



**LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE**  
FOR FARM ANIMAL BIOLOGY

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# **B-spline Basis Functions for Modelling Marker Effects in Backcross Experiments**

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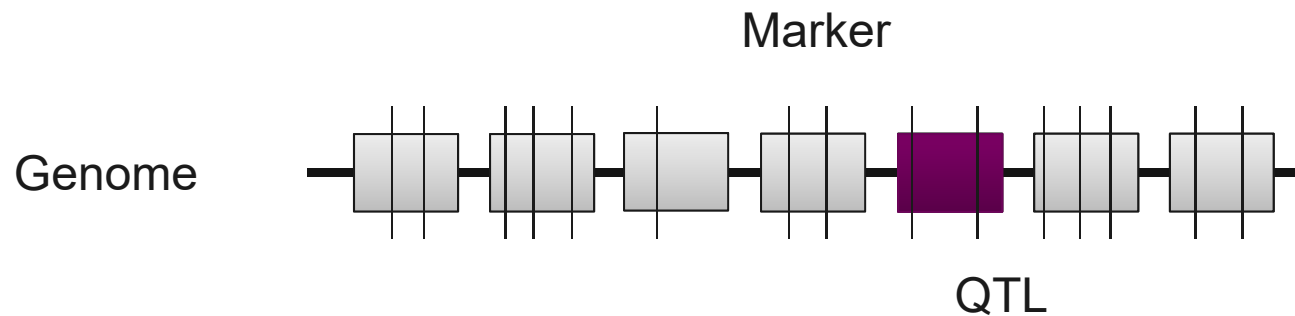


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# Quantitative Trait Locus

## QTL (Quantitative Trait Locus)

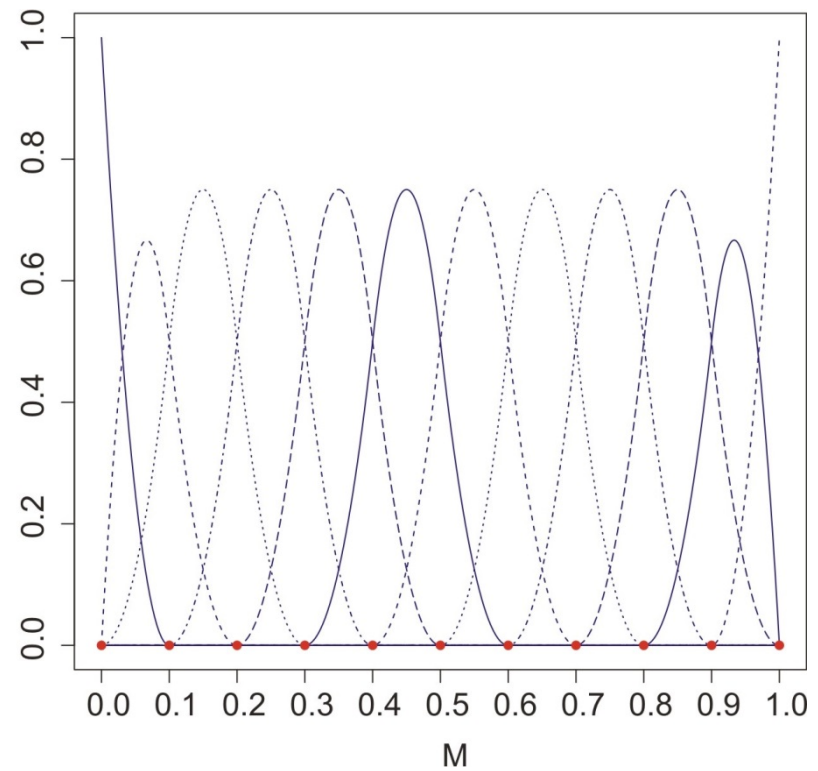
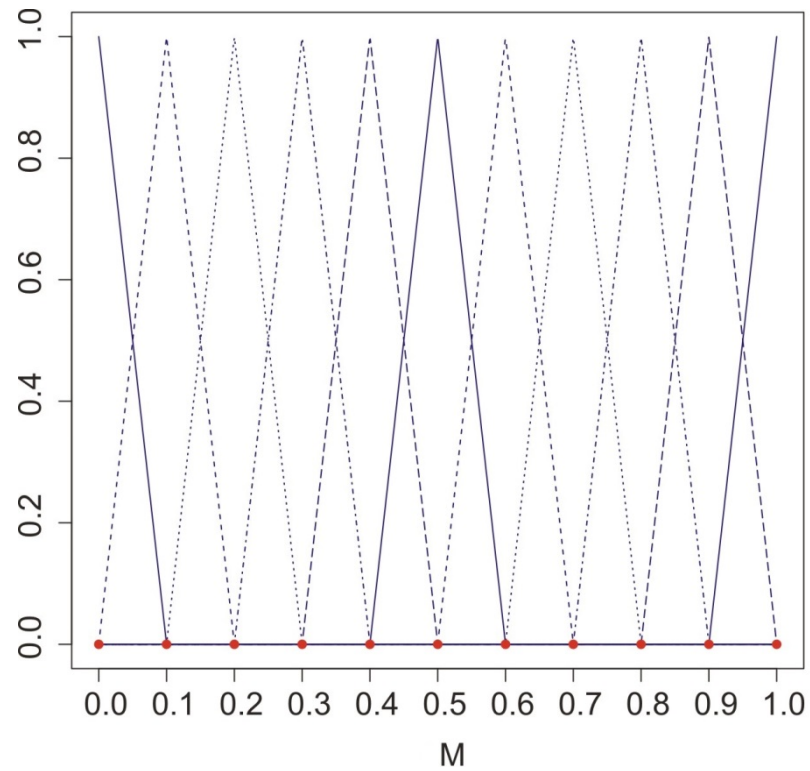
Section of genome which has an impact on quantitative traits



Backcross population



# Linear Models



# Bayesian Specifications

Prior distributions:

## Xu 2003 (model *IN*)

- $p(\mu) \propto 1$
  - $p(m_j) = N(0, \sigma_j^2)$
  - $p(\sigma_j^2) \propto 1/\sigma_j^2$
  - $p(\sigma_e^2) \propto 1/\sigma_e^2$
- $j = 1 \dots \text{\#markereffects}$

## B-splines (model *IB<sub>l</sub>*)

- $p(\mu) \propto 1$
  - $p(b_{j'}) = N(0, \sigma_{j'}^2)$
  - $p(\sigma_{j'}^2) \propto 1/\sigma_{j'}^2$
  - $p(\sigma_e^2) \propto 1/\sigma_e^2$
- $j' = 1 \dots \text{\#basisfunctioneffects}$

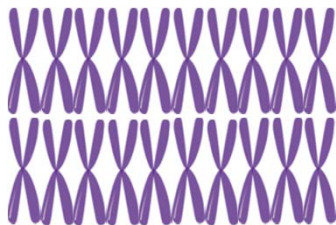


# Simulation

Mouse genome



20 chromosomes

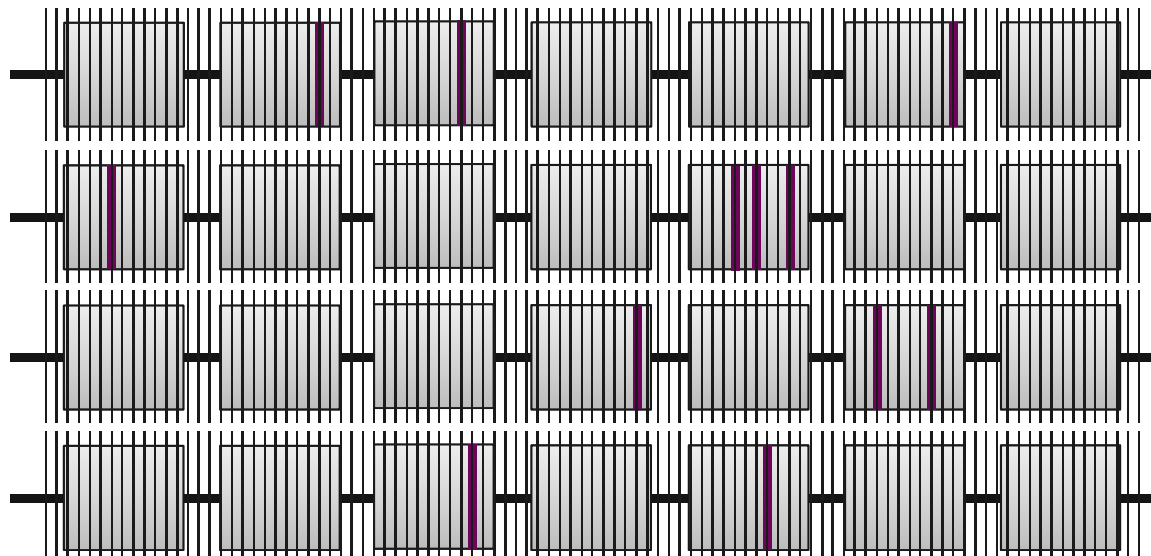


Length of 100 cM

12 QTLs

101 equally spaced markers

Heritabilities  $h^2 \in \{0.17, 0.29, 0.70\}$

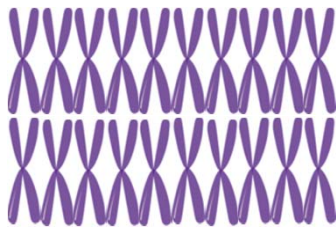


# Simulation

Mouse genome



20 chromosomes

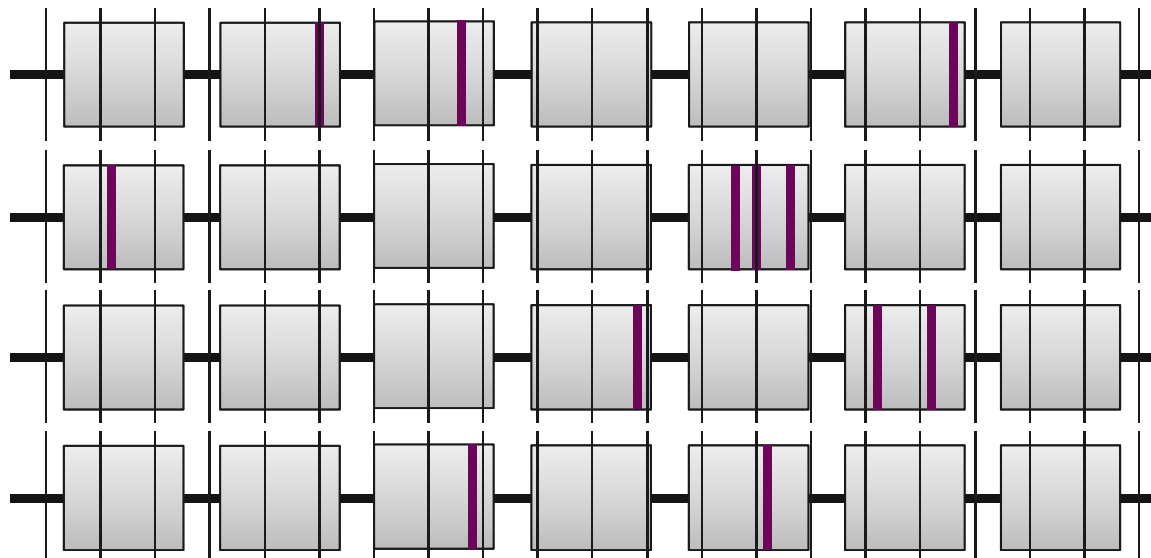


Length of 100 cM

21 equally spaced markers

12 QTLs

Heritabilities  $h^2 \in \{0.17, 0.29, 0.70\}$



# Criteria for Comparison

- 200 replications and 500 individuals each
- Two different degrees  $l \in \{1,2\}$  and two different number of knots  $K \in \{11,21\}$

Estimated marker effects  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}$  are means of the 200 posterior means

Estimated marker effects  $\hat{\mathbf{m}} = \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbf{b}}$

## Genetic variance

- $\sigma_{\hat{g}}^2 = \hat{\mathbf{m}}^T \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{m}}$

$\mathbf{R}$  Correlation matrix (Bonk et al. 2016)

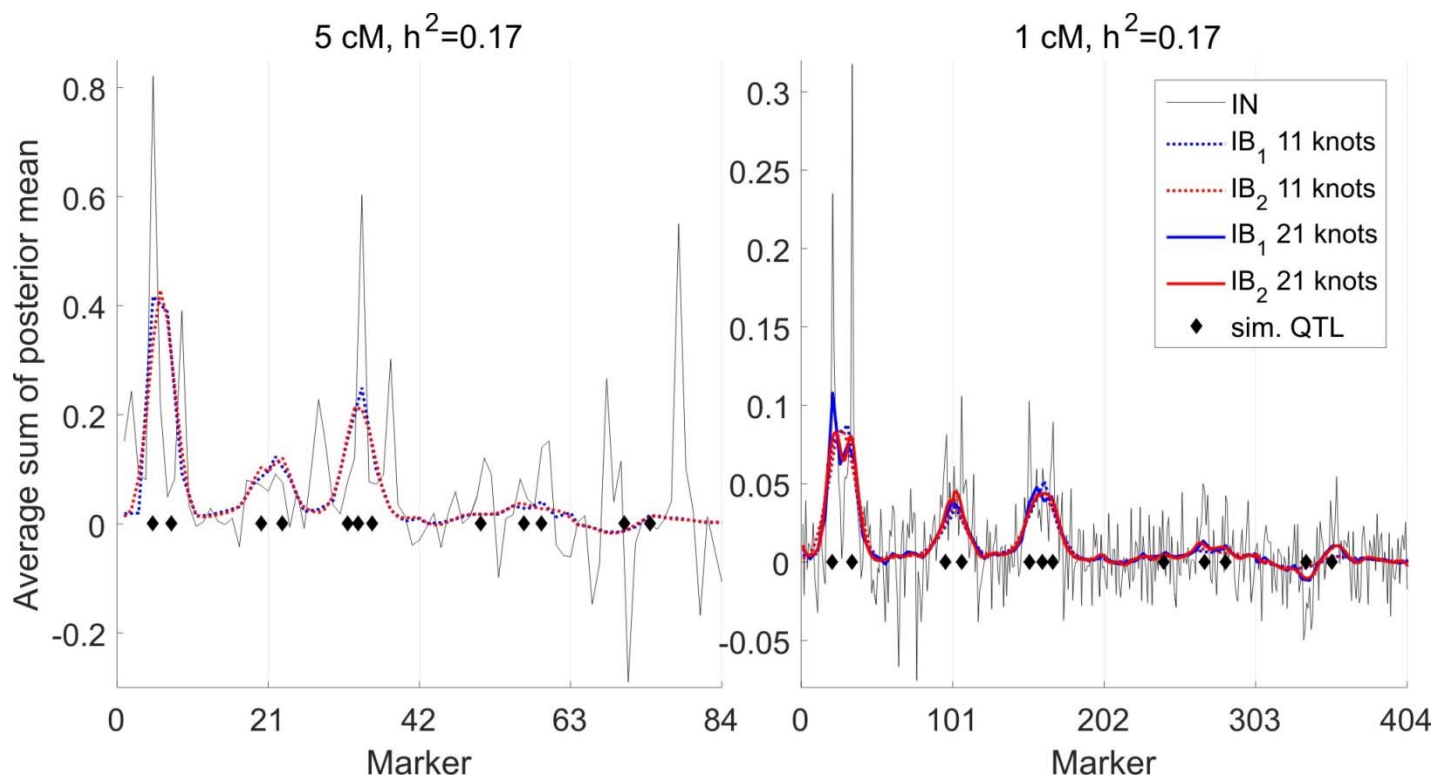
## Genetic value

- $\hat{g}_i = \mathbf{z}_i^T \cdot \hat{\mathbf{m}}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ )
- Each experiment was a training, the remaining were the test sets
- Average true genetic values at a certain proportion of selected individuals were determined





# Genetic marker effects

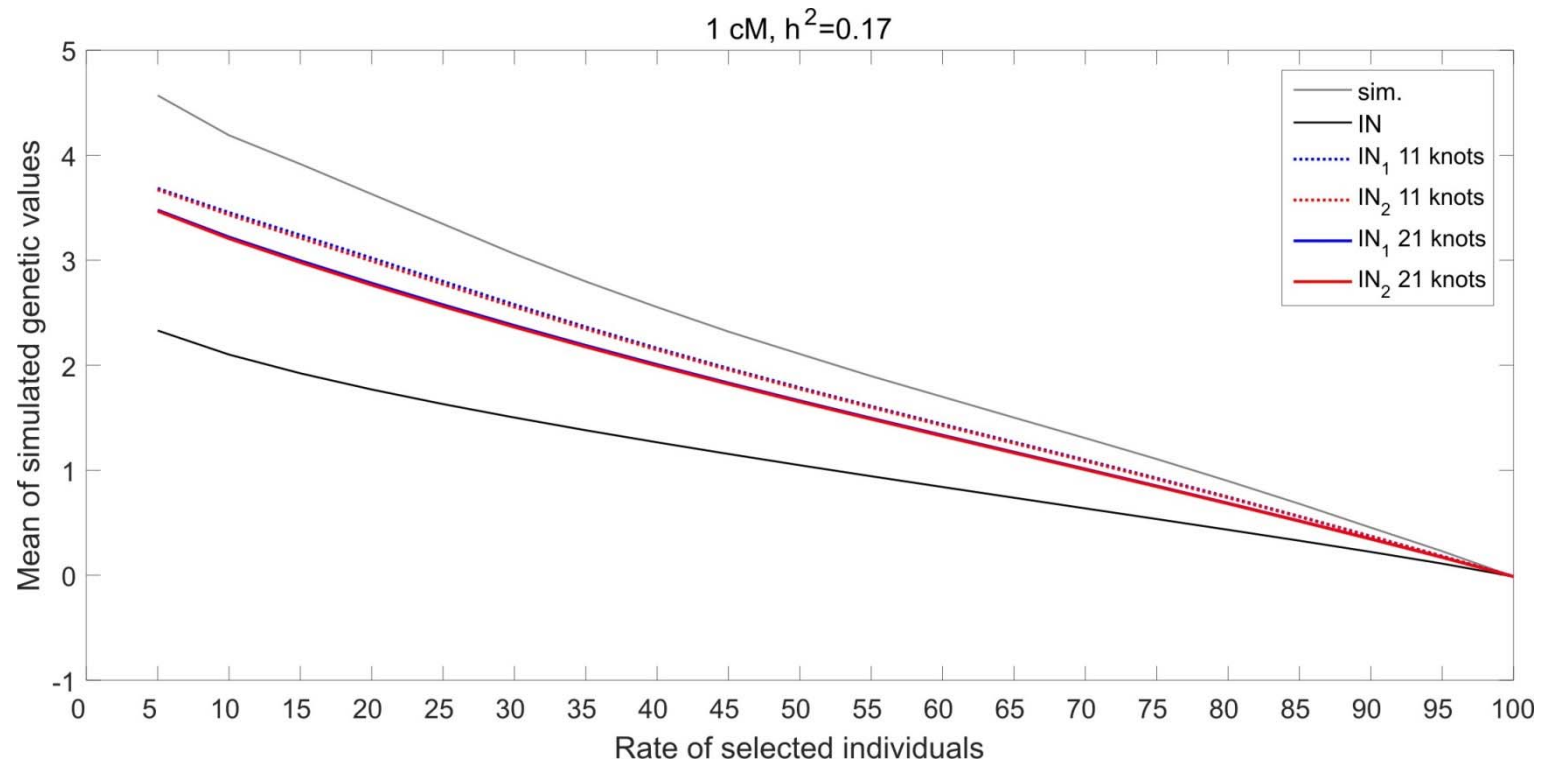


# Genetic variance

Scenario				Mean estimate: $\sigma_{\hat{g}}^2$ (rMSE)				
Nr.	$h^2$	cM	#Knots	$\sigma_g^2$	$\sigma_e^2$	IN	IB <sub>1</sub>	IB <sub>2</sub>
1	0,17	5	11	6,54	31,93	8,67 (0,15)	7,33 (0,12)	7,42 (0,12)
2		1	11	6,54	31,93	27,35 (1,18)	7,68 (0,12)	7,77 (0,13)
3		1	21	6,54	31,93	27,35 (1,18)	9,22 (0,16)	9,37 (0,17)
4	0,29	5	11	6,54	16,00	7,50 (0,09)	6,79 (0,08)	6,85 (0,08)
5		1	11	6,54	16,00	17,57 (0,62)	6,99 (0,08)	7,04 (0,08)
6		1	21	6,54	16,00	17,57 (0,62)	7,81 (0,10)	7,89 (0,10)
7	0,7	5	11	6,54	2,80	6,63 (0,03)	6,42 (0,04)	6,42 (0,04)
8		1	11	6,54	2,80	8,73 (0,13)	6,47 (0,04)	6,47 (0,04)
9		1	21	6,54	2,80	8,73 (0,13)	6,68 (0,03)	6,70 (0,03)



# Genetic prediction



# Conclusion

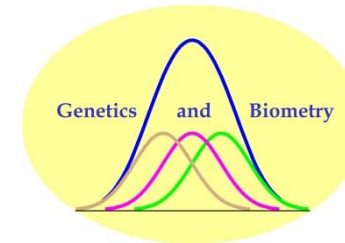
- Improvement of precision of estimated marker effects and genetic variances
- Reduction of number of parameters
- Decreased computational time

Suitable and fast solution to improve a standard Bayesian analysis



# Thank you for your attention

Thanks to the  
European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP)



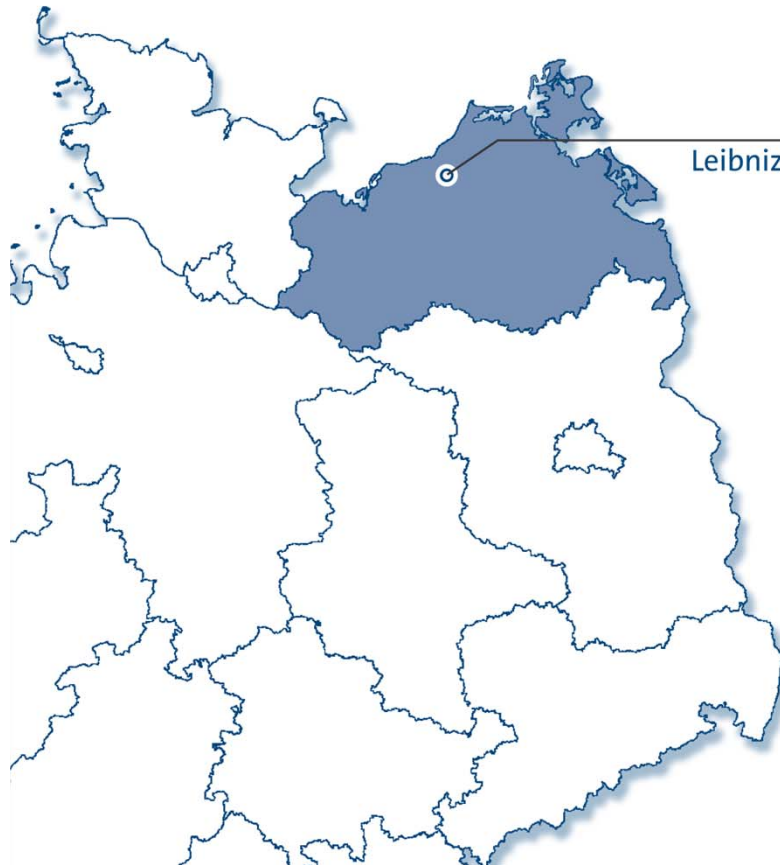
## Literature:

- Bonk S., Reichelt M., Teuscher F., Segelke D., Reinsch N. (2016): *Mendelian sampling covariability of marker effects and genetic values*. Genet Sel Evol 48: 36
- Xu S. (2003): *Estimating polygenic effects using markers of the entire genome*. Genetics 163: 789-801





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