

2010/06/27

Handicraft: tree of life

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Prepare: paper tape (or string), scissors, ruler, glue, pen, scotch tape

We reconstruct a phylogenetic tree by hand!

Japanese words

Japanese - English Translation

ヒト = human

チンパンジー = chimp
(チンパンジー)

ゴリラ = gorilla

オランウータン = Orangutan
(オランウータン)

マウス = mouse



Cutting tapes at lengths of the numbers of DNA substitutions

	ヒト	チンパンジー	ゴリラ	オラン
4チンパンジー	1185 119mm			
ゴリラ	1479 148mm	1420 142mm		
オラン	2001 200mm	2090 209mm	2116 212mm	
マウス	4068 407mm	4052 405mm	4102 410mm	4127 413mm

DNAの長さ 10839
DNA length is 10839

ミトコンドリアDNA置換数(推定値)

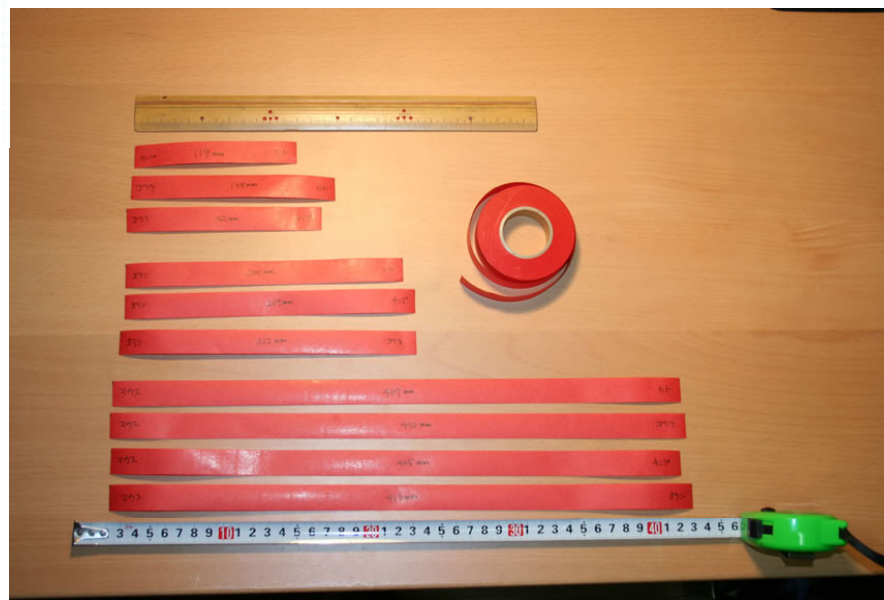
mitochondrial DNA substitution numbers (estimates)

Note: maximum likelihood method was used for estimating the numbers of substitutions

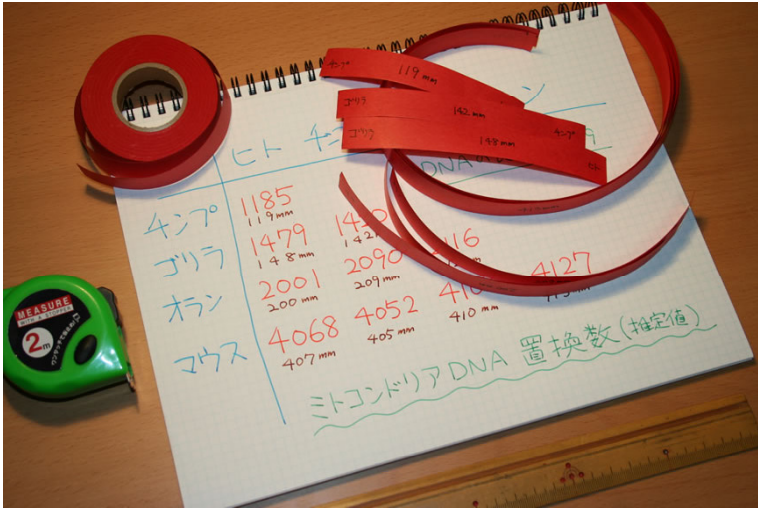
- Dataset consists of mitochondrial DNA sequences for four apes (human, chimp, gorilla, orangutan), and mouse obtained from NCBI web site.
- The coding regions of 12 genes are used. I got 10839 aligned nucleotide sites by clustalW.
- The numbers of substitutions are estimated by ML method using ape package of R language. After applying `dist.dna(dat, "TN93")`, the results are multiplied by 10839, and rounded to integers. Instead, the numbers of differences between sequences could be computed by `dist.dna(dat, "raw")`, or simply counting the differences by eyes.
- After finishing the handicraft, I found that Jukes-Cantor (JC) model gives very similar numbers of substitutions as TN93. So, I should have used more intuitive JC for this handicraft.
- Number of substitutions > number of differences. Particularly for this data, the estimated tree is not much different if it is estimated from the numbers of differences, because the numbers of substitutions are not very large here.
- Without handicraft, the tree may be estimated by the neighbor joining method. `nj` function of ape package can be used for computing an unrooted tree, and the root can be specified by `root()`.

I made 10 substitutions = 1mm

Roughly saying, 1cm = 1 million years



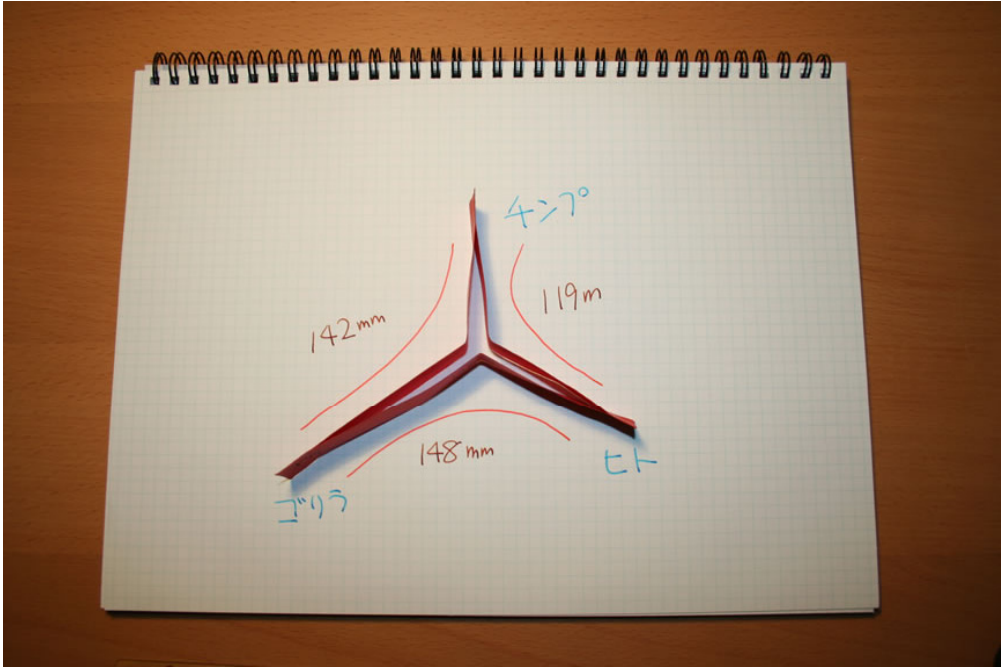
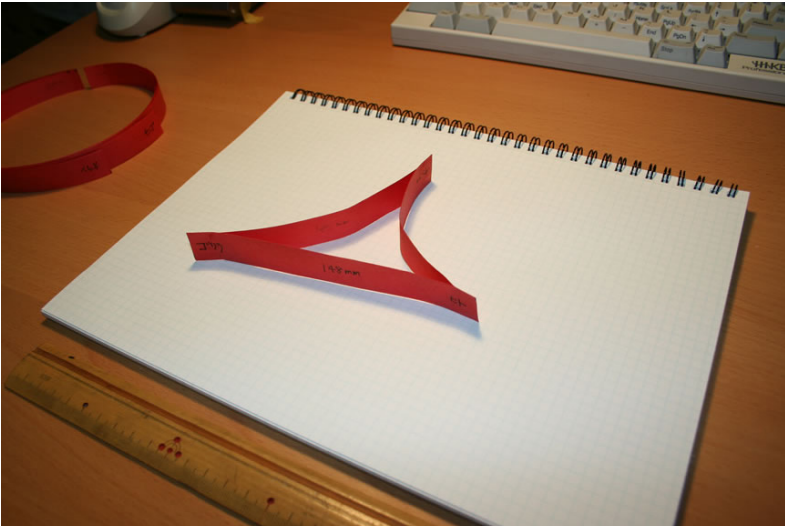
Paste the three shortest tapes each other



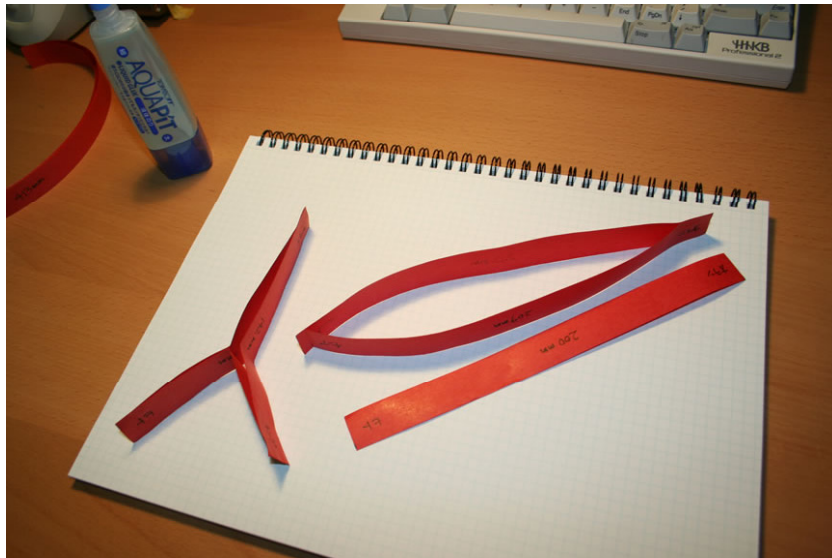
Chimp - Human

Gorilla - Human

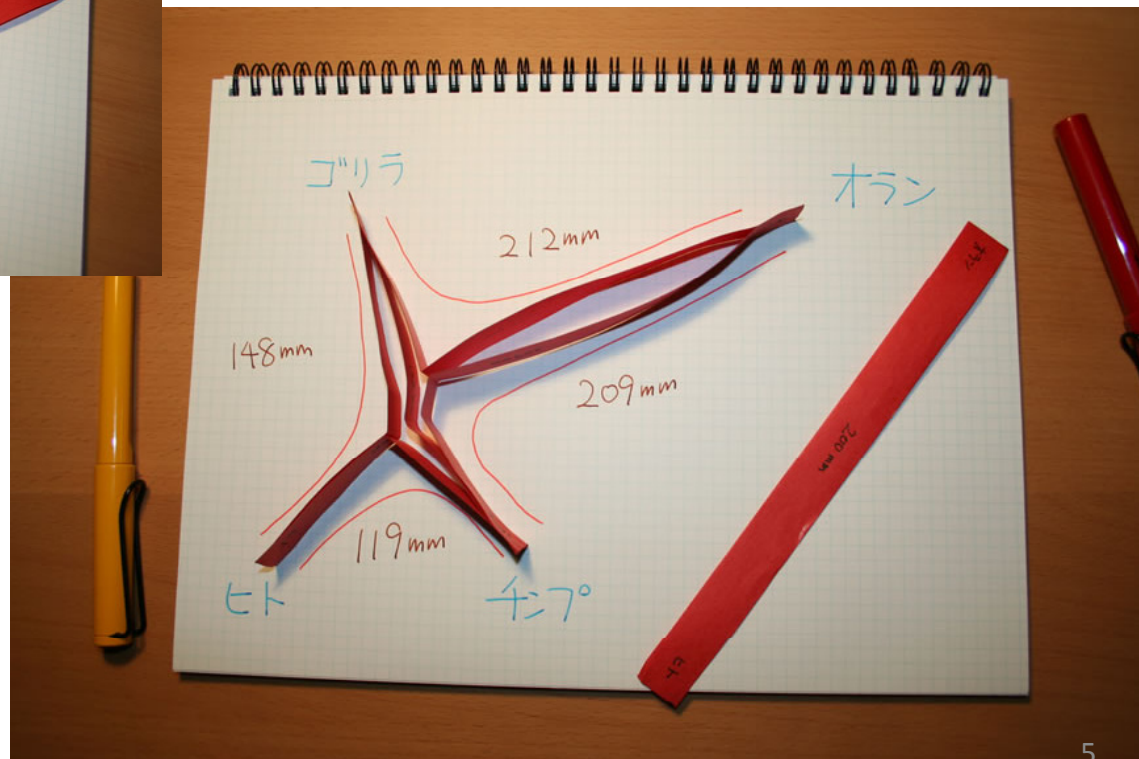
Gorilla - Chimp



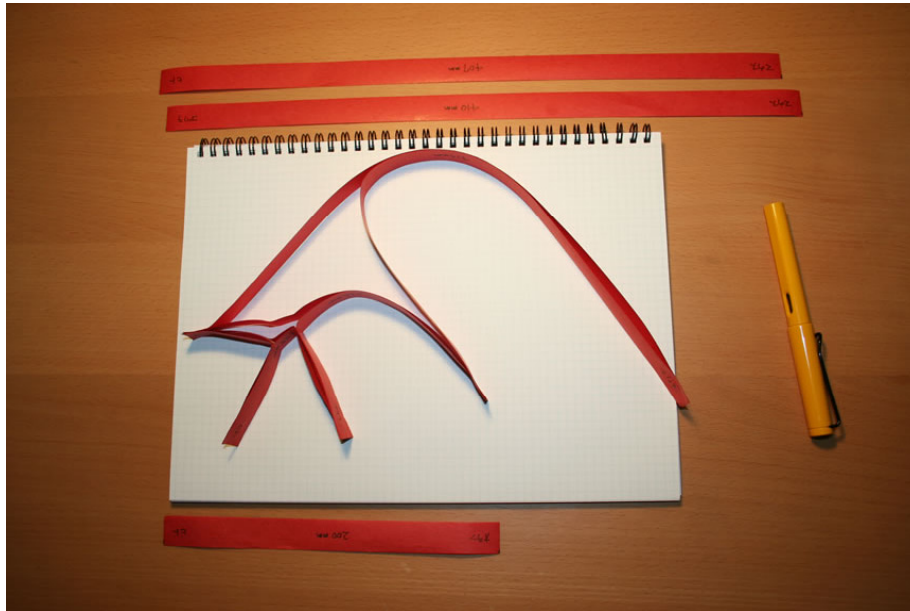
Add the next shortest three tapes (one of them is not used)



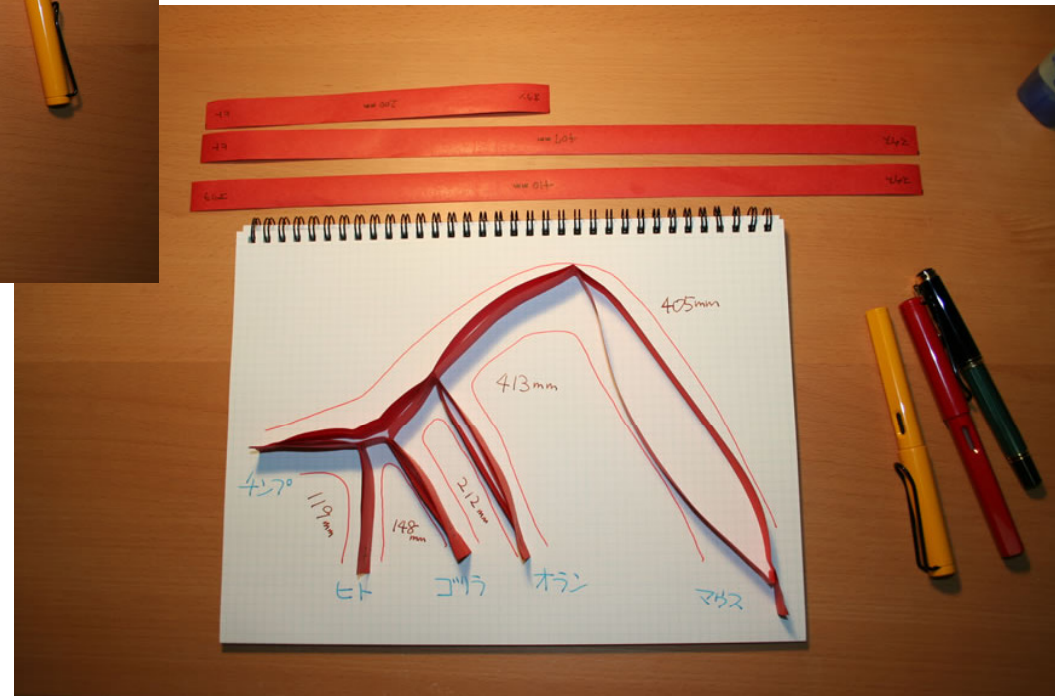
orangutan - human
orangutan - chimp
orangutan - gorilla



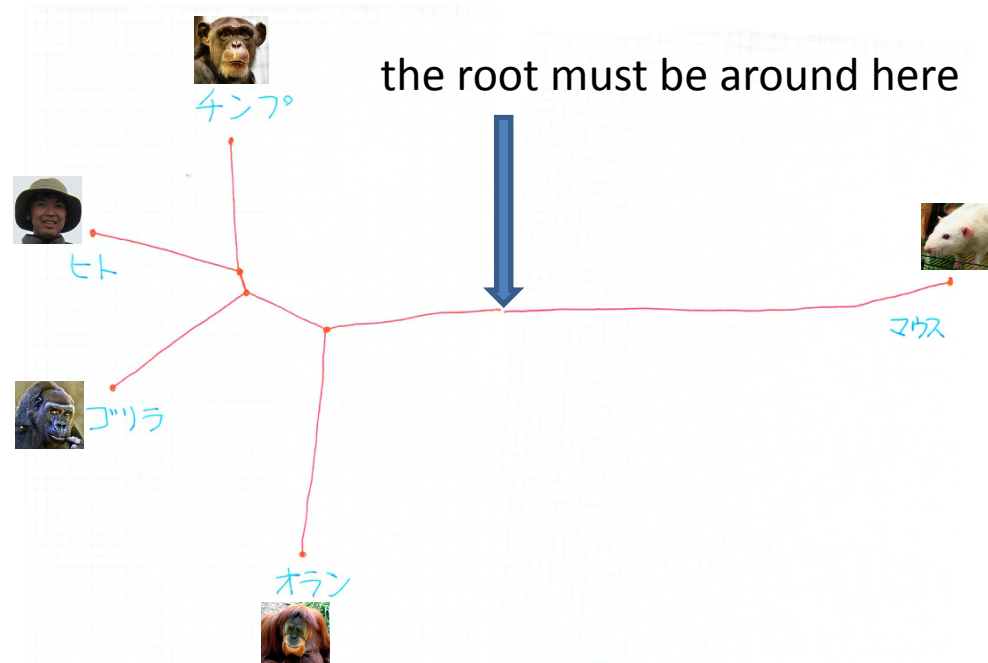
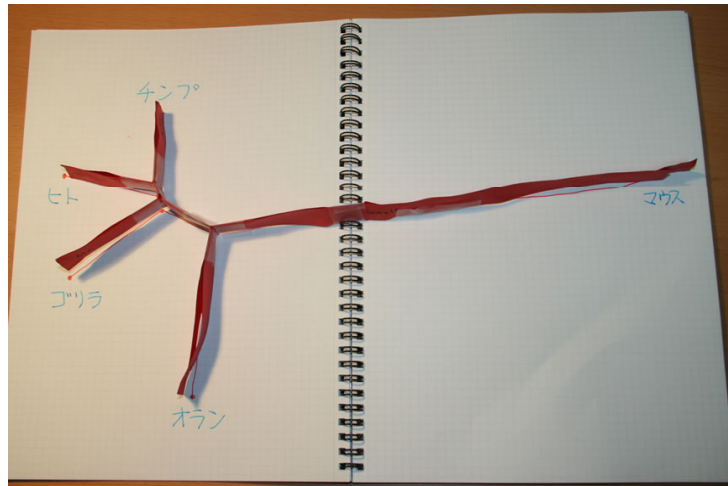
Finally add the longest four tapes (two of them are not used)



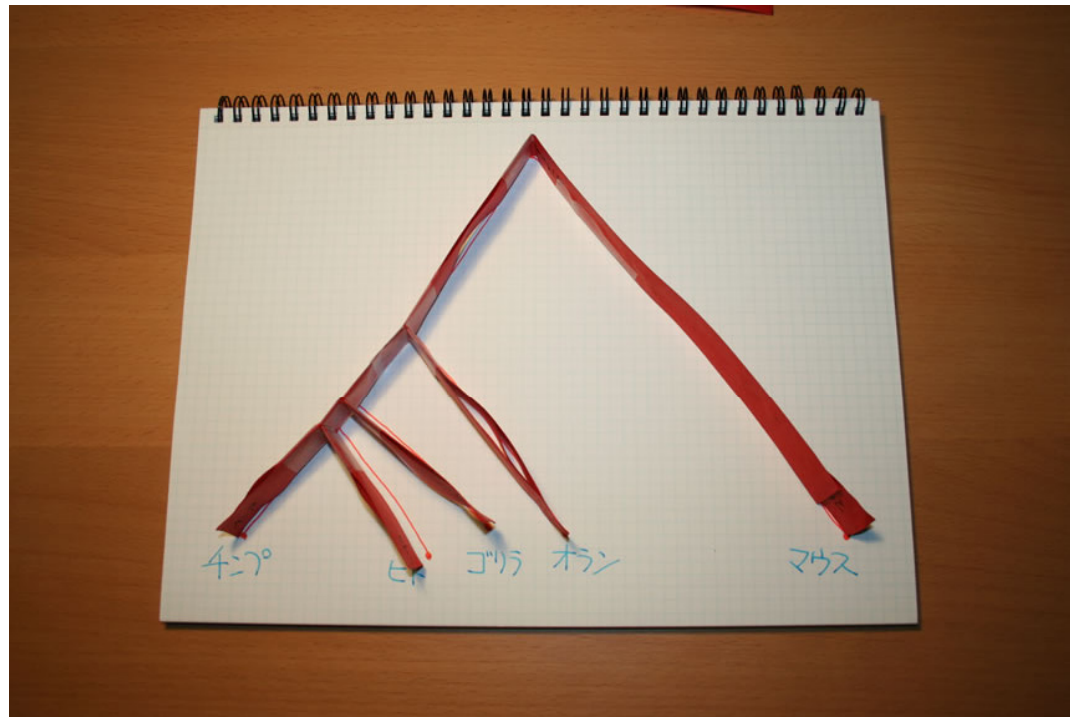
- mouse - human
- mouse - chimp
- mouse - gorilla
- mouse - orangutan



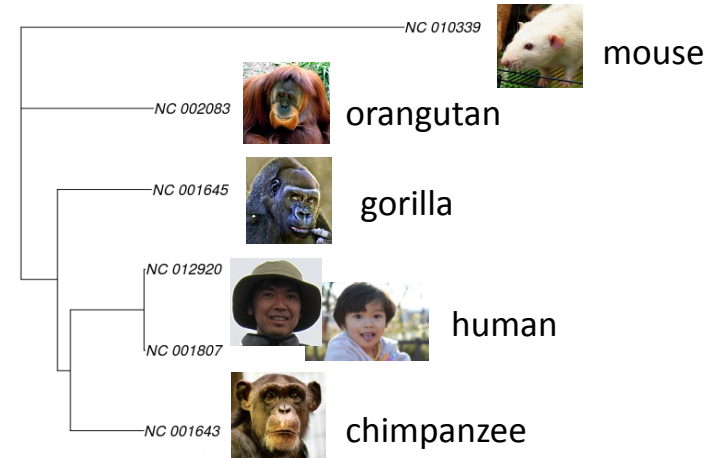
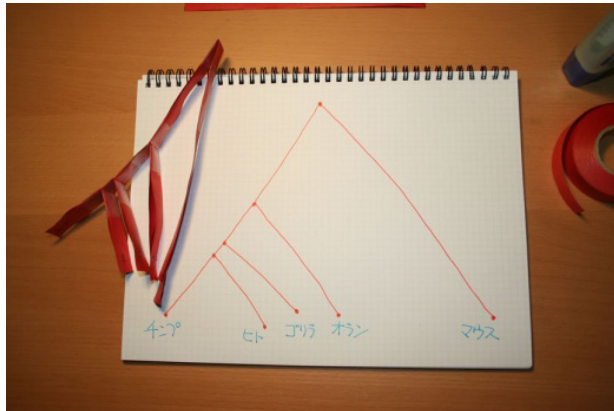
We got an unrooted tree



Tree of life of apes



Draw the tree on the paper

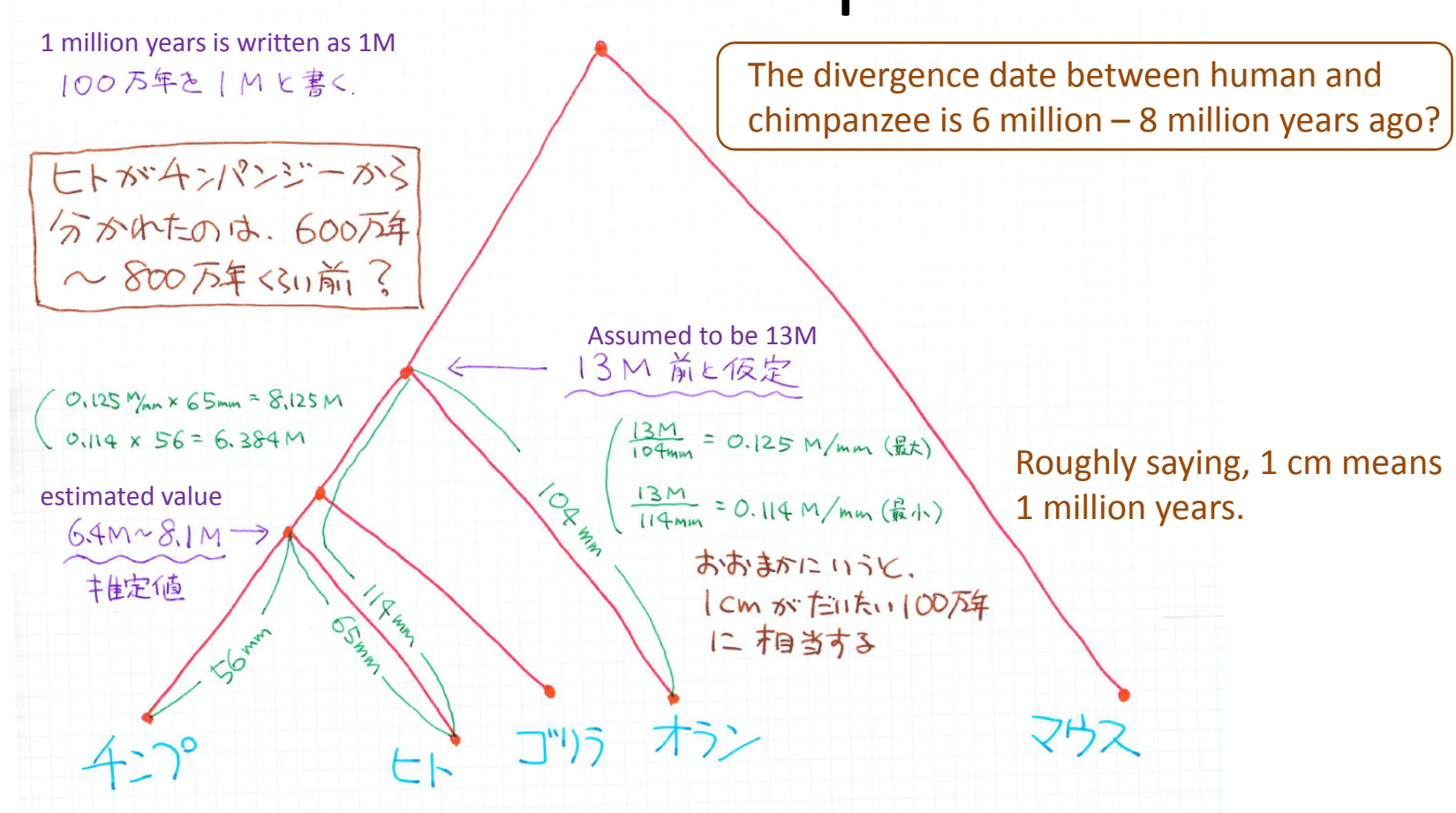


The above tree is estimated by the neighbor joining method

- NC_012920: Homo sapiens: human (the old refseq is NC_001807)
- NC_001643: Pan troglodytes: chimpanzee
- NC_001645: Gorilla gorilla: Western Gorilla
- NC_002083: Pongo abelii: Sumatran orangutan
- NC_010339: Mus musculus musculus: eastern European house mouse



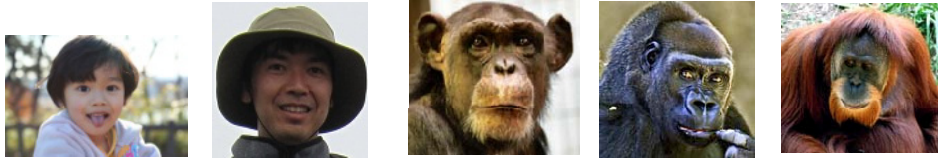
Estimating divergence date between human and chimpanzee



Note: This is only for illustrating how to estimate the divergence date. The estimated values are not very accurate, and they are subject to improvement.

Advanced topic: DNA differences vs substitutions

DNA differences (simply counting base numbers)



	NC_001807	NC_012920	NC_001643	NC_001645	NC_002083
NC_012920		18			
NC_001643		1063	1061		
NC_001645		1296	1294	1251	
NC_002083		1698	1703	1763	1780
NC_010339		3148	3147	3134	3158

DNA substitutions estimated by Jukes-Cantor (JC) model

	NC_001807	NC_012920	NC_001643	NC_001645	NC_002083
NC_012920		18			
NC_001643		1139	1137		
NC_001645		1412	1409	1358	
NC_002083		1905	1911	1987	2009
NC_010339		3982	3980	3959	3998

DNA substitutions estimated by TN93

	NC_001807	NC_012920	NC_001643	NC_001645	NC_002083
NC_012920		18			
NC_001643		1188	1185		
NC_001645		1481	1479	1420	
NC_002083		1994	2001	2090	2116
NC_010339		4069	4068	4052	4102

DNA length= $n = 10839$, DNA differences= C ,
and DNA substitutions of JC model = T

$$\longrightarrow T = -\frac{3n}{4} \log\left(1 - \frac{4C}{3n}\right)$$