

# Testing pleiotropy in multiparental populations

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# Background

- 10,000+ traits with RNA sequencing and mass spectrometry
- Multiparental populations offer high-resolution QTL mapping
- New analysis tools, such as a pleiotropy test for multiparental populations, are needed



Photo by Alan Attie

# Benefits of a pleiotropy test for multiparental populations

- Insights into genetic architecture
- Tool for expression trait hotspot dissection
- Complements mediation analysis

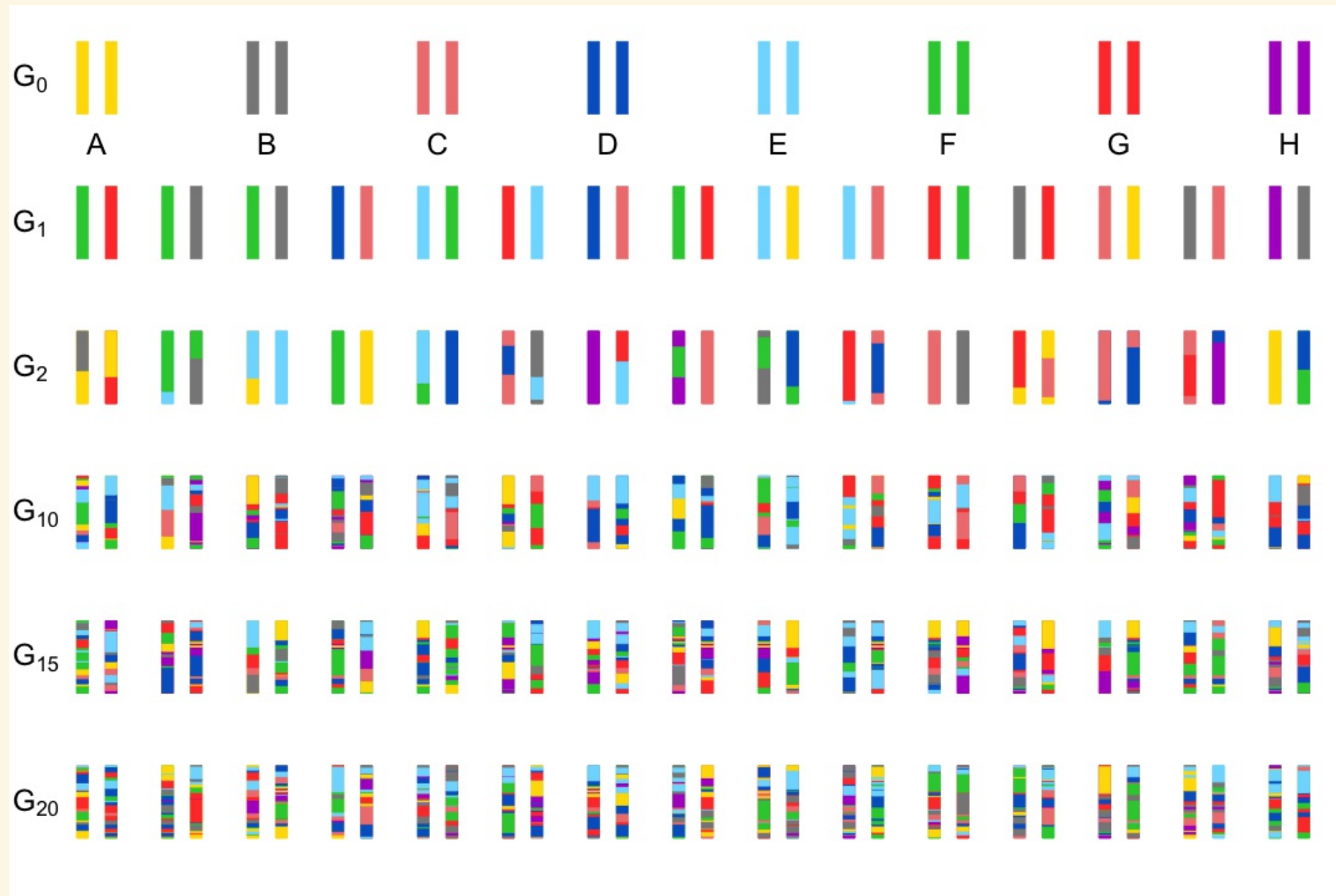
# Jiang and Zeng (1995) test

- Two-parent crosses
- Applies to two traits that co-map
- $H_0$ : Pleiotropy
- $H_A$ : Two separate QTL

# Jiang and Zeng (1995) test

- Perform a two-dimensional two-QTL scan
  - $\text{vec}(Y) = X\text{vec}(B) + \text{vec}(E)$
  - Calculate likelihood at each ordered pair of positions
- Calculate likelihood ratio test statistic

# Multiparental populations



# Challenges in multiparental populations

- Complex patterns of relatedness

## *Multivariate random effects*

- Multiple founder lines

## *Fixed effect for each founder allele*



Photo by UNC Computational Genetics

# Test procedure

- Perform a two-dimensional two-QTL scan
  - $\text{vec}(Y) = X\text{vec}(B) + \text{vec}(G) + \text{vec}(E)$
  - Calculate likelihood at each ordered pair of positions
- Calculate likelihood ratio test statistic



# Test procedure

- Test statistic:

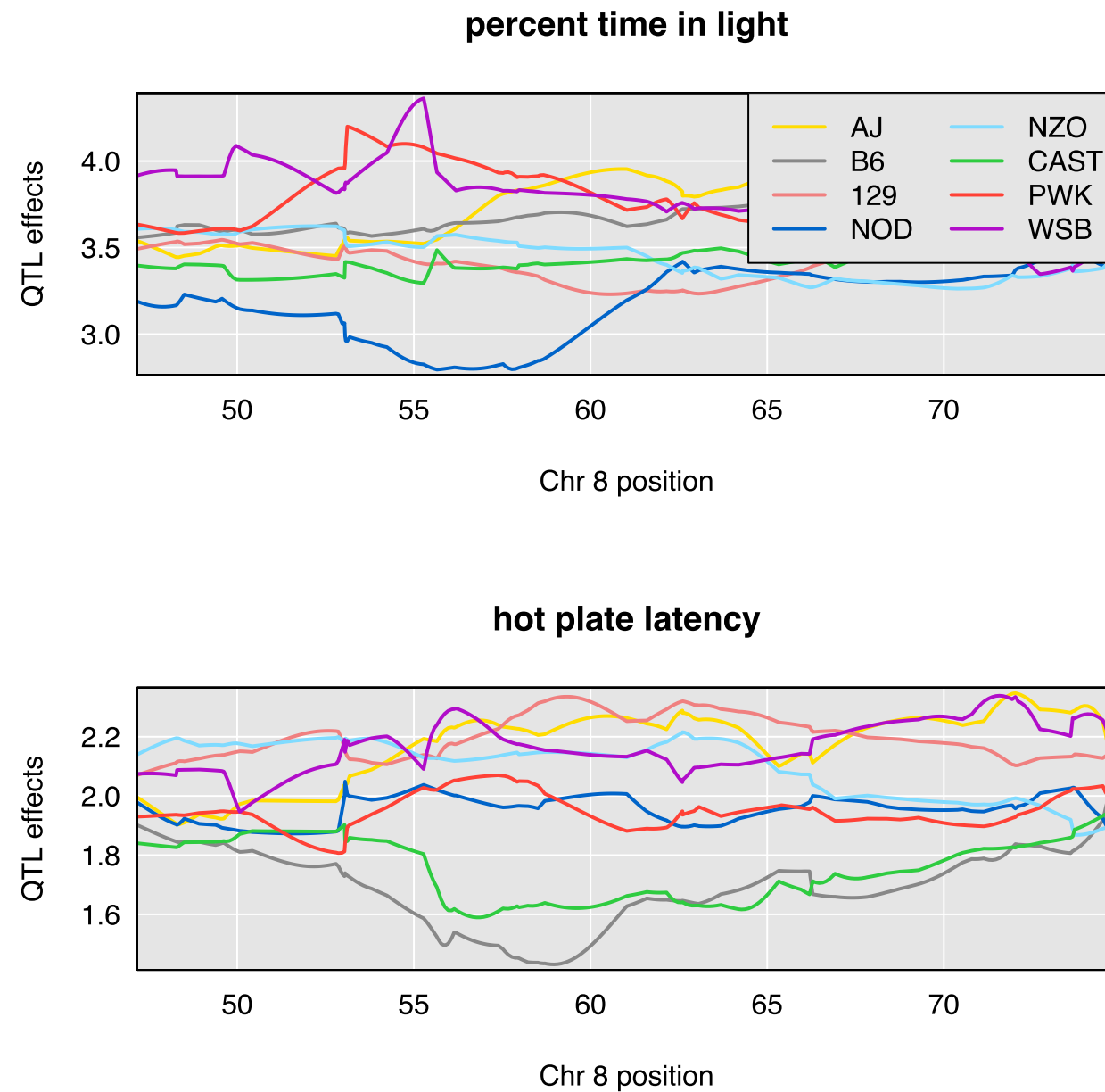
$$-\log_{10} \frac{\max(\text{likelihood under pleiotropy})}{\max(\text{likelihood for separate QTL})}$$

- Parametric bootstrap to get a p-value

# Application

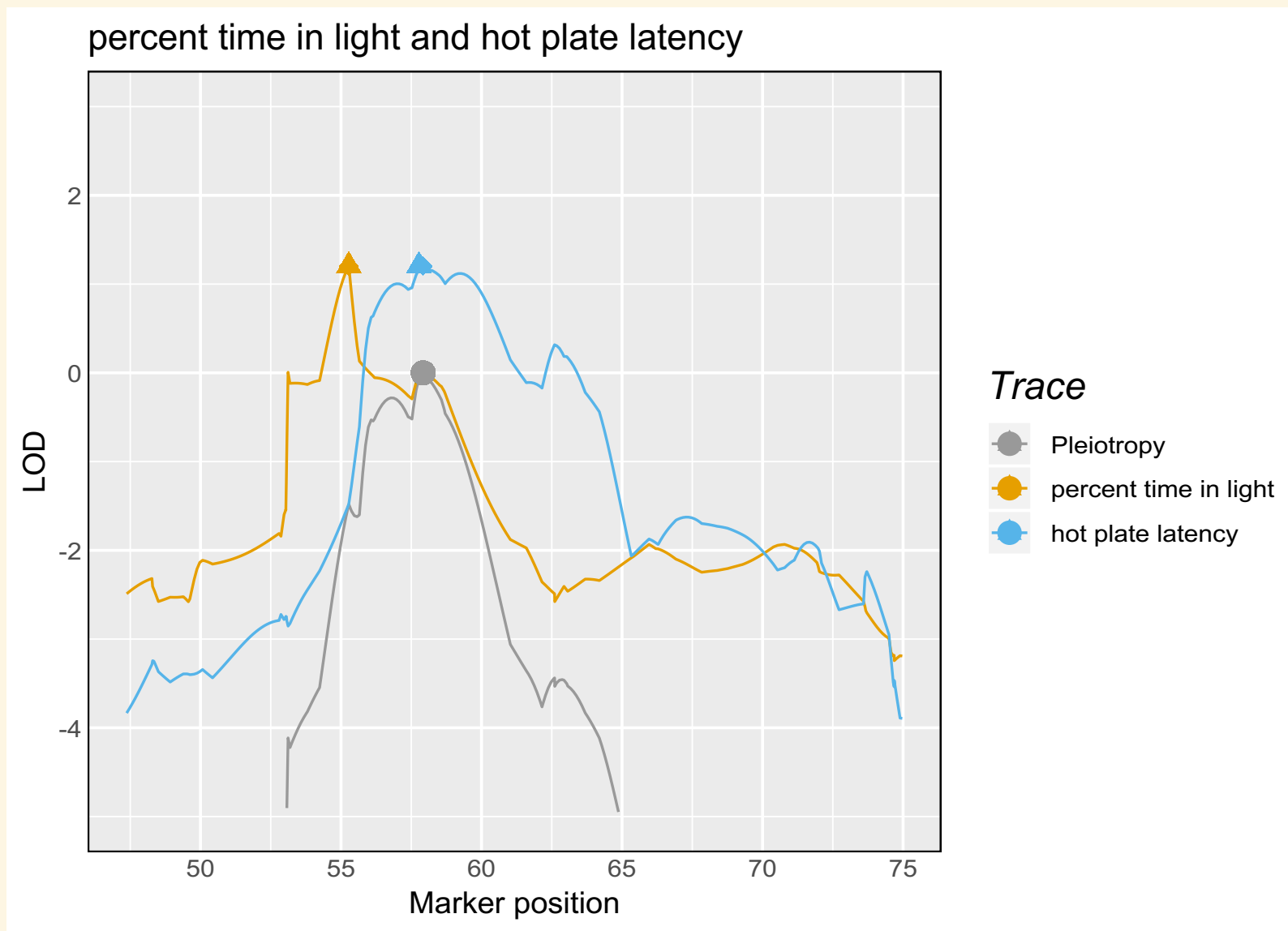
- Logan, et al. (2013) and Recla, et al. (2014) studied 261 Diversity Outbred mice
- Measured about two dozen behavioral traits
- Two traits map to Chr 8:
  - "hot plate latency" (57 cM)
  - "percent time in light" (55 cM)

# Allele effects plots



# Profile LOD

$$\text{profile LOD}_{\text{trait } 1}(\lambda_1) = \max_{\lambda_2} \text{LOD}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$$



# Test results

- $\log_{10} \Lambda = 1.2$
- $p = 0.11$  (1000 bootstrap samples)

# Power study with local expression QTL

# Data

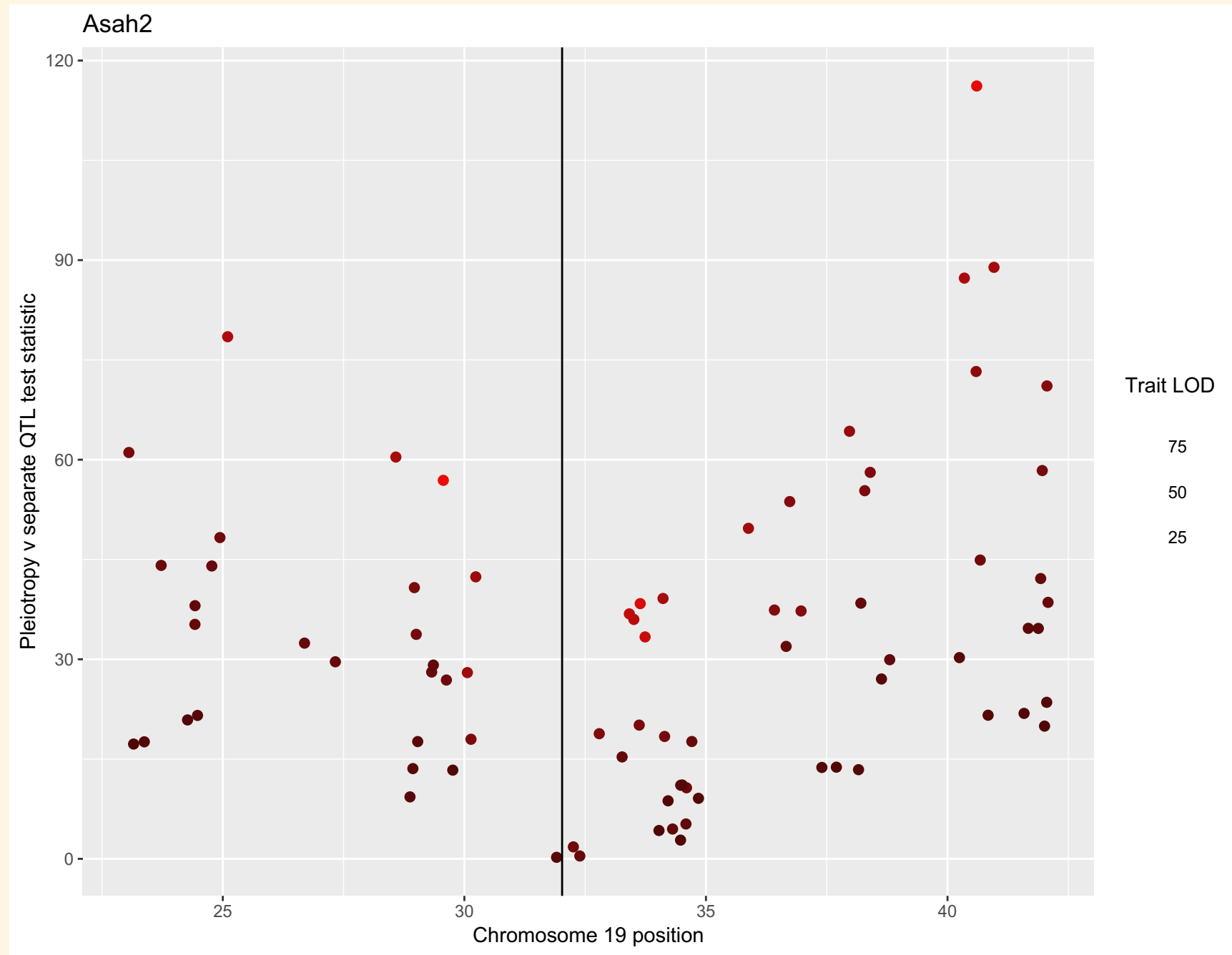
- Keller Gatti, et al. (2018) measured pancreatic islet gene expression levels in 378 Diversity Outbred mice
- 80 local expression QTL were identified in a 20-Mb region of Chr 19
  - local: expression trait QTL is near gene position

# Design

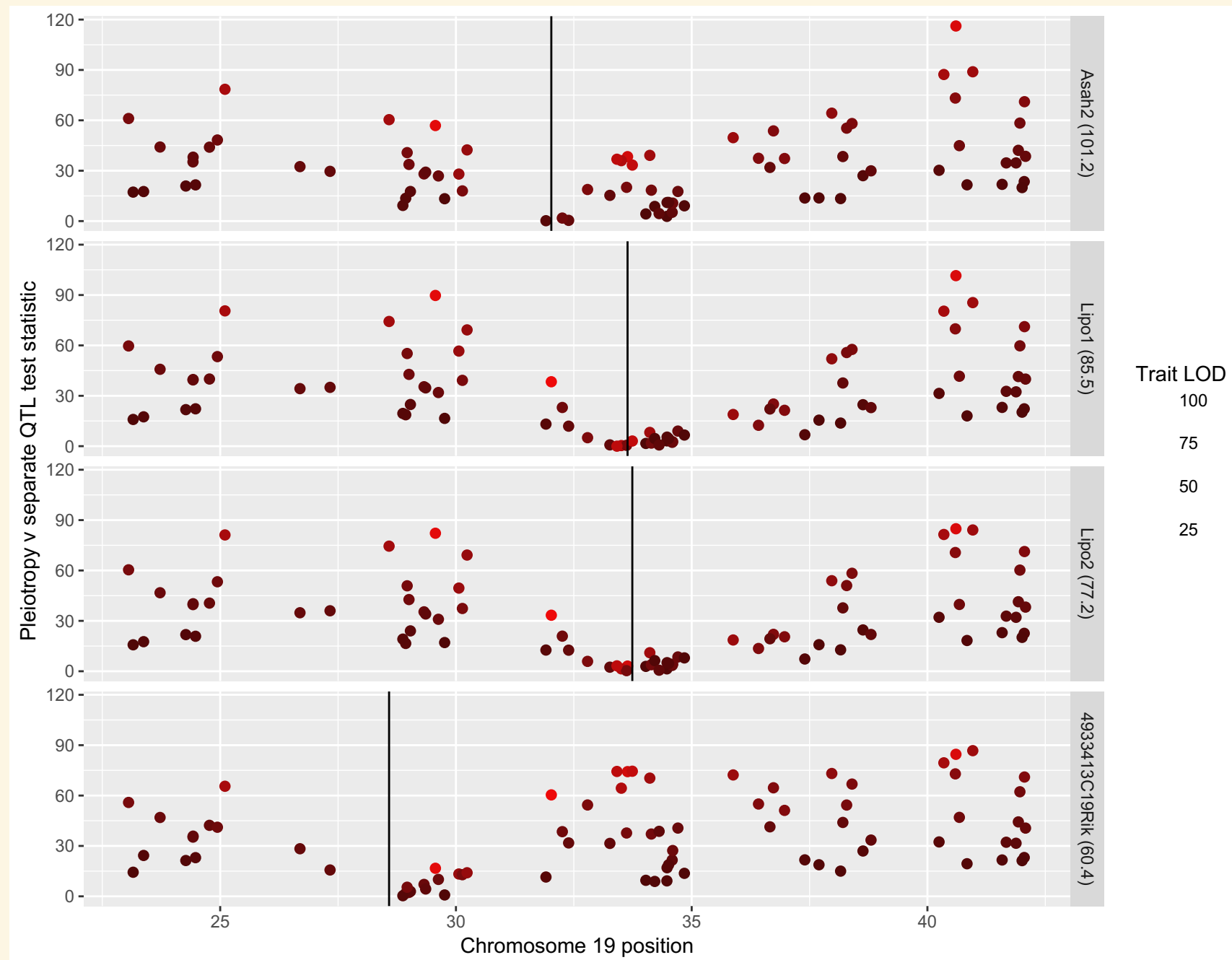
- Examine power when expression trait QTL locations are known
  - Interlocus distance
  - Univariate LOD
- 4 strong, centrally located, local eQTL chosen as "anchor" traits
  - *Asah2*, *Lipo1*, *Lipo2*, *4933413C19Rik*
- Pairwise pleiotropy tests each involving one anchor and one of 79 other traits



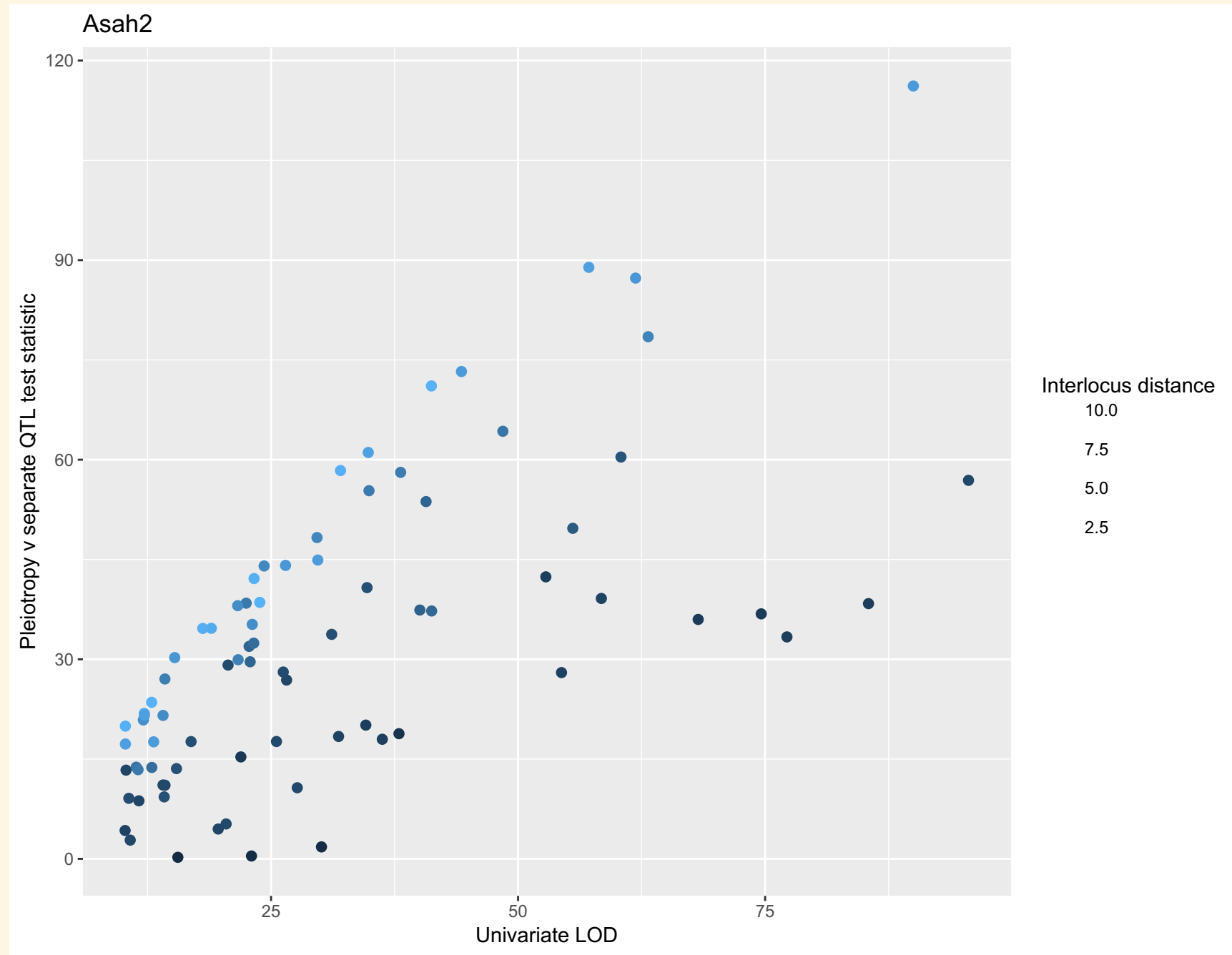
# Interlocus distance



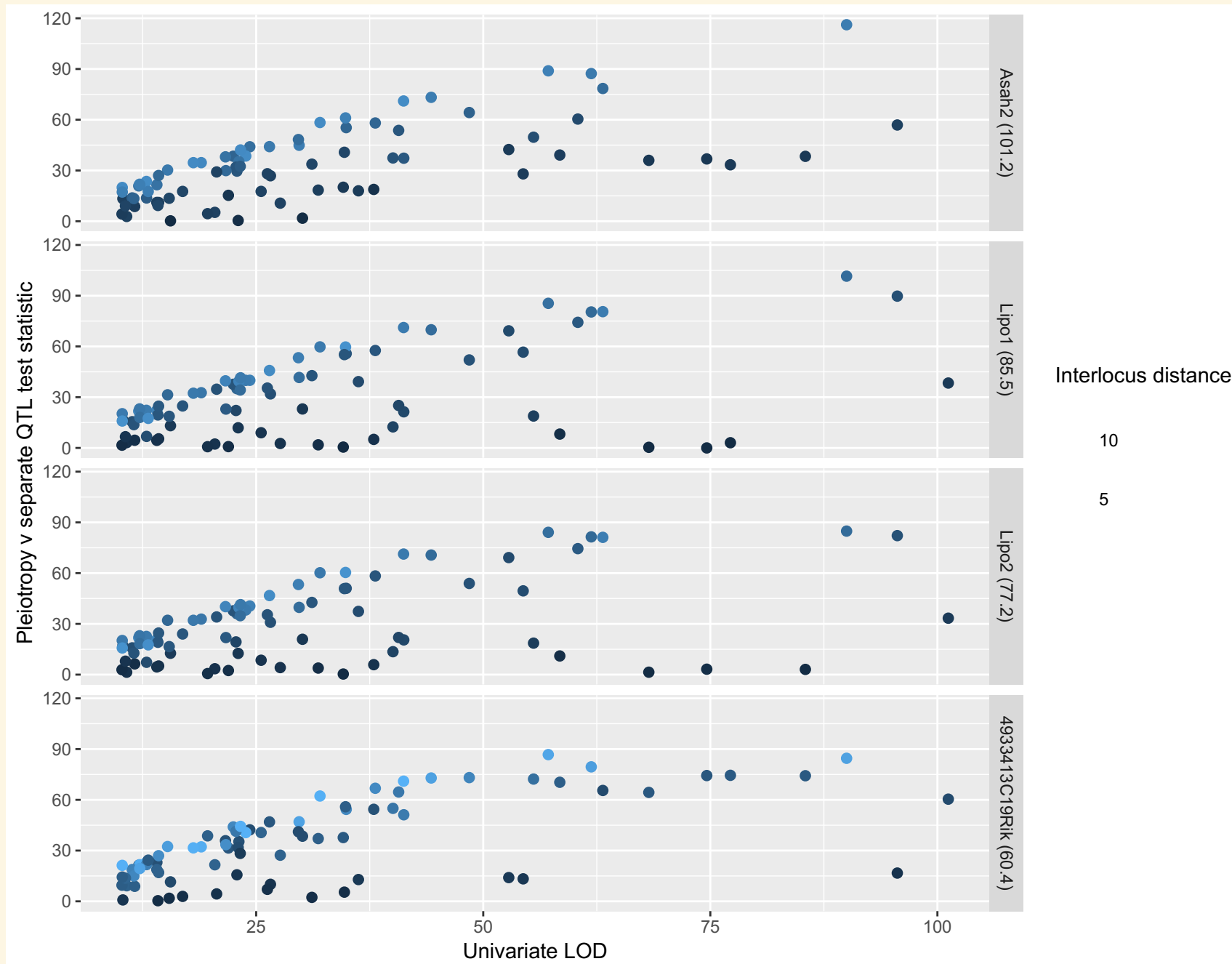
# Interlocus distance



# Univariate LOD



# Univariate LOD



# Conclusions

- ↑ Interlocus distance ↑ Pleiotropy test statistics
- ↑ Univariate LOD ↑ Pleiotropy test statistics

# qtl2pleio R package

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- Functions for d-variate, d-QTL scan & profile LOD plots
- Uses C++ for matrix calculations (via Rcpp and RcppEigen)
- Uses [gemma2](#) R implementation of GEMMA EM algorithm for multivariate random effects
- Unit tests, vignettes, and version control

Thank you!



# References

Jiang, C. and Z. Zeng (1995). "Multiple trait analysis of genetic mapping for quantitative trait loci." In: *Genetics* 140.3, pp. 1111-1127.

Keller, M. P, D. M. Gatti, et al. (2018). "Genetic Drivers of Pancreatic Islet Function". In: *Genetics*, pp. genetics-300864.

Logan, R. W, R. F. Robledo, et al. (2013). "High-precision genetic mapping of behavioral traits in the diversity outbred mouse population". In: *Genes, Brain and Behavior* 12.4, pp. 424-437.