On the inference of complex phylogenetic networks by Markov Chain Monte-Carlo

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Phylogenetic networks

Phylogenetic networks are Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAG) that allow to detect reticulation events, such as :

- Admixture (e.g. humans)
- Introgressions (e.g. plants and animals)
- Horizontal gene transfers (e.g. bacteria)

Some key points on networks :

- Edge length = evolutionary time
- Reticulation nodes have 2 parents and represent reticulation events
- We want to obtain a probability distribution of networks (uncertainty on clades)
- The more data we have, the more precisely we can infer the network

Data in our study :

- A Data matrix containing an alignment of m biallelic markers
- Markers can be SNPs or random sites including invariant sites
- A certain distance must be preserved between genomic sites



Our new Bayesian method, SNAPPNet

- N : phylogenetic network (topology, branch lengths, population sizes)
- X_i : data for marker i
- G_i : locus tree for marker i
- *m* markers, $Data = (X_1, \ldots, X_m)$
- $\mathbb{P}(Data \mid N)$: likelihood of the data given the network
- P(N) : network prior birth hybridization process of Zhang et al. MBE 2018
- Posterior probability distribution (extension of SNAPP, Bryant et al. MBE 2012)

$$\mathbb{P}(N|\text{Data}) \propto \left(\prod_{i=1}^{m} \int_{\psi} \mathbb{P}(X_{i}|G_{i})\mathbb{P}(G_{i}|S)dG_{i}\right) P(N)$$
$$\propto \mathbb{P}(\text{Data} \mid N) P(N)$$

⇒ Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) in order to sample the posterior probability distribution $\mathbb{P}(N|X_1,...,X_m)$ using new algorithms dedicated to networks

SNAPPNet implemented in BEAST

How SNAPPNet computes the likelihood $\mathbb{P}(Data \mid N)$

Contrary to trees, network edges can not be treated independently

- We compute joint probability distributions
- We minimize computing time by minimizing the conditional part in computation

Dataset	CPU time	
ID	SNAPPNet	MCMCBiMarker
	(in minutes)	(in hours)
1	5.559	35.9354
2	5.6763	34.2433
3	5.7351	32.6519
4	5.446	34.2011
5	5.5996	33.2354



a level-2 network

SNAPPNet (Us) vs MCMCBiMarker (Zhu et al., Plos Comp Biol 2018)

Illustration of SNAPPNet on simulated and real data

Simulation study

True network



Estimated network length



 Study on rice genome (4 subpopulations *Indica*, *Japonica*, circum*Aus* and circum*Bas*mati using data from *Wang et al.*, *Nature 2018*)



Rice evolution scenario inferred by SNAPPNet

cAus : result of an early(old) combination between the *Ind* and the *Jap* lineages

Bas : a later combination between the *Aus* and the *Jap* lineages

New scheme that appears compatible within the simpler schemes that have been proposed so far (e.g. *Choi et al, Genome Biology 2020*)