

How does drift interact with selection?

Intuition suggests that if the random allele frequency change caused by drift is much larger than the directional change caused by selection, then drift might overpower selection and allow deleterious mutations to fix in the population.

In 1962, Motoo Kimura showed that

$$P_{fix} = (1 - e^{-4Nsq}) / (1 - e^{-4Ns})$$

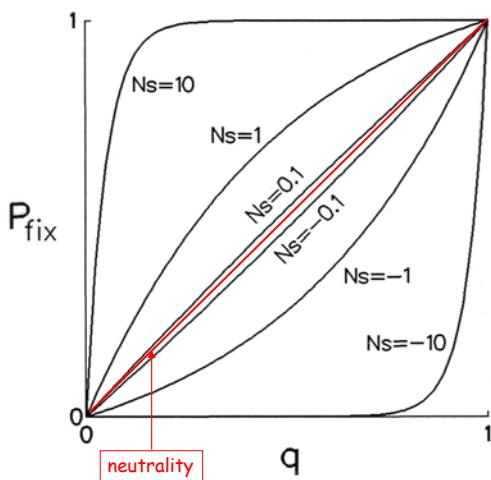
where the fitnesses of the AA, Aa and aa genotypes are 1, $1+s$, and $1+2s$, and q is the current frequency of a.

Note that the population size (N) and the selection coefficient (s) always appear as their product, and never separately.

When $s=0$ (neutrality), then the probability that a will ultimately fix is simply its present frequency, q .

When $Ns > 1$ in absolute value, then selection tends to determine the outcome.

But when $Ns < 1$ the alleles act almost as if they are neutral, regardless of s .



Thus smaller fitness differences will determine the evolutionary fates of alleles in larger populations, and larger fitness differences are required to overcome drift in smaller populations.

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Gillespie's notation differs from Kimura's!

$$W(A_1A_1) = 1 + s$$

(positive s means A_1 is advantageous)

$$W(A_1A_2) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}s$$

(we assume additive allelic interactions: $h = \frac{1}{2}$)

$$W(A_2A_2) = 1$$

Then the fixation probability for A_1 is $\pi_1(p) = (1 - e^{2Ns}) / (1 - e^{2Ns})$.

For a new mutation (where $p = 1/2N$), $\pi_1(1/2N) = (1 - e^{-s}) / (1 - e^{-2Ns})$.

What are the fates of NEW weakly advantageous mutations?

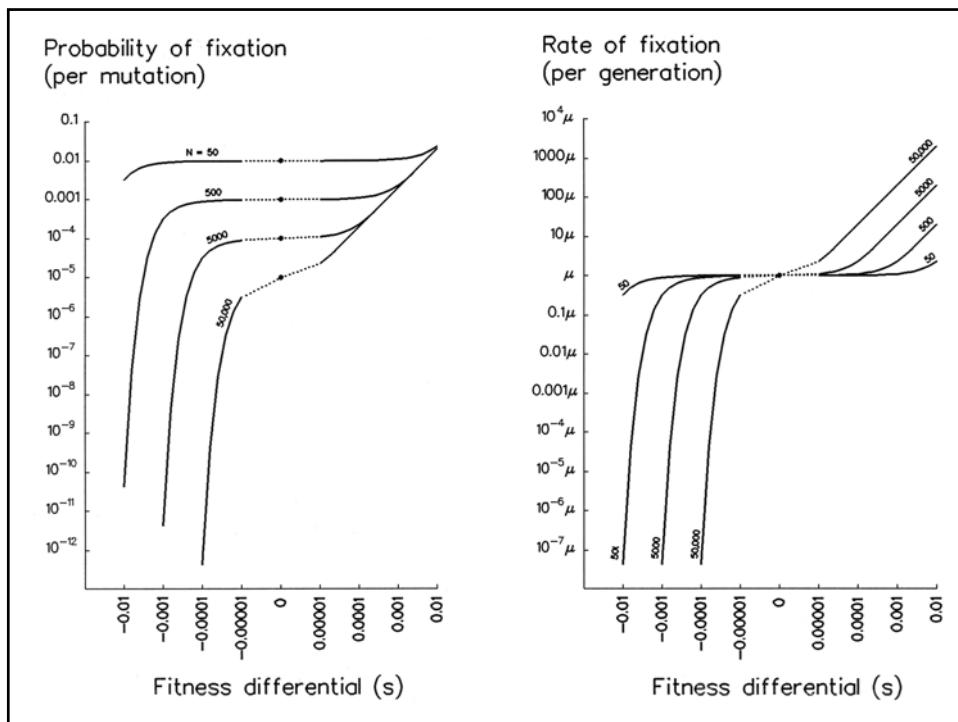
If s is small, then $(1 - e^{-s}) \approx s$.

And if N is large enough that $2Ns \gg 1$, then $(1 - e^{-2Ns}) \approx 1$.

In this limit, then, $\pi_1(1/2N) \approx s$, regardless of N !

For other values of h , $\pi_1(1/2N) \approx 2(1-h)s$

In other words, the fixation probability depends mainly on the fitness of heterozygous carriers of the new mutation.



Movies of drift versus selection (N , s , and the fates of mutations)

Each panel shows 100 allele-frequency histories for a given N , s , and initial frequency q_0 .

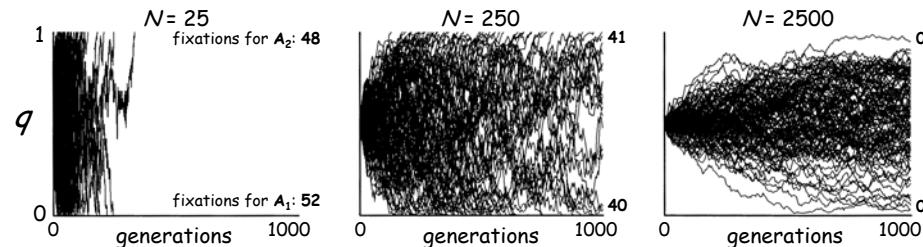
Each history runs for 1000 generations or until fixation occurs.

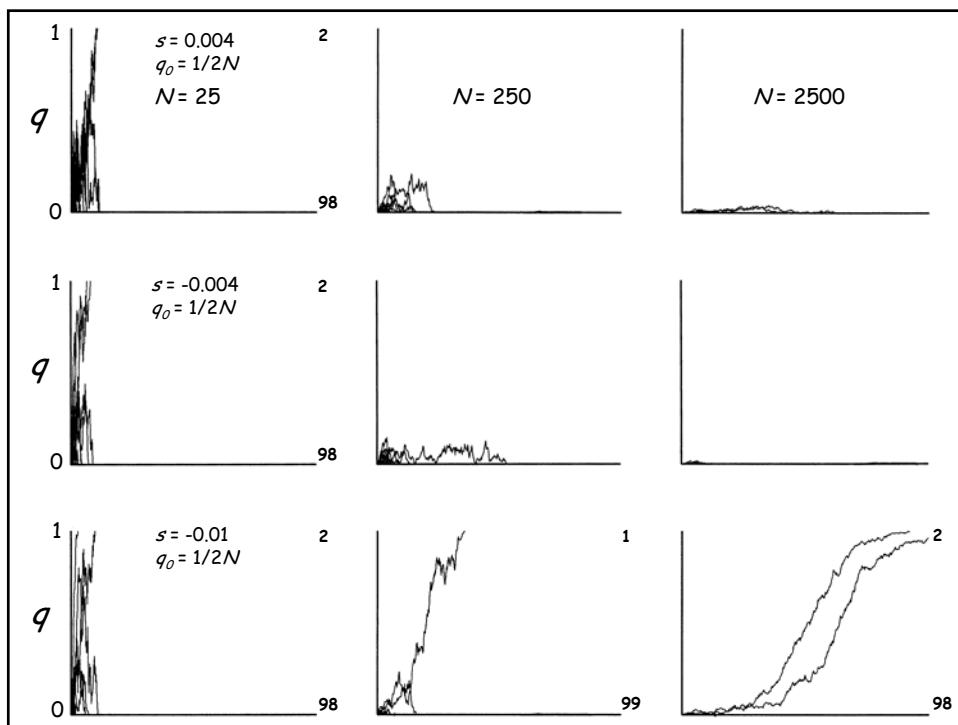
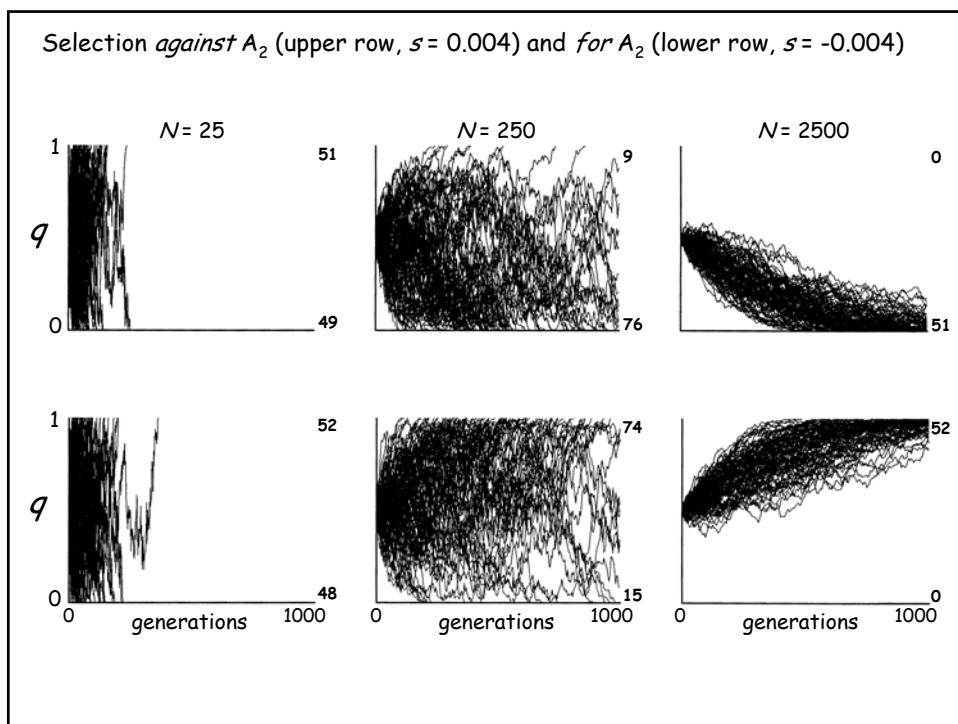
Within each row of three panels, the population sizes are 25, 250, and 2500.

$\mathcal{W}(A_1A_1) = 1$, $\mathcal{W}(A_1A_2) = 1 - \frac{1}{2}s$, and $\mathcal{W}(A_2A_2) = 1 - s$.

The first set of cases (below) is a neutral "control" for the experiments in subsequent slides.

$s = 0$, $q_0 = \frac{1}{2}$ (neutral case, pure drift)





Implications for rates of evolution at the genomic level

When $s = 0$, the rate of evolution (ρ) is *independent* of N .

$2N\mu$ mutations/generation, each with probability $1/2N$ of fixing

$$\rho = (2N\mu)(1/2N) = \mu \quad [\rho/\mu = 1]$$

When $s > 0$, the rate of evolution *increases* with N .

$2N\mu$ mutations/generation, each with probability $\sim s$ of fixing

$$\rho = (2N\mu)(s) = 2Ns \quad [\rho/\mu = 2Ns]$$

When $s < 0$, the rate of evolution *decreases* with N .

$2N\mu$ mutations/generation, each with probability $|s|/(e^{2Ns} - 1)$ of fixing

$$\rho = (2N\mu)(|s|/[e^{2Ns} - 1]) = 2N\mu|s|/(e^{2Ns} - 1) \quad [\text{see Fig. 3.11, below}]$$

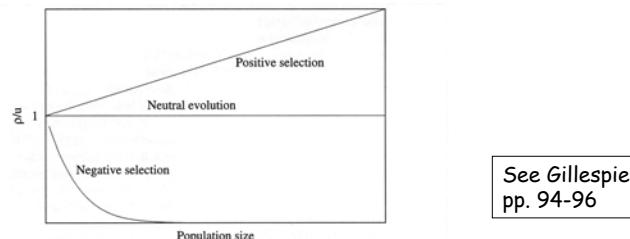


Figure 3.11: The rate of substitution divided by the mutation rate for three models of molecular evolution.

The Islands model: drift *versus* selection

Each island is a closed population with 18 breeding adults ($N = 18$, $C = 36$).

The **A** allele is green, **a** is yellow.

AA homozygotes have fitness $W = 1-s$.

Aa heterozygotes have fitness $W = 1-\frac{1}{2}s$.

aa homozygotes have fitness $W = 1$.

Individuals are chosen at random, then they contribute a gamete to the next generation with probability W .

There are 100 identical islands, each beginning with the same frequencies of **A** and **a** (which we set) and the same selection coefficient s (which we also set).

Kimura's model predicts that selection will strongly affect the fates of alleles for which $|Ns| \gg 1$ (here, $|s| \gg 0.05$), but not those for which $|Ns| \ll 1$ ($|s| \ll 0.05$).

