

1 **Title:** A simple test identifies selection on complex traits in breeding and experimentally-evolved
2 populations

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30 **Abstract:** Important traits in agricultural, natural, and human populations are increasingly being shown
31 to be under the control of many genes that individually contribute only a small proportion of genetic
32 variation. However, the majority of modern tools in quantitative and population genetics, including
33 genome wide association studies and selection mapping protocols, are designed to identify individual
34 genes with large effects. We have developed an approach to identify traits that have been under
35 selection and are controlled by large numbers of loci. In contrast to existing methods, our technique
36 utilizes additive effects estimates from all available markers, and relates these estimates to allele
37 frequency change over time. Using this information, we generate a composite statistic, denoted \hat{G} ,
38 which can be used to test for significant evidence of selection on a trait. Our test requires pre- and post-
39 selection genotypic data but only a single time point with phenotypic information. Simulations
40 demonstrate that \hat{G} is powerful for identifying selection, particularly in situations where the trait being
41 tested is controlled by many genes, which is precisely the scenario where classical approaches for
42 selection mapping are least powerful. We apply this test to breeding populations of maize and chickens,
43 where we demonstrate the successful identification of selection on traits that are documented to have
44 been under selection.

45 **Introduction**

46 Quantitative traits encompass an inexhaustible number of phenotypes that vary in populations, from
47 characters such as height (Yang *et al.* 2010) to weight (Barsh *et al.* 2000) to disease resistance (Poland *et*
48 *al.* 2009). These types of traits are so essential for agriculture and human health that the entire field of
49 quantitative genetics revolves around their study (Plomin *et al.* 2009; Wallace *et al.* 2014). However, the
50 nature of quantitative traits makes it difficult to study their genetic basis; for nearly a century, scientists
51 have modeled quantitative traits by assuming that their underlying control involves many loci each
52 contributing a very small proportion to genetic variance (Fisher 1918), the so-called ‘infinitesimal
53 model’. Therefore, conducting studies with enough power to identify a substantial proportion of the loci
54 that contribute to a quantitative trait requires a massive sample size, imposing financial and logistical
55 barriers. However, this model of quantitative trait variation does an excellent job when predicting
56 important characteristics such as response to selection (Visscher *et al.* 2008). For instance, genomic
57 prediction methodologies (Meuwissen *et al.* 2001) allow the breeding value and/or phenotype of
58 individuals to be predicted with remarkable precision from genomic information alone.

59 The models of quantitative genetics have had a less dramatic impact on studies of evolutionary
60 adaptation, where genomes are often scanned to identify adaptive loci with large effects (Akey 2009).
61 Positive selection on such loci leaves behind pronounced signatures, deemed “selective sweeps”. There
62 is an abundance of evidence for such sweeps in humans (Sabeti *et al.* 2007), natural populations
63 (Schweizer *et al.* 2016), livestock (Qanbari and Simianer 2014), and crops (Hufford *et al.* 2012; Qanbari
64 and Simianer 2014; Schweizer *et al.* 2016). However, alternative forms of selection, including purifying
65 selection against new mutations (Lawrie *et al.* 2013), selection on standing variation (Garud *et al.* 2015),
66 or selection on many loci of small effect (Turchin *et al.* 2012), rarely leave these discernible signatures at
67 individual loci. Evidence of these forms of selection can be difficult to identify. When they can be found,
68 it is often through the pooling of weak evidence at individual loci into a stronger signal across a class of
69 loci. For example, Beissinger *et al.* (2016) demonstrated the importance of purifying selection during
70 maize evolution by combining evidence from all maize genes. An approach implemented by Berg and
71 Coop (2014) tests for evidence of selection on a quantitative trait by evaluating allele frequencies at all
72 loci that have previously been implicated by genome-wide association studies (GWAS) as putatively
73 associated with that trait. This approach has since been used to test for selection on multiple human
74 traits, including height (Mathieson *et al.* 2015) and telomere length (Hansen *et al.* 2016).

75 In studies of model organisms or agricultural species, large collections of previously identified
76 “GWAS hits” are not as abundant as in humans, on which the Berg and Coop (2014) method depends.
77 This is due in part to the more modest sample sizes that tend to be used in experimental settings
78 compared to clinical studies, often combined in large-scale meta-analyses (Evangelou and Ioannidis
79 2013). Conversely, genotypic data across at least two time points are often readily available for model
80 and agricultural species. Due to improving technologies for sequencing ancient DNA (Mathieson *et al.*
81 2017; Berg *et al.* 2017), and/or by leveraging populations that have benefitted from excellent historical
82 record-keeping (Kong *et al.* 2017), genetic data with a temporal component is increasingly available in
83 humans. We have developed a test for selection on complex traits that leverages such genotype-over-
84 time data. Our test depends on the relationship between the change in allele frequency between two
85 generations and the estimated additive effect of the same allele, computed for every genotyped locus.
86 We use these values to compute an estimate of the direction of genetic gain, which can be shown to be
87 additive across all loci considered. Our estimate lends itself to a simple permutation-based test for
88 significance that avoids many of the demographic history and population structure related caveats that
89 complicate determining significance when testing for selection (de Villemereuil *et al.* 2014). The method
90 utilizes additive effects estimates for each locus calculated simultaneously, using shrinkage-based
91 methods that have been honed over the past 15 years for the purpose of genomic selection and
92 prediction (Campos *et al.* 2013). Therefore, this test can be considered analogous to reverse genomic
93 selection; rather than using predictions of breeding value to drive selection and hence future changes in
94 allele frequency, we use the same data coupled with knowledge of past changes in allele frequency to
95 make inferences regarding which traits were effectively under selection in the past. Interestingly, we
96 find by simulation that this approach is most powerful for identifying selection on traits controlled by
97 many loci of small effect, which is exactly the situation where other tests for selection and/or
98 association are least powerful.

99 Herein, we first motivate and describe our test for selection on complex traits, which we call \hat{G} .
100 Then, we perform simulations demonstrating the validity of the method and explore the situations
101 where it is most and least powerful. Finally, we apply the method to breeding populations of maize and
102 chicken. In both of these experimental situations, we successfully identify the traits that are known to
103 have been selected. Collectively, our results demonstrate that this approach may be leveraged to
104 identify novel traits or component-traits that may be used to inform future breeding decisions and/or

105 for enhanced historical, ecological, and basic scientific understanding. Software for implementing this
106 test can be found in the accompanying Github repository, github.com/timbeissinger/ComplexSelection.

107

108 **Results**

109 **Theoretical Motivation:**

110 Assume that a trait is fully controlled by additive di-allelic loci $j = 1, \dots, m$. Then the genotypic
111 value, a_j , of an allele at locus j , is equal to its gene substitution effect, α_j . Based on this equivalency, the
112 mean phenotypic effect, M_j , attributable to the locus is given by $M_j = \alpha_j(2p_j - 1)$, where p_j is the frequency
113 of the reference allele at this locus. It follows that the change in the population mean resulting from
114 selection on this locus, what we may consider the locus-specific response to selection, is given by

$$115 R_j = M_{j1} - M_{j0} = \alpha_j(2p_{j1} - 1) - \alpha_j(2p_{j0} - 1) = 2\alpha_j(p_{j1} - p_{j0}),$$

116 where p_{j0} is the allele frequency before selection and p_{j1} is the allele frequency after selection. Define Δ_j
117 $= (p_{j1} - p_{j0})$, leading to $R_j = 2 \Delta_j \alpha_j$. Based on our earlier assumption of complete additivity, summing over all
118 m loci provides a genome-wide estimate of the response to selection (Falconer and Mackay 1996):

$$\hat{R} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^m \Delta_j \alpha_j \quad (1)$$

119 Strictly speaking, since relative effect sizes may change each generation with changing allele frequencies
120 throughout the genome, (1) is applicable for a single generation. However, under the assumption of
121 many loci affecting a trait, (1) may approximately apply for many generations of selection. This estimate
122 of selection response also naturally arises from the logic of random regression BLUP (RRBLUP)
123 (Meuwissen *et al.* 2001). Here, a model is used

$$124 y = Xb + Zs + e, \quad (2)$$

125 where y is a vector of length n containing phenotypes for a specific trait, b are fixed effects,
126 $s \sim N(0, I\sigma_s^2)$ is the vector of length m containing additive SNP effects at m loci; $e \sim N(0, I\sigma_e^2)$ is the
127 vector of random residual terms, and σ_s^2 and σ_e^2 are the corresponding variance components. X and Z
128 are incidence matrices linking observations in y to the respective levels of fixed effects in b and random
129 SNP effects in s . In more detail, Z is an $n \times m$ matrix where element z_{ij} contains the genotype of

130 individual i at SNP locus j . Since such models are invariant with respect to linear transformations of the
131 allele coding (Strandén *et al.* 2011), we may use the notation $z_{ij} = 0, \frac{1}{2}, \text{ or } 1$, standing for zero, one, or
132 two copies of the reference allele. Note that with this coding, s_j is equivalent to $2\alpha_j$ in the coding above,
133 since it reflects the contrast between the two homozygous genotypes at locus j . Due to the equivalence
134 of genomic BLUP (GBLUP; VanRaden 2008) and RRBLUP (Endelman 2011), it is possible to calculate
135 genomic breeding values of the genotyped individual as $\hat{u} = Z\hat{s}$, where \hat{s} are the solutions for the SNP
136 effects obtained using RRBLUP with model (2).

137 Assume now further that individuals in the vector y can be assigned to g discrete generations
138 and that the individuals of the oldest generation come first and the individuals of the last generation
139 come latest. We then can define a $g \times n$ matrix

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} l_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & l_g \end{bmatrix},$$

140 where l_p is a row vector of length n_p , which is the number of individuals in generation p , of which all
141 elements are $1/n_p$. With this, a vector \bar{u} of length g reflecting average breeding values per generation
142 can be calculated as $\bar{u} = L\hat{u}$, and estimated selection response results as $\hat{R} = \bar{u}_g - \bar{u}_1$. Now,
143 $\bar{u} = L\hat{u} = LZ\hat{s}$, where LZ is a $g \times m$ matrix in which element p, j reflects the average allele frequency of
144 the reference allele at SNP j in generation p . The allele frequency change between generation 1 and
145 generation g can be obtained as a linear contrast between the first and the last row of this matrix as
146 $\Delta = k'LZ$ where k is a vector of length g with $k_1 = -1, k_g = 1$, and all other elements are zero. Finally,
147 the selection response can be written as $\hat{R} = \Delta\hat{s}$, which is identical to equation (1), given that s is
148 equivalent to 2α .

149 Furthermore, theory suggests that under the assumption that selection intensity is equal for all
150 loci across the genome, the change of allele frequency Δ_j should be approximately proportional to the
151 allele effect α_j , such that for a trait under selection a non-zero correlation between allele frequency
152 change and the additive effect of alleles on that trait is expected (Wright 1937). Alternatively stated, (1)
153 emphasizes the temporal component of the Breeder's Equation, $R = h^2S$, where h^2 is the narrow-sense
154 heritability of a trait and S is the selection differential. Given a population of individuals with two time-
155 points of genotypic data, it is simple to compute Δ_j for every genotyped locus. Furthermore, the
156 shrinkage methods of genomic prediction (Campos *et al.* 2013), including Ridge Regression (Endelman

157 2011) and GBLUP (VanRaden 2008) allow additive effects, α_j , to be approximated for every genotyped
158 position. For this, a set of individuals genotyped and phenotyped in at least one generation is needed.

159 A notable benefit of the estimator in (1) is that by leveraging pre- and post-selection data from
160 genotypes rather than from phenotypes, it only requires one generation of phenotyping. Additionally,
161 this suggests that if we consider R a random variable, then given the distribution of R in a scenario
162 without selection, a test of whether or not \hat{R} is different from zero may be performed. Since \hat{R} is the
163 genomic response to selection, this is equivalent to testing whether or not a trait has been under
164 selection during the timeframe under study.

165

166 **Test Statistic and Significance Testing:**

167 We implemented a permutation-based strategy to test whether or not \hat{R} is significantly different
168 from zero. Genetic drift and selection jointly determine changes in allele frequency, Δ_j , but without
169 selection these changes in frequency should not be related to effect size or direction. The reverse is also
170 true; effect sizes, α_j , are estimated based on a genomic prediction model applied to phenotypes
171 measured in a single panel of individuals, and therefore they are not correlated with changes in allele
172 frequency. While a correlation between minor allele frequency and the magnitude of SNP effects is
173 possible due to estimation error during genomic prediction, without ongoing selection allele frequency
174 should not correlate with the direction of SNP effects. This suggests that a null distribution for \hat{R} in a no-
175 selection scenario may be generated via a permutation approach. Assuming no linkage disequilibrium
176 (LD) between markers, a simple shuffling of Δ_j and α_j can be implemented to generate the desired null
177 distribution. However, LD between markers compromises the applicability of this simplified approach
178 for most populations—such an approach overestimates the sample size of the permutation test by
179 treating each marker as an independent observation, while in reality any level of LD between markers
180 leads to fewer independent observations than markers. Therefore, we have employed a semi-
181 parametric approach that scales the variance of the permutation test statistic according to the realized
182 extent of LD to alleviate this discrepancy.

183 Let $\hat{G} = \sum_{j=1}^m \Delta_j \alpha_j$, which is proportional to \hat{R} as defined in (1). This value, colloquially “*G-hat*”,
184 serves as our test statistic. The summation is over all m genotyped markers, and effect sizes are
185 estimated based on genomic prediction using available phenotypes with corresponding genotypes from

186 any generation. Often, phenotypes from the most recent generation will be the most readily available,
187 but individuals with phenotypes scored in any generation may suffice. To test whether or not the
188 observed value of \hat{G} can be significantly attributed to selection, define \mathbf{p} to be a vector of length m that
189 is a permutation of the vector $\mathbf{J} = [1, \dots, m]$. A permuted value of \hat{G} may be obtained via $\hat{G}_{perm} =$
190 $\sum_j^m \Delta_j \alpha_{p_j}$. Because Δ_j and α_{p_j} are no longer indexed to the same locus, \hat{G}_{perm} does not reflect
191 selection, but instead captures genetic drift over time (Δ_j terms) as well as the genetic architecture of
192 the underlying trait (α_j terms). Generating repeated values of \hat{G}_{perm} through repeated permutations of
193 \mathbf{J} therefore generates a null distribution for \hat{G} which assumes no selection and complete linkage
194 equilibrium.

195 The Central Limit Theorem dictates that realizations of \hat{G}_{perm} are normally distributed with
196 approximate mean $\overline{\hat{G}_{perm}}$ and standard deviation $SE(\hat{G}_{perm})$. Therefore, σ , the underlying standard
197 error of a single-locus estimate for \hat{G}_{perm} is given by $\sigma = SE(\hat{G}_{perm})\sqrt{m}$, where $SE(\hat{G}_{perm})$ is the
198 observed standard error of \hat{G}_{perm} . Consider the quantity m_{ind} , representing the effective number of
199 independent loci. If the standard deviation of \hat{G}_{perm} were calculated using m_{ind} independent markers, its
200 expectation would be $SE_{ind}(\hat{G}_{perm}) = \sigma / \sqrt{m_{ind}}$. Plugging in the estimate for σ obtained above,
201 $SE_{ind}(\hat{G}_{perm})$ becomes $SE_{ind}(\hat{G}_{perm}) = SE(\hat{G}_{perm})\sqrt{m/m_{ind}}$.

202 In practice, the above implies that to test for selection, $\hat{G} = \sum_{j=1}^m \Delta_j \alpha_j$ may be calculated from
203 data, and then a permuted null distribution for \hat{G} that assumes linkage equilibrium can be generated.
204 This permutation distribution may then be approximated with a normal distribution, whose variance can
205 be scaled according to the effective number of independent markers, m_{ind} . We show in the following
206 section that m_{ind} can be efficiently estimated based on LD-decay. Ultimately, significance may be
207 evaluated by comparing \hat{G} to a normal distribution with mean $\overline{\hat{G}_{perm}}$ and standard deviation
208 $SE(\hat{G}_{perm})\sqrt{m/m_{ind}}$.

209 **Simulations:**

210 We conducted a series of simulations to evaluate the power of the \hat{G} statistic for identifying selection on
211 complex traits. Genotypic data were simulated with the software program QMSim (Sargolzaei and
212 Schenkel 2009). An overview of our simulation strategy at the most general level is that we simulated

213 selection in a generic species with 1,000 QTL dispersed along ten 100 cM chromosomes, with a total of
214 100,000 equally-spaced markers (10,000 per chromosome). In the first step of each simulation, the total
215 population was established based on 10,000 individuals randomly mating for 5,000 generations. Then,
216 500 males and 500 females were randomly chosen to establish a base population that would undergo
217 selection for 20 generations. Each generation, 1,000 individuals (500 males and 500 females) were
218 permitted to mate out of a population of 5,000, providing a selection proportion of 20%. For each
219 simulation, heritability was set to 0.5. This general scheme encapsulates characteristics of most plant
220 and animal breeding populations, including the large number of progeny typical of plants and the
221 truncation selection protocol often associated with animal breeding and/or selection in the wild.
222 Additional details regarding the simulated population are included in Supplemental Table 1. In the
223 following subsections, we describe how varying parameters from the generic scenario described here
224 affected the power of \hat{G} to identify selection. All simulation scripts can be found at
225 github.com/timbeissinger/ComplexSelection.

226 *Number of QTL*

227 We simulated variable numbers of additive QTL controlling traits, from 10, representing a simple
228 trait controlled by large-effect QTL, to 10,000, representing a highly quantitative trait controlled nearly
229 infinitesimally. QTLs were evenly spaced along each chromosome and QTLs themselves were not
230 included in the marker set for analysis. One hundred simulations were performed for each level of trait
231 complexity. First, we used these simulations to establish the appropriate number of independent
232 markers, m_{ind} as defined above, for this test. We calculated how distant two markers must be to have an
233 expected LD level of $R^2 \leq 0.03$. Then we counted the total number of blocks of this size genome-wide.
234 The 0.03 level was established by performing a grid-search of potential values and tuning the false
235 positive rate (Supplemental Figure 1). An LD cutoff that is too high leads to a high false-positive rate,
236 while one that is too low weakens the power of the test. For populations similar to those discussed
237 herein, we observe that requiring $R^2 \leq 0.03$ will be appropriate.

238 When we tested for selection in our simulated data, we observed a direct relationship between
239 the number of QTL controlling a trait and the power of \hat{G} to identify selection on that trait. \hat{G} powerfully
240 identifies selection on highly polygenic traits, but is not powerful for identifying selection on traits
241 controlled by a small number of QTLs. Analyses of the same simulations using F_{ST} -based selection
242 mapping, which involves mapping loci that have been previously subjected to selection (Wisser *et al.*

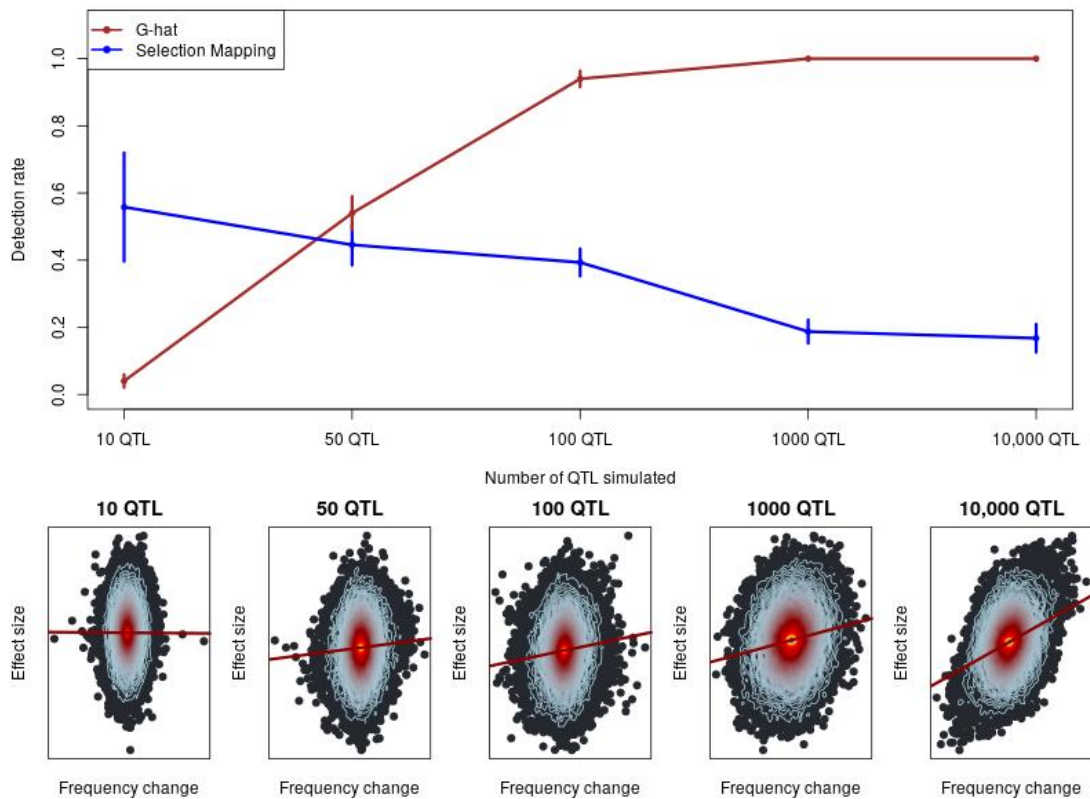
243 2008), showed that traits controlled by a small number of QTLs can be mapped using traditional
 244 selection mapping approaches. However, as traits become increasingly polygenic, our simulations
 245 demonstrate that the ability to map individual selected genes diminishes (Figure 1). These findings
 246 demonstrate how \hat{G} and traditional selection mapping can be complementary depending on the
 247 underlying genetic architecture of a trait. Table 1 depicts detection and false positive rates for \hat{G} and F_{ST}
 248 based mapping under different genetic architectures.

249

Genetic Architecture	10 QTL	50 QTL	100 QTL	1,000 QTL	10,000 QTL
\hat{G}					
True positive rate	0.04	0.54	0.94	1.0	1.0
False positive rate	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04
F_{ST}-based Selection Mapping					
Mean # true positives (rate)	5.6 (56%)	22 (44%)	39 (39%)	187 (18.7%)	1,676 (16.8%)
Mean # false positives	52	280	715	1,745	-

250 **Table 1: Detection and false positive rates for \hat{G} and selection mapping. One \hat{G} test is conducted per**
 251 **simulation, so true and false positive rates are shown. For selection mapping, one test is conducted**
 252 **per marker in each simulation, so the mean number of markers that were declared true and false**
 253 **positives is shown. A marker was declared a false positive in selection mapping if it exceeded a 5%**
 254 **simulation-based experiment-wide significance threshold but was not within a .1 cM region around a**
 255 **simulated QTL. Note that there are no selection mapping false positives in the 10,000 QTL simulation**
 256 **because every marker was within 0.1 cM of a simulated QTL.**

257



258

259 **Figure 1: The power of \hat{G} to identify selection. Top: The detection rate of \hat{G} compared to Fst-based**
 260 **selection mapping. Vertical lines indicate one standard deviation. Standard deviations for selection**
 261 **mapping were estimated empirically. Standard deviations for \hat{G} were estimated based on the binomial**
 262 **distribution. Bottom: Exemplary heat plots depicting individual-SNP allelic effect estimates linearly**
 263 **regressed on allele frequency change over time. Each point represents a SNP, while the contour lines**
 264 **indicate the density of SNPs. From the regression line, observe that a stronger relationship between**
 265 **frequency change and effect size corresponds to increasing polygenicity.**

266

267 *Number of generations*

268 Simulations showed an interesting relationship between the number of generations of selection
 269 and the power of \hat{G} . We observed a definite sweet-spot from ~ 10 to just under 50 generations for which
 270 \hat{G} was most powerful. Conversely, if selection took place for 100 generations or only for a single
 271 generation, \hat{G} became dramatically less powerful (Table 2). We suspect that two forces interact to
 272 reduce the power of \hat{G} in the case of a large number of generations of selection. First, over the course of
 273 many generations, our simulated populations became highly inbred, which notably increased LD and
 274 therefore reduced M_{ind} . Since \hat{G} is summed over markers and then scaled by M_{ind} , this substantially
 275 reduces power. Secondly, our simulations involved a predetermined number of QTL with fixed effects at

276 the onset of selection, but as selection persisted these QTL could be lost to fixation, or as allele
277 frequencies change, their effects could decrease (Sargolzaei and Schenkel 2009). Since we estimated
278 SNP effects based on phenotypes in the final generation (but see the section on phenotyping
279 generation, below), power could be reduced by the fixation of a lost QTL that previously had an effect.
280 Although these issues weakened \hat{G} in our simulations, it is unclear whether or not they would have the
281 same impact in a real application, and it is likely unlikely that the powerful sweet-spot would be the
282 same. Regarding the weak power of \hat{G} to identify selection after only one generation, this is not
283 unexpected, since for quantitative traits a single generation is rarely long-enough to appreciably shift
284 allele frequencies.

285 We also investigated how the power of \hat{G} is affected by temporary selection. Specifically, we
286 simulated 20 generations of selection followed by different numbers of generations without selection.
287 We observe that \hat{G} remains powerful for at least 20 generations post-selection, but after 100
288 generations without selection, the ability of \hat{G} to identify selection is lost. Like above, this loss of power
289 can likely be attributed to inbreeding and the fixation of QTL.

290 *Phenotyping generation*

291 In practical applications, we predict that phenotypes will typically be more readily available from
292 later generations of selection than early generations. However, since this generalization will not always
293 apply, we explored how the power of \hat{G} is affected by the generation in which individuals are
294 phenotyped. We observed the highest power when phenotypes were scored in recent time-points or
295 midway through selection, but power was still high (0.86) when phenotypes were scored in generation
296 0, at the onset of selection (Table 2). As discussed above in the section on the number of generations of
297 selection, changing QTL effects as allele frequencies change during evolution are likely to explain this
298 drop in power. We explored whether or not the generation of phenotyping can lead to bias by
299 evaluating the false positive rate for simulations where phenotypes were scored at different time-
300 points, out of 20 generations of selection. False positive rates were respectively 0.02, 0.08, and 0.0,
301 when phenotyping occurred in generation 20, 10, and 0.

302 *Intensity of selection*

303 The intensity of selection, or the proportion of individuals that reproduce each generation,
304 directly impacts the efficacy of a selection regime. Therefore, we explored the ability of \hat{G} to identify
305 selection across several selection intensities representing realistic values observed in experimental and

306 agricultural selection programs (Table 2). To achieve this, in our simulations we varied the total number
 307 of progeny each generation rather than altering the total number of individuals reproducing, as a
 308 reduced number of individuals would rapidly lead to high levels of inbreeding. For intermediate to
 309 strong selection intensities, from 50% to 5% of individuals reproducing, we observed that \hat{G} was highly
 310 effective for identifying selection, with power at or near 1.0. Only in the case of very strong selection,
 311 when 1% of individuals reproduced each generation, did we observe a minor reduction in the power of
 312 \hat{G} . Despite our attempts to minimize inbreeding in these simulations, in the case of 1% selection
 313 intensity inbreeding was likely still generated via a large number of progeny originating from the same
 314 combination of superior parents. We suspect this is what resulted in the reduction in power.

315 *Sample size*

316 Since the accuracy of estimated marker effects depends on sample size, we explored the impact
 317 that the number of phenotyped individuals has on the power of \hat{G} . Unsurprisingly, as sample size
 318 decreases so does the power of \hat{G} to identify selection (Table 2). However, it is notable that even with
 319 sample sizes as small as 250 individuals, power remains above 0.8. Even with only 50 phenotyped
 320 individuals, selection can be identified in one out of five scenarios. Together, these observations
 321 emphasize that the power of \hat{G} comes from its accumulation of information across markers rather than
 322 from a small number of highly-informative markers.

Parameter Varied	Tested Values				
No. individuals phenotyped	1,000	500	250	100	50
Power	1	0.99	0.83	0.4	0.21
Selection intensity	1%	5%	20%	50%	-
Power	0.95	0.99	1.0	1.0	-
No. Gens. of selection	100	50	20	10	1
Power	0	0.81	1.0	1.0	0.18
Phenotyping generation	20	10	0	-	-
Power	1	1	0.86	-	-
No. Gens. post-selection	5	20	50	100	-
Power	1	1	0.26	0	-

323 **Table 2: Power of \hat{G} as simulation parameters vary. Aside from whichever parameter was being**
 324 **explored, simulations assumed 20 generations of selection with a selection intensity of 0.2, a genetic**

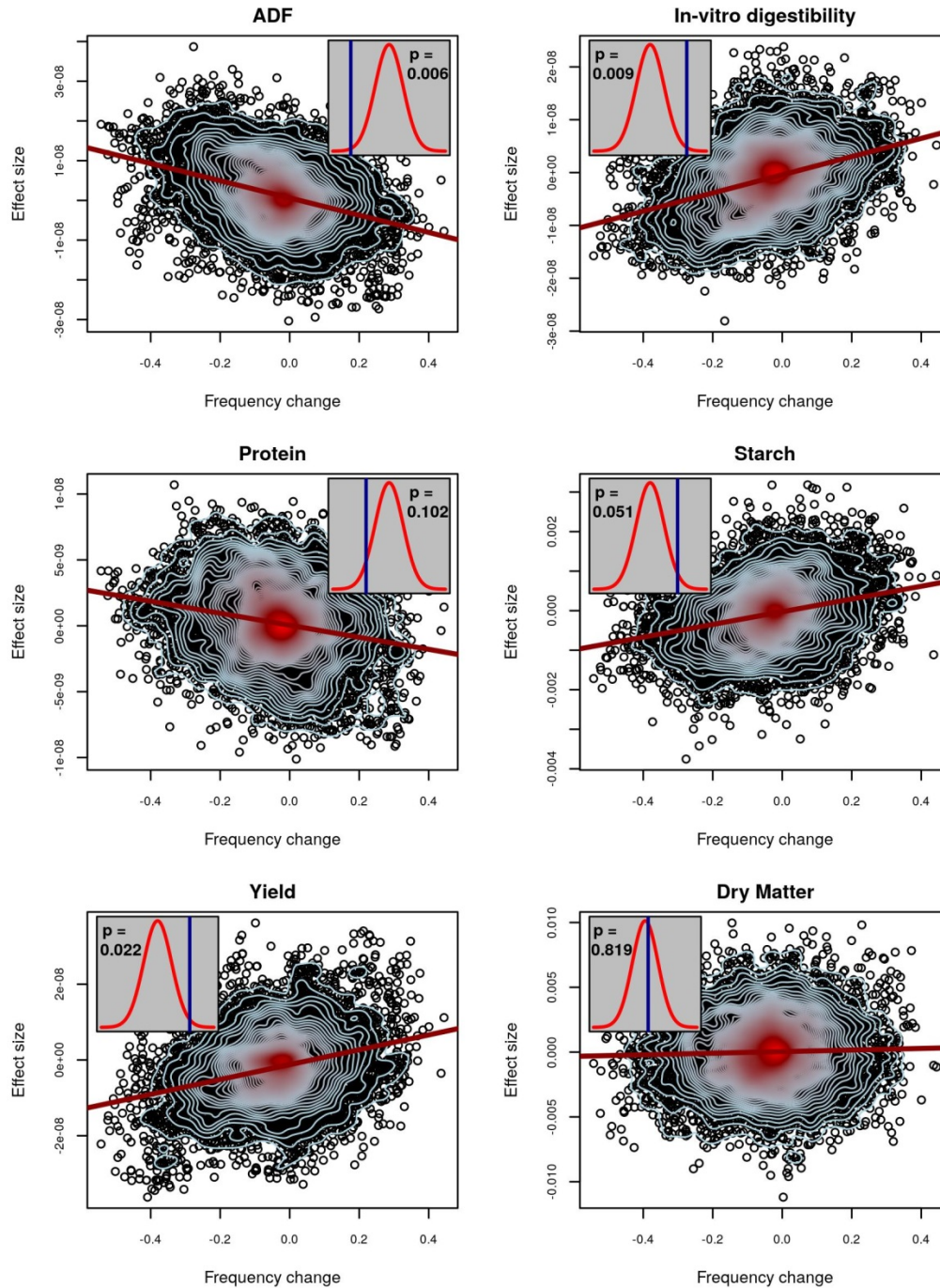
325 **architecture of 1,000 QTL, a selection population consisting of 500 males and 500 females, and the**
326 **additional parameters of our “generalize” selection scenario are given in Supplementary Table 1.**

327

328 **Selection on maize silage traits:**

329 We re-analyzed data from a previous study that tested for selection in a decades-long breeding program
330 for maize silage quality (Lorenz *et al.* 2015). Very briefly, a selection index comprised of experimentally-
331 measured traits related to silage quality was used to perform reciprocal recurrent selection for breeding
332 improved maize. Traits comprising the index included acid detergent fiber (ADF), protein content, starch
333 content, *in-vitro* digestibility, and yield (www.cornbreeding.wisc.edu). In total, 648 individuals from
334 various stages of selection were genotyped. Between 240 and 300 of these individuals were also
335 phenotyped, depending on the trait. Selection mapping was previously performed utilizing simulations
336 of drift to scan for selection, but the analysis did not identify any loci that showed significant evidence of
337 selection. This is in spite of quantifiable improvement of the population and demonstrated heritability of
338 the index-composing traits (Lorenz *et al.* 2015). We re-analyzed the same data to evaluate evidence for
339 polygenic selection on the measured traits, which included NDF, *in-vitro* digestibility, crude protein
340 content, starch content, yield, and dry matter. After filtering for quality, but not minor allele frequency,
341 these data consisted of 10,023 polymorphic markers. Genomic prediction for these traits was generally
342 effective (Supplemental Figure 2). Due to the relatively small population size and recurrent selection
343 breeding scheme, we expect slow LD decay and therefore for most of the genome to be represented
344 with this marker set. Further analysis of LD to determine the value of m_{ind} to utilize in our test for
345 selection confirms this (Supplemental Figure 3).

346 Figure 2 depicts the maize patterns of selection that were observed in our analysis. In these
347 plots, the histogram shows the null distribution of \hat{G} that was observed from a permutation test, while
348 the vertical line depicts the observed value of \hat{G} when applied to the experimental data. We observed
349 that with the exception of protein, for the traits where we had an *a priori* expectation of selection, we
350 not only identified that selection did occur, but we correctly estimated the direction of selection
351 (positive or negative) from the data. One of the traits measured was silage dry matter (DM), which was
352 not a part of the selection index. We did not identify evidence of selection on DM, as was expected. To
353 ensure that the existence of a single individual with a high breeding value does not lead to spurious false
354 positives, we re-analyzed the maize data after removing all SNPs with minor allele frequency less than
355 0.05. This did not lead to any appreciable change in the results (Supplemental Figure 6).



356

357 **Figure 2: Evidence of selection for maize silage traits. For six traits, the relationship between**
358 **estimated allelic effects at individual SNPs and the change in allele frequency over generations is**
359 **plotted. The red line is a regression of effect size on allele frequency change. Contour lines indicate**
360 **the density of points, with blue contours indicating fewer points than red. Inset plots depict observed**
361 **values of \hat{G} (blue lines) and their statistical significance based on a comparison to permuted null**

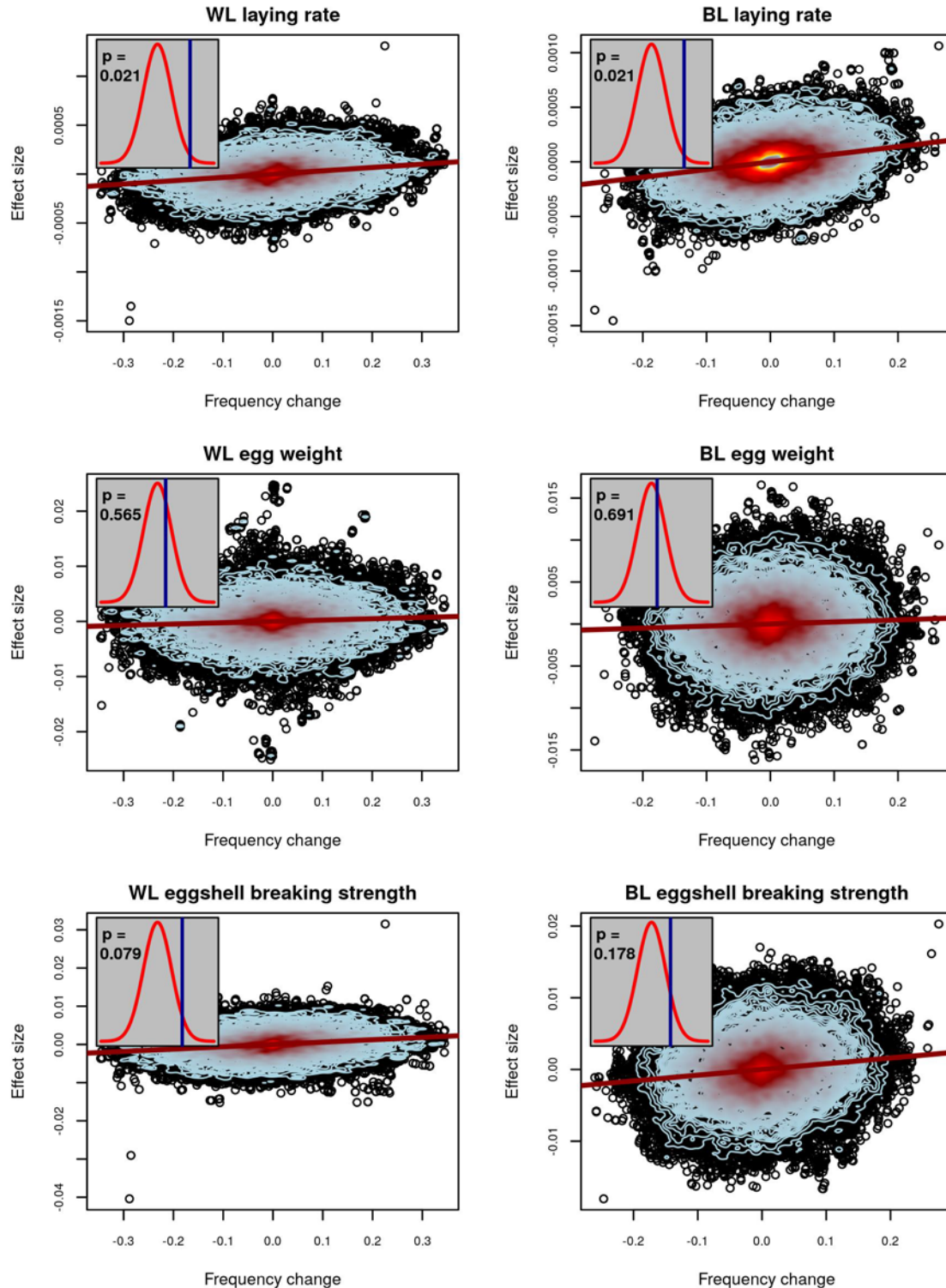
362 **distributions (red densities) for no-selection scenarios. An exact two-sided p-value is given within each**
363 **inset. Significant values of \hat{G} above the permuted mean indicate selection operated in the positive**
364 **direction, while significant values below the permutation mean indicated selection operated in the**
365 **negative direction.**

366

367 **Selection on chicken traits:**

368 We tested for evidence of selection in two panels of commercial lines of laying hens: one white layer
369 (WL) and one brown layer (BL). Both closed lines have been selected over decades with a similar
370 composite breeding goal, comprised of laying rate, body weight and feed efficiency, egg weight, and egg
371 quality, among other objectives. The respective weights applied to the different traits varied between
372 lines and over time. Traits analyzed included laying rate, egg weight, and breaking strength of eggs.
373 Genotypes were available only for the post-selection population, so initial allele frequencies were
374 inferred based on pedigree data (Gengler *et al.* 2007). M_{ind} was determined based on separate
375 evaluations of LD in the WL (Supplemental Figure 4) and BL (Supplemental Figure 5) populations.

376 Among the traits evaluated, we observed significant evidence of selection for increased laying
377 rate in both WLs ($p = 0.021$) and BLs ($p = 0.021$). Tests were also suggestive of selection for increased
378 eggshell breaking strength in WLs ($p < 0.1$; one-sided $p < 0.05$), while there was no evidence of directed
379 selection for egg weight (Figure 3). To verify that these results were not driven by a small number of
380 SNPs with high estimated effect sizes, we repeated the analysis with the 10 largest effect-size SNPs
381 removed and saw virtually identical results (Supplemental Figure 7). The result for egg weight can be
382 seen as a ‘negative control’ since for this trait an optimum value is already achieved and maintained by
383 stabilizing selection. The fact that we were not able to detect significant evidence of selection in a trait
384 such as eggshell breaking strength in both lines (although a tendency can be observed) may be due to
385 the fact that improving those traits is part of a complex multi-objective breeding program, or simply that
386 our test was underpowered for these traits. The unavailability of experimentally-estimated initial
387 frequencies and our alternative use of pedigree-inferred initial allele frequencies likely weakened the
388 power of the test as compared to the more complete data available for maize and in the simulations.



389

390 **Figure 3: Evidence of selection for chicken traits. For three traits in white (left column) and brown**
391 **(right column) laying hens, the relationship between estimated allelic effects at individual SNPs and**
392 **the change in allele frequency over generations is plotted. The red line is a regression of effect size on**

393 **allele frequency change. Contour lines indicate the density of points, with blue contours indicating**
394 **fewer points than red. Inset plots depict observed values of \hat{G} (blue lines) and their statistical**
395 **significance based on a comparison to permuted null distributions (red densities) for no-selection**
396 **scenarios. An exact two-sided p-value is given within each inset. Significant values of \hat{G} above the**
397 **permuted mean indicate selection operated in the positive direction, while significant values below**
398 **the permutation mean indicated selection operated in the negative direction.**

399

400 **Discussion**

401 We have defined a test statistic, \hat{G} , that combines phenotypic and genotypic information to test for
402 selection on traits controlled by many loci of small effect. The approach utilizes estimated effect sizes for
403 individual loci and allele frequency changes across two time-points reflecting possible selection on those
404 loci. Therefore, \hat{G} is most applicable in experimental or breeding populations, where both pieces of
405 information are readily available via genotyping individuals from multiple generations. However,
406 phenotypic information for estimating allelic effects is only required from a single time-point, so this
407 approach can be applied post-hoc using DNA samples from previous generations even if phenotyping is
408 no longer possible. As the practice of sequencing ancient DNA from archeological sites, museum
409 samples, or other sources becomes progressively commonplace (Orlando *et al.* 2015), it will be
410 interesting to explore whether or not this approach may prove applicable for ecological questions,
411 evolutionary studies, and for human research. However, simulations showed a decrease in power as the
412 number of post-selection generations increased, so there is a limit to how far back our test statistic can
413 be fruitfully applied.

414 **Powerful for highly quantitative traits**

415 Methods for mapping genes associated with important traits or for identifying loci that are
416 under selection are most powerful for large-effect genes. A simple explanation for the disappointing
417 number of associations that have been uncovered to date through GWAS is that complex traits are often
418 controlled by many genes of small effect (Yang *et al.* 2011). If this is the case, enormous sample sizes are
419 required to map loci regardless of the methodological enhancements that can be applied. Human
420 geneticists have had success studying complex traits by utilizing extremely large sample sizes (Rietveld *et*
421 *al.* 2013; Wood *et al.* 2014). But, sample sizes of this magnitude are not yet achievable within resource

422 limitations for most species, and, arguably, will never be. Conversely, population genetic studies aiming
423 to scan for selection have been most successful at identifying hard sweeps, where a new mutation of
424 large effect rapidly rises to fixation as a result of selection (Pritchard *et al.* 2010). Only few
425 methodologies with limited power exist for mapping soft sweeps, when the beneficial allele is already
426 at intermediate frequency at the start of selection (Garud *et al.* 2015); Ma *et al.* 2015). A likely
427 explanation for the presence of soft sweeps is that they often result from loci of small effect increasing
428 in frequency slowly in a population and therefore existing on multiple distinct haplotypes or mutating
429 multiple times before fixation. In an agricultural context, many soft sweeps may be due to newly defined
430 breeding goals which put selection pressure on genes that previously were segregating in the
431 populations, but were selectively neutral. The \hat{G} statistic does not attempt to map specific genes—
432 instead it pools information from all SNPs to test for selection on specific traits. This approach
433 completely avoids the question of which loci are associated with a trait. Instead of testing each SNP, we
434 perform one test based on information from all SNPs. Therefore, a strong statistical signal arises when a
435 large proportion of SNPs behave similarly but not when a few SNPs portray strong signals on their own.
436 That said, researchers are often interested in identifying selected traits whether they correspond to
437 selection on many genes at once or simply a few large-effect genes. In this case, the implementation of
438 our \hat{G} test in conjunction with a traditional selection-mapping approach aimed at identifying selected
439 loci will likely together be powerful for identifying selection regardless of the underlying genetic
440 architecture (Figure 1).

441 It was recently argued that most complex disease traits in humans are controlled by small-effect
442 genes dispersed throughout the genome (Boyle *et al.* 2017). Likewise, many important traits in
443 agricultural animal and plant species tend to be quantitative in nature and are presumably controlled by
444 small-effect genes (Goddard and Hayes 2009; Wallace *et al.* 2014). For these agricultural organisms,
445 geneticists and breeders have long recognized the benefits that can be achieved by predicting breeding
446 values and/or phenotypes based on models that use all SNPs simultaneously (Meuwissen *et al.* 2001;
447 Heffner *et al.* 2009; Goddard and Hayes 2009). In fact, the development of these models has led to
448 dramatic re-designs of modern breeding protocols (Schaeffer 2006; Cabrera-Bosquet *et al.* 2012). The \hat{G}
449 statistic represents one avenue to leverage information from all measured SNPs to gain an
450 understanding of the evolutionary history of a population. This approach is analogous to genomic
451 selection/prediction as utilized by animal and plant breeders, with an important distinction: instead of
452 predicting breeding values to determine which individuals should be selected for the future, it utilizes

453 genotypic frequencies over time coupled with phenotypic information to unravel the history of selection
454 in the past.

455 **Genotypes from base population provide high power:**

456 Compared to other methods that test for selection on quantitative traits (Berg and Coop 2014;
457 Zeng *et al.* 2017), \hat{G} leverages genotypic information from multiple time points and that it incorporates
458 information from all SNPs instead of restricting to a previously identified set of SNPs from one or
459 multiple independent GWAS's. With the exception of a few traits in heavily studied species, such as
460 human height (Wood *et al.* 2014), few species, if any, provide the enormous sample sizes required to
461 implicate a large number of loci for any quantitative traits. This includes situations where scientists are
462 reasonably certain that a genetic architecture consisting of small-effect loci persists. Importantly, \hat{G} is
463 powerful because of the independence of the estimation of allele frequency changes across generations
464 and effect sizes, respectively. Even when allelic effects and/or allele frequency changes are small, they
465 cumulatively generate a powerful test since they can be compared across all genotyped loci. However,
466 our analysis of the chicken data suggested that the power of the test can be reduced through noisy
467 estimation of allele frequency change. Our reliance on pedigree data to derive initial allele frequencies
468 was not as precise as the direct measurement of initial allele frequencies that was conducted for maize.
469 Although we were still able to find evidence of selection on traits including laying rate, which was almost
470 certainly under the strongest selection, there were selected traits we did not detect potentially due to
471 this noise.

472 **Future directions and conclusions:**

473 The use of \hat{G} to test for selected traits avoids the requirement of preliminarily identifying candidate
474 genes or regions. Therefore, the approach is particularly applicable in experimental, agricultural, and
475 natural populations for which available resources dictate limited sample sizes for conducting massive
476 mapping studies for such preliminary identification. In contrast to purely population-genetic analyses,
477 which rely solely on genotypic information, the method requires that phenotypic data be collected from
478 at least one time-point of genotyped individuals. Additionally, two time-points of genotypic information
479 are needed, either directly or through pedigree-based imputation.

480 While the \hat{G} statistic is most directly applicable for the discovery of traits that have been
481 previously under selection during recent evolution, it may have additional applications. Recent studies

482 have demonstrated that distinct physical regions of the genome, such as individual chromosomes, often
483 contribute a disproportionate amount to trait variance (Bernardo and Thompson 2016). Rather than
484 applying the \hat{G} statistic genome-wide, future research should be done to determine whether it can be
485 applied across any collections of loci such as individual chromosomes, pathways, gene-families,
486 functional classes, or other categories to test if these show evidence of selection on a quantitative trait.
487 This would represent a process allowing researchers to map significant features as opposed to individual
488 genes. Likewise, thus far we have estimated the direction of selection (positive or negative) from \hat{G} , but
489 not the magnitude. Further research should be performed to determine whether or not this or a similar
490 statistic can be used to recapitulate the selection gradient.

491 As it stands, using \hat{G} simply to identify traits that have been under selection in the past may
492 prove enormously useful. Whether agricultural, experimental, or natural, it is often difficult to
493 determine all of the traits that are advantageous in a population or respond to natural or anthropogenic
494 selection, including undesired selection responses. The application of the \hat{G} statistic genome-wide
495 allows this determination, which may help scientists select the right traits for maximum agricultural
496 production, determine inadvertently selected lab traits impacting experimental outcomes, and establish
497 ecologically important traits for survival in the wild.

498

499 **Materials and methods**

500 **Simulations:**

501 Each simulation started with a random mating historical population. After 5 thousand generations,
502 selection began and simulations proceeded with more control over each generation. Truncation
503 selection was performed based on high phenotype. Drift simulations were identical to selection
504 simulations in terms of genome layout and genetic basis of the trait, but individuals were selected
505 randomly. Simulations were performed with QMSim (Sargolzaei and Schenkel 2009). Parameters for our
506 generic simulation model are provided in full in Supplemental Table 1. We varied specific parameters as
507 follows:

508 *Number of QTL:* Genetic architectures with 10, 50, 100, 1,000, or 10,000 QTL were simulated.

509 *Number of individuals phenotyped:* After selection was simulated, the phenotypes from a subset
510 included 1,000, 500, 250, 100, or 50 individuals were sampled and used for estimating SNP effects.

511 *Selection intensity:* The number of males and females reproducing each generation was always
512 simulated to be 500, respectively. To vary selection intensity, we simulated litter sizes of 4, 20, 40, and
513 200.

514 *Number of generations of selection:* Selection simulations were conducted for 1, 10, 20, 50, and 100
515 generations.

516 *Phenotyping generation:* For 20-generation simulations, phenotypes were analyzed from pre-selection
517 individuals (generation 0), mid-selection individuals(generation 10), and post-selection individuals
518 (generation 20).

519 *Number of generations after selection:* After 20 generations of selection, we evaluated whether \hat{G} was
520 still significant after 5, 20, 50, or 100 generations without selection.

521 **Selection mapping in simulations:**

522 For the set of simulations where number of QTL were varied, pre- and post-selection simulated allele
523 frequencies were output from QMSim. These were used to calculate marker-specific F_{ST} values, as was
524 performed by (Lorenz *et al.* 2015). F_{ST} was computed according to $F_{ST} = \frac{s^2}{\bar{p}(1-\bar{p})+s^2/2}$, where s^2 is the
525 sample variance of allele frequency between pre- and post-selection populations, and \bar{p} is the mean allele
526 frequency (Weir and Cockerham 1984). Experiment-wide 5% significance threshold were identified
527 based on the 95% F_{ST} quantile observed from drift simulations. These thresholds were applied to F_{ST}
528 values obtained from selection simulations to determine detection and false positive rates. Simulated
529 QTL were declared detected if a significant marker was identified within a .1 cM window surrounding
530 the QTL. False positives were defined as markers that were not within a .1 cM window surrounding any
531 simulated QTL.

532 **Maize data:**

533 All maize data were previously published and described by Lorenz et al. (2015). In brief, a selection index
534 comprised of silage-quality traits was used to perform reciprocal recurrent selection. Traits comprising
535 the index were yield, dry matter content, neutral detergent fiber (NDF), protein content, starch content,

536 and *in-vitro* digestibility (www.cornbreeding.wisc.edu). Phenotypic data included five cycles of selection,
537 encompassing approximately 20 generations in total. Tens to hundreds of individuals were sampled
538 from each cycle of selection to be genotyped. Genotyping was performed with the MaizeSNP50
539 BeadChip, which includes 56,110 markers in total (Ganal *et al.* 2011). After removing monomorphic
540 SNPs, redundant SNPs, quality filtering, and imputing, as described in Lorenz (2015), 10,023 informative
541 SNPs remained.

542 Allele frequencies were computed for each cycle of selection. Because only 5 and 11 individuals
543 from cycles 0 and 1 were genotyped, respectively, allele frequency change from cycle 2 ($n = 163$) to cycle
544 5 ($n = 211$) was computed for each SNP. Since all SNPs were di-allelic, the frequency of only one allele
545 was tracked, and the frequency change for that allele perfectly mirrored the change for the other allele.
546 For the tracked allele only, allelic effects were estimated using the R package RR-BLUP (Endelman 2011).
547 Phenotypic information was available from individuals representing selection cycles 1 through 4, and
548 since population size was small we used all phenotyped individuals to estimate SNP effects. To
549 accomplish this without biasing effect estimates due to drift, a fixed effect for cycle was included in our
550 model. Our exact analysis scripts are available at github.com/timbeissinger/ComplexSelection.

551 **Chicken data:**

552 Data were available for one white layer (WL) and one brown layer (BL) line from a commercial breeding
553 program. Both closed lines have been selected over decades with a similar composite breeding goal,
554 comprising, among others, laying rate, body weight and feed efficiency of the hens, as well as egg
555 weight and egg quality, where the respective weights of the different traits varied between lines and
556 over time. In total, 673 (743) WL (BL) individuals were genotyped, of which > 80% were from the last
557 generation and the remaining animals were parents, grand-parents, and great-grandparents of the
558 actual birds. For all genotyped individuals, complete pedigree data were available comprising 2109
559 (1879) individuals and going 13 (9) generations back in WL (BL). The oldest generation was defined as
560 the base population and comprised 111 (64) ungenotyped individuals being separated from the majority
561 of genotyped individuals by 12 (8) generations.

562 Current individuals were genotyped with the Affymetrix Axiom® Chicken Genotyping Array
563 which initially carries 580K SNPs. This data were pruned by discarding sex chromosomes, unmapped
564 linkage groups, and SNPs with minor allele frequency (MAF) lower than 0.5% or genotyping call rate
565 smaller than 97%. Individuals with call rates smaller than 95% were also discarded. Subsequently,

566 missing genotypes at the remaining loci were imputed with Beagle version 3.3.2 (Browning and
567 Browning 2009), resulting in sets of 277,522 (334,143) SNPs for the WL (BL) individuals.

568 To calculate the allele frequency change in the chicken populations, the allele frequency in the
569 base population individuals had to be reconstructed by statistical means. This was done with the
570 approach of Gengler *et al.* (2007), which, in short, considers the allele frequency in an individual as a
571 quantitative and heritable trait and uses a mixed model approach to obtain a best linear unbiased
572 prediction (BLUP) for the allele frequency of all un-genotyped individuals. This is done by linking the
573 genotyped offspring to the un-genotyped ancestors via the pedigree information (for details, see
574 Gengler *et al.* 2007). This required solving 277,522 (334,143) linear equation systems of dimension 2109
575 (1879) for the WL (BL) data set. Next, Δ_i for locus i was calculated as the difference of the observed
576 allele frequency of the genotyped individuals in the current and the 3 ancestral generations and the
577 average estimated allele frequency of the 111 (64) base population individuals 12 (8) generations back.

578 For each genotyped individual, conventional (non-genomic) BLUP breeding values and the
579 respective reliabilities for a wide set of traits were available. SNP effects were estimated in a two-step
580 procedure: first, for each trait in each line genomic breeding values were estimated via genomic BLUP
581 (GBLUP), followed by a back-solution of estimated SNP effects. In the GBLUP step, the model $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{1}\mu +$
582 $\mathbf{Z}\mathbf{g} + \mathbf{e}$, was solved, where \mathbf{y} is the vector of de-regressed proofs [DRPs] of genotyped individuals for a
583 specific trait; μ is the overall mean; \mathbf{g} is the vector of additive genetic values (i.e. genomic breeding
584 values) for all genotyped chickens; \mathbf{e} is the vector of residual terms; $\mathbf{1}$ is a vector of 1s and \mathbf{Z} is a squared
585 design matrix assigning DRPs to additive genetic values with dimension number of all genotyped
586 individuals. Residual terms were assumed to be distributed $\mathbf{e} \sim N(0, \mathbf{R}\sigma_e^2)$, where \mathbf{R} is a diagonal matrix
587 with diagonal elements $R_{ii} = \frac{[c+(1-r_{DRPi}^2)/r_{DRPi}^2]h^2}{1-h^2}$ (Garrick *et al.* 2009) for an individual i in the
588 training set, where r_{DRPi}^2 is the reliability of DRP for individual i , σ_e^2 is the residual variance, using c set to
589 0.1. The distribution of additive genetic values is assumed to be $\mathbf{g} \sim N(0, \mathbf{G}\sigma_g^2)$, where σ_g^2 is the additive
590 genetic variance and \mathbf{G} is a realized genomic relationship matrix which was constructed according to
591 (VanRaden 2008). Estimation of variance components and genomic breeding values was done with
592 ASReml 3.0 (Gilmour *et al.*, 2009).

593 Next, estimated SNP effects \hat{s} were obtained following Strandén and Garrick (2009) as

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}} = \frac{1}{2 \sum_{i=1}^m p_i (1 - p_i)} \mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{Z}^T \hat{\mathbf{g}}$$

594 where \mathbf{M} is a matrix of dimension number of genotyped individuals x number of genotyped SNPs with
595 entry $m_{ij} = x_{ij} - 2p_j$ where x_{ij} is the genotype of individual i at locus j (coded as 0, 1, or 2 which are
596 counts of the reference allele) and p_j is the population frequency of the reference allele at SNP j .

597 **Computational Resources:**

598 Computation was performed using the University of Missouri Informatics Core Research Facility
599 BioCluster (<https://bioinfo.ircf.missouri.edu/>). Computational nodes where simulations were performed
600 had 64 cores and 512 GB of RAM. Analysis of maize and chicken data was performed on a mediocre
601 laptop with 8 GB of RAM.

602 **Data availability:**

603 Maize data are available in from Lorenz et al. (2015). Chicken data, including allele frequency change
604 and estimated SNP effects, are available at Figshare with DOI 10.6084/m9.figshare.5899267. All scripts
605 used for simulations and analysis are available at github.com/timbeissinger/ComplexSelection.

606

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612

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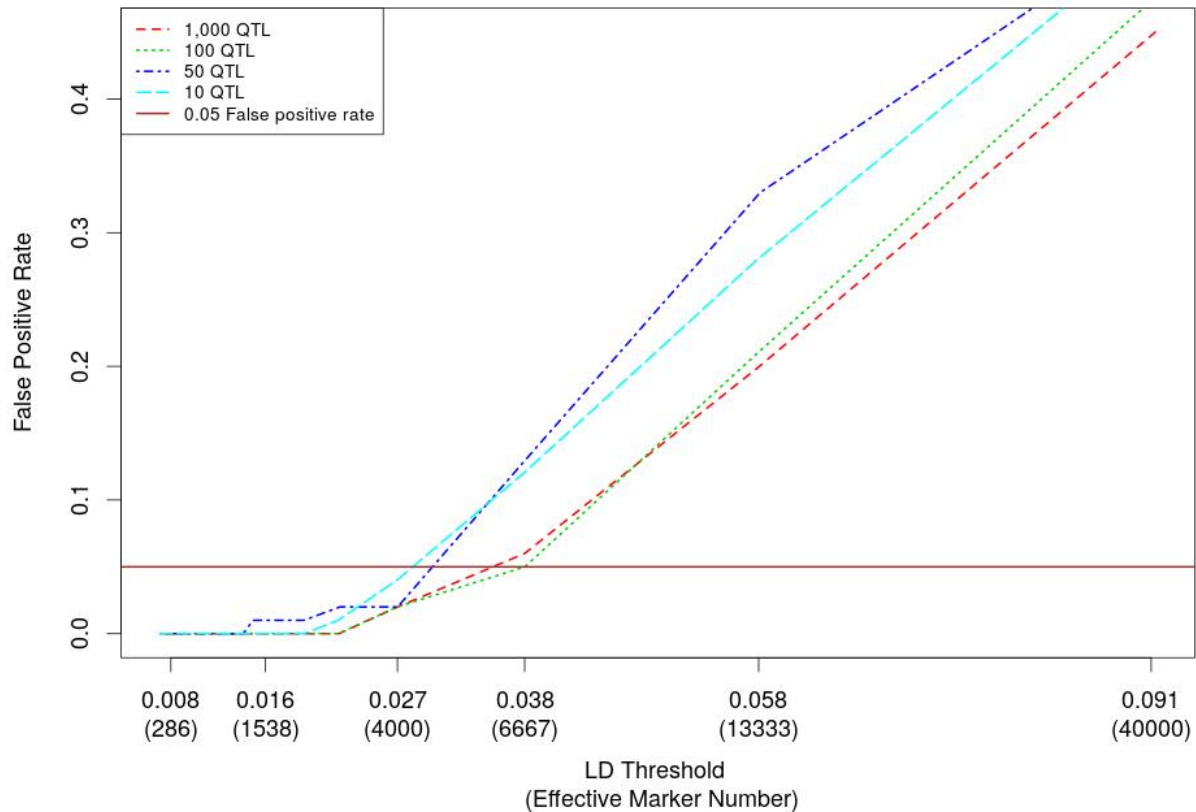
729 **Supplemental Table 1:** Simulation parameters.

Parameter	Value(s)
Genetic basis of the trait	
Heritability	0.5
QTL Heritability	0.5 (all heritability attributable to QTL)
Phenotypic variance	1
Historical Population	
Population size	10,000
Number of generations	5,000
Marker mutation rate (only historical gens)	2.5e-5
QTL mutation rate (only historical gens)	2.5e-5
Breeding (selected) Population	
Number of selected males/generation	500
Number of selected females/generation	500
Litter size	10
Number of generations	20
Mating design	Random union of gametes, discrete generations
Genome	
Number of chromosomes	10
Chromosome size	100 cM
Markers/chromosome	10,000
Marker spacing	Even
Alleles/marker	2
Marker allele frequencies	Random (uniformly distributed)
Number of QTL	1,000
QTL spacing	Even
Alleles/QTL	2
QTL allele frequencies (in first gen)	Equal (0.5)
QTL allele effects	Random (uniformly distributed)

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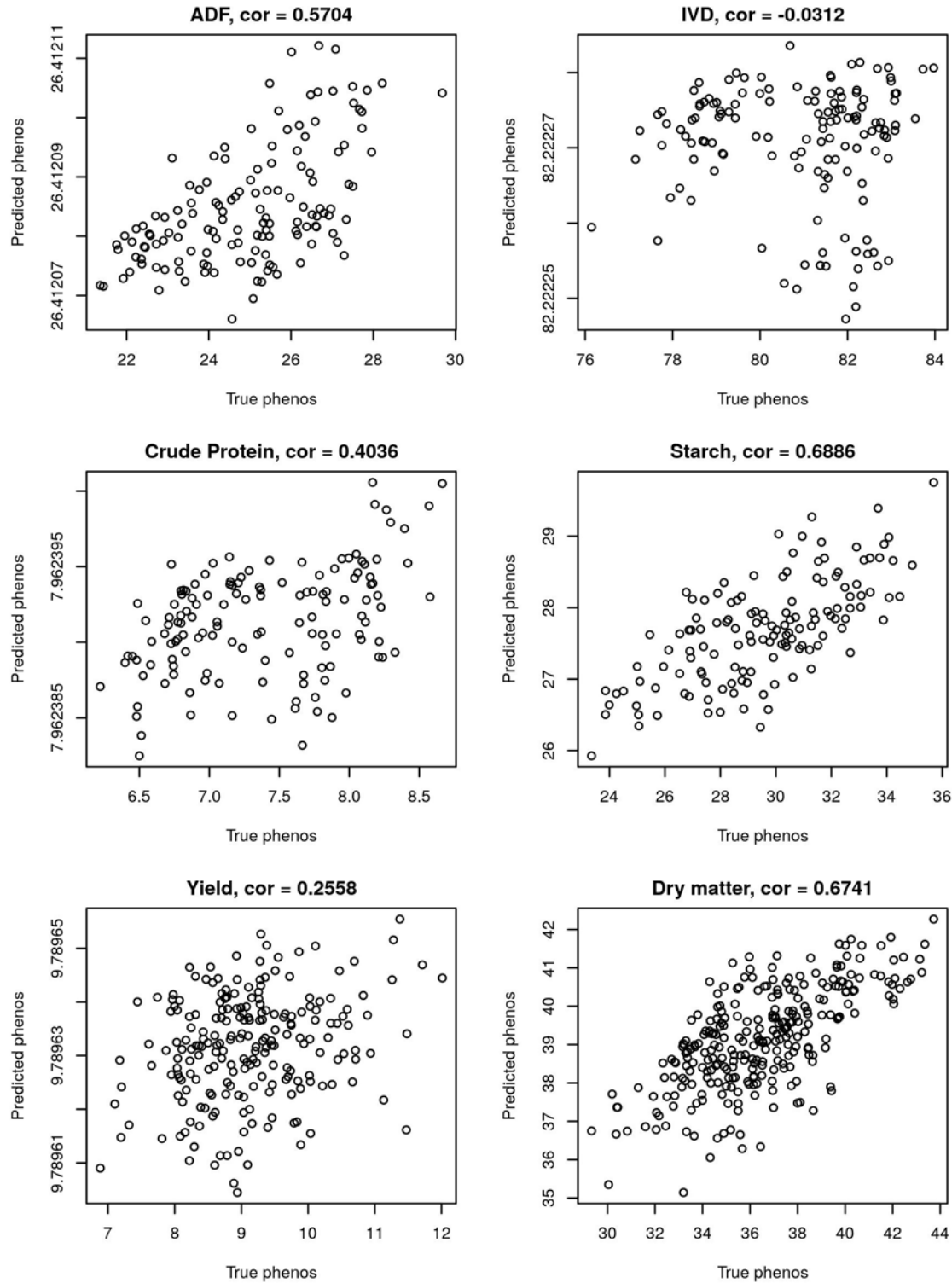
733

734 **Supplemental Figure 1:** False positive rate depends on the *number of effective markers*. The y-axis of
735 this plot shows the false positive rate for simulations of different genetic architectures that was realized
736 with varying effective numbers of markers. The x-axis depicts the mean LD-threshold across simulations
737 that corresponded to a particular effective number of markers. Simulations suggested that defining the
738 effective number of markers as the number of genome-segments such that LD across each segment is
739 expected to be in the interval $R^2 \in [0.027, 0.038]$ appropriately controls false positive rate.

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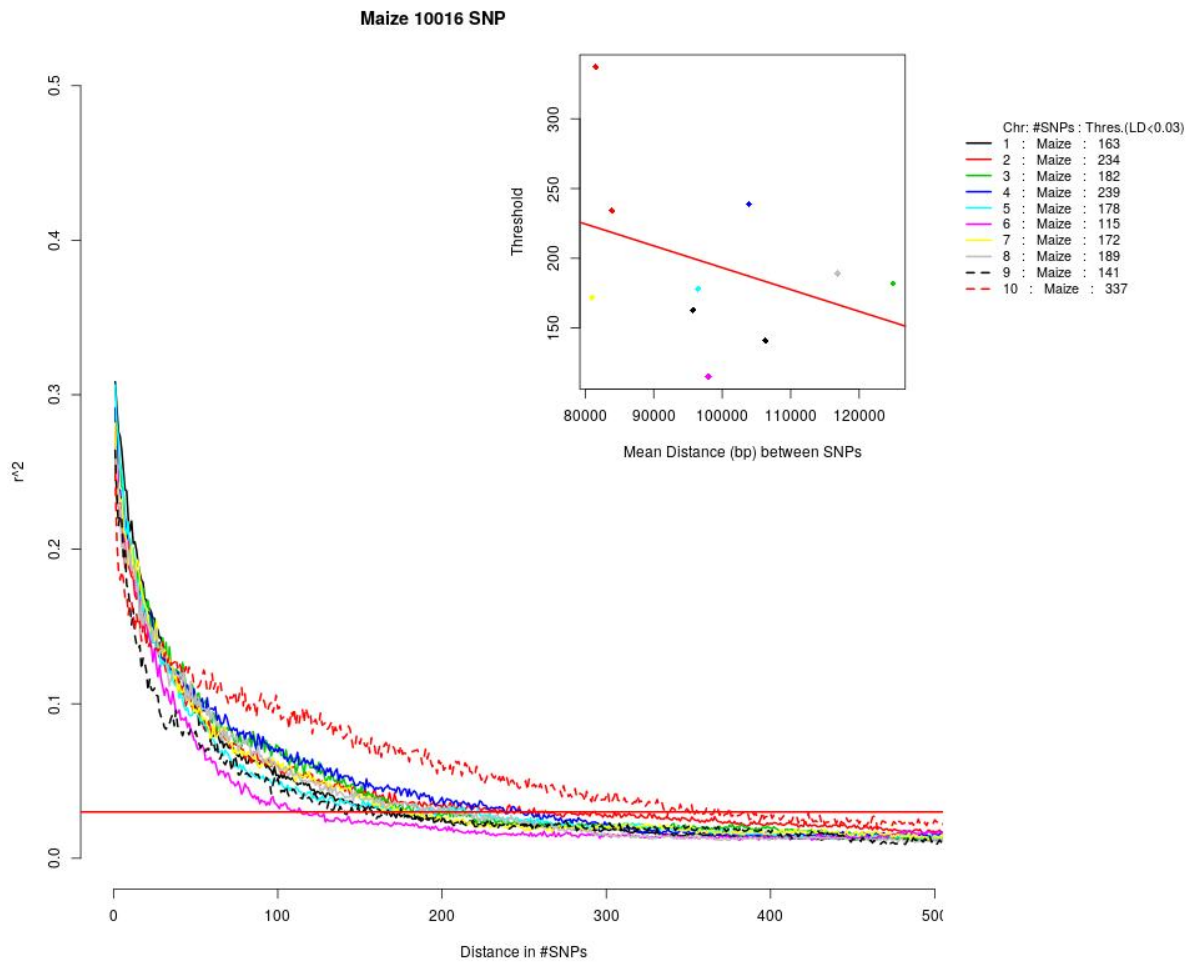
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744 **Supplemental Figure 2:** Correlation between predicted and observed phenotypes when RRBLUP was
745 used for genomic prediction in the maize dataset.

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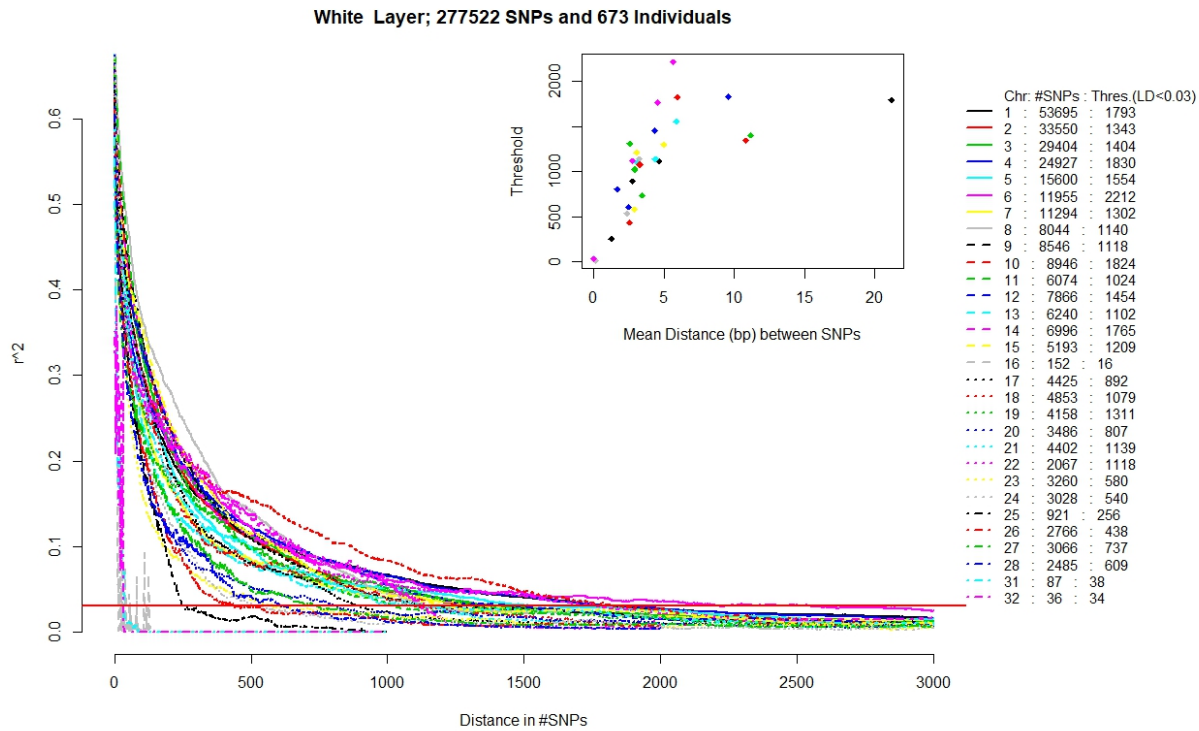
747

748 **Supplemental Figure 3:** LD Decay by chromosome in the WQS maize population. For each chromosome,
749 LD is plotted against the distance between SNPs (in number of markers). The effective number of
750 independent markers (m_{ind}) for our test was determined by dividing the total number of markers by the
751 mean distance between markers such that $R^2 \leq 0.03$.

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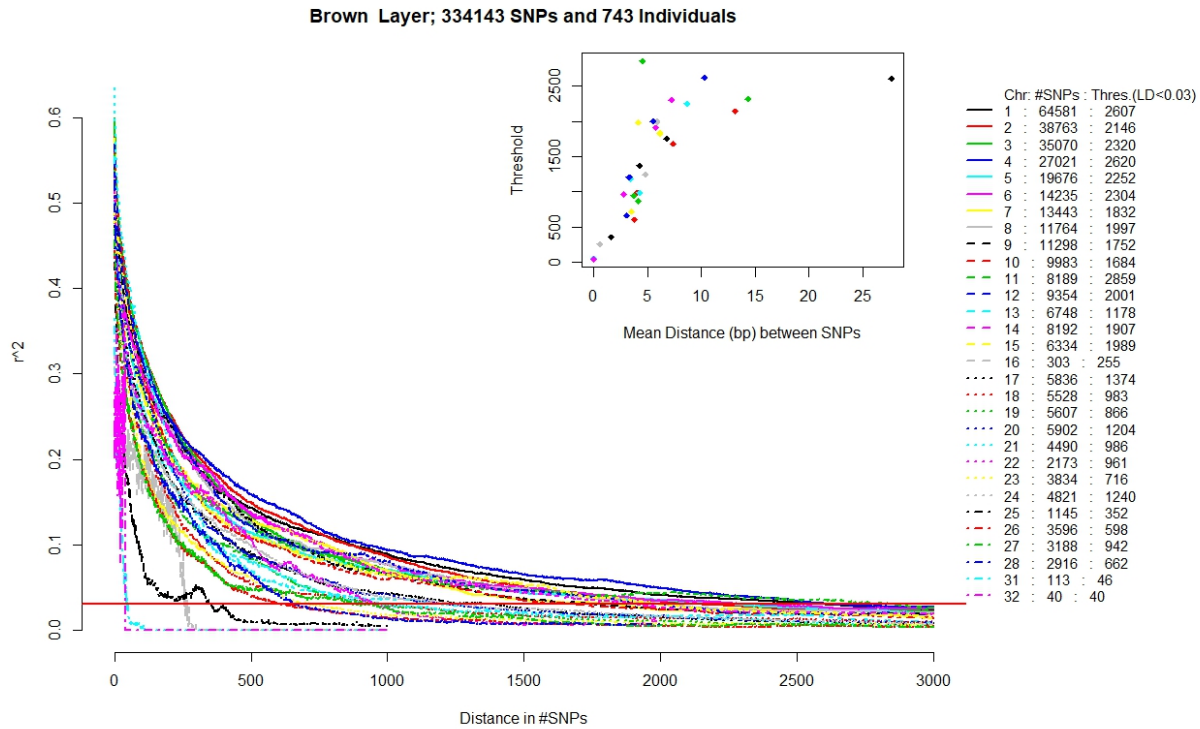
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757 **Supplemental Figure 4:** LD Decay by chromosome in the White Layer chicken population. For each
 758 chromosome, LD is plotted against the distance between SNPs (in number of markers). The effective
 759 number of independent markers (m_{ind}) for our test was determined by dividing the total number of
 760 markers by the mean distance between markers such that $R^2 \leq 0.03$.

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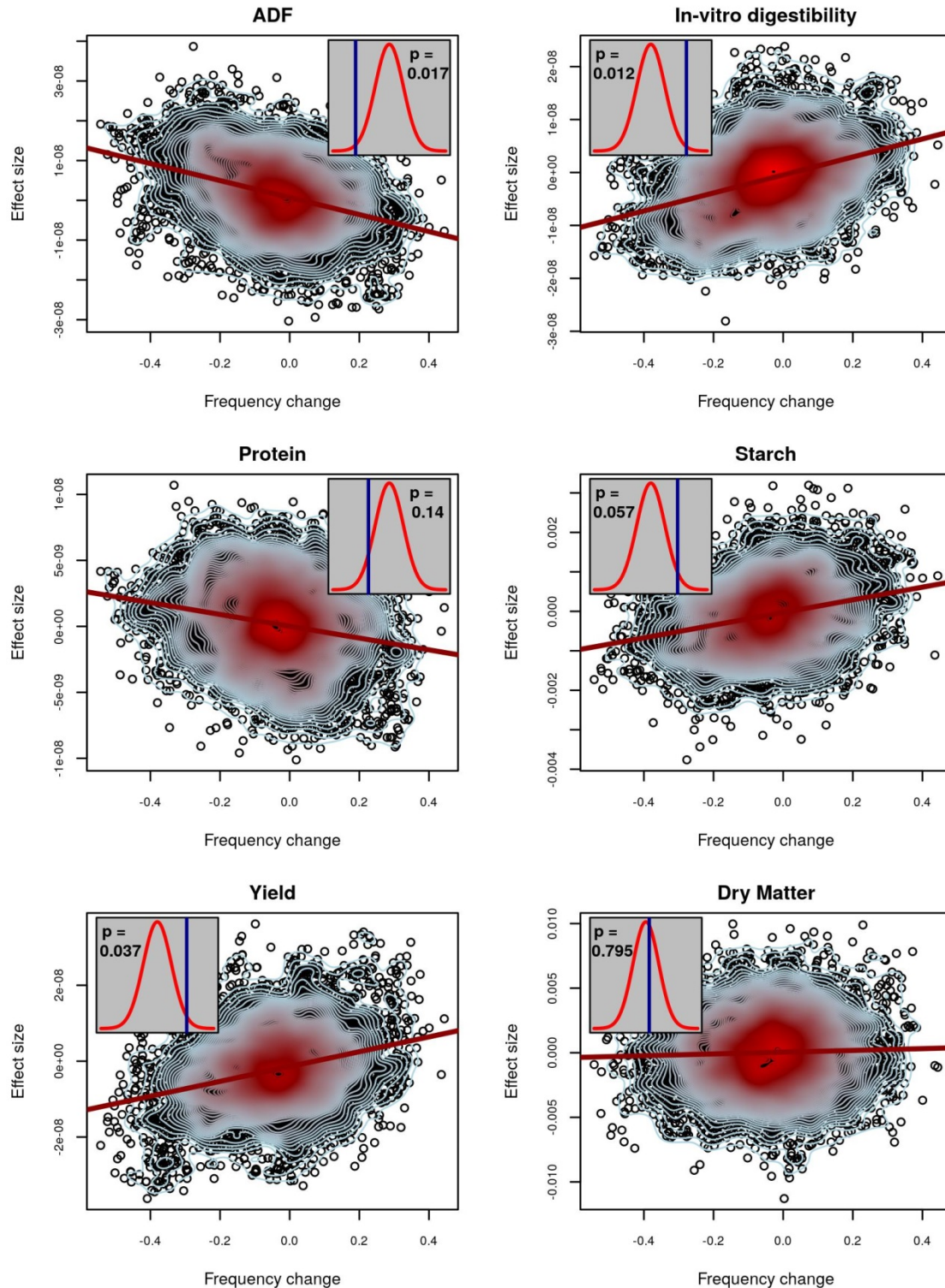


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765 **Supplemental Figure 5:** LD Decay by chromosome in the Brown Layer chicken population. For each
 766 chromosome, LD is plotted against the distance between SNPs (in number of markers). The effective
 767 number of independent markers (m_{ind}) for our test was determined by dividing the total number of
 768 markers by the mean distance between markers such that $R^2 \leq 0.03$.

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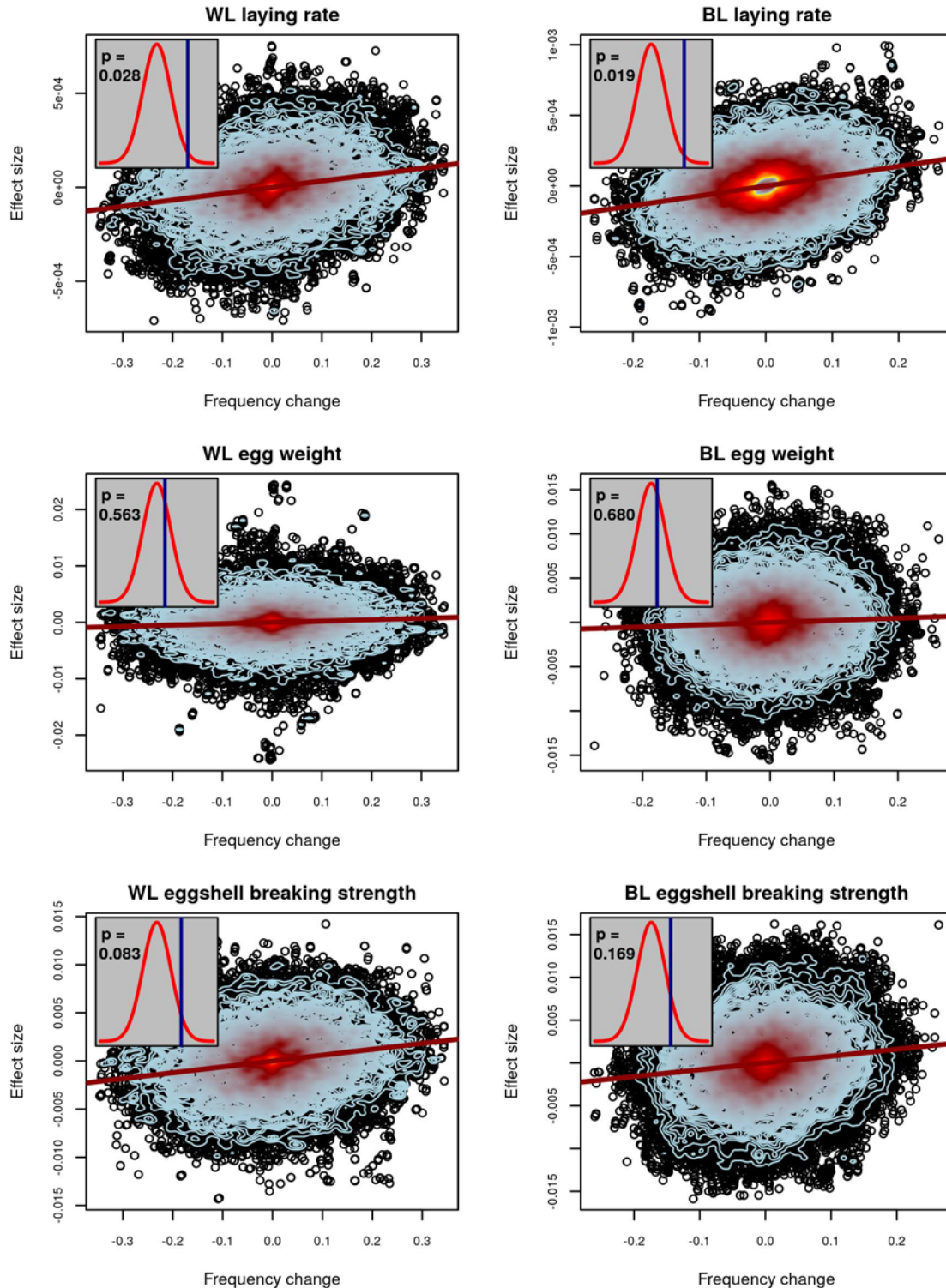
771 **Supplemental Figure 6: Evidence of selection for maize silage traits. SNPs with minor allele frequency**

772 **<0.05 were removed for this analysis. For six traits, the relationship between estimated allelic effects**

773 **at individual SNPs and the change in allele frequency over generations is plotted. The red line is a**

774 regression of effect size on allele frequency change. Contour lines indicate the density of points, with
775 blue contours indicating fewer points than red. Inset plots depict observed values of \hat{G} (blue lines) and
776 their statistical significance based on a comparison to permuted null distributions (red densities) for
777 no-selection scenarios. An exact two-sided p-value is given within each inset. Significant values of \hat{G}
778 above the permuted mean indicate selection operated in the positive direction, while significant
779 values below the permutation mean indicated selection operated in the negative direction.

780



781

782 **Supplemental Figure 7:** Evidence of selection for chicken traits, with potential outliers removed. This
783 plot demonstrates a reanalysis of the chicken data shown in Figure 3 after removing of the 10 SNPs with
784 the largest-magnitude effect size for each trait. For three traits in white (left column) and brown (right
785 column) laying hens, the relationship between estimated allelic effects at individual SNPs and the

786 change in allele frequency over generations is plotted. Contour lines indicate the density of points, with
787 blue contours indicating fewer points than red. Inset plots depict observed values of \hat{G} (blue lines) and
788 their statistical significance based on a comparison to permuted null distributions (red densities) for no-
789 selection scenarios. An exact two-sided p-value is given within each inset. Significant values of \hat{G} above
790 the permuted mean indicate selection operated in the positive direction, while significant values below
791 the permutation mean indicated selection operated in the negative direction.

792