

Characterization of tumor heterogeneity by latent haplotypes: A sequential Monte Carlo approach

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Tumor samples obtained from a single cancer patient spatially or temporally often consist of varying cell populations or subclones, each harboring distinct mutations that uniquely characterize its genome. Thus, in any given samples of tumor, having more than two haplotypes, defined as a scaffold of single nucleotide variants (SNVs) on the same homologous genome, is an evidence of heterogeneity because humans are diploid and we would therefore only observe up to two haplotypes if all cells in a tumor sample were genetically homogeneous. In this paper, we present a feature allocation model which characterizes tumor heterogeneity by latent haplotypes. Mathematically, this model is interpreted as the blind deconvolution of the expected variant allele fractions (VAFs) to a binary matrix of haplotypes and a matrix of proportions of haplotypes. To efficiently estimate the model parameters, we present a state-space formulation with a sequential construction of the latent binary matrix modeled by the Indian Buffet Process (IBP), and then develop an efficient sequential Monte Carlo (SMC) algorithm that estimates the states and the parameters of our proposed state-state model. The sequential algorithm provides more accurate estimates of the model parameters when compared to the state-of-the-art Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) approach. Also, because our algorithm processes the VAF of a locus as the observation at a single time-step, VAFs data from newly sequenced candidate SNVs from next-generation sequencing (NGS) can be analyzed to improve existing estimates without re-analyzing the previous datasets, a feature that existing solutions do not possess.

1 Characterization of tumor heterogeneity by 2 latent haplotypes: a sequential Monte Carlo 3 approach

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9 ABSTRACT

10 Tumor samples obtained from a single cancer patient spatially or temporally often consist of varying cell
11 populations or subclones, each harboring distinct mutations that uniquely characterize its genome. Thus,
12 in any given samples of tumor, having more than two *haplotypes*, defined as a scaffold of single nucleotide
13 variants (SNVs) on the same homologous genome, is an evidence of heterogeneity because humans
14 are diploid and we would therefore only observe up to two haplotypes if all cells in a tumor sample were
15 genetically homogeneous. In this paper, we present a feature allocation model which characterizes tumor
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19 sequential construction of the latent binary matrix modeled by the Indian Buffet Process (IBP), and then
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21 of our proposed state-state model. The sequential algorithm provides more accurate estimates of the
22 model parameters when compared to the state-of-the-art Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) approach.
23 Also, because our algorithm processes the VAF of a locus as the observation at a single time-step, VAFs
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25 improve existing estimates without re-analyzing the previous datasets, a feature that existing solutions do
26 not possess.

27 INTRODUCTION

28 Tumors contain multiple, genetically diverse subclonal populations of cells, each subclone harboring
29 distinct mutations that uniquely characterize its genome (Marusyk and Polyak, 2010; Meacham and
30 Morrison, 2013; Heppner, 1984). Tumor subclones often evolve from a single ancestral population
31 (Hughes et al., 2014; Gerlinger et al., 2012; Visvader, 2011; Nowell, 1976), and genetic diversities that
32 distinguish these subclones are a direct result of evolutionary processes that drive tumor progression,
33 especially the series of somatic genetic variants which arise stochastically by a sequence of randomly
34 acquired mutations (Hanahan and Weinberg, 2011, 2000).

35 Identifying and characterizing tumor subclonality is crucial for understanding the evolution of tumor
36 cells and more importantly, for designing more effective treatments for cancer, especially in avoiding
37 cancer relapse after treatment and also chemotherapy resistance (Garraway and Lander, 2013). For
38 instance, research has shown the links between the presence of driver mutations within subclones and the
39 adverse clinical outcomes (Landau et al., 2013).

40 In the past few decades, tumor heterogeneity has been studied using the NGS technology (Lee et al.,
41 2016; Gerlinger et al., 2012; Wersto et al., 1991) with somatic mutations quantified using whole exome
42 sequencing (WES) and whole genome sequencing (WGS) of samples (Marusyk et al., 2012), and can be
43 explained by differences in genomes of subclones and the varying proportions of these subclones (Lee
44 et al., 2016; Landau et al., 2013; Russnes et al., 2011; Navin et al., 2010; Marusyk and Polyak, 2010).
45 One method to assess the heterogeneity of a given tumor is to probe individual cell using fluorescent

markers (Navin et al., 2010; Irish et al., 2004) and another is to perform single cell sequencing (Xu et al., 2012; Hou et al., 2012; Navin et al., 2011). These approaches have several limitations that prevent their wider usage in examining and quantifying the level of heterogeneity in a given sample. See (Zare et al., 2014) for details.

In the literature, a few computational methods have been proposed to explain the inherent structure of tumor heterogeneity. For instance, (Larson and Fridley, 2013) and (Su et al., 2012) viewed a tumor sample as a mixture of tumor cells and normal cells. Although their method estimated tumor purity levels for paired tumor-normal tissue sample, using DNA sequencing data, however, unpaired and multiple tumor samples are not considered. A more prominent approach is the arrangement of SNVs in clusters using clustering models such as the Dirichlet Process (DP) (Roth et al., 2014; Jiao et al., 2014; Shah et al., 2009; Ding et al., 2010; Bashashati et al., 2013). Although the clustered SNVs provide some information about tumor heterogeneity, the inference does not directly identify subclones or haplotypes in the tumor samples.

More recently, (Lee et al., 2016) proposed a feature allocation model for modeling the haplotypic genomes of subclones. This model provides insights on how haplotypes may be distributed within a tumor, using WGS data measuring VAFs at SNVs. Mathematically, the model can be interpreted as blind matrix factorization, where a matrix of expected VAFs at SNVs for different samples is decomposed into a binary matrix of haplotypes (with an unknown number of columns, the exact number to be determined by the data), and a matrix of proportions of haplotypes. This model offers certain modeling advantages over the clustering approach: (i) overlapping SNVs can be shared among different subclones, and (ii) non-overlapping SNV clusters (according to the cellular prevalence) are not used as the building block for subclones i.e., instead of first estimating the SNV clusters and then constructing subclones based on clusters, the model provides a way to infer the subclonal structure based on haplotypes. To make inference on the haplotypic structure and the proportions in samples, (Lee et al., 2016) proposed an MCMC-based inference algorithm, specifically, the reversible-jump MCMC (Green, 1995). However, with the MCMC algorithm, if more VAFs are available for newly called SNV(s), the algorithm has to be restarted in order to incorporate the newly called SNV(s). Moreover, MCMC approach in general as previously shown in (Nguyen et al., 2016; Jasra et al., 2007), is plagued with some inherent issues which often limit its performance: (i) sometimes, it is difficult to assess when the Markov chain has reached its stationary regime of interest (ii) requirement of burn-in period and thinning interval, and most importantly, (iii) if the target distribution is highly multi-modal, MCMC algorithms can easily become trapped in local modes.

In this paper, we consider the feature allocation modeling approach in (Lee et al., 2016) in analyzing the WGS data measuring VAFs at SNVs, and present an efficient SMC algorithm (Doucet et al., 2001, 2000) for estimating the binary matrix of haplotypes and the proportions in the samples. Specifically, we formulate the feature allocation problem using a state-space where: (i) the rows of the haplotype binary matrix are considered as the states of the system, exploiting the sequential construction of a binary matrix with an unknown number of columns using the IBP, (ii) the proportions matrix and other parameters are considered as the parameters of the model, (iii) the observed VAF at each SNV are processed, for all samples at a time. SMC is a very powerful algorithm that belongs to a broad class of recursive filtering techniques (Ogundijo et al., 2017; Ogundijo and Wang, 2017), where, instead of processing all the observations at once, for example, as in the MCMC approach, observations are processed sequentially, one after the other, i.e., computing, in the most flexible way, the posterior probability density function (PDF) of the state every time a measurement is observed, and the posterior distributions of the variables of interest are approximated with a set of properly weighted particles (Doucet et al., 2001). With the SMC methods, we can treat, in a principled way, any type of probability distribution, nonlinearity and non-stationarity (Kitagawa, 1998, 1996). We compare the proposed SMC algorithm with the existing method that employ the state-of-the-art MCMC algorithm. Overall, in terms of the accuracy of estimates of \mathbf{Z} and \mathbf{W} and the runtime for the algorithms, our proposed SMC method demonstrates a superior performance.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we describe the system model and problem formulation and the general principle of the SMC filtering algorithms, and then derive our proposed SMC algorithm for estimating the mutational profile of each haplotype and the proportion of each haplotype in the samples, in a sequential fashion. In Section 3, we investigate the performance of the proposed method using simulated datasets and the chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) datasets, the real tumor samples obtained from three patients in (Schuh et al., 2012). Finally, Section 4 concludes the paper.

In this paper, we use the following notations:

1. $p(\cdot)$ and $p(\cdot|\cdot)$ denote a probability density function (PDF) and a conditional PDF, respectively.
2. $P(\cdot)$ and $P(\cdot|\cdot)$ denote a probability and a conditional probability mass function, respectively.
3. $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ denotes a Gaussian distribution with mean μ and variance σ^2 .
4. $\text{Binomial}(n, p)$ denotes a binomial distribution with n number of trials and p probability of success. ($\text{Binomial}(1, p) = \text{Bern}(p)$, i.e, Bernoulli distribution with success probability p).
5. $\text{Pois}(\lambda)$ denotes a Poisson distribution with mean parameter λ .
6. $\text{Gam}(\alpha_0, \beta_0)$ denotes a gamma distribution with shape parameter α_0 and rate parameter β_0 .
7. $\text{Beta}(\alpha_1, \beta_1)$ denotes a beta distribution with shape parameters α_1 and β_1 .
8. $\text{Dir}(\alpha)$ denotes a Dirichlet distribution with a vector of concentration parameters α , and \hat{x} denotes the estimate of variable x .

SOME L^AT_EX EXAMPLES

SYSTEM MODEL AND PROBLEM FORMULATION

In an NGS experiment designed to probe the heterogeneity of a tumor sample, two matrices \mathbf{Y} and \mathbf{V} , each with dimensions $T \times S$, of count data are often observed, where y_{ts} and v_{ts} denote the elements in the t^{th} row and s^{th} columns of \mathbf{Y} and \mathbf{V} , respectively. At the genomic position of SNV t for tissue sample s , y_{ts} denotes the number of reads that bear a variant sequence and v_{ts} denotes the total number of reads, $t = 1, \dots, T, s = 1, \dots, S$. In summary, the datasets are count data for T SNVs and S samples. To model the datasets, we follow the binomial sampling model proposed in (Lee et al., 2016) as follows:

$$y_{ts} \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \text{Binomial}(v_{ts}, p_{ts}), \quad t = 1, \dots, T, \quad s = 1, \dots, S, \quad (1)$$

where p_{ts} are the success probabilities and equivalently the expected VAFs, given by:

$$p_{ts} = w_{0s}p + \sum_{c=1}^C z_{tc}w_{cs}, \quad t = 1, \dots, T, \quad s = 1, \dots, S, \quad (2)$$

where C denotes the *unknown number of distinct haplotypes in the tumor samples*, $z_{tc} \in \{0, 1\}$ denotes an indicator of the event that SNV t bears a variant sequence for haplotype c and w_{cs} denotes the proportion of haplotype c in sample s (Lee et al., 2016). The term $\sum_{c=1}^C z_{tc}w_{cs}$ explains p_{ts} as arising from sample s being composed of a mix of hypothetical haplotypes which include a mutation for SNV t ($z_{tc} = 1$), or do not include a mutation for SNV t ($z_{tc} = 0$). In addition, there is a background haplotype, $c = 0$, which includes all SNVs. The background haplotype accounts for experimental noise and haplotypes that appear with negligible abundance. The first term in (2) relates to this background haplotype, where p denotes the relative frequency of observing a mutation at an SNV due to noise and artifact, assuming equal frequency for all SNVs, and w_{0s} denotes the proportion in sample s (Lee et al., 2016). In (2), if we (i) collect the indicators z_{tc} in a $T \times C$ binary matrix \mathbf{Z} , (ii) collect all p 's in a T -dimensional column vector \mathbf{p} and (iii) collect the proportions w_{0s} and w_{cs} in an $C' \times S$ matrix \mathbf{W} of probabilities, where $C' = C + 1$ and each column of \mathbf{W} sums to unity, then we can write (2) as $\mathbf{P}_{ts} = \mathbf{Z}' \cdot \mathbf{W}$, where \mathbf{P}_{ts} denotes the matrix of success probabilities and equivalently, the matrix of expected VAFs and $\mathbf{Z}' = [\mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{Z}]$. If the expected VAFs are approximated with the observed VAFs, we can directly solve the matrix factorization problem but instead the observed VAFs are modeled with a probability distribution in (1). However, it should be noted that the number of latent haplotypes C is unknown, and this leaves the number of columns in \mathbf{Z} and equivalently, the number of rows in \mathbf{W} unknown, left to be estimated from the data.

Our goal is to perform a joint inference on C , \mathbf{Z} , \mathbf{W} and p , all of which explain the heterogeneity in the tumor samples, using the observed VAFs of SNVs described by the matrices \mathbf{Y} and \mathbf{V} , the input data. To do this, we describe the system using a state-space model and then derive an efficient SMC algorithm to estimate all the hidden states and the model parameters in our model, in a sequential fashion. Our analysis is restricted to mutations in copy-number neutral regions.

State-Space Formulation

Our state-space formulation of the problem exploits the sequential construction of \mathbf{Z} (discussed below). Specifically, we consider the t^{th} row of the data matrix \mathbf{Y} and \mathbf{V} as the new observation at time t of our state-space model, treat the t^{th} row of the binary matrix \mathbf{Z} as the hidden state at time t , and \mathbf{W} and p as the model parameters. Before explicitly stating the state transition and the observation models, we succinctly describe the prior distribution on a “left-ordered” binary matrix (i.e., ordering the columns of the binary matrix from left to right by the magnitude of the binary expressed by that column, taking the first row as the most significant bit) with a finite number of rows and an unknown number of columns. The prior distribution as detailed in (Griffiths and Ghahramani, 2011; ?) is given by:

$$P(\mathbf{Z}) = \frac{\alpha^{C_+}}{\prod_{h=1}^{2^T-1} C_h!} \exp\{-\alpha H_T\} \prod_{c=1}^{C_+} \frac{(T - m_c)!(m_c - 1)!}{T!}, \quad (3)$$

where C_+ denotes the number of columns of \mathbf{Z} with non-zero entries, m_c denotes the number of 1’s in column c , T denotes the number of rows in \mathbf{Z} , $H_T = \sum_{t=1}^T 1/t$ denotes the T^{th} harmonic number, and C_h denotes the number of columns in \mathbf{Z} that when read top-to-bottom form a sequence of 1’s and 0’s corresponding to the binary representation of the number h .

The distribution in (3) can be derived as the outcome of a *sequential generative process* called the *Indian buffet process* (Griffiths and Ghahramani, 2011; Doshi-Velez et al., 2009). Imagine that in an Indian buffet restaurant, we have T customers who arrive at the restaurant sequentially, one after the other. The first customer walks into the restaurant and loads her plate from the first c_1 dishes, where $c_1 = \text{Pois}(\alpha)$ (α is similar to the dispersion parameter in the Chinese Restaurant Process (Zhang, 2008)). The t^{th} customer will choose a particular dish according to the popularity of the dish, i.e., choosing a dish with probability m_c/t , where m_c denotes the number of people who have previously chosen the c^{th} dish, and in addition, chooses $\text{Pois}(\alpha/t)$ new dishes as well. Now, if we record the choices of each customer on each row of a matrix, where each column corresponds to a dish on the buffet (1 if the dish is chosen, and 0 if not), then such a binary matrix is a draw from the distribution in (3) (?). The entire process is sequential because the choices made by the t^{th} customer are dependent only on the choices made by the $t - 1$ preceding customers and not on the remaining $T - t$ customers.

In our case, the dishes in the IBP are the haplotypes in the tumor samples, the SNVs are the customers and more importantly, the t^{th} customer is the observation at time t in our state-space model. Moreover, if we consider $\mathbf{z}_t = [z_{t1}, z_{t2}, \dots, z_{tC}]$ in (2), which is equivalently the t^{th} row of \mathbf{Z} as the state at time t , then we can write our state transition model, following the sequential process described by the IBP as follows:

$$P(\mathbf{z}_t | \mathbf{Z}_{t-1}, \alpha), \quad (4)$$

where \mathbf{Z}_{t-1} denotes the previous $t - 1$ rows in \mathbf{Z} . The algorithm to sample from (4) is presented in **Algorithm 1** in the Supplementary Material due to limited space. Note that in the algorithm, \mathbf{Z}_t is implicitly constructed from \mathbf{Z}_{t-1} and if in the process, new non-zero column(s) is/are introduced in \mathbf{Z}_t ($\text{Pois}(\alpha/t) > 0$), then new row(s) will be added to \mathbf{W} as well. On the other hand, if the numbers of non-zero columns in \mathbf{Z}_{t-1} and \mathbf{Z}_t are the same, then the number of rows in \mathbf{W} does not change between $t - 1$ and t . To account for any possible change of dimension in \mathbf{W} , we re-parameterize matrix \mathbf{W} . Specifically, we rewrite $w_{cs} = \theta_{cs} / \sum_{c'=0}^C \theta_{c's}$, which implies that we estimate θ_{cs} and compute w_{cs} from the estimates of θ_{cs} . This procedure ensures that each column of \mathbf{W} sums to unity at any point in time during the process.

Moreover, since we are interested in the final estimates of the model parameters \mathbf{W} and p , we create artificial dynamics for these parameters using the random walk model, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_t &\sim p(\phi_t | \phi_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\phi_{t-1}, \sigma^2), \\ \phi_t &\in \{p, \theta_{cs}, c = 0, 1, \dots, C, s = 1, \dots, S\}, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where σ denotes the standard deviation. Hence, (4)-(5) fully describe the system state transition.

Similarly, the observation at time t is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_t &\sim P(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{Z}_{1:t}, \mathbf{W}, p) = P(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{W}, p) \\ &= \prod_{s=1}^S \text{Binomial}(y_{ts} | v_{ts}, p_{ts}), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where \mathbf{y}_t denotes the observation at time t (which is conditionally independent of the previous observations \mathbf{Y}_{t-1} given the state \mathbf{z}_t), i.e., the t^{th} row of \mathbf{Y} . (6) fully describes the measurement model for the system. Finally, (4) - (6) completely describe our proposed state-space model for estimating the mutational profile and the proportion of each haplotype, and the total number of haplotypes in the tumor samples.

The SMC Algorithm

In this section, we briefly describe the SMC filtering framework that will be employed to estimate the states and the parameters of our state-space model (Doucet et al., 2000, 2001). Consider the general dynamic system with hidden state variable \mathbf{x}_t , in our case, consisting of discrete variables \mathbf{z}_t and continuous variables ϕ_t , $\phi_t \in \{p'_0, \theta'_{cs}, c = 0, 1, \dots, C, s = 1, \dots, S\}$, and measurement variable \mathbf{y}_t , where there is an initial state model $p(\mathbf{x}_0)$, and $\forall t \geq 1$, a state transition model given in (4) - (5) and an observation model given in (6). The sequence $\mathbf{X}_t = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t\}$ is not observed and we want to estimate it for each time t , given that the we have the observations $\mathbf{Y}_t = \{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t\}$.

Our goal is to approximate the posterior distribution of states $p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$ using particles drawn from it. However, getting such particles from $p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$ is usually not feasible. We can still implement an estimate using N particles, $\{\mathbf{X}_t^i\}_{i=1}^N$, taken from another distribution, $q(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$, whose support includes the support of $p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$ (importance sampling theorem). For the approximation, the weights associated with the particles are calculated as follows:

$$\tilde{w}_t^i = \frac{p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)}{q(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)} \text{ and } w_t^i = \frac{\tilde{w}_t^i}{\sum_{m=1}^N \tilde{w}_t^m}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N. \quad (7)$$

Thus, the pair $\{\mathbf{X}_t^i, w_{1:t}^i\}_{i=1}^N$ is said to be properly weighted with respect to the distribution $p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$, and the approximation $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$ is then given by:

$$\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t) = \sum_{i=1}^N w_t^i \delta(\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{X}_t^i), \text{ where } \delta(\mathbf{u}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Similar to the above importance sampling theory, a sequential algorithm can be obtained as follows. First, we express the full posterior distribution of states \mathbf{X}_t given the observations \mathbf{Y}_t as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t) &\propto p(\mathbf{y}_t|\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1}) \\ &= p(\mathbf{y}_t|\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})p(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1}). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

At time t , we desire to obtain N weighted particles from $p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$, which is not feasible. Instead, we define an importance distribution $q(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t) = q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}, \mathbf{Y}_t)q(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1})$, where particles can be obtained from, and then calculate the associated unnormalized importance weights as follows:

$$\tilde{w}_t^i = \frac{p(\mathbf{y}_t|\mathbf{X}_t^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})p(\mathbf{x}_t^i|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})}{q(\mathbf{x}_t^i|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_t)} \frac{p(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1})}{q(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1})}. \quad (10)$$

Assuming that at time $t-1$, we have already drawn the particles $\{\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i\}_{i=1}^N$ from the importance distribution $q(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1})$ and the corresponding normalized weights written as follows:

$$w_{t-1}^i \propto \frac{p(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1})}{q(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i|\mathbf{Y}_{t-1})}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad (11)$$

we can now draw particles $\{\mathbf{X}_t^i\}_{i=1}^N$ from the importance distribution $q(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Y}_t)$ by drawing the new state particles for the time step t as $\mathbf{x}_t^i \sim q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_t)$, and write $\{\mathbf{X}_t^i\}_{i=1}^N = \{\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i\}_{i=1}^N$. If we substitute (11) into (10), the weights at time t satisfy the recursion:

$$\tilde{w}_t^i \propto w_{t-1}^i \frac{p(\mathbf{y}_t|\mathbf{X}_t^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})p(\mathbf{x}_t^i|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})}{q(\mathbf{x}_t^i|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_t)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad (12)$$

and then the weights are normalized to sum to unity.

So far, we have presented a generic sequential sampling algorithm. We obtain the optimal importance distribution by setting $q(\mathbf{x}_t^i|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_t) = p(\mathbf{x}_t^i|\mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_t)$, and the weights in (12) become $\tilde{w}_t^i \propto$

Algorithm 1 SMC Algorithm for Characterizing Tumor Heterogeneity

Input: \mathbf{Y} , \mathbf{V} .

- 1: Initialize N particles $\{\mathbf{z}_0^i, p_0^i, \mathbf{W}_0^i\}_{i=1}^N$
- 2: **for** $t = 1, \dots, T$ **do**
- 3: **for** $i = 1, \dots, N$ **do**
- 4: Sample \mathbf{z}_t^i from \mathbf{Z}_{t-1}^i using **Algorithm 1** in the Supplementary Material.
- 5: $n_1 \leftarrow$ number of columns in \mathbf{Z}_{t-1}^i
- 6: $n_2 \leftarrow$ length of \mathbf{z}_t^i
- 7: $d \leftarrow (n_2 - n_1)$
- 8: **if** $d = 0$ **then**
- 9:

$$\mathbf{Z}_t^i \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z}_{t-1}^i \\ \mathbf{z}_t^i \end{bmatrix}$$

- 10: Sample \mathbf{W}_t^i using (5)
- 11: **else**
- 12:

$$\mathbf{Z}_t^i \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z}_{t-1}^i & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{z}_t^i & \end{bmatrix}$$

- 13: Sample \mathbf{W}_t^i using (5)
 - 14: Sample new rows of \mathbf{W}_t^i from the priors in (14)
 - 15: **end if**
 - 16: Calculate \tilde{w}_t^i using (13)
 - 17: **end for**
 - 18: Normalize the weights
 - 19: Perform resampling
 - 20: **end for**
 - 21: Approximations of posterior estimates of all the unknown variables are obtained from the final particles and weights, using the procedures highlighted in (Lee et al., 2016) and discussed in the Supplementary Material.
-

$w_{t-1}^i p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})$ (Ristic et al., 2004) i.e., if the distributions $p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{X}_t^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})$ and $p(\mathbf{x}_t^i | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})$ are conjugates, then closed form solutions can be obtained for $p(\mathbf{x}_t^i | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_t)$, and hence, $p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1})$. However, if no such conjugacy exists, which is the case for our state-space model, the most popular choice and equally efficient solution (Van Der Merwe, 2004) is to set $q(\mathbf{x}_t^i | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_t) = p(\mathbf{x}_t^i | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i)$ (in (4)-(5)) (Wood and Griffiths, 2007; Särkkä, 2013). Considering the assumed independence in our model, i.e., $p(\mathbf{x}_t^i | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1}) = p(\mathbf{x}_t^i | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}^i)$ and $p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{X}_t^i, \mathbf{Y}_{t-1}) = p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t^i)$, then (12) becomes:

$$\tilde{w}_t^i \propto w_{t-1}^i p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t^i) = w_{t-1}^i p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{z}_t^i, \mathbf{W}_t^i), \quad (13)$$

176 and the weights are normalized. Such implementation is commonly referred to as a bootstrap filter in the
177 literature (Särkkä, 2013).

178 However, the variance of the weights increases over time, a condition referred to as degeneracy in the
179 literature (Doucet et al., 2001). To avoid this, we perform resampling, at every time step, owing to the
180 choice of the importance distribution (Wood and Griffiths, 2007; Särkkä, 2013), discarding the ineffective
181 particles and multiplying the effective ones. The resampling procedure (Särkkä, 2013) is described in the
182 Supplementary Material.

Finally, our proposed SMC algorithm for estimating the mutational profiles and the proportions of the haplotypes in the tumor samples i.e., the states and the parameters of our state-space model, is presented in **Algorithm 1**. The algorithm is initialized by taking particles from the prior distributions of the parameters.

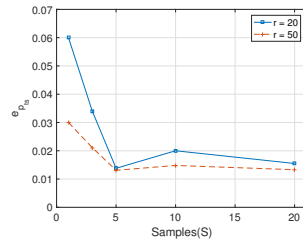


Figure 1. Plot of $e_{p_{ts}}$ versus sample size S for SNVs $T = 60$, sequencing depth averages $r \in \{20, 50\}$, and haplotypes $C = 4$.

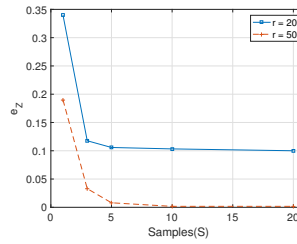


Figure 2. Plot of e_Z versus sample size S for SNVs $T = 60$, sequencing depth averages $r \in \{20, 50\}$, and haplotypes $C = 4$.

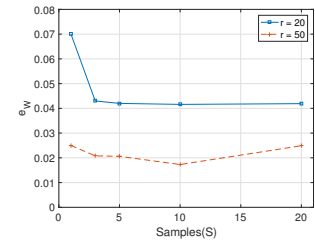


Figure 3. Plot of e_W versus sample size S for SNVs $T = 60$, sequencing depth averages $r \in \{20, 50\}$, and haplotypes $C = 4$.

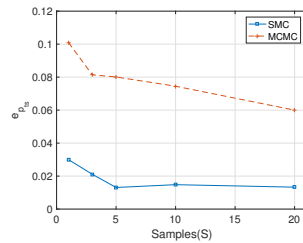


Figure 4. Plot of $e_{p_{ts}}$ versus sample size S for SNVs $T = 60$, sequencing depth averages $r = 50$, and haplotypes $C = 4$.

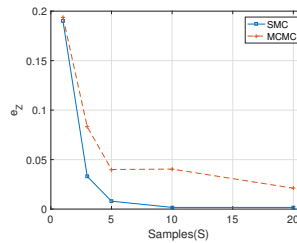


Figure 5. Plot of e_Z versus sample size S for SNVs $T = 60$, sequencing depth averages $r = 50$, and haplotypes $C = 4$.

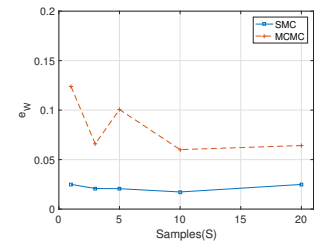


Figure 6. Plot of e_W versus sample size S for SNVs $T = 60$, sequencing depth averages $r = 50$, and haplotypes $C = 4$.

We assume the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{0s} &\stackrel{i.i.d}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(a_0, 1), \quad s = 1, \dots, S, \quad p \sim \text{Beta}(a_{00}, b_{00}) \\ \theta_{cs} &\stackrel{i.i.d}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(a_1, 1), \quad s = 1, \dots, S, \quad c = 1, \dots, C, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

such that $w_{cs} = \theta_{cs} / \sum_{c'=0}^C \theta_{c's}$ and consequently, $\sum_{c'=0}^C w_{c's} = 1$ and assume that $a_{00} \ll b_{00}$ to impose a small p . We report the posterior estimates of all the unknown variables using the procedure highlighted in (Lee et al., 2016), with the details discussed in the Supplementary Material.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, we demonstrate the performance of the proposed SMC algorithm using both simulated datasets and the CLL datasets obtained from three different patients (Schuh et al., 2012). In addition, we compare the estimates obtained from the proposed SMC algorithm with that of the MCMC-based algorithm proposed in (Lee et al., 2016) for estimating C , Z , W and p , the parameters of the feature allocation model in (1)-(2), which jointly explain the heterogeneity in the tumor samples. For the MCMC-based algorithm, the algorithm parameters are set as in (Lee et al., 2016), running a simulation over 40,000 iterations, discarding the first 15,000 iterations as burn-in.

Reference to Figure ??.

Simulated data

We produced simulated datasets with average sequencing depth $r \in \{20, 40, 50, 200, 100, 10000\}$ per locus. For a fixed number of haplotypes $C = 4$, and for each r , we generated the variants count matrix \mathbf{Y} and the total count matrix \mathbf{V} for some combinations of number of SNVs, T and number of samples S , where $T \in \{20, 60, 100\}$ and $S \in \{1, 3, 5, 10, 20\}$. Specifically, we generated each entry of \mathbf{V} , i.e., v_{ts} from $\text{Pois}(r)$ and to generate each entry of \mathbf{Y} , i.e., y_{ts} , we did the following: (i) generate each column of \mathbf{W} from $\text{Dir}([a_0, a_1, \dots, a_4])$, where $a_0 = 0.2$, and a_c , $c \in \{1, \dots, 4\}$ is randomly chosen from the set

Table 1. $e_{p_{ts}}$, e_Z and e_W computed for the proposed SMC and the MCMC-based algorithms for $T = 60$, $C = 4$, $S \in \{10, 20\}$ and $r \in \{20, 40, 50, 200, 1000, 10000\}$.

$T = 60$ and $C = 4$												
r	$S = 10$						$S = 20$					
	SMC			MCMC			SMC			MCMC		
	$e_{p_{ts}}$	e_Z	e_W	$e_{p_{ts}}$	e_Z	e_W	$e_{p_{ts}}$	e_Z	e_W	$e_{p_{ts}}$	e_Z	e_W
20	0.0200	0.1033	0.0416	0.1240	0.1200	0.1001	0.0155	0.1000	0.0419	0.1125	0.1301	0.0914
40	0.0137	0.0033	0.0316	0.0638	0.0536	0.0422	0.0179	0.0020	0.0238	0.0574	0.0222	0.0298
50	0.0148	0.0017	0.0173	0.0745	0.0404	0.0601	0.0133	0.0017	0.0249	0.0600	0.0211	0.0642
200	0.0122	0.0000	0.0107	0.0219	0.0325	0.0200	0.0091	0.0000	0.0179	0.0490	0.0055	0.0219
1000	0.0100	0.0000	0.0199	0.0302	0.0100	0.0324	0.0101	0.0000	0.0198	0.0171	0.0045	0.0108
10000	0.0012	0.0000	0.0020	0.0100	0.0050	0.0100	0.0010	0.0000	0.0023	0.0100	0.0050	0.0102

Table 2. e_Z , e_W and $e_{p_{ts}}$ computed for the proposed SMC algorithm for $C = 4$, $S = 3$ and $T \in \{1000, 2000\}$.

Number of loci (T)	Number of samples (S)	e_Z	e_W	$e_{p_{ts}}$
1000	3	0.0000	0.0060	0.0073
2000	3	0.0080	0.0048	0.0057

202 $\{2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$, (ii) generate entries of \mathbf{Z} independently from $\text{Bern}(0.6)$, (iii) set $p = 0.02$, (iv) compute
 203 p_{ts} using (2), and finally, (v) generate y_{ts} as an independent sample from $\text{Binomial}(v_{ts}, p_{ts})$.

Next, we run the proposed SMC algorithm and the MCMC-based algorithm on the simulated \mathbf{Y} and \mathbf{V} datasets and the settings of the parameters for the algorithms are discussed in the Supplementary Material. To quantify the performance of the algorithms, we define the following metrics: haplotype error (e_Z), proportion error (e_W) and the error of the success probabilities ($e_{p_{ts}}$) as follows:

$$e_Z = \frac{1}{TC} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{c=1}^C |\hat{z}_{tc} - z_{tc}|, \quad e_W = \frac{1}{CS} \sum_{c=0}^C \sum_{s=1}^S |\hat{w}_{cs} - w_{cs}|,$$

and

$$e_{p_{ts}} = \frac{1}{TS} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{s=1}^S |\hat{p}_{ts} - p_{ts}|, \quad \text{where } \hat{p}_{ts} = \hat{p}\hat{w}_{0s} + \sum_{c=1}^C \hat{z}_{tc}\hat{w}_{cs}.$$

204 However, since this is a blind decomposition, one does not know a priori which column of $\hat{\mathbf{Z}}$ corresponds
 205 to which column of \mathbf{Z} . To resolve this, we calculate e_Z with every permutation of the columns of $\hat{\mathbf{Z}}$
 206 and then select the permutation that results in the smallest e_Z . The selected permutation is then used in
 207 computing e_W and $e_{p_{ts}}$.

208 The results obtained from the analyses of the simulated datasets are presented in Table 1, Table 2,
 209 Figures 1 - 6 and Tables 1 - 3 in the Supplementary Material. Table 1 shows $e_{p_{ts}}$, e_Z and e_W obtained
 210 for the datasets from $T = 60$ SNVs, $C = 4$ haplotypes and $S \in \{10, 20\}$ for all the average sequencing
 211 depth $r \in \{20, 40, 50, 200, 1000, 10000\}$, similar results are presented in the Supplementary Material, with
 212 $S \in \{1, 3, 5\}$. From the results obtained for all the sample sizes, the proposed SMC algorithm yields more
 213 accurate estimates of the model parameters when compared to the MCMC-based algorithm, i.e., producing
 214 lower error values $e_{p_{ts}}$, e_Z and e_W in all the datasets analyzed. Moreover, from the results obtained, it
 215 can be observed that, for the two methods, the results improve when either the average sequencing depth
 216 or the sample size increases. Also, similar trends were observed when the number of SNVs T is 20 as
 217 presented in the Supplementary Material.

218 In Figures 1 - 3, we present, for the proposed SMC algorithm, how the errors vary across different
 219 samples. It can be observed that the results are less sensitive to sample size when $S > 5$. Also, there is a
 220 slight improvement in the results when the average sequencing depth r is increased. Moreover, Figures 4
 221 - 6 show the results obtained for the proposed SMC and the MCMC-based algorithms and in general, the
 222 proposed SMC outperforms the MCMC-based algorithm by producing small errors on all the estimates.
 223 However, we observed that if the number of loci is greater than 200, the MCMC algorithm often result in

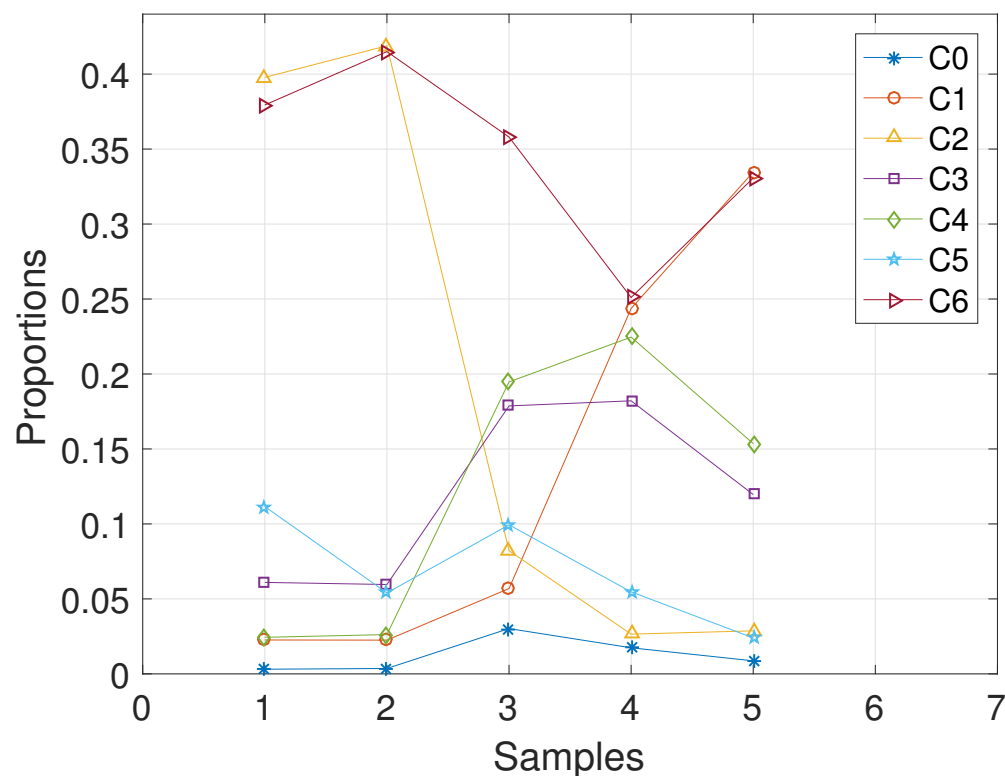


Figure 7. CLL003: Plot of the estimates of the proportions of the haplotypes in each sample. Samples a, b, c, d, e are designated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, respectively.

computational error. But by construction, our SMC algorithm can handle any number of loci since the VAF of each loci is processed as an observation at every time step. Apart from the ability to process any number of loci, this property allows the proposed algorithm to process VAFs data from newly sequenced candidate SNVs to improve existing estimates without re-analyzing the previous datasets. To validate this, we generated datasets for 1000 and 2000 loci respectively and these datasets are analyzed with the proposed SMC algorithm with the results presented in Table 2. In fact, the proposed SMC algorithm benefits from large number of loci because the large the number of loci, the better the estimate of the proportions. This result is evident from the what we observed in Table 2.

Lastly, we record the runtime (t_r) for the two algorithms on a 3.5 Ghz Intel 8 processors running MATLAB when analyzing some of the datasets described in Table 1 (i.e. $T = 60$, $C = 4$, $S = 10$ and $r = 20$). Observed t_r was 311 seconds and 585 seconds for the proposed SMC and the MCMC-based algorithms, respectively. The difference observed in computational time can be attributed to the fact that the proposed SMC algorithm considers only a single row of of the input data at each iteration, thereby reducing the cost of computing the likelihood.

Real Tumor Samples: CLL Datasets

We evaluate the proposed SMC algorithm on the datasets for the B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), obtained from three patients: **CLL003**, **CLL006**, and **CLL077** (Schuh et al., 2012). These datasets represent the molecular changes in pre-treatment, post-treatment, and relapse samples in the three selected patients, i.e., the samples were taken *temporally* (see the Supplementary Material for the summary of data pre-processing). The datasets are analyzed with the proposed SMC and the MCMC-based algorithms.

CLL003

The CLL dataset obtained from patient **CLL003** has 20 distinct loci, shown in the first column in Table 3, and the dataset is analyzed with the proposed SMC algorithm. In Table 3, we present the posterior

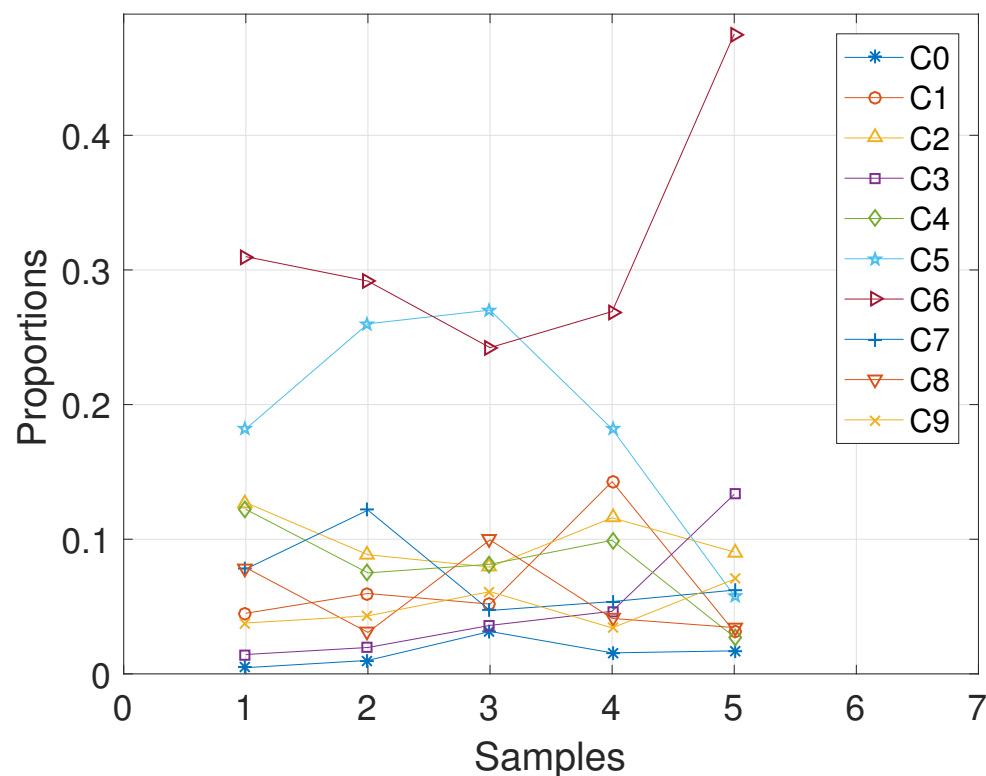


Figure 8. CLL077: Plot of the estimates of the proportions of the haplotypes in each sample. Samples **a, b, c, d, e** are designated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, respectively.

point estimate of the mutational profiles of the haplotypes in each of the 5 samples, where 1 and 0 denote the variant and the reference sequence, respectively. Moreover, in Figures 7, we present a graphical representation of how the haplotypes are distributed across the samples. For instance, haplotype C2 which was approximately 40 percent abundance in the first sample has reduced to approximately 3 percent after the last treatment. In the Supplementary Material, we present the table of proportions. The first row on the table and equivalently C0 in Figures 7 comprises of the proportion of the background haplotype, which accounts for experimental noise in each sample. From Table 3, we find that each sample consists of at least 2 dominant haplotypes. For instance, tumor sample **a** is dominated by haplotypes C2 and C6, each with a proportion of approximately 0.4. Also, we analyzed the same dataset with the MCMC algorithm and the results are in the Supplementary Material.

CLL077

The CLL dataset obtained from patient **CLL077** has 16 distinct loci, shown in the first column in Table 4, and the dataset is analyzed with the proposed SMC algorithm. In Table 4, we present the posterior point estimate of mutational profiles of the haplotypes in each of the 5 samples. Moreover, in Figure 8, we present a graphical representation of how the haplotypes are distributed across the samples, with a table of proportions presented in the Supplementary Material. From our analysis results, we find that each sample consists of at least 2 dominant haplotypes. Also, we analyzed the same dataset with the MCMC algorithm and the results are in the Supplementary Material.

CLL006

Here, we analyze the CLL dataset obtained from patient **CLL006**. The dataset comprises of 11 loci as shown in Table 5 in the first column, and is analyzed with the proposed SMC algorithm. Table 5 and Figure 9 show the estimates of mutational profiles and proportions of the haplotypes, respectively. Also, in the Supplementary Material, we present the results obtained from analyzing the dataset with the MCMC-based algorithm.

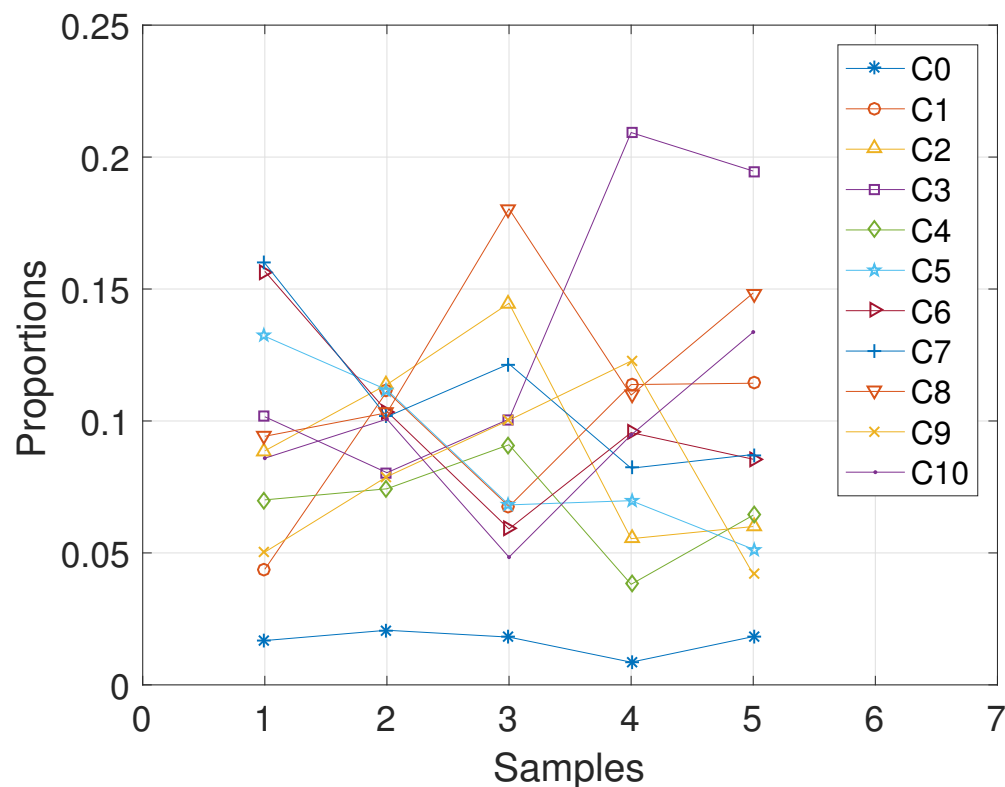


Figure 9. CLL006: Plot of the estimates of the proportions of the haplotypes in each sample. Samples **a, b, c, d, e** are designated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, respectively.

Surprisingly, we find that some of the haplotypes, specifically, *C1, C2, C3* in **CLL003**; *C3, C4, C5* in **CLL077** and *C1, C2, C3* in **CLL006**, carry the same set of unique mutations present in distinct genomes of subclones when these datasets are analyzed with the method proposed in (Jiao et al., 2014) (Phylosub) and manually with the approach employed in (Schuh et al., 2012). The complete results of the clonal analyses of these methods are presented in the Supplementary Material.

Finally, the results presented so far indicate that each heterogeneous tumor sample is made up of more than two haplotypes: usually a few dominant haplotypes and other minor types. The multiple number of haplotypes in a tumor is an indication of the presence of heterogeneity in the sample.

DISCUSSION

Tumor samples that are obtained from cancer patients often comprise of genetically diverse populations of cells and this defines the heterogeneous nature of the samples. Most time, to explain the inherent heterogeneity in the tumor tissues, biologists obtain VAFs datasets via the NGS technology and fit the data into an appropriate model. In this paper, to analyze the observed VAFs data, we employed the feature allocation model proposed in (Lee et al., 2016). The model, which describes the distribution of haplotypes within the tumor samples, posits that because humans are diploids, having more than two haplotypes in the tumor sample is an evidence of heterogeneity within the sample. According to this model, haplotypes in the tumor samples are the features and SNVs are the experimental units that select the features. So given the observed VAFs of the SNVs, estimating the unknown latent features and the proportions in the samples completely described the inherent heterogeneity in the data.

To estimate the unknown variables in the model, we reformulated the latent feature model into state-space model and presented an efficient SMC algorithm, taking advantage of the sequential construction of the latent binary matrix, with an unknown number of columns, using the IBP, and treating other variables in the latent feature model as the parameters of our newly formed state-space model. This way, we are

Table 3. *CLL003*: Estimates of the mutational profiles of haplotypes, **Z** in the samples.

Gene	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
ADAD1	1	1	1	0	0	0
AMTN	0	1	0	0	0	0
APBB2	0	1	0	0	0	0
ASXL1	1	0	0	1	0	0
ATM	0	1	0	0	1	0
BPIL2	0	1	0	0	0	0
CHRNA2	1	0	0	1	0	0
CHTF8	1	1	1	0	0	0
FAT3	1	0	0	1	0	0
HERC2	1	1	1	0	0	0
IL11RA	1	1	1	0	0	0
MTUS1	0	1	0	0	0	0
MUSK	1	0	0	1	0	0
NPY	1	0	0	1	0	0
NRG3	1	0	0	1	0	0
PLEKHG5	0	1	0	0	0	0
SEMA3E	1	0	0	1	0	0
SF3B1	1	1	1	0	0	0
SHROOM1	1	1	1	0	0	0
SPTAN1	0	1	0	0	0	0

The genes where the mutations are found are shown in the first column.

able to analyze the VAFs of a single SNV at each iteration. We evaluated our proposed SMC algorithm on simulated datasets, specifically, by varying the average sequencing depth (r), the number of tumor samples (S) and the number of SNVs (T), as well as on real datasets, i.e., the CLL datasets obtained from (Schuh et al., 2012) for 3 patients. The proposed SMC algorithm produced satisfying results on all categories of datasets analyzed.

Further, we compared the estimates obtained from the proposed SMC algorithm and the MCMC-based algorithm. In terms of the accuracy of estimates, the proposed SMC algorithm yields an improved performance over the MCMC-based algorithm. In addition to the aforementioned, the proposed SMC algorithm, unlike the MCMC-based algorithm, does not require throwing away samples as burn-in and also, due to the sequential nature by which the VAFs are being processed, it is possible to easily incorporate datasets from newly sequenced SNVs (when available) so as to refine the existing estimates. However, in the MCMC algorithm, to incorporate the new datasets, the entire datasets (old and new) need be analyzed.

In our experiments, we set $N = 500$ particles for all the simulated datasets and for the tumor datasets, we set $N = 1000$. Also, we run the SMC algorithm 5 times for the simulated data and 10 times for the CLL datasets. Multiple runs allow the VAFs of each SNV to be visited more than once, and we noticed that this, in a way, improves the results of the SMC algorithm.

Finally, we have demonstrated the efficacy of the SMC algorithm, an algorithm that can effectively handle any type of probability distribution, nonlinearity and non-stationarity, particularly in analyzing VAFs of SNVs from tumor samples.

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Table 4. *CLL077*: Estimates of the mutational profiles of haplotypes, **Z** in the samples.

Gene	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9
BCL2L13	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
COL24A1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAZAP1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
EXOC6B	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
GHDC	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
GPR158	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
HMCN1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
KLHDC2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
LRRC16A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
MAP2K1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAMPT	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
NOD1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCA2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
PLA2G16	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
SAMHD1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
SLC12A1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0

Table 5. *CLL006*: Estimates of the mutational profiles of haplotypes, **Z** in the samples.

Gene	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10
ARHGAP29	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
EGFR	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
IRF4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KIAA0182	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
KIAA0319L	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
KLHL4	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
MED12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
PILRB	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
RBPJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SIK1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
U2AF1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

The genes where the mutations are found are shown in the first column.

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