

# Chapter 4: Hidden Markov Models

## 4.1 Introduction to HMM

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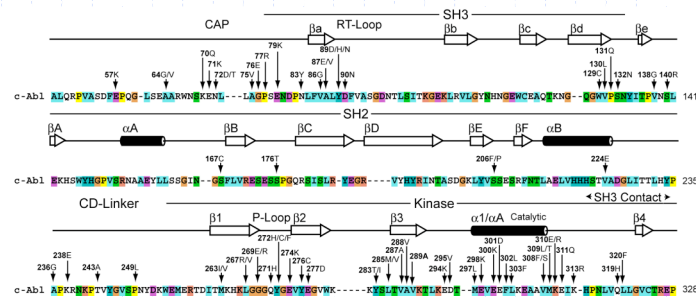
## Overview

- Markov models of sequence structures
- Introduction to Hidden Markov Models (HMM)
- HMM algorithms; Viterbi decoder

Durbin chapters 3-5

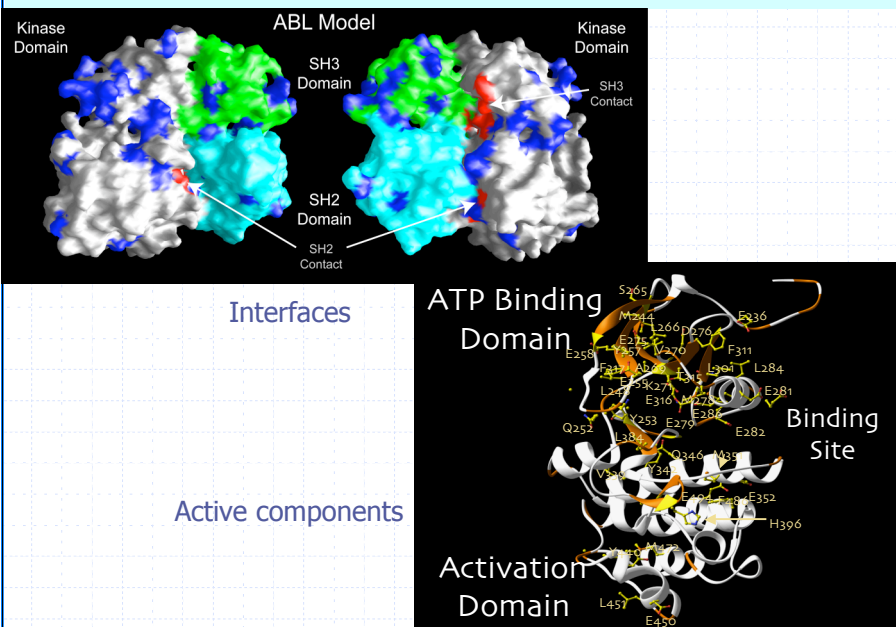
# The Challenges

- Biological sequences have modular structure
  - Genes → exons, introns
  - Promoter regions → modules, promoters
  - Proteins → domains, folds, structural parts, active parts
- How do we identify informative regions?
  - How do we find & map genes
  - How do we find & map promoter regions



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## Mapping Protein Regions



## Statistical Sequence Analysis

- Example: CpG islands indicate important regions
  - CG (denoted CpG) is typically transformed by methylation into TG
  - Promoter/start regions of gene suppress methylation
  - This leads to higher CpG density
  - How do we find CpG islands?
- Example: active protein regions are statistically similar
  - Evolution conserves structural motifs but varies sequences
- Simple comparison techniques are insufficient
  - Global/local alignment
  - Consensus sequence
- The challenge: analyzing statistical features of regions

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## Review of Markovian Modeling

- Recall: a Markov chain is described by transition probabilities
  - $\pi(n+1) = A\pi(n)$  where  $\pi(i,n) = \text{Prob}\{S(n)=i\}$  is the state probability
  - $A(i,j) = \text{Prob}[S(n+1)=j|S(n)=i]$  is the transition probability
- Markov chains describe statistical evolution
  - In time: evolutionary change depends on previous state only
  - In space: change depends on neighboring sites only

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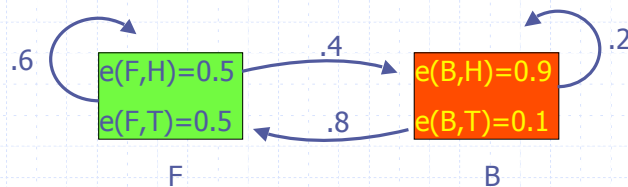
## From Markov To Hidden Markov Models (HMM)

- Nature uses different statistics for evolving different regions
  - Gene regions: CpG, promoters, introns/exons...
  - Protein regions: active, interfaces, hydrophobic/philic...
- How can we tell regions?
  - Sample sequences have different statistics
  - Model regions as Markovian states emitting observed sequences...
- Example: CpG islands
  - Model: two connected MCs one for CpG one for normal
  - The MC is hidden; only sample sequences are seen
  - Detect transition to/from CpG MC
  - Similar to a dishonest casino: transition from fair to biased dice

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## Hidden Markov Models

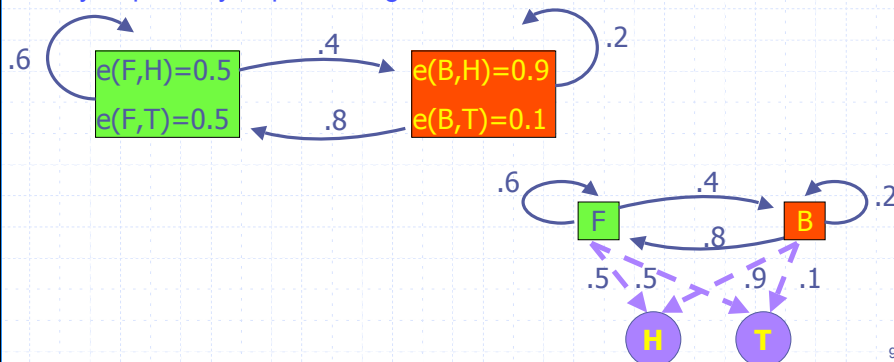
- HMM Basics
  - A Markov Chain: states & transition probabilities  $A=[a(i,j)]$
  - Observable symbols for each state  $O(i)$
  - A probability  $e(i,X)$  of emitting the symbol  $X$  at state  $i$



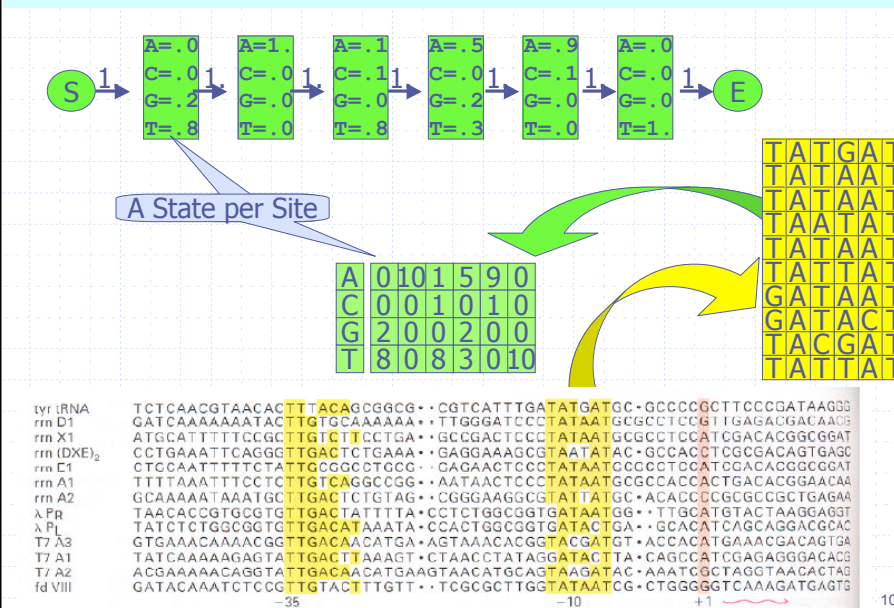
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## Coin Example

- Two states MC: {F,B} F=fair coin, B=biased
- Emission probabilities
  - Described in state boxes
  - Or through emission boxes
- Example: transmembrane proteins
  - Hydrophilic/hydrophobic regions



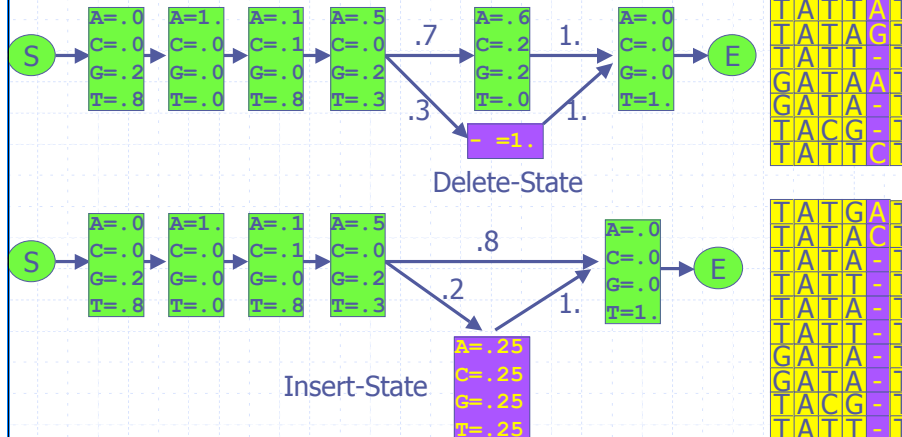
## HMM Profile Example (Non-gapped)



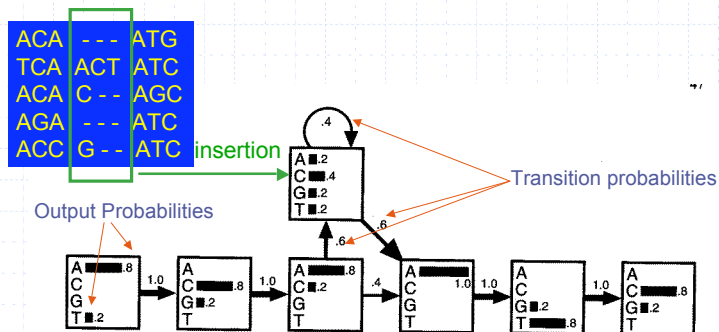
## How Do We Model Gaps?

### ■ Gap can result from “deletion” or “insertion”

- Deletion = hidden delete state
- Insertion = hidden insert state



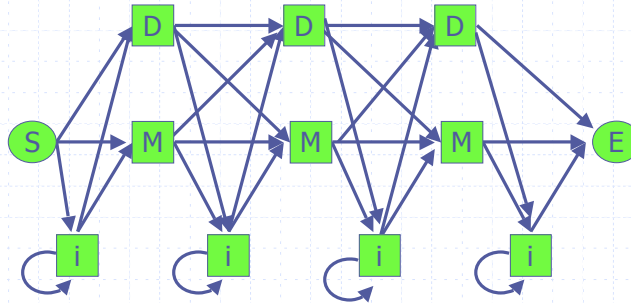
## Profile HMM



### ■ Profile alignment

- E.g., What is the most likely path to generate ACATATC ?
- How likely is ACATATC to be generated by this profile?

## In General: HMM Sequence Profile

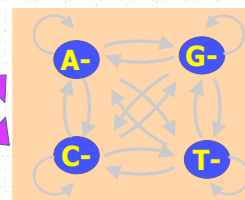
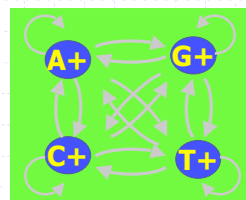


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## HMM For CpG Islands

CpG generator

Regular Sequence



+	A	G	C	T
A	0.1800	0.2740	0.4260	0.120
G	0.1710	0.3680	0.2740	0.188
C	0.1610	0.3390	0.3750	0.125
T	0.0790	0.3550	0.3840	0.182

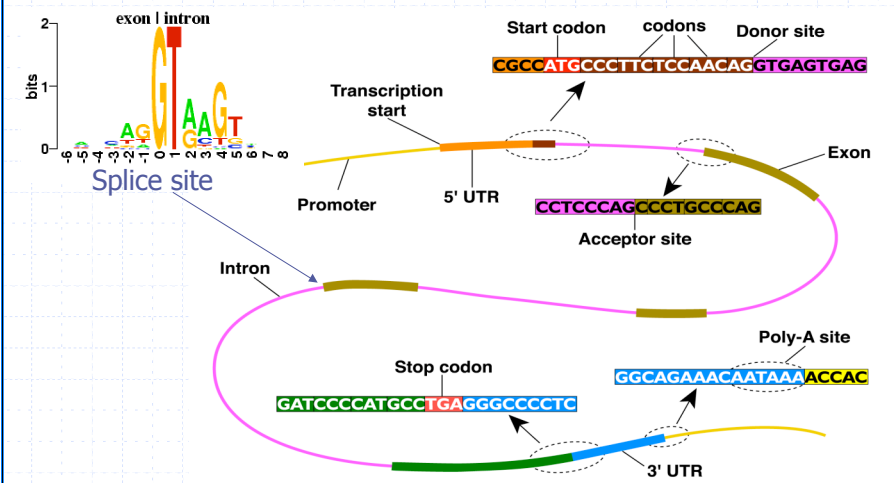
+	A	G	C	T
A				
G				
C				
T				

+	A	G	C	T
A	0.3	0.2050	0.285	0.21
G	0.3220	0.2980	0.0780	0.302
C	0.2480	0.2460	0.2980	0.208
T	0.1770	0.2390	0.2920	0.292

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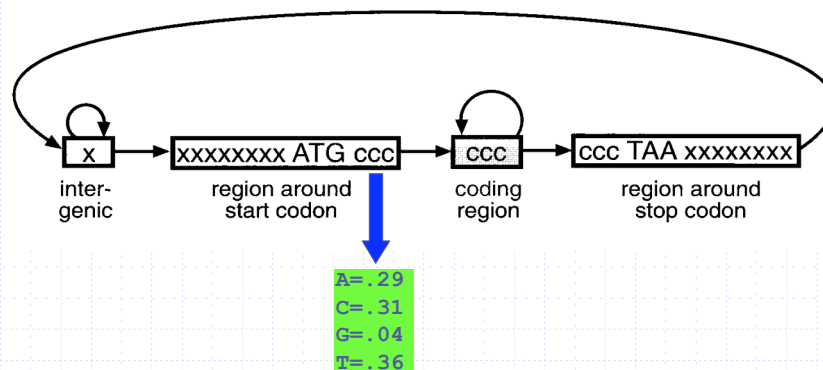
## Modeling Gene Structure With HMM

- Genes are organized into sequential functional regions
- Regions have distinct statistical behaviors



## HMM Gene Models

- HMM “state” → region ; Markov transitions between regions
- Emission {A,C,T,G}; regions have different probabilities

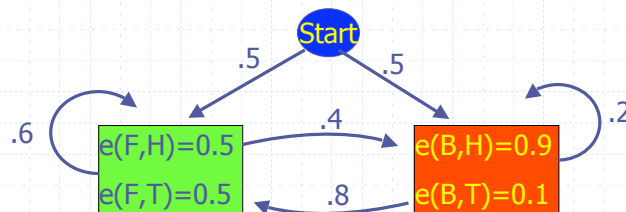


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## Computing Probabilities on HMM

- Path = a sequence of states
  - E.g.,  $X=FFBBBBF$
  - Path probability:  $0.5 (0.6)^2 0.4(0.2)^3 0.8 = 4.608 \times 10^{-4}$
- Probability of a sequence emitted by a path:  $p(S|X)$ 
  - E.g.,  $p(HHHHHH|FFBBBBF) = p(H|F)p(H|F)p(H|B)p(H|B)p(H|B)p(H|F)$   
 $= (0.5)^3 (0.9)^3 = 0.09$
- Note: usually one avoids multiplications and computes logarithms to minimize error propagation



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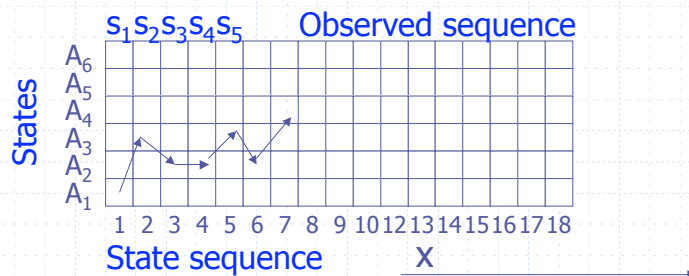
## The Three Computational Problems of HMM

- Decoding: what is its most likely sequence of transitions & emissions that generated a given observed sequence?
- Likelihood: how likely is an observed sequence to have been generated by a given HMM?
- Learning: how should transition and emission probabilities be learned from observed sequences?

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## The Decoding Problem: Viterbi's Decoder

- Input: an observed sequence  $S$
- Output: a hidden path  $X$  maximizing  $P(S|X)$
- Key Idea (Viterbi): map to a dynamic programming problem
  - Describe the problem as optimizing a path over a grid
  - DP search: (a) compute "price" of forward paths (b) backtrack
  - Complexity:  $O(m^2n)$  ( $m$ =number of states,  $n$ = sequence size)

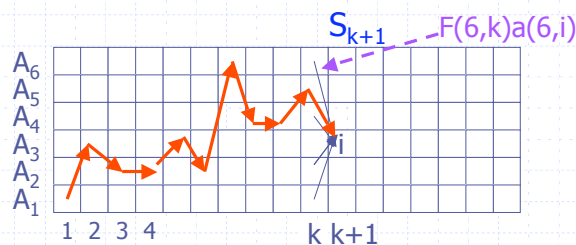


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## Viterbi's Decoder

- $F(i,k)$  = probability of the most likely path to state  $i$  generating  $S_1 \dots S_k$
- Forward recursion:
 
$$F(i,k+1) = e(i, S_{k+1}) * \max_j \{F(j,k) a(i,j)\}$$

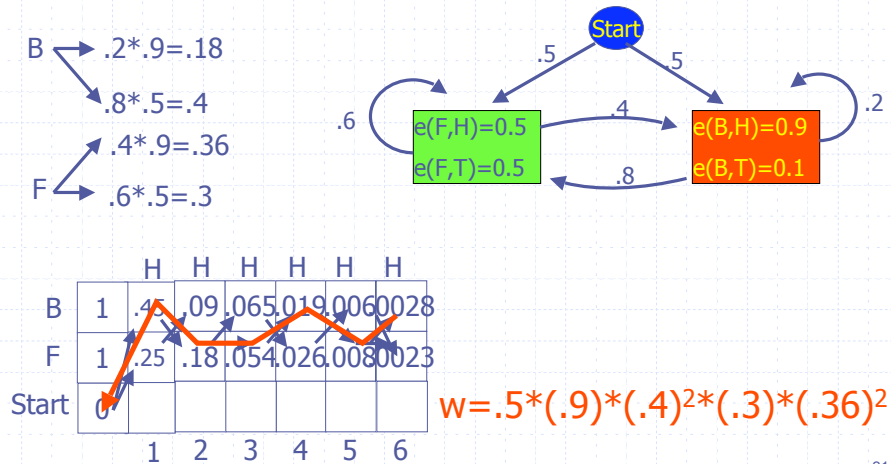
Best path to  $i$
- Backtracking: start with highest  $F(i,n)$  and backtrack
- Initialization:  $F(0,0)=1$ ,  $F(i,0)=0$



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## Example: Dishonest Coin Tossing

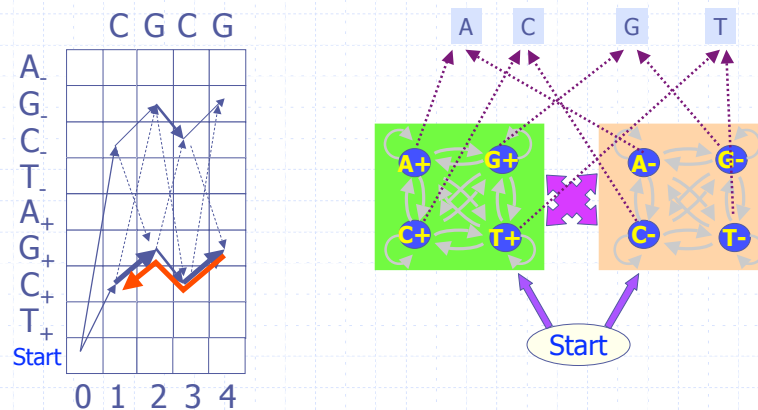
- what is the most likely sequence of transitions & emissions to explain the observation: S=HHHHHH



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## Example: CpG Islands

- Given: observed sequence CGCG what is the likely state sequence generating it?



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## Computational Note

- Computing probability products propagates errors
- Instead of multiplying probabilities add log-likelihood
- Define  $f(i,k)=\log F(i,k)$

$$f(i,k+1)=\log e(i,S_{k+1}) + \max_j \{f(j,k)+\log a(i,j)\}$$

- Or, define the weight  $w(i,j,k)=\log e(i,S_{k+1}) + \log a(i,j)$   
To get the following standard DP formulation

$$f(i,k+1)=\max_j \{f(j,k)+w(i,j,k)\}$$

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## Example

- what is the most likely sequence of transitions & emissions to explain the observation: S=HHHHHH

- (using base 2 log)

$$B \rightarrow -2.32 - 0.15 = -2.47$$

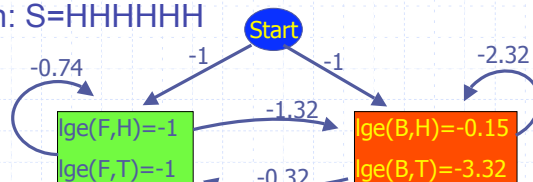
$$\rightarrow -0.32 - 1 = -1.32$$

$$F \rightarrow -1.32 - 0.15 = -1.47$$

$$F \rightarrow -0.74 - 1 = -1.74$$

$W(.,.,H)$

	F	B
S	-2	-1.15
F	-1.74	-1.47
B	-1.32	-2.47



$$f(i,k+1)=\max_j \{f(j,k)+w(i,j,k)\}$$

		H	H	H	H	H	H
B		-1.15	-3.47				
F		-2	-2.47				
Start							

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## Concluding Notes

- Viterbi decoding: hidden pathway of an observed sequence
- Hidden pathway explains the underlying structure
  - E.g., identify CpG islands
  - E.g., align a sequence against a profile
  - E.g., determine gene structure
  - .....
- This leaves the two other HMM computational problems
  - How do we extract an HMM model, from observed sequences?
  - How do we compute the likelihood of a given sequence?