Single-step genomic selection: accommodating several key issues

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Overview



• Genomic selection



- Genomic selection
- Motivating Example



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- Complexities





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 - These estimated relationships are then used to predict the performance of a set of test individuals























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- For the additive VE effects **u**_a, covariance between varieties is also modelled via a known relationship matrix denoted **G**





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- The matrix formed via ancestral records is denoted **A** and known as the numerator relationship matrix (NRM) (Oakey et al. [2007])





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Motivating example



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- The final model fit included $k_a = 2$ additive and $k_e = 1$ non-additive factors



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Complexities



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 - More individuals than markers



Linear dependencies in matrix of marker scores



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- This inverse is required when solving the mixed model equations (MMEs)
- Several strategies exist to overcome this complexity however the method we have used is a blending of the K and A relationship matrices





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• The added parameter λ controls the weighting from the two sources of relatedness, with genomic information dominating when $\lambda \approx 1$ and pedigree information dominating when $\lambda \approx 0$



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- This is done via maximising the full residual likelihood where λ is simply an extra parameter to estimate
- However this can be shown graphically through profiling on the parameter of interest (λ) and assessing the residual log-likelihood under a range of values for this parameter



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Conclusion



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- However many complexities arise in implementation, a few of which have been explored here, specifically singularities in the GRM (K)
- Combining both ancestral and genomic relationship matrices both overcomes this issue
- Finally DWReml (Butler, pers comm) can handle the high computational demand when fitting complex single-step factor models which include genetic relatedness such as the motivating example



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