A primer in Human Cardiovascular Genetics

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About this primer



1.1 Introduction

Welcome to the *A primer in Human Cardiovascular Genetics* as part of the **Genetic Epidemiology** course. In the next few days we will use this GitBook to perform quality control (QC), executing a genome-wide association study (GWAS), annotating the GWAS results, and performing further downstream analyses. We will use data from the first release of the *Welcome Trust Case-Control Consortium (WTCCC)* and focus on coronary artery disease (CAD).

Unfortunately, during this course there is no time to perform imputation, but I will provide some pointers during the course as to how to do this with minimal coding/scripting experience. Likewise, this practical does not cover the aspects of meta-analyses of GWAS. But rest assured, I will add chapters on these subjects to a future version.

1.2 Background reading

Part of this is based on four great Nature Protocols from the Zondervan group at the Wellcome Center Human Genetics.

- 1. Zondervan KT et al. Designing candidate gene and genome-wide casecontrol association studies. Nat Protoc 2007.
- 2. Pettersson FH et al. Marker selection for genetic case-control association studies. Nat Protoc 2009.
- 3. Anderson CA et al. Data QC in genetic case-control association studies. Nat Protoc 2010.
- 4. Clarke GM et al. Basic statistical analysis in genetic case-control studies. Nat Protoc 2011.

An update on the community standards of QC for GWAS can be found here:

1. Laurie CC et al. Quality control and quality assurance in genotypic data for genome-wide association studies. Genet Epidemiol 2010.

With respect to imputation you should also get familiar with the following two works:

- 1. Marchini, J. and Howie, B. Genotype imputation for genome-wide association studies. Nat Rev Genet 2010
- 2. de Bakker PIW et al. Practical aspects of imputation-driven meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies. Hum Mol Genet 2008.
- 3. Winkler TW et al. Quality control and conduct of genome-wide association meta-analyses. Nat Protoc 2014.

1.3 Meet the Team

We work with a team of enthusiastic lecturers with experience in bioinformatics, GWAS, genetic analyses, Mendelian randomization, and epidemiology. This year the team consists of:



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1.4 Final thoughts

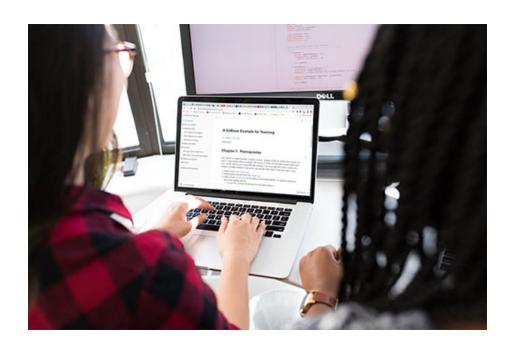
I can imagine this seems overwhelming, but trust me, you'll be okay. Just follow this practical, but also work on the questions asked during the lectures and in this practical. You'll learn by doing and at the end of the day, you can execute

a GWAS independently.

Ready to start?

Your first point of action is to prepare your system for this course (Chapter 2).

Prerequisites



2.1 Linux, macOS, and Windows

Most programs made to execute genetic epidemiology studies are developed for the Unix environment, for example Linux and macOS. So, they may not work as intended in a Windows environment. Windows does allow users to install a linux subsystem within Windows 10 and you can find the detail guide here.

However, I highly recommend to 1) either install a linux subsystem on your

Windows computer (for example a virtual machine with Ubuntu could work), or 2) switch to macOS in combination with homebrew. This will give you all the flexibility to use Unix-based programs for your genetic epidemiology work and at the same time you'll keep the advantage of a powerful computer with a user-friendly interface (either Windows or macOS).

For this practical we use a Windows laptop with Ubuntu on a VirtualMachine. Therefore every command is intended for Linux/macOS, in other words Unix-systems.

2.2 Programs you need

You need few programs for this practical, or for your (future) genetic epidemiology work for that matter.

Progr ⊾in k	Description	
PLINKittps:// www.cog- genomics. org/ plink2/	PLINK is a free, open-source genetic analysis tool set, designed to perform a range of basic data parsing and quality control, as well as basic and large-scale analyses in a computationally efficient manner.	
R https://cran.r- project. org/	A program to perform statistical analysis and visualizations.	
RStudiattps: //www. rstudio. com	A user-friendly R-wrap-around for code editing, debugging, analyses, and visualization.	
Homelintetaps: //brew.sh	A great extension for Mac-users to install really useful programs that Apple didn't.	

Table 1: Programs needed for genetic epidemiology.

All genetic analyses can be done in PLINK, even on your laptop, but with large datasets, for example UK Biobank size, it is better to switch to a high-performance computing cluster like we have available at the Utrecht Science Park.

Nowadays, a lot of people also use programs like SNPTEST, BOLT-LMM, GCTA, or regenie as alternatives to execute GWAS and downstream analyses, for example heritability estimation, Fst-calculation, and so on.

Mendelian randomization can be done either with the SMR or GSMR function from GCTA, or with R-packages, like TwoSampleMR.

2.3 The Terminal

For all the above programs, except RStudio, you will need the Terminal. This comes with every major operating system; on Windows it is called 'PowerShell', but let's not go there. And regardless, you will (have to start to) make your own scripts. The benefit of using scripts is that each step in your workflow is clearly stipulated and annotated, and it allows for greater reproducibility, easier troubleshooting, and scaling up to high-performance computer clusters.

2.3.1 Navigating the Terminal

First, let's download the data you need to your Desktop: LINK.

Now open the terminal, it should be on the left in the toolbar as a little black computer-monitor-like icon. Mac users can type command + space and type terminal, a terminal screen should open.

From now on we will use little code blocks like the example to indicate a code you should type/copy-paste and hit enter. If a code is followed by a comment, it is indicated by a # - you don't need to copy-paste and execute this.

```
CODE BLOCK
```

```
CODE BLOCK # some comment here
```

You can navigate around the computer through the terminal by typing cd <path>; cd stands for "change directory" and means "some_file_directory_you_want_to_go_to".

```
# For Linux/macOS Users
cd ~ # will bring you to your home directory
cd ../ # will bring you to the parent directory (up one level)
cd XXX # will bring you to the XXX directory
```

Let's navigate to the folder you just downloaded.

```
cd ~/Desktop/practical
```

Let's check out what is inside the directory, by listing (ls) its contents.

```
ls -lh
```

```
# For Linux/macOS Users
```

```
ls -l # shows files as list
ls -lh # shows files as list with human readable format
ls -lt # shows the files as list sorted by time edited
ls -lS # shows the files as list sorted by size
```

Adding the flags -lh will get you the contents of a directory in a list (-l) and make the size 'human-readable' (-h).

You can also count the number of files.

```
ls | wc -1
```

2.4 Installing some R packages

I tested this VirtualMachine and everything should be fine, except some libraries weren't there. We need to install them.

To be able to install certain r-packages, we need to install some Linux (Ubuntu) software. Type the following:

```
sudo apt-get install libcurl4 libcurl4-openssl-dev -y
sudo apt-get install libssl-dev
```

Now close the terminal window - really making sure that the terminal-program has quit.

Open a new terminal window and open r by simply typing R. You should install the following packages, and then you're good to go!

```
install.packages(c("httr", "usethis", "data.table", "devtools", "qqman", "CMplot", "tible", "pidevtools::install_github("kassambara/ggpubr")
library("ggpubr")
```

All in all this may take some time, good moment to relax, review your notes, stretch your legs, or take a coffee.

Basics of a Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS)

3.1 Section 1

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3.2 Section 2

WTCCC1: a GWAS on coronary artery disease (CAD)

4.1 Section 1

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4.2 Section 2

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4.3 Section 3

Post-GWAS Analyses

5.1 Section 1

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5.2 Section 2

Conditional analysis

6.1 Section 1

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6.2 Section 2

Statistical finemapping

7.1 Section 1

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7.2 Section 2

Functional Mapping and Annotation of GWAS

8.1 Section 1

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8.2 Section 2

Phenome-Wide Association Study (PheWAS)

9.1 Section 1

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9.2 Section 2

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9.3 Section 3

Mendelian Randomization (MR)

10.1 Section 1

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10.2 Section 2

Mendelian Randomization (MR)

11.1 Section 1

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11.2 Section 2

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