

ARLEQUIN

A software for
population genetic
data analysis



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ver 1.1

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Why Arlequin?

Arlequin is the French translation of "Arlecchino", a famous character of the Italian "Commedia dell'Arte". As a character he has many aspects, but he has the ability to switch among them very easily according to its needs and to necessities. This polymorphic ability is symbolized by his colorful costume, from which the Arlequin icon was designed.

1.2 Arlequin philosophy

The goal of Arlequin is to provide the average user in population genetics with quite a large set of methods and statistical tests, in order to extract information on genetic and demographic features of a collection of population samples.

The graphical interface has been designed such as to allow the user to rapidly select the different analyses he wants to perform on his data. We felt important to be able to explore the data, to analyze several times the same data set from different perspectives, with different selected options.

The statistical tests implemented in Arlequin have been chosen such as to minimize hidden assumptions and to be as powerful as possible. Thus, they often take the form of either permutation tests or exact tests, with some exceptions.

Finally, we wanted Arlequin to be able to handle genetic data under many different forms, and to try to carry out the same types of analyses irrespective of the format of the data.

Because Arlequin has a rich set of features and many options, it means that the user has to spend some time in learning them. However, we hope that the learning curve will not be that steep.

Arlequin is made available free of charge, as long as we have enough local resources to support the development of the program.

1.3 About this manual

The main purpose of this manual is to allow you to use Arlequin on your own, in order to limit as far as possible e-mail exchange with us.

In this manual, we have tried to provide a description of

1. the data types handled by Arlequin
2. the way these data should be formatted before the analyses
3. the graphical interface
4. the impact of different options on the computations
5. methodological outlines describing which computations are actually performed by Arlequin.

Even though this manual contains the description of some theoretical aspects, it should not be considered as a textbook in basic population genetics. We strongly recommend you to consult the original references provided with the description of a given method if you are in doubt with any aspect of the analysis.

1.4 Data types handled by Arlequin

Arlequin can handle several types of data either in *haplotypic* or *genotypic* form. The basic data types are:

- DNA sequences
- RFLP data
- Microsatellite data
- Standard data
- Allele frequency data

By *haplotypic form* we mean that genetic data can be presented under the form of haplotypes (i.e. a combination of alleles at one or more loci). This haplotypic form can result from the analyses of haploid genomes (mtDNA, Y chromosome, prokaryotes), or from diploid genomes where the gametic phase could be inferred by one way or another. Note that allelic data are treated here as a single locus haplotype.

Ex 1: haplotypic RFLP data : 100110100101001010

Ex 2: haplotypic standard HLA data : DRB1*0101 DQB1*0102 DPB1*0201

By *genotypic form*, we mean that genetic data is presented under the form of diploid genotypes (i.e. a combination of pairs of alleles at one or more loci).

Ex1: genotypic DNA sequence data:

ACGGCATTTAAGCATGACATACGGATTGACA

ACGGGATTTTAGCATGACATTCGGATAGACA

Ex 2: genotypic Microsatellite data :

63 24 32

62 24 30

The gametic phase of a multi-locus genotype may be either known or unknown. If the gametic phase is known, the genotype can be considered as made up of two well-defined haplotypes. For genotypic data with unknown gametic phase, you can consider the two alleles present at each locus as codominant, or you can allow for the presence of a recessive allele. This gives finally four possible forms of genetic data:

- Haplotypic data,
- Genotypic data with known gametic phase,
- Genotypic data with unknown gametic phase (no recessive alleles)
- Genotypic data with unknown gametic phase (recessive alleles).

1.4.1 DNA sequences

DNA sequences of arbitrary length can be accommodated by Arlequin. Each nucleotide is considered as a distinct locus. The four nucleotides "C", "T", "A", "G" are considered as unambiguous alleles for each locus, and the "-" is used to indicate a deleted nucleotide. Usually the question mark "?" codes for an unknown nucleotide.

The following notation for ambiguous nucleotides are also recognized:

- R: A/G (purine)
- Y: C/T (pyrimidine)
- M: A/C
- W: A/T
- S: C/G
- K: G/T
- B: C/G/T
- D: A/G/T
- H: A/C/T
- V: A/C/G
- N: A/C/G/T

1.4.2 RFLP Data

RFLP haplotypes of arbitrary length can be handled by Arlequin. Each restriction site is considered as a distinct locus. The presence of a restriction site should be coded as a "1", and its absence as a "0". The "-" character should be used to denote the deletion of a site, not its absence due to a point mutation.

1.4.3 Microsatellite data

The raw data consist here of the allelic state of one or an arbitrary number of microsatellite loci. For each locus, one should in principle provide the number of repeats of the microsatellite motif as the allelic definition, if one wants his data to be analyzed according to the step-wise mutation model (for the analysis of genetic structure). It may occur that the absolute number of repeats is unknown. If the difference in length between amplified products is the direct consequence of changes in repeat numbers, then the minimum length of the amplified product could serve as a reference, allowing to code the other alleles in terms of additional repeats as compared to this reference. If this strategy is impossible, then any other number could be used as an allelic code, but the step-wise mutation model could not be assumed for these data.

1.4.4 Standard data

Data for which the molecular basis of the polymorphism is not particularly defined, or when different alleles are considered as mutationally equidistant from each other. Standard data haplotypes are thus compared for their content at each locus, without taking special care about the nature of the alleles, which can be either similar or different. For instance, HLA data (human MHC) enters the category of standard data.

8 APPENDIX

8.1 Overview of input file keywords

Keywords	Description	Possible values
[Profile]		
Title	A title describing the present analysis	A string of alphanumeric characters within double quotes
NbSamples	The number of different samples listed in the data file	A positive integer larger than zero
DataType	The type of data to be analyzed (only one type of data per project file is allowed)	STANDARD, DNA, RFLP, MICROSAT, FREQUENCY
GenotypicData	Specifies if genotypic or gametic data is available	0 (haplotypic data), 1 (genotypic data)
LocusSeparator	The character used to separate adjacent loci	WHITESPACE, TAB, NONE, or any character other than "#", or the character specifying missing data Default: WHITESPACE
GameticPhase	Specifies if the gametic phase is known (for genotypic data only)	0 (gametic phase not known), 1 (known gametic phase) Default: 1
RecessiveData	Specifies whether recessive alleles are present at all loci (for genotypic data)	0 (co-dominant data), 1 (recessive data) Default: 0
RecessiveAllele	Specifies the code for the recessive allele	Any string within quotation marks This string can be explicitly used in the input file to indicate the occurrence of a recessive homozygote at one or several loci. Default: "null"
MissingData	A character used to specify the code for missing data	"?" or any character within quotes, other than those previously used Default: "?"
Frequency	Specifies the format of haplotype frequencies	ABS (absolute values), REL (relative values: absolute values will be found by multiplying the relative frequencies by the sample sizes) Default: ABS

CompDistMatrix	Specifies if the distance matrix has to be computed from the data	0 (use any specified distance matrix), 1 (compute distance matrix from haplotypic information) Default: 0
FrequencyThreshold	The minimum frequency a haplotype has to reach for being listed in any output file	A real number between 1e-2 and 1e-7. Default: 1e-5
EpsilonValue	The EM algorithm convergence criterion. (For advanced users only)	A real number between 1e-7 and 1e-12. Default: 1e-7

Keywords	Description	Possible values
[Data]		
[[HaplotypeDefinition]] (facultative section)		
HaplListName	The name of a haplotype definition list	A string within quotation marks
HaplList	The list of haplotypes listed within braces ({...})	A series of haplotype definitions given on separate lines for each haplotype. Each haplotype is defined by a haplotype label and a combination of alleles at different loci. The Keyword EXTERN followed by a string within quotation marks may be used to specify that a given haplotype list is in a different file

Keywords	Description	Possible values
[Data]		
[[DistanceMatrix]] (facultative section)		
MatrixName	The name of the distance matrix	A string within quotation marks
MatrixSize	The size of the matrix	A positive integer larger than zero (corresponding to the number of haplotypes listed in the haplotype list)
LabelPosition	Specifies whether haplotypes labels are entered by row or by column	ROW (the haplotype labels will be entered consecutively on one or several lines, within the MatrixData segment, before the distance matrix elements), COLUMN (the haplotype labels will be entered as the first column of each row of the distance matrix itself)
MatrixData	The matrix data itself listed within braces ({...})	The matrix data will be entered as a format-free lower-diagonal matrix. The haplotype labels can be either entered consecutively on one or several lines (if LabelPosition=ROW), or entered at the first column of each row (if labelPosition=COLUMN). The special keyword EXTERN may be used followed by a file name within quotation marks, stating that the data must be read in an another file

Keywords	Description	Possible values
[Data]		
[[Samples]]		
SampleName	The name of the sample. This keyword is used to mark the beginning of a sample definition	A string within quotation marks
SampleSize	Specifies the sample size	An integer larger than zero. For haplotypic data, it must specify the number of gene copies in the sample. For genotypic data, it must specify the number of individuals in the sample.
SampleData	The sample data listed within braces ({...})	The keyword EXTERN may be used followed by a file name within quotation marks, stating that the data must be read in a separate file. The SampleData keyword ends a sample definition

Keywords	Description	Possible values
[Data]		
[[Structure]]		
	(facultative section)	
StructureName	The name of a given genetic structure to test	A string of characters within quotation marks
NbGroups	The number of groups of populations	An integer larger than zero
IndividualLevel	Specifies whether the level of genetic variability within individuals has to be taken into account (for genotypic data only)	0 (the component of variance due to differences between haplotypes within individuals will be ignored) 1 (the component of variance due to differences between haplotypes within individuals, and its associated statistics will be computed)
Group	The definition of a group of samples, identified by their SampleName listed within braces ({...})	A series of strings within quotation marks all enclosed within braces, and, if desired, on separate lines

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