

# Phylogenetic Least Squares

## Testing for correlations using phylogenetic least squares

### Why?

When species are your unit of inference and you undertake standard statistical analyses, you are implicitly assuming that the evolutionary distance between all species is equal (a.k.a. a phylogenetic “bush” rather than a tree) - we know this is not true!

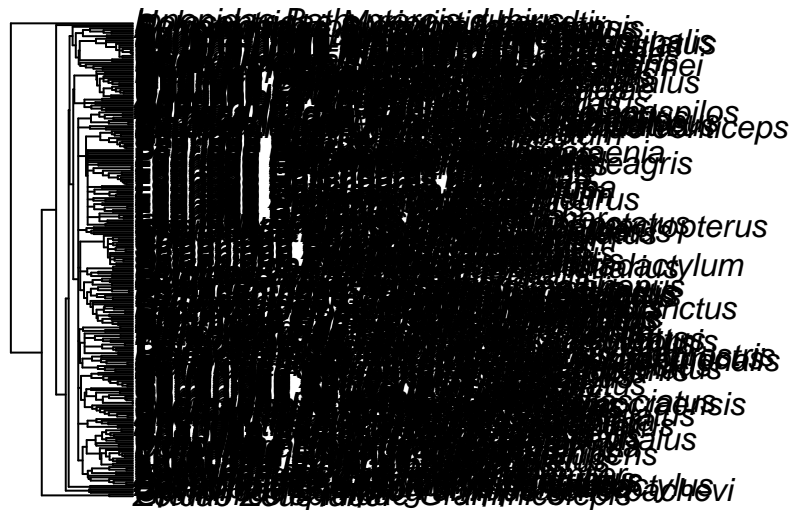
Phylogenetic least squares allows you to explore linear relationships between variables contingent upon covariances extrapolated from the phylogenetic tree.

### Example

This is based on a paper that a UQ undergraduate student, Katja Kasimatis, wrote looking at variation in egg sizes for coral reef fishes (Kasimatis & Riginos 2016: Coral Reefs). She went on to get her PhD at the University of Oregon and was awarded the Dobzhansky Prize, one of the highest award for a finishing PhD student in evolutionary biology - way to go Katja!

```
library(ape)
library(geiger)
library(nlme)

fishdata <- read.csv("fishtraits_geography.csv", header=TRUE, row.names=1) #data file
fishtree<-read.tree("Fish_chronogram.nex")
plot(fishtree)
```



## Prepping the data

These example data files have been well prepared. Most likely yours will not. See [BlombergK.html](#) for some general tips on getting the taxa names in your data file and tree to match. Make sure to check for branch length also!

## Analyses

PGLS can be used like any regression. You can model the effect on one predictive variable on one response variable, or you can make a more complex multiple regression model.

```
#reduce the tree to match your data
tree_reduced <-treedata(fishtree, fishdata, sort=TRUE, warnings=TRUE) #lots of warnings!
```

```
## Warning in treedata(fishtree, fishdata, sort = TRUE, warnings = TRUE): The following tips were not f
## Acanthuridae_Ctenochaetus_striatus
## Acanthuridae_Naso_vlamingii
## Ammodytidae_Ammodytes_hexapterus
## Ammodytidae_Ammodytes_tobianus
## Anarhichadidae_Anarhichas_lupus
## Apogonidae_Apogon_maculatus
## Apogonidae_Apogon_quadrifasciatus
## Apogonidae_Phaeoptyx_conklini
## Aulostomidae_Aulostomus_chinensis
```

## Balistidae\_Balistes\_capriscus  
 ## Batrachoididae\_Halobatrachus\_didactylus  
 ## Blenniidae\_Parablennius\_gattorugine  
 ## Bothidae\_Arnoglossus\_imperialis  
 ## Caesionidae\_Pterocaesio\_digamma  
 ## Callionymidae\_Callionymus\_schaapii  
 ## Callionymidae\_Synchiropus\_altivelis  
 ## Carapidae\_Echiodon\_cryomargarite  
 ## Cheilodactylidae\_Nemadactylus\_macropterus  
 ## Dactylopteridae\_Dactylopterus\_volitans  
 ## Dactyloscopidae\_Platygillellus\_rubrocinctus  
 ## Diodontidae\_Diodon\_hystrix  
 ## Fistulariidae\_Fistularia\_petimba  
 ## Gerreidae\_Gerres\_cinereus  
 ## Gobiidae\_Entelurus\_figaro  
 ## Gobiidae\_Favonigobius\_reichei  
 ## Gobiidae\_Periophthalmus\_barbarus  
 ## Gobiidae\_Pomatoschistus\_minutus  
 ## Gobiidae\_Valenciennea\_strigata  
 ## Grammicolepididae\_Grammicolepis  
 ## Haemulidae\_Pomadasys\_perotaei  
 ## Holocentridae\_Myripristis\_berndti  
 ## Ipnopidae\_Bathypterois\_dubius  
 ## Kyphosidae\_Microcanthus\_strigatus  
 ## Labridae\_Symphodus\_roissali  
 ## Labrisomidae\_Neoclinus\_blanchardi  
 ## Latidae\_Lates\_calcarifer  
 ## Lophiidae\_Lophius\_budegassa  
 ## Lutjanidae\_Lutjanus\_sebae  
 ## Malacanthidae\_Lopholatilus\_chamaeleonticeps  
 ## Microdesmidae\_Ptereleotris\_zebra  
 ## Molidae\_Mola\_mola  
 ## Monacanthidae\_Aluterus\_monoceros  
 ## Moronidae\_Dicentrarchus\_labrax  
 ## Moronidae\_Morone\_americana  
 ## Moronidae\_Morone\_saxatilis  
 ## Mugilidae\_Liza\_sp  
 ## Mugilidae\_Mugil\_cephalus  
 ## Mullidae\_Mullus\_surmuletus  
 ## Ophidiidae\_Lamprogrammus\_scherbachevi  
 ## Ostraciidae\_Lactoria\_diaphana  
 ## Polynemidae\_Pentanemus\_quinquarius  
 ## Pomacanthidae\_Pomacanthus\_maculosus  
 ## Pomacentridae\_Dascyllus\_trimaculatus  
 ## Pomacentridae\_Pomacentrus\_pavo  
 ## Priacanthidae\_Priacanthus\_arenatus  
 ## Priacanthidae\_Priacanthus\_tayenus  
 ## Sciaenidae\_Argyrosomus\_regius  
 ## Scorpaenidae\_Pontinus\_longispinis  
 ## Sebastidae\_Sebastes\_rubrivinctus  
 ## Serranidae\_Acanthistius\_brasilianus  
 ## Serranidae\_Epinephelus\_aeneus  
 ## Serranidae\_Holanthias\_chrysostictus  
 ## Serranidae\_Liopropoma\_fasciatum

```
## Serranidae_Nippon_spinosus
## SerranidaeSerranidae_Serranus_accraensis
## Siganidae_Siganus_vulpinus
## Soleidae_Solea_solea
## Sparidae_Spondylusoma_cantharus
## Syngnathidae_Nerophis_ophidion
## Synodontidae_Synodus_foetens
## Tetraodontidae_Fugu_rubripes
## Tetraodontidae_Lagocephalus_laevigatus
## Tripterygiidae_Tripterygion_delaisi
## Zaclidae_Zaclus_cornutus
## Zeidae_Zeus_faber
```

```
## Warning in treedata(fishtree, fishdata, sort = TRUE, warnings = TRUE): The following tips were not f
```

```
## Acanthuridae_Acanthurus_nigroris
## Apogonidae_Apogon_cyanosoma
## Apogonidae_Apogon_hungi
## Apogonidae_Apogon_nitidus
## Apogonidae_Apogon_ruppellii
## Apogonidae_Cheilodipterus_lineatus
## Apogonidae_Holapogon_maximus
## Apogonidae_Siphamia_permutata
## Apogonidae_Siphamia_roseigaster
## Blenniidae_Chasmodes_bosquianus
## Blenniidae_Chasmodes_saburrae
## Blenniidae_Hypsoblennius_jenkins
## Blenniidae_Lipophrys_pholis
## Blenniidae_Lupinoblennius_nicholsi
## Blenniidae_Ophiohlennius_steindachneri
## Blenniidae_Plagiotremus_azalea
## Callionymidae_Callionymus_enneactis
## Chaetodontidae_Chaetodon_nippon
## Ephippidae_Chaetodipterus_zonatus
## Gobiesocidae_Diplecogaster_bimaculata
## Gobiesocidae_Lepadogaster_purpurea
## Gobiidae_Coryphopterus_nicholsii
## Gobiidae_Elacanthus_figaro
## Gobiidae_Gobiosoma_robustum
## Gobiidae_Lepidogobius_lepidus
## Gobiidae_Paragobiodon_xanthosoma
## Labridae_Cheilinus_unifasciatus
## Labridae_Cirrhitilabrus_temminckii
## Labridae_Coris_variegata
## Labridae_Halichoeres_poecilopterus
## Labridae_Labropsis_micronesica
## Labridae_Labropsis_xanthonota
## Microdesmidae_Clarkichthys_bilineatus
## Monacanthidae_Brachaluteres_jacksonianus
## Monacanthidae_Eubalichthys_bucephalus
## Monacanthidae_Rudarius_ercodes
## Ophidiidae_Ophidion_marginatum
## Pomacanthidae_Centropyge_aurantonotus
## Pomacanthidae_Centropyge_debelius
## Pomacanthidae_Genicanthus_semifasciatus
```

```
plot(tree_reduced$phy, cex = 0.5) #simpler tree than uploaded tree - many branches pruned
```



```
fishdata_reduced<-fishdata[row.names(tree_reduced$data),] #simplified data file

#now derive a covariance matrix under the assumption of Brownian motion proportional to the tree
bm.tree<-corBrownian(phy=tree_reduced$phy)

#testing with PGLS - simple prediction: body size of fish predicts egg size
univariatePGLS<-gls(log(vol)~sl, correlation=bm.tree, data=fishdata_reduced)
```

```
## Warning in Initialize.corPhyl(X[[i]], ...): No covariate specified, species
## will be taken as ordered in the data frame. To avoid this message, specify a
## covariate containing the species names with the 'form' argument.
```

```
summary(univariatePGLS)
```

```
## Generalized least squares fit by REML
##   Model: log(vol) ~ sl
##   Data: fishdata_reduced
##           AIC       BIC    logLik
##   572.9257 582.8207 -283.4629
##
## Correlation Structure: corBrownian
##   Formula: ~1
##   Parameter estimate(s):
##   numeric(0)
##
## Coefficients:
##               Value Std.Error   t-value p-value
## (Intercept) -0.6673109 0.4684036 -1.424649  0.1558
## sl           0.0091867 0.0021527  4.267488  0.0000
##
## Correlation:
##   (Intr)
## sl -0.131
##
## Standardized residuals:
##           Min           Q1           Med           Q3           Max
## -2.4562907 -1.1312705 -0.8097445 -0.3714583  3.8036224
##
## Residual standard error: 1.374412
## Degrees of freedom: 202 total; 200 residual
```

```
anova(univariatePGLS, test="F") #this test asks how better is the model than one that is based on an i
```

```
## Denom. DF: 200
##           numDF   F-value p-value
## (Intercept)    1  0.762358  0.3836
## sl            1 18.211457  <.0001
```

```
## -> body size highly significant!
```

```
#testing with PGLS - multiple predictions: egg type and latitude and their interactions
PGLSmodel<-gls(log(vol)~egg.type*latitude, correlation=bm.tree, data=fishdata_reduced)
```

```
## Warning in Initialize.corPhyl(X[[i]], ...): No covariate specified, species
## will be taken as ordered in the data frame. To avoid this message, specify a
## covariate containing the species names with the 'form' argument.
```

```
summary(PGLSmodel) #complicated results because there are a lot of categories
```

```
## Generalized least squares fit by REML
## Model: log(vol) ~ egg.type * latitude
## Data: fishdata_reduced
##      AIC      BIC    logLik
## 575.0112 607.6381 -277.5056
##
## Correlation Structure: corBrownian
## Formula: ~1
## Parameter estimate(s):
## numeric(0)
##
## Coefficients:
##                               Value Std.Error   t-value p-value
## (Intercept)                0.1790729 0.5608619   0.3192815  0.7499
## egg.typeegg.scatterer      -2.3356158 1.0906442  -2.1415011  0.0335
## egg.typepelagic            -0.7521775 0.4520378  -1.6639702  0.0977
## latitudetemperature        0.7654596 0.3812920   2.0075415  0.0461
## latitudetropical           0.0044751 0.2252996   0.0198627  0.9842
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetemperature -0.2133778 1.0698265  -0.1994509  0.8421
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetemperature    -0.8514288 0.5152066  -1.6525970  0.1000
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetropical   0.3894406 0.9269147   0.4201472  0.6748
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetropical        -0.2773651 0.2672002  -1.0380424  0.3005
##
## Correlation:
##                               (Intr) egg.t. egg.ty lttddtm lttddtr
## egg.typeegg.scatterer      -0.218
## egg.typepelagic            -0.530  0.346
## latitudetemperature        -0.230  0.135  0.345
## latitudetropical           -0.223  0.121  0.288  0.335
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetemperature 0.082 -0.730 -0.122 -0.356 -0.119
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetemperature    0.171 -0.108 -0.356 -0.749 -0.249
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetropical  0.054 -0.774 -0.069 -0.081 -0.243
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetropical        0.190 -0.098 -0.319 -0.284 -0.843
##                               egg.typeegg.scttrr:lttddtm
## egg.typeegg.scatterer
## egg.typepelagic
## latitudetemperature
## latitudetropical
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetemperature
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetemperature    0.266
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetropical  0.831
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetropical        0.101
##                               egg.typepelagic:lttddtm
## egg.typeegg.scatterer
## egg.typepelagic
## latitudetemperature
## latitudetropical
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetemperature
```

```
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetemperature
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetropical 0.060
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetropical 0.262
## egg.typeegg.scttrr:lttdtr
## egg.typeegg.scatterer
## egg.typepelagic
## latitudetemperature
## latitudetropical
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetemperature
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetemperature
## egg.typeegg.scatterer:latitudetropical
## egg.typepelagic:latitudetropical 0.205
##
## Standardized residuals:
##      Min      Q1      Med      Q3      Max
## -2.2925602 -0.9568840 -0.6145851 -0.2759798  3.3784025
##
## Residual standard error: 1.389872
## Degrees of freedom: 202 total; 193 residual
```

```
anova(PGLSmodel, test="F") # look at p values here - only egg type is significant, so latitude and int
```

```
## Denom. DF: 193
##      numDF  F-value p-value
## (Intercept)      1 0.745492 0.3890
## egg.type        2 5.993939 0.0030
## latitude        2 2.260274 0.1071
## egg.type:latitude 4 0.968887 0.4257
```