



Gene Prediction

Talk *Gene Prediction* on Jan. 14th, 2011

Introduction

Background

Statistical Features of
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Signal and Content Models

Training

Gene Finding as Optimization Problem

HMMs/CRFs

Comparative Gene Finding

Evidence Integration

Hints to AUGUSTUS

RNA-Seq

Proteogenomics

Protein Homology

Alternative Splicing

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Universität Greifswald



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What you can learn from this talk

- Introduction: What is predicted? Why? Based on what?
- Methods and Results:
 - some intuition behind gene prediction methods
 - approaches:
evidence integration, comparative, protein-family-based
 - programs and (in)accuracy



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Structure of a eukaryotic gene

DNA ...actaatagacatctatttcgagtcagggtgtaggcaatgtccttttttctagtcattggtggcaaacagtgggacctgagagtcagataattgaattggctctgcctttattatttgttcaagcaagccctgtccctttagtggaatatgtatgagggaccatatttggggttcttggtagctccacagggatgggtgatgagcgctgaatttatgacgtactag...

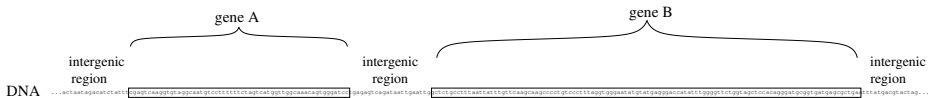
Structure of a eukaryotic gene

DNA ...actaatagacatctatttcgagtcagggtgtaggcaatgtccctttttctagtcattggtggcaaacagtgaattat ttgttcaagcaagccctgtccctttaggtgggaatatgtatgagggaccatatttgggggtctctggtagctccacagggatgaggatgagcgcgtgaatttatgacgtactag...

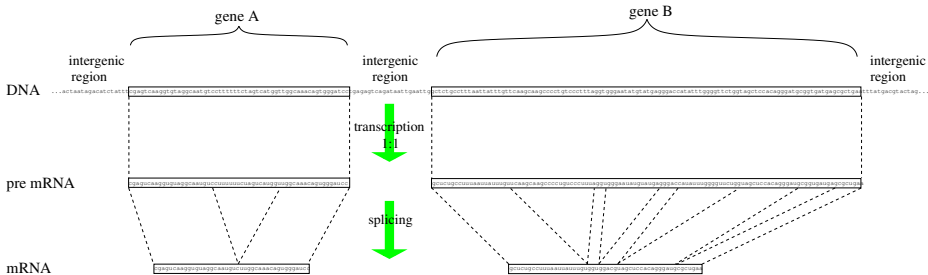
gaattggc



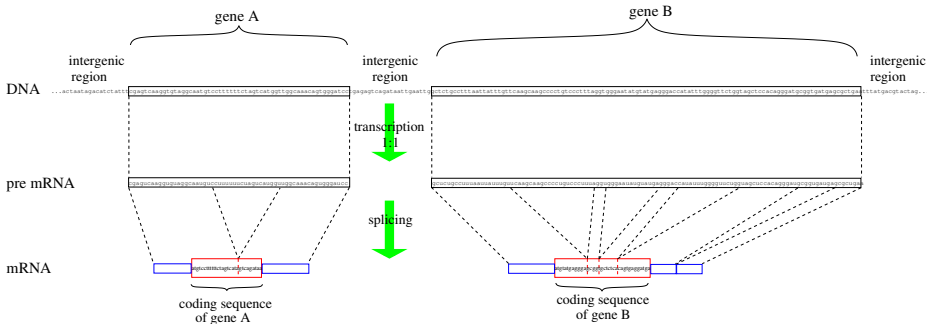
Structure of a eukaryotic gene



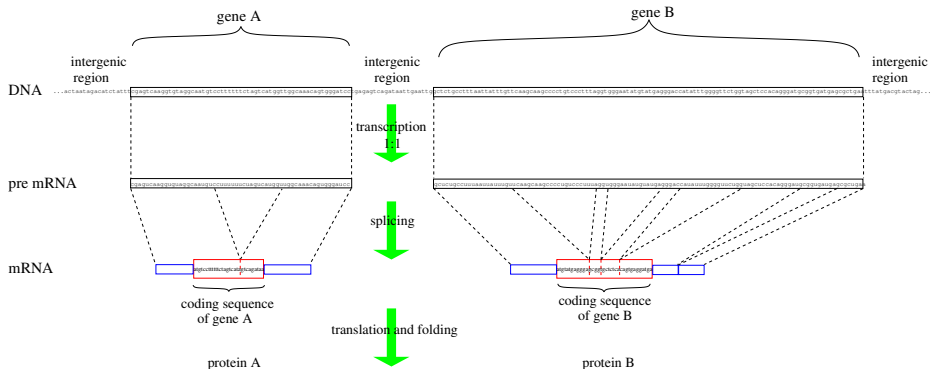
Structure of a eukaryotic gene



Structure of a eukaryotic gene



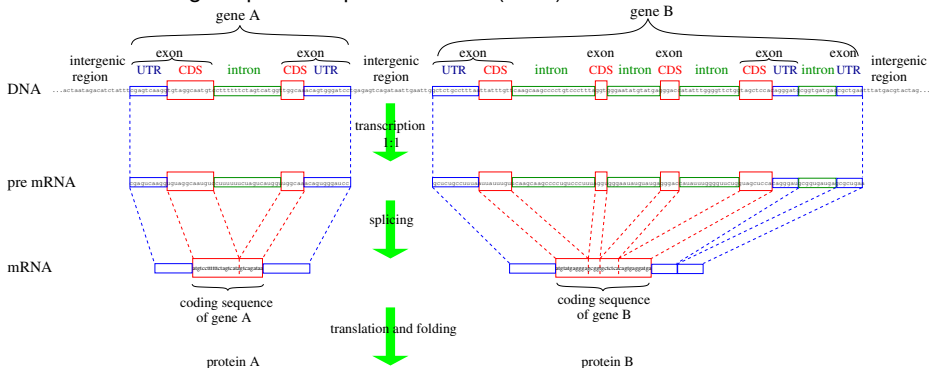
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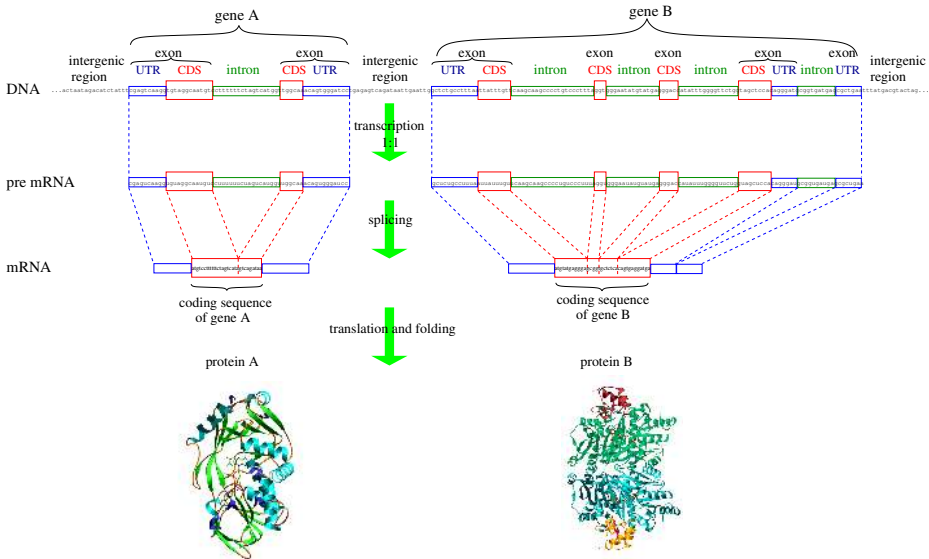
Structure of a eukaryotic gene

UTR = **U**n**T**ranslated **R**egion = part of mRNA that is not translated

CDS = **C**o**D**ing **S**equences = part of mRNA (exon) that is translated



Structure of a eukaryotic gene



Translation



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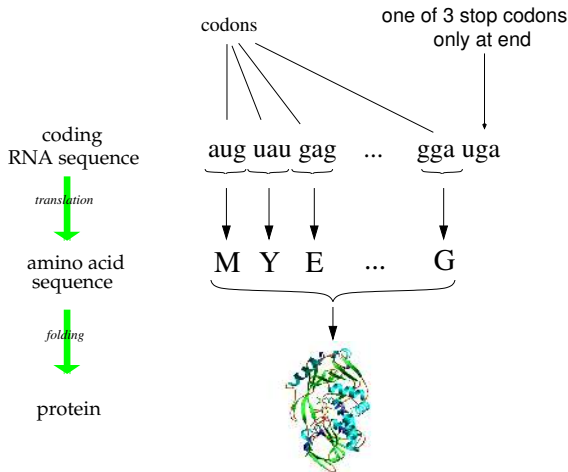
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"universal" genetic code

codon (DNA)		amino-acid
aaa	↦	K
aac	↦	N
aag	↦	K
aat	↦	N
.		.
.		.
atg	↦	M
.		.
.		.
61 codons		20 amino-acids

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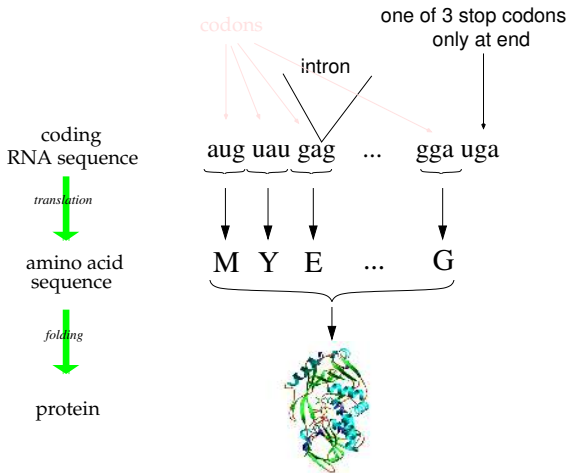
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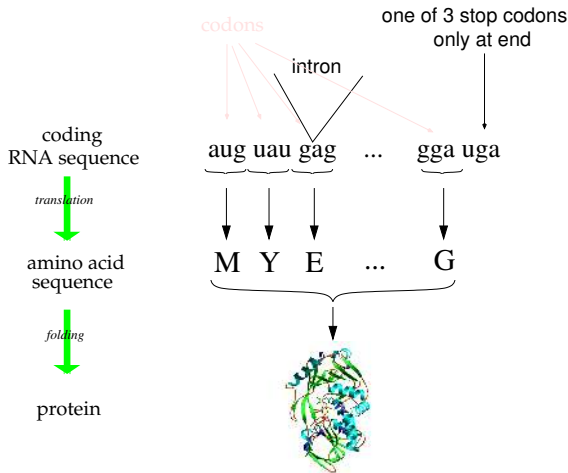
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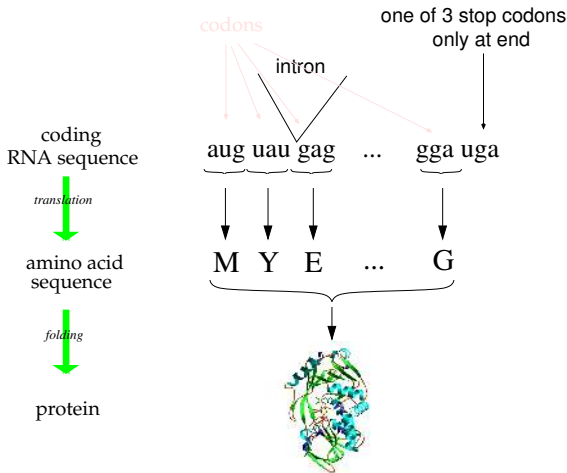
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Gene Finding Problem

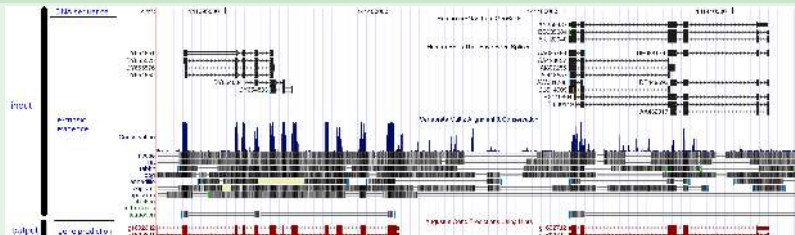
Input

- target **DNA sequence**, e.g. a chromosome
- optional: **extrinsic evidence**, e.g. from cDNA sequences or conservation

Output

- start- and end positions of genes, coding regions, exons and introns
- predicted amino acid sequences

Example (19000 bp of human chromosome 7)





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Need for Gene Prediction

Sequencing of New Species

- Beijing Genome Institute (BGI):
500 plants and 500 animals
- Genome 10K:
10 000 species, one per genus of vertebrae

No Alternative to Gene Prediction Yet

- genomes are annotated *in silico*
- RNA-Seq does not appear to solve the problem



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Major Approaches to Gene Prediction

Approaches

approach	extrinsic evidence used
<i>ab initio</i>	-



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approach	extrinsic evidence used
<i>ab initio</i>	-
transcript based	transcript seqs (both native and alien)



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transcript based	transcript seqs (both native and alien)
protein homology	protein sequences
comparative (<i>de novo</i>)	additional unannotated genomes



Major Approaches to Gene Prediction

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comparative (<i>de novo</i>)	additional unannotated genomes
proteogenomics	peptides from mass spectrometry

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protein homology	protein sequences
comparative (<i>de novo</i>)	additional unannotated genomes
proteogenomics	peptides from mass spectrometry
combiners	other gene predictions + transcript seqs + proteins + ?

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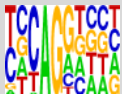
Major Approaches to Gene Prediction

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protein homology	protein sequences
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proteogenomics	peptides from mass spectrometry
combiners	other gene predictions + transcript seqs + proteins + ?

The annotation of most genomes requires a combination of approaches:

Use for every part of a gene all evidence available for that gene or region.



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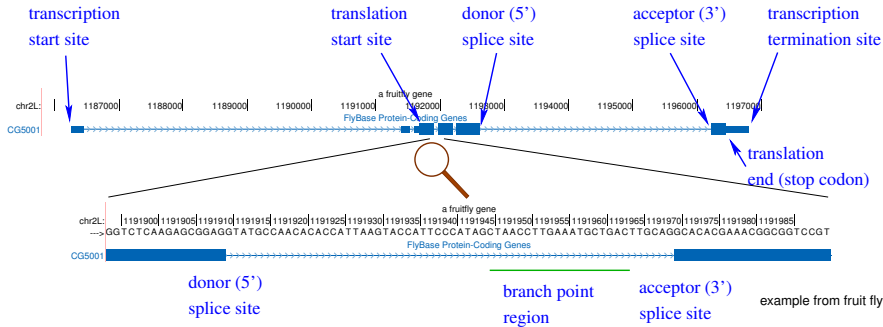
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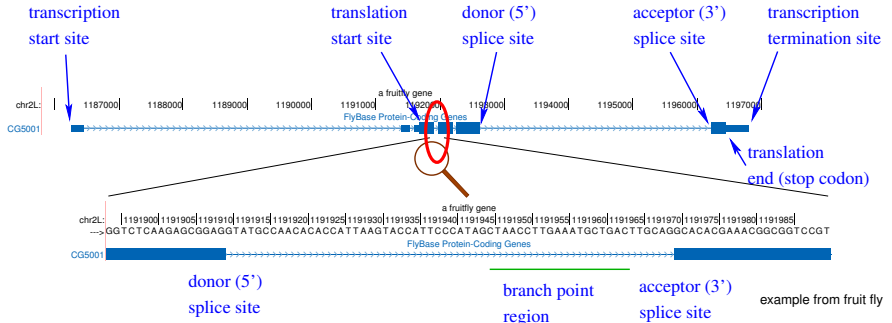
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Signals



Signals



← exon | intron →

AGGTGAG

donor splice site (DSS) signal

← intron | exon →

GCAGG

acceptor splice site (ASS) signal

Frequency of the nucleotides at positions relative to splice site.

transcription
start site

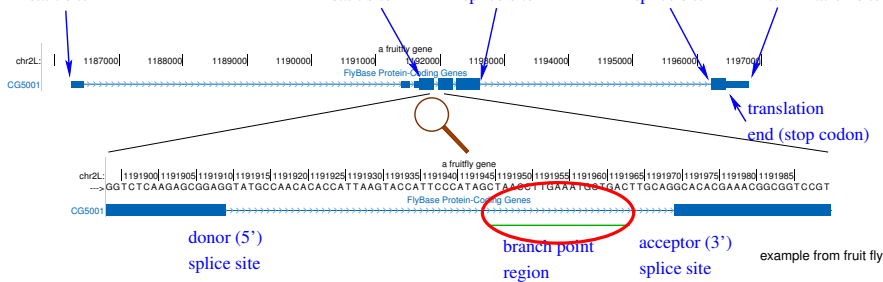
transcription
start site

translation
start site

donor (5')
splice site

acceptor (3')
splice site

transcription
termination site

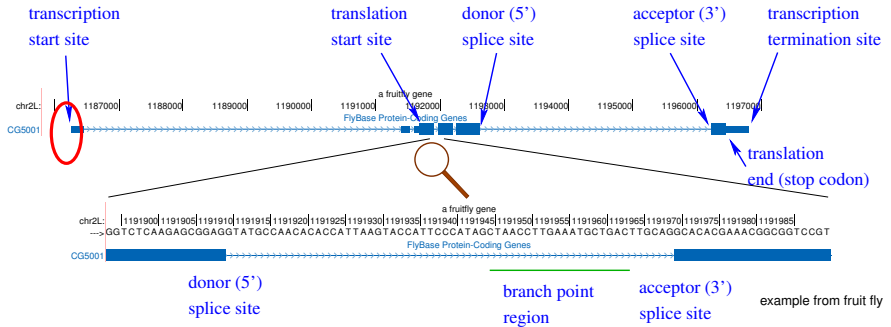


human branch point motif



Branch point: upstream of 3' splice site, a single **conserved adenine** at variable distance to 3' splice site (≈ -30), a splicing complex binds to it, pyrimidine (C,T) rich in human

Signals

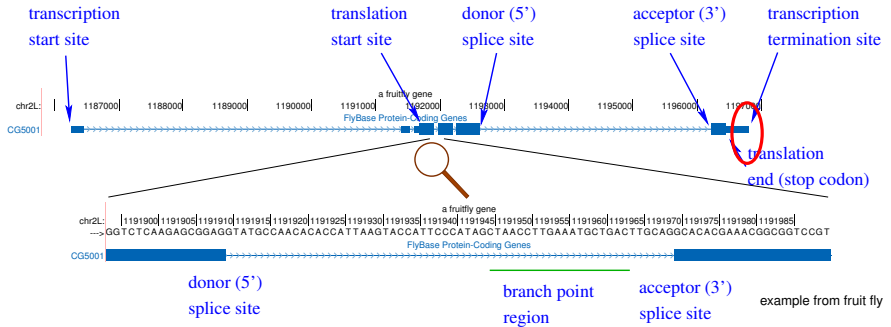


Transcription start site: Transcription from DNA to RNA by RNA polymerase starts here facilitated by **promoter** elements.

Promoter elements are diverse and their profiles tend to contain little info:

- diverse transcription factor binding sites at very variable positions
- sometimes TATA-box
- “CpG islands”

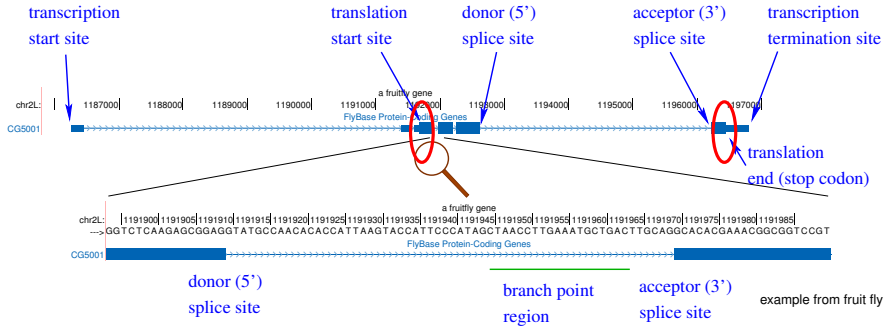
Signals



Transcription termination site (TTS):

- **cleavage** of the transcript.
- some non-templated A's are appended (**polyadenylation**).
- polyadenylation is triggered in many species in many genes by the hexamer **aataaa** roughly 15 bp upstream of the TTS.

Signals



Start and stop codon:

- start codon: **ATG**
- stop codons: **TAA, TAG, TGA**

In some species the genetic code is altered and a “stop codon” is actually coding for an amino acid.

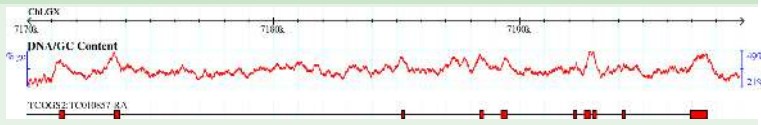


Nucleotide Composition of Coding and Noncoding Regions

Sequence Content

Besides the signals, **position-unspecific** frequencies of **nucleotide patterns** can be used to guess biological classification (e.g. CDS, non-coding, CpG-island) of longer sequence intervals.

Example (GC content in red flour beetle)



Typically, higher order patterns are examined:
E.g. reading-frame dependent k -mer frequencies ($k = 5, 6$) for protein-coding regions.

Remark

Sequence content is usually only **indirect** evidence.



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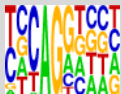
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Signal and Content Models

Scores

- usually, we cannot decide with certainty whether something is an exon, splice site, etc
- $\Rightarrow$ therefore assign a number (**score s** or probability) to exon candidates, splice site candidates
- aim:
 - the larger the score the more likely there is a true signal
 - the score is small for false signals



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Signal and Content Models

- **Signal** Model: to score whether a biological signal (e.g. splice site) is present at a certain **position**
- **Content** Model: to score whether a sequence **region** belongs to a given class (e.g. coding)



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Example Signal Score

Example (DSS position weight matrix)

Have **position specific frequency matrix** for DSS

$$m(i, b) \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 7, b \in A, C, G, T),$$

$$m(i, A) + m(i, C) + m(i, G) + m(i, T) = 1$$



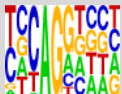
Have **“background”** distribution of nucleotides $q(b)$
 $q(A) + q(C) + q(G) + q(T) = 1.$

Define **log-odds score**: $s = \log \prod_{i=1}^7 m(i, w_i) / q(w_i).$

Decision rule

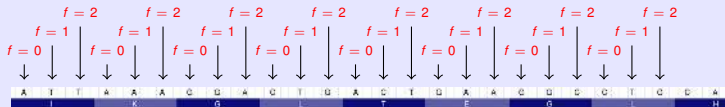
predict splice site $:\Leftrightarrow s \geq \text{threshold}$

guaranteed to have most true predictions given a limit on false positive rate under certain assumptions (Neyman-Pearson).



Example Content Score

Base composition is frame-dependent



nucleotide frequencies in **human**:

	coding sequence			all f	noncoding sequence
	$f = 0$	$f = 1$	$f = 2$		
A	0.248	0.291	0.146	0.229	0.26
C	0.264	0.243	0.351	0.286	0.24
G	0.321	0.201	0.312	0.278	0.24
T	0.166	0.265	0.190	0.207	0.26



Example Content Score

Example (frame-dependent Markov chain of order k)

Let w be the DNA word of length n to be scored as CDS.
Let $f \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ be the **frame** of the first position of w .

$$P(w) := p_f(w_1, \dots, w_k) \cdot \prod_{i=k+1}^n p_{f(i)}(w_i \mid w_{i-k}, \dots, w_{i-1})$$

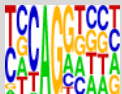
- p_f is a start probability for the first k bases

Here: • $f(i) \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ such that $f(i) \equiv f - 1 + i \pmod{3}$
is the frame of the i -th position of w

Define $s(w) = \log(P(w)/Q(w))$,
where $Q(w)$ is the probability of w in a “background” model
(e.g. non-coding).

Remark:

Division by background $\Rightarrow$ good exon candidates get positive score



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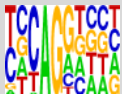
Example

 $w = \text{ATTCTGC}$ frame $f = 2$, i.e. with these codon breaks: A||TTC||TGC $k = 2$

$$P(\text{ATTCTGC}) = p_2(\text{AT})p_1(\text{T}|\text{AT})p_2(\text{C}|\text{TT}) \\ p_0(\text{T}|\text{TC})p_1(\text{G}|\text{CT})p_2(\text{C}|\text{TG})$$

Choice of order k

- probabilities $p_r(x | y_1, \dots, y_k)$ can be estimated on known coding sequences
- if $k \geq 2$ above content model can **reflect codon usage**
- usually: the higher k the bigger the difference between coding and noncoding



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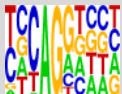
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Choice of order k

- probabilities $p_r(x | y_1, \dots, y_k)$ can be estimated on known coding sequences
- if $k \geq 2$ above content model can **reflect codon usage**
- usually: the higher k the bigger the difference between coding and noncoding
- **but: content model $\neq$ reality** (dead genes)
- typical: $k = 4$ or $k = 5$

Signal and Content Models of AUGUSTUS (without UTR)



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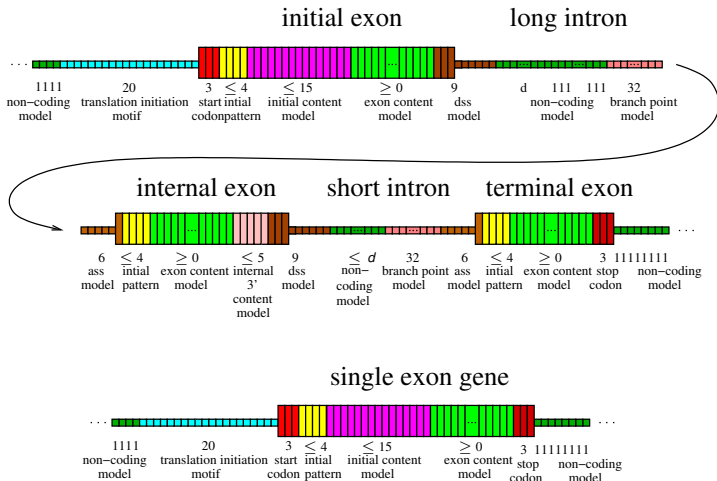
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What (Most) Eukaryotic Species Have in Common

In Common:

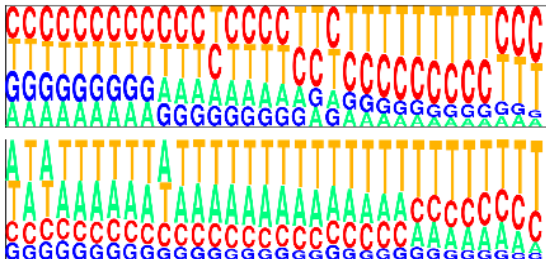
- same genetic code, including start and stop codons
- genes can have introns, may have many
- genes rarely overlap in sequence
- introns start almost always with GT, end with AG (some introns GC/AG)
- more non-coding sequence than coding sequence

How Species-Specific Must Gene Finding Models Be?

Differences:

- distribution at signals, e.g. branch point region

top: human / bottom: fly



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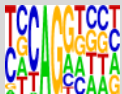
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Differences:

- distribution at signals, e.g. branch point region
- GC content highly variable



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Differences:

- distribution at signals, e.g. branch point region
- GC content highly variable
- number and length distribution of introns

top: human / bottom: *C. elegans*





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- length distribution of UTRs



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- length distribution of UTRs
- gene density



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Training: Estimate Species-Specific Parameters

“Training Set”

- input: set of **annotated sequences**

$$(x^{(k)}, y^{(k)})_{k=1, \dots, N},$$

such that the parse $x^{(k)}$ represents the **gene structure** of DNA **sequence** $y^{(k)}$.

- frequently a few hundred genes constructed from transcript sequences
- used to estimate **species-specific parameters**
- self-training** programs: use their own preliminary prediction as training set and iterate prediction and training (GeneMark-ES, Borodovsky et al.)
(does not work in all species)



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Problems and General Ansatz

Problems

- known signal models do not carry much information
- false positive signals because of low number of true positives
- sequence content can be misleading (pseudogenes, repeats)

Ansatz

- combine all individual weak info to boost discriminatory power
- enforce standard gene structure:
 - reading frame consistency between exons
 - minimal splice site consensus (GT/AG, maybe GC/AG)
 - no in-frame stop codons
 - minimal intron length (≈ 40 bp)



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Gene Structure Formally

unobserved variables:

DNA
S

GTTCCTACGCGTCAGAGCTCTGCAAGACAACTGTGCAAGAGTTGTGAGTGGGCGTTAAGAAACACACACAGCGTGGAGGGCACTTTGGTATATTTTGAAGCTTATAGAGAGTTGTGGTCTTTTCAGAGGTGTCTGAAACAGCTGTGAAGAGTGGCAGAGGACCGCTCGTGGGGAAGTGAAGACACAGCATGTGTGTGCA

hints
H



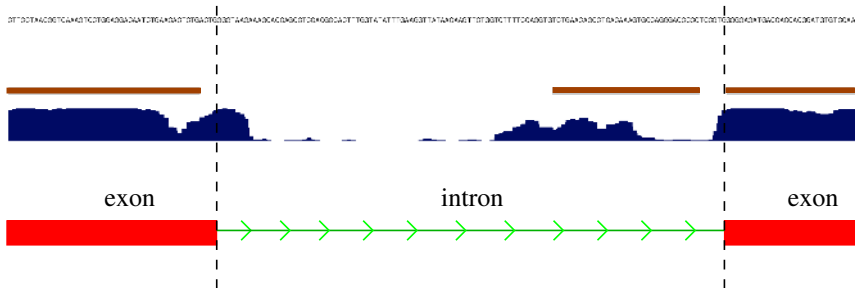
exon

Gene Structure Formally

unobserved variables:

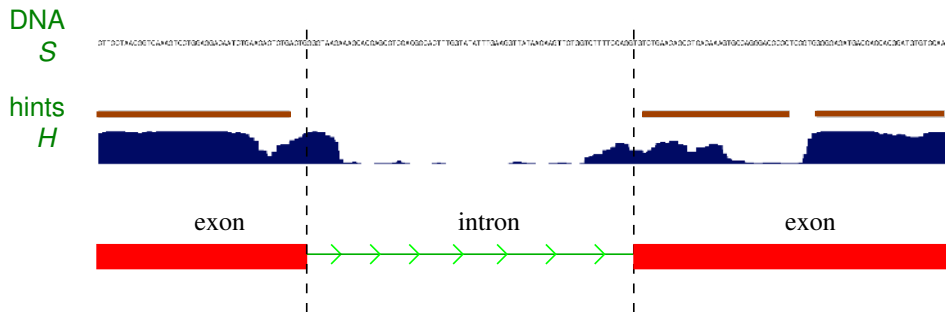
DNA
S

hints
 H



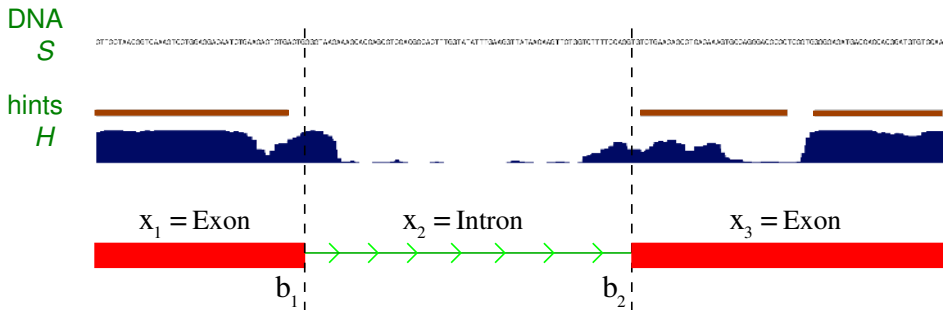
Gene Structure Formally

unobserved variables:



Gene Structure Formally

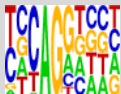
unobserved variables:



gene structure $x = ((x_1, b_1), (x_2, b_2), \dots, (x_n, b_n))$ is a **labelled segmentation** of DNA

$x_1, x_2, \dots$ biological labels, e.g. "exon", "intron", "intergenic region"

$b_1, b_2, \dots$ segment boundaries



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Generic Approach

Input

sequence: DNA sequence to find genes in

evidence: optional additional evidence, e.g. conservation

Output

gene structure x : start end end positions of exons, genes

Gene finding as optimization problem

maximize

$$s(\text{gene structure } x, \text{sequence } S, \text{evidence } H)$$

subject to constraint

gene structure x makes biological sense



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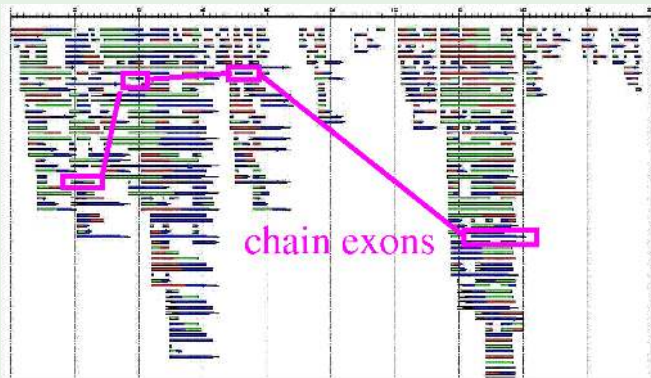
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One Step Closer to Concreteness

Exon Chaining

- find nonoverlapping compatible exon candidates with highest sum of scores
- e.g. done by GENEID (Parra et al., 2000)

Example (exon candidates in a DNA of length 2000)


<http://www1.uni-leipzig.de/courses>

exon candidates of the program GENEID



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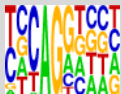
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Hidden Markov Model (HMM)

GENSCAN (Burge and Karlin, 1996),
GENIE (Kulp et al., 1996),
GENEMARK (Lukashin and Borodovsky, 1998),
FGENESH (Salamov and Solovyev, 2000),
AUGUSTUS (Stanke and Waack, 2003)

Conditional Random Field (CRF)

CRAIG (Bernal et al., 2007),
CONTRAST (Gross et al., 2007),
AUGUSTUS (unpublished)



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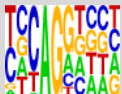
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Conditional Random Field for Gene Prediction

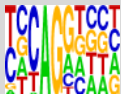
Definition (CRF)

A (Semi-)Conditional-Random-Field is a conditional distribution of gene structures x given the observation y of the following form

$$P(x | y) = \frac{1}{Z(y)} \exp \sum_{j=1}^n f(x_{j-1}, x_j, b_{j-1}, b_j, y).$$

CRF

- gene structure is scored **locally**:
score may only locally depend on **one labelled segment**
- not scorable, e.g.: gene should have a total exon length of 1000bp



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Conditional Random Field versus Hidden Markov Model

HMM

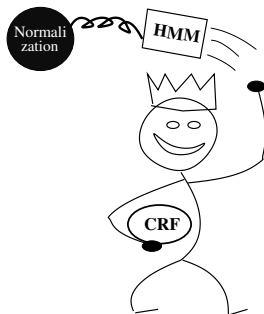
$$P(x, y) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i | x_{i-1}) \cdot P(y(b_{i-1}, b_i] | x_i)$$

is a **generative model**: everything that is used in prediction (y), must have a distribution.

E.g. in comparative gene finding: Must define probability of any observable alignment column.

CRF

- for every HMM there is a CRF with same $P(x|y)$
- only *globally* normalization necessary
- can easier be **discriminatively** trained





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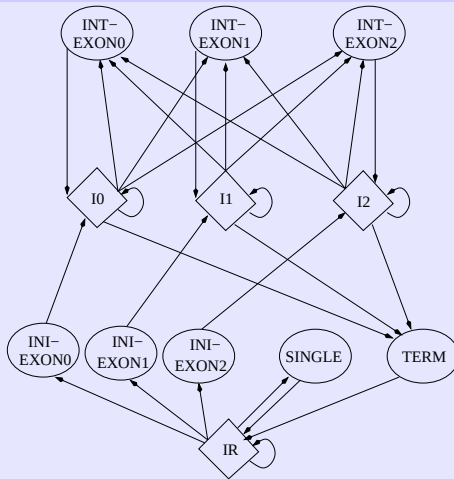
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A Simple (Semi-Markov) HMM for Gene Finding: Model Topology

Model for (multiple) eukaryotic genes on forward strand





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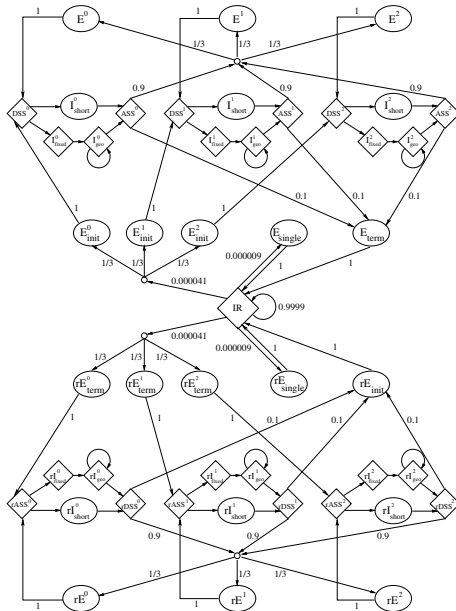
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Transition Matrix of AUGUSTUS (without UTRs)





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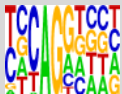
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chr21: 33035990 33035990 33035990 33035990 33035990 33035990 33035990 33035990 33035990 33035990
 ...AGTGTGGGGAACAGATTACCATCTCCCTTTTGAGGACACAGGCGCTAGAGCAGTTAAGCAGCTTGCTGGAGGTTCTACGTGGCTAGAAAGTGGTCAGCTGGGATTGGACACAGATTTTCCC
 SOD1
 Gaps
 HumanAGTGTGGGGAACAGATTACCATCTCCCTTTTGAGGACACAGGCGCTAGAGCAGTTAAGCAGCTTGCTGGAGGTTCTACGTGGCTAGAAAGTGGTCAGCTGGGATTGGACACAGATTTTCCC
 MouseAGTGTGGTGAAGAAATGCTTTTGAGGACAGAGGCGCTAGAGCTAGAGCTCTCTCAGAGCTCCACTGCTGATAGGTGGATCTGGATCTGGAACATAGTTTCTT



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Conservation of Gene Structure and Sequence

Observation

Protein sequences and **rough structure** of genes are often **conserved** between species that are tens of millions of years separated.

Example (Human-Mouse: 75 million years)

- 95% of orthologous gene pairs have same number of exons in human and mouse
- coding sequence to $\approx 85\%$ identical

```

...GCACTTTTCTTAAGGAAAGTAATGGACCAGTGAAGGTGTGGGAAGCATTAAAGGACTGACTGAAGGCCTGCATGGATTCCATGTTTCATGAGTTTGGAGATAATACAGCAGGTGGGTGT
SOD1-----E S N G P V K V W Q S I K G L T E G L H Q F R V R E F G Q N T A -----
Gapd 4
HumanGCACTTTTCTTAAGGAAAGTAATGGACCAGTGAAGGTGTGGGAAGCATTAAAGGACTGACTGAAGGCCTGCATGGATTCCATGTTTCATGAGTTTGGAGATAATACAGCAGGTGGGTGT
MouseGTATTTTTCACAGGCAGCGGTGAACCAAGTTGTGTGTGTCAGGACAAATTACAGGATTACTGAAGGCCAGCATGGGTTCCACGTCATCAGTATGGGACAAATACACAGGTAGGTC

```

- noncoding sequence to $\approx 35\%$ identical

```

chr21: 33025890| 33025900| 33025910| 33025920| 33025930| 33025940| 33025950| 33025960| 33025970| 33025980| 33025990|
...AGTGTGGGAACAAGATTACCATCTCCCTTTTGAAGACACAGGCCCTAGAGCAGTTAAGCAGCTTGCTGGAGGTTCACTGGCTAGAAAGTGGTCAGCCTGGGATTGGACACAGATTTTTC
SOD1-----
Gapd 2 3 5 6
HumanAGTGTGGGAACAAGATTACCATCTCCCTTTTGAAGACACAGGCCCTAGAGCAGTTAAGCAGCTTGCTGGAGGTTCACTGGCTAGAAAGTGGTCAGCCTGGGATTGGACACAGATTTTTC
MouseAGTGTAGGAGAA - - - GTG - - - - - TGGAGACAGAGGCCCT - - - AGAGCTGAGCCT - - - CTCAGAGGCC - - - CCGTAGGAAAGTGGGCTCAAGATCTGACATAGGTTT

```



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...GCACTTTTCTTAAGGAAAGTAATGGACCAGTGAAGGTGTGGGAAGCATTAAAGGACTGACTGAAGGCCTGCATGGATTCCATGTTTCATGAGTTTGGAGATAATACAGCAGGTGGGTGT
SOD1-----E S N G P V K V W Q S I K G L T E G L H Q F R V R E F G Q N T A -----
Gap5 4
HumanGCACTTTTCTTAAGGAAAGTAATGGACCAGTGAAGGTGTGGGAAGCATTAAAGGACTGACTGAAGGCCTGCATGGATTCCATGTTTCATGAGTTTGGAGATAATACAGCAGGTGGGTGT
MouseGTATTTTTCACAGGCAGCGGTGAACCAAGTTGTGTGTGTCAGGACAAATTACAGGATTAACTGAAGGCCAGCATGGGTTCCACGTCATCAGTATGGGACAAATACACAAGGTAGGTC

```

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SOD1-----E S N G P V K V W Q S I K G L T E G L H Q F R V R E F G Q N T A -----
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```

Pair HMMs for Eukaryotic Gene Finding



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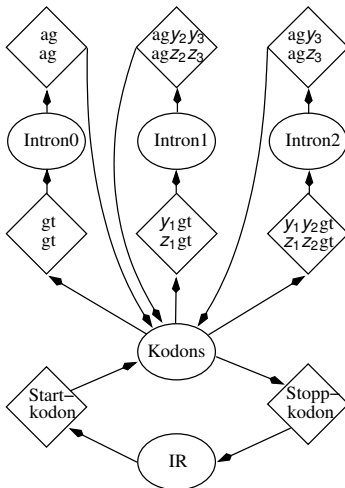
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- DOUBLESCAN
(Meyer and Durbin, 2002)
- does alignment of two
genomics sequences
and gene prediction in
both at same time
- running time quadratic in
sequence length
- does not generalize
efficiently to >2 species
- not popular



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CONTRAST (Gross et al., 2007)

CONTRAST

- still best *de novo* predictor for human (?)
- discriminatory model (SVM+CRF)
- uses 11 other vertebrate genomes as informants
- roughly for **50%** of human genes at least one splice form is **correctly predicted**

human	ACAGGTGAGGAGGCG
macaque	
mouse	
rat	ACAGGTGAGAAAG..
rabbit	
dog	ACAGGTGAGGAGTTCG
cow	ACAGGTGAGCAGTTCG
armadillo	ACAGGTGAGGAG_CA
elephant	
tenrec	
opossum	CCAGGGAAG.....
chicken	CCAGGTGA.....
EST	SSSSIIIIIIIIIII



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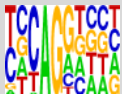
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Using Extrinsic Evidence to Improve the Accuracy of AUGUSTUS

Extrinsic evidence

additional information to aid gene prediction, not contained in the sequence

AUGUSTUS currently can use

- mRNA/EST/454 alignments, RNA-Seq
- genomic conservation
- annotation of related species using a syntenic alignment
- protein alignments, peptide mass spectrometry

Hint

piece of additional local information about gene structure, in general uncertain

Types of Hints



AUGUSTUS understands these hints...

type	meaning	source of information
start	start codon	protein, TransMap
stop	stop codon	protein, TransMap
tss	transcription start site	TransMap, CpG islands, promoter predictor
tts	transcription termination site	TransMap, 3' ESTs
ass	acceptor splice site	cDNA, proteins, TransMap, conservation
dss	donor splice site	cDNA, proteins, TransMap, conservation
exonpart	part of biological exon	cDNA
exon	biological exon	cDNA
intronpart	part of intron	TransMap
intron	intron	cDNA, proteins, TransMap
CDSpart	part of coding part of exon	protein, TransMap, conservation
CDS	coding part of exon	protein, conservation
UTRpart	part of non-coding part of exon	TransMap
UTR	non-coding part of exon	
irpart	part of intergenic region	mRNA, TransMap, cDNA
nonexonpart	intron or intergenic region	retro genes, repeats

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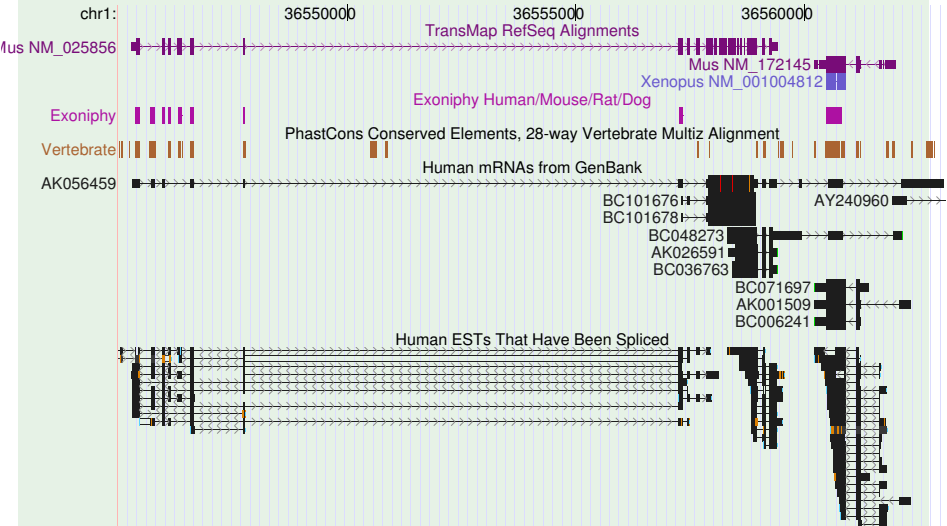
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Sources of Hints - Example

Example



Integration of Hints into the Model

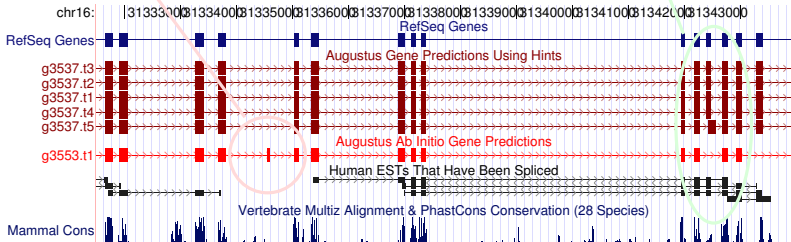
Hints modify the joint probability

$$P(\text{gene structure}, \text{DNA}, \text{hints})$$

by a factor that depends on the compatibility of the gene structure with the hints.

Hints have two effects

- 1 gene structure candidates that **obey** a hint get a relative **bonus**.
- 2 gene structure candidates with **unsupported** exons, introns or signals get a relative **malus** (penalty)



Integration of Hints into the Model

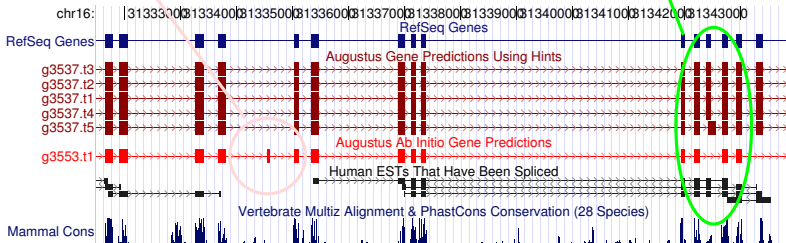
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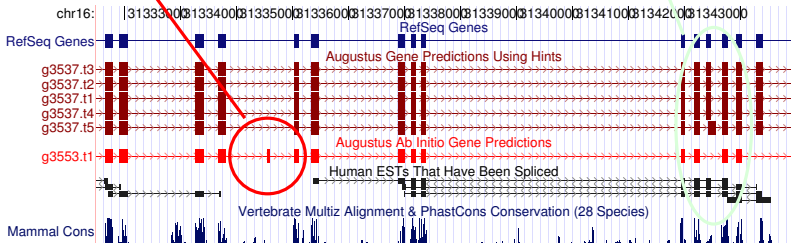
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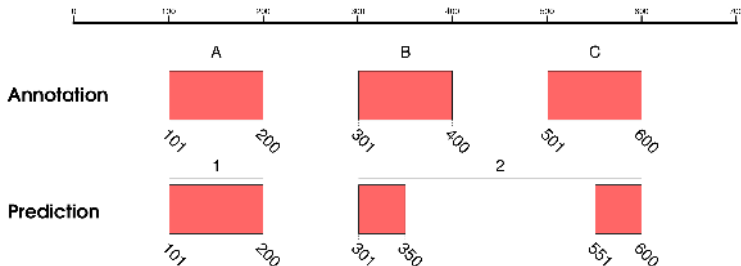
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Prediction Evaluation Measures



$$\text{Sensitivity sn} = \frac{\text{true positives}}{\text{annotated positives}}$$

$$\text{Specificity sp} = \frac{\text{true positives}}{\text{predicted positives}}$$

Gene sn	33.3%
Gene sp	50%
Transcript sn	33.3%
Transcript sp	50%
Exon sn	33.3%
Exon sp	33.3%
Base sn	66.7%
Base sp	100%

Accuracy of Genome Annotation

Two independent published gene prediction assessments since 2000:

- EGASP on **human** ENCODE regions, 2005:

genes correctly predicted:

ab initio	24% (AUGUSTUS)
using any available info	73% (JIGSAW)

(Guigo et al., *Genome Biology*, 2006)

- nGASP on ***C. elegans***, 2007:

genes correctly predicted:

ab initio	61% (AUGUSTUS, mGENE, FGENESH)
using ESTs & proteins	80% (AUGUSTUS, FGENESH, mGENE)
best-performing combiner	80% (JIGSAW)

(Coghlan et al., *BMC Bioinformatics*, 2008)

Note: Most species have less available evidence than these two!



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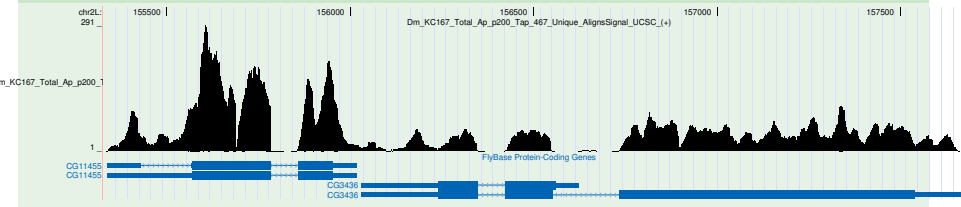
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Next Generation Sequencing of Transcriptomes (RNA-Seq)

Example (coverage per position in genome)



Chances and Challenges

- genes expressed in sample have usually good (unprecedented) coverage
- intuitively, should give boost to gene prediction accuracy
- but how?



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RGASP: RNA-Seq Genome Annotation Assessment Project

RGASP

- 17 participating groups submitting 1 year ago, all on same data
- on human, fly, worm
- Illumina, SOLiD, Helicos
- paired, unpaired reads
- unstranded, stranded reads

Two major approaches

- evidence integration into gene finder
 - ① align reads to genome
 - ② integrate evidence from **coverage** and **spliced alignments** into gene finder
- de novo assembly
 - ① assemble transcriptome reads into transcript contigs
 - ② use contigs for gene finding or just align them



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RGASP: preliminary results

My Conclusions

- RNA-Seq did not help as much as expected:
 - substantial intronic transcription
 - mapping ambiguity due to self-similarity of genomes
- still a lot of potential for improvement



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Proteomics and Genomics: Proteogenomics

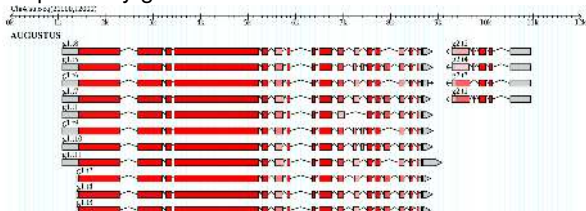
Peptide from Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MS/MS) for Gene Prediction

- **unknown proteins** of interest cleaved into smaller peptides
- **masses of peptides measured** with a mass spectrometer
- masses compared *in silico* with peptides from a **candidate protein database**
- result: **set of peptides** that is actually translated

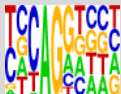
Candidate Protein Database

should be very **inclusive**

- ① six-frame translation of genome
- ② known genes
- ③ predicted genes:
 - sample many gene structures with AUGUSTUS



Peptides to “Hints”



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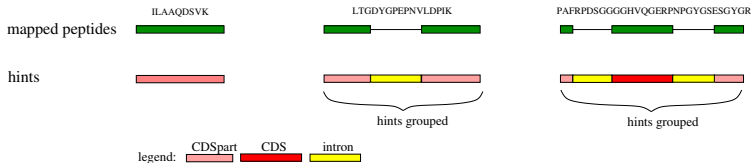
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(average peptide length: 15.2)

CDSpart hint: region is likely protein-coding

CDS hint: region is exact protein-coding exon

intron hint: region is likely an intron with exact boundaries

Hints can include strand and frame information.



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Conclusions on Proteogenomic Evidence

MS/MS

- peptides not only good for “verification” of given gene structures but also valuable, additional **orthogonal** source of evidence for predicting gene structures
- new translation-level info (reading frame)
- not enough coverage for identification of alternative splicing based on MS/MS alone



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Incorporating Protein Homology: "The Pipeline Way"

Use known proteins from other species

- 1 align proteins to genome
(e.g. with BLASTX, TBLASTN, Exonerate)
- 2 use matches from step 1 as evidence for coding regions in
gene finding
(many gene finders)

Disadvantages

- step 1 misses info: no weak homology or many false positives
- gene finders as subject to split gene errors
- protein family MSAs hold more info than individual proteins



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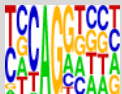
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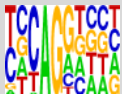
Protein Homology in One Step

Genewise (Birney 2004)

- marry (multiply) two HMMs:
 - simple (species-unspecific) HMM for gene prediction with
 - profile HMM for protein family (like HMMer)
- one big (product) HMM that does both:
 - gene finding and
 - protein to protein-family alignment + membership decision

Disadvantages

- slow
- poor performance for weak homology
cannot cope with missing homology
- no integration with other evidence (RNA-Seq, ESTs)



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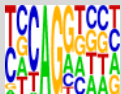
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Just Published...

Bioinformatics Advance Access published January 6, 2011

**A novel hybrid gene prediction method employing protein
multiple sequence alignments**Oliver Keller^{1,*}, Martin Kollmar², Mario Stanke^{3,*} and Stephan Waack¹**AUGUSTUS-PPX: Protein Profile eXtension**

- find members of given protein family (MSA) in DNA
- seamless extension of AUGUSTUS:
 - same program, same species parameters, etc.
 - UTR prediction possible
 - additional hints integration possible, e.g. RNA-Seq
 - defaults to normal AUGUSTUS for non-member genes and gene parts without homology
- **Try out this afternoon!**

AUGUSTUS-PPX

Block

Ungapped and highly conserved section of a MSA

Example

HsDHC1 f1	ICNPPTDP--GRPLSHRFLRHVP--VVYVDYPGPASLTQIYGTFNRAMLRLLIPSLRT---
HsDHC2 f1	MSAGGRL--GRKLTTRETSIVR--LCSIDYPEREQLQTIYGAYLEPVLHKNLKNHSIWG
HsDHC3A f1	MIHPGG--GRNDIPQLRKQFT--VFNCTLPASNASIDKIFGIIGCGYFDECRSFKPQIC
HsDHC3B f1	MIHPGG--GRNDIPQLRKQFS--VFNCTLPSEASVDKIFGVIGVGHYCTQRGFSEEV
HsDHC4A f1	MNPMV---GSPTINPRLQRHFT--VFAFNFPSLDALNTIYGQIFSFHFQ--QQAFAPSI
HsDHC4B f1	MNPTS---GSPTIDSRLLQRHFC--VFAVSEFGQEAALTTIYNTILTQHLA--FRSVSMAI
HsDHC4C f1	MNPTA---GSPTINPRLQRHFS--VFVLSFPGADALSSIIYSIILTQHLK--LGNFPASL
HsDHC5 f1	MGKAGG--GRNEVDPRFISLFS--VFNVPEPSEESLHLIYSSILKGHTSTFHESIVA--
HsDHC6 f1	MGPPGG--GRTVISPRLSRFN--LINMTFPTKSQIIRIFGTMINQKLQDFEEVEVKP--
HsDHC7A f1	MGPPGG--GRNPVTPRYMRHFN--LITINEFSDKSMYTIIFSRIILTWHLLEICYKFPDEF
HsDHC7B f1	MGPPGG--GRNDITGRFTRHLN--LISINAFEDDILTKEFSSIVDWHFGK--FDVMFL
HsDHC7C f1	MGPPGG--GRNPVTPRCIRHFN--LCSINSFSDETMVRIFFSSIVAFYLRTHE--FPPEYF
HsDHC8 f1	MGPPGG--GRNTVTPRLMRHFN--VLSFAEMDEVSKKRIFSTILGNWLGILLGEKSYRE
HsDHC9 f1	CAPPGG--GRNPVTPRFIRHFS--MLCLPMPSEHSLKQIFQAILNGFLS--DFPPAVKQ
HsDHC10 f1	CVPVYN----DISPRLKHF--MLVLPHPSPQDILCTIFQAHLLGIYFSINNFTPEVQK
HsDHC11 f1	VTVPGYC--ERPLCPBLELET--VLALESMTQATLIERHVPITQAWLERFSPVERERA

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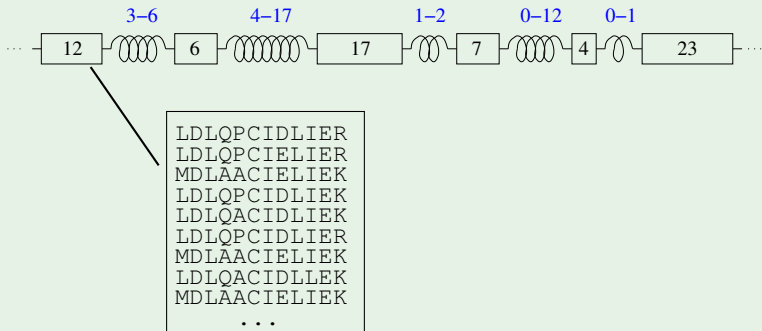
Alternative Splicing

AUGUSTUS-PPX

Block Profile

- frequency table for each block column
- distances between blocks constrained by intervals $[d_{\min}, d_{\max}]$
- no insertions or deletions
- order of blocks preserved

Example (Myosins)





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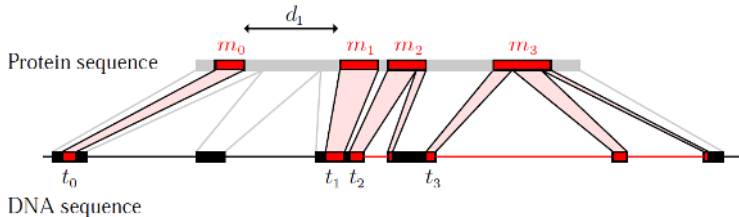
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AUGUSTUS-PPX

Problem:

Find gene structure in genome under **hypothesis**, that predicted **protein sequence fits into family**.



Scoring

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{score}(\text{gene structure}, \text{DNA}, \text{block profile}) \\
 = & \text{score}(\text{gene structure}, \text{DNA}) \\
 & \cdot \text{score}(\text{block profile} \mid \underbrace{\text{gene structure}, \text{DNA}}_{\rightarrow \text{protein sequence cand.}})
 \end{aligned}$$



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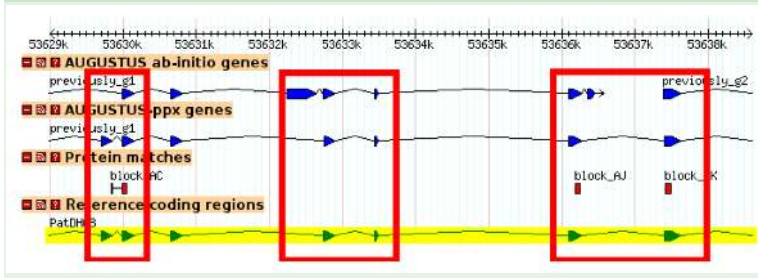
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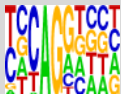
AUGUSTUS-PPX: How it helps

Example



Corrections w.r.t. ab initio

- add exons containing blocks
- remove false positive exons (constraint on inter-block lengths)
- join split genes



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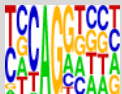
AUGUSTUS-PPX: Results

Test on: Dynein Heavy Chain (DHC) family

- > 4000 amino acids, up to 100 exons, several 100 000 bp genomic range
- 42 Blocks with 1214 sites

Accuracy Results

species	AUGUSTUS-PPX		AUG.	Genewise	
	full	ex-ortho	ab-initio	full	ex-ortho
highly accurate genes (%)					
human	62.5	62.5	31.3	93.8	6.3
mouse	72.2	61.1	22.2	55.6	0.0
chicken	58.3	50.0	8.3	16.7	0.0
frog	44.4	38.9	0.0	11.1	0.0
zebrafish	57.1	35.7	57.1	14.3	0.0
snail	44.4	44.4	5.6	11.1	0.0
total	56.3	49.0	11.5	34.4	1.0



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Evidence Suggests Alternative Splicing





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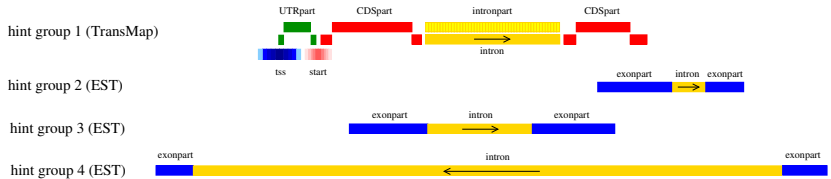
AUGUSTUS: Alternative Transcripts Based on Evidence

Hints can be **grouped** to tell AUGUSTUS they are coming from the **same transcript**.

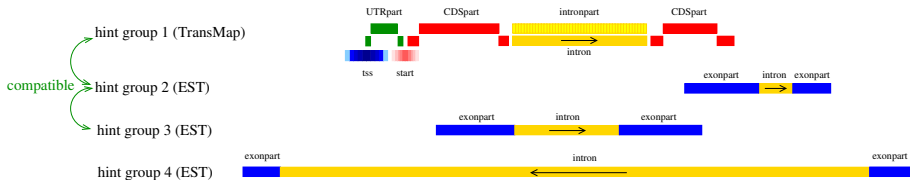
For example: All hints from one cDNA alignment belong to one group. Based on evidence predict **alternative splice forms**.

- ① **Split input sequence** between genes based on hint groups and preliminary gene prediction. For each piece, do:
 - ② Determine **compatibility** between hint groups.
 - ③ Filter out outlier hint groups.
 - ④ For each hint group g , do:
 - ① Deactivate all hint groups h that are incompatible with g .
 - ② Run Viterbi algorithm to predict single-transcript genes.
- ⑤ Join transcripts to genes

Alternative Transcripts Based on Evidence



Alternative Transcripts Based on Evidence

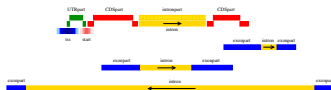


Alternative Transcripts Based on Evidence

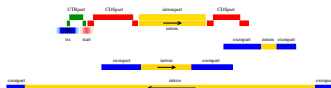
prediction
run 1



prediction
run 2



prediction
run 3

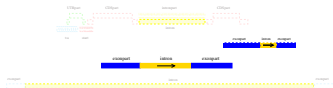


Alternative Transcripts Based on Evidence

prediction
run 1



prediction
run 2

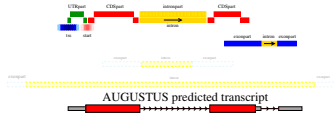


prediction
run 3

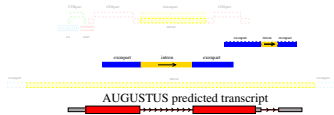


Alternative Transcripts Based on Evidence

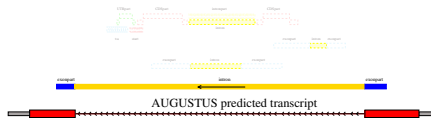
prediction
run 1



prediction
run 2

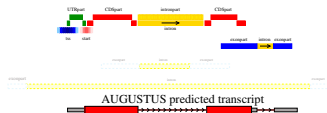


prediction
run 3

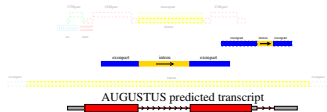


Alternative Transcripts Based on Evidence

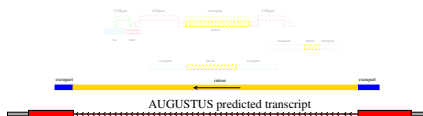
prediction
run 1



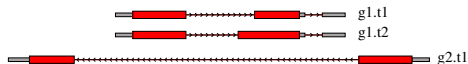
prediction
run 2

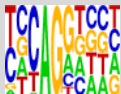


prediction
run 3



joint
prediction





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Gene Finding as
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HMMs/CRFs

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RNA-Seq

Proteogenomics

Protein Homology

Alternative Splicing

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