# Modeling Population and Quantitative Genetics in SLiM 

forward genetic simulation software


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## SLiM Contributors




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... and many more!

## Talk outline

- What is SLiM? Why use SLiM?
- An introduction to Eidos and SLiM
- A survey of example models
- Population-genetic models in SLiM
- Quantitative-genetic models in SLiM
- Closing remarks


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## Forward genetic simulation

- "Forward":
- runs forward from an initial state (vs. coalescent methods)
- "Genetic":
- explicit loci on a chromosome (vs. phenotypic simulations)
- "Simulation":
- individual-based modeling
(vs. analytical modeling)


## Why do simulations?

- Fitting empirical population genomic data - analyzing past evolutionary forces
- predicting future evolution
- Analyzing theoretical evolutionary models
- predicting the consequences of a new theory
- comparing multiple theories
- Developing statistical methods
- testing a method's accuracy, bias, or power
- generating datasets for machine learning


## Why do forward simulations?

- Evolution is complex:
- complex demography and population structure
- non-random mating and complex mating systems
- spatial structure and non-random dispersal
- spatial and temporal variation in selection
- frequency-dependent selection, kin selection, etc.
- realistic genetic/chromosomal structure
- epistasis, polygenic traits, pleiotropy
- multiple loci under selection
- variable recombination / mutation rate

Why use SLiM?

## Why use SLiM?

- Flexible and customizable with Eidos
- scriptability means there are (almost) no limits
- similar to R in its syntax and function names
- ends statements with semicolons; zero-based!

$$
\begin{aligned}
& x=0 ; \\
& \text { for (i in 1:10) } \\
& x=x+i ; \\
& \operatorname{print}(x) ;
\end{aligned}
$$

## Why use SLiM?

- Very fast: SLiM is highly optimized

neutral simulation
mean over 10 replicates
$N=500$ diploids
$r=10^{-8}$
$\mu=10^{-7}$
run to the expected time for coalescence $(\sim 3 \mathrm{~N}$ to $\sim 15 \mathrm{~N})$


## Why use SLiM?

- Interactive and graphical
- easy to visualize / debug / explore







## Why use SLiM?

- Open source on GitHub, GPL license - free, reusable, shareable, debugged, easy!


Free as in Freedom

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live demo


An introduction to Eidos

## Data types

- NULL: no explicit value
- logical: a Boolean true/false value (T/F)
- integer: a 64-bit signed integer $(10,-27)$
- float: a floating-point number (10.0, -2.7)
- string: a sequence of characters ("foo")
- object: an instance of a class (Individual)


## Operators

- Arithmetic: $+,-, *, /, \%, \wedge$,
- Logical: \& |, !
- Comparison: <, >, <=, >=, ==, !=
- Assignment: =
- Precedence and function call: ()
- Subset: []
- Property access and method call: .
$6+2 * 7$
$T \&!F$
$2+2=4$
$x=8$
$(6+2) * 7$
x[5]
foo.bar


## Control flow

- if-else: conditional execution
- if (condition) statement; else statement;
- while: loop on a condition, $0+$ times
- while (condition) statement;
- do-while: loop on a condition, $1+$ times
- do statement; while (condition);
- for: loop over the values in a vector
- for (i in vector) statement;


## Built-in functions

- Math: abs(), ceil(), log(), setUnion(), ...
- Statistics: $\max (), \operatorname{mean}(), \operatorname{sd}(), \operatorname{cov}(), \ldots$
- Distributions: rnorm(), rpois(), runif(), ...
- Vectors: c(), rep(), seq(), sample(), ...
- Values: all(), any(), identical(), sort(), ...
- Output: cat(), print(), paste(), str(), ...
- Types: isFloat(), asFloat(), ...
- Filesystem: readFile(), writeFile(), ...


## Objects, properties, methods

- Objects represent entities:
- e.g., individuals, mutations, subpopulations
- Objects have properties:
- attributes like age, sex, spatialPosition
- individual.age returns the age of individual
- individual.age = 10; changes its age
- Objects have methods:
- methods perform complex operations
- individual.containsMutations(muts)


An introduction to SLiM

## SLiM Eidos classes

- Chromosome hierarchy:
- Chromosome
- MutationType
- GenomicElementType
- GenomicElement
- Other classes:
- InteractionType
- LogFile
- SLiMEidosBlock
- SLiMgui
- Community hierarchy:
- Community
- Species
- Subpopulation
- Individual
- Genome
- Mutation
- Substitution
- Popgen utilities, nucleotide utilities, etc.


## The chromosome hierarchy

Genomic elements, genomic element types, and mutation types

- The chromosome defines the genetic structure
- It is a sequence of elements (GenomicElement)
- Each element has a type (GenomicElementType)
- Each type draws from a DFE (MutationType)

Chromosome: a mosaic of genomic elements


Genomic element types Mutation types


## The community hierarchy

- The community contains one or more species
- Each species contains subpopulations
- Each subpopulation contains individuals
- Each individual contains genomes
- Each genome contains mutations



## Individuals and genomes

- Individuals (class Individual) are organisms
- Individuals are born, mate, die, ...
- Each individual has two genomes (class Genome)
- Each genome has L discrete base positions



## Mutations

- Mutations (class Mutation) live in genomes
- Genomes begin empty (the ancestral state)
- Mutations represent a non-ancestral allele (SNP)
- Mutations have properties: selection coefficient



## The "SLiM core"

- SLiM is divided into the "core"...
- Optimized $\mathrm{C}++$ to run the tick cycle
- Default behaviors for simple models:
- Fitness, mate choice, gamete generation, mutation, recombination, mortality, ...
- ... and everything else, in Eidos script:
- Events (first()/early()/late())
- Callbacks


## SLiM callbacks

- fitness(): individual-based fitness effects
- mateChoice(): non-random mating effects in WF models
- reproduction(): scripted reproduction in nonWF models
- modifyChild(): individual customization of offspring
- mutation(): customization of the mutational process
- recombination():customization of recombination
- survival(): influencing mortality in nonWF models
- interaction(): spatial interactions (competition, mating)


## WF versus nonWF

- SLiM supports two different model types:
- WF: Wright-Fisher
- nonWF: non-Wright-Fisher
- Differences:
- tick cycles
- offspring generation
- population regulation
- age structure
- fitness models
- demography
- mate choice
- migration


## WF Models

- Population size is a parameter
- Population regulation is automatic
- Fitness affects mating probability
- Selection is soft (relative fitness)
- Non-overlapping generations
- No age structure
- Migration is due to parameters


## nonWF Models

- Population size is emergent
- Population regulation is scripted
- Fitness affects viability/survival
- Selection is hard (absolute fitness)
- Generations can overlap
- Age structure is emergent
- Migration is scripted


## Fitness

- Fitness is a multiplicative combination of effects
- Fitness effects come from:
- mutations (1/1+hs/1+s)
- fitness() callbacks - per mutation
- individual fitnessScaling values
- subpopulation fitnessScaling values
- This allows:
- QTLs, behavior, spatiotemporal variation...


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## The Gravel model (5.4)

- Simulating human evolutionary history
- Demographic events, exponential growth



## Introgression \& sweeps (9.7)

- Introgression of a single introduced mutation
- Ten subpopulations connected by migration

 : 1 ....":

 м




## Gene drives (12.3)

- Simulating CRISPR gene drive
- Fixes despite negative fitness effects
- Fixes despite going against migration



## Metapopulations (5.3.4)

- Many subpopulations connected by migration
- The connection pattern can be spatial, or not


## Adaptive walks (14.8)

- A QTL-based model with pleiotropy (M-matrix)
- Two phenotypic traits defined by additive QTLs



## Continuous space (15.10)

- Individuals live in a continuous 2-D space
- A landscape map of the world is used
- Population expansion out of Africa



## Local adaptation (15.11)

- Individuals live in a continuous 2-D space
- A map defines a heterogeneous environment
- Adaptation to the local environment results



## Nucleotide-based models (18.1)

- Track the nucleotide sequence of every genome
- Mutations have an associated nucleotide
- Mutation rates are sequence-dependent
- Realistic gene conversion, including gBGC

GAATGTCGGTTAGAGCAACCTAGCTTCTCAGATCGCAATA GAATGTCCGTTAGAGCAACCTAGCTTCTCAGATGGCTATA GAATGTCCGTTAGAGCAACCTAGCTTCTCAGATGGCCATA GAATGTCGGTTAGAGCATCCTAGCTTCTCAGATCGCAATA GAATGTCGGTTAGAGCAACCTAGCTTCTCAGATCGCAATA GAATGTCCGTTAGAGCAACCTAGCTTCTCAGATGGCAATA GAATGTCGGTTAGAGCATCCTAGCCTCTCAGATGGCAATA GAATGTCGGTTAGAGCATCCTAGCTTCTCAGATCGCAATA

## Multispecies models (19.4 \& 19.6)

- Simulate more than one species in a model
- Ecology: competition, predation, parasitism, ...
- Coevolutionary and eco-evolutionary dynamics

19.4: Host-parasitoid population size cycling

19.6: Red Queen coevolutionary dynamics


## Tree sequences \& ancestry (17.10)

- Tracking the ancestry tree at every position
- Mean tree height is a proxy for diversity at a site
- After a sweep, diversity is lowest near the sweep
- Recapitation constructs neutral burn-in history



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## Population-genetic models

- Demography:
- Discrete subpopulations with migration
- Continuous space with dispersal
- Ploidy:
- Diploid, haploid, haplodiploid*, ...*
- Sex and mating:
- Hermaphrodites, separate sexes, X/Y, ...*
- Biparental sexual mating
- Cloning, selfing, horizontal gene transfer*, ...*


## Population-genetic models

- Any chromosome length
- Any number of chromosomes*
- Any number of loci and alleles
- Any recombination-rate map
- Any mutation-rate map
- Any distributions of fitness effects
- Any individual effects* on fitness, mortality, mate choice, recombination, migration, dispersal, mutation, ...


## Population-genetic models

- Selective sweeps
- partial or full
- conditional on fixation or establishment
- soft and hard sweeps of various kinds
- Background selection
- Local adaptation
- Introgression
- Reproductive isolation (partial or full)
- Speciation

live demo


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## Quantitative Traits

- Mendelian traits:
- governed by a single locus
- produce discrete outcomes
- can be modeled with selection coefficients
- Quantitative traits:
- governed by multiple loci: QTLs
- produce continuous variation (e.g., height)
- need to be modeled via phenotype


## Quantitative Traits

- Phenotype
- calculated from QTL effects
- additive effects are central (breeding value)
- non-additive effects can also be modeled
- dominance, epistasis
- environmental noise can be added
- phenotypic plasticity can be included
- the final result: a phenotypic trait value


## Quantitative Traits

- Fitness
- a function of phenotypic trait value - often modeled as a fitness function



## The Big Picture

- QTL mutations have an effect size
- Phenotype is the sum of all effects
- Fitness is some function of phenotype
- Fitness effects are assigned to individuals

live demo


## Surprise Guest Star 'Tony Long!

## Yeast E\&R from a synthetic base population



## Experimental Evolution Strategy

## Complex E\&R experiment



- Sex on Friday
- Recover spores and mate on Tuesday (bottleneck to 105-106 cells)
- Asexual growth in media with chemical challenge
- 3 transfers per week (100-fold dilution)
- 107-109 cells during selection/asexual growth

Would like quantitative predictions ... but this experiment seemed painful to model

## SLIM!

~30K, less than real
$\log 10$ pop size

additive genetic variance relative to base

average phenotype as percent of optima


Optimum not
reached yet
$-1$

- 2
$-4$
- 5
- 6


## 1800 SNPs <br> 180 SNPs <br> 18 SNPs

- 9 hours
- 25 Gb memory
haploid alleles for a single chromosome



## Pollock Plots



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## Resources

## SLiM 3: Forward Genetic Simulations Beyond the Wright-Fisher Model

bit.ly/slim-discuss
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Abstract
With the desire to model population genetic processes under increasingly realistic scenarios, forward genetic simulations have become a critical part of the toolbox of modern evolutionary biology. The SLiM forward genetic simulation
framework is one of the most powerful and widely used tools in this area. However, its foundation in the Wright-
Fisher model has
Wright-Fisher mo
overlapping gener
ation in dispersa
fitness-based surv
SLiM 3, which con "nonWF" model t scenarios and mal maps of environm models to illustra
Key words: eco-e dynamics, landsc.

Introduction
Forward genetic sii portant role in ev model a wide rang include a high leve nario (Carvajal-Rod 2014; Hoban 2014; Haller et al. 2018 framework (Messer to be a powerful to o most widely u menting such sim menting such sim The National Resources (GSR) w of genetic simulatic of writing, the GS simulation; this ing particular type of a wide variety of among these tools utes. First, it is highl SLiM framework to in many ways. At

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RESOURCE ARTICLE

Tree-sequence recording in SLiM opens new horizons for forward-time simulation of whole genomes

Benjamin C. Haller ${ }^{1}$ © | Jared Galloway ${ }^{2}$ | Jerome Kelleher ${ }^{3}$ © |
Philipp W. Messer ${ }^{1 * *}$ - | Peter L. Ralph ${ }^{2{ }^{2 *}}$ ©

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Evolutionary Modeling in SLiM 3 for Beginners
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## Abstract

The SLiM forward genetic simulation framework has proved to be a powerful and flexible tool for population genetic modeling. However, as a complex piece of software with many features that allow simulating a diverse assortment of evolutionary models, its initial leaming curve can be difficult. Here we provide a step-by-step demonstration of how to build a simple evolutionary model in SLiM 3, to help new users get started. We will begin with a panmictic neutral model, and build up to a model of the evolution of a polygenic quantitative trait under selection for an environmental phenotypic optimum.

## SLiM Workshops



Now available online, free, at messerlab.org/slim/

## Acknowledgements



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## Questions!

(and SLiM stickers!)

Extra slides

## How to use SLiM?

- Do initial modeling in SLiMgui
- interactive model development \& visual debugging
- syntax coloring, online docs, code completion
- Do production runs on the cluster
- trivial to build and run on a computing cluster
- do many replicate runs simultaneously, one per core
- Do post-run analysis in Eidos, Python, or R - a lot of analysis can be done in-script in Eidos
- . trees output can be read in Python with pyslim


## The tick cycle

## nonWF

0. Execution of first () events
1. Execution of early () events
2. Generation of offspring:
2.1. Choose source subpop
2.2. Choose parent 1

### 2.3. Choose parent 2 (mateChoice() callbacks)

2.4. Generate the offspring (including mutation() and recombination() callbacks)

> 2.5. Suppress/modify child (modifyChild() callbacks)
3. Removal of fixed mutations
4. Offspring become parents
5. Execution of late() events
6. Fitness value recalculation using fitness() callbacks

[^0]
## The Crossover Breakpoints Model

- During gamete generation:
- breakpoints are drawn by probability
- a simple crossover model is the default



## The DSB Model

- Each breakpoint initiates gene conversion
- DSBs can be crossovers or non-crossovers
- gene conversion tracts can be simple or complex
- heteroduplex mismatch repair, GC biased repair



## Nucleotide-based Models

- Optional facilities
- Trinucleotide-based mutation rates
- Reading and writing FASTA, VCF files
- Getting the nucleotide sequence
- Getting the codon sequence
- Getting the amino acid sequence
- Hotspot maps (variable mutation rate)
- GC-biased gene conversion (gBGC)


## Tree sequences

- A record of the ancestry at every position
- Originally from coalescent modeling (msprime)
- Extremely compact due to correlations
- Very fast to traverse and calculate statistics



## Tree sequences

- Tree sequence structure
- Leaves are "samples" - often extant individuals
- Internal nodes are ancestors
- In SLiM, roots are the first generation



## Tree-sequence recording

- Tracks the ancestry tree at every position
- Neutral mutations can be overlaid after the fact
- Neutral burn-in can be done with the coalescent
- Recapitation can construct a coalescent history



## Tree-sequence recording

- Records every new genome as a node
- Records every crossover as an edge
- Records every mutation
- This produces a huge memory footprint!
- Simplification needs to be done periodically
- Discards branches that are extinct
- Discards intermediate nodes along branches
- SLiM automatically simplifies periodically
- Explicitly simplifying can improve performance


## Tree-sequence recording

- Enable tree-sequence recording
- initializeTreeSeq()
- Control simplification if desired
- simplificationRatio, simplificationInterval
- treeSeqSimplify()
- Remember particular individuals if desired
- treeSeqRememberIndividuals()
- Output a .trees file at completion
- treeSeqOutput()


## A complete tree-seq model

```
initialize() {
    initializeTreeSeq();
    initializeMutationRate(0);
    initializeMutationType("m1", 0.5, "f", 0.0);
    initializeGenomicElementType("g1", m1, 1.0);
    initializeGenomicElement(g1, 0, 1e8-1);
    initializeRecombinationRate(1e-8);
}
1 {
    sim.addSubpop("p1", 500);
}
5 0 0 0 ~ l a t e ( ) ~ \{ ,
    sim.treeSeq0utput('final.trees");
}
```

- Calls initializeTreeSeq() and treeSeq0utput()
- Uses a (neutral) mutation rate of zero


## Tree-sequence analysis in Python

- SLiM:
- runs forward genetic simulations
- tskit:
- provides a foundation for tree sequences
- msprime:
- performs mutation and coalescence
- pyslim:
- knows about SLiM .trees files specifically


## Tree-sequence analysis in Python

- Typical workflow:
- run a simulation in SLiM and save a .trees file
- read the .trees file from SLiM with tskit
- mutate it, recapitate it, etc. with msprime
- perform analyses upon it with Python
- write out a modified .trees file


## Tree-sequence analysis in Python


analysis with msprime / pyslim

## A complete Python analysis script

import msprime, tskit

```
ts = tskit.load("final.trees").simplify()
mutated = msprime.mutate(ts, rate=1e-7, random_seed=1, keep=True)
mutated.dump("final_overlaid.trees")
```

- Import msprime and tskit packages
- Load the saved .trees file with tskit
- Use msprime to overlay mutations
- Write out the new tree sequence


## Tree-sequence recording

- What's the point again?
- Ancestry information is useful
- Speed
- Without tree-seq, 211.9 seconds
- With tree-seq, 4.37 seconds
- Almost a $50 \times$ speedup
- Why? Neutral mutations are overlaid
- Memory usage is also lower



## Recapitation

- Forward simulation needs burn-in
- provides an equilibrium initial state
- Burn-in can take a very long time!
- msprime can do a coalescent burn-in
- But recapitation is even better:
- allows neutral burn-in to be skipped
- a coalescent history is added afterwards
- neutral mutations can then be overlaid
- even faster than a coalescent burn-in


## Resources

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| RES O URCE ARTICLE | WILEY MOLECULAR ECOLOGY |  |

Tree-sequence recording in SLiM opens new horizons for forward-time simulation of whole genomes

```
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Philipp W. Messer (1,* © | Peter L. Ralph 2,*
```

PLOS $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { COMPUTATIONAL } \\ & \text { BIOLOGY }\end{aligned}\right.$ BIOLOGY

RESEARCH ARTICLE
Efficient pedigree recording for fast population genetics simulation

Jerome Kelleher $\odot^{1}$, Kevin R. Thornton $\odot^{2}$, Jaime Ashander $\odot^{3}$, Peter L. Ralph $\odot^{4 *}$
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## Multispecies modeling

- SLiM 4 adds support for multiple species
- Ecological interactions:
- predation, competition, parasitism, mutualism, within-host evolution, ...
- individual-based spatial interactions between species (local prey search, local host search, local resource competition)
- Eco-evolutionary dynamics
- Coevolutionary dynamics


## Multispecies modeling

- Now, SLiMSim represents one simulation:



## Multispecies modeling

- In SLiM 4, SLiMSim represents one species:



## Multispecies modeling

- SLiMSim has become Species
- Community has been added on top
- Each species is independent:
- separate genetics \& behavior
- separate scripting and callbacks
- separate tree-sequence recording
- Separate timescales; but their execution in each tick is interleaved!


## Multispecies modeling

- Time is now represented in ticks and cycles:


1
2
3
4

| 4 | cycle 1 | cycle 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 5 |  | cycle 5 |
| 6 |  | cycle 6 |
| 7 | cycle 2 | cycle 7 |
| 8 |  | cycle 8 |
| 9 |  | cycle 9 |

The sequence of events within one cycle in WF models.

```
0. Execution of first() events
```

The sequence of events within one cycle in nonWF models.

0 . Execution of first() events


1. Execution of early() events
2. Generation of offspring:
2.1. Choose source subpop
2.2. Choose parent 1
```
2.3. Choose parent }
(mateChoice() callbacks)
```

2.4. Generate the offspring (including mutation() and recombination() callbacks)
2.5. Suppress/modify child (modifyChild() callbacks)
3. Removal of fixed mutations
4. Offspring become parents
5. Execution of late() events
6. Fitness value recalculation using fitness() callbacks
7. Tick/cycle count increment

1. Generation of offspring:
1.1. Call reproduction() callbacks for individuals
1.2. The callback(s) make calls requesting offspring
1.3. Generate the offspring (including mutation() and recombination() callbacks)

> 1.4. Suppress/modify child (modifyChild() callbacks)

## 2. Execution of early() events

3. Fitness value recalculation using fitness() callbacks
4. Selection (incl. survival())
5. Removal of fixed mutations
6. Execution of late() events
7. Tick/cycle count increment, individual age increments

[^0]:    7. Generation count increment
