

# Genetic dating indicates that the Asian–Papuan admixture through Eastern Indonesia corresponds to the Austronesian expansion

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Edited by Masatoshi Nei, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, and approved February 3, 2012 (received for review November 17, 2011)

**Although the Austronesian expansion had a major impact on the languages of Island Southeast Asia, controversy still exists over the genetic impact of this expansion. The coexistence of both Asian and Papuan genetic ancestry in Eastern Indonesia provides a unique opportunity to address this issue. Here, we estimate recombination breakpoints in admixed genomes based on genome-wide SNP data and date the genetic admixture between populations of Asian vs. Papuan ancestry in Eastern Indonesia. Analyses of two genome-wide datasets indicate an eastward progression of the Asian admixture signal in Eastern Indonesia beginning about 4,000–3,000 y ago, which is in excellent agreement with inferences based on Austronesian languages. The average rate of spread of Asian genes in Eastern Indonesia was about 0.9 km/y. Our results indicate that the Austronesian expansion had a strong genetic as well as linguistic impact on Island Southeast Asia, and they significantly advance our understanding of the biological origins of human populations in the Asia–Pacific region.**

expansion time | admixture time | migration rate | single nucleotide polymorphism

The spread of Austronesian-speaking peoples ultimately extended well over halfway around the world from Madagascar in the west to Easter Island in the east. This process is often termed the Austronesian expansion, which represents a complex demographic process of interaction between migrating Neolithic farmers and indigenous Mesolithic hunter–gatherer communities, a frequent phenomenon in world prehistory. However, our knowledge about the historical origin and spread of Austronesian-speaking peoples has been overwhelmingly from linguistic, archaeological, and anthropological studies (1). The genetic impact of the Austronesian expansion has been contested, with some studies claiming that the genetic ancestry of Island Southeast Asia mostly reflects pre-Austronesian migrations (2, 3) and that the Austronesian expansion did not involve large-scale population movements (4).

Eastern Indonesia (consisting of the Nusa Tenggara and Moluccas) (Figs. 1 and 2) provides a unique opportunity to investigate the extent to which the genetic ancestry in this region reflects Austronesian or pre-Austronesian migration(s). Both Asian and Papuan (related to New Guinea) genetic ancestry is evident in East Indonesia based on mtDNA and Y-chromosome studies (5, 6) as well as a recent study (7) of multiple autosomal and X-chromosomal SNPs, and there is a decline in Asian ancestry (and corresponding increase in Papuan ancestry) going from west to east. Because the time of the entry of the Austronesians into Indonesia has been dated by both archaeological and linguistic evidence to about 4,000 y ago (8, 9), estimating the time of the admixture between Asian and Papuan ancestry in East Indonesian groups could, therefore, distinguish between a pre-Austronesian vs. Austronesian explanation for the Asian ances-

try. However, none of the previous genetic studies of East Indonesia analyzed sufficiently dense genome-wide data to estimate the admixture time, which relies on recombination information extracted from throughout the genome. In this study, we use high-density genome-wide SNP data to estimate the amount and time of admixture in East Indonesian groups to determine if the admixture time corresponds to Austronesian or pre-Austronesian expansions.

## Results

We analyzed dense genome-wide SNP data from two studies (10, 11). The first study consists of about 50,000 SNPs analyzed in 288 individuals from 13 Austronesian-speaking populations and two Papuan-speaking populations across Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (Table 1), whereas the second study consists of about 680,000 SNPs analyzed in 36 individuals from 7 populations from Indonesia and 25 individuals from Papua New Guinea (Table 2). Apart from a general description of population structure and its relationship with geography, language, and demographic history, we focus on estimating the amount and time of admixture involving Asian and Papuan ancestry across East Indonesia. Because genetic recombination breaks down parental genomes into segments of different sizes, the genome of a descendant of an admixture event is composed of different combinations of these ancestral segments or blocks (12). Admixture time can be estimated from the information based on the distribution of ancestral segments and the recombination breakpoints in an admixed genome (12–16).

**Genetic Relationship of Populations, Correlation of Genetic Ancestry and Linguistic Affiliations, and Geography.** We first analyzed relationships among individuals in the Pan-Asian SNP dataset using principle component (PC) analysis based on genome-wide data. Fig. 1A is a 2D plot displaying the first two PCs for all individuals. Individuals tend to cluster with other members of their linguistic or ethnic affiliations, especially for the Papuan [New Guinea Human Genome Diversity Project–Centre d’Etude du Polymorphisme Humain (HGDP-CEPH) group] and Melanesian (Bougainville HGDP-CEPH group) samples. The first PC axis shows an obvious separation of the Papuan and West Indonesian (ID-MT, ID-ML, ID-SU, ID-JA, ID-JV, and ID-DY)

Author contributions: S.X. designed research; S.X. performed research; S.X., M.K., and T.H.P.-A.S.C. contributed new reagents/analytic tools; S.X. and I.P. analyzed data; and S.X., I.P., M.S., and L.J. wrote the paper.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

This article is a PNAS Direct Submission.

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This article contains supporting information online at [www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1118892109/-DCSupplemental](http://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1118892109/-DCSupplemental).





**Table 1. Information on population samples in the Pan-Asian dataset**

Sample ID	Sample size	Latitude	Longitude	Ethnicity	Language	Language family
ID-MT	15	0.3 S	98.4 E	Mentawai	Mentawai	Austronesian
ID-ML	12	3.0 S	104.7 E	Malay	Malay	Austronesian
ID-SU	25	6.2 S	106.7 E	Sundanese	Sunda	Austronesian
ID-JA	34	6.2 S	106.7 E	Javanese	Javanese	Austronesian
ID-JV	19	7.3 S	110.4 E	Javanese	Javanese	Austronesian
ID-DY	12	1.2 S	116.7 E	Dayak	Benuak	Austronesian
ID-TR	20	4.7 S	119.7 E	Toraja	Toraja	Austronesian
ID-SB	20	9.8 S	120.0 E	Kambera	Kambera	Austronesian
ID-RA	17	8.7 S	120.5 E	Manggarai	Manggarai	Austronesian
ID-SO	19	8.6 S	120.1 E	Manggarai	Manggarai	Austronesian
ID-LA	20	8.3 S	123.0 E	Lamaholot	Lamaholot	Austronesian
ID-LE	19	8.3 S	124.6 E	Lembata	Lembata	Austronesian
ID-AL	19	8.3 S	124.7 E	Alorese	Alor	Austronesian
Papuan	17	4.0 S	143.0 E	Papuan	East Papuan	Papuan
Melanesian	20	6.0 S	155.0 E	Melanesian	Nasioi	Papuan

the genetic ( $F_{ST}$ ) distances (Fig. S1 and Table S1) and a significant correlation between geographic and genetic distances ( $R^2 = 0.69$ , Mantel test,  $P < 0.00005$ ) (Fig. S2). A neighbor-joining tree constructed from the  $F_{ST}$  distances (Fig. 1B) is also consistent with the geographical distribution of populations. Interestingly, lexical distances, which were obtained by calculating patristic distances between each language along the maximum clade credibility tree in the work by Gray et al. (9), also showed good correlation with genetic distances ( $r = 0.46$ , Mantel test,  $P = 0.02$ ).

We also performed Bayesian cluster analysis as implemented in the STRUCTURE algorithm (17) to examine the ancestry of each person. This analysis considers each person's genome as having originated from  $K$  ancestral but unobserved populations, and the contributions are described by  $K$  coefficients that sum to one for each individual. Individuals are posited to derive from an arbitrary number of ancestral populations, denoted by  $K$ . We ran STRUCTURE from  $K = 2$  to  $K = 15$ , with results at  $K = 3$  showing the greatest posterior probability. Estimated individual membership fractions in  $K = 3$  genetic clusters are shown in Fig. 1B and C, with the three clusters corresponding to Melanesian, Papuan, and Asian ancestry, respectively. Similar analyses were also performed using the program *frappe* (18), which implements a maximum likelihood method, and the results showed a good concordance with the results of STRUCTURE. The results showed that individuals from the same population often shared membership coefficients in the inferred cluster, with individuals from the seven Eastern Indonesian populations (ID-TR, ID-SB, ID-RA, ID-SO, ID-LA, ID-LE, and ID-AL) displaying significant amounts of both Papuan and Asian ancestry (Fig. 1B and Table S2). Among the seven East Indonesian populations, the proportion of Asian ancestry decreases as the longitude increases ( $R^2 = 0.705$ ,  $P < 0.02$ ), whereas the proportion of Papuan ancestry goes in the other direction ( $R^2 = 0.701$ ,  $P < 0.02$ ), which is consistent with the results of the PC analysis (Fig. 1A) and the tree analysis (Fig. 1B). The admixture proportion of populations under the assumption of  $K = 3$  is shown in Table S2; ID-AL, the closest population to Papuan, has the highest proportion (55.4%) of Papuan ancestry, whereas ID-TR, which is the East Indonesian population most distant from the Papuans, has the lowest proportion (5.1%) of Papuan ancestry.

**Admixture Time Estimation.** To estimate admixture time, we first selected 2,807 ancestry informative markers according to the allele frequencies of the Papuan and West Indonesian populations and ran the STRUCTURE program (15) under the linkage model with correlated allele frequencies. The geographical distribution of admixture proportions obtained by this

analysis is in excellent agreement with the distribution for the entire dataset (Fig. 1B and C and Table S2). We then used the linkage model to estimate the population recombination parameter  $r$  (break points per centimorgan), the posterior distribution of which is shown in Fig. 1D and Table 3. Again, we observed a cline in the distribution of  $r$  according to longitude; the population (ID-TR) located farthest to the west showed the highest recombination rate of 2.04 break points per cM [90% confidence interval (CI) = 1.79, 2.35], whereas the population (ID-LE) located farthest to the east showed the lowest recombination rate of 1.21 break points per cM (90% CI = 1.11, 1.32). Under the assumption of a hybrid isolation model, the admixture events of Eastern Indonesian populations were estimated to have occurred about 121–204 generations or 3,026–5,109 y ago (Table 3), assuming 25 y per generation.

**Replicated Analysis with a Different Dataset and Method.** To substantiate these results and gain additional insights, we also analyzed a different genome-wide dataset (11) consisting of about 680,000 SNPs analyzed in 36 individuals from seven populations from Indonesia (including two populations from the Moluccas, four populations from the Nusa Tenggara, and one population from Borneo) and 25 individuals from the highlands of Papua New Guinea (Methods and Table 2). In agreement with the Pan-Asia data analysis, principle component analysis (PCA) for these data shows a cline in the genetic ancestry of East Indonesian populations between Borneo and New Guinea, with Asian ancestry gradually decreasing from west to east across Indonesia (Fig. 2A). Interestingly, we observe that PC2 is largely driven by differences between the two Moluccas groups (who speak Papuan languages) and the other groups (who speak Austronesian languages). Next, we estimated ancestry components in each population using the maximum likelihood-based algorithm implemented in the program *frappe* (18). Our results show good concordance with the results of STRUCTURE (Fig. 2B and C). At  $K = 3$ , the third ancestry component is seen predominantly in the Moluccas and to a lesser degree, in the Nusa Tenggara, again suggesting that there might be something different about the history of these two regions of Indonesia (Fig. 2B). This notion is also supported by the next analysis, where we compared the admixture rates on the autosomes and the X chromosome in these groups. In agreement with previous studies (7), we observe a higher frequency of Asian ancestry on the X chromosome relative to the genome-wide estimates, which suggests that the admixture in Eastern Indonesia was sex-biased, with greater contribution from Asian women. However, this sex-biased pattern of admixture is only seen in the Nusa Tenggara and not in



**Table 2. Information on population samples in the Affymetrix 6.0 dataset**

Sample ID	Sample size	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Language family
BOR	16	Borneo	3.3 S	114.6 E	Austronesian
FLO	1	Flores	8.6 S	121.1 E	Austronesian
ROT	4	Roti	10.7 S	123.2 E	Austronesian
TIM	3	Timor	10.2 S	123.6 E	Austronesian
ALO	2	Alor	8.3 S	124.6 E	Unknown
HIR	7	Hiri	0.9 N	127.3 E	Papuan
TER	3	Ternate	0.8 N	127.4 E	Papuan
NGH	25	New Guinea Highlands	6.2 S	143.6 E	Papuan

the Moluccas (Fig. 2D). Because our samples from the Moluccas come from Papuan-speaking groups, whereas the Nusa Tenggara samples are from Austronesian-speaking groups, this result suggests that sex-related differences in the admixture between Papuan and Austronesian groups are consistent with the hypothesis that the Austronesian groups were matrilineal (19, 20). We, therefore, estimated the time of Austronesian–Papuan admixture separately for the Nusa Tenggara and the Moluccas using the wavelet transform method described previously (12). The admixture time estimated for the Moluccas corresponds to 104 generations (95% CI = 83–141 generations) or about 2,600 y ago. The estimate for the Nusa Tenggara corresponds to an admixture time of 164 generations (95% CI = 121–406 generations) or about 4,100 y ago (Fig. 2E). These results are in excellent agreement with the results reported for the Pan-Asia SNP dataset (Fig. 1E).

**Implications for Austronesian Expansion.** Two important points arise from the admixture time analysis. First, both datasets indicate a cline of decreasing time of admixture across East Indonesia, with oldest time in the west and youngest time in the east. These results strongly suggest that the admixture cline in East Indonesia reflects the spread of individuals of Asian ancestry coming from the west and admixing with resident groups of Papuan ancestry. Second, the time of admixture is highly consistent for the two different datasets, which were estimated by two different methods, and suggest that the admixture began about 4,000 y ago (Figs. 1E and 2E and Table 3). This time is in excellent agreement with estimates from archaeological and linguistic data for the arrival of Austronesian speakers in East Indonesia about 3,500–4,000 y ago (9, 21). For example, the oldest pottery found in East Indonesia, associated with the Austronesian culture, dates back to 3,500 y ago (22). Moreover, a Bayesian analysis of Austronesian languages dates the Austronesian expansion into Indonesia to about 4,000 y ago and also suggests a west to east spread across East Indonesia (9). In addition, as mentioned before, there is a significant correlation

between the patristic distances from the language tree (9) and the genetic distances for the groups in the Pan-Asian SNP dataset ( $r = 0.46$ , Mantel test,  $P = 0.02$ ). However, other linguistic analyses, which are not quantitative but instead, are based on inferences regarding the center of diversification of the relevant languages, instead suggest an east to west spread of Austronesian languages across East Indonesia (23). Overall, our admixture analyses indicate that the Asian ancestry in East Indonesia is associated with the Austronesian expansion.

A potential caveat to this interpretation of the results is that recent gene flow in the direction from New Guinea to East Indonesia could artificially reduce the admixture time estimate in those populations closest to New Guinea, which is because such recent gene flow would introduce new, larger blocks of New Guinea ancestry on top of the older, smaller blocks of Papuan ancestry in East Indonesia. An instructive example is the case of Fiji, which is inferred to have received recent migration from New Guinea that did not extend farther to the east in Remote Oceania (24). Dating of the Asia–New Guinea admixture signal in Fiji indeed produces a more recent time of about 1,100 y compared with about 2,700 y in Polynesia (12). In principle, recent gene flow to East Indonesia from New Guinea could similarly reduce the admixture time in the affected populations. However, the spectrum of wavelet coefficients derived from the admixture signal is more bimodal in Fiji, suggestive of multiple admixture events, whereas in East Indonesia, the spectrum is unimodal (Fig. S3). Thus, there is no indication in the data of recent gene flow from New Guinea.

**Migration Rate of Austronesian Genes.** In addition, from the admixture cline and its geographical distribution (Fig. S4), we estimated an average rate of spread of Austronesian genes in East Indonesia of about 0.9 ( $\pm 1.3$ ) km/y or 22 ( $\pm 32.3$ ) km per 25-y generation, which is somewhat slower than the estimation based on archaeological evidence of about 75 km per 25-y generation (1). These results would be expected considering the fact that culture transmission and language dispersal are generally easier and thus, faster than gene introgression. Although the real rate of coastal colonization was much slower than the rate across sea, these average rates still give some perspective on the relative speed of the Austronesian expansion in these particular areas.

## Discussion

In summary, the admixture time analysis of two different genome-wide datasets provides compelling evidence that people of Asian ancestry began moving through East Indonesia about 4,000 y ago from west to east and admixed with resident groups of Papuan ancestry. Furthermore, this scenario is in excellent agreement with linguistic, archaeological, and genetic evidence for a pre-Austronesian presence of Papuans in East Indonesia (4, 25, 26) and an eastward spread of Austronesian-speaking farmers across East Indonesia (9, 21). Our results showed that the major direction of Asian gene flow has been from west to east across East Indonesia, but they do not rule out other proposed

**Table 3. Estimated recombination parameters  $r$  (breakpoints per centimorgan) and time since admixture [years before present (YBP)]**

Sample ID	Recombination parameter ( $r$ )		Admixture time (YBP)	
	Mean	90% CI	Mean	90% CI
ID-TR	2.04	(1.79, 2.35)	5,109	(4,463, 5,868)
ID-SB	1.63	(1.49, 1.79)	4,085	(3,716, 4,484)
ID-RA	1.52	(1.37, 1.69)	3,803	(3,431, 4,225)
ID-SO	1.42	(1.30, 1.55)	3,540	(3,248, 3,871)
ID-LA	1.39	(1.28, 1.52)	3,481	(3,200, 3,798)
ID-LE	1.21	(1.11, 1.32)	3,026	(2,780, 3,296)
ID-AL	1.25	(1.15, 1.36)	3,123	(2,870, 3,405)

migration events that would have had a lesser genetic impact. Our analyses, thus, refute suggestions that the Asian ancestry observed in Indonesia largely predates the Austronesian expansion (2, 27), or that the Austronesian expansion was not accompanied by large-scale population movement (4). To be sure, other migrations (both before and after the Austronesian expansion) have undoubtedly left a genetic legacy in Indonesia. However, our analyses of genome-wide data do indicate that there was a strong and significant genetic impact associated with the Austronesian expansion in Indonesia, just as similar analyses have pointed to a genetic impact associated with the Austronesian expansion through Near and Remote Oceania (24, 28). Given that admixture among human populations (and between modern and archaic humans) is increasingly being recognized as a significant aspect of modern human biology (29), estimates of the time of admixture should provide important insights into the history of our species.

## Materials and Methods

Additional details are in *SI Materials and Methods*.

**Population Samples and Data.** Two datasets were analyzed. The first dataset consists of 288 unrelated samples from 13 Indonesian populations with genotype data generated using the Affymetrix Genechip Human Mapping 50K Xba array and was obtained from the Pan-Asia SNP Project (10). Samples of one Papuan population from Papua New Guinea and one Melanesian population from Bougainville, genotyped with the Illumina Genechip Human Mapping 650K Xba array, were collected from the database of the HGDP-CEPH (30). Detailed information for these groups is described in Table 1. With data integration, we obtained 19,934 SNPs shared by 15 populations. This dataset is referred to as the Pan-Asian SNP dataset.

The second dataset consists of 61 individuals from eight populations from Indonesia and New Guinea that were all genotyped on the Affymetrix 6.0 platform as described previously (11, 24). Detailed information on these

populations is presented in Table 2. After data integration, there were 685,582 SNPs included in the analysis. This dataset is referred to as the Affymetrix 6.0 dataset.

**Statistical Analysis.** In the Pan-Asian dataset, PCA was performed at the individual level using EIGENSOFT version 3.0 (31). Unbiased estimates of  $F_{ST}$  were calculated using the work by Weir and Hill (32) with PEAS V1.0 (33). Great circle distance calculations followed the approach of Ramachandran et al. (34). The tree of populations was reconstructed based on  $F_{ST}$  distances and the neighbor-joining algorithm (35) implemented in the Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis software package (MEGA version 4.0) (36). The ancestry of each person was inferred using a Bayesian cluster analysis as implemented in the STRUCTURE program (15) and a maximum likelihood method as implemented in the *frappe* program (18). In estimating the admixture time of Eastern Indonesian populations showing admixture, we selected a panel of 2,807 ancestry informative markers with large allele frequency difference ( $F_{ST} > 0.3$ ) between ID-MT and Papuan, and we ran STRUCTURE with linkage model and followed the procedure and parameter settings described in previous studies (13, 14). In the Affymetrix 6.0 dataset, PCA, admixture proportions, and time of admixture estimation were performed using the StepCO software (12).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** We thank R. Gray and S. Greenhill for supplying the linguistic distances and R. Blust and R. Gray for valuable discussion. This research was supported in part by the Ministry of Science and Technology International Cooperation Base of China. These studies were supported by National Science Foundation of China Grants 31171218 (to S.X.), 30971577 (to S.X.), and 30890034 (to L.J.), Shanghai Rising-Star Program 11QA1407600 (S.X.), and Science Foundation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Grants KSCX2-EW-Q-1-11 (to S.X.), KSCX2-EW-R-01-05 (to S.X.), and KSCX2-EW-J-15-05 (to S.X.). S.X. is Max-Planck Independent Research Group Leader and member of the CAS Youth Innovation Promotion Association. S.X. also gratefully acknowledges the support of the K. C. Wong Education Foundation, Hong Kong. I.P. and M.S. acknowledge support from the Max Planck Society. M.K. acknowledges support from the German Research Council Sonderforschungsbereich 680 "Molecular Basis of Evolutionary Innovations."

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