

Population Genetics – Chapters 1–4 Cheat Sheet

Yongyan Liu

December 16, 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: $P(AA) = p^2$, $P(Aa) = 2pq$, $P(aa) = q^2$

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

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

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

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

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 $H_0 : D = 0$: $\chi^2 = \frac{ND^2}{p_A p_a p_B p_b} \sim \chi_1^2$.

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 $b_{OP} = \text{Cov}(O, P)/V_P = \frac{1}{2}h^2 \rightarrow \boxed{h^2 = 2b_{OP}}$.
- **Mid-parent** $\bar{P} = (P_{father} + P_{mother})/2$: slope $b_{O\bar{P}} \rightarrow \boxed{h^2 = b_{O\bar{P}}}$.
- **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).