# CMSC423: Bioinformatic Algorithms, Databases and Tools 

Phylogenetic trees

## Phylogenetic trees - how evolution works

- http://www.tolweb.org/tree/ - the tree of life



## Anatomy of a tree



Phylogenetic trees are usually binary (though they don't have to) CMSC423 Fall 2008

## Phylogeny questions

- Given several organisms \& a set of features (usually sequence, but also morphological: wing shape/color...)
- A. Given a phylogenetic tree - figure out what the ancestors looked like (what are the features of internal nodes)

- B. Find the phylogenetic tree that best describes the common evolutionary heritage of the organisms




## Phylogeny questions

- A. Easy-ish - can be done with dynamic programming
- B. Hard - Many possible trees

$$
\frac{(2 n-3)!}{2^{n-2}(n-2)!}
$$

rooted trees with n leaves

## Scoring a tree - Sankoff's algorithm

- Assumption - we try to minimize \# of state changes from root to leaves - Parsimony approach
- Small parsimony
- given a tree where leaves are labeled with m-character strings
- find labels at internal nodes s.t. \# of state transitions is minimzed
- Weighted small parsimony
- same as parsimony except that state transitions are assigned weights
- minimize the overall weight of the tree


## Example



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## Sankoff's algorithm

- At each node $v$ in the tree store $s(v, t)$ - best parsimony score for subtree rooted at $v$ if character stored at v is t
- Traverse the tree in post-order and update $s(v, t)$ as follows
- assume node $v$ has children $u$ and $w$
$-s(v, t)=\min _{i}\{s(u, i)+\operatorname{score}(i, t)\}+\min _{j}\{s(w, j)+s c o r e(j, t)\}$
- Character at root will be the one that maximizes s(root, t)
- Note - this solves the weighted version. For unweighted set score (i,i) $=0$, score $(i, j)=1$ for any $i, j$


## Trees as clustering

- Start with a distance matrix - distance (e.g. alignment distance) between any two sequences (leaves)
- Intuitively - want to cluster together the most similar sequences
- UPGMA - Unweighted Pair Group Method using Arithmetic averages
- Build pairwise distance matrix (e.g. from a multiple alignment)
- Pick pair of sequences that are closest to each other and cluster them create internal node that has the sequences as children
- Repeat, including newly created internal nodes in the distance matrix
- Key element - must be able to quickly compute distance between clusters (internal nodes) - weighted distance

$$
D\left(c l_{1}, c l_{2}\right)=\frac{1}{\left|c l_{1}\right|\left|c l_{2}\right|} \sum_{p \in c l_{1}, q \in c l_{2}} D(p, q)
$$

## Trees as clustering

- Note that UPGMA does not estimate branch lengths - they are all assumed equal
- Neighbor-joining
- distance between two sequences is not sufficient - must also know how each sequence compares to every other sequence
$-N J d i s t(i, j)=D(i, j)-\left(r_{i}+r_{j}\right) \quad-r_{i}, r_{j}$ correction factors

$$
r_{i}=\frac{1}{m-2} \sum_{k} D(i, k)
$$

## Neighbor joining

- Pick two nodes with NJdist(i,j) minimal
- Create parent k s.t.
$-D(k, m)=0.5(D(i, m)+D(j, m)-D(i, j))$ for every other node m
$-D(i, k)=0.5\left(D(i, j)+r_{i}-r_{j}\right)$ - length of branch between i \&k
$-D(j, k)=0.5\left(D(i, j)+r_{j}-r_{i}\right)-$ length of branch between $j \& k$


## Trees as clustering

- Note that both UPGMA and NJ assume distance matrix is additive: $\mathrm{D}(\mathrm{i}, \mathrm{j})+\mathrm{D}(\mathrm{j}, \mathrm{k})=\mathrm{D}(\mathrm{i}, \mathrm{k})$ - usually not true but close
- Also, NJ can be proven to build the optimal tree!
- But, simple alignment distance is not a good metric


## Maximum likelihood

- For every branch S->T of length $t$, compute $P(T \mid S, t)$ likelihood that sequence $S$ could have evolved in time t into sequence $T$
- Find tree that maximizes the likelihood
- Note that likelihood of a tree can be computed with an algorithm similar to Sankoffs
- However, no simple way to find a tree given the sequences - most approaches use heuristic search techniques
- Often, start with NJ tree - then "tweak" it to improve likelihood


## Tree analysis \& display

## Three types of trees



All show the same evolutionary relationships, or branching orders, between the taxa.

## Different tree views




## Drawing trees

- Trees are easy to draw - just need to figure out how much space the leaves will take
- Step 1 - calculate how much space each node will take (how many leaves from current node)
- Step 2 - spread out the nodes according to \# of leaves
- Many ways of optimizing: e.g. width, area
- For large trees
- 3D displays (there's more room in 3D)
- interactive displays (expand contract nodes as needed)


## Analysis example

- Build multiple alignment (e.g. Muscle, ClustalW)
- Clean up alignment
- manual editing
- filters (pre-defined structure information)
- Build tree
- PAUP - parsimony \& others
- Phylip - maximum likelihood
- Tree-Puzzle -maximum likelihood
- etc... (many packages)
- Integrated system - ARB
- www.arb-home.de



## Questions

- Why do you need a multiple alignment for phylogeny?
- What is the running time of the neighbor-joining algorithm, given $k$ sequences of length $L$ ?
- What is the parsimony score of the following tree, and what are the labels at internal nodes?


