

# Computational Genomics

10-810/02-710, Spring 2009

## Gene Finding and HMM

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Lecture 5, January 28, 2009



Reading: Durbin Chap 3,  
class assignment

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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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## The likelihood of a sequence



- We want to calculate  $P(\mathbf{x})$ , the likelihood of  $\mathbf{x}$ , given the HMM

- Sum over all possible ways of generating  $\mathbf{x}$ :

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

- Complexity?

- Why useful?

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## The Forward Algorithm



- We want to calculate  $P(\mathbf{x})$ , the likelihood of  $\mathbf{x}$ , given the HMM

- Sum over all possible ways of generating  $\mathbf{x}$ :

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

- To avoid summing over an exponential number of paths  $\mathbf{y}$ , define

$$\alpha(y_t^k = 1) = \alpha_t^k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P(x_1, \dots, x_t, y_t^k = 1) \quad (\text{the forward probability})$$

- The recursion:

$$\alpha_t^k = p(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \sum_i \alpha_{t-1}^i a_{i,k}$$

$$P(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_k \alpha_T^k$$

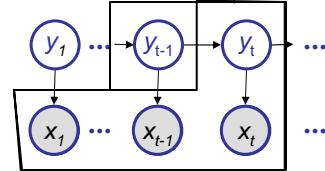
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## The Forward Algorithm – derivation

- Compute the forward probability:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha_t^k &= P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, x_t, y_t^k = 1) \\
 &= \sum_{y_{t-1}} P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, x_t, y_{t-1}, y_t^k = 1) \\
 &= \sum_{y_{t-1}} P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, y_{t-1}) P(y_t^k = 1 | y_{t-1}, x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}) P(x_t | y_t^k = 1, x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, y_{t-1}) \\
 &= \sum_{y_{t-1}} P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, y_{t-1}) P(y_t^k = 1 | y_{t-1}) P(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \\
 &= P(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \sum_i P(x_1, \dots, x_{t-1}, y_{t-1}^i = 1) P(y_t^k = 1 | y_{t-1}^i = 1) \\
 &= P(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \sum_i \alpha_{t-1}^i a_{i,k}
 \end{aligned}$$



Chain rule:  $P(A, B, C) = P(A)P(B | C)P(C | A, B)$

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## The Forward Algorithm

- We can compute  $\alpha_t^k$  for all  $k, t$ , using dynamic programming!

Initialization:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha_1^k &= P(x_1, y_1^k = 1) \\
 &= P(x_1 | y_1^k = 1) P(y_1^k = 1) \\
 &= P(x_1 | y_1^k = 1) \pi_k
 \end{aligned}$$

Iteration:

$$\alpha_t^k = P(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \sum_i \alpha_{t-1}^i a_{i,k}$$

Termination:

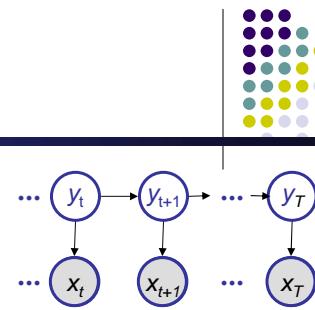
$$P(x) = \sum_k \alpha_t^k$$

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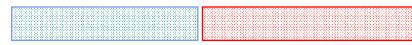
## The Backward Algorithm

- We want to compute  $P(y_t^k = 1 | \mathbf{x})$ ,  
the posterior probability distribution on the  $t^{\text{th}}$  position, given  $\mathbf{x}$



- We start by computing

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(y_t^k = 1, \mathbf{x}) &= P(x_1, \dots, x_t, y_t^k = 1, x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T) \\
 &= P(x_1, \dots, x_t, y_t^k = 1) P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | x_1, \dots, x_t, y_t^k = 1) \\
 &= P(x_1, \dots, x_t, y_t^k = 1) P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | y_t^k = 1)
 \end{aligned}$$



Forward,  $\alpha_t^k$

Backward,  $\beta_t^k = P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | y_t^k = 1)$

- The recursion:

$$\beta_t^k = \sum_i \alpha_{k,i} p(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^i = 1) \beta_{t+1}^i$$

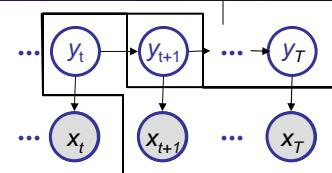
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## The Backward Algorithm – derivation

- Define the backward probability:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \beta_t^k &= P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | y_t^k = 1) \\
 &= \sum_{y_{t+1}} P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T, y_{t+1} | y_t^k = 1) \\
 &= \sum_i P(y_{t+1}^i = 1 | y_t^k = 1) p(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^i = 1, y_t^k = 1) P(x_{t+2}, \dots, x_T | x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}^i = 1, y_t^k = 1) \\
 &= \sum_i P(y_{t+1}^i = 1 | y_t^k = 1) p(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^i = 1) P(x_{t+2}, \dots, x_T | y_{t+1}^i = 1) \\
 &= \sum_i \alpha_{k,i} p(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^i = 1) \beta_{t+1}^i
 \end{aligned}$$



Chain rule:  $P(A, B, C | \alpha) = P(A | \alpha) P(B | C, \alpha) P(C | A, B, \alpha)$

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## The Backward Algorithm



- We can compute  $\beta_t^k$  for all  $k, t$ , using dynamic programming!

Initialization:

$$\beta_T^k = 1, \forall k$$

Iteration:

$$\beta_t^k = \sum_i a_{k,i} P(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^i = 1) \beta_{t+1}^i$$

Termination:

$$P(x) = \sum_k \alpha_1^k \beta_1^k$$

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## Example:



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## Posterior decoding

- We can now calculate

$$P(y_t^k = 1 | x) = \frac{P(y_t^k = 1, x)}{P(x)} = \frac{\alpha_t^k \beta_t^k}{P(x)}$$

- Then, we can ask

- What is the most likely state at position  $t$  of sequence  $x$ :

$$k_t^* = \arg \max_k P(y_t^k = 1 | x)$$

- Note that this is an MPA of a **single** hidden state, what if we want to a MPA of a whole hidden state sequence?

- Posterior Decoding:  $\{y_t^{k_t^*} = 1 : t = 1 \dots T\}$

- This is different from MPA of a **whole sequence** states

- This can be understood as **bit error rate** vs. **word error rate**

of hidden

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	0	0.35
0	1	0.05
1	0	0.3
1	1	0.3

Example:  
MPA of  $X$  ?  
MPA of  $(X, Y)$  ?

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## Computational Complexity and implementation details

- What is the running time, and space required, for Forward, and Backward?

$$\alpha_t^k = p(x_t | y_t^k = 1) \sum_i \alpha_{t-1}^i a_{i,k}$$

$$\beta_t^k = \sum_i a_{k,i} p(x_{t+1} | y_{t+1}^i = 1) \beta_{t+1}^i$$

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

Time:  $O(K^2 N)$ ; Space:  $O(KN)$ .

- Useful implementation technique to avoid underflows

- Viterbi: sum of logs
- Forward/Backward: rescaling at each position by multiplying by a constant

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## Learning HMM: two scenarios

- **Supervised learning:** estimation when the “right answer” is known

- **Examples:**

**GIVEN:** a genomic region  $x = x_1 \dots x_{1,000,000}$  where we have good (experimental) annotations of the CpG islands

**GIVEN:** the casino player allows us to observe him one evening, as he changes dice and produces 10,000 rolls

- **Unsupervised learning:** estimation when the “right answer” is unknown

- **Examples:**

**GIVEN:** the porcupine genome; we don’t know how frequent are the CpG islands there, neither do we know their composition

**GIVEN:** 10,000 rolls of the casino player, but we don’t see when he changes dice

- **QUESTION:** Update the parameters  $\theta$  of the model to maximize  $P(x|\theta)$  --- Maximal likelihood (ML) estimation

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## Supervised ML estimation

- Given  $x = x_1 \dots x_N$  for which the true state path  $y = y_1 \dots y_N$  is known,

- **Define:**

$A_{ij}$  = # times state transition  $i \rightarrow j$  occurs in  $y$

$B_{ik}$  = # times state  $i$  in  $y$  emits  $k$  in  $x$

- We can show that the **maximum likelihood** parameters  $\theta$  are:

$$a_{ij}^{ML} = \frac{\#(i \rightarrow j)}{\#(i \rightarrow \bullet)} = \frac{\sum_n \sum_{t=2}^T Y_{n,t-1}^i Y_{n,t}^j}{\sum_n \sum_{t=2}^T Y_{n,t-1}^i} = \frac{A_{ij}}{\sum_j A_{ij}}$$

$$b_{ik}^{ML} = \frac{\#(i \rightarrow k)}{\#(i \rightarrow \bullet)} = \frac{\sum_n \sum_{t=1}^T Y_{n,t}^i X_{n,t}^k}{\sum_n \sum_{t=1}^T Y_{n,t}^i} = \frac{B_{ik}}{\sum_k B_{ik}}$$

- **What if  $y$  is continuous? We can treat  $\{(x_{n,t}, y_{n,t}): t=1:T, n=1:N\}$  as  $N \times T$  observations of, e.g., a Gaussian, and apply learning rules for Gaussian ...**

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## Supervised ML estimation, ctd.



- **Intuition:**

- When we know the underlying states, the best estimate of  $\theta$  is the average frequency of transitions & emissions that occur in the training data

- **Drawback:**

- Given little data, there may be **overfitting**:
  - $P(x|\theta)$  is maximized, but 0 is unreasonable  
**0 probabilities – VERY BAD**

- **Example:**

- Given 10 casino rolls, we observe

$x = 2, 1, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 6, 2, 3$   
 $y = F, F, F, F, F, F, F, F, F, F$

- Then:
  - $a_{FF} = 1; a_{FL} = 0$
  - $b_{F1} = b_{F3} = .2;$
  - $b_{F2} = .3; b_{F4} = 0; b_{F5} = b_{F6} = .1$

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## Pseudocounts



- Solution for small training sets:

- Add pseudocounts

$$\begin{aligned} A_{ij} &= \# \text{ times state transition } i \rightarrow j \text{ occurs in } y + R_{ij} \\ B_{ik} &= \# \text{ times state } i \text{ in } y \text{ emits } k \text{ in } x + S_{ik} \end{aligned}$$

- $R_{ij}$ ,  $S_{ik}$  are pseudocounts representing our prior belief
- Total pseudocounts:  $R_i = \sum_j R_{ij}$ ,  $S_i = \sum_k S_{ik}$ ,
  - --- "strength" of prior belief,
  - --- total number of imaginary instances in the prior

- Larger total pseudocounts  $\Rightarrow$  **strong prior belief**

- Small total pseudocounts: just to avoid 0 probabilities --- **smoothing**

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## Unsupervised ML estimation



- Given  $x = x_1 \dots x_N$  for which the true state path  $y = y_1 \dots y_N$  is **unknown**,

- **EXPECTATION MAXIMIZATION**

0. Starting with our best guess of a model  $M$ , parameters  $\theta$ .
1. Estimate  $A_{ij}$ ,  $B_{ik}$  in the training data
  - How?  $A_{ij} = \sum_{n,t} \langle y_{n,t-1}^i y_{n,t}^j \rangle$     $B_{ik} = \sum_{n,t} \langle y_{n,t}^i \rangle x_{n,t}^k$ ,
2. Update  $\theta$  according to  $A_{ij}$ ,  $B_{ik}$ 
  - Now a "supervised learning" problem
3. Repeat 1 & 2, until convergence

This is called the **Baum-Welch Algorithm**

We can get to a provably more (or equally) likely parameter set  $\theta$  each iteration

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## How to compute expected count?



$$B_{ik} = \sum_{n,t} \langle y_{n,t}^i \rangle x_{n,t}^k$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y_{n,t}^i \rangle &= P(Y_{n,t}^i = 1 | \mathbf{x}_n) \\ &= \frac{\alpha_{n,t}^i \beta_{n,t}^i}{P(\mathbf{x}_n)} \end{aligned}$$

$$A_{ij} = \sum_{n,t} \langle y_{n,t-1}^i y_{n,t}^j \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y_{n,t-1}^i y_{n,t}^j \rangle &= P(Y_{n,t-1}^i = 1, Y_{n,t}^j = 1 | \mathbf{x}_n) \\ &= \frac{\alpha_{n,t-1}^i a_{i,j} x_{n,t}^j \beta_{n,t}^j}{P(\mathbf{x}_n)} \end{aligned}$$

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## The Baum Welch algorithm



- The complete log likelihood

$$\ell_c(\theta; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \log p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \log \prod_n \left( p(y_{n,1}) \prod_{t=2}^T p(y_{n,t} | y_{n,t-1}) \prod_{t=1}^T p(x_{n,t} | x_{n,t}) \right)$$

- The expected complete log likelihood

$$\langle \ell_c(\theta; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \rangle = \sum_n \left( \langle y'_{n,1} \rangle_{p(y_{n,1} | \mathbf{x}_n)} \log \pi_i \right) + \sum_n \sum_{t=2}^T \left( \langle y'_{n,t-1} y'_{n,t} \rangle_{p(y_{n,t-1}, y_{n,t} | \mathbf{x}_n)} \log a_{i,j} \right) + \sum_n \sum_{t=1}^T \left( x'_{n,t} \langle y'_{n,t} \rangle_{p(y_{n,t} | \mathbf{x}_n)} \log b_{i,k} \right)$$

- EM

- The E step

$$\gamma'_{n,t} = \langle y'_{n,t} \rangle = p(y'_{n,t} = 1 | \mathbf{x}_n)$$

$$\xi'_{n,t} = \langle y'_{n,t-1} y'_{n,t} \rangle = p(y'_{n,t-1} = 1, y'_{n,t} = 1 | \mathbf{x}_n)$$

- The M step ("symbolically" identical to MLE)

$$\pi_i^{ML} = \frac{\sum_n \gamma'_{n,1}}{N}$$

$$a_{ij}^{ML} = \frac{\sum_n \sum_{t=2}^T \xi'_{n,t}}{\sum_n \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \gamma'_{n,t}}$$

$$b_{ik}^{ML} = \frac{\sum_n \sum_{t=1}^T \gamma'_{n,t} x'_{n,t}^k}{\sum_n \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \gamma'_{n,t}}$$

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## The Baum-Welch algorithm -- comments



Time Complexity:

$$\# \text{ iterations} \times O(K^2N)$$

- Guaranteed to increase the log likelihood of the model
- Not guaranteed to find globally best parameters
- Converges to local optimum, depending on initial conditions
- Too many parameters / too large model: Overt-fitting

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## Higher-order HMMs

- **The Genetic Code**

- 3 nucleotides make 1 amino acid
- Statistical dependencies in triplets

- **Question:**

- Recognize protein-coding segments with an HMM

	U	C	A	G
U	UUU phe UUC UUA leu UUG	UCU UCC UCA ser UCG	UAU tyr UAC UAA Stop UAG Stop	UGU cys UGC UGA Stop UGG Stop
C	CUU CUC CUA leu CUG	CCC CCA pro CCG	CAU his CAC CAA gln CAG	CGU CGC arg CGA CGG
A	AUU AUC ile AUA AUG met	ACU ACC ACA thr ACG	AAU asn AAC AAA lys AAG	AGU ser AGC AGA arg AGG
G	GUU GUC GUA val GUG	GCU GCC GCA ala GCG	GAU asp GAC GAA glu GAG	GGU GGC gly GGA GGG

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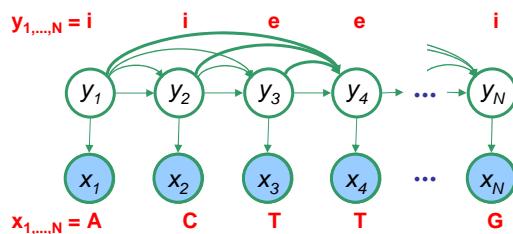
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## Higher-order HMMs

- Every state of the HMM emits 1 nucleotide

- Transition probabilities:

Probability of a state at one position, given those of 3 previous positions (triplets):  
 $P(y_i | y_{i-1}, y_{i-2}, y_{i-3})$



- Emission probabilities:

$P(x_i | y_i)$

- Algorithms extend with small modifications

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## Inference on Higher-order HMMs

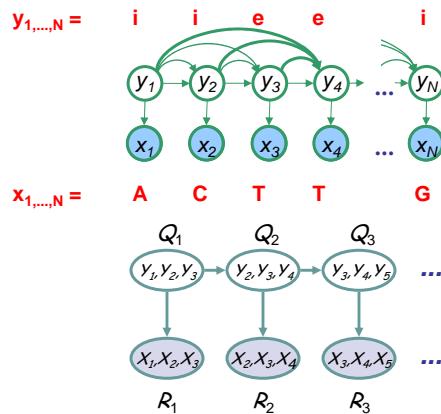
- Building 1<sup>st</sup>-order HMM on "mega" state

- Use FB algorithm as usual

$$\bullet P(Q_2|R)$$

$$\rightarrow P(Y_2, Y_3, Y_4 | X)$$

$$\rightarrow P(Y_3 | X) = \sum_{Y_2, Y_4} P(Y_2, Y_3, Y_4 | X)$$



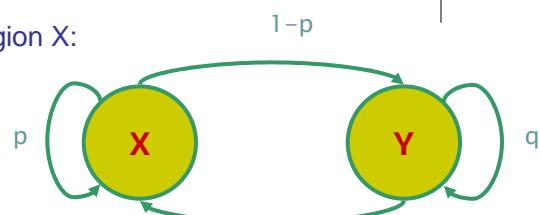
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## Modeling the Duration of States

- Length distribution of region X:

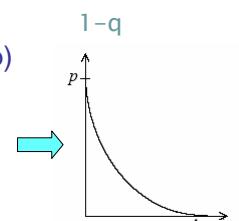
$$E[l_X] = 1/(1-p)$$



- Geometric distribution, with mean  $1/(1-p)$

- (homework: derive this)

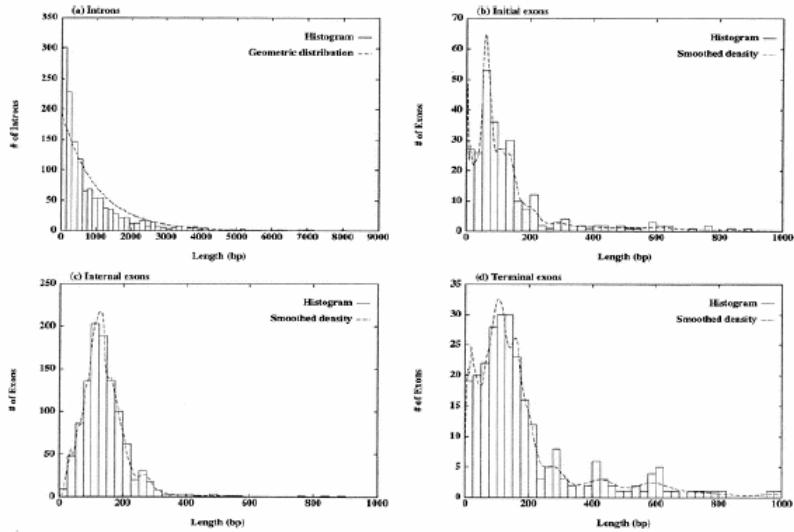
- This is a significant disadvantage of HMMs
- Several solutions exist for modeling different length distributions



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## Observed Duration Time



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## Poisson Point Process

- A counting process that represents the total number of occurrences of discrete events during a temporal/spatial interval

- the number of occurrences in any interval of length  $\tau$  is **Poisson distributed** with parameter  $\lambda\tau$ :

$$p(A(t + \tau) - A(n) = n) = e^{-\lambda\tau} \frac{(\lambda\tau)^n}{n!}$$



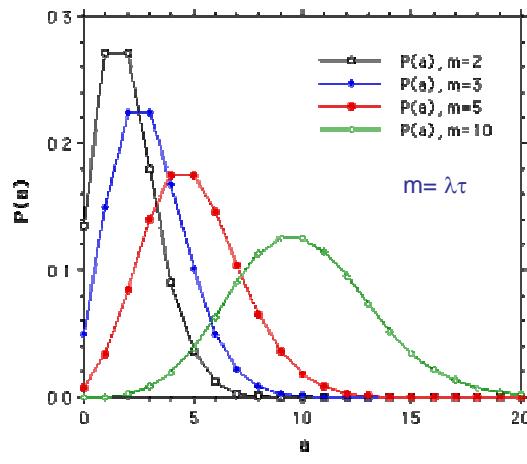
- the number of occurrences in disjoint intervals are independent
- the duration of the interval between two consecutive occurrences has the following distribution:

$$p(\tau < s) = 1 - e^{-\lambda s}$$

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## Poisson point process



Truncation is needed at both ends!

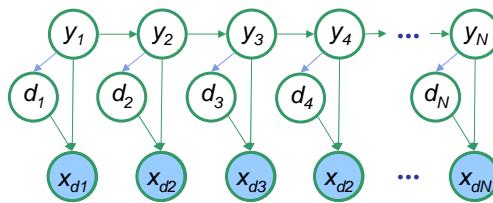
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## Generalized HMM

Upon entering a state:

1. Choose duration  $d$ , according to probability distribution
2. Generate  $d$  letters according to emission probs
3. Take a transition to next state according to transition probs



Disadvantage: Increase in complexity:

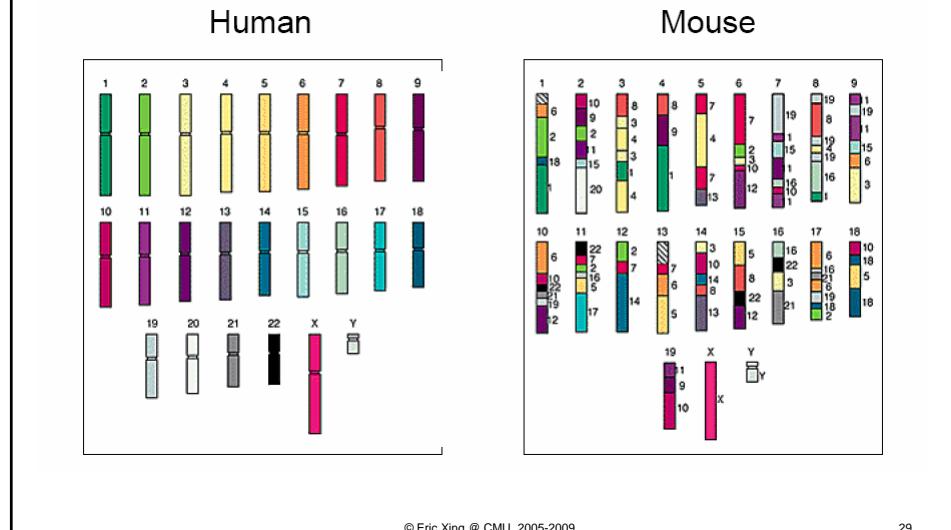
Time:  $O(D^2)$   
Space:  $O(D)$

where  $D$  = maximum duration of state

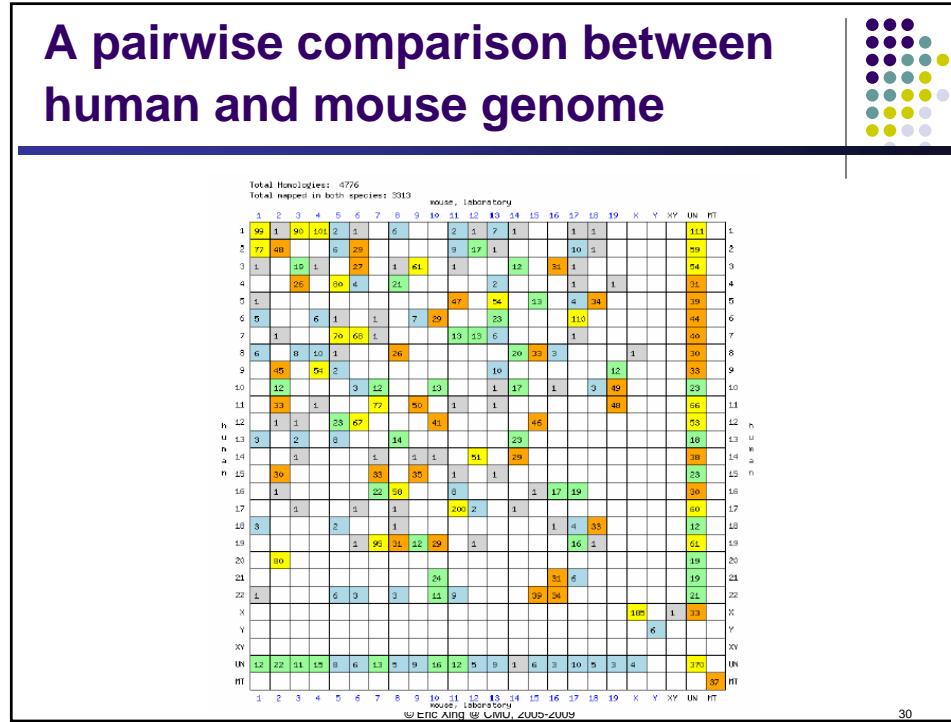
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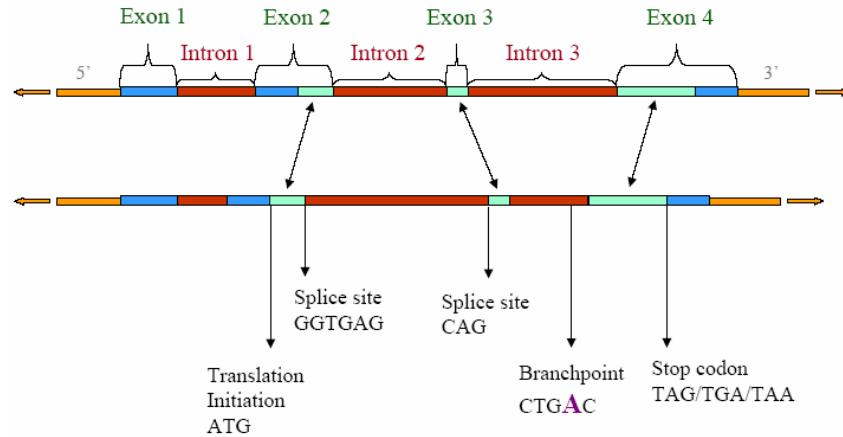
## Comparative Genomics



## A pairwise comparison between human and mouse genome



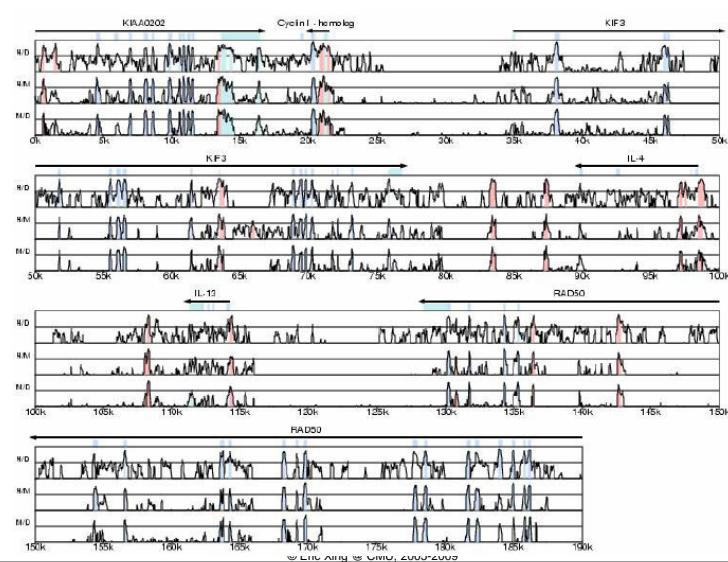
## Aligning One Locus



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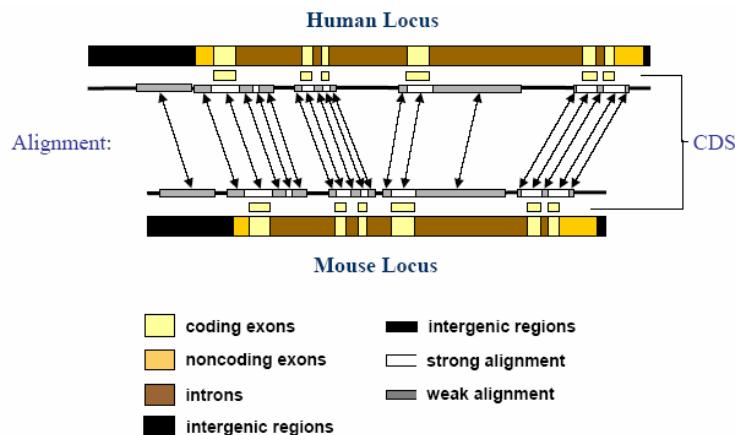
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## Three Pairwise Alignments



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## Example: a human/mouse ortholog



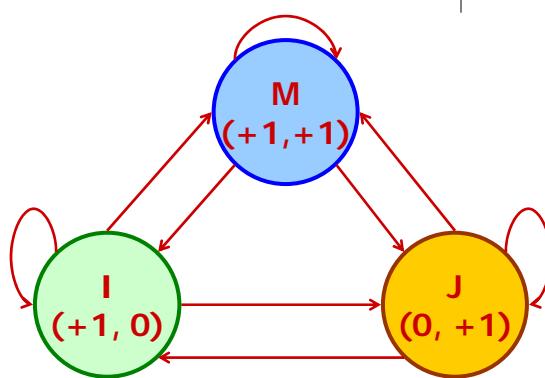
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## Paired HMM



Alignments correspond 1-to-1 with sequences of states M, I, J



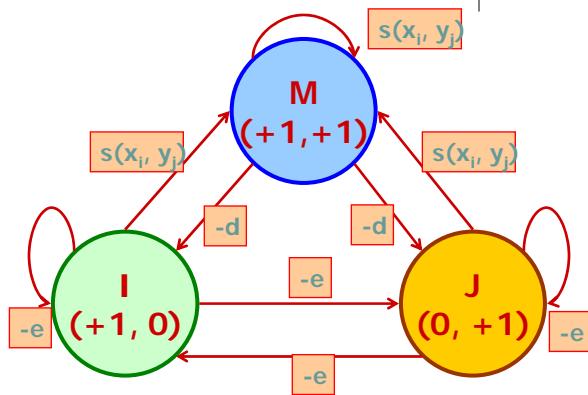
-AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGA--TGCCC---  
TAG-CTATCAC--GACCGC-GGTCGATTGCCGACC  
IMMJMMMMMMJUJMMMMMMJMMMMMMMMIIMMMMMIII

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## Let's score the transitions

Alignments correspond 1-to-1 with sequences of states M, I, J

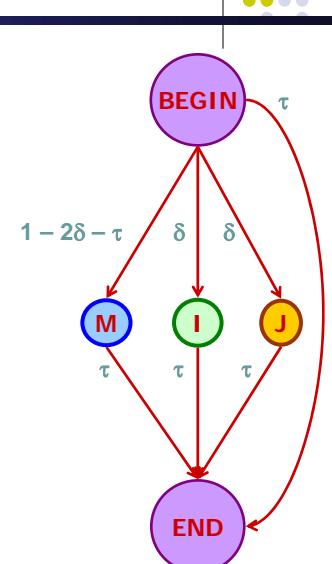
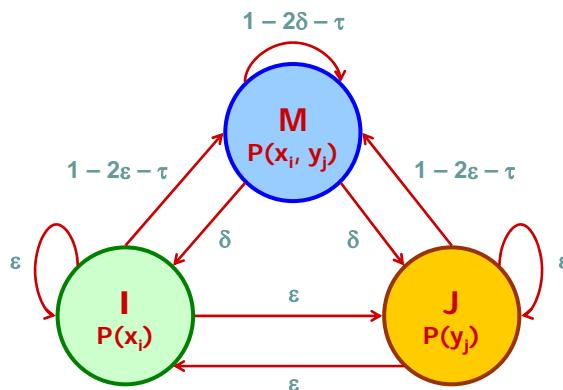


-AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGA--TGCCC---  
 TAG-CTATCAC--GACCGC-GGTCGATTTGCCGACC  
**I**MMJMMMMMMJJMMMMMMJMMMMMMIIMMMMMIII

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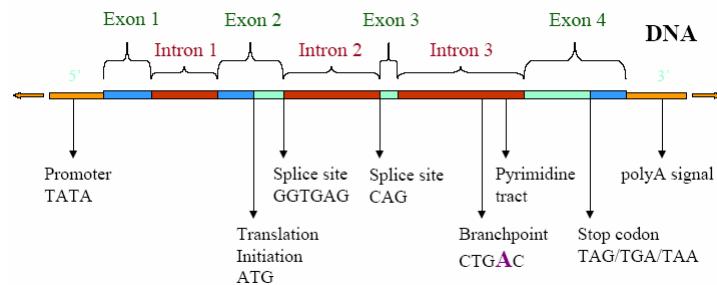
## A Pair HMM for alignments



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## Gene Finding

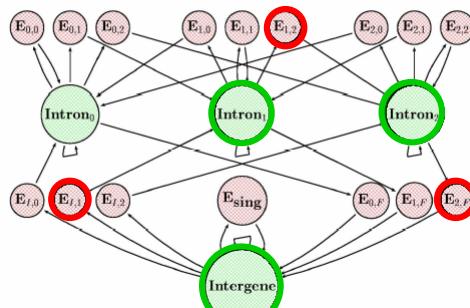


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## Generalized HMM Gene finder

TAAT ATGTCCACGG GTATTGAG CATTGTACACGGG GTATTGAG CATGTAA TGAA

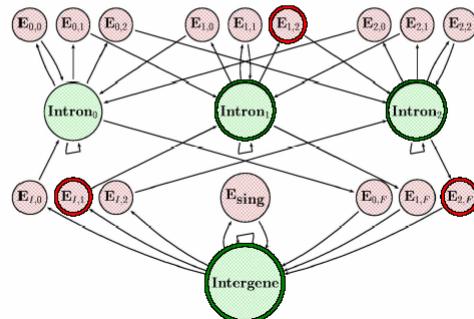


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## Generalized Pair-HMM gene finder

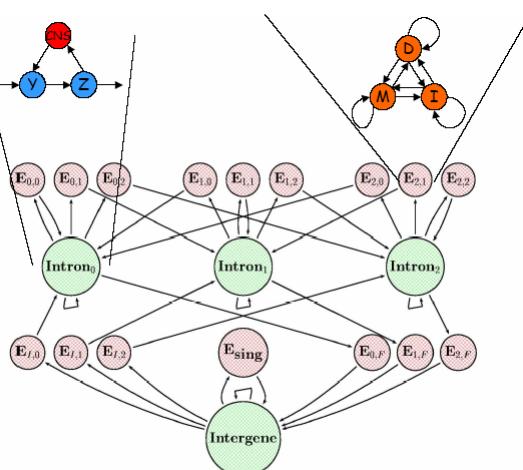
TAAT ATGTCCACGG GTATTGAG CATTGTACACGGG GTATTGAG CATGTAA TGAA  
 CTG ATGTACACTG GTTGGTCCTCAG CTTTGTACGGG GTG CATGTAA T6TC



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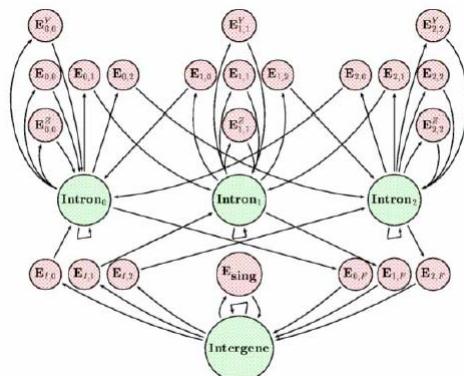
## Hierarchical state transition in pHMM



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## Allowing for inserted exons



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## Acknowledgments



- **Serafim Batzoglou**: for some of the slides adapted or modified from his lecture slides at Stanford University
- **Lior Pachter**: for some of the slides modified from his lectures at UC Berkeley

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