

# Demographic inference based on Site frequency spectrum (SFS) – Part I

Vitor C. Sousa

**CE3C** – center for ecology, evolution and environmental changes

Department of Animal Biology

Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa

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[vmsousa@fc.ul.pt](mailto:vmsousa@fc.ul.pt)



Evolutionary Genomics and  
Bioinformatics group



# Outline

## Part I

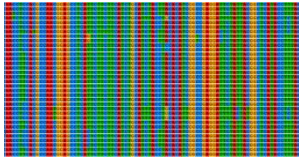
- Modeling demographic history: Population trees vs gene trees
- The SFS and coalescent trees
- Fastsimcoal2 principles – composite likelihood
- Approximate Bayesian Computation

## Part II

- Example of applications to different problems and types of data

# What can we learn from population genomic data?

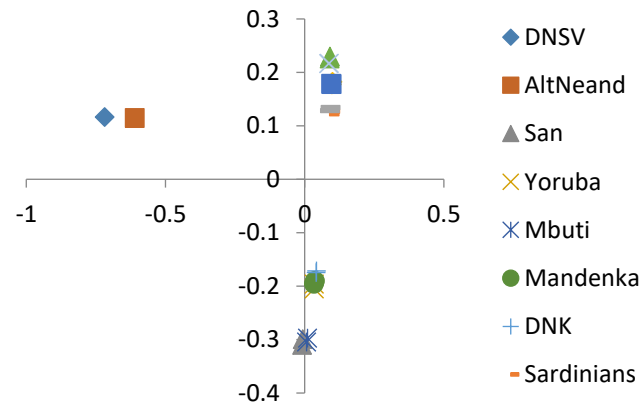
## Genomic data



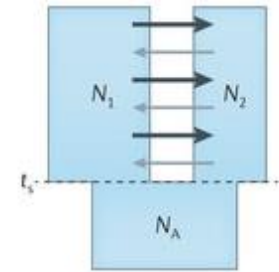
### Summary statistics:

- Characterize **genetic diversity** within and among populations
- Characterize **genetic differentiation** among populations

## «Model-free» methods e.g. PCA



## Model-based methods



### Evolutionary Processes:

- Demography
- Selection
- Mutation
- Recombination

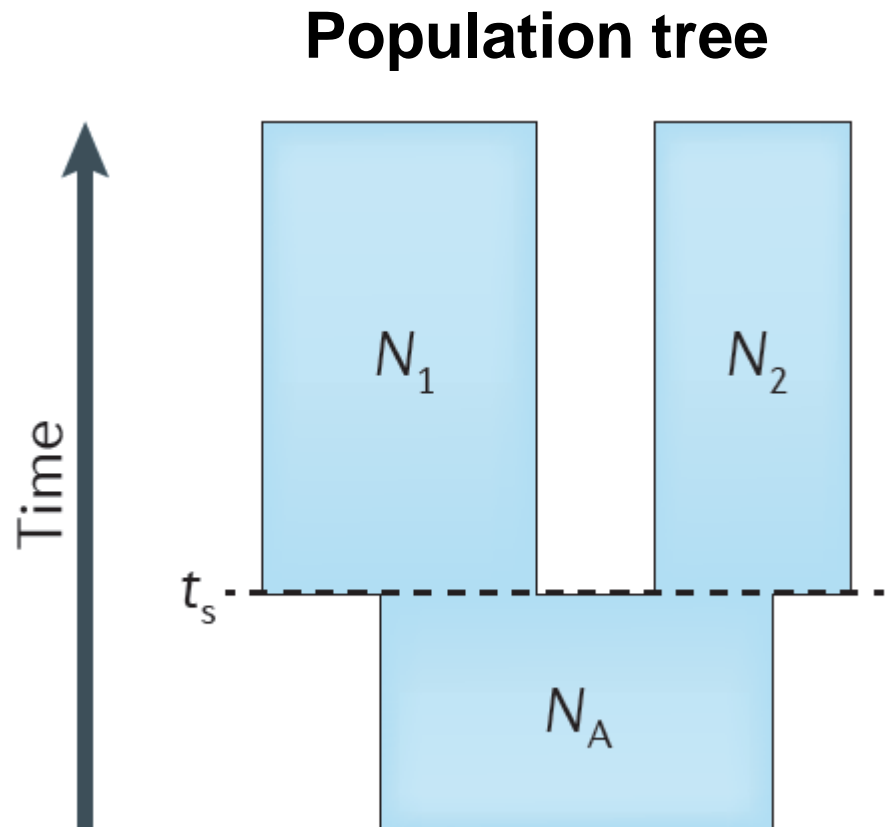
Patterns

Processes

# Demographic history of populations

Past demographic events:

- Population split
- Migration events
- Changes in effective population sizes (expansions or bottlenecks)
- Temporal changes in migration rates and effective sizes



# Why do we care about demographic history?

It is often interesting in itself

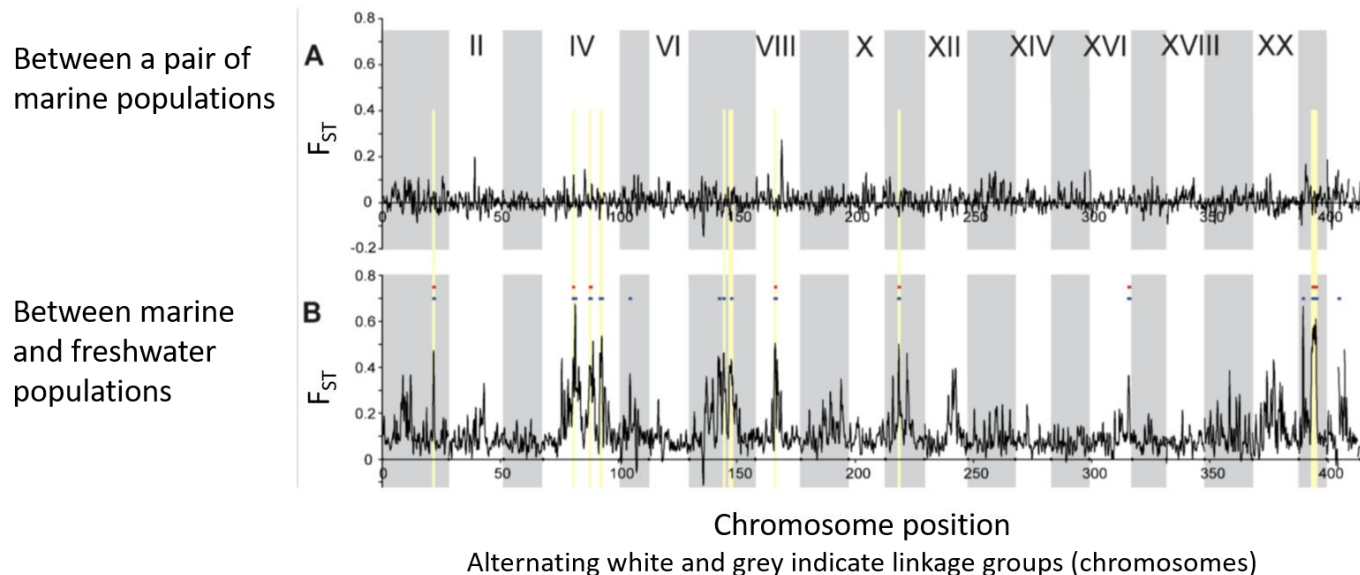
- What is the amount of gene flow? Time of split?

Demography affects the efficiency of natural selection

- Response to selection is different in small vs large populations, with vs without gene flow, etc.

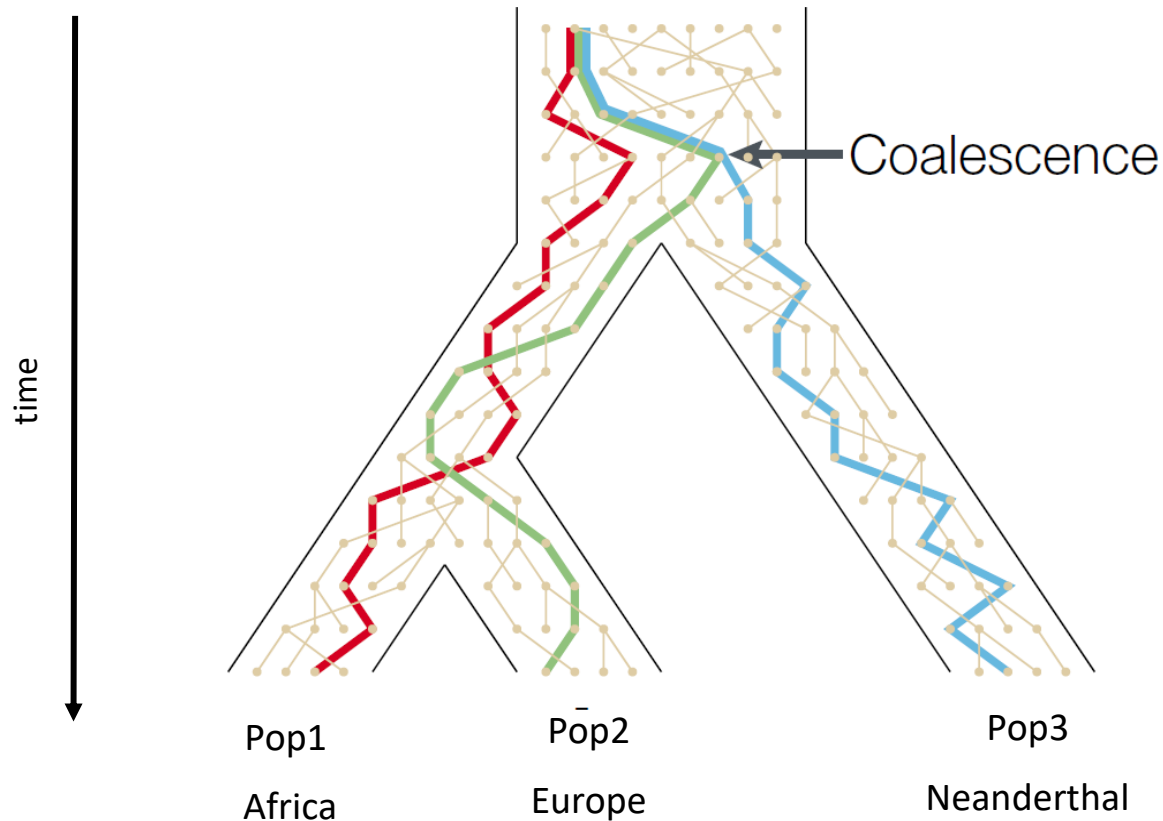
Demographic history affects genome-wide patterns

- "null" model: regions under selection detected as outliers.



# Coalescent trees “link” population history to observed genetic patterns

Coalescent theory describes the expected gene trees, accounting for mutation, recombination and demographic history

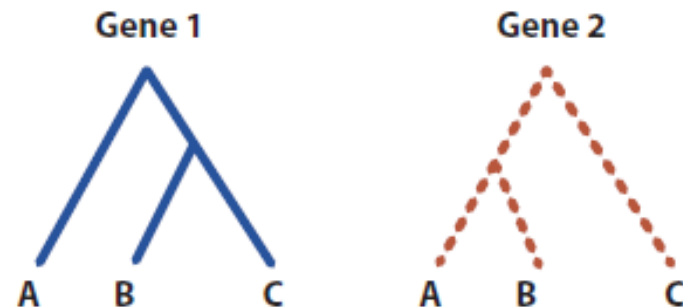
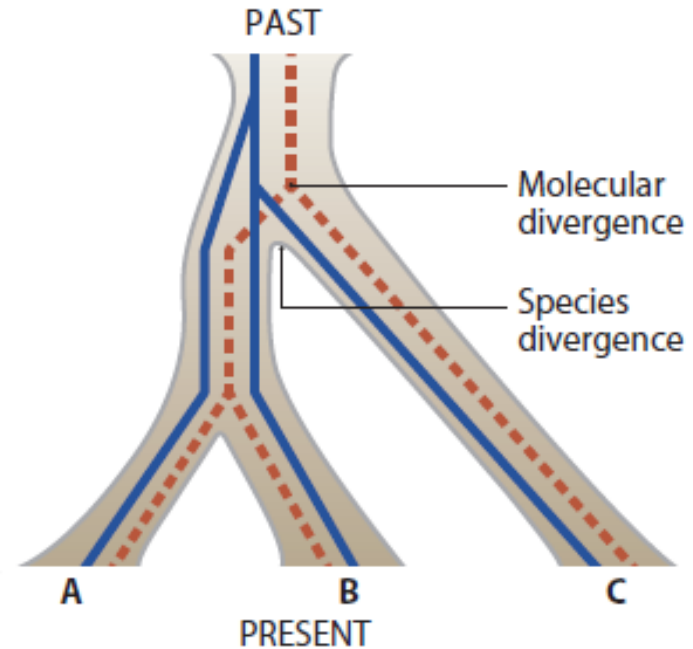


# Gene trees vs. Population trees

**Gene trees** reflect the ancestral relationship of sampled gene copies/chromosomes (before adding mutations).

The relationship between populations is given by the **population tree**.

In phylogenetics it is usually assumed that the gene tree reflects the population/species tree, but that is not the case in population genetics.



Nichols (2001) TREE

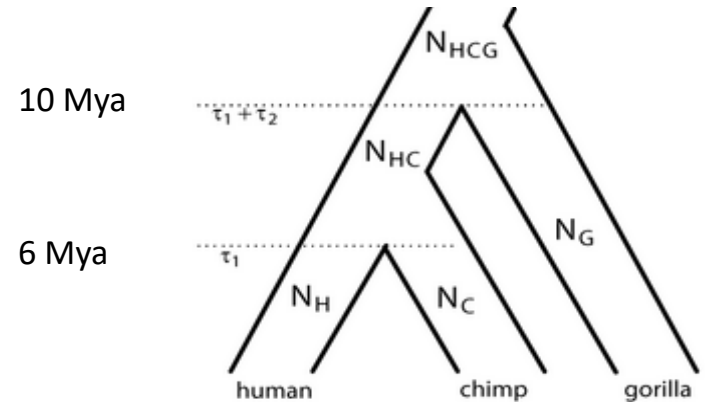
## Activity

# Population tree vs species trees in Human, Chimp and Gorilla

What is the proportion of polymorphic sites in the genomes that fall into each gene tree?

- A) 99.0% (H,C); 0.5% (H,G); 0.5% (C, G)
- B) 90.0% (H,C); 5.0% (H,G); 5.0% (C, G)
- C) 70.0% (H,C); 15.0% (H,G); 15.0% (C, G)

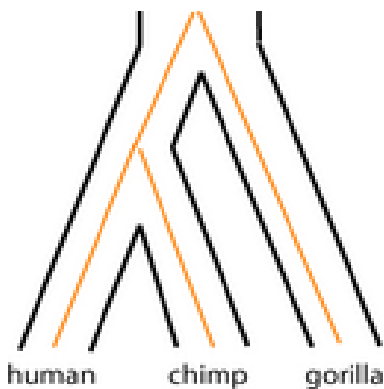
## Species tree



1 single species tree  
3 possible gene tree topologies

### Gene tree 1

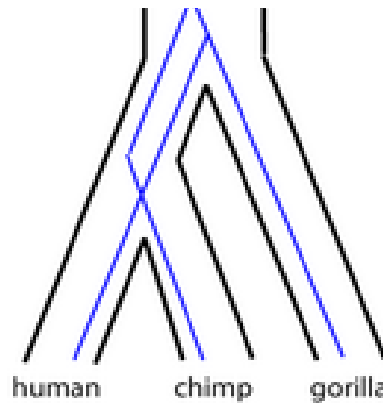
(H,C)



(H,C):G

### Gene tree 2

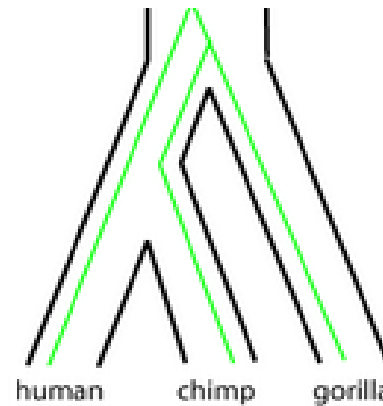
(H,G)



(H,G):C

### Gene tree 3

(C,G)

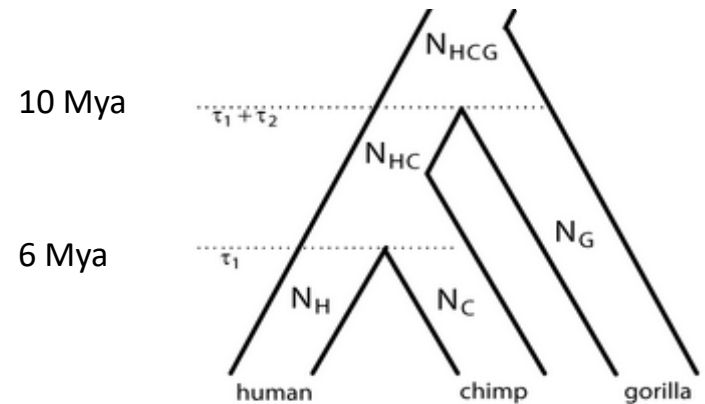


(C,G):H

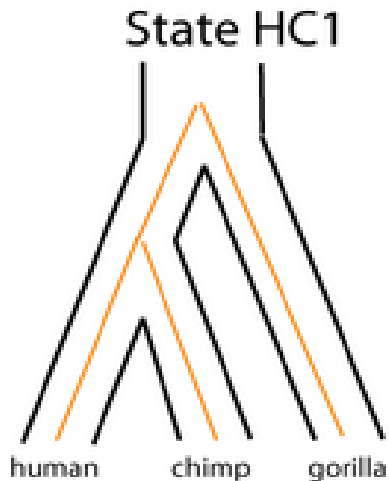


**Incomplete lineage sorting:** Gene trees at a particular gene favor a topology different from the species tree.

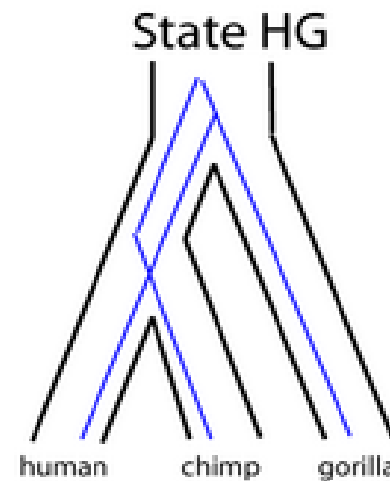
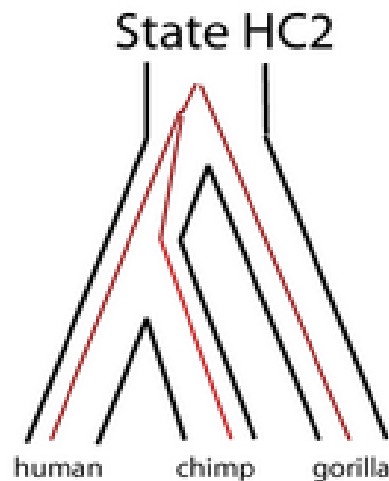
**Species tree**



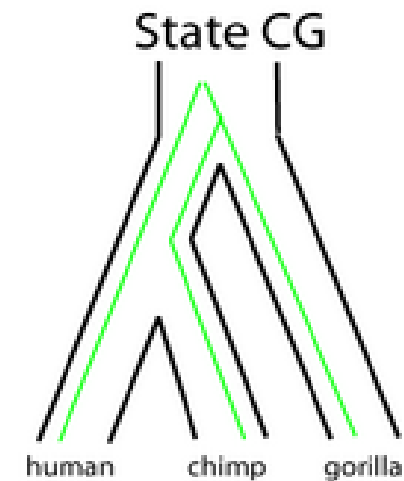
1 single species tree  
3 possible gene tree topologies



(H,C):G  
70%



(H,G):C  
15%

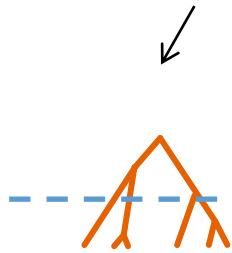


(C,G):H  
15%

# Reconstructing the demographic history from genomic data

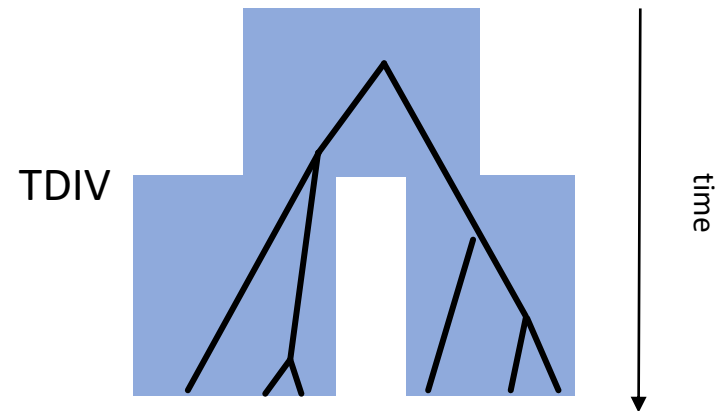
Because of recombination, different regions of the genome can have different gene trees

Genome 



- Demography is expected to affect the entire genome
- Natural selection acts on specific functional regions

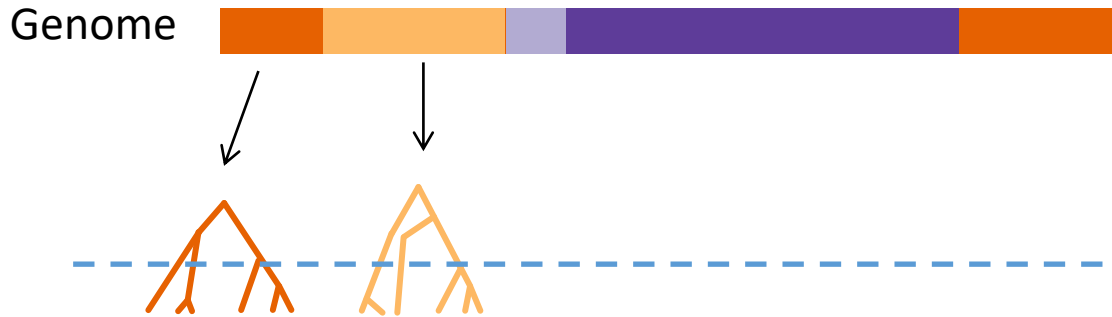
**Model without migration**



All gene trees are consistent with the population tree. Independent gene trees can be seen as independent replicates of the same population tree.

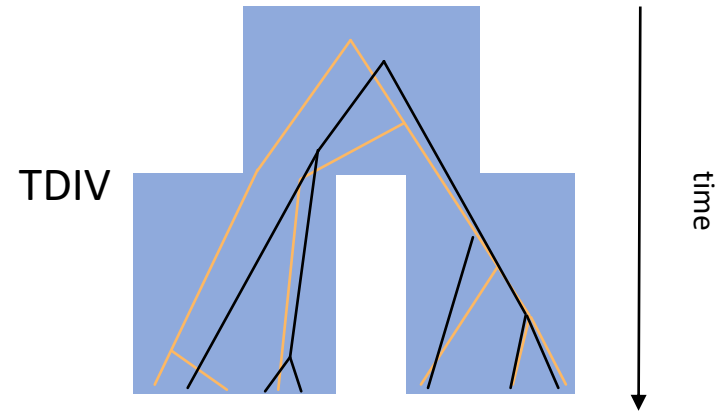
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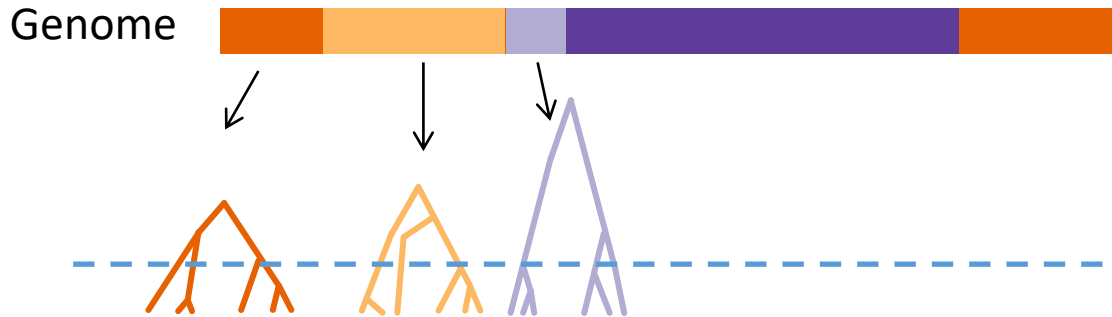
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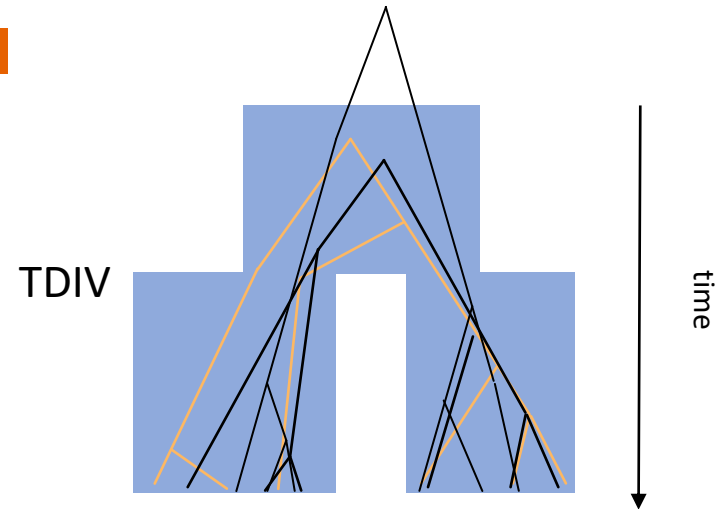
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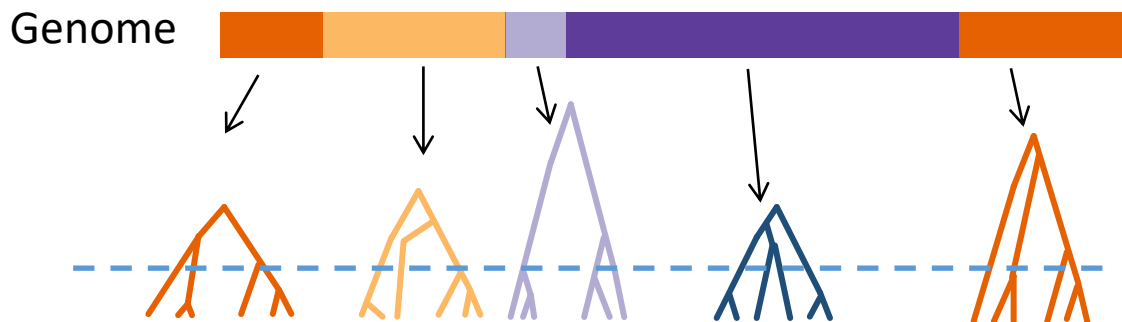
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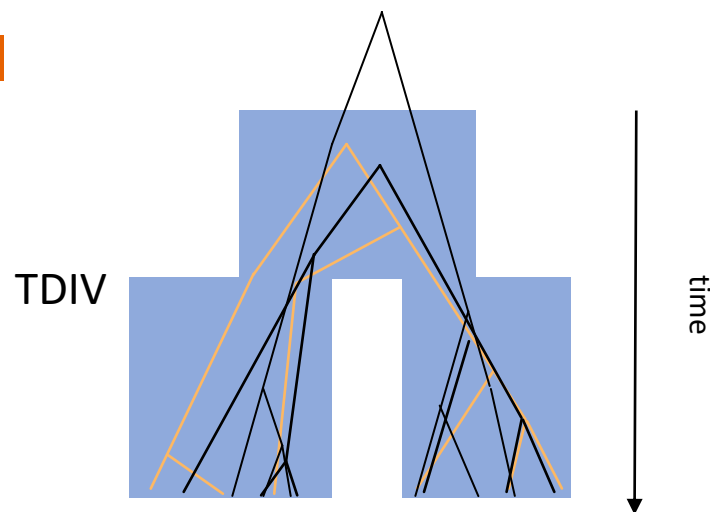
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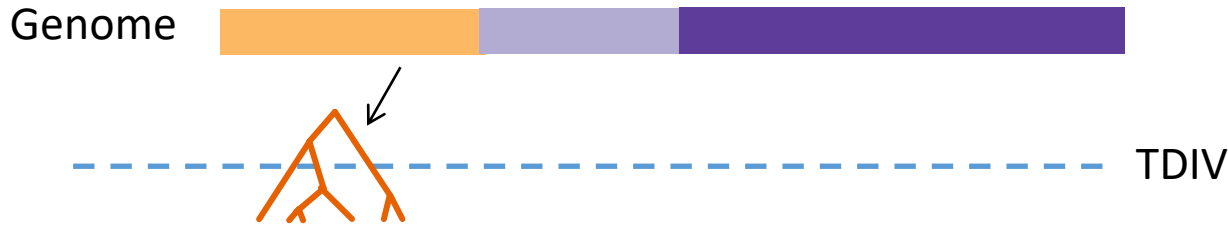
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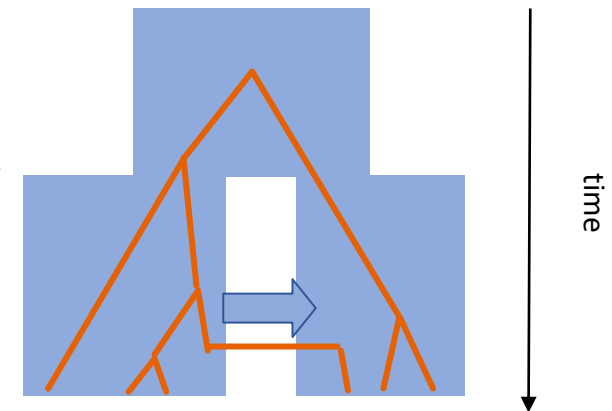
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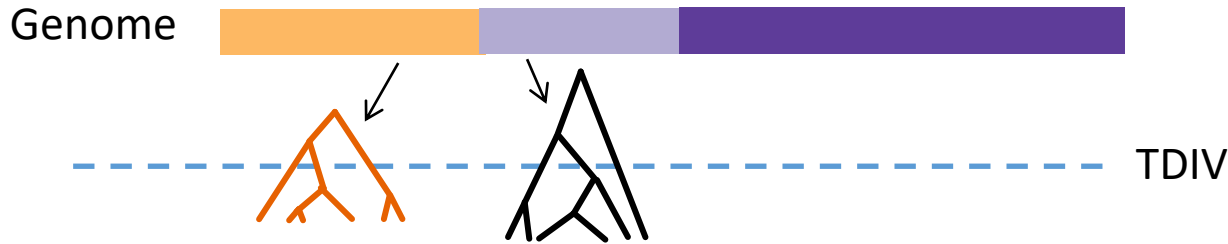
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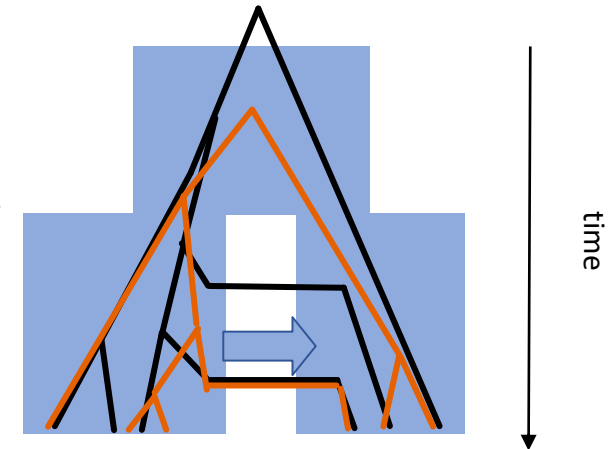
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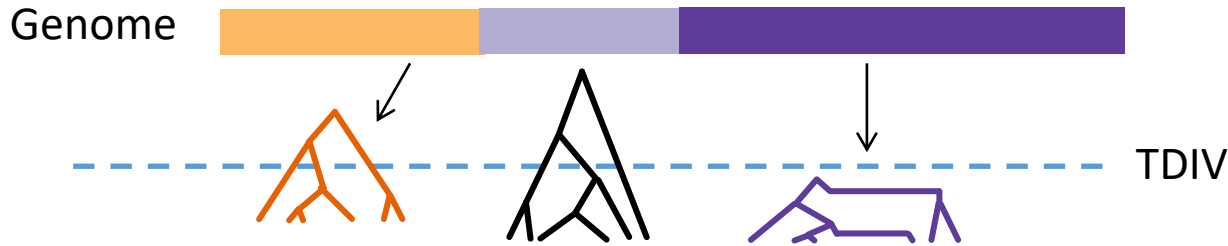
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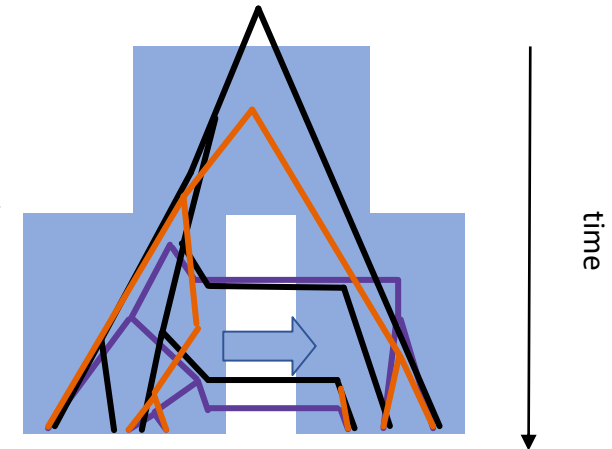
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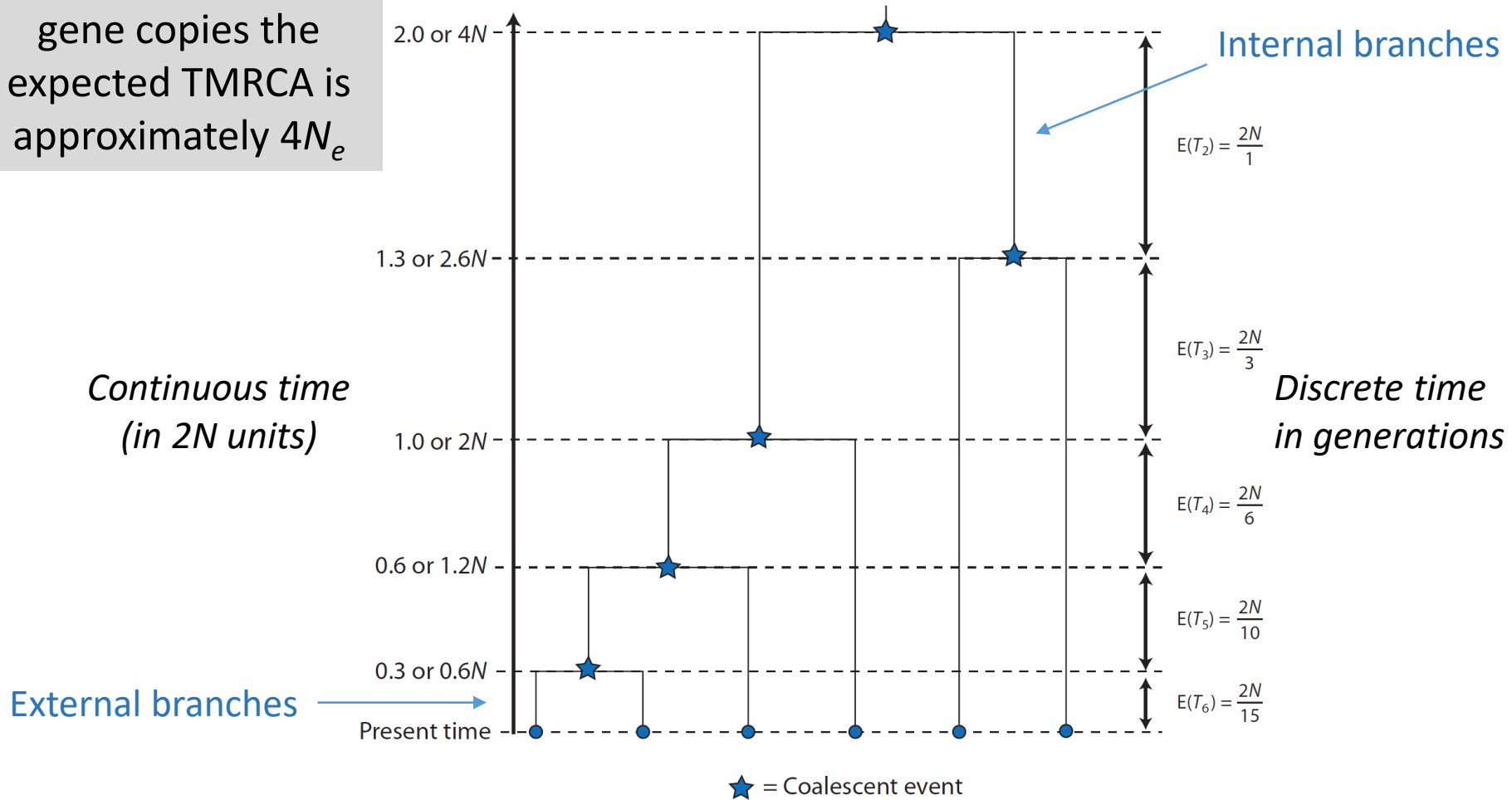


All gene trees are consistent with the population tree. Independent gene trees can be seen as independent replicates of the same population tree.



# Expected coalescent times in a single constant size population

For a sample of  $n$  gene copies the expected TMRCA is approximately  $4N_e$



## Activity

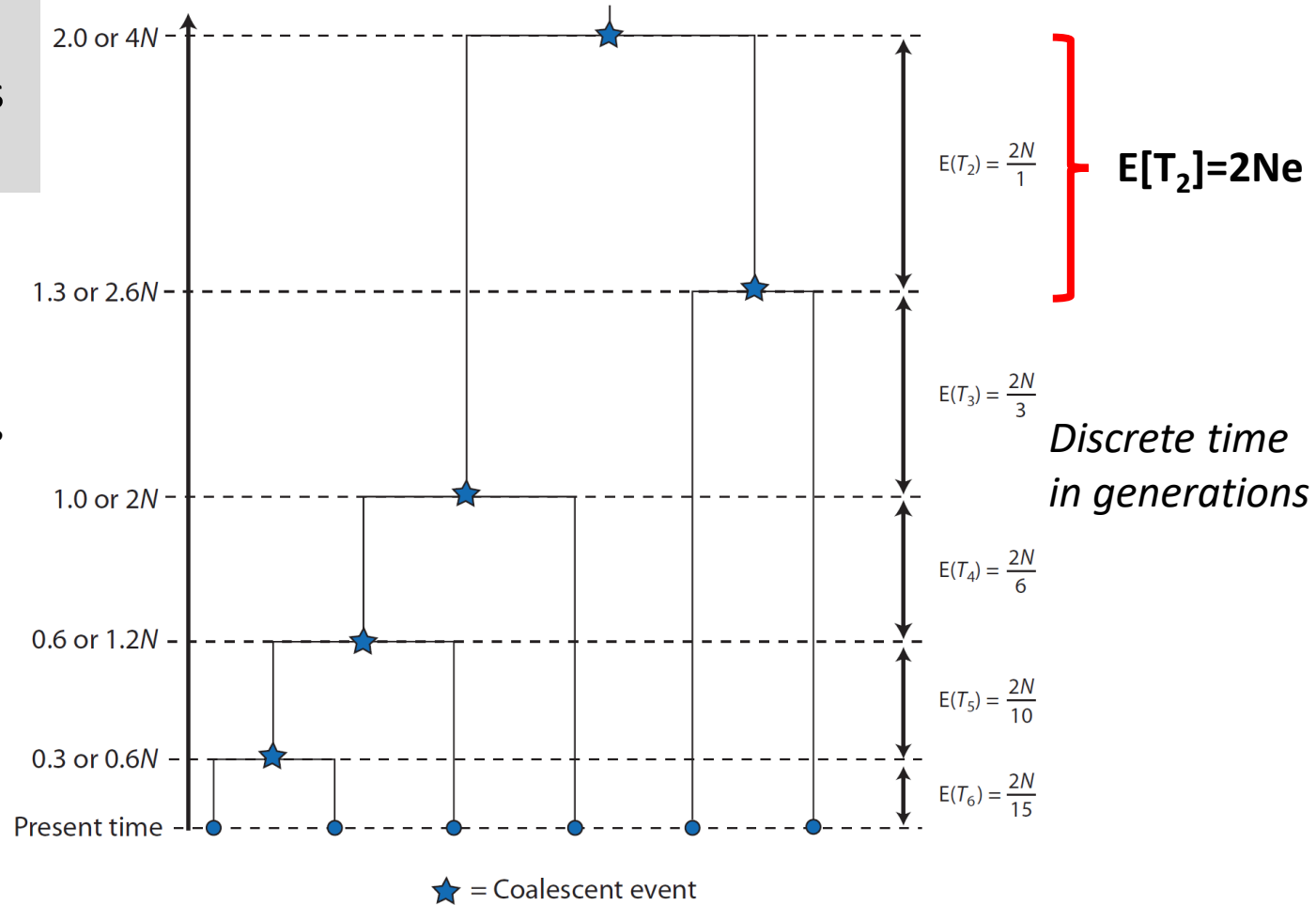
Check your intuition about coalescent gene trees

- What are the longest branches we expect in a single constant size population?
  - A: External branches (tips of gene tree)
  - B: Internal branches
- Do we expect the relative branch length to differ in large and small populations?
  - Yes
  - No

# Expected coalescent times in a single constant size population

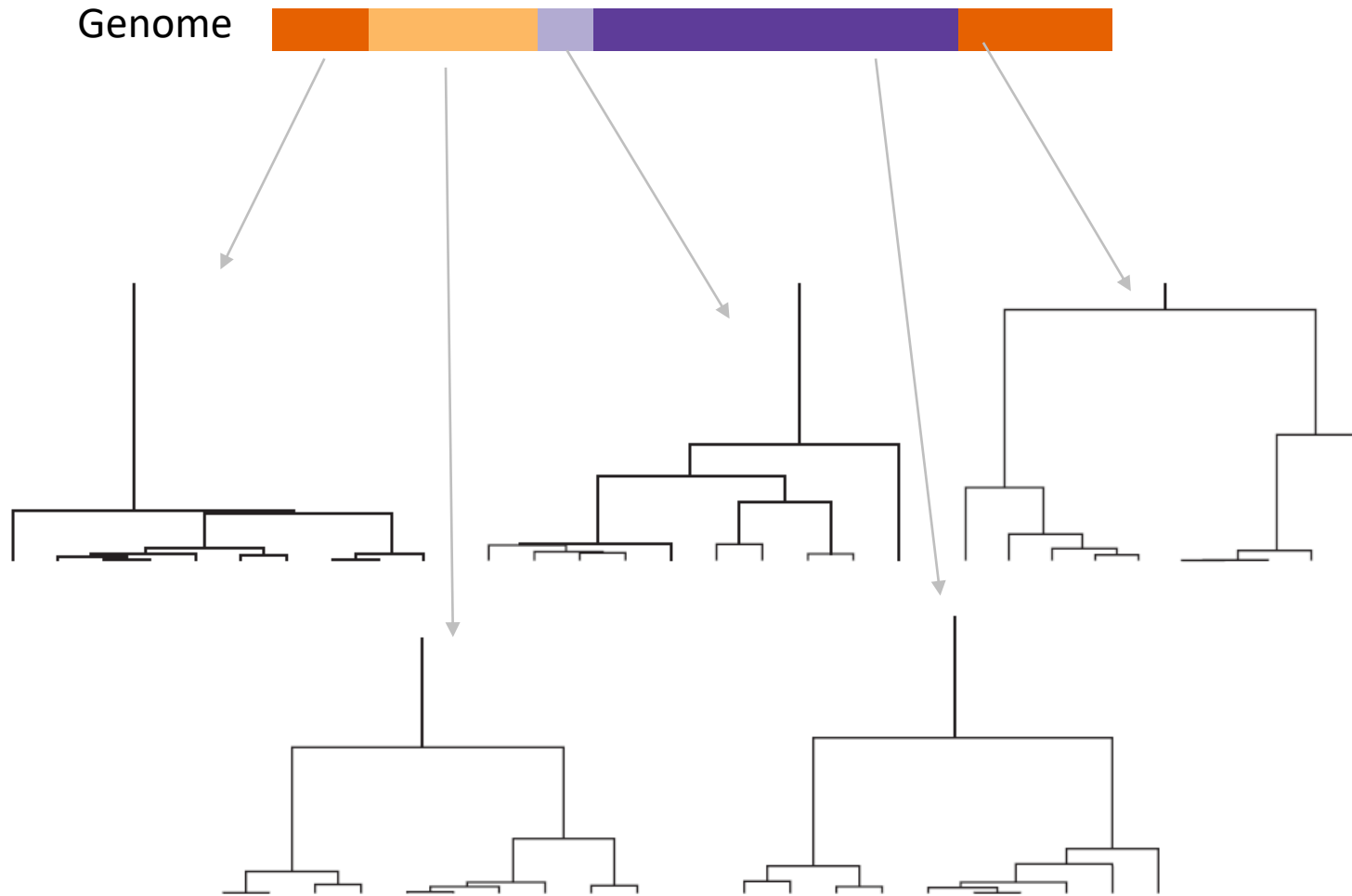
For a sample of  $n$  gene copies the expected TMRCA is approximately  $4N_e$

*Continuous time  
(in  $2N$  units)*



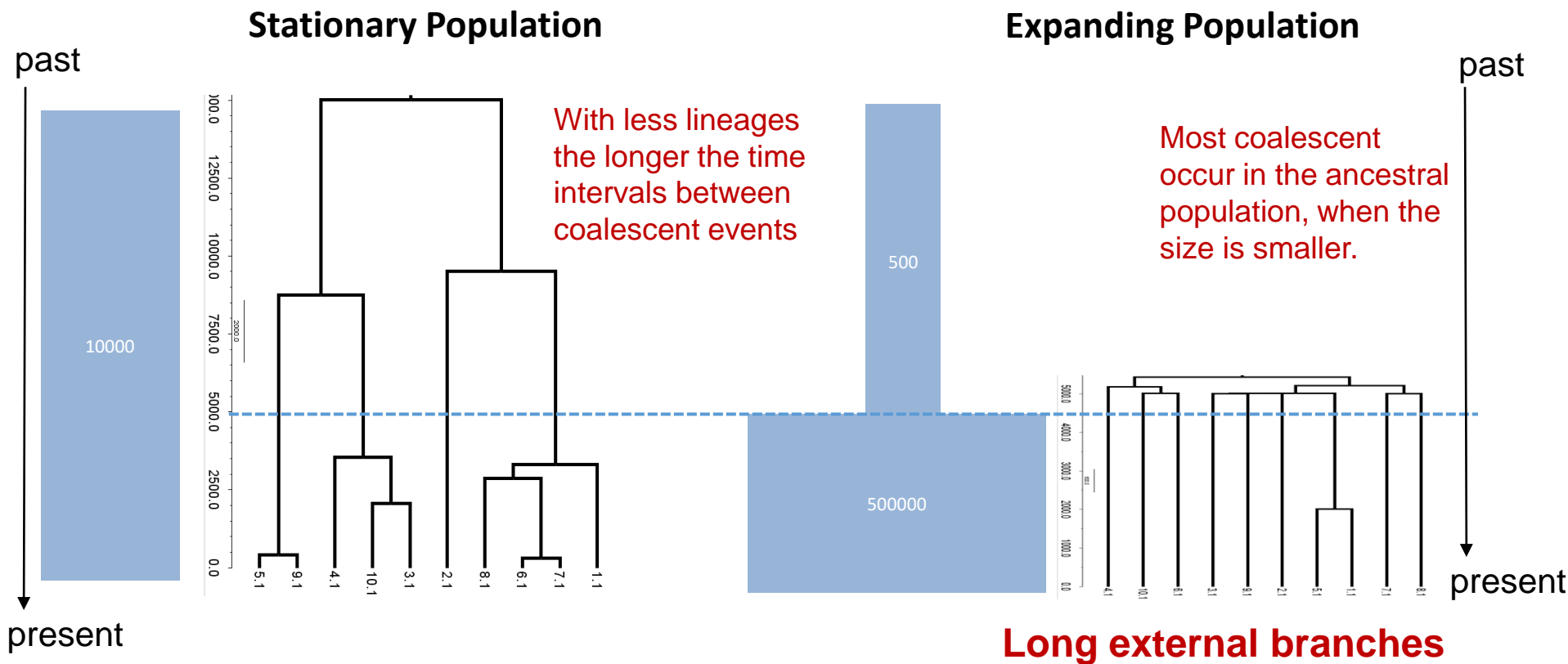
Long internal branches - when there is only 2 lineages left, we expect them to take  $2N_e$  generations to coalesce

The expected TMRCA is  $4N_e$ , but there is a large variance!



**Five independent genomic regions from the same constant size population.**

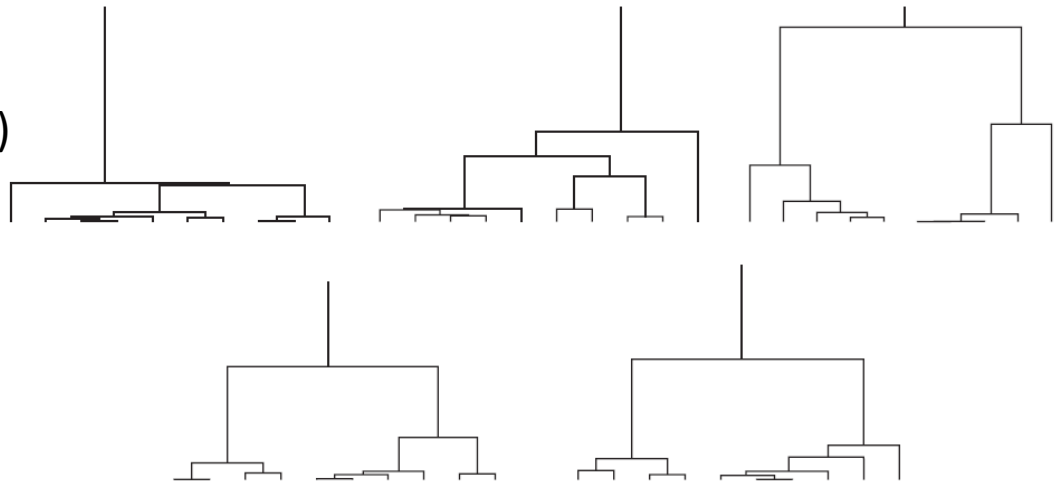
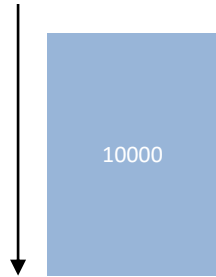
# Gene trees in expanding populations



- Coalescent rate is larger in smaller populations, and so we expect smaller intervals between coalescent events in smaller populations
- Coalescent rate is lower with a lower number of lineages, and so we expected larger intervals between coalescent events as the number of lineages decrease

## Stationary population

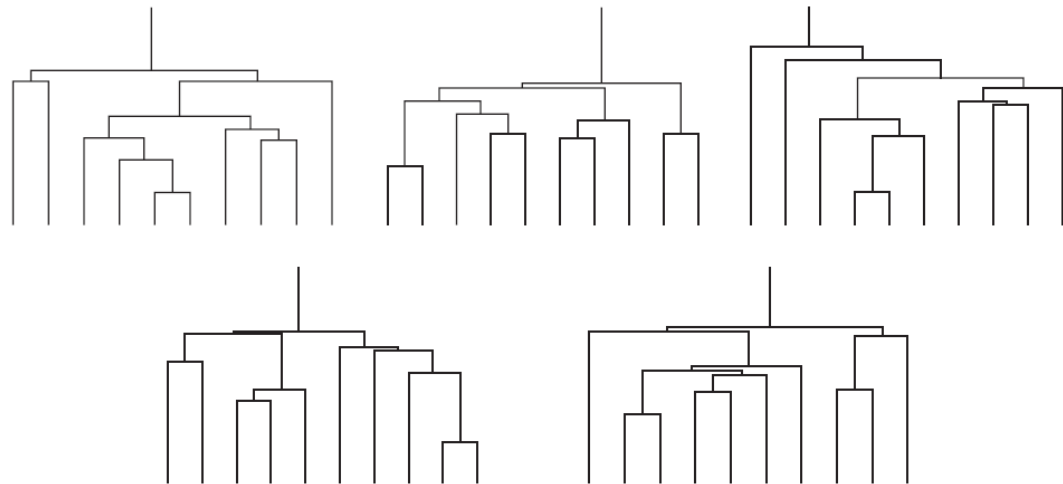
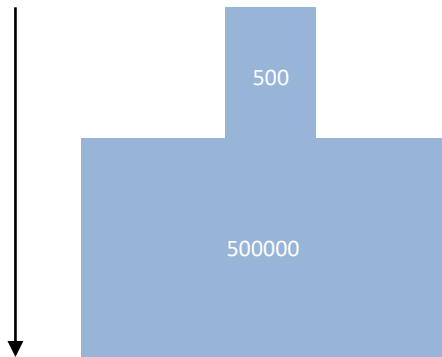
gene trees at five genome regions  
(all share same population history!)



**Figure 4.2** Five replicates of the coalescent process with constant population size for a sample of ten genes. Note the large variance in the time of the MRCA among replicates.

## Expanding population

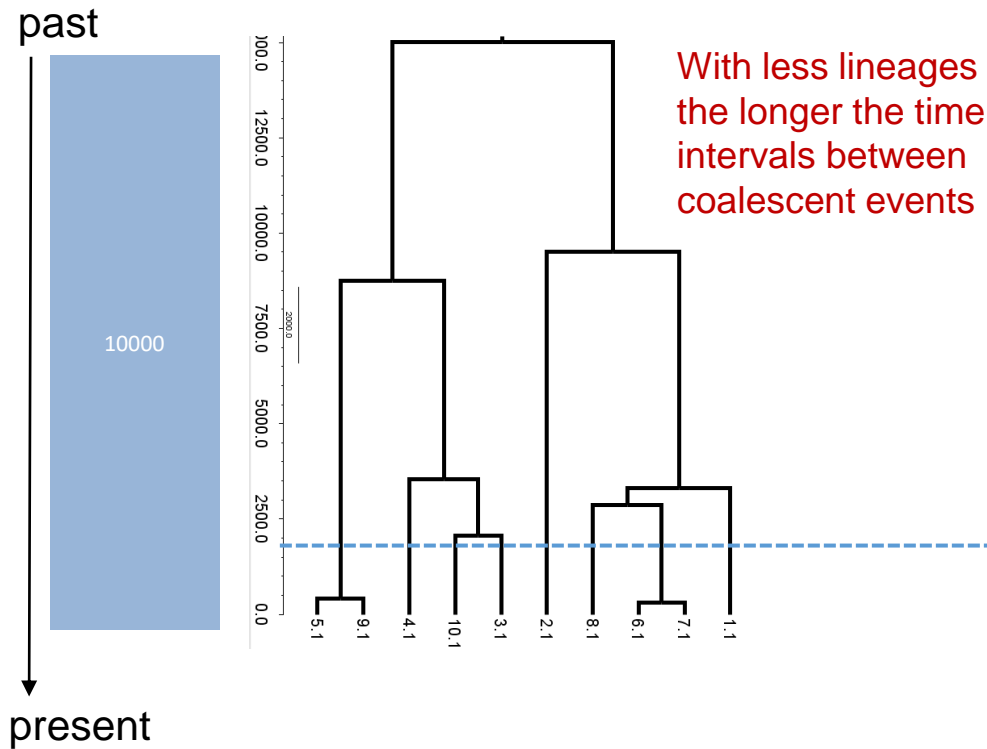
gene trees at five genome regions  
(all share same population history!)



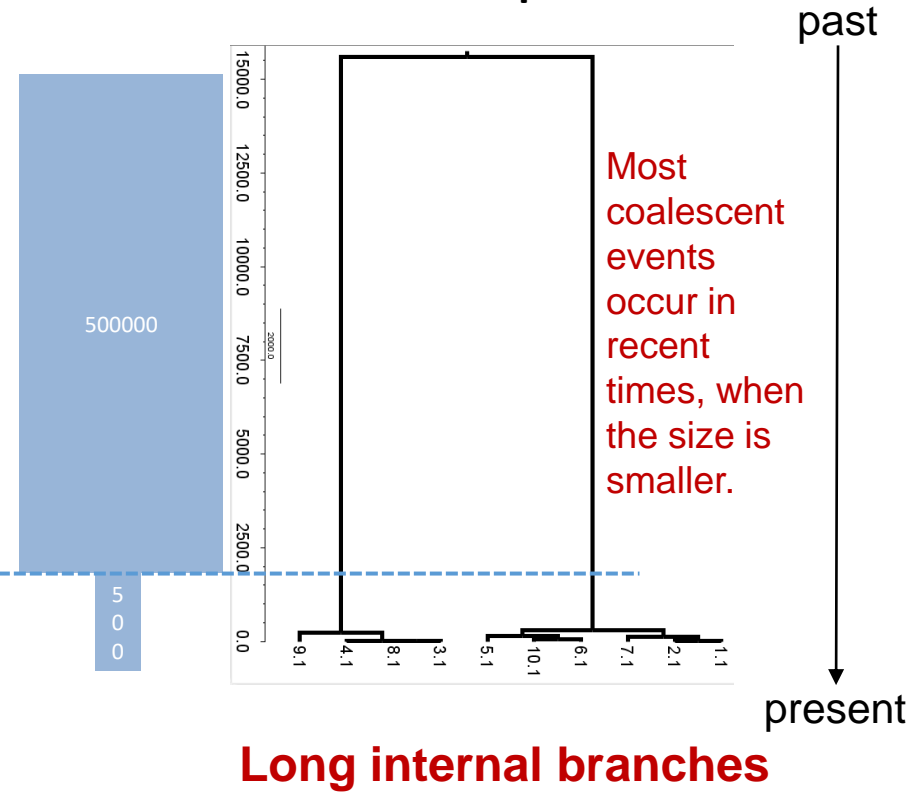
**Figure 4.3** Five replicates of the coalescent with exponential growth,  $\beta = 1000$ , for a sample of  $n = 10$  genes. Note the smaller variance in the time until the MRCA compared to the same quantity in Figure 4.2.

# Gene trees for decreasing populations

## Stationary Population



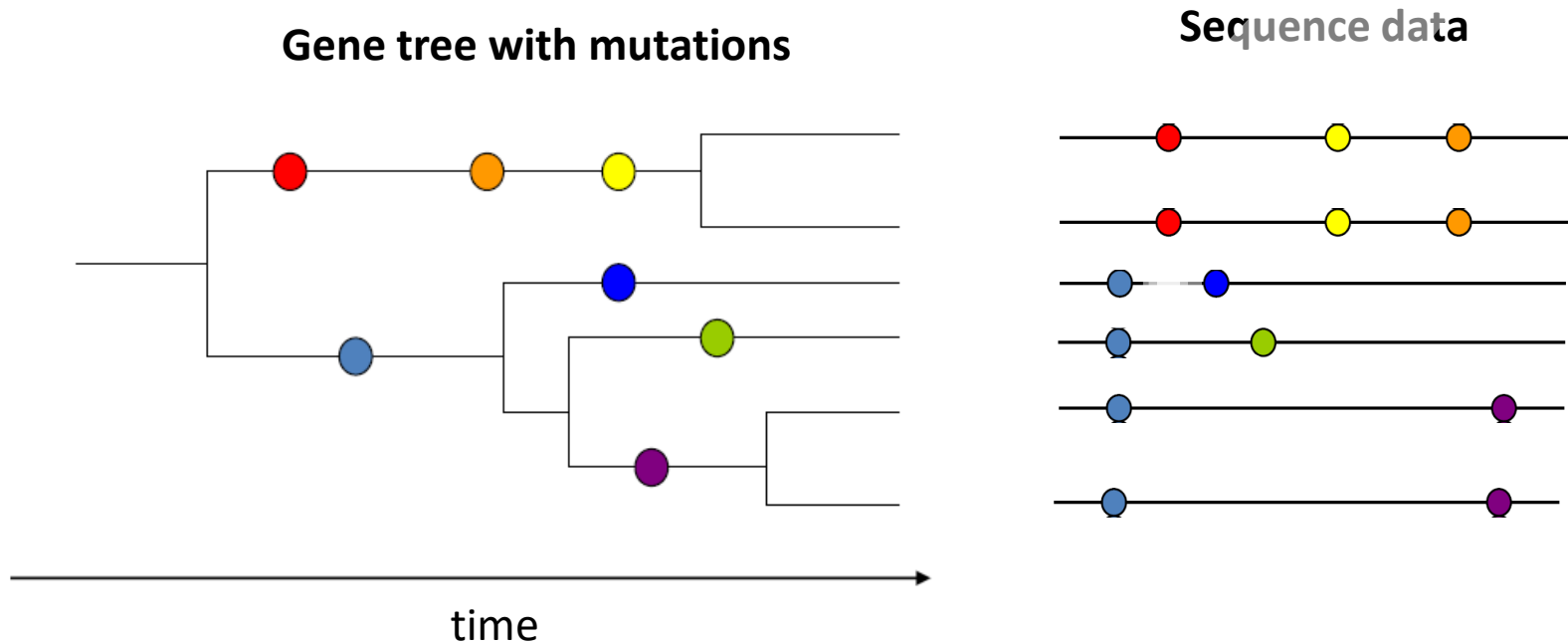
## Bottleneck Population



- If we could observe directly the gene trees, we could easily reconstruct the population tree and the demographic history.
- But we do not observe gene trees...
- We can still learn about gene trees from the observed mutations and the allele frequencies in samples



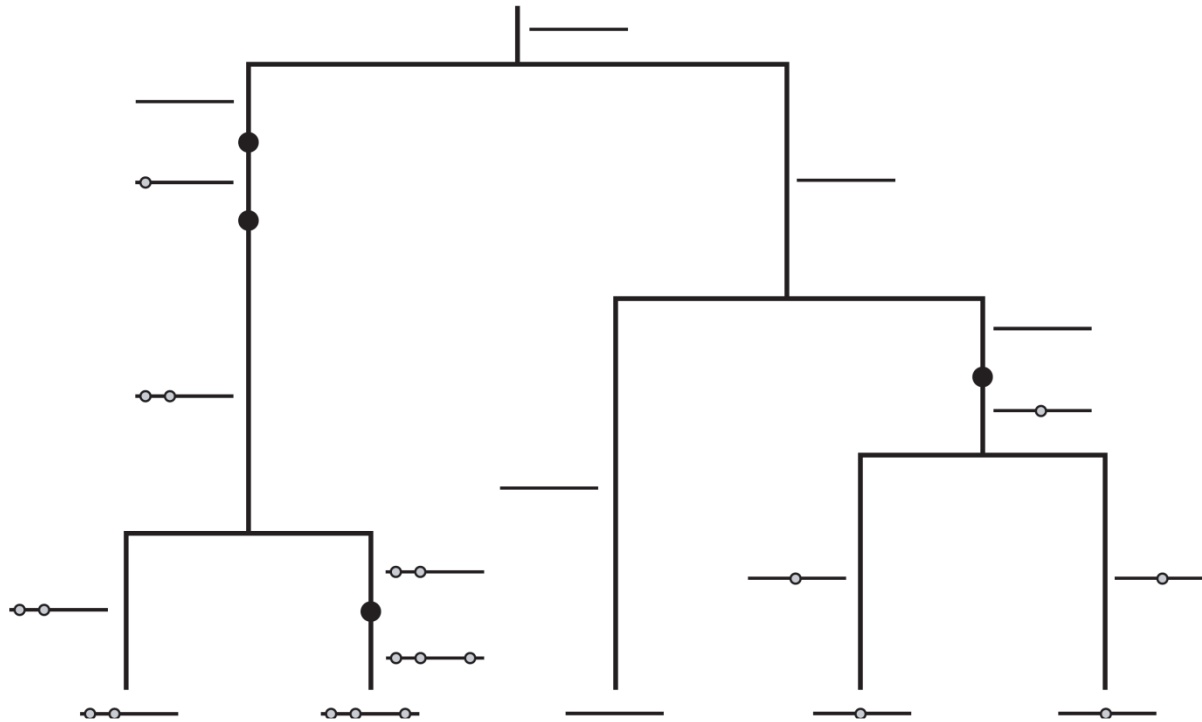
# Adding neutral mutations to gene trees under the Infinite sites model



No back mutations, no multiple mutations on the same site.

# Adding neutral mutations

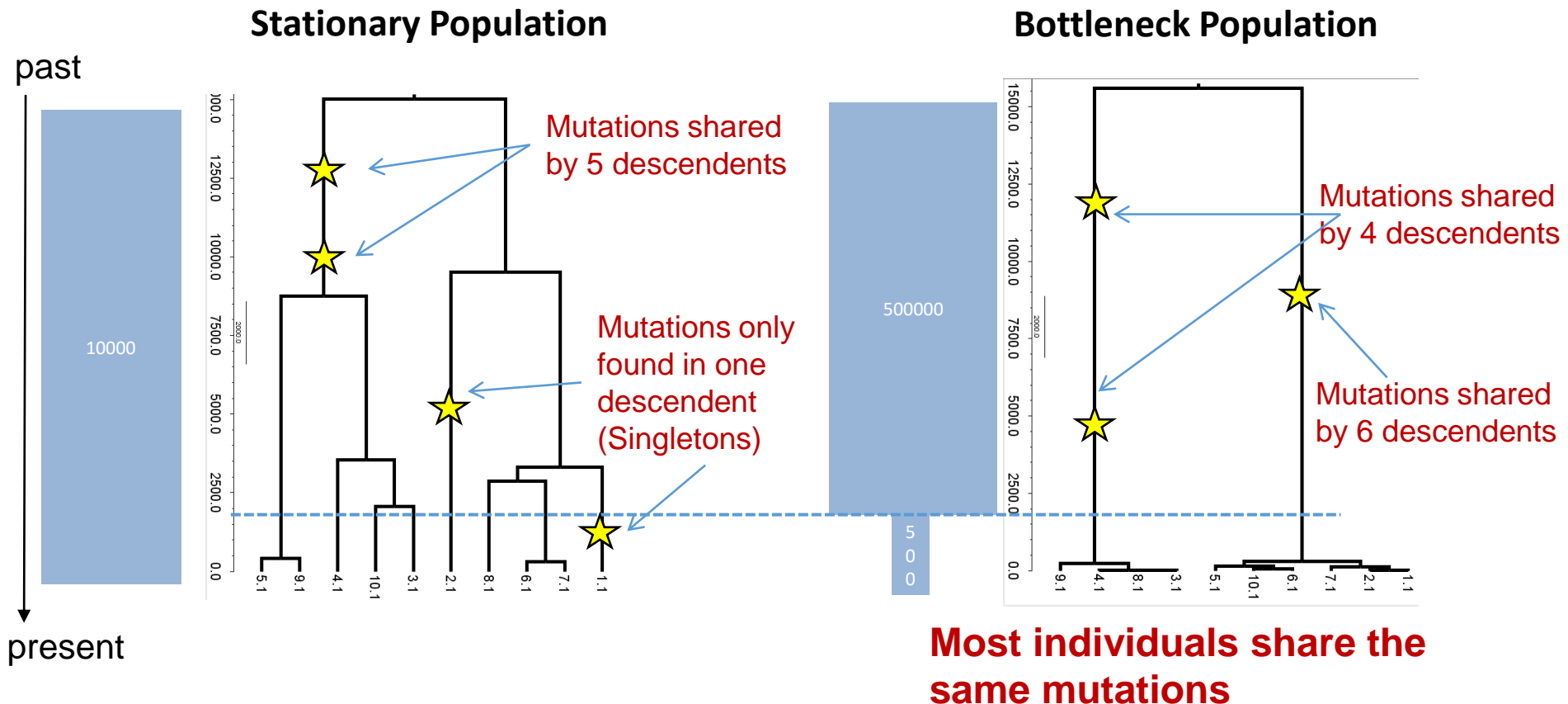
The shape of neutral coalescent trees only depend on the population demography, and not on the mutational process. Assuming that all alleles have the same fitness, the mutational process can be modeled as an independent process superimposed on a realized coalescent tree.



Mutations just accumulate along the branches of the tree according to a **Poisson process** with rate  $\lambda_i = \mu t_i$  for the  $i$ -th branch of length  $t_i$ . The Poisson process is stochastic but it should be immediately **obvious** that **long branches will carry more mutations than short branches**

# We expect less rare variants in populations that went through a bottleneck

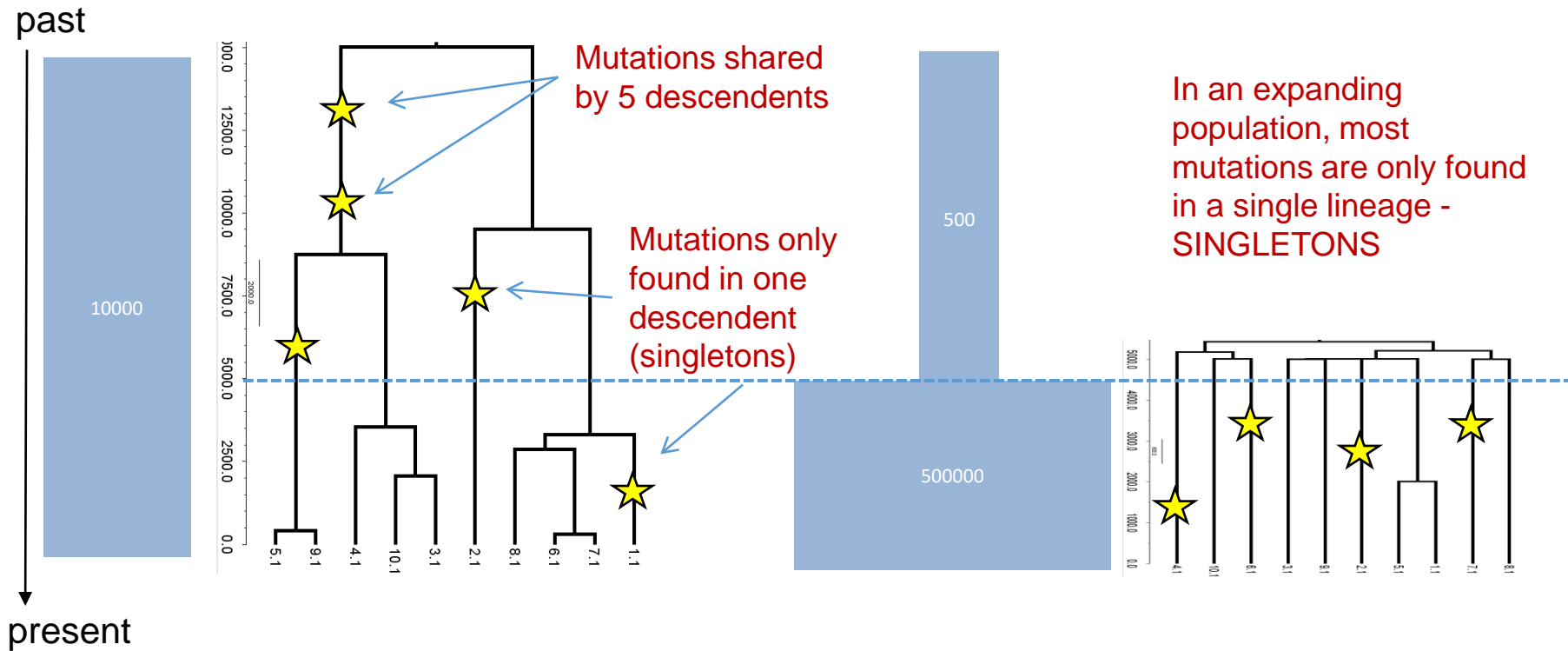
- Mutations accumulate along the branches.
- The longer a given branch the more likely it becomes that a mutation have happened on it.



# We expect more rare variants in expanding populations than in populations with a constant size

## Stationary Population

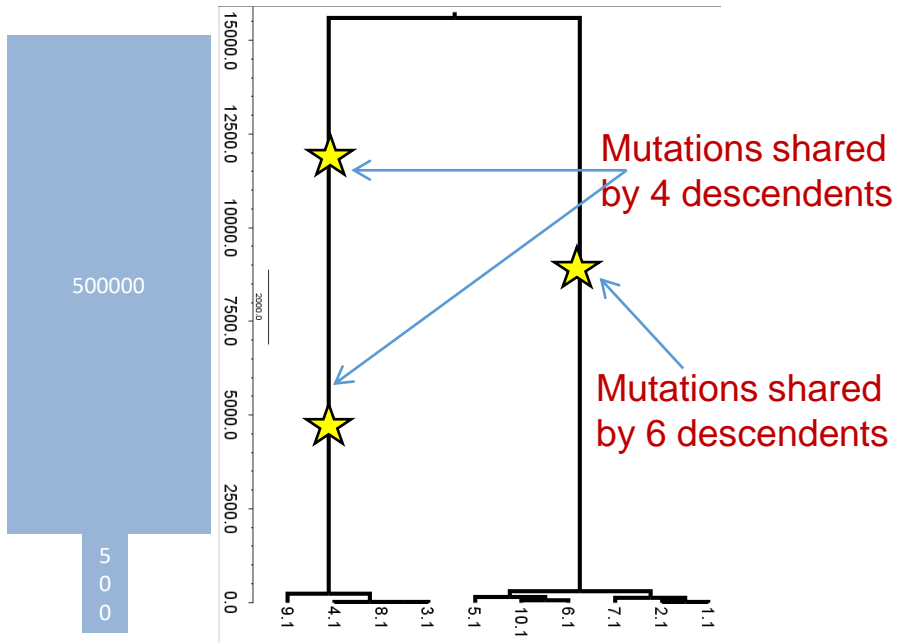
## Expanding Population



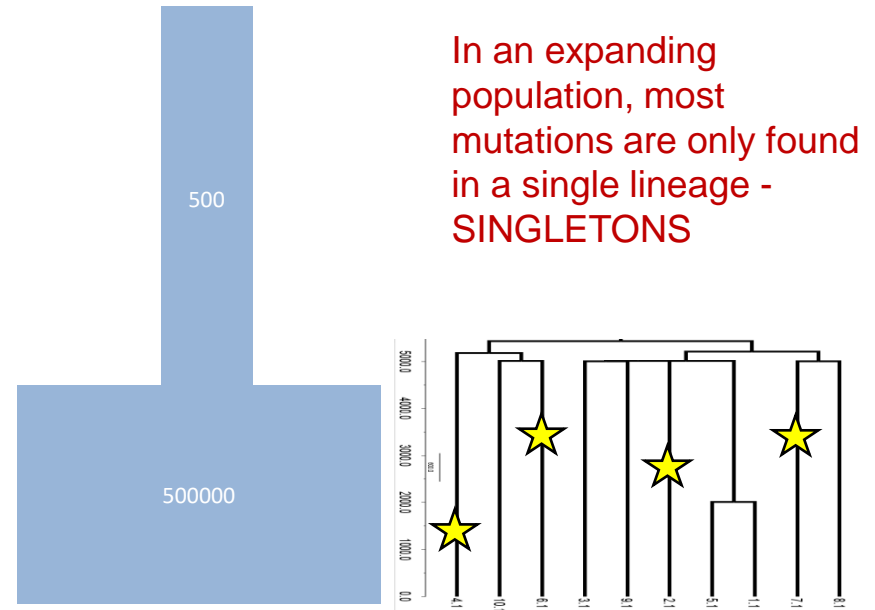
# Activity

What would be the Tajima's D for these bottleneck and expansion scenarios?

## Bottleneck Population



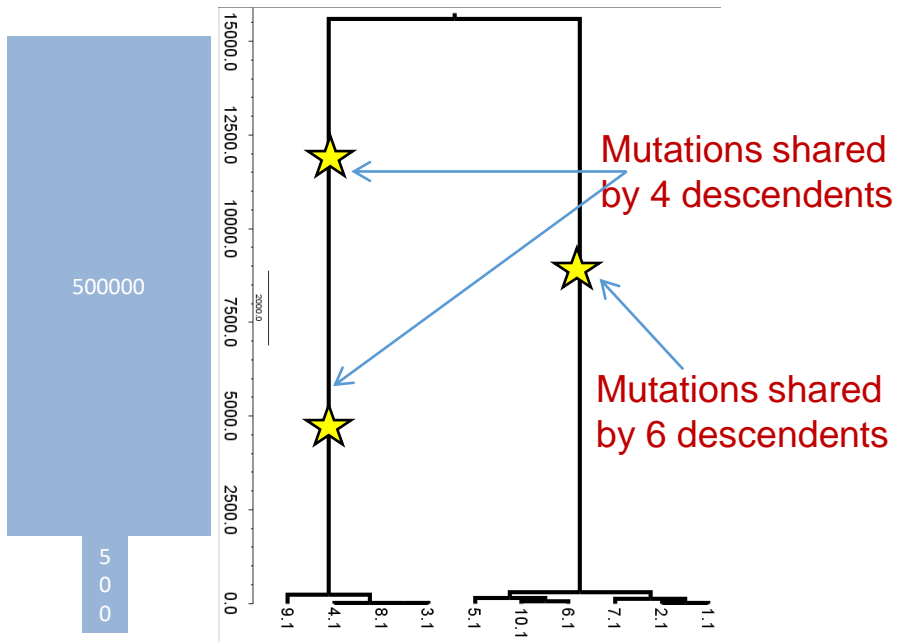
## Expanding Population



# Activity

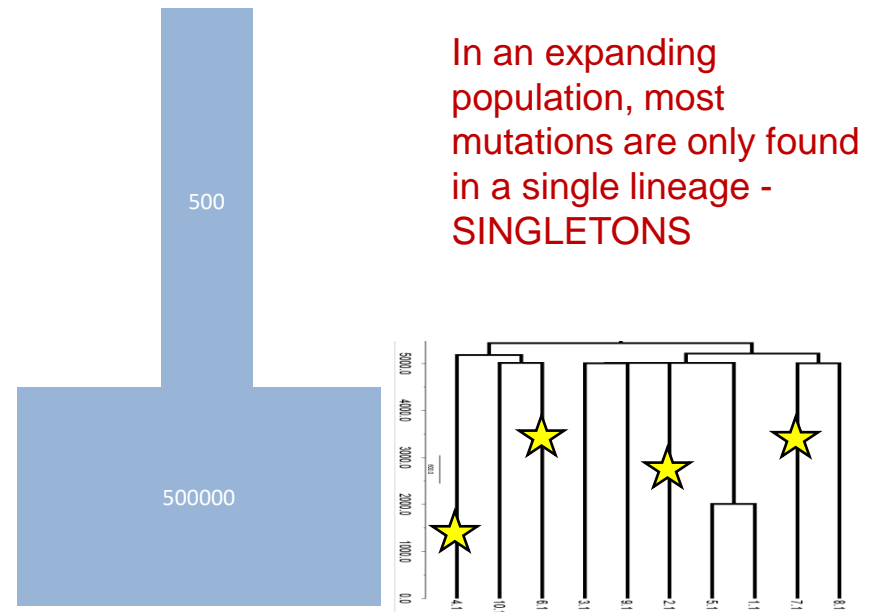
What would be the Tajima's D for these bottleneck and expansion scenarios?

## Bottleneck Population



Tajima's  $D > 0$   
 $\pi > \theta_w$

## Expanding Population



In an expanding population, most mutations are only found in a single lineage - SINGLETONS

Tajima's  $D < 0$   
 $\pi < \theta_w$

What is the expected site frequency spectrum?

# Site frequency spectrum (SFS)

- The SFS summarizes efficiently genome-wide data
- Assuming a single population – 1Dimensional SFS

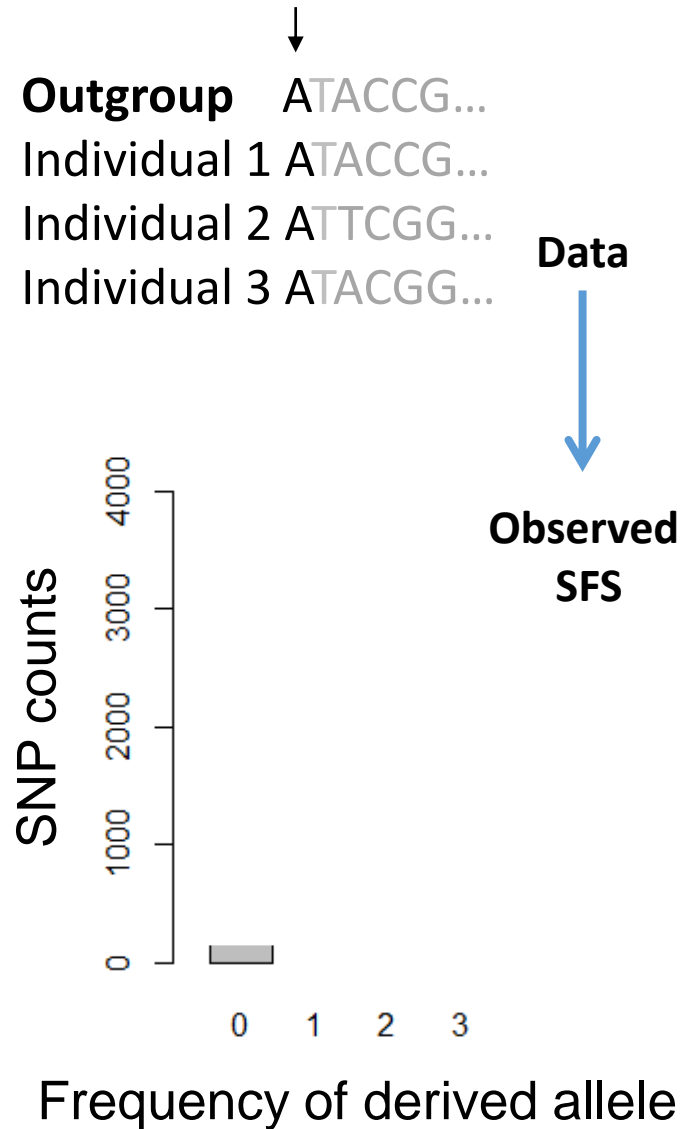
**Outgroup** ATACCG...  
Individual 1 ATACCG...  
Individual 2 ATT**C**GG...  
Individual 3 ATAC**G**G...



**Observed  
SFS**

# Site frequency spectrum (SFS)

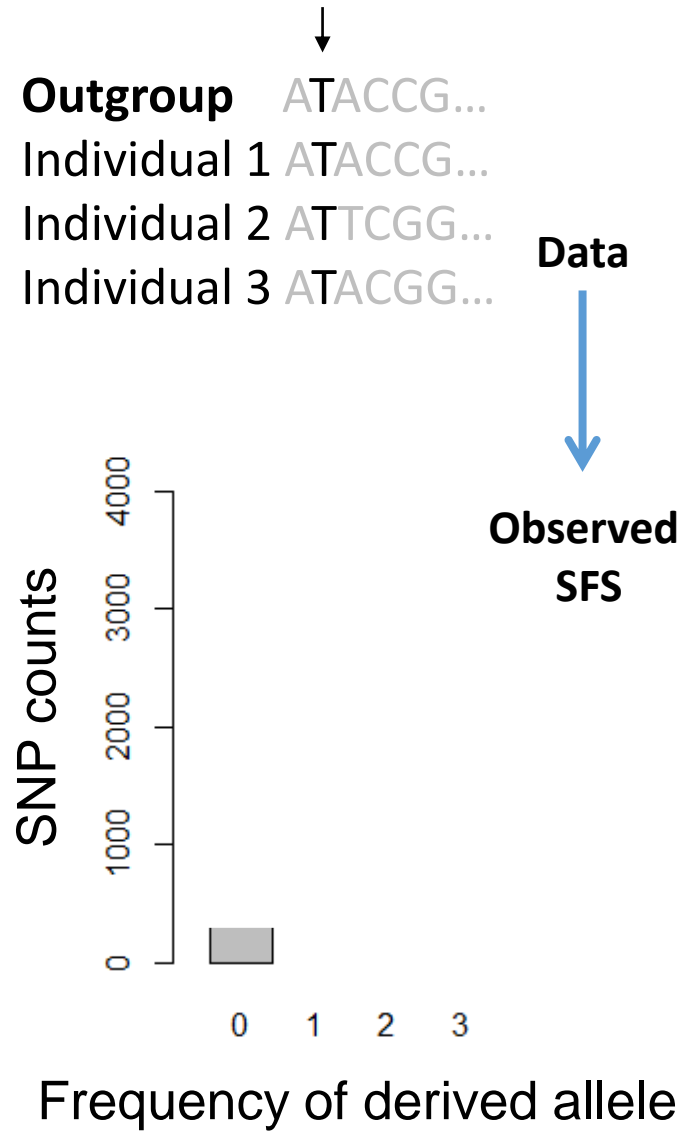
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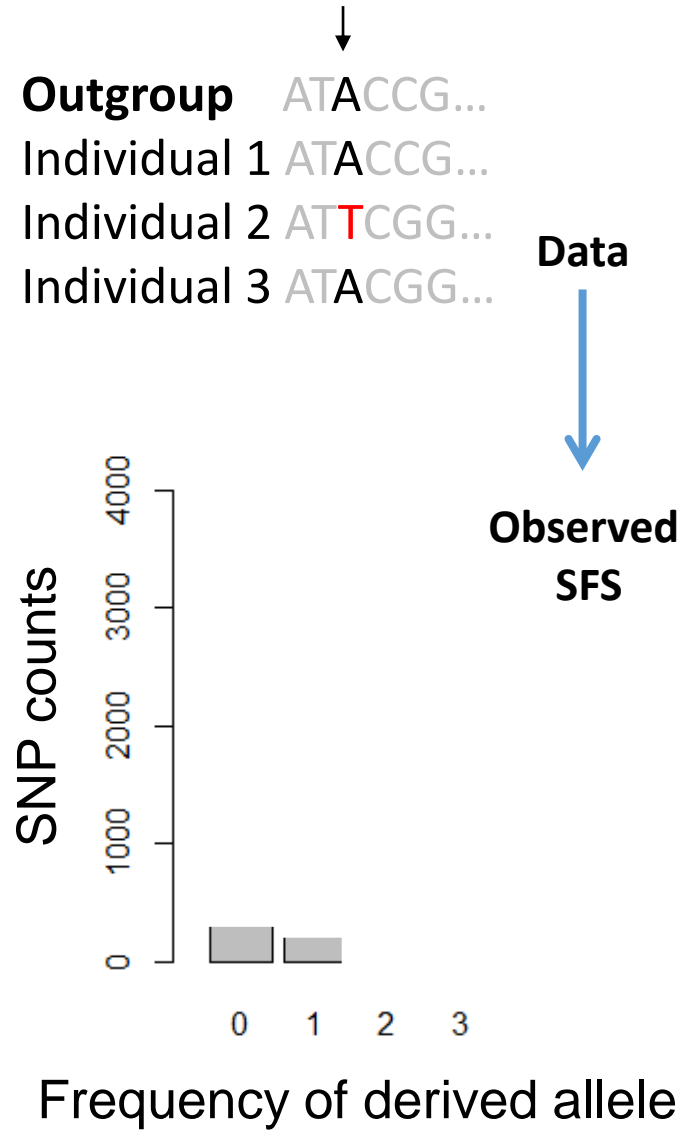
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# Site frequency spectrum (SFS)

- The SFS summarizes efficiently genome-wide data
- Assuming a single population – 1Dimensional SFS

The SFS ignores information about linkage. It is best suited for the study of many unlinked (or recombining) DNA sequences.

In a stationary population, the expected SFS relative frequencies are given by:

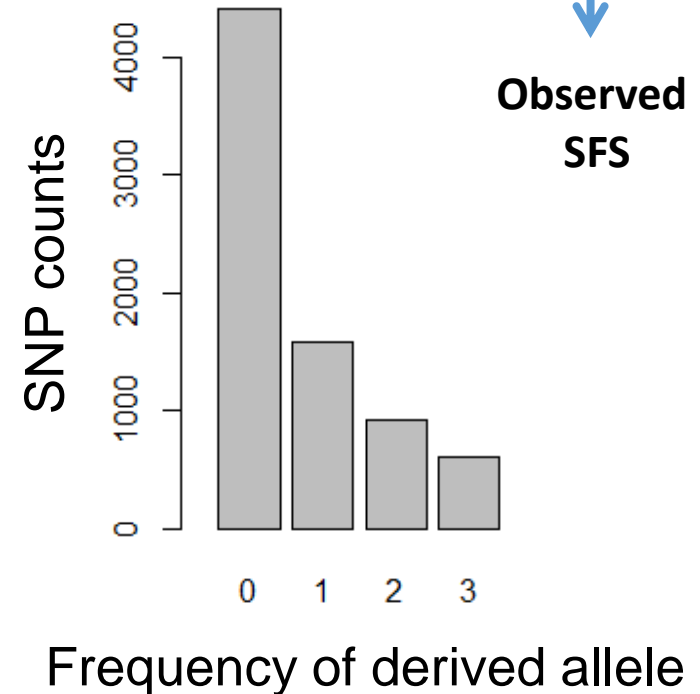
$$E(\xi_i) = \frac{\theta}{i} \quad \text{Fu and Li, 1993}$$

**Outgroup** ATACCG...  
Individual 1 ATACCG...  
Individual 2 ATTCGG...  
Individual 3 ATACGG...

Data



**Observed  
SFS**



# VCF (variant call format) files

CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	FORMAT	BL2009P4_us23
"Supercontig_1.50"	"2"	NA	"T"	"A"	"44.44"	NA	"GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL"	"0 0:62,0:62:99:0,190,2835"
"Supercontig_1.50"	"246"	NA	"C"	"G"	"144.21"	NA	"GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL"	"1 0:5,5:10:99:111,0,114"
"Supercontig_1.50"	"549"	NA	"A"	"C"	"68.49"	NA	"GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL"	NA
"Supercontig_1.50"	"668"	NA	"G"	"C"	"108.07"	NA	"GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL"	"0 0:1,0:1:3:0,3,44"
"Supercontig_1.50"	"765"	NA	"A"	"C"	"92.78"	NA	"GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL"	"0 0:2,0:2:6:0,6,49"
"Supercontig_1.50"	"780"	NA	"G"	"T"	"58.38"	NA	"GT:AD:DP:GQ:PL"	"0 0:2,0:2:6:0,6,49"

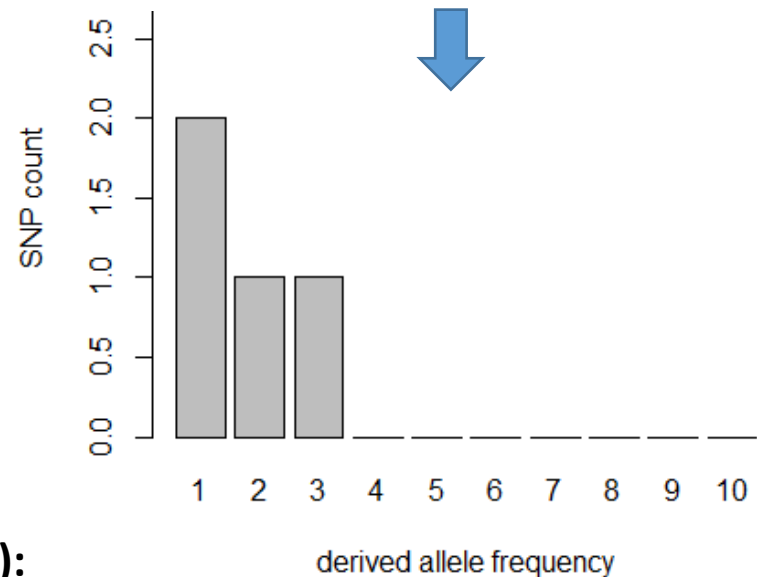
# We can obtain the SFS from genotype call data

## Genotypes:

- 0 homozygote for reference allele
- 1 heterozygote
- 2 homozygote for alternative allele

	SNP1	SNP2	SNP3	SNP4
Individual 1	0	2	0	1
Individual 2	0	0	1	0
Individual 3	1	0	0	0
Individual 4	0	1	0	0
Individual 5	0	0	1	0

This can be done if we have enough depth of coverage (>10x)



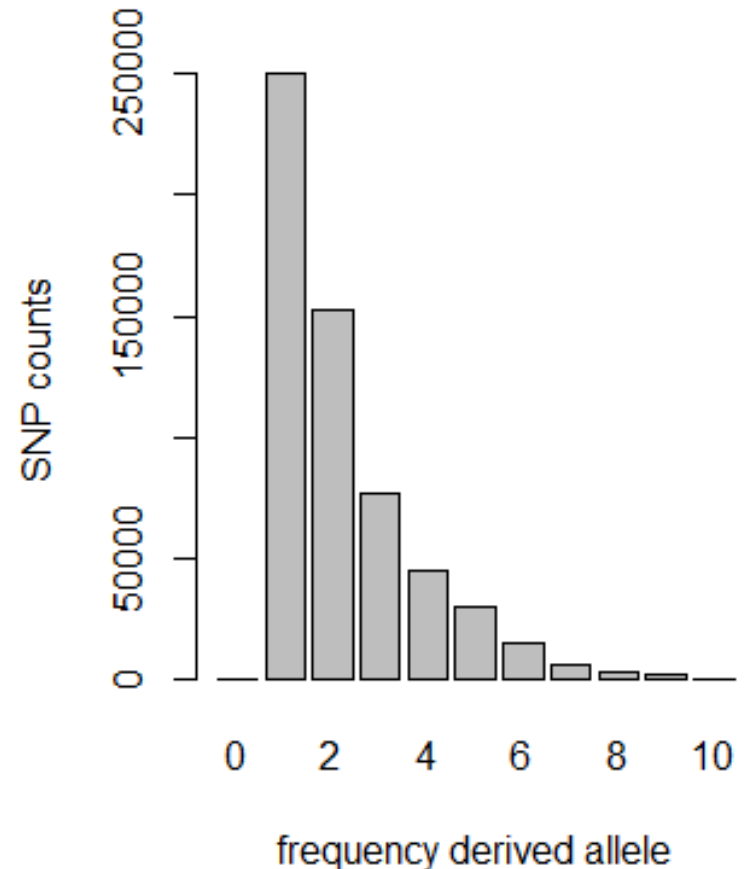
## Observed SFS is a vector (1 dimensional SFS):

Frequency	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SNP count	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# SFS from genotype call data

Even if we have millions of SNPs we can summarize the genomic data to 10 numbers with the SFS!

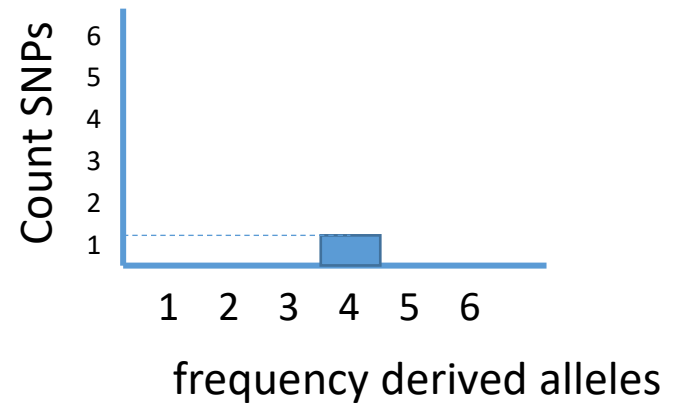
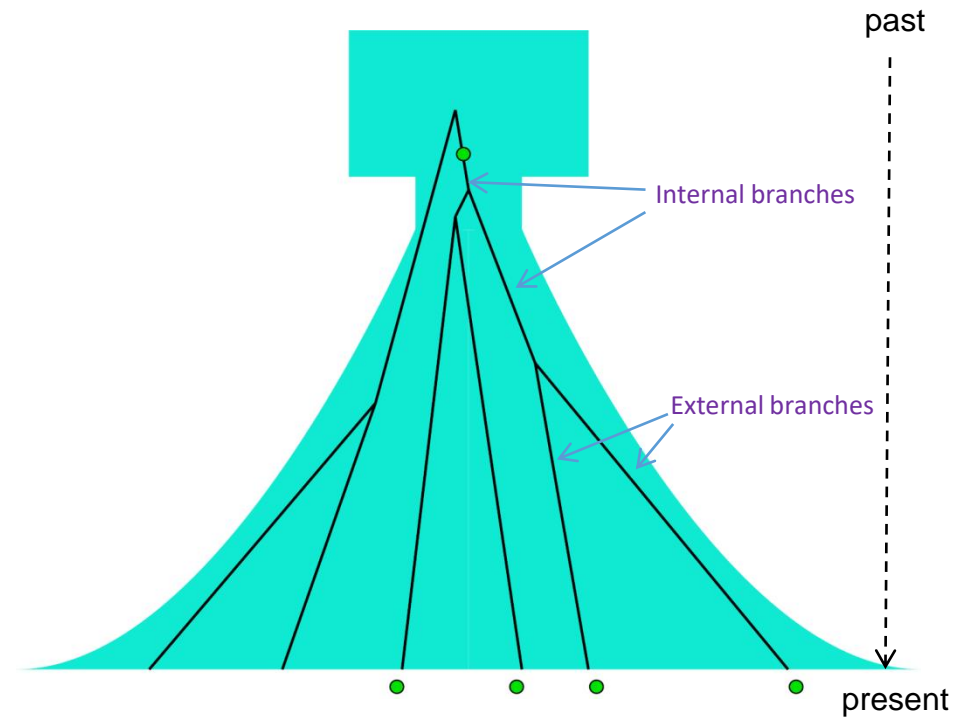
The size of the SFS depends on the number of sampled individuals.



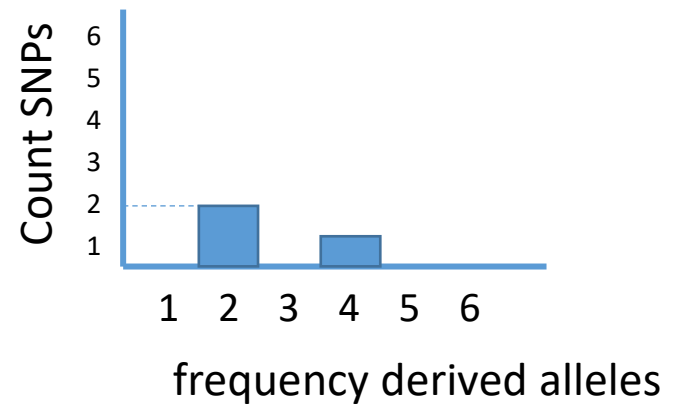
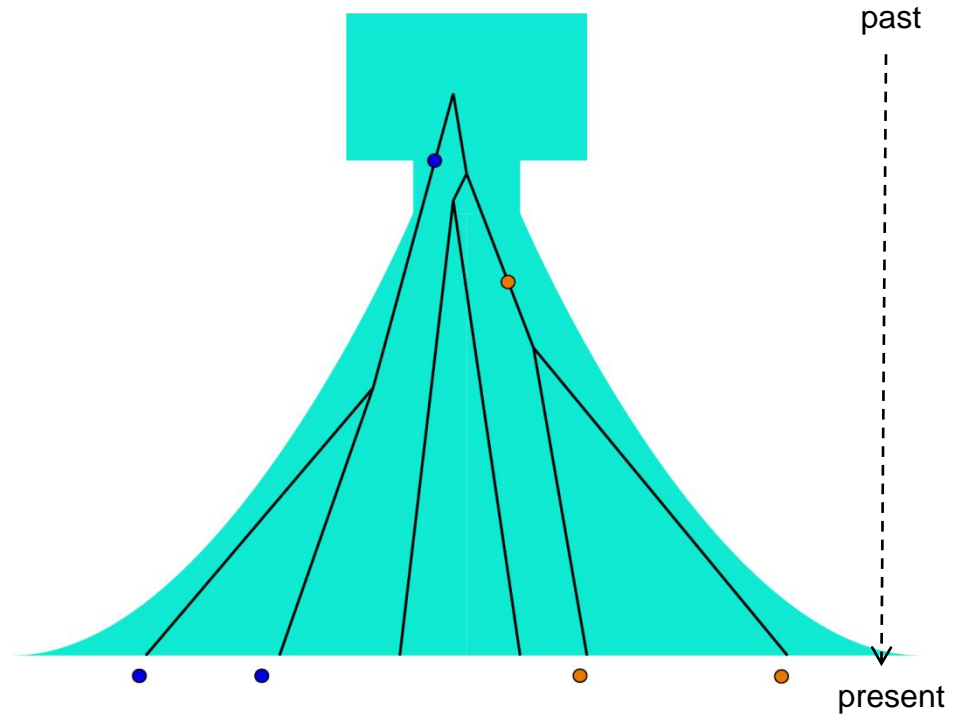
**Observed SFS is a vector (1 dimensional SFS):**

Frequency	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SNP count	0	250,032	152,300	76,504	45,362	30,210	15,329	5,642	3,524	2,123	0

# Coalescent and the SFS



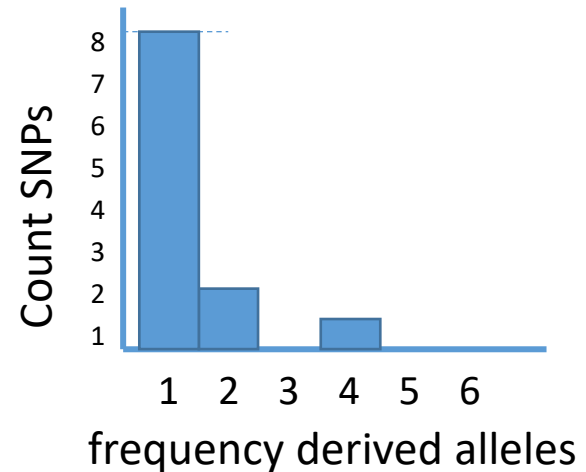
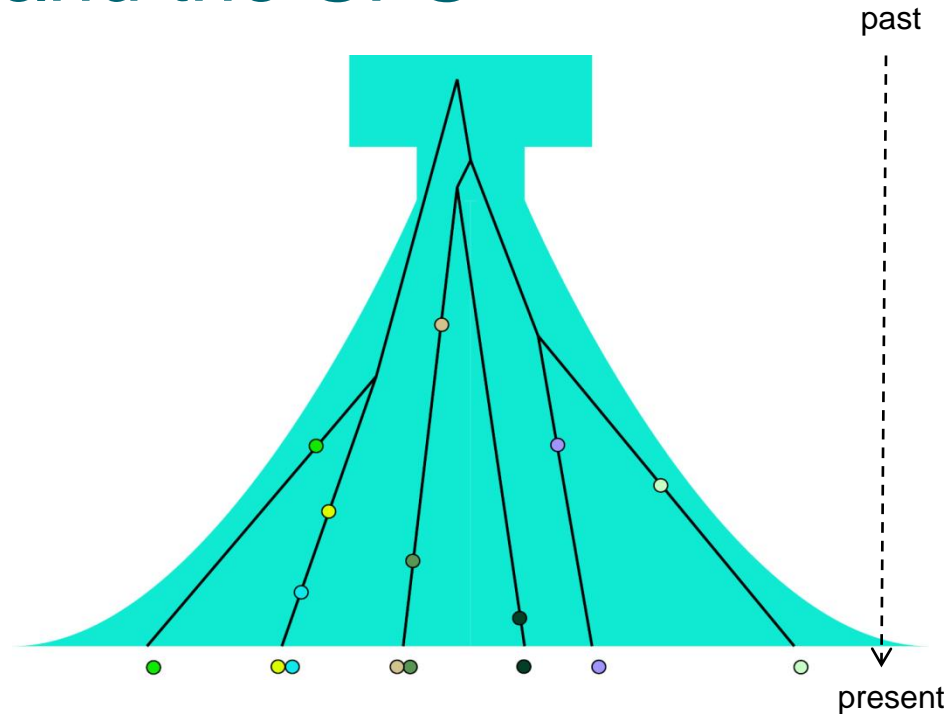
# Coalescent and the SFS



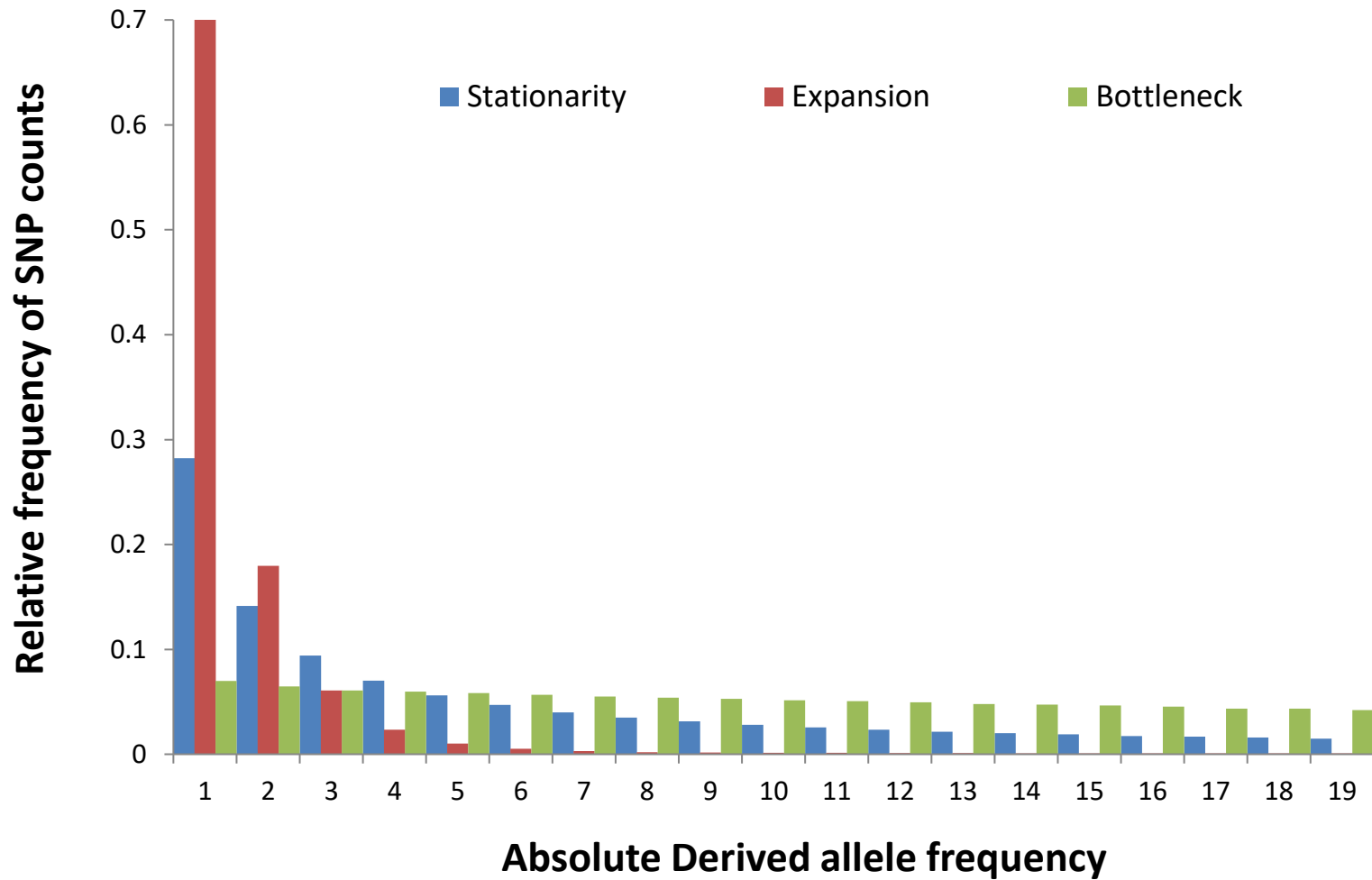


# Coalescent and the SFS

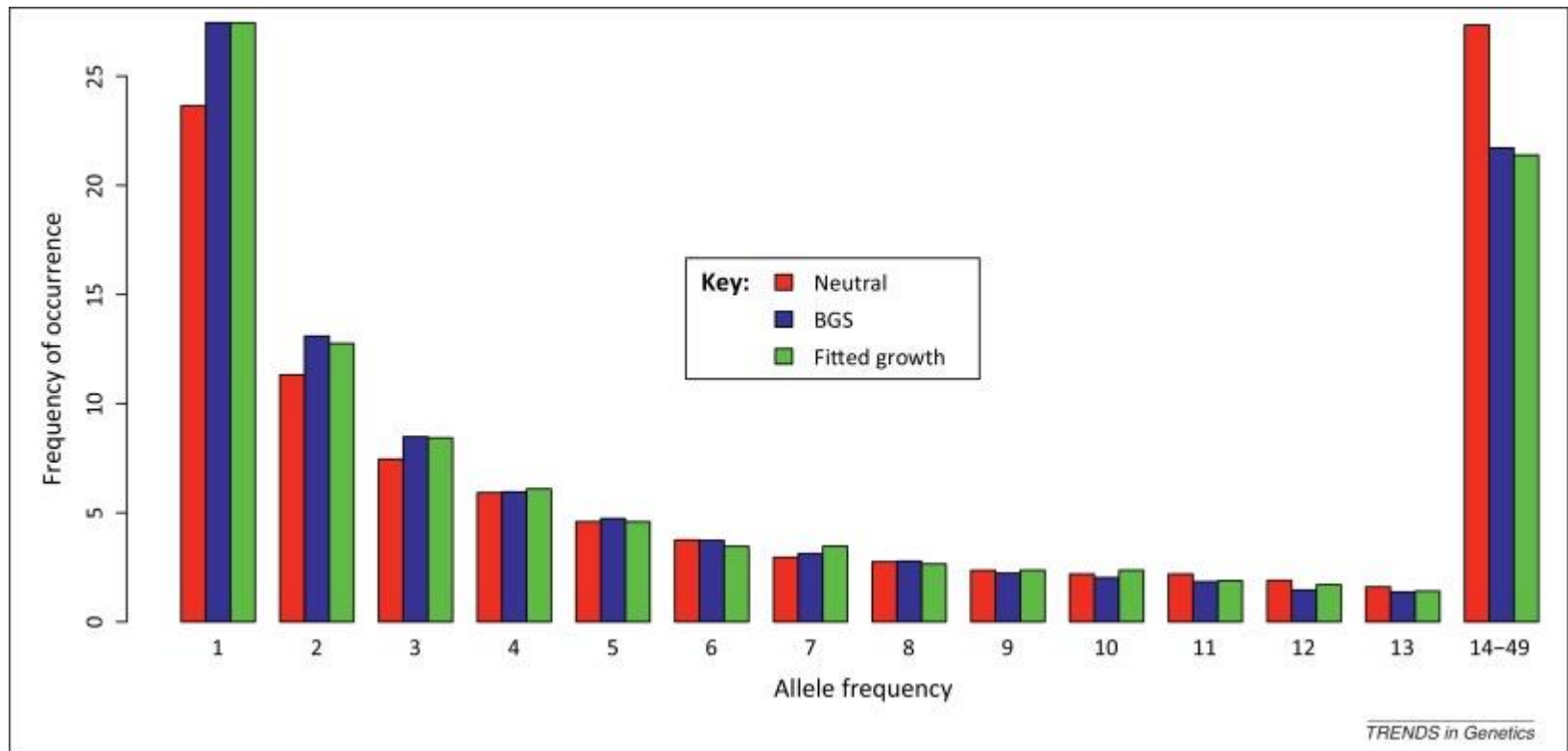
- A recent population growth following a bottleneck leads to gene trees with long external branches
- Very few mutations in the internal branches
- Most mutations in long external branches are only found in one lineage, resulting in an excess of singletons



# SFS depends on past demography



# Natural selection also affects the SFS



Background selection (BGS) leads to patterns similar to population expansion.

# Population structure

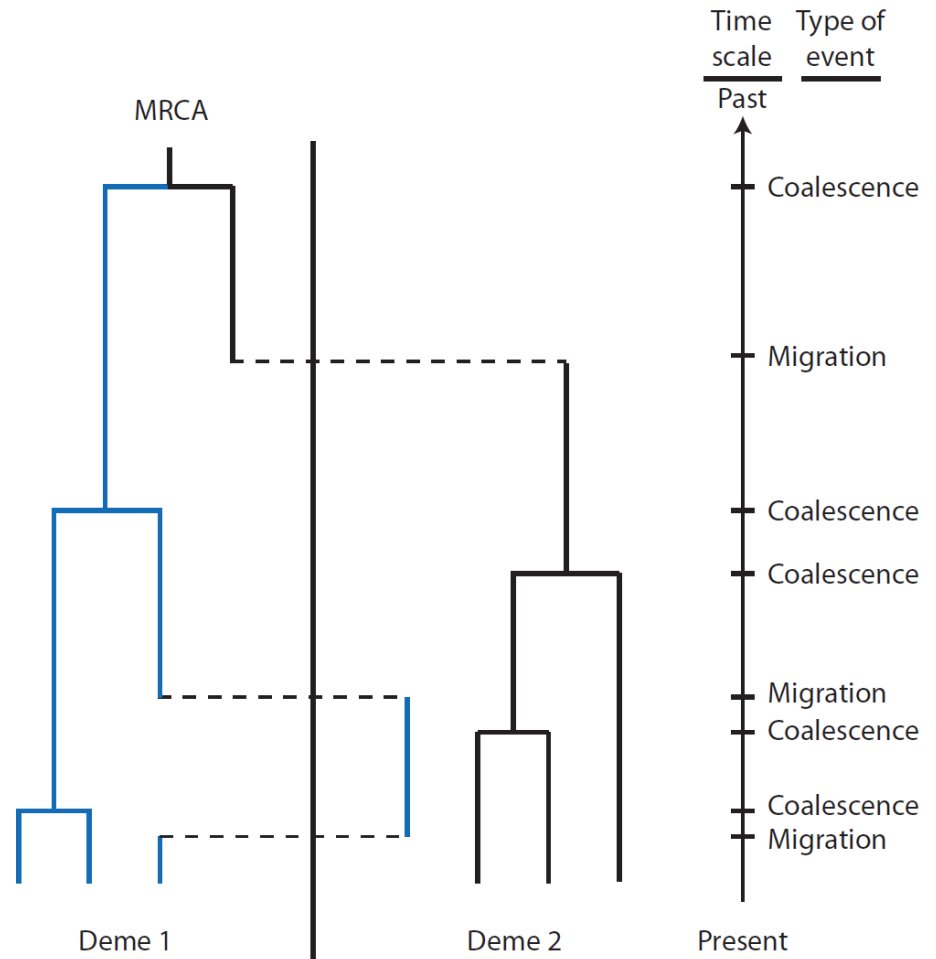
Migration events can be incorporated into gene trees.

Migration from Pop 2 to Pop 1, leads to lineages moving from Pop 1 to pop 2 backward in time.

At each generation, the probability of immigration into population 1 from population 2 is given by:

$$\Pr(\text{migrate}) = n_1 * m$$

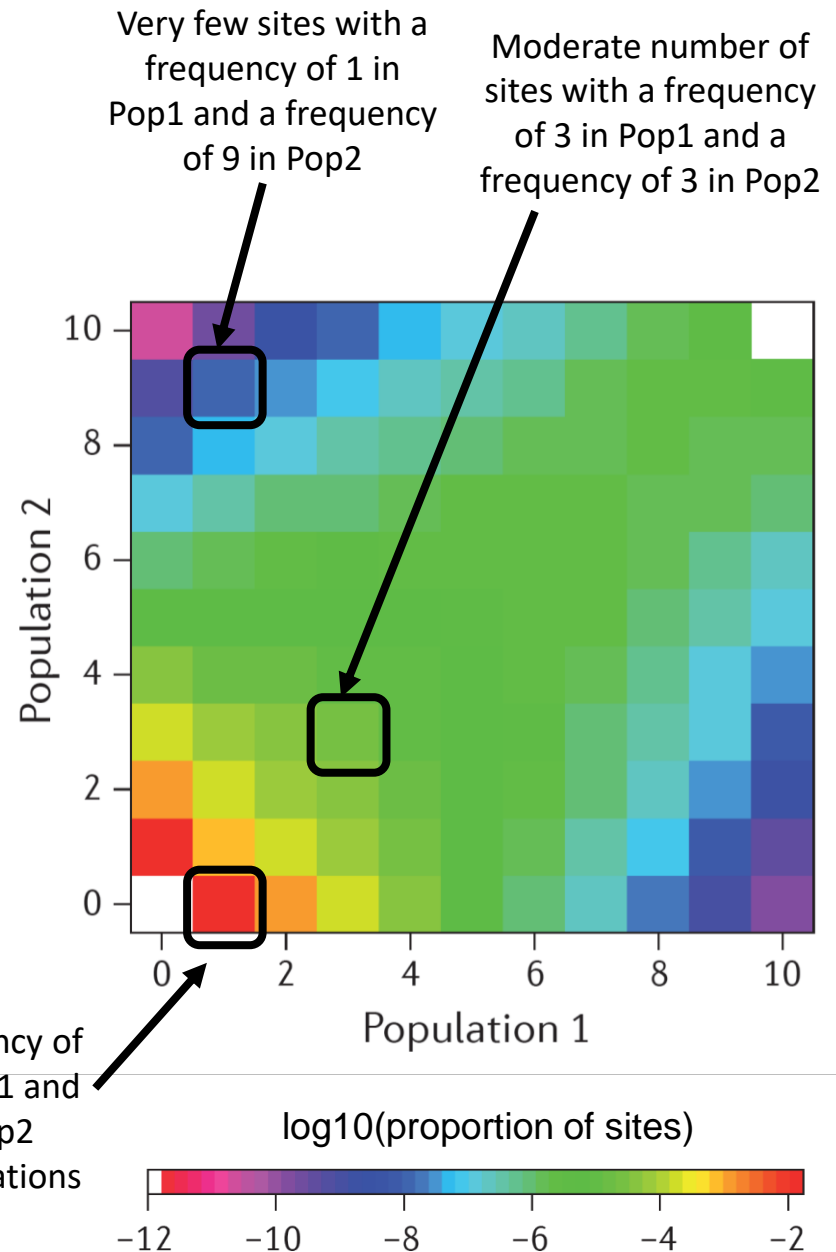
Where  $n_1$  is the number of lineages in population 1, and  $m$  is the immigration rate.



# Site frequency spectrum (SFS) for multiple populations

- Single population: 1D SFS
- Multiple populations: 2D, 3D, ...,  $n_{pop}$ D SFS

Many sites with a frequency of derived allele of 1 in Pop1 and a frequency of 0 in Pop2 (private singletons - mutations only found in Pop1)



# Model based inference

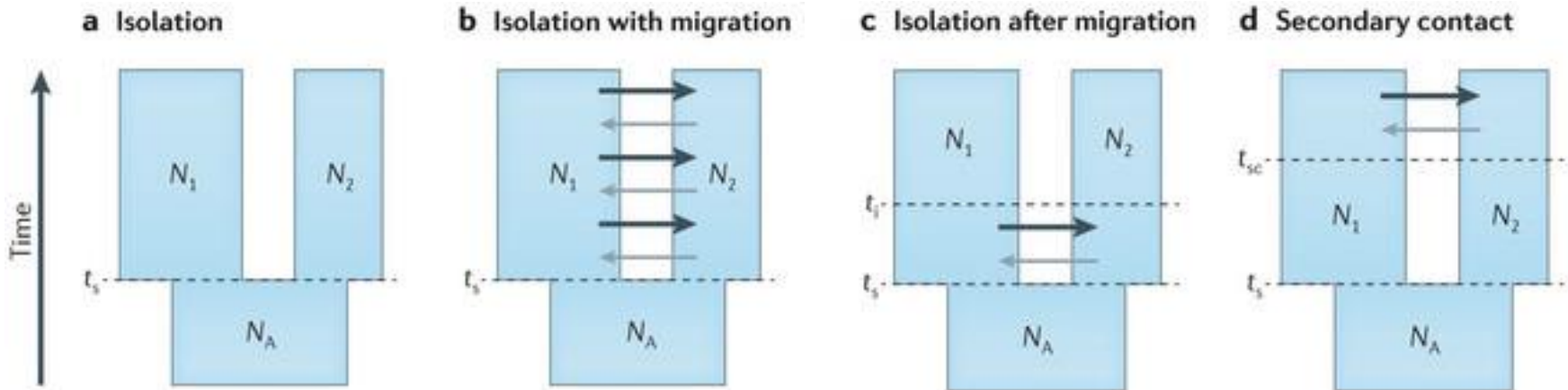
Sample genetic markers



*What processes generated the data?*

Define models to test specific hypotheses

- What is the model that best fits the data?
- What are the most likely parameters of each model?



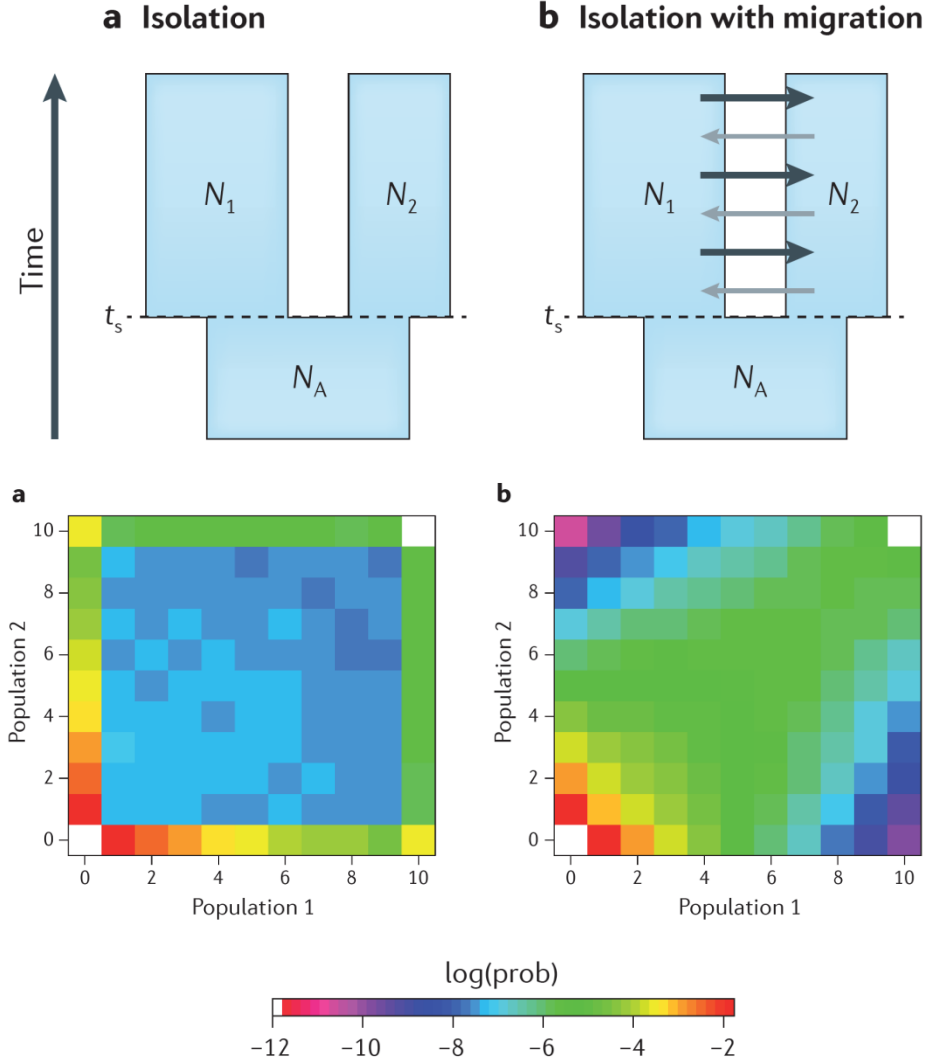
Sousa and Hey (2013) Nat. Rev. Gen.

***"All models are wrong but some are useful"***

George Box

# Site frequency spectrum (SFS)

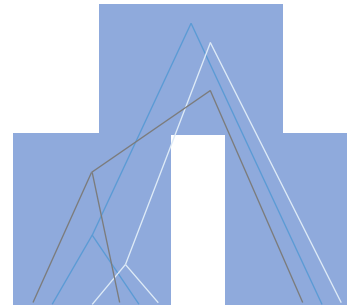
The SFS contains information about the demographic history of populations



# Inferring the demographic history from the SFS

Genomic Data

Model



Parameters:

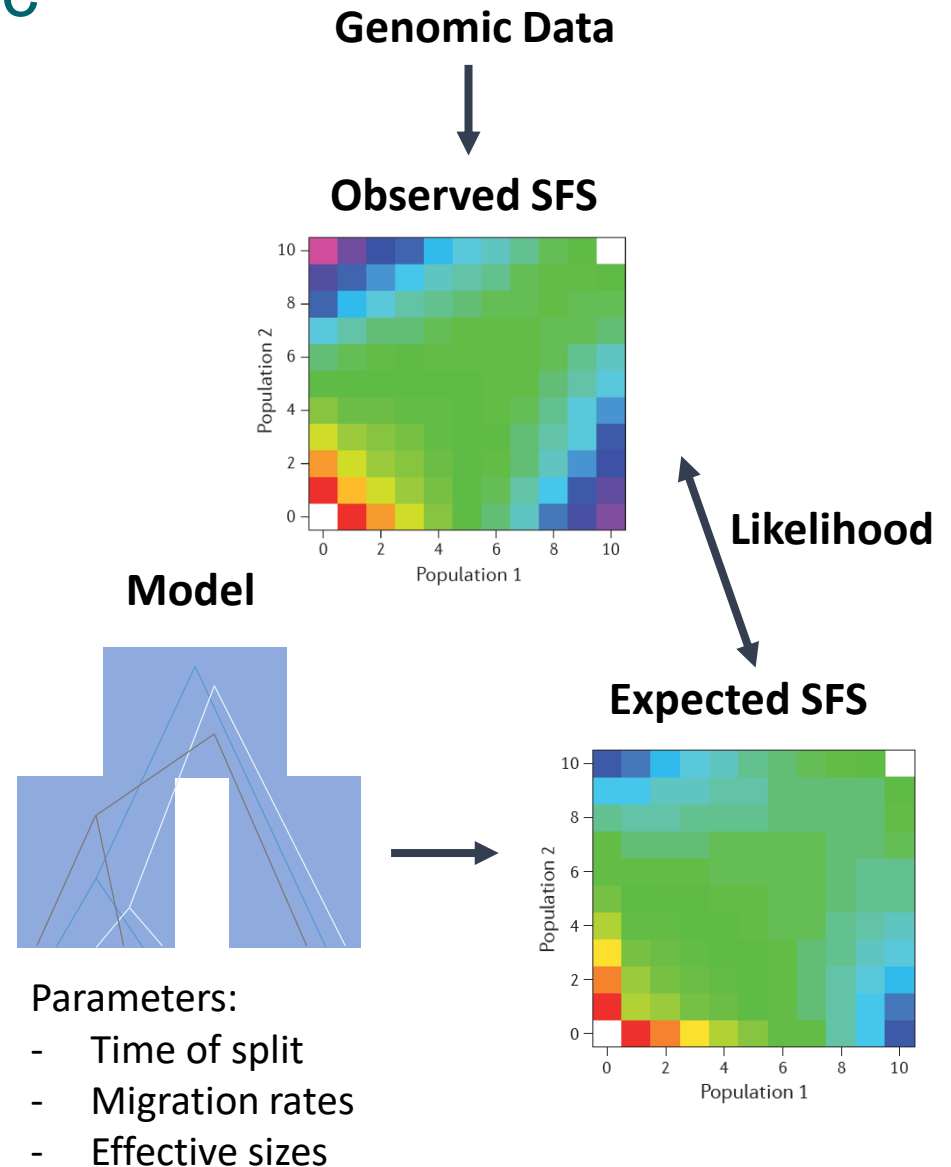
- Time of split
- Migration rates
- Effective sizes





# Inferring the demographic history from the SFS

- The likelihood is easily computed based on the expected SFS under a given model
- There are different ways to obtain the expected SFS
  - Diffusion (forward in time)
  - Coalescent (backward in time)



# Composite likelihood

Even though we can have linked sites, we assume that all sites are independent. Given  $S$  polymorphic sites (SNPs) out of  $L$  sites (Adams and Hudson, 2004) the composite likelihood is:

$$CL = \Pr(X | \theta) \propto P_0^{L-S} (1 - P_0)^S \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \hat{p}_i^{m_i}$$

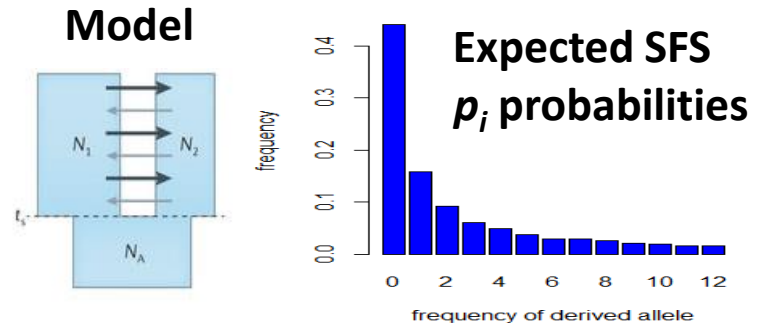
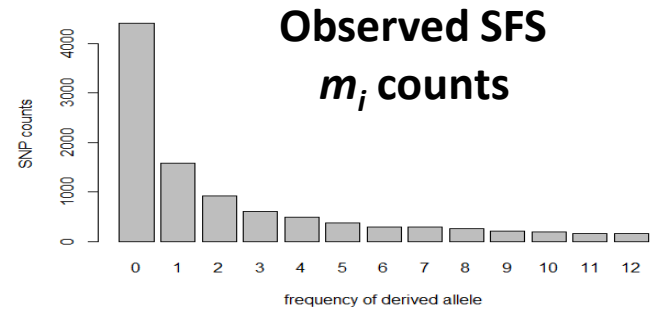
probability of no mutation on the tree

probability of at least one mutation in the tree

These probabilities depend:

- Number of monomorphic sites
- A fixed and mutation rate

The 3 ingredients for likelihood



**Composite likelihood**

# Expected SFS under a given model using coalescent

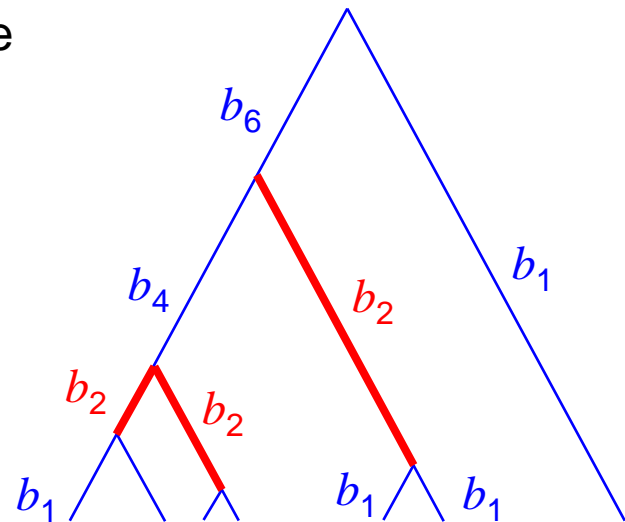
The probability of a SFS entry  $i$  can be estimated under a specific model  $\theta$  from its expected coalescent tree as (Nielsen 2000)

$$p_i = \frac{E(t_i | \theta)}{E(T | \theta)}$$

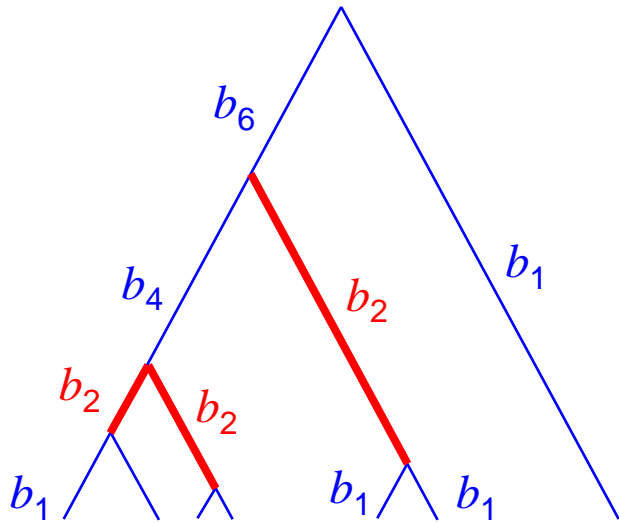
Where  $t_i$  is the total length of all branches directly leading to  $i$  terminal nodes, and  $T$  is the total tree length.

It gives the relative probability that if a mutation occurs on one of these  $b_i$  branches, it will be observed  $i$  times in the sample

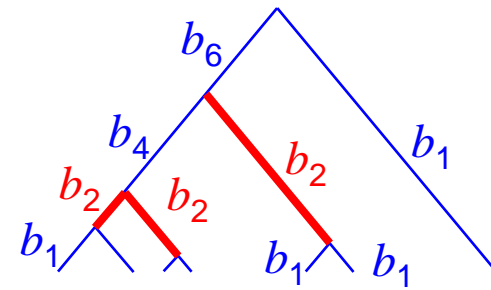
This is true under the limit of low mutation rate.  
No more than 1 mutation per site, back mutations not allowed!



# Everything is relative if we do not know the mutation rate and number of monomorphic sites



$T_L$  = total  
branch length



Frequency	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SNP probability $p_i$	0	$\text{Sum}(b_1)/T_L$	$\text{Sum}(b_2)/T_L$	$\text{Sum}(b_3)/T_L$	$\text{Sum}(b_4)/T_L$	$\text{Sum}(b_5)/T_L$	$\text{Sum}(b_6)/T_L$	0

- The same expected SFS can be obtained in a large or small tree
- We need a mutation rate and the number of monomorphic sites to distinguish among the two!

# Many methods based on the SFS

Different ways to obtain the expected SFS  $p_i$  under different demographic models

- Coalescent-based

- Multiple populations

- Fastsimcoal2 (Excoffier et al 2013 PLoS Genetics)

- Momi (Kamm et al 2015) and Momi 2 (Kamm et al 2021)

- Rarecoal (Schiffels et al 2016 Nat Genetics)

- Single population

- Stairway plot (Liu and Fu, 2015 Nat Genetics)

- Diffusion-based

- Dadi (Gutenkunst et al 2009 PLoS Genetics)

- Multipop (Lukic and Hey 2012 Genetics)

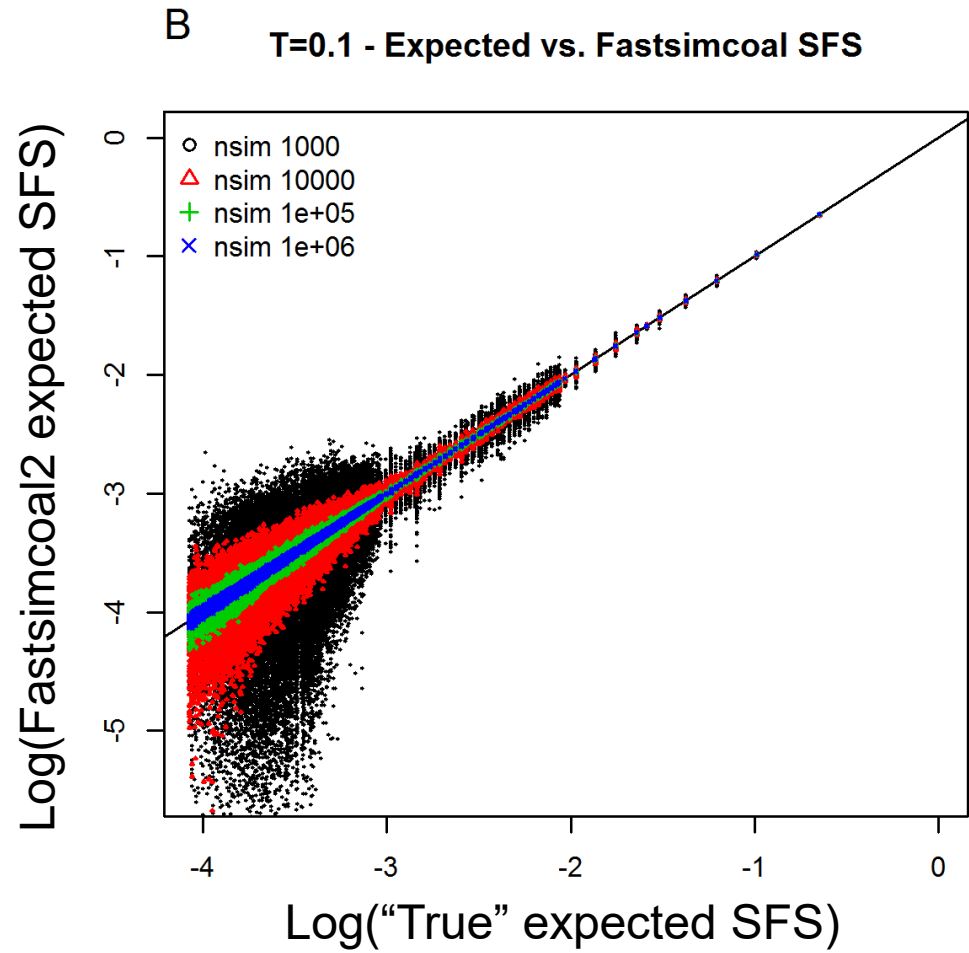
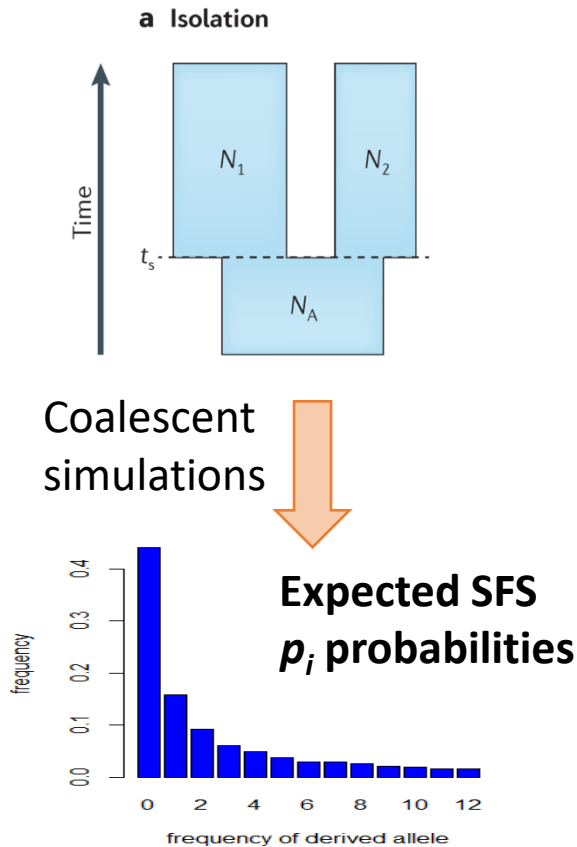
- Moments (Jouganous et al 2017 Genetics)

# Inferring demographic history with fastsimcoal2 based on the SFS

- Fastsimcoal2 can estimate parameters from the SFS using coalescent simulations
- Maximum (composite) likelihood method
- Uses a conditional expectation (CEM) maximization algorithm to find parameter combinations that maximize the likelihood
- **It approximate the expected SFS** by performing coalescent simulations (>100,000)

# Fastsimcoal2 principle: approximate the expected SFS with coalescent simulations

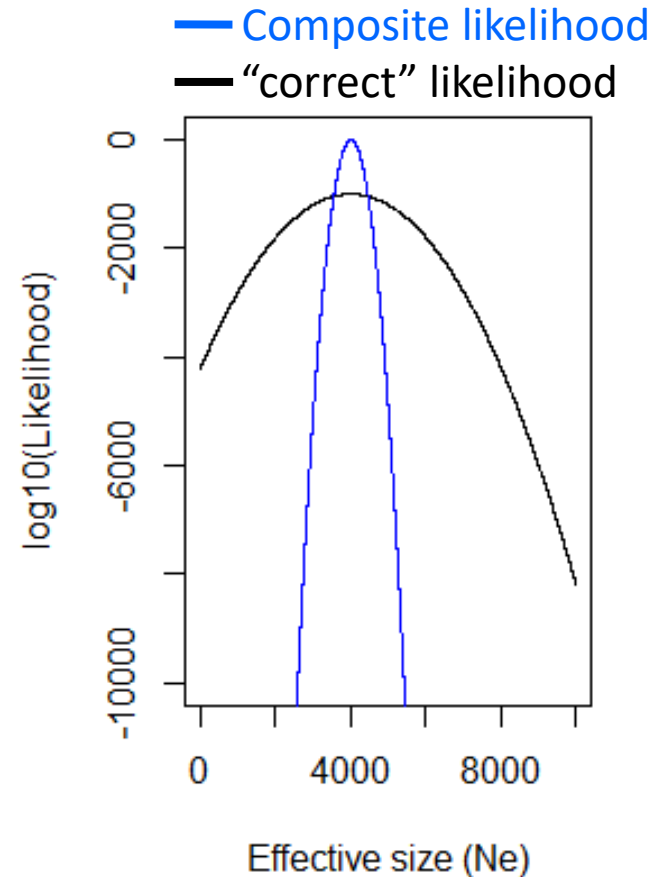
Use at least 100,000 coalescent simulations



# Properties of composite likelihoods

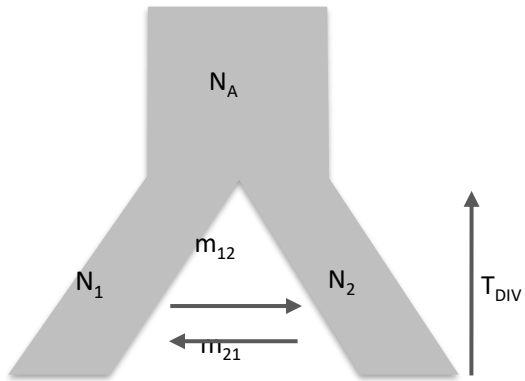
This composite likelihood (CL) is not a proper likelihood due to the non-independence of allele frequencies at linked sites.

- CL is maximized for the same parameters as full likelihood
- Can be used for parameter estimation
- Confidence intervals cannot be estimated from likelihood profile, need to bootstrap
- CL surface might be more complex than likelihood surface, and thus more difficult to explore and get the global maximum
- CL ignores information on linkage disequilibrium (recombination) between sites



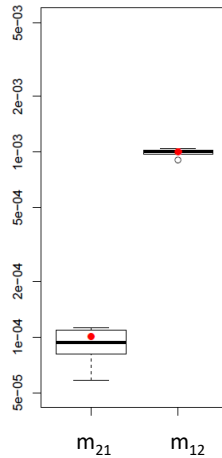
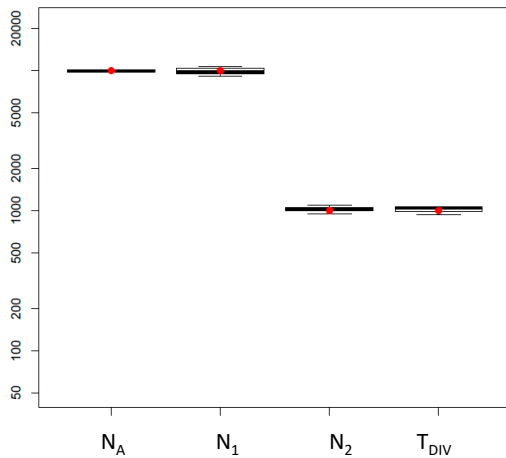


# Comparisons of *fastsimcoal2* with *dadi*

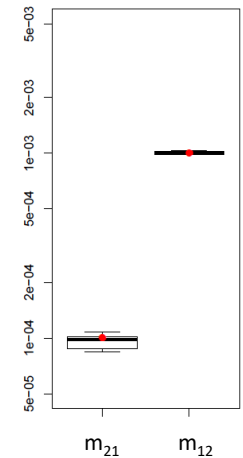
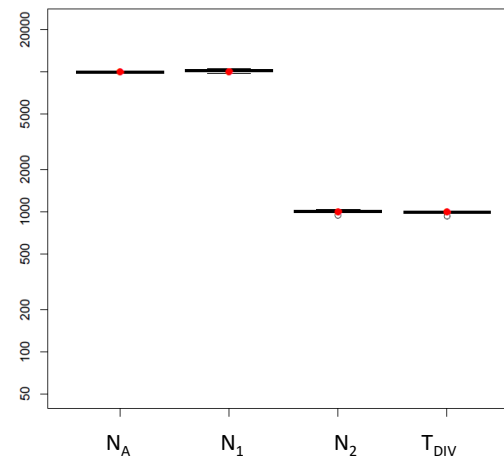


Simulation of 20 Mb data

*fastsimcoal2*



*dadi*



# Protocol for parameter estimation with fastsimcoal2 using the SFS

## 1. **Get the observed SFS:**

- derived SFS (DAF or unfolded SFS), when the ancestral state is known;
- minor allele frequency SFS (MAF or folded SFS) when the ancestral state is unknown

## 2. Define the **demographic model**

## 3. **Estimate the parameters** – repeat 50-100 runs, and selecting the run with maximum likelihood

## 4. **Bootstrap** to obtain confidence intervals for each parameter – bootstrap 10-100 datasets, by repeating a few runs for each dataset

- For datasets with linked sites use block-bootstrap, dividing the genome into blocks

# Potential problems

- Maximization of the CL is not trivial (precision of the approximation and convergence problems)
- Need to repeat estimations to find maximum CL
- Needs genomic data (several Mb), difficult to have gene-specific estimates
- Next-generation sequencing data must have high coverage (>10x) to correctly estimate SFS

# Limitations of estimating demographic parameters from SFS

Can one learn history from the allelic spectrum?

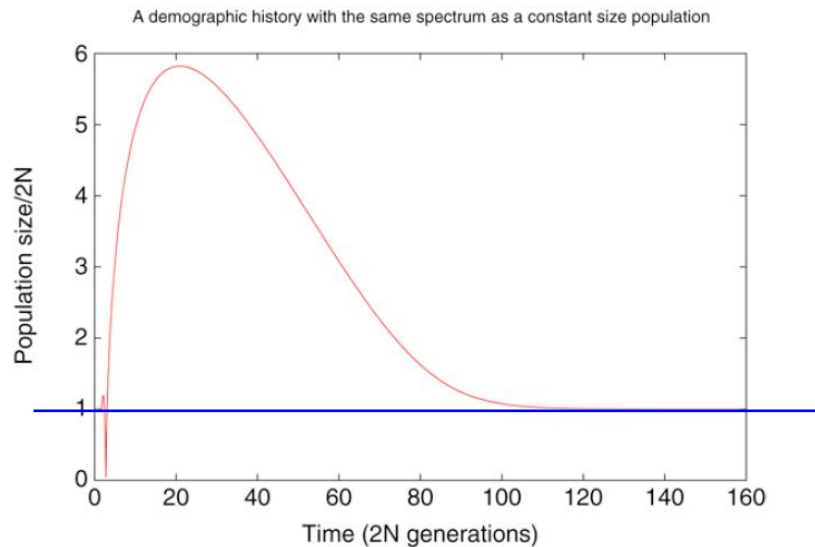
Simon Myers<sup>a</sup>, Charles Fefferman<sup>b</sup>, Nick Patterson<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, 7 Cambridge Center, Cambridge MA 02142, United States*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Mathematics, Fine Hall, Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544, United States*

Received 17 March 2007

Available online 30 January 2008



Theoretical Population Biology

Volume 120, March 2018, Pages 42-51

On the decidability of population size histories from finite allele frequency spectra

Soheil Baharian, Simon Gravel

## Geometry of the Sample Frequency Spectrum and the Perils of Demographic Inference

Zvi Rosen, Anand Bhaskar, Sebastien Roch and Yun S. Song

GENETICS October 1, 2018 vol. 210 no. 2 665-682;

<https://doi.org/10.1534/genetics.118.300733>

## Fundamental limits on the accuracy of demographic inference based on the sample frequency spectrum

Jonathan Terhorst and Yun S. Song

PNAS June 23, 2015 112 (25) 7677-7682; first published June 8, 2015 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1503717112>

# Demographic inference based on Site frequency spectrum (SFS) – Part II

Vitor C. Sousa

**CE3C** – center for ecology, evolution and environmental changes  
Department of Animal Biology  
Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa

2022 WSPG Cesky Krumlov  
09 Jun 2022



vmsousa@fc.ul.pt



# Outline part II

## Example of Applications:

- Human dispersal out of Africa (high quality whole-genome) – lessons on model comparison with linked SNPs
- Human colonization of Siberia and America (ancient whole-genome data) - lessons on dealing with sequencing errors
- Deer mice colonization of Nebraska Sand Hills (targeted re-capture data) – lessons on effects of filtering
- Divergence times and gene flow in sawflies (ddRAD-seq data) – lessons from model comparison with ddRAD
- Hybridization in freshwater fish (GBS data) - lessons from inferring relative parameters with limited data



Nourlangie, Kakadu National Park, NT, Australia

# A genomic history of Aboriginal Australia

Anna-Sapfo Malaspinas<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Michael C. Westaway<sup>4\*</sup>, Craig Muller<sup>1\*</sup>, Vitor C. Sousa<sup>2,3\*</sup>, Oscar Lao<sup>5,6\*</sup>, Isabel Alves<sup>2,3,7\*</sup>, Anders Bergström<sup>8\*</sup>, Georgios Athanasiadis<sup>9</sup>, Jade Y. Cheng<sup>9,10</sup>, Jacob E. Crawford<sup>10,11</sup>, Tim H. Heupink<sup>4</sup>, Enrico Macholdt<sup>12</sup>, Stephan Peischl<sup>3,13</sup>, Simon Rasmussen<sup>14</sup>, Stephan Schiffels<sup>15</sup>, Sankar Subramanian<sup>4</sup>, Joanne L. Wright<sup>4</sup>, Anders Albrechtsen<sup>16</sup>, Chiara Barbieri<sup>12,17</sup>, Isabelle Dupanloup<sup>2,3</sup>, Anders Eriksson<sup>18,19</sup>, Ashot Margaryan<sup>1</sup>, Ida Moltke<sup>16</sup>, Irina Pugach<sup>12</sup>, Thorfinn S. Korneliussen<sup>1</sup>, Ivan P. Levkivskyi<sup>20</sup>, J. Víctor Moreno-Mayar<sup>1</sup>, Shengyu Ni<sup>12</sup>, Fernando Racimo<sup>10</sup>, Martin Sikora<sup>1</sup>, Yali Xue<sup>8</sup>, Farhang A. Aghakhanian<sup>21</sup>, Nicolas Brucato<sup>22</sup>, Søren Brunak<sup>23</sup>, Paula F. Campos<sup>1,24</sup>, Warren Clark<sup>25</sup>, Sturla Ellingvåg<sup>26</sup>, Gudjugudju Fourmile<sup>27</sup>, Pascale Gerbault<sup>28,29</sup>, Darren Injie<sup>30</sup>, George Koki<sup>31</sup>, Matthew Leavesley<sup>32</sup>, Betty Logan<sup>33</sup>, Aubrey Lynch<sup>34</sup>, Elizabeth A. Matisoo-Smith<sup>35</sup>, Peter J. McAllister<sup>36</sup>, Alexander J. Mentzer<sup>37</sup>, Mait Metspalu<sup>38</sup>, Andrea B. Migliano<sup>29</sup>, Les Murgha<sup>39</sup>, Maude E. Phipps<sup>21</sup>, William Pomat<sup>31</sup>, Doc Reynolds<sup>40</sup>, Francois-Xavier Ricaut<sup>22</sup>, Peter Siba<sup>31</sup>, Mark G. Thomas<sup>28</sup>, Thomas Wales<sup>41</sup>, Colleen Ma'run Wall<sup>42</sup>, Stephen J. Oppenheimer<sup>43</sup>, Chris Tyler-Smith<sup>8</sup>, Richard Durbin<sup>8</sup>, Joe Dortch<sup>44</sup>, Andrea Manica<sup>18</sup>, Mikkel H. Schierup<sup>9</sup>, Robert A. Foley<sup>1,45</sup>, Marta Mirazón Lahr<sup>1,45</sup>, Claire Bowern<sup>46</sup>, Jeffrey D. Wall<sup>47</sup>, Thomas Mailund<sup>9</sup>, Mark Stoneking<sup>12</sup>, Rasmus Nielsen<sup>1,48</sup>, Manjinder S. Sandhu<sup>8</sup>, Laurent Excoffier<sup>2,3</sup>, David M. Lambert<sup>4</sup> & Eske Willerslev<sup>1,8,18</sup>

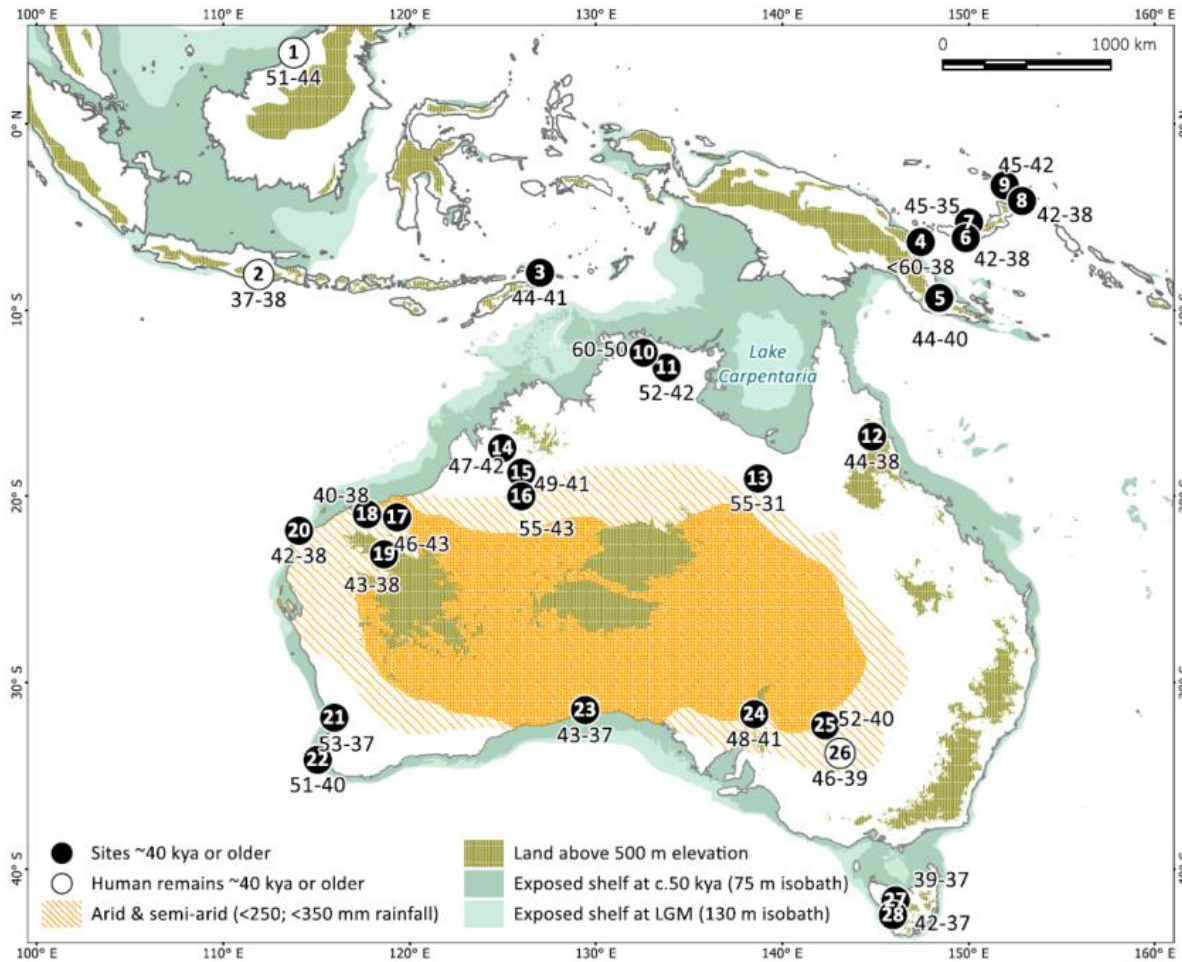
***Nature***(2016)



Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve, NT, Australia

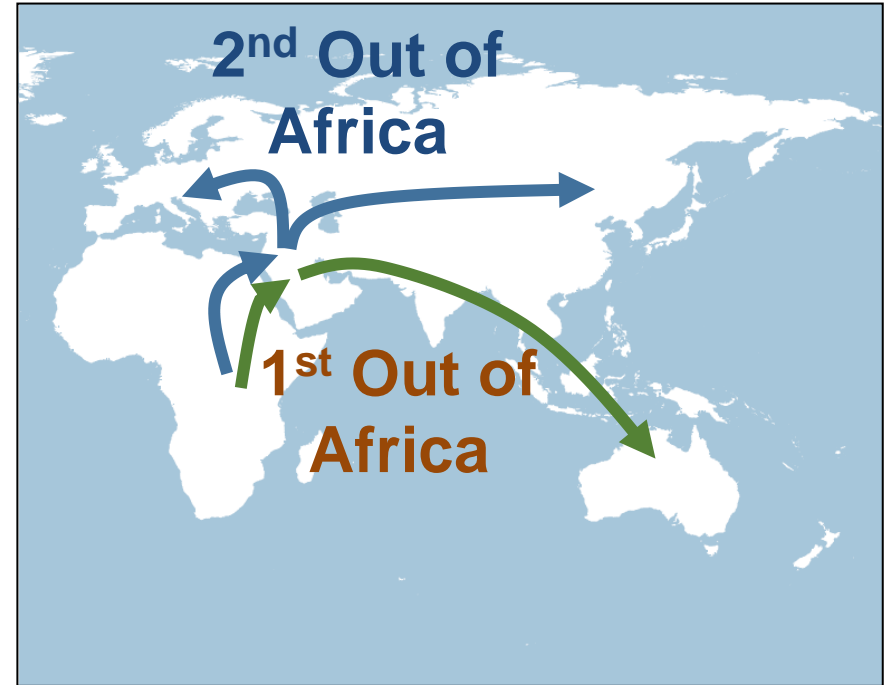
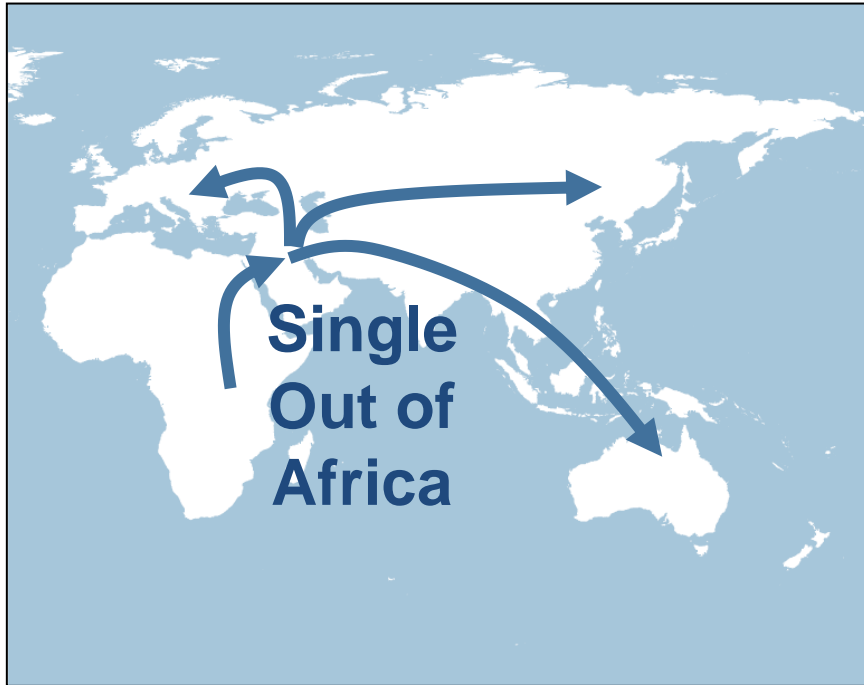


# Australia harbors some of the oldest modern human remains outside Africa

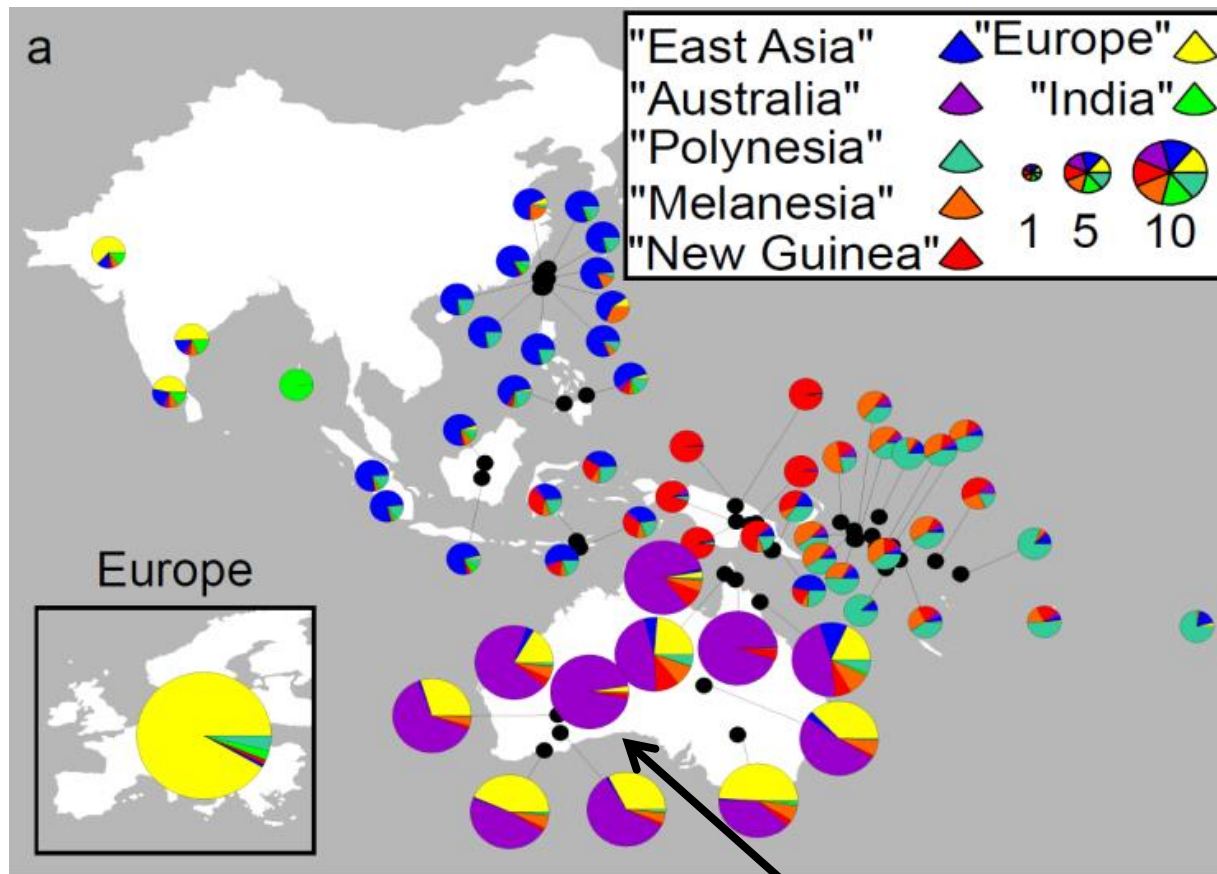


Many sites and remains dated to be older than 40 kya, suggesting a human settlement 47.5-55 kya

# One wave out of Africa vs Two waves out of Africa



# 83 high-coverage Aboriginal Australians genomes

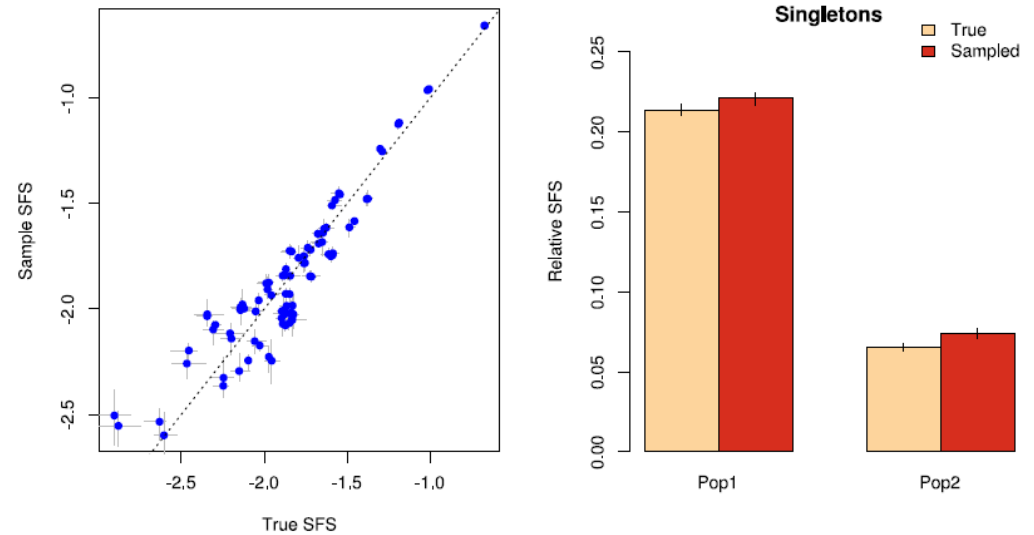


Average depth of coverage: 65x

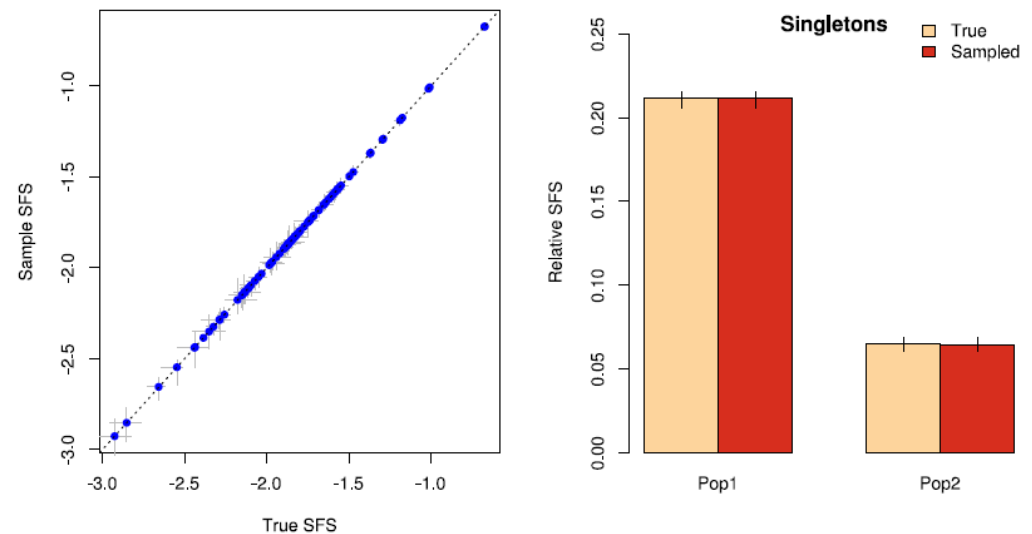
# A note on recovering the SFS from genomic data

- Simulation study
- Low depth of coverage and missing data leads to biases towards rare variants

a) Low depth of coverage, no GQ filter, allowing missing data



b) Depth of coverage similar to observed data, GQ>30 filter, no missing data





- ★ Archaic human genomes:
- 1 Neanderthal (~66 kya)
  - 1 Denisovan (~52 kya)

**Mutation rate assumed**

$1.25 \times 10^{-8}$  /site/gen

Scally and Durbin (2012) *Nat. Rev. Genet.*

**Generation time**


29 years/gen

Fenner (2005) *Am. J. Phys. Anthropol.*

Since we want to infer demography we tried to minimize the number of sites affected by selection:

- 985 1Mb blocks outside genic regions and CpG islands (~4.3 Million SNPs)
- 5 dimensional SFS (16,875 entries)
- Confidence intervals obtained using block-bootstrap

# Towards a model to test the hypotheses: One vs Two waves Out of Africa

- Data (SFS)  
↓
  - (Re-)Define model  
(hypotheses to test)  
↓
  - Run fastsimcoal2  
↓
  - Estimates!
    - Assess the fit to the data
- 

## Do you have an outgroup?

- **Yes** – use the derived (unfolded) SFS
- **No** – use the minor allele frequency spectrum (folded)

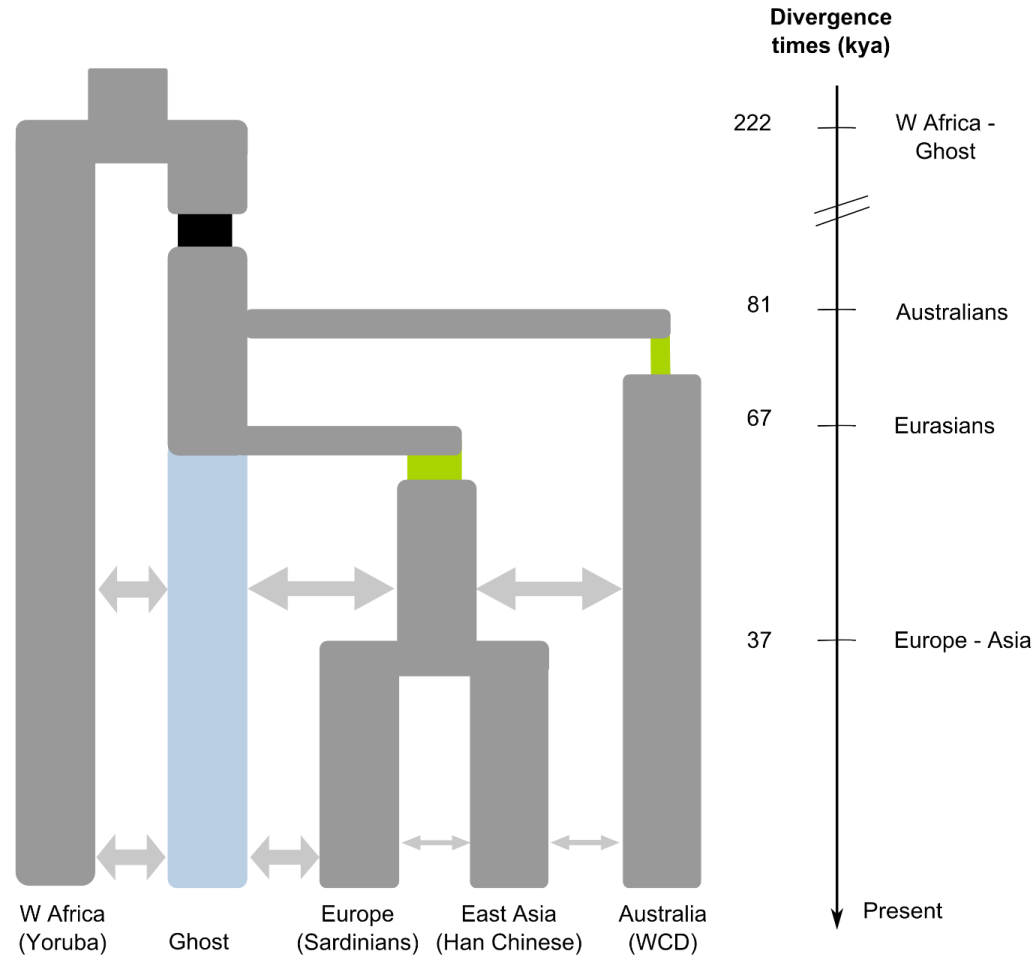
## Do you have monomorphic sites?

- **Yes** - then, given a mutation rate you can infer the absolute times and effective sizes
- **No** – then all your estimates need to be relative to a fixed parameter (fixed  $N_e$  or fixed time)

# We always get results...

## Evidence of two waves Out of Africa:

- Old split leading to colonization of Australia (81kya)
- More recent split leading to colonization of Eurasia (67 kya)



### Legend:

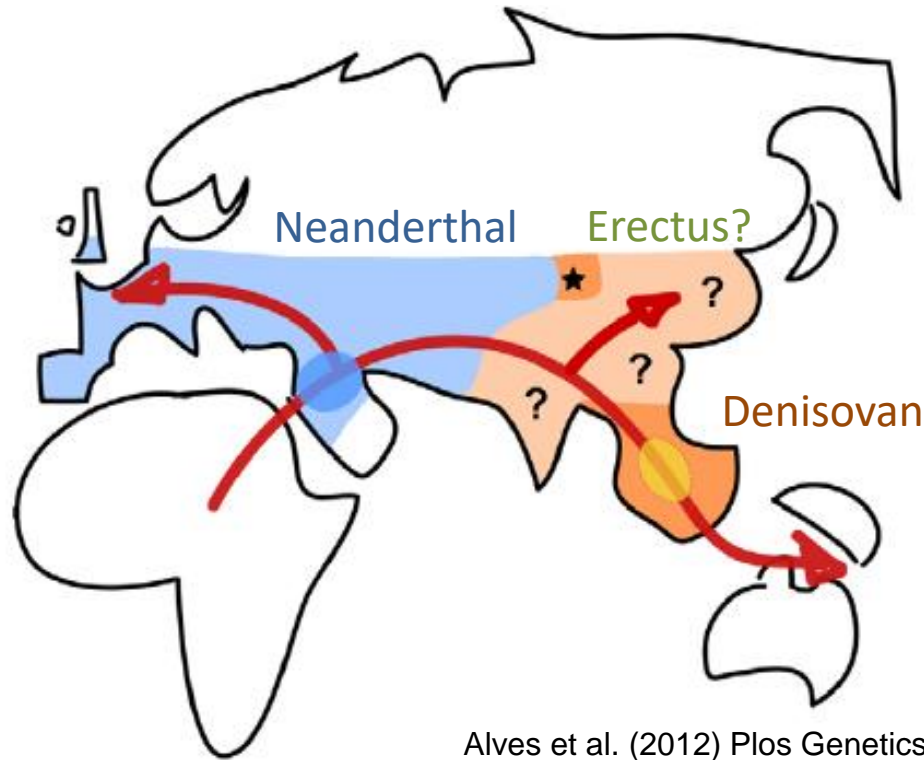
↔ Migration,  $2Nm > 1$

■ Ancestral bottleneck

↔ Migration,  $2Nm < 1$

■ Continent-specific bottlenecks

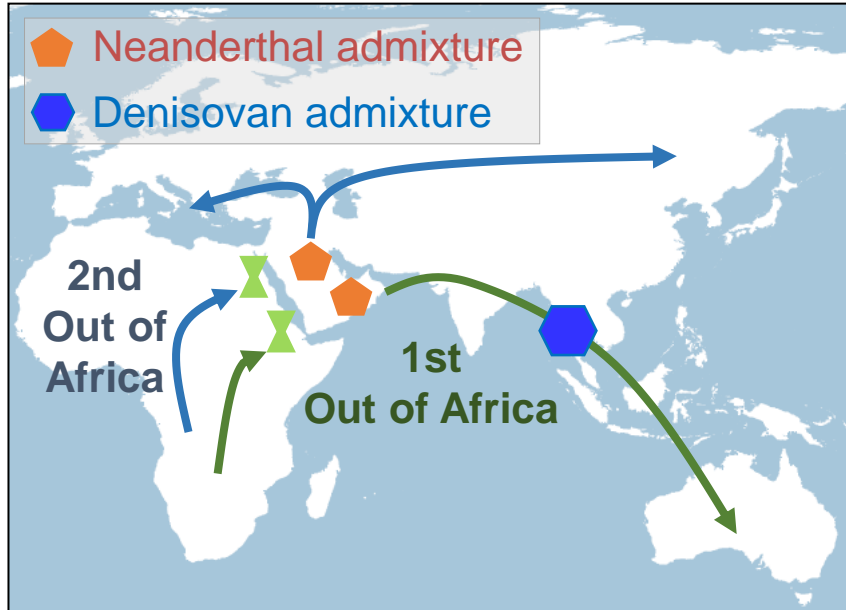
# Towards a model incorporating Neanderthal and Denisovan admixture



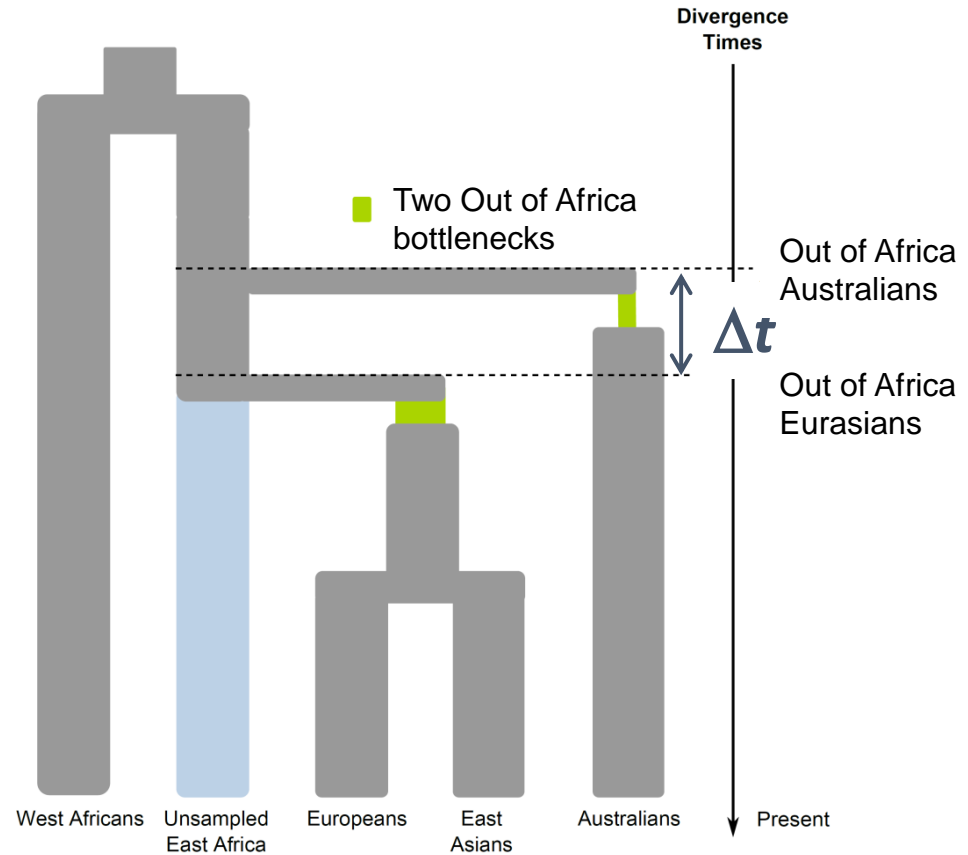
- Non-African populations: 1-4% estimated Neanderthal admixture
- Aboriginal Australians and New Guineans: 3-6% estimated Denisovan admixture
- Archaic admixture can affect times of split estimates



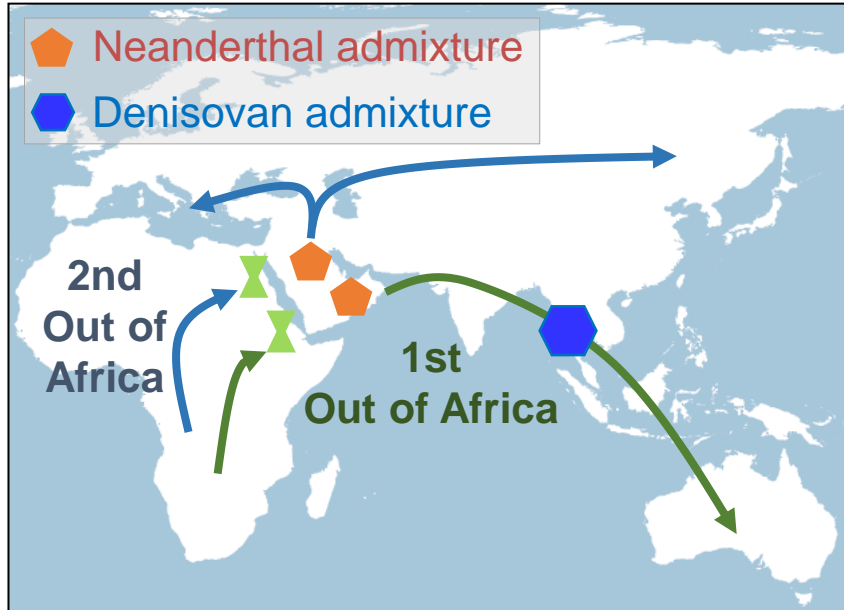
# Two-waves out of Africa



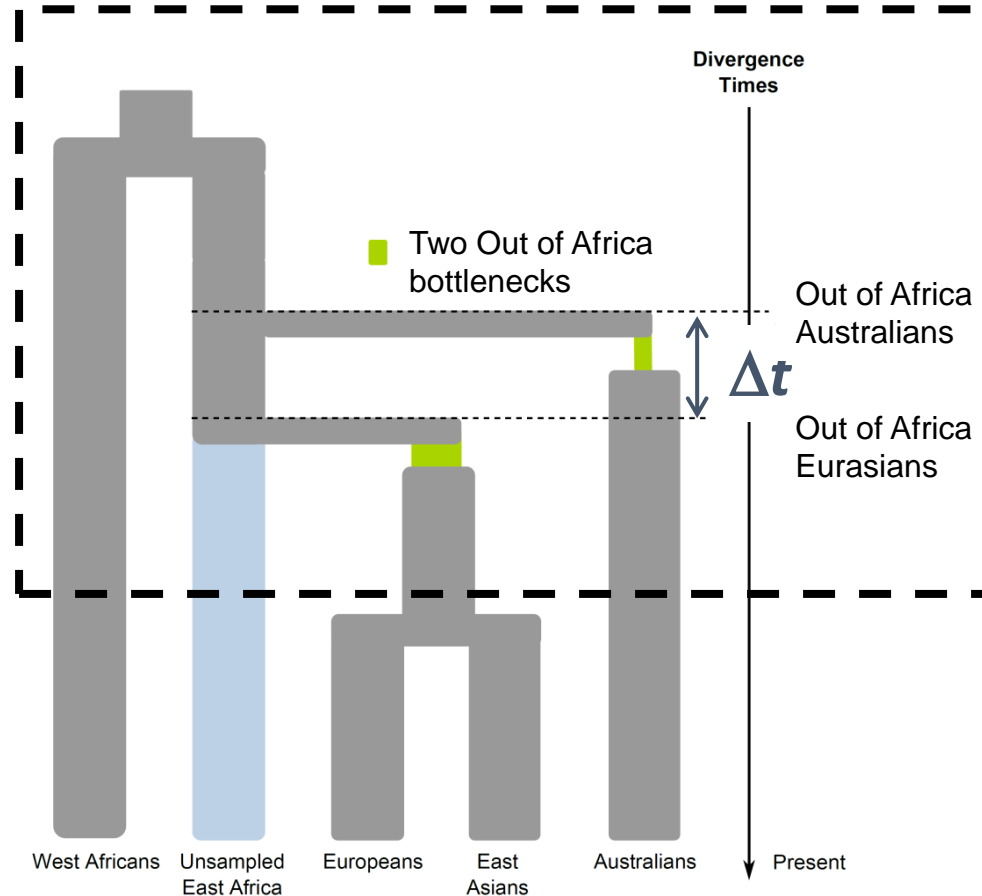
- Two different divergence times ( $\Delta t \gg 0$ )
- Two independent bottlenecks associated with the two Out of Africa events



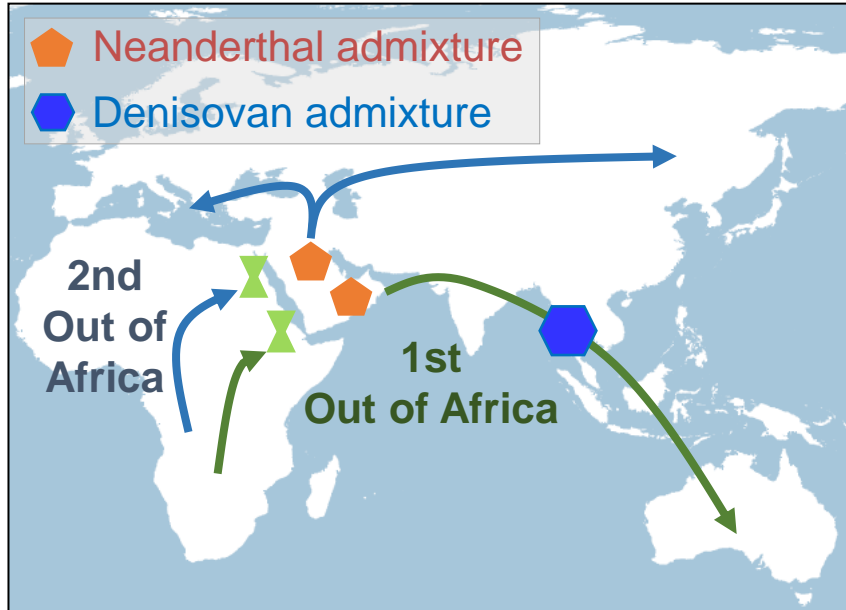
# Two-waves out of Africa



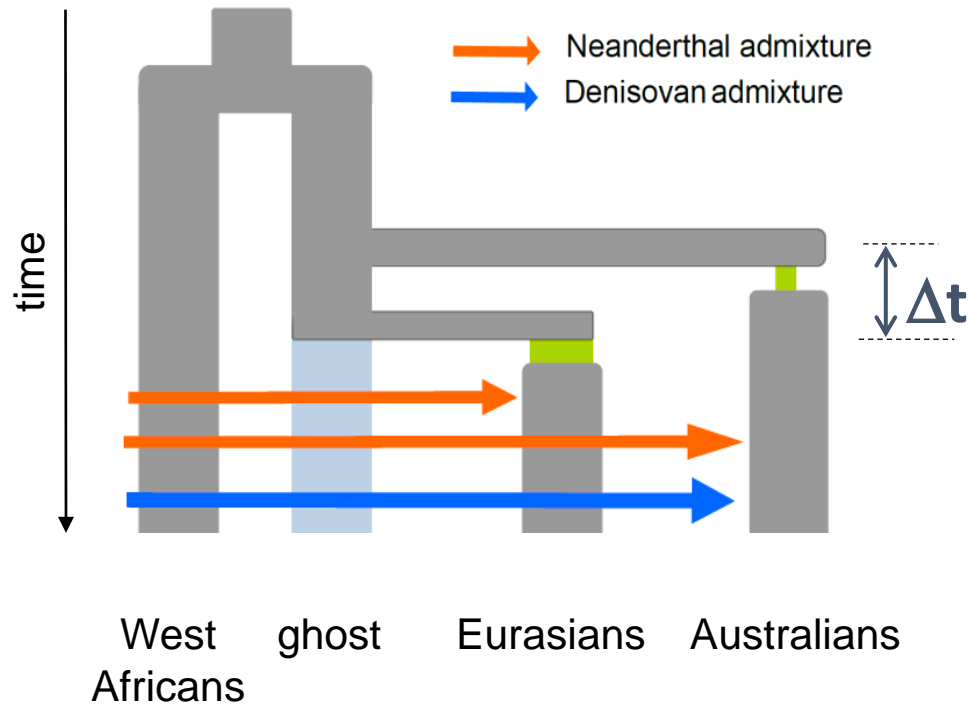
- Two different divergence times ( $\Delta t \gg 0$ )
- Two independent bottlenecks associated with the two Out of Africa events



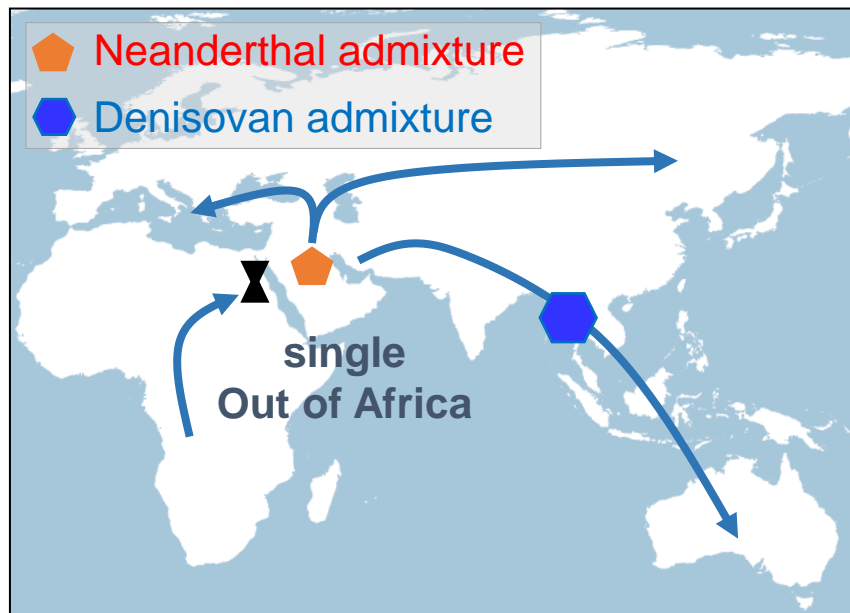
# Two-waves out of Africa



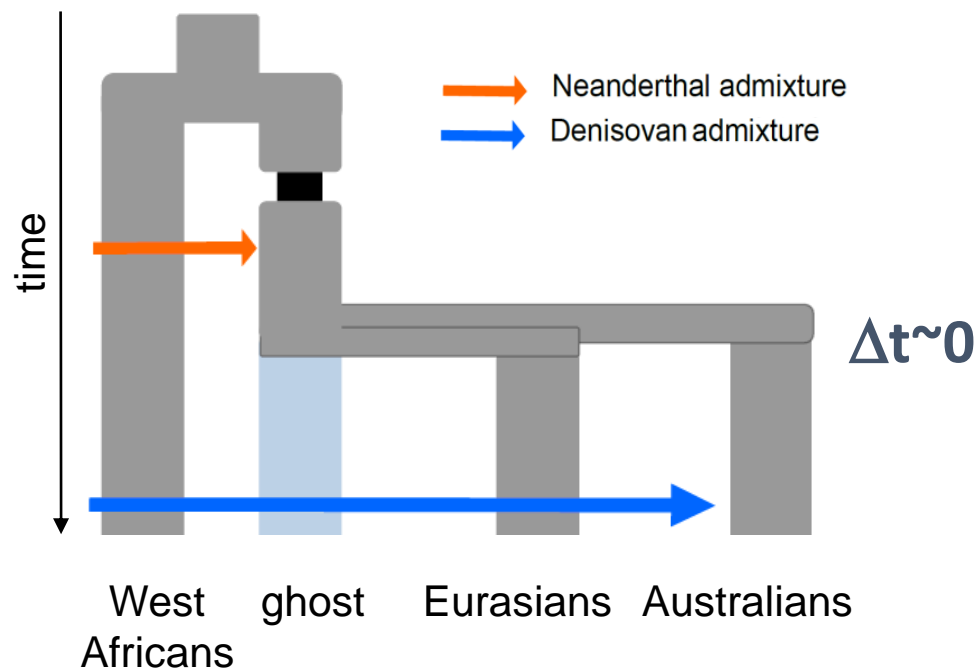
- Two different divergence times ( $\Delta t \gg 0$ )
- Two independent bottlenecks associated with the two Out of Africa events



# One wave out of Africa

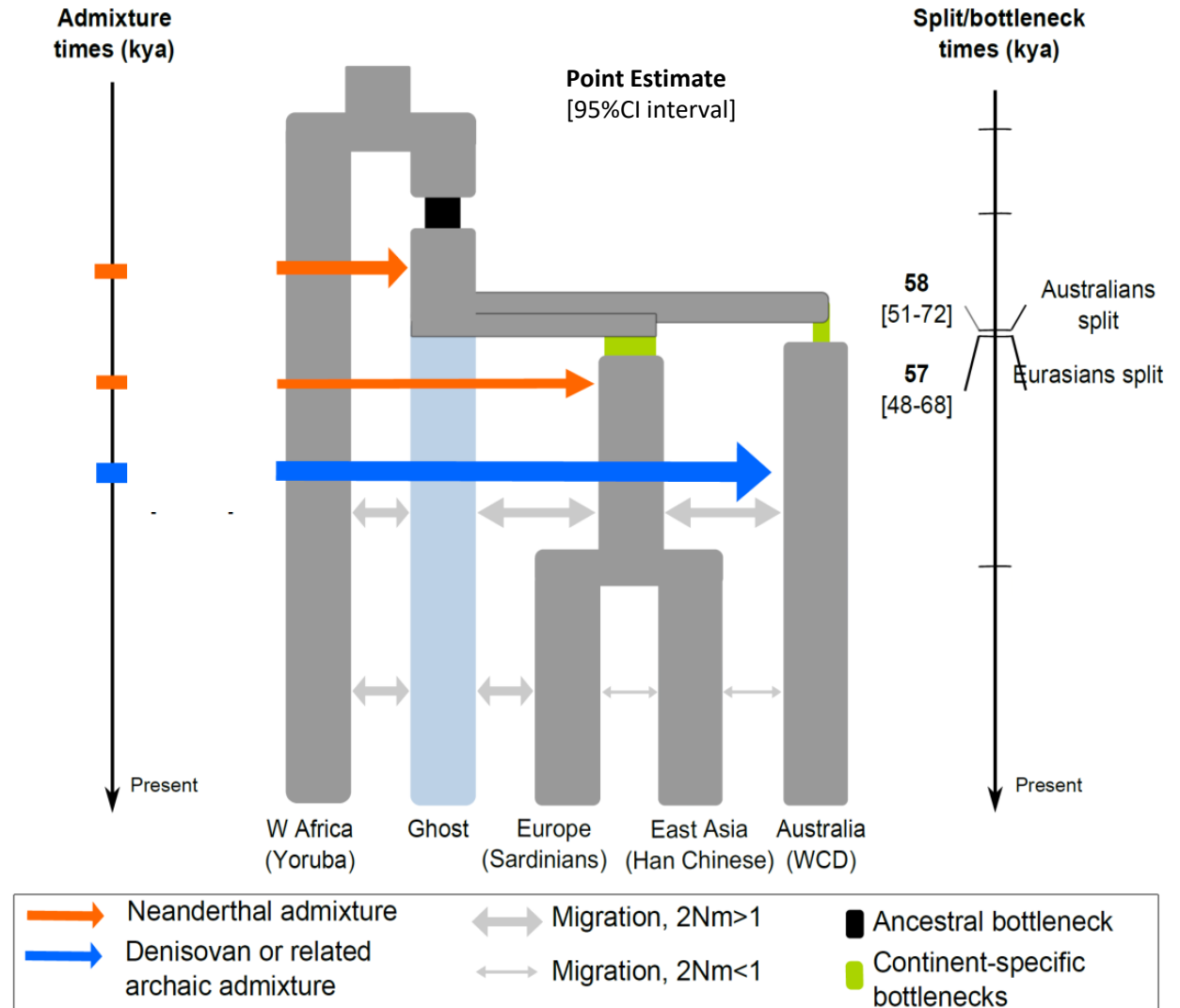


- Similar divergence times ( $\Delta t$  close to zero)
- One single bottlenecks associated with the Out of Africa events
- A major admixture pulse with Neanderthal



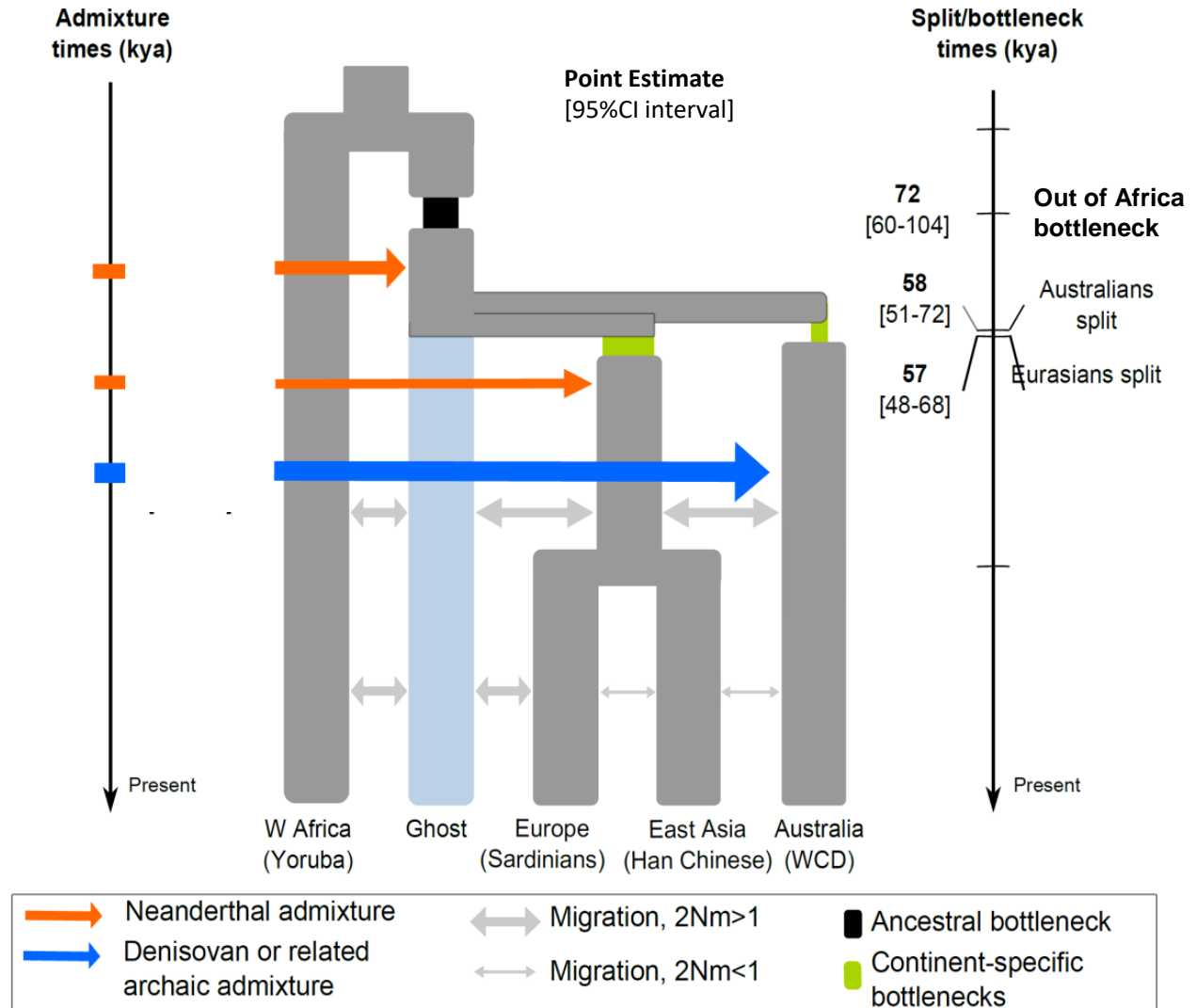
# A single wave Out of Africa is consistent with our estimates when accounting for archaic admixture

- Similar divergence time ( $\Delta t$  close to zero)



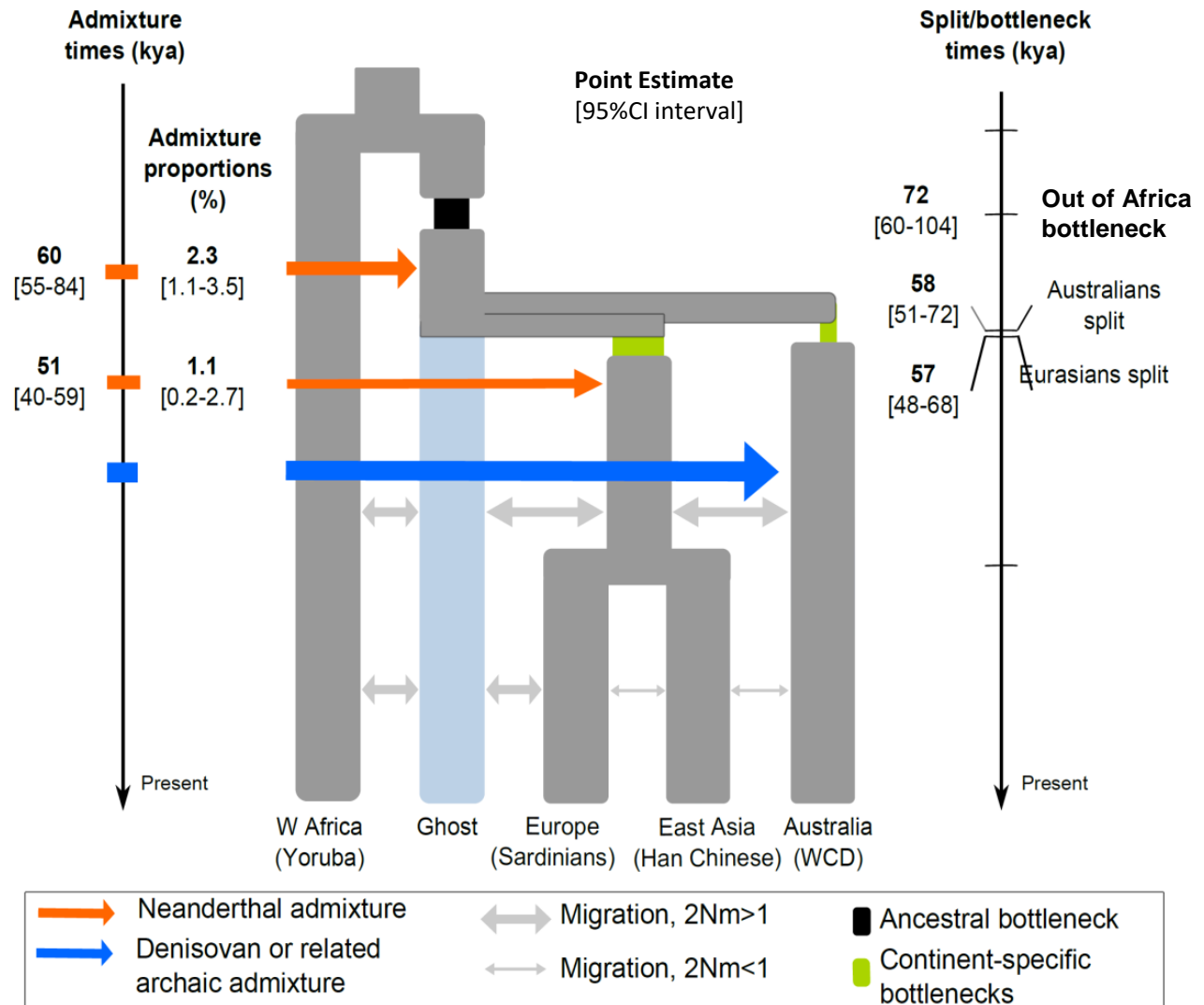
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- Bottleneck associated with the Out of Africa event



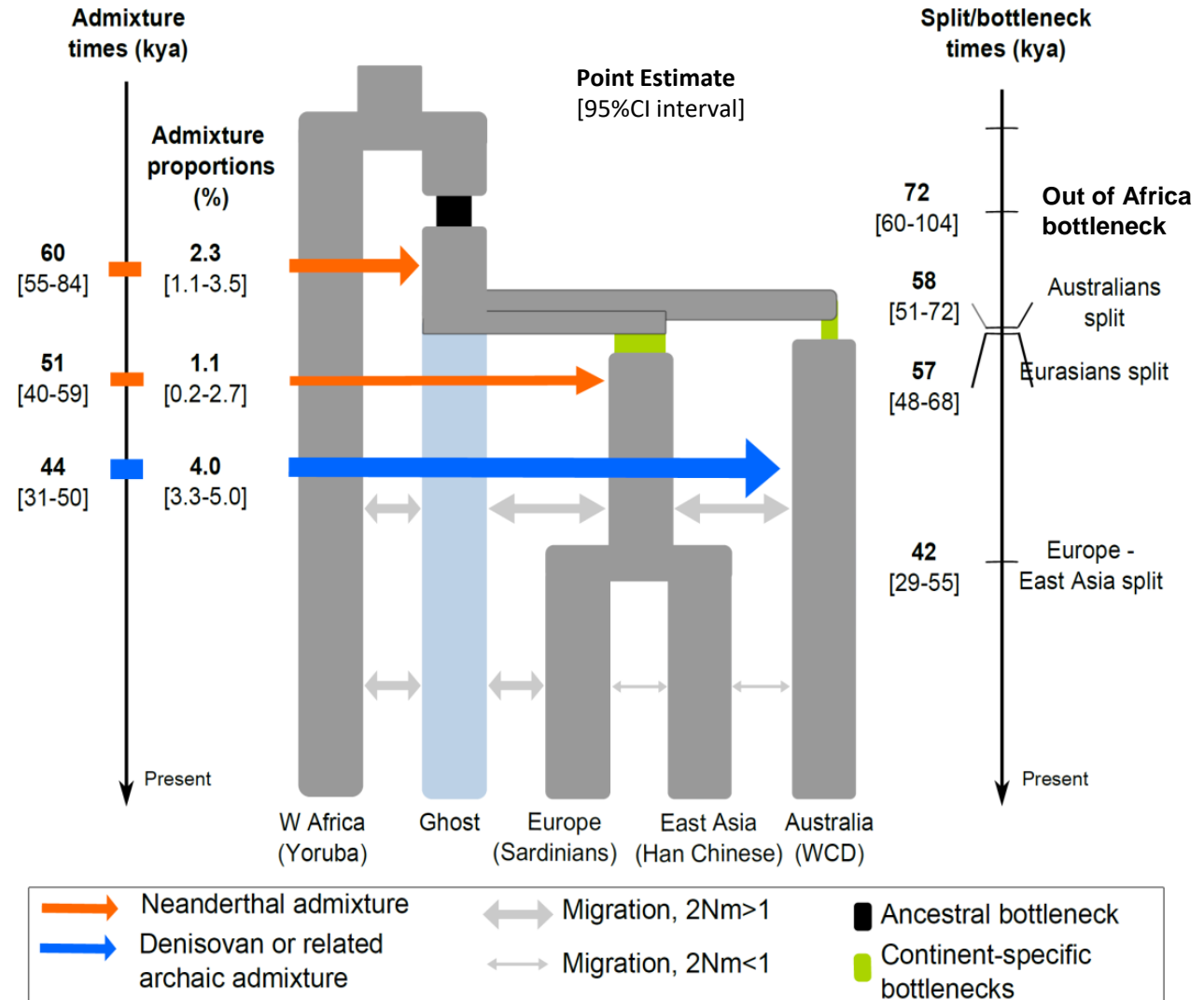
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- A major admixture pulse with Neanderthal in ancestors of all non-Africans



# A single wave Out of Africa is consistent with our estimates when accounting for archaic admixture

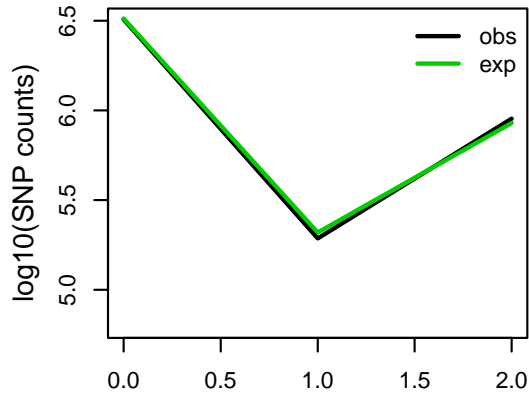
- Similar divergence time ( $\Delta t$  close to zero)
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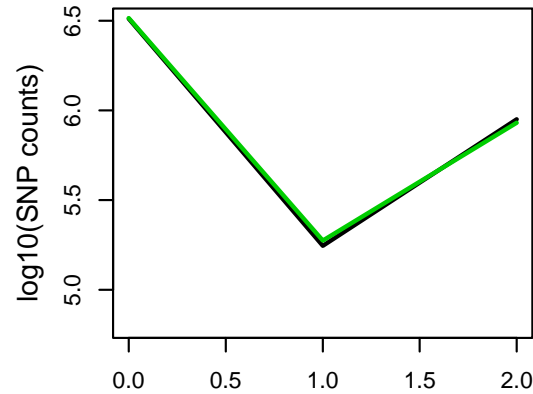


# Model captures aspects about the observed data

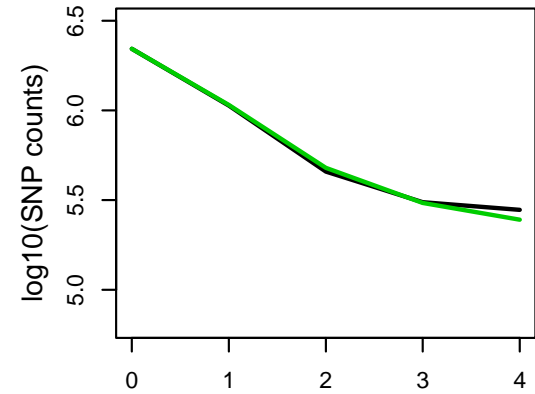
Good fit to the marginal 1D site frequency spectrum



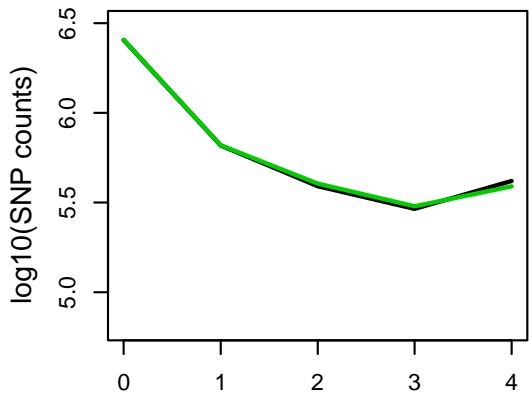
Denisovan



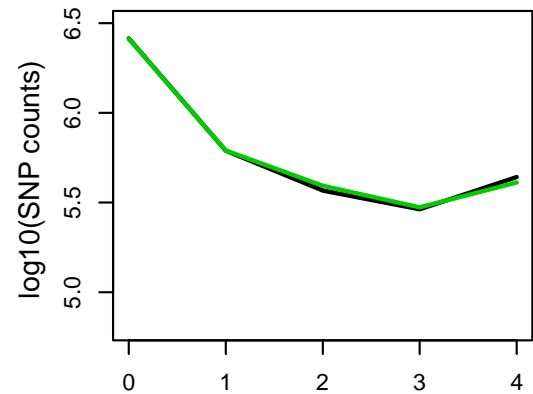
Neanderthal



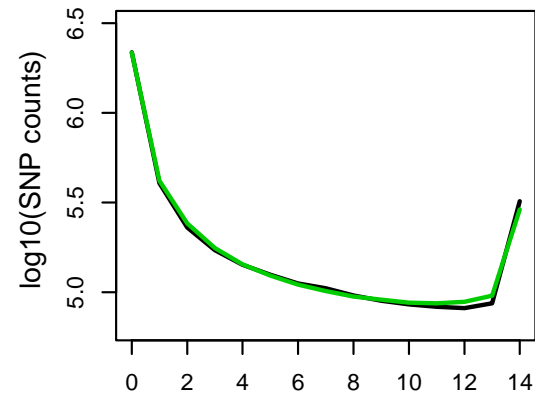
Yoruba



Sardinian

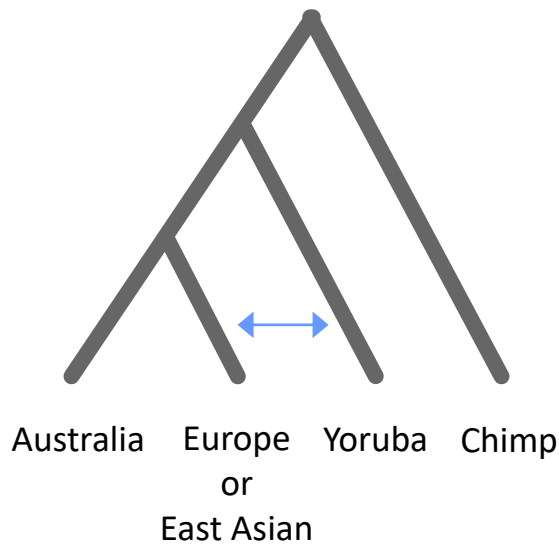


Han Chinese

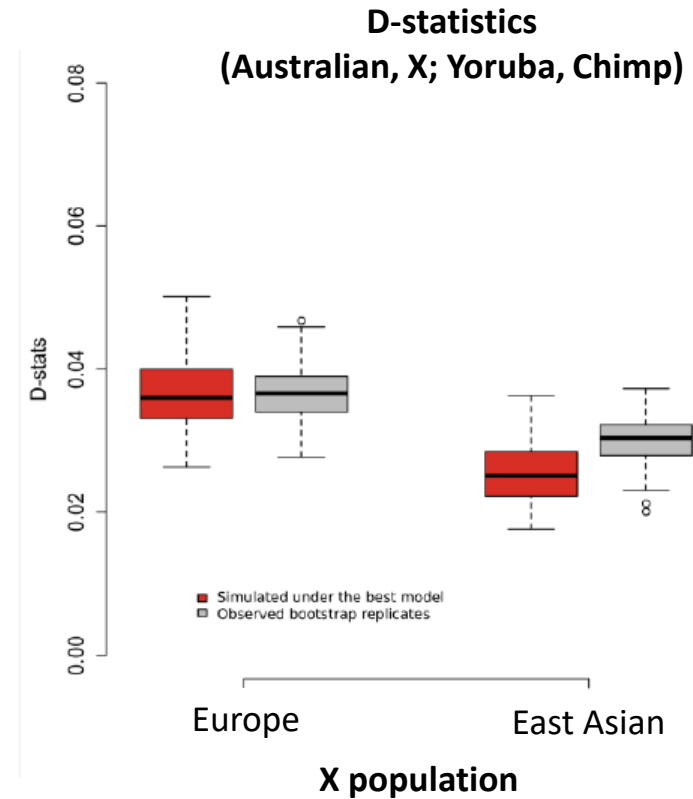


WCD Aboriginal Australian

# Model captures the higher derived allele sharing between Eurasians and Yoruba



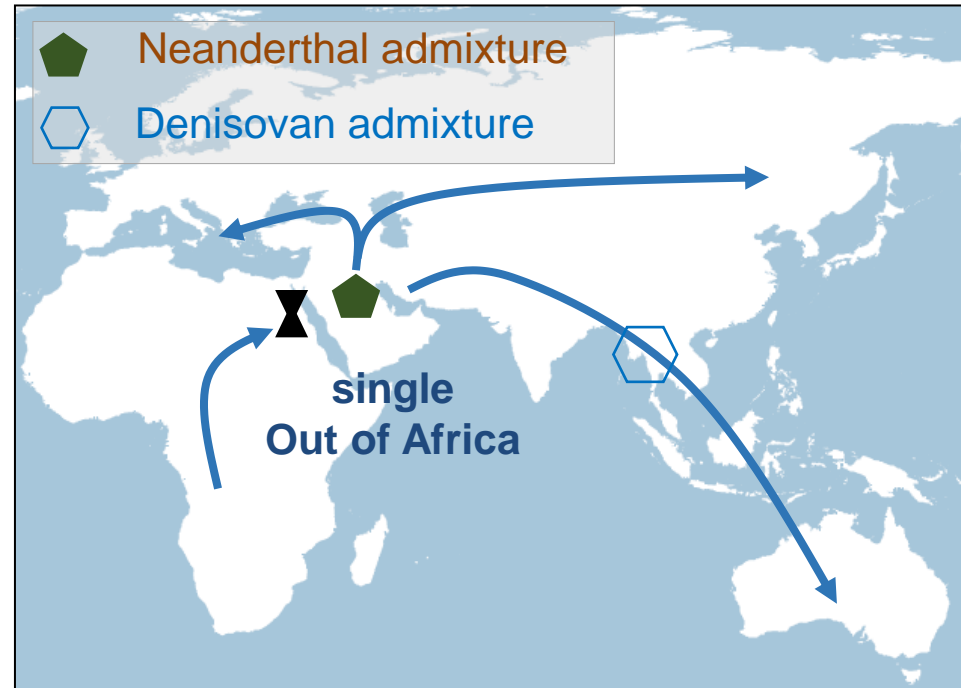
D-statistics suggest that Yoruba and Eurasians share more derived alleles than Yoruba and Australians



# Summary

## Aboriginal Australians genomes support a single major wave out of Africa

- Accounting for archaic admixture with Neanderthal and Denisovan was crucial to understand population divergence
- Genomic data consistent with a single major dispersal event out of Africa (60-104 kya)



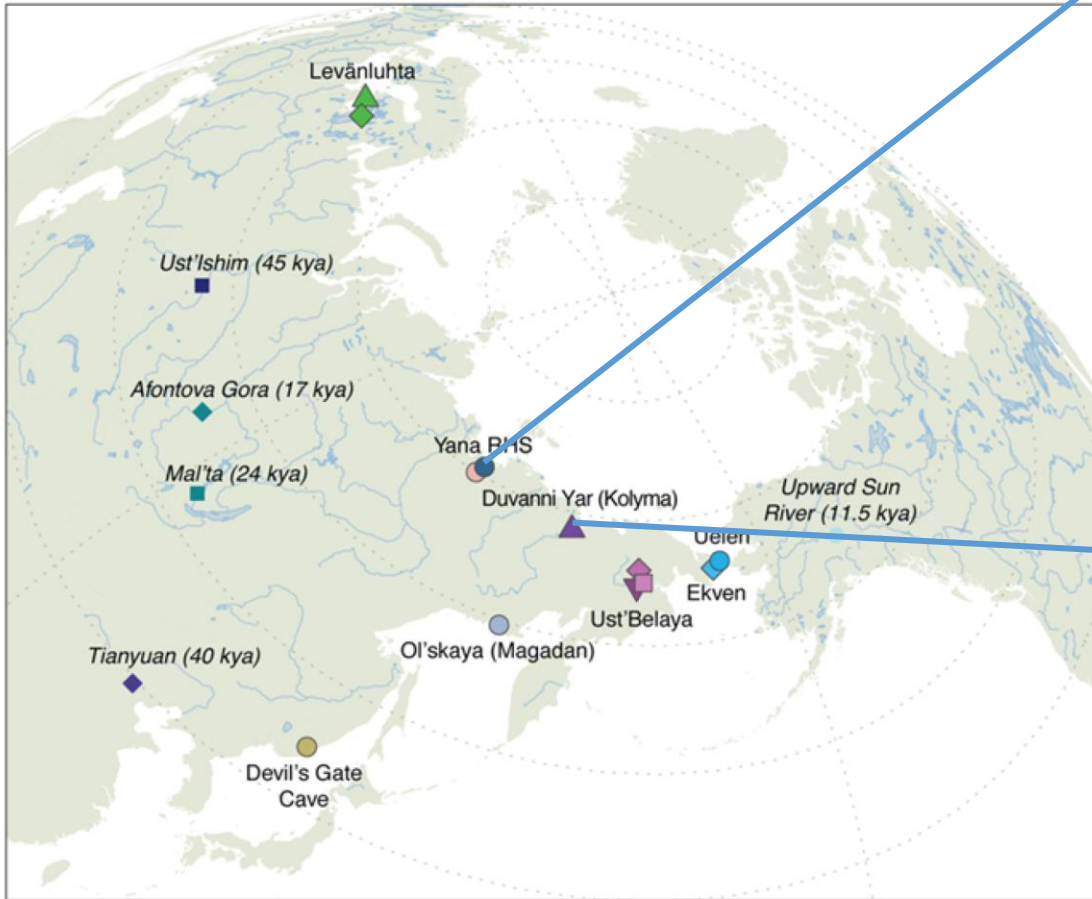
# The population history of northeastern Siberia since the Pleistocene

Martin Sikora<sup>1,43\*</sup>, Vladimir V. Pitulko<sup>2,43\*</sup>, Vitor C. Sousa<sup>3,4,5,43</sup>, Morten E. Allentoft<sup>1,43</sup>, Lasse Vinner<sup>1</sup>, Simon Rasmussen<sup>6,41</sup>, Ashot Margaryan<sup>1</sup>, Peter de Barros Damgaard<sup>1</sup>, Constanza de la Fuente<sup>1,42</sup>, Gabriel Renaud<sup>1</sup>, Melinda A. Yang<sup>7</sup>, Qiaomei Fu<sup>7</sup>, Isabelle Dupanloup<sup>8</sup>, Konstantinos Giampoudakis<sup>9</sup>, David Nogués-Bravo<sup>9</sup>, Carsten Rahbek<sup>9</sup>, Guus Kroonen<sup>10,11</sup>, Michaël Peyrot<sup>11</sup>, Hugh McColl<sup>1</sup>, Sergey V. Vasilyev<sup>12</sup>, Elizaveta Veselovskaya<sup>12,13</sup>, Margarita Gerasimova<sup>12</sup>, Elena Y. Pavlova<sup>2,14</sup>, Vyacheslav G. Chasnyk<sup>15</sup>, Pavel A. Nikolskiy<sup>2,16</sup>, Andrei V. Gromov<sup>17</sup>, Valeriy I. Khartanovich<sup>17</sup>, Vyacheslav Moiseyev<sup>17</sup>, Pavel S. Grebenyuk<sup>18,19</sup>, Alexander Yu. Fedorchenko<sup>20</sup>, Alexander I. Lebedintsev<sup>18</sup>, Sergey B. Slobodin<sup>18</sup>, Boris A. Malyarchuk<sup>21</sup>, Rui Martiniano<sup>22</sup>, Morten Meldgaard<sup>1,23</sup>, Laura Arppe<sup>24</sup>, Jukka U. Palo<sup>25,26</sup>, Tarja Sundell<sup>27,28</sup>, Kristiina Mannermaa<sup>27</sup>, Mikko Putkonen<sup>25</sup>, Verner Alexandersen<sup>29</sup>, Charlotte Primeau<sup>29</sup>, Nurbol Baimukhanov<sup>30</sup>, Ripan S. Malhi<sup>31,32</sup>, Karl-Göran Sjögren<sup>33</sup>, Kristian Kristiansen<sup>33</sup>, Anna Wessman<sup>27,34</sup>, Antti Sajantila<sup>25</sup>, Marta Mirazon Lahr<sup>1,35</sup>, Richard Durbin<sup>22,36</sup>, Rasmus Nielsen<sup>1,37</sup>, David J. Meltzer<sup>1,38</sup>, Laurent Excoffier<sup>4,5\*</sup> & Eske Willerslev<sup>1,36,39,40\*</sup>

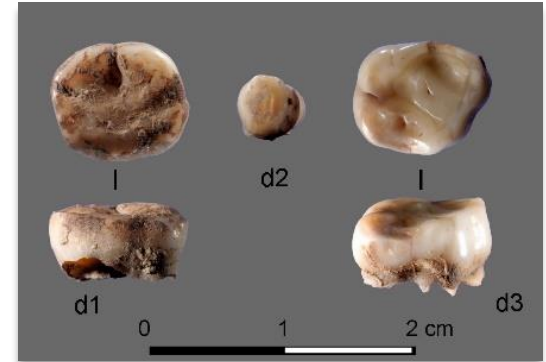
*Nature* (2019)



# Colonization of Siberia



Yana RHS (31,600 years ago)  
Whole-genome depth of coverage 25x



Kolyma (9,800 years ago)  
Whole-genome depth of coverage 14x



# Hypothesis: Continuity vs Replacement of populations

**Data:** Ancient and present-day samples; 625 blocks of 1Mb (~1.5 Million SNP), far from genic regions and CpG islands

**Method:** Composite likelihood - *fastsimcoal2*  
(Excoffier et al, 2013 Plos Genetics)

Europe (Sardinia)	Ancient North Siberians (Yana)	Ancient Paelo- siberian (Kolyma)	Neo- siberian (Even)	East Asia (Han)
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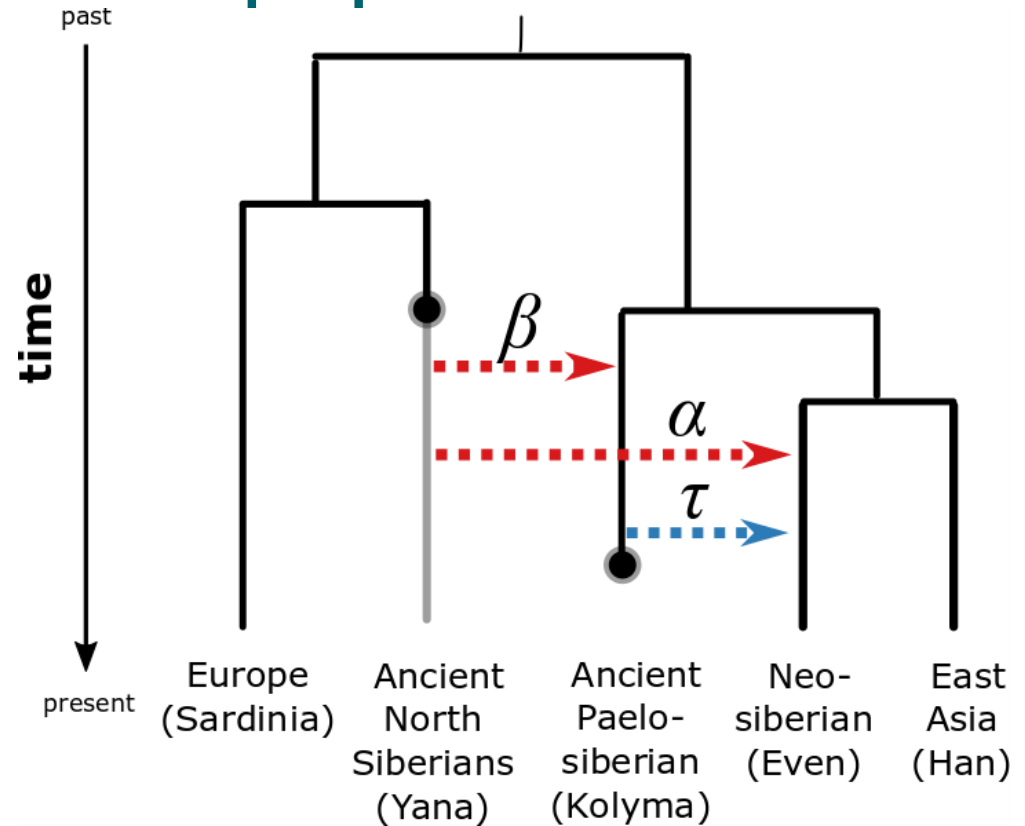


# Hypothesis: Continuity vs Replacement of populations

For instance:

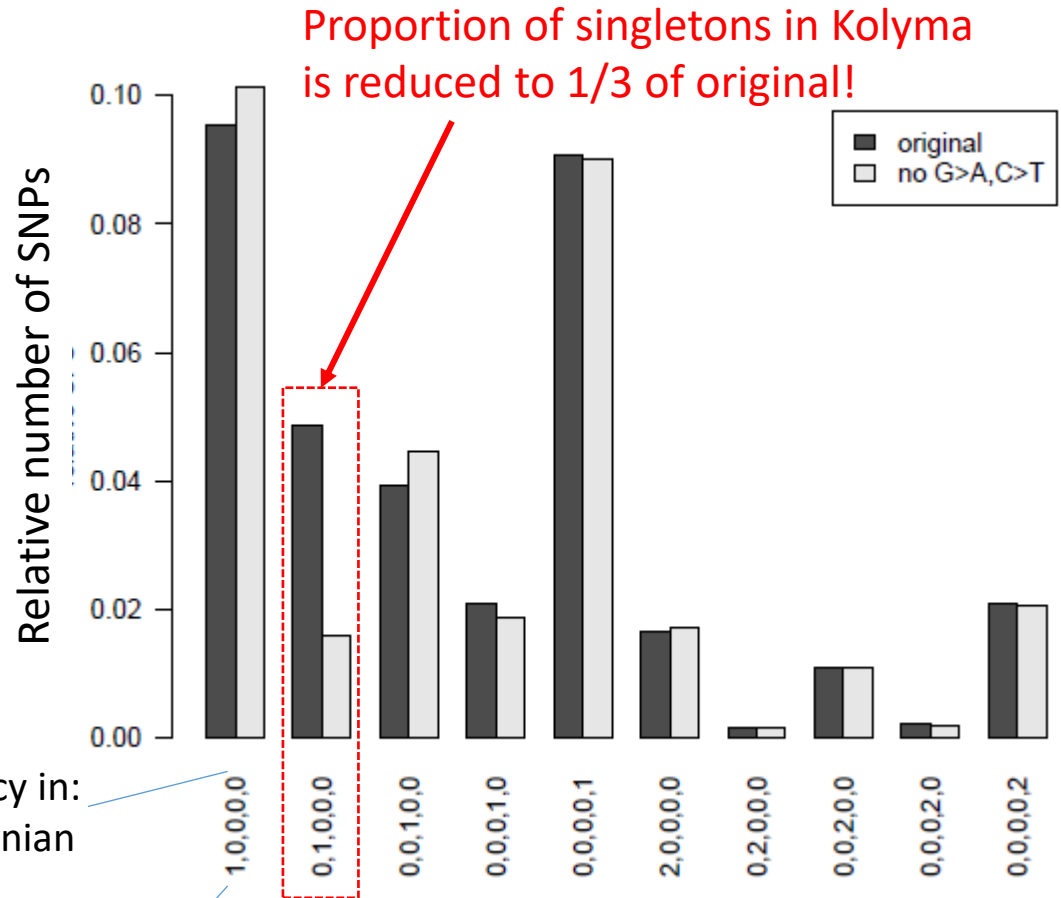
$\beta = 1$  indicates continuity:  
Kolyma descends from Yana

$\beta = 0$  indicates replacement  
of Yana by Kolyma



# Site frequency spectrum is affected by damage patterns in ancient DNA

- High proportion of singletons in Kolyma probably reflect errors
- **All analyses were performed discarding singletons**

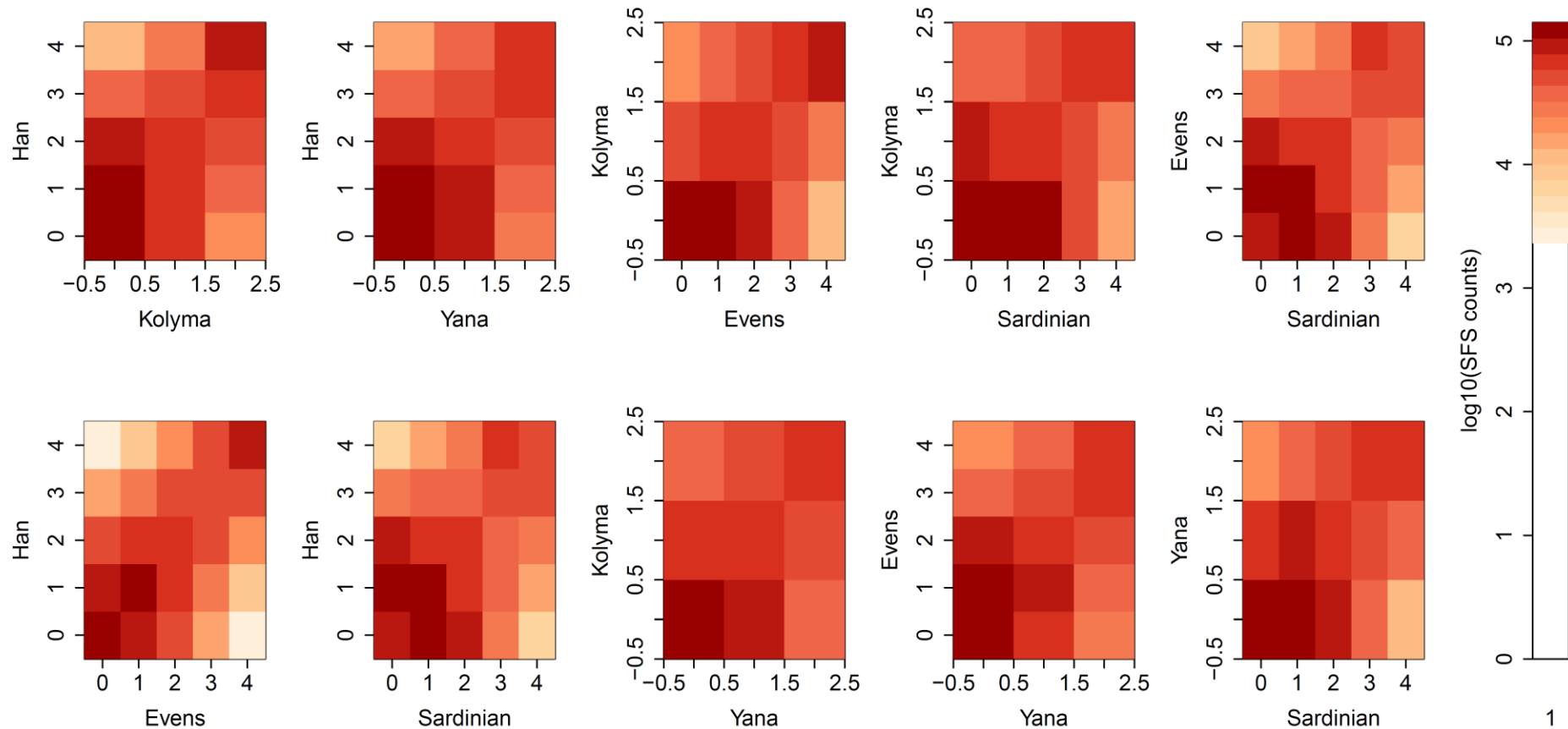


Derived allele frequency in:  
 Sardinian  
 Yana  
 Karitiana  
 Kolyma  
 Han

#SNPs original dataset: 1,518,818  
 #SNPs after discarding transitions G>A, C>T: 938,911

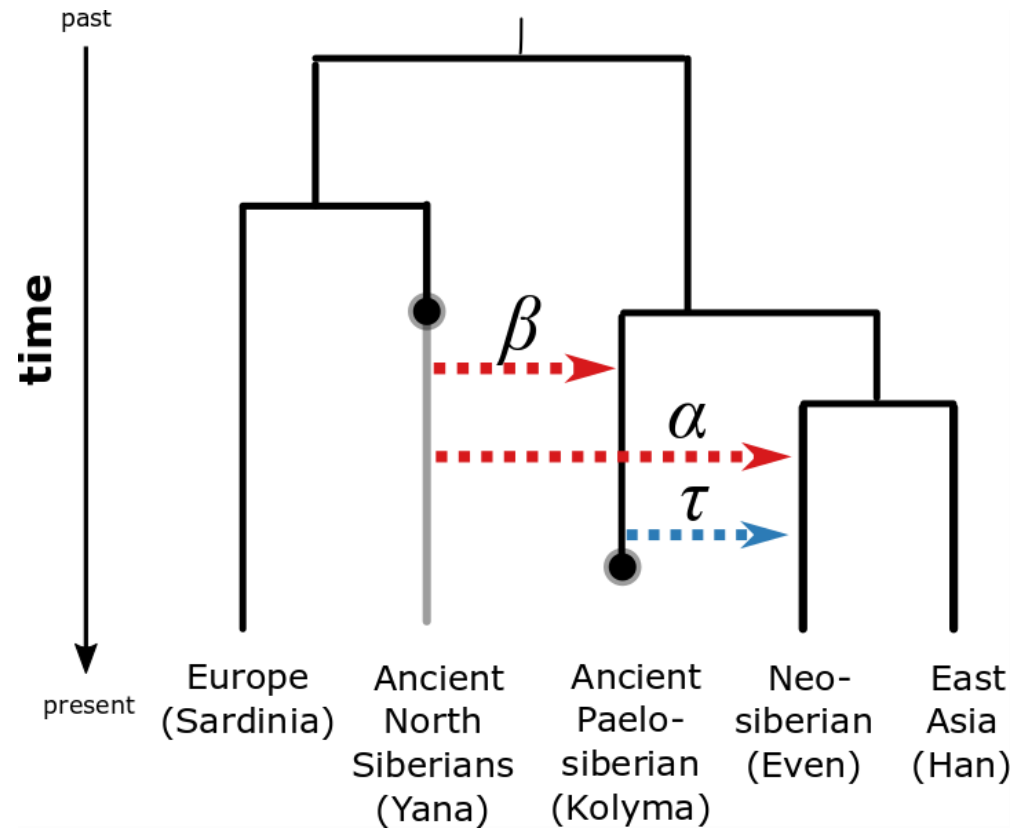
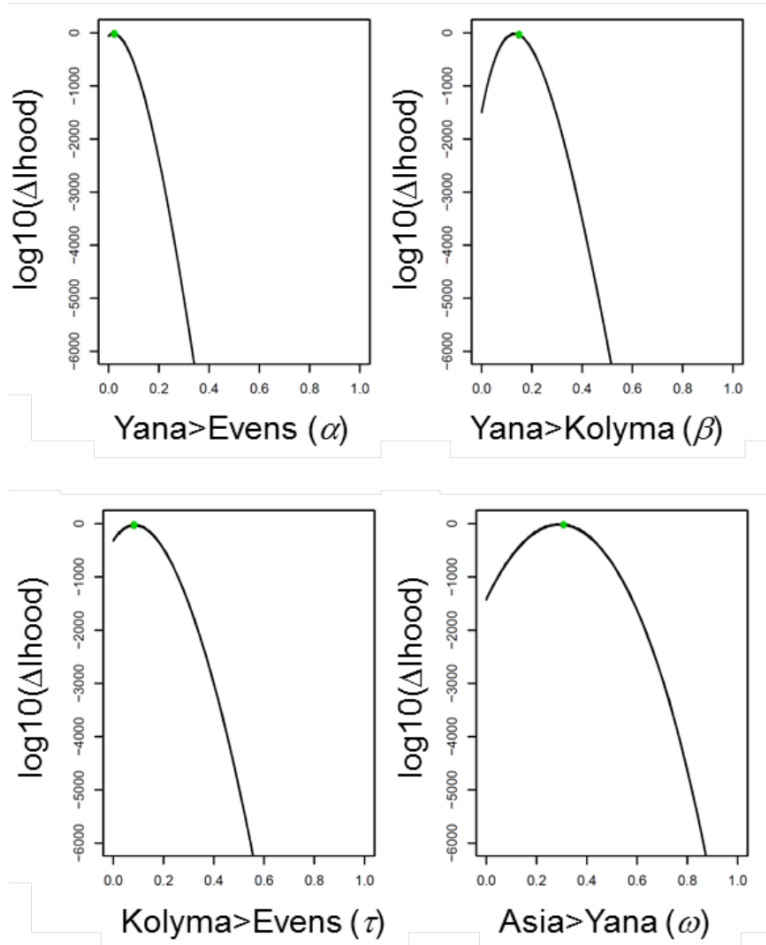


# Data: Marginal 2D-SFS

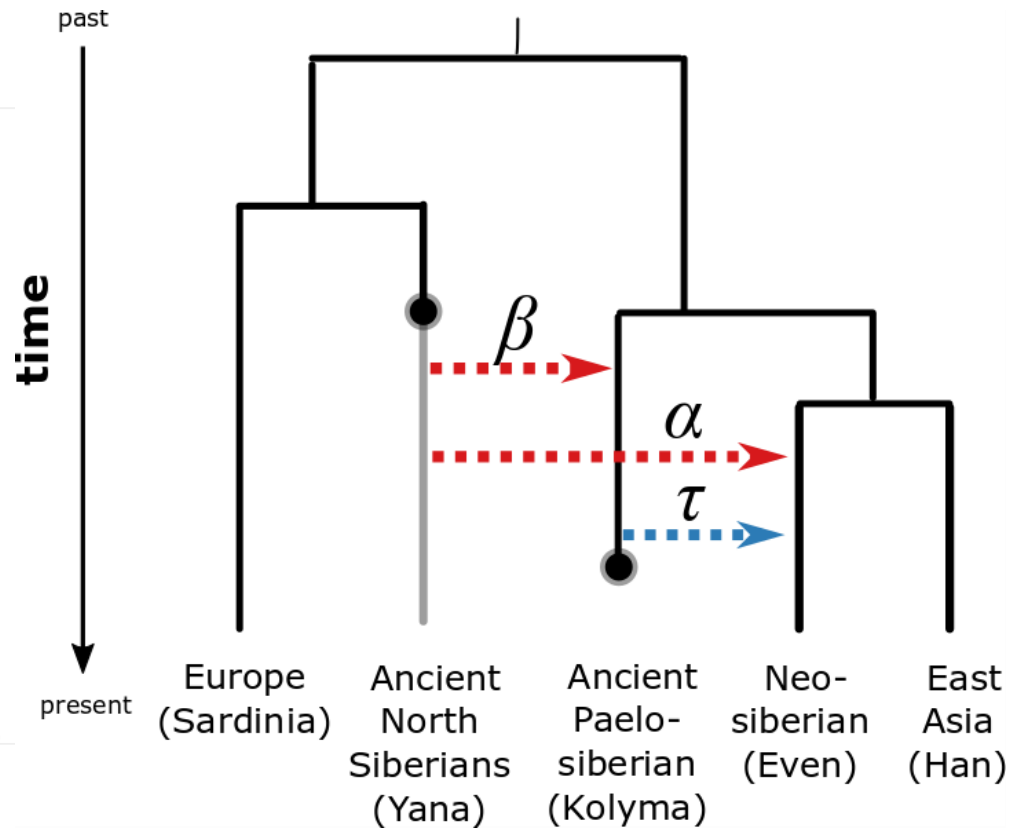
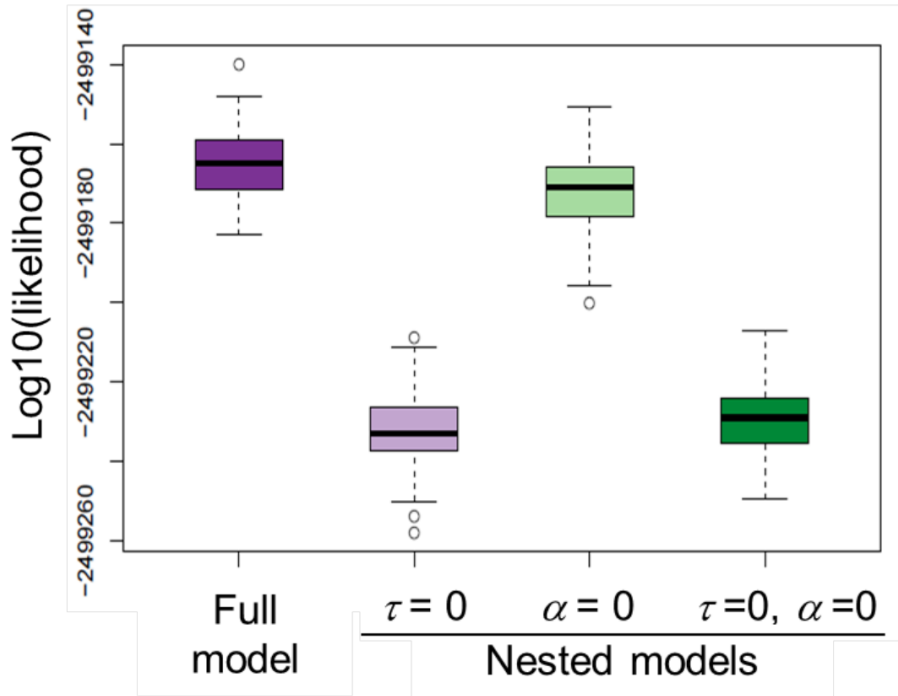


**Observed Data:** Joint 5 population site-frequency spectrum (1125 entries) obtained from 625 blocks of 1Mb (~1.5 Million SNP)

# Model comparison and likelihood profiles consistent with replacement with gene flow



# Model comparison and likelihood profiles consistent with replacement with gene flow



© Leonardo Barzagli



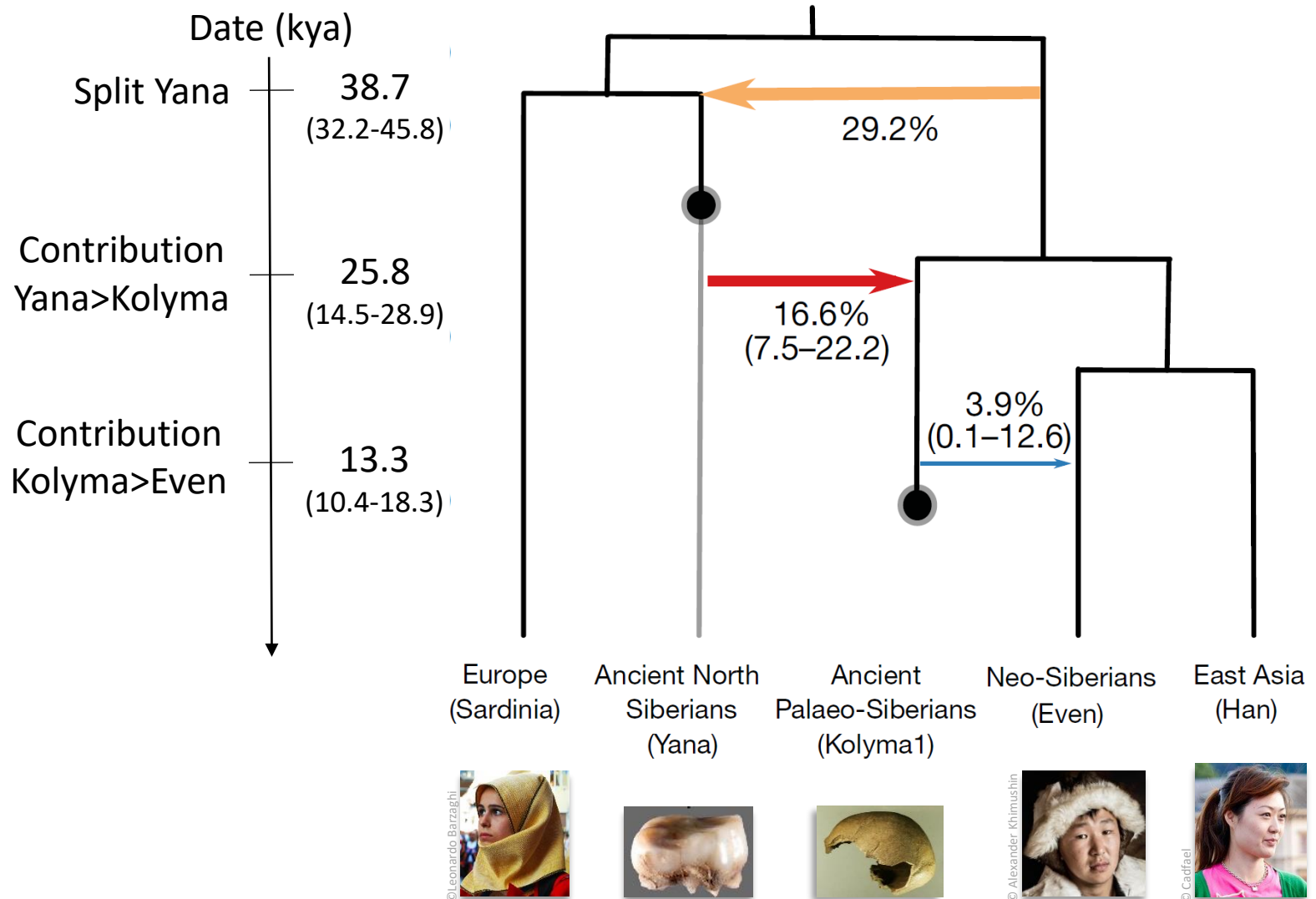
© Alexander Khimushin



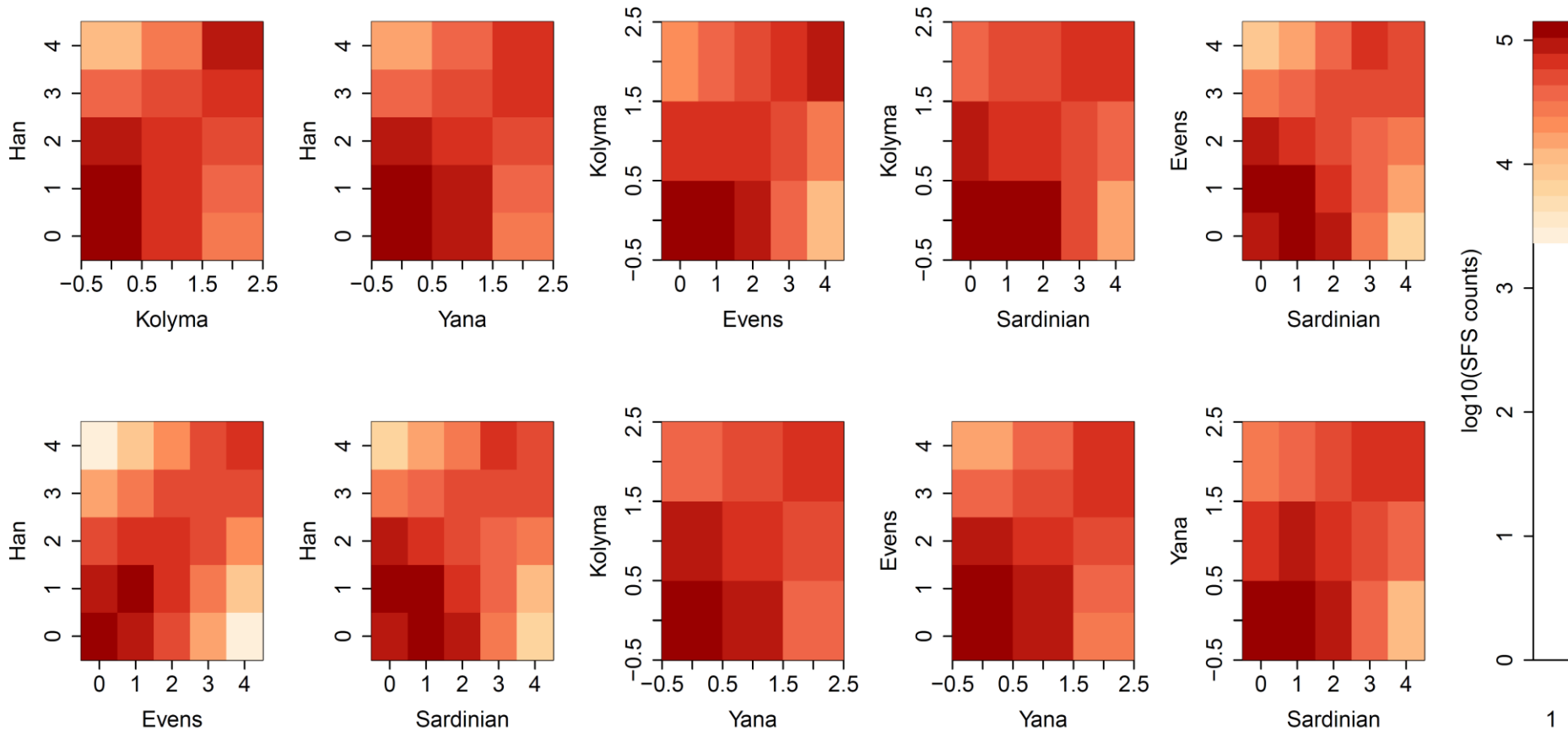
© Carfael



# Estimates of best nested model indicate replacement with gene flow

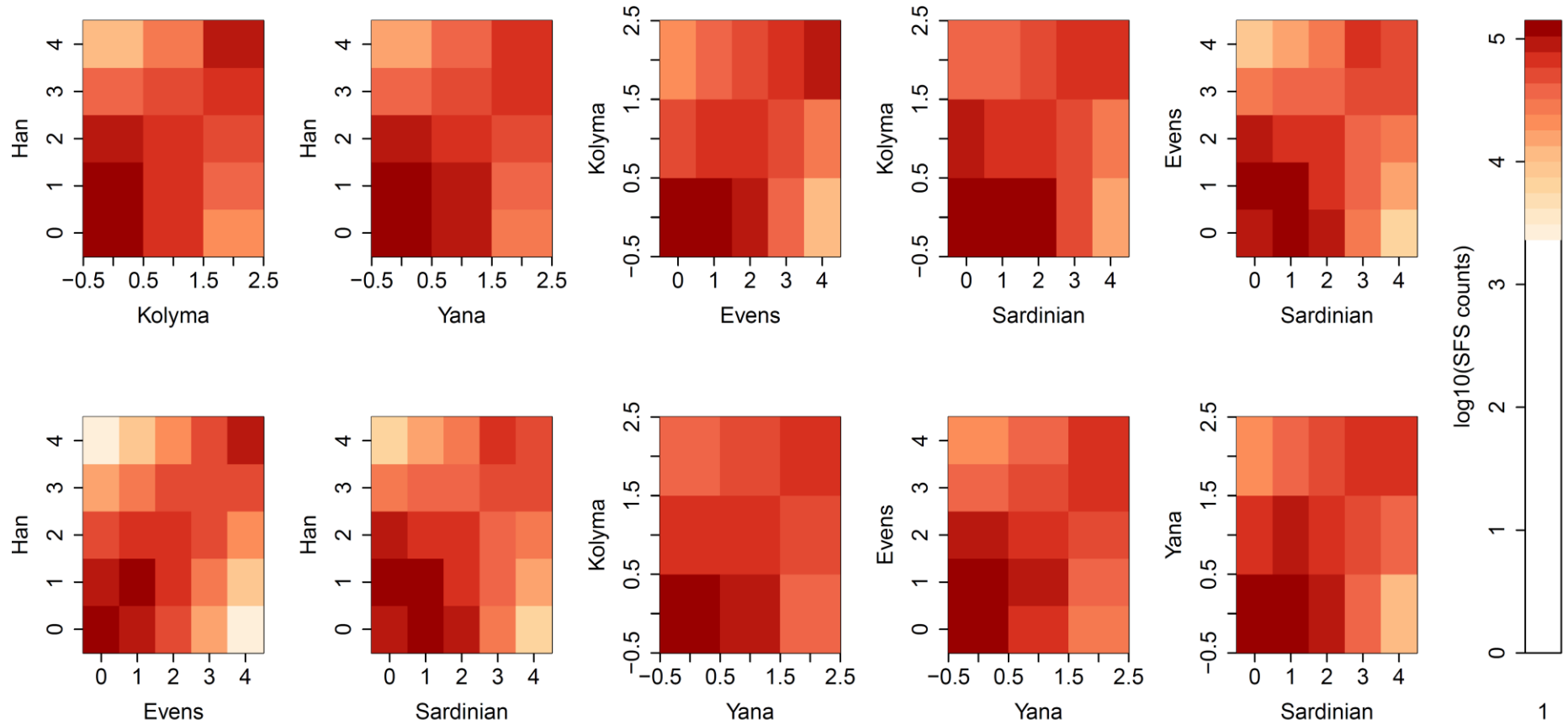


# Fit of expected SFS to observed data



**Expected SFS** according to the parameters that maximize the likelihood

# Fit of expected SFS to observed data



**Observed SFS**

# Coat color adaptation in deer mice *Peromyscus maniculatus*

- Habitat (soil color) correlated with coat phenotype
- Field experiments suggest that light color confers selective advantage against visually hunting predators
- Nebraska Sand Hills were formed 8000 to 15,000 years ago

On Sand Hills



Off Sand Hills



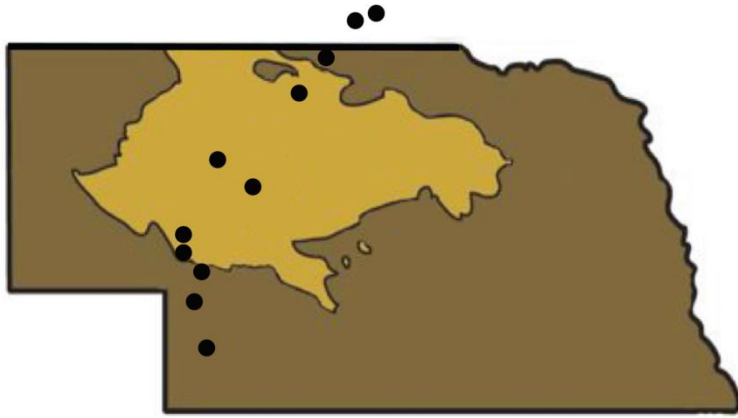
Linnen et al (2013) Science

Pfeifer\*, Laurent\*, Sousa\* et al (2018) MBE

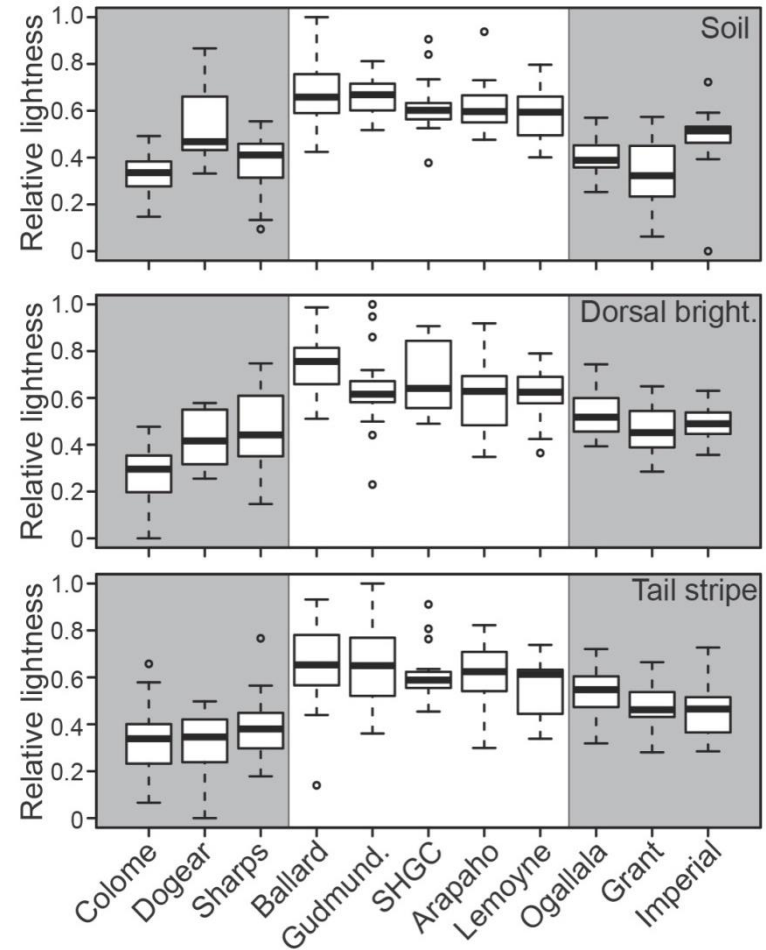
# A transect across the Sand Hills (ON and OFF)

## Sample locations “off” and “on” the Sand Hills

- 11 populations
- 330 individuals

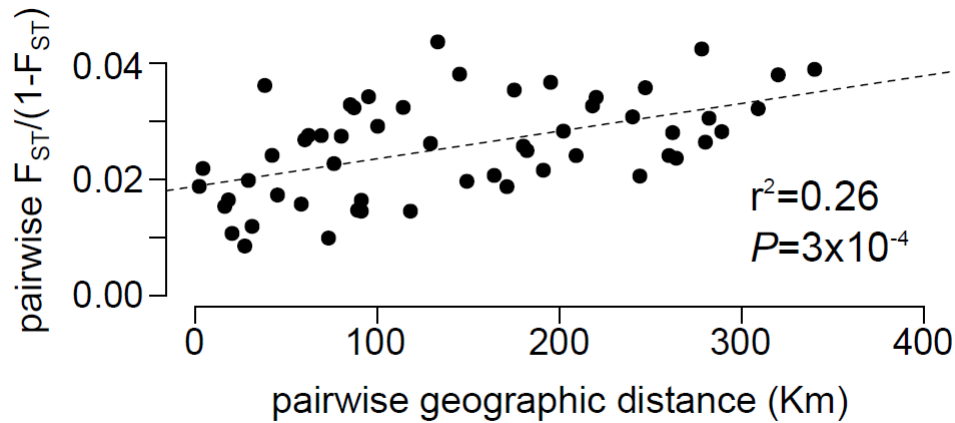


- Genomic data (NGS) data
  - Target 10,000 random 1.5kb regions
  - 185kbp region comprising the *Agouti* gene
- Phenotypic data for each individual



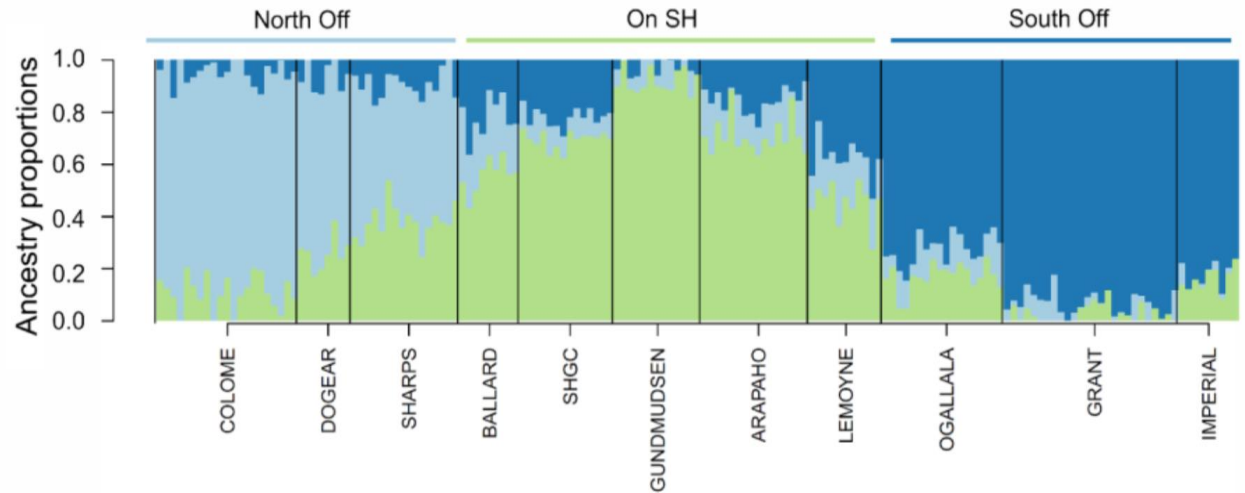
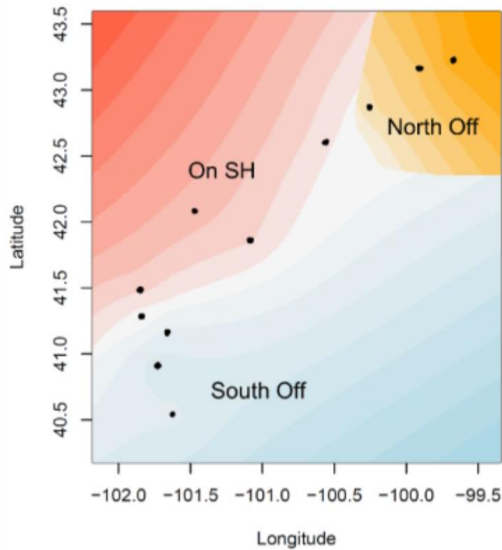


# Evidence for isolation by distance but three groups



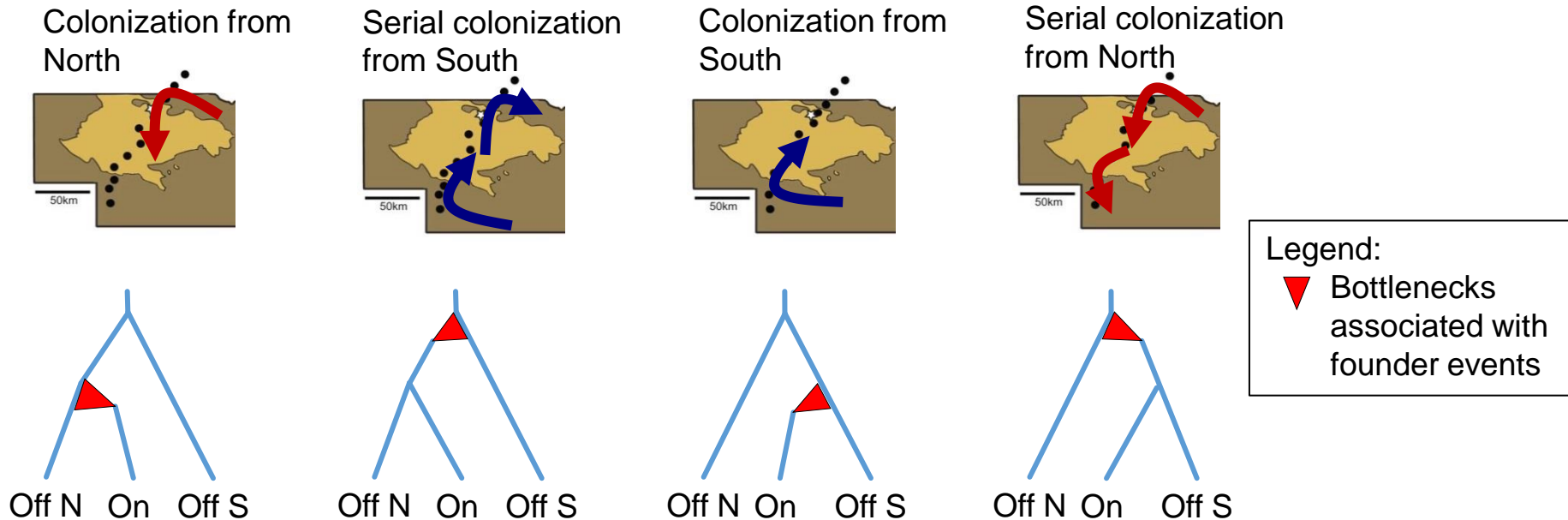
Geographically closer samples are genetically more similar

Ancestry coefficients



# Model-based inference

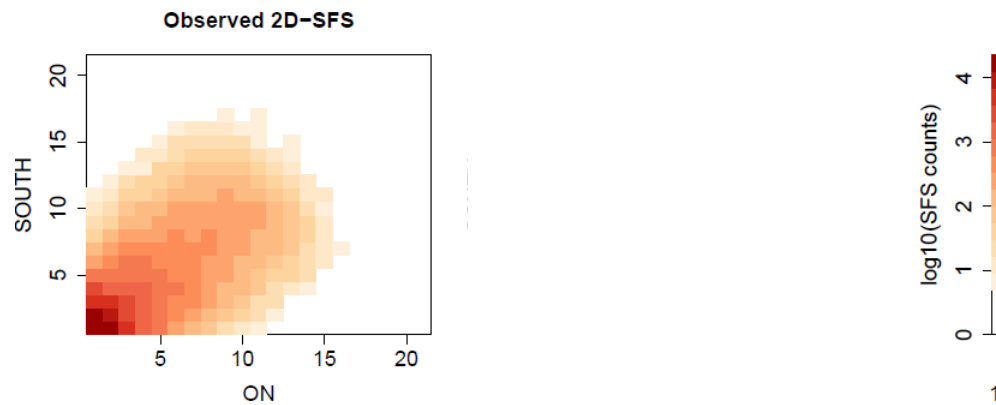
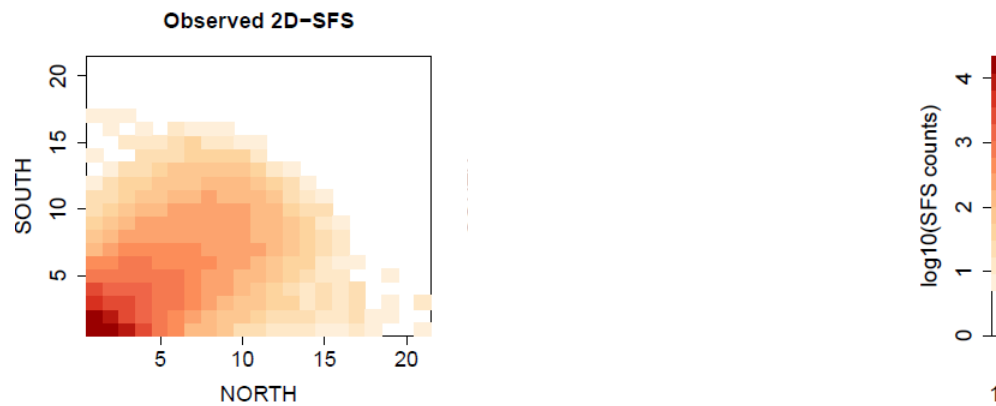
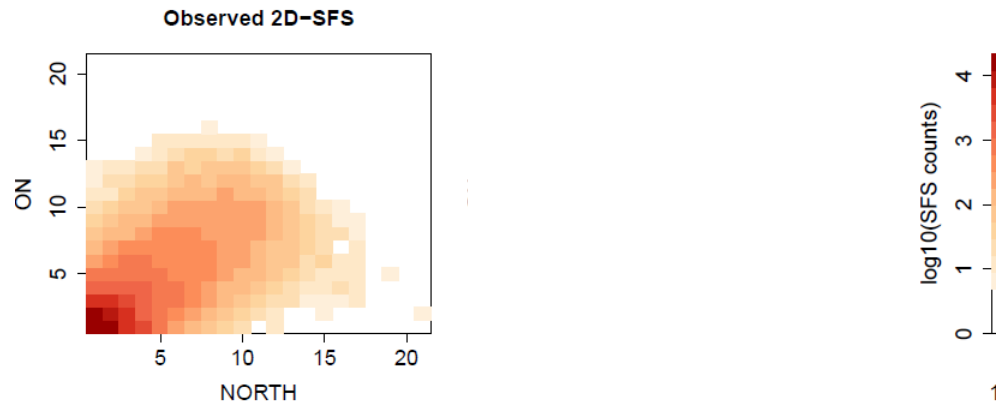
Is there evidence of gene flow between Off and On the Sand Hills?



Estimates based on the joint **3D site frequency spectrum (SFS)**:  
- folded SFS with 140,358 SNPs

## Deer mice: Pairwise marginal 2D SFS

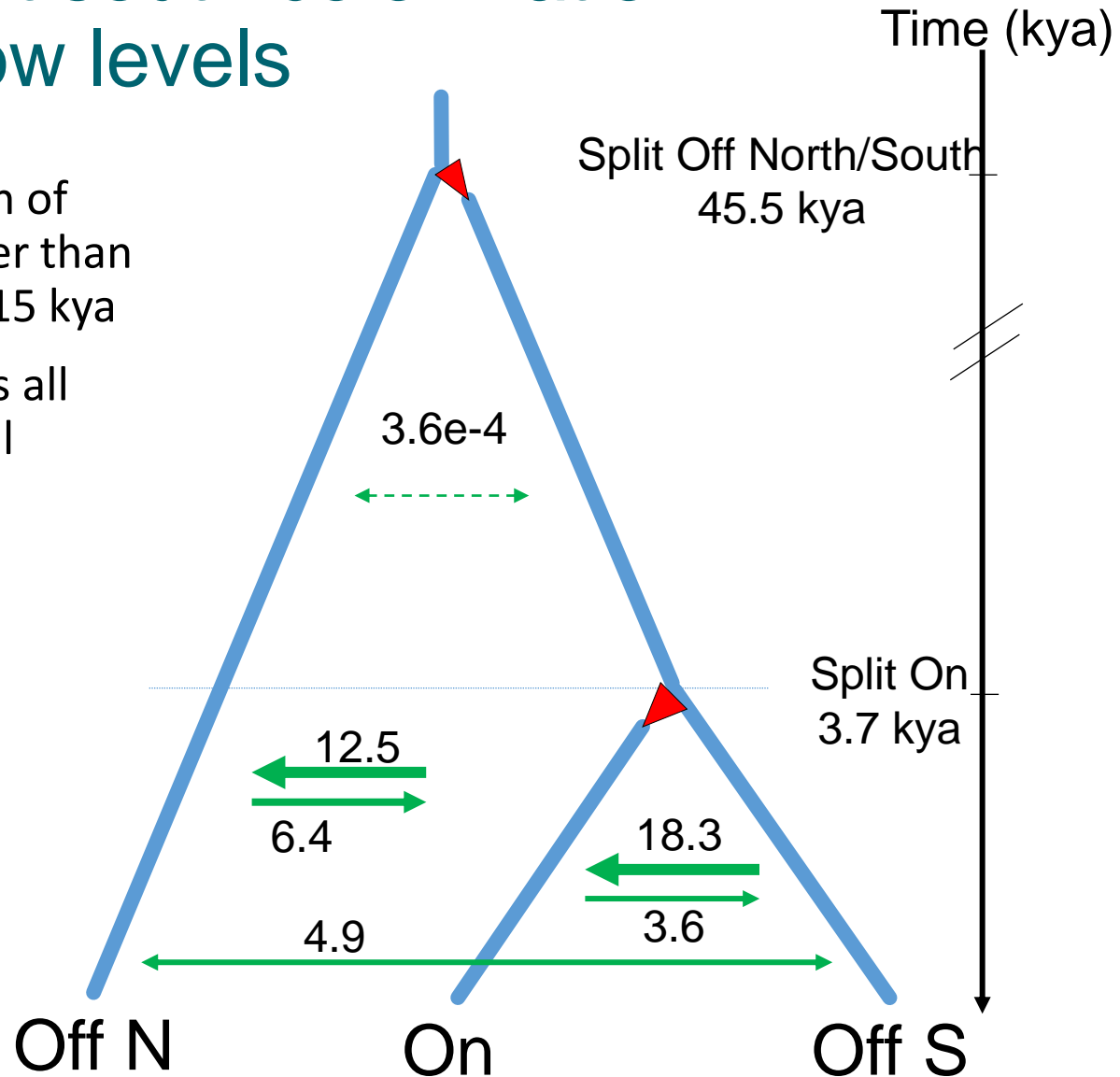
Since we did not have an outgroup we used the folded SFS



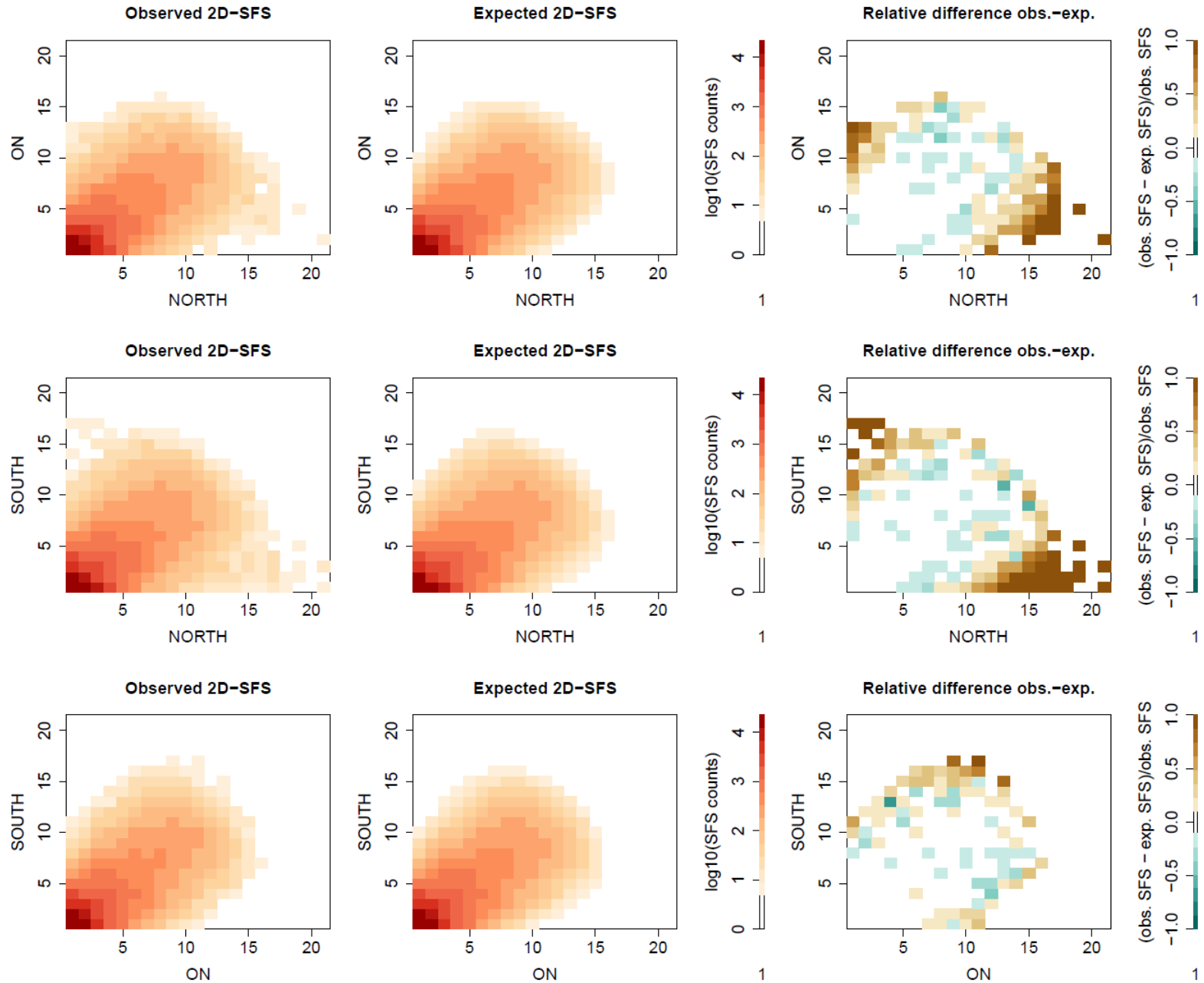
# Estimates support south colonization and high gene flow levels

- Recent time of colonization of Sand Hills ~3-5 kya, younger than formation of Sand Hills 8-15 kya
- High migration rates across all populations, inferred for all models

Migration rates above/below arrows in units of  $2Nm$ , i.e. average number of immigrants per generation.



# Deer mice: Model fit to marginal SFS



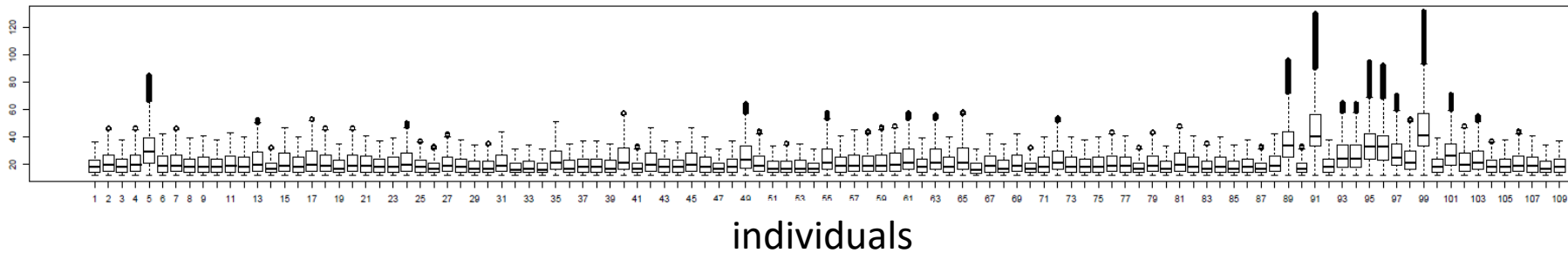
# Some lessons I learned working with the deer mice data

- Be careful when applying Hardy-Weinberg filters to your data!
- Be careful when filtering on depth of coverage applying the same thresholds for all individuals!

# The depth of coverage varied considerably across individuals

DP (depth of coverage)

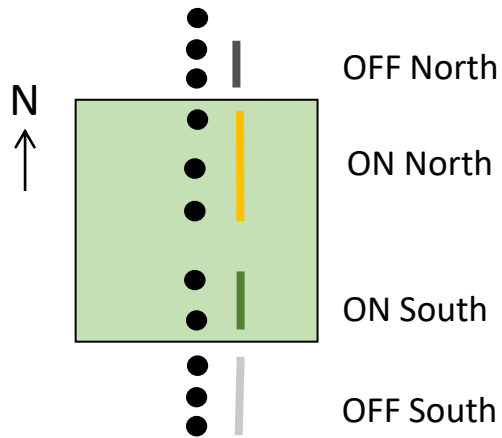
Example of the DP distribution for each individuals, for individuals with mean DP>12



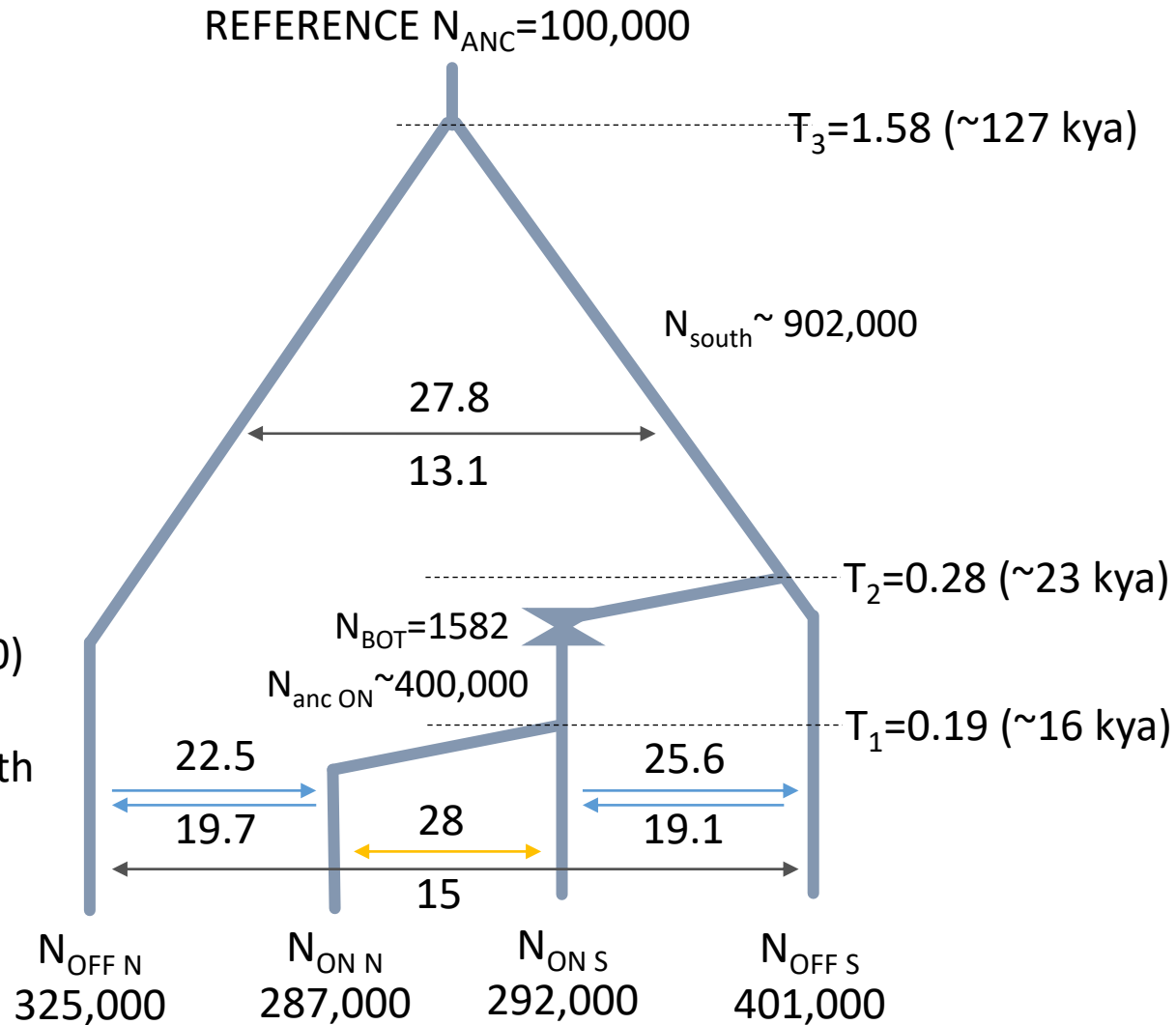
- Applying the same threshold for all individuals can lead to biases
- Apply a filter on DP for each individual

# Effect of HW filtering on demographic estimates

Removing sites with HWE excess and deficit leads to different estimates



- High migration between all groups of populations ( $2Nm \sim 20$ )
- No evidence of a strong bottleneck signal associated with colonization of SH





# Sawflies and RAD data

## MOLECULAR ECOLOGY

Molecular Ecology (2016)

doi: 10.1111/mec.13972

### History, geography and host use shape genomewide patterns of genetic variation in the redheaded pine sawfly (*Neodiprion lecontei*)

ROBIN K. BAGLEY,\* VITOR C. SOUSA,† MATTHEW L. NIEMILLER‡ and CATHERINE R. LINNEN\*

*\*Department of Biology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506, USA, †cE3c - Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, 1749-016 Lisboa, Portugal, ‡Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL 61820, USA*

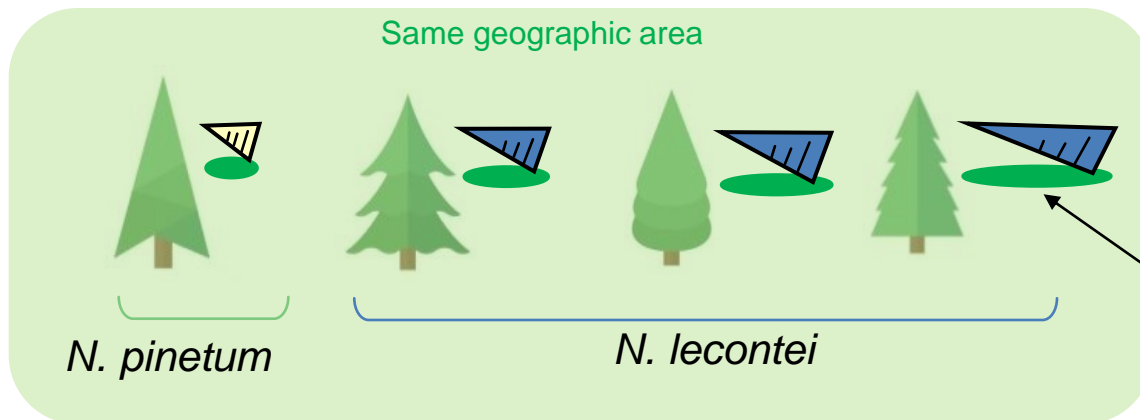
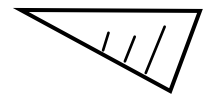


# Sawflies *Neodiprion lecontei*

- Hymenoptera
- Plant-feeding insects
- Pine tree specialists

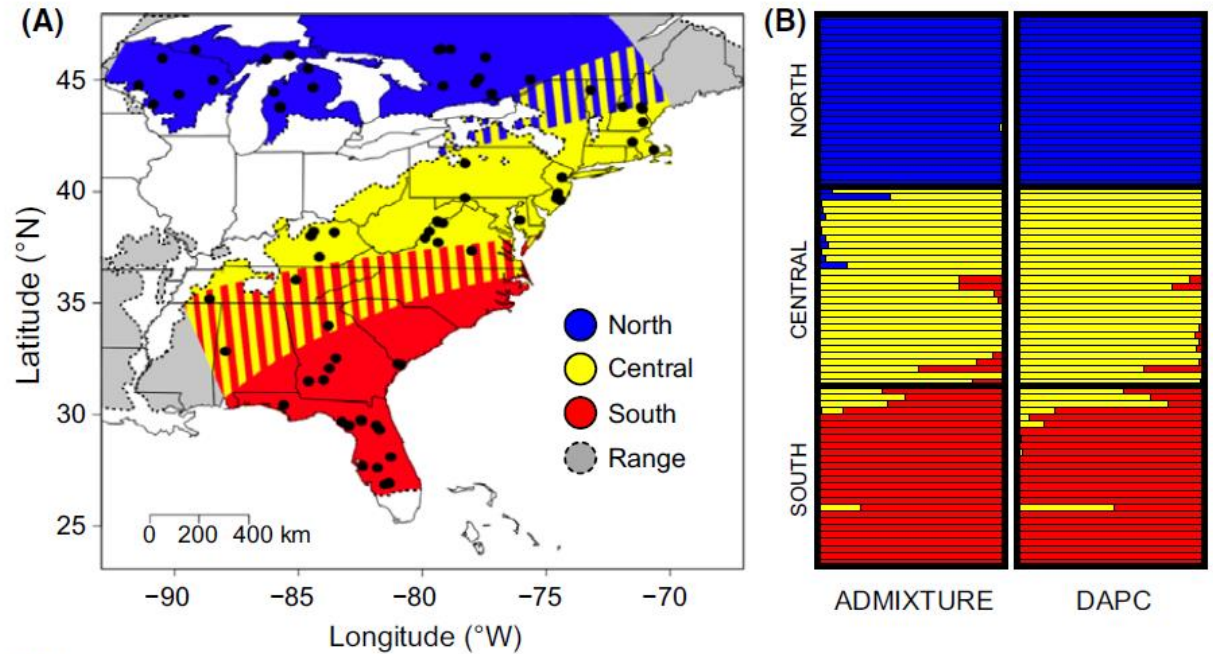


Ovipositor  
(saw)



# ddRAD seq data

- 80 individuals from 77 localities and 13 host species
- 100 bp paired-end reads, mapped to reference genome of *N. lencontei*
- Depth of coverage filter DP>10

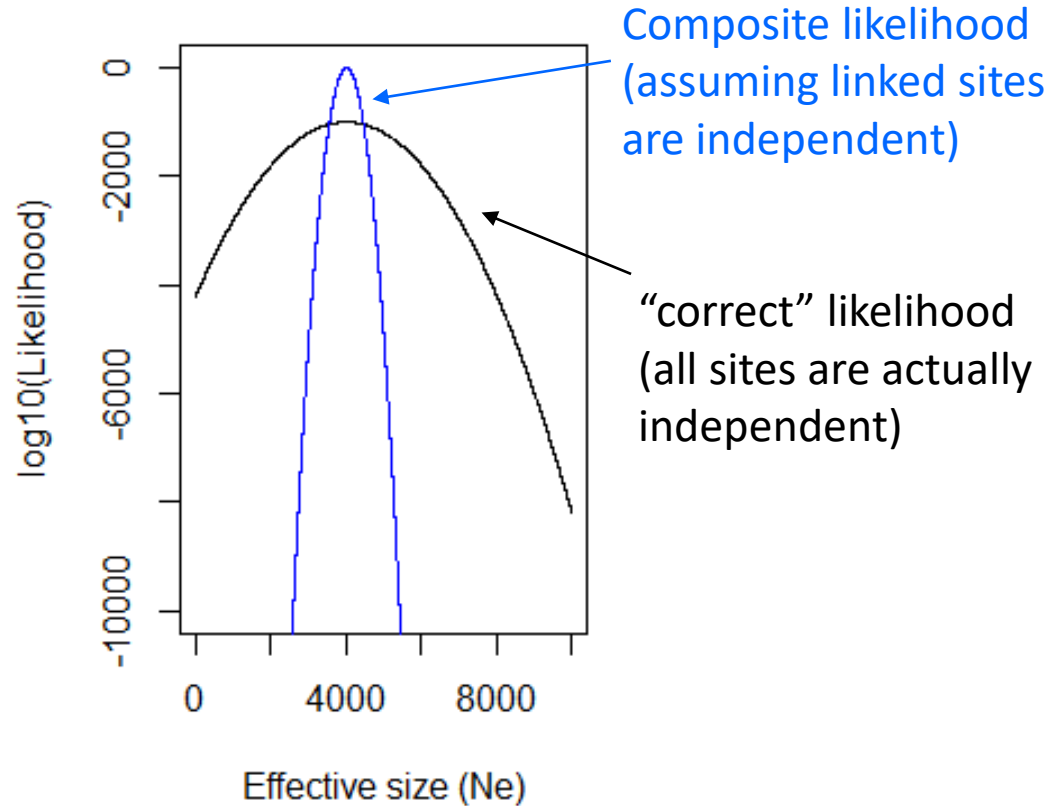


Given the detected three groups (North, Central, South):

- What is the the population tree topology?
- What are the split times?
- What are the migration levels among groups?

# Comparing models with composite likelihoods

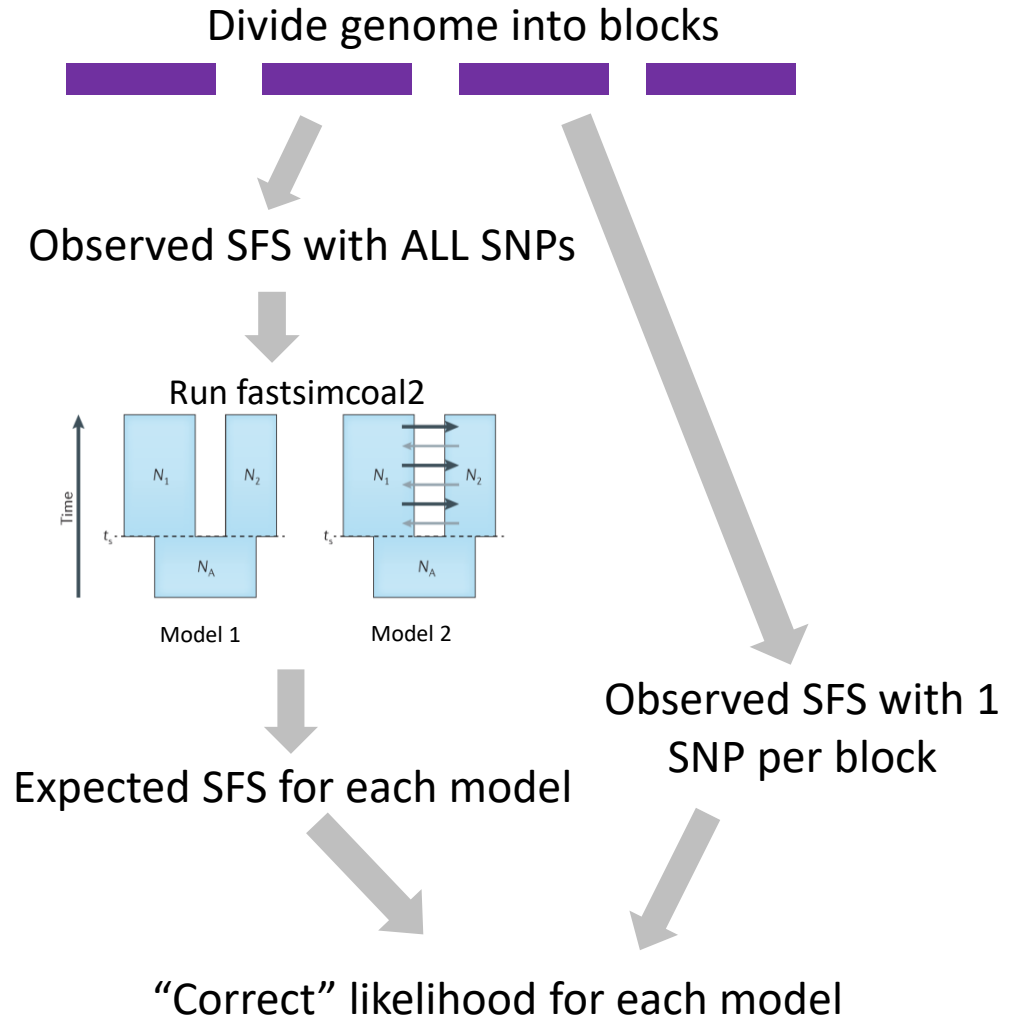
- Fastsimcoal2 likelihood is “correct” if all SNPs are independent
- We can then compare the model likelihoods using Akaike Information Criterion (AIC)



Composite likelihood provide unbiased maximum likelihood parameter estimates, but the likelihoods are inflated

# A strategy to compare models

1. Divide the dataset into LD blocks.
2. Create a dataset with all SNPs (including linked SNPs)
3. For each model, obtain the parameters that maximize the likelihood (this is ok even with linked sites!) and the corresponding expected SFS
4. Create a dataset with “independent” SNPs (1 SNP per RAD tag)
5. Given the expected SFS of each model, compute the “correct” likelihood for each model with the dataset with independent SNPs
6. Compare models with AIC

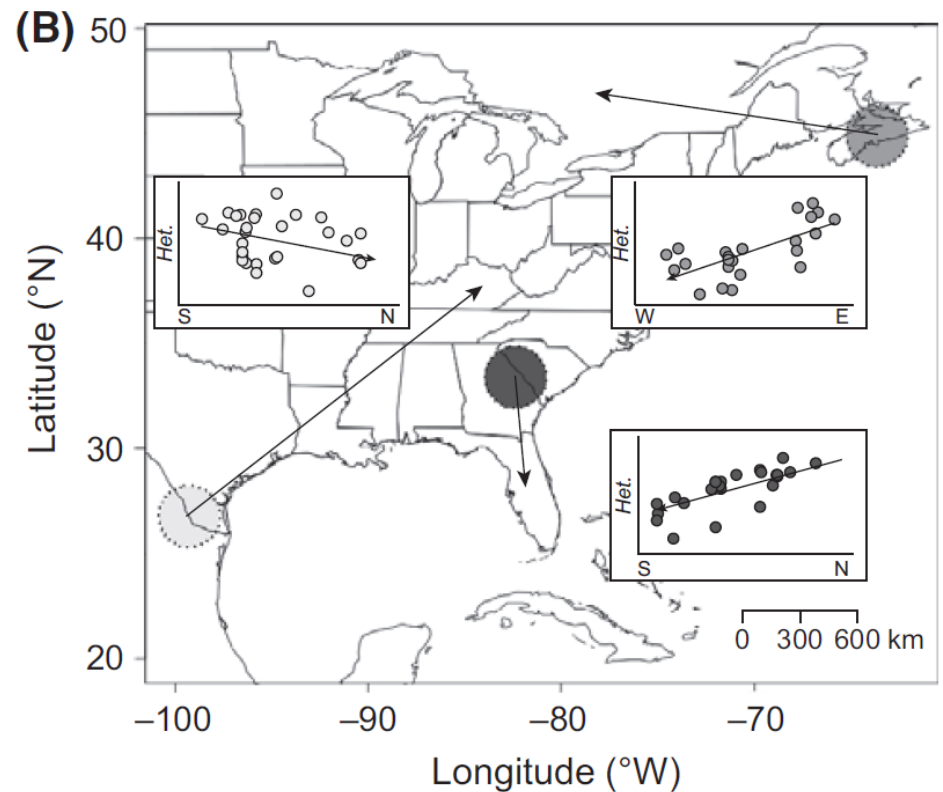
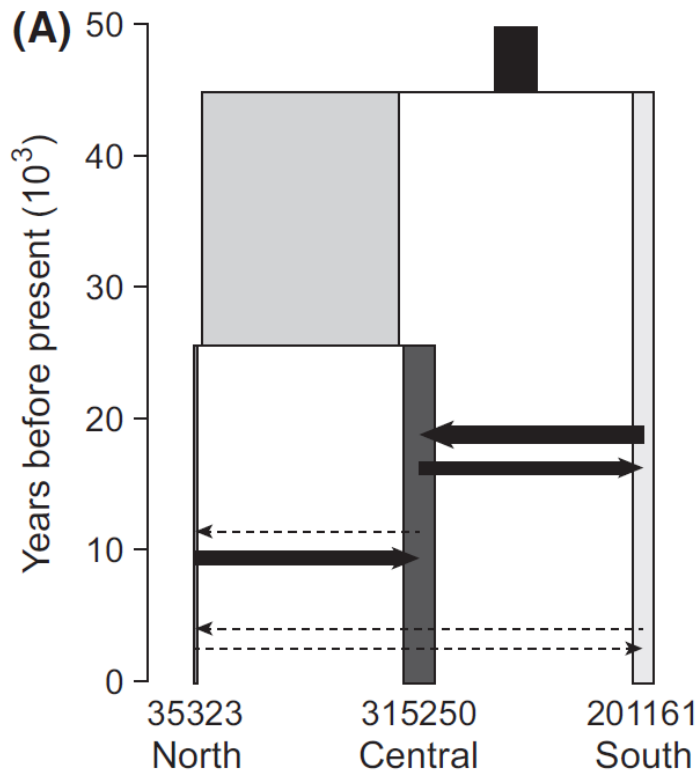


# Comparing alternative models

**Table 2** Summary of the likelihoods for the sixteen demographic models tested. Lhood (ALL SNPs) and Lhood (1 SNP) correspond to the mean likelihood computed with the data sets containing ‘all SNPs’ (including monomorphic sites) and a ‘single SNP’ (without monomorphic sites) per RAD locus, respectively. Mean likelihoods were computed based on 100 expected site frequency spectra simulated according to the parameters that maximized the likelihood of each model. Topology names for each model are as indicated in Fig. S1 (Supporting information). AIC scores and relative likelihoods (Akaike’s weight of evidence) were calculated based on the ‘single SNP’ data set following Excoffier *et al.* 2013.

Topology	Migration allowed?	Exponential growth?	North bottleneck?	log <sub>10</sub> (Lhood) ALL SNPs	log <sub>10</sub> (Lhood) 1 SNP	# Parameters	AIC	ΔAIC	Relative likelihood
North–South	No	No	No	−46502.02	−7381.4	7	34006.70	75.69	0.000
North–Central	No	No	No	−46475.82	−7369.0	7	33949.44	18.43	0.000
South–Central	No	No	No	−46502.18	−7381.6	7	34007.60	76.59	0.000
Trifurcation	No	No	No	−46501.54	−7380.4	5	33998.07	67.06	0.000
North–South	Yes	No	No	−46470.49	−7365.0	15	33947.25	16.24	~0.000
North–Central	Yes	No	No	−46462.24	−7361.5	15	33931.01	0.00	0.851
South–Central	Yes	No	No	−46467.69	−7363.8	15	33941.57	10.56	0.004
Trifurcation	Yes	No	No	−46470.28	−7364.7	11	33937.93	6.91	0.027
North–South	Yes	Yes	No	−46469.48	−7362.8	18	33942.91	11.90	0.002
North–Central	Yes	Yes	No	−46461.17	−7361.7	18	33937.82	6.80	0.028
South–Central	Yes	Yes	No	−46463.73	−7363.9	18	33948.15	17.13	~0.000
Trifurcation	Yes	Yes	No	−46467.72	−7363.3	14	33937.39	6.37	0.035
North–South	Yes	Yes	Yes	−46467.45	−7361.5	20	33940.86	9.85	0.006
North–Central	Yes	Yes	Yes	−46461.25	−7362.1	20	33943.82	12.81	0.001
South–Central	Yes	Yes	Yes	−46463.58	−7364.1	20	33953.08	22.07	0.000
Trifurcation	Yes	Yes	Yes	−46466.06	−7362.4	16	33936.93	5.92	0.044

# Estimates favors a scenario where North and Central diverged more recently with asymmetric gene flow



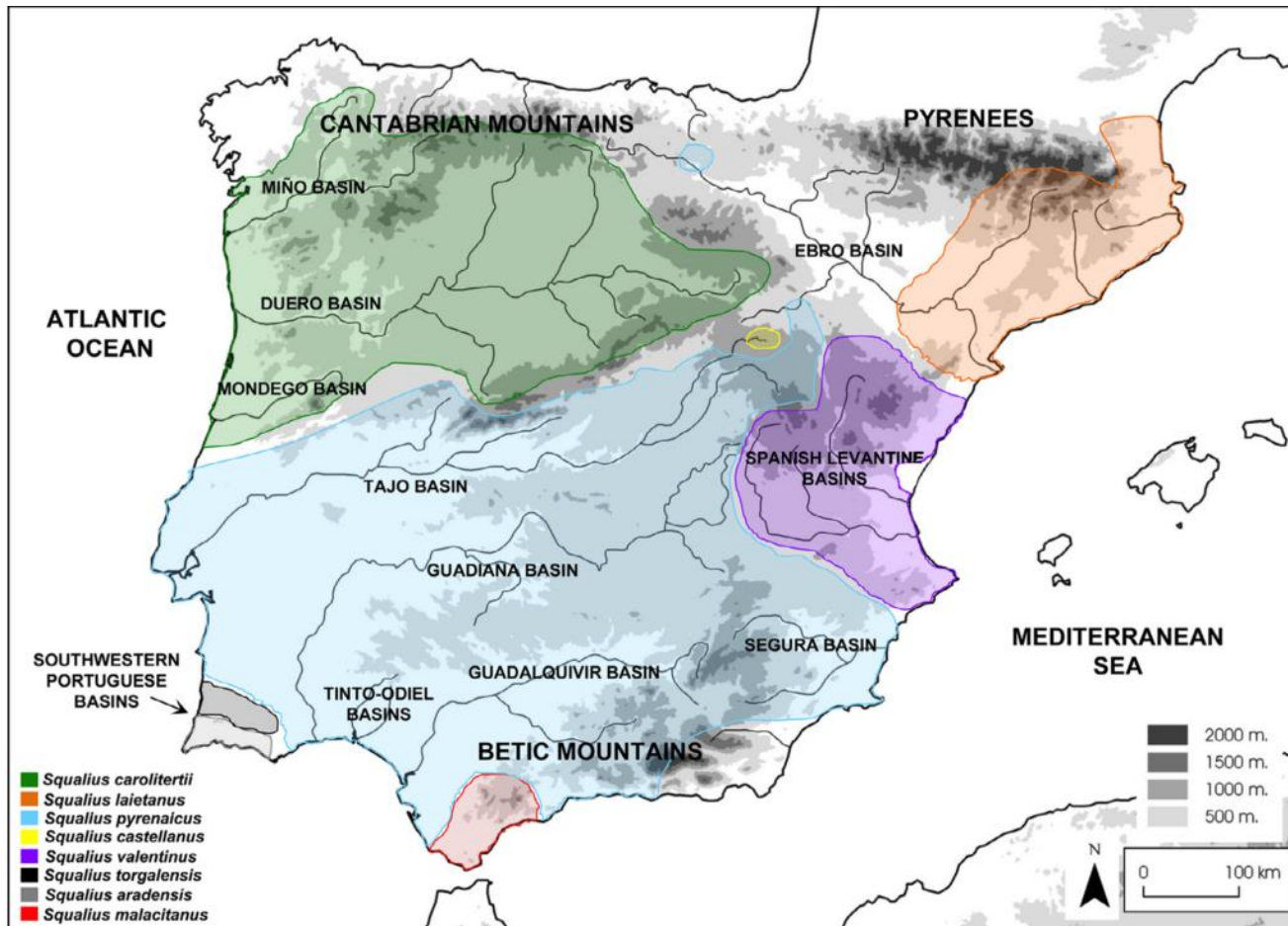
The inferred population tree topology and divergence times are consistent with divergence and range expansion from different refugia after LGM



# Summary sawflies

- Fastsimcoal2 can be applied to RAD seq data
- We used a strategy to obtain (as close as possible) the “correct” likelihood by dividing the data into blocks, inferring the expected SFS for each model with ALL SNPs, and then re-computing the “true” likelihood with independent SNPs (1 SNP per block)
- Despite the reduced number of SNPs we were able to discriminate models based on their likelihoods

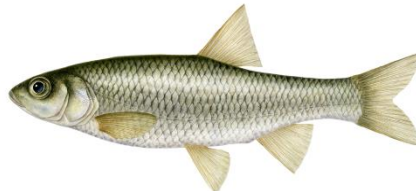
# Inferring admixture in freshwater fish species



# GBS data (48 individuals, 23,562 SNPs with ~37% missing data)



*S. carolitertii*



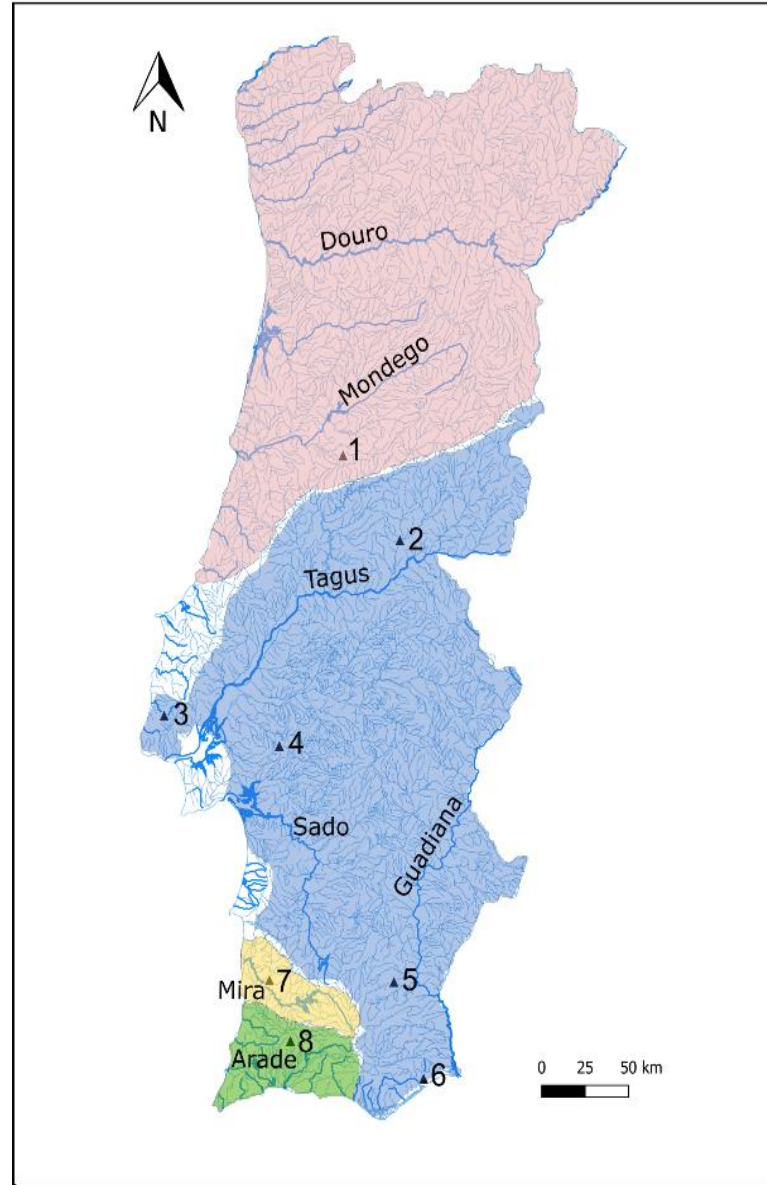
*S. pyrenaicus*



*S. torgalensis*



*S. aradensis*

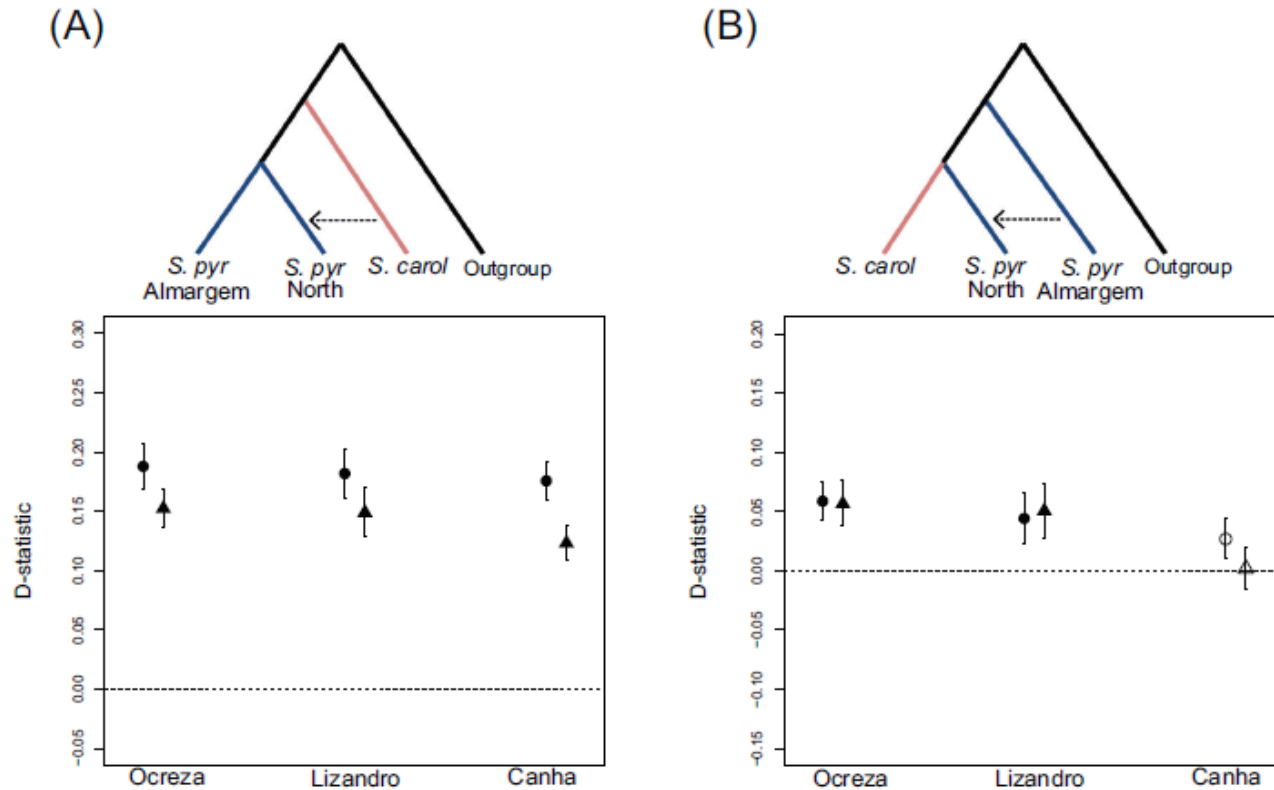


## Sampling locations:

- 1. Mondego *S. carolitertii*
- 2. Ocreza
- 3. Lizandro *S. pyrenaicus North*
- 4. Canha
- 5. Guadiana *S. pyrenaicus South*
- 6. Almagem
- 7. Mira *S. torgalensis*
- 8. Arade *S. aradensis*



# D-statistic (ABBA-BABA)

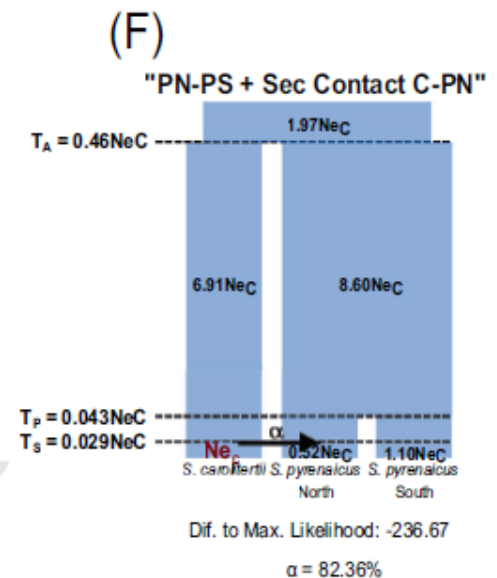
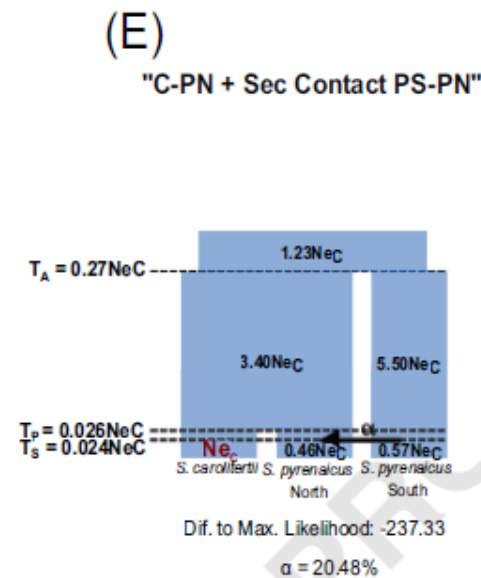
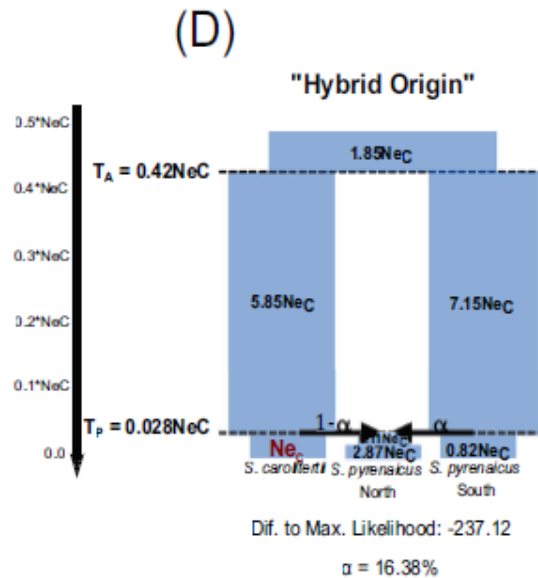
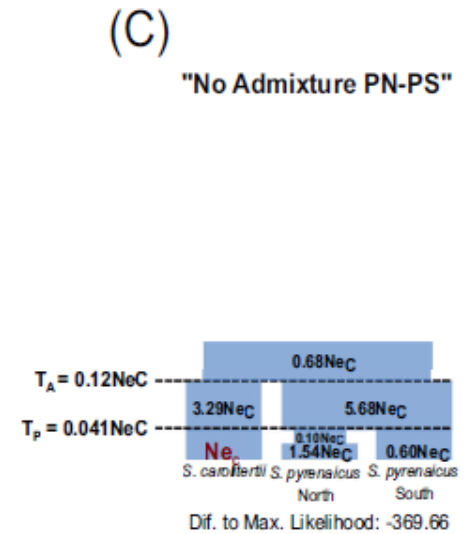
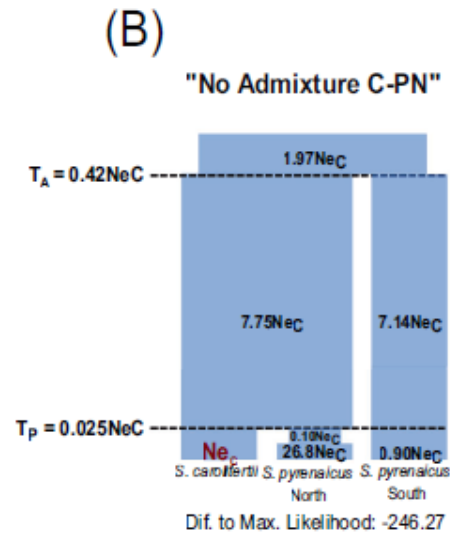
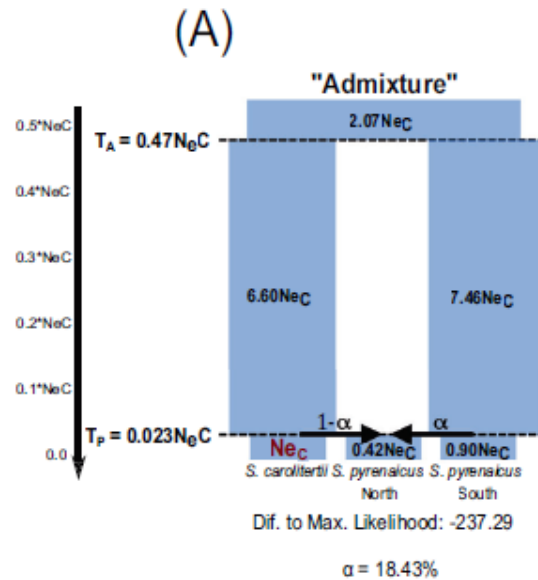


D-statistic indicates that the relationship cannot be described by a bifurcating tree

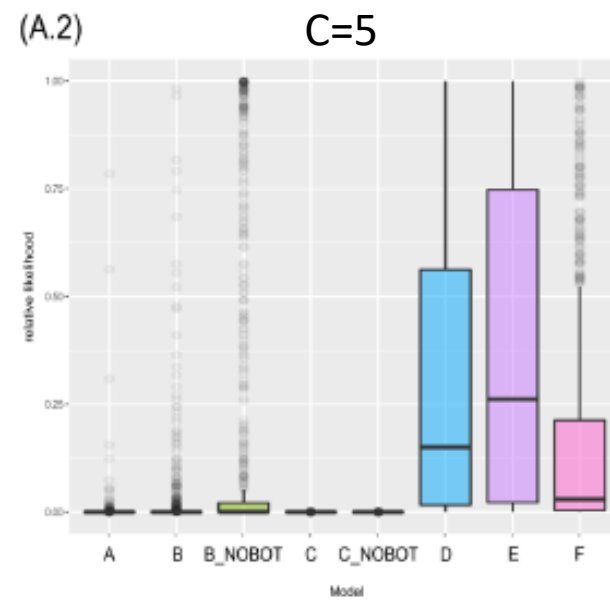
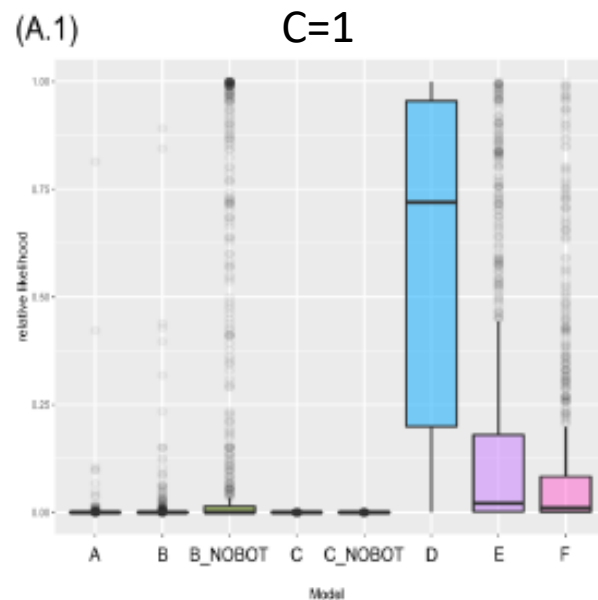
# Pairwise 2D-folded SFS without monomorphic sites – inference based on relative parameters

- DP>10x
- Dowsampling 3 individuals from P1 (*S. carolitertii*), 4 individuals from H (*S. pyrenaicus North*), 3 individuals from P2 (*S. pyrenaicus South*)
- 8,758 SNPs – very small dataset!
- Folded SFS according to minor allele across the 3 populations
- Size of the three pairwise 2D-SFS: 175 entries

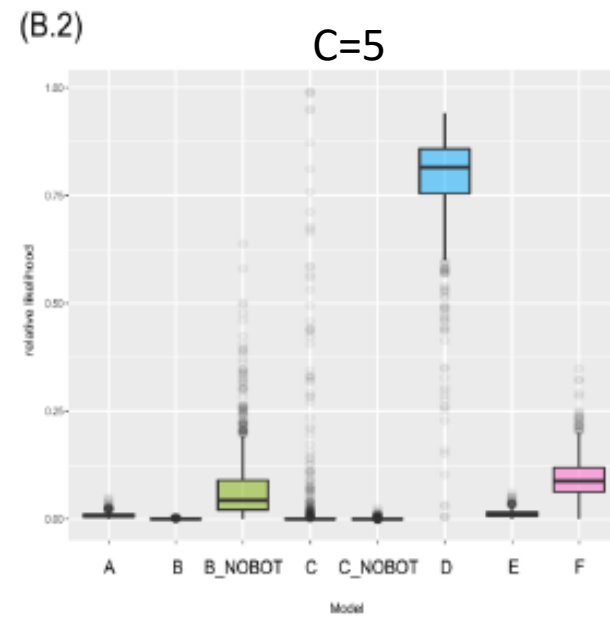
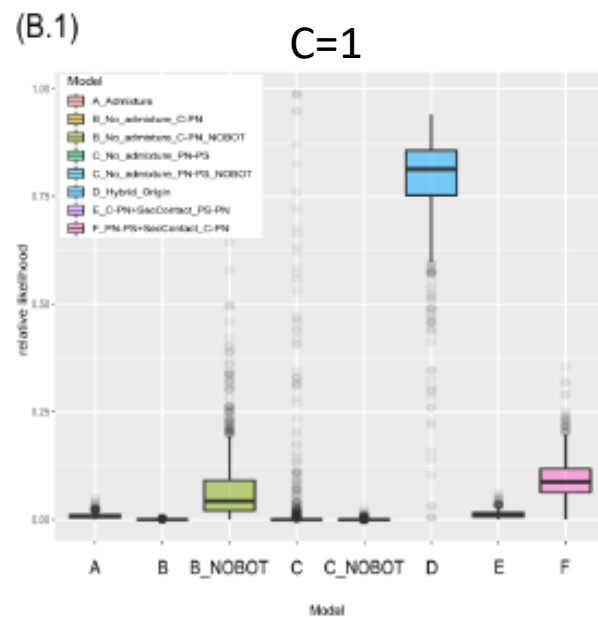
# Relative parameter estimates



3D-SFS including linked sites



3D-SFS 1SNP per GBS locus



**Figure S11– Relative likelihoods of demographic models based on AIC. Comparison of 8 models, including models B and C without bottlenecks, with 1000 bootstrap replicates. (A) Boxplots of relative likelihoods based on 3D-SFS with all SNPs per block with  $n=3$  *S. carolitertii*,  $n=4$  *S. pyrenaicus* North and  $n=3$  *S. pyrenaicus* South individuals. Size of the joint 3D-SFS is SFSSize=441.**

# Protocol for model comparison based on AIC when we have independent SNPs


- Get the observed SFS
- Define the alternative models
- Perform 50-100 runs under each model
- Select the runs with maximum likelihood under each model
- Compute the AIC (Akaike information criteria) for each model based on dataset with unlinked SNPs
- Select the model with minimum AIC



# Demography and linked selection


Research article

## Background selection as null hypothesis in population genomics: insights and challenges from *Drosophila* studies

Josep M. Comeron 

Published: 06 November 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2016.0471>


## The Impact of Purifying and Background Selection on the Inference of Population History: Problems and Prospects


Parul Johri , Kellen Riall, Hannes Becher, Laurent Excoffier, Brian Charlesworth, Jeffrey D. Jensen

*Molecular Biology and Evolution*, Volume 38, Issue 7, July 2021, Pages 2986–3003, <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msab050>

**Published:** 16 February 2021





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Research Article


Genetics and Genomics

## Background selection and biased gene conversion affect more than 95% of the human genome and bias demographic inferences

Fanny Pouyet , Simon Aeschbacher, Alexandre Thiéry, Laurent Excoffier 


University of Bern, Switzerland; Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Switzerland; University of Zurich, Switzerland

Aug 20, 2018 · <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.36317>  

 OPEN ACCESS

CONSENSUS VIEW

## Recommendations for improving statistical inference in population genomics

Parul Johri, Charles F. Aquadro, Mark Beaumont, Brian Charlesworth, Laurent Excoffier, Adam Eyre-Walker, Peter D. Keightley, Michael Lynch, Gil McVean, Bret A. Payseur, Susanne P. Pfeifer, Wolfgang Stephan, Jeffrey D. Jensen 

Published: May 31, 2022 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3001669>

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# Acknowledgements



CM<sub>p</sub>G

Laurent Excoffier



u<sup>b</sup>

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## Thank you!

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