

Functional Evolutionary Genomics Group

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In the "Functional evolutionary genomics" team, one of our overarching aims is understanding the genomic basis of phenotypic evolution. We are particularly interested in convergent phenotypic evolution events. We study a wide range of phenotypic traits, including morphological traits, sensory traits, physiological traits. Our aim is to identify the genomic changes that accompany phenotypic evolution. We also aim to characterize the evolutionary processes that underlie phenotypic changes, by searching for instances of lineage-specific positive selection or relaxation of purifying selection.

We study both protein-coding gene evolution and non-coding DNA evolution, in particular regulatory elements that control gene expression. We aim to develop new methods for this purpose, and rely on statistical inference, including deep learning.