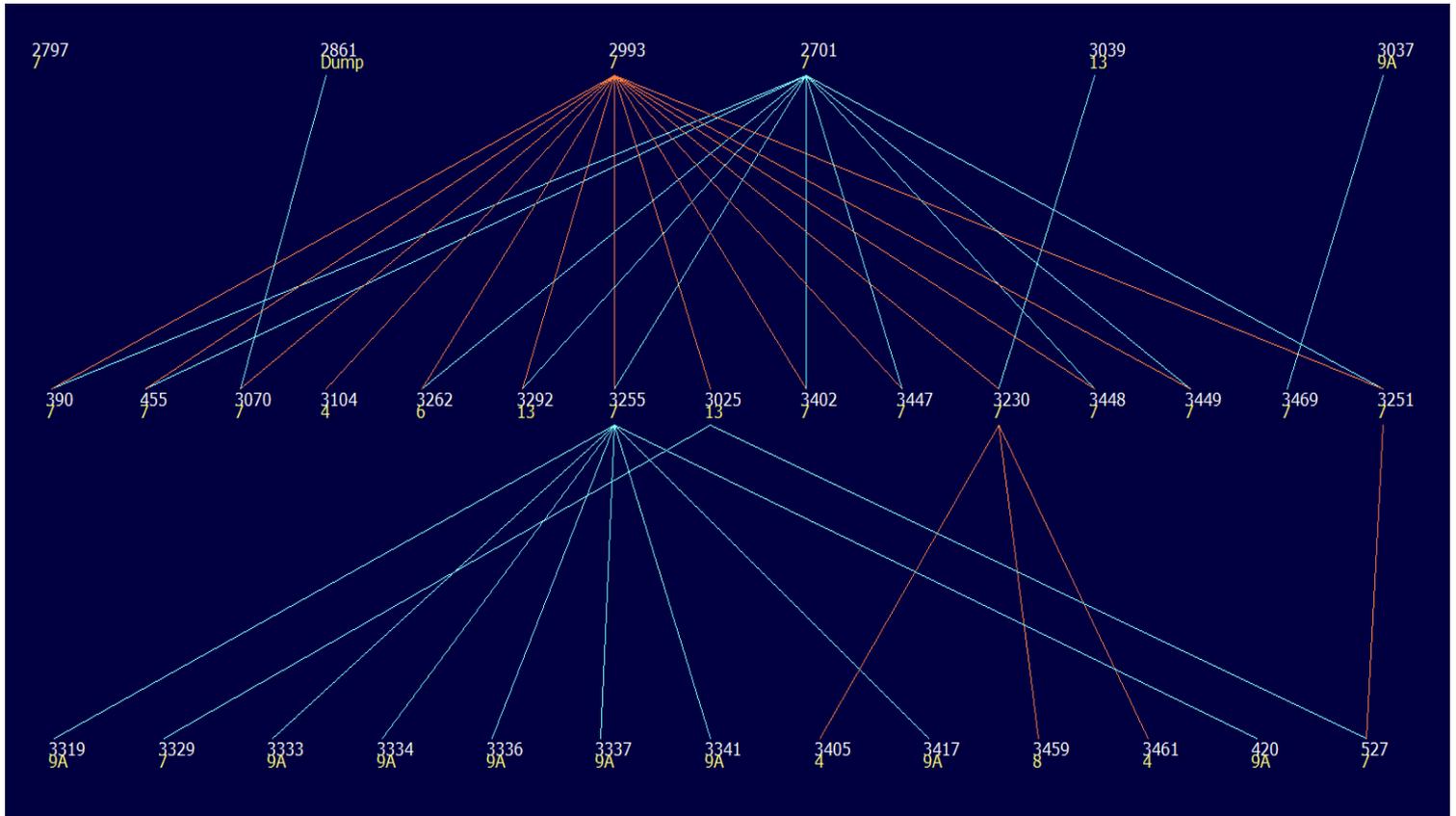




Don't worry, you're not supposed to be able to read it! Obviously this is far too dense and tangled to be of use, so we can reduce it down to just look at one warren at a time, instead of the whole 15 warren complex that we studied. Here's a nice example from Warren 7. It shows a dominant breeding pair and their offspring and grandchildren. You'll notice that while Mrs 2993 favours Mr 2701, she isn't monogamous. One of their offspring, a male tagged with number 3255 has migrated to nearby Warren 9A and become a successful breeder in his own right, while most the rest have not managed to survive to breeding age.



Pedigree of rabbits from Warren 7 and their relatives. Paternal links in blue, maternal links in orange, rabbit ID numbers in white, warren of first known residence in yellow beneath. Note the dominant breeding male 2701 and female 2993. One of their male offspring, 3255 has migrated to Warren 9A and bred successfully in that warren.

From these data we have so far found that breeding success appears to be concentrated on just a few older (and likely more dominant) rabbits. Rabbits born in July-October had the greatest chance of survival, while those few that were born through summer never stood a chance. Both of these facts very much fit our expectations and previous observations. The truly exciting bit is coming next, when we combine our family data and survival data together with statistics to really quantify the impact of genes on survival. Does a rabbit's family really matter? We'll soon find out!