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Laboratory of Artificial & Natural Evolution



Since Platon & Aristotle

Taxonomy (classification)



Linné (1758): binomial nomenclature



Kingdom	-	Animalia
Phylum	-	Chordata
Subphylum	-	Vertebrata
Class	-	Mammalia
Order	-	Carnivora
Family	-	Ursidae
Gender	-	Ursus
Species	-	U.maritimus

- 1. Variation & heritability,
- 2. Natural selection,
- 3. Phylogeny.

Variation & heritability,
 Natural selection,
 Phylogeny.





<u>On the origin of species</u> by means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life

(Charles Darwin, 1859)

- 1. Variation & heritability,
- 2. Natural selection,
- 3. Phylogeny.
 - ✓ There is variation among individuals within a species
 - \checkmark This variation is, partly, heritable
 - ✓ Individuals of generation n have unequal contributions to generation n+1 (ressources are limited; bearers of advantageous variation contribute more to the next generation).

Since Mendel (1856-1871 -> 1900)























- Variation & heritability,
 Natural selection,
- 3. Phylogeny.

The hierarchical organization of biological diversity results from modification with descent



The Linnean system should be strictly genealogical



The origin of variation: mutations















Some of the identified mutations in vertebrate MC1R



(Mundy, 2005)

Phylogeny "reconstruction" is an inference

desigophy Mark Smallers from MacDesigophicon.

IN FUTURISTIC

WHIRLS YOU TO A WORLD OF AMALING ADVENTURE IN THE YEAR 800,000

ROD TAYLOR - ALAN YOUNG - YVETTE MIMIEUX - SEBASTIAN CABOT - TOM HELMORE



Phylogenetic relationships among lineages can be conter-intuitive





What is Phylogeny?

The evolutionary relationships among organisms;

the patterns of lineage branching produced by the <u>true</u> evolutionary history of the <u>organisms</u> being considered. The Tree of Life then represents the history of all organismal lineages as they change through time ...



× individus













The <u>observed number of differences</u> between two aligned sequences separated by a time *t* is a poor indicator of <u>the number of substitutions</u> that occurred between these two sequences (unless *t* is small).

CATATGA $\downarrow \Delta t$ CGTATGA $\downarrow \Delta t$ CTTATGA $\downarrow \Delta t$ CATATGA $\downarrow \Delta t$ CCTATGA

Divergence between two sequences will not increase linearly with time as multiple substitutions may occur at the same site. This is true even for infinitelength sequences. Back, parallel, & convergent substitutions can even INCREASE similarity, locally in time. The <u>observed number of differences</u> between two aligned sequences separated by a time *t* is a poor indicator of <u>the number of substitutions</u> that occurred between these two sequences (unless *t* is small).

CATATGA $\Box \Delta t$ CGTATGA $\int \Delta t$ CTTATGA $\Box \Delta t$ CATATGA $\int \Delta t$ CCTATGA

In probabilistic terms:

If the character state is "A" at time t_0 , what is the probability, $P_{A(t)}$, that the character state will be "A" at time t?

<u>Models</u> have been proposed to approximate the true dynamic of nucleotide substitution. <u>Assumption</u>: Substitutions occur with equal rates among the four nucleotide states --> 1 single parameter



alpha is a <u>rate</u>, i.e., for example a number of substitutions per site per year. Computing distances II: the K2P model

<u>Assumption</u>: Ti and Tv and different rates among the four nucleotide states and all state equilibrium frequencies are equal (0.25).

--> 2 parameters



Computing distances III: GTR

The transition probability matrix can be obtained by:

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \alpha \pi_T & \beta \pi_C & \gamma \pi_G \\ \alpha \pi_A & \cdot & \rho \pi_C & \sigma \pi_G \\ \beta \pi_A & \rho \pi_T & \cdot & \tau \pi_G \\ \gamma \pi_A & \sigma \pi_T & \tau \pi_C & \cdot \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \mathbf{P}(t) = \mathbf{e}^{\mathbf{R}t}$$

The GTR model assumes <u>reversibility</u>: the net rate from *j* to *i* is equal to the net rate from *i* to *j*.

i.e.,
$$(\pi_i r_{ij} = \pi_j r_{ji})_{\star\star}$$

Given * & **, Rodriguez et al (1990) demonstrated:

 $\mathbf{\Pi} \mathbf{P}(t) = \mathbf{P}(t)^T \mathbf{\Pi} \quad \text{where } \Pi \text{ is the diagonal} \\ \text{matrix of state} \\ \text{equilibrium frequencies.} \quad \Pi = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_A & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \pi_C & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \pi_G & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \pi_T \end{bmatrix}$

$$\mathbf{P}(\hat{t}) = \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{\Pi}^{-1} (\mathbf{P}(\hat{t})^T \mathbf{\Pi}) = \mathbf{\Pi}^{-1} \mathbf{F}^{\#}$$

Number of possible trees







$$B(T) = \prod_{i=3}^{T} (2i - 5)$$
$$\frac{(2T - 5)!}{(T - 3)! 2^{T - 3}}$$

"NP-h" combinatorial optimization problem



Molecular Phylogeny inference













e.g., Milinkovitch & Thewissen. <u>Nature</u> (1997) Gatesy et al. <u>Systematic Biology</u> (1999)



E.g., Bossuyt & Milinkovitch <u>PNAS</u> (2000) Bossuyt & Milinkovitch <u>Science</u> (2001) Bossuyt et al. <u>Science</u> (2004) Bossuyt et al. <u>Systematic Biology</u> (2006)







Bossuyt & Milinkovitch PNAS (2000)





Similar external morphology





Long beak

Low, triangular dorsal fin



Cassens & al. <u>PNAS</u> (2000)

Super-Order Afrotheria



5g à 5T!!

- √ O. Proboscidea
- ✓ O. Macroscelidea
 (elephant shrews),
- √ O. Tubulidentata
- ✓ O. Afrosoricida
 (Golden Moles & tenrecs)
- √ O. Hyracoidea √ O. Sirenia

Springer et al. <u>Nature</u> (1997) Stanhope et al. <u>PNAS</u> (1998) Springer et al. <u>Syst Biol</u> (1999) Van Dijk et al. <u>PNAS</u> (2001)

Super-Order Afrotheria



Isolated Africa (105-> 45 mya) -> collision with Eurasia.

No known shared derived morphological character Michel C. Milinkovitch Dpt. Genetics & Evolution, University of Geneva Michel.Milinkovitch@unige.ch

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