

# Population Genetics – Chapters 1–4 Cheat Sheet

Yongyan Liu

December 13, 2025

## 2. Hardy–Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) (Ch. 2)

**Assumptions:** Infinite size, random mating, no selection/mutation/migration. Two alleles  $A, a$  with  $p, q = 1 - p$

**Genotype Frequency:**  $P(AA) = p^2, \quad P(Aa) = 2pq, \quad P(aa) = q^2$

**Allele Frequency:**  $p = P_{AA} + \frac{1}{2}P_{Aa}, \quad q = 1 - p$

**Rare recessive disease:** If disease prevalence  $x = P(aa)$ , then  $q = \sqrt{x}$ . Carrier freq.  $\approx 2q$  when  $q \ll 1$ .

**Multiple alleles (K):**  $P(A_i A_i) = p_i^2, \quad P(A_i A_j) = 2p_i p_j \ (i \neq j)$

**Goodness-of-fit test for HWE:**  $X^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}, \quad df = (\#\text{genotypes} - 1) - (\#\text{alleles} - 1)$

**Why HWE may fail:** Wahlund effect (population stratification), inbreeding/assortative mating, selection by genotype, mutation/migration.

## 3. Gametic & Linkage Disequilibrium (LD) (Ch. 3)

**Recombination fraction:**  $\theta = g_{Ab} + g_{aB}$ , with  $0 \leq \theta \leq 0.5$ . If  $\theta < 0.5 \rightarrow$  linked.

**LD parameter:**  $D = g_{AB} - p_A p_B = g_{AB} g_{ab} - g_{Ab} g_{aB}$

**Gamete frequencies in terms of D**

$$\begin{aligned} g_{AB} &= p_A p_B + D, & g_{Ab} &= p_A p_b - D, \\ g_{aB} &= p_a p_B - D, & g_{ab} &= p_a p_b + D. \end{aligned}$$

**LD decay across generations:**  $D_n = D_0(1 - \theta)^n$ .

**Evolutionary Significance:**  $g_{AB}^* = g_{AB} - \theta D$

**Normalized LD (Lewontin):**  $D' = \begin{cases} D/\min(p_A p_b, p_a p_B), & D \geq 0 \\ D/\min(p_A p_B, p_a p_b), & D < 0 \end{cases}$

**Correlation measure:**  $r^2 = D^2/(p_A p_a p_B p_b)$ .

**Estimation of Gamete freq. from Genotype freq.:**  $g_{AB} = \frac{2N_{AABB} + N_{AaBB} + N_{AABb}}{2(N_{total} - N_{AaBb})}$  ignore Ab/aB

**Test  $H_0 : D = 0$ :**  $\chi^2 = \frac{ND^2}{p_A p_a p_B p_b} \sim \chi^2_1$ .

## 4. Quantitative Genetics (Ch. 4)

### 4.1 Model and Scaling

- Trait model:  $P = G + E$ , with  $G = A + D + I$  (additive, dominance, epistasis).
- Single-locus scaling (random mating, no sel./mut.):

- Scaled Value:  $A_1A_1 \rightarrow +a$ ,  $A_2A_2 \rightarrow -a$ ,  $A_1A_2 \rightarrow d$ .
- Genotype freqs:  $p^2, 2pq, q^2$  (HWE).
- Population mean:  $\mu = a(p - q) + 2pqd$ .

**Genotypic effects:**  $G_{ij}$  = scaled value –  $\mu$ .

## 4.2 Average Effects & Breeding Values

- Average effect:  $\alpha = a + d(q - p)$ , A1:  $\alpha_1 = q\alpha$ , A2:  $\alpha_2 = -p\alpha$ .
- Additive (breeding) value:  $A_{11} = 2q\alpha$ ,  $A_{12} = (q - p)\alpha$ ,  $A_{22} = -2p\alpha$
- Dominance deviations:  $D_{11} = -2q^2d$ ,  $D_{12} = 2pqd$ ,  $D_{22} = -2p^2d$
- Relationship:  $G = A + D$ .

## 4.3 & 4.4 Variance Components & Heritability

**Phenotypic Variance:**  $V_P = V_G + V_E = V_A + V_D + V_E$

**Additive genetic variance:**  $V_A = 2pq [a + d(q - p)]^2 = 2pq\alpha^2$

**Within-locus interaction (dominance):**  $V_D = (2pqd)^2$

**Broad-sense Heritability:**  $H^2 = V_G/V_P$  (all genetic).

**Narrow-sense Heritability:**  $h^2 = V_A/V_P$  (additive only).

**Interpretation:**  $h^2$  is the fraction of phenotypic variance explained by additive genetics; it predicts response to selection.

## 4.5 Estimating $h^2$ with Relatives

Let  $P_X = G_X + E_X$ ,  $P_Y = G_Y + E_Y$ . With independent  $E$ 's:  $\text{Cov}(P_X, P_Y) = \text{Cov}(G_X, G_Y) = (\frac{r_1}{2})V_A + r_2(V_A + V_D)$

- **Parent-offspring:**  $\text{Cov}(O, P) = \frac{1}{2}V_A$ .  
Regression slope  $b_{OP} = \text{Cov}(O, P)/V_P = \frac{1}{2}h^2 \rightarrow h^2 = 2b_{OP}$ .
- **Mid-parent  $\bar{P}$ :**  $(P_{father} + P_{mother})/2$ : slope  $b_{O\bar{P}}$   $\rightarrow h^2 = b_{O\bar{P}}$ .
- **Full sibs:**  $\text{Cov} = \frac{1}{2}V_A + \frac{1}{4}V_D$ .
- **Half sibs:**  $\text{Cov} = \frac{1}{4}V_A$ .

**Predicting offspring deviation:** If parent deviation is  $x$ , expected offspring deviation =  $h^2x$  (mid-parent) or =  $\frac{1}{2}h^2x$  (single parent).