## Package 'VERSO'

July 14, 2025

Version 1.18.0 Date 2025-03-11

**Title** Viral Evolution ReconStructiOn (VERSO)

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**Imports** utils, data.tree, ape, parallel, Rfast, stats **Suggests** BiocGenerics, BiocStyle, testthat, knitr

Name VERSO: an R package for the inference of viral evolution models

**Description** Mutations that rapidly accumulate in viral genomes during a pan-

demic can be used to track the evolution of the virus

and, accordingly, unravel the viral infection network.

To this extent, sequencing samples of the virus can be employed to estimate models from genomic epidemiology and may

serve, for instance, to estimate the proportion of undetected infected people by uncovering cryptic transmissions, as

well as to predict likely trends in the number of infected, hospitalized, dead and recovered people. VERSO is an algorithmic framework that processes variants profiles from viral samples to produce phylogenetic

models of viral evolution. The approach solves a Boolean Matrix Factorization problem with phylogenetic constraints,

by maximizing a log-likelihood function. VERSO includes two separate and subsequent steps; in this package we provide an R implementation of VERSO STEP 1.

**Encoding UTF-8** 

License file LICENSE

URL https://github.com/BIMIB-DISCo/VERSO

BugReports https://github.com/BIMIB-DISCo/VERSO

biocViews BiomedicalInformatics, Sequencing, SomaticMutation

RoxygenNote 7.3.2 VignetteBuilder knitr

git\_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/VERSO

2 inference

```
git_branch RELEASE_3_21
git_last_commit 8ef3b08
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15
Repository Bioconductor 3.21
Date/Publication 2025-07-13
Author Daniele Ramazzotti [aut] (ORCID:
    <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6087-2666>),
   Fabrizio Angaroni [aut],
   Davide Maspero [cre, aut],
   Alex Graudenzi [aut],
   Luca De Sano [aut] (ORCID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9618-3774">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9618-3774</a>)
Maintainer Davide Maspero <d.maspero@campus.unimib.it>
Contents
     inference
           3
     5
Index
                                                          6
```

Results obtained running VERSO on the provided input dataset.

## **Description**

inference

Results obtained running VERSO on the provided input dataset.

## Usage

data(inference)

## **Format**

results obtained running VERSO on the provided input dataset

## Value

results obtained running VERSO on the provided input dataset

variants 3

variants

Mutation data obtained by variant calling from raw data of a selected set of SARS-CoV-2 samples available from NCBI BioProject PRJNA610428.

## **Description**

The dataset includes variants for a selected set of 15 SARS-CoV-2 samples obtained by variant calling from raw data available from NCBI BioProject PRJNA610428.

## Usage

```
data(variants)
```

## **Format**

SARS-CoV-2 variants

## Value

SARS-CoV-2 variants

#### **Source**

NCBI BioProject PRJNA610428

**VERSO** 

**VERSO** 

## Description

Perform the inference of the maximum log-likelihood VERSO phylogenetic tree.

## Usage

```
VERSO(
   D,
   alpha = NULL,
   beta = NULL,
   initialization = NULL,
   random_tree = FALSE,
   keep_equivalent = TRUE,
   check_indistinguishable = TRUE,
   marginalize = FALSE,
   num_rs = 10,
   num_iter = 10000,
```

4 VERSO

```
n_try_bs = 1000,
num_processes = Inf,
verbose = TRUE,
log_file = ""
```

### **Arguments**

D Input data for the inference reporting presence (as 1), absense (as 0) or missing

information (as NA) for a set of variants.

alpha False positive error rate provided as a verctor; if a vector of alpha (and beta)

is provided, the inference is performed for multiple values and the solution at

maximum-likelihood is returned.

beta False negative error rate provided as a verctor; if a vector of beta (and alpha)

is provided, the inference is performed for multiple values and the solution at

maximum-likelihood is returned.

initialization Binary matrix representing a perfect philogeny tree; genotypes are rows and

mutations are columns. This parameter overrides "random\_tree".

random\_tree Boolean. Shall I start MCMC search from a random tree? If FALSE (default)

and initialization is NULL, search is started from a TRaIT tree (BMC Bioinfor-

matics . 2019 Apr 25;20(1):210. doi: 10.1186/s12859-019-2795-4).

keep\_equivalent

Boolean. Shall I return results (B and C) at equivalent likelihood with the best

returned solution?

check\_indistinguishable

Boolean. Shall I remove any indistinguishable variant from input data prior

inference?

marginalize Boolean. Shall I marginalize C when computing likelihood?

num\_rs Number of restarts during MCMC inference.

num\_iter Maximum number of MCMC steps to be performed during the inference.

n\_try\_bs Number of steps without changes in likelihood of best solution after which to

stop the MCMC.

num\_processes Number of processes to be used during parallel execution. To execute in single

process mode, this parameter needs to be set to either 1, NA or NULL.

verbose Boolean. Shall I print to screen information messages during the execution?

log\_file log file where to print outputs when using parallel. If parallel execution is dis-

abled, this parameter is ignored.

### Value

A list of 9 elements: B, C, phylogenetic\_tree, corrected\_genotypes, genotypes\_prevalence, genotypes\_summary, log\_likelihood and error\_rates. Here, B returns the maximum likelihood variants tree (inner nodes of the phylogenetic tree), C the attachment of patients to genotypes and phylogenetic\_tree VERSO phylogenetic tree, including both variants tree and patients attachments to variants; corrected\_genotypes is the corrected genotypes, which corrects D given VERSO phylogenetic tree, genotypes\_prevalence the number of patients and observed prevalence of each genotype

write.newick.tree 5

and genotypes\_summary provide a summary of association of mutations to genotypes. In equivalent\_solutions, solutions (B and C) with likelihood equivalent to the best solution are returned. Finally log\_likelihood and error\_rates return the likelihood of the inferred phylogenetic moldel and best values of alpha and beta as estimated by VERSO.

## **Examples**

write.newick.tree

write.newick.tree

## **Description**

Write a phylogenetic tree as inferred by VERSO to a newick format file.

## Usage

```
write.newick.tree(phylogenetic_tree, phylogeny_file = "phylogenetic_tree.new")
```

## **Arguments**

```
phylogenetic_tree
Inference results by VERSO.
phylogeny_file File where to save the phylogenetic tree in newick format.
```

#### Value

A phylogenetic tree as inferred by VERSO in newick format.

## **Examples**

# **Index**

```
inference, 2
variants, 3
VERSO, 3
write.newick.tree, 5
```