Introduction to graphical models using RevBayes

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FAU

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Phylogenetic inference — the old way





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Phylogenetic inference — a better way?



Aims for RevBayes

Flexible model specification

- Availability of (common) models
- Extendability

Computational efficiency

- Fast likelihood calculators
- Efficient (MCMC) algorithms

Easy to learn

- Well structured model specification
- Explicit models
- Documentation, examples and tutorials

RevBayes uses a graphical model framework

Graphical models provide tools for visually and computationally representing complex, parameter-rich probabilistic models.

We can depict the conditional dependence structure of various parameters and other random variables.



Höhna et al. 2014. Sys Bio

Graphical models — types of variables (nodes)



a) fixed-value variables

b) random variables that depend on other variables

c) variables determined by a specific function applied to another variable (transformations)

d) observed stochastic variables (data)

e) replication over a set of variables

Specifying graphical models using the Rev syntax

Table 1: Rev assignment operators, clamp function, and plate/loop syntax.

Operator	Variable
<-	constant variable
~	stochastic variable
:=	deterministic variable
node.clamp(data)	clamped variable
=	inference $(i.e., \text{ non-model})$ variable
for(i in 1:N){}	plate



constant node
r <- 10</pre>









constant node
r <- 10</pre>

stochastic node l \sim dnExp(r)

stochastic node (observed)
1.clamp(0.1)

deterministic node
1 := exp(r)



```
# prior on the tree topology
topology ~ dnUniformTopology(taxa)
```

```
# prior on the branch lengths
for (i in 1:num_branches) {
    br_lens[i] ~ dnExponential(10)
    moves.append( mvScale(br_lens[i]) )
}
```

```
tree := treeAssembly(topology, br_lens)
```

```
TL := sum(br_lens)
```

```
# 4 state rate maxtrix (JC model)
Q <- fnJC(4)</pre>
```

```
# attach the model to your sequence data
seq ~ dnPhyloCTMC(tree = tree, Q = Q, type = "DNA")
seq.clamp(data)
```



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The Weeping Woman by Picasso Bayesian inference is like a cubist painting, the more you stare at it the more it begins to make sense.

—Something Kat spotted in a textbook