

Foundations of the Age-Area Hypothesis

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Background

- Dissertation in the economic basis for indigenous institutions
- Big question: How culture, technology, and law co-evolve

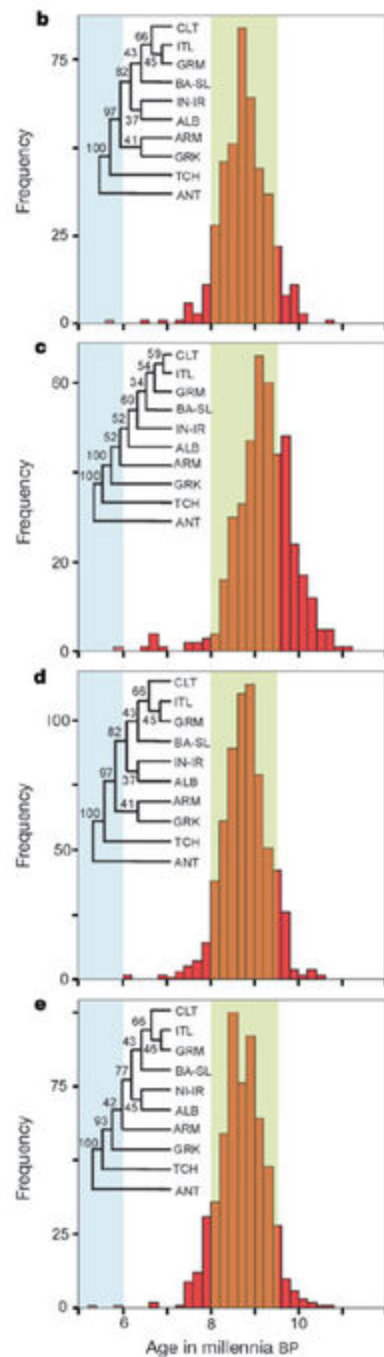
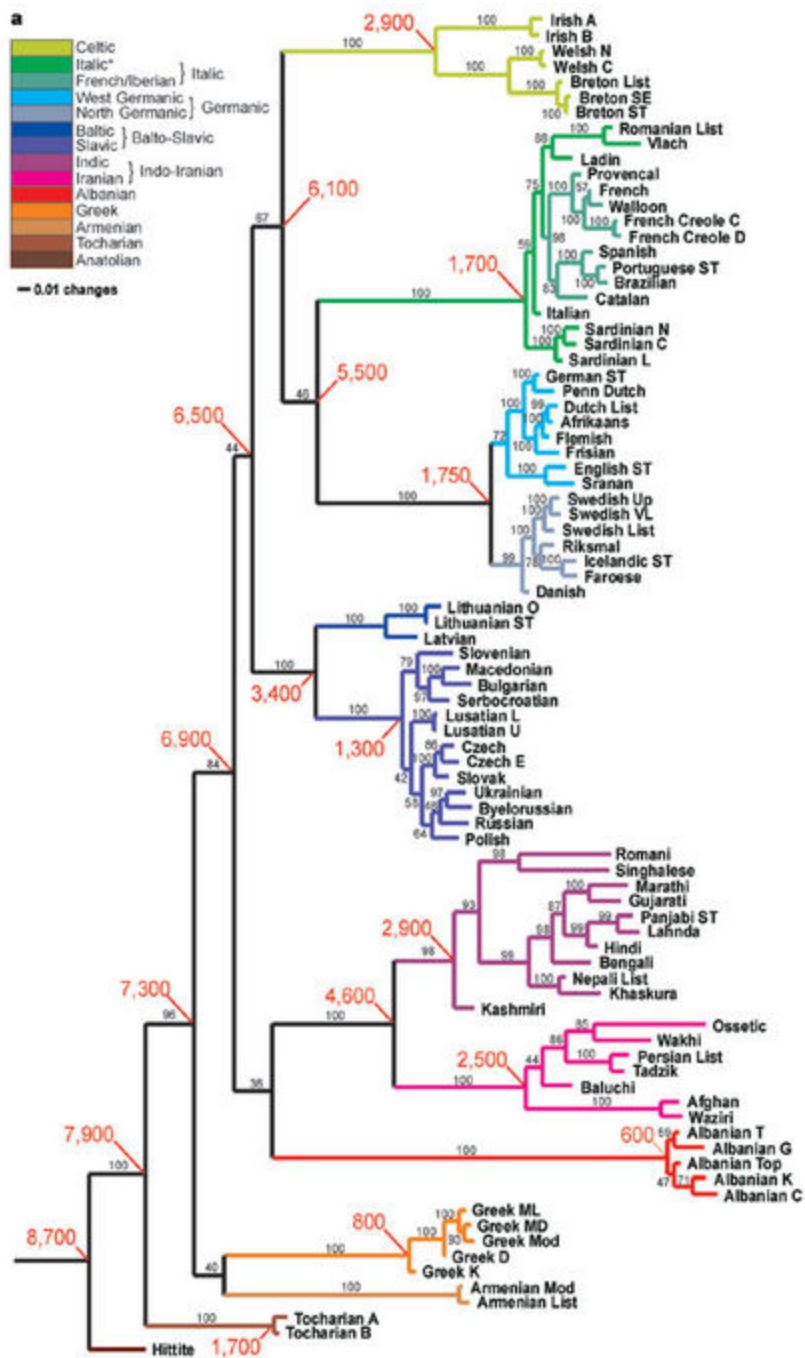
Recently

- Applications in economic growth
- Computational linguistics, computing power
- Incorporation of geographical data into analyses.

Question: How did ethnic and geographic diversity that we observe today come about?

Cultural similarities

- Closely related to genetic similarities
- Computational linguistics - treat aspects of language like a genetic code
- Build *Phylogenies* of related cultures.
- Atkinson and Gray (2006) example: Indo-European Tree



Questions:

- Where did this tree originate?
- How did the peoples of the tree come to be where they are?
- Which related cultures have been in close proximity, and for how long?

These sorts of questions are about geography, cultural and linguistic drift, and time.

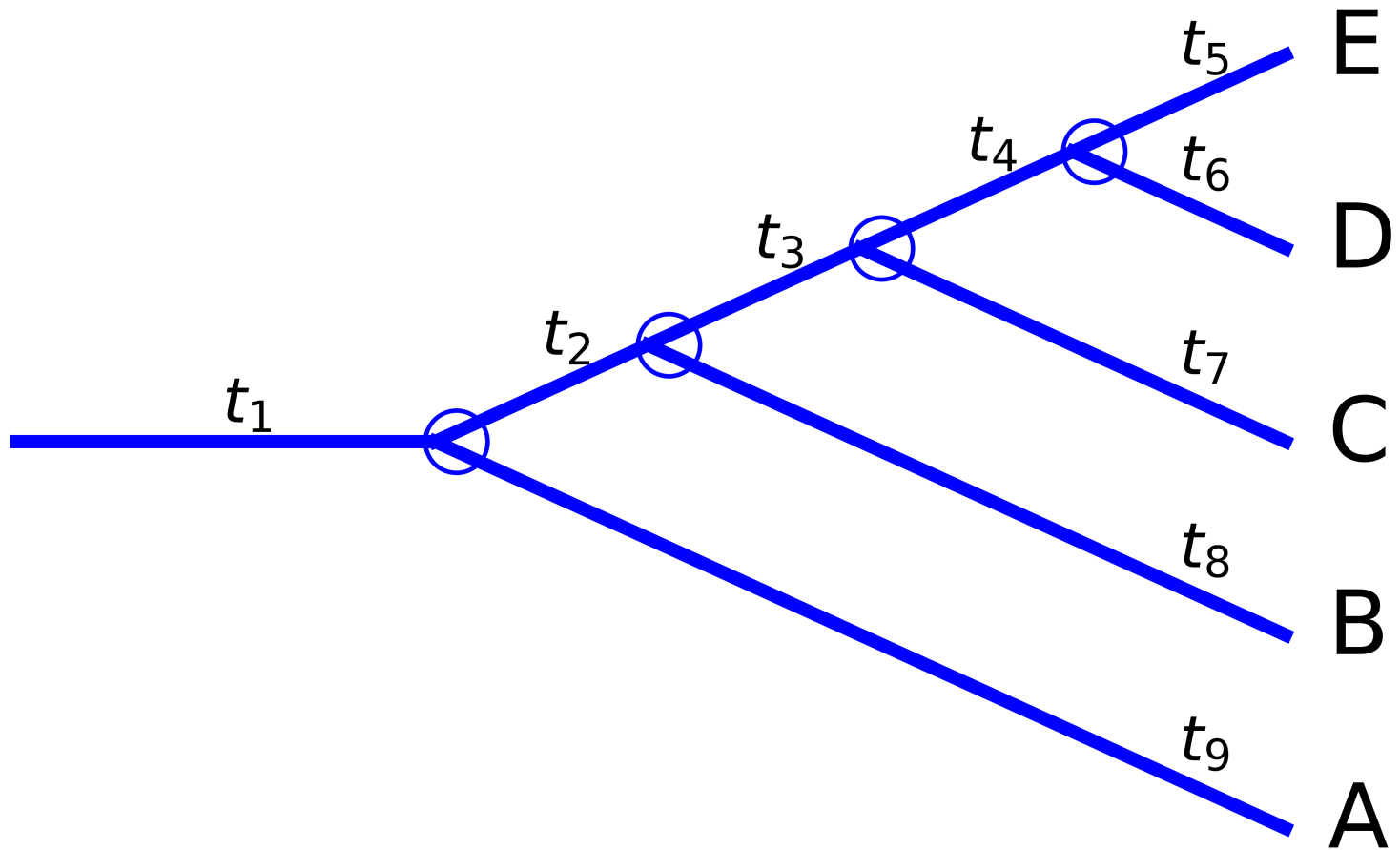
The Age-Area Hypothesis (AAH)

- Sapir (1916) - the root of the tree is the geographical point of origin.
- Recursive application - migratory routes
- Used to resolve historical debates, but also could be important in new sorts of theorizing

Why believe it?

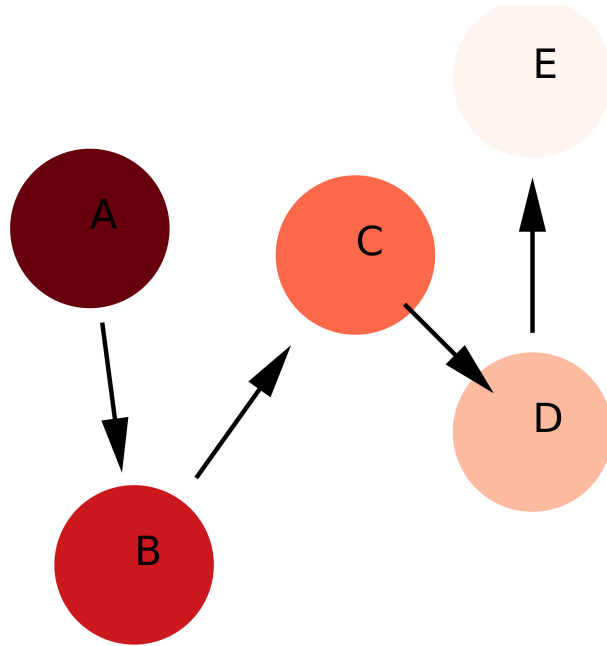
- Occam's Razor?
- Minimum effort or # of moves?

A Phylogenetic Tree

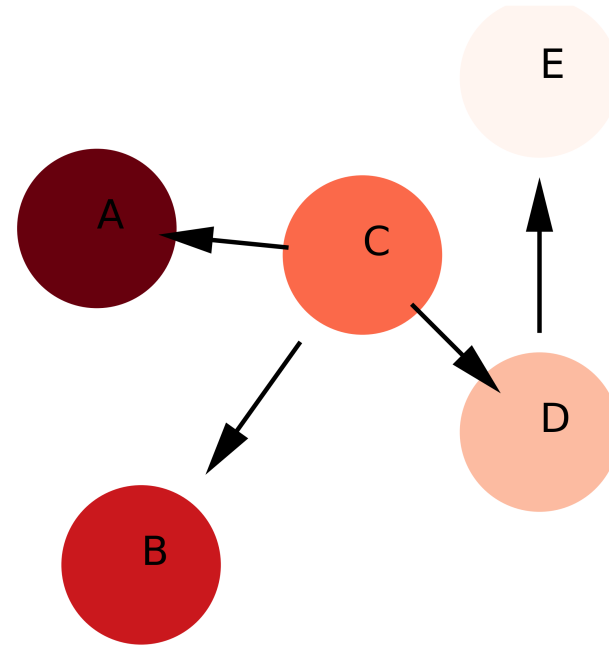


Two Hypothetical Migratory Routes

A is point of origin



C is point of origin



Both are consistent with the linguistic evidence!

Better bullet point this shit

- Why is one more likely than another?

Distributions over Histories

- Simulation

HOw about this brah?

