



Edinburgh Research Explorer

Parental origin of sequence variants associated with complex diseases

Citation for published version:

Voight, BF, Raychaudhuri, S, Purcell, S, McCarroll, SA, Segrè, AV, Ardlie, K, Burt, NP, Crawford, G, Elliott, AL, Green, T, Guiducci, C, Saxena, R, Daly, MJ, Florez, JC, Altshuler, D, Meigs, JB, Scott, LJ, Welch, RP, Willer, CJ, Ganser, M, Jackson, AU, Stringham, HM, Abecasis, GR, Boehnke, M, Steinthorsdottir, V, Thorleifsson, G, Kong, A, Walters, GB, Thorsteinsdottir, U, Stefansson, K, Dina, C, Proença, C, Cauchi, S, Froguel, P, Zeggini, E, Bumpstead, S, Payne, F, Smith, N, Barroso, I, Ferreira, T, Elliott, KS, Lindgren, CM, Prokopenko, I, Rayner, NW, Robertson, NR, Morris, AP, McCarthy, MI, Huth, C, Grallert, H, Gieger, C, Klopp, N, Meitinger, T, Petersen, A-K, Thorand, B, Wichmann, H-E, Illig, T, Aulchenko, YS, Amin, N, Witteman, J, Hofman, A, Van Duijn, CM, McCulloch, LJ, Bennett, AJ, Groves, CJ, Hassanali, N, Owen, KR, Gloyn, AL, Wu, G, Stein, LD, Langenberg, C, Griffin, S, Wareham, NJ, Hoffmann, OM, Hide, WA, Dupuis, J, Qi, L, Kraft, P, Sun, Q, Hunter, D, Hu, FB, Cornelis, M, VanDam, R, Van Hoek, M, Van Herpt, T, Sijbrands, E, Uitterlinden, A, Navarro, P, Balkau, B, Benediktsson, R, Sigurdsson, G, Blagieva, R, Boehm, BO, Boerwinkle, E, Bonnycastle, LL, Chines, PS, Erdos, MR, Morken, MA, Narisu, N, Swift, AJ, Boström, KB, Bravenboer, B, Charpentier, G, Couper, DJ, Doney, ASF, Morris, AD, Palmer, CNA, Fox, CS, Franklin, CS, Rudan, I, Grarup, N, Hadjadj, S, Thomas Sparsø, NV, Campbell, H, Wilson, JF, Hansen, T, Pedersen, O, Herder, C, Roden, M, Isomaa, B, Tuomi, T, Johnson, PRV, Jørgensen, T, Kao, WHL, Kuusisto, J, Laakso, M, Lauritzen, T, Li, M, Lieveise, A, Lyssenko, V, Nilsson, P, Groop, L, Marre, M, Midthjell, K, Platou, C, Hveem, K, Perry, JRB, Shields, BM, Weedon, MN, Frayling, TM, Hattersley, AT, Rathmann, W, Strassburger, K, Rocheleau, G, Sladek, R, Sampson, MJ, Shrader, P, Tichet, J, Bergman, RN, Collins, FS, Gyllenstein, U, Hitman, GA, Mohlke, KL, Pramstaller, PP, Tuomilehto, J, Walker, M, Watanabe, RM & Pankow, JS 2009, 'Parental origin of sequence variants associated with complex diseases', *Nature*, vol. 462, no. 7275, pp. 868-874. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature08625>

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.1038/nature08625](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature08625)

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

Published In:

Nature

Publisher Rights Statement:

Published in final edited form as:

Nature. 2009 December 17; 462(7275): 868–874. doi:10.1038/nature08625.

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.



Published in final edited form as:

Nature. 2009 December 17; 462(7275): 868–874. doi:10.1038/nature08625.

Parental origin of sequence variants associated with complex diseases

Augustine Kong¹, Valgerdur Steinthorsdottir^{1,*}, Gisli Masson^{1,*}, Gudmar Thorleifsson^{1,*}, Patrick Sulem¹, Soren Besenbacher¹, Aslaug Jonasdottir¹, Asgeir Sigurdsson¹, Kari Th. Kristinsson¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Michael L. Frigge¹, Arnaldur Gylfason¹, Pall I. Olason¹, Sigurjon A. Gudjonsson¹, Sverrir Sverrisson¹, Simon N. Stacey¹, Bardur Sigurgeirsson², Kristrun R. Benediktsdottir³, Helgi Sigurdsson⁴, Thorvaldur Jonsson⁵, Rafn Benediktsson⁶, Jon H. Olafsson², Oskar Th. Johannsson⁴, Astradur B. Hreidarsson⁶, Gunnar Sigurdsson⁶, the DIAGRAM Consortium, Anne C. Ferguson-Smith⁷, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,8}, and Kari Stefansson^{1,8}

¹deCODE genetics, Sturlugata 8, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland ²Department of Dermatology, Landspítali-University Hospital, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland ³Department of Pathology, Landspítali-University Hospital, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland ⁴Department of Oncology, Landspítali-University Hospital, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland. ⁵Department of Surgery, Landspítali-University Hospital, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland ⁶Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Landspítali-University Hospital, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland ⁷Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience, University of Cambridge, UK. ⁸Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland.

Abstract

Effects of susceptibility variants may depend on from which parent they are inherited. While many associations between sequence variants and human traits have been discovered through genome-wide associations, the impact of parental origin has largely been ignored. Combining genealogy with long range phasing, we demonstrate that for 38,167 Icelanders genotyped using SNP chips, the parental origin of most alleles can be determined. We then focused on SNPs that associate with diseases and are within 500kb of known imprinted genes. Seven independent SNP associations were examined. Five, one each with breast cancer and basal cell carcinoma, and three with type 2 diabetes (T2D), exhibit parental-origin specific associations. These variants are located in two genomic regions, 11p15 and 7q32, each harbouring a cluster of imprinted genes. Furthermore, a novel variant rs2334499 at 11p15 was seen to associate with T2D where the allele that confers risk when paternally inherited is protective when maternally transmitted. We identified a differentially

Corresponding authors: Augustine Kong, deCODE genetics, Sturlugata 8, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland. kong@decode.is, Phone: 354-5701931, fax 354-5702850. Kari Stefansson, deCODE genetics, Sturlugata 8, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland. kstefans@decode.is, Phone:354-5701900, fax 354-5701901..

*These authors contributed equally

Author Contributions A.K. and K.S. planned and directed the research. A.K. wrote the first draft of the paper and together with K.S., V.S., G.M., G.T. and U.T. did most of the writing for the final version. A.K. and G.M. designed the method to determine parental origin. G.M., with assistance from P.I.O., implemented the algorithm. D.F.G. wrote the code for association analysis taking parental origin into account and performed some initial analyses. P.S., S.B. and S.S. tabulated the established disease associated variants and the regions known to harbour imprinted genes. V.S. and G.T. contributed to the analysis of the diabetes data and, together with A.K. and U.T., planned the follow-up association and functional studies. A.G., A.K. and M.L.F. imputed the un-typed SNPs. S.N.S. and P.S. were responsible for the breast cancer and BCC data. A.B.H, G.S and R.B provided clinical data for T2D, O.T.J., T.J. and H.S. provided clinical data for breast cancer, and J.H.O., B.S. and K.R.B. for BCC. The DIAGRAM consortium provided the novel T2D associated variants that are close to imprinted genes. Aslaug J., A.S., Adalbjorg J., K.T.K. and S.A.G. performed the methylation and expression studies. A.C.F.S. assisted in the interpretation of the results from the association and functional studies.

Supplementary information accompanies this paper

Author Information The authors declare competing financial interest.

methylated CTCF binding site at 11p15 and demonstrated correlation of rs2334499 with decreased methylation of that site.

The effect of sequence variants on phenotypes may depend on parental origin. The most obvious scenario, although not the only one¹, is imprinting where the effect is limited to the allele inherited from a parent of specific sex. Despite this, most reports of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) treated the paternal and maternal alleles as exchangeable. While this is understandable as the information required is often unavailable, it reduces the power to discover some susceptibility variants and underestimates the effects of others, contributing to unexplained heritability. Here we describe a new method that allows us to systematically determine parental origin of haplotypes even when parents of probands are not genotyped. The results are used to discover associations that exhibit parental-origin specific effects.

DETERMINING PARENTAL ORIGIN

Previously², we introduced the method of long range phasing that allows for accurate phasing of Icelandic samples typed with Illumina bead chips for regions up to 10 cMs in length. Two advances have been made since then, stitching and parental origin determination. Genome-wide, long range phasing was applied to overlapping tiles, each 6 cM in length, with 3 cM overlap between consecutive tiles. For each tile, we attempted to determine the parental origins of the two phased haplotypes regardless of whether the parents of the proband were chip-typed. Using the Icelandic genealogy database, for each of the two haplotypes of a proband, a search was performed to identify, among those individuals also known to carry the same haplotype, the closest relative on each of the paternal and maternal sides (Figure 1). Results for the two haplotypes were combined into a robust single-tile score reflecting the relative likelihood of the two possible parental origin assignments (score > 0 supporting one assignment and score < 0 supporting the other assignment, see Methods for details). We then tried to stitch the haplotypes from consecutive tiles together based on sharing at the overlapping region. Stitching and parental origin determination are complementary tasks. Specifically, if parental origin is determined with high confidence for one tile the information can be propagated to other tiles through stitching (Supplementary Figure 1A). Conversely, in cases where the overlap between two adjacent tiles is homozygous for all SNPs, stitching can still be accomplished if parental origins can be determined for both tiles independently (Supplementary Figure 1B). For haplotypes derived by stitching, a contig-score for parental origin is computed by summing the individual single-tile scores.

After filtering based on various quality and yield criteria, 289,658 autosomal markers and 8,411 markers on chromosome X were used. Excluding those with no parent listed in the genealogy database or with less than 98% genotyping yield, 38,167 individuals, a majority typed with Illumina HumanHap300/CNV370 bead chips (Supplementary Information), were processed. For these individuals, 97.8% of the heterozygous genotypes were long range phased, 99.8% of these had parental origin determined. Overall, 3,841,331,873 heterozygous genotypes, 97.7% of those called, had parental origin assigned. The data includes 2,879 typed trios. To empirically evaluate the accuracy of our method, a run was performed with the data of parents in these trios removed when determining parental origin. For 231,585,437 heterozygous genotypes in the probands/offspring, parental origin was determined both by our method and by the trio data directly, with 500,330 discrepancies, an error rate of $500,300/231,585,437 = 0.22\%$. Since the trios tested have passed heritability checks in pre-processing, the error rate for individuals with fewer than two parents genotyped is probably higher. Still, the overall error rate is likely below 0.4% (Supplementary Information).

IMPRINTING AND DISEASE ASSOCIATION

While many mechanisms can lead to parental origin specific association with a phenotype, *a priori* sequence variants located close to imprinted genes are more likely to exhibit such behaviour. Through two sources, Luedi *et al.*³ and the Imprinted Gene Catalogue^{4, 5}, we found forty eight genes known to be imprinted in humans (Supplementary Table 1). Selecting regions that fall within 500 kb of any of these genes (Build 36 of the Human Genome Assembly) amounts to approximately 1% of the genome. The 500 kb threshold was chosen because imprinted genes often occur in clusters and the imprinting status of genes close to known imprinted genes is often undetermined. It is also known that a sequence variant can directly affect the function of a gene located some distance away. Among the 298,069 SNPs we processed, 3840 fall within these selected regions.

Consulting the Catalogue of Published Genome-Wide Association Studies⁶, we intersected reported SNP-disease associations with $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ with the selected regions (Supplementary Table 2). Further restricting to diseases for which we have published genome scans, 4 associations remained. Three other SNP associations we were aware of that fall within the imprinted regions, one recently published by us for basal cell carcinoma⁷ and two established by the Diabetes Genetics Replication and Meta-analysis (DIAGRAM) Consortium, were also examined.

ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS

For each disease-SNP association, five tests were performed (Table 1). A standard case-control test without taking parental origin into account was performed to provide a baseline. Then a case-control analysis was performed separately for the paternally and maternally inherited alleles. A two-degree of freedom test was applied to evaluate the joint effect. A multiplicative model was assumed for the two alleles, but the magnitude and direction of the effect were allowed to differ. Finally, the difference between the effects of the paternally and maternally inherited alleles was directly tested by comparing their allele frequencies within cases. The information for this test mainly comes from the counts of the two types of heterozygotes within cases. (see Supplementary Information for details).

Among the 7 associations examined, one with prostate cancer (PrC) and another with coronary artery disease (CAD), did not exhibit parental-origin specific effects (Supplementary Information and Supplementary Table 3). The 5 associations that did are presented here.

Breast Cancer

Allele C of rs3817198 in the 11p15 region (Figure 2) was reported⁸ to be associated with breast cancer with an allelic OR of 1.07 ($P = 3 \times 10^{-9}$). This study included about 21,860 cases and 22,578 controls allowing for such a modest effect to achieve genome-wide significance. A study⁹ of CGEMS (The Cancer Genetic Markers of Susceptibility Project) with 9,770 cases and 10,799 controls reported ORs of 1.02 and 1.12 for heterozygous and homozygous carriers of the same variant respectively. Using information in their supplementary material, we deduced a P of 0.06. Rs3817198 is not on the Illumina chips used to type the majority of the Icelandic samples, but is included on the 1M Illumina chips for which we have data on 124 trios. Single track assay was used to type another 90 trios, giving a total of 214 trios with genotypes for rs3817198 that translates to a training set of 856 haplotypes. Adapting the statistical model employed by IMPUTE¹⁰, allele probabilities of rs3817198 were calculated for individuals with phased and parental origin determined haplotypes for this region (see Supplementary Information for details). With the imputation results for 1,803 cases and 34,909 controls (Table 1), the standard case-control test gave a

non-significant OR of 1.04 ($P=0.36$). However, when parental origin was taken into account, the paternally inherited allele showed a significant association (OR = 1.17, $P=0.0038$). The direct test of parental-origin specific effects that used only the case data was even more significant ($P=6.2 \times 10^{-4}$). This is because the estimated effect of the C allele when maternally inherited, while not significant ($P=0.11$), is protective (OR = 0.91).

Basal Cell Carcinoma

We recently identified association of allele T of rs157935, located at 7q32 (Figure 3), with basal cell carcinoma (OR = 1.23, $P=5.7 \times 10^{-10}$)⁷. Limiting the analysis to samples for which parental origin could be determined, the paternally inherited allele was significantly associated with the disease (OR = 1.40, $P=1.5 \times 10^{-6}$), but the effect of maternally inherited allele, while in the same direction, was not significant (OR = 1.09, $P=0.19$) (Table 1). Tested directly, the effects of the paternally and maternally inherited alleles were significantly different ($P=0.010$).

Type 2 Diabetes

Allele C of rs2237892 in the maternally expressed gene *KCNQ1* was first observed to be associated with T2D in Asian populations^{11, 12}. Power to detect association in populations of European ancestry is low due to the high frequency of the variant there (~93% compared to ~61% in Asians), but the association has nonetheless been replicated^{11, 12}. In the T2D samples we have previously employed in genome-scans (Table 1) that include 1,468 cases, none of the tests involving parental origin were significant for rs2237892. But when a new T2D list (Supplementary Information) allowed us to add 783 patients, giving a total of 2,251 cases, allele C was significantly associated with the disease (OR = 1.30, $P=0.0084$) when maternally transmitted, while the results for the paternally inherited allele were flat (OR = 1.03, $P=0.71$).

Through a meta-analysis of large numbers of T2D genome-wide scans with additional follow-up within the DIAGRAM consortium (Supplementary Information), allele C of rs231362 was shown to associate with the disease (OR = 1.08, $P=3 \times 10^{-13}$). Rs231362 is also located in *KCNQ1* (Figure 2), but it is not substantially correlated with rs2237892 ($r^2=0.002$). Rs231362 is not on any of the Illumina chips used. A training set of 912 haplotypes, created through single track assay genotyping of 228 trios, was used for imputation of rs231362 into the Icelandic samples. Employing the imputed results, the standard case-control test gave an OR of 1.10 ($P=0.013$). The effect, however, appears to be limited to the maternally inherited allele (OR = 1.23, $P=6.2 \times 10^{-5}$).

Another association with T2D established by the DIAGRAM consortium is allele C of rs4731702 at 7q32 (OR = 1.07, $P=2 \times 10^{-10}$) (Figure 3). In our combined samples, the association was again restricted to the maternally inherited allele (OR = 1.17, $P=0.0010$) (OR = 0.99, $P=0.79$ for the paternally inherited allele).

Evaluating the 7 known susceptibility variants jointly, the five highlighted above plus the two variants for PrC and CAD mentioned earlier, the test of no parental-specific effect for all gave a $P < 5 \times 10^{-6}$. Also, false-discovery rate¹³ analysis indicates that it is likely that at least four out of five highlighted variants have true parental-origin specific effect (Supplementary Information).

A novel diabetes susceptibility variant

Properly evaluating the statistical significance of the susceptibility variants described above requires adjusting for relatedness of the participants using the method of genomic control¹⁴. This required performing genome scans for these diseases (Supplementary Table 4 gives

parental-origin test results for established susceptibility variants located outside the selected regions). The T2D scan performed with the initial sample set (Supplementary Information and Supplementary Figure 2) gave a striking result (Table 1). Allele T of rs2334499, at 11p15 (Figure 2), showed such a weak association (OR = 1.11, $P=0.017$) in the standard case-control test that it does not stand out in a genome-wide scan. However, taking into account parental origin, both the paternally inherited allele (OR = 1.41, $P=4.3 \times 10^{-9}$) and the 2-df of freedom test ($P=3.5 \times 10^{-9}$) were genome-wide significant. Most intriguing, the maternally inherited allele also showed nominally significant association, but the effect of allele T was protective (OR = 0.87, $P=0.020$). Tested directly, the difference between the effects of the paternally and maternally inherited alleles was also genome-wide significant ($P=7.0 \times 10^{-9}$). This SNP falls within 350 Kb of a large cluster of imprinted genes, making the results even more compelling. Still, the observation that allele T is protective when maternally inherited called for replication. For this, we used an additional set of 783 chip-typed T2D cases. All tests involving parental origin were significantly replicated. For the combined analysis of the two sample sets (Supplementary Information and Supplementary Figure 3), the paternally inherited allele had an OR of 1.35 ($P=4.7 \times 10^{-10}$) and the maternally inherited allele has an OR of 0.86 ($P=0.0020$). The 2-df test and the paternal versus maternal tests gave P of 5.7×10^{-11} and 4.1×10^{-11} respectively.

As there are known examples in an imprinted setting where the paternal and maternal alleles interact¹⁵, we tested rs2334499 for an interactive effect. This test was not significant ($P>0.4$, Supplementary Information) indicating that the multiplicative model provides an adequate fit. Specifically, compared to CT (first allele paternal, second allele maternal), CC, TT and TC have relative risks of 1.17, 1.35 and 1.57 respectively.

The transmitted maternal allele has an effect in all four T2D variants in Table 1. Since prenatal maternal conditions may be a factor in conferring risk on the offspring, we examined the role of the non-transmitted maternal allele. No significant effect was observed (Supplementary Information).

IMPRINTED REGIONS ON 11p15 AND 7q32

Imprinted genes at 11p15.5 fall into two clusters, *H19/IGF2* and *KCNQ1* (Figure 2), regulated through separate imprinting control regions (ICR) that each controls expression of a number of genes within the cluster¹⁶. The *H19/IGF2* ICR is regulated through a differentially methylated region (DMR) that is normally methylated only on the paternal chromosome. Binding of the insulator protein CTCF in the ICR is permitted only on the unmethylated maternal chromosome, resulting in expression of *IGF2* only from the paternal methylated chromosome and expression of *H19* from the chromosome¹⁷. The breast cancer paternally associated marker rs3817198 resides within *LSPI*, 100 kb downstream of *H19* and within the same LD block. The effect of this marker on breast cancer could thus be through the *H19/IGF2* imprinted locus. Loss of imprinting (LOI) at the *H19/IGF2* locus, resulting in activation of *IGF2* expression, has been reported in a number of different tumor types¹⁸. Furthermore, LOI at the *H19/IGF2* locus in normal tissue has also been shown to predispose to colorectal cancer¹⁸.

The *KCNQ1* cluster is regulated through an ICR located in the promoter region of *KCNQ1OT1*, a paternally expressed non-coding antisense RNA. Hypermethylation of the maternal allele results in monoallelic activity of the neighboring maternally expressed protein coding genes. The two T2D associated markers at this locus rs231362 and rs2237892 are both located within the maternally expressed *KCNQ1*, consistent with the risk associations. Rs231362 also residing within the *KCNQ1OT1* antisense transcript (Figure 2).

While both the T2D marker rs2334499 and the breast cancer marker rs3817198 fall within 350 kb of imprinted genes, the region harboring both rs2334499 and rs3817198 has not been reported to be imprinted (Figure 2)¹⁹. The T2D associated marker rs2334499 resides within the first intron of *HCCA2*, a gene spanning 300 kb including several other genes (Figure 2) including *KRTAP5-1 to -5* genes, *DUSP8* and *CTSD*²⁰. To determine if genes in this region showed signs of imprinting we performed allele specific expression analysis of the *HCCA2*, *CTSD* and *DUSP8* genes (Figure 2) as well as three genes known to be imprinted in the 11p15.5 region (*IGF2*, *KCNQ1* and *KCNQ1OT1*), in RNA isolated from peripheral blood and adipose. While allele specific expression of *IGF2*, *KCNQ1* and *KCNQ1OT1* was confirmed in this dataset clear biallelic expression was seen for *HCCA2* and *DUSP8*. However, excess paternal expression could not be ruled out for *CTSD* (Supplementary Information, Supplementary Table 6).

The imprinted region on 7q32 consists of maternally expressed genes (*CPA4* and *KLF14*) flanking paternally expressed genes (*MEST*, *MEST1T1*) (Figure 3). The T2D associated marker rs4731702 is located 14 kb from the maternally expressed *KLF14* transcription factor²¹ and only increases risk of T2D when carried on the maternal chromosome. The basal cell carcinoma variant rs157935, conferring risk through the paternal allele, is located 170 kb telomeric to the imprinted region.

We previously²² correlated SNP genotypes from the Illumina 300K chip to gene expression using RNA samples from adipose tissue (N=603) and peripheral blood (N=745). Here, taking parental origin into account, we re-evaluated the correlation between the six variants in Table 1 and expression of genes at the 7q32 and 11p15.5 loci. Interestingly, the T2D risk allele of rs4731702 at 7q32 correlated with lower expression of *KLF14* in adipose tissue ($P = 3 \times 10^{-21}$) when inherited maternally, but there was no effect when inherited paternally (Supplementary Table 7). Similar correlation was not seen in blood. Conversely, no strong correlation with parent of origin specific gene expression was seen for the other disease associated variants on 7q32 or 11p15.5 (Supplementary Table 7).

METHYLATION OF NOVEL CTCF BINDING SITE

Recent studies have mapped regions of CTCF binding genome-wide for identification of insulator elements^{23, 24}. One of the sites identified (OREG0020670) is a 2 kb region located 17 kb centromeric to our new T2D marker rs2334499 (Figure 2, Supplementary Figure 4). We assessed the methylation status of this CTCF binding region in DNA samples derived from peripheral blood, using bisulfite sequencing. We identified a differentially methylated region of 180 bp including seven CpG dinucleotides (Supplementary Figure 4) where the ratio of 5-methyl cytosine (Cp) varied from around 0.1-0.6. Methylation at five of the seven CpGs (CpG-1 through CpG-5) (Supplementary Figure 4), was highly correlated (Supplementary Table 9). The estimated Cp ratio was tested for correlation with SNPs in a 2 Mb surrounding region. The most significant correlation was observed between methylation status at CpG-4 and rs2334499, $P = 2.6 \times 10^{-13}$ (Table 2). Furthermore, correlation between rs2334499 and methylation of CpG-1 through CpG-5 was significant. For all five CpGs the T2D risk allele correlated with decreased methylation and this effect was observed regardless of whether the allele was inherited from the father or the mother. By contrast, neither the breast cancer variant nor the two other T2D markers at 11p15.5 showed any correlation with the methylation status of this CTCF site.

DISCUSSION

Being able to determine parental origin of alleles and haplotypes in large samples opens up new avenues to study associations between sequence variants and human traits. Standard

association analysis provides suboptimal power to discover disease susceptibility variants that exhibit parental-origin specific effects. Even when association can be established, the true effect is underestimated. Rs2334499 did not capture serious attention even with the large collaborative effort of the DIAGRAM consortium. However, its contribution to T2D, measured by the recurrent risks of siblings generated, is second only to that of the *TCF7L2* variant among the known susceptibility variants (Supplementary Information and Supplementary Figure 2). Sequence variants such as rs2334499 that can confer both risk and protection depending on parental origin can lead to balanced selection and in that promote diversity.

Functional imprinting is extremely tissue and stage-specific and while some genes retain their imprinted status throughout life the main role of imprinting is believed to be during prenatal growth and development. However, the associations of rs4731702 C with T2D and *KLF14* expression in adult adipose tissue, in both cases only when maternally inherited, strongly implicates this transcription factor as the disease gene.

We searched for evidence of epigenetic marks around the novel T2D risk variant rs2334499, as it is located some distance away from the established 11p15.5 imprinted genes. A CTCF binding site in the region was found to be differentially methylated and the rs2334499 risk allele was shown to be correlated with decreased methylation. Given the well established role of CTCF in imprinting, this novel site could differentially influence the dosage of imprinted genes on the two parental chromosomes.

Despite the successes, GWAS have so far yielded sequence variants that only explain a small fraction of the estimated heritability of most of the human traits studied. Obvious contributors to the unexplained heritability, or Dark Matter, include rare variants not well tagged by common SNPs and common variants that have very small effects individually. Results presented here demonstrate that a portion of the heritability of some common/complex traits is hidden in more complex relations between sequence variants and the risks of these variants.

METHODS

Parental Origin Assignment

Let H be a haplotype for a tile T. For a particular proband, $f(T,H)$ and $m(T,H)$ were calculated as respectively the meiotic distance to the closest relative on the father side and the mother side known to carry H. Descendants of the parents of the proband, e.g. siblings of the proband, were excluded for this calculation. Also, a value of 10,000 was assigned when no relatives carrying the haplotype was found. Let A and B be the two phased haplotypes of the proband. The single-tile score for parental origin was calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{score}(T, A, B) &= \text{score}(T, A) - \text{score}(T, B) \\ &= \left(\log \left[1 - 2^{-m(T, A)} \right] - \log \left[1 - 2^{-f(T, A)} \right] \right) - \left(\log \left[1 - 2^{-m(T, B)} \right] - \log \left[1 - 2^{-f(T, B)} \right] \right). \end{aligned}$$

A score that is > 0 supports the assignment of A as the paternally inherited haplotype and B as the maternally inherited haplotype, while a score < 0 supports the reverse. While not meant to be optimal in any formal sense, this scoring was chosen to have two properties. Firstly, for the same absolute difference between $m(T,H)$ and $f(T,H)$, the absolute value of $\text{score}(T,H)$ is higher when the minimum of $m(T,H)$ and $f(T,H)$ is smaller, thus giving more weight to situations when a close relative who shared a haplotype is found. Secondly, the scoring was designed to be robust so that the result from one haplotype in one tile could not completely dominate the contributions from other haplotypes and adjacent tiles when results

were combined (see below). When haplotypes for n consecutive tiles, T_1, \dots, T_n , could be stitched together to form $A = (A_1, \dots, A_n)$ and $B = (B_1, \dots, B_n)$, then the contig score for parental origin assignment was calculated as

$$\text{contig-score}(T_1, \dots, T_n) = \sum_{i=1, \dots, n} \text{score}(T_i).$$

Parental original were assigned based on whether the contig-score was greater or smaller than zero. Most importantly, the accuracy of this procedure was evaluated using the trio test.

Acknowledgments

This project was funded in part by FP7-MC-IAPP Grant agreement no. 218071 (CancerGene) to deCODE Genetics.

References

1. Rampersaud E, Mitchell BD, Naj AC, Pollin TI. Investigating parent of origin effects in studies of type 2 diabetes and obesity. *Curr Diabetes Rev.* 2008; 4:329–39. [PubMed: 18991601]
2. Kong A, et al. Detection of sharing by descent, long-range phasing and haplotype imputation. *Nat Genet.* 2008
3. Luedi PP, et al. Computational and experimental identification of novel human imprinted genes. *Genome Res.* 2007; 17:1723–30. [PubMed: 18055845]
4. Morison IM, Paton CJ, Cleverley SD. The imprinted gene and parent-of-origin effect database. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2001; 29:275–6. [PubMed: 11125110]
5. Morison IM, Ramsay JP, Spencer HG. A census of mammalian imprinting. *Trends Genet.* 2005; 21:457–65. [PubMed: 15990197]
6. Hindorf, LA.; Junkins, HA.; Mehta, JP.; Manolio, TA. [Accessed April 25th 2009] A Catalog of Published Genome-Wide Association Studies. Available at: www.genome.gov/gwastudies
7. Stacey SN, et al. New common variants affecting susceptibility to basal cell carcinoma. *Nat Genet.* 2009; 41:909–14. [PubMed: 19578363]
8. Easton DF, et al. Genome-wide association study identifies novel breast cancer susceptibility loci. *Nature.* 2007; 447:1087–93. [PubMed: 17529967]
9. Thomas G, et al. A multistage genome-wide association study in breast cancer identifies two new risk alleles at 1p11.2 and 14q24.1 (RAD51L1). *Nat Genet.* 2009; 41:579–84. [PubMed: 19330030]
10. Marchini J, Howie B, Myers S, McVean G, Donnelly P. A new multipoint method for genome-wide association studies by imputation of genotypes. *Nat Genet.* 2007; 39:906–13. [PubMed: 17572673]
11. Yasuda K, et al. Variants in KCNQ1 are associated with susceptibility to type 2 diabetes mellitus. *Nat Genet.* 2008; 40:1092–7. [PubMed: 18711367]
12. Unoki H, et al. SNPs in KCNQ1 are associated with susceptibility to type 2 diabetes in East Asian and European populations. *Nat Genet.* 2008; 40:1098–102. [PubMed: 18711366]
13. Storey JD, Tibshirani R. Statistical significance for genomewide studies. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2003; 100:9440–5. [PubMed: 12883005]
14. Devlin B, Roeder K. Genomic control for association studies. *Biometrics.* 1999; 55:997–1004. [PubMed: 11315092]
15. Georges M, Charlier C, Cockett N. The callipyge locus: evidence for the trans interaction of reciprocally imprinted genes. *Trends Genet.* 2003; 19:248–52. [PubMed: 12711215]
16. Ideraabdullah FY, Vigneau S, Bartolomei MS. Genomic imprinting mechanisms in mammals. *Mutat Res.* 2008; 647:77–85. [PubMed: 18778719]
17. Bell AC, Felsenfeld G. Methylation of a CTCF-dependent boundary controls imprinted expression of the *Igf2* gene. *Nature.* 2000; 405:482–5. [PubMed: 10839546]
18. Feinberg AP. Phenotypic plasticity and the epigenetics of human disease. *Nature.* 2007; 447:433–40. [PubMed: 17522677]

19. Goldberg M, Wei M, Yuan L, Murty VV, Tycko B. Biallelic expression of HRAS and MUCDHL in human and mouse. *Hum Genet.* 2003; 112:334–42. [PubMed: 12589428]
20. Authier F, Metioui M, Fabrega S, Kouach M, Briand G. Endosomal proteolysis of internalized insulin at the C-terminal region of the B chain by cathepsin D. *J Biol Chem.* 2002; 277:9437–46. [PubMed: 11779865]
21. Parker-Katiraei L, et al. Identification of the imprinted KLF14 transcription factor undergoing human-specific accelerated evolution. *PLoS Genet.* 2007; 3:e65. [PubMed: 17480121]
22. Emilsson V, et al. Genetics of gene expression and its effect on disease. *Nature.* 2008; 452:423–8. [PubMed: 18344981]
23. Kim TH, et al. Analysis of the vertebrate insulator protein CTCF-binding sites in the human genome. *Cell.* 2007; 128:1231–45. [PubMed: 17382889]
24. Cuddapah S, et al. Global analysis of the insulator binding protein CTCF in chromatin barrier regions reveals demarcation of active and repressive domains. *Genome Res.* 2009; 19:24–32. [PubMed: 19056695]

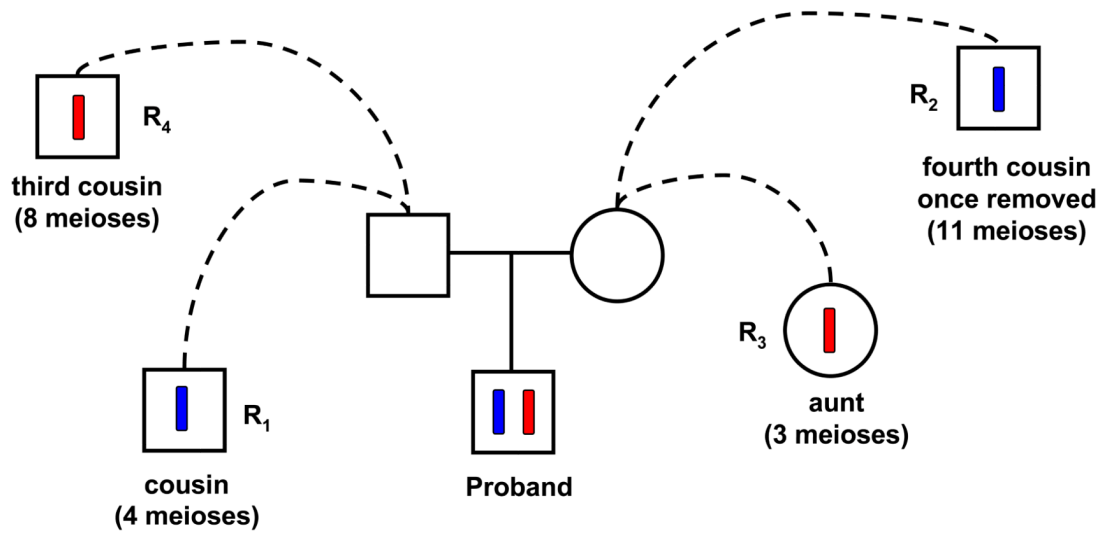


Figure 1. An example of parental origin determination

In blue and red are two phased haplotypes of a proband. Among other typed individuals, the closest paternal relative known to also carry the blue haplotype is R₁, a cousin, while the corresponding maternal relative is R₂. For the red haplotype, a maternal aunt (R₃) carries the haplotype, while the closest known carrier on the father side is R₄. Since R₁ is a closer than R₂ and R₃ is a closer than R₄, the blue and red haplotypes are likely paternally and maternally inherited respectively. The single-tilde score (see Methods) supporting this assignment is 0.194.

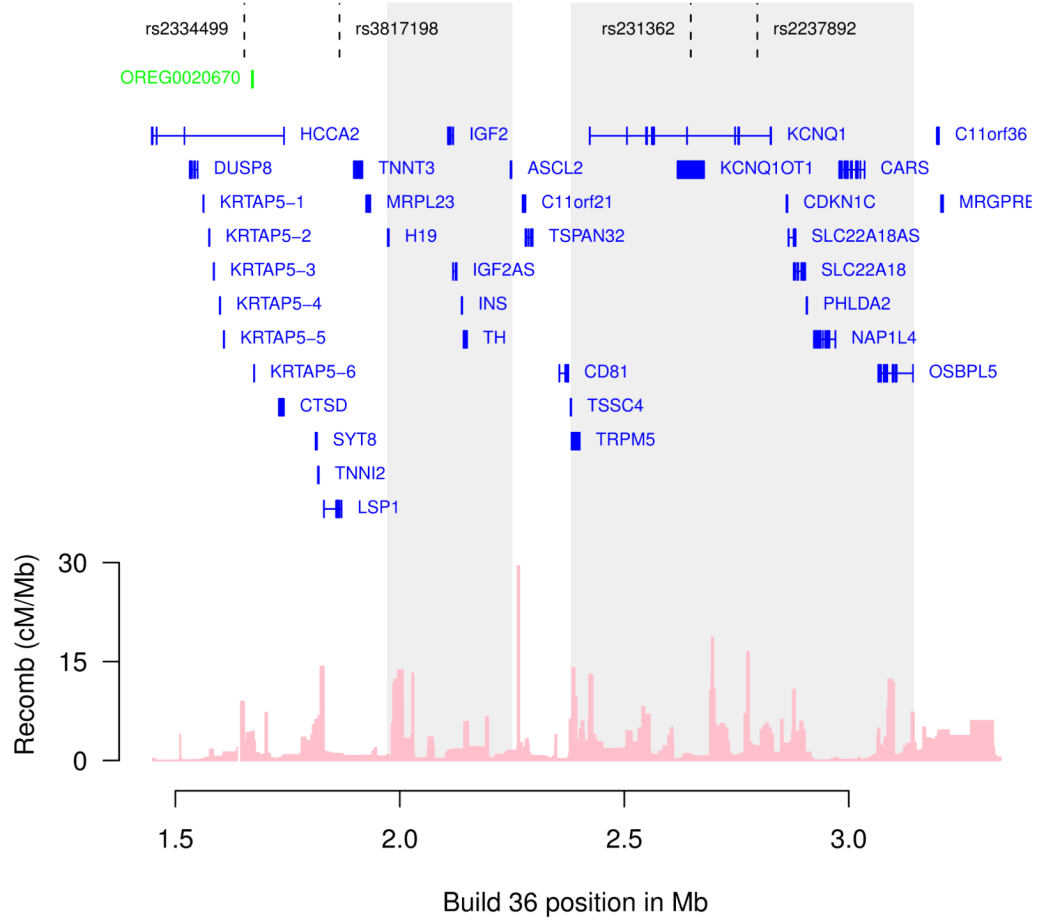


Figure 2. Chromosome 11p15 locus

Markers associated with T2D (rs2334499, rs231362, rs2237892) as well as breast cancer (rs3817198), are indicated. The two regions containing clusters of imprinted genes are shaded. Location of the CTCF binding region studied (OREG0020670) and gene annotations were taken from the University of California Santa Cruz genome browser. Estimated recombination rates (from HapMap) are plotted to reflect the linkage disequilibrium structure in the region.

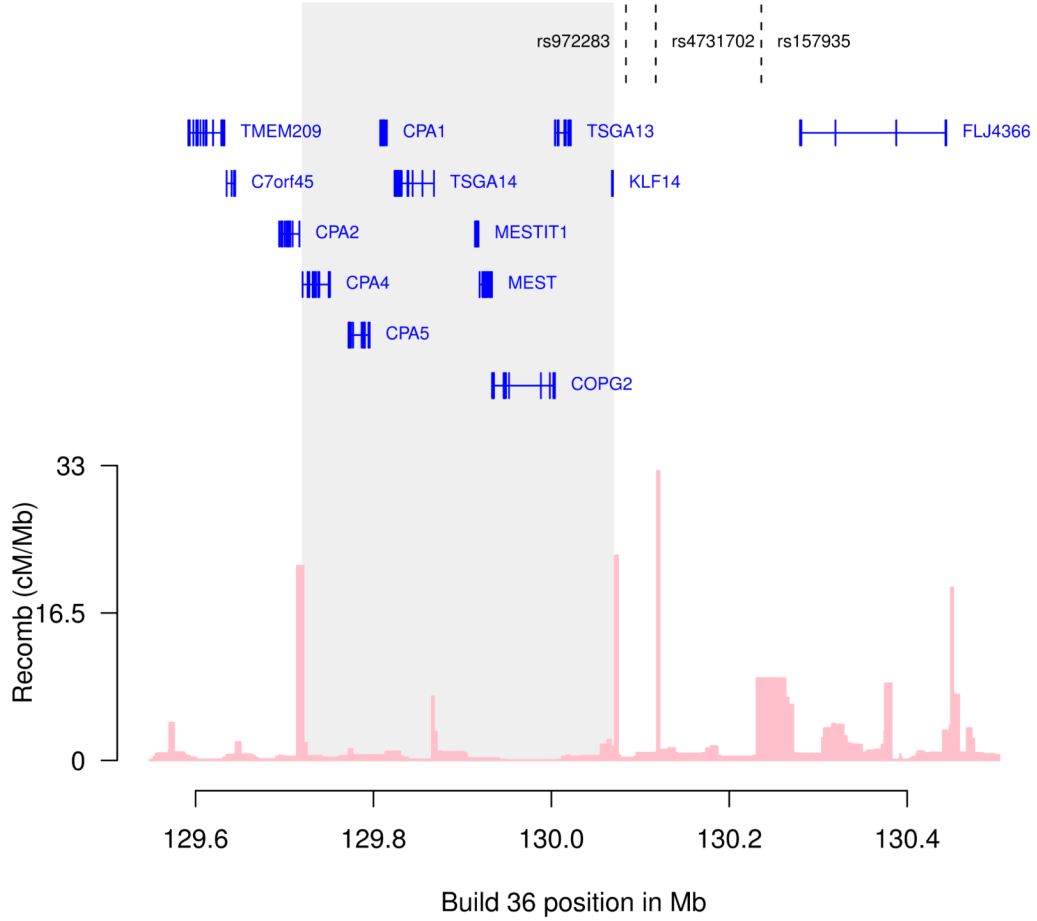


Figure 3. Chromosome 7q32 locus

Markers associated with T2D (rs4731702, rs972283) as well as basal cell carcinoma (rs157935), are indicated. Rs972283, reported in the DIAGRAM study is not on the Illumina chip. Data on the correlated marker rs4731702 ($r^2 = 1$, HapMap Ceu) is reported here. The region containing the known imprinted genes is shaded. Gene annotations were taken from the University of California Santa Cruz genome browser. Estimated recombination rates (from HapMap) are plotted to reflect the linkage disequilibrium structure in the region.

Table 1

Parental Origin Specific Analyses of Disease Susceptibility Variants

Disease, SNP[Alleles] ^d	Position B36	(M) ^b	Standard case-control test			Tests of association with parental origins														
			Con. Frq.	OR	P †	Paternal Allele ^d	OR	P †	Maternal Allele ^d	OR	P †	2-df test ^e	P. vs M. (case only)							
N (Case Sample Size)																				
Breast Cancer																				
rs3817198 C [C/T]		(34909)																		
C11 1,865,582		(1803)	0.303	1.04	0.36	1.17	0.0038	0.91	0.11	0.0040	437 : 339	6.2 × 10 ⁻⁴								
Basal Cell Carcinoma																				
rs157935 [T/G]		(37041)																		
C7 130,236,093		(1118)	0.676	1.23	1.8 × 10 ⁻⁵	1.40	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁶	1.09	0.19	3.8 × 10 ⁻⁶	237 : 182	0.010								
T2D, rs2237892 [C/T]																				
C11 2,796,327		(34706)																		
Discovery (1468)			0.925	1.19	0.044	1.14	0.24	1.24	0.071	0.095	81 : 90	0.51								
Replication (783)				1.08	0.43	0.87	0.30	1.43	0.024	0.050	35 : 59	0.014								
Combined (2251)				1.15	0.043	1.03	0.71	1.30	0.0084	0.027	116 : 149	0.054								
T2D, rs231362 C [C/T]																				
C11 2,648,047		(33377)																		
Discovery (1423)			0.551	1.09	0.051	0.97	0.67	1.23	0.0010	0.0037	329 : 401	0.014								
Replication (750)				1.10	0.073	1.00	0.99	1.22	0.011	0.037	158 : 191	0.098								
Combined (2173)				1.10	0.013	0.98	0.73	1.23	6.2 × 10 ⁻⁵	2.6 × 10 ⁻⁴	487 : 592	0.0032								
T2D, rs4731702 [C/T]																				
C7 130,083,924		(34706)																		
Discovery (1468)			0.439	1.15	0.0018	1.07	0.24	1.23	6.4 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.0013	335 : 374	0.17								
Replication (783)				0.95	0.38	0.84	0.024	1.08	0.31	0.048	163 : 204	0.037								
Combined(2251)				1.08	0.039	0.99	0.79	1.17	0.0010	0.0041	498 : 578	0.022								
T2D, rs2334499 [T/C]																				

Disease, SNP/Alleles ^a	Standard case-control test	Tests of association with parental origins											
		(M) ^b	Con. Frq. (34706)	OR	P [†]	Paternal Allele ^d	Maternal Allele ^d	2-df test ^e	P. vs M. (case only)				
Position B36													
N (Case Sample Size)													
C11 1,653,425													
Discovery (1468)		0.412	1.11	0.017	1.41	4.3×10^{-9}	0.87	0.020	3.5×10^{-9}	437 : 276	7.0×10^{-9}		
Replication (783)			1.02	0.71	1.23	0.0055	0.84	0.023	0.0018	222 : 157	8.0×10^{-4}		
Combined (2251)			1.08	0.034	1.35	4.7×10^{-10}	0.86	0.0020	5.7×10^{-11}	659 : 433	4.1×10^{-11}		

^aThe first allele is the risk allele based on analyses that do not take into account parent of origin.

^bSize of the control set.

^cImputed allele probabilities were used.

^dEffect of the paternally inherited allele is tested by comparing the corresponding alleles in cases to those in controls. Effect of the maternally inherited allele is similarly tested.

^eTest assumes a multiplicative effect for the paternally and maternally inherited alleles, but allows the effects to be different under the alternative hypothesis when the null hypothesis of no effect is tested.

^fTo directly test whether the paternally and maternally inherited alleles have different effects, their allele frequencies were compared within the cases. Information for this test is mainly captured by the counts of the two types of heterozygotes; n12 denotes the number of cases who have inherited allele 1 from the father and allele 2 from the mother, and n21 is the reverse.

[†]Genomic control was applied.

Table 2

Methylation of a CTCF binding region is correlated with the T2D risk variant rs2334499

	% Methylation Mean (SE) ^a	Effect ^b	P-value ^c
CpG-1	22.9 (0.9)	-5.7	6.5×10 ⁻⁷
CpG-2	15.3 (0.7)	-3.1	0.00055
CpG-3	13.3 (0.8)	-2.5	0.017
CpG-4	56.7 (0.9)	-8.4	2.6×10 ⁻¹³
CpG-5	34.9 (0.9)	-6.7	6.8×10 ⁻⁸
CpG-6	22.2 (0.6)	-1.0	0.24
CpG-7	52.9 (1.1)	-1.5	0.30

^a% Methylation at each site shown is the mean and the standard error (SE) of the C/T ratio estimated by bisulfite sequencing of 168 individuals.

^bChange in percentage methylation per allele T of rs2334499 carried.

^cSignificance of the correlation between methylation and rs2334499.