**Response to the editor and reviewer**

We greatly appreciate the editor and the reviewer for the efforts and the valuable suggestions and hope that deficiencies pointed out in the original submission are overcome in the revised version. Our responses of the Referee’s Report are given below.

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**General comments**

*1. p2, l7-8 It is not clear here if better estimates of divergence times have been obtained in the referenced papers or if this is simply an expectation*

**Author’s Response:**

Thanks for your comment.

To emphasize the proposed operator is applied to a relaxed clock model, we expect that relaxed models can help better explain genetic distances by allowing rates to vary throughout the tree, after reading the referred literatures. In the revised manuscript, we have rewritten the statements to avoid confusions.

**We greatly appreciate the reviewer for the valuable suggestions. We try our best to overcome the deficiencies pointed out in the original submission. If there are any problems in the revised version, please do not hesitate to point out. We will revise the submission according to reviewer’s suggestions.**