STATS 700-002 Class 5. Markov genealogy processes

Aaron King and Edward Ionides

September 25, 2025

Outline

King AA, Lin Q, Ionides EL. (2022) Markov genealogy processes. *Theoretical Population Biology* **143**:77–91. (doi:10.1016/j.tpb.2021.11.003).

- 1. A general framework for building phylogenies resulting from dynamic models of compartmentalized populations.
- 2. Theorems on finding the likelihood.
- 3. Computational strategies to implement the resulting formulas.

Various relevant processes

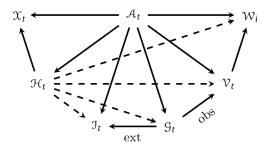
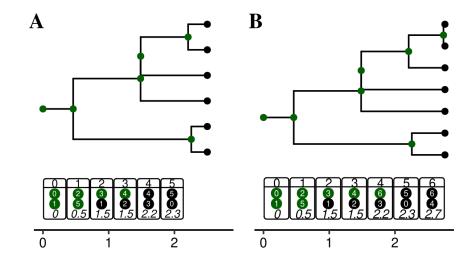
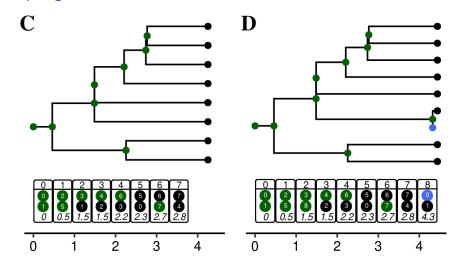


Fig. 1. Relations among the various Markov processes discussed in the paper. Deterministic maps are indicated with solid arrows; random maps are shown as dashed arrows. All the maps shown commute. \mathcal{X}_t is the population process, a model of the dynamics of some system, which we take as a starting point. \mathcal{H}_t is the history process, which records the full history of \mathcal{X}_t . \mathcal{I}_t is the inventory process: at each time t, \mathcal{I}_t is an inventory of all extant individuals in the population, each of which has a globally unique name. \mathcal{G}_t is the genealogy process, which captures the precise genealogical relationships among all individuals in \mathcal{I}_t , as well as among any samples that have been taken from the population. \mathcal{V}_t is the visible genealogy process, which is \mathcal{G}_t pruned so that only relationships among samples remain. Finally \mathcal{W}_i is the embedded chain of the visible genealogy process, which is \mathcal{V}_{s_i} , s_i being the time of the ith sample. All of these processes can be obtained via deterministic procedures applied to the master process \mathcal{A}_t , as described in the text.

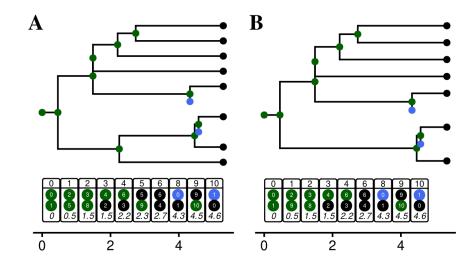
Birth



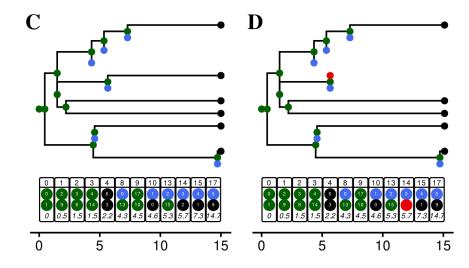
Sampling



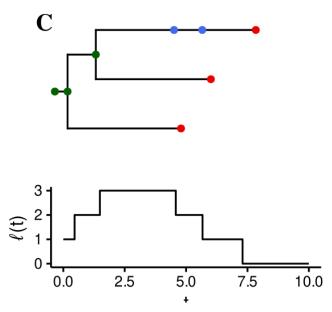
Death on an unobserved branch



Death on an observed branch



The lineage function, $\ell(t)$



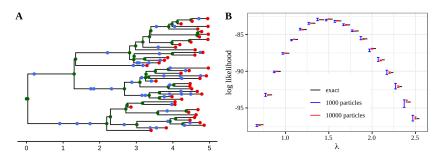
Theorem 2

$$P_{\mathcal{V}_t \mid \mathcal{H}_t}(\mathcal{V}_t | h) = \frac{\prod_{e \in \mathsf{U}(h)} \left(1 - \frac{\binom{\ell(e, \mathcal{V}_t)}{2}}{\binom{I(x_e)}{2}}\right) \prod_{e \in \mathsf{L}(\mathcal{V}_t)} \left(1 - \frac{\ell(e, \mathcal{V}_t)}{I(x_e)}\right)}{\prod_{e \in \mathsf{C}(\mathcal{V}_t)} \binom{I(x_e)}{2} \prod_{e \in \mathsf{D}(\mathcal{V}_t)} I(x_e)}.$$

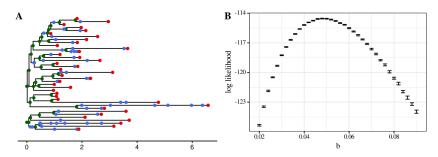
Integrating over the population dynamics via sequential Monte Carlo (SMC), also known as the particle filter.

- ► Each term in Theorem 2 can be treated as a "measurement"
- This can be mapped on to the computational task of a hidden Markov model, also known as a state space model or a partially observed Markov process (POMP) model
- A standard method for likelihood calculation in is the particle filter

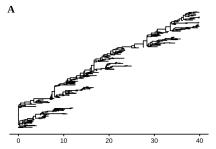
Example: Stadler's birth-death model

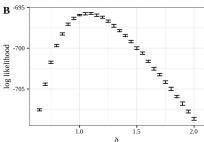


Example: SIR model



Example: SIRS model





Kolmogorov equations

- ► For any one of the examples in Section 3, what is the corresponding Kolmogorov forward equation (Eq. 3)?
- Why are the forward and backward equations adjoint? Solution

Why is the pruned-tree process Markovian?

- This may be unexpected.
- ▶ The full genealogy process is Markovian.
- The pruned tree is a function of the full tree, and functions of Markov processes are not generally Markov.

Comparing with previous results

- Compare the form of the filter equation for the linear birth-death-sampling model (§6) to that obtained by Stadler (2010).
- 2. Compare the form of the filter equation for the SIR model (§6) to that obtained by Volz (2009).