Parallel Coordinate Plots towards Phylogenetic Trees

> Rebecca Shapley SIMS 247, Spring 2004



To make an evolutionary tree, biologists take organisms, identify attributes that have different values due to evolutionary events, (characters and character states) and make a huge matrix encoding which state each organism has, then using algorithms to convert the matrix into a tree. My interest is in determining if parallel coordinates visualization can assist in the early part of the process, for identifying attributes/characters and values/states.



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Diagrams from Lipscomb, Diana. <u>Basics of Cladistic Analysis</u>. George Washington University. Washington, D.C. 1998



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SVL: snout-vent lengthTTL: total lengthTAL: tail lengthTAD: maximum tail depthHL: head lengthHW: head widthIO: distance between from corner of eyesEN: distance from front corner of eye to nostrilIN: distance between nostrilsAX: distance between limbs on right sideAL: length of front limbPL: length of back limb

-From Sean Rovito, IB, UC Berkeley

Phylogenetic Features

- Gaps
- Phylogenetically informative characters
- OTU signature
- Non-independence: combine for new one
- Non-independence: need to scale







Notice the Gap.



Notice the Gap.



Brushing for "A", can see the a likely OTU and that A is probably a parsimoniously informative character.







Just the records with a positive slope between AX and AL are selected.



Notice - the lower values on most of the axes tend to be shared by the same lines...



As do the middle values... and the upper values. Lots of horizontal movement means a need to scale one value by other values to remove the redundant information about the absolute size of the organism, and focus instead on proportions.



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Patton, James L.; Da Silva, Maria Nazareth F.; and Jay R. Malcom. Mammals of the Rio Juruá and the evolutionary and ecological diversification of Amazonia. BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Vol:244, page1-306, 2000.



The measurements across the bottom are standard body and skull measurements for small mammals.

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