

# EvAM-Tools: examples

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# 1 Introduction

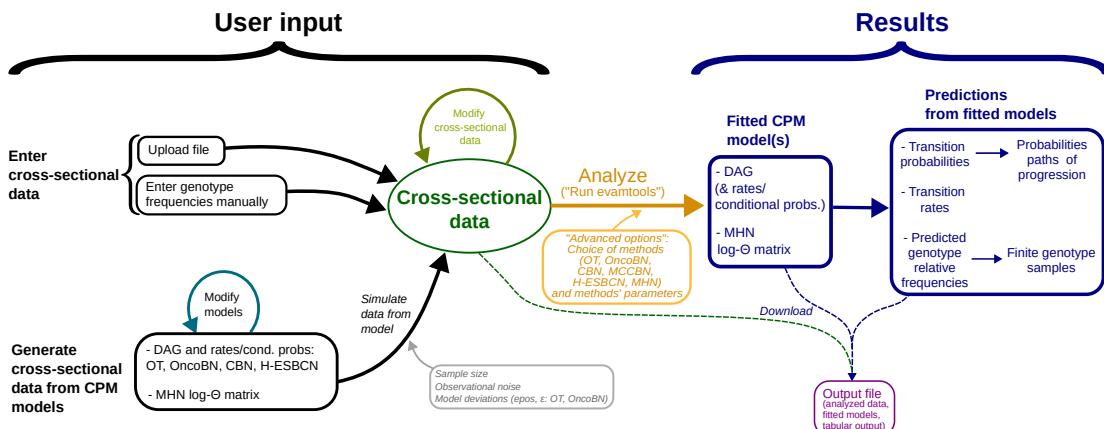
Here we present examples, with both real and simulated data, that illustrate the use and utility of EvAM-Tools. We will start with the analysis of one cancer data set, trying to understand the differences in the output of the different methods, and to do that we will also make use of flexibly modifying the genotype counts to run additional analyses. We will then show the analyses of a different cancer data set, which departs from the previous example in the patterns of differences and similarities between methods. Next, we use two short examples where we simulate data under a given model, and examine how different methods perform (whether or not they can recover the true signal). All the previous examples can be run in the web app, and that is what we use here. In the final section we discuss simulating random models, using the R package.

The objective of this document is not to provide complete analyses of any of the data sets, or address all of the questions mentioned above in full (that would require full papers). The objective is to illustrate the use of EvAM-Tools, especially its web app, and also to include some examples of output that, although not necessarily very common, are not unusual and can sometimes be surprising at first (e.g., the variability among fitted H-ESBCN models, in “*Is it just sample size?*”, section 2.2, or output with DAGs that are not transitively reduced in “*A model with AND*”, section 4.3).

## 1.1 Web app: overview of workflow and use cases, and relationship to these examples

On the web app landing page, under “About EvAM-tools” (<https://www.iib.uam.es/evamtools/#overview>) we provide an overview of the workflow and use cases. For completeness we repeat that material here, indicating, in bold, how the examples in this document relate to the major functionalities and workflows discussed there.

The figure below provides an overview of the major workflows with the web app:

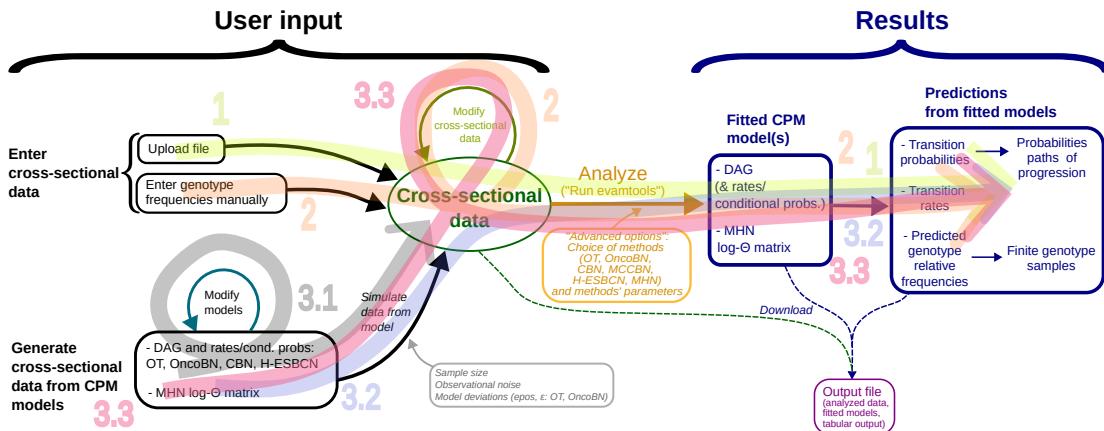


The web app encompasses, thus, different major functionalities and use cases, mainly:

1. Inference of CPMs from user data uploaded from a file. Examples “*Analyzing the BRCA data set*” (section 2.1) and “*Analyzing the ovarian CGH data*” (section 2.3).
2. Exploration of the inferences that different CPM methods yield from manually constructed synthetic data. Example “*Is it just sample size?*” (section 2.2) uses a modification of uploaded data to explore changes in sample size; example “*Analyzing manually constructed synthetic data*” (section 3) constructs synthetic data to examine the effect of aliasing of events.

3. Construction of CPM models (DAGs with their rates/probabilities and MHN models) and simulation of synthetic data from them.
  - 3.1. Examination of the consequences of different CPM models and their parameters on the simulated data. Examples “*What happens if we increase  $\epsilon$  for OncoBN?*” (section 4.1.1), “*A simple exploration of MHN*” (section 4.1.2).
  - 3.2. Analysis of the data simulated under one model with methods that have different models (e.g., data simulated from CBN analyzed with OT and OncoBN). Examples “*A model with AND, XOR, OR*” (section 4.2) and “*A model with AND*” (section 4.3).
  - 3.3. Analysis of the data simulated under one model after manual modification of specific genotype frequencies (e.g., data simulated under CBN but where, prior to analysis, we remove all observations with the WT genotype and the genotype with all loci mutated). Example “*Modifying data generated from a CPM model before analysis*” (section 4.4).

The figure below highlights the different major functionalities and workflows, as numbered above, over-imposed on the previous figure:



Furthermore, note that in all cases, when data are analyzed, in addition to returning the fitted models, the web app also returns the analysis of the CPMs in terms of their predictions such as predicted genotype frequencies and transition probabilities between genotypes. Most of the examples below illustrate this, showing, for example, the predicted genotype frequencies and transition probabilities.

## 1.2 Additional documentation

See additional documentation in <https://rdiaz02.github.io/EvAM-Tools>. In particular, additional technical documentation, with details about the models implemented, error models, predicted genotype frequencies, etc, is available from [https://rdiaz02.github.io/EvAM-Tools/pdfs/Additional\\_tech\\_doc.pdf](https://rdiaz02.github.io/EvAM-Tools/pdfs/Additional_tech_doc.pdf).

## 2 Analysis of cross-sectional data

We will analyze two cancer data sets, the ovarian cancer CGH data included in the Oncotree package (Szabo and Pappas, 2022), and the BRCA data set for basal-like subtypes (from Cerami *et al.*, 2012; Gao *et al.*, 2013, originally from Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, 2012; see

Supplementary File S5\_Text, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1007246.s007> of Diaz-Uriarte and Vasallo, 2019 for full details about data origins and preprocessing).

So that you can use these data sets directly, we provide them in the repository ([https://github.com/rdiaz02/EvAM-Tools/tree/main/examples\\_for\\_upload](https://github.com/rdiaz02/EvAM-Tools/tree/main/examples_for_upload)). The direct links are:

- BRCA\_ba\_s.csv: [https://raw.githubusercontent.com/rdiaz02/EvAM-Tools/main/examples\\_for\\_upload/BRCA\\_ba\\_s.csv](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/rdiaz02/EvAM-Tools/main/examples_for_upload/BRCA_ba_s.csv)
- ov2.csv: [https://raw.githubusercontent.com/rdiaz02/EvAM-Tools/main/examples\\_for\\_upload/ov2.csv](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/rdiaz02/EvAM-Tools/main/examples_for_upload/ov2.csv)

In section “*Appendix: getting the BRCA and Ov data sets from the R console*” (section 6) we show how to obtain the data from the R console.

## 2.1 Analyzing the BRCA data set

We now import the BRCA csv data set, BRCA\_ba\_s.csv, into the web app, <https://iib.uam.es/evamtools>. We go to the “User input” tab, and click, on the left, on “Upload file”; we set the “Name for data” as “BRCA\_ba”):

The screenshot shows the 'User input' tab of the EvAM-tools web application. On the left, there's a sidebar with options: 'Cross-sectional data.', 'Upload, create, generate, modify:', and 'Enter cross-sectional data:'. Under 'Enter cross-sectional data:', there are two radio buttons: 'Upload file' (which is selected) and 'Enter genotype frequencies manually'. The main area has two sections. The top section is titled 'Upload data (CSV format)' with a 'Help' button. It contains a text input field for 'Name for data' with the value 'BRCA\_ba', a 'Load Data' button with 'Browse...', and a message 'No file selected'. The bottom section is titled 'Change genotype's counts' with a 'Help' button. It has a 'Search:' input field and a table with columns 'Index', 'Genotype', and 'Counts'.

On “Load Data” we click on “Browse” and select the file from our file system; the data is uploaded, and the genotypes’ frequencies are shown in the histogram on the right and the table at the bottom (where, if we wanted, we could modify the genotype counts):

**Cross-sectional data.**

Upload, create, generate, modify:

---

Enter cross-sectional data:

Upload file  
 Enter genotype frequencies manually

---

Generate cross-sectional data from CPM models:

DAG and rates/cond. probs.  
 MHN log- $\Theta$  matrix

---

Examples and user's data:

BRCA\_ba

---

evamtools R package version: 2.1.12

**Upload data (CSV format)**

[Help](#)

If you want to give your data a specific name, set it in the box below before uploading the data. File names should start with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, hyphen, and underscore, but no other characters (no periods, spaces, etc.).

Name for data

Load Data  No file selected

**Change genotype's counts**

[Help](#)

Search:

Index	Genotype	Counts
1	WT	9
2	PNPLA3	1
3	TP53	57
4	TRIM6	1
5	ATP2B2, TP53	1
6	PIK3CA, TP53	6
7	RB1, TP53	2
8	TP53, TRIM6	3
9	PNPLA3, RB1, TP53	1

To delete (or reset) all genotype data upload a new (or the same) data file.

**Rename the data**

Give the (modified) data a different name that will also be used to save the CPM output. Names should start with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, hyphen, and underscore, but no other characters (no periods, spaces, etc.)

Give your data a name

**Run evamtools**

Advanced options and CPMs to use

Genotype	Counts
WT	9
PNPLA3	1
TP53	57
TRIM6	1
ATP2B2, TP53	1
PIK3CA, TP53	6
RB1, TP53	2
TP53, TRIM6	3
PNPLA3, RB1, TP53	1

Before running the analysis, we select the unselected H-ESBCN as one of the methods to run (under “Advanced options and CPMs to use”). We also set the number of MCMC iterations to 500000, instead of 200000, for increased stability of results; this increase in iterations will of course result in longer running times.

We click “Run evamtools” and the output is shown in about 30 to 50 seconds<sup>1</sup>. For easier display of the figures in this document, we select first three of the methods to show, by clicking, on the left menu, under “Customize the visualization”:

<sup>1</sup>In this example, changing the setting for the number of MCMC iterations of H-ESBCN from 100000 to 500000 is responsible for increasing the total time from about 30 to about 50 seconds.

Data name  
 BRCA\_ba

Customize the visualization

- CPMs to show  CBN  
 OT  
 OncoBN  
 MHN  
 H-ESBCN

First on the first three (CBN, OT, OncoBN)

Data name  
 BRCA\_ba

Customize the visualization

- CPMs to show  CBN  
 OT  
 OncoBN  
 MHN  
 H-ESBCN

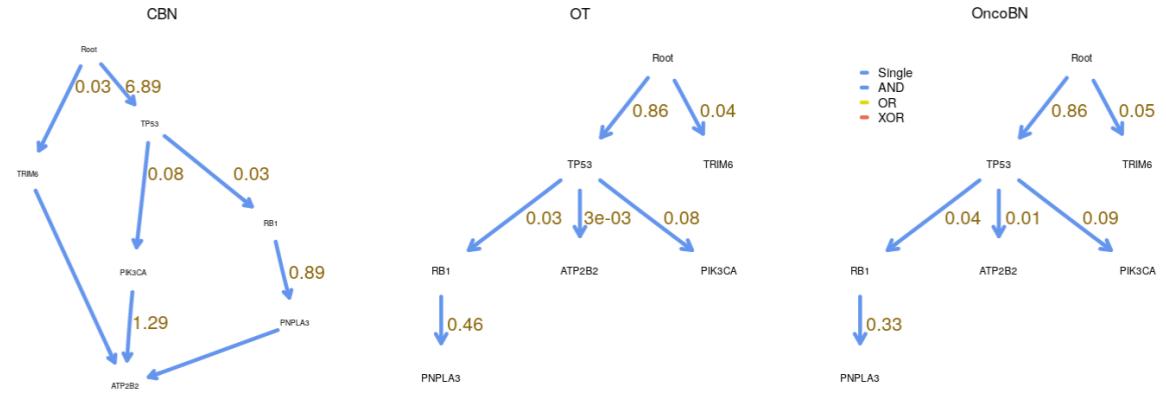
Then on the next two (MHN, H-ESBCN)

Data name  
 BRCA\_ba

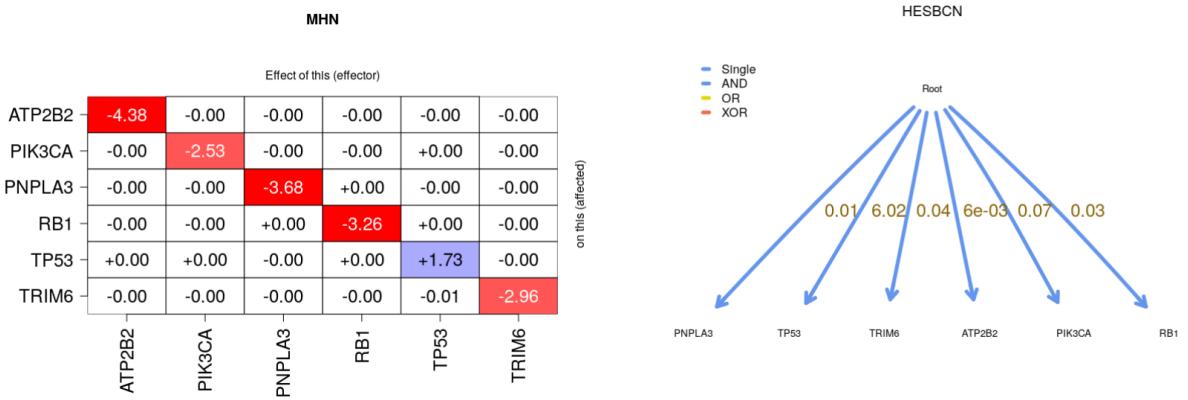
Customize the visualization

- CPMs to show  CBN  
 OT  
 OncoBN  
 MHN  
 H-ESBCN

This is the output from the first three methods (CBN, OT, OncoBN):



And this from the next two methods (MHN, H-ESBCN):

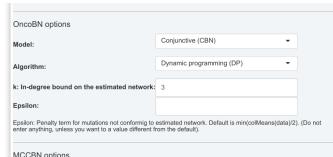


(The above screen-captures only show the DAGs/MHN matrix; we are not showing the figures of the predictions of the fitted models, such as transition probabilities or predicted genotype relative frequencies).

EvAM-Tools makes it immediate to see that:

- The output from OncoBn and OT is essentially identical.
- CBN and H-ESBCN give very different DAGs.
- OT and OncoBN differ from both CBN and H-ESBCN.

That OT and OncoBN give identical results is not surprising since OncoBN has not found any disjunctive pattern and OncoBN is using the disjunctive (OR relationships) model. We can run OncoBN using the conjunctive model. Go back to “User input” and click on “Advanced options and CPMs to run” and set, for “OncoBN options”, the “Model” to “Conjunctive”:

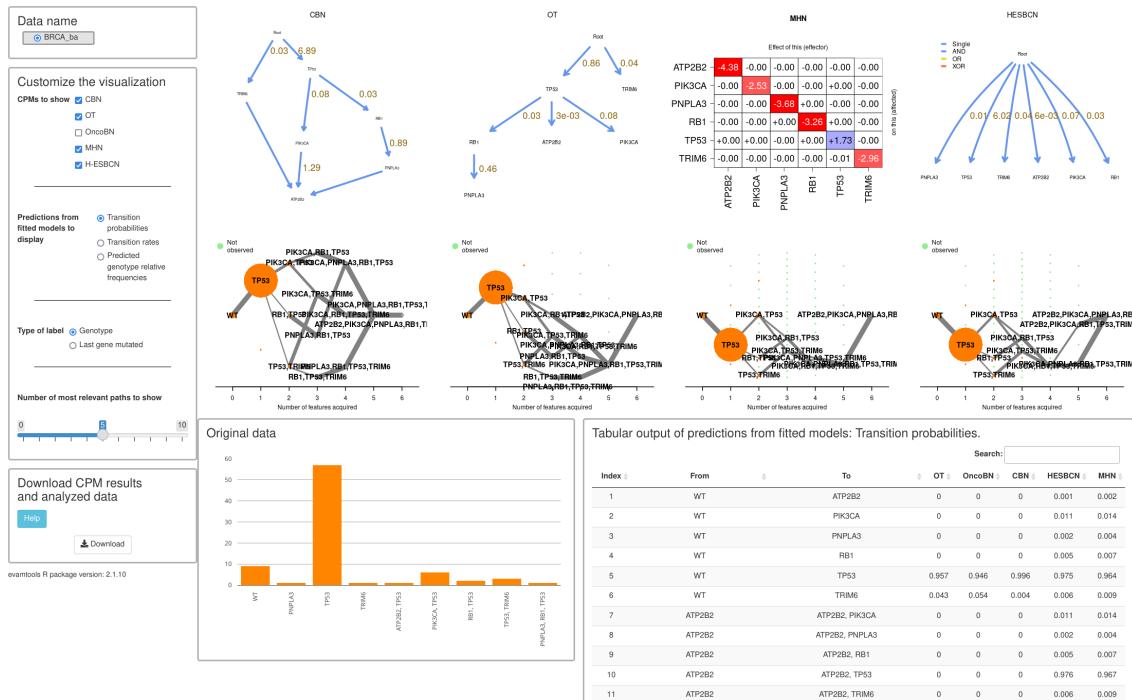


Click on “Run evamtools” to obtain the new fit (since we are only interested in rerunning OncoBN, we might want to unclick the other methods, so as to make the run as fast as possible). Interestingly, if we run OncoBN with conjunctive pattern, it does not show any conjunctions either (the result is the same as shown above):

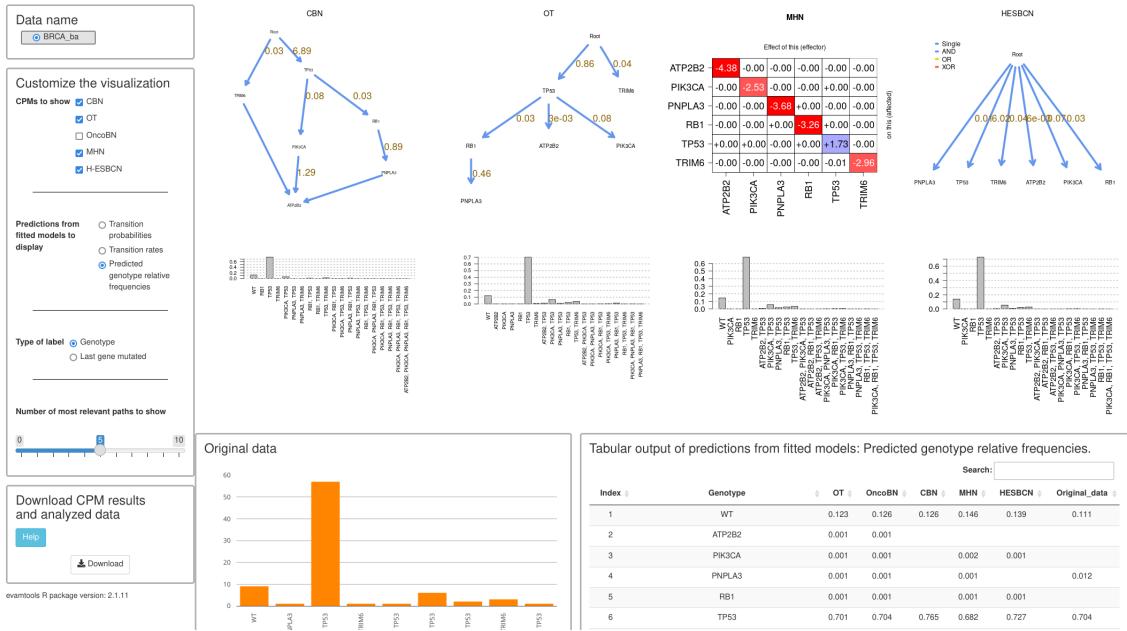


Thus, CBN seems to find support in the data for conjunctive dependencies that neither OncoBN (run using the “Conjunctive” model) nor H-ESBCN find.

EvAM-Tools’s output also displays, in the Results tab, the original data as well as transition probabilities, transition rates, and predicted genotype relative frequencies. We show the three differing DAGs, MHN’s output, and the data, when we select “Transition probabilities” (tabular output truncated in the screen capture):



and when we select “Predicted genotype relative frequencies”:



(This, incidentally, shows that we probably would have wanted to use shorter genes names as the histogram labels are too long).

From the above display we can conclude:

- The data contain very few cases where there are joint occurrences of two or more genes: most joint occurrences appear only once.
- The conditional probabilities from OncoBN (or OT) indicate that the really likely event is gaining TP53; the conditional probability of the remaining ones is very small.
- CBN leads to the same conclusion: the only large  $\lambda$  is that for TP53.
- MHN’s output points in the same direction: except for TP53, the diagonal entries of the matrix are all negative and large in absolute value, and the off-diagonal entries are all essentially 0. Thus MHN’s model is saying that we can fit the data reasonably well without modeling inhibiting or facilitating relations between genes.

Therefore, we can conclude that the apparently different results are caused by differences in the weighting of evidence: H-ESBCN, given the very small frequencies of most genotypes with more than one mutation, is choosing not to take those as evidence of dependencies, and is instead returning a simpler model.

## 2.2 Is it just sample size?

We can examine more carefully the conjecture above: would H-ESBCN return a different DAG if sample size were much larger but relative proportions were the same? We can do that easily with EvAM-Tools. We simply go to the “User input” tab and multiply the genotype counts, for example by 10 (which is trivially done by clicking on each cell and adding a 0).

We rename the data first, and then increase the sample size. This is what it looks like:

About EvAM-tools    User input    Results

Cross-sectional data.

Upload, create, generate, modify:

---

Enter cross-sectional data:

Upload file  
 Enter genotype frequencies manually

---

Generate cross-sectional data from CPM models:

DAG and rates/cond. probs.  
 MHN log-O matrix

---

Examples and user's data:

BRCA\_ba  
 BRCA\_ba\_10

---

evamtools R package version: 2.1.11

Upload data (CSV format)

[Help](#)

If you want to give your data a specific name, set it in the box below before uploading the data. File names should start with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, hyphen, and underscore, but no other characters (no periods, spaces, etc.).

Name for data:

Load Data:

Change genotype's counts [Help](#)

Search:

Index	Genotype	Counts
1	WT	90
2	PNPLA3	10
3	TP53	570
4	TRIM6	10
5	ATP2B2, TP53	10
6	PIK3CA, TP53	60
7	RB1, TP53	20
8	TP53, TRIM6	30
9	PNPLA3, RB1, TP53	10

To delete (or reset) all genotype data upload a new (or the same) data file.

Rename the data

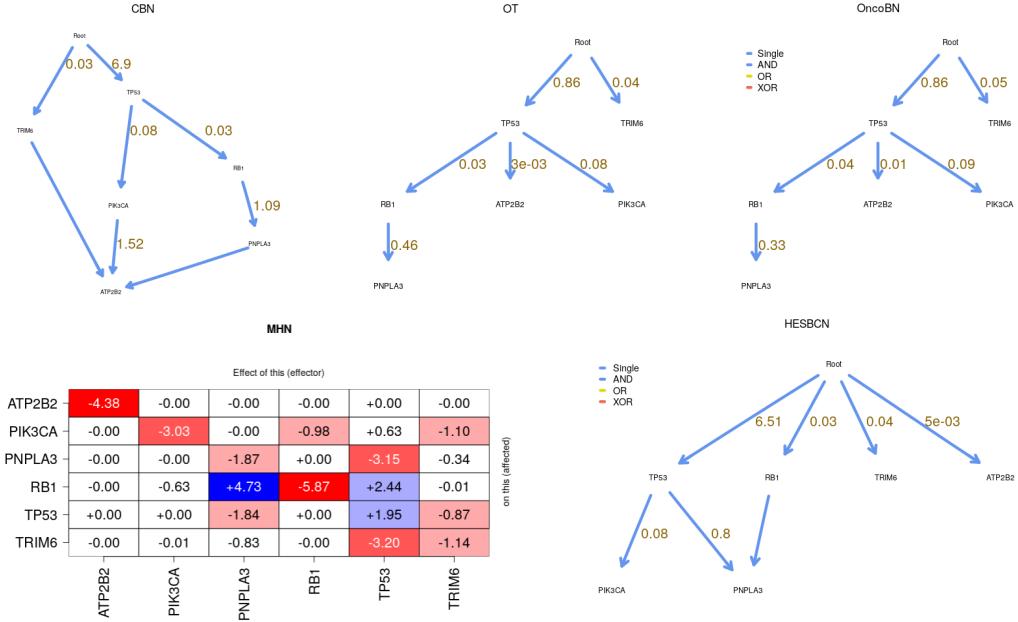
Give the (modified) data a different name that will also be used to save the CPM output. Names should start with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, hyphen, and underscore, but no other characters (no periods, spaces, etc.)

Give your data a name:

Run evamtools

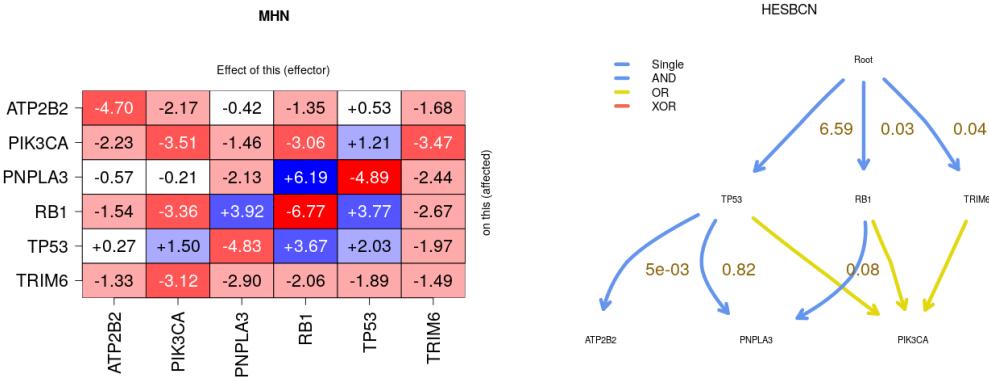
Advanced options and CPMs to use

Now, we rerun the analyses:



The DAGs and weights (lambdas, probabilities) are the same for OT, OncoBN and CBN. But the models inferred by MHN and H-ESBCN have both changed, and the second now includes dependencies between some of the genes. Some of these dependencies are similar to the ones in the CBN output (PNPLA3 depends on RB1 and TP53; PIK3CA depends on TP53).

Interestingly, increasing the sample size another 10 times results in additional changes in the MHN and H-ESBCN models (OT, OncoBN, and CBN only show minor changes, not shown below):



Note that in some runs, the output returned by H-ESBCN is different from the one above; with H-ESBCN different runs can sometimes lead to different results. You can fix the random number seed in “Advanced options” to prevent this, though this is probably not advisable, since fixing the seed would precisely prevent us from seeing the instability of the fitted models. For example, if you set the number of MCMC iterations (under “Advanced options”) to 100000 and the seed to 19, you will obtain a model with an XOR<sup>2</sup>. In the web app we use, by default, 200000 MCMC iterations,

<sup>2</sup>Note, though, that the output with the XOR also contains an edge with an extreme weight, which makes this model suspect; more detailed exploration would use a range of seeds, and possibly change also the number of MCMC iterations to run

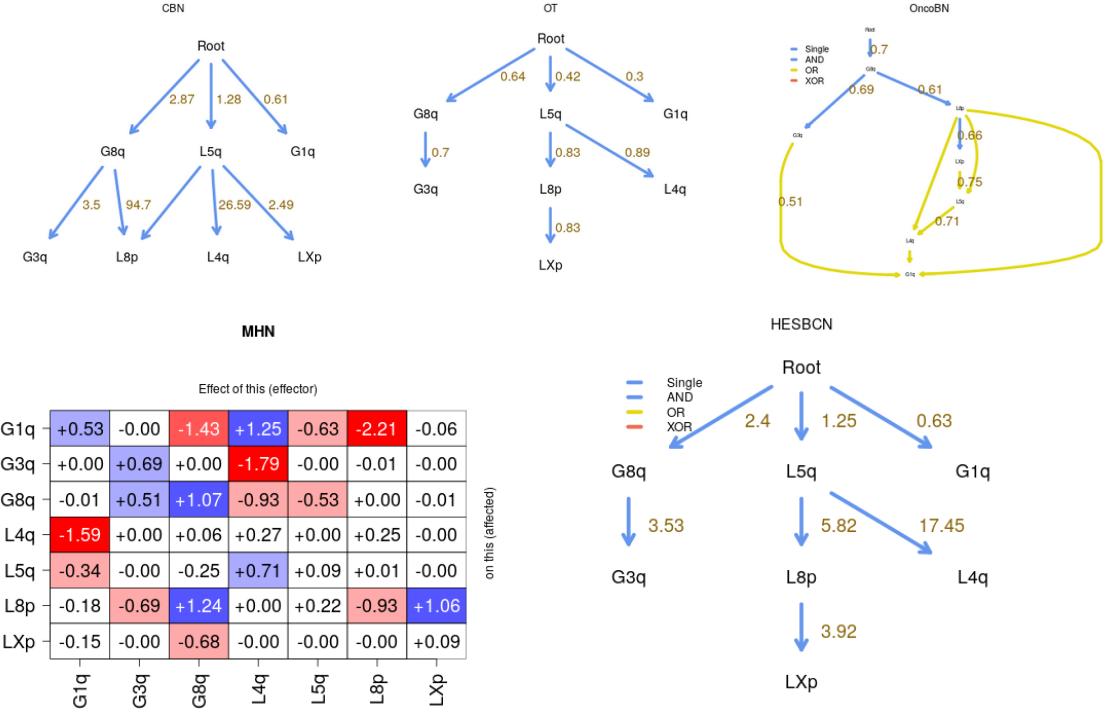
a number larger than the default in <https://github.com/danro9685/HESBCN>, precisely to minimize this instability). In the examples in this document we use an even larger number of 500000 MCMC iterations to obtain more robust results and because none of the examples shown take longer than about 1 minute to run. Variability of results from different runs can also be observed with CBN sometimes (though, in our experience, it is less common than with H-ESBCN with default parameters).

These results lead us to conclude tentatively that, compared to OT, CBN, and OncoBN, the penalties used in H-ESBCN and MHN seem to have a larger effect on models fitted to modest sample sizes.

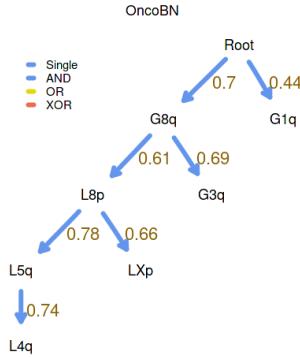
### 2.3 Analyzing the ovarian CGH data

Lest readers think that the above (coincidence between OT and OncoBN, and H-ESBCN returning star models with moderate sample sizes) are general patterns, we now show, for a different example, the analyses of the ovarian CGH data. We upload the data `ov2.csv` and, as before, include H-ESBCN in the methods and set the number of MCMC iterations of H-ESBCN to 500000.

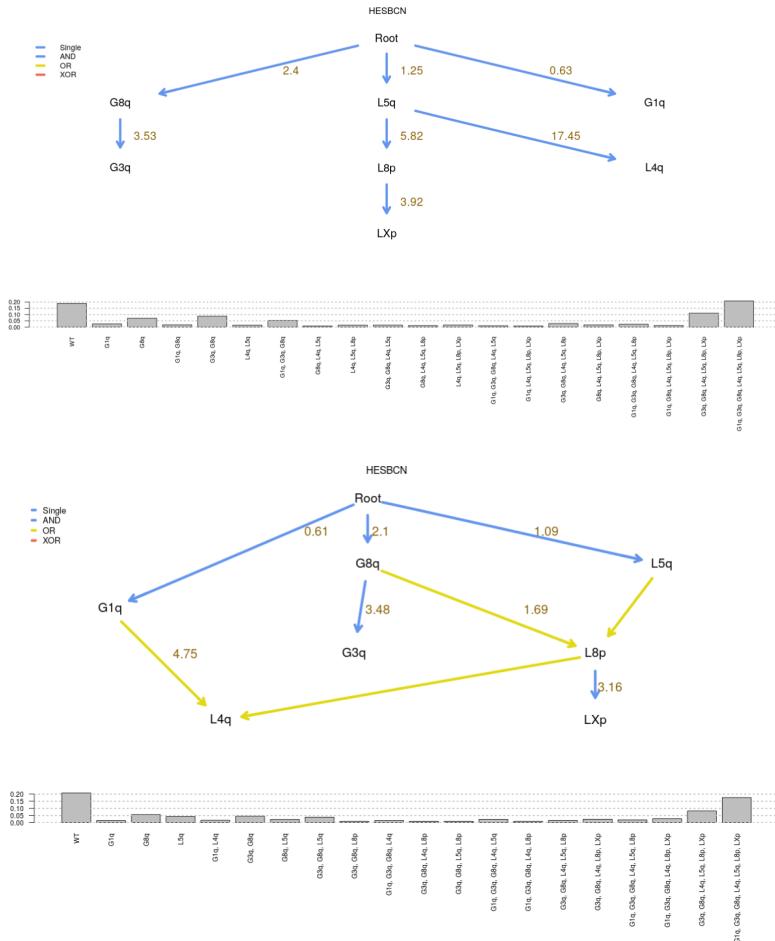
This is the output from the web app (run takes a little bit over one minute):



And we re-run the OncoBN model using the “Conjunctive” options (instead of the default disjunctive —we did this before in section “[Analyzing the BRCA data set](#)”, section 2.1, and it involves going back to “User input”, clicking on “Advanced options and CPMs to run” and setting, for “OncoBN options”, the “Model” to “Conjunctive”). This is the output:

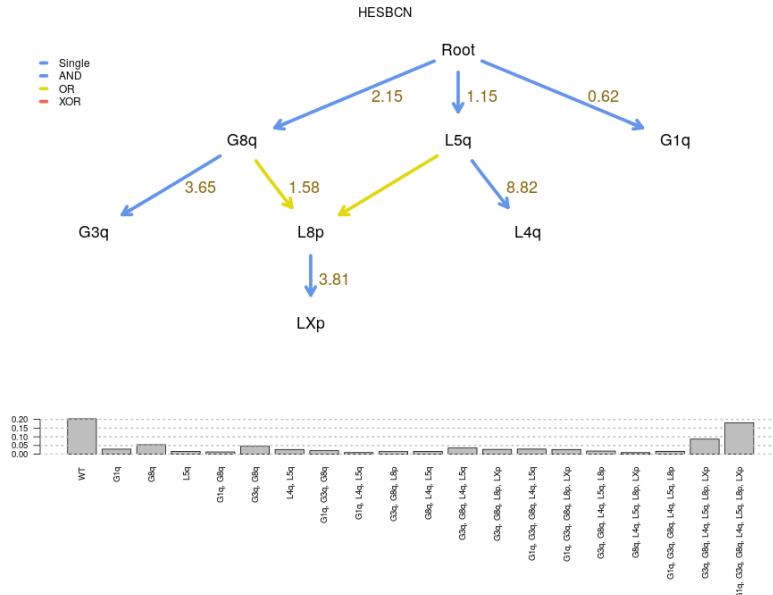


Interestingly, in the above run, H-ESBCN gives an identical structure to that of OT (parameters are, of course, different: OT’s weights are conditional probabilities and H-ESBCN  $\lambda$ s are rates). Different runs of H-ESBCN can give different results, such as the following ones, where we also ask the web app to display the predicted genotype frequencies:



We can increase the number of MCMC iterations. When using 1000000 most runs tend to give

this model:



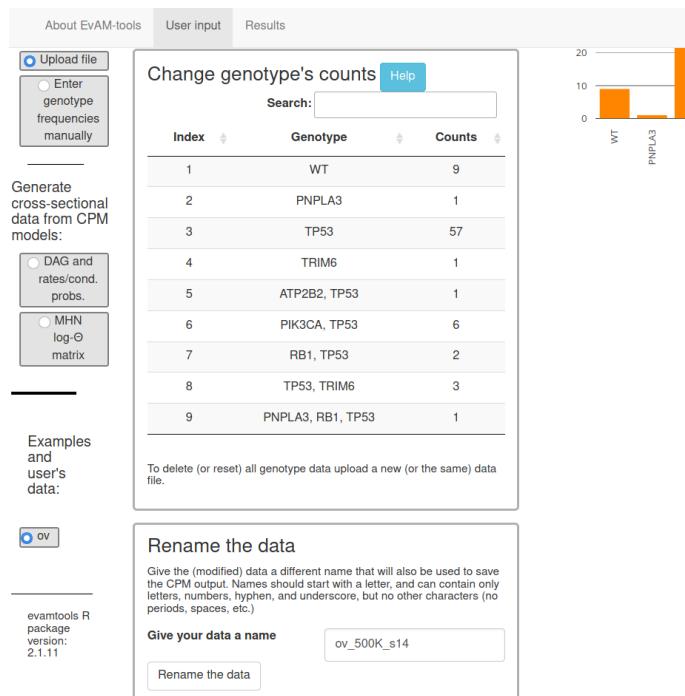
The variability between fitted H-ESBCN models might deserve a more careful exploration and, in “for real” analyses, additional runs with 1000000 iterations or even more.

Now there are large similarities are between OT and CBN (though, of course, there can be no conjunctions in OT). H-ESBCN finds identical restrictions for G3q (3q+) and G8q (8q+) as OT and CBN; it also finds similar patters to OT for L5q and Lxp; note that CBN shows L5q → L8p and L5q → Lxp and that H-ESBCN shows an OR for the dependency of L8p on G8q and L5q, whereas CBN, which can only model ANDs, places an AND. OncoBN using the default disjunctive relationship (OR, but not XOR) seems to suggest quite a different model (note that H-ESBCN can also fit OR relationships). Interestingly, the conjunctive model for OncoBN is similar, but not identical, to the ones from OT and CBN.

## 2.4 Using the web app for small computational experiments

We have shown the output of repeated runs of H-ESBCN, changing the number of MCMC iterations and possibly setting different random number seeds. GUIs and web apps are not the most appropriate tools for a systematic exploration; instead, properly documented code as an R script would be the preferred procedure. For small experiments, however, the web app is fine. A simple way to keep track of what is done is as follows:

1. Upload the data, giving it a meaningful name (under “Name for data”); for example, ov.
2. Go to the “Rename the data” box, and add the settings you will use to the name of the data; for example, for 500000 MCMC iterations with seed 14 for H-ESBCN enter ov\_500K\_s14 in “Give your data a name”, and **click on “Rename the data”**.



3. Under “Advanced options and CPMs to use” set the seed to 14 and the number of MCMC iterations to 500000, possible also setting H-ESBCN as the only method to run.
4. Click on “Run evamtools”.
5. Repeat steps 2 to 4 as needed.

The “Results” tab will contain the output of the different runs, properly labeled so we can examine, at will, outputs from runs with different settings.

### 3 Analyzing manually constructed synthetic data

We will create some synthetic data to show the consequences of analyzing data where two events are indistinguishable, because they are completely aliased, i.e., indistinguishable, because they have identical patterns —identical columns in the data matrix—. Of course, manually constructed synthetic data can be used to explore or examine many other patterns, unrelated to aliased events.

From the “User input” tab we select the “Enter genotype frequencies manually”:

About EvAM-tools

Cross-sectional data. Upload, create, generate, modify:

Enter cross-sectional data:

Upload file  
 Enter genotype frequencies manually

Now, we enter some WT, for example, 20 WT observations. We select no mutations, and type a “20” in “Counts”:

Add genotypes

WT is added by not clicking on any mutations.

Any gene without mutations is excluded from the data, regardless of the setting for number of genes.

For the CPM analysis, if any gene is always observed mutated (i.e., has a constant value of 1 for all observations), one observation with no genes mutated is added to the sample before the analysis.

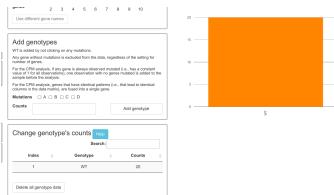
For the CPM analysis, genes that have identical patterns (i.e., that lead to identical columns in the data matrix), are fused into a single gene.

Mutations  A  B  C  D

Counts

Add genotype

And when we click on “Add genotype” we see the histogram with 20 WT and the genotype table with the 20 WT:



We now add 15 observations with only A mutated (i.e., 15 individuals of genotype A), and 12 with both B and C (i.e., 12 individuals with genotype “B, C”); we first click on “A” on “Mutations” putting a 15 in “Counts”

Add genotypes

WT is added by not clicking on any mutations.

Any gene without mutations is excluded from the data, regardless of the setting for number of genes.

For the CPM analysis, if any gene is always observed mutated (i.e., has a constant value of 1 for all observations), one observation with no genes mutated is added to the sample before the analysis.

For the CPM analysis, genes that have identical patterns (i.e., that lead to identical columns in the data matrix), are fused into a single gene.

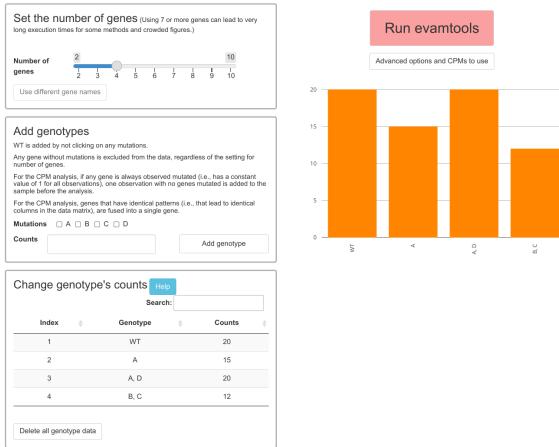
Mutations  A  B  C  D

Counts

Add genotype

and then on “Add genotype”. We next click on B and C in “Mutations” putting a 12 in Counts. We finally add 20 individuals with the “A, D” genotype (steps as before: click on A and D for mutations, and put a 20 in counts). After these steps, we can see the genotype composition as both

a histogram and table:



So that it is easier to go back to these data, we give this data set a name, for example “Aliased\_1” under “Rename the data”.

The 'Rename the data' section has the following fields:

- Give your data a name: Aliased\_1
- Renaming button: Rename the data

Click the “Rename the data” button, so the name is used and you will see it listed on the left, under “Examples and user’s data:”

The 'Examples and user's data:' section lists:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Below this are several radio buttons for selection:

- Empty
- Linear
- AND
- OR
- XOR
- Aliased\_1

There is also a 'Delete all genotype data' button.

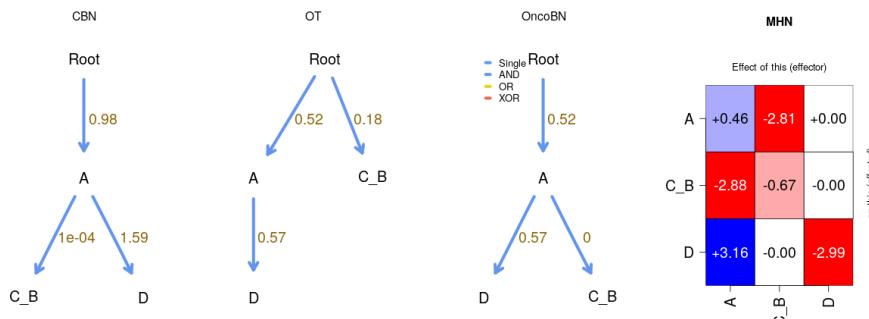
Below this is the 'Rename the data' section:

Give your data a name: Aliased\_1

Renaming button: Rename the data

evamtools R package version: 2.1.12

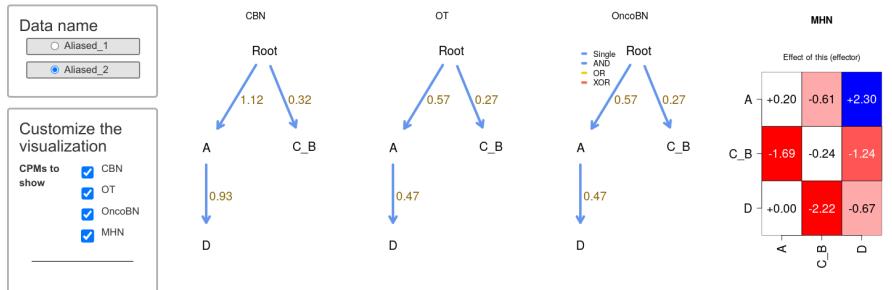
Now we click on “Run evamtools”. These are the fitted models (we did not use H-ESBCN here):



In the DAGs and the MHN log  $\Theta$  matrix, as well as the transition probabilities, an event

labelled “C\_B”. “C\_B” is the name of the event created automatically by EvAM-Tools by fusing the “C” and “B” events that are not distinguishable.

Note also that the models fitted by the DAGs, for example OncoBN or CBN, do not seem right when we look at the parameters of the “C\_B” event. That is because there are no “A, B, C” events, and we would expect to see some if A on the one hand, and B and C on the other, are occurring independently. We will add some observations (eight, for example) with all of A, B, C. We go back to the “User input” tab, we “Rename the data” to “Aliased\_2” (so that the new modifications we are about to make do not affect “Aliased\_1”), and we add genotype “A, B, C” with a count of 8. And we click on “Run evamtools”. This is the output



which is more sensible. Notice, however, that we still have “C\_B” as an event because, in fact, they remain completely aliased, indistinguishable. This aliasing would be broken by adding just a single “C” or a single “B”, or a single “A, C”, or “A, B”, or “B, D” or “D, C” or any “A, B, D” or “A, C, D”.

## 4 Generating data from known models

The discussion in sections “*Analyzing the BRCA data set*” (section 2.1) and “*Analyzing the ovarian CGH data*” (section 2.3) has used CPMs on two cancer data sets for which the truth is unknown. To understand the differences between models, and the performance characteristics of different methods, we can simulate data under a known model and examine if the true pattern can be recovered. This is very easy to do with EvAM-Tools and addresses two commonly asked questions:

- Can we recover the true structure?
- How do different methods perform when data has been generated under the assumptions of another method?

This is what we will do below in examples “*A model with AND, XOR, OR*” (section 4.2) and “*A model with AND*” (section 4.3). But EvAM-Tools is also useful to understand what different models imply in terms of the data we would observe, even without considering what each method would fit to a given observed data set; this is what we show in “*CPM models: what type of data they imply?*” (section 4.1).

### 4.1 CPM models: what type of data they imply?

#### 4.1.1 What happens if we increase $\epsilon$ for OncoBN?

We go to “User input” and, by default, the option “DAG and rates/cond. probs” is selected under “Generate cross-sectional data from CPM models”. We can leave the default DAG in the selected

“DAG\_Fork\_4”. In “Type of model” under “Define DAG” we click on “OncoBN”:

Define a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) and generate data from it. [Help](#)

1. Define DAG

Type of model

Model:  OT  OncoBN  CBN/H-ESBCN

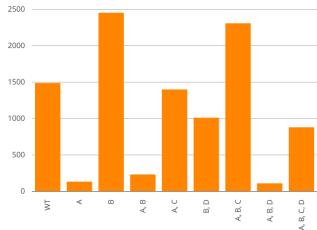
and you can see that the last column of the DAG table is now called “theta”:

DAG table

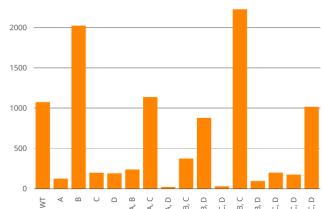
Remember to hit Ctrl-Enter when you are done editing the DAG table for changes to take effect.

From	To	Relation	theta
Root	A	Single	0.5
Root	B	Single	0.7
A	C	Single	0.9
B	D	Single	0.3

Now, click on “Generate data from DAG”; to make patterns easier to observe, set the “Number of genotypes to sample” to a large number, such as 10000. If we look at the histogram we will see something similar to this one:



In particular, notice how the following genotypes are not observed: “A,D”, “B, C”, “B, C, D”, “A, C, D”, as they are not possible if the restrictions are completely respected. Now, increase “epos,  $\epsilon$ ” to, say, 0.15, and click again on “Generate data from DAG”; now we will observe at least a few cases of all or most of the above four genotypes, as the predicted genotypes now incorporate deviations from the model.



We could continue increasing the value of  $\epsilon$ ; this will result in increasing frequencies of the above four genotypes, and a decrease in WT. Very large increases in  $\epsilon$  will lead to a blurring of the signature of this DAG.

A more advanced exploration of the role of deviations from the model in OT and OncoBN compared to the role of observational noise would alter “epos,  $\epsilon$ ” with and without simultaneously changing the value of “Observational noise”.

### 4.1.2 A simple exploration of MHN

To try to gain a quick intuitive understanding of the multiplicative hazards model of MHN we go to “User input” and then click on “MHN log- $\Theta$  matrix”

Generate cross-sectional data from CPM models:

DAG and rates/cond. probs.

MHN log- $\Theta$  matrix

To start with a simple, yet not completely trivial, model, we set the number of genes to three:

Set the number of genes (Using 7 or more genes can lead to very long execution times for some methods and crowded figures.)

Number of genes

Use different gene names

Now, we click on “Generate data from MHN model”:

Define MHN's log-Theta matrix (log- $\Theta$ ) and generate data from it. [Help](#)

1. Define MHN's  $\theta$ s  
Entries are lower case thetas,  $\theta$ s, range  $\pm \infty$   
Remember to hit Ctrl-Enter when you are done editing the matrix for changes to take effect.

A	B	C
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0

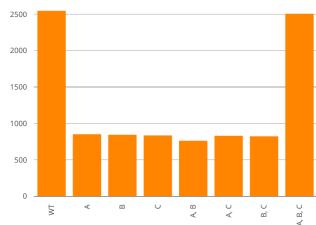
2. Generate data from the MHN model

Number of genotypes to sample

Observational noise (genotyping error)

[Generate data from MHN model](#) [Reset log- \$\Theta\$  matrix and delete genotype data](#)

In this model, there are not multiplicative effects between genes. This is what we obtain (again, it might help to increase the Number of genotypes to sample to 10000 to decrease the role of random sampling noise and focus on the predicted genotype frequencies):

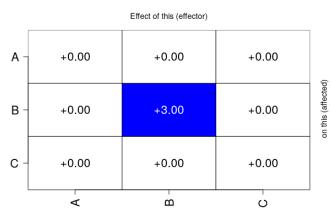
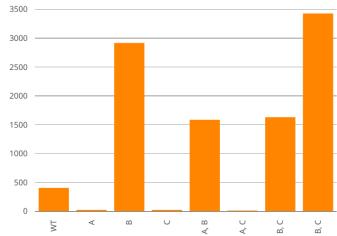


Effect of this (effector)

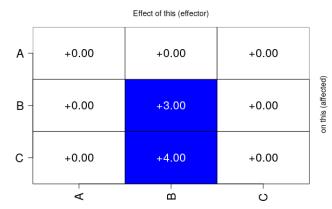
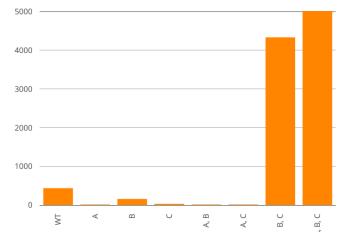
		on this (effector)	
		A	C
A	A	+0.00	+0.00
	B	+0.00	+0.00
C	A	+0.00	+0.00
	C	+0.00	+0.00

Let us now increase the baseline hazard of event B. For example, set  $\log-\Theta_{2,2} = 3$ . (Modify the

entry, and click on Ctrl-Enter). The figure changes dramatically and all genotypes that have “B” have increased their frequency:

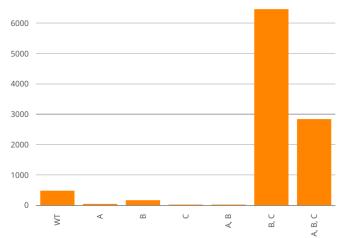


Let us now create a very large promoting effect of B on C; for that, we enter, for example, a 4 on the matrix entry (3, 2):  $\log\Theta_{3,2} = 4$ :



Notice how genotype B is more common than either A or C, but now whenever there is B it frequently in combination with C (very larger frequencies of genotypes B,C and A,B,C).

But what if B also has an inhibiting effect on A? Set  $\log\Theta_{1,2} = -2$ :



Effect of this (effector)		
		on this (selected)
		-
A	+0.00	-1.00
B	+0.00	+3.00
C	+0.00	+4.00

Notice how the frequency of genotype A,B,C has gone down (and also, though it is harder to appreciate, that of A,B).

## 4.2 A model with AND, XOR, OR

Here, we will simulate data under a model that includes both AND, OR, and XOR relationships (e.g., H-ESBCN). EvAM-Tools, in its web app, already includes such a model for five genes:

**User input**

Define a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) and generate data from it. [Help](#)

**1. Define DAG**

Type of model  
Model:  OT  OncoBN  CBN/H-ESBCN

New Edge  
From (parent node)  Root  A  B  C  D  E  
To (child node)  A  B  C  D  E

[Add edge](#) [Remove edge](#)

If you want to decrease the number of genes first remove edges and nodes from the DAG and only then modify 'Set the number of genes'. (We cannot know which edges/nodes you want to remove).

If you want to increase the number of genes use 'Set the number of genes' to increase the available gene labels, and then increase the number of nodes in the DAG.

**DAG table**  
Remember to hit Ctrl-Enter when you are done editing the DAG table for changes to take effect.

From	To	Relation	Lambdas
Root	A	Single	0.7
Root	B	Single	0.8
A	C	AND	0.9
B	C	AND	0.9
A	D	OR	0.4
B	D	OR	0.4
A	E	XOR	0.5
B	E	XOR	0.5

evamtools R package version: 2.1.11

**2. Generate data from the DAG model**

**epos,  $\epsilon$**

For OT (epos) and OncoBN ( $\epsilon$ ) only: probability that children nodes not allowed by the model (the DAG) occur. Accepted values: [0, 1]. This setting affects predicted probabilities.

Number of genotypes to sample

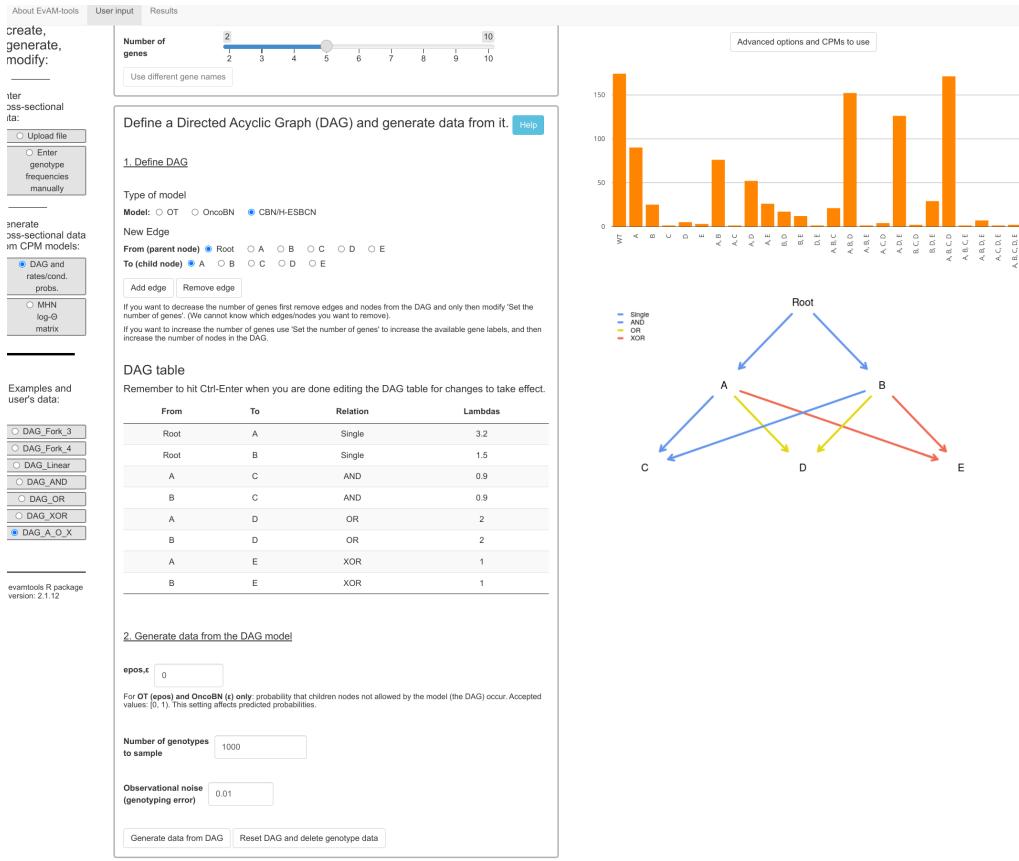
Observational noise (genotyping error)

[Generate data from DAG](#) [Reset DAG and delete genotype data](#)

Legend:  
— Single  
— AND  
— XOR

If we want, we can change values (rates, relationships, noise, etc). We will change the rates of A, B, D, and E, setting them to 3.2, 1.5, 2, and 1, respectively; we set the number of genotypes to sample to 1000 and we will add 1% of Observation noise (i.e., we will type 0.01 in the “Observational noise (genotyping error)” box). Then, we click on “Generate data from DAG”,

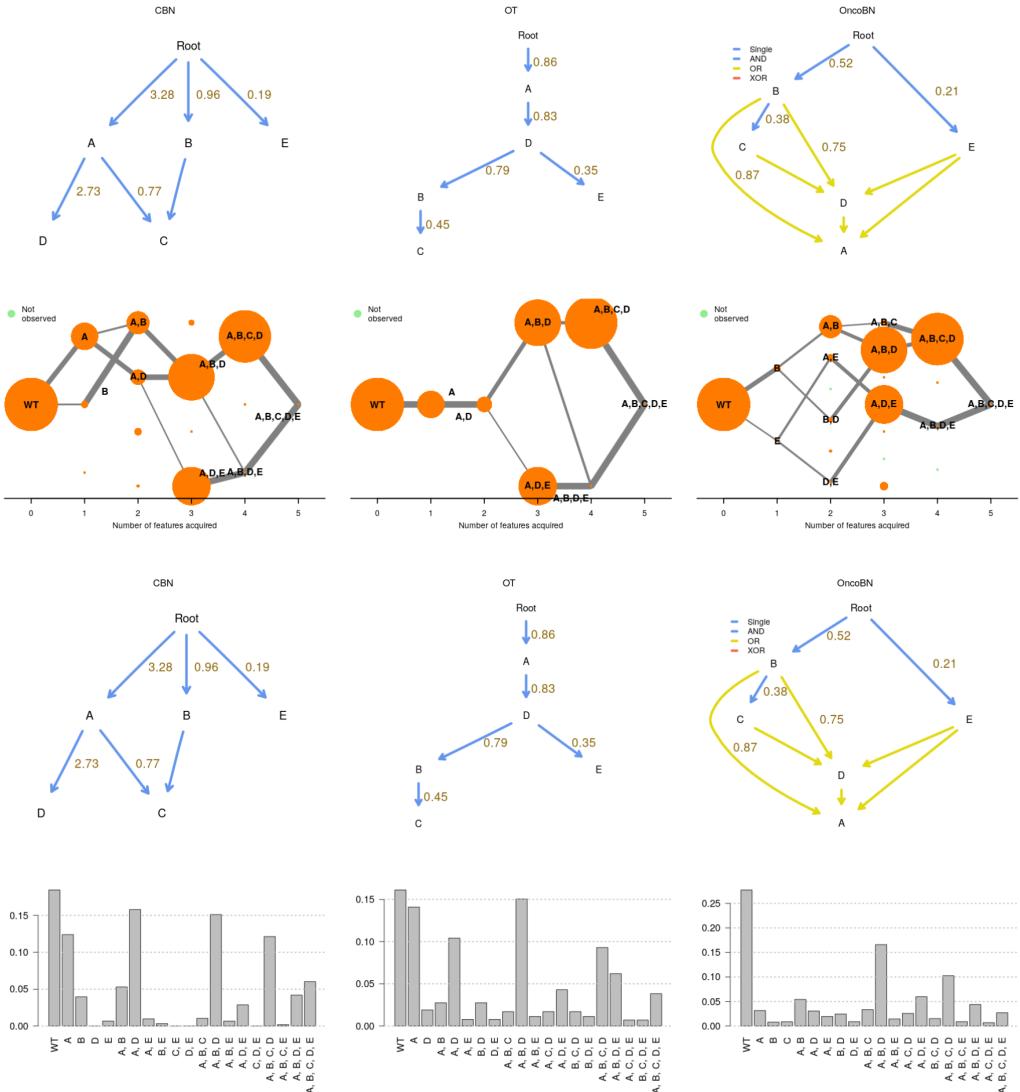
and obtain data simulated under that model:

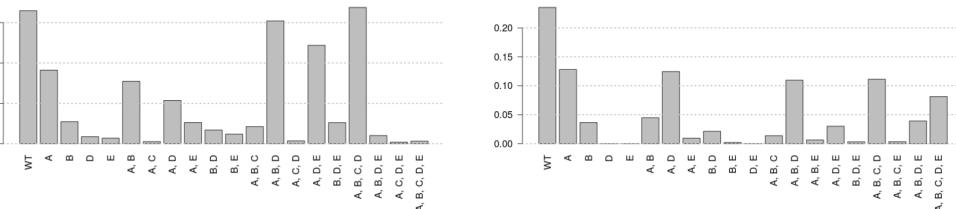
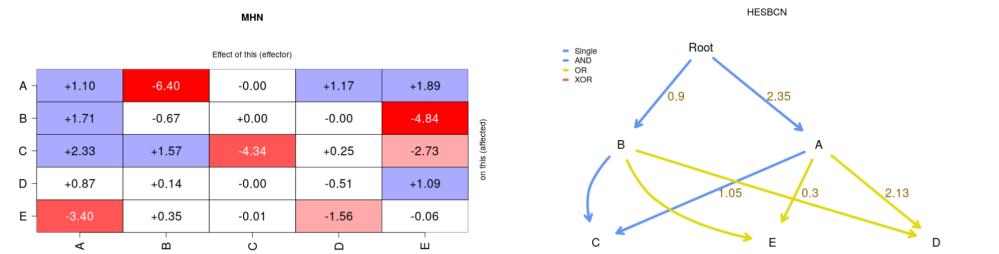
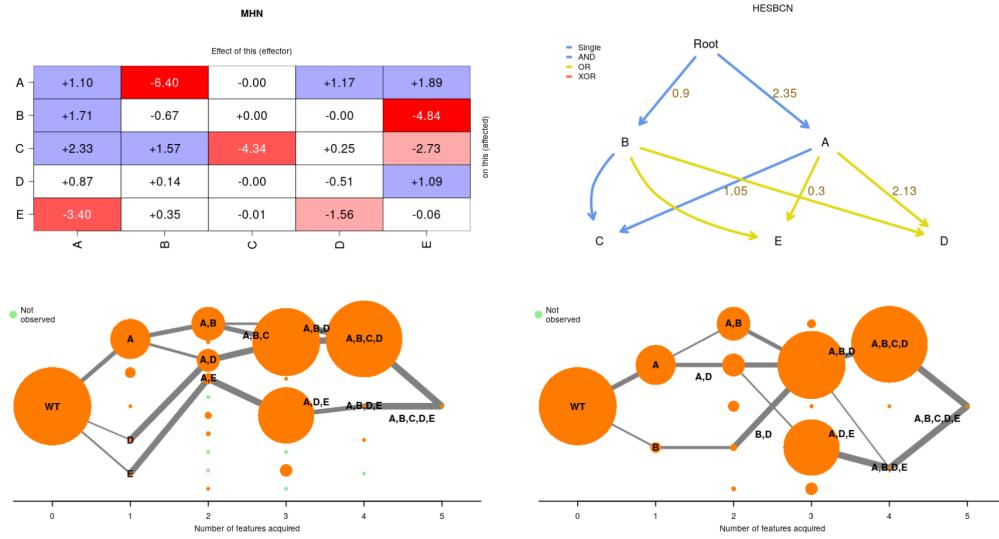


(Of course, the actual simulated data you are likely to obtain will vary differ from this one).

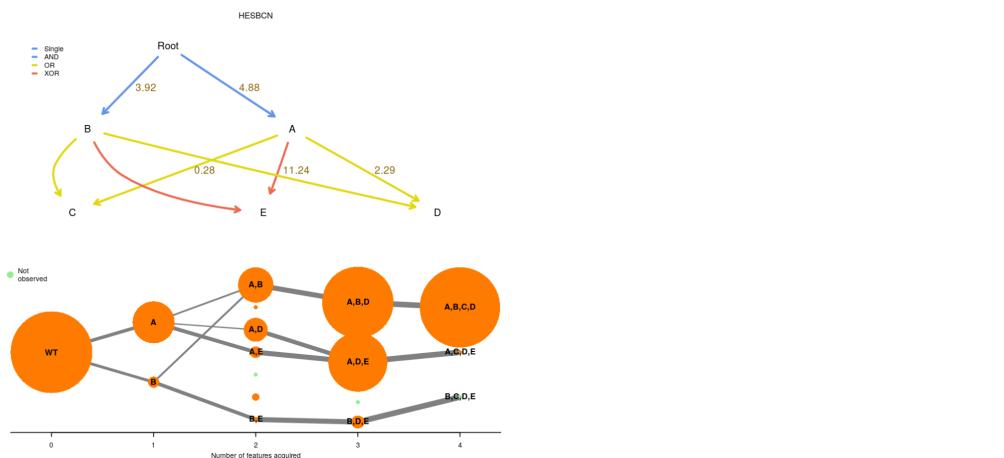
Now, we click “Run evamtools”, after adding H-ESBCN to the set of methods and setting its number of MCMC iterations to 500000 (again, this is done under “Advanced options and CPMs to use”). After about 30 seconds we obtain the output. In the plots below, and as we did before, we split it into three and two methods so it is easier to see. We show the models with two of the predictions: transition probabilities and predicted genotype relative frequencies (these predictions are also shown in the table, which we do not show below).

Note that the histograms of predicted genotype frequencies display, at most, the 20 most frequent genotypes (because of reasons of limited plotting space); all predicted genotypes are shown in the table.





And, as has been the case before, repeated runs of H-ESBCN can lead to different results, for example:



None of OT, CBN, or OncoBN can capture XOR relationships. But in this case, H-ESBCN incorrectly infers an XOR for D (it is really an OR) and an OR for C (it is really an AND).

We could increase the sample size by 10 by just setting “Number of genotypes to sample” to 10000 or add different levels of noise, etc.

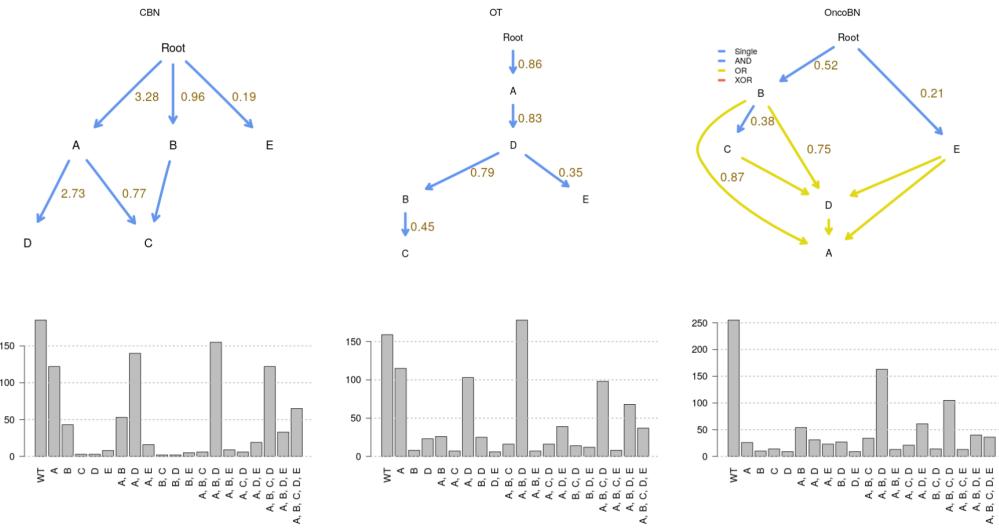
We could also ask to get, as return, not only the predicted genotype relative frequencies, but sampled genotype counts with, possibly, some noise added. Even without noise added, the relative frequencies of the sampled genotype counts would differ from the predicted genotype relative frequencies just because of sampling noise. We can do that by going back to the “User input” tab, clicking on “Advanced options and CPMs to use” and setting “Sample genotypes” to TRUE and selecting the number of samples, which here we set equal to the sample size of original data set (i.e., 1000); we also set the observation noise to 0.01.

The screenshot shows the 'Run evamtools' interface. At the top, there's a note about the number of genes (using 7 or more genes can lead to very long execution times for some methods). Below it, a slider for 'Number of genes' ranges from 2 to 10, with 10 selected. A link 'Use different gene names' is present. A red button 'Run evamtools' is at the top right. Below the slider, a section titled 'Define a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) and generate data from it.' has a sub-section '1. Define DAG'. It includes fields for 'Type of model' (OT, OncobN, CBN/H-ESBCN), 'New Edge' (with a dropdown for 'From' and 'To' nodes A-E), 'Add edge' (radio buttons for 'Add edge' or 'Remove edge'), and 'Delete nodes' (radio buttons for 'Delete node' or 'Keep'). A note says 'If you want to decrease the number of genes first remove edges and nodes from the DAG and only then modify.' A note at the bottom says 'Remember to hit Ctrl+Enter when you are done editing the DAG table for changes to take effect.' Below this is a 'DAG table' with columns 'From', 'To', 'Relation', and 'Level(s)'. The table shows edges: Root to A (Single, 3.2), Root to B (Single, 1.0), A to C (AND, 0.8), and B to C (AND, 0.8). A note at the bottom says 'Remember to hit Ctrl+Enter when you are done editing the DAG table for changes to take effect.' To the right of the DAG table is a 'Advanced options and CPMs to use' section. It includes checkboxes for 'CBN', 'OT', 'OncobN', 'MHN', and 'H-ESBCN'. A note says 'Please note that some methods can take much longer than the remaining methods (unless MHN). For 7 or more genes, CBN can be much slower than OT, OncobN, or MHN (e.g., data analysis in > 5 seconds by those three methods can take 45 seconds).'. A dropdown 'Return paths to maximum(s)' is set to 'FALSE'. A note says '(Paths to the maximum(s) and their probabilities. These are not part of the tabular or graphical output (because of their many edges). Return paths to maximum(s) are included in the tabular output for convenience.)'. A note below says 'Sample genotypes: TRUE'. A note says 'Generate a fake sample of genotypes according to the predicted frequencies of the model.' A dropdown 'Number of samples' is set to '1000'. A note says 'Number of genotypes to generate when generating a fake sample of genotypes according to the predicted frequencies of the model.' A note says 'Observation noise: 0.01'. A note says 'E.g. the proportion of observations in the sampled matrix with error (for instance, genotyping errors). The proportion of observations will have to be kept to 1s, and Ts kept to 0s.' A note at the bottom says 'This output is also displayed in tabular form on the bottom right.'

We hit on “Run evamtools” and, as before, we get the output but we now have one extra possible “Predictions from fitted models to display”:



And this is the output for three of the models; notice the added variability (i.e., how the relative heights and even the actual genotypes present are not the same as in the predicted genotype counts):



Of course, you can switch from displaying “Sampled genotype counts” to displaying “Predicted genotype counts” just by clicking on the button on the left.

### 4.3 A model with AND

Let us use now a model with AND; we use the preselected “DAG\\_AND”, with 1000 observations and a 5% (0.05) genotyping error. Remember to click on “Generate data from DAG” after changing the noise level:

About EvAM-tools    User input    Results

generate, modify:

Enter cross-sectional data:  
 Upload file  
 Enter genotype frequencies manually

Generate cross-sectional data from CPM models:  
 DAG and rates/cond. probs.  
 MHN log-O matrix

Examples and user's data:  
 DAG\_Fork\_3  
 DAG\_Fork\_4  
 DAG\_Linear  
 DAG\_AND  
 DAG\_OR  
 DAG\_XOR  
 DAG\_A\_O\_X

evamtools R package version: 2.1.12

Define a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) and generate data from it. [Help](#)

**1. Define DAG**

Type of model  
Model:  OT  OncobN  CBN/H-ESBN

New Edge  
From (parent node)  Root  A  B  C  D  
To (child node)  A  B  C  D

Add edge   Remove edge

If you want to decrease the number of genes first remove edges and nodes from the DAG and only then modify 'Set the number of genes'. (We cannot know which edges/nodes you want to remove).  
If you want to increase the number of genes use 'Set the number of genes' to increase the available gene labels, and then increase the number of nodes in the DAG.

**DAG table**  
Remember to hit Ctrl-Enter when you are done editing the DAG table for changes to take effect.

From	To	Relation	Lambdas
Root	A	Single	0.7
A	B	Single	0.6
A	C	Single	0.8
B	D	AND	0.9
C	D	AND	0.9

**2. Generate data from the DAG model**

epos.t

For OT (posa) and OncobN (*t*) only probability that children nodes not allowed by the model (the DAG) occur. Accepted values: [0, 1]. This setting affects predicted probabilities.

Number of genotypes to sample

Observational noise (genotyping error)

[Generate data from DAG](#) | [Reset DAG and delete genotype data](#)

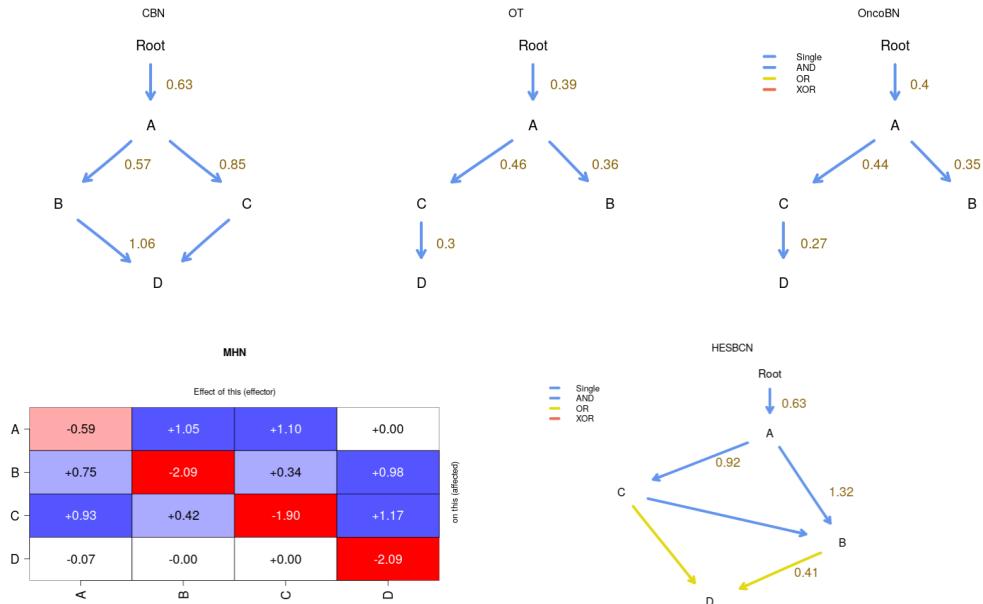
Bar chart showing genotype frequencies for various gene combinations. The x-axis lists combinations: WT, A, B, C, D, A.B, A.C, A.D, B.C, B.D, C.D, A.B.C, A.B.D, A.C.D, A.B.C.D. The y-axis shows frequency from 0 to 500. WT has the highest frequency (~480), followed by A (~150), and other combinations are much lower, mostly below 50.

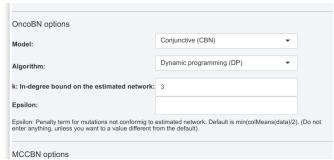
```

graph TD
    Root --> A
    A --> B
    A --> C
    B --> D
    C --> D
  
```

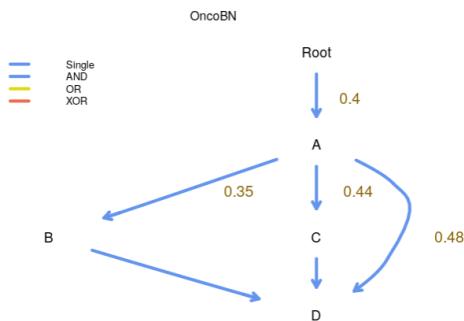
These are the fitted models:



H-ESBCN incorrectly infers the AND as an OR. CBN correctly infers the underlying model and provides estimates of the parameters that are very close to the true ones. OT and OncoBN cannot infer the correct true dependencies: OT because it cannot fit DAGs, but only trees (i.e., each node has only one parent) and OncoBN because it was run in disjunctive mode (OR relationships). We can run OncoBN using the conjunctive model; we have done this before (sections “[Analyzing the BRCA data set](#)”, section 2.1 and “[Analyzing the ovarian CGH data](#)”, section 2.3) and it involves going to “Advanced options and CPMs to run” and setting, for “OncoBN options”, the “Model” to “Conjunctive”:



This is the output we get:



This correctly identifies the joint dependency of D on both B and C, but there is also an edge between A and D that we would never observe with CBN (as CBN always returns the transitively reduced DAGs); this is a technical issue beyond the scope of this document, but one that we have

discussed in the OncoBN repo<sup>3</sup>.

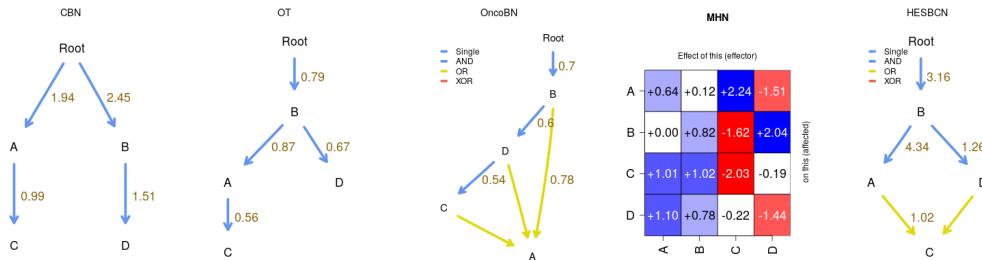
For H-ESBCN the returned model also includes an edge, the one between A and B, that is not necessary: since B depends on C and C depends on A, having B depend with an AND on both A and C is not needed (i.e., the transitive reduction of that DAG would remove the edge from A  $\rightarrow$  B). Note also that removing the A  $\rightarrow$  B arrow does not affect the relationships with D. Of course, for the relationships between C, B, and D we should not return the transitive reduction (as that would break the OR of D on either C or B). Thus, a model without the  $A \rightarrow B$  would generate the exact same predictions as the model returned by H-ESBCN. (Why does this happen with H-ESBCN? It is a consequence of the heuristic search over DAG structures, which can occasionally return these topologies).

#### 4.4 Modifying data generated from a CPM model before analysis

What if the data came from a given model but some additional process had altered the genotype data? For example, suppose data really came from a CBN model, but the frequency of WT genotypes is too small because the data have been filtered to contain only genotypes with at least one driver mutation, or the data contain some contaminated samples that would never had become tumors and have an excess of WT. We can explore this by generating data from a CPM model and, then, modifying the genotype composition, as we did in section “*Is it just sample size?*” (section 2.2) when we modified uploaded data.

As an example, go to “User input”, “DAG and rates/cond. probs”, and use the default selected “DAG\_Fork\_4”. Change lambdas to 2, 2.5, 1, 1.5, for A, B, C, D, respectively. Add 1% of observational noise. And set the “Number of genotypes to sample” to 5000, to ensure small sample sizes are not the culprit of different inferences. Click on “Generate data from DAG” and, for simplicity, then analyze the data with OT, OncoBN, CBN, MHN, and H-ESBCN.

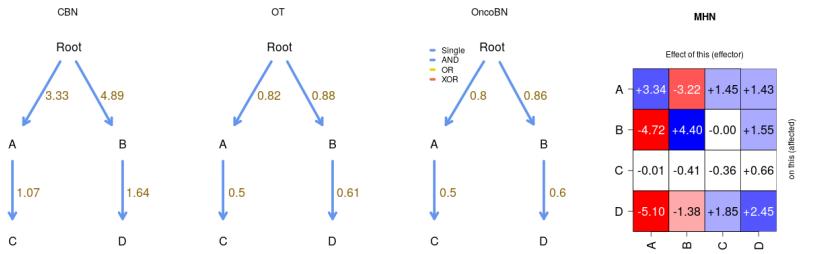
This is the output:



CBN correctly infers the DAG and the estimates of the  $\lambda$ s are close to the true ones. The other methods are not able to infer this model correctly.

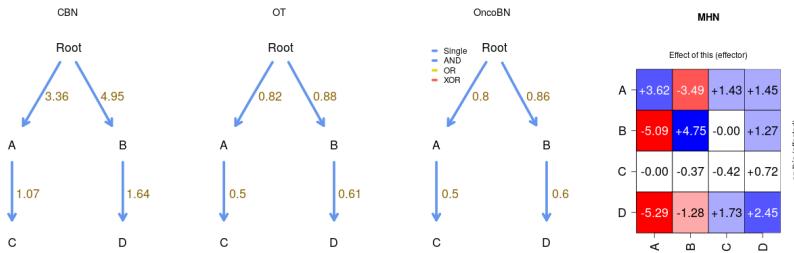
Now, go back to the “User input”. Before modifying the data, and to keep a copy of the originally generated one, on the “Rename data” type a name (e.g., “data\_original”) and click on “Rename data”. Now, enter a new name in “Rename data”, for example “data\_few\_wt”, click on “Rename data”, and modify the WT frequency; I change it from its original value of 912 to 9. And then, analyze the data clicking on “Run evamtools”. This is the output:

<sup>3</sup><https://github.com/phillipnico1/OncoBN/issues/5>



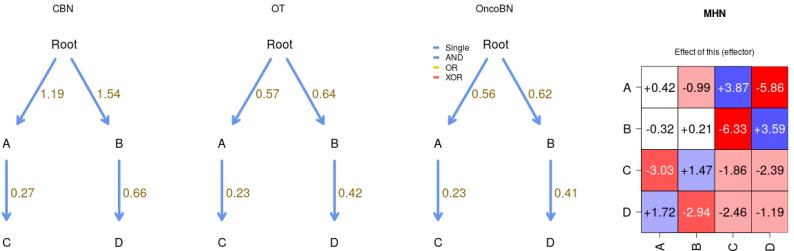
OT and OncoBN get the structure right, and for CBN the main consequence is altering the rates of A and B, increasing them (which is what we would expect). MHN also has increased estimates of  $\log-\Theta_{A,A}$  and  $\log-\Theta_{B,B}$  when we reduced the frequency of WT.

What if we removed the WT completely? We go back (and, if it is not the selected one, click, on the left, under “Examples and user’s data”, on “data\_original”), and set WT to 0 (possibly after creating a new data set, “data\_no\_wt”) and analyze them:



The effect is minor, which is not surprising, since the large cut in WT had been going from 912 to 9.

We could, instead, eliminate all the observations with the four mutations (e.g., maybe they are too lethal to ever be observed?). We go to “User input”, select, on the left, “data\_original”, rename it (“no\_all\_mut”), and set to 0 the A,B,C,D genotype.



The DAG structures for CBN, OT, OncoBN are preserved, but now H-ESBCN has modeled an XOR; the XOR models is not actually present, but unless there are XOR or similar phenomena, models with AND and OR cannot model the absence of A,B,C,D, given the relatively high frequencies of the rest of the genotypes (the CBN model, for example, has decreased the estimates of all the  $\lambda$ s).

We could also, as mentioned at the beginning of this section, increase the number of WTs. Etc, etc. We will not pursue this any further here. The key message from this section is that EvAM-Tools makes it very simple to examine targeted, specific, deviations in genotype composition from the genotype composition generated by a CPM model.

## 5 Simulating random CPMs/evams

If we were interested in systematically examining the performance of the different methods under different models, simulating random CPM (or evam) models is crucial. This type of work (generating and analyzing large numbers of simulations) is not suited for a web app, but it can be easily done with the R package. The key function here is `random_evam`.

```
## Load the package
library(evamtools)
## For reproducibility
set.seed(3)
he_r1 <- random_evam(ngenes = 5, model = "HESBCN")
he_r1$HESBCN_model

##   From To      edge    Lambda Relation
## 1 Root A Root -> A 0.6656892 Single
## 2 Root B Root -> B 1.1189358 Single
## 3 A   C       A -> C 1.8736265 Single
## 4 A   D       A -> D 2.0159447 XOR
## 5 A   E       A -> E 1.6987091 Single
## 6 B   D       B -> D 2.0159447 XOR

## Now, simulate a data set of size 200 from that model
## with 5% genotyping error

he_s1 <- sample_evam(he_r1, N = 200, obs_noise = 0.05)

## Analyze this data with all the methods except MCCBN (for speed)

he_s1_anal <- evam(he_s1$HESBCN_sampled_genotype_counts_as_data,
                     methods = c("CBN", "OT", "OncoBN",
                                "HESBCN", "MHN"))

## Show the fitted DAGs
he_s1_anal[grep1("_model", names(he_s1_anal))]

## $OT_model
##   From To      edge OT_edgeBootFreq OT_edgeWeight OT_obsMarginal
## 1 A   Root A Root -> A             NA 0.3148883 0.345
## 2 B   Root B Root -> B             NA 0.4069873 0.430
## 3 D   Root D Root -> D             NA 0.3040531 0.335
## 4 E   A   E       A -> E           NA 0.5851968 0.225
## 5 C   E   C       E -> C           NA 0.9163967 0.210
##   OT_predMarginal
## 1 A             0.3450000
## 2 B             0.4300000
## 3 D             0.3350000
## 4 E             0.2244513
## 5 C             0.2102331
## 
```

```

## $CBN_model
##   From To      edge init_lambda final_lambda rerun_lambda CBN_edgeBootFreq
## A Root A Root -> A    0.433470    0.433470    0.433470          NA
## B Root B Root -> B    0.678177    0.678177    0.678177          NA
## C   E   C   E -> C    15.918836   15.916943   15.918836          NA
## D Root D Root -> D    0.454241    0.454241    0.454241          NA
## E   A   E   A -> E    2.020337    2.020351    2.020337          NA
##
## $MCCBN_model
## [1] NA
##
## $OncoBN_model
##   From To      edge      theta Relation
## 2 Root B Root -> B 0.4300000 Single
## 3 Root C Root -> C 0.2100000 Single
## 1   C   A   C -> A 0.9285714 Single
## 4   B   D   B -> D 0.5045045 OR
## 5   C   D   C -> D 0.5045045 OR
## 6   C   E   C -> E 0.7857143 Single
##
## $OncoBN_fitted_model
## [1] "DBN"
##
## $HESBCN_model
##   From To      Edge Lambdas Relation
## 1 Root A Root -> A 0.470187 Single
## 2 Root B Root -> B 0.643660 Single
## 3   A   C   A -> C 1.956360 Single
## 4   A   D   A -> D 0.878038 OR
## 5   B   D   B -> D 0.878038 OR
## 6   C   E   C -> E 1.174950 OR
## 7   D   E   D -> E 1.174950 OR

## Show MHN
he_s1_anal["MHN_theta"]

## $MHN_theta
##       A     B     C     D     E
## A -0.52  0.61  0.00 -2.48  0.00
## B -2.30 -0.23 -2.33  1.47 -0.01
## C  3.42 -0.31 -3.04 -0.24  0.00
## D  0.19 -3.53  1.23 -0.44  0.00
## E  1.31 -0.44  2.19 -0.32 -2.13

```

This is just one example; serious simulation studies would examine exhaustively a range of scenarios. And we could, of course, compare other output, such as the predicted genotype frequencies, or the probabilities of paths to the maximum (use argument `paths_max = TRUE` when calling `evam`), etc. But this should be enough to show you how EvAM-Tools can be used to systematically compare the performance of different methods in different scenarios.

## 6 Appendix: getting the BRCA and Ov data sets from the R console

Here we show how to obtain, from the R console, the two data sets used in section “[Analysis of cross-sectional data](#)” ([section 2](#)). We simply export those data in a CSV format that can be uploaded to the web app.

```
## Load the package to access the BRCA data
library(evamtools)
data(every_which_way_data)

## You can check the names here, which are the same
## as in Suppl File S5 Text of Diaz-Uriarte & Vasallo, 2019
## names(every_which_way_data)

write.csv(every_which_way_data[["BRCA_ba_s"]],
          file = "BRCA_ba_s.csv", row.names = FALSE,
          quote = FALSE)

## Now export the ovarian cancer CGH data
library(Oncotree)

## Loading required package: boot

data(ov.cgh)

## Rename column names: they start with a number and
## finish on a "+" (gain) or "-" (loss), so automatically
## reading these column names removes the +/- and adds an
## "X" as the first character. Let us have columns start
## with L or G for loss/gain.

new_cn <- stringi::stri_sub(colnames(ov.cgh), 1L, 2L)
new_cn <- paste(ifelse(grep1("+", colnames(ov.cgh), fixed = TRUE),
                      "G", "L"), new_cn, sep = "")
ov2 <- ov.cgh
colnames(ov2) <- new_cn
write.csv(ov2,
          file = "ov2.csv", row.names = FALSE, quote = FALSE)
```

## 7 License and copyright

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The source of this document and the EvAM-Tools package is at  
<https://github.com/rdiaz02/EvAM-Tools>.

## 8 References

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