

Computational methods for inferring evolutionary histories of languages

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Languages evolve through what is called "genetic descent", but also through lateral transfer, and distinguishing between the two can be difficult.

In this talk I will describe the work that our group is doing modelling language evolution so as to be able to estimate exchange between languages in contact, and the methods we have developed for inferring evolutionary histories including borrowing.

I will also describe our analysis of Indo-European using our new methods.