

Advanced Algorithms and Models for Computational Biology

-- a machine learning approach

Molecular Evolution: nucleotide substitution models

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Reading: DTW book, Chap 12
DEKM book, Chap 8

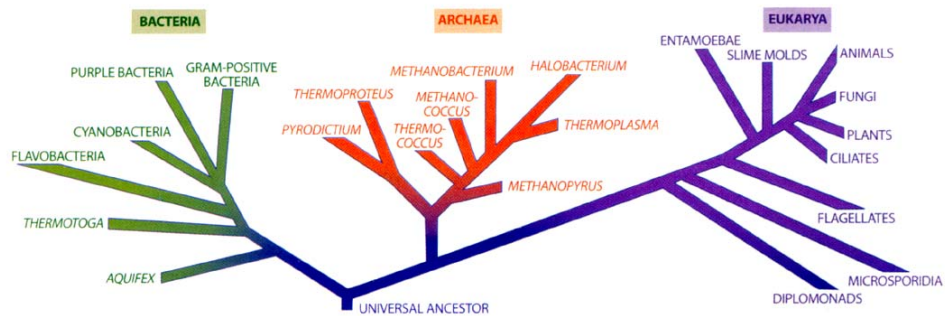
Some important dates in history (billions of years ago)



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| • Origin of the universe | 15 ±4 |
| • Formation of the solar system | 4.6 |
| • First self-replicating system | 3.5 ±0.5 |
| • Prokaryotic-eukaryotic divergence | 1.8 ±0.3 |
| • Plant-animal divergence | 1.0 |
| • Invertebrate-vertebrate divergence | 0.5 |
| • Mammalian radiation beginning | 0.1 |

(86 CSH Doolittle et al.)

The three kingdoms

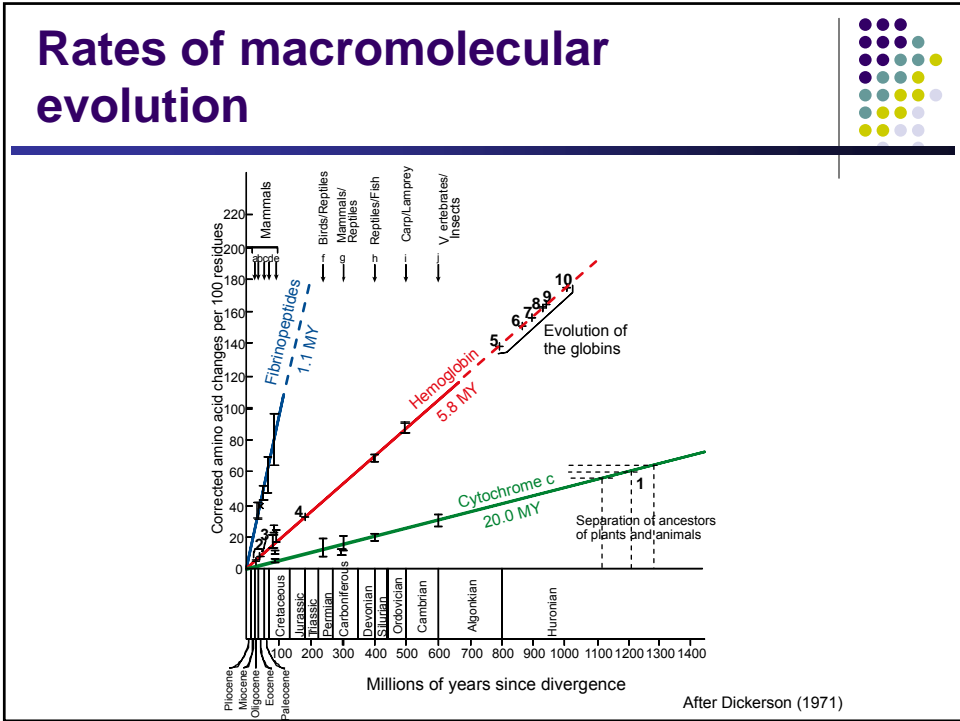


M. Madigan and B. Mairs, 1997

Two important early observations

- Different proteins evolve at different rates, and this seems more or less independent of the host organism, including its generation time.
- It is necessary to adjust the observed percent difference between two homologous proteins to get a distance more or less linearly related to the time since their common ancestor. (Later we offer a rational basis for doing this.)
- A striking early version of these observations is next.

Rates of macromolecular evolution



How does sequence variation arise?



- **Mutation:**
 - (a) Inherent: DNA replication errors are not always corrected.
 - (b) External: exposure to chemicals and radiation.

- **Selection:** Deleterious mutations are removed quickly. Neutral and rarely, advantageous mutations, are tolerated and stick around.

- **Fixation:** It takes time for a new variant to be established (having a stable frequency) in a population.

Modeling DNA base substitution



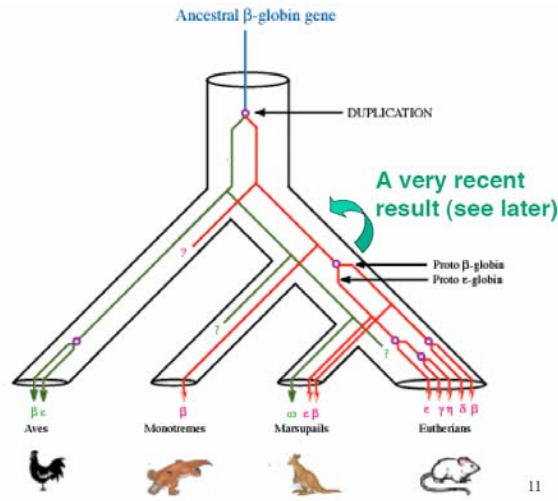
- Standard assumptions (sometimes weakened)
 - Site independence.
 - Site homogeneity.
 - Markovian: given current base, future substitutions independent of past.
 - Temporal homogeneity: stationary Markov chain.
- Strictly speaking, only applicable to regions undergoing little selection.

Some terminology



- In evolution, **homology** (here of proteins), means **similarity** due to common ancestry.
- A common mode of protein evolution is by **duplication**. Depending on the relations between duplication and speciation dates, we have two different types of homologous proteins. Loosely,
 - **Orthologues**: the “same” gene in different organisms; common ancestry goes back to a speciation event.
 - **Paralogues**: different genes in the same organism; common ancestry goes back to a gene duplication.
- **Lateral gene transfer** gives another form of homology.

Speciation vs. duplication



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Beta-globins (orthologues)



	10	20	30	40																																																			
BG-human	M	V	H	L	T	P	E	E	K	S	A	V	T	A	L	W	G	K	V	N	V	D	E	V	G	G	E	A	L	G	R	L	L	V	V	P	W	T	Q																
BG-macaque	-	N	T												
BG-bovine	-	.	M	.	.	A	.	.	A	F													
BG-platypus	-	.	.	.	S	G	G	N	I	N													
BG-chicken	.	.	W	.	A	.	.	.	Q	L	I	.	.	G	A	C	I	.												
BG-shark	-	.	.	W	S	E	V	.	L	H	E	I	.	T	T	.	.	K	S	I	D	K	H	S	L	.	A	K	.	.	.	A	.	M	F	I	T	.												
	50	60	70	80																																																			
BG-human	R	F	F	E	S	F	G	D	L	S	T	P	D	A	V	M	G	N	P	K	V	K	A	H	G	K	K	V	L	G	A	F	S	D	G	L	A	H	L	D															
BG-macaque	S									
BG-bovine	A	N								
BG-platypus	A	.	.	.	S	A	G							
BG-chicken	A	.	.	.	N	S	.	T	.	.	.	I	L							
BG-shark	.	.	Y	.	G	N	L	K	E	F	T	A	C	S	Y	G	-	-	-	-	.	.	E							
	90	100	110	120																																																			
BG-human	N	L	K	G	T	F	A	T	L	S	E	L	H	C	D	K	L	H	V	D	P	E	N	F	R	L	L	G	N	V	L	V	C	V	L	A	H	H	F	G															
BG-macaque	Q					
BG-bovine	D	A				
BG-platypus	D	K			
BG-chicken	I	.	.	.	N	S	.	Q		
BG-shark	D	.	.	.	V	.	.	.	S	.	Q			
	130	140																																																					
BG-human	K	E	F	T	P	P	V	Q	A	A	Y	Q	K	V	V	A	G	V	A	N	A	L	A	H	K	Y	H																												
BG-macaque	Q	
BG-bovine	V	L	
BG-platypus	D	.	.	.	S
BG-chicken	D
BG-shark	D	.	.	.	K	.	.	.	A

. means same as reference sequence
- means deletion

Beta-globins: uncorrected pairwise distances



- DISTANCES between protein sequences (calculated over: 1 to 147)
 - Below diagonal: observed number of differences
 - Above diagonal: number of differences per 100 amino acids

	hum	mac	bov	pla	chi	sha
hum	----	5	16	23	31	65
mac	7	----	17	23	30	62
bov	23	24	----	27	37	65
pla	34	34	39	----	29	64
chi	45	44	52	42	----	61
sha	91	88	91	90	87	----

Beta-globins: corrected pairwise distances



- DISTANCES between protein sequences (calculated over: 1 to 147)
 - Below diagonal: observed number of differences
 - Above diagonal: number of differences per 100 amino acids
 - Correction method: Jukes-Cantor

	hum	mac	bov	pla	chi	sha
hum	----	5	17	27	37	108
mac	7	----	18	27	36	102
bov	23	24	----	32	46	110
pla	34	34	39	----	34	106
chi	45	44	52	42	----	98
sha	91	88	91	90	87	----

Human globins (paralogues)



```

alpha-human  -VLSPADKKTNVKAAWGVKVGAAHAGEYGAERALERMFLSFPTT
beta-human   VH.T.EE.SA.T.L...--NVD.V.G...G.LLVVY.W.
delta-human  VH.T.EE.AA.N.L...--NVD.V.G...G.LLVVY.W.
epsilon-human VHFTAEE.AA.TSL.S.M--NVE.A.G...G.LLVVY.W.
gamma-human  GHFTEE.ATITSL...--NVEDA.G.T.G.LLVVY.W.
myo-human    -G...DGEWQL.LNV...E.DIPGH.Q.V.I.L.KGH.E.

alpha-human  KTYFPHF-DLSHGSA---QVKGHGKKVADALTNVAVAHV
beta-human   QRF.ES.G...TPD.VMGNPK..A...LG.FSDGL..L
delta-human  QRF.ES.G...SPD.VMGNPK..A...LG.FSDGL..L
epsilon-human QRF.DS.GN...SP..ILGNPK..A...LTSFGD.IKNM
gamma-human  QRF.DS.GN...SA..IMGNPK..A...LTS.GD.IK.L
myo-human    LEK.DK.KH.KSEDENKASEDL.K..AT.LT..GGILKKK

alpha-human  DDMPNALSLSDLDLHAKLRVDPVWFKLLSHCLLVTLAAHL
beta-human   .NLKGTFFAT..E..CD..H...E..R..GNV.VCV..HF
delta-human  .NLKGTFFAQ..E..CD..H...E..R..GNV.VCV..RNF
epsilon-human .NLKP.FAK..E..CD..H...E...GNVMVI..T.F
gamma-human  .NLKGTFAQ..E..CD..H...E...GNV.VTV..I.F
myo-human    GHEAEIKP.AQS...T.HKIPVXYLEFI.E.IIQV.QSKH

alpha-human  PAEFTPAVHASLDKFLASVSTVLTISKYR-----
beta-human   GK...F.Q.AYQ.VV.G.ANA.AH..H.....
delta-human  GK...QM.Q.AYQ.VV.G.ANA.AH..H.....
epsilon-human GK...E.Q.AWQ.LVSA.AIA.AH..H.....
gamma-human  GK...E.Q.WQ.MVTA.ASA.S.R.H.....
myo-human    .GD.GADAQQAMN.A.ELFRKDMA.N.KELGFQG
    
```

Human globins: corrected pairwise distances



- DISTANCES between protein sequences (calculated over 1 to 141)
 - Below diagonal: observed number of differences
 - Above diagonal: estimated number of substitutions per 100 amino acids
 - Correction method: Jukes-Cantor

	alpha	beta	delta	epsil	gamma	myo
alpha	---	281	281	281	313	208
beta	82	---	7	30	31	1000
delta	82	10	---	34	33	470
epsil	89	35	39	---	21	402
gamma	85	39	42	29	---	470
myo	116	117	116	119	118	---

Correcting distances between DNA and protein sequences



- Why it is necessary to **adjust** observed percent differences to get a distance measure which scales linearly with time?
- This is because we can have **multiple** and **back substitutions** at a given position along a lineage.
- All of the correction methods (with names like **Jukes-Cantor**, **2-parameter Kimura**, etc) are justified by simple probabilistic arguments involving Markov chains whose basis is worth mastering.
- The same molecular evolutionary models can be used in **scoring** sequence alignments.

Markov chain



- State space = {A,C,G,T}.
 $p(i,j) = \text{pr}(\text{next state } S_j \mid \text{current state } S_i)$
- **Markov assumption:**
 $p(\text{next state } S_j \mid \text{current state } S_i \text{ \& any configuration of states before this}) = p(i,j)$

Only the *present* state, not previous states, affects the probs of moving to next states.



The multiplication rule

$$\begin{aligned} & pr(\text{state after next is } S_k \mid \text{current state is } S_i) \\ &= \sum_j pr(\text{state after next is } S_k, \text{next state is } S_j \mid \text{current state is } S_i) \quad [\text{addition rule}] \\ &= \sum_j pr(\text{next state is } S_j \mid \text{current state is } S_i) \times pr(\text{state after next is } S_k \mid \text{current} \\ &\quad \text{state is } S_j, \text{next state is } S_j) \quad [\text{multiplication rule}] \\ &= \sum_j p_{ij} \times p_{j,k} \quad [\text{Markov assumption}] \\ &= (i,k)\text{-element of } P^2, \text{ where } P=(p_{ij}). \end{aligned}$$

More generally,

$$pr(\text{state } t \text{ steps from now is } S_k \mid \text{current state is } S_i) = i,k \text{ element of } P^t$$



Continuous-time version

- For any (s, t) :
 - Let $p_{ij}(t) = pr(S_j \text{ at time } t+s \mid S_i \text{ at time } s)$ denote the stationary (time-homogeneous) transition probabilities.
- Let $P(t) = (p_{ij}(t))$ denote the matrix of $p_{ij}(t)$'s.
 - Then for any (t, u) : $P(t+u) = P(t)P(u)$.
- It follows that $P'(t) = \exp(Qt)$, where $Q = P'(0)$ (the derivative of $P(t)$ at $t = 0$).
- Q is called the **infinitesimal matrix (transition rate matrix)** of $P(t)$, and satisfies
$$P'(t) = QP(t) = P(t)Q.$$
- Important approximation: when t is small,
$$P(t) \approx I + Qt.$$



Interpretation of Q

- Roughly, q_{ij} is the **rate** of transitions of i to j , while $q_{ii} = -\sum_{j \neq i} q_{ij}$, so each row sum is 0 (Why?).
- Now we have the short-time approximation:

$$p_{i \neq j}(t+h) = q_{ij}h + o(h) \qquad p_{i=j}(t+h) = 1 + q_{ii}h + o(h)$$

where $p_{ij}(t+h)$ is the probability of transitioning from i at time t to j at time $t+h$

- Now consider the Chapman-Kolmogorov relation: (assuming we have a continuous-time Markov chain, and let $p_i(t) = pr(S_i \text{ at time } t)$)

$$\begin{aligned} p_j(t+h) &= \sum_i pr(S_i \text{ at } t, S_j \text{ at } t+h) \\ &= \sum_i pr(S_i \text{ at } t) pr(S_j \text{ at } t+h | S_i \text{ at } t) \\ &= p_j(t) \times (1 + q_{jj}h) + \sum_{i \neq j} p_i(t) \times h q_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

i.e., $h^{-1}(p_j(t+h) - p_j(t)) = p_j(t)q_{jj} + \sum_{i \neq j} p_i(t)q_{ij}$, which becomes: $P' = QP$ as $h \downarrow 0$.



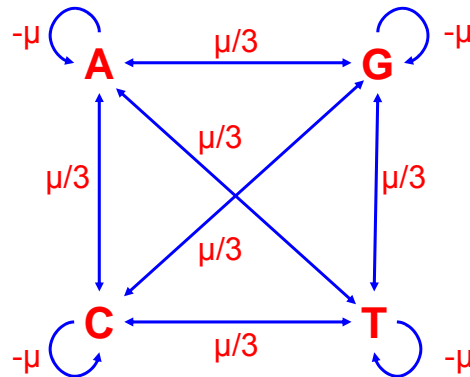
Probabilistic models for DNA changes

Orc:	ACAGTGACGCCCAAACGT
Elf:	ACAGTGACGCTACAAACGT
Dwarf:	CCTGTGACGTAACAAACGA
Hobbit:	CCTGTGACGTAGCAAACGA
Human:	CCTGTGACGTAGCAAACGA

The Jukes-Cantor model (1969)



- Substitution rate:



the simplest symmetrical model for DNA evolution

Transition probabilities under the Jukes-Cantor model



- IID assumption:
 - All sites change independently
 - All sites have the same stochastic process working at them
- Equiprobability assumption:
 - Make up a fictional kind of event, such that when it happens the site changes to one of the 4 bases chosen at random equiprobably
- Equilibrium condition:
 - No matter how many of these fictional events occur, provided it is not zero, the chance of ending up at a particular base is $1/4$.
- Solving differentially equation system $P' = QP$

Transition probabilities under the Jukes-Cantor model (cont.)



- Prob transition matrix:

$$P(t) = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} A & C & G & T \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} A \\ C \\ G \\ T \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} r(t) & s(t) & s(t) & s(t) \\ s(t) & r(t) & s(t) & s(t) \\ s(t) & s(t) & r(t) & s(t) \\ s(t) & s(t) & s(t) & r(t) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Where we can derive:

$$r(t) = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 + 3e^{-\frac{4}{3}\mu t} \right)$$

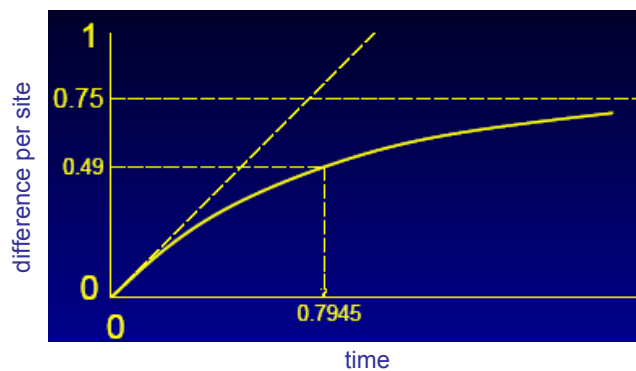
$$s(t) = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{4}{3}\mu t} \right)$$

Homework!

Jukes-Cantor (cont.)



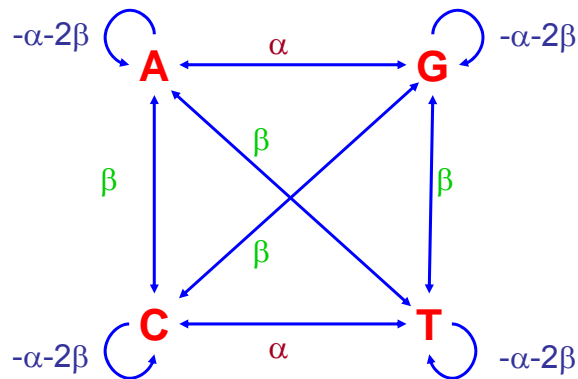
- Fraction of sites differences



Kimura's K2P model (1980)



- Substitution rate:



- which allows for different rates of **transition** and **transversions**.
- **Transitions** (rate α) are much more likely than **transversions** (rate β).

Kimura (cont.)



- Prob transition matrix:

$$P(t) = \begin{pmatrix} r(t) & s(t) & u(t) & s(t) \\ s(t) & r(t) & s(t) & u(t) \\ u(t) & s(t) & r(t) & s(t) \\ s(t) & u(t) & s(t) & r(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

Where

$$s(t) = \frac{1}{4} (1 - e^{-4\beta t})$$

$$u(t) = \frac{1}{4} (1 + e^{-4\beta t} - e^{-2(\alpha+\beta)t})$$

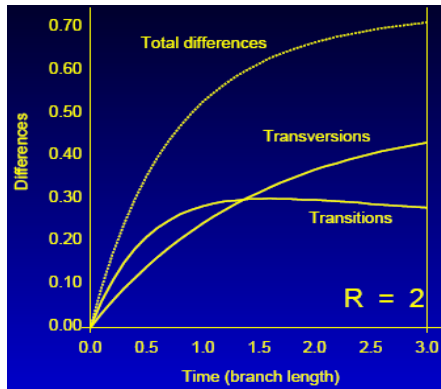
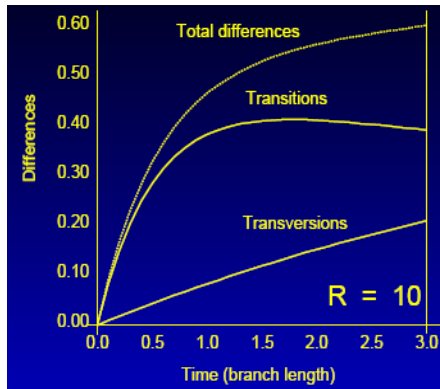
$$r(t) = 1 - 2s(t) - u(t)$$

- By proper choice of α and β one can achieve the overall rate of change and $T_s=T_n$ ratio R you want (*warning: terminological tangle*).

Kimura (cont.)



- Transitions, transversions expected under different R:



Other commonly used models



- Two models that specify the **equilibrium base frequencies** (you provide the frequencies A; C; G; T and they are set up to have an equilibrium which achieves them), and also let you control the transition/transversion ratio:
- The **Hasegawa-Kishino-Yano (1985) model**:

to : from :	A	G	C	T
A	—	$\alpha\pi_G + \beta\pi_G$	$\alpha\pi_C$	$\alpha\pi_T$
G	$\alpha\pi_A + \beta\pi_A$	—	$\alpha\pi_C$	$\alpha\pi_T$
C	$\alpha\pi_A$	$\alpha\pi_G$	—	$\alpha\pi_T + \beta\pi_T$
T	$\alpha\pi_A$	$\alpha\pi_G$	$\alpha\pi_C + \beta\pi_C$	—

Other commonly used models



- The **F84 model** (Felsenstein)

to : from :	A	G	C	T
A	—	$\alpha\pi_G + \beta\frac{\pi_G}{\pi_R}$	$\alpha\pi_C$	$\alpha\pi_T$
G	$\alpha\pi_A + \beta\frac{\pi_A}{\pi_R}$	—	$\alpha\pi_C$	$\alpha\pi_T$
C	$\alpha\pi_A$	$\alpha\pi_G$	—	$\alpha\pi_T + \frac{\beta\pi_T}{\pi_Y}$
T	$\alpha\pi_A$	$\alpha\pi_G$	$\alpha\pi_C + \beta\frac{\pi_C}{\pi_Y}$	—

- where $\pi_R = \pi_A + \pi_G$ and $\pi_Y = \pi_C + \pi_T$ (The equilibrium frequencies of purines and pyrimidines)

The general time-reversible model

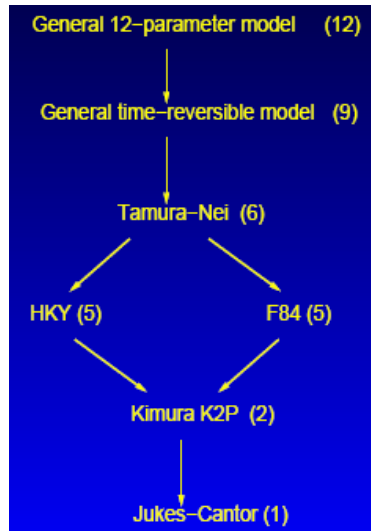


- It maintains "detailed balance" so that the probability of starting at (say) A and ending at (say) T in evolution is the same as the probability of starting at T and ending at A:

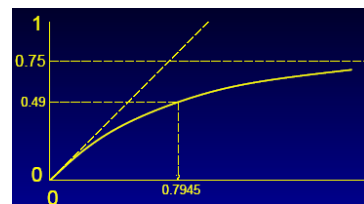
	A	C	G	T
A	—	$\alpha\pi_C$	$\beta\pi_G$	$\gamma\pi_T$
C	$\alpha\pi_A$	—	$\delta\pi_G$	$\epsilon\pi_T$
G	$\beta\pi_A$	$\delta\pi_C$	—	$\nu\pi_T$
T	$\gamma\pi_A$	$\epsilon\pi_C$	$\nu\pi_G$	—

- And there is of course the **general 12-parameter model** which has arbitrary rates for each of the 12 possible changes (from each of the 4 nucleotides to each of the 3 others).
- (Neither of these has formulas for the transition probabilities, but those can be done numerically.)

Relation between models



Adjusting evolutionary distance using base-substitution model



The Jukes-Cantor model



Common ancestor of human and orang

t time unit

Human (now)

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} -3\alpha & \alpha & \alpha & \alpha \\ \alpha & -3\alpha & \alpha & \alpha \\ \alpha & \alpha & -3\alpha & \alpha \\ \alpha & \alpha & \alpha & -3\alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} r & s & s & s \\ s & r & s & s \\ s & s & r & s \\ s & s & s & r \end{bmatrix}$$

Consider e.g. the 2nd position in α -globin2 Alu1.

$$r = (1 + 3e^{-4\alpha t})/4, \quad s = (1 - e^{-4\alpha t})/4.$$

Definition of PAM



- Let $P(t) = \exp(Qt)$. Then the A, G element of $P(t)$ is

$$pr(G \text{ now} | A \text{ then}) = (1 - e^{-4\alpha t})/4.$$

- Same for all pairs of different nucleotides.
- Overall rate of change $k = 3\alpha t$.
- PAM = accepted point mutation**
 - When $k = .01$, described as 1 PAM
 - Put $t = .01/3\alpha = 1/300\alpha$. Then the resulting $P = P(1/300\alpha)$ is called the PAM(1) matrix.
- Why use PAMs?

Evolutionary time, PAM



- Since sequences evolve at different rates, it is convenient to rescale time so that 1 PAM of evolutionary time corresponds to 1% expected substitutions.
- For Jukes-Cantor, $k = 3\alpha t$ is the expected number of substitutions in $[0, t]$, so is a distance. (Show this.)
 - Set $3\alpha t = 1/100$, or $t = 1/300\alpha$, so 1 PAM = $1/300\alpha$ years.

Distance adjustment



- For a pair of sequences, $k = 3\alpha t$ is the desired metric, but not observable. Instead, $pr(\text{different})$ is observed. So we use a model to convert $pr(\text{different})$ to k .

- This is completely analogous to the conversion of

$$\theta = pr(\text{recombination})$$

to genetic (map) distance (= expected number of crossovers) using the Haldane map function

$$\theta = 1/2 \times (1 - e^{-2d}),$$

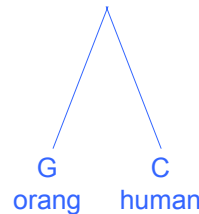
assuming the no-interference (Poisson) model.

Towards Jukes-Cantor adjustment



- E.g., 2nd position in a-globin Alu 1
- Assume that the common ancestor has A, G, C or T with probability 1/4.

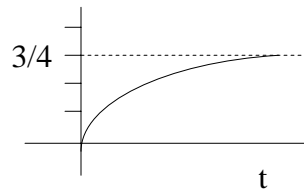
common ancestor



- Then the chance of the nt differing

$$p_{\neq} = \frac{3}{4} \times (1 - e^{-8ct})$$

$$= \frac{3}{4} \times (1 - e^{-4k/3}), \text{ since } k = 2 \times 3ct$$



Jukes-Cantor adjustment



- If we suppose all **nucleotide** positions behave identically and independently, and n_{\neq} differ out of n , we can invert this, obtaining

$$\hat{k} = -\frac{3}{4} \times \log\left(1 - \frac{4}{3} n_{\neq} / n\right)$$

- This is the **corrected** or **adjusted** fraction of differences (under this simple model). $\times 100$ to get PAMs
- The analogous simple model for **amino acid** sequences has

$$\hat{k} = -\frac{19}{20} \times \log\left(1 - \frac{20}{19} n_{\neq} / n\right)$$

$\times 100$ for PAM.

Illustration



1. **Human** and bovine beta-globins are aligned with no deletions at 145 out of 147 sites. They differ at 23 of these sites. Thus $n_{\neq}/n = 23/145$, and the corrected distance using the Jukes-Cantor formula is (natural logs)

$$- 19/20 \times \log(1 - 20/19 \times 23/145) = 17.3 \times 10^{-2}.$$

2. The **human** and **gorilla** sequences are aligned without gaps across all 300 bp, and differ at 14 sites. Thus $n_{\neq}/n = 14/300$, and the corrected distance using the Jukes-Cantor formula is

$$- 3/4 \times \log(1 - 4/3 \times 14/300) = 4.8 \times 10^{-2}.$$

Correspondence between observed a.a. differences and the evolutionary distance (Dayhoff et al., 1978)



Observed Percent Difference	Evolutionary Distance in PAMs
1	1
5	5
10	11
15	17
20	23
25	30
30	38
35	47
40	56
45	67
50	80
55	94
60	112
65	133
70	159
75	195
80	246
85	328

Statistical motivation for alignment scores



Alignment: AGCTGATCA...
AACCGGTTA...

Hypotheses: H = **homologous** (indep. sites, Jukes-Cantor)
R = **random** (indep. sites, equal freq.)

$$\text{pr}(\text{data} | H) = \text{pr}(AA | H)\text{pr}(GA | H)\text{pr}(CC | H) \dots$$

$$= (1-p)^a p^d, \text{ where } a = \# \text{agreements}, d = \# \text{disagreements}, p = \frac{3}{4}(1 - e^{-8\alpha t}).$$

$$\text{pr}(\text{data} | R) = \text{pr}(AA | R)\text{pr}(GA | R)\text{pr}(CC | R) \dots$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^a \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^d$$

$$\Rightarrow \log\left\{\frac{\text{pr}(\text{data} | H)}{\text{pr}(\text{data} | R)}\right\} = a \log\frac{1-p}{1/4} + d \log\frac{p}{3/4} = a \times \sigma + d \times (-\mu).$$

- Since $p < 3/4$, $\sigma = \log((1-p)/(1/4)) > 0$, while $-\mu = \log(p/(3/4)) < 0$.
- Thus the **alignment score** = $a \times \sigma + d \times (-\mu)$, where the **match score** $\sigma > 0$, and the mismatch penalty is $-\mu < 0$.

Large and small evolutionary distances

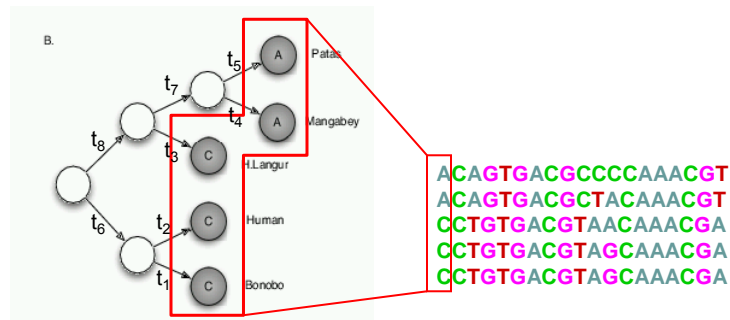


- Recall that
 - $p = (3/4)(1 - e^{-8\alpha t})$,
 - $\sigma = \log((1-p)/(1/4))$,
 - $-\mu = \log(p/(3/4))$.
- Now note that if $\alpha t \approx 0$,
 - then $p \approx 6\alpha t$, and $1-p \approx 1$, and so $\sigma \approx \log 4$, while $-\mu \approx \log 8\alpha t$ is large and negative.
 - That is, we see a big difference in the two values of σ and μ for small distances.
- Conversely, if αt is large,
 - $p = (3/4)(1 - \epsilon)$, hence $p/(3/4) = 1 - \epsilon$, giving $\mu = -\log(1 - \epsilon) \approx \epsilon$, while $1-p = (1+3\epsilon)/4$, $(1-p)/(1/4) = 1+3\epsilon$, and so $\sigma = \log(1+3\epsilon) \approx 3\epsilon$.
 - Thus the scores are about 3 (for a match) to 1 (for a mismatch) for large distances. This makes sense, as mismatches will on average be about 3 times more frequent than matches.
- the matrix which performs best will be the matrix that reflects the evolutionary separation of the sequences being aligned.

What about multiple alignment



- Phylogenetic methods: a tree, with branch lengths, and the data at a single site.



- See next lecture for how to compute likelihood under this hypothesis

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