



# Biochem 3BP3

## Evolutionary Biolgy

Week of Sept 27, 2021



# Evolutionary Biology

Molecular evolution is a large sub-discipline

Bioinformatics plays a major role in evolutionary biology

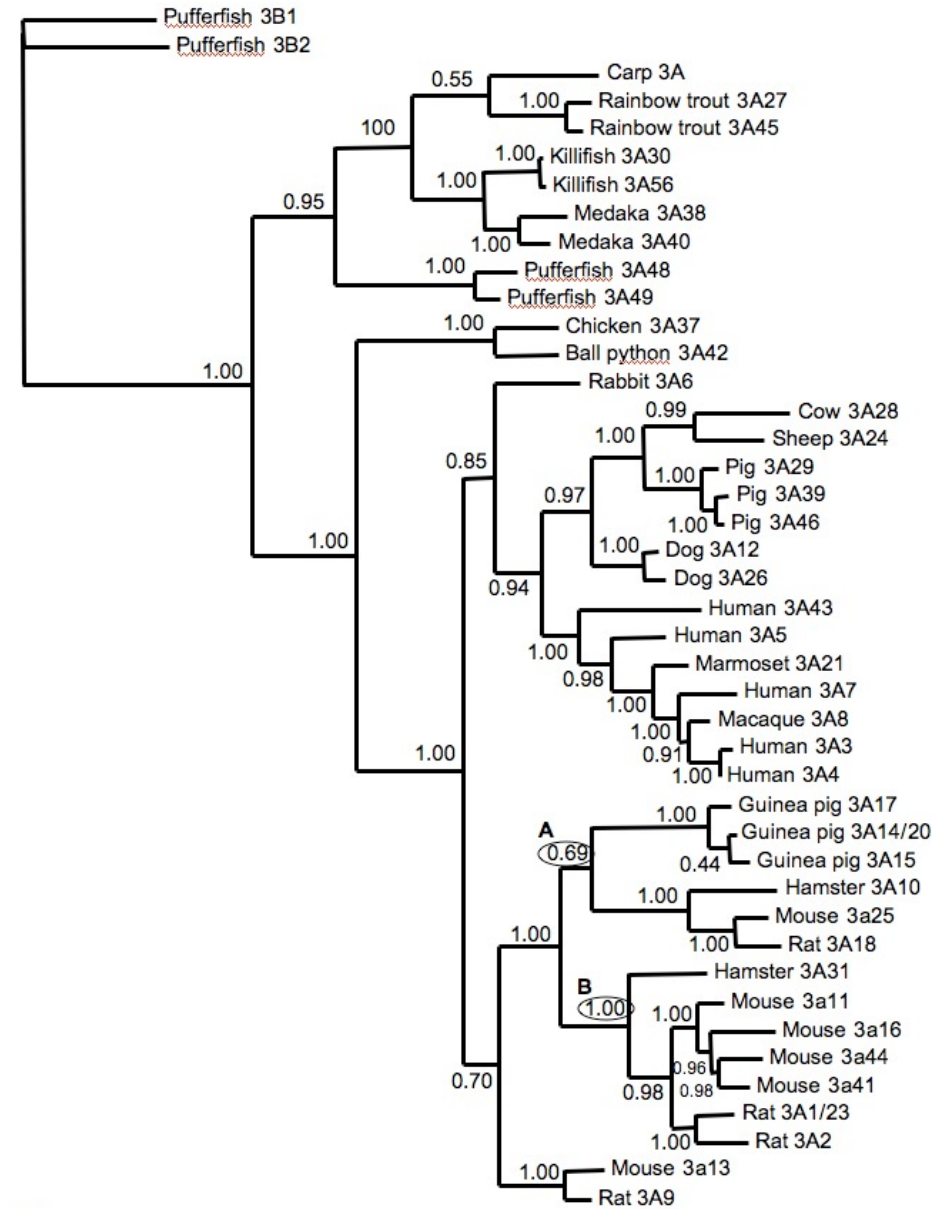
Examples:

- Evolution of drug resistance
- Gene duplication and functional diversification
- Host-pathogen co-evolution

Biochem 3BP3 is going to focus on phylogenetics – how genes are related as a guide to nomenclature and functional prediction

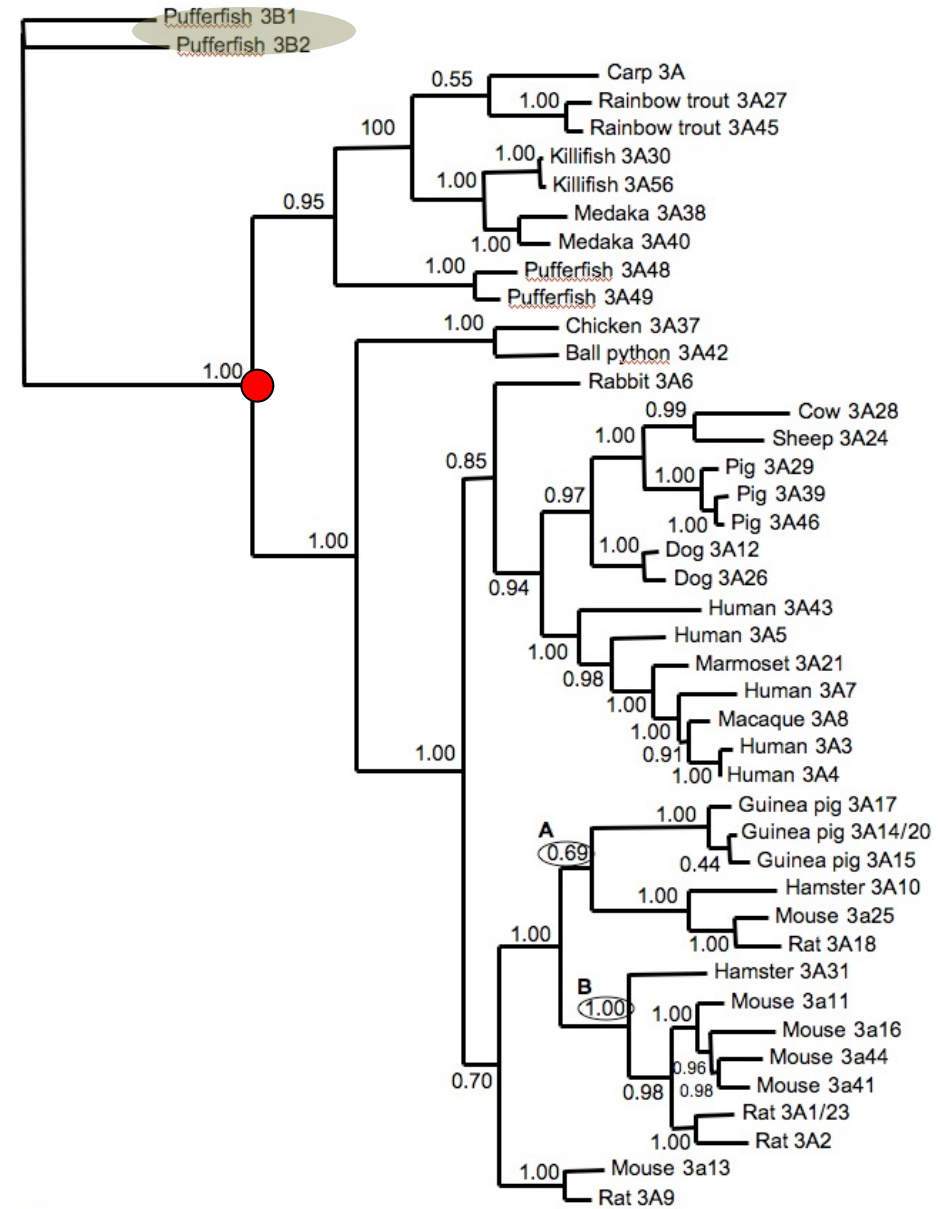


## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny



## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny

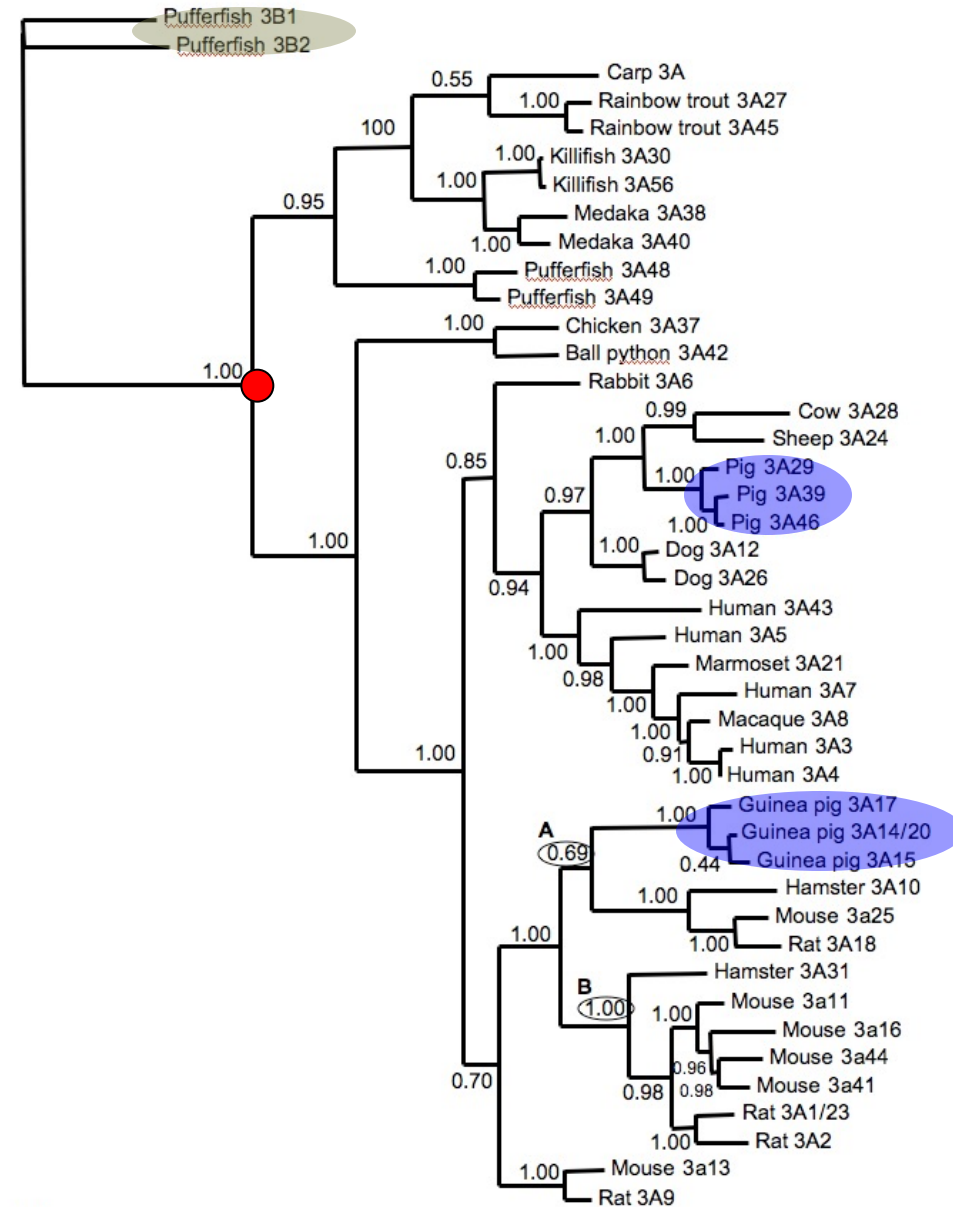
## Outgroup choice is important



## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny

Outgroup choice is important

Trees can reflect gene duplication

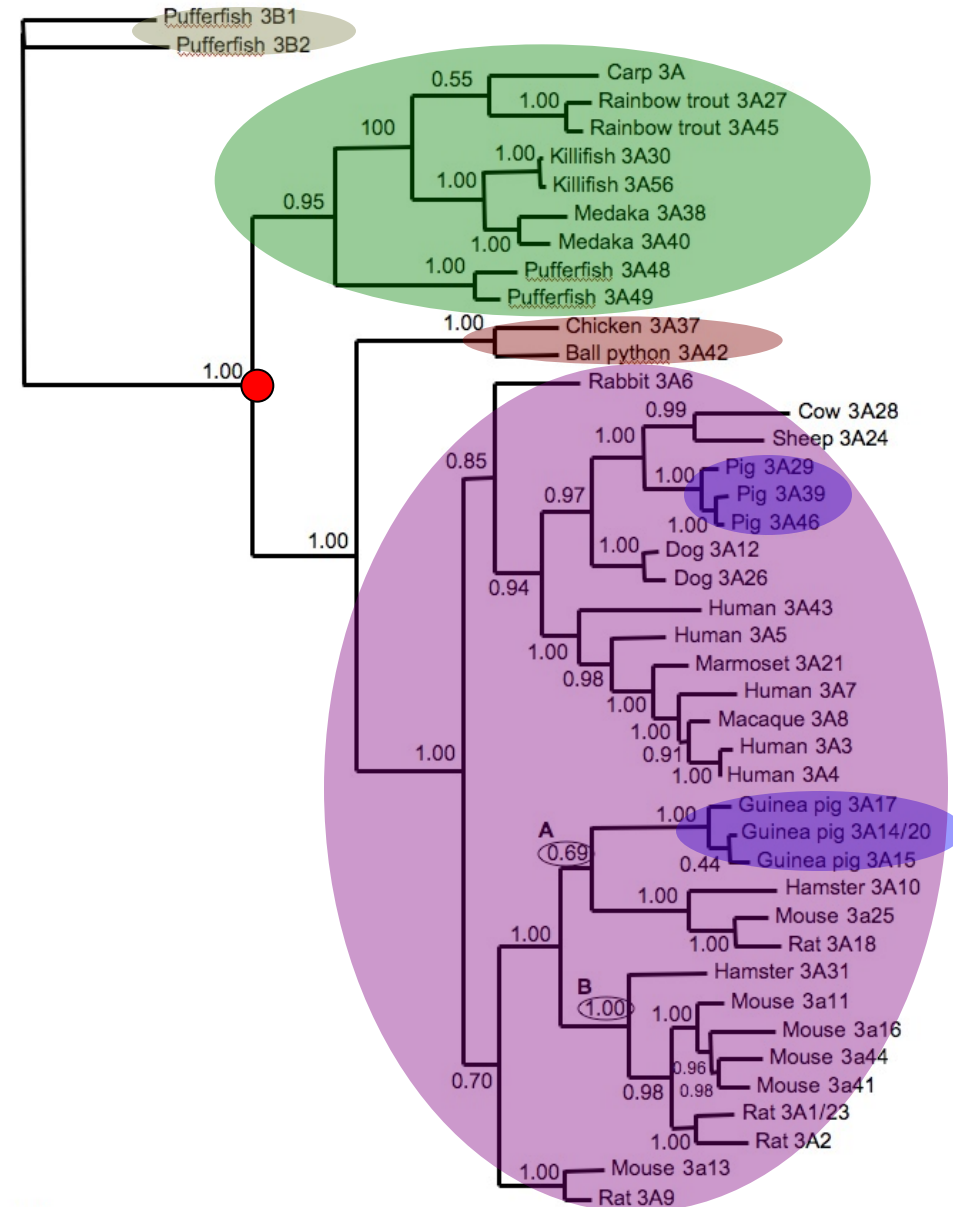


## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny

Outgroup choice is important

Trees can reflect gene duplication

Trees can reflect speciation



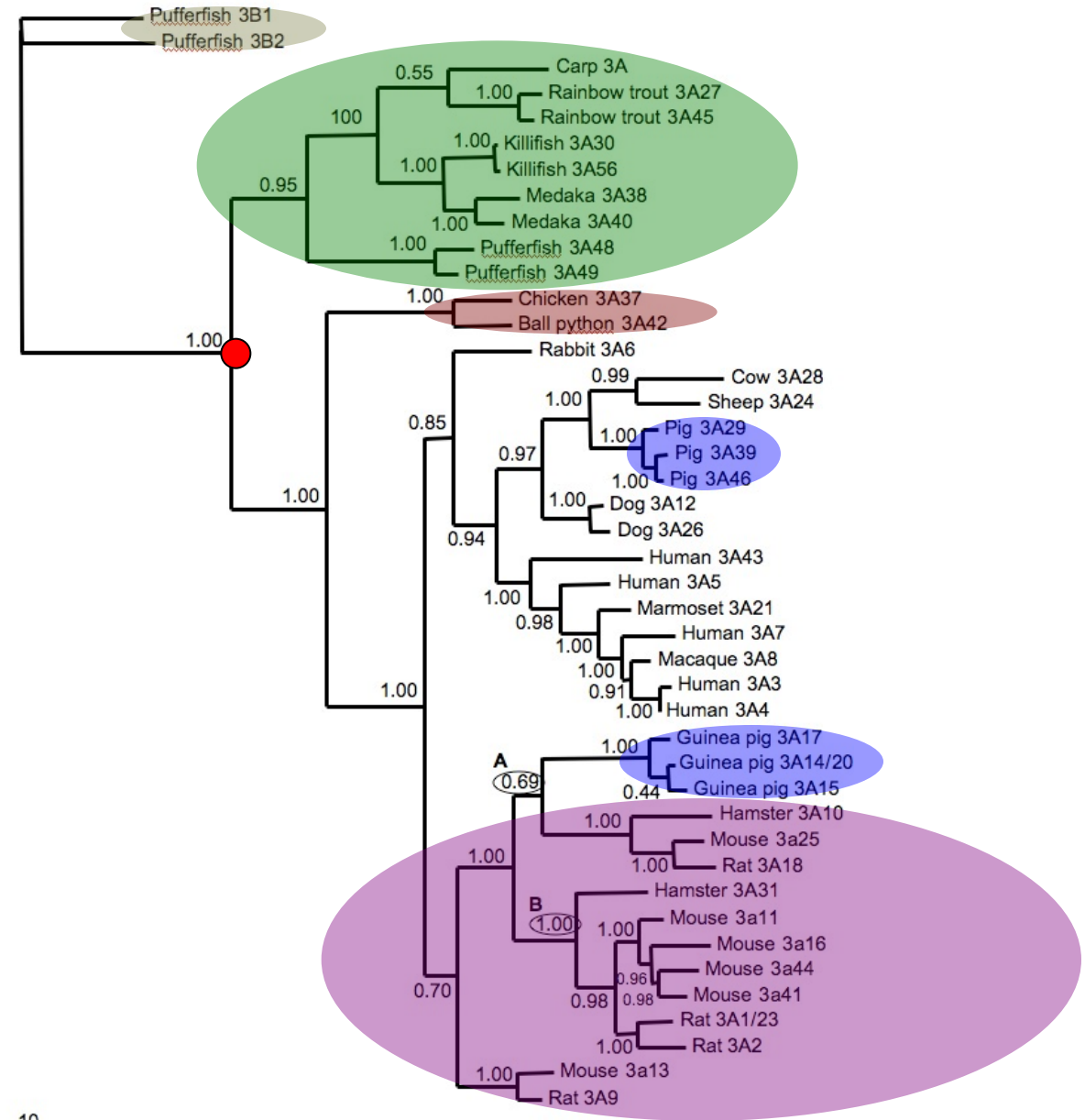
## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny

Outgroup choice is important

Trees can reflect gene duplication

Trees can reflect speciation

Trees can be a combination of gene trees and species trees





## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny

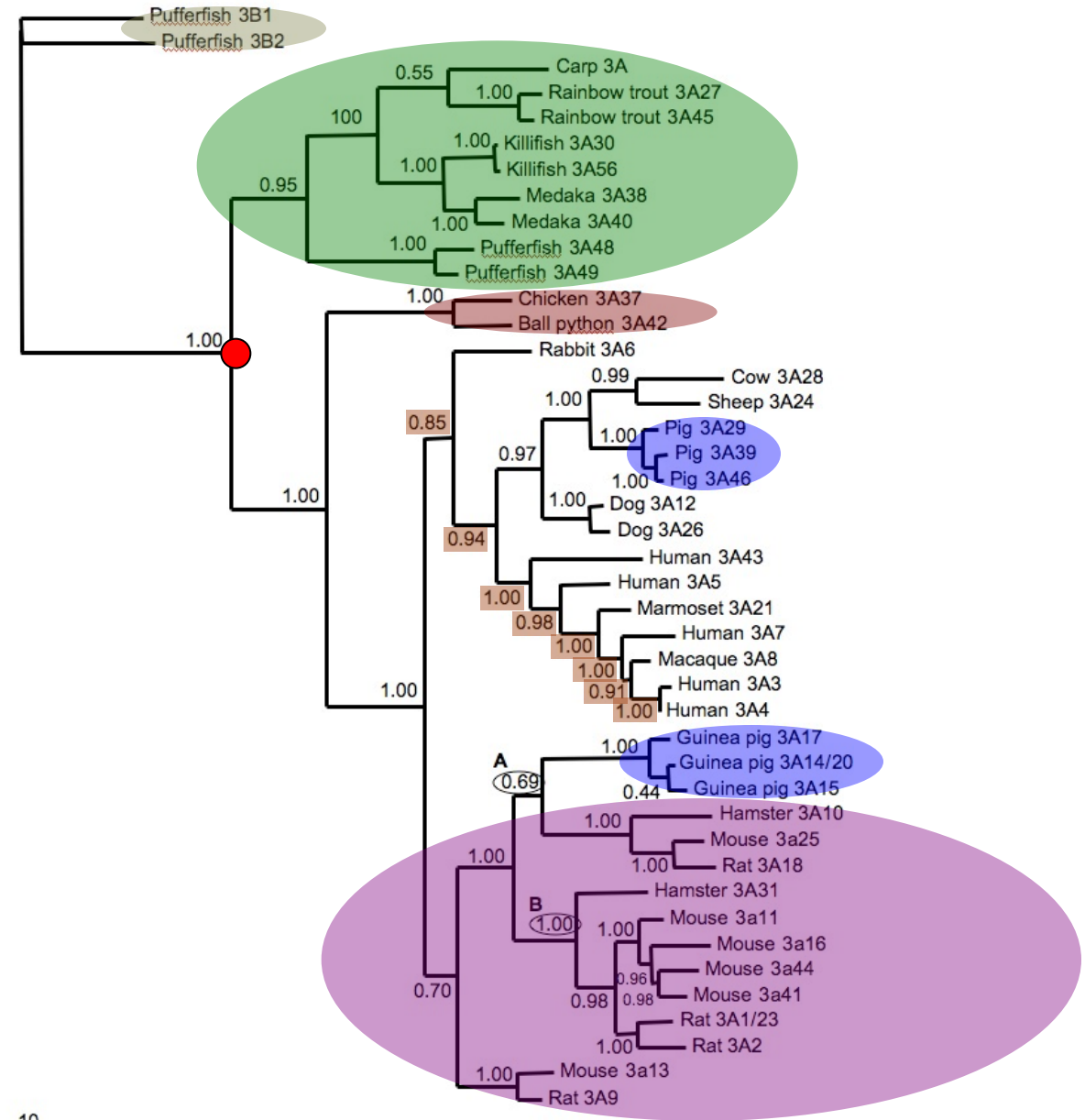
Outgroup choice is important

Trees can reflect gene duplication

Trees can reflect speciation

Trees can be a combination of gene trees and species trees

Trees should include confidence estimates





## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny

Outgroup choice is important

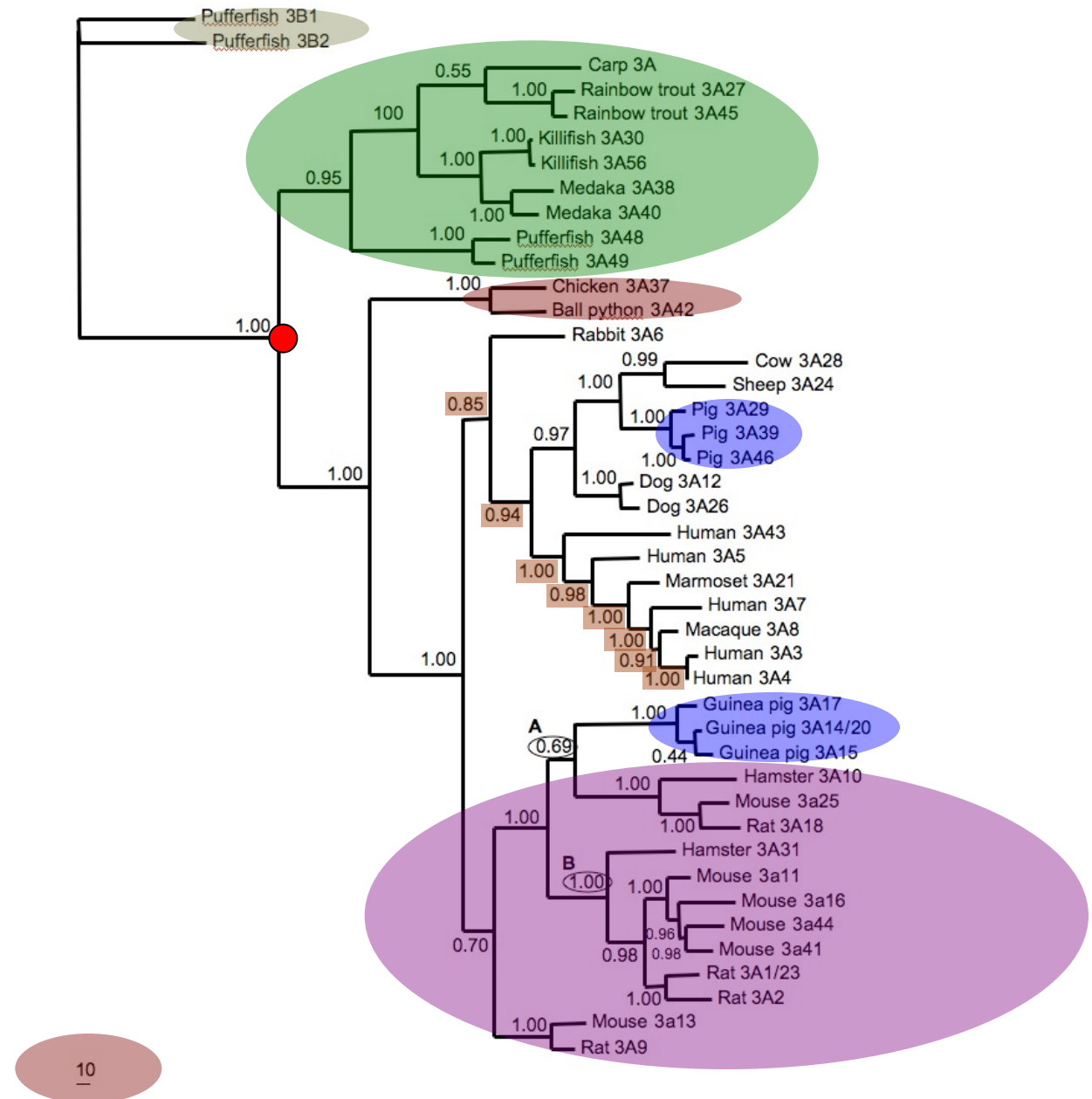
Trees can reflect gene duplication

Trees can reflect speciation

Trees can be a combination of gene trees and species trees

Trees should include confidence estimates

Trees include estimates of evolutionary distance



## An Example: CYP3A Phylogeny

Outgroup choice is important

Trees can reflect gene duplication

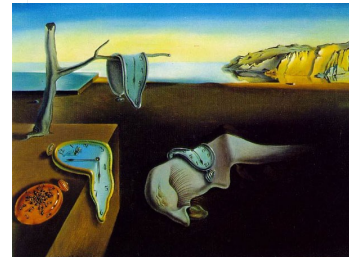
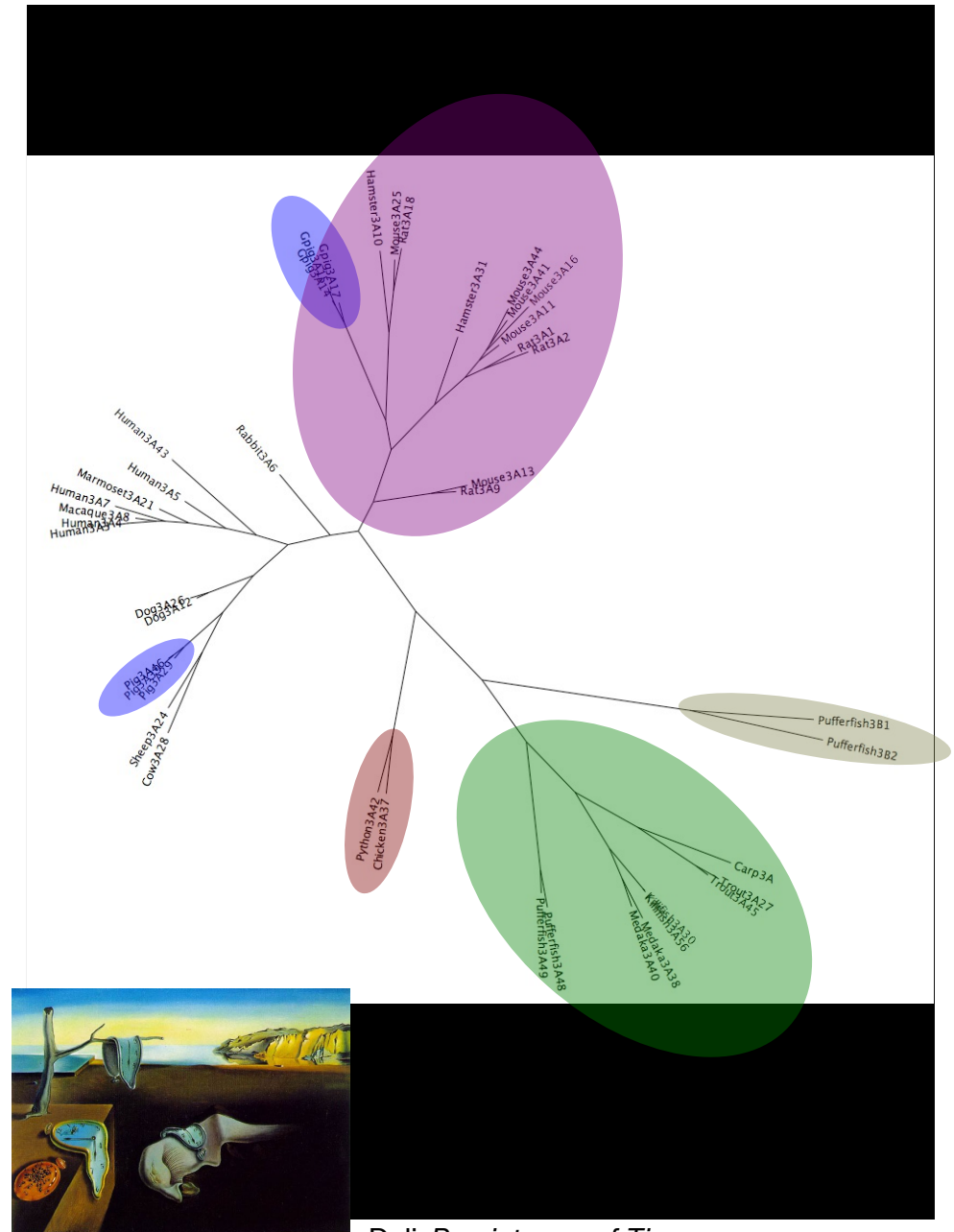
Trees can reflect speciation

Trees can be a combination of gene trees and species trees

Trees should include confidence estimates

Trees include estimates of evolutionary distance

Branch lengths are a function of time and rate of evolution – evolutionary clocks are local (aka “soft”)

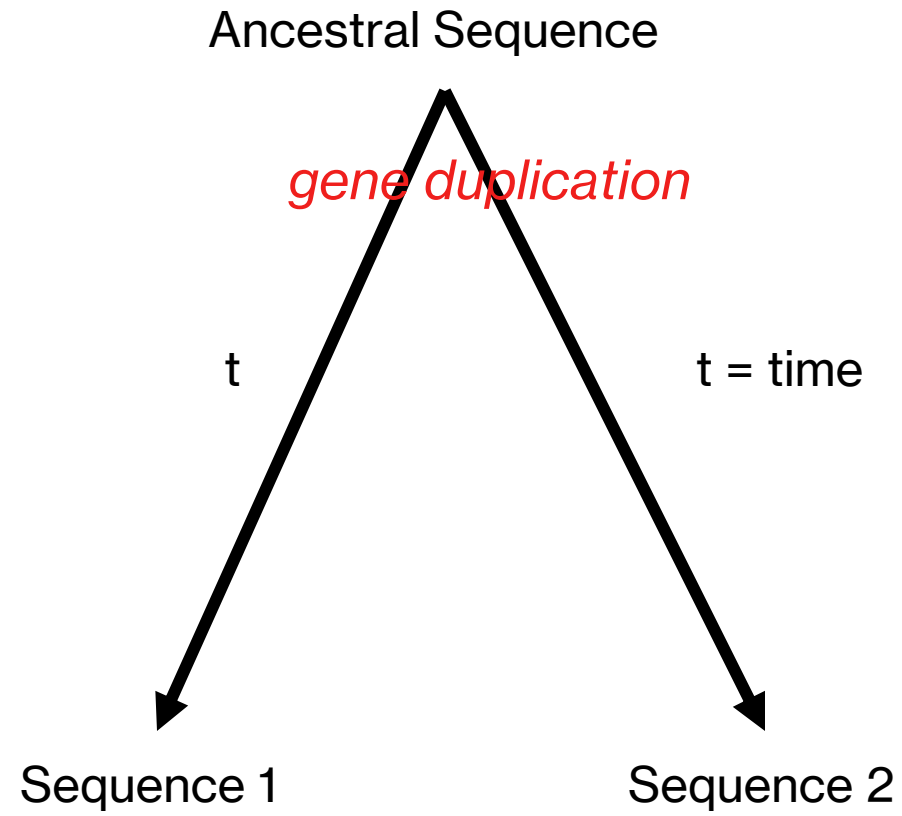


Dali, *Persistence of Time*

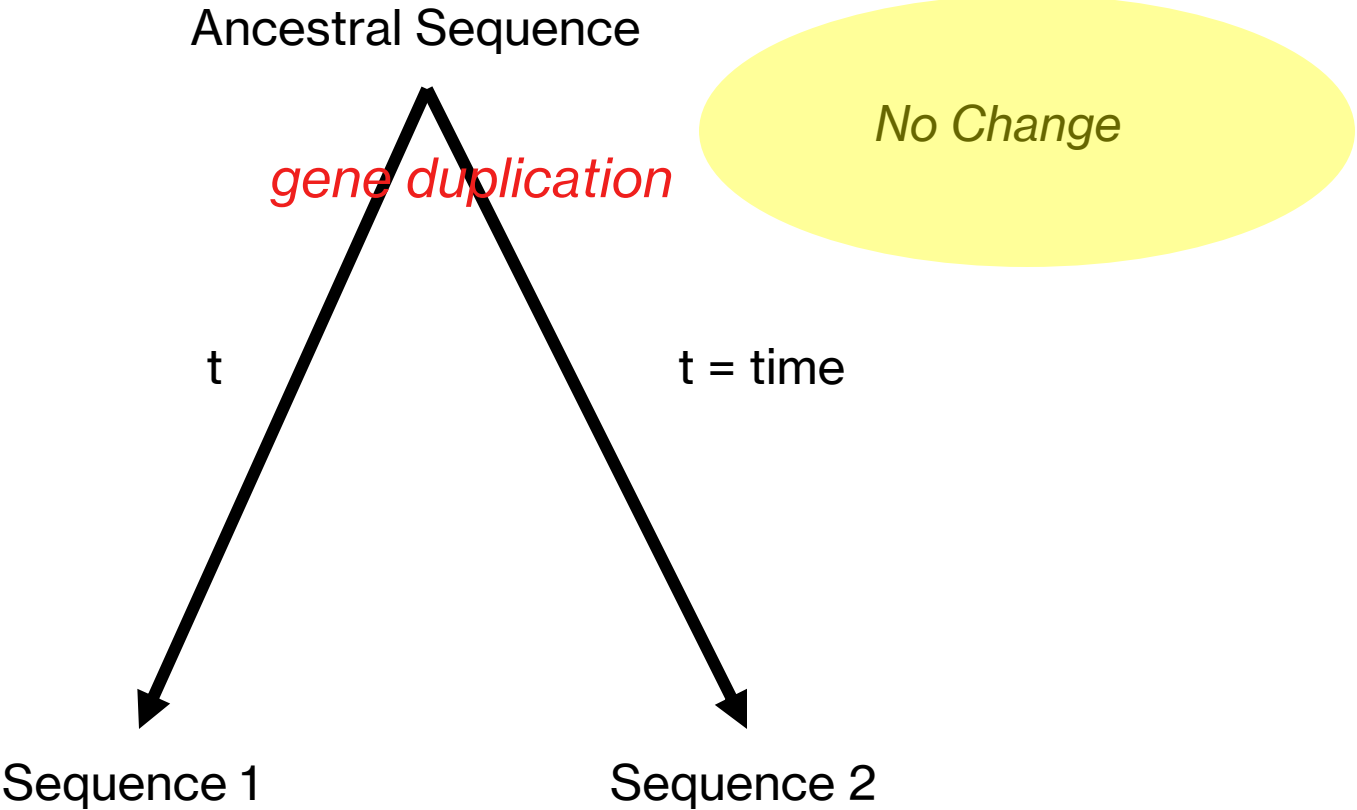
## Substitution & Rates of Evolution

Ancestral Sequence

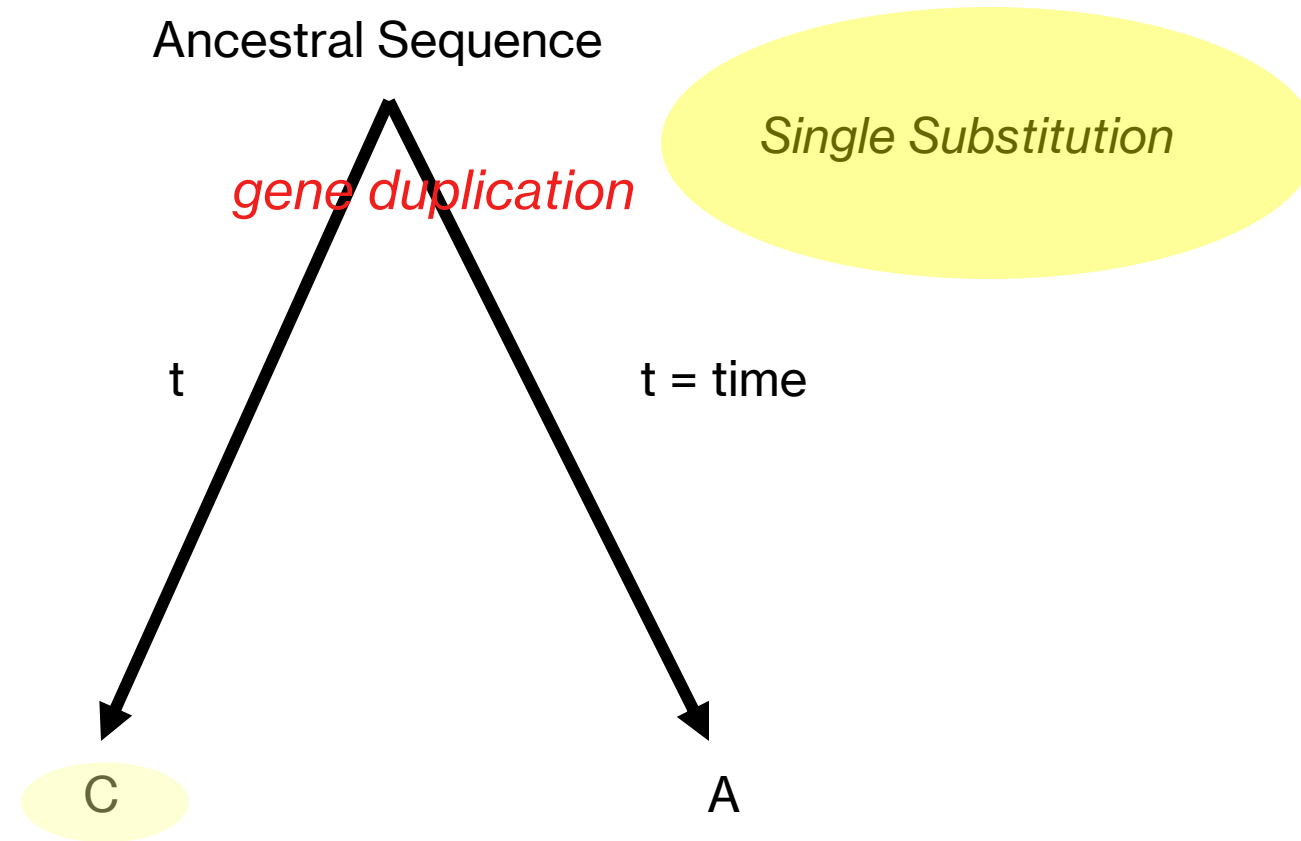
## Substitution & Rates of Evolution



# Substitution & Rates of Evolution

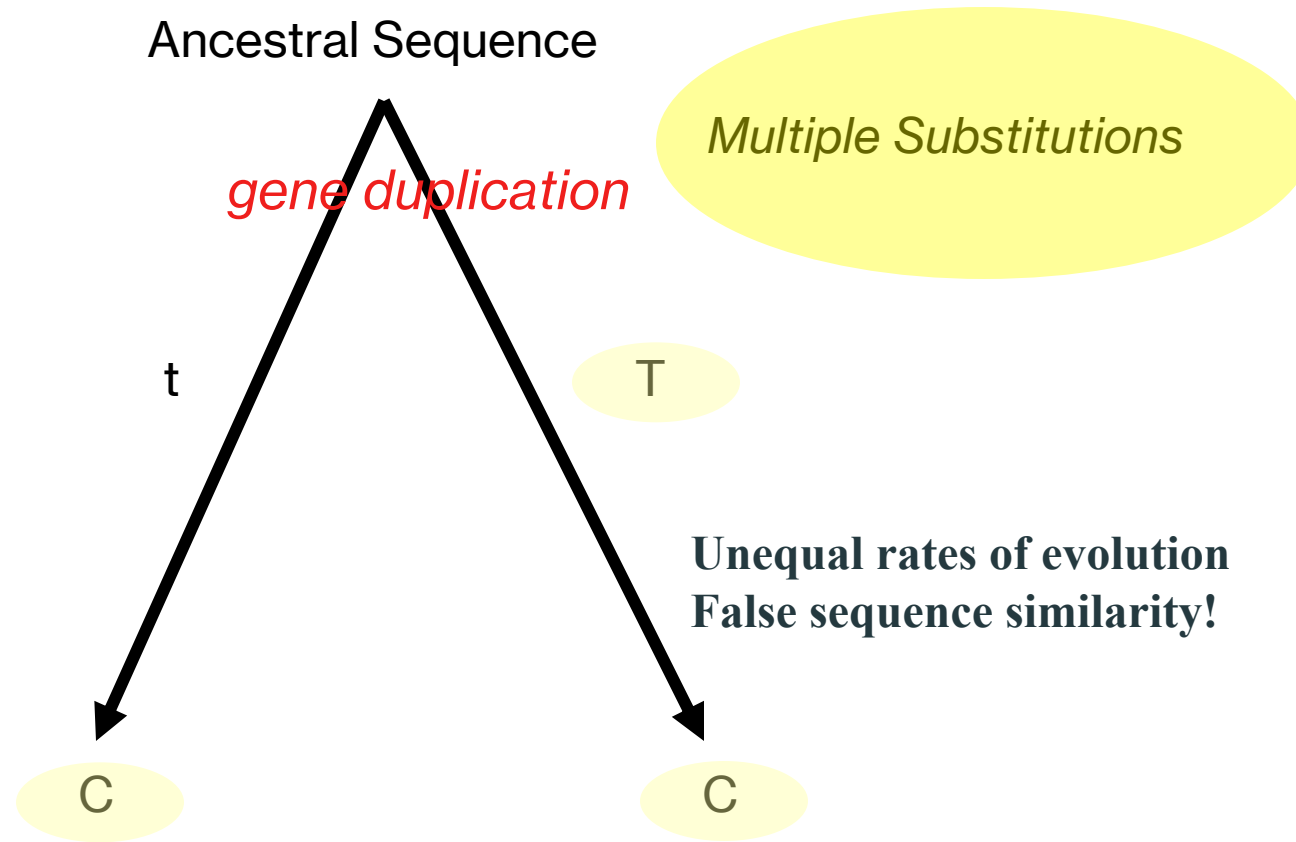


## Substitution & Rates of Evolution





## Substitution & Rates of Evolution

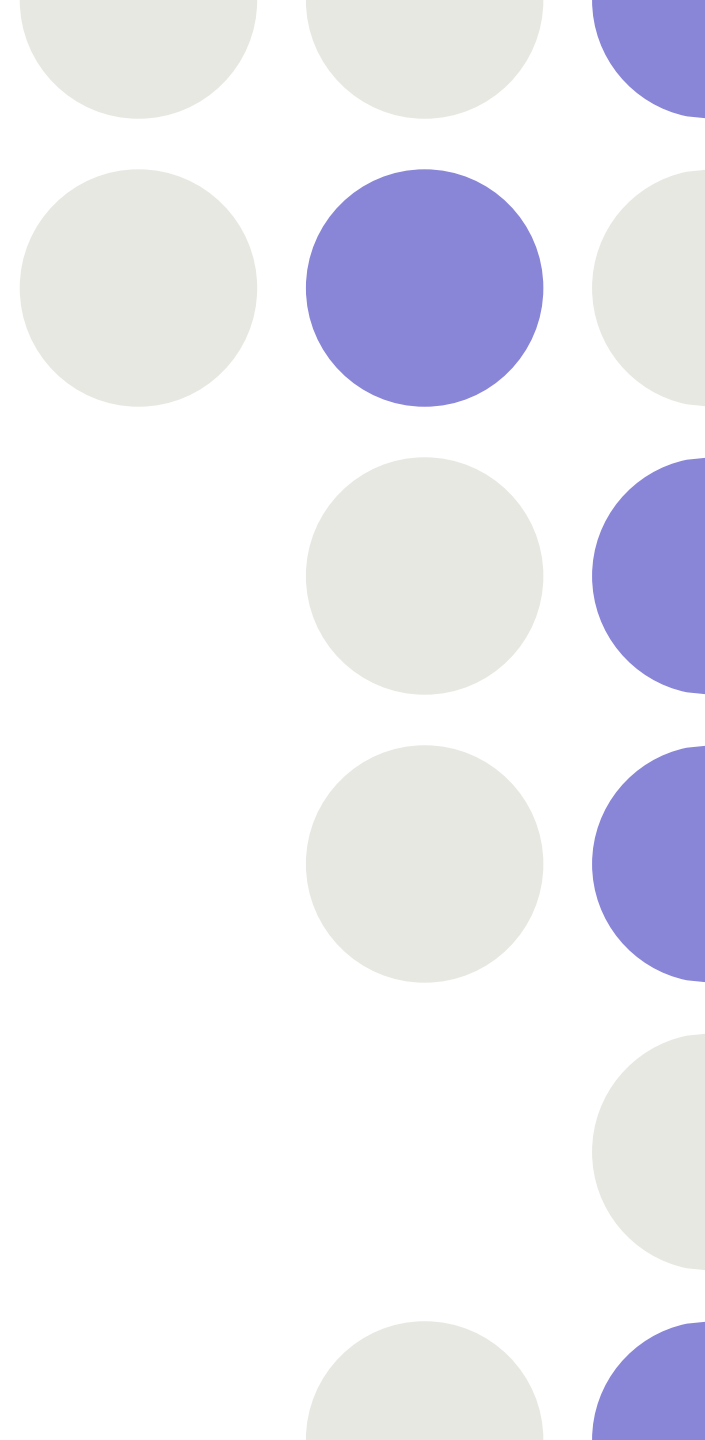


If rates of evolution were slow and equal, change would be rare and phylogenetics would be much easier. As they are not, one of the primary issues of phylogenetics is to determine history despite multiple substitution.



# Key Issues of Phylogenetics

- How do we find homologous sites?
  - How do we model substitution?
  - How do we search for the best tree?
- 



# Key Issues of Phylogenetics

- How do we find homologous sites?
- How do we model substitution?
- How do we search for the best tree?

## HOMOLOGOUS

A homologous trait is shared between two species because they inherited it from a common ancestor.

Information from homologous traits can be used to infer evolutionary relationships.

Non-homologous traits do not reflect evolutionary history but instead convergence. They can mislead inference of evolutionary relationships. Example: octopus eye versus human eye.

# Multiple Sequence Alignment

	*****:*****
sequence3	RLRTLLSPTFTSGKLKEMFPIINQYADLLVKNVKHEAEKGNPITMKDIFGAYSMDVLTGTSFGVNVDSLNNPQNPVQI
sequence4	RLRTLLSPTFTSGKLKEMFPIINQYADLLVKNVKHEAEKGNPITMKDIFGAYSMDVLTGTSFGVNVDSLNNPQNPVQI
sequence1	RLRTLLSPTFTSGKLKEMFPIINQYADLLVKNVKHEAEKGNPITMKDIFGAYSMDVITGTSFGVNVDSLNNPQNPVQI
sequence2	RLRTLLSPTFTSGKLKEMFPIINQYADLLVKNVKHEAEKGNPITMKDIFGAYSMDVITGTSFGVNVDSLNNPQNPVQI

Alignment of highly similar sequences is easy – each column is assumed to reflect a homologous position in the protein

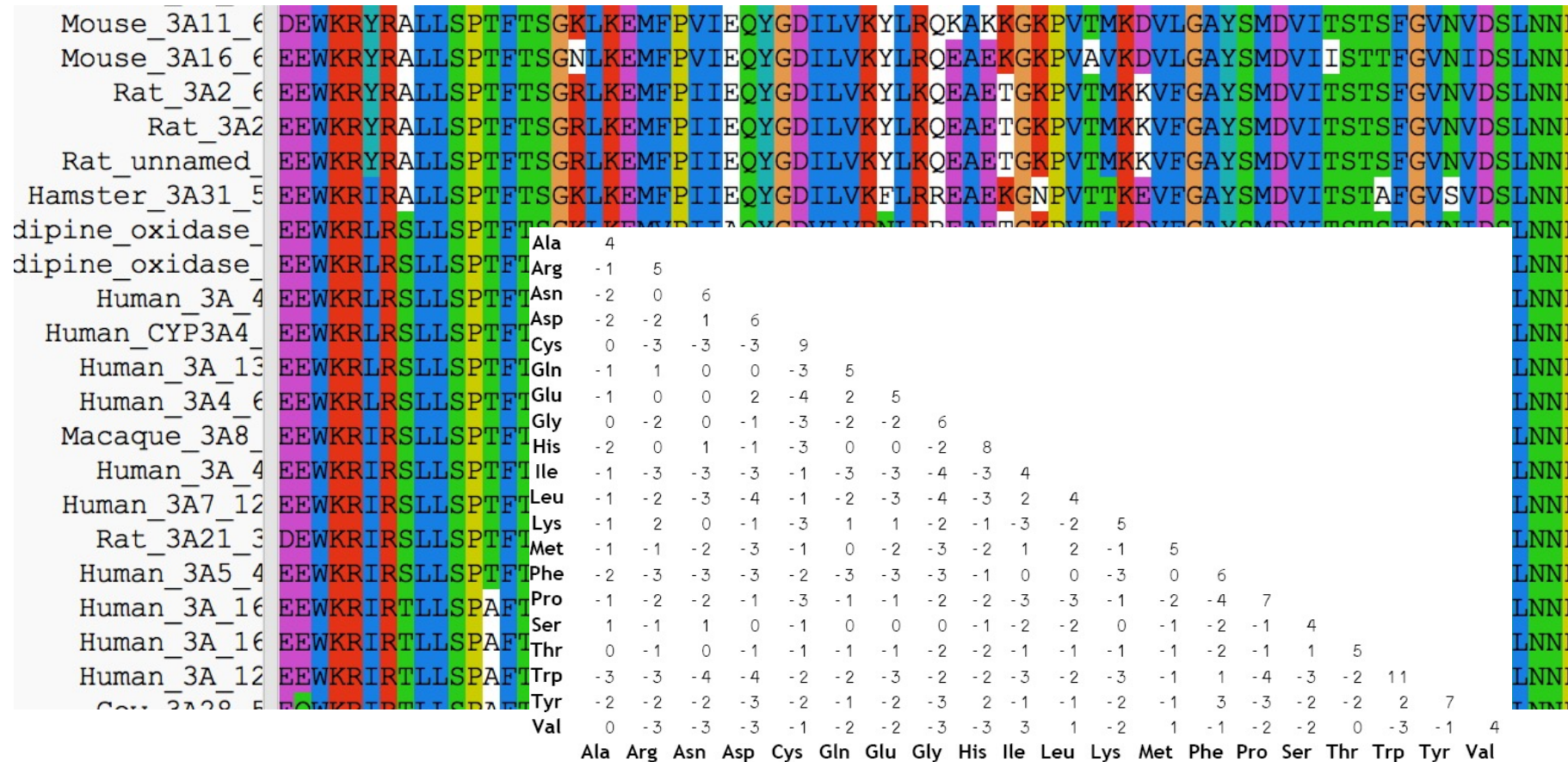
Blocks of identical sequence

Gaps infrequent

Substitutions conservative (i.e. leucine versus isoleucine)

Clustal software very effective in generating alignments

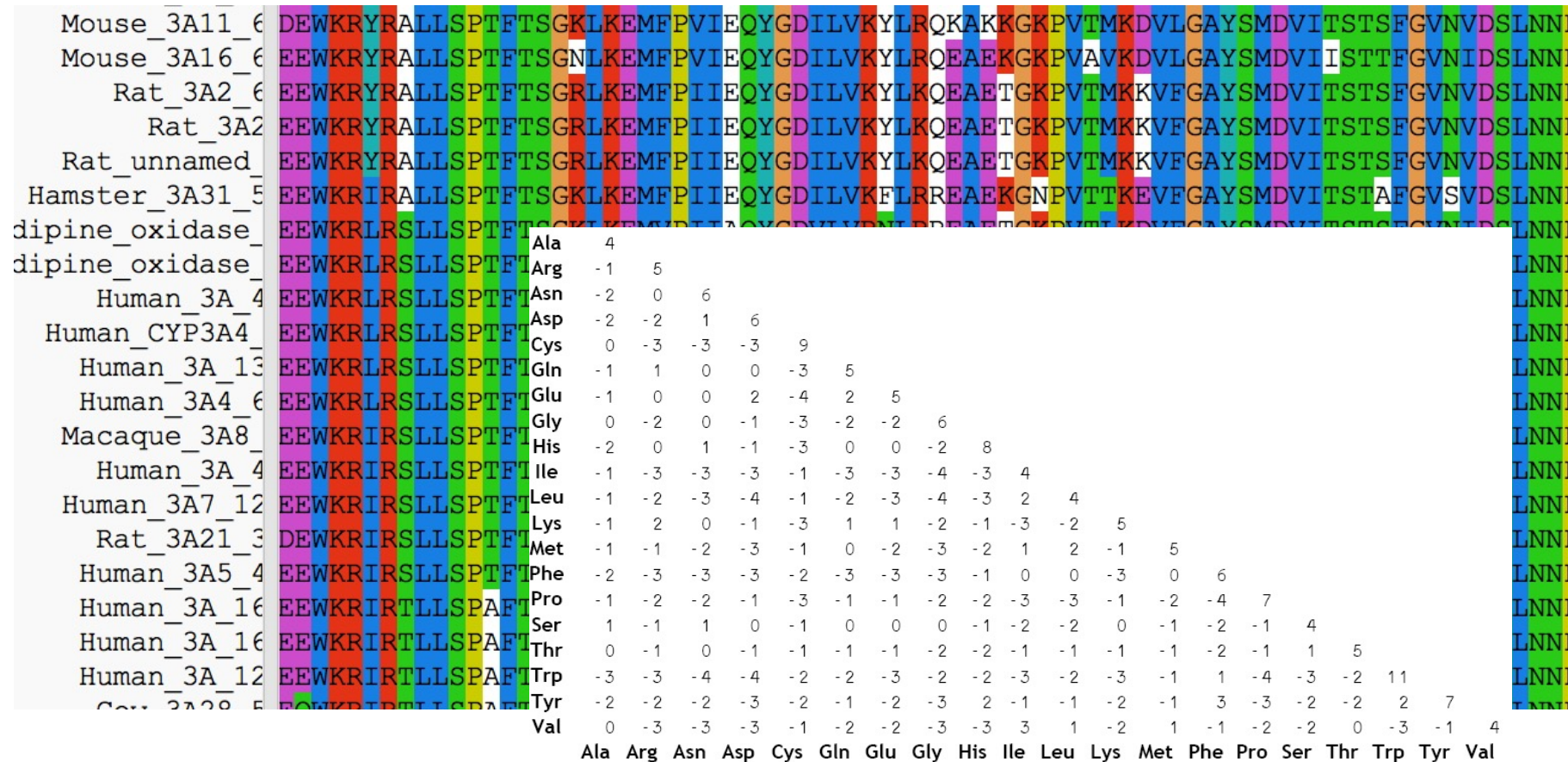
# Multiple Sequence Alignment



Just like BLAST, alignment software like Clustal uses BLOSUM, PAM, or other empirical substitution matrices to model conservative amino acid substitutions. Different matrices can be used for different evolutionary timescales.



# Multiple Sequence Alignment



Clustal and related methods can handle up to ~70% sequence divergence when BLOSUM or other matrices are used. Insertion and deletions of amino acids (INDELs) are the challenge.

Divergence beyond 70% takes special algorithms, often using protein structure prediction to guide alignment. Important for generating seed alignments for HMMs!



# Multiple Sequence Alignment

- Alignment involves appropriate substitution models
  - Alignment of divergent sequences may require structural constraints (e.g. rRNA folding) or special algorithms (e.g. MUSCLE)
  - Any alignment may have sub-sections that are poorly aligned and should be removed from phylogenetic analyses as HOMOLOGY is uncertain (i.e. not sure if all amino acids in the column reflect the same ancestral position in the protein).
-



# Key Issues of Phylogenetics

- How do we find homologous sites?
- How do we model substitution?
- How do we search for the best tree?

Modeling substitution and finding the best tree are intertwined in a concept called the “optimality criteria” – the philosophical / mathematical / computational framework you use to find the best (aka optimal) phylogenetic tree

# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

BAYESIAN INFERENCE

---



# Optimality Criteria

## DISTANCE METHODS

(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution) —→

Simplify a multiple sequence alignment to a distance matrix

Loss of information; unreliable method

But it is very fast, so often used as a first-pass estimate (e.g. our BLAST detection of a pmr contaminant)

BEWARE publications with neighbour-joining trees!

---

# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

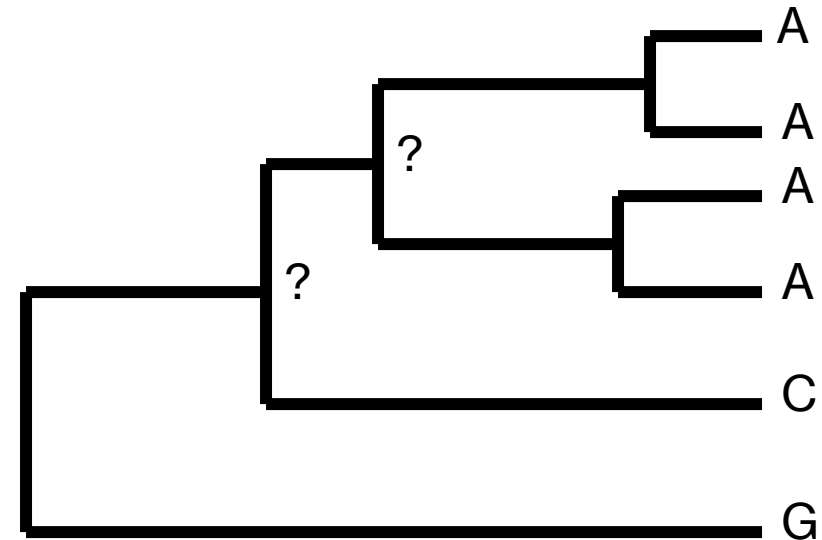
BAYESIAN INFERENCE

---

# Ignoring Multiple Substitutions: Parsimony

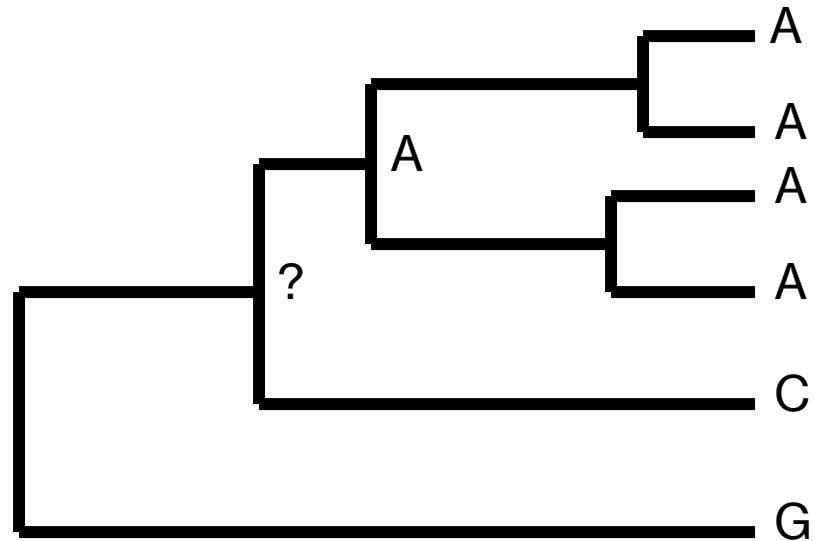
Parsimony is Occam's Razor, i.e. the simplest explanation is the easiest

Parsimony seeks to minimize the number of substitutions



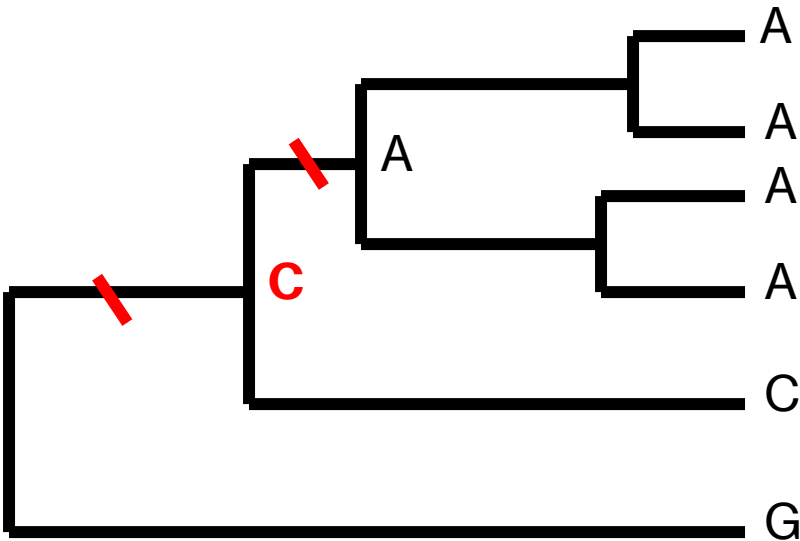
# Ignoring Multiple Substitutions: Parsimony

No changes needed to explain the adenosines



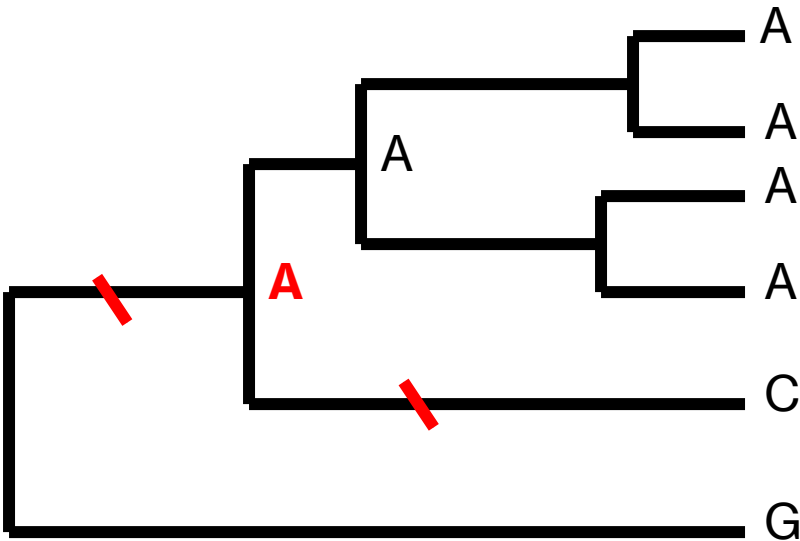
# Ignoring Multiple Substitutions: Parsimony

Score: two changes



# Ignoring Multiple Substitutions: Parsimony

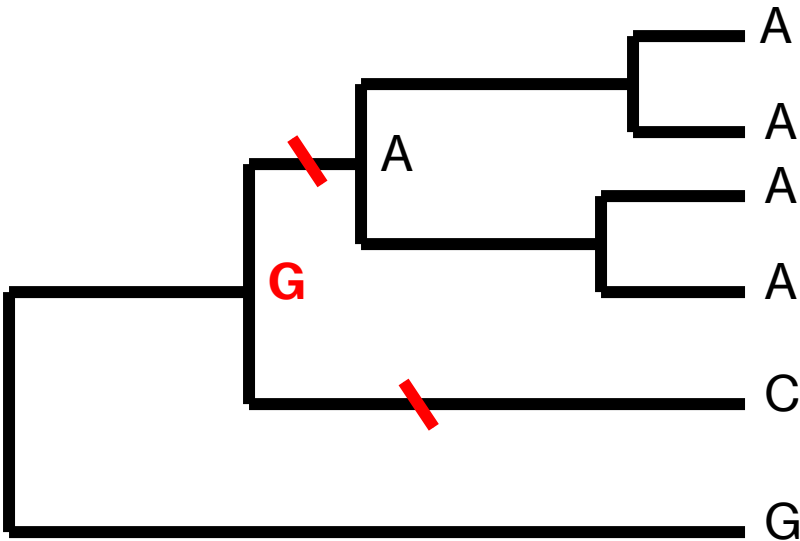
Score: two changes





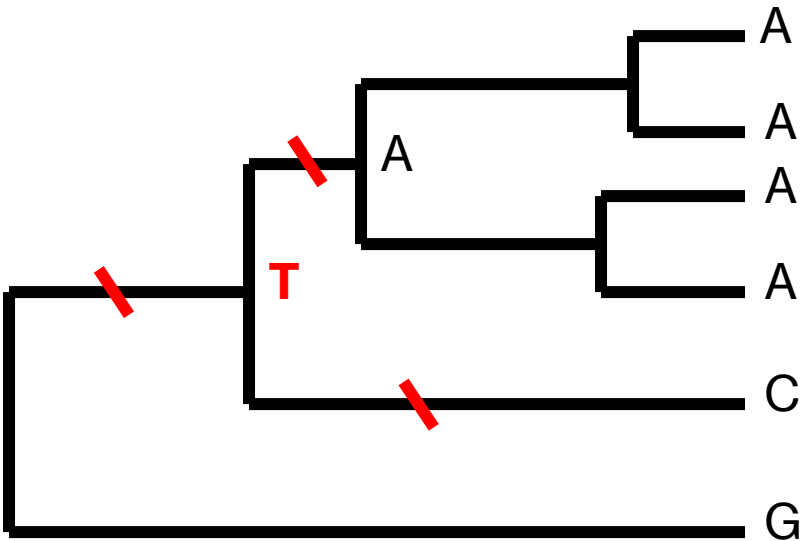
# Ignoring Multiple Substitutions: Parsimony

Score: two changes



# Ignoring Multiple Substitutions: Parsimony

Score: three changes



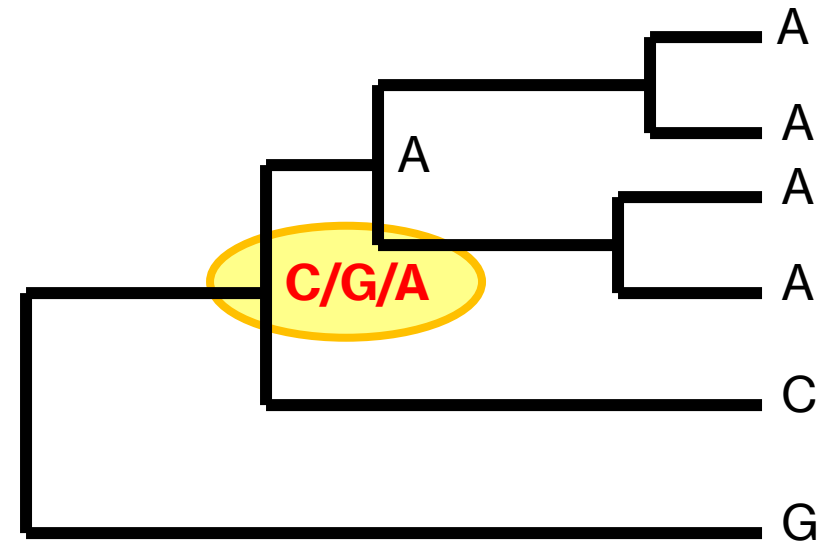
# Ignoring Multiple Substitutions: Parsimony

NO SUBSTITUTION MODEL!

3 of 4 possible bases are equally parsimonious!

LACK OF RESOLUTION!

Parsimony is fast since it only needs to count change but it deals poorly with multiple substitutions or unequal rates of evolution – it often lacks resolution



# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

BAYESIAN INFERENCE

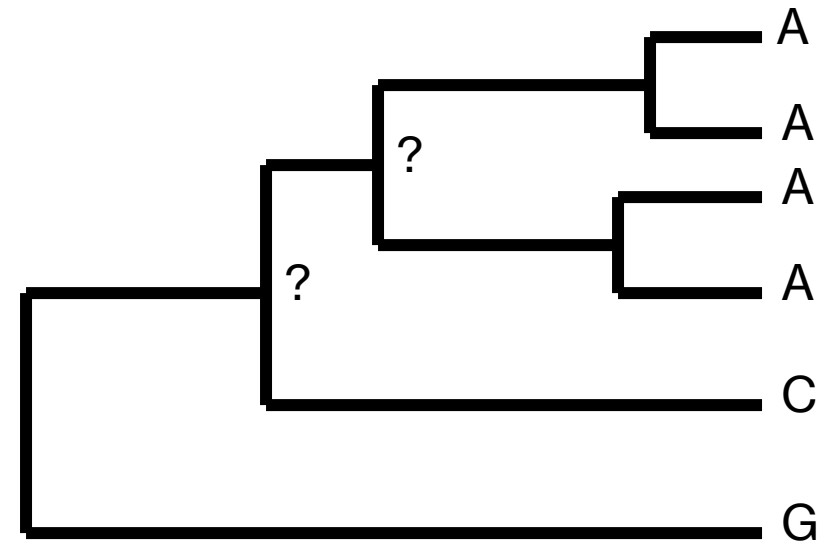
---

# Accounting for Multiple Substitutions: Likelihood

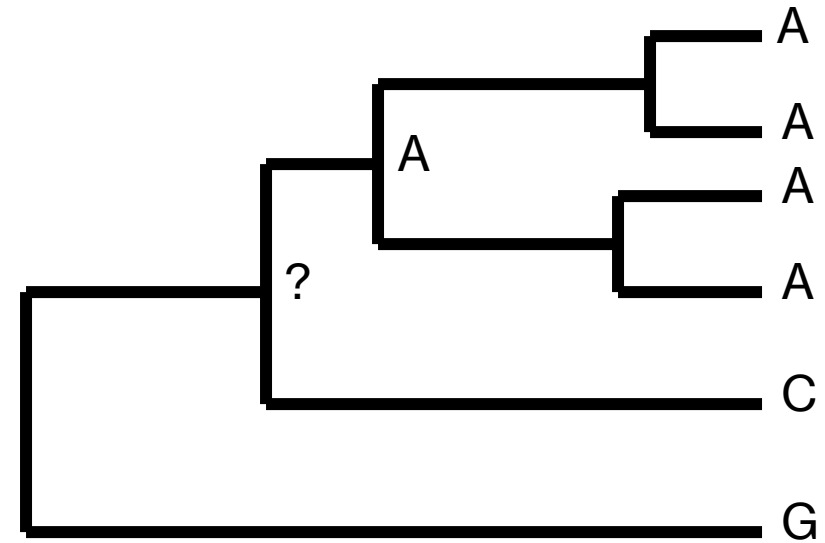
Maximum likelihood (ML) does not apply Occam's Razor

ML uses substitution models to better predict which changes have occurred

In ML, the length of the branches is as important as the shape of the tree

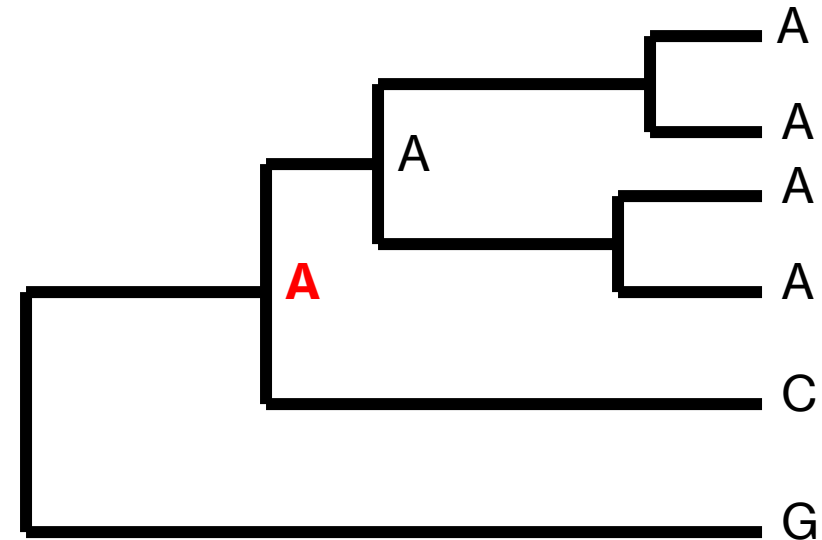


No changes needed to explain the adenosines



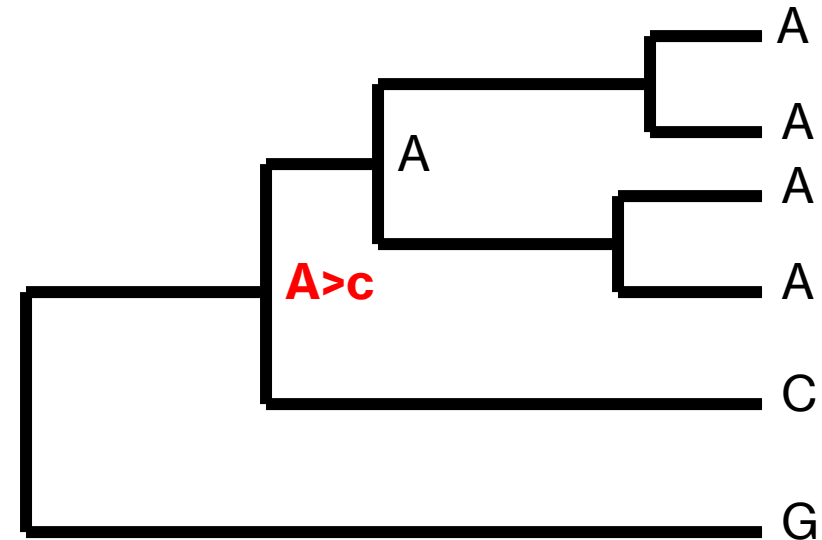
## Accounting for Multiple Substitutions: Likelihood

A is the most likely as it is the shortest route



## Accounting for Multiple Substitutions: Likelihood

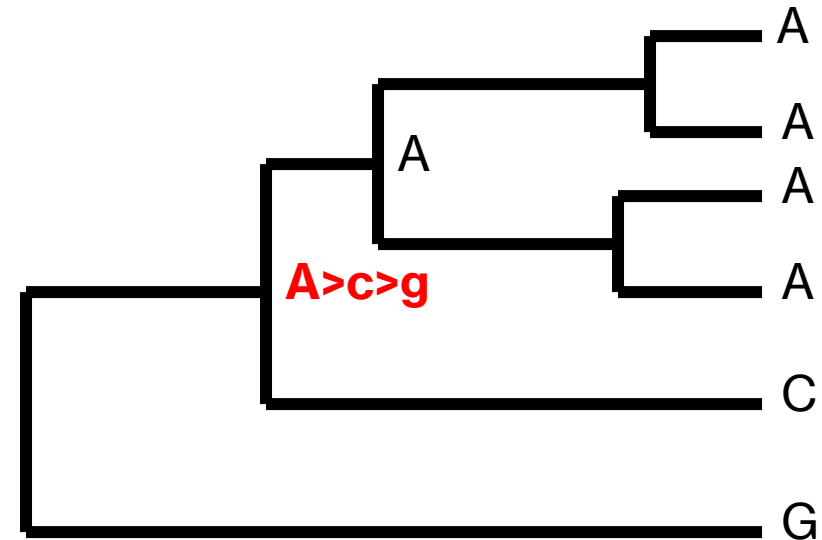
C is the next most likely as it is the next shortest route





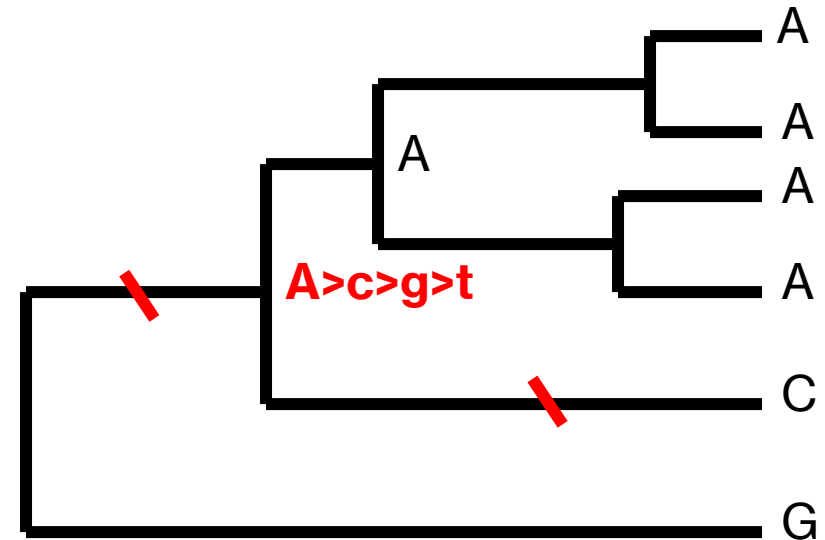
## Accounting for Multiple Substitutions: Likelihood

G is the third most likely as it is the third shortest route



# Accounting for Multiple Substitutions: Likelihood

T is the least likely as there is no route

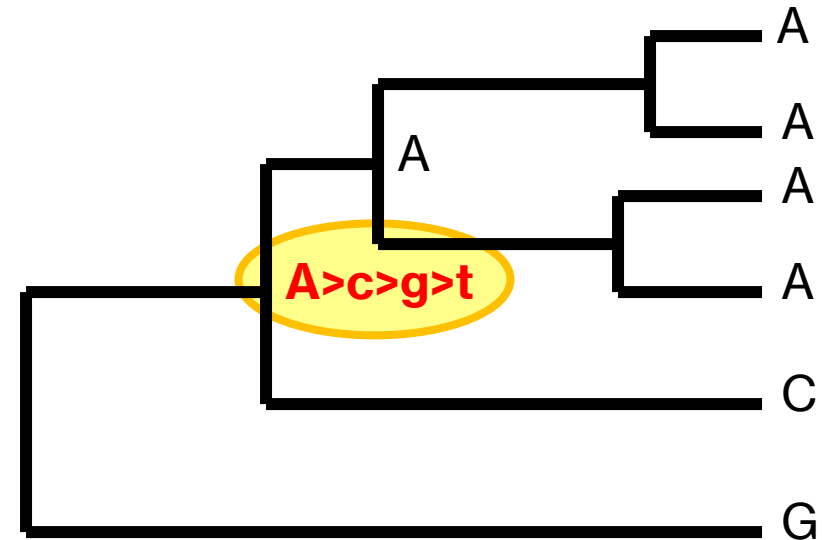


# Accounting for Multiple Substitutions: Likelihood

BRANCH LENGTHS (e.g. shortest route)  
COME FROM A SUBSTITUTION MODEL

A SUBSTITUTION MODEL ADDS  
RESOLUTION!

Each possible solution has a likelihood and  
must be considered – ML is more complex,  
slower, but more accurate



theoretical

C                      G                      T

$\mu\pi_C a$	$\mu\pi_G b$	$\mu\pi_T c$
	$\mu\pi_G d$	$\mu\pi_T e$
		$\mu\pi_T f$

d on the following parameters

mutation rates

amount of each base available

# Theoretical

	A	C	G	T
A		$\mu\pi_C a$	$\mu\pi_G b$	$\mu\pi_T c$
C			$\mu\pi_G d$	$\mu\pi_T e$
G				$\mu\pi_T f$
T				

### Estimation based on the following parameters

- A measure of mutation rates
- The relative amount of each base available
- Bias

theoretical

C                      G                      T

$\mu\pi_C$ <b>a</b>	$\mu\pi_G$ <b>b</b>	$\mu\pi_T$ <b>c</b>
	$\mu\pi_G$ <b>d</b>	$\mu\pi_T$ <b>e</b>
		$\mu\pi_T$ <b>f</b>

can design your own. Key

# Theoretical

	A	C	G	T
A		$\mu\pi_C a$	$\mu\pi_G b$	$\mu\pi_T c$
C			$\mu\pi_G d$	$\mu\pi_T e$
G				$\mu\pi_T f$
T				

- Unequal rates of substitution
- Unequal amino acid / nucleotide frequencies

- Unequal rates of substitution
- Unequal amino acid / nucleotide frequencies



# Key Issues of Phylogenetics

- How do we find homologous sites?
- How do we model substitution?
- How do we search for the best tree?

The “best tree” is a function of the data (i.e. multiple sequence alignment) and substitution model.

bad alignment = bad tree

bad model = bad tree

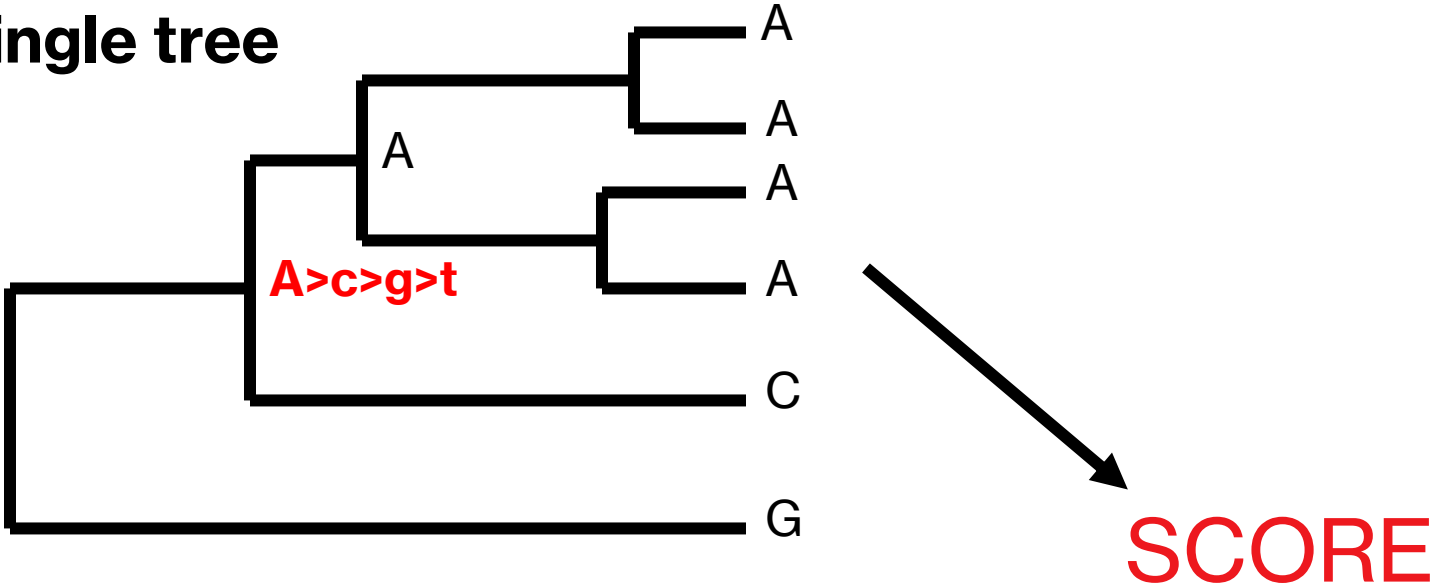
# Key Issues of Phylogenetics

- The “search space” in phylogenetics is huge! We cannot search all of it.
- Yet we need to find the tree with the best “score”
- Two tasks:
  - Scoring trees
  - Searching trees

Number of Sequences	Number of Possible Trees
10	$2 \times 10^6$
22	$3 \times 10^{23}$
50	$3 \times 10^{74}$
100	$2 \times 10^{182}$
1,000	$2 \times 10^{2,860}$

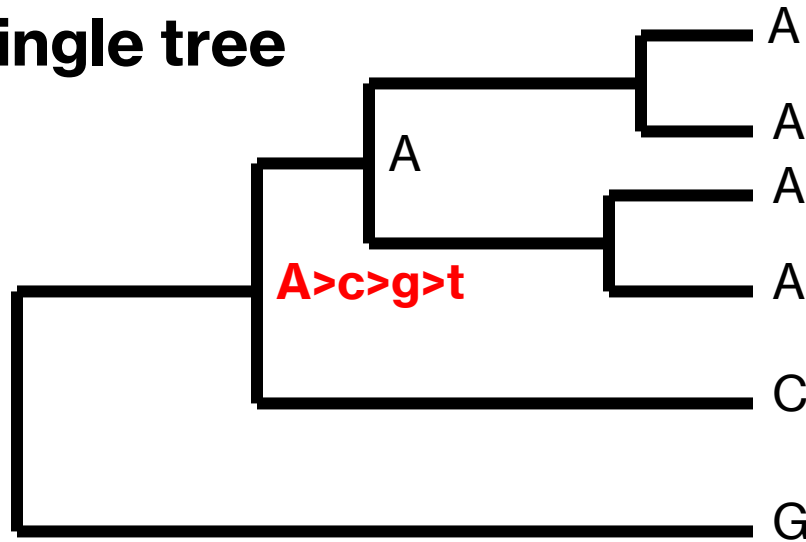


Scoring a single tree



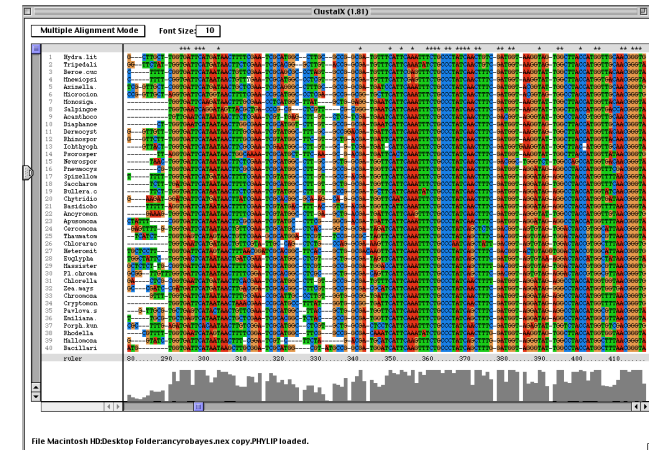
	A	C	G	T
A		$\mu\pi_C a$	$\mu\pi_G b$	$\mu\pi_T c$
C			$\mu\pi_G d$	$\mu\pi_T e$
G				$\mu\pi_T f$
T				

## Scoring a single tree



	A	C	G	T
A		$\mu\pi_C a$	$\mu\pi_G b$	$\mu\pi_T c$
C			$\mu\pi_G d$	$\mu\pi_T e$
G				$\mu\pi_T f$
T				

# SCORE



Each site (i.e. column) contributes to the score given the substitution model

This is a reproduction of Salvador Dalí's famous 1931 painting, *The Persistence of Memory*. The painting depicts a dark, desolate landscape under a pale, hazy sky. In the foreground, a large, melting pocket watch lies on a crumpled, fleshy surface. To the left, another melting watch rests on a small, rectangular wooden block. A third, smaller melting watch is visible in the background, draped over a branch. A large, gnarled tree trunk stands on the left side of the frame. In the distance, a jagged, rocky coastline is visible under a pale, hazy sky. The overall composition is characterized by Dalí's signature style of combining realistic elements with dreamlike, distorted forms.

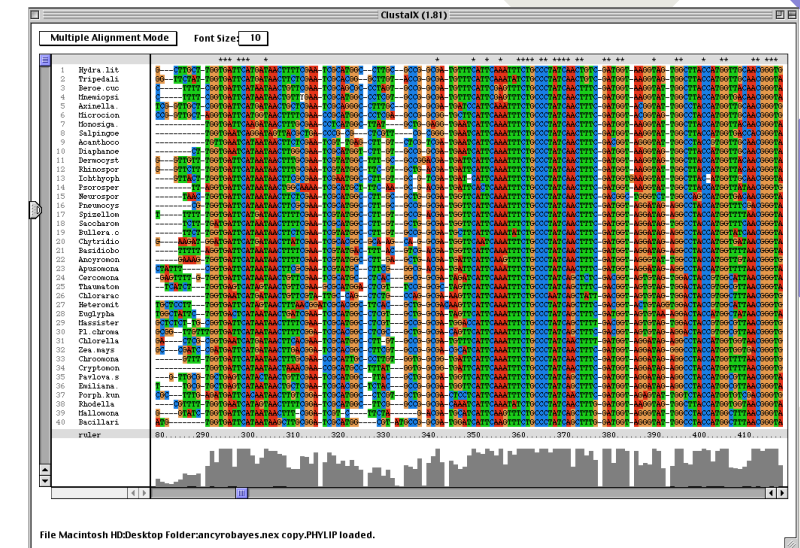
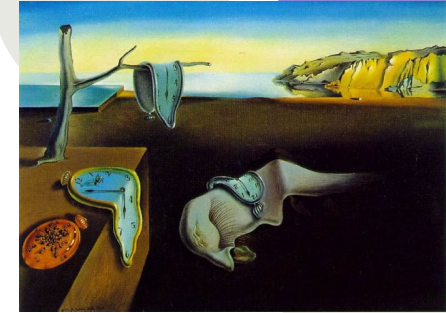


# SCORE

Each site (i.e. column) contributes to the score given the substitution model

# Among-site rate variation

- Different parts of a protein are under different evolutionary pressure will evolve at different rates
- For example a region with an important function (e.g. binding site, globular domains, structural regions, functional domains) will change more slowly than less essential regions
- Each column in the multiple sequence alignment thus has a faster or slower version of the substitution model



# Scoring Requires:

1. A tree topology to score
  2. Multiple sequence alignment
  3. Substitution model
    - Unequal rates of substitution among amino acids or nucleotides
    - Unequal frequencies of amino acids or nucleotides
  4. Incorporation of among-site rate variation
- 

If you can do all of this then you will end up with the correct tree

(e.g., with ML or Bayesian)

# Scoring Requires:

1. A tree topology to score
  2. Multiple sequence alignment
  3. Substitution model
    - Unequal rates of substitution among amino acids or nucleotides
    - Unequal frequencies of amino acids or nucleotides
  4. Incorporation of among-site rate variation
- 

## Caveats

- Phylogenetic models generally work well even though they are an over-simplification
- All methods assume neutrality or near-neutrality; positive selection is problematic
- The methods break down when your data has extremes, e.g. fundamentally different rules of evolution in different parts of your protein

# How Do We Find the Best Tree?

Number of Sequences	Number of Possible Trees
10	$2 \times 10^6$
22	$3 \times 10^{23}$
50	$3 \times 10^{74}$
100	$2 \times 10^{182}$
1,000	$2 \times 10^{2,860}$

We can't score them all – it would take far too long!

Instead, we use “tree space” search algorithms

---

# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

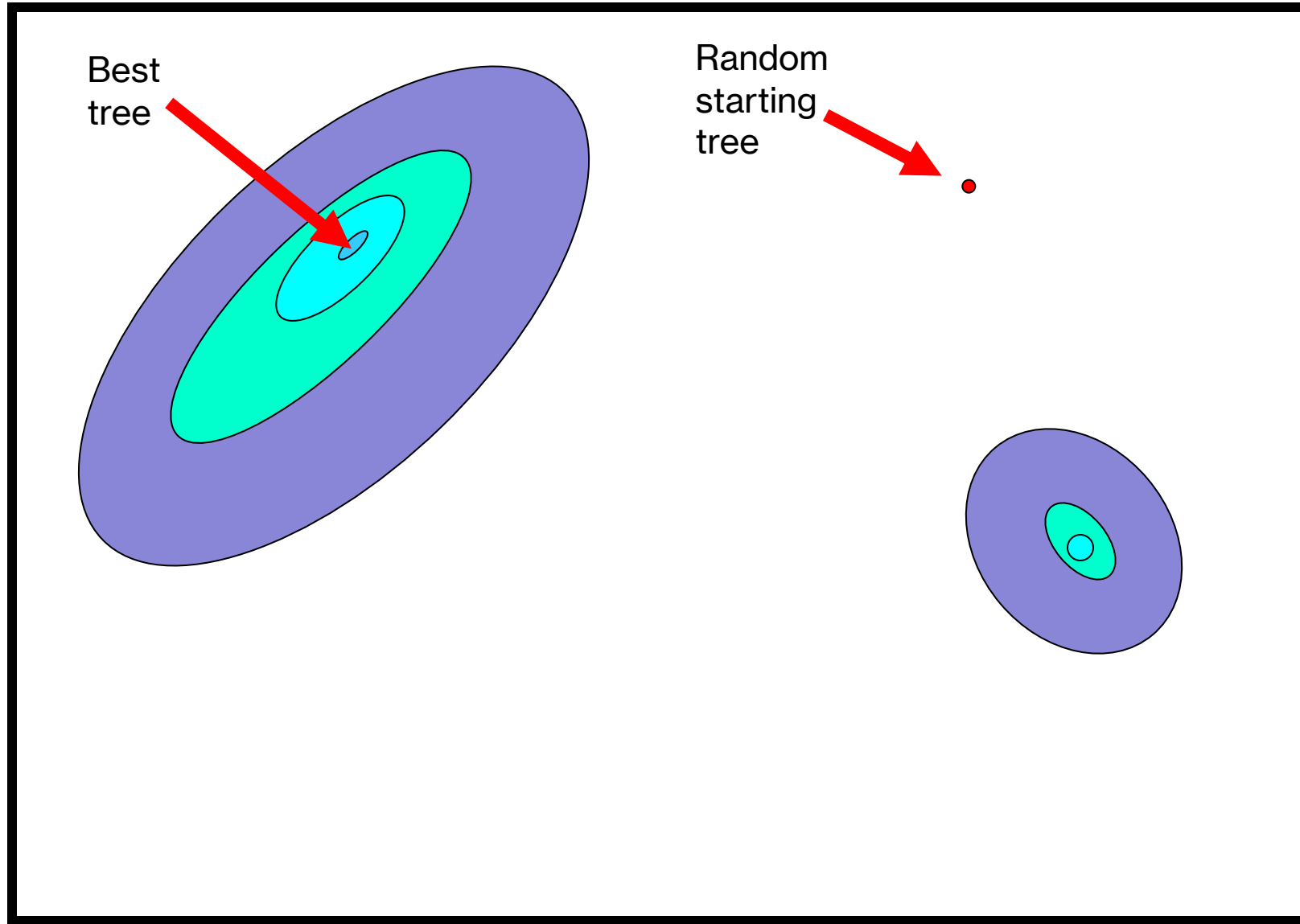
MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD – branch swapping, find the best tree

BAYESIAN INFERENCE – MC<sup>3</sup>, sample the cloud of best trees  
– Bayesian is an extension of maximum likelihood  
– not going to cover this in Biochem 3BP3

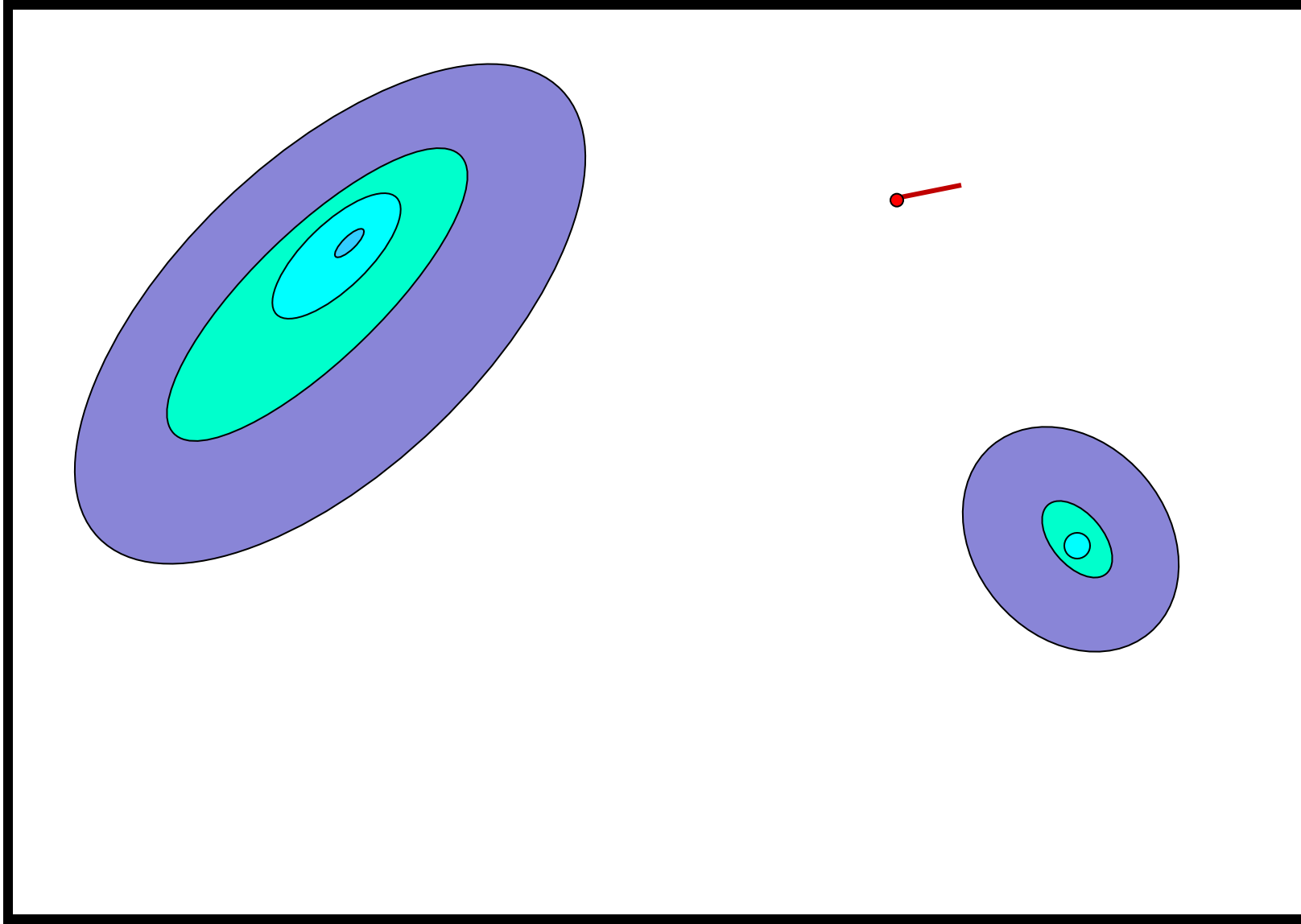
---



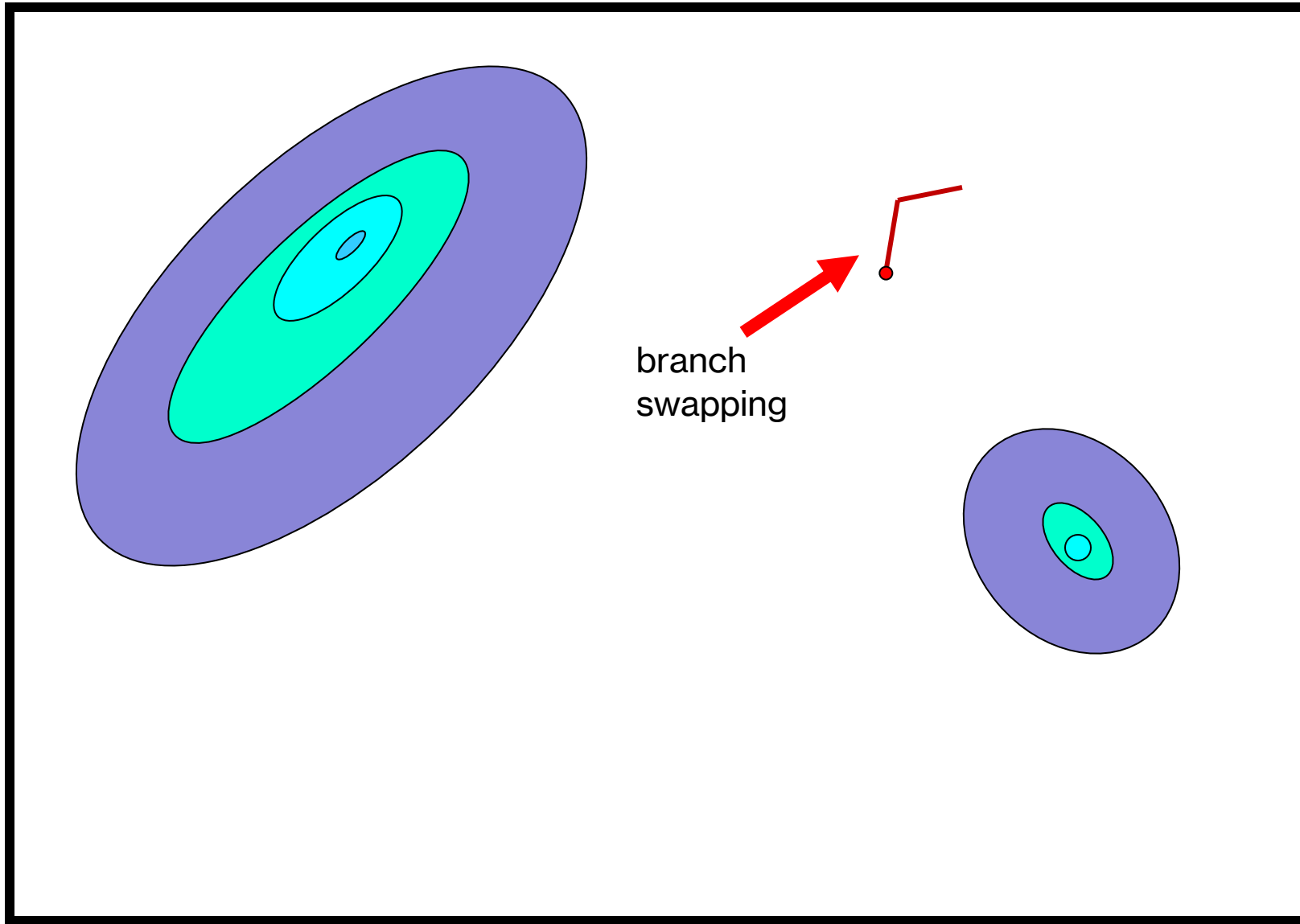
# Branch Swapping



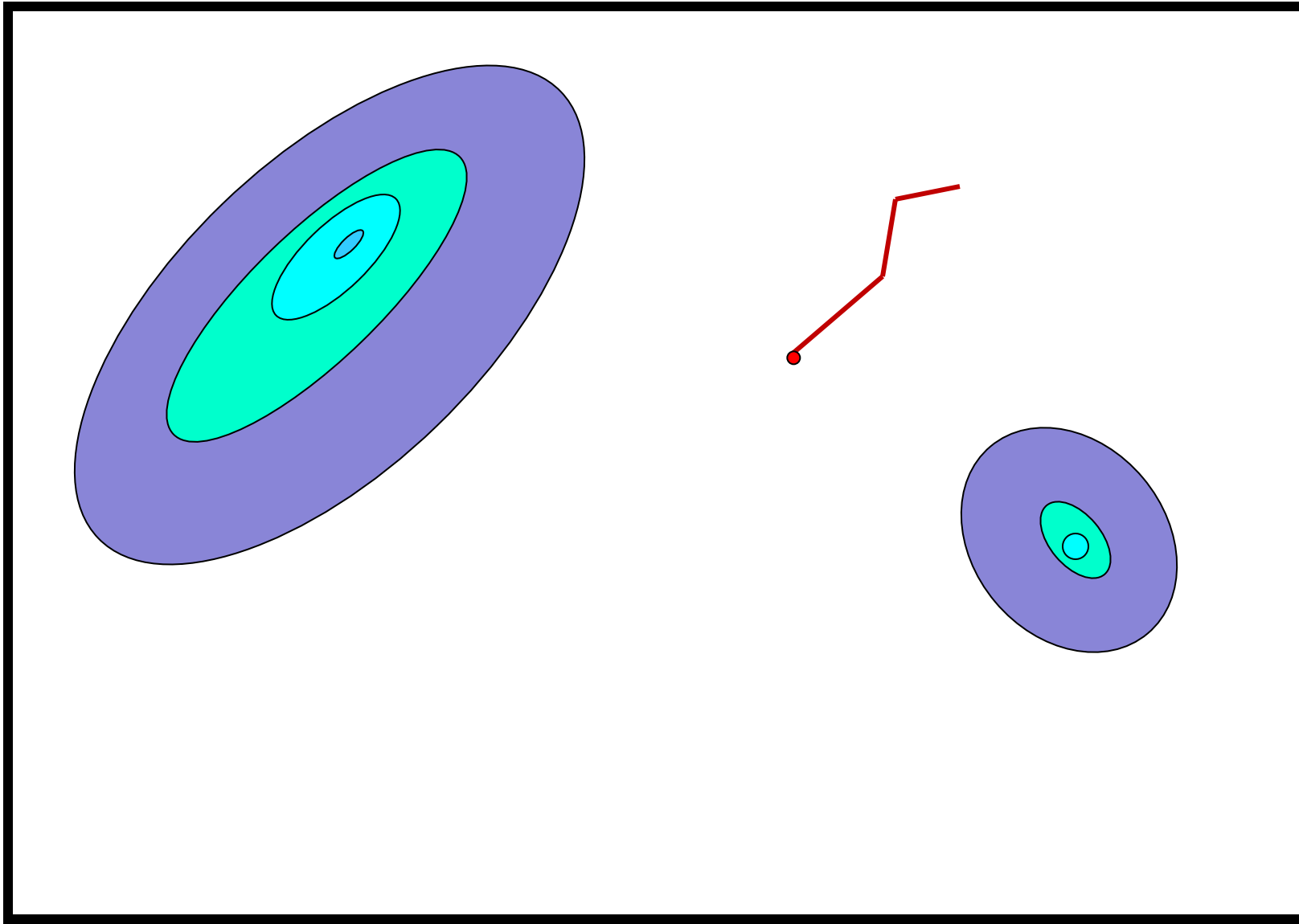
# Branch Swapping



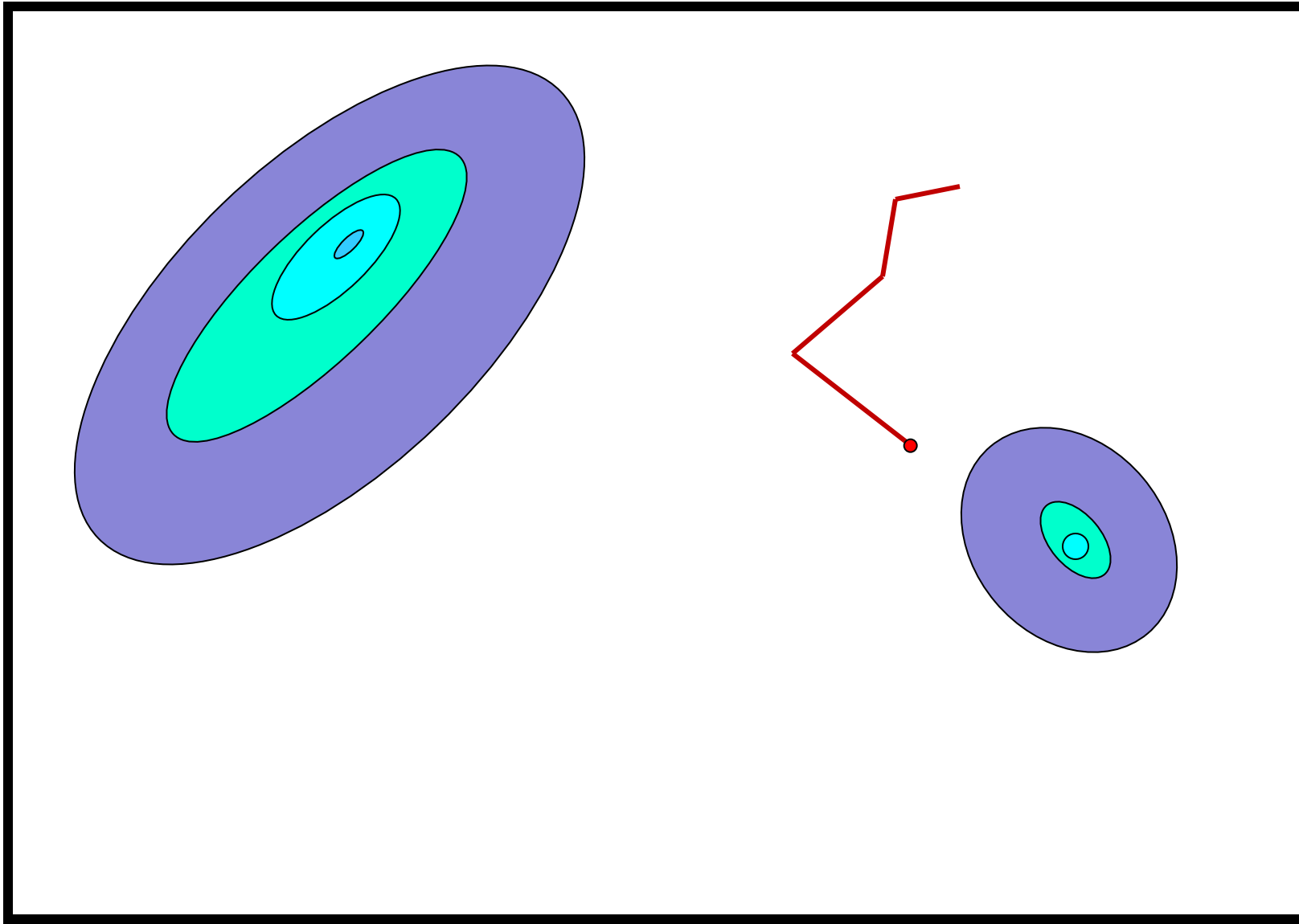
# Branch Swapping



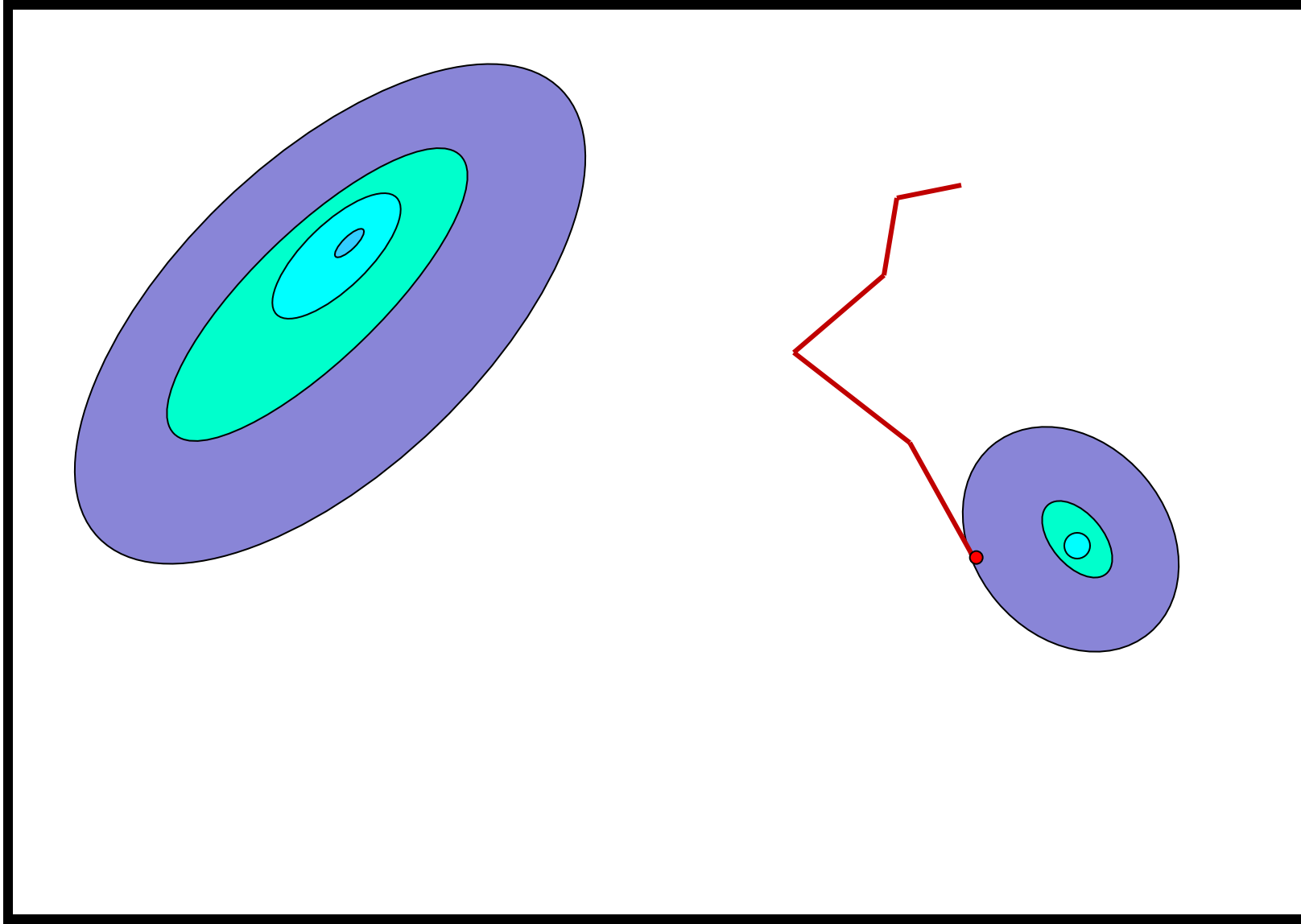
# Branch Swapping



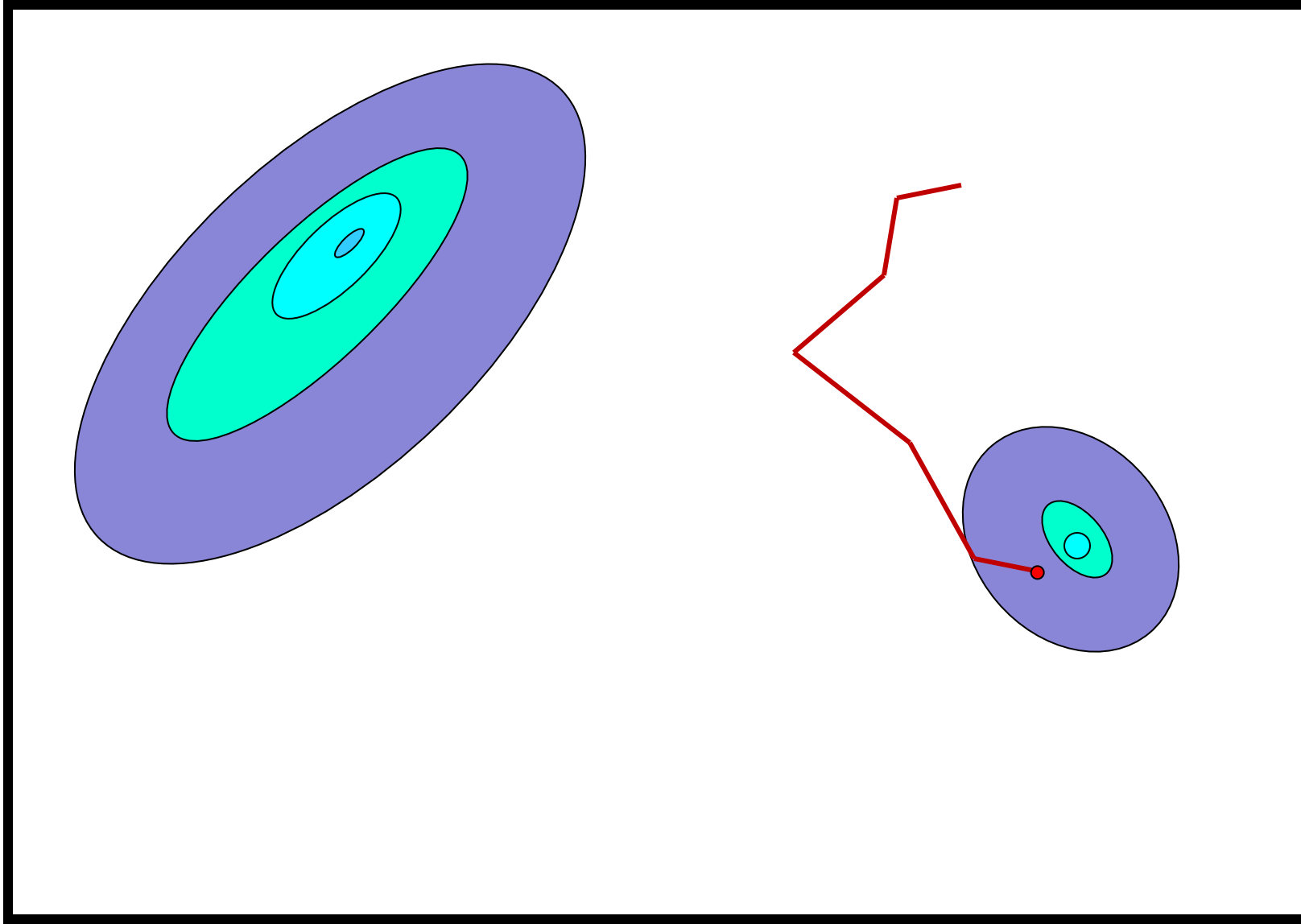
# Branch Swapping



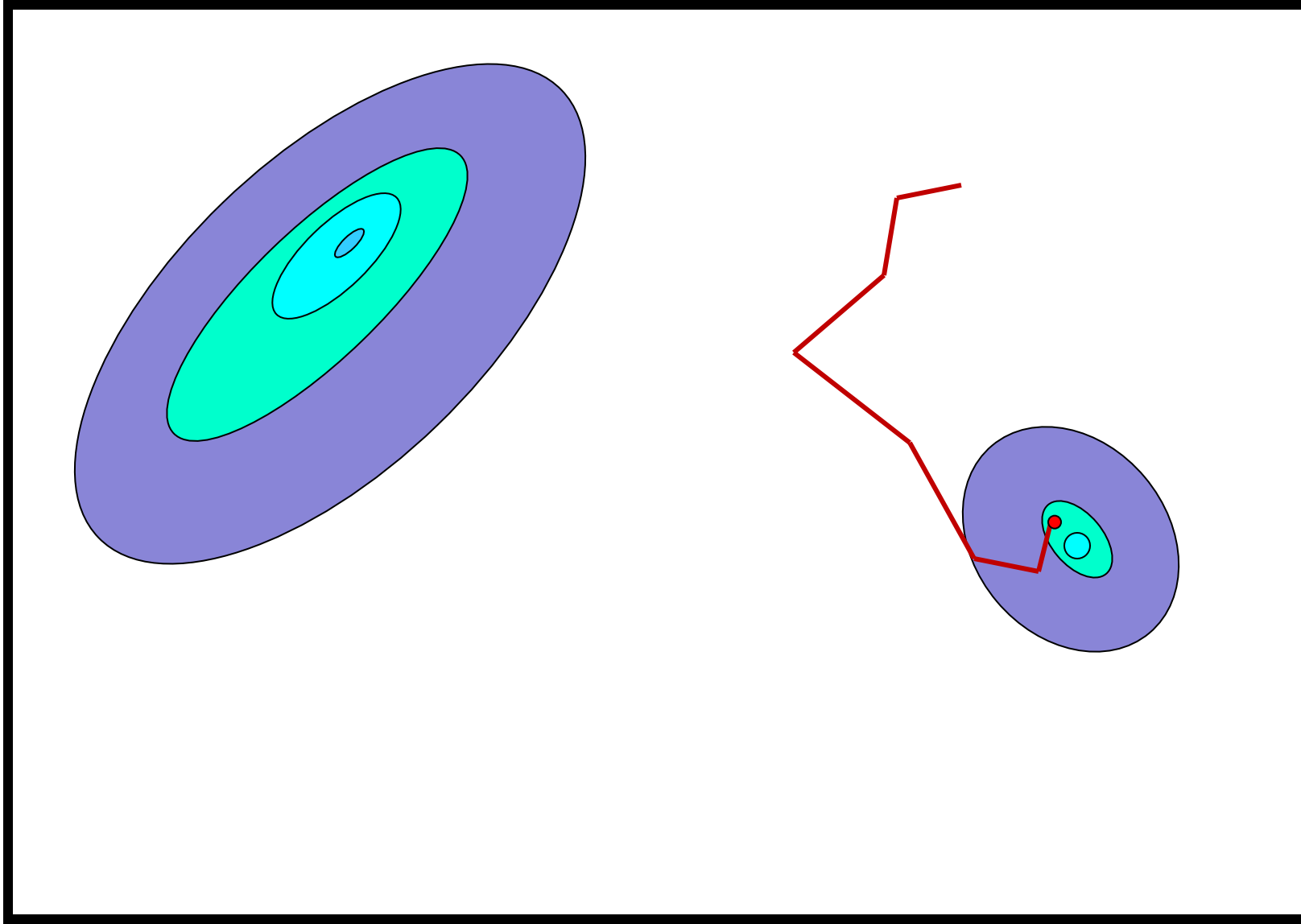
# Branch Swapping



# Branch Swapping

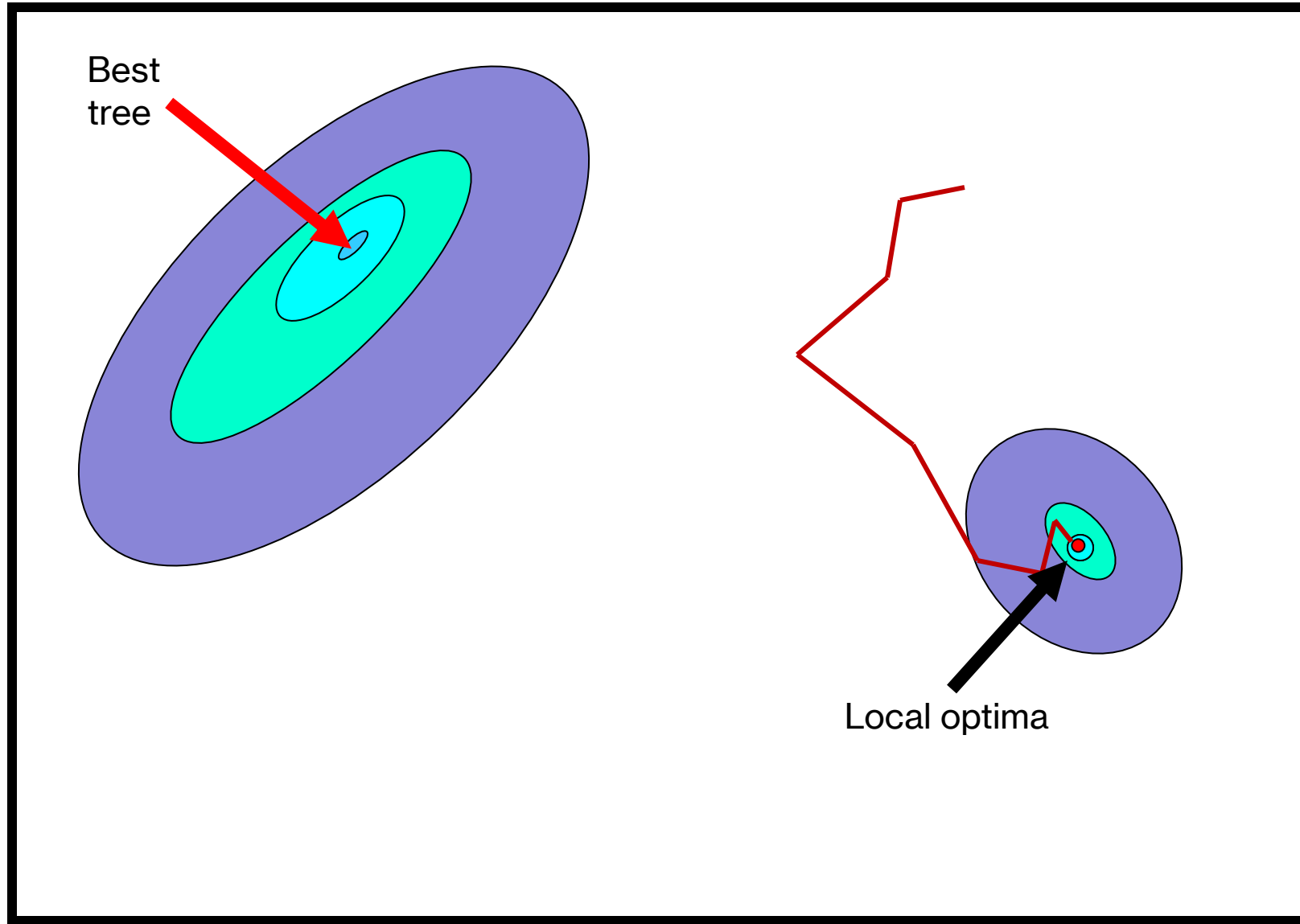


# Branch Swapping

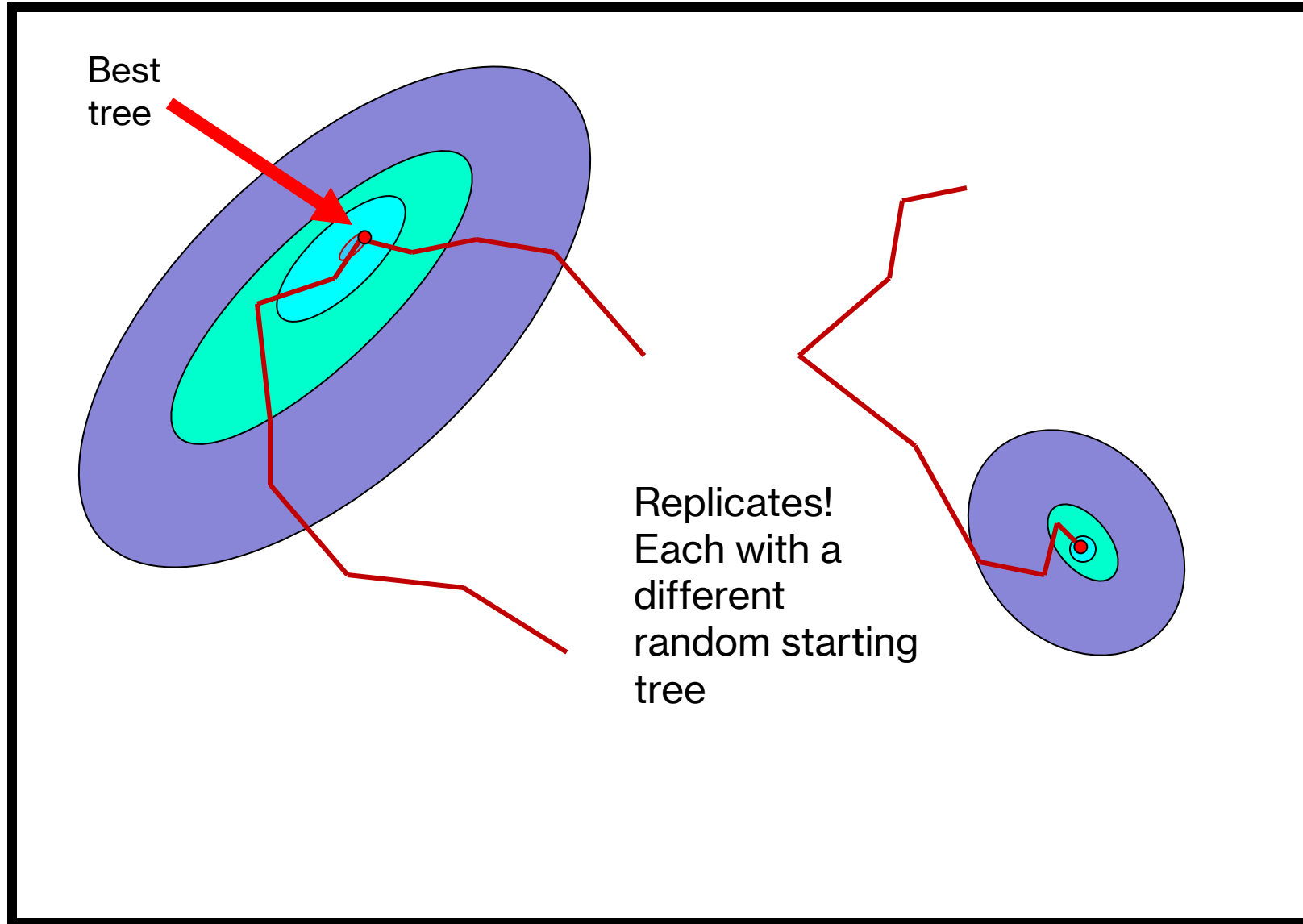




# Branch Swapping



# Branch Swapping





# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD – branch swapping, find the best tree

BAYESIAN INFERENCE – branch swapping, find the best tree  
– never examine the majority of trees!  
– how many branch swapping replicates to avoid local optima?

---

# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

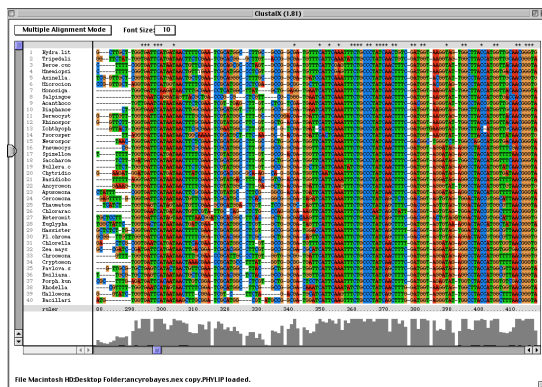
DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD – branch swapping, find the best tree

BAYESIAN INFERENCE – branch swapping, find the best tree  
– never examine the majority of trees!  
– how many branch swapping replicates to avoid local optima?  
– **what about confidence? bootstrap!**

---

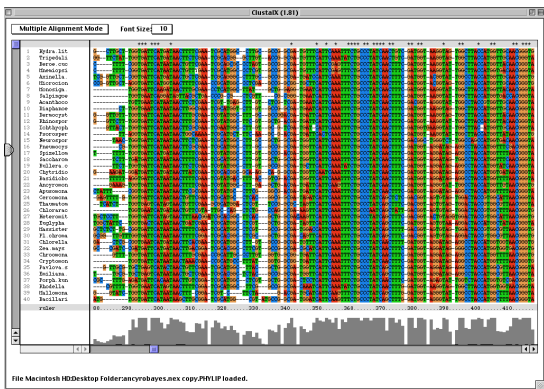
# Maximum Likelihood & Bootstrapping



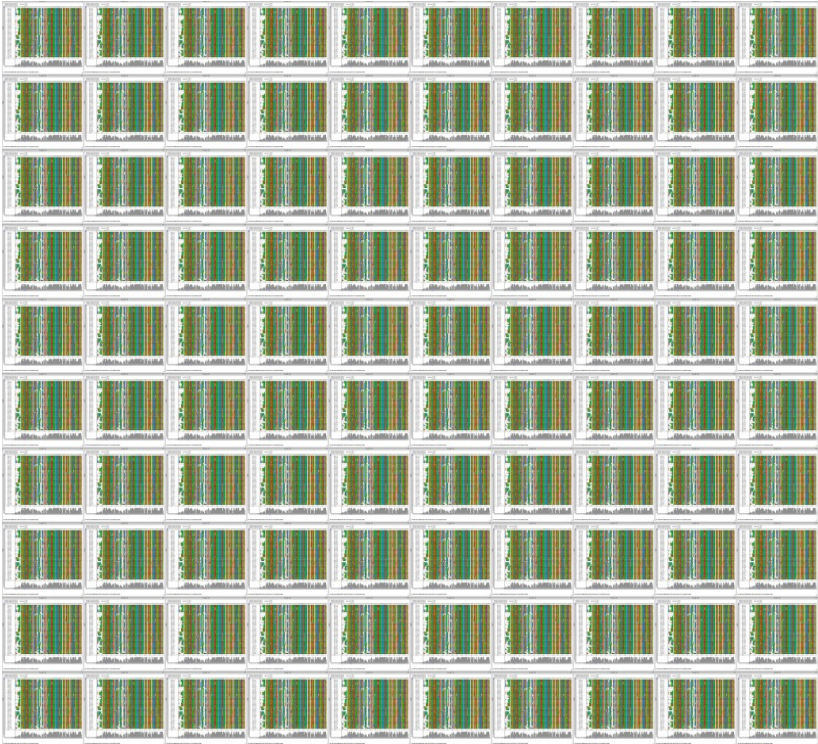
branch swapping,  
with replication

Best Tree!

# Maximum Likelihood & Bootstrapping



resampling with  
replication



Consensus Tree of 100 bootstraps



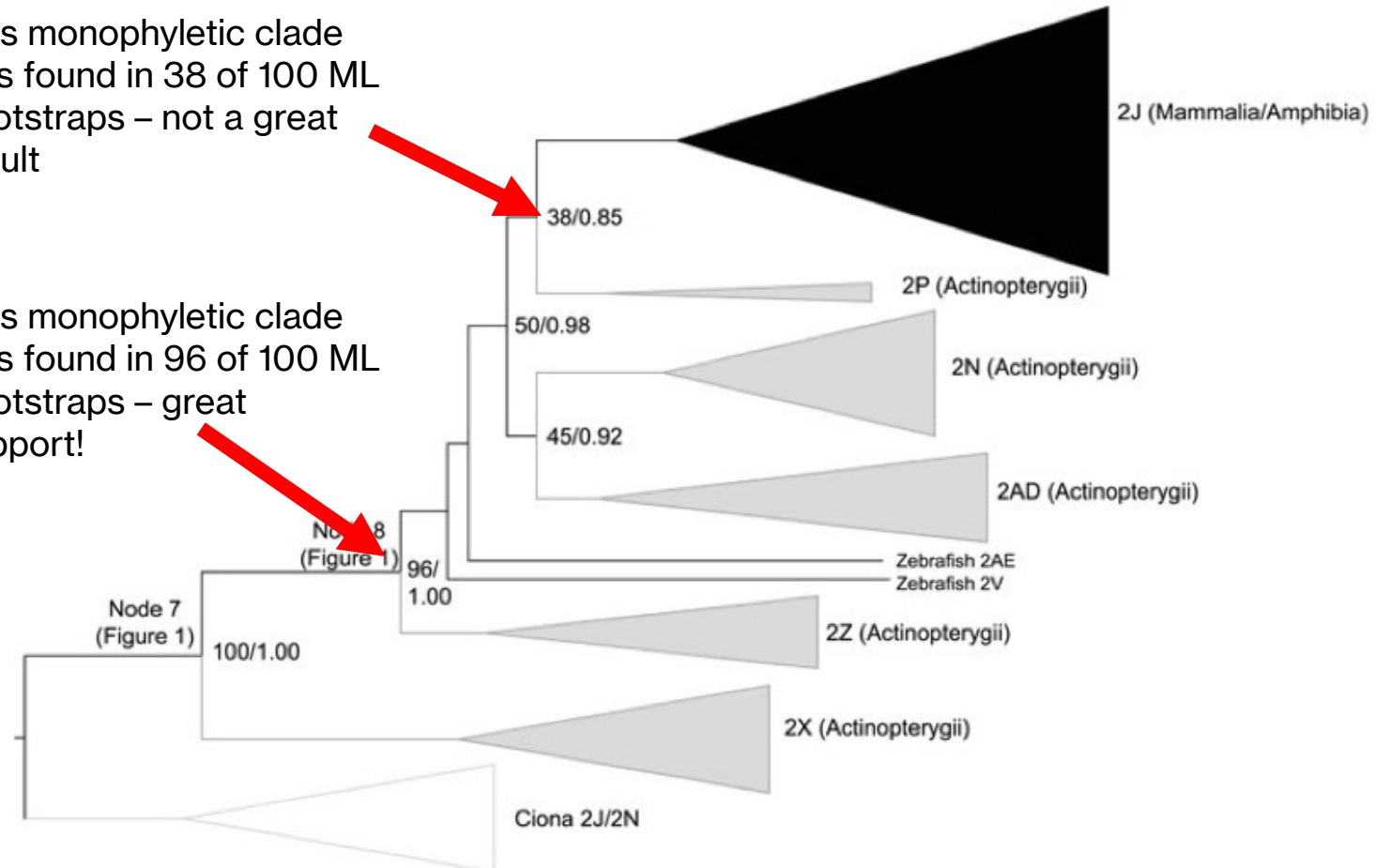
branch swapping,  
with replication

Best Tree!

# Maximum Likelihood & Bootstrapping

This monophyletic clade was found in 38 of 100 ML bootstraps – not a great result

This monophyletic clade was found in 96 of 100 ML bootstraps – great support!





# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD – branch swapping, find the best tree

BAYESIAN INFERENCE – branch swapping, find the best tree  
– never examine the majority of trees!  
– how many branch swapping replicates to avoid local optima?  
– **what about confidence? bootstrap!**  
– **bootstrap is computationally expensive!**

---

# Optimality Criteria

PARSIMONY

DISTANCE METHODS  
(aka neighbour-joining, minimum evolution)

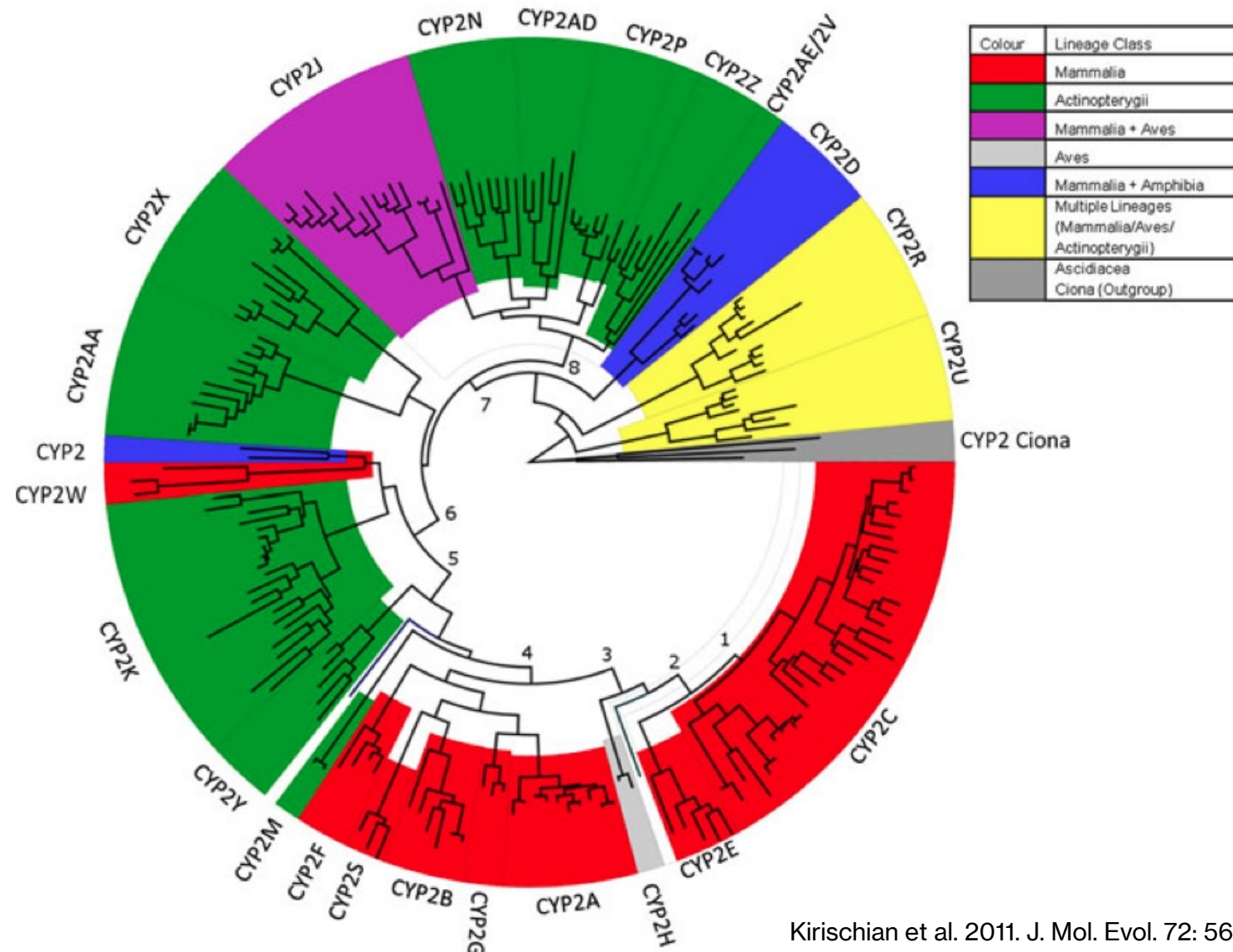
MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD – branch swapping, find the best tree

BAYESIAN INFERENCE – branch swapping, find the best tree  
– never examine the majority of trees!  
– how many branch swapping replicates to avoid local optima?  
– **what about confidence? bootstrap!**  
– **bootstrap is computationally expensive!**

---

WHAT ABOUT BIG TREES?

# RAxML – fast tree space searching, but local or sub-optima more likely



Kirischian et al. 2011. J. Mol. Evol. 72: 56-71.

# Conclusions

- Phylogenetics is not a black box method
- Be skeptical of distance (NJ) and parsimony trees
- Be aware of the assumptions and pitfalls

- how good is the alignment?
- all sites homologous?
- poorly aligned regions removed?
- how was the substitution model selected?
- which optimality criteria is being used? why?
- was the search of tree space robust?
- was confidence properly assessed?
- any known biases / extremes?
- long branch attraction?
- composition bias?

# This week

## WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 27 and 29) - PHYLOGENY

LIVE Lecture #3 - Evolutionary Biology on Wednesday at 12:30pm,

### Recorded Content

- Dr. Joanna Wilson - P450 Phylogeny & Classification, <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/654e2d90-b497-4166-9678-c8c76cb3e1ad>
- Overview & Demo of Laboratory #3 - Phylogenetics, <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/2b5ea2d7-b429-4697-b48f-103a53c2aa6b>

### Tutorial

- **SOFTWARE:** Microsoft Remote Desktop software for UTS Virtual Desktop, <https://uts.mcmaster.ca/computer-labs/>
- **LIVE** session with Teaching Assistants and Flash Updates
  - Monday
  - Wednesday
- Tutorial content can be found at GitHub, answers due on A2L

### Flash Updates

- **Terminology.** Explain the difference between the terms “similarity” and “homology”. Differentiate between the terms “homolog”, “paralog”, “ortholog”. See Annu Rev Genet. 2005;39:309-38 [PMID 16285863] and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK62051/>.
- **Sequence Alignment.** Explain the difference between local alignment (e.g. BLAST) and global alignment (e.g. CLUSTAL) and introduce the CLUSTAL family of algorithms. See Protein Sci. 2018 Jan;27(1):135-145 [PMID 28884485].
- **Phylogenetic Trees.** Overview what a phylogenetic tree represents and the major concepts for its interpretation. See Baum 2008. Reading a phylogenetic tree: The meaning of monophyletic groups. Nature Education 1: 190 [<http://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/reading-a-phylogenetic-tree-the-meaning-of-41956>].