Recent breakthroughs in mathematical and computational phylogenetics

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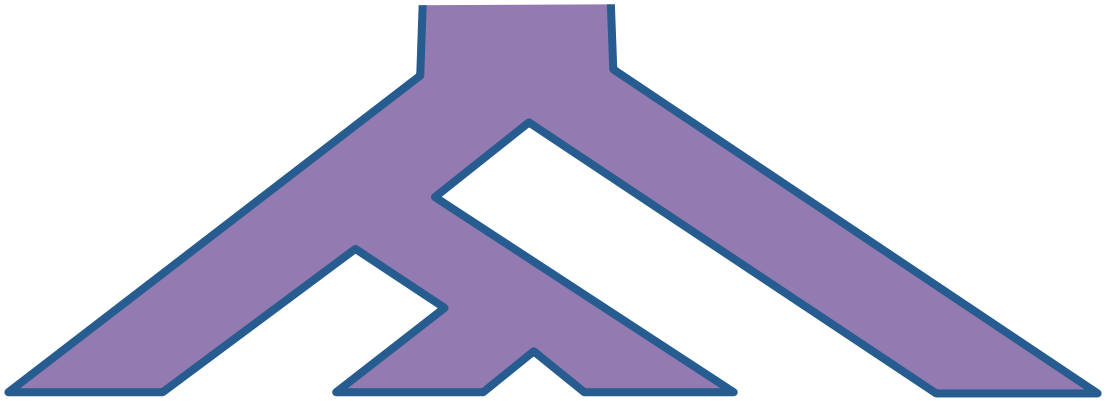
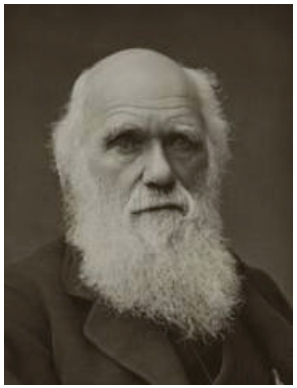
Phylogeny (evolutionary tree)

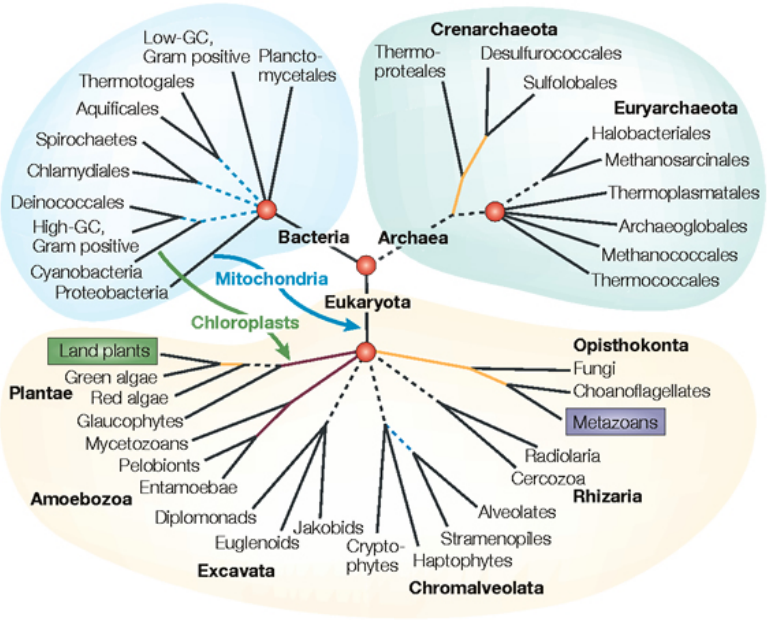


Gorilla Human Chimpanzee Orangutan

From the Tree of the Life Website, University of Arizona

Applications of Phylogenies



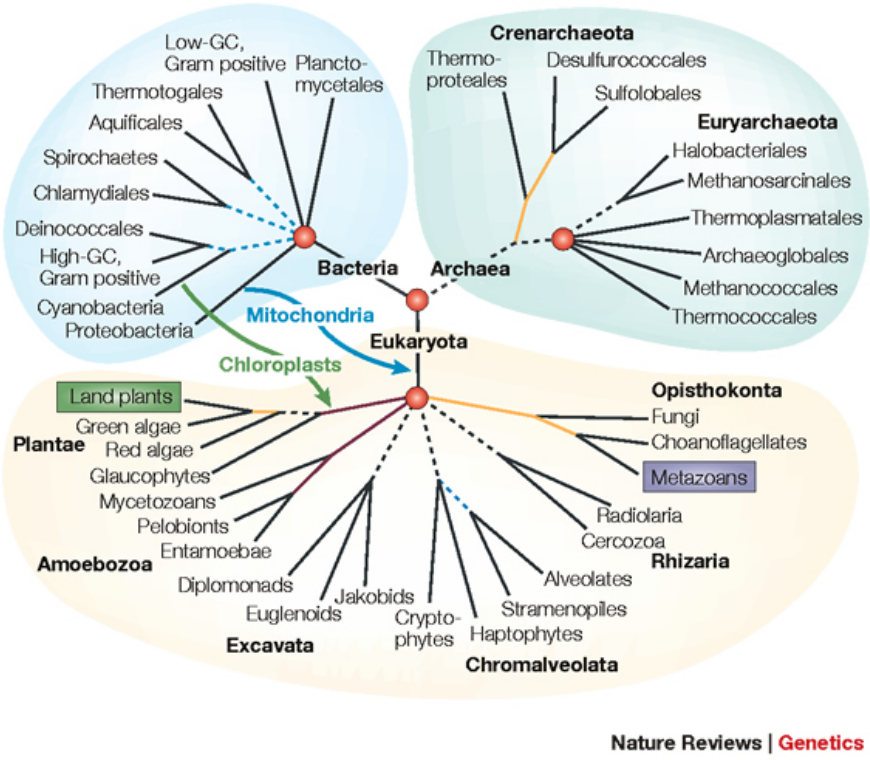
Nature Reviews | Genetics

"*Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution*" - Dobzhansky

Biological Research:

- What did the earliest organisms look like?
- Protein structure and function
- Population genetics
- Human migrations
- What bacteria are in your gut, and what are they doing?

Hard Computational Problems



NP-hard problems

Large datasets

- 100,000+ sequences
- thousands of genes

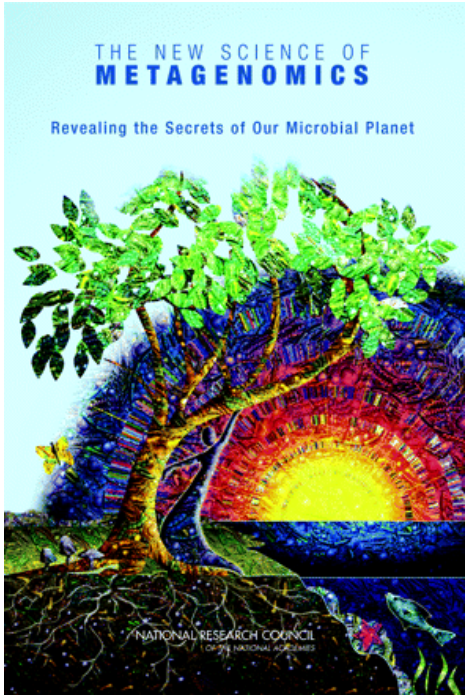
"Big data" complexity:

- model misspecification
- fragmentary sequences
- errors in input data
- streaming data

CS/Statistics Research: Discrete algorithms, graph-theory, probability theory, statistical inference, parallel computing, data mining, machine learning, massive simulations, etc.

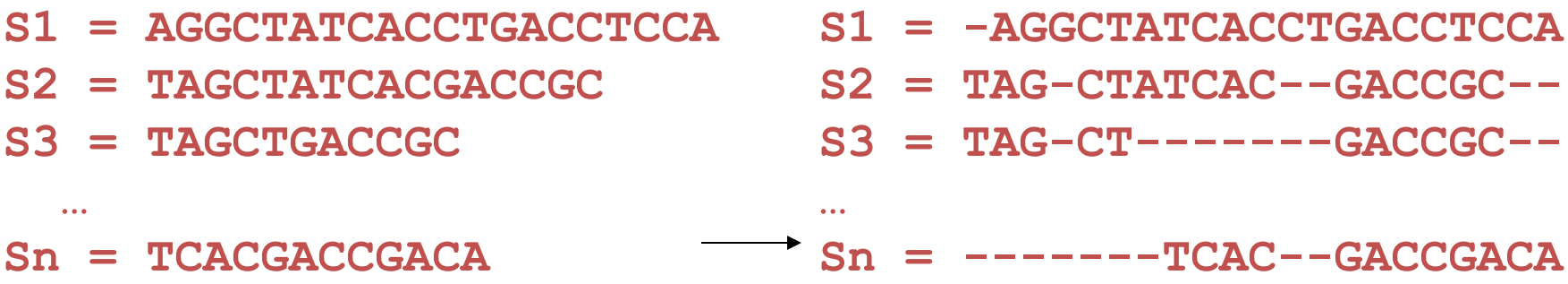
My Research:
Grand Computational Challenges in Computational Phylogenetics and Metagenomics*

Courtesy of the Tree of Life project



*Plus historical linguistics (collaboration with linguist Donald Ringe at Penn)

Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA): *another grand challenge*[1]



Novel techniques needed for scalability and accuracy

NP-hard problems and large datasets

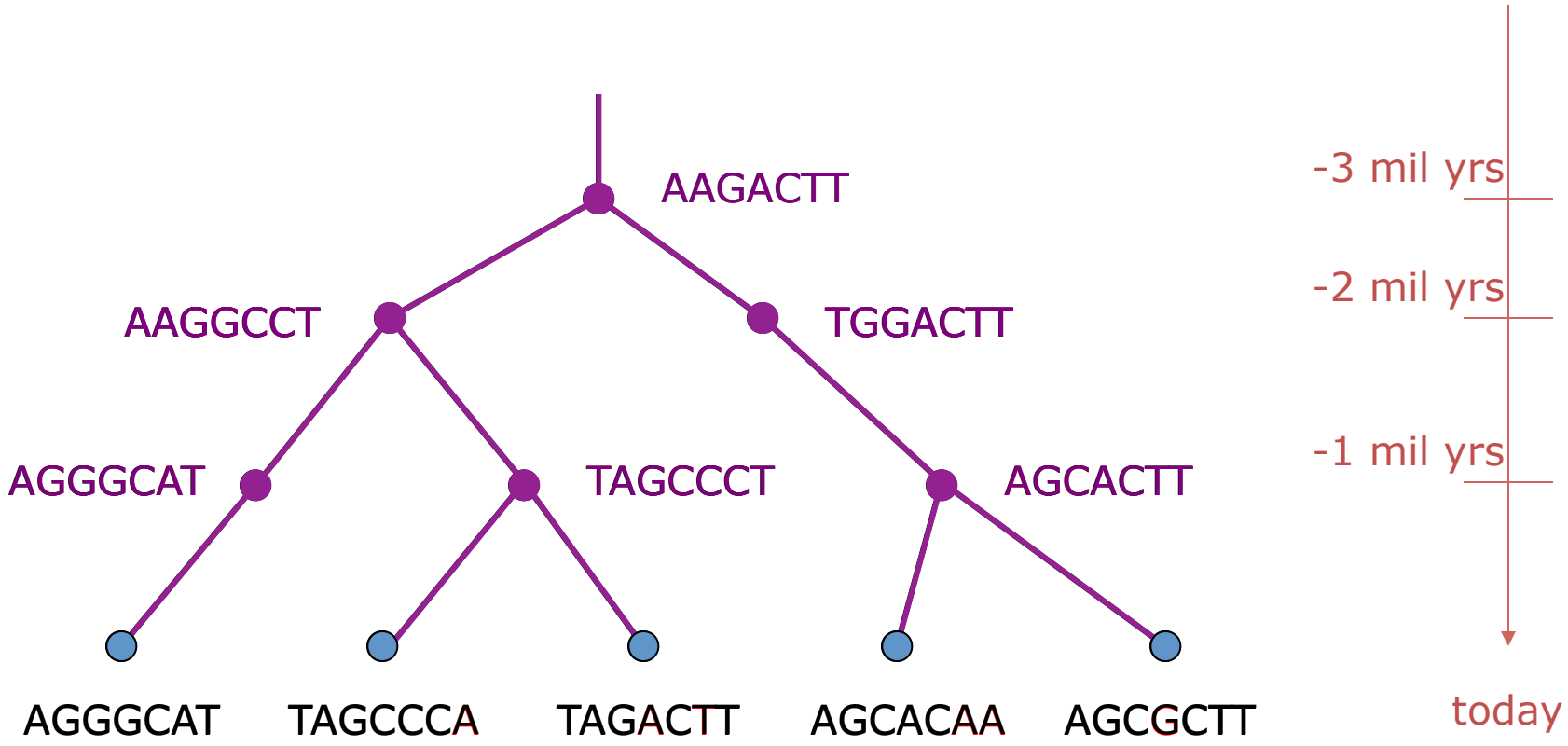
Current methods do not provide good accuracy

Few methods can analyze even moderately large datasets

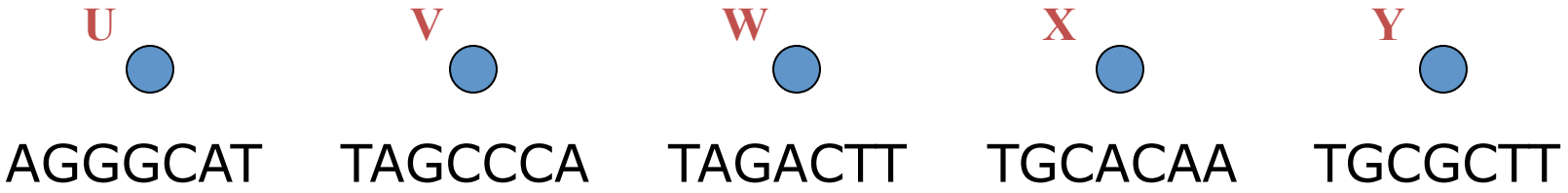
Many important applications besides phylogenetic estimation

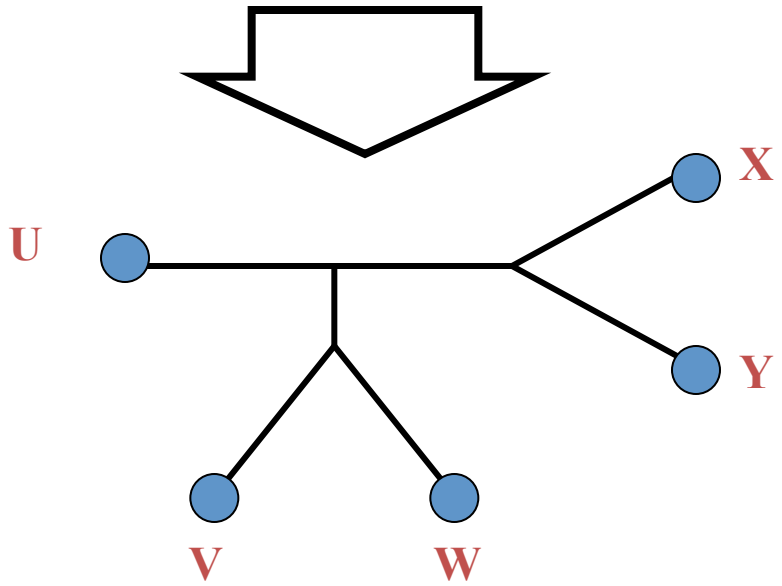
[1] Frontiers in Massive Data Analysis, National Academies Press, 2013

DNA Sequence Evolution

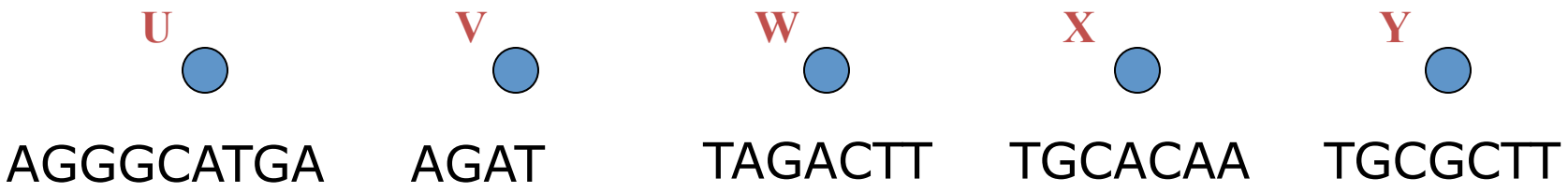


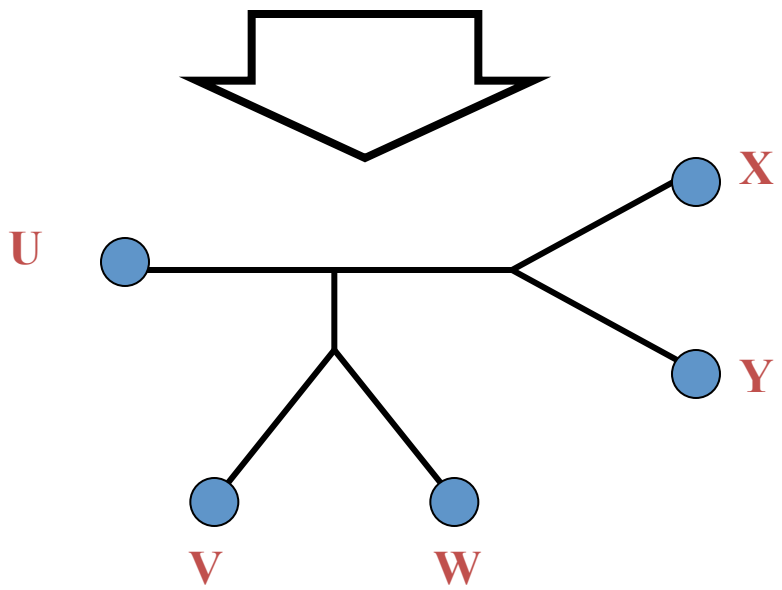
Phylogeny Problem



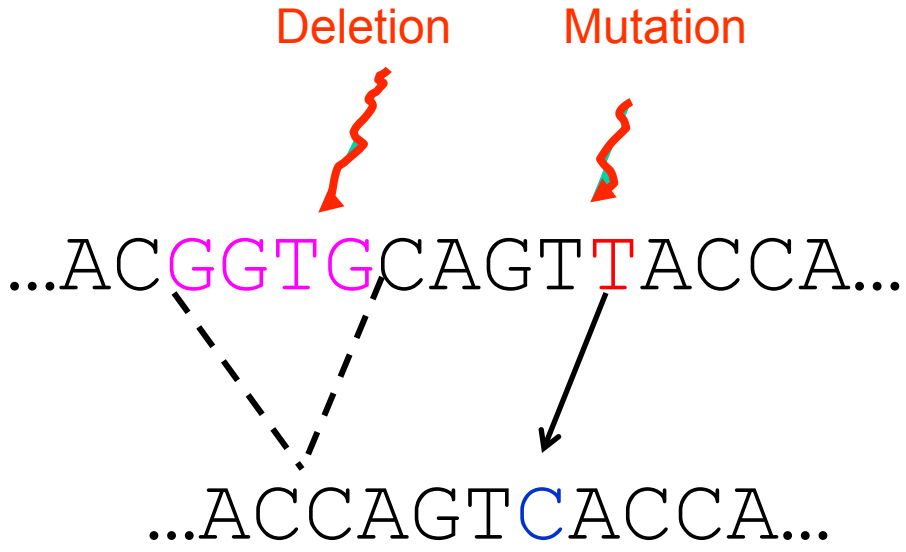


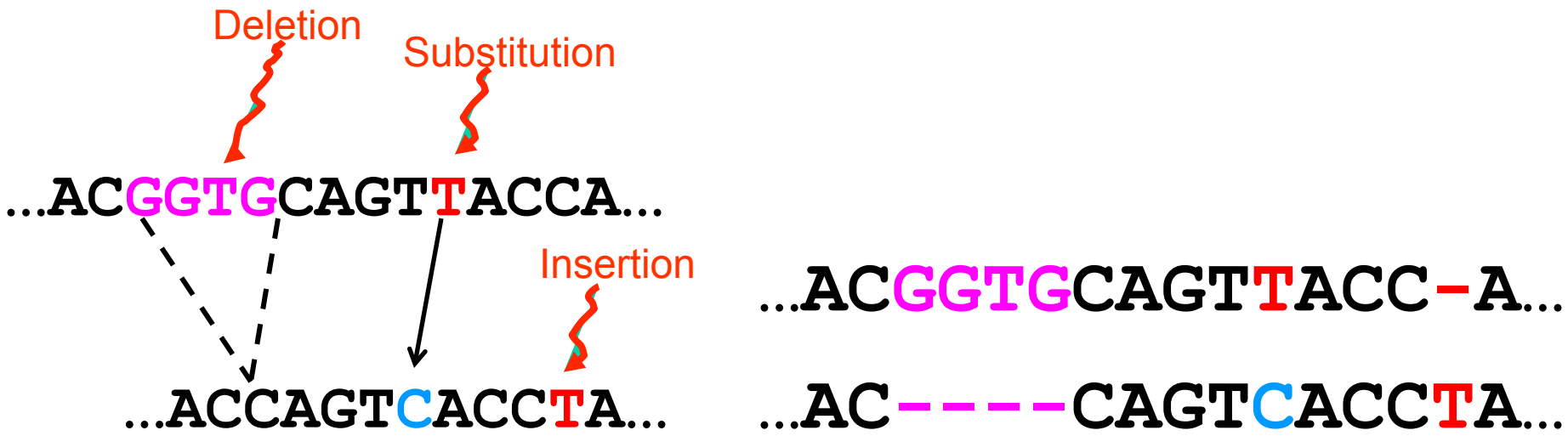
The “real” problem





Indels (insertions and deletions)





The true multiple alignment

- **Reflects historical substitution, insertion, and deletion events**
- **Defined using transitive closure of pairwise alignments computed on edges of the true tree**

Input: unaligned sequences

```
S1 = AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCA
S2 = TAGCTATCACGACCGC
S3 = TAGCTGACCGC
S4 = TCACGACCGACA
```

Phase 1: Alignment

```
S1 = AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCA
S2 = TAGCTATCACGACCGC
S3 = TAGCTGACCGC
S4 = TCACGACCGACA
```



```
S1 = -AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCA
S2 = TAG-CTATCAC--GACCGC--
S3 = TAG-CT-------GACCGC--
S4 = -------TCAC--GACCGACA
```

Phase 2: Construct tree

```
S1 = AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCA
S2 = TAGCTATCACGACCGC
S3 = TAGCTGACCGC
S4 = TCACGACCGACA
```

→

```
S1 = -AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCA
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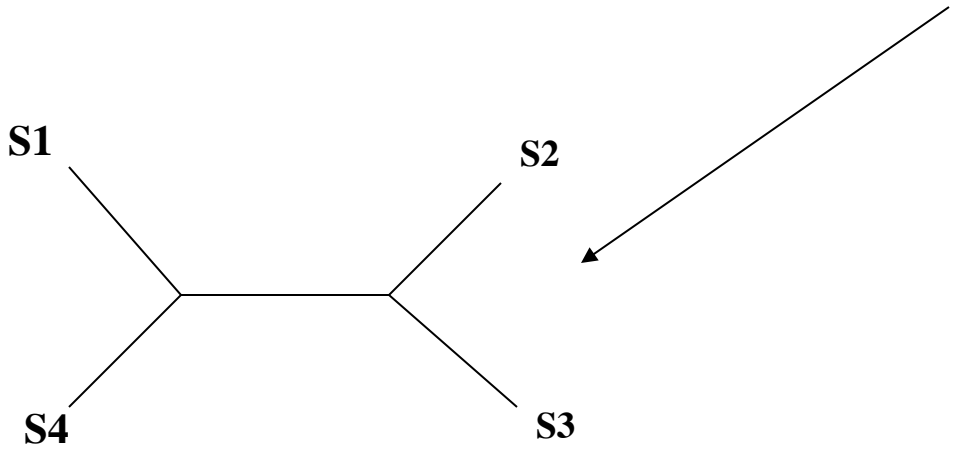

Phylogenomic pipeline

- Select taxon set and markers
- Gather and screen sequence data, possibly identify orthologs
- Compute multiple sequence alignments for each locus
- Compute species tree or network:
  - Compute gene trees on the alignments and combine the estimated gene trees, OR
  - Estimate a tree from a concatenation of the multiple sequence alignments
- Get statistical support on each branch (e.g., bootstrapping)
- Estimate dates on the nodes of the phylogeny
- Use species tree with branch support and dates to understand biology

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Large-scale Alignment Estimation

- Many genes are considered unalignable due to high rates of evolution
- Only a few methods can analyze large datasets
- iPlant (NSF Plant Biology Collaborative) and other projects planning to construct phylogenies with 500,000 taxa

1kp: Thousand Transcriptome Project

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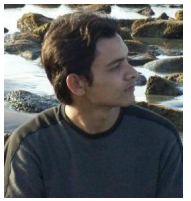


Plus many many other people…

- First study (Wickett, Mirarab, et al., PNAS 2014) had ~100 species and ~800 genes, gene trees and alignments estimated using SATe, and a coalescent-based species tree estimated using ASTRAL
- Second study: Plant Tree of Life based on transcriptomes of ~1200 species, and more than 13,000 gene families (most not single copy)

Upcoming Challenges:
Species tree estimation from conflicting gene trees
Alignment of datasets with > 100,000 sequences

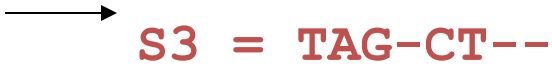
This talk

- “Big data” multiple sequence alignment
- SATé (Science 2009, Systematic Biology 2012) and PASTA (RECOMB and JCB 2014), methods for co-estimation of alignments and trees
- The UPP method (ultra-large multiple sequence alignments using phylogenetic profiles), and its HMM Ensemble technique (submitted)

Multiple Sequence Alignment

First Align, then Compute the Tree

```
S1 = AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCA
S2 = TAGCTATCACGACCGC
S3 = TAGCTGACCGC
S4 = TCACGACCGACA
```



```
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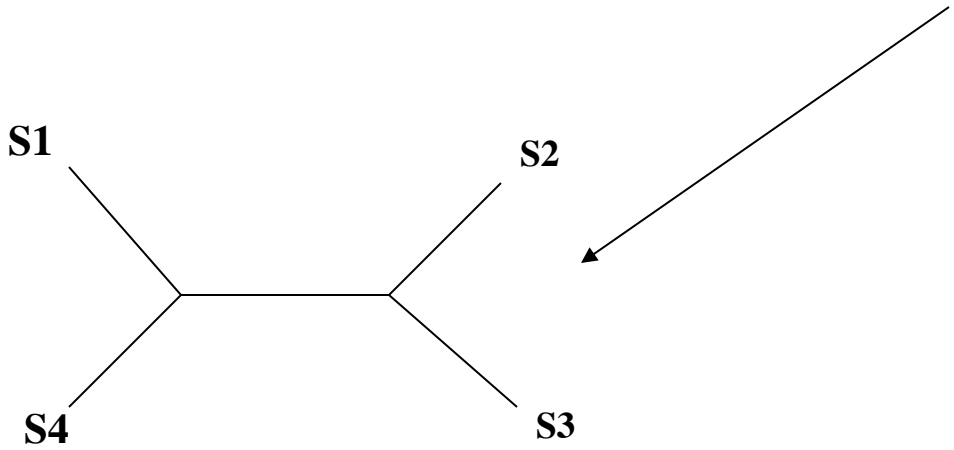
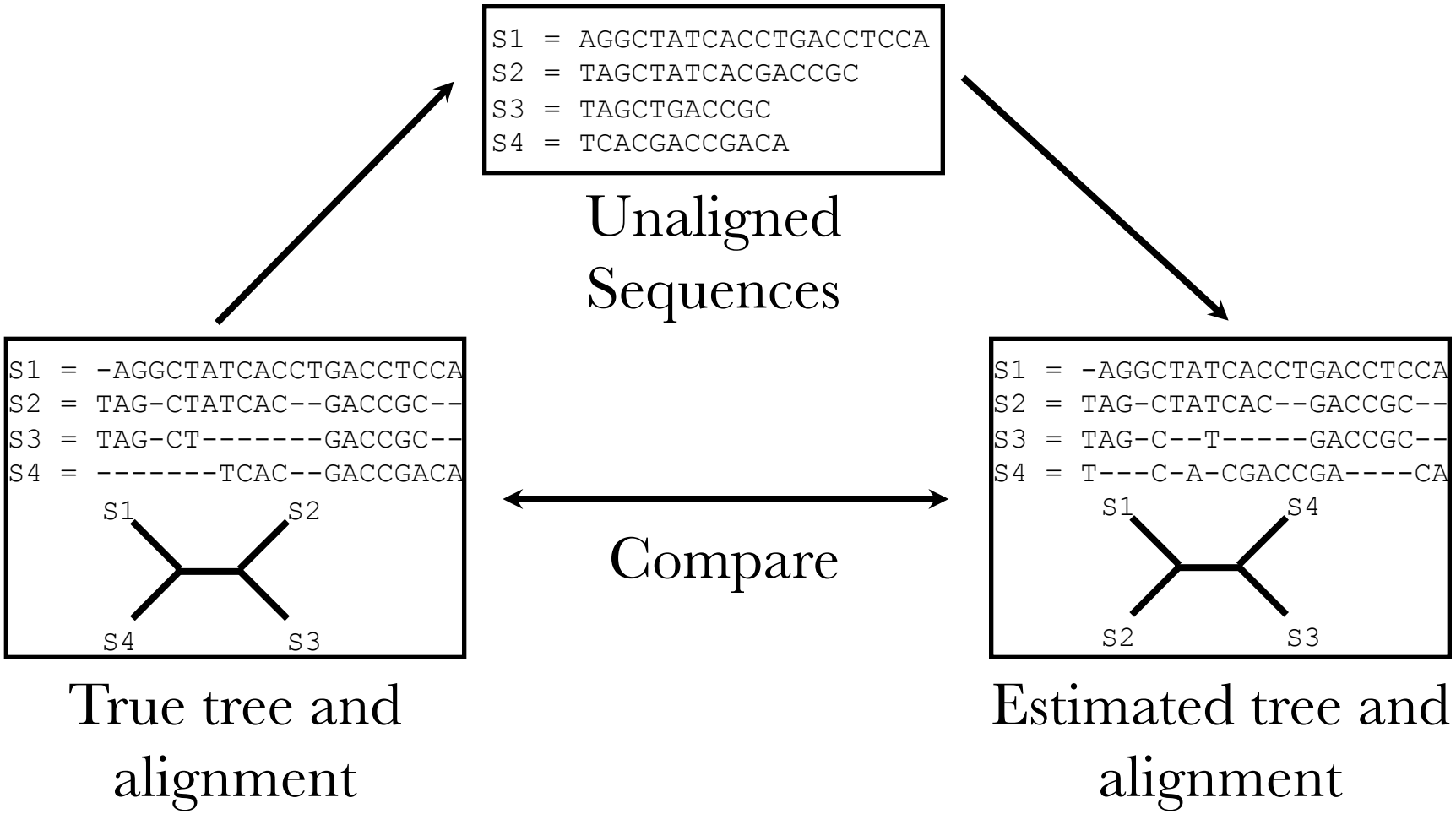
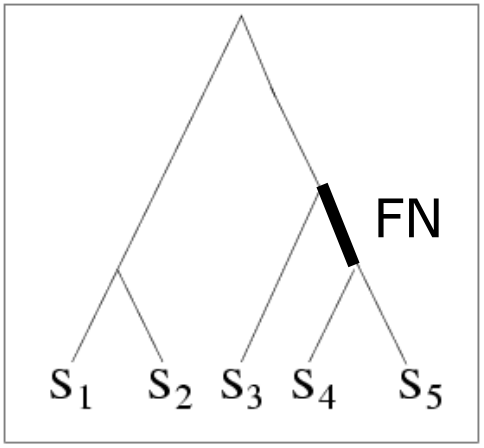
```



Simulation Studies



Quantifying Error



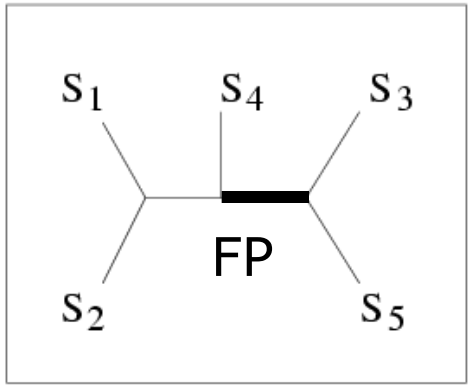
TRUE TREE

S_1	ACAATTAGAAC
S_2	ACCCTTAGAAC
S_3	ACCATTCCAAC
S_4	ACCAGACCAAC
S_5	ACCAGACCGGA

DNA SEQUENCES

FN: false negative
(missing edge)
FP: false positive
(incorrect edge)

50% error rate



INFERRED TREE

Two-phase estimation

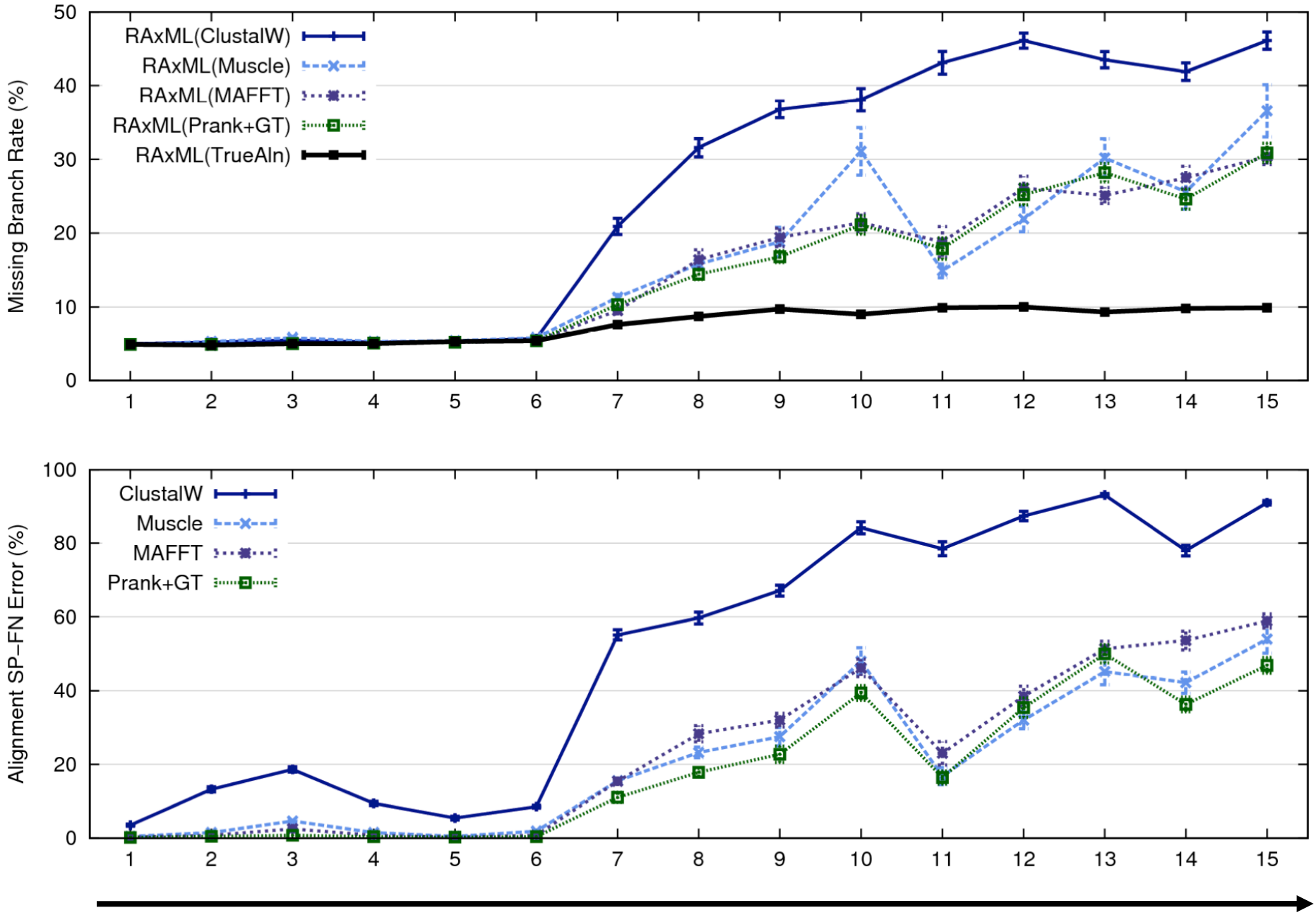
Alignment methods

- Clustal
- POY (and POY*)
- Probcons (and Probtree)
- Probalign
- MAFFT
- Muscle
- Di-align
- T-Coffee
- Prank (PNAS 2005, Science 2008)
- Opal (ISMB and Bioinf. 2007)
- *FSA (PLoS Comp. Bio. 2009)*
- *Infernal (Bioinf. 2009)*
- Etc.

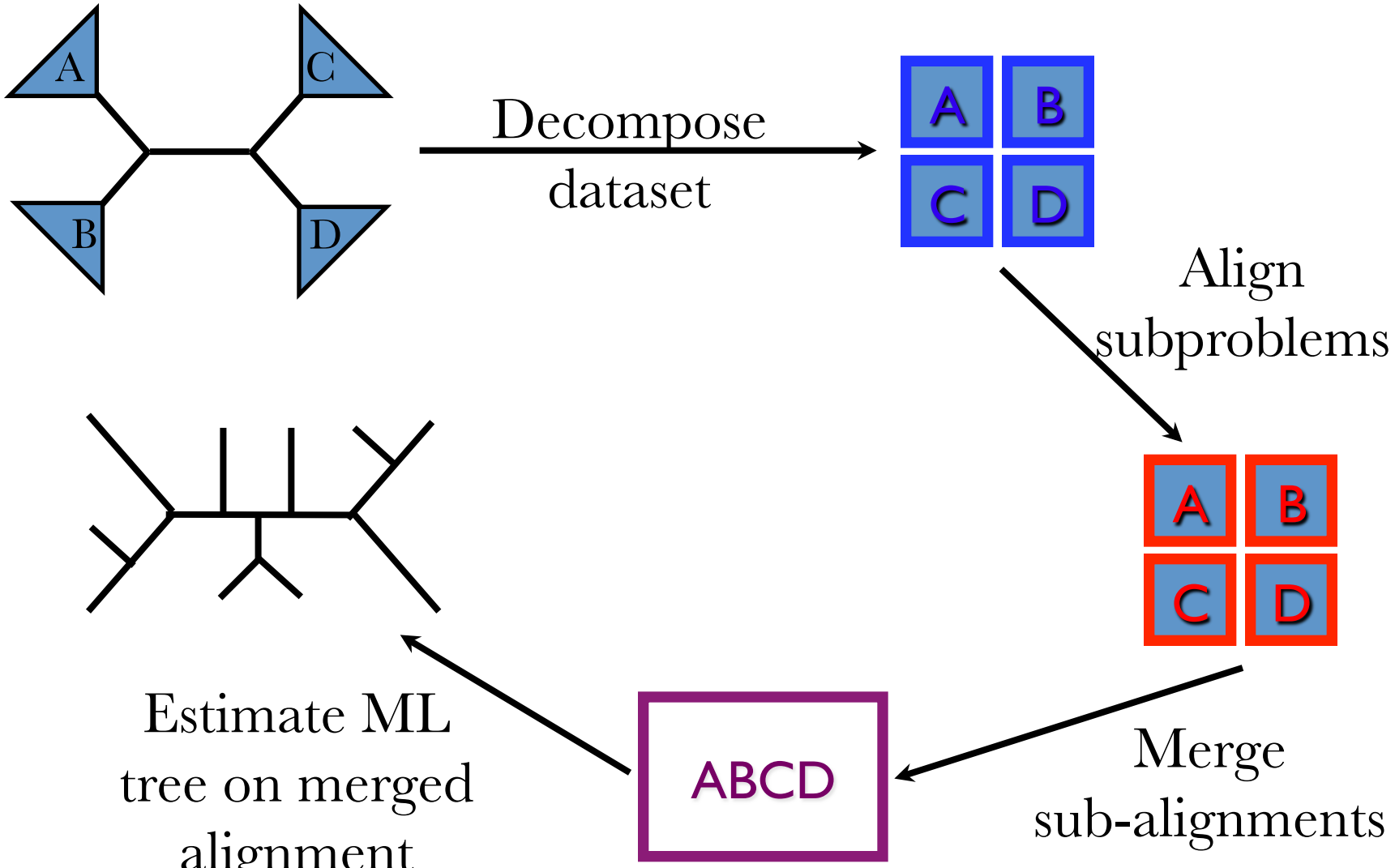
Phylogeny methods

- Bayesian MCMC
- Maximum parsimony
- Maximum likelihood
- Neighbor joining
- FastME
- UPGMA
- Quartet puzzling
- Etc.

***RAxML**: heuristic for large-scale ML optimization*

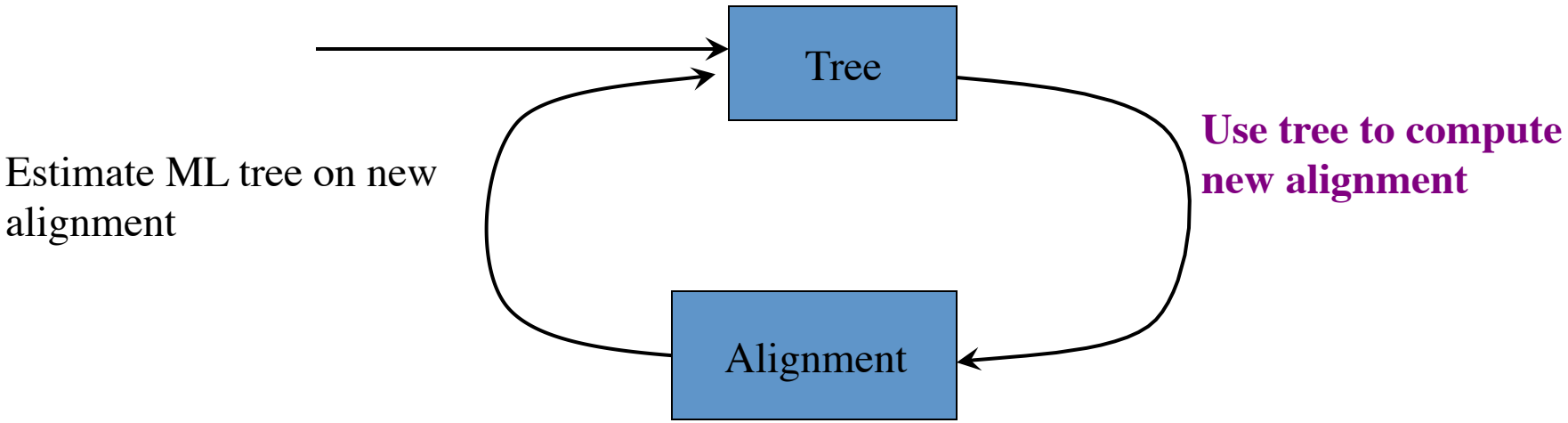

Missing Branch Rate (%)
RAxML(ClustalW)
RAxML(Muscle)
RAxML(MAFFT)
RAxML(Prank+GT)
RAxML(TrueAln)
Alignment SP–FN Error (%)
ClustalW
Muscle
MAFFT
Prank+GT
1000-taxon models, ordered by difficulty (Liu et al., 2009)

Re-aligning on a tree



SATé and PASTA Algorithms

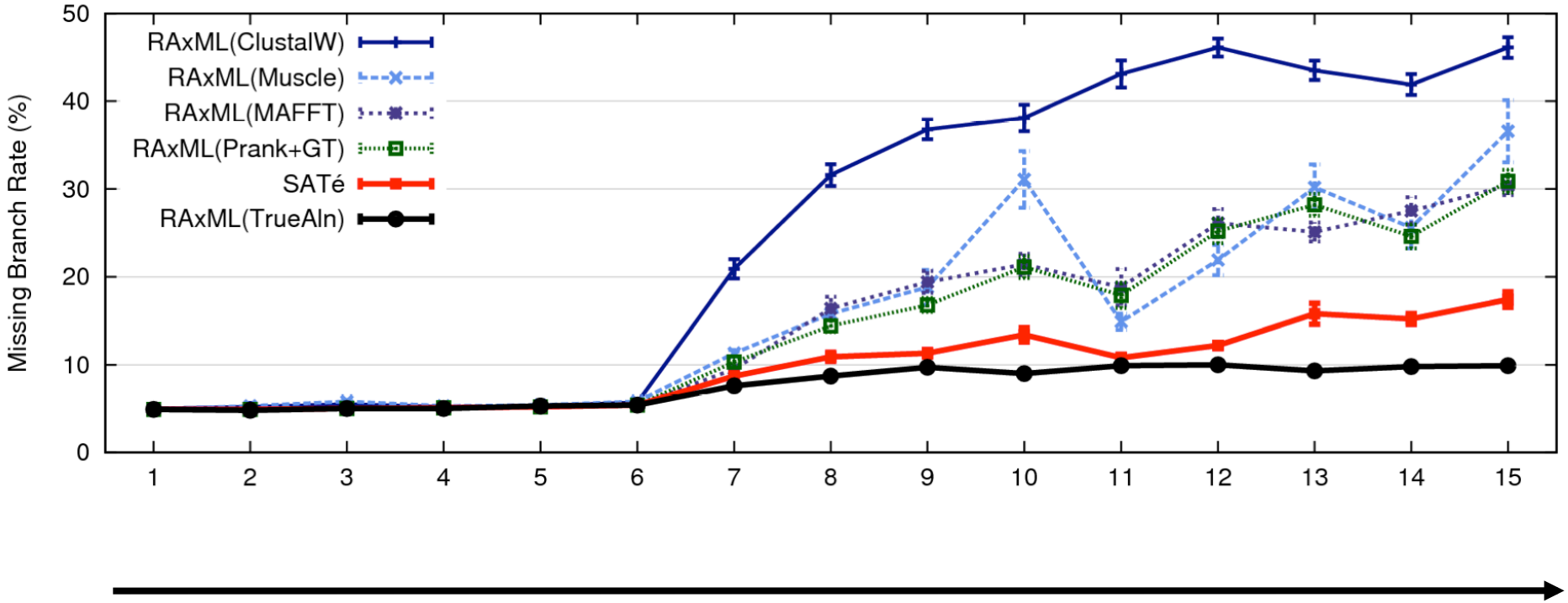
Obtain initial alignment and estimated ML tree



If new alignment/tree pair has worse ML score, realign using a different decomposition

Repeat until termination condition (typically, 24 hours)

SATé-1 (Science 2009) performance



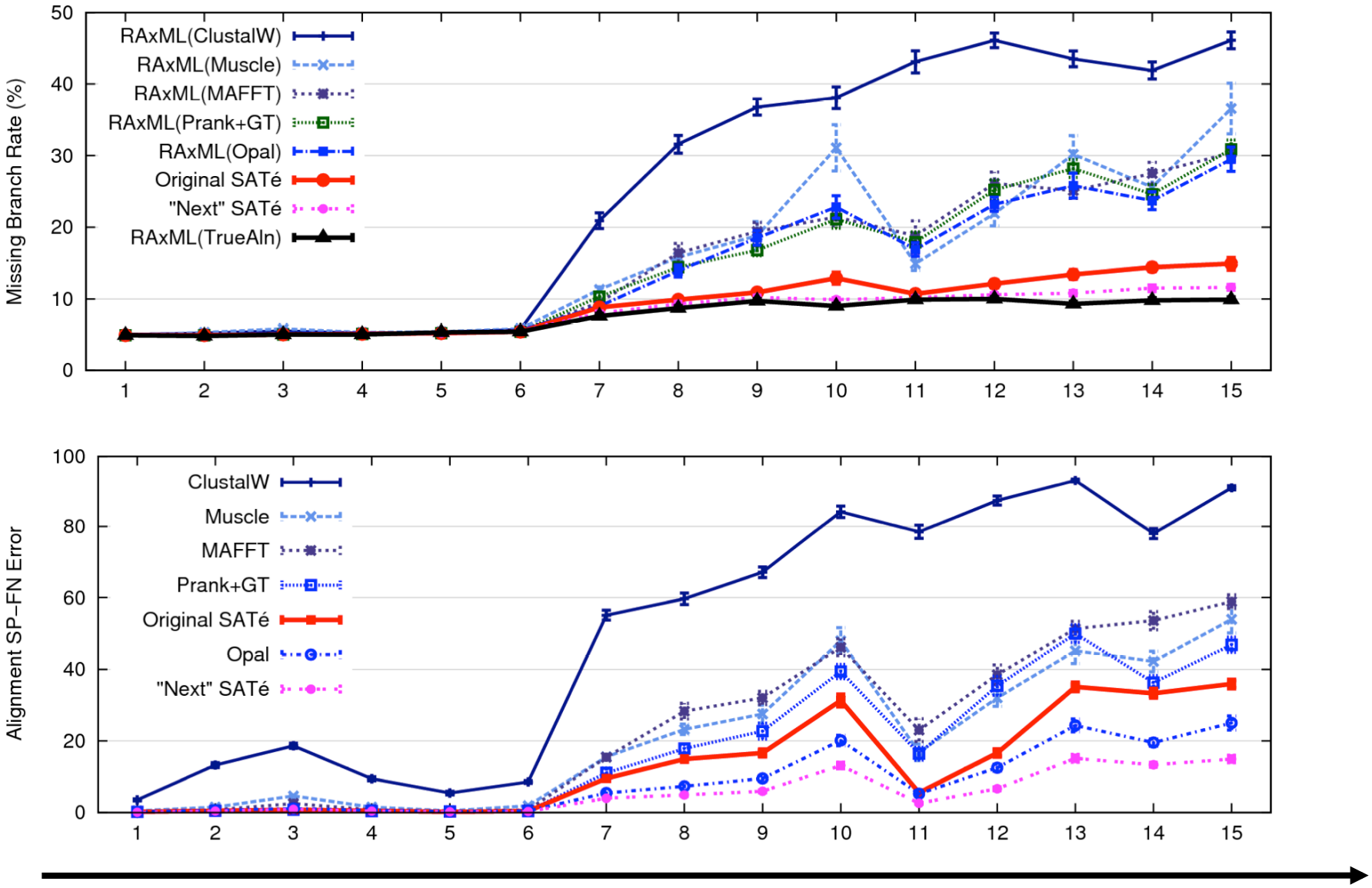
1000 taxon models, ordered by difficulty

SATé-1 24 hour analysis, on desktop machines

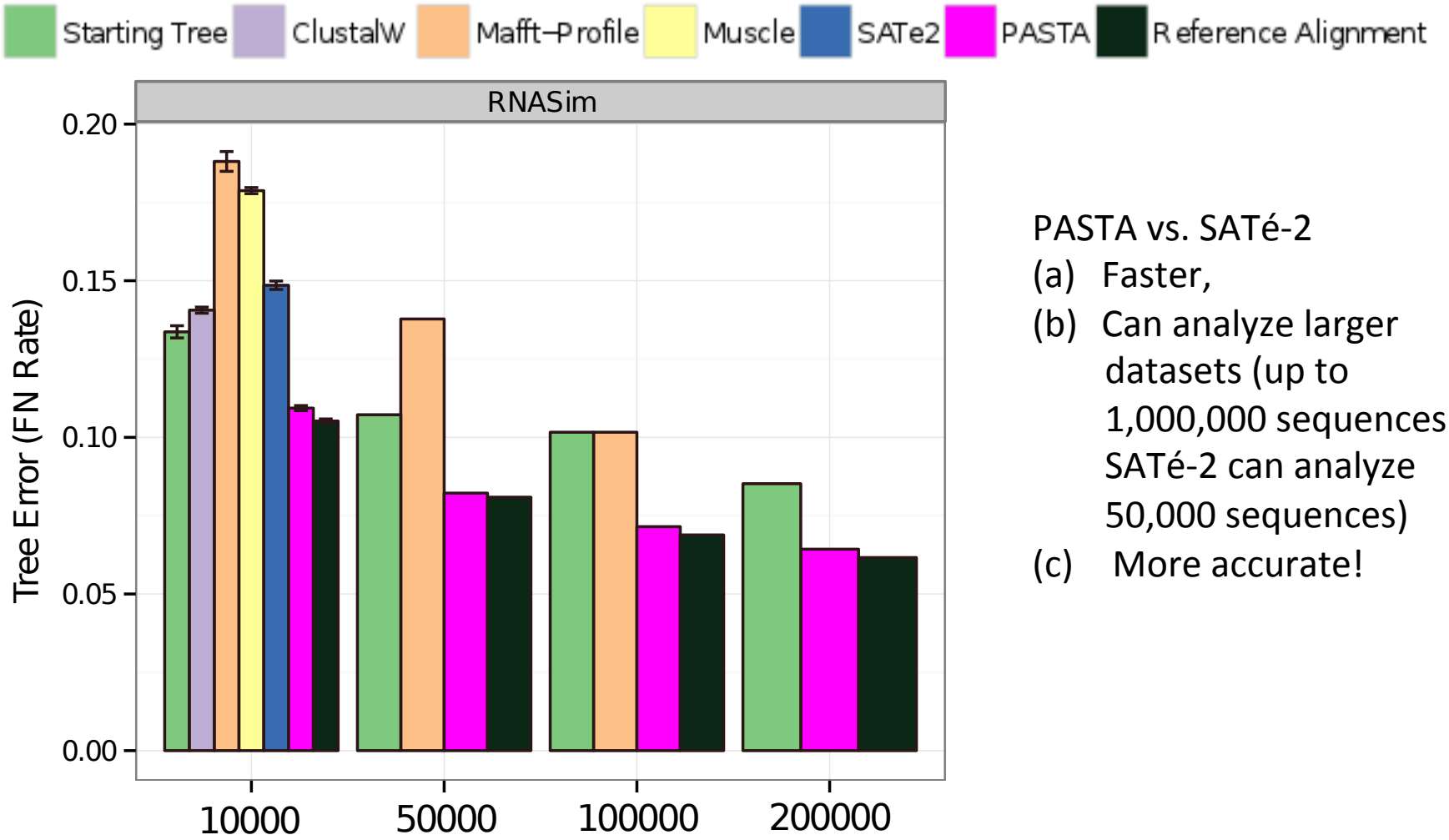
(Similar improvements for biological datasets)

SATé-1 can analyze up to about 30,000 sequences.

SATé-1 and SATé-2 (Systematic Biology, 2012)



PASTA (2014): even better than SATé-2



PASTA vs. SATé-2

(a) Faster,

(b) Can analyze larger datasets (up to 1,000,000 sequences – SATé-2 can analyze 50,000 sequences)

(c) More accurate!

1kp: Thousand Transcriptome Project

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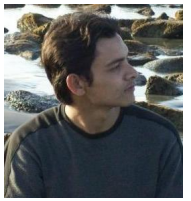
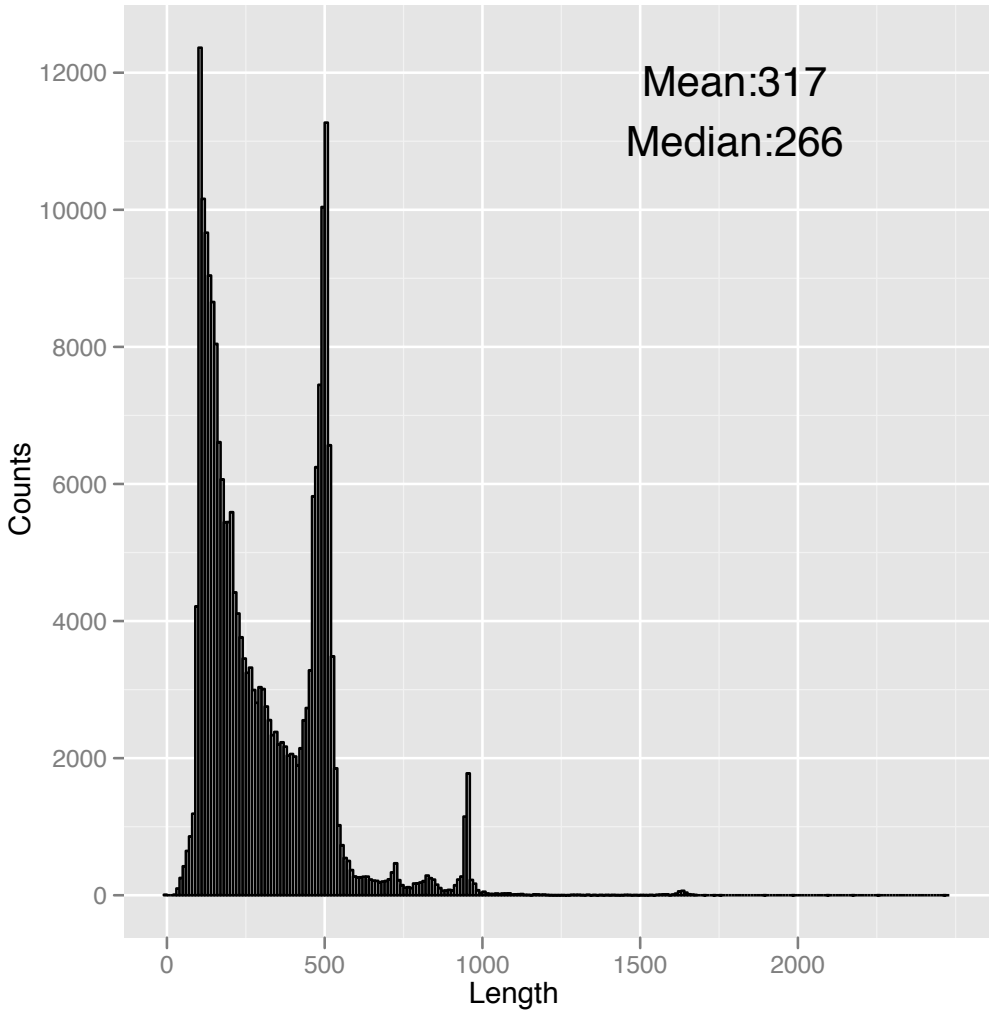


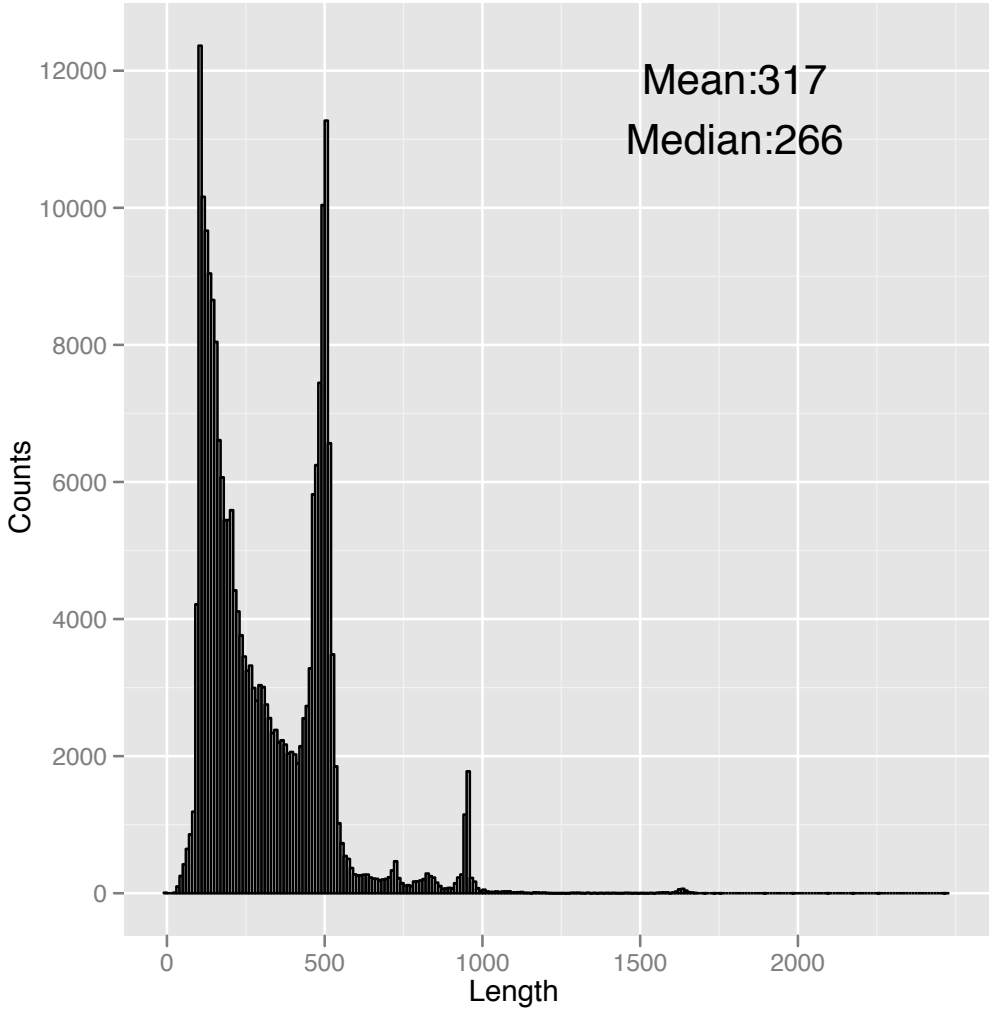
Plus many many other people…

- Plant Tree of Life based on transcriptomes of ~1200 species
- More than 13,000 gene families (most not single copy)

Challenge:
Alignment of datasets with > 100,000 sequences



1KP dataset: more than 100,000 p450 amino-acid sequences, many fragmentary



1KP dataset: more than 100,000 p450 amino-acid sequences, many fragmentary

All standard multiple sequence alignment methods we tested performed poorly on datasets with fragments.

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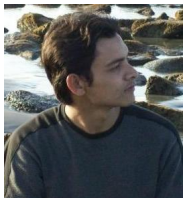

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Challenge:
Alignment of datasets with > 100,000 sequences with many fragmentary sequences

UPP: large-scale MSA estimation

UPP = “Ultra-large multiple sequence alignment using Phylogeny-aware Profiles”

Nguyen, Mirarab, and Warnow. Under review.

Objective: highly accurate large-scale multiple sequence alignments, even in the presence of fragmentary sequences.

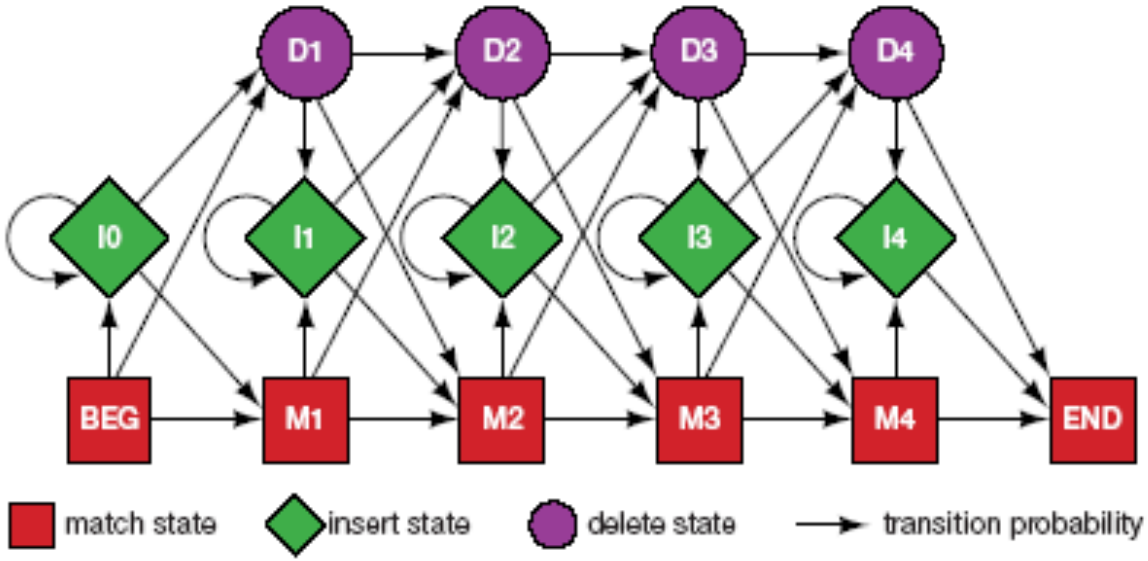
Profile HMMs

A. Sequence alignment

N • F L S
N • F L S
N K Y L T
Q • W – T

RED POSITION REPRESENTS ALIGNMENT IN COLUMN
GREEN POSITION REPRESENTS INSERT IN COLUMN
PURPLE POSITION REPRESENTS DELETE IN COLUMN

B. Hidden Markov model for sequence alignment



A simple idea

- Select random subset of sequences, and build "backbone alignment"
- Construct a profile Hidden Markov Model (HMM) to represent the backbone alignment
- Add all remaining sequences to the backbone alignment using the HMM

Fast!

A simple idea

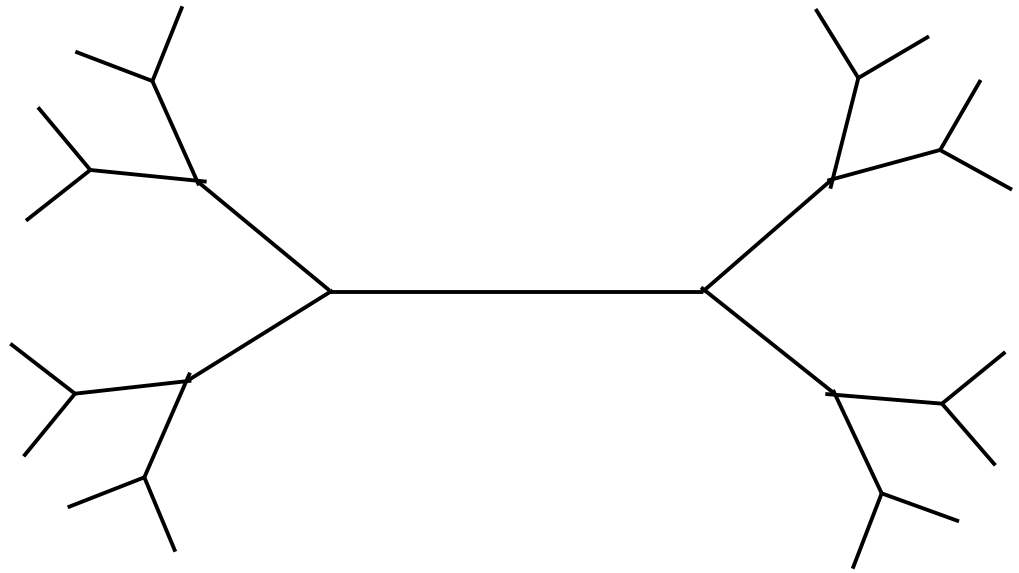
- Select random subset of sequences, and build "backbone alignment"
- Construct a profile Hidden Markov Model (HMM) to represent the backbone alignment
- Add all remaining sequences to the backbone alignment using the HMM

Fast!

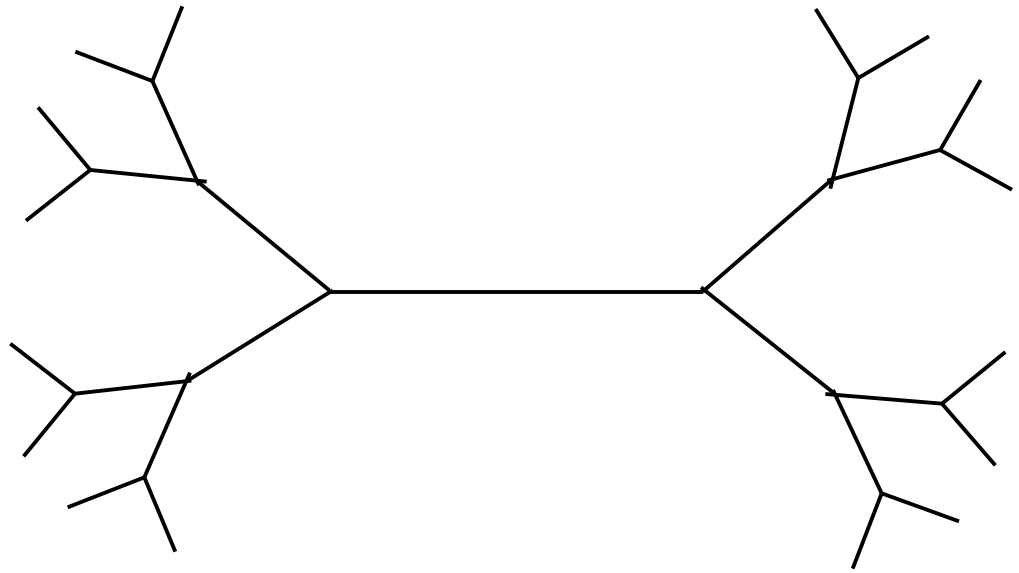
But is it accurate?

Simple technique:

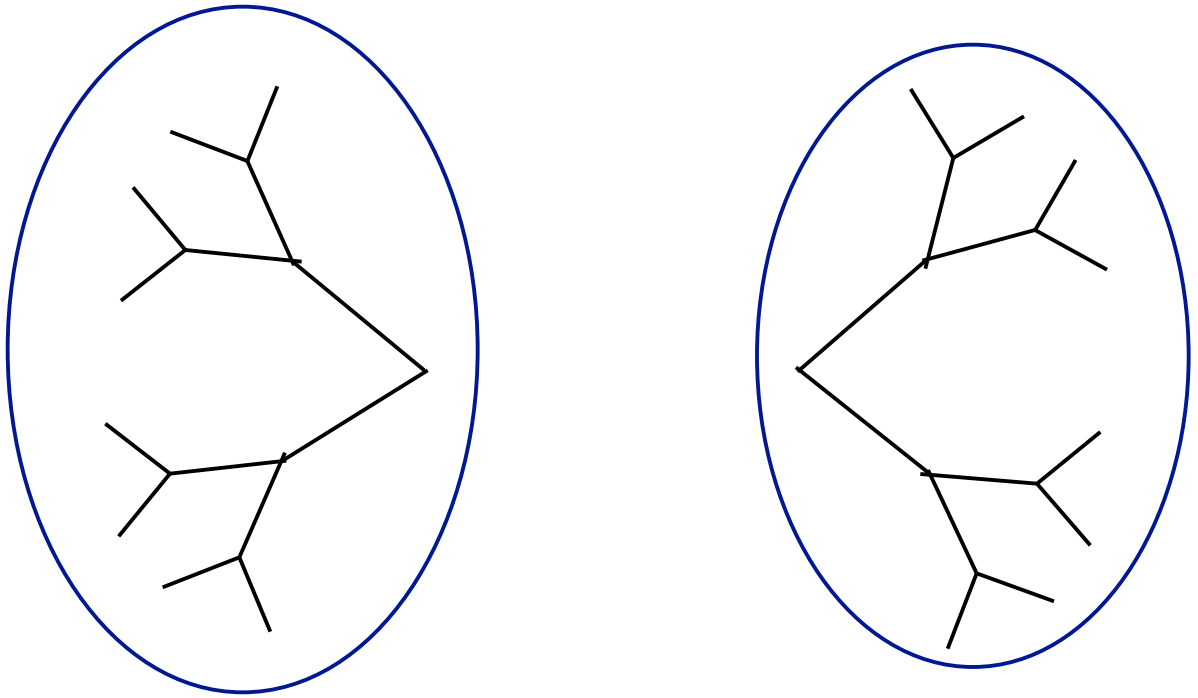
1) build one HMM for the entire alignment
2) Align fragment to the HMM, and insert into alignment



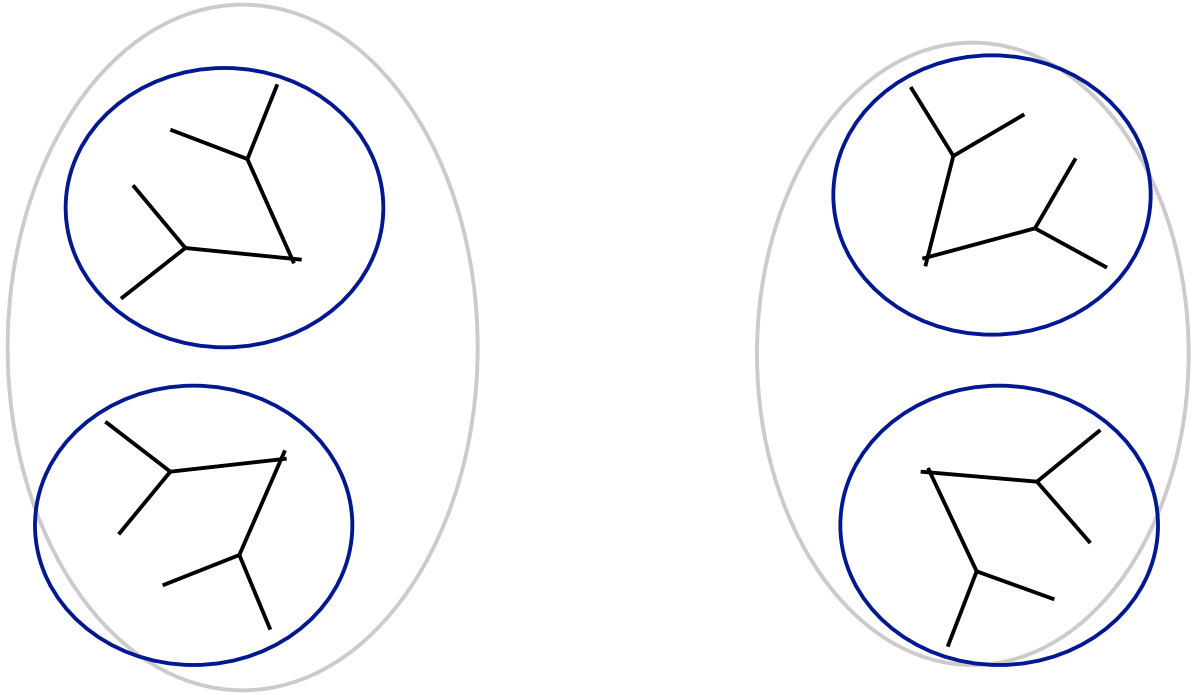
One Hidden Markov Model for the entire alignment?



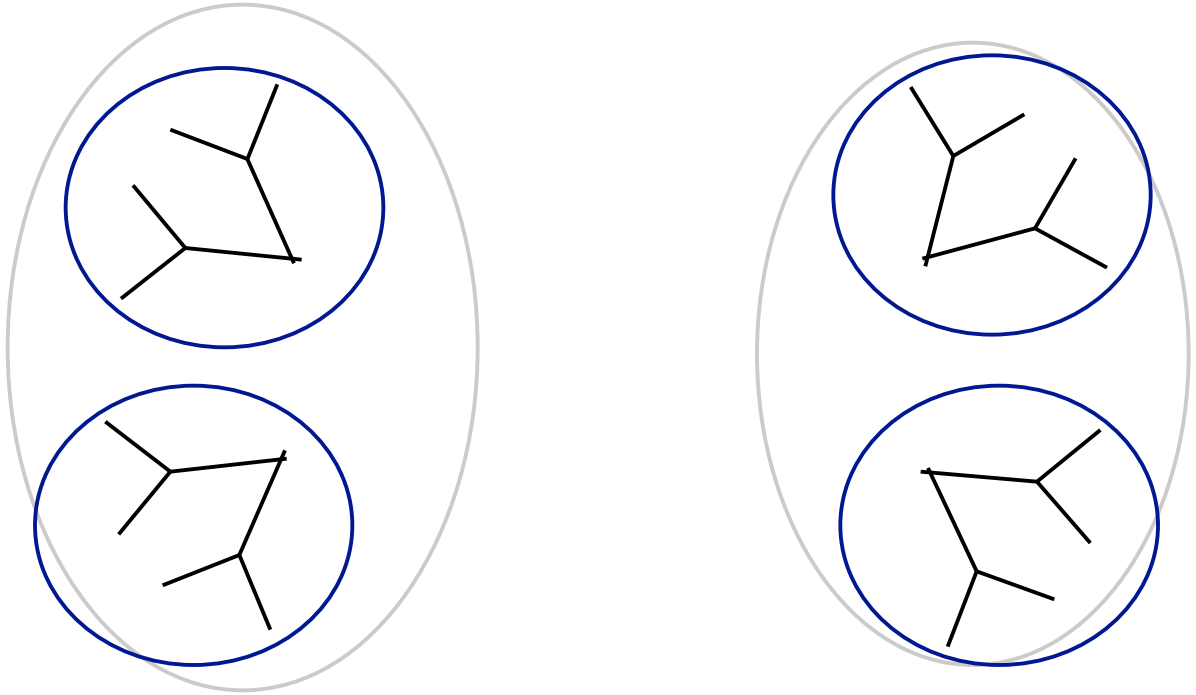
Or 2 HMMs?



Or 4 HMMs?



Or 7 HMMs?



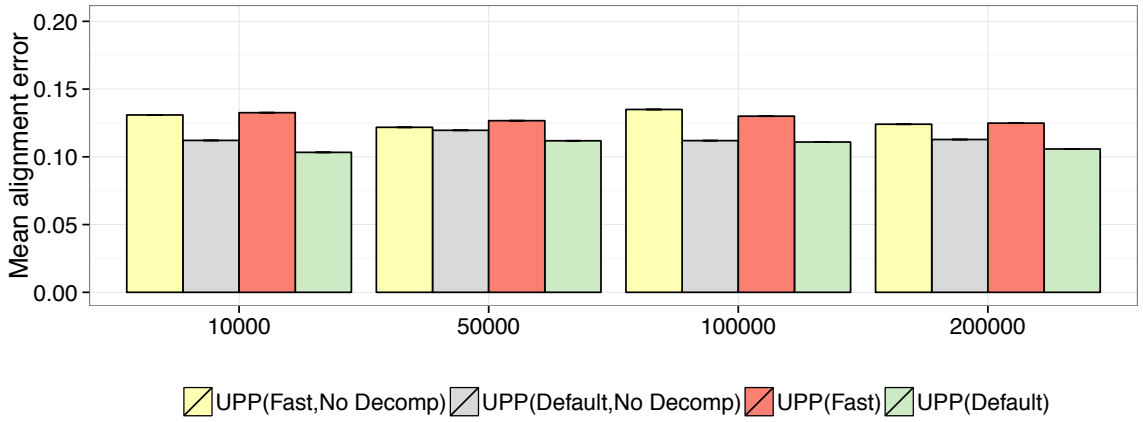
UPP Algorithmic Approach

- Select random subset of sequences, and build "backbone alignment"
- Construct an "Ensemble of Hidden Markov Models" on the backbone alignment (the family has HMMs on overlapping subsets of different sizes)
- Add all remaining sequences to the backbone alignment using the Ensemble of HMMs

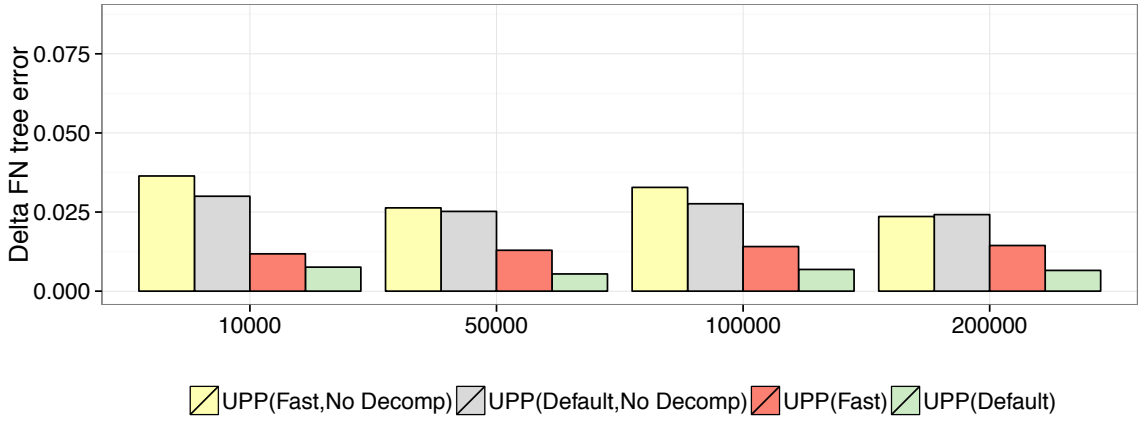
Evaluation

- Simulated datasets (some have fragmentary sequences):
  - 10K to 1,000,000 sequences in RNASim (Guo, Wang, and Kim, arxiv)
  - 1000-sequence nucleotide datasets from SATé papers
  - 5000-sequence AA datasets (from FastTree paper)
  - 10,000-sequence Indelible nucleotide simulation
- Biological datasets:
  - Proteins: largest BaliBASE and HomFam
  - RNA: 3 CRW datasets up to 28,000 sequences

Impact of backbone size and use of HMM Ensemble technique



(a) Average alignment error



(b) Average tree error

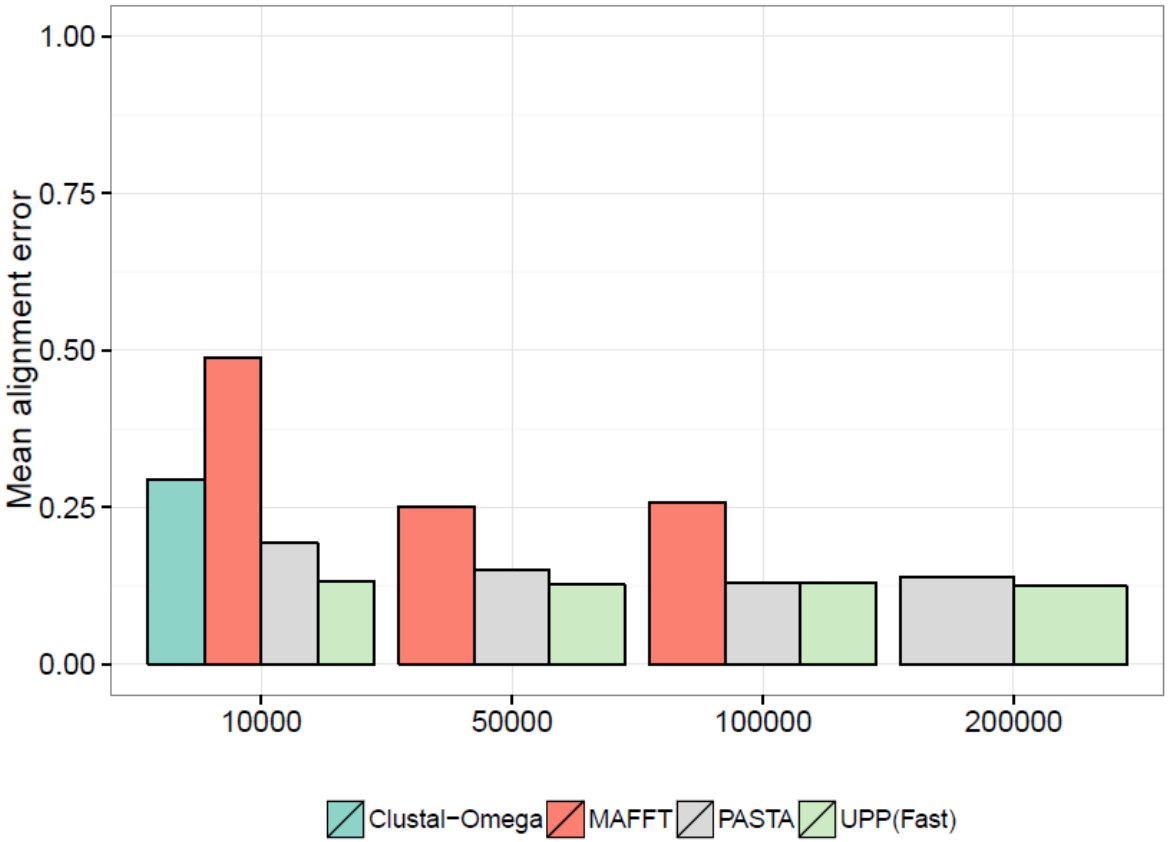
Notes:

Relative performance under standard alignment criteria is not predictive of relative performance for tree estimation.

For alignment estimation, a large backbone is important.

For tree estimation, the use of the HMM Ensemble is most important, but large backbones also help.

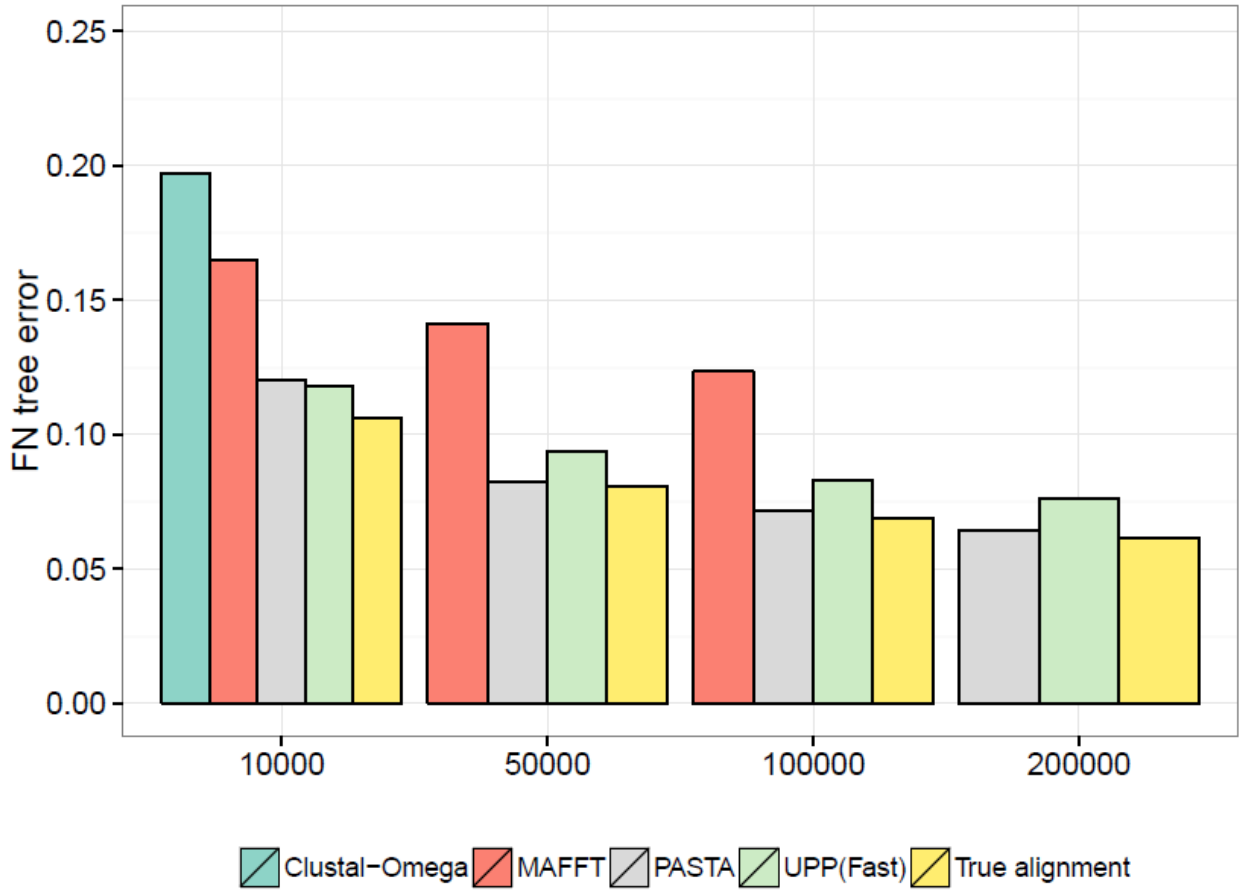
RNASim: alignment error



All methods given 24 hrs on a 12-core machine

Note: Mafft was run under default settings for 10K and 50K sequences and under Parttree for 100K sequences, and fails to complete under any setting For 200K sequences. Clustal-Omega only completes on 10K dataset.

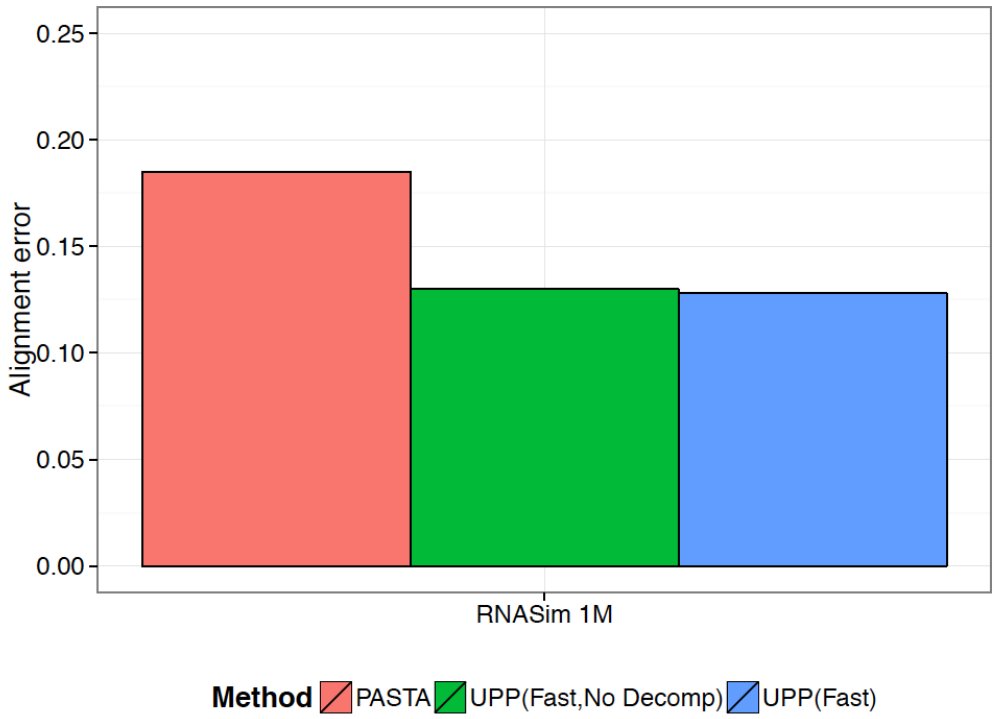
RNASim: tree error



All methods given 24 hrs on a 12-core machine

Note: Mafft was run under default settings for 10K and 50K sequences and under Parttree for 100K sequences, and fails to complete under any setting For 200K sequences. Clustal-Omega only completes on 10K dataset.

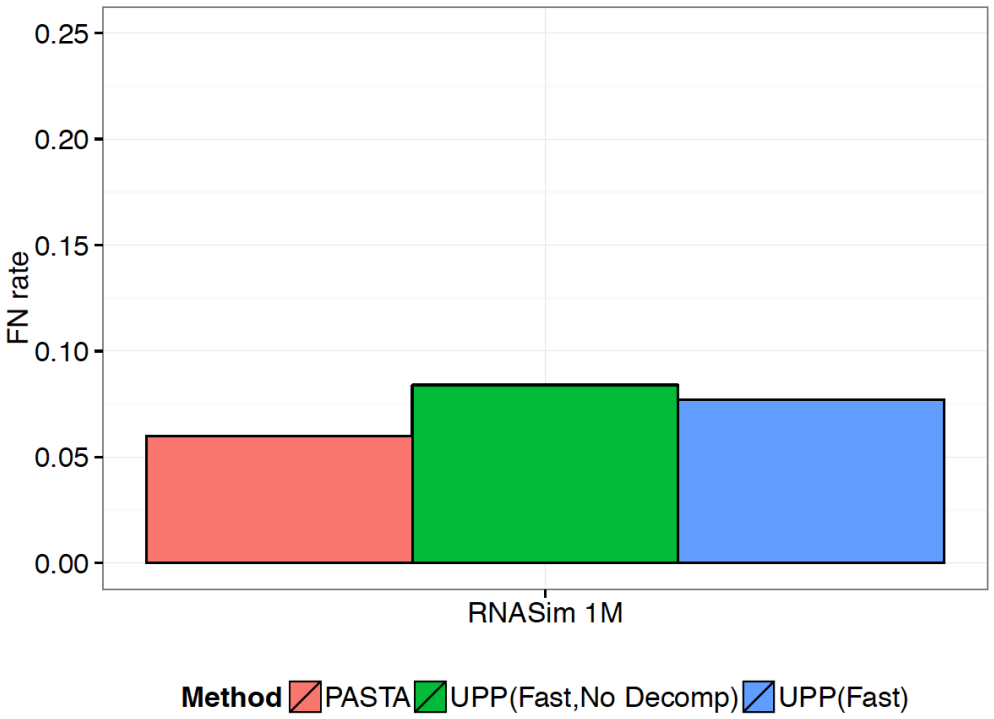
RNASim Million Sequences: alignment error



Notes:

- We show alignment error using average of SP-FN and SP-FP. UPP variants have better scores than PASTA.
- But for the Total Column (TC) scores, PASTA is better than UPP: it recovered 10% of the columns compared to less than 0.04% for UPP variants.

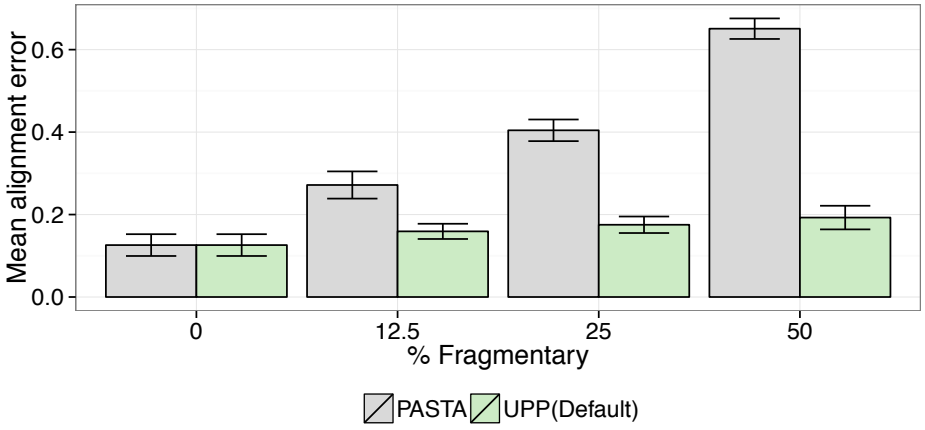
RNASim Million Sequences: tree error



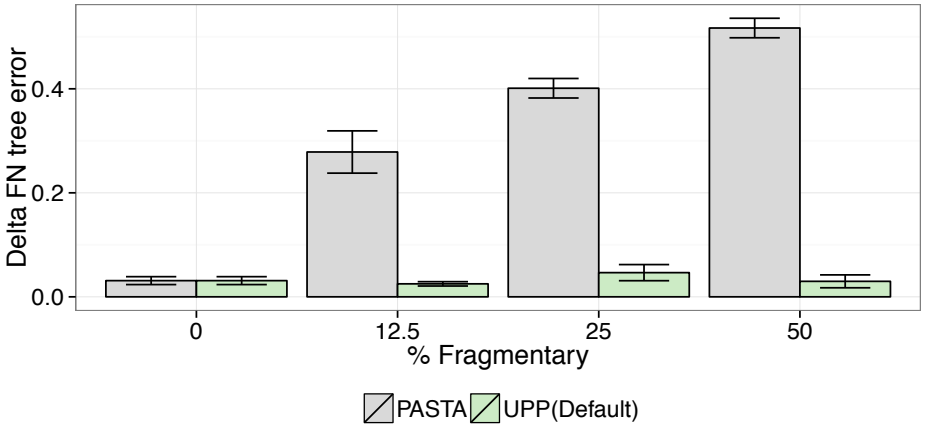
Notes:

- UPP(Fast,NoDecomp) took 2.2 days,
- UPP(Fast) took 11.9 days, and
- PASTA took 10.3 days (all using 12 processors).

UPP vs. PASTA: impact of fragmentation



(a) Average alignment error



(b) Average tree error

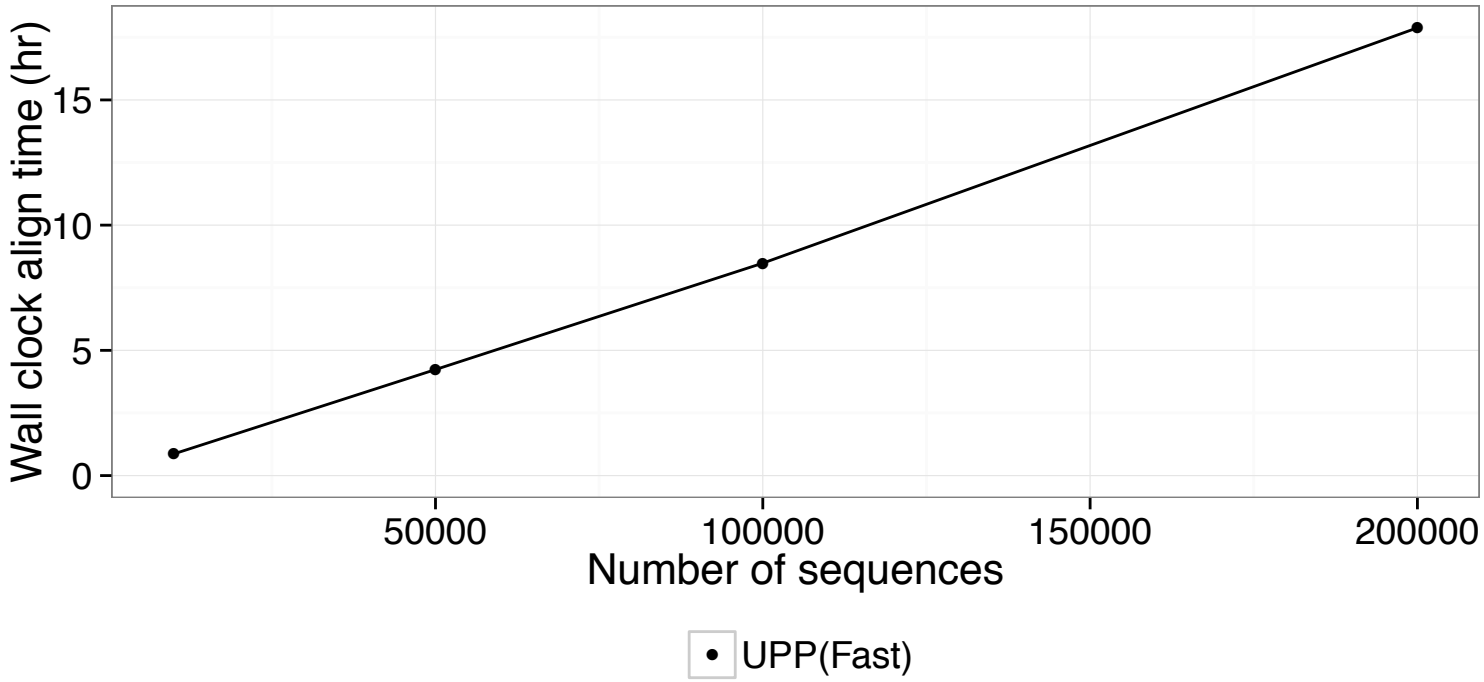
Under high rates of evolution, PASTA is badly impacted by fragmentary sequences (the same is true for other methods).

Under low rates of evolution, PASTA can still be highly accurate (data not shown).

UPP continues to have good accuracy even on datasets with many fragments under all rates of evolution.

Performance on fragmentary datasets of the 1000M2 model condition

Running Time



Wall-clock time used (in hours) given 12 processors

Summary

- SATé-1 (Science 2009), SATé-2 (Systematic Biology 2012), and PASTA (RECOMB 2014): methods for *co-estimating gene trees and multiple sequence alignments*.

  PASTA can analyze up to 1,000,000 sequences, and is highly accurate for full-length sequences. *But none of these methods are robust to fragmentary sequences.*

- HMM Ensemble technique: uses a collection of HMMs to represent a "backbone alignment". HMM ensembles improve accuracy, especially in the presence of high rates of evolution.

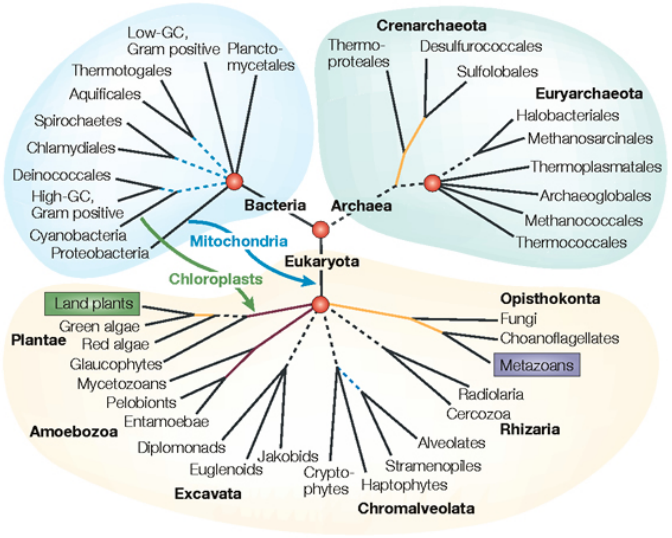
- Applications of HMM Ensembles in:

  - UPP (ultra-large multiple sequence alignment), under review
  - SEPP (phylogenetic placement), PSB 2012 (not shown)
  - TIPP (metagenomic taxon identification and abundance profiling), Bioinformatics 2014 (not shown)

The Tree of Life: *Multiple Challenges*

Scientific challenges:

- Ultra-large multiple-sequence alignment
- Alignment-free phylogeny estimation
- Supertree estimation
- Estimating species trees from many gene trees
- Genome rearrangement phylogeny
- Reticulate evolution
- Visualization of large trees and alignments
- Data mining techniques to explore multiple optima
- Theoretical guarantees under Markov models of evolution



Nature Reviews | Genetics

Techniques:
machine learning, applied probability theory, graph theory, combinatorial optimization, supercomputing, and heuristics

Acknowledgments



PhD students: Nam Nguyen* and Siavash Mirarab**
Undergrad: Keerthana Kumar
Lab Website: http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/phylo
Personal Website: http://tandy.cs.illinois.edu
Write to me: warnow@illinois.edu (I am recruiting students!)

Funding: Guggenheim Foundation, NSF, Microsoft Research New England, David Bruton Jr. Centennial Professorship, TACC (Texas Advanced Computing Center), and the University of Alberta (Canada)

TACC and UTCS computational resources

* Now a postdoc with Becky Stumpf and Bryan White (ICB, UIUC)

** Supported by HHMI Predoctoral Fellowship

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Parallel Computing in CS: Blue Waters

1

US Track-1 High-Performance Computing system: 400,000 x86 cores, one of largest machines on planet…

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  - Teaching Assistantship, or
  - Research Assistantship

For more information on the University of Illinois graduate tuition and fees, visit:

http://registrar.illinois.edu/financial/tuition_1415/AY/grad.html

For More Information

Call (217) 333-4428

Email academic@cs.illinois.edu

Visit http://cs.illinois.edu/prospective-students/graduate-students

Tandy's email: warnow@illinois.edu, and
Tandy's webpage: http://tandy.cs.illinois.edu

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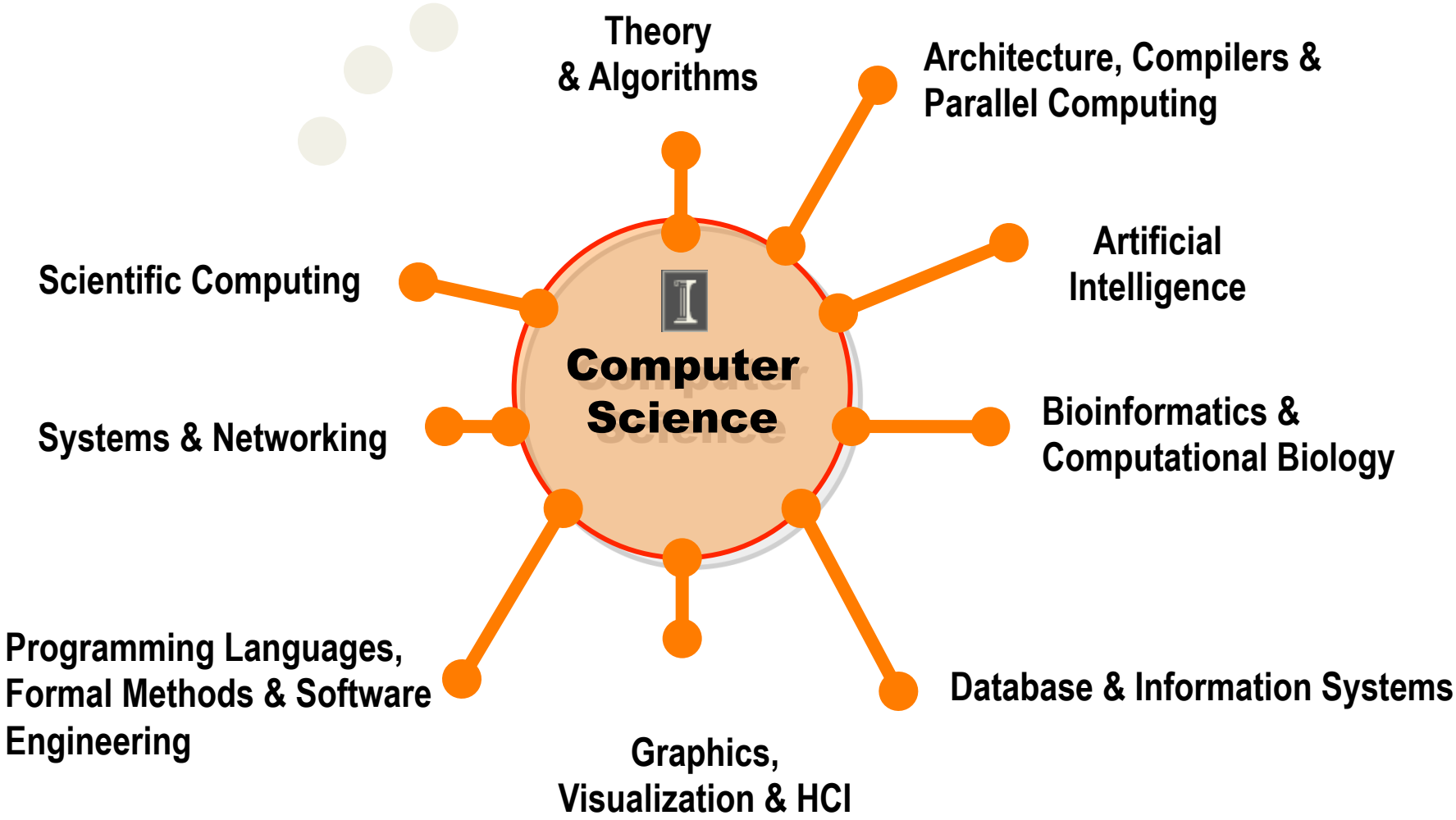

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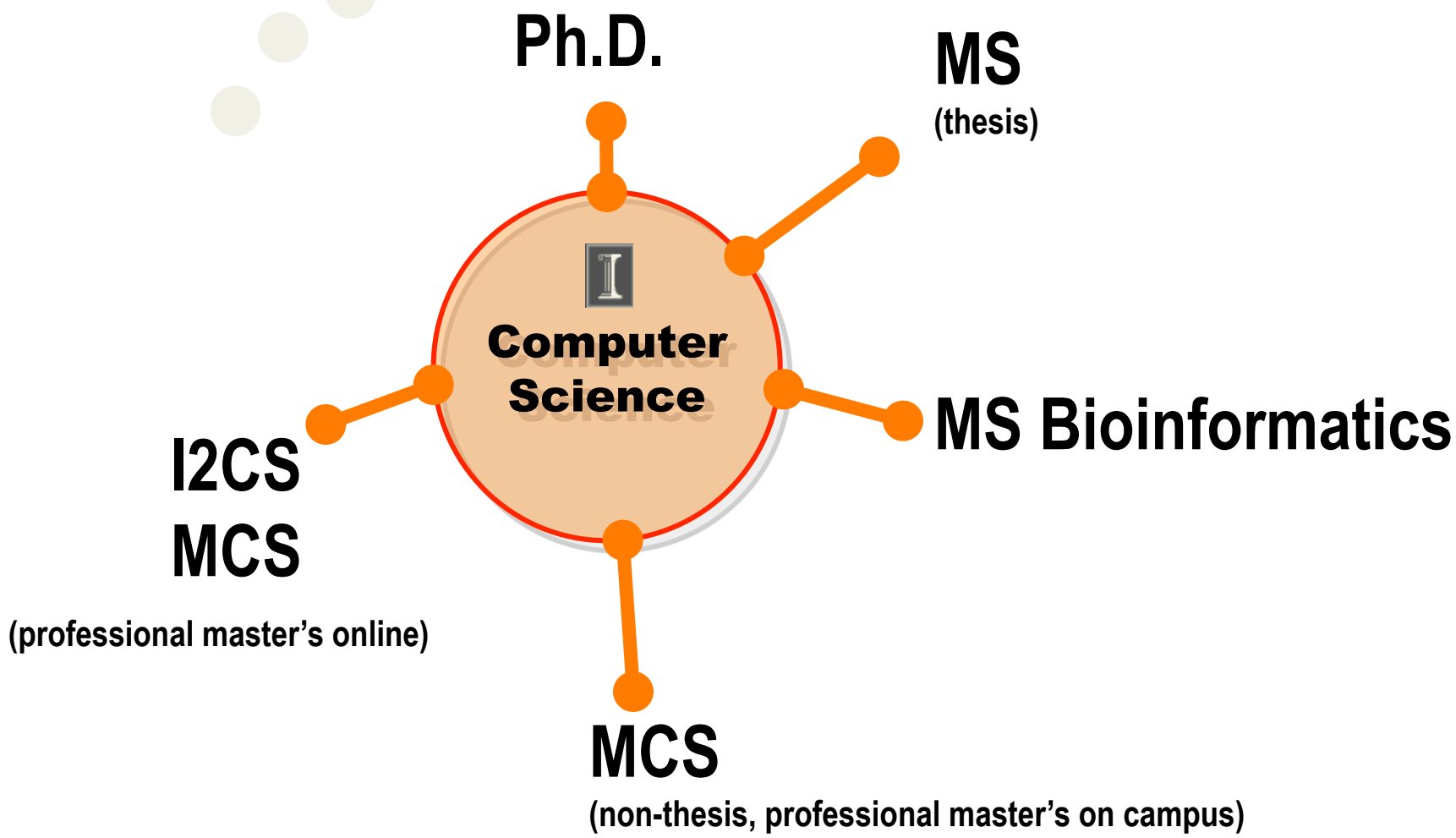

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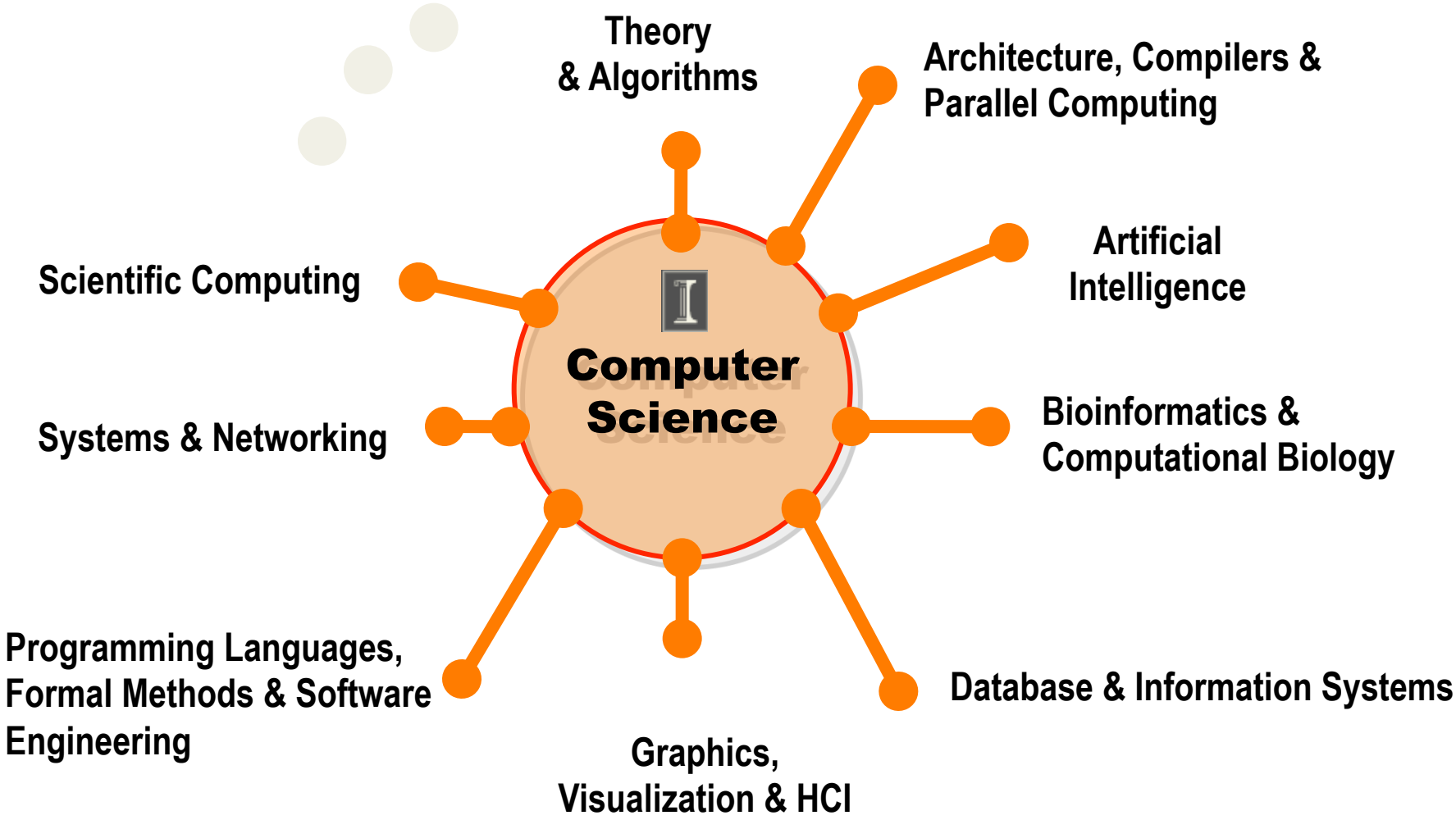

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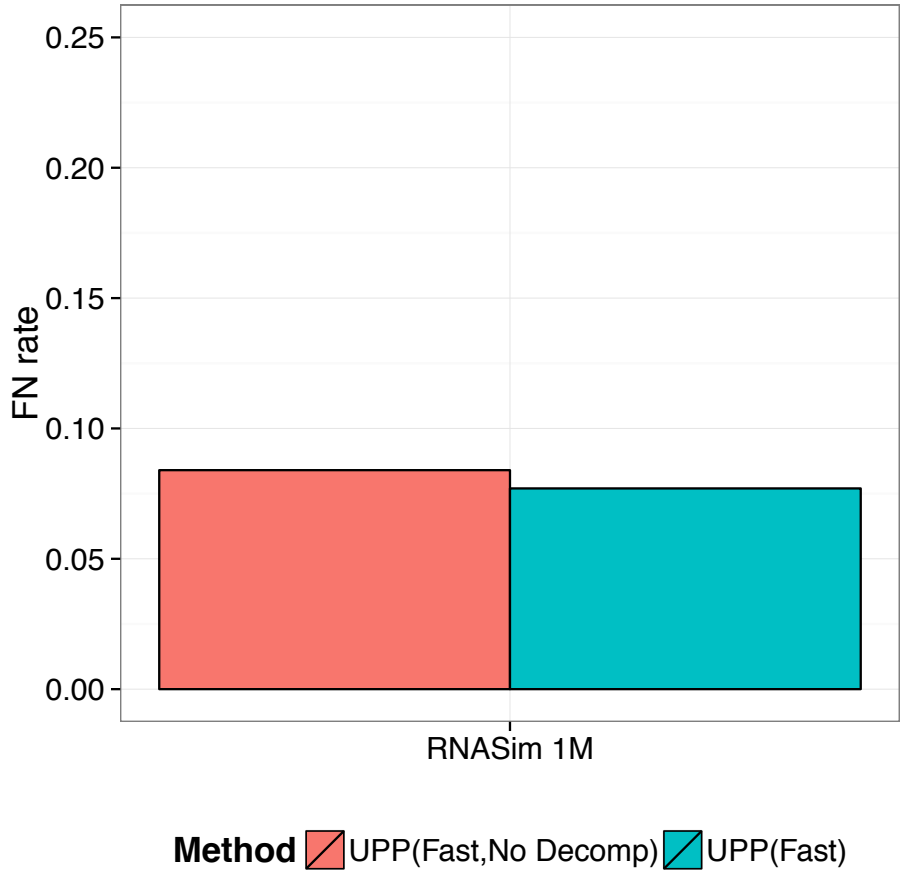
Research Projects for PhD students

- Multiple sequence alignment (e.g., consider duplications and rearrangements)
- Species tree estimation when genes have conflicting evolutionary histories (very common!)
- Phylogenetic networks (for horizontal gene transfer or hybridizing speciation)
- Metagenomic taxon identification and applications in medicine
- High performance computing for ultra-large datasets
- Historical linguistics (how did Indo-European evolve?)

Contact me by email, warnow@illinois.edu
http://tandy.cs.illinois.edu

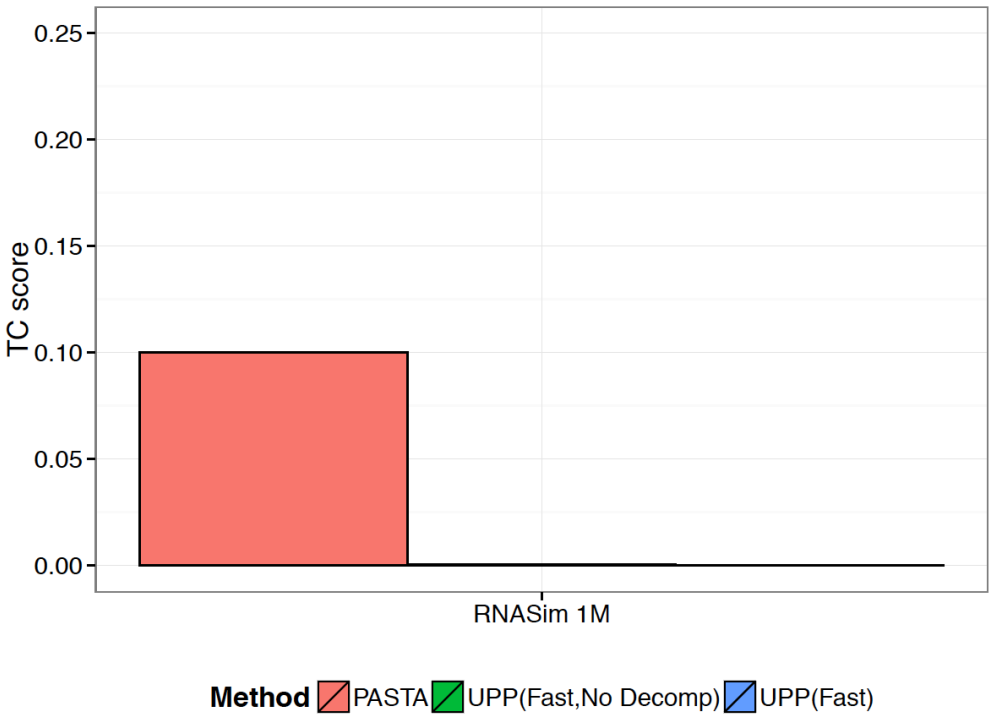
RNASim Million Sequences: tree error



Using 12 processors:

- UPP(Fast,NoDecomp) took 2.2 days.
- UPP(Fast) took 11.9 days.

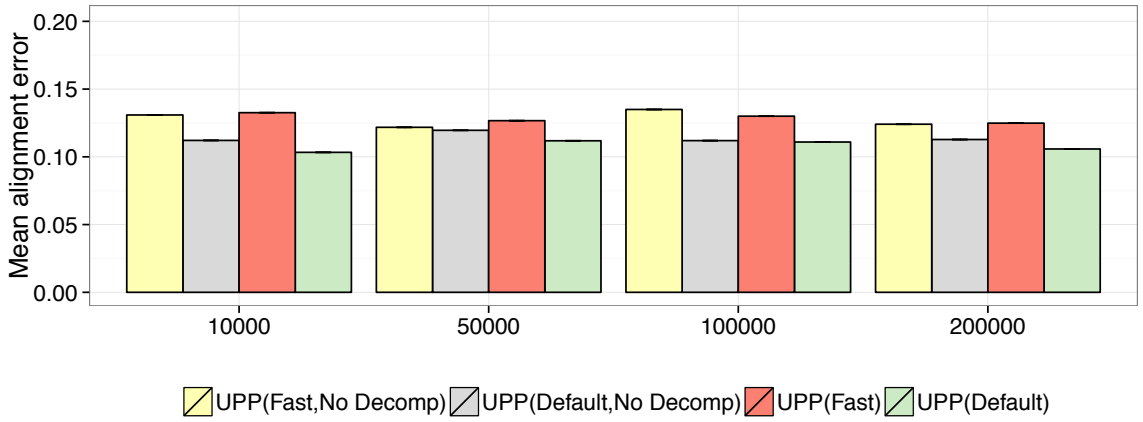
RNASim Million Sequences: TC score



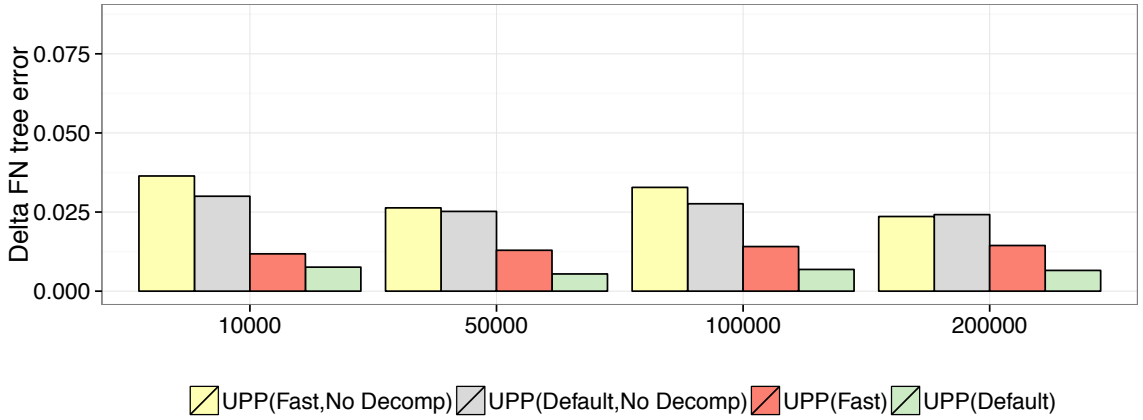
Notes:

- UPP(Fast,NoDecomp) took 2.2 days,
- UPP(Fast) took 11.9 days, and
- PASTA took 10.3 days (all using 12 processors).

Impact of backbone size and use of HMM Family technique



(a) Average alignment error



(b) Average tree error

Notes:

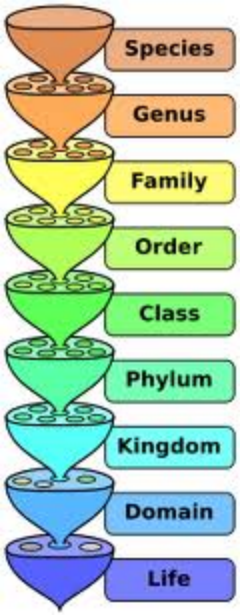
Relative performance under standard alignment criteria is not predictive of relative performance for tree estimation.

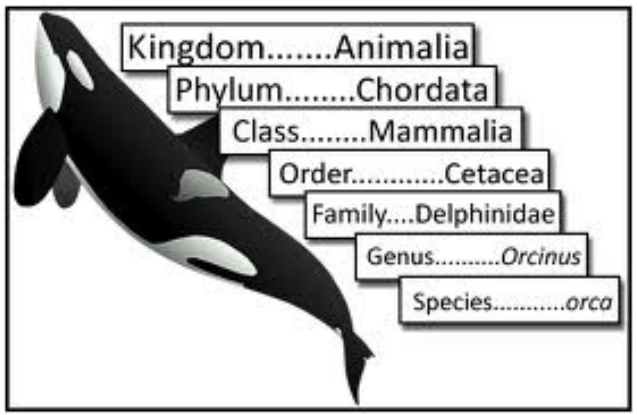
For alignment estimation, a large backbone is important.

For tree estimation, the use of the HMM Family is most important, but large backbones also help.

Metagenomic Taxon Identification

Objective: classify short reads in a metagenomic sample





Basic Questions

1. What is this fragment? (Classify each fragment as well as possible.)

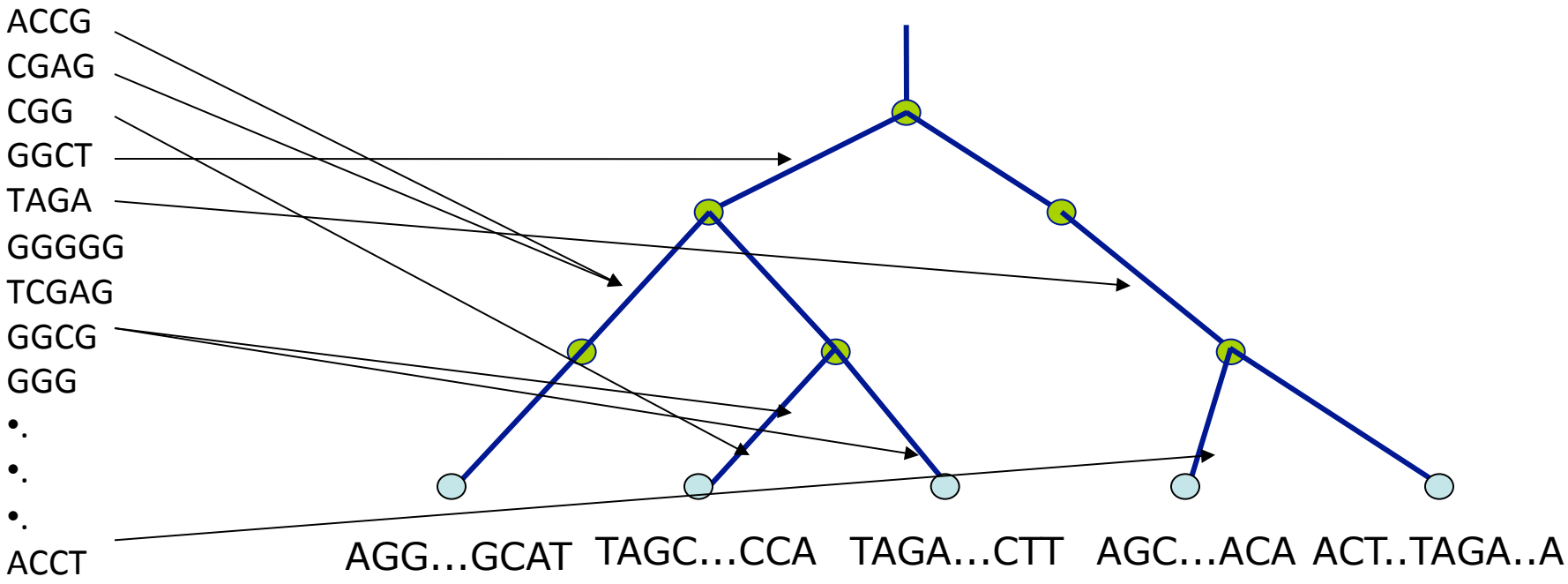
2. What is the taxonomic distribution in the dataset? (Note: helpful to use marker genes.)

3. What are the organisms in this metagenomic sample doing together?

Phylogenetic Placement

Fragmentary sequences from some gene

Full-length sequences for same gene, and an alignment and a tree



TIPP vs. other abundance profilers

- TIPP is highly accurate, even in the presence of high indel rates and novel genomes, and for both short and long reads.

- All other methods have some vulnerability (e.g., mOTU is only accurate for short reads and is impacted by high indel rates).

Phylogenetic "boosters"

Goal: improve accuracy, speed, robustness, or theoretical guarantees of base methods

Techniques: divide-and-conquer, iteration, chordal graph algorithms, and "bin-and-conquer"

Examples:

- DCM-boosting for distance-based methods (1999)
- DCM-boosting for heuristics for NP-hard problems (1999)
- SATé- and PASTA-boosting for alignment methods (2009, 2012, and 2014)
- SuperFine-boosting for supertree methods (2012)
- DACTAL: almost alignment-free phylogeny estimation methods (2012)
- SEPP-boosting for phylogenetic placement of short sequences (2012)
- TIPP-boosting for metagenomic taxon identification (submitted)
- UPP-boosting for alignment methods (in preparation)
- Bin-and-conquer for coalescent-based species tree estimation (2013 and 2014)

Algorithmic Strategies

- Divide-and-conquer
- Chordal graph decompositions
- Iteration
- Multiple HMMs
- Bin-and-conquer (technique used for improving species tree estimation from multiple gene trees, Bayzid and Warnow, Bioinformatics 2013)

1kp: 1000 Plant Transcriptomes

G. Ka-Shu Wong
U Alberta

J. Leebens-Mack
U Georgia

N. Wickett
Northwestern

N. Matasci
iPlant

T. Warnow,
UT-Austin

S. Mirarab,
UT-Austin

N. Nguyen,
UT-Austin

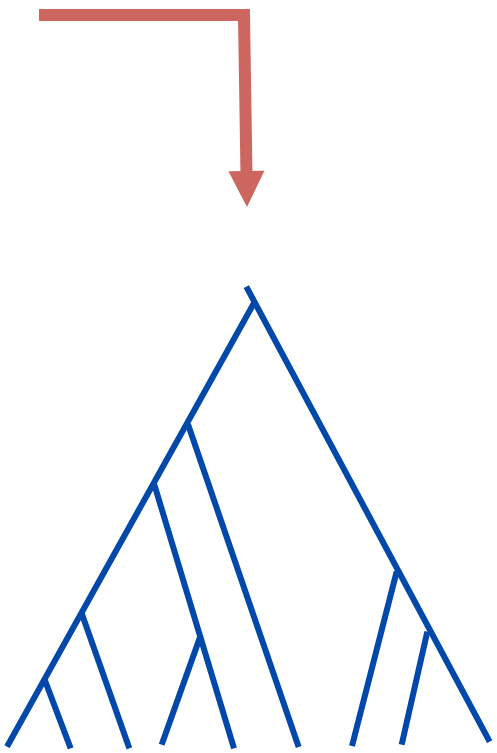
Plus many many other people…

- Whole Transcriptomes of 103 plant species and 850 single copy loci (1200 taxa in next phase)
  - Most accurate summary methods cannot handle this size
- Common ancestor about 1 billion years ago and so gene trees are hard to root
  - Most summary methods need rooted gene trees
- Pre-existing summary methods do not provide reasonable results on this dataset

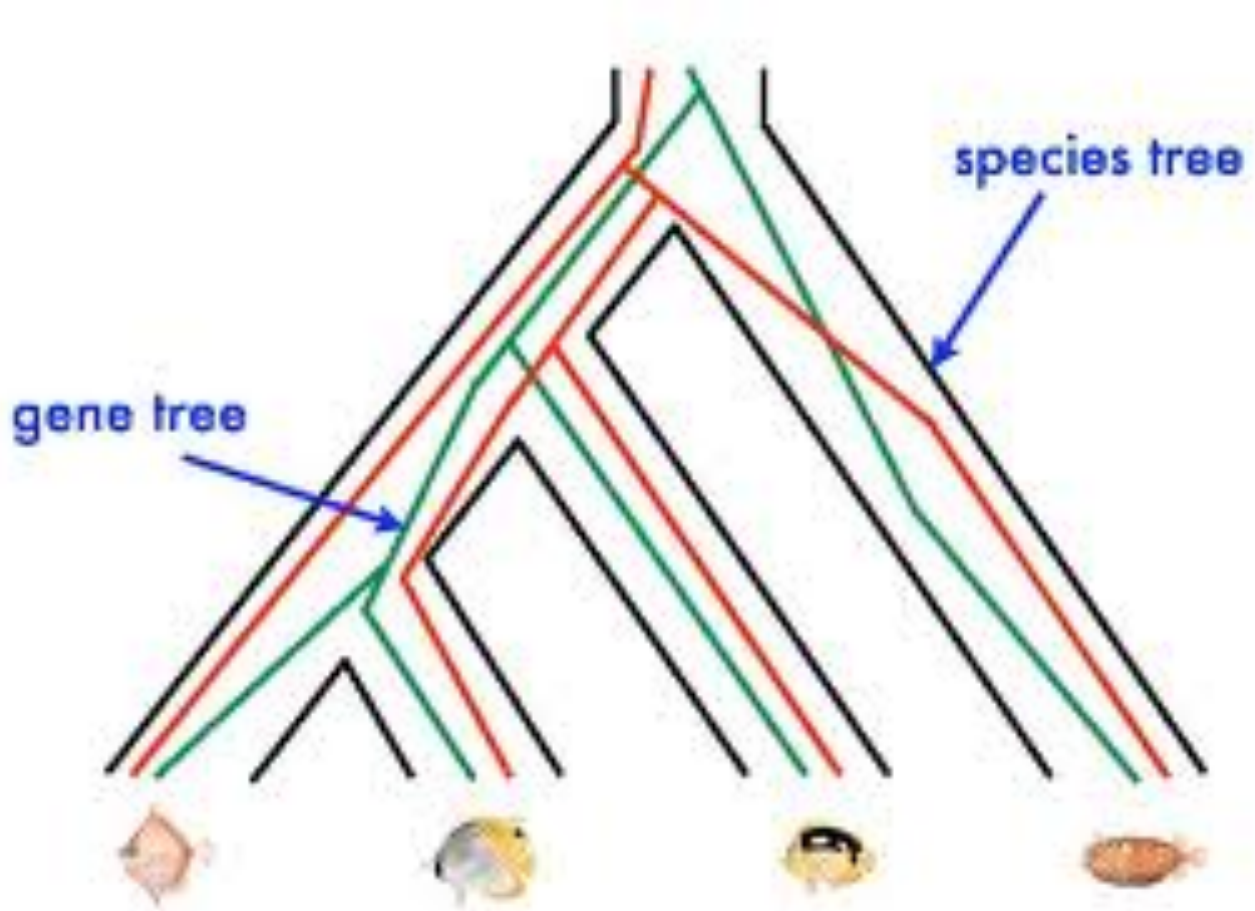
[Wickett et al. (under review), 2014.]

Combined analysis

	gene 1	gene 2	gene 3
S_1	TCTAATGGAA	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?	TATTGATACA
S_2	GCTAAGGGAA	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
S_3	TCTAAGGGAA	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?	TCTTGATACC
S_4	TCTAACGGAA	GGTAACCCTC	TAGTGATGCA
S_5	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?	GCTAAACCTC	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
S_6	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?	GGTGACCATC	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
S_7	TCTAATGGAC	GCTAAACCTC	TAGTGATGCA
S_8	TATAACGGAA	? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?	CATTCATACC

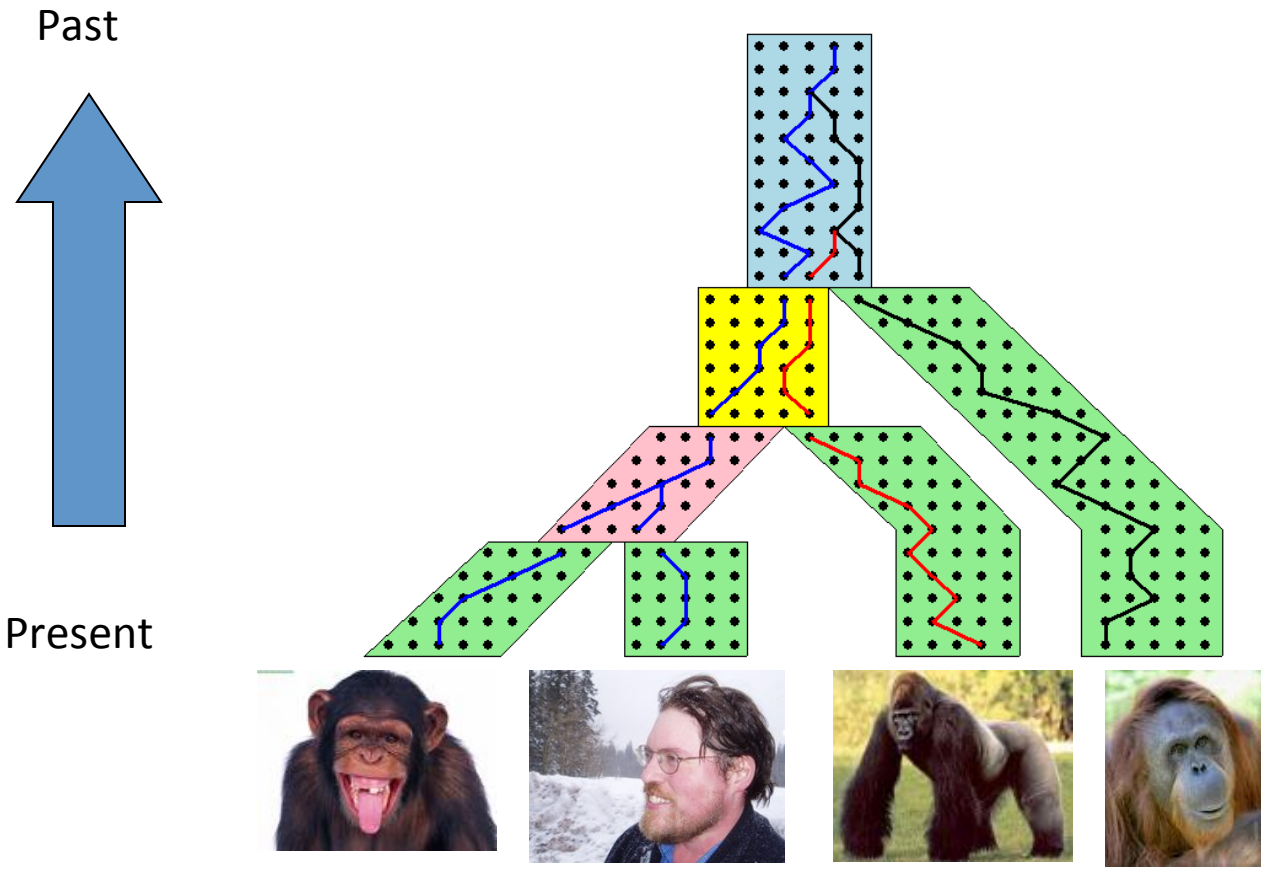


Red gene tree ≠ species tree
(green gene tree okay)



The Coalescent

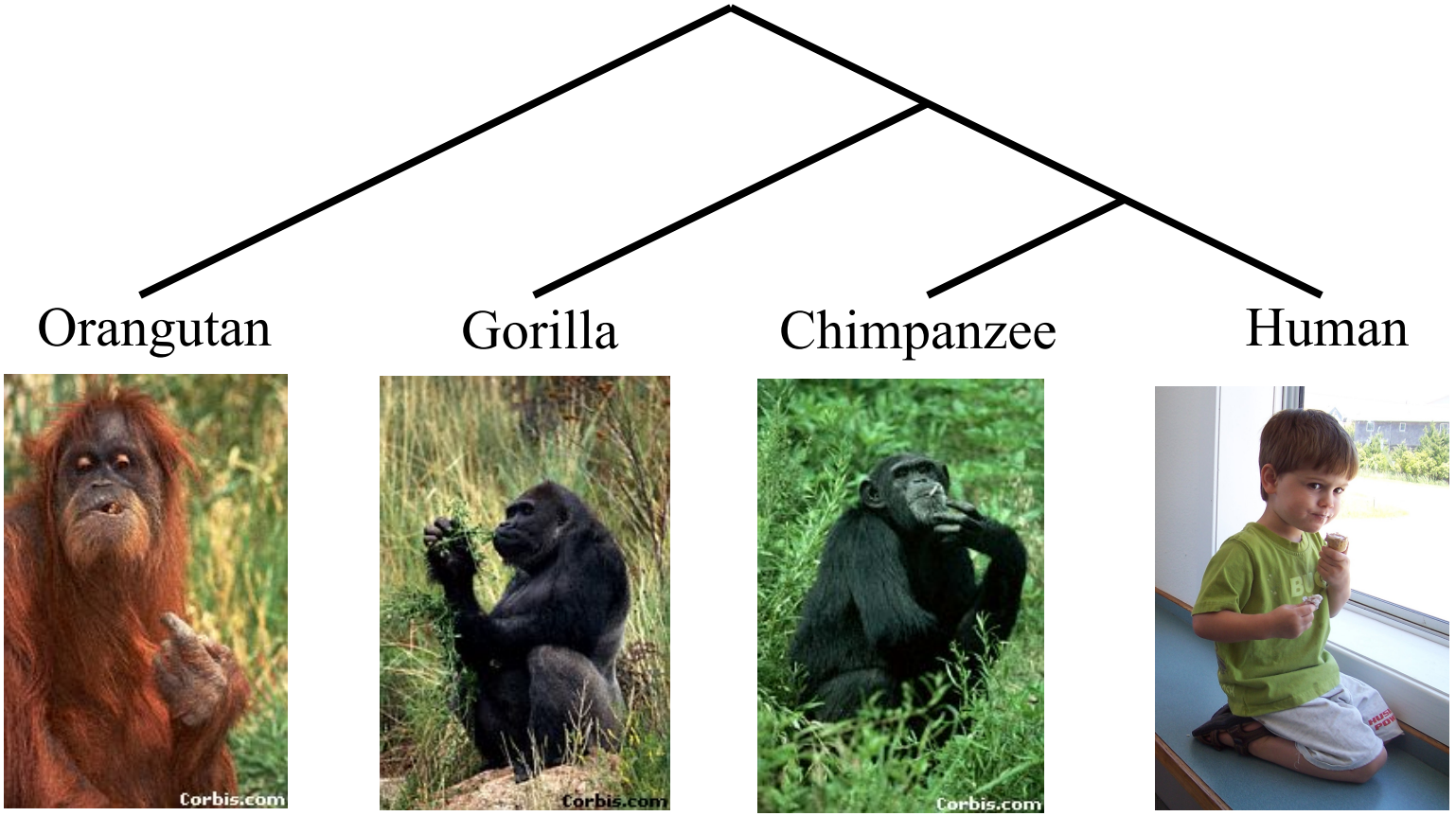
Courtesy James Degnan



Incomplete Lineage Sorting (ILS)

- 1000+ papers in 2013 alone
- Confounds phylogenetic analysis for many groups:
  - Hominids
  - Birds
  - Yeast
  - Animals
  - Toads
  - Fish
  - Fungi
- There is substantial debate about how to analyze phylogenomic datasets in the presence of ILS.

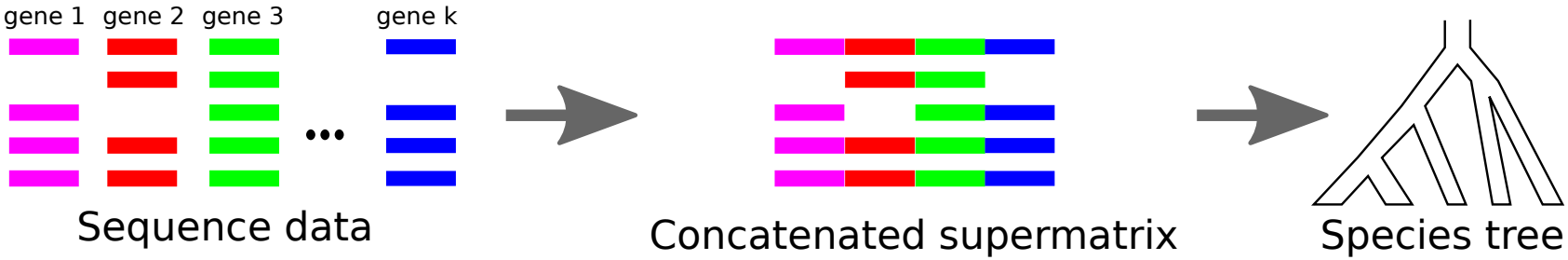
Species tree estimation: difficult, even for small datasets



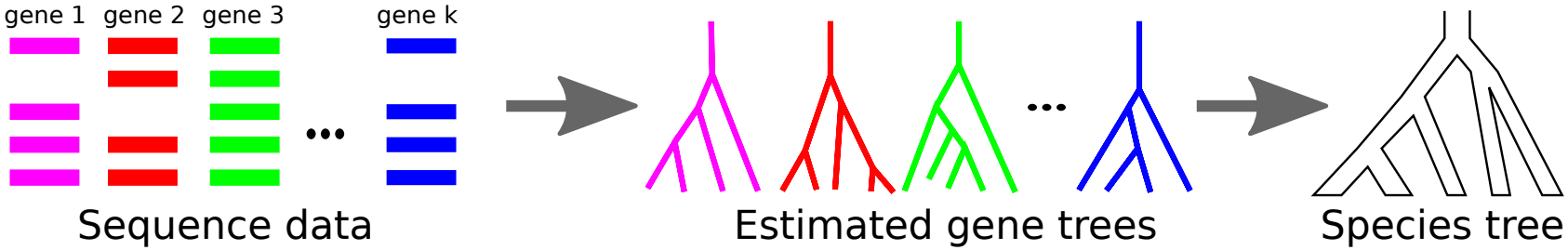
From the Tree of the Life Website, University of Arizona

Species tree estimation

1- Concatenation: statistically inconsistent (Roch & Steel 2014)



2- Summary methods: can be statistically consistent



3- Co-estimation methods: too slow for large datasets

Is Concatenation Evil?

- Joseph Heled:
  - YES
- John Gatesy
  - No

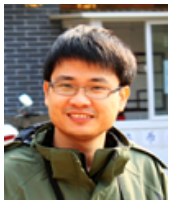
- Data needed to held understand existing methods and their limitations
- Better methods are needed

Avian Phylogenomics Project (100+ people)

Erich Jarvis, HHMI

MTP Gilbert, Copenhagen

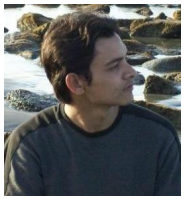
G Zhang, BGI



T. Warnow UT-Austin

S. Mirarab UT-Austin

Md. S. Bayzid UT-Austin



- Approx. 50 species, whole genomes
- 8000+ genes, UCEs
- Gene sequence alignments and trees computed using SATé (Science 2009, Systematic Biology 2012)
- Concatenation analysis (multi-million site) using ExaML (new version of RAxML for very long alignments)
- Massive gene tree incongruence suggestive of incomplete lineage sorting -- coalescent-based species tree estimation computed using "Statistical Binning" (Science, in press)

Our methods

- "Statistical Binning" (accepted): uses a statistical method to determine sets of "combinable" gene sequence alignments, improves coalescent-based species tree estimation accuracy when gene trees have poor resolution (used for Avian Phylogenomics Project).
- ASTRAL (Bioinformatics 2014): polynomial time statistically consistent method, can run on very large datasets of unrooted gene trees.

Mammalian simulations

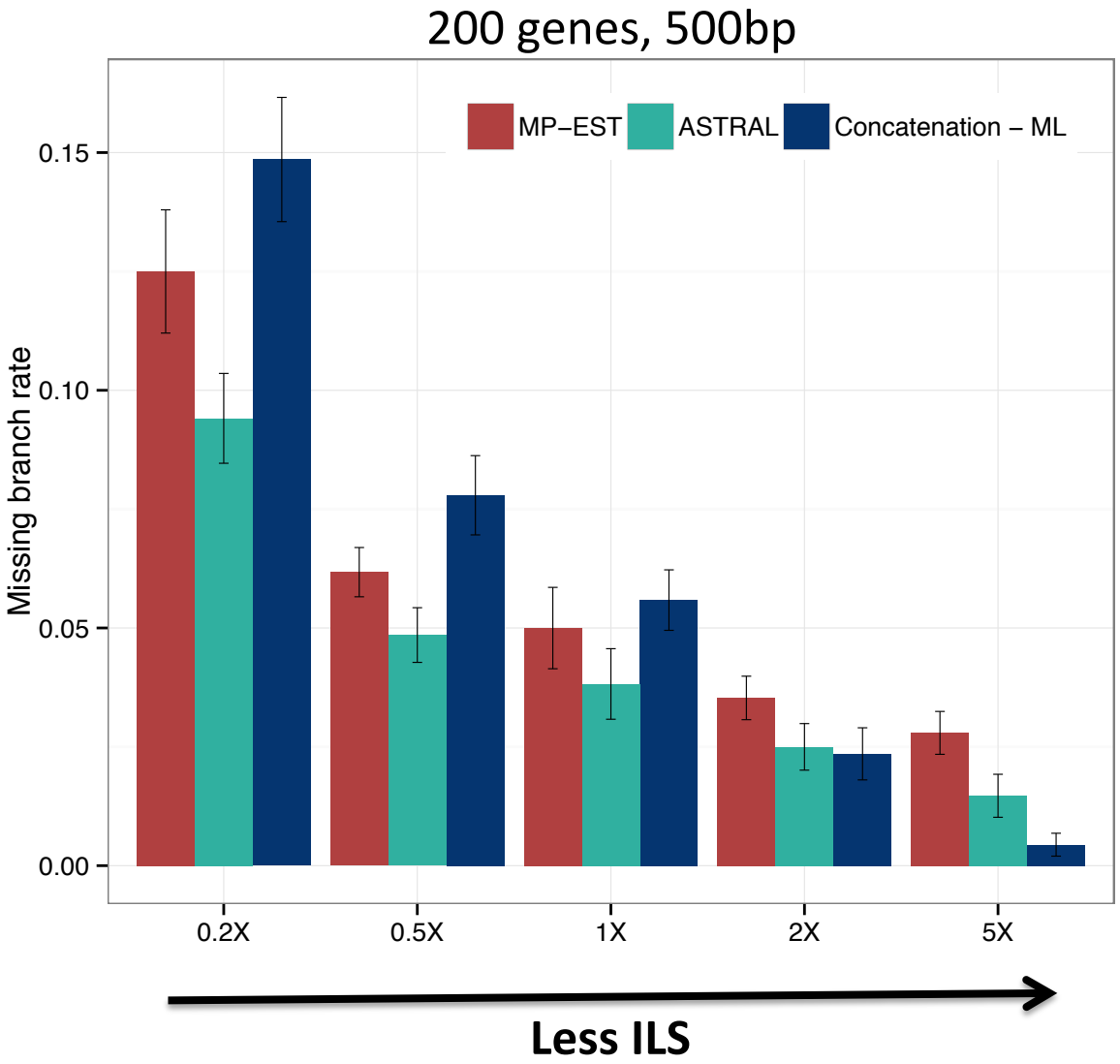
- Based on a biological mammalian dataset of 37 taxa and 442 genes, published by Song et al., PNAS, 2012.

- In simulations, we vary
  - Levels of ILS
  - Number of genes
  - Alignment length to control gene tree estimation error

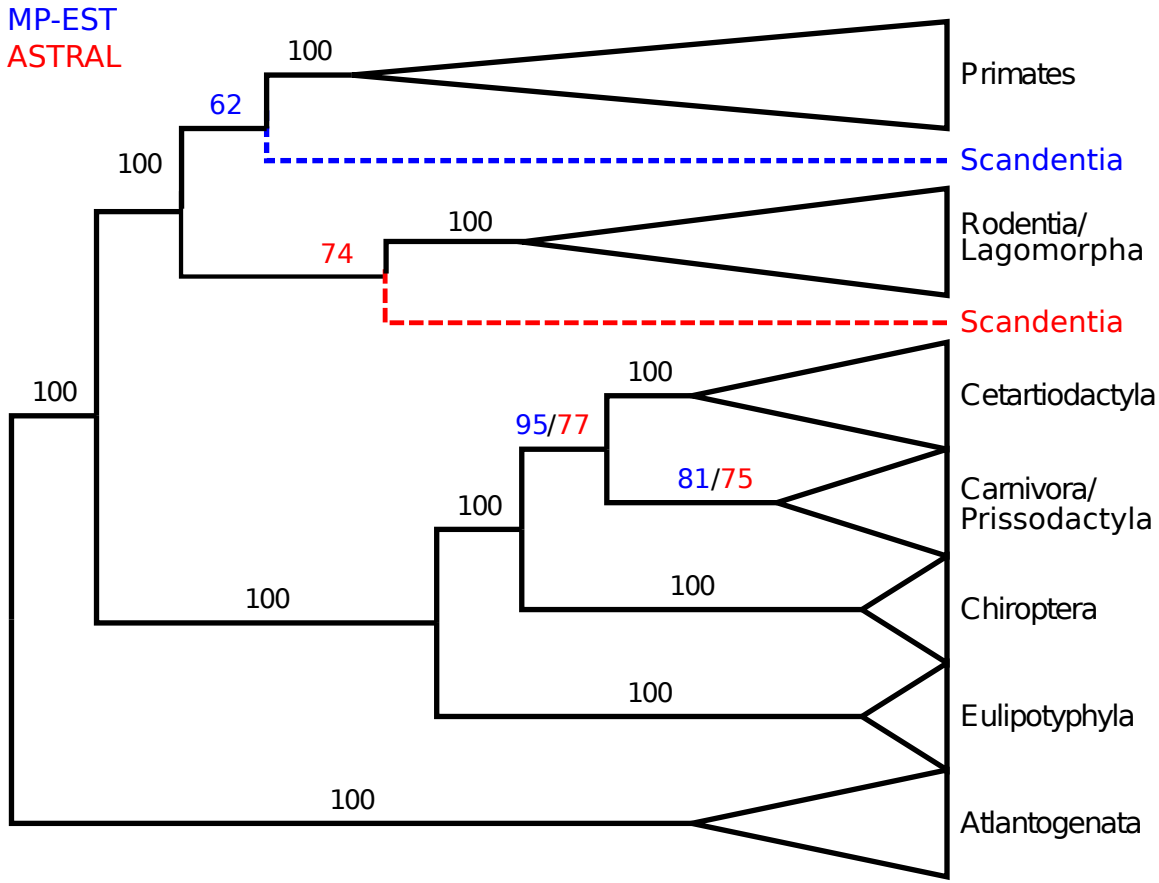
- Compare ASTRAL to
  - MP-EST, BUCKy
  - Concatenation
  - MRP, Greedy

- Measure species tree error compared to the known true tree

ASTRAL vs. Concatenation



Analyses of the Song et al. Mammalian dataset

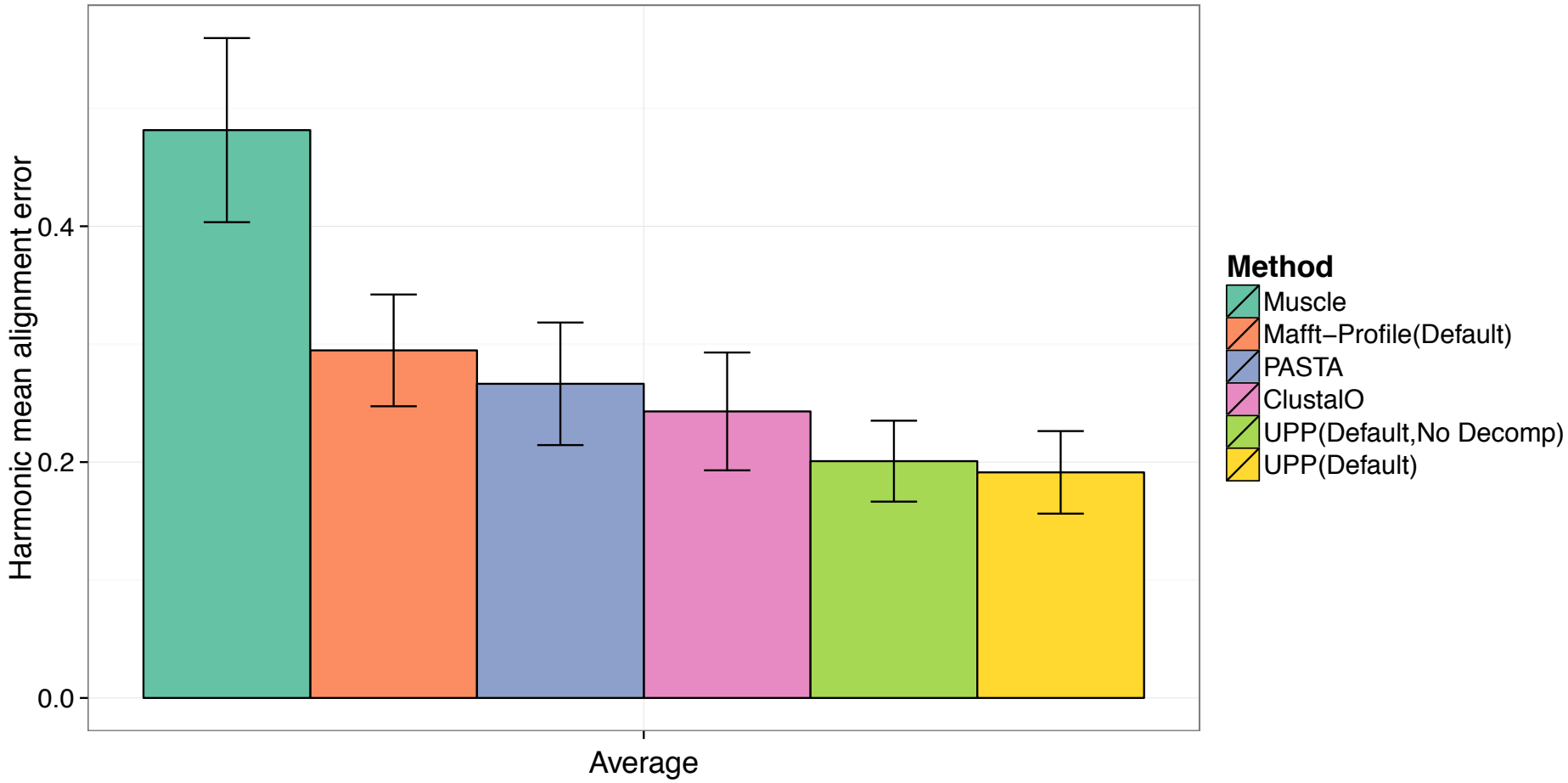


The placement of Scandentia (Tree Shrew) is controversial.
The ASTRAL analysis agrees with maximum likelihood concatenation analysis of this dataset.

Summary

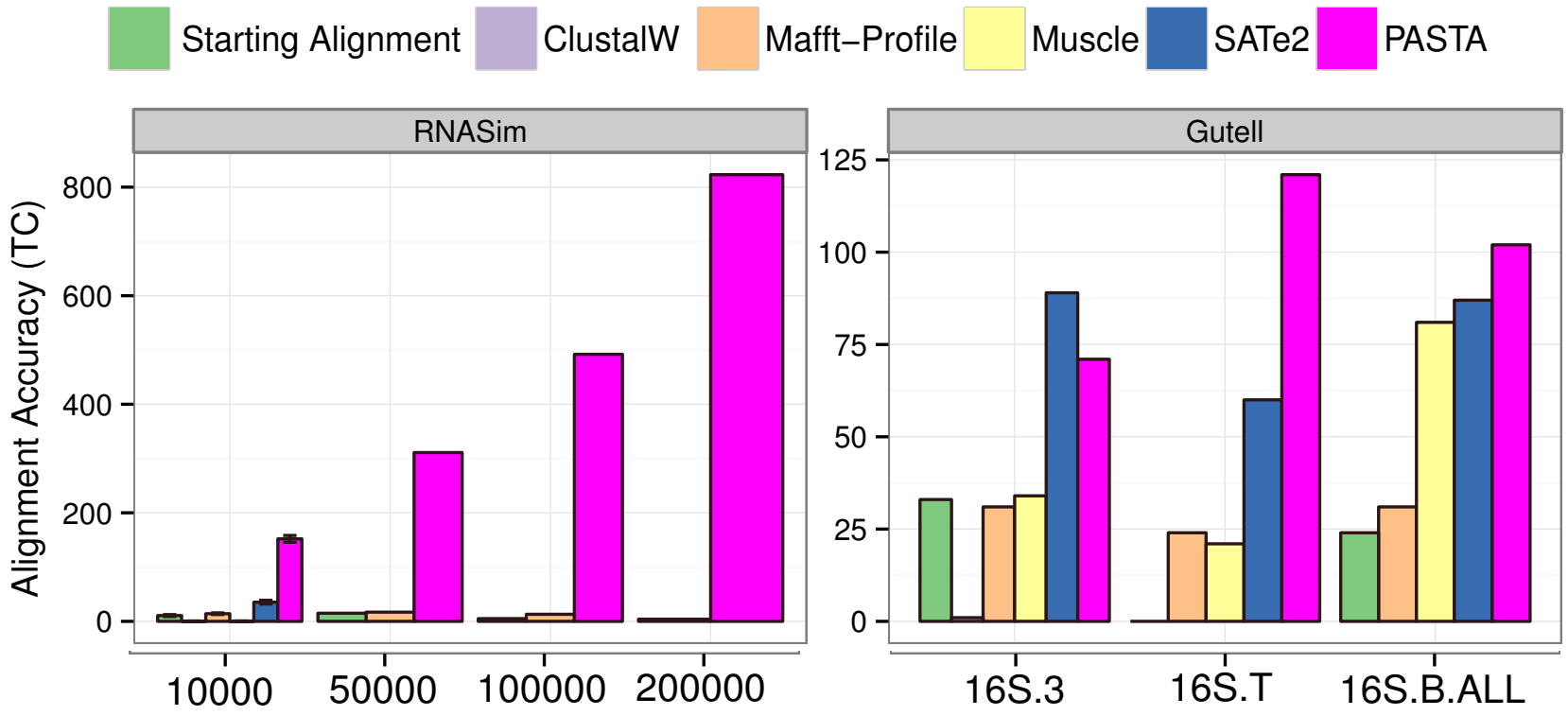
- New multiple sequence alignments with improved accuracy and scalability, as well as high robustness to fragmentary data – SATé used in many studies.
- New coalescent-based species tree estimation methods that have better accuracy than current methods, and can analyze large datasets (used in 1KP and Avian Phylogenomics project analyses)
- New methods for metagenomic taxon identification and abundance profiling with improved accuracy (will be used in analyses here at Illinois)
- Method development inspired by collaboration with biologists, and improves biological analyses.

AA Sequence Alignment Error (13 HomFam datasets)



Homfam: Sievers et al., MSB 2011
10,000 to 46,000 sequences per dataset; 5-14 sequences in each seed alignment
Sequence lengths from 46-364 AA

Alignment Accuracy – Correct columns



Other co-estimation methods

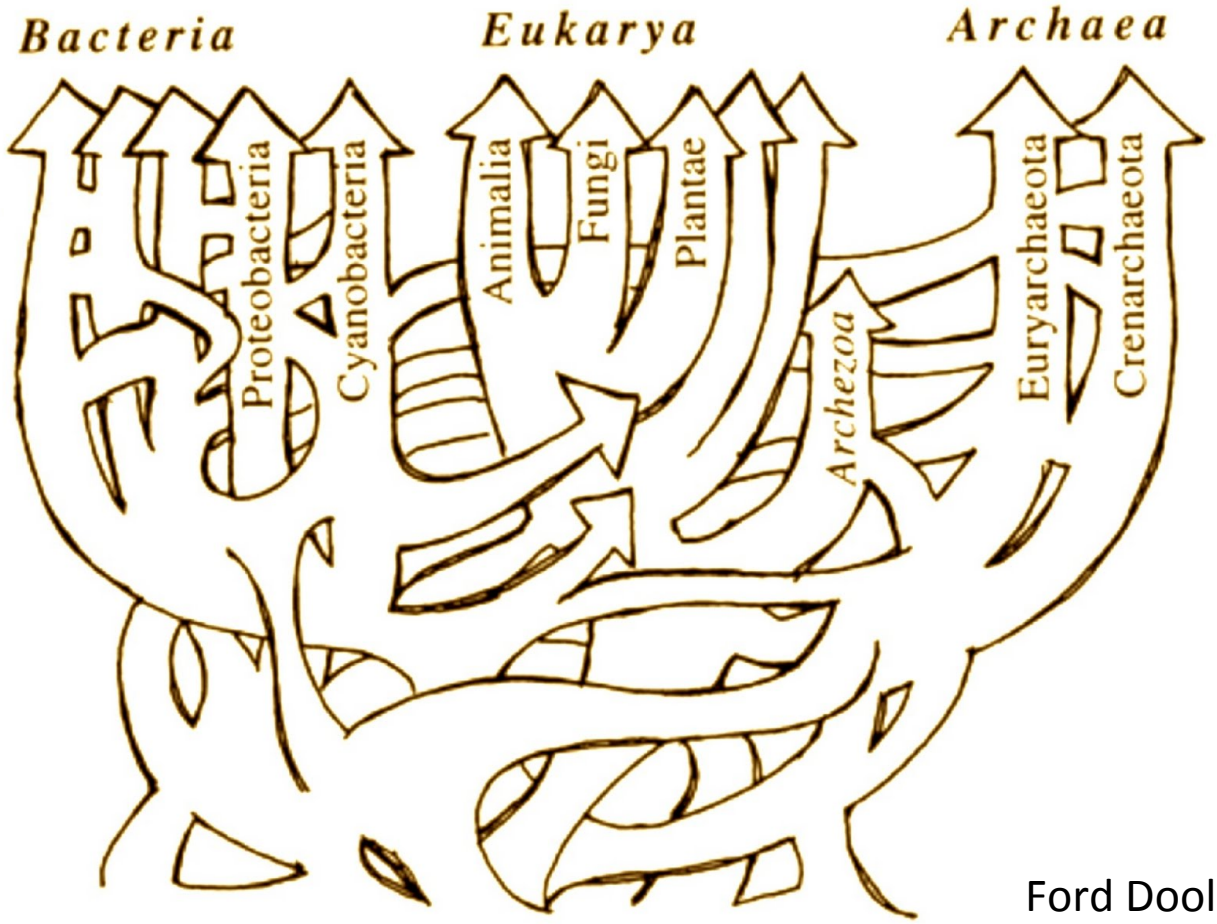
Statistical methods:

- BAli-Phy (Redelings and Suchard): Bayesian software to co-estimate alignments and trees under a statistical model of evolution that includes indels. Can scale to about 100 sequences, but takes a very long time.
  - http://www.bali-phy.org/
- StatAlign: http://statalign.github.io/

Extensions of Parsimony

- POY (most well known software)
  - http://www.amnh.org/our-research/computational-sciences/research/projects/systematic-biology/poy
- BeeTLe (Liu and Warnow, PLoS One 2012)

Horizontal Gene Transfer – Phylogenetic Networks

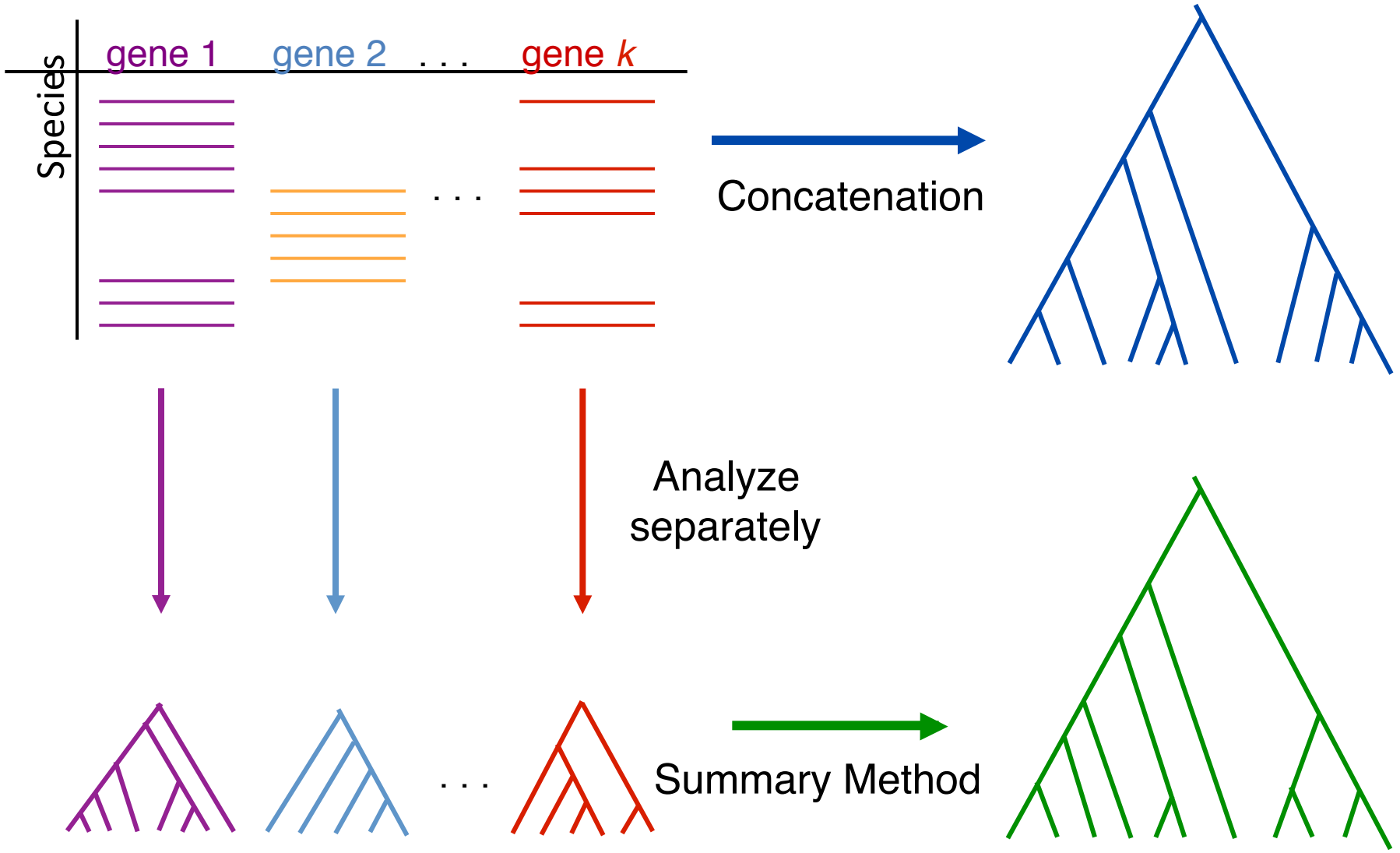


Ford Doolittle

But…

- Gene trees may not be identical to species trees:
  - Incomplete Lineage Sorting (deep coalescence)
  - Gene duplication and loss
  - Horizontal gene transfer
- This makes combined analysis and standard supertree analyses inappropriate

Two competing approaches



How to compute a species tree?

Statistically consistent under ILS?

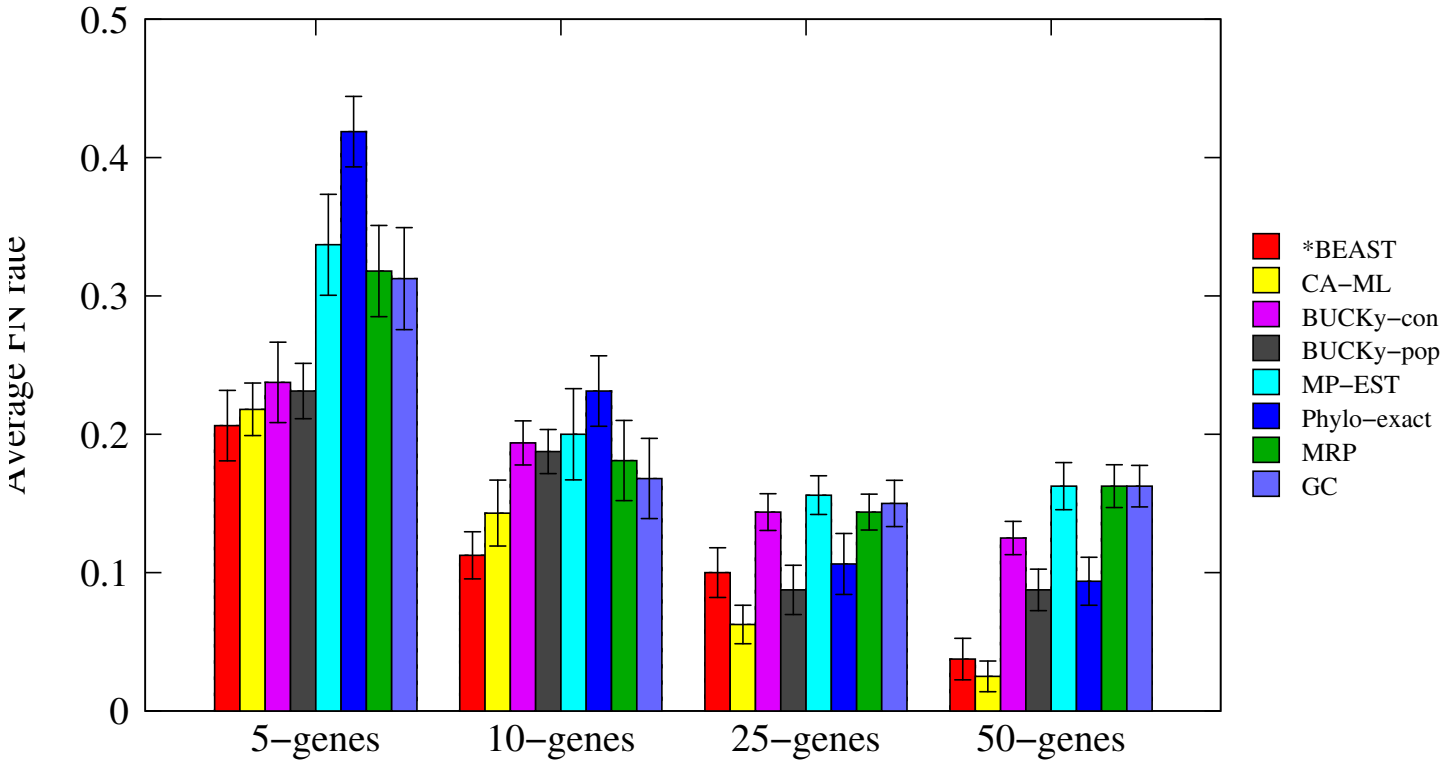
- MP-EST (Liu et al. 2010): maximum likelihood estimation of rooted species tree – YES
- BUCKy-pop (Ané and Larget 2010): quartet-based Bayesian species tree estimation –YES
- MDC – NO
- Greedy – NO
- Concatenation under maximum likelihood – NO
- MRP (supertree method) – open

The Debate: Concatenation vs. Coalescent Estimation

- In favor of coalescent-based estimation
  - Statistical consistency guarantees
  - Addresses gene tree incongruence resulting from ILS
  - Some evidence that concatenation can be positively misleading

- In favor of concatenation
  - Reasonable results on data
  - High bootstrap support
  - Summary methods (that combine gene trees) can have poor support or miss well-established clades entirely
  - Some methods (such as *BEAST) are computationally too intensive to use

Results on 11-taxon datasets with strongILS



***BEAST** more accurate than summary methods (MP-EST, BUCKy, etc)
CA-ML: (concatenated analysis) also very accurate

Datasets from Chung and Ané, 2011
Bayzid & Warnow, Bioinformatics 2013

Species tree/network estimation

- Methods have been developed to estimate species phylogenies (trees or networks!) from gene trees, when gene trees can conflict from each other (e.g., due to ILS, gene duplication and loss, and horizontal gene transfer).
- Phylonet (software suite), has effective methods for many optimization problems – including MDC and maximum likelihood.
- Tutorial on Wednesday.
- Software available at http://bioinfo.cs.rice.edu/phylonet?destination=node/3

Two Basic Questions

1. What is this fragment? (Classify each fragment as well as possible.)

2. What is the taxonomic distribution in the dataset? (Note: helpful to use marker genes.)

SEPP

- **SEPP: SATé-enabled Phylogenetic Placement**, by Mirarab, Nguyen, and Warnow
- Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing, 2012 (special session on the Human Microbiome)
- Tutorial on Thursday.

Other problems

- Genomic MSA estimation:
  - Multiple sequence alignment of very long sequences
  - Multiple sequence alignment of sequences that evolve with rearrangement events
- Phylogeny estimation under more complex models
  - Heterotachy
  - Violation of the rates-across-sites assumption
  - Rearrangements
- Estimating branch support on very large datasets