2023 Nordita meeting Inferring epidemiological dynamics using temporal patterns of genetic variation

with application to SARS-CoV-2

Yeongseon Park

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Sequence-based appraoch relying on phylogeny



- Significant amount of phylogenetic uncertainty
- More parameters to be estimated with a limited amount of information
- Cannot directly estimate the timing of index case

Phylogeny-based approaches could be limited under low viral genetic diversity



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Phylogeny-free approach: Using genetic variation as time series





Time

Phylogeny-free approach: Using genetic variation as time series





The number of segregating sites

- Classic population genetic statistic summarizing genetic diversity
- The number of sites with more than one allele
- Directly obtained from sequence data
- Depends on the sample size

Phylogeny-free approach: Using genetic variation as time series





Segregating site trajectory is obtained by

- Determine the window size for time series
- Bin sequences according to the sampling date
- Count the number of segregating sites for each window

Segregating site trajectories are informative of the underlying dynamics



Estimation of *R*₀ and timing of the index case

with application to early France

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Epidemiological inference for emerging viruses using segregating sites

Yeongseon Park, Michael A. Martin & Katia Koelle

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State-space model and particle filtering



 t_0 t_1 t_{n-1} t_n t_{n+1} https://kingaa.github.io/pomp/vignettes/getting_started.html

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Observation process obtains particle weight



https://kingaa.github.io/pomp/vignettes/getting_started.html

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Observation process obtains particle weight



Observation process obtains particle weight



Observation process obtains particle weight



Validation using simulated data: **Estimation of** *R*₀

Mock data with proportional sampling is used True R_0 is recovered





Validation using simulated data:

Joint estimation of R₀ and timing of index case

Mock data with proportional sampling is used True R_0 and t_0 is recovered



In-progress work:

Statistical evaluation of hypotheses regarding transmission dynamics

with application to early Wuhan

Two SARS-CoV-2 lineage in early Wuhan



CORONAVIRUS

The molecular epidemiology of multiple zoonotic origins of SARS-CoV-2

Jonathan E. Pekar^{1,2*}, Andrew Magee³, Edyth Parker⁴, Niema Moshiri⁵, Katherine Izhikevich^{5,6}, Jennifer L. Havens¹, Karthik Gangavarapu³, Lorena Mariana Malpica Serrano⁷, Alexander Crits-Christoph⁸, Nathaniel L. Matteson⁴, Mark Zeller⁴, Joshua I. Levy⁴, Jade C. Wang⁹, Scott Hughes⁹, Jungmin Lee¹⁰, Heedo Park^{10,11}, Man-Seong Park^{10,11}, Katherine Ching Zi Yan¹², Raymond Tzer Pin Lin¹², Mohd Noor Mat Isa¹³, Yusuf Muhammad Noor¹³, Tetyana I. Vasylyeva¹⁴, Robert F. Garry^{15,16,17}, Edward C. Holmes¹⁸, Andrew Rambaut¹⁹, Marc A. Suchard^{3,20,21*}, Kristian G. Andersen^{4,22*}, Michael Worobey^{7*}, Joel O. Wertheim^{14*}

Model selection: Single vs. multiple introduction hypotheses





Multiple-introduction



Estimation of t_0 and R_0 for the ancestor lineage

Joint estimation of $t_{0,A}$, $t_{0,B}$ and R_0 for the lineages A and B and n_{diff}

Simulating dynamics using generation time



Number of secondary infections
 3)
 4)

Repeated until every individual infected in a window reproduces



Simulating dynamics using generation time



Simulating dynamics using generation time



Simulating dynamics using generation time





Simulating dynamics using generation time





Simulating dynamics using generation time





Simulating dynamics using generation time





Simulating dynamics using generation time



Number of secondary infections
 Timing of secondary infections
 Sampling time of secondary infections



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Simulating dynamics using generation time



Number of secondary infections
 Timing of secondary infections
 Sampling time of secondary infections
 Number of mutations

Poisson distribution with mutation probability per transmission μ

Simulating dynamics using generation time



Number of secondary infections
 Timing of secondary infections
 Sampling time of secondary infections
 Number of mutations

Repeated until every individual infected in a window reproduces

Observing dynamics as segregating sites

(3)(2) $(4){1,2}$ (1) t_{i+1} t_{i-1} Window $n_{t4} = 2$ starts $s_{t4} = 4$

For k grabs

- Sample *n_i* individuals from candidates
- Count the number of segregating sites

Multiple-introduction model:

Multiple-introduction model with two lineages



Assumptions for lineages

- Two lineages start with their own index case
- Two lineages are not interacting with each other
- Two index cases have nucleotide difference of n_{diff} , which is a new parameter
- Mutation in each lineages occur in different sites

Multiple-introduction model:

Multiple-introduction model with two lineages



Counting the segregating sites

- Individuals are sampled from each lineage
- Number of segregating sites is obtained and the nucleotide difference between index cases are summed



For
$$t_4$$
,
 $n_{t4,X} = 2$
 $n_{t4,Y} = 2$
 $s_{t4} = 4$

$$s_{t4}^{sim} = 4 + n_{diff}$$

In-progress work:

Data availability during the early phase and inference reliability

with application to Omicron variant in South Africa

Omicron BA.1 variants in South Africa

 For more recently emerged VOCs, available sequences have accumulated rapidly.

 However, the temporal signal might not be sufficient



Snapshots of segregating sites

• Sequences sampled until different time points

• Using each snapshot for parameter estimation

 Compare the point estimates and interval estimates from each snapshot



Conclusion



- Viral genome sequences contains information regarding epidemiological and evolutionary dynamics and can be used to infer the epidemiological dynamics
- When genetic diversity is low, inference using segregating site trajectory could be a good complement for tree-based inference.
- Segregating site-based approach can be also used for statistical evaluation of hypotheses or model selection.



LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Mike Martin





Katia Koelle