# Phylodynamics for recombining pathogens

Inferring phylogenetic networks

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Our data: We know who was infected with which pathogen and sequence and when they were sampled



Phylogenetics allows us to infer the shared ancestral history of the different pathogens



### Phylogenetic trees are formed by population processes and contain information about them



### Bayesian phylogenetics allows us to jointly infer the phylogenetic trees, evolutionary and Demographics models



L. Du Plessis, T. Stadler "Getting to the root of epidemic spread with phylodynamic analysis of genomic data" Trends in Microbiology, 2015 Bayesian phylogenetics allows us to jointly infer the phylogenetic trees, evolutionary and Demographics models





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## Bayesian phylogenetics allows us to jointly infer the phylogenetic trees, evolutionary and Demographics models



#### $P(\frac{acc}{RAC}) \notin \frac{333}{233}$   $\bigcirc$   $P(\frac{F}{4} | QQ) P(QQ) P(\frac{333}{233}) P(Q)$  $P(E \nightharpoonup \dots \nightharpoonup C)$  $P$  $\left( \frac{ACAC...}{ACAG...} \right)$

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## Exploring the posterior probability distribution using Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)



Slide from Paul Lewis

























## Different processes to "mix" genetic materials from two parent lineages exist



**Nature Reviews | Microbiology** 

## The combined genetic material may represent a network and not a tree



Genetic recombination processes lead to different parts of a genome coding for different histories


# Ways to deal with recombination

- Only use small parts of the genome that code for the same tree (e.g. only use one segment of influenza).
- Consider different parts of a genome to be independent (Bad if they are not).
- Just ignore recombination (bad if there is).
- Infer networks instead of trees. (Best case, but potentially slow)

## Only use small parts of the genome that code for the same tree.



# Population dynamics can be inferred from individual influenza segments



Bedford et al., 2015, *Nature*

## Using only part of pathogen genomes reduces time resolution



Dudas et al., 2019, *BMC Eco. Evo.*

## Consider different parts of a genome to be independent. (Sometimes correct)



Species tree inferences typically assume individual parts of the genome to be independent observations of a speciation process



# Just ignore recombination. (Always wrong)



QUESTIONS?

To perform inference of phylogenetic networks, we have to introduce a new inference approach



#### To infer phylogenetic networks, we need the following

• A way to explore the posterior probability  $P(E \mathbb{R}) \otimes D \mathbb{R}$ 



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 $\mathbb{F}$   $\frac{1}{2000}$  (

- A way to explore the posterior probability  $P(E \mathbb{S} \cup \mathbb{C})$
- The **network likelihood**  $P$ ( $\frac{ACAC}{ACAC}$   $\mathbb{E}$  ::: ①) can be expressed as a product of tree likelihoods on the different nucleotide positions

### To infer phylogenetic networks, we need the following

 $\mathbb{F}$   $\frac{1}{2000}$  (

- A way to explore the posterior probability  $P(E \mathbb{S} \setminus \mathbb{C})$  and  $E$ .
- The **network likelihood**  $P$ ( $\frac{ACAC}{ACAC}$   $\mathbb{E}$  ::: ①) can be expressed as a product of tree likelihoods on the different nucleotide positions
- The **network prior P(** $\mathbb{F}$  |coo) requires a network generating model, such as a coalescent process



### To explore  $P(E \times Q) \cong P(E \times Q)$  of phylogenetic networks, we need to "operate" on the networks



#### $P(\frac{2CC}{ACAC})$   $\mathbb{E}$  ::  $\odot$   $\odot$  can be expressed as the product of tree likelihoods

• The probability of observing each position in this alignment only requires knowing the tree at this position.



### $E \ddot{m} \odot P(E \vert \infty)$  models  $\ddot{m}$ s a coalescent and reassortment/recombination/plasmid transfer process







E. Simon-Loriere, E. C. Holmes "*Why do RNA viruses recombine?*" Nature Reviews Microbiology, 2011

Getting et al./Microbiology Spectrum, Jan. 2018

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### The genome of Influenza in organized in several separated segments



Mackay, I. M.. Influenza virus. (2018). doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.6817112.v1

### Reassortment leads to a reshuffling of segments from different ancestral lineages



E. Simon-Loriere, E. C. Holmes "*Why do RNA viruses recombine?*" Nature Reviews Microbiology, 2011

### Reassortment between subtypes can create progenitors with segments that originate from different parents



Smith, G., Vijaykrishna, D., Bahl, J. et al "*Origins and evolutionary genomics of the 2009 swine-origin H1N1 influenza A epidemic*" Nature, 2009

#### Three samples of a hypothetical influenza virus with three segments



Going back in time, two lineages can share a common ancestor at a rate inverse proportional to Ne



A lineage can reassort at a rate given by the reassortment rate with each segment having originated from one parental lineage



### More lineage share a common ancestor



#### Until all lineage coalescence at the root of the phylogenetic network





#### The coalescent with reassortment models a joint coalescent and reassortment process

• Coalescent events between any *n* coexisting network lineages happen at:

$$
\frac{n(n-1)}{2Ne}
$$

• Reassortment events that leave a genetic footprint on lineage i happen at a rate of:

$$
\rho(1-2*0.5^{c_i})
$$

The reassortment rate is a backwards in time rate of observing reassortment events

- The reassortment rate is a function of:
	- The probability that co-infection occurs
	- The probability of reassortment in a co-infected individual
	- The success/selection of reassortants









# CoalRe allows inferring reassortment networks, reassortment rates etc. jointly



Müller et al. (2020), *PNAS*

### Correctly modelling the reassortment process impact precision and reduces bias



Müller et al. (2020), *PNAS*

#### Explicitly modeling when and where reassortment events occurred allows us to investigate whether there are patterns



Müller et al. (2020), *PNAS*

#### CoalRe to track the movement and evolution of orthomyxoviruses



Dudas et al. (2020), *J Virol*

#### Reassortment and population structure can be reconstructed jointly



Stolz et al. (2021), Mol. Biol. Evol.

#### The structured coalescent with reassortment can be used to reconstruct where and when reassortment occurred.



Stolz et al. (2021), Mol. Biol. Evol.
# $E \ddot{m} \odot P(E \vert \infty)$  models  $\ddot{m}$ s a coalescent and reassortment/recombination/plasmid transfer process







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Getting et al./Microbiology Spectrum, Jan. 2018

#### Different parts of the genome of SARS-like viruses code for different "trees"



Boni et al. (2020), Nat. Mic.

# To switch to networks, we conceptually just replace the tree terms with networks

$$
P(\text{E} \text{ m} \odot \text{m} | \text{E}) = \frac{P(\text{E} \text{ m} | \text{E} \text{ m} \odot) P(\text{E} | \text{E} \text{m}) P(\text{E} \odot) P(\text{E} \
$$

The complex recombination process can be simplified and modeled as a joint coalescence and recombination process.



Müller et al. (2022), Nat. Comm.

#### Recombination events can be inferred well, but getting actual posterior support values is hard



#### Recombination events shaped the evolutionary history of SARSlike viruses.



#### Evidence for a few recombination events in the recent history of SARS-CoV-2 before entering the human population



Müller et al. (2022), Nat. Comm.

#### Recombination events shaped the evolutionary history of SARSlike viruses. *BtKY72*



The analyzed SARS-like dataset contains about 300 recombination events, meaning the average number of consecutive basepairs that code for the same tree is 100  $\frac{1}{2}$ 



#### RmYN02 is the closest common ancestor to SARS-CoV-2 on most parts of the genome.



Müller et al. (2022), Nat. Comm.





**E**





#### Recombination rates vary with rates of adaptation across the genomes of seasonal coronaviruses



Müller et al. (2022), Nat. Comm.

# $E \ddot{m} \odot P(E \vert \infty)$  models  $\ddot{m}$ s a coalescent and reassortment/recombination/plasmid transfer process







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Getting et al./Microbiology Spectrum, Jan. 2018

# Ancestral recombination graphs for the coalescent with gene conversion can be inferred in BEAST2 using Bacter

- Allows to estimate tree based networks that have a base tree and edges that detach and re-attach directly to that base tree
- Requires the assumption that only a small part of the genome is subject to recombination



Vaughan et al. (2017), *Genetics*

# Plasmids encode virulence and antibiotic resistance factors in *Shigella*



**Trends in Microbiology** 

Torraca, Vincenzo, Kathryn Holt, and Serge Mostowy. "Shigella sonnei." Trends in microbiology 28.8 (2020): 696-697.

#### XDR *Shigella* is increasing in prevalence in the US



https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00486.asp

# Plasmids can move between different bacterial lineages through, for example, conjugation



Baker, K.S., Dallman, T.J., Field, N. et al. *Horizontal antimicrobial resistance transfer drives epidemics of multiple Shigella species*. Nat

### The transmission history of bacteria including co-infection can be described by a transmission network



#### We can reconstruct part of that transmission network from the chromosomal DNA



# Discordance between the plasmid and chromosomal tree imply plasmids to have moved between lineages



# That shared history of chromosome and plasmid can be denoted by a phylogenetic network



#### The transfer of plasmids between bacterial lineages can be inferred using phylogenetic networks



Müller et al. (2023), *BioRxiv*

### The transfer of plasmids between bacterial lineages can be inferred using phylogenetic networks



Müller et al. (2023), *BioRxiv*

#### spA is transferred between lineages more often than other plasmids with unknown function (spB, spC)



Müller et al. (2023), *BioRxiv*

# This is reflected in a higher rate of the spA moving between lineages



Müller et al. (2023), *BioRxiv*

## The transfer of plasmids between bacterial lineages can be inferred using phylogenetic networks



Müller et al. (2023), *BioRxiv*

# The transfer of plasmids between bacterial lineages can be inferred using phylogenetic networks



#### Chromosome tree provides calibration points for plasmid tree



# The evolutionary rates of plasmids can be estimated despite them not "measurably evolving" by themselves





The ancestral history of pKSR100 shows multiple jumps between bacterial lineages of *S. sonnei* and *S. flexneri.*

pKSR100 (in orange) confers resistance to azithromycin and jumped repeatedly between *S. sonnei* and *S. flexneri*



We can map these jumps of pKSR100 between species onto the plasmid tree and learn when these jumps occured

Müller et al. (2023), *BioRxiv*

#### Expansion of the number of bacterial lineages carrying pKSR100 over the last decade



Müller et al. (2023), *BioRxiv*

QUESTIONS?

# Some readin[g material](https://www.genetics.org/content/205/2/857)

- Coalescent with recombination: https://doi. 5809(83)90013-8
- Coalescent with gene conversion: https://www.genetics.org/content/155/1/45
- ARG's for bacteria: https://www.genetics.o
- Coalescent with reassortment: https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/0