Generalizing the Four Gamete Condition and Splits Equivalence Theorem: Perfect Phylogeny on Three State Characters

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Phylogeny Construction



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Each character takes r states (in this example, r = 2)

• displays each species on a leaf vertex

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- edges labeled by mutation events

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- states in each character appear in a connected subtree





Input: Set *S* of *n* species with *m* characters over *r* states **Problem:** Is there a perfect phylogeny displaying *S*?

Two problems:

- If there is a perfect phylogeny, construct it
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 - Phylogeny is witness for YES answer
- If there is no perfect phylogeny, give a certificate of nonexistence
 - What is the witness for NO answer?

If perfect phylogeny exists on the entire set of characters, then it exists for any subset of characters



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Binary Input: Four Gamete Test



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Necessary condition for perfect phylogeny on binary input: Each pair of columns must contain at most three out of the four gametes

This condition is both necessary and sufficient.

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Four Gamete Test, Splits-Equivalence Theorem (Buneman 1971)

A set of binary sequences allows a perfect phylogeny if and only if no two columns contain all four pairs

- Fitch (1975), Estabrook and Landrum (1975)
- McMorris (1977)

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Input: Set *S* of *n* species and *m binary* characters **Question:** Is there a perfect phylogeny displaying *S*?

- **YES:** If there is a perfect phylogeny, construct it
- NO: If there is no perfect phylogeny, output a pair of columns containing all four gametes

Theoretical results and practical algorithms:

- block partitioning algorithm of HaploBlockFinder
- faster near-perfect phylogeny reconstruction algorithm (Sridhar et. al.)
- phase inference (Gusfield)
- obtaining phylogenies from genotypes (Sridhar et. al.)

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- every pair of characters in S is compatible
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Meacham (1983):

"The Fitch example shows that any algorithm to determine whether a set of characters is compatible must consider the set as a whole and cannot take the shortcut of only checking pairs of characters."

(Theoretical and Computational Considerations of the Compatibility of Taxonomic Characters)

Bounded *r* (number of states):

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- r = 3: O(nm²) algorithm for testing the compatibility of ternary characters (Dress and Steel 1992)
- r = 4: O(n²m) algorithm for quaternary characters (Kannan and Warnow 1990)
- Polynomially solvable for all fixed r:
 - $O(2^{3r}(nm^3 + m^4))$ algorithm (Agarwala and Fernandez-Baca 1994)
 - $O(2^{2r}nm^2)$ algorithm (Kannan and Warnow 1997)

- If no perfect phylogeny exists for a set of sequences on r ≥ 3 states, what is the size of the smallest witnessing obstruction set?
- Is it possible to find small obstruction sets (analogous to four gamete test)?

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We answer these question for r = 3.

Main Theorem (L., Gusfield, Sridhar, 2008)

Given an input set S with at most three states per character, S admits a perfect phylogeny if and only if every subset of three characters of S admits a perfect phylogeny.

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1	2	2		b_2	0
2	2	0	a_2°	0	$^{\circ}c_{2}$

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Partition Intersection Graph



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Partition intersection graph G(S):

- ${\ensuremath{\, \circ }}$ vertices correspond to character/state pairs in S
- two character states are adjacent if there exists a row in S containing both

No edge in G(S) between states of the same character.

A graph H is *chordal*, or *triangulated*, if there are no induced chordless cycles of length four or greater in H.

Chromatic chordal completion problem

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Assign a single color to all the vertices corresponding to the same character in S. A proper triangulation of G(S) is a chordal supergraph such that every edge has endpoints with different colors.

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Assign a single color to all the vertices corresponding to the same character in S. A proper triangulation of G(S) is a chordal supergraph such that every edge has endpoints with different colors.

Theorem (Buneman, 1974)

An input set S admits a perfect phylogeny if and only if the partition intersection graph G(S) has a proper triangulation.

Idea: Piece together the proper triangulations for each triple of characters to obtain a triangulation for the entire set of characters

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• If some subset of three characters does not allow a perfect phylogeny, output these three characters as the certificate for the nonexistence of a perfect phylogeny

If every subset of three characters admits a proper triangulation:

$$G(S) \xrightarrow{F-\operatorname{edges}} G'(S) \xrightarrow{F'-\operatorname{edges}} G''(S)$$

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Claim

G''(S) is a properly triangulated graph



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Each triple of characters induces a chordal graph while the entire partition intersection graph G(S) contains a chordless cycle of length four

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Minimal obstruction sets for trinary input contain three characters. Enumerate all instances on three characters a, b, and c such that:

- (i) a, b and c are characters on at most three states
- (ii) every pair of characters allows a perfect phylogeny
- (iii) the three characters *a*, *b*, and *c* together do not allow a perfect phylogeny.

Enumerating three character obstruction sets



Enumerating three character obstruction sets



Incompatibility/Conflict Graph for binary characters

- Conflict or incompatibility between pairs of sites: Meiotic recombination, reticulation and recurrent mutation
- Each site corresponds to a vertex
- (i, j) is an edge if i and j are in conflict.

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"The non-trivial connected components of the conflict graph are very informative, used both to derive efficient algorithms and to expose combinatorial structure in phylogenetic networks."

- Gusfield, Bansal, Bafna, Song (2006)

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Character-Removal Problem:

• minimize the number of characters to remove from the data so that the resulting data has a multi-state perfect phylogeny

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Character-Removal Problem:

- minimize the number of characters to remove from the data so that the resulting data has a multi-state perfect phylogeny
- hitting set problem

Conclusion

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• Improved algorithm for constructing a perfect phylogeny on three states if it exists?

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 - $O(2^{3r}(nm^3 + m^4))$ (Agarwala and Fernandez-Baca 1994)
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- Improved algorithm for constructing a perfect phylogeny on three states if it exists?
 - $O(2^{3r}(nm^3 + m^4))$ (Agarwala and Fernandez-Baca 1994)
 - $O(2^{2r}nm^2)$ (Kannan and Warnow 1997)
- Correlation between incompatible subsets of characters?
THANKS

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