Forget about the color

Branches (vertical axis label)

Sites (horizontal axis label)
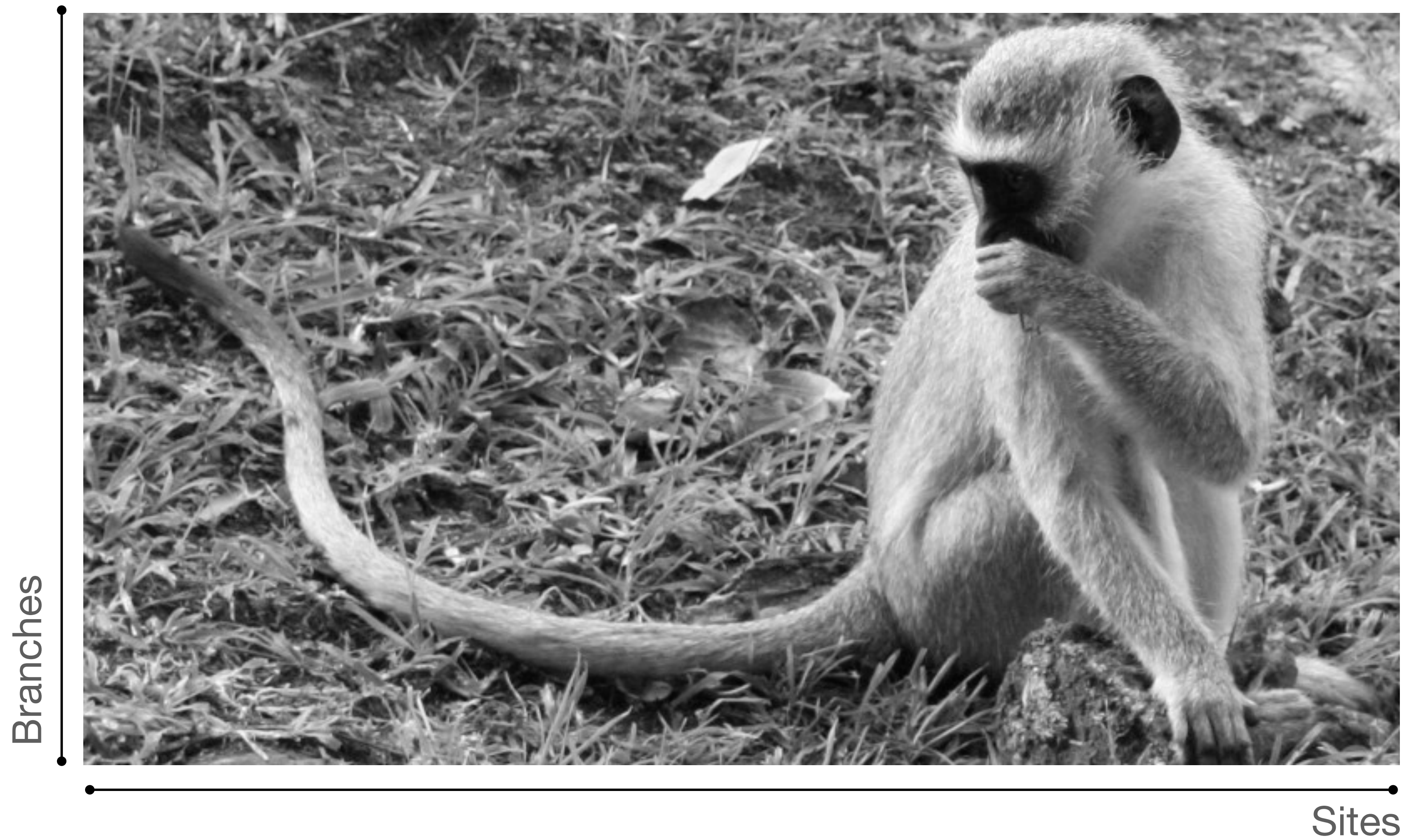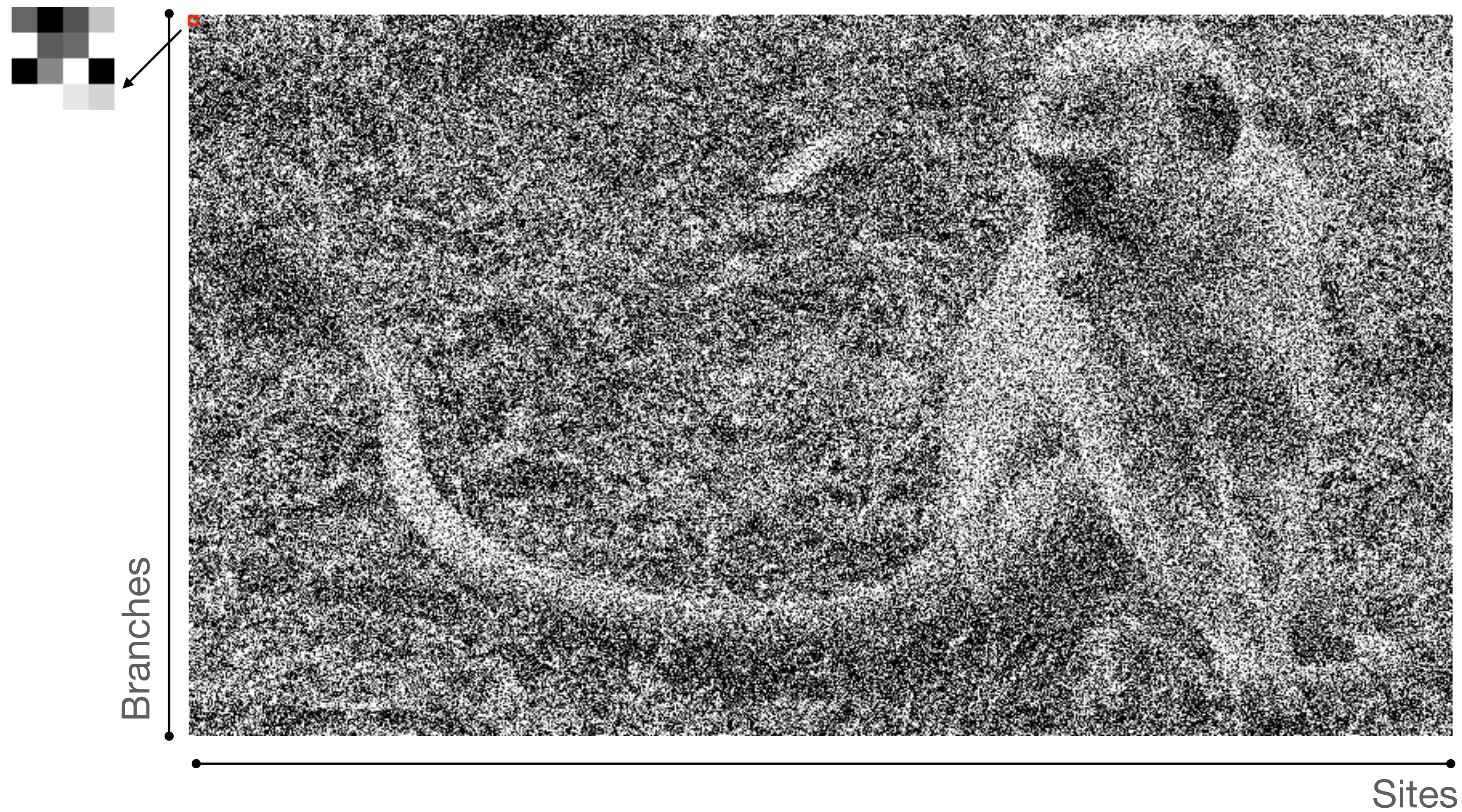
📷 Intensity/brightness   Color

🌲 Evolutionary rate (dN/dS)   Type of evolutionary/function/property change

Evolution is largely unobserved and noisy

Branches

Sites

📷 Visual noise

🌲 Saturation, missing data, model misspecification, sampling variation