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Measuring similarity between cladograms. Jan De Laet* and Steve Farris. Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Vautierstraat 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium; Molekylärsystematiska laboratoriet, Naturhistoriska riksmuseet, Box 50007 SE-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden

Quartet-based measures of tree similarity as originally proposed by Estabrook and coworkers do not account for logical dependences between quartet subtrees. To figure out if this has consequences for their validity when comparing trees, two general conditions that should be met by any useful tree similarity metric are discussed. Examples are provided in which existing quartet-based measures fail these conditions. Modified measures are proposed that properly take into account logical dependences and that meet both conditions.