



# Phylogenetic analysis with IQ-TREE

<http://www.iqtree.org>

Minh Bui

*Australian National University, Canberra*

Sydney Phylogenetics Workshop

29 July 2021

## IQ-TREE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Australia



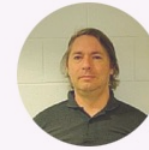
**James Barbetti**

Contribution: Software engineering for COVID-19 data



**Thomas Wong**

Contribution: ModelFinder 2



**Michael Woodhams**

Google Scholar

Contribution: Lie Markov models.



**Robert Lanfear**

Google Scholar

Contribution: Inspiring ideas and advice.



**Bui Quang Minh**

Google Scholar

Contribution: Team leader, software core, ultrafast bootstrap, model selection.



**Olga Chernomor**

Google Scholar

Contribution: Partition models and phylogenomic search.

Austria



**Heiko A. Schmidt**

Google Scholar

Contribution: Integration of TREE-PUZZLE features.



**Dominik Schrempf**

Google Scholar

Contribution: Polymorphism-aware models (PoMo).



**Arndt von Haeseler**

Google Scholar

Contribution: Inspiring ideas and advice.

Vietnam



**Diep Thi Hoang**

Contribution: Improving ultrafast bootstrap.

***Thanks to plenty of users for feedback and bug reports!***

# Why IQ-TREE?

**Next generation sequencing data represent both a blessing and a curse:**

- Blessing: (Phylo)genomic data help to elucidate many phylogenetic questions.
- Curse: Many model assumptions become increasingly distant from the truth due to growing data complexity.

*“All models are wrong, but some are useful”* (Box, 1976)

**With IQ-TREE we aim to:**

- Analyze ultra-large data sets.
- Provide many (if not most) “useful” models of sequence evolution.

**But still, there are RAxML, PhyML out there, why do we need IQ-TREE?**

- We better have at least 2 software independently developed for similar purpose. Only then, the pros and cons (sometimes **bugs**) can be identified. This creates a *friendly* competition, which helps to advance the field!
- Same as having MrBayes, RevBayes, BEAST for Bayesian inference.

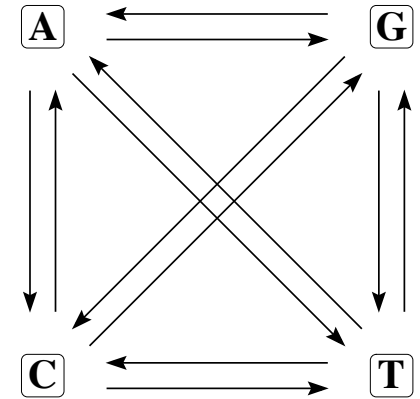
# Typical phylogenetic analysis under maximum likelihood

## Multiple sequence alignment

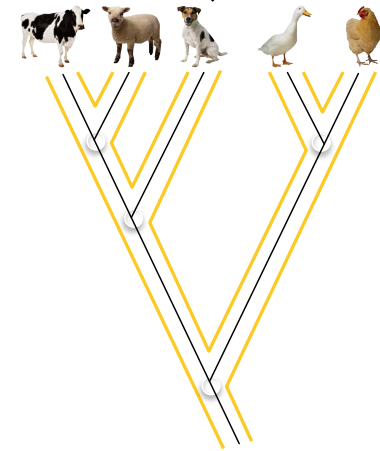
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ACGGGAT--C--C----CATTAC
ACGGGAT--C--C----CACTAC
CCGGGATAGCTTC----CATTAC
ACCCCCTATC--CACTGGATTAC
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```

## Model selection

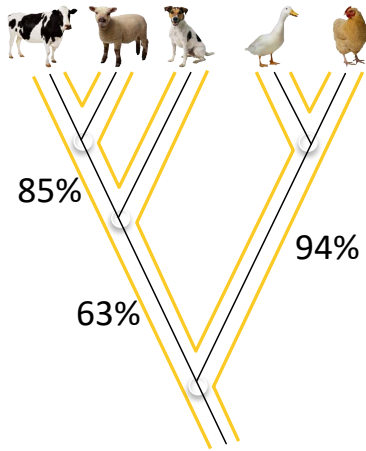
## Substitution model



## Tree reconstruction



## Assessment of branch supports

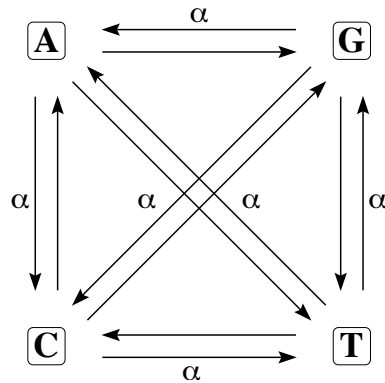


Tree with branch supports

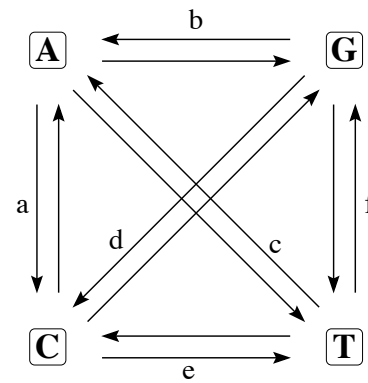
Phylogenetic tree

# Step 1: Model selection

Question: Which model fits best to the data?



Jukes-Cantor 1969 (JC)



General time reversible (GTR)

22 DNA models, 36 protein models, 12 codon models, 4 binary/morphological models

Combined with rate heterogeneity across sites:

- +I: a proportion of invariable sites (e.g., JC+I)
- + $\Gamma$ : Gamma distribution (e.g., GTR+G)
- +I+ $\Gamma$ : mixture of +I and + $\Gamma$  (e.g., GTR+I+G)
- +R: distribution-free rate model (e.g., GTR+R5)

Complex models:

- Non-reversible models
- Partition models
- Mixture models

# Step 1: ModelFinder

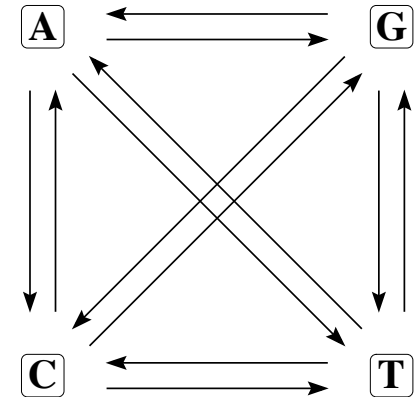
## Multiple sequence alignment

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```

Model selection

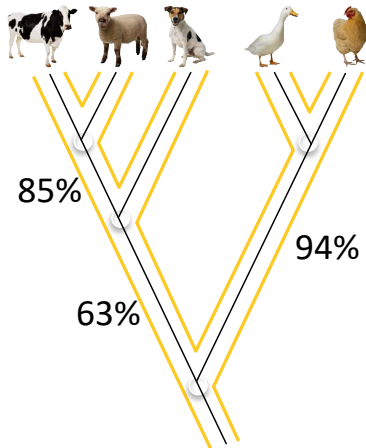
**ModelFinder**

## Substitution model



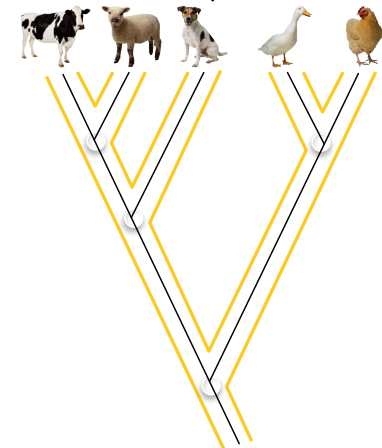
- More biologically plausible models.
- Faster alternative to jModelTest, ProtTest, and PartitionFinder

Tree reconstruction



Tree with branch supports

Assessment of branch supports



Phylogenetic tree

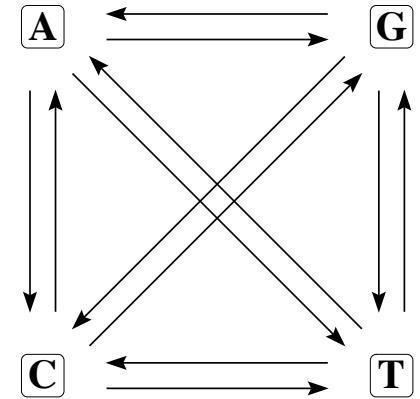
# Step 2: Tree reconstruction with IQ-TREE

## Multiple sequence alignment

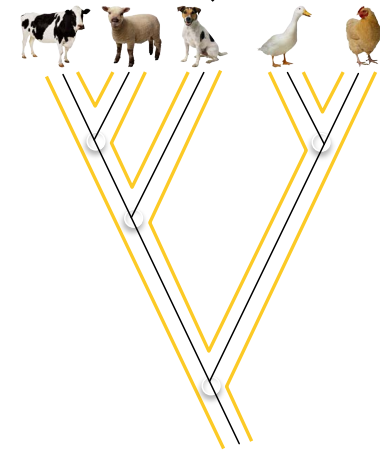
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## Model selection

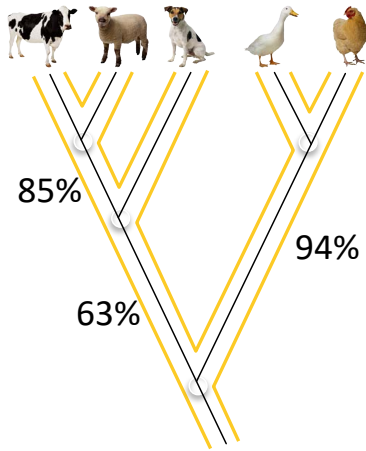
## Substitution model



## Tree reconstruction



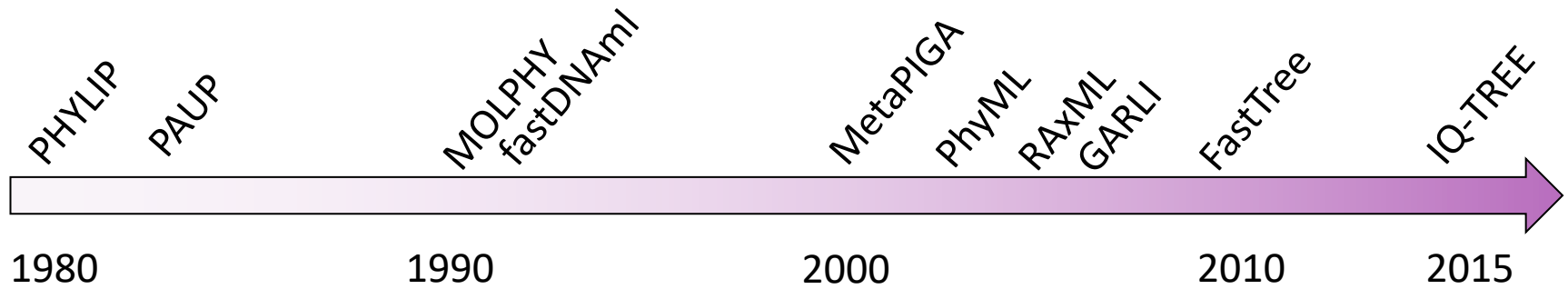
## Assessment of branch supports



Tree with branch supports

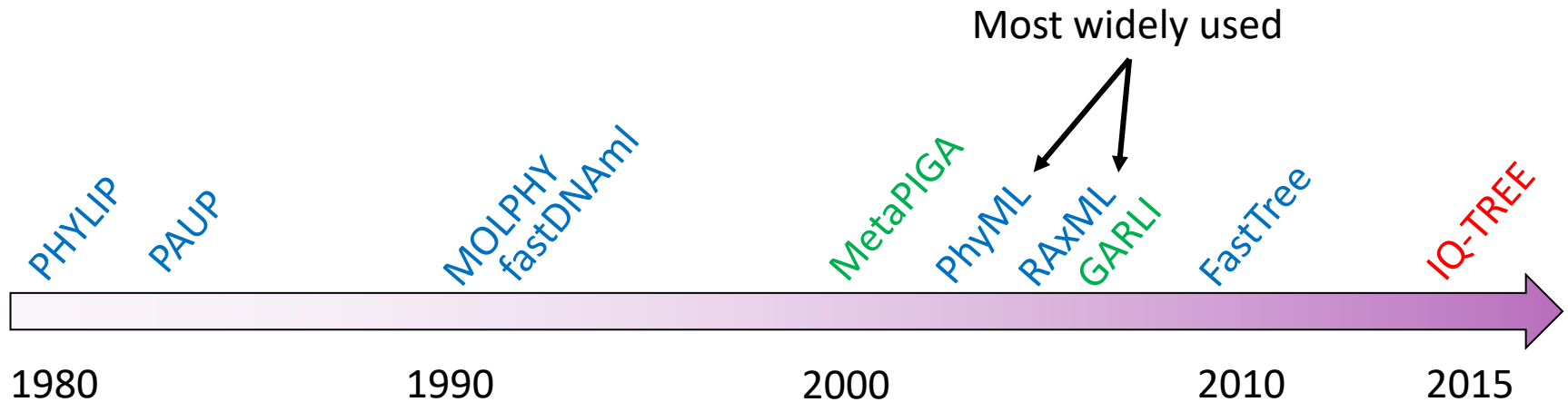
Phylogenetic tree

# Search heuristics for finding maximum likelihood trees

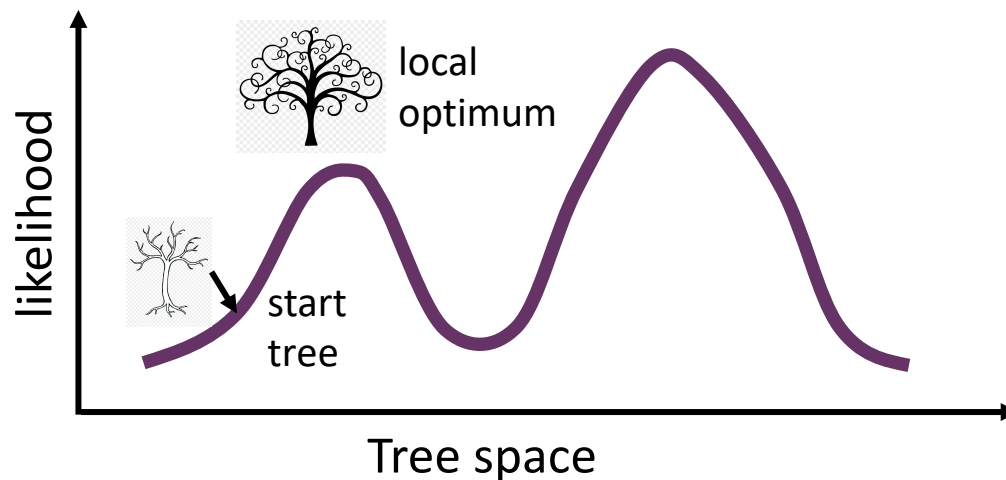




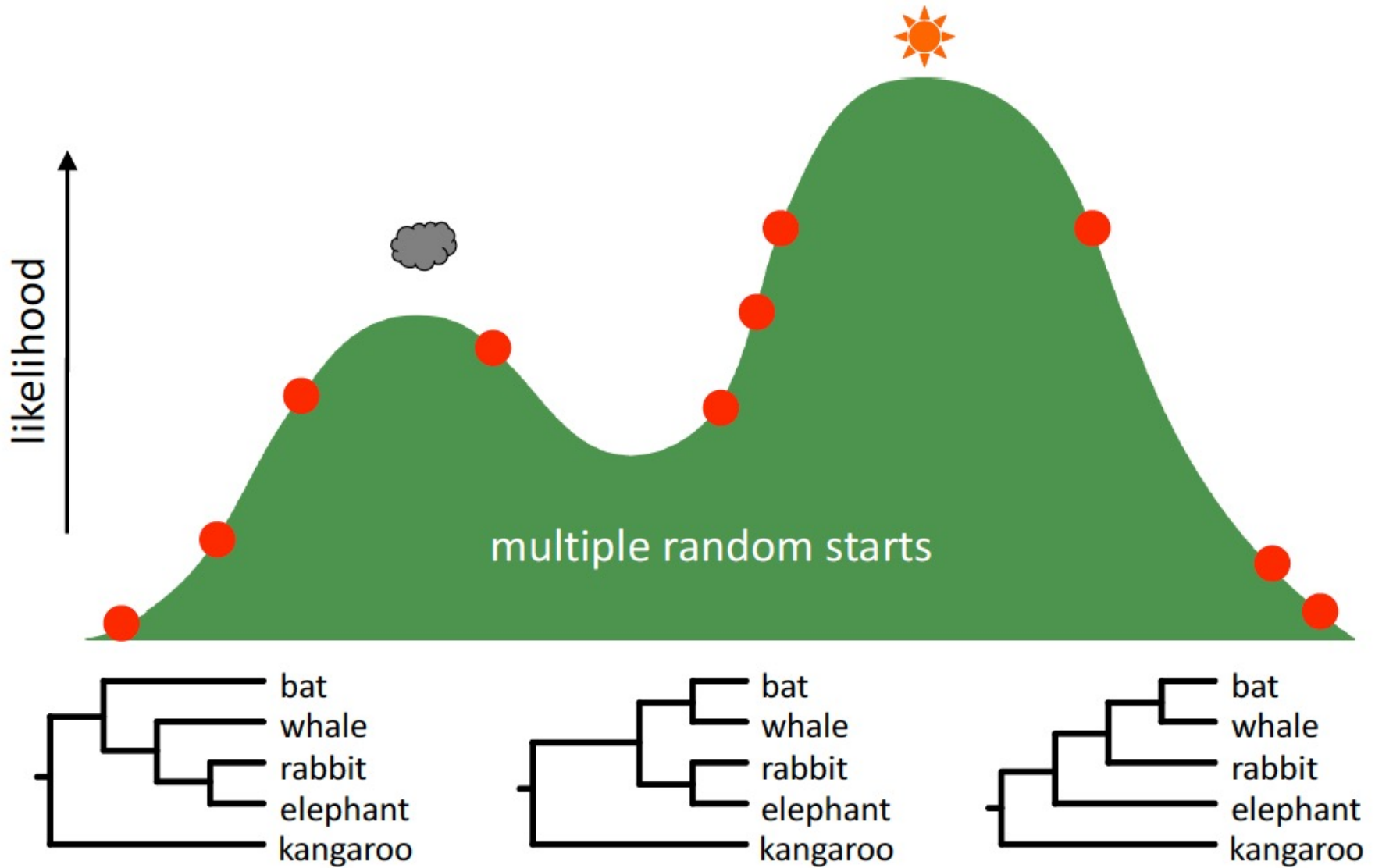
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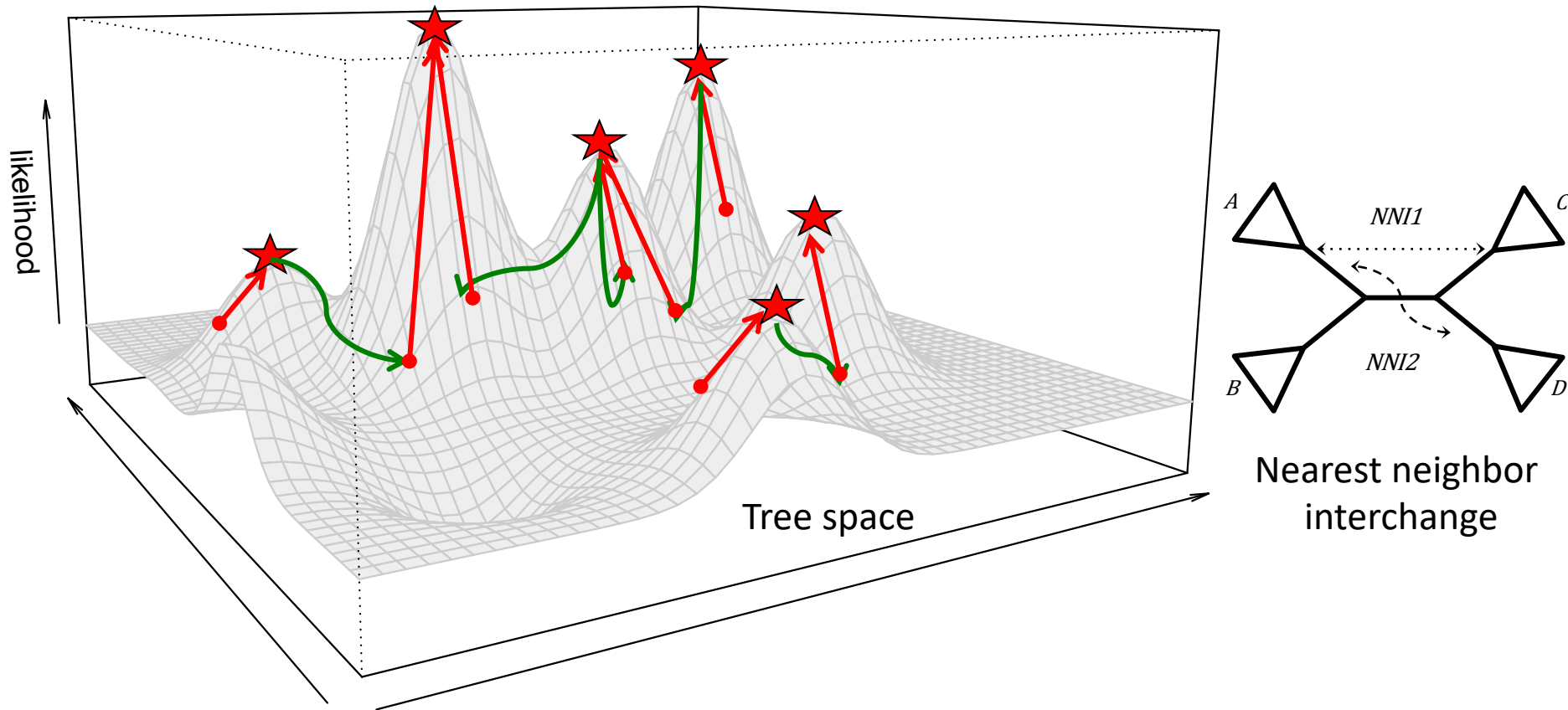
1. Hill-climbing / greedy algorithms: Fast but local optimum
2. Genetic algorithm: Slow but escaping local optima
3. IQ-TREE: Fast and escaping local optima



# Heuristic search



# IQ-TREE: A new stochastic algorithm

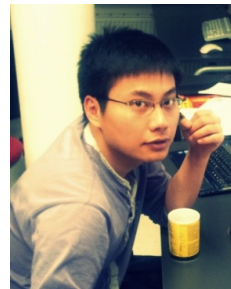


Metaheuristics:

*Iterated local search, Evolution strategy*

<https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msu300>  
(*Mol. Biol. Evol.* 2015)

Lam-Tung Nguyen



Heiko Schmidt

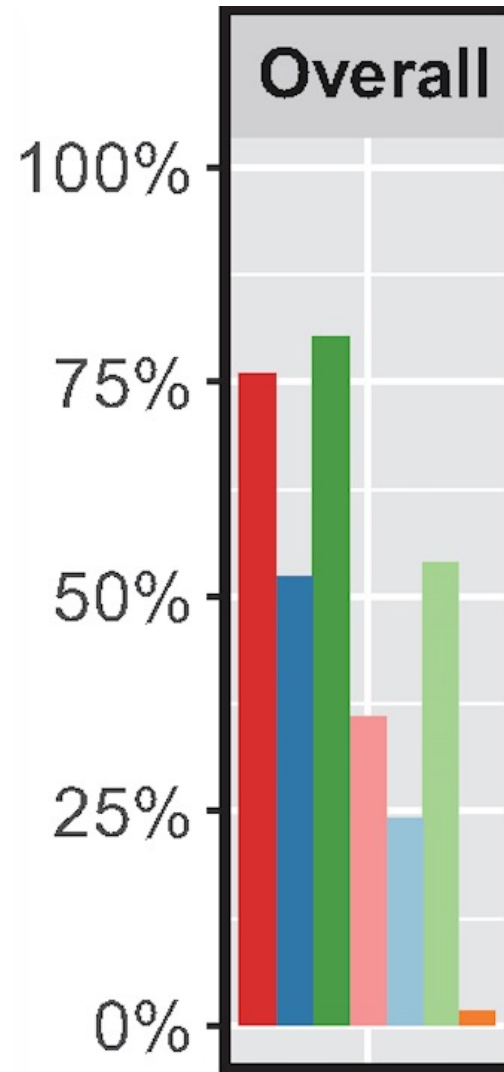


Arndt von Haeseler



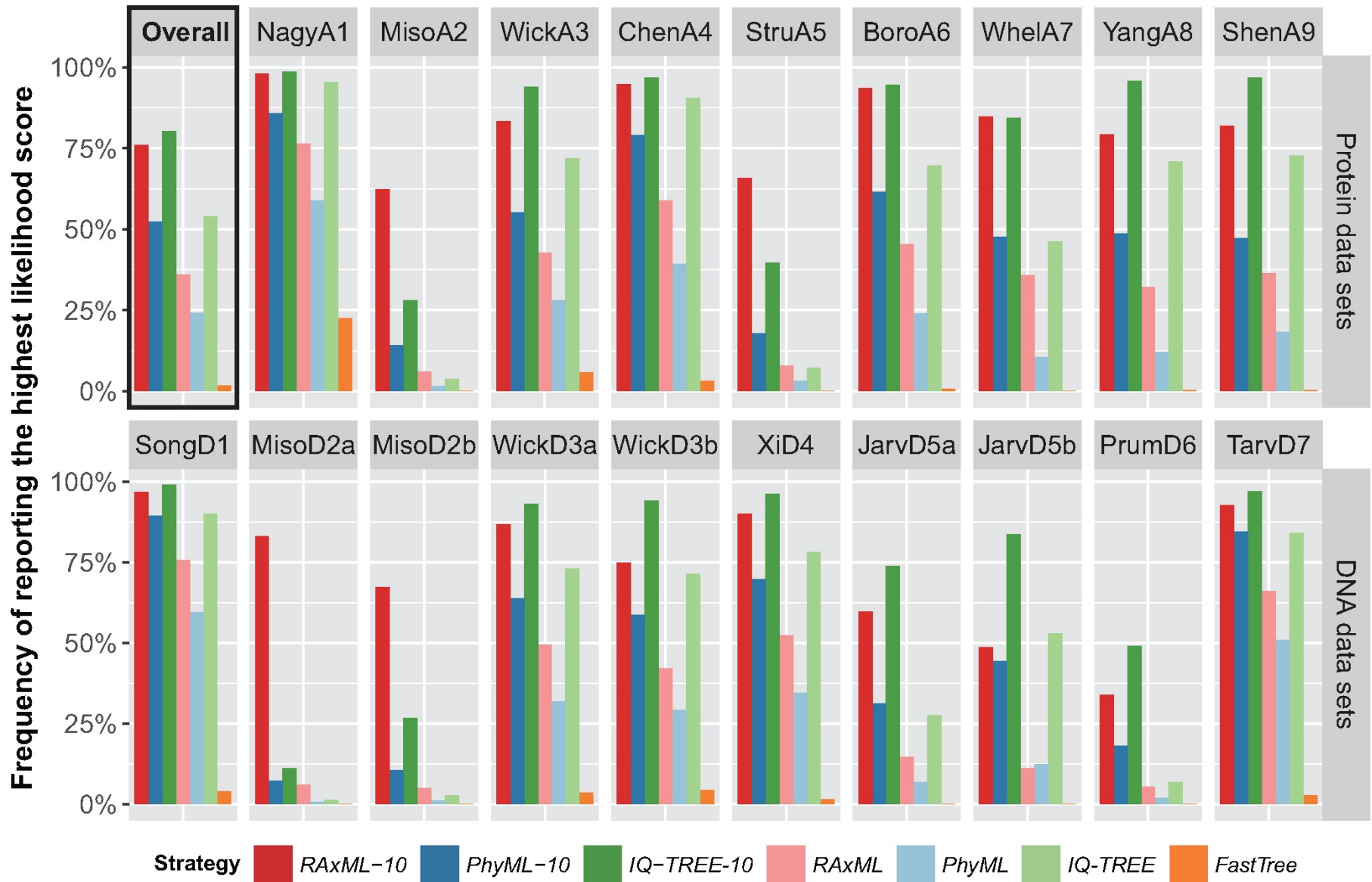
# An independent benchmark by Zhou et al. (2018)

Frequency of reporting the highest likelihood score



Strategy RAxML-10 PhyML-10 IQ-TREE-10 RAxML PhyML IQ-TREE FastTree

# An independent benchmark by Zhou et al. (2018)



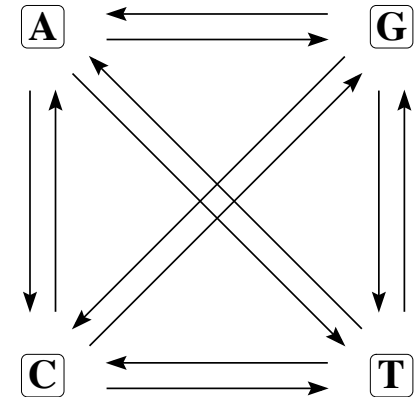
# Step 2: IQ-TREE summary

## Multiple sequence alignment

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CCGGGATAGCTTC----CATTAC
ACCCCCTATC--CACTGGATTAC
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```

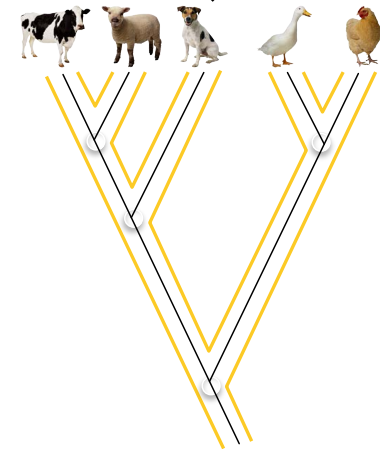
## Model selection

## Substitution model

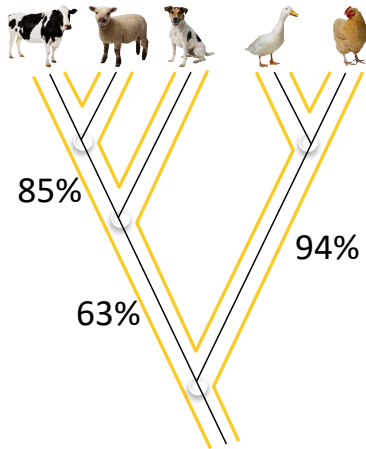


- **IQ-TREE** efficiently explores tree space
- Good alternative to RAxML, PhyML et al.

## Tree reconstruction



## Assessment of branch supports



Tree with branch supports

Phylogenetic tree

# Step 3: Ultrafast bootstrap

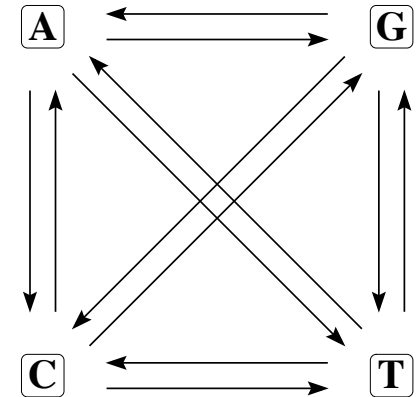
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Model selection

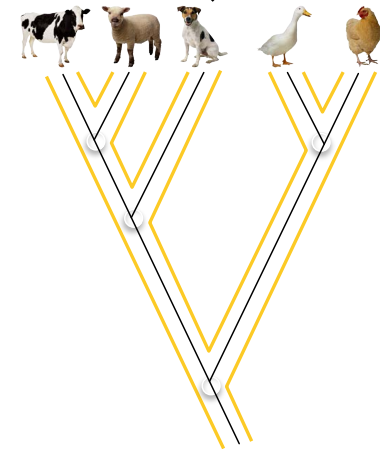
ModelFinder

## Substitution model



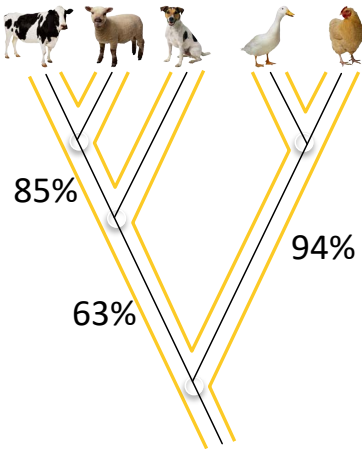
IQ-TREE

Tree reconstruction



Ultrafast bootstrap

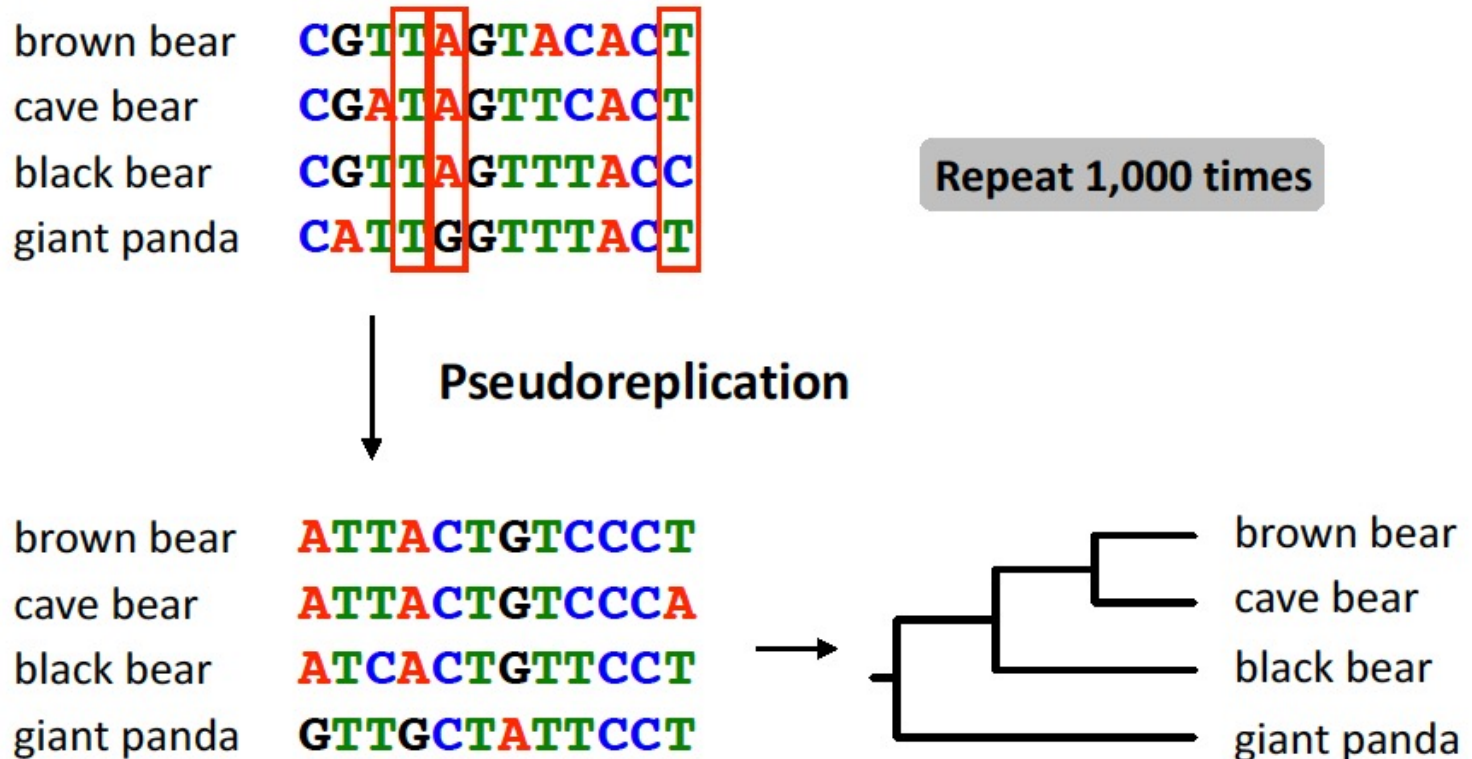
Branch supports



Tree with branch supports

Phylogenetic tree

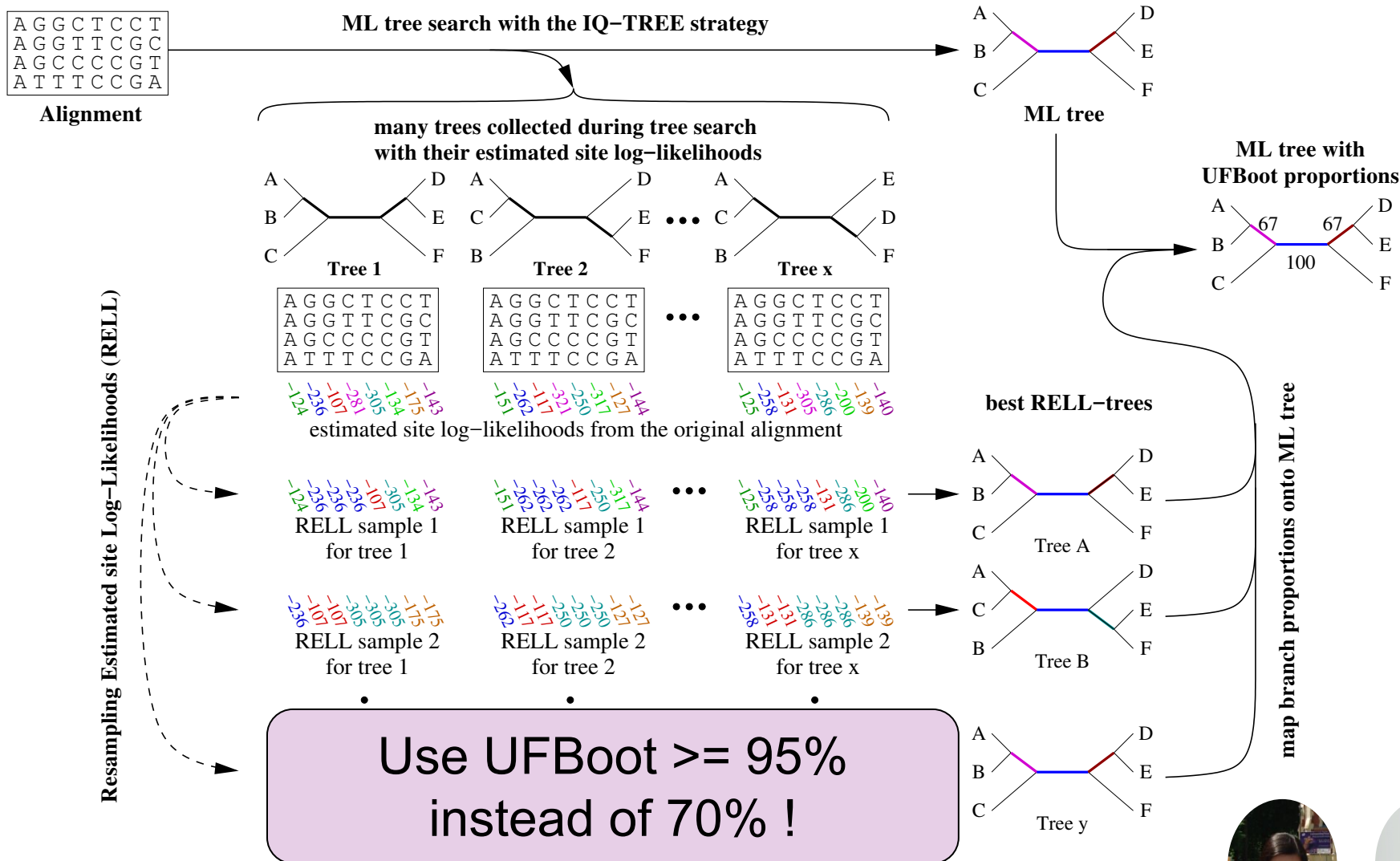
# Bootstrapping



Bootstrap analysis is  
extremely time-consuming!



# UFBoot: Ultrafast bootstrap approximation



<https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/mst024> (2013)



M.A.T. Nguyen, A. von Haeseler

# Step 3: Ultrafast bootstrap

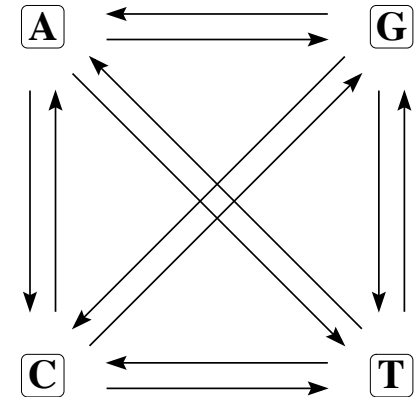
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Model selection

ModelFinder

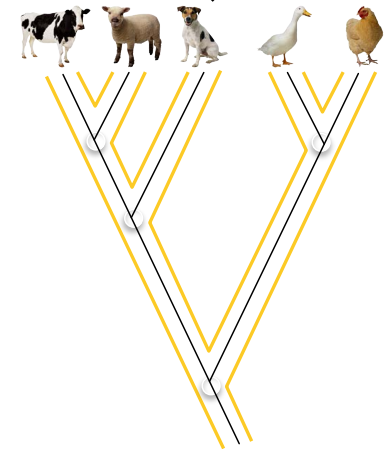
## Substitution model



- A very fast alternative to standard bootstrap.
- More direct interpretation of bootstrap supports.

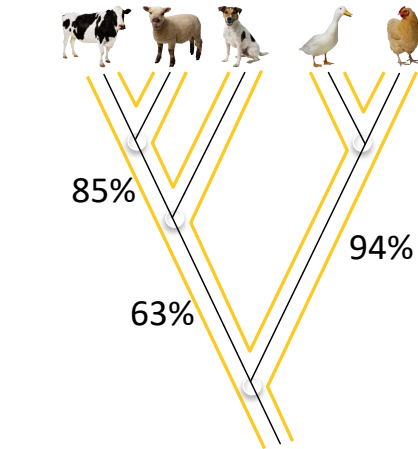
IQ-TREE

Tree reconstruction



UFBoot

Branch supports



Tree with branch supports

Phylogenetic tree

# Typical analysis in one IQ-TREE run

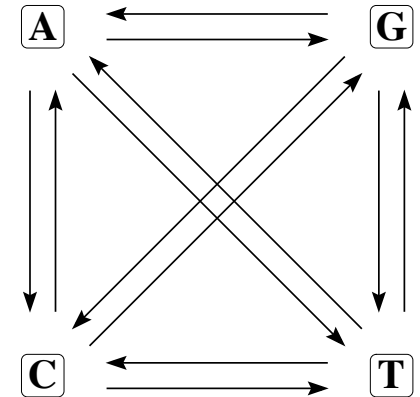
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Model selection

ModelFinder

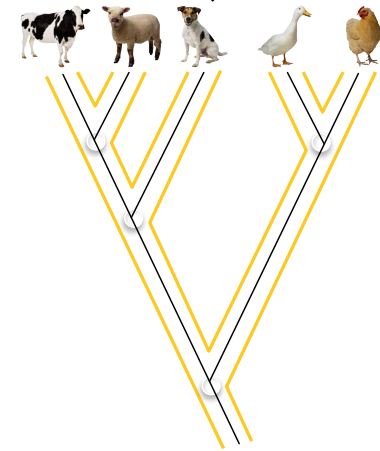
## Substitution model



**iqtree -s alignment.phy -bb 1000**

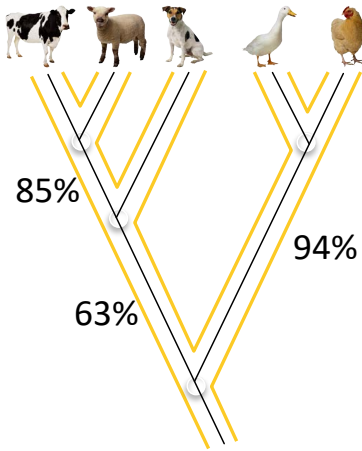
IQ-TREE

Tree  
reconstruction



UFBoot

Branch supports



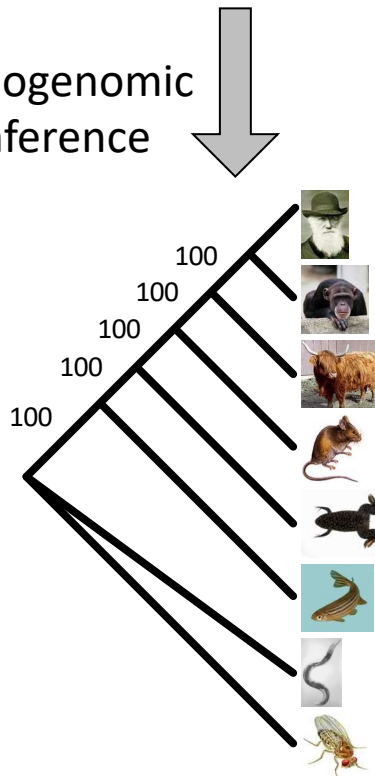
Tree with branch supports

Phylogenetic tree

# Concatenation methods: Limitation

Supermatrix			
Gene 1	Gene 2	.....	Gene 1,000
CACCTGTCGT	-----	-----	TCTGGTGCAG
CAGCTGTCGT	GCTCTTTCTG	TTGAGCCTGG	TCTGGTGCAG
CAGCTGCCGT	GTTTTCTCTG	TTGAGCCTGG	TCTGGTACAG
CAGCTGCCGC	GTTCTCTCCG	-----	TCTGGTGCAA
CTCCTGCCGG	GTGCTCTCAG	-----	-----
CTCCTGCCGG	-----	CTGAGCCGGG	TCTGGTGCAG
CTCTTGCCGG	-----	CTGAGCCTTG	-----

Phylogenomic  
Inference



*Species tree of life*

Bootstrap supports and Bayesian posteriors  
tend to 100% as #genes increases!

Concatenation assumes a single tree  
across all loci

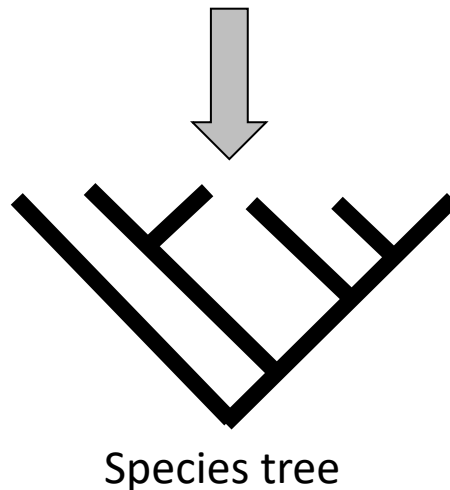
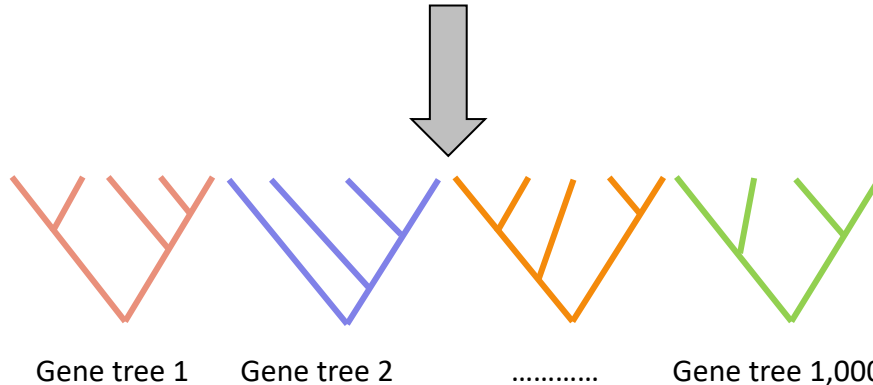
Potential *systematic bias*

Felsenstein (1985):

which not. Where the method of inferring  
phylogenies is one with undesirable sta-  
tistical properties such as inconsistency,  
the bootstrap does not correct for these.

# Coalescent/reconciliation methods

Supermatrix			
Gene 1	Gene 2	.....	Gene 1,000
CACCTGTCGT	-----	-----	TCTGGTGCAG
CAGCTGTCGT	GCTCTTTCTG	TTGAGCCTGG	TCTGGTGCAG
CAGCTGCCGT	GTTTTCTCTG	TTGAGCCTGG	TCTGGTACAG
CAGCTGCCGC	GTTCTCTCCG	-----	TCTGGTGCAA
CTCCTGCCGG	GTGCTCTCAG	-----	-----
CTCCTGCCGG	-----	CTGAGCCGGG	TCTGGTGCAG
CTCTTGCCGG	-----	CTGAGCCTTG	-----

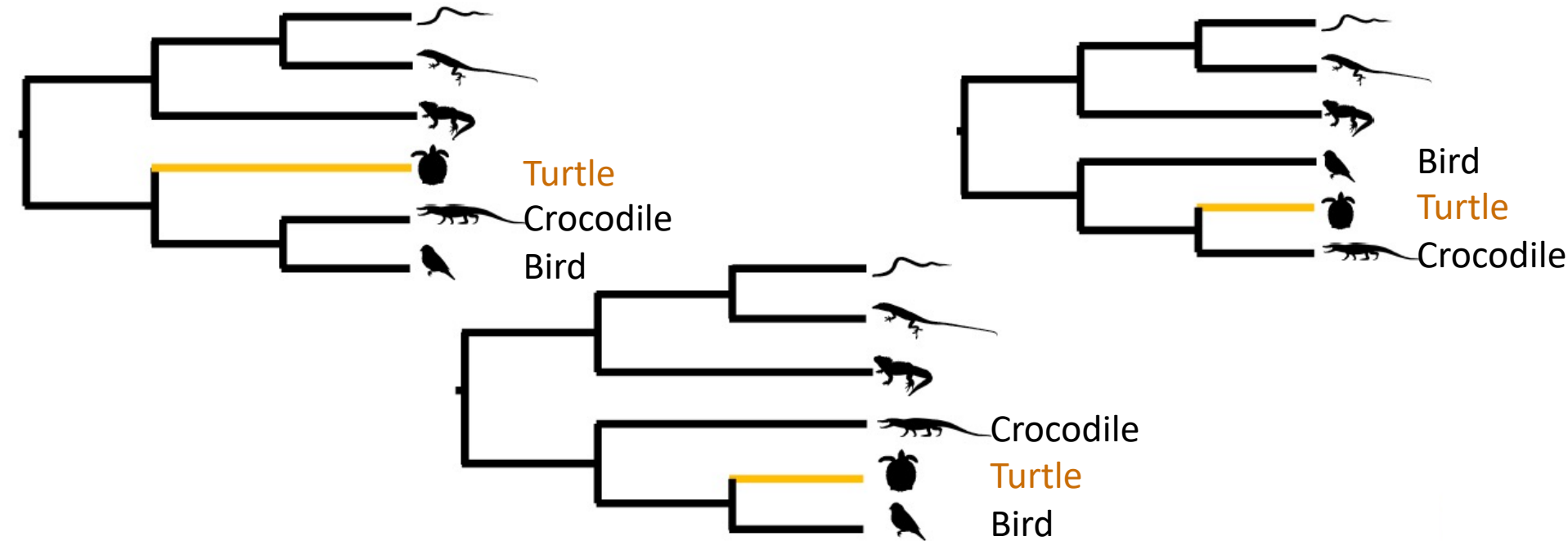


*Gene Concordance Factor (gCF):*  
How often a branch in species  
tree is found among gene trees?  
 **$0\% \leq gCF \leq 100\%$**

Implementation in IQ-TREE fully  
accounts for missing data

**Problem: Uncertainties in  
gene trees!**

# Suggested Tutorial: Turtle dataset

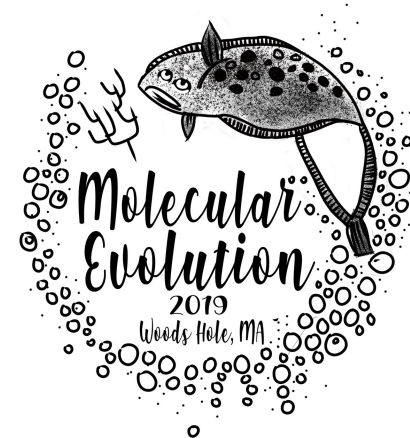


Chiari et al.  
Crawford et al.  
Fong et al.

Wang et al.  
Lu et al.  
Shaffer et al.



Different studies led to different trees!



# Suggested Tutorial: Exercises

1. Input data
2. Inferring the first phylogeny
3. Applying partition model
4. Choosing the best partitioning scheme
5. Tree topology tests
6. Concordance factors
7. Resampling partitions and sites
8. Identifying most influential genes
9. Wrapping up

<http://www.iqtree.org/workshop/molevol2019>

