Inferring within patient cancer cell population history from single-cell sequencing data

Jiří C. Moravec¹ R. Bouckaert², S. D. Diermeier³ A. J. Drummond², A. Gavryushkin¹

¹ Department of Computer Science, University of Otago

² Centre for Computational Evolution, University of Auckland

³ Department of Biochemistry, University of Otago

Motivation



Motivation



Complex population history of cancer

- multiclonal origin
- self-seeding
- multiple-seeding
- wound theory

Motivation





Sometimes tree is not just tree

- evolutionary model
- branching process
- mutations
- demographic
- migration

Coalescent theory



- describe merging of lineages in time
- time then used to model mutations on sequence (with HKY, GTR ...)
- basis for other models:
 - migration models (e.g., mugration)
 - population change (e.g., BayesianSkyline)

Coalescent theory



No population structure

- migration models are duck-taped on standard coalescent
- population structure can cause spurious signals
- can cause incorrectly estimated topology or migration patterns

Structured coalescent



- Takahata (1988)¹, Hudson (1990)², Notohara (1990)³
- change of location can happen any time
- computationally intensive
- only constant population size

Takahata, N. (1988). The coalescent in two partially isolated diffusion populations. Genetical Research, 52(3):213-222

² Hudson, R. R. (1990). Gene genealogies and the coalescent process. Oxford surveys in evolutionary biology, 7(1):44

Notohara, M. (1990). The coalescent and the genealogical process in geographically structured population. Journal of Mathematical Biology, 29(1):59–75

Structured coalescent



Computationally tractable approaches to s.c.

- SISCO (Volz, 2012)⁴
- MultiTypeTree (Vaughan, 2014)⁵
- BASTA (De Maio, 2015)⁶
- MASCO (Müller, 2017)⁷

Volz, E. M. (2012). Complex population dynamics and the coalescent under neutrality. Genetics, 190(1):187–201

Vaughan, T. G., Kühnert, D., Popinga, A., Welch, D., and Drummond, A. J. (2014). Efficient Bayesian inference under the structured coalescent. *Bioinformatics*, 30(16):2272–2279

De Maio, N., Wu, C.-H., O'Reilly, K. M., and Wilson, D. (2015). New routes to phylogeography: A bayesian structured coalescent approximation. *PLOS Genetics*, 11(8):1–22

⁷ Müller, N. F., Rasmussen, D. A., and Stadler, T. (2017). The Structured Coalescent and Its Approximations. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 34(11):2970–2981

Reconstruct population history of cancer cells:

- Structured Coalescent (MASCOT⁸ in Beast2)
- with varied population size (Bayesian Skyline⁹)
- with model utililzing both DNA and Methylation data

Müller, N. F., Rasmussen, D., and Stadler, T. (2018). MASCOT: parameter and state inference under the marginal structured coalescent approximation. *Bioinformatics*, 34(22):3843–3848

² Drummond, A. J., Rambaut, A., Shapiro, B., and Pybus, O. G. (2005). Bayesian Coalescent Inference of Past Population Dynamics from Molecular Sequences. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 22(5):1185–1192

Bayesian Skyline



Bayesian Skyline in s.c.



- Combine methylation and DNA information in single matrix
 - DNA provide basic phylogenetic structure
 - methylations then can distinguish closely related cells
- enforce particular pattern of methylation and demethylation



- 1 transversion rate
- κ transition rate
- *α* methylation rate from C to MethC
- β demethylation rate from MethC to C
- γ demethylation rate from MethC to T

Data

Single cell sequencing

- Advantages:
 - single-origin DNA
 - more data, more structure
 - does not mess up signal
- Disadvantages:
 - harder and more expensive to get
 - sometimes too much data

Bulk sequencing

- Disadvantages:
 - DNA of potentially multiple origin
 - messes up phylogeny
- Advantages:
 - easier to get
 - "cleaner"
 - less data
 (computationally feasible)



Single cell sequencing

- Bian et al. 2018
- DNA and methylation
- WGS
- multiple patients and multiple regional samples
- not serially sampled

Bulk sequencing

- from Auckland collaborators
- DNA and methylation (but separate)
- SNP
- single patient, 16 samples
- not serially sampled

Work in Progress



Ideal data:

- Single cell sequencing
- DNA and methylation (with shared positions)
- multiple regional samples
- serially sampled

Reconstructing demographic history of cancer

- Structured coalescent with Mascot
- Extend SC with Bayesian Skyline
- use MethylationHKY model to utilize both DNA and methylation data

Collaborators:

Cristin Print Tamsin Robb Cherie Blenkiron

RUTHERFORD FOUNDATION







Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo NEW ZEALAND

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