Harpending Lecture 5

Ashkenazi

Balanced Polymorphism

- Carriers have higher fitness that either homozygote
- Often involve a broken version of a gene
- Sickle-Cell Anemia in the US Black population is a familiar example
- Often an evolutionary quick fix, eventually replaced by something better

Population of 14 People, all making normal gene product

Broken version becomes more common

Twinning in Sheep

- BMP15 mutation in Inverdale: carriers twin, 2 copies cause sterility
- Different mutation in Hanna with same effect
- Booroola have similar mutation but in receptor



Myostatin





Neonate

7 Months









A genome-wide genetic signature of Jewish ancestry perfectly separates individuals with and without full Jewish ancestry in a large random sample of European Americans Anna C Need, Dalia Kasperavičiūtė, Elizabeth T Cirulli and David B Goldstein. *Genome Biology* 2009.



Genetics and Jewish History

- Ashkenazi Jews roughly have about half Middle Eastern DNA, half European DNA
- The European contribution seems to be old, i.e. Roman
- Ashkenazi "appear" in history about the time of Charlemagne
- Ashkenazi origins are obscure

Ashkenazi Inherited Disorders

- Disorders are concentrated in a few clusters: All on the same page of a biochemistry textbook
- The mutant alleles are not old, several thousand years at most
- Hereditary disorders in Finland and Quebec do not cluster in pathways

Ashkenazi DNA Repair Cluster Disorders

BRCA1	breast cancer risk in heterozygotes, lethal in homozygotes	5.8 x 10-3	185delAG(66%), 5382insC(33%)
BRCA2	breast cancer risk in heterozygotes, lethal in homozygotes	5.55 x 10-3	6174delT(100%)
Fanconi anemia	average homozygote fitness of ~0.0	5.6 x 10-3	IVS4+4A (100%)
Bloom's syndrome	average homozygote fitness of ~0.0	4.7 x 10-3	2281 delta 6ins7 (100%)

Ashkenazi Sphingolipid Storage Disorders

Gaucher disease	Homozygote fitness of about 0.8?	2.8 x 10	84GG homozygotes are lethal, N370S is a milder mutation, with residual enzymatic activity: N370S (74%), 84GG (12%), L444P (3.9%), IVS2 (2.6%), V394L (2.6%)
Tay-Sachs	lethal	2.0 x 10	1278insTATC (85%), IVS12+1 (10%), G269S (4%)
Niemann-Pick	Lethal	6.25 x 10	Type A: R496L (43%), L302P (29%), fsP330 (25%) TypeB: R608P (?)
Mucolipidosis IV	Lethal	4.45x10	VS3-2A G (72%), 511del6434 (23%)

No Bottleneck in Ashkenazi History: Relative Genetic Diversity

Mixed	Ashkenazi	Yemeni	Druze	Samaritans	Finns	Russians
Europeans	Jews	Jews				
1	0.96	0.95	0.99	0.83	0.92	0.96

IQ Test Scores

- Ashkenazi mean 112—115
- This is 0.75 to 1.00 SD's above European mean
- High verbal and math scores
- Visuospatial scores relatively low
- 3% of US population, 27% of US Nobel prizes, 25% of Turing awards
- Sephardic and Oriental Jews show no IQ elevation
- No one in classical world said that Jews were "smart"

Selection in Ashkenazi History

- Farmers in classical times
- European Jews entered a new niche as cities were restored after fall of western Roman Empire
- Money lenders first, later managers, tax farmers
- Were welcomed into Poland in thirteenth and fourteenth centuries
- Very successful ethnic group, population grew





Selection on a Quantitative Trait

- Response to selection is h²s where h² is additive heritability and s is selection differential
 - For example is IQ heritability is 0.5 and if the mean IQ of parents is 1 point greater than the population mean, IQ will increase ¹/₂ point per generation, or 10 points in 500 years
- Strong selection for a trait that is not fitness itself has fitness costs
 - Five generations of selection for bristle number in
 Drosophila led to 20% to 35% loss in competitive ability

Selection on IQ (or anything)



Costs of Rapid Selection

Drosophila: five generations of selection for bristle number cut fitness by 30%

Sickle cell anemia the canonical human example: note hyperendemic P. falciparum only a few thousand years old

BMP15 mutation in Inverdale sheep: heterozygotes twin and triplet, homozygotes sterile

Hanna sheep have different mutation of BMP15 with same effects

Booroola sheep have mutation with similar effects in BMP15 receptor

Myostatin mutation in South Devon and Belgian Blue cattle increases muscle mass but calving difficulty in homozygotes, frequency of gene is 37%



Morphological alterations in neurons in experimental and inherited GSL lysosomal diseases

Meganeurites in GM1 gangliosidosis

Meganeurites in GM2 gangliosidosis

Meganeurites in Tay-Sachsdisease

Neuronal cell death in Gaucher disease

Increased axonal growth in experimental Gaucher disease



Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia

nonclassical

• very high gene frequency: almost 20%

• many reports of increased IQ

