Week 10 Response: Song, Hao, & Storey, 2015

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Having no baseline of genetics knowledge, I found this difficult to read and by nature very abstract. I tried to focus on the main contribution, which seemed to be captured in Figure 1 – the idea that they could use the allele frequency to test for association between x and y via inverse regression. The allele frequency proxies for any latent variable z which can be a confounder given the population structure (in my head I was imagining this referring to things like diet or climate). While this indeed seems useful, I was curious whether there are any potential extensions beyond the realm of genetics. If we think yes, I would love to see a more generalized representation of this model, because I got a bit bogged down in googling what SNPs and alleles are...