Adaptive meiotic drive in selfing populations with heterozygote advantage

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Abstract

The egalitarian allotment of gametes to each allele at a locus (Mendel's law of segregation) is a near-universal phenomenon characterizing inheritance in sexual populations. As exceptions to Mendel's law are known to occur, one can investigate why non-Mendelian segregation is not more common using modifier theory. Earlier work assuming sex-independent modifier effects in a random mating population with heterozygote advantage concluded that equal segregation is stable over long-term evolution. Subsequent investigation, however, demonstrated that the stability of the Mendelian scheme disappears when sex-specific modifier effects are allowed. Here I derive invasion conditions favoring the repeal of Mendelian law in mixed and obligate selfing populations. Oppositely-directed segregation distortion in the production of male and female gametes is selected for in the presence of overdominant fitness. The conditions are less restrictive than under panmixia in that strong selection can occur even without differential viability of reciprocal heterozygotes (i.e. in the absence of parent-of-origin effects at the overdominant fitness locus). Generalized equilibria are derived for full selfing.

Keywords: mating system, segregation distortion, overdominance, modifier theory

Introduction

Despite a growing number of examples where the rule of Mendelian segregation is violated

(e.g. Fishman and Saunders 2008, Didion et al. 2016, Nuckolls et al. 2017), exceptions to

fair meiosis in the form of meiotic drivers are thought to be relatively uncommon (Crow

1991). Among the exceptions, many cases of meiotic drive may be transient in that they

involve the spread of an initially rare segregation distorter that quickly rises all the way to

fixation. Drivers of this sort are consistent with the observation of widespread adherence

to the Mendelian scheme, since fixation entails the loss of manifestation of the drive

phenotype. Other cases of meiotic drive may involve homozygous fitness costs of sufficient

magnitude to allow for the initial increase of a driver but not its fixation, and so give rise to

a condition of persistent variation for segregation distortion as is found in mice (e.g. t-

haplotypes; Dunn 1957), Drosophila (e.g. SD-haplotypes; Sandler, Hiraizumi, and Sandler

1959), the chromosomal knobs of maize (Rhoades 1942), and various cases of sex

chromosome drive (e.g. Gershenson 1928), among a number of other examples; often such

drivers carry a number of fitness costs in both heterozygous and homozygous genotypes

(reviewed in Burt and Trivers 2006). But even these cases are unstable in the long run,

since an intermediate frequency of a selfish driver will select for suppressors throughout

the genome, and so the existence of segregation distortion at some locus is regularly

destabilized by adaptive countermeasures aimed at restoring the Mendelian order.

Considerations such as these seem to argue that Mendelian ratios ought to be widespread

(in accord with observation) and evolutionarily stable. However, Úbeda and Haig (2005)

proved the existence of conditions in which rare modifiers are expected to invade a

resident population by virtue of promoting meiotic drive at unlinked autosomal loci subject

to fitness variation. In the present work, I demonstrate that the conditions for evolving a

stable phenotype of meiotic drive are even less restrictive when self-fertilization is

included in the model.

The general evolutionary causes of autosomal adherence to Mendelian segregation has

received sporadic attention in the theoretical population genetics literature since it was

first modeled in the 1970s (Hartl 1975; Liberman 1976, 1990; Thomson and Feldman

1976; Liberman and Feldman 1980, 1982; Lloyd 1984; Eshel 1985; Úbeda and Haig 2005,

Brandvain and Coop 2015). One branch of these efforts assumes a random mating

population with a focal locus subject to di-allelic variation and heterozygote advantage, in

which the alleles have evolved to a stable equilibrium. A second locus is assumed to be

variable for alleles that modify the segregation ratio at the focal fitness locus. The key

question is: what are the conditions favoring the spread of a rare modifier? Early models

investigated sex-independent variables and parameters. Notable results include Liberman

(1976), who found that in a population fixed for a resident phenotype of Mendelian

segregation, rare modifiers could spread under broad conditions: any rate of

recombination less than one-half can result in the invasion of a drive-enhancer (i.e. a

modifier that imposes or increases a deviation from equal segregation) given that it is

sufficiently strong, with tight linkage being especially conducive to invasions. Eshel (1985)

showed that in the case of free recombination, the only kinds of modifiers which can invade

are those that reduce the intensity of drive; enhancers are uniformly selected against.

These results recall the metaphor of Leigh (1977) who likened the genome to "a parliament

of genes" which enforces behavior consistent with the common good against "'cabals of a

few' conspiring for their 'selfish profit'" (p. 4543). Modifiers with sufficient linkage to a

distorting locus can form a selfish cabal, but the presumably greater number of unlinked

modifiers act to police outlaw behavior.

An unsatisfying aspect of the work mentioned above is the assumption of sex-independent

effects. If a sex-differentiated population is assumed, and if accordingly modifiers have sex-

specific effects on male and female segregation, then an analysis of modifier invasion

demonstrates that unlinked genes should evolve to subvert Mendelian ratios after all

(Úbeda and Haig 2005). The benefit in doing so owes to the assumption that a modifier acts

on a locus exhibiting heterozygote advantage. Oppositely-directed segregation schemes, in

which an allele has a segregation advantage in one sex but a segregation disadvantage in

the other sex, are selected for as a mechanism of producing a super-Mendelian proportion

of fit heterozygous offspring, and thus evolve to reduce the genetic load caused by the

production of unfit homozygous progeny (segregation load). This possibility was absent in

the sex-independent models. On the assumption of symmetric overdominance, in which

parent-of-origin effects on fitness are absent (i.e. "Aa" and "aA" genotypes have identical

fitnesses, where the order of the alleles distinguishes parental origin), rare modifiers of the

segregation scheme are selected to increase at a slow arithmetic rate. Asymmetric

overdominance in fitness, in which "Aa" and "aA" genotypes differ but their average fitness

is greater than either homozygote, is a situation which selects for the repeal of Mendelian

law at a speedy geometric rate. Úbeda and Haig (2005) discovered this phenomenon, which

I refer to as "adaptive meiotic drive" in order to contrast such cases with selfish distortions

of meiosis; the concept is defined here as any distortion of segregation ratios that reduces

the segregation load in a population, relative to the Mendelian expectation. Importantly,

the phenotypic state characterized by long-term stability is the rather un-Mendelian

scheme of "all-and-none segregation", in which ratios are maximally distorted in male and

female meiosis, but in opposite directions (see also Úbeda and Haig 2004).

The importance of the sex-specific results with respect to biological phenomena is unclear

given that asymmetric overdominance in fitness is likely a rare class of balanced

polymorphism. Such a fitness scheme involves the simultaneous realization of

heterozygote advantage and parent-of-origin effects (e.g. genomic imprinting), examples of

which are lacking. Another factor constraining the spread of adaptive drive is that with

respect to symmetric overdominance, the repeal of the Mendelian process is associated

with a slow rate of modifier invasion that can easily be counteracted by associated costs to

reproduction (e.g. male fertility reduction). Nevertheless, their results reveal that the

reasons for the ubiquity of Mendelian segregation are more obscure than is generally

appreciated (Úbeda 2006).

The impact of inbreeding on the invasion of unlinked modifiers of drive in the context of

heterosis has not previously been investigated, and it is reasonable to suspect that the

mating system will have a qualitative impact on the evolutionary dynamics of adaptive

meiotic drive. Here I investigate a model that extends the conditions under which

Mendelian segregation is selected against to the case of partially and fully selfing

populations. Invasion conditions are derived for unlinked modifiers that impose a mutant

segregation scheme in the context of symmetric overdominance in fitness. Likewise, I

assess the long-term stability of all-and-none segregation to unlinked modifiers that alter

the ratios closer to equality. In addition, I derive generalized equilibrium genotype

frequencies for the case of full selfing.

Model

Assuming a monoecious population with sex-differentiated meiosis, I examine a two-locus,

two-allele discrete-generation deterministic model with an autosomal fitness locus, A, and

an unlinked autosomal modifier locus, B. The fitness scheme is $W_{Aa} = 1 > W_{AA}$, $W_{aa} \geq 0$. In

heterozygotes, the resident segregation ratio of $A : a$ is equal to $1-k_{m0} : k_{m0}$ in sperm and $1-$

$k_{f0}: k_{f0}$ in eggs of wild-type BB individuals, and in the mutant genotypes Bb or bb, the ratio

is $1-k_m : k_m$ in sperm and $1- k_f : k_f$ in eggs. Part of the population (1-S) are the offspring

resulting from outcrossing, assuming random union of gametes. The remainder (S) owe to

diploid selfing. With 10 possible two-locus diploid genotypes, the dynamical equations for

the genotypic proportions are given by:

$$p'_{ij} = (1 - S)\big(x_i y_j + (1 - \delta_{ij})x_j y_i\big) + (\bar{W}^{-1}S)\big(\mathbf{pT}_{ij}\big) \tag{1}$$

, which is valid for i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4 and such that ij and ji are not distinguishable. p'_{ij} is the

next-generation frequency of the genotype composed of haplotypes i and j (the labels are

AB = 1, Ab = 2, aB = 3, ab = 4). The x_i and y_j terms are the male and female gametic

frequencies, respectively, subsequent to zygotic selection of diploids, and are given by $x_i =$

$\bar{W}^{-1}(\mathbf{pU}_i)$ and $y_j = \bar{W}^{-1}(\mathbf{pV}_j)$, where $\bar{W}$ is the mean population fitness, equal to

$\sum\sum p_{ij}W_{ij}$. $\mathbf{p}$ is a row vector of genotype frequencies prior to zygotic selection, and such

that $\sum\sum p_{ij}$ =1. W_{ij} is the zygotic fitness of genotype ij and is equal to W_{AA} for ij = 11, 12, 22

and is equal to W_{aa} for ij = 33, 34, 44; all other subscripts correspond to heterozygotes

associated with a fitness of 1. $\mathbf{U}_i$ and $\mathbf{V}_j$ are the ith and jth column vectors from the 10x4

matrices ($\mathbf{U}$ and $\mathbf{V}$) governing transmission and selection in outcrossers. δ_{ij} is the

Kronecker delta. $\mathbf{T}_{ij}$ is a column vector corresponding to the production of genotype ij from

the 10x10 matrix ($\mathbf{T}$) describing transmission and selection in selfers. $\mathbf{U}$, $\mathbf{V}$, and $\mathbf{T}$ are

presented in the appendix.

Results

External stability of a Mendelian partial selfing population to adaptive meiotic drive

Assuming a population is initially fixed for the Mendelian-favoring BB genotypes, variation

at *A* will be determined by the forces of selection against homozygotes and the rate of

selfing. Equilibrium properties for single-locus systems of selfing and overdominant fitness

have been investigated previously (Hayman 1953, Workman and Jain 1966). The state

space for a single-locus partial selfing population with two alleles is fully described by the

allele frequency (q) and the inbreeding coefficient (F). One can formulate a model in which

$x = p^2 + Fpq$; $y = 2pq(1 - F)$; $z = q^2 + Fpq$, where the frequency of A is $p = 1 - q$, and

the frequencies of AA, Aa, and aa are x, y, and z, respectively. (Aa and aA are not

distinguished). The influences of selection, selfing, and Mendelian segregation are such that

in the next generation genotypic frequencies are

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$$x' = \bar{W}^{-1}(S)\left(x W_{AA} + \frac{y}{4}\right) + (1 - S)(p_a)^2 \qquad (2a)$$

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$$y' = \bar{W}^{-1}(S)\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) + (1 - S)(2p_a q_a) \qquad (2b)$$

155
$$z' = \bar{W}^{-1}(S)\left(z W_{aa} + \frac{y}{4}\right) + (1 - S)(q_a)^2 \qquad (2c)$$

, where $p_a = \bar{W}^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{2} + x W_{AA}\right), q_a = \bar{W}^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{2} + z W_{aa}\right)$ and $\bar{W} = x W_{AA} + y + z W_{aa}$ are

respectively the frequency of A and a alleles among outcrossers after selection (p_a, q_a) and

$\bar{W}$ is the mean fitness of the population. Since $q' = z' + \frac{y'}{2}$ and $F' = 1 - \frac{y'}{2p'q'}$ are the

frequency of the a allele and the inbreeding coefficient in the next generation, setting the

change in q and F over successive generations equal to zero yields a pair of equilibria in $\hat{q}$

and $\hat{F}$, only one of which is biologically feasible in the interior of allele frequency space (i.e.

such that both $\hat{q} \in (0, 1)$ and $\hat{F} \in [-1, 1]$ hold true). For tractability of the stability analyses,

I assume equal fitness of the homozygotes, $W_{AA} = W_{aa} = W_G$, which simplifies the

equilibrium so that $\hat{q} = 1/2$ and $\hat{F} = \dfrac{1 + (1-S)W_G - \sqrt{(1+S)^2 W_G^2 + (2-6S)W_G + 1}}{2(1 - W_G)}$; $(\hat{q}, \hat{F})$ is internally

stable ($0 < \hat{q} < 1$) for any rate of partial selfing and any intensity of selection against

homozygotes (Supplemental file). Stability under full selfing requires a restrictive

condition, namely a greater than two-fold heterozygote advantage (Supplemental file).

Treatment of modifier invasion under full selfing is postponed for a later section (**Result**

3).

The stability of $(\hat{q}, \hat{F})$ to the introduction of infinitesimal variation at B (external stability)

can be ascertained by evaluating the Jacobian at equilibrium, which yields an upper

triangular block matrix, $\mathbf{J}|_{(\hat{q},\hat{F})}$. The submatrices on the diagonal are $\mathbf{J_{res}}$, a 3x3 matrix

corresponding to a resident population variable only at A, and $\mathbf{J_{mut}}$, a 7x7 matrix

corresponding to the dynamics of a rare mutant at B (Supplemental file). The eigenvalues

of $\mathbf{J_{res}}$ are less than one in magnitude, and so stability is determined by the leading

eigenvalue (λ_L) of $\mathbf{J_{mut}}$; if $|\lambda_L| > 1$, then a rare b allele invades at a geometric rate (Otto and

Day 2007). Assuming a resident population characterized by Mendelian ratios (i.e.

$k_{m0} = k_{f0} = \frac{1}{2}$):

$$\lambda_L = \frac{S(k_f(2-4k_m)+2k_m+W_G-1)+\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{4(S(k_f(2-4k_m)+2k_m+W_G-1)+W_G+1)^2+64SW_G(k_f(2k_m-1)-k_m)+W_G+1}}{SW_G+\sqrt{W_G(S((S+2)W_G-6)+W_G+2)+1}+W_G+1}.$$

(3)

Result 1: The parameters for which $|\lambda_L| > 1$ holds true are broad. Resident

Mendelian populations with partial selfing (0 < S < 1) and heterozygote advantage (0 ≤ W_G

<1) select for modifiers that impose oppositely-directed sex-specific meiotic drive of any

intensity:

$$0 \le k_m < ½ \ \wedge ½ < k_f \le 1,$$ (4a)

or

$$½ < k_m \le 1 \wedge 0 \le k_f < ½.$$ (4b)

While the invasion analysis provides the conditions for the long-term spread of a rare

modifier, it is of interest whether the time course of modifier evolution is appreciable with

respect to the lifespan of a balanced polymorphism. Overdominance in the deterministic

model results in a permanent stable equilibrium, but in nature, balanced polymorphisms

only last as long they are not replaced by fitter genotypes in the course of environmental

changes or evolution of the genetic background (e.g. the resolution of overdominance by

gene duplication; Spofford 1969). Therefore, determining whether modifier evolution

occurs on a reasonable timescale is a necessary prerequisite to evaluating the importance

of the adaptive meiotic drive phenotype. Below, I numerically iterate cases of evolution

over a time span of 10^5 generations for a sample of parameters.

Numerical iterations of adaptive drive-enhancer invasion

Numerical iterations of the two-locus model with strong magnitudes of drive and selection

(assuming equal fitness of homozygotes and perfectly sex-reflected segregation schemes,

$k_m = 1-k_f$) are illustrated in Fig.1 and demonstrate fairly broad invasibility of drive-

enhancing modifiers starting from a frequency of 0.01% rising to "fixation" (> 99%) within

10^5 generations, which often occurred except for the weakest case of selection and drive

depicted (i.e. 60:40 drive with 1% fitness reduction). A low selfing rate (S = 2.5%) is seen to

be uniformly associated with the slowest rate of evolution; multiple cases of modifier

fixation are observed for low selfing nonetheless. As is intuitive, higher intensities of

distortion and stronger selection against homozygotes are each associated with quicker

fixation of the drive enhancer.

The lack of appreciable modifier evolution within 10^5 generations for the weakest

intensities of drive and selection in Fig. 1 calls for an investigation into cases where only

one of these processes exhibits small values, while the other process is strong. An

examination of cases reveals that weak segregation distortion and strong selection does

not guarantee timely evolution of modifiers (Fig. 2), nor does weak selection and strong

distortion (Fig. 3). Nevertheless, with coefficients of sufficient magnitude, cases of drive

enhancer fixation are apparent for various levels of selfing. It should be noted that in

general, the relation between the selfing rate and the pace of modifier evolution is non-

monotonic; an expression for the selfing parameter that maximizes the rate of modifier

invasion can be derived analytically, in terms of W_G and k, where $k = k_m = 1\text{-}k_f$

(Supplemental file, Fig. S1).

The invasion analysis (**Result 1**) and the preceding numerical results took on the

restrictive assumption that homozygote fitnesses were equal, and so I also present a

sample of numerical results where this assumption is relaxed. A difference in fitness

between the homozygotes (AA and aa) of course results in lower initial heterozygosity at *A*,

and a slower invasion rate of the modifier as compared to the case of equal homozygote

fitness (Fig. 4a,b); a shift in the frequency at the *A* locus occurs away from its Mendelian

equilibrium to a new value. In addition, if asymmetrically sex-reflected ratios (i.e. $k_m \neq 1\text{-}$

k_f) are investigated, a modifier polymorphism can appear (Fig. 4c-d). In some cases (Fig.

4c), the mutant modifier winds up at an internal neutral equilibrium because the process of

modifier selection causes a frequency shift at the *A* locus into a fixation state; such an event

stops any further directional selection at the *B* locus. In other cases (Fig. 4d), alleles at *A*

and *B* are both internally stabilized; for the *B* locus, this owes to a balance of forces

between (1) an adaptive reduction in the segregation load (i.e. lowered homozygote

production) and (2) a maladaptive imposition of a drive load caused by the frequency shift

at A (Úbeda and Haig 2005). Yet other cases of asymmetric drive cause a shift at *A* but still

allow for the modifier mutant to fix (Fig. 4e,f).

External stability of all-and-none to drive suppressors in a partial selfing population

Úbeda and Haig (2005) reported that all-and-none segregation is stable to mutants of the

segregation scheme in random mating populations. I investigate whether all-and-none

exhibits stability under partial selfing. The dynamical equations now assume $k_{m0} = 1$ and k_{f0}

= 0 (i.e. one of the two possible all-and-none phenotypes; $k_{m0} = 0$ and $k_{f0} = 1$ would do just

as well). With equal homozygote fitnesses, the single-locus equilibrium associated with all-

and-none segregation, selfing, and overdominance can be shown to equal $\hat{q} = \frac{1}{2}, \hat{F} = -1$,

which is an internally stable equilibrium consisting entirely of AaBB genotypes

(Supplemental file). The eigenvalues of $\mathbf{J_{mut}}$ in this case are:

$\lambda_1 = 0$, (5a)

$\lambda_2 = \frac{1}{2}S(k_f(1-2k_m) + k_m)$, (5b)

$\lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = \frac{SW_G}{2}$, (5c)

$\lambda_5 = \frac{1}{2}(S+1)W_G$, (5d)

$\lambda_6 = \frac{1}{4}(S(k_f(1-4k_m) + 3k_m + W_G - 1) -$

$\sqrt{(k_f(1-4Sk_m + S) + (3S-1)k_m + S(W_G-1) + W_G + 1)^2 + 8W_Gk_m(4Sk_f - 3S + 1) - 8(S+1)W_Gk_f} +$

$k_f - k_m + W_G + 1)$, (5e)

$\lambda_7 = \frac{1}{4}(S(k_f(1 - 4k_m) + 3k_m + W_G - 1) +$

$\sqrt{(k_f(1 - 4Sk_m + S) + (3S - 1)k_m + S(W_G - 1) + W_G + 1)^2 + 8W_Gk_m(4Sk_f - 3S + 1) - 8(S + 1)W_Gk_f} +$

$k_f - k_m + W_G + 1)$. (5f)

Result 2: None of the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{J_{mut}}$ for an all-and-none resident phenotype (Eq. 5a-f)

are ever greater than one in magnitude in a partial selfing population. λ_7 takes the unit

value when the mode of all-and-none segregation mutates from (k_{m0} = 1, k_{f0} = 0) to (k_m=

0, k_f = 1). Otherwise, all eigenvalues are less than one. This demonstrates the long-term

stability of all-and-none segregation to any mutants of the segregation scheme in a partial

selfing population with symmetric overdominance and equal fitness of homozygotes.

As an extension of **Result 2**, it can be shown that the direct invasion of Mendelian

segregation (k_m= 1/2 , k_f = 1/2) into a resident all-and-none population cannot occur for

generalized values of W_{AA} and W_{aa} (i.e. with no constraint on their equality); the

eigenvalues are complicated (Supplemental file). Similarly, the direct invasion of a sex-

limited Mendelian ratio (and maintenance of maximal distortion in the other sex) is also

selected against in these more general circumstances (Supplemental file).

The case of full selfing (S = 1)

In the absence of outcrossing, the model reduces to a linear dynamical system for which the

equilibrium can be readily derived for any initial genotype frequencies and general

parameters. Following Karlin (1968), given a 10x10 matrix (**T**) that transforms the row

vector of two-locus diploid genotype frequencies (**p**) on a generation-by-generation basis,

the time course of evolution can be written as: $\mathbf{p}^{(n)} = \frac{\mathbf{p}^{(0)}\mathbf{T}^n}{\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \kappa_i}$, where *n* is the number of

generations, κ is a normalizing constant that ensures the elements of **p** add up to one in

each generation, and $\mathbf{p}^{(0)}$ is the vector of initial values. As $n \to \infty$, the vector $\mathbf{p}^{(n)}$ converges

to the equilibrium vector **M**. If an adaptive drive-enhancing modifier is introduced into a

population at stable equilibrium owing to overdominance (i.e. $0 \leq W_{AA}, W_{aa} < 1/2$), then

the leading eigenvalue of **T** is $\lambda = k_f + k_m - 2k_f k_m$, which has multiplicity 1. The vector

$\mathbf{p}^{(n)}$ as $n \to \infty$ can be written as $\mathbf{M} = \frac{\gamma(\mathbf{p}^{(0)},\delta)}{\sum \gamma(\mathbf{p}^{(0)},\delta)}$, where γ and δ are respectively the left and

right eigenvectors associated with λ, normalized to be biorthogonal, and $(\mathbf{p}^{(0)}, \delta)$ is the

inner product.

Result 3: Under full selfing, the equilibrium two-locus genotype frequencies are

$$\hat{p}_{22} = - \left(\frac{(1-k_f)(1-k_m)\left(k_f\,(2\,k_m-1)-k_m+W_{aa}\right)}{k_f\,k_m\,(W_{aa}+W_{AA}-2)-k_f\,(W_{AA})+k_f-(W_{AA}-1)(k_m-W_{aa})} \right),$$ (6a)

$$\hat{p}_{24} = \frac{\left(k_f\,(2\,k_m-1)-k_m+W_{aa}\right)\left(k_f\,(2\,k_m-1)-k_m+W_{AA}\right)}{k_f\,k_m\,(W_{aa}+W_{AA}-2)-k_f\,(W_{AA})+k_f-(W_{AA}-1)(k_m-W_{aa})},$$ (6b)

$$\hat{p}_{44} = - \left(\frac{k_f\,k_m\left(k_f\,(2\,k_m-1)-k_m+W_{AA}\right)}{k_f\,k_m\,(W_{aa}+W_{AA}-2)-k_f\,(W_{AA})+k_f-(W_{AA}-1)(k_m-W_{aa})} \right),$$ (6c)

$$\hat{p}_{11}, \hat{p}_{12}, \hat{p}_{13}, \hat{p}_{14}, \hat{p}_{23}, \hat{p}_{33}, \hat{p}_{34} = 0$$ (6d)

, which correspond to positive frequencies for only the Ab/Ab, Ab/ab, and ab/ab

genotypes, indicating globally convergent fixation of an adaptive drive-enhancing modifier

for the generalized case.

All invading adaptive drive-enhancers converge to fixation, even for asymmetrically-

reflected drive schemes, and so there are no conditions for stable or neutral modifier

polymorphisms as under partial selfing. With the establishment of sufficient distortion,

equilibria are characterized by negative inbreeding coefficients owing to an excess of

heterozygotes, relative to panmictic Hardy-Weinberg proportions, even though selfing is

maximal (Fig. 5). Upon drive-enhancer fixation, the only modifiers which can subsequently

invade are those that impose even stronger oppositely-directed distortion. All-and-none

segregation under full selfing and stable heterozygote advantage is therefore expected to

persist over long-term evolution.

Discussion

The evolutionary instability of the Mendelian scheme on theoretical grounds is seen to owe

to the tendency of overdominance to select for sex-specific segregation-distorting

phenotypes. While earlier work found that adaptive drive under symmetric overdominance

is selected for at a slow arithmetic rate in panmictic populations (the leading eigenvalue

corresponding to modifier invasion being at most 1 in magnitude; see Úbeda and Haig

2005, where second-order terms of a Hessian matrix were analyzed in order to ascertain

invasion conditions), the inclusion of non-random mating in the model clearly transforms

the pace of modifier invasion to that of geometric increase (modifier invasion with a

leading eigenvalue greater than 1; **Result 1**, present article). Under panmixia, two mutant

individuals would need to mate with each other in order to produce a super-Mendelian

proportion of heterozygous progeny, but under mixed or obligate selfing, overproduction

of heterozygotes is an immediate consequence of a single mutant individual. In other

words, modifier effects on the fitness of selfers are first order since the expression of a

fitness advantage does not depend on mating encounters between rare mutants. The

relation between inbreeding and the evolution of adaptive drive also stands in stark

contrast to the suppressive effect of inbreeding on the spread of selfish drivers (Burt and

Trivers 1999, Bull 2017).

The interaction of selfing and all-and-none segregation in the present work is consonant

with Charlesworth's (1979) model investigating the spread of sex-limited gamete lethals

(or detrimentals) in a system of selfing and balanced homozygotic lethality, characteristics

which are common in species with permanent translocation heterozygosity. Charlesworth

found that the invasion of a sex-limited gamete lethal (in sperm, say) is effectively neutral

under full selfing, but disadvantageous at lower selfing rates; subsequent invasion of an

opposite-sex gamete lethal (i.e. lethal eggs of the other allelic type) is selectively favored

since this would avoid production of lethal homozygous progeny; the all-and-none scheme

could thus become fixed. Holsinger and Ellstrand (1984) remark that an even less

restrictive picture would emerge if the gamete lethals of Charlesworth's model were

replaced with meiotic drivers.

Following Eshel (1985) and Úbeda and Haig (2005), here I adopt the modifier's eye view of

long-term evolution, rather than focusing on the short-term dynamics of meiotic drive

alleles per se. The modifier perspective is key, since whatever the short-term evolutionary

dynamics of any particular driver may be, the ultimate fate of drivers over the long-term

will owe to the make-up of the genetic background (Eshel 1996, Eshel and Feldman 2001).

If the genes capable of modifying drive phenotypes overwhelmingly benefit from

suppressing such behavior, then any particular meiotic driver is destined for extinction on

a timescale that is limited only by the introduction and spread of suppressor alleles at the

relevant loci. Given that unlinked modifiers are likely to be more numerous than linked

modifiers from the perspective of any particular distorter, the dissent or approval of the

permanent unlinked majority of the parliament of genes is decisive for determining the

long run stability of the drive phenotype. With non-zero rates of self-fertilization, the

unlinked majority ought to favor the repeal of Mendelian law at any locus that is at a stable

equilibrium due to classical heterozygote advantage. Under random mating, this

expectation holds for asymmetric overdominance, but only mild assent is expected for the

classical symmetric case (Úbeda and Haig 2005). It remains to be discovered whether there

exist other classes of initial population conditions that effect the invasion of unlinked drive-

enhancers.

Given the ubiquity of Mendelian segregation in nature, how come real populations do not

conform to theoretical expectation? One possibility is suggested in the numerical results,

which indicate that a concatenation of weak coefficients in the selection and segregation

processes fails to effect the swift establishment of a mutant modifier. The lifespan of a

balanced fitness polymorphism that is the target of adaptive drive presumably sets a time

limit during which the appropriate modifier mutations must originate, survive genetic drift

at the extinction boundary, and then rise from rarity to an appreciable frequency. If typical

balanced polymorphisms do not last long enough for the full course of evolutionary

changes needed for the establishment of such modifiers, then the ubiquity of Mendelian

segregation follows. In allowing for the occasional case of long-persisting overdominance,

such a constraint permits the odd example of adaptive drive as in the permanent

translocation heterozygotes of *Oenothera* that adhere to the all-and-none scheme in

gametogenesis (Cleland 1972, Holsinger and Ellstrand 1984, Harte 1994). A related issue is

that heterozygote advantage might often be associated with rapid allelic turnover (Sellis et

al. 2011) in a manner that interferes with an orderly process of modifier selection.

Furthermore, as some of the numerical examples of asymmetrically-reflected drive ratios

reveal, some mutants can knock out the polymorphism of heterotic alleles, and in doing so

collapse the basis for their own stable persistence.

As mentioned by Úbeda and Haig (2005), male fertility costs associated with segregation

distorters can also be a serious constraint (Haig and Bergstrom 1995). For selfers, the costs

of reduced male fertility under adaptive drive would strongly depend on the intensity of

inter-individual male gamete competition. Such competition is presumably less intense for

predominant selfers, assuming a negative relationship between the rate of selfing and

population density (Karron et al. 1995, Morgan, Wilson and Knight 2005). Populations with

intermediate and low selfing rates, however, would indeed seem to be severely affected by

this constraint.

Additionally, there is a lack of realism associated with having a single modifier directly

control the production of both male and female gametes (Úbeda 2006). An attempt to

adhere closely to realism would involve investigating a rather complicated model that

incorporates two sex-limited modifier genes encoded at different loci (one for each sex), as

well as multiple alleles at the fitness locus representing the simultaneous variation at A of

sex-limited distorters and wild-type Mendelian alleles. It is not clear whether the

simplifying assumption on modifier control is ultimately misleading.

While these considerations and others may be relevant, at present a decisive argument for

why all-and-none segregation is not the normal mode of inheritance in natural populations,

selfing or otherwise, has not been established. The near-universality of Mendelian

segregation rests securely on observation but lacks a convincing adaptationist explanation.

Perhaps a conclusive idea of the pertinent constraints will emerge from more realistic

multi-locus scenarios. What is clear is that our understanding has shifted from the feeling

of a satisfying denouement derived from earlier sex-independent models to a sort of

puzzlement that stems from consideration of sex-differentiated meiosis.

Data accessibility

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Fig 1. Evolutionary trajectories of the *b* allele for a sample of 'strong' parameter combinations. Evolution in these trajectories is depicted over 10^5 generations, starting from an initial frequency of 10^{-4} for the modifier mutant and linkage equilibrium with the fitness locus *A*. Alleles at the *A* locus remain at a frequency of 50% throughout due to symmetry of the parameter values. For a particular panel, homozygous fitness values are given by the row label and segregation ratios by the column label.

Fig 2. Evolutionary trajectories of the *b* allele for a sample of parameters with strong
selection and 'weak' segregation distortion. Evolution in these trajectories is depicted
over 10^5 generations, starting from an initial frequency of 10^{-4} for the modifier mutant and
linkage equilibrium with the fitness locus *A*. Alleles at the *A* locus remain at a frequency of
50% throughout due to symmetry of the parameter values. For a particular panel,
homozygous fitness values are given by the row label and segregation ratios by the column
label.

Fig 3. Evolutionary trajectories of the *b* allele for a sample of parameters with 'weak' selection and strong segregation distortion. Evolution in these trajectories is depicted over 10^5 generations, starting from an initial frequency of 10^{-4} for the modifier mutant and linkage equilibrium with the fitness locus *A*. Alleles at the *A* locus remain at a frequency of 50% throughout due to symmetry of the parameter values. For a particular panel, homozygous fitness values are given by the row label and segregation ratios by the column label.

Fig. 4. Evolutionary trajectories of adaptive drive evolution with asymmetric homozygous fitnesses and segregation schemes. (Panels a-f) Modifier "b" allele (solid line) is introduced into a Mendelian population at a frequency of 10^{-4} and the "a" allele (dashed) starts at the deterministic equilibrium for single-locus heterosis under equal segregation; change over 40,000 generations is displayed. S = 0.37 and k_m = 0.77 throughout. (a) Equal homozygous fitness and a perfectly sex-reflected segregation scheme (i.e. k_m = 1-k_f): W_{AA} = W_{aa} = 0.95, k_f = 0.23. (Panels b-f) Asymmetric homozygous fitnesses: W_{AA} = 0.962, W_{aa} = 0.938. (b) k_f = 0.23. (c) k_f = 0.19. (d) k_f = 0.315. (e) k_f = 0.255. (f) k_f = 0.21.

Fig. 5. Equilibrium inbreeding coefficients ($\widehat{F}$) under symmetric homozygote disadvantage, perfectly sex-reflected segregation ratios ($k_m = 1\text{-}k_f$), and obligate selfing. Contours demarcate changes in $\widehat{F}$ at intervals of 0.2. The parameter space includes only homozygous fitnesses of <50%. Areas of darker green and blue correspond to negative inbreeding coefficients at equilibrium: $\widehat{F} < 0$ whenever $W_G < (1\text{-}2k)^2$. Due to parameter symmetries assumed in this plot, $\widehat{q} = 0.5$ throughout.

Appendix

$$\mathbf{T} =$$

	AB/AB	AB/Ab	Ab/Ab	AB/aB	Ab/ab	AB/ab	aB/Ab	aB/aB	aB/ab	ab/ab
AB/AB	W_{AA}	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AB/Ab	$\frac{W_{AA}}{4}$	$\frac{W_{AA}}{2}$	$\frac{W_{AA}}{4}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ab/Ab	0	0	W_{AA}	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AB/aB	$(1-k_{m0})(1-k_{f0})$	0	0	$k_{m0}(1-k_{f0})+(1-k_{m0})k_{f0}$	0	0	0	$k_{m0}k_{f0}$	0	0
Ab/ab	0	0	$(1-k_m)(1-k_f)$	0	$k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	0	0	0	0	$k_m k_f$
AB/ab	$\frac{1}{4}(1-k_m)(1-k_f)$	$\frac{1}{2}(1-k_m)(1-k_f)$	$\frac{1}{4}(1-k_m)(1-k_f)$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m k_f$	$\frac{1}{2}k_m k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m k_f$
aB/Ab	$\frac{1}{4}(1-k_m)(1-k_f)$	$\frac{1}{2}(1-k_m)(1-k_f)$	$\frac{1}{4}(1-k_m)(1-k_f)$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m(1-k_f)+(1-k_m)k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m k_f$	$\frac{1}{2}k_m k_f$	$\frac{1}{4}k_m k_f$
aB/aB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	W_{aa}	0	0
aB/ab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{W_{aa}}{4}$	$\frac{W_{aa}}{2}$	$\frac{W_{aa}}{4}$
ab/ab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	W_{aa}

Explanation of the **T** matrix: the parent genotype indicated on the row label produces the offspring indicated on the column labels, according to the proportions given by the elements. The elements incorporate (1) selection, (2) free recombination, and (3) arbitrary segregation parameters. The matrix is comparable to that of Karlin (1968, Table 4, p. 246), who assumed equal segregation and arbitrary recombination.

(The **T** matrix describes the production of offspring due to selfing. If random mating also occurs (i.e. mixed mating, 0 < S < 1), then the **U** and **V** matrices describing outcrossing are also involved. See the description of the Model in the main text).

Explanation of the **U** and **V** matrices: the genotypes on the row labels produce the gametes indicated on the column labels in the proportions given by the elements, incorporating processes 1-3 as in the paragraph above. See next page.

While the **T** matrix directly figures in an analytical derivation (see the section on obligate selfing), the **U** and **V** matrices are merely convenient references for the compact representation of the system of equations given in the Model section.

603   **U =**

$$
U = \begin{array}{c}
 \\
\text{AB/AB} \\
\text{AB/Ab} \\
\text{Ab/Ab} \\
\text{AB/aB} \\
\text{Ab/ab} \\
\text{AB/ab} \\
\text{Ab/aB} \\
\text{aB/aB} \\
\text{aB/ab} \\
\text{ab/ab}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{AB} & \text{Ab} & \text{aB} & \text{ab} \\
\left[\begin{array}{cccc}
W_{AA} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
\frac{W_{AA}}{2} & \frac{W_{AA}}{2} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & W_{AA} & 0 & 0 \\
1-k_{m0} & 0 & k_{m0} & 0 \\
0 & 1-k_m & 0 & k_m \\
\frac{1-k_m}{2} & \frac{1-k_m}{2} & \frac{k_m}{2} & \frac{k_m}{2} \\
\frac{1-k_m}{2} & \frac{1-k_m}{2} & \frac{k_m}{2} & \frac{k_m}{2} \\
0 & 0 & W_{aa} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \frac{W_{aa}}{2} & \frac{W_{aa}}{2} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & W_{aa}
\end{array}\right]
\end{array}
$$

606   **V =**

$$
V = \begin{array}{c}
 \\
\text{AB/AB} \\
\text{AB/Ab} \\
\text{Ab/Ab} \\
\text{AB/aB} \\
\text{Ab/ab} \\
\text{AB/ab} \\
\text{Ab/aB} \\
\text{aB/aB} \\
\text{aB/ab} \\
\text{ab/ab}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{AB} & \text{Ab} & \text{aB} & \text{ab} \\
\left[\begin{array}{cccc}
W_{AA} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
\frac{W_{AA}}{2} & \frac{W_{AA}}{2} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & W_{AA} & 0 & 0 \\
1-k_{f0} & 0 & k_{f0} & 0 \\
0 & 1-k_f & 0 & k_f \\
\frac{1-k_f}{2} & \frac{1-k_f}{2} & \frac{k_f}{2} & \frac{k_f}{2} \\
\frac{1-k_f}{2} & \frac{1-k_f}{2} & \frac{k_f}{2} & \frac{k_f}{2} \\
0 & 0 & W_{aa} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \frac{W_{aa}}{2} & \frac{W_{aa}}{2} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & W_{aa}
\end{array}\right]
\end{array}
$$