

The number of occurrences of a word (5.7) and motif (5.9) in a DNA sequence, allowing overlaps  
Covariance (2.4) and indicators (2.9)

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# Covariance

- Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be random variables, possibly dependent.
- $$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X + Y) &= E((X + Y - \mu_X - \mu_Y)^2) \\ &= E\left(\left((X - \mu_X) + (Y - \mu_Y)\right)^2\right) \\ &= E\left((X - \mu_X)^2\right) + E\left((Y - \mu_Y)^2\right) + 2E\left((X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)\right) \\ &= \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y)\end{aligned}$$

where the *covariance* of  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined as

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E\left((X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)\right)$$

- Expanding gives an alternate formula

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y):$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= E\left((X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)\right) \\ &= E(XY) - \mu_X E(Y) - \mu_Y E(X) + \mu_X \mu_Y = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)\end{aligned}$$

# Covariance properties

- $\text{Cov}(X, X) = \text{Var}(X)$
- $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \text{Cov}(Y, X)$
- If  $X, Y$  are independent then  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$  and  $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$ .  
***Beware, this is not reversible;  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  could be 0 for dependent variables.***
- $\text{Cov}(aX + b, cY + d) = ac \text{Cov}(X, Y)$
- $\text{Var}(X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_n) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \cdots + \text{Var}(X_n) + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$

## Sign of covariance

- ***When  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  is positive:***  
there is a tendency to have  $X > \mu_X$  when  $Y > \mu_Y$  and vice-versa, and  $X < \mu_X$  when  $Y < \mu_Y$  and vice-versa.
- ***When  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  is negative:***  
there is a tendency to have  $X > \mu_X$  when  $Y < \mu_Y$  and vice-versa, and  $X < \mu_X$  when  $Y > \mu_Y$  and vice-versa.

# Occurrences of a word in a sequence — notation

- Consider a (long) single-stranded nucleotide sequence  $\tau = \tau_1 \dots \tau_N$  and a (short) word  $w = w_1 \dots w_k$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\tau &= \tau_1 \dots \tau_{19} = \text{CTATAGATAGATAGACAGT} \\ w &= w_1 \dots w_9 = \text{ATAGATAGA}\end{aligned}$$

- Say  $w$  *occurs* in  $\tau$  at position  $j$  when  $w$  is in  $\tau$  ending at position  $j$ :

$j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
$\tau_j$	C	T	A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A	C	A	G	T

so  $w$  occurs in  $\tau$  at 11 and 15 (underlined).

- Let  $I_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } w \text{ occurs in } \tau \text{ at } j; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$   $I_{11} = I_{15} = 1$   
other  $I_j = 0$   
 $I_j$  is an *indicator* variable (1 when a condition is true, 0 when false).
- $Y = I_k + I_{k+1} + \dots + I_N$  is the number of times  $w$  occurs in  $\tau$ .  
Here,  $Y = 2$ .

# Computing mean number of occurrences $\mu = E(Y)$

- Suppose  $\tau$  is generated by  $N$  independent rolls of a 4-sided die, whose sides have probabilities  $p_A, p_C, p_G, p_T$  adding up to 1.
- The probability of a word being generated by rolling such a die is the product of the probabilities of its nucleotides:

$$\pi(w) = p_{w_1} \cdots p_{w_k} \qquad \pi(\text{ATAGATAGA}) = p_A^5 p_T^2 p_G^2$$

- The probability of  $w$  occurring at  $j = k, k + 1, \dots, N$  is  $\pi(w)$ .
- $I_j$ 's are indicator variables, so

$$E(I_j) = 0P(I_j = 0) + 1P(I_j = 1) = P(I_j = 1) = \pi(w)$$

for  $j = k, k + 1, \dots, N$ .

- $Y = I_k + I_{k+1} + \cdots + I_N$  so the mean number of occurrences is

$$\mu = E(Y) = E(I_k) + \cdots + E(I_N) = (N - k + 1) \pi(w).$$

# Dependencies between positions

- Occurrences at different positions have dependencies;  
if AGAG occurs in  $\tau$  at 20, it cannot occur at 17, 19, 21, or 23,  
while the probability of overlapping occurrences at 18 or 22 is  
increased since 2 letters are already known to be correct in  $\tau$ .  
So we have to account for overlapping prefixes/suffixes of  $w$ .
- Chapter 5.8 does the related problem of counting occurrences  
without overlaps.  
Chapters 4 and 11 do the much more general problem of Markov  
chains.

# Self-overlaps of a word

- Define

$$\varepsilon_r = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the first } r \text{ letters of } w \text{ equal the last } r \text{ letters} \\ & \text{of } w \text{ in the exact same order (string equality);} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- This lets us account for dependencies between  $I_j$  and  $I_{j+k-r}$ .

$w :$		A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A								
$r = 9$	$\varepsilon_9 = 1$	<i>A</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>A</i>								
$r = 8$	$\varepsilon_8 = 0$		A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A							
$r = 7$	$\varepsilon_7 = 0$			A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A						
$r = 6$	$\varepsilon_6 = 0$				A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A					
$r = 5$	$\varepsilon_5 = 1$					<i>A</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>A</i>	T	A	G	A				
$r = 4$	$\varepsilon_4 = 0$						A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A			
$r = 3$	$\varepsilon_3 = 0$							A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A		
$r = 2$	$\varepsilon_2 = 0$								A	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A	
$r = 1$	$\varepsilon_1 = 1$									<i>A</i>	T	A	G	A	T	A	G	A

# Computing $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(Y)$

- Since the  $I_j$ 's have dependencies, the variance of their sum  $Y = I_k + \cdots + I_N$  is NOT necessarily the sum of their variances. We must consider covariance terms as well:

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \sum_{j=k}^N \text{Var}(I_j) + 2 \sum_{j, \ell: k \leq j < \ell \leq N} \text{Cov}(I_j, I_\ell)$$

- **First sum:** Note that  $I_j^2 = I_j$  since  $I_j = 0$  or  $1$ , so

$$\text{Var}(I_j) = E(I_j^2) - (E(I_j))^2 = \pi(w) - \pi(w)^2$$

and the first sum in  $\text{Var}(Y)$  is

$$\sum_{j=k}^N \text{Var}(I_j) = (N - k + 1)(\pi(w) - \pi(w)^2)$$

- **Second sum:** next few slides.



# Covariances $2 \sum_{j, \ell: k \leq j < \ell \leq N} \text{Cov}(I_j, I_\ell)$

The covariances sum is complicated:

- If  $\ell - j \geq k$  then  $I_j, I_\ell$  are independent and  $\text{Cov}(I_j, I_\ell) = 0$ .
- If  $0 < \ell - j < k$ , the words ending at  $\ell$  and  $j$  overlap by  $r = k - (\ell - j)$  letters. Rewrite  $\ell$  as  $\ell = j + k - r$ :

$$\text{Cov}(I_j, I_\ell) = \text{Cov}(I_j, I_{j+k-r}) = E(I_j I_{j+k-r}) - E(I_j)E(I_{j+k-r})$$

- $I_j I_{j+k-r} = 1$  iff  $w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k$  occurs at position  $j + k - r$  in  $\tau$ .
- $E(I_j I_{j+k-r}) = \varepsilon_r \cdot \pi(w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k)$ .
- $$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(I_j, I_{j+k-r}) &= E(I_j I_{j+k-r}) - E(I_j)E(I_{j+k-r}) \\ &= \varepsilon_r \cdot \pi(w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k) - (\pi(w))^2. \end{aligned}$$

Note that this depends on  $r$  but not  $j$ .

# Covariances $2 \sum_{j,\ell: k \leq j < \ell \leq N} \text{Cov}(I_j, I_\ell)$

The covariance sum becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{j,\ell: k \leq j < \ell \leq N} \text{Cov}(I_j, I_\ell) &= \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} \sum_{j=k}^{N-k+r} (\varepsilon_r \cdot \pi(w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k) - (\pi(w))^2) \\
 &= \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} (N - 2k + r + 1) (\varepsilon_r \cdot \pi(w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k) - (\pi(w))^2) \\
 &= \left( \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} \varepsilon_r \cdot (N - 2k + r + 1) \pi(w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k) \right) \\
 &\quad - \left( \frac{((N - 2k + 2) + (N - k))(k - 1)}{2} (\pi(w))^2 \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Mean and variance of number of occurrences

Combining all the parts together and simplifying gives

## Mean number of occurrences

$$E(Y) = (N - k + 1) E(I_k) = (N - k + 1) \pi(w)$$

## Variance of number of occurrences

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= (N - k + 1) \pi(w) - ((2k - 1)N - 3k^2 + 4k - 1) (\pi(w))^2 \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} \varepsilon_r \cdot (N - 2k + r + 1) \pi(w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k) \end{aligned}$$

# Computation for $w = w_1 \dots w_9 = \text{ATAGATAGA}$ ( $k = 9$ ) over all $\tau$ of length $N$

$$\pi(w) = p_A^5 p_T^2 p_G^2 \quad \text{and } w \text{ self-overlaps at } r = 1, 5$$

$$E(Y) = (N - k + 1)\pi(w) = (N - 8)\pi(w) = (N - 8)p_A^5 p_T^2 p_G^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= (N - k + 1)\pi(w) - ((2k - 1)N - 3k^2 + 4k - 1)(\pi(w))^2 \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} \varepsilon_r \cdot (N - 2k + r + 1)\pi(w_1 \dots w_k w_{r+1} \dots w_k) \\ &= (N - 8)\pi(w) - (17N - 208)(\pi(w))^2 \\ &\quad + 2(N - 16)\pi(\text{ATAGATAG}\textcolor{red}{A}\text{TAGATAGA}) \\ &\quad + 2(N - 12)\pi(\text{ATAG}\textcolor{red}{ATAG}\text{A}\text{TAGA}) \\ &= (N - 8)p_A^5 p_T^2 p_G^2 - (17N - 208)p_A^{10} p_T^4 p_G^4 \\ &\quad + 2(N - 2k + 2)p_A^9 p_G^4 p_T^4 + 2(N - 2k + 6)p_A^7 p_G^3 p_T^3 \end{aligned}$$

# Frequencies of words and motifs in SARS

- The genome of SARS described previously has  $N = 29751$  bases:

Nucleotide	Frequency	Proportion
A	8481	$p_A \approx 0.2851$
C	5940	$p_C \approx 0.1997$
G	6187	$p_G \approx 0.2080$
T	9143	$p_T \approx 0.3073$
Total	$N = 29751$	1

- These were used below to compute "Estimated"  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$ .
- "Observed frequency"  $y$  was determined from the DNA sequence.

Word	Estimated		Observed		$\Phi(z)$
	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$y = \text{Freq.}$	$z = (y - \mu)/\sigma$	
GAGA	104.5456	10.6943	106	0.1360	0.5541
GCGA	73.2226	8.4830	37	-4.2700	$10^{-5}$
TGCG	78.9381	8.8018	59	-2.2652	0.0118
motif $M$	256.7064	17.6583	202	-3.0980	$10^{-3}$

( $M$  consists of all three words; details on computing  $\mu$ ,  $\sigma$  are later.)

# Hypothesis tests on frequencies in SARS

- We have not determined the complete distribution of  $Y$ . We will assume it is approximately normal with mean and standard deviation as computed above.
- That lets us compute  $Z$  and use it as a test statistic to see if the observed frequencies are consistent with a “random” sequence.

## Three possible hypothesis tests

**Null Hypothesis  $H_0$ :** The genome sequence is generated by independent rolls of a 4-sided die with probabilities for each letter  $p_A, \dots, p_T$  as given previously.

**vs. one of three alternative hypotheses:**

$H_1$ : The word  $w$  (or motif  $M$ ) is over-represented.

$H_2$ : The word  $w$  (or motif  $M$ ) is under-represented.

$H_3$ : The word  $w$  (or motif  $M$ ) is over- or under-represented.

# Hypothesis tests (at significance level $\alpha = 5\%$ )

Word	Estimated		Observed		$\Phi(z)$
	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$y = \text{Freq.}$	$z = (y - \mu)/\sigma$	
GAGA	104.5456	10.6943	106	0.1360	0.5541
GCGA	73.2226	8.4830	37	-4.2700	$10^{-5}$
TGCG	78.9381	8.8018	59	-2.2652	0.0118
motif $M$	256.7064	17.6583	202	-3.0980	$10^{-3}$

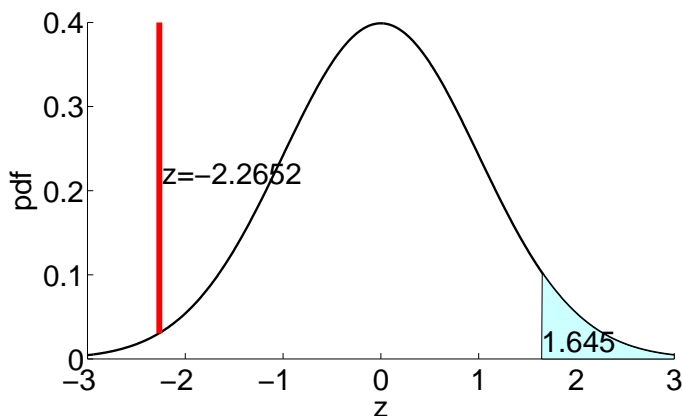
- **$H_0$  vs.  $H_1$  (over-represented).** Reject  $H_0$  if  $Z$  is too big:  
 $\Phi(Z) \geq 0.95$ , so  $Z \geq 1.6449$ . In all the cases shown, we accept  $H_0$  (a.k.a. “insufficient evidence to reject  $H_0$ ”).
- **$H_0$  vs.  $H_2$  (under-represented).** Reject  $H_0$  if  $Z$  is too small:  
 $\Phi(Z) \leq 0.05$ , so  $Z \leq -1.6449$ . By this test, GAGA is not under-represented, but each of GCGA, TGCG, and motif  $M$ , are considered to be under-represented.
- **$H_0$  vs.  $H_3$  (under or over).** Reject  $H_0$  if  $Z$  is too far away from 0:  
 $\Phi(Z) \leq 0.025$  (so  $Z \leq -1.96$ ) or  $\Phi(Z) \geq 0.975$  (so  $Z \geq 1.96$ ). We accept  $H_3$  for GCGA, for TGCG, and for  $M$ , and accept  $H_0$  for GAGA.

# Critical regions (at significance level $\alpha = 5\%$ )

- For TGC &  $N = 29751$ , the null hypothesis gives  $\mu = 78.9381$  and  $\sigma = 8.8018$ .
- The **critical region** (where we reject  $H_0$ ) is blue. The **acceptance region** is white.
- The one-sided critical regions have area  $\alpha = 0.05$ .  
The two-sided critical regions have area  $\alpha/2 = 0.025$  in each part.
- Our test statistic  $y = 59$  or  $z = -2.2652$  is shown as a red line.

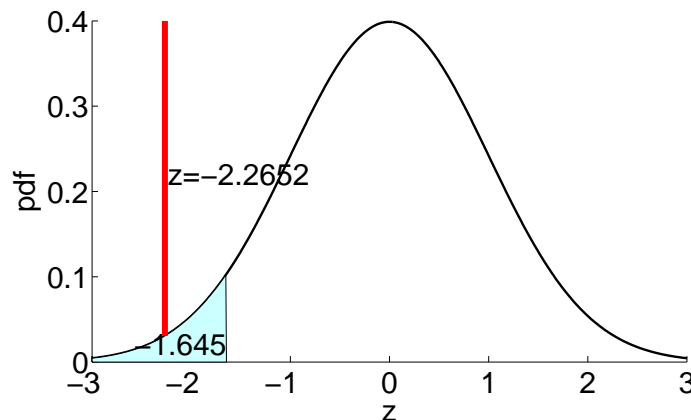
## $H_1$ : Over-represented?

Critical region for  $H_1$ : One-sided (right),  $\alpha=0.05$



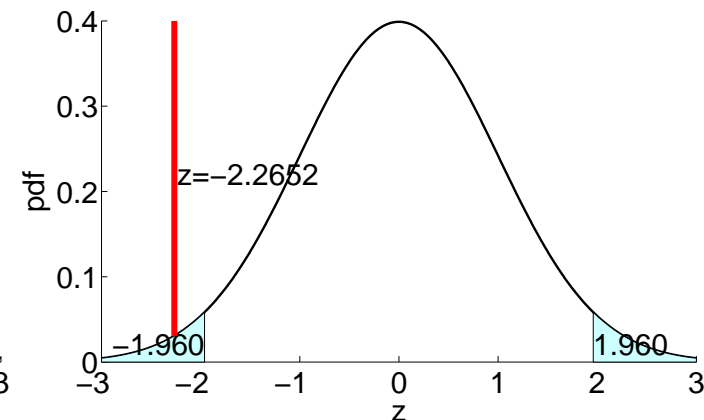
## $H_2$ : Under-represented?

Critical region for  $H_2$ : One-sided (left),  $\alpha=0.05$

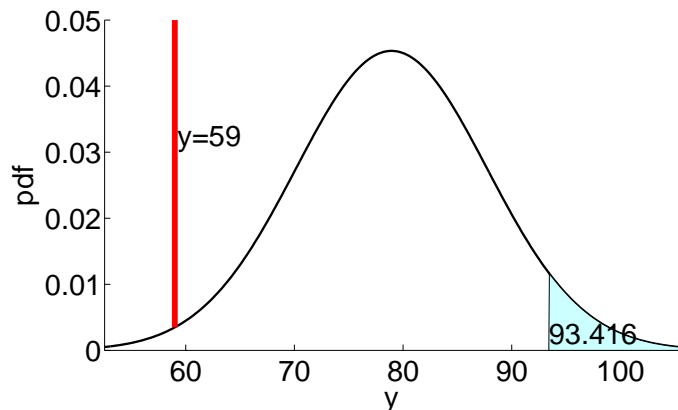


## $H_3$ : Either over or under?

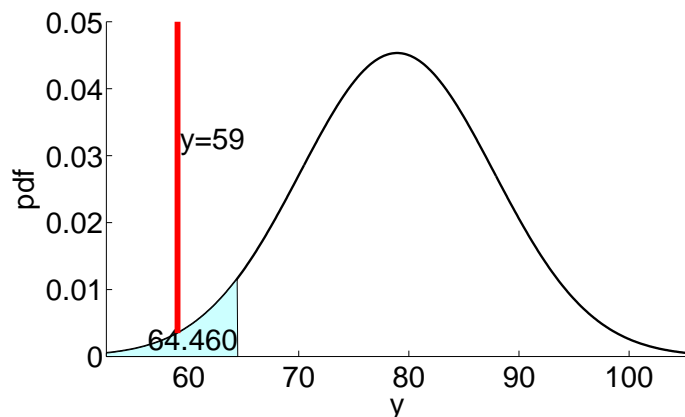
Critical region for  $H_3$ : Two-sided,  $\alpha=0.05$



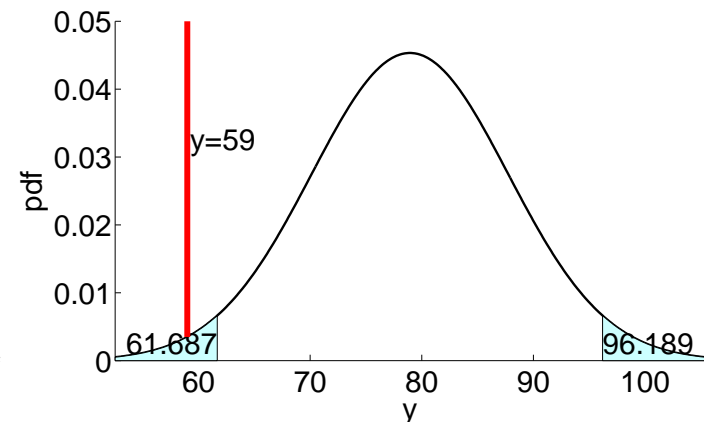
Critical region for  $H_1$ : One-sided (right),  $\alpha=0.05$



Critical region for  $H_2$ : One-sided (left),  $\alpha=0.05$



Critical region for  $H_3$ : Two-sided,  $\alpha=0.05$





# Same tests using $P$ -values (at sig. level $\alpha = 5\%$ )

- TGCG has  $P(Z \leq -2.2652) = \Phi(-2.2652) = 0.0118$ .

- **$H_0$  vs.  $H_1$  (over-represented?):**

$$P = P(Z \geq -2.2652) = 1 - 0.0118 = 0.9881$$

Since  $P > \alpha$ , we accept  $H_0$  (TGCG is not over-represented).

- **$H_0$  vs.  $H_2$  (under-represented?):**

$$P = P(Z \leq -2.2652) = 0.0118.$$

Since  $P \leq \alpha$ , we accept  $H_2$  (TGCG is under-represented).

- **$H_0$  vs.  $H_3$  (either of over or under?):**

$$P = P(|Z| \geq 2.2652) = 2(0.0118) = 0.0236.$$

Since  $P \leq \alpha$ , we accept  $H_3$  (TGCG is over- or under-represented).

- $P$ -values let us check any  $\alpha$  easily.

At  $\alpha = 1\%$ , all three tests accept  $H_0$ .

At  $\alpha = 2\%$ ,  $H_2$  says it's under-represented but  $H_3$  does not.

# Motifs

- A *motif* is a set  $M$  of words that don't contain each other. Usually the words are very similar and have similar lengths.
- Suppose  $M$  has  $m$  words, all with length  $k$ :

$$M = \{w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)}\}.$$

- We'll work with an example of  $m = 3$  words, each with  $k = 4$  letters:

$$M = \{\text{GAGA}, \text{TGCG}, \text{GCGA}\}.$$

- When words of length  $k$  are generated at random by a 4-sided die, the total probability of the words in  $M$  is

$$\pi(M) = \pi(w^{(1)}) + \dots + \pi(w^{(m)})$$

which is  $p_A^2 p_G^2 + p_C p_G^2 p_t + p_A p_C p_G^2$  in this example.

# Number of occurrences of a motif

- $M$  occurs at position  $j$  in a nucleotide sequence  $\tau$  if any of its words occurs (i.e., ends) there.

- Let  $I_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } M \text{ occurs in } \tau \text{ at } j; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

- The number of occurrences of  $M$  in  $\tau$  is  $Y = I_k + \cdots + I_N$ .

- Note that  $E(I_j) = \pi(M)$  and

$$E(Y) = (N - k + 1) \pi(M)$$

by the same argument as for one word before.

For motifs of length  $k = 4$ , this becomes  $E(Y) = (N - 3)\pi(M)$ .

- In the variance formula,  $\pi(w)$  is replaced by  $\pi(M)$  as well, and we must recompute  $\text{Cov}(I_j, I_{j+k-r})$  to take into account overlaps between any two words of  $M$ .

# Overlaps between words in a motif

- If the first  $r$  letters of  $w^{(u)}$  equal the last  $r$  letters of  $w^{(v)}$  ( $r = 1, \dots, k - 1$ ):
  - Set  $\varepsilon_r(u, v) = 1$ ;
  - let  $w_r(u, v)$  be  $w^{(v)}$  followed by  $w^{(u)}$  but overlapped on the  $r$  letters;
  - let  $\pi_r(u, v) = \pi(w_r(u, v))$ .

Otherwise, set  $\varepsilon_r(u, v) = \pi_r(u, v) = 0$ .

- For words  $w^{(3)} = \text{GCGA}$  and  $w^{(2)} = \text{TGCG}$ , the overlaps are

$w^{(2)} :$	T G C G		
$r = 4$	G C G A	$\varepsilon_4(3, 2) = 0$	
$r = 3$	<b>G C G</b> A	$\varepsilon_3(3, 2) = 1$	$w_3(3, 2) = \text{TGCGA} \quad \pi_3(3, 2) = \pi(\text{TGCGA})$
$r = 2$	G C G A	$\varepsilon_2(3, 2) = 0$	
$r = 1$	<b>G</b> C G A	$\varepsilon_1(3, 2) = 1$	$w_1(3, 2) = \text{TGCGCGA} \quad \pi_1(3, 2) = \pi(\text{TGCGCGA})$

( $r = 4$  was shown, although we're only supposed to go up to  $r = k - 1 = 3$ .)

# Overlap between words in a motif

$\varepsilon_r(u, v)$ $w_r(u, v)$	$v = 1$ $w^{(1)} = \text{GAGA}$	$v = 2$ $w^{(2)} = \text{TGCG}$	$v = 3$ $w^{(3)} = \text{GCGA}$
$u = 1$ $w^{(1)} = \text{GAGA}$	$\varepsilon_1(1, 1) = 0$  $\varepsilon_2(1, 1) = 1$ $\text{GA}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{AGA}$ $\varepsilon_3(1, 1) = 0$	$\varepsilon_1(1, 2) = 1$ $\text{TGC}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{AGA}$ $\varepsilon_2(1, 2) = 0$ $\varepsilon_3(1, 2) = 0$	$\varepsilon_1(1, 3) = 0$  $\varepsilon_2(1, 3) = 1$ $\text{GC}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{AGA}$ $\varepsilon_3(1, 3) = 0$
$u = 2$ $w^{(2)} = \text{TGCG}$	$\varepsilon_1(2, 1) = 0$ $\varepsilon_2(2, 1) = 0$ $\varepsilon_3(2, 1) = 0$	$\varepsilon_1(2, 2) = 0$ $\varepsilon_2(2, 2) = 0$ $\varepsilon_3(2, 2) = 0$	$\varepsilon_1(2, 3) = 0$ $\varepsilon_2(2, 3) = 0$ $\varepsilon_3(2, 3) = 0$
$u = 3$ $w^{(3)} = \text{GCGA}$	$\varepsilon_1(3, 1) = 0$  $\varepsilon_2(3, 1) = 0$ $\varepsilon_3(3, 1) = 0$	$\varepsilon_1(3, 2) = 1$ $\text{TGC}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{CGA}$ $\varepsilon_2(3, 2) = 0$ $\varepsilon_3(3, 2) = 1$ $\text{T}\textcolor{red}{G}\textcolor{red}{C}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{A}$	$\varepsilon_1(3, 3) = 0$  $\varepsilon_2(3, 3) = 0$ $\varepsilon_3(3, 3) = 0$

# Dependence between positions

- $I_j I_{j+k-r} = 1$  if there are some overlapping words ( $\varepsilon_r(u, v) = 1$ ) whose combination word  $w_r(u, v)$  actually occurs in  $\tau$  at  $j + k - r$ .
- $I_j I_{j+k-r} = 0$  if nothing of that form occurs at  $j + k - r$ .
- So

$$E(I_j I_{j+k-r}) = \sum_{u=1}^m \sum_{v=1}^m \varepsilon_r(u, v) \pi_r(u, v)$$

replaces the analogous term for the one word case, leading to

## Variance of number of occurrences of a motif

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= (N - k + 1) \pi(M) \\ &\quad - ((2k - 1)N - 3k^2 + 4k - 1) (\pi(M))^2 \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} (N - 2k + r + 1) \sum_{u=1}^m \sum_{v=1}^m \varepsilon_r(u, v) \cdot \pi_r(u, v) \end{aligned}$$

# Example

$M = \{GAGA, TGCG, GCGA\}$  has  $m = 3$  words of length  $k = 4$ , and 5 overlaps

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(M) &= \pi(GAGA) + \pi(TGCG) + \pi(GCGA) \\ E(Y) &= (N - 3) \pi(M) \\ \text{Var}(Y) &= (N - 3)\pi(M) - (7N - 33)(\pi(M))^2 \\ &\quad + 2(N - 5)\pi(\text{GA}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{AGA}) + 2(N - 6)\pi(\text{TGC}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{AGA}) \\ &\quad + 2(N - 5)\pi(\text{GC}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{AGA}) + 2(N - 6)\pi(\text{TGC}\textcolor{red}{G}\text{CGA}) \\ &\quad + 2(N - 4)\pi(\text{TGCGA})\end{aligned}$$

If all nucleotides have equal probability  $1/4$ , this becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(M) &= 3/4^4 = 3/256 \\ E(Y) &= (N - 3) (3/256) = 3(N - 3)/256 \\ \text{Var}(Y) &= (N - 3)(3/256) - (7N - 33)(9/65536) \\ &\quad + 2(N - 5)4^{-6} + 2(N - 6)4^{-7} \\ &\quad + 2(N - 5)4^{-6} + 2(N - 6)4^{-7} + 2(N - 4)4^{-5} \\ &= (913N - 2935)/65536\end{aligned}$$

## Repeats in *C. elegans* that facilitate homologous pairing in meiosis

Sanford and Perry, *Nucleic Acids Research*, 2001, 29(14):2920-2926.

- **1998:** *C. elegans* is the first multicellular organism completely sequenced. 6 chromosomes, 13–21 Mb each, 100 Mb total.
- **NAR 2001:** Christopher Sanford and Marc Perry (U. Toronto) count all  $k$ -mers in *C. elegans* for  $2 \leq k \leq 20$ , looking for those over-represented on just one chromosome, plus other constraints.
- They found one unique candidate per chromosome, and speculate these facilitate homologous pairing during meiosis:

Chr.	DNA Seq.	# on that chr. (# per Mb)	# on other (# per Mb)
I	TTGGTTGAGGCT	611 (44.1)	201 (2.5)
II	TTTGTAGTCTAGCA	152 (10.3)	54 (0.7)
III	TGCTAAATATTTAGCA	197 (15.4)	1 (0.0)
IV	GTATAATCATG	347 (21.5)	251 (3.2)
V	TGGGCGCTGCT	713 (34.2)	13 (0.2)
X	TGGTCAGTGCA	335 (19.4)	74 (0.9)

- **RECOMB 2007:** Abby Dernburg (UC Berkeley) announces her lab proved it experimentally (but some  $k$ -mers were slightly adjusted).