DISCUSSION PUBLISHERS
Research Center · Open Access Edition

Computational historical linguistics

Gerhard Jger

Discussion Research ID	DPR-2026-1323
Year	2019
Field	Arts and Humanities
DOI	10.1515/tl-2019-0011
Author ORCID	0000-0002-9642-9359
Licence	CC-BY
Original source	Theoretical Linguistics
Permanent link	https://discussionpublishers.com/research/2352f645-7667-4e53-8ec5-e3efb8d6fefe
Publisher	Discussion Publishers discussionpublishers.com

Republished by Discussion Publishers under the original CC-BY licence. Copyright remains with the original authors; please cite the original work.

Cite as: Gerhard Jger (2019). Computational historical linguistics. Discussion Publishers, DPR-2026-1323.

Abstract

Abstract Computational approaches to historical linguistics have been proposed for half a century. Within the last decade, this line of research has received a major boost, owing both to the transfer of ideas and software from computational biology and to the release of several large electronic data resources suitable for systematic comparative work. In this article, some of the central research topics of this new wave of computational historical linguistics are introduced and discussed. These areautomatic assessment of genetic relatedness,automatic cognate detection,phylogenetic inferenceandancestral state reconstruction. They will be demonstrated by means of a case study of automatically reconstructing a Proto-Romance word list from lexical data of 50 modern Romance languages and dialects. The results illustrate both the strengths and the weaknesses of the current state of the art of automating the comparative method.

Keywords: computational historical linguistics, comparative analysis, genetic relatedness, phylogenetic infere

Full text

The complete text of this work is hosted by its original publisher.
Read it via the Discussion Publishers page:
https://discussionpublishers.com/research/2352f645-7667-4e53-8ec5-e3efb8d6fefe
Original record: https://doi.org/10.1515/tl-2019-0011
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1515/tl-2019-0011