

COMPUTATIONAL POPULATION GENETICS (D. METZLER) — EXERCISE SHEET 1

1. Simulate the following with paper and pencil and a dice (or the R command `sample(6, 1)`) as source of randomness.
 - (a) A haploid Wright-Fisher population of 6 haploid individuals
 - (b) Three individuals are sampled from the present generation. Identify their most recent common ancestors.
2. A number $k \in \{2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 1000\}$ of haploid individuals are sampled from a large Wright-Fisher population. Calculate for their genealogy...
 - (a) ...the expected time τ to their most recent common ancestor and ...
 - (b) ...the expected total length ℓ of all branches and ...
 - (c) ...the expected number of mutations on these trees for $\theta = 10$.
 - (d) Visualize how τ and ℓ depend on k .
 - (e) Find a function that can easily be expressed without sum signs and approximates how ℓ depends on k .

3. Use the R package `scrm` to simulate trees under three different scenarios:
 - (a) The standard case of a panmictic population of constant size
 - (b) An exponentially growing population
 - (c) A population that consists of two subpopulations with migration.

Visualize the genealogies. For which growth rates and migration rates do the trees begin to look different than the standard coalescent?

4. FOR BIOINFORMATIANS AND OTHER PROGRAMMING ENTHUSIASTS: Develop a program (preferably in R or python) that reads a sample size and outputs a random standard coalescent for this sample size in Newick format. (Hint: This can be done in many ways but a particular easy one is as follows. If two lineages with some names that are stored in variables x and y coalesce and have branch lengths t_x and t_y , name the new lineage according to the Newick string for the subtree that grows out of it. In R you can use a command like `paste0(", x, ":" , tx, ", , y, ":" , ty, ")")` for this.)
5. Assume a haploid Wright-Fisher population of N individuals. Thus, we assume discrete generations and each individual in generation 0 selects purely randomly and independent of all other individuals one parent in generation -1.
 - (a) Let a be an individual in generation -1 and let X be the number of his or her kids in generation 0. Compute $\Pr(X = 2)$.
 - (b) Compute $\Pr(X = k)$ for general $k \in \mathbb{N}$.
 - (c) What fraction of the individuals of a generation do not have offspring?
 - (d) Assume that the population size N is very large. Then, $\Pr(X = k)$ can be approximated by a term of the form

$$b^c \cdot e^d / f!$$

What are the appropriate values for b, c, d and f ?

(e) Make a rough calculation: Which fraction of the individuals of a generation will have offspring

- after 10 generations?
- after 100 generations?
- after $10 \cdot N$ generations?

(f) in a generation $-g$, that is g generations before the present generation 0, let 0.2 be the fraction of individuals who still have offspring in the present population 0. Which fraction of individuals from generation $-(g + 1)$ do still have offspring in generation 0?

(g) Does your answer to question 5f shed new light on part 5e?