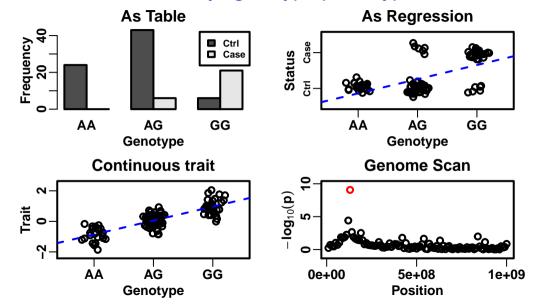


Selection scans









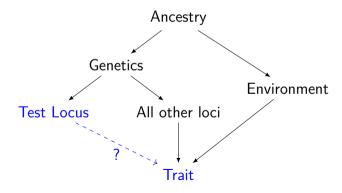
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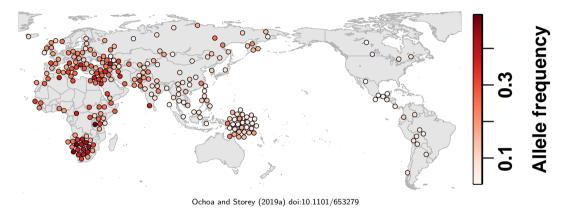
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- Polygenicity
- Confounders

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- Millions of tests
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Median-differentiation human locus



rs17110306; among loci with minor allele frequency $\geq 10\%$

Basic association tests assume equal allele frequency within cases and controls!

Overview of results

Part I:

Estimating relatedness under both ancestry and family structure

Part II:

▶ New approach to genetic association: fast and accurate

Kinship model for neutral genotypes $x_{ij} \in \{0, 1, 2\}$:

$$\mathsf{E}[x_{ij}] = 2p_i, \qquad \mathsf{Cov}(x_{ij}, x_{ik}) = 4p_i (1 - p_i) \varphi_{jk}.$$

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Standard estimator is biased:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}_{i} = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \boldsymbol{x}_{ij}, \qquad \hat{\varphi}_{jk}^{std} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{(\boldsymbol{x}_{ij} - 2\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}_{i})(\boldsymbol{x}_{ik} - 2\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}_{i})}{4\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}_{i}(1 - \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}_{i})} \approx \frac{\varphi_{jk} - \bar{\varphi}_{j} - \bar{\varphi}_{k} + \bar{\varphi}}{1 - \bar{\varphi}}.$$

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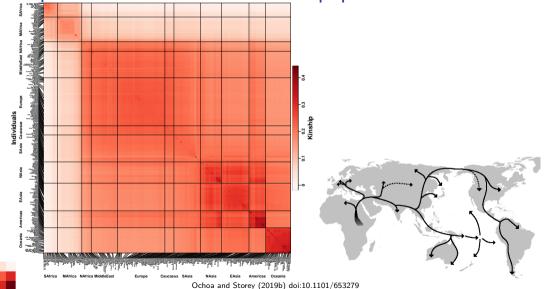
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popkin: first unbiased kinship estimator! — R package on CRAN

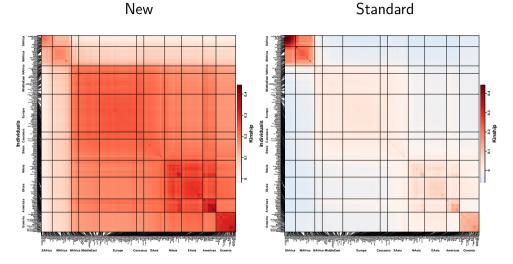
$$egin{aligned} A_{jk} &= rac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m (\mathsf{x}_{ij} - 1) (\mathsf{x}_{ik} - 1) - 1, \qquad \hat{A}_{\mathsf{min}} = \min_{u
eq v} rac{1}{|S_u| |S_v|} \sum_{j \in S_u} \sum_{k \in S_v} A_{jk}, \ \hat{arphi}_{jk}^{\mathsf{new}} &= 1 - rac{A_{jk}}{\hat{\lambda}} \stackrel{\mathsf{a.s.}}{\longrightarrow} arphi_{jk}. \end{aligned}$$



Kinship matrix of world-wide human population

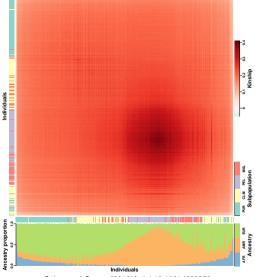


Standard kinship estimator is severely biased





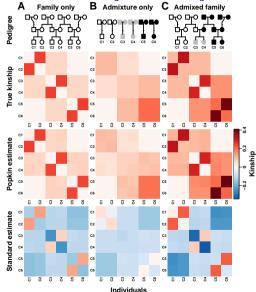
Kinship driven by admixture in Hispanics





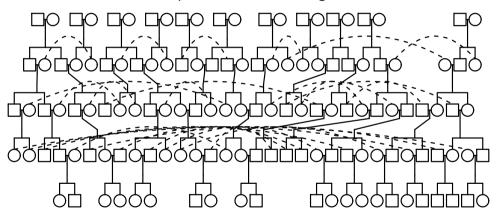
Ochoa and Storey (2019b) doi:10.1101/653279

Unified kinship model: ancestry + family structure!

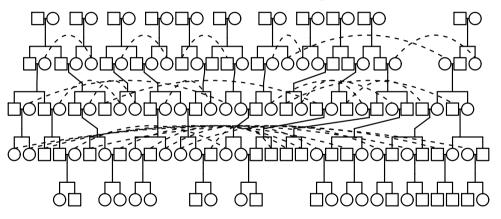


Mating: proximity preference, but $\leq 2nd$ -cousin avoidance.

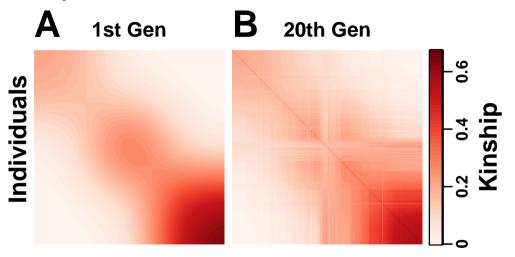
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Actual simulation: 1000 individuals, 20 generations!



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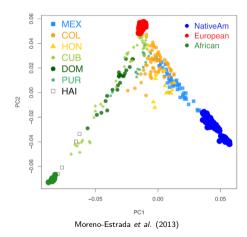
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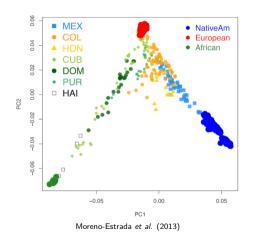
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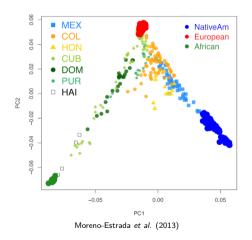
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Random effects are slow!	Fast!



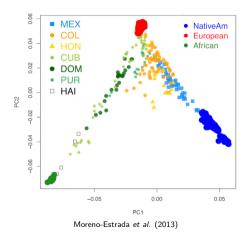


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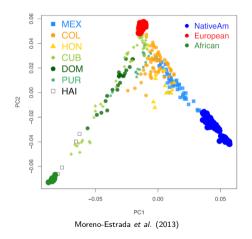
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Cons: Fails on family data.

"Mixed": Fixed and Random effects:

$$\mathbf{y} = \alpha_i + \mathbf{x}_i \beta_i + \mathbf{F} \gamma_i + \mathbf{r}_i$$
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- ► Pros:
 - Handles any kinship matrix Φ
- Cons:
 - Most computationally intensive
 - Environment is unmodeled

Objective function handles kinship structure (no covariates):

$$O = (\alpha_i' \mathbf{1} + \beta_i' \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}_i)^{\mathsf{T}} \Phi^{-1} (\alpha_i' \mathbf{1} + \beta_i' \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}_i).$$

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Effect size estimator (minimizes O) is linear in genotype! (FAST!)

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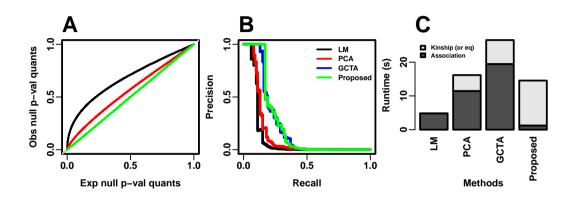
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Variance has closed form, yields accurate p-values!

Genetic association on simulated admixture + 20G family





CCCCCTTTCC G E N T/0 121100202C https://github.com/OchoaLab/genjo

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New genetic association approach:

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 - ► Works for admixture + family
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Next: real data analysis

- Duke CARRIAGE family data
- dbGaP datasets



Admixture



Admixture



Genetic Association Studies



 ${\sf Admixture}$





Genetic Association Studies



Heritability



Admixture



Genetic Association Studies



Heritability



Selection

Acknowledgments

Ochoa Lab

Yiqi Yao Amika Sood

Duke University

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Princeton University

John D. Storey







Duke University School of Medicine

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