

EuroHack 2018
Lugano – October 2018

GPU-Aevol

Guillaume Beslon – Computational Biology

David P. Parsons – Software engineering

Jonathan Rouzaud-Cornabas – High Performance Computing

Mentors: Vasileios Karakasis (ETH Zurich), Jeffrey Kelling (HZDR, Dresden)



Extremely High Mutation Rate of a Hammerhead Viroid

Selma Gago,¹ Santiago F. Elena,¹ Ricardo Flores,¹ Rafael Sanjuán^{1,2*}

Mutation rates vary by orders of magnitude across species (1, 2), with the highest rates measured so far corresponding to RNA viruses (3), but little is known about other RNA replicons. Viroids are plant pathogens with minimal non-protein-coding RNA genomes replicated by host RNA polymerases (4). We estimated the mutation rate of *Chrysanthemum chlorotic mottle viroid* (CChMVd), a 399-nucleotide chloroplastic viroid with hammerhead ribozymes. Hammerheads are RNA motifs formed by three double-helix regions flanking a core of 15 highly conserved nucleotides critical for catalytic activity (5), which mediate self-cleavage of replicative intermediates and, hence, are essential for viroid replication. Hammerhead viroids show elevated genetic variability (6), but this variability results

from mutations sampled in vivo, we recreated the mutations by site-directed mutagenesis and assayed for infectivity. Northern-blot hybridizations indicated that plants inoculated with these mutants

deficient chloroplastic DNA polymerase that is redirected to its native DNA template (4). In the presence of mutagenic unbalanced nucleotide pools, we observed error-prone replication. Viroids have elevated per-site mutation rates in minimal genomes, whereas larger genomes would accumulate an error load (8). Given their genomic autocatalytic activity, hammerhead viroids are reminiscent of the postulated

(9). These results would also support the hammerhead viroids' error-prone replication. Our results support the emergence of hammerhead mechanisms in the evolution of early history

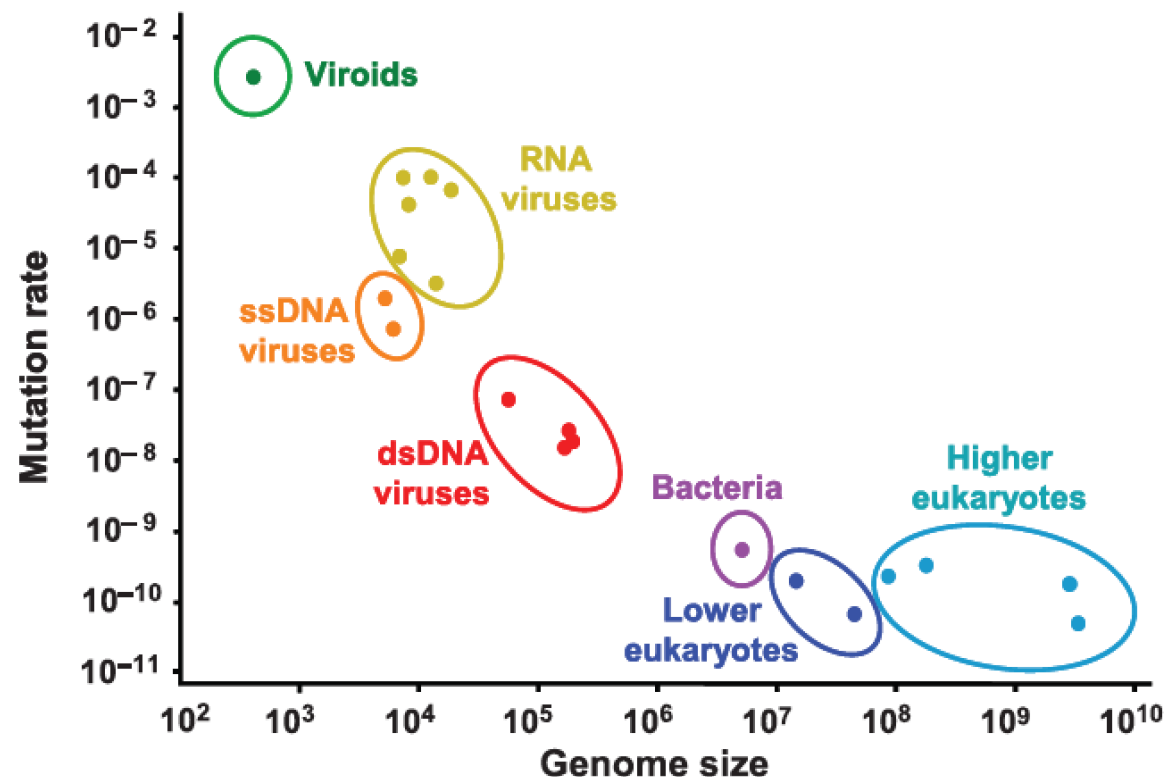


Fig. 1. Per-site mutation rate versus genome size for CChMVd and other biological

References

1. J. W. Drake, D. Charlesworth, *Genetics* 1998, 150, 1067-1078.
2. P. D. Snieszko, T. Johnson, *Genetics* 2002, 162, 1057-1067.
3. S. Duffy, E. C. Holm, *Genetics* 2002, 162, 267-270.
4. R. Flores, A. E. Martı́n, *Genetics* 2002, 162, 1069-1078.

Exploring the roots of DNA length and structure by simulation

- Aevol: a simulation software to study the evolution of molecular structure and complexity
 - Individual-Based Model of evolution ($\sim 10^2$ to 10^4 individuals)
 - Realistic sequence model (10^2 to 10^9 base-pairs)
 - Realistic genotype-to-phenotype map (many motif search on DNA and RNA sequences)
 - Realistic mutation process (local and structural mutations)
 - Long-term evolution experiments ($\sim 10^9$ generations)
 - Many spontaneous events, rare event fixation (most mutations are deleterious)
- Typical computation time on a single CPU: 6 months...
- OpenMP version: 1 month on 32 CPUs

Evident parallelism scheme: distributing individuals... BUT:

- Technical issues:
 - Large variations of organismal complexity → individual-level parallelism is not efficient
 - “Small” population size (~1000 individuals) → smaller than the typical number of processors on a GPU
 - Motif search on long sequences → frequent and demanding memory access
 - Evolution is a historical process → the most efficient parallel scheme may change over time
- Usage constraints:
 - Perfect replicability (to enable rare events post-analysis)
 - Complete history storage (we are interested in the evolutionary process, not in its final result)
 - The selection process requires double-precision computation

What has been done so far...

- [illegible]

Final objective

- [illegible]