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# A Static Formulation of the History Bound Problem 

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#### Abstract

Biologists working with DNA or character data are often interested in modeling the evolution of biological change present in their samples. The biological processes that create diversity are traditionally represented as branching events in the lineages of species. However, branching alone is insufficient to model all real-world data, hence there is an interest in constructing phylogenetic networks, or rooted DAGs, that simultaneously display multiple evolutionary trees or sometimes model biological processes, such as recombination. We often require that these networks fulfill an optimization criteria, such as having a minimum number of recombination or reticulation nodes.

In this work, we prove that the History Bound, a value previously computed as a lower bound on the minimum number of recombinations in a set of DNA data, is such an optimization criterion on phylogenetic networks; specifically, it is the minimum number of reticulation nodes in a particular type of network. This was stated earlier without a proof by other researchers. We also give an algorithm for constructing the network with this number of nodes and show that a network of this type with fewer reticulation nodes cannot exist.


## 1. Introduction

Many types of biological data can be intuitively represented by labeled, directed trees that model the diversity observed in a set of specimens, or taxa, with a sequence of branching events, in a way that is consistent with our current understanding of biological change. More specifically, phylogenetic trees are used to model the string of mutations that cause a single ancestor DNA sequence to change incrementally to finally generate an input set of observed DNA sequences. It must be possible to label internal edges in the tree with the index of the character at which mutations occur, such that the resulting DNA sequences represent the input data. More generally, phylogenetic trees can be used to model the evolution history of any set of characters, or observed traits and sequences, in a collection of taxa. The inputs to the problem of constructing a phylogenetic tree are several subsets of the taxa, each consisting of those taxa that share a certain trait. These subsets, called clusters or clades, must be the leaf descendants of some edge in the phylogenetic tree that represents the data. On the surface, the sequence and cluster problems appear quite similar, and indeed it is known that they are almost equivalent in the instances where a solution exists. These problems are formally defined in Section 2.1.

However, many real-world data sets cannot be represented by a tree, i.e. there is no perfect phylogeny, or tree where each character is allowed to mutate only once, that represents the data (cf. Section 2.1). This is because the perfect phylogeny model is not general enough to represent all possible data sets. Indeed, a known result in the literature gives a narrow set of criteria that a set of data must exhibit for a solution to exist [2]. To handle these cases, the requirement that the data be placed on a tree is relaxed to allow joining events, in addition to branching, as a mechanism for increasing diversity, which
results in the creation of phylogenetic networks. In a phylogenetic network, two lineages are allowed to combine to form a lineage that could not be obtained by branching events alone. With no further restrictions, the problem of finding a network to represent a set of data can be computed in polynomial time; however, our current understanding of biology suggests that these joining, or reticulation, events occur relatively infrequently in nature. Thus, we often seek to construct plausible networks that have a minimum number of nodes with in-degree $>1$, at which point the problems become computationally hard.

The creation of such networks is not without justification, as many biological mechanisms exhibit this sort of merging behavior. In the DNA setting, the merging of lineages is consistent with the biological process of recombination in meiosis, or the creation of gametes, in which two corresponding, but not necessarily identical, chromosomal sequences recombine to create a new sequence consisting of alternating segments. In the general character setting, the converging branches can indicate the point of independent evolution of similar observed traits in different species or the creation of hybrid species. Due to the differences in biological models and the additional complexity involved in the development of networks, the objectives, terminology and techniques involved in these problems differ in subtle but often significant ways. We discuss these differences in more detail in the following section.

### 1.1. Recombination Graphs and Reticulation Networks

An ancestral recombination graph, or ARG, is a particular kind of network constructed to represent the derivation of a set of DNA sequences. ARGs are created from a collection of input sequences over a binary alphabet representing single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). This set is compactly represented in a binary matrix, with each row representing the DNA sequence of each taxon. The model assumes that the input set of sequences was
generated from a single ancestral sequence; thus, the goal is to generate a rooted DAG with the ancestral sequence (usually all zero) at the root, whose leaves are labeled with the input sequences that abides by the following rules: Each character in the ARG is allowed to mutate exactly once at each site, or index, and a mutation is represented in the graph by a labeled edge. Typically such an edge has a parent node with two outgoing edges. The DNA sequences are also allowed to recombine, resulting in nodes of in-degree two. Under the single-crossover model, which will be the default assumption for the rest of this thesis, the resulting DNA sequence is only allowed to take a prefix from one sequence and a suffix from the other. It is also possible to construct ARGs using multiple-crossover; under this assumption, intervals of the parent sequences can be interwoven multiple times. (Note that, under both assumptions, ARGs have recombination nodes with in-degree 2.) It is especially desirable to construct a $\min A R G$, or an ARG with the fewest number of recombination nodes, for a given set of data. This problem is known to be NP-hard, so research has focused on computing and evaluating lower bounds on $R_{\text {min }}$, the number of recombination nodes in a minARG.

In contrast, reticulation networks (also sometimes referred to as hybridization or phylogenetic networks) do not usually model actual sequences. Rather, the input is a set of clusters (also called clades), which are subsets of the taxa, although sets of trees or triplets are also used in other problem settings, as summarized by van Iersel and Kelk [7]. The objective is to construct a network such that the taxa in each cluster are the leaf descendants of some tree topologically embedded in the network, and that the network has the fewest number of reticulation events, which will be formally defined in Section 2.1. An instance of the reticulation network problem, and its conversion to a matrix is shown in Figure 1. One
important difference from the ARG scenario, whose inputs are binary sequences, meaning the sites have a fixed ordering, is that the inputs to this problem are usually unordered. However, it is easy to see that a set of clusters can be converted into an input matrix by imposing an arbitrary ordering on the clusters and using 1's to denote membership in a cluster and 0's to denote exclusion. Thus, an ARG for a set of DNA sequences will be a valid reticulation network for the underlying clusters, but it is likely to have reticulation nodes that are only necessary due to the choice of ordering. Reticulation networks also do not place any restrictions on the in-degrees of the reticulation nodes in the network.

### 1.2. Lower Bounds on Numbers of Recombination Nodes

As mentioned in the previous section, numerous methods have been developed for computing lower bounds on $R_{\text {min }}$, such as the Haplotype Bound, the Forest Bound, etc. [2]. These methods all operate on the input matrix of binary SNP sequences, but generally have a combinatorial interpretation. For example, the Forest bound is characterized as the solution to the Minimum Perfect Phylogenetic Forest (MPPF) Problem, which is defined as the smallest partition of the input matrix such into subsets with perfect phylogenies [2]. Unlike the Forest bound, the History Bound was originally formulated as the output of an algorithm [6], and did not have a static interpretation [2]. The algorithm that computes a candidate for the History Bound works on the input matrix by first successively removing columns that contain at most a single 1 and collapsing identical rows until neither operation is possible. Then, the algorithm removes a row arbitrarily, and restarts the previous procedure (see Algorithm 1). The resulting candidate for the History Bound is the number of times an arbitrary row removal occurs; the History Bound was originally defined as the minimum over all the candidate values [6].

As given, the algorithm to compute the History Bound runs in time that is superexponential in the size of the input, but a dynamic programming version speeds up the computation time to exponential [1]. However, we also know that the problem of computing the History Bound is NP-hard [1], so the development of an asymptotically more efficient algorithm is not expected. Nevertheless, tools like integer linear programming are repeatedly shown to be efficient in practice for NP-hard problems, so a static formulation of the History Bound as an optimization problem is desirable for use on real-life biological data.

### 1.3. Research Contribution

In Kelk et al. [4], the authors develop a theory to describe and analyze structures in cluster input data. Their analysis sheds some light on the underlying meaning of the number computed by the History Bound algorithm. In fact, they claim that the construction given in their work is equivalent to the algorithm that computes the History Bound. The main contribution of this thesis is the detailed proof that this is indeed the case.

The main contribution of this thesis is a proof of an orally stated conjecture by the same authors that the History Bound is the minimum number of reticulation nodes in a reticulation network that represents the clusters encoded by an input matrix [5]. In this thesis, we prove this conjecture by using the equivalence from Kelk et al. [4] to give an algorithm that constructs the corresponding reticulation network when given as input the intermediate values computed by the history bound algorithm. We then show this network to have the fewest number of reticulation nodes possible when run on the intermediate values of the minimum run of the candidate algorithm. This result naturally extends to an exponential-time dynamic programming algorithm for constructing the network with the minimum number of reticulation nodes.

### 1.4. Organization

Section 2 gives formal definitions of the relevant mathematical objects involved in the study of phylogenetic networks, and outlines the relevant concepts developed in [4]. These are then used in Section 3 to explicitly prove a claim from [4], and as in Section 4 to prove the main conjecture outlined in Section 1.3. We give the dynamic programming solution for constructing reticulation networks in Section 5. Conclusion and future work are in Section 6. The Python source code for the algorithm from Section 4 is given in the Appendix.

## 2. Definitions

Section 2.1 discusses standard definitions and relevant theorems from the phylogenetic networks literature that are needed in this thesis. In Section 2.2, we describe the algorithm that defines the History bound. In Section 2.3, we recall definitions from Kelk et al. [4], which we will use in later sections to prove the main results of this thesis.

### 2.1. Reticulation Networks and Clusters

The motivating work for this thesis focuses on the development of reticulation networks in the cluster setting, so we start with the general concepts related to that problem. A reticulation network on a finite set $X$ of taxa (specimens described by the data) is a rooted, connected DAG with no nodes having both in-degree and out-degree 1, whose leaves are the elements of $X$. A node of in-degree of 2 or greater is a reticulation node and incoming edges into such a node are called reticulation edges. This branch of the literature is often concerned with counting reticulation "events", which is why the reticulation number (also sometimes called hybridization number) of a network $N=(V, E)$ is defined in [4] as

$$
r(N)=\sum_{v \in V: d_{i n}(v)>0}\left(d_{i n}(v)-1\right)=|E|-|V|+1
$$

where $d_{i n}(v)$ denotes the in-degree of a node $v$. However, throughout this thesis, we will be more concerned with counting the number of reticulation nodes in a network $N$, with no regard for the degree of each reticulation node.

A cluster $C \subseteq X$ is a subset of the taxa. We say that two clusters $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ are compatible if either $C_{1} \subseteq C_{2}, C_{2} \subseteq C_{1}$ or $C_{1} \cap C_{2}=\emptyset$, and incompatible otherwise. A collection $\mathcal{C}$ of clusters is compatible if all the clusters in $\mathcal{C}$ are pairwise compatible. Then,
according to the matrix equivalence mentioned in Section 1.1: a collection $\mathcal{C}$ of clusters can be converted to a matrix $M$ by choosing an arbitrary ordering on $X$ and $\mathcal{C}$, filling the matrix by placing 1 into the row corresponding to taxon $x$ and the column corresponding to cluster $C$, if $x \in C$, and placing 0 there otherwise. Thus, in the matrix setting, when the ancestral sequence is the all-zero sequence, two columns $C_{1}, C_{2}$ are incompatible if the set of pairs constructed by pairing column entries in corresponding rows contains all of the pairs $(1,0)$, $(0,1)$ and $(1,1)$.

The concept of compatibility relates directly to the perfect phylogeny problem, which is the problem of finding a tree that represents the data encoded in a binary matrix $M$. In order to represent $M$, a tree $T$ must have the properties that all of its leaves correspond to the rows of $M$, each column of $M$ labels exactly one edge of $T$, every interior edge of $T$ is labeled by at least one column of $M$, and for each leaf $x$ in $T$, the edge labels on the path from the root to $x$ must correspond to those columns that have state 1 in $M$ [2]. This definition assumes that $T$ is constructed with an all-zero ancestral sequence, which we will assume throughout this thesis. The conditions for when a solution to the problem exists are well-understood; the Perfect Phylogeny theorem states that the problem does not have a solution, that is, a tree that represents the data, in the presence of the so-called Three Gametes condition, which occurs when there is at least one pair of incompatible columns in $M$, and recombination must be used to generate the data [2]. Equivalently, if a set of clusters can be represented by a tree, then all of the clusters must be compatible. The Perfect Phylogeny Theorem also states the converse: if a no pair of columns of $M$ is incompatible, then there does exist a perfect phylogeny that represents the data.
(A) A set of subsets of $X . C_{5}$ is a singleton cluster because it only contains one taxon. Such clusters, and their corresponding columns, are sometimes called uninformative.

$$
\mathcal{C}=\begin{array}{c|ccc}
C_{1} & 1 & 2 & 3 \\
C_{2} & 1 & 3 & \\
C_{3} & 1 & 4 & 5 \\
C_{4} & 3 & 4 & 5 \\
C_{5} & 5 & &
\end{array}
$$

$$
M=\left[\begin{array}{lllll}
1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right]
$$

Figure 1. An example set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ on the taxon set $X=\{1,2,3,4,5\}$ and its corresponding matrix representation.

In contrast, the input to the reticulation network problem is a set $X$ of taxa and a collection $\mathcal{C}$ of clusters, where each $C \in \mathcal{C}$ is a proper subset of $X$. A network $N$ represents a cluster $C$ in the hardwired sense if there exists a tree edge $(u, v)$ such that the set of leaf descendants of $v$ is exactly equal to $C . N$ represents a cluster $C$ in the softwired sense if $N$ contains an edge $e$ such that $C \in C(e)$, where $C(e)$ is formed as follows: For each reticulation node, choose one incoming edge to remain on and turn all others "off"; then, for each set of choices, a cluster is in $C(e)$ if it is exactly equal to the set of taxa accessible from $e$ without following any edges that have been turned off [3]. The operation of turning on one reticulation edge and turning all others off is referred to as the construction of a switching of $N$ in [4]. In this thesis, we will say that a network $N$ represents a collection of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ if it represents each $C \in \mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense, unless otherwise specified. These networks are usually subject to some optimality criterion, such as the minimization of reticulation number. In this thesis, we will often seek networks with the minimum number of reticulation nodes, so we define a network $N$ to be ret-minimum for a set $\mathcal{C}$ of clusters if $N$ has the fewest number of reticulation nodes over all networks that represent $\mathcal{C}$ (in the softwired sense).


Figure 2. A reticulation network that represents the cluster set $\mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense from the example in Figure 1. It has 2 reticulation nodes and reticulation number 3.

### 2.2. The History Bound

The algorithm that defines the History Bound was first given by Myers and Griffiths in [6]. This algorithm operates on a binary input matrix $M$ and computes a lower bound on $R_{\text {min }}$, the number of recombination events necessary to represent $M$ with an ARG. We give the version of the algorithm as explained in [2], where it is split into two procedures, one for generating a candidate for the History Bound, which is shown as Algorithm 1, and another procedure (referred to as CHB-Branch) for selecting the minimum value over all the candidates. The first algorithm reduces the matrix by iterating the following procedure: remove columns with at most one 1 entry and collapse identical rows together until neither is possible, then choose an arbitrary row to delete. The algorithm applies this procedure repeatedly until the matrix is empty. The number of row deletions shown on line 8 of Algorithm 1 is the candidate for the History Bound; the smallest candidate over all possible executions of CHB is defined as the History Bound.

```
Algorithm 1: CHB algorithm that computes a candidate for the History Bound as
given in [2].
    Input: A binary matrix \(M\)
    Output: A candidate value \(H\) for the History Bound
    set \(\mathbb{M}=M\)
    set \(\operatorname{chb}=0\)
    while \(\widetilde{M}\) is not empty do
        while possible do
            Dr: collapse together any duplicate rows of \(\widetilde{M}\)
            Dc: remove any columns with at most 1 entry from \(\widetilde{M}\)
        end
        Dt: remove an arbitrary row \(r\) from \(\widetilde{M}\)
        \(H=H+1\)
    end
    return \(H\)
```

Since the binary matrix input to the algorithm can be thought of as representing a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$, we can describe how the algorithm would operate directly on a set of clusters. The column removal operation corresponds to the removal of singleton or empty clusters from $\mathcal{C}$, while the row removal can be thought of as collapsing two taxa with identical cluster memberships into a single meta-taxon. Furthermore, the History Bound algorithm will produce the same result for any ordering of the rows and columns of the input matrix, because the value is computed as the minimum over all possible executions of CHB. This property suggests a closer relationship of the History Bound to the clusters represented by $M$ rather than the specific binary sequences that $M$ contains.

### 2.3. ST-Set Sequences

Kelk et al. [4] define a central concept called an ST-set, which is a subset of the taxa with some special, "treelike" properties. Informally, an ST-set of $\mathcal{C}$ can be thought of as a union of some compatible clusters of $\mathcal{C}$ or the compatible subsets of clusters.

Given a subset $S$ of taxa, let $\mathcal{C} \backslash S$ denote the result of removing $S$ from each cluster $C \in \mathcal{C}$, and let $\mathcal{C} \mid S$ denote the restriction of $\mathcal{C}$ to $S$ (or $\mathcal{C} \backslash(X \backslash S)$ ). Formally, $S \subseteq X$ is an ST-set with respect to a collection $\mathcal{C}$ of clusters if
(1) $S$ is compatible with $\mathcal{C}$.
(2) all pairs of clusters $C_{1}, C_{2} \in \mathcal{C} \mid S$ are compatible.

An ST-set $S$ is maximal if there is no other ST-set $S^{\prime}$ such that $S \subsetneq S^{\prime}$. It is shown in [4] that the maximal ST-sets of a collection of clusters can be computed in time polynomial in the size of the input.

A sequence $\mathcal{S}=\left\{S_{1}, S_{2}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$ is an $S T$-set sequence if each $S_{i} \in \mathcal{S}$ is an ST-set of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}=\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(S_{1} \cup S_{2} \cup \ldots \cup S_{i-1}\right) ; \mathcal{S}$ is a maximal ST-set sequence if each $S_{i}$ is a maximal ST-set of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}} . \mathcal{S}$ is a maximal ST-set tree sequence, if all the clusters in $I=\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(S_{1} \cup \ldots \cup S_{p}\right)$ are pairwise compatible. By the Perfect Phylogeny Theorem, this means that all the taxa in $I$ can be represented by a tree. Kelk et al. then define the MST lower bound on the


Figure 3. The clusters set $\mathcal{C}$ from Figure 1 has only one non-singleton, non-trivial maximal ST-set $\{4,5\}$. The other maximal ST-sets are $\{1\},\{2\}$ and $\{3\}$; neither of them can be combined together into a set that has a non-trivial intersection with all clusters in $\mathcal{C}$. They are described in [4] as "islands of laminarity". We can see that 4 and 5 can be grouped together with no intersections.
reticulation number $r(N)$ of a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ as the length $p$ of the shortest maximal STset tree sequence that can be computed for $\mathcal{C}$, and show that it is a true lower bound. In Section 4, we show that this value is equal to the minimum number of reticulation nodes in a reticulation network that represents $\mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense.

## 3. Bound Equivalence

After defining the concepts of maximal ST-set tree sequences and the MST lower bound, the length of the shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence, the authors of [4] make the claim that these concepts can be used to elaborate on the History Bound. They write

We highlight that the phylogenetic network model described [here] is in a strong sense identical to the recombination network model under the assumption of an all-0 root, the infinite sites model and multiple crossover recombination. The computational lower bound described in Algorithm 3 of [18] is, taking this equivalence into account, essentially identical to the MST lower bound.
where Algorithm 3 references the original History Bound algorithm presented by Myers and Griffiths [6]. This claim can be restated as follows:

Claim 3.1. Given a collection of clusters $\mathcal{C}$, the minimum execution of the Candidate History Bound algorithm is equal to the length of the shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence for $\mathcal{C}$.

This claim was not explicitly stated in [4]. We prove it here by demonstrating that every run of the Candidate History Bound algorithm generates, through its intermediate values, a valid maximal ST-set tree sequence, and that every maximal ST-set sequence corresponds to an execution of CHB.

Lemma 3.2. Let $\left\{r_{1}, \ldots, r_{p}\right\}$ be the sequence of rows that are deleted by an execution of Algorithm 2. For each $r_{i}$, let $R_{i}$ denote the set of rows that were collapsed together with $r_{i}$ by rule $\mathbf{D r}$ during previous iterations of the algorithm. Let $S_{i}=R_{i} \cup\left\{r_{i}\right\}$. Then, $\left\{S_{1}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$ is a maximal ST-set tree sequence of the cluster set encoded by $M$.

To make the proofs clearer, we slightly modify Algorithm 1 to save the relevant intermediate states. The modified version is restated in Algorithm 2. When rule $\mathbf{D t}$ selects row $r$

```
Algorithm 2: An equivalent formulation of CHB, which removes all collapsed rows
from \(\widetilde{M}\) at the same time as the corresponding row removal of \(r_{i}\).
```

```
Input: A binary matrix \(M\)
```

Input: A binary matrix $M$
Output: A candidate value $H$ for the History Bound
Output: A candidate value $H$ for the History Bound
set $\widetilde{M}=M$; set $H=0$
set $\widetilde{M}=M$; set $H=0$
set $X^{\prime}=\operatorname{rows}(M)$
set $X^{\prime}=\operatorname{rows}(M)$
set $C^{\prime}=\operatorname{cols}(M)$
set $C^{\prime}=\operatorname{cols}(M)$
while $\widetilde{M}$ is not empty do
while $\widetilde{M}$ is not empty do
while possible do
while possible do
if two unmarked rows $r_{i}$ and $r_{j}$ are identical and $i<j$ then
if two unmarked rows $r_{i}$ and $r_{j}$ are identical and $i<j$ then
Dr: mark $X^{\prime}\left[r_{j}\right]=r_{i}$
Dr: mark $X^{\prime}\left[r_{j}\right]=r_{i}$
/* update rows found identical in previous iteratons to always be
/* update rows found identical in previous iteratons to always be
marked with the lowest-index marker */
marked with the lowest-index marker */
for all rows $r$ such that $X^{\prime}[r]==r_{j}$ do
for all rows $r$ such that $X^{\prime}[r]==r_{j}$ do
update the marker to $X^{\prime}[r]=r_{i}$
update the marker to $X^{\prime}[r]=r_{i}$
end
end
end
end
if an unmarked column $c$ contains only one 1 then Dc: mark $C^{\prime}[c]=1$;
if an unmarked column $c$ contains only one 1 then Dc: mark $C^{\prime}[c]=1$;
end
end
if $C^{\prime}$ and $X^{\prime}$ aren't completely marked then
if $C^{\prime}$ and $X^{\prime}$ aren't completely marked then
Dt: delete an arbitrary unmarked row $r$ from $\widetilde{M}$
Dt: delete an arbitrary unmarked row $r$ from $\widetilde{M}$
delete all rows marked $r$ in $X^{\prime}$ from $\widetilde{M}$
delete all rows marked $r$ in $X^{\prime}$ from $\widetilde{M}$
delete all marked columns in $C$ (now empty)
delete all marked columns in $C$ (now empty)
$H=H+1$
$H=H+1$
end
end
end
end
return $H$

```
return \(H\)
```

for deletion, we remove at that moment but not before, all the other rows that were labeled $r$ in previous iterations. However, it should be clear that the modified algorithm is equivalent to the original, since all the rules still operate on the unmarked portion of the matrix $\widetilde{M}$, which is the same as having deleted those rows and columns immediately. The set of rows in $X^{\prime}$ marked $r_{i}$ in Algorithm 2, when rule $\mathbf{D t}$ executes, corresponds to $R_{i}$ from the definition in Lemma 3.2; therefore, we can see that after iteration $i$ of Algorithm 2, the original matrix $M$ has been modified by the algorithm to encode the set of clusters $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}=\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(S_{1} \cup \ldots \cup S_{i-1}\right)$, since all the members of set $S_{i}$ are removed at the end of iteration $i$. We use $\widetilde{M}_{i}$ to denote the state of the matrix after iteration $i$.

In order to prove Lemma 3.2, we must first establish that every set $S_{i}$ is a maximal ST-set of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$, which means we must prove that:
(1) $S_{i}$ is compatible with $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$, the set of clusters encoded by $\widetilde{M}_{i}$.
(2) any pair of clusters $C_{1}, C_{2} \subset S_{i}$ in $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ are pairwise compatible.
(3) there does not exist another element $e$ in $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$ such that $S_{i} \cup\{e\}$ is also an ST-set.

Proof. Suppose toward a contradiction that $S_{i}$ is not compatible with $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$. This would imply that there must exist some cluster $C \in \widetilde{\mathcal{C}}_{i}$ and at least three distinct elements $x, y, z$ such that $x, z \in S_{i}$ but $x \notin C$, and $y, z$ are in cluster $C$ but $y \notin S_{i}$. Since, $z$ and $x$ are in $S_{i}$ they are identical when ignoring marked columns. However, $z$ is also a member of $C$, which cannot be a marked column because it also contains another distinct unmarked element $y$. But then $x$ and $z$ are not identical on unmarked columns. Therefore, in order for the algorithm to place $x$ and $y$ into $S_{i}, x$ must agree on column $C$ and so it must also be a member of $C$, which contradicts the assumption that $x \notin C$, so (1) holds.

Similarly, suppose that there are two incompatible clusters $C_{1}, C_{2} \in \widetilde{\mathcal{C}}_{i} \mid S_{i}$, the restriction of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$ to $S_{i}$. We know that all the elements in $S_{i}$ must have been found by Algorithm 2 to be identical when ignoring marked columns; however, the assumed incompatibility of $C_{1}, C_{2}$ implies that there exist at least three elements $x, y, z$ such that $x, z \in C_{1}$ and $x \notin C_{2}$; and $y, z \in C_{2}$ and $y \notin C_{1}$. Neither column $C_{1}$ nor $C_{2}$ would have been marked by the algorithm because they both contain two rows with 1 entries, so $x$ and $y$ are not identical with respect to unmarked columns, so they would not have been placed in $S_{i}$, a contradiction. Therefore $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ must be compatible and (2) holds, so $S_{i}$ is an ST-set of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$.

Furthermore, $S_{i}$ is a maximal ST-set. Suppose that $S_{i}$ is not maximal, so there exists an element $e$ such that $S_{i}^{\prime}=S_{i} \cup\{e\}$ is also an ST-set of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$. If $e$ was identical to $r_{i}$ with
respect to unmarked columns, then it would have had to be collapsted together with $r_{i}$ and so would be in $S_{i}$. So if $e$ is not identical to $r_{i}$ when $r_{i}$ is removed, then either
(a) there exists a cluster $C \in \widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$ such that $e \in C$ and $r_{i} \notin C$,
(b) or there exists a cluster $C \in \widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$ such that $e \notin C$ and $r_{i} \in C$.

In case (a), in order for $S_{i}^{\prime}$ to still be compatible with $\mathcal{C}_{i}$, cluster $C$ must be a singleton cluster that only contains $e$. Otherwise, if $C$ contains some other element $d \notin S_{i}^{\prime}$ then its existence will give rise to the Three Gametes condition in $C$ and $S_{i}^{\prime}$, because $r_{i} \in S_{i}^{\prime}$ but not in $C, d \in C$ but not in $S_{i}^{\prime}$ and $e$ is in both. So if $C$ is not a singleton cluster, then $C$ and $S_{i}^{\prime}$ are incompatible. But if $C$ is a singleton cluster, then its column will be marked in $\widetilde{M}_{i}$ by rule Dcefore $r_{i}$ is removed and so case (a) leads to a contradiction. In case (b), since $S_{i}^{\prime}$ is assumed to be compatible with $C$, and $r_{i} \in C$, this means that $C \subset S_{i}^{\prime}$ because if $C$ contained an element $d \notin S_{i}^{\prime}$, then the taxa $r_{i}, e$ and $d$ would create the Three Gametes condition in $\widetilde{M}_{i}$ in sets $C$ and $S_{i}$. To see this, note that $e$ is in $S_{i}^{\prime}$ but not in $C$, and $d$ is in $C$ but not in $S_{i}^{\prime}$ and $r_{i}$ is in both, so $S_{i}^{\prime}$ and $C$ would be incompatible. But if $C \subset S_{i}$, then $C$ would be a column with a single 1 in row $i$ of $\widetilde{M}_{i}$ because, at that point, all of the taxa in $S_{i}$ are collapsed together into $r_{i}$. So $C$ would have been marked before $r_{i}$ was removed, a contradiction. So we conclude that there is no $e \neq r_{i}$ that can be added to $S_{i}$ and maintain its ST-set properties and $S_{i}$ is maximal. Thus, property (3) holds as well.

In order to show that $\left\{S_{1}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$, as defined in the statement of Lemma 3.2, is a maximal ST-set tree sequence, it remains to show that all the clusters in $I=\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(S_{1} \cup \ldots \cup S_{p}\right)$ are compatible. We know that after $r_{p}$ is deleted by rule $\mathbf{D t}$ then the $\mathbf{D r}$ and $\mathbf{D c}$ operations mark all remaining rows and columns in $\widetilde{M}$. Otherwise, it would be necessary to apply Dt again and $r_{p}$ would not have been the last row the sequenece. All the clusters in $I$ must
be compatible, because otherwise there would be two clusters $C_{1}, C_{2} \subseteq I$ with a non-trivial intersection, and neither rules $\mathbf{D c}$ and $\mathbf{D r}$ could have applied again since neither cluster can be a singleton and there are elements in these clusters whose memberships are not identical. Therefore, $\left\{S_{1}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$ is a maximal ST-set tree sequence of the clusters encoded by $M$.

This implies that the History Bound, the minimum value produced by the CHB algorith, is greater than or equal to the length of the shortest maximal ST-set sequence. But there may exist ST-set sequences that do not have corresponding executions of CHB. In order to prove Claim 3.1, we must also prove:

Lemma 3.3. For every maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}=\left\{S_{1}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$, there exists an execution of Algorithm 2 that removes row sequence $\left\{r_{1}, \ldots, r_{p}\right\}$ by rule $\mathbf{D t}$ such that $r_{i} \in S_{i}$, for $i \in\{1, \ldots, p\}$.

Proof. For this proof, we refer to the version of CHB shown in Algorithm 2. Note that in this version of the algorithm, when rule $\mathbf{D r}$ combines two rows together, it leaves the row with the smaller index in $M$ unmarked (shown on line 6) and marks the row with the larger index with the index of the smaller. Since rule $\mathbf{D t}$ chooses rows arbitrarily, there exists an execution of CHB that chooses a row $r \in \widetilde{M}_{i}$ at iteration $i$, provided that $r$ is not marked or deleted at that point. Therefore, in order to show that there exists an execution of CHB that chooses rows $\left\{r_{1}, \ldots, r_{p}\right\}$ with each $r_{i} \in S_{i}$, we need to show that the row of $S_{i}$ with the lowest index in $M$ is still present and unmarked in $\widetilde{M}_{i}$ when rule Dt executes in Algorithm 2.

Let $\mathcal{S}=\left\{S_{1}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$ be a maximal ST-set tree sequence and suppose the row sequence $\mathcal{R}=\left\{r_{1}, \ldots, r_{j-1}\right\}$ is chosen for deletion by rule $\mathbf{D t}$ in the first $j-1$ iterations of an execution of Algorithm 2, such that each row $r_{i} \in \mathcal{R}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq j-1$ is the row of $S_{i}$ with the
lowest index in $M$. We want to show that, before rule $\mathbf{D t}$ executes on the $j^{\text {th }}$ iteration of CHB, the row $r$ in $S_{j}$ with the lowest index in $M$ is available in $\widetilde{M}_{j-1}$ to be chosen by for deletion. Therefore, we must show that, right before rule $\mathbf{D t}$ executes in iteration $j$ of CHB , row $r$ is neither marked nor deleted in $\widetilde{M}_{j-1}$. Row $r$ cannot be marked in $M_{j-1}$, since if it were, it would be marked by CHB with a row $r^{\prime}$ that has a lower index in $M$. However, this means that all the elements of $S_{j}$ would also be marked with $r^{\prime}$, as that would imply that $r^{\prime} \in S_{j}$ has a lower index than $r$ because CHB updates all the markers to the lowest index (shown in lines 8-10). This contradicts the assumption that $r$ has the lowest index in $S_{j}$, so $r$ cannot be marked in $\widetilde{M}_{j}$. Next, suppose that, at iteration $j$ of Algorithm 2, row $r$ is not present in $\widetilde{M}_{j}$. This means that $r$ was deleted in a previous iteration $i$ of the algorithm. However, we already inductively assumed that the algorithm removes each maximal ST-set $S_{i} \in \mathcal{S}$ at iteration $i<j$ and, since $S_{i}$ is maximal, $S_{i} \cup\{r\}$ cannot also be an ST-set of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}_{i}$. Furthermore, it is shown in [4] that the maximal ST-sets of $\mathcal{C}$ partition $X$, so $r$ cannot belong to both $S_{i}$ and $S_{j}$. Therefore, the row $r$ in $S_{j}$ with the lowest index, could not be missing or marked in iteration $j$ of Algorithm 2; hence, $r_{j}=r$ and the induction argument is complete. This proves Lemma 3.3.

Since we have proved Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3, every run of the CHB algorithm corresponds to a maximal ST-set tree sequence and every maximal-ST-set corresponds to an execution of CHB, it follows that an execution of CHB that produces the minimum value corresponds to a shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence, so Claim 3.1 is proved.

## 4. A Static Definition of the History Bound

In this section, we will prove a conjecture [5] using the properties of maximal ST-set tree sequences developed in [4].

Conjecture 4.1. Given a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ over a set of taxa $X$, the History Bound is the minimum number of reticulation nodes that must be present in a network that represents $\mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense.

To prove this conjecture, we first give an algorithm that takes as input the set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ and a maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}=\left\{S_{1}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$ and constructs a reticulation network $N$ with at most $p$ reticulation nodes that represents the clusters. We show that this algorithm would produce a network with exactly $p$ reticulation nodes when executed on a sequence $\mathcal{S}$ of minimum length. We then show that there cannot exist a network with fewer reticulation nodes than the length of shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence.

### 4.1. Network.Build

In this section, we describe the Network.Build algorithm, which will iteratively construct a network to represent a set of input clusters, guided by an input maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}$ of length $p$. At each iteration, Network. Build will insert an ST-set $S_{i}$ of $\mathcal{S}$ into the network $N$, maintaining the invariant that, after each iteration, $N$ represents $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}=\mathcal{C} \mid\left(I \cup S_{p} \cup S_{p-1} \cup \ldots \cup S_{i}\right)$. As mentioned in Section 2.1, network $N$ represents a cluster $C$ in the softwired sense if some switching of $N$ contains a tree edge whose set of leaf descendants is exactly the set of taxa in $C$. Thus, it helps to introduce a cluster data structure that, in addition to storing the subset of taxa of a cluster $C \in \mathcal{C}$, will also keep track of its tree_edge in $N$ and a set of off_edges. When the set $C$.off_edges is removed
from the network, the subtree of $C$.tree_edge will form a tree and the leaf descendants of $C$.tree_edge will be exactly the set of taxa in $C$. The graph $N-C$.off_edges might not be a tree because some reticulation edges may not be on a path from $C$.tree_edge to a leaf. However, any reticulation nodes in the subtree of $C$.tree_edge will have no other incoming edges except the one from $C$.tree_edge. Additionally, each cluster $C$ will contain its original taxa in the variable $C$.taxa, but it will also have a $C$.restrict_to $(S)$ procedure that takes as input $S \subseteq X$ and causes $C$ to return $C \mid S$ as its taxa when $C$ participates in set operations. The $C$.restriction procedure will output the most recent set $S$ that $C$ been restricted to.

We will also assume that a data structure representing an empty graph is initialized using graph, as shown on line 2 of Algorithm 3. A graph $G$ is populated using procedures G.add_nodes which takes either a list or a single node as input, and G.add_edge which requires two node arguments. An edge can be removed from a graph $G$ using $G$.remove_edge.

The outer abstraction layer of Network.Build is shown as Algorithm 3. Since the input $\mathcal{S}$ is a maximal ST-set tree sequence, we know that after we perform the restriction to $I$ on line 6 , all the clusters in $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ will be pairwise compatible. So $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ can be represented by a tree, built by the well-known algorithm shown in the pseudocode as Tree. Build in Algorithm 4. It is equivalent to the solution to the Perfect Phylogeny problem in Section 2.1.2 of [2]. We will also use Algorithm 4 to extend a network $N$ by adding a tree to $N$ at a specified node. We give a specific implementation in Algorithm 4, which takes as input a network $N$, a node inputRoot of $N$, and a set of compatible input clusters $\mathcal{C}$, and outputs the updated network $N$ with a new subtree rooted at inputRoot that represents $\mathcal{C}$. More important, it also sets the tree_edge values for all the input clusters, even those whose restriction is empty. Thus,

Algorithm 3: Algorithm that constructs a reticulation network $N$ with $\leq p$ nodes when given a valid maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}$ of length $p$.
1 Function Network. Build $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{S})$
Input: A set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ and a maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}$ of length $p$
Output: A network $N$ that represents $\mathcal{C}$ with $\leq p$ reticulation nodes
$N=\operatorname{graph}() ; N$. add_nodes (root);
$X=\bigcup_{C \in \mathcal{C}} C$
$I=X \backslash \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}} S$
set nonSubsets $=\left\{C \in \mathcal{C} \mid C \not \subset S_{i}\right.$ for any $\left.S_{i} \in \mathcal{S}\right\}$
/* create $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$ that contains the clusters restricted to the taxa in $I$ */
$\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}=\{ \}$
for $C \in \mathcal{C}$ do
$\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}=\widetilde{\mathcal{C}} \cup\{C$.restrict_to $(I)\}$
end
set $N=\operatorname{Tree} . \operatorname{Build}(N$, root, nonSubsets);
set $\mathcal{S}=\mathcal{S}$.reverse();
for $S_{i} \in \mathcal{S}$ do
/* widen the restriction for all the clusters */ for $C \in \widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ do $C$.restrict_to ( $C$.restriction $\cup S_{i}$ );
/* add ST-set $S_{i}$ into the network */ $N=\operatorname{Network} \cdot \operatorname{Add}\left(N, \mathcal{C}, S_{i}\right)$;
end
return $N$;
end
after line 11 of Algorithm 3 executes, all the clusters in nonSubsets will have tree_edge values set, which means that for each $C$ in nonSubsets, the subtree of $C$.tree_edge in $N$ will be be the set of taxa $C \mid I$. After building the initial tree for $\mathcal{C} \mid I$, Network. Build reverses the maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}$ and iteratively adds ST-sets into $N$ by calling the procedure Network. Add, shown in Algorithm 5.

After a set of clusters has been processed by Tree.Build, each of the processed clusters $C$ will have a non-null $C$.tree_edge value. Thus, we can describe a cluster $C_{1}$ to be downstream from cluster $C_{2}$ in a network $N$ if there is a directed path from $C_{2}$.tree_edge

```
Algorithm 4: Algorithm for adding a tree to network \(N\) that represents a set of
compatible clusters \(\mathcal{C}\).
    1 Function Tree.Build ( \(N\), root, \(\mathcal{C}\) )
            Input: A network \(N\), a node inputRoot in \(N\) and a collection of compatible clusters \(\mathcal{C}\)
            Output: The updated network \(N\) where the node inputRoot has a subtree below it
                    that represents \(\mathcal{C}\)
    /* sort the clusters by size in decreasing order */
    \(\mathcal{C}=\mathcal{C}\).sort ();
    for \(C \in \mathcal{C}\) do
        \(N\).add_nodes (newNode)
        \(\Sigma=\) the smallest cluster that is a superset of \(C\)
        if \(\Sigma\) exists then
                \((u, v)=\Sigma\).tree_edge
                for \(x \in C\) do
                    \(N\).delete_edge \((v, x)\)
                end
                set treeEdge \(=(v\), newNode \()\)
        else
                /* \(C\) is disjoint from all the processed clusters */
                set treeEdge \(=\) (inputRoot, newNode);
                for \(x \in C\) do
                    \(N\).add_nodes ( \(x\) )
                end
        end
        /* hang the taxa in \(C\) off the new node */
        for \(x \in C\) do
                \(N\).add_edge(newNode, \(x\) )
        end
        \(N\).add_edge(treeEdge)
        set \(C\).tree_edge \(=\) treeEdge
    end
    return \(N\)
end
```

to $C_{1}$.tree_edge in the graph $N-C_{2}$.off_edges. Naturally, $C_{2}$ is upstream from $C_{1}$ in $N$ if $C_{1}$ is downstream from $C_{2}$.

When processing maximal ST-set $S_{i}$, the Network. Add program works by first partitioning the input clusters into three subsets - the set of clusters Supersets that contain the current ST-set $S_{i}$, the set of clusters Disjoint that are disjoint from $S_{i}$, and the clusters $S u b$ sets that are proper subsets of $S_{i}$. This creates a partition of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ because $S_{i}$ is an ST-set and

```
Algorithm 5: Procedure that inserts ST-set \(S_{i}\) into \(N\), maintaining the property
that \(N\) represents \(\widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{i}}\).
Function Network. \(\operatorname{Add}\left(N, \mathcal{C}, S_{i}\right)\)
    Input: A network \(N\), a set of clusters \(\mathcal{C}\) and a maximal ST-set \(S_{i}\)
    Output: Modified network \(N\) such that \(N\) represents \(\mathcal{C}\) containing \(S_{i}\)
    \(N\).add_nodes (internalNode)
    set Disjoint \(=\left\{C \in \mathcal{C} \mid S_{i} \cap C=\emptyset\right\}\)
    set Supersets \(=\left\{C \in \mathcal{C} \mid S_{i} \subseteq C\right\}\)
    set Subsets \(=\left\{C \in \mathcal{C} \mid C \subset S_{i}\right\}\)
    MaxDownstream \(=\{ \} ;\) IsUpstreamFrom \(=\{ \}\);
    for \((C, K) \in\) Supersets \(\times\) Supersets do
        if \(K\) is downstream from \(C\) then
            MaxDownstream.add ( \(K\) )
                IsUpstreamFrom \([K]\).add \((C)\)
        else if \(C\) is downstream from \(K\) then
                    MaxDownstream.add ( \(C\) )
                    IsUpstreamFrom \([C]\).add ( \(K\) )
        end
    end
    \(N=\) Tree.Build( \(N\), internalNode, Subsets)
    for \(x \in\left(S_{i}-\underset{C \epsilon S u b s e t s}{\bigcup}\right)\) do
            \(N\). add_nodes ( \(x\) )
            \(N\).add_edge(internalNode, \(x\) )
    end
    for \(C \in\) MaxDownstream do
            set \((u, v)=C\).tree_edge
            \(N\).add_edge(internalNode, \(x\) )
            for \(K \neq C \in\) MaxDownstream do
                    \(K\).off_edges .add ( \(v\), internalNode)
                    for \(Q \in\) IsUpstreamFrom[ \(K]\) do \(Q\).off_edges .add ( \(v\), internalNode);
            end
    end
    for \((D, C) \in\) Disjoint \(\times\) MaxDownstream do
        if \(C\) is downstream from \(D\) then
            set \((u, v)=C\).tree_edge
            D.off_edges .add ( \(v\), internalNode)
            if \(D\) is upstream from all \(C \in\) Supersets then
                if ( \(v\), internalNode) \(\notin N\) then \(N\).add_edge(root, internalNode);
                for \(Q \in\) IsUpstreamFrom \([C]\) do \(Q\).off_edges .add(root, internalNode);
            end
        end
    end
    return \(N\)
end
```

must be compatible with all the clusters in $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$; that is, no cluster has a non-trivial intersection with $S_{i}$. The procedure then adds a node called internalNode to the network and attaches the taxa contained in $S_{i}$ to internalNode in the following steps: Let $P \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ be the set of clusters that are properly contained in $S_{i}$. All clusters in $P$ are guaranteed to be pairwise compatible, by the definition of ST-set. So is safe to call the Tree.Build procedure on $P$, with inputRoot set to be the newly created internalNode. The program then processes any remaining taxa in $L=S_{i} \backslash \bigcup_{C \in P} C$ by creating an individual node $x$ for each taxon in $L$ and inserting it into $N$ by adding an edge from internalNode to each $x \in L$, directed by lines 17-19 of Network. Add. Therefore, at this point, $N$ represents all clusters $C \subset S_{i}$.

After the set $P$ of taxa is processed, Network. Add uses depth-first search to efficiently compute the set $\mathcal{K}$ of clusters where each is a superset of $S_{i}$, whose tree edges are maximally downstream of all the superset clusters. $\mathcal{K}$ is computed in lines $7-15$ and the clusters are stored in the MaxDownstream data structure. During this computation, Network.Build also computes the set of clusters isUpstreamFrom $[K]$ for each $K \in \mathcal{K}$, the set of clusters that are upstream from $K$ in $N$. Since the clusters in $\mathcal{K}$ contain $S_{i}$, the procedure adds an edge from the endpoint of $K$.tree_edge to internalNode of each $K \in \mathcal{K}$, so the subtree that represents $S_{i}$ is on a a directed path from C.tree_edge of all $C \supseteq S_{i}$. After this step is performed, any cluster $C \supseteq S_{i}$ that is upstream of a cluster in $K \in \mathcal{K}$ will now contains the taxa in $S_{i}$ as leaf descendants, because $C$ has a directed path to $K$ and the endpoint of $K$.tree_edge now has an edge to internalNode whose subtree has leaf descendants $S_{i}$. Finally, Network.Build iterates through all clusters $C$ in isUpstreamFrom $[K]$ for each $K \in \mathcal{K}$, and adds all the incoming edges of internalNode to C.off_edges except for the edge incident to K.tree_edge. This step is shown in lines 21-28. Therefore, after line 28 executes, all clusters

Figure 4. The intermediate states of the Network. Build procedure when building the network in Figure 2 to represent $\mathcal{C}=\{\{1,2,3\},\{1,3\},\{1,4,5\},\{3,4,5\},\{5\}\}$ with input maximal ST-set sequence $\mathcal{S}=\{\{1\},\{2\}\}$.

(A) Tree constructed to represent $\mathcal{C} \mid I$ where $I=\{3,4,5\}$ using Tree. Build. The $C_{4}$ node is highest in the tree because $C_{4} \mid I$ has the largest size of all $C \in \widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$.


(B) Result of calling Network. Add on the last STset $\{2\}$ of $\mathcal{S}$ and the tree from Fig.4A. The procedure adds node X2 as a leaf child of the new internalNode labeled ST1. The set $\mathcal{K}$ of most downstream clusters containing $\{2\}$ is just $\left\{C_{1}\right\}$ There is an edge from the root R to ST1 because, without it, the tree below the $C_{4}$ node would be disconnected since $C_{4}$ does not contain 2 .
(c) Result of calling Network.Add on the STset $\{1\}$ of $\mathcal{S}$ and the network from Fig. 4B. Network. Add creates new internal node ST2 with leaf child X1 and adds edges to ST2 from the tree_edges of $C_{2}$ and $C_{3}$ because the clusters $C_{1}, C_{2}, C_{3}$ all contain $\{1\}$, which means they are the contents of the Supersets structure in this iteration. $\mathcal{K}=\left\{C_{2}, C_{3}\right\}$ because $C_{1}$ is upstream from $C_{2}$, so it obtains $\{1\}$ automatically from $C_{2}$. Meanwhile, $C_{4}$ is in Disjoint because it does not contain $\{1\}$, so there is another edge from the root to ST2, as in Fig. 4B to give $C_{4}$ a connected switching that bypasses the path through ST2.
$C \supseteq S_{i}$ will have a directed path to internalNode, and will have all the taxa in $S_{i}$ as leaf descendants.

However, there are still some clusters that are disjoint from $S_{i}$ but might be upstream in $N$ from a cluster in $K \in \mathcal{K}$. This is a problem, because it means that after lines 2128 execute, all of these disjoint clusters have had the taxa of $S_{i}$ added to them as leaf descendants through the directed path from K.tree_edge to internalNode. Therefore, for each cluster $D \in$ Disjoint that is upstream from a cluster in $K \in \mathcal{K}$, the edge $e$ from the endpoint of $K$.tree_edge to internalNode is added to the set $D$.off_edges, to make sure that there exists a switching of $N$ that does not contain a directed path from $D$.tree_edge to internalNode. However, it is possible for a disjoint cluster $D$ to be upstream from all the clusters in $\mathcal{K}$, which means that adding all of the incoming edges incident upon internalNode to $D$.off_edges will disconnect the subtree of $D$.tree_edge from the network. In this case, Network. Build creates a new edge from the root of $N$ to internalNode, and then adds this edge to $C$.off_edges for all clusters $C \in$ Supersets that are downstream of $D$ on lines 34-35. After this step, no cluster $D$ that is disjoint from $S_{i}$ has a directed path to internalNode in the graph $N-D$.off_edges, which is now guaranteed to be connected.

### 4.2. Correctness

It is clear from the pseudocode of Algorithm 3 that it generates a DAG using the input data. Therefore, we first prove:

Claim 4.2. The Network. Add procedure produces a valid reticulation network that represents the input clusters.

Proof. The set $I$ is correctly represented by $N$ by the correctness of the known Tree.Build algorithm. Suppose that, when Network. Add is called on input $N$ and $S_{i}$, the network correctly represents the clusters $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}=\mathcal{C} \mid\left(I \cup S_{p} \cup S_{p-1} \cup \ldots \cup S_{i+1}\right)$. Let $C$ be a clusters
in $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$. First, we need to show that after network. add finishes processing ST-set $S_{i}$, cluster $C$ contains all of its taxa. A cluster $C \subset S_{i}$ will be correctly represented by $N$ after network. add runs by the correctness of Tree.Build, and if a taxon $x \in C$ is not in $S_{i}$, then it is already a leaf descendant of $C$.tree_edge by the induction hypothesis. Similarly, if $x \in S_{i}$ and $C \in \mathcal{K}$ then the algorithm will add an edge from the endpoint of $C$.tree_edge to the internalNode, so $x$ will be a leaf descendent of $C$.tree_edge. If the algorithm instead attaches internalNode to the tree edges of a set of clusters $\mathcal{K}$ such that $C \notin \mathcal{K}$, then by lines 9-17 there is some other cluster $C^{\prime} \in \mathcal{K}$ downstream of $C$. By the definition of downstream, this means that $N$ has a directed path from $C$.tree_edge to $C^{\prime}$.tree_edge, so $x$ will be a leaf descendant of $C$.tree_edge.

Next, we show that if $C$ does not contain any taxa in $S_{i}$, then the algorithm does not force any $x \in S_{i}$ to be a leaf descendant of $C$.tree_edge. Indeed, on line 32, the algorithm adds the edges into the internalNode to D's set of off_edges. In some ways, this is just a book-keeping step to illustrate that $N$ still displays the tree that represents $\mathcal{C}$; however, it is possible that all of the edges into the internalNode are downstream of $C$. This would mean that creating the switching that represents $C$ from $N$ would require disconnecting the graph. Therefore, on line 34, Network. Build takes care of this possibility by adding an edge from the root to the internalNode, which keeps the switching graph intact. Thus, even if $C$ does not contain any taxa in $S_{i}$, the Network. Add procedure maintains the property that $N$ is a connected network that represents $C$.

Therefore, we have shown that when the Network. Build is run on a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ and a valid maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}$, it produces a connected reticulation network $N$ that properly represents $\mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense.

### 4.3. Minimizing Reticulations

It is clear from the pseudocode and description of the Network. Add procedure that Network. Build adds only one non-leaf node, called internalNode, to the network in each iteration. It remains to demonstrate that internalNode really is a reticulation node, meaning it has in-degree of at least two. It turns out that there are some valid maximal ST-set tree sequences that produce internal nodes with in-degree equal to one. An example of such a sequence is shown in Figure 5. However, we will show:

Lemma 4.3. If Network. Build creates a network $N$ with $m<p$ reticulation nodes when executed on a maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}$ of length $p$, then there exists a maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}^{\prime}$ of length $m$.

Figure 5. Two almost-isomorphic networks produced by the Network. Build algorithm on the input cluster set $\{1,9,2,4\},\{1,9,2\},\{1,9,2,6,8\},\{1,9,4,7\}$.

(A) Network produced using the ST-set sequence $\{\{4\},\{1,9\},\{6,8\},\{7\}\}$. The node labeled ST3 has only one incoming edge.

(в) Network produced using the ST-set sequence $\{\{4\},\{6,8\},\{7\}\}$

Proof. Suppose that, after the Network. Add procedure processes an ST-set $S_{i}$, the internalNode added during its execution has in-degree one. This happens if there is only one cluster in $\mathcal{K}$, the set of maximally downstream clusters that contain $S_{i}$, meaning that the tree edges of all clusters $C \supseteq S_{i}$ lie on a single path in $N$. Since the tree edges of all clusters $C \subseteq I$ were placed by the Tree. Build procedure and the taxa in $S_{i}$ were added to the tree constructed by Tree.Build via an edge from C.tree_edge to the internalNode, which we assumed to have in-degree one, then the set of clusters $\mathcal{C} \mid\left(I \cup S_{i}\right)$ can be arranged a tree. Therefore, all the clusters in $\mathcal{C} \mid\left(I \cup S_{i}\right)$ are pairwise compatible by the Perfect Phylogeny Theorem. This means that it is unnecessary to include $S_{i}$ in the ST-set tree sequence, because the sequence $\left\{S_{1}, \ldots, S_{i-1}, S_{i+1}, \ldots, S_{p}\right\}$ is a maximal ST-set tree sequence with length $p-1$. Thus, if a sequence $\mathcal{S}$ of length $p$ is the shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence for a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$, then each internalNode will have in-degree of at least two. Hence, Network.Build will produce a reticulation network $N$ with exactly $p$ reticulation nodes.

A reticulation network $N$ that represents a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ is called ret-minimum with respect to $\mathcal{C}$ if it has the fewest number of reticulation nodes over all the networks that represent $\mathcal{C}$. To complete the proof of Conjecture 4.1, we show that

Lemma 4.4. The Network. Build algorithm constructs a ret-minimum network for $\mathcal{C}$ when given as input a shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence.

Proof. Let $N$ be the network constructed by Network. Build for a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ on $\mathcal{S}$, a shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence for $\mathcal{C}$, of length $p$. Suppose toward a contradiction that there exists a network $N^{\prime}$ with $m<p$ reticulation nodes that is ret-minimum for $\mathcal{C}$. If $N^{\prime}$ had a reticulation node $r$ such that all paths from $r$ to a leaf go through another reticulation node $r^{\prime}$, then we could remove $r$ and redirect the incoming edges of $r$ into $r^{\prime}$ thus creating
a network $N^{\prime \prime}$ with fewer reticulation nodes. This operation would not modify the taxa, so $N^{\prime \prime}$ would still represent $\mathcal{C}$. Therefore, a every reticulation node in a ret-minimum network $N^{\prime}$ must have at least one path to a leaf that does not go through another reticulation node.

Let $r_{1}$ be a reticulation node of $N^{\prime}$ such that no path from $r_{1}$ to a leaf goes through another reticulation node. We know that at least one such reticulation node must exist in $N^{\prime}$, because otherwise $N^{\prime}$ would either be a tree or would contain a directed cycle. Let $\Sigma_{1}^{\prime}$ be the set of taxa that are direct descendants of $r_{1}$ and $G_{1}$ be the subgraph composed of $r_{j}$, its subtree and its incoming edges. Then, inductively define $r_{j}$ to be a reticulation node of $N^{\prime}-G_{1}-\ldots-G_{j-1}$ such that no path from $r_{j}$ to a leaf contains any other reticulation nodes, where $G_{j}$ is defined to be the subtree containing $r_{j}$, its subtree and its incoming edges, as before. Let $S_{j}$ be the set of leaf descendants of $r_{j}$. Do this until $N^{\prime}$ has no remaining reticulation nodes. We argue that the sequence $\mathcal{S}^{\prime}=\left\{\Sigma_{m}, \ldots, \Sigma_{1}\right\}$ is a maximal ST-set tree sequence; specifically,
(1) The graph $N^{\prime}-G_{1}-\ldots-G_{m}$ is a tree.
(2) Each $\Sigma_{j} \in \mathcal{S}^{\prime}$ is an ST-set of $\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(\Sigma_{1} \cup \ldots \cup \Sigma_{j-1}\right)$, which means $\Sigma_{j}$ is compatible with all clusters $C \in \mathcal{C} \backslash\left(\Sigma_{1} \cup \ldots \cup \Sigma_{j-1}\right)$ and all clusters $C \subset \Sigma_{j}$ are pairwise compatible.
(3) Each $\Sigma_{j} \in \mathcal{S}^{\prime}$ is a maximal ST-set.

Property (1) follows from the construction of $G_{j}$; no more reticulation nodes remain after all $m$ reticulation nodes are removed from $N^{\prime}$, so all remaining taxa are arranged on a tree.

We also know that $\Sigma_{j}$ was arranged on a tree rooted at $r_{j}$ before it was removed from $N^{\prime}$, which means that all the clusters $C \subset \Sigma_{j}$ are pairwise compatible by the Perfect Phylogeny Theorem. Suppose that some set $\Sigma_{j} \in \mathcal{S}^{\prime}$ is not compatible with $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}=\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(\Sigma_{1} \cup\right.$ $\ldots \cup \Sigma_{j-1}$ ), which means there is some cluster $C \in \widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ in $N^{\prime}$ that has a nontrivial intersection
with $\Sigma_{j}$. Since $N^{\prime}$ represents $C$, the tree edge corresponding to $C$ cannot be downstream of $r_{j}$ in $N^{\prime}$, since this would indicate that $C \subset \Sigma_{j}$ and thus compatible with $\Sigma_{j}$. Therefore, the tree edge corresponding to $C$ would either be upstream from $r_{j}$ in the network or not on any path from the tree edge of $C$. In order for $N^{\prime}$ to represent $C$, there would have to be a path from the endpoint of $C$ in $N^{\prime}$ to the subtree containing the taxa in $C \cap \Sigma_{j}$, which would mean that there is another reticulation node $r^{\prime}$ in $G_{j}$, which is a contradiction. Therefore $\Sigma_{j}$ must be compatible with all the clusters in $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ and so property (2) holds as well.

It remains to show that $\mathcal{S}^{\prime}$ is a maximal ST -set tree sequence. Suppose that $\Sigma_{j}$ is not a maximal ST-set of $\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(\Sigma_{1} \cup \ldots \Sigma_{j-1}\right)$ and that there exists some taxon $x \notin \Sigma_{j}$ that such that $\Sigma=\Sigma_{j} \cup\{x\}$ is also an ST-set. This means that $\Sigma$ must be compatible with all the clusters in $\mathcal{C} \backslash\left(\Sigma_{1} \cup \ldots \cup \Sigma_{j-1}\right)$, which means that all the clusters $C \supseteq \Sigma_{j}$ must either be equal to $\Sigma_{j}$ or must also contain $x$. Otherwise, a cluster $C \supset \Sigma_{j}$ and $\Sigma$ would have be incompatible, since $C$ would contain elements not in $\Sigma_{j}$ and $\Sigma$ contains contain $x$. Let $\mathcal{K}$ be the set of clusters $C \supset \Sigma$. The tree edges of the clusters in $\mathcal{K}$ must lie on several different paths from the root of $N^{\prime}$ to $r_{j}$, because $N^{\prime}$ is assumed to be ret-minimum for $\mathcal{C}$, so it cannot have "unnecessary" reticulation nodes. If the clusters in $\mathcal{K}$ did lie on the same path, then $r_{j}$ would have in-degree one and would not be a reticulation node.

Since the tree edges of the clusters in $\mathcal{K}$ do not lie on a single path, but all the clusters in $\mathcal{K}$ contain $x \notin \Sigma_{j}$, then there must be another reticulation node $r$ such the tree edge endpoint of each cluster in $\mathcal{K}$ has an path to $r$, and the subtree $S$ of $r$ contains $x$. However, this means that all the clusters in $\mathcal{K}$ contain $\Sigma_{j} \cup S$, which means that $\Sigma_{j} \cup S$ is compatible with $\mathcal{K}$. This means that the reticulation node $r$ is unnecessary and we can modify $N^{\prime}$ to create a network $N^{\prime \prime}$ with one fewer reticulation node, by removing the subtree of $r$ and its
incoming edges from $N^{\prime}$ and then calling Tree. Build on cluster set $\mathcal{C} \mid \Sigma_{j} \cup S$ with input root $r_{j}$. However, this is a contradiction since $N^{\prime}$ is ret-minimum for $\mathcal{C}$; therefore, $\Sigma_{j}$ must be a maximal ST-set and so property (3) also holds.

Therefore, if a network $N^{\prime}$ with $m<p$ is ret-minimum for $\mathcal{C}$, then we can construct maximal ST-set tree sequence $\mathcal{S}^{\prime}$ of length $m$. However, this is a contradiction, since we claimed that the sequence $\mathcal{S}$ of length $p$ that we passed as input to the Network. Build algorithm was already a shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence for $\mathcal{C}$. Therefore Network. Build produces a ret-minimum network when executed on a shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence for $\mathcal{C}$.

We conclude the proof of Conjecture 4.1, which states that the History Bound algorithm computes the minimum number of reticulation nodes needed for a reticulation network to represent a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense. We give a procedure that uses the execution history of the CHB algorithm with output $R$ to construct a reticulation network $N$, which represents $\mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense and has at most $R$ reticulation nodes. Then, using the theory developed in [4] we argue that the procedure generates a ret-minimum network when given as input the execution history of CHB that produces the minimum value, or the History Bound, for $\mathcal{C}$.

However, we note that the number of reticulation nodes necessary for a network $N$ to represent a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$ in the hardwired sense is greater than or equal to the History Bound. Consider the set of taxa $X=\{1,2,3\}$ and cluster set $\mathcal{C}$ containing $\{1,2\},\{1,3\}$ and $\{2,3\} . \mathcal{C}$ is incompatible, so it cannot be represented by a tree, so at least one reticulation node will have to be present in any network that represents $\mathcal{C}$. Only one reticulation node is required for a network that represents $\mathcal{C}$ in the softwired sense, because any singleton subset

Figure 6. Network constructed by Network. Build for $\mathcal{C}$ with tree edges shown for each cluster.

of $X$ is a maximal ST-set. Without loss of generality, if we choose $\{1\}$ to be the ST-set we remove, then the remaining cluster set $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}$ is $\{2\},\{3\}$ and $\{2,3\}$, which is compatible, so no more reticulation nodes are necessary for $N$. The network representing this input is shown in Figure 6.

Suppose there exists a network $N$ with leaf set $X$ that has a single reticulation node $r$. We will show that it cannot represent $\mathcal{C}$ in the hardwired sense. If two of the leaves (for example, 1 and 2), are leaf descendants of the $r$, then all upstream edges will have $\{1,2\}$ as leaf children, because we can no longer "switch off" edges when representing clusters in the hardwired sense. This means that no upstream edges can be the tree edges that correspond to clusters $\{1,3\}$ or $\{2,3\}$. Therefore, $N$ does not represent $\mathcal{C}$. Otherwise, suppose one leaf child (taxon 1) is a descendant of the reticulation node in $N$, then none of the upstream edges can be tree edges of cluster $\{2,3\}$, because all upstream edges of $r$ have leaf descendant $1 \notin\{2,3\}$. This shows that $N$ cannot represent $\mathcal{C}$ in the hardwired sense in this case either, which means that a network requires at least two reticulation nodes to represent $\mathcal{C}$ in the hardwired sense.

## 5. A DP Algorithm for Constructing Ret-Minimum Networks

Now that we have established via Lemmas 4.3 and 4.4 that Network. Build produces a ret-minimum network $N$ when executed on a shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence, whose length is equal to the History Bound, we can combine the two known algorithms to produce a procedure that will generate a ret-minimum network for a set of clusters $\mathcal{C}$, or an equivalent matrix $M$, in exponential time.

The original DP formulation of the History Bound algorithm was given by [1], and it runs in time $O\left(m n 2^{n}\right)$ where $|X|=n,|\mathcal{C}|=m$. The presentation in Algorithm 6 is the same as the one given in [2]. The dynamic programming variant of the algorithm computes the History Bound for all subsets $K \subseteq X$ of size $k$. The key insight is that the History Bound value for $K$ is one more than the minimum value of the History Bound over all subsets of $K$ that have size $k-1$.

Once again, in order to extract the ST-set sequence from the intermediate values computed by Algorithm 6, we need to save all the rows that are collapsed by rule $\mathbf{D r}$ into

```
Algorithm 6: The dynamic programming equivalent of the History Bound algorithm.
    Input: A binary matrix \(M\) representing cluster set \(\mathcal{C}\) on taxon set \(X\)
    Output: The value of the History Bound for \(M\)
    for \(x \in X\) do set \(H[\{x\}]=0\);
    for \(k \in\{2, \ldots,|X|\}\) do
        for each subset \(K \subseteq X\) of size \(k\) do
            set \(M_{K}\) to be the submatrix of \(M\) with row set \(K\)
            while \(M_{K}\) contains duplicate rows or single-entry columns do
                    Dr: collapse together any duplicate rows of \(M_{K}\)
                    Dc: remove any columns with a single 1 entry from \(M_{K}\)
            end
            /* choose which row removal minimizes the score for \(K \subseteq X \quad\) */
            set \(H[K]=\min _{x \in K}(1+H[K-\{x\}])\)
        end
    end
    return \(H[X]\)
```

```
Algorithm 7: An equivalent DP algorithm to compute the History Bound that saves
away relevant history; namely the ST-sets that are removed to achieve each value.
    Input: A binary matrix \(M\) representing cluster set \(\mathcal{C}\) on taxon set \(X\)
    Output: A table containing History Bound value for all subsets of \(X\) and the ST-set
                deletions that resulted in that value, for backtracking.
    /* initialize the table \(H: \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \times \mathcal{P}(X)\) for subsets of size \(1 \quad\) */
    for \(x \in X\) do set \(H[\{x\}]=(0, \emptyset)\);
    for \(k \in\{2, \ldots,|X|\}\) do
        for each subset \(K \subseteq X\) of size \(k\) do
            /* initialize the \(X^{\prime}\) list for marking duplicate taxa for deletion */
            for \(x \in X^{\prime}\) do set \(X^{\prime}[r]=\emptyset\);
            set \(M_{K}\) to be the submatrix of \(M\) with row set \(K\)
            while \(M_{K}\) contains duplicate rows or single-entry columns do
                    Dr:
                    if two unmarked rows \(r_{1}\) and \(r_{2}\) are identical then
                        mark \(X^{\prime}\left[r_{2}\right]=r_{1}\) for all rows \(r\) such that \(X^{\prime}[r]==r_{2}\) do
                    update the marker to \(X^{\prime}[r]=r 1\)
                    end
                    end
                    Dc: remove any columns with a single unmarked 1 entry from \(M_{K}\)
                end
            /* collect all the marked rows into sets indexed by their markers */
            for \(x \in X\) do
                    set \(S[x]=\{x\} \cup\left\{r \in X\right.\) such that \(\left.X^{\prime}[x]=r\right\}\)
            end
            set \(f(x)=1+H[K-S[x]]\).first()
            set \((h, r)=\left(\min _{x \in K} f(x), \underset{x \in K}{\operatorname{argmin}} f(x)\right) ; \quad / *\) save the row that minimizes \(f * /\)
            set \(H[K]=(h, S[r]) ; \quad / *\) save ST-set corresponding to \(\operatorname{argmin} f * /\)
        end
    end
    return \(H\)
```

the DP table. Therefore, we make a change similar to the the one made to Algorithm 1. This is shown in Algorithm 7, and it will allow us to backtrack once the minimum value of $H$ is computed. Note that the table $H$ no longer maps from the subset of $X$ to the integer value of the History Bound for that subset of $X$, but to pairs that save the ST-set that whose removal achieves the optimal value, in addition to the value itself.

```
Algorithm 8: The backtracking algorithm for constructing a ret-minimum network
using the intermediate values of the History Bound computation.
    Input: Table \(H\) containing the History Bound value for all subsets of \(X\) and the ST-set
            deletions that resulted in that value.
    Output: Ret-minimum network \(N\) representing cluster set \(\mathcal{C}\) on taxon set \(X\)
    /* extract the ST-set sequence \(\mathcal{S}\) in reverse from the DP table */
    set \(K=X\); set \(\mathcal{S}=\{ \}\);
    while \(K \neq \emptyset\) do
    get \(\left(-, S_{i}\right)=H[K]\);
    \(\mathcal{S}\).append ( \(S_{i}\) );
    set \(K=K-S_{i}\)
end
set nonSubsets \(=\left\{C \in \mathcal{C} \mid C \not \subset S_{i}\right.\) for any \(\left.S_{i} \in \mathcal{S}\right\} ;\)
set \(I=X-\bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}} S\);
/* restrict all the clusters to the initial set of taxa */
for \(C \in \mathcal{C}\) do \(C\).restrict_to( \(I\) );
\(N=\operatorname{graph}() ;\)
\(N\).add_nodes(root) ;
\(N=\) Tree.Build( \(N\), root, nonSubsets);
for \(S_{i} \in \mathcal{S}\) do
    for \(C \in \mathcal{C}\) do \(C\).restrict_to ( \(C\).restriction \(\cup S_{i}\) );
    \(N=\operatorname{Network} \cdot \operatorname{Add}\left(N, \mathcal{C}, S_{i}\right) ;\)
end
return \(N\)
```

The new algorithm also changes the way subsets are mapped by $H$. In the previous procedure, the clean-up rules $\mathbf{D r}$ and $\mathbf{D c}$ were allowed to run on all the rows and columns of the matrix $M_{K}$, while in the modified algorithm, we only explicitly remove the rows from $M_{K}$ after a taxon is chosen that minimizes the History Bound score. Nevertheless, these algorithms are equivalent, because the clean-up rules are deterministic [2], so there is a bijection between collapsing all other maximal ST-sets into meta-taxa and leaving all but one uncollapsed.

In Algorithm 8 we show the procedure for extracting the maximal ST-set tree sequence from the values recorded in $H$, and for using those to construct the ret-minimum network for the clusters encoded by $M$. The sequence is assembled from the second value of the pair
recorded at $H[K]$ for each $K \subset X$, starting from $K=X$. Otherwise, this algorithm is very similar to Network. Build, given in Algorithm 3; it first constructs a tree from the clusters restricted to $I$ and then iteratively inserts each ST-set into the tree using Network. Add.

## 6. Conclusion

One of the interesting things about this work is the way our understanding of the RETNeTWORK problem progressed almost entirely backwards from the way NP-hard problems are typically presented in classrooms and textbooks. That is, the algorithm to compute a lower bound on $R_{\text {min }}$, was known first. Although the algorithm appeared to be performing some common-sense operations on the underlying networks that represent the data, a clear understanding of the combinatorial property of reticulation networks counted by algorithm was not known. The hardness of computing this value was shown by a nontrivial reduction that did not involve the underlying network.

To summarize, we explicitly proved the statement from [4] that every maximal ST-set tree sequence corresponds to an execution of the Candidate History Bound algorithm, and conversely that every execution of CHB generates a maximal ST-set tree sequence, thereby demonstrating that the length of the shortest maximal ST-set tree sequence for a set of clusters is equal to the value of the History Bound. Then, we proved the conjecture that the History Bound algorithm counts the minimum number of reticulation nodes in a network that represents the input clusters in the softwired sense. This was done by giving an algorithm that constructs the network in question and showing that a network with fewer reticulation nodes does not exist. We argued that this result does not apply to networks that represent clusters in the hardwired sense.

### 6.1. Future work

This new understanding of the combinatorial properties of the History Bound raises additional questions about its relationship to other desirable properties of reticulation networks and ARGs. The static formulation also allows us to propose standard analyses that
are typically used to grapple with NP-hard problems, such as ILP formulations, heuristics and approximation algorithms. We describe some of these questions in more detail in the following sections.
6.1.1. Relationship to Reticulation Number. In Section 1.1, we mentioned that computational biologists are often interested in minimizing the number of reticulation events in a network - a computation that also involves the edges of the resulting network. This thesis does not currently address any relationship between between the History Bound and reticulation number; however, the Network. Build algorithm does try to create "nice" reticulation nodes that do not have obviously redundant incoming edges. The iteration on lines 7-15 of Algorithm 3 attaches the new node to only the most downstream set of clusters, even though the network would still correctly represent the input if the reticulation node had incoming edges from the tree edges of all the relevant clusters, not just the downstream ones. We do not claim that this choice by Network. Build produces a network with minimum reticulation number. However, this raises the question of whether a ret-minimum network $N$ also has minimum reticulation number $r(N)$, or if there are networks with lower reticulation number that contain more reticulation nodes than $N$.
6.1.2. Relationship to $R_{\text {min }}$. As described in Section 1.2, the History Bound algorithm originated in the ARG setting as a way to compute a lower bound on $R_{\text {min }}$. Although this work has explained the relationship of the History Bound to reticulation networks, it remains unclear whether the value has any direct combinatorial relationship to the minARGs that represent a binary matrix. Thus, a natural extension of this work would be to investigate the following conjecture by Gusfield:

Conjecture 6.1. There exists a minARG that represents a binary matrix $M$ whose number of visible recombination nodes is equal to the History Bound.
where a recombination node is visible in an ARG if no path from that node to a leaf goes through another recombination node. We know that every ARG is a (softwired) reticulation network; perhaps there is a way to combine recombination nodes until none are left and show that the resulting graph is a ret-minimum network.
6.1.3. Hardwired vs Softwired. We point out that the History Bound counts the number of reticulation nodes that represents a set of clusters in the softwired sense. It appears that the flexibility provided by the softwired definition is what allows the Network. Add procedure to use one reticulation node per ST-set. Similarly, it also allows the tree edges of the initial clusters to be arranged in a somewhat careless order, because a cluster that does not contain an ST-set $S$ that is located upstream in the network from a cluster that does contain $S$ can always "bypass" $S$ using the root-edge trick described in lines 33-35 of Algorithm 5 and shown in Figure 4. In contrast, the hardwired definition requires that all the leaf children of a cluster's tree edge be considered, not just those in a particular switching, so the "bypassing trick" does not work in that setting. Nevertheless, it is possible that we can use the insights developed in this work to develop an algorithm that will count the minimum number of reticulation nodes needed to represent a set of clusters in the hardwired sense, and investigate the relationship of this value to $R_{\text {min }}$ and reticulation number.
6.1.4. Approximation Algorithms and Kernels. Another area of exploration related to this topic is the development of more efficient approximation algorithms that are guaranteed to compute a value that can be bounded by a constant factor of optimum. Indeed, from a human perspective, there are some situations where it seems that certain taxa are obviously
better to remove than others during the execution of the CHB algorithm, so it be desirable to formalize how well those heuristics would behave in practice, or whether they only work on some data sets. The structure of the networks produced by Network. Build also suggests that the order of the ST-sets in the sequences might not be as important as currently stated, and there may re-orderings of ST-set sequences that produce equivalent networks. Similarly, the example in Figure 5 suggests that some ST-set sequences are equivalent, so partitioning the space of ST-sequences into equivalence classes to shrink the search space may be desirable as well.

## Appendix A. Source of Network.Build

This appendix contains the Python source of the Network. Build algorithm, and all its related data structures. Below, we show the data structure for encoding clusters as described in Section 4.1.

Listing 1. Python implementation of the Cluster data structure.

```
#! /usr/bin/python
class Cluster:
    # need to have the taxa for initialization
    def __init__(self, name, S):
        self.name = name
        self.taxa = S
        self.restriction = set()
        self.ct = self.taxa & self.restriction
        # network things
        self.off_edges = set()
        self.cut_edge = None
    def __repr__(self):
        return self.name + "(" + str(list(self.ct)) + ")"
    def __str__(self): return self.__repr__()
    def size(self): return len(self.ct)
    def is_empty(self): return self.size() == 0
    def single(self):
        if self.size() == 1:
            return list(self.ct)[0]
        return None
    def current_taxa(self): return (self.ct)
    def restrict_to(self, S):
        self.restriction = S
        self.ct = self.taxa & self.restriction
```

2

Below is the code for the Tree.Build algorithm, which takes a set of compatible clusters and creates a tree.

Listing 2. Python implementation of the Tree. Build algorithm.

```
#! /usr/bin/python
2
import cluster
4
from copy import copy
from pygraph.classes.digraph import digraph as graph
7
# build a tree of out a set of compatible clusters and a subset of the taxa
# that displays C
def build(T, clusters, root):
# process largest to smallest
C = sorted(clusters, key = lambda c: c.size(), reverse = True)
for i in range(0, len(C)):
    c = C[i]
    node = c.name
    leaves = ["X" + x for x in c.current_taxa()]
    print "\n=====> TREE: Processing " + node
    # check the already processed clusters if they're a superset of c
    superset = None
    for j in range(0, i):
        p = C[j]
        if c.current_taxa() <= p.current_taxa():
            superset = p # grab the smallest superset of c
        elif not c.current_taxa().isdisjoint(p.current_taxa()):
            exit("ERROR: clusters " + str(c) + " and " + str(p) + "are not
compatible.")
    if superset != None:
                (u, v) = superset.cut_edge
        # otherwise, put a new node and hook the leaves onto it instead
        for n in leaves:
            print "deleting edge (" + v + ", " + n + ")"
            T.del_edge((v,n))
        edge = (v, node)
    else:
```

    \# disjoint from all the processed clusters -- new edge from the root
        edge \(=\) (root, node)
        T.add_nodes(leaves)
    T.add_node(node)
    for \(x\) in leaves: T.add_edge((node, x))
    T.add_edge(edge); c.cut_edge = edge
    print "Cluster " + node + " now has cut edge " + str (c.cut_edge)
    return $T$

The following listing gives the code that adds a single ST-set into a reticulation network.
This code contains some helper functions, such as verify function that draws all the trees displayed by a given network that represent a set of clusters. Although this function allows the networks to be human-verified, it can be easily modified to verify the networks automatically.

Listing 3. Python implementation of the Network. Add algorithm, and helper functions.

```
#! /usr/bin/python
import sys
sys.path.append('..')
sys.path.append('/usr/lib/graphviz/python/')
sys.path.append('/usr/lib64/graphviz/python/')
import gv
7
# my files
import cluster
import tree
12 from sys import argv
14 from pygraph.classes.digraph import digraph as graph
from pygraph.algorithms.sorting import topological_sorting as topsort
from pygraph.algorithms.searching import depth_first_search as dfs
from pygraph.readwrite.dot import write
def draw(G, name):
    dot = write(G)
    pic = gv.readstring(dot)
    gv.layout(pic, "dot")
    gv.render(pic, "png", name + ".png")
def personalize_dfs(N, C):
    D = {}
    for c in C:
        for e in c.off_edges: N.del_edge(e)
        (_, pre, post) = dfs(N, root="R")
        D[c.name] = (pre, post)
        for e in c.off_edges: N.add_edge(e)
    return D
def verify(N, clusters):
```

11
13

```
    V = graph()
    for i in range(0, len(clusters)):
        c = clusters[i]
        prefix = "." * (i+1)
        color = "red"
        for n in N.nodes():
        attrs = []
        if n[0] == "X" : attrs += [("color", color )]
        V.add_node(prefix + n, attrs)
        for e in N.edges():
        attrs = []; (x, y) = e
        if e in c.off_edges: attrs += [("style","dotted")]
        if e == c.cut_edge: attrs += [("style", "bold"), ("color", color)]
        new_edge = (prefix + x, prefix + y)
        V.add_edge(new_edge, attrs=attrs)
    return V
# given c1's traversal, is c1's cut edge downstream from c1?
def downstream(c1, c2, traversal):
    (pre, post) = traversal
    (_, v) = c1.cut_edge
    (_, u) = c2.cut_edge
    # this means v is a descendant (downstream) of u
    return pre.index(u) < pre.index(v) and post.index(v) < post.index(u)
6 4 ~ d e f ~ b u i l d ( N , ~ c l u s t e r s , ~ s t \_ s e t , ~ l a b e l ) : ~
```

68 \# compute the traversals for each cluster's tree

```
68 # compute the traversals for each cluster's tree
71 supersets = [] # most downstream clusters that contain S
71 supersets = [] # most downstream clusters that contain S
72 subsets = [] # clusters that are subsets of S
```

72 subsets = [] \# clusters that are subsets of S

```
```

print "\n=====> NETWORK " + label + ": Processing " + str(st_set)

```
print "\n=====> NETWORK " + label + ": Processing " + str(st_set)
traversals = personalize_dfs(N, clusters)
traversals = personalize_dfs(N, clusters)
disjoint = [] # clusters that don't contain S
disjoint = [] # clusters that don't contain S
upstream = {} # clusters that contain S but don't get any edges added
upstream = {} # clusters that contain S but don't get any edges added
print "Sifting clusters that contain set " + str(st_set)
print "Sifting clusters that contain set " + str(st_set)
for c in clusters:
for c in clusters:
            upstream[c.name] = []
            upstream[c.name] = []
        if st_set <= c.current_taxa():
        if st_set <= c.current_taxa():
            supersets.append(c)
            supersets.append(c)
            for k in supersets:
```

            for k in supersets:
    ```
    63
65
66
67
69
70
73
```

        if k != c:
            if downstream(c, k, traversals[k.name]):
                print " Removing " + k.name + " since it is upstream of
    " + c.name
supersets.remove(k)
upstream[c.name] += [k]
elif downstream(k, c, traversals[c.name]):
print " Removing " + c.name + " since it is upstream of
" + k.name
supersets.remove(c)
upstream[k.name] += [c]
break
elif st_set.isdisjoint(c.current_taxa()):
disjoint.append(c)
elif c.current_taxa() < st_set:
subsets.append(c)
else:
exit("The " + str(st_set) + " is not a valid ST-set.\nIt has a
nontrivial intersection with " + str(c) + ".\nQuitting ...")
\# add the new node and leaves
rec_node = "ST" + label
N.add_node(rec_node)
\# these subset guys don't have cut edges, so we need to set them first
N = tree.build(N, subsets, rec_node)
for x in st_set:
n = "X" + x
if not N.has_node(n):
N.add_node(n)
N.add_edge((rec_node, n))
for d in disjoint:
print "Processing disjoint cluster " + d.name
\# if this guy has no cut edge yet, that means it's the subset of
\# some other st-set further in the sequence, so it hasn't even been
added yet
if d.cut_edge == None: continue
\# find out if d is disjoint from all -- then we need to add a root edge
d_upstream = []
for c in supersets: d_upstream += [downstream(c, d, traversals[d.name])]
d_upstream_from_all = all(d_upstream)

```
```

    root_edge = ("R", rec_node)
    if d_upstream_from_all and not N.has_edge(root_edge):
        # need an edge from the root to create the tree that doesn't break c
        print " Upstream from all; adding root edge " + str(root_edge)
        N.add_edge(root_edge)
        # see if d conflicts with any of the clusters containing S
        for c in supersets:
            (_, has_s) = c.cut_edge
            if downstream(c, d, traversals[d.name]):
            # it's bad for the containing cluster to be downstream of the
    non-containing
\# one because then the non-containing one automatically includes
the new st-set
print " Adding OFF edge " + str((has_s, rec_node)) + " to " +
d.name
d.off_edges.add((has_s, rec_node))
\# if cluster is disjoint, N will be disconnected when all its
off edges are turned off.
if d_upstream_from_all:
print " Adding OFF edge " + str(root_edge) + " to " + c.name
c.off_edges.add(root_edge)
for q in upstream[c.name]: q.off_edges.add(root_edge)
for c in supersets:
print "Adding recombination edge to " + c.name
(u, v) = c.cut_edge
N.add_edge((v, rec_node))
\# edge that we just added needs to be turned off in the other clusters
that have this node
for k in supersets:
if k != c:
print " Adding OFF edge " + str((v, rec_node)) + " to " + k.name
k.off_edges.add((v, rec_node))
for q in upstream[k.name]: q.off_edges.add((v, rec_node))
return N

```

Finally, this listing gives the code for Network. Build, which iteratively adds ST-sets from an input sequence into a tree to create a reticulation networks.

Listing 4. Python implementation of the Network. Build algorithm.
```

\#!/usr/bin/python

```
2
3 import cluster
4 import tree
5 import network
6
7 import os
from sys import argv
from pygraph.classes.digraph import digraph as graph
10
if len(argv) != 2:
    exit("Usage: process.py input")
filename \(=\operatorname{argv}[1]\)
\(\mathrm{f}=\) open(filename)
16
17 clusters = []; st_set_sequence = []; X = set(); i = 1
for line in \(f\) :
    line = line.strip()
    if line == ', : break
    name \(=\) "C" \(+\operatorname{str}(i) ; i+=1\)
    clusters += [cluster.Cluster(name, set(line.split(" ")))]
for line in \(f\) :
    line = line.strip()
    st_set_sequence += map(lambda x: set(x.split(" ")), line.split(", "))
f.close()
\# the set of taxa is the union of all the clusters.
for \(c\) in clusters: \(X=X \mid c . t a x a\)
print "X: " + str (X)
32
33 for c in clusters: c.restrict_to(X)
print "clusters: " + str(clusters)
35
36 \# initial set of taxa we need to build a tree for
37 I = X
for st_set in st_set_sequence: I = I - st_set
39
40 print "I " + str(I)
41
```

42
4 3 ~ \# ~ o r ~ a r e ~ d i s j o i n t ~ f r o m ~ a l l ~ S T - s e t s
4 4 non_subsets = []
4 5 for c in clusters:
46 c.restrict_to(I)
47 subset_of_s = map(lambda s: c.taxa < s, st_set_sequence)
4 8
4 9
50 if not any(subset_of_s) or all(disjoint_from_s):
non_subsets.append(c)
5 2
5 3 st_set_sequence.reverse()
5 4
5 5 ~ \# ~ d u m p ~ t h i s ~ i n t o ~ t h e ~ f o l d e r ~ w i t h ~ t h e ~ i n p u t ~ n a m e
56 folder = filename.split(".")[0] + "/"
if not os.path.isdir(folder): os.mkdir(folder)
58
59 \# make a tree
60 N = graph(); N.add_node("R")
6 1 ~ N ~ = ~ t r e e . b u i l d ( N , ~ l i s t ( n o n \_ s u b s e t s ) , ~ " R " )
6 2
6 3 network.draw(N, folder + "network0")
6 4
65 for i in range(0, len(st_set_sequence)):
66 st_set = st_set_sequence[i]
67 label = str(i+1)
6 8
69 for c in clusters: c.restrict_to(c.restriction | st_set)
70
71 N = network.build(N, clusters, st_set, label)
72 V = network.verify(N, clusters)
73 network.draw(N, folder + "network" + label)
74 network.draw(V, folder + "verify" + label)
75
76
print
\# for c in clusters:
\# print str(c) + " with cut edge " + str(c.cut_edge)
\# print "OFF: " + str(list(c.off_edges)) + "\n"

```

\section*{References}
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