



Inferring Phylogenies

By Joseph Felsenstein

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Phylogenies (evolutionary trees) are basic to thinking about and analyzing differences between species. Statistical, computational, and algorithmic work on them has been ongoing for four decades, with great advances in understanding. Yet no book has summarized this work until now. *Inferring Phylogenies* explains clearly the assumptions and logic of making inferences about phylogenies, and using them to make inferences about evolutionary processes. It is an essential text and reference for anyone who wants to understand how phylogenies are reconstructed and how they are used.

As phylogenies are inferred with various kinds of data, this book concentrates on some of the central ones: discretely coded characters, molecular sequences, gene frequencies, and quantitative traits. Also covered are restriction sites, RAPDs, and microsatellites.

Inferring Phylogenies is intended for graduate-level courses, assuming some knowledge of statistics, mathematics (calculus and fundamental matrix algebra), molecular sequences, and quantitative genetics.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Felsenstein's book ... represents a truly majestic discussion of the inference and applications of phylogenetic trees." -- *Edward C. Holmes, The Quarterly Review of Biology*

"Occasionally a book is a classic by the time it is published, and this is it. ... " -- *David Penny, Systematic Biology*

"The publication of Inferring Phylogenies is a milestone for evolutionary biology in general and phylogenetics in particular." --*Fredrik Ronquist, Science*

Joe Felsenstein has had more positive influence on the statistical revolution of phylogenetics than any other researcher in the field. For that reason, many biologists view him as the father of statistical phylogenetics. It was with this in mind that I finally got my hands on his long-awaited book, Inferring Phylogenies. The short answer is: it delivers. . . . Inferring Phylogenies is quite simply an instant classic. --AJ Drummond, Heredity

Occasionally a book is a classic by the time it is published, and this is it. . . . The breadth is very wide with all the main expected topics. . . . It is hard to imagine how any lab could function without this book. --David Penny, Systematic Biology

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About the Author

JOSEPH FELSENSTEIN is Professor in the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington.

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