

Phylogenetic Placement: A Practical

Guide

Practical part

Unix environment

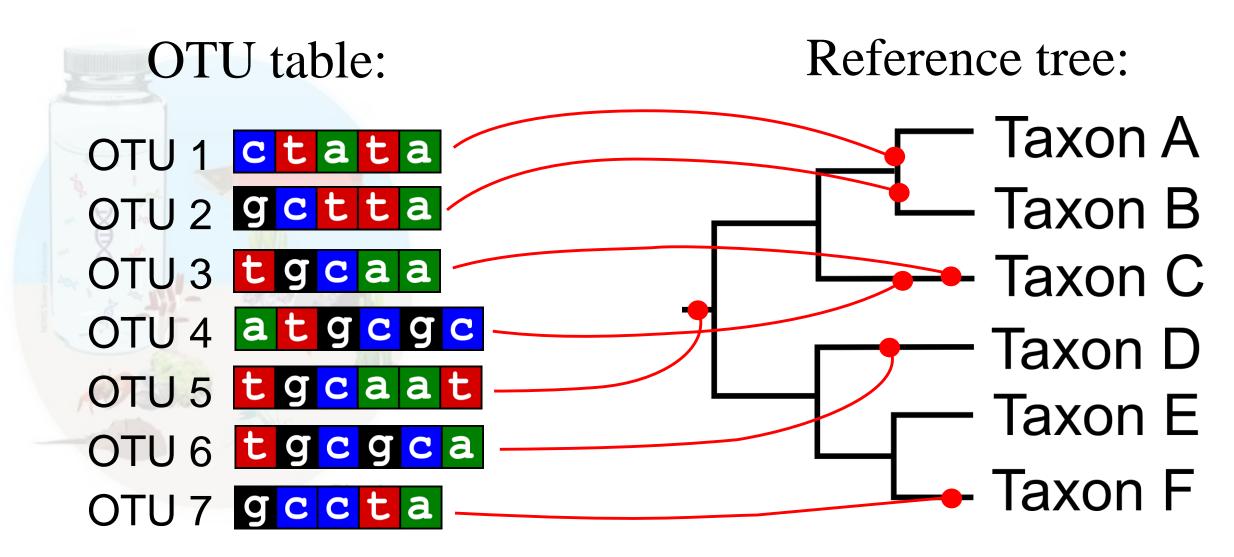
```
(base) lubomir@lubomir:~/miniconda3/opt/krona/taxonomy$ ssh user1@132.252.92.230 -p 2212
user1@132.252.92.230's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.2 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.4.0-65-generic x86_64)
 * Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
                  https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Management:
                  https://ubuntu.com/advantage
 * Support:
  System information as of Wed 03 Feb 2021 11:17:58 AM UTC
  System load: 0.0
                                  Processes:
  Usage of /: 53.2% of 97.87GB Users logged in:
                                  IPv4 address for ens192: 132.252.92.230
  Memory usage: 0%
  Swap usage: 0%
 * Introducing self-healing high availability clusters in MicroK8s.
  Simple, hardened, Kubernetes for production, from RaspberryPi to DC.
    https://microk8s.io/high-availability
5 updates can be installed immediately.
4 of these updates are security updates.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable
Last login: Tue Feb 2 14:58:34 2021 from 188.109.225.229
```

Theoretical part

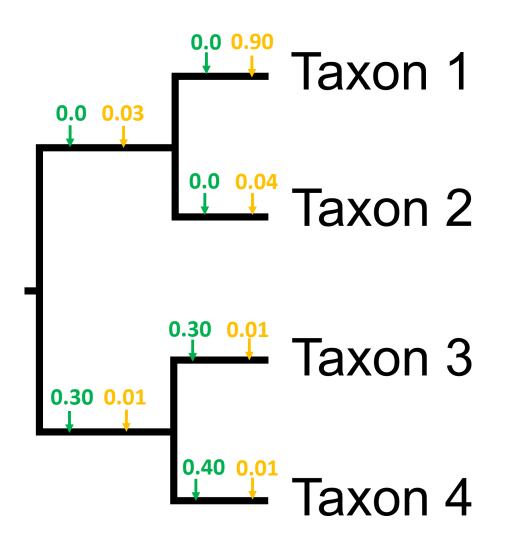
Presentation



Phylogenetic placement



What the algorithm actually does



OTU_1 TGAAACAGTAATCGTAGCC

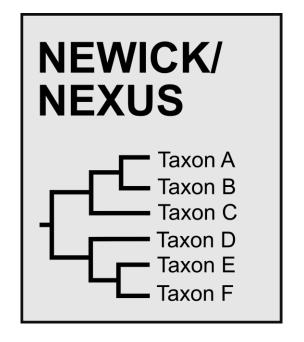
OTU_2 TGAAATCCCAATATGAGCC

Likelihood Weight Ratio (LWR)

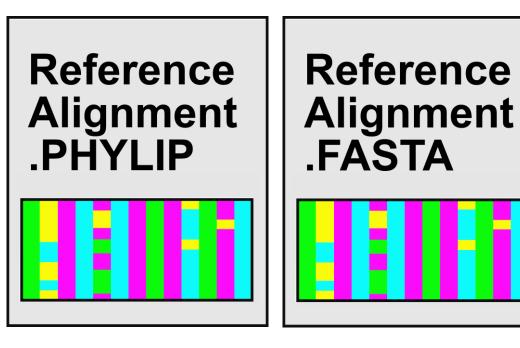
A confidence number of a given placement

Input Data

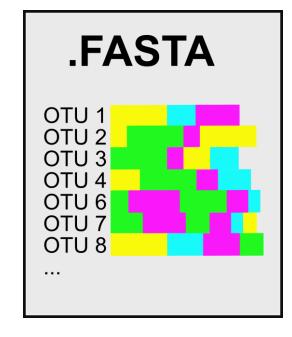
1. Reference Tree



2. Reference Alignment



3. Query sequences



Pipeline

Align the query sequences based on the reference alignment

PAPARA

Compute parameters of the substitution model

RAxML-NG

Phylogenetic placement

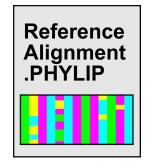
EPA-NG

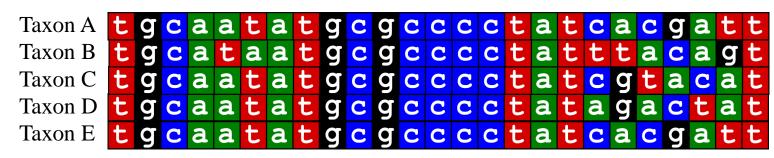
Downstream analyses

GAPPA

Aligning step

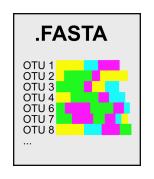
Reference Alignment

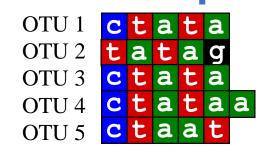




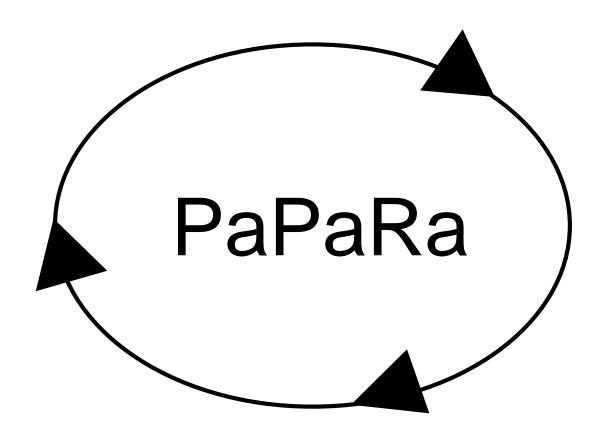
Already aligned!

Query sequences

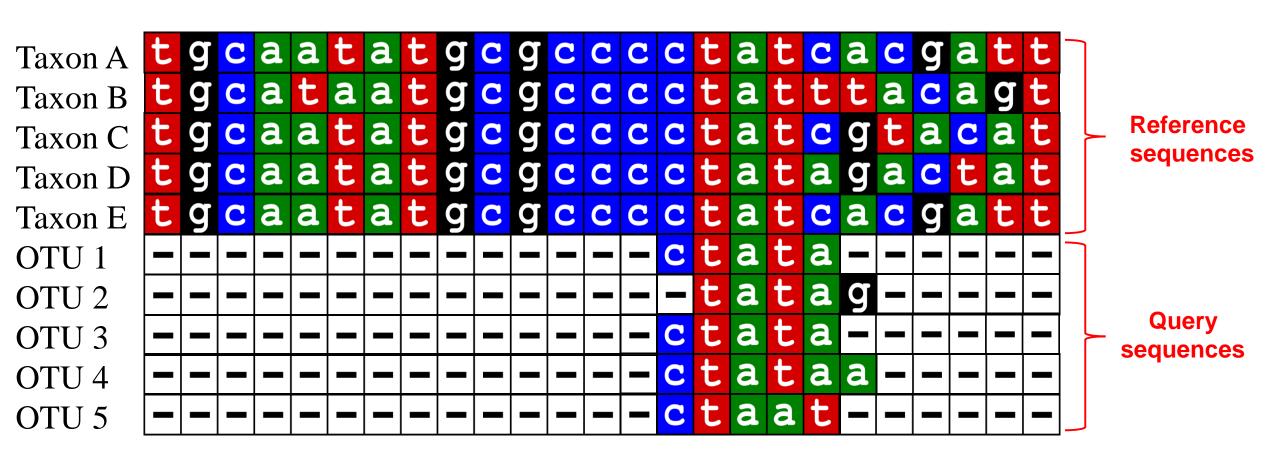




Not aligned!



Papara Alignment



Workflow: aligning

COMMAND:

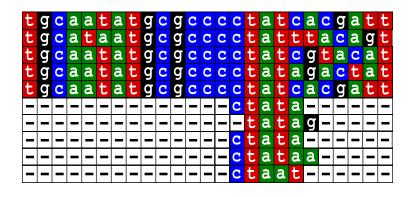
papara -t reference_tree.newick -s reference_alignment.phylip -q query_sequences.fasta -r

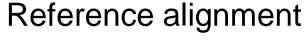
OUTPUT:

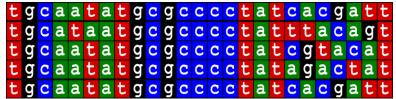
papara_alignment.default papara_log.default papara_quality.default

Papara Alignment needs to be split

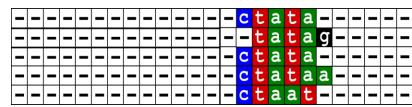
PAPARA alignment











Workflow: splitting alignment

COMMAND:

epa-ng --split reference_alignment.fasta papara_alignment.default

OUTPUT:

query.fasta

reference.fasta

Pipeline

Align the query sequences based on the reference alignment



PAPARA

Compute parameters of the substitution model

RAxML-NG

Phylogenetic placement

EPA-NG

Downstream analyses

GAPPA

Substitution model and its parameters

Using in phylogenetic inferences

Has a meaning:

Corrected hidden changes in DNA sequences

Various models

Each model has parameters that could be calculated

Example:

 $GTR\{0.5/2.0/1.0/1.2/0.1/1.0\} + FU\{0.25/0.23/0.30/0.22\} + \dots$

Model

Substitution matrix

Base frequency parameters

Workflow: model evaluation

COMMAND:

raxml-ng --evaluate --msa reference.fasta --tree reference_tree.newick --model GTR+G

OUTPUT:

reference.fasta.raxml.bestModel reference.fasta.raxml.bestTree reference.fasta.raxml.log reference.fasta.raxml.rba reference.fasta.raxml.startTree

Pipeline

Align the query sequences based on the reference alignment

PAPARA



Compute parameters of the substitution model

RAxML-NG



Phylogenetic placement

EPA-NG

Downstream analyses

GAPPA

Workflow: phylogenetic placement

COMMAND:

epa-ng -t reference_tree.newick -s reference.fasta -q query.fasta --model reference.fasta.raxml.bestModel

OUTPUT:

epa_result.jplace

Pipeline

Align the query sequences based on the reference alignment

PAPARA



Compute parameters of the substitution model

RAxML-NG



Phylogenetic placement

EPA-NG



Downstream analyses

GAPPA

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
    [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": }[[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]],
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

https://github.com/Pbdas/epa-ng

A tree in the Newick file format.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
 placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
     [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0}),B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
                                                      → List of placements
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
    [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": }[[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]],
    "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
     [1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
     [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
    "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

The list of placements shows possible placement locations along with their confidence scores and other information.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
          -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006,
         -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

→ Edge Number specifies the placement edge.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
           -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
    [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
    "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

The **likelihood** of the tree with the placement attached.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
     [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

The **like weight ratio** is the ratio of that placement's likelihood to that of the other alternate placements for that read.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
     [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

→ **Distal length** is the length from the distal (away from the root) side of the reference tree edge to the placement attachment location.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
    [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

→ **Pendant length** is the branch length for the placement edge

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
     [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
     [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

→ Same goes for the next LWR placement of the same OTU.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
     [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": [[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]]},
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

→ **OTU name** associated with placements.

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
    [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": }[[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]],
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
 'metadata'':
 "invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
    [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": }[[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]],
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
'version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

```
"tree": "((A:0.2{0},B:0.09{1}):0.7{2},C:0.5{3}){4};",
"placements":
  {"p":
    [[1, -2578.16, 0.777385, 0.004132, 0.0006],
    [0, -2580.15, 0.107065, 0.000009, 0.0153]
  "n": ["fragment1", "fragment2"]
  \{\text{"p": }[[2, -2576.46, 1.0, 0.003555, 0.000006]],
     "nm": [["fragment3", 1.5], ["fragment4", 2]]}
"metadata":
{"invocation":
  "pplacer -c tiny.refpkg frags.fasta"
"version": 3,
"fields":
["edge_num", "likelihood", "like_weight_ratio",
       "distal_length", "pendant_length"]
```

What we can do with the output file?

GAPPA toolkit: https://github.com/lczech/gappa

Heat tree

Taxonomic assignment

Labelled tree

Extraction to predefined groups

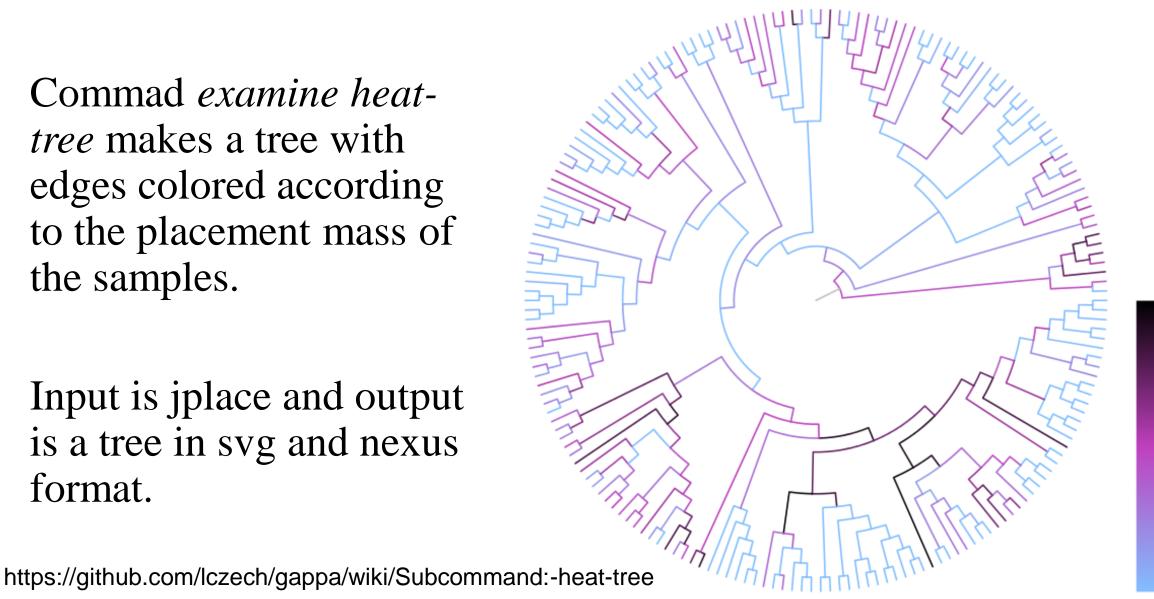
Histograms

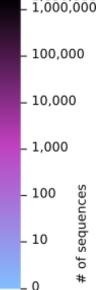
For more things to do, visit - https://github.com/lczech/gappa/wiki

Heat Tree

Commad examine heattree makes a tree with edges colored according to the placement mass of the samples.

Input is jplace and output is a tree in svg and nexus format.





Workflow: heat tree

COMMAND:

gappa examine heat-tree --jplace-path epa_result.jplace --massnorm absolute --write-svg-tree --write-newick-tree --write-nexustree

OUTPUT:

tree.svg

tree.nexus

tree.newick

Taxonomic assignment

Taxonomically assign placed query sequences

We need two input files:

- jplace file from the phylogenetic placement
- taxon file containing a tab-separated list of reference taxon to taxonomic string assignments

```
AF401522_Carchesium_polypinum Alveolata
X56165_Tetrahymena_thermophila Alveolata
X03772_Paramecium_tetraurelia Alveolata
...
```

Workflow: taxonomical assignment

COMMAND:

gappa examine assign --jplace-path epa_result.jplace --taxon-file clades.txt --krona

```
output:
assign_krona.profile
assign_labelled_tree.newick
assign_profile.tsv
```

How to interpret the output

Final output is profile.tsv

The meaning of the column headers are:

- LWR: likelihood weight that was assigned to this exact taxonomic path
- fract: LWR divided by the global total likelihood weight
- aLWR: accumulated likelihood weights that were assigned either to this taxonomic path or any taxonomic path below this
- afract: aLWR divided by the global total likelihood weight
- taxopath: the taxonomic path

Advanced – Krona Output

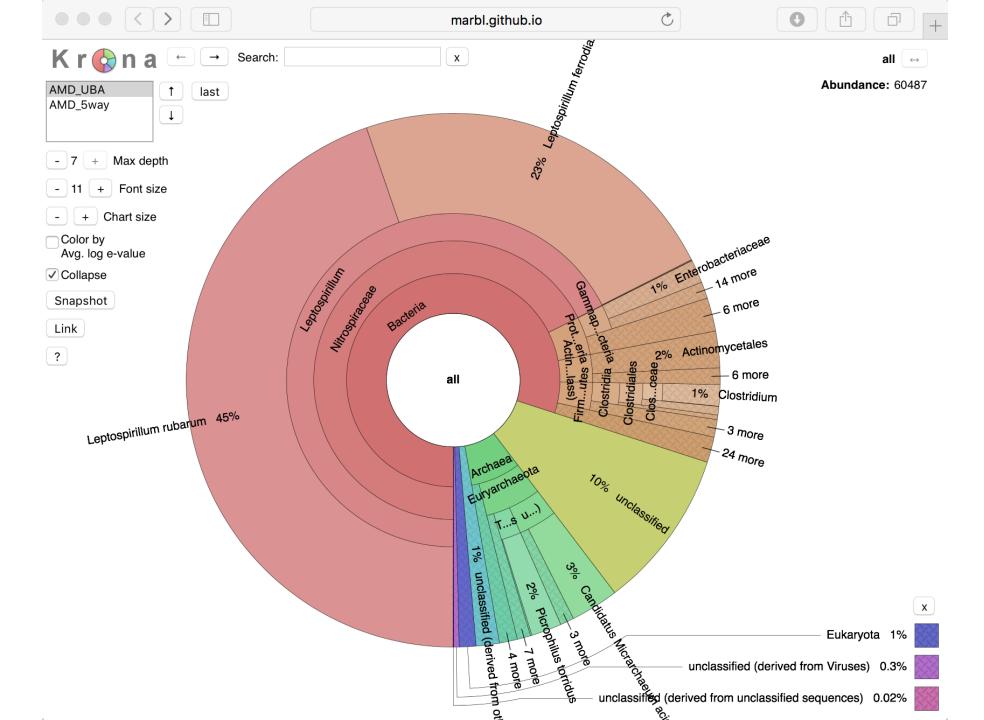
You need to install Krona Tools https://github.com/marbl/Krona/tree/master/KronaTools

But if you have bioconda, you can install it simply by using: conda install -c bioconda krona

Then, you can create a taxonomic chart from the assign_krona.profile file using: ktImportText assign_krona.profile

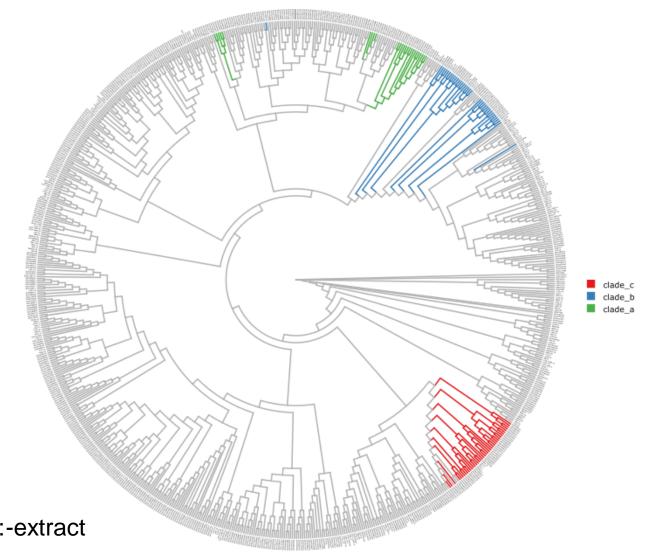
More here: https://github.com/marbl/Krona/wiki/Importing-text-and-XML-data#text

Finally, you can open and edit the taxonomy chart in a web browser



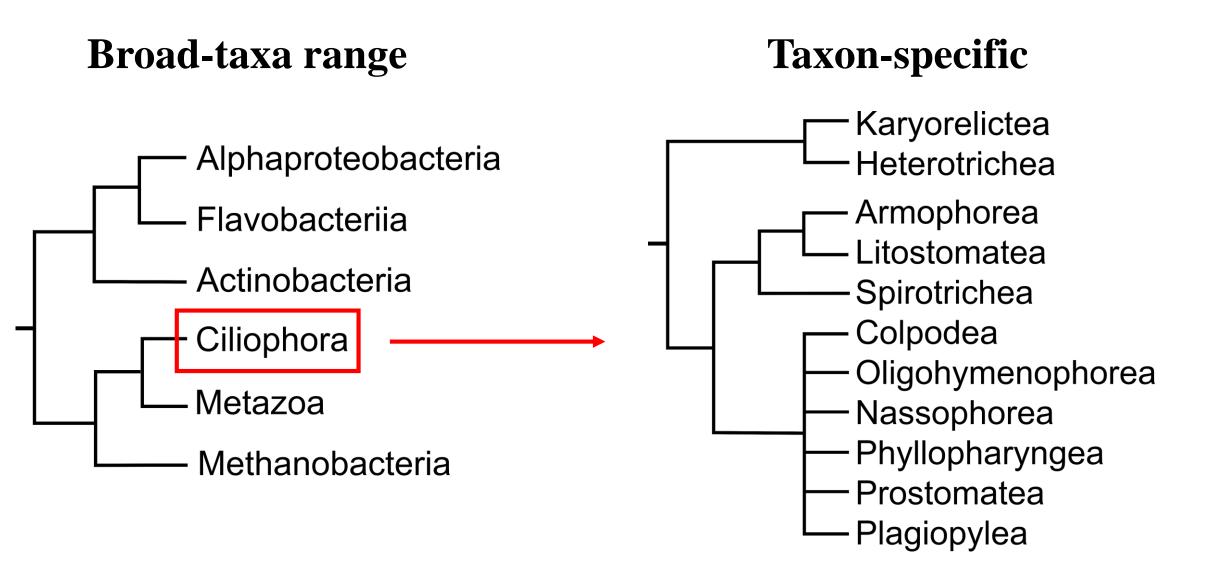
Extraction of OTUs in GAPPA

prepare extract
command extracts
placements from
clades of the tree and
write per-clade jplace
files



https://github.com/lczech/gappa/wiki/Subcommand:-extract

Extraction of OTUs



Input Files

We need three input files:

- 1. **jplace file** from the epa analysis
- 2. clade list a text file containing a tab-separated list of taxa and clades upon witch will be make the OTU extraction

```
AF401522_Carchesium_polypinum Alveolata
X56165_Tetrahymena_thermophila Alveolata
X03772_Paramecium_tetraurelia Alveolata
...
```

3. fasta file with all OTU sequences

Workflow: extraction

Command:

gappa prepare extract --jplace-path epa_result.jplace --clade-list-file clades.txt --fasta-path query.fasta --color-tree-file extract_tree --samples-out-dir samples --sequences-out-dir sequences

OUTPUT:

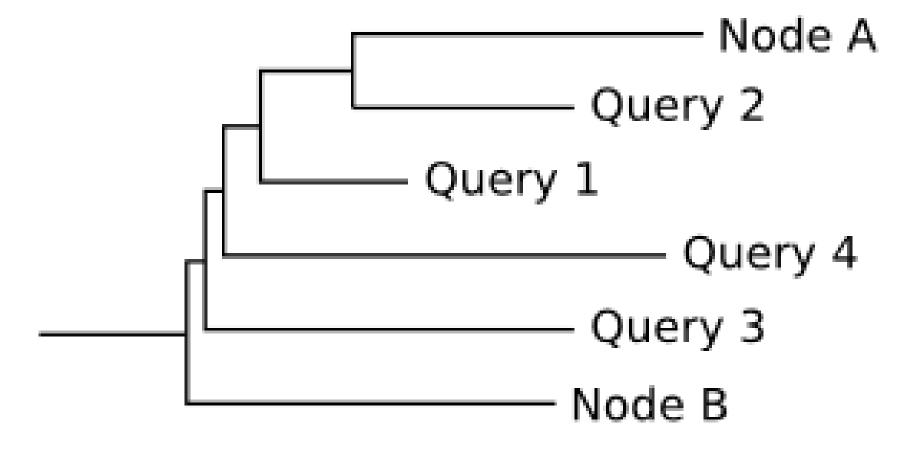
extract.sh.txt extract_tree.svg results.log samples sequences

Output

- Color tree shows which branches of the tree were assigned to which clade
- Directory with jplace and fasta files
 - basal_branches.jplace/fasta all placements that have their mass on branches that do not belong to any clade
 - group1.jplace/fasta all placements that were placed in this group and that have passed likelihood weight threshold
 - group2.jplace/fasta all placements that were placed in this group and that have passed likelihood weight threshold
 - uncertain.jplace/fasta placements where no clade (including the basal clade) have more than the threshold amount of the mass in them

Labelled Tree

examine graft command creates a tree with each of the query sequences attached



More here: https://github.com/lczech/gappa/wiki/Subcommand:-graft

Workflow: labelled tree

COMMAND:

gappa examine graft --jplace-path epa_result.jplace --fully-resolve --out-dir labelled_tree

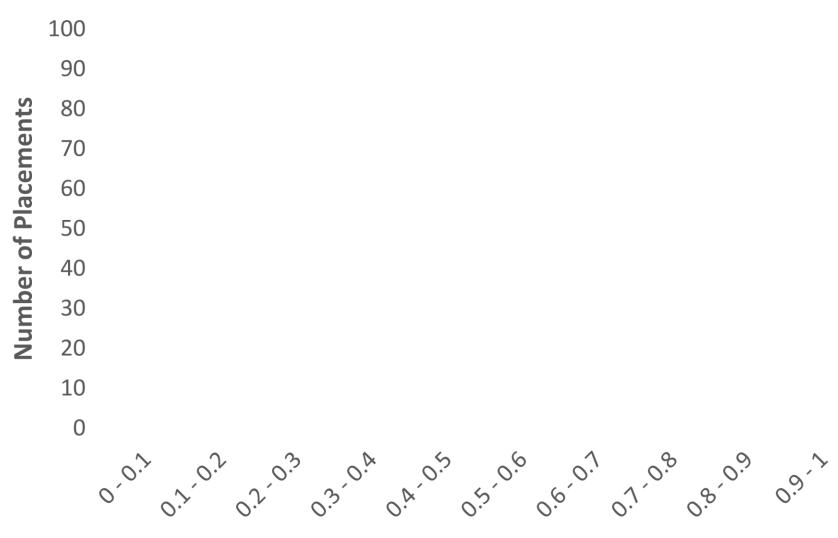
OUTPUT:

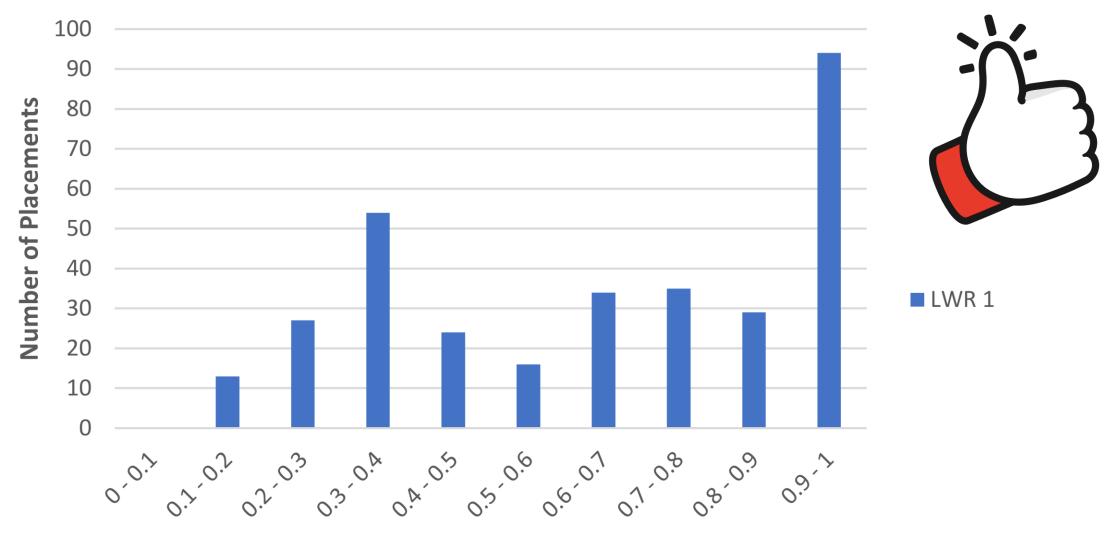
epa_result.newick

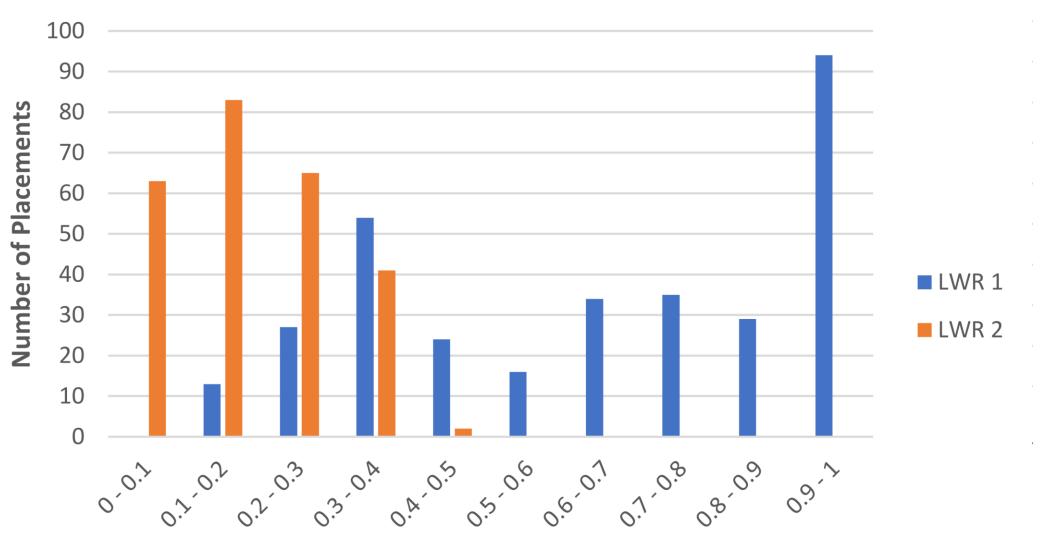
Placement Histograms

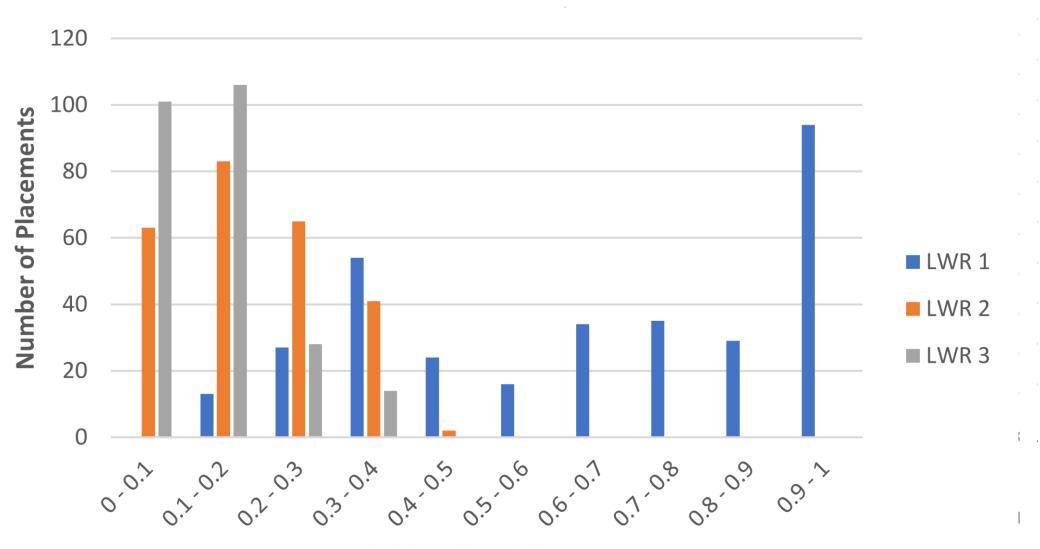
To check accuracy of the placement, we can use two types of histograms:

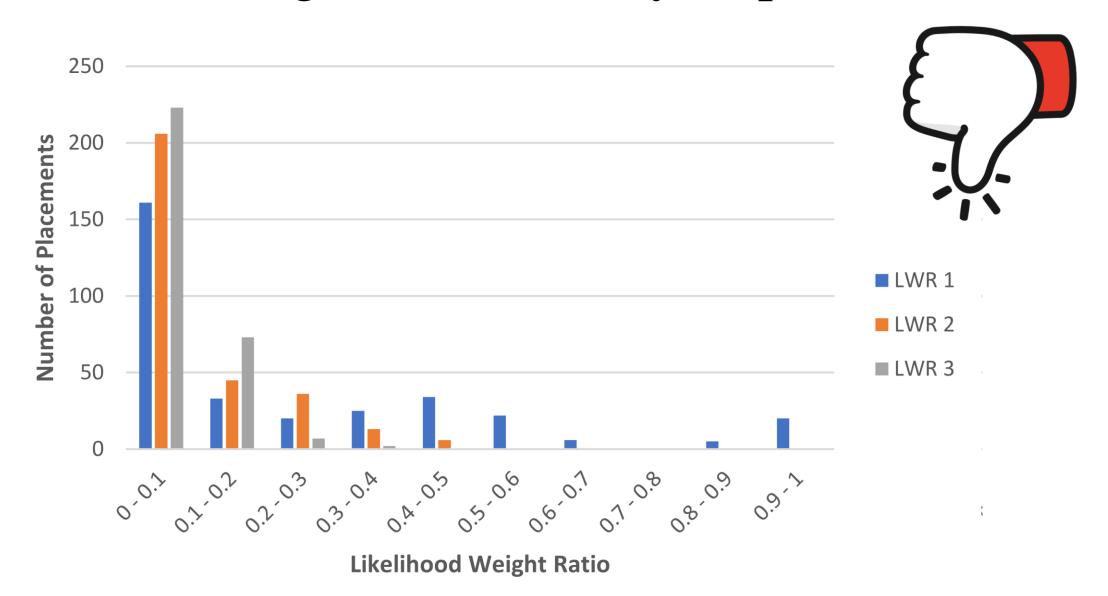
- 1) LWR histogram of the likelihood weight ratios (LWRs) of all placed OTUs
- 2) EDPL histogram of the expected distance between placement locations







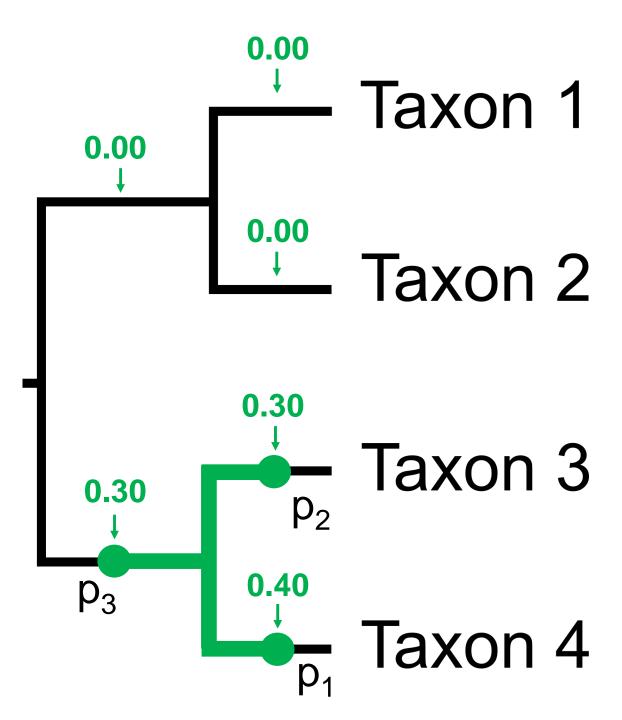




But what if...

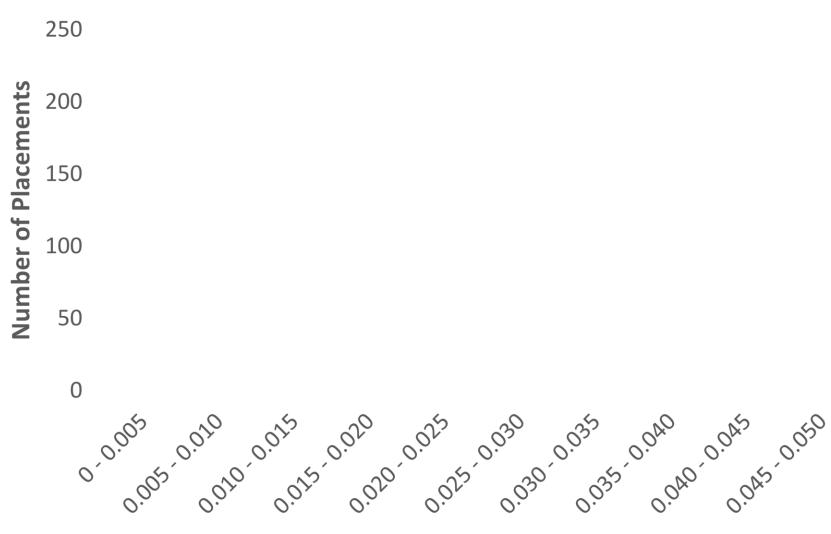
OTU_1 TGAAACAGTAAT

EDPL = $2(p_1 p_2 d|+ p_1 p_3 d|+ p_2 p_3 d)$

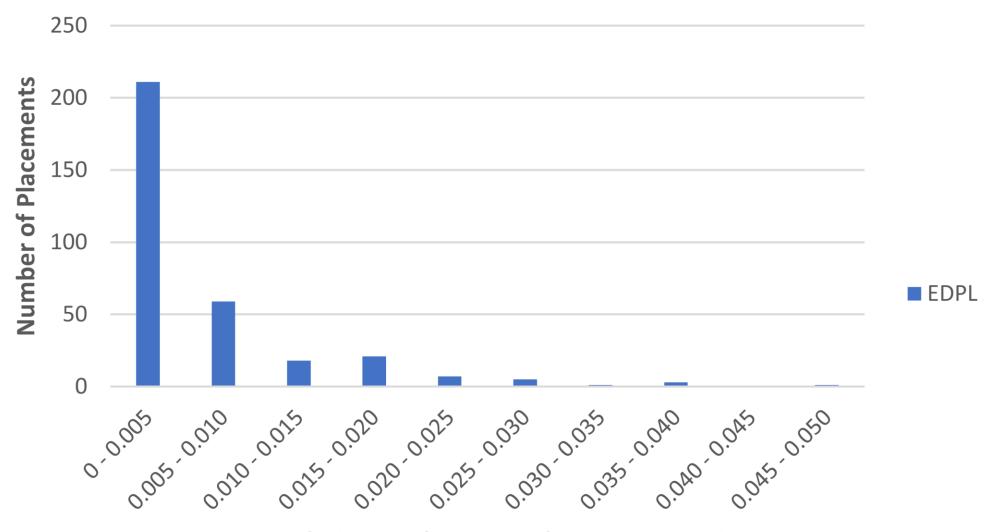




Expected Distance between Placement Locations



Expected Distance between Placement Locations



Expected Distance between Placement Locations

Workflow: histograms

LWR HISTOGRAM:

gappa examine lwr --jplace-path epa_result.jplace

OUTPUT:

lwr_histogram.csv
lwr_list.csv

EDPL HISTOGRAM

gappa examine edpl --jplace-path epa_result.jplace

OUTPUT:

edpl_histogram.csv edpl_list.csv

Output Files

list.csv: A list of the LWRs and EDPL for each placed query of each sample.

histogram.csv: A summary histogram of the LWR and EDPL values.

This can be used in spreadsheet tools to produce a graph that allows an overview of the values for easy assessment.

https://github.com/lczech/gappa/wiki/Subcommand:-lwr https://github.com/lczech/gappa/wiki/Subcommand:-edpl