

Population structure and demography

Prepared by Claire Mérot & Anna Tigano
Physalia Course 15th September 2020

Why does population structure matter when studying adaptation?

Evolution (including adaptive evolution)

is the result of the interplay of

Selection

Drift

Mutation

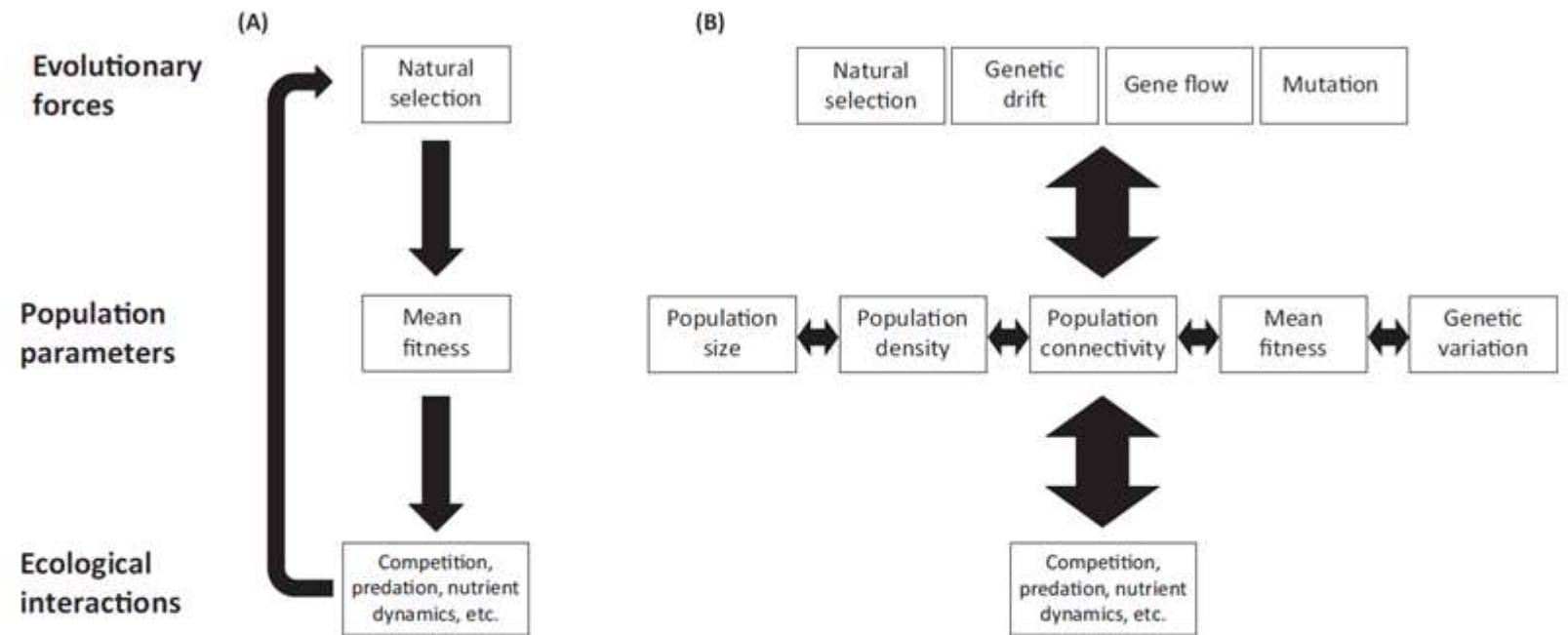
Gene flow (migration + recombination)

Evolutionary, demographic and ecological processes are inseparable

Review

Population Genetics and Demography Unite Ecology and Evolution

Winsor H. Lowe,^{1,*} Ryan P. Kovach,² and Fred W. Allendorf¹



Trends in Ecology & Evolution

Figure 1. Evolutionary and Ecological Processes Are Inseparable. Conceptual illustration of interconnections among evolutionary forces and ecological interactions (biotic and abiotic) through population-level demographic and genetic parameters. (A) represents those interconnections emphasized in current eco-evolutionary research. (B) represents a more comprehensive model of these interconnections, including the full suite of evolutionary forces and a range of population parameters that are themselves interdependent. We build our review around population demographic parameters (size, density, connectivity), but describe key interactions with genetic parameters (mean fitness, genetic variation). We define mean fitness according to population genetics theory as the sum of the fitnesses of genotypes in a population weighted by their proportions [88], thus representing the population-level effects of local adaptation.

Complementary objectives:

Study selection and adaptation		Demographic history and structure of populations
Actions	Focus on (putatively) adaptive loci	Focus on neutral loci
Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">. Study ecological/functional diversity. Understand adaptative processes under divergent or balancing selection. Identify candidate genes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">. Understand the past history of populations. Describe population connectivity. Assess general genetic diversity

Different loci tells a different story...

Example:

Wilding *et al.*, 2001. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 14: 611-619

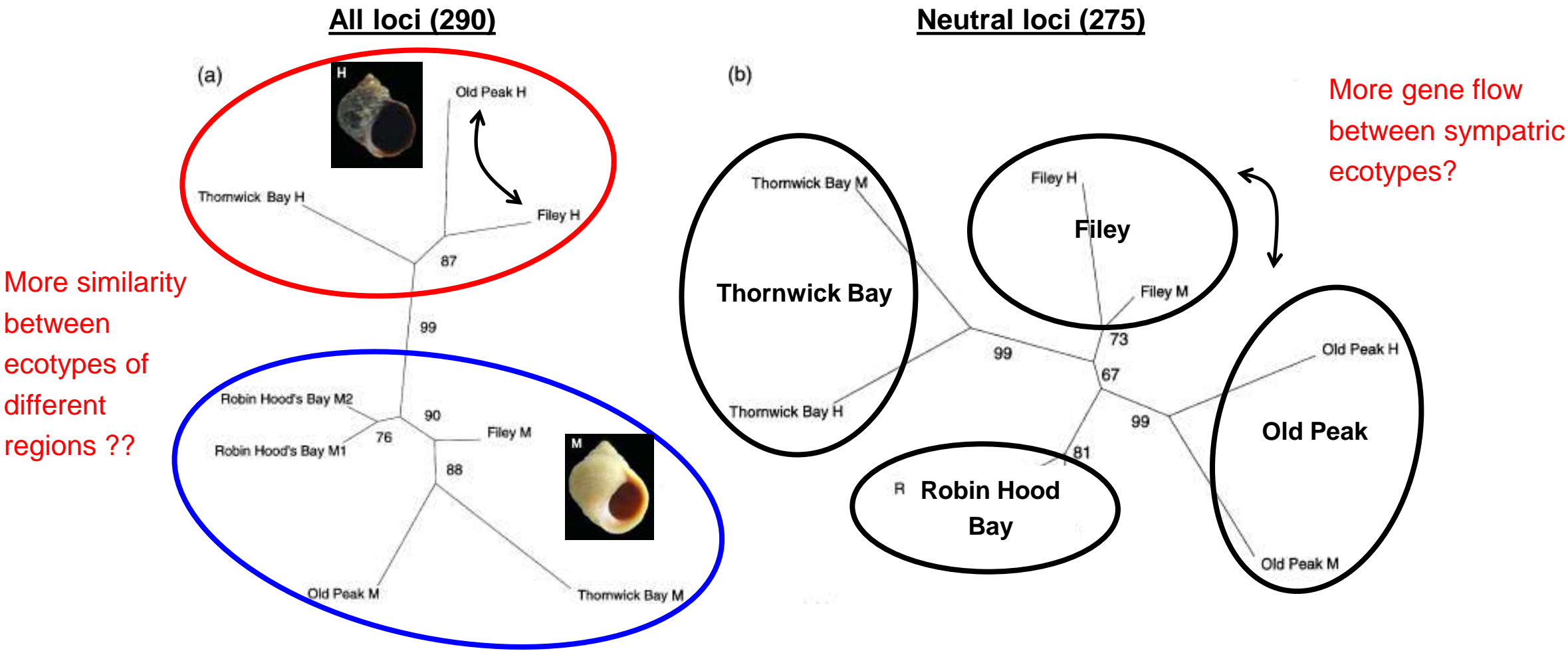
. Parapatric ecotype *Littorina saxatilis*



Different loci tells a different story...

Exemple:

Wilding *et al.*, 2001. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 14: 611-619



Drift

= variation in allele frequency due to random processes

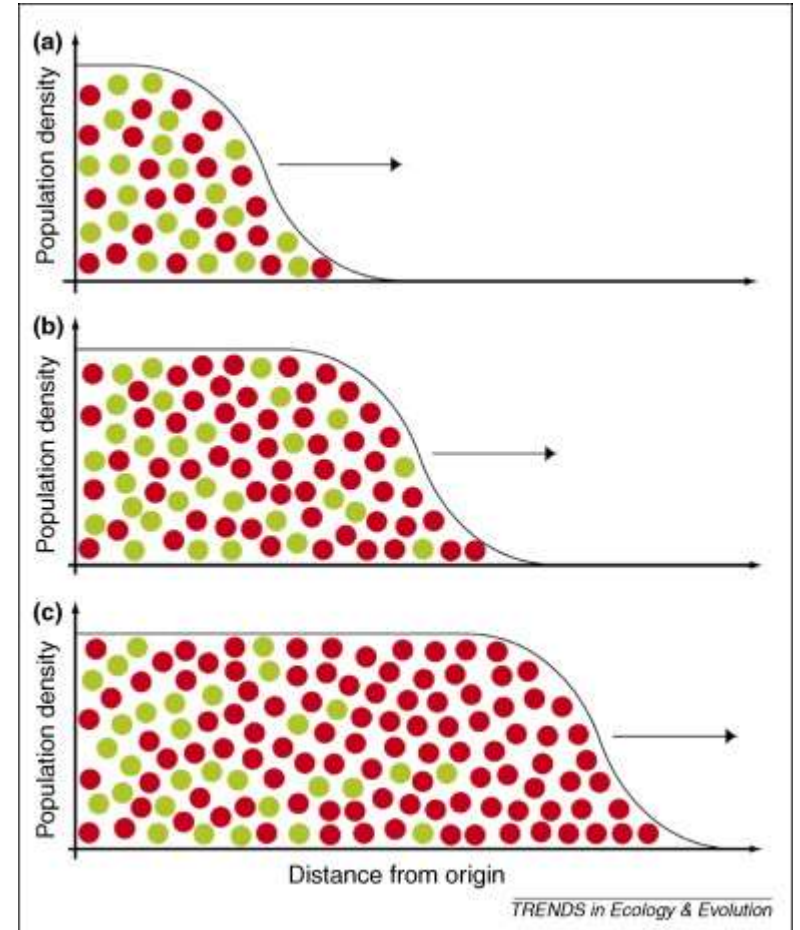
Drift is stronger in smaller populations and it can cause the loss or fixation of a variant due to random sampling of alleles.

Drift is the main driver of genetic population structure, and can generate a genetic footprint similar to that of selection.

Allele surfing

Populations on the leading edge of the expansion are small, and individuals from those populations contribute disproportionately to the propagating wave of expansion.

⇒ Rapid drift of some alleles at the expanding edge and high differentiation in allele frequencies over the landscape for some loci, even in the absence of selection



Surfing during population expansions promotes genetic revolutions and structuration

Excoffier & Ray

TREE 2008

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2008.04.004>

Spatial autocorrelation

Correlation between environmental variation & geographic distances
(e.g. climatic clines!)

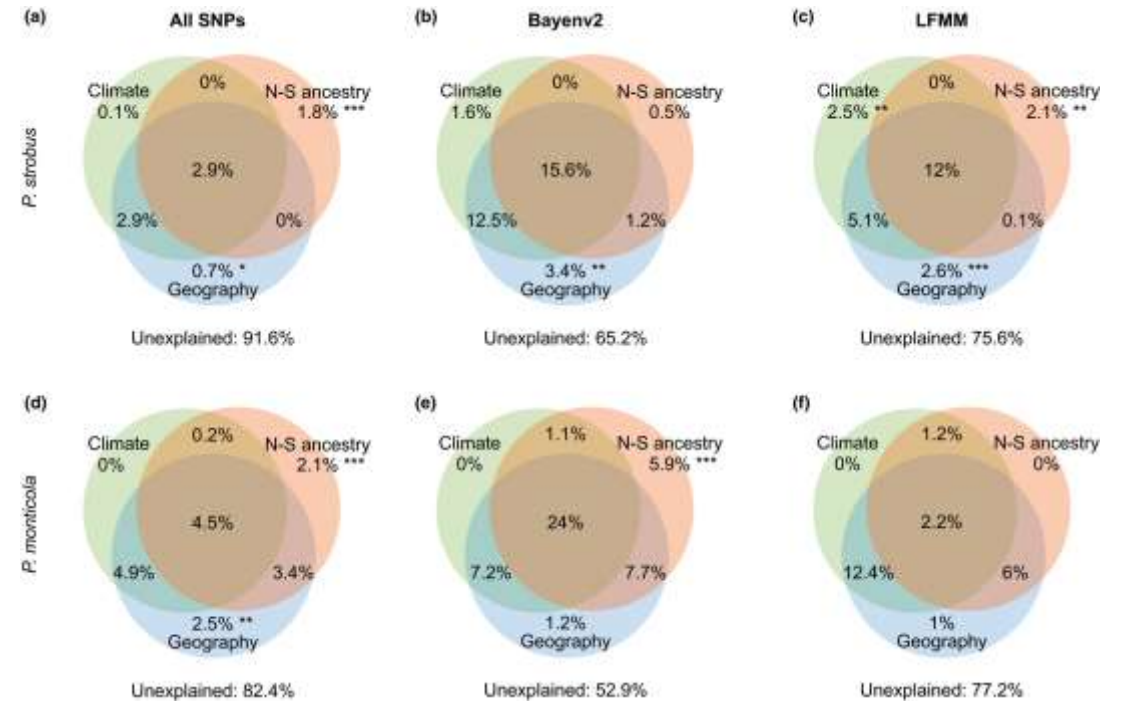
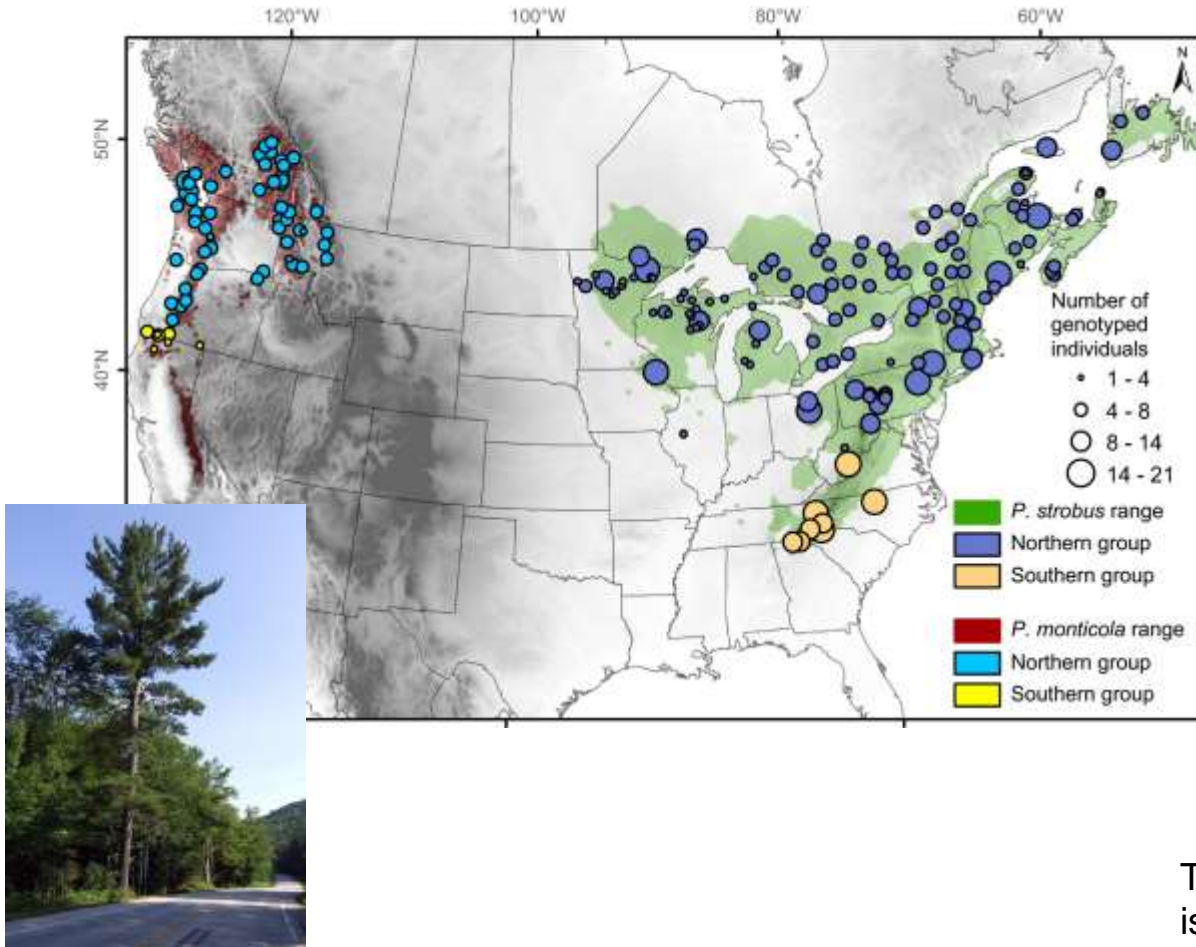
⇒ What is adaptation? What is drift?

+ Residuals of past range expansion out of glacial refugees...

⇒ What is adaptation? What are the results of past history?

Nearby locations are not statistically independent, strong correlations between neutral alleles and environmental variables are more likely to occur by chance than expected with some null models

Isolation-by-distance or adaptation along a gradient ... or both?



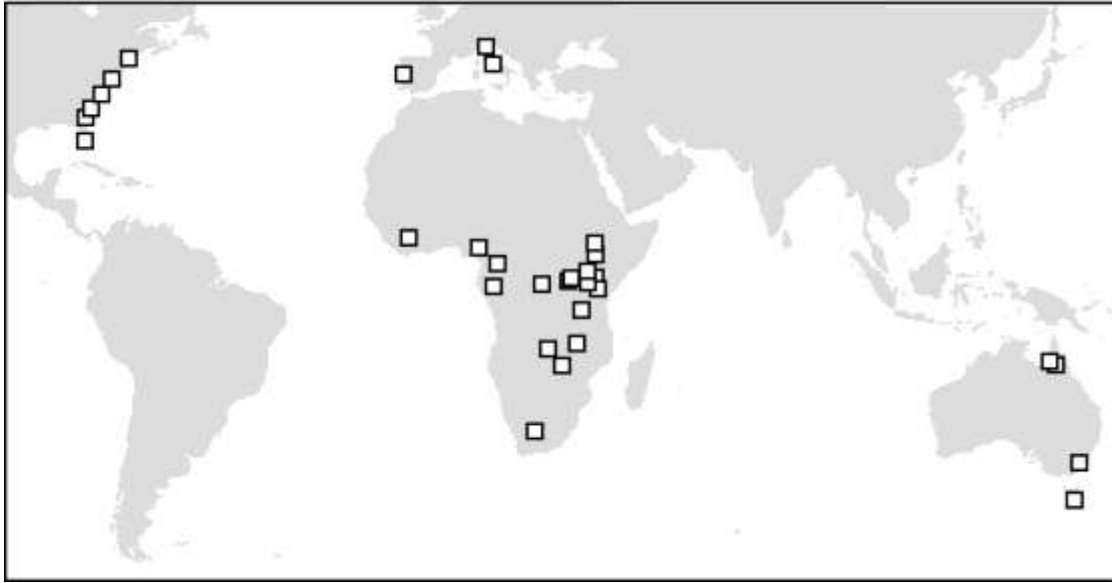
The challenge of separating signatures of local adaptation from those of isolation by distance and colonization history: The case of two white pines
Nadeau et al, 2016 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.2550>

Contact between different lineages / hybridization

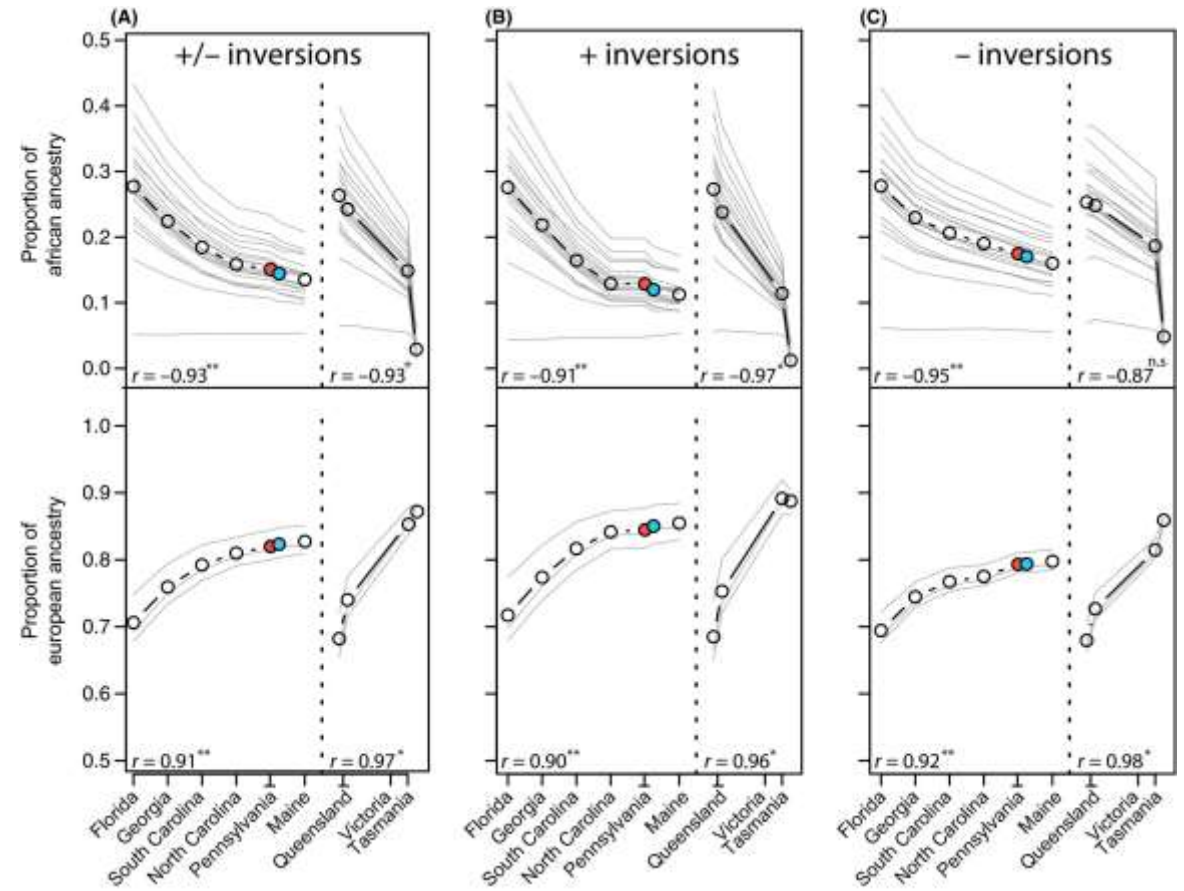
Signature of selection or of local adaptation are best detected in a context of (high) gene flow.

Any substructure (lineages, species, secondary contact, admixed populations) should be taken into account.

Clinal variation or secondary contact... Or both?



Bergland et al, 2015 MolEcol
<https://doi-org/10.1111/mec.13455>



How to characterise population structure?

Unsupervised methods:

- PCA

Semi-supervised methods (K = number of expected clusters)

- Bayesian clustering

Supervised methods (with location information for instance)

- DAPC
- F_{st} between pairs of populations

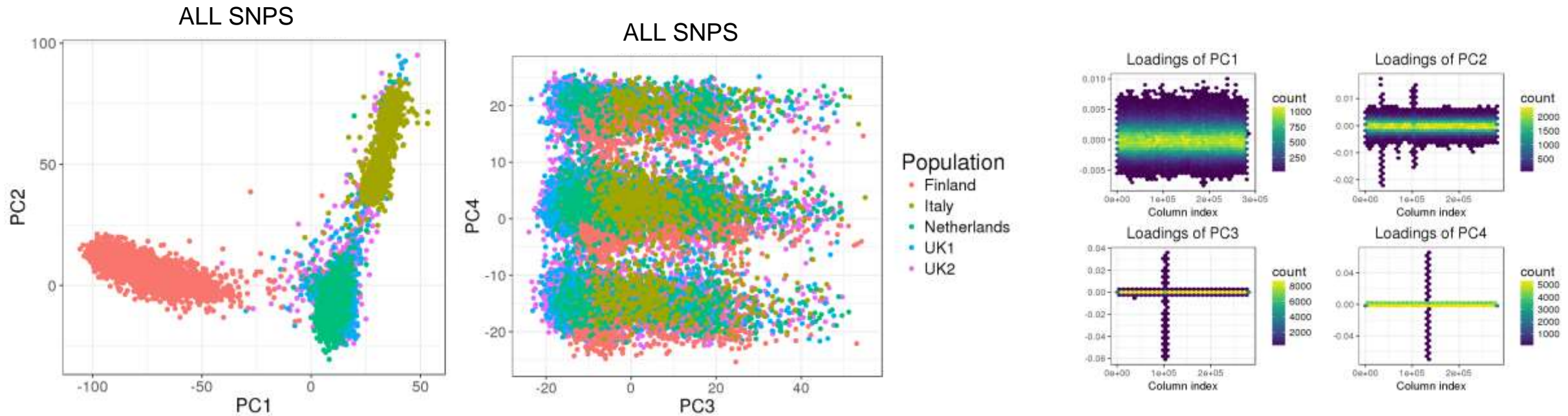
Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- A common statistical tool that reduces matrix complexity by identifying the eigenvectors and ordering them
- The top PCs reflect axis of genetic variation along which individuals with same ancestry, or exchanging genetic material, are more similar to each other.
- Caution: can be strongly driven by few loci in linkage disequilibrium...
- For population structure purpose:
 - > compare Pca on all SNPs vs. Pca on LD-pruned SNPs
 - > look at loadings of the PCs: which fraction of the genome explains PC1? Explains PC2? Etc..
- There is lots of genetic variance, it can be relatively expected that even PC1 explains less than 1% of variance. (but it can also capture 20-50%... Depends on the dataset!)

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Each individual is a point with coordinates along all PCs

Each genetic marker contribute to all PCs with a different strength (loadings)



Packages *bigstatsr*, *bigsnpr* to remove short-range and long-range LD.
Nice tutorial about PCA for pop genomics!

Florian Privé

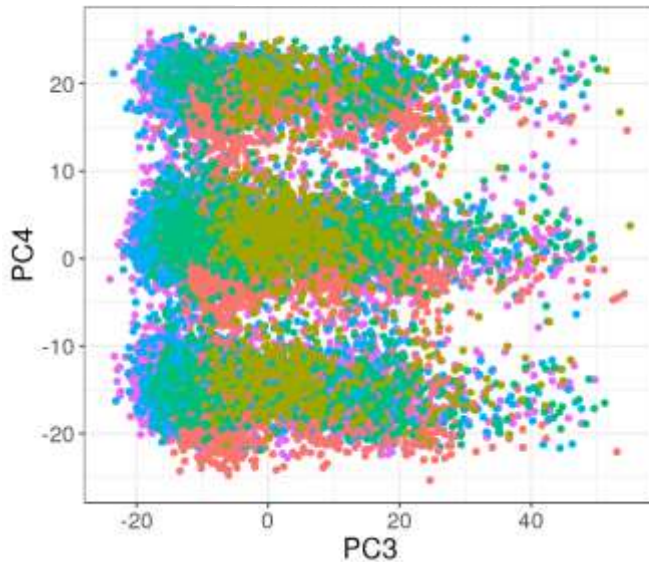
<https://privefl.github.io/bigsnpr/articles/how-to-PCA.html>

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

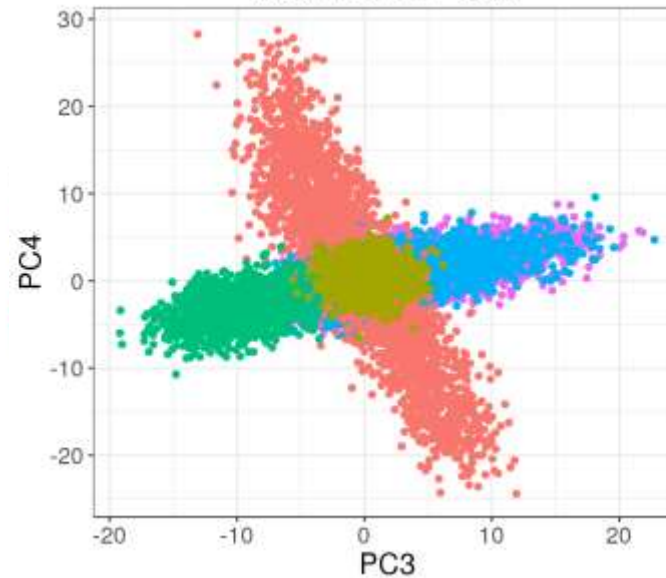
Each individual is a point with coordinates along all PCs

Each genetic marker contribute to all PCs with a different strength (loadings)

ALL SNPS

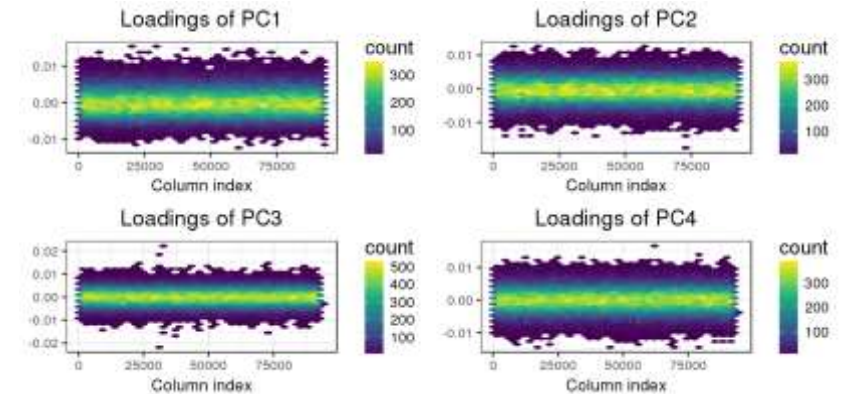


LD-pruned SNPs



Population

- Finland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- UK1
- UK2



Packages *bigstatsr*, *bigsnpr* to remove short-range and long-range LD.
Nice tutorial about PCA for pop genomics!

Florian Privé

<https://privefl.github.io/bigsnpr/articles/how-to-PCA.html>

Bayesian clustering (STRUCTURE, etc..)

- Aim to sort individuals into K clusters so as to minimize departures from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and linkage equilibrium
- Caution: can be strongly driven by few loci in linkage disequilibrium...
- For population structure purpose:
 - > compare results on all SNPs vs. results on LD-pruned SNPs
 - > explore many values of K
- Admixture or FastSTRUCTURE replace STRUCTURE for genome-wide data
- Evaluate the fit of the model

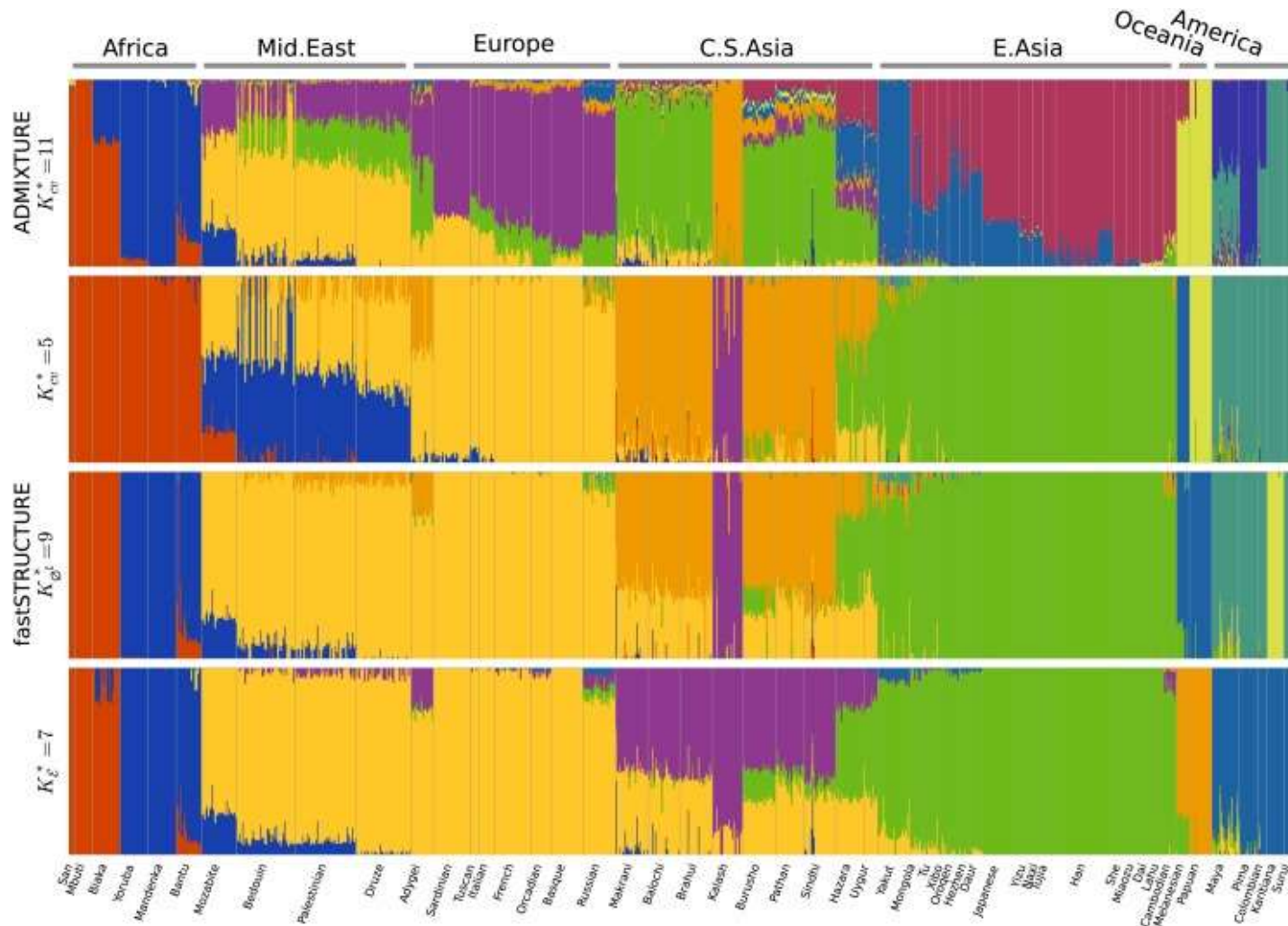
Evaluation of model fit of inferred admixture proportions

[Genís Garcia-Erill](#) [Anders Albrechtsen](#)

MER 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1755-0998.13171>

Bayesian clustering (STRUCTURE, etc..)



Each individual is a thin vertical line that is partitioned into K colored segments according to its membership coefficients in K clusters.

fastSTRUCTURE: variational inference of population structure in large SNP data sets 2014 Genetics

[Anil Raj¹](#), [Matthew Stephens²](#), [Jonathan K Pritchard³](#)
[10.1534/genetics.114.164350](https://doi.org/10.1534/genetics.114.164350)

The advantage of unsupervised/semi-supervised methods:
=> Other surprises!!

Species lineage substructure

Hybridisation

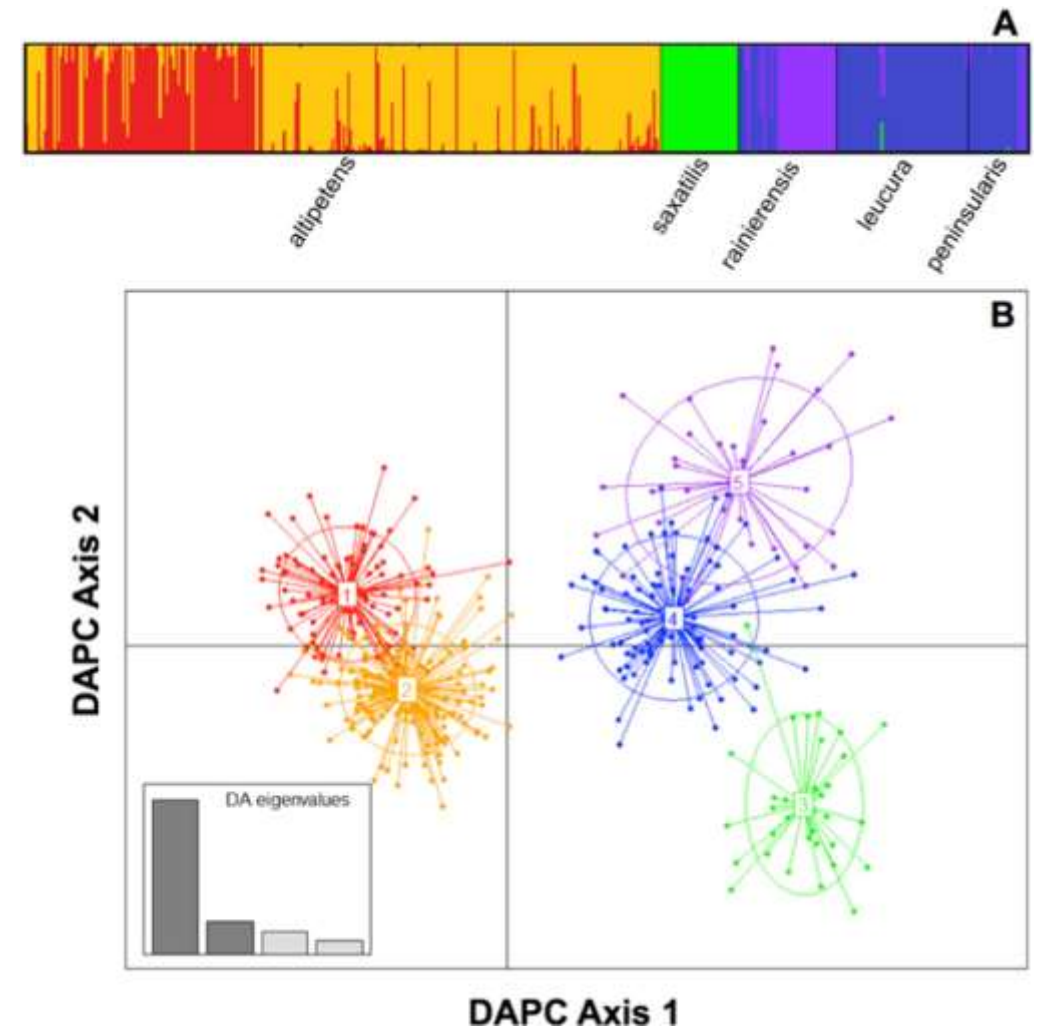
Chromosomal
rearrangements.....

DAPC (discriminant PCA)

- A mix of a discriminant analysis and a PCA
- It will try very hard to find axis of variation that discriminate the groups given *a priori*
- **WARNING:** A dangerous analysis when we have much more markers (SNPs) than groups (populations)... Be well aware of not over-fitting and not-overinterpreting the output.

Miller, J.M., Cullingham, C.I. & Peery, R.M. The influence of a priori grouping on inference of genetic clusters: simulation study and literature review of the DAPC method. *Heredity* (2020).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41437-020-0348-2>

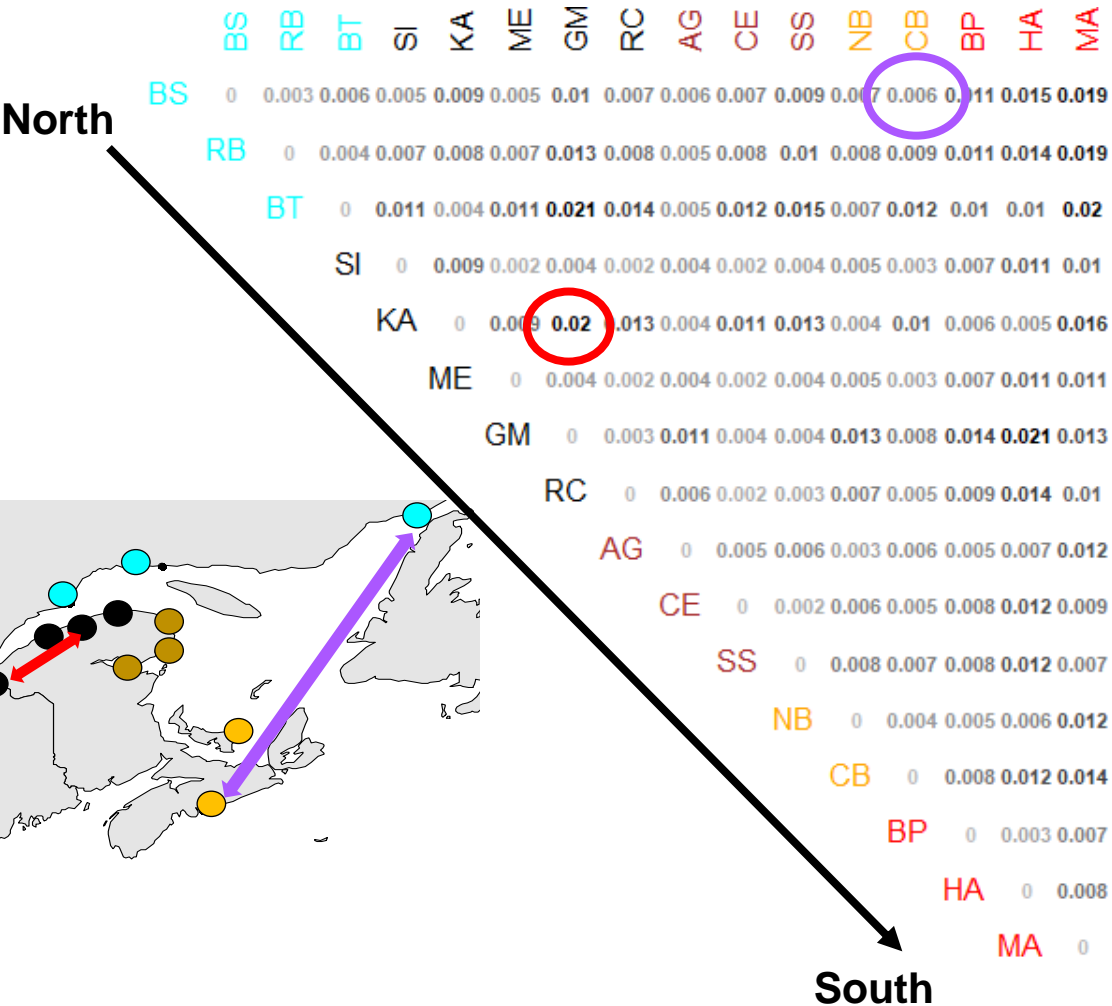


Pairwise Fst

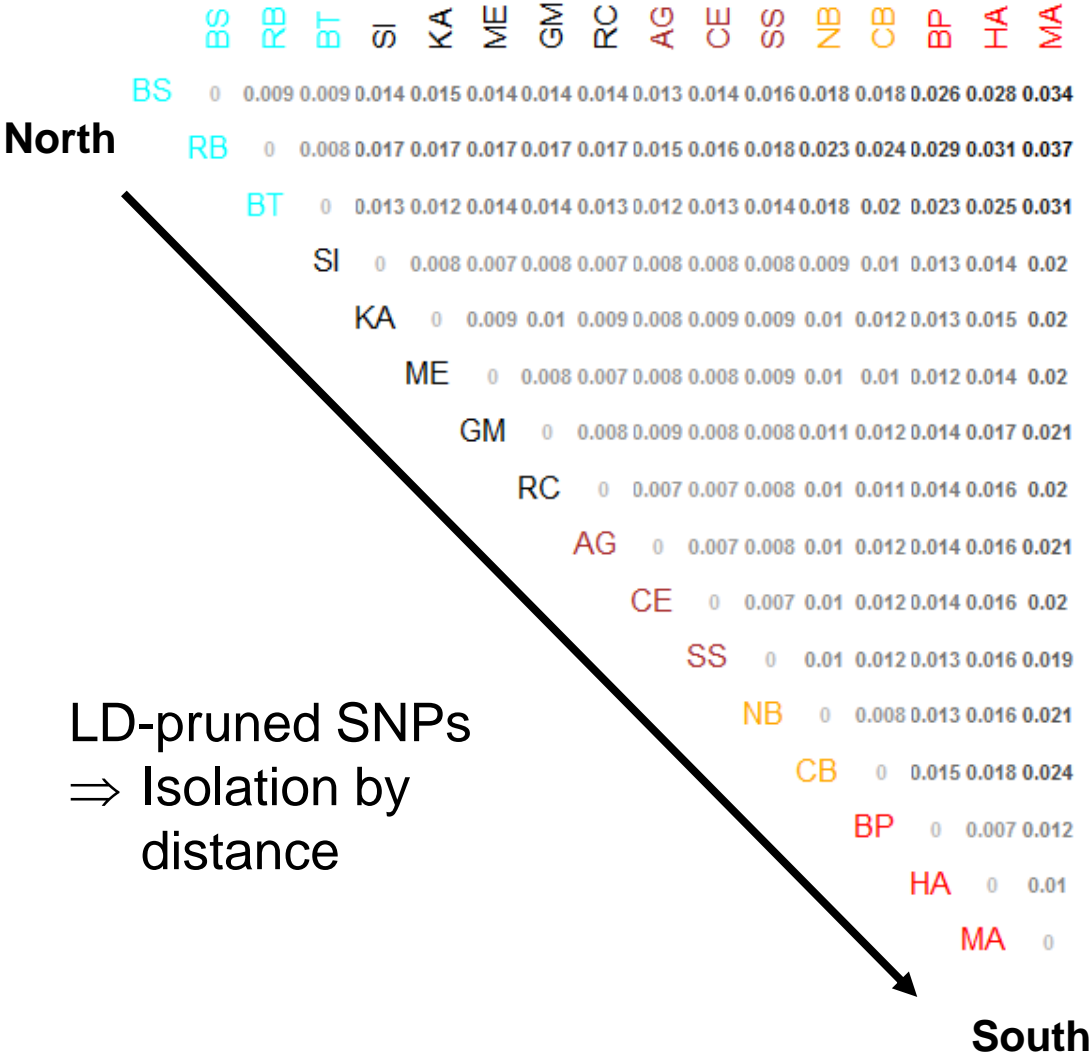
- Fst can only be computed between two groups.
- When sampling several populations, we will be interested in Fst between all pairs of individuals.
- A measure of genetic distance between all populations (does it correlate with ecological distances? Geographic distances? Etc?)
- Again, likely better on Ld-pruned SNPs to infer neutral structure...
- Absolute values are informative... (0,000x -> high gene flow, don't bother too much about looking for structure. 0,01-0,1 -> consider carefully structure... Higher: do you really have one species?)

Pairwise Fst

ALL SNPs



LD-pruned SNPs



Case study

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

WILEY **MOLECULAR ECOLOGY**

Genome-wide signals of drift and local adaptation during rapid lineage divergence in a songbird

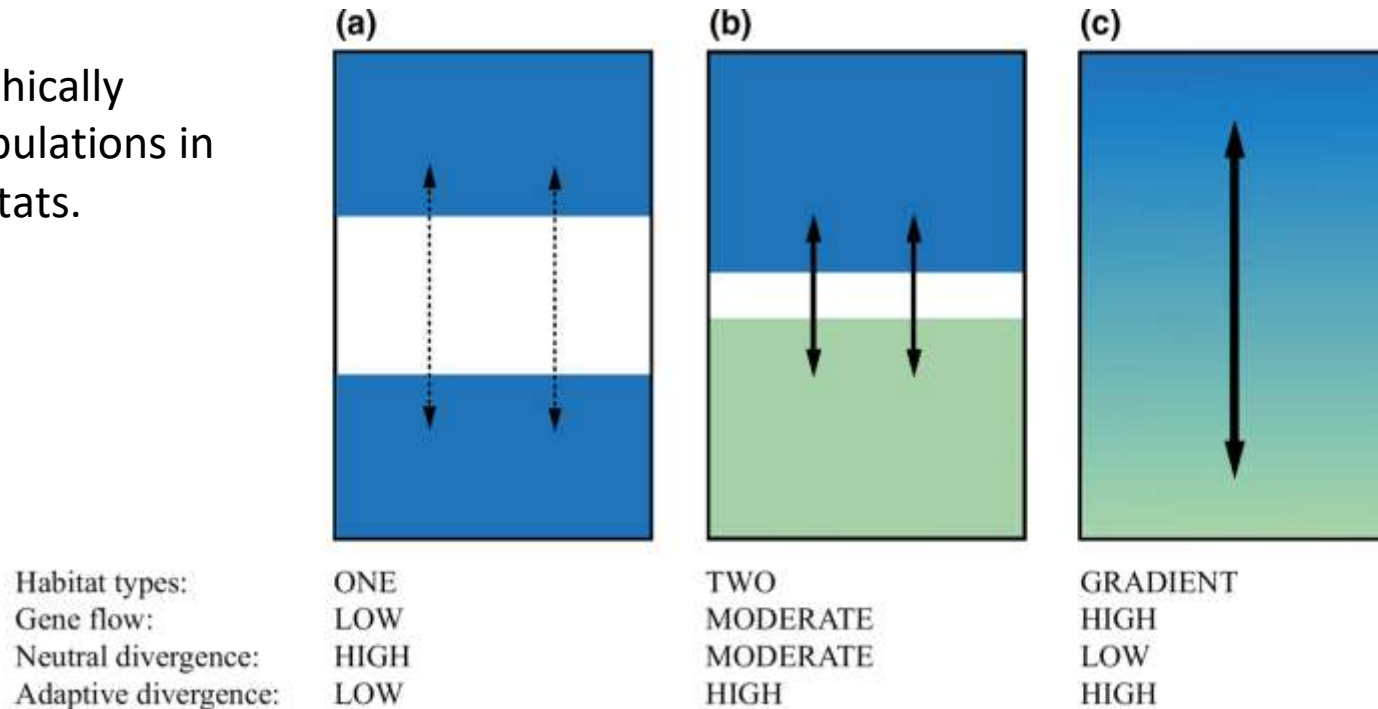
Guillermo Friis¹  | Guillermo Fandos²  | Amanda J. Zellmer³  |
John E. McCormack^{3,4}  | Brant C. Faircloth⁵  | Borja Milá¹ 

Set expectations

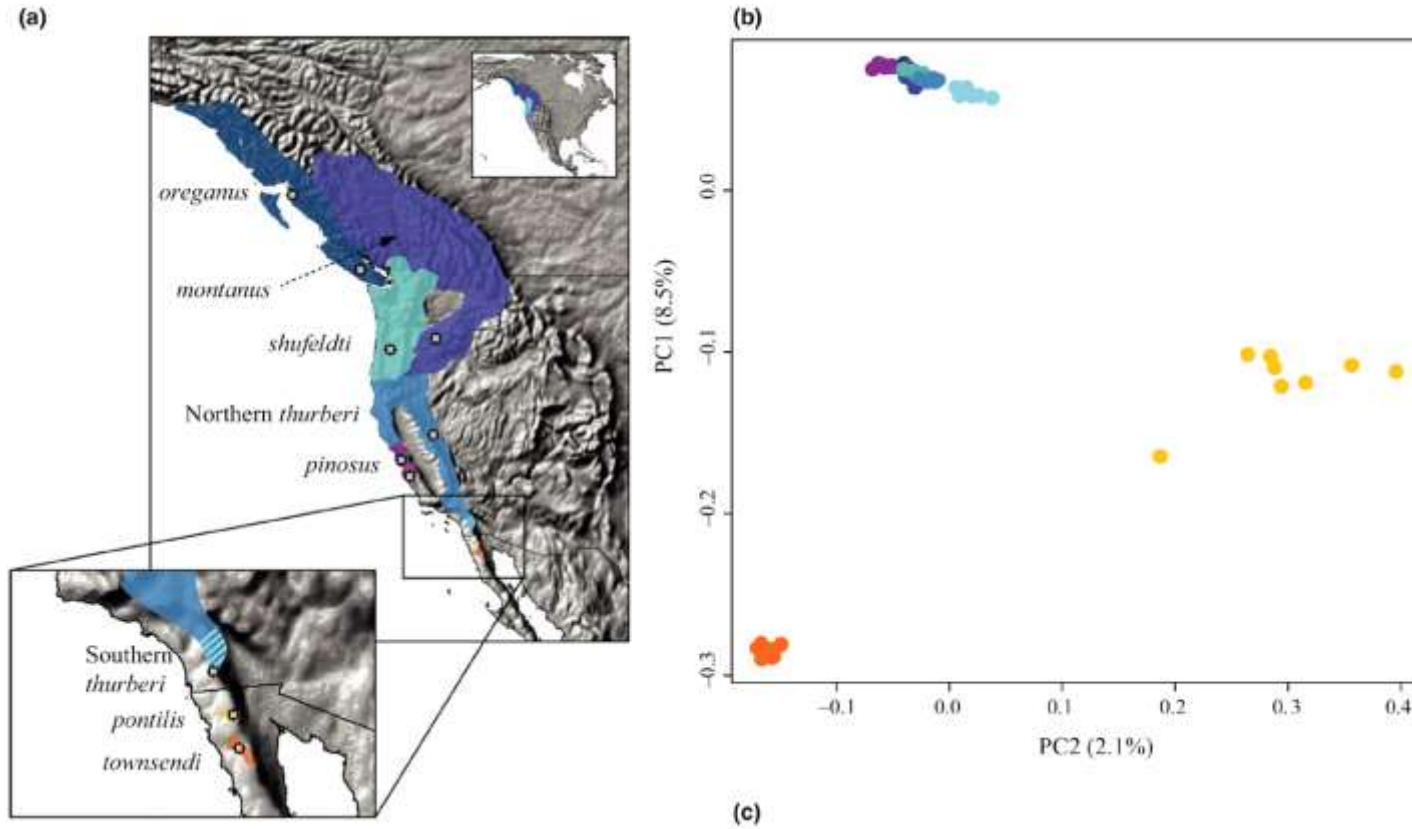
(b) Parapatric populations in ecologically divergent habitats.

(a) Geographically isolated populations in similar habitats.

(c) Population continuum across a selective gradient

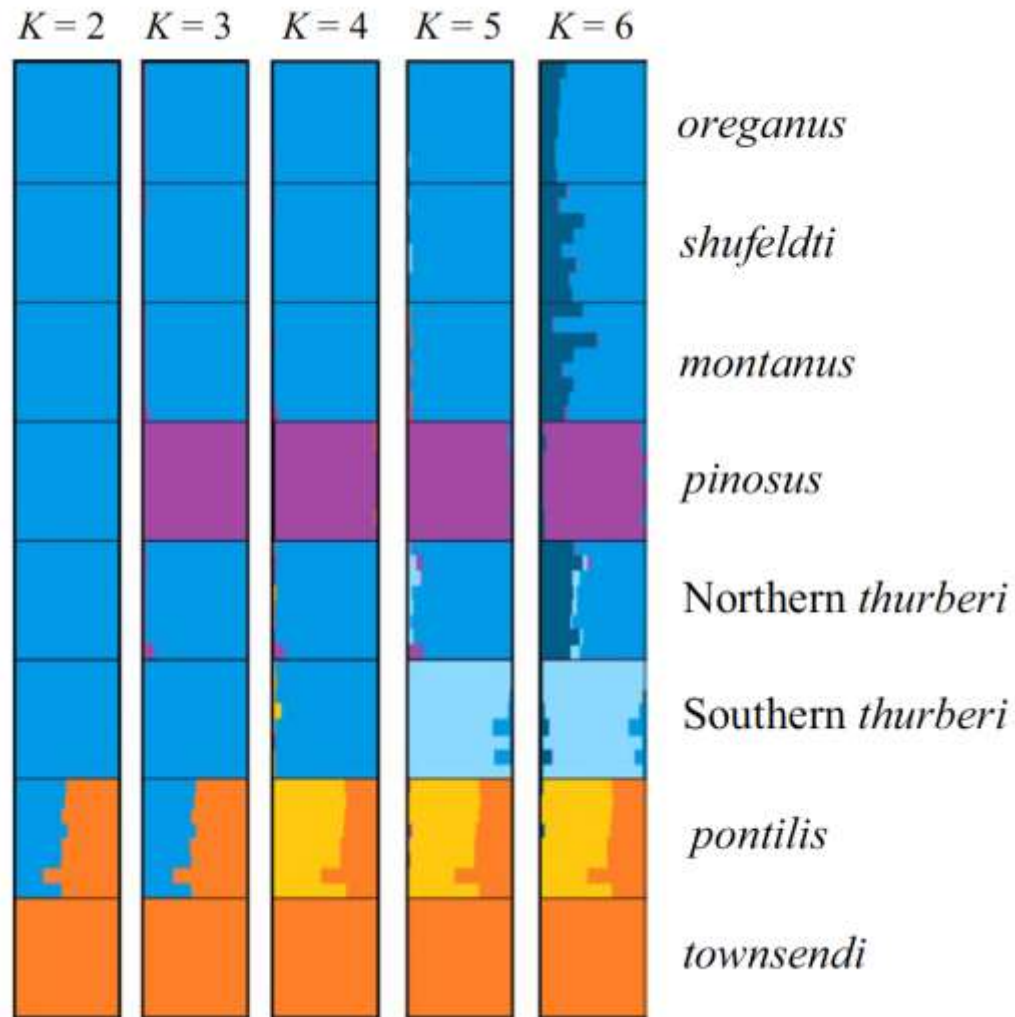


PCA for data exploration



Prior-free data
exploration

STRUCTURE for population structure



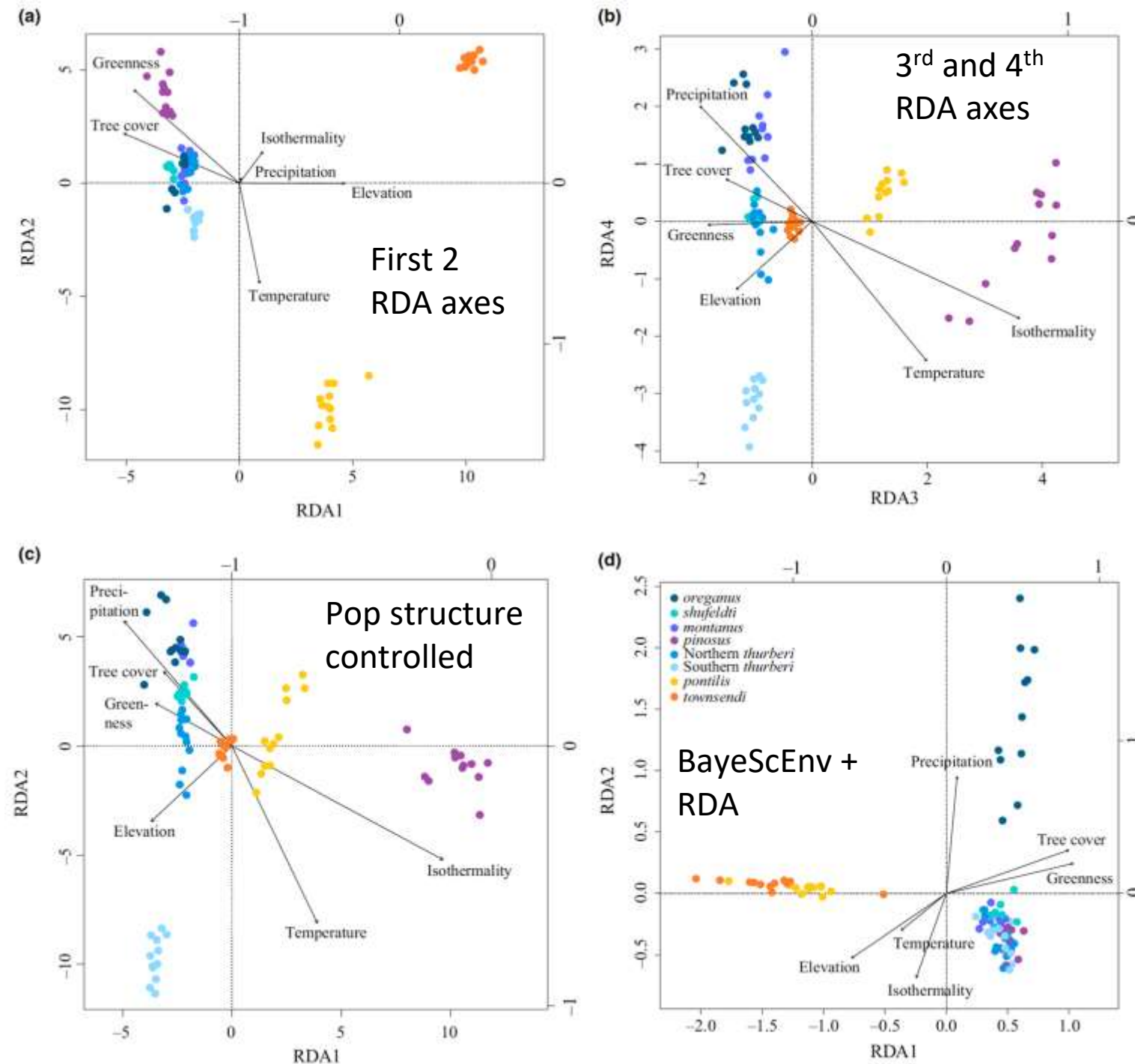
Always examine multiple K values as more than one K could be biologically informative

(STRUCTURE doesn't deal well with hierarchical population structure)

GEA

Genotype-environment
associations with multiple
approaches

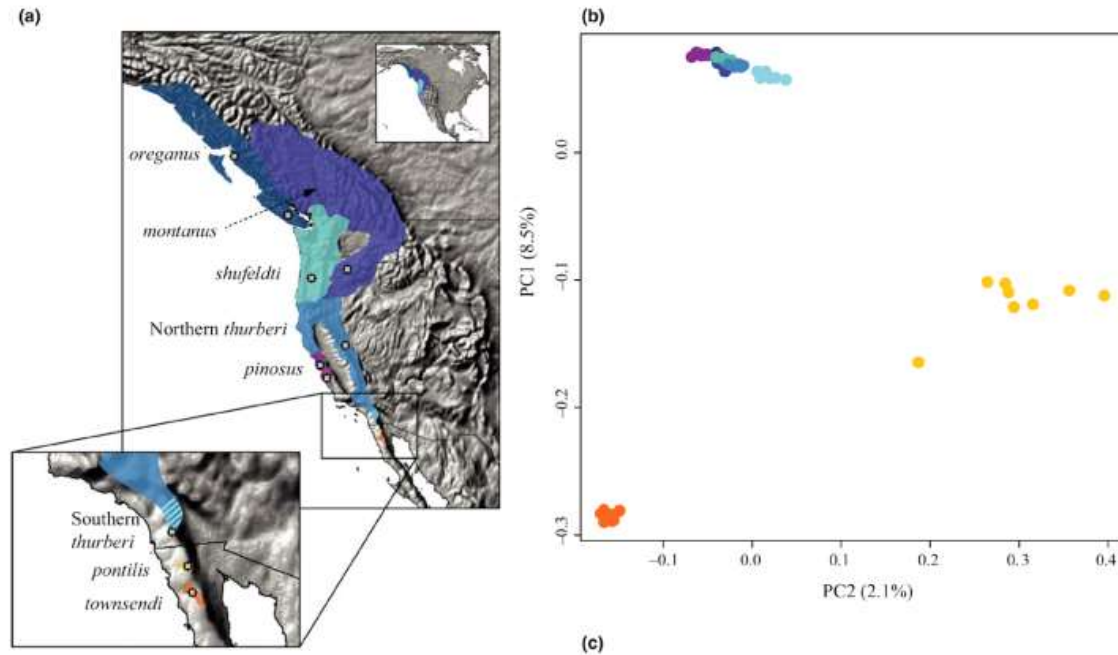
*Lecture
tomorrow,
we come back
on that*



Partition of genetic variation

- Environmental variables (controlling for population structure) 1.17%
- Environmental variable + pop structure 7.41%
- 92.59%?
 - Loci under balancing selection
 - Other selective pressures
 - Shared neutral variation due to relatedness and/or gene flow

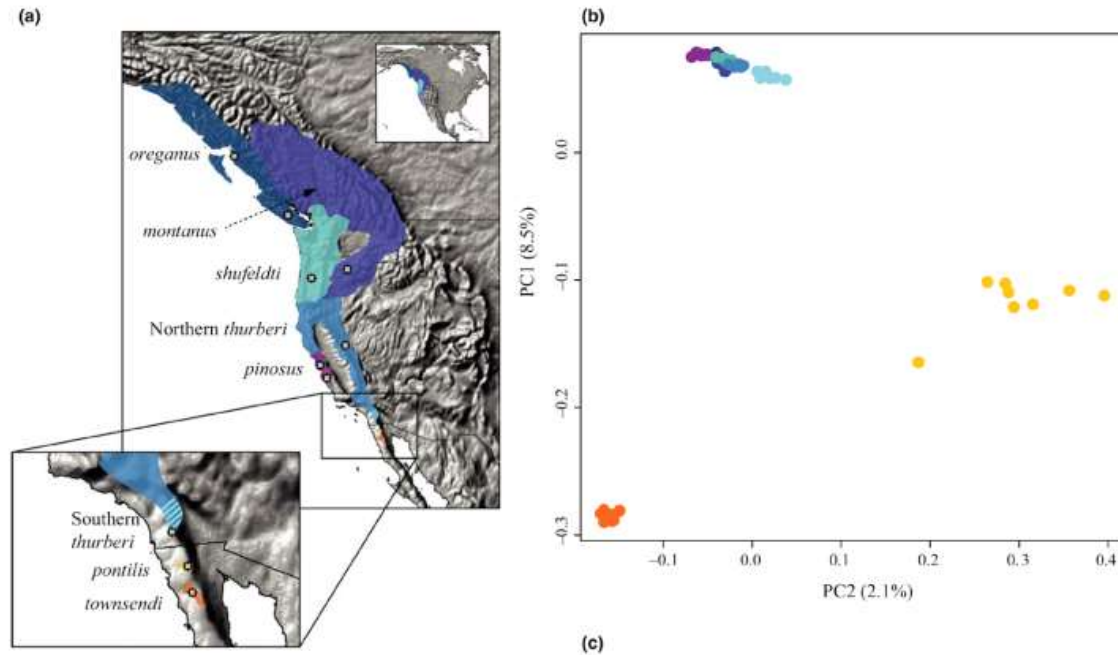
Environment + geography + demography



Strong population structure and
weak GEA

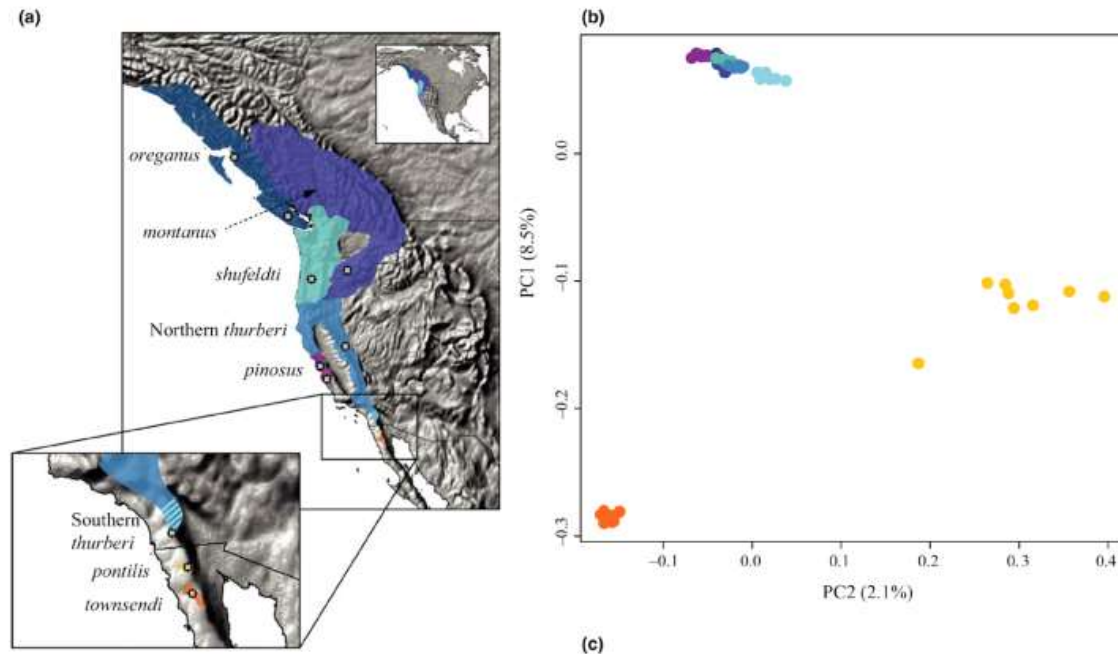
Isolation-by-resistance and drift

Environment + geography + demography



Weak pop structure and
stronger differentiation on GEA
Isolation-by-adaptation?

Environment + geography + demography



No pop structure + environmental associations

⇒ Ongoing gene flow and local adaptation

And help from experimental work /knowledge of natural history

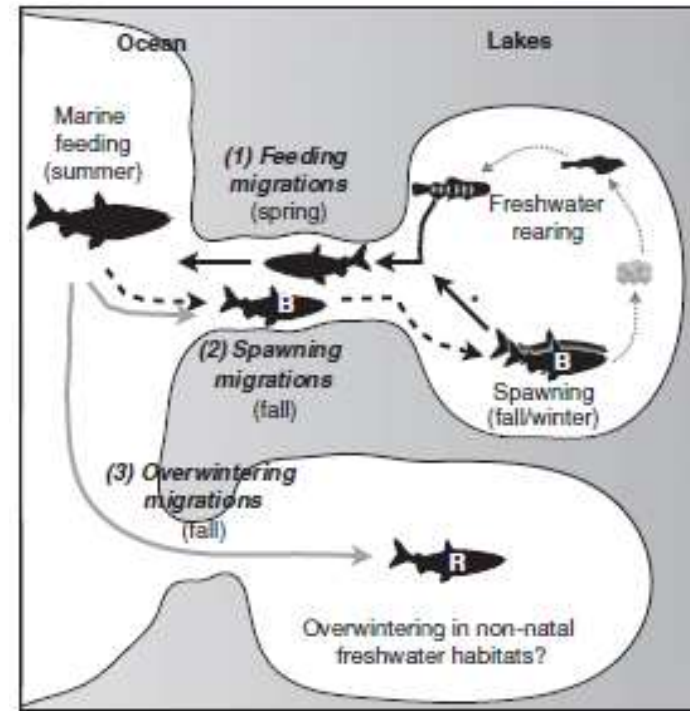
Capture-Mark-Recapture

-> population size, dynamic and movement

Spatial ecology

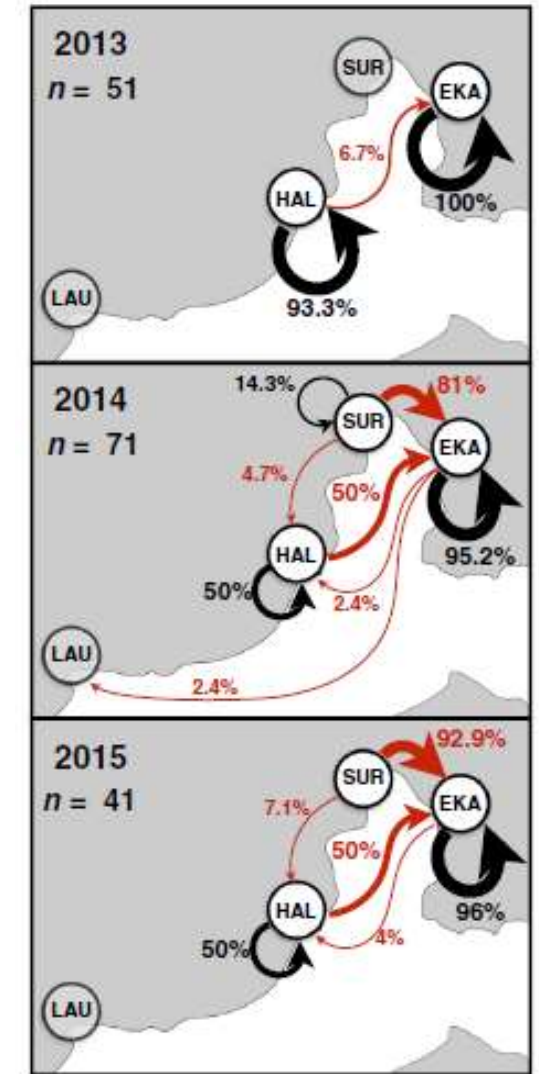
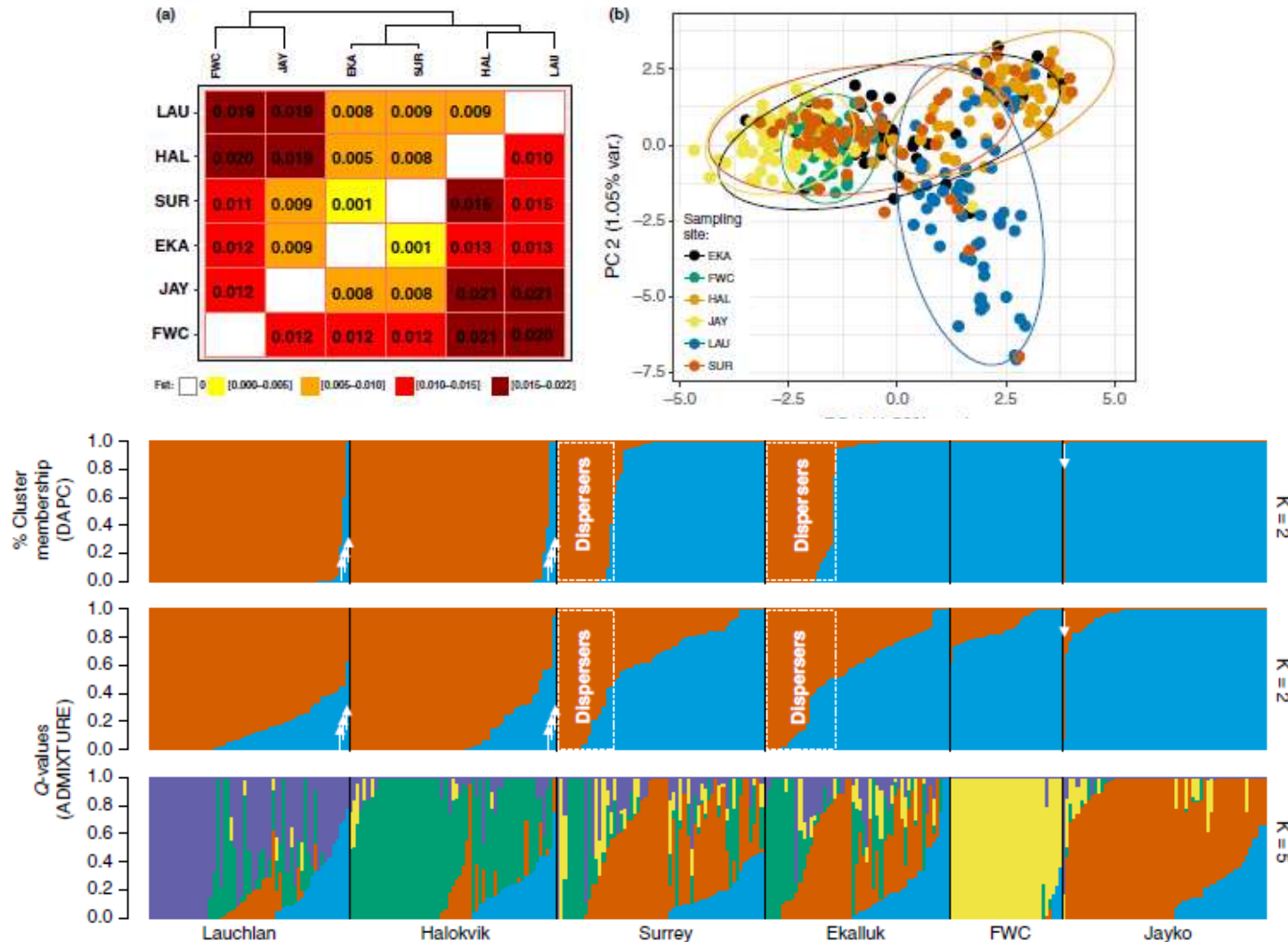
-> tracking, etc..

e.g : telemetry & genomics



Moore, J.-S., L.N. Harris, J. Le Luyer, B.J.G. Sutherland, Q. Rougemont, R.F. Tallman, A.T. Fisk & L. Bernatchez (2017) Genomics and telemetry suggest a role for migration harshness in determining overwintering habitat choice, but not gene flow, in anadromous Arctic Char. ***Molecular Ecology***, 26(24): 6784-6800

And help from experimental work /knowledge of natural history

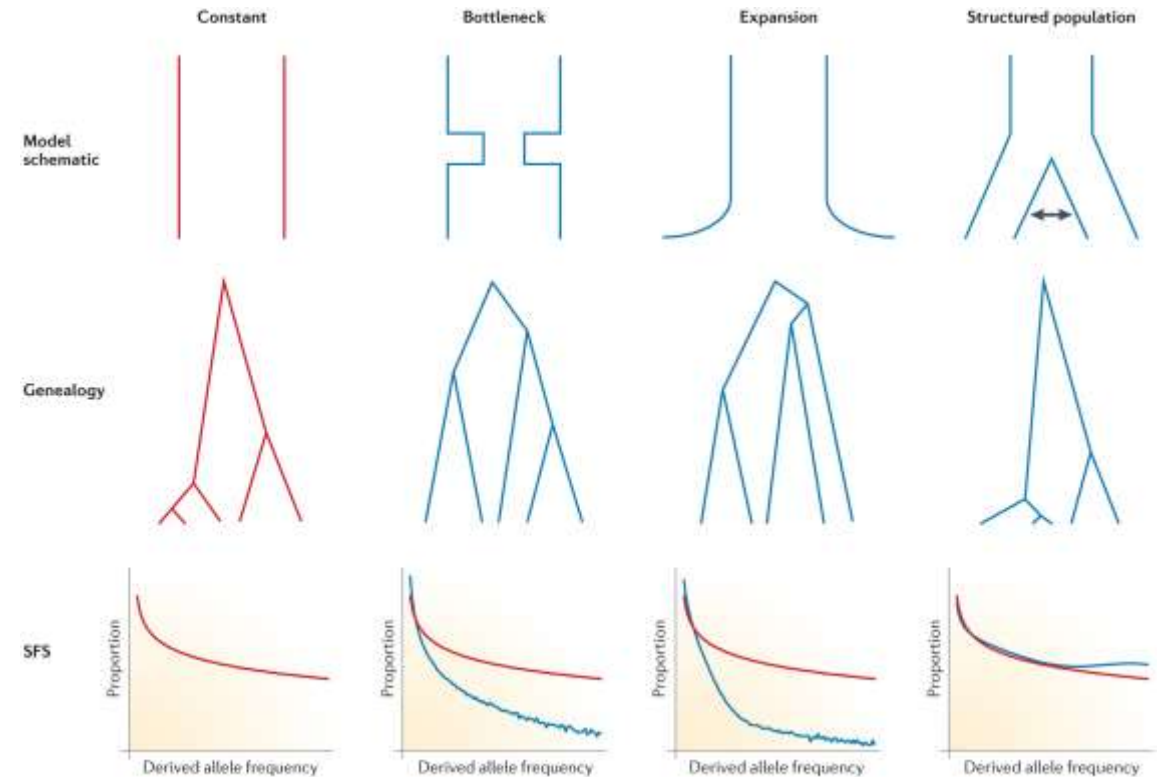


Beyond present structure...

How to know population history and demography?

Models:

- to understand population history, bottleneck, gene flow...
- demography can set a null model against which one can look for the effect of selection



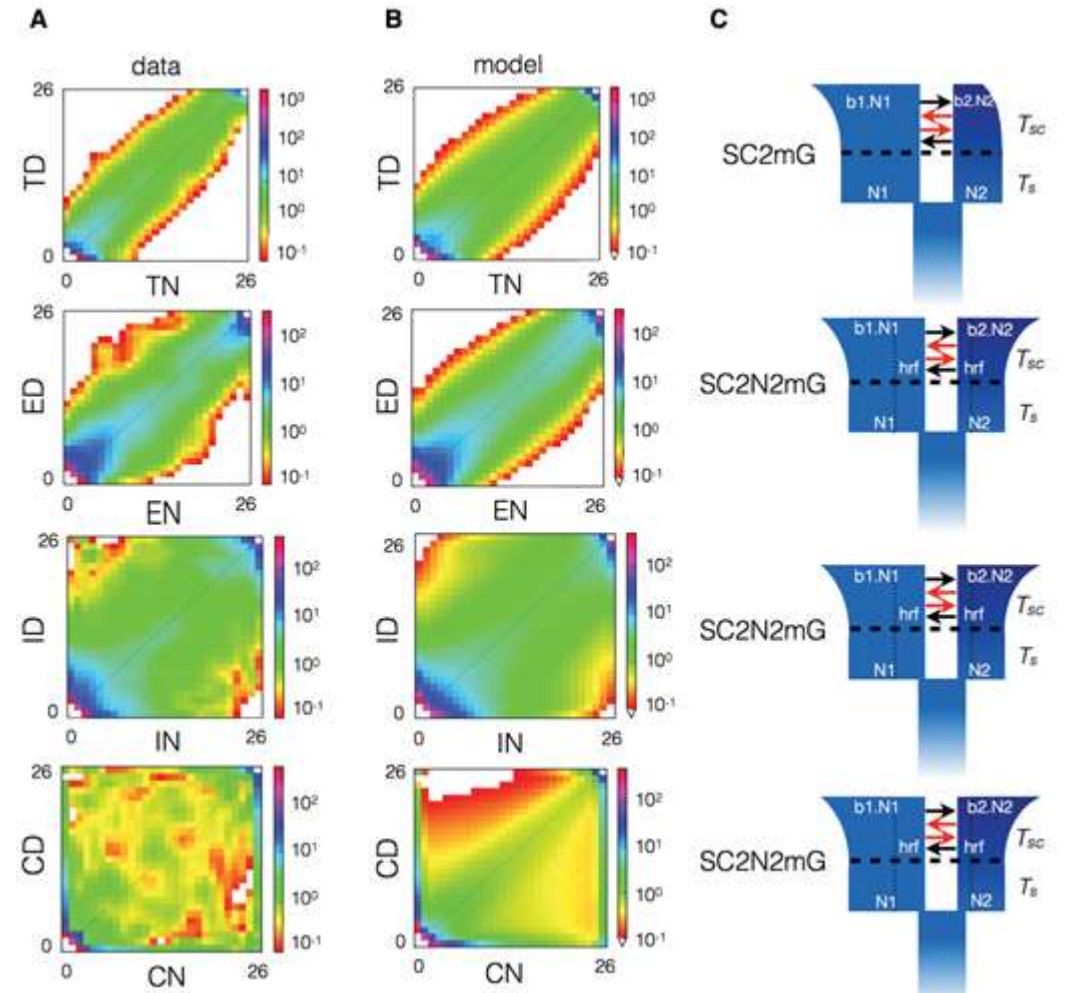
Beyond present structure...

How to know population history and demography?

Based on coalescence theory

Compare SFS (site frequency spectrum) between real data and modelled data under different scenario

Common tools: dadi, FastSimCoal, ABC...



Population structure and demography

A good overview

Schraiber, J., Akey, J. Methods and models for unravelling human evolutionary history. *Nat Rev Genet* 16, 727–740 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrg4005>

