Population Structure Analysis

Learning objectives

- Methods to identify global estimates of population structure
 - Principal Component Analysis (PCA)
 - Admixture
- Local ancestry can identify segments of the genome corresponding to different ancestries.
- Local ancestry can be applied in a number of different ways
 - Demographic modeling
 - Selection
 - Refining PCA signals
 - Association analyses

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)



PCA

- Uses
 - Highly sensitive summary of all the data
 - Summarize population structure
 - Identify groups within data
 - Sanity check for study design
 - E.g. Diseased individuals cluster vs controls
 - Sanity check when combining data
- Pitfalls
 - Only look at the first few PCs
 - All axes are biological (once first few are)
 - Identifying significance of an axis is non-trivial
- Assumptions
 - Linear relationship between data
 - Variants are independent (LD)

PCA Example: Strandedness



PCA Example: Insiginficance



PCA Example: Relatedness



PCA Example: Technical Issues



"Genes mirror geography within Europe"



Novembre et al. (2008) Nature

ADMIXTURE (Alexander et al. 2009)



Admixture analyses



Prado-Martinez et al. (2013) Nature

Admixture analyses: when is the K correct?



Prado-Martinez et al. (2013) Nature

The K Problem



How many different means are there?

ADMIXTURE: using cross validation to identify the best K



$$\hat{g}_{li} = 2\sum_{k=1}^{K} p_{lk} \times q_{ki}$$

Alexander and Lange (2011) BMC Bioinformatics

How well X-validation performs



Alexander and Lange (2011) BMC Bioinformatics

Test it with ESP inspired simulations



Fu et al. (2012) Nature

X-validation's performance as a function of split time



Tricks to effectively use ADMIXTURE

- This is a Maximum Likelihood framework with many parameters
 - Run multiple times (I usually use >10) for each K taking the best log-likelihood (an output parameter).
 - This deals with local minimum problems.
- Sometimes the lowest K that has X-validation identifies is less than what we thought. Though this is possible (see previous power figure), it doesn't mean we have objective evidence other than the K it found.
- Sometimes we get greater K than we expect or can explain. In such situations it might be better to move to a supervised learning version (also available in ADMIXTURE).

Local vs Global Ancestry



Gravel et al. (2013) Genetics

Mathias et al. (2016) Nat. Comm.

Local ancestry calling: RFMix as an example



Maples et al. (2013) AJHG

Demographic modeling with local ancestry



Gravel et al. (2013) Genetics

Demographic modeling with local ancestry



Gravel et al. (2013) PLoS Genet.

Recent selection by looking for local ancestry biases



Tang et al. (2007) AJHG Though see Bhatia et al. (2014) AJHG

Combining Local Ancestry and PCA to give Ancestry Specific PCA (or ASPCA)



Moreno-Estrada et al. (2013) PLOS Genet.

Peruvian population structure with PCA



Ancestry specific PCA: Europe and Africa



Harris et al. (submitted)

Peruvian population structure using Ancestry Specific PCA



Admixture is not just a nuisance for association

- Differences in genetic architecture are not just nuisance values that need to be 'adjusted' for
 - in association models.
 - Extension Studies
 - Admixture Mapping

Extension Studies

- Extension of findings to other ancestries is important to:
 - Determine association's potential public health impact
 - Provide additional evidence supporting association
 - Useful in fine-mapping an association signal
 - Finding risk variation in non-homogenous populations (like African Americans)

Admixture mapping - Concept



Example of an Admixture scan



Patterson et al. (2004) AJHG

Concluding Summary

- PCA and Admixture analyses can summarize the ancestry found across the entire genome
- Local ancestry refines this inference to genomic segments with broad applications including demographic modeling and association analyses.