

*2024 Workshop on Phylogenomics*

# RAxML-NG Introduction and Laboratory

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Germany

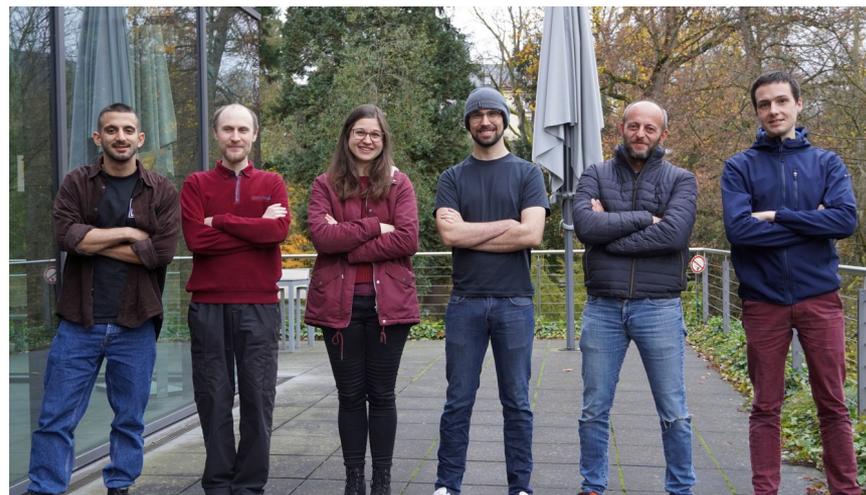
Český Krumlov – January 25, 2024

# Bio

- 2007 Bachelor of Computer Science (Kyiv, Ukraine)
- 2007 – 2010 Software developer
- 2013 Master of Computer Science (KIT, Karlsruhe, Germany)
- 2013 – 2018 PhD student (Stamatakis lab)
- 2018 – ... Staff scientist (HITS, Heidelberg, Germany)
- 2023 – ... Sustainable Computing Advisor (part-time) → Sat. 2pm
- Maintainer and lead developer of RAxML-NG
- First name: Oleksiy (preferred), Alexey (before 2022)

# Stamatakis lab(s)

- Prof. Alexandros Stamatakis
  - Author of the “original” RAxML
- “The Germans” → Heidelberg
  - <https://cme.h-its.org/exelixis>
  - 1 staff scientist, 1 PostDoc, 5 PhD students
- “The Cretans” → Heraklion
  - <https://www.biocomp.gr/>
  - 3 PostDocs, 2 PhD students



# Outline

- RAxML-NG Intro
- Lab #1: Basics
- Results & Discussion



- RAxML-NG Parallelization
- Lab #2: Large datasets & Parallelization
- Results & Conclusions

# RAxML-NG

- Maximum-likelihood (ML) phylogenetic inference tool
- Design goal #1: performance & scalability
  - B10K: 363 taxa x 63M sites ([Stiller et al., under review](#))
- Design goal #2: ease-of-use
  - Defaults & auto-tuning whenever possible
- Design goal #3: efficiency
  - Avoid wasting time & resources

# Evolution of RAxML(-NG)

2006 – 2018

**RAxML**

(Stamatakis 2006, 2014)

- Fast & feature-rich
- Some limitations
- Hard to maintain

2018 – 2024

**RAxML-NG 1.x**

(Kozlov 2019)

- More flexible
- Easier to use
- Easier to maintain

2024 –

**RAxML-NG 2**

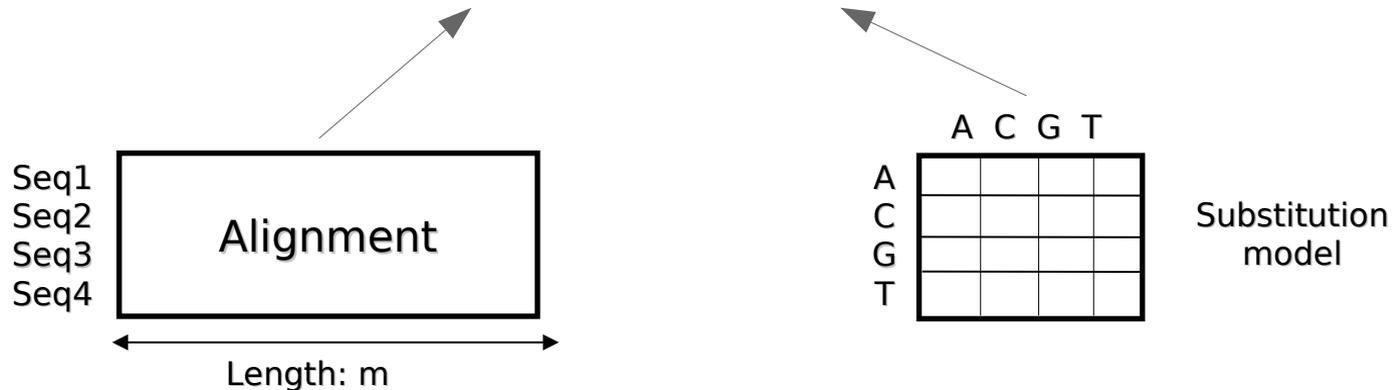
(in preparation)

- Adaptive tree search
- Fast support metrics

# Quick start: ML tree search

- Default command: **--search**
  - 20 starting trees (10 random + 10 parsimony)
  - Pick the best-scoring one
  - **Disclaimer:** defaults can and will change!

```
$ raxml-ng --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G
```



# Evolutionary model: Global

```
$ raxml-ng --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G
```

- Substitution matrix
  - GTR, LG, MULTI8\_MK, ... → also defines input data type
- Modifiers
  - Stationary frequencies: +FO (estimated), +FC (counted), +FE (equal)
  - Rate heterogeneity: +G (Gamma), +R (FreeRate)
  - Full list: <https://github.com/amkozlov/raxml-ng/wiki/Input-data#single-model>
- Fixed parameter values
  - HKY{1.0/2.5}+G{0.7}
  - PROTGTR{rates.txt}

# Evolutionary model: Partitioned

```
$ raxml-ng --msa prim.phy --model prim.part
```

- Alignment columns divided into disjoint subsets:

```
$ cat prim.part
```

```
GTR+G+FO, NADH4=1-504  
GTR+G+FO, tRNA=505-656  
GTR+G+FO, NADH5=657-898
```

Same model, independent parameters!

```
$ cat prim2.part
```

```
GTR+G+FO, NADH4=1-504/3,2-504/3  
JC+I, tRNA=505-656  
GTR+R4+FC, NADH5=657-898  
HKY, NADH4p3=3-504/3
```

- Branch length linkage modes:

```
--brlen linked
```

```
--brlen scaled
```

```
--brlen unlinked
```

# Which model to use?

- Tools for statistical model selection
  - jModelTest, ModelFinder, SMS, ...
- We will use ModelTest-NG

```
modeltest-ng-static --help
```

Important options are:

**-i ALIGNMENT**

**-d nt** (DNA, default) or **-d aa** (proteins)



(Darriba 2019)

# Common command line options

- Input or starting tree(s): **--tree**
  - Auto-generated: `--tree rand{5}` or `--tree pars{2},rand{2}`
  - User-specified: `--tree my.tre` or `--tree S1.raxml.bestTree`
- Output file prefix: **--prefix**
  - e.g. `S1` or `myoutput/S1` or `/home/user/S1`
  - `S1.raxml.bestTree`, `S1.raxml.log` etc
- Overwrite output files: **--redo**
- RNG seed: **--seed**
  - Deterministic search path → Reproducibility!

## Tree with support values / “all-in-one”

- Command: **--all**
  - ML tree search
  - Bootstrapping (FBP) with convergence test (autoMRE)
  - Compute branch supports + map to ML tree

```
$ raxml-ng --all --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G
```

**Warning:** Can be extremely slow for large datasets!

(standard FBP too expensive → will be addressed in RAXML-NG 2.x)

# Tree likelihood evaluation

- Command: **--evaluate**
  - Optimize all branch lengths and free model parameters
  - On a given fixed tree topology

```
$ raxml-ng --evaluate --msa prim.phy --tree S1.raxml.bestTree --model GTR+G
```

- Command: **--loglh**
  - Compute and print tree log-likelihood
  - No optimization, no files created

```
$ raxml-ng --loglh --msa prim.phy --tree S1.raxml.bestTree --model S1.raxml.bestModel
```

# Comparing tree topologies

- Command: **--rfdist**
  - Compute pairwise and average Robinson-Foulds (RF) distance
  - For a given **set** of trees

```
$ raxml-ng --rfdist --tree S1.raxml.mlTrees
```

- Command: **--rf**
  - Compute and print RF distance between **two** trees

```
$ raxml-ng --rf S1.raxml.bestTree,S1A.raxml.bestTree
```

# Topological constraints

- Option: **--tree-constraint**
  - Fix **some** relationships (e.g., monophyletic families)
  - By providing a (multifurcating) constraint tree
  - Can be incomplete (= some taxa “free to move”)
- Enjoy responsibly!
  - Prior knowledge vs. Bias
  - Speed vs. Bias

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- RAxML-NG Intro
- [Lab #1: Basics](#)
- Results & Discussion



- RAxML-NG Parallelization
- Lab #2: Large datasets & Parallelization
- Results & Conclusions

# Exercise 0: Getting ready

## 1. Check input datasets

```
$ cd /home/phylogenomics/workshop_materials/  
$ git clone https://github.com/amkozlov/ng-tutorial  
$ cd ng-tutorial  
$ ls
```

## 2. Run raxml-ng without parameters to get help

```
$ raxml-ng
```

## 3. Check alignment for formatting errors → [prim.phy](#)

```
$ raxml-ng --check --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G
```

# Exercises: Lab #1

1. Tree search
2. Bootstrapping / “all-in-one”
3. Tree likelihood evaluation
4. Partitioned models
5. Topological constraints
6. Model testing

<https://github.com/amkozlov/ng-tutorial/blob/master/evomics2024.md>

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# Exercise 1: Answers

## 2. ML tree likelihoods

```
$ grep "logLikelihood:" S1.raxml.log
```

```
[00:00:00] [worker #0] ML tree search #1, logLikelihood: -5708.940514  
[00:00:00] [worker #2] ML tree search #3, logLikelihood: -5709.367652  
[00:00:00] [worker #3] ML tree search #4, logLikelihood: -5708.950769  
[00:00:00] [worker #1] ML tree search #2, logLikelihood: -5708.981882  
[00:00:00] [worker #0] ML tree search #5, logLikelihood: -5708.969503  
[00:00:00] [worker #2] ML tree search #7, logLikelihood: -5708.949393  
[00:00:00] [worker #1] ML tree search #6, logLikelihood: -5708.936930  
[00:00:00] [worker #3] ML tree search #8, logLikelihood: -5709.023648  
[00:00:01] [worker #0] ML tree search #9, logLikelihood: -5708.976056  
[00:00:01] [worker #2] ML tree search #11, logLikelihood: -5709.009527  
[00:00:01] [worker #1] ML tree search #10, logLikelihood: -5708.943575  
[00:00:01] [worker #3] ML tree search #12, logLikelihood: -5709.015055  
[00:00:01] [worker #0] ML tree search #13, logLikelihood: -5708.968725  
[00:00:01] [worker #2] ML tree search #15, logLikelihood: -5709.020541  
[00:00:01] [worker #1] ML tree search #14, logLikelihood: -5709.013903  
[00:00:01] [worker #3] ML tree search #16, logLikelihood: -5709.012914  
[00:00:01] [worker #0] ML tree search #17, logLikelihood: -5709.010325  
[00:00:01] [worker #2] ML tree search #19, logLikelihood: -5709.021621  
[00:00:01] [worker #1] ML tree search #18, logLikelihood: -5709.021075  
[00:00:01] [worker #3] ML tree search #20, logLikelihood: -5709.006120
```

## Exercise 1: Answers (2)

### 3. Average topological (RF) distance

```
$ raxml-ng --rfdist --tree S1.raxml.mlTrees --prefix RF1
```

```
Reading input trees from file: S1.raxml.mlTrees  
Loaded 20 trees with 12 taxa.
```

```
Average absolute RF distance in this tree set: 0.000000  
Average relative RF distance in this tree set: 0.000000  
Number of unique topologies in this tree set: 1
```

Absolute RF = # branches **not shared** by both trees

Relative RF = Absolute RF / max. possible RF

# Exercise 1: Answers (3)

## 4\*. fusob.phy

```
$ raxml-ng --msa fusob.phy --model GTR+G --prefix S2 --tree pars{5},rand{5}
```

```
$ grep "logLikelihood:" S2.raxml.log
```

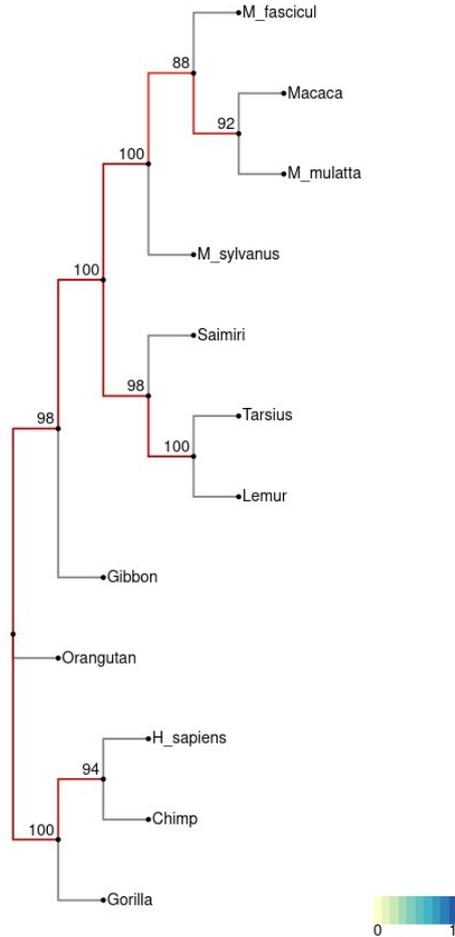
```
[00:00:02] [worker #2] ML tree search #3, logLikelihood: -9974.673091  
[00:00:02] [worker #0] ML tree search #1, logLikelihood: -9974.665558  
[00:00:02] [worker #1] ML tree search #2, logLikelihood: -9980.906638  
[00:00:03] [worker #3] ML tree search #4, logLikelihood: -9974.663320  
[00:00:04] [worker #2] ML tree search #7, logLikelihood: -9980.906494  
[00:00:04] [worker #1] ML tree search #6, logLikelihood: -9974.670122  
[00:00:04] [worker #3] ML tree search #8, logLikelihood: -9974.669716  
[00:00:05] [worker #0] ML tree search #5, logLikelihood: -9974.671526  
[00:00:06] [worker #1] ML tree search #10, logLikelihood: -9974.666947  
[00:00:07] [worker #0] ML tree search #9, logLikelihood: -9981.909653
```

```
$ raxml-ng --rfdist --tree S2.raxml.mlTrees --prefix RF2
```

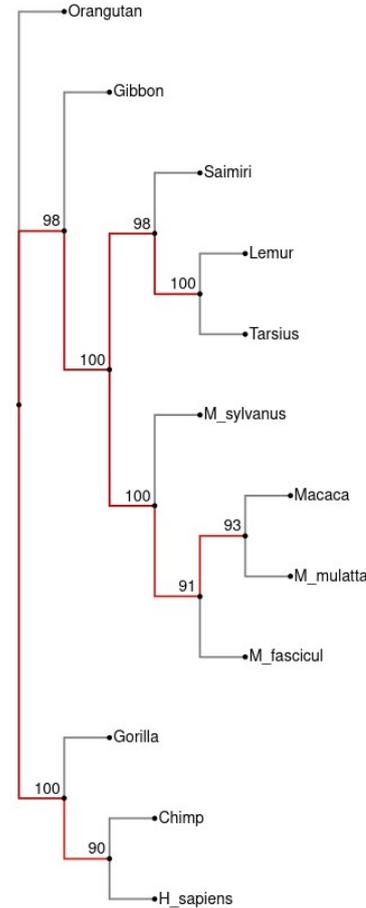
```
Average absolute RF distance in this tree set: 5.244444  
Average relative RF distance in this tree set: 0.074921  
Number of unique topologies in this tree set: 3
```

# Exercise 2: Answers

50 reps



100 reps



## Exercise 3: Answers

```
$ grep "Final LogLikelihood:" E*.raxml.log
```

```
E_GTRG.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5715.693753
```

```
E_GTRR4.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5714.610468
```

Best: GTR+R

```
E_GTR.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5934.558984
```

```
E_JCG.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -6272.478819
```

```
E_JC.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -6424.202453
```

```
$ grep "AIC score" E*.raxml.log
```

Best: GTR+G

```
E_GTRG.raxml.log:AIC score: 11491.387506 / AICc score: 11493.532834 / BIC score: 11635.392608
```

```
E_GTRR4.raxml.log:AIC score: 11499.220936 / AICc score: 11502.144370 / BIC score: 11667.226889
```

```
E_GTR.raxml.log:AIC score: 11927.117968 / AICc score: 11929.122576 / BIC score: 12066.322900
```

```
E_JCG.raxml.log:AIC score: 12588.957638 / AICc score: 12590.114210 / BIC score: 12694.561380
```

```
E_JC.raxml.log:AIC score: 12890.404907 / AICc score: 12891.459701 / BIC score: 12991.208478
```

## Exercise 4: Answers

```
$ grep "Final LogLikelihood:" {S,P}1.raxml.log
```

```
S1.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5708.926872
```

```
P1.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5673.806570
```

```
$ raxml-ng --rf S1.raxml.bestTree,P1.raxml.bestTree
```

```
Average absolute RF distance in this tree set: 0.000000
```

```
Average relative RF distance in this tree set: 0.000000
```

```
Number of unique topologies in this tree set: 1
```

## Exercise 5: Answers

```
$ grep "Final LogLikelihood:" C*.raxml.log
```

```
C0.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5708.923405    no constraint  
C1.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5708.926239    constraint #1  
C2.raxml.log:Final LogLikelihood: -5779.491583    constraint #2
```

```
$ grep "Elapsed time:" C*.raxml.log
```

```
C0.raxml.log:Elapsed time: 23.629 seconds        no constraint  
C1.raxml.log:Elapsed time: 17.553 seconds        constraint #1  
C2.raxml.log:Elapsed time: 17.987 seconds        constraint #2
```

# Exercise 6: Answers

```
$ modeltest-ng -i prot21.fa -d aa
```

```
Partition 1/1:
```

	Model	Score	Weight
BIC	LG+G4	6005.4554	0.5062
AIC	LG+I+G4	5893.6825	0.7923
AICc	LG+G4	5941.3599	0.5402

```
$ raxml-ng --msa prot21.fa --model LG+G4 --prefix S6
```

```
Final LogLikelihood: -2872.979205
```

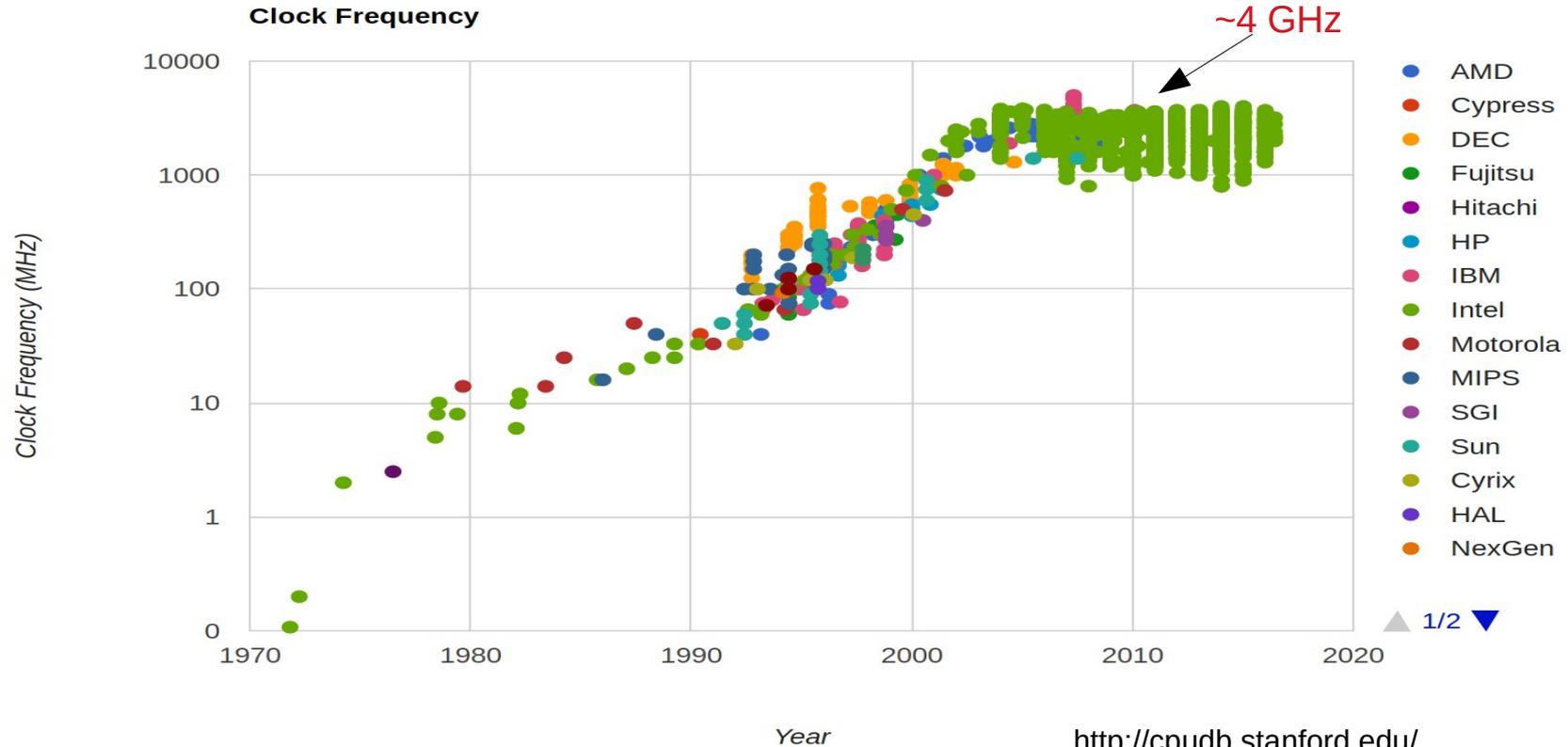
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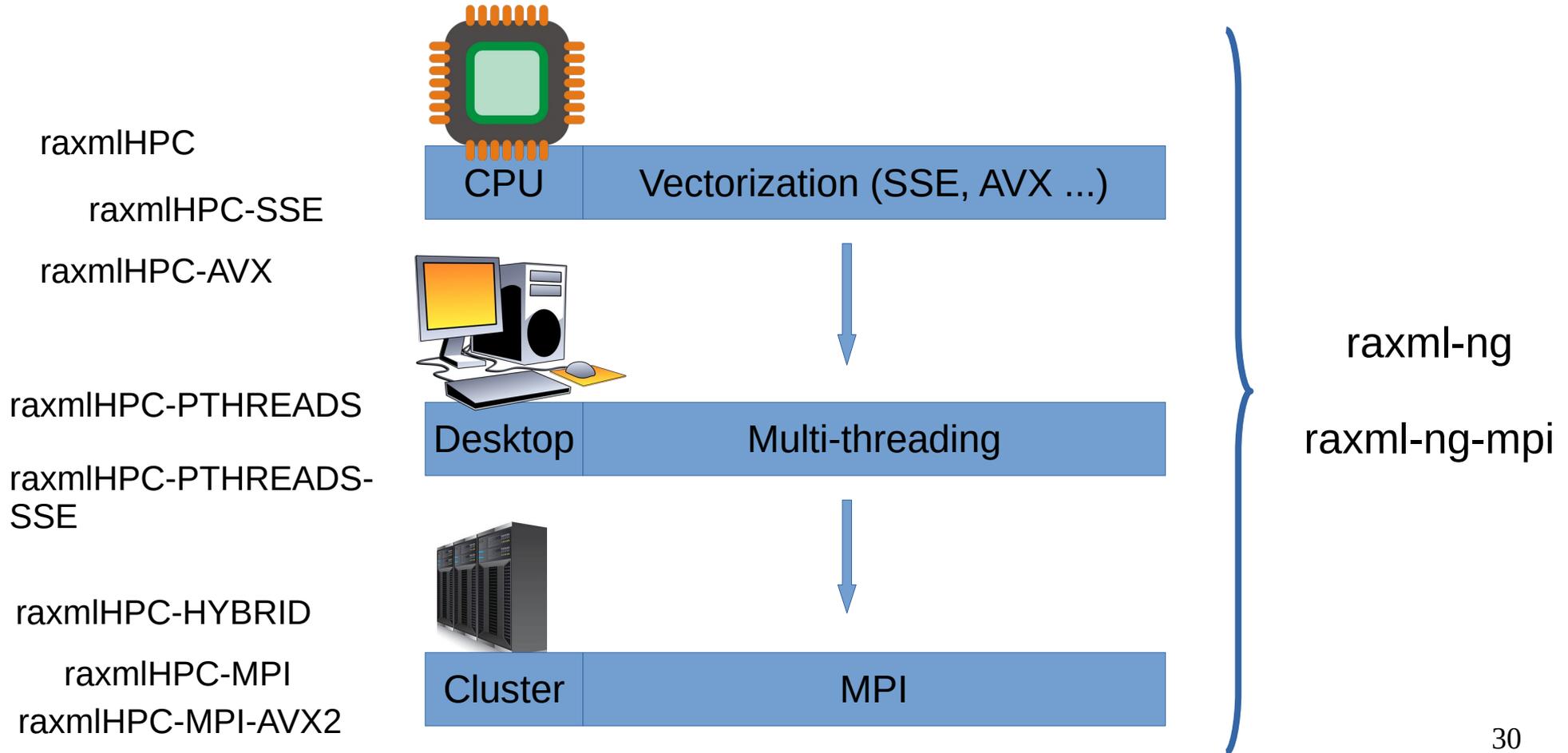


- **RAxML-NG Parallelization**
- Lab #2: Large datasets & Parallelization
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# Why is parallelization so important?



# Parallelization: hardware



# RAXML-NG parallelization setup

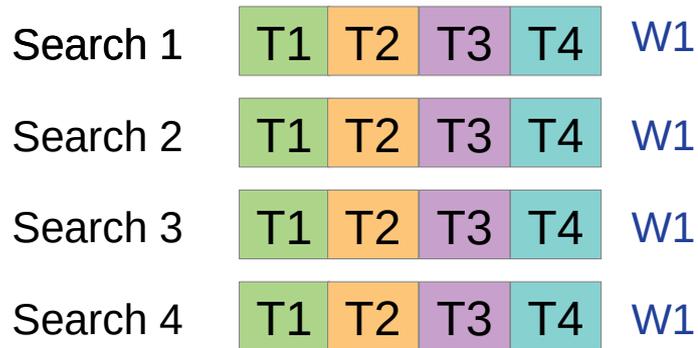
- **Vectorization** → fully automatic
- **Multi-threading** → usually works fine™
  - Automatic CPU detection & thread tuning
  - Core oversubscription warning
- **MPI/hybrid** → more tricky
  - Read your cluster manual
  - Ask your sysadmin/technician
  - Benchmark!



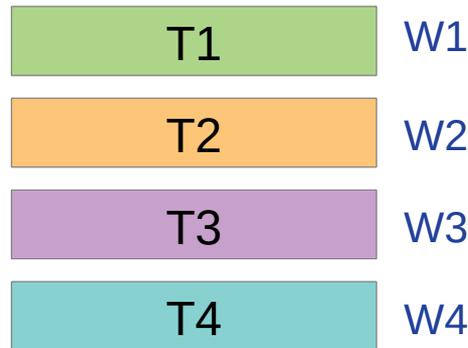
# Parallelization: software



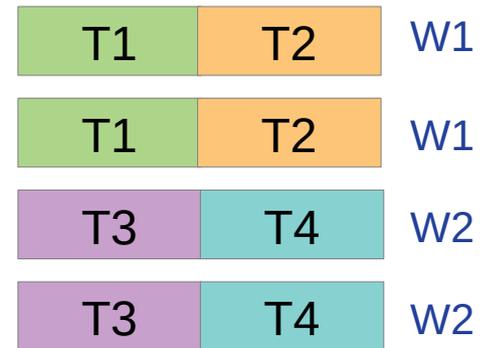
## Fine-grained



## Coarse-grained



## Mixed/hybrid



Since v1.0: Full native support and automatic configuration!

# Parallelization: auto-tuning

```
$ raxml-ng --msa prim.rba
```

```
System: Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2630 v3 @ 2.40GHz, 16 cores, 62 GB RAM
```

```
...
```

```
Analysis options:
```

```
run mode: ML tree search
```

```
start tree(s): random (10) + parsimony (10) ←
```

```
...
```

```
parallelization: coarse-grained (auto), PTHREADS (auto)
```

```
...
```

```
[00:00:00] Alignment comprises 12 taxa, 1 partitions and 413 patterns
```

```
...
```

```
Parallelization scheme autoconfig: 16 worker(s) x 1 thread(s) ←
```

```
...
```

```
[00:00:00] Data distribution: max. partitions/sites/weight per thread: 1 / 413 / 6608
```

```
[00:00:00] Data distribution: max. searches per worker: 2 ←
```

# Parallelization: manual tuning

- Automatic with upper limits

```
$ raxml-ng --msa prim.rba --threads auto{16} --workers auto{2}
```

- Manual

```
$ raxml-ng --msa prim.rba --threads 16 --workers 2
```

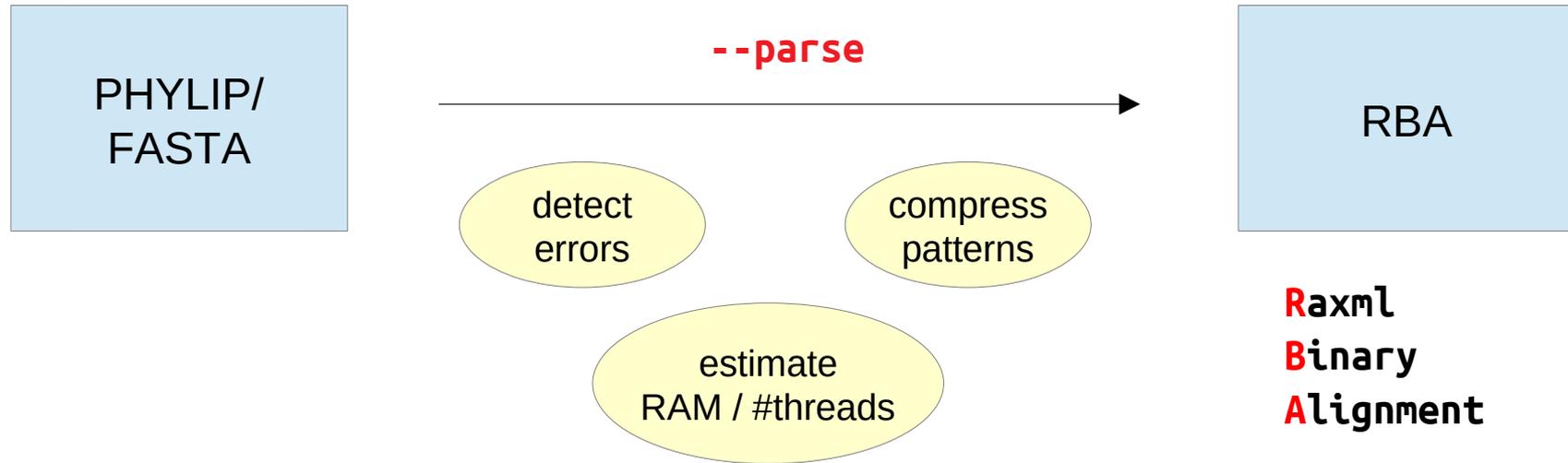
- Also works with MPI

```
$ mpirun -n 4 raxml-ng-mpi --msa prim.rba --threads 16 --workers 8
```

4 ranks \* 16 threads = 64 = 8 workers \* 8 threads

# Alignment pre-processing

```
$ raxml-ng --parse --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G --prefix prim
```



# Bootstrapping revisited

## 1. Infer bootstrap trees

```
$ raxml-ng --bootstrap --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G --prefix BS1 --bs-trees 50 --seed $RANDOM
```

## 2. Check convergence

```
$ raxml-ng --bsconverge --bs-trees BS1.raxml.bootstraps --prefix BC
```

## 3. Map bootstrap support values to the best ML tree

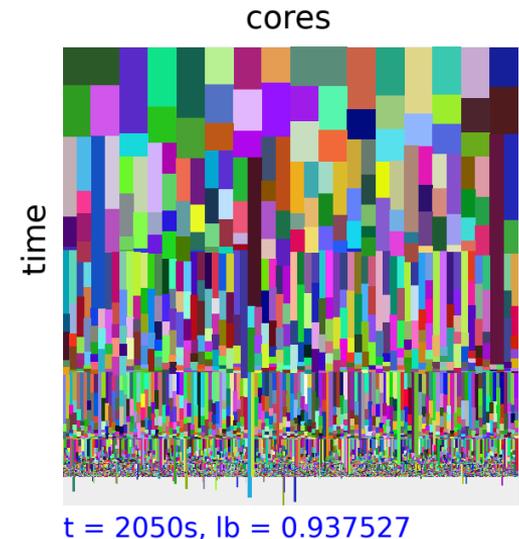
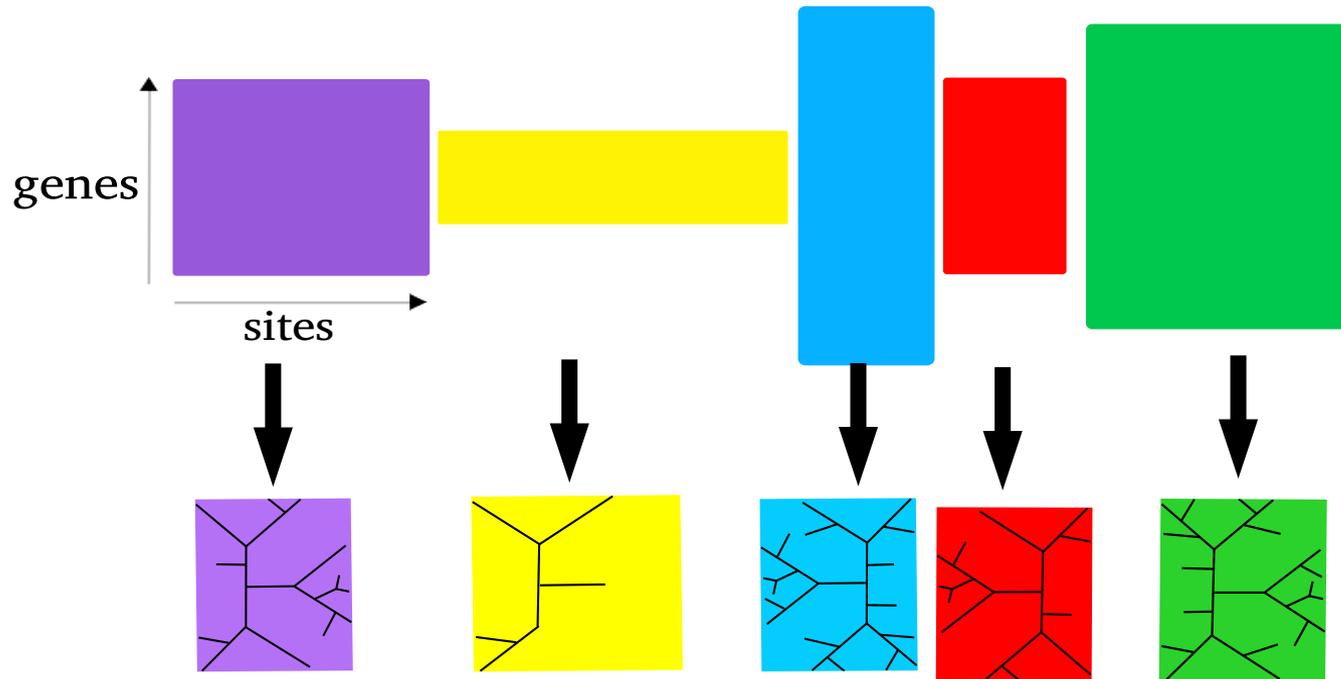
```
$ raxml-ng --support --tree S1.raxml.bestTree --bs-trees BS1.raxml.bootstraps --prefix B2
```

# ParGenes

- Infer thousands of (gene) trees in parallel
  - Load balancing + Checkpointing
  - Model testing (ModelTest-NG) + species tree reconstruction (ASTRAL)



(Morel 2018)



# ParGenes command line - example

Do not run this one!

Folder containing  
the alignments  
**-a msa\_dir**

Folder for  
result files  
**-o output\_dir**

Number of  
cores  
**-c 256**

```
$ python pargenes.py -a msa_dir -o output_dir -m -s 10 -p 20 -b 100 -p 256
```

Apply model  
selection?  
**-m**

Number of  
starting trees  
**-p 20 -s 10**

Number of BS  
replicates  
**-b 100**

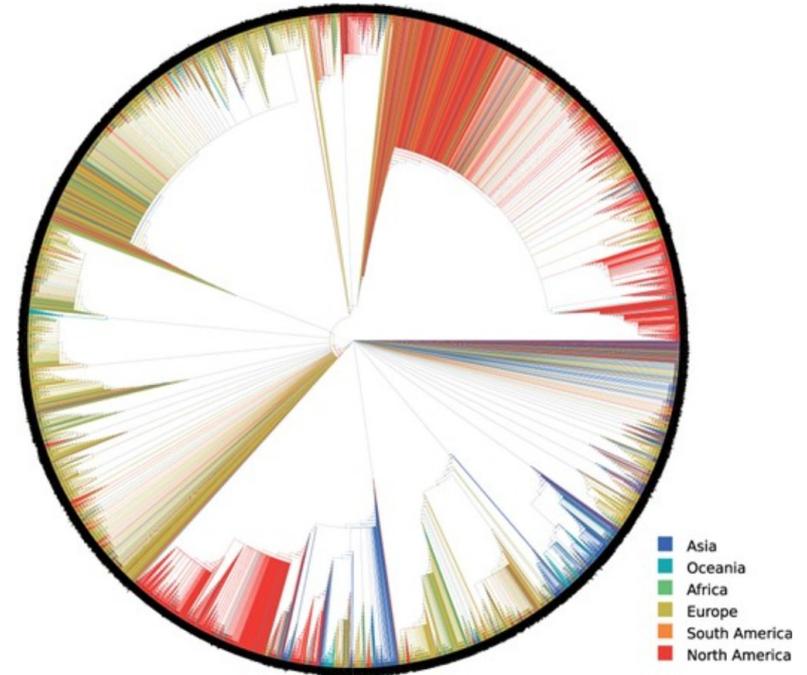
More examples: </home/phylogenomics/software/.source/ParGenes/examples/>

# “From easy to hopeless”

```
$ grep "logLikelihood:" S1.raxml.log
```

```
[00:00:00] [worker #0] ML tree search #1, logLikelihood: -5708.940514  
[00:00:00] [worker #2] ML tree search #3, logLikelihood: -5709.367652  
[00:00:00] [worker #3] ML tree search #4, logLikelihood: -5708.950769  
[00:00:00] [worker #1] ML tree search #2, logLikelihood: -5708.981882  
[00:00:00] [worker #0] ML tree search #5, logLikelihood: -5708.969503  
[00:00:00] [worker #2] ML tree search #7, logLikelihood: -5708.949393  
[00:00:00] [worker #1] ML tree search #6, logLikelihood: -5708.936930  
[00:00:00] [worker #3] ML tree search #8, logLikelihood: -5709.023648  
[00:00:01] [worker #0] ML tree search #9, logLikelihood: -5708.976056  
[00:00:01] [worker #2] ML tree search #11, logLikelihood: -5709.009527  
[00:00:01] [worker #1] ML tree search #10, logLikelihood: -5708.943575  
[00:00:01] [worker #3] ML tree search #12, logLikelihood: -5709.015055  
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[00:00:01] [worker #0] ML tree search #17, logLikelihood: -5709.010325  
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[00:00:01] [worker #1] ML tree search #18, logLikelihood: -5709.021075  
[00:00:01] [worker #3] ML tree search #20, logLikelihood: -5709.006120
```

Few taxa, clear signal



(Morel 2020)

10k ... 100k taxa, little variation

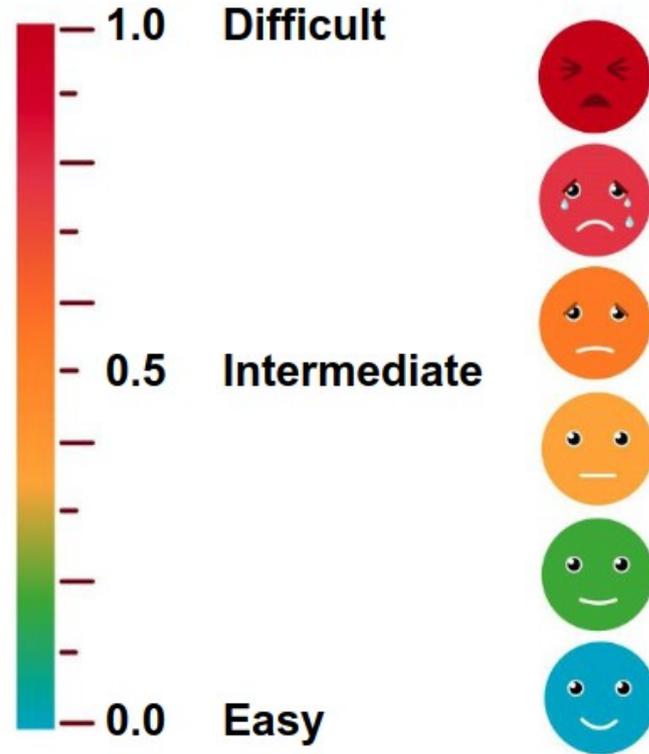
# Prediction of phylogenetic difficulty

Input  
MSA



Pythia

(Haag 2022)

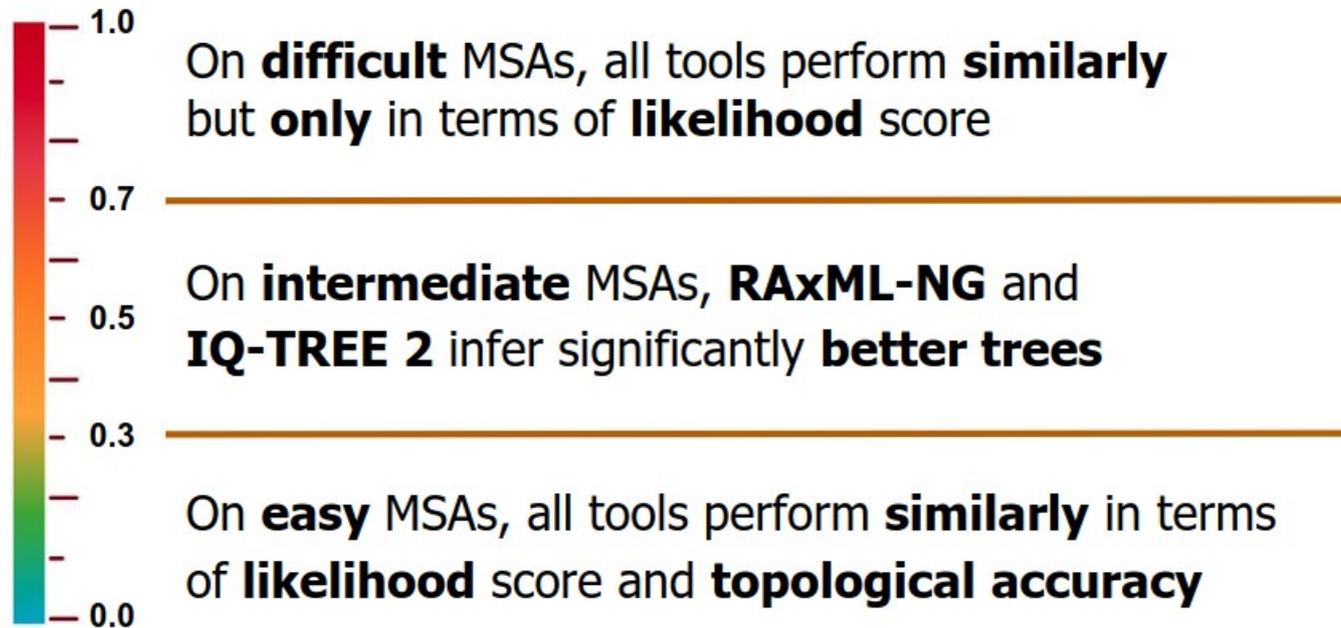


Julia Haag

(Adapted from Togkousidis 2023b)

# Are we searching too hard?

- RAxML-NG vs. IQ-TREE 2 vs. FastTree (Hoehler, 2022 preprint)

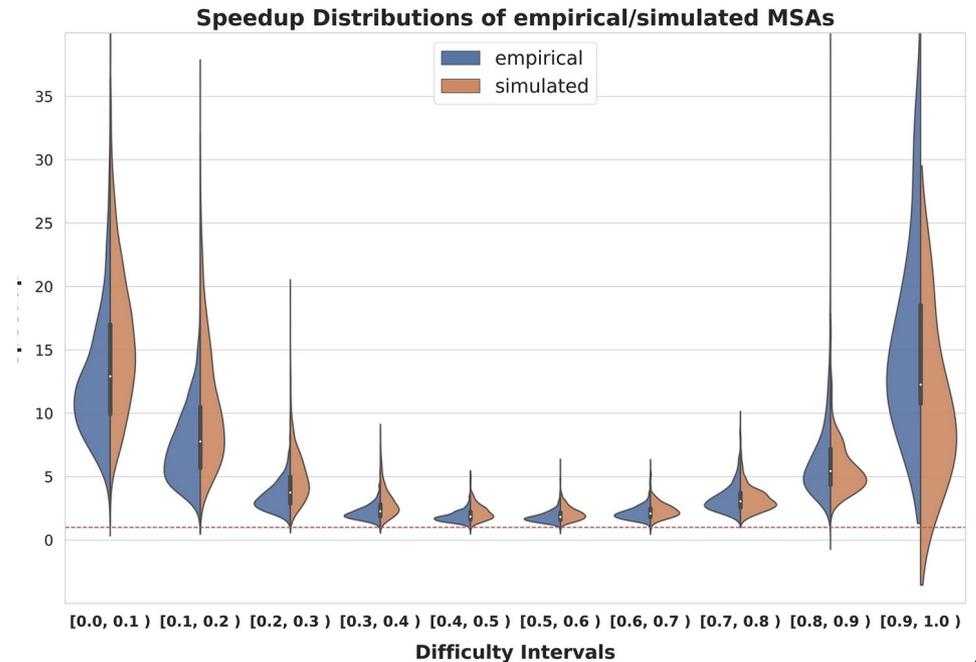
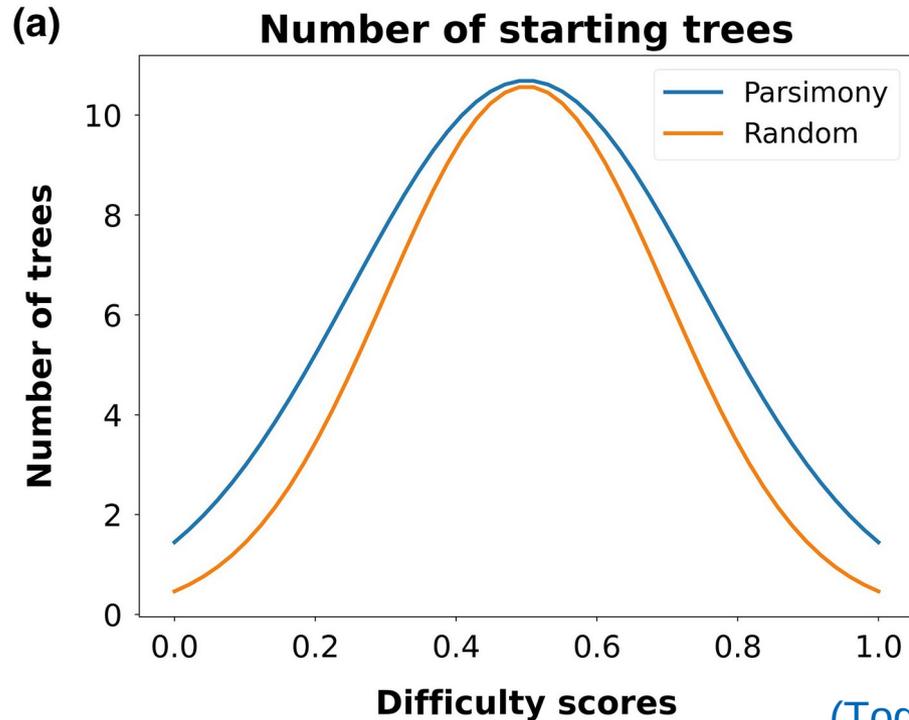


# Adaptive RAxML-NG

- Use predicted MSA difficulty to adjust
- number of starting trees + search heuristic (SPR radius, NNIs)



Anastasis Togkousidis



(Togkousidis 2023a)

# Outline

- RAxML-NG Intro
- Lab #1: Basics
- Results & Discussion



- RAxML-NG Parallelization
- [Lab #2: Large datasets & Parallelization](#)
- Results & Conclusions

# Knowing your system

```
$ lscpu
```

```
CPU(s):          4  logical
Thread(s) per core: 2  hyperthreading ON
Model name:      AMD EPYC 7571
```

```
$ raxml-ng -v
```

```
System: AMD EPYC 7571, 2 cores, 15 GB RAM
physical
```

```
$ htop
```

```
 1[|||||          9.2%]  Tasks: 160, 556 thr; 1 running
 2[||||          4.5%]  Load average: 0.16 0.18 0.13
 3[              0.0%]  Uptime: 08:55:25
 4[|||||||       12.3%]
Mem[|||||||     2.27G/15.5G]
Swp[            0K/0K]
```

PID	USER	PRI	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	CPU%	MEM%	TIME+	Command
1	root	20	0	163M	12112	8272	S	0.0	0.1	0:05.47	/sbin/init
134	root	19	-1	48576	19840	18560	S	0.0	0.1	0:01.39	/lib/systemd/systemd-journald

## Exercises: Lab #2

7. Alignment compression
8. Automatic & manual parallelization
9. Bootstrapping revisited
10. Adaptive search
11. ParGenes

<https://github.com/amkozlov/ng-tutorial/blob/master/evomics2024.md>

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## Exercise 7: Answers

```
$ raxml-ng --parse --msa fusob.phy --model GTR+G --prefix fusob
```

```
Partition 0: noname  
Model: GTR+FO+G4m  
Alignment sites / patterns: 1602 / 635  
Gaps: 10.13 %  
Invariant sites: 9.61 %
```

```
NOTE: Binary MSA file created: fusob.raxml.rba
```

```
* Estimated memory requirements           : 6 MB
```

```
* Recommended number of threads / MPI processes: 3
```

## Exercise 8: Answers

```
raxml-ng -search -msa fusob.raxml.rba -tree rand{10} -seed 1 -prefix TXWX  
raxml-ng -search -msa fusob.raxml.rba -tree rand{10} -seed 1 -workers 1 -prefix TXW1  
raxml-ng -search -msa fusob.raxml.rba -tree rand{10} -seed 1 -workers 2 -prefix TXW2  
raxml-ng -search -msa fusob.raxml.rba -tree rand{10} -seed 1 -threads 2 -workers 2 -prefix T2W2
```

```
$ grep "Elapsed time:" T?W?.raxml.log
```

```
T2W2.raxml.log:Elapsed time: 11.995 seconds
```

```
TXW1.raxml.log:Elapsed time: 9.752 seconds
```

```
TXW2.raxml.log:Elapsed time: 8.551 seconds
```

```
TXWX.raxml.log:Elapsed time: 10.398 seconds
```



~18 % faster

## Exercise 9: Answers

```
$ raxml-ng --bootstrap --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G --prefix BS1 --seed $RANDOM --bs-trees 50  
$ raxml-ng --bootstrap --msa prim.phy --model GTR+G --prefix BS2 --seed $RANDOM --bs-trees 50
```

```
$ cat BS*.raxml.bootstraps > bstrees.txt
```

```
$ raxml-ng --support -tree S1.raxml.bestTree -bs-trees bstrees.txt -prefix B2
```

```
$ raxml-ng --support -tree S1.raxml.bestTree -bs-trees bstrees.txt -prefix B3 -bs-metric TBE
```

# Exercise 10: Answers

Analysis options:

run mode: ML tree search

Starting ML tree search  
with 20 distinct starting trees

Final LogLikelihood: -5673.760245

Elapsed time: 8.618 seconds

Analysis options:

run mode: Adaptive ML tree search

[00:00:00] Predicted difficulty: 0.00

Starting ML tree search  
with 2 distinct starting trees

Final LogLikelihood: -5673.844106

Elapsed time: 1.635 seconds

```
$ raxml-ng-adaptive --rf P1.raxml.bestTree,P1A.raxml.bestTree
```

Average absolute RF distance in this tree set: 0.000000

Average relative RF distance in this tree set: 0.000000

Number of unique topologies in this tree set: 1

# Answers

- Full tutorial script with all answers & results:
  - <https://github.com/amkozlov/ng-tutorial/wiki/evomics2024>

# Software availability

- Web server
  - CIPRES: <http://www.phylo.org/> → registration required
- Graphical interface
  - raxmlGUI: <https://github.com/AntonelliLab/raxmlGUI>
  - Mesquite: <http://www.mesquiteproject.org/>
- Stand-alone command line (Linux/macOS)
  - GitHub: <https://github.com/amkozlov/raxml-ng>
  - Conda: <https://anaconda.org/bioconda/raxml-ng>

# Where to get help?

- Documentation
  - <https://github.com/amkozlov/raxml-ng/wiki>
- Tutorial
  - <https://github.com/amkozlov/raxml-ng/wiki/Tutorial>
- User support group
  - <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/raxml>

# Which tool to use as of 2024 ?

- **FastTree**
  - “Hopeless” alignments (100k+, few genes)
- **RAXML, IQ-Tree, PhyML**
  - Models/features not available in RAXML-NG
- **ParGenes**
  - Lots of gene trees, coalescent methods
- **RAXML-NG**
  - All other cases :)

**Děkuji**

Questions?

# References

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