

Modeling cancer evolution from genomic data

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Cancer is an evolutionary process



Genetic progression

Clonal expansion



Intra-tumor heterogeneity



Some challenges

- 1. Mutation calling
- 2. Predicting the phenotypic effects of mutations
- 3. Reconstructing the evolutionary history of a tumor
- 4. Predicting cancer evolution and progression

Phylogenetic vs. oncogenetic models

Phylogenetic models

Oncogenetic models







SCITE: Tree inference for single-cell data

Katharina Jahn, Jack Kuipers (RECOMB 2016)

Intra-tumor phylogeny



Observation error



$$P(D_{ij} = 1 | E_{ij} = 0) = \alpha, \quad P(D_{ij} = 0 | E_{ij} = 0) = (1 - \alpha)$$
$$P(D_{ij} = 0 | E_{ij} = 1) = \beta, \quad P(D_{ij} = 1 | E_{ij} = 1) = (1 - \beta)$$

Likelihood

- n mutations, m samples
- Tree topology, T
- Attachment of samples, *σ*
- Error rates, $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\alpha, \beta)$
- Likelihood:





Posterior:

$$P(T, \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\theta} | D) \propto P(D | T, \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \underbrace{P(T, \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\theta})}_{P(\boldsymbol{\sigma} | T, \boldsymbol{\theta}) P(T, \boldsymbol{\theta})}$$

Attachment of samples



$$\frac{P(T, \boldsymbol{\theta}|D)}{P(T, \boldsymbol{\theta})} \propto \sum_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \prod_{j=1}^{m} \left[\prod_{i=1}^{n} P(D_{ij}|A(T)_{i\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{j}}) \right] P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{j}|T, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$
$$= \prod_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{j}=1}^{n+1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^{n} P(D_{ij}|A(T)_{i\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{j}}) \right] P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{j}|T, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \qquad O(nm)$$

Inference

- For *n* mutations and *m* samples, the search space is $[(n + 1)^{(n-1)}] \times [(n + 1)^m] \times \mathbb{R}^2$
- and $[(n + 1)^{(n-1)}] \times \mathbb{IR}^2$ after marginalization



Single-cell sequencing of a myeloproliferative neoplasm (Hou et al., Cell 2012)

- WES of 58 cancer cells
- 18 selected mutations
- 45% missing data
- $\alpha = 6.04 \times 10^{-5}, \ \beta = 0.43$



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Single-cell sequencing of an ER⁺ breast tumor (Wang et al., Nature 2014)

- nuc-seq of 47 cells
- 40 mutations
- 1.4% missing data
- $\alpha = 1.24 \times 10^{-6}$
- $\beta = 0.097$



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Genetic alterations

pathTiMEx: Mutually exclusive cancer pathways and their dependencies in tumor progression Simona Cristea, Jack Kuipers (RECOMB 2016)

Partial order among pathways



Partial order

Individual progression



Genotypes at diagnosis



Observed genotypes



Waiting time distribution



B. & Sullivant (2009), Gerstung et al (2012)

Hidden conjunctive Bayesian network (H-CBN)



Can we find pathways de novo?

For example, as groups of mutually exclusive genes:



Pathways and their dependencies



- A pathway is altered as soon as one of its genes is altered.
- Genes depend on upstream pathways.

Joint inference



Progression in colorectal cancer





Vogelstein et al., Science 2013

Progression in glioblastoma



Conclusions

SCITE, https://gitlab.com/jahnka/SCITE

- Single-cell sequencing data can be used to reconstruct the evolutionary history of individual tumors.
- Two intra-tumor phylogenies support an evolutionary model of successive clonal expansions in which subclones co-exist until one of them reaches fixation.

pathTiMEx, https://github.com/cbg-ethz/pathTiMEx

- Tumor evolution is constrained by (partial) orders of gene and pathway alterations.
- Mutually exclusive gene groups and their dependencies can be inferred jointly from observed mutation profiles.

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