Tutorial using BEAST v2.7.7

contraband Tutorial

Rong Zhang and Fábio K. Mendes

Parameter and State inference using the approximate structured coalescent

1 Background

2 Programs used in this Exercise

2.0.1 BEAST2 - Bayesian Evolutionary Analysis Sampling Trees2

BEAST2 (http://www.beast2.org) is a free software package for Bayesian evolutionary analysis of molecular sequences using MCMC and strictly oriented toward inference using rooted, time-measured phylogenetic trees. This tutorial is written for BEAST v2.7.x (BEAST2book2014).

2.0.2 BEAUti2 - Bayesian Evolutionary Analysis Utility

BEAUti2 is a graphical user interface tool for generating BEAST2 XML configuration files.

Both BEAST2 and BEAUti2 are Java programs, which means that the exact same code runs on all platforms. For us it simply means that the interface will be the same on all platforms. The screenshots used in this tutorial are taken on a Mac OS X computer; however, both programs will have the same layout and functionality on both Windows and Linux. BEAUti2 is provided as a part of the BEAST2 package so you do not need to install it separately.

2.0.3 TreeAnnotator

TreeAnnotator is used to produce a summary tree from the posterior sample of trees using one of the available algorithms. It can also be used to summarise and visualise the posterior estimates of other tree parameters (e.g. node height).

TreeAnnotator is provided as a part of the BEAST2 package so you do not need to install it separately.

2.0.4 Tracer

Tracer (http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/tracer) is used to summarise the posterior estimates of the various parameters sampled by the Markov Chain. This program can be used for visual inspection and to assess convergence. It helps to quickly view median estimates and 95% highest posterior density intervals of the parameters, and calculates the effective sample sizes (ESS) of parameters. It can also be used to investigate potential parameter correlations. We will be using Tracer v1.7.2.

2.0.5 FigTree

FigTree (http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree) is a program for viewing trees and producing publication-quality figures. It can interpret the node-annotations created on the summary trees by TreeAnnotator, allowing the user to display node-based statistics (e.g. posterior probabilities). We will be using FigTree v1.4.4.

3 Practical: Parameter and State inference using the approximate structured coalescent

In this tutorial we will estimate migration rates, effective population sizes and locations of internal nodes using the marginal approximation of the structured coalescent implemented in BEAST2, MASCOT (mueller2017mascot).

The aim is to:

- Learn how to infer structure from trees with sampling location
- Get to know how to choose the set-up of such an analysis
- Learn how to read the output of a MASCOT analysis

3.1 Setting up an analysis in BEAUti

3.1.1 Download MASCOT

First, we have to download the package MASCOT using the BEAUTi package manager. Go to File >> Manage Packages and download the package MASCOT.

3.1.2 Loading the Influenza A/H3N2 Sequences (Partitions)

The sequences from the data folder name H3N2.nexus can be either drag and dropped into BEAUti or added using BEAUti's menu system via $File >> Import\ Alignment$. Once the sequences are added, we need to specify the sampling dates.

- 3.1.3 Get the sampling times (Tip Dates)
- 3.1.4 Specify the Site Model (Site Model)
- 3.1.5 Set the clock model (Clock Model)
- 3.1.6 Get the sampling locations (TipLocations)
- 3.1.7 Specify the priors (Priors)
- 3.1.8 Specify the MCMC chain length (MCMC)
- 3.1.9 Run the Analysis using BEAST2
- 3.1.10 Analyse the log file using Tracer
- 3.1.11 Make the summary tree using TreeAnnotator
- 3.1.12 Analyse and compare the MCC and CCD0 summary trees
- 3.1.13 Errors that can occur (Work in progress)

Version dated: May 29, 2025