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#### SOFTWARE FOR SYSTEMATICS AND EVOLUTION

# POUMM: An R-package for Bayesian Inference of Phylogenetic Heritability

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- Abstract.—The Phylogenetic Ornstein-Uhlenbeck Mixed Model (POUMM) allows to
- estimate the phylogenetic heritability of continuous traits, to test hypotheses of neutral
- evolution versus stabilizing selection, to quantify the strength of stabilizing selection, to
- 14 estimate measurement error and to make predictions about the evolution of a phenotype
- and phenotypic variation in a population. Despite this variety of applications, currently,
- there are no R-packages supporting POUMM inference on large non-ultrametric
- phylogenetic trees. Large phylogenies of that kind are becoming increasingly available,
- predominantly in epidemiology, where transmission trees are inferred from pathogen
- 19 sequences during epidemic outbreaks, but also in some macroevolutionary studies

- 20 incorporating fossil and contemporary data. In this article, we propose the R-package
- 21 POUMM, providing Bayesian inference of the model parameters on large phylogenetic
- trees. We describe a novel breadth-first pruning algorithm for fast likelihood calculation,
- 23 enabling highly parallelizable likelihood calculation on multi-core systems and GPUs. We
- <sup>24</sup> report simulation-based results proving the technical correctness and performance of the
- software.
- 26 Keywords: PMM, Brownian motion, Ornstein-Uhlenbeck, measurement error, Bayesian
- 27 inference

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continuous trait evolution, progressing from null neutral models, such as single-trait

Brownian motion (BM), to complex multi-trait models incorporating selection, interaction

between trait-values and diversification, and co-evolution of multiple traits (O'Meara 2012;

Manceau, Lambert, and Morlon 2016). Fitting these models to data has become possible

thanks to a growing collection of software packages, many of which written in the R

language of statistical computing (R Core Team 2013) and freely available on the

Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) (O'Meara 2016).

The phylogenetic heritability, introduced with the phylogenetic mixed model

(PMM) (Housworth, Martins, and Lynch 2004), measures the proportion of phenotypic

variance in a population attributable to heritable factors, such as genes, as opposed to

non-heritable factors, such as environment and measurement error. Although the concept

of phylogenetic heritability has been applied mostly in the context of the original PMM,

The past decades have seen active development of phylogenetic models of

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i.e. under the assumption of Brownian motion, the same concept applies to any
   evolutionary model allowing for the estimation of measurement error (ME) (Hansen and
   Bartoszek 2012). In its simplest form this means adding a white noise error term to the
   modeled trait-value. Therefore, it comes as a surprise that most recently published
   R-packages for phylogenetic analysis on large trees have very limited support for estimating
   ME and, thus, phylogenetic heritability. To give a few examples, the package Rphylopars
   (Goolsby, Bruggeman, and Ané 2016) allows for the estimation of intraspecies standard
   error only when the tips in the phylogeny are grouped with several tips per species;
   diversitree (FitzJohn 2012) only allows for the specification of a parameter states.sd
   through a call to make.bm or another function, but does not fit this parameter; geiger
   (Pennell et al. 2014) allows for fitting a standard error (SE), but similarly to diversitree
   and Rphylopars, does not support likelihood calculation on non-ultrametric trees; GLSME
   (Hansen and Bartoszek 2012) and RPANDA (Manceau, Lambert, and Morlon 2016) have a
   rich ME-support for both, ultrametric and non-ultrametric trees, but do not provide fast
   likelihood calculation on large trees.
          Here, we introduce the R-package POUMM providing Bayesian inference of
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   phylogenetic heritability for traits evolving under stabilizing selection. Formally, this is an
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   extension of the PMM, replacing the Brownian motion process by an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck
   process with a single global optimum (Ornstein and Zernike 1919; Uhlenbeck and Ornstein
   1930). The package implements a highly parallelizable breadth-first pruning algorithm for
   fast likelihood calculation on large ultrametric and non-ultrametric trees including
   polytomies. The same algorithm can be extended to multi-trait scenarios with different
   model-regimes assigned to different phylogenetic lineages. We present the model, the
   algorithm and simulation based results for validation of the technical correctness and
   performance of the software.
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phylogenetic tree  $\mathcal{T}$  with N tips indexed by 1, ..., N and a root node, 0 (Fig. 1). Without restrictions on the tree topology, non-ultrametric trees (i.e. tips have different time-distance 68 from the root) and polytomies (i.e. nodes with any finite number of descendants) are 69 accepted. Internal nodes are indexed by the numbers N+1,... Associated with the tips is 70 a N-vector of observed real trait-values denoted by  $\mathbf{z}$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{T}_i$  the subtree rooted 71 at node i and by  $\mathbf{z}_i$  the set of values at the tips belonging to  $\mathcal{T}_i$ . For any internal node j, 72 we denote by Desc(j) the set of its direct descendants. Furthermore, for any  $i \in Desc(j)$ , 73 we denote by  $t_{ii}$  the length of the edge connecting j with i and by  $t_{0i}$  the sum of edge-lengths (time-distance) from the root to i. For two tips i and k, we denote by  $t_{0(ik)}$ 75 the time-distance from the root to their most recent common ancestor (mrca), and by  $\tau_{ik}$ 76 the sum of edge-lengths on the path from i to k (also called phylogenetic/patristic distance between i and k). We use the simbol  $\bar{t}$  to denote the mean root-tip distance in the tree. For converting branch-lengths in time-units into absolute time, by convention, the origin of 79 time, 0, is assumed to be at the root, and the time is increasing positively towards the tips.

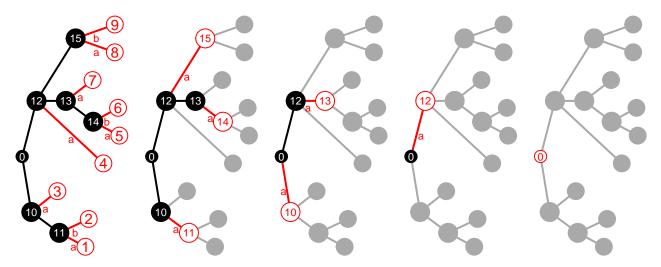


Figure 1: Breadth-first pruning on a tree with N=10 tips. Each tree from left to right depicts one pruning iteration; black: non-tip nodes at a current pruning step; red: tip nodes to be pruned; grey: pruned nodes. Letters 'a' and 'b' next to branches denote the order in which the coefficients  $a_{ji}$ ,  $b_{ji}$ ,  $c_{ji}$  are added to their parent's  $a_j$ ,  $b_j$  and  $c_j$  (algorithm 1).

## THE PHYLOGENETIC ORNSTEIN-UHLENBECK MIXED MODEL

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The phylogenetic Ornstein-Uhlenbeck mixed model (POUMM) decomposes the trait 83 value as a sum of a non-heritable component, e, and a genetic component, g, which (i) evolves continuously according to an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (OU) process along branches; (ii) gets inherited by the branches descending from each internal node. In biological terms, q is a genotypic value (Lynch and Walsh 1998) that evolves according to random drift with stabilizing selection towards a global optimum; e is a non-heritable component, which can 88 be interpreted in different ways, depending on the application, i.e. a measurement error, an environmental contribution, a residual with respect to a model prediction, or the sum of all these. The OU-process acting on q is parameterized by an initial genotypic value at the 91 root,  $g_0$ , a global optimum,  $\theta$ , a selection strength,  $\alpha>0$ , and a random drift unit-time standard deviation,  $\sigma$ . Denoting by  $W_t$  the standard Wiener process (Grimmett and Stirzaker 2001), the evolution of the trait-value, z(t), along a given lineage of the tree is described by the equations:

$$z(t) = g(t) + e \tag{1}$$

$$dg(t) = \alpha [\theta - g(t)]dt + \sigma dW_t, \tag{2}$$

The stochastic differential equation 2 defines the OU-process, which represents a random walk tending towards the global optimum  $\theta$  with stronger attraction for bigger difference between g(t) and  $\theta$  (Ornstein and Zernike 1919; Uhlenbeck and Ornstein 1930). The model assumptions for e are that they are iid normal with mean 0 and standard deviation  $\sigma_e$  at the tips. Any process along the tree that gives rise to this distribution at the tips may be assumed for e. For example, in the case of epidemics, a newly infected individual is

assigned a new e-value which represents the contribution from its immune system and this 102 value can change or remain constant throughout the course of infection. In the case of 103 macroevolution, e may represent the ecological (non-genetic) differences between species. 104 In particular, the non-heritable component e does not influence the behavior of the 105 OU-process q(t). Thus, if we were to simulate trait values z on the tips of a phylogenetic 106 tree  $\mathcal{T}$ , we could first similate the OU-process from the root to the tips to obtain g, and 107 then add the white noise e (i.e. an iid draw from a normal distribution) to each simulated q108 value at the tips. 109 The POUMM represents an extension of the phylogenetic mixed model (PMM) 110 (Lynch 1991; Housworth, Martins, and Lynch 2004), since, in the limit  $\alpha \to 0$ , the 111 OU-process converges to a Brownian motion (BM) with unit-time standard deviation  $\sigma$ . 112 Both, the POUMM and the PMM, define an expected multivariate normal distribution for 113 the trait values at the tips. Note that the trait expectation and variance for a tip i depends 114 on its time-distance from the root  $(t_{0i})$ , and the trait covariance for a pair of tips (ij)115 depends on the time-distance from the root to their mrca  $(t_{0(ij)})$ , as well as their patristic 116 distance  $(\tau_{ij})$  (table 1). 117 We note that the expressions for the expected variance-covariance matrix of the 118 POUMM are only defined for strictly positive  $\alpha$ . We obtain the limit for PMM by noting 119 that  $\lim_{\alpha \to 0} \alpha/(1 - e^{\alpha t}) = -1/t$ . 120

## Phylogenetic heritability

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The **phylogenetic heritability** is defined as the expected proportion of phenotypic variance attributable to g at the tips of the tree,  $\sigma^2(g)/[\sigma^2(g) + \sigma_e^2]$  (Housworth, Martins, and Lynch 2004). This definition is a phylogenetic variant of the definition of broad-sense heritability,  $H^2$ , from quantitative genetics (Lynch and Walsh 1998). However, in the case of a trait evolving along a phylogeny, the expected genotypic

Table 1: Population properties at the tips of the phylogeny under POUMM and PMM.  $\mu_i$ : expected value at tip i;  $\Sigma_{ii}$ : expected variance for tip i;  $\Sigma_{ij}$ : expected covariance of the values of tips i and j;  $H_{\bar{t}}^2$ : phylogenetic heritability at mean root-tip distance;  $H_{\infty}^2$ : phylogenetic heritability at long-term equilibrium;  $H_e^2$ : time-independent (empirical) phylogenetic heritability.

	POUMM	$PMM (\alpha \to 0)$
Θ:	$\langle g_0, \alpha, \theta, \sigma, \sigma_e \rangle$	$\langle g_0,  \sigma,  \sigma_e \rangle$
	$e^{-\alpha t_{0i}}g_0 + (1 - e^{-\alpha t_{0i}})\theta$	$g_0$
$\Sigma_{ii}(\Theta, \mathcal{T})$ :	$\sigma^2 \frac{\left(1-e^{-2\alpha t_{0i}}\right)}{2\alpha} + \sigma_e^2$	$\sigma^2 t_{0i} + \sigma_e^2$
$\Sigma_{ij}(\Theta, \mathcal{T})$ :	$\sigma^2 \frac{e^{-\alpha \tau_{ij}} \left(1 - e^{-2\alpha t_{0}(ij)}\right)}{2\alpha}$	$\sigma^2 t_{0(ij)}$
$H^2_{ar t}$ :	$\frac{2\alpha}{\sigma^2 \left(1 - e^{-2\alpha t}\right) + 2\alpha \sigma_e^2}$	$\bar{t}\sigma^2/(\bar{t}\sigma^2+\sigma_e^2)$
$H^2_{\infty}$ :	$\sigma^2/(\sigma^2+2\alpha\sigma_e^2)$	1
$H_e^{\stackrel{\circ}{2}}$ :	$1 - \sigma_e^2/s^2(\mathbf{z})$	$1 - \sigma_e^2/s^2(\mathbf{z})$

variance,  $\sigma^2(g)$ , and, therefore, the phylogenetic heritability, are functions of time. The POUMM package reports the following three types of phylogenetic heritability (see table 1 for simplified expressions):

• Expectation at the mean root-tip distance :

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$$H_{\bar{t}}^2 := \left[\sigma^2 \frac{\left(1 - e^{-2\alpha \bar{t}}\right)}{2\alpha}\right] / \left[\sigma^2 \frac{\left(1 - e^{-2\alpha \bar{t}}\right)}{2\alpha} + \sigma_e^2\right];$$

- Expectation at equilibrium of the OU-process:  $H^2_{\infty} := \lim_{\bar{t} \to \infty} H^2_{\bar{t}}$ ;
- Empirical (time-independent) version of the heritability based on the sample phenotypic variance  $s^2(\mathbf{z})$ :  $H_e^2 := 1 \sigma_e^2/s^2(\mathbf{z})$ .

## ALGORITHM

For a fixed tree,  $\mathcal{T}$ , the log-likelihood of the observed data is defined as the function:

$$\ell\ell(\Theta) = \ln(f(\mathbf{z}_0|\mathcal{T},\Theta)),\tag{3}$$

where f denotes a probability density function (pdf) and  $\Theta = \langle g_0, \alpha, \theta, \sigma, \sigma_e \rangle$ .

The POUMM package uses a breadth-first variant of the pruning algorithm (Felsenstein 1973). The log-likelihood is calculated by consecutive integration over the unobservable genotypic values,  $g_i$ , progressing from the tips to the root. Central for the pruning likelihood calculation is the following theorem, for which we provide a proof in the appendix:

Theorem 1 (Quadratic polynomial representation of the POUMM log-likelihood). For  $\alpha \geq 0$ , a real  $\theta$  and non-negative  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma_e$ , the POUMM log-likelihood can be expressed as a quadratic polynomial of  $g_0$ :

$$\ell\ell(\Theta) = a_0 g_0^2 + b_0 g_0 + c_0, \tag{4}$$

where  $a_0 < 0$ ,  $b_0$  and  $c_0$  are real coefficients. We denote by  $u(\alpha, t)$  the function:

$$u(\alpha, t) := \begin{cases} \alpha/(1 - e^{\alpha t}), & \text{for } \alpha > 0\\ -1/t, & \text{for } \alpha = 0 \end{cases}$$
 (5)

Then, the coefficients in eq. 4 can be expressed with the following recurrence relation:

1. For  $j \in \{1, ..., N\}$  (tips):

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$$a_j = -\frac{1}{2\sigma_e^2}; b_j = \frac{z_j}{\sigma_e^2}; c_j = -\frac{z_j^2}{2\sigma_e^2} - \ln\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_e^2}$$
 (6)

2. For j > N (internal nodes) or j = 0 (root):

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$$a_{j} = \sum_{i \in Desc(j)} \frac{a_{i}u(\alpha, 2t_{ji})}{u(\alpha, 2t_{ji}) - \alpha + \sigma^{2}a_{i}}$$

$$b_{j} = \sum_{i \in Desc(j)} \frac{u(\alpha, 2t_{ji}) \left[2\theta a_{i}(e^{\alpha t_{ji}} - 1) + b_{i}e^{\alpha t_{ji}}\right]}{u(\alpha, 2t_{ji}) - \alpha + \sigma^{2}a_{i}}$$

$$c_{j} = \sum_{i \in Desc(j)} \left\{ c_{i} + \alpha t_{ji} - \frac{0.25 b_{i}^{2}\sigma^{2}}{-\alpha + a_{i}\sigma^{2} + u(\alpha, 2t_{ji})} - 0.5 \ln \left( \frac{-\alpha + a_{i}\sigma^{2} + u(\alpha, 2t_{ji})}{u(\alpha, 2t_{ji})} \right) + \frac{\alpha\theta \left[ a_{i}\theta - (b_{i} + a_{i}\theta)e^{\alpha t_{ji}} \right]}{u(\alpha, t_{ji}) + (-\alpha + a_{i}\sigma^{2}) (1 + e^{\alpha t_{ji}})} \right\}.$$
(7)

It can be shown that current pruning implementations (FitzJohn 2012; Pennell et al. 2014) rely on equivalent formulations of the above theorem. The breadth-first algorithm differs from these implementations in the ordering of algebraic operations so that they can be performed "at once" for groups of tips or internal nodes rather than consecutively for individual nodes in order of depth-first traversal.

#### Implementation

Before model fitting, the user can choose from different POUMM parametrizations 155 and prior settings (function specifyPOUMM). Model fitting is done through a combination 156 of likelihood optimization and adaptive Metropolis sampling (Vihola 2012; Scheidegger 157 2012). A set of standard generic functions, such as plot, summary, logLik, coef, etc., 158 provide means to assess the quality of a fit (i.e. MCMC convergence, consistence between 159 ML and MCMC fits) as well as various inferred properties, such as high posterior density 160 (HPD) intervals. 161 We implemented the breadth-first pruning algorithm in R and in C++ using the 162 library Armadillo (Sanderson and Curtin 2016) through the R-package RcppArmadillo 163

#### **Algorithm 1:** Breadth-first pruning

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Data: \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{z}; \alpha, \theta, \sigma, \sigma_e
Result: \max_{q_0} \ell \ell(g_0, \alpha, \theta, \sigma, \sigma_e; \mathbf{z}, \mathcal{T})
initialization:
for tips i \in \{1, ..., N\}, set a_i, b_i, c_i (eq. 6);
for nodes j > N or j = 0, set a_i, b_i, c_i to 0;
set \{\langle ji \rangle\} to the set of edges \langle ji \rangle in \mathcal{T}, where i \in \{1, ..., N\};
while \{\langle ji \rangle\} \neq \phi do
     for \langle ji \rangle \in \{ji\} do
           // vectorized operations
          set a_{< ji>}, b_{< ji>}, c_{< ji>} to the sub-summands in eq. 7 ;
          add a_{\langle ji \rangle}, b_{\langle ji \rangle}, c_{\langle ji \rangle} to a_j, b_j, c_j (see branch labels on Fig. 1);
     end
     pruning: set \mathcal{T} to the tree obtained upon removal of i \in \{\langle ji \rangle\};
     set \{i\} to to the subset of parent nodes in \{\langle ji \rangle\}, which have become tips after
       the pruning (Fig. 1);
     set \{\langle ji \rangle\} to the edges leading to \{i\};
set g_0 := -0.5 b_0/a_0;
\operatorname{set} \ell \ell(\Theta) := a_0 g_0^2 + b_0 g_0 + c_0.
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(Eddelbuettel and Sanderson 2014). While slightly slower, the R implementation can switch transparently between double and Rmpfr floating point precision (Maechler 2014), thus, guaranteeing numerical stability in cases of extreme parameter values, trait values or branch lengths.

In addition the POUMM package uses the following third-party R-packages: ape v3.4 (Paradis, Claude, and Strimmer 2004), data.table v1.9.6 (Dowle et al. 2014) and coda v0.18-1 (Plummer et al. 2006), foreach v1.4.3 (Analytics and Weston 2015), ggplot2 v2.1.0 (Wickham 2009) and gsl v1.9-10.3 (Hankin 2006).

## SIMULATIONS

To validate the correctness of the Bayesian POUMM implementation, we used the method of posterior quantiles (Cook, Gelman, and Rubin 2006). In this method, the idea is

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to generate samples from the posterior quantile distributions of selected model parameters
    (or functions thereof) by means of numerous "replications" of simulation followed by
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    Bayesian parameter inference. In each replication, "true" values of the model parameters
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    are drawn from a fixed prior distribution and trait-data is simulated under the model
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    specified by these parameter values. Then, the posterior quantiles of the "true" parameter
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    values (or functions thereof) are calculated from the corresponding posterior samples
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    generated by the to-be-tested software. By running in parallel multiple independent
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    replications on a fixed prior, it is possible to generate large samples from the posterior
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    quantile distributions of the individual model parameters, as well as any derived quantities.
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    Assuming correctness of the simulations, any statistically significant deviation from
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    uniformity of these posterior quantile samples indicates an error in the to-be-tested
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    software (Cook, Gelman, and Rubin 2006).
           In order to test the robustness of the POUMM against model mis-specifications, we
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    extended the above approach by running POUMM inference on data simulated under pure
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    PMM (\alpha = 0), and PMM inference on data simulated under POUMM (\alpha \geq 0).
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    Simulations scenarios of 2000 replications were run on an ultrametric and non-ultrametric
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    tree (N = 4000), using the parametrization \Theta = <\alpha, \, \theta, \, H_{\bar{t}}^2, \, \sigma_e, \, g_0> and the prior
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    \Theta \sim \text{Exp}(0.1) \times \mathcal{U}(2,8) \times \mathcal{U}(0,1) \times \text{Exp}(1) \times \mathcal{N}(5,25) (Supplementary Text).
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           Without exception, both, the PMM and POUMM implementation, generate
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    uniformly distributed posterior quantiles for all trees and all relevant parameters when the
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    Bayesian inference has been done on data simulated under the correct simulation mode, i.e.
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    "Simulate BM" for PMM and "Simulate OU" for POUMM. This is confirmed visually by
    observing the corresponding histograms on Fig. 2, as well as statistically, by a
    non-significant p-value from a Kolmogorov-Smirnov uniformity test at the 0.01 level. This
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    observation validates the technical correctness of the software.
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           When fitting the PMM to simulations of stabilizing selection (OU), there is a highly
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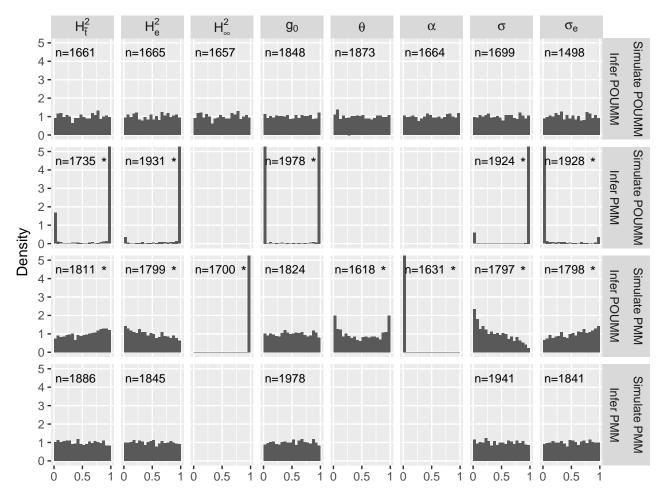


Figure 2: Posterior quantiles from simulation scenarios on a non-ultrametric tree (N=4000). Values tending to 1 indicate that the true value dominates the inferred posterior sample for most of the replications. This means that the model fit tends to underestimate the true parameter. The number n at the top of each histogram denotes the number of replications out of 2000 which reached acceptable MCMC convergence and mixing at the by the one milionth iteration. An asterisk indicates significant uniformity violation (Kolmogorov-Smirnov P-value < 0.01).

significant deviation from uniformity of the posterior quantiles for the parameters  $H_{\bar{t}}^2$ ,  $g_0$ , and  $\sigma_e$  and  $H_e^2$ . The fact that most posterior quantiles for  $H_{\bar{t}}^2$  and  $H_e^2$  are at the extremes of the histogram is indicative for a systematic negative or positive bias in the inferred parameters. These results indicate that the PMM can be a very unstable erronous estimator of phylogenetic heritability when the data violates the Brownian motion assumption.

## DISCUSSION

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A main advantage of a breadth-first approach with respect to to depth-first pruning 208 implementations (e.g. diversitree (FitzJohn 2012) and geiger (Pennell et al. 2014)) is that 209 most of the algebraic calculations are done on vectors instead of single numbers. 210 Contemporary computer architectures and languages such as Matlab and R are optimized 211 for vector operations. Therefore, an implementation of breadth-first pruning written in R is 212 nearly as fast as an analogous (breadth-first-) or a depth-first implementation written in 213 C++ (Supplementary Materials). Moreover, on multi-core systems, a breadth-first 214 implementation can be easily parallelized by linking to OpenMP- or GPU-accelerated 215 libraries. 216 The OU process has been applied as a model for stabilizing selection in 217 218

macro-evolutionary studies (LANDE 1976; Felsenstein 1988; Hansen 1997; Harmon et al. 2010). Most of theses studies and the accompanying software packages assume that the whole trait evolves according to an OU process, usually disregarding the presence of a biologically relevant non-heritable component or of a measurement error with a-priori known variance (FitzJohn 2012). When modelling species trait evolution, a non-heritable ecological contribution may be well justified and may in fact be important to understand the full evolutionary process. When modeling pathogen evolution, the branching points in

the tree represent transmission events, and the environmental contribution is the
contribution of the host immune system. Thus, for pathogens, it is crucial to incorporate e
in the model in order to quantify the importance of host-versus pathogen factors in trait
formation (Alizon et al. 2010; Shirreff et al. 2013).

The idea to infer phylogenetic heritability assuming that g follows an OU process 229 along the phylogeny has so far been discouraged mainly for interpretational and practical 230 reasons: (i) in biology, individuals get selected based on their whole trait-values z, rather 231 than the genotypic component q (unless e is simply measurement noise); (ii) small 232 ultrametric macro-evolutionary trees do not contain sufficient signal for a simultaneous 233 inference of the OU-and environmental variance (Housworth, Martins, and Lynch 2004). 234 We argue that modeling an OU process on z rather than q comes at the cost of additional 235 parameters and reduced statistical power, because it necessitates to account for jumps in z at the branching points as well as the unobserved speciation/transmission events along the 237 tree. Conversely, assuming that the OU process acts directly on q rather than z is 238 mathematically more convenient, because it allows the inference of a single continuous 239 OU-process along the tree, while adding e only at the tips of the tree. 240

Finally, our simulations suggest that the POUMM could make a suitable estimator of phylogenetic heritability when the trait is subject to stabilizing selection, but also, tends to be more robust than PMM towards model mis-specification (Fig. 2). Thus, the POUMM R-package should provide a useful tool for furture phylogenetic analysis in epidemiology and macro-evolution.

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## Supplementary Material

The proof of theorem 1 and further details on the simulation setup can be found in an online appendix. A performance benchmark for the breadth-first pruning algorithm is

provided in the supplementary file CompareOUPackages.html. The user manual for the POUMM package is provided in the package vingnette.

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