

Test the Effectiveness of Principal Components in Adjusting for Relatedness in Genetic Association Studies

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October 31, 2019

1 Introduction

Genome-wide association study (GWAS) has been widely used to investigate whether target Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) is associated with certain trait (association study). However, considering admixture population is involved in recent study, linkage disequilibrium (LD) exists due to the chromosomal segments of different sub-population's (k) ancestry [1]. The existence of linkage disequilibrium or failure to correct for population structure can reduce statistical power. Hence, principal component analysis (PCA) which is a dimensionality-reduction method is used to provide examination for admixture population to identify the causal locus [2,3]. Although in recent study PCA has been a standard method to investigate the GWAS, doubts are cast on its statistical power when comparing with other existing implementation such as linear mixed model (LMM) [4]. Since current studies mainly focus on simple simulations or observation on real data [4, 5], existing evaluation can be limited to fully investigate the statistical power of PCA. In this paper, both simulation and real data set are used to evaluate the performance of PCA under different situations.

According to the result of our simulation,

2 Method

2.1 Theory connecting to kinship

2.2 PCA GWAS is Equivalent to linear regression with covariate

The original model in our project has the same structure to linear regression. We assume that in this model, there are n individuals and m genetic marker. The formula can be written

as:

$$Y = \mu + X\vec{\beta} + \vec{\epsilon}$$

. Here, Y is a $n \times 1$ vector which represents trait value for each individual and X is a $n \times m$ genotype matrix. In addition, $\vec{\beta}$ and $\vec{\epsilon}$ are a $n \times 1$ vectors representing the coefficient of genetics marker and residuals separately. Here ϵ follows a normal distribution $N(0, \sigma)$. This model sometimes fails because the number of genetic marker is much larger than the number of individual. Then, we introduce PCA to make approximations

In a PCA linear regression model, we can write it in the form of

$$y = \mu + \vec{X}_j \beta_j + U_{1:i} \nu + \vec{\epsilon}$$

Here Y still represents the numerical value of trait of different individual and μ is the intercept. Both of them are $n \times 1$ vector. Meanwhile, \vec{X}_j is a $n \times 1$ vector of j_{th} genetic marker and in this case, β is a scale regression coefficient. Then, $U_{1:i}$ is a $n \times i$ matrix which is the first i Principal Components and ν is a $n \times 1$ coefficient vector for $U_{1:i}$. In the end, ϵ represents the residual which follows a normal distribution $N(0, \sigma)$ which is the same to previous model. Then, we need to test the significance of each genetic marker. The null hypothesis is β_j equals to 0 and the model in this case can be written as $y = \mu + U_{1:i} \nu + \vec{\epsilon}$ for j_{th} marker. The alternative hypothesis is β_j does not equal to 0. Therefore, we will conduct the F test to investigate whether the reduced model can have the same statistical power. If the p-values is small, which indicates this marker is associated with trait.

In our simulation, each individual will be test 100000 SNPs (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) and each for each loci (in total 100000), we will conduct linear regression separately. The genotype of each loci will be combined with eigenvector of principal components matrix which is composed of eigenvectors we used in PCA. Regarding the eigenvector of principal component, it is calculated by decomposing the kinship matrix.

2.3 Admixture Simulation

The construction of admixture population is mainly based on admixture simulation of Alex (2016). The related code of admixture simulation has been uploaded to Github with a R package called "bnpsd". Some parameters are changed in order to better simulate under different situation. According to Alex (2016), the number of independent loci is 30000, in this paper the number of independent locus is 10000. The default value of Alex (2016) is 3, whereas in this project, it can be variable. Considering the difference among number of sub-population, the sample size of i_{th} sub-population will be set as the smaller integer of the

ratio of total sample divided by number of sub-population.

Regarding the family structure, the generation will be set to be 20 to simulate admixture population with the existence of family structure. Considering the large calculation cost during the generation process of admixture population with family structure, this data set will be treated as real data set. It will be used repeatedly to test performance of PCA under different situations with random traits.

2.4 Trait Simulation

The construction of trait simulation is based on a R package called "simtrait". This package constructs the complex trait simulation with user-defined causal loci and the desirable heritability of the trait. It can be used in both simulated data set and real data set if the kinship matrix is estimated correctly.

In our simulation, the function of trait can be written as

$$y = G + \epsilon$$

, where G represents the effect of genotype and ϵ represents the noise. The noise follows a normal distribution with mean zero and variance equals to one minus heritability rate times desired parametric variance factor of the trait which is 1 in default. To obtain the genotype effect, marginal allele frequency will be calculated first and then, SNP will be randomly selected as causal index with random SNP coefficients. Then coefficients of causal index will be scaled and centered to estimate the genotype effect, thereby obtaining the numerical value of traits of each causal loci.

2.5 Result Examination Method

In this paper, precision-recall curves and uniformity p-value test will be used to test the performance of PCA under different scenarios. Both two methods will be illustrated by boxplot.

2.5.1 Precision-Recall Curves

Precision-recall curve is a plot whose y-axis represents precision and x-axis represents recall. Precision is calculated as the number of true positives divided by sum of both true positives which indicates the performance of model in predicting positives. Similarly, recall measures the ratio of number of true negatives and sum of true negatives and false negatives, which measures the performance of model in predicting negatives. Hence, the precision measures the relevancy of result which indicates the proportion of selected items are relevant. The

recall shows the proportion of relevant items are selected. The precision and recall curve demonstrates the trade-off among precision and recall. Hence, the formula of precision and recall can be written as:

$$Precision = \frac{TruePositive}{TruePositive + FalsePositive}$$

$$Recall = \frac{TruePositive}{TruePositive + FalseNegative}$$

The area under the curve (AUC) is calculated as the integration of curve of precision and recall. It measures the aggregated performance of through different thresholds. The range of AUC is from 1 to 0. When AUC equals to 1, it can be interpreted as the predictions of model is 100% correct, whereas, AUC equals to 0 indicates that all predictions of this model are wrong.

2.5.2 Uniform P-Value Test (RMSD)

Due to the existence of multiply hypothesis test in our simulation, the frequency of erroneous inferences will increase. Although Bonferroni Correction can be used to deal with this problem, it can result in high false negative rate (FNR). The better strategy is to controlling the False Discovery Rate (FDR). FDR is calculated as the ratio of false positives and the sum of true positives and false positives. For multiple independent and identical hypothesis tests, if the null hypothesis is true, the distribution of p-values will approximate to a uniform distribution [8]. In this case, a better strategy is to use the q-value rather than p-value to control the FDR. Therefore, we should evaluate the performance of PCA by quantifying the distribution of p-value of null hypothesis. If distribution of p-values of null hypothesis is significantly deviates from the quantiles of uniform distribution, the resulting q-values are anti-conservative. Thus, we use root mean square deviation (RMSD) to measure the fitness of quantiles p-values to the expected quantiles of uniform distribution. The RMSD is calculated as the root of mean square of the difference among sorted p-values of null hypothesis and expected quantiles of sorted p-values of null hypothesis after removing causal indexes. The numerical values of RMSD is inversely performance of PCA. The formula of RMSD is:

$$RMSD = \sqrt{\sum (p_{uniform} - p_{null})^2}$$

where p_{null} is a list of p-values of null hypothesis after removing causal index and $p_{uniform}$ is a list of expected quantiles of p_{null} in uniform distribution.

In many other papers, genomic control is another popular approach to detect the existence of population stratification and written as λ_{GC} . The definition of λ_{GC} is median chi-square

association statistic which has one degree of freedom through SNPs divided by theoretical median based on the null hypothesis. Hence, if λ_{GC} close to 1, it indicates that there is no or little population stratification. However, if λ_{GC} is larger than 1 significantly, it means there exists population stratification, or other confounder factors. Genomic control λ_{GC} only use median to measure the existence of stratification, whereas, RMSD make full use of data which should be more powerful. Hence, in this paper, RMSD is used to measure the performance of PCA in terms of p-value (type 1 error).

2.6 Comparison among PCA and Existing Implementations

SNP is one package on Github which aims to accelerate the computation of PCA.

2.7 true or biased kinship matrices has the same performance

3 Result

We use simulation data where genotypes and trait will be simulated following procedure mentioned above. We first set the sample size to be 1000 and then, we reduce the sample size to 100 to investigate whether PCA still have similar performance under new scenario. We will conduct 10 times simulation so that the extra variance can be reduced. For each simulation, performance of PCA will be collected in terms of RMSD and AUC for PCs from 2 to 90. Also, real data set will also be introduced to test the performance of PCA and trait will be simulated in the same way to simulation data. Then, We will test the performance of PCA when family structure exists with sample size equals to 1000 and 100 separately. Finally, we test the performance of PCA with the existence of complex family structure and here we set the generation to be 20.

3.1 PCA performance under N=1000

RMSD is used to measure the approximation of distribution of p-values of null hypothesis to uniform distribution. If RMSD is low, it shows good control of FDR, whereas, high RMSD represents bad control of FDR. Results will be illustrated by boxplot which can demonstrate the distribution and tendency of test statistics.

According to the first panel in Figure 1 which is the boxplot of RMSD when the number of subpopulation is 10 and sample size is 1000, it can be seen that RMSD values remain relatively high when p is smaller than 9, which satisfies the actual rank of genotype matrix or kinship matrix which is (k-1). It demonstrates that the distribution of p-values of null

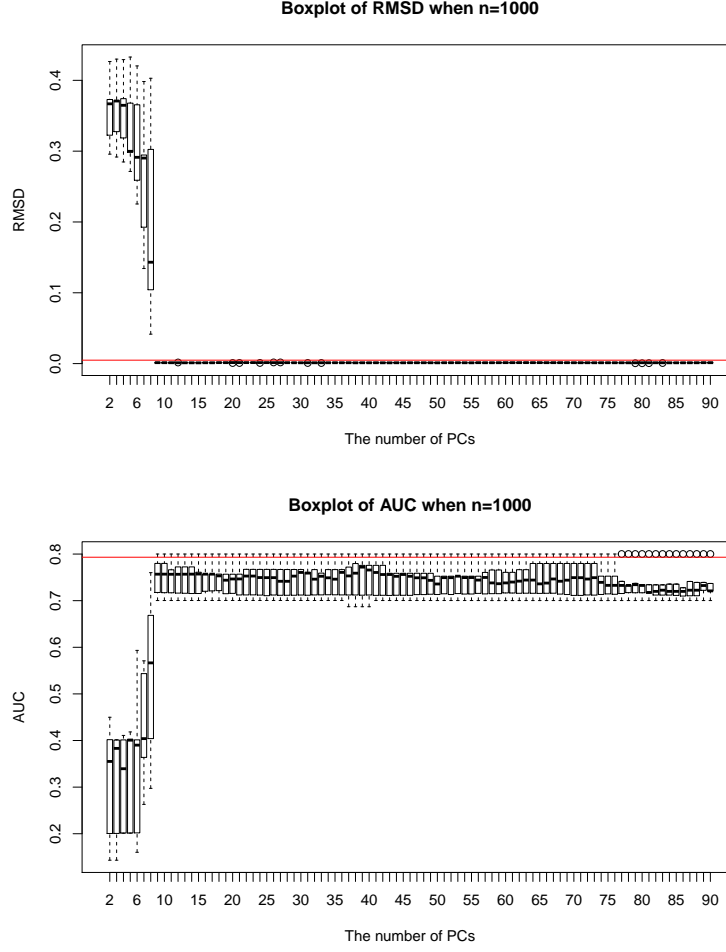


Figure 1: **boxplot of rmsd and auc** The first panel is the boxplot of RMSD when sample size is 1000. Here the y axis represents value of rmsd and x axis is the number of PCs used in PCA. The second panel is the boxplot of AUC and here y axis is value of AUC. RMSD is used to measure the deviation of distribution of p values of null hypothesis from uniform distribution. In this project, we calculate the q-statistics instead of p-value to estimate the false negative rate (FDR). In the case of null hypothesis holds, the distribution of p-values of null hypothesis and therefore, we collect the difference of quantiles of p values of null hypothesis and expected quantiles of uniform distribution to calculate root mean square deviation (RMSD) by $RMSD = \sqrt{\sum (p_{uniform} - p_{null})^2}$. If the value of RMSD is low, it shows the distribution of p-values of null hypothesis approximates to expected uniform distribution and FDR is well controlled. Regarding AUC, it's calculated by integration of prediction and recall curve. The value of AUC can be interpreted as the proportion of predictions made by this model is correct.

hypothesis deviates from the expected quantiles of uniform distribution and therefore, PCA fails to control FDR. Though the performance of PCA is relatively bad, there still exists a decreasing tendency. It indicates that when the number of PCs used in PCA is smaller than true rank of genotype matrix, PCA will benefit from using more PCs in terms of controlling FDR. However, once the number of PCs used in PCA reaches the actual rank of genotype matrix or kinship matrix, the RSDM will jump to a small value and in this case the value of RMSD is close to 0. It remains stable as the number of PCA increases. Apart from this, it can be seen that before the number of PCs reaches the rank of genotype matrix, the distance among minimum and maximum of RMSD is larger. It tends to be smaller after number of PCs used in PCA is larger than the rank of genotype matrix, which shows less fluctuations in terms of type 1 error controlling.

The second panel of Figure 1 illustrates the pattern of AUC for the same scenario to the first panel. In this case, we can see an increasing tendency for AUC when the number of PCs is smaller than the true rank of genotype or kinship matrix. Such a tendency indicates that the increase of number of PCs can increase predictive power of PCA when it is smaller than the rank of genotype matrix. Once the number of PCs used in PCA exceeds the rank of PCA, the value of AUC will be increased to around 0.8, which indicates that 80% predictions of PCA are correct. After that, PCA does not benefit from adding more PCs as it can not increase the value of AUC obviously. Similarly, the range of AUC tends to be smaller than it when the number of PCs used in PCA is greater than rank of genotype matrix.

3.2 PCA performance under $N=100$

Then we want to investigate the performance of PCA when sample size is small. Here we set the sample size to be 100. From the first panel of Figure 2, it can be seen that the pattern is similar to the boxplot of RMSD in the case of sample size equals to 1000. It illustrates a decreasing tendency when the number of PCs is smaller than true rank of genotype matrix. It indicates that PCA can better control type 1 error in this situation. If the number of PCs is greater than true rank of genotype matrix, the RMSD will decrease immediately and approximate to zero, which shows type 1 error is excellently controlled. Hence, PCA is insensitive to the sample size in terms of RMSD or type 1 error controlling.

Concerned with the boxplot of AUC, the pattern is obviously different from the boxplot of AUC when sample size is 1000. Although we still can find an increasing pattern of AUC before the number of PCs reaches the k . However, it can be seen that there is a decreasing

pattern of AUC value once the number of PCs exceeds the true rank of PCA. It demonstrates that, even though fluctuations exist, performance of PCA in terms of power can be worse with the increase of PCs used in PCA. Furthermore, maximum value of AUC when sample size is 1000 approximate 0.8, however the maximum value of AUC when sample size is 100 is around 0.2. It illustrates that only 20% predictions made by this model is correct and hence, it fails in terms of power when sample size is small.

Consequently, we can conclude that PCA perform poorly when the number of PCs is smaller than the ranks of genotype matrix or kinship matrix. When the number of PCs is smaller than rank of kinship matrix and genotype matrix, RMSD values will be quite high which indicates the distribution of p-values of null hypothesis significantly deviates from uniform distribution. It means PCA fails to control type 1 error. Regarding the value of AUC, it will be quite low and thus, power of PCA in this case is small. When sample size large enough and number of PCs used in PCA is no smaller than rank of genotype matrix, PCA works pretty well in both type 1 error and power. In this scenario, value of RMSD approximates to 0 and value of AUC is around 0.8. Moreover, the performance of PCA will not be improved with more PCs used. PCA is still robust to type one error controlling in the case of small sample size, whereas, it will be punished in terms of power with excessive PCs used in PCA.

3.2.1 PCA performance when family structure exists

The introduction of family structure will make the original admixture population more complicated. In this case, we assume that there are 20 generations in total with other factors fixed. Based on the result of the first panel in figure 3 indicates that there is a decreasing pattern of RMSD for the first three PCs. In addition, the value of RMSD in this situation is large, which indicates that the distribution of p-value of null hypothesis does not approximate to uniform distribution. It illustrates that PCA fails to control type one error when the number of PCs is not enough. When the number of PCs is larger than 4, values of RMSD become stable around 0.05 which demonstrates that there exists evidence of the distribution of p-value of null hypothesis does not deviate from uniform distribution but the evidence is weaker than previous simulation where RMSD approximates to 0. Considering the range of RMSD, it decreases first and then begins to increase. It shows that excessive use of PCs will lead to extra variance. For AUC, it illustrates an increasing tendency for the first three PCs. When the number of PCs is larger than 3, AUC fluctuates around 0.2. This shows the power of PCA is small and hence, PCA fails in this case in terms of power even though enough PCs are used.

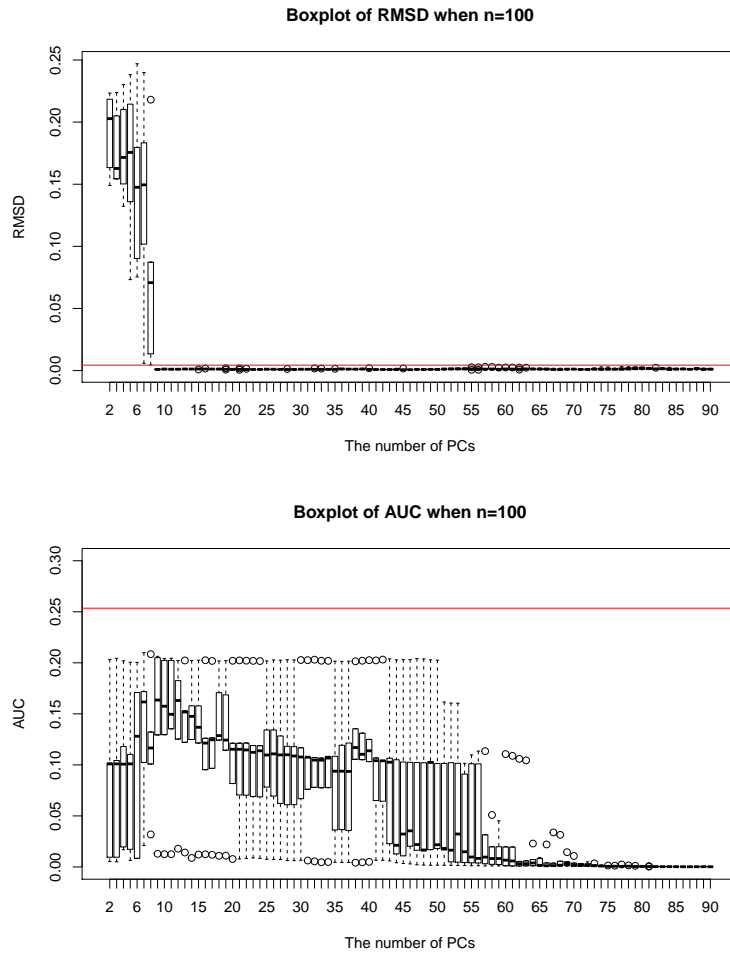


Figure 2: **boxplot of rmsd and auc** The first panel is the boxplot of RMSD when sample size is 100.

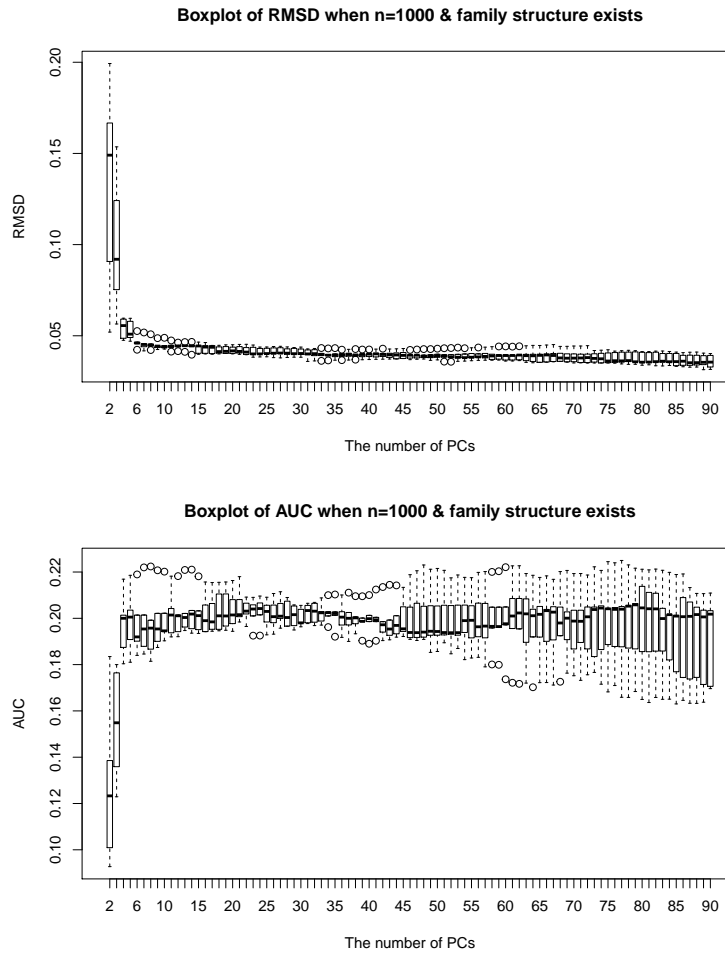


Figure 3: **boxplot of rmsd and auc** The first panel is the boxplot of RMSD when sample size is 1000 and family strcuture exists. Here the y axis represents value of rmsd and x axis is the number of PCs used in PCA. The second panel is the boxplot of AUC and here y axis is value of AUC.

4 Discussion

4.1 PCA GWAS fails without enough PCs

According to the result of our simulation, it can be seen that PCA perform poorly when the number of PCs is smaller than the ranks of genotype matrix or kinship matrix. When the number of PCs is smaller than rank of kinship matrix and genotype matrix, RMSD values will be quite high which indicates that there is no significant association among alleles and trait. In addition, AUC values will very low indicating bad performance of PCA in predicting positives.

4.2 PCA GWAS still works even too many PCs are used

PCA GWAS still works even though PCs of eigenvectors are excessively used. From the box b

4.3 PCA GWAS fails with the existence are close relatives

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