Taxon occurrence as a function of both emergent biological traits and its environmental context

Other projects

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History

- presented at GSA 2015
- rejected from *Evolution*
 - encouraged resubmit
 - audience issues
 - difficult and transformative reviews

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Other projects

Analysis of Cenozoic mammal fossil record for NA

individual-level (genus)

- intercept term, varying by time
- locomotor type/category
 - arboreal, digitigrade, plantigrade, unguligrade, fossorial, scansorial
- dietary type/category
 - carnivore, herbivore, insectivore, omnivore
- body size (rescaled log body mass)
- phylogenetic effect

group-level (2 My time unit)

- intercept
- isotope record
 - mean and interquartile range of rescaled value
- temperature record
 - mean and interquartile range of rescaled value
- plant community phase following Graham

Model of taxon occurrence

- \triangleright response is p/a of genus in NA at time t
 - Bernoulli variable
 - probability is (observation prob) times ("true" presence)
- observation probability is effect of sampling/fossil record
- true presence is multi-level logistic regression
 - individual- and group-level
- break-point model is the eventual goal

Posterior predictive checks

- ightharpoonup simulate fossil record given only $y_{_t=1}$ and θ
 - ightharpoonup where θ is the set of all parameters
- equivalent to leave-one-out cross-validation for time series?
 - ▶ Bayesian statement is $p(\tilde{y}_{t+1}|y_t\theta)$
- ▶ ROC as measure of performance

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How cryptic is cryptic diversity? Machine learning approaches to classifying morphological variation in the Pacific Pond Turtle (*Emys marmorata*)

- estimate which species classification is best supported by morphology
 - multiple machine learning approaches
 - focus on one turtle species complex
 - results compared against results from two other turtle datasets
 - comparison of in- and out-of-sample model performance
- collaboration with Ken, Jim Parham, and Bryan Stuart
- submitted to then rejected from Systematic Biology
- resubmitted soon

Modeling the rate at which new species are named.

- collaboration with Stewart Edie; he's lead
- ▶ I developed the statistical model
 - zero-inflated Poisson model
 - ▶ both Bernoulli and Poisson distributions are time series models
 - response is the number of species named per publication per year for each biogeographic province
 - increasing, decreasing, or level?
- draft phase
- targets seem to be PNAS or Systematic Biology

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Research statement

- Intersection of macroevolution and macroecology.
- Quantitative approaches to understanding global and regional patterns of biodiversity.
- ► Paleontological data.
- Non-taxon specific; with emphasis on mammals.
- ▶ More like an ecologist-modeler than an evolution-modeler
 - $\,\blacktriangleright\,$ No one-model to fit them all; tailor-made models for question.
 - This contrasts with the field.