1. why study multiple traits together?

- avoid reductionist approach to biology
  - address physiological/biochemical mechanisms
  - Schmalhausen (1942); Falconer (1952)
- separate close linkage from pleiotropy
  - 1 locus or 2 linked loci?
- identify epistatic interaction or canalization
  - influence of genetic background
- establish QTL x environment interactions
- decompose genetic correlation among traits
- increase power to detect QTL

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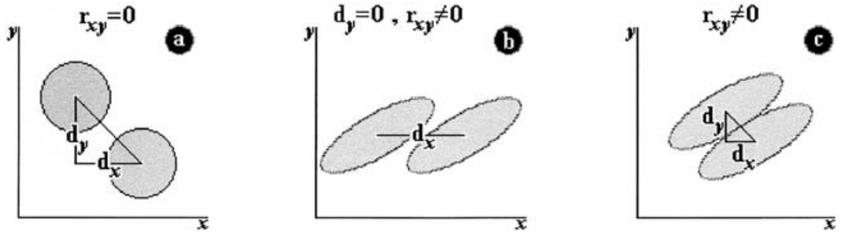
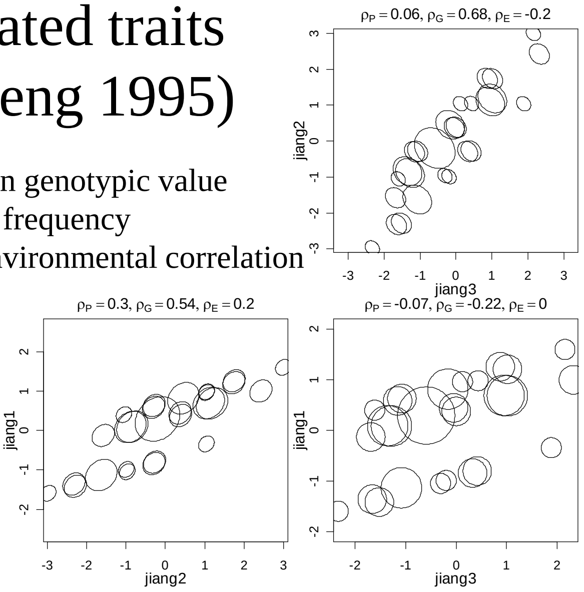
interplay of pleiotropy & correlation



pleiotropy only correlation only both

Korol et al. (2001)

3 correlated traits (Jiang Zeng 1995)

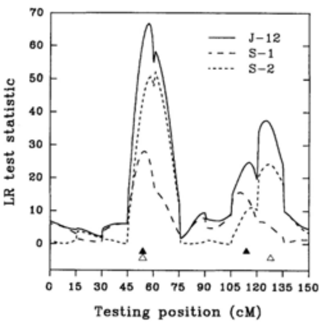


ellipses centered on genotypic value
width for nominal frequency
main axis angle environmental correlation
3 QTL, F2
27 genotypes

note signs of
genetic and
environmental
correlation

pleiotropy or close linkage?

2 traits, 2 qtl/trait
pleiotropy @ 54cM
linkage @ 114,128cM
Jiang Zeng (1995)



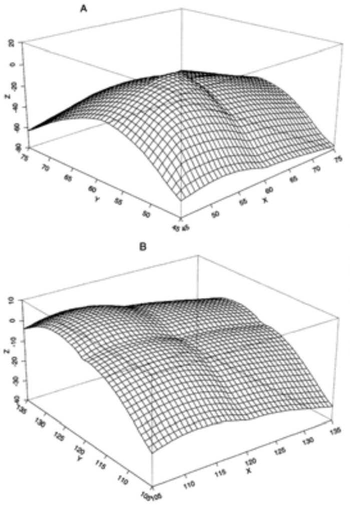


FIGURE 2.—Two-dimensional log-likelihood surfaces (expressed as deviations from the maximum of the log-likelihoods on the diagonal) for the test of pleiotropy vs. close linkage are presented for two regions: the region between 45 and 75 cM of Figure 1 (A) and the region between 105 and 135 cM (B). *X* is the testing position for a QTL affecting trait 1 and *Y* is the testing position for a QTL affecting trait 2. On the diagonal of *X*-*Y* plane, two QTL are located in the same position and statistically are treated as one pleiotropic QTL. *Z* is the likelihood ratio test statistic scaled to zero at the maximum point of the diagonal.

QTL with GxE or Covariates

- adjust phenotype by covariate
  - covariate(s) = environment(s) or other trait(s)
- additive covariate
  - covariate adjustment same across genotypes
  - “usual” analysis of covariance (ANCOVA)
- interacting covariate
  - address GxE
  - capture genotype-specific relationship among traits
- another way to think of multiple trait analysis
  - examine single phenotype adjusted for others

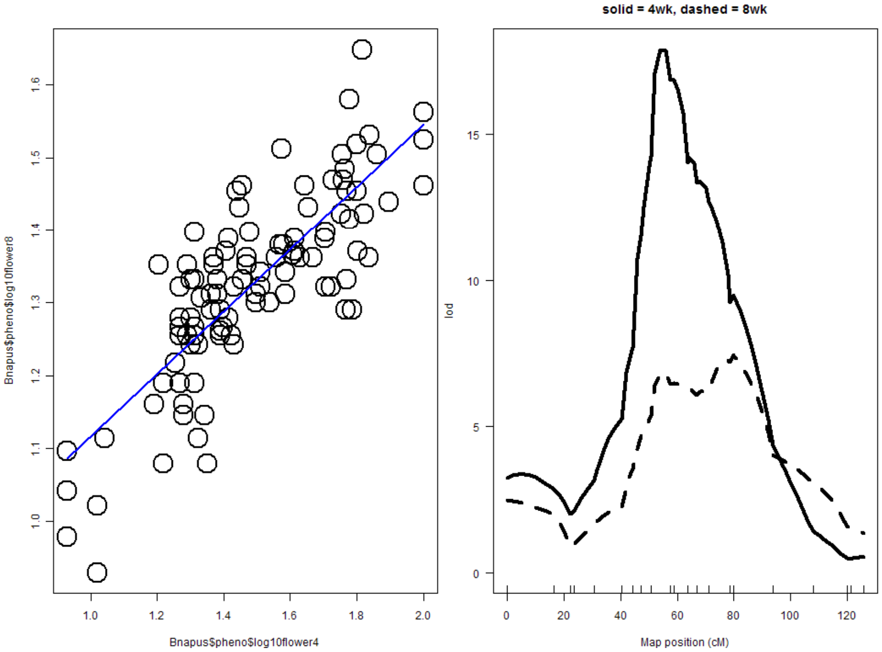
R/qtl & covariates

- additive and/or interacting covariates
- test for QTL after adjusting for covariates

```
## Get Brassica data.
library(qtlbim)
data(Bnapus)
Bnapus <- calc.genoprob(Bnapus, step = 2, error = 0.01)

## Scatterplot of two phenotypes: 4wk & 8wk flower time.
plot(Bnapus$pheno$log10flower4,Bnapus$pheno$log10flower8)

## Unadjusted IM scans of each phenotype.
fl8 <- scanone(Bnapus,, find.pheno(Bnapus, "log10flower8"))
fl4 <- scanone(Bnapus,, find.pheno(Bnapus, "log10flower4"))
plot(fl4, fl8, chr = "N2", col = rep(1,2), lty = 1:2,
  main = "solid = 4wk, dashed = 8wk", lwd = 4)
```



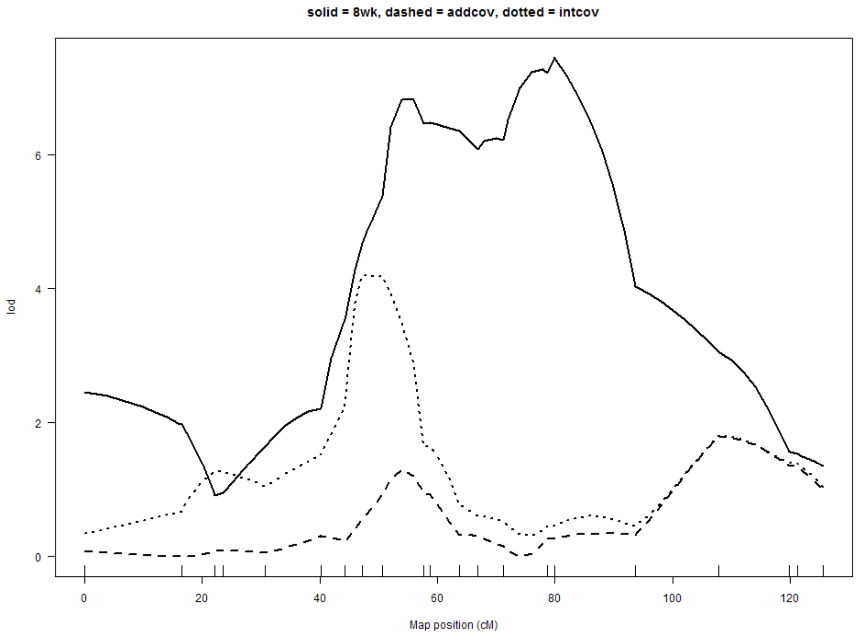
R/qtl & covariates

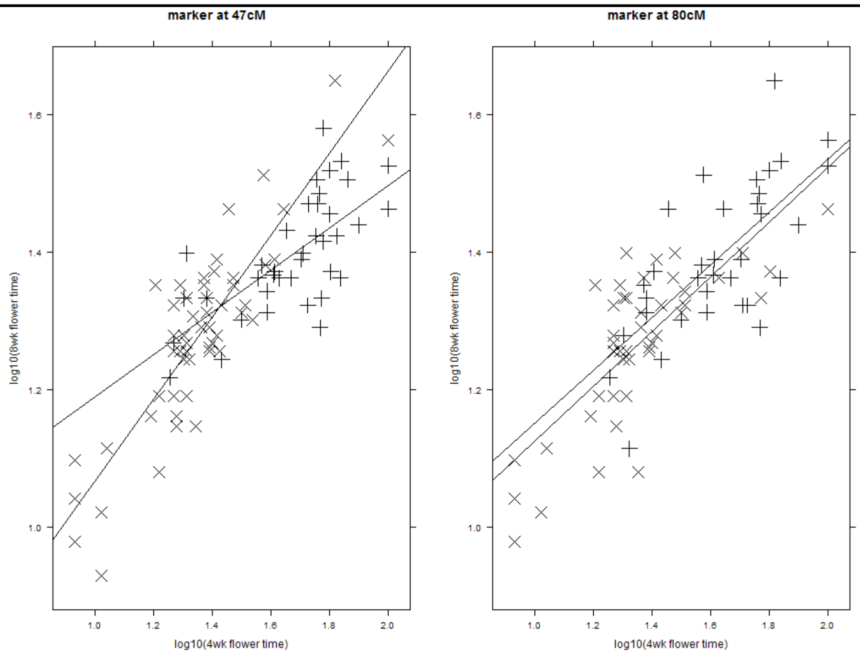
- additive and/or interacting covariates
- test for QTL after adjusting for covariates

```
## IM scan of 8wk adjusted for 4wk.
## Adjustment independent of genotype
fl8.4 <- scanone(Bnapus,, find.pheno(Bnapus, "log10flower8"),
  addcov = Bnapus$pheno$log10flower4)

## IM scan of 8wk adjusted for 4wk.
## Adjustment changes with genotype.
fl8.4 <- scanone(Bnapus,, find.pheno(Bnapus, "log10flower8"),
  intcov = Bnapus$pheno$log10flower4)

plot(fl8, fl8.4a, fl8.4, chr = "N2",
  main = "solid = 8wk, dashed = addcov, dotted = intcov")
```


solid = 8wk, dashed = addcov, dotted = intcov
lod
0
2
4
6
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
Map position (cM)


marker at 47cM
marker at 80cM
log10(8wk flower time)
1.0
1.2
1.4
1.6
log10(4wk flower time)
1.0
1.2
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0

scatterplot adjusted for covariate

```
## Set up data frame with peak markers, traits.
markers <- c("E38M50.133","ec2e5a","wg7f3a")
tmpdata <- data.frame(pull.geno(Bnapus)[,markers])
tmpdata$fl4 <- Bnapus$pheno$log10flower4
tmpdata$fl8 <- Bnapus$pheno$log10flower8

## Scatterplots grouped by marker.
library(lattice)
xyplot(fl8 ~ fl4, tmpdata, group = wg7f3a,
  col = "black", pch = 3:4, cex = 2, type = c("p","r"),
  xlab = "log10(4wk flower time)",
  ylab = "log10(8wk flower time)",
  main = "marker at 47cM")
xyplot(fl8 ~ fl4, tmpdata, group = E38M50.133,
  col = "black", pch = 3:4, cex = 2, type = c("p","r"),
  xlab = "log10(4wk flower time)",
  ylab = "log10(8wk flower time)",
  main = "marker at 80cM")
```

R/qtlbim and GxE

- similar idea to R/qtl
  - fixed and random additive covariates
  - GxE with fixed covariate
- multiple trait analysis tools coming soon
  - theory & code mostly in place
  - properties under study
  - expect in R/qtlbim later this year
  - Samprit Banerjee (N Yi, advisor)