Separating genomic imprinting effects and maternal effects in birth weights in Large White pigs

Ricarda E. Jahnel^{1,2}, N. Reinsch¹, A. Lepori³, C. Kasper⁴

¹Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Wilhelm-Stahl- Allee 2, 18196 Dummerstorf, Germany, ²Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock, Department of Animal Biosciences, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, NIG 2W1 Canada, ³Suisag AG, Allmend 10, 6204 Sempach, Switzerland, ⁴Agroscope, Animal GenoPhenomics, Rte de la Tioleyre 4, 1725, Posieux, Switzerland









What are Parent-of-origin effects?



Maternal Effects

Offspring's phenotype is influenced by the mother's environment









Genomic Imprinting

Each inherited allele of a gene is expressed according to its parental origin



Histone modification











Parent-of-origin effects - birth weights of piglets

Birth weights are important for survival and homogenous growth of litters, where maternal effect and genomic imprinting seem to influence the expression of the trait.





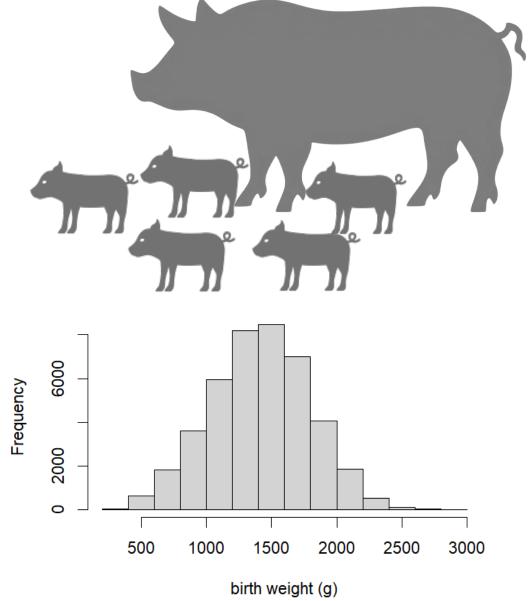


Objective

To investigate the possibility to separate maternal effects and genomic imprinting effects in birth weights

Birth weights of Large White Piglets

Pedigree size	2		49,734
Sows	946	300	Boars
Piglets			42,367
Litter			3,156
Litter size	14.69 (3.4)	12	Parity



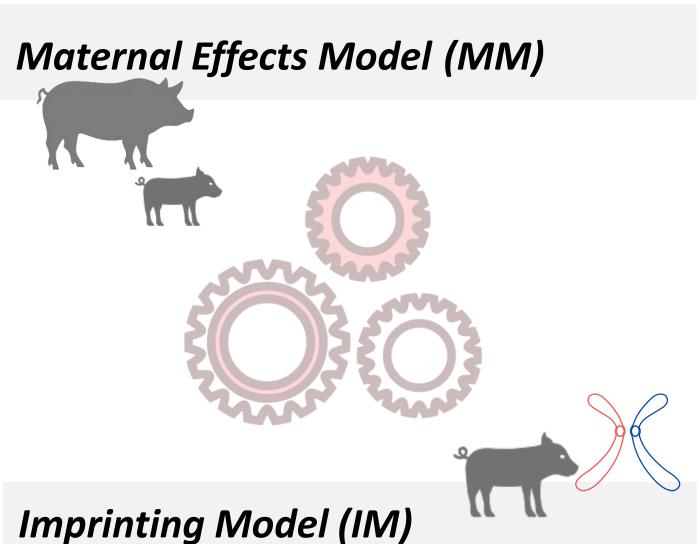




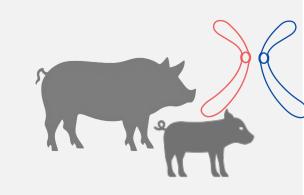
Models

Animal Model (AM)





Maternal Effects
Imprinting
Model
(MIM)







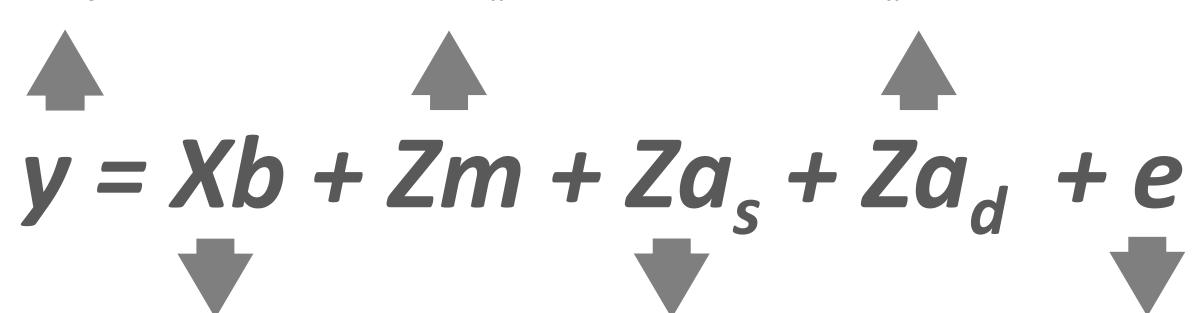
Generalized maternal effects - imprinting model

- birth weights (first parity sows)

Birth weights

Maternal effects

Gametic effects as dam



Contemporary group, litter size, sex

Gametic effects as sire

Residual effects



Computing Genetic Parameter – birth weights

$$m{G} = egin{bmatrix} \sigma_d^2 & \sigma_{d,s} & \sigma_{d,m} \ \sigma_{s,d} & \sigma_s^2 & \sigma_{s,m} \ \sigma_{m,d} & \sigma_{m,s} & \sigma_m^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



Computing Genetic Parameter – birth weights

Heritability:

Relative imprinting variance:

$$\boldsymbol{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_d^2 & \sigma_{d,s} & \sigma_{d,m} \\ \sigma_{s,d} & \sigma_s^2 & \sigma_{s,m} \\ \sigma_{m,d} & \sigma_{m,s} & \sigma_m^2 \end{bmatrix} \quad h_{direct}^2 = \frac{(\sigma_d^2 + \sigma_s^2)}{(\sigma_d^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \sigma_{d,m} + \sigma_{s,m} + \sigma_m^2 + \sigma_e^2)} \qquad i^2 = \frac{(\sigma_d^2 + \sigma_s^2 - 2\sigma_{d,s})}{(\sigma_d^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \frac{3}{2}(\sigma_{d,m} + \sigma_{s,m}) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_m^2)}$$

$$h_{direct}^{2} = \frac{(\sigma_{d}^{2} + \sigma_{s}^{2})}{(\sigma_{d}^{2} + \sigma_{s}^{2} + \sigma_{d,m} + \sigma_{s,m} + \sigma_{m}^{2} + \sigma_{e}^{2})}$$

$$i^{2} = \frac{(\sigma_{d}^{2} + \sigma_{s}^{2} - 2\sigma_{d,s})}{(\sigma_{d}^{2} + \sigma_{s}^{2} + \frac{3}{2}(\sigma_{d,m} + \sigma_{s,m}) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{m}^{2}}$$

$$h_{maternal}^2 = \frac{\sigma_m^2}{(\sigma_d^2 + \sigma_s^2 + \sigma_{d,m} + \sigma_{s,m} + \sigma_m^2 + \sigma_e^2)}$$

$$h_{total}^{2} = \frac{(\sigma_{d}^{2} + \sigma_{s}^{2} + \frac{3}{2}(\sigma_{d,m} + \sigma_{s,m}) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{m}^{2})}{(\sigma_{d}^{2} + \sigma_{s}^{2} + \sigma_{d,m} + \sigma_{s,m} + \sigma_{m}^{2} + \sigma_{e}^{2})}$$

Significance of parent-of-origin effects in birth weights

Log Likelihood		Alternative Hypothesis			
	Ratio Test (P Value)	Imprinting Model	Maternal Effects Model	Maternal Effects Imprinting Model	
Null Hypothesis	Animal Model	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Vull Hy	Imprinting Model	_	-	0.004	





Genetic Correlations

Gametic variance as dam		
0.87	Gametic variance as sire	
-0.59	-0.14	Maternal variance



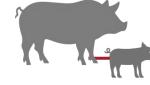


Models



Heritability: 0.56





Maternal Effects Model

Heritability	Relative imprinting		Heritability			
	variance		direct	maternal	total	
0.63	0.60		0.021	0.23	0.06	

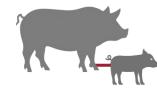


Models



Heritability: 0.56

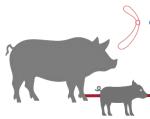




Maternal Effects Model

Heritability	Relative imprinting variance	
0.63	0.60	

	Heritability		
direct	maternal	total	
0.021	0.23	0.06	



Maternal Effects Imprinting Model

tt tt	Heritability		Relative
direct	maternal	total	imprinting variance
0.31	0.30	0.35	0.27



Take Home Messages



Both Maternal effects and genomic imprinting influence the birth weights in Large White piglets

Confounding of effects might happen if not accounted for



Take Home Messages



Both Maternal effects and genomic imprinting influence the birth weights in Large White piglets





Confounding of effects might happen if not accounted for







