Heuristic approaches for ranked, unranked, and unrooted anomaly zones

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- The coalescent is the genealogical process of joining lineages when one traces the genealogy of the sample backwards in time.
- Several processes can lead to discordance between species and gene trees.



Evolutionary time: past

- Unranked trees depict the topological relationships among gene lineages.
- Ranked trees also depict the sequence in which the lineages coalesce.
- Gene trees have different ranked topologies but share the same unranked topology ((AB)C)(DE)).



- Let's define a ranked history of the gene tree as x = (x₁, x₂, ..., x_{n-1}), where for i = 1, 2, ..., n - 1, x_i = j if the *ith* coalescence occurs in species tree interval τ_i.
- Let $P(\mathcal{G}_{\tau_i}, x | \mathcal{T})$ be the probability in interval τ_i for ranked history x.
- The probability of a ranked gene tree topology ${\cal G}$ with ranked history set ${\cal Y}$ given a species tree ${\cal T}$ is





Gene tree with ranked history (1, 1, 3, 3) evolving on the species tree

Since the probability that *i* lineages fail to coalesce in a time interval of length t_i is $e^{-\binom{i}{2}t_i}$, we can easily calculate the probability in each interval.

$$P(\mathcal{G}, (1, 1, 3, 3) | \mathcal{T}) = \frac{1}{6} e^{-t_2} (1 - e^{-t_3})^2 e^{-t_4},$$



.

$$i = 1 : \frac{1}{3},$$

$$i = 2 : e^{-\binom{2}{2}t_2},$$

$$i = 3 : \left(1 - e^{-\binom{2}{2}t_3}\right) \left(1 - e^{-\binom{2}{2}t_3}\right) \frac{1}{2},$$

$$i = 4 : e^{-\binom{2}{2}t_4}.$$

- The unranked (ranked) gene tree topology that is more probable than the unranked (ranked) topology matching the species tree is called *anomalous unranked (ranked) gene tree*.
- Species trees that can generate anomalous gene trees are said to be in the *anomaly zone*.



Unranked and Ranked anomaly zones for 5-taxon trees

• We compute an entire distribution of gene trees and check if there is a nonmatching gene tree topology that is more probable than the matching tree.



- Computing an entire distribution of gene trees for detecting anomalous trees is not practical for larger trees.
- The 4-taxon species tree is in unranked anomaly zone if y < a(x), where $a(x) = \log \left[\frac{2}{3} + \frac{3e^{2x}-2}{18(e^{3x}-e^{2x})}\right]$.
- Pairs of any two internal consecutive branches in larger tree can be checked for anomaly zone condition y < a(x) (Linkem et al. 2016).





• Anomaly zone calculations were done for each pair of internodes in the extended MRC.



- The majority of relationships in Scincinae have internode lengths that are expected to produce AGTs.
- Strong conflict between species trees and concatenated gene trees.
- Parts of the tree in conflict correspond with areas of the tree that are also estimated to be in the anomaly zone.

 All pairs of internode branch lengths were used to check if at least one pair satisfying the anomaly zone limit condition y < a(x).

		y < a(x)			one ste	one step NNI	
rate (in%)	n	0.1	0.5	1	0.1	0.5	1
True positive	5	96.55	94.19	92.80	100.00	100.00	99.91
	6	97.73	95.26	94.51	100.00	99.67	99.27
	7	93.15	95.95	95.24	100.00	99.75	99.76
	8	92.94	95.61	95.45	100.00	99.89	99.84
False positive	5	0.00	2.16	7.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
	6	0.18	4.08	9.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
	7	0.12	4.60	11.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
	8	0.18	5.82	13.30	0.00	0.00	0.00

- In the cases where the species tree produces anomalous gene trees, the majority of the most probable gene tree topologies are not too far from the species tree topology.
- Considering unranked and unrooted gene tree topologies within one nearest neighbour interchange from the species tree topology is a reasonable heuristic to infer the existence of anomalous trees.
- Anomalous ranked gene trees tended to have the same unranked topology as the species tree or at least are tied for that.

Probabilities of the species tree being in the anomaly zones

- We simulated 1000 species phylogenies under a birth-death model.
- The probability of being in an anomaly zone increases with the number of taxa *n* and with speciation rate λ.



Relationships between unrooted, unranked, and ranked anomaly zones



- Probability of being in the all types of anomaly zones increases with the number of taxa and speciation rate λ.
- Probabilities of unranked and unrooted anomaly zones grow much faster than that of the ranked anomaly zone as the speciation rate increases.
- Heuristic approaches are generally useful for anomaly zone calculation with high true positive rates and low false positives.

- J. H. Degnan and N.A. Rosenberg. Discordance of species trees with their most likely gene trees. PLoS Genet., 2006.
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- C. W. Linkem, V. N. Minin, and A. D. Leache. Detecting the anomaly zone in species trees and evidence for a misleading signal in higher-level skink phylogeny (squamata: Scincidae). Syst. Biol., 2016
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Probabilities of the 5-8-taxon species trees being in the anomaly zones



Probabilities of the 9-12-taxon species tree being in the anomaly zones



Probabilities of the 9-taxon species trees being in the anomaly zones

