

Constrained ordination method as a tool for performing genome scan and environmental genomic studies

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Abstract

Ordination is a common tool in Ecology that aims at representing complex biological information on a reduced space. For instance, it is frequently used to study geographic distribution pattern of species diversity and to study the link between ecological variable such as temperature, drought, etc, on the species turnover. Recently, these methodologies are becoming quite popular in Landscape Genomic where one wants to study the link between environmental variable and the distribution pattern of genome wide diversity. However, it remains unclear what are the expected outcome of such approaches since genetic diversity has presumably a very different dynamic from species diversity. Simulations studies could help to shed light on this problem but they are still lacking whereas it tends to be broadly accepted as a pertinent approach. Furthermore, recent development have proposed to use ordination methods such as PCA to detect genes under selection. Simulations tend to support this idea as it seems to be quite robust to the underlying population structure and dynamic. Some authors have proposed to use other ordination approaches such as RDA, taking advantage of using environmental data. However no clear statistical framework have been developed to efficiently implement this idea in a robust and efficient test and once again, we don't know what is expected from the outcome of such approaches: which genes will be detected under which selective pressures? This paper aims at proposing a new test based on RDA approaches to search for genes under selection and to compare it to a classical PCA method. Thanks to individual based simulation, we compare both performance and robustness. Additionally, we test the efficiency of constrained ordination method such as RDA to detect relevant selective gradient since this was lacking in the Landscape Genomic literature. Finally, to illustrate the pertinence of such method in concrete example, we apply it to a real dataset.

Key words:

1 Introduction

- 2 Performing genome scan in order to detect
- 3 genomic region of interest is a common task

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2008; Frichot *et al.*, 2013; Luu *et al.*, 2016; Vatsiou *et al.*, 2015). Some methods aim at detecting genes that has suffered from a loss of genetic diversity and increase of linkage disequilibrium following the appearance of a beneficial allele and its spread by the mean of selective sweep. Others aim at picking up alleles with strong correlation with some environmental variable (e.g. Temperature, drought) with the idea that these alleles may confer a selective advantage to the individuals (Coop *et al.*, 2010; Frichot *et al.*, 2013). Finally, other methods aim at detecting genomic region involved in local adaptation process. These region should have an increased differentiation between population because different alleles tend to be beneficial in each environment. Differentiation between population is expected under the hypothesis of geographical isolation. Therefore, this region can be detected by quantifying the level of differentiation using some statistics and detecting the regions with unexpectedly high values. A common statistic and very easily comprehensible in population genetic is F_{st} . Many methods use this parameter as a basis in many different implementation of genome scans (Bazin *et al.*, 2010; de Villemereuil and Gaggiotti, 2015; Foll and Gaggiotti, 2008). These are model based method where parameters such as F_{st} are usually inferred using likelihood or Bayesian methods. This mean that users must have some a priori on their parameter value and the best model that fits their data in order to expect the best from their analysis. However, it is often difficult to get a satisfactory a priori picture of the demographic and population structure of the species one is interested in. Indeed many species are not clearly structured in different populations but more or less show a pattern of isolation by distance without clear geographical barrier to gene flow. One solution would be to use more complex model that better reflect reality but these are difficult to implement in Bayesian framework. Additionally, these latter methods are very time consuming and the increase of both model complexity and the amount of data to analyze in terms of the number of individuals and loci makes them more and more difficult to use. A new path has opened recently with the use of multivariate methods. The idea is to capture the whole genome geographic structure using an ordination method such as ACP. Following this analysis, outliers loci are detected if they have extremely high correlation with one or more ordination axis (Duforet-Frebourg *et al.*, 2014; Luu *et al.*, 2016). These are very efficient methods and simulations have shown that while they are very fast, they show similar efficiency than classical Bayesian method and sometimes perform better when the simulated demographic model drift from the model implemented in bayesian method, usually the island model. For instance Luu *et al.* (2016) have shown their method to be better when population are structured in hierarchical set or in isolation by distance

69 pattern. Nevertheless, one conundrum of such 101 use of inference methods based on classical
70 approaches is the difficulty to interpret ordination 102 population genetic models. Although they are
71 axis in term of ecological meanings. These are 103 more difficult to interpret, such approaches would
72 usually tight to geographical axis (latitudinal or 104 be complementary to the model based method
73 longitudinal) but they are not necessary linked to 105 because of their long-term use in ecology and
74 an environmental variable such as Temperature, 106 their efficiency on complex and large datasets.
75 drought, diet habit, etc. Therefore, when this 107 These method have sometimes been used in
76 information exists, it has to be a posteriori used 108 population genomic studies, not as a genome scan
77 as a mean of interpretation but are not involved 109 but in order to quantify multilocus adaptation
78 in the inference process. It should be recalled 110 to an environmental gradient (De Kort *et al.*,
79 that natural selection is the result of a complex 111 2014; Hecht *et al.*, 2015; Lasky *et al.*, 2012;
80 set of environmental pressures and that it most 112 Steane *et al.*, 2014). These studies whereby
81 often acts on several characters simultaneously 113 relationships between environmental data and
82 and that these characters are encoded by several 114 large multilocus data is explored are becoming
83 genes which generally have weak effects. In 115 more and more popular and are often coined
84 order to extract the maximum of all available 116 as Ecological Genomics or Landscape Genomics
85 information, it seems therefore necessary to use 117 studies. However the concept of using constrained
86 approaches that are able to compile all kind of 118 ordination methods to analyse genomic data has
87 variable (e.g. alleles, phenotypic measurement, 119 never been tested on simulated datasets. This
88 biotic and abiotic variables). One natural way 120 paper aims at filling this gap. First, we show
89 to overcome this limitation would be to use 121 how one can make use of a constrained ordination
90 more sophisticated ordination method than ACP 122 method namely Redundancy Analysis (RDA) as
91 like methods. Constrained ordination methods 123 an efficient and robust genome scan method.
92 (i.e. Redundancy Analysis, RDA, Canonical 124 We discarded the other constraint ordination
93 Correspondence Analysis, CCA) are well-known 125 methods such as CCA since they are very similar
94 set of approaches in Ecology for instance to 126 in their principles. RDA has already been used
95 explain the species distribution pattern by 127 for instance by Lasky *et al.* (2012) to perform
96 the mean of environmental data. They have 128 genome scan in order to detect loci involved in
97 specifically been designed in order to deal with 129 the adaptation to climate in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
98 biological complexity. In the population genomic 130 Outliers were identified as SNPs with the greatest
99 era, it seems that data amount, complexity 131 squared scores along the first RDA axis (i.e. those
100 and heterogeneity is often a limitation to the 132 in the 0.5 % tail). We build on this idea to

develop a comprehensive and robust statistical test that allows to search for outliers on an arbitrary number of RDA axis simultaneously and allows to control precisely for the false discovery rate. Using simulations, we show that it has better results than PCA-based method. Second, thanks to these simulations, we show that RDA can indeed help to identify important environmental gradient that better explain the adaptive variation in the data. It is therefore a proof of concept of the idea of using constrained ordination method as an environmental genomic tool to identify relevant selective gradient in the environmental data. Finally, to give a concrete illustration of RDA approach in population genomics, we apply this method to the detection of outliers on a real data set.

Material and method

Genome scan

Redundancy analysis (RDA) was first introduced by (Rao, 1964) and is clearly described in (Legendre and Legendre, 2012) section 11.1. It is the direct extension of multiple regression to the modeling of multivariate response data. Typically the data to be analysed are separated in two sets, a response matrix Y of variable to be explained (e.g. species abundance in a set of sites; m sites and n species) and an explanatory matrix X (e.g. a set of environmental variable within each site; m sites and p environment). In the following analysis, species are replaced by loci and sites by individuals. In other word, we wish to project on a reduced space the proportion of variance in genetic difference between individuals which is better explained by environmental data. After this ordination, we follow the Luu *et al.* (2016) methodology to compute pvalues. First we compute the test statistic by regressing each of the p SNPs by the K ordination axis X_1, \dots, X_K .

$$G_j = \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_{jk} X_k + \epsilon_j, j=1, \dots, p$$

where β_{jk} is the regression coefficient corresponding to the j -th SNP regressed by the k -th ordination axis, and ϵ_j is the residuals vector. To summarize the result of the regression analysis for the j -th SNP, we return a vector of z-scores $z_j = (z_{j1}, \dots, z_{jK})$ where z_{jk} corresponds to the z-score obtained when regressing the j -th SNP by the k -th ordination axis. The test statistic is a robust Mahalanobis distance D computed using `covRob` function of the `robustR` package. D should be Khi2 distributed after a correction with inflation factor (Luu et al., 2016). Pvalues are computed using K degree of freedom. We use the FDR approach to control for false positives. Qvalue are computed with `qvalueR` package and a loci is considered as an outlier if its qvalue is less than 10%. For the analysis of simulated dataset (see below), we retain the first four ordination axis to compute Mahalanobis distances as they seem to explain most of the variance in the data. To perform the ordination, we use the 10th environmental variables as input in the explanatory matrix. In the following example, we don't use phenotypic

197 informations since these informations are often 228 Simulations
198 lacking in environmental genomics. Neither we use 229 To test for the efficiency of RDA in population
199 geographical coordinates (i,j) which is sometimes 230 genomic, we performed simulations using simuPop
200 added to control for the geographical covariation 231 python library (Peng and Kimmel, 2005). We
201 in the differentiation pattern (Frichot *et al.*, 232 compared our approach to PCAdapt method
202 2013). 233 to perform genome scans. Both approach are
203 To emphasize the utility of RDA, we compared 234 equivalent except their ordination method.
204 to pcadapt from which the idea of using 235 Finally we use these simulations to evaluate
205 multivariate method for genome scan is based. 236 RDA approach as a mean to detect selective
206 On the simulated dataset, we retain $K=3$ axis 237 environmental gradient. A lattice of 8x8
207 to compute Mahalanobis distances as it seems to 238 populations is simulated (i.e. 64 populations
208 explain the main amount of variance in the data 239 in total). Each population is initialized with
209 using scatter plots. To control for false positive, 240 200 diploid individual with random genotypes.
210 we used the same qvalue threshold (i.e. $q=10\%$). 241 Migration is set to 0.5 so that population
211 Environmental genomic 242 structure must be very smooth and genetic
212 Once outliers have been identified, we isolate them 243 differentiation must show an isolation by distance
213 in a separate matrix A defining an "adaptively 244 pattern over the 64 populations. This is where
214 enriched genetic space" as coined by Steane *et al.* 245 pcadapt is best designed for. Loci are biallelic (0
215 (2014). Following their methodology, we perform 246 or 1) like SNPs. Allele frequency of the whole
216 a second constrained ordination (RDA) on matrix 247 population is initialized at 0.5. 1000 loci are
217 A against environmental data. The rational of 248 defined. They are separated in 200 chunks of
218 this analysis is to remove neutral variation before 249 5 SNPs in physical linkage with recombination
219 performing ordination in order to have a better 250 rate between adjacent loci fixed at 0.1. 3 different
220 picture of which environmental gradients have the 251 Traits are coded by a group of 10 different loci.
221 strongest association with the adaptive genetic 252 The first trait is coded by loci 1, 11, 21, ..., 91.
222 space. On the simulated dataset, we report the 253 The trait value is simply the sum of genotype
223 R^2 statistics between env1, env2 and env3 and 254 value and therefore can take value between 0 an
224 the first three ordination axis to have an idea 255 20. For the sake of realism, we add to each trait
225 of which they are better associated with and if 256 a random noise (non heritable variation) drawn
226 the ordination space succeed in seperating the 257 from a normal distribution $N(0,2)$. The second
227 environmental effect on different axis. 258 trait is coded by loci 101, 111, ..., 191 and the
259 third is coded by loci 201, 211, ..., 291. Each trait

is therefore coded by free recombining SNP loci. 6 have respectively the same mean value spatial
In other words, there are 30 coding SNPs among distribution. For a graphical representation of
1000. Selection can have an effect on linked loci, environment 7 to 10, see supplementary material.
for instance, loci 2, 3, 4 and 5 can be impacted Environmental equation gives a mean value of
by selection on locus 1. However, recombination the environment variable. To avoid colinearity
is high enough (0.1) to expect a limited linkage between environments variable, we added noise
effect. We have defined 10 different environmental by drawing an environment value within a normal
variables. The first one determines the selective distribution $N(\mu=env, \sigma=1)$. Fitness for each
pressure on trait 1, the second one on trait 2 and trait is set to be $-e^{((x-env)^2/(2*\omega^2))}$, x being the
the third one on trait 3. The first environment quantitative trait value, env the environmental
variable is a quadratic gradient coded by function value and ω is defining selection strength and
 $env1 = -(\cos(\theta)*(i-3.5))^2 - (\sin(\theta)*(j-3.5))^2 +$ has been set to 10 which in our experience seems
18, $\theta = \pi/2$, i and j being the population sufficient for loci to be often detected. To get
indicator on the 8x8 lattice. The second one the overall fitness for a given individual, fitness
is a linear plan gradient coded by function associated to each trait are multiplied. Fitness
 $env2 = h*\cos(\theta)*(i-1) + h*\sin(\theta)*(j-1) + k$ are relative and selection arises on parents and
with $h=2$, $\theta = \pi/4$ and $k=3$. The third determine their number of offsprings. Simulations
environment variable simulates a coarse are made across 500 generations. At the end
environment with value $env3=2$ for all of simulation, we sample 10 individuals per
populations except population $(i,j) = (2,2)$, population. Therefore, we have a sample of 640
 $(2,3)$, $(3,2)$, $(3,3)$, $(6,2)$, $(6,3)$, $(7,2)$, $(7,3)$, $(2,6)$, individuals with 1000 SNP-like loci.
 $(2,7)$, $(3,6)$, $(3,7)$, $(6,6)$, $(6,7)$, $(7,6)$, $(7,7)$ for Real dataset
which $env3=18$. Env4, env5 and env6 have The Loblolly pine dataset is a sample of 682
exactly the same equation than env1, env2 and individuals genotyped on 1,730 SNPs selected in
env3 respectively. The remaining 4 environment ESTs (Eckert *et al.*, 2010). 60 climatic variables
variable are similar to env2 but with different were available and summarized by the authors
value of h and θ . Env7 has $h=2$, $\theta=0$ and in the five first axis of a PCA. The first axis,
 $k=3$. Env8 has $h=2$, $\theta = \pi/4$ and $k=0$. Env9 PC1 is mainly linked to latitude, longitude,
has $h=1$, $\theta = \pi/4$ and $k=4$. Env10 has $h=0.5$, temperature, and winter aridity. PC2 is linked
 $\theta = \pi/4$ and $k=8$. Graphical representation of to longitude, spring-fall aridity, and precipitation.
mean environmental value for environment 1, 2 We inputed the missing data using a very simple
and 3 is given in Fig. ?? . Environment 4, 5 and algorithm implement in function `sing.im` of the R

package linkim (Lachenbruch, 2011). It imputes the missing value based on the observed data proportions. We used $K=4$ axis to compute Malahanobis distances.

The Chinook salmon consists of 19 703 SNP loci genotyped on 1956 total individuals pooled in 46 collections. Hecht *et al.* (2015) have estimated that between 5.8 and 21.8% of genomic variation can be accounted for by environmental features, and 566 putatively adaptive loci were identified as targets of environmental adaptation. Therefore this dataset is a good candidate to test ACP and RDA approaches to detect outliers and selective gradients. Five variables (MigDistKM, StreamOrder, bio03, bio17 and bio18) have been used among 24 different climate and environmental variables because they have been tested as significantly associated with the SNP variation rangewide (Hecht *et al.*, 2015). MigDistKM stands for Migration distance from collection site to ocean (km), StreamOrder for Stream Order of collection site using Strahler method, bio03 for Isothermality, bio17 for Precipitation of Driest Quarter (mm) and bio18 for Precipitation of Warmest Quarter (mm). We could have tested more variable but this is just an illustration and is by no mean an extensive study of this species. Since data are pooled, we have randomly created a sample of 100 individuals for each collection based on the allele frequencies to be able to analyze the data following our

individual based pipeline. We used $K=4$ axis to compute Malahanobis distances.

Results

Genome scan

When looking at the analysis on one simulation, the pcadapt method seems successful at detecting QTL2 SNPs (Fig. 2) but fails at detecting QTL1 and QTL3 SNPs. On the other hand, RDA succeeds at detecting QTL2 SNPs and also some of the QTL1 and QTL2 SNPs (Fig. 3). The ordination seems to correctly detect environmental variable 1 and 3 as drivers of genetical variance in the data. Over the 100 simulations, we have measured the average FDR and power for both pcadapt and RDA (Fig 4).

Environmental genomics

We then performed a second RDA on the ”adaptively enriched genetic space” as performed by Steane *et al.* (2014) on the same simulated dataset as in Fig. 2 and 3 and display its results on Fig. 5. We did the same analyis and measured the mean R^2 between env1, env2 and env3 and each of the first three ordination axis. This is summarized in Fig. 6.

Loblolly Pine

Chinook Salmon

Our analysis of Chinook Salmon gave a list of 27 SNPs (Tab. 1). From the material of Hecht *et al.* (2015), we extracted their matching with coding sequences and the associated annotation.

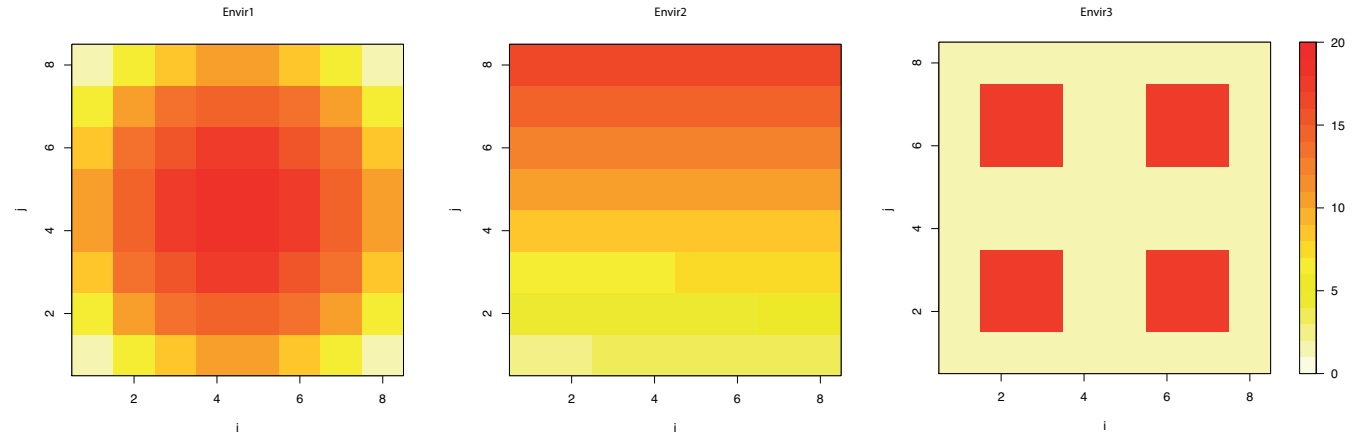


FIG. 1. Graphical representation of mean environmental value for environment 1, 2 and 3

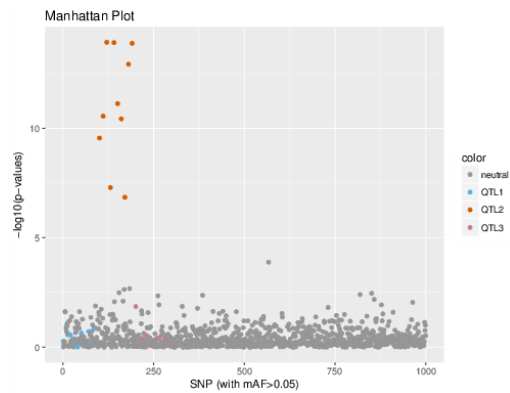


FIG. 2. Manhattan plot of the result of padapt on a simulated data set.

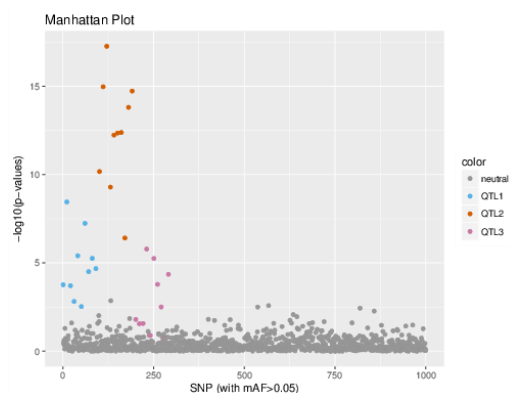


FIG. 3. Manhattan plot of the result of genome scan using RDA on a simulated data set.

Discussion

Fig 2 shows that padapt approach works well when the environmental gradient and the selective pressures are acting in the same direction than

the geographical pattern of isolation by distance.

Whereas when the environmental gradient is quadratic on the geographical range (QTL1) or when it is a coarse environment (QTL3). Indeed, we can hypothesize that the PCA ordination fails at orienting the genetic space differentiation into the direction of environment 1 and environment 3 therefore leaving no chance to detect any outliers on the QTL influenced by these environmental variables. Fig 3 shows that RDA has a much better behavior than padapt by taking advantage of using informations of environmental local conditions.

Both methods have a good control of false discovery rate (8.36×10^{-2} for padapt and 8.51×10^{-2} for RDA). Results summarized on Fig 4 is confirming that overall RDA shows better performance at detecting true outliers since it succeeds to detect quite often QTL1 and QTL3 SNPs. It seems however less efficient at detecting QTL3 outliers but this might be due to the fact

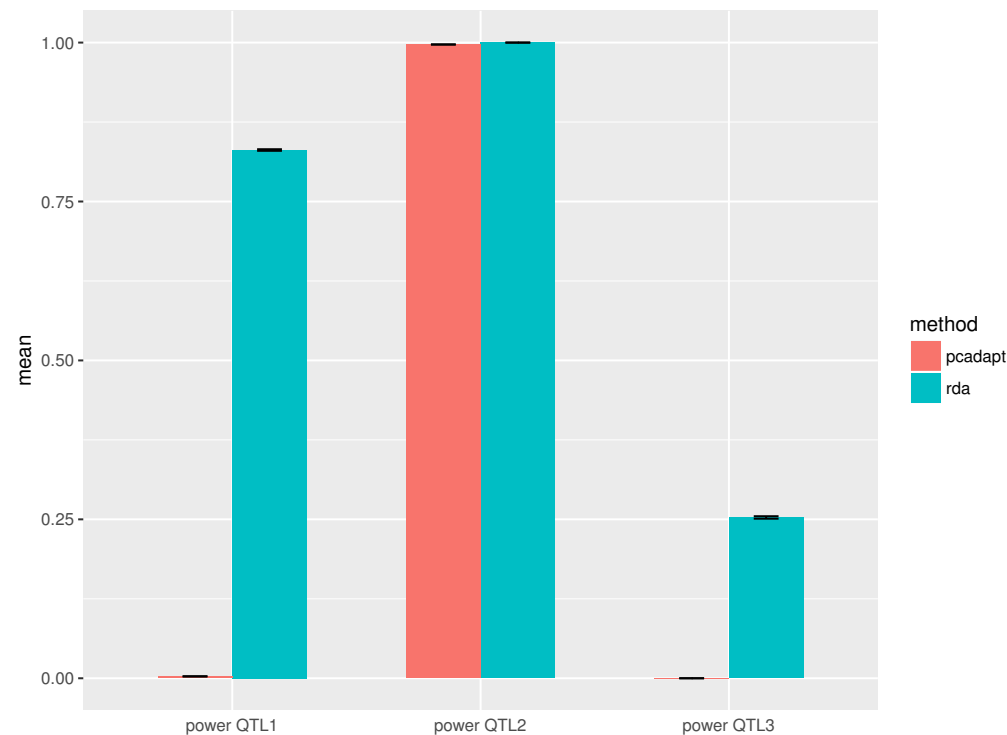


FIG. 4. Performance results of rda and pcadapt methods. Each performance value is averaged over 100 simulated dataset (error bars are displayed but hardly visible since they are very scarce). Power is given separately for loci coding for quantitative trait 1, 2 and 3.

that local adaptation on a coarse environment is more difficult than adaptation on a smooth environmental gradient as environment 1 and 2. These simulations plead in favor of using constrained ordination method instead of PCA when non genetic data such as environmental variable are available in order to orientate the axis in the direction of informative gradients.

When performing an RDA on the “adaptively enriched genetic space”, Fig. ?? and ?? show that the method succeed at detecting the relevant selective gradient and separating them on different axis at least on our simulations. This therefore serves as a proof of concept of Steane *et al.* (2014)’s approach to represent multilocus selective gradient and the possibility to use the ordination axis it to devise a metric that provides a holistic

measure of genomic adaptation. Indeed, in RDA1 is strongly associated with env1, RDA2 with env2 and RDA3 with env3 whereas poorly associated with the other axis. As expected, the correlated environment are also strongly associated with this respective axis. This is reflecting the fact that in reality it is difficult on an environmental gradient to distinguish among the covariable which one has a causal effect on the individual fitness. However, it is often sufficient for biologists when performing an exploratory analysis to identify combination of environment variable having a strong association with adaptive variation without knowing precisely the underlying mechanical process.

From the analysis of Chinook Salmon, we picked up some genes that can be interpreted regarding

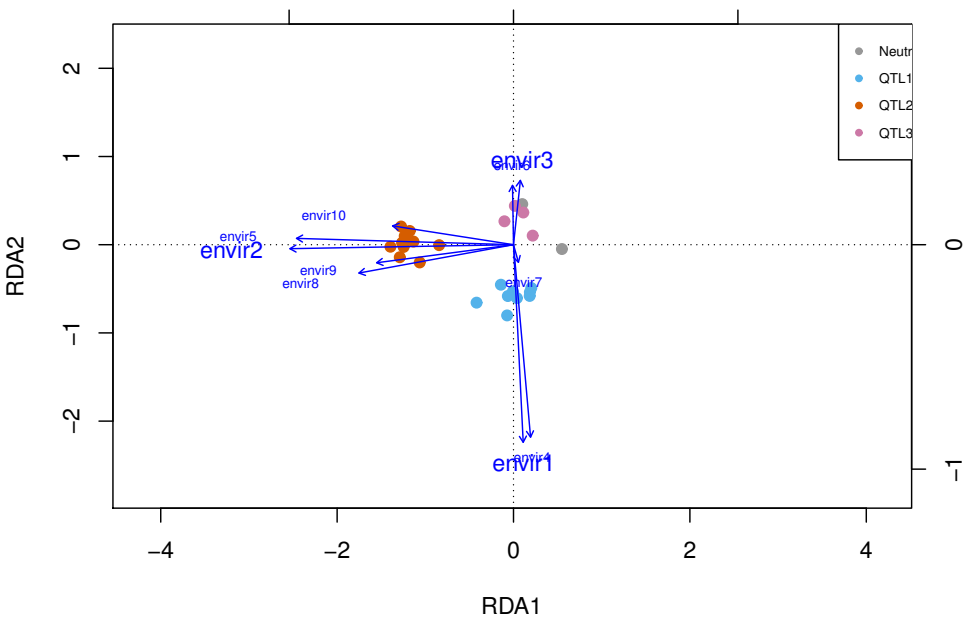


FIG. 5. RDA on the adaptively enriched genetic space. We discarded the individual points for readability. Dots represents outliers SNPs. R^2 of env1 with the first, second and third axis is (0.02%, 77.5%, 14.5%), env2 is (99.3%, 0.003%, 0.001%) and env3 is (0.009%, 0.82%, 64.7%)

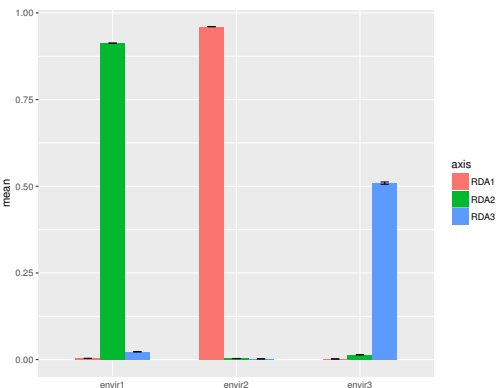


FIG. 6. R^2 between env1, env2 and env3 and each of the first three ordination axis. Values are averaged across the 100 simulated datasets.

to the environmental variable. For instance, a heat shock protein which are known to be involved in adaptation to temperature or lipolysis-stimulated lipoprotein receptor which are involved in regulation of lipid metabolic process. This latter process can reasonably thought to be involved in adaptation to food abundance and the need for salmon to migrate on a short or long distance.

Supplementary Material

Acknowledgments

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Table 1. List of SNPs with *qvalue* < 0.1 and their matching with coding sequence when available.

	Locus	Sequence Description
1	8760.60	cell migration-inducing and hyaluronan-binding partial
2	11727.44	protein argonaute-1
3	15784.70	dna polymerase epsilon subunit 4
4	19372.14	protein fam122a-like isoform x1
5	19510.54	pantothenate kinase mitochondrial-like
6	19809.36	eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3 subunit j
7	22558.48	zinc finger protein gfi-1b-like
8	29912.62	g protein-activated inward rectifier potassium channel 1-like isoform x1
9	30253.61	solute carrier family 1 (glial high affinity glutamate transporter) member 3b isoform x1
10	30495.21	c-jun-amino-terminal kinase-interacting protein 4
11	33486.16	heat shock 70 kda protein 12a isoform x3
12	39480.19	ras association domain-containing protein 4
13	40284.30	rna-binding single-stranded-interacting protein 2-like isoform x3
14	41648.34	afadin- and alpha-actinin-binding protein
15	46982.22	unnamed protein product
16	50054.21	protein fam92a1-like isoform x1
17	54261.58	leukotriene b4 receptor 1-like
18	54497.54	ankyrin repeat domain-containing protein 50-like
19	56375.14	mms19 nucleotide excision repair protein homolog
20	60067.64	e3 ubiquitin-protein ligase trim37-like
21	66930.15	tubulin polyglutamylase ttl4-like isoform x2
22	69650.61	monocyte to macrophage differentiation factor 2
23	71287.48	lipolysis-stimulated lipoprotein receptor
24	74776.68	baculoviral iap repeat-containing protein 6 isoform x10
25	79151.39	guanine nucleotide-binding protein g g g subunit beta-1-like isoform x1
26	81519.68	nuclear receptor corepressor 1 isoform x3
27	89719.68	unnamed protein product, partial