## **RANDOM GENETIC DRIFT**



HW: infinite population but in real world population sizes finite  $\Rightarrow$  random processes, nonadaptive evolution

Why randomness?

when number of repetitions finite probability of an event ≠ its frequency (cf. H-W principle)



10 coins  $\rightarrow$  in more than 75 % cases the ratio differs from 1 : 1





With more coins lower variance around expected value

## Random sampling from gene pool (sampling error):



Random sampling results in fluctuations of allele frequencies across generations = "random walk"

#### Wright-Fisher model

 $\approx$  Hardy-Weinberg model for <u>finite populations</u>







## Modelling drift:



Fluctuation of frequencies across generations stronger in small populations (~ drunker sailor).



Frequency fluctuates even in very large populations!



Conclusion 1: Drift results either in allele <u>fixation</u> or allele <u>extinction</u>.

Conclusion 2: Drift results in loss of variation in demes.

Conclusion 3: Probability of allele fixation equals its frequency.

Probability of fixation of a new allele in diploids = 1/(2N)

Conclusion 4: Mean time to fixation of a new allele  $\approx 4N$ .



Conclusion 5: Drift results in <u>divergence</u> among demes.







Peter Buri (1956):

107 populations of *D. melanogaster* 

zeroth generation: 16 heterozygous  $bw^{75}/bw$  individuals in each population in each generation random sampling of 8 males and 8 females 19 generations









#### Eg.: Galapágos lava lizard (Microlophus albemarlensis)















#### Evolution of selectively neutral traits is random



## **Efective population size**

Real populations differ from the WF model (fluctuations of *N*, different reproductive success and mortality, unequal sex ratio, ....)

 $\rightarrow$  effective population size  $N_e$  allows us to measure drift in non-ideal populations

Effective population size = the number of individuals of ideal Wright-Fisher population displaying the same rate of drift as the studied non-ideal population

Like in the inbreeding coefficient there is no single effective population size!!

#### Some factors decrease $N_e$ relative to N:

overlapping generations

fluctuating population size across generations

different number of breeding males and females

high variation of the number of offspring within populations

Caution! Under some circumstances the effective population size can be <u>higher</u> than *N*!!

## Effect of fluctuating population size:

effective size can be approximated as <u>harmonic mean</u>  $\Rightarrow$  strong influence of small *N*!!



#### Effect of biased sex ratio:

Till now we assumed the same number of breeding males and females

 $N_m$  = number of breeding males,  $N_f$  = number of breeding females



#### Effect of biased sex ratio:

$$N_m = 1$$
:



## Different ploidy:



## Effect of unequal reproductive success:

southern elephant seal:

sex ratio within a harem 1:40\*)

\*) effective ratio 1:4-5 due to cuckoldry and short period of male's dominance (1-2 years)







#### Reproductive success on the gene level:

If a gene is affected by selection variance of the number of offspring among members of a population is high (individuals with a positive allele have more offspring)

 $\Rightarrow N_e$  for this gene is <u>lower</u> than for a neutral gene

#### Each genetic trait requires its own $N_e$ :

For genes on autosomes, sex chromosomes, and mtDNA there are different effective population sizes:

autosomes:	N <sub>e</sub>	4 N <sub>e</sub>
X, Z:	³∕₄ N <sub>e</sub>	З N <sub>e</sub>
Y, W, mtDNA:	1⁄4 N <sub>e</sub>	1 N <sub>e</sub>



under drift some alleles disappear from a population  $\Rightarrow$  when there are no mutations ultimately all gene copies have a common ancestor

"forward" approach

we can proceed also back in time – "backward" approach → moving back in time till two or more gene copies "fuse" = coalescent event

the most recent common ancestor (MRCA)

#### Wright-Fisher model:







#### Coalescence and effective population size

from the coalescent theory several interesting consequences follow:

in small populations coalescent rate higher than in large populations

 $\Rightarrow$  we can estimate  $N_e$ 

but we can estimate also <u>changes</u> of  $N_e$  in time



## The same effect of selection on the coalescent tree shape:



replaces the ancestral allele by drift

allele (black). Both alleles persist indefinitely as a balanced polymorphism is maintained by selection

## **BOTTLENECK and FOUNDER EFFECT**



traits (autosomes, mtDNA, Y...) – different  $N_e!$ 





## Founder effect:



colonization of a novel territory (eg. island)

because of a small numer of founders (even a single pregnant female)

- $\rightarrow$  random change of allele frequencies
- $\rightarrow$  reduction of variation

different environmental conditions  $\rightarrow$  speciation

# Examples of founder effect and bottleneck cheetah

30 individuals of *Acinonyx jubatus reineyi* from E Africa, 49 protein loci: only 2 loci polymorphic (P = 0,04), mean heterozygosity  $H_0 = 0,01$ 

98 individuals of *A. j. jubatus* from S Africa:  $P = 0,02, H_0 = 0,0004!$ 

south-African individuals accept skin grafts of the east-African subspecies without problems  $\Rightarrow$  monomorphism of MHC genes

assumed strong bottleneck in the past



## golden hamster

1930: Israel Aharoni (Hebrew Univ., Jerusalem) – female with offspring

escape of several individuals from captivity

1931: transport of several individuals to Britain 1937: private breeders

Recent genetic analyses including mtDNA  $\rightarrow$  all golden hamsters currently kept in breeding colonies are descendants of a single female, probably that of 1930

mostly presented as an example of bottleneck but it is rather an example of <u>founder effect</u>



#### northern elephant seal

Mirounga angustirostris: in 19th century almost eradicated

 $\rightarrow$  1892 last 8 individuals on the island of Guadelupe killed for museum collections

fortunately 10-20 individuals passed unnoticed  $\rightarrow$  today > 100 000 inds.

M. Bonnell a R.K. Selander (1974): blood samples of 159 individuals electrophoresis at 21 loci  $\rightarrow$  no variation likewise Hoelzel et al. (1993), 62 loci









#### Mus musculus musculus



## mouse colonization of Europe



## humans

a) Las Salinas (Dominican Republic):

Altagracia Carrasco:

several children with at least 4 men



Carrasco heterozygous for substitution T  $\rightarrow$  C in 5th exon of the 5- $\alpha$ -reductase 2 gene  $\Rightarrow$  TGG (Trp)  $\rightarrow$  CGG (Arg) at the 246th position of the protein

the enzyme catalyzes transformation of testosterone to DHT (dihydrotestosterone)

low activity of the mutant enzyme in homozygotes  $\Rightarrow$  boys have testes but other traits are female

in puberty testosterone production increases  $\Rightarrow$  transformation to men

in Salinas high frequency of the mutation  $\Rightarrow$  the word *guevedoces* (= "penis in 12")









Tristan da Cunha:

1816 military garrison

1817 garrison withdrawn;

Skottish corporal William Glass and his family founds a small colony (20 individuals in total)  $\rightarrow$  founder effect

ARAGUA

ARGENTINA

URUGUAY

during 80 years 2 strong bottlenecks





1851: a missionary arrival

1853: death of W. Glass

1856: departure of 25 Glass's descendants to America, departure of other 45 people with the missionary

 $\Rightarrow$  103 inds. (1855)  $\rightarrow$  33 (1857) ... 1st bottleneck



1857–1884: population growth  $\Rightarrow$  conservation of changes caused by previous bottleneck  $\rightarrow$  less changes during 27 years than during 2 years 1855–1857



1884–1891: drowning of 15 men, only 4 adult remains, of whic 2 very old ("Island of Widows")  $\rightarrow$  departure of many widows with their children

 $\Rightarrow$  106 inds. (1884)  $\rightarrow$  59 (1891) ... 2nd bottleneck



again, the following growth has "frozen" the changes



Genetic changes during population growth lower than during bottlenecks

#### Inbreeding on Tristan da Cunha:



Despite the outbreeding strategy (choice of the least related partner), ie.  $F_{IS} < 0$ , the level of autozygosity increased



#### Inbreeding on Tristan da Cunha:



Despite the outbreeding strategy (choice of the least related partner), ie.  $F_{IS} < 0$ , the level of autozygosity increased

Table 3.3. First Eight Marriages between Biological Relatives on Tristan da Cunha Showing Date of Marriage, Number of Available Women of Marriageable Age,<sup>a</sup> and Number of Available Women Not Related to Groom

Marriage between Relatives	Date of marriage	Number of available women	Number of non relatives	
1	1854	7	3	
2	1856	9	2	
3	1871	1	0	no unrelated
4	1876	1	0	
5	1884	7	1	woman available!
6	1888	8	0	-
7	1893	3	0	
8	1898	1	0	

<sup>a</sup> Sixteen years and over, single, and not a sister of the groom.

## **RELATION BETWEEN DRIFT AND GENE FLOW**



Gene flow and drift have opposite effects: drift increases divergence among demes × migration "homogenizes" demes

## **RELATION BETWEEN DRIFT AND SELECTION**







Sewall Wright

The notion of adaptive landscape has 2 mutually incompatible meanings:

- 1. Allele combinations: fitness values assigned to <u>genotypes</u> N genotypes  $\rightarrow N + 1$  dimensions discontinuous surface, population = cluster of points
- Average <u>allele frequencies</u> number of dimensions = number of sets of allele frequencies continuous surface

## Shifting balance theory (SBT)

Assumptions:

environment changes  $\Rightarrow$  populations in constant change

mutations  $\Rightarrow$  new dimensions, new ways upwards

small populations (drift)  $\Rightarrow$  possibility to move down to adaptive valleys

#### 3 phases of SBT:

1. contemporary fitness reduction of a local population due to drift  $\rightarrow$  chance to approach the area of attraction of a higher peak



#### 3 phases of SBT:

2. intrademic selection  $\rightarrow$  "pulling" of the population towards a new peak



3. interdemic selection  $\rightarrow$  spread of the deme's members at the higher peak to surrounding demes

The whole proces seen as shifting of the balance between drift, intrademic, and interdemic selection

## 2 views on evolution in populations:



S. Wright



R.A. Fisher

small local populations

combination of selection, drift and migration

epistasis, pleiotropy, dependence of allele effects on context

speciation as a byproduct of local adaptations in epistatic systems

large panmictic populations

mutation and selection

additive effects of genes, allele effects independent of context

disruptive or locally divergent selection