

Supplementary Information for Replication-Independent Instability of Friedreich's Ataxia GAA Repeats during Chronological Aging

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Other supplementary materials for this manuscript include the following:

Video S1 Video S2

Supplementary text

Bayesian analysis

Before discussing the details of our statistical model, we present a general overview of Bayesian analysis and the benefits it offers for our data. We recommend Gelman et al. (1) and McElreath (2) for a more thorough discussion of the philosophy behind and mechanics of Bayesian analysis. Broadly speaking, a Bayesian approach quantifies uncertainty about parameters of interest by defining probability distributions for those parameters. More specifically, for parameters ϕ , the goal is to estimate a posterior distribution

$$
Prob(\phi \mid \text{data}) \quad \propto \quad Prob(\text{data} \mid \phi) Prob(\phi), \tag{1}
$$

that, as a probability distribution, allows for intuitive statements about ϕ , of the form "Given the observed data, how likely is ϕ to be in [some range]?" The posterior determines the plausibility of ϕ by balancing how well ϕ fits the data, as given by the likelihood in the first term on the right-hand side of (Equation [1\)](#page-1-0), with any other information about ϕ one may have, captured by the prior distribution in the second term on the right-hand side of (Equation [1\)](#page-1-0). The prior can be chosen to be more or less agnostic about likely values of ϕ , and its influence on the posterior decreases as more data are collected. Especially in biological settings, where accumulation of knowledge and understanding about the mechanisms at play yields a sense of reasonable parameter values, prior information can be very useful for estimation. In particular, if any experiments similar to those in this paper were run in the future, the Bayesian construct would naturally allow the incorporation of knowledge gained from our experiments into further inference, via the prior.

The alternative, frequentist approach makes statements about functions of the data that have certain desirable characteristics, such as unbiasedness for point estimates or coverage for confidence intervals, upon repeated sampling of data. Thus, these statistics are evaluated based on their average behavior over infinitely many hypothetical datasets. Any associated probability statements relate to the performance of the statistical methodology itself, rather than the plausibility of the parameters. Besides having a notoriously awkward interpretation, such an approach may not provide useful or even sensible conclusions for the particular dataset one has.

As a simple example, consider an experiment with 5 independent binary events, each occurring with some unknown probability of interest p, so that the data one observes is $X = 0, 1, \ldots, 5$ successes. A common frequentist estimate for p is given by $\hat{p} = \frac{X}{5}$. Such an approach is unbiased, in the sense that if one repeated the experiment infinitely many times, to generate X_1, X_2, X_3, \ldots , the average of the corresponding estimates, $\hat{p}_1, \hat{p}_2, \hat{p}_3, \ldots$ would be p for any value of p. In practice, however, we often have data from only one experiment. Now, consider the case where $X = 0$, yielding $\hat{p} = 0$. Although this estimate is appropriate for long-run unbiasedness, it seems often the case that the experimenter knows that $p \neq 0$, making $\hat{p} = 0$ a somewhat nonsensical estimate. By contrast, a Bayesian approach infers a distribution for p, from which a more meaningful posterior mean can be calculated. In this case, the prior guides how likely p is to be very close to 0 or not (if $p = 0.25$, with 5 events, X will be 0 almost 25 percent of the time). This aspect of the Bayesian approach is a key motivation for its adoption in this work.

In addition, because fitting a Bayesian model effectively reduces to evaluating and weighing strength of evidence for parameters in the prior and data likelihood, one can readily quantify relative probability of more layered models and complicated parameter structures. In our context, this opens the door to fitting hierarchical models that allow for similarities across genotypes and mutation types. While the analysis in this paper looked at each genotype and mutation type separately, imposing monotonicity of mutation frequencies across time was a simple extension of the basic model that greatly improved inference quality in cases with low mutation counts by making use of data from multiple time points.

Description of statistical model

Below, we provide details of the statistical model used to estimate and compare mutation frequencies. We fit the described model separately for each combination of genotype and mutation type, so for simplicity of notation, we assume a generic such combination and drop any relevant indexing. The goal of the analysis is to infer distributions for f_t , the frequency of mutation at time point t, for all observed time points. In this exposition, we focus on the most common experimental case in which data are observed at two time points. The approach in the case of more observed time points is a trivial extension of the model presented.

At each time point, $t = 0$ and $t = 6$, we observe data from I_t distinct plates, which we index by $i = 1, \ldots, I_t$. Specifically, the data observed for plate i at time t are:

$$
N_{ti} = # of plated cells,\n
$$
M_{ti} = # resistant cells,\nK_{ti} = # resistant cells sampled,\nJ_{ti} = # of sampled cells with given mutation type.
$$
$$

For our analysis, we decompose f_t into the product of the resistance frequency, r_t , and the frequency of resistant cells with the given mutation type, p_t , so that $f_t = r_t \times p_t$. The data likelihood for plate i at time point t conditions on the number of cells plated and the number of resistant cells sampled, and for a given (r_t, p_t) is defined by the binomial distributions

$$
M_{ti} \mid N_{ti} \sim \text{Binomial}(N_{ti}, r_t),
$$

\n
$$
J_{ti} \mid K_{ti} \sim \text{Binomial}(K_{ti}, p_t),
$$
\n(2)

with independence assumed across plates and time points.

A key component of the analysis is our knowledge of the relative ordering among f_t, r_t across time points, specifically

(a.)
$$
f_0 < f_6 < r_6
$$
, and

(b.) $f_0 < r_0 < r_6$.

Because conditions (a.) and (b.) relate directly to f_t and r_t , we specify the model in terms of those

parameters, with $p_t = \frac{f_t}{r_t}$. Therefore, our four-parameter model is given by

$$
logit (f_0) = \theta_0 \tag{3}
$$

$$
logit (f_6) = \theta_0 + \theta_6 \tag{4}
$$

$$
logit (r_0) = \theta_0 + \beta_0 \tag{5}
$$

$$
logit (r_6) = \theta_0 + \theta_6 + \beta_6, \qquad (6)
$$

where $logit(x) = log(\frac{x}{1-x})$ maps a probability in $(0,1)$ to the real line. Conditions (a.) and (b.) are respectively satisfied by imposing the restrictions

$$
\theta_6, \beta_6 > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 0 < \beta_0 < \theta_0 + \theta_6. \tag{7}
$$

The logistic model framework is flexible as it it allows extensions that assume more complicated sources of variation in the data, including commonality among similar genotypes or added variability due to plate attributes, by restructuring the additive effects that define f_t and r_t .

Adopting a Bayesian approach, the posterior distribution of the four parameters can be written as

$$
\text{Prob}\left(\theta_0, \theta_6, \beta_0, \beta_6 \mid \{N_{ti}\}, \{M_{ti}\}, \{K_{ti}\}, \{J_{ti}\}\right) \propto \text{Prob}\left(\theta_0, \theta_6, \beta_0, \beta_6\right) \times \prod_{t=0,6}^{I_t} \text{Prob}\left(M_{ti} \mid N_{ti}, r_t\right) \text{Prob}\left(J_{ti} \mid K_{ti}, p_t\right),
$$

where the the first line of the right-hand side represents a prior distribution for the four parameters and the second line represents the complete data likelihood, defined by the binomial distributions in [\(2\)](#page-2-0) and the mappings from θ_t , β_t to r_t , p_t implied by [\(3\)](#page-3-0)-[\(6\)](#page-3-0).

Subject to the restrictions in (7) , we adopt the following priors:

$$
\theta_0 \sim \text{Normal}(-9, 3)
$$

\n
$$
\theta_6 \sim \text{Normal}(0, 3)
$$

\n
$$
\beta_0 \sim \text{Normal}(0, 10)
$$

\n
$$
\beta_6 \sim \text{Normal}(0, 10).
$$

The prior for θ_0 represents a vaguely informative prior that reflects an expectation that mutation frequencies are rare, with a little over 95% of the mass falling between $1e - 7$ and $5e - 2$. The remaining three priors are uninformative by design, recognizing that differences between f_0 and f_6 , and especially between f_t and r_t , might be substantial on the logit scale.

Sensitivity to the choice of priors was studied by fitting models and comparing posterior distributions of f_t based on several assumed prior distributions. In cases where mutations were observed among sampled resistant cells $(J_{ti} > 0$ for some i), we found the results to be robust to the choice of priors, including other priors based on an understanding of the general range of mutation frequencies as well as more agnostic priors for θ_0 . This fact should be of no surprise as the large numbers of plated cells provide a great deal of information about the true frequency of the mutations. The resulting impact on the posterior distribution is that the data likelihood dominates the prior distribution. The role of the prior has a more significant

impact on the estimated lower ranges of mutation frequencies when no mutations were observed $(J_{ti} = 0$ for all i), since the observed data are consistent with any choice of f_t sufficiently near 0. In this case, our chosen prior for θ_0 guides the lower end of plausible values based on our data to include, but be very likely larger than, 5e − 8. Most importantly, the upper end of the mutation frequency distribution remains data-driven for biologically sensible choices of prior, since sufficiently high values of f_t prove incompatible with data in which no mutations were observed.

Models were fit using the rstan package in R. For each model, four Markov Chain Monte Carlo chains were run for 2,000 iterations each, with the last 1,000 draws from each chain stored to generate a total of 4,000 posterior draws for each parameter. Paired values of θ_0 and θ_6 are converted to 4,000 paired draws of f_0 and f_6 per [\(3\)](#page-3-0) and [\(4\)](#page-3-0). These, in turn, can be used to generate a posterior sample of 4,000 estimates of the difference, $f_6 - f_0$, from which probabilistic assessments about the changes in mutation frequency over time can be made.

Fig. S1. Viability and assessments of quiescence. (A) Viability determined by CFUs on YPD from individual cultures at QD6 divided by QD0s. Bars represent mean viability and error bars represent 95% confidence intervals calculated via the Wilson method. (B) Data from 24hr observation of QD1 cells in a microfluidics chamber in media with $(+PO₄)$ or without $(-PO₄)$ phosphate. Cells were considered divided if they underwent at least one division in the 24hr period. (C) Analysis of bud scars per cell as visualized using calcofluor white staining of QD0 cells. Bars represent the frequency of cells with the designated number of bud scars. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals calculated via the Wilson method. (D) Viability of a Ura⁺ and a Ura- strain was determined by CFUs on YPD from individual cultures at QD6 divided by QD0. Bars represent mean viability and error bars represent 95% confidence intervals calculated via the Wilson method.

Fig. S2. Deletion (A) and recombination (B) frequencies at the beginning and end of chronological aging in mismatch repair deficient strains. Bars represent median deletion frequency or recombination frequency at QD0 (dark grey) and QD6 (light grey) timepoints. Error bars represent 95% credible intervals of the estimated distributions.

Fig. S3. Deletion and recombination frequencies at the beginning and end of quiescence in NHEJ and HR mutants. (A) Deletion frequencies at the beginning and end of chronological aging in NHEJ, Rad1, and Exo1 deficient strains. (B) Recombination frequencies at the beginning and end of chronological aging in HR, Rad1, and Exo1 deficient strains. Bars represent median deletion frequency or recombination frequency at QD0 (dark grey) and QD6 (light grey) timepoints. Error bars represent 95% credible intervals of the estimated distributions.

Fig. S4. Change in recombination and deletion frequencies in mutants required for the alternate pathway and repair protein levels in quiescence. (A) Eliminating NHEJ does not affect gene conversion frequency and (B) eliminating HR does not affect deletion frequency during chronological aging. Bars represent the median change in recombination frequency (Δrec freq) (blue) (A) or deletion frequency (Δdel freq) (red) (B) between QD0 and QD6. Error bars represent 95% credible intervals of the estimated distributions. Biological significance was defined as no overlap between the WT and mutant 95% credible intervals. Dashed lines indicate WT 95% credible interval. (C) Western blot showing abundance of myc-tagged Ku70, Msh3, and Rad52 proteins extracted from LOG or Q cells. Western blot probed using myc or GAPDH antibodies. Coomassie stained membrane (right) shows each lane's total protein in the same order as the western blot.

Fig. S5. Expansion rates, frequencies, and sizes in dividing and quiescent cells. (A) Rad1 and Msh3 deletion do not alter expansion rate in dividing cells. Bars represent $(GAA)_{100}$ expansion rates calculated using our FluCalc web tool. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. (B) Rev1, Ogg1 and Rad14 are not involved in expansions in chronological aging. Bars represent the median change in expansion frequency (Δexp freq) between QD0 and QD6. Error bars represent 95% credible intervals of the estimated distributions. Biological significance was defined as no overlap between the double mutant and *msh3Δ* 95% credible intervals. (C) Expansion frequency at the beginning and end of chronological aging in strains shown in Figure 6B. Bars represent median expansion frequency at QD0 (dark grey) and QD6 (light grey) timepoints. Error bars represent 95% credible intervals of the estimated distributions. (D) Expansion length as determined by agarose gel electrophoresis at QD0, QD3, QD6 and QD12 in WT and *msh3Δ* strains. Black bars and whiskers represent medians and 95% confidence intervals.

Strain	Genotype	Comments
CH1585	MATa, leu2- Δ 1, trp1- Δ 63, ura3-52, his3-200	Shishkin et al. 2009
KS001	CH1585, bar1:: HIS3	Shah et al. 2012
KS005	KS001, ChrIII(75594-75641):: UR-(GAA)100-A3-TRP1	Shah et al. 2012
YEG101-1/2	KS005, msh3::HphMX4	
YEG102-1/2	KS005, msh6::HphMX4	
YAN134	KS005, yku70::HphMX4	
YAN131/132	KS005, yku80::HphMX4	
YAN195/196	KS005, lif1::HphMX4	
YAN175/176	KS005, rad51::HphMX4	
YAN135/136	KS005, rad52:: HphMX4	
YAN150/151	KS005, pol32:: HphMX4	
YAN153/155	KS005, mre11:: HphMX4	
YAN191/192	KS005, rad14::HphMX4	
YAN189/190	KS005, rad2:: HphMX4	
JAH25	KS005, mlh1:: HphMX4	
JAH41	KS005, pms1::LEU2	
JAH16	KS005, rad1::HphMX4	
JAH205	KS005, mre11-D56N	
JAH275	KS005, pms1-E707K	
JAH285	KS005, exo1::NatMX4	
YAN206	YEG101, rad14::NatMX4	
YAN207	YEG101, pol32::NatMX4	
YAN204/205	YEG101, rad52::NatMX4	
JAH39	YEG101, rad1::NatMX4	
JAH48	YEG101, rev3::NatMX4	
JAH106	YEG101, rev1::KanMX6	
JAH94	YEG101, ogg1::NatMX4	
JAH184	YEG101, pol3-Y708A	
JAH238	YEG101, mlh3::NatMX4	

Table S1. Strains used in this study

Table S2. Primers used in this study

Age	Sample	Microhomology
QD0	$1 - 9$	Α
QD0	$2 - 4$	AAAG
QD0	$5 - 15$	AGAAGAAG
QD0	$6 - 16$	GG
QD6	$1 - 3$	Α
QD6	1-8	GAA
QD ₆	$1 - 11$	
QD6	$2 - 2$	G
QD6	$2 - 6$	TTTA
QD ₆	$3 - 8$	CTAA
QD6	$3 - 14$	AAGG
QD6	$4 - 1$	CTCA
QD ₆	4-8	ТC
QD6	$5 - 1$	Α
QD6	6-8	AAG

Table S4. Microhomologies at deletion junctions from quiescent cells

Supp Video 1 (separate file): Video of 24hr observation of QD1 cells in a microfluidics chamber in media with (+PO4) phosphate. 1s of video is equivalent to 1.6hrs of observation.

Supp Video 2 (separate file): Video of 24hr observation of QD1 cells in a microfluidics chamber in media without (-PO4) phosphate. 1s of video is equivalent to 1.6hrs of observation.

SI References

1. Gelman A, Carlin JB, Stern HS, Rubin DB (2004) Bayesian Data Analysis (Chapman & Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, FL), 2nd edition.

2. McElreath R (2016) Statistical Rethinking (Chapman & Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, FL).