

Zen and the Art of Phylogenetically Independent Contrasts

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Department of Biology



"The shot heard round the world"

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PHYLOGENIES AND THE COMPARATIVE METHOD

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Submitted November 30, 1983; Accepted May 23, 1984

Recent years have seen a growth in numerical studies using the comparative method. The method usually involves a comparison of two phenotypes across a range of species or higher taxa, or a comparison of one phenotype with an environmental variable. Objectives of such studies vary, and include assessing whether one variable is correlated with another and assessing whether the regression of one variable on another differs significantly from some expected value.

My intention is to point out a serious statistical problem with this approach, a problem that affects all of these studies. It arises from the fact that species are part of a hierarchically structured phylogeny, and thus cannot be regarded for statistical purposes as if drawn independently from the same distribution. This problem has been noticed before ...

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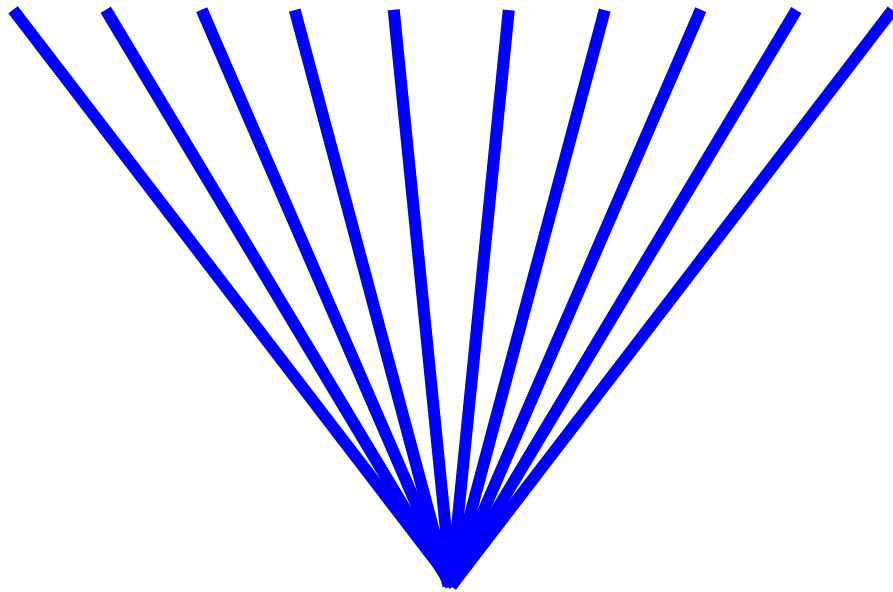
Submitted November 30, 1983; Accepted

Function,
Coadaptation,
Trade-offs

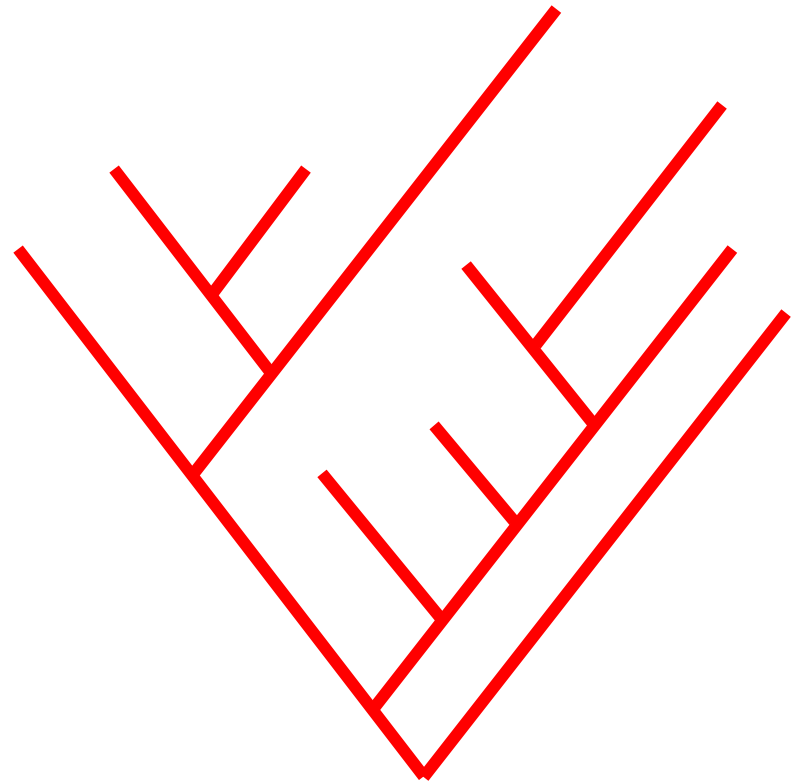
Provide Evidence
for Adaptation

Recent years have seen a growth in numerical comparative method. The method usually involves a comparison of two phenotypes across a range of species or higher taxa, or a comparison of one phenotype with an environmental variable. Objectives of such studies vary, and include assessing phenotypes related with another and assessing whether the regression coefficient differs significantly from some expected value. Without a serious statistical problem with this approach, a problem that affects all of these studies. It arises from the fact that species are part of a hierarchically structured phylogeny, and thus cannot be regarded for statistical purposes as if drawn independently from the same distribution. This problem has been noticed before ...

What Conventional Statistical Methods Assume

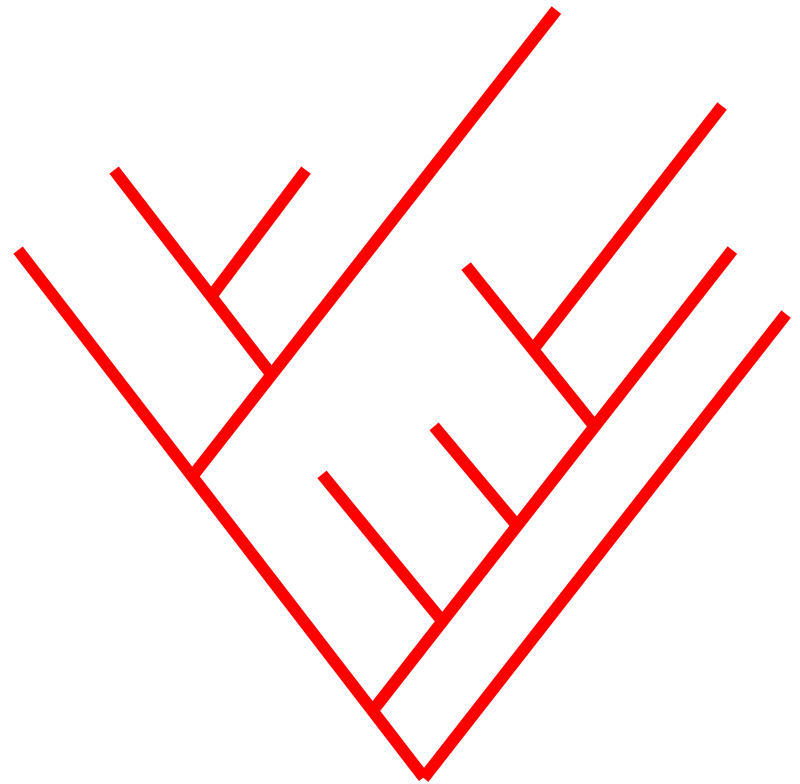


What Evolution Provides



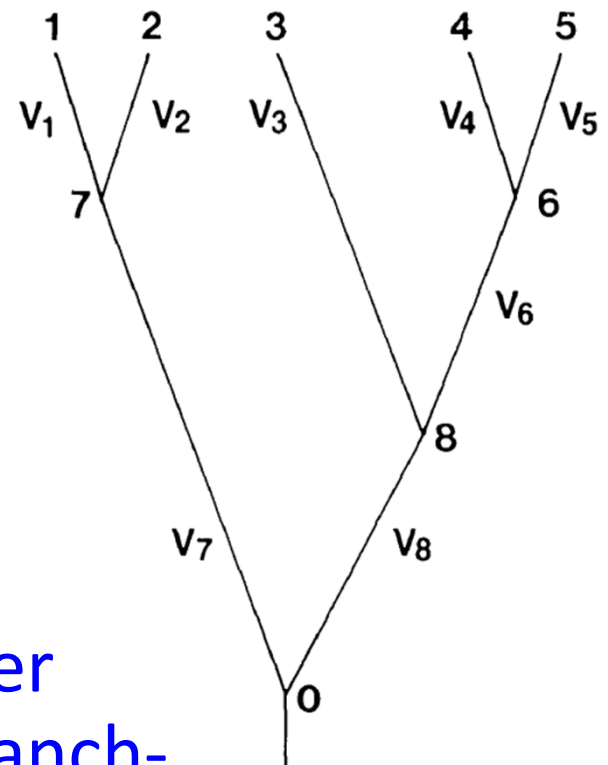
So, tip data and/or residuals from a statistical model probably will not be **Independent and Identically Distributed**.

What Evolution Provides

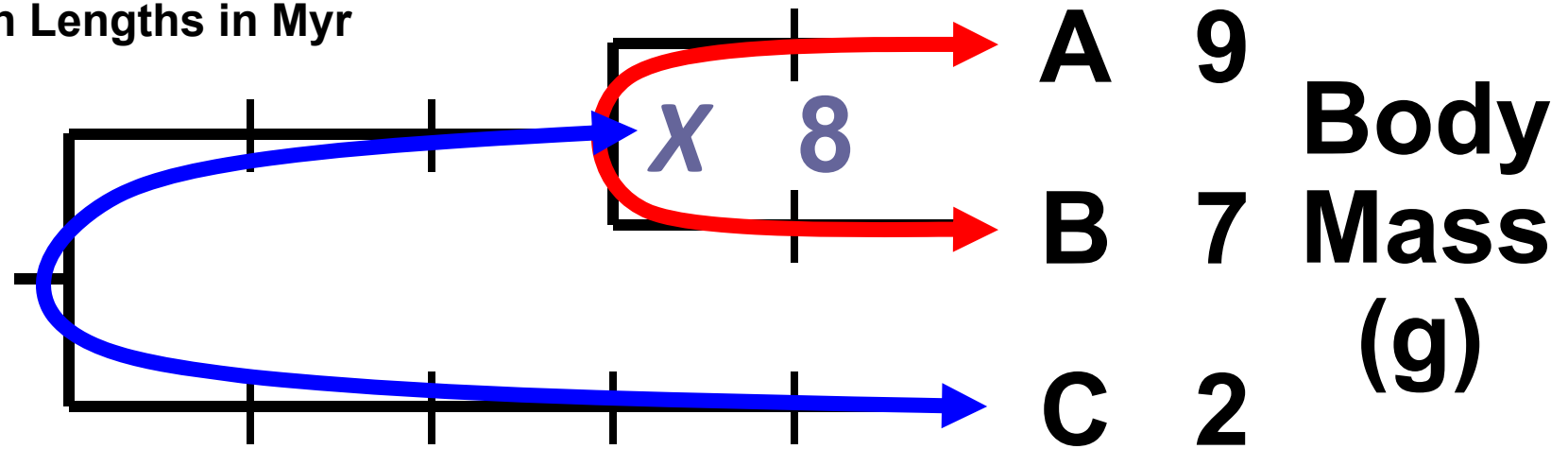


A possible solution: transform the tip data to meet the usual I.I.D. assumption

- 1) Assume tip data are measured without error
- 2) Assume topology is correct
- 3) Assume branch lengths available in units proportional to expected variance of trait evolution
- 4) Assume Brownian-motion like trait evolution, although some other models can be approximated by branch-length transformations, e.g., OU, ACDC



Branch Lengths in Myr



Identify and Compute Independent Contrasts
Compute square roots of sums of
(corrected) branch lengths = S.D.

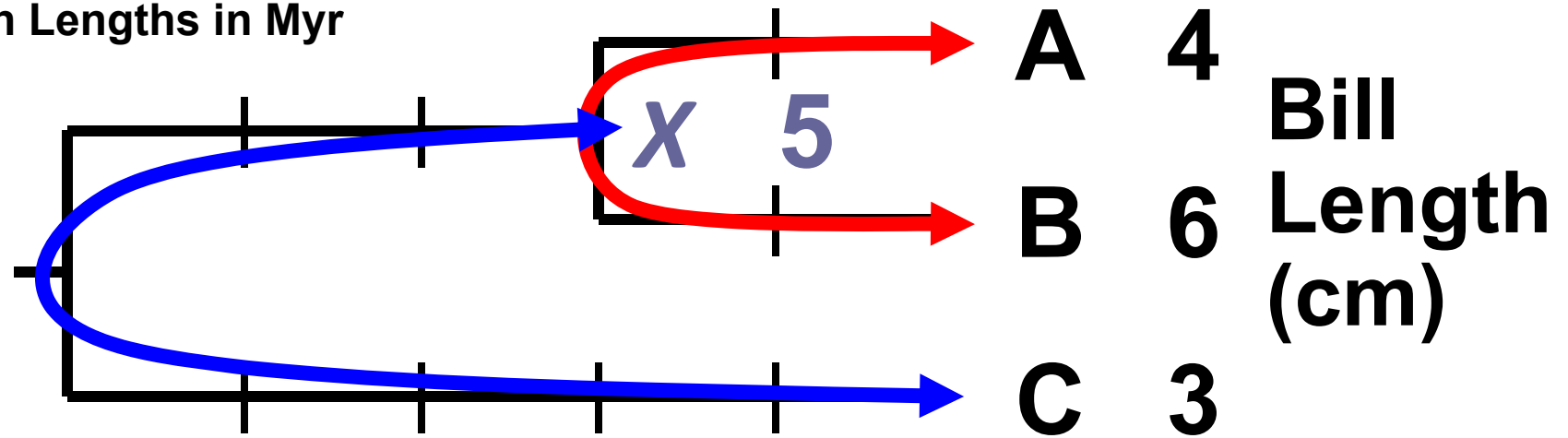
Contrast	Value	S.D.
A-B	2	2
X-C	6	3

Standardized Contrast

1

2

Branch Lengths in Myr



Identify and Compute Independent Contrasts
Compute square roots of sums of
(corrected) branch lengths = S.D.

Contrast	Value	S.D.
A-B	-2	2
X-C	2	3

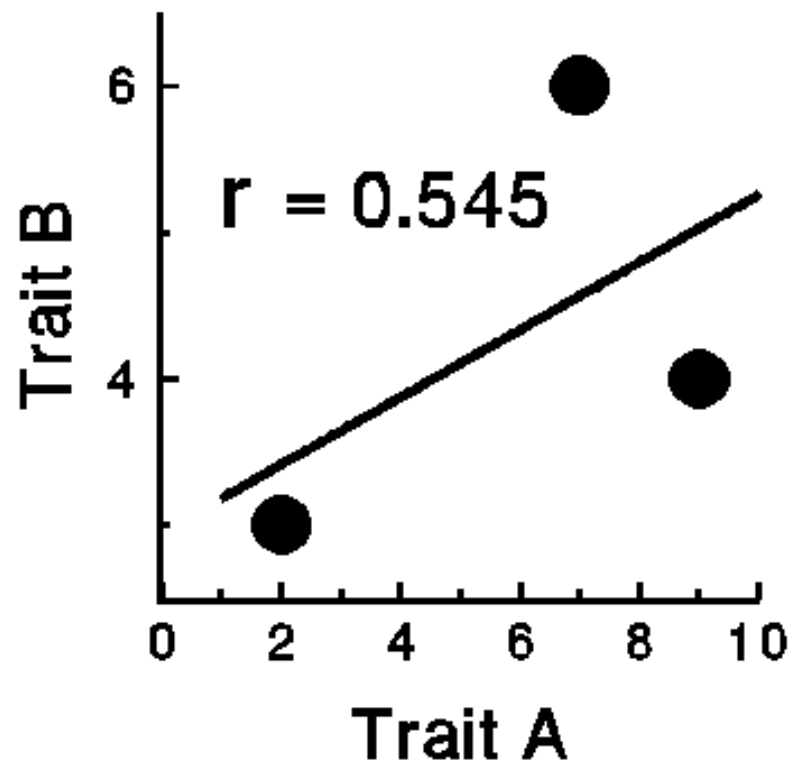
Standardized Contrast

-1

0.667

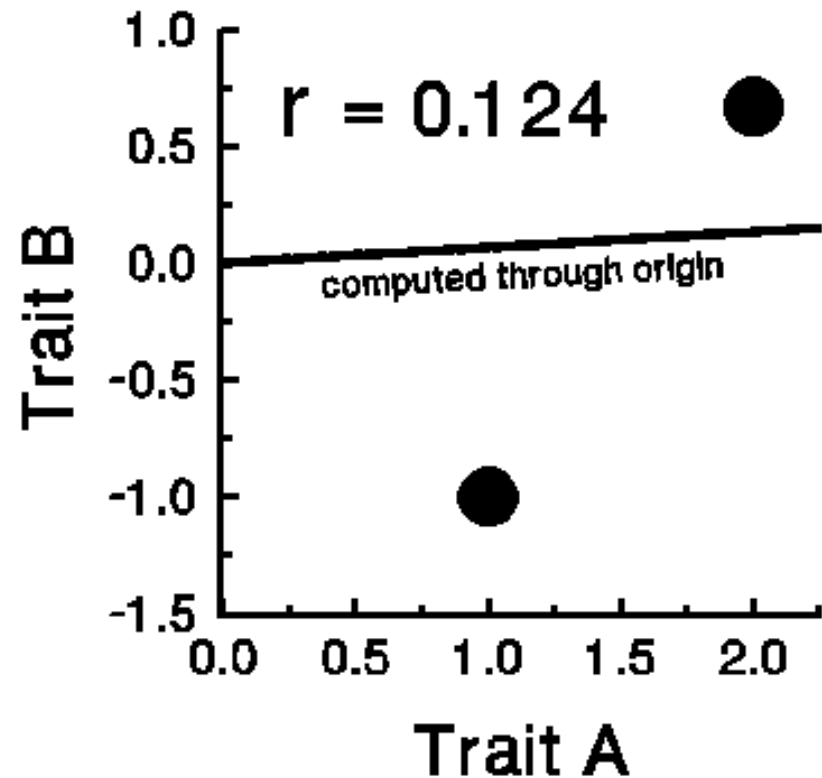
It can make a big difference!

Conventional Statistical Analysis



d.f. = 1

Phylogenetically Independent Contrasts



d.f. = 1

Joe's Top 5 Papers by Citations

	Total	Per Yr.
1. CONFIDENCE-LIMITS ON PHYLOGENIES - AN APPROACH USING THE BOOTSTRAP By: FELSENSTEIN, J EVOLUTION Volume: 39 Issue: 4 Pages: 783-791 1985	25,764	781
2. EVOLUTIONARY TREES FROM DNA-SEQUENCES - A MAXIMUM-LIKELIHOOD APPROACH By: FELSENSTEIN, J JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR EVOLUTION Volume: 17 Issue: 6 Pages: 368-376 1981	7,038	190
3. PHYLOGENIES AND THE COMPARATIVE METHOD By: FELSENSTEIN, J AMERICAN NATURALIST Volume: 125 Issue: 1 Pages: 1-15 1985	5,317	161
4. CASES IN WHICH PARSIMONY OR COMPATIBILITY METHODS WILL BE POSITIVELY MISLEADING By: FELSENSTEIN, J SYSTEMATIC ZOOLOGY Volume: 27 Issue: 4 Pages: 401-410 1978	1,943	49
5. PHYLOGENIES FROM MOLECULAR SEQUENCES - INFERENCE AND RELIABILITY By: FELSENSTEIN, J ANNUAL REVIEW OF GENETICS Volume: 22 Pages: 521-565 1988	1,740	58

7 June 2017

Ted's Top 5 Papers by Citations

	Total	Per Yr.
<p>1. <u>PROCEDURES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF COMPARATIVE DATA USING PHYLOGENETICALLY INDEPENDENT CONTRASTS</u> By: GARLAND, T; HARVEY, PH; IVES, AR SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY Volume: 41 Issue: 1 Pages: 18-32 1992</p>	1,642	63
<p>2. <u>TESTING FOR PHYLOGENETIC SIGNAL IN COMPARATIVE DATA: BEHAVIORAL TRAITS ARE MORE LABILE</u> By: Blomberg, SP; Garland, T; Ives, AR EVOLUTION Volume: 57 Issue: 4 Pages: 717-745 2003</p>	1,474	98
<p>3. <u>PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS OF COVARIANCE BY COMPUTER-SIMULATION</u> By: GARLAND, T; DICKERMAN, AW; JANIS, CM; et al. SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY Volume: 42 Issue: 3 Pages: 265-292 1993</p>	804	32
<p>4. <u>USING THE PAST TO PREDICT THE PRESENT: CONFIDENCE INTERVALS FOR REGRESSION EQUATIONS IN PHYLOGENETIC COMPARATIVE METHODS</u> By: Garland, T; Ives, AR AMERICAN NATURALIST Volume: 155 Issue: 3 Pages: 346-364 2000</p>	517	29
<p>5. <u>PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSES OF THE CORRELATED EVOLUTION OF CONTINUOUS CHARACTERS - A SIMULATION STUDY</u> By: MARTINS, EP; GARLAND, T EVOLUTION Volume: 45 Issue: 3 Pages: 534-557 1991</p>	488	18

Joe's #3 Paper by Citations

3. PHYLOGENIES AND THE COMPARATIVE METHOD

5,317 161

By: FELSENSTEIN, J

AMERICAN NATURALIST Volume: 125 Issue: 1 Pages: 1-15 1985

“The real purpose of the scientific method is to make sure nature hasn’t misled you into thinking you know something you actually don’t know.”

independent contrasts

“When analytic thought, ~~the knife~~, is applied to experience, something is always killed in the process.” = ultra-adaptationism

— Robert M. Pirsig, 1974, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry Into Values*

Three Common Misconceptions about Phylogenetically Independent Contrasts

Degrees of Freedom are lower:

Wrong! N contrasts = N tips - 1, but you regain a d.f. because all computations are through the origin

Statistical power is lower:

Wrong! Power is same for nonphylogenetic data analyzed with conventional methods and phylogenetically simulated data analyzed with contrasts

They are estimating different things:

Yes and no, somewhat complicated.

Martins E.P. and T. Garland, Jr. 1991. Phylogenetic analyses of the correlated evolution of continuous characters: a simulation study. *Evolution* 45:534–557.

Pagel M.D. 1993. Seeking the evolutionary regression coefficient: an analysis of what comparative methods measure. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 164:191–205.

Purvis, A., and T. Garland, Jr. 1993. Polytomies in comparative analyses of continuous characters. *Syst. Biol.* 42:569-575.

Garland, Jr., T., and S. C. Adolph. 1994. Why not to do two-species comparative studies: limitations on inferring adaptation. *Physiological Zoology* 67:797-828.

First Use of Independent Contrasts 1987

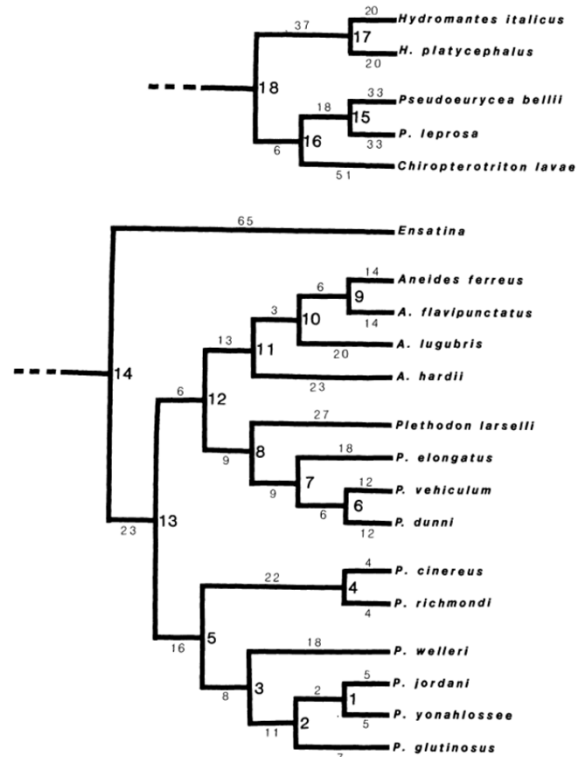


FIG. 3. Phylogenetic tree used to compute independent contrasts for genome size, growth rate, and differentiation rate in plethodontid salamanders (Table 4). Only taxa for which estimates of divergence times are available are included. Numbers (1–18) assigned to the contrasts (from Table 4) represent the nodes of the phylogenetic tree. Estimates of the duration of lineages are given in units of years $\times 10^7$ along branches. These estimates are derived from comparative biochemical data (Wake et al., 1978; Highton and Larson, 1979; Maxson et al., 1979; Larson et al., 1981; Maxson and Wake, 1981), using the calibration of Maxson and Maxson (1979).

TABLE 4. Independent contrasts calculated for C-value, growth rate, and differentiation rate following the method of Felsenstein (1985). The numbers (1–18) assigned to the contrasts represent the nodes of the phylogenetic tree in Figure 3. Contrasts for the C-value variable are given a positive sign, and the contrasts for the other variables are given a negative sign whenever their direction differs from that of the C-value variable.

Contrast	C-value	Growth rate	Differentiation rate
1	2.4	0.2	-0.9
2	1.0	-1.1	0.2
3	2.0	1.7	1.1
4	1.6	-1.2	1.1
5	1.5	0.2	1.0
6	1.9	-1.5	-1.0
7	4.6	-0.3	0.1
8	6.8	-2.0	-1.6
9	1.8	-0.5	-0.9
10	3.1	-0.8	1.0
11	8.7	-1.5	-0.8
12	0.2	0.5	0.8
13	8.6	-0.3	-0.7
14	0.4	-0.0	-0.5
15	7.3	-1.2	-2.1
16	3.0	0.2	-0.4
17	13.1	-0.6	-1.4
18	11.7	-0.7	-1.8

Spearman rank correlation coefficients:

$$r_s (\text{C-value} - \text{growth rate}) = -0.29$$

(*d.f.* = 16, ns).

$$r_s (\text{growth rate} - \text{differentiation rate}) = 0.47$$

(*d.f.* = 16, $P < 0.025$).

$$r_s (\text{C-value} - \text{differentiation rate}) = -0.47$$

(*d.f.* = 16, $P < 0.025$).

Sessions, S. K., and A. Larson. 1987. Developmental correlates of genome size in plethodontid salamanders and their implications for genome evolution. *Evolution* 41:1239-1251.

Simulations to Show it Works

Simulations under Brownian motion along this tree

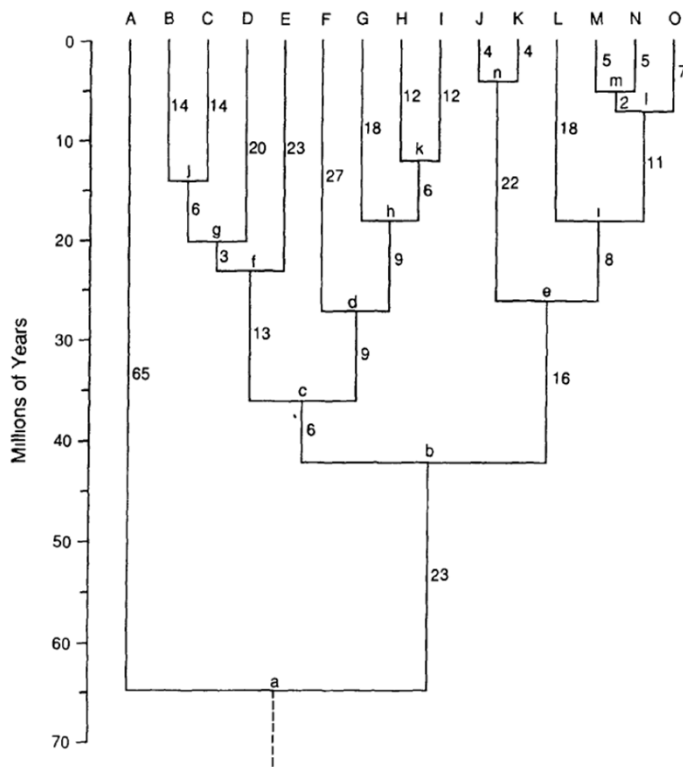
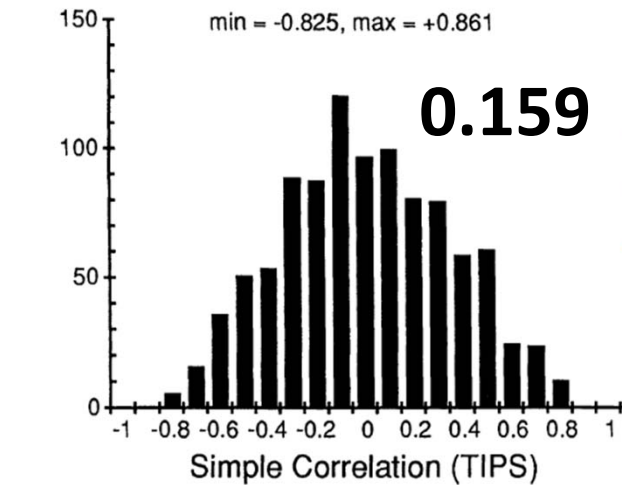
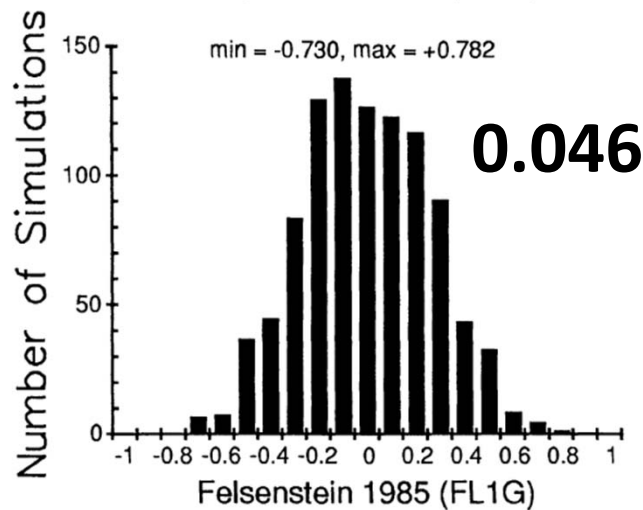


FIG. 2. Phylogeny for 15 species of plethodontid salamanders, from Sessions and Larson's (1987) Figure 3. Vertical axis represents time since divergence; horizontal axis is arbitrary.

Type I error rate with 1,000 simulations, 2-tailed test, and $\alpha = 0.05$



Distribution of Correlation Coefficients is too Spread Out when Ignoring Phylogeny



Independent Contrasts Fixes This

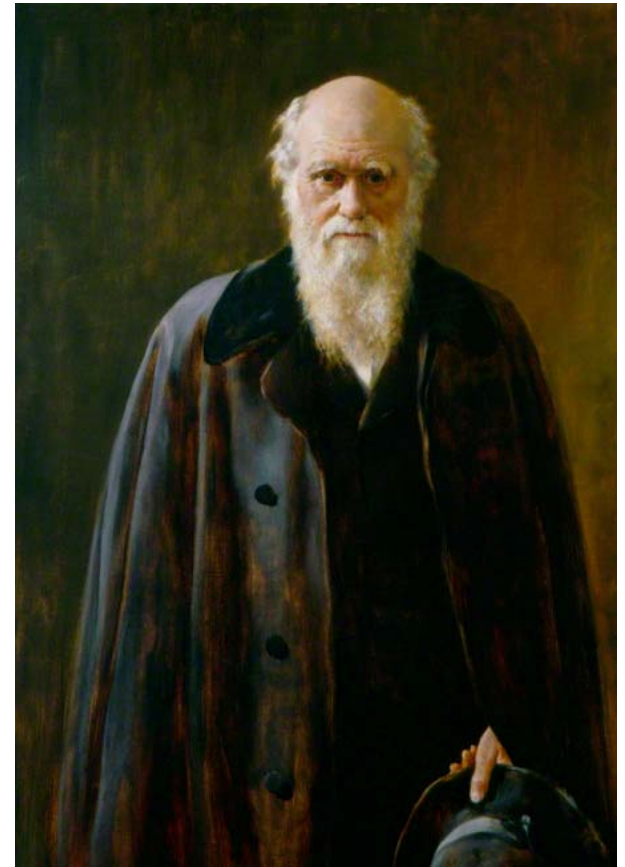
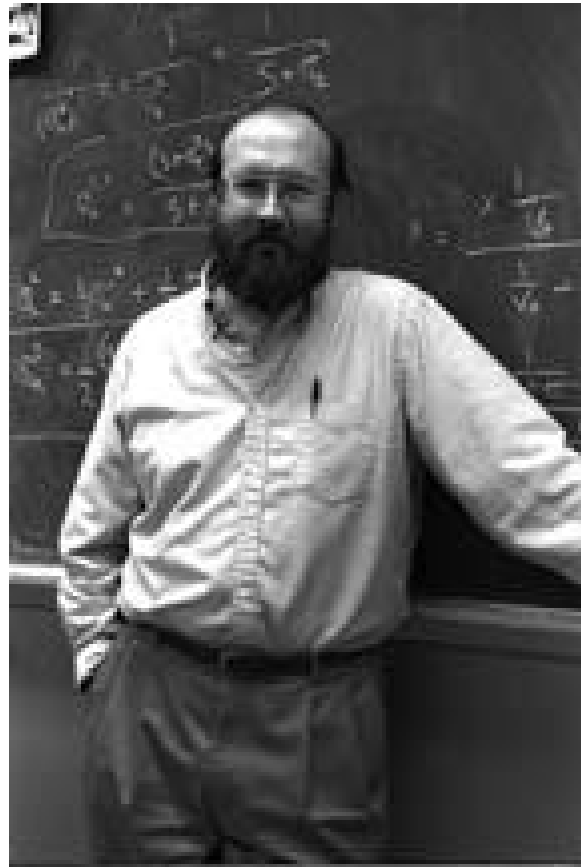
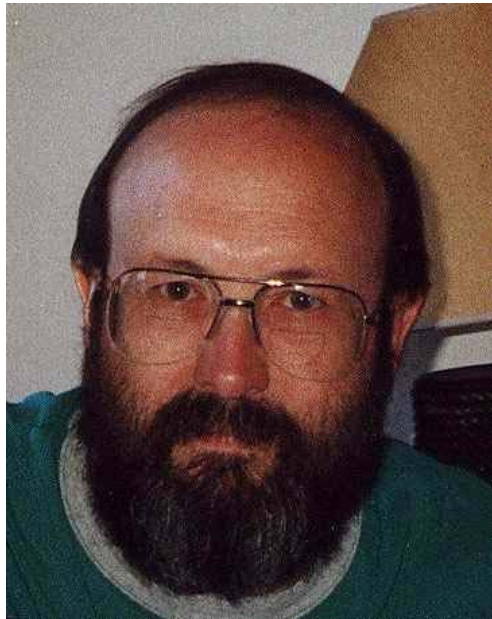
Martins, E. P., and T. Garland, Jr. 1991. Phylogenetic analyses of the correlated evolution of continuous characters: a simulation study. *Evolution* 45:534–557.

Phylogenetically Independent Contrasts as an All-purpose Tool

- ✓ Correlation, Regression
- ✓ ANOVA, ANCOVA
- ✓ Principal Components
- ✓ Outlier Tests
- ✓ Rates of Evolution
- ✓ Ancestor Reconstruction
- ✓ Phylogenetic Signal
- ✓ Measurement Error Models



What did Joe know,
and when did he know it?

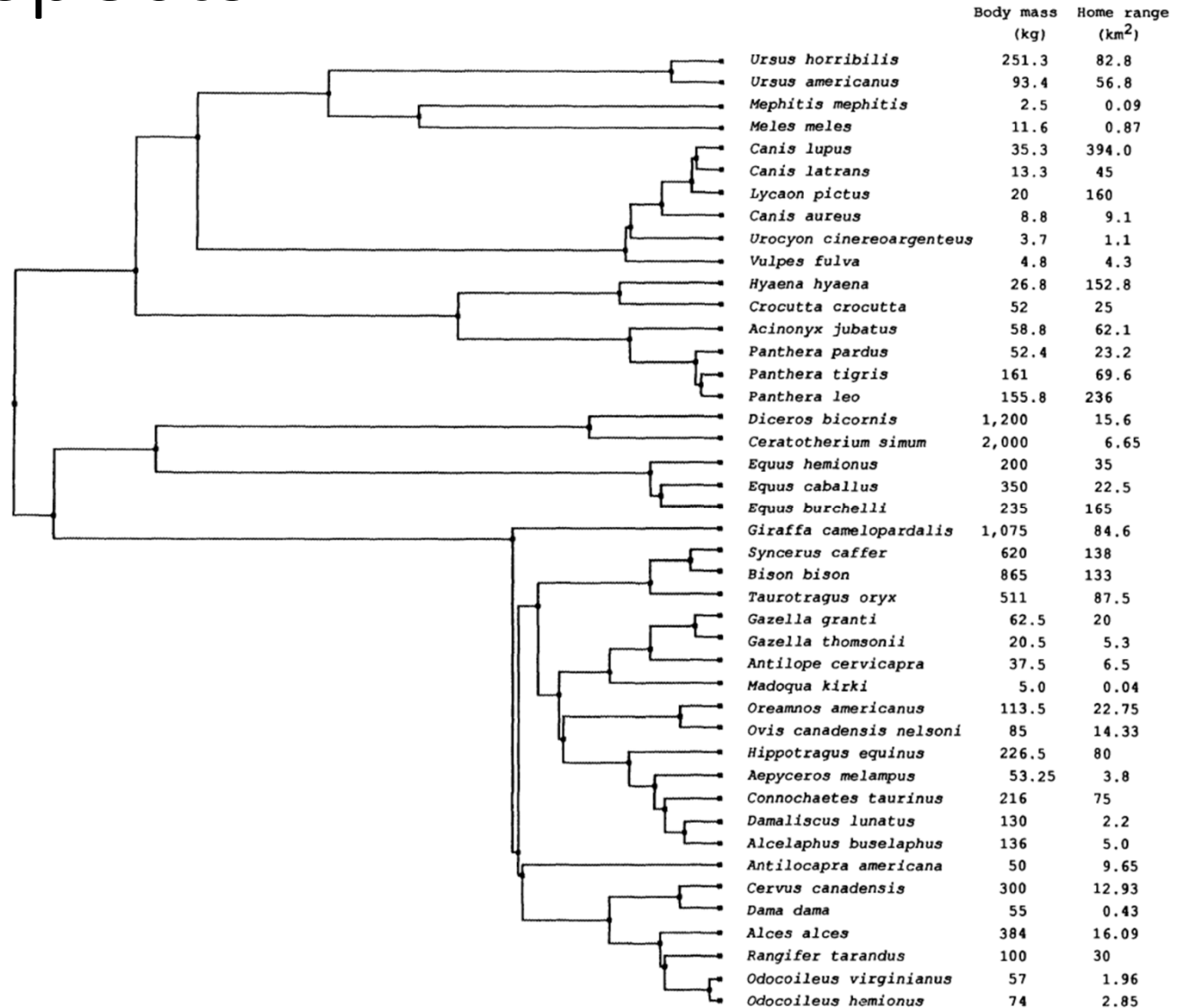


With apologies to Howard H. Baker, Jr., 1973

Practical Aspects

Ideally, you would have "real" branch lengths, such as estimated divergence times from fossils and molecular clocks.

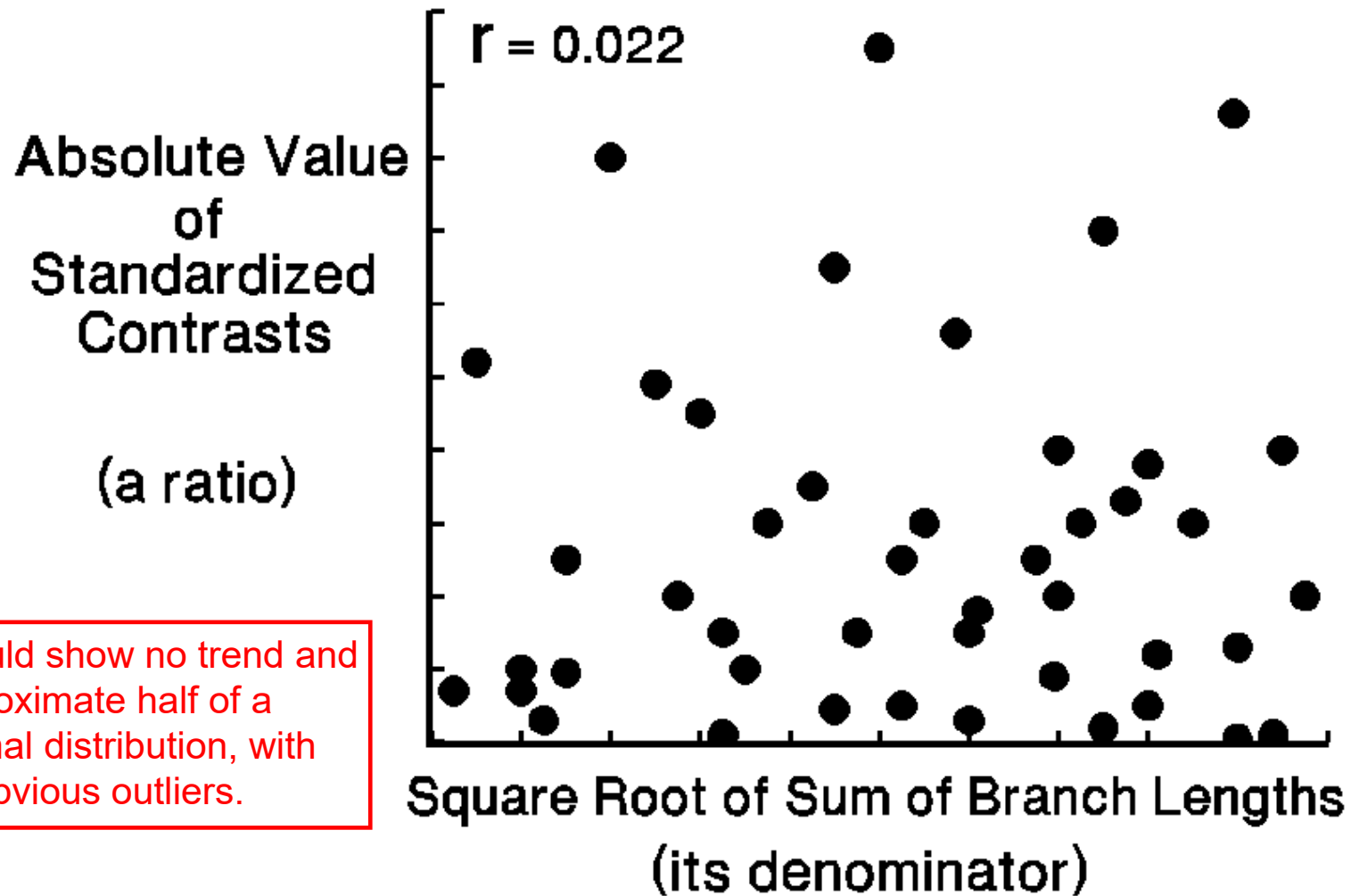
Ideally, you would know that the traits under study had evolved by a process similar to unbounded Brownian motion.



Garland, Jr., T., P. H. Harvey, and A. R. Ives. 1992. Procedures for the analysis of comparative data using phylogenetically independent contrasts. *Systematic Biology* 41:18–32.

Practical Aspects: Diagnostics

Diagnostic Check for Adequacy of Branch Lengths



CM-DIAGN May 24, 2002 9:45:35 AM

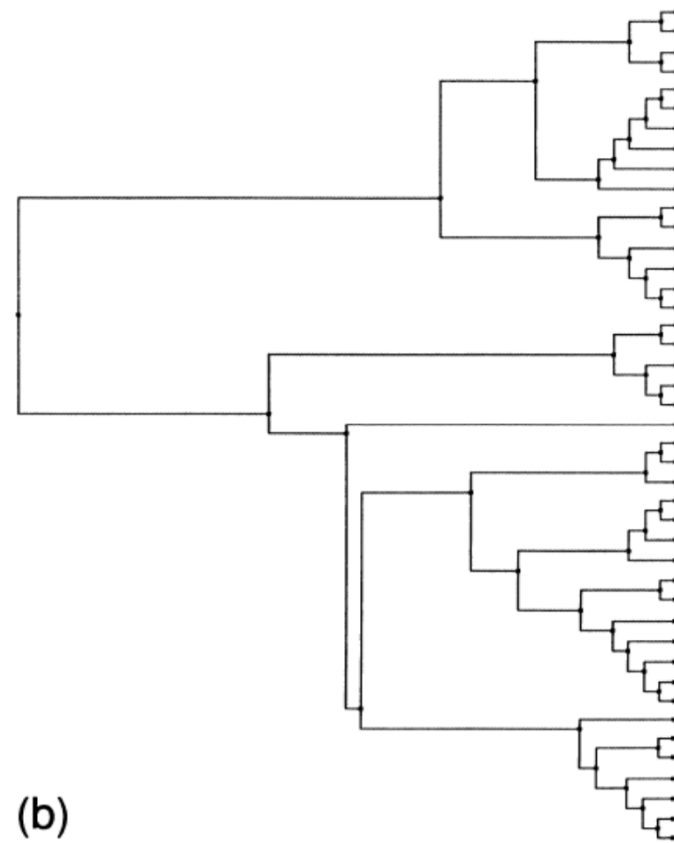
Garland, Jr., T., P. H. Harvey, and A. R. Ives. 1992. Procedures for the analysis of comparative data using phylogenetically independent contrasts. *Systematic Biology* 41:18–32.

Practical Aspects: Remedial Measures

When diagnostics fail, OK to try transformed and/or arbitrary branch lengths.
Simulations show this helps in terms of Type I error rates



log₁₀ transform

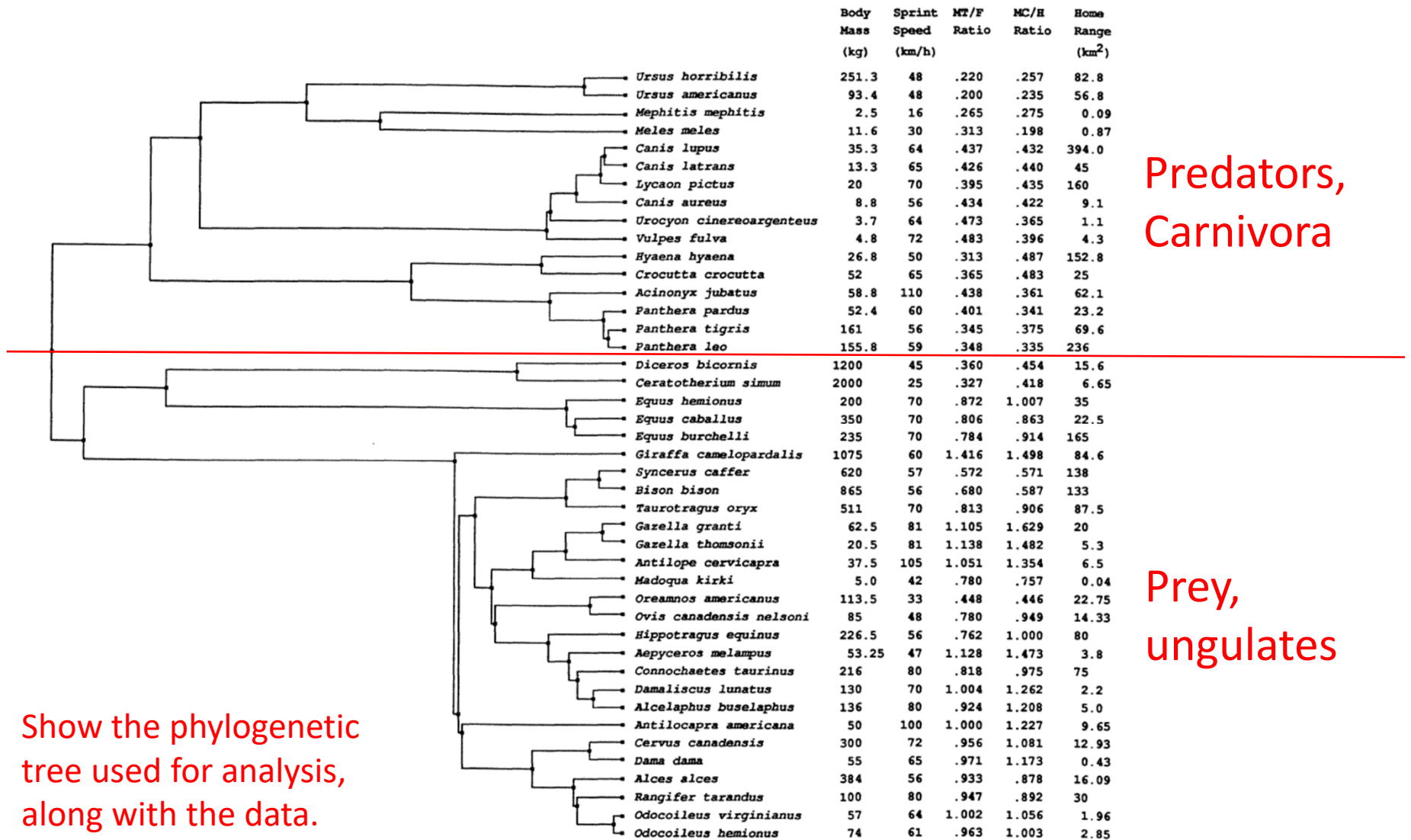


Arbitrary

Garland, Jr., T., P. H. Harvey, and A. R. Ives. 1992. Procedures for the analysis of comparative data using phylogenetically independent contrasts. *Systematic Biology* 41:18-32.

Diaz-Uriarte R. and T. Garland. 1996. Testing hypotheses of correlated evolution using phylogenetically independent contrasts: sensitivity to deviations from Brownian motion. *Systematic Biology* 45:27-47.

Rate Tests for Phenotypic Evolution



Show the phylogenetic tree used for analysis, along with the data.

Garland, Jr., T. 1992. Rate tests for phenotypic evolution using phylogenetically independent contrasts. *The American Naturalist* 140:509–519.

Rate Tests for Phenotypic Evolution

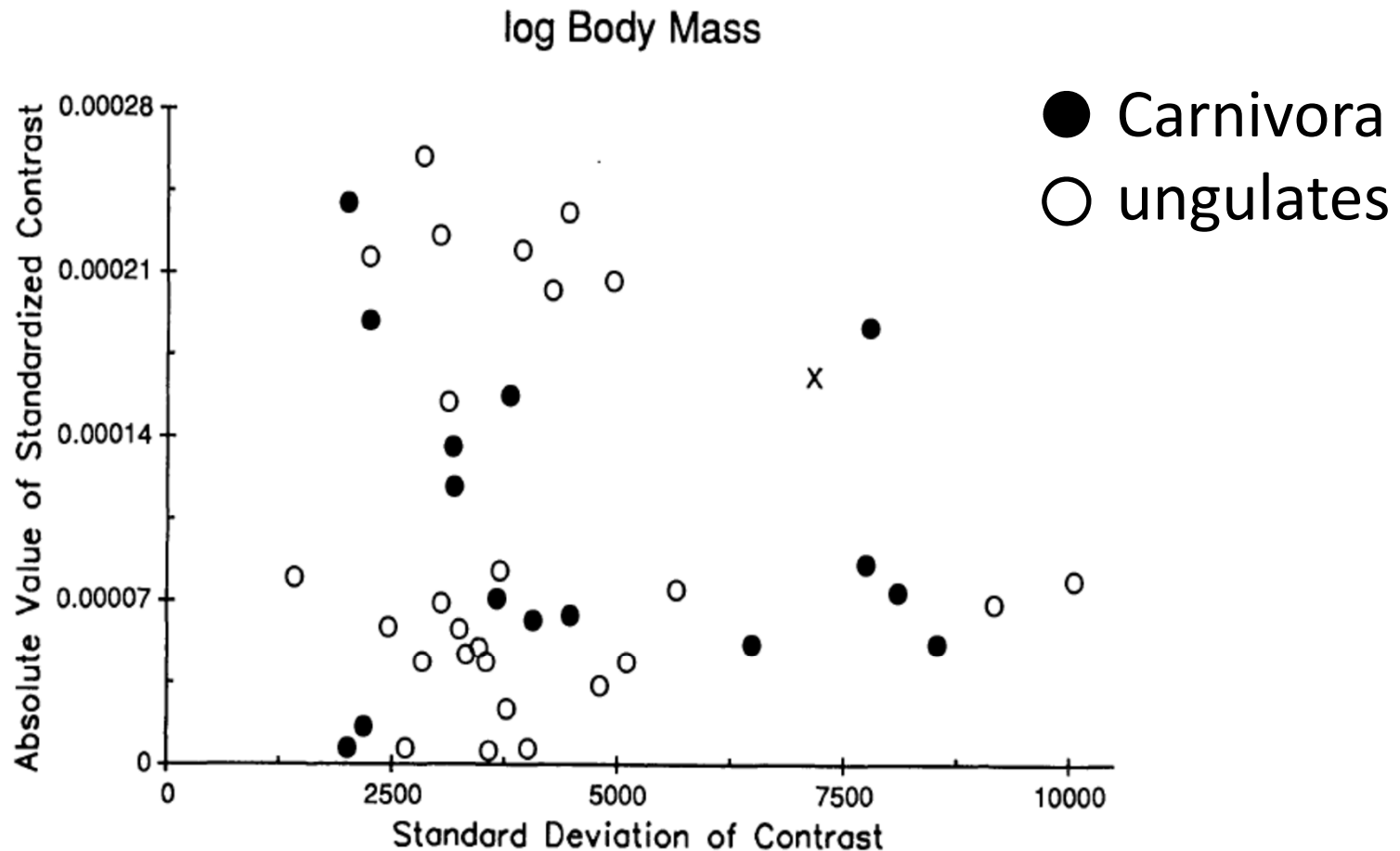


FIG. 3.—Comparison of evolutionary rates for \log_{10} body mass of 16 species of Carnivora and 27 species of ungulates. Symbols are as in fig. 2.

Garland, Jr., T. 1992. Rate tests for phenotypic evolution using phylogenetically independent contrasts. *The American Naturalist* 140:509–519.

Rate Tests for Phenotypic Evolution

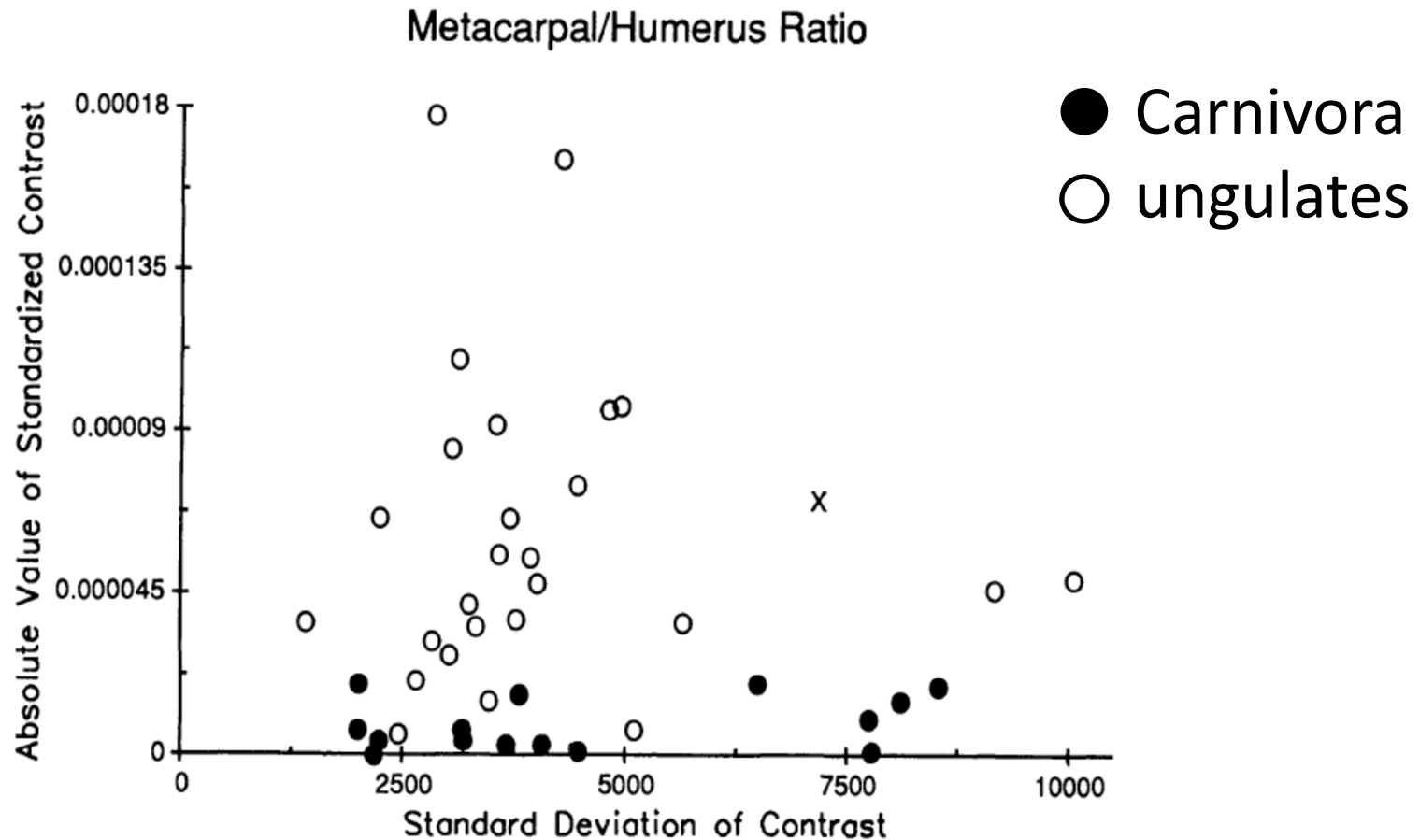


FIG. 2.—Comparison of evolutionary rates in metacarpal-humerus ratio (as indicated by standardized phylogenetically independent contrasts) within clades of 16 species of Carnivora (closed circles) and 27 species of ungulates (open circles; phylogeny from fig. 1); X represents

Garland, Jr., T. 1992. Rate tests for phenotypic evolution using phylogenetically independent contrasts. *The American Naturalist* 140:509–519.

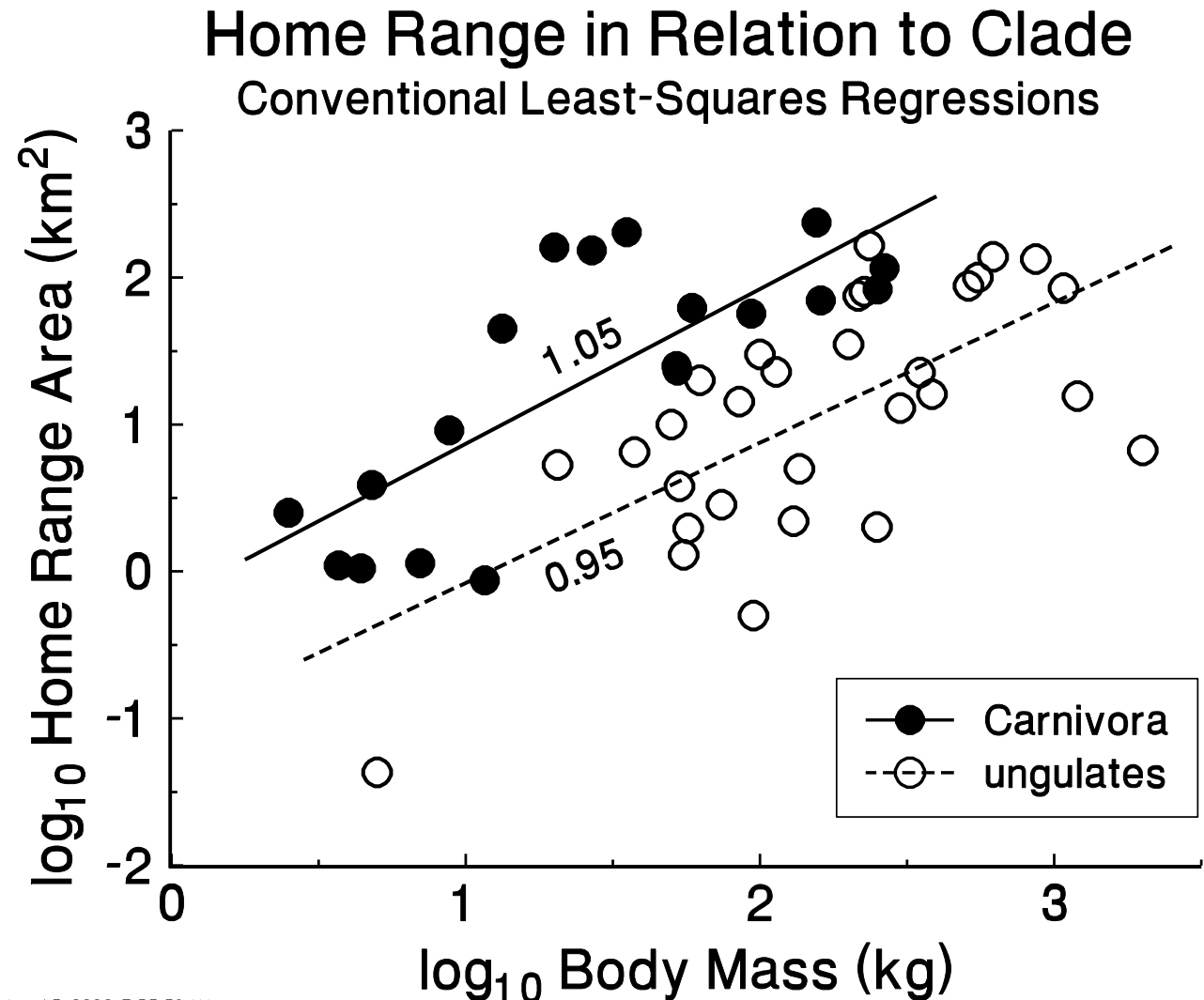
Comparisons of Clade Means

Conventional
ANCOVA

$$F_{1,46} = 23.97$$

Critical value =
4.05 for $\alpha = 0.05$

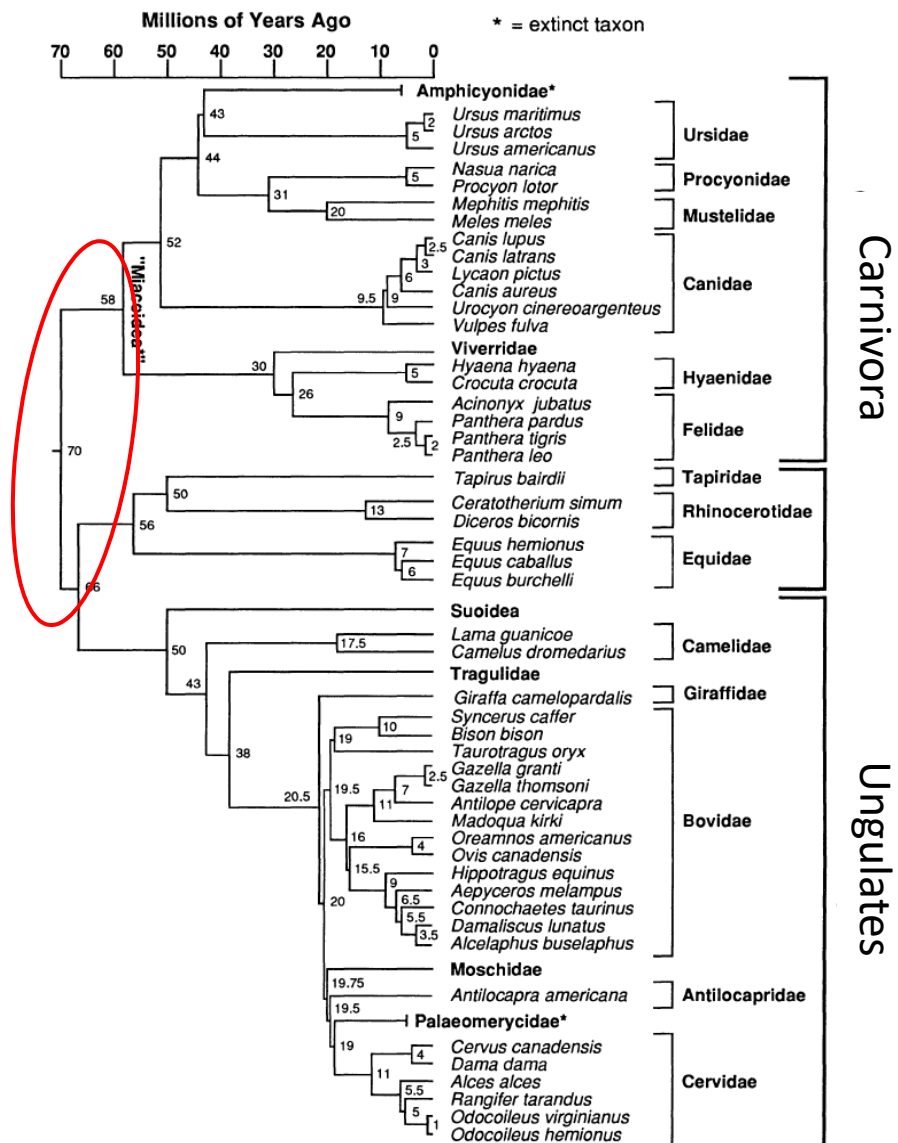
$P < 0.001$



49lbr Apr. 13. 2006 7:53:39 AM

Garland, Jr., T., A. W. Dickerman, C. M. Janis, and J. A. Jones. 1993. Phylogenetic analysis of covariance by computer simulation. *Systematic Biology* 42:265–292.

Comparisons of Clade Means



Test of whether basal contrast deviates from the within-clade pattern allows test of whether clades differ in mean value.

Garland, Jr., T., A. W. Dickerman, C. M. Janis, and J. A. Jones. 1993. Phylogenetic analysis of covariance by computer simulation. Systematic Biology 42:265–292.

Comparisons of Clade Means

The basal contrast does not fall outside the 95% prediction interval for a new observation, either 1-tailed or 2-tailed.

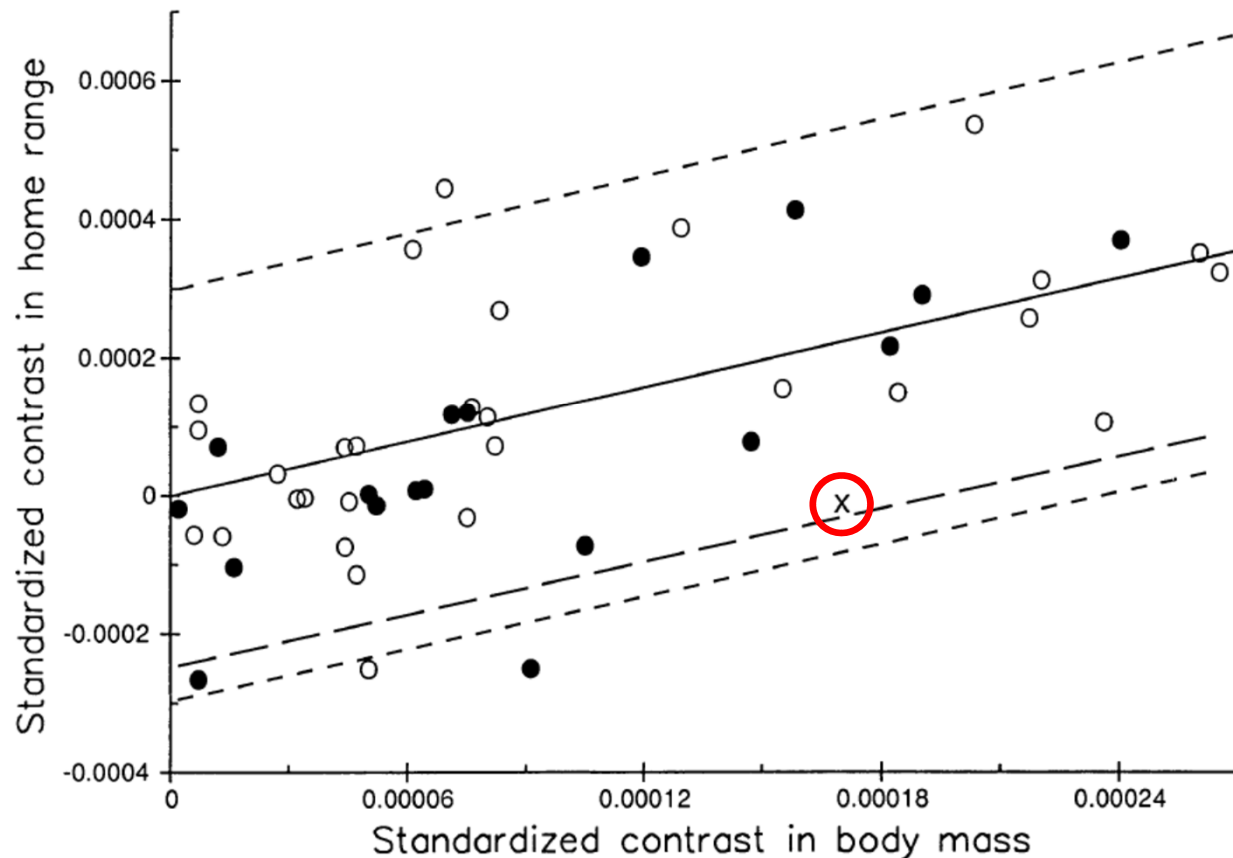


FIGURE 5. Bivariate scatterplot of 48 standardized independent contrasts in \log_{10} home-range area and \log_{10} body mass (redrawn from Garland et al., 1992: fig. 5a). Contrasts within Carnivora (●) and the ungulates (○) are shown, along with the basal contrast (X). In this figure, body mass contrasts have been “positivized” (Garland et al., 1992), and the signs of home-range contrasts changed accordingly. Solid line is least-squares linear regression through the origin for the 47 nonbasal contrasts (slope = 1.3171, $r^2 = 0.544$, $F = 54.90$, $P < 0.0001$). Short dashed lines are the two-tailed 95% prediction interval; long-dashed line is the one-tailed 95% prediction interval (although not immediately obvious from this graph, these prediction intervals become wider farther away from the origin) (formulas from Neter et al., 1989:167–170). The basal contrast falls within these intervals, which indicates no significant difference in home-range area between Carnivora and ungulates.

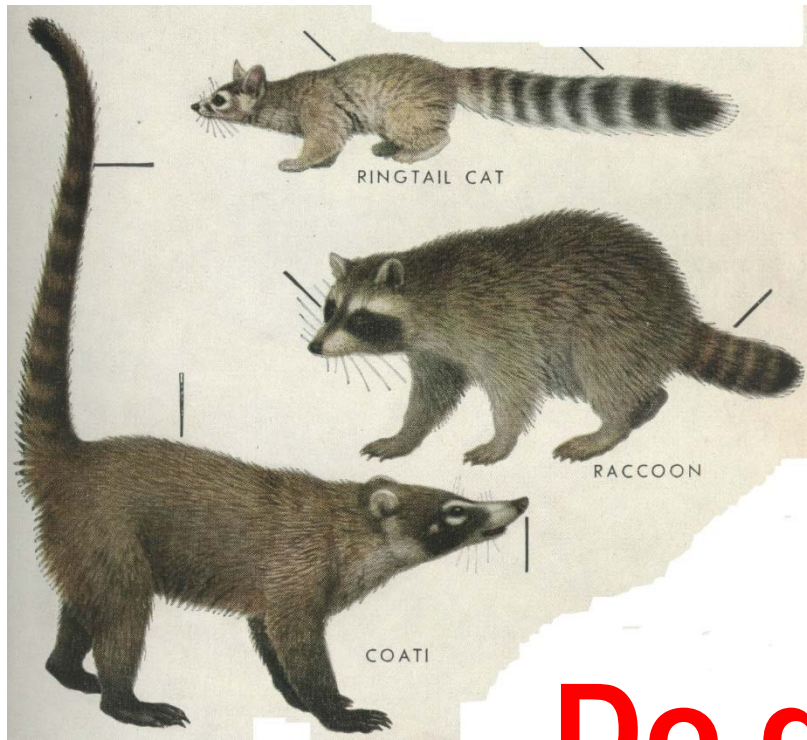
Does a single species deviate from an allometric expectation?

Important general point:

you can perform statistical tests that concern unique evolutionary events!!!

Garland, T., Jr., and S. C. Adolph. 1994. Why not to do two-species comparative studies: limitations on inferring adaptation. *Physiological Zoology* 67:797-828.

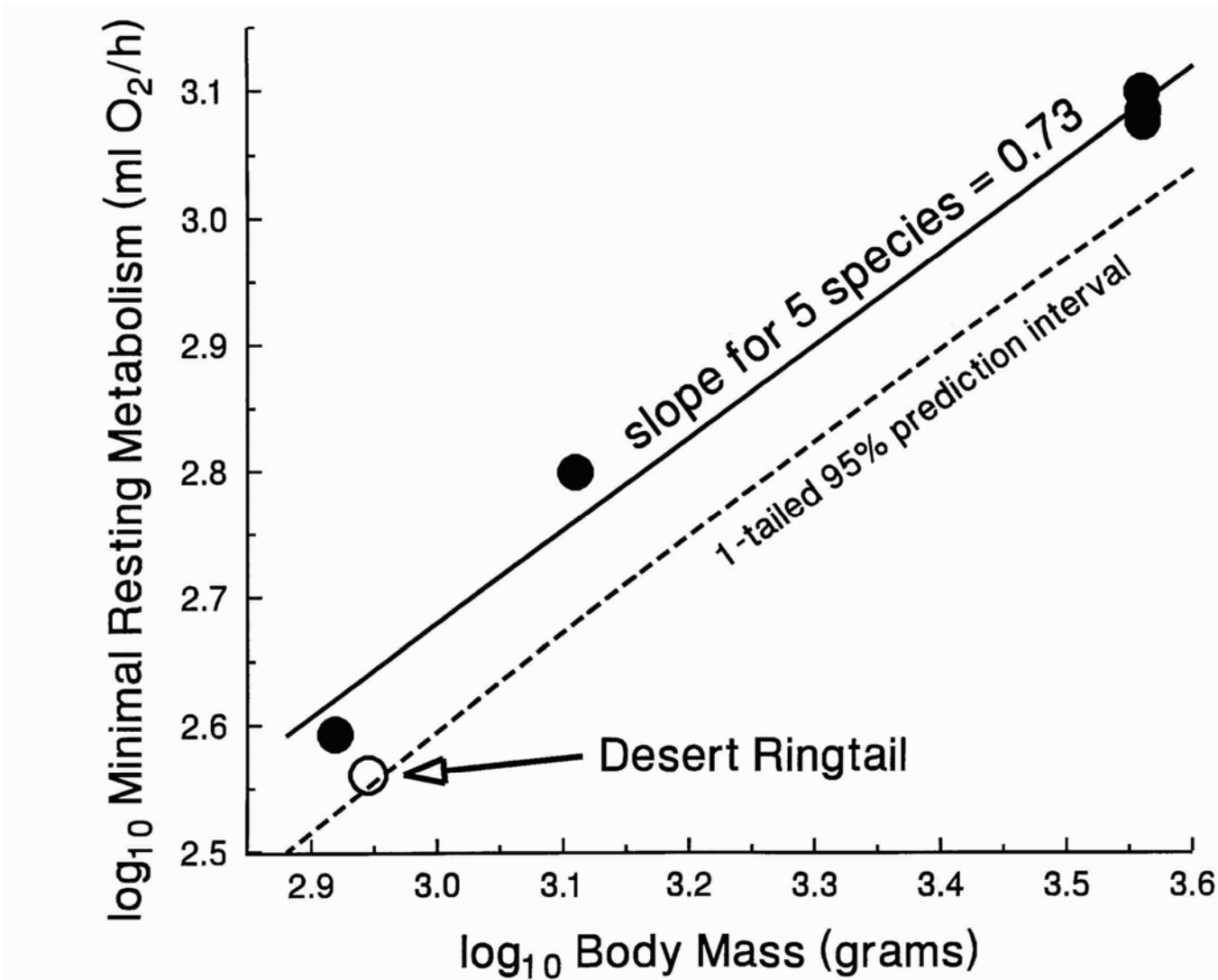
Garland, T., Jr., and A. R. Ives. 2000. Using the past to predict the present: Confidence intervals for regression equations in phylogenetic comparative methods. *American Naturalist* 155:346-364.



Family Procyonidae

**Do desert ringtails
have reduced basal
metabolic rates?**

Does a single species deviate from an allometric expectation? (*a priori*)

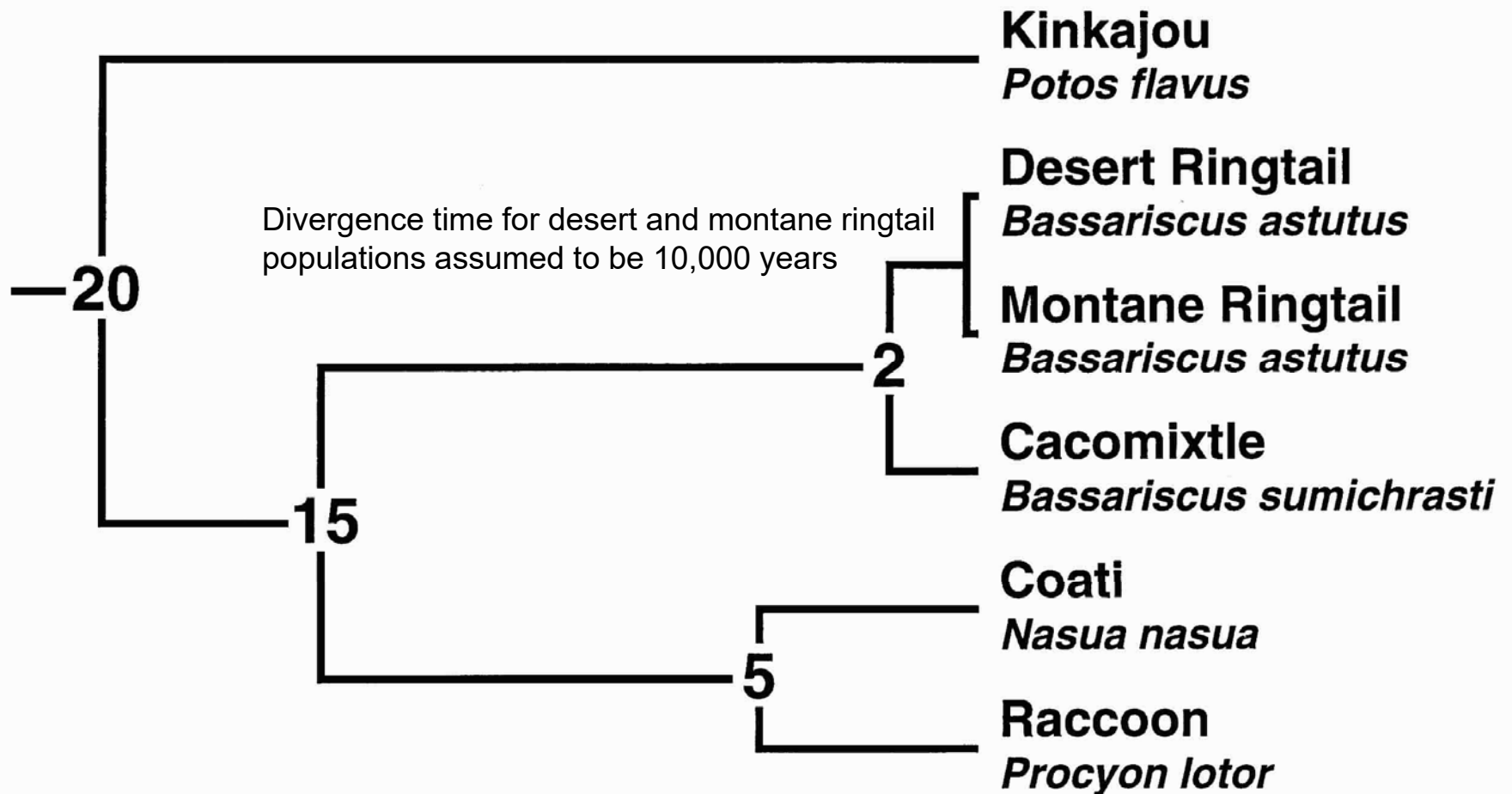


CHEVTIP1 Julv 26. 1998 3:55:43 PM

This is from Fig. 4 in Garland and Adolph (1994).

Phylogeny of Procyonidae studied by Chevalier (1991)

Divergence Times in Millions of Years



Does a single species deviate from an allometric expectation? (*a priori*)

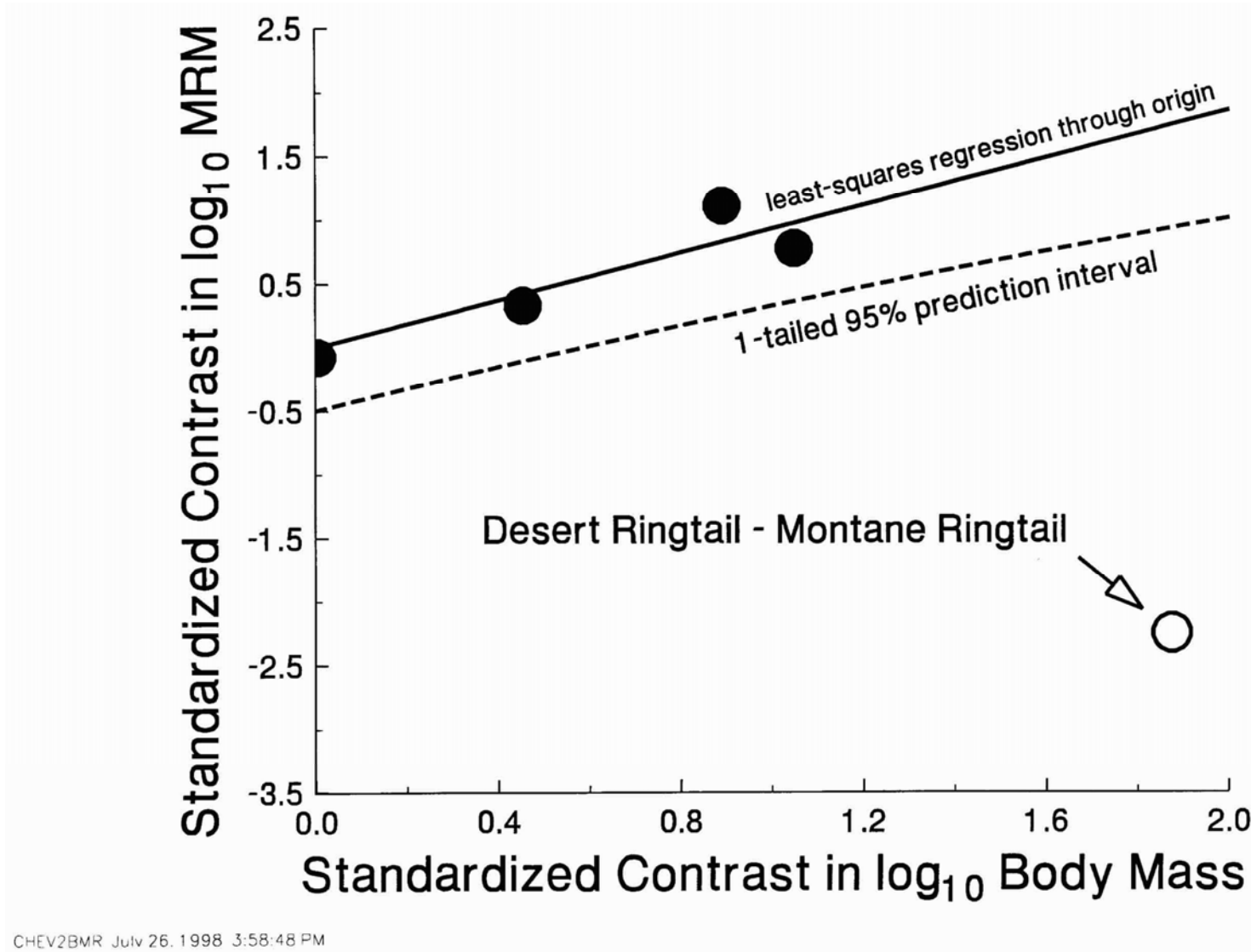
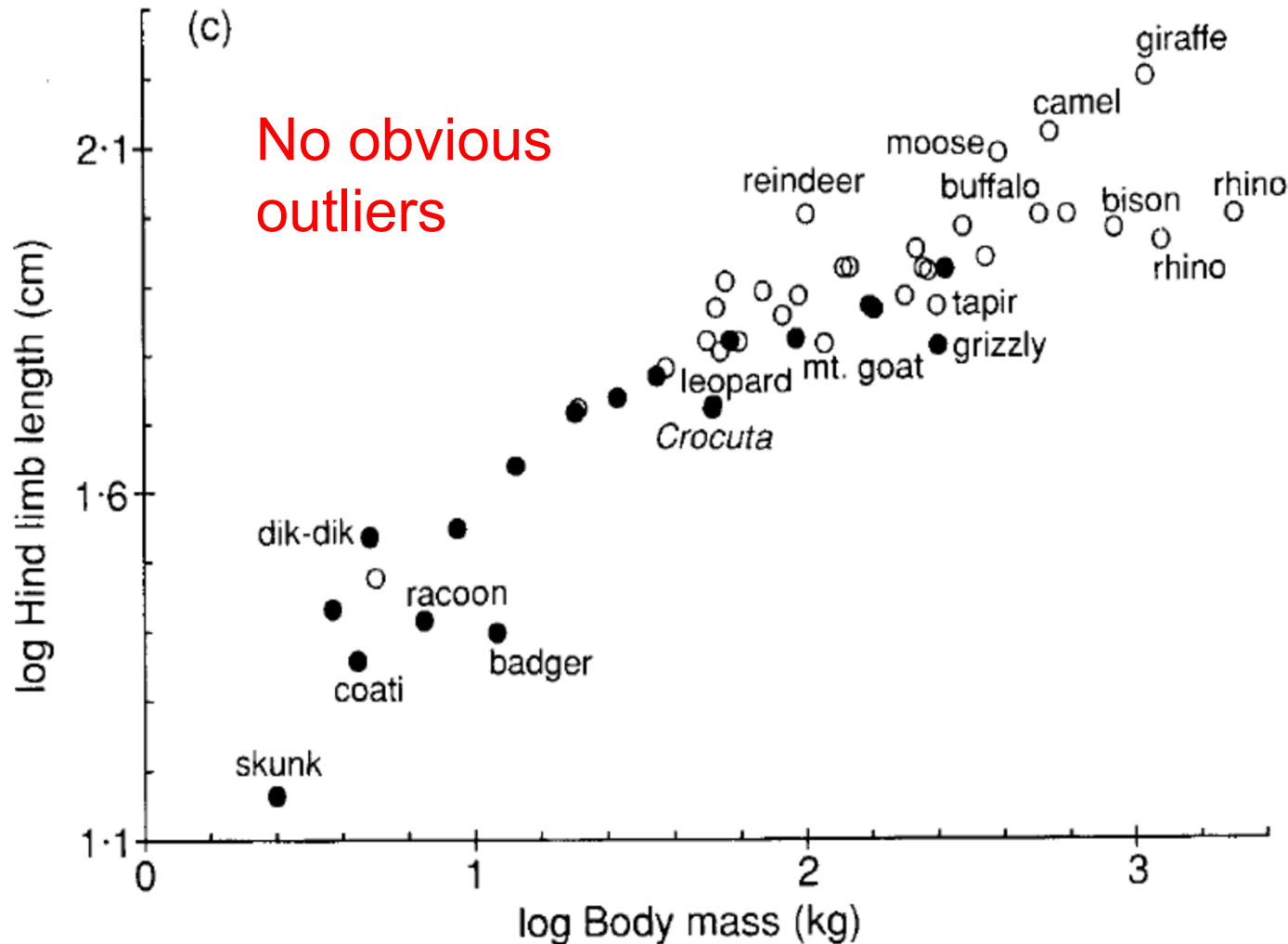


Fig. 4 in G & A 1994

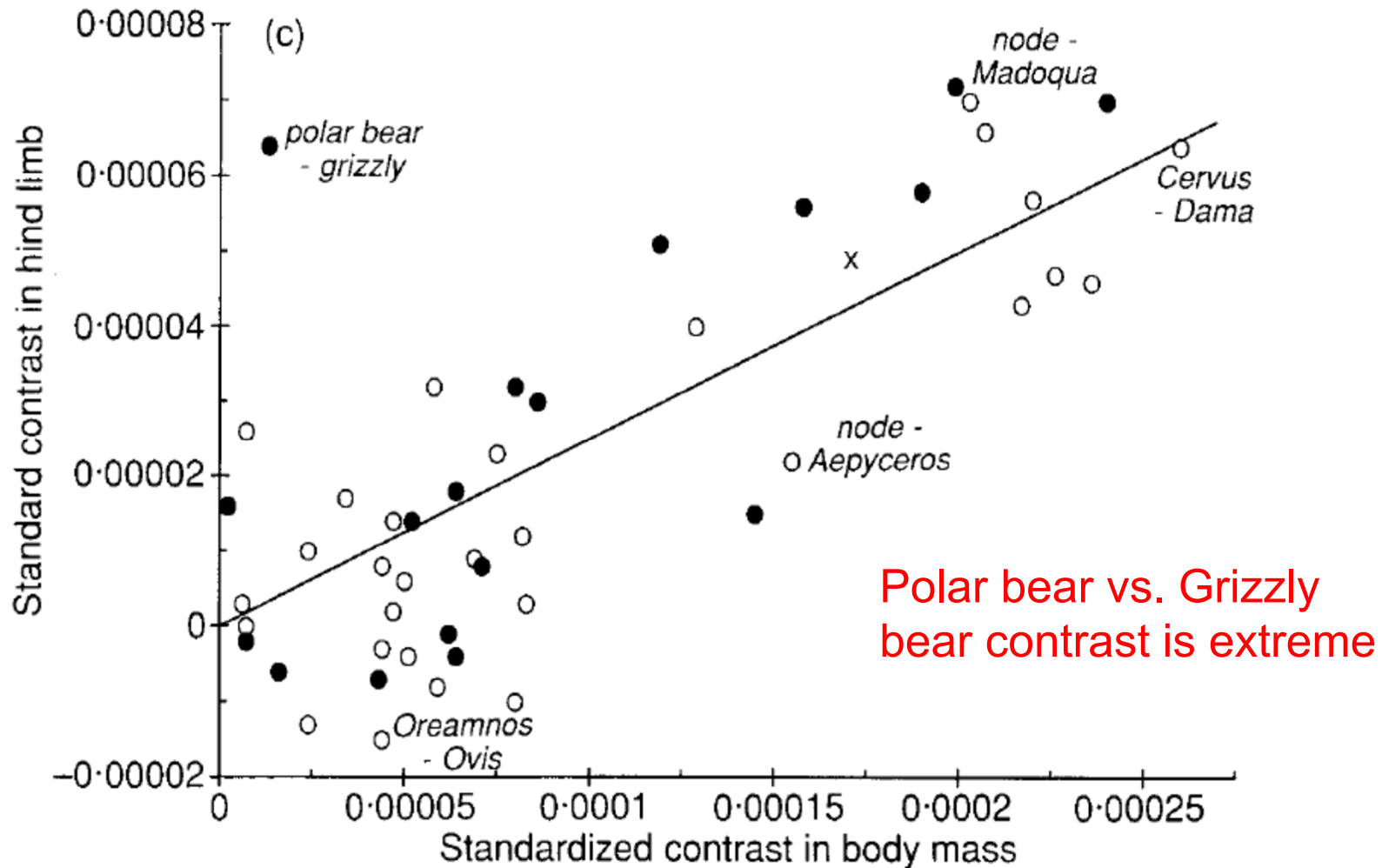
This same example is reanalyzed by GLS methods in Garland and Ives (2000), with same results.

Does a single species deviate from an allometric expectation? (*a posteriori*)



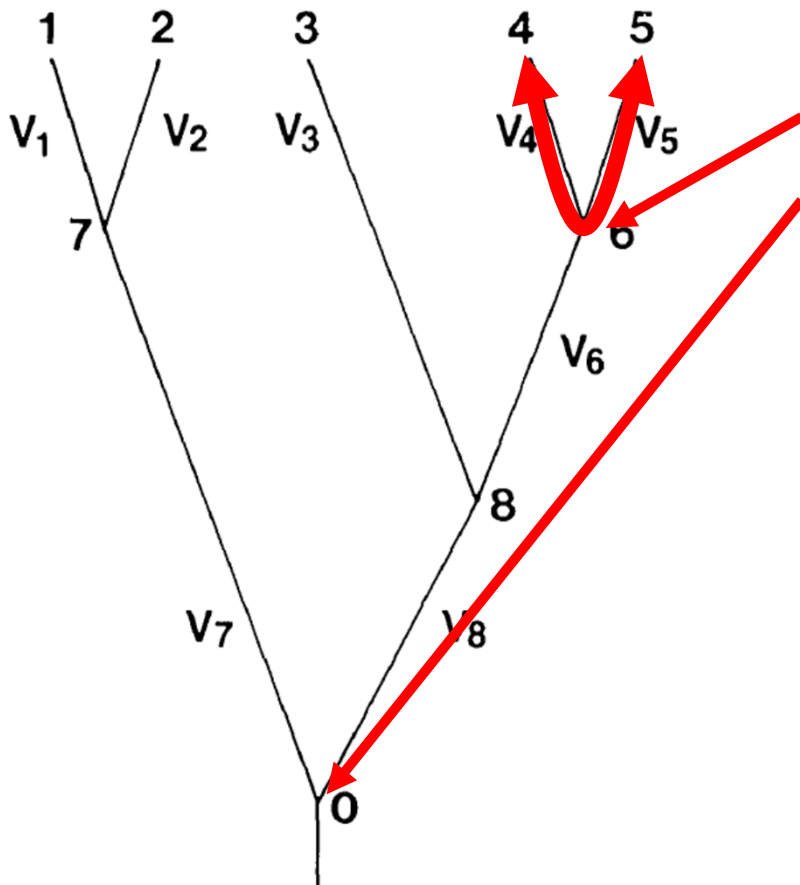
Garland, Jr., T., and C. M. Janis. 1993. Does metatarsal/femur ratio predict maximal running speed in cursorial mammals? *Journal of Zoology* 229:133–151.

Does a single species deviate from an allometric expectation? (*a posteriori*)



Garland, Jr., T., and C. M. Janis. 1993. Does metatarsal/femur ratio predict maximal running speed in cursorial mammals? *Journal of Zoology* 229:133–151.

Estimation of ancestral states and CIs



Values computed for internal nodes are "local parsimony," except at the root, where it is global parsimony and maximum likelihood.

Estimate for **root node** is also estimate of mean for tips, weighted by phylogenetic relationships.

Contrasts algebra allows **standard error and CI** to be computed, as well as **regression intercept and SE in original data space**.

Can **reroot** tree to get values for any internal node.

Garland, Jr., T., A. W. Dickerman, C. M. Janis, and J. A. Jones. 1993. Phylogenetic analysis of covariance by computer simulation. *Systematic Biology* 42:265-292.

Garland, T., P. E. Midford, and A. R. Ives. 1999. An introduction to phylogenetically based statistical methods, with a new method for confidence intervals on ancestral values. *American Zoologist* 39:374-388.

Bonine, K. E. 2005. Muscle fiber-type variation in lizards (Squamata) and phylogenetic reconstruction of hypothesized ancestral states. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 208:4529-4547.

Testing for "Phylogenetic Signal" =
tendency for related species
to resemble each other

For example, elephants look like elephants.



Blomberg, S. P., and T. Garland, Jr. 2002. Tempo and mode in evolution: phylogenetic inertia, adaptation and comparative methods. *J. Evol. Biology* 15:899-910.

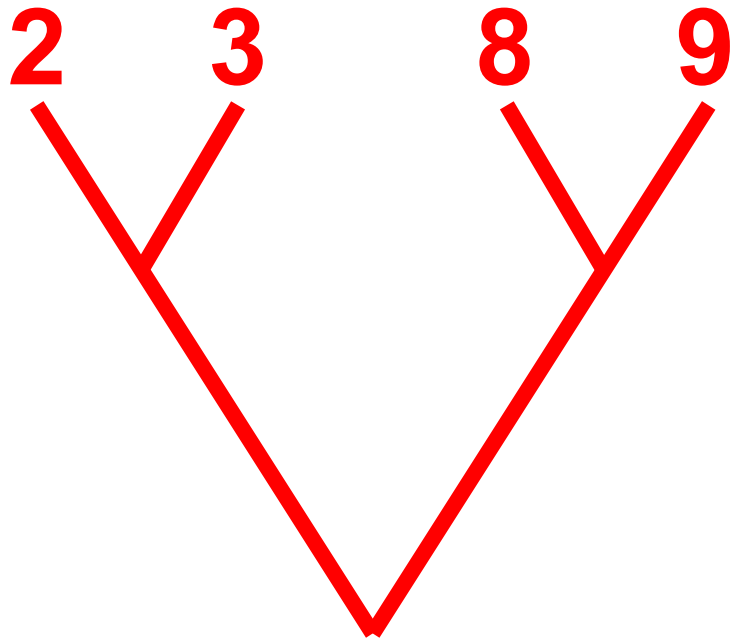
Blomberg, S. P., T. Garland, Jr., and A. R. Ives. 2003. Testing for phylogenetic signal in comparative data: behavioral traits are more labile. *Evolution* 57:717-745.

"Phylogenetic Signal"

is **not** the same as
phylogenetic inertia
or constraint.

These terms imply more than is easily
estimated from comparative data
alone, e.g., resistance to change.

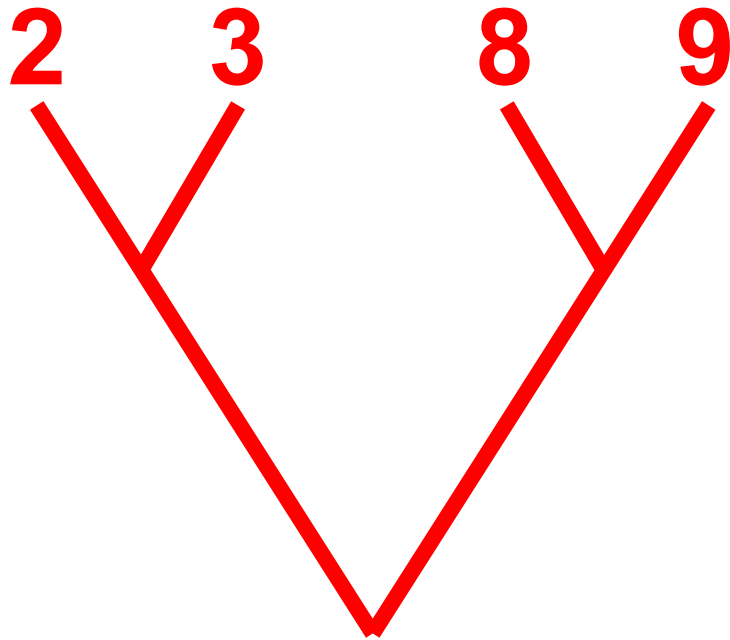
A Tree and Tip Data for 4 Species



A Test for
Phylogenetic Signal
via Independent
Contrasts

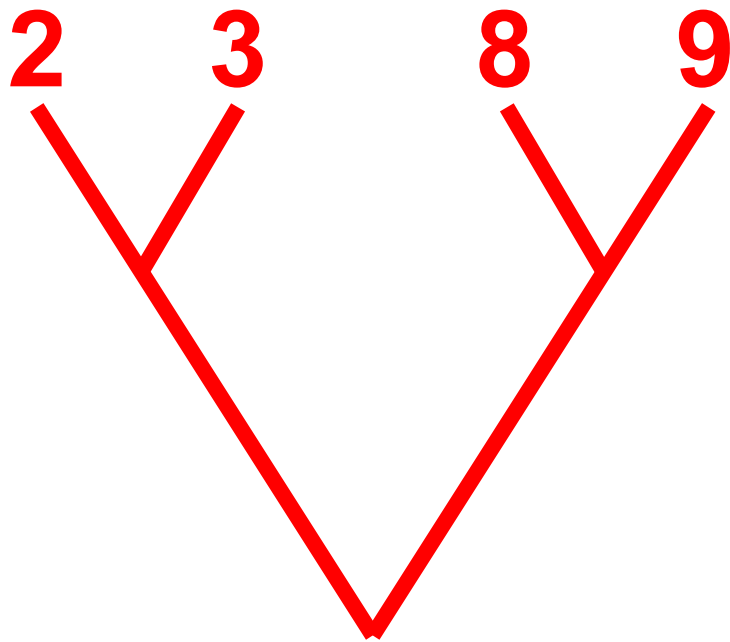
**Hypothetical
Example**

Phylogenetic Signal is Apparent



**Relatives
Resemble Each
Other**

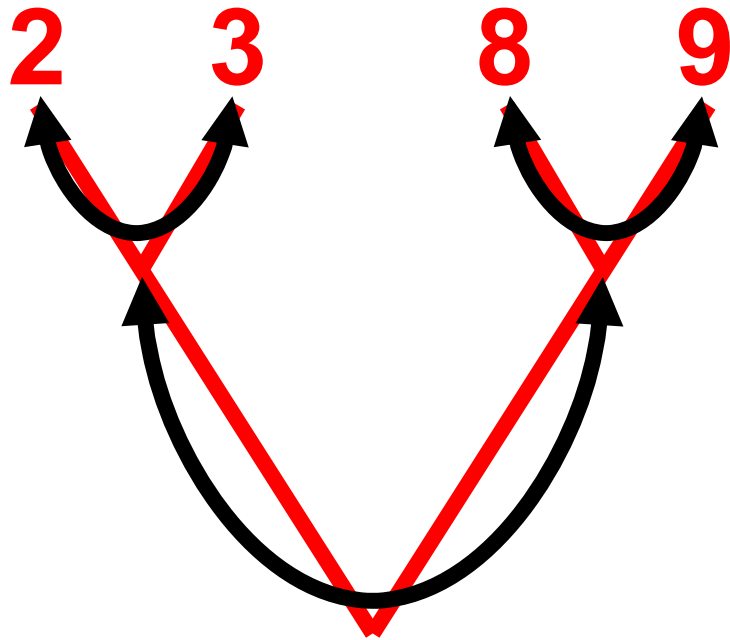
Phylogenetic Signal is Apparent



Statistical significance can be tested using phylogenetically independent contrasts & randomization.

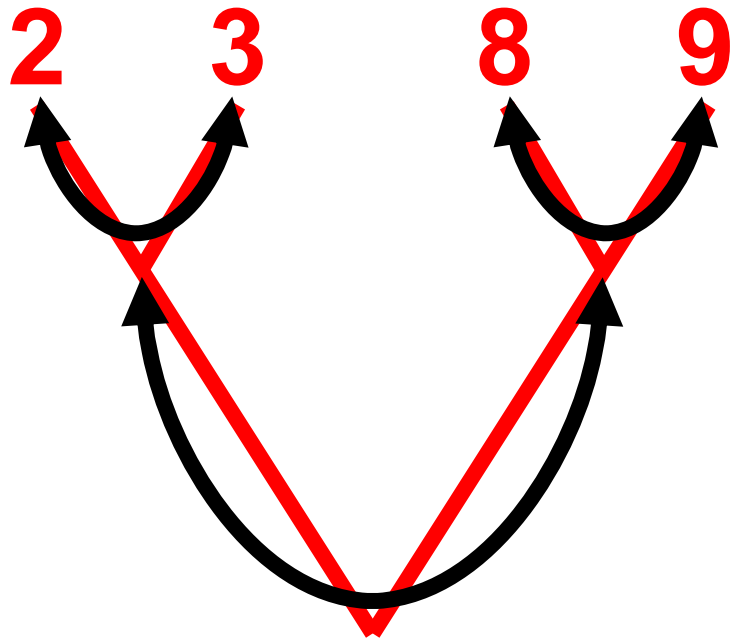
Simulations indicate power ~ 0.8 with >20 species.

Phylogenetic Signal is Apparent



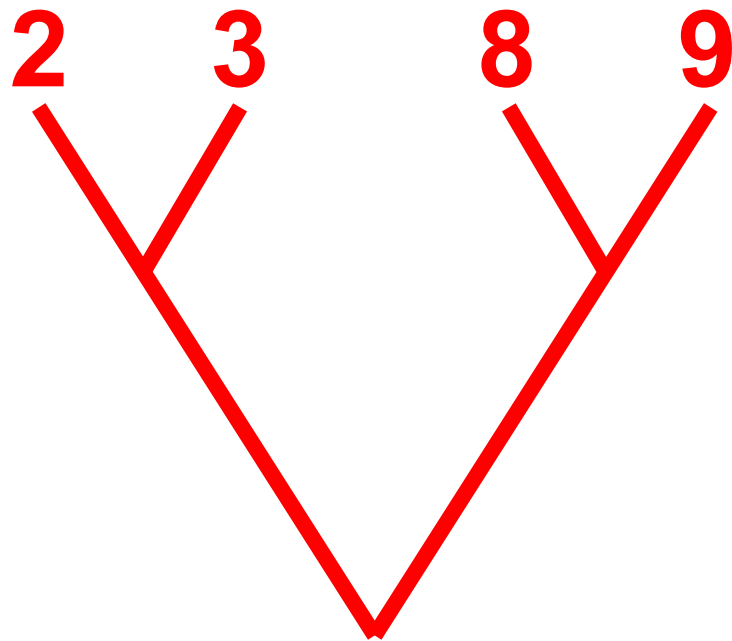
**Compute Contrasts,
including standardizing**

Phylogenetic Signal is Apparent



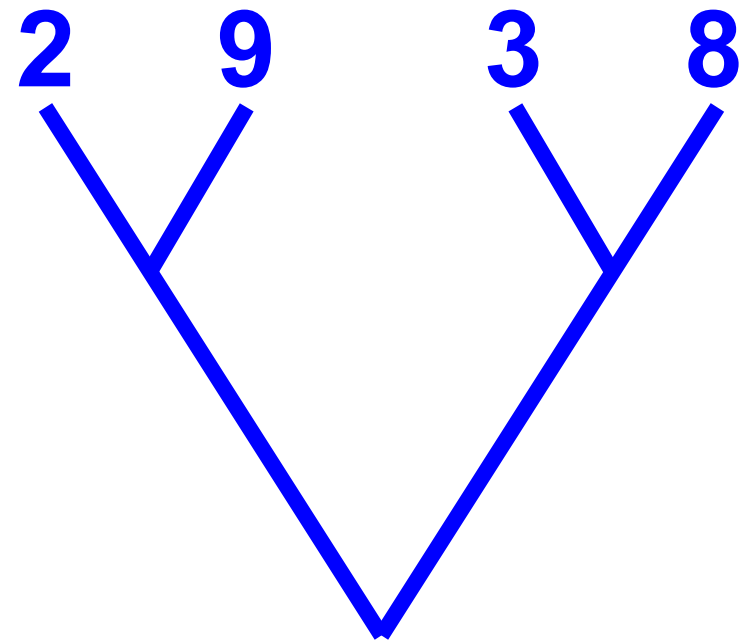
**Low Variance
of Contrasts**

Phylogenetic Signal is Apparent



Low Variance
of Contrasts
4.10

No Apparent Phylogenetic Signal

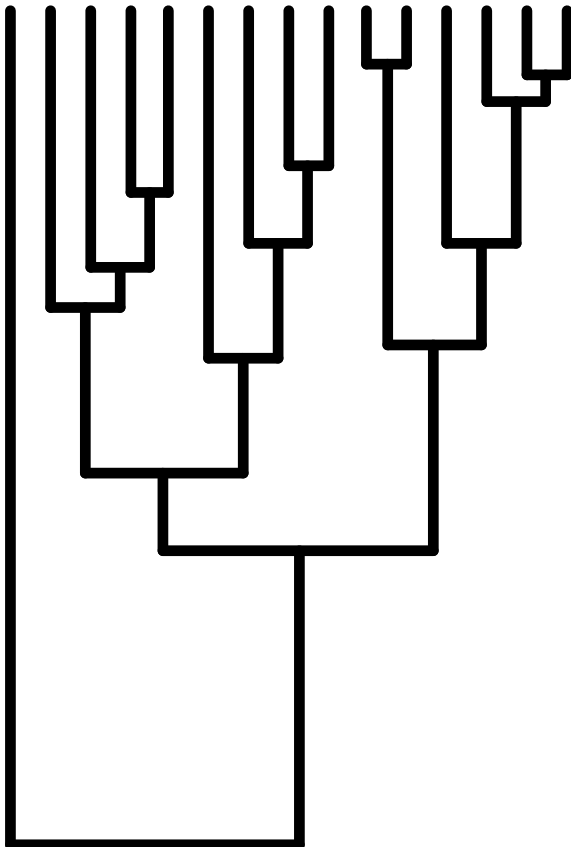


High Variance
of Contrasts
18.50

Test Significance via Randomization

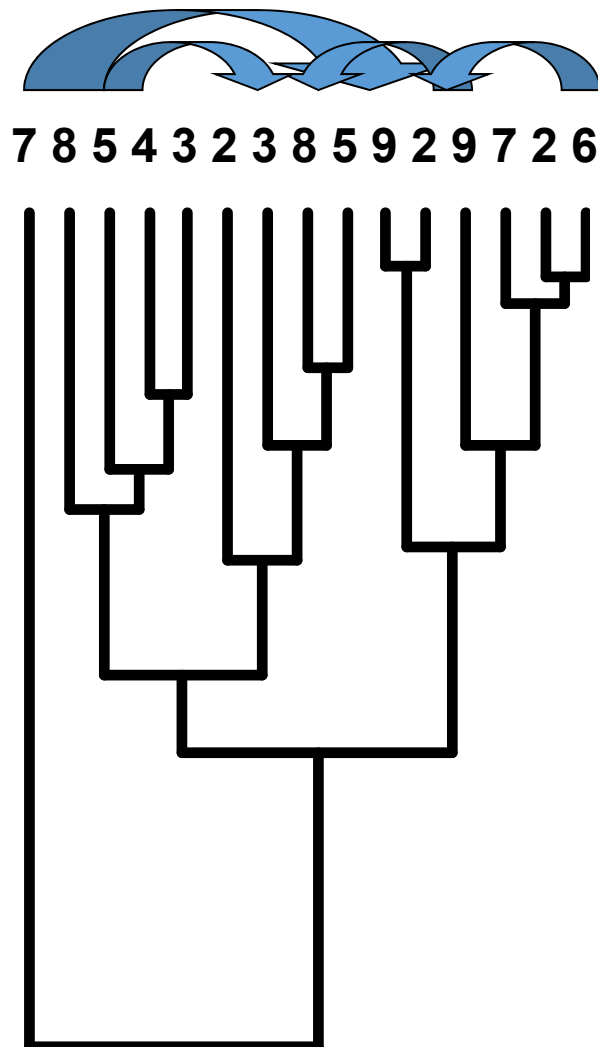
Hypothetical tip
data for 15 species

2 2 3 2 3 4 5 6 5 7 8 7 9 8 9



1. Calculate variance of contrasts for data in original position

Shuffling the tip data randomly *destroys* any phylogenetic signal that may have existed ...

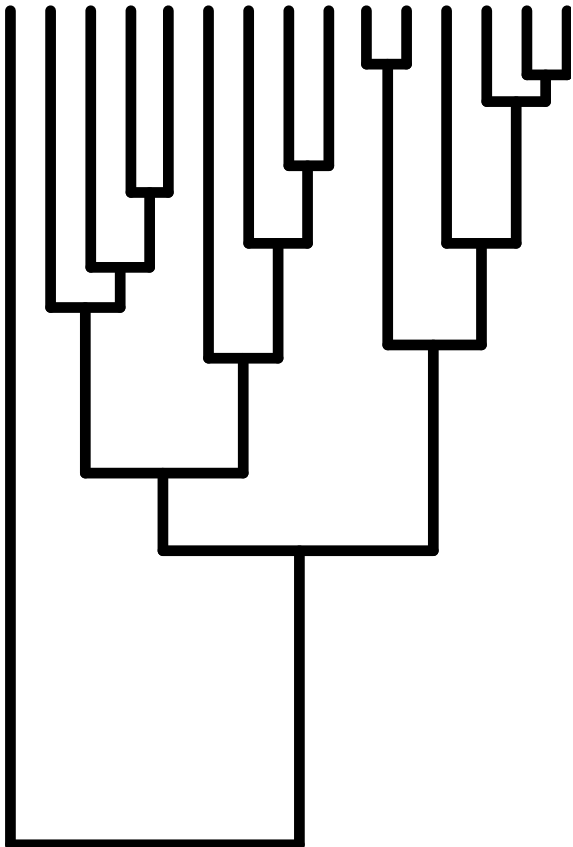


1. Calculate variance of contrasts for data in original position
2. Randomize data

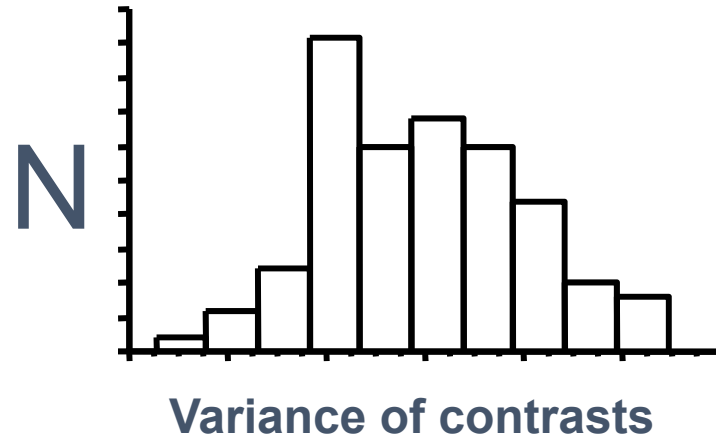
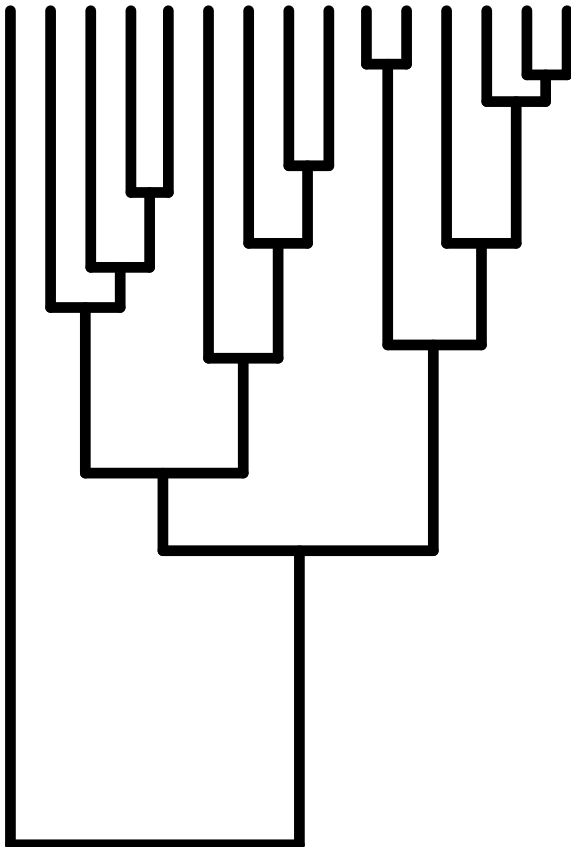
Sum of (contrasts²)

$$N_{\text{contrasts}} - 1$$

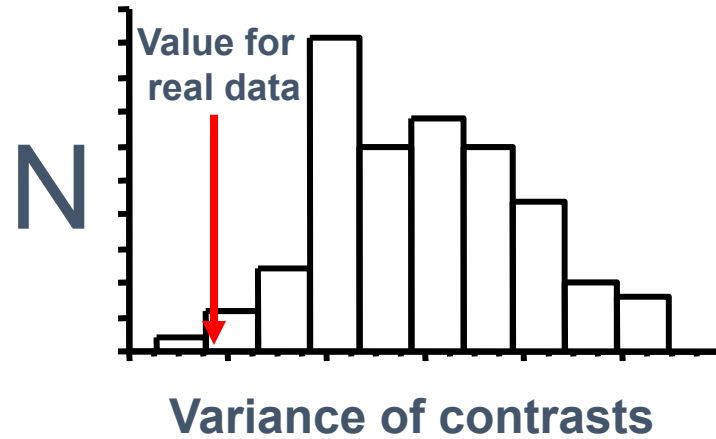
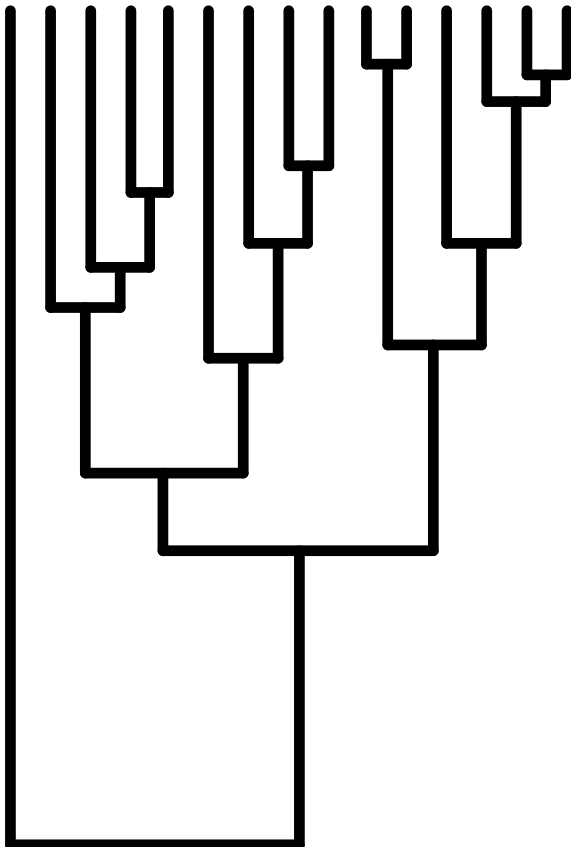
7 8 5 4 3 2 3 8 5 9 2 9 7 2 6



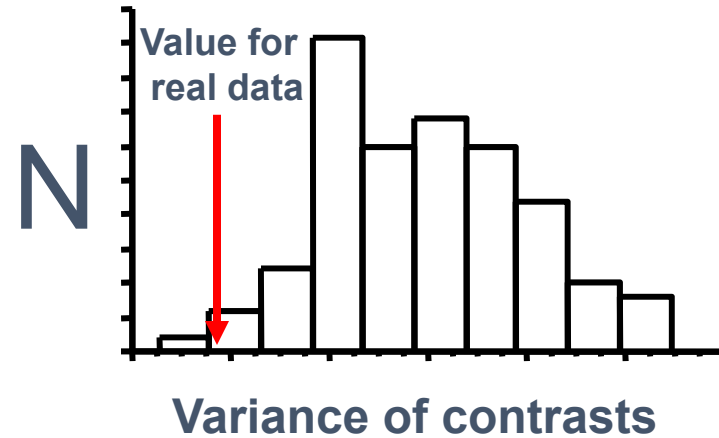
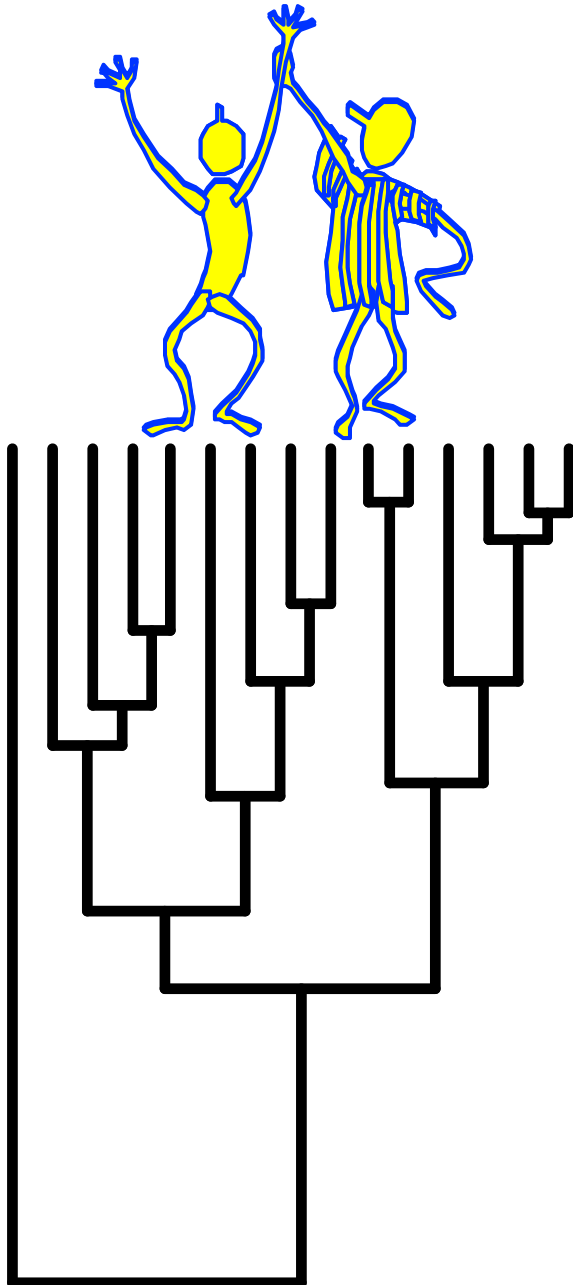
1. Calculate variance of contrasts for data in original position
2. Randomize data
3. Calculate variance



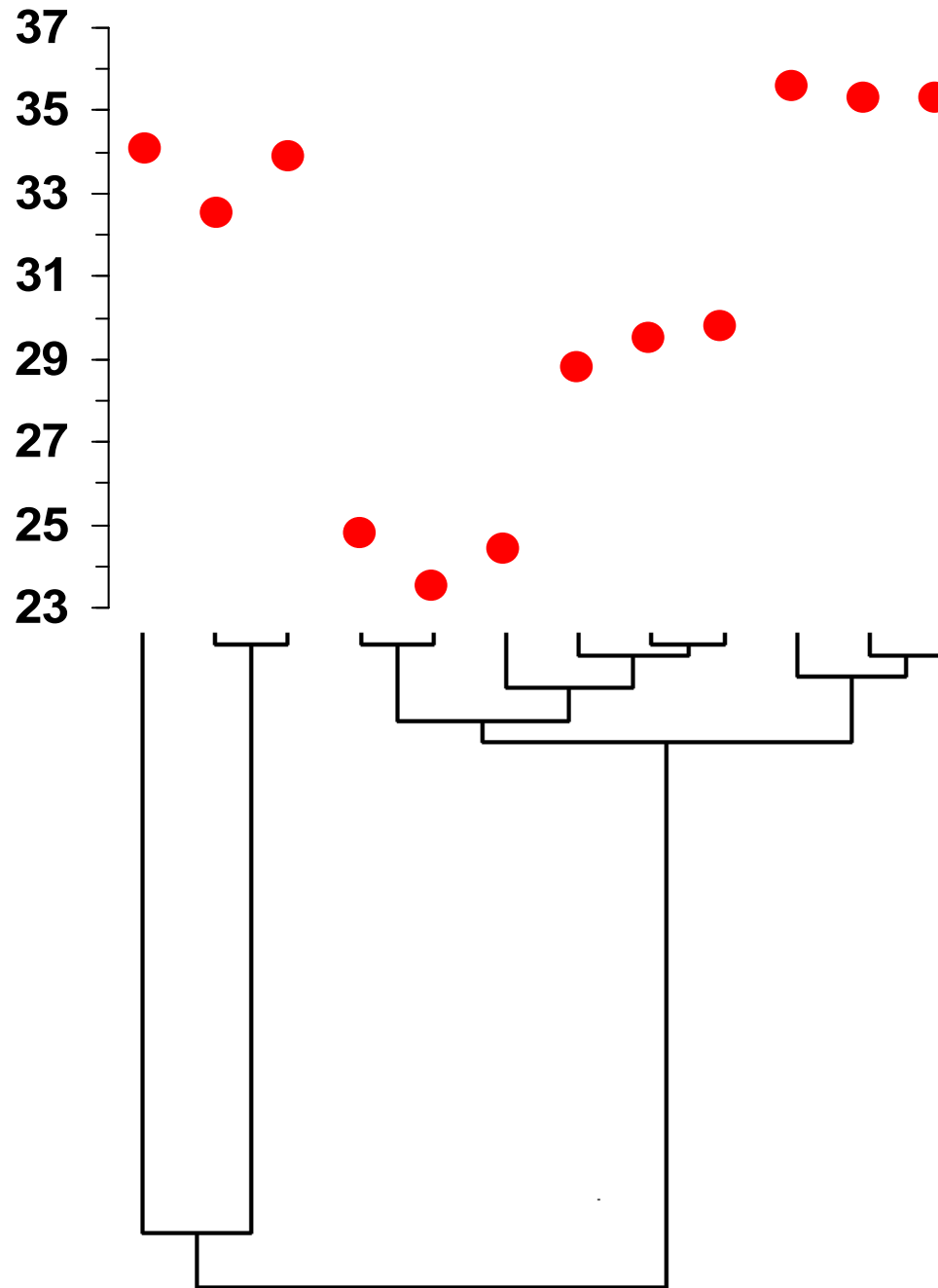
1. Calculate variance of contrasts for data in original position
2. Randomize data
3. Calculate variance
4. Repeat many times and construct distribution



1. Calculate variance of contrasts for data in original position
2. Randomize data
3. Calculate variance
4. Repeat many times and construct distribution
5. Calculate P as $\# < \text{real}$



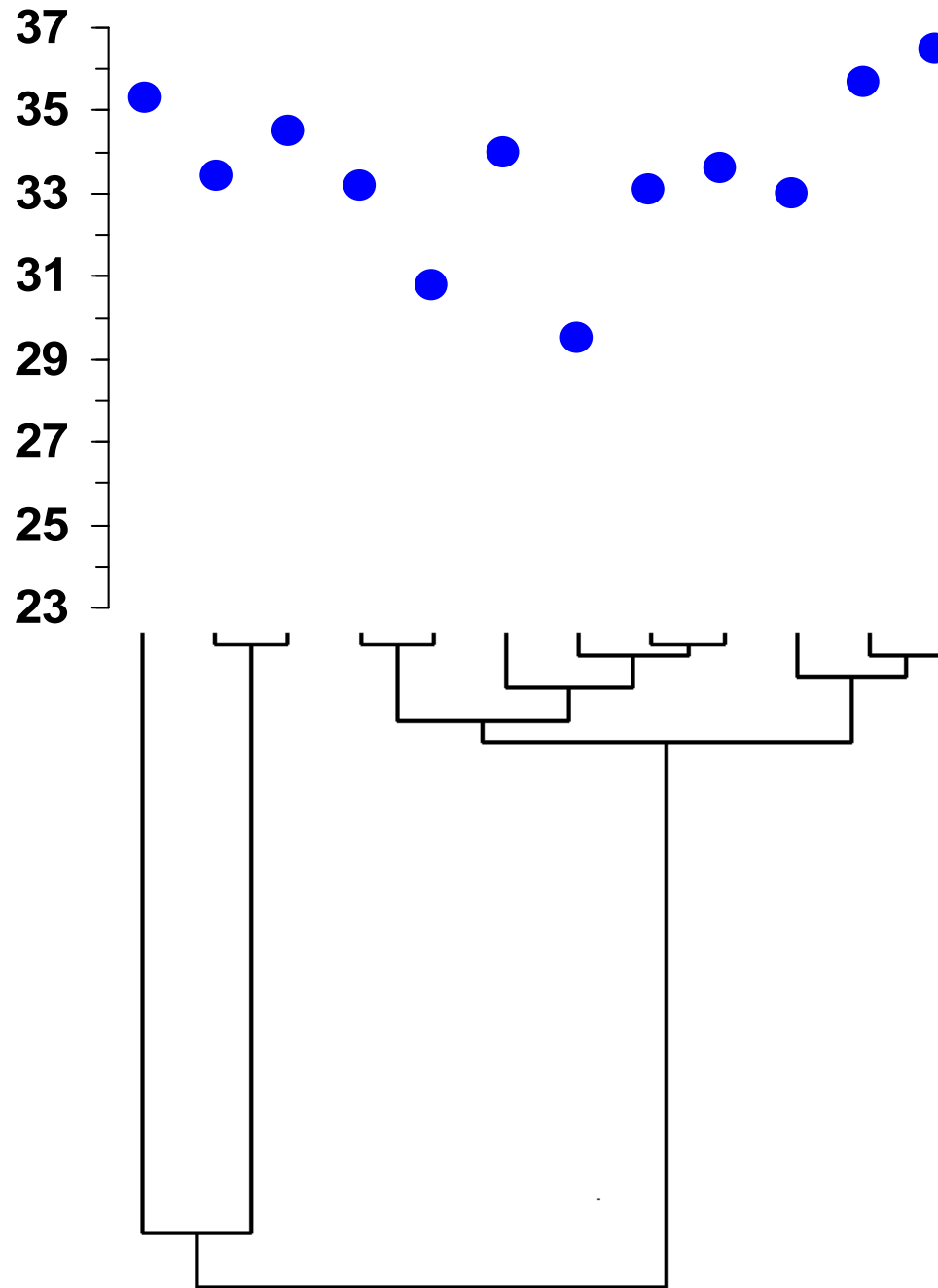
1. Calculate variance of contrasts for data in original position
2. Randomize data (~1000 x)
3. For each, calculate variance of contrasts
4. Construct distribution
5. Calculate P as $\# < \text{real}$
- 6. Accept or Reject H_0**



**Preferred
Body
Temperatures
(°C) of 12
species of
Australian
skinks:**

$P < 0.001$

Data from Huey & Bennett, 1987;
phylogenetic information updated
in Garland et al., 1991



Optimal Body Temperatures for Sprinting (°C) of 12 species of Australian skinks:

P = 0.167

Data from Huey & Bennett, 1987; phylogenetic information updated in Garland et al., 1991

Measurement Error Models

1. "Measurement-error" includes:

sampling variation; pure measurement error; low repeatability caused by hourly, daily, seasonal fluctuations; sex differences; age variation; real individual variation

2. Most of this is reasonably well encapsulated by Standard Errors for population means.

3. These Standard Errors can be used to weight contrasts by lengthening terminal branches.

This is routine in "weighted regression" in ordinary statistical analyses.

Ives, A. R., P. E. Midford, and T. Garland. 2007. Within-species variation and measurement error in phylogenetic comparative methods. *Systematic Biology* 56:252-270.

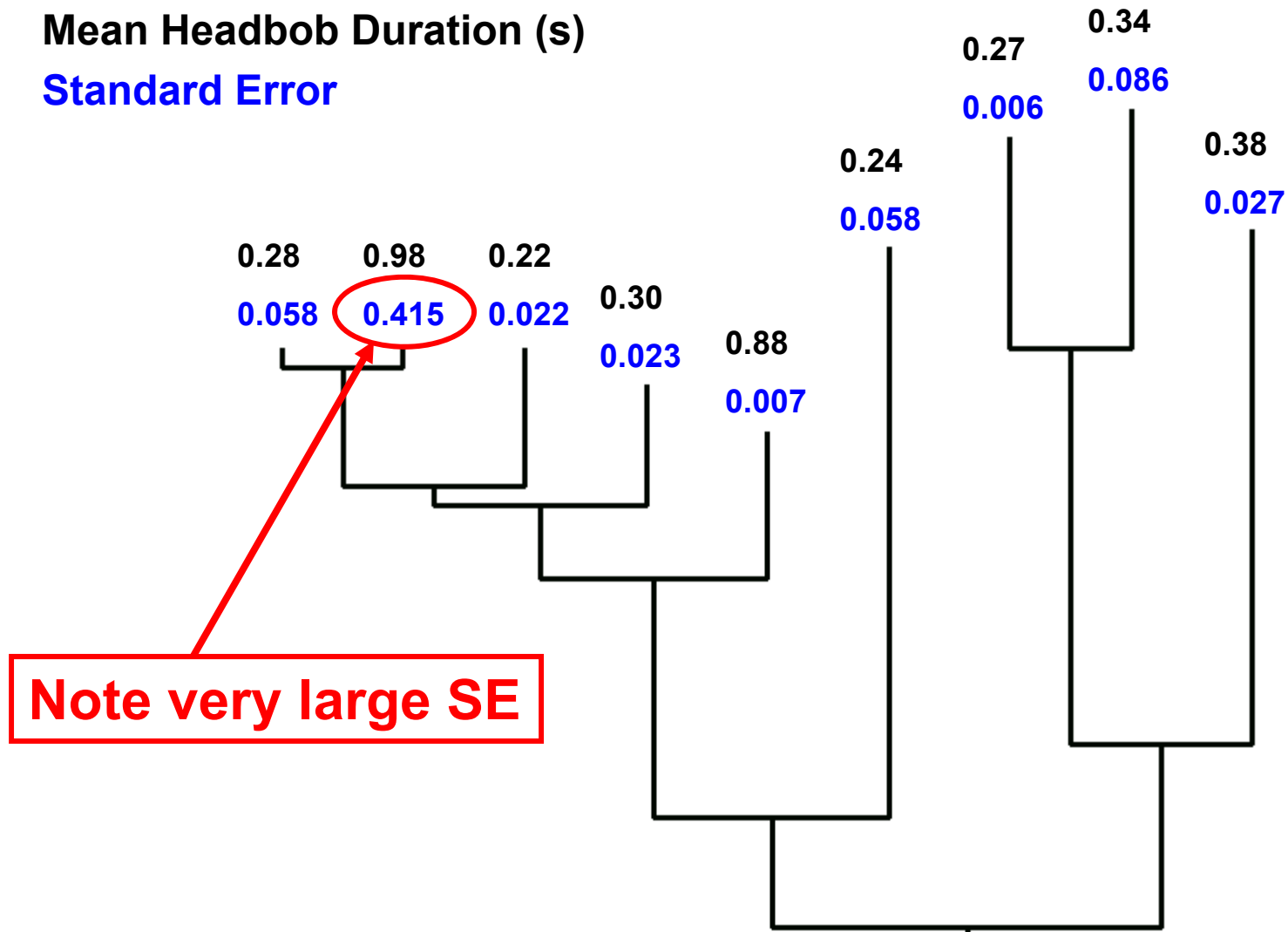
Felsenstein, J. 2008. Comparative methods with sampling error and within-species variation: contrasts revisited and revised. *The American Naturalist* 171:713-725.

Molecular Phylogeny for 9 Species of Iguanas

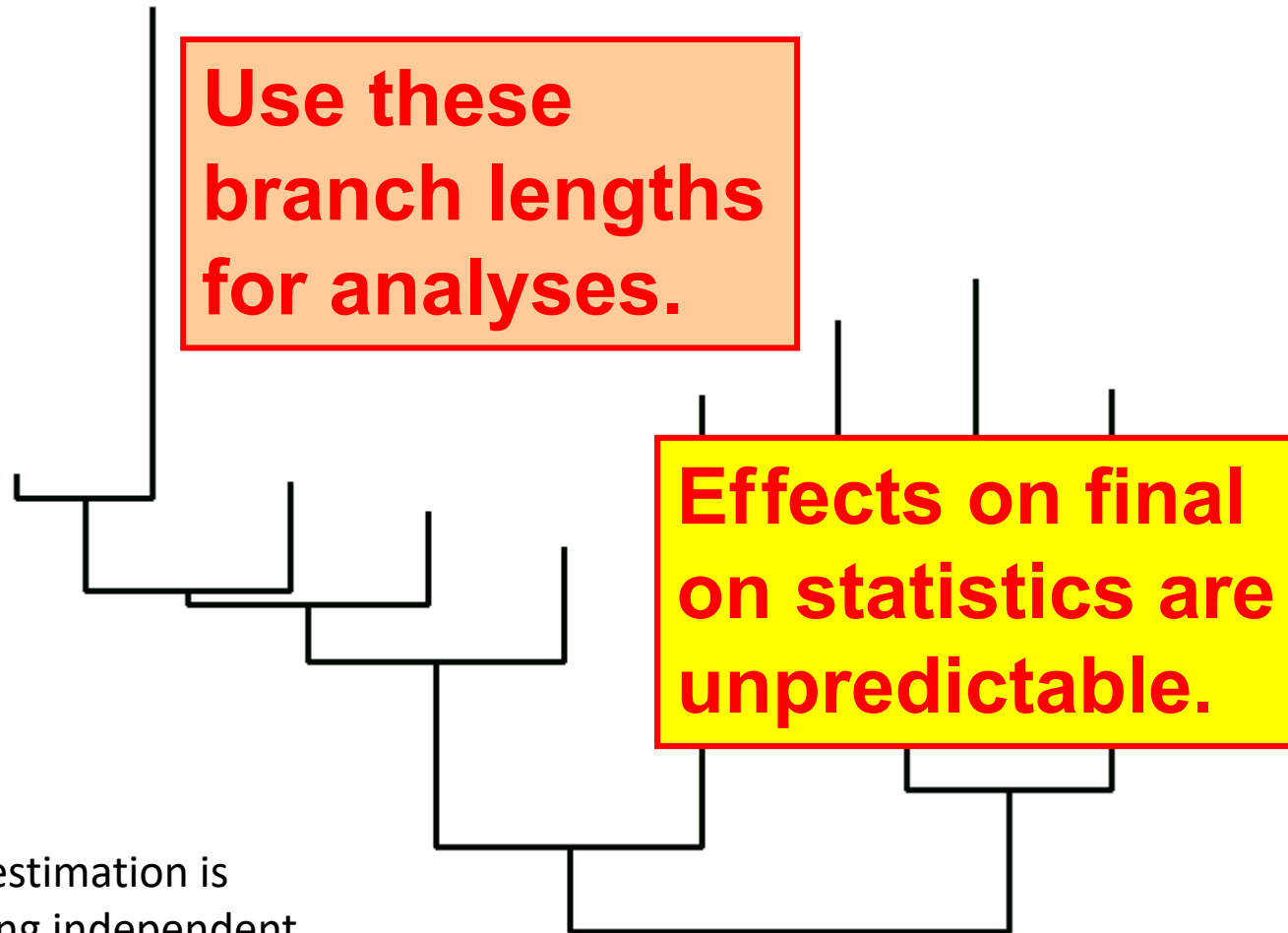
(Martins & Lamont 1997)

Mean Headbob Duration (s)

Standard Error



Branch Lengths Adjusted for Standard Errors: Tips with Large SE are Down-weighted (devalued) Relative to Others



Univariate EGLS estimation is implemented using independent contrasts in the MS DOS program PD_SE.EXE (available from TG)

Phylogenetically Independent Contrasts as an All-purpose Tool

- ✓ Correlation, Regression
- ✓ ANOVA, ANCOVA
- ✓ Principal Components
- ✓ Outlier Tests
- ✓ Rates of Evolution
- ✓ Ancestor Reconstruction
- ✓ Phylogenetic Signal
- ✓ Measurement Error Models



After graphing your original data, this is often the best place to start your phylogenetic analysis.