Tree-like reticulation networks

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Tree-like reticulation networks - when do tree-like distances also support reticulate evolution?

Mathematical Biosciences, in press (arXiv:1405.2965).

Tree metrics

- A phylogenetic tree with edge weights defines a metric on the leaves:
 - add weights on the unique path.



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- A metric that can be placed on a tree is called a tree metric.
- ► A metric *d* is a tree metric if and only if it satisfies the four point condition:
 - for all quartets of leaves $\{u, v, w, y\}$, two out of

 $d(u, v) + d(w, y), \quad d(u, w) + d(v, y), \quad d(u, y) + d(v, w)$

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• In the above we have 3 + 11 = 14, 5 + 11 = 16 and 10 + 6 = 16.

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Reticulated networks

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- 1. 4PC satisfied \implies there is a tree that can represent the metric.
- 2. 4PC not satisfied \implies there may be a reticulated network that can represent the metric.

(Note: the 4PC statement is an if-and-only-if).

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- What's missing?
- The 4PC does not rule out a tree metric also being representable on a reticulated network.
 - One side of the if-and-only-if is an existence statement.

Take home message of this talk:

- A tree metric can also be represented on reticulated networks using average distances.
 - ▶ We are able to characterise this precisely in some cases, but not all yet!

... now to clarify what is meant by average distances ...

Metrics on reticulated networks.

• Let T(N) be the set of trees "displayed" by N. E.g.



For the purposes of distance, we treat a reticulated network N as the weighted sum of the trees in T(N):

Metrics on reticulated networks.

1. HGT.



2. Hybridization.



Results

Theorem

Suppose that all the trees in T(N) are isomorphic as unrooted phylogenetic X-trees to some tree T. Then d_N is a tree metric that is represented by T.

- For example, if there is a single reticulation near the root, the network is treelike.
- We can be more precise.

Tree-like hybridization networks

Theorem

Let X be a finite set of taxa, and suppose d is a metric on X.

- ► If d is a binary tree metric, then it is a metric on a primitive 1-hybridization network N.
- ► If N is a hybridization network, and d is a tree metric on N, then N is either a tree, or is a primitive 1-hybridization network.

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Theorem

For each tree metric on n leaves, there are 4(n-3) 1-hybridization networks that realise the metric.

Proof:



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Tree-like HGT networks

• Let N be an HGT network with T_N the underlying tree (delete all reticulation arcs).

Lemma

If each reticulation arc in N is between adjacent tree-arcs of T_N , then d_N is tree-like on T_N .

This means we have huge numbers of reticulated (HGT) networks whose metrics are tree-like!

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This means we have huge numbers of reticulated (HGT) networks whose metrics are tree-like!

Theorem

Suppose d_N is a metric from an HGT network N with a single reticulation arc.

Then d_N is tree-like if and only if that arc is either

- 1. from one arc to an adjacent arc, or
- 2. between a root arc and one of the two children of the other root arc.

The only tree that harbours a representation for d_N is T_N .

Strange magic

• There are 2-reticulated HGT networks N that can be represented on T_N and (for other parameter settings) on a tree that is different from T_N , even when the mixing distribution treats the two reticulations independently.



• Setting $\alpha \geq \frac{1}{2}$, $b \geq a$ and $\alpha' a = (1 - \alpha')c$ gives 14|23.

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Further questions

1. Is the following true:

For any two binary phylogenetic X-trees T_1 and T_2 , is there an HGT network N for which $T_N = T_1$ and yet where d_N is representable on T_2 (mixing distribution given by the independence model)?

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1. Is the following true:

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- 2. Let $\rho(d)$ denote the minimum number of hybridizations required to represent *d* on a hybridization or an HGT network.
 - What conditions characterise those metrics d with $\rho(d) = 1$?
 - What about $\rho(d) = k$ for any $k \ge 1$?

(We know about $\rho(d) = 0$: the 4PC).