

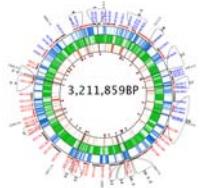
# Computational Genomics

10-810/02-710, Spring 2009

## Gene Finding and HMM

Eric Xing

Lecture 4, January 26, 2009



Reading: Durbin chap 3.

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## Please correct

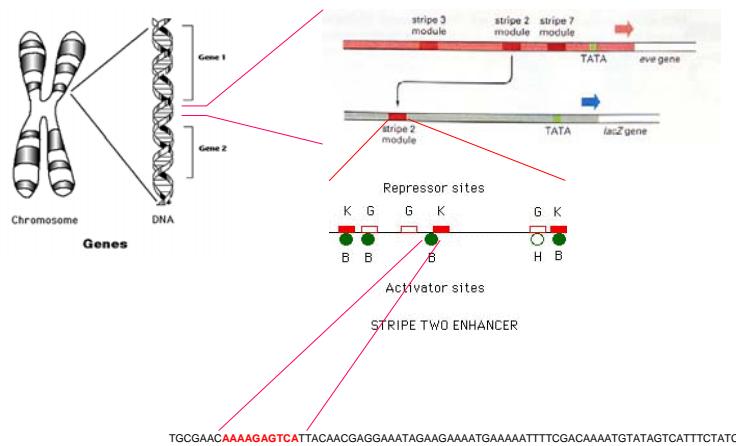
- [10-810-09s-instr@cs](mailto:10-810-09s-instr@cs) should be [10810-09s-instr@cs](mailto:10810-09s-instr@cs)
- [10-810-09s-announce@cs](mailto:10-810-09s-announce@cs) should be [10810-09s-announce@cs](mailto:10810-09s-announce@cs).



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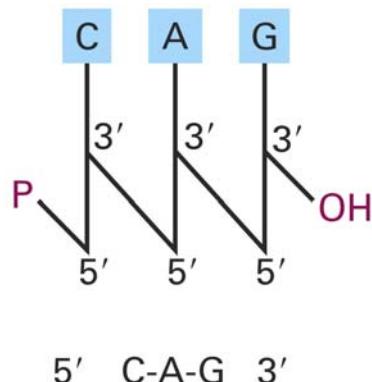
## Hierarchical structure of the genome



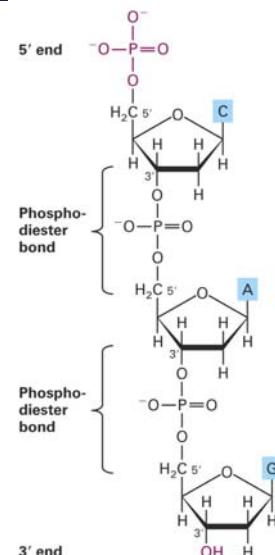
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## The DNA strand has a chemical polarity



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## Writing DNA sequence

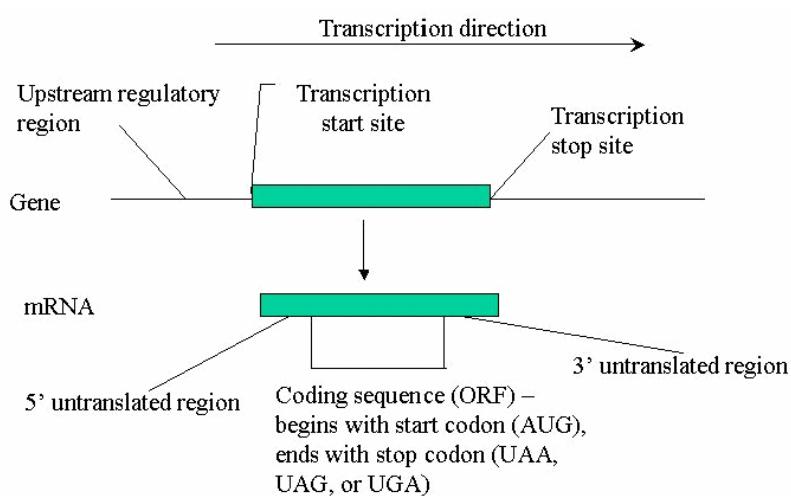


- One strand is written by listing its bases in 5' to 3' order  
5' ACCGTTACT 3'
- Each strand uniquely determines the complementary strand, which runs in the opposite direction:  
5' ACCGTTACT 3'  
3' TGGCAATGA 5'
- So the reverse complement of ACCGTTACT is written TGGCAATGA
- In general people write one strand and in 5' to 3' order
  - This is the ordering that a polymerase or a ribosome scan the sequence
  - Establishes a common standard for genome nomenclatures

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## Gene structure in prokaryotes



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## Gene structure in prokaryotes

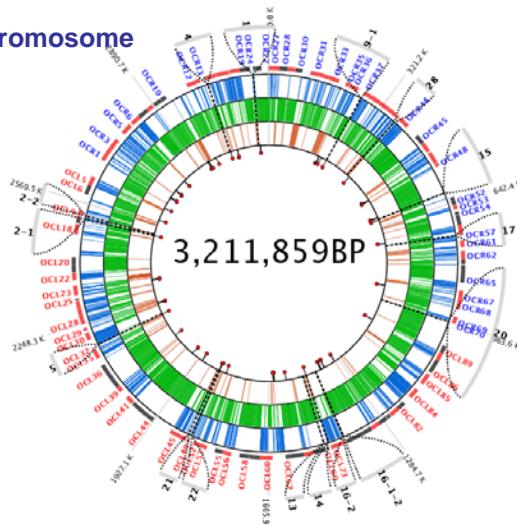
- A protein-coding gene consists of the following, in 5' to 3' order
  - An **upstream regulatory region**, generally < 50 bp, which turns transcription on and off.
  - A **transcription start site** where RNA polymerase incorporates 1st nucleotide into nascent mRNA.
  - A 5' **untranslated region**, generally < 30bp, that is transcribed into mRNA but not translated.
  - The **translation start site** marking the start of the coding region. Consists of a **start codon**, which causes the start of translation
  - The **coding region** of the gene (typically=1000bp), consisting of a sequence of codons.
  - The **translation stop site** marking the end of coding region. Consists of a **stop codon**, which causes the release of the polypeptide at conclusion of translation.
  - A 3' **untranslated region**, transcribed into RNA but not translated.
  - The **transcription stop site** marking where the RNA polymerase concludes transcription.

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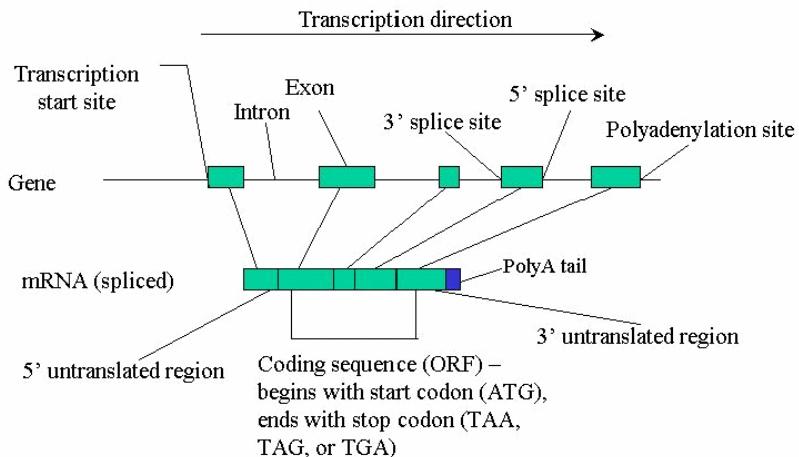
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## The bacterial genome

The E. coli chromosome



## Gene structure in eukaryotes



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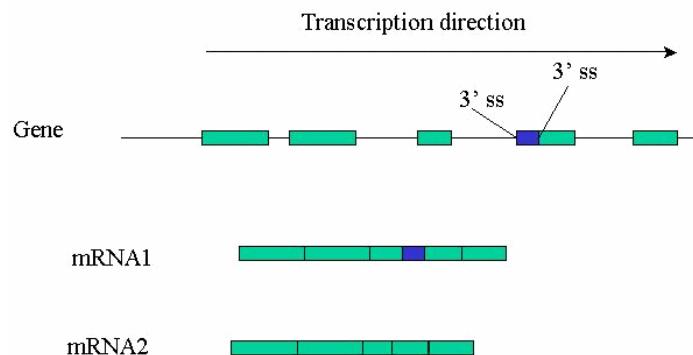
## Gene structure in eukaryotes

- A typical gene consist of the following, in 5' to 3' order
  - An **upstream regulatory region**, often larger and more complex than in prokaryotes, parts of which may be several thousand bases or more upstream of transcription start site.
  - A **transcription start site**.
  - A **5' untranslated region**, often larger than in prokaryotes, and which may include sequences playing a role in translation regulation.
  - The **coding sequence**, which unlike the case with prokaryotes, may be interrupted by non-coding regions called **introns**. These are spliced out of the transcript to form the mature mRNA (and sometimes the splicing can occur in more than one way).
  - The **translation stop site**.
  - A **3' untranslated region**, which may contain sequences involved in translational regulation.
  - A **polyadenylation (polyA) signal**, which indicates to the cell's RNA processing machinery that the RNA transcript is to be cleaved and a poly-adenine sequence (AAAAAA...) tail appended to it
  - The **transcription stop site**.

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## Alternative splicing

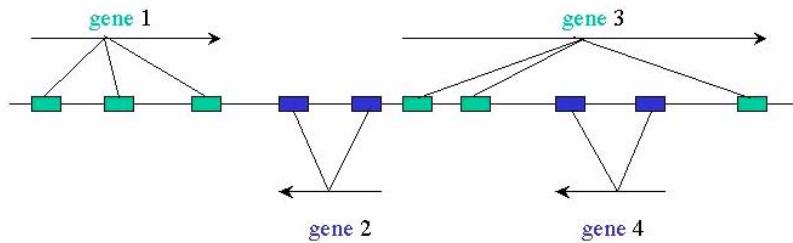


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## Eukaryotic genome structure

- Genes may be transcribed in either direction, and can overlap



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## Probabilities on Sequences



- Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be the space of DNA or protein sequences of a given length  $n$ . Here are some simple assumptions for assigning probabilities to sequences:
  - Equal frequency assumption:** All residues are equally probable at any position; i.e.,  $P(X_{i,r})=P(X_{i,q})$  for any two residues  $r$  and  $q$ , for all  $i$ .
    - this implies that  $P(X_{i,r})=\theta_r=1/|\mathcal{A}|$ , where  $\mathcal{A}$  is the residue alphabet (1/20 for proteins, 1/4 for DNA)
  - Independence assumption:** whether or not a residue occurs at a position is independent of what residues are present at other positions.
    - probability of a sequence

$$P(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N) = \theta_r \cdot \theta_r \cdot \dots \cdot \theta_r = \theta_r^N$$

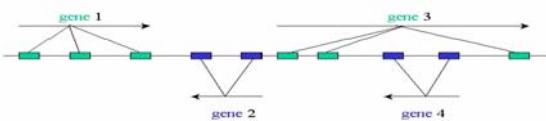
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## Failure of Equal Frequency Assumption for (real) DNA



- For most organisms, the nucleotides composition is significantly different from 0.25 for each nucleotide, e.g.,
  - H. influenza* .31 A, .19 C, .19 G, .31 T
  - P. aeruginosa* .17 A, .33 C, .33 G, .17 T
  - M. janaschii* .34 A, .16 C, .16 G, .34 T
  - S. cerevisiae* .31 A, .19 C, .19 G, .31 T
  - C. elegans* .32 A, .18 C, .18 G, .32 T
  - H. sapiens* .30 A, .20 C, .20 G, .30 T
- Note symmetry: A $\cong$ T, C $\cong$ G, even though we are counting nucleotides on just one strand. Explanation:
  - although individual biological features may have non-symmetric composition, usually features are distributed  $\sim$  randomly w.r.t. strand, so get symmetry.



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## General Hypothesis Regarding Unequal Frequency

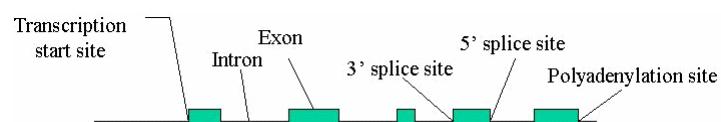


- Neutralist hypothesis: mutation bias (e.g., due to nucleotide pool composition)
- Selectionist hypothesis: natural selection bias

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## Probabilistic segmentation



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## Models for Homogeneous Sequence Entities



- Probabilities models for long "homogeneous" sequence entities, such as:
  - exons (ORFs)
  - introns
  - inter-genetic background
  - protein coiled-coil (other other structural) regions
- Assumptions:
  - no consensus, no recurring string patterns
  - have distinct but uniform residue-composition (i.e., same for all sites)
  - every site in the entity are iid samples from the same model
- The model:
  - a single multinomial:  $X \sim \text{Mul}(1, \theta)$

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## The Multinomial Model for Sequence



- For a site  $i$ , define its residue identity to be a multinomial random vector:

$$X_i = \begin{bmatrix} X_{i,A} \\ X_{i,C} \\ X_{i,G} \\ X_{i,T} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{where} \quad X_{i,j} = [0,1], \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in \{A,C,G,T\}} X_{i,j} = 1$$

$$X_{i,j} = 1 \text{ w.p. } \theta_j, \quad \sum_{j \in \{A,C,G,T\}} \theta_j = 1.$$

- The probability of an observation  $s_i = A$  (i.e.,  $x_{i,A} = 1$ ) at site  $i$ :

$$P(X_i = (\text{say}, A)) = P(X_{i,j} = 1, \text{ where } j = A \text{ index the observed nucleotide}) \\ = \theta_A = \theta_A^{x_A} \times \theta_C^{x_C} \times \theta_G^{x_G} \times \theta_T^{x_T} = \prod_k \theta_k^{x_k} = \theta^x$$

- The probability of a sequence  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$ :

$$P(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N) = \prod_{i=1}^N P(X_i) = \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_k \theta_k^{x_{i,k}} \\ = \prod_k \theta_k^{\sum_{i=1}^N x_{i,k}} = \prod_k \theta_k^{n_k}$$

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## Parameter Estimation



- Maximum likelihood estimation:  $\theta = \arg \max_{\theta} P(D | \theta)$

- multinomial parameters:

$$\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots\} = \arg \max_{\theta} \prod_k \theta_k^{n_k}, \text{ s.t. } \sum_k \theta_k = 1$$

$$\text{It can be shown that: } \theta_k^{\text{ML}} = \frac{n_k}{N}$$

- Bayesian estimation:

- Dirichlet distribution:

$$P(\theta) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_k \alpha_k)}{\prod_k \Gamma(\alpha_k)} \prod_k \theta_k^{\alpha_k - 1} = C(\alpha) \prod_k \theta_k^{\alpha_k - 1}$$

- Posterior distribution of  $\theta$  under the Dirichlet prior:

$$P(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_N) \propto \prod_k \theta_k^{\alpha_k - 1} \prod_k \theta_k^{n_k} = \prod_k \theta_k^{\alpha_k - 1 + n_k}$$

- Posterior mean estimation:

$$\theta_k = \int \theta_k P(\theta | D) d\theta = \int \theta_k \prod_k \theta_k^{\alpha_k - 1 + n_k} d\theta = \frac{n_k + \alpha_k}{N + |\alpha|}$$

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## Models for Homogeneous Sequence Entities, ctd



- Limitations

- non-uniform residue composition (e.g., CG rich regions)
  - non-coding structural regions (MAR, centromere, telomere)
  - di- or tri- nucleotide couplings
  - estimation bias
  - evolutionary constraints

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## Site Models



- Probabilities models for short sequences, such as:
  - splice sites
  - translation start sites
  - promoter elements
  - protein "motifs"
- Assumptions:
  - different examples of sites can be aligned without indels (insertions/deletions) such that tend to have similar residues in same positions
  - drop equal frequency assumption; instead have position-specific frequencies
  - retain independence assumption (for now)

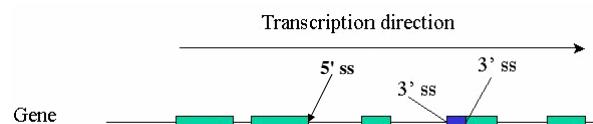
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## Site Models ctd.



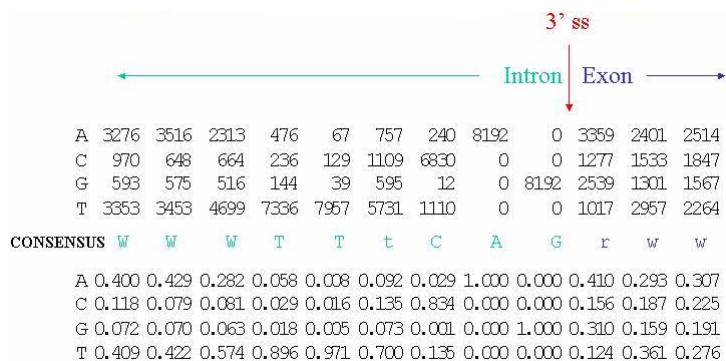
- Applies to short segments (<30 residues) where precise residue spacing is structurally or functionally important, and certain positions are highly conserved
  - DNA/RNA sequence binding sites for a single protein or RNA molecule
  - Protein internal regions structurally constrained due to folding requirements; or surface regions functionally constrained because bind certain ligands
- Example: *C. elegans* splice sites



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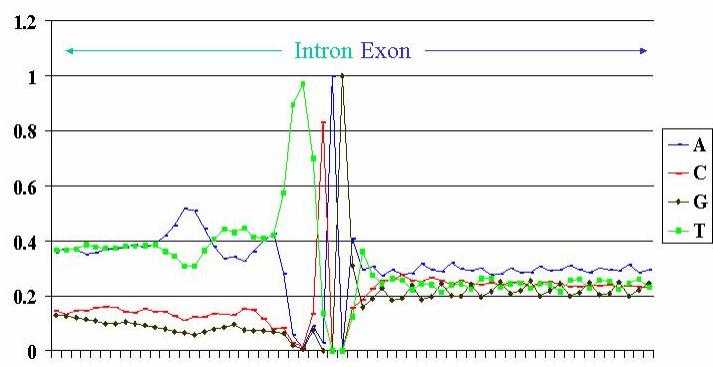
## Nucleotide Counts for 8192 C. elegans 3' Splice Sites



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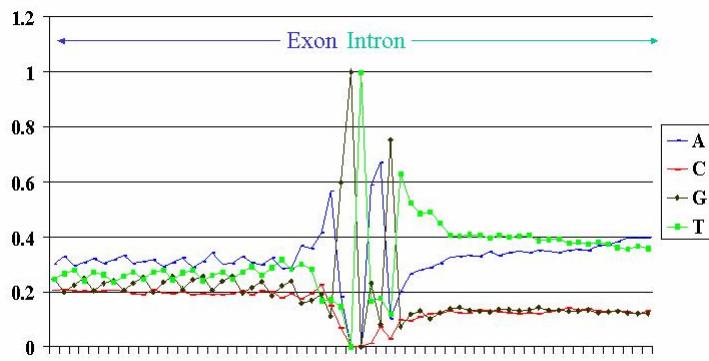
## 3' Splice Site - C. elegans



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## 5' Splice Sites - *C. elegans*



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## Limitation of Homogeneous Site Models



- Failure to allow indels means variably spaced subelements are "smeared", e.g.:
  - branch site, for 3' splice sites;
  - coding sequences, for both 3' and 5' sites
- Independence assumption
  - usually OK for protein sequences (after correcting for evolutionary relatedness)
  - often fails for nucleotide sequences; examples:
    - 5' sites (Burge-Karlin observation);
    - background (dinucleotide correlation, e.g., GC repeats).

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## Why Correlation?



- Splicing involves pairing of a small RNA with the transcription at the 5' splice site.
- The RNA is complementary to the 5' srRNA consensus sequence.
- A mismatch at position -1 tends to destabilize the pairing, and makes it more important for other positions to be correctly paired.
- Analogy can be easily drawn for other DNA and protein motifs.

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## Comparing Alternative Probability Models



- We will want to consider more than one model at a time, in the following situations:
  - To differentiate between two or more hypothesis about a sequence
  - To generate increasingly refined probability models that are progressively more accurate
- First situation arises in testing biological assertion, e.g., "is this a coding sequence?" Would compare two models:
  1. one associated with a hypothesis  $H_{coding}$  which attaches to a sequence the probability of observing it under experiment of drawing a random coding sequence from the genome
  2. one associate with a hypothesis  $H_{noncoding}$  which attaches to a sequence the probability of observing it under experiment of drawing a random non-coding sequence from the genome.

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## Likelihood Ratio Test

- The posterior probability of a model given data is:

$$P(M|D) = P(D|M)P(M)/P(D)$$

- Given that all models are equally probable *a priori*, the posterior probability ratio of two models given the same data reduce to a *likelihood ratio*:

$$LR(M_a, M_0 | D) = \frac{P(D | M_a)}{P(D | M_0)}$$

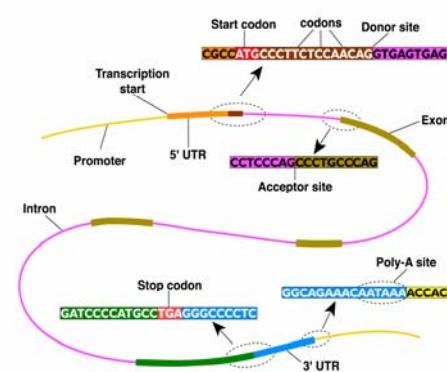
- the numerator and the denominator may both be very small!
- The log likelihood ratio (LLR) is the logarithm of the likelihood ratio:

$$LLR(M_a, M_0 | D) = \log P(D | M_a) - \log P(D | M_0)$$

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## The Hidden Markov Models for sequence parsing



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# Gene Finding

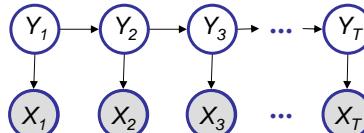
- Given un-annotated sequences, delineate:
  - transcription initiation site,
  - exon-intron boundaries,
  - transcription termination site,
  - a variety of other motifs: promoters, polyA sites, branching sites, etc.
- The hidden Markov model (HMM)

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## Hidden Markov Models

## The underlying source: genomic entities, dice,



## The sequence:

Ploy NT,  
sequence of rolls.

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## Example: The Dishonest Casino

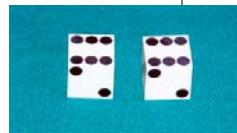


A casino has two dice:

- Fair die  
 $P(1) = P(2) = P(3) = P(5) = P(6) = 1/6$

- Loaded die  
 $P(1) = P(2) = P(3) = P(5) = 1/10$   
 $P(6) = 1/2$

Casino player switches back-&-forth between fair and loaded die once every 20 turns



### Game:

1. You bet \$1
2. You roll (always with a fair die)
3. Casino player rolls (maybe with fair die, maybe with loaded die)
4. Highest number wins \$2

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## Puzzles Regarding the Dishonest Casino



**GIVEN:** A sequence of rolls by the casino player

1245526462146146136136661664661636616366163616515615115146123562344

### QUESTION

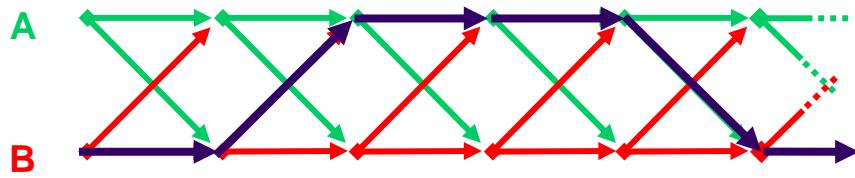
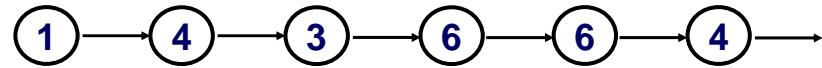
- How likely is this sequence, given our model of how the casino works?
  - This is the **EVALUATION** problem in HMMs
- What portion of the sequence was generated with the fair die, and what portion with the loaded die?
  - This is the **DECODING** question in HMMs
- How “loaded” is the loaded die? How “fair” is the fair die? How often does the casino player change from fair to loaded, and back?
  - This is the **LEARNING** question in HMMs

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## A Stochastic Generative Model

- Observed sequence:



- Hidden sequence (a parse or segmentation):



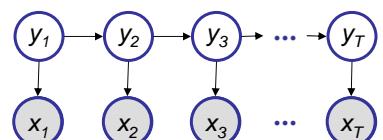
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## Definition (of HMM)

- Observation space

Alphabetic set:  $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_K\}$   
 Euclidean space:  $\mathbb{R}^d$



Graphical model

- Index set of hidden states

$$I = \{1, 2, \dots, M\}$$

- Transition probabilities between any two states

$$p(y_t^j = 1 | y_{t-1}^i = 1) = a_{i,j}, \text{ or } p(y_t | y_{t-1}^i = 1) \sim \text{Multinomial}(a_{i,1}, a_{i,2}, \dots, a_{i,M}), \forall i \in I.$$

- Start probabilities

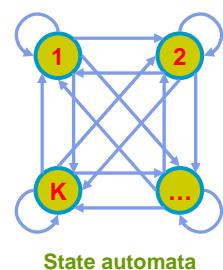
$$p(y_1) \sim \text{Multinomial}(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_M)$$

- Emission probabilities associated with each state

$$p(x_t | y_t^i = 1) \sim \text{Multinomial}(b_{i,1}, b_{i,2}, \dots, b_{i,K}), \forall i \in I.$$

or in general:

$$p(x_t | y_t^i = 1) \sim f(\cdot | \theta_i), \forall i \in I.$$



State automata

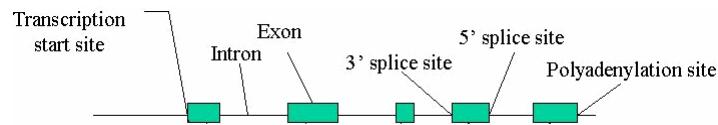
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## Probability of a Parse

- What is a parse?

1245526462146146136136661664661636616366163616515615115146123562344



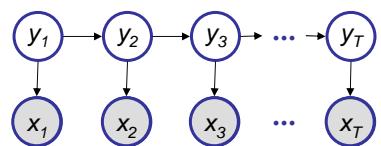
- How to score a parse?

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## Probability of a Parse

- Given a sequence  $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_T$  and a parse  $\mathbf{y} = y_1, \dots, y_T$ ,
- To find how likely is the parse: (given our HMM and the sequence)



$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= p(x_1, \dots, x_T, y_1, \dots, y_T) \quad \text{(Joint probability)} \\
 &= p(y_1) p(x_1 | y_1) p(y_2 | y_1) p(x_2 | y_2) \dots p(y_T | y_{T-1}) p(x_T | y_T) \\
 &= p(y_1) P(y_2 | y_1) \dots p(y_T | y_{T-1}) \times p(x_1 | y_1) p(x_2 | y_2) \dots p(x_T | y_T) \\
 &= p(y_1, \dots, y_T) p(x_1, \dots, x_T | y_1, \dots, y_T)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } \pi_{y_1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^M [\pi_i]^{y_i^1}, \quad a_{y_t, y_{t+1}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i,j=1}^M [a_{ij}]^{y_i^t y_{t+1}^j}, \quad \text{and } b_{y_t, x_t} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^M \prod_{k=1}^K [b_{ik}]^{y_i^t x_t^k},$$

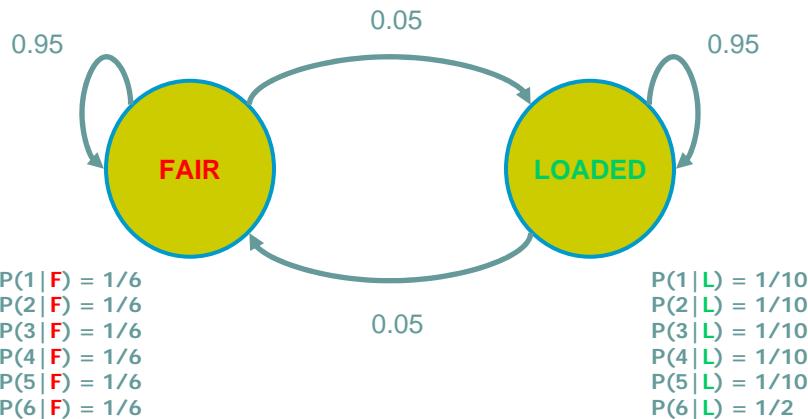
$$= \pi_{y_1} a_{y_1, y_2} \dots a_{y_{T-1}, y_T} b_{y_1, x_1} \dots b_{y_T, x_T}$$

- Marginal probability:  $p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{y}} p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{y_1} \sum_{y_2} \dots \sum_{y_N} \pi_{y_1} \prod_{t=2}^T a_{y_{t-1}, y_t} \prod_{t=1}^T p(x_t | y_t)$
- Posterior probability:  $p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) / p(\mathbf{x})$

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## The Dishonest Casino Model

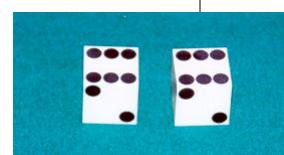


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## Example: the Dishonest Casino

- Let the sequence of rolls be:
  - $x = 1, 2, 1, 5, 6, 2, 1, 6, 2, 4$
- Then, what is the likelihood of
  - $y = \text{Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair?}$   
 (say initial probs  $a_{0\text{Fair}} = 1/2$ ,  $a_{0\text{Loaded}} = 1/2$ )



$$\frac{1}{2} \times P(1 | \text{Fair}) P(\text{Fair} | \text{Fair}) P(2 | \text{Fair}) P(\text{Fair} | \text{Fair}) \dots P(4 | \text{Fair}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \times (1/6)^{10} \times (0.95)^9 = .00000000521158647211 = 5.21 \times 10^{-9}$$

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## Example: the Dishonest Casino

- So, the likelihood the die is fair in all this run is just  $5.21 \times 10^{-9}$
- OK, but what is the likelihood of
  - $\pi = \text{Loaded, Loaded, Loaded, Loaded, Loaded, Loaded, Loaded, Loaded, Loaded}$

$$\frac{1}{2} \times P(1 \mid \text{Loaded}) P(\text{Loaded} \mid \text{Loaded}) \dots P(4 \mid \text{Loaded}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \times (1/10)^8 \times (1/2)^2 (0.95)^9 = .00000000078781176215 = 0.79 \times 10^{-9}$$

- Therefore, it is after all 6.59 times more likely that the die is fair all the way, than that it is loaded all the way

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## Example: the Dishonest Casino

- Let the sequence of rolls be:
  - $x = 1, 6, 6, 5, 6, 2, 6, 6, 3, 6$
- Now, what is the likelihood  $\pi = F, F, \dots, F$ ?
  - $\frac{1}{2} \times (1/6)^{10} \times (0.95)^9 = 0.5 \times 10^{-9}$ , same as before
- What is the likelihood  $y = L, L, \dots, L$ ?

$$\frac{1}{2} \times (1/10)^4 \times (1/2)^6 (0.95)^9 = .00000049238235134735 = 5 \times 10^{-7}$$

- So, it is 100 times more likely the die is loaded

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## Applications of HMMs

- Some early applications of HMMs

- finance, but we never saw them
- speech recognition
- modelling ion channels

- In the mid-late 1980s HMMs entered genetics and molecular biology, and they are now firmly entrenched.

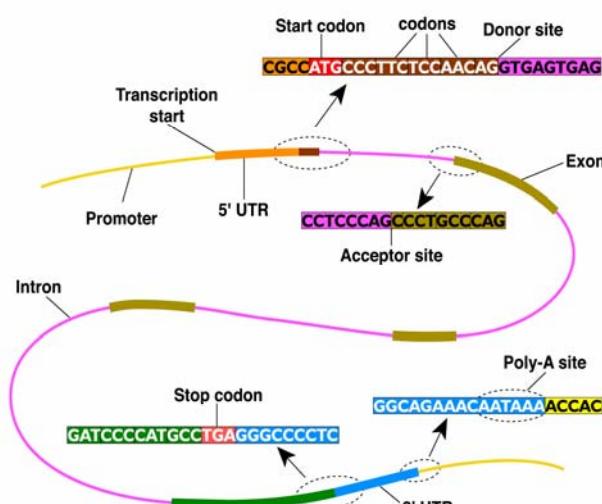
- Some current applications of HMMs to biology

- mapping chromosomes
- aligning biological sequences
- predicting sequence structure
- inferring evolutionary relationships
- finding genes in DNA sequence

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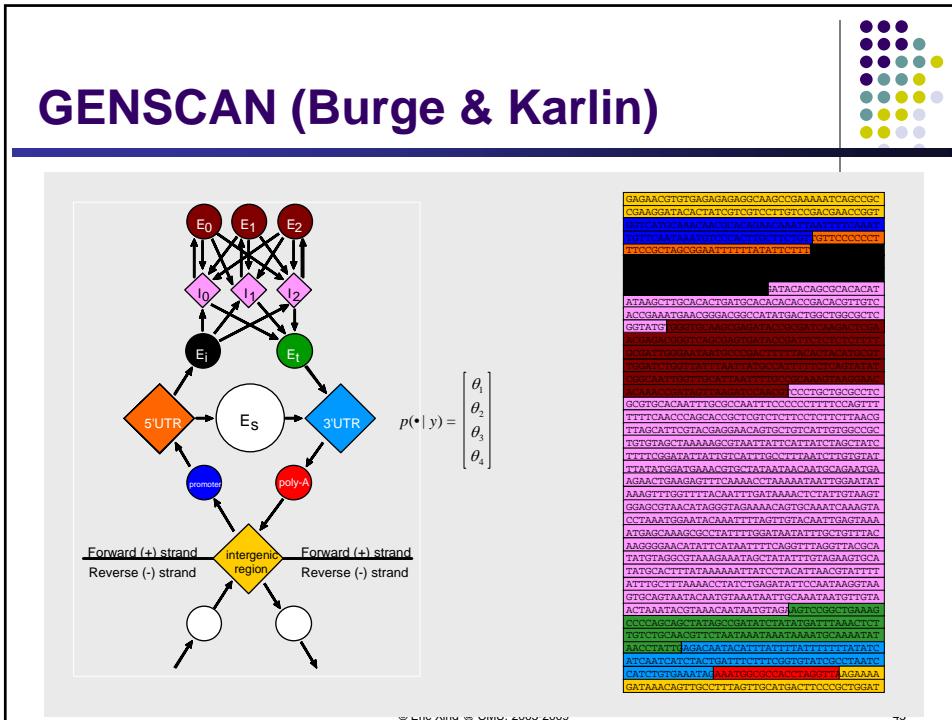
## Typical structure of a gene



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## GENSCAN (Burge & Karlin)

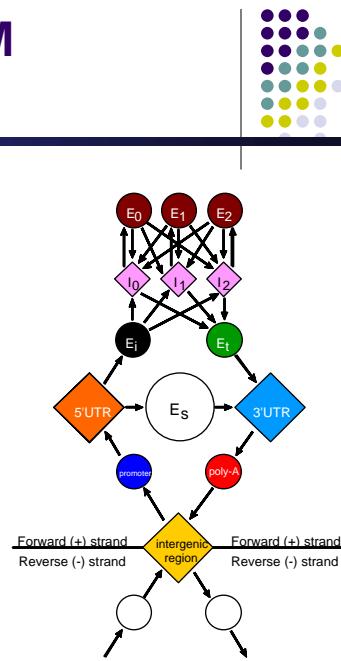


## Some Facts About Human Genes

- Comprise about 3% of the genome
- Average gene length: ~ 8,000 bp
- Average of 5-6 exons/gene
- Average exon length: ~200 bp
- Average intron length: ~2,000 bp
- ~8% genes have a single exon
- **Some exons can be as small as 1 or 3 bp.**
  - HUMFMR1S is not atypical: 17 exons 40-60 bp long, comprising 3% of a 67,000 bp gene

## The Idea Behind a GHMM GeneFinder

- **States** represent standard gene features: intergenic region, exon, intron, perhaps more (promotor, 5'UTR, 3'UTR, Poly-A,..).
- **Observations** embody state-dependent base composition, dependence, and signal features.
- In a GHMM, **duration** must be included as well.
- Finally, **reading frames** and both **strands** must be dealt with.



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## The HMM Algorithms

### Questions:

- **Decoding:** What is the most likely DNA parsing? **Viterbi**
- **Evaluation:** What is the probability of the observed sequence? **Forward**
- **Decoding:** What is the probability that the state of the 3rd position is Bk or gene, given the observed sequence? **Forward-Backward**
- **Learning:** Under what parameterization are the observed sequences most probable? **Baum-Welch (EM)**

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## Decoding

- GIVEN  $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_T$ , we want to find  $\mathbf{y} = y_1, \dots, y_T$ , such that  $P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$  is maximized:

$$\mathbf{y}^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{y}} P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\pi} P(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})$$

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## Viterbi decoding

- GIVEN  $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_T$ , we want to find  $\mathbf{y} = y_1, \dots, y_T$ , such that  $P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$  is maximized:

$$\mathbf{y}^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{y}} P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\pi} P(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})$$

- Let

$$V_t^k = \max_{\{y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}\}} P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}, x_t, y_t^k = 1)$$

= Probability of most likely sequence of states ending at state  $y_t = k$

- The recursion:

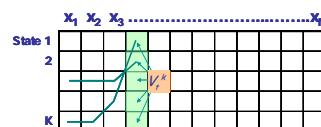
$$V_t^k = p(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \max_i a_{i,k} V_{t-1}^i$$

- Underflows are a significant problem

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_t, y_1, \dots, y_t) = \pi_{y_1} a_{y_1, y_2} \dots a_{y_{t-1}, y_t} b_{y_t, x_t} \dots b_{y_1, x_1}$$

- These numbers become extremely small – underflow

- Solution: Take the logs of all values:  $V_t^k = \log p(x_t | y_t^k = 1) + \max_i (\log(a_{i,k}) + V_{t-1}^i)$



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## The Viterbi Algorithm – derivation



- Define the viterbi probability:

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{t+1}^k &= \max_{(y_1, \dots, y_t)} P(x_1, \dots, x_t, y_1, \dots, y_t, x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}^k = 1) \\
 &= \max_{(y_1, \dots, y_t)} P(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}^k = 1 | x_1, \dots, x_t, y_1, \dots, y_t) P(x_1, \dots, x_t, y_1, \dots, y_t) \\
 &= \max_{(y_1, \dots, y_t)} P(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}^k = 1 | y_t) P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}, x_t, y_t) \\
 &= \max_i P(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}^k = 1 | y_t^i = 1) \max_{(y_1, \dots, y_{t-1})} P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}, x_t, y_t^i = 1) \\
 &= \max_i P(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^k = 1) a_{i,k} V_t^i \\
 &= P(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^k = 1) \max_i a_{i,k} V_t^i
 \end{aligned}$$

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## The Viterbi Algorithm



- Input:  $\mathbf{x} = x_1, \dots, x_T$

### Initialization:

$$V_1^k = P(x_1 | y_1^k = 1) \pi_k$$

### Iteration:

$$V_t^k = P(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \max_i a_{i,k} V_{t-1}^i$$

$$\text{Ptr}(k, t) = \arg \max_i a_{i,k} V_{t-1}^i$$

### Termination:

$$P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}^*) = \max_k V_T^k$$

### TraceBack:

$$y_T^* = \arg \max_k V_T^k$$

$$y_{t-1}^* = \text{Ptr}(y_T^*, t)$$

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## Time complexity of Viterbi



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