

Group recordings accounted for drop out animals

B. Nielsen¹, T. Ostersen¹, H. Gao², G. Su², J. Jensen²,
P. Madsen², O.F.Christensen², M. Shirali²

¹SEGES, Pig Research Centre, DK-1609 Copenhagen, Denmark

²Center for Quantitative Genetics and Genomics, Aarhus University, 8830 Tjele, Denmark

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AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS



PIG RESEARCH
CENTRE

Introduction

- Breeding for reduced feed intake is important to
 - ① reduce cost
 - ② reduce CO₂ emission
- Individual feed records are costly

How can we get more phenotypes?

- Solution: Group records of feed intake
- Problem: How to handle drop out animals



Introduction

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 - 2 reduce CO₂ emission
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- Problem: How to handle drop out animals



Feed intake of groups



E.g from 0kg feed to 1200kg feed and individual body weights

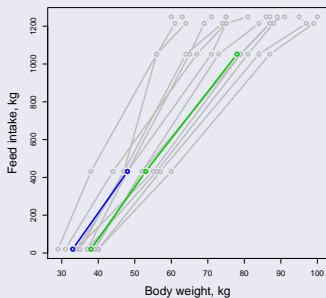
Literature

Olson et al. (2006) *J Anim Sci* 84:88-92

Su et al. (2018) *Genet Sel Evol* 50:42

Shirali, et al. Session 42 (17:45)

Group feed intake and individual body weight gain



Group feed regressed on individual weight

$$y_{jk} = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{jk}} \mathbf{x}_{ijk}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \sum_{m=1}^d \beta_m \sum_{i=1}^{n_{jk}} w_{ijk}^m + \sum_{m=0}^q \gamma_{jkm} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{jk}} w_{ijk}^m$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^{n_{jk}} \left(\sum_{m=0}^s a_{ijm} w_{ijk}^m + \sum_{m=0}^r p_{ijm} w_{ijk}^m \right) + e_{jk}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{j0} \\ \vdots \\ \gamma_{jq} \\ p_{ij0} \\ \vdots \\ p_{ijr} \end{pmatrix} \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \otimes D), \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_{ij0} \\ \vdots \\ a_{ijs} \end{pmatrix} \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes A),$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_{ij0} \\ \vdots \\ p_{ijr} \end{pmatrix} \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{P} \otimes I), \quad e_{jk} \sim N(0, n_{jk} \sigma_e^2)$$

Feed conversion in sub-period

Growth interval from w_1 to w_2 :

$$f.c.ij(\Delta w_{12}) = \frac{y_{ij2} - y_{ij1}}{w_2 - w_1}$$

Genetic variances

$$\Delta \mathbf{w}'_{s12} \mathbf{G} \Delta \mathbf{w}_{s12} \quad \text{where} \quad \Delta \mathbf{w}_{s12} = \begin{pmatrix} w_2^0 - w_1^0 \\ \vdots \\ w_2^s - w_1^s \end{pmatrix}$$

Breeding values for $f.c.ij$

$$BV_{ij} = \frac{\mathbf{a}_{ij} \Delta \mathbf{w}_{s12}}{w_2 - w_1}$$



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Data

	Number
Animals	12567
Groups	1018
Group size	[7;14]
Records	3704
Drop out animals	356



Variance estimates of different models

obs	animals	a11	a12	a22	p11	p12	p22	e
*3704	12567	237	1.25	0.050	699	1.73	0.034	88.1
46732	12599	20	0.11	0.003	66	0.74	0.011	14.5

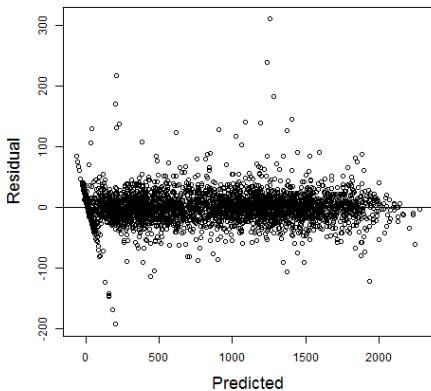
* *The group record is the sum for the group, and therefore the scale is different*

Small groups (<7 animals) were removed

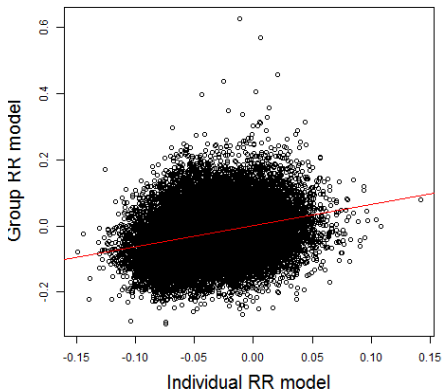
REML estimates by DMU (P. Madsen, 2013)



Residual plot, within groups



Breeding values of group and individual RR models



Corr=0.29



Discussion

- Corr=0.29
- Relation between animals within groups
 - Mean littermates per litter: 1.13
 - More littermates in the same pen led to a higher accuracy of BV (Su et al., 2018)
- More data and higher order might increase accuracy of BV
- Genomic relationship might increase accuracy of BV



Conclusion

- RR-model on longitudinal group records can be used to predict individual BV's of feed conversion ratio
- RR-model can account for drop out animals



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Thank You !

