

Bayesian statistical
approaches to inferring
shared evolutionary events

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phyletica.org/slides/bms.pdf



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The Phyleticians

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- ▶ *Brian Folt*
- ▶ *Jesse Grismer*

Graduate students

- ▶ Tashitso Anamza
- ▶ Matt Buehler
- ▶ Kerry Cobb
- ▶ Kyle David
- ▶ Saman Jahangiri
- ▶ Randy Klabacka
- ▶ Morgan Muell
- ▶ Tanner Myers
- ▶ Claire Tracy
- ▶ *Breanna Siple*
- ▶ *Aundrea Westfall*



Undergraduate students

- ▶ Laura Lewis
- ▶ Mary Wells
- ▶ Hailey Whitaker
- ▶ Noah Yawn
- ▶ *Charlotte Benedict*
- ▶ *Eric Carbo*
- ▶ *Ryan Cook*
- ▶ *Andrew DeSana*
- ▶ *Miles Horne*
- ▶ *Jacob Landrum*
- ▶ *Nadia L'Bahy*
- ▶ *Jorge Lopez-Perez*
- ▶ *Holden Smith*
- ▶ *Virginia White*
- ▶ *Kayla Wilson*



Generalizing Bayesian
phylogenetics to infer patterns
predicted by processes of
diversification



- Phylogenetics is rapidly becoming the statistical foundation of biology

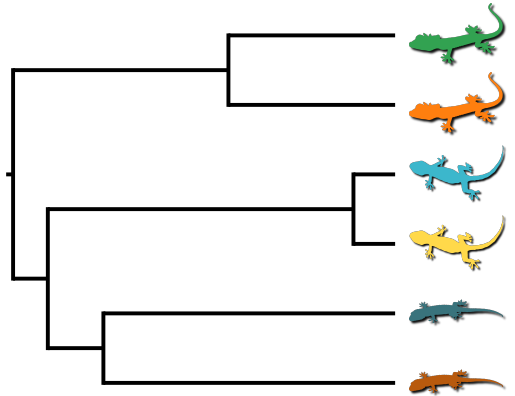


- ▶ Phylogenetics is rapidly becoming the statistical foundation of biology
- ▶ “Big data” present exciting possibilities and challenges

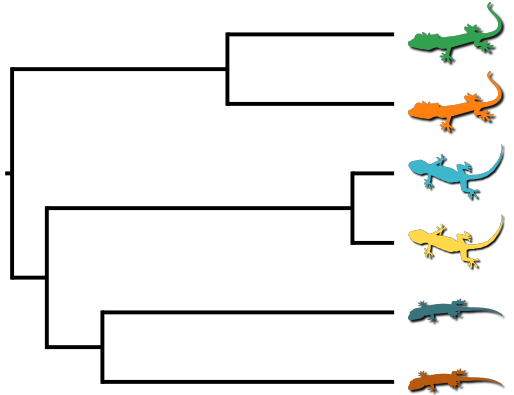


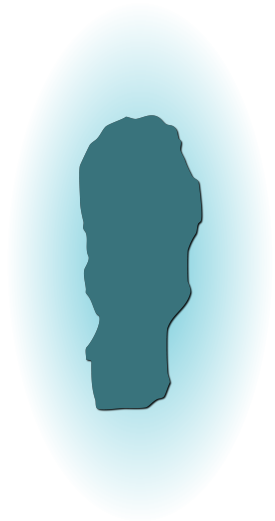
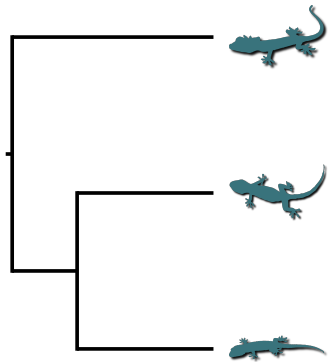
- ▶ Phylogenetics is rapidly becoming the statistical foundation of biology
- ▶ “Big data” present exciting possibilities and challenges
- ▶ Many opportunities to develop new ways to study biology in light of phylogeny

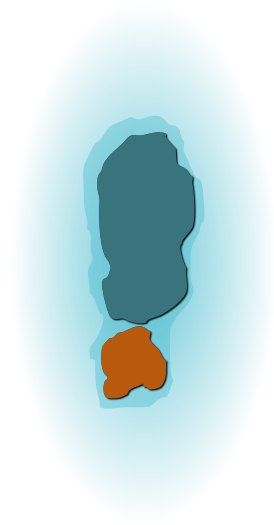
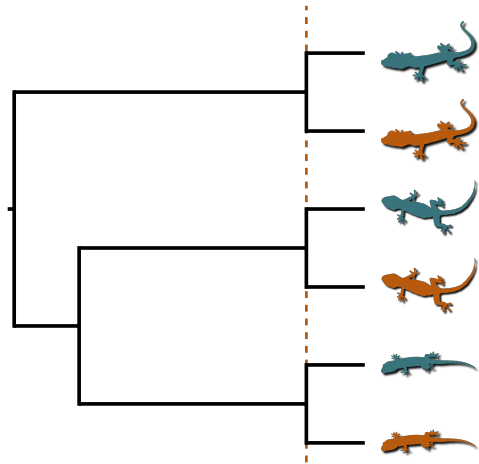




- **Assumption:** All processes of diversification affect each lineage independently

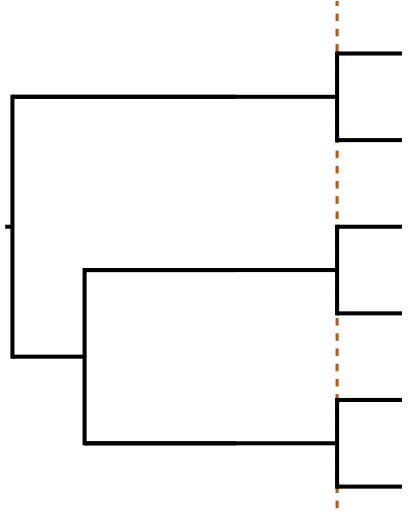






Biogeography

- ▶ Environmental changes that affect whole communities of species

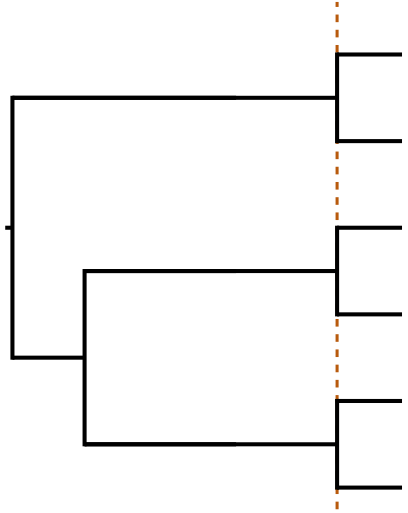


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Genome evolution

- ▶ Duplication of a chromosome segment harboring gene families



Biogeography

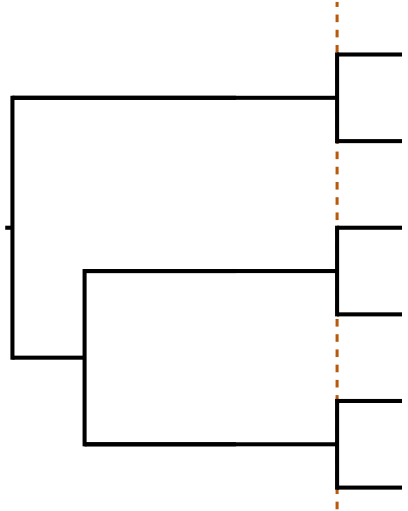
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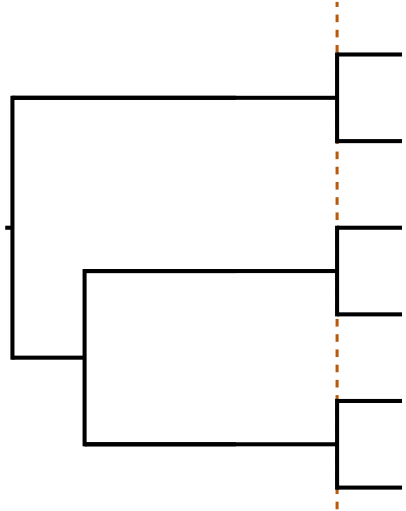
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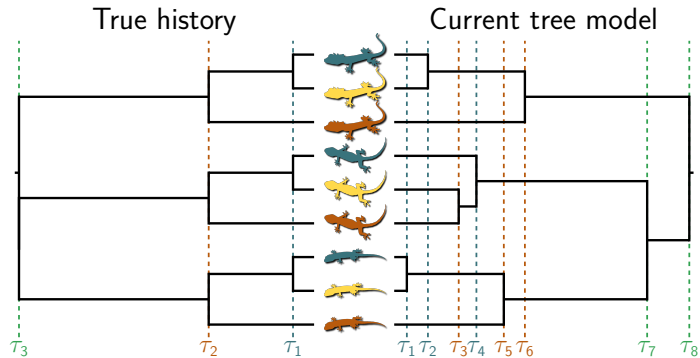
- ▶ Speciation of the host
- ▶ Co-colonization of new host species



Why account for shared divergences?

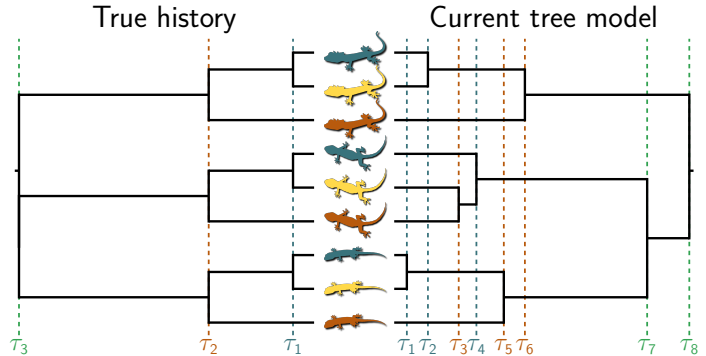
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1. Improve inference



Why account for shared divergences?

1. Improve inference
2. **Provide a framework for studying processes of co-diversification**



Biogeography

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Genome evolution

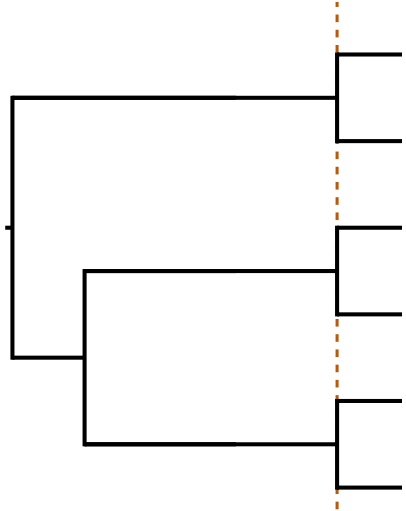
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Approaches to the problem

- A pairwise approach (keep it “simple”)

- A fully phylogenetic approach

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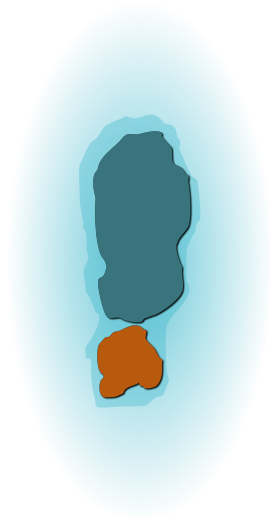
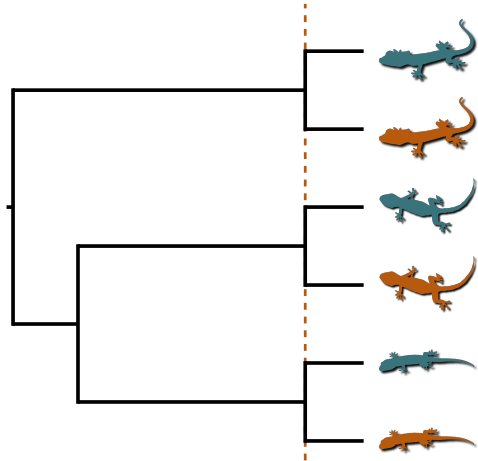


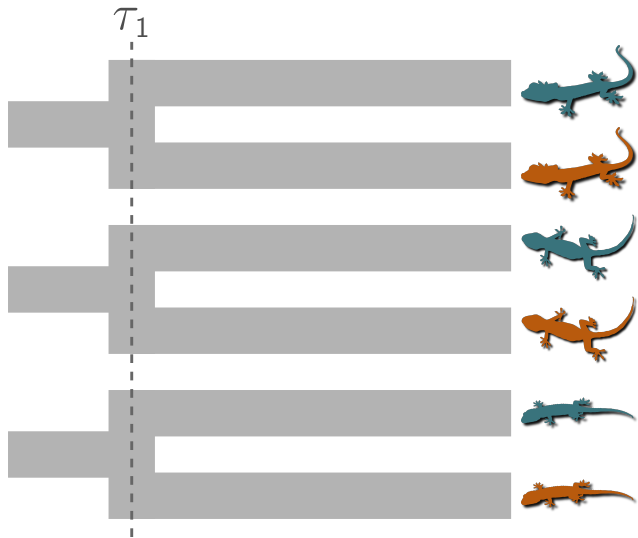
Matt Buehler

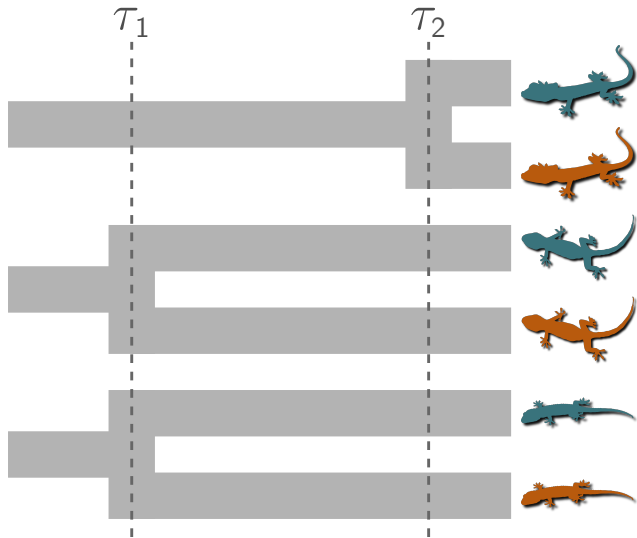


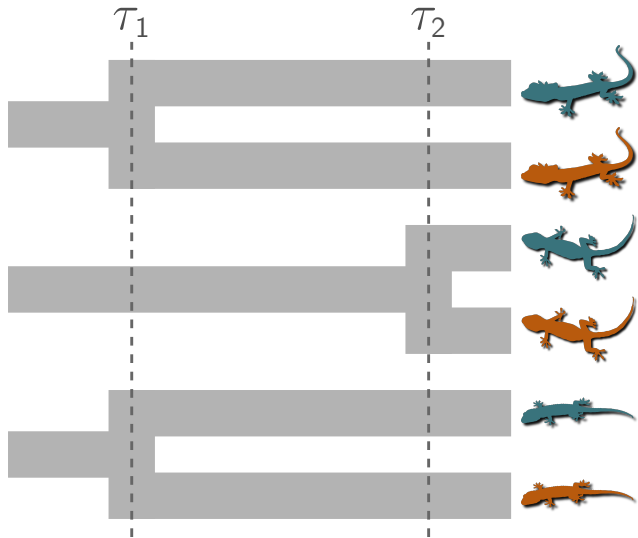
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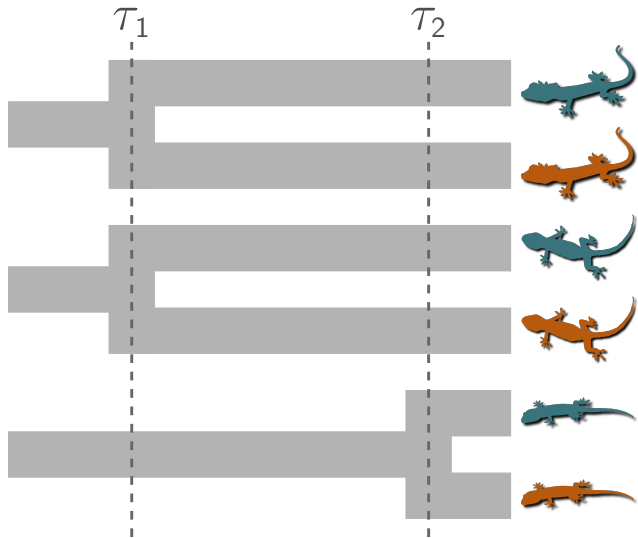


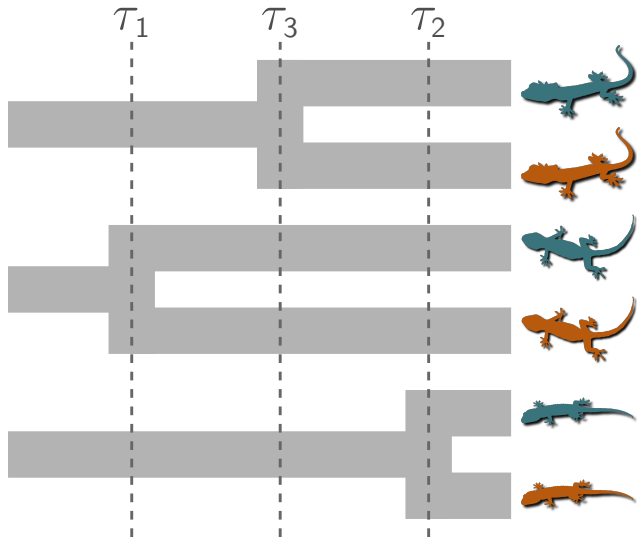


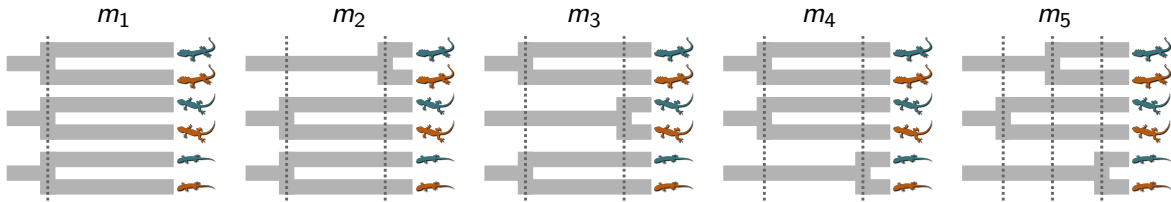


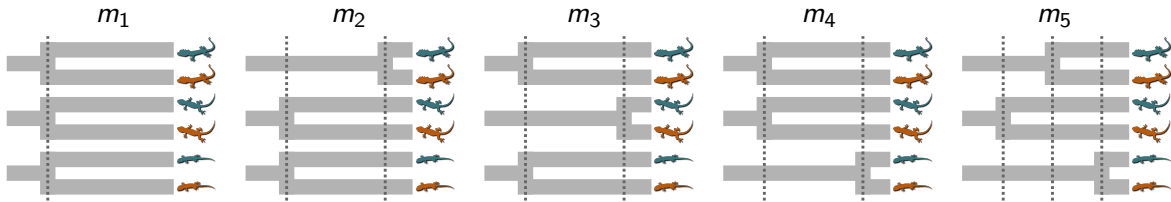






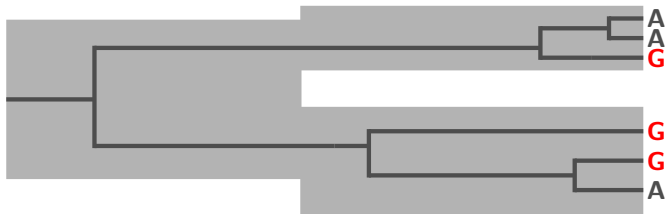


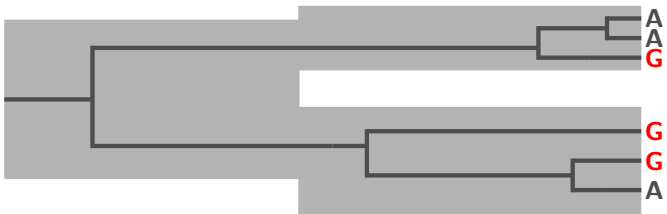




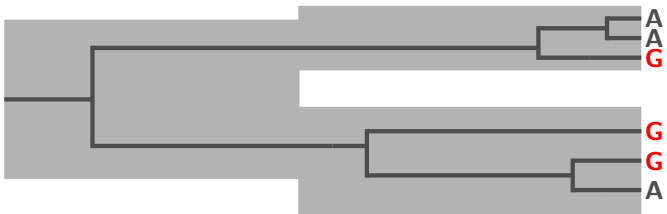
We want to infer the model and divergence times given genetic data



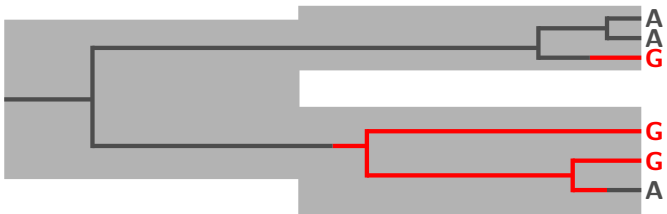




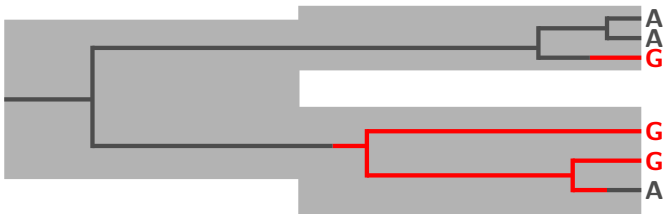
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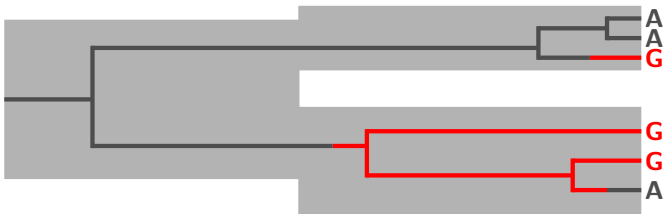
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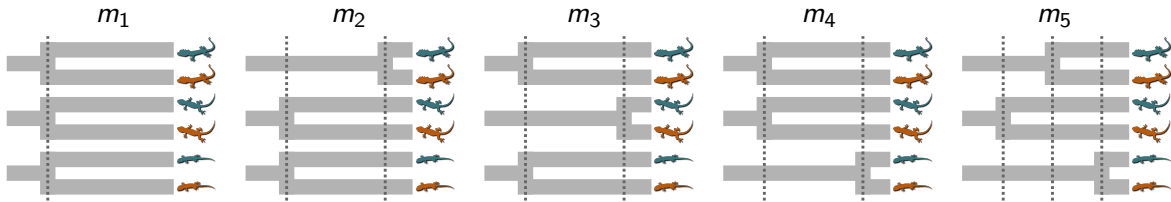
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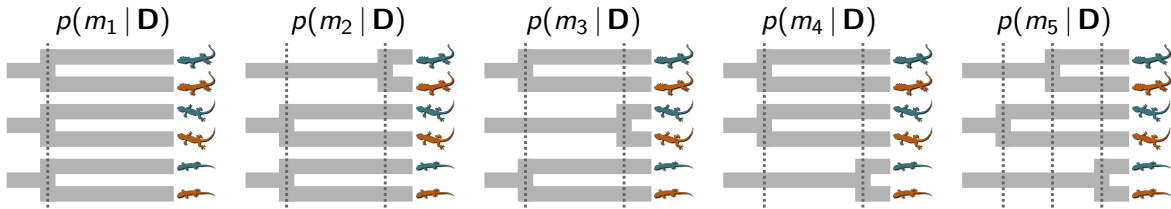
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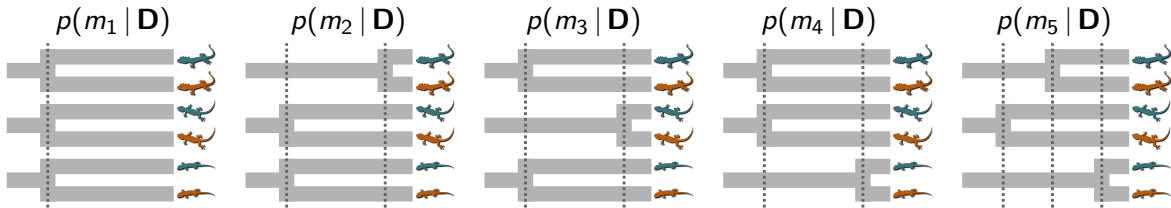
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- ▶ Genetic characters provide information about gene trees
- ▶ Gene trees inform population tree (population sizes and divergence time)



We want to infer the model and divergence times given genetic data

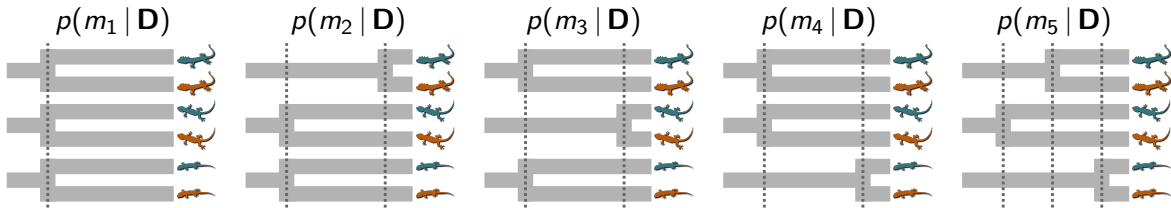


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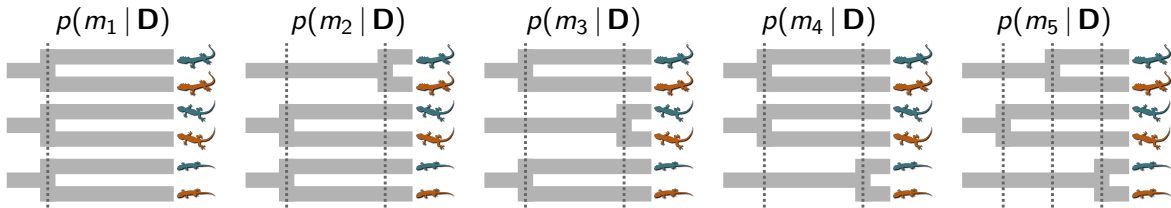
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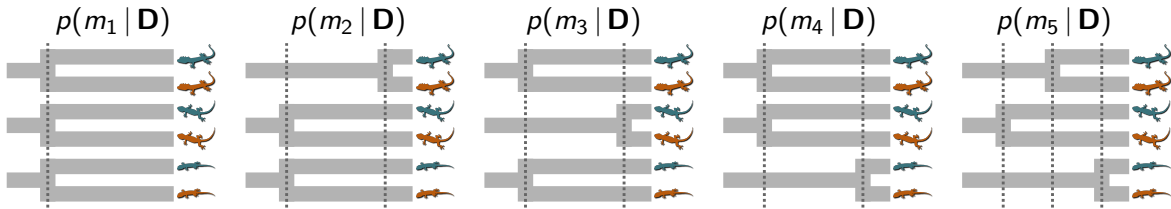


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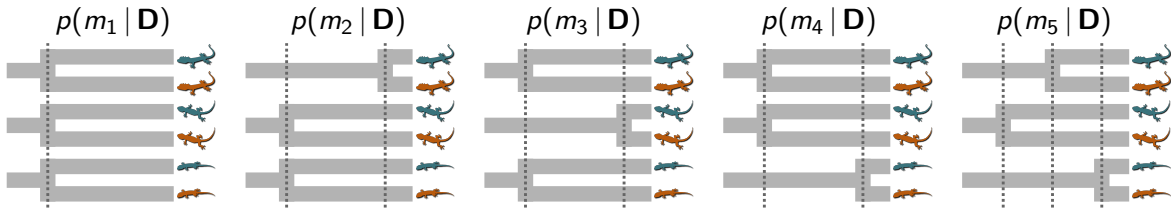
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- ▶ Divergence times
- ▶ Gene trees
- ▶ Substitution parameters
- ▶ Demographic parameters



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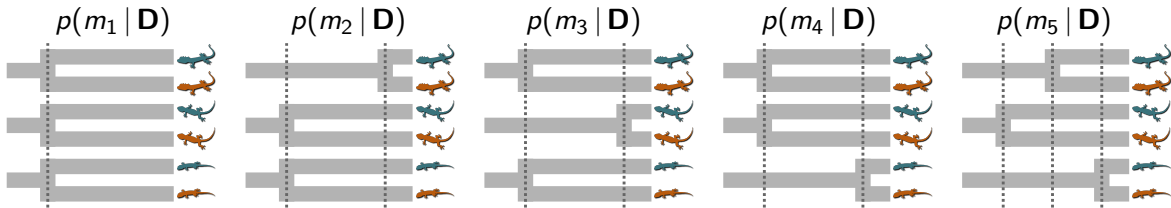
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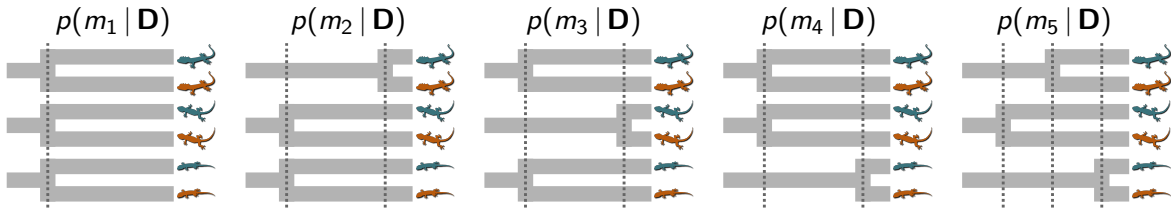
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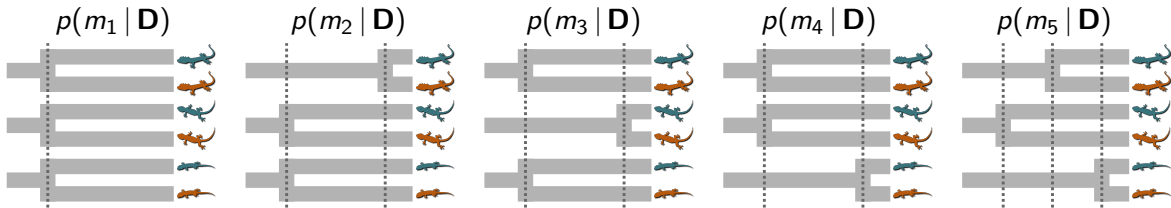
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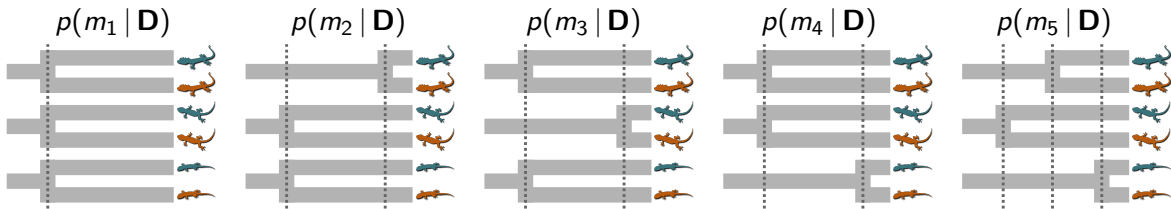
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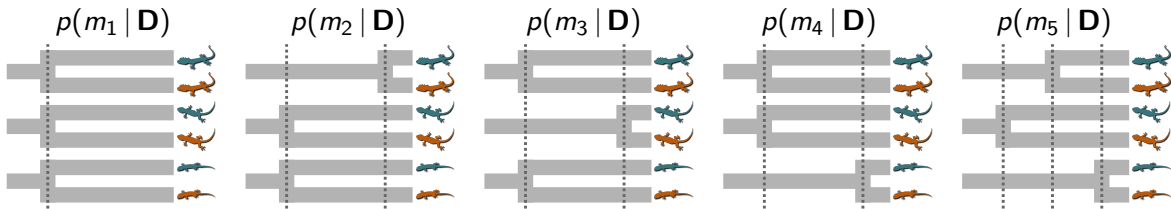
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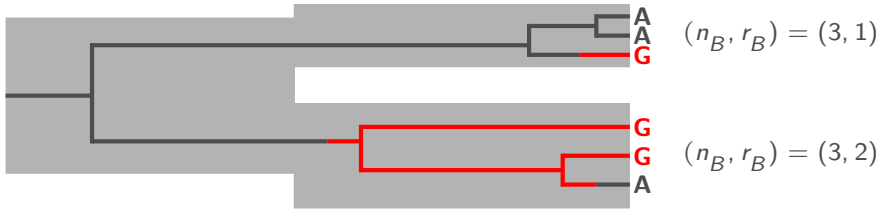


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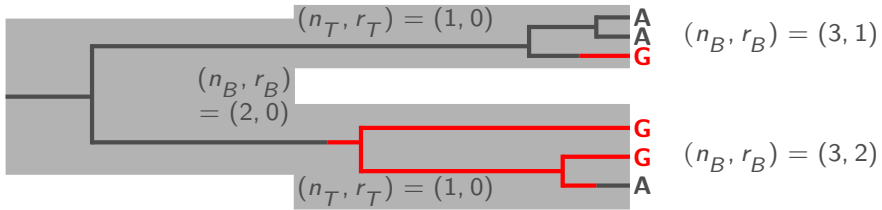
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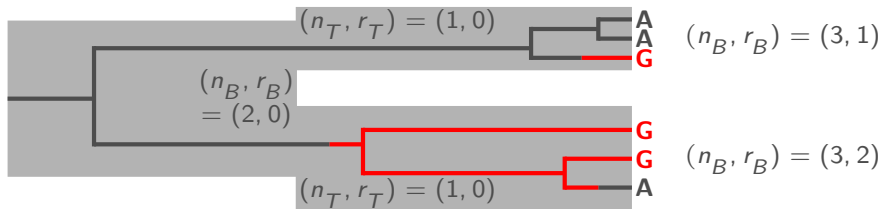
¹ T. Schmelzer and L. N. Trefethen (2007). *Electronic Transactions on Numerical Analysis* 29: 1–18

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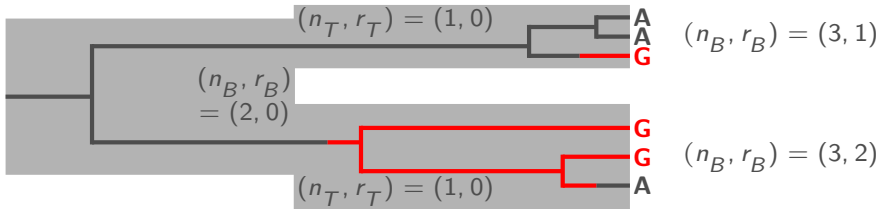


$Q =$

	$(1, 0)$	$(1, 1)$	$(2, 0)$	$(2, 1)$	$\dots$	(n, n)
$(1, 0)$	.	.	.	.		.
$(1, 1)$	.	.	.	.		.
$(2, 0)$	.	.	.	.		.
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$\vdots$						
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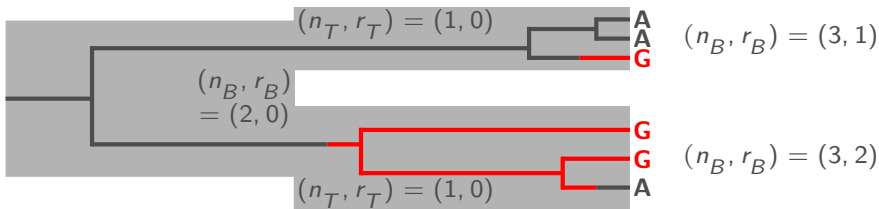
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	$(1, 0)$	$(1, 1)$	$(2, 0)$	$(2, 1)$	$\dots$	(n, n)		
$Q =$	$(1, 0)$	$(1, 1)$	$(2, 0)$	$(2, 1)$	$\dots$	(n, n)	$Q_{(n,r);(n,r-1)}$	$= (n - r + 1)v$, mutation,
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	$(2, 1)$	$(1, 1)$	$(2, 0)$	$(2, 1)$	$\dots$	(n, n)	$Q_{(n,r);(n,r)}$	$= -\frac{(n-1)n}{2N_e(u+v)} - (n - r)v - ru$.
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$		
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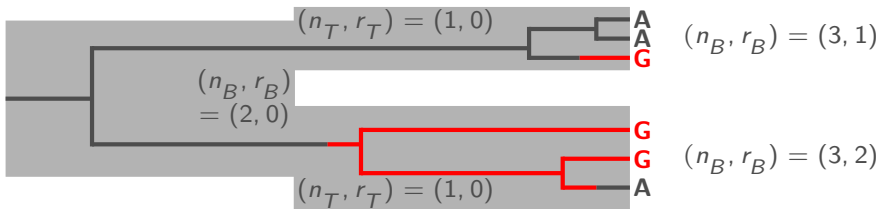


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► e^{Qt} to keep track of all conditional probabilities along each branch (Carathéodory-Fejér method¹)

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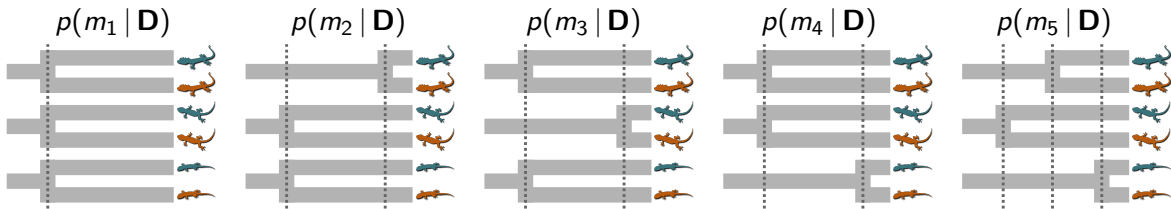


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- ▶ e^{Qt} to keep track of all conditional probabilities along each branch (Carathéodory-Fejér method¹)
- ▶ At root, get likelihood of population tree integrated over all possible gene trees and mutational histories²

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 - ▶ Common Bayesian nonparametric approach to assigning variables to an unknown number of categories
 - ▶ Controlled by “concentration” parameter
 - ▶ Variables are exchangeable under the DP, allowing Gibbs sampling



Peter Dirichlet

Ecoevolity

Estimating evolutionary coeality

J. R. Oaks (2019). *Systematic Biology* 68: 371–395

- ▶ Analytically integrate over gene trees and mutational histories¹
- ▶ Dirichlet-process prior across divergence models
- ▶ Gibbs sampling² to numerically sample models

¹ D. Bryant et al. (2012). *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 29: 1917–1932

² R. M. Neal (2000). *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 9: 249–265

Ecoevolity

Estimating **evol**utionary **coevality**

J. R. Oaks (2019). *Systematic Biology* 68: 371–395

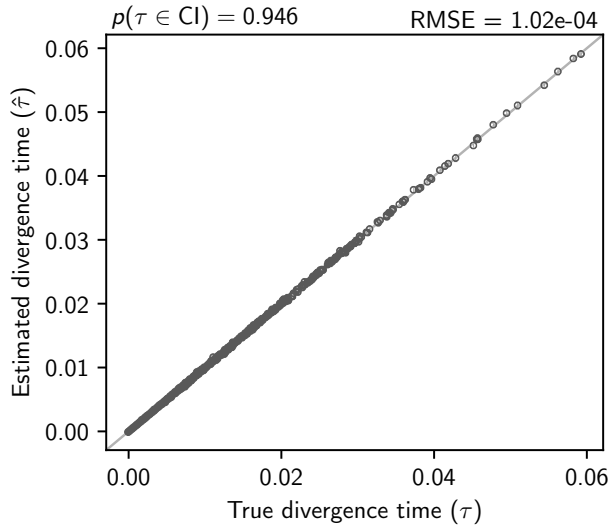
- ▶ Analytically integrate over gene trees and mutational histories¹
- ▶ Dirichlet-process prior across divergence models
- ▶ Gibbs sampling² to numerically sample models
- ▶ *Goal: Fast, full-likelihood Bayesian method to infer patterns of co-diversification from genome-scale data*

¹ D. Bryant et al. (2012). *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 29: 1917–1932

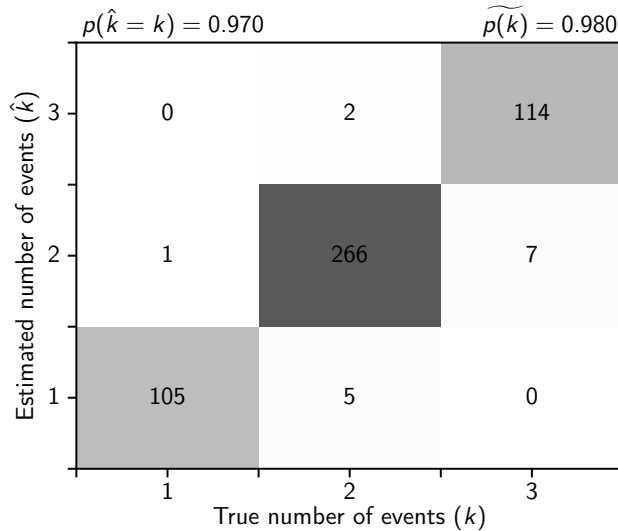
² R. M. Neal (2000). *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 9: 249–265

Does it work?

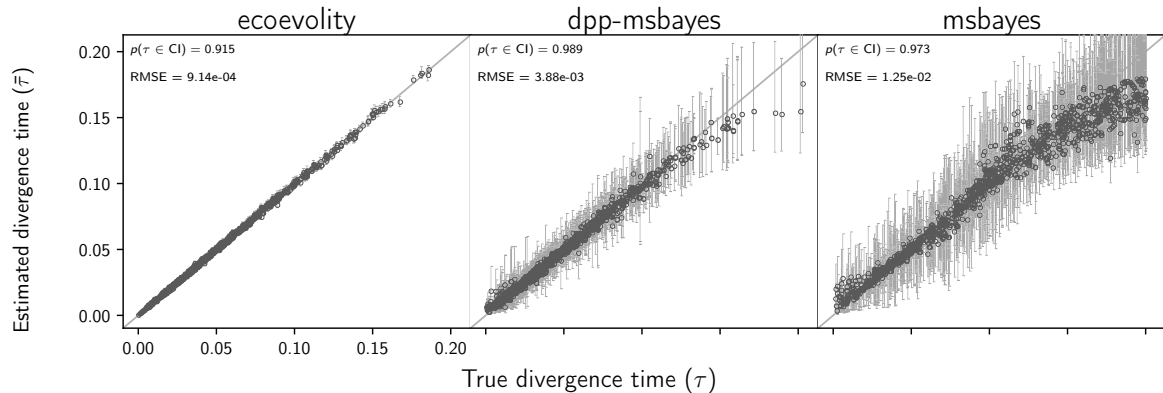
Simulation results



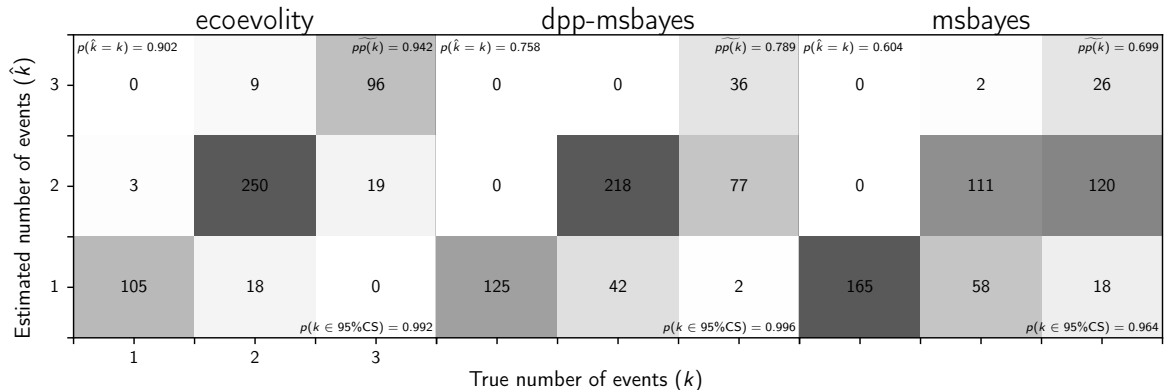
Simulation results



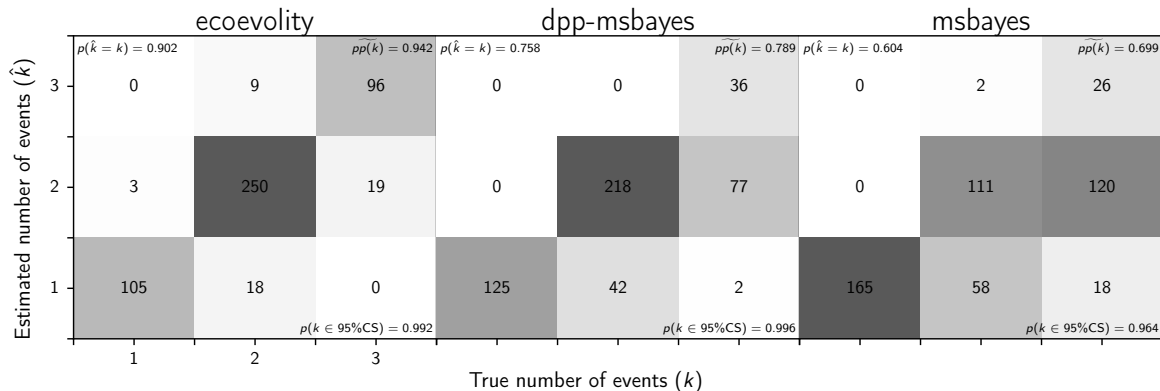
“Bake-off” results



“Bake-off” results



“Bake-off” results



33.4 minutes

Average run time:

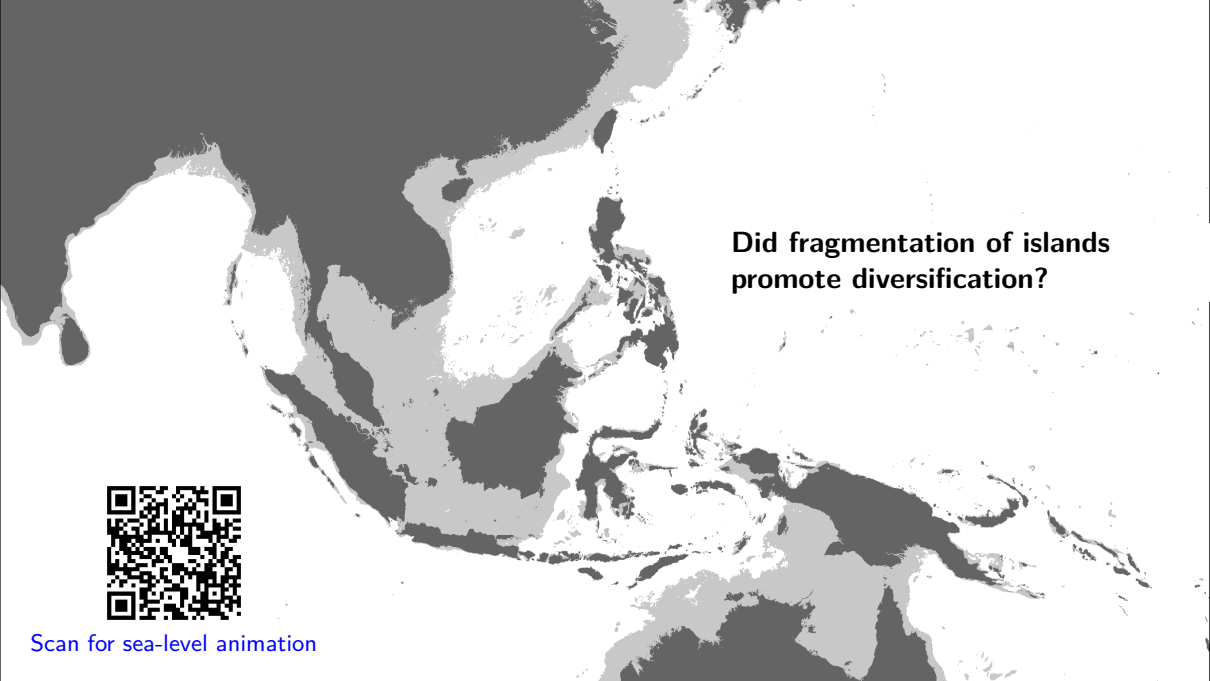
4.4 days



[Scan for sea-level animation](#)



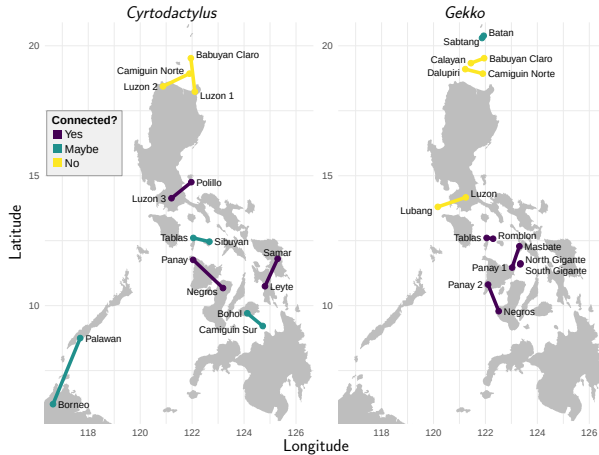
Scan for sea-level animation



**Did fragmentation of islands
promote diversification?**

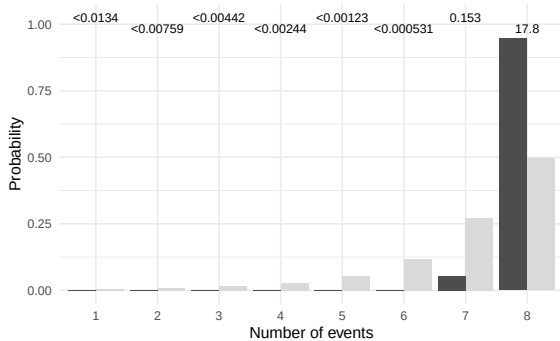


[Scan for sea-level animation](#)

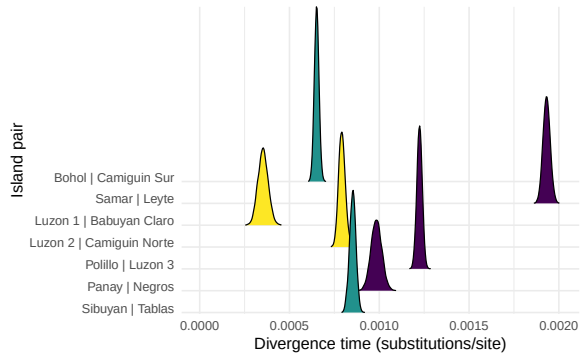
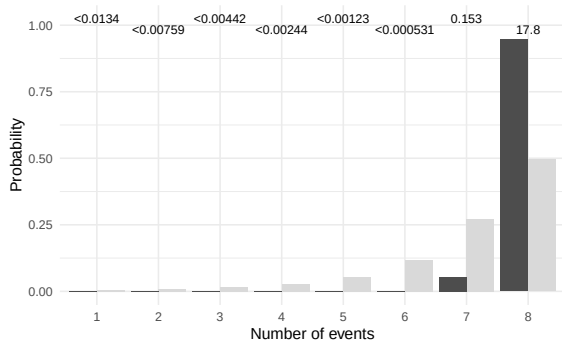


- ▶ Sampled 2–5 individuals from 8 pairs of populations for both *Cyrtodactylus* and *Gekko*
- ▶ Collected short DNA sequences (RADseq) from across genome of each individual

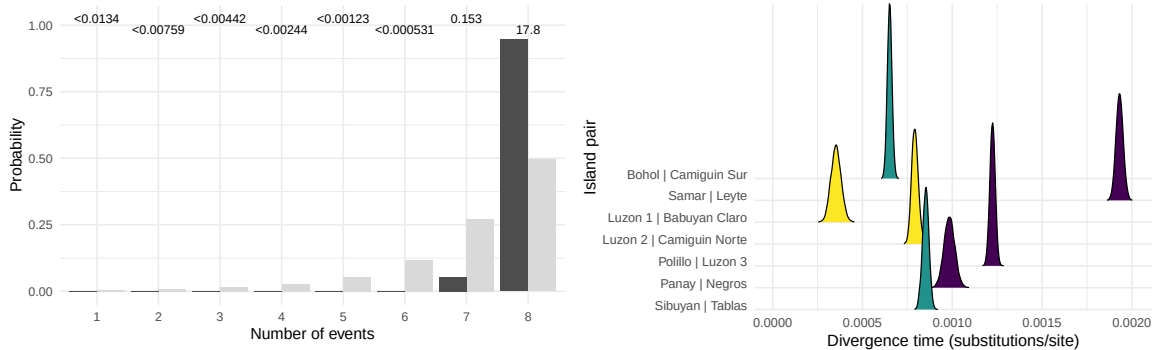
Results: *Cyrtodactylus*



Results: *Cyrtodactylus*



Results: *Cyrtodactylus*



Strong support for independent divergences

Take-home points

- ▶ Support against the climate-driven “species-pump” hypothesis

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- ▶ Habitat heterogeneity and rare over-water dispersal via rafting on vegetation perhaps more important

Take-home points

- ▶ Support against the climate-driven “species-pump” hypothesis
- ▶ Habitat heterogeneity and rare over-water dispersal via rafting on vegetation perhaps more important
- ▶ Full-likelihood, Bayesian approach is faster and more accurate than ABC

Open science: everything is available...

Software:

- ▶ Ecoevolity:
phyletica.org/ecoevolity

Open-Science Notebooks:

- ▶ Gecko RADseq:
github.com/phyletica/gekgo
- ▶ Simulation analyses:
github.com/phyletica/ecoevolity-experiments
github.com/phyletica/ecoevolity-model-prior
github.com/phyletica/codiv-sanger-bake-off

Approaches to the problem

A pairwise approach (keep it “simple”)

A fully phylogenetic approach



Dr. Perry Wood, Jr.

Biogeography

- ▶ Environmental changes that affect whole communities of species

Genome evolution

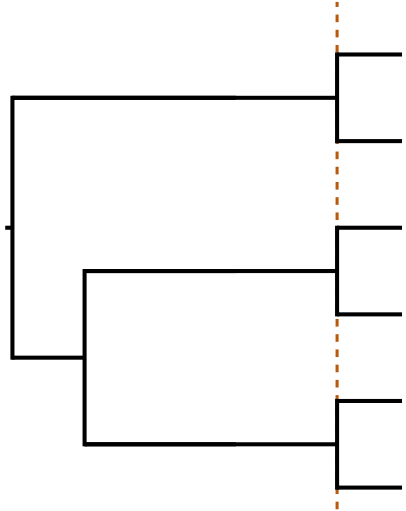
- ▶ Duplication of a chromosome segment harboring gene families

Epidemiology

- ▶ Transmission at social gatherings

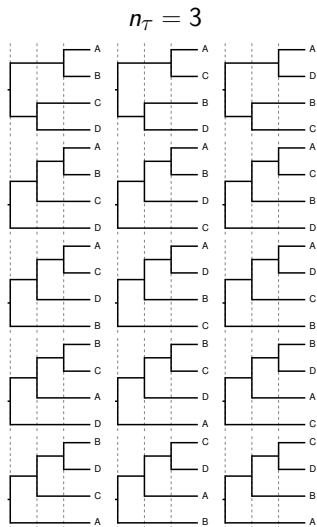
Endosymbiont evolution (e.g., parasites, microbiome)

- ▶ Speciation of the host
- ▶ Co-colonization of new host species

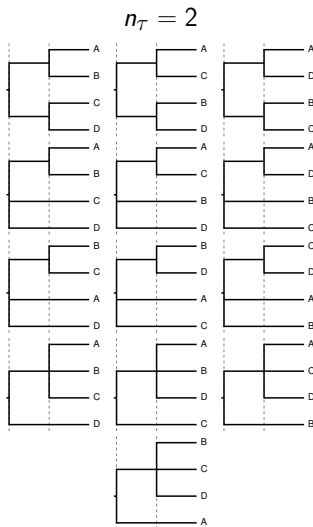
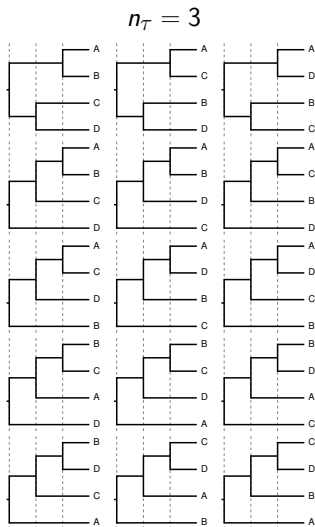


Generalizing tree space

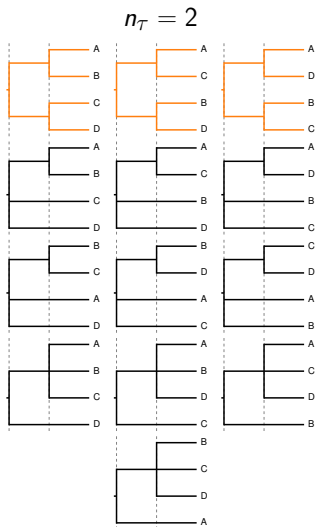
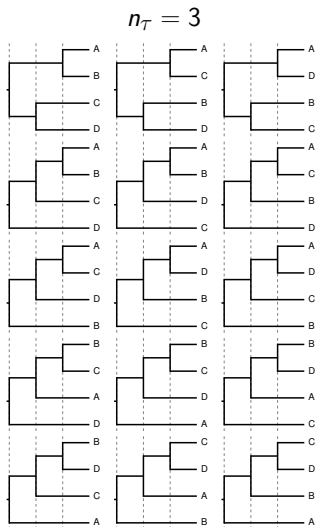
Generalizing tree space



Generalizing tree space



Generalizing tree space

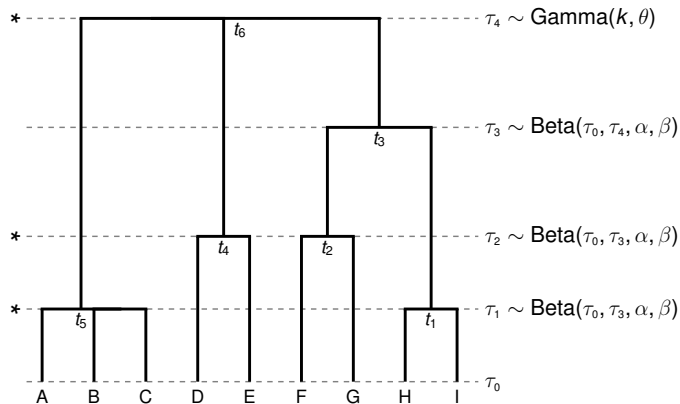


$n_T = 1$

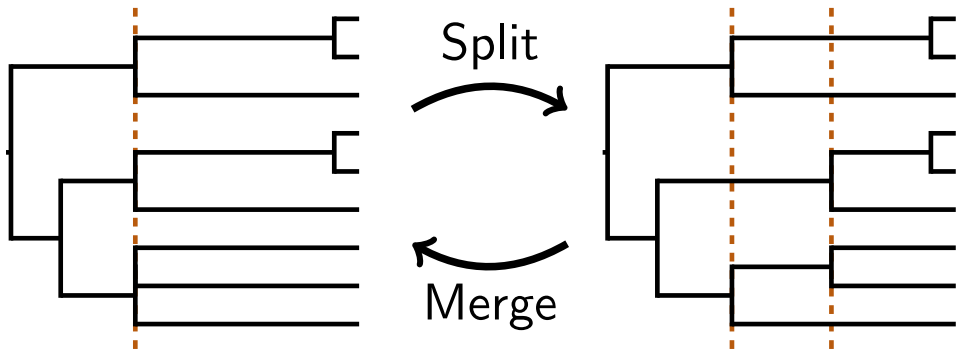


Generalized tree distribution

- ▶ All topologies equally probable
- ▶ Parametric distribution on age of root
- ▶ Beta distributions on other div times

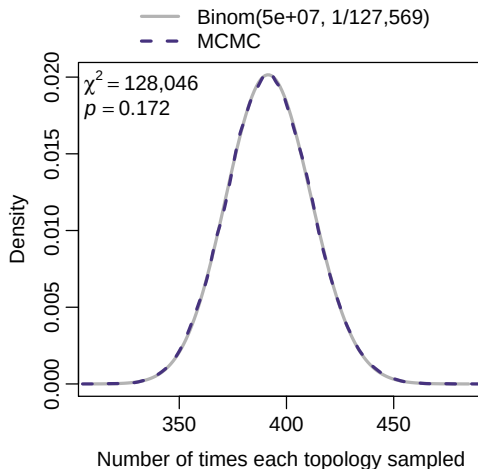


Inferring trees with shared divergences



Reversible-jump MCMC

Validating rjMCMC with 7-leaf tree



The rjMCMC algorithms sample the expected generalized tree distribution

PhycoEval

Phylogenetic coevality

J. R. Oaks et al. (2021). *bioRxiv*

Ecoevolity

Estimating evolutionary coevality

J. R. Oaks (2019). *Systematic Biology* 68: 371–395

- ▶ **Tree model**

- ▶ rjMCMC sampling of generalized tree distribution

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- ▶ **Tree model**

- ▶ rjMCMC sampling of generalized tree distribution

- ▶ **Likelihood model**

- ▶ CTMC model of characters evolving along genealogies
 - ▶ Infer species trees by analytically integrate over genealogies¹

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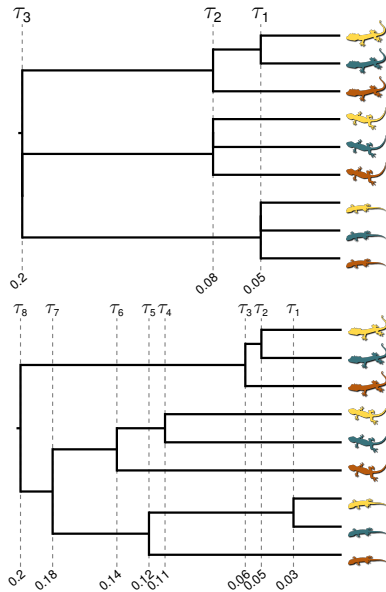
- ▶ CTMC model of characters evolving along genealogies
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- ▶ *Goal: Co-estimation of phylogeny and shared divergences from genomic data*

¹ D. Bryant et al. (2012). *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 29: 1917–1932

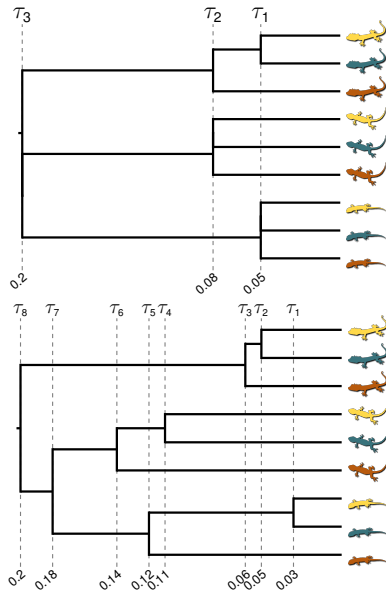
Methods: Simulations

- ▶ Simulated 100 data sets with 50,000 base pairs



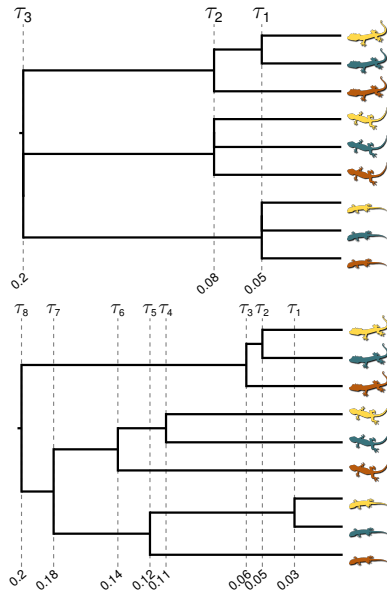
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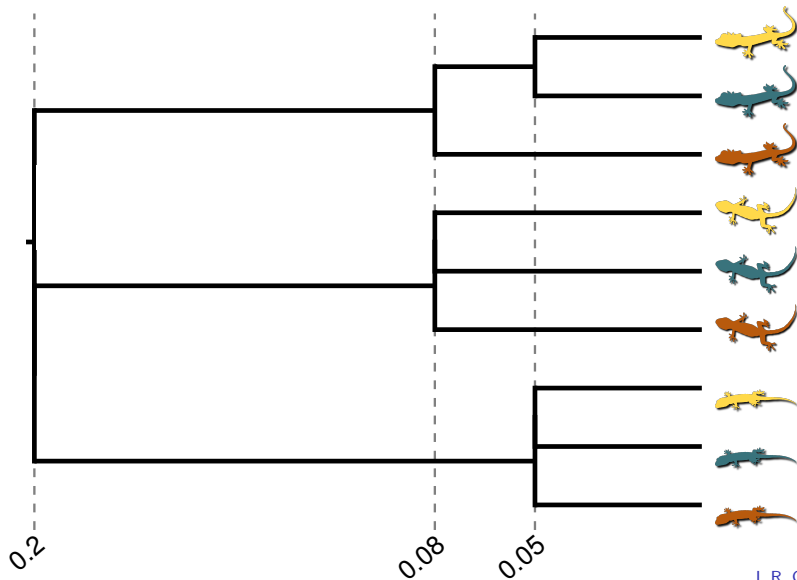
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- ▶ Analyzed each data set with:
 - ▶ M_G = Generalized tree model
 - ▶ M_{IB} = Independent-bifurcating tree model

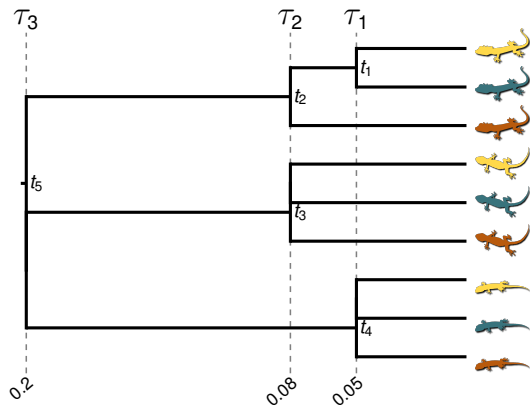


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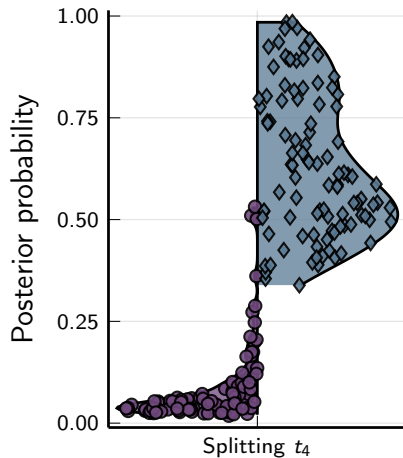
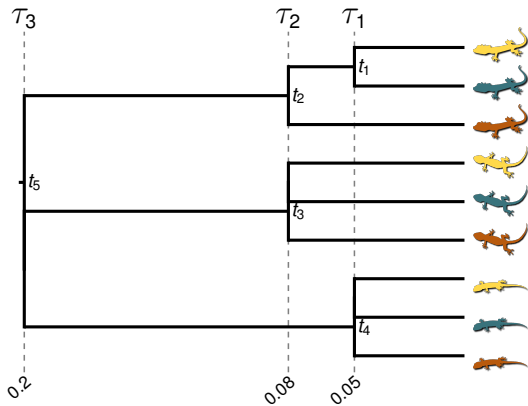
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- ▶ Simulated 100 data sets where topology and div times randomly drawn from M_G and M_{IB}



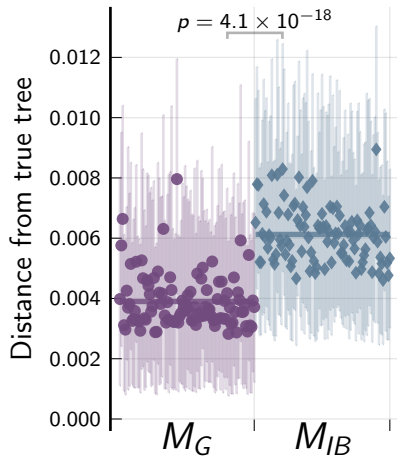
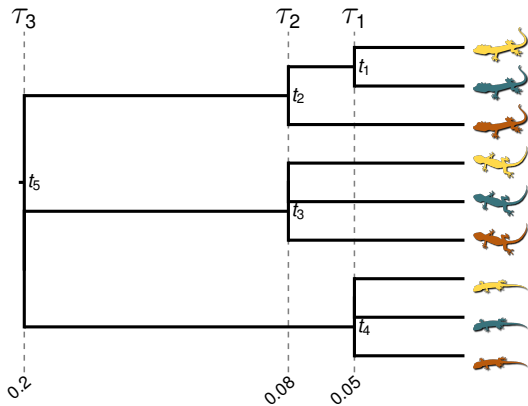




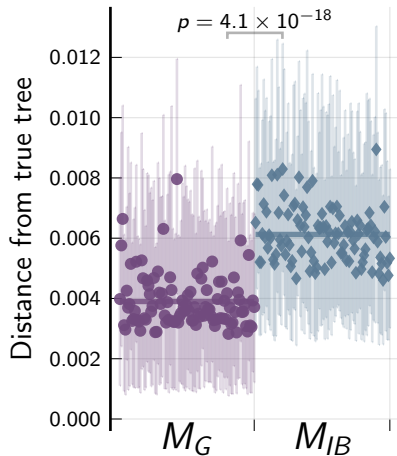
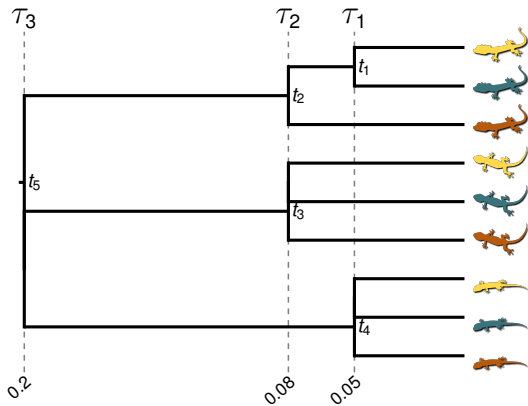
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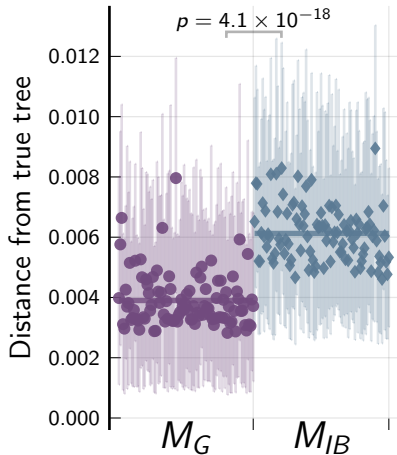
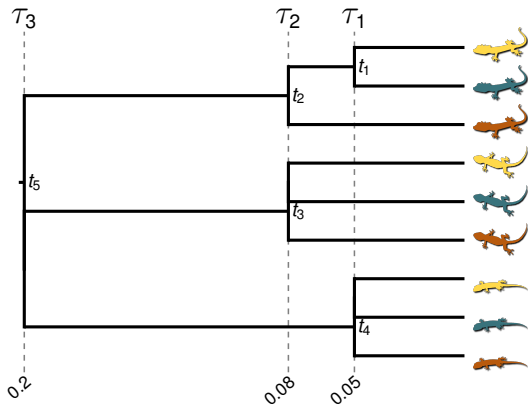
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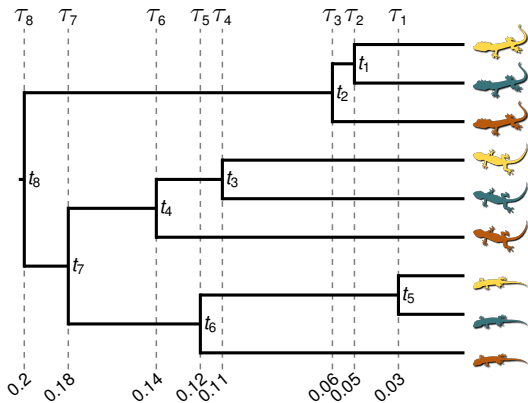
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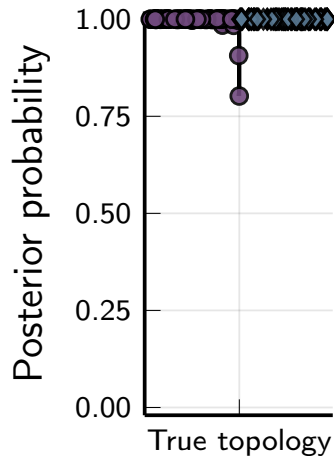
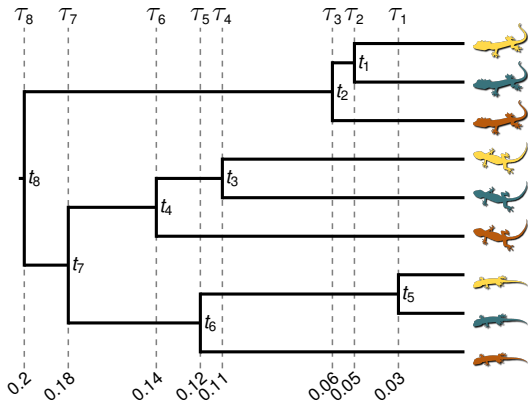


M_G significantly better at inferring trees with shared divergences

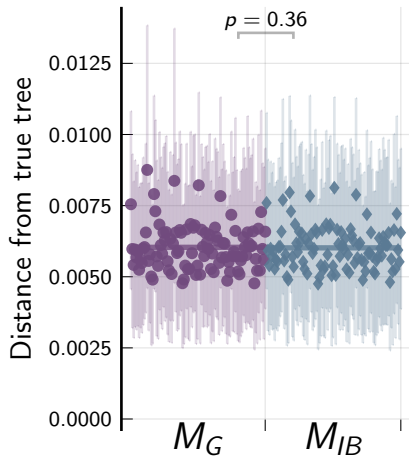
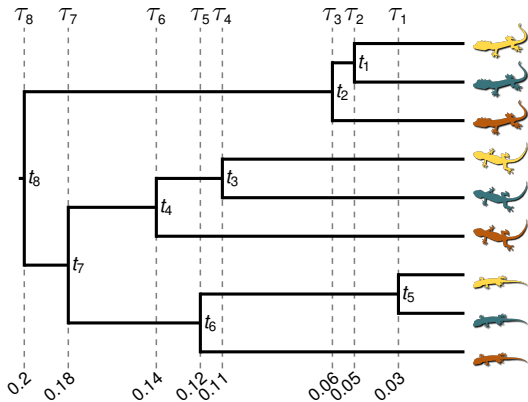
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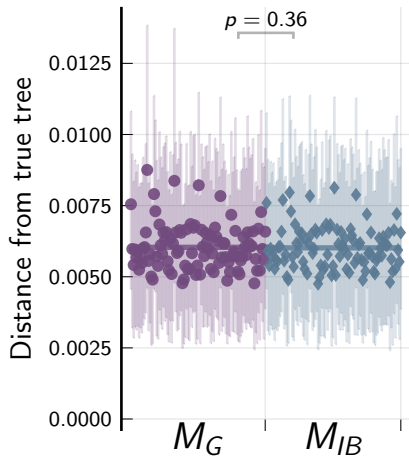
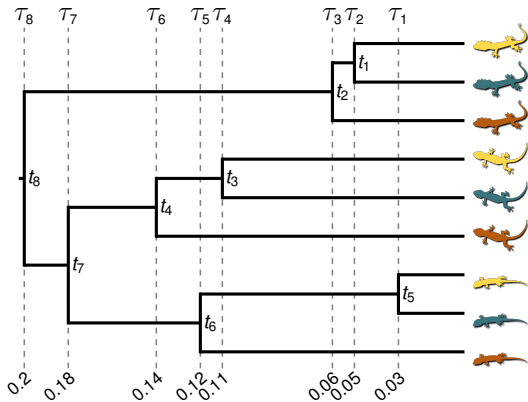
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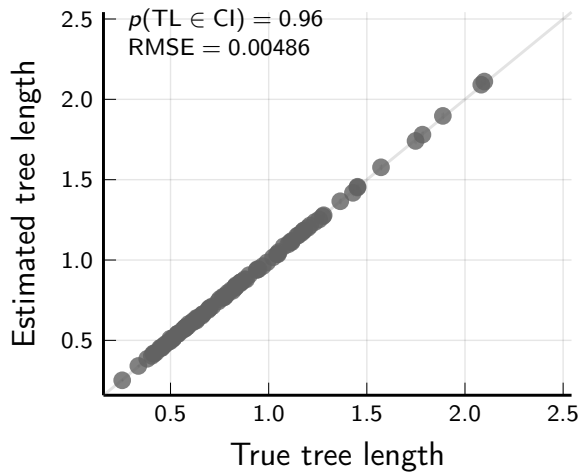
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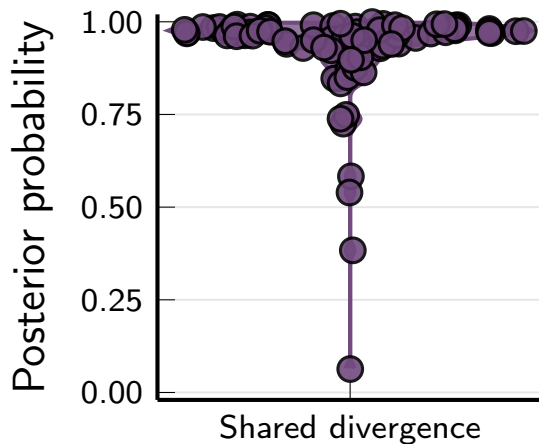
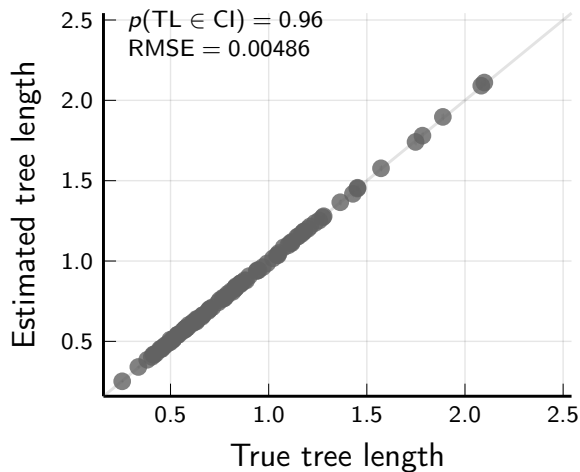


M_G performs as well as true model when divergences are independent

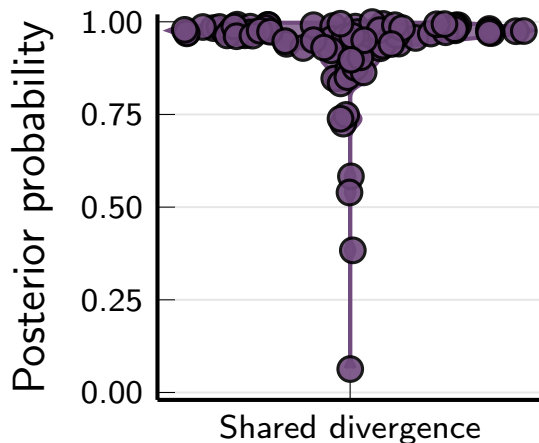
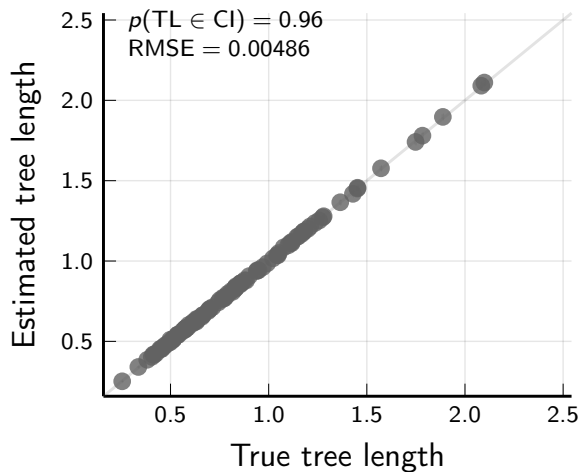
Results: random M_G trees



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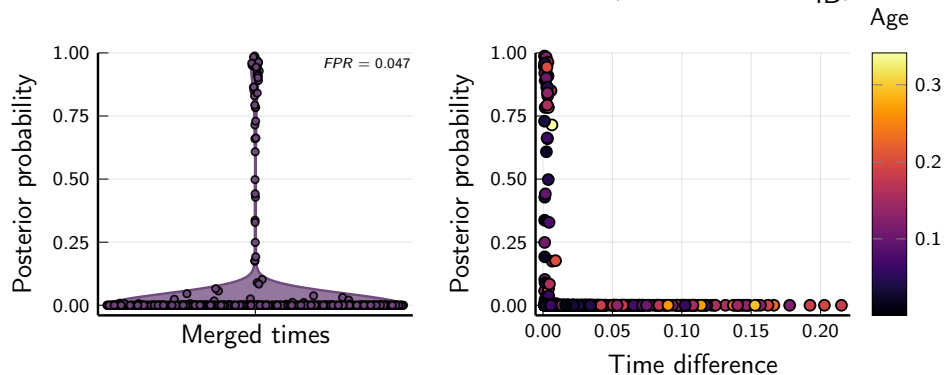
Results: random M_G trees



M_G performs well with data simulated on random trees with shared divergences

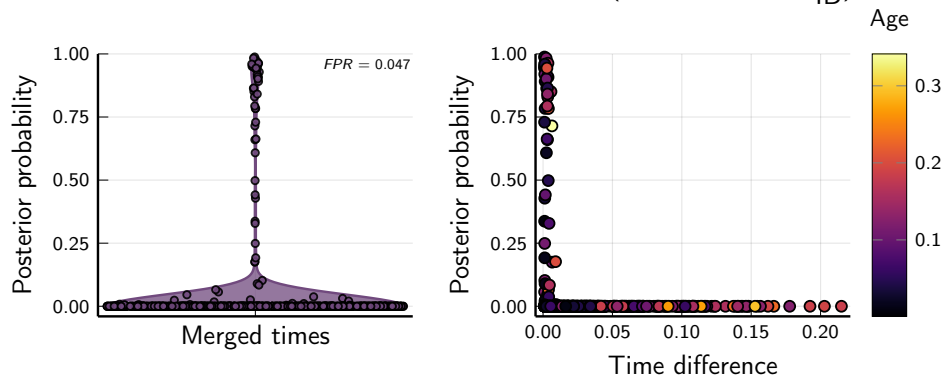
Results: random M_{IB} trees

Probability of incorrectly merged div times (true model = M_{IB})



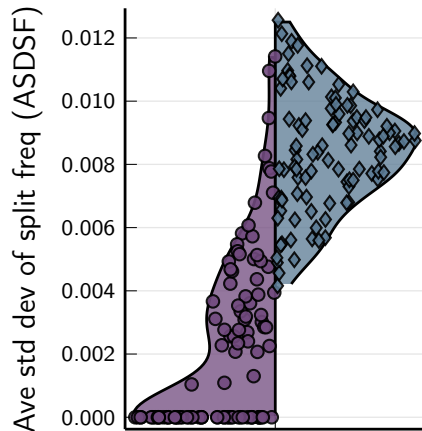
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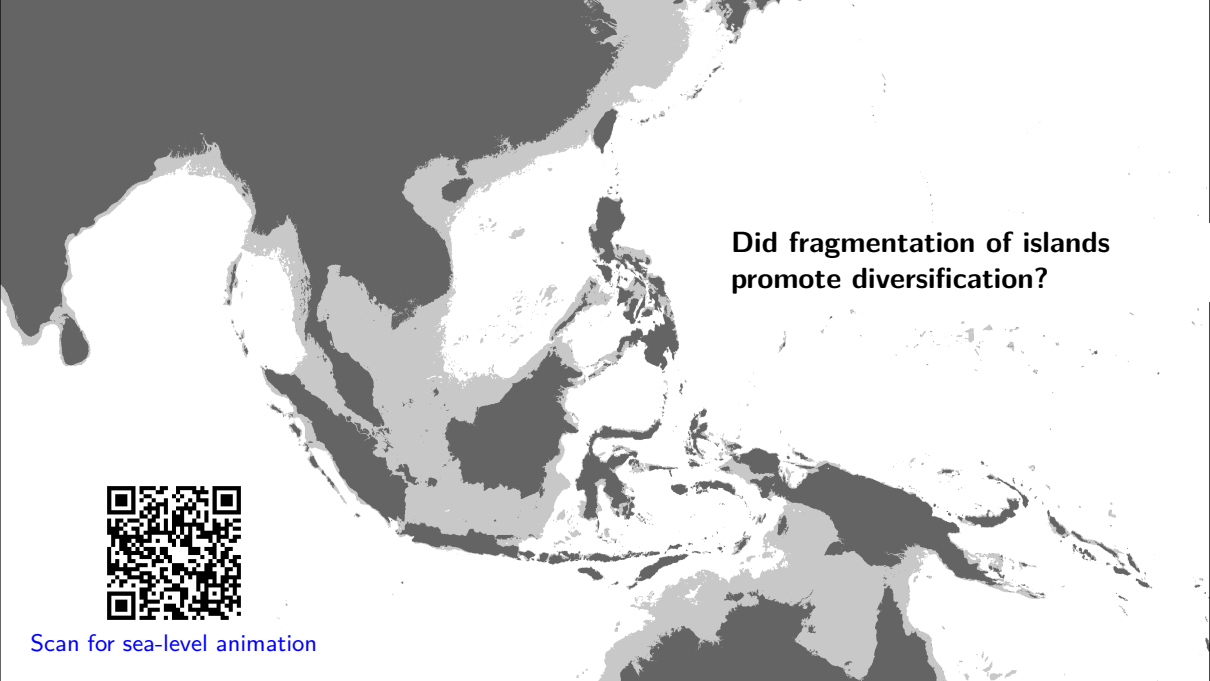


M_G has low false positive rate

● M_G = Generalized model ◆ M_{IB} = Independent-bifurcating model



Generalizing tree space improves MCMC convergence and mixing



**Did fragmentation of islands
promote diversification?**

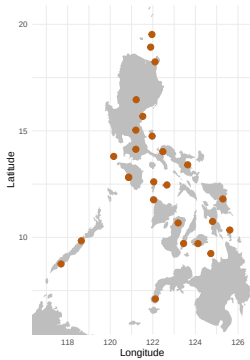


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Cyrtodactylus



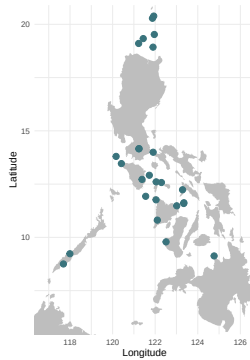
©Rafe M. Brown



Gekko



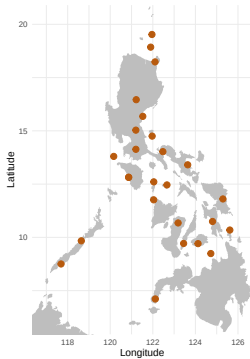
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Cyrtodactylus

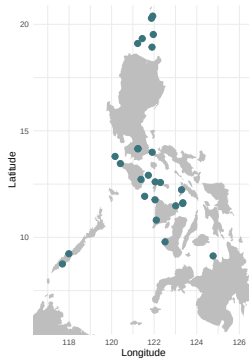


©Rafe M. Brown



1702 loci
155,887 sites

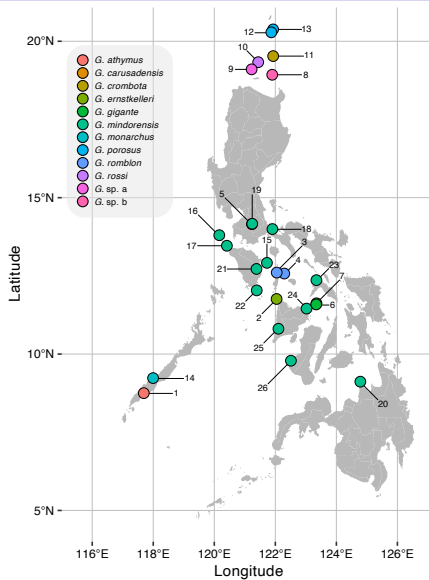
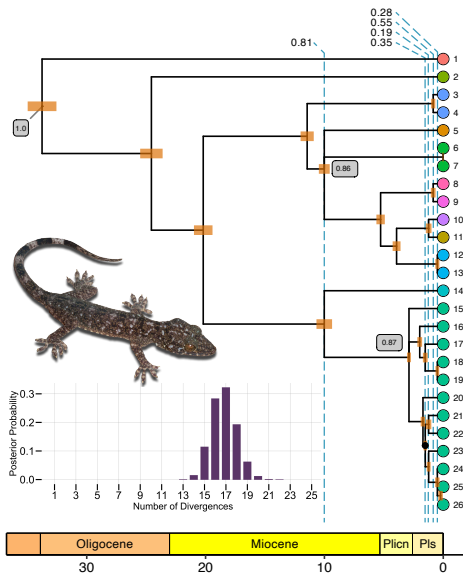
Gekko



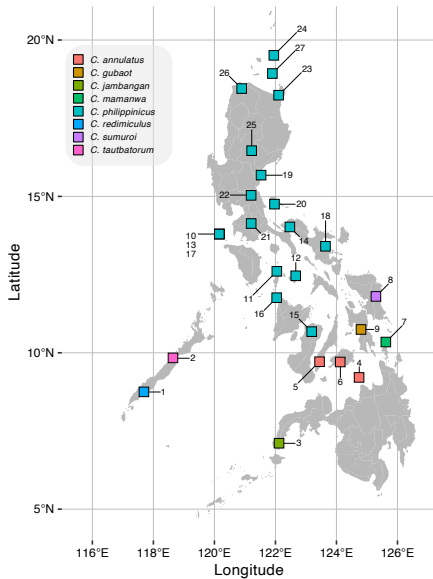
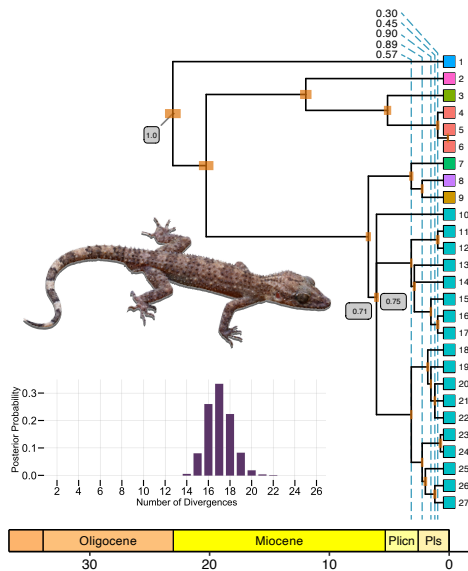
©Rafe M. Brown

1033 loci
94,813 sites

Gekko



Cyrtodactylus



Take-home points

- ▶ We can accurately infer phylogenies with shared divergences with moderately sized data sets

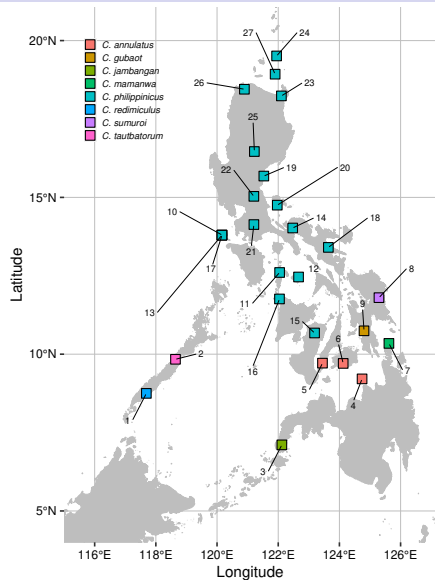
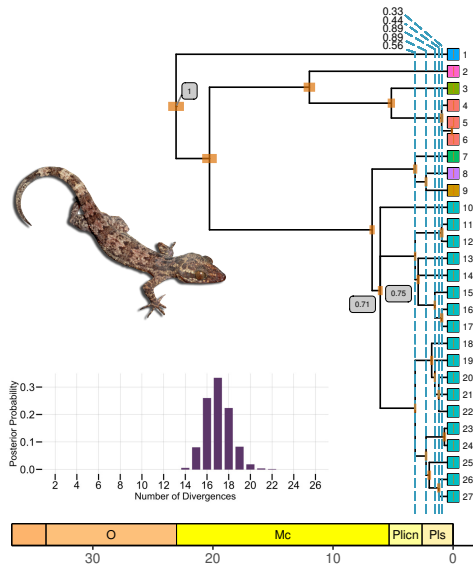
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- ▶ Generalizing tree space avoids spurious support and improves MCMC mixing
- ▶ Among Philippine gekkonids, we found support for shared divergences predicted by sea-level changes

Cyrtodactylus



Open science: everything is available...

Software:

- ▶ Phycoeval: github.com/phyletica/ecoevolity
(release coming soon)

Open-Science Notebooks:

- ▶ Phycoeval analyses: github.com/phyletica/phycoeval-experiments
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Ongoing work

Theory/methods

- ▶ Develop process-based and trait-dependent distributions over the space of generalized trees
 - ▶ “Birth-death-burst” model

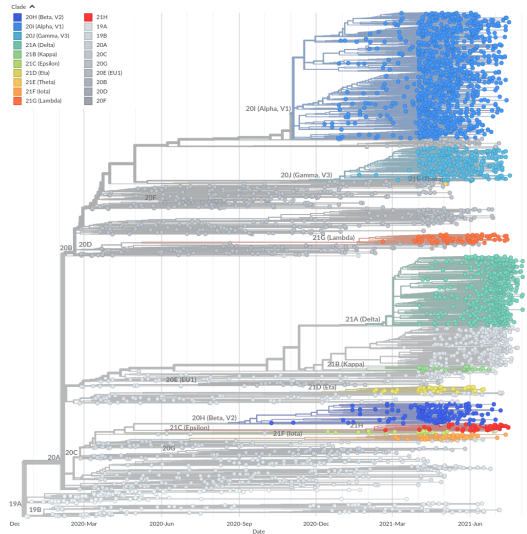
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Applications

- ▶ Epidemiological dynamics of “super-spreading” events during the COVID-19 pandemic



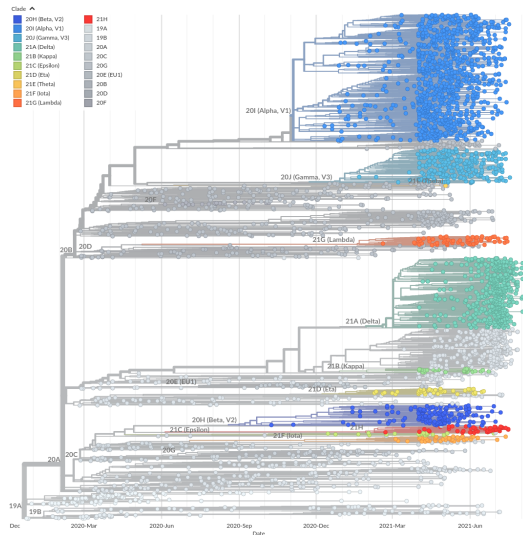
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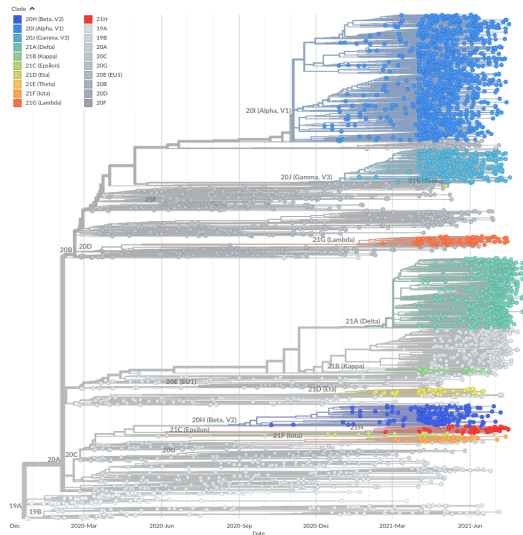
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 - ▶ Test if this differs among variants



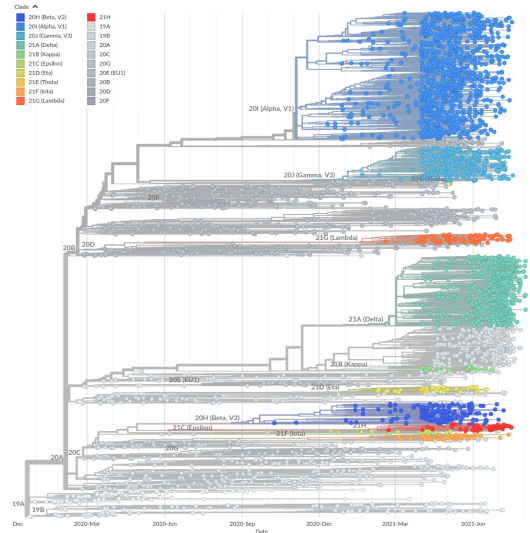
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 - ▶ Estimate rate of spread via social gatherings
 - ▶ Test if this differs among variants
 - ▶ Quantify the effect of holidays



Acknowledgments

- ▶ Phyletica Lab (the Phyleticians)
- ▶ Mark Holder
- ▶ Rafe Brown
- ▶ Cam Siler
- ▶ Lee Grismer

Computation:

- ▶ Alabama Supercomputer Authority
- ▶ Auburn University Hopper Cluster

Funding:



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

Photo credits:

- ▶ Rafe Brown
- ▶ Perry Wood, Jr.
- ▶ [PhyloPic](#)

Questions?

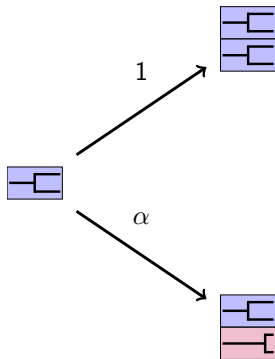
joaks@auburn.edu

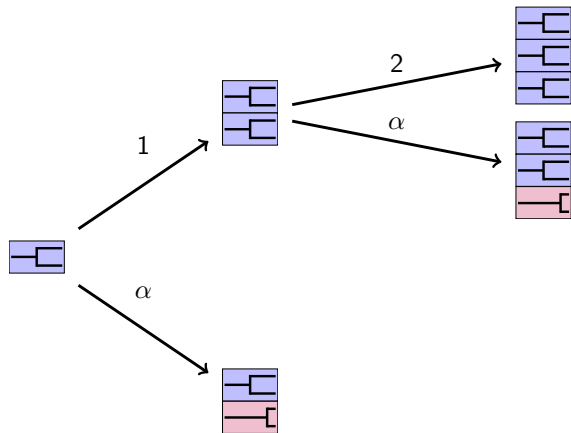
phyletica.org

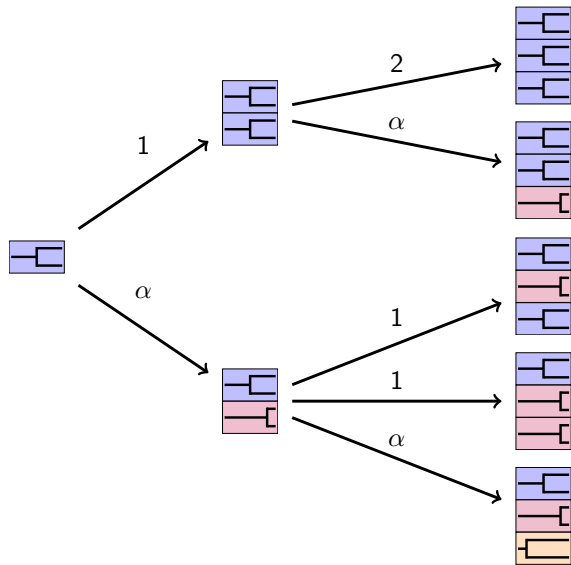


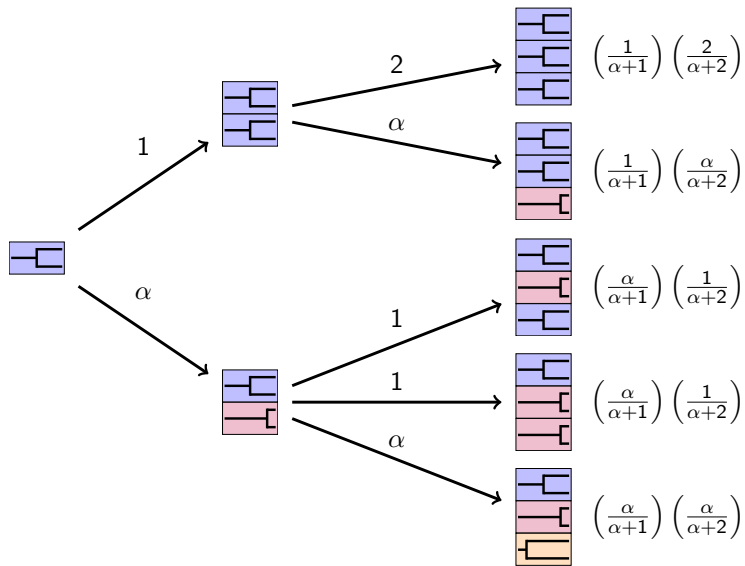
© 2007 Boris Kulikov boris-kulikov.blogspot.com



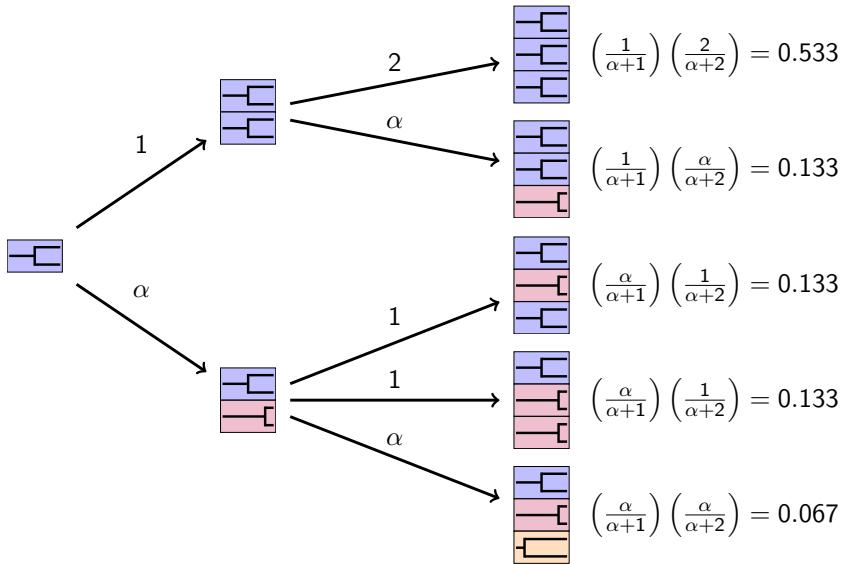




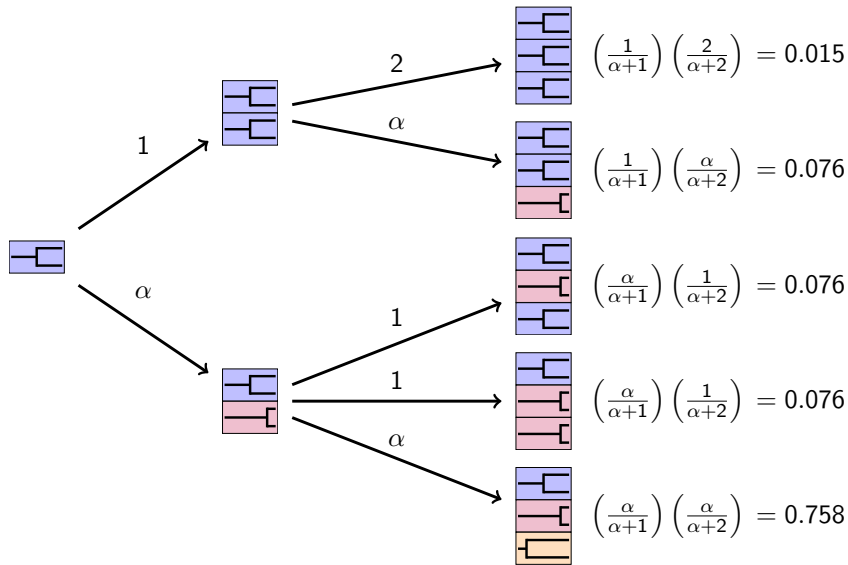




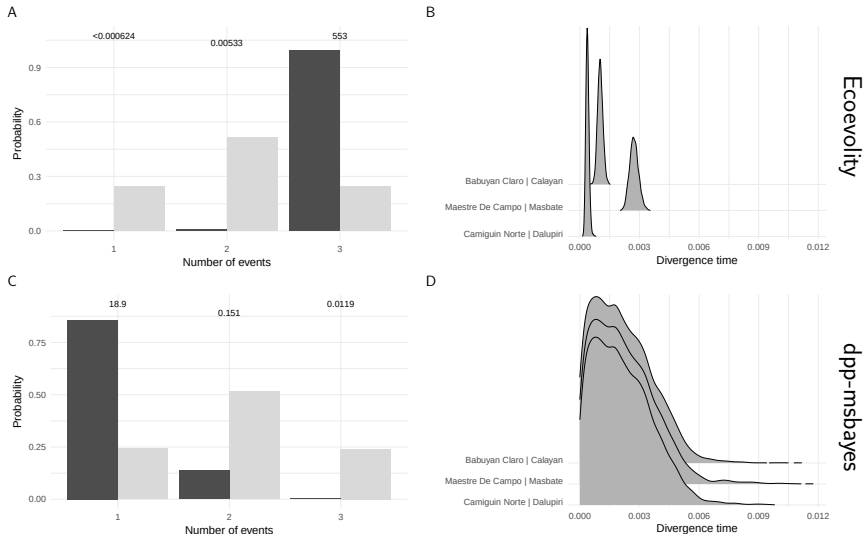
$\alpha = 0.5$



$$\alpha = 10.0$$



ABC vs ecoevolity results



Why so different?



J. R. Oaks et al. (2019). *Systematic Biology* 68: 681–697

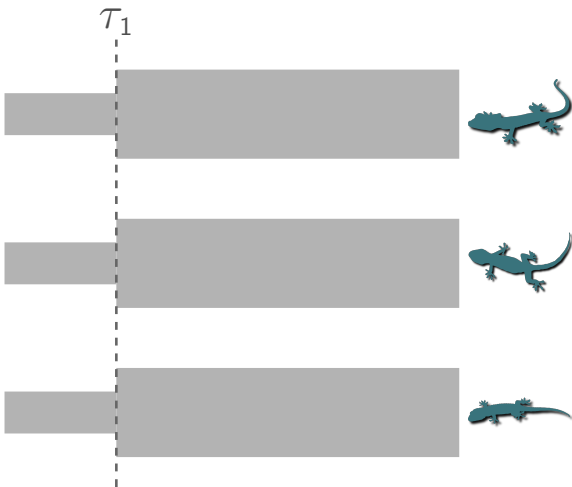


Interactive coin-flipping demo

tl;dr:

Averaging likelihood with respect to “diffuse” priors creates a strong penalty against divergence-time parameters

An aside for a related problem with population demography

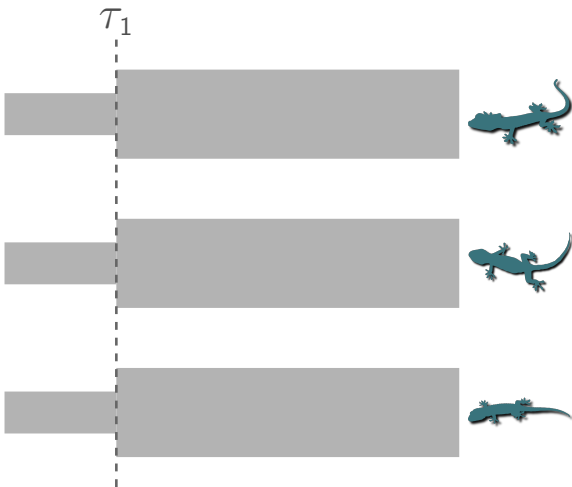


► Recent interest in testing shared demographic changes

¹ Y. L. Chan, D. Schanzenbach, and M. J. Hickerson (2014). *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 31: 2501–2515

² A. T. Xue and M. J. Hickerson (2015). *Molecular Ecology* 24: 6223–6240

³ A. T. Xue and M. J. Hickerson (2017). *Molecular Ecology Resources* 17: e212–e224

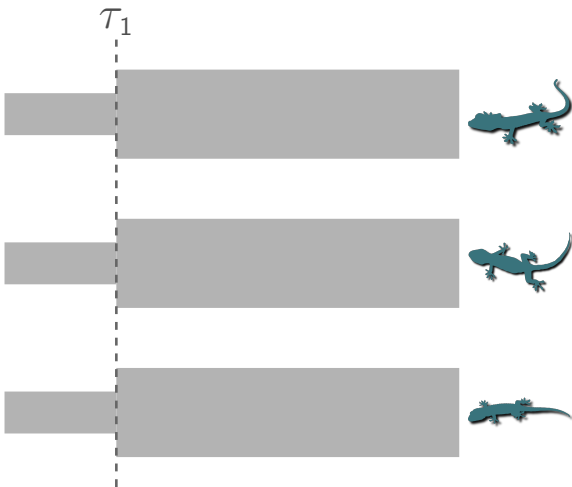


- ▶ Recent interest in testing shared demographic changes
- ▶ Several nice ABC approaches^{1,2,3}
 - ▶ Inferred simultaneous expansion of 5 Alaskan populations of sticklebacks (posterior probability = 0.99)²

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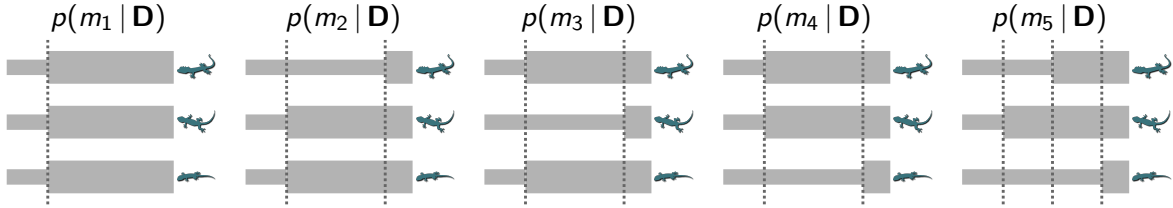


- ▶ Recent interest in testing shared demographic changes
- ▶ Several nice ABC approaches^{1,2,3}
 - ▶ Inferred simultaneous expansion of 5 Alaskan populations of sticklebacks (posterior probability = 0.99)²
- ▶ It's a tricky inference problem
 - ▶ Change in population size can become unidentifiable in 3 ways

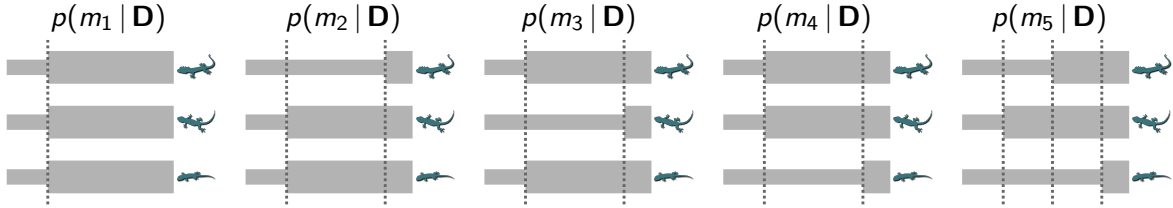
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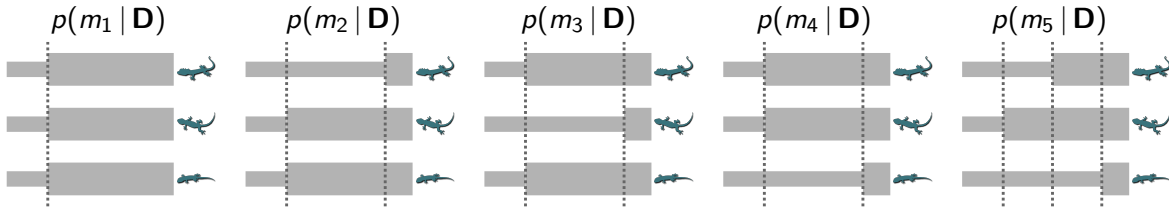


Given genomic data, can we infer the correct model and the timing of the demographic events?



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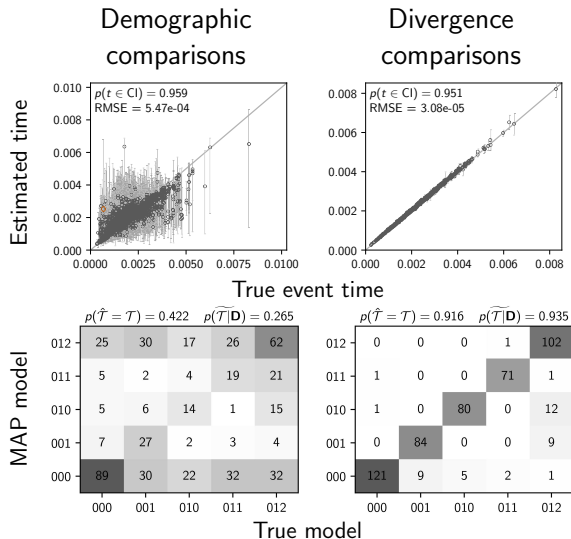


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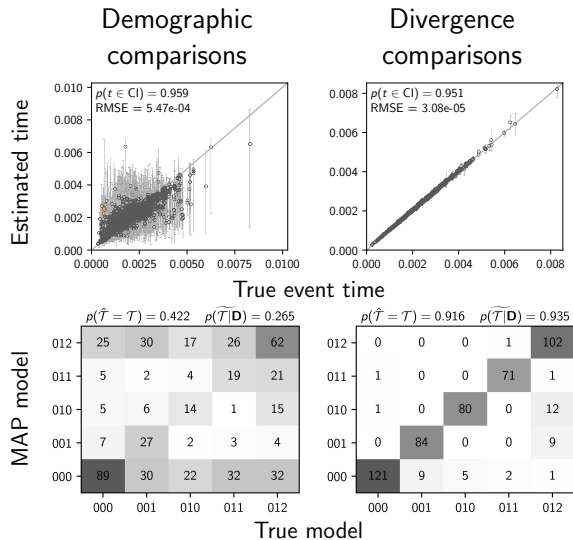
- ▶ Implemented full-likelihood Bayesian approach in evoevolity
- ▶ Assessed performance with simulations
- ▶ Applied to stickleback genomic data

Simulation results



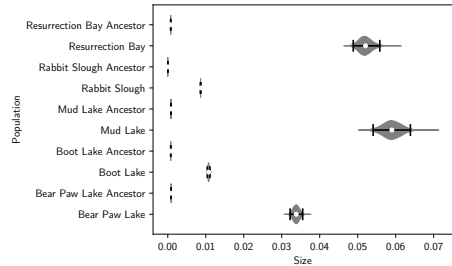
Simulation results

Simulations confirm theoretical expectations that changes in population size are difficult to estimate



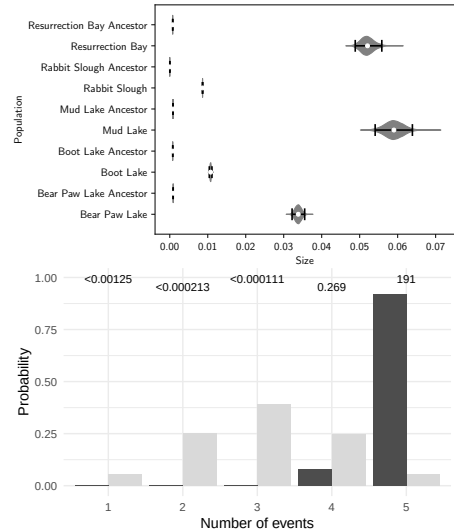
Stickleback results

- Strong support for expansions in all 5 populations; consistent with ABC results



Stickleback results

- ▶ Strong support for expansions in all 5 populations; consistent with ABC results
- ▶ Strong support all 5 expansions were independent; exact opposite of ABC results



Open science: everything is available...

Software:

► Ecoevolity: phyletica.org/ecoevolity

Open-Science Notebooks:

github.com/phyletica/ecoevolity-demog-experiments