Approximate Bayesian computation and the coalescent

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The coalescent has proven highly successful from a theoretical and modeling perspective, but somewhat more problematic as a tool for inference. Computational tractability is often tenuous, and analytic solutions are generally not available. This has lead to a growing use of methods in which approximation steps are incorporated as a way of recovering tractability. In this talk I will focus on the most popular of such methods: Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC). Discussing it's use for population genetics inference, and the challenges and opportunities presented by this approach.

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