

Bioinformatics

Neighbor Joining

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Introduction

Objectives

- Understand and implement Neighbor joining algorithm to build phylogenetics trees.

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Phylogenetics

Methods

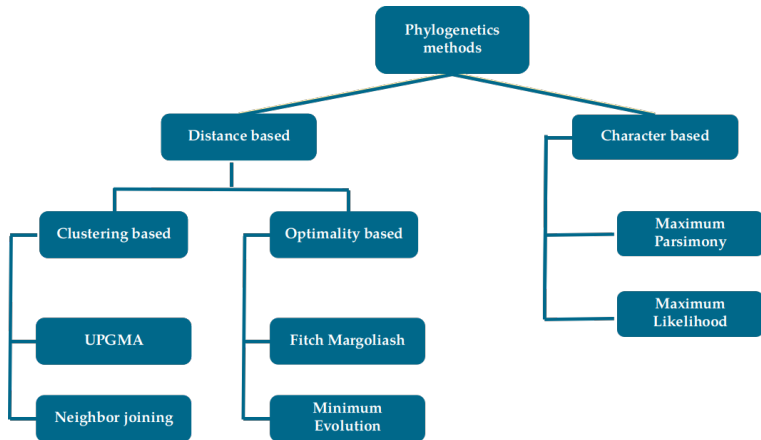


Figure: The most used methods to build phylogenetic trees.

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Neighbor joining

Definition

The UPGMA method uses unweighted distances and assumes that all taxa have constant evolutionary rates.

Neighbor joining (NJ) does not assume the taxa to be equidistant from the root. It corrects for unequal evolutionary rates between sequences by using a conversion step.

Neighbor joining

Definition

NJ requires the calculations of “r-values” and “transformed r-values” using:

$$d'_{AB} = d_{AB} - \frac{1}{2}(r_A + r_B) \quad (1)$$

- d'_{AB} is the converted distance between A and B .
- d_{AB} is the actual evolutionary distance between A and B .
- r_A (or r_B) is the sum of distances of A (or B) to all other taxa.

Neighbor joining

Definition

The r -values are needed to create a modified distance matrix:

$$r_i = \sum d_{ij} \quad (2)$$

- i and j are two different taxa.

The transformed r -values (r') are used to determine the distances of an individual taxon to the nearest node:

$$r'_i = \frac{r_i}{n-2} \quad (3)$$

- n is the total number of taxa.

Neighbor joining

Definition

Assuming A and B form a node called U , the distance A to U is determined by the following formula:

$$d_{AU} = \frac{d_{AB} + (r'_A - r'_B)}{2} \quad (4)$$

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Neighbor joining

Example

	A	B	C
B	0.40		
C	0.35	0.45	
D	0.60	0.70	0.55

The first step of the NJ method is r -value and r' -value calculation. According to Eq. 2 and 3.

Neighbor joining

Example

	A	B	C
B	0.40		
C	0.35	0.45	
D	0.60	0.70	0.55

Eq. 2 and 3.

$$r_i = \sum d_{ij}; r'_i = \frac{r_i}{n-2}$$

For node A:

$$r_A = d_{AB} + d_{AC} + d_{AD} = 0.4 + 0.35 + 0.6$$

$$r_A = 1.35$$

$$r'_A = \frac{1.35}{4-2}$$

Neighbor joining

Example

	A	B	C
B	0.40		
C	0.35	0.45	
D	0.60	0.70	0.55

Eq. 2 and 3.

$$r_i = \sum d_{ij}; r'_i = \frac{r_i}{n-2}$$

Do the same for nodes B, C and D :

Neighbor joining

Example

	A	B	C
B	0.40		
C	0.35	0.45	
D	0.60	0.70	0.55

$$r_A = 1.35; r'_A = 0.675$$

$$r_B = 1.55; r'_B = 0.775$$

$$r_C = 1.35; r'_C = 0.675$$

$$r_D = 1.85; r'_D = 0.925$$

Neighbor joining

Example

	A	B	C
B	0.40		
C	0.35	0.45	
D	0.60	0.70	0.55

Calculate d'_{ij} using Eq. 1.

$$d'_{AB} = d_{AB} - \frac{1}{2}(r_A + r_B)$$

Neighbor joining

Example

	A	B	C
B	0.40		
C	0.35	0.45	
D	0.60	0.70	0.55

$$d'_{AB} = -1.05$$

$$d'_{AC} = -1.00$$

$$d'_{AD} = -1.00$$

$$d'_{BC} = -1.00$$

$$d'_{BD} = -1.00$$

$$d'_{CD} = -1.05$$

Neighbor joining

Example

The old distance matrix.

	A	B	C
B	0.40		
C	0.35	0.45	
D	0.60	0.70	0.55

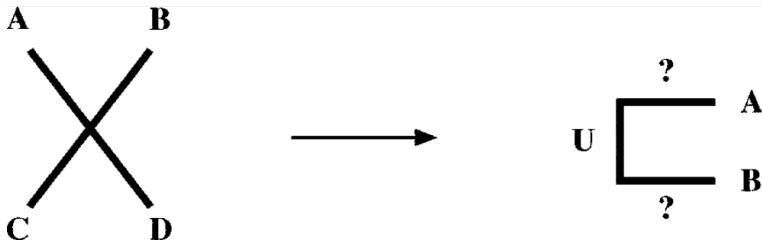
The new distance matrix.

	A	B	C
B	-1.05		
C	-1	-1	
D	-1	-1	-1.05

Neighbor joining

Example

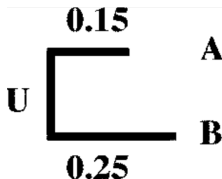
The pair of taxa with the shortest distances in the new matrix are separated (either AB or CD).



Then, use Eq. 4 to calculate d_{AU} and d_{BU} .

Neighbor joining

Example



Eq. 4:

$$d_{AU} = \frac{d_{AB} + (r'_A - r'_B)}{2} = 0.15$$

$$d_{BU} = \frac{d_{AB} + (r'_B - r'_A)}{2} = 0.25$$

Neighbor joining

Example

	U	B
C	0.20	
D	0.45	0.55

Eq. 4:

$$d_{AU} = \frac{d_{AB} + (r'_A - r'_B)}{2} = 0.15$$

$$d_{BU} = \frac{d_{AB} + (r'_B - r'_A)}{2} = 0.25$$

Questions?

