

A genome-wide search for harmful recessive haplotypes in Brown Swiss and Fleckvieh cattle

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Introduction

- revisiting Paul VanRaden`s idea
 - search for frequent haplotypes that don't appear in homozygous status (*VanRaden et al. 2011*)
 - search for deleterious recessive mutations
 - based on a purely population genetic based signal
 - confirmed by analysis of phenotypic effects

- purpose of this study
 - confirm BH1 haplotype in Brown Swiss in a larger data set
 - apply approach to Fleckvieh (dual purpose Simmental)

Genotype Data

- **Fleckvieh**
 - **8.256** genotypes from the common genotype pool of Austria and Germany used for genomic evaluation
- **Brown Swiss (BS)**
 - **2.959** genotypes from the common genotype pool of Austria and Germany



Data Edits

- exclude animals with pedigree conflicts based on genotype information
- call rate per animal >90%
- call rate per snp >95%
- gencall score of genotype >0.7
- MAF >0.005
- Mendelian errors per SNP <50
- HWE filter: anti-conservative
- exclude unannotated SNP



Phasing

- using Beagle 3.2 (*Browning and Browning, 2010*)
 - using UMD 3.1 *Bos taurus* genome assembly
- post processing of phased haplotypes using family information:
 1. using phased haplotypes among sons to determine phase in sires if hs-families size ≥ 10
 2. use this info to correct phase in sire and sons → mainly „switch errors“ removed
 3. corrected phases of sons are used to correct phase in grandsons if hs-family size was < 10



Genome-wide Search

- use a „sliding window“ approach
- variable window size of 0.5, 1, 2, ..., 10Mb
- „step size“ = $\frac{1}{2} \times$ „window size“
- all haplotypes with frequency $> 2\%$ tested

- ***how often does each haplotype appear in homozygous status relative to the expectation (HWE | mating scheme)?***



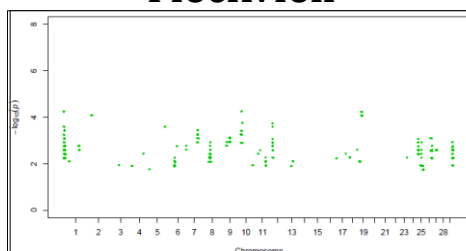
Expected Number of Homozygous

- **apply HWE-expectation**
 - using haplotype frequency
- **expectation calculated from actual matings**
 - using haplotype status of sire, maternal grandsire and haplotype frequency
 - deviates strongly from HWE
 - obtain a P-value using the Exact Binomial Test
 - R-function '*binom.test*'
 - results presented as Manhattan plots
- **exclusion of recent haplotypes (>1982)**

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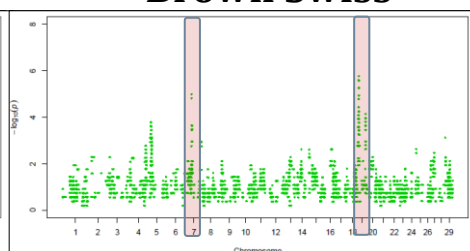
Manhattan Plots for Chromosomes

Fleckvieh



haplotypes missing in
homozygous status

Brown Swiss



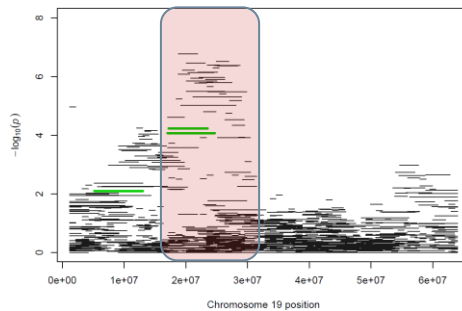
haplotypes missing in
homozygous status

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Fleckvieh

- no obvious haplotype detected

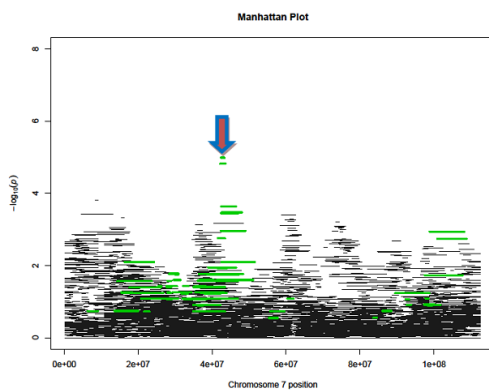
Regions with strong deficit of homozygous haplotypes



only ~ 10% of homozygous haplotypes given the frequency and mating scheme identified

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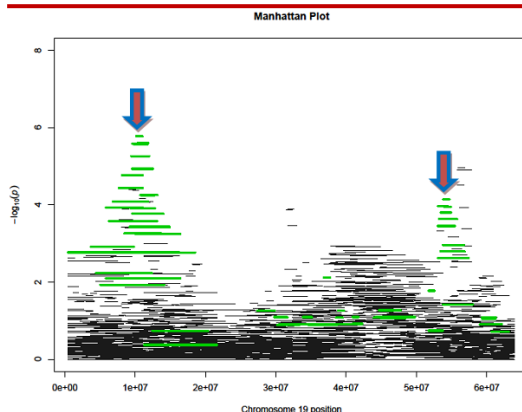
BTA 7 in BS



Start	End	Length	Freq.	Year	HOM-E HWE	HOM-E Mat.	HOM-O	P
42.521	46.478	3.956	5.81	1972	9.18	8.91	0	2.33 E-4

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BTA 19 in BS



Start	End	Length	Freq.	Year	HOM-E HWE	HOM-E Mat.	HOM-O	P
10.140	11.049	0.909	6.41	1970	14.48	13.62	0	1.69 E-6
53.802	54.675	0.873	5.44	1964	11.34	9.95	0	7.23 E-5

Analysis of Phenotypic Effects in BS

- **traits for heifers and cows**
 - non return rate 56 (**NRR56**)
 - days from first to last insemination (**DFLI**)
 - stillbirth rate (**SBR**)
 - calf survival rate 1-30; 30-180 days (**CSR**)
 - data from routine genetic evaluation 12-2011
- **calculation of carrier probabilities**
 - Fortran programme 'GeneCar' (Fuerst et al. 2009)
 - calculates carrier probabilities for each individual, accounting for known carriers, non-carriers and uses pedigree information

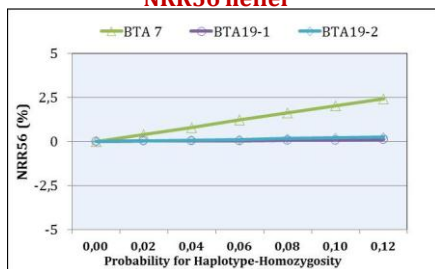
Analysis of Phenotypic Effects in BS

- **statistical analysis**
 - models as used in conventional genetic evaluation with MiX99 (Lidauer et al. 2006)
- **haplotype effect**
 - **continuous effect**: regression on probability of being homozygous for the haplotype of interest

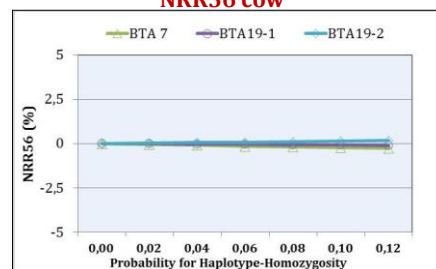
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Analysis of Phenotypic Effects in BS

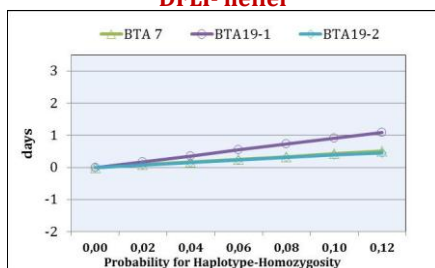
NRR56 heifer



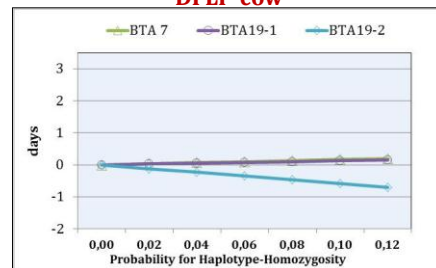
NRR56 cow



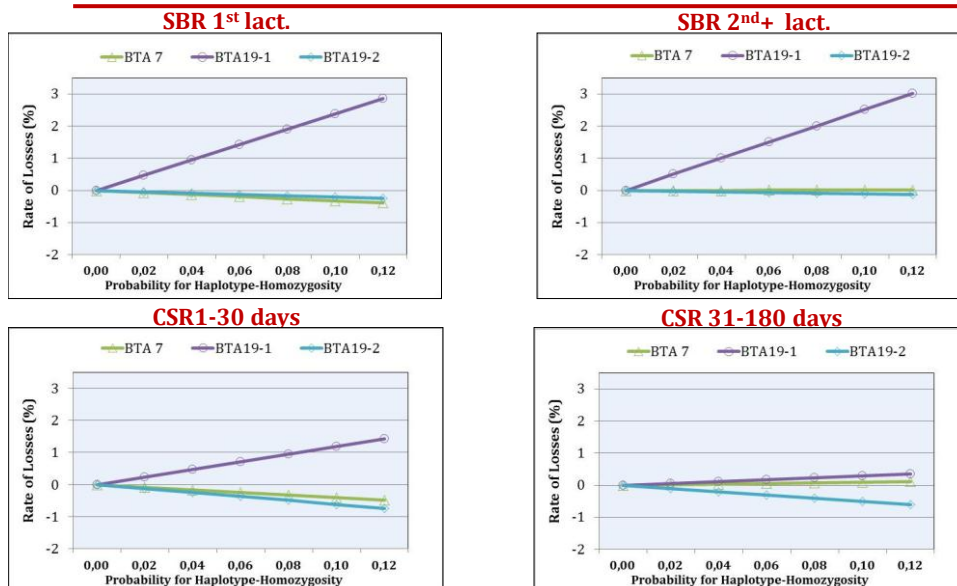
DFLI- heifer



DFLI- cow



Analysis of Phenotypic Effects in BS



Summary

- **appealing approach**
 - combine two independent sources of information: haplotypes absent as homozygous and their corresponding phenotypic effects
 - large data sets needed
 - power is low for rare haplotypes
- **detected haplotypes in BS**
 - confirm missing homozygous for BH1 haplotype on BTA 7
 - no BH1 effects on fertility or other traits found
 - haplotype on BTA 19 is suspect and needs further research

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Thanks for your attention!

Foto: Kate Whitley,
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