



# Data simulation (including genomics) QMSim software

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# QMSim: why to use it ?

- ✓ It was design to simulate **large-scale genotyping data** in multiple and complex **livestock pedigrees**
- ✓ A wide variety of genome architectures from infinitesimal model to single-locus model
  - ✓ It is a user-friendly tool for simulating data
- ✓ Computationally efficient in termes of both time and memory

# QMSim<sup>†</sup>: where to find it ?

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The code is written in C++ language

Executable files are freely available for Windows and Linux platforms at:

<http://www.aps.uoguelph.ca/~msargol/qmsim/>

<sup>†</sup>Sargolzaei & Schenkel (2009), Bioinformatics 25:680-681.

# How the simulation is carried out ?



---

In 2 steps:

- ✓ *First step:* A **historical population** is simulated
  - in order to create initial LD and
  - to establish mutation-drift equilibrium
  - expansion and contraction of the population
- ✓ *Second step:* One or multiple **recent population structures** are generated

INRA

# Parameter file

- ✓ It must be in ASCII format
- ✓ It consists of **five** main sections
- ✓ The order of commands within each section is not important
- ✓ All commands end with a semicolon
- ✓ No semicolon → error message and program exits.

```
/******  
**      Global parameters      **  
*****/  
title = "Example 1 - 10k SNP panel  
...;  
  
/******  
**      Historical population   **  
*****/  
begin_hp;  
.....;  
end_hp;  
  
/******  
**      Populations            **  
*****/  
begin_pop = "p1";  
.....;  
end_pop;  
  
/******  
**      Genome                 **  
*****/  
begin_genome;  
.....;  
end_genome;  
  
/******  
**      Output options         **  
*****/  
begin_output;  
.....;  
end_output;
```

# 1. Global parameters section

```
/*  
**      Global parameters      **  
**  
title = "Example 1 - 10k SNP panel";  
seed = "seed.txt";
```

An arbitrary  
title

The random number generator (RNG\*) requires a **seed file**.

If it is not specified → RNG will be seeded from the system clock

For each run the initial seed numbers will be backed up in output folder

→ This allows to repeat the run !

**Parameter file:** ex01.prm

**Output folder:** r\_ex01/

Example 1 - 10k SNP panel

Output

**Initial seed** is backed up in [r\_ex01/seed].  
parameter file is backed up in [r\_ex01/ex01.prm].

\* Mersenne Twister algorithm (Matsumoto & Nishimura, 1998)

# 1. Global parameters section

```
/******  
**      Global parameters      **  
*****/  
title = "Example 1 - 10k SNP panel";  
nrep  = 1;      //Number of replicates  
h2    = 0.2;    //Heritability  
qtlh2 = 0.2;    //QTL heritability  
phvar = 1.0;    //Phenotypic variance
```

QTL effect  
is simulated

Range: 0 - 10,000

Overall heritability  
(Polygenic + QTL

```
title = "Example 8  
nrep  = 1;  
h2    = 0.2;  
qtlh2 = 0.0;  
phvar = 1.0;
```

Only polygenic  
effect is simulated

```
title = "Example 11  
nrep  = 1;  
h2    = 0.2;  
qtlh2 = 0.05;  
phvar = 1.0;
```

Both, polygenic  
and QTL effects  
are simulated

# 1. Global parameters section

```
/*
**      Global parameters      **
**
title = "Example 1 - 10k SNP panel";
nrep  = 1;           //Number of replicates
h2     = 0.2;        //Heritability
qtlh2  = 0.2;        //QTL heritability
phvar  = 1.0;        //Phenotypic variance
no_male_rec;        // No record for males
```



A sex limited trait  
like milk yield

When males do not have records, but selection or culling are based on

EBVs → Ok

Phenotypes → Males will be randomly selected or culled



## 2. Historical population section

```
/**
 * Historical population
 */
begin_hp;
  hg_size = 420 [0] //
          420 [200];
  nmlhg   = 20; //
end_hp;
```

➔ To create initial LD

➔ Evolutionary forces: mutation and drift (no selection, no migration)

➔ Random mating: union of gametes randomly sampled from the male and female gametic pools

➔ Discrete generations

➔ Only a single historical population

## 2. Historical population section

Historical  
generation  
sizes

```
/******  
**   Historical population   **  
*****  
begin_hp;  
  hg_size = 420 [0]  
           420 [200];  
  nmlhg   = 20;  
end_hp;                                     //
```

Constant  
size of 420



hg\_size = v1 [v2]

v1 the historical generation **size**  
*Range: 2 – 100,000*

v2 the historical generation **number**  
*Range: 0 – 150,000*

## 2. Historical population section

Historical **bottleneck** or **expansion** can be simulated

```
/******  
** Historical population **  
*****/  
begin_hp;  
  hg_size = 2000 [0]  
          200 [1000];  
  nmlhg   = 40;  
end_hp;
```

Gradual decrease in  
size from 2000 to 200

```
/******  
** Historical population **  
*****/  
begin_hp;  
  hg_size = 100 [0]  
          100 [950]  
          3000 [1000];  
  nmlhg   = 200;  
end_hp;
```

Expansion in the last  
historical generation from  
100 to 3000

**LD** in livestock extends over  
longer distances than in humans

## 2. Historical population section

Number of males

```
/******  
**   Historical population   **  
*****/  
begin_hp;  
  hg_size = 2000 [0]  
           200 [1000];  
  nmfhg   = 40; ←  
end_hp;
```

Default : equal number of males and females

nmfhg → **first** historical generation

Sex ratio will be constant across historical generations. It can be changed in the last generation

```
/******  
**   Historical population   **  
*****/  
begin_hp;  
  hg_size = 2000 [0]  
           200 [1000];  
  nmlhg   = 40;  
end_hp;
```

nm~~l~~hg → **last** historical generation

nm~~l~~hg = 40;

# 3. Population section

```
/******  
**      Populations      **  
*****/  
begin_pop = "p1";  
        ....;  
end_pop;  
  
begin_pop = "p2";  
        ....;  
end_pop;
```

One or multiple recent populations

For the ***first defined recent population*** (i.e. p1), **founders** must come from the last historical population

For ***subsequent populations*** (i.e. p2), **founders** can be chosen from one or more (up to 10) previously defined populations (i.e. p1)

Multiple recent populations can be analyzed **separately** (one pedigree for each population) or **jointly** (by creating one pedigree for all populations) for inbreeding and EBV

# 3. Population section

## Choosing founders for a population

```
/******  
**      Populations      **  
*****  
begin_pop = "line1";  
begin_founder;  
  male   [n = 20,  pop = "hp",  select = tbv /h];  
  female [n = 400, pop = "hp",  select = tbv /h];  
end_founder;
```

Parameters for choosing founders

Number of male/female to be selected

It indicates from which population the base animals must be selected

Type of selection

**select:** rnd (default), phen, tbv and ebv  
**/l :** to select low values  
**/h :** to select high values

**hp:** historical population (last historical generation)

## Choosing founders for a population for F2 design

```
/******  
**           Populations           **  
*****/  
begin_pop = "line1";  
begin_founder;  
    male [n = 20, pop = "hp", select = tbv /h];  
    female [n = 400, pop = "hp", select = tbv /h];  
end_founder;  
ng = 20; //Number of generations  
end_pop;
```

```
begin_pop = "line2";  
begin_founder;  
    male [n = 20, pop = "hp", select = tbv /l];  
    female [n = 400, pop = "hp", select = tbv /l];  
end_founder;  
ng = 20; //Number of generations  
end_pop;
```

Crossing between populations/lines is allowed

```
//Cross between line1 and line 2 to generate F2  
begin_pop = "cross";  
begin_founder;  
    male [n = 20, pop = "line1", gen = 20];  
    female [n = 400, pop = "line2", gen = 20];  
end_founder;  
ng = 2; //Number of generations
```

## Choosing founders for a population for migration

```
/*  
**      Populations      **  
*****/
```

```
begin_pop = "line1";  
begin_founder,  
  male [n = 20, pop = "hp", select = tbv /h];  
  female [n = 400, pop = "hp", select = tbv /h];  
end_founder;  
ng = 20; //Number of generations  
end_pop;
```

```
begin_pop = "line2";  
begin_founder,  
  male [n = 20, pop = "hp", select = tbv /l];  
  female [n = 400, pop = "hp", select = tbv /l];  
end_founder;  
ng = 20; //Number of generations  
end_pop;
```

Migration can be simulated

```
//2 males and 10 females from line 2 immigrate to line 1
```

```
begin_pop = "line1_c";  
begin_founder;  
  male [n = 8, pop = "line1", gen = 10];  
  male [n = 2, pop = "line2", gen = 10]; //2 male immigrants  
  female [n = 90, pop = "line1", gen = 10];  
  female [n = 10, pop = "line2", gen = 10]; //10 female immigrants  
end_founder;  
ng = 5; //Number of generations
```



# 3. Population section

## Litter size

```
/******  
**          Populations          **  
*****/  
begin_pop = "p1";  
begin_founder;  
  male   [n =  
  female [n = 2500; pop = np ];  
end_founder;  
ls = 1 2 [0.2];           //Litter size  
pmp = 0.5;                //Proportion of male progeny  
ng = 10;                  //Number of generations  
md = p_assort/ebv;        //Mating design  
sr = 0.4;                  //Replacement ratio for sires  
dr = 0.2;                  //Replacement ratio for dams  
sd = ebv /h;              //Selection design  
cd = phen/l;              //Culling design  
ebv_est = blup;
```

**ls:** number of progeny per dam

**ls:** Probability of the litter sizes



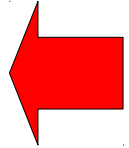
# 3. Population section

## Sex ratio

```
/**
**      Populations      **
**
begin_pop = "p1";
begin_founder;
    male   [n = 50,
    female [n = 2500, pop
end_founder;
ls   = 1 2 [0.2]; //Litter size
pmp  = 0.5; //Proportion of male progeny
ng   = 10; //Number of generations
md   = p_assort/ebv; //Mating design
sr   = 0.4; //Replacement ratio for sires
dr   = 0.2; //Replacement ratio for dams
sd   = ebv /h; //Selection design
cd   = phen/l; //Culling design
ebv_est = blup;
```

**pmp:** range 0-1, default is equal to 0.5

**pmp:** 0.5 /fix\_litter  
Sex ratio will be fixed within litters (progeny of a dam)



# 3. Population section

## Matting design

**rnd** (default), **rnd\_ug** (a dam can mate with more than one sire in each generation), **p\_assort** (similarity), **n\_assort** (dissimilarity), **minf** and **maxf** (inbreeding is minimized in the next generation)

```
*****  
ulations **  
*****/  
";  
er;  
n = 50, pop = "hp"];  
n = 2500, pop = "hp"];  
er;  
ls 2 [0.2]; //Litter size  
pmp = 0.5; //Proportion of male progeny  
ng = 10; //Number of generations  
md = p_assort/ebv; //Mating design  
sr = 0.4; //Replacement ratio for sires  
dr = 0.2; //Replacement ratio for dams  
sd = ebv /h; //Selection design  
cd = phen/l;  
ebv_est = blup;
```

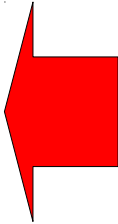
Assortative mating base on **phen**, **ebv** or **tbv**

# 3. Population section

## Replacement

```
/******  
**      Populations      **  
*****/  
begin pop = "p1";  
  _founder;  
  le [n = 50, pop = "hp"];  
  male [n = 2500, pop = "hp"];  
  _founder;  
  = 1 2 [0.2]; //Litter size  
  p = 0.5; //Proportion of male progeny  
  ng = 10; //Number of generations  
  md = p_assort/ebv; //Mating design  
  sr = 0.4; //Replacement ratio for sires  
  dr = 0.2; //Replacement ratio for dams  
  sd = ebv /h; //Selection design  
  cd = phen/l; //Culling design  
  ebv_est = blup;
```

sr : 40% of sires will be replaced in all generations



sr : 1, discrete generations (default)

sr : 0.4 [1] 0.5 [5]  
40% of sires will be culled for generation 1 to 5, and 50% from generation 5 to last generation

# 3. Population section

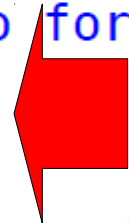
## Selection and culling designs

```
/******  
**          Populations          **  
*****/  
begin_pop = "p1";  
begin_founder;  
    male   [n = 50, pop = "hp"];  
    female [n = 2500, pop = "hp"];  
end_founder;  
ls   = 1 2 [0.2];           //Litter size  
pmp  = 0.5;                 //Proportion of male progeny  
ng   = 10;                  //Number of generations  
md   = p_assort/ebv;        //Mating design  
sr   = 0.4;                 //Replacement ratio for sires  
dr   = 0.2;                 //Replacement ratio for dams  
sd   = ebv /h;              //Selection design  
cd   = phen/l;              //Culling design  
ebv_est = blup;
```

rnd, phen, tbv ebv and age (only for culling)

Breeding value estimation method

// or /h to select low or high values



```

/*****
**                Populations                **
*****/
begin_pop = "p1";
begin_founder;
    male    [n = 20, pop = "hp"];
    female  [n = 400, pop = "hp"];
end_founder;
ls = 2;
pmp = 0.5 /fix;
ng = 10;
begin_popoutput;
    data;
    stat;
    genotype /snp_code /gen 8 9 10;
end_popoutput;
end_pop;

```

p1\_mrk\_007.txt

p1\_qtl\_007.txt

**Population specific parameters for saving outputs**

**data:** save individual's data except their genotype  
*(File name: 'population name'\_data\_'replicate number'.txt)*

**stat:** save brief statistic on simulated data

**genotype:** save genotype data

# 4. Genome section

## Marker information

### Example – 10k SNP panel

```
/*  
**          Genome  
**  
begin_genome;  
  begin_chr = 10;  
  chrln = 100; //Chromosome length  
  nmloci = 1000; //Number of markers  
  mpos = rnd; //Marker positions  
  nma = all 2; //Number of marker alleles  
  maf = eql; //Marker allele frequencies  
  nqloci = 25; //Number of QTL  
  qpos = rnd; //QTL positions  
  nqa = all 2; //Number of QTL alleles  
  qaf = eql; //QTL allele frequencies  
  qae = rndg 0.4; //QTL allele effects  
end_chr;  
mmutr = 2.5e-5 /recurrent; //Marker mutation rate  
qmutr = 2.5e-5; //QTL mutation rate  
r_mpos_g; // Randomize marker positions across genome  
r_qpos_g; // Randomize QTL positions across genome  
end_genome;
```

Number of chromosomes: 10  
**chrln** : range 1-5,000 cM

Samples from uniform distribution in each replicate

All marker loci will have 2 alleles

In the first historical generation, then drift and mutation

# 4. Genome section

## QTL information

### Example – 10k SNP panel

```
/******
```

```
** Genome **
```

**nqloci**: range 1-50,000 on the chromosome

Samples from uniform distribution in each replicate

Nb of QTL alleles in the first historical generation (all: same number)

Equal allele frequencies in the first historical generation

It will be sampled from gamma distribution with shape 0.4

```
chrLen = 100000000; //Chromosome length
nmloci = 10000; //Number of markers
mpos = rnd; //Marker positions
nma = all 2; //Number of marker alleles
maf = eql; //Marker allele frequencies
nqloci = 25; //Number of QTL
qpos = rnd; //QTL positions
nqa = all 2; //Number of QTL alleles
qaf = eql; //QTL allele frequencies
qae = rndg 0.4; //QTL allele effects
end_chr;
mmutr = 2.5e-5; //Mutation rate
qmutr = 2.5e-5; //Mutation rate
r_mpos_g; // Random genome
r_qpos_g; // Random genome
end_genome;
```



# Example – 10k SNP panel

## More genome information

```
/******  
**                               **  
*****/  
begin_genome;  
  begin_chr = 10;  
  chromosome length  
  number of markers  
  marker positions  
  number of  
  Marker al  
  Number of  
  QTL posit  
  Number of QTL a  
  maf = eql;  
  nqloci = 25;  
  qpos = rnd;  
  nqa = all 2;  
  qaf = eql; //QTL allele frequencies  
  qae = rndg 0.4; //QTL allele effects  
end_chr;  
mmutr = 2.5e-5 /recurrent; //Marker mutation rate  
qmutr = 2.5e-5; //QTL mutation rate  
r_mpos_g; // Randomize marker positions across genome  
r_qpos_g; // Randomize QTL positions across genome  
end_genome;
```

In recurrent mutation, no new allele is generated.  
Default: infinite-allele model

SNP recurrent mutations are generally very rare and no evidence that mutation contributes to erosion of LD between SNP (Ardlie et al., 2002)

In historical population

- Other possibilities :
- Missing marker/QTL genotypes
  - Genotyping errors can be simulated (marker/QTL)

# 5. Output section

```
/*  
**      Output options      **  
*/
```

```
begin_output;
```

```
  linkage_map;
```

```
  hp_stat;
```

```
end_output;
```

Marker and QTL linkage map

Save brief statistics on historical population

```
/*  
**      Output options      **  
*/
```

```
begin_output;
```

```
  linkage_map;
```

```
  allele_effect;
```

```
end_output;
```

Save allele effects

# QMSim outputs

```
/******  
**                Populations                **  
*****/  
begin_pop = "p1";  
  begin_founder;  
    male   [n = 20, pop = "hp"];  
    female [n = 400, pop = "hp"];  
  end_founder;  
  ls = 2;  
  pmp = 0.5 /fix;  
  ng = 10;  
  begin_popoutput;  
    data;  
    stat;  
    genotype /snp_code /gen 8 9 10;  
  end_popoutput;  
end_pop;
```

p1\_data\_001.txt

## Example 1

Progeny	Sire	Dam	G	Sex	NMPrg	NFPrg	F	Homo	Phen	Res	Polygene	QTL
1	0	0	0	M	33	27	0.000000	0.696797	+1.323314	+0.331291	-0.000000	+0.992023
2	0	0	0	M	21	19	0.000000	0.695996	+0.933861	+1.323803	-0.000000	-0.389942
3	0	0	0	M	9	11	0.000000	0.673574	+0.903691	-0.106867	-0.000000	+1.010557
4	0	0	0	M	20	20	0.000000	0.685385	+0.502346	+0.068033	-0.000000	+0.434313
5	0	0	0	M	18	22	0.000000	0.696096	-0.038755	+0.870122	+0.000000	-0.908877
6	0	0	0	M	11	9	0.000000	0.692092	+2.246078	+1.202401	+0.000000	+1.043677
7	0	0	0	M	34	26	0.000000	0.704304	+1.312932	+1.393522	+0.000000	-0.080591
8	0	0	0	M	22	18	0.000000	0.692793	+1.375544	+1.060612	+0.000000	+0.314932

p1\_stat\_001.txt

Example 1

```
begin_popoutput;  
  data;  
  stat;  
  genotype /gen 8 9 10;  
end_popoutput;  
end_pop;
```

```
----- Inbreeding -----  
                Inbred          All  
Gen.      No.      Mean      SD      Mean      SD  
0          0      0.0000  0.0000  0.0000  0.0000  
1          0      0.0000  0.0000  0.0000  0.0000
```

```
----- Homozygosity -----  
Gen.      Mean      SD  
0          0.68254159  0.01207245  
1          0.68200626  0.01103250
```

```
----- Phenotype -----  
Gen.      Mean      SD  
0          0.08440969  1.01093563  
1          0.04504056  1.02152016
```

```
----- QTL -----  
Gen.      Mean      SD  
0          0.04889285  0.56092140  
1          -0.00533798  0.55392545
```

```
----- Brief structure -----  
Gen.      Progeny  Male%      Male Selected  Female Selected  Sire  Culled  Dam  Culled  
0          420  0.047619      20      0      400      0      0      0      0  
1          400  0.500000      200      8      200      80      20      8      400      80  
2          400  0.500000      200      8      200      80      20      8      400      80  
3          400  0.500000      200      8      200      80      20      8      400      80  
4          400  0.500000      200      8      200      80      20      8      400      80  
5          400  0.500000      200      0      200      0      20      0      400      0  
Overall    2420  0.421488      1020     32     1400     320     100     32     2000     320
```



```
/******  
**           Output options           **  
*****
```

```
begin_output;  
  linkage_map;  
  hp_stat;  
end_output;
```

Marker and QTL linkage map

```
  .-----.  
  | Example 1 |  
  `-----`
```

```
----- QTL linkage map -----  
ID           Chr      Position  
-----  
Q1           1        8.88876  
Q2           1       13.35024  
Q3           1       17.76099  
Q4           1       22.12918  
Q5           1       29.68482  
Q6           1       37.76335  
Q7           1       43.84122  
Q8           1       46.93041  
Q9           1       47.16755  
Q10          1       48.56634
```

```
/******
```

```
**      Output options
```

```
*****
```

Save brief statistics on historical population

```
begin_output;  
  linkage_map;  
  hp_stat;  
end_output;
```

```
-----  
| Example 1 |  
-----
```

```
----- Statistics for the last historical generation -----  
Scaled QTL mean (var)      :   -0.00000 (0.3)  
QTL scale factor          :     1.64027  
Polygenic mean (var)      :     0.00000 (0)
```

	Overall	Chr1	Chr2	Chr3	Chr4	Chr5
Chromosome length (male)	: 3000.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000
Chromosome length (female)	: 3000.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000

No. loci	: 10740	358	358	358	358	358
No. markers	: 9990	333	333	333	333	333
No. QTL	: 750	25	25	25	25	25
No. non-seg. loci	: 1241	47	30	45	39	43
No. non-seg. markers	: 89	2	3	4	2	5
No. non-seg. QTL	: 1152	45	27	41	37	38

	male	female
Density in total	: 3.58000	3.58000 per 1 cM
Density for markers	: 3.33000	3.33000 per 1 cM
Density for QTL	: 0.25000	0.25000 per 1 cM







# Conclusion



To create LD

Population expansion or bottleneck

QTL + polygenic

Dense marker map

Multiple recent populations / lines

Sex limited traits

Crossing between populations / lines

**QMSim**

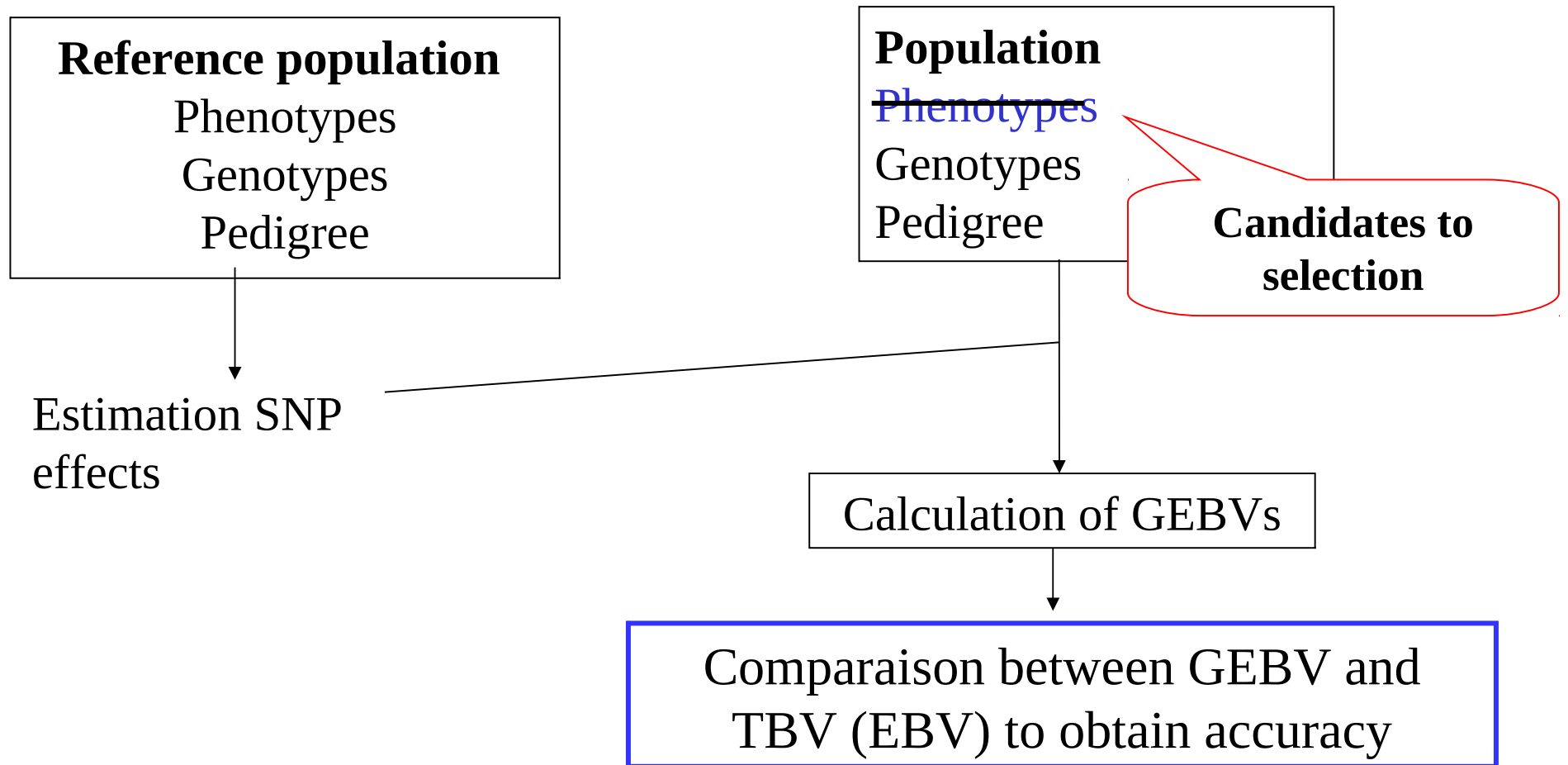


A single historical population

No fixed effects

Only additive effects

# Genomic selection : validation



# Example of simulation

