

# Unrooted Phylogenetic Orthology (Documentation)

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## 1 Quick recipe

1. Rename sequences in each FASTA file to include the respective species name. Using the provided script `minreID.py`:

```
minreID.py SequencesAA.fasta Species_Name \
```

2. Concatenate all FASTA files with the renamed sequences into a single reference file.

```
cat *_withid.fasta > AllSeqs.faa
```

3. AllvsAll BLAST. Create a BLAST database of the reference FASTA file and search this file against this recently created database using the csv output format. The `blast_helper.sh` script is provided to facilitate and parallelize this procedure.

```
Blast_helper.sh -i AllSeqs.faa
```

4. Cluster similar sequences into homologous families. An additional  $e$  value threshold can be enforced at this stage as well as a minimum taxa threshold to filter out clusters with not enough taxonomic representation.

```
BlastResultsCluster.py -in blast_out.csv -d \ -e 1e-50 -m 5 -R AllSeqs.faa
```

5. Phylogenetic pipeline. Perform multiple sequence alignment, gap masking, alignment sanitation and phylogenetic inference on the clusters.

```
cd clustersFolder/  
paMATRAX+.sh -f -c
```

6. Orthology assessment with UPhO. Run all the gene family gene trees through UPhO.

```
UPhO.py -in *.tre -m 5 -S 0.95 -out -iP -R../AllSeqs.faa
```

# Contents

<b>1 Quick recipe</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Download &amp; install</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Dependencies . . . . .	3
<b>4 Sequence and leaves identifiers</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Grouping sequences into homologs</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 All versus All BLAST . . . . .	4
5.2 Get_Fasta_from_Ref.py . . . . .	5
5.3 Clustering . . . . .	5
5.3.1 BlastResultsCluster.py (BRC) . . . . .	5
5.3.2 MCL . . . . .	6
<b>6 Estimating gene trees phylogenies: paMATRAX+ . sh</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Orthology assessment with UPhO</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Phylogenetic structure and congruence of orthologs</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>9 Distribution of orthologs with distOrth</b>	<b>9</b>
9.1 Create an OG_Summary.txt from FASTA files . . . . .	9
9.2 Annotating and exporting a figure of a tree . . . . .	9
9.3 Redundancies . . . . .	10

## 2 Introduction

UPhO identifies orthologous splits from gene-family trees and thus, strictly speaking, the only required input are trees in NEWICK format (gene-family phylogenies) that satisfy a leaf naming convention (explained below). Nevertheless, in most cases gene-family trees need to be estimated from a collection of anonymous genomic sequences (draft genomes, gene models, EST, transcriptomes, etc.) from a collection of taxa of interest.

The pipeline followed in this document describes a general approach to obtain these gene trees from such type of input data, identify orthogroups and analyze some of its basic properties. It incorporates common tasks in bioinformatics for detecting sequence homology and estimate gene trees that are not intrinsically part of UPhO. Decisions in all the steps leading to the gene trees are let to the judgment of the user. This documentation presents a plausible path in a much diverse decision tree. If you use UPhO or any of its scripts, please cite the the paper describing the method (Ballesteros and Hormiga, 2016) and the respective third party programs used.

## 3 Download & install

All the scripts described in this document are available at <https://github.com/ballesterus/UPhO.git>. You can clone the latest version using git or download the files directly from the GitHub website. The scripts provided can be executed as stand-alone programs or their functions imported as python modules and called from the Python interpreter. To execute the scripts from any directory add the folder containing the scripts to your PATH variable. Additionally, add this same folder to the PYTHONPATH variable so the functions can be imported by the Python interpreter.

Example: If the UPhO folder is cloned (copied) in the folder /home/UserName/, add the following lines to your .bash\_profile:

```
export PATH="$PATH:/home/UserName/UPhO"
export PYTHONPATH="$PYTHONPATH:/home/UserName/UPhO"
```

Tip: For the changes to take effect without logging off your current terminal session, run:  
`source ~/.bash_profile`

### 3.1 Dependencies

For orthology inference alone UPhO depends only of Python 2.7.x with standard libraries and modules. The scripts for phylogenetic distribution of orthologs: `distOrth.py` and `distOrth_interactive.py` require the ETE3.

The workflow herein exemplified is modular and consists of common tasks for which a wide variety of programs are available including: gene homology, multiple sequence alignment, gap masking, alignment sanitation, tree inference, etc. Here we demonstrate a possible implementation of this pipeline but in the end users should be able to modify these tools according to the problem complexity or user preferences. For example, these scripts use MAFFT aligner but MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004) or CLUSTAL-Ω (Sievers et al., 2011) could have been used for the same purpose.

Some of the tasks performed in the pipeline are computationally demanding and would benefit of running in a computer cluster. Specifically, BLAST searches and the phylogenetic pipeline are the more demanding and time consuming operations. The scripts provided for this operations spread the task in many parallel processes but these can be further tuned depending on the architecture and implementation. Talk to your cluster administrator about options for running these computationally demanding task. Most of the other steps, including the orthology evaluation, could be run in reasonable times using standard computing resources (laptop).

Third party programs used in the workflow:

- gnu-parallel (Tange, 2011) <http://www.gnu.org/software/parallel/>
- mafft (Katoh and Standley, 2013) <http://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/>
- MCL (van Dongen, 2000) <http://micans.org/mcl/index.html>
- NCBI-BLAST+ (Camacho et al., 2009) [http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST.cgi?PAGE\\_TYPE=BLASTDocs&DOC\\_TYPE=Download](http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST.cgi?PAGE_TYPE=BLASTDocs&DOC_TYPE=Download)
- trimAl (Capella-Gutiérrez et al., 2009) <http://trimal.cgenomics.org>
- RAxML (Stamatakis, 2014) <http://sco.h-its.org/exelixis/web/software/raxml/index.html>
- FastTree (Price et al., 2010) <http://meta.microbesonline.org/fasttree/>

Python modules:

- ETE3 (Huerta-Cepas et al., 2016). This module is used in `distOrth.py` and `disthOrth_interactive.py` for mapping orthologs on a reference tree. Tested with version 3.0.0b36 <http://etetoolkit.org/>.

## 4 Sequence and leaves identifiers

For correctly parsing, the sequence identifiers in FASTA files and the leaf names in Newick tree files, should be composed of at least two fields; the first being a species name consisting exclusively of alpha-numeric characters and underscore (a-z, A-Z, 0-9, \_). The second field should correspond to a unique sequence identifier, also composed of alpha-numeric characters and underscore. Additional fields are effectively ignored and therefore tolerated.

The fields must be separated by a custom character (default "|") that is not in the set used for naming OTU's. Virtually any other character could be used although common sense should prevent the use of characters with special meanings in FASTA and Newick standards, such as ">:", "(", etc.

**Important:** The use of blank spaces and punctuation marks (“ ”) should be avoided. These characters should be replaced or removed from sequence identifiers for proper parsing.

The script `minreID.py` can assist with the renaming of each file or the user can resort to stream line editors (`awk`, `sed`) to comply with the naming requirements. This simple script takes as arguments the target file, species name to use and the custom delimiter.

Example:

```
#Example of identifier in input file assembly.fasta:
>c1212_g1_i2

minreID.py assembly.fasta mySpecies \|

#Example of renamed output file assembly_withids.fasta:
>mySpecies|000001c1212_g1_i2
```

Note that the pipe character “|”, which has a special meaning in bash, must be escaped with “\” to be interpreted as a text character.

Tip: If seamless transition between aminoacid and nucleotide versions are desired, original DNA sequences and their respective translations can be renamed consecutively. The goal of this procedure would be to obtain nucleotide (NT) and aminoacid (AA) FASTA files where the name of their sequences is identical. Before running the renaming tool, verify that AA and NT files have the same amount of sequences and that these are in the same order. Files should be inspected, verifying that such correspondence is correct.

## 5 Grouping sequences into homologs

The first step towards obtaining gene trees is grouping sequences into sets of homologous genes. The task of clustering sequences into gene families is a complex bioinformatic problem and an active area of research. Two alternative approaches are herein exemplified; one is based on explicit sequence similarity thresholds, and another one is based on a natural clustering strategy using the Markov clustering algorithm ([van Dongen, 2000](#); [Enright et al., 2002](#)). The starting point to any of these clustering approaches is a text file with pairwise BLAST scores. To build this required similarity table we used an all versus all BLAST strategy.

### 5.1 All versus All BLAST

This is a very common bioinformatic routine in which a database is created from one or many input FASTA files, and then the same input file(s) is queried against the local database. By doing so every single pairwise comparisons are computed.

To facilitate and in some degree accelerate these computations, a shell script, `Blast_helper.sh` is provided. The script creates a local BLAST database and performs the search using `blastp` with a relaxed *e* value threshold of  $e = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ . Alternatively searches can be done using `psiblast` using the flag `-p`. This script also invokes `gnu-parallel` to spread the queries across as many processors as available in the system. This script depends on a local version of BLAST+ (v2.2.x) and `gnu-parallel`.

The only required parameter for the `Blast_helper.sh` script is an input file (`-i`) in FASTA format. This file normally contains the sequences of all the species of interest with the sequence identifiers in the format described above. Specific query files can be defined (`-q`). If no query file is provided the input file will be used as the query, thus performing a *all vs. all* BLAST search.

Example:

```
#Create a database with ALL_Seq.fasta using as query sequences from
# ModelSpecies.fasta using psiblast.

blast_helper.sh -i All_Seq.fasta -q ModelSpecies.fasta -p
```

Note: BLAST *e* value is used here because of its commonality in several bioinformatic applications, but the user should be aware of the properties and limitations of this parameter.

## 5.2 Get\_Fasta\_from\_Ref.py

This script is not part of the clustering procedure *per se*. However, it is called by other scripts in the pipeline to create FASTA format files from a file containing list of FASTA identifiers and a “reference” FASTA file containing all the sequences of interest. Two inputs are required by this script.

1. query (-q): A text file in which the identifiers of the sequences to be written in a single file are listed on a single line separated **only** by commas “,”. Example query file:

```
Species1,Species2,Species3  
Species4,Species5,Species6,Species7
```

2. Reference (-R): A FASTA file that contains at least all the sequences listed in query. Sequence identifiers must be identical in the query and the reference files. If a sequence in the query is not found, the process will stop due to an error. Also, each sequence identifier in the “reference” file must be unique or error would prevent the execution.

Custom output directory can be specified with the -o flag. The files created are named using a prefix (-p) and a unique sequential number. If specified or existing names are to be used, the first element in each query line is identified by a preceding “#”. Example query file with explicit file names:

```
#myFile1,Species1,Species2,Species3  
#myFile2,Species4,Species5,Species6,Species7
```

This last example, represents the basic output format to report a collections of sequences per line. This basic format is used for grouping homologous and orthologous sequences alike.

## 5.3 Clustering

### 5.3.1 BlastResultsCluster.py (BRC)

This script process the BLAST all vs all output file and creates a text file in which sequence identifiers that form a cluster are listed one per line. Additionally, the script allows the user to enforce a more strict *e* threshold as well as a minimum taxon representation. This last condition, prevents clusters composed of only one, or less than a minimum desired number of species to be carried over for downstream analyses. For orthology evaluation or phylogenomics, these cases are either trivial or useless: e. g. orthogroup A = {SpA|seq1, SpA|seq2, SpA|seq4, SpA|seq5}.

Identifying this undesirable gene clusters earlier in the pipeline saves time and allows the computing efforts to be prioritized for clusters likely to produced orthologs of interest.

A special case of homologs are those in which each sequence is derived from a different species. Therefore, each sequences in this sets has no match (within the specified parameters) with any other sequence from the same species. Such instances represent putative single copy genes. Nevertheless, users should be aware that sampling artifacts may produce spurious single copy groups. This groups of single copy genes, are trivial for orthology evaluation with UPhO.

Example: Consider the homolog-group: B = {SpA|seq1, SpB|seq2, SpC|seq3, SpD|seq4}. There is no way to falsify the assumption of orthology because there is not evidence of a single gene duplication event.

An option to find only these single copy homolo-groups is provided in `BlastResultsCluster.py` using the flag -sc, see examples below. Most commonly, users would be interested in cases where more than one homologs are present per species; the relation of these multiple genes are thus candidate to be inspected in the search of orthologs. The single copy genes are nonetheless represented (a subset) of the collection of homologs with species redundancy.

Examples:

Identify and group single copy sets with an additional *e* value and at least 4 taxa.

```
BlastResultsClusters.py -in BLAST_output.csv -e 1e-10 -m 4 -sc -R All.fasta
```

Identify and group redundant set with same *e* value and at least 4 taxa:

```
BlastResultsClusters.py -in BLAST_output.csv -e 1e-10 -m 4 -R ALL.fasta
```

For each run of BRC two clusters outputs are produced: (1) text file with clusters based on the *e* value, and (2) text file with clusters with equal or more than the minimum number of species.

Tip: The construction of FASTA files from the resulting clusters is implemented in BRC. However, and to avoid producing large amount of sequence files that may in the end not be analyzed, the user can run various runs of BRC with a diverse combination of taxa and expectation thresholds. The smaller text outputs of these runs can be inspected and specific ones selected for downstream analyses. The FASTA files of the homologs selected can be generated later with `Get_fasta_from_Ref.py`.

### 5.3.2 MCL

The Markov clustering algorithm as implemented in the program MCL is an alternative to the BLAST based clustering strategy. The use of MCL for clustering proteins into cluster is documented and exemplified in <http://micans.org/mcl/index.html>. The starting point for MCL procedure uses the same BLAST output already generated in the previous step.

`BlastResultsCluster.py` can generate a formatted “abc” file to use as input for MCL. An additional BLAST *e* value can be applied similarly as the one used with the pure BLAST clustering describe above. Other parameters working on clusters (`-d -m -R`) are ignored when the `-mcl` flag is present.

Example:

```
BlastResultsCluster.py -e 1e-10 -mcl
```

The user is referred to follow the instructions listed in the MCL website for clustering proteins using the output provided by BRC. Exploration of the parameters inflation parameter *i* and evaluation of there results are strongly suggested,

The resulting output of MCL is by default TAB delimited. This file can be modified replacing TABS with “,” and the resulting file used as a query for `Get_fasta_from_Ref.py`

```
sed 's/\t/,/g' mcl mci40.out > mci40.csv
```

Tip: Removing clusters containing less than *a priori* minimum amount of taxa will save time in later stages of the pipeline. The MCL program does not filter these cases but BRC can be invoked to perform this last filtering:

```
#Process a csv MCLcluster file to retain only
#clusters with more 6 or more taxa

python -c 'import BlastResultsCluster as BRC; BRC.redundant("mcl_i14.csv", 6)'
```

The output of this procedure (`ClustR_m6.txt`), can be now used as a query for `Get_fasta_from_Ref.py`

## 6 Estimating gene trees phylogenies: paMATRAX+.sh

This script is provided to facilitate and accelerate the estimation of gene trees from multiple unaligned sequence files. For each input file the following steps are performed: Align → Mask gap rich regions → Clean alignment of short sequences → estimate a phylogenetic tree. This part of the pipeline is one of the most time consuming ones and its complexity

depends on a variety of factors, including sequence complexity, number of sequences in each file, etc. This shell script uses GNU-parallel to run each step of the phylogenetic pipeline in parallel. First a multiple sequence aligner (MAFFT) is run on all the sequences in the current directory with extension “.fasta”. The resulting alignments are written to files named as the input files, with extension “.al”, once this process is finished (all files are aligned.) The alignments are processed with trimAL to mask or remove “gappy” regions of the alignment. The outputs of this steps are written to files with extension .fa.

These trimmed alignments can be used for phylogenetic inference or be processed with a custom script (Al2Phylo.py) for additional cleaning procedure to inspect that, after the trimming, each individual sequence has a minimum number of unambiguous sites. Sequences failing this test are removed. This procedure prevents that minimally overlapping sequences that after trimming end up composed of only gaps or too few AA sites to be used in phylogenetic inference. Finally the cleaning procedure, checks that the number of taxa per alignment remains the same after cleaning; this step avoids spending time and effort in analyzing homologs that would not produce the orthologs with minimal taxonomic representation. the output of the cleaning procedure are written in the same folder with the suffix “\_clean.fasta”. For example, assume we are interested in finding orthologs present in at least six species and a homolog-group has 20 sequences from eight species. After alignment, trimming and cleaning, the number of sequences went down to 12 and only five species are represented. Estimating a tree from this homolog groups will be a waste of time and resources because there is no way to obtain a six species ortho-groups from a five species gene family.

Phylogenetic inference can be performed using RAxML (default) or FASTTREE (-f). Users should use their judgment based on the number of alignments to process and their complexity to decide which tool and parameters are best suited for their problem. The orthology assessment depends heavily on the accuracy of gene tree but exhaustive searches can be too time consuming to be completed on reasonable time, especially if support values based on resampling are estimated.

To avoid repeating any step, paMATRAX+.sh automatically checks if the corresponding output file already exists in the current directory and skips the input file if that is the case. For example, if after running the pipeline on 1,500 sequence files a user discover that 5 alignments were not processed by trimAl because this files contained stop codons. The user can replace the stop codons “\*” by “-” in the five offending .al files and run paMATRAX+.sh in the same working directory, paMATRAX+.sh will not run MAFFT again because the corresponding alignment files exist and will run trimAL and RAxML only on the five missing files, because there are not corresponding trimmed files (.fa) in the current directory.

Example using FastTree as tree estimator:

```
#Move to the current directory where the unaligned homologs are located
cd ClustRs/
paMATRAX+.sh -c -f
```

Note: Typing paMATRAX+.sh -h, will print a short help screen and the parameters and programs used in each step. The user can easily modify this parameters by minimally editing the respective command variables in the script. For example, some versions of fasttree source produce a binary named “FastTree” or “FastTreeMP”. Using paMATRAX+.sh as it comes, would raise a flag indicating that “fasttree: command not found”. To fix this issue, the user can either rename the binary to “fasttree” or edit the line number 25 of paMATRAX+.sh in a text editor, changing fasttree\_cmd=“fasttree” for fasttree\_cmd=“FastTree”. The same comment applies to program specific parameter. If you use paMATRAX+.sh please cite GNU-parallel and the corresponding programs used for each step.

## 7 Orthology assessment with UPhO

Finally! you have trees of several gene families and want to find the orthologs in these hundreds of trees. The only input UPhO requires is a file or files with one or more trees in Newick format. The only requirement for UPhO is that the leaves are named following the naming convention explained in Section 4. By default the field separator is the character “|”. but custom delimiter can be defined with the flag -d. The input files can be provided to UPhO using bash wildcards such as []{}\*?. Example:

```
#A single tree as input where field delimiter used in the leaves is the character
@
```

```
UPh0.py -in myTre.tre -d @
# running UPh0 on all the trees inside a directory named myTrees with
#extension ‘.tre’ and where the leaves use the default delimiter.
UPh0.py -in myTrees/*.tre
```

UPhO reports on the screen the number of orthogroups found per tree. If in-paralogs are to be included with the orthogroups, the flag `-iP` must be included. The minimum number of genes per orthogroups to report is by default equal or greater than four but the user can modify this threshold with the flag `-m`. Measures of topological support (e.g. Bootstrap values) can be used as a criterion to discard orthogroups derived from splits with low support. Users can define specific support thresholds with `-S`. Any positive real number (floating point) can be used for this parameter with the only assumption that greater numbers represent better supported splits. The support evaluations is applied universally to all orthology based evaluation, including those that define in-paralogs.

Example:

```
#Running UPh0 accepting in-paralogs, including at least 12 species per
#orthogroup and derived from splits with at least 0.75 bootstrap
#support.
UPh0.py -m 12 -iP -S 0.75 -in *.tre
```

Finally, users are more interested in comparing the actual orthologous sequences or the trees derived from them. When the flag `-ouT` is present the ortho-branches will be written to individual files in Newick format and saved in a folder named `UPh0_branches`. These trees can only be written during the orthology evaluation phase; therefore, if the orthobranched of a previous run are required, UPhO must be run again using the same parameters. If orthobranched from multiple runs of UPhO want to be compared, the Output folder must be renamed to avoid overwriting previous tree files. The user should remember that these branches are derived from the topology implied in the input gene-family tree and that phylogenetic re-analysis of the orthologous sequences alone may differ from the implied in the gene family tree. In the same manner as with the Homology section. Multiple sequences files can be written using the flag `-R` pointing to a file with the sequences of interest. Again, this reference file should contain at least all the sequences in the orthogroup and the sequences and leaf names should be identical. These sequences are by default written to a folder named `\UPh0_sequences`.

Example:

```
#A complex UPh0 run combining a bash loop to obtain untrimmed aligned
#FASTA files of each orthogroup. Notice that the first part of the name
#in the aligned gene families and their trees is identical. The use of
#a single reference file will be problematic in this case because a
#given sequence may be present in more than one homolog alignment.

for i in *.tre
do
UPh0.py -m6 -iP -R ${i%_clean.*}.al -in $i -ouT
cat UPh0_orthogroups.csv >> UPh0_allruns.csv
done
rm UPh0_orthogroups.csv
```

Tip: To prevent writing large collections of sequences files, multiple runs of UPhO can be evaluated without the `-R` flag. Each `UPh0_orthogroups.csv` file must be renamed between alternative runs to prevent rewriting. If sequences are then required, they can be fetched using `Get_fasta_from_Ref.py`



## 8 Phylogenetic structure and congruence of orthologs

Simple ways to evaluate the phylogenetic congruence of the orthologs can be easily achieved. The ortho-branches themselves can be used to build a species tree using super tree or compatibility methods, or to compute quartet networks. The procedures to do so will not be explained in this document; however, most of these methods require trees without taxon duplication. Tools for explicitly selecting a particular representative leaf or sequence are already available. For convenience, a function to do so over a file with one or many Newick trees per line is included in `distOrth.py`, the resulting file with only one sequence per species and with the leaf named using the species name only are written to a file named `all_ready.tre`. Example:

```
#Assuming the current folder contains only ortho-branches, e.
g. written to UPh0_branches/
cat *.tre > All.trees
python -c "import distOrth; distOrth.RemoveDupSpecies('All.trees')"
```

## 9 Distribution of orthologs with distOrth

A script to map the distribution of orthologs across a give tree is included in `distOrth.py` and its use is facilitated through `distOrth_interactive.py`. These scripts leverage on the tree annotation functionality of the ETE3 python module.

There are two main input requirements for the mapping procedure:

1. A species tree. This can be a tree estimated from the orthologs or an external reference tree. The name of the leaves in this tree must have at least all the species represented in the orthogroups to be mapped.
2. A text file with the lists of orthologs and their sequence composition (OG\_summary hereafter). The `UPh0_orthogroups.csv` output or similar formatted text file. An option is provided in `distOrth` to create this file from a series of FASTA files.

`distOrth_interactive.py` provides a series of options printed on the screen that guide the user to explore the distributions of the orthologs in the summary file. Most of these are self explanatory.

### 9.1 Create an OG\_Summary.txt from FASTA files

One of the initial purposes of this script, was to be able to compare orthogroups derived from other methods that may provide sequence (FASTA files) but not a list of orthogroups membership. Using `distOrth_interactive.py` the user can specify a path and extension to these sequence files and write from them a `OG_summary.csv` file to use for the orthology mapping. Naturally, the UPhO output file (`UPh0_orthogroups.csv`) can be directly used as the “OG\_summary file”.

### 9.2 Annotating and exporting a figure of a tree

Follow the instructions on the screen to load a species tree file (without sequence identifiers) and a corresponding `OG_summary.txt`. If the trees and summaries are parsed correctly, an “ASCII” representation of the tree will be printed on the screen. After the tree is loaded, the user can define outgroups to root this tree (option 6). The user can then explore the distribution of orthologs across the tree using the rules described in [Ballesteros and Hormiga \(2016\)](#). Specific orthogroups compositions, can be written to a separate file using the option 5; the user simply select the node number from annotated ASCII tree and a text file in the UPhO orthogroup format will be written in the current directory.

Plotting the tree with annotations (option 3) opens an interactive window with the number of orthologs indicated on each node of the tree. The parameter “bubble size factor” is used to scale the size of the node bubbles that are drawn proportional to the number of orthologs mapped to that node. Following the instructions in the option 4, the user can save this image as a PNG, PDF or SVG file.

Tip: ETE2 offers a broad array of tree visualization options much beyond the use herein exemplified. Users are encouraged to take full advantage of this package to edit the tree style to fit their preferences.

```
Welcome to distOrth_interactive.
This script will help us annotate the distribution of orthologs on a species tree.

      /-Platypus
     /3|
    /2| \-Oposum
   /1| \-Dog
  /0| \-Chicken
 /--| \-Frog
--| \-Fugu

*Summary file loaded: Aggregated.csv
*Outgroup: Fugu

Select from the following options:

1: Create a OG_summary from FASTA files in folder.
2: Annotate and load tree (loads summary).
3: Plot(see) the tree.
4: Save current tree image or load and save new tree to image file (PDF, SVG or PNG).
5: Select a node and query the composition on specific node (requires loaded tree).
6: Root the tree on outgroup,
7: Resolve redundancies.

q: Exit
Enter your selection: █
```

Figure 1: Example of distOrth interactive showing the options available with a pre-loaded example tree.

## 9.3 Redundancies

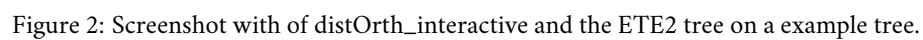
Depending on how the initial gene homologies were produced, the collection of orthogroups may not be mutually exclusive. From a biological perspective, some of these redundancies can be attributed to domain homologies, while others are artifacts of our clustering methods. Some orthogroups may be a subset of other ones (when all sequences are members in another) and in cases with ambiguity in the orthology assessment one or more sequences may be present in orthogroups derived from the same gene-family.

The option number 7 in `distOrth_interactive.py` remove such cases of sequence redundancy. The user is prompted to provide the name of the file to process, again a file in the `UPh0_orthogroups.csv`. Next, the user chooses what type of redundancies should be resolved. In the case of removing subsets, the super-set orthogroup is retained. In the case of intersection from the same orthogroup, the largest one is preferred over the smaller ones. For each process cleaned text files are written (`OG_no_subsets.txt`, `OG_no_intersec.txt`.) along with “log” files reporting points of conflict and actions taken.

Finally, another type of redundancy, derived from different primary homologs may still exist in the dataset. A closer inspection is necessary to solve these cases as they are either product of domain specific homology or poor clustering performance. For phylogenomic analyses, clustering methods that produce mutually exclusive sets of homologs may be a better choice.

## References

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