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Integrative factorial methods to explore the relationships between genotypes, phenotypes and climate in Holstein cows

Denis Laloë, Filippo Biscarini, Salvatore Mastrangelo, Gabriele Senczuk, Christian Persichilli, Giuseppe Conte, Raffaella Finocchiano, Jan Thijs van Kaam, Roberta Ciampolini, Martino Cassandro

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25th Congress

ASPA2023

Monopoli (Bari, Italy), June 13-16, 2023



➤ *Integrative factorial methods to explore the relationships between genotypes, phenotypes and climate in Holstein cows*
A first step: Synthesizing lactation curves

D Laloë, F Biscarini, S Mastrangelo, G Senczuk, C Persichilli, G Conte, R Finocchiano, JT van Kaam, R Ciampolini, M Cassandro



Introduction

The map of italian climates

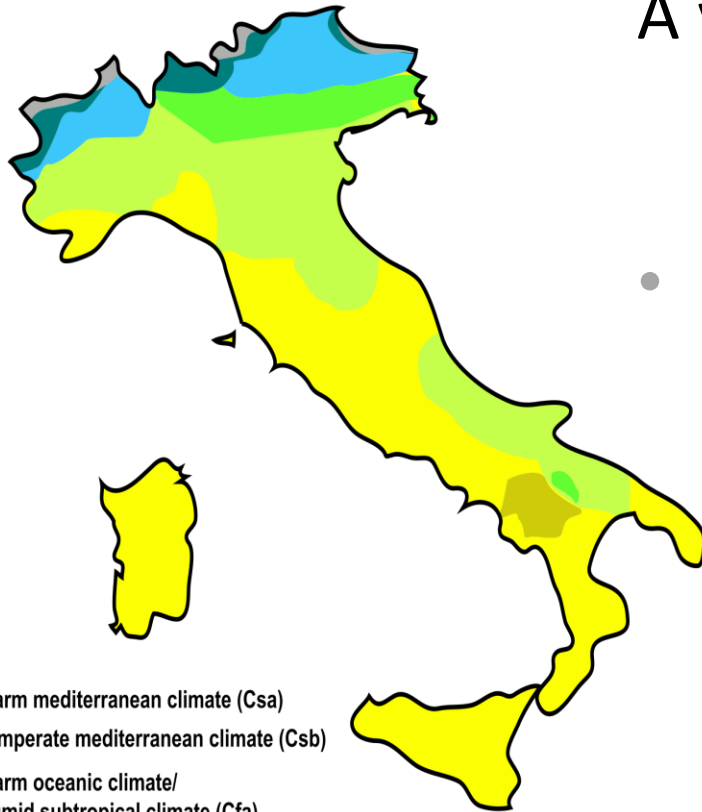
Italy map of Köppen climate classification

A variety of climates

Continental

Oceanic / Temperate

- Mediterranean



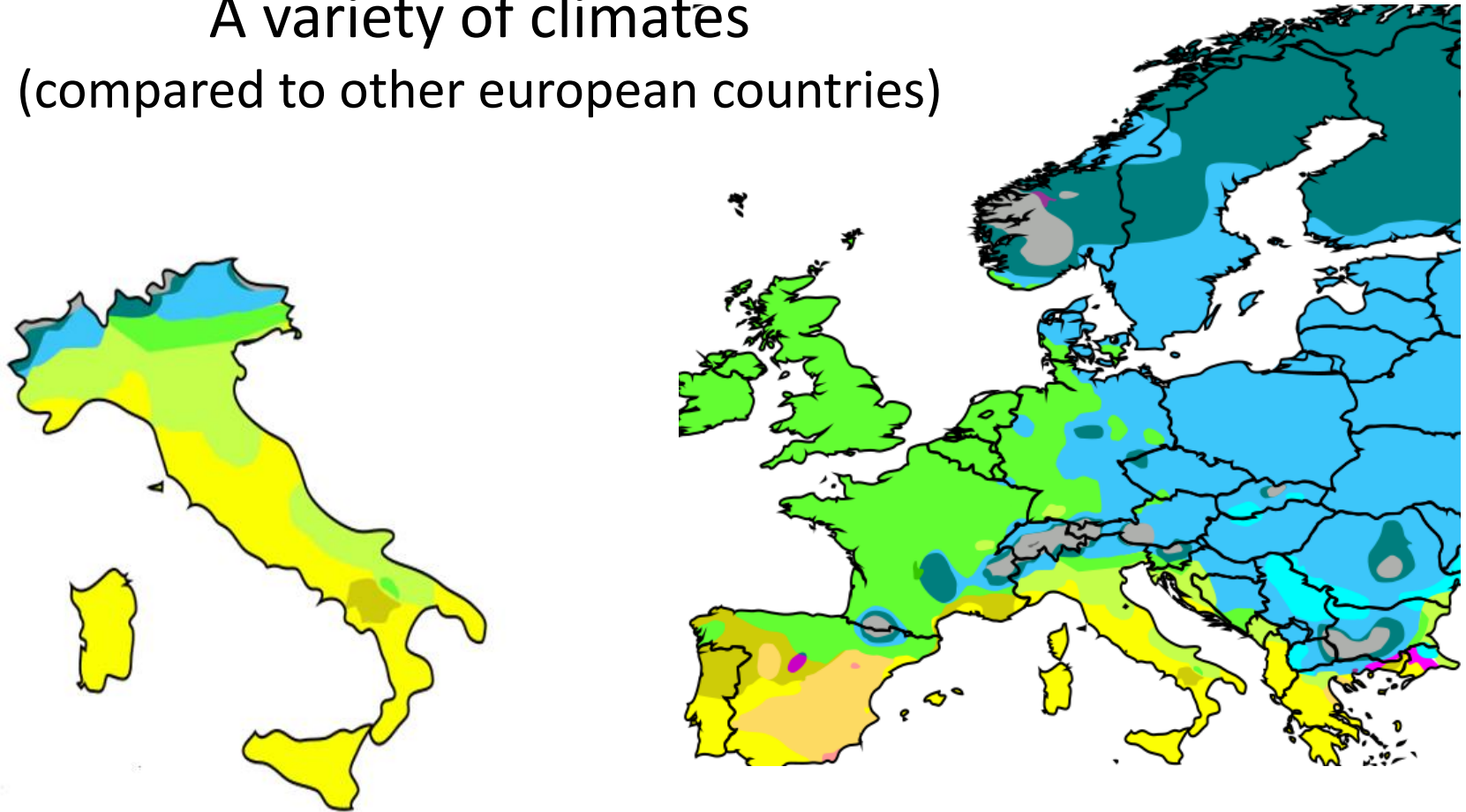
- Warm mediterranean climate (Csa)
- Temperate mediterranean climate (Csb)
- Warm oceanic climate/
Humid subtropical climate (Cfa)
- Temperate oceanic climate (Cfb)
- Temperate continental climate/
Humid continental climate (Dfb)
- Cool continental climate/
Subarctic climate (Dfc)
- Tundra climate (ET)

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Introduction

The map of italian climates

A variety of climates
(compared to other european countries)



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en.wikimedia.org

Introduction

Accounting for environment

The fine-scale (day) classical approach:

Reaction norms model on test-day records : test-day phenotypes linked to day-recorded meteo variables

Bernabucci, U., Biffani, S., Buggiotti, L., Vitali, A., Lacetera, N., & Nardone, A. (2014). The effects of heat stress in Italian Holstein dairy cattle. Journal of dairy science, 97(1), 471-486.

Landi, V., Maggiolino, A., Cecchinato, A., Mota, L. F. M., Bernabucci, U., Rossoni, A., & De Palo, P. (2023). Genotype by environment interaction due to heat stress in Brown Swiss cattle. Journal of Dairy Science, 106(3), 1889-1909.

Vinet, A., Mattalia, S., Vallée, R., Bertrand, C., Cuyabano, B. C., & Boichard, D. (2023). Estimation of genotype by temperature-humidity index interactions on milk production and udder health traits in Montbeliarde cows. Genetics Selection Evolution, 55(1), 1-17.

An other larger-scale approach:

Effect of general environment (through geography)

1. Functional PCA (fpca) on lactation curves (milk yield, fat, protein) -> a few synthetic variables
2. Links of fPCA results with geography / climate

Methods: Functional Principal Components Analysis

Data recorded at different discrete times-> Curve

Functional pca:

- Irregular measurement times, irregular number of measurements
- Extract the common temporal characteristics of a set of curves
- Essential modes of temporal variation: Principal Functions
 - % of variance
 - interpretation

An extension of classical PCA (Macciotta et al (1015))

	PCA	FPCA
Dimension	$P < \infty$	∞
Mean	$E(X)$: scalar	$E(X(t))$: function
Covariance	$Cov(x_p, x_q) = \Sigma$	$Cov(X(s), X(t))$: surface
Eigenvectors / Eigenfunctions	v_1, v_2, \dots	$f_1(t), f_2(t), \dots$

*Macciotta et al(2015). Genome-wide association analysis in Italian Simmental cows for lactation curve traits using a low-density (7K) SNP panel. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 98(11), 8175-8185.

Yao F., Müller H.G., and Wang J.-L. (2005). *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 100 (470): 577–90. <https://doi.org/10.1198/016214504000001745>

Zhou Y et al (2022). `_fdapace`: Functional Data Analysis and Empirical Dynamics, R package

Arnal, M., Robert-Granié, C., & Larroque, H. (2018). Diversity of dairy goat lactation curves in France. *Journal of dairy science*, 101(12), 11040-11051.

Labe et al, June 2023, ASPA Congress, BARI.

Data (ANAFI): Milk records

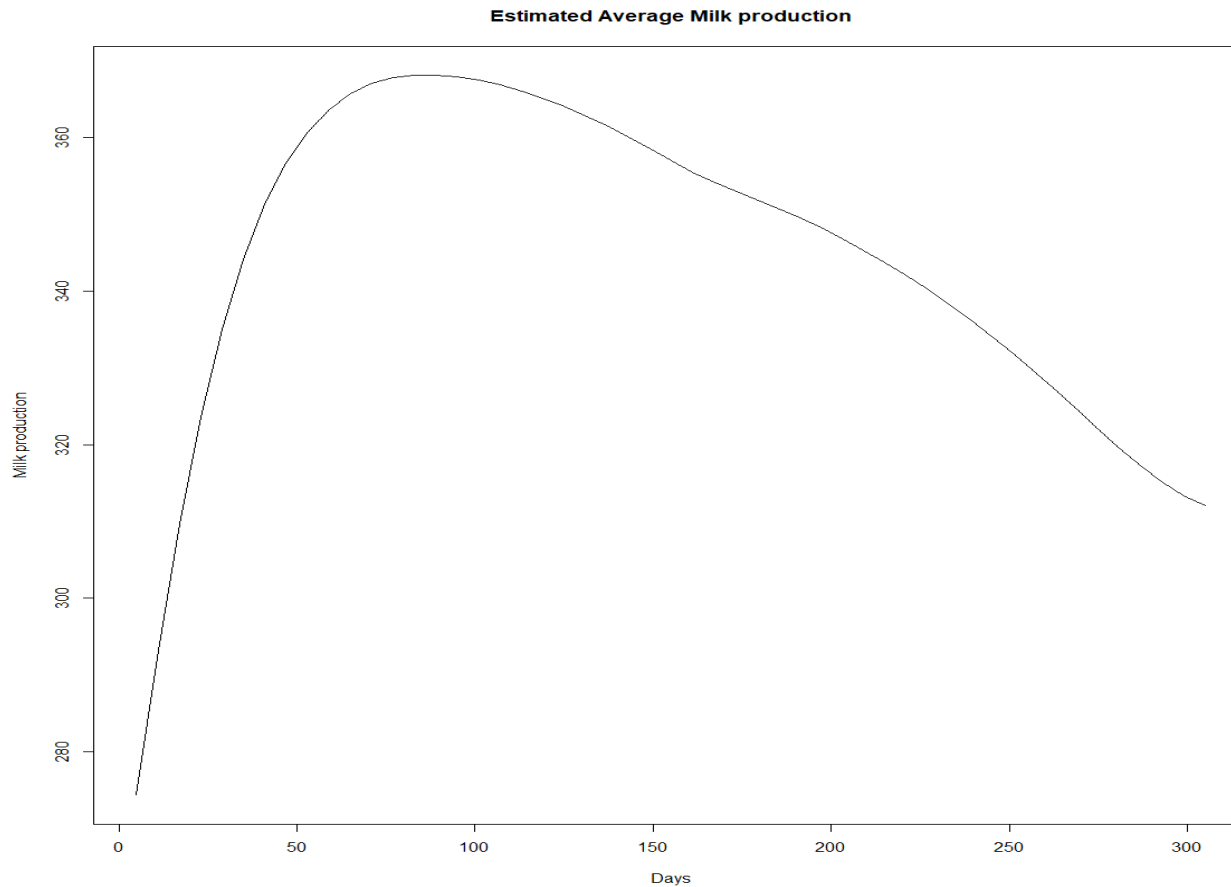
- Editing : First lactations, in the same herd , with > 4 records.

	Number
Records	120245
Lactations / Cows	15545
Herds	881

Number of records / lactation	Number
5	898
6	1788
7	4162
8	4140
9	2845
10	1664
11	48

Functional PCA Milk yield

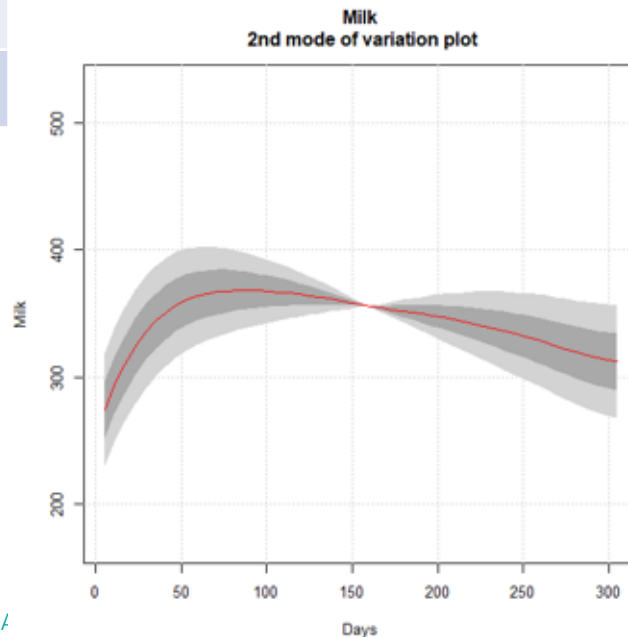
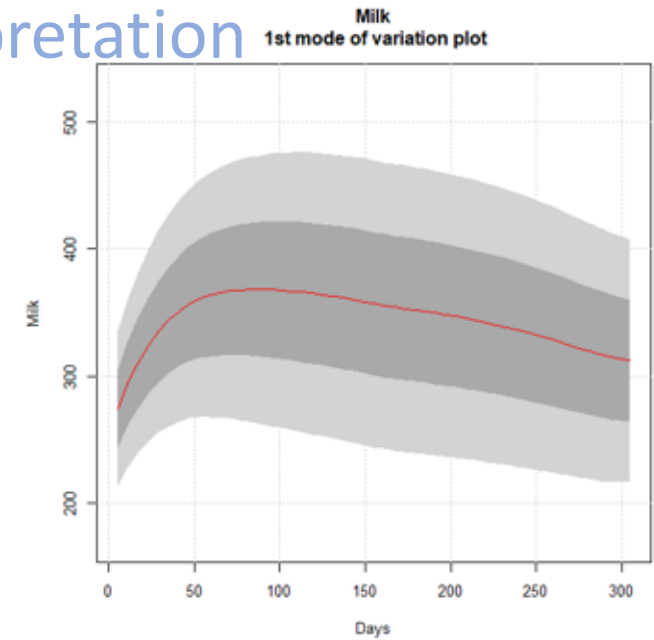
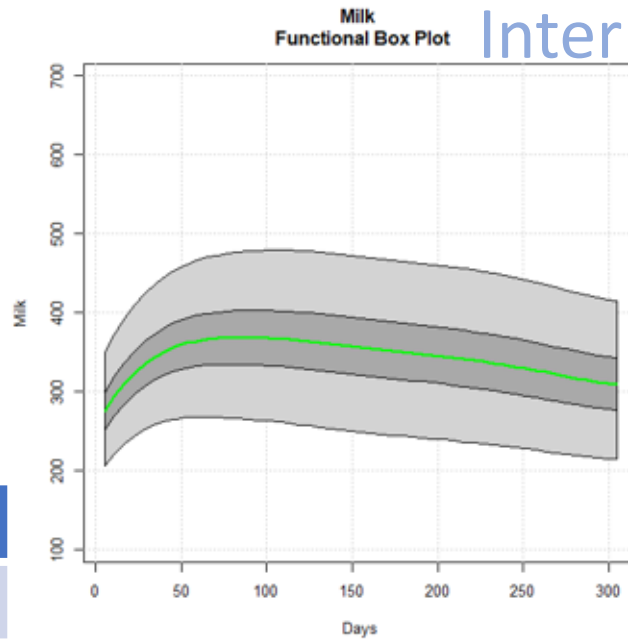
Average curve



Functional PCA Milk yield

Interpretation

$$\bar{x}(t) \pm Q \sqrt{d_i} \xi_i(t)$$



Variations around mean curves

K=1 : Level of production (*Size*)

K=2: Persistency (*Shape*)

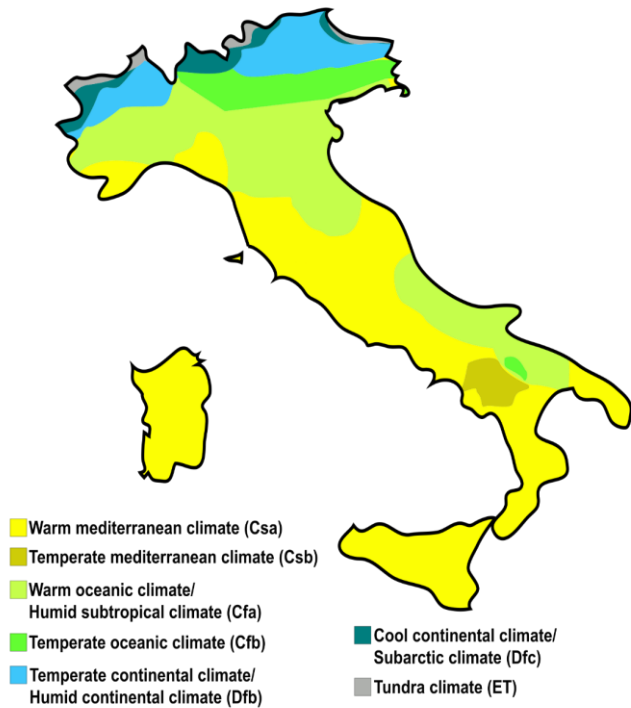
Functional PCA applied to Milk yield, Protein (%), Fat(%)

% of variance explained by the first 2 functional PCs

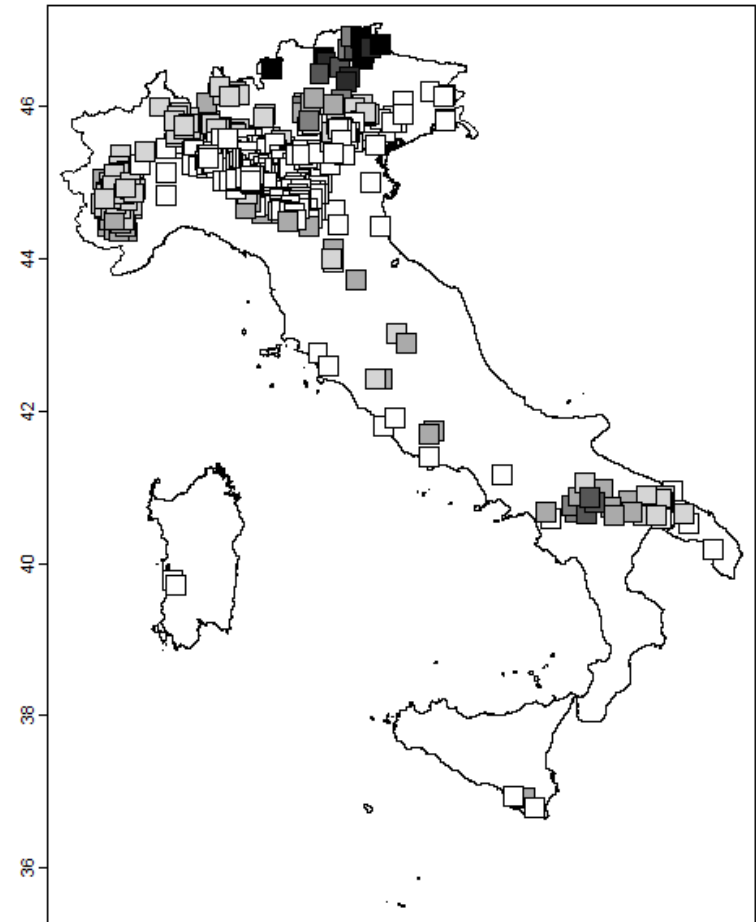
	Yield	Protein %	Fat %
1	89,5	85,2	88,8
2	8,0	11,7	7,3
Total (1+2)	97.5	96.9	96.1

Data (ANAFI) Geography

Italy map of Köppen climate classification



Location of herds



Altitude : 1 – 1350 m
The darker, the higher

Adaptation to different environments

Sire * geography interaction

2. Selection of « ubiquist » sires

Sires that serve in > 25 herds

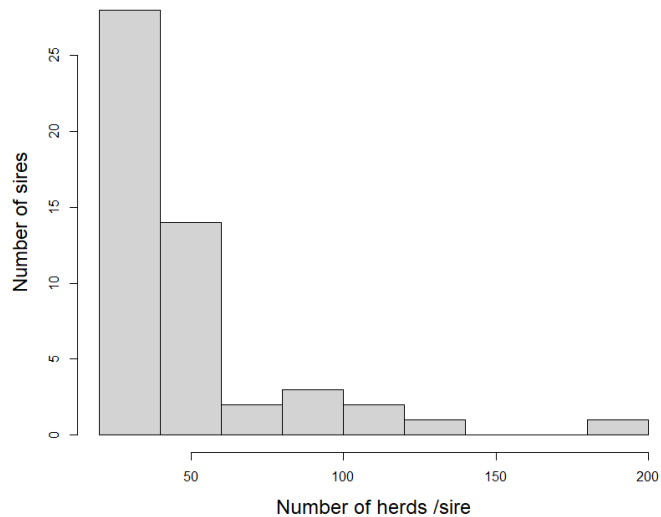
51 sires;

659 herds

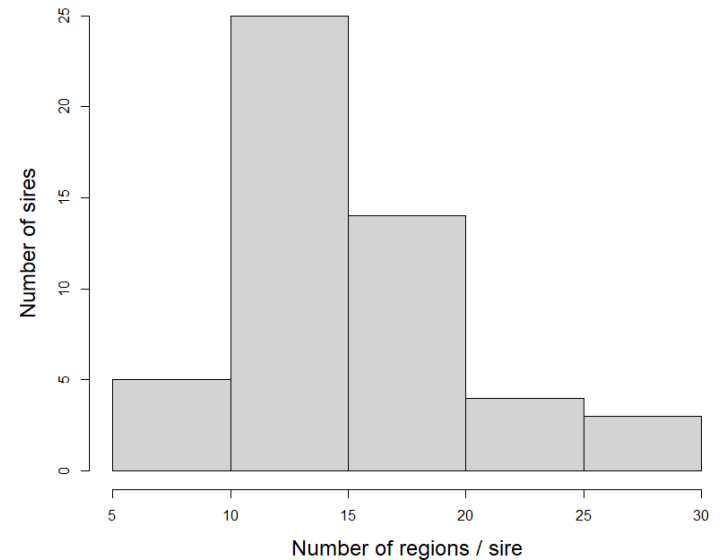
42 provinces

6368 lactations

Number of herds per sire



Number of regions per sire



A first attempt for the characterization of an interaction

Geography * Genotype

A mixed linear sire model (R package « nlme »)

Fixed effects : Year calving, Month calving, latitude, longitude, altitude

Random effects: Sire, interactions Sire*latitude, Sire*longitude, Sire*altitude

* ML test Presence vs Absence interactions -> Significant (except when NS indicated)

* From 6 % to 25 % of the sire variance

	Year	Month	Latit	Long	Altit	σ^2_{sire}	$\sigma^2_{\text{sire*lat}}$	$\sigma^2_{\text{sire*long}}$	$\sigma^2_{\text{sire*alt}}$
Milk	NS	*	NS	*	NS	0.056	0.014	0.006	0.014
Prot%	*	*	*	*	NS	0.108	0.011	0.007	0.003 (NS)
Fat%	NS	*	*	NS	*	0.068	0.006	0.006	0.004 (NS)

Conclusion

For almost each trait*geographical coordinate, the interaction is significant, exhibiting a genotype*environment interaction

A (over?) simplified modelling

Environment (climate, breeding system, herd) synthesized by geography
Should be completed with more focused genetic studies (genetic / genomic studies)

Nevertheless,

Functional PCA allows us to synthesize a lactation curve into a few components;

- Can be seen as an extension of PCA
- Helps to relate milk yield to global climate parameters;
- could be used jointly with climate projections or scenarii (# genomic vulnerability)

A complementarity with reaction –norm approach



Thanks for Your Attention!!