

NIMBioS

National Institute for Mathematical
and Biological Synthesis

Tutorial

RevBayes: Bayesian Inference of Phylogeny

EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

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Figure 1. Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this tutorial:

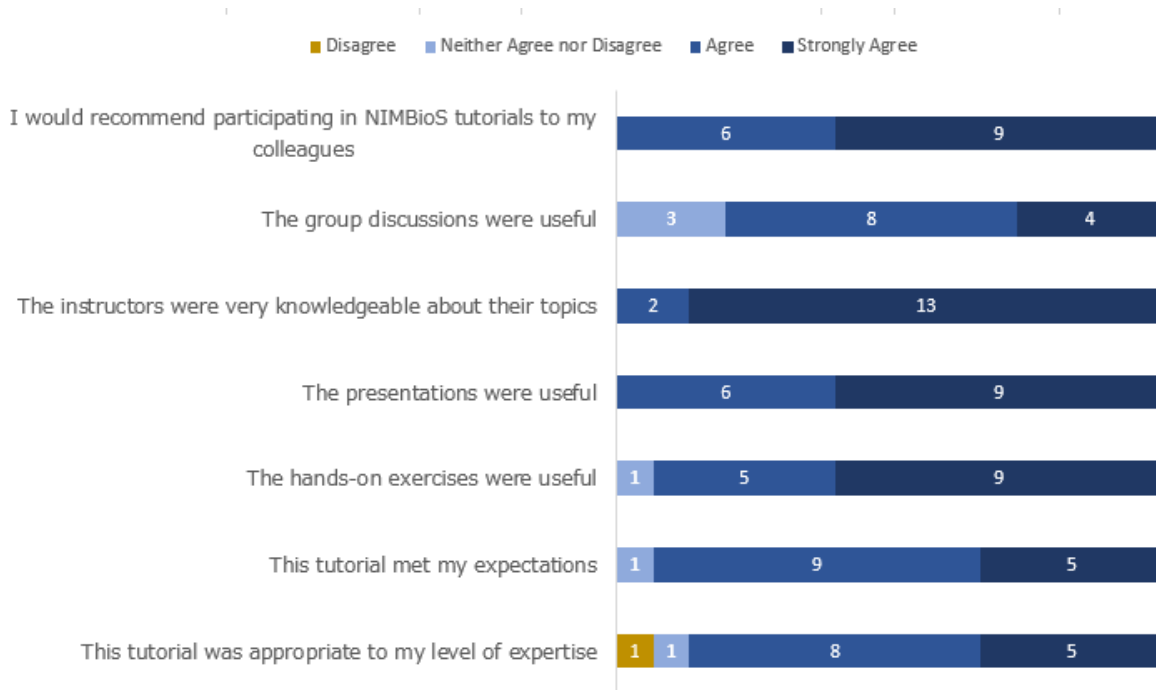


Figure 2. As a result of participating in this tutorial, I have a better understanding of:

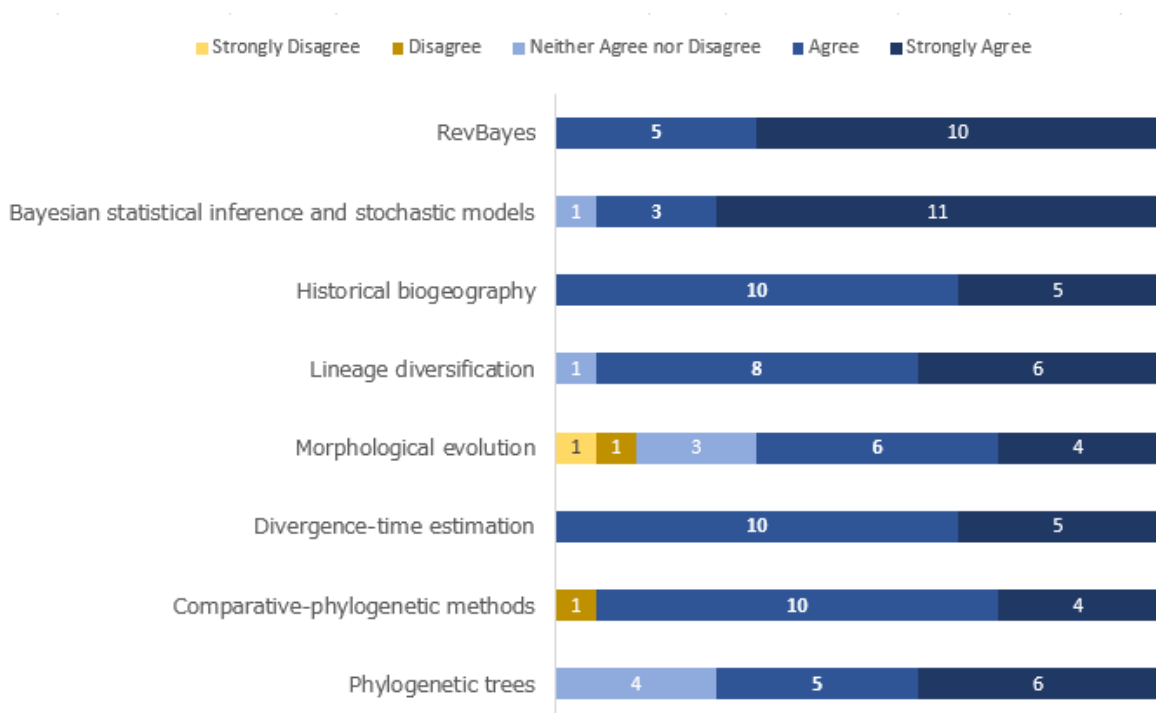
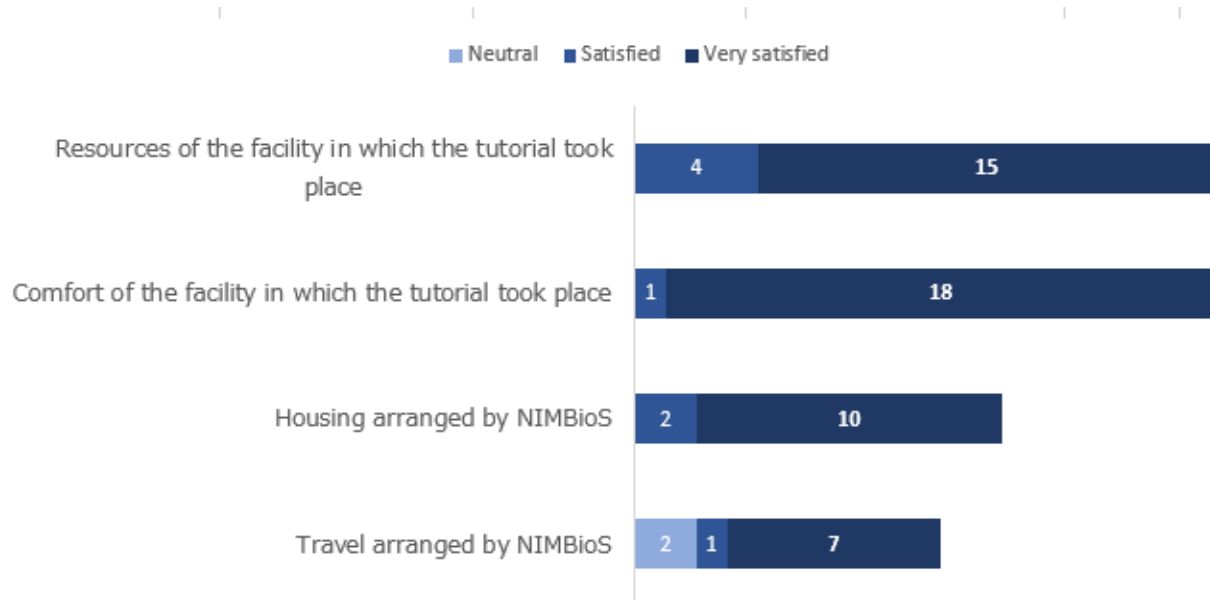


Figure 3. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the tutorial accommodations:



Comments:

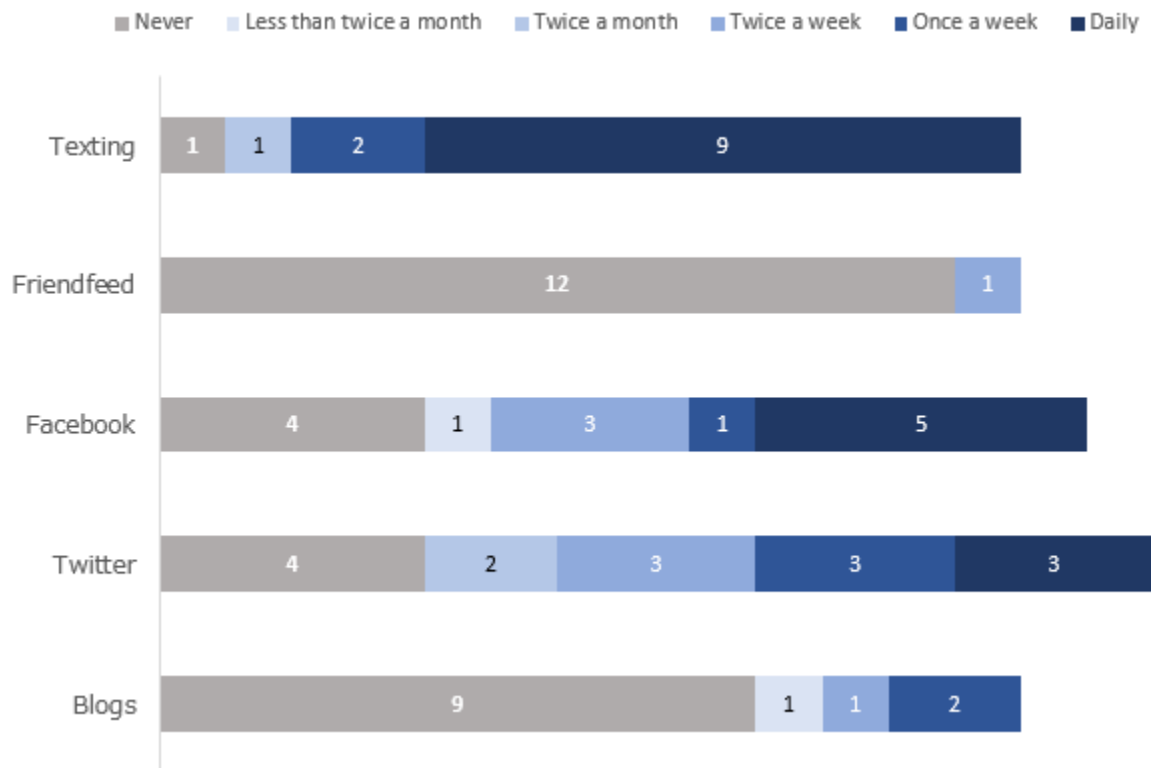
Everything was great and I only have few comments. In general, the food was good, although some more alternatives to the Bagels for breakfast would be nice. The food was probably an affordable option, but could be improved. Otherwise I was pleasantly surprised how smooth everything went.

I had my own accommodation

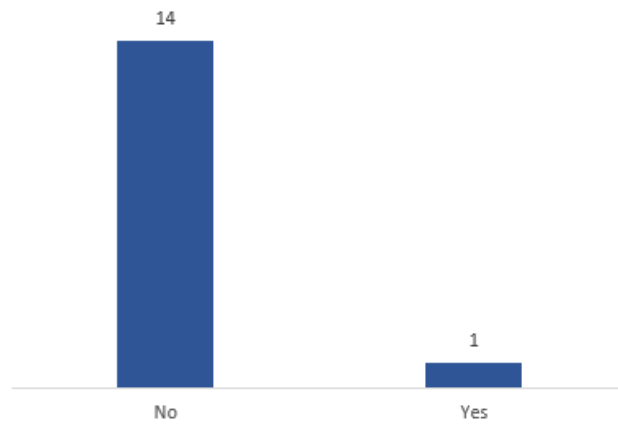
Teaching room layout and wifi access were great. Food on site was adequate.

Very well organized, and everything was high quality.

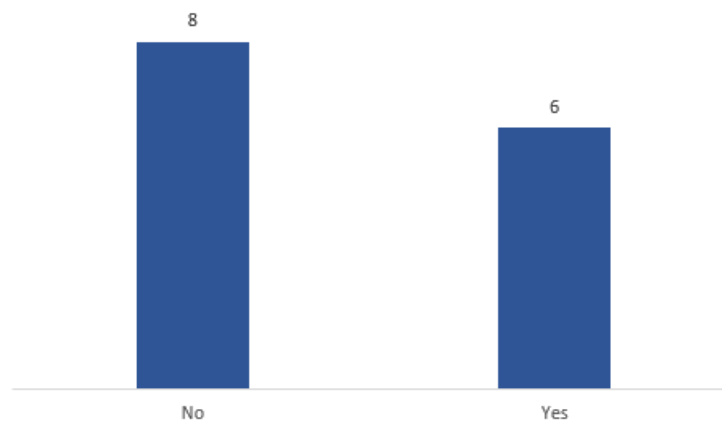
Figure 4. Approximately how often have you used the following social networking tools in the last six months?



Did you use any of the above tools during the tutorial presentations and/or discussions to communicate with other tutorial participants?



Would you be interested in using Twitter or other social networking tools for communications during NIMBioS tutorials?



Which social networking tools did you use?

Texting

Other social networking tools used:

Snapchat

Whatsapp

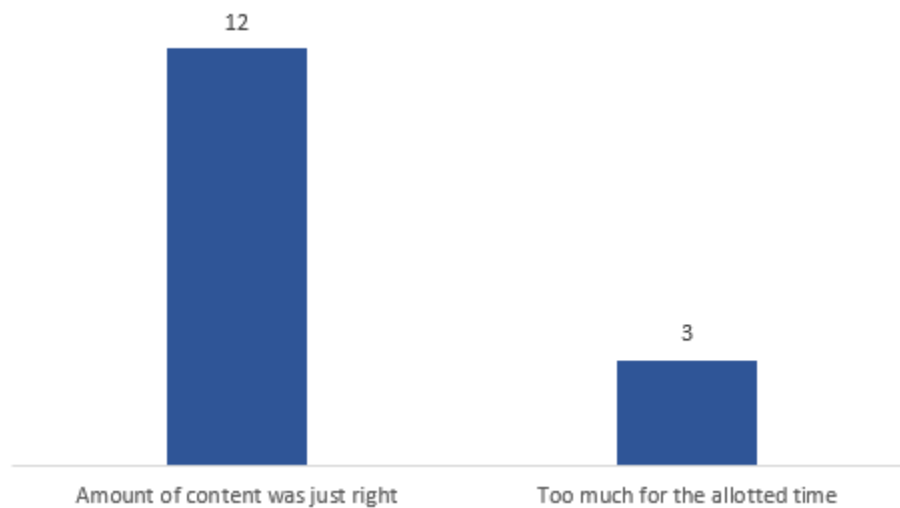
14 out of 21

attendees felt this was a very effective format for achieving their goals.

15 out of 21

attendees were satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunities provided during the tutorial presentations and discussions to ask questions and/or make comments.

How do you feel about the amount of content offered during the tutorial?



What topics would you have liked to have covered in this tutorial if given more time?

Better detail on RevBayes software. Or a case to use clock without fossils.

discussion on the application of phylogenomic data

I would have appreciated spending time on modeling continuous data through trees.

I would have liked the tutorial to have covered morphological evolution and comparative methods--this was the main reason I was interested in attending the tutorial. However, the topics covered were generally useful and the expertise was exceptional.

In many of the exercises we used a fixed input tree, I would have like to see examples in which a set of tree distributions were used and the code for such analysis.

Models other than birth-death (e.g., coalescent)

More morphological evolution.

More Specific exercises on species tree estimation

More theory behind the techniques we were learning, rather than just examples, since no prior knowledge was supposed to be necessary.

Phylogenetic and conservation

What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the tutorial?

Bayesian theory

Hands on tutorials where we got to use RevBayes on actual datasets

I felt that the workshop time was the most helpful because it allowed for me to get hands on experience with RevBayes, have follow up questions with instructors, and attempt analyses on my own data.

I think the actual lectures were very useful.

I was interested on species trees, although molecular clocks are interesting.

Knowledgeable organizers

Obtaining a better understanding of how MCMC works.

Reconstruction of diversification events using RevBayes

Syntax for using RevBayes to build phylogenetic trees.

The introductory lectures were very helpful.

The juxtaposition of lecture to hands-on tutorial time to help build familiarity with the RevBayes interface.

The lecture introductions set a good starting point to understand what RevBayes was doing for such particular exercise

The tutorial pdfs we were provided with are great resources.

What, if anything, would you change about the tutorial?

Dedicated time for the participants to work with and troubleshoot analysis of their own data.

Either more background theory lectures or a higher recommended prior experience level for students.

Extending the tutorial to include a couple more days

I don't know, it was quite exhaustive, which I find good.

I thought everything was really well done. The food was good, the venue was good, the people were great, I learned a lot, and there was lots of coffee.

I would have replaced the day on historical biogeography models with comparative methods and morphological evolution.

Maybe try to cover less material.

nothing

The RevBayes runs that were repetitive could be replaced with more theory in the form of slides.

Please indicate any suggestions you have for facilitating communication among participants during the tutorial:

Having a discussion group/forum, maybe?

I believe the tutorial was structured well with regard to facilitating communication among participants.

Many times I saw that participants were not following well, but they wouldn't interrupt the class. A system where they can quietly request help or indicate they are lost with no need to tell loudly their problems could be useful. I've seen using stickies for that purpose.

Maybe group problem solving sessions might have helped share ideas and exchange knowledge between participants

Perhaps a RevBayes discussion board would be useful. Users could answer user questions, facilitating a community and relieving some responsibility of developers for simple things.

Additional comments:

I enjoyed the workshop and the kindness on the different aspects during the tutorial.
Thanks

I want to thank the NIMBioS organisers again for all the support. It was great to receive a small welcome package at the hotel even with the info how to get to NIMBioS (very helpful). Perhaps one small suggestion would be to have a 5-15 minutes wrap-up discussion with the NIMBioS organisers at the end of the workshop. I know that everyone is probably very busy but seeing the faces at the end again would be nice.

I would suggest another workshop on phylogenetic and conservation or phylogenetics and population dynamics

Overall I feel the tutorial was excellent and a bargain for the money. I have learned a lot of material that I intend to incorporate into my research over the next year. It was a great and well-organized tutorial.

Thank you for organizing a great workshop - it was worth every dollar.