

QTL Mapping using Diversity Outbred Mice

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1 Introduction

Quantitative Trait Locus (QTL) mapping in DO mice is performed in several steps. First, we use the founder haplotype contributions to perform linkage mapping. In the mapping model, we adjust for kinship between DO mice using the R package QTLRel. Then, we perform permutations to determine and empirical significance threshold. Next, we select chromosomes with QTL peaks above the significance threshold, examine the founder allele effects and determine support intervals. Finally, we impute the founder SNPs onto the DO genomes to perform association mapping in the QTL intervals.

2 Mapping Models

2.1 Linkage Mapping

Linkage mapping involves the use of founder haplotype probabilities. We perform point mapping at each marker on the array. We fit an additive model that regresses the phenotype on the eight founder haplotype contributions and incorporates an adjustment for the kinship between samples.

$$y = X\alpha + H\beta + Zu + \varepsilon \tag{1}$$

where:

- n is the number of samples
- y is an $n \times 1$ vector of phenotype values for each sample
- X is an $n \times p$ matrix of p fixed covariates (sex, diet, etc.)
- α is a $p \times 1$ vector of fixed effects
- H is an $n \times 8$ matrix of founder haplotype contributions (each row sums to 1)
- β is an 8×1 vector of founder haplotype effects
- Z is an $n \times n$ matrix of error covariances between samples
- u is an $n \times 1$ vector of ???
- ε is an $n \times 1$ vector of residual errors

2.2 Association Mapping

Between each pair of markers, we assign the genotype state with the highest probability to each DO sample. We then query the Sanger Mouse Genomes SNP file to obtain all of the founder SNPs in the interval.

For each Sanger SNP, we impute the Sanger SNPs onto DO genomes as follows:

$$a_j = \sum_{i=1}^8 s_i h_{ij} \quad (2)$$

where:

- a is the allele call (coded as 0, 1 or 2) for sample j
- s is the Sanger founder allele call (coded as 0 or 1)
- h is the founder haplotype contribution of founder i for sample j

$$y = X\alpha + A\beta + Zu + \varepsilon \quad (3)$$

where:

- n is the number of samples
- y is an $n \times 1$ vector of phenotype values for each sample
- X is an $n \times p$ matrix of p fixed covariates (sex, diet, etc.)
- α is a $p \times 1$ vector of fixed effects
- A is an $n \times 3$ matrix of imputed allele calls
- β is an 3×1 vector of allele effects
- Z is an $n \times n$ matrix of error covariances between samples
- u is an $n \times 1$ vector of ???
- ε is an $n \times 1$ vector of residual errors

3 QTL Mapping

We will use example data from Svenson et.al, *Genetics*, 2012. Briefly, 149 mice (75 F, 74 M) were placed on either a chow ($n = 100$) or a high fat diet ($n = 49$). A variety of clinical phenotypes were measured at two time points, roughly 14 weeks apart. In this example, we will map the hemoglobin distribution width (HDW) at the second time point. We will load this data from the Bioconductor data package `MUGAExampleData`.

```
> library(DOQTL)
> library(MUGAExampleData)
> data(pheno)
> data(model.probs)
```

QTL mapping requires phenotype and genotype data. Here, we have a `data.frame` of phenotypes called `pheno` and a 3D array of founder haplotype contributions (num.samples x 8 founders x num.markers) called `model.probs`. The sample IDs must be in `rownames(pheno)` and `dimnames(model.probs)[[1]]` and they must match each other. We will map the hemoglobin distribution width at time point 2 (HDW2).

First, we need to create a kinship matrix using the founder contributions.

```
> K = kinship.probs(model.probs)
```

Second, we need to create a matrix of additive covariates to run in the model. In this case, we will use sex, diet and CHOL1. Note that the sample IDs must be in `rownames(covar)`.

```
> covar = data.frame(sex = as.numeric(pheno$Sex == "M"), diet = as.numeric(pheno$Diet == "hf"))
> rownames(covar) = rownames(pheno)
```

Third, we need to get the marker locations on the array.

```
> load(url("ftp://ftp.jax.org/MUGA/muga_snps.Rdata"))
```

Fourth, we map the phenotype using `scanone`.

```
> qtl = scanone(pheno = pheno, pheno.col = "HDW2", probs = model.probs, K = K,
+               addcovar = covar, snps = muga_snps)
```

```
[1] "Mapping with 141 samples."
```

```
[1] "Mapping with 7654 markers."
```

```
[1] "HDW2"
```

```
Warning: solution lies close to zero for some positive variance components, their standard errors may not be reliable
```

```
Warning: solution lies close to zero for some positive variance components, their standard errors may not be reliable
```

Fifth, we run permutations to determine significance thresholds. We recommend running at least 1,000 permutations. In this demo, we run 100 permutations to save time.

```
> perms = scanone.perm(pheno = pheno, pheno.col = "HDW2", probs = model.probs,
+                      addcovar = covar, snps = muga_snps, nperm = 100)
> thr = quantile(perms, probs = 0.95)
```

We then plot the LOD curve for the QTL.

```
> plot(qtl, sig.thr = thr, main = "HDW2")
```

The largest peak appears on Chr 9. The linkage mapping model (Eqn. 1) produces an estimate of the effect of each founder allele at each marker. We can plot these effects (model coefficients) on Chr 9 to see which founders contribute to a high HDW.

```
> coefplot(qtl, chr = 9)
```

Note that the DO mice with alleles from three strains, 129S1/SvImJ, NZO/HILtJ and WSB/EiJ, have lower changes in cholesterol than the other five strains. Remember these strains because they will appear again below. We then determine the width of the QTL support interval using `bayesint`. Note that this

function only provides reasonable support intervals if there is a single QTL on the chromosome.

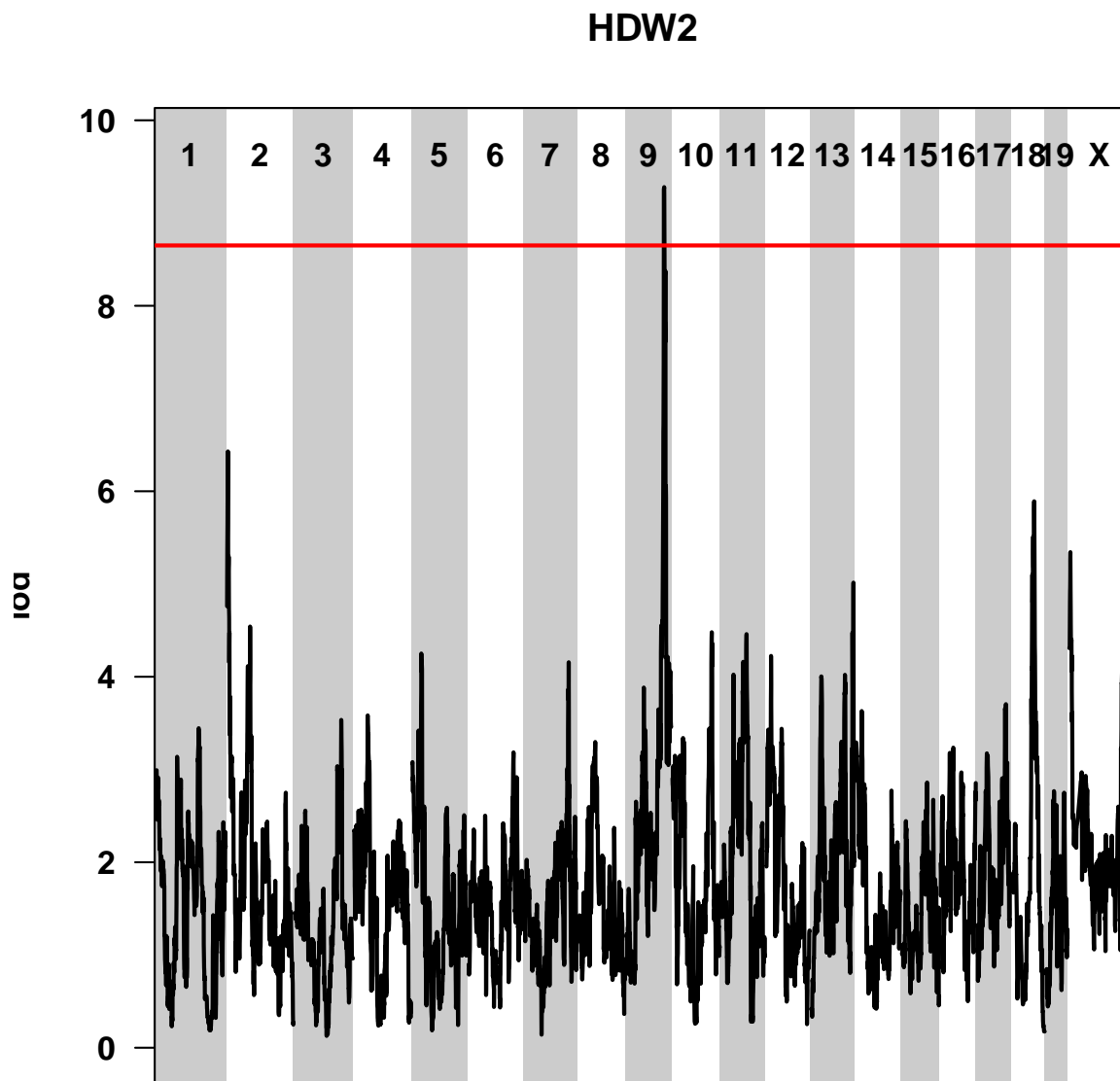


Figure 1: QTL plot of HDW2. The LOD of the mode in Eqn. 1 is plotted along the mouse genome. The red line is the $p < 0.05$ significance threshold.

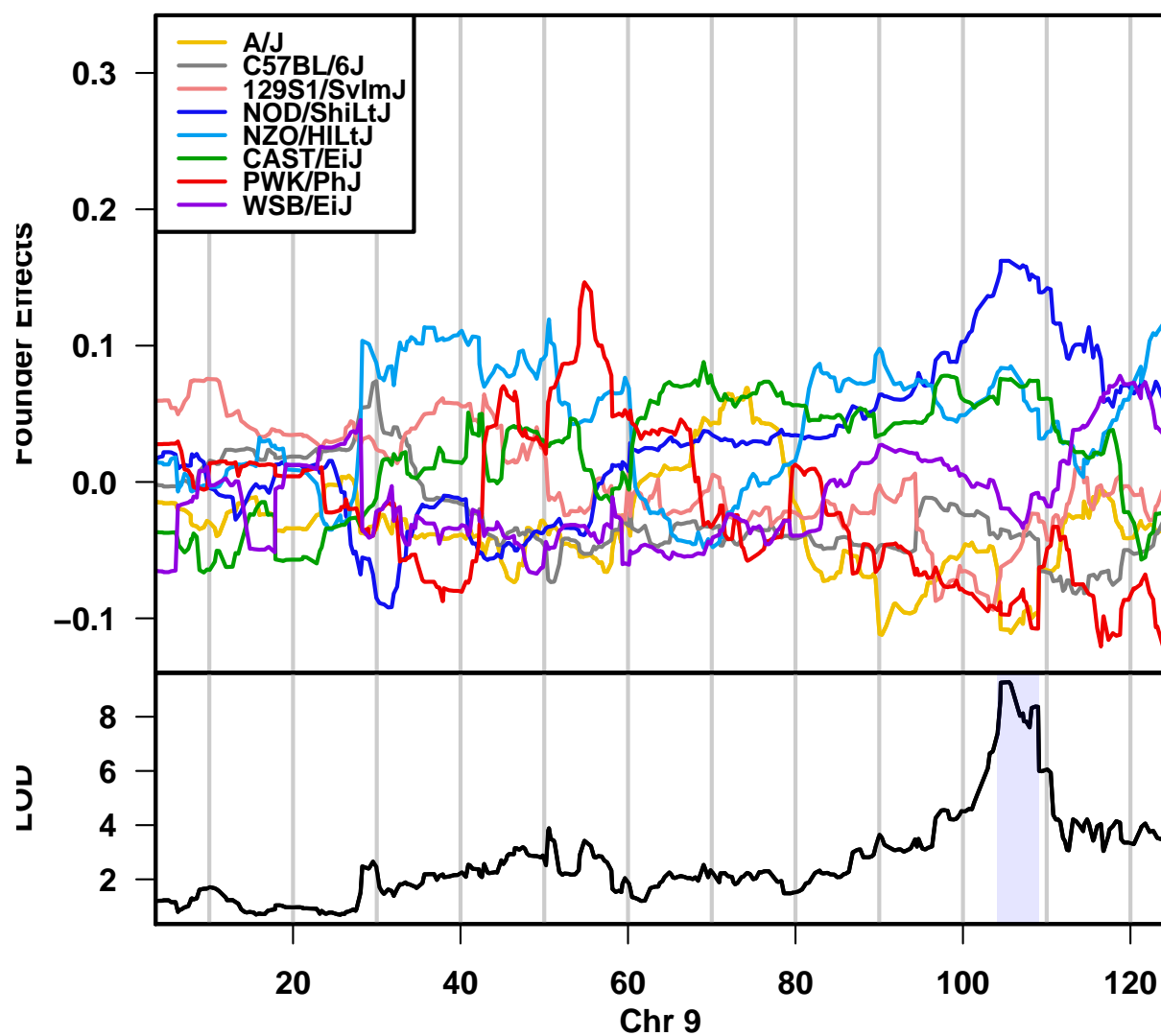


Figure 2: Coefficient plot of HDW2 on Chr 9. The top panel shows the 8 estimated founder allele effects along Chr 9. The NOD/ShiLtJ allele contributes to high values and the A/J and PWK/PhJ alleles contribute to low values. The bottom panel shows the LOD score.

```
> interval = bayesint(qtl, chr = 9)
> interval
```

	marker	chr	pos	cM	perc.var	lrs	lod
UNC090280590	UNC090280590	9	104.1423	49.551	22.27697	34.02250	7.387892
UNC091160886	UNC091160886	9	105.5128	50.043	27.13349	42.73303	9.279360
UNC090227520	UNC090227520	9	109.0960	53.114	18.50575	27.62609	5.998929
	p	neg.log10.p					
UNC090280590	1.705843e-05	4.768061					
UNC091160886	3.755845e-07	6.425292					
UNC090227520	2.569688e-04	3.590120					

The QTL support interval is 4.7 Mb wide. Finally, we narrow the candidate gene list by imputing the founder SNPs onto the DO genomes. This idea is essentially association mapping in an outbred population.

```
> ma = assoc.map(pheno = pheno, pheno.col = "HDW2", probs = model.probs, K = K,
+               addcovar = covar, snps = muga_snps, chr = interval[1,2],
+               start = interval[1,3], end = interval[3,3])
```

```
[1] "Mapping with 135 samples."
[1] "Retrieving SNPs..."
[1] "Retrieved 139299 SNPs."
[1] "Retaining 127565 high quality SNPs."
[1] "Retaining 65528 polymorphic SNPs."
[1] "Calculating mapping statistic..."
```

Warning: solution lies close to zero for some positive variance components, their standard errors may not be reliable

```
> tmp = assoc.plot(ma, thr = 4)
> unique(tmp$sdps)
```

NULL

We can get the genes in the QTL interval using the `get.mgi.features()` function.

```
> mgi = get.mgi.features(chr = interval[1,2], start = interval[1,3],
+                       end = interval[3,3], type = "gene", source = "MGI")
> nrow(mgi)
```

```
[1] 220
```

```
> head(mgi)
```

	seqid	source	type	start	stop	score	strand	phase	ID
1	9	MGI	gene	104002544	104153483	.	+	.	MGI:MGI:1921275
6	9	MGI	gene	104151282	104262930	.	-	.	MGI:MGI:2676368
923	9	MGI	gene	104262105	104263617	.	+	.	MGI:MGI:5610791
939	9	MGI	gene	104288240	104337728	.	-	.	MGI:MGI:1928480
991	9	MGI	gene	104301928	104304909	.	-	.	MGI:MGI:5610416
1158	9	MGI	gene	104355987	104385032	.	+	.	MGI:MGI:5579254
	Name	Parent							

1	Nphp3	NA	
6	Dnajc13	NA	
923	Gm37563	NA	
939	Acpp	NA	
991	Gm37188	NA	
1158	Gm28548	NA	

			Dbxref
1	VEGA:OTTMUSG00000031730,NCBI_Gene:74025,ENSEMBL:ENSMUSG00000032558		
6	VEGA:OTTMUSG00000049291,NCBI_Gene:235567,ENSEMBL:ENSMUSG00000032560		
923	VEGA:OTTMUSG00000049370,ENSEMBL:ENSMUSG000000104040		
939	VEGA:OTTMUSG00000024988,NCBI_Gene:56318,ENSEMBL:ENSMUSG00000032561		
991	VEGA:OTTMUSG00000049372,ENSEMBL:ENSMUSG000000102183		
1158	VEGA:OTTMUSG00000049293,NCBI_Gene:102636046,ENSEMBL:ENSMUSG000000099599		

	mgiName	bioType
1	nephronophthisis 3 (adolescent)	protein coding gene\r
6	DnaJ heat shock protein family (Hsp40) member C13	protein coding gene\r
923	predicted gene%2c 37563	unclassified gene\r
939	acid phosphatase%2c prostate	protein coding gene\r
991	predicted gene%2c 37188	unclassified gene\r
1158	predicted gene 28548	lincRNA gene\r

There are 169 genes in the QTL support interval. Several SNPs have LOD scores above 4. This is a somewhat arbitrary cutoff and an appropriate threshold will be supplied in future version of DOQTL. In this case, there may be more than one variant that influences the phenotype.

4 SessionInfo

```
> sessionInfo()

R version 3.4.2 Patched (2017-10-07 r73498)
Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
Running under: Windows Server 2012 R2 x64 (build 9600)

Matrix products: default

locale:
[1] LC_COLLATE=C
[2] LC_CTYPE=English_United States.1252
[3] LC_MONETARY=English_United States.1252
[4] LC_NUMERIC=C
[5] LC_TIME=English_United States.1252

attached base packages:
[1] stats4      parallel  stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets
[8] methods    base

other attached packages:
[1] MUGAExampleData_0.111.0      DOQTL_1.14.0
[3] VariantAnnotation_1.24.0     Rsamtools_1.30.0
[5] SummarizedExperiment_1.8.0   DelayedArray_0.4.0
```


[7]	matrixStats_0.52.2	Biobase_2.38.0
[9]	BSgenome.Mmusculus.UCSC.mm10_1.4.0	BSgenome_1.46.0
[11]	rtracklayer_1.38.0	Biostrings_2.46.0
[13]	XVector_0.18.0	GenomicRanges_1.30.0
[15]	GenomeInfoDb_1.14.0	IRanges_2.12.0
[17]	S4Vectors_0.16.0	BiocGenerics_0.24.0

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

[1]	mclust_5.3	Rcpp_0.12.13	mvtnorm_1.0-6
[4]	lattice_0.20-35	corpcor_1.6.9	gtools_3.5.0
[7]	prettyunits_1.0.2	class_7.3-14	assertthat_0.2.0
[10]	digest_0.6.12	foreach_1.4.3	R6_2.2.2
[13]	RSQLite_2.0	zlibbioc_1.24.0	rlang_0.1.2
[16]	GenomicFeatures_1.30.0	progress_1.1.2	diptest_0.75-7
[19]	gdata_2.18.0	annotate_1.56.0	kernlab_0.9-25
[22]	blob_1.1.0	RUnit_0.4.31	QTLRel_0.2-17
[25]	Matrix_1.2-11	RMySQL_0.10.13	BiocParallel_1.12.0
[28]	stringr_1.2.0	RCurl_1.95-4.8	bit_1.1-12
[31]	biomaRt_2.34.0	compiler_3.4.2	nnet_7.3-12
[34]	tibble_1.3.4	GenomeInfoDbData_0.99.1	codetools_0.2-15
[37]	XML_3.98-1.9	regress_1.3-15	GenomicAlignments_1.14.0
[40]	MASS_7.3-47	bitops_1.0-6	annotationTools_1.52.0
[43]	grid_3.4.2	xtable_1.8-2	DBI_0.7
[46]	magrittr_1.5	stringi_1.1.5	hwriter_1.3.2
[49]	flexmix_2.3-14	doParallel_1.0.11	robustbase_0.92-7
[52]	iterators_1.0.8	tools_3.4.2	fpc_2.1-10
[55]	bit64_0.9-7	trimcluster_0.1-2	DEoptimR_1.0-8
[58]	rhdf5_2.22.0	AnnotationDbi_1.40.0	cluster_2.0.6
[61]	prabclus_2.2-6	memoise_1.1.0	modeltools_0.2-21