NATURAL SELECTION



Evolution by natural selection:

All organisms produce more offspring than can survive and reproduce.

Individuals (genotypes) differ in heritable traits related to survival and reproduction.

> The genotypes differ in their contribution to the next generation, ie. the most fit genotypes contribute more than the less fit ones.

Rock pocket mouse (Chaetodipus intermedius): Sonoran and Chihuahuan



Selection on the RNA level:

intron *Tetrahymena*: Ca⁺ instead of Mg⁺ (normal state)



REPRODUCTIVE FITNESS, *w*

= average per capita lifetime contribution of individuals of a given genotype to the population after one or more generation

absolute number of the offspring = absolute fitness

discrete generations, stable population \rightarrow fitness \approx 1 in asexual organisms, \approx 2 in sexual organisms; even with a slight deviation the population goes either to extinction or to overpopulation

continuous time scale \rightarrow growth rate ≈ 0

in evolution relationships between genotypes in a population more important \rightarrow relative fitness

discrete time \rightarrow = <u>ratio</u> of absolute fitness; continuous time \rightarrow = <u>difference</u> between growth rates

usually relative fitness of the most fit genotype = 1 alternatively we may relate to the <u>mean population fitness</u>



zygotic selection:

viability reproductive success fertility/fecundity

gametic selection:

gamete viability fertilisation success segregation distortion





Change of allele frequencies and selection coefficient, s



Increase of a advantageous dominant allele A:





Effect of the initial allele frequency:



STUDY OF NATURAL SELECTION:

1. Correlation of allele frequencies across populations

Adh^F in D. melanogaster









Problems:

3 alleles, not 1, affect the colouration

increase of melanism also in species not endangered by predation by insectivorous birds (pigeons, cats, some beetles)

in some areas correlation between melanism and pollution weak

errors in the experiment:

during the day, peppered moths stay on horizontal branches, not on trunks (different lichen species); in butterflies and birds different perception of UV

under laboratory conditions the *typica* viability by 30% lower than that of *carbonaria*

better absorption of solar radiation in melanic forms? (eg. two-spot ladybird)

5. Resistance

eg.: DDT resistance in mosquitos (Aedes, Anopheles):



eg.: Warfarin resistance in rats:

Warfarin = blood anticoagulant, inhibiting the enzyme responsible for the recovery of vitamin K (coagulation cofactor)



Relationship between phenotype and fitness: basic selection regimes



Relationship between phenotype and fitness: basic selection regimes



Relationship between phenotype and fitness: basic selection regimes



stabilizing selection – birth weight in humans



Equilibrium between selection and mutation

recurrent emergence of a deleterious mutation \times elimination by selection



Muller-Haldane principle:

Regardless of dominance/recessivity of a deleterious mutation, its impact on decreasing fitness is independent of the level of its harmfulness.

Equilibrium between selection and gene flow repeated "influx" of a deleterious allele \times elimination by selection 1. $m > s \Rightarrow$ allele fixation 2. $m < s \Rightarrow$ allele elimination w_{12} intermediary equilibrium 3. $m=s \Rightarrow$ polymorphism 1.0 a m=0Rovnovážná genováč četnosť (q) v každém dému 5. 0 5. (q) v každém dému m=1Fitness, w W m=1m=0 W_{12} higher b m=0m=1Fitness, w m=1m=0východ západ západ východ



1. Selective advantage of heterozygotes = overdominance





Selection maintains balanced polymorphism



~ 2000 years ago expansion of Bantu peoples

burning off savannas and forests, increase of population density → suitable environment for *Anopheles* mosquitos (*A. gambiae*), the host of *Plasmodium falciparum*

 \Rightarrow malaria

Sickle cell anemia and malaria:

sickle cell anemia: S allele: substitution of 1 AA at 6th position in 6th codon of the β -Hb gene:



sickle-cell red blood cell invaded by *Plasmodium* is rapidly breaking \Rightarrow the parasite cannot reproduce and multiply \Rightarrow resistance

 \rightarrow heterozygote advantage





Relative fitness of genotypes related to sickle cell anemia:

Table 11.1. Phenotypic Attributes and Relative Fitnesses (Viabilities) of Six Genotypes Formed by *A*, *S*, and *C* Alleles at β -*Hb* Locus in Humans in Wet, Tropical Africa

Genotype	Phenotypic Attributes	Fitness in Nonmalarial	Fitness in Malarial
AA	Malarial susceptibility	1.00	0.89
AS	Malarial resistance	1.00	1.00
SS	Hemolytic anemia	0.20	0.20



2. Sickling

sickling in SS and AS individuals \Rightarrow with respect to deformation S dominant

Phenotypes related to the S allele:



3. Anemia

in SS individuals longer chains \Rightarrow stronger deformation of red blood cells \Rightarrow more fatal impacts on the organism: erythrocyte rupture (anemia), clogging of capillaries etc.

clinical syndromes only in $SS \Rightarrow S$ allele <u>recessive</u>

Phenotypes related to the S allele:

4. Resistance to malaria

with respect to resistance the S allele dominant



Phenotypes related to the S allele:

5. Phenotype of health (viability)

nonmalarial environment: S recessive



malarial environment: SS – strong anemia; AA – malaria; AS – no anemia, weak malaria \Rightarrow S is <u>overdominant</u>



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AA	Malarial susceptibility	1.00	0.89
AS	Malarial resistance	1.00	1.00
SS	Hemolytic anemia	0.20	0.20
AC	Malarial susceptibility	1.00	0.89
SC	Hemolytic anemia	0.71	0.70
CC	Malarial resistance	1.00	1.31

Table 11.1. Phenotypic Attributes and Relative Fitnesses (Viabilities) of Six Genotypes Formed by *A*, *S*, and *C* Alleles at β -*Hb* Locus in Humans in Wet, Tropical Africa

Note: The fitness of the *AS* heterozygote is set to 1. The malarial fitnesses are estimated from data given in Cavalli-Sforza and Bodmer (1971).

Emergence of *C* allele in the *AS* polymorphism region:

possible genotypes: $w_{AC} = 0,89$; $w_{SC} = 0,70$

 w_{AS} = 1,00 \Rightarrow selection acts against beneficial allele!

Although C higly beneficial, selection will decrease its frequency until it is completely removed!! Resistance against malaria can be mediated through other mechanisms:

hemoglobin E (JV Asie) α - a β -thalassemia G6PD^{*)} deficiency Pk^{**)} deficiency etc. etc.



*) glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase**) pyruvate kinase

However, selection in favour of heterozygotes is not widespread in nature

Alternative equilibrium: selection against heterozygotes (underdominance)







Selection results in fixation of one of the alleles (and extinction of the other)

2. Selection in heterogeneous environment

environmental variation: spatial

temporal

coarse-grained: single environment throughout lifetime fine-grained: environmental heterogeneity throughout lifetime

selection: soft hard





Coarse-grained environment and soft selection will maintain polymophism in the population with higher probability than fine-grained environment and hard selection.

3. Antagonistic selection

different sexes different ontogenetic stages gametic × zygotic phase

4. Frequency-dependent selection I. Negative



Eg.: Batesian mimicry

[in this case it is rather density-dependent selection]



Eg.: cichlid Perissodus microlepis (Tanganyika)





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4. Frequency-dependent selection II. Positive







Balancing selection at the molecular level:

