



Genetic architecture and selective sweeps after polygenic adaptation to distant trait optima

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ABSTRACT Understanding the genetic basis of phenotypic adaptation to changing environments is an essential goal of population and quantitative genetics. While technological advances now allow interrogation of genome-wide genotyping data in large panels, our understanding of the process of polygenic adaptation is still limited. To address this limitation, we use extensive forward-time simulation to explore the impacts of variation in demography, trait genetics, and selection on the rate and mode of adaptation and the resulting genetic architecture. We simulate a population adapting to an optimum shift, modeling sequence variation for 20 QTL for each of 12 different demographies for 100 different traits varying in the effect size distribution of new mutations, the strength of stabilizing selection, and the contribution of the genomic background. We then use random forest regression approaches to learn the relative importance of input parameters in determining a number of aspects of the process of adaptation including the speed of adaptation, the relative frequency of hard sweeps and sweeps from standing variation, or the final genetic architecture of the trait. We find that selective sweeps occur even for traits under relatively weak selection and where the genetic background explains most of the variation. Though most sweeps occur from variation segregating in the ancestral population, new mutations can be important for traits under strong stabilizing selection that undergo a large optimum shift. We also show that population bottlenecks and expansion impact overall genetic variation as well as the relative importance of sweeps from standing variation and the speed with which adaptation can occur. We then compare our results to two traits under selection during maize domestication, showing that our simulations qualitatively recapitulate differences between them. Overall, our results underscore the complex population genetics of individual loci in even relatively simple quantitative trait models, but provide a glimpse into the factors that drive this complexity and the potential of these approaches for understanding polygenic adaptation.

KEYWORDS polygenic adaptation; quantitative trait; demography; machine learning; forward simulation

Author summary

Many traits are controlled by a large number of genes, and environmental changes can lead to shifts in trait optima. How populations adapt to these shifts depends on a number of parameters including the genetic basis of the trait as well as population demography. We simulate a number of trait architectures and population histories to study the genetics of adaptation to distant trait optima. We find that selective sweeps occur even in traits under relatively weak selection and our machine learning analyses find that demography and the effect sizes of mutations have the largest influence on genetic variation after adaptation. Maize domestication is a well suited model for trait adaptation accompanied by demographic changes. We show how two example traits under a maize specific demography adapt to a distant optimum and demonstrate that polygenic adaptation is a well suited model for crop domestication even for traits with major effect loci.



39 Introduction

40 **Adaptation**

41 Understanding molecular adaptation is essential for the study of evolutionary processes, genetic diseases and plant
42 and animal breeding. The process of adaptation is often divided into three separate modes: hard selective sweeps, soft
43 selective sweeps and polygenic adaptation. In recent decades many empirical population genetic analysis have focused
44 on hard selective sweeps because these leave a distinct molecular trace that can be readily detected in genomic data.
45 Hard sweeps result from the reduction of genetic diversity at neutral sites linked to a new beneficial mutation that
46 rapidly fixes (Smith and Haigh 1974). In recent years, other forms of selection that play an important role in evolution
47 and adaptation have begun to receive increased attention, although these are more difficult to detect in empirical data.
48 For instance, sweeps from selection on standing genetic variation leave a less distinct pattern on diversity than hard
49 selective sweeps because the beneficial variant has had more time to recombine onto multiple genetic backgrounds
50 (Hermisson and Pennings 2005, 2017). In addition to processes involving sweeps at individual loci, polygenic adaptation
51 — in which selection acts on a quantitative trait with complex genetic architecture — is frequently regarded as a third
52 mode of adaptation and can lead to rapid phenotypic change via relatively minor shifts in allele frequencies (Pritchard
53 and Di Rienzo 2010).

54 Although well-studied traits such as human height (Berg *et al.* 2017), coat color in mice (Vignieri *et al.* 2010) and
55 grain yield in crops (Wallace *et al.* 2014) follow patterns consistent with the polygenic pattern, the dynamics and genetic
56 architecture of polygenic adaptation are not well understood. Polygenic adaptation has only gained importance in
57 empirical population genetics relatively recently, but the field of quantitative genetics is based on the idea that traits are
58 controlled by large numbers of loci (Barton and Keightley 2002). Population genetics and quantitative genetics drifted
59 apart with the appearance of the first molecular data allowing empirical evaluation of single locus population genetic
60 models, while the analysis of effects of single loci in quantitative genetics has long been limited by the large number of
61 phenotyped individuals needed (Wollstein and Stephan 2014). The increasing availability of high density SNP sets and
62 whole genome sequencing for tens of thousands of individuals, however, is now providing the opportunity to test both
63 population and quantitative evolutionary genetic hypotheses in empirical data (e.g. Sanjak *et al.* 2017).

64 One important model of polygenic traits is stabilizing selection, in which there is an optimum trait value and selection
65 acts against extreme deviations from this optimum (Johnson and Barton 2005). Under such a model, an individual's
66 fitness is given by its phenotypic distance from the trait optimum and the strength of stabilizing selection. Within
67 this framework, recent attention has focused on the dynamics of polygenic adaptation to a new nearby phenotypic
68 optimum (Jain and Stephan 2017; Kopp and Hermisson 2009; Chevin and Hospital 2008; Lande 1983; de Vladar and
69 Barton 2014; Barton and Keightley 2002). In this scenario, genetic variance in the population decreases when most
70 effect sizes are small, because many sites fix. In contrast, when most mutations have large effect sizes, the genetic
71 variance increases because large effect loci increase in frequency but do not fix (Jain and Stephan 2017; de Vladar and
72 Barton 2014). Theoretical quantitative genetic analyses have also revealed that selective sweeps are prevalent during
73 polygenic adaptation (Pavlidis *et al.* 2012; Chevin and Hospital 2008). These studies have developed important theoretical
74 background for the understanding of polygenic adaptation and have documented the dynamics of a small number of loci
75 during the course of adaptation. Each of these studies shows in detail how a small number of parameters influences
76 adaptation, but the complex interplay of mutation, selection, and demography across a large parameter space has not yet
77 been explored. For example, population growth has been shown to influence the contribution of low frequency alleles to
78 trait variance (Lohmueller 2014), but the interaction of demography with parameters such as the distribution of effect
79 sizes of new mutations needs further investigation.

80 Here, we take a simulation approach to study a population adapting to an optimum shift, modeling sequence variation
81 for 20 QTL for each of 12 different demographic models for 100 different traits with varying effect size distribution of
82 new mutations, strength of stabilizing selection, and the contribution of the genomic background beyond the simulated
83 QTL. After detailed analysis of a single scenario, we use machine learning to extract parameter importance for the



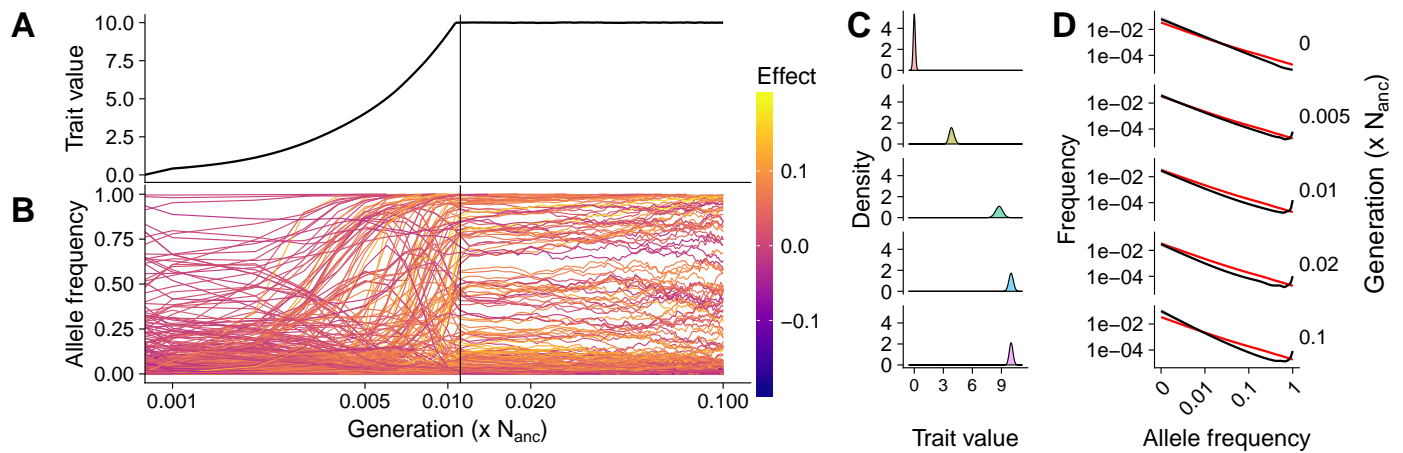


Figure 1 Population dynamics of a single parameter set **A)** Trait evolution after an optimum shift and **B)** allele frequency dynamics during adaptation form a single replicate. The vertical line shows when the new trait optimum was reached and line colors denote effect sizes, and time is shown on a log scale. **C)** The phenotypic distribution and **D)** site frequency spectra of segregating mutations (black) and neutral expectation (red) from 100 independent replicates. Panels show different generations including equilibrium prior to adaptation (0), during adaptation (0.005), just before the new optimum is reached (0.01), after the new optimum has been reached (0.2), and the final generation (0.1). All results are from a simulated population with constant population size, $\sigma_m = 0.05$, and $V_S = 1$.

84 input parameters. Our results illustrate that selective sweeps are common under most scenarios, even for mutations of
 85 relatively minor effect. We employ machine learning on genetic architecture matrices and find that demography and the
 86 effect size of new mutations have the largest influence on present day genetic architecture. After identifying general
 87 parameter importance, we use maize domestication as an example and investigate two diverging traits in a population
 88 that underwent a population bottleneck and exponential growth (Beissinger *et al.* 2016), showing how these traits adapt
 89 to the changing optimum and comparing our findings to archaeological and genetic data (Xue *et al.* 2016; Benz *et al.* 2006).

90 Results

91 We first simulated adaptive and stabilizing selection on a single quantitative trait in a randomly mating diploid population.
 92 After a burn-in to equilibrium, we simulated an instantaneous shift in the optimal trait value from 0 to 10. The population
 93 underwent truncation selection until reaching the new optimum, at which time stabilizing selection resumed. We
 94 assumed an additive model with no epistasis, and simulated 20 unlinked QTL as well as a genomic “background” over a
 95 range of parameters describing population demography and the trait, including the effect size of new mutations, strength
 96 of stabilizing selection, distance to the new optimum, effects of genomic background and population, and bottleneck
 97 severity and population expansion (Table 1).

98 Single simulation results

99 The adaptation of a quantitative trait to a sudden environmental change involves allele frequency shifts at many sites,
 100 some of which result in selective sweeps. To build intuition around basic patterns seen in these simulations as a
 101 population adapts to a new optimum, we first describe results of a single simulation with constant population size,
 102 intermediate effect sizes of new mutations ($\sigma_m=0.05$), strong stabilizing selection ($V_S=1$), and no phenotypic effect of the
 103 genomic background ($\psi=0$). We present how such a population adapts to the new optimum and how allele frequencies
 104 and effect sizes change during this process (Figure 1).

105 The population mean trait value increased linearly (\log_{10} scaled x-axis in figure 1A) until shortly before the new
 106 optimum was reached within 0.011 (sd= 0.0004) N_{anc} generations (Figure 1A and C). As the population mean approached
 107 the optimum the rate of change decelerated, presumably because some individuals now had phenotype values above the



108 optimum such that alleles which contribute positively to the trait are no longer uniformly beneficial to fitness. The trait
109 variance increased after the optimum shift and during the adaptation process. Though it declined once the new optimum
110 was reached, it did not return to the equilibrium variance by the end of the simulation (Figure 1C). This increase in
111 variance is generated by the increase in allele frequency of formerly rare, large positive effect alleles.

112 Following individual mutations shows that, at the onset of the optimum shift (generation 0) alleles with negative effect
113 sizes rapidly decline in frequency unless they were already near fixation (Figure 1B). Alleles with positive effects, on the
114 other hand, increase quickly in frequency and fix. Once the new optimum is reached, frequencies of both positive and
115 negative alleles changed slowly, but the number of small effect alleles increased. This shows how a population can adapt
116 to a sudden environmental change by an increase of beneficial alleles and decrease of negative alleles in a relatively short
117 time.

118 Looking at the change in allele frequencies of all mutations helps to understand what drove the adaptation process in
119 the population (Figure 1D). At equilibrium, variants with larger effects are selected against, leading to an excess of rare
120 variants compared to neutral expectations. The site frequency spectrum (SFS) then changed quickly after the optimum
121 shift as selection fixed positive mutations. Directly before the new optimum was reached ($0.01N_{\text{anc}}$), 11% of mutations
122 were at very high frequencies (> 0.5) while after reaching the new optimum ($0.02N_{\text{anc}}$) only 8% of mutations were at
123 such high frequencies and the number of high frequency segregating sites further declined in consecutive generations.
124 Under stabilizing selection, extreme values are again selected against and alleles that have risen to intermediate frequency
125 during adaptation return to their equilibrium frequency. By $0.1 \times N_{\text{anc}}$ generations the SFS again reflected an excess of
126 rare alleles, but also an excess of high frequency derived alleles. The observed high frequency derived alleles (Figure 1D
127 bottom) represent in fact their ancestral counterpart, which is at low frequency. These mutations increased in frequency
128 during adaptation, but both alleles have the same fitness effect after the equilibrium has been reached and the mutation
129 does consequently not decrease in frequency.

130 When a selected mutation increases in frequency quickly, it often reduces diversity in adjacent genomic regions,
131 leading to a pattern commonly referred to as a selective sweep. While we cannot assess diversity at linked neutral sites in
132 our model, we can nonetheless identify likely selective sweeps by comparing the sojourn time of individual alleles to that
133 of a neutral allele experiencing equivalent demographic processes (see Methods). Following these criteria, 72% of all
134 fixations in this simulation were selective sweeps. Of these, 73% were sweeps from standing variation. While there was
135 an overall negative correlation between the time a site was segregating in the population and its effect size on the trait,
136 there were a number of mutations that fixed later than expected given their effect size (Figure 2A).

137 Observing the frequency trajectories of sites that fixed after the new optimum had been reached shows that the speed
138 of frequency change for sites that fix after the new optimum had been reached slowed down substantially, but they
139 eventually reached fixation. When the new optimum has been reached, any increase or decrease in frequency of large
140 effect mutations takes the population away from the trait optimum and is selected against. The remaining change in
141 frequency is mostly stochastic and results from minor fluctuations in the trait mean due to frequency changes at other
142 sites (de Vladar and Barton 2014). However, because stabilizing selection acts against stochastic variation in allele
143 frequencies that move the population away from the optimum, the time to fixation or loss for an allele is still faster than
144 neutrality in a manner that has sometimes been deemed similar to underdominance (Bürger 1989). Some mutations
145 with negative effects that decreased in frequency under truncation selection after the optimum shift can then increase
146 in frequency again once the new optimum is reached and stabilizing selection takes over (Figure 2B). Such mutations
147 provide a good example of selection on a quantitative trait, which results in selection coefficients that can vary in sign or
148 magnitude depending on the background they fall into, its distance to the optimum, and the details of when and what
149 kind of selection occurred.

150 In our simulations, fixations from standing variation fixed either fast, because they were present at high frequency at
151 the onset of directional selection, or due to their large effect on the trait. However, there was no correlation between
152 the initial allele frequency and the generation in which the mutation fixed (Figure 2C and D). Large effect mutations
153 segregated at low frequency in the equilibrium population, while small effect sites were already at higher frequencies,



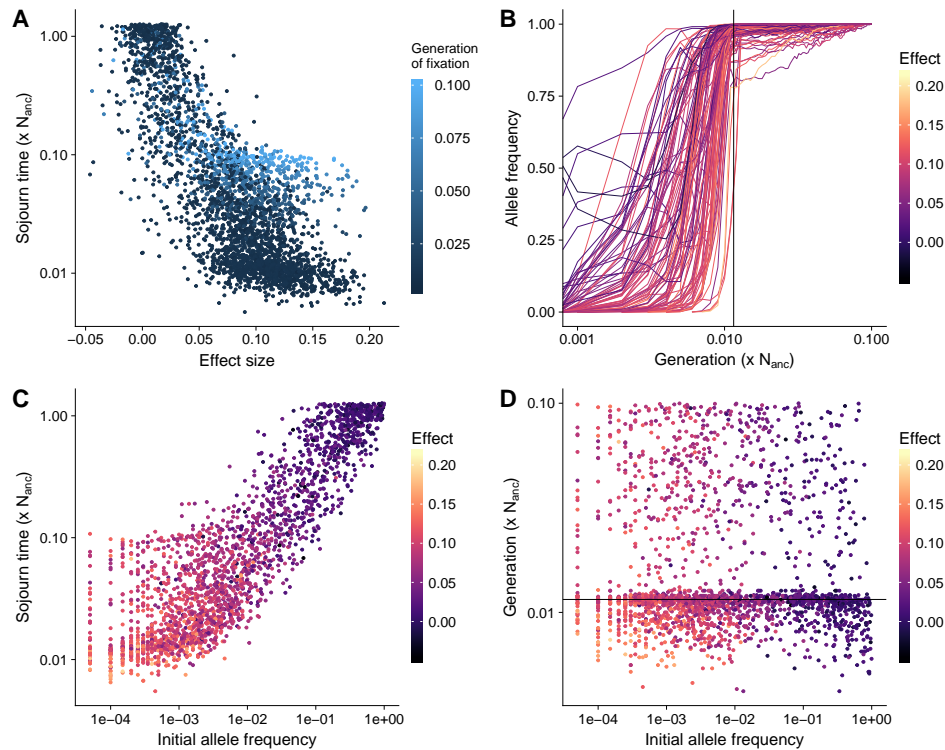


Figure 2 Selective sweeps A) Speed of fixation of selective sweep mutations. B) Dynamics of fixations that occur after the new optimum was reached. C) Speed of fixation of sweeps from standing variation compared to their initial frequency. D) The generation at which sweeps from standing variation fix. All results are from a simulated population with constant population size, $\sigma_m = 0.05$, and $V_S = 1$, and time is shown on a log scale.

154 explaining why large effect and small effect mutations fixed at similar generations, despite the difference in speed of allele
 155 frequency shift. Negative and effectively neutral mutations may also fix together with large effect positive mutations
 156 presumably due to the effects of genetic hitchhiking (Figure 2).

157 **Complex genetic architectures with demographic changes**

158 The detailed analysis of a single population adapting to a sudden environmental change helps to build intuition on
 159 the dynamics of a specific set parameters, but is far from the complexities of quantitative trait evolution in natural
 160 populations. For example, most populations have experienced some form of fluctuation in population size, and traits
 161 differ both in the strength of stabilizing selection as well as in their genetic architecture — the frequency and effect size of
 162 mutations that cause variation in the phenotype. To understand the effect of these and other variables, we simulated
 163 1,200 different combinations of parameter sets to examine the contribution of the strength of stabilizing selection, the
 164 effect size of new mutations, population demography, and differences in genetic background on variation and adaptation
 165 of the focal trait.

166 The combination of V_S and σ_m led to different genetic variances at equilibrium ranging from 0.004 to 0.751, leading to
 167 a distance of the new trait optimum between 11.5 and 158.2 z-scores (Figure S3). We calculate V_G in every generation
 168 during the burn-in and compared it to the expected genetic variance approximated with the House of Cards (HoC)
 169 approximation (Turelli 1984). The majority of simulations are within the regime of HoC, though the approximation
 170 underestimated V_G for $\sigma_m = 0.9$ and $V_S = 1$ and overestimated V_G for large V_S and small σ_m . All burn-ins had a mean
 171 fitness close to one at equilibrium after $10xN$ and the mean V_G was constant (Figure S4 and S3)

172 To understand the factors driving variation in particular aspects of the data, we employed a random forest machine
 173 learning model (see Methods) to retrieve parameter importance.



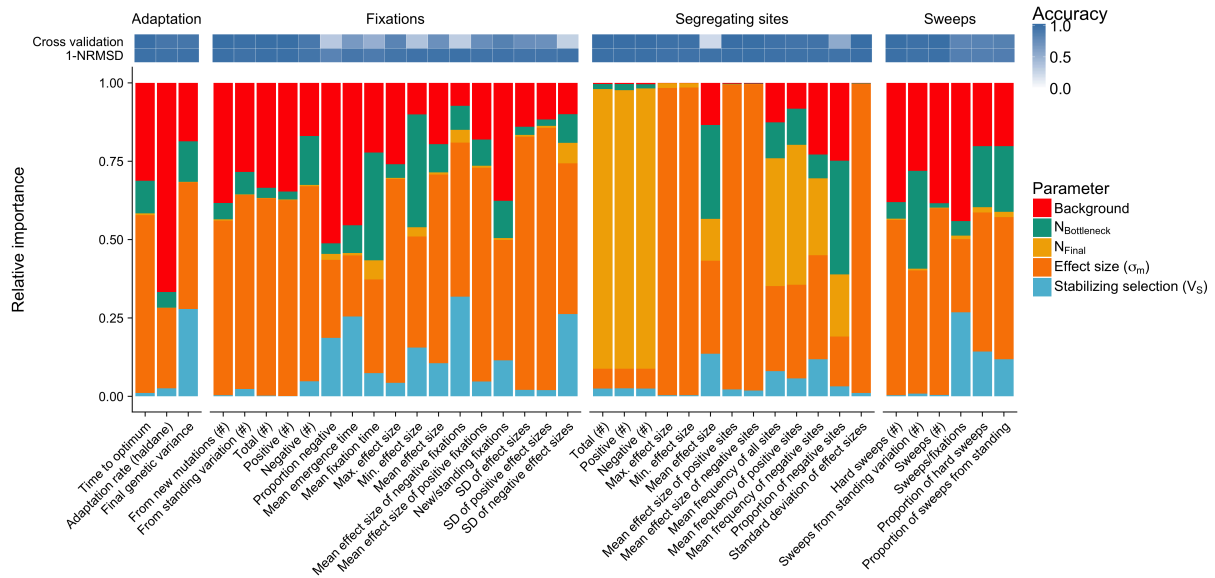


Figure 3 Relative parameter importance Relative parameter importance inferred for four parameter categories. 1) Adaptation: parameters describing adaptation speed and potential for future adaptation, 2) Fixations: summary statistics for mutations that were fixed during trait adaptation, and 3) Segregating sites: descriptors of alleles polymorphic in the final generation of the simulations. Top rows indicate prediction accuracy as calculated by 10-fold cross validation and NRMSE. Each bar is the result of an independent random forest learning and each color represents the relative importance of the simulation input parameters (see Methods and Table S1 for summary statistics).

174 **Speed of polygenic adaptation** An important factor for the survival of a population exposed to changing environments
 175 is how fast it can adapt to new conditions. Our simulated populations varied widely in the time required to reach the
 176 new optimum, from 0.001 to 0.99 N_{anc} generations. A total of 732 of the 120,000 simulations did not reach the new trait
 177 optimum within the simulated time of $0.1 \times N_{anc}$ generations, but all parameter combinations had at least 8 (of 100)
 178 replicates reaching the new optimum. In general, simulations that did not reach the new optimum were those with a
 179 strong bottleneck (reduction to 1% or 5% of N_{anc}). In particular, more than 70% of all simulations with the smallest σ_m
 180 (0.01), no genetic background, 1% bottleneck, and a final size of N_{anc} did not reach the new optimum, regardless of their
 181 strength of stabilizing selection (V_S).

182 All three adaptation-related summary statistics were well predicted, with cross-validation accuracy over 90%. Overall,
 183 the parameter contributing most to this variation is σ_m , with a relative importance of $> 50\%$ (Figure 4). This was followed
 184 closely by the proportion of the trait explained by genetic background (ψ) at 31%, while demography and V_S were of
 185 relatively minor importance (Figure 3 and S5). We find that the rate of phenotypic adaptation was highest for populations
 186 with small σ_m and large ψ , and these two factors explained the majority of the observed variation (Figure 4). The initial
 187 genetic variance, a combination of V_S and σ_m , was the best predictor for the genetic variance in the final generation, but
 188 the strength of the bottleneck and ψ had a relative importance of 11% and 17%, respectively (Figure S5). The genetic
 189 variance in the final generation increased with increasing σ_m , with declining increase for larger σ_m (Figure 4).

190 Segregating sites after polygenic adaptation

191 We further investigated segregating sites in the final generation, which correspond to a modern population that has
 192 experienced an optimum shift in the past. Cross validation prediction accuracies were for most summary statistics were
 193 very high (< 0.9). The mean effect size of segregating sites was predicted with less accuracy, however, as all values are
 194 concentrated around zero leading to low R^2 values in the CV. The NRMSD, shows that the accuracy for mean effect
 195 size of segregating sites was high and that the validation data could be predicted, which allowed to infer parameter



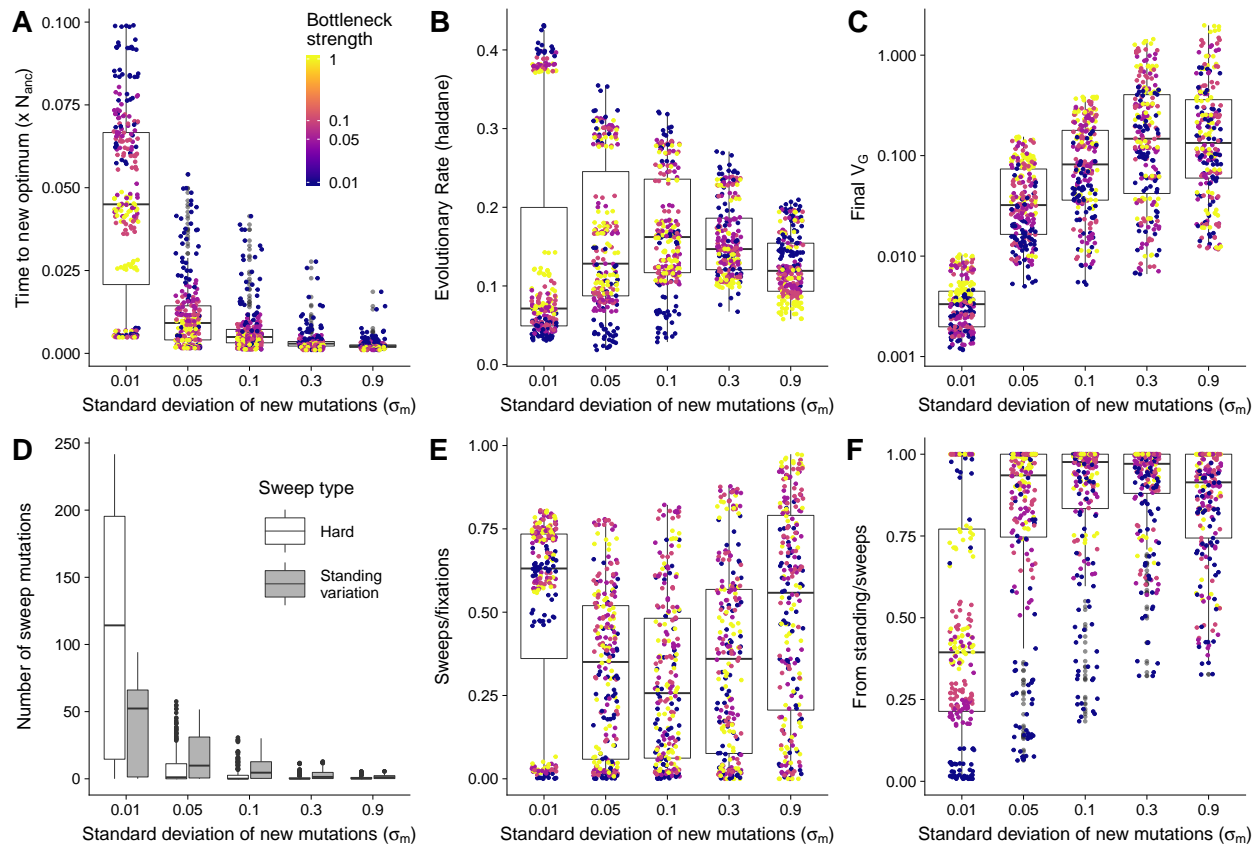


Figure 4 Summary of trait adaptation and selective sweeps **A)** Time to reach new trait optimum **B)** Rate of change in phenotype **C)** Genetic variance after $0.1 \times N_{anc}$ generations. **D)** Total number of selective sweeps, separated by type of sweeps. **E)** Proportion of sweeps compared to all fixations **F)** Proportion of sweeps from standing variation. Boxes are split by major parameter importance as identified by our random forest model. Points in A-C and E-F show the values of each of 1,200 parameter sets and are colored according to bottleneck size (Darker color indicate stronger bottleneck, see legend in A). Interactive plots are available at <https://mgstetter.shinyapps.io/quantgensimAPP/>



196 importance even with lower CV accuracy.

197 While absolute numbers mostly depended on the final population size, other statistics showed more distinct patterns.
198 Allele frequencies of both negative and positive sites were strongly influenced by the demography of the population.
199 The proportion of negative sites segregating in the population was also most strongly influenced by the strength of the
200 bottleneck (Figure 3), but when V_{G_0} (Figure S3) was used to train the model instead, V_{G_0} explained most of the variation
201 (Figure S5). As V_{G_0} is the result of the combination of V_S and σ_m during the burn-in, this a strong interaction effect
202 between V_S and σ_m which is partitioned when using V_S as feature in the random forest.

203 **Fixations and selective sweeps**

204 Mutations in a population can rise in frequency and fix due to demographic events and stochastic sampling or as a
205 result of selection. The sudden change in trait optimum in our model imposed strong selection on sites with a positive
206 effect, while mutations with negative effect values were deleterious until the new optimum was reached. Different
207 parameter combinations led to strongly varying numbers and patterns of fixations in our simulations. The effect size
208 of new mutations (σ_m) and ψ had the strongest influence on the absolute number of fixations and the effect size of
209 mutations that fixed (Figure 4, 3 and S5). Variation in the mean effect size of fixations depended mostly on σ_m , though V_S
210 also contributed substantially for negative fixations. Consistent with fixations being driven primarily by selection, the
211 effect size of positive mutations that fixed was an order of magnitude larger than that of negative fixations (Figure S6).
212 Comparing results within each set of simulations with identical σ_m shows that stochastic sampling due to N_{bneck} played
213 an important role in determining the number of fixations even if the relative importance of N_{bneck} among all parameters
214 was only 3% (Figure S6A and 3).

215 Not all fixations are due to positive selection, however, and even those that are due to selection would not necessarily
216 reduce linked diversity sufficiently to be detected as a selective sweep. To differentiate between neutral and strongly
217 selected fixations, we compared the fixation time of sites that fixed after the shift in trait optimum to single-locus neutral
218 simulations with identical demography (see Methods). Consistent with the higher total number of fixations exhibited,
219 populations with smaller σ_m also showed a higher number of sweeps. While the maximum number of sweeps was almost
220 300 (for $\sigma_m = 0.01$, $\psi = 0$, $V_S = 1$, and a bottleneck), 13 parameter sets did not lead to any sweeps within the simulated
221 time, all with $\sigma_m \geq 0.3$, $\psi = 0.95$ and $V_S \geq 5$. The proportion of sweeps to fixations ranged from 0 to 99% but was highly
222 variable and revealed strong interactions between σ_m , ψ and V_S (Figure 4). Larger ψ led to a low proportion of sweeps to
223 fixations when V_S and σ_m were small, but for large values of V_S and σ_m almost all fixations were sweeps, scaling with
224 decreasing ψ (<https://mgstetter.shinyapps.io/quantgensimAPP/>). The proportion of sweeps from standing variation was also
225 highly variable, but differentiated more strongly by demography within each group of σ_m than the total proportion of
226 sweeps (Figure 4E). Population bottlenecks were the second most important parameter for the type of selective sweep
227 observed, while either σ_m or V_{G_0} were the most important parameters 3 and S5).

228 **Genetic architecture after adaptation**

229 The genetic architecture of phenotypic traits that we observe in populations today was shaped by demographic history
230 and past selection. We evaluated the genetic architecture in the final generation of all 1,200 populations with their diverse
231 range of histories by comparing the combined allele frequency - effect size matrices (see Methods). These frequency
232 matrices were used as input for our random forest model to understand the contributions of input parameters to variation
233 in genetic architecture.

234 The extracted parameter importance showed that the variation in the genetic architecture depended most strongly
235 on N_{final} and σ_m , but each of the other three parameters contributed at least 9% of the variation (Figure 5). The
236 strong interaction between parameters becomes apparent in Figure 5, where the fine structure beyond the major 2
237 parameters (σ_m and N_{final}) can be seen on all levels of combinations. Among simulations with large σ_m and large
238 N_{final} , however, all correlations are close to 1 and it is therefore not possible to easily distinguish parameter sets based
239 on their genetic architecture (individual genetic architecture plots for each parameter combination are available at



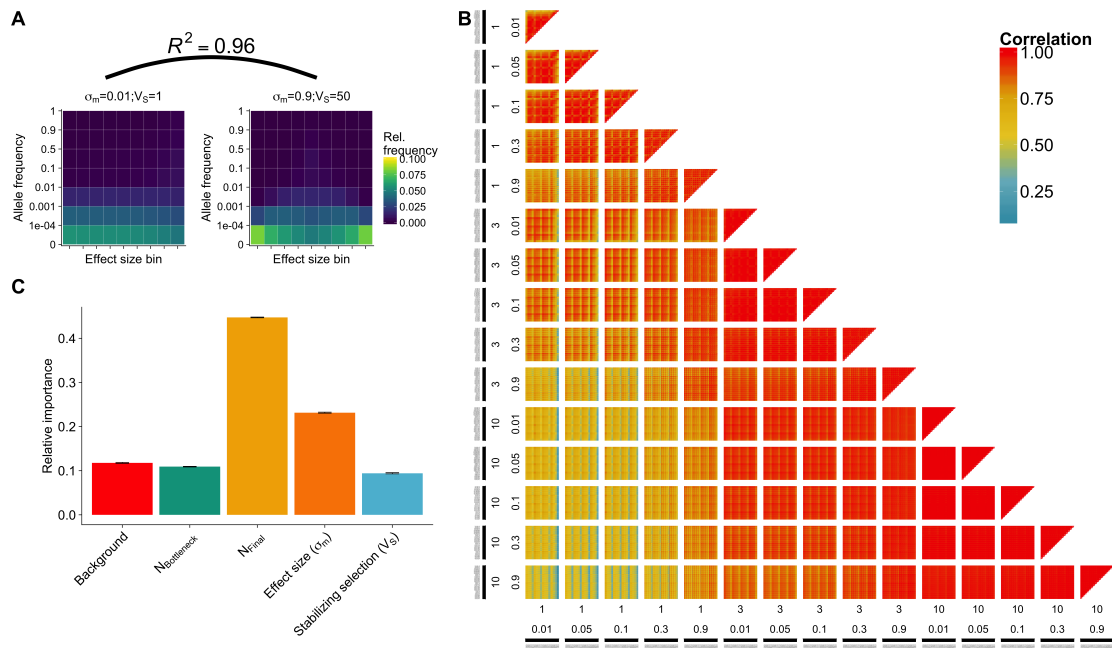


Figure 5 Genetic architecture in final population **A)** Genetic architecture matrices for two parameter combinations (maize models, see Methods) differing in effect size of new mutations and strength of stabilizing selection. Effect size bins are centered around zero with negative effect size quantiles on the left and positive quantiles on the right of the central bin. Shown is the correlation coefficient between the genetic architectures. **B)** Pairwise correlation of genetic architecture of all comparisons of 1,200 parameter combinations. Subplots display the combination of final population size (\log ; 1, 3, 10) and effect size distribution (σ_m , 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.3, 0.9) of incoming mutations. Each pixel displays a pairwise comparison between two of the 1,200 scenarios. **C)** Relative parameter importance for genetic architecture prediction.

240 <https://mgstetter.shinyapps.io/quantgensimAPP/>.

241 **Maize domestication traits**

242 After evaluating a wide parameter space using our machine learning models, we then investigated in more detail two
 243 parameter sets that resemble diverging traits during maize domestication. Using simulations with demographic models
 244 similar to that inferred for maize (a bottleneck of $0.05 \times N_{\text{anc}}$ followed by exponential growth to $10 \times N_{\text{anc}}$, [Beissinger](#)
 245 [et al. 2016](#)), we selected one trait with strong stabilizing selection and small effect mutations (Trait 1; $\sigma_m = 0.01$ and
 246 $V_s = 1$) and one trait with weak stabilizing selection and large effect mutations (Trait 2; $\sigma_m = 0.9$ and $V_s = 50$).

247 The two traits showed notably different patterns of adaptation (Figure 6, x-axis on \log_{10} scale). Trait 1 increased almost
 248 linearly for $0.0733 \times N_{\text{anc}}$ generations before asymptotically arriving at the new optimum. The genetic variance for this
 249 trait declined for the first $0.0169 \times N_{\text{anc}}$ generations before it slowly increased, but did not reach the equilibrium value
 250 within the $0.1 \times N_{\text{anc}}$ generations simulated. Trait 2, on the other hand, adapted rapidly, reaching the optimum in only
 251 $0.002 \times N_{\text{anc}}$ generations. The genetic variance for Trait 2 increased during adaptation to a value higher than V_{G_0} , then
 252 decreased after the optimum was reached but remained higher than V_{G_0} (Figure 6A and B). The number of fixations was
 253 100 times higher for trait 1 than for trait 2; the ratio of sweeps per fixation was also higher, and most sweeps in trait 1
 254 were hard (Figure 6C). Though on average trait 2 exhibited fewer than 2 sweeps per simulation, 94 % of these were from
 255 standing variation. The sojourn time for sweeps from standing variation was correlated with the initial allele frequency,
 256 but also with the effect size of a mutation. Large effect positive mutations had a low initial frequency but fixed fast, while
 257 negative alleles fixed slowly, despite their high initial frequency similar to the trait we described above (Figure 2). This
 258 observation held particularly true for Trait 2, where only few small or negative effects fixed quickly (Figure 6 D and E).



259 The overall contribution of all sweeps to phenotypic change was also different between the two traits: the summed effect
 260 size of all sweeps represents 45 % of the adaptation in trait 2, but only 18 % for trait 2.

261 Figure 5A shows the difference in genetic architecture between the two traits. While the adaptation of trait 1 led to an
 262 equal distribution of effect sizes at low frequencies, trait 2 had a larger proportion of both very low frequency mutations
 263 from the extreme tail of the distribution and small effect mutations at higher frequencies. Despite these differences the
 264 correlation between the genetic architecture matrices was very high (0.96; Figure 5).

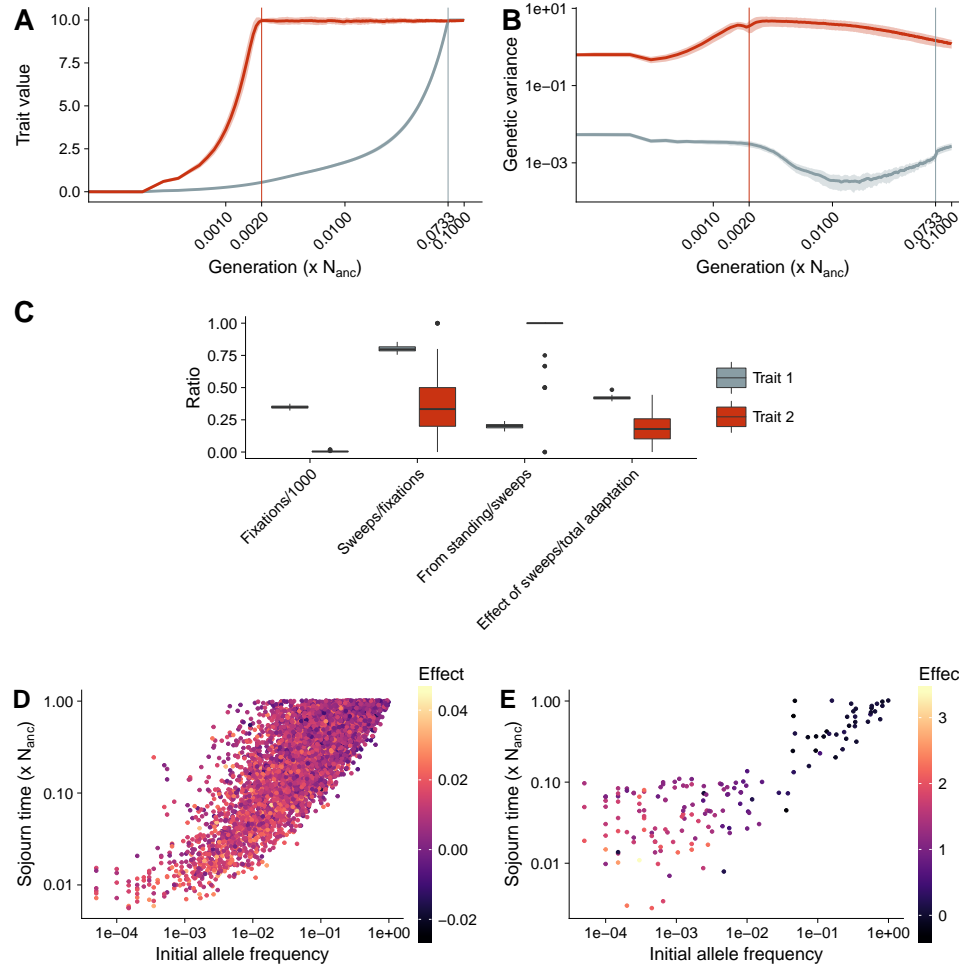


Figure 6 Maize specific adaptation procedure **A)** The evolution of trait value and **B)** genetic variance during adaptation to a new trait optimum for two traits under maize demography with no genetic background. Time in both figures is shown on a log scale, light shadows show standard deviations from the mean of 100 simulation replicates. Trait 1 (blue) with small effect mutations ($\sigma_m = 0.01$) strong stabilizing selection ($V_S = 1$). Trait 2 (red) with large effect new mutations ($\sigma_m = 0.9$) and weak stabilizing selection ($V_S = 50$). Vertical lines denote the generation when 99% of the new trait optimum is reached. **C)** Proportions of selective sweeps. **D)** Sojourn time of sweeps from standing variation in Trait 1. **E)** Sojourn time of sweeps from standing variation in Trait 2. Scales in D and E are different due to strong divergence of effect size values.

265 Discussion

266 Model choice

267 We use a combination of two different fitness functions to study the quantitative genetics of adaptation to a sudden
 268 change to a new trait optimum far beyond observed trait values for any individual in the equilibrium population. During
 269 the stationary phase before the shift and after reaching the new optimum we followed a Gaussian fitness function



270 appropriate for a trait under stabilizing selection (Johnson and Barton 2005). During the optimum shift, however, such a
271 model would be problematic, as only a few individuals in the upper tail of the fitness distribution would have extremely
272 high relative fitness, inducing a strong population bottleneck. Instead, we applied a model of truncation selection, first
273 calculating fitness under the Gaussian fitness function but then assigning a fitness of 1 to the top half of the population
274 and 0 to the bottom half. Such a model is reasonable for sudden shifts in trait optima that do not lead to the extinction
275 of a population, but where higher trait values are unambiguously advantageous and the maximum population size is
276 limited. In natural populations these factors can be observed when sudden changes in the environment favor a specific
277 phenotype for invasive species (Moran and Alexander 2014) or in semi-artificial populations in agroecosystems and
278 during domestication (Benz *et al.* 2006). Truncation selection is also common in evolve and re-sequence experiments
279 (Turner *et al.* 2011), crop populations (Dudley 2007) and during strong directional selection in natural populations (Crow
280 and Kimura 1979).

281 In our model simulations we fixed the equilibrium optimum to 0 and the new optimum to 10, but change V_S and σ_m .
282 As V_S and σ_m change, the relative distance to the new optimum changed with respect to the initial V_G (V_{G_0}). The wide
283 range of distances simulated resembles observations in nature and experimental populations. For example, in the Illinois
284 long term selection experiment in maize, 105 generations of selection for high oil resulted in a shift of over 40 standard
285 deviations (Dudley 2007), and large trait shifts have also been identified in other experimental and natural populations
286 (Oz *et al.* 2014; Hoekstra *et al.* 2001). Our results should therefore be relevant for a variety of traits that adapt to changing
287 environments.

288 While our modeling investigated a wide parameter space for a number of key variables, one key aspect we have
289 ignored is interaction among alleles (dominance) or loci (epistasis). Both forms of interaction are widely recognized to be
290 important at the molecular level (Carlborg and Haley 2004; Jiang *et al.* 2017), but the majority of variance for a wide array
291 of quantitative traits seems reasonably well explained under a simple additive model (Polderman *et al.* 2015; Zhu *et al.*
292 2015), but see (Mackay 2014; Wallace *et al.* 2014; Carlborg and Haley 2004; Forsberg *et al.* 2017). And although we do not
293 include any explicit simulation of interlocus interactions, our quantitative trait model is such that the effect of an allele in
294 any given generation will depend on the genetic background. We predict that epistasis and dominance would absorb
295 some of the effect of σ_m for most statistics and have relatively little influence on demographic parameters. Further efforts
296 should incorporate the effects of dominance and epistasis, especially for understanding phenomena such as heterosis
297 and inbreeding depression, where nonadditive effects are likely to play a significant role (Charlesworth and Willis 2009).

298 ***How do organisms adapt to change***

299 Rapidly changing environments, such as those faced by changing climate impose a threat to populations with narrow
300 genetic variance for important traits. Quantitative traits inherently provide adaptive potential to a population, because
301 of the genetic variance created by varying effect sizes at a number of alleles (Burger and Lynch 1995). However, the
302 speed and manner in which traits adapt depends on the initial variation and beneficial mutations entering the population
303 once the environment changes. In rapidly changing environments or during new colonization of habitats the time it
304 takes to reach the new optimum is critical as this might determine whether the population is first to occupy a niche.
305 We looked at two summary statistics — time to optimum and adaptation rate — to compare the adaptive behavior of
306 different traits. The speed to the optimum shows the absolute speed of a population to reach the new optimum, while the
307 adaptation rate is corrected for the genetic variance present. The absolute speed depends most on σ_m , but the adaptation
308 rate is more uniform across σ_m with even higher adaptation rates for small σ_m (Figure 4A and B). This shows that with
309 small effect mutations and strong stabilizing selection adaptation is mutation limited, but this is not the case when V_S is
310 large. These two types of adaptation regimes have previously been described as mutation and environmentally limited
311 adaptation regime (Kopp and Hermisson 2009). Large adaptation rates are reached with the largest ψ (0.95) values,
312 because genetic diversity is maintained during the adaptation process. Populations with small σ_m and small ψ run out
313 of genetic variance, because most positive standing variation fixes and negative mutations get lost. The loss of genetic
314 variance is also apparent when comparing the initial genetic variance to the final genetic variance, which is smaller after



315 adaptation for most populations with $\sigma_m = 0.01$ (Figures 4 C, 6B and S3). The decrease in V_G for small effect mutations
316 and the increase from large σ_m is consistent with previous results (Jain and Stephan 2017). The genetic variance after
317 historical adaptation is important in the face of climate change where recently adapted populations will be forced to
318 further adapt. Populations with a large initial genetic variance and large effects also have larger genetic variance in
319 the final population and are thus better prepared for future adaptation. The severity of population bottlenecks is an
320 additional factor influencing V_G in the final generation as diversity is removed by genetic drift (Figure 3 and S5).

321 Overall, it is little surprising that populations with the largest V_G and largest σ_m adapt fastest to a new optimum, but
322 we also show the impact of population bottlenecks and the overlap between trait architectures (combinations of V_S and
323 σ_m). Different trait architectures can result in similar adaptation speed and genetic variance depending on the population
324 history. This implies that for traits that are highly polygenic, it is of particular importance to prevent population declines
325 in order to maintain the adaptability of populations.

326 **Selective sweeps during polygenic adaptation**

327 Much of standard population genetic theory assumes mutations have a constant fitness effect s . This assumption has
328 led to a number of findings about selective sweeps, from the probability of fixation being $\approx 2s$ (Haldane 1927) to the
329 rule of thumb that mutations with fitness effects $|2Ns| > 1$ will be fixed or removed by natural selection, while those
330 with smaller effects will drift stochastically as effectively neutral alleles (Wright 1931). For quantitative traits, however,
331 the fitness effect of a mutation is conditional on the phenotypic distance of an individual to the trait optimum and the
332 correlation between the trait and fitness (Johnson and Barton 2005). At equilibrium this follows a Gaussian distribution
333 (Equation 1), but during directional selection it will depend on the distance of the population from the trait optimum.
334 The relationship between the phenotypic effect size of a mutation and its fitness effect is strongly positive at the onset of
335 selection, while the slope declines as the population trait mean approaches the new optimum and is even slightly negative
336 once the new optimum has been reached (Chevin and Hospital 2008, Figure S7). This shows that segregating large
337 effect positive mutations are beneficial when the population trait mean is distant from the new optimum, but become
338 disadvantageous once the population mean is close to the new optimum, as on average they will cause individuals to
339 overshoot the optimum.

340 Most selective sweeps occur during the adaptation process before the new optimum has been reached, but the number
341 of fixations and sweeps is strongly dependent on the demography of the population. A strong population bottleneck leads
342 to more fixations, but most of these are fixed by drift rather than selection, and $N_{\text{bottleneck}}$ is therefore more important for
343 the number of fixations than the number of selective sweeps (Figure 3 and S5). Population bottlenecks also decrease
344 the proportion of sweeps from standing variation and favor hard selective sweeps, because the bottleneck removes
345 segregating beneficial alleles (Figure 4).

346 The overall importance of selective sweeps for different traits depends on the initial genetic architecture: our two
347 example traits show that differences in the number of sweeps do not necessarily reflect their combined effect: while trait
348 1 exhibited 279 sweeps, these contributed to 42 % of the change in trait value, while for trait 2, only 2 sweeps contributed
349 22% (Figure 6C). This is consistent with previous results showing that allele frequency shifts of large effect alleles are
350 sufficient to reach the new optimum, but selective sweeps are more important when the new optimum is distant (Pavlidis
351 *et al.* 2012; Jain and Stephan 2017) Our results show even more extreme cases, for example trait 1 and simulations with
352 $\sigma_m \leq 0.05$, in which the population exhausts standing variation and relies almost entirely on new mutations. In this case
353 hard selective sweeps are most common, as new positive mutations provide a strong relative fitness advantage (Figure 4
354 and 6).

355 Without linked neutral sites, our ability to identify likely sweep regions requires a few important caveats. First, we use
356 a conservative definition of selective sweeps, including only those alleles fixing faster than 99% of neutral simulations.
357 Less conservative cutoffs should not strongly influence the general result, as most mutations that sweep fix substantially
358 faster than neutral fixations and only few more fixations would be defined as selective sweeps. Second, while we identify
359 only sweeps from mutations that arose after the optimum shift as hard sweeps, some sweeps from standing variation



would be difficult to distinguish from hard sweeps in genomic data if their frequency at the onset of directional selection was very low (Berg and Coop 2015). Likewise, not all alleles that fixed faster than 99% of neutral simulations would be detectable as selective sweeps in empirical data, as selection on standing variation has a less pronounced impact on diversity at linked sites (Hermisson and Pennings 2017).

The effect of genetic background on focal QTL

Allele frequency shifts and selective sweeps in a focal QTL are dependent on the genetic background. Chevin and Hospital (2008) showed analytical results for the behavior of a single locus with a polygenic background during the adaptation to a new optimum. In our study, we simulate a more complex case: in addition to a genetic background (see Eq. , we model 20 QTL each involving numerous loci. Moreover, in our model the QTL and the genetic background are not independent, because the QTL in the parents contribute to their trait value but can themselves be inherited as well. Nonetheless, our results broadly agree with Chevin and Hospital (2008), showing that when the effect of the background and effects of mutations within the QTL are large, adaptation proceeds without selective sweeps (Figure 4). We additionally show that the background explains considerable variation in many summary statistics, in particular those related to fixations and selective sweeps (Figure 3). Together with empirical observations of varying fitness effects for QTL in different backgrounds (Symonds *et al.* 2005; Doebley *et al.* 1995; Stitzer and Ross-Ibarra 2018), our results highlight that evolutionary models of QTL cannot ignore the effects of genetic background.

Genetic architecture of quantitative traits after adaptation

The genetic architecture of a trait is an important feature in the study of adaptation, influencing both the response to selection as well as the power to detect causal loci for a trait. Our two example traits show that different adaptation processes lead to different patterns of the genetic architecture matrix. Because trait 1 only reached the new optimum shortly before we assess the the genetic architecture, the values are distributed asymmetrically along the zero effect size bin. Trait 2 reached the new optimum very early and therefore is more similar to an equilibrium genetic architecture with effects sizes close to zero at higher frequency and larger effect sizes at very low frequencies. These differences even between two highly correlated genetic architectures show that in addition to the input parameters, the time that passed since the new optimum was reached has an influence on the genetic architecture we observe in a population.

Using a machine-learning approach that trained on a subset of our simulations, we were able to identify the parameters that explained the largest proportion of variation among the genetic architectures studied (Figure 5). We found that demographic change plays a key role in determining the present genetic architecture, explaining as much as 55% (growth and bottleneck combined) of the variation we observed. For example, recent population growth leads to an increased number of low frequency mutations; this effect drives many of the observed differences between genetic architecture matrices of different demographies. We observed a high correlation (0.83 – 0.99) between genetic architectures with similar population demographies, suggesting that making inference about the process of adaptation from present day genetic architecture will have greater power in situations where the demography can be independently inferred. The result confirms the theoretical prediction that the combination of different allele frequency shifts at a large number of loci lead to similar trait architecture (Lynch and Walsh 1998). However when other statistics, such as information about fixations, effect size distributions observed in present populations, number and type of selective sweeps and the demography are added as parameters to the modern genetic architecture, we can predict the evolutionary rate, σ_m , and V_S with 70% accuracy.

In addition to the effect of population growth, other input parameters do contribute substantially to variation in the genetic architecture, including, including the strength of stabilizing selection. Simons *et al.* (2014) and Simons *et al.* (2018) suggest that rare alleles are unlikely to contribute substantially to trait variance, but our models show that rare alleles can explain a large proportion of the variation when effect sizes are large. This is more consistent with the findings of Lohmueller (2014), who showed that population growth leads to an increase proportion of genetic variance explained by rare alleles. The lack of consensus might result from differences in the models: while Simons *et al.* (2014) models selection



404 on fitness directly and [Simons et al. \(2018\)](#) a quantitative trait under stabilizing selection with pleiotropy, our models and
405 that of [Lohmueller \(2014\)](#) consider selection on traits that are directly correlated to fitness.

406 **Maize domestication**

407 Quantitative traits have been extensively studied in maize and breeders have made steady progress selecting traits for
408 ever increasing trait values. But despite decades of observation that many important traits in maize are polygenic and
409 work identifying QTL underlying domestication-related phenotypes ([Briggs et al. 2007](#)), there has been little attention to
410 the process of quantitative trait adaptation during maize domestication (but see [Brown et al. 2011](#); [Xue et al. 2016](#)). Many
411 domestication traits, alike maize traits, are polygenic and controlled by a number of loci with varying effect sizes ([Xue
412 et al. 2016](#)). Archaeological records of maize domestication traits show that adaptation took several thousand years ([Benz
413 et al. 2006](#)). Our example trait 1 matches this pattern, representing an adaptation time of almost 10,000 years [6](#). Trait 1
414 also leads to a reduction in genetic variance compared to the equilibrium population (wild ancestor), again matching
415 observed data ([Xue et al. 2016](#)).

416 Trait 2, on the other hand, differs dramatically in a number of ways. It reached the new optimum extremely quickly,
417 and diversity in the present is actually slightly higher than at the time of the optimum shift (Figure 6). The behavior
418 of trait 2 most closely resembles that of resistance traits with few large effect QTL potentially ([Poland et al. 2011](#)). We
419 only look at the genetic variance of mutations that affect a single trait, the overall diversity of a population is based on
420 a combination of traits with different trait architectures and neutral parts of the genome. The reduction in diversity
421 could partly be due to the distant optimum shift and partly because of the population bottleneck experienced during
422 domestication.

423 The difference in trait adaptation and genetic variance trajectory can be partially explained by the fixations and
424 selective sweeps of beneficial alleles. The number of fixations revealed that as expected far more mutations fixed for trait
425 1 than for trait 2, as in trait 1 much more sites are segregating in the equilibrium population, but the number of sweeps
426 was also much higher. This is corrected for sites that fix due to genetic drift and shows that the larger relative distance to
427 the new optimum changes the pattern. In maize it has been shown that the domestication led to an accumulation of
428 deleterious alleles, which so far was mainly attributed to the domestication bottleneck because no increase in deleterious
429 alleles near major domestication genes was found ([Wang et al. 2017](#)). For quantitative traits the small deleterious fixations
430 could be distributed more uniformly across the genome and fix even without population bottlenecks. In general there
431 are only few hard selective sweeps observed in maize and 84% of fitness related SNPs were already segregating in
432 teosinte ([Swarts et al. 2017](#)). Our traits show that depending on the relative distance to the new optimum the type of
433 selective sweeps changes. While for close traits mainly standing variation sweep for distant optima, more hard sweeps
434 are observed because the standing variation is exhausted. The overall pattern of selective sweeps in the maize genome is
435 a result of the selection on combination of traits and probably involves pleiotropic effects that can prevent fixation of new
436 mutations even if they have large effects on a trait.

437 **Signature of polygenic adaptation in genomic data**

438 The recently suggested omnigenic model predicts that regulatory networks are sufficiently interconnected that many loci
439 even outside the most biologically relevant genetic pathways can nonetheless affect a trait ([Boyle et al. 2017](#)). If indeed
440 many traits are omnigenic, a quantitative evolutionary model as employed in our simulations is well suited for making
441 inferences about observations in genomic data. Large sets of genomic and phenotypic data are becoming increasingly
442 available, facilitating the study of the role of polygenic adaptation. Our results help to understand the implications of
443 different theoretical parameters for the interpretation of such studies and provide targets for new selection tests that
444 explicitly test for polygenic adaptation and the underlying genetic architecture. We show, for example, that selective
445 sweeps can have a crucial role during polygenic adaptation and should be integrated into detection methods, as some
446 approaches to investigate polygenic adaptation from shifts in allele frequencies may lose power if large effect alleles are
447 fixed in the population in which effects are estimated ([Berg et al. 2017](#); [Forsberg et al. 2017](#); [Crawford et al. 2017](#)).



448 Inferring polygenic adaptation and the underlying parameters in empirical data can provide important insight into
449 the evolution of complex phenotypes. For experimental evolution scenarios in which the ancestral populations are
450 known, the distance between the initial and the final optimum can be inferred from phenotype data, but for natural
451 populations this may be more challenging. Our results indicate that the relative distance could be inferred from genomic
452 data via estimates of the genetic architecture if the demographic history is known. One current challenge of transferring
453 simulation results to empirical data is the computational limitation of simulating whole genome sequences in large
454 populations. Faster implementations will allow simulation of larger regions and include neutral sites (Kelleher *et al.*
455 2018), and could be used to train machine learning models in order to predict the evolutionary history of a population
456 from existing data coming from association studies. The implementation of machine learning trained on simulated data
457 has been successfully applied to identify a number of population genetic patterns (Schrider and Kern 2018), and is a
458 promising avenue for future work.

459 **Materials and Methods**

Table 1 Parameters and variables

Variable	Description
N_{anc}	Population size at equilibrium
N_{final}	Population size after $0.1 \times N_{\text{anc}}$ generations
$N_{\text{bottleneck}}$	Population size during bottleneck
ψ	Proportion of phenotype due to genetic background outside of QTL
σ_m	Standard deviation of effect sizes of new mutations
V_S	Strength of stabilizing selection
V_{G_0}	Genetic variance at equilibrium

460 **Model**

461 We simulated a quantitative trait under stabilizing selection with an optimum of 0 that adapted to a discrete optimum
462 change to a value of 10. The population was diploid and mated randomly. Phenotypes followed a purely additive
463 model in which the genotypic values at a given locus with an allele of effect size a were 0, $0.5a$ and a for homozygous
464 ancestral, heterozygous and homozygous derived genotypes. We modeled 20 QTL resembling 50kb regions, each with a
465 4 kb “genic” region centered in a 46 kb “intergenic” region. In the intergenic region mutations that affect the phenotype
466 appeared with 1% probability of the genic region, leading to approximately 10% of mutations in intergenic regions and
467 90% in the 4kb genic regions. Starting with a neutral substitution rate of 3×10^{-8} per site per generation (Clark *et al.*
468 2005), we then assumed that only 1% of all mutations affect the trait of interest, resulting in a mutation rate of 3×10^{-10}
469 per site per generation and a total per gamete mutation rate of 3×10^{-4} per generation. Regions were unlinked (50 cM
470 distance), and within regions the recombination rate was 5×10^{-8} per site per generation (0.05 per gamete).

471 **Fitness** We used a Gaussian fitness function in which an individual’s fitness w was modeled as:

$$w = \exp\left[-\frac{(z - z_{opt})^2}{2V_S}\right] \quad (1)$$

472 where z is the trait value of an individual, z_{opt} is the population optimum trait value and V_S modulates the possible
473 deviation from the optimum. This standard model for traits under stabilizing selection is well suited for populations at



474 equilibrium (Bürger 2000, chapter 7). Under strong directional selection, however, this model greatly amplifies fitness
475 differences among individuals in the tails of the phenotypic distribution. During the adaptive phase of the simulation,
476 we calculated individual fitness following equation 1, but then apply truncation selection by assigning a fitness of 1 to
477 the top 50% of the distribution of w and 0 for the remaining 50%. This model allowed for truncation selection on z , while
478 the population was distant from the new optimum, but allows for selection against phenotypes that surpass the new
479 optimum during the final stages of adaptation. We stopped truncation selection once the population mean reached the
480 new optimum, returning the population to stabilizing selection using fitness values calculated in equation 1.

481 **Initial genetic Variance** The genetic variance at equilibrium can be approximated by the house of cards (HoC) approxi-
482 mation (Turelli 1984; Bürger 2000):

$$\mathbb{E}[V_G] = 4\mu V_S \quad (2)$$

483 We simulated five different values of V_S (1, 5, 10, 20, 50) to modulate the genetic variance of the equilibrium population.

484 **Effect size of new mutations** We used a Gaussian distribution around zero for the effect size of new mutations and
485 five different standard deviations ($\sigma_m = 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.3, 0.9$) to create traits with different effect sizes. Given a fixed
486 optimum of 10, this distribution of effect sizes in combination with V_S effectively parameterize the distance to the new
487 optimum, from a minimum distance of 11.5 z-scores (phenotypic standard deviations) to a maximum of 158.2 z-scores.

488 **Background** Computational limitations do not allow simulation of an entire eukaryotic genome, so we added a heritable
489 background (G_B) to our simulations to account for the adaptive potential of the rest of the genome.

$$G_B \sim \mathcal{N}(G_{mp}, \sigma^2) \quad (3)$$

490 where G_B is the value of the genomic background of an individual, G_{mp} is the mid-parent genotypic value and σ^2
491 is the variance of the parental trait values (Falconer 1960, chapter 9). Hence, G_B is drawn from a normal distribution
492 around the mid-parent value.

$$P = \psi \times G_B + (1 - \psi) \times G \quad (4)$$

493 The trait value of an individual P is then given by the sum of its genetic value G and the genomic background G_B ,
494 weighted by ψ , the proportion of trait variation represented by background. We modeled four different background
495 levels ($\psi = 0, 0.1, 0.5, 0.95$).

496 **Demography** To study the effect of population bottlenecks and expansion, we simulated a total of 12 different demo-
497 graphic scenarios with varying strength of a single bottleneck and subsequent growth (Figure S1). In scenarios with
498 a bottleneck, an instantaneous reduction in population size occurs immediately after the burn-in and is followed by
499 exponential growth over the length of the simulation ($0.1 \times N_{anc}$ generations).

500 Simulations

501 Using the above described parameters we simulated 100 replicates each of 25 different equilibrium traits using fwdpy11
502 v1.2a (<https://github.com/molpopgen/fwdpy11>), a Python package using the fwdpp library (Thornton 2014). These 25 traits
503 differed in their combination of V_S and σ_m and were run for a burn-in of $10 N_{anc}$ generations (Figure S3). Subsequently,
504 each of the 1,200 parameter combinations was run for $0.1 N_{anc}$ starting from these equilibrium traits.

505 To simulate a trait in a population of 100,000 individuals for 10,000 generations, we scaled population size and
506 generation time down and mutation and recombination rate up by a factor of 10 (based on values above), thus simulating
507 a population of 10,000 individuals for 1,000 generations after a burn-in of 100,000 generations to reach equilibrium.



508 The population mean trait values and variances were recorded every generation and entire populations, including
509 individual trait values, mutations and effect sizes, were recorded every 10 generations for the first 100 generations after
510 burn-in and then every 100 generations thereafter.

511 **Analysis**

512 **Sweeps** To identify selective sweeps, we used binomial sampling to simulate the sojourn time of neutral alleles arising in
513 populations undergoing each of the demographic models described above. Mutations that were lost or that fixed before
514 the end of the burn-in were ignored. We ran 10,000 replicates for each of the 12 demographic models and recorded the
515 time it took a mutation that fixed within the last $0.1N$ generations (similar to our selection model) to fix in this random
516 model. These simulations provided a null distribution to which we compared selected mutations in our quantitative trait
517 simulation (Figure S2). We defined as a sweep any mutation that fixed faster than 99% of neutral alleles and categorized
518 them as hard or from standing variation depending on whether the mutation arose before or after the optimum shift.

519 **Machine learning** For each of the 120,000 simulations we calculated various summary statistics using the pandas version
520 0.21.0 and numpy version 1.12.1 Python libraries (McKinney 2010; Walt *et al.* 2011). These include statistics related to
521 adaptation, selective sweeps, segregating sites, and fixed mutations; Table S1 contains a full list of parameters used for
522 prediction and importance estimation.

523 To identify the importance of input variables we trained a random forest and extracted the relative importance of
524 the input parameters. We employed the RandomForestRegressor of sklearn 0.19.0 (Pedregosa *et al.* 2011) with 100 trees
525 to extract parameter importance by training the model using input parameters as features and predicting a summary
526 statistic. The prediction accuracy for all parameters was then estimated by 10-fold cross validation (training using 80% of
527 the data) as well as root-mean-square deviation normalized by the range of values observed (NRMSD), and the process
528 repeated for each summary statistic of interest (Table S1).

529 To compare the genetic basis of traits between scenarios we define the genetic architecture as the matrix of allele
530 frequencies and effect sizes for each simulation. Allele frequencies were split into 7 discrete bins ($0 - 10^{-4}$, $10^{-4} - 10^{-3}$,
531 $10^{-3} - 10^{-2}$, $10^{-2} - 0.1$, $0.1 - 0.5$, $0.5 - 0.9$, $0.9 - 1$) and effect sizes were split into 9 quantiles, as absolute effect sizes were
532 strongly dependent on the input effect size. Relative occurrence frequencies (summing to 1 over the whole matrix) of
533 segregating sites in each frequency-effect size combination were calculated for each simulation. These values were used
534 to train a random forest model and extract parameter importance. Parameter importance was estimated by predicting
535 frequencies of each effect size bin from the input parameters. Prediction accuracy was again assessed by 10-fold cross
536 validation. Additionally, we calculated pairwise correlations of genetic architecture matrices in the final generation
537 between all possible pairs of scenarios using the mean of all simulation replicates.

538 **Maize domestication**

539 We took a closer look at two sets of simulations that represent diverging traits under a demographic model similar to
540 that of maize domestication ($N_{\text{bottleneck}} = 0.05 \times N_{\text{anc}}$; $N_{\text{final}} = 10 \times N_{\text{anc}}$). For these simulations we assumed no genetic
541 background ($\psi = 0$). Trait 1 represents a trait with new mutations of small effect ($\sigma_m = 0.01$) and strong stabilizing
542 selection ($V_S = 1$), while Trait 2 has new mutations of large effect ($\sigma_m = 0.9$) and weaker stabilizing selection ($V_S = 50$).

543 **Data availability**

544 All scripts and code to reproduce the simulations and figures is available at <https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.6179219>.
545 A detailed interactive graphical analysis of summary statistics is available at <https://mgstetter.shinyapps.io/quantgensimAPP/>

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667 Supplement

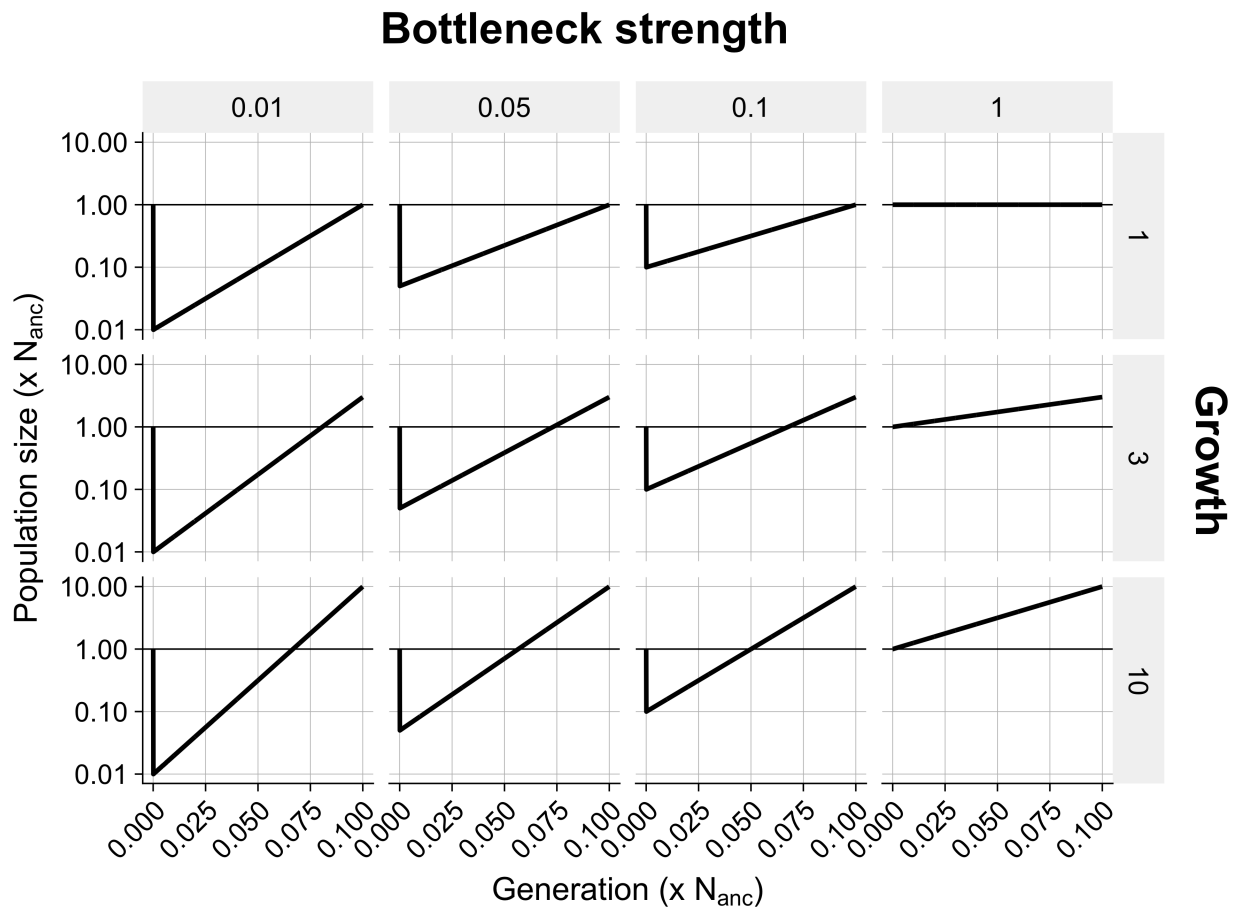


Figure S1 Demographies Bottlenecks and growth models



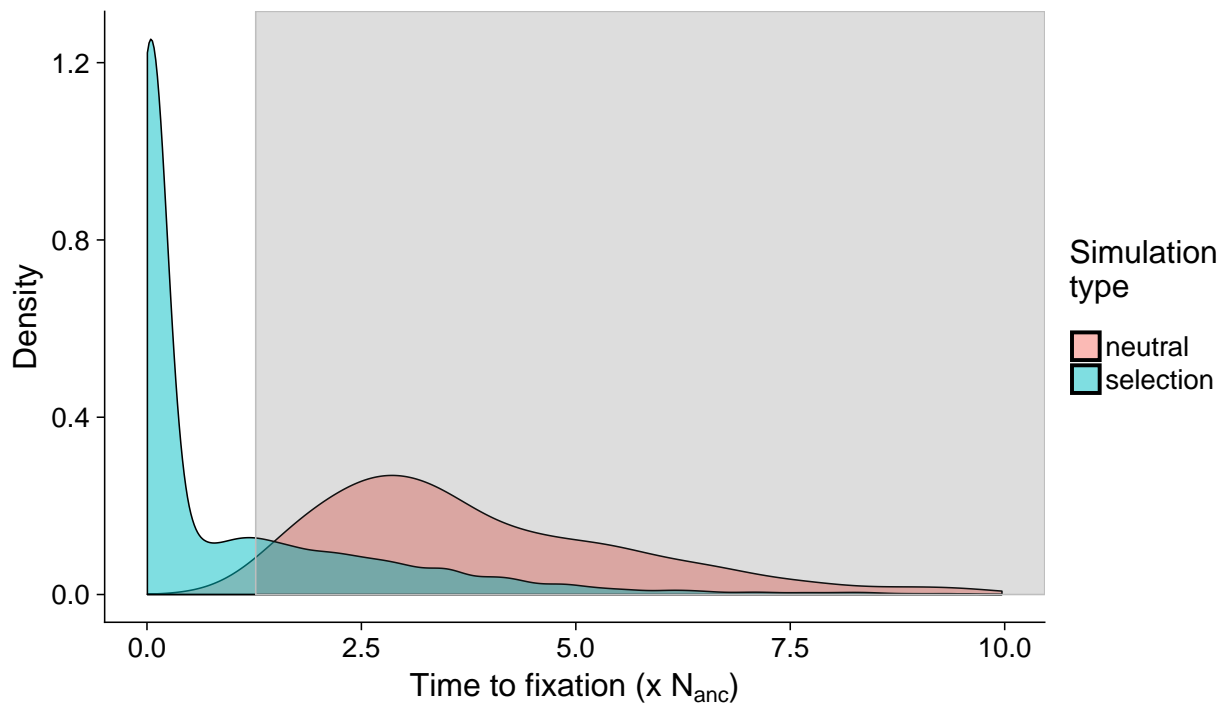


Figure S2 Detection of selective sweeps Distribution of fixation times from neutral single locus simulations (red) and forward simulations with selection (green). The grey area denotes the 99% confidence interval of neutral fixation time. Fixations outside the confidence interval are considered selective sweeps.

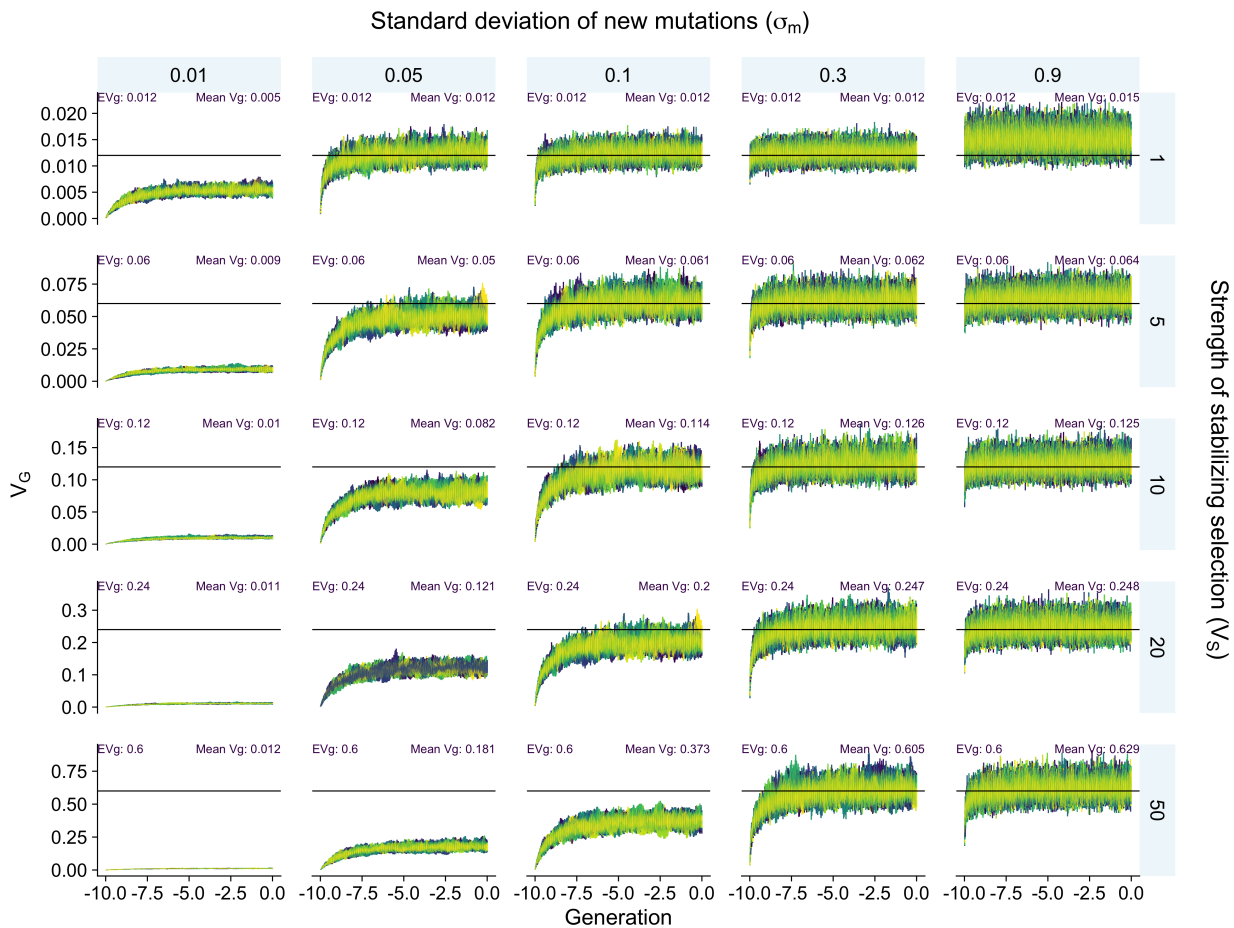


Figure S3 Genetic variance during burn-in The genetic variance in each generation over $10 N_{\text{anc}}$ generations for each parameter set. The horizontal line denotes the House of Cards approximation of V_G (Turelli 1984). Scenarios with small σ_m and large V_S do not reach the expected V_G because mutations are too small to "fill up" the variance volume. However, their equilibrium variance is higher than that approximated by Lande (1975) and is between those regimes.



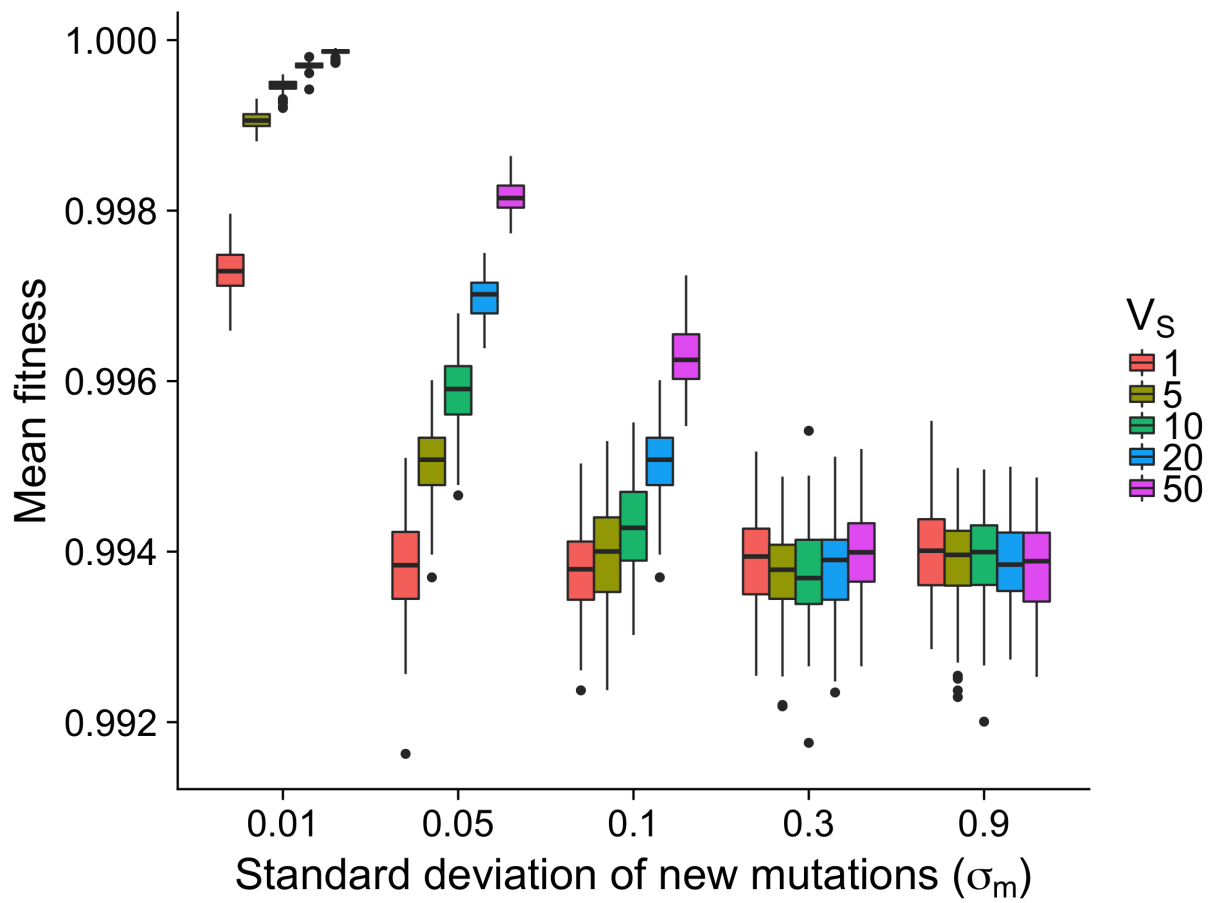


Figure S4 Equilibrium Fitness Fitness for each burn-in parameter combination after 10N generations.

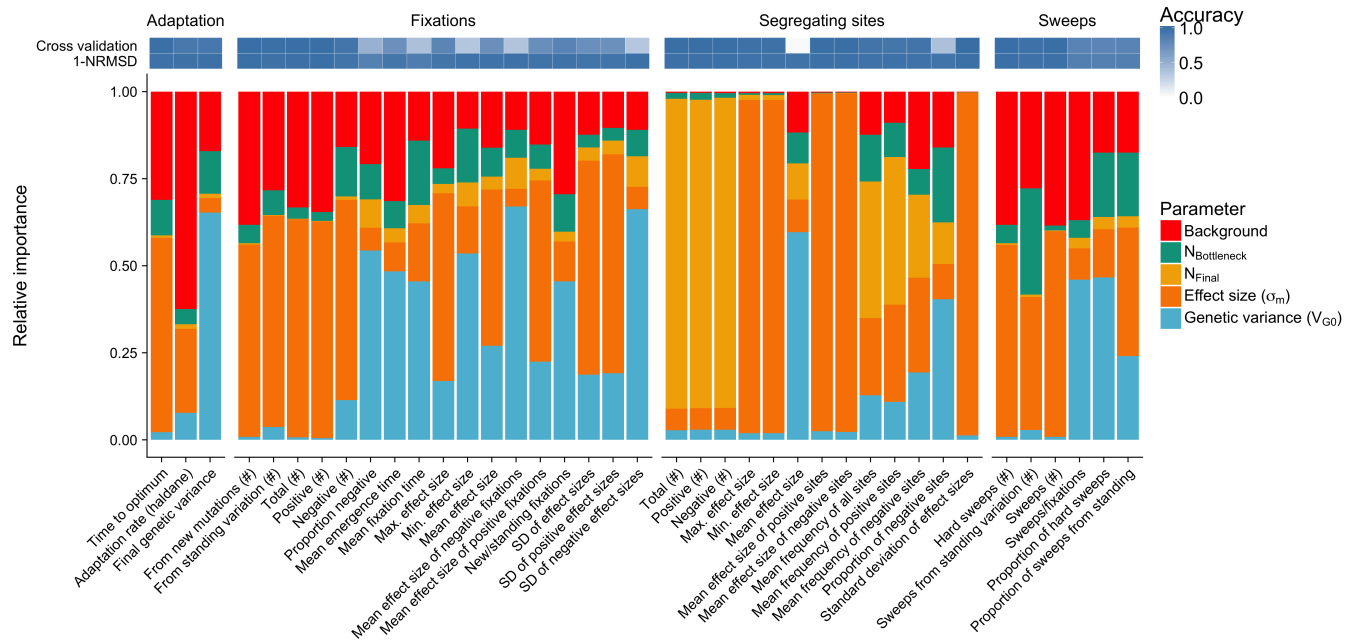


Figure S5 Relative parameter importance Relative parameter importance inferred by Random Forrest machine learning for three parameter categories. 1) Adaptation, trait related parameters describing adaptation speed and potential for future adaptation. 2) Fixations, summary statistics for mutations that were fixed during trait adaptation and 3) segregating sites in the final generation of the simulations. Top panel indicating prediction accuracy as calculated by 10-fold cross validation and normalized relative mean squared error



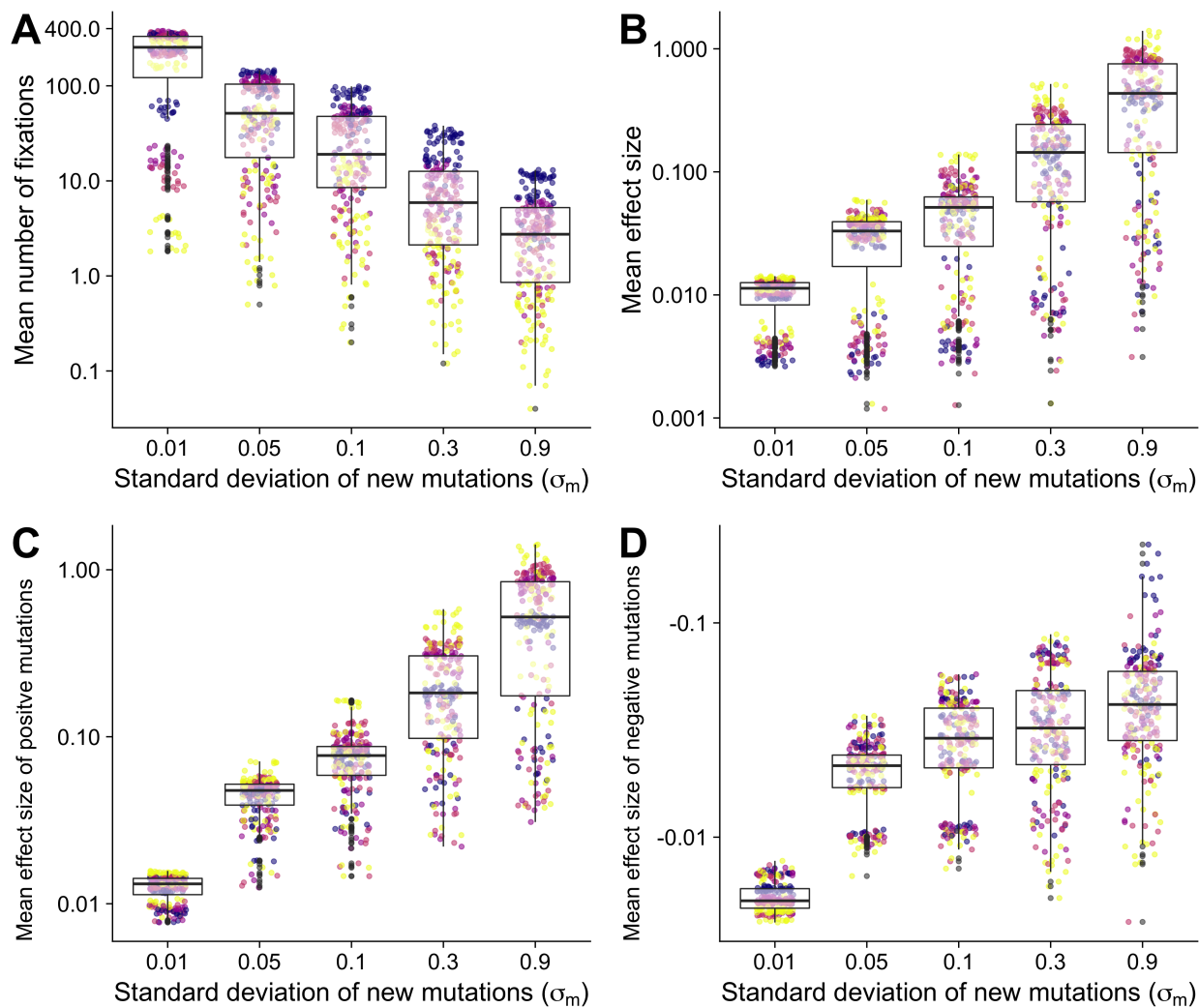


Figure S6 Fixations A) Total number of fixations B) Mean effect size of fixations C) Mean effect size of positive fixations D) Mean effect size of negative fixations

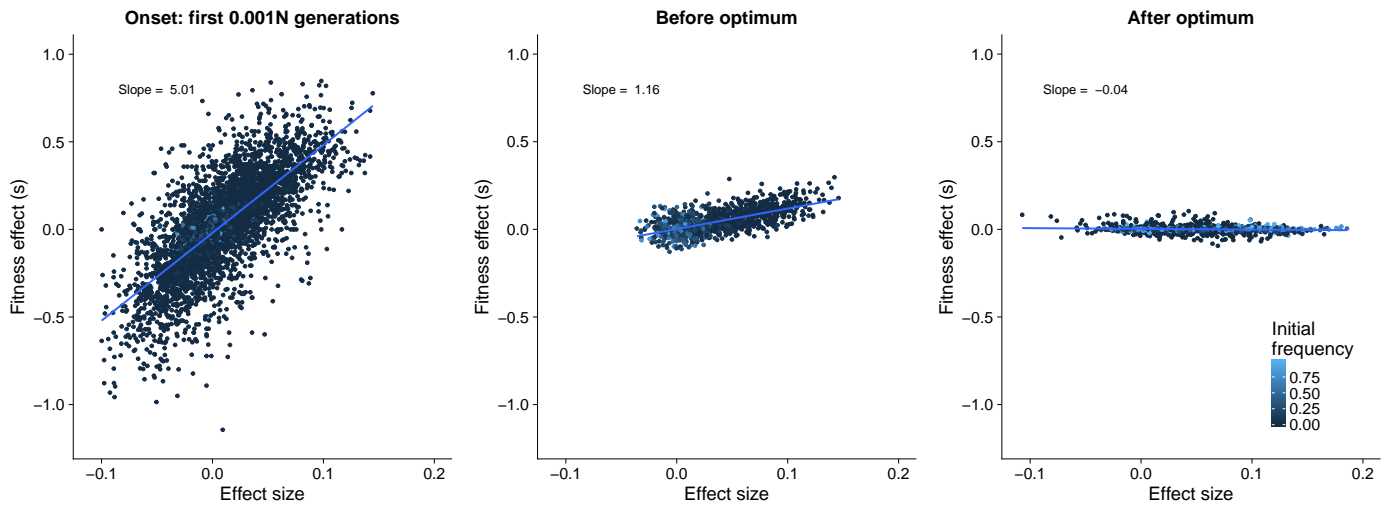


Figure S7 Fitness effect of mutations Fitness effect of mutations at the onset of directional selection (0.001-0.012N), Before the new optimum is reached (0.001 - 0.012N) and after the new optimum has been reached (0.012 - 0.022N)



Table S1 Predicted summary statistics for feature importance estimation

Parameter	Description
Adaptation	Trait related parameters
Time to optimum	Generations until new optimum is reached
Adaptation rate (haldane)	Adaptation rate until new optimum is reached. Calculated as $rate(h) = \frac{\ln(x_2) - \ln(x_1)}{\frac{sd_{x_{12}}}{t_2 - t_1}}$
Final genetic variance	Genetic variance in the final generation
Fixations	Mutations that fix after the optimum shift
From new mutations (#)	Sum of fixed mutations in the final population that were already segregating before the optimum shift
From standing variation (#)	Sum of fixed mutations in the final population that arose after the optimum shift
Max. effect size	Maximal effect size of all fixations
Mean effect size	Mean effect size of all fixations
Mean effect size of negative fixations	Mean effect size of negative mutations
Mean effect size of positive fixations	Mean effect size of positive mutations
Mean emergence time	Mean generation when a mutation arose that fixed in the last 0.1 N generations
Mean fixation time	Mean generation in which a mutation fixed
Min. effect size	Minimal effect size of all fixations
Negative (#)	Sum of fixed mutations with negative effects in the final population
New/standing fixations	Ratio of mutations from new mutations vs. standing mutations
Proportion negative	Proportion of negative fixations from all mutations
Positive (#)	Sum of fixed mutations with positive effects in the final population
SD of effect sizes	Standard deviation of effect sizes of all fixations
SD of negative effect sizes	Standard deviation of effect sizes of negative fixations
SD of positive effect sizes	Standard deviation of effect sizes of positive fixations
Total (#)	Sum of fixed mutations in the final population
Sweeps	Mutations that fix faster than 99% of neutral fixations
Hard sweeps (#)	Sum of selective sweeps from new mutations
Proportion of hard sweeps	Proportion of hard selective sweeps of all selective sweeps
Proportion of sweeps from standing	Proportion of selective sweeps from standing variation of all selection sweeps
Sweeps (#)	Sum of selective sweeps
Sweeps from standing variation (#)	Sum of selective sweeps from mutations that were already segregating before the optimum shift
Sweeps/fixations	Ratio of sweeps vs. fixations
Segregating sites	Mutations that segregate in the final generation
Max. effect size	Maximal effect size of segregating sites
Mean effect size	Mean effect size of segregating sites
Mean effect size of negative sites	Mean effect size of segregating sites with negative effects
Mean effect size of positive sites	Mean effect size of segregating sites with positive effects
Mean frequency of all sites	Mean allele frequency of segregating sites
Mean frequency of negative sites	Mean allele frequency of segregating sites with negative effects
Mean frequency of positive sites	Mean allele frequency of segregating sites with positive effects
Min. effect size	Minimal effect size of segregating sites
Negative (#)	Sum of segregating sites with negative effect
Positive (#)	Sum of segregating sites with positive effect
Proportion of negative sites	Proportion of segregating sites with negative effect of all segregating sites
Standard deviation of effect sizes	Standard deviation of effect sizes of all segregating sites
Total (#)	Sum segregating sites in the final generation

