## Genome 559

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## Introduction to Phylogenies: Parsimony

- How to look at phylogenies
- Finding the best phylogeny
- The parsimony principle
- Calculating the parsimony score


## Recommended additional reading

Felsenstein, J (1988) Phylogenies from molecular sequences: inference and reliability. Annual Review of Genetics 22: 521-565.

## Looking at a phylogeny



## Looking at a phylogeny



These two trees are the same!

Rooted and unrooted trees


## Number of different rooted topologies

```
Tips Topologies
    3 3
    4 18
    5 180
    6 2700
    7 56700
    8 1587600
    9 57153600
    10 2571912000
    15 6958057668962400000
    20564480989588730591336960000000
    304368466613103069512464680198620763891440640000000000000
    4 0 3 0 2 7 3 3 3 8 2 9 9 4 8 0 0 7 3 5 6 5 4 6 3 0 3 3 6 4 5 5 1 4 5 7 2 0 0 0 4 2 9 3 9 4 3 2 0 5 3 8 6 2 5 0 1 7 0 7 8 8 8 7 2 1 9 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ~
    50 3.28632 \times 10 112
100 1.37416 < 10 284
```


## Principle of Parsimony

Prefer the hypothesis (tree) that requires the fewest evolutionary events

- Appears to be a "model-free" method
- Implicit model:
- Evolutionary events are rare
- They occur independently in different lineages


## Example data matrix

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alpha | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Beta | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gamma | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Delta | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Epsilon | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

## Site 1


or

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Alpha | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Beta | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gamma | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Delta | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Epsilon | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

## Site 2



## Site 4



|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Alpha | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Beta | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gamma | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Delta | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Epsilon | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |



## Site 6

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alpha | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Beta | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gamma | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Delta | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Epsilon | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |




| 1 | 23456 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| human | a | gtctc |
| chimp | a | gagtc |
| gorilla | c | ggcag |
| orangutan | c | gggac |



Fill in the rest yourself on your worksheet.


## Tree search

- Exhaustive search
- Branch-and-bound
- Heuristic search


## Tree search

- Exhaustive search: up to 8-10 tips, guaranteed results
- Branch-and-bound: up to $15-20$ tips, guaranteed results
- Heuristic search: 100+ tips, but may not find correct solution


## Hill-climbing



## Nearest neighbor interchange


is rearranged by dissolving the connections to an interior brat

and reforming them in one of the two possible alternative w .


Tree space for unrooted trees of 5 tips


## Parsimony assumptions

- Billed as an "assumption-free" method, but....
- In practice it assumes:
- Changes are rare
- Changes are independent among sites
- Ideally, the same site would not change multiple times; the more often this happens, the more trouble it causes


## A case in which parsimony fails badly



If the data come from the tree on the left, they will prefer the tree on the right. AKA "long branch attraction".

