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# Improving genomic predictions with inbreeding and non-additive effects using two hybrid admixed populations in maize

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## Background

### Why are non-additive effects relevant?

#### 1 Non-additive genetics effects are involved in complex traits and heterosis

They include dominance, epistasis and contribute to inbreeding depression



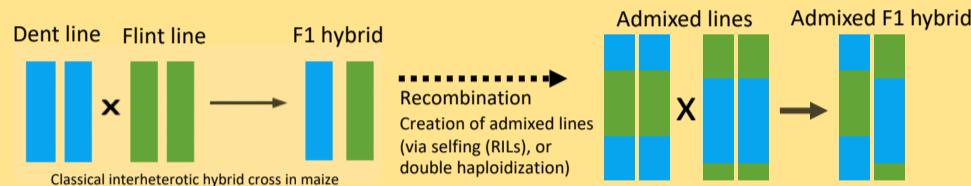
Hochholdinger and Balafout Current Biology

#### 2 Predicting non-additive effects is useful, but challenging

We should use the Natural and Orthogonal Interactions Approach (Vitezica et al. 2017) to alleviate the confounding between genetic effects

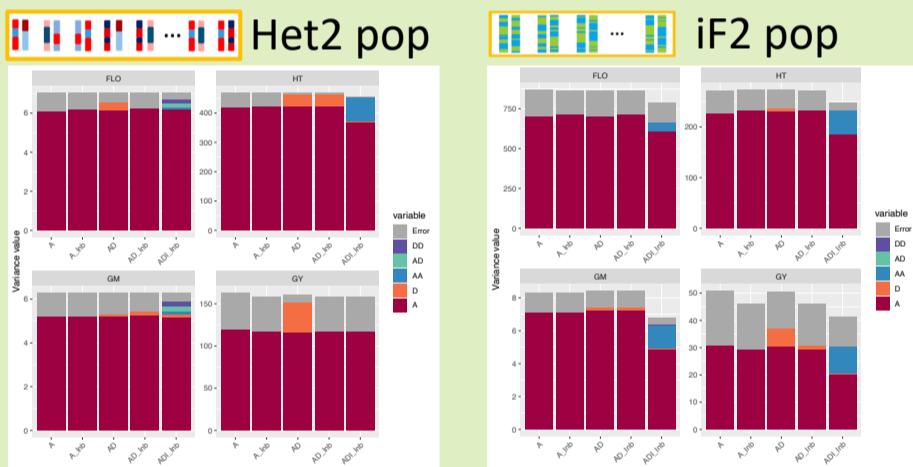
#### 3 Can we improve genomic predictions using orthogonal models and inbreeding parameters?

Application to maize using admixed hybrid material



## Result 1

### Variance component analyses



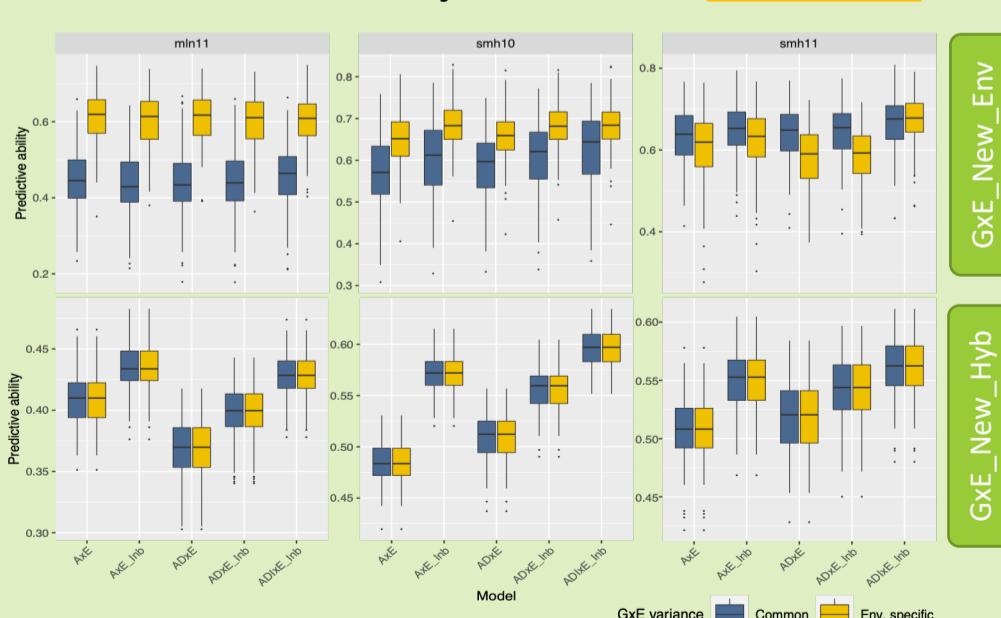
Analyses on adjusted means

- Stable total variance across the different models tested
- Including inbreeding reduces the variance associated with dominance effects
- Large epistatic effects for all traits, prevalence of additive by additive effect

## Result 3

### Prediction performance across environments

#### Grain yield in iF2



- In GxE\_New\_Env, the type of GxE modelling depends on correlation between environments and heritability
- Including non-additive effects efficient for predicting new hybrids in all environments (GxE\_New\_Hyb)

→ Gain of 0.02 to 0.11 in predictive ability for GY in iF2

## Material and Methods

### Two admixed hybrid maize populations

#### Het2 population



#### 291 hybrids

Obtained from 321 admixed lines (admixture between 300 dent and 304 flint parental lines)

#### iF2 population



265 hybrids obtained from 184 highly recombinant inbred lines (admixture between one dent and one flint parental lines)

→ Phenotyped for 4 traits (flowering date FLO, plant height HT, grain moisture GM and grain yield GY) at 3 to 5 sites for iF2 and Het2 respectively

## Modeling non-additive effects

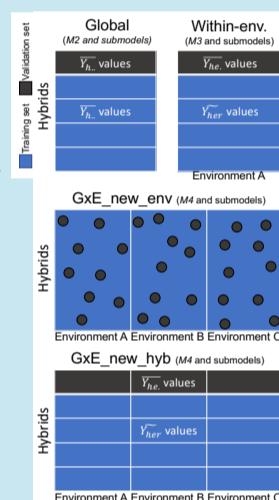
### Most complete model for adjusted-means

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{Y}_{h..} &= \mu + \beta Inb_h + A_h + D_h + AA_h + AD_h + DD_h + \varepsilon_h \\ A &\sim N(0, \sigma_A^2 K_A), D \sim N(0, \sigma_D^2 K_D), \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I) \\ AA &\sim N(0, \sigma_{AA}^2 K_{AA}), AD \sim N(0, \sigma_{AD}^2 K_{AD}), DD \sim N(0, \sigma_{DD}^2 K_{DD}) \\ A &\perp \end{aligned}$$

$Inb_h$ : percentage of homozygosity ;  $\beta$ : associated regression coefficient ;  $A_h$  and  $D_h$ : additive and dominant random effects associated to hybrid  $h$ ;  $AA_h$ ,  $AD_h$  and  $DD_h$ : random effects modeling epistasis, accounting for additive by additive, additive by dominant and dominant by dominant effects, respectively;  $\varepsilon_h$ : random error ;  $\sigma_A^2$  ...  $\sigma_{DD}^2$ : variance terms associated to genetic effects ;  $K_A$  ...  $K_{DD}$ : kinship matrices corresponding to each genetic effect, after Vitezica et al. 2017.

### 5 different sub-models considered

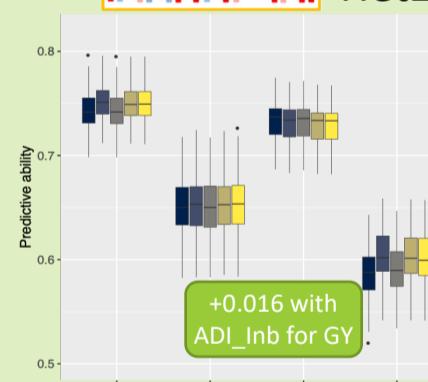
Effects	Inbreeding	A	D	AA	AD	DD	Residual
A		X					X
A_Inb	X	X					X
AD		X	X				X
AD_Inb	X	X	X	X			X
ADI_Inb	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



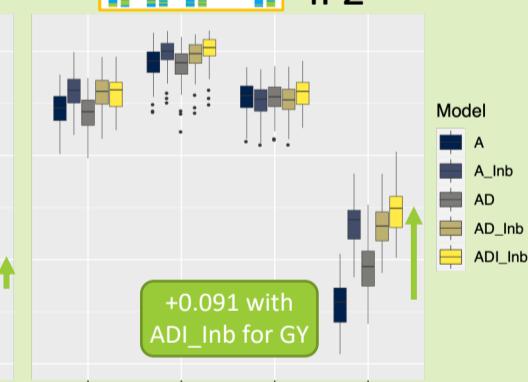
## Result 2

### Prediction performance - Adjusted means

#### Het2



#### iF2



- Overall more accurate predictions with inbreeding in the model
- Gains in accuracy strongest in iF2 population, especially for yield

## Outlook

### Practical use for maize breeding

Improved predictions of complex traits with A\_Inb and ADI\_Inb models

Facilitating the use of admixed plant material in breeding

More diversified genetic resources, less genetic drift

#### Useful references:

Roth, M., Beugnot, A., Mary-Huard, T., Moreau, L., Charcosset, A., and Fiévet, J.B. (2022). Improving genomic predictions with inbreeding and nonadditive effects in two admixed maize hybrid populations in single and multi-environment contexts. Genetics 220: iyac18.

Varona, L., Legarra, A., Toro, M.A., and Vitezica, Z.G. (2022). Genomic Prediction Methods Accounting for Nonadditive Genetic Effects. In Genomic Prediction of Complex Traits, Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol 2467, N. Ahmadi, and J. Bartholomé, eds. (New York), pp. 219–243.

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