
Lecture 3

Models and support

Bootstrapping

The bootstrap is non parametric

- Uncertainty in the tree estimate can be inferred indirectly using **bootstrap analysis**
- “Pulling oneself up by one’s bootstraps”



- Bootstrap analysis can be performed when using a range of phylogenetic methods:
 - Maximum parsimony
 - Distance-matrix based methods
 - Maximum likelihood

Bootstrap

brown bear
cave bear
black bear
giant panda

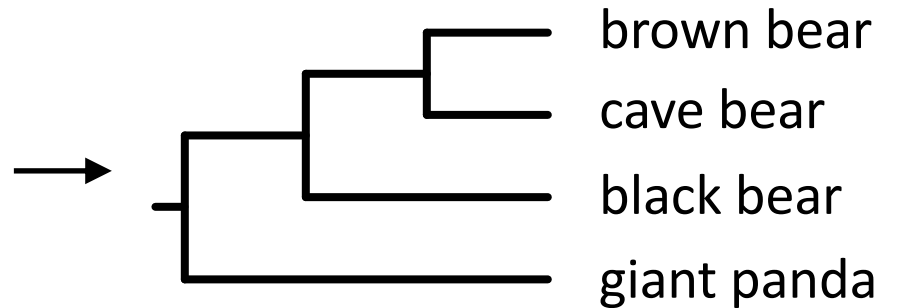
CGTTAGTACACT
CGATAGTTCACCT
CGTTAGTTTACC
CATTTGGTTTACT

Repeat 1000 times

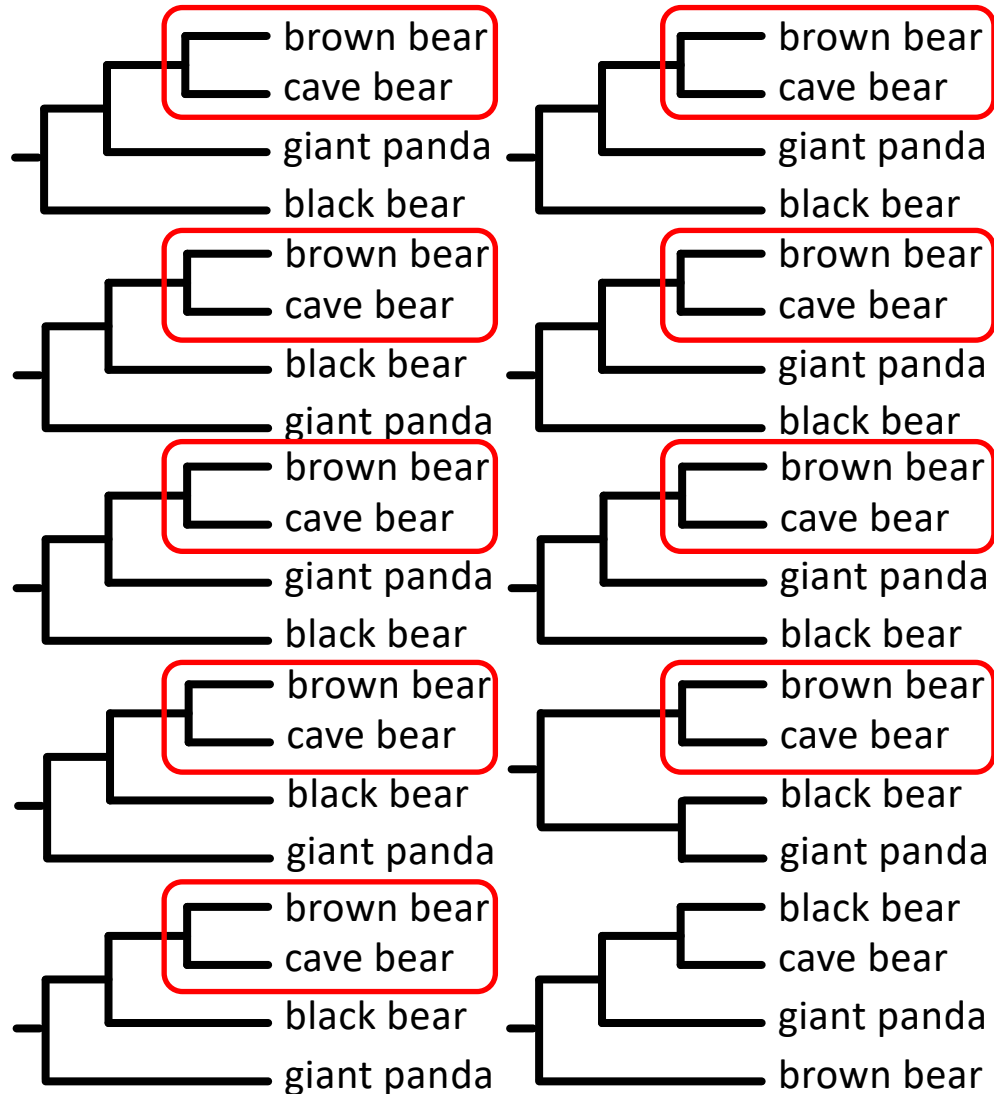
Pseudoreplicate

brown bear
cave bear
black bear
giant panda

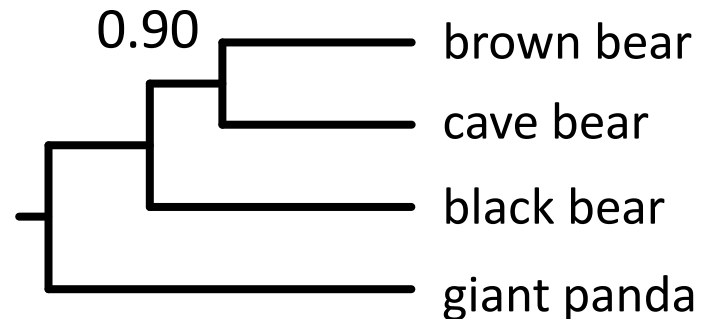
ATACTGTCCCT
ATACTGTCCCA
ACACTGTTCCT
GTGCTATTCT



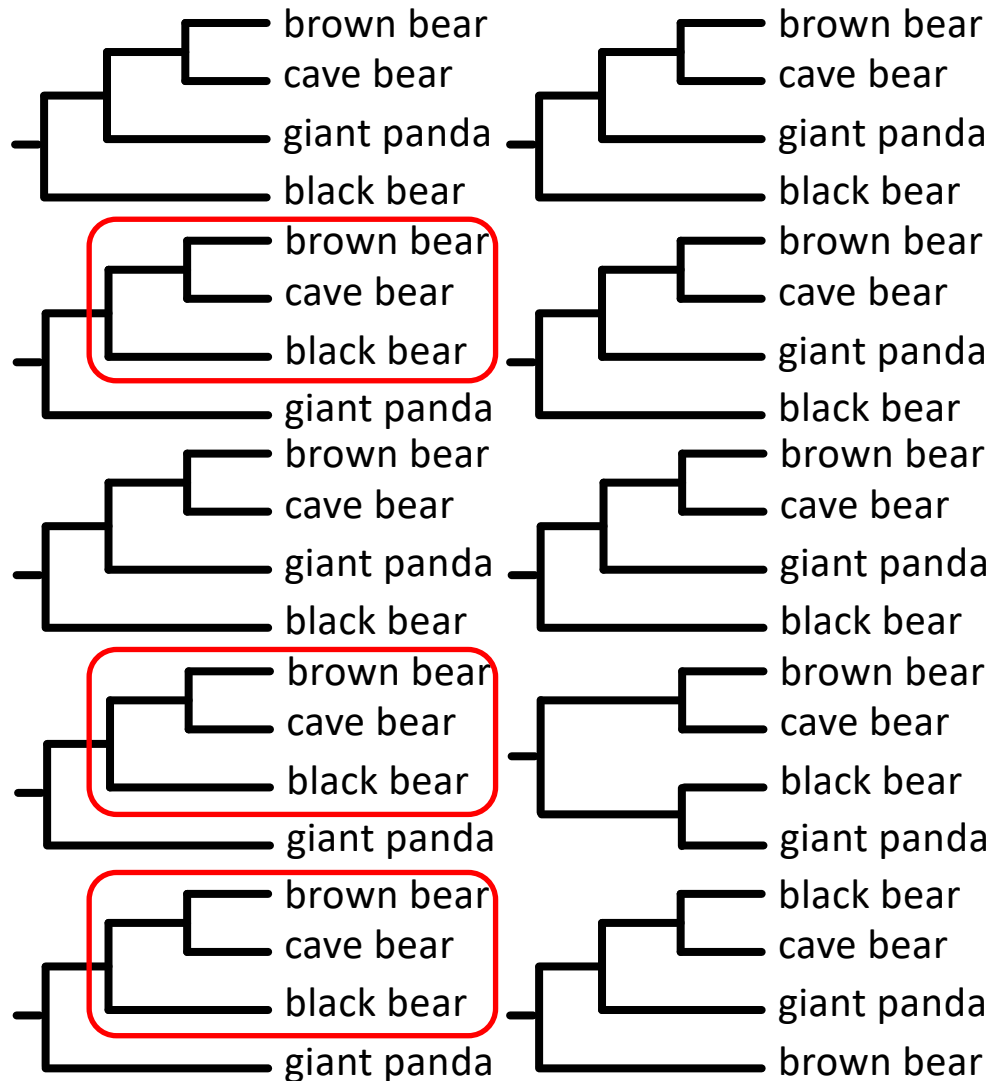
Bootstrap



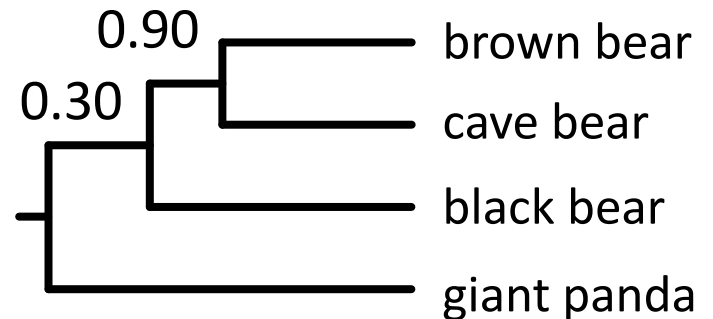
ML tree



Bootstrap



ML tree



Interpreting bootstrap values

- **Felsenstein (1985)**
The bootstrap gives us a confidence interval that contains *the tree that would be estimated when repeatedly sampling sites from the existing distribution*
- Bootstrap values are **measures of repeatability**
 - High when lots of data are available
 - Has little meaning when genome-scale data are available

Popular methods in phylogenetics

1. Maximum parsimony
2. Distance methods
3. Maximum likelihood
4. Bayesian inference

Statistical methods

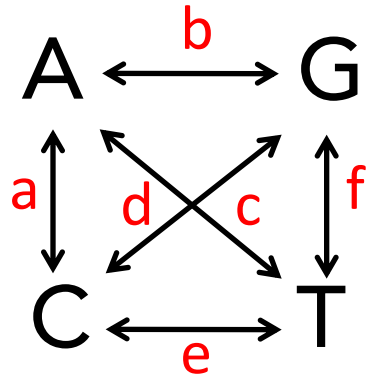


Substitution models

DNA substitution models

Rates matrix

Base frequencies



$$\pi_A + \pi_C + \pi_G + \pi_T = 1$$

JC

$$a=b=c=d=e=f$$

$$\pi_A = \pi_C = \pi_G = \pi_T$$

HKY

$$a=c=d=f, b=e$$

$$\pi_A, \pi_C, \pi_G, \pi_T$$

GTR

$$a, b, c, d, e, f$$

$$\pi_A, \pi_C, \pi_G, \pi_T$$

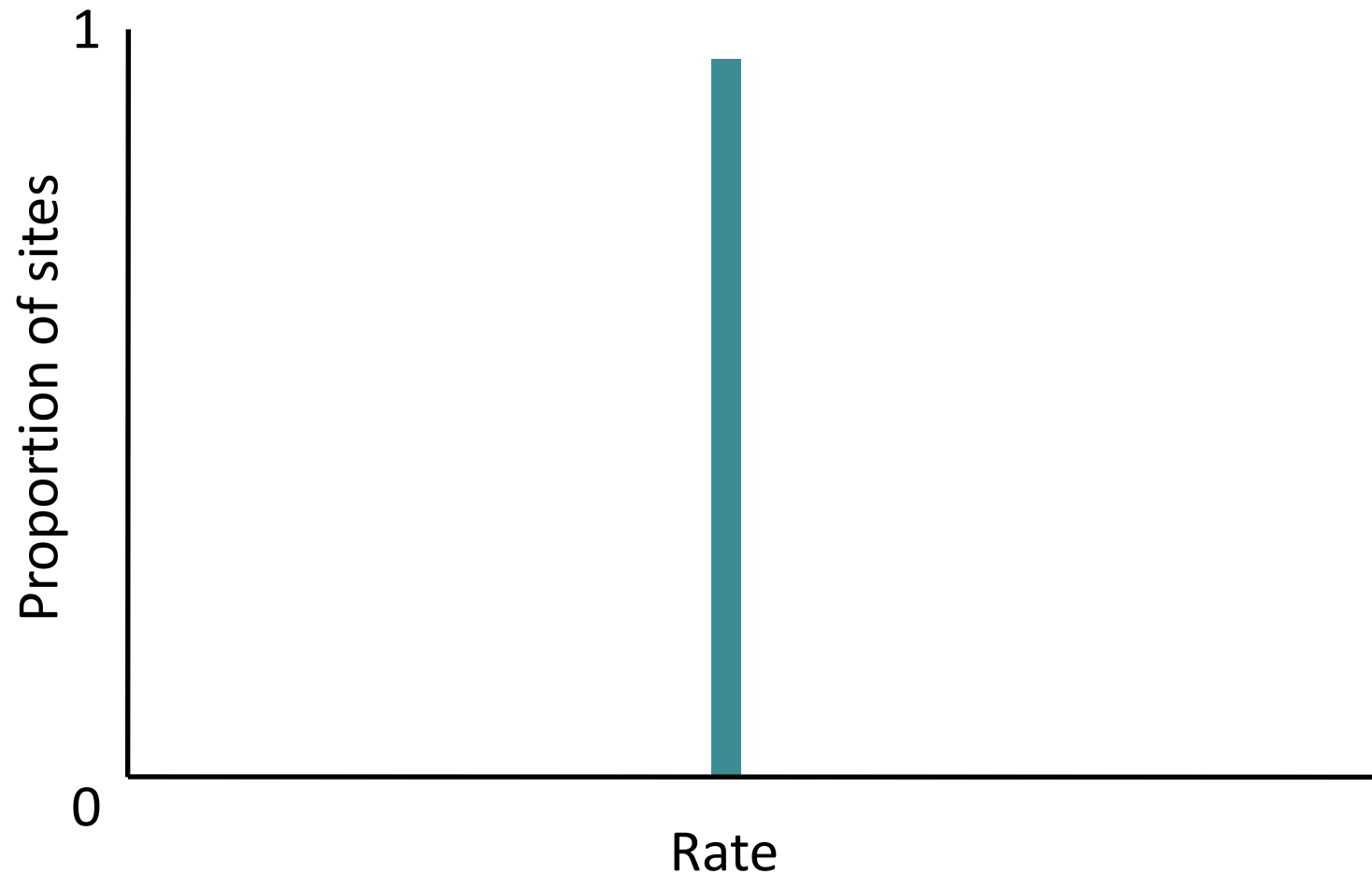
Rate variation across sites

CTAT--GGCACCCAGCCCATGTCAT--GGT
CTAA--GGCAACCAGCCCATACAT--GCT
CTATGTGGCAACCAGCCCATGTCAT--GCT
ATATGTGGCAGCCAG-----GCATAGGT
ATATGTGGCAGCCAGCCCATGTCATAGGT

Medium Slow Fast

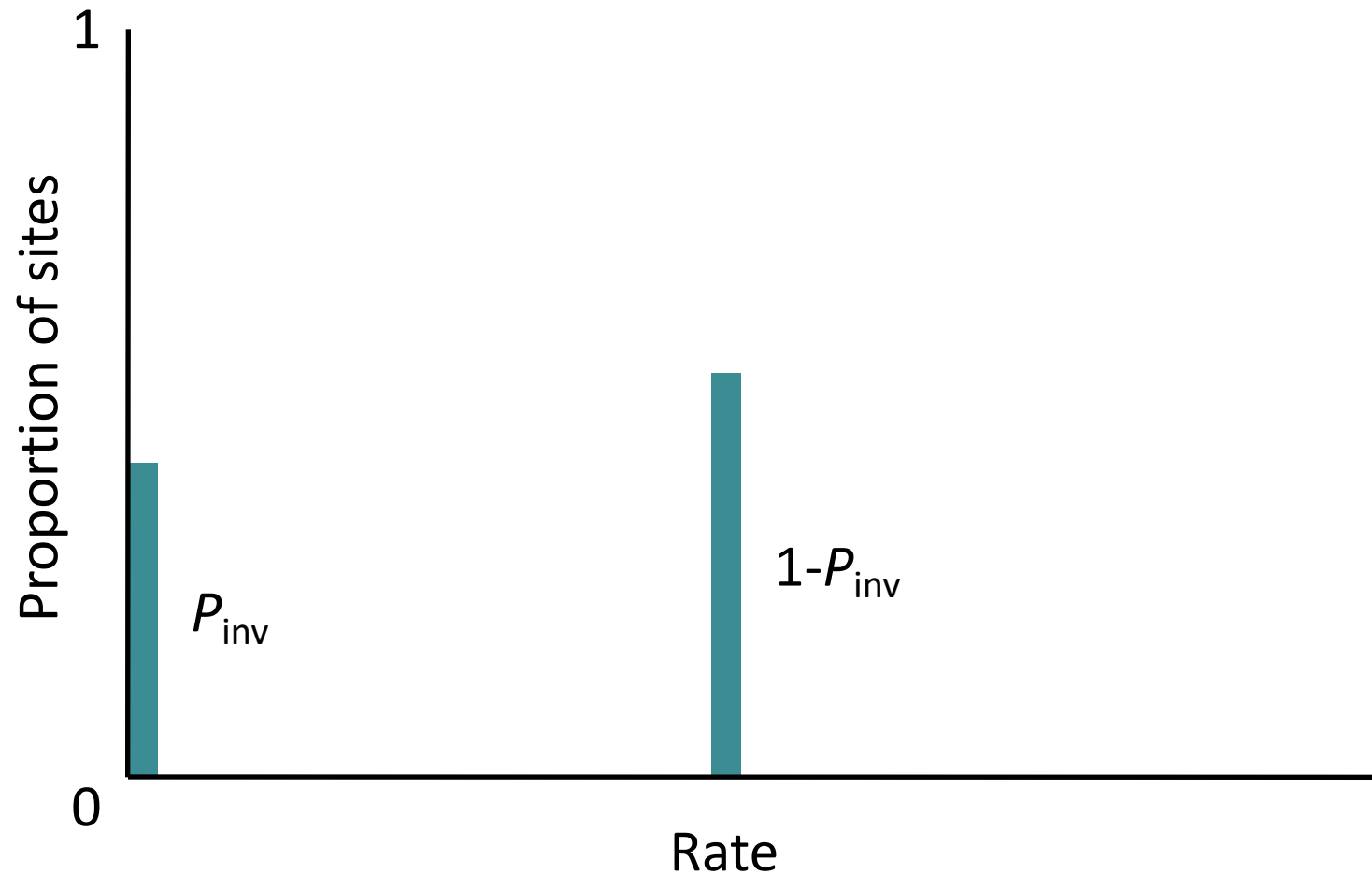
Rate variation across sites

- Identical among all sites



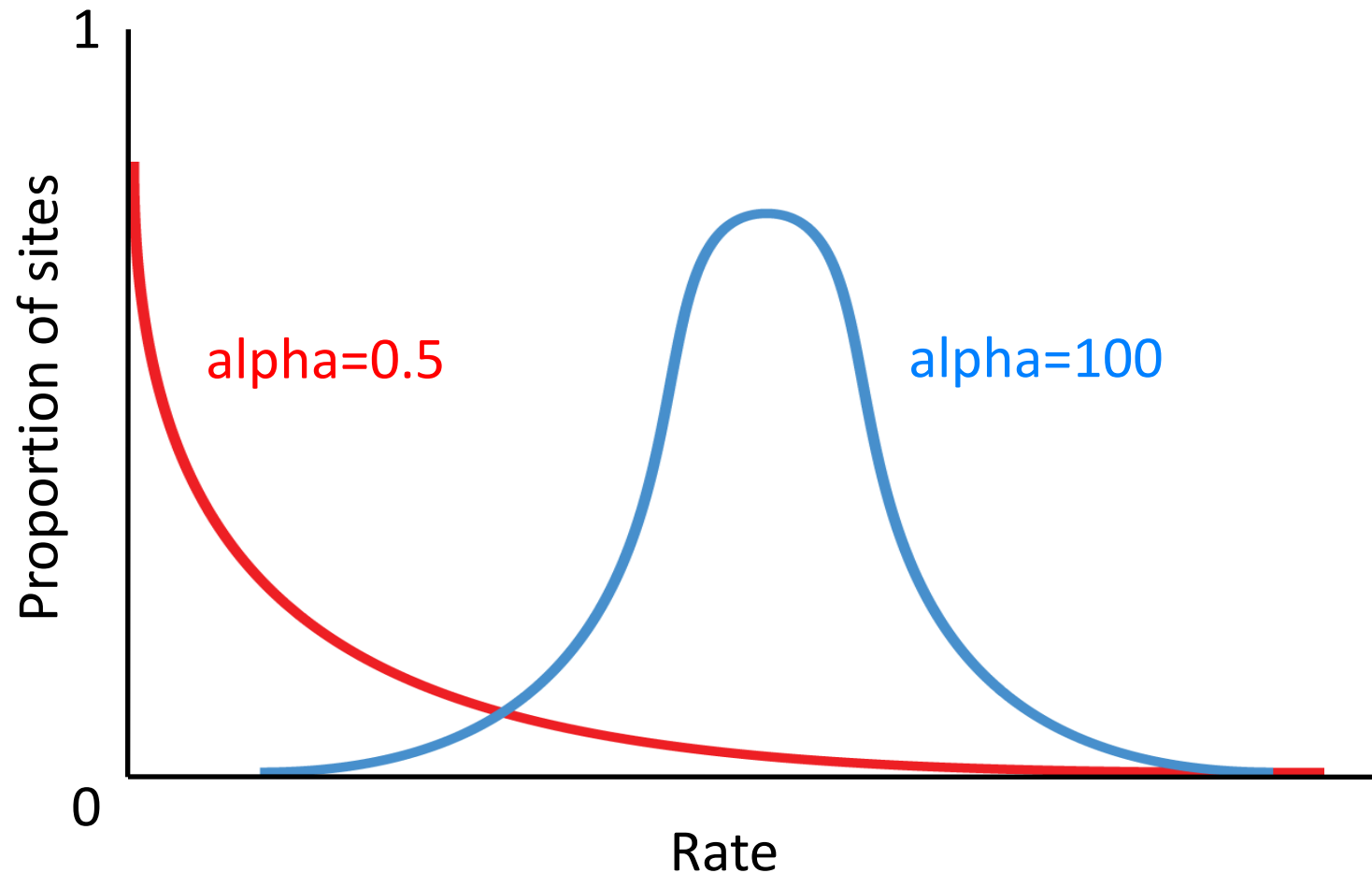
Rate variation across sites

- Proportion of invariable sites (+I models)



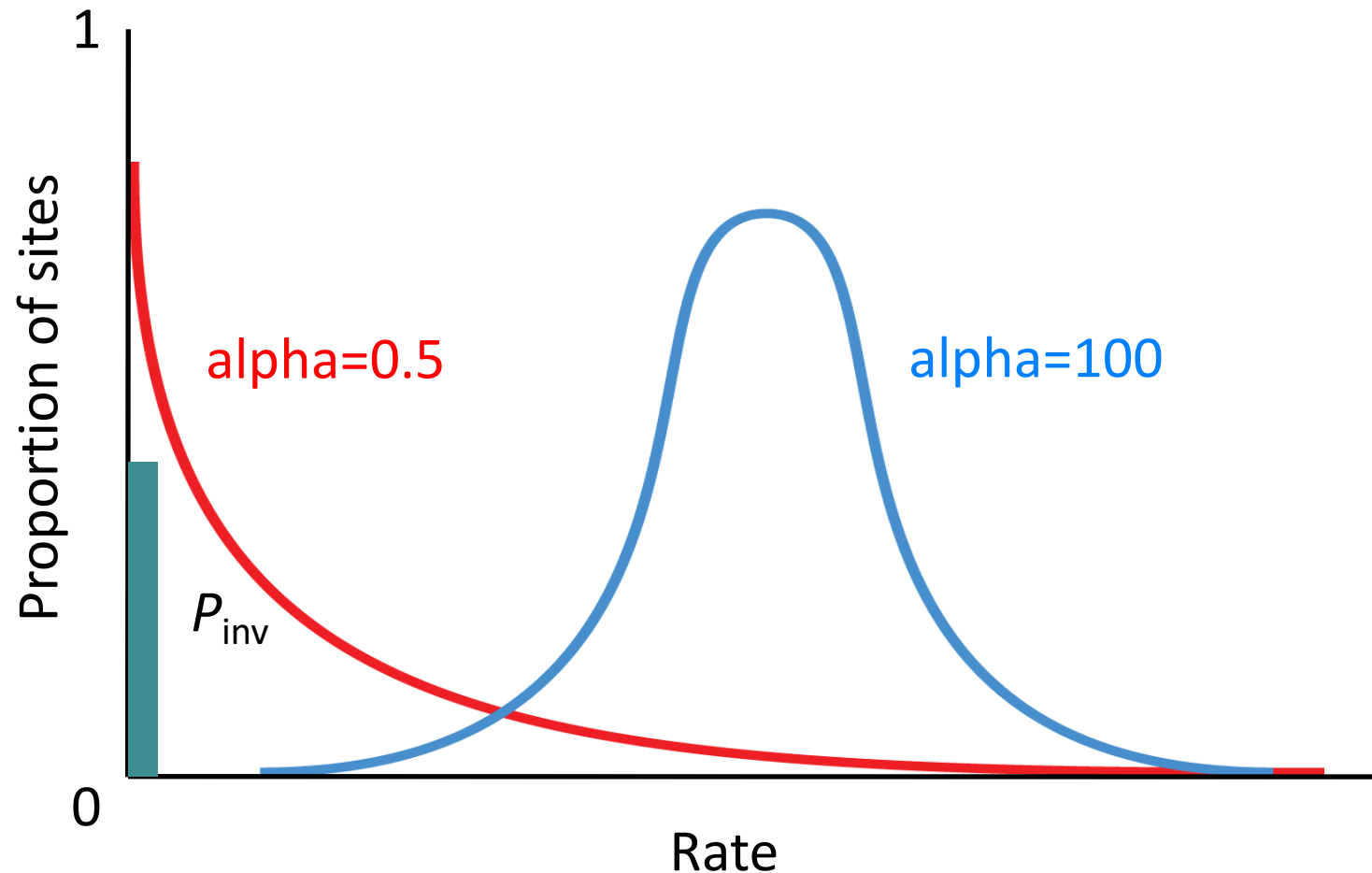
Rate variation across sites

- Gamma distributed rates across sites (+G models)



Rate variation across sites

- Rates across sites are assumed to follow a gamma distribution and a portion of invariable sites (+G+I models)

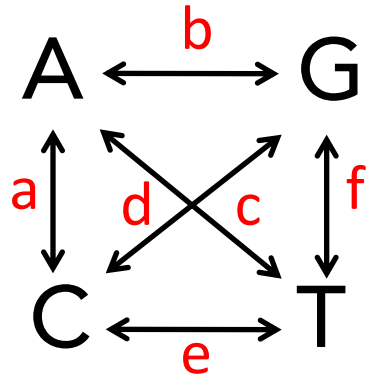


DNA substitution models

Rates matrix

Base frequencies

Site rates



$$\pi_A + \pi_C + \pi_G + \pi_T = 1$$

+ I + G

JC

$$a=b=c=d=e=f$$

$$\pi_A = \pi_C = \pi_G = \pi_T$$

HKY

$$a=c=d=f, b=e$$

$$\pi_A, \pi_C, \pi_G, \pi_T$$

GTR

$$a, b, c, d, e, f$$

$$\pi_A, \pi_C, \pi_G, \pi_T$$

GTR+I+G

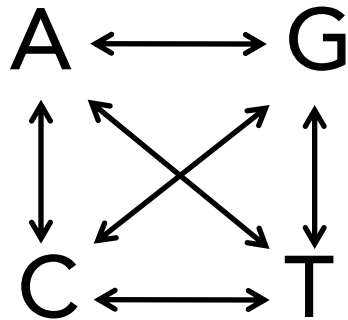
$$a, b, c, d, e, f$$

$$\pi_A, \pi_C, \pi_G, \pi_T$$

I, G

DNA substitution models

Rates matrix



Base frequencies

$$\pi_A + \pi_C + \pi_G + \pi_T = 1$$

Site rates

$$+ I + G$$

Number of models

203

x

15

x

4

= 12,180

In phylogenetics we explore a small portion of these

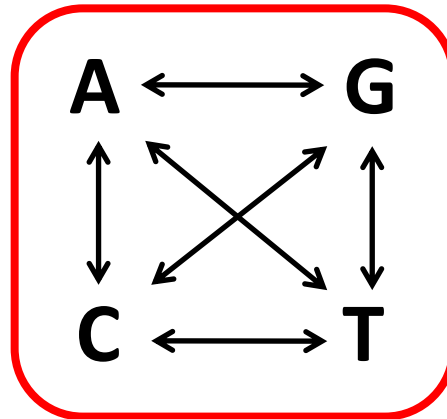
Proportion of invariable sites

- Often over-estimated in species-level analyses
- Do not distinguish:
 - Sites that are **invariable** and cannot change
 - Sites that are **constant** and for stochastic reasons do not have any substitutions
- Little biological meaning
- Site rates can be adequately described using +G

We use +G models to account for variable rates across sites

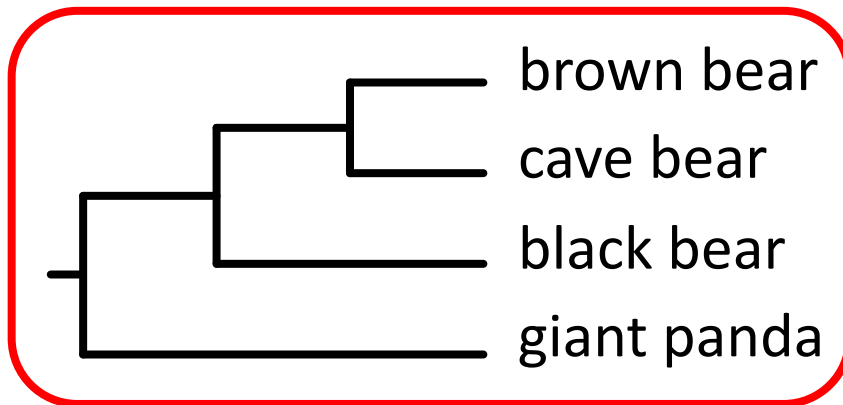
Fundamental assumptions

Reversible



Stationary

$$\pi_A + \pi_C + \pi_G + \pi_T = 1$$



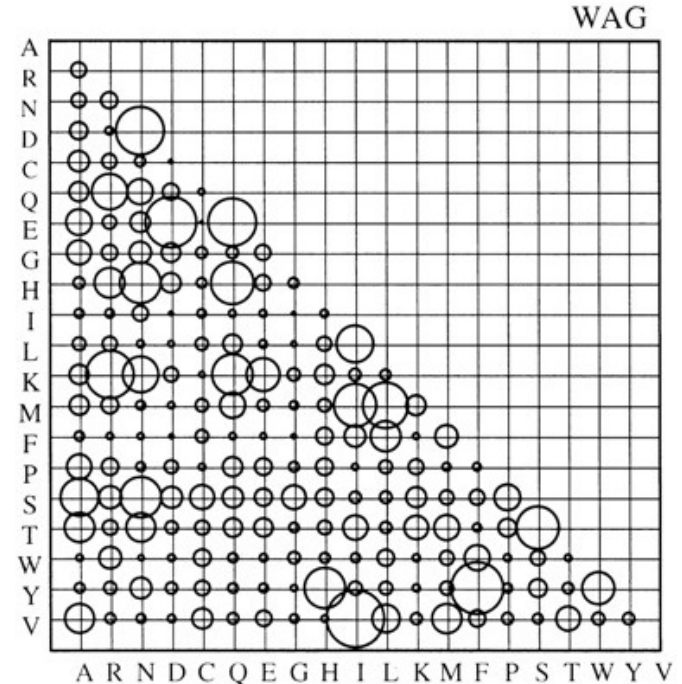
CGTTAGTACACT
CGATAGTTCACT
CGTTAGTTTACC
CATTGGTTTACT

Homogeneous

Independent sites

Amino acid substitution matrices

- Matrix has size 20x20
- Too many parameters to estimate
 - GTR model for DNA: 6 parameters
 - GTR model for proteins: 190 parameters
- Transition probabilities come from vast data sets
 - PAM
 - BLOSUM
 - JTT
 - WAG



Model selection

Model selection

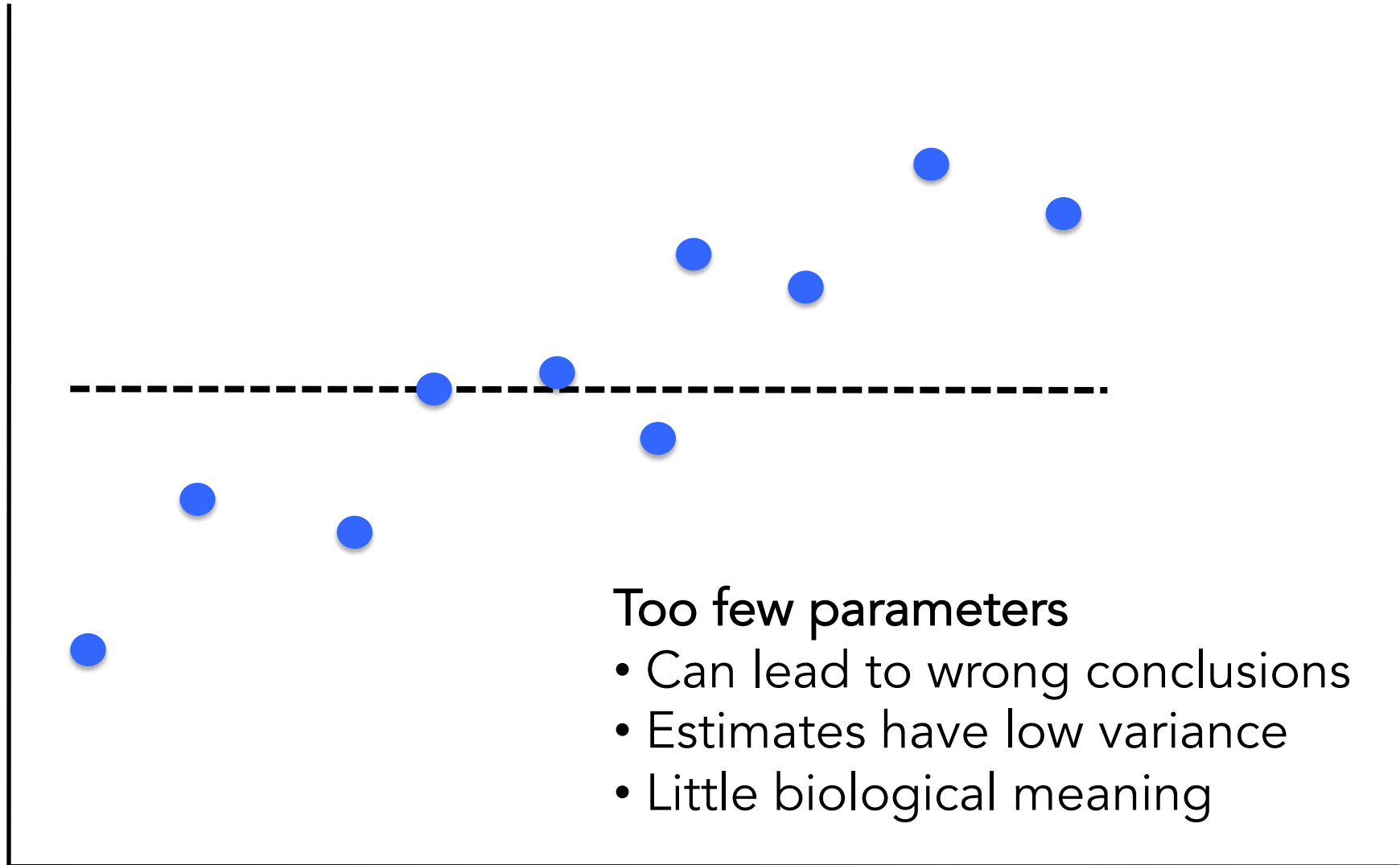
1. Subjective model selection

- Choosing a model that seems sensible
- Balancing the number of parameters against the amount of data available
- Biological motivation

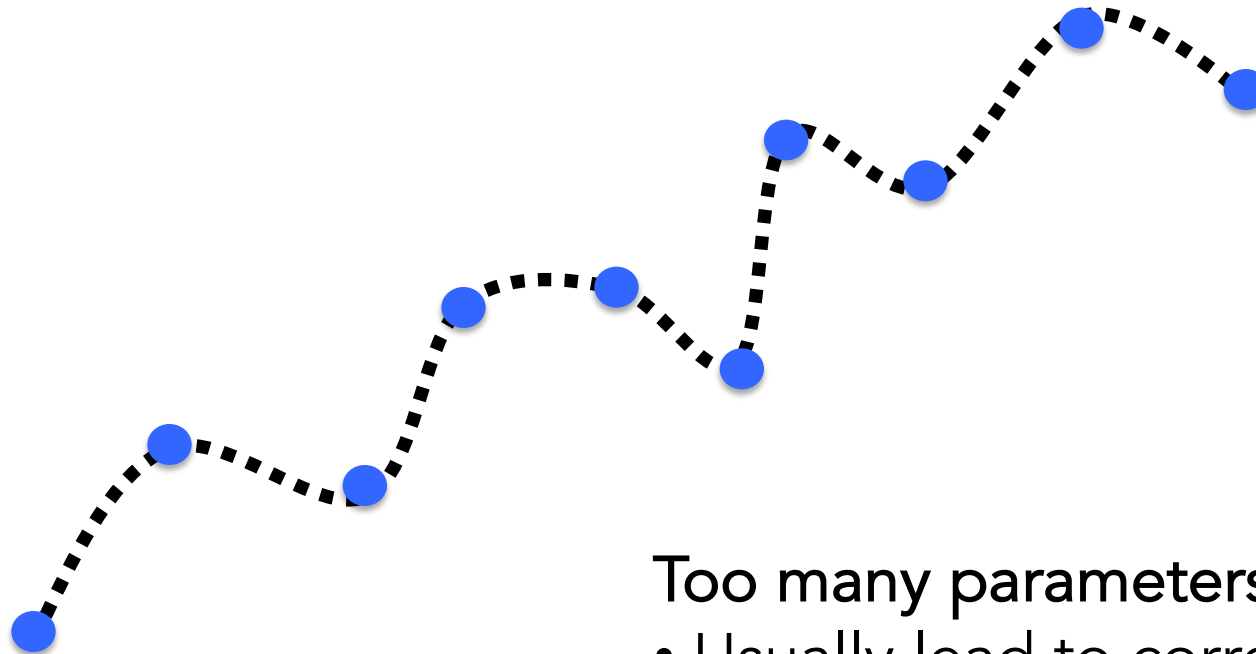
2. Objective model selection

- Automated using information theory
- Statistical motivation

Model selection



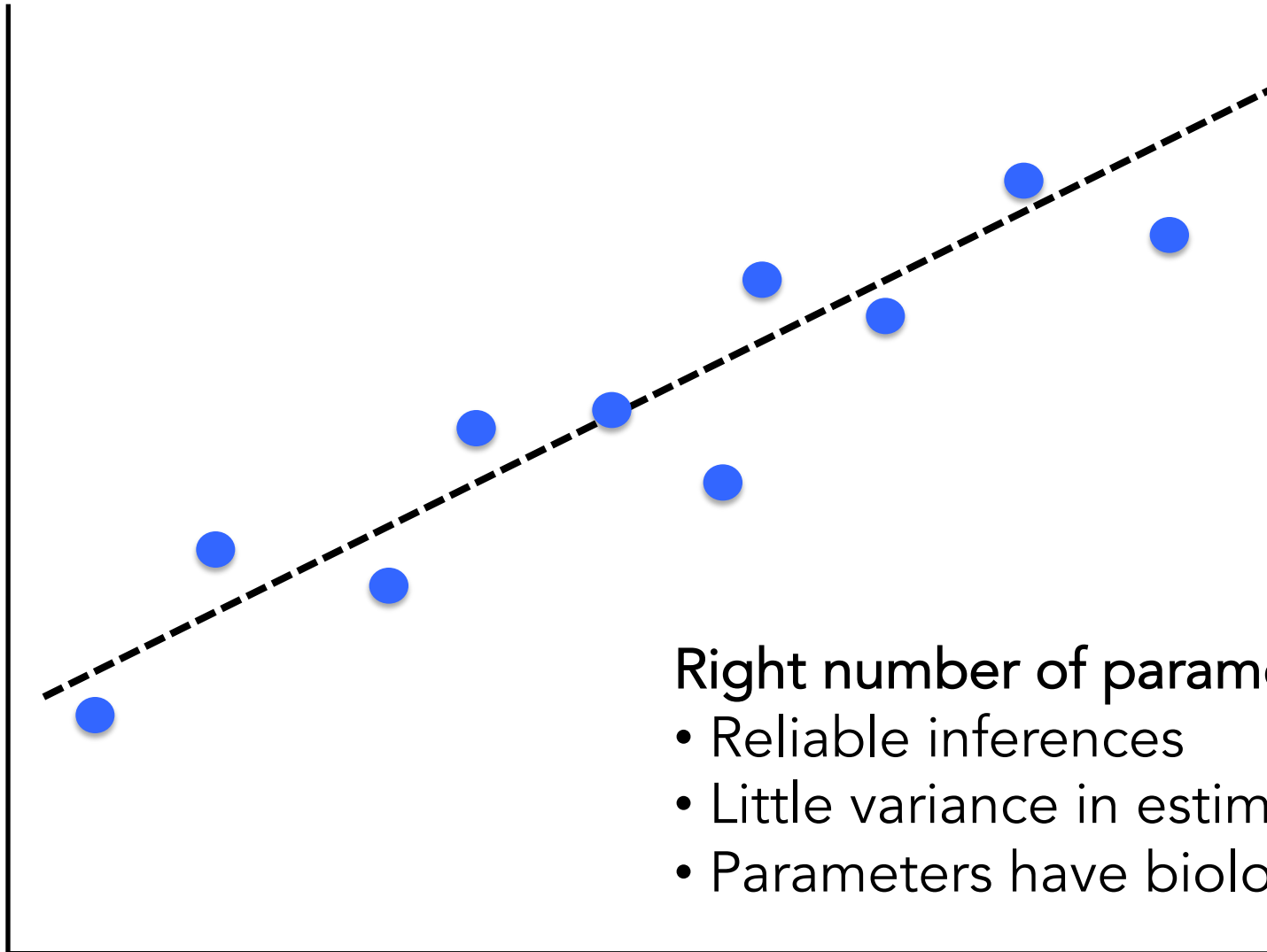
Model selection



Too many parameters

- Usually lead to correct conclusions
- High variance in estimates
- Parameters can lack biological meaning

Model selection



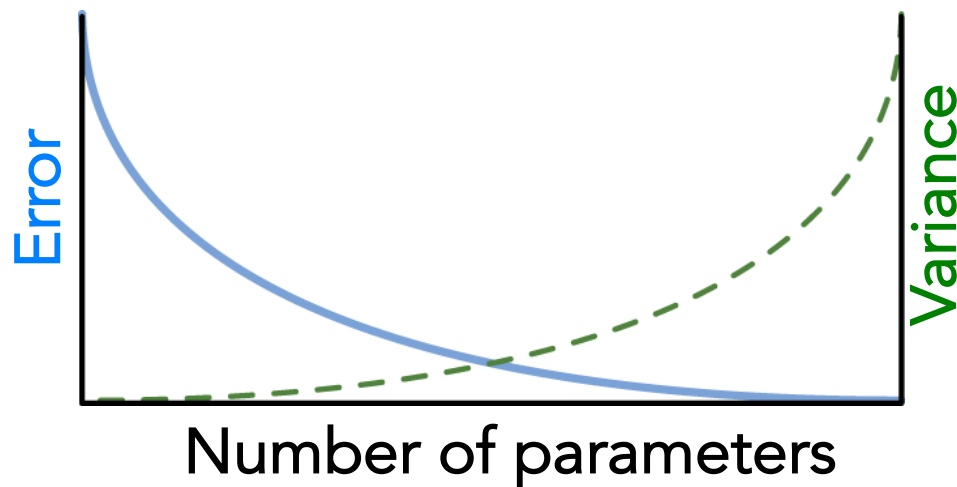
Right number of parameters

- Reliable inferences
- Little variance in estimates
- Parameters have biological meaning

Model selection

- Adding parameters *always* improves model fit
- But adding parameters leads to greater variance in estimates

Is the cost of additional parameters worthwhile?



Model selection

- Likelihood-ratio test (LRT)
Used for comparing nested models
- Akaike information criterion (AIC)
 $AIC = -2\ln(\text{likelihood}) + 2k$
- Bayesian information criterion (BIC)
 $BIC = -2\ln(\text{likelihood}) + k\ln(n)$

Substitution models in practice

- The tree topology is highly robust to the model used for inference
- **GTR+G** is acceptable for the majority of data sets

Useful references

- **Model selection in phylogenetics**
Sullivan & Joyce (2005) *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*, 36: 445–466.
- **The effects of partitioning on phylogenetic inference**
Kainer & Lanfear (2015) *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 32: 1611–1627.

