

Glossary

Note that the terminology used in this paper is specific to the model described here and that it sometimes differs from common usage.

Allele. An instance of the parasite genome, e.g. n haploid individuals correspond to n alleles.

Coalescence. If two lineages are traced back in time, coalescence occurs when they meet in the same ancestral allele.

Cotransmission. A mixture of parasite alleles with different ancestral histories passing along the same transmission chain subsequent to an episode of superinfection.

Crossing rate of transmission chains (χ). The proportion of hosts that acquire parasites from two transmission chains, i.e. from two source hosts in the previous generation. This is equivalent to the proportion of hosts that are superinfected.

Effective number of hosts (N_H). The number of hosts that effectively transmit parasites in each generation of the transmission graph. This is a form of population bottleneck.

Effective recombination. Recombination between genetically distinct alleles that acts to change the DNA sequence of a haplotype locus.

Effective recombination parameter ϕ_t . The probability that, if recombination occurs at a haplotype locus at time t , this will change the DNA sequence of the locus.

Haplotype locus. A locus that extends over multiple nucleotide positions. A haplotype is a specific DNA sequence observed at a haplotype locus.

Heterozygosity (H). The probability that two alleles are heterozygous, i.e. that they have different DNA sequences at some locus.

Homozygosity (G). The probability that two alleles are homozygous, i.e. that they have the same DNA sequence at some locus.

Lineage. A path that traces the ancestry of an allele at a point locus, going backwards in time through the transmission graph. A point locus is not affected by recombination, so a lineage can be traced back over many generations despite frequent recombination events.

Locus. A specific location in the genome. This can be either a single nucleotide position (a point locus) or a sequence extending over multiple nucleotide positions (a haplotype locus).

Nucleotide diversity (π). The probability that two alleles are heterozygous at a random nucleotide position in the genome.

Point locus. A single nucleotide position in the genome.

Quantum of transmission (Q). The number of parasite alleles copied from one generation to the next along a single transmission chain. Q summarises a complex series of population bottlenecks in host-vector and vector-host transmission.

Serial interval (τ). The mean interval of time between parasites entering one host and the next on a transmission chain, i.e. the duration of one generation of the transmission graph.

Superinfection. Infection of a host with parasites from more than one source host in the previous generation. This is equivalent to crossing of transmission chains.

Transmission bottleneck. A population bottleneck that affects the number of parasite alleles copied along a transmission chain from one generation to the next, summarised by the quantum of transmission Q .

Transmission chain. A sequence of host-to-host transmission events, defined by selecting a node in the transmission graph and tracing a path forwards in time along the edges to other nodes.