In this Supplementary File, we calculate the correspondence between steptimes and the actual times measured in generations. Our goal is to calculate the probability distribution of real coalescence times, $\psi(t|k, k', \ell)$, given that individuals were initially in classes k and k' and coalesced in class $k - \ell$.

To begin, we neglect the coalescence time within class $k - \ell$, and consider the distribution of the time at which an ancestor of one of the two sampled individuals first mutated from class $k - \ell$ to class $k - \ell + 1$. We refer to this as $\psi_1(t|k, k', \ell)$. We first calculate the joint distribution of the times at which both ancestors mutated out of the class, $R_{k,k'}^{k-\ell}(t_1, t_2)$. Conditional on coalescence in class $k - \ell$, $R_{k,k'}^{k-\ell}(t_1, t_2)$, is given by the probability of t_1 and t_2 and coalescence divided by the total probability of coalescence. That is,

$$R(t_1, t_2) = \frac{P(coal|t_1, t_2)P(t_1, t_2)}{P(coal)}.$$
(S.62)

Substituting in the relevant expressions from the main text, this gives

$$R_{k,k'}^{k-\ell}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{A_{\ell}^{k,k'}} Q_{k,k'}^{k-\ell}(t_1, t_2) e^{-s(k-\ell)|t_1-t_2|}.$$
(S.63)

The time at which the first ancestor mutated out of class $k - \ell$ is the longer of the two times t_1 and t_2 ,

$$\psi(t|k,k',\ell) = \left[\int_0^t R_{k,k'}^{k-\ell}(t_1,t)dt_1 + \int_0^t R_{k,k'}^{k-\ell}(t,t_2)dt_2\right].$$
(S.64)

Substituting in our expression for $R_{k,k'}^{k-\ell}(t_1,t_2)$ and carrying out the integrals as in File S3, we find

$$\psi_1(t|k,k',\ell) = s\pi_d e^{-s(k'+k)t} (e^{st} - 1)^{\pi_d - 1} \binom{k'+k}{\pi_d},$$
(S.65)

where we have used $\pi_d = k' - k + 2\ell$.

We can alternatively calculate $\psi_1(t|k, k', \ell)$ using our sum of ancestral paths approach. As before, we imagine two individuals sampled from classes k and k' and condition on them coalescing in class $k - \ell$. Consider a case where $k \neq k'$. Then the first event in the history of these two individuals must be a deleterious mutation. Since these mutations happen at rate sk and sk' in each lineage, the distribution of times since this mutation occurred in one of the two ancestral lineages is

$$P(t) = s(k+k')e^{-s(k+k')t}.$$
(S.66)

With probability $\frac{k'}{k+k'}$, this mutation is in the lineage sampled from class k', in which case the two lineages are now in classes k and k' - 1. Alternatively, the mutation occurred in the lineage sampled from k and the lineages are in classes k - 1 and k'.

We can now consider the time to the next event backwards in time. If the two lineages are in the same

class (but not yet in class $k - \ell$), the distribution of times to the next deleterious mutation event is somewhat shorter, because we are conditioning on coalescence not occuring. However, provided that $2sk_1 \gg \frac{1}{Nh_k}$ (the condition we are already making elsewhere), this shortening of the time will be a small correction and neglecting it is a good approximation.

Making this approximation, the rate at which the next deleterious mutation event occurs when the two lineages are in classes k_1 and k_2 is just $s(k_1 + k_2)$. Regardless of the order in which these mutations happen between the two lineages, this sum is simply decreased by s at each step. This will continue until the both ancestral lineages are in class $k - \ell$. Therefore, the distribution of times until the original mutation out of class $k - \ell$ is given by:

$$\psi_1(t|k',k,\ell) = s(k'+k)e^{-s(k'+k)t} \star s(k'+k-1)e^{-s(k'+k-1)t} \star \dots \star s(2k-2\ell+1)e^{-s(2k-2\ell+1)t}.$$
 (S.67)

This can be written as

$$\psi_1(t|k',k,\ell) = \lambda_0 e^{-\lambda_0 t} \star \lambda_1 e^{-\lambda_1 t} \star \dots \star \lambda_{k'-k+2\ell-1} e^{-\lambda_{k'-k+2\ell-1} t},$$
(S.68)

where we have defined:

$$\lambda_i = s(k'+k-i). \tag{S.69}$$

We can compute this convolution as in File S2 (compare to Eq. (S.17) for $Q_{k+k'}^{2k-2\ell}(t)$). We find

$$\psi_1(t|k,k',\ell) = s\pi_d e^{-s(k'+k)t} (e^{st} - 1)^{\pi_d - 1} \binom{k'+k}{\pi_d},$$
(S.70)

identical to the result of our lineage structure calculation above.

Distribution of Coalescence Times: To calculate the correspondence between steptimes and real times, we now need to add the time it takes two individuals two coalesce in class $k - \ell$, which we refer to as $\psi_2(t|k,k',\ell)$, to the time it took them both to get to that class, $\psi_1(t|k,k',k-\ell)$. The rate of coalescence once in class $k - \ell$ is $\frac{1}{Nh_{k-\ell}}$, so we have

$$\psi_2(t|k',k,\ell) = (2s(k-\ell) + 1/Nh_{k-\ell}) e^{-[2s(k-\ell)+1/Nh_{k-\ell}]t}.$$
(S.71)

Putting this together, the full distribution of times since coalescence is

$$\psi(t|k',k,\ell) = \psi_1(t|k',k,\ell) \star \psi_2(t|k',k,\ell).$$
(S.72)

Carrying out this convolution (and expanding the binomial factor $(e^{st} - 1)^{\pi_d - 1}$ in ψ_1), we find

$$\psi(t|k',k,\ell) = \sum_{i=0}^{\pi_d-1} s\pi_d(-1)^{\pi_d-i-1} \binom{\pi_d-1}{i} \binom{k'+k}{\pi_d} \frac{B}{A-B} \left(e^{-sBt} - e^{-sAt}\right),$$
(S.73)

where we have defined $A \equiv k' + k - i$ and $B \equiv 2(k - \ell) + \frac{1}{Nsh_{k-\ell}}$.