



The evolution of epigenetics across multiple generations

Sonia E Eynard, Cécile Donnadieu, Loïc Flatres-Grall, Carole Iampietro, Sandrine Lagarrigue, Sophie Leroux, Joanna Lledo, Juliette Riquet, Bertrand Servin, Céline Vandecasteele, et al.

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The evolution of epigenetics across multiple generations



Epigenetic Inheritance

Symposium Zurich, 2023

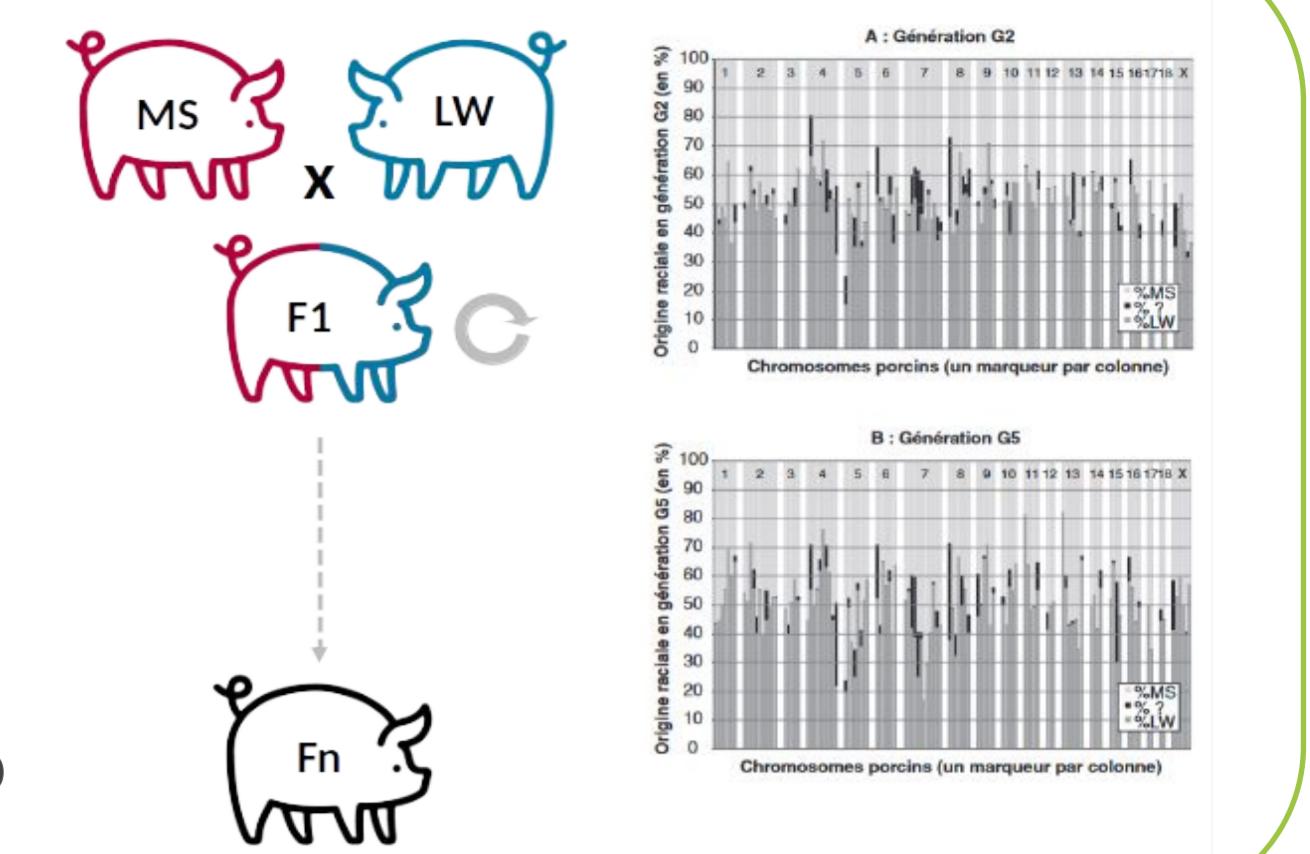
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Introduction

Context: Remaining missing heritability in animal breeding can be partly explained by factors other than solely genetics, e.g. epigenetics.

Question: How does epigenetic patterns evolve through time across multiple generations of selection in a commercial pig breed? Can we link this pattern with selection decisions?



Methods

Animals:

15 generations

Each generation 1 pool of n = 4 to 16 boars

Sperm



Genomics and Epigenomics:

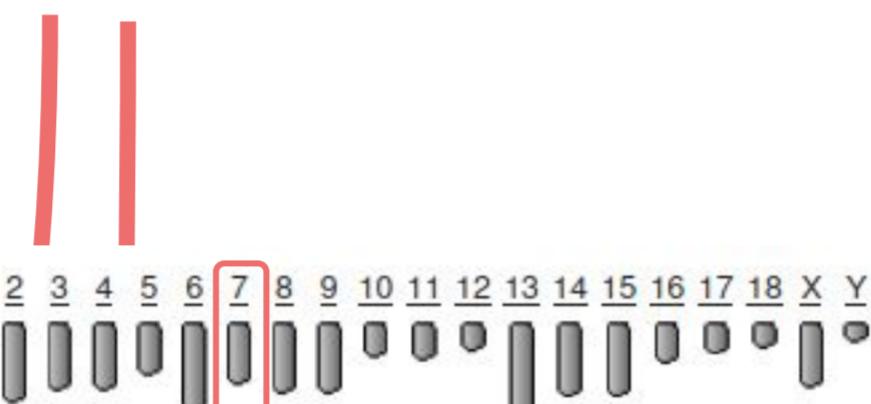
Oxford Nanopore Technology - PromethION

Long read sequences + methylation

30M CpGs covered

Average 30X

Focus on chromosome 7



Evolution of allele frequencies:

Fst

Signature of selection

DMC and DMR analysis:

DSS (R, Hao et al. 2013)

edgeR (R, Robinson et al. 2010)

Evolution of methylation rate:

Poisson lognormal models (PLNmodels, Chiquet et al. 2021)

<https://what-when-how.com/genetics/genetic-signatures-of-natural-selection/>

<http://www.ieffbio.com/methylaction/>

Conclusions and perspectives

- Chromosome 7 carries a lot QTLs on which we can identify allele frequency and methylation rate changes through time
- Possible link with selection decision on the breed
- Evolution of methylation can be linked or not to genetics

Perspectives:

- Same analysis on the whole genome
- Link signal to genome features
- Correlated changes with breed selection decisions

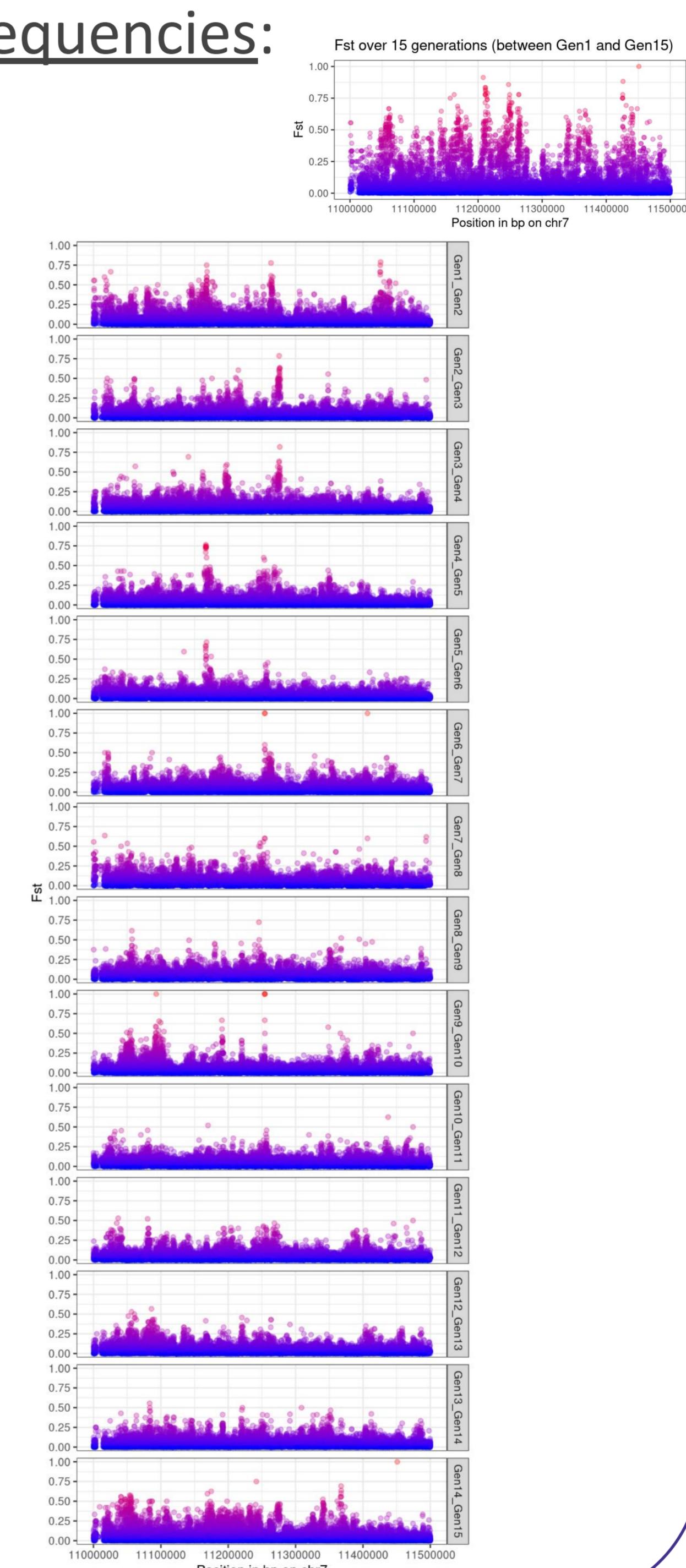
Results

For the region between 11 to 11.5Mb on chromosome 7

Why this region:

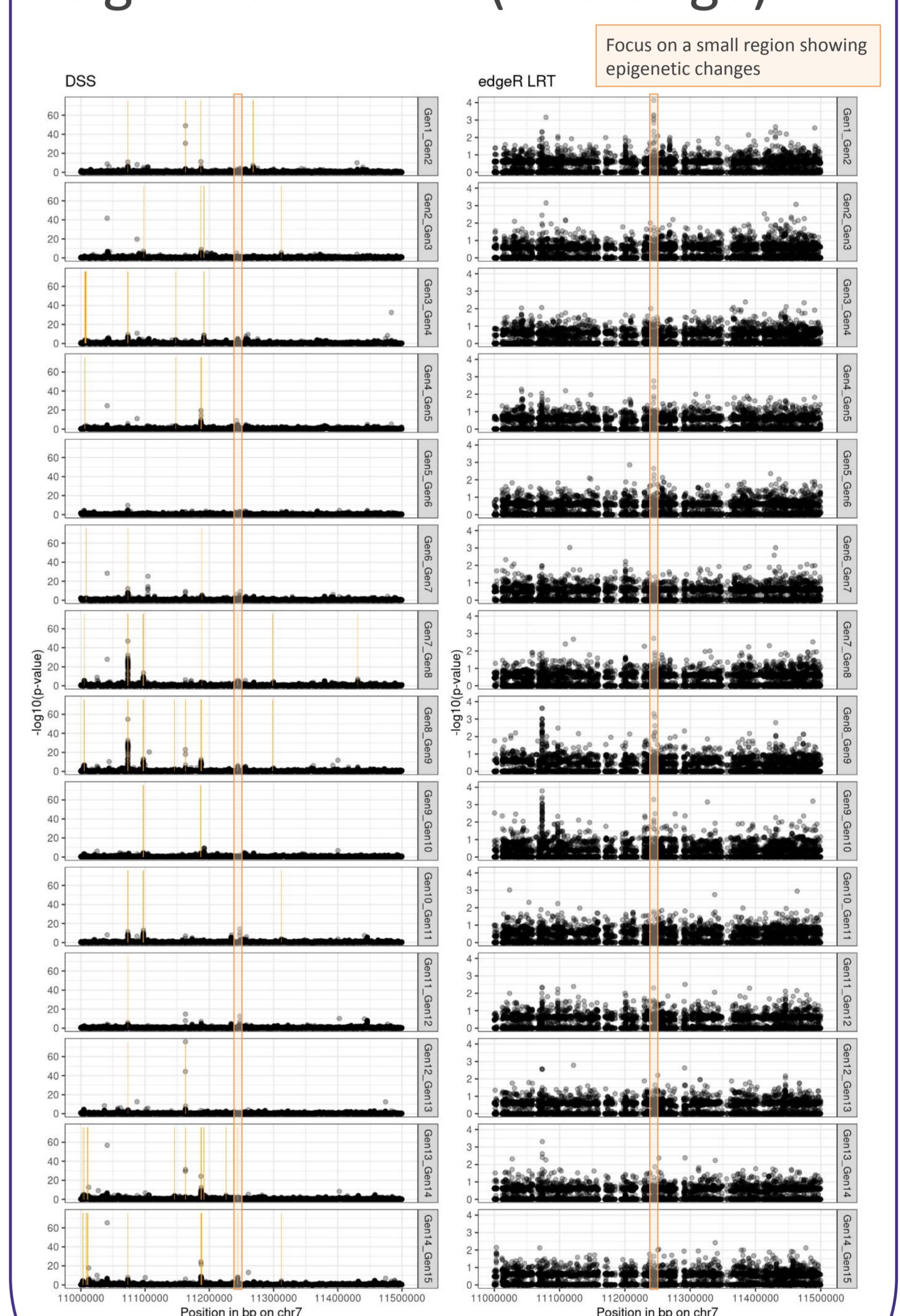
Contains QTLs identified in our breed of interest

Evolution of allele frequencies:



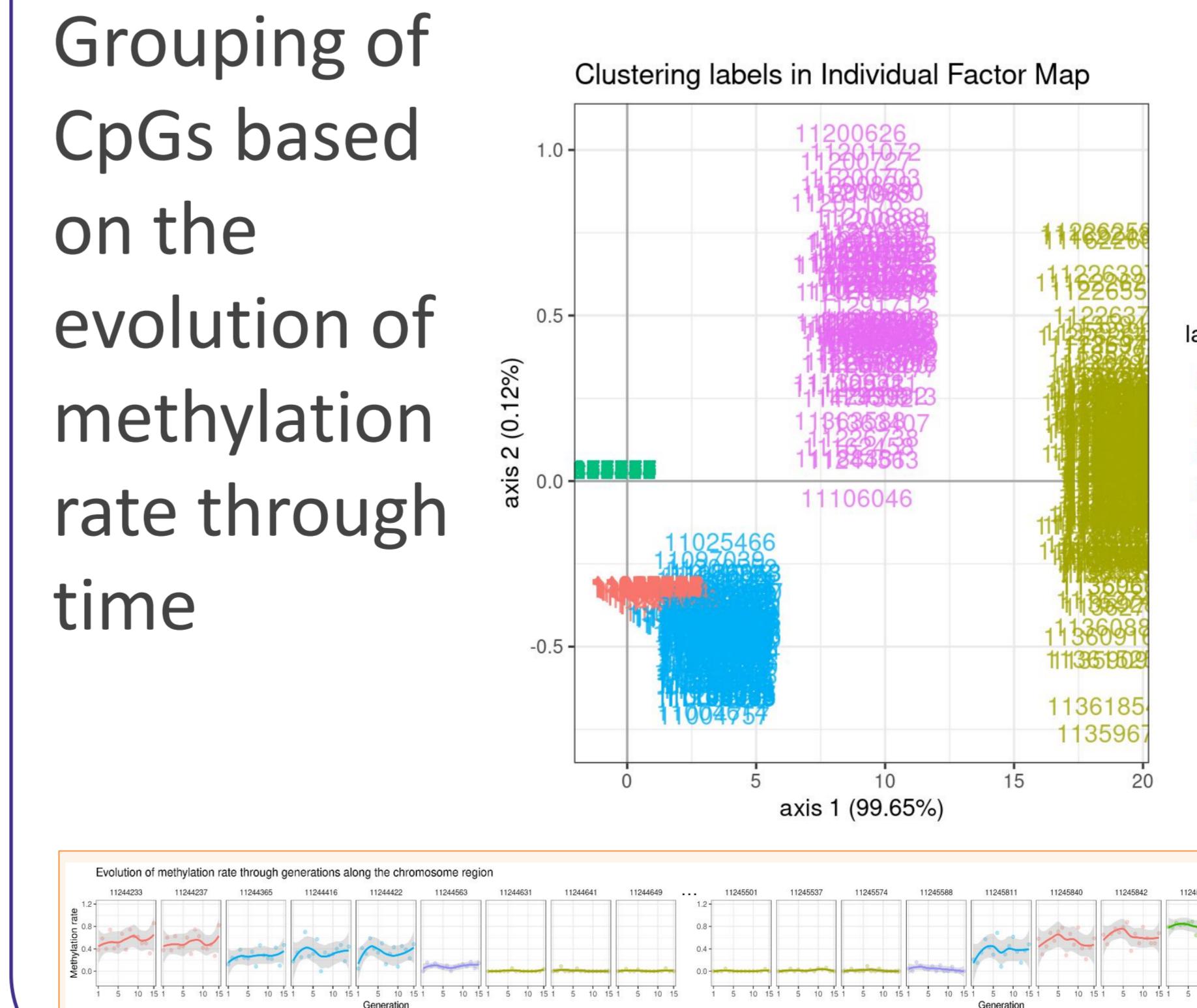
DMC and DMR analysis:

P-value of DMC and significant DMR (in orange)



Evolution of methylation rate:

Grouping of CpGs based on the evolution of methylation rate through time



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